

# Club 20 Public Lands & Natural Resources & Water Committees

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# Challenges before Colorado right now:

- ▶ Need for improved forest health and watershed protection – discussion and consensus on how to proceed when so many jurisdictions are involved (federal, state and local) and the constant struggle to find adequate financial resources to address the magnitude of the challenge in an effective way
- ▶ Two excellent speakers this morning on the forest health/watershed connection – **Lyle Laverty** with a wide range of experience particularly in forest issues and **Christina Burri** of Denver Water

# **Would an alliance be useful to put forth a consensus non-partisan policy direction and apply political advocacy and power that will make a difference for Colorado?**

- ▶ Colorado Water Congress at its January 2018 conference had a panel to present the challenges to water providers and to suggest that CWC has a key role to play in advancing this conversation statewide, among all river basins – this leads CWC to explore and decide how to put this stated key priority into action? Water Education Colorado's recent webinar is a good resource for getting into the details of the forest health/water challenges.

# Tying Forests and Watersheds Together

The marriage of forest health and watershed protection of quantity and quality is not obvious to all, especially in the urban area who are mostly removed from the direct impacts other than news and social media exposure – although poor air quality during a fire and post-fire flooding impacts are inescapable to all.

# Is there a gap not currently filled?

- ▶ Would the development of an alliance to promote coordinated proactive strategy, implemented on a landscape scale across jurisdictional boundaries, be a vast improvement of lurching from year to year hoping wildfire season (now year-round) will be kind to Colorado?

Resources to help the alliance identify priorities to advocate for?

USFS

Colorado State Forest Service

Forest Health Advisory Council

Wildfire Matters Legislative Interim Committee

Existing watershed protection groups, like Watershed Assembly

Local Governments

# Pew Charitable Trust Report: What do states spend on natural disasters?

- ▶ Fiscal Federalism Report briefing –  
“What We Don’t Know about State Spending  
on Natural Disasters Could Cost Us”  
Report can be found at [www.pewtrusts.org](http://www.pewtrusts.org)

Colorado has relied principally on severance taxes to fund preventive work in this arena – not a reliable revenue source, especially for the magnitude of the work needed, is volatile and subject to being swept to other legislative priorities. Obviously, advocacy for substantial federal funding is needed for public lands.

# Do we invent the wheel or adapt one to fit Colorado?

- ▶ CAFWA model – California Forest Watershed Alliance approach

## **Who are the charter members of CAFWA?**

- 1.) Association of California Water Agencies
- 2.) California Farm Bureau Federation
- 3.) The Nature Conservancy – California chapter
- 4.) Rural County Representatives of California
- 5.) California Forestry Association

Charter members kept to small size of 5 for nimbleness of alliance.

# CAFWA Colorado Style?

- ▶ Possible Charter Members –
  - 1.) Colorado Water Congress
  - 2.) Colorado Ag Water Alliance or member organization
  - 3.) The Nature Conservancy – Colorado Chapter
  - 4.) Club 20
  - 5.) Colorado Timber Industry Association

All 5 of these groups have met together and checked in with the leadership of their respective organizations – each of the 5 has indicated interest to further explore the CAFWA approach in Colorado.

# Types of questions for charter members are:

- ▶ To form alliance or not?
- ▶ If forming, then what number of charter members?
- ▶ Who should be asked to be a charter member?
- ▶ Charter members will communicate/provide input to alliance based on each member's own internal decision-making – bottom up approach rather than top down to determining alliance priorities, how to communicate with charter members' own organizations, how would Club 20 approach membership communication?
- ▶ Does trust exist, or can it be reliably and fairly quickly be built, among the charter members – are they already attending many of the same meetings and know each other well?
- ▶ What would be the resources/demonstrated buy-in be to be a charter member? (financial support, in-kind contributions, combination of those?)

# What is Club 20's interest in being a charter member, if an alliance is formed?

Opportunity for additional discussion - Colorado Water Congress' summer conference in Vail – August 22<sup>nd</sup> morning workshop, no registration fee to be applied to workshop attendees

Desire to make a decision for alliance formation, or not, is fall of 2018 to have time to work with elected officials at all levels going in to 2019.

Club 20 leadership wants your feedback, it's needed soon and can be best be provided to NRPL & Water policy committees' leadership.