

COLORADO SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Scope: State

Location: Colorado

SCOPE:

- » Efforts are to protect watersheds and surface water sources which serve approximately 4.5 million people in Colorado.
- » Partnership between the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), US Forest Service, and US Environmental Protection Agency.
- » Objective is to offer grants and technical assistance to public water systems (PWSs) and communities who implement source water protection plans, based on the state's source water assessment.
- » Supports a project in the Upper South Platte Watershed, Headwaters to Denver Metro Area, to protect surface water sources serving drinking water to about 75% of Colorado's population.

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) and the Rocky Mountain Region of the US Forest Service.

Urban Waters Partners are currently conducting Source Water Protection Planning for the Upper South Platte (led by Denver Water, CDPHE, and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) with large stakeholder involvement). In the past, Coca-Cola and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have funded watershed tree planting, reseeding and post-wildfire erosion control in the Upper South Platte.

MEMBERS:

- » State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- » United States Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region
- » Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- » Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)
- » US Environmental Protection Agency
- » Colorado Rural Water Association (technical and community-organizing assistance)

WATER CONCERNS:

- » Contamination from fuel storage tanks
- » Spills and sediment issues from highways/roads
- » Irrigation ditch leakage and irrigation recharge
- » Mining, resource development, and oil and gas operations
- » Urban runoff

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- » Wildfire impacts on source waters
- » Source water contamination from all sources

STRATEGIES:

- » Establish framework for CDPHE and Forest Service to work together to make source water protection a planning tool for both agencies...
 - Share data and information between two agencies
 - Promote awareness and education within community and respective agencies
- » Local Assistance Unit of CDPHE offers free technical assistance and training to public water systems throughout Colorado.
- » Establishing a variety of grant programs for PWSs. For example, the state of Colorado has provided the opportunity for public water systems to receive up to \$5,000 to support the development and implementation of a source water protection plan. The \$5,000 Development and Implementation Grant is a one to one matching grant.
- » Online toolkit for communities creating a source water protection plan
- » Future work in the Upper South Platte watershed could include: stream restoration projects, post-fire mitigation, pre-fire mitigation, working with private landowners through the Jefferson Conservation District, funding to Colorado Rural Water for further Source Water Protection Plans.

RESULTS:

- » Source Water Protection Plans in the Upper South Platte as well as the Town of Basalt and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District No. 1. Both provide water supply and waste water treatment. Their plans can be found at <https://coloradoruralwater.sharepoint.com/Pages/SourceWaterProtection.aspx>
- » Maps outlining source water protection areas.
- » Source Water Protection Planning online educational toolkit at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-WQ/CBON/1251596794861>.