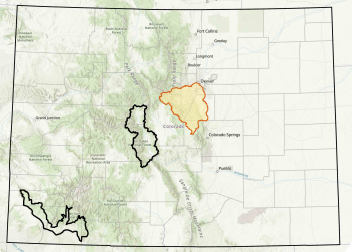


Colorado



Upper South Platte 2022 Review

By the Numbers

- \$3M** Funding awarded for new projects in the watershed
- 2,274** Acres in land treatments
- 305** Acres of piles burned by USFS
- 292** Home inspections conducted by four fire protection districts
- 930** Properties participated in chipping programs with four fire protection districts

New Funding Sources

In a Shared Stewardship approach to drawing attention, resources and funding to the Upper South Platte (USP) landscape, partners benefited from new funding sources.

Denver Water, the U.S. Forest Service, the Colorado State Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute signed the **Forests to Faucets III** MOU, which invests \$2 million for USPP non-federal lands for five years (2023-2028).

The **Colorado Front Range Priority Landscape**—encompassing about 3.6 million acres to include the USP landscape—was one of the 10 initial landscapes identified in the U.S. Forest Service’s 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy. Project areas, funded by the U.S. Forest Service, are located on the Arapaho, Roosevelt, Pike National Forests, and will include surrounding communities.

Administered by Colorado’s Department of Natural Resources, the **Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP)** staffed and funded projects led by USPP Partners Jefferson Conservation District, Genesee Foundation, Elk Creek Fire Protection District, Colorado State Forest Service, Denver Mountain Parks, Jefferson County Open Space, and Stewardship West.

Work in this landscape is led by the Upper South Platte Partnership (USPP), a collaboration between government agencies, water providers, nonprofit organizations and academic institutions. Partners share a vision of sustainable and resilient landscapes, healthy forests, fire-adapted communities, and efficient fire response and management in the Upper South Platte watershed—which supplies 80-90% of the water for Denver and Aurora metro areas’ 3 million residents.

Upper South Platte Partnership

The USPP reorganized, hired a watershed coordinator (funded by the USFS in a participating agreement with the CSFS) and revised its Structure & Protocols created in 2015. Today, the USPP collaboratively works to coordinate treatments and projects across federal and non-federal lands. The Partnership’s goal is to prioritize treatments in areas that will yield the greatest benefit, including on private, local, state, and federal lands.

1. U.S. Forest Service

- USFS RX Program total acres (Pile burning): **305**
- Initiated Rolling Creek Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) project
- Buffalo Creek – Pile burning (ongoing)
- Kelsey Project – Complete
- Harris Park Project – Hand thin/piling complete
- Jerome Miller/Miller Gulch – stewardship agreement with Stewardship West

2. State/Private Focus Areas (CSFS)

- Acres treated on 4 projects: **473**
- Smith Park – 63 acres
- Snowshoe – 100 acres
- McArthur Gulch – 153 acres
- Pleasant Ridge – 157 acres
- Deer Creek – Started Phase III

3. Jerome Miller - Miller Gulch Project

419 acres of the 1,521-acre project area have been completed. The project location is directly upstream of the Strontia Springs Reservoir, where about 80% of Denver’s drinking water passes through.

4. Jefferson Conservation District

- **561** acres of treatments completed (7 projects)
- Blue Creek 1 – 22 acres
- Gooseberry Lane – 90 acres
- Indian Creek – 165 acres
- Oehlmann Park 2 – 45 acres
- Rolling Creek 2 – 45 acres
- Singing River – 44 acres
- Yankee Creek – 150 acres

5. Denver Mountain Parks

- Acres treated on 5 projects: **420**
- Dedisse Park – 44.3 acres
- Bell Park – 220 acres
- Oehlmann Park – 78 acres
- Hobbs Peak – 38 acres
- N. Turkey Creek – 40 acres
- Pence Mountain & Filius Park – Started

6. Fire Protection Districts (FPDs)

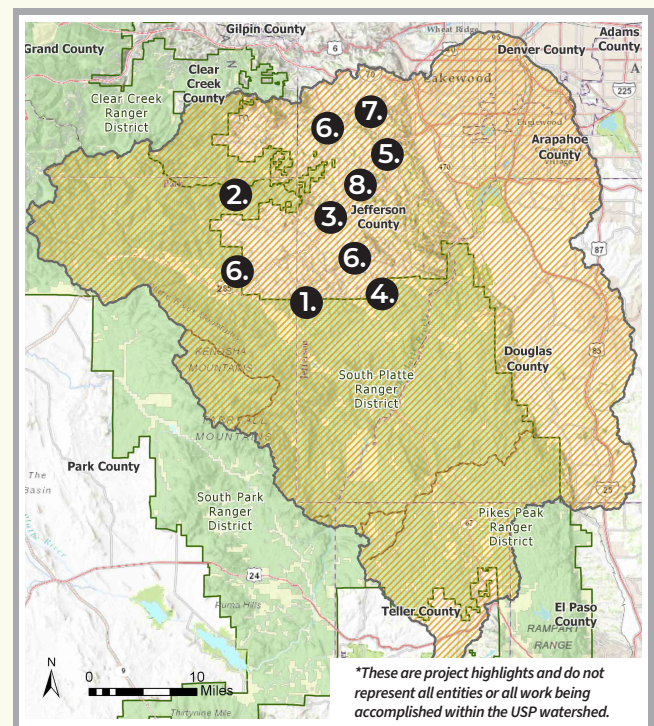
- Evergreen FPD completed **450** defensible space inspections; **140** homes participated in the chipping program; partnered on 2 COSWAP landscap grants; awarded 3 workforce grants;
- Elk Creek & Inter-Canyon FPD’s chipping program serviced **480** properties, chipping **3,575** piles
- Elk Creek, Inter-Canyon & North Fork FPD’s entered into a collaborative agreement – Conifer Wildland Division (new!); Partnered with Jefferson County and awarded a COSWAP grant
- Platte Canyon Fire FPD – Awarded COSWAP workforce grant

7. Genesee Foundation

- Treated **3,000 ft** of evacuation route in Genesee
- Awarded COSWAP workforce grant
- Acres restored on Genesee’s forest: **20**
- Collaborated with Genesee Fire District and awarded an Action, Implementation & Mitigation (AIM) grant
- Continued successful annual community chipping program

8. Jefferson County Open Space

- Meyer Ranch project (complete) – 37 acres
- Elk Meadow Park (ongoing) – 240 acres
- White Ranch Park (ongoing) – 40 acres
- Finalized the JCOS Forest Health Plan in partnership with Colorado Forest Restoration Institute
- Conducted Mountain pine beetle surveys
- Created a sub-award to continue funding for USPP’s Watershed Coordinator (*’23-’24)



*These are project highlights and do not represent all entities or all work being accomplished within the USP watershed.