

 <p><b>Front Range Roundtable</b> Fuels Treatment Partnership</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Wildlife Working Team</b></p>
<p>Created by: Terra Lenihan</p>	<p><i>Meeting Minutes</i></p>	<p>Tuesday, October 21, 2014</p>

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Monthly Meeting #21
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Tuesday, October 21, 2014
<b>Meeting Time</b>	10-3
<b>Venue</b>	USFS-RO
<b>Attendees</b>	Terra Lenihan (Beh Consulting), Rick Truex (US Forest Service), Casey Cooley (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), Lynne Deibel (US Forest Service, ARP), Felix Quesada (US Forest Service, PSICC), Janelle Vallederes (US Forest Service, PSICC), Jenny Briggs (USGS)

**Meeting Notes**

- 1) **Welcome** – Icebreaker and agenda review
- 2) **FY14 recap and FY15 preview**

Rick gave a recap of FY14. RMBO completed ~1900 point counts. Great conditions, great results. They are currently scrubbing data and they will maintain stewardship of data. Early December, Lynne and Rick will meet with them to review preliminary results. Rick's been discussing with Hahn, she's asking if RMBO is the right hub to keep data for the future. Rick thinks they should handle analytically right now. For current analysis, realize it's a noisy system and be open. Jenny asked if they did fixed plots so it's just ocular or if they got data on if it's supposed to be a treated site. No, that was not in their plan. She thought a data update meeting in December is a good idea. Rick said it would be great to have RMBO join the next WWT meeting in January 2015. He will ask them if they can come and give us an update on the results. Will try to move WWT meeting to January 27 to accommodate their schedule (IMBR meeting is 1/20). Casey brought up Wildlife Society workshop is coming up and RMBO will be there.

Jenny talked to Tony and he suggested we think long-term about how we are going to integrate the process. Rick thought there's some reluctance as some wildlife biologists are limited by time and other constraints. CSE is something the forests will want to keep full time; discussion about linking RMBOs data with CSE's – co-locate? Felix brought up that a lot of the sites are hard to get to. Lynne suggested it's part of our job to say we want to take x% (1/4?) of sites and move the CSE's to accommodate. Rick said we'd need a thoughtful analysis of risks and benefits. Casey thinks it's worth talking to LR team if we move away from CSE data because it's giving us the same answer every time. We need a better look at spatial heterogeneity at a broader level. Lynne said we've put a lot of investment into CSEs and Rick said there's a wide variety of what CSEs can and can't do. There are ways to do some add-on's. Like do some T sampling, or map all of the stems. Jenny thinks it's a good conversation to have to revisit CSEs. It's on a cause and effect sphere. Are there correlated changes, i.e. wildlife changes, now that we have 2 or 3 cycles of CSE data?

Abert's discussion – Casey said they're just finishing the last cameras; picking up 4 from the AR this week and 3 on the Pike in early November. Felix helped deploy. NO analysis yet; collecting data still. Detecting tree squirrels in about 40-50% of sites. Their points were as close to the middle as possible, but needed to be attached to a tree. They also did wildlife sign surveys to see if there are other wildlife signs. Data looks all across the board. Sometimes they see squirrels while deploying, but there is no detection from camera. Intend to bring data to Jake Ivan to get occupancy rates. He's committed to helping with that. Rick suggested inviting Jake to join this team. Casey will suggest that to him. Will work on Felix's photos; need to figure out where do we go from here. Also detected lots of other wildlife including Western spotted skunk, mountain lion, elk, rock squirrel, bobcats, birds. Reconex cameras seemed to provide better pictures. Bushnell cameras not as sensitive to movement, wind, etc. Rick thought this is a good opportunity to do some citizen science at some point. Felix concerned about timing; may have detected more fall, winter, spring. Jenny asked how long it took to set up the cameras? Casey said they were able to set up 2-3 per day. Picking them up was quicker – about 4-5/day. Easier on the Pike.

Feeding Sign Surveys - Lynne said with the feeding plot surveys the first one took about 20 minutes, then the subsequent one took about 7 minutes. Collected random data. Thinks it will work best if we can do 10-15 minutes/survey. Needle cones were obvious. She will write up a short description of what she found. Jenny asked if they looked for freshness; Lynne brought some samples to share. Casey said they didn't take any inference of old versus fresh. She thinks we may need to talk about that more. Rick said we don't want to attribute occupancy to a time when there wasn't occupancy. Jenny thought maybe cameras are best way to determine occupancy. Lynne said we need to decide if we're going to go through with feeding sign survey with RMBO? Jenny thinks we don't need to decide today. The team will look at write-ups of the two different approaches and decide at next meeting. Lynne did 4 plots. She also sees cameras and feeding signs as different. Jenny thought if camera work and feeding signs done at the same time it could work together. Timing is a factor. Casey thought they are complimentary. Rick said we are at a crossroads; poised to make a strategic decision: 1) Do avian sampling annually because we have the money, or we do every other year like we planned; hold to our sales pitch to LR team. Or 2) Camera and avian crossroads – suggest we commit to have RMBO pilot this next year. That's what we committed to. Thinks camera work needs to go every year. To do 40-60 sites every year is good, at least from a PR perspective. It's invaluable. Casey said these were some controls that were obviously in treated sites so they moved sites. Rick said we should discuss; spell that out. Jenny asked if they took a new GPS at new site. Yes. She asked if they could provide notes on what they did because stand reconstruction team there was a lot of debate on if they go to exact site locations, etc. The center point doesn't always work.

### **3) Status of 1-page overview for Tier 2 species and road show**

This was for the "road show." Needs to be consistent (headings, etc.). Rick to identify needs and opportunities for framework of CFLR needs, suggest approach, and estimate cost. Jenny said begin with 1-2 paragraphs about this species. Do these by December 12.

Rick – Goshawk

Felix – Bats

Steve – Flams

Janelle – Beetles

Started the discussion of how to solicit other resources for Tier 2 Roadshow. Intent is to build on synergies. Jenny volunteer to keep encouraging other agencies to keep on their radar. Borrow methods from Joint Fire Science

Consortium. Approach to do brown bags at university seminars; Friday free presentations. 1) Target institutions separately or 2) Invite everyone. Casey agrees. Lynne asked how do we get those with purse strings involved. Rick thinks we do both. Once we get the write ups, 1) target specific people – start a list and 2) engage CSU on this. Teaching arena and long-term research opportunity. Make them aware as a teaching tool with our data set. Class project? Department seminar next spring. Discussion with Ken Wilson –wildlife chair at CSU. Casey also suggested Colorado College; connection with Linkhart. Jenny to update the Wildlife presentation from 9/26 Roundtable and list some opportunities to go along with Tier 2 write ups. Two presentations: 1) for a non-wildlife audience/more general and 2) for a wildlife focus. Also a trifold/glossy handout. Casey asked how do we talk about this with other CFLRPs? Could be really useful to say to UP, Rick sand no other CFLRPs are doing this. Needs to be vetted with Sara and Jeff. Jenny said there’s a lot of variation with other CFLRPs. Jenny thought with the National Indicators 5-year report maybe will spark FS discussion to scale from individual to regional. January meeting will be a working session.

**4) Discussion of objectives, expectations of phase 2** (see above; January to be a working session)

**5) Status and timeline for final report**

Rick and Lynne will check in in December on the final report.

**6) National indicators**

Lynne said at LR meetings Mark and Jeff are taking this on. She and Jenny writing up the wildlife piece to tell our story about our process. The percent approach doesn’t work for the Wildlife team. Put in next steps. Lynne and Jenny shared their summary. Will send to the team to make changes/edits.

**7) Wrap up, next steps, 2015 calendar**

January 27, 2015 – next meeting. The team will meet quarterly. No more meeting minutes needed. Discussed if they need Terra to be at meetings or to be behind the scenes coordinator.

**2015 Meetings:**

**Q1-15 Meeting** – January 27

**Q2-15 Meeting** - April 21

**Q3-15 Meeting** - July 21

**Q4-15 Meeting** - October 20