

Jackson County CWPP Updates

April 2009

GRIZZLY CREEK

Grizzly Creek CWPP update:

It was a big year for Grizzly Creek CWPP.

Received grant in April 08 for fire mitigation/tree removal.

Just shy of 50% of lot owners participated.

Work included defensible space around homes, powerlines, roads, and community shared property.

Specific work: remove dead, dying, and live trees (logging and in-kind), remove ground fuels, burn slash piles, and limb live trees.

Numbers: 1200-1500 trees removed around homes and 60 trees removed from community shared property.

CWPP Improvements: Created an Evacuation Plan, Put up street signs, and Put up address signs on homes.

Both Double XX Ranch, and Frenchman Ranch did extensive logging.

Steven M. Orange
Forester-Sale Administration
North Timber Zone
Routt National Forest
Steamboat Springs, CO
970-870-2172
sorange@fs.fed.us

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RAINBOW LAKES

Deb Alpe:

This report is for Work in the Rainbow Lakes West Side area. The area is on private property and has about 300 acres of timber. We have been approved for a grant from NRCS and CWPP, This has helped us protect the structures and the county road #20 that goes up to Routt National Forest. We have also started to timber along the creek that runs through the center of the property, this supplies water for human and wildlife. The total of acres cleared is at least fifty. There has also been a considerable amount of blow down which has lessened the amount of standing forest. The help of Jim Mc Daniel, Mike Alpe, with family and friends has all been appreciated. We have also done some planting of Douglas Fir around the structures and then reseeding of grass where the heavy equipment disturbed the grass. Thanks to you Deb for all you have organized and your patience.

Happier Landowner,
Sheila Caldwell Ryan

RAINBOW LAKES/WESTSIDE CWPP
JACKSON COUNTY, COLORADO

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

Prepared March 9, 2009
By Janet Lux

The CWPP was formed in the fall of 2007. Co-Leaders: Deb McLachlan and Janet Lux

SUMMARY OF 2008 ACTIVITIES

In April of 2008, the CWPP received a \$22,000 grant for landowners to create defensible space, with a deadline of September 1, 2008.

In October 2008, the grant money was distributed among the following participants: Sheila Caldwell Ryan, Don and Jeanette Nagle, Dan and Gaye Bumby, Dawn Borg, Lance Shafer, Randy and Sue Basaraba, Fred and Janet Lux, Warren James, and Deb McLachlan. Two of the participants had the work done by contractors. The rest of the work was done by the Rainbow Lakes Subdivision landowners themselves. Even though most are not fulltime residents, the part-timers gave up their weekends and vacation time to do mitigation on their land and helped out their neighbors as well. They created defensible space and cleared their portions of the county road side of hazard trees.

The Bumbys hired a contractor to clear trees from their property. The logs and slash were stacked, with some of the slash being removed. They also had pheromone patches put on some surviving trees. The results of this treatment aren't known yet.

Sheila Caldwell Ryan hired a contractor to remove her dead trees and has replanted the area with douglas fir.

Landowners, Fred and Janet Lux, live on property that is adjacent to the forest boundary. They primarily worked on creating a 300 foot wide buffer zone between the forest land and their property. The logs were stacked and slash piles created but not burned. When the snowshoe hares heard of the burn plan they registered a formal complaint with the landowners.

A contractor had been hired to clear cut the 100 acres of beetle-killed pine on the Marrs property in exchange for getting the trees but no cutting was done last summer. The trees have since lost most of the needles reducing the immediate danger of a crown fire. No further information is known at this writing.

The Forest Service cleared out a large number of hazard trees in the parking area at the trailhead and left stacks of logs. Many took advantage of this free firewood.

Even after the grant deadline arrived, the chainsaws did not stop. Hazard roadside trees were cut down near the forest boundary and dead lodge pole and aspen on the Slow Rock ridge were removed.

Deb McLachlan provided the land space for landowners to pile their slash. This pile, and hopefully a few pine beetles, was burned on New Year's Eve. The area will be available again this year for slash.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS OF MITIGATION WORK BY LANDOWNERS

A common remark from everyone is about the views we now enjoy. Several of us can even see the lights of Walden and, maybe on a down note, the lights of our neighbors.

The road receives more sun and stays clearer in the winter, helping out Conrad, our snowplow driver.

We have noticed more wind moving through the new open spaces, different snow drift patterns and more wind throw among the remaining trees. The most susceptible trees have been the living subalpine firs, many with 24 inch trunks. They became Christmas trees and makeshift shelters for birds. Ironically we have noticed only 2 trees out of the dozens of blown down were lodge poles.

Despite the reports of total devastation, there are still have many living young lodge poles with some mature ones as well. Our forest is a mixture of aspen, Engelmann spruce, sub alpine fir, douglas fir, limber pine, and ponderosa pine of all ages. At this time last year, many pines started showing red needles. We have not noticed any new dead trees this year. The red trees have since dropped most of their needles. Perhaps the beetles have moved on.

GOALS FOR 2009

In the establishment of our CWPP, Jeff Benson, our fire chief, expressed great concerns about the one road access to the Rainbow Lakes subdivision, Slow Rock, and the number of dead trees along the road. In our efforts to improve these conditions, numerous trees have been cleared from the roadside. But three areas on the road still need dead trees removed: the north side of the county road in several places along its full length up the mountain, property to the east of the Nagles and the aspen grove on the lower part of the county road. If the owners of these properties need help, just ASK your neighbors. We all use this road. If these trees are close to power lines, call Mountain Parks Electric.

We hope the Forest Service will finish its trailhead work and remove the hazard trees on the road from the forest boundary to the actual parking area. Some dead lodge poles are already leaning over the road.

We're hoping that landowners that were unable to do any mitigation work last summer will try to do so this year. Again, if you need help, just ask your neighbors. Even if you have completed your defensible area mitigation, it is possible that hazard trees you left in place because they aren't near your home, may endanger your neighbor's home.

In our wind prone location, it is important to remember that a 30 mph wind can drive flames 200 feet sideways.

NEWS

We have learned that portions of the west side of Jackson County will be under analysis this summer by the U. S. Forest Service, looking at the beetle damage. Grizzly Creek, Rainbow Lakes and Buffalo Pass areas were specifically mentioned.

To view all the current Jackson County CWPPs including any updates, go to www.csfs.colostate.edu. Look under quick links.

There are several Landowner Assistance Programs available in Colorado. Visit the following websites for more information.

Colorado State Forest Service, www.csfs.colostate.edu
970-723-4298

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), www.nrcs.usda.gov
970-723-4724

Native grass seeds and other flora are available.

There are some State Legislature bills that can benefit landowners. One, House Bill 08-1110, can provide up to \$2500. See the website, www.leg.state.co.us, for more information.

From the Jackson County Star, March 5, 2009 issue REFORESTION GRANT. The North Park Conservation District (NPCD) is now taking applications from landowners in approved Jackson County CWPP areas for a matching grant to assist with reforesting lands that have been logged to remove dead trees from the pine beetle infestation.

Funding is limited and will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. To apply, contact the NPCD at 970-723-2731 or NRCS at 970-723-4724.

This report will be posted on the Colorado State Forest Service website and will be emailed to all members of this CWPP with known email addresses. If you want to be on the mailing list, let us know at lux7000@wildblue.net or spazz76@earthlink.net.

The leaders of the Rainbow Lakes/Westside CWPP want to thank everyone who provided the labor, time, equipment and other support to make this community project a success.

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Janet Lux [<mailto:lux7000@wildblue.net>]
> Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 12:15 PM
> To: Alpe,Debbie
> Subject: Rainbow Lakes/Westside CWPP 2008 Report

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NORTH END

Good Morning Deb,

I'm so glad that it's Friday! It's getting so weird out there in the construction world, people making it a lot more difficult than it has to be.

I'm sure that you are experiencing much of the same so I'll shut up and get to my Big Creek update.

My association update was essentially a continuation of last year as we continue to deal with the same ongoing issues.

The Big Creek Cabin Owners Association continue to work collaboratively with the Forest Service. The Parks Ranger District provides us with a safe, convenient slash pile location. In addition the district is always available for constructive consultation in the means & methods used in hazard abatement.

Our situations is unique in the Big Creek area as we experienced a blow down

2 years ago which has compounded our clean- up efforts. The blow down has left a great deal of down timber on the forest floor which has contributed to the complexity of life safety.

Last year the association has thinned approximately an additional 15 acres of infected trees in their continued abatement efforts.

Our association continues to meet annually on the weekend of the 4th. of July to discuss past accomplishments & future direction of the clean-up effort.

Some of the intended goals for 2009 include a posted residence address system, an evacuation plan & map, the ongoing forest clean-up and finally another attempt for a grant application.

Deb, I think that about covers it. I'm glad that we could help so don't hesitate to ask if there is anything else that we can do. We sure appreciate all of the effort & sincerity that you all have put forth in the program and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thanks again,

Pem

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GOULD/CONNOR CREEK

Hi Deb,

Regarding our conversation about slash piles from beetle-killed pines:

As homeowners in Jackson County with property laced with beetle-killed pines, we have been very busy the past few summers cutting down trees, piling slash for later burning, and hauling slash. Understanding the fire danger created by these beetle-killed pines, we have been very diligent in creating defensible space around our home to reduce wildfire danger.

Last year we cut down over 40 trees. The slash we created was more than we had space for, so we hauled some to the dump until we were told not to bring anymore. Then, we hauled some more to a friend's burn pile. Luckily the snow started to fly so we were able to burn our piles. Finally, we piled more slash where those had been and burned them.

As the summer of 2009 approaches, we will begin this slash disposal process again as we continue to remove beetle-killed pines.

As with many homeowners with large numbers of pine trees to log, the most difficult thing is dealing with all the residual slash. It would be very beneficial, not only for homeowners, but for Jackson County, the Colorado State Forest Service, and the U. S. Forest Service to provide a site for homeowners to dump excess slash from the beetle-killed pines for a nominal fee.

This type of slash disposal could allow for a safer forest environment for all involved. If slash were hauled to an approved site, professionals could then dispose of it in a safe manner either by burning or chipping or some other creative means. This could encourage homeowners to begin, or continue their defensible space objectives while preventing unsafe burn piles that could result in a possible wildfire situation here in Jackson County.

Additionally, if the slash is chipped it may even become a viable commercial product in the form of mulch and create a seasonal job(s) here in Jackson County. Perhaps federal stimulus funds could help to get the program started until it is able to sustain itself.

Thanks for taking time to read this and consider this issue.

Regards,

Patsy Barry and Randy Callahan

Thanks for putting the meeting together. It was very informative. I thought I would send you an update of the progress at Connor Creek. THose homeowners who have already built homes have continued to work on defensible space. On our lot, lot 7, we have removed all the dead and dying trees within the defensible space and zone 1 (42 trees removed last summer). We will continue to work on zones 2 and 3 this summer. One thing that would really help us would be a common slash pile area where we could take slash. We had 10 + slash piles of our own that we burned but with over 40 trees there was a lot more slash. We took several loads to the dump until they told us not to bring any more. I also planted 60 pine and fir seedlings and 60 aspen seedlings. We also seeded about an acre with native grass and wildflower seed.

Ned Fenwick removed over 200 trees on his lot and his brother on the adjacent lot also removed over 100 trees. Ned has created an impressive defensible space in what was once fairly dense lodgepole forest. Sam and Kathy Addoms are surrounded by aspen (no pines) but they have removed the downed trees within their defensible space and zone 1. Ebersbachers are also surrounded by aspen with no pines. The other lot owners who have no structures on their lots have done nothing. Craig Harrison is planning to have the ranch logged sometime this year. He has consulted with local logging operations to have this done. I think the plan is to fold in the lots of the absentee lot owners with this effort if the HOA can get everyone's consent.

I will bring up the signage issue again at this summer's HOA meeting. I think since Ned, Sam and I are strong supporters of the idea, we can get people interested this year.

Regards,
Patsy Barry

Gould CWPP Update for March 5, 2009

1. Gould Community Meeting 1-19-08: "Beetle-killed Trees at the Community Center: Greg [Graves, vice-president of GCA] will review our lease with the State Land Board (in effect until 2014) and will talk with Brook Lee (Colorado State Forest) about the responsibility for tree removal."
2. Application to Jackson County Re CWPP Implementation Project Grant: Greg and Brook reviewed our lease with the SLB and determined that we [GCA] are responsible for maintenance, etc. on the entire five acres. Brook suggested removing 300 trees. Our application was for # \$15,000.00 for that many trees plus slash removal.
3. April 10, 2008: GCA president Anne Graves was notified that we were awarded \$6000.00.
4. April 24, 2008: GCA 2008 Spring Newsletter: "The Gould Community has been awarded a grant of \$6000.00 from Jackson County for removal of diseased and beetle-killed trees at the Community Center this summer. WE MUST MATCH THE \$6000.00 AMOUNT! Please indicate your pledge or donation below, and mail it promptly." [pledge or donation payable to GCA for "Matching Grant" by June 30, 2008 mailed to Anne Graves]
5. July 16, 2008 e-mail to GCA recipients Re contributing labor @ \$17.75 per hour in lieu of cash for the matching grant. Several community members took advantage of this option.
6. Gould Community Meeting 8-9-08: "Matching Grant Update: Tex Swart has removed dead and beetle-infested trees adjacent to the Community Center. 'Thanks to all who helped clean up the remaining slash!' We will be credited \$17.75 per hour for those who worked. We are very close to the matching amount required (\$6000.00). Greg will get the paperwork to Jackson County by the September 1 deadline."
7. Gould Community Meeting 1-31-09: "2008 Jackson County Fire Mitigation Grant: 'Thanks to Tex Swart for clearing out diseased and dead lodgepoles around the Community Center! Thanks to everyone who donated cash and/or labor for the matching grant!' Stumps and slash piles will be disposed of when time and weather allow."

1-31-09 treasurer's report reflects a payment to Tex Swart on 12-8-08 in the amount of \$10,2340.00. The Gould Community's matching share was \$5120.00.
8. The following documents (collected at various CWPP planning meetings) are available to Gould Community members:

Jackson County Fire District Homesite & Structure Fire Hazard Rating

Defensible Space Zones

FireWise Checklist

Home Ignition Zone

Road and Driveway Drawings and Specifications For Emergency Vehicle Access, Jackson County Colorado

Individual and Family Wildfire Preparedness Plan

Wildfire Kit

9. North Park Woman's Club is selling reflective signs (blue with yellow numerals) so that homes, summer cabins, and other structures on private property can be located in emergency situations. (Jean Krause, past president NPWC, 723-4785)

10. Legislation was enacted in the Colorado Legislature in August 2008 (House Bill 08-1110) allowing landowners a deduction from their federal taxable income for fire mitigation work beginning January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2013. In brief, the bill states that an amount equal to 50% of costs not to exceed \$2500.00 per year may be deducted, landowners must own property within a WUI area and authorized by a CWPP, and that costs cannot include funds received from any grants.

Jean Krause
Gould CO
March 5, 2009

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Rand Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

March 5, 2009

In September, 2006, the Rand Community completed a viable CWPP according to the 8 steps outlined in the CWPP Handbook. The document can be viewed on the Colorado State Forest website.

During 2008, as well as 2007, many of our objectives have been met with regard to the community fire hazard reduction priorities and recommendations. Typically, some objectives have been met with problems and frustrations.

Work Completed or in Progress and Associated Problems

1. There is large scale timber management continuing in our designated Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Due to a huge community effort, neighborhood effort, individual effort and neighbors-helping-neighbors effort, fire-wise defensible space and reduction of other fire hazards on private properties have been created.

Problems: Logging contractors have been overwhelmed with projects and requests and their prices are high forcing local land owners to cut down their own trees which is more time consuming.

2. Within this WUI there are significant slash piling sites that still need to be burned by private land owners and/or logging contractors before they become sources of fuel.

Problems: The season is short and qualified personnel are occupied.

3. Landowners are still working on improving ingress and egress routes for emergency services.

Problems: The Colorado Department of Transportation needs to address proper road right of way and hazardous fuel reduction along Highway 125 between Rand and the summit of Willow Creek Pass, specifically between mile markers 24-29.

5. Landowners are working on standardizing displayed address nomenclature for all homes and structures in the Rand Area WUI. These reflective property signs are being sold by the North Park Woman's Club to support scholarships for students.



Howd Draw Community Signage

6. A Rand Community Bulletin can be posted at the Rand Store and/or at the Rand Post Office.

Problems: A Community emergency preparedness plan has not been developed. Hopefully, residents have individual evacuation plans. Also, there still is no reverse 911 or area-wide cell phone communication in the area. We have not explored potential defensible space assistance for senior citizens.

7. We are going into the third year of our CWPP with a sense of accomplishment knowing that work still needs to be done. We continue to be hopeful for State and Government funding for special forest and fire-wise projects.

Bonnie Neighbors, Rand CWPP Committee
Don Teem
Peg Wilcox

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WADE-TAMLIN/SPICER

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Paul and Jeanette Vohs [<mailto:pj.vohs@earthlink.net>]

>Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 9:48 AM

>To: Paul and Jeanette Vohs; Sharon Fields; Alpe,Debbie; Sue Bloss;

>addysandy@msn.com; Mike Robbins; Danny and Lucy Meyring; Steve Kniffen;

>Honnecke Marcus Jill; Phillip Grumstrup; Gaylord, Harvey Sue; Peila

>Jerry; Amy Burkholder

>Subject: fire protection meeting in Walden

>

>Happy February:

>

>You should have received an email from Deb Alpe about a Fire Management

>meeting in Walden on March 5. Are any of you planning on attending the

>meeting? Deb needs to know who the spokesperson for our area will be.

>I provide the following update information for the WT subdivision.

>Please feel free to add or subtract from the statement as follows:

>

>Update on the WT-Spicer Peak Fire Protection Plan

>

>The landowners in the Wade\Tamlin subdivision have worked diligently to

>make certain the areas immediately surrounding their homes meet the

>suggestions made by Fire Chief Benson and State Forester Brook Lee

>following their visit to each house in the subdivision. Many

>landowners have, and continue to take down dead pine trees and to

>dispose of the slash. The west subdivision road has been improved and

>hardened to handle emergency vehicles. New signs were erected on the

>west (north-south entry road) and at the intersection of the road

>leading to the houses. Signs approved by the Fire Department and sold

>by the women's club were used. Other structures are identified by

>numbers on the southeast-most gates to the subdivision.

>

>Any other suggestions? Please let me know if you are planning to

>attend the meeting and will serve as the spokesperson for the WT-

>Spicer

>Peak Fire Plan.

>

>Thanks,

>

>Paul Vohs

>