

# COALITION FOR THE UPPER SOUTH PLATTE

A Healthy Watershed ~ Now and in the Future

WORKING TO PROTECT THE UPPER SOUTH PLATTE WATERSHED



**Our mission:** *to protect the water quality and ecological health of the Upper South Platte Watershed, through the cooperative efforts of watershed stakeholders, with emphasis placed on community values and economic sustainability.*

The Upper South Platte Watershed, supplemented by water from the western slope, provides water to 75% of Colorado's front-range population.

*Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion. - Hebbel*

Our organization was formed in August 1998, as the *Upper South Platte Watershed Protection Association*. The organization was created with an oversight board comprised of diverse groups concerned about the South Platte River water quality and is voluntary, not regulatory in nature. Goals and objectives for protecting the 2,600 square mile watershed were agreed upon and the Strategic Plan was adopted in February 2001.

CUSP does almost nothing alone, yet with our partners, we have

accomplished so much: we have helped heal the scars — both physical and metaphorical — the Hayman fire left on our land and our hearts. We help homeowners and government agencies in the effort to protect us all from the next conflagration. We restore rivers to improve fish habitat and reduce erosion. We build and restore trails to enhance recreational opportunities (something our communities value dearly), while reducing negative impacts on the environment. We fight noxious weeds, educate children and their teachers, encourage volunteers, and answer the call whenever we can make a difference.



*We would love to hear from you!*

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### Where we focus our energy

Water resources and quality, Forest health, Fire rehabilitation, Noxious weeds, Stream/River restoration, Erosion and flood control, Environmental education, Riparian corridor enhancement, Sustainable recreation, Local green economies, Volunteer outreach, Community preparedness, Alternative energy, Community involvement, and Mine hazards assessments.

## Water

*In an age when man has forgotten his origins and is blind even to his most essential needs for survival, water along with other resources has become the victim of his indifference - Rachel Carson*

Water, the life blood of the West, is our passion. We strive to restore rivers and streams and protect them for the next generation. Since inception, CUSP has restored miles of streams. In 2011 we continue to enhance water quality, increase recreational activities, and protect our most valuable resource. In 2011 we will gather baseline water quality data near proposed natural gas wells within South Park.

## Habitat

*In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous. - Aristotle*

From restoring rivers, to controlling invasive weeds, and creating better haunts for the wild things, CUSP works to protect the marvels of nature. We continue to understand the impacts of abandoned mine drainage on aquatic habitat and have undertaken several mine assessment and reclamation projects.

## Volunteers

*No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. - Aesop*

Hundreds of people log thousands of hours each year, helping us protect our forests, wildlife, rivers, and human values.

## Fire & Forest Health

*People who will not sustain trees will soon live in a world which cannot sustain people. - Bryce Nelson*

As Home to the Hayman, we know forests are one of our most valuable and vulnerable assets. We work to protect and restore them.

## Environmental Education

*Healing the broken bond between our young and nature is in our self interest. - Richard Louv*

We help restore the bond between kids and nature by actively working with hundreds of teachers and students each year. CUSP views education as a life long endeavor - we provided learning opportunities to students of all ages.

## Alternative Energy

*Energy is eternal delight.- William Blake*

We find ourselves in one of the most abundant sunny locals. Woodland Parks name sake “the city above the clouds” draws your attention to the great solar exposure we may once harness. CUSP is impassioned to save our community’s limited dollars by creating local alternative energy initiatives.

### How to get involved

CUSP receives its funding from tax-deductible donations and grants by stakeholders, foundations, businesses and interested individuals. If you are interested in clean water and vibrant communities consider making a tax deductible donation to CUSP today.

Groups or individuals interested in volunteering are invited to call our office today!

**CUSP operates with a true sense of purpose, rooted in our mission. The staff works with partners and stakeholders, ranging from federal and state agencies to area landowners, local governments, residents, school kids, other nonprofits, businesses, and any individuals who want to do something on the ground to make our little corner of the world a better place.**