



MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT

## What are Stream Management Corridors?

Streams are dynamic systems that migrate within their corridors, constantly evolving in shape, size, and location. A stream's overall corridor can be projected based on its past location and physical characteristics of the landscape, such as geology and topography. Using projected Stream Management Corridors (SMCs) to guide planning, land use, and land management decisions accounts for future changes in stream location and flow characteristics and thereby reduces stream maintenance costs.

Mile High Flood District has created Stream Management Corridors that comprise broad areas where dynamic stream processes are likely to occur.

***Stream Management Corridors reflect MHFD's commitment to protecting people, property, and the environment.***

The SMCs support streams' need for space as an integral component of stream health and should inform development planning. They are distinct from FEMA regulatory floodplains in encompassing areas designated as low risk or even outside defined floodplains, yet still prone to flooding and erosion. SMCs allow for the effective, proactive management of critical areas of concern and provide opportunities to enhance and highlight the natural and beneficial functions that streams provide local communities and the environment.

MHFD created a simplified method for defining SMCs and mapped them at the broadest level, called the Watershed Scale. Watershed Scale SMCs have been delineated for multiple watersheds and should be further refined as described in the framework below. The framework promotes increasingly refined SMC scales to achieve desired management outcomes and describes the triggers that should prompt their development.

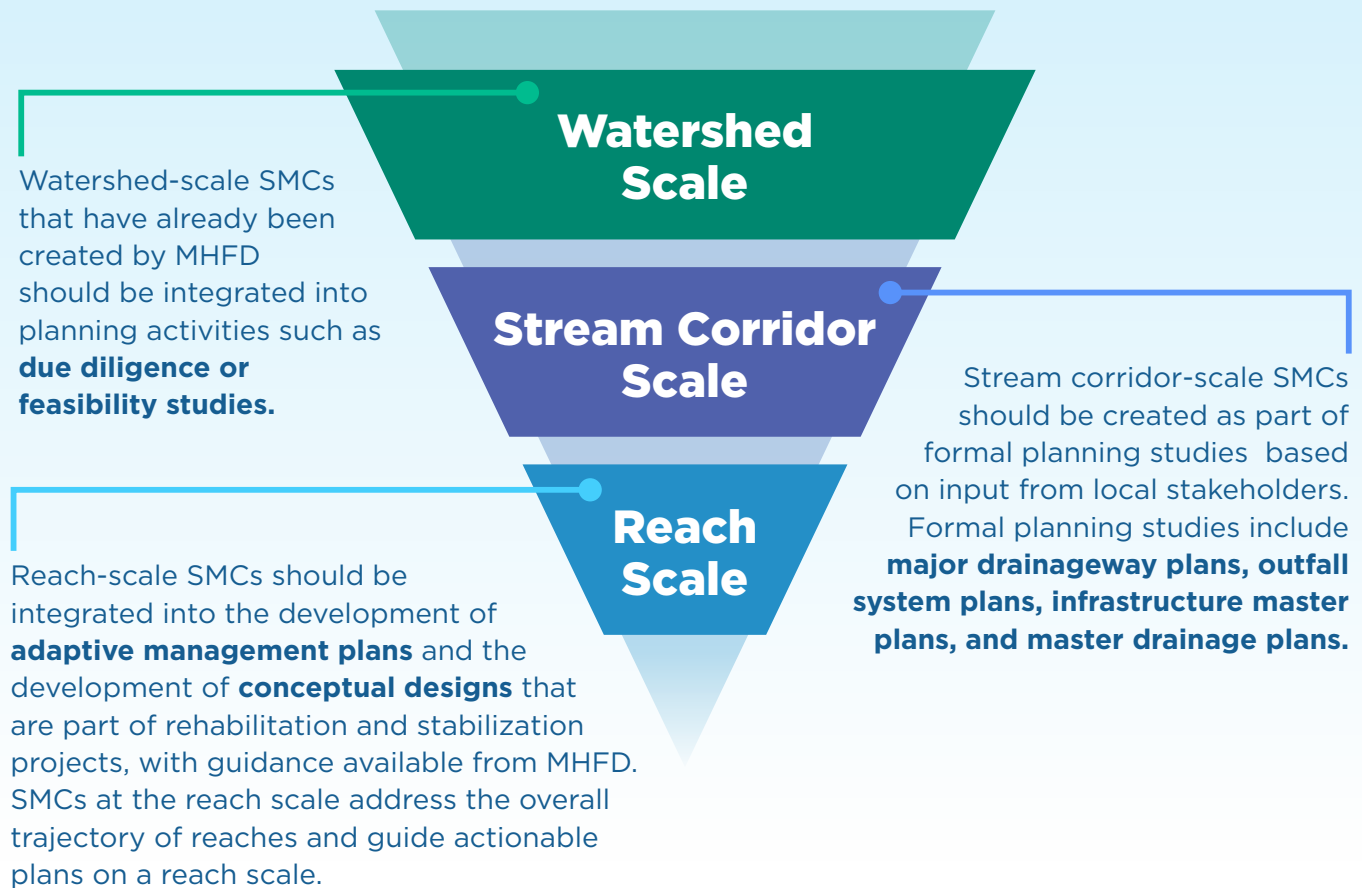


Coal Creek, SMC 2022

***The Colorado Fluvial Hazard Protocol states that 52% of all flood insurance claims resulting from the 2013 Colorado Front Range Flood originated outside of FEMA regulatory floodplains. In fact, roughly 49% of all National Flood Insurance Program claims in Colorado come from outside the high-risk areas that are defined on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps, including from fluvial hazard zones captured in SMCs, highlighting the importance of these corridors as critical management tools.***



# How Do I Use Stream Management Corridors?



## For More Information, contact: