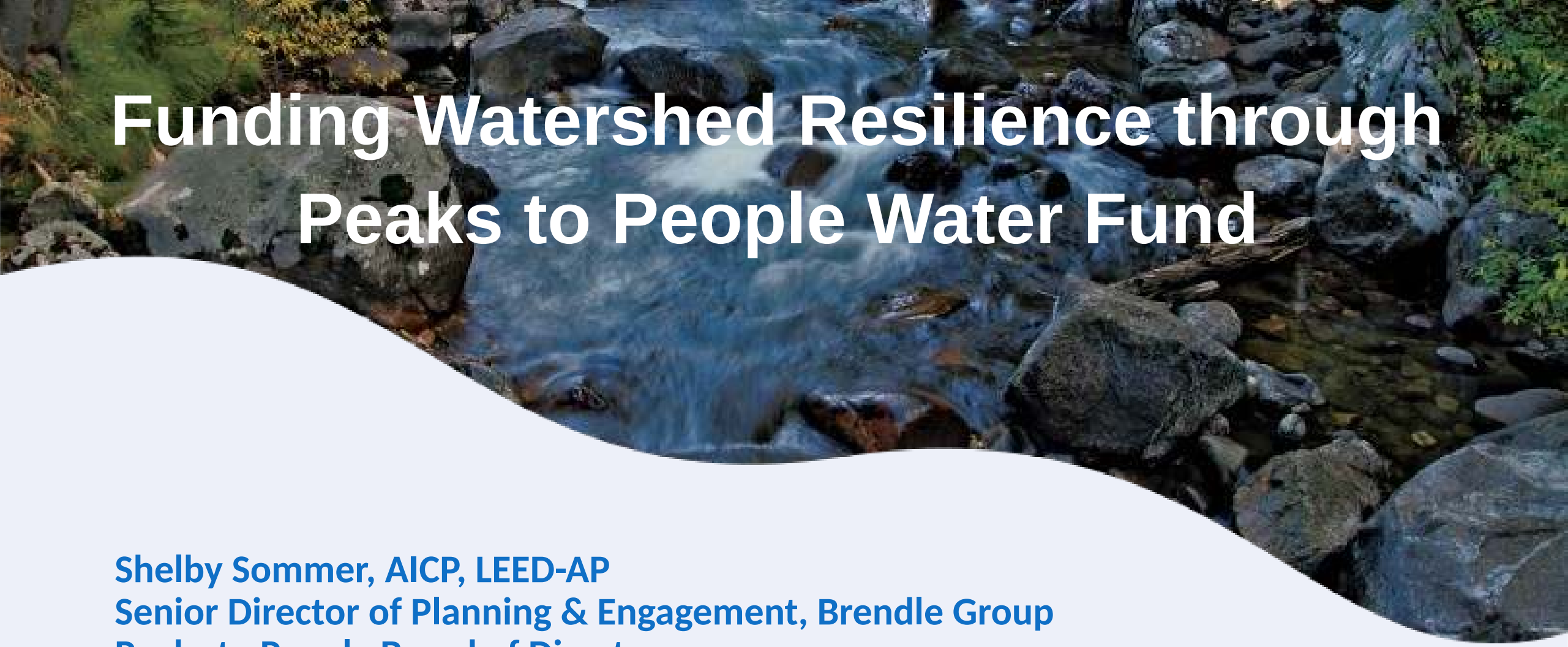

MT2030
CLIMATE
SUMMIT
SUN VALLEY 26
PRESENTED BY TORUS



Funding Watershed Resilience through Peaks to People Water Fund

Shelby Sommer, AICP, LEED-AP
Senior Director of Planning & Engagement, Brendle Group
Peaks to People Board of Directors

MT 2030 Solutions Lab: Wildfire Resilience
October 18, 2026

Peaks to People Water Fund

Colorado Water Depends on Forest Health





Forested watersheds provide
80% of our drinking water

Wildfire Risk

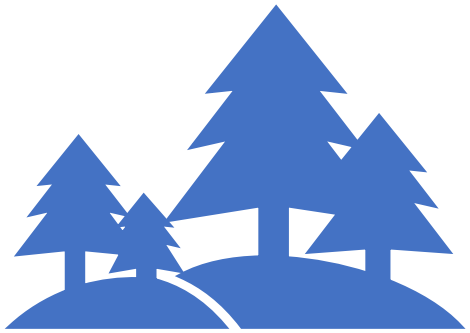
Colorado's forests have evolved with fire - it is natural in our ecosystems and sustains our forests.





However, due to fire suppression, Mountain Pine Beetle and other contributing factors, we are experiencing uncharacteristically severe wildfires.

The Need for Focused Investment



"Current and emerging conditions are threatening the health and resiliency of forests in Colorado. There is a solution, but it requires an investment in our forests that cannot be sporadic. Rather, that investment must be focused and strategic, cross-boundary and collaborative."



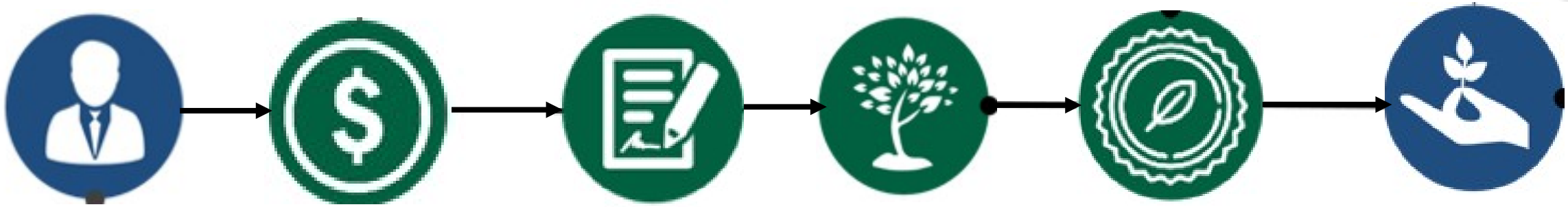
Michael Lester, former Director of Colorado State Forest Service and Peaks to People Board member

Water Fund Concept



Connect
Beneficiaries and
Land Managers

Pay for Performance Model



1. **Beneficiary** contributes to Water Fund.

2. **Water Fund** provides upfront capital to steward to implement project.

3. **Contract Mechanism** defines terms of payment and project deliverables.

4. **Ecological Benefits** are achieved.

5. **Steward** records project outcomes.

6. **Water Fund** reports ROI (ecological, economic and social) back to beneficiary.

From Concept to Reality

2008-2011

Colorado Conservation Exchange: ecosystem services marketplace

2012

CCE launched publicly

Focus on water

2013-2017

Peaks to People Water Fund named; funding secured

2018

Peaks to People receives nonprofit status; staff hired

Watershed Investment Tool launched

2021

Big Thompson Initiative launched

2022

Executive Director transition;

Big Thompson Watershed Health Partnership launched



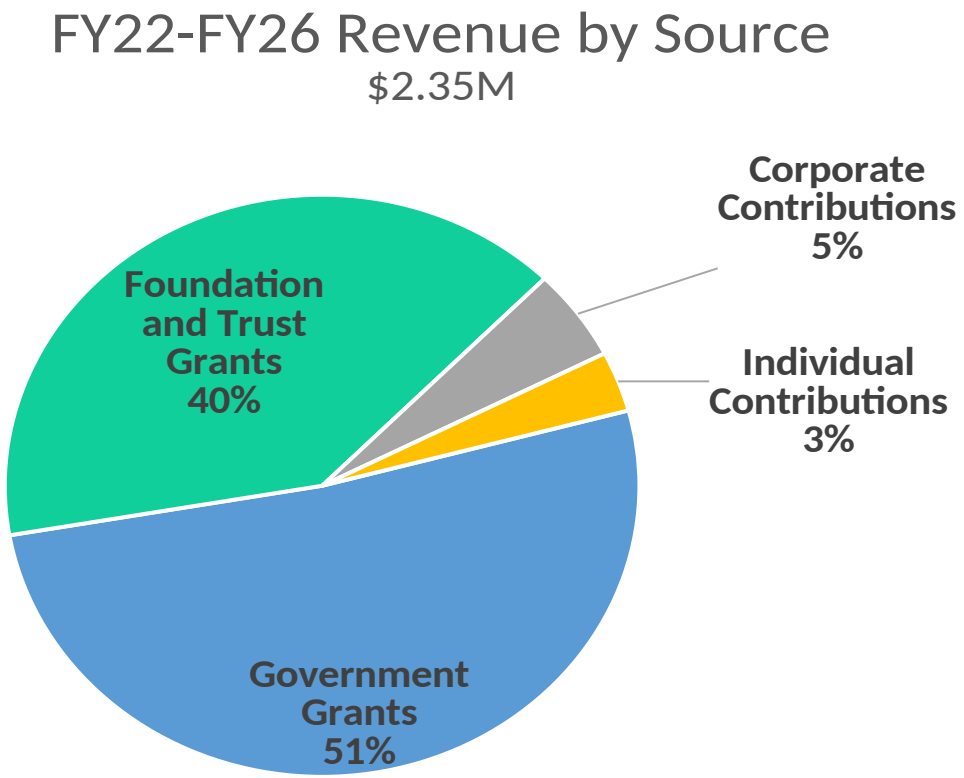
Peaks to People Water Fund

Peaks to People is a Northern Colorado nonprofit that brings diverse partners together to reduce wildfire risk at the watershed scale. By collaborating on forest restoration and other mitigation efforts, we protect regional water supplies and ensure our communities and local economies can thrive.

Recipe for Success

- Diversity of Funding
- Prioritization Process
- Reporting Impact
- Collaboration & Partnerships

Diversity of Funding



- Unrestricted funds cover operating expenses and help build reserves
- Fund contributions provide matching dollars for larger grants

Diversity of Funding

Stacking & Braiding Funding

	FRWRM Stage Route (2024)	Waltonia FRWRM (2023)
Funding from Peaks to People	$227,061	$110,557
Funding from TNC in partnership with Peaks to People	$5,000	$0
Funding from outside sources	$588,939	$154,000
Total project budget	$821,000	$264,557
Percent of project funded by Peaks to People	28%	42%
Other funding entities	Public: COSWAP Private: Northern Water	Public: COSWAP, USFS Private: Northern Water
Acres funded	136	25

Scaling Impact



"Peaks to People funding has really helped us grow our program by increasing the number and size of projects we can do. This has in turn allowed local logging contractors to hire additional help and purchase equipment which is increasing capacity. Not only does Peaks to People help the district with much needed funding but they are also helping us to prioritize our projects through the use of their Watershed Investment Tool."



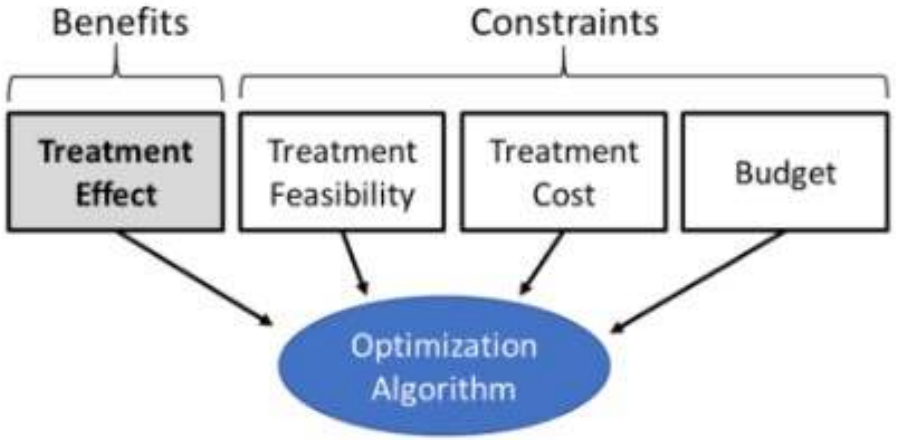
Matt Marshall former Forestry Program Manager, Larimer Conservation District

Prioritization Process

Objective: maximize risk reduction (minimize risk)

Decisions: where to treat and what treatment type to use

Model:



Output:

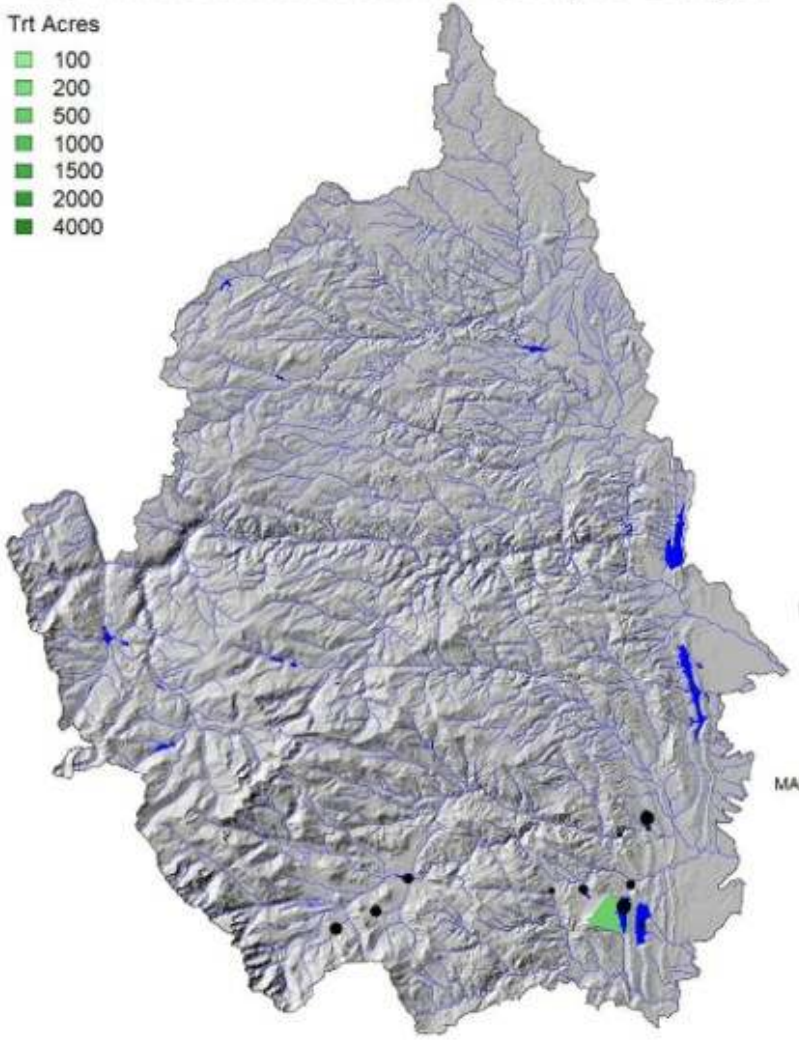
Acres to treat in each catchment by treatment type

Optimal Treatment Plan

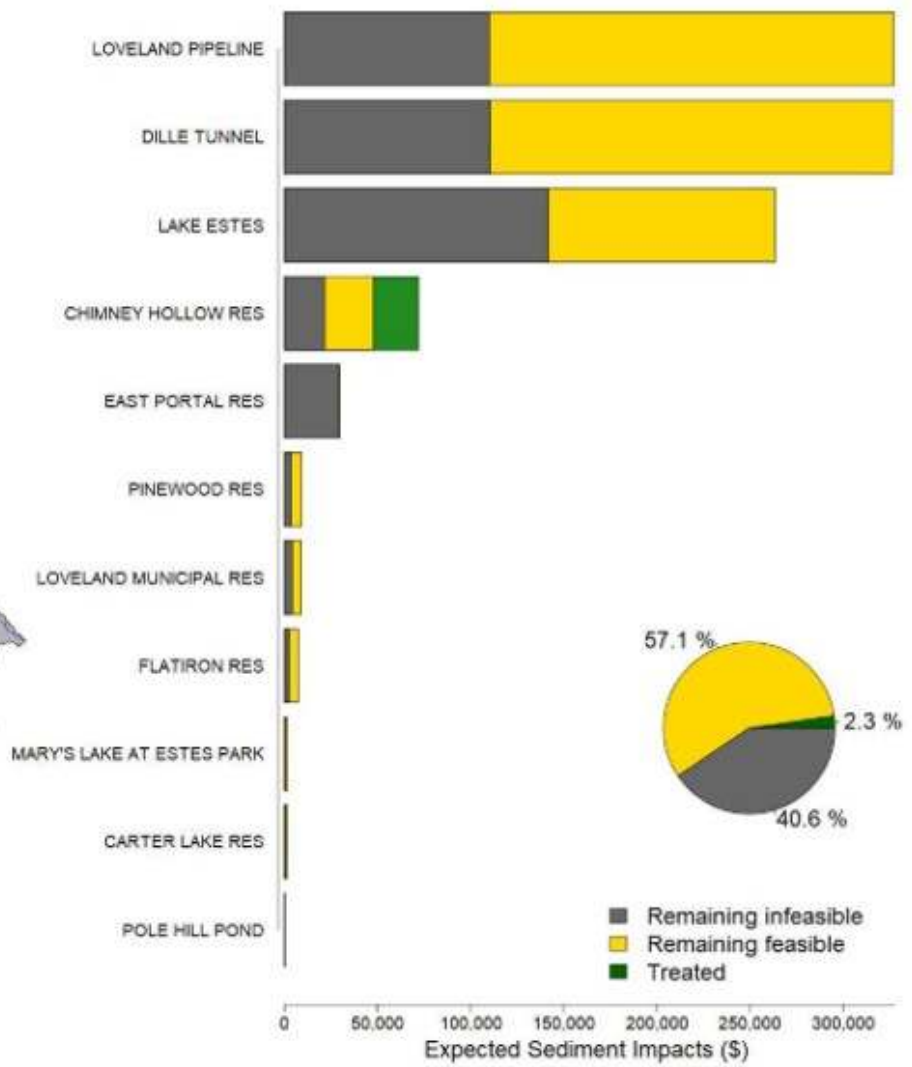


Prioritization Tool

Optimal Treatment Plan for $500,000 Budget



Risk to Water Supplies



Watershed Investment Tool

Metric	Value
Fuels reduction/forest restoration (acres)	452.8
Treated crucial wildlife habitat (acres)	0
Treated parks and open spaces (acres)	239.6
Treated fuels around recreational trails (miles)	0

Metric	Conditional	Expected
Reduced erosion (metric tons)	13,872	2,750
Reduced sediment delivered to streams (metric tons)	7,854	1,556
Reduced sediment delivered to water supplies (metric tons)	7,854	1,556
Reduced sediment costs to water supplies ($)	122,711	24,305
Reduced home loss (homes)	0.7	0.1
Reduced home loss ($)	235,062	34,806

Peaks to People Water Fund

Impact by the Numbers July 2026

Reporting Impact

25
Projects Funded

3,208
Acres of Fuels Reduction Funded

19,675
Metric tons of Avoided Sediment in Water Supplies

719
Acres of Severe Wildfire Avoided (Active Crown Fire Reduced)

1,582
Acres Crucial Wildlife Habitat Protected from Wildfire

368
Acres Parks and Open Space Protected from Wildfire

3,496
Homes Influenced (within 1km of Treatment Areas)







$9,505,887
Total Project Funding Secured to Date

$1,942,945
Funding Directed by Peaks to People Water Fund

$7,562,942
Funding from Outside Sources

20%
Percent of Project Funds Directed by Peaks to People

Accomplishments are modeled with Peaks to People' Water Fund's Watershed Investment Tool and Co-benefits Module.

Watershed Investment Tool

Peaks to People Water Fund

CHEROKEE PARK FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT

LARIMER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

plementing Agency:
rimer Conservation District

nding Agencies:
ıtural Resource Conservation Service
rimer County Emergency Services
aks to People Water Fund

nding Year:
23

eatment Type:
echanical Thinning

atershed:
ache la Poudre

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Location:

The project is in the Livermore, CO area and sits seven miles south of the Wyoming border, or eight miles north of Red Feather Lakes, CO

Historic forest type is largely Ponderosa Pine, interspersed with small stands of Lodgepole pine. The properties are currently experiencing encroachment of non-fire adapted species due to the absence of wildfire as a disturbance mechanism throughout the last 100+ years. Much of North Cherokee Park contains dead and downed pine trees as a result of Mountain Pine Beetles and the risk of catastrophic stand-replacing fire is extremely high. This project area requires heavy tree thinning to restore the forests to a healthy, ecologically functioning state.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

344 acres
Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration

21 homes
Homes Within Influence Zone of Treatments

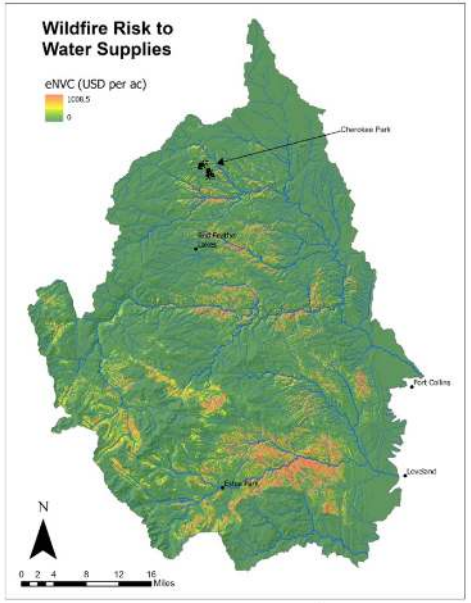
75 acres
Active Crown Fire Reduced

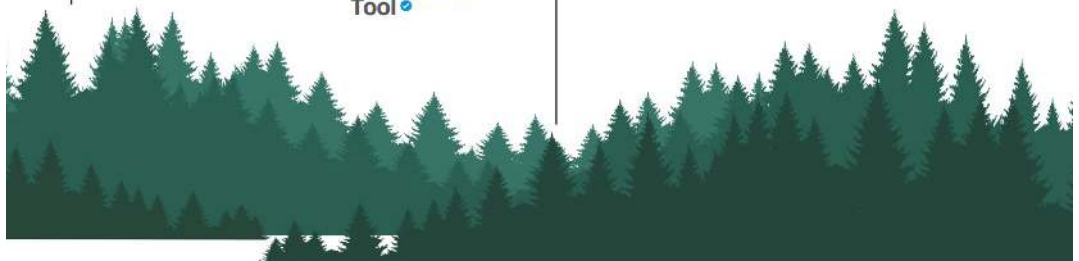
1,453 metric tons
Conditional Reduction in Sediment Delivered To Water Supplies

$9,623
Conditional Reduction in Sediment Costs to Water Supplies

3928 metric tons
Conditional Reduction in Erosion

Watershed Investment Tool





CHEROKEE PARK 2023


Before

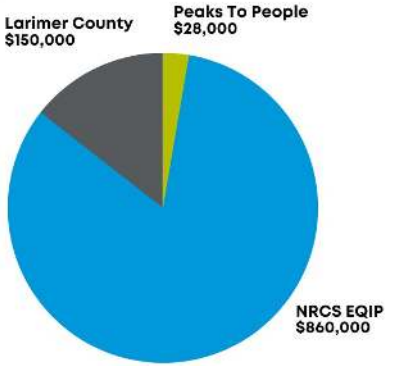

Before


During

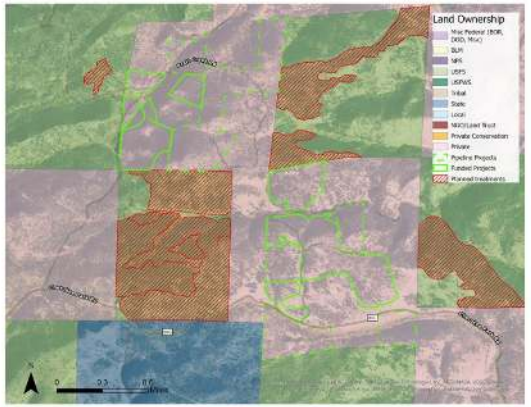
WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Cherokee Park Project is located in a low to moderate risk area in the Trail Creek watershed that drains into the North Fork, and then mainstem, of the Cache la Poudre River. There are major municipal water diversions for the Cities of Fort Collins and Greeley on both the North Fork and mainstem of the Cache la Poudre River. Halligan and Milton Seaman Reservoirs are on the North Fork. The City of Fort Collins depends on water diverted from the mainstem at either the North Poudre Supply Canal or the Fort Collins Pipeline near Gateway Natural Area.

FUNDING PROFILE

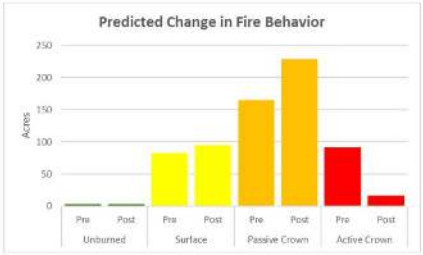


MAP



Detailed site map showing the funded project boundaries in green solid outlines and future pipeline projects in green dashed outlines, with land ownership depicted with shading and other planned projects in red.

PREDICTED CHANGE IN FIRE BEHAVIOR



CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE AND SUPPORT OUR WORK:

www.peakstopeople.org

info@peakstopeople.org

970-829-0020

Collaboration & Partnerships



LARIMER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Peaks to People Water Fund

BIG THOMPSON WATERSHED COALITION

LOVELAND FIRE RESCUE AUTHORITY

ESTES VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

ESTES VALLEY WATERSHED COALITION
Water · Forests · Wildlife

Estes Valley Land Trust

THE Ember Alliance

FOREST SERVICE U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Nature Conservancy

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

USDA

LARIMER COUNTY CONSERVATION CORPS

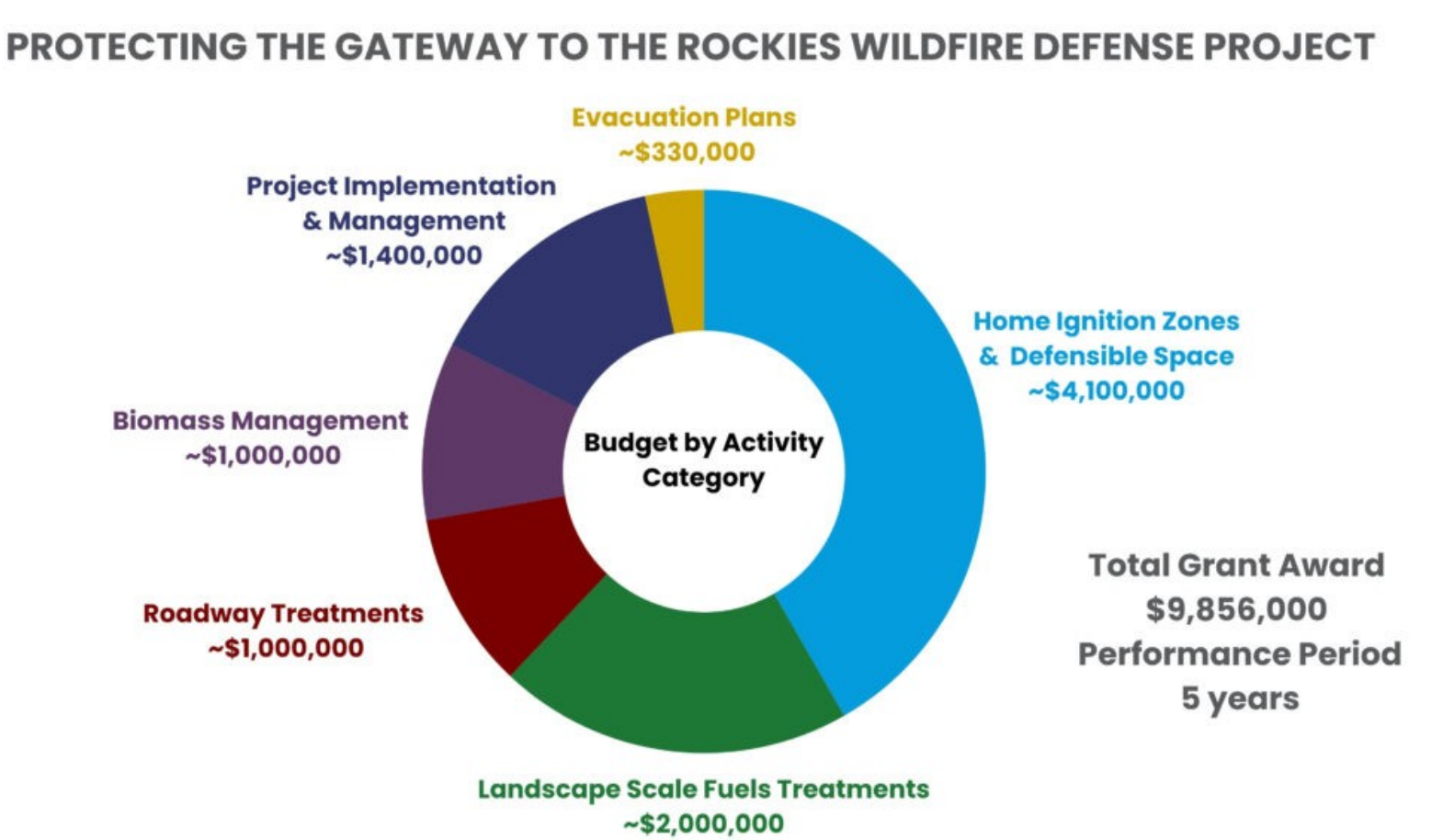
LARIMER COUNTY
COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Loveland Water and Power

City of Greeley Colorado

Northern Water

Collaboration Compounds



Thank you!

Shelby Sommer
Senior Director of Planning & Engagement, Brendle Group
ssommer@brendlegroup.com

Julie Dubin
Executive Director,
Peaks to People Water Fund
julie@peakstopeople.org

BrendleGroup.com

peakstopeople.org

brendle GROUP

Peaks to People Water Fund