WHAT'S THE STATE DOING?

AMY MOYER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR WATER
COLORADO'S WATER PLAN AND VALUES
GOAL

Colorado's Water Plan promotes watershed health and supports the development of watershed coalitions and watershed master plans that address the needs of a diverse set of stakeholders.
GOAL

Colorado's Water Plan promotes water resource resilience from natural disasters through strategic preparedness and response.
Forest Management to Protect Colorado’s Water Resources

“A Synthesis Report to Support House Bill 16-1255
June 2017

24.4 MILLION ACRES

"More than 24.4 million acres of native Colorado forestland...impact the state's water supply"
STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

PARTNERSHIPS

- Watershed Partnerships
- Forest Health Partnerships

BASIN ROUNDTABLES

- Basin Implementation Plans

FUNDING
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Healthy Forests = Healthy Watersheds

$28M

Spent by DW in response to Buffalo Creek and Haymand fires
COLORADO WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM

1. Watershed/Stream Restoration and/or Protection

2. Flood Mitigation

3. Stream Management Plans

4. CWCB Monitoring Projects

$5M in 2017 Projects Bill

$2M in 2018 Projects Bill
COLORADO WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM: FOREST HEALTH

- Education, outreach, and stakeholder collaboration to promote and plan for forest health
- Watershed planning focused on protecting water supplies and ecosystem processes.
- Comprehensive pre-wildfire assessments designed to protect critical water supplies, including environmental, recreational, agricultural, municipal, and industrial water supplies.
- Restoration of decommissioned forest roads.
- Protection or Restoration of headwater stream channels addressing geomorphology, biology, and ecology. This may include perennial, ephemeral, and intermittent streams.
- Woody invasive species removal in riparian areas
- Wetland protection and restoration, including fens.
- Alluvial Fan protection and restoration.
- Channel reconfiguration associated with mine restoration
Primary goal in fire protection and restoration is to protect water supply - both consumptive (municipal, industrial, and agriculture) and non-consumptive (environmental and recreation).

Projects must demonstrate:
1. Commitment to collaborative approaches
2. Commitment to restoring or protecting ecological processes
3. Multi-objective approach with broad support from relevant local, state, and federal agencies
4. Ability to provide match support (in-kind and cash)

CWCB has a strong interest in technically sound, innovative projects.
FOREST RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

SB17-050 consolidated two existing forest health and wildfire mitigation grant programs: CSFS’s Forest Restoration Grant Program and DNR’s Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant program into a single grant program.

Provides annual funding ($1.05M) through Severance Tax Tier 2 to fund fuels treatment projects and capacity building projects.

Prior to the movement to the CSFS, the WRRG program awarded about $12M to 132 projects across 30 counties, leveraging over $23M to on the ground wildfire mitigation efforts.

Due to declines in Severance Tax, the General Assembly has allocated about $1M in General Fund in FY18 and FY19 for the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program.
Possibilities for FHAC Discussion

- Leverage state funding by building partnerships - locally and regionally based
- Encourage watershed and forest health partnerships by working with basin roundtables
- Encourage water providers to prioritize critical areas of concern and build partnerships for treatment
- FHAC partner with the Watershed Wildfire Protection Group - offer tours/share knowledge