

**Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council
Colorado Division of Emergency Management
9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, Colorado
November 30, 2011**

Meeting Summary

Participants

Please see Appendix A for a list of meeting participants.

Purpose

- Discuss the status of the Forest Health Advisory Council and the Association of Place-Based Collaboratives.
- Review recommendations from Community Safety & Infrastructure and Outcomes & Indicators Work Groups and identify next steps.
- Updates on the Biomass Working Group, Bark Beetle Lessons Learned Report, CFLRP, Smoke Management Program, and Hayman Restoration Project.
- Discussion of potential 2012 legislation.

Note: This was the final meeting of the Forest Health Advisory Council under Executive Order B-004-08.

Outcomes and Action Items

- The Keystone Center will incorporate comments and provide second iterations of the Agreement for Collaboration and the Directory of Place-Based Collaboratives before December 31, 2011. Keystone will reach out to additional collaboratives for their involvement.
- CSFS offered to provide staff support to help coordinate the association of collaboratives in the near-term.
- The Keystone Center will add a cover page to the indicators recommendation report to explain the history and purpose of the exercise and proposed next steps.
- Joe Duda will email a copy of the SB11-267 Biomass Working Group report to the Council.

Detailed Meeting Summary

Status of the Forest Health Advisory Council

Joe Duda, Doug Robotham, and Doug Young discussed the October 18, 2011 letter from Mike King and Jeff Jahnke describing the transition from the Council as constituted under the February 2008 Executive Order. The transition will place emphasis on on-the-ground activity of collaboratives and the potential association of place-based collaboratives, and will seek new ways to leverage the relationships that have been built with the FHAC and the statewide perspective it provides. An annual forest health summit is planned, and the FHAC may be called together on an ad hoc basis as issues arise. All thanked the FHAC for its prior efforts and emphasized that the transition is not a reflection on the previous work of the Council but on a need to shift focus to on-the-ground activities.

Council members emphasized that investing in the place-based collaboratives is important, and also emphasized that the FHAC brings a different, statewide, policy level perspective that should continue to

be leveraged in the future, even if in some other form. Points of contact back to the Governor's Office, DNR, and CSFS should be clear so that FHAC members can suggest issues meriting statewide conversation.

Association of Place-Based Collaboratives: Update & Next Steps

Gary Severson, Doug Robotham, and others involved in discussions concerning the formation of an association of place-based collaboratives provided an update on discussions since the September 1 FHAC meeting. Seven of the collaboratives have participated in conference calls to discuss the purpose and structure of a potential association, and a draft Agreement for Collaboration is under review. There is interest in having some sort of association or network, and there have been discussions of the merits of a loose confederation vs. something more structured; it could evolve over time. Capacity (time and resources) are a concern, and outside assistance is needed to help coordinate the association. National Forest Foundation has been contacted regarding potential support.

Council members emphasized the importance of having a statewide association that can speak with a stronger, unified voice on common issues as well as the importance of capacity support to make this effort viable and successful. They also suggested that there are additional collaboratives that should be invited to participate, and that fostering new collaboratives could be a purpose of the association (to be included in the Agreement for Collaboration).

Next Steps:

- The Keystone Center will incorporate comments and provide second iterations of the Agreement for Collaboration and the Directory of Place-Based Collaboratives before December 31, 2011. Keystone will reach out to additional collaboratives for their involvement.
- CSFS offered to provide staff support to help coordinate this group in the near-term.

Indicators and Community Safety Work Group Recommendations

Julie Shapiro, members of the Outcomes and Indicators Work Group, and members of the Community Safety & Infrastructure Work Group provided an overview of the handout on recommended indicators for community protection, watershed protection, and collaboration and a recommended approach for evaluating the efficacy of CWPPs in increasing community protection.

The suggested indicators provide a “cookbook” for conducting assessment on key issues including watershed protection and community protection. Indicators allow decision-makers and the broader public to understand current conditions and risks, consider treatments to improve conditions, and track changes in conditions over time. Implementation of the suggested indicators requires time, funding, and commitment of lead agencies for the continued production and assessment of data.

Council members and members of place-based collaboratives emphasized the value of this work in laying groundwork for state and local indicator and monitoring efforts. There was desire for this effort to have life beyond the Council.

Next Steps:

- The Keystone Center will add a cover page to the indicators recommendation report to better explain the history and purpose of the exercise and proposed next steps.

SB11-267 Biomass Working Group Update

Joe Duda provided an update on the SB11-267 Biomass Working Group, which explored barriers and opportunities for biomass utilization in Colorado. Market challenges and the cost of removal of biomass are key barriers. Council members suggested that collaboration, particularly at the community scale, is important when considering economic opportunities.

Next Steps:

- Joe Duda will email a copy of the SB11-267 Biomass Working Group report to the Council.

Udall Bark Beetle Lessons Learned Report

Susan Gray provided an overview of the report developed in response to the request from Senator Udall (and endorsed by the FHAC) for a report on lessons learned regarding the bark beetle outbreak and response in Region 2. The USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station developed the report, which includes four sections:

- A look back at ecological, social, economic, and policy factors leading to the outbreak.
- An assessment of the management response to the outbreak and the factors affecting it.
- Newer extended authorities (including long-term stewardship authorities and good neighbor authority) that present opportunities for future management.
- Predictions regarding the new forest that will emerge following the outbreak.

The full report is available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/barkbeetle/home/?cid=stelprdb5340741>

USFS Updates

Robert E. Lee provided several USFS updates:

- **CFLRP:** Two Colorado projects (Uncompahgre Plateau Collaborative Restoration Project and Colorado Front Range Landscape Restoration Initiative) were funded again in fiscal year 2011. See appendix B for accomplishments.
- **Leadership:** Tony Dixon's replacement as Region 2 Deputy Regional Forester for Resources is Brian Ferebee. Maribeth Gustafson is acting Regional Forester.
- **Mutual cancellation:** Under the mutual cancellation of timber sale contract "authority" 40 sales were requested for mutual cancellation across the Region. Purchasers have the option of backing out of the request, so the Forest Service does not expect all 40 to be canceled. Currently, 5 sales have been mutually canceled.
- **Stewardship Contracting:** Region 2 is currently working on two long-term, ten-year stewardship contracts. The White River/Medicine Bow-Routt contract is continuing preparation and is in alignment with the proposed timeline. The Pagosa Springs Area contract was solicited and bids have been received. The San Juan National Forest is in the process of reviewing the bids.

2011 Smoke Management Program Update

Pat McLaughlin provided an update on the Air Pollution Control Division's Smoke Management Program (SMP).

- EPA does not have prescribed fire or SMP regulations; states develop SMPs based on different authorities.
- The Colorado SMP began in 1990; it currently has 2.25 FTE.

- Under HB09-1199, the Colorado Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Act, the SMP worked with stakeholders to “evaluate existing prescribed fire permit program rules and implementation so as to support, and increase where possible, appropriate responsible use of prescribed fire.” A recommendations report was developed that highlighted committing to continue a hybrid program; building infrastructure for monitoring, ongoing operation, and analysis; continuing to evaluate computer dispersion models; and collaboration.
- Next steps include a pilot project in a particular geographic area to increase acreage and monitoring (the UP and Woodland Park area have both expressed interest).
- Permits limit burning, but many permits that are issued are also not used; this can be driven by smoke management conditions and other decision factors.

Hayman Restoration Program Update

Brendan McGuire and Kim Langmaid provided an update on the Hayman Restoration Program, a 3-year partnership of Vail Resorts, NFF, USFS, Gates Foundation, Aurora Water, and others to restore areas burned during the Hayman Fire and mitigated run-off issues associated with the burned lands. Vail Resorts support has included financial commitments and 1500 volunteer hours.

2012 Legislative Session Update

- **Local:** Matt Sugar previously shared with the FHAC information on Winter Park’s property tax that enabled it to hire a forester; this has been leveraged in a variety of ways to obtain additional funding.
- **State:** Some legislation may emerge from the SB11-267 working group, e.g. industry incentives such as tax incentives for use of bark beetle or other wood. Anything with a fiscal note attached will be a challenge. Also, Millie Hamner will be sponsoring reauthorization of HB09-1199.
- **Federal:**
 - Senator Udall met with Chief Tidwell to express concern about the lack of a Region 2 forester.
 - Senators Udall and Bennett have signed a letter in support of continued funding for CFLRP.
 - A study of the Four Mile Canyon wildfire has been released in response to Senator Udall’s request.
 - Senator Udall participated in press conferences for a homebuilder in Denver that is framing homes with beetle kill lumber.
 - Reauthorization of good neighbor authority and stewardship contracting may emerge from the Bark Beetle Lessons learned report.
 - The Senate Ag Committee proposed to the Supercommittee a draft farm bill that is favorable for forestry conservation programs.

Forest Health Advisory Council Member Updates

- **Denver Water** has a new program to help private landowners identify grant opportunities (e.g., NRCS) for collaborative treatments and reduced costs for larger treatments on private lands.
- **TNC Colorado** received a grant for a collaborative project with Colorado Springs Utilities in the Pikes Peak area, involving private and public lands and working with CUSP.
- **BLM** has started an integrated vegetation management team to look at statewide priorities.
- **CSU** budgets are down but there are 2 new hires (fire science and forest policy) and enrollment in natural resources programs are up.

- **Leadville** has had recent USFS thinning on Highway 24 to reduce risks to nearby trailer parks; USFS is working with local collaboratives on NEPA studies for areas they hope to thin and clear cut.
- **DNR and USFS** are working on the **Colorado Roadless Rule**; they are examining whether the current rule has the right number of acres in the Upper Tier while not preventing WUI exemptions for treatments around impacted communities.
- **CSFS** closed on a conservation easement at Red Feather Lakes.

Summary of FHAC Accomplishments

- Mike King, Joe Duda, and Doug Young thanked Council members for their work over the years, emphasizing the value it has added in developing the Vision and Guiding Principles for Colorado forests, helping to recruit additional funding for treatments in Region 2, and bringing thoughtful dialogue, focus and clarity to key statewide issues. They emphasized that this perspective will still be needed in the future and that an annual statewide forest meeting and ad hoc opportunities will provide forums for continued conversations.
- A summary of 2011 FHAC accomplishments was provided as an addendum to the April 2011 summary report.

Appendix A – FHAC Attendees

Colorado Forest Health Advisory Council Member Attendance

First	Last	Organization	Present 11/30/11	Absent 11/30/11
Joyce	Berry	Colorado State University	X	
Brown	Reeves	Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs	Sub-Dave Hard	
Maribeth	Gustafson	US Forest Service	Sub-Robert Lee	
Rob	Davis	Forest Energy Corporation		X
Tanuj	Deora	Governor’s Energy Office		X
Bud	Elliott	City of Leadville	X	
Nancy	Fishing	Colorado Timber Industry Assoc.		X
Dan	Gibbs	Summit County		X
Helen	Hankins	Bureau of Land Management	Sub-John Ring	
Jim	Ignatius	Teller County		X
Jeff	Jahnke	Colorado State Forest Service	Sub-Joe Duda	
Suzanne	Jones	The Wilderness Society		X
Don	Kennedy	Denver Water	X	
Mike	King	Colorado Department of Natural Resources	X	
Brendan	McGuire	Vail Resorts	X	
Ken	Neubecker	Colorado Trout Unlimited		X
Suzanne	O’Neill	Colorado Wildlife Federation		X
Barry	Smith	Eagle County Emergency Management		X
Tim	Sullivan	The Nature Conservancy	X	
Ron	Turley	Rocky Mountain Region Western Area Power Administration	X	
Chris	Urbina	CDPHE		X
Doug	Young	Office of Gov. Hickenlooper	X	

Additional Attendees:

Abbie Cobb, CBBC
 Lisa Dale, CO DNR
 Rich Dziomba, Blue Knight Group
 Cheri Ford, USFS
 Susan Gray, USFS
 Jan Hackett, CSU/CSFS
 Patti Kurgan, Astro Logistics
 Kim Langmaid, NFF
 Paige Lewis, TNC
 Patrick McLaughlin, CO APCD
 Randy Moorman, Colorado Environmental Coalition
 Jill Ozarski, U.S. Sen. Mark Udall
 Doug Robotham, CO DNR
 Aaron Sernas, Governor’s Policy Office
 Skip Smith, CSU
 Sloan Shoemaker, Wilderness Workshop
 Matt Sugar, U.S. Sen. Mark Udall
 Chuch Vale, CO DEM

Facilitators:

Gary Severson, The Keystone Center
 Julie Shapiro, The Keystone Center

Appendix B:
USFS Rocky Mountain Region
Robert E. Lee – CFLRP 2011 and 2012
Colorado Forest Health Advisory Council
Colorado Division of Emergency Management
9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO (2nd floor)
November 30, 2011

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Highlights 2011 and 2012 Program

Two Colorado projects (Uncompahgre Plateau Collaborative Restoration Project and Colorado Front Range Landscape Restoration Initiative) were funded again in fiscal year 2011.

The **Uncompahgre Plateau project** received \$930,500 in CFLR funds in FY2011. They matched the CFLR funds with \$1.1 million in agency funds, \$1.2 million in agreements and partnership contributions, \$84,000 in-kind contributions, and \$198,000 in service work from stewardship contracting. This provided an estimated 63 direct jobs and 124 total jobs. Accomplishments were:

- 2,218 acres restored
- 893 acres reforested
- 1,828 acres forest vegetation improved
- 1,655 acres of noxious weeds treated
- 800 high priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species
- 392 acres treated for native pests
- 20 acres of watershed/soil improved
- 226 acres of wildlife habitat improved
- 83 miles of road maintained
- 4 miles of road decommissioned
- 1 stream crossing improved
- 267 miles of trails maintained or improved
- 3 miles of property line marked/maintained
- 13,140 CCF of timber sold
- 2,871 acres of WUI hazardous fuel treated
- 3,065 acres of non-WUI hazardous fuels treated

The **Front Range project** received \$3,507,500 in CFLR funds in FY2011. They matched the CFLR funds with \$1.4 million in agency funds, \$2.1 million in agreements and partnership contributions, \$133,000 in-kind contributions, and \$29,000 in service work from stewardship contracting. This provided and estimated 112 direct jobs and 168 total jobs. Accomplishments were:

- 1,047 acres reforested
- 5,562 acres forest vegetation improved
- 1,100 acres of noxious weeds treated
- 43 acres of watershed/soil improved
- 1,402 acres of wildlife habitat improved
- 143,000 acres rangeland vegetation improved
- 28 miles of road maintained
- 8 miles of trails maintained or improved
- 21 miles of property line marked/maintained
- 6,678 CCF of timber sold
- 1,128 tons removed for bio-energy

6,922 acres of WUI hazardous fuel treated

Planned for FY 2012

As reported in September we are still working under the initial budget direction for FY 2012, the Rocky Mountain Region has been directed to spend \$27.3 million to continue the priority bark beetle mitigation work.