

Joint SPBRT / MRT Environmental & Recreation Subcommittees

Meeting Summary

October 25, 2023

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

In Attendance:

David Nickum, Alison Witheridge, Josh Kuhn, Kristina Duff, Breanna Gonzalez, Diane Kielty

2:05 pm

1. Alison Witheridge, Watershed Scientist with Denver Water (DW) presented DW's Park County Strontia Springs Reservoir Watershed Sediment Management Plan. 80% of DW's water supply goes through the Strontia Springs Reservoir. The reservoir was built in 1992 and was intended to have a larger dam above it.
 - a. Sediment Issue Summary

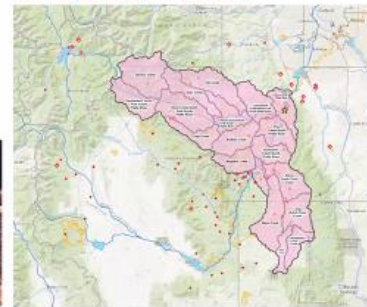
Sediment Issue Summary

Sources

- Pikes Peak Granite
- Steep Topography
- Wildfires
- Roads and Road Cuts
- Recreational Trails and Fishing Access
- Managed Water Delivery System

Sediment Inflow is
~50,000 cy/year.

Priority Area (with Fires)



Sediment and Debris in Strontia Springs Reservoir Following Buffalo Creek Fire in 1996

In 2010 they went to dredge the reservoir but were only able to pull out 1/3 of the sediment due to the difficulty with removing granite. It was determined they needed a plan with an approach to keep the sediment out of the reservoir. A watershed approach has been added to the plan program.

2. Watershed assessments were conducted along with a literature review of the area, and a reconnaissance level analysis with two channel assessments. A roads draft assessment, North Fork windshield assessment, and North Fork Abandoned Mine Land Whitepaper were used in the watershed review. In 2021 the Watershed Sediment Management Plan was completed. 31 areas of concern were created with 81 potential projects and studies identified. The program was awarded \$500,000 per year to get it up and running.

Project Funding and Selection

Land Ownership

- US Forest Service (50%)
- Denver Water and DW ROW (2%)
- County (Jefferson, Douglas, Park)
- CPW/State Parks
- Private



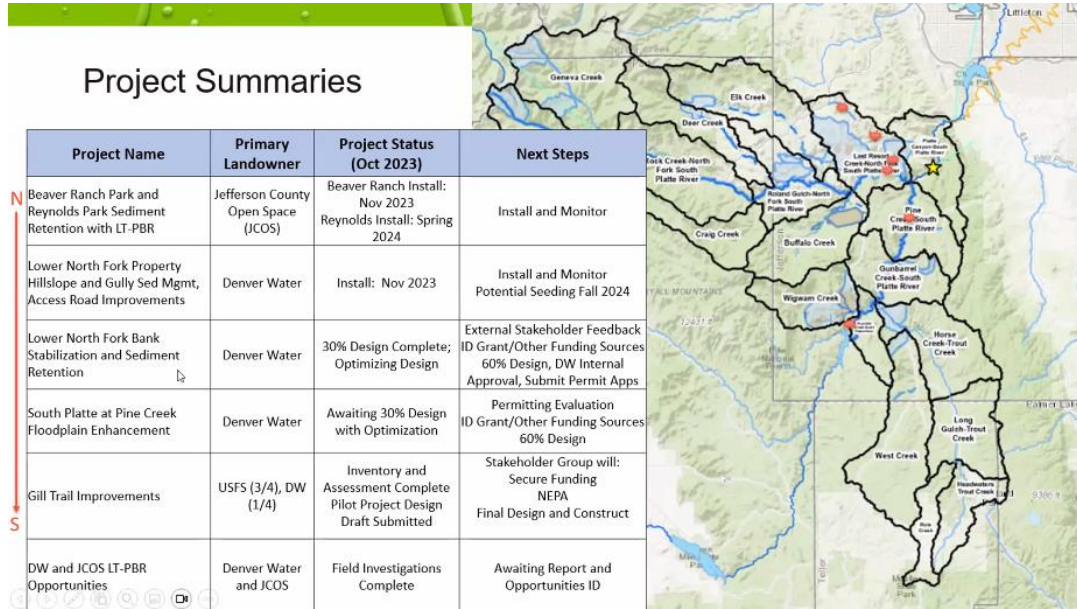
Funding

- \$500,000/(calendar) year approved for 5-years in long term forecast
 - DW lands, ROW, and DW-led projects: \$250,000
 - USFS lands or led projects: \$250,000
 - Within From Forests to Faucets MOU, but is not intended for proactive forest treatments
- New cost-sharing MOU with Aurora Water

Project Goals

- Sediment load reduction
- Build resiliency for the future
- Partner to create multi-benefit projects
- Match DW dollars 1:1 (or more) with partner and/or grant dollars
- Maintain room for experimentation and learning

3. Money must be spent on projects with a sediment load reduction. They are building in resiliency for future fires, cloud bursts, etc.



An overview of each project was provided.

The presentation was recorded and is available by request to David Nickum.

Future E&R Committee Topics of Interest

- Follow up on SB-270 Stream Legislation and agency level guidance for projects.
- Healthy Rivers Report Card Tool
- Recreation topic – Blue Trails water-based recreation and travel

3:15 pm - Adjourn.