

2017



www.cusp.ws

ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte seeks 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.

Vision

A healthy watershed now, and in the future.



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As CUSP wrapped up our second decade of service in the Upper South Platte Watershed, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the work we have done throughout the watershed as well as in neighboring areas that impact our watershed.

2017 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the Hayman Fire and the fifth anniversary of the Waldo Canyon Fire. We know that these are not the last fires that will occur in our area, so we continue working to reduce the impacts of future fires. One of the 2017 projects I'm most proud of was the revision to the Woodland Park Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The new plan, dubbed the Greater Woodland Park CWPP, more than doubles the area we are planning for work in, covering the Hwy 24 corridor from Cascade to Lake George, and included a first of its kind analysis of post-fire flooding impacts before a fire occurs. The new CWPP will enable CUSP and our many partners to more strategically implement fuel mitigation projects in the years to come. We have also been working actively on forest health and fuel mitigation in the northern area of the watershed through the Upper South Platte Partnership (www.uppingsouthplattepartnership.org). This partnership is increasing on-the-ground treatments on private lands along the Hwy 285 corridor.

Fire rehab and forest-health work account for the lion's share of our efforts at CUSP, but we still find time to work on trails, water quality monitoring, environmental education, and myriad other programs that benefit our watershed and our communities. In 2017 we completed a river restoration project along the Tarryall River with the residents of Landis Ranch. This project not only improved the fishery, it also reduced the chances of a catastrophic failure of their downstream neighbor's water diversion. A failure at that diversion would have threatened Tarryall Road and done significant damage to the stream corridor itself. Our weed program is a small part of our portfolio, but we are seeing significant reductions in these invasive species in our watershed by partnering with private landowners to treat weeds on their property.

We are keenly aware of the critical role that our friends, volunteers, donors and partners play in all that we do. Without this committed and ongoing support, we could not implement and manage the vast breadth of significant projects and programs we have completed throughout our watershed in the past 20 years. We look forward to continuing these essential relationships and expanding our reach and spheres of positive influence well into the future – all for the benefit of the health and vitality of the Upper South Platte Watershed and the millions who depend on it, *now and in the future*.



Carol Ekarius
Executive Director

Water Quality



“If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.

Loren Eiseley



Tarryall Creek Enhancement Project

Tarryall Creek is a major headwater tributary of the **South Platte River**, draining the upper third of the **South Platte basin**, including the southern flanks of the **Kenosha, Platte River** and the **Tarryall Mountains** as well as the northeastern flank of the **Puma Hills**. The 414 square mile **Tarryall Creek Watershed** is composed mostly of weathered granite. Two reservoirs exist on the main stem of the river and have varying effects on flow, sediment transport, and aquatic organism movement.

This Project addresses the blend of public and private ownership in the watershed that presents a range of challenges and require creative solutions to issues that compromise water quality and quantity including, erosion control, sediment movement, irrigation, habitat health and aquatic organism mobility, and channel and riverbank degradation.

Phase 1 Work

This Phase of the project involved implementing major tasks including

- ~700 liner feet of channel stabilization in the Tarryall main stem
- ~800 liner feet of riverbank stabilization
- Realignment and reconstruction of an irrigation diversion to allow aquatic organism movement
- Install of habitat features
- Seeding and willow planting along riverbanks
- Jute matting as needed
- Project management and monitoring



Forest Health



“Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air
and giving fresh strength to our people.

Franklin D. Roosevelt



CUSP finds that “kitchen table conversations” are one of the best ways to engage community members to encourage them to take proactive actions to protect their homes and properties.

From Palmer Lake, to Conifer Meadows, to Ranch Estates, CUSP performed 453 Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) assessments in the watershed as well as neighboring communities. These assessments give homeowners a picture of their properties vulnerabilities and help us great risk assessment maps that help direct the work we need to do.

- In 2017, homeowners spent **3,677 hours** on **226 properties** clearing **451 acres of slash** that CUSP chipped
- Between our **three Slash Sites (Bailey, Divide and Fairplay)**, patrons spent **10,426 hours**, accumulating **2988 loads** of slash from their properties, mitigating about **187 acres**.
- Taking advantage of the short, wet season and sparse regional snow fall in 2017, we were able to **burn 121 slash piles**.



Restoration and Rehabilitation



Hayman Fire, June 2002



Waldo Canyon Fire, July 2012

“It looks as if all of Colorado is burning today.
June 12, 2002 - Bill Owens, Governor of Colorado 1999-2007

A decade and a half after the Hayman Fire of 2002, there is still much restoration, rehab and flood mitigation work to be done. A multi-year restoration in Horse Creek, just south of Deckers, began in 2017 with volunteer assistance from groups like Rising Sun 4x4 Club who helped bring supplies to rough terrain areas and local Boy Scout Troop 356 who helped lay jute matting for erosion control.



Post Fire Rehab

- Built **191** flood and erosion mitigation structures including **Log Erosion Barriers**, **Log Fall Structures** and **Flying Vs**
- **Raked, seeded and mulched ~ 4 acres** in **Horse Creek**
- Installed **7,926 sq. feet of Jute Matting**
- Planted **2,050 trees** in **Horse Creek** and,
- Planted an additional **750 trees** (donated by the **El Paso Bar Association**) in the **Waldo Canyon** burn scar.

More Projects and Programs of Note



Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds

In 2017 CUSP inventoried **427 acres** and was able to treat **270 acres** for a range of **invasive noxious weeds**. The most prevalent in our watershed are: **Canada** and **musk thistles**, **scentless chamomile** and **yellow toadflax**. Other species of concern include, **orange hawkweed**, **oxeye daisy**, **perennial pepperweed**, **hoary cress**, **leafy spurge**, **diffuse knapweed**, and **field bindweed**.

Eagle Scout Projects

CUSP has a long history of working with Eagle Scout candidates, helping them identify, implement and complete important projects in the watershed. In 2017 we worked **Laird Stewart** whose project included erosion control in the Hayman burn scar and **Jacob Anderson** who did work on Gill Trail and built a viewing bench along the trail.



Mushroom Study

2017 was a banner year for wild mushrooms in Colorado. It also marked the third year of the CUSP mushroom study in the mountains west of Denver. The CUSP mushroom experiment: **“Fungal Degradation of the Woody By-Products of Forest Management Activities”**, began in the Fall of 2014 with the goal of finding a new way to deal with woody debris left behind from the logging activities that CUSP and other groups perform to increase forest health in the watershed.

To date, the fungi have done a venerable job of consuming wood chips and converting it to compost. The nutrient composition of the compost is very good, and the results definitely justify moving forward with the experiment. Additionally, the experiment has piqued the interest and subsequent involvement of the **Denver Botanic Gardens**.



2017 Volunteers

- 24 Volunteer Groups
- 81 Volunteer Projects
- 625 Youth worked 3,883 hours
- 535 Adults worked 3,734 hours
- TOTAL Volunteer in-kind: \$147,706

CUSP's Volunteer Program began in earnest after the Hayman Fire in 2002. Since then, we have worked with tens of thousands of volunteers. Their efforts have restored thousands of acres of burned land, vulnerable habitat, miles of river banks, and provided millions of dollars of in-kind service.

THANK YOU!

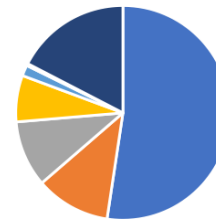
FY 2017 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION & STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

ASSETS	2017	2016
Current	\$ 176,103	\$ 480,007
<i>Cash & cash equivalents, accounts receivable, grants, etc.</i>		
Property & Equipment (Fixed)	\$ 197,840	\$ 251,370
<i>Land, buildings, vehicles, etc, less accumulated depreciation</i>		
Other Assets	\$ 153,187	\$ 170,000
<i>Note(s) receivable, mineral interests</i>		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 527,130	\$ 901,377
LIABILITIES		
Current	\$ 166,903	\$ 243,164
<i>Accounts payable, accrued liabilities, etc.</i>		
Long Term	\$ 50,684	\$ 57,285
<i>Land, buildings, vehicles & equipment</i>		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 217,587	\$ 300,449
NET ASSETS	\$ 309,543	\$ 600,928
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 527,130	\$ 901,377
REVENUE	2017	
<i>Government grants & contracts</i>	\$ 758,689	
<i>Foundations, corporations, businesses</i>	\$ 163,515	
<i>Donated services, equipment & materials</i>	\$ 144,650	
<i>Program/service fees</i>	\$ 101,316	
<i>Individual contributions</i>	\$ 23,537	
<i>Events & mics.</i>	\$ 4,580	
<i>Matching contributions</i>	\$ 252,156	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,448,443	
EXPENSES		
<i>Programs and support services</i>	\$ 1,178,998	
<i>General Administration</i>	\$ 148,926	
<i>Financial Development</i>	\$ 51,021	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,378,945	

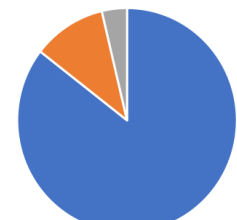
CUSP EIN: 84-1469785

REVENUE



■ Gov. Grants & Contracts ■ Foundation & Biz ■ Donated Serv ■ Programs ■ General Admin ■ Financial Devel. ■
 ■ Fees for Service ■ Individuals ■ Events, etc
 ■ Match

EXPENSES



As seen in the Revenue pie chart, a significant amount of CUSP's funding comes from Governmental Grants and Contracts. It is important to note that this type of support means that Federal and State tax dollars are coming *back* into our communities.

This also means that we leverage nongovernmental donations as the required match to bring these tax-based grants back home to use on *local* projects, protecting *local* properties, and often supporting *local* businesses.

Every time you donate to CUSP, your gift is amplified: it can be used once for a State grant and then again for a Federal grant match, doubling its value.

Representative Leadership

2017 Board of Directors

Eric Howell, Chair; *Colorado Springs Utilities*

Garth Englund Jr., Vice Chair; *Douglas County*

Dan Drucker, Secretary; *Center of CO Water Conservancy District*

Jim Idema, Treasurer; *Interested Individual*

Patrick O'Connell, *Jefferson County*

Tom Eisenman, *Park County*

Marc Dettenrieder, *Teller County*

Lynda James, *USP Water Conservancy District*

Don Logelin, *Trout Unlimited, Pikes Peak Chapter*

Mary Dawson, *City of Aurora*

Suzanne O'Neill, *Colorado Wildlife Federation*

Karen Berry, *Jefferson Conservation District, CGS*

Christina Burri, *Denver Water*

Lynne Buchanan, *Interested Individual*



2017 CONTRIBUTORS AND DONORS

CUSP is deeply grateful for the generous support of the following individuals, foundations, corporations, governments, related agencies, and Volunteer groups. Without their ongoing financial and in-kind contributions, the work we do, so valuable to our watershed, would not happen. Thank you all.

GOVERNMENTS & AGENCIES

Centennial Water and Sanitation
District
Center of Colorado Water Conservancy
District
City of Aurora
Colorado Springs Utilities
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Colorado Department of Public Health
& Environment
Colorado Department of
Transportation
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Colorado Department of Natural
Resources
Colorado State Forest Service
Colorado State University
Denver Water
Douglas County Government
Fire Adapted Colorado (FACO)
Jefferson County
National Park Service
Park County
Teller County
United States Forest Service

Upper South Platte Water Conservancy
District

BUSINESSES/BUSINESS GROUP

Amazon Smile
Canyon Enterprises, Inc.
The Cache Supply
El Paso Country Bar Association
FIN-UP Habitat Consultant
Garonimo Sports
Newmont Cripple Creek & Victor
Mining Company
Oracle
Polar Bottle
RootSpring Studios/Neon Pig Creative

FOUNDATIONS, FUNDS & NONPROFITS

Crown Family Fund
Cutthroat Chapter Trout Unlimited
Firefighters Fund
Friends of the Fossil Bed
Heyborne Family Charitable Fund
Park County Land & Water Trust Fund
The Leopold Fund
South Park National Heritage Area
South Platte Enhancement Board
The Nature Conservancy

VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Boy Scouts of America
Catholic Heart Work Camp
Church of Latter Day Saints (Stillwater,
OK)
CoBank
Cutthroat Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Denver Audubon Society
El Paso County Bar Association
Honors Leadership Program, CU
Denver
Next Step Ministries
Rising Sun 4x4 Club
Rollins College (FL)
Sanborn Western Camps
STEM DSST Byers Middle School
Silverheels Middle School Re-2
Team Rubicon
Teens INC.
The Classical Academy
The Nature Conservancy
United Methodist Church (Clinton, KS)
United Methodist Church (Eureka, MO)
United Methodist Church (Joplin, MO)
Up With People

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous – 7

Steve Allard
George Anthony
Greg & Rhonda Aplet
Gregory Baker
Tim & Linda Balough
Jean & Rip Blaisdell
James Brozo
Jonathan & Jennifer Bruno
Lynne & Gary Buchanan
Christina Burri
Susan Burrows
Linda & Tom Camblin
Laura Canby
Chris Carlson & Marty Wolf
Pricilla Clayton
Todd Clayton
Deborah Clendenning
Stacey Cochran
Connie Cooper
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William & Dorothy Plume
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Tony & Nancy Radecki
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Ann Rhodes
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Jean Smith
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Lauren Verno
Jeffery Wageman
Jack Wallick
Jim Winzenburg
Carle Zimmerman & Rita Derjue
Diane Zingler

GROUPS, HOAs, PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Colorado Combined
Campaign
Cutthroat Chapter Trout
Unlimited
Ridgewood HOA
Stagestop HOA
Sportsmens' Paradise
Swayback Ranch

IN MEMORIUM

In honor of **JoAnn Dufty**
In memory of **Leo Hiller**
In honor of **Caroline**

Coalition for the Upper South Platte

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