

Water Resources and Post Fire Recovery



Cameron Peak Fire Smoke Plume from Loveland, CO – 10/14/2020

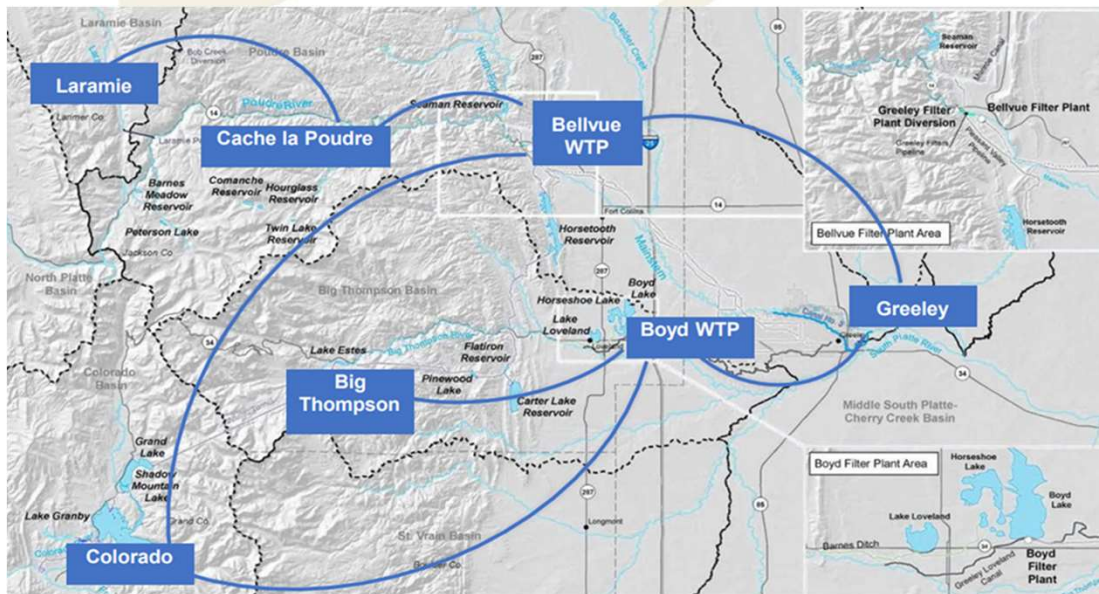
Testimony By:

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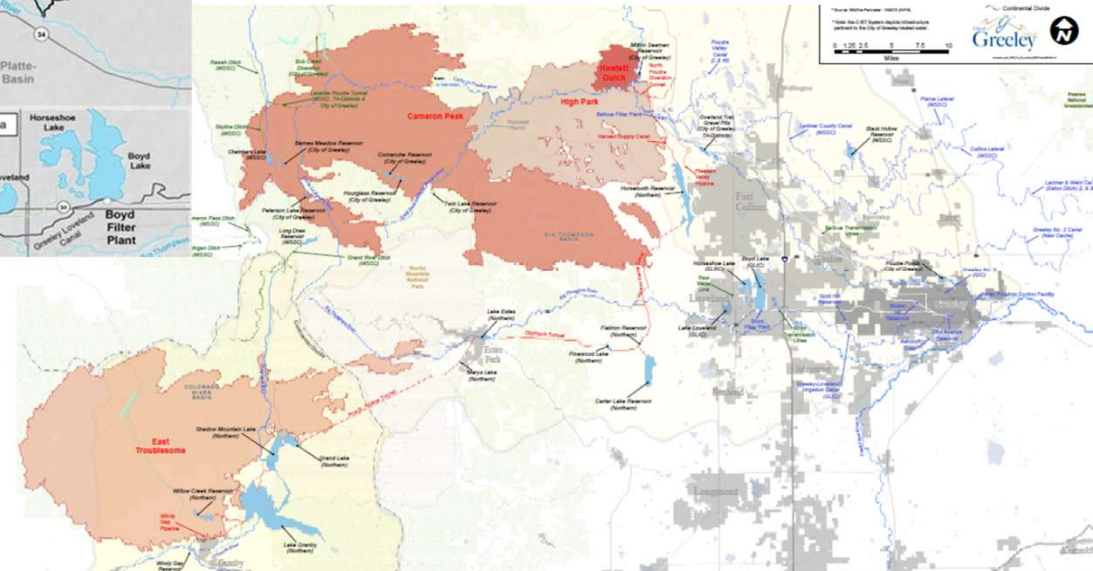


Introduction



- Four source water basins
- Watersheds dominated by federal lands
- History of Impacts from wildfire and floods
- 2020 wildfire season burned ~ 400,000 acres

- Most municipal systems have limited supply redundancy; and
- Most water providers don't have capacity to sponsor watershed restoration



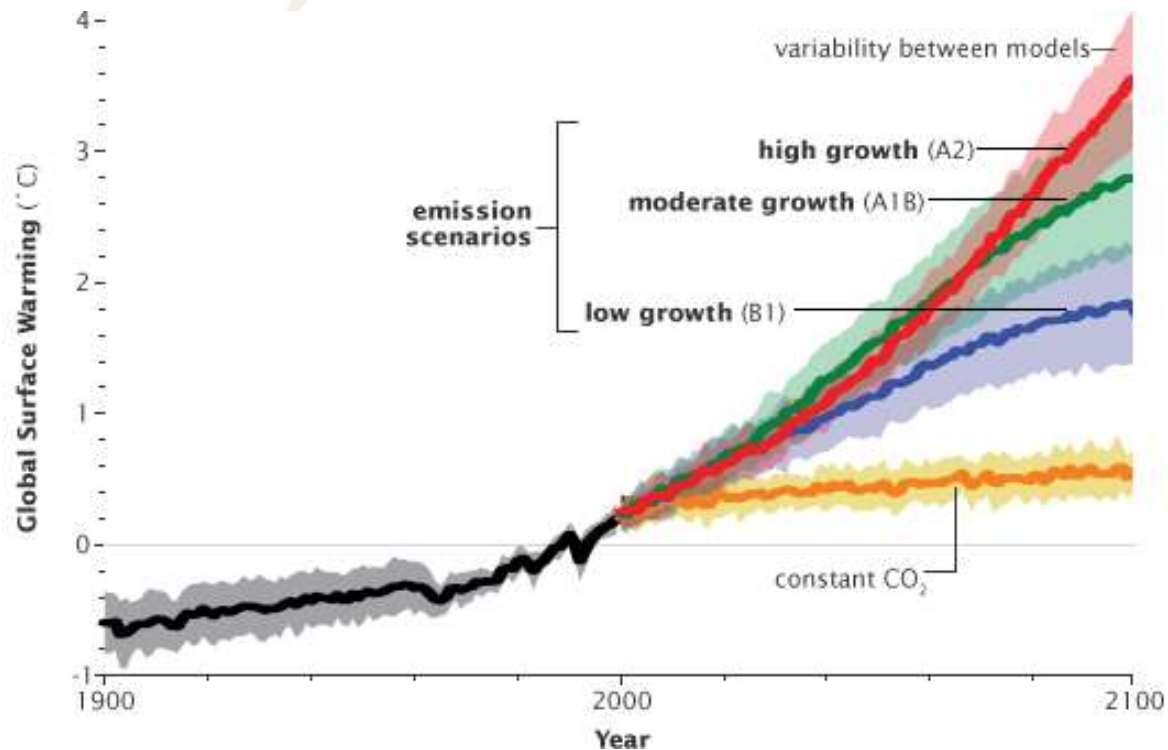


Thank You!

- **Proactive Wildfire Recovery and Watershed Restoration Grant Funds (SB21-240)**
 - ✓ Recovery needs were urgent
 - ✓ Community water supplies, lives and property were at risk due to burn area
 - ✓ Grants critical for match of Fed funds



Increasing Uncertainty and Risk of Fire



Water Supplies at Risk

- ✓ **Revegetation prevents erosion and flows of sediment and debris into Reservoirs and Rivers**
- ✓ Severely burned hydrophobic soils are very slow to regenerate naturally
- ✓ Rapid response to high risk / high hazard areas has been shown to protect water quality, limit aquatic habitat degradation and save human lives



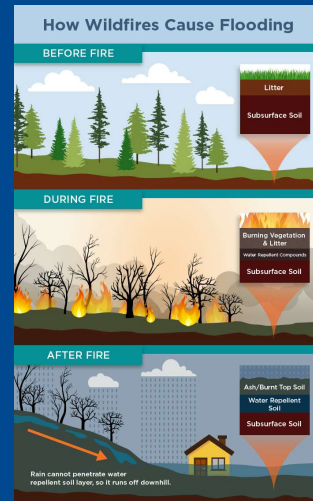
Managing Impacts to the Water Resources

Rapid response to mitigate impacts is critical to success

- ✓ Requires a combination of local, state and federal funding
 - ✓ Funding should be set aside annually for the unforeseen
- ✓ Requires a strong locally focused, science based, data driven watershed coalition
 - ✓ Such groups need funding support
 - ✓ Critical to mobilize volunteers



Thank you for prioritizing funding and wildfire ready watershed planning



WILDFIRE READY WATERSHEDS

STATEWIDE POST-FIRE SUSCEPTIBILITY

A PLAN TO IDENTIFY THE RISKS TO LIFE, PROPERTY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH THE POST-FIRE HAZARDS AND MITIGATE FUTURE IMPACTS AND LOSSES

September 16, 2021

COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Questions?

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