2015 Annual Report

COALITION FOR THE UPPER SOUTH PLATTE

Table of Contents

OVERVIEW

Vision: *A healthy watershed - now and in the future*

Mission: *To protect the water quality and ecological health of the Upper South Platte Watershed through the cooperative efforts of watershed stakeholders, with emphasis placed on community values and economic sustainability.*

Watersheds are our most fundamental infrastructure. Rivers and streams carve, define and nourish the communities built around them and everything in between them impacts water quality. The 2,600 square mile Upper South Platte Watershed is located in the heart of Colorado and provides drinking, agricultural and commercial water supply to almost 80% of Colorado's residents throughout the densely populated Central Front Range.

CUSP's mission-driven commitment brings with it a profound responsibility to the eco-systems and people to which it is home. This mission also brings with it an obligation to create and sustain an organization that steps out of the river to view the larger environment and potential risks around it; to strategically evaluate long term needs and possible threats while establishing and guaranteeing strong partnerships that will ensure enduring stewardship of the watershed.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting watershed health and making these accomplishments possible!

GIS Mapping

Throughout this document are maps; they tell the story of what we do in vivid detail. CUSP's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) team provides substance, clarity and direction for our projects. GIS and mapping touches every one of our program areas; collecting and interpreting data into elucidating visual context.

GIS mapping also makes CUSP unique among resource protection nonprofit organizations. It is rare for NPOs to have dedicated GIS infrastructure within their organizations; for that matter, many small, local governments lack GIS capacity. CUSP has often come to the aid of local government partners and assisted other agencies by providing much needed maps for their projects.

Maps add a level of sophistication and competency to our reports, elevating documentation of our impacts and outcomes and also making CUSP more competitive when seeking grants. Our funders are able to see a deep level of detail that informs their decisions while giving them a clear picture of the impacts of their investments.

In 2015 CUSP GIS Mapping provided in-depth support, analysis, updates and data conversion on a wide range of projects. In-house projects included:

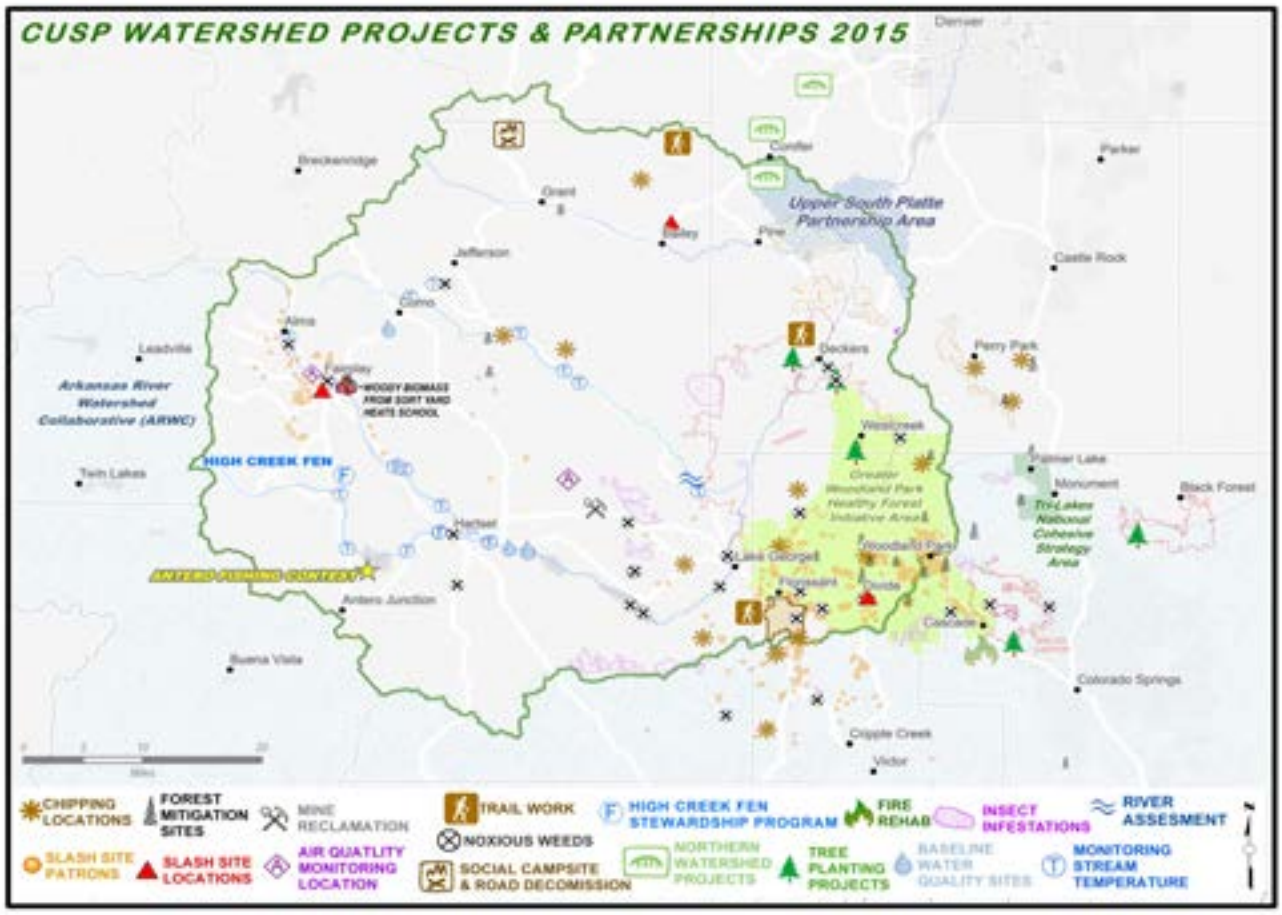
Forestry planning/reporting
Prescribed burn mapping
Sourdough
Catamount
Field Data collection and conversion
Weeds mapping
Northern watershed planning
Horse Creek Planning
Landis Ranch Stream Restoration Plan

Support was also provided to many partners and active collaborations including:

Black Forest Together
Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative
BLM Master Leasing Plan
Denver Water SWPP
Big Thompson Watershed Coalition
Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition
Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative

CUSP GIS also collaborated with the National Weather Service to create real-time weather maps to alert our crew and contractors to threatening weather while in the field.

Where We Worked & What We Did in 2015



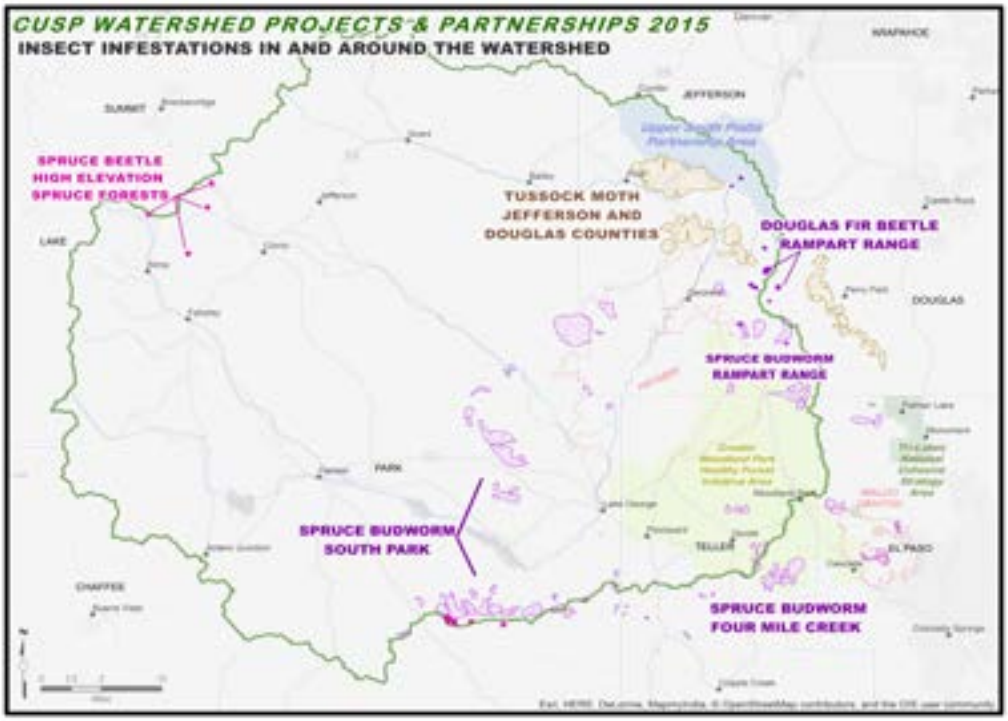
The majority of CUSP projects in 2015 were completed within the Upper South Platte watershed. There were additional projects done outside the watershed boundaries as well. Our post-fire work continued in Waldo Canyon. Other mitigation projects were implemented in the Tri-Lakes and Monument area as well as north of Conifer and south of Florissant. We understand that helping communities contiguous to, and near, our watershed boundaries, benefits us all.

FOREST HEALTH

The health of the Upper South Platte Watershed is intimately tied to the health of the forests that cover the majority of the watershed. Healthy forests act as a living filter to improve the quality of water throughout the watershed and in areas downstream. In the Upper South Platte Watershed, ponderosa pine forests dominate, with areas of mixed conifer, aspen, and lodgepole. These forests are currently overcrowded and in poor health, leaving them vulnerable to insect infestations, disease outbreaks, and catastrophic fire. CUSP proactively works on projects on public and private land to improve forest health and protect communities. Some of CUSP's major forest health programs and highlights of 2015 are detailed below.

State of the Forests in the Upper South Platte Watershed

The forests in this watershed are typical of current forests across the western United States, demonstrating the effects of decades of fire suppression and passive management among a vegetation type that evolved in a fire-dependent environment. The unusually wet spring of 2015 coupled with less extreme heat during the summer months eased the drought situation in



many areas of our state and resulted in an uneventful wildfire season for Colorado overall, including the Upper South Platte Watershed. While the forest trees continue to be stressed from overcrowded conditions, the cooler and wetter weather resulted in a proliferation of grasses and wildflowers and noxious weeds across the watershed.

Insect infestations (see map, page 6) for the counties in the Upper South Platte Watershed include western spruce budworm, which affects the new shoots and buds of Douglas-fir, true firs, and spruce trees. In 2015 this insect was most prevalent along southern and eastern portions of South Park, in the Upper Four-Mile Creek Basin between Cripple Creek and Divide, and along the southern Rampart Range. Small pockets of Douglas-fir beetle were noted in mature Douglas-fir forests in Rampart Range. Spruce beetle damage and mortality is currently limited to select areas of the watershed, affecting high elevation spruce forests. But, this forest insect has done significant damage in the state and is gradually spreading from southwest Colorado to the northeast, currently advancing as far north and east as the Sawatch Range, the Wet Mountains and the south edge of South Park.

The most dramatic tree damage witnessed in 2015 was due to the Douglas-fir tussock moth. This is the most widespread outbreak of this insect ever recorded in Colorado. Approximately 26,000 acres of fir, Douglas-fir, spruce, and in some cases ponderosa pine were defoliated from Boulder, through Douglas County and on Cheyenne Mountain. These trees have been significantly weakened and are susceptible to attack from other forest pests. The unusually wet spring also created conditions for increased leaf fungi activity, resulting in aspen leaf discoloration and early leaf drop in some areas.

It is increasingly important for property owners to understand their role as forest stewards and to choose to actively manage their forest assets. CUSP continually works to educate property owners and contractors, to seek and obtain grant funding, to aggressively collaborate with other agencies on forest management projects, and to stay up to date with the latest research in order to partner with the users and benefactors of the Upper South Platte Watershed regarding the care of our invaluable forests.


Douglas fir beetle


Western spruce budworm larval


Western spruce budworm adult

2015 Forestry Grants

2015 was an another successful year for forest management. Significant gains have been achieved through diligent planning. Several major grants provide the funding that make our projects possible. These grants fund projects throughout the Upper South Platte Watershed and in some cases provide homeowners cost-share opportunities through grant matching,

making fuel mitigation affordable, and therefore achievable. Some of the match for these projects comes from volunteer work efforts, providing in-kind match that increases the feasibility of completing these often large-scale projects.

Stevens (CAFA) CUSP received funding though the CSFS Stevens grant program to mitigate fuels on properties adjacent to USFS lands. In the past three years, working with property owners in these areas, CUSP has treated more than 305 acres, developing resilient forests and managing both small and large scale projects. **CSFS Restoration** CUSP has been awarded $300,000 through the CSFS Restoration grant program. Work has begun, and will continue, at Carrol Lakes. **DNR Grant** CUSP has treated over 329 acres under our last DNR Wildfire Risk Reduction grant. The work has focused on high priority areas around the watershed. To date CUSP volunteers have provided 2290 hours of support to the project, which accounts for over $278,000.00 of value. Additionally CUSP has provided $120,061.00 of matching funding through the use of leveraged support from additional grants and owner participation. We also received $200,000 from an anonymous foundation to support CUSP leadership on forest health and fire mitigation.

Fire Suppression Team

In 2015 the CUSP crew had 8 active members who participated in numerous trainings, fires and burns throughout the year. During the winter months, the CUSP crew completed burning at Ute Lakes, north of Divide and in Ranch Estates, north of Pikes Peak. With more than 800 piles burned, CUSP made significant headway, reducing the backlog of piles created from previous fuels mitigation projects over the last five years. The backlog was due, in large part, to reduced snow averages over the past few years. Thankfully, snow fall at the end of the year gave us another good, wet season for burning and for, hopefully, keeping us out of drought conditions in 2016.

While the 2015 fire season in Colorado was a slow one - the CUSP crew did respond to three small fires within the area, providing initial attack and mop up services - other parts of the West were up in flames. CUSP sent three fire fighters from the CUSP Wildland Fire Team to the West Coast to lend a hand. Jonathan Bruno traveled to the Chelan and Wolverine Fires in Chelan County, Washington. Beth Nielsen and Jeff Tienken traveled to California to fight fires there. The opportunity to participate in large fires across the West is an essential component to expanding our local response capabilities. By participating in these fires, CUSP continues to raise the professionalism and skill set within our watershed. The experiences gained will help when a fire starts closer to home. We have compiled a few stories from the crew's fire assignments

.

Jeff Tienkin

Deputy Operations Director

In early August 2015, I was deployed as a sawyer to the River Complex fire in northern California's Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The River Complex fire was a series of smaller fires which merged to make one large fire. With my first deployment, I was hoping to gain experience by observing the protocol and procedures while being a member of an engine crew. Instead, I was deployed as a single resource. Fortunately, I could reflect back upon training and classes I attended to aid me through the stressful processes of check-in and demobilization.

While on the fire, I teamed up with another sawyer from Shasta, CA. Our task was to work with dozers and masticators to cut contingency fire lines well ahead of the approaching front by felling the trees too large for the dozer and removing any dead snag that would pose danger to a hand crew working the line. Once the fire had burned through some areas of our division, we were tasked to remove all hazard trees that posed further danger to roads. The orders we received definitely tested my sawyer skills. All of the trees were much larger (4-6ft

in diameter) than what I have been accustomed to. In addition to the size of the trees, the terrain (virtually vertical) posed additional challenges. While on deployment, the fire grew from 18k+ acres to well over 65k acres burning into the Trinity Wilderness area.

The work was grueling, dangerous and deeply rewarding. Not only was I able to provide critical support, but I expanded my work experience and fire fighting qualifications that will benefit our CUSP Wild Land Fire Fighting Team.

Beth Nielsen
Wild Land Fire Team

In the beginning of August 2015, I received a call from Steve Menz of the Divide Fire Protection District with whom we were partnering for national wildland fire deployment. “We’ve been requested for the Route Complex Fire in northern California. Be ready to go in two hours.” And, since we had been preparing for this since early Spring, I was ready to go. It would be 25 days before I returned home from the fire. I was deployed on a Type-3 engine with two volunteer firefighters from Divide; Steve Menz and Brad Inscoe as well as Matt Matwijec from the Colorado State Forest Service. We were a shining example of local partnerships and collaborations at work in our area. This was a great opportunity for CUSP to help other communities in need, especially since so many others had come to our aid during the Hayman and Waldo fires.

The firefighting world is very small indeed. At the end of our second week of deployment we were assigned to “Division Charlie”. Our Division Supervisor was none other than Stan Lovan who, earlier that summer, had taken a service trip with his church from Ava, MO to perform mitigation work with CUSP in our watershed. I remembered loading the chipper with Stan and talking about good fire boots, having no idea at the time that he was a Division Supervisor. Just three short months later I found myself at division briefs with him in northern California. It was a profound reunion.

This national deployment also afforded firefighters from our area to gain a wealth of experience and knowledge that would otherwise have taken years to acquire had we not had this opportunity. I have been a volunteer fire fighter with Florissant Fire for three years and have gone out on a few grass fires and some trainings but, nothing compared to being on a large complex fire with thousands of other fire fighters performing countless critical duties on the front lines. It is a testament to the fellowship of firefighters, who linked in a nation of endangered forests vulnerable to the growing threat of catastrophic wild fires, rapidly respond to save and protect lives and our natural resources.

In August 2015, CUSP's Operations Director, Jonathan Bruno was part of the Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) in Chelan County Washington working on the Chelan and Wolverine Fires. The CMAT model is a national pilot program that assists communities close to wildfires to take action to become more fire adapted.

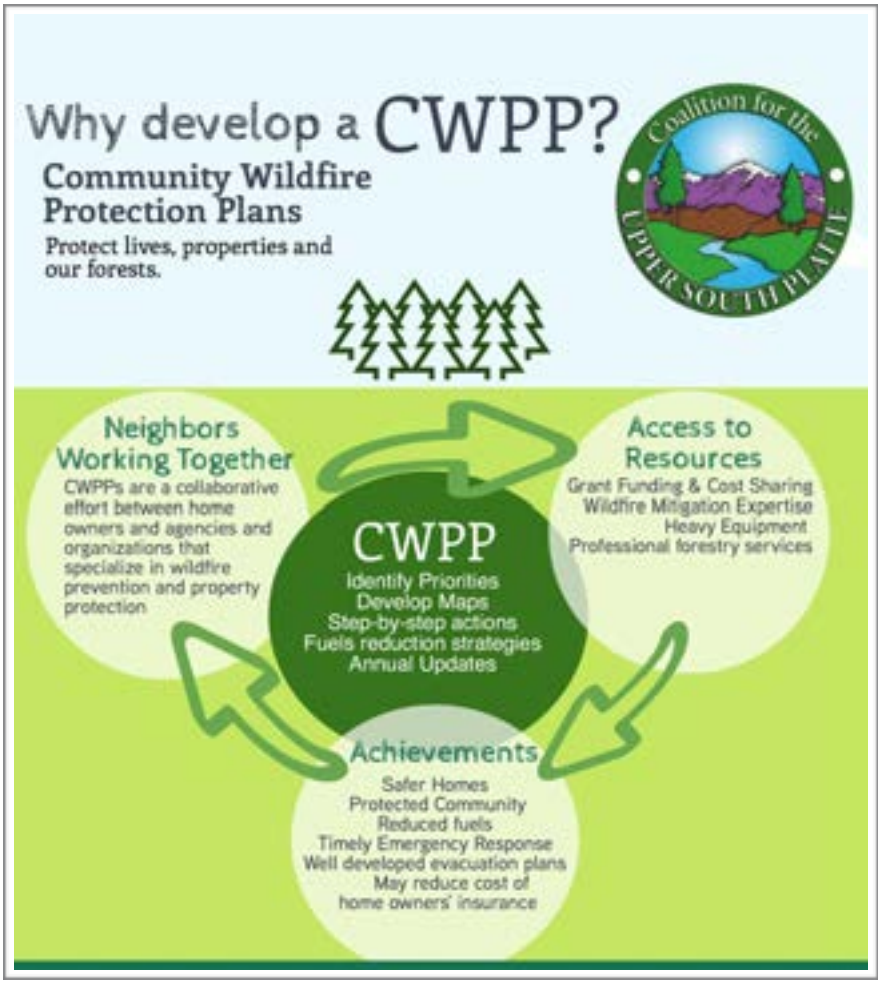
Other Highlights

Jonathan Bruno received recognition from the International Association of Fire Chiefs for CUSP's Forest activities. The Fire Adapted Communities Innovation Award recognizes individuals working to protect their communities and forests.

Jonathan Bruno accepted the Vice Chair position for the newly formed Fire Adapted Colorado organization. FACO is a 501(c) (3) organization that hopes to create a statewide network of forest management practitioners that will be the voice for Fire Adapted within the State of Colorado.

CUSP was invited to provide input into the Rural Voices of Conservation Coalition annual meeting. RVCC is an influential organization that has led the charge for rural communities voice on the Federal Stage. CUSP is proud to participate and provide our unique watershed voice to the discussion.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)



CUSP continues to work with communities developing and updating CWPPs. In 2015 we helped complete the Lost Park Ranch Owner Association (LPROA) to create a CWPP for their sub-division. Lost Park Ranch is located in northern Park County and is surrounded on three sides by Pike National Forest (USFS).

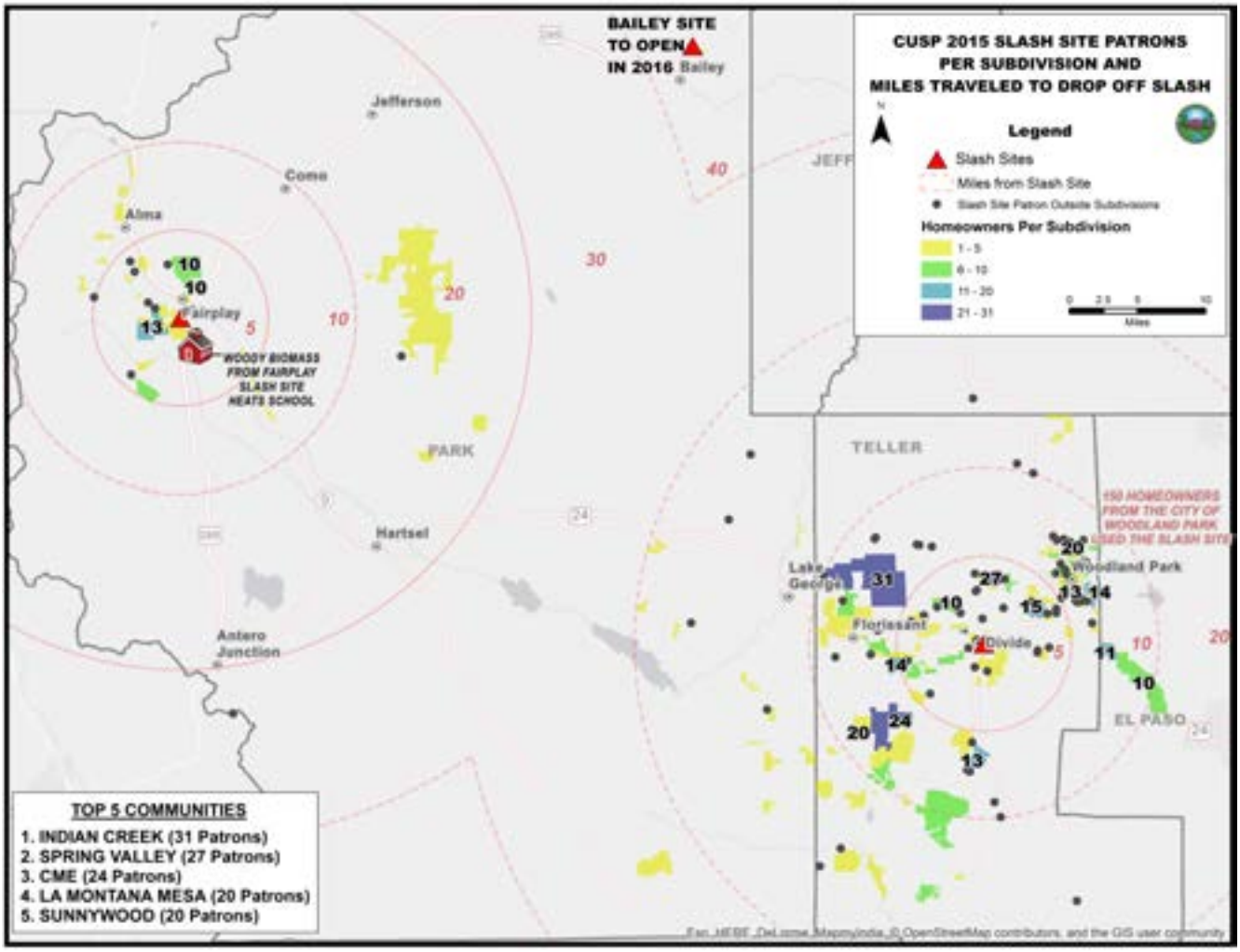
Property owners in Lost Park Ranch formed an ad hoc committee to develop this CWPP in the spring of 2014. The committee requested assistance from the Colorado State Forest Service, who, in turn, asked CUSP to provide professional support to the LPROA Committee. Other supporting organizations included the Jefferson - Como Fire Protection Districts and Park County government. The plan was completed in 2015.

Fire protection districts and government agencies in Park County used the Fire Adapted Community (FAC) Self-Assessment Tool in early 2015 to provide a snapshot of fire adaption and wildfire preparedness in the county. The FAC Self-Assessment Tool was designed by the FAC Learning Network to help communities identify values at risk and their capacity to implement activities to become fully prepared for wildfire throughout the community. The FAC Self-Assessment Tool was used to update Park County's 2009 (http://parkco.us/documentcenter/view/213) CWPP and to provide an overview of existing resources, capacity, and challenges related to wildfire in the county. Not only was the plan updated, a handbook, **Wildland Fire Realities,** was generated to provide residents with proactive steps they can take to protect their homes and properties. This was a collaborative effort supported by Park County, Northwest Fire Rescue, Hartsel Fire Rescue, Jefferson-Como Fire District, Lake George Fire District, South Park County Fire District, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and CUSP.

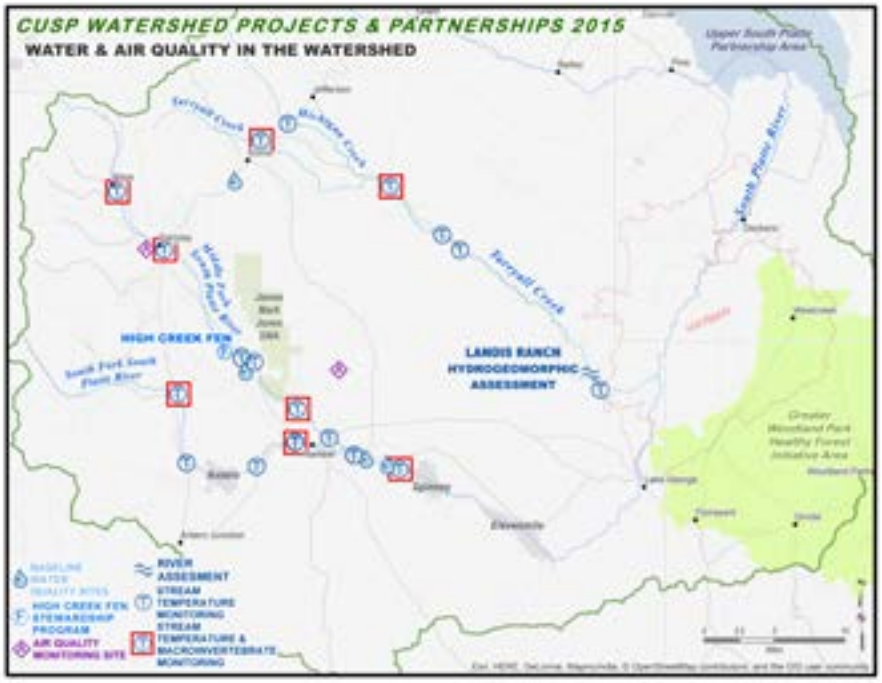
Slash Drop-Off Sites

CUSP continues to manage the Divide and Fairplay Slash Sites and the Fairplay Sort Yard. In 2015, plans were solidified to open a site in the Bailey area. This site will be operational in 2016.These drop-off sites provide safety-savvy property owners with a low-cost option for removing slash accumulated during mitigation projects on their property. Slash is chipped, and when available, mulch can be picked up for free from the drop off sites. These sites understandably experience high traffic during drought years as property owners proactively reduce fuels on private lands.

The Fairplay Sort Yard continues to receives logs that provide wood chips to the Fairplay School to heat their facility during the cold winter months. While we are still refining the processing of the material, CUSP is committed and excited to continue this valuable partnership that takes material removed from our local forests to create warmth for our future watershed stewards.



WATER & AIR HEALTH & QUALITY



River Restoration
Landis Ranch

Landis Ranch is located along the Tarryall River approximately 7 miles north of Lake George. This historic ranch has been subdivided into approximately 35 parcels. The Tarryall River flows through this unique property. The 2009 Watershed Assessment of River Sediment Supply and Stability (WARSSS) identified high potential project sites related to sediment reduction and habitat improvement. The Tarryall River was divided into numerous segments in this assessment and the Puma Hills Ranch segment was identified as a potential project location. The Landis Ranch exists directly down stream of this reach and has similar habitat and sediment issues. It is believed that this reach was not included in the 2009 potential projects because of the very private nature of the property and inaccessibility by the researchers. Over the years there have been various land use actions that have altered the pristine river through the property resulting in habitat degradation and an increase in sediment contribution and decrease in transport ability.

Fortunately Landis Ranch property owners have very progressive and environmentally conscious members who are interested in habitat restoration and sediment reduction. The property owners recognize the importance of their water resource and have been saving for

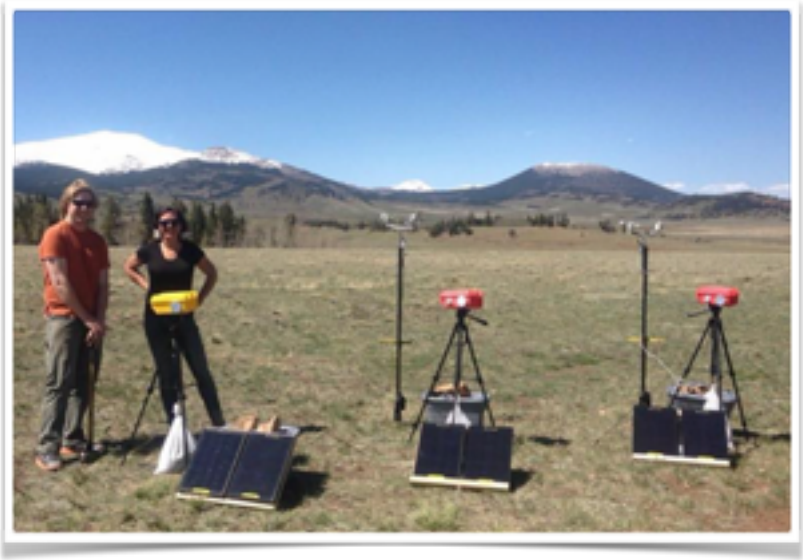
restoration actions to reduce the over-widened, sediment-laden reaches within the Landis Ranch property.

It was important to understand the current habitat and geomorphic conditions of the river through this reach to determine restoration activities to create a significant environmental lift. CUSP sought funding from the South Park National Heritage Area (SPNHA) and the Park County Land & Water Trust Fund (PCLWTF) in 2015 to perform a hydrogeomorphic study on this reach of the Tarryall River. An in-depth assessment (http://tinyurl.com/jl9fxvu) was performed and reported by our project contractor and partner Fin-Up Habitat Consultants. This assessment and design plan determines the existing habitat conditions and recommends restoration activities that will provide a significant environmental lift where they exist. The assessment includes a habitat and geomorphic study following the Basin Wide Stream Habitat Inventory Protocol developed by David S. Winters (USFS). Additionally this protocol employs the Rosgen Stream Classification and assessment of functional conditions. This method gathers information regarding habitat unit types, structural association, volumetric measurements, habitat cover types, bank stability, bank rock content, large organic debris, eroding banks, substrate composition, stream classification, water quality and benthic macro-invertebrates, and riparian vegetation.

The assessment and potential restoration plan presented in the *Aquatic Habitat Assessment & enhancement Plan: Tarryall Creek – Landis Ranch* is the first step in understanding the benefits of potential restoration activities.

Monitoring

Air Quality



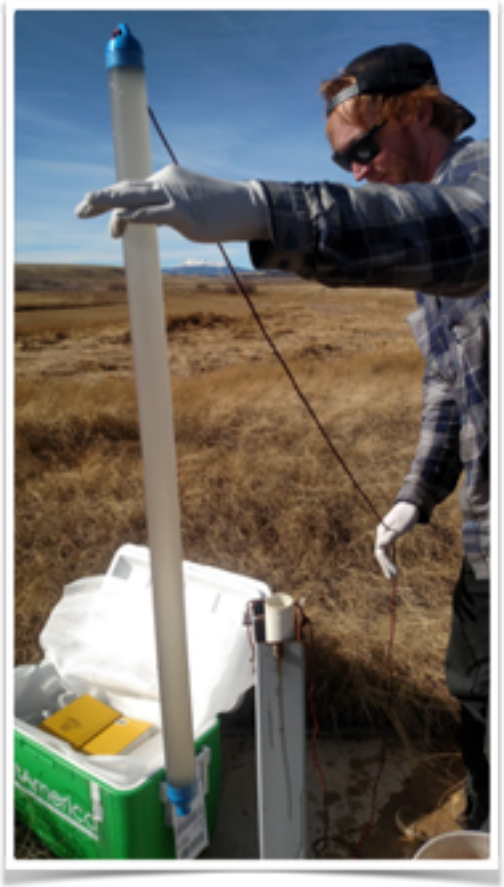
Now that South Park has an extensive baseline water-quality study successfully executed and produce by CUSP, Park County officials expressed their interest in baseline air-quality data for South Park prior to any extensive oil & gas development. Air quality sampling equipment is very expensive so CUSP looked for other affordable citizen science options and secured a small community grant through the University of Colorado in Boulder's (UC Boulder) AirWaterGas program. (www.airwatergas.org) AirWaterGas is a team of scientists, engineers, public health experts, educators, policy analysts, economists, and lawyers working together to address a single question: "How can we better integrate information about the environment, economic, and social tradeoffs of oil and gas development into policy guiding development and regulations governing development?" Through this grant, CUSP was able to purchase 3 air quality sensors designed and built by AirWaterGas graduates as well as 3 portable solar panels with battery packs for remote data

collection. CUSP staff were trained in the use of the air quality equipment.

CUSP and UC Boulder partnered with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) class at the South Park High School to introduce students to citizen science air-quality sensors to collect air quality data in South Park. CUSP and graduates from CU Boulder worked through curriculum developed by graduates working under the AirWaterGas program over 3 classroom days to teach students about air-quality monitoring equipment and local concerns in South Park. CUSP has also separately collected 2 months of air quality data on the Elk Horn near the James Mark Jones State Wildlife Area where oil & gas exploratory wells were drilled in the past. This data can be used to compare results as the students collect their own data. This program introduces a local science class in the watershed to new technology and professionals in the field of air quality science while engaging them in local issues. We are excited about future developments with this program.

South Park Baseline Study & Data Compilation

South Park, a high altitude intermontante valley spanning much of Park County, is an important region with the Upper South Platte Watershed. With its diverse geology, South Park has a long history of energy exploration and development. It is expected that natural gas development will increase significantly in the future, with thousands of acres of federal and state land being leased for development. After being approached by concerned citizens, CUSP developed and executed a Baseline Water Quality Study for South Park. From 2011 to 2014, CUSP collected 132 surface and groundwater samples (mostly groundwater) to build a robust baseline water quality study prior to any new resource extraction in South Park. In 2013 the Colorado Geological Survey (CGS) assisted CUSP with preparation of the South Park Groundwater Quality Scoping Study (Scoping Study) which is available on our website at www.cusp.ws/reports. This scoping study aimed at developing a water-quality monitoring well network in the area of recent oil and gas exploration interest in the central part of South Park. CUSP completed a round of water quality sampling from the monitoring network during the summer of 2014 (56 of the total



132 samples we have collected to date) with assistance from the Park County Land and Water Trust Fund and CGS. Meanwhile CGS has been completing a county-wide geologic compilation funded in part with a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The county-wide product will be a web-based geologic database titled “Geology and Groundwater Resources of Park County.” The original scope of the CWCB grant included a limited component of water quality. With the evolution of geologic and water-quality data gathering, combined with emerging local water quality issues and concerns, there is reason to expand beyond the CWCB scope.

A number of water-quality issues come into play with Park County and South Park, in particular. Most have been recognized going into the South Park Groundwater Quality Scoping Study, but others have come to light during compilation of the county-wide geologic compilation. These issues include Water quality vulnerability to oil and gas exploration/ production; vulnerability to uranium exploration/production; deep aquifer salinity and the potential for salt water intrusion, and aquifer vulnerability to discharge from individual sewage disposal systems.

In 2015, CUSP & CGS built upon previous data gathering and reporting to provide a comprehensive county-wide water-quality database. Focus was on groundwater with data compiled from wells and springs. This database will integrate with the web-based Geology and Groundwater Resources of Park County web-based map service.

South Park Stream Temperature Monitoring

In partnership with CUSP, EcoMetrics has been monitoring stream temperature at various sites along South Park streams since 2011, including the Middle Fork, South Fork, Main Stem, and Fourmile Creek. They found that stream temperature fluctuates daily with differences of 10-20 degrees F. The temperature trends show a general increase in stream temperature through the early part of the season to peak values in the middle of the season and then a general decline towards the end of the summer through autumn. One factor of primary interest for assessing ecological impacts including fisheries is the degree of high temperature stress. All of the South Park streams have a large number of instances where the regular temperature standards were exceeded and on the South Fork and the Main Stem; both acute and chronic temperature standards were exceeded in each of the four monitoring seasons. The results to date demonstrate a summer stream temperature problem in South Park.

South Park trout fishing is a key component of summer tourism for the county, and the Middle Fork is a renowned trout fishery, designated as Gold Medal1 water by the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. Indeed, temperature regimes favorable for rainbow and brown trout are observed over most of the length of the Middle Fork in South Park. Temperature stress that could affect trout populations is common, however, on the lower reaches of the Middle Fork during low-water seasons, temperatures in the lower basin are high enough to threaten persistence of even rainbow and brown trout populations in summer months.

Stream temperatures have far reaching effects that go beyond the influence on trout populations and fishery support. Temperature has a strong influence on the entire biotic assemblage, including microbes, aquatic plants, macroinvertebrates, and other animals. It is also a driving factor for the many biogeochemical processes that occur in streams including metabolic processes, inorganic chemical processing, solubility of contaminants, etc. These impacts affect other basic stream functions and ecosystem services including water quality and support of sensitive species, including non-fish.

Temperature is a key water-quality parameter that is regulated by the state Water Quality Control Commission (CWQCC), a commission under the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), which maintains specific standards for streams in the states. According to cold water stream temperature standards set forth in Regulation 38 of CDPHE's Classifications & Numeric Standards for the South Platte River Basin the mean water temperature should be 62.6º F not to exceed 71.0º F. When reading this data, it is good to keep in mind that Antero Reservoir was drained in the summer of 2015 starting on June 1st. The sites downstream of Antero Reservoir did indeed see an increase of temperature in June that exceeded the CDPHE standard of 71.0º F.

EcoMetrics work report May through July, 2015

- Programmed 20 temperature sensor/dataloggers
- Tested loggers for functionality
- Constructed 20 PVC protective cases
- Identified 20 temperature monitoring points
- Installed 20 temperature sensor/ dataloggers at sites
- Obtained lat/long data for sites and create Google Earth map

CUSP used Onset™ Tidbit© v2 UTBI-0001 waterproof submerged, data-logging temperature sensors, protected by perforated PVC tubes, to record water temperature at specific locations

through the summer months.. The loggers were launched using Hobo™ software and programmed to record the time and temperature at 30 minute intervals. Data was uploaded periodically from the loggers using an Onset Hobo™ U-DTW-1 waterproof shuttle. Temperature was measured in degrees Fahrenheit.

Macro-invertebrate Sampling

CUSP also collected water quality parameters and macro-invertebrate & water quality samples in 2015 and did find some stress downstream of Antero Reservoir.

Macro-invertebrate & water quality samples were collected at 8 of the 20 locations where temperature gauges were installed. Diversity and quality of macro-invertebrates is an indicator of stream health. Along with the sample results received a Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (HBI) number was assigned. The HBI estimates the overall tolerance of the community in a sampled area, weighted by the relative abundance of each taxonomic group (family, genus etc.). Organisms are assigned a tolerance number from 0-10 pertaining to the group's known sensitivity to organic pollutants; 0 being the most sensitive, 10 being the most tolerant. Insect taxa are assigned tolerance values based on the ability of the stressful conditions, such as low oxygen content in water, increased temperature or pollutants present in the water. Low HBI values reflect a higher abundance of sensitive groups, thus a lower level of pollution.

****HBI scale**

Family Biotic Index	Water Quality	Degree of Organic Pollution
0.00-3.75	Excellent	Organic pollution unlikely
3.76-4.25	Very Good	Possible slight organic pollution probable
4.26-5.00	Good	Some organic pollution likely
5.01-5.75	Fair	Fairly substantial pollution likely
5.76-6.50	Fairly Poor	Substantial pollution likely
6.51-7.25	Poor	Very substantial pollution likely
7.26-10.00	Very Poor	Severe organic pollution likely

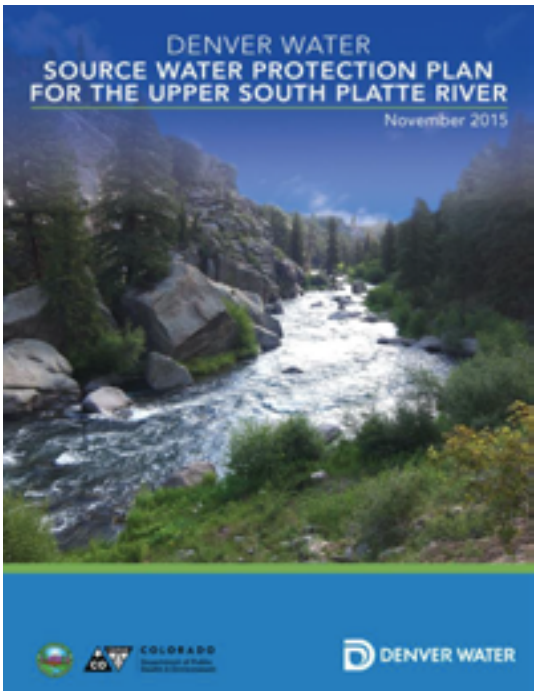
All but one sample result were in the HBI range for "excellent" water quality with organic pollution being very unlikely. One sample result was calculated at 4.60 (downstream of Antero Reservoir) giving it a "good" water quality rating where some organic pollution or other stressor is probable.

Park County Water Resource Inventory 2015

This project is an inventory and functional assessment of stream and associated wetland habitats in the four major watersheds within Park County to determine present condition and restoration or protection potential. One purpose is to generate a list of prospective project sites based on the potential for environmental lift (restoration) or preservation of functioning area at risk (protection). This list will then be reviewed by an interdisciplinary study team that includes members of the major land and natural resource management agencies to develop a set of priorities based on practical aspects of potential projects such as land ownership, specific agency objectives, and other social preferences and constraints. The results will be compiled into a strategic planning document to guide South Park Wetlands Focus Area Committee and other Park County agencies towards an efficient integrated approach to watershed improvement and protection via restoration and protection of aquatic habitats. By establishing a scientifically-based set of priorities in the watershed and involving all relevant agencies, our project aims to bring focus to this otherwise diverse group in a collaborative environment. The most important finding of the Park County Inventory Project to date has been a realization of just how fast the dry-up of South Park is occurring, and how much riparian and wetland habitat has been lost. The story of the dry-up may be one of the most significant environmental stories in South Park. In short, the history of South Park has led to the relatively recent loss of a large portion of its wetland habitat and aquatic resources.

Source Water Protection Planning

Denver Water SWPP



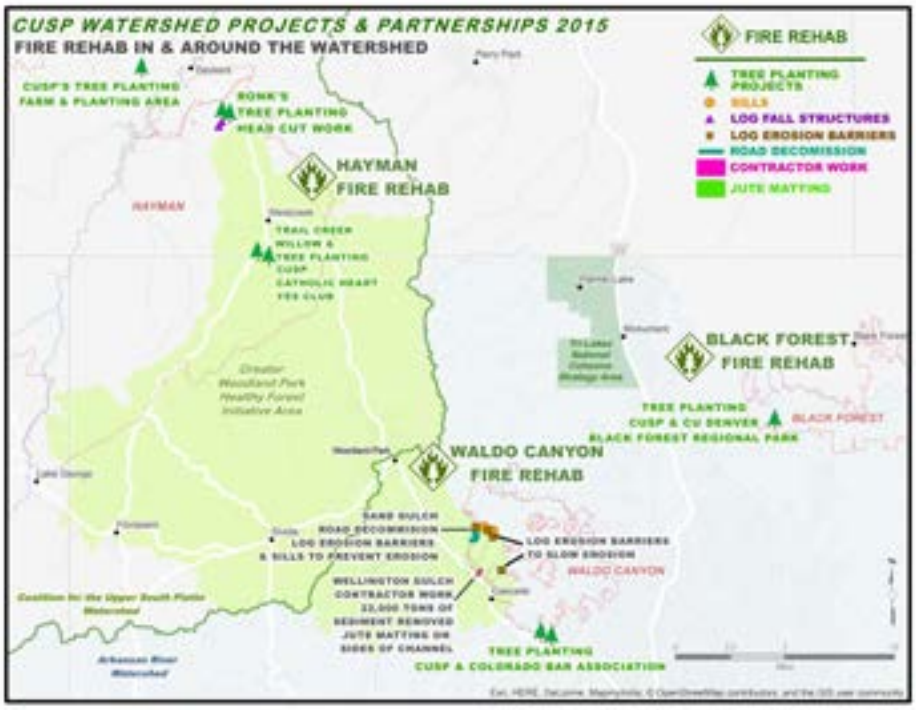
CUSP successfully completed its contract with Denver Water to facilitate its source water protection planning process. This multi-year commitment brought together a wide range of stakeholders and experts to identify threats to source water in the Upper South Platte Watershed and to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for addressing these issues.

The plan, http://tinyurl.com/jdakjp9 , funded in large part by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), was successfully completed in 2015. The first BMPs were implemented after an extensive inventory of regional emergency response agencies were interviewed regarding their preparedness for emergency spills. The interviews revealed that a number of agencies were lacking sufficient spill kits. Denver Water purchased a number of kits, with a grant from the CDPHE, to be distributed to response teams throughout the watershed.

The SWAP process and plan for the Upper South Platte Watershed has provided an excellent model and template for Denver Water to use for the other watershed plans throughout its source and service areas in Colorado.

WILDFIRE RECOVERY AND REHAB

Waldo Canyon Fire
Having worked extensively on Waldo Canyon Fire restoration, rehabilitation and post-fire flood response and mitigation projects since 2012, the fruits of our labor revealed themselves in 2015. In spite of a very wet spring and summer, road closures on Highway 24 decreased dramatically from the years right after the fire. This is a strong testament to the efficacy and efficiency of the work CUSP has done above and around the highway. The impacts of this work go far beyond protection of life and property as keeping this major thoroughfare open and functional has had a great impact on local businesses and an economy driven in large part by tourism.



In 2015, CUSP did extensive work in the Upper and Lower Wellington Gulches working on private properties to protect not just the homeowners, but to also protect the properties and public roads below.

There are still a number of properties on the north side of Highway 24 between Green Mountain Falls and Cascade that are still in peril. The potential impacts to private properties can also have negative impacts to Highway 24 and surrounding roads and public thoroughfares. Finding matching funds to access available funding for these projects is a continual challenge. CUSP works with these proper owners and community to acquire these matching funds.

NORTHERN WATERSHED

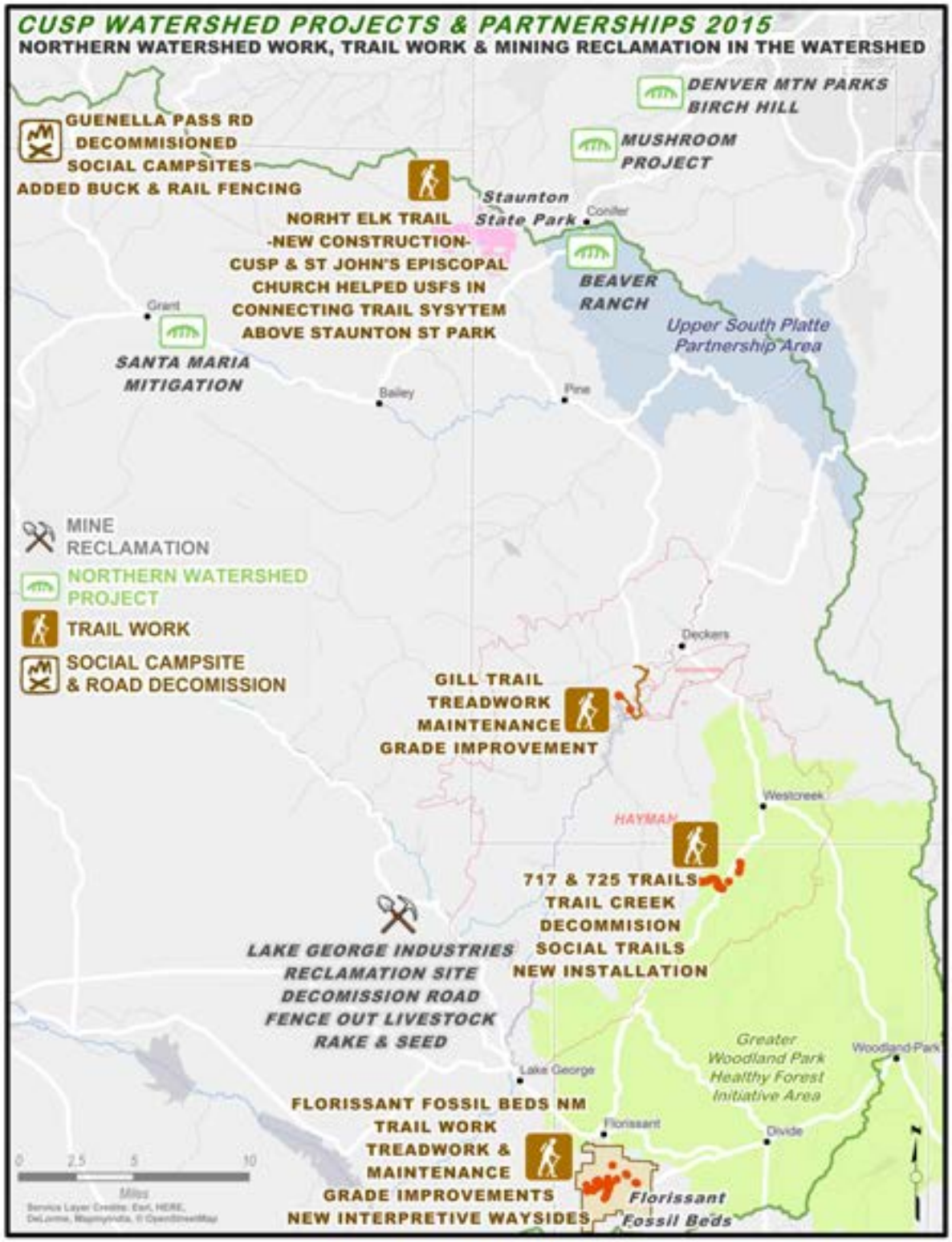
In recent years, CUSP has expanded work and focus along the North Fork of the South Platte River in the northern edge of the Upper South Platte Watershed. Under the leadership of North Fork Watershed Coordinator, Jeff Ravage, a developing work plan for the region is demonstrating growing success. In 2015, the first full year of operations there, many important relationships and partnership were established through projects and presentations at a number of local meetings and events, anchoring CUSP's presence in the northern watershed.

In a developing relationship with Denver Mountain Parks (DMP) CUSP and DMP joined together to implement restoration projects at their Birch Hill property. More than 120 volunteers worked on this site in 2015. CUSP and DMP also teamed up to initiate the pilot "Fungal degradation of woody forestry by-products" study: The CUSP Mushroom project. This innovative mycoremediation project studies the plausibility of training native mushrooms to break down wood chips on the forest floor after mastication projects and eliminating potential fire fuels

Volunteers from St. John's Episcopal of Tulsa, OK spent a week in the Northern watershed to complete various restoration and mitigation projects including a weed removal project with Intermountain Rural Electric Association (IREA).

CUSP began it's first northern watershed forestry mitigation project at Camp Santa Maria in partnership with the Mary M. Dower Benevolent trust and the YMCA. Also in 2015, CUSP was chosen by the Upper South Platte Partnership to manage a flagship demonstration forest restoration project at Beaver Ranch in Conifer.

CUSP and the South Platte Range District of the USFS, with the help of hearty volunteers, worked on several projects together including the construction of 900 ft. of buck and rail fencing on the newly paved Guenella Pass Road.



In partnership with Platte Canyon Fire Dept., CUSP helped chip more than 20 acres of slash from Bailey homeowners defensible space projects. Understanding the increasing need for this service, the Colorado Board of Land Commissioners granted a lease to CUSP to establish the first permanent operating slash-site on the 285 corridor. The site, located in Bailey is scheduled to open in the summer of 2016.

TRAILS

For the second year in a row CUSP partnered with Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in 2015 to take advantage of the Active Trails Grant from the National Parks Foundation. The overall goals of the project were to increase visitation and use of the trails by teenagers and young adults and to improve park trails

We started off the summer with National Trails Day on June 6th with a group of volunteers who assisting in improving the tread of the Petrified Forest Loop trail.

Much of June was spent on the Petrified Forest Loop. It is the trail that gets the most traffic by far, with almost 50,000 hikers a year walking the one mile loop. July was spent working on a new spur off of the Hornbeck Wildlife Loop. The new spur was for a new geology trail that showcases five new interpretive stations discussing the unique geology of the area and a bench where the trail ends at a beautiful overlook of the valley.

August was particularly productive for the trail crew. With the help of volunteers we were able to repair nearly 2 miles of trail and we focused on areas that we were not able to get to last year; the back side of the Boulder Creek Trail and the Sawmill Trail right where it connects with the Ponderosa Loop.

In September we kept the momentum going on the Boulder Creek Trail. We worked with Mile High Youth Corps to complete the farthest section of Shooting star trail. September 25th we had almost 100 Air Force cadets come out and volunteer for the day. It was quite the undertaking but with their help we were able to improve the tread on almost a mile of trail in just one day. The next day was National Public Land Day and the wrap up to the Trails 4 Teens hiking challenge.

The big accomplishment for October was completing the installations of 5 waysides and one bench along the new geology trail. The geology trail has quickly become a highlight for school field trips and geology enthusiasts alike.

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

Since 2003, CUSP has utilized an integrated weed management approach that focuses on prevention & early detection, management with eradication goals, monitoring, education and collaboration with partners & participants. In a dozen years, CUSP's noxious weed program has helped treat over 2400 acres of public and private lands within and near the Upper South Platte Watershed. Although CUSP's program has provided more than $250,000 in match over the years, grant funding is necessary to assist property owners as well as local, state and federal agencies in the management of and public education about invasive species and the need for treatment.

CUSP works across boundaries with USFS, CDOT, county and municipal entities as well as private property owners, professionals and volunteers to map, manage and eradicate noxious species. Focus has historically been in critical riparian habitats, fire rehab areas, restoration sites and private properties adjacent to national forests.

This season we treated acres on public lands along with many private lands. With the extreme flooding in many areas, a few of the multi-year mechanically treated populations exploded – particularly Canada thistle. Fortunately, the majority of clients have been diligent and the populations chemically and mechanically treated are still targeted for eradication within a year or two.

CUSP continued to support excellent client commitment, increase public knowledge of invasive species and our dedicated program to fight them, stay on top of new sightings/newly listed species, and as the list for next season grows – continue to support the past efforts of our watershed clients thru partnerships with the communities and the agencies that serve them.

During the 2016 season, CUSP provided BMPs and outreach templates for brochures for umbrella company COCO & subsidiaries; worked with AWRC to share other species (more common to neighboring watersheds) info to other watersheds/ basins; disseminated Denver Botanic Gardens sponsored Noxious Weed literature – normally not targeted, but present in the Upper South Platte Watershed; provided articles including noxious weed information to local media; provided noxious weed literature to chambers of commerce and town halls in the watershed; visited with neighbors of some current clients, encouraging participation.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

In addition to the valuable learning and information sharing that took place during 2015 volunteer events and projects, CUSP also participated in other exciting initiatives and events to engage students and teachers in watershed issues.

CUSP staff led activities, presentations, and service-learning projects with students in our watershed and connecting watersheds throughout 2015. Work with students included:

- Water quality monitoring in multiple South Park waterways
- Watershed explorations at the second annual Denver Metro Water Festival
- Partnering with South Park High School and other local organizations to monitor air quality
- A variety of service-learning projects designed to increase student understanding of watersheds and ecology while providing elementary to high school students with opportunities to improve their environment

CUSP worked closely with teachers as a supporter of the Florissant-based Fire Ecology Institute for Educators put on by Project Learning Tree and the Colorado State Forest Service. Teachers explored natural resource issues and how to engage their students in interdisciplinary activities focused on topics such as fire, forests, floods, bugs, and drought during a full week at this hands-on institute.

CUSP also worked closely with partnering organizations to promote environmental learning in our region. CUSP served on the Northeast Colorado Environmental Education Leadership Council to support implementation of the Colorado Environmental Education Plan. Additionally, a team of partners including Park County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and CUSP began long-term planning to restore the Cline Ranch and use this historic landmark to expand environmental education. The Cline Ranch is located between Jefferson and Como off of Highway 285 adjacent to Cline Ranch State Wildlife Area in the northern part of the watershed.

With support from the South Park National Heritage Area, CUSP updated online environmental education materials in 2015 with the addition of a learning module for high school students focused on exploring mining as it relates to local communities and environments. Find all of CUSP's learning modules designed for elementary

through high school students and register for service-learning activities at http://learn.uppersouthplatte.org.

High Creek Fen Stewardship Program

In partnership with the South Park National Heritage Area, CUSP taught middle school students about water quality, ecological health, and monitoring important natural resources in South Park. The High Creek Fen Program was developed in 2012 to engage students in learning about the unique biodiversity in the South Park area.

This program allows students to explore water quality, ecosystems, and history in their backyard by taking a field trip to the High Creek Fen, the most ecologically diverse fen in the Southern Rocky Mountains. Students performed water tests, recorded observations, collected monitoring data, discovered how macro-invertebrates act as stream health indicators, learned about water chemistry, and explored the history of the area. The fourth year of the nationally recognized program was a great success, and CUSP will continue to support this annual program for South Park middle school students. Ultimately, the program has the potential to foster the next generation of natural and heritage resource stewards in the South Park area and provide longitudinal data to monitor the health of this valuable wetland over time.

VOLUNTEERS

At the heart of almost everything CUSP does, is an army of committed volunteers who help us get our projects done and photos of whom are spread throughout this report, a pictorial testament to their work and commitment . With much of our work supported through federal and state grants we must come up with match in order to secure these funds. The labor that volunteers provide has, over time, provided millions of dollars of in-kind match for these grants, making much needed projects possible. Our volunteers come from all over the country. Summer is our busiest time of year and many faith-based and service organizations make volunteering for CUSP part of their commitment to giving back.

Jean Blaisdell, 2015 Teller County Cares Environmental Volunteer of the Year, nominated by Paige Fulghum, CUSP

In 2015 volunteers worked in:

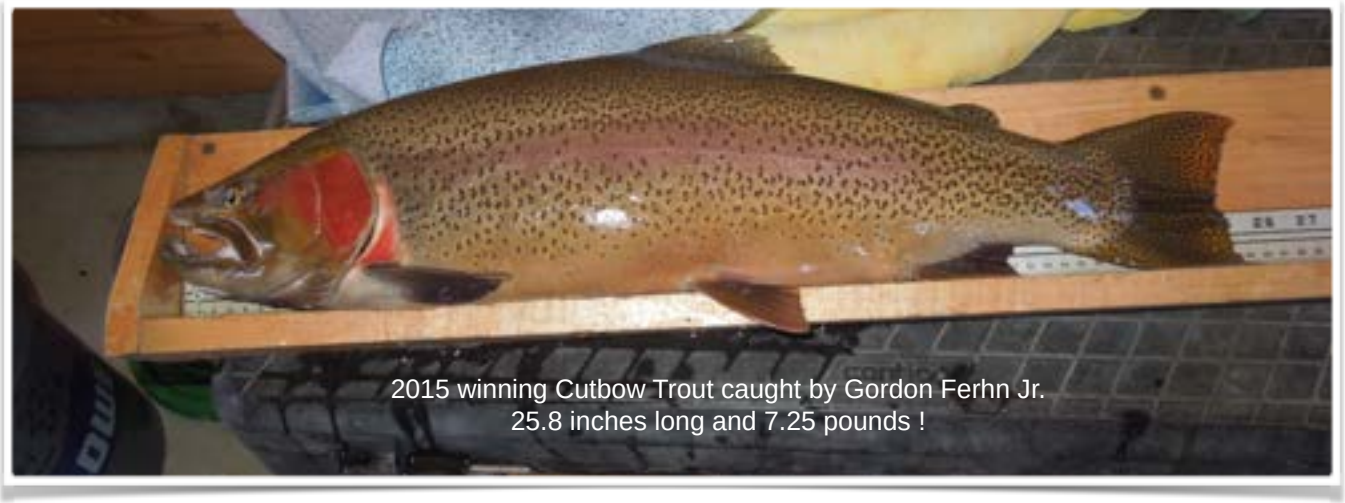
- Woodland Park
- Divide
- Palmer Lake
- Tri-Lakes
- Hayman and Waldo Canyon burn scars
- Black Forest
- Florissant
- Bailey
- South Park
- Lake George

USAF Academy Cadets

Project types varied and included:

- Fuels mitigation
- River restoration
- Water quality monitoring
- Air quality monitoring
- Mine reclamation
- Tree, willow and grass planting
- Erosion control
- Trail rehabilitation and decommission of unusable trails and roads
- Burn Scar rehabilitation
- Noxious Weed Management

ANTERO ICE FISHING CONTEST



2015 winning Cutbow Trout caught by Gordon Ferhn Jr.
25.8 inches long and 7.25 pounds !

The 2015 Antero Ice Fishing Contest was a great, if bittersweet, event. Late in 2014 Denver Water announced the closing and draining of Antero Reservoir scheduled for the summer of 2015. The closure was necessitated by much needed work to be done on the dam. While this news meant that the Antero Ice Fishing Contest will be on hold for a few years until the restoration work is completed and the reservoir refilled, the good news was that the catch limit was increased from two to eight fish.

This has become a popular and well attended family-friendly contest, engaging about 500 hale and hearty enthusiasts for every year that CUSP has hosted the event. Gordon Ferhn Jr. caught the winning fish pictured above. He had a bit of a happy struggle bringing this monster up through the ice hole, but it was well worth the effort when he received his $500 check. His fish was followed by two more cutbows; second place angler Josh Burgess brought in a 3.75# fish and in third place was John Groh Jr with his fish weighing in at 3.25#. Both fish measured around 20 inches. After prizes were awarded for the fish, the ever popular Door Prize give-away saws lucky winners walk away with everything from gift cards to ice-fishing tents.

Over the past five years, the Antero Ice Fishing Contest has raised $40,000 for recreational improvements at the reservoir and hopefully these improvements will be made in time for the reopening of Antero in the next few years.

2015 STATISTICS

Our work, by the numbers

FOREST HEALTH

625 *acres of forestry work*
800 *slash piles burned*
275 *neighborhood fuels reduction acres chipped*
141 *acres treated by homeowners*
2343 *loads of slash (Divide & Fairplay site)*

NOXIOUS WEEDS

303 *acres inventoried*
107 *acres treated*
Species treated: *Orange hawkweed, Oxeye daisy, Canada thistle, Yellow toadflax, Perennial pepperweed, Leafy spurge, Common mullein,*

TRAILS & ROADS

960 ft *new built (Flo Fossil Beds)*
10,570 ft *maintained/rehabbed*
9,245 ft *decommissioned trails*
5,252 ft *decommissioned roads*
1,406 ft *buck and rail fencing installed*

RESTORATION/REHAB

96 *log erosion barriers*
51 *drainage control structures*
41,970 sq. ft *jute matting*
10.5 *acres, raked/seeded*
12 *acres planted (trees)*
22,000 *cubic yards of sediment removed*

VOLUNTEERS

751 *youth* = **5125** *hours*
1211 *adults* = **11,257** *hours*
Total hours 1962
$303,030 *Volunteer in-kind*
$400,000 *Tech Assistance*

$703,230 TOTAL In-Kind

FINANCES & MANAGEMENT

Our numbers, by the book

ASSETS		2015	2014	
Current		$ 335,316.00	$1,058,079.00	
Property & Equipment		$ 187,484.00	$225,308.00	
Other Assets		$ 181,812.00		
TOTAL ASSETS		$ 704,612.00	$1,283.00	
Current Liabilities		$ 257,073.00	$909,569.00	
Net Assets				
Unrestricted		$ 307,539.00	$270,568.00	
Temporarily Restricted		$ 140,000.00	$103,250.00	
TOTAL NET ASSETS		$ 447,539.00	$373,818.00	
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		**$ 704,612.00**	**$1,283,387.00**	

REVENUE	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2015	2014
Government Grants	$1,162,144.00		$ 1,162,144.00	$5,188,158.00
Donated Professional Services	$ 313,688.00		$ 313,688.00	$ 438,087.00
Program Fees	$ 181,744.00		$ 181,744.00	$ 330,755.00
Foundation & Corporate Grants	$ 283,465.00		$ 283,465.00	$ 218,500.00
Contributions	$ 114,632.00	$ 140,000.00	$ 254,632.00	$ 121,083.00
Other Revenue	$ 18,905.00		$ 18,905.00	$ 17,020.00
Special Events Income	$ 9,989.00		$ 9,989.00	$ 9,510.00
Satisfied Restrictions	$ 103,250.00	$ (103,250.00)		
TOTAL REVENUE	**$2,187,817.00**	**$ 36,750.00**	**$ 2,224,567.00**	**$6,323,113.00**

EXPENSES	2015	2014
Program Services		
Forest Health & Fuels Mitigation	$ 1,218,476.00	$ 5,462,938.00
Monitoring, Assessment & Planning	$ 225,881.00	$ 88,331.00
Program Operations	$ 200,348.00	
Habitat	$ 187,266.00	$ 420,096.00
Environmental Education/Program Outreach	$ 95,562.00	$ 164,109.00
Emergency Management	$ 47,088.00	$ 6,112.00
Recreation	$ 46,061.00	
Invasive Species	$ 25,468.00	$ 16,933.00
Conservation & Sustainability	$ 1,530.00	$ 12,235.00
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	$ 2,047,680.00	$ 6,170,754.00
Supporting Services		
General & Administrative	$ 64,437.00	$ 245,562.00
Financial Development	$ 38,729.00	$ 32,721.00
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	$ 103,166.00	$ 278,283.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 2,150,846.00**	**$ 6,449,037.00**

Nonprofit organizations are judged by funders largely on their ability to manage and distribute funds between **Programs** (funds that go directly to mission driven work) **General Operating and Administration** (keeping the lights on, functional capacity, etc.) and **Fundraising/ Financial Development** (writing grants, raising money, fundraising event management). These numbers help to show how grants and donations are invested in the work an organization does. An ideal funding model is considered to be 85% Programs; 10% General Operating & Administration and 5% Fundraising.
CUSP far exceeds this model with **95% going directly into our programs and projects; 3% to General Operating & Administration and 2% to Fundraising.** Please visit our website http://cusp.ws/financial-info/ for full disclosure of our financial reporting.

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Patrick O'Connell, Chair; *Jefferson County*
Eric Howell, Vice Chair; *Colorado Springs Utilities*
Dan Drucker, Secretary; *Center of CO Water Conservancy District*
Jim Idema, Treasurer; *Interested Individual*

Directors

Gwen Steel; *Jefferson Conservation District*
Tom Eisenman; *Park County*
Marc Dettenrieder; *Teller County*
Garth Englund; *Douglas County*
Swithin Dick; *Centennial Water & Sanitation District*
Mary Dawson; *City of Aurora*
Don Kennedy; *Denver Water*
Lynda James; *Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District*
Don Logelin; *Trout Unlimited -Cheyenne Mountain Chapter*
Suzanne O'Neill; *Colorado Wildlife Federation*
Jim Brozo; *Interested individual*
Josh Voorhis; *USFS -South Park Ranger District (non-voting member)*

Retired 2015

Greg Aplet; *The Wilderness Society*
Marie Chisholm; *Interested Individual*

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Governments, Businesses and Foundations

A-C Concrete

City Of Aurora

Black Forest Together

Brewing Science Institute

US Bureau of Land Management

Centennial Water & Sanitation District

CO Department of Agriculture

CO Department of Natural Resources

CO Department of Public Health & Environment

CO Parks & Wildlife

CO State Forest Service

CO Water Conservation Board

Colorado Federal of Garden Clubs - Southern District

Colorado Springs Utilities

Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company

Crown Family Fund

Center of Colorado Water Conservation District

Denver Water

El Paso County Bar Association

Town of Fairplay

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

Help the Needy

Heritage Park Title Company

IREA

Isserman Consulting, LLC

Jefferson County

Larkspur Properties

The Leighty Foundation

LexisNexis

Lost Park Ranch Owners Assoc.

Lost Valley Ranch

National Forest Foundation

National Park Service

New Venture Fund

Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Park County

Park County Land & Water Trust Fund

Ridgewood Property Owners Association

Rocky Mountain Weed Management, LLC

Sage Port Homeowners

South Park Enhancement Board

Swayback Ranch Fishing Club

T. Rowe Price Foundation, Inc.

Teller County

The Nature Conservancy.

Trout Unlimited - Cutthroat Chapter

University of Colorado at Denver

University of Colorado

Upper South Platte Conservation District

US Forest Service

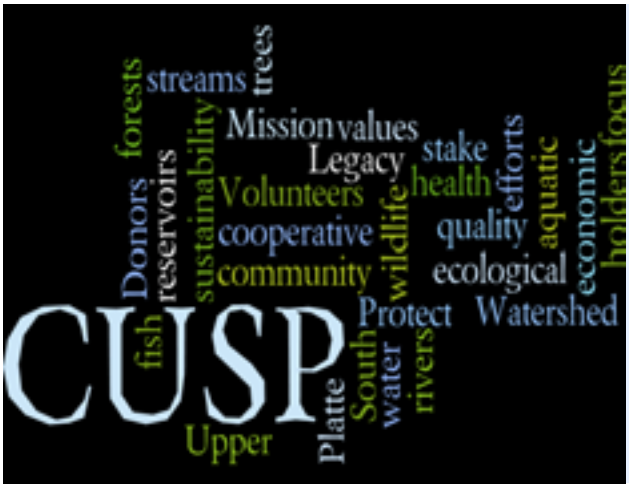
Watershed Research & Training Center

City of Woodland Park

Individual Donors

Anonymous
Carrie Adair
Steve Allard
Marc Alston
George Anthony
Ron Baker
Misi Ballard
Tim Balough
Dustin Bench
Rip & Jean Blaisdell
Margo Borages
Neil Botting
Rosann M Bowen
Kyle Brinkman
Kristine Brooks
E Louise Brown
Deb Browning
James Brozo
Jonathan Bruno
Gary & Lynne Buchanan
Michael Bukowski
Kim Bundgaard
Tom Charles Camblin
Laura Canby
Chris Carlson
Milan Chase
Trent Chase
Marie Chisholm
Priscilla Clayton
Todd Clayton
Stacey Cochran
Michelle Connelly
Deborah Cook
Nicholas Cooper
Connie Cooper
William Cutcliff
Carol Davis
Tom Delia
Swithin Dick
Sarah Dominick
Matt Donaldson
Kim Dufty
John Duggan
Helen & Mike Dyer
Richard Eckart
Tims Edwards
Chris Ekarius
Scott Ekeland
Cyndi Fallon
Marvin Fiala
Frank Filas
Lenore Fleck
Corey Fleischer
Louis & Nel Fletcher
Jeremy Forsting
Chris Fuller
Breck Furnish
Rosemary Gagnon
Dan Galligan
Caleb Gates Jr
Connie Gibbons
Burton Golub
Andy Gordley
Nancy Greenes
Nancy Greenes
Lyndon Haddock
Dick Hansen
Kat Herrera
Mark Herndon
Dr & Mrs Heyborne
Kayle Higinbotham
Anne Holthaus
Bill Honeyfield
Jason Hulme
Margaret Hunt
Jim Idema
Anna Isherwood
Amy Jacobi
Lynda James
Bob Janowski
Jara Johnson
Ruth Johnson-Mullis
Tom Jones
John Keldsen
Don Kennedy
Ellen Kennedy
Susan Kennedy
Denise Kennedy
William King
Bradley Klafehn
Larry Kleeman
Robert Kowell
Leon Krain
Tom Krol
Daniel Kucera
Larry Kuhlman
Isaac Kuhn
Pamela Kuipers
Birgit Landin
Peter Leach
George Lee
Don Logelin
David Lord
Jennifer Lusher
Pam Maier
Vicky Manlove
Roger Mattson
Dan Mauritz
Connor McCloskey
Sally McCracken
Melanie McKeever
Betty McLain
Charlie McMasters

Mike Meadors
Betty Merchant
George Meyers
Jason Moore
D. Michael Murphy
Mark A Murphy
Ashley Murray
Nadja Myronenko
Steve Nelson
Beth Nielsen
Adam Nubern
Melissa O'Brien
Suzanne O'Neill
Thomas Ollier
James Pardikes
Ray Parry
Lisa Patton
Carol Phelps
Ellen Pitrone
Ray Platt
Nancy Radecki
Donna Ramos
Jeff Ravage
Nancy Rawson
Larry Renninger
Ann Rhodes
Ron Rickert
Regina Rohr
Don Rojas
Dave Root
Ralph Rothstein
Christopher Ruskey
Kevin & Suzi Russo
Scott Sandberg
Maria Sanzo
Whitney Schaller
John Schneider
Theresa Schrock
John Schwabe
Judith Sellers
Peggy Setter
Gerry Shin
Cameron Sims
Paul Skeffington
Gail Smith
Denise Snow
Kelly Snyder
Julie Snyder
Todd Spencer
Cory Spoonmore
David Stark
Nancy & Tom Stavish
Eric Stearns
Russell Stewart
Pat Stiles
Jennifer Superka
Chris Sutton
Jeff Thompson
Jeff Tienkin
Chuck & Mary Ann Todd
Pete Tysdale
Steve Vela
Renuka Velidanda
Lauren Verno
Larry Von DeBur
Jack Wallick
Fred Whitaker
Duncan Wilson
Jim Winzenburg
John Wixson
Martin Wolf
Dave Yarwood
Mary Young
William Zhang
Carle Zimmerman



CUSP means many things to many people. We always strive to honor the expectation of excellence our donors and volunteers have in CUSP. Ours is a true partnership of stakeholders and watershed stewards and we are deeply grateful for their generosity and support.

RESOURCES

CUSP Websites

Main website	http://cusp.ws/
Donate	http://cusp.ws/donate
Volunteer	http://volunteer.cusp.ws
Noxious Weeds	http://www.uppersouthplatte-weeds.org
Bailey Slash Site	http://www.baileyslashsite.com
Divide Slash Site	http://www.divideslashsite.com/
Fairplay Slash Site	http://www.fairplayslash.com
Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative	http://www.wphfi.org/
Bailey Healthy Forest Initiative	http://www.baileyhealthyforests.org
Waldo Canyon Fire	http://waldofire.org/
Upper South Platte Interactive	http://search.uppersouthplatte.org/
Environmental Education Site	http://learn.uppersouthplatte.org/

Other Sites of Interest

Front Range Roundtable	www.frontrangeroundtable.org
Fire Adapted Communities	http://www.fireadapted.org
FAC Learning Network	http://fireadaptednetwork.org
FireWise Communities	http://www.firewise.org
CO Wildfire Risk Assessments	https://www.coloradowildfirerisk.com
Watershed Wildfire Assessments	www.jw-associates.org
Colorado State Forest Service	csfs.colostate.edu
National Forest Foundation	www.nationalforests.org
Pike National Forest	fs.usda.gov/psicc
Upper South Platte Partnership	http://uppersouthplattepartnership.org

Contact CUSP

Mailing Address
PO Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827

Physical Address
38000 Cherokee Ave
Lake George, CO 80827

Phone
719-748-0033

Email
cusp@uppersouthplatte.org

FAX
719-302-2852

facebook.com/uppersouthplatte @CUSP_CO CUSP Coalition for the Upper South Platte