



EAGLE RIVER COALITION

Protecting Our Local Watersheds

Eagle River Community Water Plan

Town of Minturn - July 2024



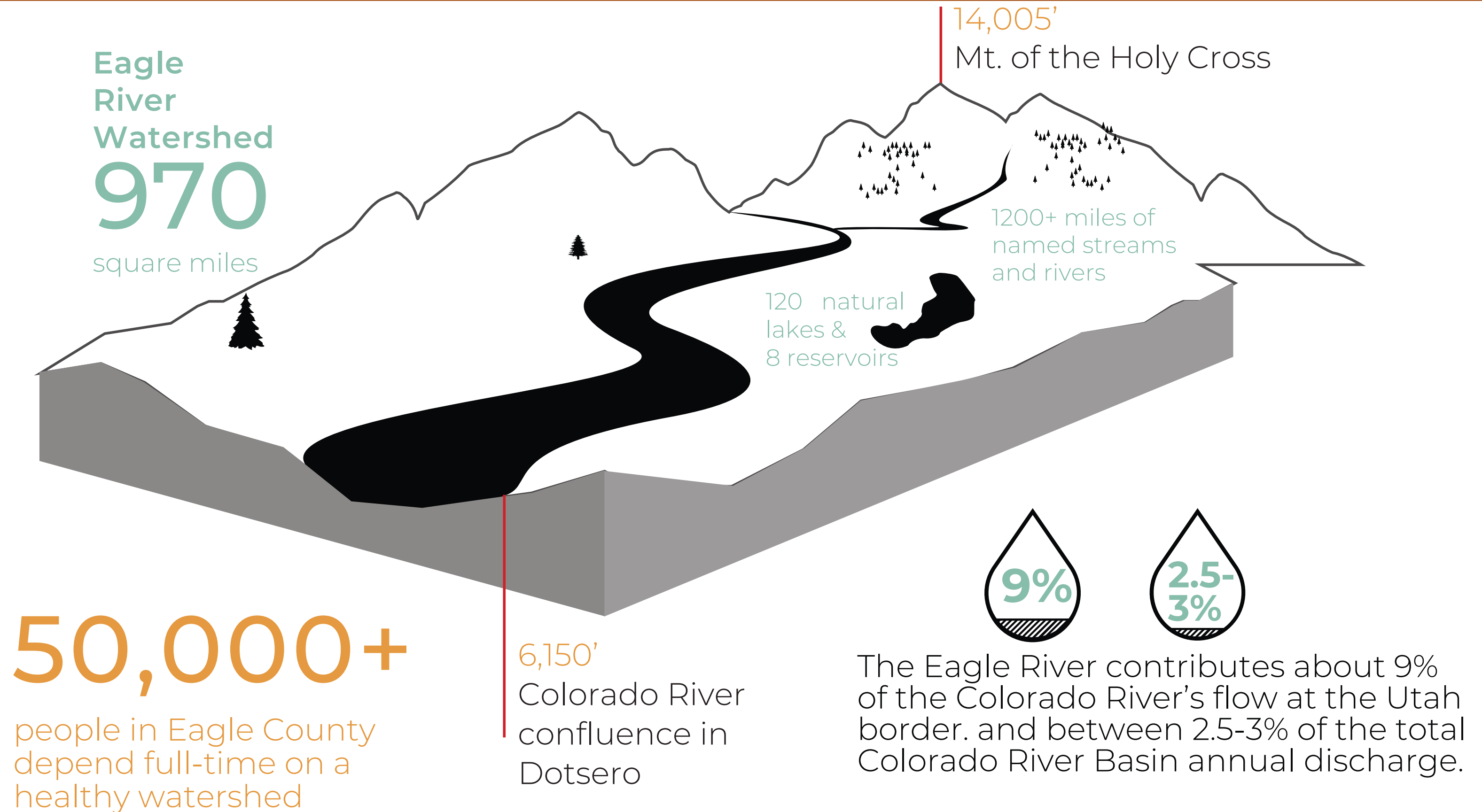
EAGLE RIVER COALITION

Protecting Our Local Watersheds

New name, same mission.

Advocate for the health of the Upper Colorado and Eagle River Basins through research, projects and education.

Our Watershed



Consider past, present, and future human and ecosystem river health values to identify opportunities to correct historical degradation and prevent and mitigate against non-desirable future conditions.



Community Outreach Strategies

- Workshops and community presentations
- Booths at local events and recreation centers
- Web-based community surveys

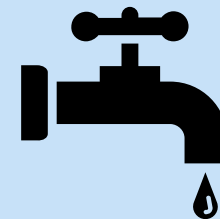


Community Values

**WILDLIFE AND
BIODIVERSITY**



**MUNICIPAL
WATER USE**



AGRICULTURE



**RECREATIONAL
BOATING**



ANGLING



**AESTHETICS AND
VIEWSCAPES**



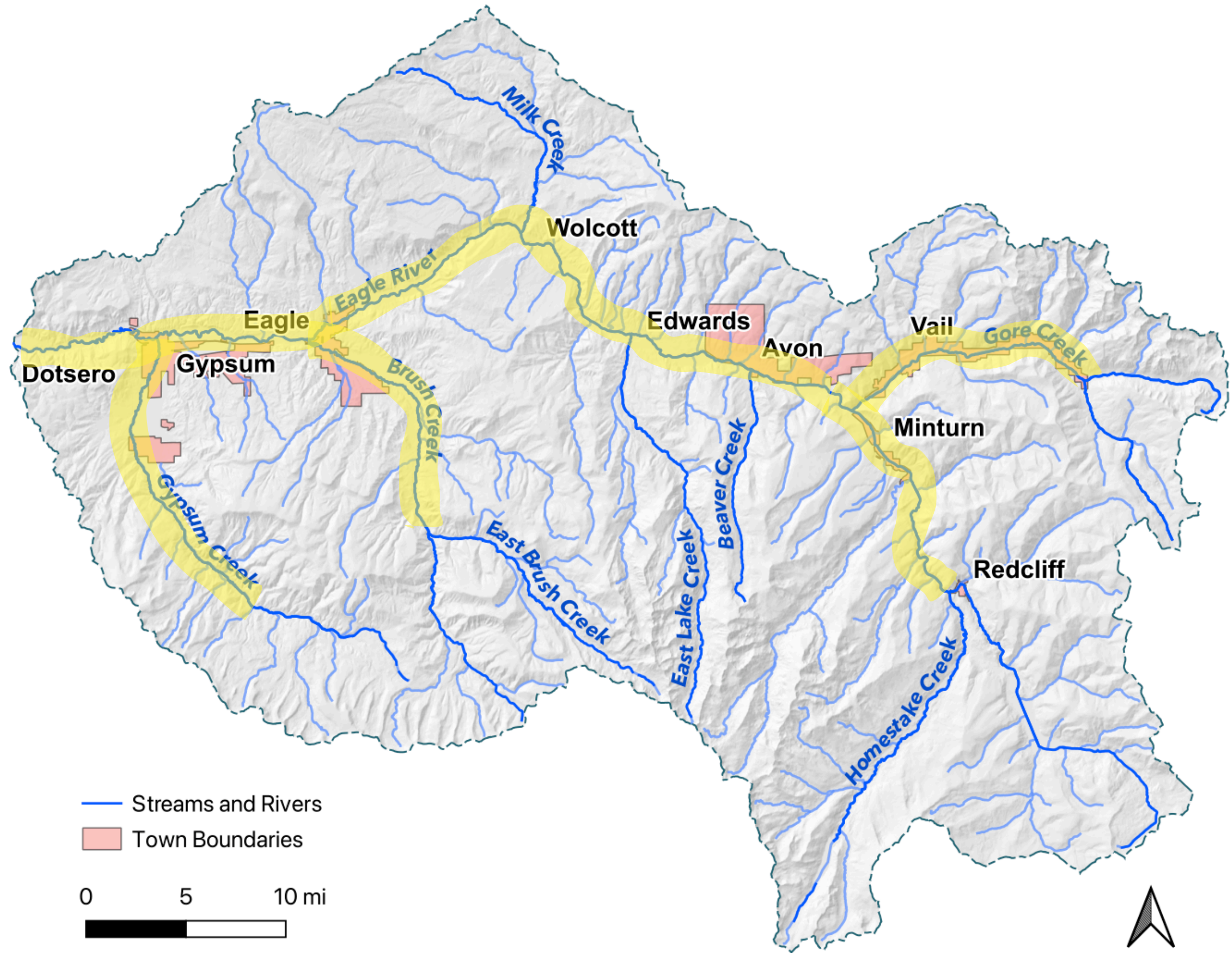
SNOWMAKING



Water Use Modeling

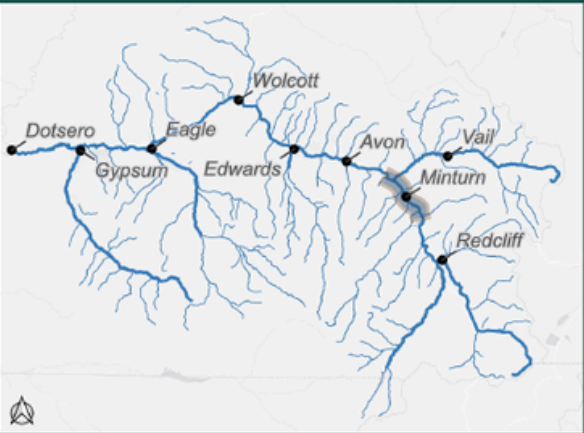
Using ERWSD's "ER20"

- Roughly mirrors CWCB's models for the Eagle
- Multiple potential futures for Eagle County
- Geography: limited to the Eagle River mainstem below the confluence with Homestake Creek, Gore Creek below Black Gore Creek, Brush Creek, and Gypsum Creek.



Upper Eagle River

Cross Creek to Gore Creek



Current and Historical Drivers of Degradation

Sensitive fish taxa are largely absent due to water quality impacts from the Eagle Mine. Ambient metals concentrations exceed relevant water quality standards, resulting in multiple 303(d) listings and only partial/seasonal attainment of standards. The growth and development of juvenile salmonids is impacted by metals.

Flows are altered by upstream TMDs and reservoirs. The frequency of peak flows equivalent to the natural 1-in-4 year flood declined significantly due to water use and management. Peak flows during typical and dry years declined 24-30% respectively. Total annual flow volumes in dry years declined 32% when compared to natural historic conditions.

Development in the Town of Minturn results in significant alteration to sediment transport continuity, lateral floodplain extent, and physical habitat structure in the stream channel.

Grade	Degree of Impairment	Icon	Expected Effect Size
A	None	⬆	Strongly Positive
B	Minor	⬆	Somewhat Positive
C	Significant	○	Neither Positive or Negative
D	Severe	⬇	Somewhat Negative
F	Profound	⬇	Strongly Negative
?	Data Gap	⊗	Not Assessed

Functional Assessment		Potential Future Drivers							
Variable / Sub-Variable	Existing Condition	Increasing Municipal Water Use	Urbanization	Warm & Wet Climate Future	In-Between Climate Future	Hot and Dry Climate Future	New TMDs	Increased Reservoir Capacity	Wildfire
Streamflows									
Base Flow: Dry Year	A	○	○	⬇	⬇	⬇	○	⬆	○
Base Flow: Median Year	B	○	○	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬆	○
High Peakflow Frequency	F	⬇	○	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬇	⬇	○
Peak Flow: Dry Year	C	○	○	⬆	○	⬇	⬇	⬇	○
Peak Flow: Median Year	C	○	○	⬆	○	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬆
Total Volume: Dry Year	C	○	○	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬆	○
Total Volume: Median Year	B	○	○	⬆	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	○
Streambed Sediment									
Continuity and Transport	A	⬇	○	○	○	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇
Flushing Flows	A	○	○	○	○	⬇	⬇	⬇	○
Water Quality									
Metals	D	○	○	○	○	○	⬇	⬇	⬇
Nutrients	A	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	⬇
Temperature	A	○	○	○	⬇	⬇	○	⬆	○
Riparian Areas									
Floodplain physical condition	B	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Riparian vegetation	C	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
River Form									
Channel Structure and Dynamics	B	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	⬇
Aquatic Habitat									
Habitat Structure	B	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	⬇
In-channel Hydrologic Connectivity	A	○	○	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬆	○
Aquatic Life									
Aquatic Insects	B	○	○	⬇	⬇	⬇	○	⬆	⬇
Fish	C	⬇	○	⬇	⬇	⬇	○	⬆	⬇



Management Strategies

Projects | Programs

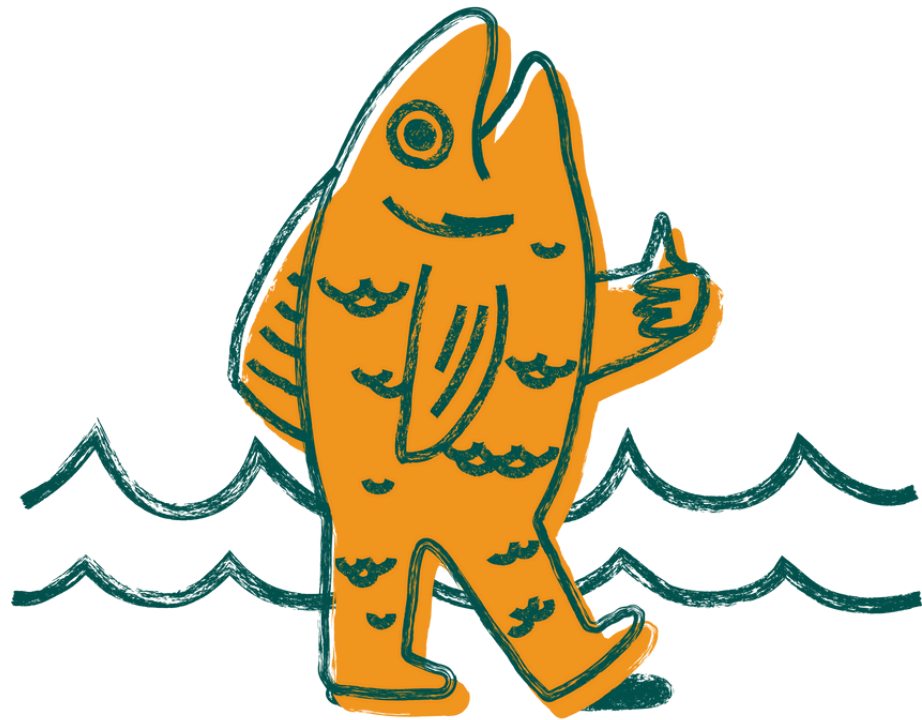
Policies | Studies

- Instream habitat restoration
- Management of instream flows
- Climate studies/infrastructure
- Riparian habitat restoration
- Recreation infrastructure
- Recreation use limits
- Turf reduction and landscaping
- Water rates
- Education and community outreach



Implementation - what's next?

Protect the Locals



THE
EAGLE  RIVER
FUND

Securing a vibrant future.

for us, our wildlife,
and future generations



waterplan.eagleriverco.org