**Stakeholder Interview Template**

**INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW OF PROJECT**

* There is a lot of concern about water-related issues in Colorado and the West and how we are going to deal with them in the future
* The Colorado Water Plan talks about different issues and strategies related to this, and suggests that if water users started talking with each other more we could work together to figure out a better path forward – e.g. instead of irrigators only talking to irrigators, recreationists off doing their own thing, city water users doing their own perhaps watering lawns and washing cars in the middle of a drought, etc.
* The Colorado Water Plan has set a goal of getting 80% of the rivers across the state to put together what they are calling a Stream Management Plan, which basically involves gathering all of the interested stakeholders from our watershed, finding out what everyone’s issues and needs and concerns are, making a big wish list of everything we would like to see happen on the river and in the watershed from all of these different perspectives, and then see how many of these things we might be able to get done if we are willing to work together a little better and maybe employ a little more creativity.
* So, we thought we’d like to try this out for the Purgatoire River watershed, and see how it goes! We are just getting started, talking to all interested stakeholders to determine what everyone’s issues and needs are and what folks would ideally like to see happening across the watershed and along the river and on your own property – hence this interview!
* This interview will focus on:
  + Things you want to see fixed, changed, or improved:
    - Around the watershed
    - In and along the river near where you live and work
    - On your own property
  + Related to the following topics:
    - Key topics of interest to you
    - Other topics we’ll walk through (some may not be relevant or of interest, but we need to address at least one of these, if not already addressed above):
      * Ecological health of river
      * Farming & Ranching
      * Municipal & Industrial
      * Recreation
      * Hunting
      * Forest Health
      * Drought Resiliency
      * Economic Sustainability
  + Also – Current Successful Efforts that You Want to See Continue - are there programs or activities or other good things that are *already happening* around the watershed that you want to make sure *keep happening?*

And remember – we are creating an ideal wish list here, so whatever you would ideally like to see happen we want to put that on the list, even if it might feel impossible at this point!

**INTERVIEWEE BASIC INFORMATION**

**Interview Date**:

**Interview Method (phone, in-person):**

**Interviewer Name:**

**Interviewee Name, Organization/Company, Profession:**

**Interviewee Category(s) – Stakeholder ‘group(s)’ that interviewee most strongly identifies with/represents (may be more than one, but try to limit it)**

* Agricultural Producer
* Farmer – irrigated or dry land
  + - Large acreage farm (e.g. major water user), or
    - Small-acreage farm
* Livestock Producer
  + - Large acreage cattle operation (e.g. stakeholder primarily or fully makes living from cattle ranching), or
    - Small-acreage cattle operation (ranching is only one aspect of stakeholders’ livelihood)
    - Duration
    - Generational agricultural producer, or
    - Relative newcomer to agricultural production
  + Other specific identifier(s) per stakeholder
    - For example - major farm crops, specialties, if operating multi-use property what are other uses [e.g. private hunting, forestry], etc: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Local Ditch Company
* Private landowner/dweller non-agricultural (in or near town)
  + In-town homeowner or renter
  + Small acreage homeowner or renter just outside of town
  + Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Hunter/Hunting representative
* Industrial (oil & gas) representative
* Municipal/small rural incorporated & unincorporated town representative. If so, which one:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Private business owner
* Public landowner/manager
* Local HOA/POA representative
* Recreationist
* Ecological/Natural Resource Management Representative – if not attached to ‘Broader Perspective’ entity below

*Broader Perspective Entities*

* Funding – Local or regional funder or banker. If so, which one: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Governmental Decision-Maker - Local or regional governmental decision-maker (e.g. Mayor, City Council members, County Commissioners, State Representatives/Senators, Governor). If so, which one: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Ecological Expert - Local, regional, state, or federal ecological expert (e.g. fish expert, bird expert, wildlife expert, water quality experts, etc). If so, which one: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Natural Resource Management
  + Local Conservation Districts (Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District, Branson-Trinchera Conservation District, Otero Timpas Conservation District, Bent County Conservation District). If so, which one: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Local, regional, state, or federal organizations or agencies participating in relevant land/water management activities in watershed (e.g. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Purgatoire Watershed Weed Management Collaborative, Purgatoire Watershed Partnership, Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Forest Service [Comanche National Grassland, Pike-San Isabel National Forest], Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site, US Bureau of Land Management, US Geological Survey [maintain some of the major gauging stations on the river), The Nature Conservancy, local Land Trusts, etc). If so, which one: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Agricultural Representation Organization – Colorado Cattleman’s Association (local chapters), Southern Colorado Livestock Association, Colorado Independent Cattleman’s Association, Colorado Farm Bureau, US Farm Service Agency, etc). If so, which one: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Other Key Entities - Other local, regional, state, or federal organizations or agencies conducting business or activities in or relevant to our river or watershed operations/management activities (e.g. State Land Board, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Arkansas Basin Roundtable, River Network, Colorado Watershed Assembly, Coalitions & Collaboratives, etc). If so, which one: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Other New - Other groups or organizations that may emerge through our interviews. If so, which one: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Any Additional Relevant Information About Interviewee (e.g. wears multiple ‘hats’, etc):**

**River Reach That Interviewee Is Directly Associated With (If Any):**

* Upper Watershed (headwaters to Trinidad Dam)
* Middle Watershed (Trinidad Dam to Hwy 160/Kit Carson Bypass River Bridge)
* Lower Watershed (Hwy 160/Kit Carson Bypass River Bridge to River Canyon Ranch, including Hoehne and El Moro areas, Hwy 350 and Hwy 160 corridors)

**Any Additional Relevant Interviewee Property Location Details** (e.g. interviewee’s property located in headwaters, located at top or bottom end of reach, located on tributary to Purgatoire River mainstem, etc):

**INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

**Things You Would Like to See Changed or Fixed or Improved**

**#1 – Topics Important to You**

Things you would like to see changed or fixed or improved related to whatever topics or ideas come up for you **(if your topics can fit into the categories in #2 please skip to #2)**

* **Around the Watershed** (anywhere around the watershed or along the river from the headwaters to the Arkansas River)
* **In and Along Your River Reach** (in and around the river near where you live and work)
* **On Your Own Property**

**#2 – Other Topics to Cover**

Things you would like to see changed or fixed or improved related to the below Critical Topics

*(some topics may not be relevant for you, but please address one or more of the topics below)*

* A. Ecological Health of River
* B. Farming & Ranching (Agricultural Functionality, Efficiency, & Sustainability)
* C. Municipal & Industrial
* D. Recreation
* E. Hunting
* F. Forest Health
* G. Drought Resiliency
* H. Economic Sustainability
* I. Other:

**A. Ecological Health of River -** Things you would like to see changed or fixed or improved related to the ecological health of the river

*For example: More bird, wildlife and/or fish habitat; more or different kinds of fish in river; more invasive species management; more revegetation efforts; sedimentation mitigation efforts on dirt roadways; more fencing or bank stabilization efforts to protect river bank/property and reduce sediment in the river; reduction in river pollutants [e.g. trash, fecal contamination from homeless], etc*

* **Around the Watershed** (anywhere around the watershed or along the river from the headwaters to the Arkansas River)
* **In and Along Your River Reach** (in and around the river near where you live and work)
* **On Your Own Property**

**B. Farming & Ranching (Agricultural Functionality, Efficiency, and Sustainability)** - Things you would like to see changed or fixed or improved related to agricultural infrastructure and anything else critical to sustaining your agricultural livelihood.

*For example: new headgate on ditch to improve efficiency of flows, fencing to protect critical resources, bank stabilization efforts to keep river bank from eroding any further and threatening agricultural infrastructure and reduce sediment loads to river, additional stock watering improvements or other improvements (such as internal pasture fencing) to support better distribution of livestock and protect resources, development/revision of grazing plans to better protect resources, revisions of current local programs or development of a new program to provide needed resources, etc)*

* **Around the Watershed** (anywhere around the watershed or along the river from the headwaters to the Arkansas River)
* **In and Along Your River Reach** (in and around the river near where you live and work)
* **On Your Own Property**

**C. Municipal & Industrial** - Things you would like to see changed or fixed or improved related to municipal or industrial operations

*For example: Improved infrastructure, improved services, regulatory compliance improvements, new or improved ordinances or regulations (such as changes in municipal watering restrictions during drought), improved compliance by community members of relevant municipal ordinances or regulations (such as community members not violating lawn watering restrictions in the middle of a drought, not illegally dumping trash in arroyos, not illegally camping along river, etc), addressing specific relevant public safety issues, etc)*

* **Around the Watershed** (anywhere around the watershed or along the river from the headwaters to the Arkansas River)
* **In and Along Your River Reach** (in and around the river near where you live and work)
* **On Your Own Property**

**D. Recreation** - Things you would like to see changed or fixed or improved related to recreation

*For example:*

*(1) Around the watershed or in and along your river reach – more trails, better maintained trails, more fencing, more signage, better protection of private property/less trespassing (and any ideas you have to accomplish this), more education of recreational users, better maps or new maps created, better communication if possible by water regulators with recreationists regarding upcoming changes in flows that impact recreation enjoyment and safety, better relevant phone apps or better updating in current apps, etc.*

*(2) On your own property - more fencing to protect from recreationists, more signage, better trails or access roads, wildlife habitat improvements instream or on your land to improve your personal or private guided fishing, or birding opportunities, etc*

* **Around the Watershed** (anywhere around the watershed or along the river from the headwaters to the Arkansas River)
* **In and Along Your River Reach** (in and around the river near where you live and work)
* **On Your Own Property**

**E. Hunting -** Things you would like to see changed or fixed or improved related to hunting

(this may be considered to be a subset of the ‘Ecological’, ‘Recreation’, ‘Farming and Ranching’ and/or ‘Economic Sustainability’ sections)

*For example:*

*(1) Around the watershed or in and along your river reach – improved wildlife habitat, more fencing, more signage, better protection of private property (and any ideas you have to accomplish this], better education of hunters, more or better maps, better phone apps, etc*

*(2) On your own property - more fencing or signage to protect private property, wildlife habitat improvements to improve personal or private guided hunting, etc*

* **Around the Watershed** (anywhere around the watershed or along the river from the headwaters to the Arkansas River)
* **In and Along Your River Reach** (in and around the river near where you live and work)
* **On Your Own Property**

**F. Forest Health** - Things you would like to see changed or fixed or improved related to forest health

*For example: forest thinning or other fire mitigation, fire concerns, flood concerns, etc*

* **Around the Watershed** (anywhere around the watershed or along the river from the headwaters to the Arkansas River)
* **In and Along Your River Reach** (in and around the river near where you live and work)
* **On Your Own Property**

**G. Drought Resiliency** - Things you would like to see changed or fixed to improve drought resiliency

*For example:*

* *Improved water conservation methods, incentives and enforcement to protect water supply (such as providing cost incentive programs for urban residential water users to cut back usage or farmers installing more efficient irrigation systems), better natural resource and agricultural management methods that reduce impact on the landscape during drought, etc*
* *Think about how you plan for drought and how it has affected you in the past – what do you need to make your operation/property more drought resistant/resilient?*
* **Around the Watershed** (anywhere around the watershed or along the river from the headwaters to the Arkansas River)
* **In and Along Your River Reach** (in and around the river near where you live and work)
* **On Your Own Property**

**H. Economic Sustainability** - Things you would like to see changed or fixed that would improve the economic sustainability of the watershed, your community, and/or your own personal economic health - as it might tie into the above. This question may already have been answered through discussions above!

*For example:*

* *Improved hunting or recreational opportunities in the watershed to improve the long-term economic sustainability of your private business or local community*
* *Direct technical or financial assistance to make necessary improvements on your own property to improve your own economic sustainability as well as river health. If so, then be specific about what would be helpful*
* *Are there programs you would like to see improved or established to help with your operations? If so then be specific about what you would like to see*
* **Economic Sustainability of Watershed**
* **Economic Sustainability Of Your Community**
* **Personal Economic Sustainability**

**I. Other** – Anything else you would like to see changed or fixed or improved that do not fit into the Critical Topics above:

* **Around the Watershed** (anywhere around the watershed or along the river from the headwaters to the Arkansas River)
* **In and Along Your River Reach** (in and around the river near where you live and work)
* **On Your Own Property**

**Current Successful Efforts That You Want to Make Sure Continue**

Are there programs or activities or other good things that are *already happening* around the watershed that you want to make sure *keep happening*?

*For example: Programs, activities or other efforts such as invasive species management program, restoration or education activities, fish stocking, trail building, etc – related to above topics or other topics important to you*

* **Around the Watershed** (anywhere around the watershed or along the river from the headwaters to the Arkansas River)
* **In and Along Your River Reach** (in and around the river near where you live and work)
* **On Your Own Property**

**Any Other Miscellaneous Notes Important**

***End of Interview***

***Thank You So Much for Participating!***