

# Council Agenda Summary

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## **Agenda Item Number**

Key Staff Contact: Sean Chambers

### Title:

Participating Agreement Between the City of Greeley and the USDA, Forest Service Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

### Summary:

The 2020 Cameron Peak Fire burned over 208,000 acres in the watersheds of the Cache la Poudre and Big Thompson River basins where Greeley obtains more than 50% of its municipal water supplies. The burn area impacts are influencing snowpack, runoff timing, water quality, operational costs and supply reliability. In the most severely burned areas, the soils have are hydrophobic and prone to flooding that creates mass erosion, sedimentation of water and debris flows, and mitigation activities are proven to aide such areas in post fire revegetation and slope stabilization.

Background: The Cameron Peak wildfire is the state's largest fire on record and the severely burned areas include both public and private properties. This fire significantly affected hundreds of thousands of acres of watersheds that are of critical importance for all domestic, agricultural, and municipal water supplies for over one million people and tens of thousands of acres of productive irrigated agriculture. The damage to these watersheds continues to pose immediate and future threats to water quality and public infrastructure serving communities across Larimer and Weld Counties, including but not limited to water supply diversions and storage infrastructure.

The purpose of Greeley entering into the subject agreement with US Forest Service is to document the cooperative relationship and financial terms between the parties. The Agreement service to guide the parties in the next stage of implementing watershed recovery and restoration activities in and adjacent to lands affected by the Cameron Peak Fire and includes an initial reimbursement of \$6,000,000 to Greeley for this mitigation work, with subsequent phases of additional federal funds over the remainder of 2022, and possibly beyond.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Does this item create a fiscal impact on the City of Greeley?	Yes
If yes, what is the initial or onetime impact?	\$6,000,000 pass through dollars
What is the annual impact?	\$0
What fund of the City will provide funding?	NA
What is the source of revenue within the fund?	
Is there grant funding for this item?	Yes
If yes, does this grant require a match?	No
Is this grant onetime or ongoing?	One time
Additional Comments: USDA's US Forest Service has committed an initial \$6,000,000 of federal emergency supplemental grant funds for this post fire watershed restoration work. Greeley is the recovery sponsor for this fire mitigation work in the Cache la Poudre basin and Greeley will be acting as the pass-through fiscal agent for deploying the federal grant dollars on post fire watershed restoration projects. The City will pair these funds with grants from Colorado Water Conservation Board to mitigate impacts to the severely burned watershed and thereby manage Greeley's quality water supplies.	

### **Legal Issues**

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved the agreement as to legal form. The mitigation work facilitated pursuant to this IGA constitutes one aspect of a larger regional and national policy objective, that is, to mitigate and rehabilitate the impacts of the Cameron Peak Fire. Greeley's role in facilitating the mitigation work is for the benefit of all water users and other parties with an interest in the Cache la Poudre and Big Thompson watersheds. All grant funding received, passed through, or otherwise managed by Greeley pursuant to this IGA is for the purposes of the greater policy objective and the common benefit of the parties described, and will not result in a revenue subsidy or production of a capital asset for the Water Enterprise of the City of Greeley.

### **Other Issues and Considerations**

N/A

### **Applicable Council Goal or Objective**

*Safety:* Manage the health, safety and welfare in a way that promotes a sense of security and well-being for residents, businesses and visitors.

### **Decision Options**

1. Introduce the resolution as presented; or
2. Amend the resolution and introduce as amended; or
3. Deny the resolution; or
4. Continue consideration of the resolution to a date certain.

### **Council's Recommended Action**

A motion to adopt the Resolution.

### **Attachments**

Resolution

Participating Agreement with the USFS and Exhibits

Informational Presentation