

# STREAM RESTORATION

Deutscheig Property

## Colorado Flood Recovery: Watersheds and Natural Resources

### Project Objectives

- Stabilize banks using vegetation
- Diversify populations of native plant species
- Enhance ecological health and functionality

### Fast Facts



**Watershed**  
Left Hand Creek



**Locale**  
Northwest of  
Niwot, CO



**Primary Sponsor**  
Lefthand Watershed  
Oversight Group



**Project Cost**  
\$10,225



**Date Complete**  
Fall 2016

The September 2013 floods eroded streambanks and left large deposits of flood debris along the Plains Reach of Left Hand Creek in Boulder County. The damage decreased channel stability and increased the vulnerability of homes, property, and infrastructure to future flood events. To improve safety and long-term resiliency, the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG) sponsored a restoration project on the Deutscheig property. The project revegetated disturbed areas to help stabilize banks and reduce risk to downstream properties. Twenty-four local volunteers contributed to project success by installing hundreds of plants. Six months later, plant condition and survival rates appear excellent.

This restoration project was prioritized by the Left Hand Creek Master Plan (2014) and identified as eligible for funding from the Colorado Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. The EWP program provides funds to implement recovery measures to address hazards to life and property in watersheds impaired by the 2013 floods. The program is administered by the [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) and managed by the [Colorado Water Conservation Board](#) on behalf of the State.

Volunteers plant native trees and shrubs on June 8, 2016.



### Vision:

To implement watershed recovery projects that reduce risk to life and property, enhance riparian ecosystems, and generate long-term stream system resilience through a collaborative, watershed-based approach that incorporates the needs of diverse stakeholders.



# Project Description



The Deuschteig project site covers an area of 12,600 square feet and is owned by one private landowner. Volunteers, LWOG staff, and ecologists from Great Ecology implemented the revegetation project in three key steps:

- **May 5, 2016** - Installed 289 willow and 289 cottonwood cuttings that were collected and soaked for one week prior to planting.
- **June 8, 2016** - Installed 356 container trees and shrubs including species of river birch, dogwood, chokecherry, golden currant, and willow.
- **November 21, 2016** - Applied 40 pounds of custom seed mix of forbs and grasses and covered with wood straw mulching.

The selection of appropriate plant materials was critical to this project's success to ensure better adaptation and survival. Great Ecology consultants chose plants based on historical distributions, pre-flood conditions, existing ecological communities, and ecological traits such as hydrologic preference, topography, successional tier, soil texture, shade tolerance, and growth form.

Staff visit the site regularly to assess conditions. As of February 2017, the plants appear in excellent condition with no mortality evident. LWOG staff and volunteers will monitor the site for the next three years, controlling noxious weeds, inspecting plants, and supplementing planting and water when needed.

**Plants Installed: 934**



**Volunteer Hours: 96**



**Seed Spread: 40 lbs.**





Project site before revegetation.

LWOG

Executive Director,

Jessie Olson remarked on the

importance of this early project, “The Deutschteig

project was an excellent way for LWOG to build community interest

and support in our restoration efforts along Left Hand Creek. We were able

to host four volunteer events and provide an opportunity for a diversity

of stakeholders to come together for a common goal

of helping repair and restore a private

landowner’s property.”

# Before

# After

Project site four months after plantings.



4  
Crossstream  
10-21  
German 16

- PROJECT -

# SPONSORS



LWOG served as the local sponsor for the project. LWOG is a non-profit watershed coalition with a mission,

*“to assess, protect, and restore the quality of our watershed, and to serve as a hub for watershed issues through the fostering of stakeholder collaboration.”*

LWOG staff worked closely with the landowner and state and federal partners to implement the project. The watershed group also coordinated volunteer events and the local match funding for the project and will continue to monitor project performance.

## PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group
- Left Hand Water District
- Saint Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District
- Trout Unlimited-Boulder Flycasters Chapter
- Boulder County
- Xilinx Volunteers
- Micro Motion Volunteers
- United Way (Day of Caring Event)
- Landowners and Neighbors

## CONSULTANTS

Great Ecology

Learn more about the Colorado EWP Program at [ColoradoEWP.com](http://ColoradoEWP.com)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## Funding

Total: \$10,225

