

FOREST HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL PROTOCOLS

Purpose

The purpose of the Forest Health Advisory Council is to advise and empower the Colorado State Forester to improve the health of Colorado’s forests and watersheds. The FHAC has no official authority, but has significant influence in advising, informing, and advocating at the Federal, State, and local levels.

Meeting Frequency and Duration

The Council will decide its regular meeting schedule at a later date, but will meet in June, August, and September of 2017. Meetings will be held along the I-70 corridor, and no call-in participation is allowed.

Membership and Alternates

The legislation that created the FHAC defined the seats that members must fill, as well as who much appoint which seat. Any additional participants may attend meetings as ex officio members, but cannot be full members. The US Forest Service Regional Forester will be the only permanently-invited ex officio member. As each member was chosen specifically for their personal experiences and perspectives, there will be no alternates allowed. Any member who wishes to terminate their membership must do so themselves and may not be asked to leave.

Name	Organization	Appointment Seat
Norm Birtcher	Montrose Forest Products	Employed by Wood Products Business
J. Paul Brown	Rancher – Ignacio, CO	Ranch Owner
Carol Ekarius	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Environmental Organization
Cindy Farney	The High Camp Hut	Non-Motorized Recreation
Nick Fox	Xcel Energy	Public Utility
Dan Gibbs	Summit County Commissioner	County Commissioner
John Hall	Economic Development Council of Colorado	Economic Development
Scott Jones	Off-Road Business Association	Motorized Recreation Organization
Aaron Kimple	San Juan Headwaters Group	Municipal Drinking Water
Lyle Laverty	Society of American Foresters	Conservation Organization

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Name	Organization	Appointment Seat
Jason Lawhon	The Nature Conservancy	Environmental Organization
Doug Lempke	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.	Public Utility
Mike Lester	Colorado State Forest Service	Chair
Mark Morgan	Morgan Timber Products	Employed by Wood Products Business
Michael Preston	Dolores Water Conservancy District and Southwest Basin Roundtable	Municipal Drinking Water
Chuck Rhoades	USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station	Employed by a Scientific Research Station
Rick Seymour	Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	Sportsman Organization
Travis Smith	Colorado Water Conservation Board	Irrigation Water Supplier
Tom Spezze	National Wild Turkey Federation	Wildlife Organization
John Swartout	Senior Advisor to the Governor	Senior Level Executive Branch Policy Advisor
Ben Tisdell	Ouray County Commissioner	County Commissioner

Representation

Members will be representing themselves as individuals in group discussion unless they tell the Panel otherwise. When public decisions are made, the question of representation will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Subcommittees

The Panel may create subcommittees if they are needed or desired. Anyone who is not a member of the FHAC must be invited by the full FHAC to participate in a subcommittee. Subcommittees must follow the same decision-making protocol as full FHAC.

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Decision Making

The Panel will strive to reach decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, Council members may vote. There is no minimum number of members who must be present to make a decision. If consensus cannot be reached, the number of Council members supporting and opposing a specific proposal or recommendation will be noted in the meeting summary, along with the associated reasons for both supporting and opposing perspectives. Should any decision come down to voting, it must be passed by a majority of members, which is defined as two-thirds of those in attendance. FHAC members must inform the facilitator when it is necessary to have a vote. Preliminary decisions will be made at the end of a meeting and brought up for final approval at the beginning of the subsequent meeting. Past decision points can be revisited if half of those present plus one agree to do so. No proxies will be allowed to make a decision if a member cannot be present.

Agency Roles

Mike Lester, Colorado State Forester, is a full member of the FHAC. No other CSFS employees are decision-making members of the Council.

Public Meetings

All FHAC meetings are public and will be noticed on the CSFS website. There is no minimum time for when a meeting should be announced, but more time is better. CSFS is responsible for ensuring that all meetings are properly notices. All meeting agendas will be posted on the CSFS website.

Public Participation

The facilitator will provide a public participation sign-in sheet at the beginning of each meeting to determine how many people want to speak. 10 minutes of public comment will be allowed at each meeting, which will be divided up between the number of people who want to speak. All names of those speaking, along with highlights of their comments, will be included in the meeting summary

Documentation

A detail meeting summary will be provided after each FHAC meeting. All FHAC members will have a chance to edit meetings summaries before they are finalized. All final meeting summaries will be posted on the CSFS website.

Media Interaction

FHAC members may speak to the media to express their own perspectives but will not represent the opinions of the Council as a whole or of any other members. All members should do their best to keep others informed about their conversations to ensure there are no surprises.

Other Interactions

It is acceptable for the State Forester to brief major partners about the FHAC's general work. Otherwise, members of the FHAC are allowed to speak to other entities and decision makers about the work of the FHAC, but should only speak on their behalf. No member should ever represent the perspectives or opinions of another FHAC member of the FHAC as a whole. All members should do their best to keep others informed about their conversations to ensure there are no surprises.