



# Maintenance & Monitoring Landowner Information

The Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), and its design and construction teams recently completed several river restoration projects along Left Hand Creek. Projects were partially funded by the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program which requires a three year maintenance and monitoring period. The purpose of this handout is to provide landowners with guidance in terms of what to expect as we move into the three year maintenance and monitoring phase of the project.

## What happens next?

As the agent for the NRCS EWP funds, LWOG is responsible for maintenance and monitoring for three years following project completion. LWOG's duties include:

- Completing project monitoring and field inspections periodically, and after significant flood events. The purpose of monitoring is to detect issues with how restoration features are working;
- Performing management activities such as removal/control of invasive vegetation or weeds and repair/replacement of failed restoration features when necessary.
- Per the Project Participation Agreements signed by landowners, LWOG will provide at least 24-hours' notice via e-mail or phone prior to visiting properties, although we aim to provide a one week notice as well.

### What is the purpose of Maintenance & Monitoring?

In order to protect the public's interest and safety, and to ensure that projects are performing as designed, LWOG is required to perform ongoing maintenance and monitoring for three years following project completion for projects funded by the EWP program.

**Monitoring:** Monitoring activities evaluate each installed feature's ability to achieve the larger goals of a project and facilitate process-based outcomes over the long term.

**Maintenance:** Maintenance activities involve ensuring that restoration features of a project are achieving objectives in terms of function and safety. Maintenance consists of the recurring activities necessary to preserve or repair project design features to a safe and functioning condition if a problem is detected.

## How can landowners help?

Landowners are welcome to assist in monitoring, watering, weed control, and revegetation activities.

- If you have the ability to do so, **water new plants periodically, particularly during hot, dry weather in the late spring and summer months**. Each new plant should ideally receive ~5 gallons of water, once per week, or more frequently as weather dictates. This will greatly help the survival rate of the plants, which are a critical part of creating a naturally functioning river. Contractors and LWOG staff and volunteers may also water plants, as necessary, on sites without access to irrigation.
- Refrain from mowing vegetation and keep foot traffic off newly planted and seeded areas for at least a year to help increase the establishment and survival of new plants.
- Take photos of your property that show change and growth, and share these with the LWOG.
- Get involved! LWOG will be hosting upcoming opportunities in the spring and summer to train landowners in weed detection, vegetation maintenance, and other monitoring activities for those interested. We will also host volunteer opportunities for landowners to get involved in on-going maintenance activities such as weed control. We also have a newly developed [Stewardship Handbook](#) that provides information and tools that landowners can use to implement stewardship projects. These opportunities will be announced via MailChimp and will be posted on our website [www.lwog.org](http://www.lwog.org).
- You may contact LWOG if you notice conditions that warrants a site inspection or requires a maintenance action, such as a weed infestation or low survival rate of newly planted vegetation.

**Landowner stewardship is critical to project success and your attention and involvement is greatly appreciated!**

## How can I modify the LWOG-sponsored project on my property?

Our project funders require a three-year maintenance and monitoring period to ensure we respond to and correct anything that negatively impacts the overall function of the stream and project reach. Likewise, they want to ensure any modifications made during this three year period do not negatively impact the overall function of the project reach. If you would like to make changes to stream alignment, structures, or other aspects of the physical make-up of the project reach, please reach out to LWOG to discuss these changes prior to making any changes. In many cases, LWOG will be able to help make modifications, as appropriate, utilizing existing or new grant funding. In extreme cases, where changes made during the three year period negatively impact the overall purpose and intent of the project, the funders may require the landowner and/or LWOG to pay to rectify the issue. Thus, it's critical to reach out to LWOG before making changes in the project reach. **We're here to help, and potentially fund necessary follow up projects, if you see an issue that needs to be addressed.**

## When is maintenance required?

Maintenance is required when individual components or structures of a project are not achieving specific objectives related to function and safety, and therefore must be repaired.

Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

### Examples of when maintenance or repair is required:

- Structure backfill is washing out. Backfill behind an in-channel or bank stabilizing structure will compromise the stabilizing function of the installed structure.
- Boulders for an in-channel or bank stabilizing structure become dislodged or displaced. Displaced or failed portions of the structure could cause damage to the entire reach of the creek.
- Invasive species take over the disturbed area, outcompeting the native seeding, cuttings, and container plants that were installed at time of construction.
- Boulders are relocated from in-channel structures by a landowner. All placed and installed river features must remain intact throughout the duration of the maintenance agreement.
- A large proportion of seeding and container plants do not survive due to circumstances outside LWOG's and property owner's control, for example extreme drought, fire, and/or high flows wash material away.
- The river has compromised the function of the bioengineering or riprap bank stabilization treatments.

### Examples of when maintenance is NOT required:

- Sediment and wood debris are deposited on a floodplain bench. Benches are designed to capture and hold these materials.
- River channel dimension changes and/or minor bank erosion occurs. Minor movement of the river is expected as stream channels adjust and natural stream processes occur. Adjustments that do not compromise the project goals do not warrant intervention.
- A significant flood event occurs beyond the projects design parameters and undermines or causes failure of installed structure

For More Information, Please  
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