



Fresh Water News Focus on Yampa River Reforestation

8-Minute Video Highlights Efforts to Reduce Stream Temperatures

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-February 12, 2020-The Yampa River and the community efforts to stem the rise of stream temperatures was the focus of a recent segment by PBS's This American Land and Fresh Water News.

"This segment shines a light on the efforts our community is collectively undertaking to protect the Yampa River," commented Kelly Romero-Heaney, Water Resources Manager with the City of Steamboat Springs. "Where one entity may be only able to make a ripple in protecting this resource, together we're able to combine our efforts into a wave that will flow into something much larger and last longer."

FWN's Jerd Smith visited Steamboat Springs this past summer to see firsthand what the community is doing to address rising stream temperatures and ensure the Yampa River, the focal point of much of the community, remains healthy and around for generations to come.

Filmed this past summer, [Cooling the Yampa River](#), showcased residents planting trees to cool the river and combat the effects of climate change.

Carolina Manriquez, Colorado State Forest Service, Kelly Romero-Heaney, City of Steamboat Springs, Sarah Jones, Yampa River Sustainability Council, Tully Miller, Environmental Engineer, and Johnny Spillane, Steamboat Flyfisher, along with an army of volunteers explained to Smith why the river is important to the valley and how the project was critical to the health of the river, its wildlife and the communities it touches.



As one of the last free-flowing rivers in the West, this restored riparian forest will provide shade, keeping water temperatures low enough to sustain the fish and critters who depend on it, not to mention the community of businesses, ranchers, fishermen, tourists, and others who also rely on a healthy Yampa River.

Fresh Water News is an independent, non-partisan news initiative of Water Education Colorado, the leading organization for informing and engaging Coloradans on water issues. The organization provides community membership, leadership training, educational resources and programming to ensure Coloradans are both knowledgeable about key water issues and equipped to make smart decisions for a sustainable water future.

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