

The Upper Fountain Creek and Cheyenne Creek Flood Restoration Master Plan

Decision Making Process

Context Statement

The Upper Fountain Creek and Cheyenne Creek watersheds include 91,796 acres of predominately forested land on the west side of Colorado Springs known as the "Pikes Peak Region". These watersheds are a major source of water for eastern Teller County and western El Paso County municipalities and residents. With a diversity of public and private ownerships, the watersheds are a major regional tourist and recreational destination, as well as home for a large percentage of El Paso and Teller County residents.

The watersheds are characterized by extremes in temperature and precipitation, large elevation changes, steep gradients and diverse ecosystems rich with plant life and wildlife. At 14,110 feet, Pikes Peak is the highest point in the watersheds and has stunning views that inspired the writing of "America the Beautiful".

The recent summer of 2013 floods, coupled with the 2012 Waldo Canyon fire, have resulted in considerable transport of sediment and debris. The floods altered the Creek bed, banks, floodplains and structures and have led to extensive flood damage including property and infrastructure damage, erosion and sedimentation that resulted in a net loss of flood capacity. To identify strategies that will mitigate the effects of fire damage and flood damage in the watershed, a holistic restoration planning effort will provide effective and lasting protection of at risk assets, as well as the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Core Values

Critical Issues

Evaluation Criteria

