

# Watershed Wildfire Protection Group Meeting Minutes

29 July 2016; 0800-1300 MDT;  
BreWater & Watershed Wildfire Protection Group (WWPG)  
Horse & Dragon Brewing Company; Fort Collins, CO

## ***Introductions:***

### Meeting Attendance List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Aaron Kimple	San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership
Amy Johnson	Northern Water
Ben Gannon	Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI)
Bill Trimarco	Firewise SW CO
Brad Piehl	JW Associates
Brett Wolk	CFRI
Carl Spaulding	Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA)
Carol Cochran	Horse & Dragon Brewing Company
Christina Burri	Denver Water
Chuck Rhoades	US Forest Service; Rocky Mountain Research Station
Courtney Peterson	Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)
Erick Selgren	CSFS
Erik Skeie	Colorado Water Conservation Board
Gloria Edwards	Southern Rockies Fire Science Network
Jane Spaulding	CTIA
Jared Heath	City of Fort Collins
Jason Lawhon	The Nature Conservancy
Kate Shelton	Colorado Conservation Exchange
Madeleine West	Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources
Mark Martin	US Forest Service; Arapaho & Roosevelt NF
Matt Schulz	Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Mike McHugh	Aurora Water
Rebecca Samulski	Dolores Watershed and Resilient Forest Collaborative
Rich Edwards	CSFS
Shelley Stanley	City of Northglenn
Steve Belz	Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team
Tina Little	CSFS

Total Number of Participants = 27; 21 organizations

### **Legislative Updates:**

Madeline West –

- SB 3 – \$1M into Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant. Part Tier 2 severance tax funding; part general funds. Senator Roberts, main sponsor. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> round on the grant; 18 months for projects. Applications are due August 8, 2016.
- HB 1255 – Mike Lester of the CSFS is working with Governor to form a 24 member forest health advisory committee.
- HB 1199 – Healthy Forests, Vibrant Communities; pushing for reauthorization.

### **Presentations:**

- *Bridging the Divide after the West Fork Fire*: Aaron Kimple, Program Coordinator; San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership & Mountain Studies Institute
- *Dolores Watershed and Resilient Forest (DWaRF) Collaborative*: Rebecca Samulski, Coordinator; DWaRF Collaborative

See PowerPoints on WWPG webpage:

<http://csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/watershed-management/>

### **Group Discussion:**

The group discussed making connections with brewers association (BreWater?) and to have some kind of forest/watershed management message handout like a coaster. Also discussed building awareness through the brewers by having a stamp that would go on the can/bottle that says 'This comes from \_\_\_\_\_ watershed'. Point of contact – maybe Lucas Mouttet (as per Jared).

The group would like to have a regular interface with the brewers group and get other brewers from around the state involved.

### **Group Updates:**

- Brad – High Country Forest Collaborative facilitating/spearheading statewide forestry collaboratives meeting in October. Working on advocacy of certain issues like WWPG; trying to build capacity and looking for funding.
- Mark – Working on ~ 2500 acres of projects on ARNF before lost to fire borrowing. Projects in Poudre and Big Thompson watersheds and some west slope. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project with Pike San Isabel is 1.5 million acres in size and in year 7 of a 10 year project focused on restoration of lower montane ponderosa pine. DC folks coming out for a tour next week.
- Christina – Denver Water, CSFS, & USFS meet August 4<sup>th</sup> for Wildfire Matters Review Committee @ Dillon Reservoir. CFRI coming September 20<sup>th</sup> to talk to Denver Water regarding monitoring. Upper South Platte Partnership (USPP) working with CFRI, CSFS, CUSP, JCD, & TNC on Denver Water adjacent private lands. Also focused on Gross Reservoir enlargement scoping, etc.

- Courtney – Colorado Wildfire Conference is April 19-21 in Pueblo. The Front Range Roundtable is working on a white paper about community protection and landowner values. Two research papers just came out about CWPP's and fire behavior, Rich Edwards will send out to the group.
- Brett – Colorado Forest Restoration trying to help bring groups together and set measurable objectives at the regional and local level. "Big picture" regional database will be set up along with model linking pre-fire mitigation to post-fire effects.
- Jared – working on wildfire recovery along with response and preparation exercises with stakeholders in the area and the watershed protection program is establishing priorities and updating policies. Also looking for more funding to do more work.
- Jason - The Wildfire Matters group is working around Hayman fire. Took some folks from Pepsi on a field trip around the Conifer area. USPP has six projects going on around the key areas of watershed. Upper Monument Creek; 2 prescribed burns. Partnership with Vail Resorts (1% to donate) just kicked off; looking at expanding those partnerships.
- Aaron - Bridging Divide. Working with the USFS to get 2,000 acres of mastication work done on the ground. Currently have fifty-five acres treated on Reservoir Hill in Pagosa Springs. CFRI is working on monitoring and shoring up goals.
- Mike – Very busy with Aurora Water reorganization. Front Range Roundtable is starting to look at a possibility of a third team to look at watersheds.
- Amy - Working with Colorado Big Thomson headwaters group. Closed the 2013-2014 DNR WRR grants. Doing some work with Larimer County and CSFS on private properties in Granby/Grand Lake area on the west slope and Carter Lake on the east slope. Internally working on watershed response, readiness and recovery plan.
- Carl – Molly Pitts recently hired as Colorado Timber Industry Association newsletter and government affairs representative. As far as request for industry input: there are a lot of collaboratives but people in industry can't get to all of the meetings like this. There is a need to educate people on what we do and educate us on what you need. Do we need a collaborative timber tour? Need to work together better.
- Matt – Just wrapped up forest management plans for state parks. Currently working on 2 projects in Dolores watershed (Mancos/Lone Mesa) and one on upper South Platte (Staunton), and state park in Trinidad.
- Kate – Just getting started working with Colorado Conservation Exchange. Working on economic model for analyzing investments into forestry projects.
- Eric – Watershed Restoration grant applications are available for \$1.5M potential funding. Due on November 4<sup>th</sup>. We are trying to come up with a funding plan for next fiscal year.
- Shelley – City of Thornton has sent money to Clear Creek County to do forest thinning and along roads and fire breaks as well.
- Steve - RWEACT new coordinator from Creede, Zeke Ward, replaces Tom Spezze. He is former member of Mineral County Economic Development and Rio Grande Basin Roundtable. Still monitoring the upper Rio Grande since the West Fork Fire, results are coming back great but still a lot of work to be done. Working on toad habitat management in that area, Emergency Management, and USFS identifying other projects.
- Chuck – Continuing the 14 years of work on Hayman Fire. Also working in High Park wildfire area looking at why streams have not retained nutrients. Will be attending and presenting

watershed/wildfire related material at the American Geophysical Union fall meeting in San Francisco.

- Gloria – Grant just renewed in April, online growth exploding! 750 followers on Facebook and Twitter and YouTube channel is growing. Doing outreach in Black Hills, working with extension in Wyoming, Gamble Oak publication in final publication and mastication document in final stages. Many meetings being sponsored (including this one!). The Tamarisk coalition conference is in the spring. Looking for part-time coordinator to do outreach of neighboring state.
- Rich – Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) reauthorized in 2014 Farm Bill. Colorado legislation in state HB 15-1255 allows for GNA projects as long as the projects provide forest products for businesses in Colorado. Currently there are 6 projects in different levels of planning; 5 with the USFS and 1 with BLM. In addition, biennial forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) 2016 field monitoring sight visits this year will be in southern Colorado Front range (i.e. from Trinidad to Sedalia). Colorado's forestry BMPs are water quality driven practices voluntary on private lands unless there are certifying third party agencies (i.e. American Tree Farm System, Forest Stewardship Council, or Sustainable Forestry Initiative), grant funds, or state forest agriculture plans, involved. Federal and state lands both require BMPs to be implemented.

***More Group Discussion:***

- Next and upcoming meeting suggested topics:
  - Fire Adapted Colorado
  - Response side of Cohesive Strategy
  - Industry tour
  - Continued relations with BreWater
  - Spring post-fire monitoring results with Brett