

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2018 004

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Amending Executive Order D 2013 022 to Extend the Availability of Existing Funds for the West Fork Fire Complex in Mineral, Rio Grande, and Hinsdale Counties

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order amending Executive Order D 2013 022 to extend the availability of existing funds for the West Fork Fire Complex in Mineral, Rio Grande, and Hinsdale Counties (“West Fork Fire”).

I. Background and Purpose

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the State and people presented by disasters. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704(1). The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act defines a disaster as “the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damages, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to fire, flood [and] water contamination” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

On June 5, 2013, lightning started the West Fork Fire in the San Juan National Forest in Mineral County. By June 23, 2013, the West Fork Fire had grown to over 109,000 acres. On June 26, 2013, I was traveling outside of the State of Colorado, and Lieutenant Governor Joseph A. Garcia declared a disaster emergency and made resources available for fire suppression, response, and recovery efforts in Executive Order D 2013 017.

In Executive Order D 2013 022, I reauthorized the state of disaster emergency for the West Fork Fire and ordered that two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) from the Colorado Water Conservation Board’s Severance Tax Trust Fund Perpetual Base Account be

utilized to help protect communities and natural resources in the West Fork Fire burn area from post-wildfire dangers.

Due to the need for coordination among county governments and other partners, as well as the need to secure additional funding, a project to install permanent radar for weather and stream forecasting will not be complete by July 25, 2018, the date the funding expires per D 2013 022. This Executive Order therefore extends the availability of the \$2,500,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Severance Tax Trust Fund Perpetual Base Account to December 31, 2018, in order to provide adequate time for remaining recovery and protection efforts in connection with the West Fork Fire.

II. Amendment

Section II(M) of Executive Order D 2013 022 (which itself amends Executive Order D 2013 017) is amended to read as follows:

The funds described in paragraph II (J) shall be available until December 31, 2018. The Executive Director of Department of Natural Resources or his designee shall have the authority to determine when relief efforts have been completed. Upon this determination, or on January 1, 2019, or as soon as practicable thereafter, any remaining funds shall be returned to the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Severance Tax Trust Fund Perpetual Base Account.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified by Executive Order. In all other respects, Executive Order D 2013 022 shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.



GIVEN under my hand and
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this twenty-eighth day
of June, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor