

# River Watch YIP Internship: Capstone Presentation

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# The Mission of River Watch

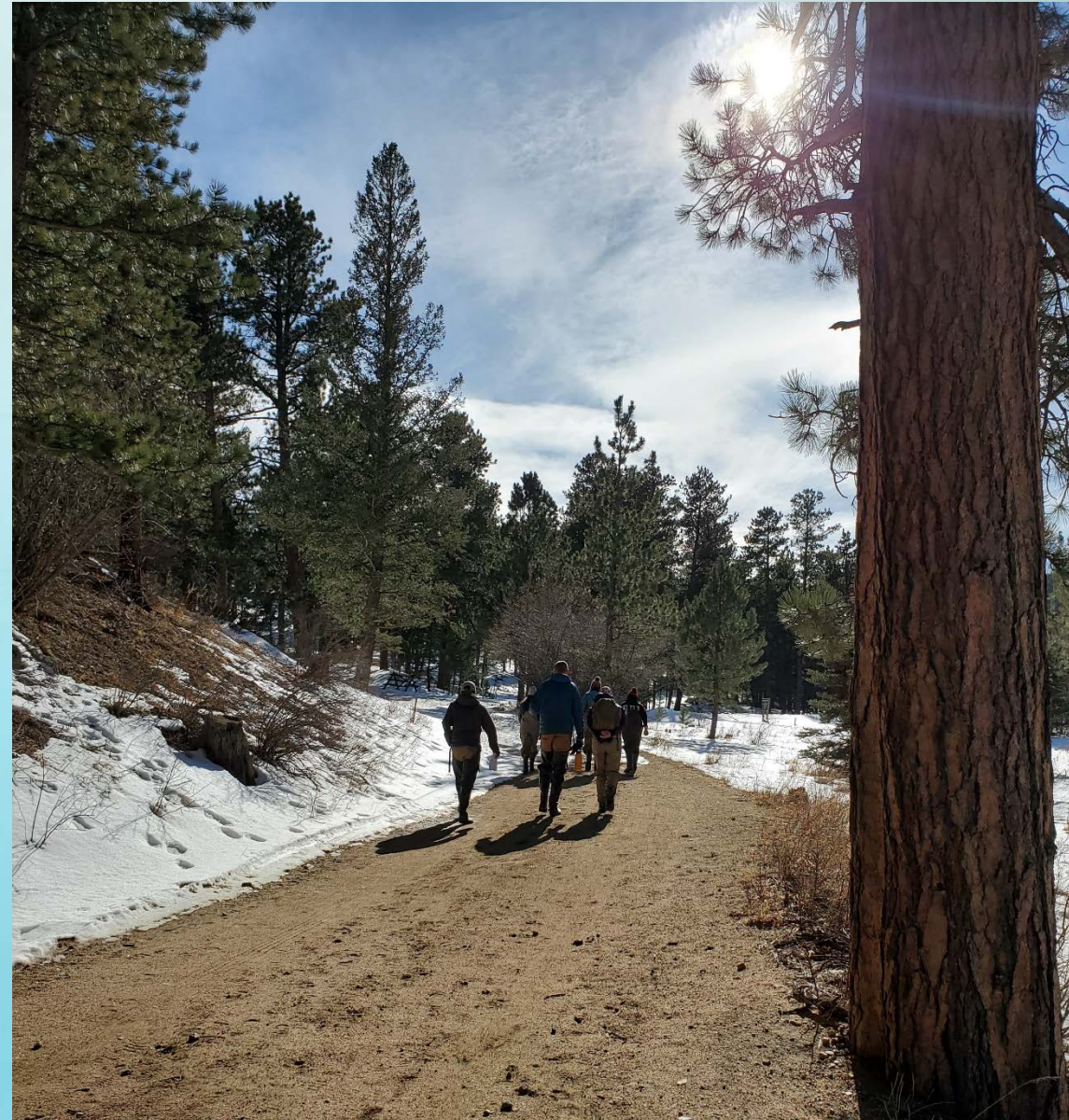
- Provide a hands-on real science experience learning the value and function of Colorado's River and water ecosystems
- Generate quality aquatic habitat over space and time for use in Clean Water Act, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, watershed, local and other decision making processes





# How River Watch Promotes CPW's Strategic Goals

- **Goal I: Conserve Wildlife and Habitat**
  - River Watch volunteers become lifelong water quality stewards
  - Healthier water = healthy macroinvertebrates = healthier aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
- **Goal II: Recreation at State Parks**
  - Recreational use depends on good water quality
- **Goal III: Financial Sustainability**
  - Volunteers are the backbone of the River Watch Program





# How River Watch Promotes CPW's Strategic Goals

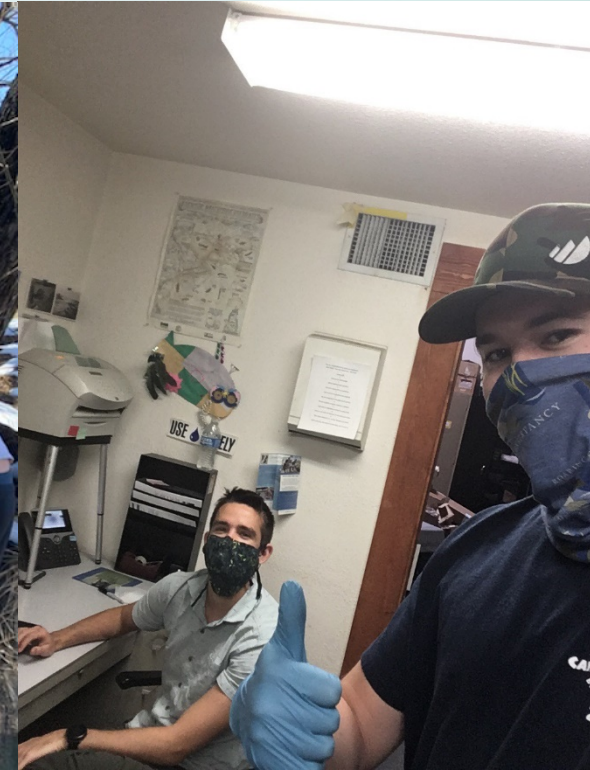


- **Goal IV: Dedicated Personnel & Volunteers**
  - Average retention of volunteer group 12 years
  - Many CPW staff are former River Watch students
- **Goal V: Foster Trust & Awareness for CPW**
  - Volunteers across the state
  - Partnerships with non profits, watershed groups, and other government agencies
- **Goal VI: Connect People to CO Outdoors**
  - River Watch provides a hands-on real science experience learning the value and function of Colorado's ecosystems

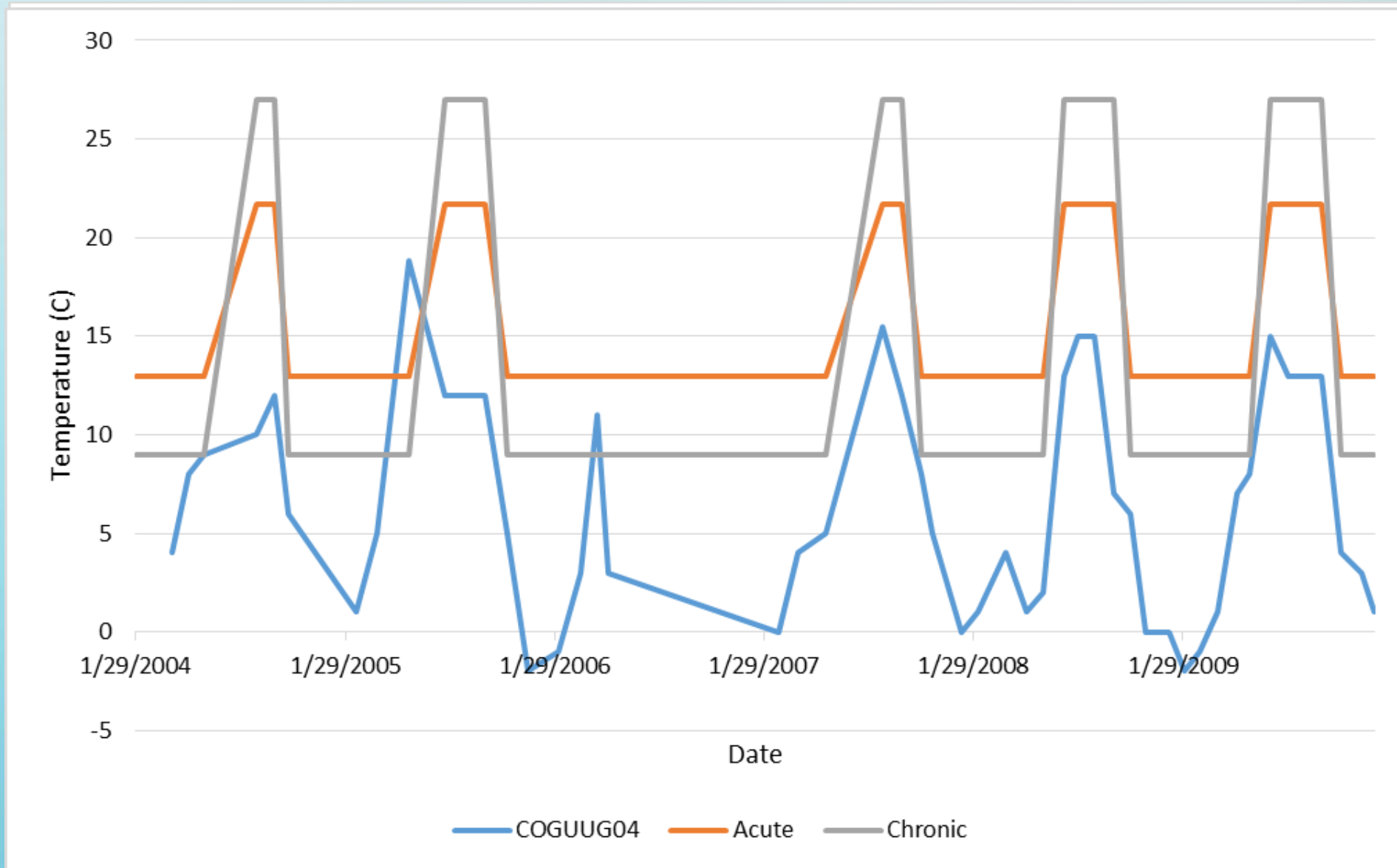


# Contributions to River Watch

- Volunteer Outreach
  - Site visits
  - Annual training
- Lab
  - Assist with nutrient & metals analysis and protocol development
  - Develop TSS/TDS protocols
- Data Management
  - Watershed Reports
  - New Water Quality Standard app



# Watershed Reports Provide Data Visualization of Water Quality Trends





# Interdisciplinary Learning Experiences

- River Science
  - Drone surveys for water flow use
  - Sonde calibration development
- Water Policy and Legislation
  - Water Quality Control Commission meetings
- Annual Aquatic Biologists Meeting
- CPW Algal Toxin Team

Monitor, Manage, and Improve Your Water

SPATIAL WATER

ELEVATION MODELS  
ACCURATE PRECISE AFFORDABLE

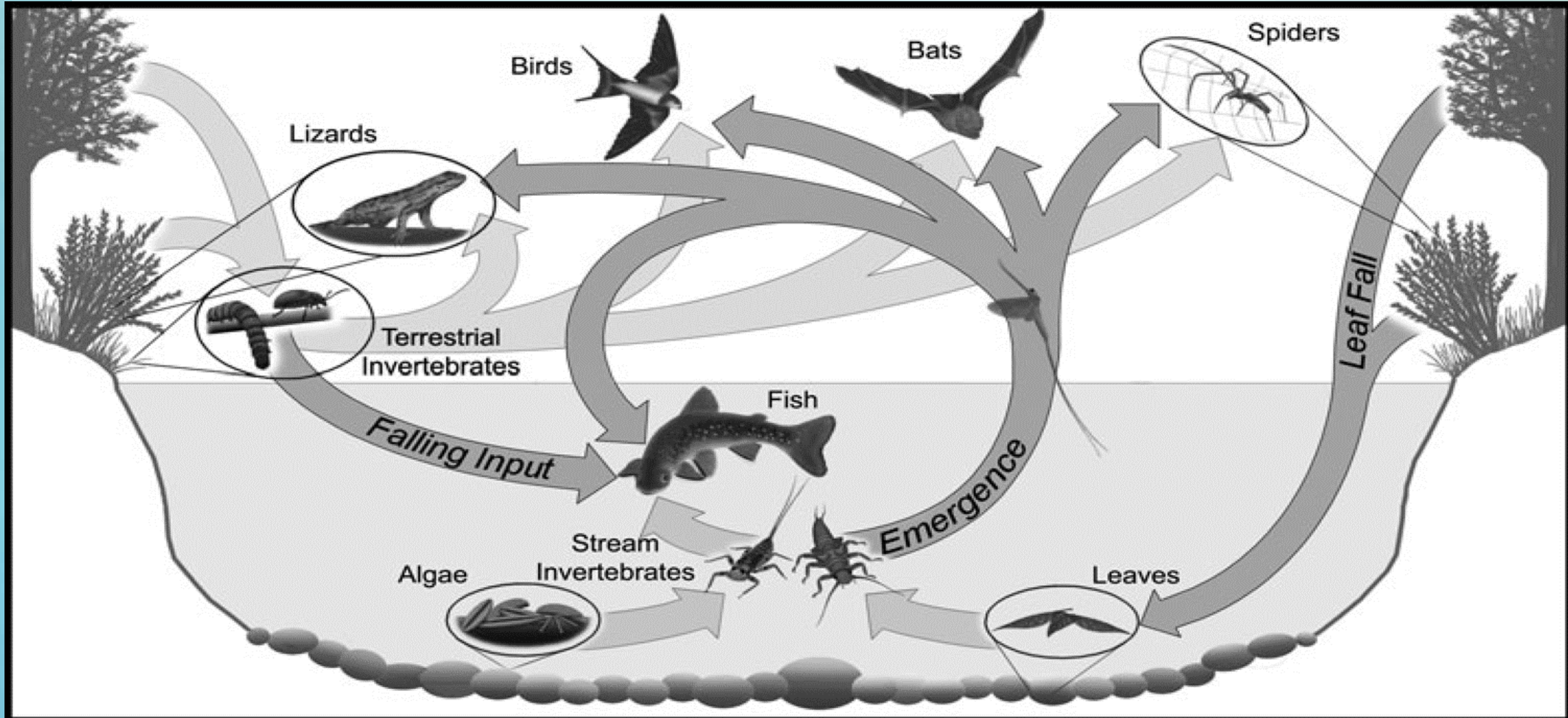
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river science

**COLORADO**  
Water Quality  
Control Commission  
Department of Public Health & Environment



# Current Work: Research Assistant for CPW Aquatic Researcher and Toxicologist Pete Cadmus





# Future Plans

- Masters in Fisheries and Wildlife Management
- Graduate school:
  - Colorado State University
  - Oregon State University (e-campus)
- I hope to pursue research that blends water quality and fisheries management
- My ultimate goal: Fisheries Biologist

