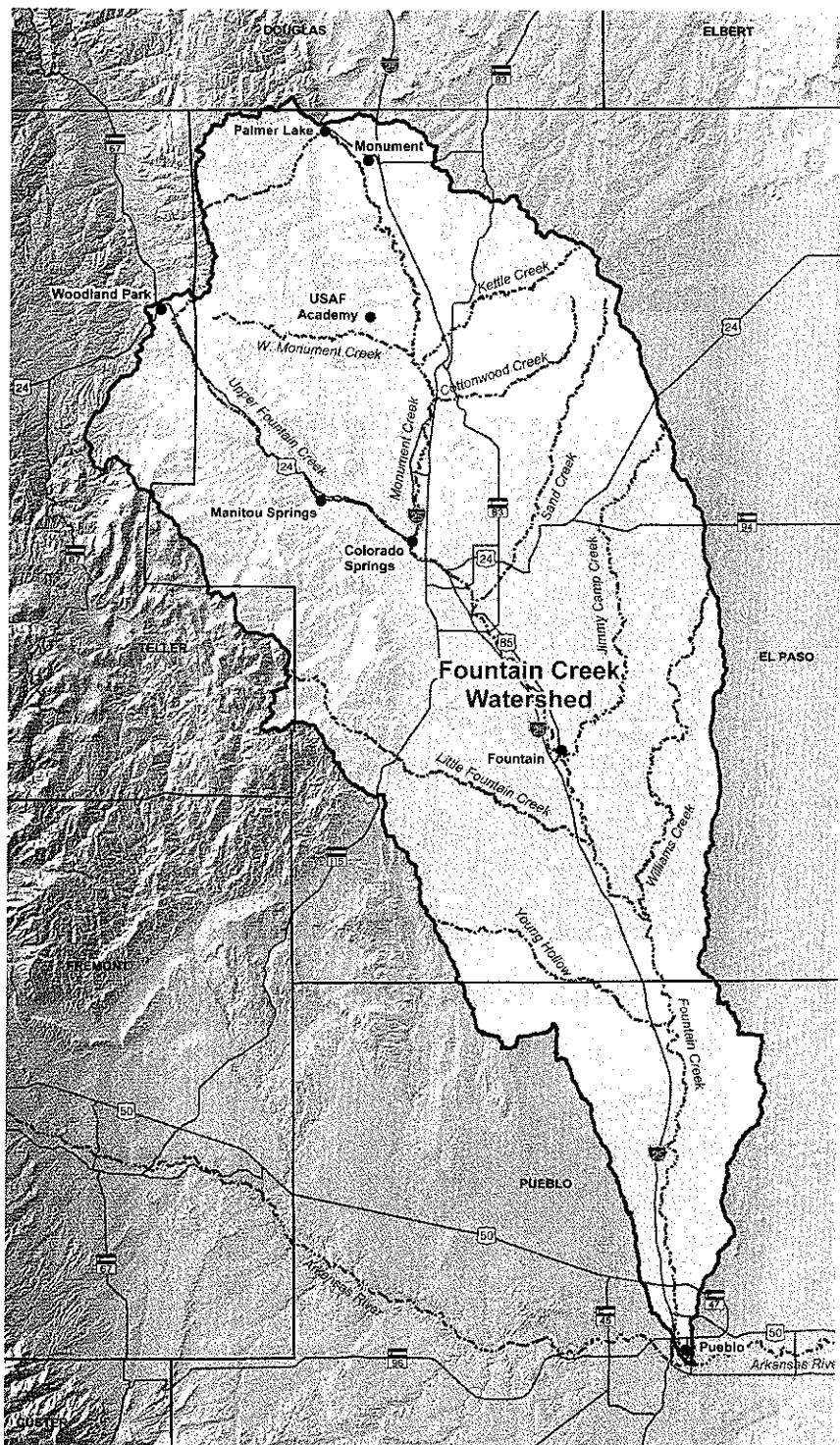


# FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED



- ◆ Trillions of plants
- ◆ Millions of animals
- ◆ ~600,000 people
- ◆ 15,000+ wetland acres
- ◆ 927 square miles
- ◆ Hundreds of farms & ranches
- ◆ 28 Subwatersheds
- ◆ 8 Municipalities
- ◆ 3 Counties
- ◆ 1 WATERSHED

*A Watershed knows no political boundaries!*

# FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED

## Historic watershed characterization:

- *Large elevation changes*
- *Flashy rain events*
- *Highly erosive soils*
- *Limited roots to secure soils*

## These result in:

- *Erosion*
- *Sedimentation*
- *Flooding*

## Development has accelerated this natural instability:

- *Floodway intrusion*
- *Greater impervious surface*
- *Imported water*

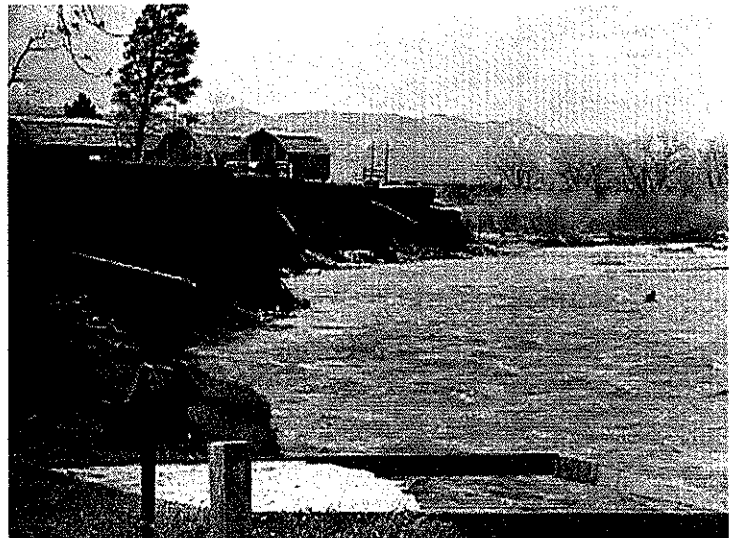
## And has had other consequences:

- *Water quality concerns*
- *Habitat destruction*

*Regional problems need  
regional solutions &  
regional management*



**Manitou Springs - 1999 Flood**



**Bank erosion on Fountain Creek**



**Sedimentation under a bridge**

# **FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED SOLUTIONS**

**Imitate what works in nature:**

- ◆ **Wide floodway connected to creek – spreads floods out & reduces its destructive power, lessens erosion & sedimentation**
- ◆ **Appropriate sinuosity (curviness) – slows down creek flows, lessens erosion & sedimentation**
- ◆ **Maintain vegetative growth – holds together creek banks**
- ◆ **Wetlands – increases water quality, acts as sponge to reduce flood flows**



**Healthy stretch of Fountain Creek in Southern El Paso County**

**Some other solutions:**

- ◆ **Side detention (mini-dams) – reduces peak flood flows**
- ◆ **Low impact development – reestablishes natural water infiltration**
- ◆ **Regional drainage criteria – to mimic historical flows**
- ◆ **Levees – to protect areas where floodway has been impinged upon**

# FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED

## DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN

