



Sacramento Creek Watershed Protection Plan

A Tiny Creek Seeks Community
Involvement

Kristin Barrett
Diane Ambrose

Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center, Fairplay, CO

Mission: Give people of all ages the tools and knowledge necessary to become better stewards of the earth.

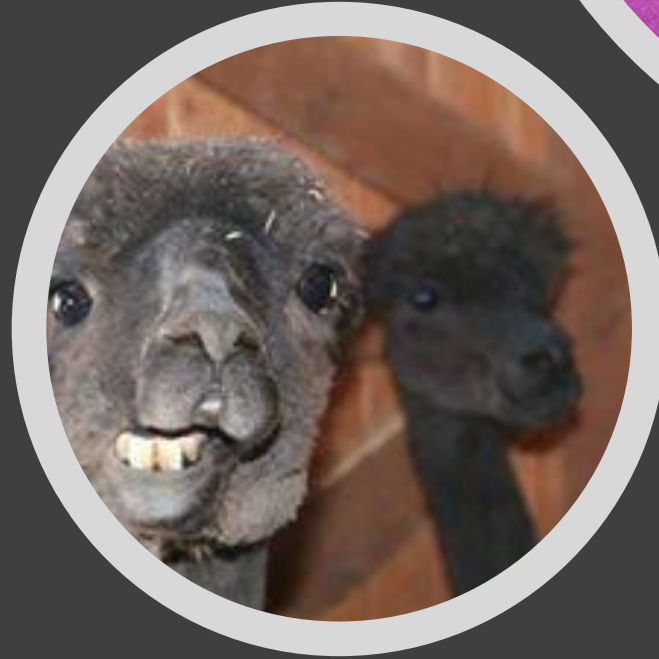




We're not just about
beavers.

Focus Areas

- Renewable Energy
- High Altitude Greenhouse and Agriculture
- Medicinal Plants
- Forest Management
- Alpine Ecology
- Watershed Studies





HEADWATERS!

Federal Grant from the South Park Natural Heritage Area

- Funding for 2017 and 2018
- Two pronged focus:
 - Baseline water quality data and ongoing monitoring
 - Community Involvement and Education



Purpose of the Sacramento Creek Protection Plan (SCPP)

The Sacramento Creek Protection Plan (SCPP) is a tool to help residents and landowners understand the importance of water quality and healthy watersheds in this headwaters area. This Plan is designed to:

- Engage volunteers to collect and analyze baseline data on water quality and stream health for the Sacramento Creek drainage.
- Understand how residents and land owners view their watershed
- Create public awareness of water quality and stream health parameters
- Engage residents and land owners in activities to help protect the watershed.
- Create education curricula for adults and kids based on the findings of this plan.

Sacramento Creek

“Learning to live carefully within one's watershed requires first being able to see it. We see forests or hills easily enough, or rivers running through meadows. But seeing the whole watershed requires more information – it requires knowledge.”

-Donald Worster, JW Powell Biographer, 2002

- Originates in the Mosquito Range
- Level 1 stream
- Ponds, meadows, beaver wetlands
- BLM, Forest Service, Private Land, Mining Claims





Water Quality Monitoring

Critical issue in our area of Park County due to pressures from mining and development.

Two Types:

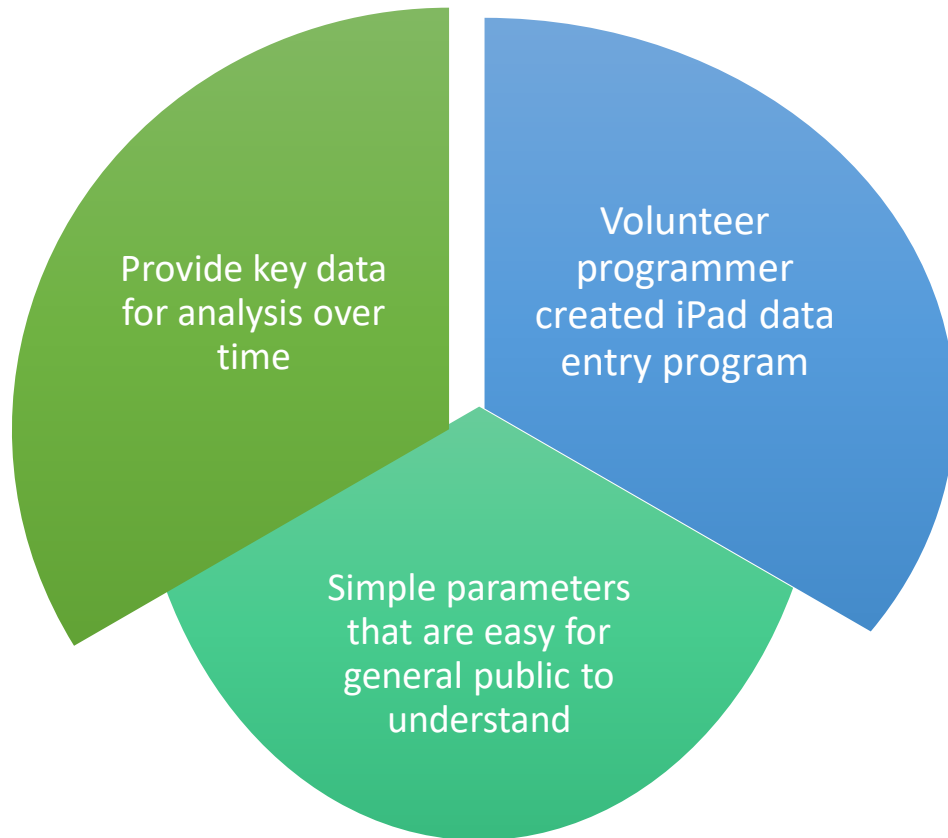
- River Watch**
- Stream Surveys**

River Watch

- pH, dissolved oxygen, hardness, alkalinity, metals
- Annual macroinvertebrate collection and analysis
- Monthly samples
- Feeds Colorado-wide data base to provide water quality data for all state decision makers
- High quality data
- Over 300 rivers and creeks in Colorado



Stream Surveys





Landowner Contact

- Requesting permission from landowners to cross property was also a strategy to involve them in the process.
- Used county records to find landowners
- Our volunteer and GIS guru entered parcel maps into GPS for field use



Volunteers from Metro State/Regis



ata entry

Calculator

Weather

Tear

More Data

Next Site

Prev Site

Record date

8/29/2018

Add Site

In

W1 0001

Verified

☒ Yes

River left

Downstream

River right

Upstream

Notes

4342628



410176

3110 m

Point of interest

- ☐ None
- ☐ Old beaver dam
- ☐ Start of beaver pond
- ☒ End of beaver pond
- ☐ Secondary stream exiting
- ☒ Secondary stream entering
- ☐ Bridge
- ☐ Road crossing
- ☐ Road next to stream
- ☐ Campground or house
- ☐ Water from pond

Stream segment

- ☐ Pool
- ☐ Riffle
- ☒ Run

Obstacle

- ☐ None
- ☐ Branches
- ☒ Rocks
- ☐ Snag
- ☐ Other

Substrate (at least 2

- ☐ Silt
- ☐ Sand
- ☒ Pebbles
- ☒ Gravel
- ☒ Boulders

Bank material percent

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Dirt | <input checked="" type="radio"/> NA | <input type="radio"/> 25 to 50 | <input type="radio"/> 51 to 75 | <input type="radio"/> 76 to 100 |
| Gravel / Rocks | <input checked="" type="radio"/> NA | <input type="radio"/> 25 to 50 | <input type="radio"/> 51 to 75 | <input type="radio"/> 76 to 100 |
| Grasses / Forbs | <input type="radio"/> NA | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 25 to 50 | <input type="radio"/> 51 to 75 | <input type="radio"/> 76 to 100 |
| Willows | <input type="radio"/> NA | <input type="radio"/> 25 to 50 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 51 to 75 | <input type="radio"/> 76 to 100 |
| Tree count | <input type="radio"/> NA | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 1 to 5 | <input type="radio"/> 6 to 10 | <input type="radio"/> > 10 |

Temperature

pH

Dissolved Oxygen

Stream:

Width

Veloc

Secondary

8.28 C

7.57

71.4 %

8.38 mg / Liter

200 cm

Community Involvement

- Listening sessions
- Surveys
- Kids Programs
- Outreach-Reports, Web, Social Media





Beaver Ponds
Environmental
Education Center
501(c)(3)

Make Your Voice Heard



Sacramento Creek Protection Plan

Interested in your local watershed?
Want to know more about water
quality and stream ecology?
Would you like a voice in the
monitoring and protection of the
headwaters of Sacramento Creek?

Please attend one of two listening sessions
in November. You will learn about the
local watershed, different aspects of water
quality and stream ecology. You will
engage in a discussion to identify any
concerns or ideas you might want to share
regarding Sacramento Creek and local
watersheds in general.

Two Meetings

November 16 from 7 to 9 PM
November 18 from 4 to 6 PM



Funded in part by a grant from
South Park National Heritage
Area

Free
Refreshments
and Snacks.

Where

2234 Busch Run Road,
Corner of CR 14 and
Busch Run,
Fairplay, CO

Contact

Beaverponds.org
719-838-0143

Informed citizens, equipped with fundamental
knowledge about watersheds will be the most
effective advocates for protecting this valuable
resource. Come mingle and tell us what you think.

What is valued about the watershed?





VALUES

Recreation

- Fishing
- Enjoyment with children (walking around, playing with rocks and water)
- Hiking
- Peacefulness & inspires thought

Visual

- Watching the river flow
- Watch wildlife

Sound

- Listening to the sound of water is relaxing

Spiritual/Emotional/Pragmatic

- Helps a person get recharged
- Spiritual connectedness (able to disconnect)
- Connection - connects a person with the life of nature
- Ever-changing nature
- Supports life
- Wetlands

A hand is shown writing the words "TAKE THE SURVEY" in bold, black, uppercase letters on a white surface. A red line is drawn underneath the text, starting from the left and extending to the right, ending under the word "SURVEY".

TAKE THE SURVEY

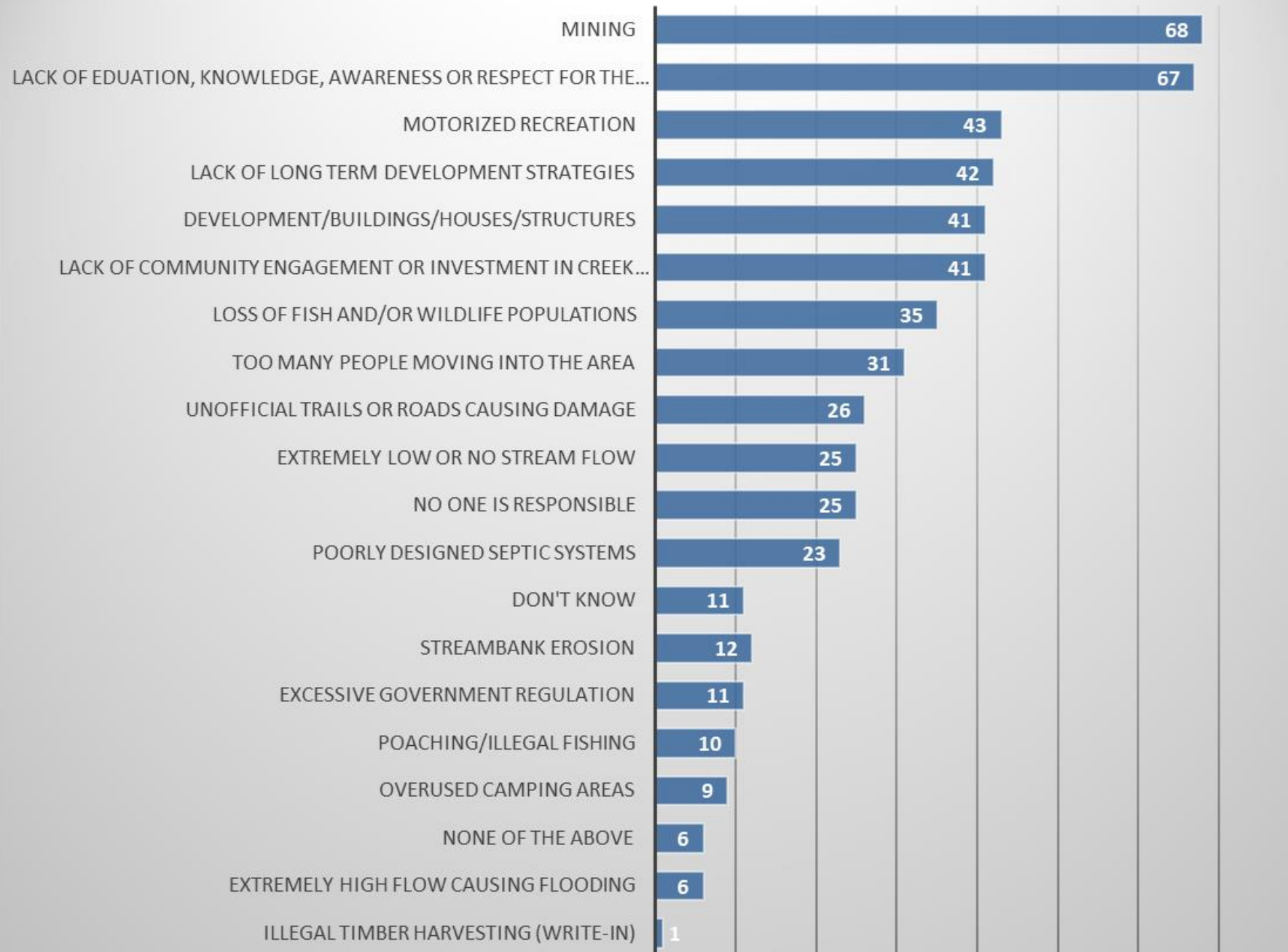
- 697 Snail Mail letters to property owners within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the creek
- 28 Survey Monkey responses, 110 mail responses
- Nearly 20% response rate!

Surveys



Sample Questions

- What is your vision of the future for this watershed? Pick the top 4.
- What do you see as the biggest challenges to this vision? Pick the top 4.



Path Forward

Annual monitoring and stream surveys

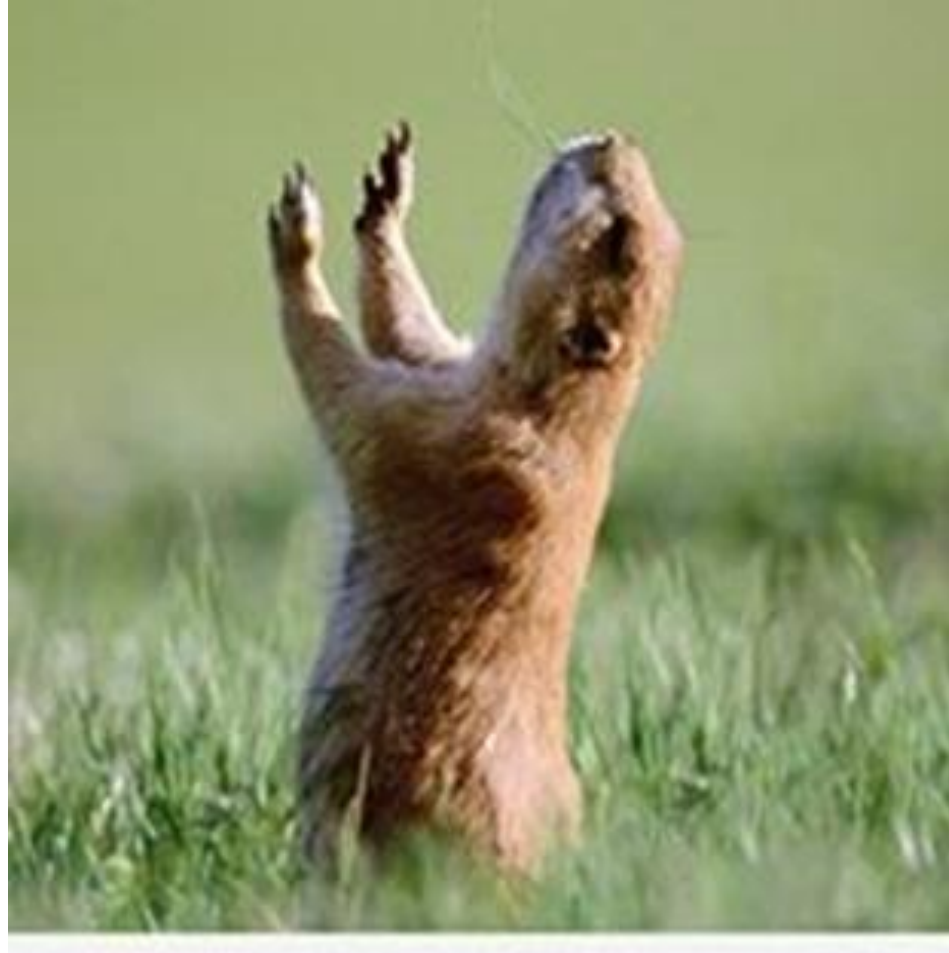
Complete Plan

Send to landowners

Community meetings to discuss

Continued youth watershed education programs

Thank
you!



Questions?