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| **VIDEO** |  **AUDIO** |
| **SUGGESTED LEAD-IN****Jerd****Ingrid Wussow,****Glenwood Springs****City Council** **Jerd****Jonathan Godes****Jerd****Justin Anderson****Hydrologist, U.S. Forest Service****Jerd****Matt Langhorst,****Public works director****Jerd****Jonathan Godes** | As mega fires increase across the drought-stricken American West, thousands of fragile mountain water systems are also under siege. How bad will it get? Ask the people of Glenwood Springs, Colo., a small tourist town whose pristine mountain water system was devastated by fire last summer**In this special report from the Water Desk, Fresh Water News’ Jerd Smith reports.****------------------------------------------------------------------------------**(Nat)**As the Grizzly Creek fire raced down canyon walls outside Glenwood in August of 2020, City Council woman Ingrid Wussow watched from her deck.**1:14-1:28 You were hearing the helicopters over head, you were smelling the smoke. You were seeing the flames coming over the hill. It’s so scary. **Glenwood Mayor Jonathan Godes was watching the fire too. Among his biggest concerns: water.**1:43-2:02 After we came to grips with where the fire was we began worrying about the watershed and what it meant for having any water in the future.**When fires burn, plants on the forest floor are destroyed, leaving seared soils that cut loose as the snow melts, flowing down slopes into the creeks from which towns draw their water, clogging waterways with toxic ash and sediment.**6:37-6:52There is the possibility that soils release metals into the water supply. 6:56-7:00 It can result in toxicity, making water harder to treat.7:34-7:48 Sometimes it can be lead, mercury, arsenic. They can be dangerous especially in high concentrations.**Since the fire, Glenwood has scrambled to rebuild its water plant, preparing for a spring runoff like none it has ever seen.**3:55-4:22 The source water that will be coming to us in the spring runoff will be three to four times the sediment load we’re used to. It’s a significant change because right now we have some of the most amazing water in Colorado.**Like other western communities, Glenwood officials are deeply worried about the future.**13:17-13:32 “In 1994 We had the Storm King Fire and we lost 14 lives. In 2002 we had the Coal Seam Fire and we lost 30 buildings. Last year we had the Grizzly Creek Fire and we lost our entire watershed. What are we going to lose the next time?” |