

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
MEETING MINUTES
 11/16/2006 at
 North Routt Fire Protection District (NRFPD) Station II

Present:

Kent Foster	USFS
John Twitchell	CSFS
Tara Mehall	CSFS
Chuck Vale	RCOEM
Bob Reilley	NRFPD + Captains Cove Subdivision
Jeff Finoff	Hahns Peak
Marge Eardley	Hahns Peak
Jim Hicks	Hahns Peak
Bill Speaker	Red Creek
Karen Kosakowski	Ranches at Steamboat Lake
Paul Keller	NRFPD + Smith Creek
Doug Carlson	Homeowner/Rancher
Kelly Krueger	Homeowner
Jason Krueger	Homeowner/CETS
Eric Heintz	Landowner
Ray Black	Homeowner
Larry Gully	Homeowner
Jim Ross	Homeowner
Susan Marshall	Homeowner
David Moss	Homeowner/N. Routt Fire
Lynn Barclay	BLM Mitigation/Ed
Deb Alpe	CSU Coop Extension
Selina Heintz	Home Ranch
Charlie Comme	Vista Verde
Julie Arington	State Parks
Matt Blecha	State Parks
Courtney Flint	University Of Illinois
Michael Daab	University Of Illinois

Agenda: Introductions

- Review Sept. 19th minutes/validate process
- Identify wildland-urban interface
- Community risk assessment
- Next meeting date

Chief Bob Reilley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room. Deb Alpe explained her role as a meeting and planning facilitator. We began by reviewing the Sept. 19th meeting, our first CWPP meeting. Following the eight step process identified in the CWPP guidelines distributed by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), we determined we were at step 3 and starting to work on step 4.

Chuck Vale pointed out that the North Routt Fire Protection District contained 441 square miles of private and public land. A county fire plan that included the district had been created under the national fire plan. The big question was if a natural or manmade fire came through would we sit out and let some areas burn. The answer to this was NO, we will suppress. A CWPP is the next step that will take us down the road.

John Twitchell stated that future funding opportunities for fire mitigation would likely be tied to having a CWPP.

Bill Speaker asked if we plan on gathering all of our information from the CWPP meetings. Deb Alpe replied “other CWPP groups she has worked with, all the data collection has been done at the meetings. For North Routt, the data hasn’t been collected yet, but will be collected during the Community Risk Assessment and Prioritization meetings”. If there were more details needed, we would go to experts in fire, forestry, especially regarding GIS maps. She added that everyone attending the meeting is an expert. “You all know the roads, structures, water sources. That’s why it is important that you all attend”. Lynn Barclay added that CWPP process development is an opportunity to define what your wildland urban interface looks like. When you decide your area of concern, a broad look is the way you want to go. Those concerns might include watershed, critical habitat, winter range, etc.

The main task of the meeting was to define the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and create working maps of the WUI for North Routt. The schedule for the next few meetings will be: to develop community risk assessment; identify treatment priorities; identifying what homeowners can do to reduce risks within their communities, and to review the final document. There was general agreement that an annual meeting to review the plan and current accomplishments would be desirable.

John Twitchell and Lynn Barclay gave a brief definition on wildland-urban interface. It describes the landscape we live in and what's important to you: watershed, clean water, ability to hunt and recreate are all part of the quality of life. It can be federal, state, private lands, roadless areas, etc. The community as a group will define what the wildland-urban interface is for North Routt. Kent Foster called it the wildland residential interface. Seedhouse fuels reduction projects have already been planned and homeowners can add to these if they see anything that USFS has missed.

Deb Alpe suggested we do a website so people who were unable to attend the meeting can review and give comments. John Twitchell said he would look into utilizing the CSFS website for this purpose.

Everyone worked in groups to create a working WUI map of the community. There were four different groups:

Clark South (to include CR 129, 56, 54, 52)

Seedhouse Corridor (to include CR 64)

Clark North (to include CR 129, 62)

North of the NRFPD (areas north of Columbine)

Maps of North Routt were provided by Kent Foster for each of the groups. After defining the different wildland-urban interface areas, the groups came together to compare the maps and see if there were any major gaps. Because there were no representation for the area North of Columbine at the meeting, Bob Reilley agreed to try and get some public output from that area. Kent Foster agreed to bring a draft map to the next meeting that will show all lines that were drawn by each group and one big line to represent the combined area.

Kent Foster gave a brief report on USFS activities:

- participation for CWPP
- rapid assessment around Steamboat Lake
- seedhouse area (fuels reduction, winter range for elk, Mill Creek active timber sale)
- Larson 2 project
- Red Creek area
- recreation needs at Hans Peak

Matt Blecha presented a brief report on beetle mitigation activities at Steamboat Lake State Park.

Next meeting will be January 11th, 2007 at 7pm at the station II in North Rount.

Meeting adjourned.