

EWP Project Design Moves Forward

Northern Water and Grand County both have consultants under contract to complete design and engineering work for projects identified through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for the East Troublesome Fire. Only about 46 percent of EWP funds have been allocated thus far, making it necessary to proceed with phased implementation of EWP projects.

Northern Water and Grand County are currently focused on implementation of early warning alert systems, seeding and mulching of hillslopes that have high erosion potential, and debris management practices in areas with elevated risk of flooding or debris flows. While implementation of these projects occurs, consultants will continue to work on the design and engineering for additional treatment practices that can begin once additional funding from the EWP Program is allocated.



Construction Begins on Debris Boom at West Portal

Construction is in progress for a debris boom at West Portal on Grand Lake and is expected to be complete by June 25. In addition, design work has been completed for debris booms at Willow Creek Reservoir, with permitting and access agreements in process.

Along with debris booms, other debris management practices include pre-existing debris removal and sediment basins. These practices will help protect neighboring homes and businesses, mitigate impacts to recreation and protect important water delivery infrastructure.

Analysis and design for additional debris management practices throughout the affected area of the East Troublesome Fire is underway and expected to be finalized by the end of June with construction to begin the following month.

Seeding and Mulching to Begin this Summer

Application of seed and mulch is important for reducing potential postfire erosion on burned hillslopes. Seed and mulch will only be applied to land that has between 20 percent and 60 percent slope and a moderate to high degree of burn severity. Northern Water has identified approximately 2,500 acres of private property that may be eligible for seeding and mulching. We are working to finalize these areas, as well as obtain proper permitting and landowner agreements.

Residents can expect to see helicopters beginning to make aerial drops of seed and mulch beginning in mid-summer. Due to the size of the area needing treatment, application will take approximately 30 to 45 days to complete.

 **THANK YOU** to Grand County landowners for their cooperation in allowing access to their properties for EWP assessments.

WATERSHED FIRE RECOVERY

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SELF-SERVICE STATION IS OPEN

Northern Water and Grand County's Fire Recovery Resource Station is now officially open. It is located at the baseball field behind Grand Lake Center, 301 Marina Drive in Grand Lake. Sandbags and straw wattles are available for anyone affected by the East Troublesome Fire and are free of charge with no limits. Pick up at your convenience. Supplies will be restocked as needed.

CWCB Grant Awarded for \$1.5 Million

Northern Water and Grand County were approved for a \$1.5 million grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board's special release of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program.

The grant will be used to fund a Watershed Restoration Coordinator for Grand County, and the remainder will be utilized as NRCS EWP Program match to be split between Grand County and Northern Water's sponsorship areas. The current CWCB grant award only covers a small portion of East Troublesome Fire recovery needs. An additional \$30 million of fire recovery state funding was approved in early June by legislature; however, the total amount to be allocated to East Troublesome Fire recovery efforts is unknown at this time and is unlikely to cover the full scope of recovery costs.

EWP Project Funding and Allocation

As EWP Program sponsors, Grand County and Northern Water are responsible for paying 25 percent of construction costs for EWP mitigation projects. NRCS provides the remaining 75 percent, as well as additional funding for design and engineering of projects. Only projects that have been evaluated and approved by the sponsor agencies and NRCS are eligible for EWP funding.

The estimated costs of proposed projects total approximately \$35 million. These were submitted to NRCS national headquarters on March 19 and approved; however, due to limited EWP funding at the national level, funding is being released in phases with no guarantee of full allocation. As funding is allocated, it is split between Area A (Northern Water) and Area B (Grand County).

As of early June, only 46 percent of the total approved funding has been made available by NRCS.

The graph included here explains the local match needs based on current funding allocations versus the total amount of local match needs, as well as the secured amounts of match funding noted in the gold bars. EWP Partners are actively working to secure more watershed restoration funding at the state and federal levels.

