

WATERSHED

STOLLSTEIMER CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT

Conducted by: San Juan Conservation District, Pagosa Springs

On the Web:

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Project Partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, Colorado State University Extension Service, Colorado State Forest Service, United States Forest Service, Southern Ute Tribe, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Town of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County, RC&D, local educators, landowners within watershed

Contract Period: 2005 – 2006

NPS Funding: \$20,000

Matching Funds: \$46, 838

The San Juan Conservation District sponsored an important watershed study in the Stollsteimer Creek Watershed area. This watershed encompasses approximately 82,000 acres from the lower portions of the Pagosa Peak area down to the confluence of Stollsteimer Creek with the Piedra River. It includes portions of the Town of Pagosa Springs, all of the Pagosa Lakes subdivisions, portions of the National Forest, Southern Ute Tribal lands, large portions of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District and most of Aspen Springs.



Problem with severe runoff in subdivision.

Everyone realizes the importance of water in our community, but to date nobody has really focused on a watershed study that looks at the whole picture. Our watershed study had an ultimate goal of creating a Master Watershed Plan document that would include a detailed study of the watershed and recommendations and design plans to improve and protect the watershed.

The need for this plan has never been more critical than it is now. The population growth within the watershed has been extraordinary in the last 10 years and is predicted to continue. With this growth many of the traditional uses of water in the watershed are being threatened.

This is a long-term plan, with the intention of protecting the watershed well into the future. It is to ensure that we have clean water resources even after our community becomes much more urbanized over the next 20 years.

The primary goal was to develop a Master Watershed Plan incorporating these items:

- Private and Public Land use inventory and condition assessments
- Long range water quality monitoring plan
- Hydrographic Surveys of the Lakes
- Hydrologic modeling of upper and lower watershed
- Planning and project prioritization including:
 - ✓ Roadway drainage assessment
 - ✓ ulvert improvements, retrofits, resizing
 - ✓ Stream channel improvement projects
 - ✓ Lake protection and improvements
 - ✓ Drinking water supply protection measures
 - ✓ Agricultural BMP's
 - ✓ Wildlife Habitat Improvements and protection
 - ✓ Forest Health and Improvement
 - ✓ Private and public thinning
 - ✓ Wildfire mitigation efforts
 - ✓ Noxious Weeds
- Watershed Protection Land Use Regulations
- Public education efforts, tours, meetings, publications, brochure, surveys



Upper end of watershed that is restored.