

2018 Annual Report



WWW.CUSP.WS

OUR MISSION

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.



OUR VISION

*A healthy watershed now ~
and in the future.*



DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

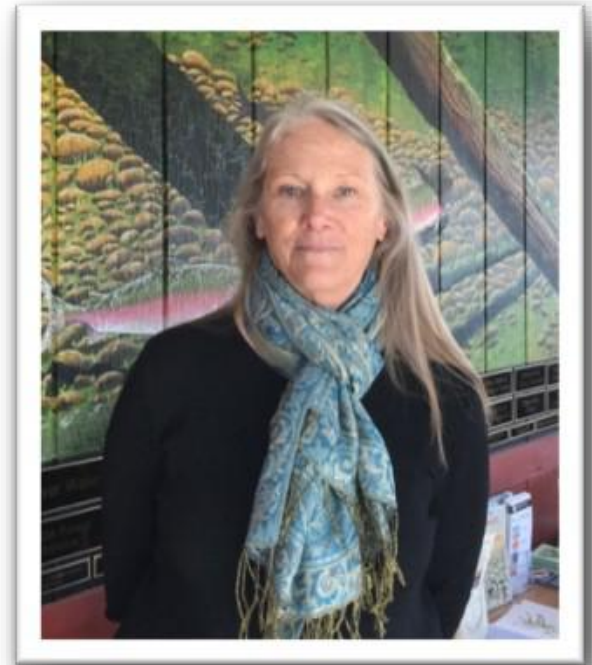
We are told that “today is the first day of the rest of your life” and for CUSP 2018 is the first year of our third decade of service to the Upper South Platte Watershed. In our first 20 years, we have grown to encompass many different programs and projects, all with the health of the watershed in mind. As one small measure of our impact in our community in the past 20 years, CUSP has hosted thousands of volunteers who have given hundreds of thousands of hours for the full range of projects we have been able to accomplish.

Forest-health work and post-fire rehabilitation continue to be our largest programs, making a vital difference to the area. Forest-health includes mitigation projects, the neighborhood fuels reduction program, and individual property mitigation to reduce the effects of wildfire. Post-fire rehabilitation continues in the Hayman and Waldo Canyon burn areas, along with planning for projects in last year’s Weston Pass fire scar.

The South Platte Baseline Study was completed in 2018, with funding from the South Platte Enhancement Board. The study included extensive field monitoring, including producing over 1,200 photo points, bank stability data, and a complete survey of most reaches, including longitudinal profile and cross-sections, and habitat analysis, as well as gathering historic information. Over 70 miles of the mainstem of the South Platte and the North Fork. The report, and associated recommendations for projects to protect the river, is available on the CUSP website: <https://cusp.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/South-Platte-Baseline-2018-finalWeb.pdf>

As we look forward to the next 20 years of service to the watershed, we continue to seek alternative funding opportunities for sustainability of the organization. The fourth year of the study of wood rotting mushrooms shows continued success in degrading wood by-products from forest health work. We expect continued success, and possibly a low-cost method to return the wood chips to nutrients for the forest. Also, in 2018 CUSP submitted an avoided wildfire carbon protocol to the American Carbon Registry. The purpose of the protocol, if approved, is to create a new funding stream for forest mitigation projects. We have revitalized our planned giving program and will continue to update and communication information on the many giving options available to support CUSP’s sustainability.

Everything we accomplish is made possible by our partnerships, funders and donors. The entire CUSP organization is humbled by your continued trust and support of the vital work for the watershed community.





CAROL EKARIUS, CEO

UPPER SOUTH PLATTE WATERSHED

WATERSHED WORK 2018

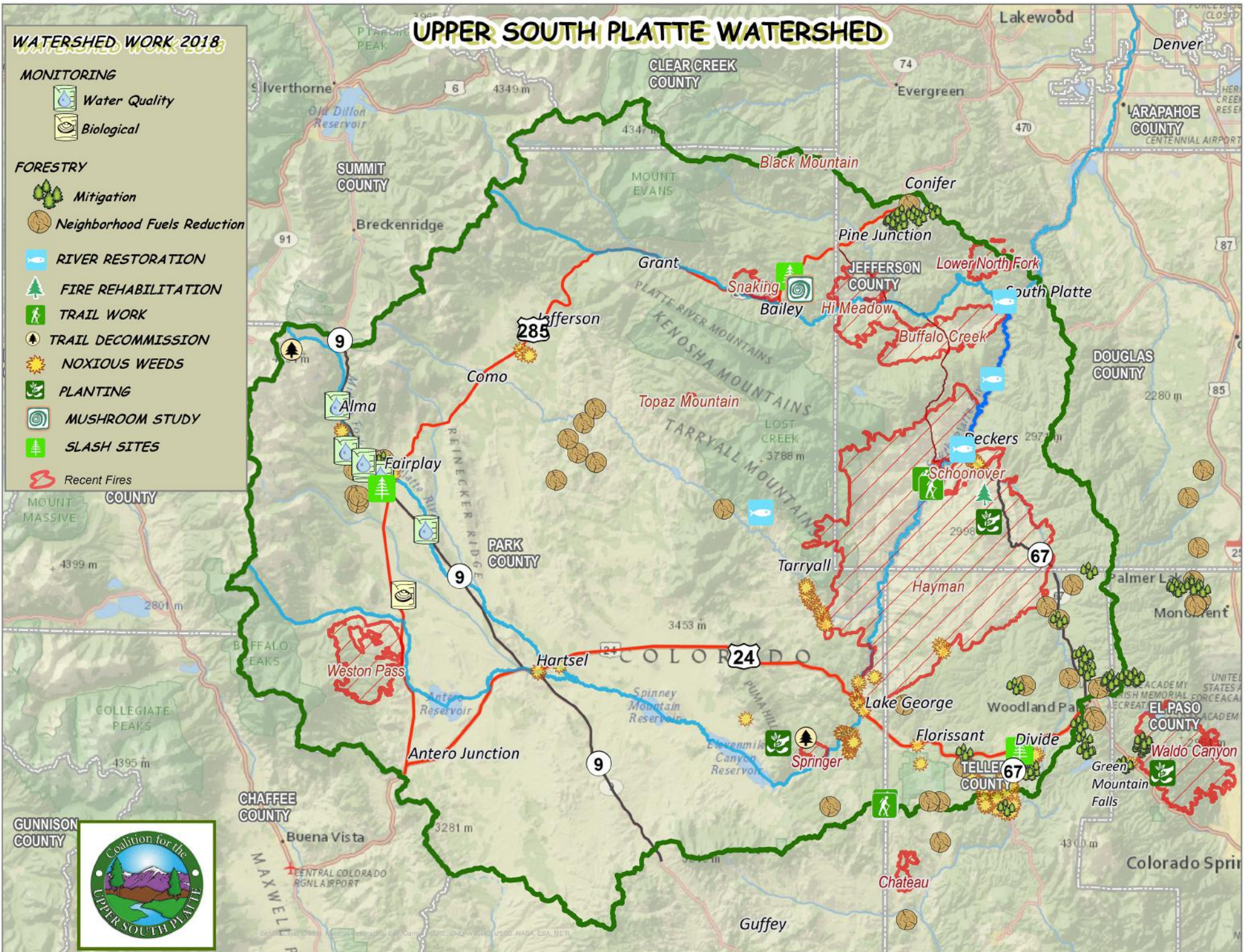
MONITORING

-  Water Quality
-  Biological

FORESTRY

-  Mitigation
-  Neighborhood Fuels Reduction
-  RIVER RESTORATION
-  FIRE REHABILITATION
-  TRAIL WORK
-  TRAIL DECOMMISSION
-  NOXIOUS WEEDS
-  PLANTING
-  MUSHROOM STUDY
-  SLASH SITES

 Recent Fires



WATER QUALITY



Quality is not an act, it is a habit.

-Aristotle



MIDDLE FORK WATER QUALITY TESTING

CUSP sampled water quality in six locations spanning twelve miles of the South Platte River from Alma to Fairplay. A Park County Land and Water Trust Fund grant supported the work in response to citizen concerns regarding the impacts of modern and historic mining activities.

The test results met water quality standards for all constituents tested. The data suggested the value of additional testing above Alma.

Read more: www.CUSP.WS/reports

DECKERS FISHING ACCESS STAIRS

Uncontrolled access to the river by fishing enthusiasts has impacted habitat in the Deckers area, creating bank degradation and erosion issues in the river. Construction of natural stone stairs helps direct access and allows the river bank to recover.

The project partners included the South Park Enhancement Board and the Cutthroat Chapter of Trout Unlimited. TU members also volunteered for construction work days.



UPPER SOUTH PLATTE HABITAT INVENTORY

In partnership with the South Park Enhancement Board, CUSP completed baseline data gathering for over 70 miles of the mainstem and North Fork South Platte River.

Over 1,200 data and photo points were established. Data collected includes: river and bank conditions, erosion potential, and in-stream features.

This data may be used as a baseline to measure changes in the river and inform future projects.

Read more: www.CUSP.WS/reports



SAND CREEK CHANNEL WORK

During 2015 flooding, water flows bypassed the historic creek channel and diversion. Restoration of the creek included re-establishing flows into the creek channel, removing debris from a pond, replacing flume and gate, and creating fish-friendly passage through the structures.

This project was completed in partnership with Palmer Land Trust, with funding from Great Outdoors Colorado, and the Park County Land and Water Trust Fund.

FOREST HEALTH



Of all the paths
you take in life,
make sure a few of
them are dirt.

-John Muir

NEIGHBORHOOD FUELS REDUCTION

Since 2004, CUSP has provided property owners an on-site alternative for disposal of slash from fire fuels mitigation efforts. The chipping program served neighborhoods and individuals in 2018 with our mobile chipper brought directly to the mitigation projects.

Homeowners spent 9,706 hours on 446 properties treating 951 acres across 27 communities.



SLASH MULCH SITES

CUSP operates three slash disposal sites in Divide, Bailey and Fairplay.

Partnership with Teller and Park Counties allows a low cost location to dispose of slash and pick up free mulch for landscaping.

The sites received 3,055 loads of slash from over 600 properties, as the result of 10,700 hours of mitigation work on properties throughout the community.



UPPER SOUTH PLATTE PARTNERSHIP FUELS MITIGATION

Working in the northern portion of our watershed, we treated 52 acres. Beaver Ranch, a Jefferson County Open Space park, provides a great area to view fuels mitigation projects.

USPP projects have been completed in partnership with: The Nature Conservancy, Colorado State Forest Service, Denver Water, US Forest Service, Jefferson Conservation District, American Forest Foundation, Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

GREATER WOODLAND PARK HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE

Implementation of the 2017 GWPHFI is proceeding with fire mitigation on properties in Green Mountain Falls, including parcels with public trail access.

Funding for this mitigation work is provided by the Colorado State Forest Service and Colorado Springs Utilities. CSU has invested considerable resources to help maintain a healthy watershed surrounding its Catamount-area water sources.



POST-FIRE REHABILITATION



The drought-ravaged summer of 2018 was an expensive one for firefighting, with costs reaching an estimated \$130 million for 18 fires.

- The Colorado Sun



CUSP's trained firefighters responded to the Chateau Fire in Teller County, and numerous other small fires in support of the Florissant Fire Protection District and Teller County.



POST-FIRE RECOVERY PROJECTS

Hayman Fire (2002): Restoration continues for erosion control and habitat recovery.

Waldo Canyon Fire (2012): 900 trees planted in burn scar.

Springer Gulch Fire (2012): 180 trees planted in burn scar.

Weston Pass Fire (2018): Recovery planning for flood mitigation work in 2019.

Chateau Fire (2018): Survey and recommendations to Teller County Office of Emergency Management.



VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;
they just have the heart.

-Elizabeth Andrew

Thank You Volunteer Groups

(and individuals too numerous to list)

Colorado Trout Unlimited
Boy Scouts of America, Troop 88
Colorado College
Cutthroat Chapter Trout Unlimited
DSST Byers High School
El Paso County Bar Association
First United Methodist Church, Colo Spgs
Mile High Jeep Club
Next Step Ministries
Peterson Air Force Base
Pikes Peak Chapter Trout Unlimited
Rollins College
Rotary Club
Sanborn Western Camps
Silver Heels Middle School
Team Rubicon
The Classical Academy
Up With People

2018

VOLUNTEERS

1,374 individuals
volunteered
9,287 hours
volunteered
\$190,000 value



VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN

Our impact depends on our volunteers. We are so grateful to all the people who come out to work on projects such as: trail maintenance, clean up, weed mitigation, tree planting, and burned area restoration.



EXAMPLE VOLUNTEER PROJECT: WILL SEAWELL EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Will brought together 15 volunteers to complete 127.5 hours of work in the Horse Creek area. Dead trees and other debris were removed from an ephemeral drainage. 910 square feet of jute matting was installed and seeded with native mix to reduce erosion and impacts from water and flooding.



EXAMPLE VOLUNTEER PROJECT: EL PASO BAR ASSOCIATION

The El Paso Bar Association has returned year after year for tree planting projects in burned areas to control erosion and restore the forest. They also contribute financially toward these projects.

In 2018, 58 volunteers donated 348 hours of their time planting 900 Douglas Fir seedlings over 8.5 acres in the Rampart Range area of the Waldo Canyon burn.

TRAIL WORK FOR HABITAT PROTECTION

Trails can also be a source of erosion and unwanted access to closed areas. CUSP staff and volunteers combined to complete extensive trail work in 2018:

- 394 ft of road and trail decommissioned
- 4,455 ft of new trail constructed
- 175 trail structures constructed
- 1,343 ft of fencing constructed to block social trails and provide habitat protection
- 1,490 volunteer hours on trails



SANBORN CAMPS

- Trail work on residential camp property
- 680 ft new and improved trail
- 36 trail structures installed or improved

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NAT'L MONUMENT

- 364 ft of trail improved

DENVER WATER'S GILL TRAIL

- Access to Cheesman Reservoir
- 1,591 ft new and maintained trail
- 89 trail structures installed or improved



NOXIOUS WEEDS



Colorado Property Owners are required by law to control noxious weeds on their property. Weeds have significant impacts to private property, grazing lands, and water quality.

CUSP partners with the US Forest Service, Colorado Department of Agriculture, landowners, and volunteers to complete noxious weed treatments.

In 2018, CUSP inventoried 571 acres and treated 164 acres of noxious weeds.



Correct identification of noxious weeds is vital to understanding effective control.

Local Weed Management Offices and Conservation Districts are key resources regarding weeds of concern, identification, and preferred methods for effective eradication.

Weed information:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/noxiousweeds>

WHAT ELSE ARE WE DOING?

MOBILE MAP

Staff is using a new tool to collect field data. Mobile Map allows field crews to create accurate maps and pin-point key sites and locations, to upload the data for sharing on a cloud-based site, and to download current information collected by other staff.

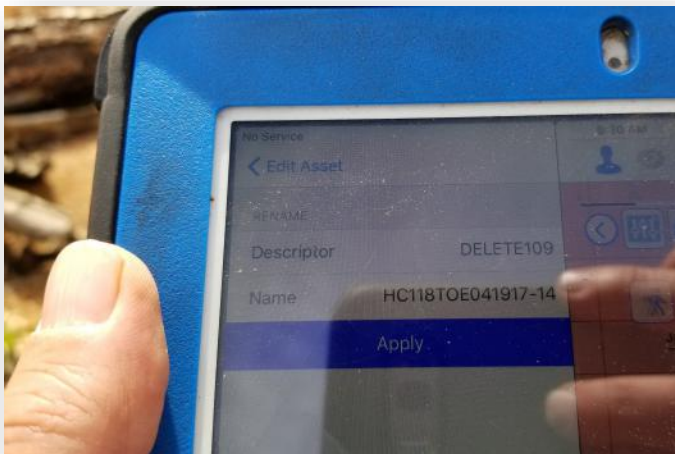
Mobile Map data is compatible with US Forest Service data for effective sharing.



AVOIDED WILDFIRE CARBON OFFSET PROTOCOL

A carbon offset credit is a measurement of the reduction of Carbon Dioxide in tons. These credits can be sold to carbon producers and other interested parties. CUSP has developed and submitted a proposed offset protocol to the American Carbon Registry. If approved by ACR, this will provide additional funding streams to reduce fire potential and intensity.

Read more: www.CUSP.WS/reports/avoided-wildfire-carbon-offset-protocol/





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: HIGH CREEK FEN

In partnership with the South Park National Heritage Area and Park County middle school students and teachers, we have completed 10 of years of monitoring and data collection at High Creek Fen. Students observe and document pH, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, macroinvertebrates, aquatic life, and rare plant species. They explore the archeology and history of this unique site.

MUSHROOM STUDY

CUSP's program to study degradation of wood chips with native mushrooms entered its fourth year in 2018. The program goal is to perfect this cost effective method to break-down woody debris left after forest health clearing activities. The use of native wood rotting fungi can reverse the impacts of mitigation activities on the forest floor, from stagnation to increased fertility and improved biodiversity.

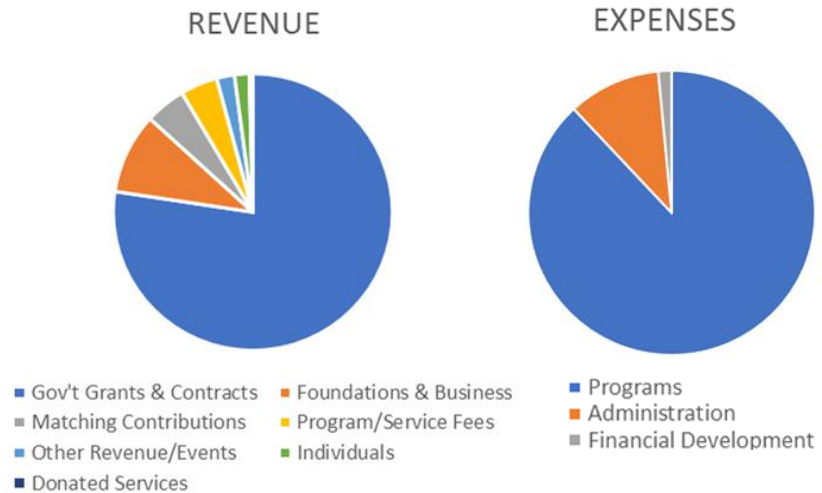
The continued success of this innovative study will lead to research into large scale application going forward.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

2018 Financial Report

ASSETS	2018	2017
Current	\$ 213,213	\$ 176,103
<i>Cash & cash equivalents, accounts receivable, grants, etc.</i>		
Property & Equipment (Fixed)	\$ 142,364	\$ 197,840
<i>Land, buildings, vehicles, less accumulated depreciation</i>		
Other Assets	\$ 327,747	\$ 153,187
<i>Note(s) receivable, mineral interests</i>		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 683,324	\$ 527,130
LIABILITIES		
Current	\$ 196,571	\$ 166,903
<i>Accounts payable, accrued liabilities, etc.</i>		
Long Term	\$ 42,795	\$ 50,684
<i>Land, buildings, vehicles & equipment</i>		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 239,366	\$ 217,587
NET ASSETS	\$ 443,958	\$ 309,543
REVENUE	2018	2017
<i>Government grants & contracts</i>	\$ 1,235,136	\$ 758,689
<i>Foundations, corporations, businesses</i>	\$ 150,086	\$ 163,515
<i>Donated services, equipment & materials</i>	\$ 6,372	\$ 144,650
<i>Program/service fees</i>	\$ 68,700	\$ 101,316
<i>Individual contributions</i>	\$ 27,394	\$ 23,537
<i>Other revenue & events</i>	\$ 32,945	\$ 4,580
<i>Matching contributions</i>	\$ 75,495	\$ 252,156
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,596,128	\$ 1,448,443
<i>In-Kind Contributions</i>	\$ 155,535	
<i>In-Kind Matching Contributions</i>	\$ 62,637	
TOTAL IN-KIND	\$ 218,172	
EXPENSES		
<i>Programs and support services</i>	\$ 1,178,967	\$ 1,178,998
<i>General Administration</i>	\$ 139,966	\$ 148,926
<i>Financial Development</i>	\$ 20,045	\$ 51,021
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,338,978	\$ 1,378,945



The major source of revenue for CUSP are grants and agreements. General donations support initial project planning and development to develop projects for grant submittal.

A few of the expenses donations support—

\$1,200 average daily cost to implement a volunteer project

\$30,000 annually for equipment maintenance and operation

\$7,000 annually to outfit fire crew and support training

\$7,000 annually for software licenses and upgrades

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christina Burri, Chair; Denver Water

Lynne Buchanan, Vice Chair; Interested Individual

Jim Idema, Treasurer; Interested Individual

Dan Drucker, Secretary; Center of CO

Water Conservancy District

Karen Berry; Jefferson Conservation District, CGS

Mary Dawson; City of Aurora

Marc Dettenreider; Teller County

Swithin Dick; Centennial Water

Tom Eisenman; Park County

Eric Howell; Colorado Springs Utilities

Lynda James; Upper South Platte Water Conservancy
District

Don Logelin; Pikes Peak Chapter Trout Unlimited

Patrick O'Connell; Jefferson County

Suzanne O'Neill; Colorado Wildlife Federation

Tom Repp; Douglas County

Josh Voorhis; United States Forest Service



TELLER COUNTY
COLORADO
Protect the Past...Embrace the Future

Upper South Platte
Water Conservancy District



JEFFERSON
COUNTY COLORADO



CENTENNIAL
WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

Colorado Springs Utilities
It's how we're all connected

Pike and San Isabel National Forests
Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands



JEFFERSON
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



DOUGLAS COUNTY
COLORADO



DENVER WATER

OUR SINCERE THANK YOU

GOVERNMENT AND AGENCIES

Bureau of Land Management
Centennial Water and Sanitation District
Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
City of Aurora
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Colorado Springs Utilities
Colorado State Forest Service
Colorado State Land Board
Denver Water
Douglas County
Jefferson County
Park County
Park County Land and Water Trust Fund
Teller County
United States Forest Service
Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District

BUSINESS/BUSINESS GROUPS

Amazon Smile
Buy Land America, LLC
FIN-UP Habitat
Intermountain Rural Electric Association
Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc.
Mountain Equipment Recyclers
Nationwide Insurance
Newmont Legacy Fund
Shell Oil Company Foundation
Woodland Hardware

FOUNDATIONS, FUNDS, NON-PROFITS

ARIA Foundation - Green Highway
Benevity
Beaird Family foundation
Colorado Combined Campaign
Community First Foundation
Creative Providers Foundation/ PK Enterprises
Cutthroat Chapter Trout Unlimited
Leighty Foundation
Palmer Land Trust

Pikes Peak Chapter Trout Unlimited
Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Pikes Peak Council of Boy Scouts
Ben Roethlisberger Foundation at the Giving Back Fund
Sanborn Camps
South Park Enhancement Board
South Park National Heritage Area
Telluride Mushroom Festival
The Nature Conservancy

HOMEOWNER'S ASSOC AND GROUPS

Burland Estates
Echo Valley
Foxtail Pines
Indian Mountain
Landis Ranch
Ridgewood
Sportsmen's Paradise
Stagestop Owners Association
Swayback Ranch Fishing Club
Ute Lakes
Valley Park

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Anonymous—7

Kristine Ackerman

Paul & Joy Adams

Steve & Michelle Allard

Steve & Stephanie Anderson

Bob & Misi Ballard

Rip & Jean Blaisdell

Neil & Michal Botting

Rosann M Bowen

Jennifer & Jonathan Bruno

Bart Brown

Gary & Stephanie Brown

Dave Brown

James Brozo

Gary & Lynne Buchanan

Kim Bundgaard

Christina Burri

Susan & Brent Burrows

Priscilla & Todd Clayton

Deborah Clendenning

Stacey Cochran &
Bruce Metzger

Michelle & Tim Connelly

John & Danna Crutchfield

CUSP Staff

Carol & Donald Davis

Swithin Dick

Dan Drucker

Kim Dufty

Ann Dyrsten

Tims & Cathy Edwards

Carol Ekarius & Ken Woodard

Rick & Tonya Favinger

Nell & Lou Fletcher

Jeffrey & Deborah Fowler

Robert Frichtel

Chris Fuller

Candace Galen

Pete Gallagher

Caleb & Sidney Gates Jr

Connie Gibbons

Charles Glover

Nathan Goudeau

Kat Herrera

Jim Idema

Jara Johnson & Tim Zingler

Patricia M Johnson

Ruth Johnson-Mullis

Kathleen Jones

Bob & Jane Justis

Ellen Kennedy

Don & Sue Kennedy

Brad & Chris Klafehn

Robert Kowalski

Leon & Dina Krain

Joe Kraudelt

David Kwolek

JD & Pam Leonard

Don Logelin

Rose Long

David Lord

Carrie & Gene Marsh

Matthew Matwijec

Sara Mayben

Jerome & Betty McLain

Mike Meadors &

Karen Dudnikov

Mark & Cyndi Milligan

Patti & Paul Newman

Suzanne O'Neill

Jim & Cynthia Pardikes

Carol & Robert Phelps

David Powell

T. R. Reid

Joy & Michael Reis

Ann Rhodes

Don & LaNeal Rojas

Dave Root

Ralph & Julia Rothstein

Richard Sallee

Matthew Sayer

John Schwabe &

Patty Glatfelter

Malcolm & Nichole Seawell

Will Seawell

Peggy & William Setter

Gerald & Janet Shin

Cameron Sims

Jean Smith

Gail & Randy Smith

The Snows

Bonnie & Mark Sumner

Chris Sutton

Caesar Sweitzer

Chuck & Mary Ann Todd

Steve Vela

Lauren Verno

Jack Wallick

Arnold & Ruth Wills

Nathaniel Zajac

Carle Zimmerman &
Rita Derjue

HONORARY DONATIONS

In honor of Woody & Luna
Faircloth

In honor of JoAnn Dufty

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of Al & Susan Reis

In memory of Dolores Layba

In memory of Andrew Wayne
Dyer



To appreciate the
beauty of a snowflake,
it is necessary to stand
outside.

- *Aristotle*

