

Colorado Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2007
Oak Creek Fire Protection District ((OCFPD) Station 2

Facilitator – Tara Mehall, Colorado State Forest Service and Stagecoach homeowner

Present:

Tara Mehall	CSFS
Kent Foster	USFS
Chuck Wisecup	OCFPD
Tony Morgan	OCFPD
Thomas Erps	Resident
Sam Duerksen	USFS
Lynn Barclay	BLM
Libbie Miller	DOW
Don Read	FoxFire
Mike Petix	Resident
Steve Colby	MCMWSD
Gail Martinez	BLM
Audrey Kruse	Resident
Ken Kruse	Resident
Joseph Pattillo	Resident
Mike Roach	Resident
Jim Myers	Resident
Ivars Mikelsons	Resident
Craig Preston	State Parks
Bob Woodmausee	Resident
Diann Ritschard	USFS

Agenda

- Introductions
- Review of March 13 meeting
- Step 5 –Community Risk Assessment
 Low, moderate, high
- Sub area Risk Assessment
- Show and Tell
- Mass Mailing

Colorado State Forest Service CWPP website
http://csfs.colostate.edu/districts/steamboatspgs/ss_cwpp.htm

Goal: Complete a risk assessment for the various values in the subgroups

Tara led a review of the last meeting and described Deb Alpe's outline regarding the CWPP process.

The WUI is divided into three areas for the purpose of completing risk assessments: Lower Morrison Creek, Middle Morrison Creek and Upper Morrison Creek.

Kent Foster posted maps showing the area boundaries

Tara asked the group about doing another mass mailing to help get the word out. CSFS can contribute \$500. Chuck Wisecup noted that a notice had recently been sent out to residents of this area who have Oak Creek addresses, but not the Steamboat Springs residents, and that notices of the meetings are posted in the Steamboat Today. It was decided to hold off on doing another mass mailing for awhile.

Kent described hazards – the fuels – natural and manmade

Risks – roads, driveways, utilities, etc.

Rank them as low, moderate or high for each sub area.

Maybe add out-of-area-hunters, firewood gathers and

Based on the three highest hazard concerns identified at the last CWPP meeting, the three groups did the following rankings. Each group submitted its notes and they appear verbatim below.

MIDDLE MORRISON CREEK SUB AREA

South Routt Risk Assessment

Sub areas are: List Sub areas--answer questions for each section OR for entire WUI if comments seem to apply to entire WUI.

Looks like this group has actually developed a pretty good outline of this process and going through these items will help you “fill in the blanks” and add more specific detail for the plan.

1. Fuel Hazards

Describe each sub area (or whole WUI) in terms of fuel hazards and risk of wildfire occurrence. Possibly rate as high, med or low risk to community.

Natural:

- Beetle Kill – **High**
- Oak Brush – **Low**
- Grasslands – **Medium**
- Decadent/Dead wood (slash) – **High**
- Sagebrush – **Low**
- Ladder fuels – **High**

Man Made:

- Chemicals and fuel – **Low**
- Propane tanks – **High (Morningside Subdivision & Blackhorse Subdivision 1&2)**
- Junk yards – **Low**
- Vaults – **Low**
- Open burning – **High (Human Risk Areas)**
- Woodstoves – **Low**
- Homes under construction – **Medium (Human Risk Areas)**
- Wood piles stacked next to homes – **Medium**

Subdivisions

- **Morningside – Highest Human Risk/Low Fuel Risk**
- **Horseback – Highest Human Risk/Low Fuel Risk/High Ladder Fuels**
- **Blackhorse 1&2 – High Ladder Fuels/Medium Human Risk**
- **Skyhitch, South Station, Etc. – Low Human Risk/High Ladder Fuels**

2. Homes, Businesses and Essential Infrastructure at Risk

(This list pertains to the WUI)

- 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

Use descriptors of few=25% or less, some=50%, or most 75% or more. Use absolutes such as none and all if true.

Roads:

- Are Road Signs present...Few, Some or Most? **Most**
- Describe % that are paved, graveled, or dirt? **None Paved, Few Graveled and Most Dirt**
- Lanes of traffic: Majority of roads will support how many lanes of car/pick-up traffic.....truck traffic? Describe which one is and which two lane roads are generally speaking. **CR 16 support 2 lanes, Most will support 1 lane**
- Loop roads? Few, Some or Most? **Few**
- Dead end roads? Few, Some or Most? **Most**
- For Dead End roads with adequate turn around space at end large enough to support emergency equipment (experts can define dimensions needed). Few Some or Most? **Few**

Driveways:

- Driveway width and height clearance and road grades are adequate for emergency equipment turnaround? Few, Some or Most? **Most**
- Individual homeowners have posted their name and address? Few, Some or Most? **Most**

Structures:

Wood frame construction? Few, Some or Most **Most**

Wood decks or porches? Few, Some or Most **Most**

Fire safe roofing? Few, Some or Most **Most**

Homes visible from the main road? Few, Some or Most **Most**

Bridges, gates, culverts:

- Bridges support emergency equipment? Few, Some Most? **Most**
- Gates provide easy access to emergency equipment? Few, Some Most? **Most**
- Culverts are easily crossed by emergency equipment? **All**

Utilities:

- Are land line telephone service lines above or below ground? **All are below ground**
- Is cell phone service available? **Few**

- Are Electrical lines above or below ground? **Some above/Some below**
- Are there homes or other structures using propane and if so are FSM above ground? **Above – Few / Below - Most**
- Are the underground propane tanks marked? **Most**
- Are some homes/structures using natural gas? **None**

Water sources:

- Give percentages for homes using central water systems, individual wells, or other private water sources. **Central water systems = Few (15%), wells = Most, Private water sources = None.**
- Identify any specific ponds or cisterns that might be accessed during emergency. **Johnson Pond @ mile marker 6.5, Lou Dequines Pond and Parker's Pond**
- Are there any municipal water supplies in your WUI that could be impacted by a fire? (They've already identified some) **2 Pump Stations and a Storage tank**

3. What are some of the other community values of importance to protect in the event of a fire? These can be places of historic or cultural significance, wildlife habitat, recreation areas, scenic areas, etc.

(This list pertains to the WUI)

- 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)
- National Forest/State Lands

4. Describe your community's emergency preparedness.

- Does the community have an evacuation plan documented? **No**
- Describe the average emergency service response times to your community. **20 minutes**
- Do you know your Insurance ratings in the community? **10 Right now. Will change soon.**

Defensible Space:

- Lower Morrison Creek – Few
- Middle Morrison Creek – Most
- Upper Morrison Creek – Most

Everyone decided not to do a mass mailing. Continue doing e-mails and postings in the newspaper.

Sub Area: Upper Morrison Creek Watershed

Fuel Hazards - High Risk, Dead and down fuels present. Ladder fuels present.

Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic adding to fuels available for wildland fires.

18 recorded wildfires on National Forest Lands since 1970, all but one caused by lightning. (*)

Homes, Businesses and Essential Infrastructure at Risk-Moderate Risk

Businesses- High Meadows Ranch, Hideaway Ranch, and Mt. Elim Bible Camp were identified.

Roads- Most road signs present.

100% dirt or graveled roads.

Generally 2 lane traffic on County Road #16 with the exception of 3 areas. Blind Corner and poor drainage near J Bar 2 Ranch. Weight restricted bridge over Morrison Creek. Road narrows and blind corners on Lynx Pass to Guard Station.

Loop Roads: None

Dead End Roads: None

Driveways- Most are adequate for emergency vehicle response. Most names and addresses posted.

Structures-Most are wood frame construction. Most have wood decks and porches have fire safe roofing and are visible from main road.

Bridges, gates, culverts- Most gates and culverts are adequate for emergency vehicle response. Weight restricted bridge over Morrison Creek?

Utilities-Most are located above ground.

Cellular phone service is generally unavailable.

Propane Gas Tanks are present with both above ground and underground tanks. Few tank locations are marked. Natural Gas is not in use.

Water Sources-Most homes are using individual wells, springs, or private water sources. Numerous ponds available for emergency response.

Community values and emergency preparedness were not discussed in this subgroup.

* Fire History resourced from Stagecoach Fuel Reduction EA, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, January 2002.

Lower Morrison Creek Subdivision

South Routt Risk Assessment

Sub areas are: List Sub areas--answer questions for each section OR for entire WUI if comments seem to apply to entire WUI.

Looks like this group has actually developed a pretty good outline of this process and going through these items will help you “fill in the blanks” and add more specific detail for the plan.

1. Fuel Hazards (Kent can take the lead on this description)

Describe each sub area (or whole WUI) in terms of fuel hazards and risk of wildfire occurrence. Possibly rate as high, med or low risk to community.

Remember to discuss private property FireWise work—Hazards come from within and without subdivisions

2. Homes, Businesses and Essential Infrastructure at Risk

Use descriptors of few=25% or less, some=50%, or most 75% or more. Use absolutes such as none and all if true.

Businesses:

- Some are already listed...brainstorm more...What are some of the businesses located in your community?

Roads:

- Are Road Signs present...Few, Some or **Most**?
- Describe % that is paved (5%), graveled (45%), or dirt (50%)?
- Lanes of traffic: Majority of roads will support how many lanes of car/pick-up traffic.....truck traffic? Describe which one is and which two lane roads are generally speaking.
- Loop roads? Few, Some or **Most**?
- Dead end roads? Few, **Some** or Most?
- For Dead End roads with adequate turn around space at end large enough to support emergency equipment (experts can define dimensions needed). **Few** Some or Most?

Driveways:

- Driveway width and height clearance and road grades are adequate for emergency equipment turnaround? **Few**, Some or Most?

- Individual homeowners have posted their name and address? **Few**, Some or Most?

Structures:

Wood frame construction? Few, Some or **Most**

Wood decks or porches? Few, Some or **Most**

Fire safe roofing? Few, Some or **Most**

Homes visible from the main road? Few, **Some** or Most

Bridges, gates, culverts:

- Bridges support emergency equipment? Few, Some **Most**?
- Gates provide easy access to emergency equipment? Few, Some **Most**?
- Culverts are easily crossed by emergency equipment?

Utilities:

- Are land line telephone service lines above or below ground?
- Is cell phone service available?
- Are Electrical lines above or below ground?
- Are there homes or other structures using propane and if so are FSM above ground?
- Are the underground propane tanks marked?
- Are some homes/structures using natural gas?

Water sources:

- Give percentages for homes using central water systems (75%), individual wells (25%), or other private water sources (0%).
- Identify any specific ponds or cisterns that might be accessed during emergency.
- Are there any municipal water supplies in your WUI that could be impacted by a fire? (They've already identified some)

3. What are some of the other community values of importance to protect in the event of a fire? These can be places of historic or cultural significance, wildlife habitat, recreation areas, scenic areas, etc.

- Brainstorm a list—several have already been mentioned from notes the group might identify.

5. Describe your community's emergency preparedness.

- Does the community have an evacuation plan documented?
- Describe the average emergency service response times to your community.
- Do you know your Insurance ratings in the community?

Next Meeting Date is May 8, 2007