

Restoring Upper South Platte

On Dec. 9, 2019, partners decided on the landscapes and issues of focus of the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative. The group unanimously selected Southwest Colorado as its showcase project and agreed to explore ways to support the Upper South Platte and Upper Arkansas projects. The group agreed to investigate how it could play a role in resolving one or more cross-cutting issues identified by all proposals as barriers to achieving success.

Over 10 years, proposed outcomes include:

Restoring and Maintaining Resilient Landscapes. Lead treatment of 75,000 acres of private lands and 75,000 acres of public lands to protect water supply to 2 million users in Denver Metropolitan area, critical wildlife habitat, and unique and high volume recreation areas.

Additionally, aim to:

- Complete fuels reduction treatments on priority areas across 40% of the Upper South Platte watershed on public and private lands.
- Complete 45,000 acres of prescribed fire on Forest Service lands.
- Complete 30,000 acres of mechanical fuels treatment on Forest Service lands.
- Complete 15,000 acres of prescribed fire on private, local, and state lands.
- Complete 60,000 acres of mechanical fuels treatments on private, local, and state lands.

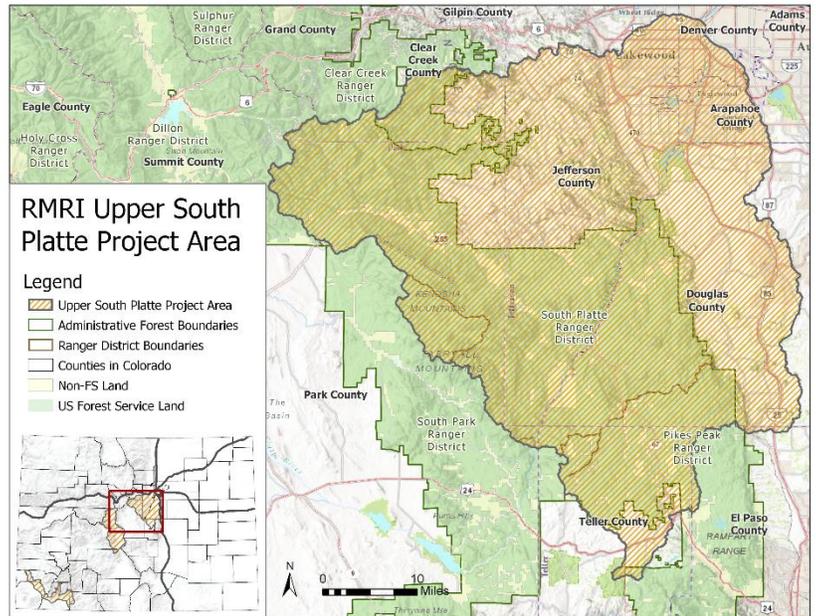
Creating Fire-Adapted Communities. Educate and engage communities, increase defensible space, reduce fuels and fire behavior, improve life safety and evacuation for the public and responders, and improve community resilience to wildfires.

- Complete remaining 70% of structure assessments, 2,633 per year.
- Complete defensible space/home hardening, 2,633 structures per year.
- Create 4,000 acres of strategic fuel breaks.

Ensuring Safe and Effective Wildfire

Response. Achieve and maintain fire pre-planning for entire watershed, improve local fire agency response capabilities, support full-time wildland fire resources year-round, and increase safety of fire operations.

- Conduct new fire pre-planning data collection, testing, and agency implementation.
- Increase fire qualifications of fire agencies and utilize for local prescribed fires.
- Utilize fire modules to support fuel treatment targets.
- Develop agreements and water supplies, install cisterns, increase temporary supply options.



Our Vision

The Upper South Platte Partnership (USPP) is dedicated to creating a sustainable and resilient landscape with healthy forests, clean water supply for the Denver Metropolitan Area, high-quality recreation opportunities, proactive and engaged fire-adapted communities, and safe, effective and efficient fire response and management.

About the Project

The Upper South Platte Partnership's proposal will utilize RMRI support to serve as a catalyst for transformational change across this critical landscape where we collectively strive to protect communities and our water source, restore the health of forests and habitat, and provide world class recreation opportunities.

Partners, agencies, and groups involved with the USPP to date include: Nature Conservancy; Denver Water; Colorado Forest Restoration Institute; U.S. Forest Service; Colorado State Forest Service; American Forest Foundation; Coalition for the Upper South Platte; Natural Resource Conservation Service; Jefferson Conservation District; Denver Mountain Parks; Elk Creek FPD; Evergreen FPD; Inter-Canyon FPD; North Fork FPD; Platte Canyon FPD; Jefferson County Open Space; Colorado Parks & Wildlife; Jefferson County Sheriff's Office; landowners; local communities and homeowners' associations; CO Division of Fire Prevention & Control; and Aurora Water.