



## COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE - TALKING POINTS

### COLORADO WATER PLAN – MAIN CSFS MESSAGES

SEPTEMBER 2014

*The Colorado State Forest Service is a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University. It is also host to the South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership, a regional consortium of organizations focused on water quality, water protection and enhancement of ecological infrastructure systems in the South Platte watershed.*

- I'm Devon Buckels, the Coordinator for the South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership, a partnership hosted by the Colorado State Forest Service. We are a regional consortium of organizations focused on water quality, water protection, and enhancement of the ecological infrastructure systems that affect water resources in the Denver metro area. Our Partners include the USFS, EPA, CDPHE, Tri-County Health, Denver Environmental Health, Denver Water, Aurora Water, Groundwork Denver, Coalition for the Upper South Platte and many others.
- Most of the Urban Waters Partnership organizations throughout the country are focused more specifically on the urban area, but our Partnership includes the headwaters area of the watershed in recognition of the strong tie between the health of the watershed in the forest and the health of urban water and waterways.
- Our Partners recognize the value of services provided by natural ecosystems and the role they play in clean water and stormwater management in the urban area.
- Fires and flooding affect water quality and also affect the financial cost of water provision to the metro area. Meanwhile, trees in the forest affect snowmelt, and trees in the urban area help to manage stormwater runoff reducing stormwater treatment costs for local communities. Forest management work achieved through partnerships with forest service agencies can help protect our watersheds and water supplies.
- The Colorado Water Plan should support the protection and restoration of the lands that support the hydrology, including forests, riparian corridors, creeks and streams which provide and convey the water for our use.
- The Plan should also support the incorporation of green infrastructure as the region addresses its aging water infrastructure system and associated costs.
- The Colorado Water Plan should support the work of regional collaborative organizations like the Urban Waters Partnership, which facilitate coordinated solutions to complex problems by bringing together water providers, government, academic, private sector and environmental stakeholders. We leverage resources and prioritize actions for greater collective impact. Together, we can maintain the critical watershed elements that contribute to quality of life and economic health in the region while addressing water needs for the future.