

DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: October 9, 2013

Board Item: V-E-1

Collection Agreement with the United States Forest Service for Forest Treatments on National Forest Land in Denver Water's Watersheds Contract 15225A

Action by Consent

Action

Information

In July 2010, the CEO/Manager of Denver Water (DW) and the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to improve forest and watershed health by reducing the risk of wildfires. The health of Colorado's forests and watersheds has a strong influence on Denver Water's municipal water supplies. The USFS considers this partnership a model to be emulated elsewhere in the United States. This partnership provides leadership for watershed health and sustainability. Efforts to reduce the risk of wildfires are particularly important in light of the serious impacts to DW's watersheds resulting from the catastrophic 1996 Buffalo Creek and 2002 Hayman wildfires.

Under the MOU, the USFS and DW agreed to develop and update annually a 5-year Operating Plan that identifies joint projects in DW's priority watersheds for the years 2011-2015. The Operating Plan calls for DW to spend \$16.5 million, and for USFS to match that expenditure with \$16.5 million of additional forestry work. The Board will determine each year whether to fund the next increment of the Operating Plan. The following table illustrates the acreage, cost, and status of the prior and proposed Collection Agreements:

Collection Agreement	Acreage	Cost	Status
1	1,543	\$1M	Complete
2	2,683	\$2.83M	In process
3	3,872	\$3.18M	In process
4	6,334	\$4.48M	Proposed

This contract with the USFS commits DW to spend \$4,479,251.00 during federal fiscal years (FY) 2014 and 2015 (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2015). The USFS will be contributing \$3,381,444.00 towards reducing catastrophic fire risk to an additional 2,926 acres in DW's priority watersheds for a total of 9,260 acres.

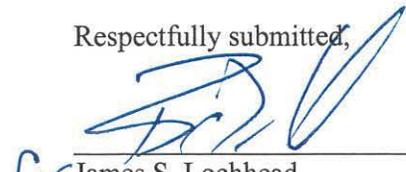
Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve the expenditures for this collection agreement with the USFS.

Approvals:



Dave Little
Director of Planning

Respectfully submitted,


James S. Lochhead
CEO/Manager



Patti Wells
General Counsel



Terri Bryant, CFA
Controller