**Action Team – Interview and Data Collection Form**

**Action Team Member:** Susan Greiner

**How Might We:** Help fund and empower collaboration and efficiency with federal agencies to manage our lands, water and wildlife.

I investigated the willingness of Water Conservancy Districts and Front Range Water Departments to help fund watershed management in the Upper Arkansas Valley.

**Data Source:**

Name: Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District

Contact: Chelsey Nutter, Project Manager

Add Contact to Envision Contacts? Yes

**Insights:**

I contacted the Denver Water Department about their **From Forests to Faucets Watershed Management Program** [**https://www.denverwater.org/your-water/water-supply-and-planning/watershed-protection-and-management**](https://www.denverwater.org/your-water/water-supply-and-planning/watershed-protection-and-management) , and was promised a call back, but didn’t receive one. Denver Water’s project is a collaboration with the US Forest Service and the Colorado State Forest Service where Denver Water contributes $12.5 million to the US Forest Service and $4 million to the Colorado State Forest Service, which is matched dollar for dollar by the agencies, to fund watershed management and wildfire mitigation in Denver Water’s watershed. I emailed James Broderick, District Manager at the Southeast Colorado Water Conservancy District, and Chelsey Nutter, Project Manager at the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District to ask if they thought a similar collaboration could work for the Upper Arkansas watershed. Chelsey was the only one who responded.

Chelsey was very helpful. The Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District is pursuing ways to work with the Forest Service to help with Forest management. They have meetings coming up with the Forest Service to see how they can help them with an upcoming fire mitigation project at Monarch. The UAWCD has extended “an invitation of support” for the Forest Service’s work. The Forest Service is trying to decide what kind of support they want. Chelsey has also contacted Colorado Springs Utilities and will reach out to Pueblo Water, who have suggested supporting the Forest Service projects once “we figure out our appropriate role”.

Chelsey sits on the Board of the Arkansas Basin Watershed Collaborative and is the Chair of the Needs Assessment Committee for the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. She has also worked on providing funding for the Forest Service’s projects through the **Colorado Water Conservation Board**. They offer grants to help fund forest health projects. The next submission date for watershed health projects grants will be in November. She says they could potentially secure some funding for the 2019 fiscal year.

Chelsey will be an excellent contact as Envision Chaffee County explores ways to help fund Federal and State land management agencies, and she is willing for us to contact her with any questions or ideas.

Chelsey also sent me the Colorado State Forest Service 2016 Report on the Health of Colorado’s Forests, which included mention of these additional collaborative efforts that could be used as models in addition to the Denver Water Forests to Faucets program:

Colorado Springs watershed management collaboration with CSFS: <https://www.csu.org/Pages/forest-r.aspx>

Uncompahgre Watershed Plan: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/WQ_nonpoint_source-1st-Uncompahgre-Watershed-Plan-2013.pdf>

Colorado-Big Thompson Headwaters Partnership: <http://www.northernwater.org/WaterQuality/HeadwatersPartnership.aspx>

I also found these organizations, which can contribute funding to watershed management projects:

**Nature Conservancy:** [**https://global.nature.org/content/beyond-the-source**](https://global.nature.org/content/beyond-the-source) , which funds watershed protection projects around the world.

**Colorado Watershed Assembly:** [**http://www.coloradowater.org/**](http://www.coloradowater.org/) **,** [**http://www.coloradowater.org/recent-news/2018/1/31/funding-opportunities-early-february**](http://www.coloradowater.org/recent-news/2018/1/31/funding-opportunities-early-february) , which funds watershed management in Colorado.

Any reports or maps or web links the team should read/review?

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