

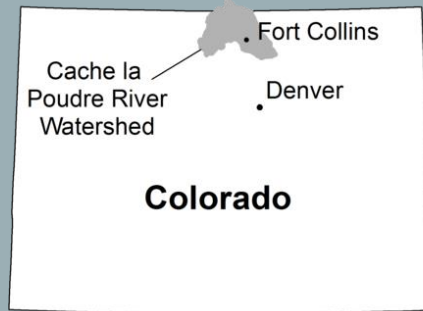
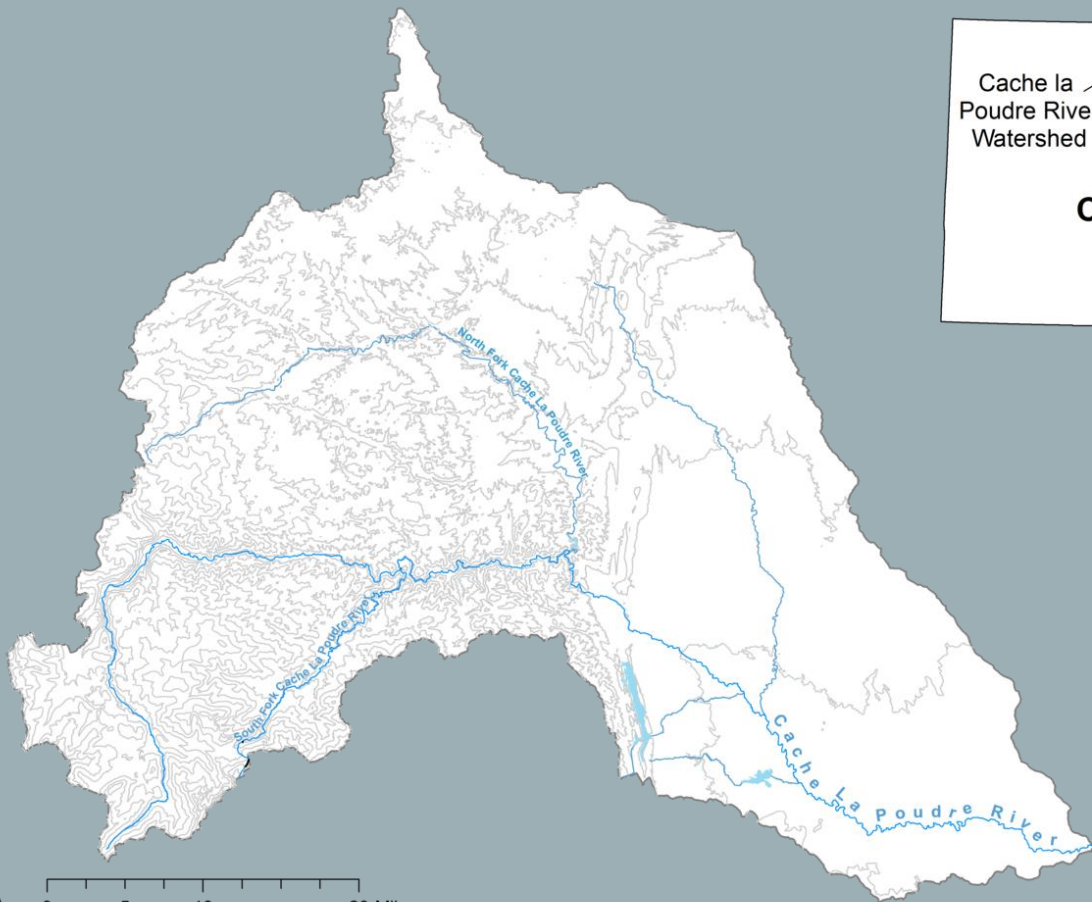
Sustaining Colorado Watersheds

Forests, Fires, and Water: Exploring how Colorado Communities can Better Co-exist with Wildfire

October 9, 2019

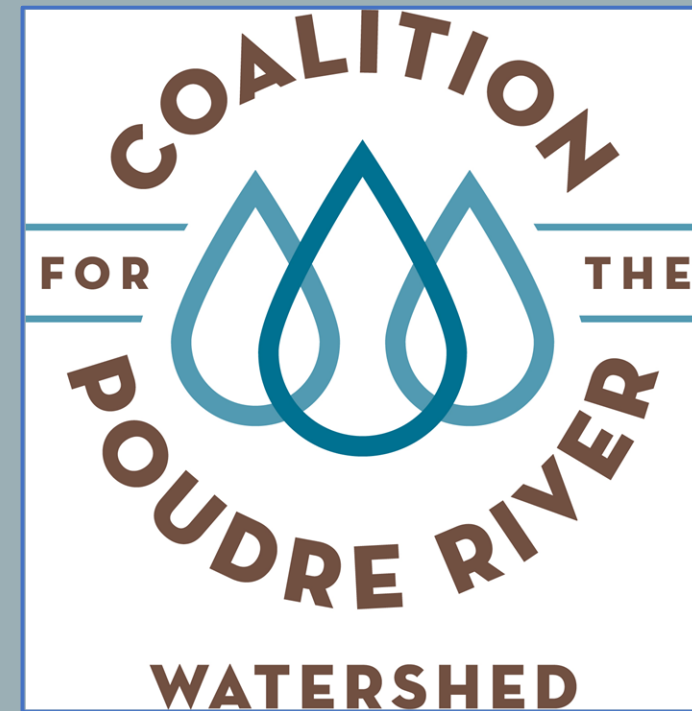
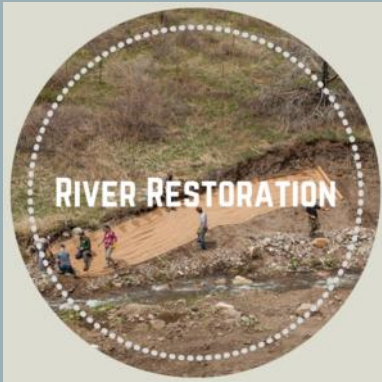
Daniel Bowker, Moderator
Forest and Fire Project Manager
Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed





OUR MISSION: To improve & maintain the ecological health of the Poudre River Watershed through community collaboration.

We work to achieve our mission by focusing on these key themes:





- Our forests evolved with fire
- Wildfire suppression has changed forest structure
- Increased density and fuel loading → threat of very large, severe wildfires
- Permanent tree cover loss, forest type conversion
- Soil erosion, degraded water quality
- Threaten WUI communities



- **Fuels reduction important**
- **But pace and scale falls short**
 - **High cost**
 - **Decreases density, but doesn't always reduce surface fuel loads**
 - **Requires frequent, costly maintenance**



- **Need to:**
- **Increase pace, scale, and coordination of treatments**
- **Bring back Rx fire, strategically manage wildfire**
- **Prepare landscape for wildfire that can be:**
 - **More safely managed**
 - **Lower hazard to communities**
 - **Restores fire's function to forests**
 - **Reduces undesirable post-fire water impacts**

Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed
Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at CSU
The Nature Conservancy
US Forest Service Arapaho-Roosevelt NF
US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station

Larimer County
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Conservation Districts
Fort Collins and Greeley Utilities
Colorado State Forest Service
Local fire protection districts

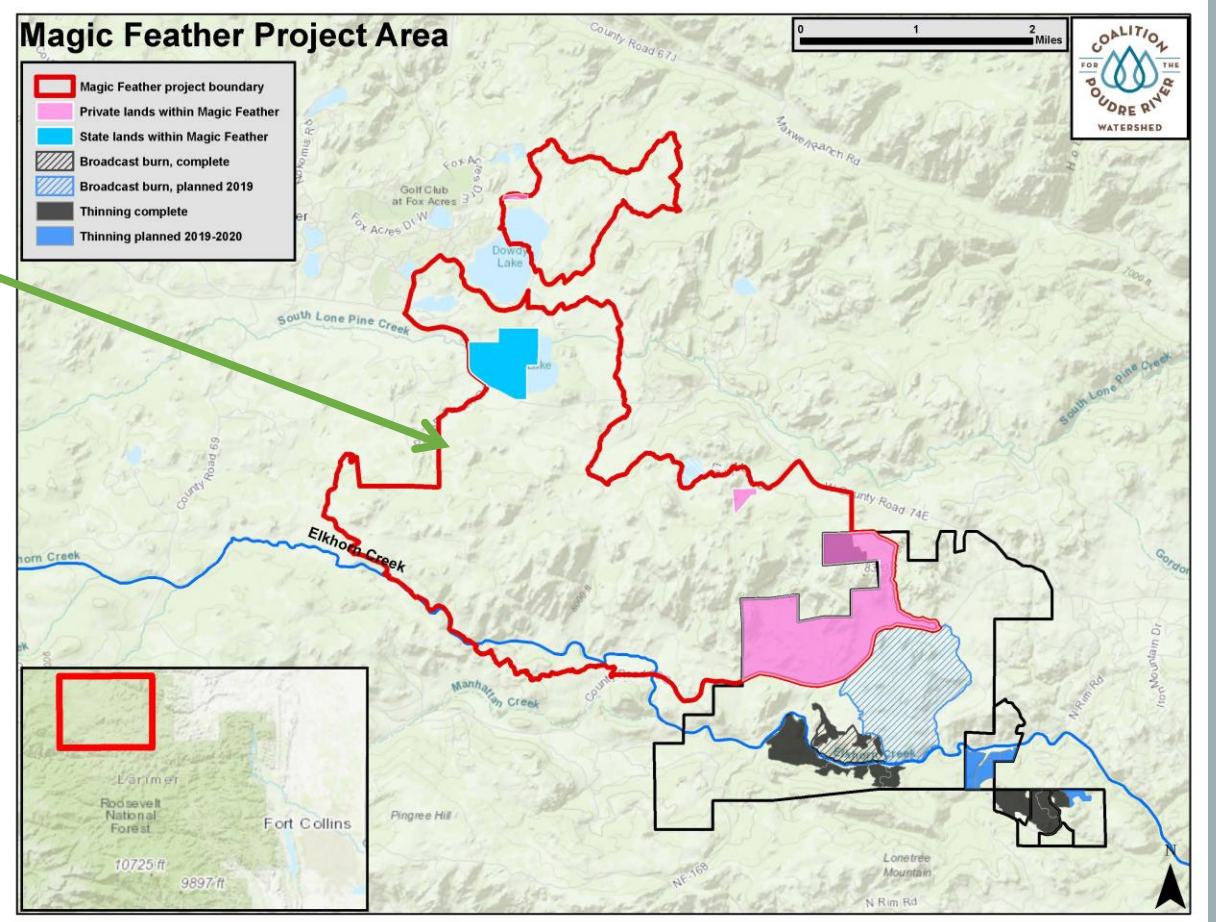
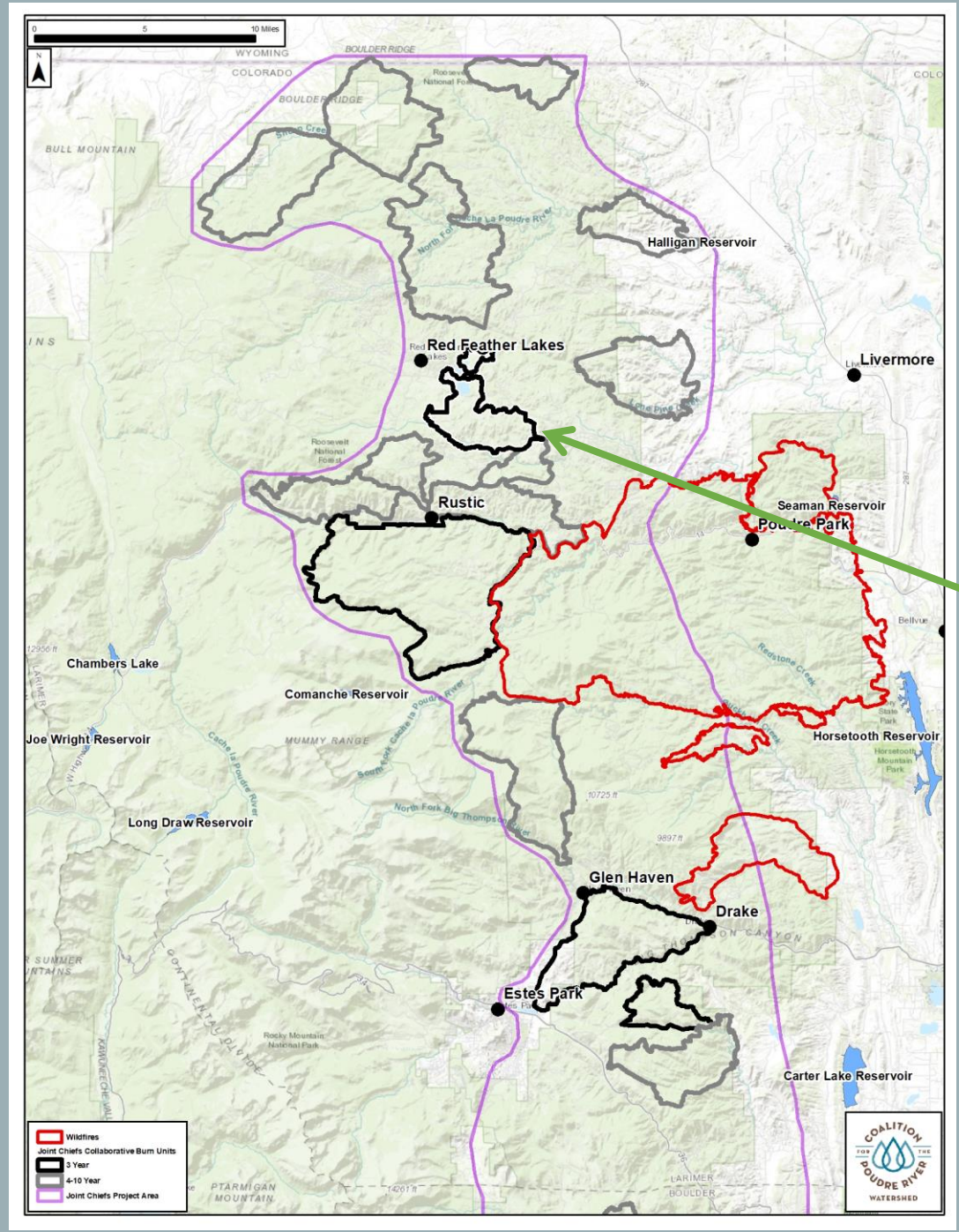


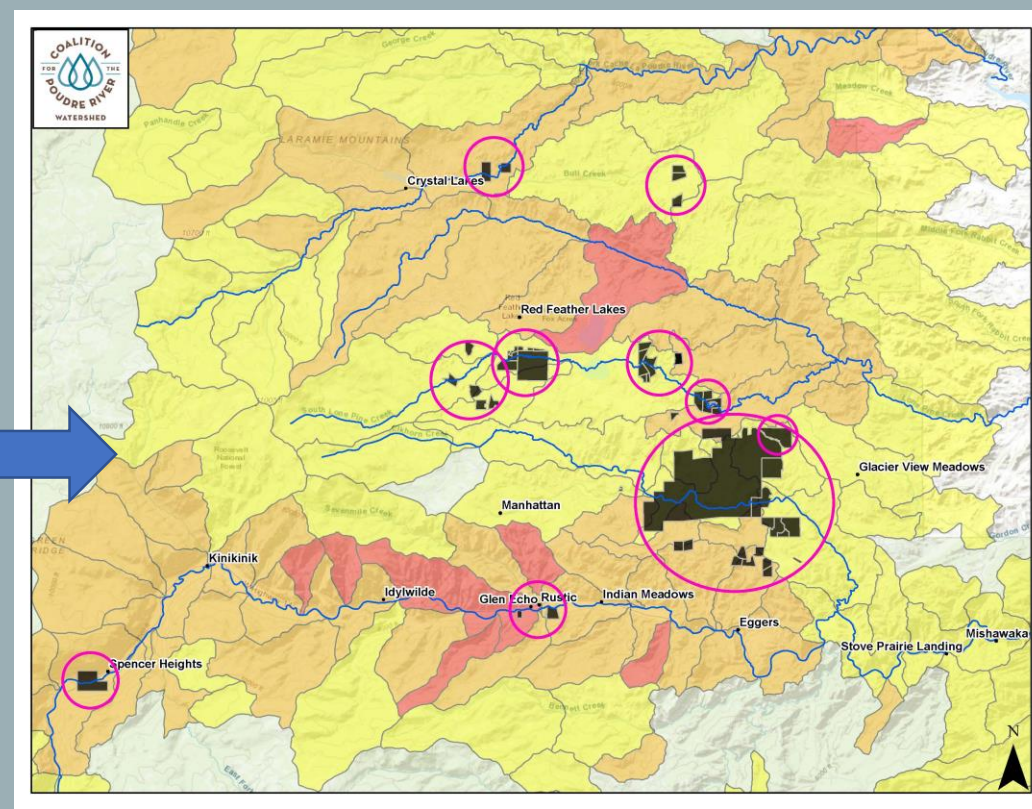
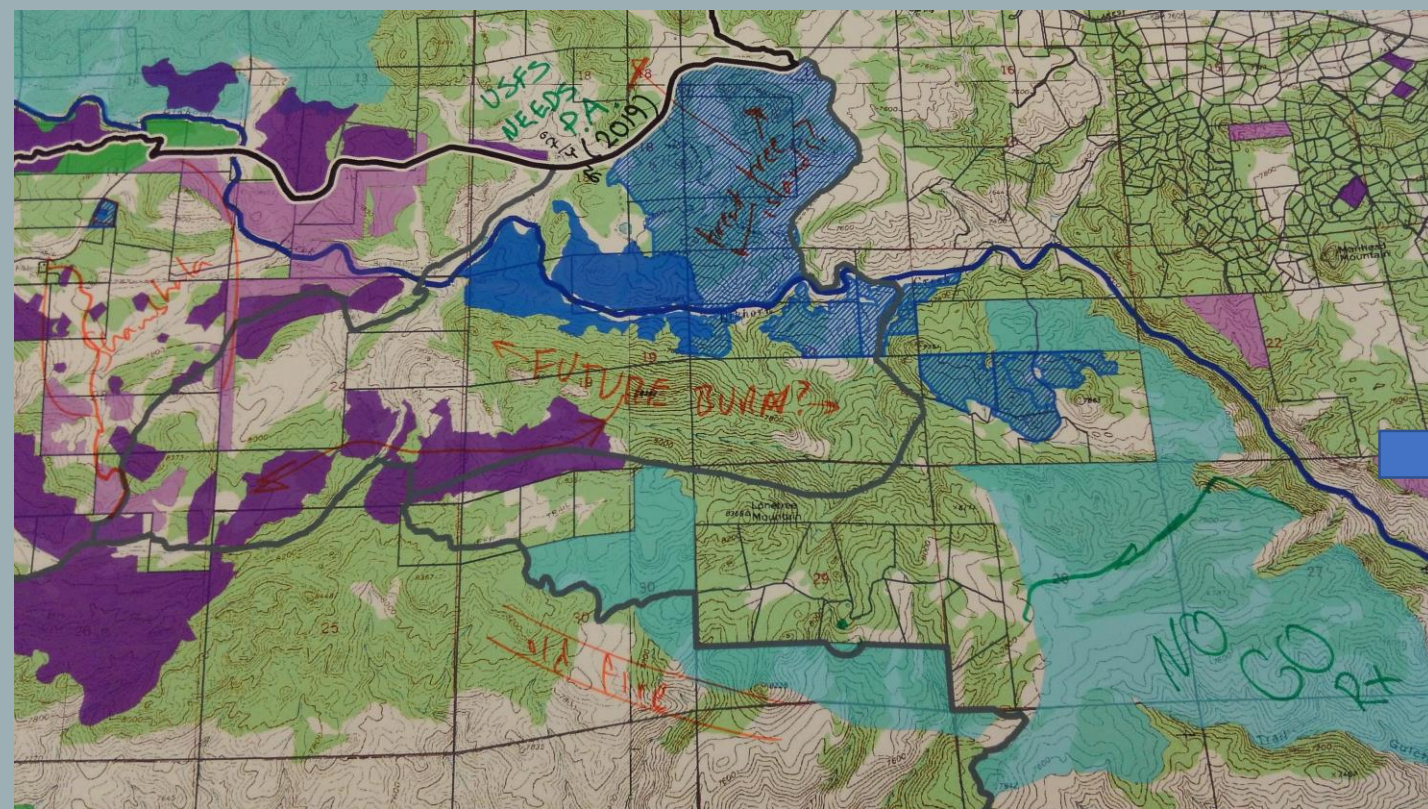
NORTHERN COLORADO
FIRESHED
COLLABORATIVE

- **Reduce siloing**
- **Cross-jurisdictional, landscape level planning**
- **Integrate outreach and engagement**

- **Protect watershed services by restoring landscapes that receive fire without long-term negative impacts**

- Started planning/collaborating around USFS Magic Feather project
- CPRW/NRCS/CDs: private landowners
- USFS: planning, permitting, burn process
- Joint Chiefs grant facilitated conversation about expanding this collaborative idea down Front Range





- Fireshed works to shape plan, which facilitates our work strategy
- Projects build off each other
- Fireshed planning, combined with CPRW prioritization framework, leads to creation of possible projects (fuels mitigation and Rx fire)
- American Forest Foundation grant for outreach to landowners

What does this outreach look like?

Local mountain newspaper series
Public fire ecology tours

Specific communities where we need to work
Community meetings, tours

Particular landowners we want involved





daniel@poudrewatershed.org