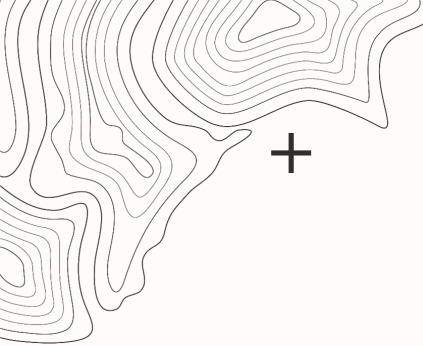
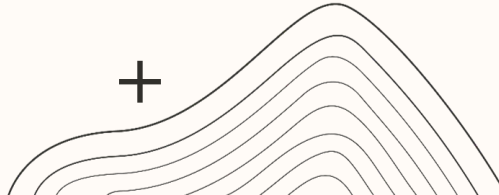


QQ Member Recreational River Access

QQ Fall Meeting 2025
Kelsey Shankle - Legal Assistant SGSJ



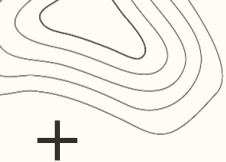
Value of Water - Based Outdoor Recreation to the Headwaters Economy:

\$2.8 billion in GDP

35,800 jobs

\$1.7 billion in wages

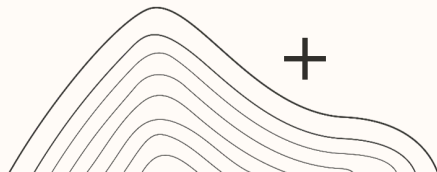
Citation: A Tenuous Dance: Water and the Headwaters Counties' Economy (forthcoming)



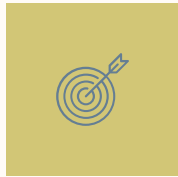
Overview of Research

Documenting QQ members' recreational river access to:

1. Prepare for possible legislation
2. Update 2012 study
3. To have a centralized list of public access owned by
QQ members



Main Goals of Project: Current & Future



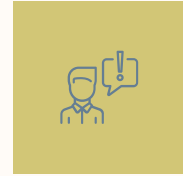
**Identify County
River Recreation
Priorities**

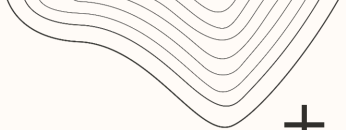
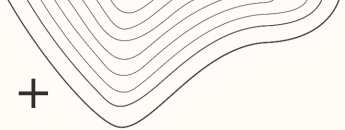
**Explore Access
Management
Solutions**



**Quantify
Investments in
River Access**

**Understand
Potential
Landowner
Interactions**





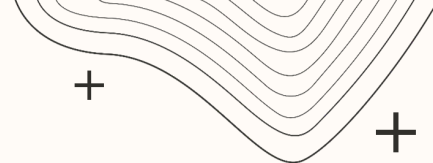
County River Access Priorities

Summit County Open Space and Trails Master Plan (2022):

Goal 8.1: (shortened): Manage, protect, and expand water-based recreation at Summit County rivers, streams, Dillon Reservoir, Green Mountain Reservoir, and other popular areas.

Eagle County Open Space Plan

(2025): Open Space Values - Nature-based Recreation Access - (shortened): Support recreational river access on public lands, improving opportunities for dispersed, nature-based activities, trail and river-based recreation, and environmental education rather than developed infrastructure

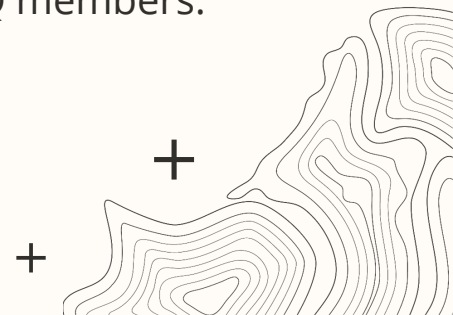


Quantifying Investments in River Access



80+

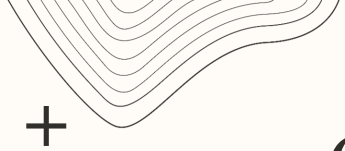
Number of parks, open spaces, and access points that provide recreational river access owned or acquired by QQ members.



Quantifying Investments: RICDs

Table 1: RICDs with Appropriated Water Rights in QQ Region

Rights Holder	River	Whitewater Park	Appropriation Date
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	Gunnison River	Gunnison River Whitewater Course (a.k.a. Gunnison Whitewater Park)	1998
City of Aspen	Roaring Fork River	City of Aspen Whitewater Course	2000
Town of Breckenridge	Blue River	Town of Breckenridge Whitewater Park (a.k.a. Kayak Park)	2000
Eagle River Water & Sanitation District	Gore Creek	The Town of Vail Whitewater Park	2000
City of Steamboat Springs	Yampa River	City of Steamboat Springs Boating Park	2003
Town of Silverthorne	Blue River	Blue River Whitewater Course	2004
City of Avon	Eagle River	Avon Whitewater Course	2005
Grand County	Colorado River	Gore Canyon Whitewater Park; Hot Sulphur Springs Whitewater Park	2010
Pitkin County	Roaring Fork River	Roaring Fork Whitewater Park	2010
Glenwood Springs	Colorado River	No Name Whitewater Park; Horseshoe Bend Whitewater Park; Two Rivers Whitewater Park	2013



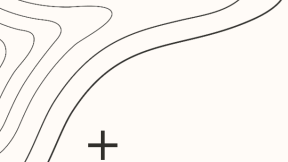
Quantifying Investments (cont): Member Examples

Steamboat Springs

Investing in the first city-owned boat ramp at Bear Creek Park. Boat Ramp is estimated to cost around \$1 million, the whole project is estimated around ~\$7-9 million

Eagle County

Included a Financial Analysis of their Open Space Properties in their updated 2025 plan. The Eagle County Open Space Fund has contributed around ~\$26 million in their acquisitions of properties with some type of river access



Exploring Access Management Solutions

North Star Nature Preserve

Updating visitor-management plan & other studies. Put-in is owned by USFS, takeout is owned by Pitkin OST. Pitkin OST helps manage parking

Brush Creek Confluence

Jointly managed by the Town of Eagle & Eagle County.



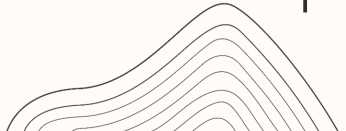
Management Solutions

Steamboat properties

Have a direct partnership with outfitters. Outfitters remit 5% which helps pay for restoration projects. Also have a closure practice in place for restoration, low flows, etc.

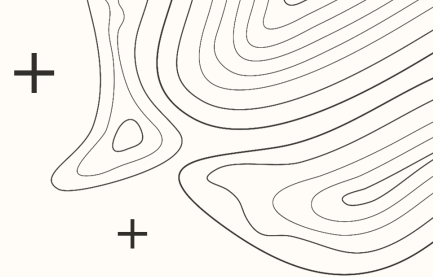
Slate River Boat Launch

Town of CB and CB Land Trust partnership. Slate River Working Group helps manage stretch of river





+ Private Landowner Interactions



- Pitkin: works with private landowners to create public access in return for letting them develop land
- Eagle: Private landowners building their own boat ramps near public boat ramps is creating confusion
- Grand/Eagle: Boater/landowner conflicts documented on Upper CO River (*via Stream Access Coalition Presentation*)
- Gunnison: disputes on Taylor River & Lake Fork of the Gunnison
- Summit: Lower Blue River





+ Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

CONTACT INFO

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Legal Assistant
kelseyshankle@gmail.com

What's Next:

- Learn more about public access and what it means to members
- Work on creating a more comprehensive investment understanding
- Continue compiling list of access points

