



BROWNHILL FOREST RESTORATION



Implementing Agency:
Larimer Conservation District

Funding Agencies:
**Peaks to People Water Fund/TNC,
NRCS EQIP**

Funding Year:
2025

Treatment Type:
Mechanical Thinning

Watershed:
Big Thompson

Location:

Project is located just south of Estes Park, Colorado, near the Lily Lake trailhead.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Brownhill Forest Restoration project, encompassing roughly 32 acres of private land, will reduce basal area to achieve critical goals: lower wildfire severity, minimize post-fire runoff, and improve wildlife habitat by promoting a more biodiverse understory. The treatment unit is easily accessible, with terrain primarily under 20% slope—reaching up to 30% in the southeast corner. Vegetation is dominated by lodgepole pine to the west and spruce-fir to the east. This effort builds on previous fuel treatments to the north, including mechanical thinning work completed by the National Park Service at Lily Lake.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

32 acres
Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration

16 acres
Active Crown Fire Reduced

21 homes
Homes Within Influence Zone of Treatments



Note: This is the first planned project report with WIT 3.0 metrics.

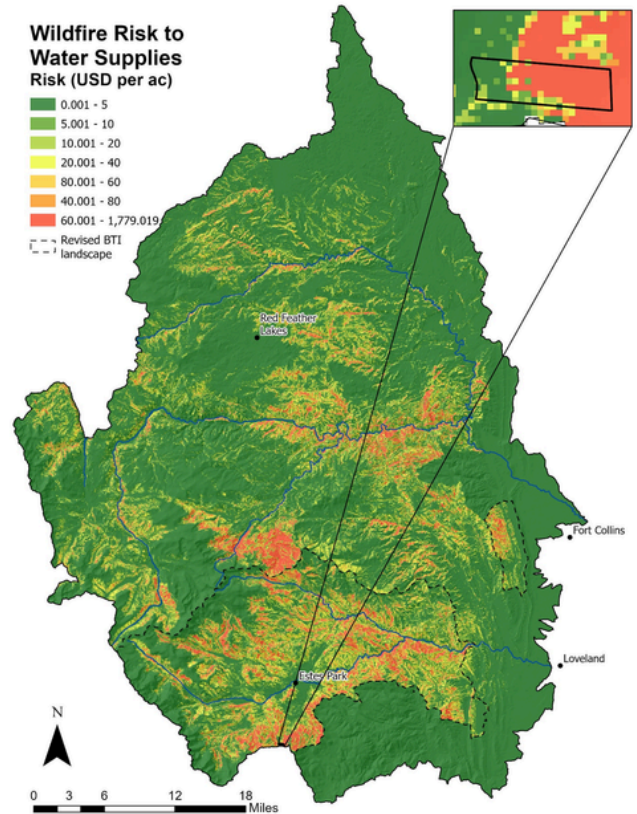
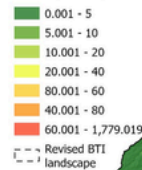
1,282 metric tons
Conditional Reduction in Erosion

557 metric tons
Conditional Reduction in Sediment Delivered To Streams

1
Ordered rank* of planned treatment units based on Benefit Cost Ratio

*The Watershed Investment Tool (WIT) was used to compare the water supply risk mitigation benefits of the Brownhill treatment units to all planned forest management activities compiled across agencies. Brownhill currently ranks No. 1. The Benefit-Cost Ratio is calculated as the expected risk reduction over the expected treatment cost.

Wildfire Risk to Water Supplies Risk (USD per ac)



Map of project location relative to modeled wildfire risk to communal water supplies in the Cache la Poudre and Big Thompson Watersheds



Before



During



During

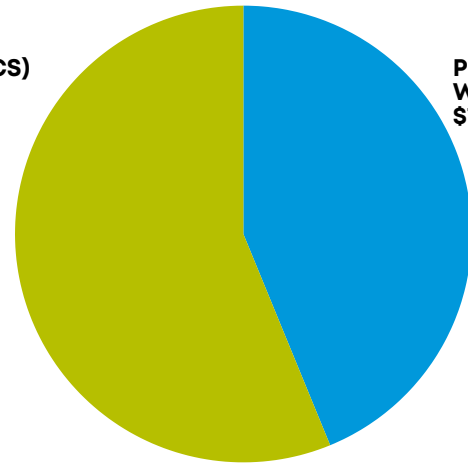
WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Brownhill property falls within the Big Thompson Initiative landscape in the Big Thompson Watershed. The property is upstream of Lake Estes, which is a critical drinking water supply to the Town of Estes and part of the Colorado-Big Thompson project which moves water to Carter Lake in the Front Range of Colorado. Other downstream drinking water infrastructure includes Barnes Ditch, Dille Tunnel, George Rist Ditch, Loveland Greeley Canal, and the Loveland Pipeline. The downstream values include Barnes Ditch and the Loveland Greeley Canal which are valued by the Cities of Loveland, Greeley, and Fort Collins as well as Northern Water. The properties fall within an area with high risk to water supplies.

FUNDING PROFILE

EQIP (NRCS)
\$96,257

Peaks To People
Water Fund/TNC
\$75,000



MAP

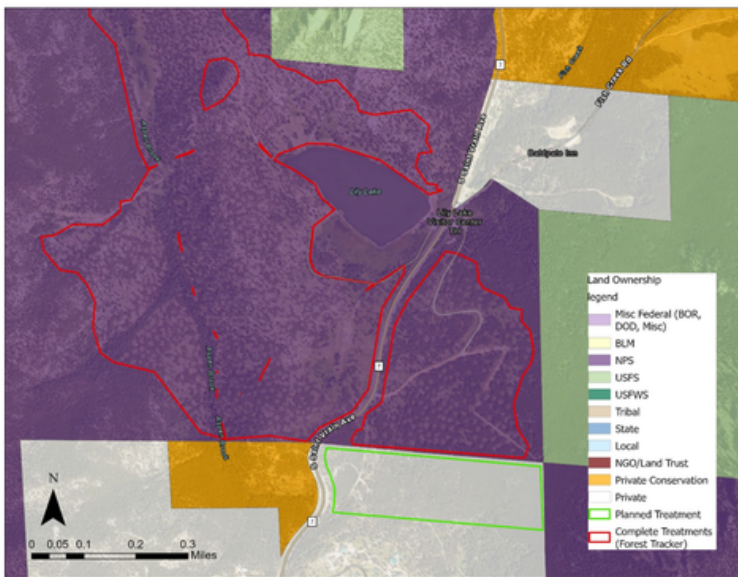
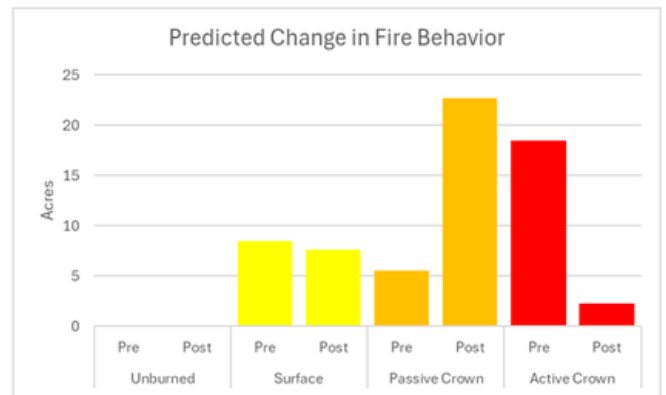


Figure 1: Location of the proposed project (green outline) relative to past treatments (red outline) and land ownership.

Detailed site map showing the proposed project boundary (green line), relative to past treatments (red line) with land ownership depicted with shading.

PREDICTED CHANGE IN FIRE BEHAVIOR FROM FLAM MAP



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