

Forest management project process overview



1 GETTING TO KNOW YOU AND YOUR PROPERTY

We will conduct property visits with individual landowners to understand current conditions and hear your vision for the property. If we both decide to move forward with a forest management plan, we will ask you to sign a Participation Agreement for Planning. This agreement allows us to visit your property, with notification, to conduct planning efforts. After this Agreement is signed, we will not go onto your property without 24 hours minimum written notice (although our standard is 1-week notice).

2 FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

We will write a forest management plan for landowners that want to conduct a forest management project with us. This management plan includes a detailed description of current conditions and recommended management actions. We will collect forest structure data that will be used to inform this plan. Data collection is focused on vegetation, and includes tree size, species, height, and age. Data we collect on your property will never be shared publicly without your written consent. After the plan is drafted, we will meet with you to discuss it and hear your feedback. We view this process as a collaboration with the landowner, so that the plan is ultimately one that we all want to see implemented.

3 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Watershed Center will apply for grant funding to support project implementation.

As a non-profit organization, The Watershed Center secures funding through grants, government partners, foundations, corporations, and individual donors. This enables us to carry out steps 1-3 without any expense to the landowner. However, we sincerely appreciate donations which enable us to make a positive difference for our watersheds.

Thank you to the following funders for their support of forest management planning efforts: Argosy Foundation, Boulder County Wildfire Mitigation Tax, Boulder County, City of Longmont, Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Justin Brooks Fisher Foundation, Left Hand Water District, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, National Forest Foundation, and U.S. Forest Service.

4 IMPLEMENTATION

After funding has been awarded, the landowner will re-affirm their commitment to implementing the project by signing a Participation Agreement for Implementation that allows work to occur. We will detail the implementation process with landowners, which includes your review of marked trees at steps 2 and 3, or sooner if desired.

WHO ARE WE?

The Watershed Center protects and restores watersheds for people and the environment using a collaborative and science-based approach.

We are a collaborative nonprofit organization located in Boulder County that values science and community. We used sound science to monitor, assess, and manage our watersheds. We also coordinate the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, a collaborative of 100+ agencies, municipalities, and communities working to make our forests resilient to wildfire across the St. Vrain Watershed.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if I change my mind during the process? You can change your mind at any time! If you no longer want to participate, just let us know.

Will I get stuck with a bill I don't expect? No. The Watershed Center secures funding through grants, government partners, foundations, corporations, and individual donors. This enables us to carry out forest management planning without any expense to the landowner. However, we sincerely appreciate donations, which enable us to make a positive difference for our watersheds. Once the management plan is written, you will confirm whether you want to move forward with implementation. If you do, we will apply for grants to fund implementation. Many grants require some portion of landowner contribution (either cash or physical labor), and we will do our best to make this contribution manageable for you. If any contribution would be a limitation to you participating, but you otherwise would like to participate, please let us know and we will have a conversation with you about how to make this work without judgement.

Do I have full control of what happens on my property? Yes. We just ask that you communicate openly with us throughout the entire project process so that we can be aware of your concerns, desires, and needs.

Will this work make a difference? Yes! The science is clear - mitigation decreases risk to your home and increases the ability of the forest to bounce back from wildfire. And, we're all in this together - every property where forest management occurs will contribute to a larger puzzle of work happening across our county. As part of coordinating the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, we are constantly defining and implementing strategic approaches to fire mitigation across the landscape with partners like the U.S. Forest Service. Thus, the projects we do with landowners like you will help reduce wildfire risk across the watershed.

What goes into a forest management plan?

We take a holistic approach that considers...

