

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
MEETING MINUTES

3/13/2007 at

Oak Creek Fire Protection District (OCFPD) Station II

Present:

John Twitchell	CSFS
Kent Foster	USFS
Oscar Martinez	USFS
Sam Duerksen	USFS
Lynn Barclay	BLM
Chuck Wisecup	OCFD
Chuck Vale	RCEMS
Tony Morgan	OCFD
Chris Zuschlag	OCFD
Libby Miller	CDOW
Ken DePaul	SPOA/ Water District
Steve Hayslip	Home owner
Danielle Domson	Home owner
Jean Alperti	Home owner
Mary Alice Page-Allen	Home owner
Ivars Mikelsons	Home owner
Wendy Smith Mikelsons	Home owner
Ken Burgess	Home owner
Steve Colby	Home owner
Denny Stamp	Home owner
Mike Petix	Home owner
Don Alperti	Home owner
Pam Williams	Home owner
Tom Garite	Home owner
Cathy Garite	Home owner
Bob Woodmausee	Home owner
Sarah Woodmausee	Home owner
Mike Roach	Home owner
Jim Kelly	Home owner

Agenda: Introductions

Summarize CWPP

Review work accomplished at previous meeting.

Explain repositioned WUI line.

Identify manageable sub-areas of the WUI

Explain Risk Assessment.

Work on Risk Assessment for identified WUI.

Start to develop a Community Risk Assessment.

Chris welcomed the group and made introductions. We reviewed the goals of the CWPP and reviewed the progress that the group has made. Group revisited the WUI boundary to see if any adjustments needed to be made. The inclusion of the Green Ridge Radio Repeater site was suggested. Chris reiterated that the boundary will always be dynamic to keep up with future concerns.

Kent Foster and Lynn Barclay discussed the fire triangle (Fuel, Heat, and Oxygen) and the fire protection triangle (CWPP, Hazardous Fuel Reduction, and Defensible Space) Kent defined what values, risks and hazards were and asked the group to identify each and how they pertain to wildfire.

QUESTIONS

The group was tasked to identify elements that make up a Community Risk Assessment. The group identified the following:

1. Values

Identify values that are important to the area:

- Wildlife
- Recreation (State park, trails)
- Open space
- Homes
- Human Life
- Infrastructure (roads, Utilities)
- Communication (cell and radio transmission sites)
- Environmental (water, soil, air, wilderness)
- Local economy (businesses)

Libby Miller from the Colorado Division of Wildlife identified some of the wildlife that also calls the area home and some of the different habitats for species such as elk, Columbian sharp tailed grouse and eagles. Libby had several maps that showed elk winter range, critical sharp tailed grouse habitat and migratory bird areas. Libby conveyed that the state did not wish to dictate the CWPP with this information. The state merely wishes to describe some of its values in the area and have group take them into consideration when identifying treatments and long term effects.

2. Hazards

Identify fuel hazards that exist in the area:

Natural:

- ***Beetle Kill***
- ***Oak brush***
- Grasslands
- ***Decadent / Dead wood (slash)***
- Sagebrush

(The top 3 of these concerns as voted by the group are in bold italics)

Man Made:

- Chemicals and fuel (bulk storage) common to ranches.
- ***Propane tanks***
- Junk yards
- Vaults
- ***Open burning (trash and recreational fires)***
- Woodstoves
- ***Homes under construction (debris / materials)***
- Wood piles stacked next to homes

(The top 3 of these concerns as voted by the group are in bold italics)

3. Risks

Identify values at risk in the area:

- Road access - width, maintenance, signing, dead ends, lack of turn-around space (driveways built prior to 2003 may not be adequate)
- Egress - One way in and one way out.
- Traffic volume - Increasing as more people move into the area.
- Power-line corridor
- Communications - telephones, cell phones, mobile hand-held radios, Green Ridge repeater site
- Limited water
- Livestock
- Lightning - high occurrence areas
- Residential addressing
- Current mapping may not match current road system
- Emergency response time
- Lack of man power / equipment

4. Road and Bridge

Identify concerns regarding roads and bridges in the area:

- Access - width, maintenance, turn-arounds
- Egress - one way in
- Weight limits on bridges
- Locked Gates
- Traffic volume and impacts from heavy vehicles

5. Homes / Businesses and Essential Infrastructure

Identify these items for the area:

- Morrison Water and Sanitation facilities
- Sub-station for YVEA
- Fire Station at Stagecoach
- Overhead power lines
- Town homes
- Subdivisions
- Firewise homes
- Older homes
- Homes under construction
- Abandoned cabins and sheds
- WAPA line
- DOW and State Park interests
- Dam and Hydro-power plant
- High Meadows guest ranch
- Hide away Ranch
- Mt. Elim Bible Camp
- Stagecoach ski area
- Working ranches
- Home based businesses

5. Preparedness / Firefighter Capabilities

Identify current capabilities and concerns in the area:

- Training - FPD
- Building permit process – assessments inventory
- Need more volunteers - 20 volunteers currently
- Water supply - Morrison Creek (identify sources and put agreements with owners in place, install / build new water sources
- Evacuation plan - Community, animals, traffic control
- Community outreach / information system (EPN- Emergency Preparedness Network)
- Firewise standards

Fire Chief, Chuck Wisecup gave a power-point describing a program used to identify residences and various items of information it gave them such as access, home photos and nearby water sources. He described how responding resources could use it to develop plans and needs prior to arriving on scene.

Evacuation plan was discussed in depth. Ideas such as mass e mail notification in the event of emergency and identifying subdivision leaders were shared. These ideas were to facilitate a quick notification and evacuation of the area if necessary and to inform EMS personnel of people with special needs such as the disabled and the elderly.

Routt County Emergency Management Director, Chuck Vale described the pros and cons of reverse 911 (40% effective). Chuck also stressed that community evacuation plan needs to include livestock because people tend to not leave their animals behind and often get left behind themselves.

A home owner was concerned that SPOA owns a lot of the WUI and was concerned about how identified areas of concern would be treated. He was assured that the entire WUI would be covered and people would be asked to comply with recommendations throughout the WUI area.

Chris Zuschlag also informed the group that the CWPP was a way to identify areas of concern and apply for Federal grant money to implement projects that directly address identified concerns.

Kent Foster outlined some of the processes for the next meeting such as identifying specific risk areas and how to mitigate them. SPOA seems to be a concern since they own so much land and some of them are absentee land owners.

A participant wished to be sent all the notes from the meeting. Chris said that the information will be posted on the SPOA and Colorado State Forest Service website.

Some participants did not receive mass mailing. Mass mailing may be tried again. Word of mouth was urged to participants.

Next meeting is the second Tuesday in April (**April 10th @ 7:00 p.m.**)
Adjourned.

