

Colorado Wildfires and Water Quality

PRIVATE PROPERTY
STAY ON THE TRAIL

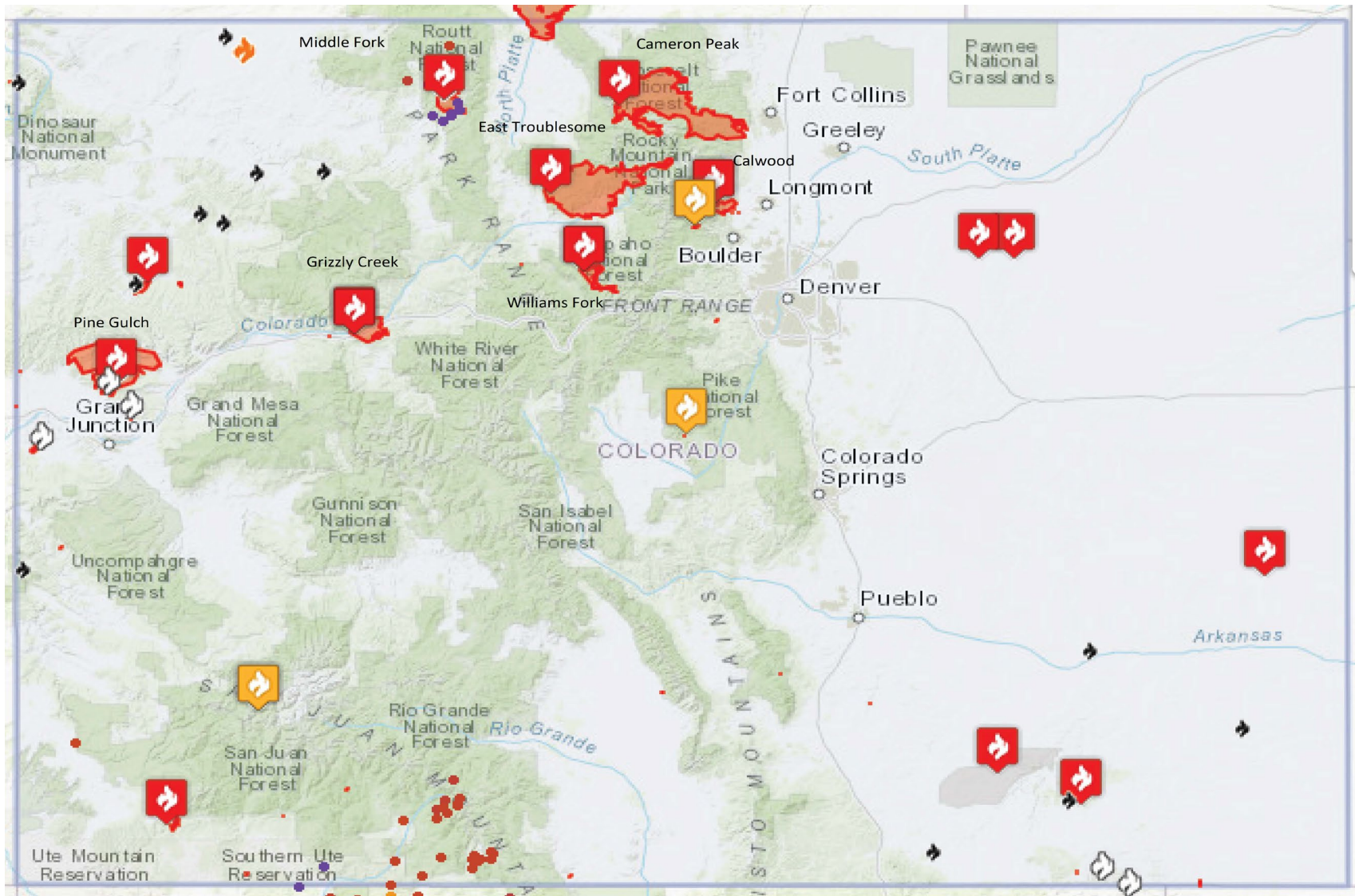
For: Western States Water Council

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Wildfires in Colorado in 2020



WQCD Wildfire Responses

- Initial “Acute” team Response
 - Evaluate the issue: What, When, and How?
 - Assess the data, e.g. water quality and treatment
 - Assess the risk to public health
 - Determine the appropriate response
 - Boil water advisories?
- Follow up testing and address acute concerns (rescind boil water advisories)

Division Post Wildfire Responses

- Ongoing Response
 - Coordinate on BAER and watershed assessments
 - Post wildfire playbook implementation/coordination
 - Remediation and stabilization issues (NPS group)
 - Long term water quality impacts and relationship to treatment

Watershed Wildfire Impacts

- Erosion/Sedimentation
- Increased Metals
- Increased Total Organic Carbon - Disinfection By Products Issues
- Nutrient Loading-Harmful Algal Blooms
- Low Dissolved Oxygen
- Increased pathogen/bacteria contamination risks
- Water treatment challenges (ex: coagulant, chlorine demand)

Stakeholder Collaboration

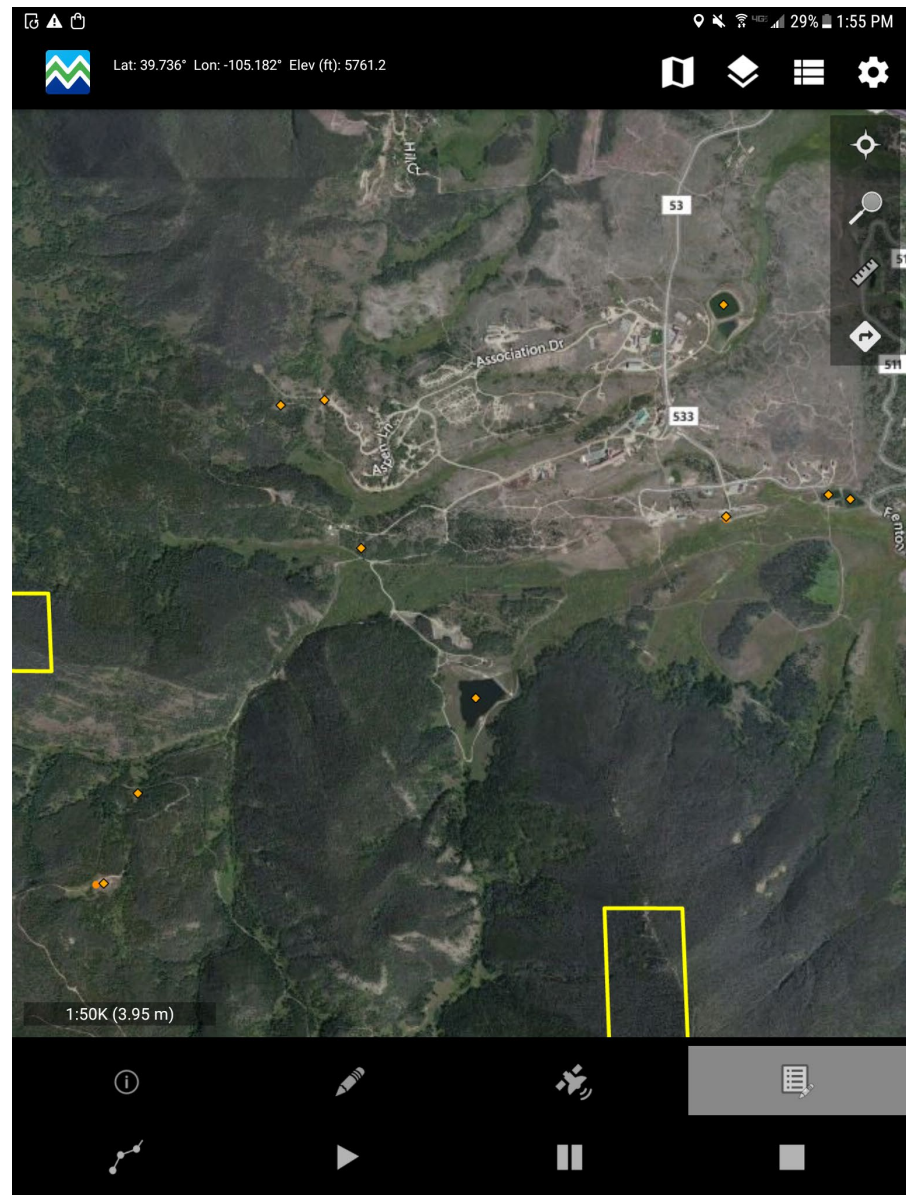
- Local Recovery Group support
- Coordination with Colorado Water Conservation Board and Technical Advisory Team - Chris Sturm et. al and the technical assistance team (newly formed)
- Communication and Collaboration with Coalition of the South Platte (CUSP) and Coalitions and Collaboratives (COCO)
- Active participation in Watershed Wildfire Protection Group

Type of Data Collected:

- Owner/Operator Contact information
- PWSID
- Population Served
- Building Material

Critical infrastructure components included:

- Reservoir
- Treatment Facilities
- Pumphouses
- Storage Tanks
- Springs/Ponds



Thank You!



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