

South Platte Enhancement Board 2018 Annual Report



SPEB Grants Making an Impact in the South Platte River Basin

2018 Successes

- Funded construction of four sets of stairs to access the South Platte River near Deckers. They will reduce erosion and deposition of sediment caused by uncontrolled river access.
- Funded engineering design and planning for the removal of the diversion dam at lower end of Eleven Mile Canyon which would stabilize the river channel and remove a barrier to movement of fish into the canyon.
- Funded the development of the Pine Grove History Park adjacent to the river which will focus on the historical narrow-gauge railway which once served this area.
- Continuing data evaluation for the CUSP Baseline Monitoring project of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) on each of the six stream segments.

2019 Applications

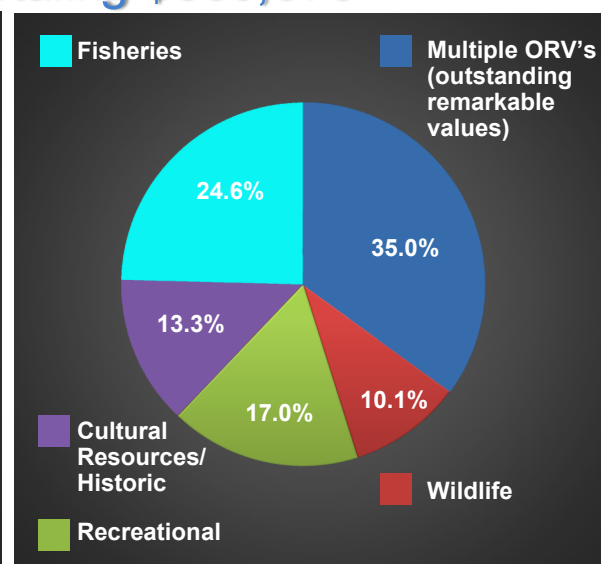
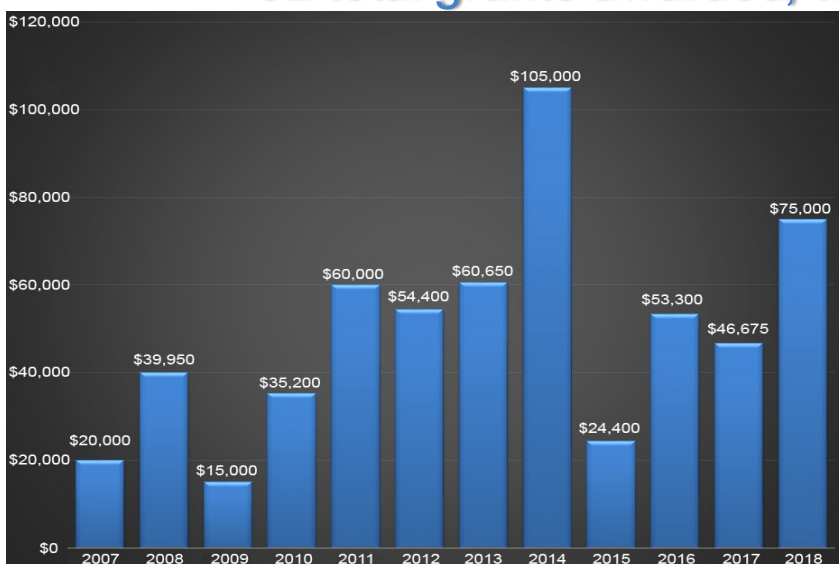
*Accepting requests
up to \$20,000*

SPEB is accepting grant applications for projects and initiatives that protect or enhance ORV's (outstanding remarkable values) along sections of the South Platte River and its North Fork. Grants can range up to \$20,000 per project. Applications are due June 12, 2019. For more information, visit:

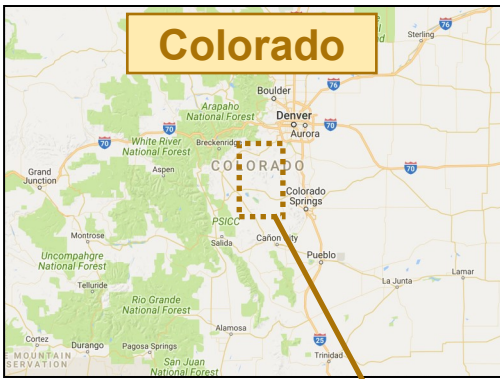
www.southplatte.org

Grant Money Awarded by Year

32 total grants awarded, totaling \$589,575



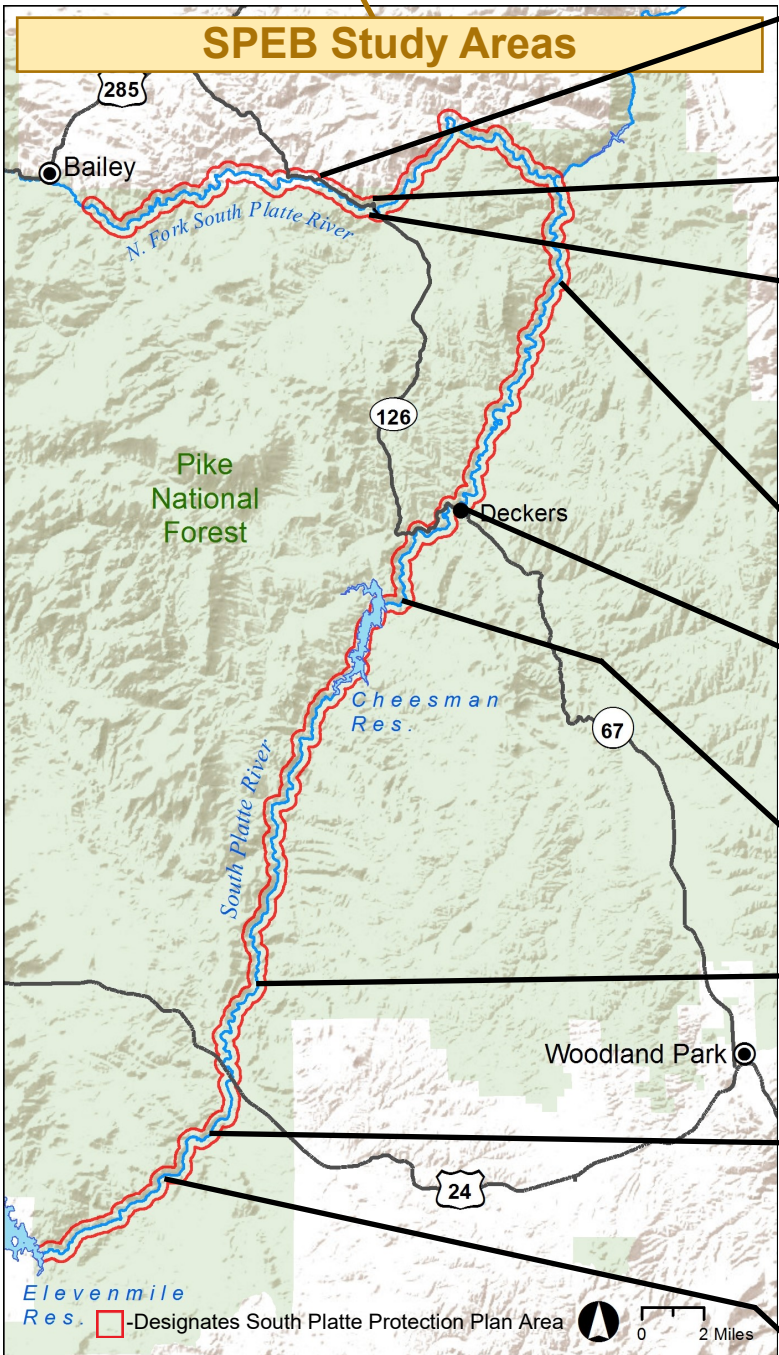
To learn more about SPEB, visit www.southplatte.org.



Sampling of Grants Along the South Platte

All Segments:

- Baseline study of Outstandingly Remarkable Value conditions (supporting the South Platte Protection Plan) by CUSP, (2014 - 2018).
- Purchase of a Rokon ATV and rescue trailer for the North Fork Fire Protection District which will enhance the overall safety of the recreational experience, (2017).



Funded the development of the Pine Grove History Park adjacent to the river which will focus on the historical narrow-gauge railway which once served this area, (2018).

Preservation Inc. emergency repairs of historic Blue Jay Inn, (2007).

Buffalo Creek Recreation Area non-motorized trails and trail bridge construction and parking lot property acquisition and improvement construction with the Colorado Trailblazers and BPIA, (2008, 2010, 2013, 2015). Construction of a permanent pavilion shelter, (2017).

Five projects on Sugar Creek, Pine Creek, and Horse Creek to study sediment problems and implement innovative solutions, (2009 - 2017).

Funded construction of four sets of stairs to access the South Platte River near Deckers that will reduce erosion and deposition of sediment caused by uncontrolled river access, (2018).

Trout Unlimited constructed a section of the Upper Cheesman Canyon Trail. The project extended the Gill Trail 3.5 miles, (2009).

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte restored more than 3 miles of South Platte River and repaired riparian habitat near Happy Meadows Campground, (2007).

Funded engineering design and planning for the removal of the diversion dam at lower end of Eleven Mile Canyon which would stabilize the river channel and remove a barrier to movement of fish into the canyon, (2018).

The Road to Rivers project, by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, studies sedimentation problems along Eleven Mile Canyon Road. (2012).

Our Story

The history of our story emanates from Denver Water receiving a right-of-way in 1931 from the Secretary of the Interior allowing for the possible construction of a 345,000 acre-foot reservoir, named Two Forks Reservoir, at the confluence of the South Platte River and its North Fork located at South Platte, CO. In 1968, the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (W&SRA) was passed to protect wild rivers and scenic rivers from development that would substantially change their wild and/or scenic nature. All rivers were directed to be studied for determination of any eligibility to be so protected.

By the 1980's, Denver Water and other Denver suburban entities were actively studying the possible construction of the Two Forks Reservoir. In 1984, studies were being conducted by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service (USFS) that concluded portions of the South Platte River were indeed eligible for protection under the W&SRA. Ultimately, the Two Forks Reservoir project was stopped by a veto from the EPA in 1991.

The W&SRA driven studies about the South Platte River continued until in 1995 local interests requested that the USFS consider a local alternative to wild and scenic designation in recognition that the river not only has key environmental values, but it also is, and will forever remain, the key conduit for development of water supplies for the Front Range of Colorado. The potential conflict would have been that wild and scenic designation did not allow for future changes to be made to the river, e.g., flow alterations, stream bank protections or other projects, while Colorado's future population and economic development required flexibility on the river's future use in providing water supplies.

Taking all studies and local concerns into consideration, the USFS encouraged the development of a local alternative to the W&SRA designation that would achieve maintenance and possible enhancement of the identified river values. The precedent-setting, cooperative process for the development of a local alternative, known as the South Platte Protection Plan (SPPP), took from 1996 to 2004. In June 2004, the USFS issued a Record of Decision that halted the W&SRA process' "suitability decision" and allowed the local alternative, the SPPP, to be implemented with the goal of maintaining, and possibly enhancing, the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) identified for the rivers.

The initial meeting of the South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB), as the key overseer of the implementation for the SPPP, was on October 21, 2004. Since that time, SPEB has held monthly meetings, adopted bylaws, collected and managed the endowment fund, created a grant issuing process, distributed grants for multiple projects and otherwise demonstrated prudent due diligence implementing the SPPP.



Baseline Study of Outstandingly Remarkable Value Conditions



Buffalo Creek Recreation Area Improvements



Improvements for Fish Habitat



Purchase of a Rokon ATV and Rescue Trailer



SPEB 2018 Officers and Directors

Dennis Larratt, President,
Motorized Recreation Users

David Nickum, Vice President/
President Elect, Trout Unlimited,
Environmental

Nathan Elder, Treasurer,
Denver Water

Allison Schuch, Secretary,
Colorado Springs Utilities,
At-Large

Jim Idema, Grants Chair,
Private Property Owner

Dan Drucker, Center of Colo.
WCD, Park County

Rich Edwards, CSFS, Timber
or Silviculture Industry

Kristin Green, Conservation
Colorado, Environmental

Kyle Hamilton, CH2M Hill,
At-Large

Andy Hough, Douglas County

Mike McHugh, Aurora Water,
Suburban Water Provider

Rick McLoud, Centennial Water
& Sanitation District, Suburban
Water Provider

Drew Rayburn, Jefferson
County Open Space

Jeff Spohn, Colorado Parks
and Wildlife, Environmental

Mark Spurgeon, Colorado
Trailblazers, Non-Motorized
Recreation

Tyler Swarr, Colorado Parks &
Wildlife, Environmental

Tony Warnock, Lost Valley
Ranch, Grazing Industry

Scott Winkleman,
Water Recreation Users

Thank you to donors of the \$1 million endowment fund

- Arapahoe County Water & Wastewater Authority
- Castle Pines North Metro District
- Centennial Water & Sanitation District
- City of Aurora
- City of Englewood
- City of Thornton
- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Cottonwood Water & Sanitation District
- East Cherry Creek Valley Water & Sanitation District
- Denver Water
- Douglas County
- Inverness Water & Sanitation District
- Jefferson County
- Meridian Metro District
- Parker Water & Sanitation District
- Pinery Water & Wastewater District
- Roxborough Park Metropolitan District
- Stonegate Village Metropolitan District
- Town of Castle Rock