

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Chris Sturm, Stream Restoration Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 14, January 23 - 24, 2012 Board Meeting
Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Watershed
Restoration Update**

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Background

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) has been working to protect the 2,600 square mile Upper South Platte Watershed since 1998. The watershed delivers municipal water to nearly 75% of Colorado's residents. Five large reservoirs are located in the watershed. They are Antero, Spinney, Elevenmile, Cheesman, and Tarryall Reservoirs. CUSP works closely with its partners to plan, design, implement and monitor projects that protect, rehabilitate and restore the lands and water in the watershed. Major partners include the CWCB, Denver Water, Aurora Water, Colorado State Forest Service, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and all counties within the watershed (see map on next page).

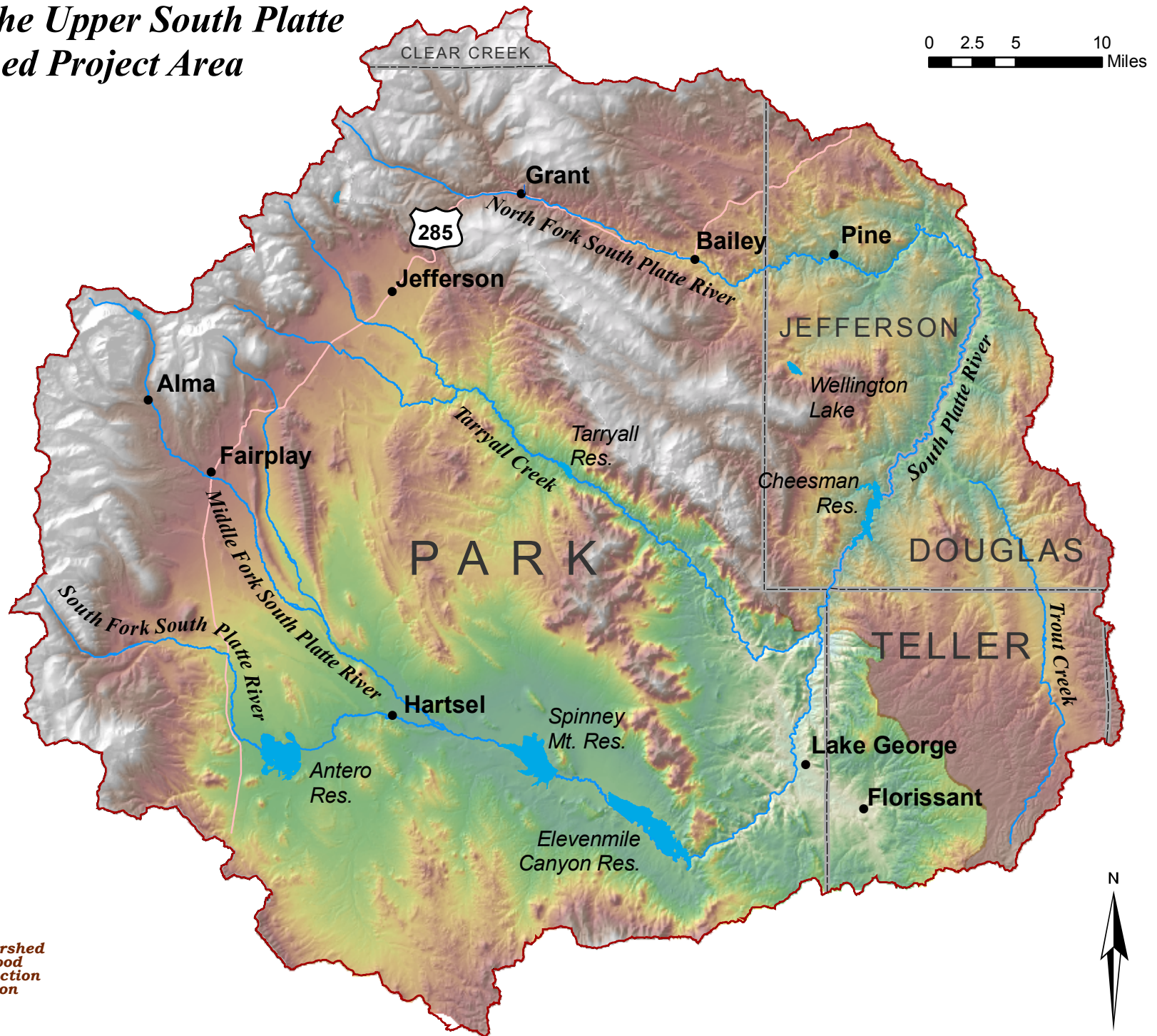
Discussion

Since 2004, CUSP has been awarded grants from several CWCB watershed protection programs. These include the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund, Colorado Watershed Restoration Program, and the Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund. The grants have been awarded for projects designed to improve water quality and supply while promoting healthy ecologic function within and adjacent to the riverine environment. Many of the projects are designed to stabilize streams in the Hayman Burn area. These streams are heavily laden with sediment that mobilizes during storm events and deposits in downstream reservoirs. CUSP's approach to watershed protections is thorough and pragmatic. They have inventoried and assessed mines in Park County, which resulted in a study that will ultimately lead to the remediation of mines with the largest impact on water quality. CUSP has also designed and reconstructed a water diversion to improve water delivery while recovering and connecting trout habitat. The projects completed in the Upper South Platte Watershed with CWCB grant funds are representative of the types of projects funded in many other parts of the State. CUSP is a highly successful watershed group, evidenced by functional projects and continued support from their many partners. Their focus is multi-objective, and the projects implemented have direct benefits for the environment, water supply and recreation.

Staff Recommendation

This is an informational agenda item. No Board action is requested.

Coalition for the Upper South Platte Watershed Project Area



**Watershed
& Flood
Protection
Section**