All Hands, All Lands
Proactive investments in forests and watersheds

Christina Burri
Watershed Scientist
Denver Water facts

• Established in 1918.
• Governed by Board of Water Commissioners. (separation from the City of Denver)
• Serve 1.4 million people (25% of state’s population) using less than 2% of water used in the state.
• Total watershed area: 4,000 square miles. (State’s third largest public landowner)
The Journey of Water
Denver Water Strategic Plan

Strategic Perspective: *Excellent Operations* – An organization that is effective, efficient, and strategically driven.

Strategic Goal: *We strategically align our projects and programs to provide the best value to our customers.*

Strategic Objective: *We sustain healthy watersheds and an excellent collection, treatment, and delivery system to provide high quality water at an affordable price.*
Denver Water partnership commitments

From Forests to Faucets

• $66 million investment 2010-2021 - Denver Water committed $33M.

• Partners include DW, CSFS, NRCS, USFS and USPP.

• Proactively improve the health and resiliency of forests and watersheds.

• Focus in areas critical for providing and delivering water to Denver Water customers.
Denver Water partnership commitments

Forest and Land Management Services Agreement

• CSFS has been Denver Water’s forester for more than 30 years.

• CSFS manages 60,000 acres of Denver Water lands.

• A four-year agreement with yearly operating plans.
Sedimentation after Buffalo Creek Fire
Strontia Springs after Buffalo Creek Fire
Strontia Springs after Buffalo Creek Fire
Strontia Springs Reservoir Sedimentation

- **28,000 cy/year**
- **20,000 cy/year**
- **Buffalo Creek Fire June 1996**
- **Leveling off period**
- **Large storm around Deckers summer 2006**
Water quality impacts

Turbidity, TOC, chromium, copper and lead
Cost of reacting

$27.7 million after Buffalo Creek and Hayman wildfires
Cheesman Reservoir
1900

Cheesman Reservoir
2002
Facility protection treatments at Cheesman Reservoir

Non-treated area

Fuel break treatment area
From Forests to Faucets
2007 in Dillon Reservoir Priority Watershed
From Forests to Faucets
283 Acres Treatment in 2013
From Forests to Faucets
2009 in Dillon Reservoir Priority Watershed
From Forests to Faucets
98 Acres Treated in 2013
Buffalo Mountain Fire

- Proactive fuel breaks protect nearly $1 billion in homes, infrastructure during Summit County wildfire June 2018.
- Fuel breaks saved nearly 1,400 residences near Silverthorne.
- From Forests to Faucets helped CSFS and USFS implement more than 900 acres of hazardous fuels reduction projects next to neighborhoods above Silverthorne.
Final priority with Zones of Concern map

Upper South Platte Watershed with 11 mile upstream distance
Forest health and fuels reduction
Restored Ponderosa Pine forest
Horse Creek sediment impacts

Alluvial fan along Horse Creek
Horse Creek water quality
Horse Creek confluence with South Platte

Elevated levels of Mn, SS, P, TOC, NH3
Thank you