



Creating a More Diverse Eagle River Watershed Through Community Outreach & Collaboration

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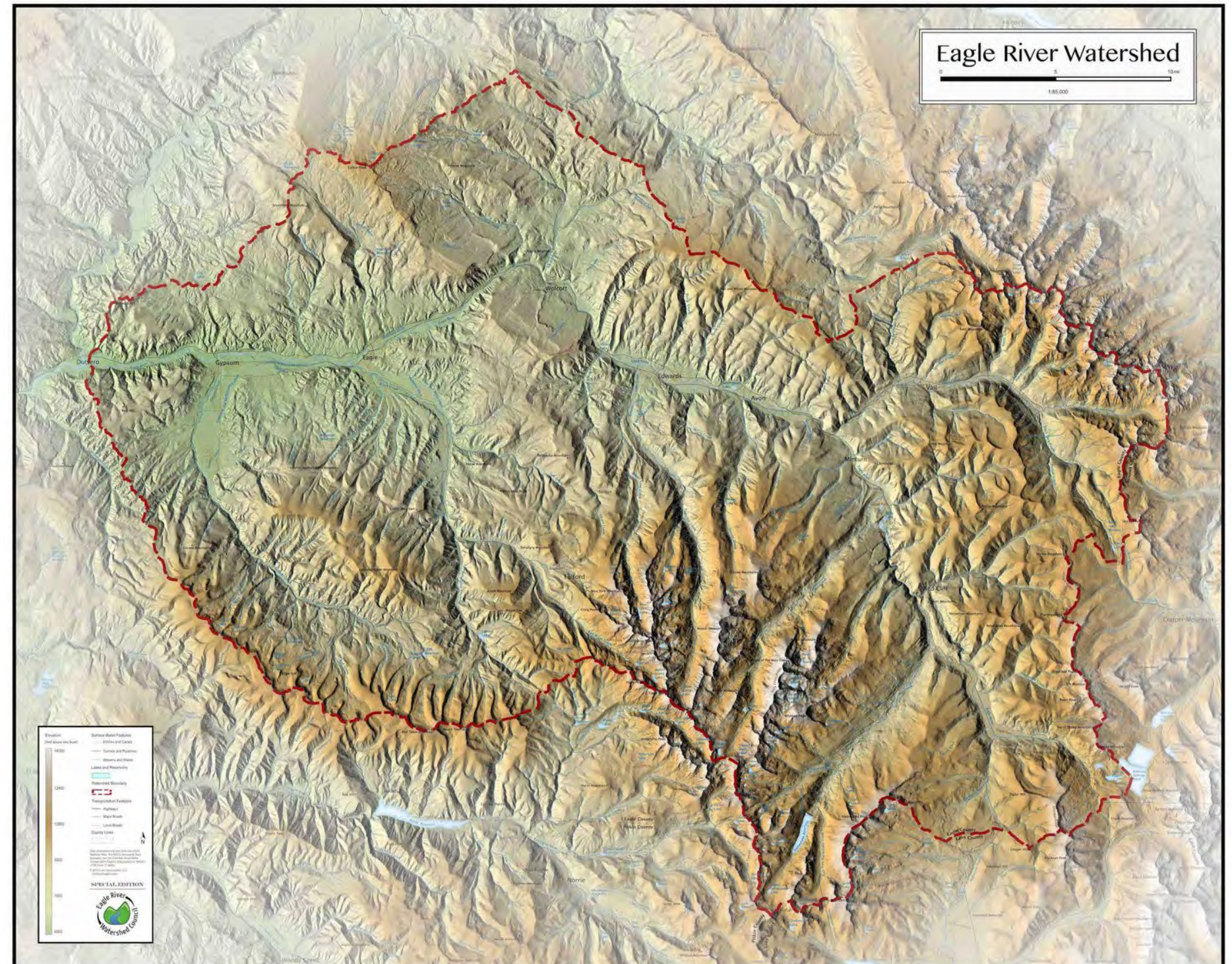
Eagle River Watershed Council



Advocates for the health
of the Upper Colorado &
Eagle Rivers through
research, projects &
education since 2004.

Our Watershed

- Covers 970 square miles
- Features 120 natural lakes & reservoirs
- Contains over 1,200 miles of names rivers & streams
- Millions of acres of public lands & wilderness areas
- The headwaters of the Colorado River



The Eagle River starts and ends in Eagle County, giving us a unique position to protect our river.

55,700 people &
growing
Population is expected to double by
2050

A wide range of
income & professions

Along with a wide range but higher
living costs

The river is the
heart of it all

Tourism based economy is reliant on
healthy rivers



Our Community



FACT:

In 2017, 32% of students were
English Language Learning.

ACCORDING TO EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOLS



FACT:

In 2017, 42% of students qualified for free or reduced cost lunches.

ACCORDING TO EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

EAGLE COUNTY &
THE EAGLE RIVER
WATERSHED IS
ALREADY DIVERSE.





But there
are many
barriers to
access...

COST OF ENTRY

Gear is expensive, renting or buying

KNOWLEDGE OF ACCESS

It can be challenging to know safe and public access points

SAFETY CONCERNS

Water activities come with inherent danger

SPECIFIC SET OF SKILLS

Knowing how to safely recreate is not automatic and takes time

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 2523 4681

How did you get involved in river recreation, or your favorite outdoor activity?

- A friend
- College
- Family
- Community Event
- Other



Together
LIKE NEVER
BEFORE
2021
SUSTAINING COLORADO
WATERSHEDS CONFERENCE



Go to www.menti.com and use the code 3763 2572

What word describes how you feel when you're on the river?



**Together
LIKE NEVER
BEFORE** | 2021
SUSTAINING COLORADO
WATERSHEDS CONFERENCE



Rivers are for all of us. Period.

They provide a place for reprieve, a place to reset and a place to connect with the environment.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

BLUE INDEX STATION # _____

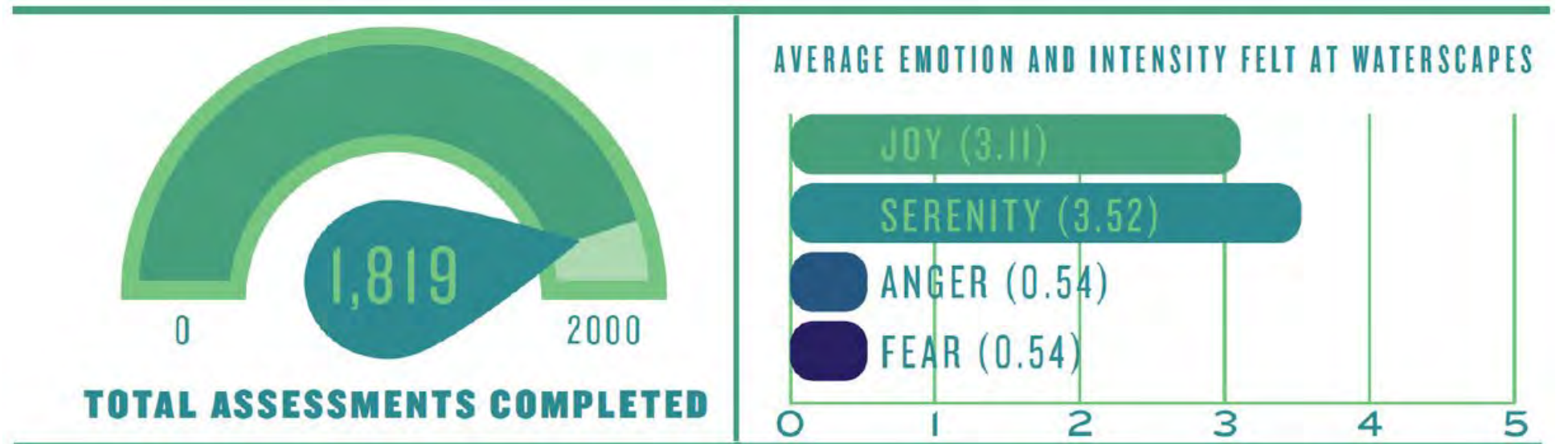
Use your smart device to take a photo of the waterscape in front of you

1. Place your device on the bracket & hold on tight
2. Take a photo of the waterscape
3. Scan the QR code or go to www.bit.ly/blueindexatx to upload your photo & take a short survey

LEARN MORE ONLINE:
@blueindexaustin or www.bit.ly/blueindexatx

PLANET TEXAS 2050

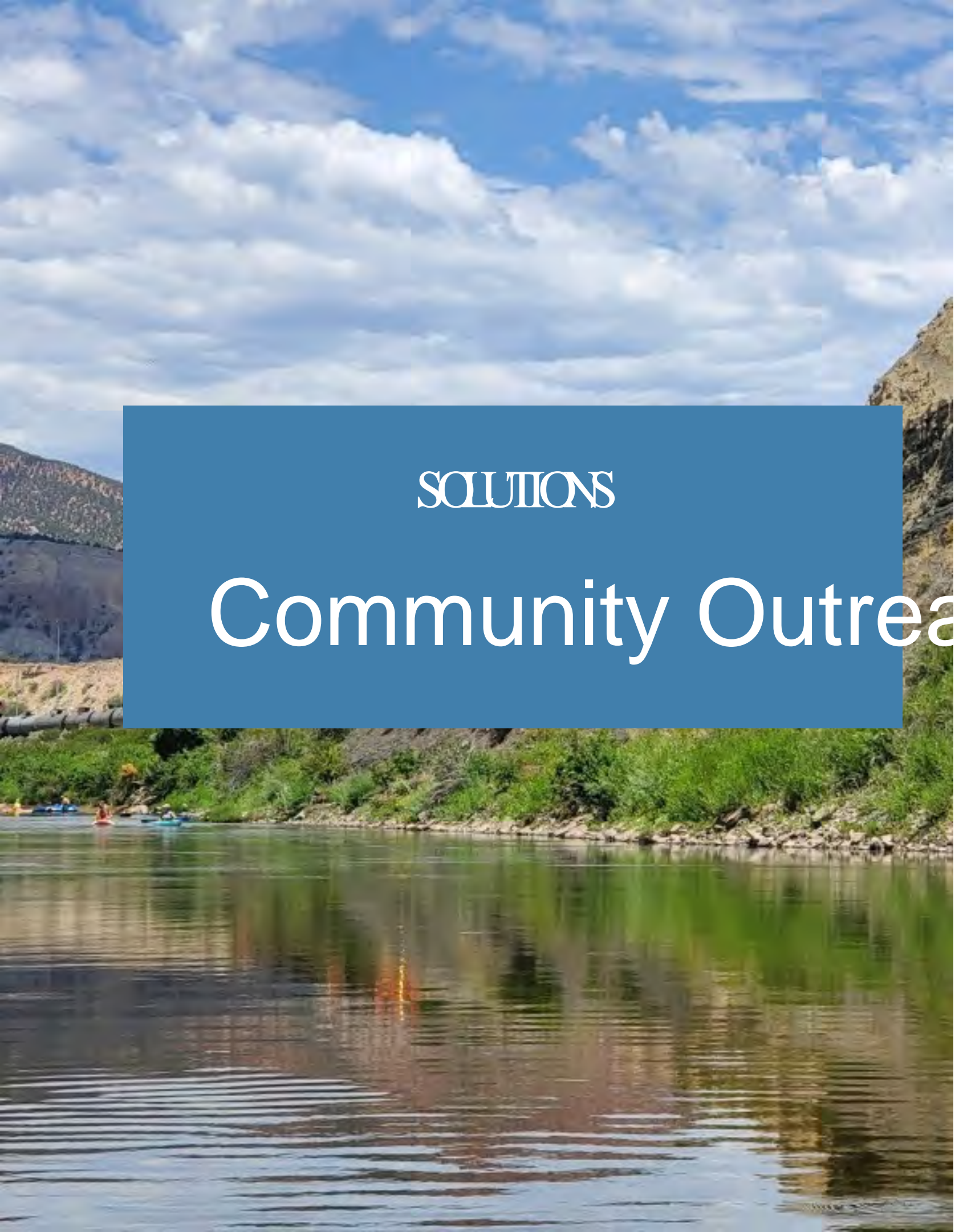
WATER QUALITY PROTECTOR



How do we overcome the barriers?

LEVERAGING THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY





SOLUTIONS

Community Outreach

FIND NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS TO WORK WITH

Neighborhood groups are a fantastic place to start

DETERMINE EXPERIENCES THAT YOU CAN PROVIDE

Start simple and scale up

WORK WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

Folks with a passion for community and rivers



Bilingual Community Floats

2021 Marked our 6th annual event,
with each year building a larger waitlist



These events
are impactful

First and foremost I want to thank you for organizing the 2020 Community Float last summer. My 13 year old son Jason* and I attended the event. We were so fortunate that the weather was warm and a clear sky. As a single parent this was a wonderful experience for me and Jason. It was a great opportunity for us to bond and create a meaningful memory for Jason. He still talks about the event and how a blast he had and has asked if we could do it again.

We had the opportunity to relax, be present during the float trip, admire the beautiful scenery for the river environment and the red hawks that we saw, and learned their name. Now every time we see a red hawk it reminds us of the float trip and how much fun we had. The water splashing among floats was definitely the highlight of the event for the children...

I would have not been able to expose my son to this experience for being a financial burden and not having the skills to provide it in a safe and secure environment as the event was, we all had life jackets and the knowledgeable floating staff was very assuring. We have been talking about going fishing this summer and enrolling him in some swimming classes too.

Hope you are doing well and definitely looking forward to this summer and that all the pandemic restrictions would be lifted to enjoy the outdoors more freely.

SOLUTIONS

Community Collaboration

IDENTIFY ORGANIZATIONS TO COLLABORATE WITH

Who else is working in the community in similar manners?

WHAT CAN YOU BRING TO THE TABLE

How does your mission relate to the community & collaborative goals

FUNDING IS CRITICAL

And, there is funding available





EVOM is a group of organizations and community members led by Walking Mountains Science Center, striving to provide equal access to outdoor spaces and opportunities for youth and families in Edwards, with the potential for replicability in other communities in Eagle Valley in the coming years.



EAGLE RIVER WATER FESTIVAL

All of Eagle County's 5th graders join at no cost to them, including transportation to and from the event



FLY FISHING CLINIC

Professional anglers teach the basics to families

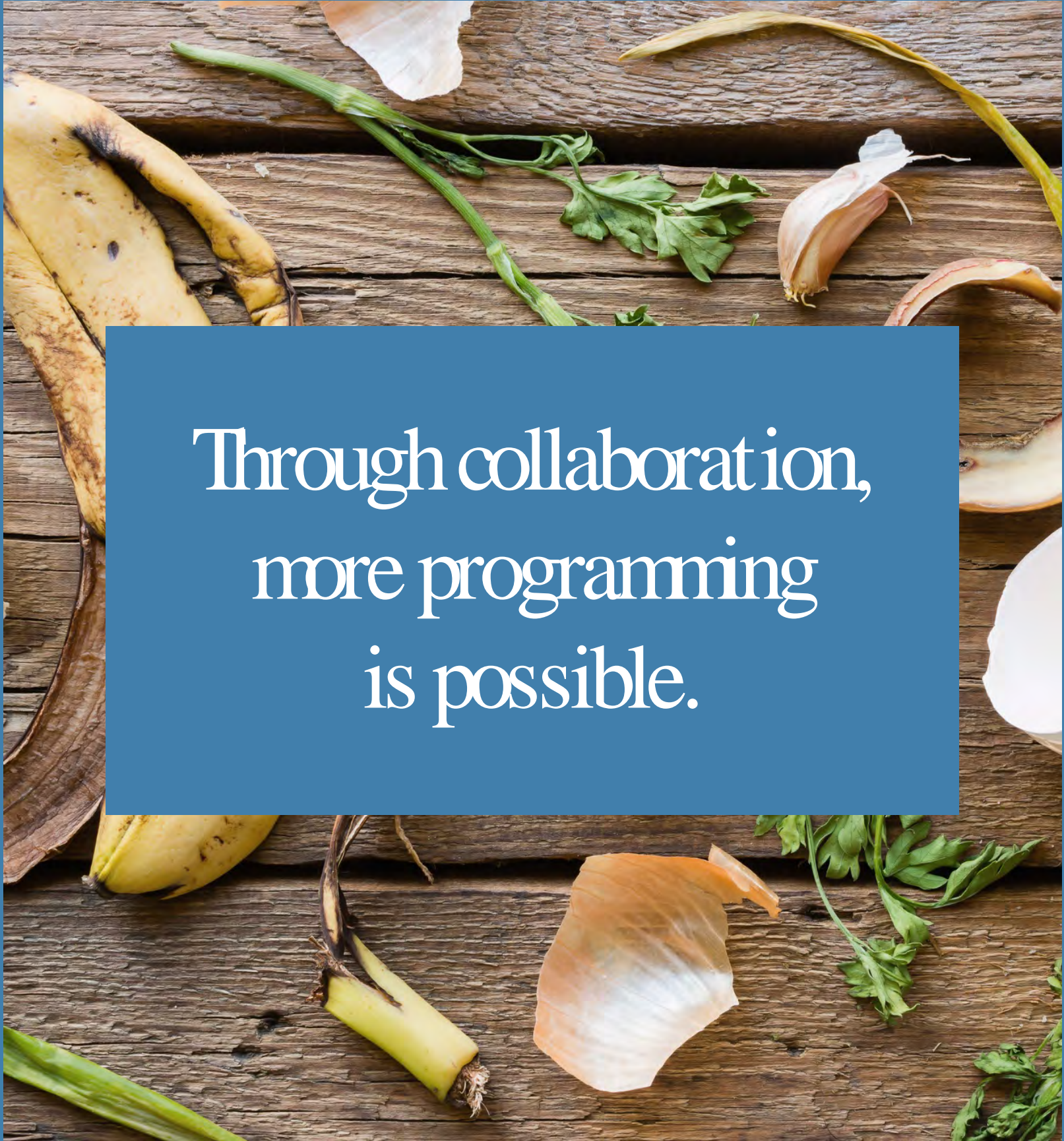


COMMUNITY FLOAT

This has become a summer staple and grown immensely with collaboration

PROGRAM





Through collaboration,
more programming
is possible.

6 NEW OUTDOOR SPACES
CREATED IN 3 YEARS

From events on the water to simple hikes

208 OUTDOOR EDUCATION
PROGRAMS SINCE 2017

How does your mission relate to the community
& collaborative goals

1,908 PARTICIPANTS SERVED

Primarily spanish-speaking



Takeawa

WORK TOGETHER & SHARE RESOURCES

There are likely many groups in your community striving to be better in this area & bring folks together

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Even a picnic by the river can create some good synergy & education opportunity

THIS WORK IS CRITICAL FOR YOUR MISSION, YOUR COMMUNITY & YOUR WATERSHED

We can only protect our resources when we are all protecting our resources