

STEPHEN ELLSPERMAN

Principal | Director of Ecological Planning

EDUCATION

B.S. in Natural Resource Management, Colorado State University, 1991
Multiple Advanced Certifications and Classifications

SPECIALTIES

River Restoration
Permitting Approvals for River Restoration and Floodplain Construction
Navigating federal, state, and local regulations for: wetland permitting, floodplain permitting, and river channel planning and construction.

MOST NOTABLE WORK

Clear W Ranch

2008 CCASLA Design Award, ALCC Presidents Stewardship Award

The Jennie Adair Regional Stormwater Quality Project demonstrates how a stormwater and water quality extended detention basin can be designed to meet specific engineering criteria while simultaneously providing valuable wildlife habitat and beautiful public park space. Stephen Ellsperman, Director of Ecological Planning, planned, designed, and implemented this project with the owners (City of Aspen), the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, the design team of City of Aspen, and WRC Engineering. The project was originally conceptualized as a stormwater facility that would utilize natural and engineered systems to improve the quality of water flowing into the Roaring Fork River from approximately one-third of the storm sewers in central Aspen. The primary design challenge was to develop a stormwater quality facility integrated with a large scale constructed wetland within an environmentally sensitive riparian corridor located in central Aspen. The project was a result of a long-term collaboration between the Owner and the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, a local non-profit organization providing environmental education.

BOARD COMMITMENTS

Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Management Plan
Advisory Committee, 2013-Present
Roaring Fork Conservancy, 2000-Present
Eagle County Regional Planning Commission, 2012-Present
Aspen Center for Environmental Studies
Rock Bottom Ranch Council 2011-Present
Eagle County Open Space Board 2006-2009, 2011-2012

Maroon Creek Wetlands

2003 CCASLA Merit Award, Land Stewardship Designation

The Maroon Creek Wetland Project included a careful examination of the riparian ecology and riverine conditions of Maroon Creek near Aspen, Colorado. Initial goals of providing constructed wetland for stormwater management quickly morphed as careful biological inventory of the site revealed that the area was both severely degraded and had significant restoration potential. The project design included provisions for reconnecting the floodplain to Maroon Creek, utilizing the shallow water table for constructing wetlands, identifying native vegetation and ensuring that it was genetically connected to the site for restoration, and providing a long term monitoring and management plan.

Basalt River Restoration

This project achieves a number of long-standing social, environmental, economic, and community goals related to a prominent downtown corner in the Town of Basalt. DHM is assisting with the master planning and land use approvals for this five acre parcel that will include public access to the river, a riverfront park, and redefinition of the floodplain. DHM is involved with all aspects of the process from community meetings and design to coordination with engineers and federal agencies for proposed development approvals. In the end, this community based development will result in a riverfront park that will add immeasurably to the character and vitality of the Town of Basalt.



Stephen has 23 years of experience in all aspects of natural resource management, permitting, and planning. From park and open space management to wetland design and construction, Stephen's work is permeated by his deep connection to ecological relationships. He is passionate about the protection and understanding of native ecosystems and strives to harmonize project planning with ecological conditions and future opportunities. Stephen's ability to translate the ecological processes at work within each project is an invaluable resource that enriches both the design and the client's attitude towards environmental awareness.

DHM DESIGN

970.963.6520
sellspberman@dhmdesign.com

STEPHEN ELLSPERMAN

Principal | Director of Ecological Planning

Rural

Ucross Foundation / Ranch; Sheridan, WY
ASLA Colorado President's Award of Excellence in Planning 2011
ASLA Colorado Land Stewardship Award 2011
Wildhorse Ranch; Harney County, OR
ASLA Award of Honor in Analysis and Planning 2007
ASLA Oregon Award of Excellence 2008
Clear W Ranch; Pitkin County, CO
Fryin Pan Canyon Ranch; Eagle County, CO
Pokorny Development; Basalt, CO
Moon Run Ranch; Old Snowmass, CO

River System Restoration and Planning

Basalt River Restoration; Basalt, CO
Old Pond Park; Basalt, CO
Flying Fish Project; Basalt, CO
Bear Dance Ranch; Eagle County, CO
James H Smith Open Space; Aspen, CO
Mills Property; Pitkin County, CO

Stormwater Management

Jennie Adair Regional Wetlands; Aspen, CO
ALCC Grand Award 2007
Rio Grande Park Regional Stormwater Project; Aspen, CO

Ecological Restoration

Rock Bottom Ranch Corona Creek Restoration Plan; Eagle County, CO
Miles Property; Redstone, CO

Reclamation

10th Mountain Hut System; Leadville, CO
Henry Stein Park; Pitkin County, CO
Aspen Mass Restoration Project; Aspen, CO
Little Ajax; Aspen, CO

Open Space Planning and Management

Platte Farm Open Space; Denver, CO
Moore Open Space; Aspen, CO
Crown Mountain Park Master Plan; El Jebel, CO
Little Ajax Open Space; Aspen, CO
Marolt / Thomas Open Space; Aspen, CO
Smuggler Mountain Open Space; Pitkin County, CO

Trails System Planning and Implementation

Crystal Valley Trail; Marble, CO
Crested Butte Trails Master Plan; Crested Butte, CO

Community Forestry

City of Aspen Community Forest Master Plan; Aspen, CO
Society of Municipal Arborist Master Plan Excellence Award, 2008
Roaring Fork Club Forestry Master Plan; Basalt, CO

Residential

Wheeler Ranch; Watson Divide, CO
Blackie Residence / Ranch; Snowmass, CO
Skyline Residence; Kiev, Ukraine
Ducote Residence; Aspen, CO
76 Placer Lane; Aspen, CO

Wetland Restoration

Maroon Creek Wetland; Aspen, CO
ASLA Presidents Design Award 2002
Snyder Park Wetland Restoration; Aspen, CO
ALCC Award of Merit 2002
Sinclair Meadows; Snowmass, CO
Owl Creek Ranch; Snowmass, CO
Aspen Golf Course Restoration Project; Aspen, CO

Parks and Recreation

John Denver Sanctuary; Aspen, CO
ASLA Award of Excellence 2005
Carbondale Recreation Center; Carbondale, CO
ASLA Land Stewardship Award for Design 2009
Ute Cemetery; Aspen, CO
ASLA Land Stewardship Award for Design 2003
Anderson Park; Aspen, CO
Waite Robison Park; Aspen, CO
Harmony Park; Aspen, CO
Iselin and Rotary Fields; Aspen, CO
Pioneer Park; Aspen, CO
Fox Crossing Park; Aspen, CO

Natural Resource Master Planning

Sky Mountain Open Space; Snowmass, CO
Certificate of Excellence for Management Planning
Colorado Wildlife Society 2012
Rocky Mountain Institute; Basalt, CO
Windriver Ranch; El Jebel, CO
City of Aspen Noxious Vegetation Master Plan; Aspen, CO
River Valley Ranch Natural Resources Master Plan; Carbondale, CO
Blue Creek Ranch; Carbondale, CO
Midland Park Open Space; Basalt, CO
Basalt Bluffs; Basalt, CO
Cerise Ranch; Garfield County, CO
Cozy Point Ranch; Pitkin County, CO