

Projects Continue this Summer Under the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Grand County and Northern Water are continuing to implement several post-fire watershed restoration projects under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program that was implemented following the 2020 East Troublesome Fire.

Since early 2021, Northern Water and Grand County have implemented more than \$22 million in watershed restoration projects. Last summer, Grand County and Northern Water implemented over 15 different types of projects throughout affected areas of the East Troublesome Fire. These included:

- Installation of debris booms in Grand Lake and Willow Creek Reservoir to protect infrastructure from floating debris.
- Over 5,200 acres of aerial mulching to reduce potential hillslope erosion on burned soils.
- Construction of check structures in gullies to trap and store sediment mobilized from the hillslope and to prevent downcutting by increased peak flows.
- Removal of sediment along areas of State Highway 125 following 2021 precipitation events.
- Flood protection projects to protect private properties against postfire flooding.



Debris boom at Grand Lake



Projects Planned for 2022

Projects planned for this summer include sediment management, channel stability, flood risk reduction, road protection, and hillslope and gully erosion control. Projects will be implemented throughout the burn area and are expected to be complete by fall of 2022.



**Sediment
Management**



**Stream Channel
Stability**



**Flood Risk
Reduction**



**Hillslope and Gully
Erosion Control**

Aerial Mulching to Occur on Federal Lands

Northern Water is working with Grand County, the USFS and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement approximately 8,000 acres of high priority aerial mulching on federal lands within the East Troublesome Fire burn area to reduce the potential of hillslope erosion in watersheds at risk.

Mulching will occur mainly in the Drowsy Water Creek and Willow Creek watersheds, with a



portion occurring in the North Fork of the Colorado River Watershed and a small area near Lake Granby. Mulching is anticipated to begin in mid-June and will last for approximately five weeks. Mulching activities may be extended if additional funding is available.

We anticipate temporary closures on the USFS and BLM lands during aerial mulching operations and are working with the USFS and BLM to determine locations and dates. Information will be posted as it becomes available. Please reference our website at www.GCWatershedRecovery.com.



Aerial mulching from 2021

Watershed Recovery Plan in Development

Northern Water is working with Grand County, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a Watershed Recovery Plan for the East Troublesome Fire. The plan will identify and prioritize areas for treatment on federal lands within the burn area. Northern Water has signed a participating agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to allow work to occur on the National Forest System (NFS). The plan is expected to be completed this summer, with implementation to begin in spring 2023.

About the Grand County Watershed Recovery

A multi-agency collaborative effort developed in response to the 2020 East Troublesome Fire that will help restore the region's watersheds and protect local residents and property from future disasters.



Grand County
Colorado



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT
PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937



THREE LAKES
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

