

**Front Range Roundtable (FRRT)  
Quarter 2 Meeting – June 3, 2016  
Meeting Summary - Draft**

**Attendance**

Rob Addington	Megan Davis	Brian Keating	Andy Perri
Hannah Bergemann	Cindy Domenico	Don Kennedy	RC Smith
Jon Bruno	Carol Ekarius	Jason Lawhon	Sarah Synowiec
Christina Burri	Jonas Feinstein	Mike Lester	Monte Williams
Tony Cheng	Pat Gayner	Kat McIntyre	Ty Woodward
Casey Cooley	Brian Karchut	Sara Mayben	

**Contributions of the Roundtable**

To provide context for small group discussions about the prioritization of Roundtable goals and identify action items, the Executive Team invited several Roundtable members to share how the Roundtable has influenced their work in the past and present, and how it can help further these efforts in the future. Below are the highlights of these explanations.

*Local Government (RC Smith and Cindy Domenico)*

- FRRT members need to have a reason to pull together and accomplish concrete tasks and not just meet for the sake of meeting.
- The Roundtable has been useful in providing information that crosses agency boundaries and encourages collaboration.
- The Roundtable has played an important role in elevating local government issues such as wildland-urban interface problems, and encouraging local action on issues such as land use code updates.
- Post-fire recovery support offered by the FRRT allowed for valuable community conversations and preemption of future issues.
- Local governments need to know how science applies broadly, so it can be shared with the community as well as staff.
- The Roundtable needs to focus on policy to create better-informed landowners and citizens, increase funding, and influence social change regarding landscape restoration and community protection projects.
- County commissioners have been instrumental in categorizing flooding as a post-fire issue; this categorization has allowed those in a post-fire scenario to use a single pot of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding, rather than having to declare each scenario to receive the necessary emergency funding.

*Non-Profit Organizations (Carol Ekarius and Jason Lawhon)*

- The Roundtable has been impactful in bringing larger projects to Colorado that benefit different types of agencies and organizations, such as the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) and additional funding for work on private lands.
- The Roundtable has allowed collaborators to develop a more cohesive message, even if there is not agreement on all issues.
- In the future, the FRRT needs to be strategic about using its influence in the most effective and efficient way possible.
- Even though there may be significant disagreements, the Roundtable should continue to serve as a forum for those with differing perspectives to hear each other's views.
- There is a unique chance for this group to serve as an organizing body for other collaborative efforts.

#### *Colorado State Forest Service (Mike Lester)*

- Historically, the Roundtable pulled together key people, provided support, and encouraged communication and collaboration across agency borders; the number of acres treated in the state would be much smaller without the Roundtable.
- Collaborating and sharing ideas is important, especially when there is no agreement.
- Roundtable members and organizations have a broad reach and can increase the focus on issues such as ecosystem services, clean water, and energy as they relate to forest health and resilience.
- While there are other important priorities within the state, the Roundtable has the ability to influence decision makers in regard to financing and legislation to improve unhealthy forests and discourage the furthering or creation of undesirable conditions.

#### *US Forest Service (Monte Williams)*

- The membership is very diverse and may view the solutions differently, but everyone is here because of commonalities; the Roundtable needs to remain intact to solve these problems with acceptable solutions.
- The Roundtable has an opportunity to be able to influence high-level policy in a manner focused on performance characteristics rather than prescriptive guidelines, to lobby for additional funding, and to influence public support for treatment efforts.
- Given the diversity of influential participants, the Roundtable needs to have a policy or outreach subgroup to tackle these high-level issues.
- The science and technical aspects of the FRRT are very important and can inform adaptive management through the sharing and discussion of best available science.

#### *Fire Suppression and Response (Jon Bruno)*

- Many actors within the fire response and suppression communities do not know what the FRRT is and how it could add significant value to their work.
- The Roundtable must better engage with the Cohesive Strategy to encourage participation from fire districts and departments.
- There needs to be increased information sharing with the fire community in order to increase opportunities for collaboration.

#### *Water Utilities (Don Kennedy)*

- The Roundtable needs to focus on lobbying and influencing legislation, given its diverse and influential membership base.
- Research and education are very important focuses for water providers.
- Finding funding for the future must be a priority.

#### *Timber Industry (Pat Gayner)*

- The Roundtable has been useful in developing long-term stewardship contracts.
- Contractors would benefit from having the opportunity to understand the best available science that is influencing treatment designs.
- The Roundtable must address the poor health of the timber industry so that treatment prices are lower, projects can be completed more efficiently, and more acres can be treated.
- There is an issue with the utilization of product other than lumber (POL), as it is plentiful but has a limited market and is expensive to remove.

#### *Research and Science (Tony Cheng)*

- The FRRT has a strong history of engaging with the science community, which is not always the case with other collaborative organizations.

- The Roundtable has allowed researchers to focus on management-oriented research, an effort that has proven to be particularly useful given the focus of the CFLRP.
- The collaboration between scientists and managers has been valuable to both parties and has become a more visible type of work within the US Forest Service.
- The science community has created a large body of data of the effects of fire and the results of monitoring that can be used to impact other collaborative organizations.
- The Roundtable must advocate for policy that encourages the connection of science and collaboration.

#### *Wildlife (Casey Cooley)*

- The Roundtable is unique in how it focuses on Front Range forests and across habitats; many people do not have the opportunity to participate in these types of diverse and holistic discussions.
- The FRRT, mainly through the CFLRP, has raised awareness of wildlife issues and allowed wildlife biologists to collaborate with managers and other scientist to answer larger questions and leverage monitoring efforts.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) understands that value of the Roundtable and does what it can to implement the shared knowledge within the agency and on the ground.
- The Roundtable has created awareness for forestry issues that impact wildlife and increased treatment and monitoring efficiency to include wildlife concerns.
- In the future, the Roundtable should continue to promote wildlife concerns in science-based decision making, particularly as it applies to fire, managed use of fire, and landscape restoration.

#### *Practitioner (Jonas Feinstein)*

- The FRRT was created by those who wanted a space to instigate major, landscape-level impacts, but the pace of uncharacteristic fires is far outpacing treatment efforts.
- Roundtable members and agencies have good intentions, but there is a general culture that encourages a lack of action or impact.
- The Roundtable needs to leverage resources rather than simply encouraging collaboration to advance implementation and speed up the pace of learning.
- Resource concerns must be addressed sustainably and authentically to ensure the solution is impactful.
- Partnerships, especially those that are founded on similar understandings of the issues, are imperative to complete the necessary work in an environment with limited financial resources.
- Everyone must be on the same page so that landowners, practitioners, and scientists are working toward the same goals and resources can be used effectively.

### **Prioritization**

After listening to the speakers describe their Front Range Roundtable needs for the future, participants broke into small groups and indicated their priorities for future FRRT actions. The goals available for prioritization were compiled from multiple past goal-making efforts, as well as current team and 2015 Roundtable goals. This exercise is meant to identify which efforts are most important, given the limited bandwidth of the FRRT and its members and the broad scope of issues.

Roundtable members worked in small groups to discuss the different proposed goals and identify the highest priority items. There were 4 groups; each group discussed the goal options for each of the topics: landscape restoration, community protection, timber industry, and policy/outreach. Groups used dots to indicate their respective priority goals. They also had the option of suggesting new goals if they felt something was missing. When the full group reconvened, dots were tabulated and some goals were combined due to common themes. Below are the results of this prioritization exercise.

### *Landscape Restoration*

<b>Dots</b>	<b>Goal</b>
<b>Six</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to answer where and why land managers should do work to have the greatest effect.</li> <li>• Be able to answer what can reasonably be expected as outcomes and impact from treatments within and beyond the lower montane.</li> <li>• Gather, analyze, and evaluate new science and research methods to refine definitions of desired conditions.</li> <li>• Define success for landscape restoration work.</li> </ul>
<b>Five</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase appropriate application of prescribed fire and wildland fire use as a management tool.</li> </ul>
<b>Three</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refine treatment priorities: Possibly refine priority acres based on feasibility [slope, access] and consideration for other forest types, such as mixed conifer; USFS insect risk map; COWRAP portal to add fire risk to treatment map.</li> </ul>
<b>One</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Upper Monument Creek project as a model for collaborative forest treatment planning and implementation; identify similar opportunities for collaborative implementation planning on the AR.</li> <li>• Revisit and revise the CFLRP monitoring plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Zero</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Research and Design study.</li> <li>• Refine adaptive management plan for monitoring and management.</li> <li>• Update the Front Range 10-County map of completed treatments.</li> <li>• Adopt a clear and common framework for prioritizing treatments.</li> <li>• Identify new state and local funding sources for treatment on state land.</li> </ul>

### *Community Protection*

<b>Dots</b>	<b>Goal</b>
<b>Four</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to answer where and why landowners should do work to have the greatest effect.</li> <li>• Be able to answer what can reasonably be expected as outcomes and impact from treatments from the home ignition/wildland-urban interface zone to the landscape zone.</li> <li>• Serve as a communication, networking, and information exchange among professionals working on community wildfire protection, wildfire mitigation, and private landowner education.</li> </ul>
<b>Three</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin to influence a cultural change around the role of fire in Front Range communities.</li> </ul>
<b>One</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define types of community protection treatments and their applications.</li> <li>• Increase stakeholder involvement in the Community Protection Team and devote one of the four larger Roundtable meetings each year to community protection issues.</li> <li>• Define goal for a policy initiative.</li> <li>• Increase forest treatment incentives for private landowners.</li> <li>• Support work to define what is effective for community protection.</li> </ul>
<b>Zero</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevate the role and work of the Community Protection Team.</li> <li>• Promote the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Front Range communities-at-risk.</li> <li>• Identify new state and local funding sources for treatment on private land.</li> </ul>

***Timber Industry***

Dots	Goal
<b>Three</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase contract sizes and durations with stewardship contracts on federal land, and encourage a more streamlines contracting mechanism, such as IDIQ and LTSC.</li> </ul>
<b>Three</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate and bundle projects across jurisdictions</li> <li>• Serve as a facilitative communication broker to identify project locations and types.</li> </ul>
<b>Two</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase utilization of woody biomass.</li> <li>• Reach out to timber industry to improve communication.</li> </ul>
<b>One</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply certainty to support large mill investment.</li> <li>• Identify and and do outreach to garner support for the best product mix and opportunities for industry/consumers from projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Zero</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a goal around prescribed fire.</li> <li>• Encourage post-fire timber salvage planning.</li> </ul>

***Policy/Outreach***

Dots	Goal
<b>Four</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influence the Front Range such that the majority of community members join managers in openly discussing the positive and negative aspects of fire to people in ecosystems and engaged Front Range communities to positively change view of management necessary to create lower fire risk to communities and restore watersheds.</li> <li>• Incorporate local communities into fire suppression conversations.</li> </ul>
<b>Four</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Become a resource for community development, mitigation, and forest restoration and create guidelines within the wildland-urban interface.</li> <li>• Be a recognized resource and clearinghouse used by decision makers and citizenry for forest and community resiliency in the Front Range.</li> </ul>
<b>Three</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for additional federal funding for Front Range forest treatments.</li> </ul>
<b>One</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define a prescribed fire goal or initiative.</li> </ul>
<b>Zero</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define a policy goal or initiative.</li> <li>• Change local policy to limit growth of fire risk in the wildland-urban interface.</li> <li>• Convene follow-on Roundtable to ensure implementation of recommended initiatives.</li> <li>• Engage and integrate with other groups addressing similar issues.</li> </ul>

**Goals and Action Plan**

After assessing the prioritization results, Roundtable participants broke into the same small groups and developed concrete goals and actions to be accomplished in the next year. Actions without a person to do them will likely not be implemented.

***Landscape Restoration***

GOAL 1: Refresh treatment priorities	Proposed Action	Who?	Timing
	Review 2004 priorities and the Living With Fire document.	FRRT	
	Start to expand process to include different vegetation types, additional data, and landscape-scale impacts.	FRRT	Need Goal 3 information first

<b>GOAL 2: Increase application of prescribed fire.</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
	Increase communication between agencies that conduct prescribed burns. (Linked to Community Protection actions)	CUSP (Jon Bruno) Prescribed Fire Council	
	Identify a Public Information Officer for the FRRT	Prescribed Fire Council	
	Develop local government support.	Policy Group	
<b>GOAL 3: Gather, analyze, and evaluate new science, research methods, and effective monitoring to refine definitions of desired conditions; better understand outcomes and impacts of treatments.</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
	Gather relevant science through a task force or a working group.	CFRI/ LRT	September 2016
	Refresh FRRT website and digital media.	Webmaster	ASAP
	Communicate to CTIA of desired condition framework and expectations.	LRT Industry Rep	Fall 2016

***Community Protection***

<b>GOAL 1: Begin to influence a cultural change around the role of fire in Front Range communities.</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
	Develop and refine FRRT-supported talking points about fire in Front Range ecosystems	Jason Lawhon Cindy Domenico Andy Perri	September FRRT meeting
	Organize and convene science symposium for Front Range forests, fires, and communities.	FRRT Executive Committee	Fall 2017
	Develop marketing, education, PR strategy, and resources targeting foothills communities and tourism and recreation facilities.	University /College PR communications students	Fall 2017
	Support and engage the Prescribed Fire Council to ensure consistent messaging.	CUSP (Jon Bruno)	Winter 2016
	Engage Michael Morgan – the new director of Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.	RC Smith	
	Create white paper describing successful treatments on private lands.	CPT	Final in Fall 2016
<b>GOAL 2: • Serve as a clearinghouse,</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
	Clean up and organize CFRI website to post this information.	CFRI	Now

<p>especially for outcomes and impacts of treatments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify where and why landowners should do work.</li> </ul>	Create FRRT link to CFRI website.	FRRT	When website is complete
	Utilize an AFF-like focused marketing approach.	Jonas (reach out to Tom Fry)	Now
	Clean up or create new FRRT website that is easier for public to use.	Webmaster	ASAP
	Define community protection treatments and disseminate information.	CPT	TBD

***Timber Industry***

<b>GOAL 1:</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>Increase contracts and durations with stewardship contracts on federal land through streamlined contracting mechanisms (i.e., IDIQ, LTSC, etc.).</b>	Initiate discussion to clarify the nature of the problem.	Industry subcommittee	
	Hold group meeting with contracting officers, contractors, (loggers), and FRRT membership.	USFS/CSFS	Fall 2016
<b>GOAL 2:</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>Coordinate or bundle projects across jurisdictions and serve as a facilitative communication broker to identify project locations and types.</b>	Compile a GIS map of planned or proposed treatments on federal and non-federal lands for the next five years for a pilot area.	CFRI Others	Now through end of 2016
	Discuss Good Neighbor Authority and applicable, recently-signed legislation to better understand how it can be used.	USFS/CSFS	
<b>GOAL 3:</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>Increase utilization of woody biomass and all other products through incentives for producers and consumers (BCAP, capital investment, POL utilization, marketing, etc.).</b>	Perform review of prior incentives to increase beetle kill utilization.	Legislative Council FRRT Executive Team	June 2016
	Perform review of watershed supply by sort (saw logs, POL, biomass) analysis.	USFS veg, FIA, Jonas, CFRI, USFS, CSFS	
	Identify industry barriers and possible incentives.	Pat, Chuck, Others	ASAP
	Coordinate Fire-Adapted Colorado.	Jon Bruno	End of summer
<b>GOAL 4:</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>Reach out to timber industry to improve communication, increase FRRT representation, share the latest science, and ask</b>	Get a calendar of CTIA events for FRRT representatives to attend to better understand the issues and what is important.	Pat Gayner Chuck Dennis	ASAP
	Meet with CTIA at their conference in June to share science.	Pat Gayner Chuck Dennis	June 2016

<b>what they need from FRRT.</b>	Produce a white paper or a brief based on what is important for operators and contractors.	CFRI	
<b>GOAL 5: Establish Industry subgroup.</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
	Ask CSFS to establish and lead this group, drawing membership from science community, industry, NRCS, USFS, CSFS, and others.	Pat Gayner	ASAP

*Other*

<b>GOAL 1: Become a resource for community development, mitigation, and forest restoration, and create guidelines within the WUI.</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
	Identify or develop WUI and restoration guidelines.	LRT-CPT joint effort	Fall 2016
	Redevelop website to include videos, documents, public meetings, and digital media	Webmaster	ASAP
	Create a focused workshop series	Jonas	ASAP
<b>GOAL 2: Be a recognized resource and clearinghouse used by decision makers and citizenry for forest and community resilience in the Front Range.</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
	Redevelop website and digital media.	Webmaster	Need information on goal 5 first.
<b>GOAL 3: Influence the Front Range so communities can join managers in discussing fire in the ecosystem, and engage communities to change the view of management to lower fire risk,</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
	Organize and convene science symposium for Front Range forests, fires, and communities.	FRRT Executive Committee	Fall 2017 – Must occur after Goal 5.
<b>GOAL 4: Advocate for additional and diverse funding for Front Range forest treatments.</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
	Organize lobbying trips for the State, Federal, Congressional, and local governments.	Policy and Outreach group	
	Develop materials for lobbying, particularly where money has gone and its effectiveness.	Policy and Outreach group	

	Organize field trips for Wildlife Matters Review Committee and new Forest Health Council.	Megan Davis FRRT Executive Team	Fall 2016
<b>GOAL 5: Create a Policy and Outreach Group.</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Timing</b>
	Establish team membership to prepare information, lobby, plan lobbying, develop a new website, and fundraise for FRRT support.	FRRT, CUSP, Denver Water, FRRT Executive Team	ASAP

### Updates

- Denver Water and the US Forest Service initiated the Forests to Faucets program in 2010. The program is a mutual funding arrangement and will direct vegetation treatments on the ground. CFRI has been helping this project, and the paperwork is currently being processed so that phase two can begin in 2020. The groundwork for this project was laid by the CFLRP.
- As of July 1, 2016, Brett Wolk will be the Assistant Director of CFRI.

### Next Steps

- The September meeting will be moved from September 2, 2016, to September 9, 2016, to accommodate the Labor Day holiday. It will be held at the Office of Emergency Management in El Paso County.
- The Executive Team will review the results of the prioritization and goal-making exercises and determine how the Roundtable should proceed. The people who volunteered to complete a specific action should begin to work on their item as soon as is necessary for completion by the indicated time frame.
- All future draft and working documents will only go to the email list comprised of those who have opted into membership.
- Any suggestions for future conversations or efforts should be sent to [heather@peakfacilitation.com](mailto:heather@peakfacilitation.com).