

**Northern Colorado  
Fireshed Collaborative**

# 2025 Annual Report

Partnering for more  
**resilient forests.**



**NORTHERN COLORADO  
FIRESHED  
COLLABORATIVE**

# Introduction

In 2025, the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative (NCFC) focused its attention on evaluating, quantifying, and amplifying our collective impact. Following our inaugural 2024 Annual Report, the NCFC and our partners invested in data-driven assessments of treatment effectiveness, engaged with local communities around the benefits of prescribed fire through *Fire Lives Here* film screenings, and started bridging the gap between mitigation and fire response through an analysis of the Alexander Mountain Fire. The Fireshed Fund provided capacity-building resources to partners across the NCFC to address capacity challenges and uplift critical projects. All of these efforts work in concert, strengthening our ability to ensure that landscapes, watersheds, and communities are prepared to receive beneficial fire as well as withstand and recover from wildfires. The following report highlights the work made possible by the dedicated collaboration of our partners across our Northern Colorado landscape.



Sincerely,  
*Izzy Sofio*  
Coordinator, Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative

## About the NoCo Fireshed

### Mission

To create resilient landscapes by facilitating an increase in the pace and scale of not only mechanical fuel reduction methods but also prescribed fires and strategically managed wildland fires across jurisdictional boundaries.

### Vision

Landscapes across northern Colorado are prepared to receive and recover from wildfire in ways that minimize catastrophic impacts to watersheds and the communities they serve.

#### Implementation Success Story

### Growing Skills and Strengthening Forests

The Fireshed was proud to advance workforce development by investing in advanced sawyer training for the Larimer County Conservation Corps (LCCC). In August 2025, seven crew members attended a four-day Colorado Fire Camp, where five earned Faller A certification and two earned Faller B certification—essential credentials for leading safe and effective wildfire mitigation work. With new skills in hand, the crew immediately put their training into action at Colorado State University's Mountain Campus in the Poudre River Watershed. Over six weeks, they **completed 1,730.5 project hours, treated 9.9 acres, and constructed 66 slash piles** to support fuels reduction and forest health.



Photo: LCCC

# Fireshed Fund 2025 Snapshot



In 2025, the Northern Colorado Fireshed Fund granted over \$1 million to 9 community-connected partners for wildfire resiliency work. These funds continued to fill critical gaps in our region, laying the groundwork for increased pace and scale of forest treatments. This year's funding cycle supported crucial staff capacity for Fireshed partners, increased the number of forest management plans and CWPPs in our geographic area, and allowed members to leverage over \$22 million of additional funding. Since 2023, the Northern Colorado Fireshed Fund, in partnership with the National Forest Foundation, has awarded more than \$2.4 million and is excited to expand engagement with private companies and foundations to build on our shared momentum through 2026.

*“Support from [The Fireshed Fund] has enabled us to invest in the essential but often underfunded work that moves projects from concept to implementation. As a result, we now have multiple shovel-ready projects that are grounded in community support and backed by technical justification.”*

*- Chiara Forester, The Watershed Center, Fireshed Fund Recipient*



**Over \$1M**  
in grants given



**10 Grants**  
given to  
community partners



**2,525 Acres**  
of non-federal lands  
treated by grantees



**14 Plans**  
created including forest  
management plans,  
decision support tools,  
and CWPPs



**\$22M**  
in unlocked funds for  
partners



**8 Rx Burn  
Plans**  
written by partners



**6 Partnerships**  
supported with capacity  
funds for coordinators



**9 Staff Adds**  
part or full-time  
staff positions supported



Photo: Larimer County Conservation Corps

# Funded Projects



- **Big Thompson Watershed Health Partnership Facilitation** (*Peaks to People*)
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan implementation, education, and outreach** (*Boulder West Wildfire Authority*)
- **Staff & Collaborative Capacity for Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership** (*Coalitions & Collaboratives*)
- **Partnership coordination and private lands burn planning** (*Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed*)
- **Vegetation Management Project Planning** (*Jefferson Conservation District*)
- **Coal Creek Staff Capacity and CWPP implementation** (*Jefferson Conservation District*)
- **Workforce Development Trainings & Certificates** (*Larimer County Conservation Corps*)
- **Community-based Mitigation Projects** (*Larimer County Office of Emergency Management*)
- **Livermore CWPP Development** (*The Ember Alliance*)
- **St. Vrain Forest Health Management Planning and Community Outreach and Monitoring** (*The Watershed Center*)

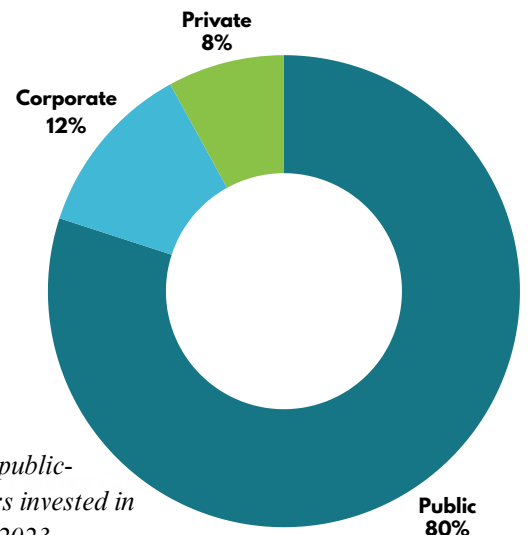
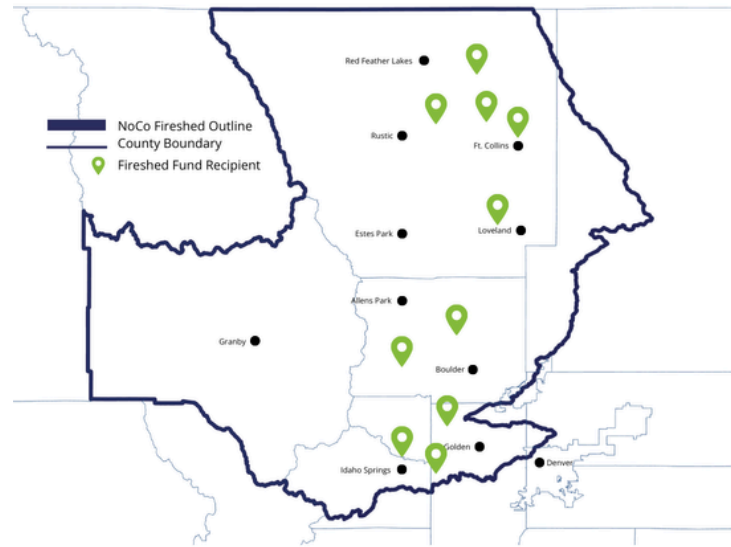


Chart shows public-private dollars invested in NCFC since 2023

Thank you to our 2025 funders and contributors who supported The Fireshed Fund including: USDA Forest Service, Zoom Video Communications, The Nature Conservancy, and National Forest Foundation.

## Implementation Success Story

With support from the Fireshed Fund through the [Larimer County Community Mitigation Grant Program](#), Soldier Canyon volunteers cleared brush and cut back ladder fuels along roadways to keep evacuation routes and emergency access safe, targeting areas of need identified by Poudre Fire Authority during their spring assessment. [Zoom](#) awarded the Fireshed Fund a \$30,000 grant, which supported three Larimer County community-led projects. Soldier Canyon, one of the three grantees, received \$10,000 to complete critical wildfire mitigation work in their community.



Photo: Larimer County OEM



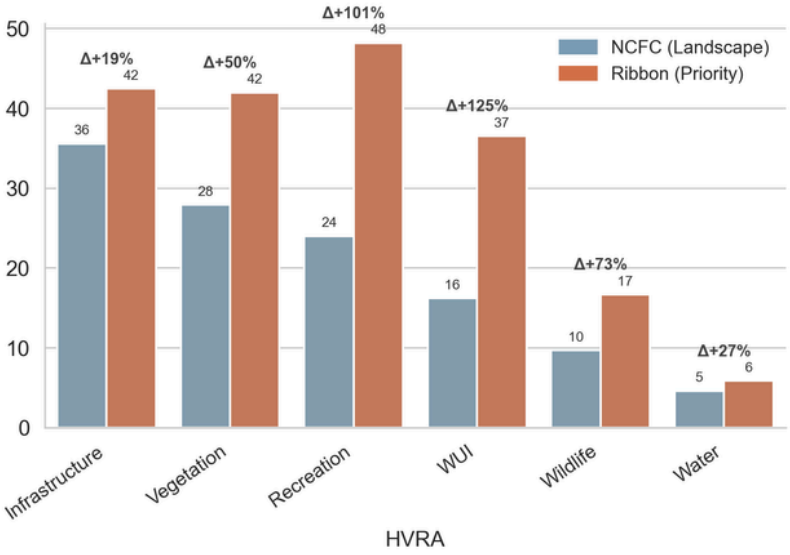
Photo: NPS

# Measuring our Impact with TEALOM

The Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative (NCFC) is working to change wildfire outcomes across an expansive, multi-jurisdictional landscape. Achieving that vision requires not only on-the-ground treatments but also shared systems for tracking how collaborative actions are influencing both ecological conditions and effectiveness. The Treatment Evaluation and Landscape Outcomes Monitoring (TEALOM), a new tool developed by the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, evaluates how treatments have addressed wildfire risk in the Fireshed relative to the [2021 Wildfire Risk Assessment](#).

Using data from the [Colorado Forest Tracker](#), the analysis shows that treatments in priority areas like the Ribbon had a greater influence on landscape-scale wildfire risk. Projects placed inside the Ribbon were more efficient in reducing risk per acre treated. For example, **in the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface), projects placed inside the Ribbon resulted in 125% greater risk reduction per acre than the landscape average.** Data also shows that thinning when followed by prescribed fire, a major tenet of NCFC's mission, is doing most of the heavy lifting when changing fire behavior and reducing risk. **Prescribed burn treatments, while representing a small percentage of treated area, resulted in over 8x more wildfire risk reduced per acre than thinning-only.** NCFC is excited to leverage this tool to measure our effectiveness and strategically target future treatments where they will deliver the greatest impact. TEALOM is still under development and is expected to be released in spring 2026 with a technical report highlighting its application in the NCFC for treatment progress and outcomes monitoring.

Risk reduction efficiency (risk reduced/acre) in the Ribbon compared to the Fireshed average



**In the WUI, treatments resulted in 125% greater risk reduced per acre when strategically placed within the Ribbon**

**NCFC prescribed burn treatments resulted in over 8x more wildfire risk reduced per acre than thinning-only**

# 2025 NoCo Fireshed Prescribed Fire Recap

A core pillar of The Fireshed's mission is to increase the pace and scale of prescribed fire in Northern Colorado. Below is a brief recap of partner efforts towards advancing that goal.



**Total Broadcast Acres: 1,700+**  
**Total Piles Burned: 38,000+**

## Notable 2025 broadcast burns:



Photo: USFS/M. Brennan

### Magic Feather Prescribed Burn

The Magic Feather prescribed burn, conducted by the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest (ARP), connects other critical nearby forest treatments, ensuring a more resilient forest structure near the community of Red Feather Lakes. In 2025, the ARP burned over 1,200 acres of Magic Feather.



Photo: City of Greeley

### NoCo TREX

The Ember Alliance led NoCo TREX, a key program to expand prescribed fire capacity along Colorado's Front Range. In 2025, the program conducted two burns—in April and November—treating more than 30 acres across two City of Greeley Natural Areas. The effort brought together over 20 agencies, strengthening regional collaboration while providing critical hands-on training for fire professionals.



Photo: USFS/M. Brennan

### 1st Non-Federal Prescribed Burn in Grand County

First prescribed burn in Grand County by a non-federal agency. In 2025, Grand Fire Protection District No. 1 and the Grand Wildland Fire Team carried out the first broadcast burn in Grand County conducted by non-federal agencies. The 1-acre prescribed burn is a big step toward taking local action to get more beneficial fire on the ground in Northern CO.

## Public Engagement Success Story

### Fire Lives Here: Building Public Understanding of Fire

In 2025, the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative, in partnership with the National Forest Foundation and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, released the film *Fire Lives Here* on PBS streaming platforms. Filmed over two years across Colorado's Front Range, the documentary highlights the year-round efforts of Fireshed partners working to safely return controlled fire to Colorado's forests. Since its release, the film has been widely distributed through partner newsletters, articles, and social media channels. Fireshed partners have hosted six screenings and panel events, reaching nearly 300 in-person attendees, with additional screenings planned for 2026.



# Collective Membership

The Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative continued to welcome new members throughout 2025, ranging from fire protection districts from Larimer County to Gilpin County. Our model only works with the support of our members and stakeholders. We are excited to continue to grow our membership to include critical voices at the table.



## Leveraged Funding Success Story

### Building Momentum: From Fireshed Fund Support to \$9.8M in Federal Funding



In 2025, the Big Thompson Watershed Health Partnership submitted a joint proposal to the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program for the Protecting the Gateway to the Rockies Wildfire Defense Project, representing a major collaborative milestone. In October 2025, Larimer County and the partnership were awarded \$9.8 million—one of the largest grants in the nation—within a broader \$200 million investment supporting 58 wildfire resilience projects. The award reflects years of cross-sector coordination among local agencies, nonprofits, and community partners working to reduce wildfire risk and protect watershed health. The proposal was made possible through sustained capacity support from the National Forest Foundation and the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative through the Fireshed Fund, which positioned the partnership to develop a competitive, landscape-scale plan. Funded activities will align with existing Community Wildfire Protection Plans and include defensible space and home ignition zone work, large-scale fuels treatments, roadside mitigation, biomass management capacity, and evacuation planning improvements.



Photo: USFS/M. Brennan

# Looking Ahead

By combining strategic capacity-building funding with science-informed planning and implementation, the NCFC and partners have moved the needle on wildfire risk across the Northern Colorado geography. In 2026, we look forward to building on this momentum with partners through the following projects and efforts:

- Utilizing TEALOM in project planning,
- Advancing on-the-ground work through a dedicated implementation-focused round of the Fireshed Fund,
- Fostering tribal engagement through collaborative workshops and learning opportunities with indigenous knowledge holders,
- Developing a process to further incorporate science and adaptive management in Partner work across the landscape,
- Collectively responding to new challenges like the Mountain Pine Beetle outbreak across the Front Range, and
- Welcoming new partners and collaborative efforts as always!

## 2025 Steering Committee Members

- Ch'aska Huayhuaca, Colorado Forest Restoration Institute
- George Marlin, Clear Creek County Commissioner
- Max Erickson, Colorado State Forest Service
- Allen Gallamore, Colorado State Forest Service
- Jessica Rahn, Grand County Wildfire Council
- Shayna Jones, National Forest Foundation
- Gary Ingram, Rocky Mountain National Park
- Chad Lewis, Rocky Mountain National Park
- Parker Titus, The Nature Conservancy
- Chiara Forrester, The Watershed Center
- Daniel Godwin, U.S. Forest Service
- Dana Guinn, U.S. Forest Service
- Chris Stubbs, U.S. Forest Service