

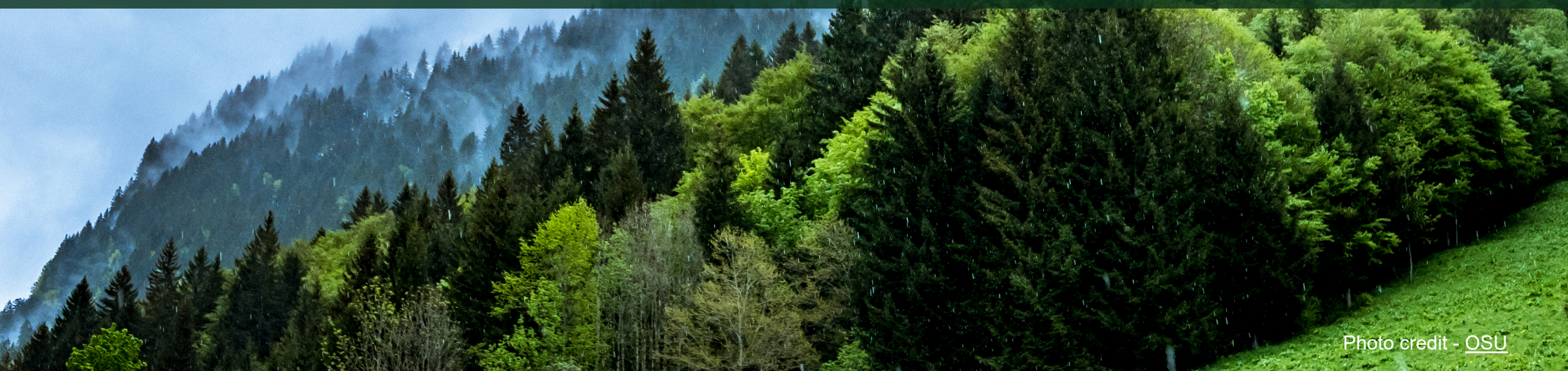
# Colorado Post-Fire Playbook Overview

*Guidance for counties, tribes, municipalities, and water providers*

*Kate Dunlap*

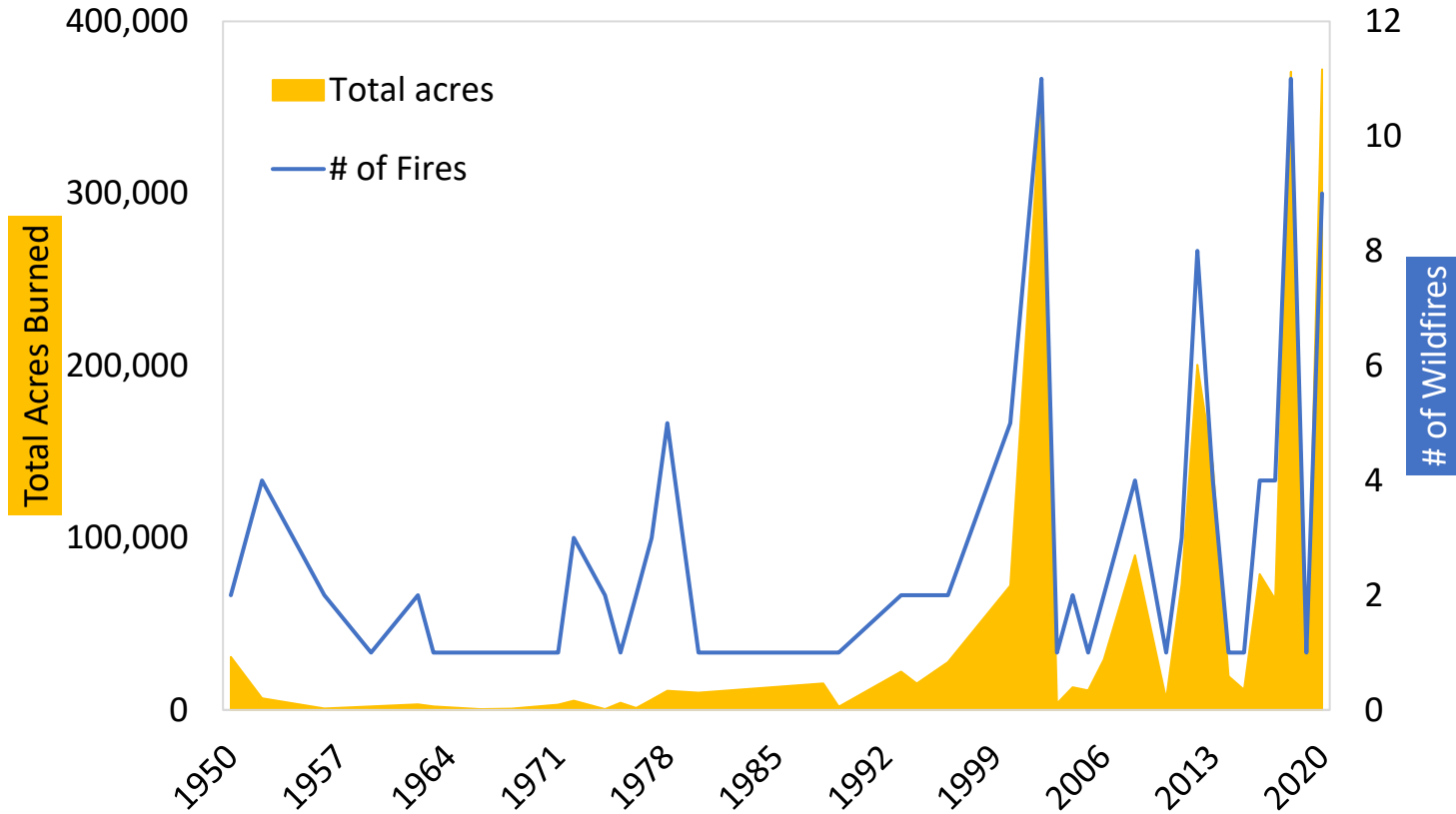
*Source Water Quality Program Manager*

*City of Boulder, Public Works – Utilities*



# Wildfires in Colorado are increasing in frequency and extent

Large\* Colorado Wildfires (1950-Present)



\*only shows fires >400 acres Data as of 10/12/2020  
Source: Inciweb.nwcg.gov

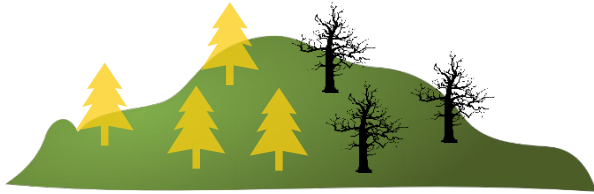


*Middle Fork Fire, October 2020.*  
*Source: Incident Information System*

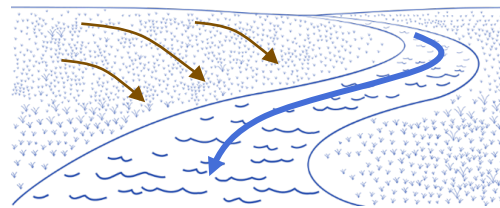
# Wildfire impacts to source water



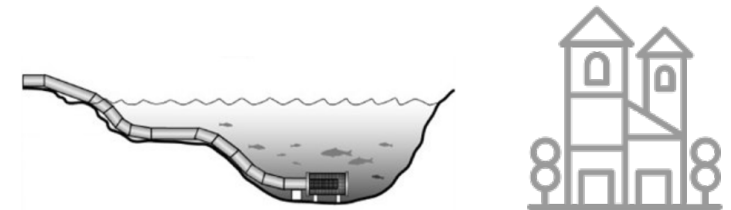
Wildfire



- Reduced vegetation
- Hydrophobic soils



- Increased runoff
- Higher peak flows



- Sediment / debris transport to infrastructure and communities

# Short- and long-term impacts to water supplies

## Storage Capacity Loss



*Debris/sediment-filled Strontia Springs– 1996 Buffalo Creek fire. Source: Kennedy (2013)*

## Infrastructure Damage



*Exposed pipeline after the Colorado Springs 2012 Waldo Canyon wildfire*

## Water Quality Impacts

Water treatment challenges & increased costs



Taste & odor



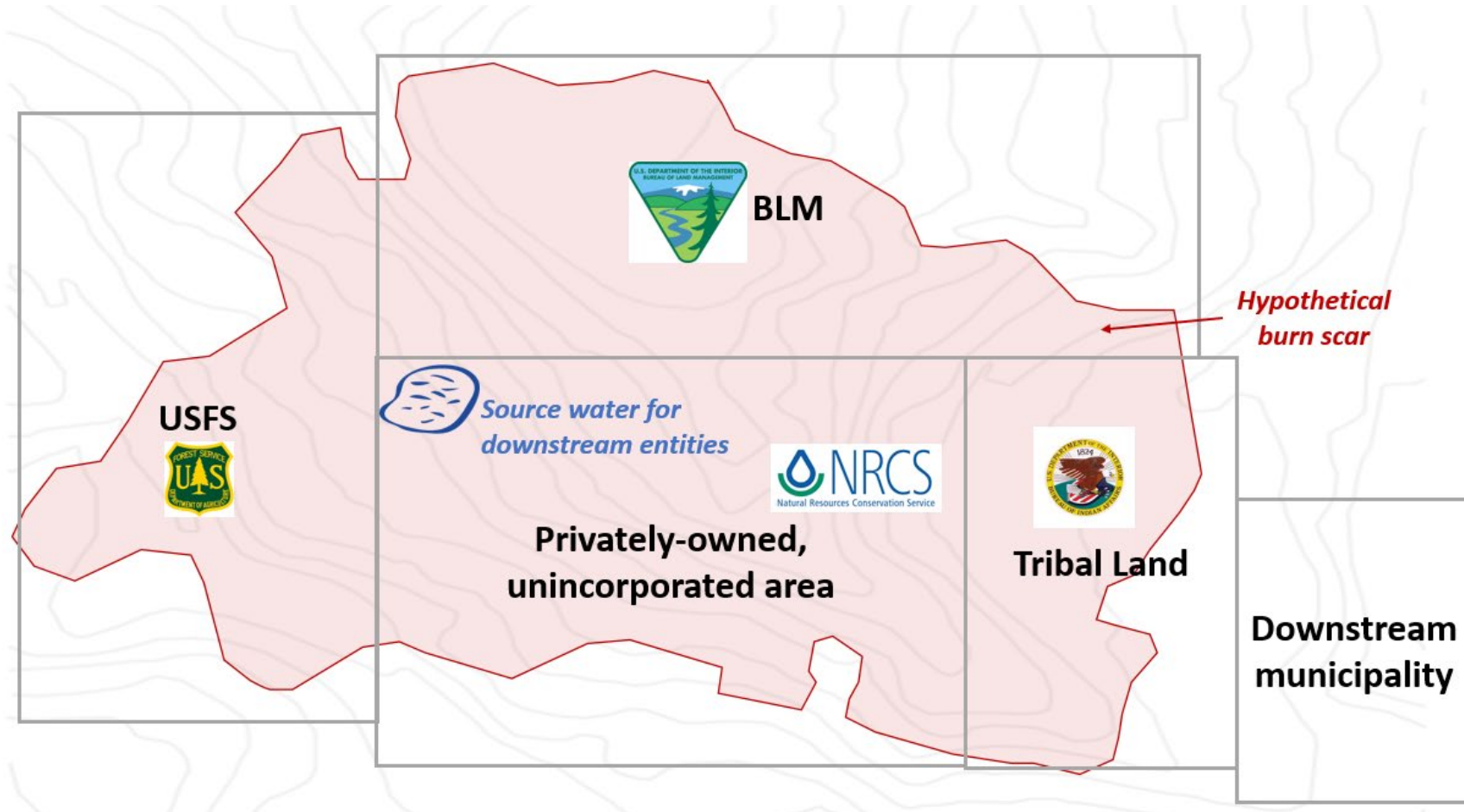
Algae



*Poudre River water following a storm within the High Park burn area. Source: Oropeza (2016)*

# A need for post-fire recovery guidance

- Clarity in roles and responsibilities
- List of critical contacts and funding sources
- Gap for water providers in particular



# Playbook Overview

**FOREST SERVICE UAS**  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**JW**  
JOURNALISM

**Colorado Springs Utilities**  
It's how we're all connected

**D DENVER WATER**

**Colorado State University**  
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOREST SCIENCES

**CDPHE**

**SWCA**

**COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

**City of Golden**

**CITY OF BOULDER**

**COCO**  
COALITIONS & COLLABORATIVES, INC

**Colorado Post-Fire Playbook**

Guidance for Counties, Tribes,  
Municipalities, and Water Providers

*Cameron Peak Fire, September 2020.  
Source: Incident Information System*

# Develop a critical contacts list

Identifying contacts in advance allows entities to begin coordinating and focus on recovery efforts

- **Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)** – CWCB is a primary source of funding for watershed stakeholder coordination, early flood warning systems, technical tool and model development, project implementation, adaptive management, and monitoring (see Section 3.2).

<a href="#"><u>Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Grants Coordinator</u></a>	Enter contact details
--	-----------------------

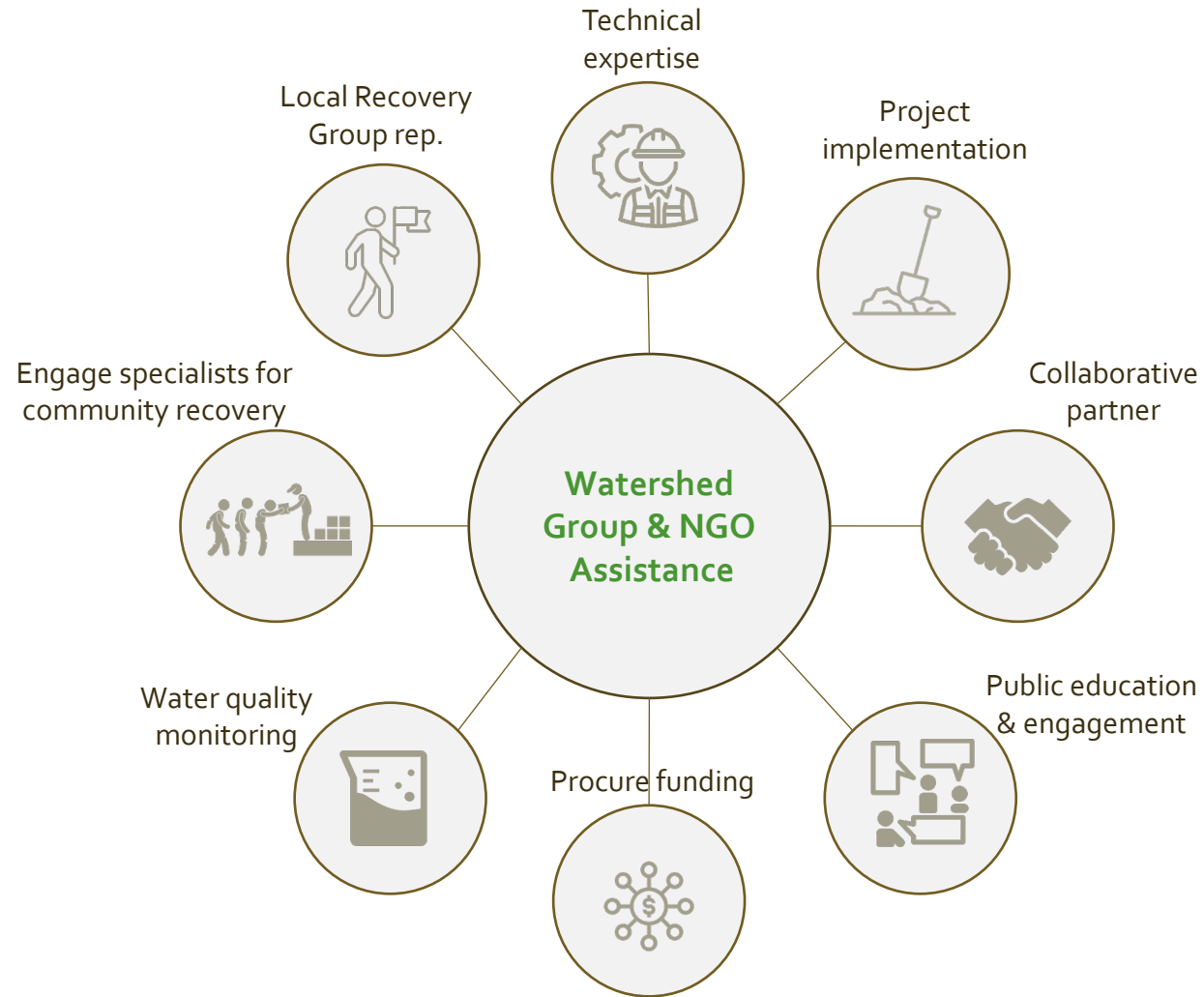
- **Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (DHSEM)** – DHSEM can provide technical and financial assistance, and in the case of a State Disaster Declaration, will convene a State Long-Term Recovery and Mitigation Task Force.

<a href="#"><u>State Recovery Officer</u></a>	Enter contact details
<a href="#"><u>District Field Manager</u></a>	Enter contact details
<a href="#"><u>Regional Mitigation Specialist</u></a>	Enter contact details

- **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Source Water Contact** – CDPHE provides information and assistance for water providers (see Section 1.3).

Enter contact details
-----------------------

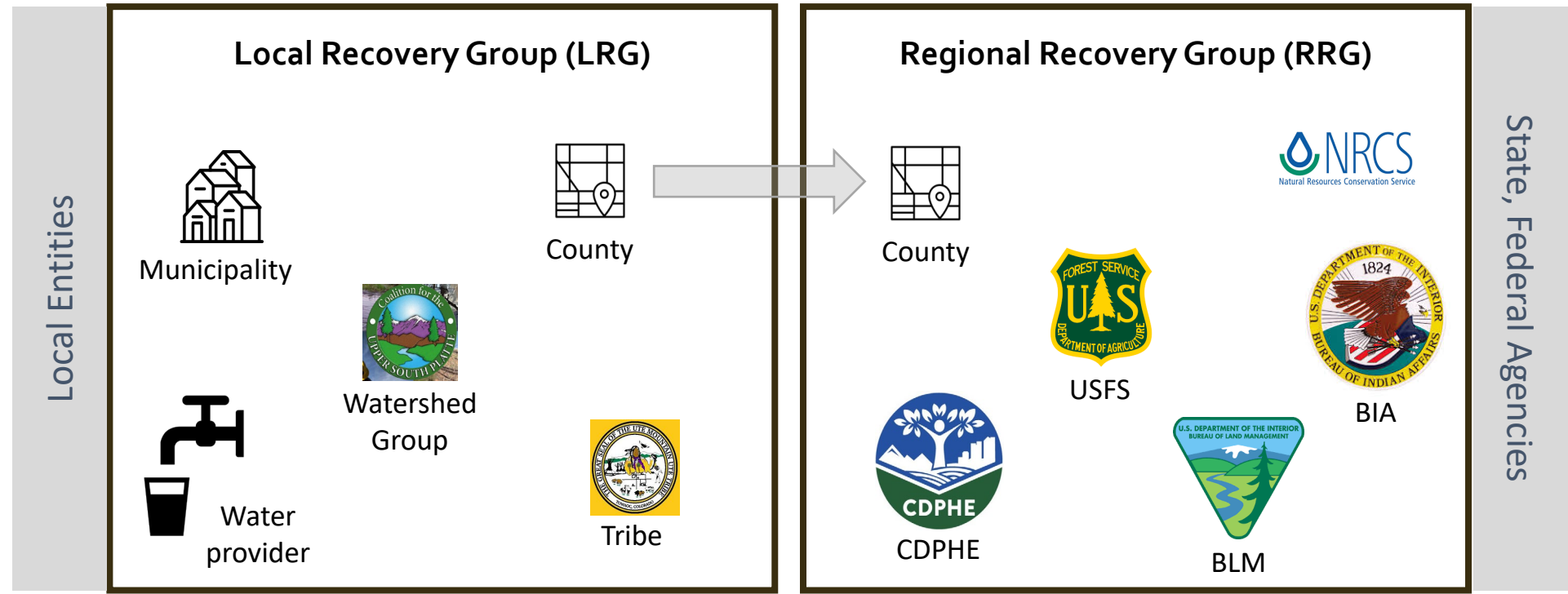
# Identify a post-fire liaison or a watershed group to assist












# Establish a Local Recovery Group

- The LRG brings local knowledge of risks and assets to the higher-level Regional Recovery Group



# Request federal assistance with assessments

Regardless of land ownership, USFS, NRCS, and BLM will likely play a lead or supportive role in post-fire assessments and recovery efforts

Agency		First month	Year 1 (emergency phase)	Year 2+
	USFS	Landowner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAER Assessments</li> <li>• BAER Report, BARC Map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAER Team and USFS national office implement projects</li> <li>• USFS rehabilitation efforts transition over to the local national forest office</li> </ul>
	BLM	Landowner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESR Assessment</li> <li>• ESR Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local field office implements ES projects</li> <li>• Local field office implements BAR projects</li> </ul>
	NRCS	Partner on private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage Assessment</li> <li>• Damage Survey Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist EWP sponsor in implementing post-fire recovery treatments</li> <li>• Assist EWP sponsor as needed.</li> </ul>
	CWCB	Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder coordination and watershed assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with flood hazard project engineering, design and implementation</li> <li>• Assist with stream and floodplain restoration, adaptive mgmt., monitoring</li> </ul>
	CSFS	Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical assessment of tree survival, reforestation needs, timber salvage, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply trees and shrubs (for a fee) and provide technical assistance for hazard tree removal, mitigation techniques</li> <li>• Advise landowners on site-specific reforestation efforts</li> </ul>
	BIA	Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAER team Assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with other DOI agencies on BAER projects</li> <li>• Coordinate with other DOI agencies on BAER projects</li> </ul>
	Local gov't, tribe, water provider	Landowner, Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with state and federal agencies to conduct assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as a sponsor for funding sources</li> <li>• Partner with federal and state agencies to implement projects</li> <li>• Partner with federal and state agencies to implement projects and track rehabilitation efforts</li> </ul>

# Request funding assistance

Recovery is costly. The Playbook identifies 8 key funding opportunities



Funding Mechanism	Funding Source	Deadline	Available Funds	Match
<a href="#"><u>Emergency Watershed Protection</u></a> Funding (for immediate, emergency use)	USDA-NRCS	Within 60 days of the fire	Project specific	Sponsor pays 100% up-front costs; reimbursed up to 75%
<a href="#"><u>Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program</u></a>	CWCB	November	\$4M statewide	≥ 50% in-kind or cash
<a href="#"><u>Colorado Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants</u></a>	CWCB (with approval from a <a href="#"><u>basin roundtable</u></a> )	Rolling	Variable - \$1M-\$12M per basin	≥ 25% in-kind or cash (possible waiver)
<a href="#"><u>Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund</u></a> (partner with a local watershed organization)	Colorado Watershed Assembly	November	\$20k max	≥ 20% in-kind or cash (cash match only for project application)

**The Colorado Post-Fire Playbook is available online**

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/post-fire-playbook>



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

# Questions and Feedback

---

Please submit comments and questions to Kate Dunlap at  
[dunlapk@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:dunlapk@bouldercolorado.gov)

All comments are being compiled and the group will reconvene in  
2021 to update the Playbook as needed.