



Memorandum

To: Vail Town Council
From: Community Development Department
Date: January 8, 2019
Subject: Status of Gore Creek Macroinvertebrate Populations

I. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum and presentation is to provide an update on the status of aquatic invertebrate populations in Gore Creek based on data collected in 2017.

II. Background

Town of Vail and Eagle River Water & Sanitation District have partnered to monitor aquatic insect populations in Gore Creek since 2009. Gore Creek has been on the state's 303d of impaired waterways for failing to meet standards for aquatic life since 2012. In 2016, Town of Vail adopted the Gore Creek Strategic Action Plan to address the causes of the creek's impairment.

Dave Rees of Timberline Aquatics has collected and analyzed millions of individual insects from Gore Creek, the Eagle River and their tributaries since 2009. Of the nine locations monitored on Gore Creek, six were failing in 2015. In 2016 and 2017, only three sites failed to meet state standards. Dave will present the most recent data he has collected and offer his interpretation of what they can tell us about the health of the ecosystem in Vail's main waterway.

III. Next Steps

Town Environmental Staff has already begun using new macroinvertebrate scores to better inform their approach to Gore Creek restoration and prioritize projects and strategies.