



Trees, Water & People: Protecting the Water of the Arid West



Trees, Water & People are helping to protect rivers like this.



Richard Fox, TWP's Director of National Programs, gives a training on fundraising strategies.



A stream flows through rangeland in Wyoming. Photo by Tim McCabe, NRCS

Targeted Watersheds Capacity Building Grant

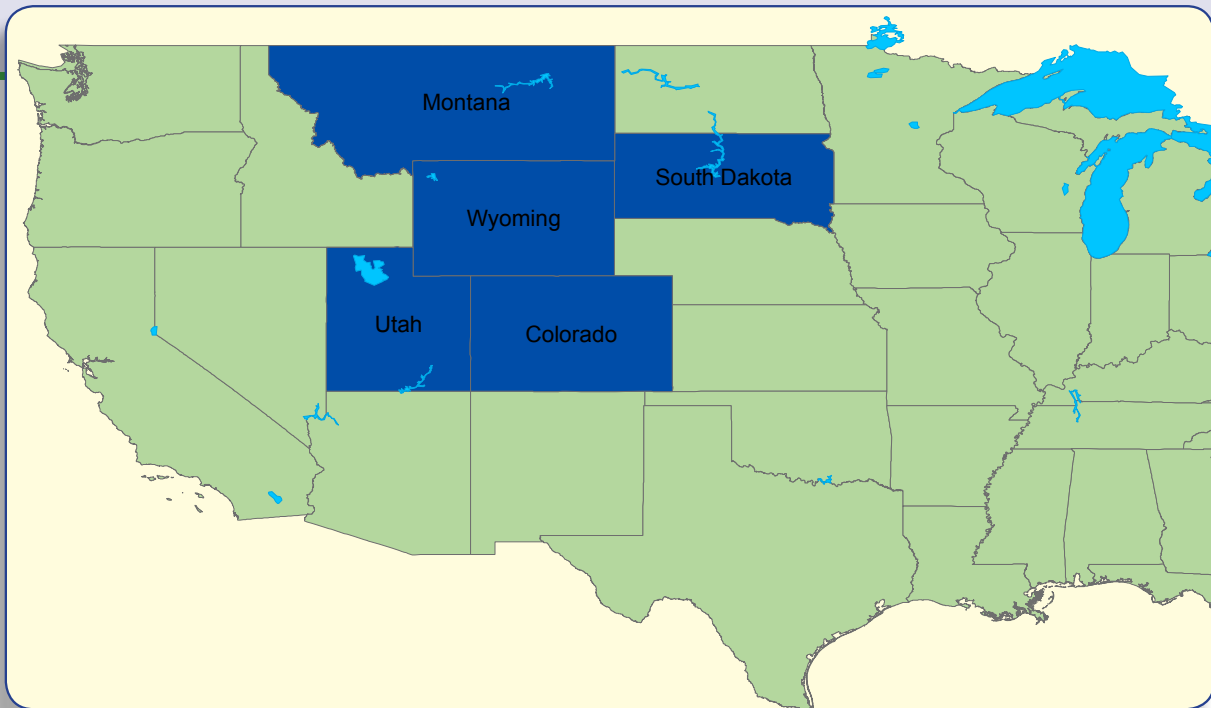
Trees, Water & People (TWP) is a non-profit organization based in Fort Collins, Colorado with a strong history of supporting watershed groups. Founded in 1998, TWP develops and manages reforestation, watershed protection, renewable energy and environmental education programs in Latin America and the American West.

Watershed Capacity Building Efforts

The arid west experienced rapid development in recent decades and continues to grow. Grassroots watershed organizations have formed in response to the need to address the conversion of agricultural land to suburban and urban settings and the need to protect drinking water supplies as the population grows. Tribal organizations also face the challenges of changing land use and the burden of isolation from mainstream organizational and scientific support resources. *Protecting the Water of the Arid West* provides regional training and development assistance with a focus on the arid west. TWP will work with the state watershed councils in Colorado, Montana, and Utah, and with the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming and the Lakota Sioux at the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.

State-Level Training Programs

The state-level training and assistance will be directed by the State Watershed Councils to meet the individual needs of their respective states. The Colorado Watershed Assembly will focus on improving watershed group involvement in state and federal water planning. TWP will offer resources to help new watershed groups in Colorado get organized through the Jumpstart Training, which includes working with Boards, setting up accounting systems and developing sustainable fundraising plans. The Montana Watershed Coordination Council will train watershed groups in sustainable fundraising, board management and organizational development. Training will improve skills in grant writing, accounting, contracts management, strategic plan development and dissemination of information to local and state decision-makers. The Utah Watershed Coordinating Council will work with TWP to provide leadership training, support for a Small Watershed Grant Program and further development of field tours and education efforts in Utah.



Tribal Partnerships and Youth Education

TWP will work with the Wind River Alliance to develop the Youth Council Roundtable and an afterschool program for Reservation school students to acquire technical watershed knowledge, traditional values of water, and leadership skills. A summer youth leadership camp will be offered to participants in the afterschool program. An education campaign for local stakeholders and decision-makers will focus on building a sustained dialogue about the watershed and projects within it. The watershed education campaign will integrate tribal and non-tribal decision-makers. TWP will work with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to demonstrate that clean, renewable energy can positively impact watershed health.

Individualized Trainings

In addition to working with state and tribal organizations, TWP will provide training and assistance to individual watershed groups or tribal entities. TWP developed a training team that will focus on leadership coaching, sustainable funding, and board development. As a member of River Network's Watershed Support Network, TWP will work to ensure River Network tools and training are provided to project partners.

A Regional Watershed Roundtable will take place and provide project partners an opportunity to learn about and discuss emerging national and regional issues.

State-level training and tribal partnerships facilitated by Trees, Water & People are located in these states.

For more information:

www.treeswaterpeople.org

Jim Webster,

Director of Watershed Protection

Trees, Water & People

jim@treeswaterpeople.org



EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grant program is a competitive grant program designed to encourage collaborative, community-driven approaches to meet clean water goals.

For more information about the selected watersheds, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/twg>

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