

# Comprehensive Creek Planning Initiative (CCP)



**MAY 21, 2014 UPDATE  
BOULDER COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION**



# Agenda



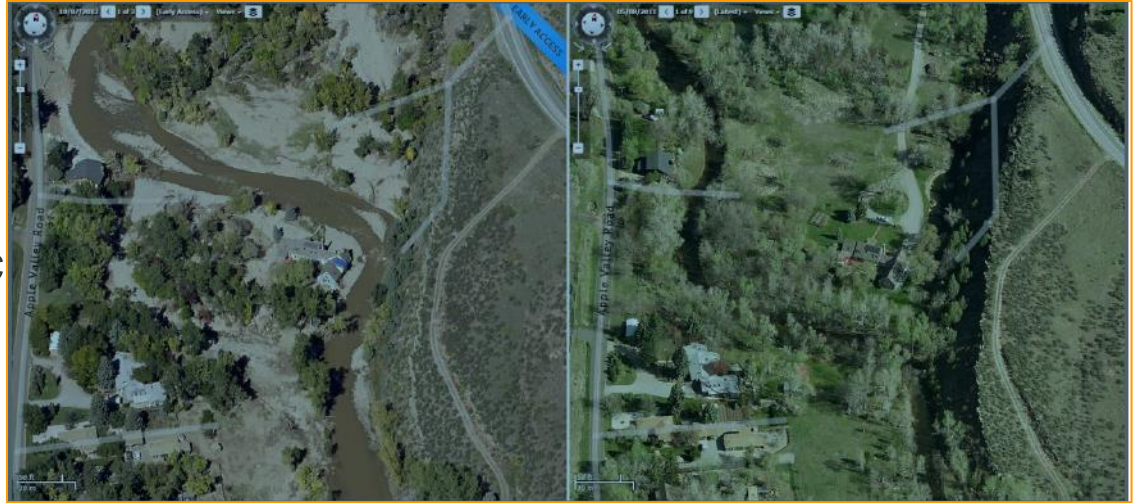
- Project background and current phase
- Watershed planning in Boulder County
  - County-wide planning activities
  - Boulder County Coalitions
    - ✦ St. Vrain
    - ✦ Left Hand
    - ✦ Boulder Creek
  - Plan milestones
- County planning team



# Purpose



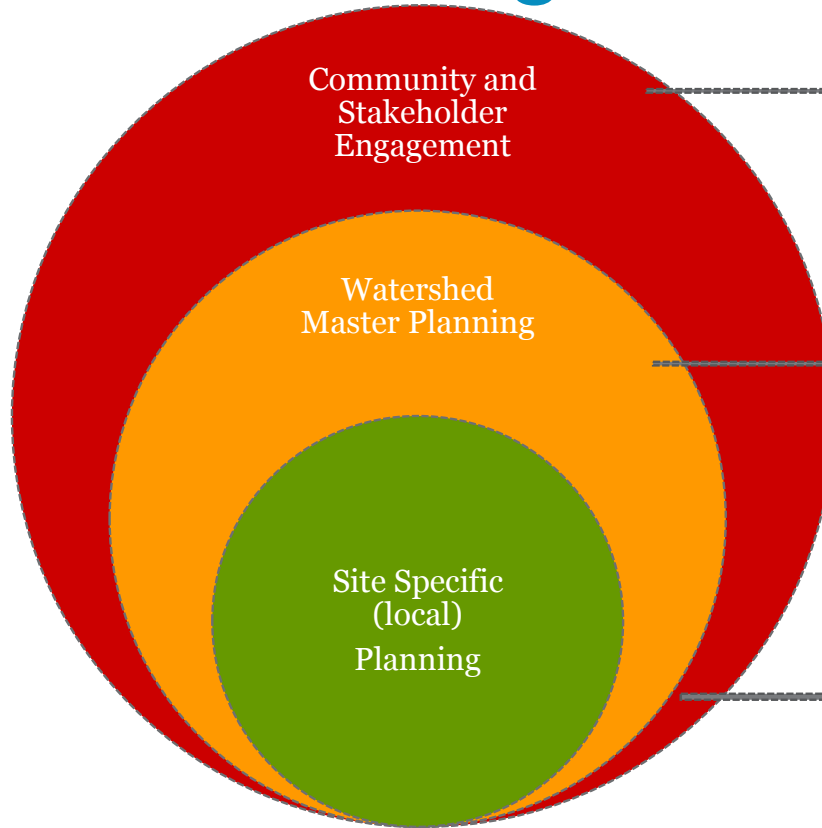
The Boulder County *Comprehensive Creek Planning Initiative* is a forum designed to plan the Creek stabilization and restoration process, thus enabling public infrastructure reconstruction, residential rebuilding and private access restoration, and revised floodplain mapping.



# Flood Recovery Activities

	Flood Response: Immediate Actions	Flood Recovery: Short-Term Actions	Flood Recovery: Long Term Actions
<b>General Focus</b>	Focus on infrastructure repair to restore residential access	Further stabilize infrastructure, reduce risk of flooding from spring run-off and summer monsoon rains	Focus on infrastructure reconstruction, creek restoration, flood risk reduction
<b>Public Transportation Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Emergency Access roads, construct critical repairs, bridge stabilization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct temporary Winter Roads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and Construct Permanent Roads and Bridges</li> </ul>
<b>Private Waterway Crossings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Temporary Flood Recovery Access Policy and permitting (FRAPs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue FRAPs for temporary crossings</li> <li>Modify FRAP policy for permitted structures to remain in place until master plan completion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue FRAPs for temporary crossings</li> <li>Conduct engineering to identify floodplain-compatible options for bridges and other types of crossings in canyon areas</li> <li>Pursue grant funding for restoration of private crossings</li> </ul>
<b>Creek Recovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage residents of unincorporated Boulder County to collect damage reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct risk analysis, site identification to prioritize implementation of High Hazard mitigation projects (debris removal, bank stabilization, etc.)</li> <li>Implement High Hazard mitigation projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct watershed-level master plans on major drainages throughout county to identify stream restoration and flood mitigation projects, programs, and other actions</li> <li>Prioritize residential areas with most severe damage, conduct modeling and other analysis to help residents meet permanent access and floodplain development permitting requirements</li> </ul>
<b>Floodplain Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue Floodplain Development Permits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue Floodplain Development Permits</li> <li>Develop recovery maps (CWCB)</li> <li>Modify FRAP policy to ensure temporary crossings can accommodate water flows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue Floodplain Development Permits</li> <li>Conduct regulatory review for ability to meet FEMA requirements and install permanent crossings</li> <li>Incorporate recovery maps and other new data into floodplain management</li> </ul>

# Creek Planning Activities



- December – January community meetings
  - 650 participants, data set
  - Public information and communication
- **Long-Term Recovery**
  - **Watershed Master Plans for major drainages in county**
- Short-term emergency mitigation
  - Threat analysis (ratings)
  - High Hazard Project identification location, scope, cost

# Planning Activities in Boulder County

## Little Thompson River Master Plan

## St. Vrain Creek Master Plan

## Left Hand Creek Master Plan

## Boulder Creek

- Fourmile Creek Master Plan
- Boulder Creek, city of Boulder to confluence (UDFCD)

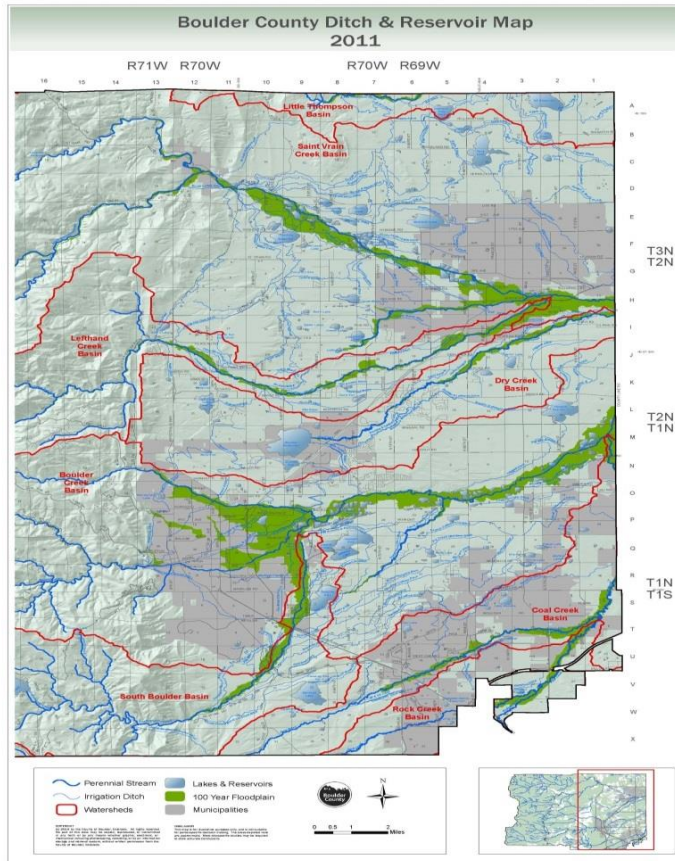
## South Boulder Creek

- Major drainageway planning for South Boulder Creek flood mitigation (UDFCD)\*

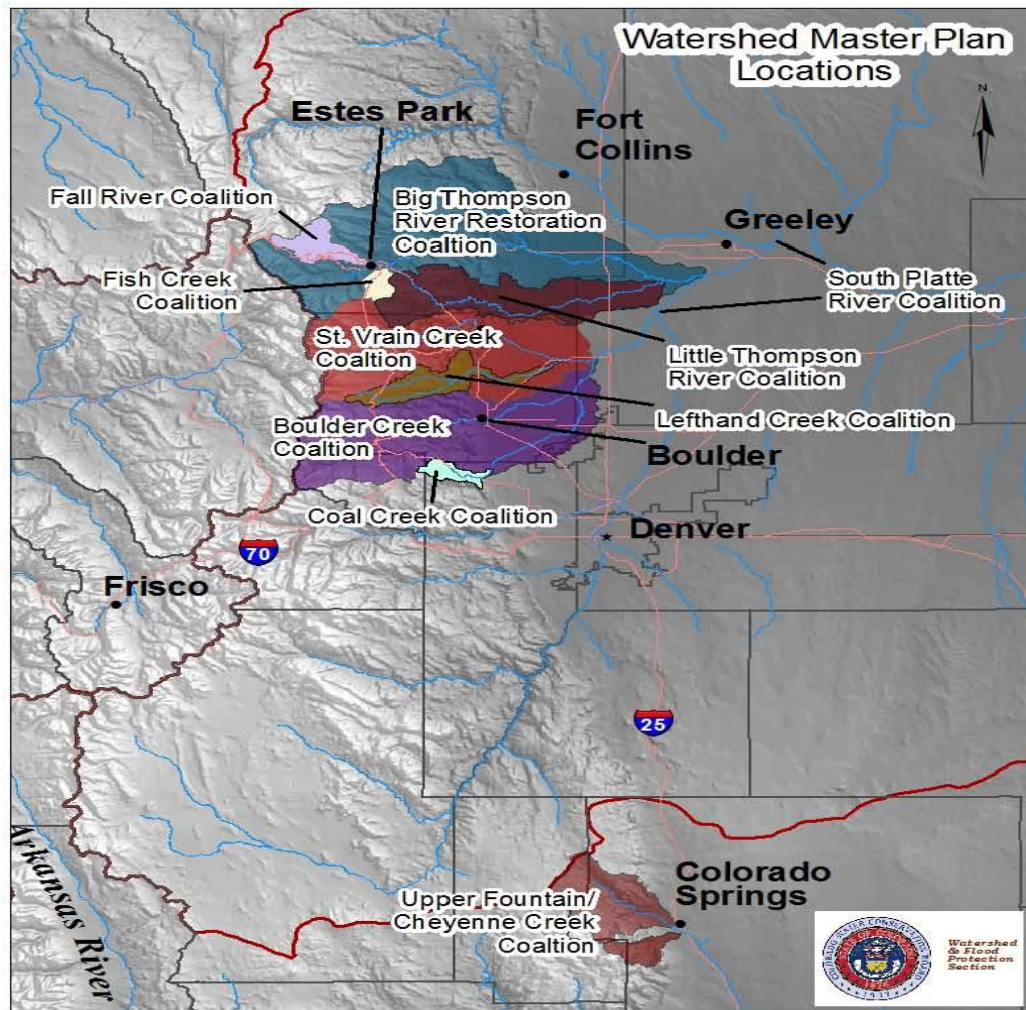
## Coal Creek & Rock Creek

- Upper Coal Creek Master Plan
- Coal Creek/Rock Creek, Major Drainageway and Planning Study and Flood Hazard Area Delineation (UDFCD)\*

\*Studies begun before the September 2013 flood







## WATERSHED

Fall River  
Fish Creek

Big Thompson  
River

Little Thompson  
River

St. Vrain Creek  
Lefthand Creek  
Boulder Creek

Coal Creek

South Platte River

Upper Fountain  
Cheyenne Creek

## COALITION LEAD

Estes Park

Wildlands  
Restoration  
Volunteers

Big Thompson  
Water  
Conservancy  
District

Boulder County

The Environmental  
Group

City of Evans

Fountain Creek  
Watershed Flood  
Control & Greenway  
District

4.29.2014

# Creek Master Plans



*Create an open, collaborative, and voluntary approach to long-term recovery and management of the watersheds in Boulder County.*

- Led by Coalitions
- A *post-flood* watershed analysis, risk assessment, and plan for creek recovery
- Coordinated with:
  - Public road and bridge reconstruction
  - Residential rebuilding, including private crossings
  - Floodplain management
- Funded by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Boulder County, other local agencies
- Property owner and public participation is integral





# Master Plan Tasks



## **Scope of Work**

**Project Management and Coordination**

**Agency, Stakeholder, and Public Engagement**

**Existing Plans and Post-Flood Conditions**

**Data Collection and Analysis**

**Creek Corridor Evaluation and multidisciplinary Flood Risk Assessment**

**Plan Strategies, Frameworks, and Alternatives**

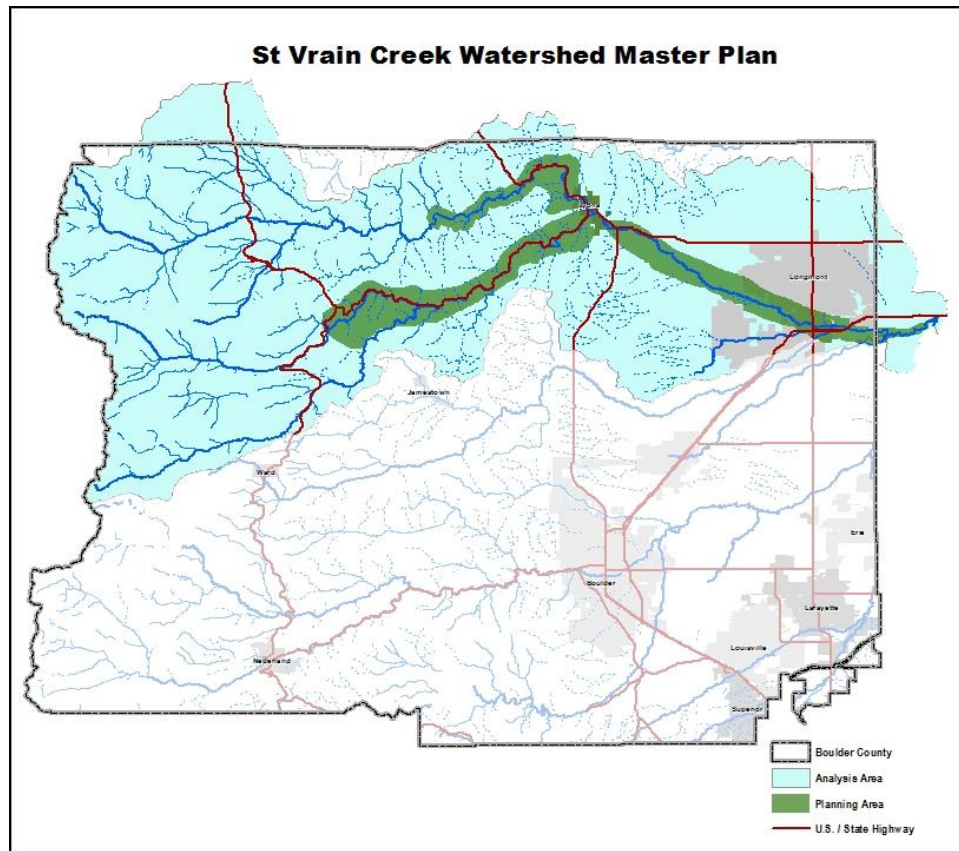
**Project Identification, Prioritization and Implementation**



# St. Vrain Master Plan

## Study Area Features

- Drainage area of 318 square miles
- Boulder County Open Space, agricultural lands
- Highly impacted neighborhoods
- Town of Lyons community rebuilding
- State highway facilities



# St. Vrain Coalition Members



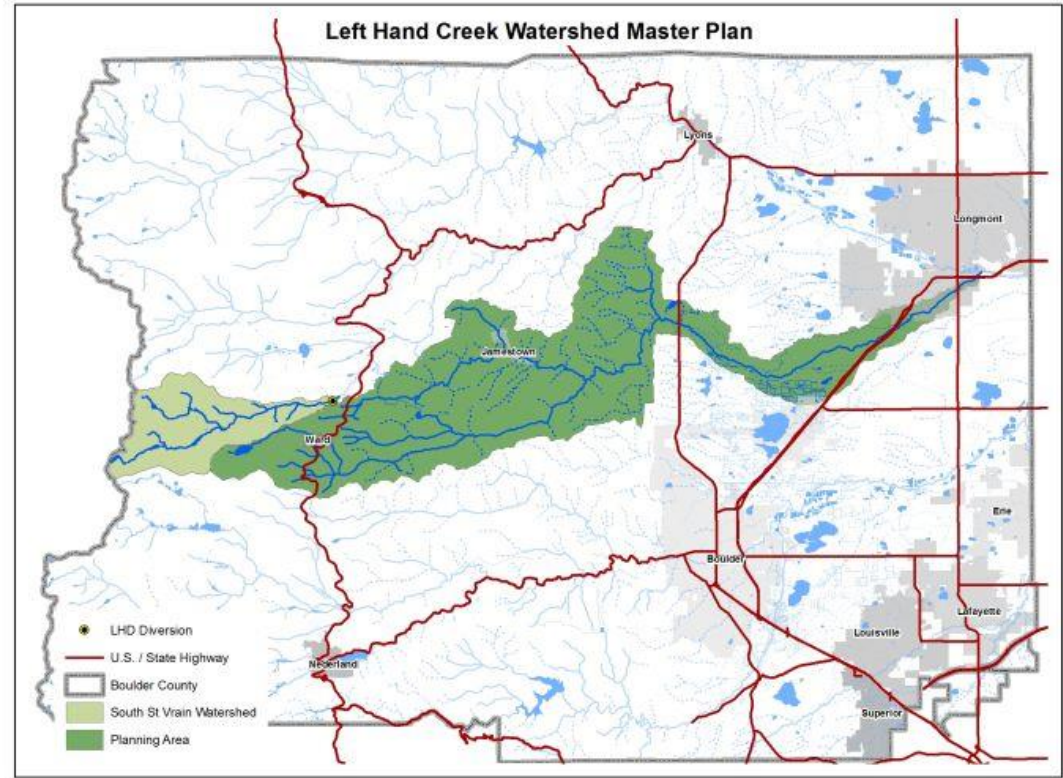
- Boulder County
- City of Longmont
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Saint Vrain and Lefthand Conservation District (SVLHCD)
- Town of Lyons
- USDA Forest Service, Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest




# Left Hand Master Plan

## Study Area Features

- Drainage area of 72 square miles
- High impact debris flow during flood
- Water quality issues
- Diverse populations and organized communities in creek corridor
- County road & bridge facilities
- Town of Jamestown rebuilding



# Left Hand Coalition members

- 
- Boulder County
  - City of Boulder
  - City of Longmont
  - Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
  - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
  - Colorado Division of Reclamation and Mine Safety
  - Colorado Water Conservation Board
  - James Creek Watershed Initiative
  - Keep it Clean Partnership (Boulder County)
  - Left Hand Ditch Company
  - Left Hand Water District
  - Left Hand Water Oversight Group
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
  - Saint Vrain and Left Hand Conservation District
  - Town of Jamestown
  - Town of Ward
  - USDA Forest Service, Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest
  - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8



# Boulder Creek Coalition



- Partnership with Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD)
- Multiple studies under Coalition “umbrella”
  - Fourmile Creek Master Plan
  - Boulder Creek, city of Boulder to confluence (UDFCD)





# Coalition Members

- Boulder County
- UDFCD
- City of Boulder
- City of Longmont
- Town of Frederick
- Weld County

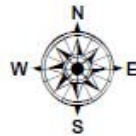
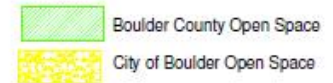


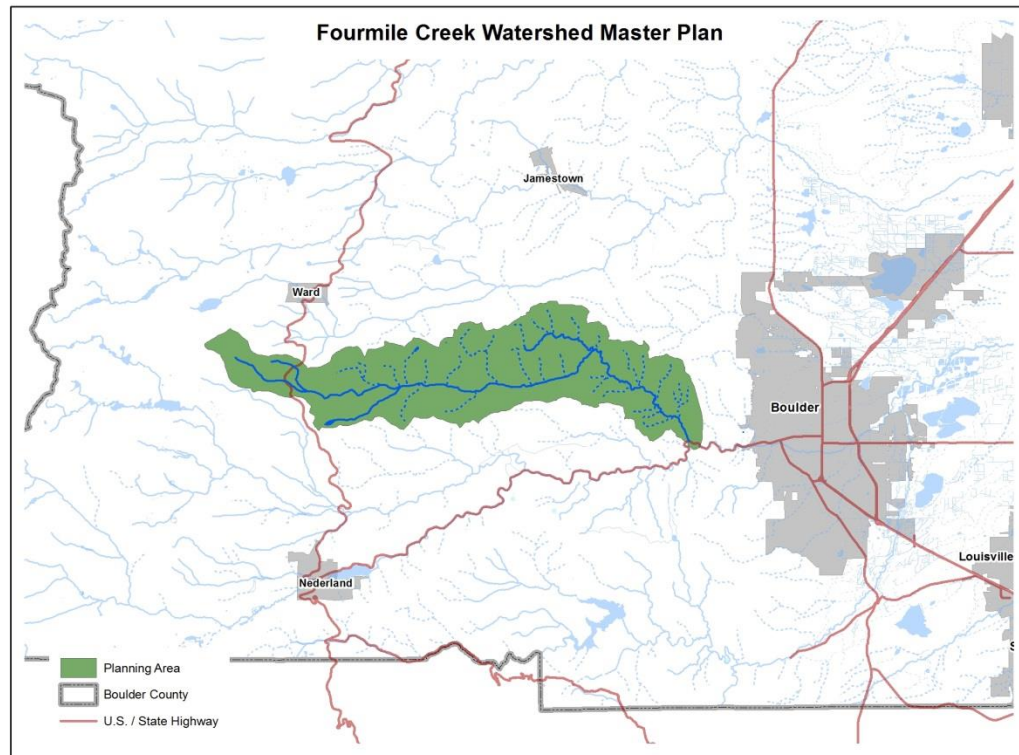
EXHIBIT A  
Boulder Creek Mitigation Plan  
Approximate Study Limits  
March 2014



# Fourmile Creek Master Plan

## Study Area Features

- Drainage area of 28 square miles
- Community character and historic values
- Private crossings
- County road and bridge facilities



# Milestones

Apr - May

Jun - Jul

Aug – Sep

Oct – Nov

Dec +

## Public & Stakeholder Engagement

### ***St. Vrain Watershed***

- Contract

- Plan Draft (7/31/14)

- Plan Final (9/30/14)

*Transition to Implementation Projects  
(Dependent on Funding)*

### ***Left Hand Watershed***

- RFP (4/23/14)

- Contract

- Plan Draft (9/11/14)

- Plan Final (11/14/14)

### ***Boulder Creek – Fourmile Creek***

- RFP (5/12/14)

- Contract

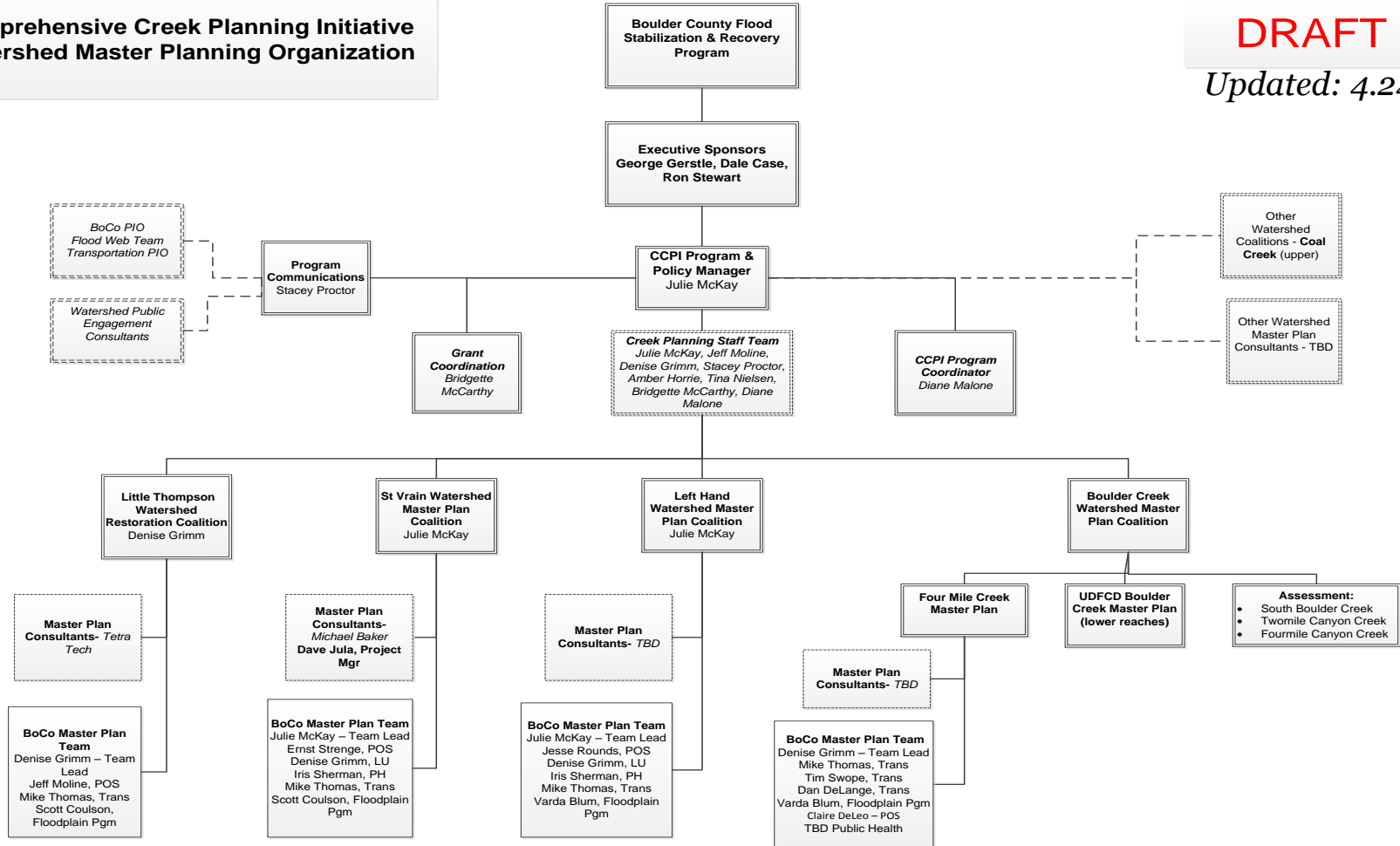
- Plan Draft (9/30/14)

- Plan Final (10/30/14)

# Comprehensive Creek Planning Initiative Watershed Master Planning Organization

**DRAFT**

Updated: 4.24.14



# CCP Contacts



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# Watershed Master Planning

The St. Vrain and Big Thompson **subbasins** are both within the South Platte **basin**.

Most of Boulder County is in the St. Vrain **subbasin** and within it are 7 **watersheds**:

- St Vrain
- Left Hand
- Dry Creek
- Boulder Creek
  - Fourmile, Fourmile Canyon, Twomile Canyon
- South Boulder Creek
- Coal Creek
- Rock Creek

A small portion of the north end of Boulder County is in the Big Thompson **subbasin**.

