

# Five Years Since Front Range Flooding

SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Water Seminar

Friday, April 6, 2018

Durango, CO

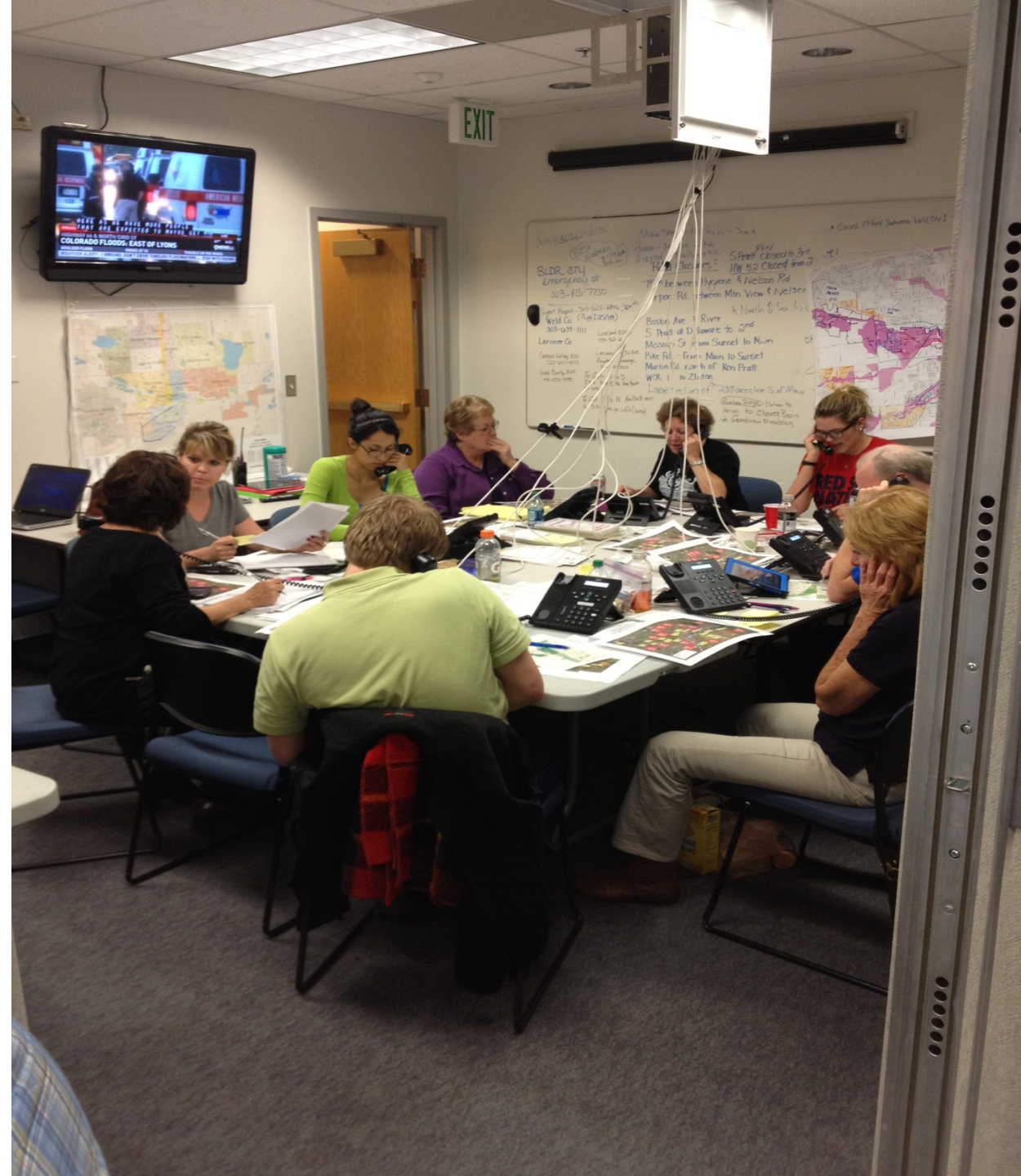
# Damage Summary (2015)

- Flood area over 1900 square miles (18 counties)
- \$2 - \$3 billion estimated damages
- 3,000 people rescued, 11,000 evacuated
- 1,500 homes destroyed, 19,000 damaged
- 200 commercial buildings destroyed, 800 damaged
- 30 bridges destroyed, 20 damaged
- 200 miles of roadway damaged

# Lessons Learned

# Water Experts in Command Room

- Can/should ditches be used for flood relief?
- Who is the contact for ditch?
- Is the dam failing or is it the spillway?



# Build Relationships Now

- Congress, Senate
- CWCB
- NRCS
- COE/USFWS
- Emergency Management
  - Attend table top exercises



# Know Your Media

- Help communicate messages
- Assist with addressing “fake news”



# Irrigation Infrastructure

- Eligible for FEMA assistance
  - Must have public ownership
  - 501(c)(12)
    - Unincorporated not eligible
  - Self-insure?
- Take pictures before
  - COE Permitting = Footprint
  - Location



# Take Risks

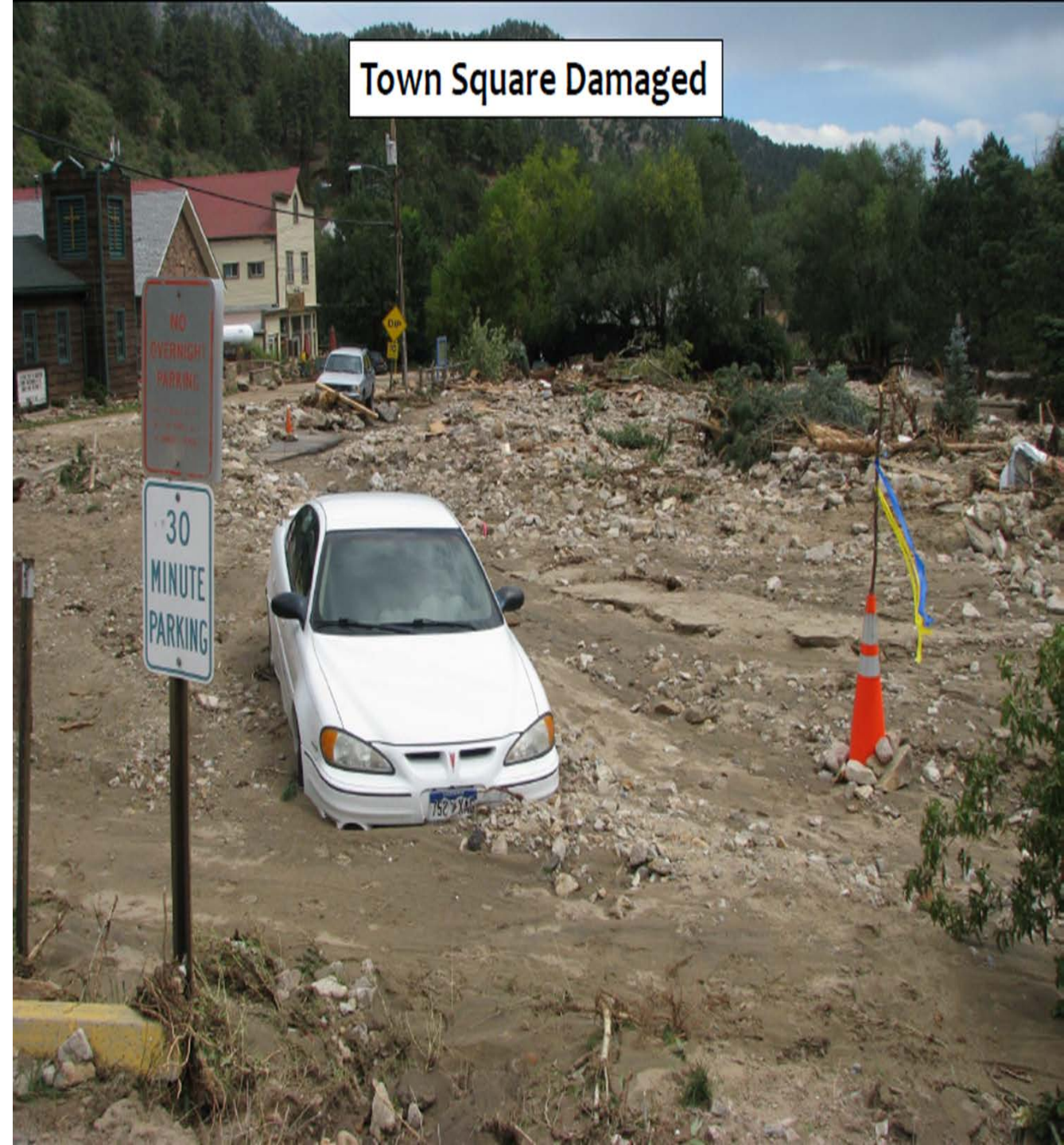
- Fish passage
- Work quickly





# General Public

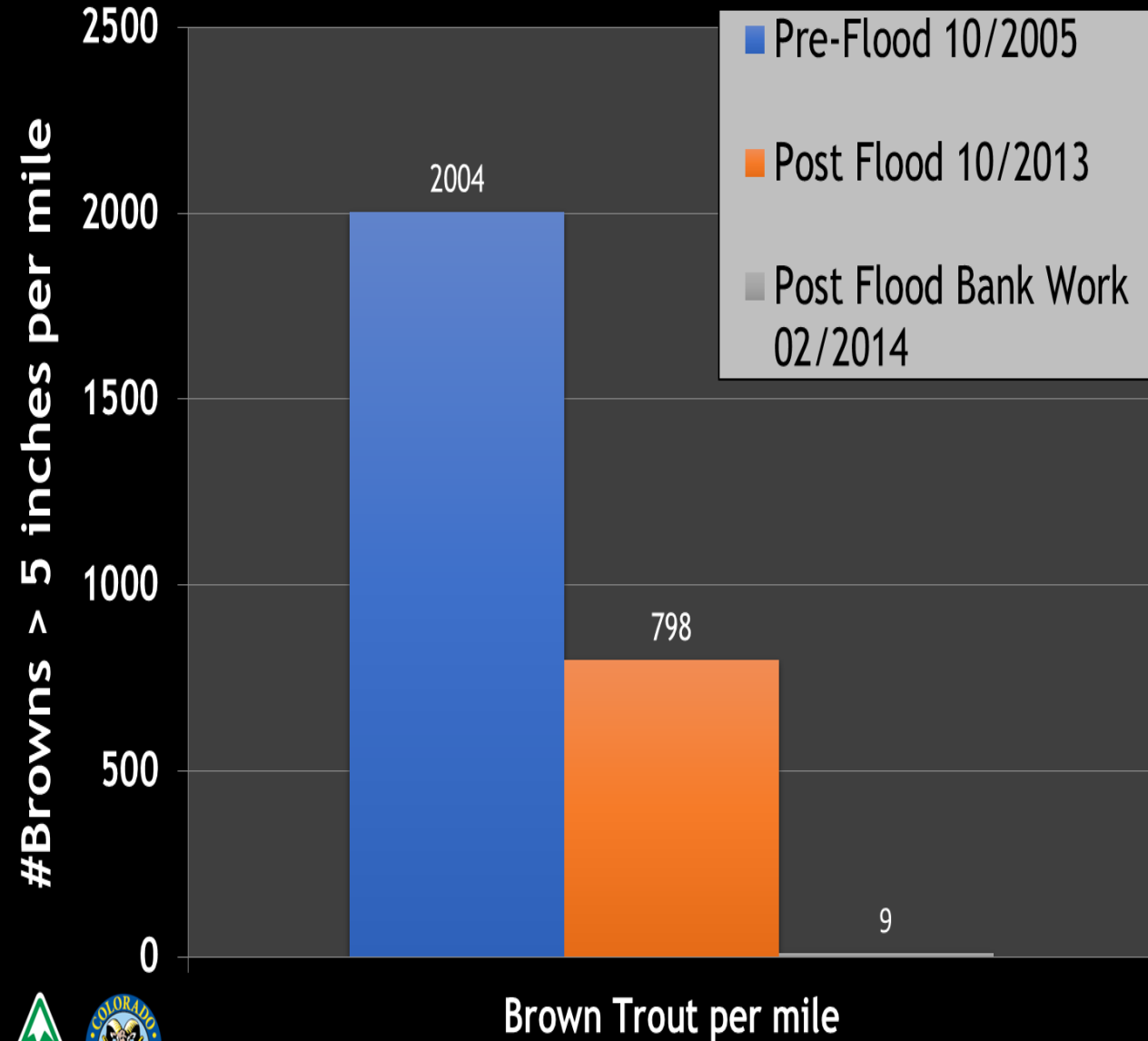
- Who is in charge of the river?
  - Everybody and nobody
- Communicate regularly
- PTSD training



# Prepare for Collateral Damage

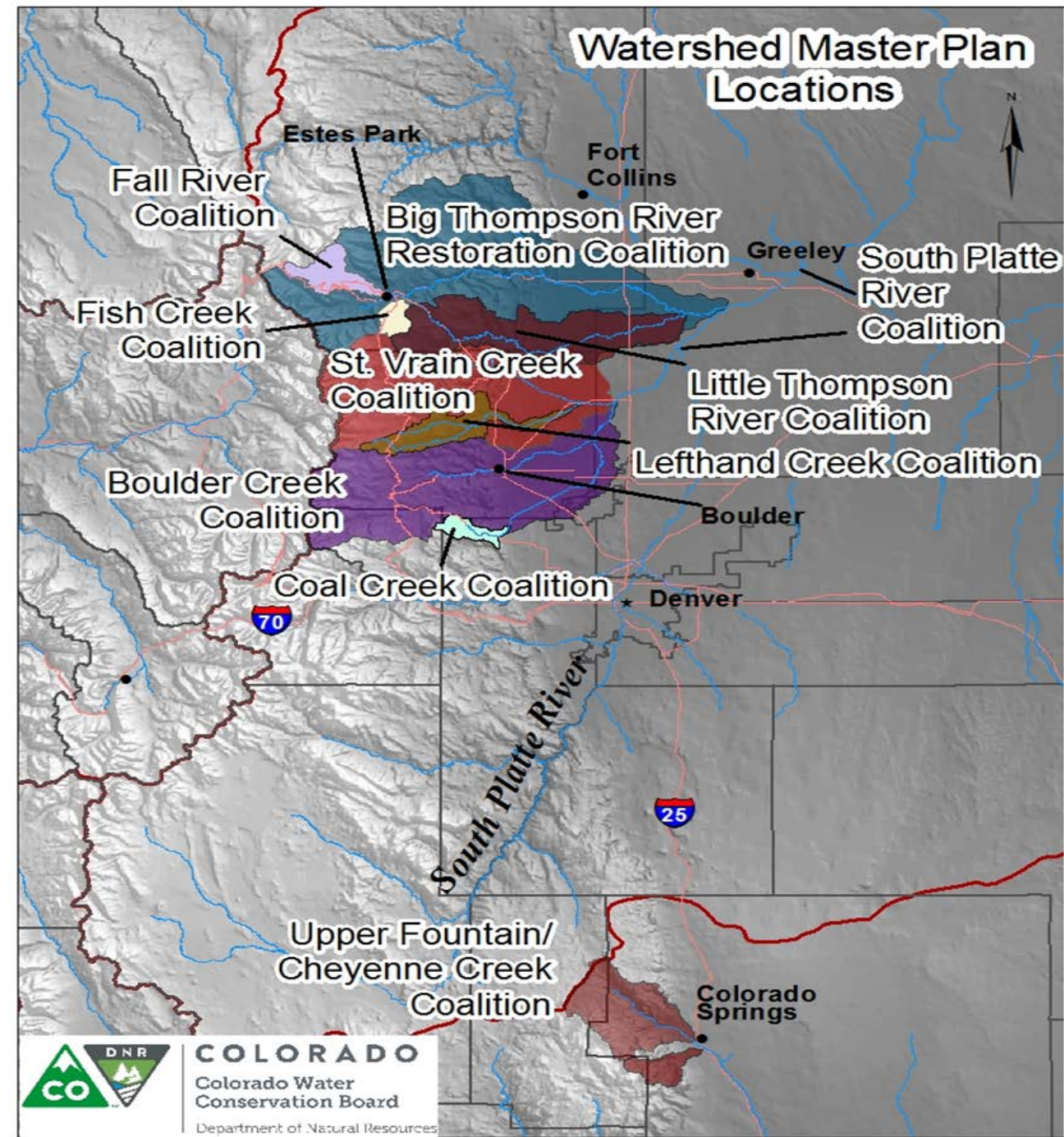
- Emergency vs. Long Term Recovery
- Have Master Plan

## South Fork St. Vrain @ Bohn Park - Lyons



# Prepare Watershed Coalitions in Advance

- Build Relationships
- Discuss goals/dreams
- Build cash match reserves





Ranch  
12-5-16  
PP 1  
165

12-5-16



WEED CONTROL

REPAIR EROSION  
& REVEGETATE

MONITOR & DETECT ISSUES

5-13-17

# Closing Thoughts

- Build relationships, earn trust
- Adrenaline is addictive
- “Let it go”

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