Introduction

Colorado-Big Thompson Watershed and Forest Health MOU

Watershed Wildfire Protection Group

January 25, 2013
Memorandum of Understanding

- Initiated by Under Secretary Harris Sherman
- Signed in December 2012
- Signatories
  - U.S. Forest Service
  - Colorado State Forest Service
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - Northern Water
- Restore forest and watershed health and preplan post-wildfire response to protect C-BT facilities and water supplies
Northern Water is a public agency created in 1937 to contract with the federal government to build the Colorado-Big Thompson Project.

- C-BT Constructed by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 1938-1957
- Today, Northern Water and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation jointly operate and maintain the C-BT Project

The C-BT Project provides supplemental water to Northern Colorado:
- More than 640,000 acres of irrigated farm and ranch land
- About 60 cities and domestic water districts serving 850,000 people
Our Facilities and Boundaries

Northern Water
Colorado-Big Thompson Project

Northern Water Boundaries and Facilities

Legend
- Colorado-Big Thompson Reservoirs
- City/Town
- Northern Water Boundaries
- Southern Water Supply Pipeline
- Reservoirs
- Irrigation Canal
- Pipeline/Conduit
- Tunnel
- Dam
- Power Plant
- Pump Plant
- Fortified Headquarters

C-BT Profile Map

US Map
Colorado Index Map
West Slope Collection System
West Slope Collection System

Willow Creek Reservoir

Lake Granby

Grand Lake and Shadow Mountain

Green Mountain Reservoir

Windy Gap Reservoir
East Slope Distribution System

Legend:
- CBT Reservoirs
- City/Town
- Canal
- Pipeline/Conduit
- Tunnel
- Dam
- Power Plant
- Pump Plant
East Slope Distribution System

Lake Estes

Flatiron Reservoir

Horsetooth Reservoir

Carter Lake

Big T Siphon

Distribution Canals
C-BT Power Generation

- Flatiron Penstocks
- Mary’s Lake
- Pole Hill
- Estes Power Plant
- Flatiron
Deliveries

1957

Population = 150,000

C-BT Deliveries:
  98% Agricultural
  2% Municipal-Industry

C-BT Ownership:
  85% Agricultural
  15% M & I

2012

Population = 850,000

C-BT Deliveries:
  66% Agricultural
  34% M & I

C-BT Ownership:
  33% Agricultural
  67% M & I
  (~60 M&I Allottees)

Average Annual Delivery

213,000 ac-ft
Key MOU Goals

- **Public, Employee and Firefighter Safety**
- **Protect Infrastructure**
  - Dams
  - Power Plants, Pump Stations
  - Power Lines
  - Canals, Pipelines
  - Other Structures
- **Protect Water Quality**
  - Sediment, Debris
  - Ash
  - Total Organic Carbon (TOC)
  - General Treatability

*Poudre River following High Park fire* (USDA / CreativeCommons/Flickr)
Key MOU Objectives

- **Planning**
  - Update/refine watershed assessments
  - Develop 5-year operating plan

- **Activities**
  - Conduct forest treatments
  - Post-wildfire response preparation

- **Coordination**
  - Education, technical and financial incentives
  - Engage other partners
  - Communication/media campaign

The MOU does not commit to specific budgets or funding levels – will need to be discussed during operating plan development.
For additional information

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