Panel on “DOING MORE TOGETHER: Southwest Colorado’s proactive approach to advancing healthier forests and resilient watersheds”

Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum
The Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University
Moderator, Ellen S. Roberts, Durango

November 14th, 2019
Colorado has choices.

• This again? View of the ongoing 416 fire north of Durango

**Insanity:**

Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

*Albert Einstein*
Joe Duda, CSFS Deputy State Forester, Ft. Collins
Insect and Disease

- Mountain Pine Beetle
- Western Pine Beetle
- Round Headed Pine Beetle
- Mistletoe
Examples of Private Sector Engagement: JR Ford, Pagosa Springs, Biochar Production

A Business Solution: Restoring the Forests in Southwest Colorado

“I’m a businessman trying to use a viable financial model to solve a natural resources problem with a community-scale approach.”

J.R. Ford
pagosaland@pagosa.net
970-264-5000
Beetle Kill Pine Paneling
State Senator
Don Coram,
Montrose
What does Colorado’s Future Hold?
Challenges at the Colorado state level

- Severance tax funding – many of the same funding challenges as state water projects; too low on the legislative budget priority list
- Funding mitigation work and forest restoration efforts by severance tax funded grants is too volatile to rely on for the amount of work to be done.
Aaron Kimple,
Forest Health Director, Mountain Studies Institute,
Durango
Or, instead we could -

Look for new solutions...

Such as:

- Develop funding streams in addition to state severance taxes and federal funding for known natural resources work needed
- Expand homeowners’ ability and responsibility to mitigate wildfire risk around their homes
- Improve statewide forest health and headwaters protection
With adequate funding, we can turn Colorado’s future from what it looks like today to a healthy forested watershed landscape.

More of this?

Or, a landscape that’s a better fit with Colorado’s climate, moisture and population densities?

Photo by Paige Lewis
QUESTIONS?