

# City of Aurora's Forest Health Initiatives

Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute

Friday March 6, 2020

Presented by

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# Agenda

Just How did Aurora get Involved with the U.S. Forest Service?

Brief Aurora System Overview

Buffalo Creel Fire 1996 Pinchot Report

Mountain Pine Bark Beetle Epidemic Front Range Fires

Denver's Forests to Faucets Program

Watershed Wildfire Protection Program

Healthy Headwaters and other Groups

Funding

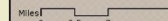
Trail Creek Restoration

Next Steps

Questions



## Aurora Water



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15151 E. Alameda Pkwy, Aurora, CO 80012 USA



ado  
Basin

## South Platte River Basin

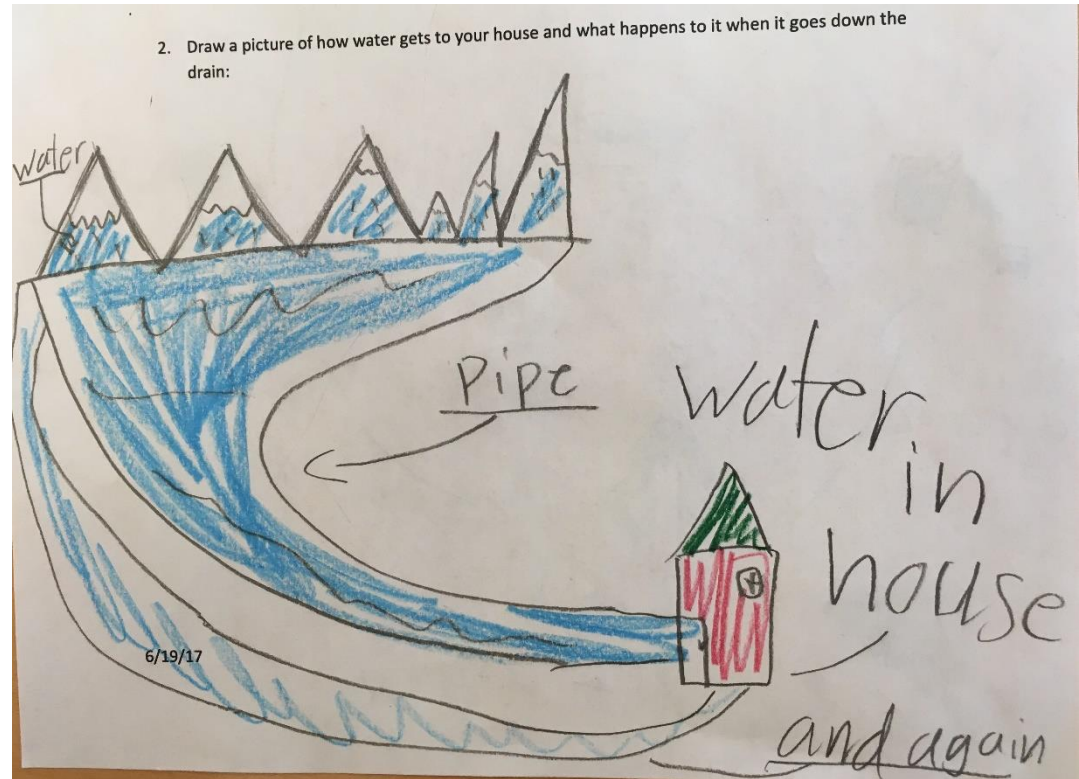
## Arkansas River Basin

## Rio Grande



# About Aurora

- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in Colorado
  - Population 381,000
  - 160.53 mi<sup>2</sup>
- 54<sup>th</sup> largest city in US
- Water department is responsible for 5-types of water
  - Raw water
  - Treated water
  - Waste water
  - Reuse water
  - Storm water
- Water supply
  - Colorado River, Arkansas River and South Platte River basins
  - Water can be delivered from up to 180 miles away
  - 12-Water storage reservoir in current system ( 156,000 AF)
  - 3-Water treatment plants
- Water conservation
  - 2015 Municipal water efficiency plan
  - Water-wise landscape rebate (Xeriscape)
  - Ultra-high-efficiency toilet rebates
  - Irrigation system efficiency rebates
  - Programs for low income residents
  - Water education
  - Landscape code changes
  - Tiered water rates
- Reuse
  - Sand Creek Water Reclamation facility – 5MGD
  - 3 golf courses, 4 parks, City Hall and I-225 interchange
  - Prairie Waters Project
    - \$650M indirect potable reuse project
    - 10,000 AF annually
- Integrated Water Master Plan
  - Comprehensive plan updated every 5-years
  - Multi scenario / demand based plan
- Upcoming conversion to advanced metering infrastructure



# Buffalo Creek Fire

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## 1996

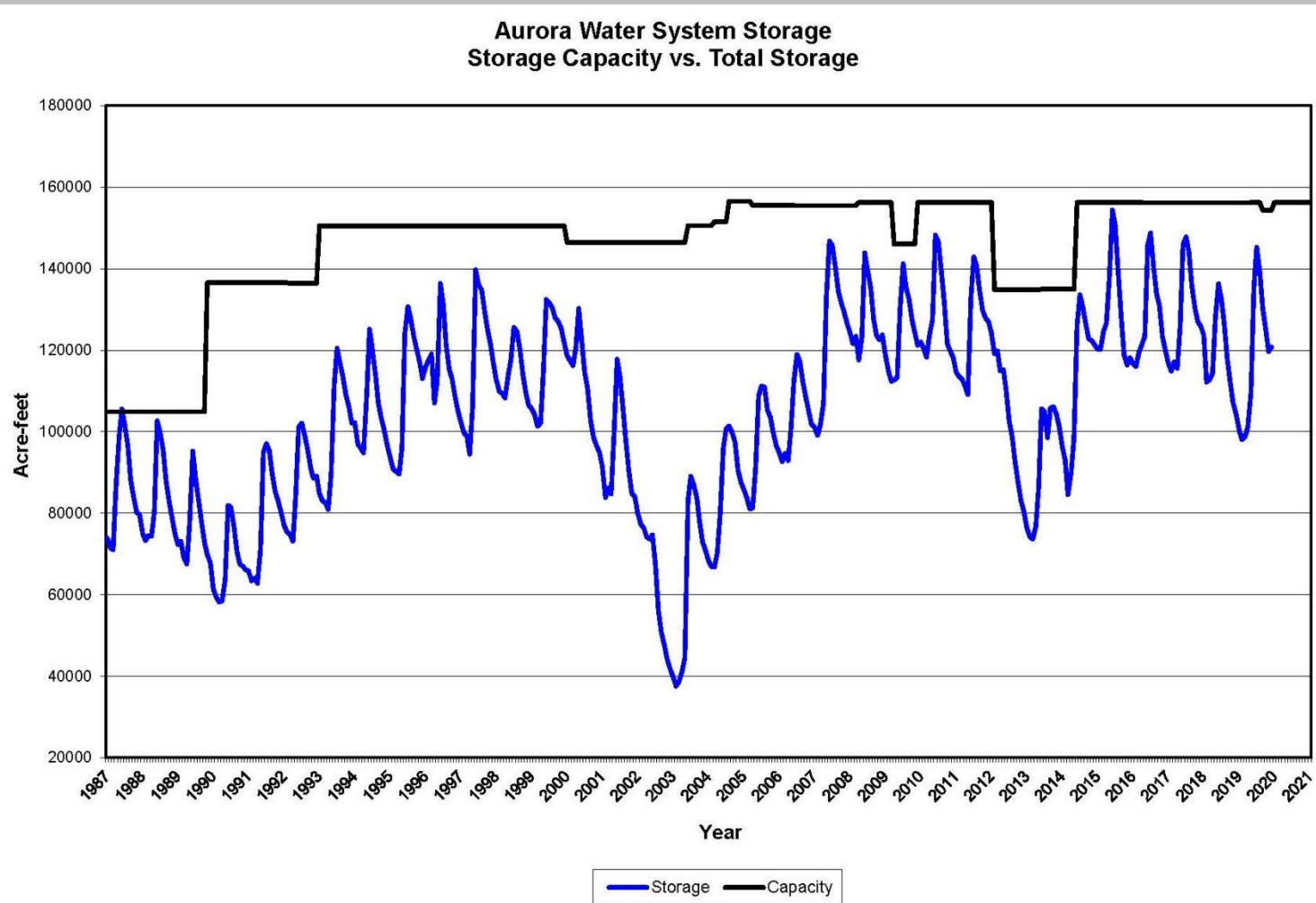




Pinchot  
Institute  
Study  
2006-2007



# Reliability, Drought Resistance and Resilience





# Mountain Pine Bark Beetle Epidemic





# Denver Begins Forest to Faucets Program



The Pinchot Report  
deliveredttershedo Front  
Range Water Providers



Became clear that  
Aurora Water and other  
water providers needed  
to be involved!



Watershed Wildfire  
Workgroup Established



# Major Fires Sweep Colorado

- Buffalo Creek 1996
- High Meadow 2000
- Hayman 2002
- Four Mile 2010
- High Park 2012
- Waldo Canyon 2012
- West Fork Complex 2012
- Black Forest 2013
- Spring Hill and 416 Fires 2018





# Watershed Wildfire Protection Workgroup

- Worked for X years to develop GIS approach
- Creates overlays that help to prioritize watersheds and creates zones of concern
- Brad will talk more about the details



# Front Range Roundtable

- Established as the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership
- At its Height—Membership tops 300
- Outreach and Education
- Community Protection
- Forest Restoration





# Healthy Headwaters Leadership

- Established to share lessons-learned across the American West
- Brings diverse organizations together to discuss what works and why
- Beginning new expansion as part of the National Wildlife Federation
- Sarah will discuss this more!



# What Can be Done—Trail Creek

- \$4 million Project –CUSP
  - Vail Associates
  - Aurora Water
  - National Forest Foundation
  - Coca Cola
  - Gates Family Foundation
  - Private Doners





# Trail Creek Before



# Trail Creek After





# Trail Creek Before







# Trail Creek Before



# Trail Creek After

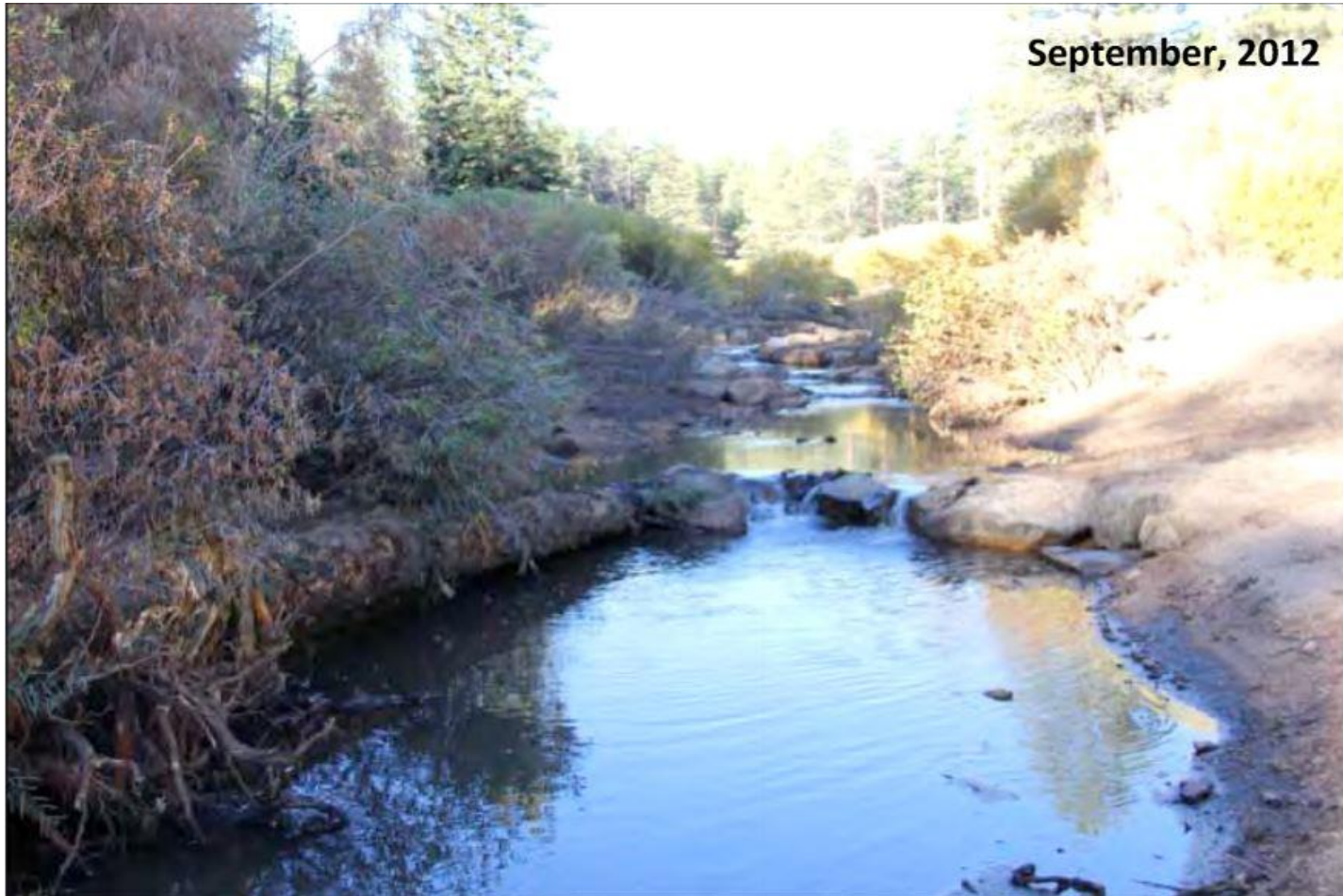




# Trail Creek Before



# Trail Creek After





# What's Next



Meetings and Coordination with Stakeholders



Bring More Partners and Funding to the Table



Memorandum of Agreement with the USFS, CSFS, NRCS



Development of Project components



Identification of processes required for to increase pace an scale

# Questions at the End !!??



Camp Creek  
Debris Flow  
Geologist for  
scale

