



# ECOSYSTEMS LEARNING CENTER

**CPC-TU** works to conserve, protect, restore and reconnect Colorado's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. As one of the grassroots arms of CTU, **we use cooperation, collaboration, advocacy and education to promote conservation.** Our popular and on-going annual program, Stream Explorers, is now provided to middle school students in Salida, Buena Vista and Leadville.

We are celebrating the success of our **collaborative partnership with Central Colorado Conservancy (CCC), Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA), Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Salida Parks, Open Space and Trails (SPOT).**

Our legacy project has come to be known as the Ecosystems Learning Center (ELC) at a Salida site along the South Arkansas River on SCC property. The late and legendary Fred Rasmussen conceptualized the project and CPC-TU was instrumental in identifying a superb site, compiling a list of outstanding, capable and committed collaborators and is helping to guide site development.

The purposes of ELC are to **develop a local population of young citizens who know, understand and appreciate the diversity, beauty and value of our native river ecosystems; to restore the natural stream channel and adjacent riparian areas; to improve stream flows thereby enhancing aquatic life; to create a long-term site where local students learn to observe, measure, record and understand aquatic and other ecosystems; to provide a location where students develop and maintain a database over time; to provide a location where local groups set-up studies of specific aquatic, terrestrial, amphibious, avian and vegetative organisms.**

We also want to celebrate a milestone of sorts. CCC has **secured funding for engineering analysis and design documents to restore the South Arkansas River from the ELC site to the confluence with the main stem of the Arkansas.** CPC-TU provided significant dollars to meet the high level of matching funds required for this phase.

