



# **South Platte Enhancement Board and South Platte Protection Plan**

**20-Year Anniversary Report**  
**April 2024**



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# Acronyms

AF	Acre-feet; 325,851 gallons
CFS	Cubic feet per second
CPW	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
CUSP	Coalition for the Upper South Platte
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
ORVs	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
ROD	Record of Decision
SMP	Streamflow Management Plan
SPEB	South Platte Enhancement Board
SPPP	South Platte Protection Plan
USFS	U. S. Forest Service
W&SD	Water and Sanitation District
WSRA	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

## Executive Summary

- In the 1980's and 1990's, the United States Forest Service (USFS) conducted a wild and scenic river assessment of the South Platte River above Denver and identified "outstandingly remarkable values" (ORVs) in the river that must be protected by either designation of the river as Wild and Scenic or by an alternative approach.
- Simultaneously, Denver Water, with others, pursue the development of the Two Forks Reservoir project along the South Platte River. The project is vetoed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1991.
- In 2004, the USFS selects a locally-developed alternative, the South Platte Protection Plan (SPPP), as the alternative to the South Platte River designation – a first of its kind collaborative approach.
- The SPPP protects the identified ORVs.
- The South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB), part of the SPPP, was created in 2004 with a diverse 17-member board.
- The SPPP includes Denver Water voluntarily imposing a 20-year moratorium (from 2004 to 2024) on taking any steps to promote a Two Forks Reservoir project.
- SPEB has collected a \$1 million endowment that it uses annually to give grants for projects that maintain and/or enhance the ORVs along the South Platte River.
- SPEB's grant program has been a huge success, delivering funds totaling over \$866,000 for 47 projects and leveraging over \$5 million in projects. The \$1 million corpus from the endowment remains in place.
- Other components of the SPPP have been very successful, such as the creation of the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) addressing water quality and watershed health, the streamflow management plan's stream flow and temperature controls below reservoirs, the prohibition of water development projects in Eleven Mile and Cheesman canyons, and the Task Force addressing future water development.
- SPEB supports the continuation of SPEB, the SPPP, and the ongoing partnerships within the watershed.

## Introduction

This report, written by the current members of the SPEB, provides a brief history of our organization and activities in support of the SPPP. We recognize that few of the original leaders involved in the development of SPEB and the SPPP are still actively involved, so a brief historical perspective is being provided to assist in understanding where we came from and where we are going.

An additional goal of this report is to highlight that the SPPP has been effectively executed by SPEB and to make the case that the work of the SPPP should continue in order to protect the ORVs of the South Platte River.

The following are excerpts from a press release made on March 19, 2004, by Chips Barry, Manager of Denver Water, and David Nickum, Executive Director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. The press release is entitled "**Cease-fire on the South Platte River**" and it summarizes the conditions that brought about the creation of SPEB in October, 2004. A large dam was being proposed at the confluence of the South Platte River and the North Fork of the South Platte River. The dam was referred to as the Two Forks Dam. This

20-year report follows the vision articulated in this 2004 press release and provides details of the first 20 years of implementation of that vision.

*“Seven years ago, the U.S. Forest Service issued a draft Environmental Impact Statement kicking off a study of the South Platte River upstream of Denver for possible Wild and Scenic designation.*

*Environmental and recreational interests and Deckers-area landowners strongly supported designation as a way of permanently protecting the river and ending the lingering threat of a major dam at the Two Forks site. Metro-area water users and local governments were just as strong in opposing a step they feared would threaten their ability to meet present and future water demands.*

*The battle lines were drawn and the next generation of South Platte water fights was ready to proceed according to script, with the proponents and foes of Two Forks renewing their long-standing fight.*

*Then the script changed. Somebody had the audacity to ask: Do we really need to fight this battle?*

*Denver Water and other local governments and utilities, through an ad hoc Wild and Scenic Task Force, proposed that the Forest Service allow local interests time to craft a local river protection plan as an alternative to Wild and Scenic designation.*



*Nobody knew what the final plan might look like and whether consensus could be reached by all, but water users, county governments, anglers, landowners, and environmentalists such as Trout Unlimited, Environmental Defense, Aurora, Highlands Ranch, Douglas County and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, all agreed to sit down and make the effort.*

*We learned very early on that, while groups had diametrically opposed positions on the issue of Wild and Scenic designation, our interests were not so incompatible after all. Water users opposed designation, but their interest was in maintaining flexibility for water operations and preserving the ability to develop future water supplies.*

*Environmentalists supported designation, but their interest was in protecting fisheries, recreation and habitat in the river corridor.*

*Through the South Platte Protection Plan, we set out to craft a locally driven proposal that could serve both sets of interests. And we succeeded.*

*The plan provides numerous benefits that would not be assured under Wild and Scenic designation. First, it is broader in scope, including portions of the river between Spinney and Eleven Mile Reservoirs and in Waterton Canyon that were not part of the Wild and Scenic study.*

*Moreover, the plan:*

- *Includes a flow protection plan that will provide minimum flows below Spinney Mountain, Eleven Mile and Cheesman Reservoirs, as well as setting flow targets with Denver and Aurora committing their good-faith efforts to meet the targets when possible. All this is accomplished without sacrificing water yield for Denver and Aurora.*
- *Provides a \$1 million endowment that will support recreation and conservation projects far into the future.*
- *Establishes an ongoing process for diverse interests to coordinate on future challenges facing the South Platte watershed.*
- *Is accompanied by a proposed Forest Plan Amendment that would provide for habitat protection on National Forest lands along the South Platte.*

*The most difficult part of crafting the plan was dealing with potential future water development, including the proposed Two Forks Dam. Again, the interests of different stakeholders were not as incompatible as they at first seemed.*

*Denver Water has voluntarily offered a 20-year moratorium on any development of the Two Forks site. In that time, Denver, other utilities and conservationists will seek alternative water supply strategies that – if developed – would provide for future water demands and eliminate any need or potential for a Two Forks dam. This creates a process and an incentive for environmentalists and water users alike to be part of the long-term solutions for metro-area water supply.*

*Ultimately, the plan relies on good faith. It is not legislated, nor need it be. Any participants in the plan can walk away in the future – in which case, we may be back to square one on the Wild and Scenic study, with battle lines redrawn. We don't think that will happen.*

*After seven years of working together on a shared vision for the South Platte, what is perhaps most remarkable is that former Two Forks foes are now willing to rely on each other's good faith in dealing with the river that unites us. That is a reflection of just how far we've come, and of the value of trading in conflict for cooperation."*

For the past 20 years, the vision set forth in the above article has been achieved, as detailed in this report. It is SPEB's opinion that the actions taken over the past 20 years have proven that the SPPP has been effectively executed and we recommend that it continue long into the future.

## **History**

Below is a list of key historical dates and milestones related to SPEB and the SPPP:

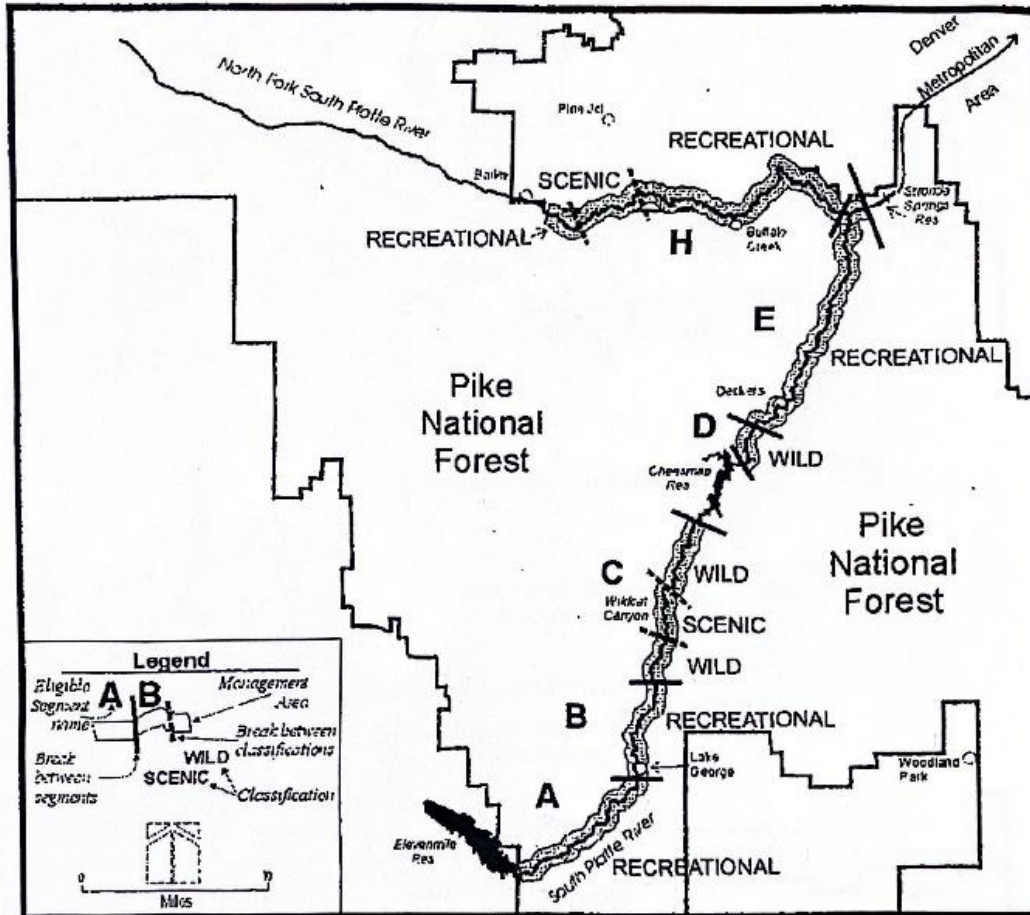
- 1931: Denver Water received Right-of-Way for possible construction of a 346,000 acre-feet (AF) Two Forks Reservoir.
- 1968: President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA).

- 1980's: Denver Water, et. al. pursue approval of a large, 1.1 million AF Two Forks Reservoir project. (The project also had alternative sizes of 450,000 and 400,000 AF).
- 1984: USFS finds portions of the South Platte “eligible” for Wild & Scenic designation.
- 1991: All of the alternative sized versions of the Two Forks Reservoir project were vetoed by the EPA, stating that they would violate the Clean Water Act of 1972.
- 1996: Buffalo Creek Fire burned 12,000 acres within the South Platte River watershed.
- 1997: Local interests requested that the USFS consider a local alternative to Wild and Scenic designation, in recognition that the river not only has important environmental values, but also is a key conduit for development of water supplies for the Front Range of Colorado.
- 1998: CUSP, a component of the SPPP, was formed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit to help manage and protect the South Platte River water quality and watershed.
- 2002: Hayman Fire burned 138,000 acres within the South Platte River watershed.
- 2004: As part of the National Environmental Policy Act’s (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the USFS Record of Decision (ROD) on the Wild and Scenic River Study of the South Platte River was signed, which stated that the river would not at that time be designated as Wild and Scenic. The SPPP was selected by the USFS as the preferred alternative (Alternative A2) to Wild & Scenic Designation.
- 2004: The SPPP includes the provision that a 20-year moratorium is voluntarily placed by Denver Water on the construction of a Two Forks Reservoir.
- 2004: Creation of SPEB, which had its first meeting in October.
- 2004 to 2007: The founding members of SPEB collectively contributed \$1 million of funding to the SPEB endowment to be used for grants within eligible portions of the South Platte watershed.
- 2007: First grant (\$20,000) awarded by SPEB to CUSP for the Happy Meadows restoration project along the upper South Platte River near Lake George, CO.
- 2007 to 2024: SPEB has monthly meetings and successfully conducts a grant program issuing 47 grants distributing \$866,253 for projects maintaining or enhancing the ORVs.
- 2024: End of the 20-Year Moratorium on Two Forks Reservoir by Denver Water.

The USFS conducted a wild and scenic river review process on the South Platte River that involved four steps: eligibility, classification, suitability and designation. The study assessed 72 miles of the South Platte River system where it crosses National Forest land. Specific rivers involved include 49 miles of the mainstem of the South Platte River and 23 miles of the North Fork of the South Platte River, as shown in

**Map 1:**

## Eligible Segments with Classification



**Map 1 - Eligible segments and Classification**

The mainstem and North Fork of the South Platte River are further divided into rivers segments, as described below:

- Segment A – Eleven Mile Dam to Lake George
- Segment B - Lake George to Beaver Creek
- Segment C - Beaver Creek to Cheesman Reservoir
- Segment D - Cheesman Reservoir to Wigwam Club
- Segment E - Wigwam Club to Strontia Springs Reservoir
- Segment H - North Fork of the South Platte River, Insmont to confluence with South Platte River

The eligibility and classification phases of the Wild and Scenic assessment had concluded the South Platte River was eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System because it possessed free flow and one or more ORVs. The ORVs identified for the studied part of the South Platte River are shown in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: SPPP ORVs by River Segment**

SEGMENT	Fisheries	Wildlife	Recreational	Scenic	Geologic	Cultural Resources / Historic
A	X		X	X	X	
B	X					
C	X	X		X	X	
D	X	X	X			
E	X	X	X			
H		X	X			X

The WSRA-driven studies reached the Suitability phase where, in 1997, local interests requested that the USFS consider a local alternative to Wild and Scenic designation, in recognition that the river not only has important environmental values, but also is a key conduit for development of water supplies for the Front Range of Colorado. The potential conflict was that Wild and Scenic designation would 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 WSRA designation that would achieve maintenance and enhancement of the identified ORVs. The precedent-setting, cooperative process for the development of a local alternative, known as the SPPP, took from 1996 to 2004 to develop. The SPPP was included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the South Platte River study. In June 2004, the USFS issued a ROD that halted the WSRA “suitability” process and allowed the local alternative, **the SPPP, to be implemented with the goal of maintaining and enhancing the ORVs identified in the Wild & Scenic Studies.**



*Improvements for Fish Habitat*

## The South Platte Protection Plan

The SPPP is a document created in 2004 in response to the invitation from the USFS to submit a “local alternative” to designation of portions of the South Platte River as Wild and Scenic. The purpose of the SPPP is to protect the ORVs identified by the USFS in the eligibility phase of their analysis of the South Platte River.

The SPPP consists of the eight actions set forth below and includes attachments B to F which give detailed explanations of these 8 actions. (Attachment A is a summary of all the proposed actions for each segment). Please visit <https://southplatte.org/> to view the full SPPP and USFS ROD.



1. Protect two South Platte River canyons: a commitment to prohibit the building of future water works facilities in each of the Cheesman and Eleven Mile Canyons (SPPP Attachment F).
2. Develop a Streamflow Management Plan consisting of multiple management tools such as temperature goals, minimum stream flow rates, and gradual changes to outflows from the on-stream reservoirs (SPPP Attachment B).
3. Develop a proposal for recreation, wildlife, scenery and other values involving a potential management partnership, or partnerships, between Denver Water, Jefferson County, Park County and/or Douglas County, Colorado State Parks, and the USFS (SPPP Attachment C).
4. Create an endowment of at least one million dollars (SPPP Attachment D).
5. The creation and operation of a non-profit entity, the SPPP, to oversee the use of the endowment (SPPP Attachment D).
6. The creation of a Upper South Platte Watershed Management Program designed to protect the ecological health and water quality of the river and its watershed (SPPP Attachment E). This task resulted in the creation of CUSP.
7. Withdrawal of the 1986 water right applications for conditional storage rights in the Two Forks Reservoir (SPPP Attachment F).
8. Create a Task Force to analyze alternatives to the development of Denver Water's Two Forks right-of-way (SPPP Attachment F).

The SPPP recognizes that the Colorado Front Range communities rely heavily upon the South Platte River for drinking water supply and other municipal and industrial uses in addition to the agricultural uses of the river throughout northeastern Colorado. SPEB believes the interests of all these communities can be maintained through common dialogue toward an approach in which the many values on the river – habitat, ecosystem and human-based – can all be addressed in coordination and balance with one another.

## **SPEB Organization**

SPEB was established when Robert Leaverton, the Forest Supervisor for the Pike and San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands signed the ROD on the Wild and Scenic Study of the South Platte River on June 23, 2004. Page 4 of the ROD states ***“After reviewing the Final EIS and considering the prospects for protecting river values under the various alternatives analyzed therein, I believe that the South Platte Protection Plan offers the best available means of protecting the river values that have been identified.”***

With significant assistance by Patty Wells, at the time General Counsel of Denver Water, the formal organization of SPEB was created as an Unincorporated Non-Profit organization. Bylaws were established and were subsequently updated in 2008 and an amendment added in 2016, resulting in the current version.

The SPPP outlined eight actions listed above, with Item 4 being the endowment, and Item 5 being establishment of SPEB, described as: “A coordinating forum, SPEB, will provide comments and responses on activities such as land use or land management planning decisions, as well as deciding expenditures from the endowment.”

Attachment D of the SPPP provides the detailed establishment of the SPEB, the endowment, endowment spending, membership structure, terms of membership, and other details for governance of the organization. Specific entities or organizations were identified to appoint the members to SPEB.

## ***Composition of the Board***

SPEB consists of seventeen (17) members, as follows:

- Three (3) people interested in and knowledgeable about regional fish, wildlife, and ecosystem values
- One (1) representative of motorized recreation users
- One (1) representative of non-motorized, on-land recreation users
- One (1) representative of water recreation users
- One (1) representative from Park County
- One (1) representative from Jefferson County
- One (1) representative from Douglas County
- One (1) representative from Denver Water
- Two (2) representatives of suburban Denver water providers
- One (1) representative who is a private property owner within the Eligible Area
- One (1) representative of the grazing industry
- One (1) representative of the timber or silvicultural industry
- Two (2) at-large Members

## ***SPEB Meetings***

Attachment D of the SPPP called for bi-monthly meetings to be held by SPEB, but it was quickly determined by the board members that monthly meetings would be more practical. It was established and has remained that the meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month. All meetings are open to the public, and guests are not uncommon and always welcome. Before the end of 2004, all 17 board seats were filled and signed off by the appropriate appointing entities. The first meeting of SPEB was held in October 2004 at Denver Water headquarters. From 2004 onward, the monthly meetings have been held consistently, except for taking off December in most years. For many years, the meetings were primarily held at the Denver Water headquarters building, with occasional alternatives chosen, as well as field trip meetings occurring during a summer month. During the Covid pandemic, video conference meetings became the norm, and continue to be utilized part of the time.

While the USFS was not named as a direct participant or member in SPEB, as the largest landowner and steward of much of the land in the SPPP segments, employees from both the South Platte Ranger District and the South Park Ranger District have been actively involved throughout our 20-year history. This has provided technical input and oversight for the public lands and a strong partnership in both administrative and on-the-ground activities, including grants. SPEB acknowledges that the participation of the USFS has immensely aided in our success.

SPEB has established an annual meeting schedule guideline, with some flexibility to adapt to schedule needs of members and activities. The official Annual Meeting occurs in March, and includes the election of officers, with the Vice President from the prior year progressing to be the new president. The grants

schedule is addressed elsewhere in this report, as are the Annual Stream Flow Management and Denver Water Task Force meetings.

**For 20 years, the membership of SPEB has been maintained by the various representatives, meeting an important prescription in the SPPP. A listing of the members of SPEB over the 20-year period and the SPEB category they represented is included in Appendix A. The officers of SPEB over the 20 years are included in Appendix B.**

SPEB has also produced an annual report summarizing our activities each year, including grants issued and results of those grants projects. The annual reports are posted on SPEB’s website and distributed to our benefactors, the USFS, and other interested parties.

**For 20 years, SPEB has consistently met to work at protecting the ORVs, managing grants and the endowment, and fulfilling the goals outlined in the SPPP and ROD, thereby meeting an important prescription in the SPPP.**

### ***Endowment***

Page 5 of the SPPP establishes the endowment as element 5 of 8 actions. It specifically states: “Endowment. Front Range local governments and water suppliers will contribute at least one million dollars to be spent on the values identified by the Forest Service. (More fully described in the SPPP’s Attachment D). A board will be convened within 90 days following a decision by the U.S. Forest Service to adopt the South Platte Protection Plan in lieu of designation.”

The donors completed funding in 2007, in compliance with the SPPP. The breakdown of contributions to the endowment fund is as follows:

<b>Contributing Group</b>	<b>Contributions</b>		
	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>
<b>Douglas County</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$7,493</b>
<b>Jefferson County</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>7,493</b>
<b>Water Users:</b>			
● Centennial W&SD	21,998	21,998	10,990
● Inverness	670	670	340
● Meridian	1,011	1,011	500
● Arapahoe Co. Water	3,752	3,752	1,878
● East Cherry Creek Valley	11,953	11,953	5,974
● Pinery W&SD	2,278	2,278	1,139
● Castle Pines	2,267	2,267	1,139
● Cottonwood W&SD	1,541	1,541	779
● Stonegate	2,577	2,577	1,279
● Castle Rock	8,543	8,543	4,276
● Roxborough	2,005	2,005	999
● Parker W&SD	9,000	9,000	4,496

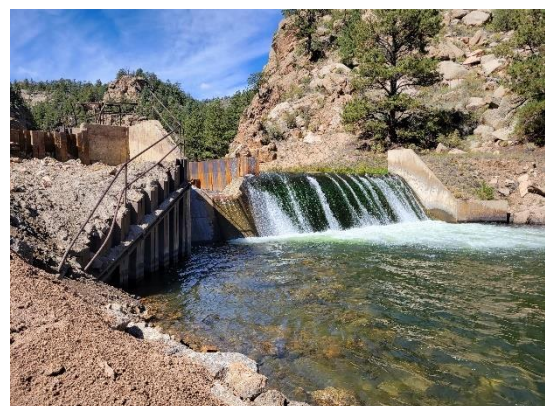
Aurora	67,000	67,000	33,468
Colorado Springs	15,000	15,000	7,493
Englewood	8,000	8,000	3,996
Thornton	12,500	12,500	6,234
Denver Water	200,000	200,000	99,844
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>Year 1 - \$400,095</b>	<b>Year 2 - \$400,095</b>	<b>Year 3 - \$199,810</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$400,095</b>	<b>\$800,180</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

**SPEB is very appreciative of the generous contributions made by these entities.** One of the early actions of SPEB was the selection of the Denver Foundation as the administrator of the endowment fund. Per the Denver Foundation website “As a tax-exempt, nonprofit, philanthropic organization, the Denver Foundation stewards more than 1,000 funds established by generous donors. In partnership with the Foundation, our donors make gifts to organizations throughout the seven-county Metro Denver region, across Colorado, and beyond.” It has a strong track record of investment success, and provides a hands-off approach, where SPEB members can rely on professional investment decisions, allowing SPEB to focus on determining how endowment funds should be utilized.

It should be noted that the operating expenses of SPEB have been almost inconsequential. They consist primarily of Directors and Officers Insurance to protect the volunteer members of the board. Website domain name hosting, and maintenance fees are paid for by Denver Water. Members and member organizations have donated services such as printing and mailing the annual report. SPEB members volunteer their time at no compensation.

## **SPEB’s Grant Funding Program**

Under the SPPP, SPEB was established to support projects that enhance and preserve the ORVs within portions of the mainstem of the South Platte River and the North Fork of the South Platte River (the “Eligible Area”). SPEB annual grant funding cycle begins on April 1 with an announcement mailed first class to a diversified list of prior grant awardees, and other groups and individuals who have a stake or an interest in the health of the river corridor. Prior to April 1 the SPEB meets to review a draft announcement to determine the total amount that will be available for grants that year based on the balance of the endowment and market conditions that could impact those funds.



*Lake George diversion dam before removal*

SPEB's first grant was awarded in 2006 and funded in 2007 in the amount of \$20,000 to CUSP for restoration of the Happy Meadows reach of the Upper South Platte River in Park County downstream from Lake George, CO. The project plan submitted by CUSP stated that the goals were to stabilize river channel and riparian areas that had been adversely affected by excess sediment caused by erosion from the Hayman Fire area, roads, grazing, and heavy recreational use. Goals were to increase pools and instream cover to enhance trout production and fishing quality. Approximately two miles of river habitat were to be restored. SPEB award was leveraged into a total project budget of \$275,000, with additional matching funds of \$185,000 and in-kind donations of \$70,000 from Trout Unlimited, Park County, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and the USFS.



*During construction*

**Since 2007, SPEB has funded 47 grants totaling \$866,253 as shown in Appendix C.** Both the April 1 announcement and SPEB grant application form, available on SPEB website [southplatte.org](http://southplatte.org), emphasize that funds matching is an important factor in evaluating the applications. **To that end, SPEB has been able to leverage more than \$5 million in additional funds from federal, state, and local agencies and other groups.** The continuing challenge is to fund beneficial projects at a significant enough level while protecting the corpus of SPEB's one-million-dollar endowment in varying market conditions.



*Lake George diversion dam after removal*

**The endowment had a balance of \$1,032,428 at the end of 2023, reflecting good stewardship of the endowment and responsible grant making decisions by the SPEB, honoring the intent of the SPPP.**

## **Streamflow Management Plan**

The Streamflow Management Plan (SMP) is a key component of the SPPP. It was cooperatively developed to identify opportunities for operating water supply facilities on the South Platte River, principally owned and operated by Denver Water and Aurora Water, in ways that protect and, in some instances, enhance both the trout fisheries and whitewater recreation. These actions are taken while maintaining the current and future water supply functions of the South Platte River and the water utility facilities.

### ***Trout Fisheries and Whitewater Recreation***

Trout fisheries and whitewater recreation are two of the ORVs listed in the USFS's 1997 EIS. The SMP relates to the operations at Aurora Water's Spinney Mountain, and Denver Water's Eleven Mile and Cheesman reservoirs and Denver Water's Roberts Tunnel (that conveys water from Dillon Reservoir to the North Fork of the South Platte River). The SMP has the goal of optimizing stream flow rates and

water temperatures for fish populations and considering rafting and kayaking needs when operating the reservoirs and tunnel. The SMP includes the following components:

- Temperature goals through management of top and bottom releases from reservoirs
- Minimum stream flow rates
- Ramping (changing gradually) outflows from reservoirs
- New valves, monitors, and gauges
- Facility and stream channel improvement provisions
- An annual coordination meeting on operations
- Enforcement provisions that could impose up to a \$10,000 penalty per provision violation, but have never been invoked, as no violations have occurred.

The SMP provides goals for the protection of the existing trout fishery and whitewater recreation values present in 2003 in the South Platte River. Significantly, the benefits of the SMP to the fisheries and whitewater recreation are benefits that would not occur through a federal Wild and Scenic designation of the South Platte River. These benefits from the SMP that would not occur under a Wild and Scenic designation include:

- Establishing minimum stream flow rates from existing reservoirs
- Moderating stream temperatures from reservoir releases or spills
- Establishing guidelines for reservoir outflow fluctuations
- Managing stream flow rates during fish spawning periods
- Annual meetings where interested parties can provide input on operating plans for existing reservoirs.

The SMP includes a table of specific desired goals which represent desirable outcomes. Some goals are more attainable than others and they are intended as guidance for water suppliers in their operating decisions. Both Denver Water and Aurora Water, however, are “committed to taking specific actions necessary to implement the Streamflow Management Plan.”



### ***Water Provider and Agency Coordination***

The SMP has specified operating principles. An overriding principle applicable to all operations is that compliance with provision of the SMP “will not cause participating water users to lose or adversely impact existing or future water supply.” Another principle is that the SMP is a dynamic plan that is refined and continued through time.

The SMP has been very successful in meeting its goals. The annual operations meeting has been held each year where a detailed summary of the year’s activities and future plans are presented by each of Denver Water, Aurora Water, and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife representatives. New valves, gauges, and other facilities have been installed at various reservoirs and in the watershed. Water has been

consistently released from the reservoirs by both Denver Water and Aurora Water in thoughtful ways to optimize benefits to the trout fisheries and to whitewater recreation. Examples of the beneficial cooperation include the generation of optimized flows to support local whitewater recreational activities such as during the annual Bailey Fest and Denver Water/Aurora water flow management coordination to support trout spawning activities below their reservoirs.

A major benefit of the SMP is providing minimum stream flow rates in the form of outlet releases from reservoirs. The USFS cannot control stream flow rates under the Wild and Scenic Act. As an example of the kind of specificity in the SMP, it sets minimum streamflow goals in the South Platte River for water releases from Spinney Mountain and Eleven Mile reservoirs of 32 cubic feet per second (cfs) each (or the inflow amount) and from Cheesman Reservoir of 35 cfs from August to March and 40 cfs from April to July (or the inflow amount). Other specific numeric goals in the SMP are set for when the reservoirs are spilling, to operate discharges within a desired temperature range with a limit on the degrees of temperature fluctuation per day.

Denver Water, specifically, has accomplished the following:

- Denver Water has met its commitments 100% of the time over the last 20 years. The utility has not had a ramping violation or violated a minimum flow requirement.
- Denver Water is carefully managing stream temperatures 99% of the time at both Eleven Mile and Cheesman Reservoirs, stream temperatures have been managed to stay below the 60-degree Fahrenheit maximum temperature for trout.
- At Eleven Mile Reservoir Denver Water achieves outflows in the desired range for recreation 76% of the time.
- At Cheesman Reservoir outflows are in the desired range 43% of the time but above the minimum desired range 88% of the time.
- Stream temperatures below Cheesman are in the desired range 32% of the time. Denver Water has found that with climate change and changes to the watershed, the stream reach from Cheesman to Deckers and the confluence with the North Fork can heat up significantly and, working with CPW and local guides, Denver Water has more frequently been making only bottom releases of colder water to maintain stream temperatures below 60 degrees through a longer reach of the river.
- On average North Fork flows are in the 300 cfs to 500 cfs desired range 48 days per year and above the minimum of 200 cfs for water recreation 102 days per year (of the approximately 150 recreation days available in the warmer months).

Aurora Water similarly has shown ongoing fidelity through its operation of Spinney Mountain Reservoir under the SMP meeting its commitments 100% of the time and experiencing no violations of ramping or minimum flow requirements. The fisheries in the South Platte River, as shown from annual surveys by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), have shown resilience and periodic improvements, as desired. The fishery and whitewater recreation ORV's for the South Platte River, while experiencing occasional major impacts from events outside of the control of humans (such as wildfires), have been maintained and sometimes enhanced over this 20-year period. It is a success story.

CPW's Aquatic Biologists survey the South Platte River within the SPPP footprint to monitor and assess fish management goals and objectives. This work consists of sampling historic locations to evaluate trends in population dynamics of the fishery. Population dynamics include: population estimates, species richness, biomass, density, and condition factors. This data is collected using electrofishing surveys, and

results of these efforts are presented annually to SPEB. CPW's Aquatic Biologists also work closely with Denver Water and Aurora Water staff to manage flows in the South Platte River to protect, enhance, and maintain the fish populations in this area.

**These benefits would not be realized under a Wild and Scenic Designation and are an important part of the success of the SPPP.**

## **Principles Regarding Water Development**

The SPPP recognizes that the Colorado Front Range communities rely heavily upon the South Platte River for drinking water supply and other municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses throughout northeastern Colorado. Attachment F of the SPPP addresses future water development of the South Platte River and describes the basic principles for future water development related specifically to any proposed future Two Forks water project and other possible water development. All future water development projects will be required to meet all applicable federal, state, and local applicable laws. A key principle described in the SPPP is that "it is neither intended to waive or approve in advance any permit required by law now or in the future." Any future water development in the SPPP's project area would be considered on its merits.

**Two significant commitments made in the SPPP about future projects, however, are that no water works facilities would ever be built in Cheesman Canyon and Eleven Mile Canyon.**

Since the Two Forks project proposal is unique to the protected area in that it is larger than any other concept and has an existing federal Right-of-Way, the SPPP in Attachment F contains a set of principles that apply to Two Forks and another set of principles that apply to any other water development proposal. The principles are summarized below:

Regarding a possible Two Forks project:

- Denver Water will establish a planning process (called the Denver Water Planning Task Force) to assess whether there is a combination of viable alternative projects to Two Forks that would supply an equivalent 60,000 acre-feet per year firm yield,
- As a demonstration of good faith in pursuing those options, Denver Water will voluntarily impose a moratorium on applications for the development of a new Two Forks Project for 20 years (starting in June 2004 and ending in June 2024),
- Denver Water, at its discretion, can perform a "residual value assessment" of the concept of developing a Two Forks project utilizing the Right-of-Way at any time to determine the economic value of possible future actions on a Two Forks project. The SPPP states the concept that Denver Water may relinquish the 1931 South Platte Right-of-Way when development of the Two Forks water has reduced the economic value of the Right-of-Way below meaningful value,
- Denver Water makes a commitment to consider the input of the Task Force in making its determination of whether to go ahead with the development of a future Two Forks project and when considering projects that serve as an alternative to a Two Forks project.

Regarding other water developments of the protected area of the South Platte River:

- The SPPP gives examples of what are considered possible future water development projects or activities, such as projects expanding existing upstream reservoirs, new water sources



introduced into the mainstem or North Fork of the South Platte River or projects developing the so-called “Two Forks Water” (i.e. the water rights that would have been used in the Two Forks reservoir project).

- There is also a listing of projects not considered new water development, such as sediment management, exchanges of water or channel improvements. The SPPP points out that any water development project within the Protected Area would need to demonstrate, after mitigation, the lack of significant long-term adverse effects on the resource values identified and protected by the SPPP.

Denver Water and other Water Users consented to the dismissal of other-sized Two Forks projects, other than the 346,000 AF sized project contemplated with the issuance of the original Two Forks Right-of-Way. There were two water right applications for Two Forks reservoir projects filed in 1986 for sizes differing from the 346,000 AF original Denver Water project. These water right applications were filed by the Metropolitan Denver Water Authority and by Denver Water. **In fulfillment of the SPPP obligation, these two right applications were withdrawn in 2005.**

The composition of the Denver Water Planning Task Force is specified with 12 total members, of which 8 are possibly from SPEB, and the group is required to meet annually to be updated by Denver Water on the status of their developing the anticipated 60,000 AF per year Two Forks project yield from alternative projects. **These meetings have been held annually and the most recent meeting held, in 2023, revealed that the 60,000 AF of alternative project yield has not been, and is not close to, being achieved.**

Denver Water’s voluntary 20-year moratorium on development of the Two Forks project expires in June of 2024, thus the next actions by Denver Water are not known currently. It is Denver Water’s sole discretion on what decision to make about the future development or non-development of the proposed Two Forks project, but Denver Water has committed to consider any recommendations by the Denver Water Planning Task Force in any decision Denver Water makes about going forward with a future Two Forks project.

## Recreation



*Jeep Club meeting in Wildcat Canyon*

The SPPP contemplated a far-reaching recreation management plan, where CPW (the current agency name) would oversee a broad recreation enterprise that would manage recreation across much of the land in the South Platte corridor. That plan was investigated thoroughly, but there didn’t seem to be any way that the various federal, state, county, utility, and private landowners wanted to cede management of recreation on their land, nor was there a means to collect fees that would support management on those lands. And thus, this concept was deemed unfeasible.

The end of a master recreation plan didn’t end the demand by the public for recreation, nor did it stop SPEB from supporting recreation through numerous grants. As Colorado’s population has grown, and especially during the Covid pandemic, recreation on public lands has grown dramatically in all forms.

Recreation was identified as one of the ORVs in the USFS Wild and Scenic Eligibility study. **The summary of grants in Appendix C of this report shows that SPEB has issued \$283,000 in 21 separate grants supporting various forms of recreation, supporting the SPPP.**

## Coalition for the Upper South Platte

In 1998, after several years of research and discussion, and prior to the creation of the SPEB in 2004 as the “coordinating forum” under the SPPP, Denver and Aurora Water, together with other Upper South Platte stakeholders concerned with senior water rights and source water protections, drafted a memorandum of understanding and by-laws to incorporate a non-profit organization, the **Upper South Platte Watershed Protection Association**, to undertake watershed outreach and education. The organization became **CUSP** in 2002, and over the next few years CUSP undertook several important watershed projects, including:

- Stream restoration along the Tarryall Creek to reduce sediment and improve fish habitat.
- Horse Creek restoration in the Hayman burn scar.
- “Trees for Trout” river restoration using whole tree placement to improve fish habitat in Tarryall Creek and the South Platte River in Eleven Mile Canyon.
- Construction of the Burning Bear Trail along Geneva Creek to improve water quality and visitor safety.
- Initiation of a carbon sequestration research project with the Rocky Mountain Research Station for potential carbon storage in burn scar plantings.

CUSP has continued to undertake many projects benefiting the Upper South Platte River corridor on behalf of stakeholders including Federal, State, and local governmental agencies, and in 2007 CUSP received its first grant from SPEB which provided \$20,000 in initial seed money for the first of several subsequent restoration projects at the Happy Meadows campground site in Park County. Since 2007, SPEB has supported CUSP with 16 grants, including four grants totaling \$130,000 as part of the \$3.5 million Lake George diversion dam removal project.

## Baseline Study of the South Platte River

As SPEB grant program continued after awarding its first grant for the Happy Meadows restoration in 2007, SPEB began discussions about the probable effects of the more recent fire and flooding in the watershed, and on the ORVs that had been determined well over 20 years in the past. While there had been monitoring efforts on various stream segments in the past, and several ORV related projects were already underway or completed, SPEB decided a comprehensive study was an important post-fire assessment to both establish a permanent baseline record of conditions on the river to allow for assessment of changes over time and to help the SPEB focus on projects that would address the impacts of fire and other possible adverse conditions in the river corridor. **Beginning in 2012, discussions took place with CUSP about the feasibility and methodology of such a study, and in 2014 SPEB awarded CUSP a grant for \$105,000 with an additional \$10,000 provided by CUSP for staff and equipment.** The study was focused on Federal Lands and was completed in phases over the next several years, and in October 2018 the South Platte Baseline Study was submitted to the Board.



*Lake George diversion dam removal*

In the study, the river segments A, B, C, D, E, and H identified in the final EIS and ROD, were further divided into 20 “Reaches”, 9 of which, Reaches 31-23, are in **Segment A** between Eleven Mile Reservoir and the Lake George diversion dam just above Lake George. The segment is known as Eleven Mile Canyon. Four of the ORVs identified in the Wild & Scenic study, Scenic, Geologic, Recreational, and Fisheries exist in the canyon. The study noted that the canyon is heavily used leading to the main issues of road erosion and bank stability throughout the segment, and that Reach 23 is significantly affected by the diversion dam “which is an aquatic species passage barrier

and has changed the sediment transport and geomorphology of the river.” It was also noted that the South Park Ranger District was undertaking a travel management plan to address traffic issues. Additionally, the CUSP / Trout Unlimited “trees for trout” river restoration project from a decade earlier had been a success. And “the area has benefited significantly from the Denver Water/Aurora Water voluntary flow management program, which ramps flows to reduce washing of redds (fish eggs) and challenges to ‘young of the year’ fish.”

**Segment B** is divided into three Reaches, Reaches 22-20, and runs 7.5 miles from the mouth of Eleven Mile Canyon to the confluence with Beaver Creek. The middle and lower sections of Reach 22 suffer from bank erosion from the adjacent road and continuing sediment from the Hayman burn scar, although much improvement was noted since data was last taken immediately following the completion of the 2007 SPEB funded Happy Meadows restoration project. Although “Fisheries” was the only ORV identified for Segment B in the USFS’s Wild and Scenic assessment, Happy Meadows is readily accessible by road and is heavily used for recreation (picnicking, tubing, and other outdoor activities). Reaches 21 and 20 run through privately owned Sportsmen’s Paradise. In connection with the Happy Meadows restoration project, CUSP partnered with this community to remove and redevelop a diversion dam improving bank stability and habitat and allowing for fish passage between the mouth of Eleven Mile Canyon and Cheesman Reservoir.

The baseline study divides **Segment C** into four Reaches, Reaches 19-16, which run 10.4 miles to Cheesman Reservoir. The ORVs identified for this segment include Fisheries, Geologic, Scenic, and Wildlife. Some of this segment is difficult to access because of rugged and steep terrain and Reach 19 was “too dangerous to sample when crews went in on two different occasions”. It was noted that the Hackett Gulch area suffers from erosion from OHV traffic crossing the river. Reach 18 was also noted to have OHV damage near the mouth of Corral Creek further downstream. The study noted that most of Reach 17 is “impossible to reach” however reduced motorized use has improved conditions since it was last monitored. Reach 16 “benefits from no available motorized access. This stretch of river is in excellent condition.”

**Segment D** is comprised of three Reaches, Reaches 15-13, and extends 3.1 miles from Cheesman Reservoir to the upstream boundary of the Wigwam Club. The segment is known as Cheesman Canyon and is nationally renowned for its fishery. The ORVs in this Reach are Fisheries, Recreational, and

Wildlife. While the upstream Reaches 15 and 14 were not accessed for safety reasons during the study, Reach 13 just above Wigwam was found to be “in good shape” in spite of the need for trail maintenance. A trail provides the only access to Segment D, and other social trails and the lack of stabilizing vegetation result in “excess sediment to the river”.

**Segment E** extends 19.5 miles from the upper end of the Wigwam property to the high-water line of Strontia Springs Reservoir. ORVs associated with Segment E are Fisheries, Recreational, and Wildlife. The ORVs are the same as in Segment D, but unlike Segment D this segment is readily accessible by road and is heavily used for fishing, tubing, camping, picnicking, and other outdoor activities. And “the segment was highly impacted by the Hayman and other fires.” Reach 12 runs through Wigwam property. Reach 11 is adjacent to the Y Camp Road to Deckers and suffers from eroding banks from the gravel road and fishing access. The study also notes that funding from SPEB and Trout Unlimited was already supporting the construction of stone river access stairs at Deckers. Reach 10 runs from Deckers to the upper boundary of Swayback Ranch. The middle section of this reach approximately a quarter mile below the mouth of Horse Creek near Trumbull is of more gradual gradient than the section upstream near Deckers, and it was noted that this section “has been impacted by drainage from the Hayman Fire”. The entire reach is also impacted by social trails causing bank erosion. Reach 9 runs through the Swayback Ranch property and Reach 8 extends to private lands at Oxyoke. “The road is the primary contributor to sedimentation followed by social trails and access points.” Because the study was focused on Federal Lands, the mix of private inholdings along the remainder of Segment E was limited to observation from the road. Heavy public usage describes this section, and sediment from the road, bank erosion from social trails and access points were noted in supplemental material gathered during the study.

**Segment H** includes the North Fork of the South Platte River from Insmont downstream to the confluence with the main stem. The ORVs identified include Recreational, Wildlife, and Cultural. Reach 14 alone was studied as representative of the narrow and rocky channels of the entire segment. In 1996 and again in 2000, Segment H was severely impacted by the Buffalo Creek and High Meadows fires during and after which “hundreds of thousands of tons” of sediment were deposited in the river. Because of the narrow and rocky character of this segment, and of Waterton Canyon downstream below the confluence, most of the sediment ended up in Strontia Springs Reservoir. The study noted the impacts of sediment from the adjacent road of which several miles remain unpaved and is very close to the river in many areas. Sedimentation is also occurring from bank instability and lack of vegetation, particularly on the roadside of the river.

The study concludes “Generally speaking, the system is in worse condition than when Wild & Scenic consideration started, due to the various wildfires in the basin since the start of the process; however, the trend has been improving as the ecosystem comes back from the fires.”

**CUSP has been working tirelessly since 1998 to uphold their mission and protect the South Platte River, thereby supporting the SPPP.**

## **Conclusions**

USFS Forest Supervisor, Robert J. Leaverton, in his June 23, 2004, ROD made a courageous decision to halt the Suitability decision in the Wild and Scenic River study of the South Platte River and, instead, to allow a locally developed river protection plan, the SPPP, to fulfill the USFS policy that requires protection of river values identified on eligible rivers. This decision is an experiment and the first time

such a local alternative has been used in the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process. If the experiment is not successful, the Suitability phase of the Wild and Scenic process would be restarted.

Mr. Leaverton stated that he believed the SPPP “offers the best available means of protecting river values that have been identified”. He further stated the SPPP “has many strengths: its breadth of support indicates a good prospect for successful implementation; it provides more benefits than can be required under (his) current authorities; it allows coordinated work on important issues affecting the rivers; and it defines an area of agreement regarding water development that a wide range of interests can live with.”



*Forest Service South Platte River Patrol*

This experiment has now been in place for 20 years. Its underlying goal is to maintain and, if possible, enhance the identified ORVs of 72 miles of the South Platte River and North Fork of the South Platte River above the Denver Metro area.

This 20-year anniversary report shows how each of the components of the SPPP have been rigorously adhered to and complied with. Supervisor Leaverton’s vision of how the SPPP would work has been demonstrated and confirmed. SPEB is a highly coordinated and cooperative forum for addressing how the river values can be protected. The endowment has been carefully administered by SPEB and has provided the funding mechanism as it was envisioned. SPEB also has a close, productive partnership with the USFS.

The grant program, a huge and constant success, funds various types of projects that maintain and, when possible, enhance the river’s resource values. The work of partners, such as CUSP, has demonstrably protected and improved the water quality and

watershed in the South Platte basin. Other components of the SPPP are also a resounding success and show that strongly divergent interests can work together to identify common ground.

**SPEB is proud of this record and believes unanimously that the work of the South Platte Protection Plan should continue indefinitely to protect the resource values of the South Platte River.**

Thank you for your time and attention to the work of SPEB.

# APPENDIX A

## SPEB Membership Term Status Summary 3/20/24

Fish, Wildlife, Ecosystems 1		Fish, Wildlife, Ecosystems 3	
<b>Tom Krol</b>		<b>Tom Iseman</b>	
	Initial term: 3 yr. : 2004 thru 2007		Initial term: 1 yr.: 2004 thru 2005
	Renewal: 2007 thru 2010	<b>Kevin Natapow</b>	
	Renewal: 2010 thru 2013		Successor term: 2005 thru 2008
<b>Jeff Spohn</b>			Renewal: 2008 thru 3/2009
	Successor term: 4/2012 thru 2013	<b>Stacy Tellinghuisen</b>	
	Renewal: 2013 thru 2016		Successor term: 3/2009 thru 2011
	Renewal: 2016 thru 2018		Renewal: 2011 thru 2014
<b>Tyler Swarr</b>		<b>Jorge Figueroa</b>	
	Successor term: 2018 thru 2019		Successor term: 5/2012 thru 2014
	Renewal: 2019 thru 2022	<b>David Nickum</b>	
<b>Jeff Spohn</b>			Successor term: 2/2015 thru 2017
	Successor term: 2022 thru 2022		Renewal: 2017 thru 2020
	Renewal: 2022 thru 2025		Renewal: 2020 thru 2023
<b>Riley Adams</b>			Renewal: 2023 thru 2026
	Successor term: 2023		
<b>Kyle Battige</b>			
	Successor term: 2023		
<b>Potential Representative: Kira Paik</b>			
	Successor term: 2024 thru 2025		

<b>Fish, Wildlife, Ecosystems 2</b>		<b>Private Property Owner</b>	
<b>Tod Bacigalupi</b>		<b>Jim Idema</b>	
	Initial Term: 2 yr.: 2004 thru 2006		Initial term: 1 yr.: 2004 thru 2005
	Renewal: 2006 thru 6/2008		Renewal: 2005 thru 2008
<b>Becky Long</b>			Renewal: 2008 thru 2011
	Successor term: 6/2008 thru 2009		Renewal: 2011 thru 2014
	Renewal: 2009 thru 2012		Renewal: 2014 thru 2017
<b>Erica Stock</b>			Renewal: 2017 thru 2020
	Renewal: 2012 thru 2015		Renewal: 2020 thru 2023
<b>Sarah Lu</b>			Renewal: 2024 thru 2026
	Successor term: 8/2014 thru 2015		
<b>Theresa Conley</b>		<b>Grazing Industry</b>	
	Successor term: 4/2015 thru 2015	<b>Bob Foster</b>	
	Renewal: 2015 thru 2018		Initial term: 2 yr.: 2004 thru 2006
<b>Kristin Green</b>			Renewal: 2006 thru 2009
	Successor term: 2017 thru 2018		Renewal: 2009 thru 2012
	Renewal: 2018 thru 2021	<b>Tony Warnock</b>	
<b>Josh Kuhn</b>			Successor term: 2012 thru 2015
	Successor term: 4/2019 thru 2021		Renewal: 2015 thru 2018
	Renewal: 2021 thru 2024		Renewal: 2018 thru 2021
		<b>Jesse Geary</b>	
			Successor term: 2021 thru 2021
			Renewal: 2022 thru 2025

<b>Timber or Silviculture Industry</b>	
<b>Chuck Dennis</b>	
	Initial term: 3 yr.: 2004 thru 2007
	Renewal: 2007 thru 2010
<b>Scott Woods/ Rich Edwards</b>	
	Successor term: 3/2010 thru 2013
	Renewal: 2013 thru 2016
	Renewal: 2016 thru 2019
<b>Weston Toll</b>	
	Successor Term: 3/2019 thru 2019
	Renewal: 2019 thru 2022
	Renewal: 2022 thru 2025

<b>Motorized Recreation Users</b>	
<b>Dennis Larratt</b>	
	Initial term: 1 yr.: 2004 thru 2005
	Renewal: 2005 thru 2008
	Renewal: 2008 thru 2011
	Renewal: 2011 thru 2014
	Renewal: 2014 thru 2017
	Renewal: 2017 thru 2020
	Renewal: 2020 thru 2023
	Renewal: 2023 thru 2026

<b>Non-Motorized Recreation Users</b>	
<b>Bill Hamilton</b>	
	Initial term: 2 yr.: 2004 thru 2006
	Renewal: 2006 thru 2009
<b>Mark Spurgeon</b>	
	Successor term: 2009 thru 2012
	Renewal: 2012 thru 2015
	Renewal: 2015 thru 2018
	Renewal: 2018 thru 2021
	Renewal: 2021 thru 2024
<b>Intro potential new member in April</b>	



<b>Jefferson County</b>	
<b>Jeanie Rossillon</b>	
	Initial term: 2 yr.: 2004 thru 2006
<b>Amy Ito</b>	
	Successor term: 2006 thru 2009
	Renewal: 2009 thru 2012
<b>Frank Kunze</b>	
	Successor term: 3/2012 thru 2013
<b>Anna Smith</b>	
	successor term: 2013 thru 2015
<b>Nancy York</b>	
	Successor term: 8/2014 thru 2015
	Renewal: 2015 thru 2018
<b>Drew Rayburn</b>	
	Successor term: 2018 thru 2021
<b>Kristina Duff</b>	
	Successor term: 2020 thru 2021
	Renewal: 2021 thru 2024

<b>Park County</b>	
<b>Jim Gardner</b>	
	Initial term: 1 yr.: 2004 thru 2005
<b>Dan Drucker</b>	
	Successor term: 2005 thru 2008
	Renewal: 2008 thru 2011
	Renewal: 2011 thru 2014
	Renewal: 2014 thru 2017
	Renewal: 2017 thru 2020
	Renewal: 2020 thru 2023
<b>Lisa Barden-Brown</b>	
	Successor term: 2022 thru 2023
	Renewal: 2023 thru 2026

<b>Suburban Water Provider 1</b>	
<b>Cindy Brady</b>	
	Initial term: 2 yr.: 2004 thru 2006
<b>Jo Scarbeary</b>	
	Successor term: 2006 thru 2007
<b>Mike McHugh</b>	
	Successor term: 2007 thru 2009
	Renewal: 2009 thru 2012
	Renewal: 2012 thru 2015
	Renewal: 2015 thru 2018
	Renewal: 2018 thru 2021
	Renewal: 2021 thru 2024
<b>Matt Ashley</b>	
	Successor term: 2023 thru 2024

<b>Denver Water</b>	
<b>Don Kennedy</b>	
	Initial term: 1 yr.: 2004 thru 2005
	Renewal: 2005 thru 2008
	Renewal: 2008 thru 2011
	Renewal: 2011 thru 2014
	Renewal: 2014 thru 2017
<b>Christina Burri</b>	
	Successor term: 2016 thru 2017
<b>Nathan Elder</b>	
	Successor term thru 2017
	Renewal: 2017 thru 2020
	Renewal: 2020 thru 2023
	Renewal: 2023 thru 2026

<b>Water Recreation Users</b>	
<b>Steve Dougherty</b>	
	Initial term: 3 yr.: 2004 thru 2007
	Renewal: 2007 thru 2010
	Renewal: 2010 thru 2013
<b>Scott Winkleman</b>	
	Successor term: 4/2014 thru 2016
	Renewal: 2016 thru 2019
	Renewal: 2019 thru 2022
<b>Nik White</b>	
	Successor term: 4/2021 thru 2022
	Renewal: 2022 thru 2025

<b>Suburban Water Provider 2</b>	
<b>Rick McLoud</b>	
	Initial term: 3 yr.: 2004 thru 2007
	Renewal: 2007 thru 2010
	Renewal: 2010 thru 2013
	Renewal: 2013 thru 2016
	Renewal: 2016 thru 2019
	Renewal: 2019 thru 2022
	Renewal: 2022 thru 2025

<b>Douglas County</b>	
<b>Cheryl Matthews</b>	
	Initial term: 3 yr.: 2004 thru 2007
	Renewal: 2007 thru 2010
<b>Andy Hough</b>	
	Successor term: 3/2010 thru 2013
	Renewal: 2013 thru 2016
	Renewal: 2016 thru 2019
	Renewal: 2019 thru 2022
	Renewal: 2022 thru 2025

<b>At Large 1</b>	
<b>Brooke Fox</b>	
	Initial term: 3 yr.: 2004 thru 2007
	Renewal: 2007 thru 9/2008
<b>Eric Howell</b>	
	Renewal: 9/2008 thru 2010
	Renewal: 2010 thru 2013
<b>Allison Schuch</b>	
	Successor term: 6/2013 thru 2013
	Renewal: 2013 thru 2016
	Renewal: 2016 thru 2019
<b>Lisa Walters</b>	
	Successor term: 3/2018 thru 2019
	Renewal: 2019 thru 2022
	Renewal: 2022 thru 2025

<b>At Large 2</b>	
<b>Vic Ecklund</b>	
	Initial term: 2 yr.: 2004 thru 2006
	Renewal: 2006 thru 2009
<b>Eddie Kochman</b>	
	Renewal: 2/2009 thru 2012
<b>Kyle Hamilton</b>	
	Successor term: 1/2010 thru 2012
	Renewal: 2012 thru 2015
	Renewal: 2015 thru 2018
	Renewal: 2018 thru 2021
	Renewal: 2021 thru 2024

## APPENDIX B

### History of SPEB Officers of the Board

	<b>President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Grants Chair</b>
2004	Tom Krol	Rick McLoud	Don Kennedy	Steve Dougherty
2005	Tom Krol	Rick McLoud	Don Kennedy	Steve Dougherty
2006	Tom Krol	Rick McLoud	Don Kennedy	Steve Dougherty
2007	Rick McLoud	Brooke Fox	Don Kennedy	Steve Dougherty
2008	Rick McLoud	Dennis Larratt	Don Kennedy	Steve Dougherty
2009	Amy Ito	Dennis Larratt	Don Kennedy	Steve Dougherty
2010	Jim Idema	Dennis Larratt	Don Kennedy	Steve Dougherty
2011	Mike McHugh	Dennis Larratt	Don Kennedy	Steve Dougherty
2012	Kyle Hamilton	Dennis Larratt	Don Kennedy	Steve Dougherty
2013	Andy Hough	Erica Stock	Don Kennedy	Steve Dougherty
2014	Mark Spurgeon	Mike McHugh	Don Kennedy	Jim Idema
2015	Tony Warnock	Allison Plute	Don Kennedy	Jim Idema
2016	Dan Drucker	Allison Plute	Christina Burri	Jim Idema
2017	Nancy York	Allison Plute	Nathan Elder	Jim Idema
2018	Dennis Larratt	Allison Schuch	Nathan Elder	Jim Idema
2019	David Nickum	Drew Rayburn	Nathan Elder	Jim Idema
2020	Scott Winkleman	Nathan Elder	Nathan Elder	Jim Idema
2021	Andy Hough	Lisa Walters	Nathan Elder	Jim Idema
2022	Kristina Duff	Lisa Walters	Nathan Elder	Jim Idema
2023	Nik White	Lisa Walters	Nathan Elder	Jim Idema

## **APPENDIX C**

### **SPEB Grant Summary 12/26/23**

Please see the following three pages for details.





