



# **Watershed Sustainability: Less Talk, More Action**

Prepared for  
*Colorado Lake & Reservoir Management Association*  
Annual Fall Conference | November 16, 2011

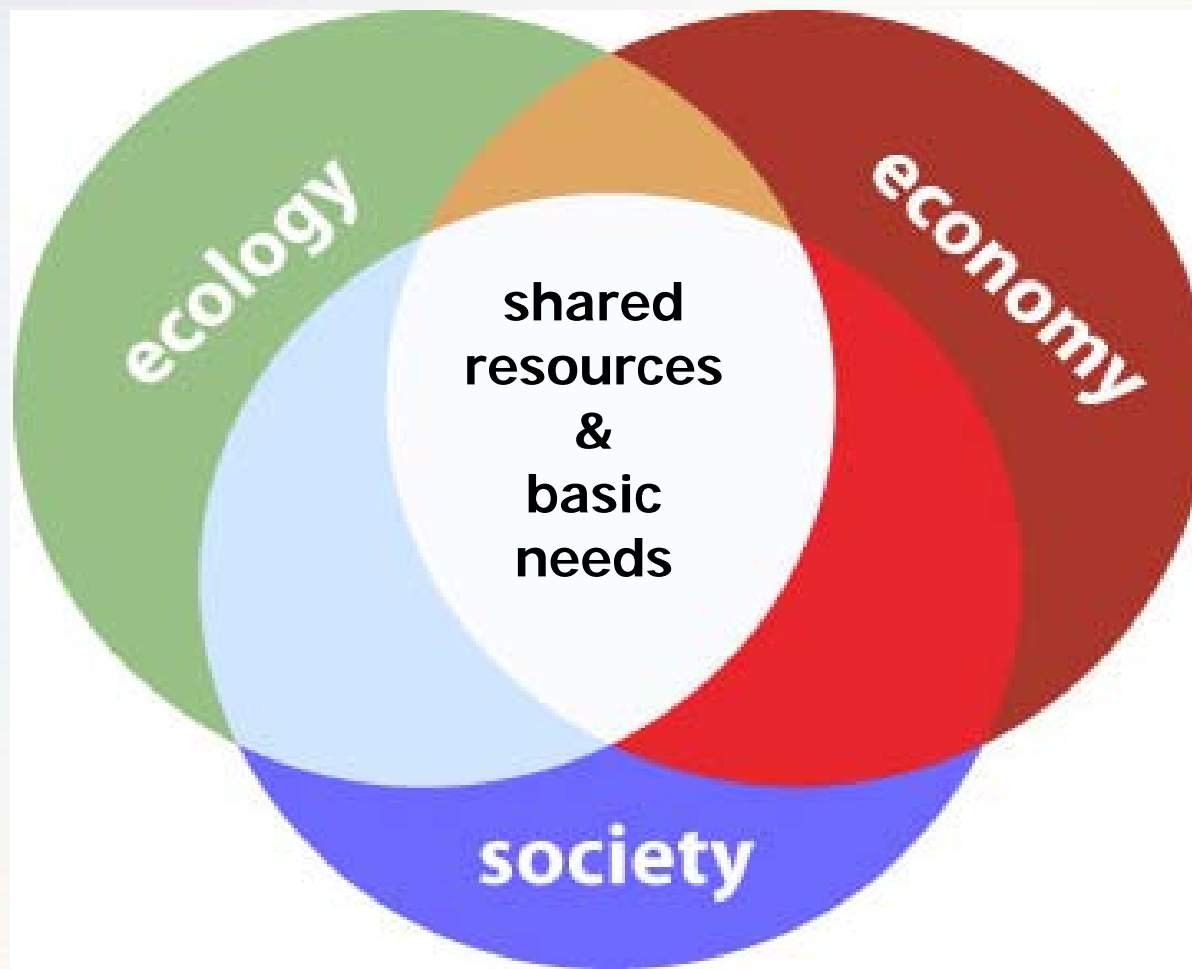
# A Brief Clear Creek Watershed History

- 1983 — Clear Creek/Central City Superfund Study Area designated
- 1990— Clear Creek Watershed Forum established, creating a “culture of cooperation”
- 1991 — Clear Creek Watershed Improvement Initiative (CC WIIN) funded by Coors
- 1992 — Clear Creek SPLASH!
- 1993 — Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association (UCCWA) formed
- May 1993 — First Clear Creek Watershed Forum event held at Mt. Vernon Country Club with nearly 100 watershed stakeholders
- October 1993 — Second Clear Creek Watershed Forum event held at Jeffco Admin. Bldg. with over 100 watershed stakeholders, 40 watershed projects identified
- 1994 — The Clear Creek Watershed Exhibit opens in Idaho Springs
  - 600-square foot National Park-caliber interpretive center
  - highlights collaborative clean-up actions, NPS pollution, and watershed education
  - interactive kiosk with information on mining history, mineral use, and remediation
  - nearly 60,000 local, national, and international visitors each year
- 1994 — Clear Creek Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) formed with EPA Technical Assistance Grant
- 1997 — Clear Creek Watershed Foundation incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, with original focus on mine remediation
- 2011 — 70+ watershed projects complete

# CCWF Survival Techniques:

1. nurture “culture of cooperation”
  - respect values & attitudes = trust
  - broad-based stakeholder involvement
  - create heroes
  - ongoing outreach and education
2. use CERCLA *Good Samaritan* tools to implement projects, not more feasibility studies
3. adjust to market trends and funding sources
4. project specific staffing — burden rate less than 10%
5. design/build task order contracting
6. reach “big picture” watershed sustainability goals through short-term accomplishments — project by project
7. don't be afraid to be visionary/entrepreneurial

# Clear Creek Watershed Foundation's Vision



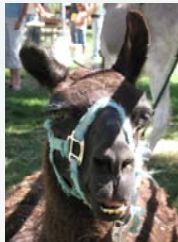
**ecology + society + economy =  
sustainability**

# **Markets for Clear Creek Watershed**

- 1. Orphan (Abandoned) Mine Remediation**
- 2. Natural Resource Management**
- 3. Water and Wastewater Management**
- 4. Preservation and Promotion of Historic Mine Sites**
- 5. Alternative Energy and Transportation**
- 6. Waste Stream Reduction**
- 7. Subsurface Rights and Uses**
- 8. Education and Outreach**

# Celebrate Success & Partners!

## clear creek watershed FESTIVAL



Join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual festival ~ Saturday, September, 15, 2012!



*advancing watershed sustainability*

**[www.clearcreekwater.org](http://www.clearcreekwater.org)**