

Watershed Health & Resiliency

Kim Gortz

Colorado Springs Utilities: Watershed Planning
Source Water Protection PM

3/8/2017

Watershed Management



Mason Reservoir: South Slope of Pikes Peak

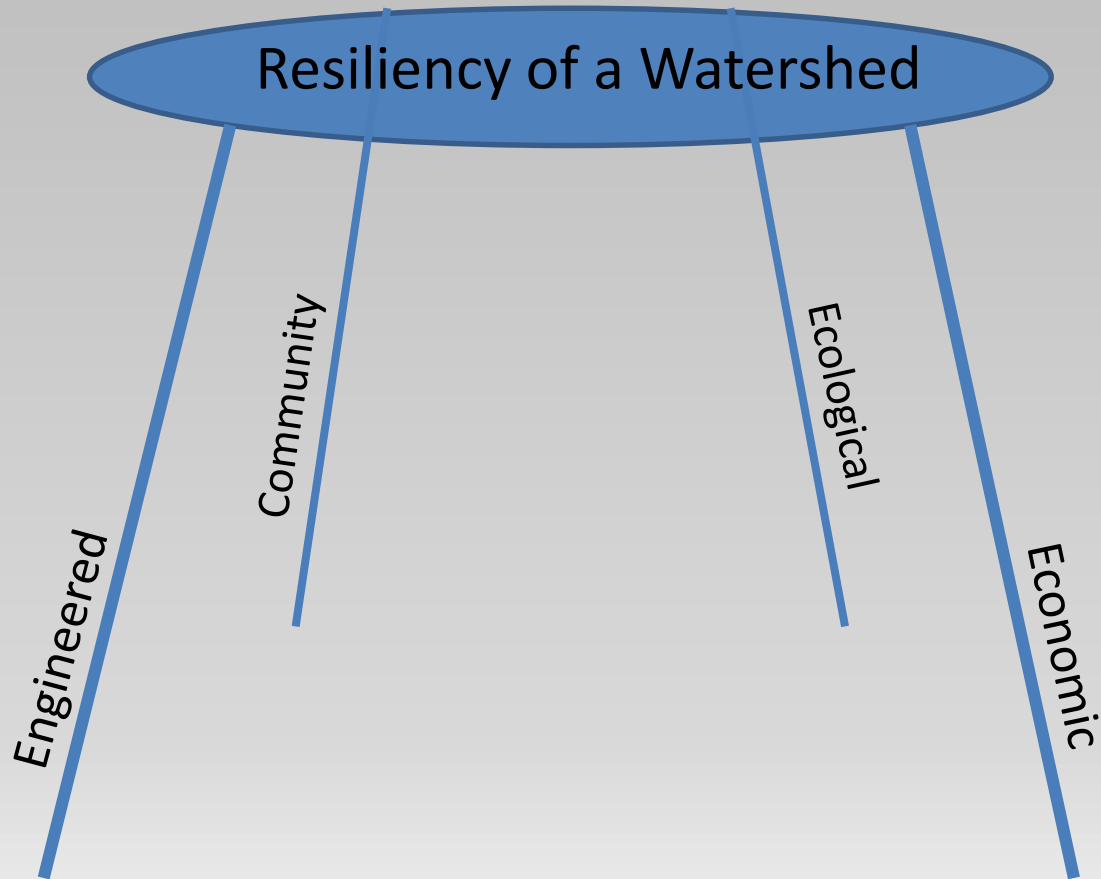
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The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. To “spring back”



Photo by: Meagan Frank – Waldo Canyon Fire

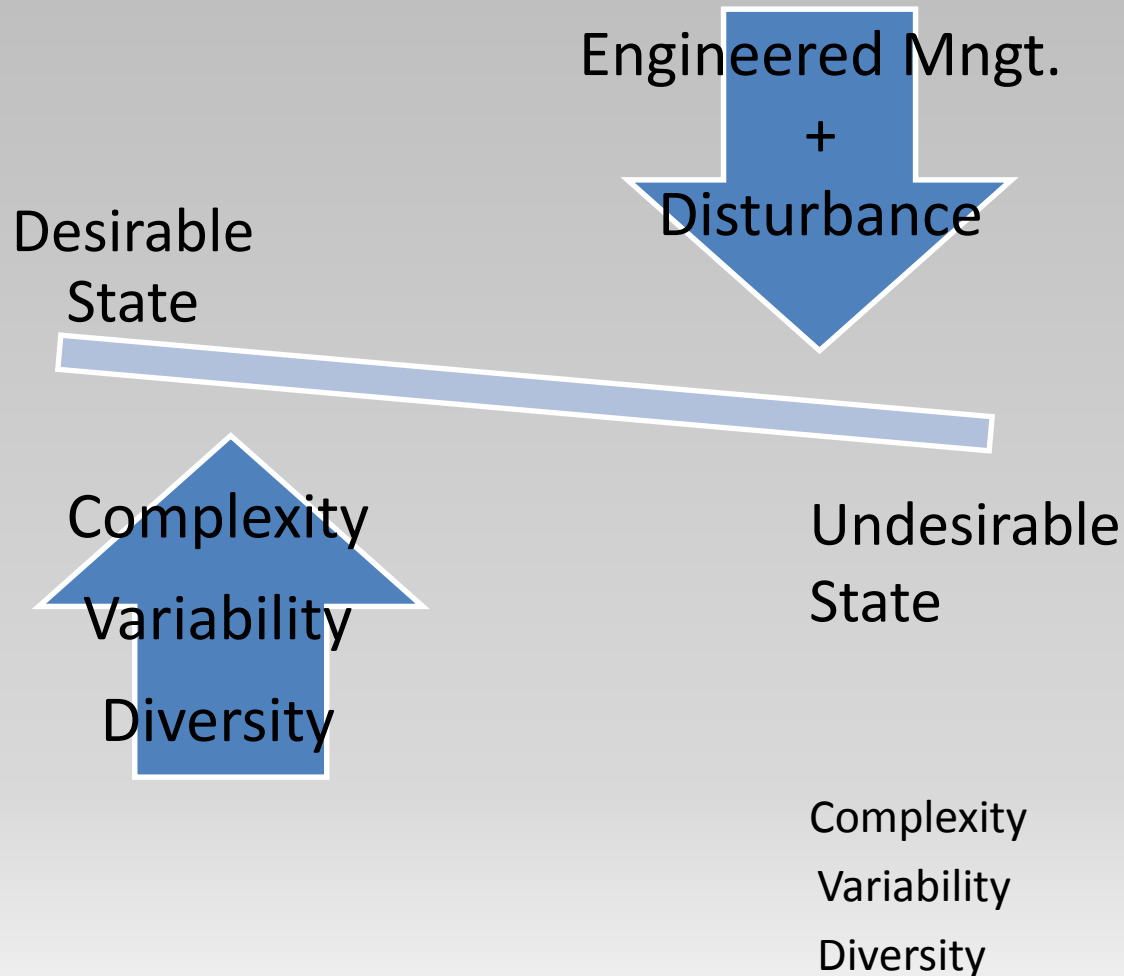
Forms of Resiliency



Drivers of Resiliency



Ecological Shifts



Ecological Shifts

Jan. 30th CU Boulder Today. “Colorado’s wildfire-stricken forests showing limited recovery



Researcher Rother at the site of the 2000 Walker Ranch fire in Boulder County. Eighty percent of plots surveyed there contained no new trees.

Ecological Resilience

We rely on it because shifts have greater negative implications for human economies and societies



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Collaboration and Compromise

“We need to manage for change rather than against change”

- Gunderson 1995

“Everyone walks away unhappy.”

- Klanke 2017



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Europe



Philippines



Anacostia River



Colorado River at Mexico Border



What can you do?

“B = f(P, E) which says that behavior is a function of the person in interaction with his or her environment.”

- Lewin 1951

The Human Factor of Watershed Health and Resilience

Communication, collaboration and negotiation

Conflict management

Leaders that can understand social and ecological systems

“To date we have failed to provide a clear vision of how a sustainable future is preferable to our present.”

- Doug McKenzie-Mohr

Need to provide clear vision – why we do what we do and be realistic about outcomes

Find values and objectives that serve a common purpose