## Building Watershed Resilience through Innovative Partnerships

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Water is the face of climate change in the American West.

We are developing a new understanding of where water comes from - not from the streams, but from the forest.

- Ron Lehr, Past President, Denver Water Board



Before (above) and after images of stream restoration. (USDA Forest Service)

Policy Platform of the Healthy Headwaters Alliance February 2016

### Healthy Headwaters Alliance

Water utility leaders Public resource managers Conservation organizations Scientists Community advocates Businesses Funders

HEALTHY FORESTS HEALTHY WATER HEALTHY PEOPLE







Water 

Wastewater 
Industrial 
Utility Management 
Innovations
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#### Got Water? Thank (And Save) A Forest

By Maggie Hart Stebbins and Paul Summerfelt

"When the well's dry," Benjamin Franklin once said, "we know the worth of water." Today, our freshwater supplies face serious threats — including drought, wildfire, and other impacts of a warming climate. From California to Cape Town, the worth of water has become crystal clear.

We come from cities in the west (Albuquerque, NM, and Flagstaff, AZ) where the worth of water was never in question. But, in recent years, both of our cities received wake-up calls that the well could, in fact, run dry. Our cities mobilized to prevent that from happening — with a surprisingly simple, cost-effective strategy.

### For a Warming World, A New Strategy for Protecting Watersheds

In increasingly arid regions such as the western U.S., water managers are learning that careful management and restoration of watershed ecosystems, including thinning trees and conducting prescribed burns, are important tools in coping with a hotter, drier climate.

BY JACQUES LESLIE · FEBRUARY 19, 2019





# Thank you!

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