



JULY 11, 2023

**News from BOULDER COUNTY
NATURE ASSOCIATION***Our mission: To conserve resilient natural
ecosystems in our region through
science, education, and advocacy***Upper Watershed Ecosystems Tour***Do you know what a healthy watershed looks like? Join us on a
tour of upper watershed ecosystems as we investigate!***DATE AND TIME****Saturday, August 19, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM MDT****LOCATION****Camp St. Malo
10758 CO-7
Allenspark, CO 80510**

Ecosystem health in the upper reaches of a watershed impacts all that happens downstream. Since most of us are downstream of somewhere, the condition of the upper watershed is an important factor in our lives. But can you tell just from looking at a forest if it's healthy? What about a river?

Join us on a tour of various watershed ecosystems as we investigate what to look for in a healthy river or forest. We'll also learn what is being done to improve the health of these ecosystems, and what you might do to help.

This event will consist of a three-hour walking tour with several stops along a two-mile loop trail. A sack lunch will be provided at the end of the tour. After registration, please check your inbox for an email containing further details.

Questions about the event? Contact Maria at mpezza@watershed.center. We hope to see you there!

There is no charge for the Upper Watershed Ecosystems Tour.

[Register Now](#)**Forest Management Challenges and Options
in Boulder County**

With the changing climate and a growing population in the mountain region, it has become imperative to take proactive measures to protect our communities and natural landscapes from the devastating effects of wildfires. One valuable resource that tells the current story of Boulder County wildfires is the [Wildfires Story Map](#), a visual representation of wildfires in our region and their impacts.

In an effort to protect forests and communities, many agencies at all levels are working together with community members on landscape-scale forest management and restoration. For example:

"We have had over 30 stakeholder representatives come together to build a common vision for the future of the forested landscape in the St. Vrain. This is an incredible opportunity to build consensus and a plan for landscape scale forest restoration in advance of the USDA Forest Service's formal NEPA process for the federal land portion of the St. Vrain Watershed. The partnership's next phase includes building agreement on priority areas for treatments, planning for their restoration and how we will monitor and adjust our plans once the work on the ground gets underway." - Jessie Olson, Executive Director of the Left Hand Watershed Center, who is leading the St. Vrain effort.

— <https://nocofreshed.org/fires/st-vrain-forest-health-partnership/>

The town of Gold Hill and the Boulder Watershed Collective have taken proactive steps to mitigate wildfire risks and improve forest resiliency. Through their efforts, they are establishing a **comprehensive management system** that spans a significant area both to safeguard the town from potential wildfires and to contribute to the overall health and vitality of the surrounding forest.

There is currently a surge of funding and energy focused on forest management throughout the United States, including Boulder County. This field class will give you valuable insights into the approaches and thinking guiding the management of our local forests; you will have the opportunity to learn about forest health and management in the St Malo area.

As the process progresses in the future, there will be opportunities to engage in decision-making and comment on agency plans.

**A few of the many websites on forest
management projects in Boulder County**

These sites contain links to the many other agencies also working on wildfire and forest management in Boulder County. Each city in Boulder County has additional information on their website.

[St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership story map: Ecology of Fire Resilient Forests.](#)

[Community Collaboration on Forest Health at the Center for Sustainable Landscapes and Communities, University of Colorado Boulder.](#)

[Boulder County forestry program and partnerships](#)

[US Forest Service Resource Management](#)

[Colorado State Forest Service](#)

[The Watershed Center](#)

[The Boulder Watershed Collective](#)

[Wildfire Partners](#) - provides mitigation information to protect homes from wildfire

Coming soon!

**[North American Bears:
Evolution, Behavior, and Population Status with
W. Perry Conway](#)**

**Registration opens on Eventbrite Saturday, August 5 for BCNA
members and on Tuesday, August 8 for everyone.**

The Annual Ecosystems Returns

**IT STARTS AT THE TOP:
THE INTERTWINED FATES OF WATER AND ECOSYSTEMS
IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

September 23, 2023
9 am - 3 pm

Center for Sustainable Landscapes and
Communities
Sustainability, Energy and Environment
Complex (SEEC)
University of Colorado Boulder
4001 Discovery Drive, Boulder



**A big thank you to all who currently support BCNA!
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New members are always welcome!**

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