

# Wildfire Matters Review Committee

## Department of Natural Resources Overview

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Natural Resources



# Welcome

- Wildfire risk mitigation is a top priority for DNR
- Mitigation and suppression are necessary



# Agenda

Shared Stewardship

DNR Division of Forestry & CSFS

Colorado Water Conservation Board

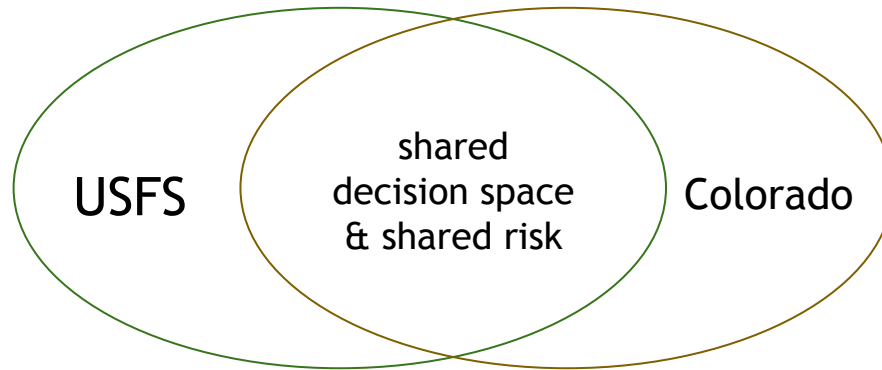
Wildfire Mitigation Stimulus - Next Steps



# DNR-USFS Shared Stewardship

1. Determine management needs on a state level.
2. Doing the **right work** in the **right places** at the **right scale**.
3. Using all available tools for active management

e.g. timber harvest, managed fire, infrastructure maintenance and improvement, and watershed restoration activities



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Department of Public Safety



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# Department Mission & Vision

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is:

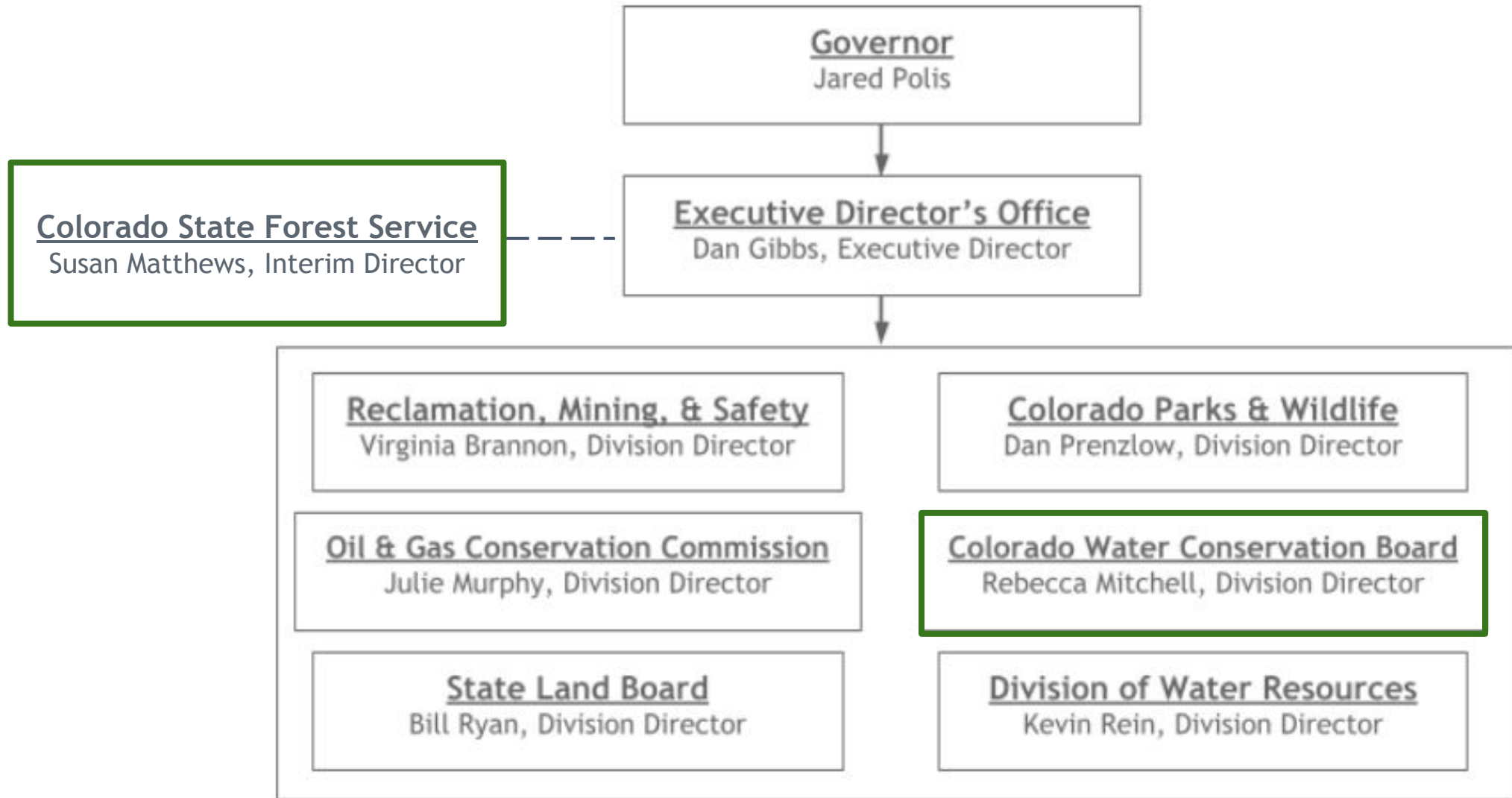
*To manage and conserve Colorado's natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of people today and tomorrow.*

DNR's vision:

*Colorado will be a national leader in promoting the responsible use and conservation of natural resources for this and future generations.*







# DNR Division of Forestry and the Colorado State Forest Service

- DNR provides policy direction relating to the management of Colorado's natural resources

C.R.S. 24-33-201:

“The executive director of the department of natural resources shall enter into an agreement with Colorado state university, through the board of governors of the Colorado state university system, to cooperate in the state's efforts to improve the management and health of Colorado's forests and to provide staff for the division of forestry.”





# DNR Division of Forestry and the Colorado State Forest Service

C.R.S. 24-33-201

(2) The division of forestry's powers and duties shall include:

(a) Strengthening natural resource policy formulation and coordination concerning public and private forest land in Colorado by:

(I) Producing an annual forest health report for all forest land in Colorado;

(II) Addressing cooperative management of forest land across jurisdictions;

(III) Mitigating the natural and urban interface fire hazard;

(IV) Restoring critical watersheds;

(V) Assisting in the management of forest lands under the jurisdiction of the agencies within the department of natural resources.

- DNR proposes legislative decision items to the Governor's Office on forestry issues

# Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Grant Program

- SB 21-054: \$6 million for CSFS-FRWRM Grant Program
- In May 2021 CSFS received over 80 eligible proposals totaling over \$13 million in funding requests for equipment purchases and treatment on 11,000+ acres
- SB21-205: \$8M funding available per year (no longer dependent on severance tax)

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/funding-assistance/>



# Colorado Water Conservation Board

- Healthy Forested Watersheds
  - Maintain flow regimes at historic conditions
  - Are able to resist, absorb, and recover from natural hazards
  - Provide high quality water supply for agriculture, municipal, and environment
  - Provide diverse and complex habitat features in upland and riverine environments
- Continue building capacity for Watershed Planning
- Support work at the nexus between forest health and watersheds

# Colorado Water Conservation Board

- Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program:

Funds projects and plans that protect & restore the ecological processes that connect land and water while also protecting lives and property.

- SB 21-240 authorizes CWCB to conduct a “statewide watershed analysis to investigate the susceptibility of life, safety, infrastructure, and water supplies to wildfire impacts”



# Colorado Water Conservation Board: Drought Task Force

- July 20th U.S. Drought Monitor:  
46% of Colorado in the following drought conditions: 18% exceptional (D4) ; 10% extreme (D3); 8% severe (D2); 5% moderate (D1); and 5% abnormally dry (D0)
- Governor Polis issued an Emergency Drought Proclamation on June 30th, 2021 for the 21 impacted West Slope counties
- The Drought Task Force, the Water Availability Task Force, the Agriculture Impact Task Force, and the Municipal Water Task Force are currently activated as advised under the State's Drought Plan



# Colorado Water Conservation Board

- SB 21-054: \$4 million for CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant Program
- CO Recovery Plan, SB 21-240: \$30 million for CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant Program
- CO Recovery Plan, HB 21-1260: \$20 million = \$15 million to the Water Plan Grant Program and \$5 million to Water Supply Reserve Fund

<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-watershed-restoration-grants>

# Additional Forest Health 2021 Legislation

- HB21-237: Moving the Forest Health Council from CSFS to DNR
- HB21-1008: Forest Health Project Financing
  - Special or local improvement districts for forest health
  - Colorado Water Resources Power and Development Authority issues bonds to fund watershed protection projects
- HB21-1180: Biomass Utilization Grants
  - CSFS may grant up to \$2.5M for biomass utilization projects demonstrating wildfire risk reduction, renewable energy production, biochar production

# SB21-258: Wildfire Mitigation Stimulus

CO Recovery Plan, SB 21-258: \$25M (\$17.5M to DNR)

- Section 2: FRWRM
  - Projects may include federal lands
  - 75% of FRWRM funds for Fuels & Forest Health projects; 25% fund Capacity Building: Equipment purchases; staff capacity; project planning; outreach and engagement
- Section 3: CSFS Programs
  - Forest Business Loan Program: \$2.5M
  - CSFS can hire full-time staff to provide support for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/cowood/forest-business-loan-fund/>



# SB21-258: Wildfire Mitigation Stimulus

## Section 5: Wildfire mitigation capacity development fund

- MOU between DNR-CSFS-DPS/DFPC
- Statewide assessment with USFS partners
- Organizational assessment of state wildfire mitigation programs
- Workforce development: ~\$7.4M for Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) and Department of Corrections State Wildland Inmate Fire Teams (SWIFT)
- Landscape Scale Wildfire Mitigation Projects: ~\$8.85M for project planning & implementation
- Funds obligated by June 30th, 2023

*“The Department of Natural Resources shall prioritize those projects with the greatest potential to protect life, property, and infrastructure.” SB21-258*

# Questions?

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