

STAGECOACH AREA COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Public Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Stagecoach Firehouse

Attendees:

Core Group: Chris Zuschlag (OCFB), Kent Foster (USFS), Chuck Wisecup (OCFD), Ken Burgess (SPOA), Steve Colby (MCMWSD), Craig Preston (DPOR), Lynn Barclay (BLM), Oscar Martinez (USFS), Libbie Miller (CDOW)
Community: Tony Stitch (SPOA), Tony Morgan, (OCFD), Tom Erps (SPOA), Earl Halsnes (SPOA), Steve Hayslip, Debbie Hunt, Danielle Domson, Dan Miller, Bill Chace, Leland Miller, CD Johnson, Sarah Woodmansee, Mike Roach

Welcome and Introduction (Chris Zuschlag):

Chris gave a brief welcome and provided a brief background to the Stagecoach Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), stressing that this was a community plan. Kent Foster had approached Chris, as President of the Oak Creek Fire Board about the need for the Stagecoach area to develop a CWPP.

Chris also introduced the CWPP Core Group members that were present, as well as identified those that were unable to make tonight's meeting. However, he stressed that the group wants this to be a community plan and encouraged everyone to participate and provide input.

Introduction to the CWPP (Kent Foster):

Kent provided background information on the Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). Kent explained how these legislative changes apply to the development of the Stagecoach Area CWPP, in particular how it allows the USFS to collaborate with communities to address wildland fire concerns.

North Routt is also in the process of developing a CWPP.

Kent highlighted some recent, as well as current events and conditions that emphasize the need for developing a CWPP in the Stagecoach Area.

- 2002 Green Creek Fire
- Bark Beetle Infestation within Routt County
- Defensible Space and Fuels Reduction efforts

CWPP – 8 Step Process (Lynn Barclay):

The CWPP process looks at entire landscapes regardless of property ownership, which creates the need for collaboration on many different levels within a community.

Lynn led the group through the 8-step process for developing a CWPP and handouts were available to all the participants.

Lynn provided several websites for additional information.

- www.rockymountainwildlandfire.info
- www.livingwithfire.info
- <http://wildfireprograms.cm/search.html?search>

As a group, we discussed how these plans allow for better planning on fuel reduction and treatment projects on federal lands. In addition, federal funding is currently influenced by CWPPs that are in place, and projects with CWPPs often are able to out compete projects that do not have a CWPP. Presently, the BLM requires that a CWPP is in place to receive funding; whereas, with the USFS a CWPP is highly recommended.

In addition, these plans help to address a communities overall preparedness. This could be particularly important in the Stagecoach area, where ingress and egress is limited.

Lynn told the group that there is also the need to develop an Action Plan and a timeline. She explained how once a CWPP was in place, then the community would review annually to evaluate where we were at in regards to the plan. Things that would be assessed would include:

1. What has been done?
2. What needs to be done?
3. What changes need to be made?

Ultimately, a CWPP is a working document that allows appropriate modifications to adapt to changing circumstances and conditions.

Oak Creek Fire District (Chuck Wisecup):

Chuck gave a presentation on the work he and his staff have been doing to inventory structures as well as miscellaneous items (water availability, bridges, etc.) that could be relevant in a fire response situation. Chuck has created an extensive database and he offered this information to the community as we develop our CWPP. Chuck reiterated the need for community input and he told the group that he hopes that this plan will also ultimately help better protect the public and emergency response employees.

In addition to the factors that Kent highlighted as reasons we need to develop a CWPP for the Stagecoach area, Chuck added the fact that this area has seen a massive growth, both in development and population. Chuck also mentioned that there is an existing Stagecoach Community Plan, which has a small section addressing wildland fire concerns. However, this document is outdated and does not adequately address all of the issues this CWPP will.

Chuck welcomed us all to the new Stagecoach Firehouse and offered to give a brief tour after our meeting to anyone that was interested.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI):

The group discussed the Draft WUI boundary and Chris, Kent, and Chuck provided an explanation as to what criteria was loosely used to create this boundary. The bulk of the WUI is within the Oak Creek Fire Protection District. Overall, the group was satisfied with the draft

boundary. However, Steve Colby requested that the electrical substation near the inlet to Stagecoach Reservoir be included within the WUI boundary.

In addition to the WUI boundary, we discussed the need for community members to help compile community values that exist within the WUI boundary. These values, once identified and agreed upon are what help to determine the content and focus of the CWPP.

Timeline:

The goal is to have this document completed and ready to implement by July 1, 2007.

The group agreed to meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. We scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stagecoach Firehouse.

Due to miscellaneous conflicts with other dates, the Core Group agreed to meet prior monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Public Meeting.

Community Discussion:

Several individuals made suggestions on ways to gather more public participation, including suggestions on how to improve on the flyer. Chris will look at how he might be able to incorporate those suggestions. Some folks requested that this information be made available on the internet. Both the MCMWSD and SPOA have websites that could warehouse this information.

Several individuals mentioned specific items they felt this CWPP should address.

- Propane Tanks
- Lack of Cell Phone Coverage
- Availability of Reverse 911
- Lack of Natural Gas Lines

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stagecoach Firehouse

The goal of our next meeting will be to solidify our WUI boundary and start conducting a community risk assessment while also identifying community values.

Please spread the word!

Adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.