

Action, Implementation & Mitigation (AIM) Program

Fall 2020



EXAMPLES of STRATEGIC VALUE STATEMENTS

Adding a Team Member

(courtesy of West Region Wildfire Council)

The strategic value of this project is related to an internal analysis of organizational capacity and workflow bottlenecks. Over the last 18 months, the West Region Wildfire Council has encountered a significant uptick in interest from high risk, high priority WUI landowners in our region. Unfortunately, the uptick in interest comes in a seasonal pattern, roughly coinciding with the wildfire season in duration and intensity – whereby the largest amount of inquiries are coming in during the highest peak of the fire season. For this reason, it becomes extremely challenging to keep up with demand while simultaneously working with landowners and communities to identify, plan and implement wildfire mitigation projects. Adding an additional team member, with a fairly narrow focus, will significantly free up time for our Mitigation Specialist to focus all of their time on public education as well as all of the technical requirements for actually implementing projects on the ground. We estimate that, given the time that this person is committing, we will increase the following mitigation outcomes:

- # of site visits completed;
- # of mitigation projects planned;
- # of mitigation acres accomplished;
- # of chipping days/participants;
- # of homes meeting pre-defined standards for mitigation (home hardening and defensible space). This increase can and will be monitored and quantified. We are currently estimating that we will see a 5% to 20% increase in each of these categories.

Collaborative Fuels Treatment Project

(courtesy of Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed)

Our proposal is a ‘pre-treatment’ phase of a much larger landscape project, the Magic Feather Forest Restoration. However, the project contributes to even larger strategic benefits. If Magic Feather can be successfully completed with sustained support from landowners within & adjacent to its boundaries, it will set the stage for similar large-scale, cross-boundary efforts in the future. As the first cross boundary (public to private) broadcast burn in our area, it has the potential to become a showcase for shared stewardship in the Front Range. It will offer multiple

opportunities for landowner & natural resource manager engagement around issues relating to landscape scale forest treatments, working across boundaries to protect values at risk & a demonstration for how private landowners can have a large impact on protecting their neighbors & watershed assets.

Magic Feather is also the first significant effort of the newly formed Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative (NCFC). NCFC brings together agencies (USFS, NRCS, Conservation Districts), researchers (Rocky Mountain Research Station, Colorado Forest Restoration Institute), nonprofits (CPRW, The Nature Conservancy, Peaks to People, Volunteer FDs), & local utilities to help foster shared stewardship in our region, increase forest treatment implementation especially through the application of prescribed fire, & treat at the landscape scale regardless of land ownership. The NCFC has committed to supporting planning & implementation with science & monitoring. Therefore, the project will fit into a larger picture of scientific information to inform forest restoration in the Front Range. Successfully implementing all the components of the Magic Feather project is a critical step to cementing this collaborative & ensuring the sustained participation of its members. Our local water utilities have expressed an interest in continuing to financially support these types of treatments if we can demonstrate value & impact.