

# DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: October 10, 2012

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 # 14514A

Action by Consent

Action

Information

The health of Colorado's forests and watersheds has a strong influence on Denver Water's municipal water supplies. 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 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	\$2.07M	In process
3	3,872	\$3.18M	Proposed

This contract with the USFS commits DW to spend \$3,183,838 during federal fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014 (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014). The USFS will be contributing \$4,688,962 towards reducing catastrophic fire risk to an additional 3,794 acres in DW's priority watersheds for a total of 7,666 acres.

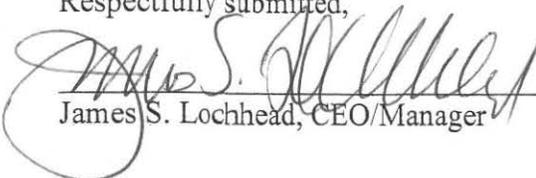
### Recommendation:

This collection agreement requires the Board to commit \$3,183,838 during federal FY2013 and FY2014 for project implementation. The 2013 and 2014 budgets will include sufficient funds to complete this work. Staff recommends the Board approve this collection agreement with the USFS for forest treatments on National Forest System Lands.

Approvals:

  
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Dave Little, Director of Planning

Respectfully submitted,

  
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James S. Lochhead, CEO/Manager

  
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Patricia L. Wells, General Counsel