



JULY 29, 2022

**News from BOULDER COUNTY
NATURE ASSOCIATION***Our mission: To conserve resilient natural
ecosystems in our region through
science, education, and advocacy*

We invite you to join BCNA and the Left Hand Watershed Center for a field class in Forest Forensics ([class details](#)) to learn how to "read" the forest and determine the best approach to forest management in Boulder County. The class is being taught by two foresters well versed in our local trees and conditions. They will focus on the interactions among all the species present and the local landscape as they search for ways to maintain a healthy ecosystem, reduce wildfire damage, and protect the watershed.

We are now able to offer this class at no charge, and the Left Hand Watershed Center is providing lunch to all those who sign up. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about our local forests whether you manage some land, lead hikes or programs for others in forested areas, or simply want to better understand the challenges facing Boulder County as climate changes.

Forest Forensics Field Class: August 27, 9 am – noon

[Register on Eventbrite](#)

St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, Left Hand Watershed Center, and Jonas Feinstein

Jonas Feinstein is a West Regional Conservation Forester with the USDA's National Resource Conservation Service. He has worked with the NRCS for over 12 years, and works to advance a science-based, multi-resource approach to achieve traditional forestry and ecology based goals. Through critical partnerships, he collaborates to develop and integrate conservation planning tools that appropriately, effectively and efficiently address resource concerns related to the sustainability and resilience of Colorado's forests and ecosystem services, that include soil, water, air, plant, animal, human, and cultural resources.

Chiara Forrester is the Forest Program Manager for the Left Hand Watershed Center, a non-profit based in Boulder County that works to protect and restore watersheds using a collaborative and science-based approach. The Watershed Center is the coordinating entity of the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, a collaborative of 100+ agencies, organizations, stakeholders, and communities whose vision is to restore the resiliency of forests and communities in the St. Vrain Watershed. Chiara is an ecologist, and her PhD at CU-Boulder focused on the impacts of climate change on alpine plants and the use of science in land-management decisions.

Wildfire Organizations in the Front Range

It has been a pleasure so far this summer to enjoy being outdoors without smelling wildfire smoke and without constantly scanning for a possible fire outbreak. We have indeed been fortunate! However, we are all aware that fires definitely occur in Boulder County and are becoming more and more a threat to our forests, our wild animals, our soils, our homes, and our water supply. The number of agencies now working on the problem of wildfire, and the coordination among these agencies, has been expanding rapidly.

The [Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative](#), spanning the Front Range from the Wyoming border through Clear Creek County, functions as an umbrella for others working on managing fire risk across federal, state, county, and private lands. They are a member of [Fire Adapted Colorado \(FACO\)](#), whose mission is to be "A collective voice and representative organization for Colorado that provides education and networking opportunities for communities, groups, and individual stakeholders focused on reducing the negative impacts of wildfires in the state."

First, what is a "Fireshed"? It is an area where social and ecological concerns with regard to wildfire are intertwined — certainly a good description of Boulder County. Since early mining days, fire has been largely excluded from the landscape. As a result, the forest is far more dense and more continuous than was the forest in the 1700s and early 1800s. Today's forest is prone to large forest fires, which greatly impact all parts of the ecosystems and threaten our local water supplies. Unfortunately, progress on managing the forest to minimize damage from wildfires has been very slow. Hence, the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative was formed to decrease the likelihood of massive, destructive fires. The Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative works with the following groups:

- [Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed \(CPRW\)](#)
- [Elkhorn Creek Forest Health Initiative](#)
- [Big Thompson Watershed Coalition](#)
- [Estes Valley Watershed Coalition](#)
- [Rocky Mountain National Park](#)
- [Left Hand Watershed Center](#)
- [St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership](#)
- [Boulder County Fireshed](#)
- [Boulder Watershed Collective](#)
- Clear Creek Watershed Forest Health Partnership
- Grand County Wildfire Council

Boulder County Public Hearing

Boulder County is holding a [online public hearing on proposed Wildfire Mitigation and Emergency Response ballot measures](#) at 3pm on August 4th. The Commissioners are proposing a 0.10% countywide sales and use tax for the purpose of funding countywide wildfire mitigation efforts, and a 0.01%, declining to 0.05% after five years, countywide sales and use tax for the purpose of funding emergency response.

SUPPORT BOULDER COUNTY NATURE ASSOCIATION

A big thank you to all who currently support BCNA! Without your assistance, we would not be able to accomplish all that we do for our community and for the natural world around us. Memberships for the calendar year renew in November and December, but you can renew for next year any time.

Please consider renewing today if you have not already done so.

New members are always welcome!

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