

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kevin Houck, P.E., Chief
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: September 9, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 15, September 24-25, 2013 Board Meeting
Colorado Wildfire Update**

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

James Eklund
CWCB Director

Staff Recommendation

This is an informational item and staff is not requesting board action.

Discussion

2012 and 2013 have seen a number of large wildfires occur in the Wildland Urban Interface near highly populated areas. As a result, a number of ongoing threats have become present, including increased flooding, debris flows, watershed health, and impacts to water supply infrastructure.

Following the wildfires, staff has worked extensively with local governments, non-governmental organizations, and other state and federal partners to assess the impacts associated with the fires and develop plans and projects to mitigate future threats. In the past two years, technical assistance has been provided in the High Park, Waldo Canyon, Black Forest, Royal Gorge, East Peak, West Fork Complex, and Red Canyon fires.

The CWCB has also provided financial assistance to communities impacted by the fires. Of special note, following board action at the July 2013 meeting and an executive order from Governor Hickenlooper, a maximum of \$2.5 million in funding was made available for recovery efforts in the West Fork Complex Fire in Mineral, Hinsdale, and Rio Grande Counties.

Staff will present an update on activities relating to wildfire recovery and its ongoing impacts to nearby communities. Special attention will be focused on projects related to the funding provided to the West Fork Complex Fire.