

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2005



Upper South Platte

CO

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- Vulnerability to forest fires
- Deforestation
- Excess sediments and erosion
- Severe flooding
- Habitat loss

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) is still battling the environmental devastation caused by the 2002 Hayman fire. By far, their greatest achievement has been galvanizing numerous volunteers for on-the-ground restoration work. With the help of many, the coalition has:

- Restored a total of 6.5 miles of river on three sites
- Coordinated more than 10,000 hours of volunteer efforts in raking, seeding, and mulching more than 120 acres of burned lands, and in planting more than 2,500 trees and shrubs
- Treated more than 225 acres of property vulnerable to fire



Pete Gallagher of Fin-Up Habitat Consultants and Jeff Spohn, Biologist for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, supervise placement of trees in Eleven Mile Canyon along the South Platte River. The trees provide habitat for trout and improve water quality by stabilizing streambanks.



A contractor harvests trees from the Hayman fire area for use in restoring rivers throughout the watershed as part of CUSP's Trees for Trout program

2003 Grantee **UPDATE**

"Our volunteer program is absolutely phenomenal, and I am especially proud of it. Since 2002, we have had almost 60,000 volunteer hours doing on-the-ground work."

**– Carol Ekarius
Executive Director
Coalition for the
Upper South Platte**