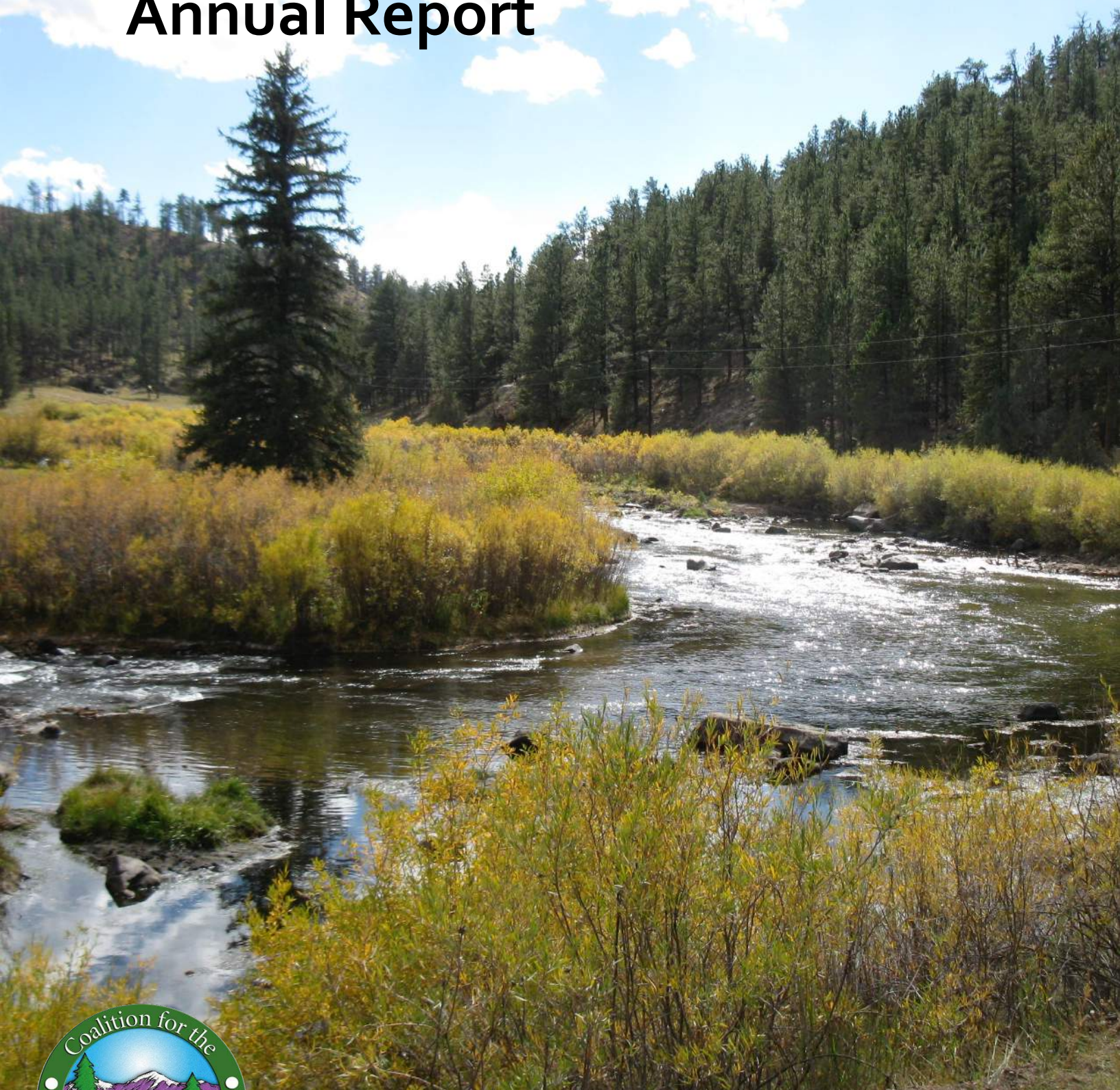


# 2012

## Annual Report



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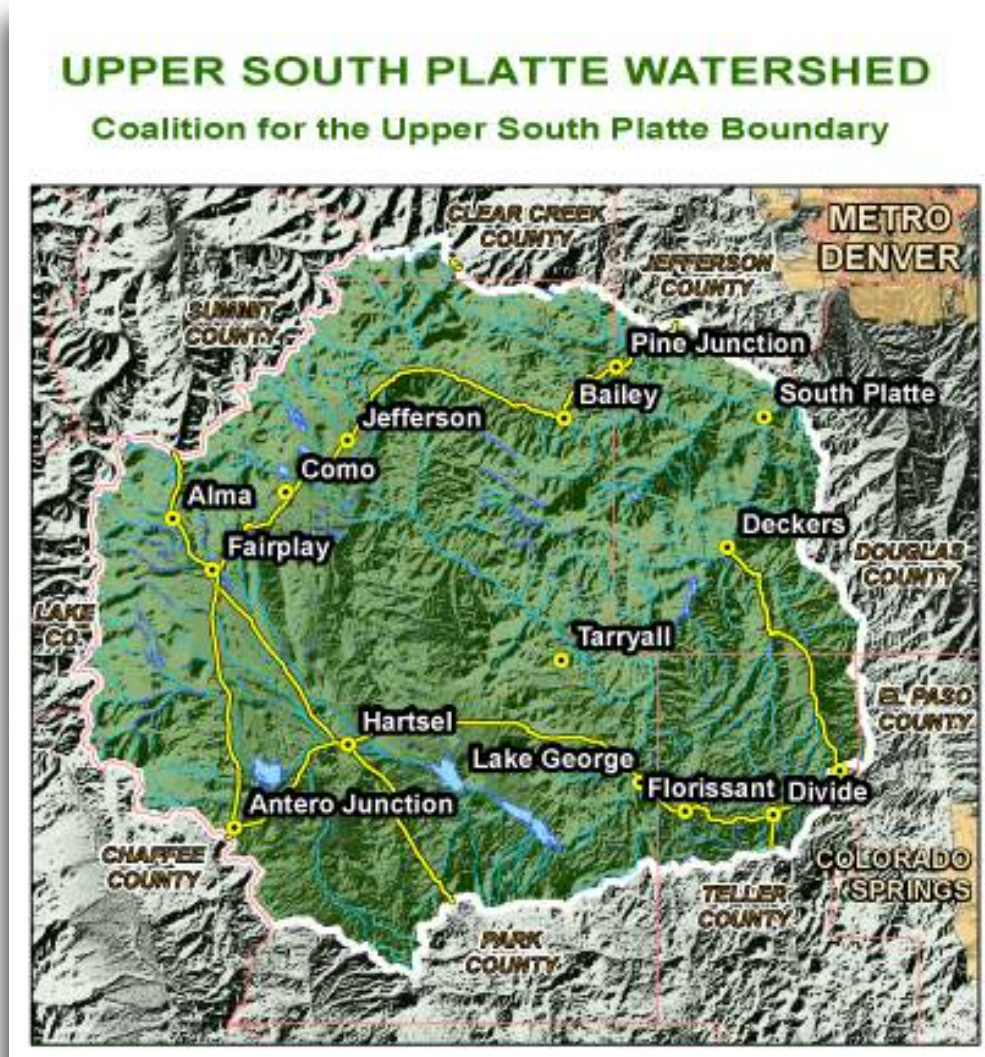
# Overview

***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.

2012 was a very busy year for the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP). Our staff grew to the largest size ever, with 26 employees during the summer season, and 16 full-time employees year-around. We made progress on a variety of projects throughout the watershed and in the Waldo Canyon Fire burn scar with the help of approximately 3,000 volunteers donating almost 20,000 volunteer hours. The following pages highlight some of CUSP's accomplishments in 2012.

Thank you to all our supporters who make our work possible!



# Projects and Programs

In 2012, we continued with many projects throughout the Upper South Platte Watershed, and at the request of our neighbors in Colorado Springs and surrounding areas, also took on post-fire rehab efforts following the Waldo Canyon Fire in late June.

CUSP worked on the following projects and programs in 2012:

- Forest Health
- River Restoration
- Waldo Canyon Fire Rehab
- Education and Outreach
- Antero Ice Fishing Contest
- GIS Mapping
- Energy
- Mines and Mineral Extraction
- Noxious Weed Management
- Roads
- Trails





## Forest Health

Healthy forests are essential for a healthy watershed. A majority of the Upper South Platte Watershed is covered by forests. 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 catastrophic fire, disease outbreaks, and insect infestation. CUSP proactively works on projects designed to improve the health of the forests and protect our communities. Some of CUSP's major forest health programs of 2012 included the Upper Fountain Creek project, Upper Monument Creek project, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Fire Suppression Team, Slash Drop Off Sites, and the Fuels Reduction Program.

### Upper Fountain Creek Watershed Project

The Upper Fountain Creek Watershed project, while off to a slow start, ended 2012 strong. Residents of Colorado Springs and surrounding communities will benefit from a new approach to forest restoration to improve forest health and wildfire mitigation to reduce risks for mountain residents. The project focuses on approximately 1,000 acres in the vicinity of the Fountain Creek headwaters. Local organizations, including Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) and CUSP, received part of the \$450,000 grant awarded to the project through a national partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy.

The Upper Fountain Creek Watershed Restoration project is one of only six such projects across the country, and is made possible through a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy. Known as Scaling Up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER), this partnership is focused on demonstrating the value of implementing forest restoration treatments on private, local and other non-federal lands in order to expand the overall positive impact of similar treatments on U.S. Forest Service land. In 2012, CUSP completed approximately 50 acres of treatment under this project.

"The ten year anniversary of the 2002 Hayman Fire serves as a vivid reminder of how much we have to lose when we don't improve the condition of our forests and build fire resistant landscapes around our homes and communities. This is a great opportunity for us to expand on the community-based risk reduction and forest improvement work we've been doing around Woodland Park and other areas within the Upper South Platte Watershed over the past several years."

- Carol Ekarius, CUSP Executive Director

## Upper Monument Creek Collaborative Landscape Restoration Initiative

The Upper Monument Creek Initiative began to:

- Engage a diverse suite of collaborators in developing science-based restoration and management recommendations for the Upper Monument Creek project area on the Pike National Forest
- Provide community-based information for consideration in the development of a Proposed Action by the District Ranger for the Pikes Peak Ranger District, specifically the purpose and need for action
- Serve as a smaller-scale forum for addressing some of the issues around restoration management and monitoring being considered by the Front Range Roundtable

Scope of the project:

Consider management actions that will restore / improve forest vegetation and associated wildlife and watershed values within the Upper Monument Creek project area (may or may not include the area burned by the Waldo Canyon Fire).

CUSP has participated in several planning meetings and webinars and will continue to provide our unique watershed perspective as the project moves toward implementation.

## Community Wildfire Protection Plans

CUSP applied for, and received, a \$6,000 50/50 matching Community Assistance grant from the Bureau of Land Management to write a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the 4 Mile/ Current Creek area. CUSP started work on this CWPP with the 4 Mile, Southern Park, and Tallahassee Fire Departments. The plan is expected to be completed in 2013.



CUSP's Fire Truck

## Fire Suppression Team

The CUSP Fire Suppression Team was essential in the initial attack of several small fires started in 2012. Our red-card certified wildland firefighter team assisted in efforts to suppress fires including the Rainbow Valley Fire off of Highway 67, north of Woodland Park, and the Fossil Beds Fire in Florissant. Our team also stood by for the Arkansas Fire near Lake George, the Waldo Canyon Fire near Colorado Springs, and a series of other small fires near Lake George.

## Slash Drop Off Sites

CUSP operates two slash drop off sites, one in Divide and one in Fairplay. Community members can bring their slash from thinning projects on their own property to the sites for inexpensive disposal. Slash is chipped and mulch can be picked up for free from the drop off sites. Both slash sites experienced high traffic in 2012 as property owners proactively reduced fuels on private lands.

## Fuels Reduction Program

CUSP continued assisting neighbors with thinning through the Fuels Reduction Program. For communities with multiple individuals with too much slash to haul themselves, CUSP brought our chipper out to provide a cost-effective disposal method. In addition to chipping slash to produce mulch, CUSP's crew will also burn slash piles when appropriate.



CUSP's chipper at work

## 2012 Forest Health Statistics

- 456 total acres mitigated
- 335 acres chipped
- 276 slash piles burned
- 20 cords of wood provided to those in need through a partnership with *Help the Needy*
- 4,360 loads of slash delivered to the Divide and Fairplay slash sites, with 272 acres treated by landowners
- \$316,343 paid out to area private contractors

## River Restoration

Rivers are vital for our communities and our watershed. CUSP is committed to protecting our rivers so we can all enjoy them for generations to come. We work with partners from all sectors to restore aquatic habitats, improve water quality, and ensure recreational opportunities in and along the rivers abound.

### Trail Creek and West Creek

Trail Creek and West Creek are tributaries to Horse Creek, and subsequently the mainstem of the South Platte at Deckers. These two river sections were particularly hard hit with significant flooding and erosion events following the 2002 Hayman Fire. In an ongoing effort with partners at the National Forest Foundation, Vail Resorts, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Douglas County, the City of Aurora, the Water Conservation Board, other donors, and the Pike National Forest, CUSP completed the majority of work planned to address post-fire impacts in Trail Creek. Dave Rosgen, renowned hydrology expert and creator of the Watershed Assessment of River Stability and Sediment Supply (WARSSS) methodology, was hired in 2010 to help develop and implement a restoration plan for the area. Based on Rosgen's restoration designs, in 2012 the coalition of partners reworked channels; created large sediment catchments to mitigate flood flows; hand crews repaired hundreds of headcuts; and miles of roads and trails were decommissioned, relocated, and maintained. This work has drastically improved flooding, sediment movement and aquatic habitats.

### Chiefs Award

As a partner in the Rocky Mountain Watershed Partnership, CUSP was a recipient of the US Forest Service Chiefs Award in 2012. The award was presented to the partnership - including CUSP, water providers, and the Rocky Mountain Field Institute - in recognition of the Happy Meadows project and other ongoing collaborative projects in the region.





## Happy Meadows

CUSP and our partners completed the Happy Meadows project in 2012. Through a collaborative effort, a 2.7 mile section of the South Platte River was restored using a natural channel design approach. This section of the river, a well-known fishery, was impaired from road erosion and sedimentation following the 2002 Hayman Fire. Project results include:

- Removal of an irrigation dam that was blocking fish passage, increasing sediment deposition, and creating hazardous conditions on a county road during ice flows
- Redevelopment of the irrigation dam diversion to reduce negative impacts while ensuring water rights holders continue to get their water efficiently delivered
- Improved channel stability, floodplain connection, and aquatic habitat on both private and public lands



This was an award-winning project. The Happy Meadows Team, including the South Park Ranger District on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands; CUSP; Sportsman's Paradise; Colorado Watershed Alliance; Fin-up Habitat Consultants; and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, won the US Forest Service's (USFS) Aquatic Recreational Accomplishment award for this project. This is the top prize for USFS fisheries projects. Our friend Dana Butler, hydrologist with the Forest Service's Pikes Peak District, also won the individual "Wagon Wheel Gap" Hydrology award for the Happy Meadows project.

### 2012 River Restoration Statistics

- \$1,580,246 paid out to river restoration contractors
- Over 1,000 volunteers contributed almost 7,700 volunteer hours treating almost 83 acres and restoring about 5 miles of waterways
- 23,543 feet of channel restored

## Waldo Canyon Fire Rehab

A few weeks after the Hayman Fire's 10th anniversary, the Waldo Canyon Fire sent smoke billowing into the sky near Colorado Springs. Reported on June 23, 2012, the Waldo Canyon Fire consumed over 18,000 acres, burned 346 homes, and killed 2 people, becoming one of the most destructive fires Colorado has ever seen by the time it was contained on July 18.

As the community grappled with the magnitude of the fire's impact, CUSP was called for recovery assistance by the staff from the Pike National Forest, Colorado Springs Utilities, El Paso County, the City of Colorado Springs, and private landowners. Although the Waldo Canyon Fire did not directly affect the Upper South Platte Watershed, we felt compelled to assist our neighbors with rehab efforts in connecting watersheds. With our Board of Directors' approval, CUSP has been collaborating with multiple agencies, organizations and private citizens to begin recovery efforts using the lessons learned from the Hayman Fire.

### Benefit Concert

On July 22, 2012, CUSP hosted a fundraising event at the spectacular Aspen Valley Ranch, just west of Woodland Park, CO. Originally planned as an event to honor the ten year anniversary of the Hayman Fire, the focus changed in late March when the fire season on the Front Range started earlier than had ever been recorded. We had a strong sense 2012 could be a catastrophic year for wildfire, but we certainly had no idea our neighbors in Colorado Springs would ultimately be so devastatingly affected by the Waldo Canyon Fire.

More than 600 people came out to support a festival of great music, food, drink and camaraderie. We raised more than \$2,000 for the Pikes Peak Community Foundation's Waldo Canyon Fire Fighters' Fund, which supports recovery and rehabilitation efforts. A silent auction of Hayman Fire t-shirts signed by renowned musicians also helped to shed light on the work completed in the Hayman burn area over the last decade.



### Rehab Efforts

CUSP has worked in impacted communities on both private and public lands within the Waldo Canyon burn scar. In 2012, we worked on the ground at Flying W Ranch, Glen Eyrie, the Mountain Shadows subdivision, on private lands within the Ute Pass area, and on USFS lands above Colorado Springs. Our work has focused on the hillslopes and on the Watershed Assessment of River Stability and Sediment Supply (WARSSS), a



technical process to assess rivers and streams impaired by high sediment loads. Volunteers have helped to install log erosion barriers, log fall and log cross weir structures, straw wattles, sandbag debris deflectors, check dams, and raked and seeded to promote nurse crop and native vegetation growth. Under the guidance of Dave Rosgen, expert hydrologist from Wildland Hydrology Consultants and creator of the WARSSS process, heavy equipment crews installed sediment catchment basins along Northfield and North Douglas Drainages as well. While much progress was made in the months following the fire, many years of rehab efforts are required to protect affected communities from negative post-fire impacts, such as flooding, and establish a healthy forest in the burn scar.

### 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire Rehab Statistics

- 43 rehabilitation workdays
- Almost 800 volunteers donated their time to rehabilitation efforts. Volunteers contributed almost 5,000 volunteer hours, treating over 61 acres and installing almost 1,400 linear feet of erosion barriers



## Education and Outreach

Education is a core objective of CUSP's work. In everything we do, we hope to teach and inspire those we work with to become stewards of the land.

### High Creek Fen Site Steward Program

With funding from the South Park National Heritage Area, CUSP developed a 1 week program to teach 7<sup>th</sup> grade science classes about water quality, ecological health and monitoring important natural resources in South Park. This program brought hydrology and watershed professionals into the classroom and allowed students to explore what they were learning by taking a field trip to the High Creek Fen, the most ecologically diverse fen in the Southern



Students learn hands-on about ecology and water quality

Rocky Mountains. Students performed water tests, recorded observations, collected monitoring data, discovered how macroinvertebrates act as stream health indicators, and learned about water chemistry. The first year of this program was a great success, and CUSP will continue to improve upon the program as it moves forward in future years. 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.

### Service Learning Modules


CUSP created several online service learning modules in 2012 to provide students and teachers with standards-based lessons that can be paired with hands-on service-learning student projects. Modules appropriate for elementary up to high school were developed to help students learn about a variety of important environmental issues. Learning module topics include:

- Trees in the Forest
- Do We Drink the Same Water as Dinosaurs?
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Trees and Wood Products
- Wolves: Biology and Controversy




- Invasive Species
- Acid Mine Drainage
- Recycling
- Mining and the Environment
- Reducing Solid Waste for a Healthier Tomorrow


Module development will continue in 2013. Upcoming modules include a Clean Energy Curriculum, a collaboration between Teller Energy and the CSU Extension Offices, as well as Wood-to-Energy and Wind-for-Schools curriculums. Modules can be accessed at <http://learn.uppertsouthplatte.org> with free registration.



**Wolves: Biology and Controversy**



This module explores the delicate relationship between Man, Wolf, and Nature from a variety of points of view.






**Invasive Species**




From weeds to mussels and beyond- invasives are our problem.







**Acid Mine Drainage**


Fixing the mistakes of the past



**Recycling**

Closing the loop for a more sustainable future



▪ “A big thank you, thank you, thank you to you and your staff for the great experience for our YES Clubs ... They all had a great time and wanted to do more. We all look forward to working with you in the future.” –Sally McCracken, Young Environmental Stewards' Leader

COMMENTS OFF

## 2012 Education & Outreach Statistics

- Almost 145 technical support hours
- 225 students received almost 700 education hours learning about a variety of watershed issues

## Other Programmatic Work

### Antero Ice Fishing Contest

On Saturday, January 14, 2012 500+ hale and hearty souls braved the frigid temperatures hoping to win the top prize at the Antero Ice Fishing Contest. Timothy Cooper took that honor with a 22.5" cutbow trout that weighed in at 4.5 lbs. This annual event keeps gaining in popularity, bringing in anglers from all over the state. The family-friendly environment and the great door prizes are always a big hit. Since CUSP started hosting the event, we have raised over \$20,000, which will be used for recreational improvements at the reservoir for all to enjoy. The event is co-sponsored by Denver Water, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and CUSP, with many local businesses generously donating door prizes.



1st place winner Timothy Cooper

### Energy

Teller Energy is committed to sustainable practices that benefit the triple bottom line (people, planet and profit). The energy program promotes sustainability, energy efficiency, and renewable energy throughout the region. Through responsible energy use and production, our social, environmental and economic systems are improved, now and into the future.

July 31, 2012 was the final day of funding through the Governors Energy Office (GEO) for the Community Energy Coordinator position at CUSP, and we submitted our final report to the GEO at that time. CUSP continues to participate with the statewide network of Community Energy Coordinators, now called the Colorado Sustainability Collaborative, under the leadership of the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado. This partnership provides oversight and collective fundraising capabilities, while facilitating the sharing of best practices, metrics and success stories with resource efficiency offices throughout the state.

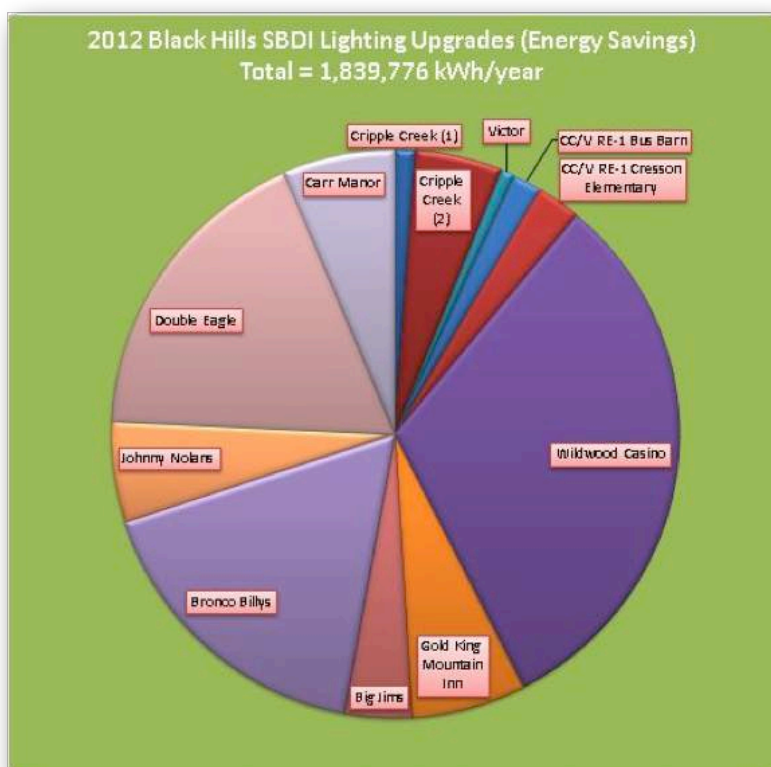
CUSP also holds a place on the Advisory Board of the newly formed Peak Alliance for Sustainable Colorado. This organization is dedicated to promoting sustainability in the Pikes Peak region (Teller and El Paso counties) through regional collaboration and outreach, and to advancing the Pikes Peak Regional Sustainability Plan (Looking to our Future - PPR 2030). The plan itself was developed over the course of two years through the cooperative efforts of over 140 volunteers and 80 organizations and represents 10 focus areas of sustainability. It was finalized in March 2012, and in November 2012, the Peak Alliance was accepted as a



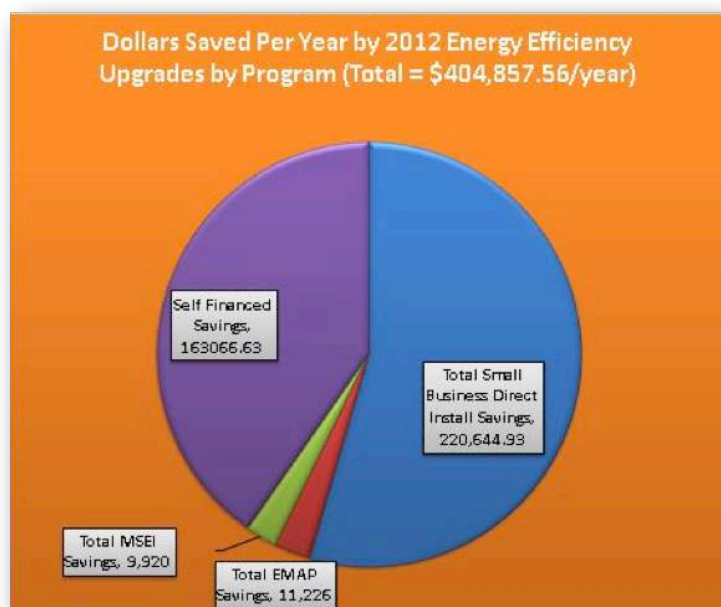
component fund of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation. The history, plan, promotional videos and links to get involved are all available on the [peakalliance.co](http://peakalliance.co) website.

During 2012, Teller Energy performed a comprehensive survey of energy use, transportation habits, building energy intensity, water conservation, food and gardening choices, recycling practices, and preferences for efficiency and renewable energy throughout Teller County. There were a total of 374 respondents. The complete survey results can be accessed here: [www.tellerenergy.com/?p=1091](http://www.tellerenergy.com/?p=1091)

A significant number of energy efficiency measures were undertaken in Teller County in 2012. The Energy Management Assistance Program (EMAP) through the GEO provided a free energy audit for the town of Victor and the Cripple Creek/Victor RE-1 School District. These audits identified energy efficiency retrofits for lighting, weather sealing, insulation, heating and ventilation. Black Hills Energy also provided a Small Business Direct Install lighting upgrade incentive. The cities of Victor and Cripple Creek, as well as the School District and 7 hotels and casinos (the Wildwood, Gold King Mountain Inn, Big Jim's, Bronco Billy's, Johnny Nolan's, the Double Eagle and Carr Manor) took advantage of the program to upgrade their lighting to use more efficient light emitting diode (LED) bulbs. Other efficiency measures include a Wildwood Casino air handler retrofit, compact florescent lamp (CFL) upgrades in the Triple Crown



Casinos, over 12,000 gallons of diesel fuel savings in the Teller County fleet, upgraded thermostat control in Teller County buildings, and five businesses in Woodland Park taking advantage of left over funds from the Main Street Efficiency Initiative (MSEI). **All totaled, the 2012 energy efficiency measures taken in Teller County resulted in well over 3 million kWh equivalent savings per year and over \$400,000 in expenditures saved per year.** This will save 2,117 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, or the amount produced by burning 237,293 gallons of gasoline, or sequestered by 1,795 acres of forest!

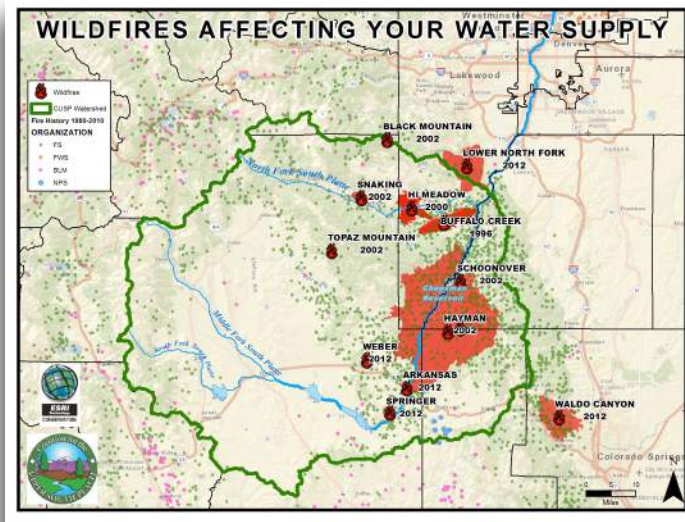


Teller Energy continues to monitor local energy efficiency projects. Most notably so far, Cripple Creek continues to upgrade their street lighting. When completed, this upgrade is expected to save 471,766 kWh and \$55,411 per year.

Teller Energy also continued with our Farmer's market presence in Woodland Park in 2012. Here we distributed informational materials; discussed sustainability with market attendees; recycled regular and recyclable batteries, CFL's and corks; and distributed CFL's, power strips, low flow shower heads and programmable thermostats.

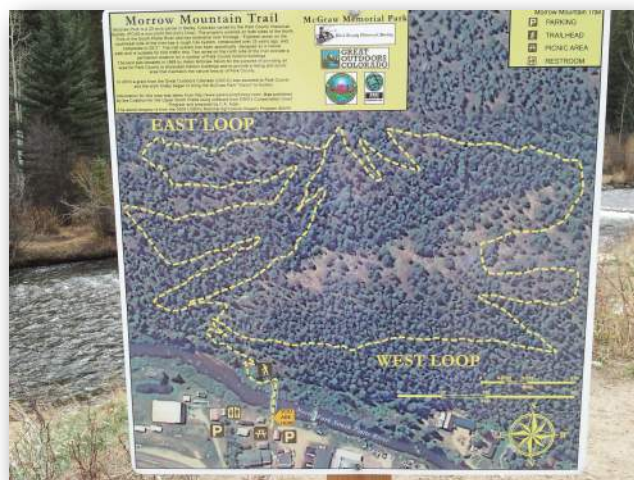
## GIS Mapping

CUSP's mapping capabilities expanded and improved during 2012. As a recipient of a Google Grant in 2012, CUSP has been able to utilize Google Earth to increase staff capacity to make maps. Additionally, staff attended training on how to use specialized geographic information system (GIS) and data modeling tools to better map sub-watersheds and hydrologic processes. This training helped us create maps of sub-watersheds for the Forest Service that were more detailed than those previously available.



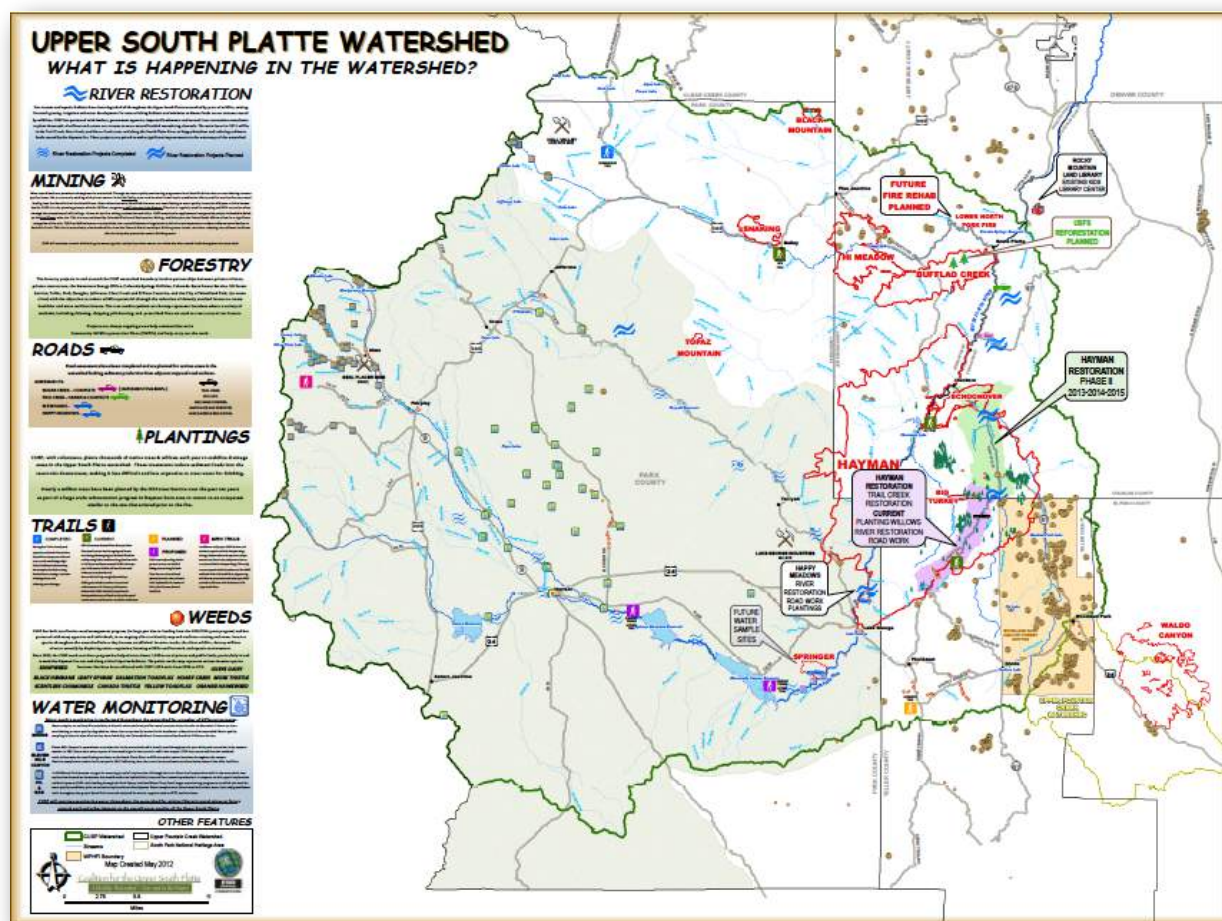
We also utilized GIS mapping in many of our core projects this year. Using Global Positioning System (GPS) units, our crew collected data on location as projects were planned or completed. These data points were then translated into maps used for planning and assessments, reporting, grant requests, providing directions, and community education. Mapping was used in the following 2012 projects:

- Trail Creek and West Creek River Restoration
- Happy Meadows and Sportsman's Restoration
- Waldo Canyon Fire Recovery and Post-Fire Flood Assessment and Outreach
- McGraw Hill Park Trail Mapping in Bailey, CO for the Park County Historic Society



Morrow Mountain Trail Map at McGraw Hill in Bailey, CO





## Mines and Mineral Extraction

The Abandoned Mine Assessment Program was slightly hindered by access issues this year, but we were still able to monitor almost 20 different locations within Buckskin Gulch and Mosquito Gulch, tributaries to the Middle Fork of the South Platte. Although we are still working with mine owners in the North Fork of the South Platte, we focused on two mines in Buckskin and Mosquito that are contributing to water quality degradation in this part of the watershed. We also instigated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for a small mine reclamation project in Buckskin Gulch. This small historic mine site on Forest Service property was illegally mined in 2010. Excavation during 2010 caused erosion, increased surface flow of water over historic mine waste rock and generally created an aesthetic nuisance. We hope to reclaim this site sometime during the summer of 2013. In addition to water quality sampling we collected sediment and soil samples at two mine sites near Lake George. The samples from one site proved to have high concentrations of lead and arsenic. We hope to perform reclamation and revegetation actions at this mine site in the fall of 2013. We would like to thank Denver Water for their continued laboratory support for





sample analysis. We are also thankful for the partnered support of the U.S. Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

2012 was another big year for the Baseline Water Quality Study for the greater South Park Area. With financial support from the Park County Land and Water Trust Fund, we were able to sample 20 different surface and groundwater locations throughout South Park in both spring high flow and fall low flow conditions. This

sampling helped further establish the water quality conditions for the area and build a more robust data set. This year we also expanded the study of our precious water resources by initiating a scoping study to determine the number and optimal location for the installation of monitoring wells across the greater South Park area. This study will also formulate a conceptual hydrogeologic framework for a more in-depth understanding of the South Park geology and its influence on groundwater movement and quality. We were supported in this effort by the Colorado Geological Survey and the U.S.

Geological Survey (USGS), who more than doubled the budget for this study. With financial support from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and matching partnership with the USGS, we will drill these monitoring wells in May 2013. The Baseline Water Quality Study to monitor our water resources prior to extensive mineral extraction is on the frontline of monitoring in the state and in the country. Please visit our website and review our Baseline Water Quality report from 2011 for more information about this very important project. Be on the lookout for the scoping study and 2012 baseline update in 2013.



## Noxious Weed Management



CUSP had a successful Watershed Noxious Weed Program in 2012, even with the challenges of unexpected fire recovery tasks. Nearly 1,200 acres were monitored or inventoried during the 2012 season. Staff and volunteers treated over 90 acres of public and private lands to control and/or eradicate 10 species on the Colorado's Noxious Weed List. CUSP also successfully integrated weed management with other projects, such as river cleanup and restoration, trail maintenance, fire rehabilitation and forest health projects. This integration allowed CUSP staff to educate volunteers about noxious weed management and the benefits of our efforts. CUSP leveraged over \$7,400 in state funds for the program with over \$12,350 in cash and in-kind support from stakeholders, landowners and volunteers.



## Roads

Gravel roads are a major contributor of sediment in our streams and rivers. Starting in 2011, CUSP began working with partners to reduce sediment from erosion-prone roads adjacent to Sugar Creek and Pine Creek. These roads run along the South Platte River between Deckers and Sedalia in Douglas County.

The Sugar Creek project neared completion in 2012. Sediment catchment structures installed include: a grouted rock rundown that enters a stilling basin; a 'Smart Ditch' that enters into a stilling basin; and a large sediment catchment basin. All that remains to be done is the final construction rehabilitation, which will include seeding, matting and willow stake plantings. The Sugar Creek project is a pilot project that will be used to inform the more extensive work planned in Pine Creek.



Grouted Rock Rundown



Smart Ditch



Sediment Catchment Basin

## Trails

CUSP coordinated several volunteer projects in 2012 to work on Gill Trail under a maintenance agreement with Denver Water. Gill Trail is a 3.5 mile trail running between Jefferson County Highway 126 and the base of Cheesman Canyon. The majority of trail work focused on creating a stable tread, removing vegetation and adding additional water control structures. In 2013, CUSP will host additional volunteer projects to ensure the trail is kept in the best shape possible. CUSP also worked on two other trails in the watershed over the course of the year, the Hornbeck Wildlife Loop at Florissant Fossil Beds and Morrow Mountain Trail in Park County.



Working on the Hornbeck Wildlife Loop  
National Trails Day



# Finances and Management

CUSP is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit. Pursuant to our policies, CUSP has an audit by an outside Certified Public Accountant (CPA) firm each year. Our policies, audit, tax forms, and other documents relating to accountability and transparency are published each year on our website, or available in hard copy upon request.

## Board of Directors

Our board is made up of individuals who represent the various stakeholders in the watershed, and in 2012 included:

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mary Dawson - *Board Chair*, Environmental Programs Specialist, City of Aurora  
 Patrick O'Connell - *Vice Chair*, County Planning & Zoning, Jefferson County  
 Greg Aplet - *Treasurer*, Forest Ecologist, The Wilderness Society  
 Dan Drucker - *Secretary*, Director & President, Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District

### BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Eisenman - Development Director, Park County  
 Karen Berry - Board Member of Jefferson Conservation District  
 Connor Baker - Interested Individual  
 Marie Chisholm - Interested Individual  
 Kurt Dahl - Environmental Health Director, Teller County  
 Swithin Dick - Water Resource Engineer, Centennial Water & Sanitation  
 Garth Englund - Special Projects Engineer, Douglas County  
 Lynda James - Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District  
 Don Kennedy - Environmental Scientist, Denver Water  
 Don Logelin - VP for Programs at the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
 Sara Mayben - Renewable Resource Staff Officer, USDA Forest Service  
 Tedd Stiles, Interested Individual

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

Carol Ekarius - Executive Director  
 Jonathan Bruno - Operations Director  
 Mark Herndon - Deputy Operations Director  
 Helen Dyer - Development and Outreach Director  
 Chris Fuller - Office Manager  
 Jeff Ravage - Deputy Director for IT  
 Jara Johnson - Deputy Director for Habitat and Monitoring

## Fund Raising

In 2012, CUSP participated in the Colorado Springs Independent's Give! Campaign for the second year in a row. Our funding focus was on support for our Waldo Canyon Fire recovery and flood mitigation projects. We increased our donations by over 30% in the 2012 campaign compared to the previous year, bringing in a total of \$23,431 and greatly expanded our outreach within the Colorado Springs community through compelling media spots. Our wonderful friends at Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company sponsored a \$2,500 matching grant that helped with our great success. CUSP was one of the top 12 funded groups from a pool of 58 worthy local nonprofits. We had another awesome campaign year; thank you donors!



Our Give! check  
Courtesy of David M Dombach Photography

## Revenue

Category	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2012 Totals	2011 Totals
Government Grants	\$2,174,253		\$2,174,253	\$1,822,852
Foundation and corporate grants	\$363,000		\$363,000	\$5,000
Donated professional services	\$326,581		\$326,581	\$195,405
Contributions	\$103,212	\$26,446	\$129,658	\$70,337
Program Fees	\$91,163		\$91,163	\$99,133
Special events income	\$14,367	\$8,000	\$22,367	\$9,396
Other revenue	\$11,335		\$11,335	\$8,229
Satisfied program restrictions	\$425,717	{\$425,717}		
Total Revenue	\$3,509,628	{\$391,271}	\$3,118,357	2,210,352

## Expenses

<b>Program Services</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>2012 Totals</b>	<b>2011 Totals</b>
River restoration	\$1,580,246	\$1,580,246	\$506,311
Forest health & restoration	\$1,110,450	\$1,110,450	\$91,857
Fuel mitigation	\$261,019	\$261,019	\$907,853
Oil & gas study	\$152,984	\$152,984	
Program outreach	\$81,372	\$81,372	\$22,484
Firefighting	\$14,650	\$14,650	\$11,484
Carbon/energy	\$13,630	\$13,630	\$40,405
Environmental education program	\$12,255	\$12,255	\$33,698
Mining assets	\$10,432	\$10,432	\$108,648
Noxious weeds	\$8,338	\$8,338	\$11,463
Trails	\$95	\$95	\$26,883
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>\$3,245,471</b>	<b>\$3,245,471</b>	<b>\$1,761,085</b>
<b>Supporting Services</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>2012 Totals</b>	<b>2011 Totals</b>
General & administrative	\$102,756	\$102,756	\$145,289
Financial development	\$35,198	\$35,198	\$13,134
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>\$137,954</b>	<b>\$137,954</b>	<b>\$158,423</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,383,425</b>	<b>\$3,383,425</b>	<b>\$1,919,508</b>



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We couldn't do it without you!

# Resources

## CUSP Websites

<i>Main website</i>	<a href="http://uppersouthplatte.org/">http://uppersouthplatte.org/</a>
Donate	<a href="http://uppersouthplatte.org/donate.html">http://uppersouthplatte.org/donate.html</a>
Volunteer	<a href="http://uppersouthplatte.org/Volunteer/">http://uppersouthplatte.org/Volunteer/</a>
Teller Energy	<a href="http://www.tellerenergy.com/">http://www.tellerenergy.com/</a>
Noxious Weeds	<a href="http://www.uppersouthplatte-weeds.org">http://www.uppersouthplatte-weeds.org</a>
Divide Slash Site	<a href="http://www.divideslashsite.com/">http://www.divideslashsite.com/</a>
Fairplay Slash Site	<a href="http://www.fairplayslash.com">http://www.fairplayslash.com</a>
Antero Ice Fishing Contest	<a href="http://www.antero-icefishing-contest.com/">http://www.antero-icefishing-contest.com/</a>
Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative	<a href="http://www.wphfi.org/">http://www.wphfi.org/</a>
Waldo Canyon Fire	<a href="http://waldofire.org">http://waldofire.org</a>
Upper South Platte Interactive	<a href="http://search.uppersouthplatte.org/">http://search.uppersouthplatte.org/</a>
Service Learning Site	<a href="http://learn.uppersouthplatte.org/">http://learn.uppersouthplatte.org/</a>

## Outside Sites of Interest

Front Range Roundtable	<a href="http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org">www.frontrangeroundtable.org</a>
Watershed Wildfire Assessments	<a href="http://www.jw-associates.org">www.jw-associates.org</a>
Colorado State Forest Service	<a href="http://csfs.colostate.edu">csfs.colostate.edu</a>
National Forest Foundation	<a href="http://www.nationalforests.org">www.nationalforests.org</a>
Governor's Energy Office	<a href="http://www.rechargecolorado.com">www.rechargecolorado.com</a>
Pike National Forest	<a href="http://fs.usda.gov/psicc">fs.usda.gov/psicc</a>

## Contact CUSP

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<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
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