



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc.
Released April 2021

Photo provided by Kara
Karboski, Washington Resource
Conservation and Development
Council

OUR VISION

People working together, for people and the planet.

OUR MISSION

To foster on-the-ground conservation efforts that protect and restore natural resources and local communities by supporting collaborative conservation organizations, who produce collective impacts through stakeholder driven efforts.

ABOUT COCO

Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc. (COCO) believes that groups of people working together have the best chance of addressing complex problems, and leverage the greatest number of resources and assets. No single individual, business, organization, or government can fix the difficulties facing our planet and its people. COCO fosters collaborative conservation initiatives by:

- **Mentoring** placed-based collaborative organizations and providing financial, technical, and staff support.
- **Supporting** organizations that address local conservation issues through an inclusive community-based approach.
- **Engaging** and educating local, regional and national leaders on some of the most pressing conservation issues of our time.
- **Recognizing** that passionate and engaged people are the source of action for restoration projects. COCO helps to increase the capacity of local groups.
- **Sharing** and celebrating partners successes in making positive, sustainable change in local communities and restoring the lands we all depend on.



COCO FINANCIALS

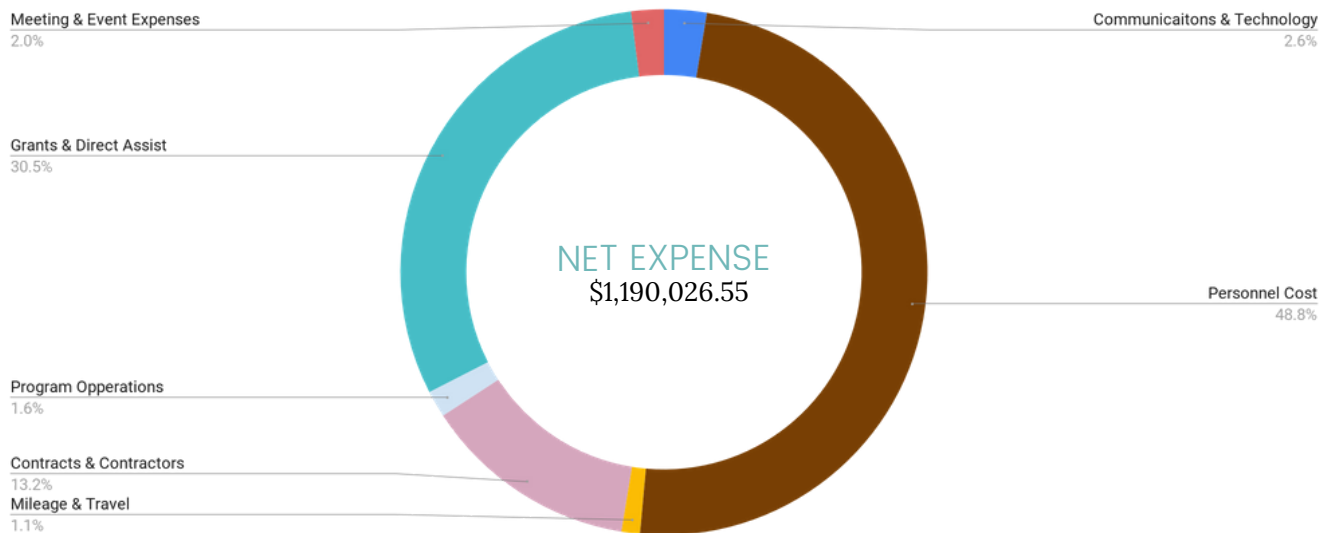
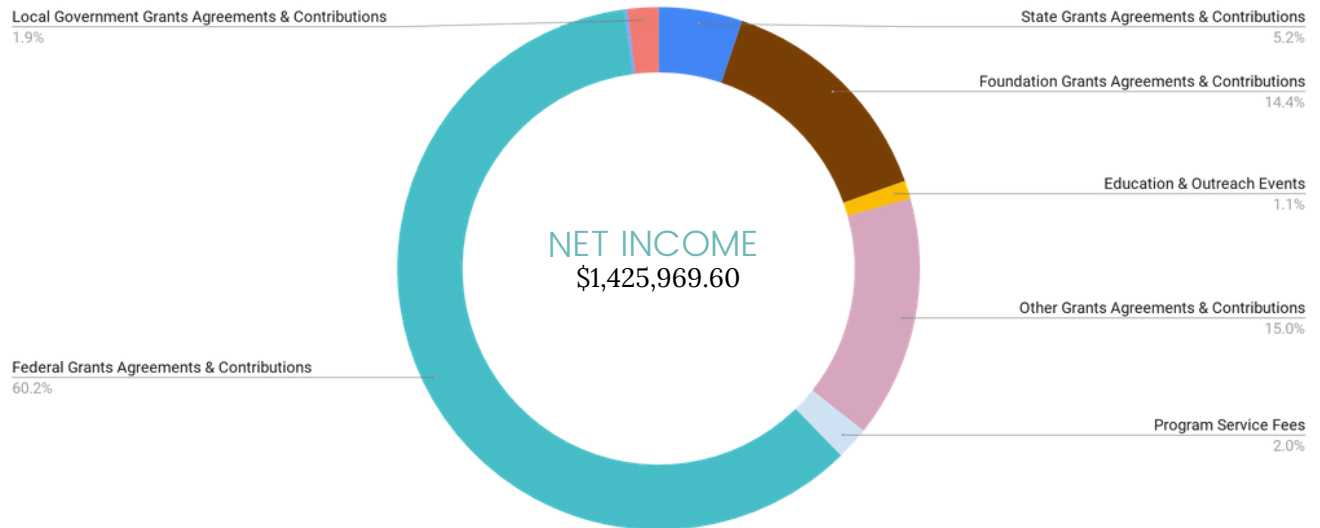


Photo provided by Jen Haas, Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Council



YEAR IN REVIEW



800 Acres

Manually treated by awarded organizations and their community homeowners.



45 Jobs Supported

Seasonal and permanent mitigation and administrative staff hired and maintained.



183 Acres

Bark beetle-killed trees removed by Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative through steep slope logging on Monarch Pass.



54 MBP Certifications

Fire professionals completed two Mitigation Best Practices (MBP) Trainings; one in-person and one virtual.



25,139 Acres

Prescribed burns completed on forested and grassland landscapes.



6 Requested CMATs

With a growing number of requests, the Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) has trained and added 15 new members.



1 CMAT Assignment

Successfully completed the first virtual hybrid assignment in Teller County, Colorado.



\$560,500+ Awarded

14 organizations entered into COCO contracts allocating over half a million dollars in building mitigation capacity.



\$1,000,000+ Matched

By COCO and 22+ affiliate organizations.



15+ New Collaborations

Partnerships created through the AIM grant and Mitigation Mentors programs.



After The Flames Webinar Series

936 people attended 5 post-fire informational trainings on recovery, fluvial hazard zone mapping, urban stream resiliency and water quality.

AFTER THE FLAMES

SUPPORTING BETTER POST-WILDFIRE OUTCOMES

COCO focuses on fostering collaboration between federal agencies and local communities around pre-fire forest health work, watershed work, and post-fire recovery work. In 2020 we worked directly with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and Western Governors Association on strategies to work more effectively within their agencies, with each other, and with local communities.

In 2020, COCO hosted the first virtual After the Flames conference, joining hundreds of researchers, practitioners and community members responding to post-fire. Researchers and practitioners came together for an interactive two-day webinar.

SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

In 2019, COCO hosted the first After The Flames Conference. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 conference was cancelled, but we continued with multiple interactive online sessions. The Post-Fire Science Symposium was not meant to create closer connections within agencies, but to create closer connections **between** agencies. Advances in post-fire science and tools are not often known, shared or easily accessed between federal, state and local agencies. Organizations may not have resources in-house or have the relationships with fellow agencies to stay up-to-date on research and best practices.



The webinar targeted both researchers and practitioners of post-fire science. The primary discussions related to hazards such as flash floods and debris flows on burn areas. Attendees consisted of researchers and practitioners from federal agencies (53%), state agencies (14%), NGOs (10%) and universities (10%).

WEBINAR SERIES

COCO hosted five webinars in 2020, two of which were sponsored by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy team thus allowing for free registration. These webinars had a total of 936 attendees with 572 additional views of the recorded webinars.

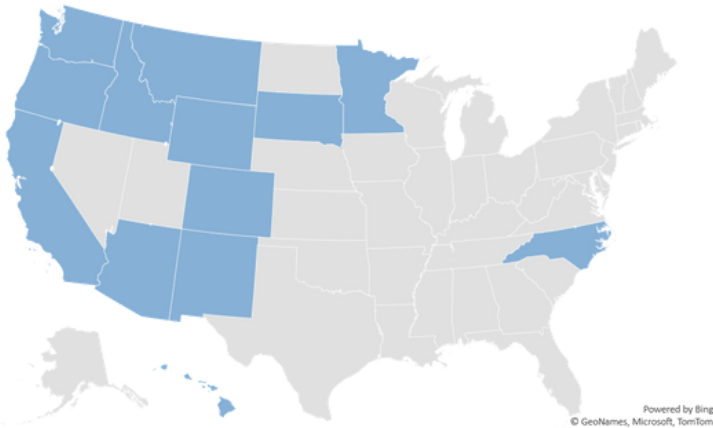
- **Post-Fire Recovery**
- **Fluvial Hazard Zone Mapping**
- **Efficacy of Recovery Techniques**
- **Practical Resiliency in Urban Stream Corridors**
- **Post-Fire Water Quality**

Learn more at: <https://aftertheflames.com/>



ACTION, IMPLEMENTATION & MITIGATION

2020 AIM Subaward Agreements



AIM GRANT

The AIM Grant program focuses on supporting local, place-based organizations working to reduce wildfire risk and increase community resilience before, during and after a wildfire. In 2020, COCO awarded its 30th grant, surpassing \$1 million in total allocations since the program started in 2018. AIM grants are distributed over 13 states. COCO offered an additional round of funding to organizations whose capacity was affected by COVID-19.

MITIGATION MENTORS

Each organization that receives an AIM grant has a designated Mitigation Mentor throughout the life of their grant. Awardees have given praise to this process as most grant programs are hands off. COCO extends this free service to wildfire mitigation organizations across the country.

The Mitigation Mentors program officially kicked off in 2020 with Meade County FireWise. COCO assisted Meade County by supporting the development of a home assessment program, delivering a virtual S-212 chainsaw course and providing a home ignition zone training.

“Our mentors were great with communication, easy to schedule with, and quick to respond. They went above and beyond to address questions and provide additional resources and tools. It always felt as though our mentors were excited to help and invested in the success of our organization. They made time to respond and assist even when I made last minute requests such as asking for feedback on a grant proposal.”

Lisa Parks, Meade County FireWise



MITIGATION BEST PRACTICES

The Mitigation Best Practices Training is a one of a kind opportunity for wildfire professionals and community liaisons to learn about being more efficient and effective in reducing wildfire risk.

In February, 40 students arrived in Boise, Idaho to learn and participate in a 3-day Mitigation Best Practices Training. The in-person teaching and team building activities made for an attentive group of students. Training instructors adapted to the new normal of virtual learning and hosted the second training to over 20 students.

AIM GRANT OVERVIEW

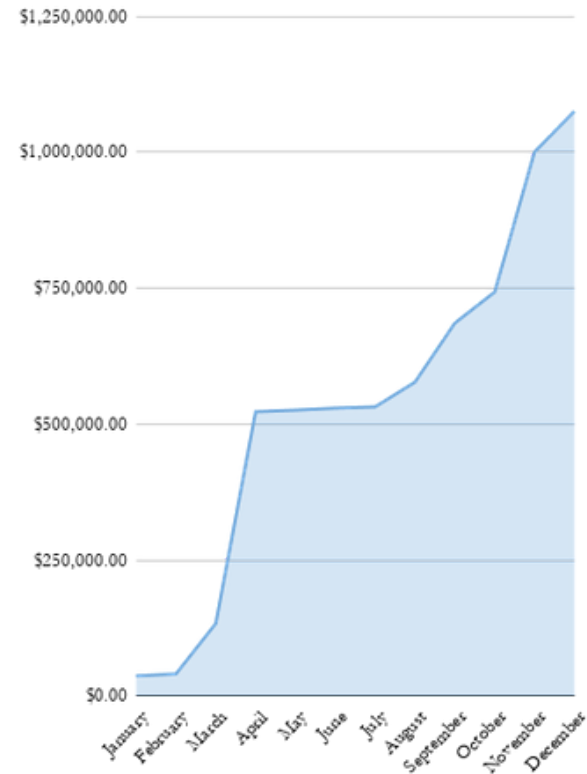
2020 GRANT DISTRIBUTION

14 new organizations in eight states were contracted in 2020, allocating over \$577,000 in grant funding:

- Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition, WY
- Durango Fire & Rescue, CO
- Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization, HI
- Kittitas County Conservation District, WA
- Meade County FireWise, ND
- Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council, NC
- Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, CO
- Lower Musselshell Conservation District, MT
- Fire Adapted Methow Valley, WA
- Plumas County Fire Safe Council, CA
- Salmon River Restoration Council, CA
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership, CO
- Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council, CA
- Fourmile Watershed Coalition, CO

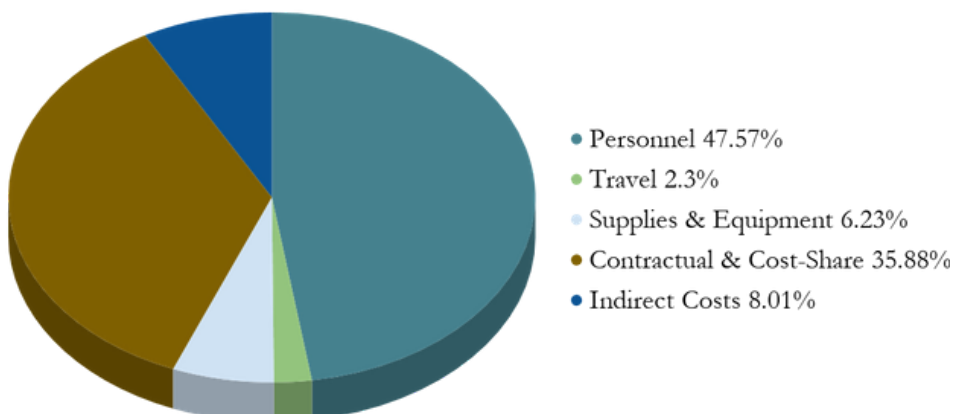
MATCHING FUNDS

Cumulative matching funds:



2020 MILESTONE

This year COCO surpassed a milestone, providing over one million dollars in cumulative grant funding to local place-based organizations working to increase capacity and reduce community wildfire risk. Learn more about the AIM program [here](#).



ONE
MILLION
DOLLARS





COMMUNITY MITIGATION ASSISTANCE TEAM

TELLER COUNTY, COLORADO

The Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) successfully completed the first virtual hybrid assignment in Teller County, Colorado. Seven Team members met with the Teller County Wildfire Council for thirteen days to assess existing mitigation programs, projects and provide feedback and guidance on how to increase mitigation effectiveness and collaboration.



The Team provided a comprehensive report from the findings of the assignment, identifying strategies and best practices for strengthening partnerships, improving community engagement, increasing mitigation actions, updating planning documents and funding opportunities. Teller County is a mitigation pioneer producing the first county wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan in Colorado in 2004, and continues to learn, engage and grow their mitigation partnerships nearly 20 years later. You may access their report [here](#).





AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHT

ARKANSAS RIVER WATERSHED COLLABORATIVE

The Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) played a paramount role in Decker Fire recovery projects on private land; increasing the capacity of storm water drainage below the burn scar to accommodate heavier storm flows, reinforcing a stock pond full of water and sediment at risk of breaching, re-contouring and reinforcing an emergency spillway.

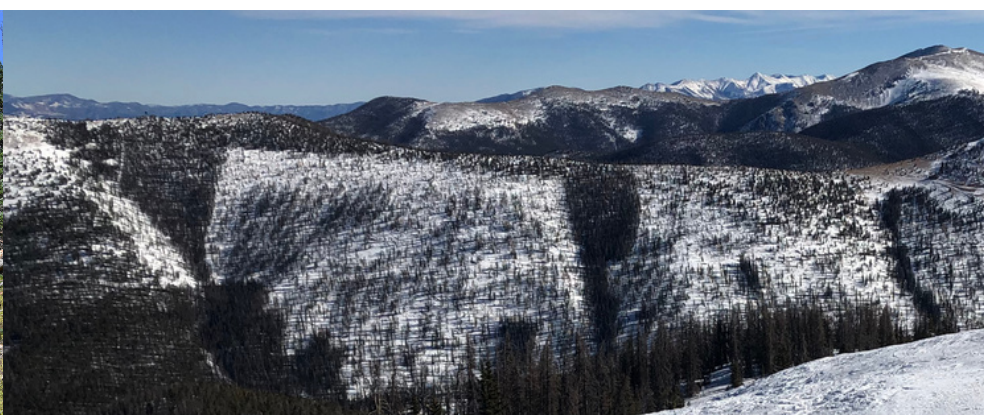
In partnership with River Science, Cañon City Water and Colorado Springs Utilities two turbidity sensors were installed between Cañon City and Salida allowing water providers enough time to react to precipitation and sediment runoff.

In addition to the recovery on the ground, Arkansas River Watershed Partnership provided substantial education and outreach to private landowners including how to handle ash, debris removal, water rights and education on Emergency Watershed Protection program procedures, and identifying areas of concern.



MONARCH PASS FOREST AND WATERSHED HEALTH PROJECT

The Monarch Pass Forest and Watershed Health Stewardship Project broke ground in 2020 through a stewardship agreement with Pike-San Isabel National Forest. The 600-acre project area is located at the headwaters of the South Arkansas River adjacent to the continental divide. The project removed bark beetle killed trees to reduce fuels and protect water resources. Phase 1 included 183 acres of steep slope, tethered cut-to-length logging. Learn more about ARWC [here](#).





AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHT

PURGATOIRE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to funding from Get Outdoors Colorado, the Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) worked for several weeks clearing noxious woody species (primarily tamarisk, Russian olive, and Siberian elm) along the Trinidad Riverwalk and Purgatoire River.



Purgatoire Watershed Partnership launched a new Purgatoire River Youth Outdoor Education Series funded by Bar NI Ranch Community Service Fund and put together by a host of local and regional partners. The first education event included learning about fish biology, ecology, and some basic fish identification of common species found in the Purgatoire River. The second event, Youth Fishing 101, included youth learning the basics and ethics of fishing, then catching their first fish on brand new fishing rods they got to keep. Key partners for these events included Trout Unlimited and Colorado Parks & Wildlife.



Using input from stakeholders and partners, Purgatoire Watershed Partnership completed a new 3-Year Strategic Plan aligning program and project priorities for the coming years. The plan is available on their website [here](#).

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