

# FRONT RANGE ROUNDTABLE—MINUTES FROM Q1-10 QUARTERLY MEETING, FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2010



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## 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following volunteers who helped the facilitator set up and clear out the room before and after the meeting:

1. Cody Neff, West Range Reclamation
2. Hal Gibbs, USFS-AR
3. John Bustos, USFS-AR
4. Susan Ford, USFS Region 2

## 2. ATTENDEES

At the most recent Front Range Roundtable Quarterly meeting on January 8, 2010, 45 people participated (up from 39 in Q3-09), an attendance rate of 30% (up from 28% in Q3-09). The Roundtable membership list currently has 146 people signed up for meeting invitations (up from 139 in Q3-09, indicating a successful transition to the new email marketing service over December 2009). If you attended the meeting but your name is not recorded in the list below, please send an email to Gali Beh at [gali@behconsulting.com](mailto:gali@behconsulting.com).

**Table 1. Roundtable Meeting Attendees, January 8, 2010**

The Q1-10 Roundtable Quarterly Meeting was Attended by 45 Participants, or 30% of the subscribed members.

Full Name	Org Type	Organization	Department	Title
Andy Hough	County	Douglas County	Open Space & Natural Resources	Environmental Resources Coordinator
Ben Pearlman	County	Boulder County	Commissioners' office / staff	County Commissioner
Bob Leaverton	Federal	US Forest Service, PSI	Pike-San Isabel National Forests	Forest Supervisor
Brian Kent	Federal	Rocky Mountain Research Station		Project Leader
Carol Ekarius	Conservation	Coalition for the Upper South Platte		
Cheri Ford	Federal	US Forest Service	Rocky Mountain Region	Colorado Capitol City Coordinator
Christine Walsh	Federal	US Forest Service	ARNF Boulder Ranger District	District Ranger
Cody Neff	Private	West Range Reclamation	Owner	
Craig Jones	State	Colorado State Forest Service	Peak to Peak Wood	Biomass Specialist
Dan Len	Federal	US Forest Service, AR	Vegetation Management	Program Manager
Dave Hessel	State	Colorado State Forest Service		FRFTP Coordinator; FRWWPWG Coordinator
Don Moore	Planning	American Planning Association		Board Member
Don Kennedy	Water	Denver Water		Environmental Scientist
Gali Beh	Private	Beh Management Consulting, Inc.		Front Range Roundtable Coordinator
Hal Gibbs	Federal	US Forest Service, AR	Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland	Eco Group Leader
Jan Hackett	State	Colorado State Forest Service		
Jeanne Nicholson	County	Gilpin County		County Commissioner
Jeff Jahnke	State	Colorado State Forest Service		State Forester
Jennifer Scott	County	Grand County	Division of Natural Resources	Foreman
Jenny Briggs	Federal	US Geological Survey		Research Ecologist Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
Jill Alexander	County	Douglas County		
Jim Hough	Private	Guest from Florida		Andy Hough's father
John Chapman	Conservation	Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society	
John Bustos	Federal	US Forest Service, AR	Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland	Public Affairs Officer

Full Name	Org Type	Organization	Department	Title
Jonas Feinstein	Federal	Natural Resources Conservation Service		State Forester
Josh Keown	County	Douglas County		Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
Judy Geniac	Federal	US Forest Service	USDA Forest Service	Partnership Liaison
Kathleen Krebs	County	Clear Creek County	Office of Emergency Management	Emergency Management Director
Kathy Hartman	County	Jefferson County	Commissioner's Office	County Commissioner
Laure Kenyon	Energy	Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative		
Leslie Ellwood	Federal	US Fish and Wildlife Service		Wildlife Biologist
Megan Davis	County	Boulder County	Board of County Commissioners	Policy Analyst
Mike Smith	Energy	Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative		
Paige Lewis	Conservation	The Nature Conservancy		Governmental Affairs
Phil Guthrie	Timber	Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative		Consulting Forester
Rob Davis	Energy	Forest Energy Colorado		
Ryan Ludlow	County	Boulder County	LU	
Sam Foster	Federal	US Forest Service	Rocky Mountain Research Station	Station Director
Sara Mayben	Federal	US Forest Service, PSI	Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands	Renewable Resources Staff Officer
Shawna Crocker	State	Colorado State Forest Service	Project Learning Tree	Project Learning Tree Coordinator
Susan Linner	Federal	US Fish and Wildlife Service		Field Supervisor of Ecological Services
Susan Ford	Federal	US Forest Service	Community Forestry and Wood to Energy	State & Private Forestry Branch Chief
Tim Vogel	County	Clear Creek County	Site Development Department	Site Development Inspector
Tom Mahon	Private	Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative	Mahon Timber	Owner
Wade Yates	County	Jefferson County	County Administrator's Office	Special Projects Coordinator

**Table 2. Stakeholder Groups Represented at Roundtable Meeting, January 8, 2010**

Roundtable participation on January 8, 2010 represented 9 stakeholder groups (down from 10 in Q3-09).

Stakeholder Group	Organization	Attendees
Conservation	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	1
	Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance	1
	The Nature Conservancy	1
County	Boulder County	3
	Clear Creek County	2
	Douglas County	3
	Gilpin County	1
	Grand County	1
	Jefferson County	2
Energy	Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative	2

Stakeholder Group	Organization	Attendees
	Forest Energy Colorado	1
Federal	Natural Resources Conservation Service	1
	Rocky Mountain Research Station	1
	US Fish and Wildlife Service	2
	US Forest Service	5
	US Geological Survey	1
	US Forest Service, PSI	2
	US Forest Service, AR	3
Planning	American Planning Association	1
Private	Beh Management Consulting, Inc.	1
	Guest from Florida	1
	West Range Reclamation	1
State	Colorado State Forest Service	5
Timber	Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative	2
Water	Denver Water	1
Grand Total		44

Stakeholder groups **not represented** at the meeting were Insurance and Local Government. Roundtable members are asked to please encourage colleagues from these stakeholder groups to participate in future meetings so that their perspectives can be included. A **new stakeholder** group present on January 8, 2010 that was not present in Q3-09 was Planning. (A stakeholder group present in Q3-09 but not represented on January 8, 2010 was Science / Academic, but this stakeholder group is active on Roundtable working teams which meet between Quarterly meetings.)

### 3. AGENDA

The agenda for the January 8, 2010 meeting was as follows (though some agenda items occurred in different orders as reflected in the structure of the minutes):

<b>January 8, 2010 Agenda</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Timing</b>
1. Welcome and introductions	9:30 - 9:40
2. Announcements from attendees	9:40 - 10:00
3. Propose new Executive Team-led efforts:	
• CFLR proposal	10:00 - 10:20
• Changes to Roundtable organizational structure and roles	10:20 - 10:40
4. Update on USFS stewardship contract	10:40 - 11:00
5. Break	11:00 - 11:10
6. Update on Colorado Springs Utilities biomass utilization project	11:10 - 11:25
7. Update on Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative	11:25 - 11:45
8. Update from Partners	
• Update by FRFTP	11:45 - 12:00
• Update by FRWWPWG	12:00 - 12:15
• Lunch	12:15 - 12:45
• Update by NFRMPBWG	12:45 - 1:00
9. Review Roundtable strategy and proposed goals and deliverables for new working teams:	1:00 - 1:10
• Implementation and Mapping (IM)	1:10 - 1:40
• Outreach to Elected Officials (OEO)	1:40 - 2:10
• Break	2:10 - 2:20
• Biomass Utilization and Slash Sites (BUSS)	2:20 - 2:50
• Science and Monitoring (SM)	2:50 - 3:20
10. Next steps, closing	3:20 - 3:30

#### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Andy Hough**, Environmental Resources Coordinator, Douglas County:

The US Forest Service released an announcement about forest planning rules and on how plans are written. Now is the comment period. Half of the forest plans are out of date and need to be revised. Unless the forest planning rules are changed after the public comment period, those out of date plans will be revised under these new rules. The BUSS team will comment on the proposed rules by requesting that biomass utilization be considered when all forest plans are written. The BUSS team will give a letter to the executive committee to review and submit on behalf of the Roundtable. If other parties have comments to include, they may send them to Andy Hough at [ahough@douglas.co.us](mailto:ahough@douglas.co.us).

**See the federal register announcement at:**

[http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Federal\\_Resister\\_Announcement-Proposed\\_New\\_Rule.pdf](http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Federal_Resister_Announcement-Proposed_New_Rule.pdf)

2. **Jan Hackett**, Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS):

**The 2010 State legislation is proposed, and includes:**

- a. Standard qualifications for pre-burn, sponsored by State Senator Dan Gibbs and State Representative Randy Fisher.
- b. State Representative Cheri Gerou sponsored: incentives for industry; exceptions for forest products; forest trucks; benefits for Colorado industry.
- c. Another bill would exempt the requirement that new hires into the CSFS must have two years experience before consideration, for example, if recent grads had done relevant seasonal work.
- d. State Senator Rollie Heath co-sponsored: a resolution to restrict transportation of infested wood into and out of Colorado.
- e. Another bill would allow the CSFS to refurbish excess federal property (engines). The CSFS could use these trucks for prescribed fire, educational, road-worthy without the requirement of the one-time fire use.

There is no money tied to these legislations. These proposed initiatives should have no fiscal impact due to the state of the economy this year.

3. **Susan Ford**, State & Private Forestry Branch Chief, Community Forestry and Wood to Energy, USFS Region 2:

a. **US Endowment grant opportunity:**

- i. See new biomass related RFP at [http://www.usendowment.org/images/RFP\\_2010-001\\_Biomass\\_finall\\_7.pdf](http://www.usendowment.org/images/RFP_2010-001_Biomass_finall_7.pdf)
- ii. Send Susan ([sbford@fs.fed.us](mailto:sbford@fs.fed.us)) your email if you want to be on her grants email list.

- b. The Forest Products Lab had 150 grant applications nationally for a recent grant opportunity, and 30 of them were from Region 2, mostly Colorado and some from WY, SD, and NE. That's a significant proportion of applications from Region 2. It's very competitive this year; but you [the applicants] have already done the work to put all the narratives together for the old proposals. If you were not funded, you should reuse the project narratives and submit them to other grant opportunities.

- a. Small Wood Conference in Hot Springs, AR: The SmallWood 2010 conference will be held April 20-22, at the Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa, Hot Springs,

Arkansas, USA. The theme of this year’s conference is “Bridges, Business and Biomass.” SmallWood 2010 will also include a variety of optional field tours on Thursday, April 22. For more information on SmallWood 2010, contact Julie Lang at the Forest Products Society, [conferences@forestprod.org](mailto:conferences@forestprod.org).


- a. Wood--to--Energy Woody Biomass Utilization Short Course: 3/1-3/5 in Ft. Collins, CSU co-hosts biomass short course, which is pretty cost effective (\$150 for five days). Please see schedule at the link below. Several BUSS team members will be attending and presenting. [http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/2010\\_Wood\\_Energy\\_Announcement.pdf](http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/2010_Wood_Energy_Announcement.pdf); to register visit <https://www.regonline.com/woodybiomass2010>; for more information contact Amanda Bucknam at (970)491.0801 or [amanda.bucknam@colostate.edu](mailto:amanda.bucknam@colostate.edu)

- 4. **Craig Jones**, Biomass Specialist, Peak to Peak Wood: Craig is a project manager for peak to peak, Colorad Wood, and is now also working with the Anchor Point Group, a firm that typically writes CWPPs. Now the firm has received ARRA funding to implement CWPPs in four counties: Boulder, Gilpin, Larimer, and Grand. The ARRA funds are to be used to hire a forester and two technicians. Craig will be the forester, and is no longer semi-retired.

**5. CFLR PROPOSAL**

- 1. **Paige Lewis**, Governmental Affairs, The Nature Conservancy (TNC):

- a. She explained the background of CFLR program (see slide below)



## Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established under Title IV of Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to encourage collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes</li> </ul>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests of up to \$40 million annually through 2019</li> <li>CFLR may pay for up to 50% of the proposed costs (applicant must find the other 50%)</li> <li>Up to \$4 million annually for any one project</li> <li>Up to 2 project per year in any one FS region</li> <li>Up to 10 projects per year nationally</li> </ul>
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CFLR funds may only be used                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On National Forest System lands for implementation and monitoring (not planning)</li> <li>For ecological restoration treatments only (not fire mitigation without restoration)</li> <li>For up to 10 fiscal years on any one project</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be considered, project proposals must be nominated by the Regional Forester (if proposal involves actions on other federal or tribal land, other approvals are also acquired)</li> <li>Landscape of at least 50,000 acres, more than 50% of which must be National Forest</li> <li>Treatments would contribute by-products to existing or proposed biomass utilization infrastructure to help offset treatment costs and benefit local rural communities</li> <li>Restoration strategy developed using a collaborative process involving key stakeholders</li> </ul>
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests for proposals are expected to come out soon (this month?) and turnaround times are expected to be short (one month?)</li> <li>Much help will be required to write the in-depth, lengthy proposals</li> </ul>

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- b. In response to questions, Paige said it was unclear if grantees have to make the money last for 10 years, or if you can use it sooner and then come back to propose more funding. Planning costs can be used as the required match.
- c. Eligibility: Need to add to slide above that it is required that proposals be based on a science-based collaboratively developed restoration assessment. We have this already. We need to emphasize the modification of forest behavior to restore fire regimes. We need to demonstrate benefit to local economics. We have to include cost-savings analysis to reduce overall fire management costs. It needs to

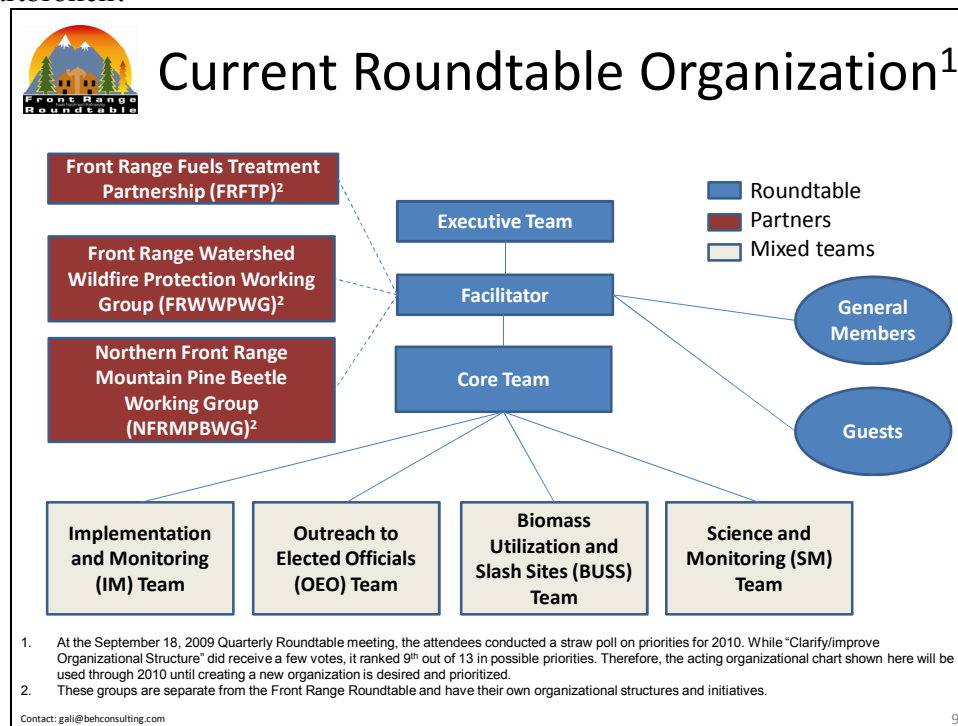
protect old growth and avoid creation of new roads. It has to include a multi-party monitoring plan as part of implementation. These are the core tasks we need to figure out. A Federal Advisory Committee will be established to make recommendations to the Secretary. We're in a good position to develop a proposal. We have all the pieces, but there are a lot of details to put together. We'll need help from all of you on how to incorporate the current work by partners such as the stewardship contract. We have to focus on restoration and overlap areas [green and yellow areas on the old 2006 map of Roundtable priorities].

2. **Bob Leaverton**, USFS-PSI: [Showed a draft map for CFLR proposal] We're having trouble recreating the 2006 map, all this Community Wildfire Protection Zone should not be showing up in the east like this, but when the CFLR map is created, it will show the old yellow (overlap) and green (restoration only) areas as one restoration zone—the part proposed for the CFLR proposal, which must include restoration. We're also going to show wilderness and roadless in a different color as part of the restoration zone. There's not much overlap between the restoration zone and wilderness areas but there is some overlap with roadless areas where we might use prescribed fire or wildland fire use, not mechanical treatment. We're also going to show areas > 40% differently, as not recommended for heavy equipment.
3. **Carol Ekarius**, Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP): Could Woodland Park be part of this?
4. **PL**: I think so.
5. **BL**: We can put it in as a subset.
6. **PL**: The proposal needs non-federal partners.
7. **Don Kennedy**, Denver Water: Explain more how it works: Does the USFS ask for the funds?
8. **PL**: Yes, the Roundtable would develop the proposal, then give it to the USFS. They submit it, and the money goes to the USFS for work on USFS land.
9. **BL**: If we look at it in a boundary-less fashion and use the Roundtable as the collaborative that puts the proposal together, those two things will make a huge difference. We already have the information we need.
10. **PL**: The due date is a mystery. They're trying to establish the advisory committee before issuing the request for proposals. Maybe early March calls will come out with a month turnaround. We want to start putting the proposal together now and tweak later. The DoA is putting the advisory committee together. There'll be a request for nominations in the federal register. Anyone can nominate someone or themselves.
11. **BL**: We're also trying to tie into the CFLR map the watershed and bark beetle priorities, too, so we can see intersections. We will work with the watershed and NFRMPB groups on this.
12. **PL**: Anyone not want to pursue?
13. [No one said yes. Question about who else might submit proposals.]
14. **Jeff Jahnke**, Colorado State Forest Service: The Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council (FHAC) also wants to develop restoration proposals for the CFLR. It asked Tony Cheng [of CFRI] to look into it; Tony is also joined up in this effort [the Roundtable]. The Uncompadre Plateau is also competing. It is a smaller landscape, but they could have a good proposal. San Juan NF is another potential proposal. CBBC doesn't focus as much on restoration as the Front Range does. There will most likely other Colorado participants.

15. [SF volunteered to help. Carol volunteered Jon Bruno can help from CUSP. Laure Kenyon volunteered to help. Phil Guthrie volunteered to help.]

**6. PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

1. **Commissioner Ben Pearlman, Boulder County:** I joined the Roundtable and the Executive Team after it had already been in place many years, so I don't have all the history, but for example, it was never clear to me what the Core Team does that the Executive Team doesn't do. Therefore, the Executive Team is proposing two main organizational changes and better role definitions.
  - a. We are not proposing any changes to this group – the Roundtable. It would stay the same, have quarterly meetings, approve or modify proposals from the Executive Team.
  - b. The Roundtable has four fully functioning working teams which would also continue, and work on specific issues to bring back to the Roundtable for discussion. Gali is handling the facilitation and acting as the focal point for the team. She's also taken the Core Team duties and divided them up between the facilitator and the working teams. Everyone who was on the core team is now on a working team, so we propose that we can streamline the Roundtable by not having a core team anymore. Is anyone heartbroken?




- c. **The Executive Team (ET)** has consisted of five members for a while. We propose making those seats permanent for AR, PSI, and CSFS. It makes sense to have a conservation nonprofit of some sort (TNC or other) as a permanent member, and also a county commissioner as a permanent member (rotating). The proposed change is: the ET would like the flexibility of adding one or two more members to make sure we have the breadth of discussion we'd like to see. These seats would rotate. Any Roundtable member should give nominations for themselves or others to Gali. The Executive Team will consider all nominations at the next Executive team meeting on 3/26.



- d. **The ET is also considering nonprofit status** and how to support the Roundtable fiscally. It's been a pain to work this way without a legal entity to hand funds. We always require finding a member to be the fiscal agent, which becomes a burden on that member, and it is unwieldy for the Roundtable. Keeping it this way is not desirable. We have so far considered two alternative approaches:
  - i. Turning into a 501 c3. Downside, federal members would have to reclude themselves from organizational issues. Starting a new nonprofit would cost about \$2,000 per year; we're still exploring this option.
  - ii. 501 c 9 : Supporting organization like "friends of" but we can only do this if the supported organization is a tax-exempt entity too, which the Roundtable is not. We're no longer exploring this option.
2. **DK:** CBBC worked around this, why can't we?
3. **GB:** Because the federal members of the Roundtable ET want to participate in organizational discussions, such as the one we just had about the structure of the core team and the ET. Maybe on the CBBC there was not the same sentiment.
4. **SF:** There are umbrella groups we can contact.
5. **GB:** Yes, there's the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center (I will call them)
6. [Names not captured of members giving other suggestions:]
  - a. The Denver Foundation does this too—acts as an umbrella; they take 15% of funds raised.
  - b. The Palmer Foundation.
  - c. DRCOG?
7. **GB:** Please send other ideas to explore regarding nonprofit status to me. Is everyone ready to show thumbs up or down or sideways on these two proposals on the table by the ET with a show of hands: Do the members approve disbanding the core team and expanding the Executive Team?
8. **JJ:** Let's not have voting. We need to talk about our concerns. We've tried all these years to not be a voting organization because we can't all vote on our authorities. I'd prefer we ask if there is opposition.
9. **BP:** Does anyone have concerns about the Executive Team? What about the core team?
10. **SF:** Is the Executive Team a decision-making team. How does that team function?
11. **BP:** the handout shows the roles [see exhibit below]. The ET formulates proposals, acts as quick decision-makers between the quarterly meetings. There's a flow of information between all the teams.
12. **CE:** The core team used to have meetings with the Executive Team to plan agendas and discussion points. The core team met to look at the directions we are going. This isn't a great change, but simply a combining of the two teams—into one.
13. **PL:** We established the core team when we didn't have a lot of help. Now Gali does most of what the core team does.
14. **Hal Gibbs, USFS-AR:** The core team was started to help make plans for the Roundtable. Then it evolved and grew into 5-to-10-to-20 people, which made it cumbersome and inefficient. The Executive Team was also not very active then. The core team became less effective as it got big, so the Executive Team started working more together again. With Gali here, it's reduced the need for the core team. I was on it, and we haven't lost any effectiveness since we stopped meeting.
15. **Mike Smith, Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative:** Are any private citizens or companies on the Executive Team?
16. **BP:** That is the idea, to expand the diversity.

17. **BL:** The Executive Team is made up of decision-makers because we try to maintain the integrity of the Roundtable’s consensus. We have to make sure that we’re working within the zones of agreement. If there are ideas to move us out of those zones of agreement, the Executive Team must present these ideas to you as the collaborative Roundtable—to maintain the integrity and the values of the collaborative.
18. **SF:** We need more clarification about the goals in the reorganization.
19. **GB:** To clarify, the Roundtable is the decision-making body. The Roundtable may delegate some decisions to the Executive Team, such as hiring the facilitator and other decisions that need to be made on short notice between Quarterly meetings.



## Proposed Organizational Changes: Roundtable Structure and Roles

Executive Team	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Propose strategic, organizational, and operational priorities for the Roundtable’s consideration at Quarterly meetings</li> <li>2. In between Quarterly meetings, make decisions on behalf of the Roundtable as needed</li> <li>3. Approve agendas for Roundtable Quarterly meetings (proposed by Facilitator)</li> <li>4. Meet once each quarter between Quarterly Roundtable meetings</li> </ol>
Facilitator	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Schedule, arrange, and facilitate Roundtable Quarterly meetings, Executive Team meetings, and working team meetings</li> <li>2. Support working teams in achieving their goals by providing organizational, administrative, and logistical support (e.g., keeping work plans)</li> <li>3. Act as the central point of contact for all Roundtable internal and external communications (e.g., email distribution list, website maintenance)</li> </ol>
Core Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Formerly:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Created Roundtable Quarterly meeting agendas</li> <li>2. Volunteered for action items arising from Quarterly meetings</li> <li>3. Supported the coordinator in ad hoc tasks as needed</li> </ol> </li> <li>• <b>Proposed:</b> The Executive Team proposes formally disbanding the core team as its former activities are now executed by the coordinator and the working teams. Every member of the core team is on at least one working team, so disbanding the core team would not change membership participation in achieving Roundtable goals</li> </ul>
Working Teams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Execute on the Roundtable’s strategic goals, according to work plans developed jointly by the teams</li> <li>2. Present progress updates at Quarterly Roundtable meetings</li> <li>3. Attend working team meetings as scheduled, typically two calls per month with some in person meetings as determined by the team</li> </ol>
Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attend quarterly Roundtable meetings and, when required, vote to approve or change proposals by the Executive Team</li> <li>2. Share relevant announcements and updates to Quarterly Roundtable meetings; productively contribute to discussions, honoring the obligation to dissent when necessary</li> <li>3. Volunteer for working teams if able and/or want to see something done by the Roundtable</li> </ol>

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## 7. USFS STEWARDSHIP CONTRACT

1. **BL:** This is a 10-year contract, 2,000 acres per year per forest (AR and PSI), for a contract total of 40k acres. The contract allows for biomass removal, following the recommendations of the Roundtable. We are so pleased to have Cody Neff [of West Range Reclamation] as our contractor. He’s progressive, innovative, and doing a good job on the ground trying to utilize the biomass to the greatest extent possible, which is very near and dear to my heart. He’s out on the edge on this stuff; we can learn a lot from him.
2. **Cody Neff, West Range Reclamation:** Thank you for your support of the Stewardship Contract project. I am humbled and appreciative of the opportunity to be the contractor for the project. We have lots of support from the people in this operation. I have had issues to work through and everyone has been fabulous at helping us.
3. [CN presented a slideshow of logging equipment in use by his company, narrating as follows:]
  - a. We started off in mastication equipment followed by herbicide.

- b. Photo of satisfied owner of the ranch.
  - c. We've gone to horizontal shaft mastication equipment.
  - d. We do a lot of work under power lines. Debris is directed down to the ground, not laterally.
  - e. Now we run tiger cat mastication equipment. We're very pleased with it.
  - f. We work in Utah quite a bit in pinyon juniper. We also did work for TNC there on tamarisk removal.
  - g. [Showed post-treatment photos.]
  - h. We have some hand crews (15-20 guys on the ground). We slow down in winter. We cut 175k trees this year that were too close to lines. Big issue out there. Everything left will not threaten the line for 50 years. We try not to clear-cut under lines, but leave some diversity.
  - i. [Showed different types of equipment and the logging process in different conditions.]
  - j. We burn slash in the winter in the right conditions. At one time, Swift trucked out timber, but they raised their rates 40% recently so we don't use them anymore.
  - k. We make landscape material out of a whole tree grinding operation. We run the material through a screening process to get material for the landscape market. We use a flail debarker now for MiracleGro products without bark.
  - l. Perry Park project just starting.
4. **PL:** Can you tell us about expected biomass utilization on the stewardship contract?
  5. **CN:** The stewardship contract has made us able to offer new products, e.g., interest from Rob Davis about a pellet plant and from a bio-butane plant in California, there could be need for 400k tons per year. ; landscape product, hoping bio-energy will kick off here. We definitely need more markets.
  6. **Sam Foster,** Rocky Mountain Research Station: Dirty or clean chips?
  7. **CN:** Clean with the Flail Debarker. The demand is touchy right now. A couple of big companies are out of business, dumping chips.
  8. **DK:** Power plants demand?
  9. **CN:** We've been in touch with tri-state and others capable of burning wood with coal. We're talking with coal companies about blending at their locations. We're hoping RPS standards will push energy markets. Signed up for BCAP, a very helpful program. Biomass Crop Assistance Program was authorized as part of the farm bill. It provides a subsidy to what the contractor gets paid.
  10. **SF:** What are the biggest barriers to utilization? What can the Roundtable BUSS team do to help?
  11. **CN:** I really hope that the energy market is a big opportunity for us all. So much need and wood out there. We're doing a lot more volume per acre on the AR than we had anticipated: 80 tons per acre off, this is a lot of volume coming off.
  12. **BL:** How far can you haul without losing money?
  13. **CN:** It's good to stay within 50 miles, but if that's not feasible, we ship farther: 230 miles one way, in one case. Trains help, and open up markets outside of CO. WA is less by truck though.
  14. **CE:** One of his projects in our WPHF area in the Ridgewood subdivision had us worried about residential response to the treatments, but everyone has been really supportive. We did a survey with CFRI. One person complained about a clear-cut, but that was a bad disease area of only 6 – 7 acres. We had 600 responses with only one complaint.

## 8. FRONT RANGE FUELS TREATMENT PARTNERSHIP (FRFTP)

1. **Dave Hessel**, CSFS: FRFTP is an implementation group, while the Roundtable recommends strategies and other planning. FRFTP's main purpose is to coordinate implementation. FRFTP implements some of the Roundtable's recommendations. We had a lot of turnover of members of the Roundtable. The relationship between the Roundtable and the FRFTP was a mystery, so we wanted to clear that up.
2. **GB**: OEO team slides show three Front Range forest collaborative, and don't include FRFTP, by their request as they are an interagency implementation group, and not a collaborative like the Roundtable, the FRWWPWG or the NFRMPBWG.
3. **DH**: We will still keep the website and the reporting.
4. **JJ**: We thought about doing away with the FRFTP because the relationships are there whether we have the group or not, but we decided to keep it but cleanly and clearly parse it out from the Roundtable.
5. **PL**: How do we avoid double counting accomplishments by both FRFTP and the Roundtable?
6. **JJ**: I don't think it will be a problem.
7. **CJ**: Roundtable reporting should asterisk that it's a consolidation of all the partners. The Roundtable is not reporting different, additional accomplishments above those of the partners.
8. **JJ**: I agree.

## 9. FRONT RANGE WATERSHED WILDFIRE PROTECTION WORK GROUP (FRWWPWG)

1. **DH**: I have reduced our number of committees to be more effective. Our communications group is trying to reach out to water providers statewide to get the message out about watershed protection importance. Ten to fifteen people meet monthly in a very energized work group. We pull together our presentations, on an ftp site, write two-page reports that the Forest Service is using in their water-to-faucet effort, plus one for water providers. We broadened our focus because of the need to energize our public.
2. **Shawna Crocker**, CSFS Project Learning Tree Coordinator: Project learning tree is an environmental education program that involves family tree farm groups. A state coordinator, like me, does teacher training for science-based environmental education. We are coming out with an early childhood module. We're inundated with early childhood education centers asking to become environmental education centers. Students are powerful little agents of change; we need to get educators current about what's going on in the forests. We have 100 active volunteer facilitators, many retired teachers, happy to welcome more. We trained 600 teachers in 43 workshops. We have a new advisory committee including people from the Roundtable.
  - a. **Forests-to-Faucets workshop**: This workshop includes field trip and teaching materials, long-term goals includes taking the kids into the forest and to the water facility too. We will have a white paper about expanding the program to other watersheds.
  - b. Google "Project Learning Tree Colorado" for more information.
3. **DH**: No better area than the Colorado Front Range to talk about watershed protection from wildfire.
4. **SC**: Programs like the Roundtable about forests could help educators too.
5. **CE**: The communications committee wants to do outreach to non-mountain residents about how the water comes from the mountains. The Denver Museum of Nature and

Science, for example, could we make a connection with them? Talked to Ed Warner on the Board of Trustees and expressed the idea to him. He recommended we call Dr. Kirk Johnson. We are meeting with them on January 20<sup>th</sup> to talk about how to partner together. Major programmatic renovation planned at the museum about the earth. We saw forests-to-faucet as a perfect fit. Don't know what will come out of this, but we're excited about a redeveloped museum exhibition. We will get a private tour of the museum that day too. [laughter]

6. **SC:** 2011 is the UN *Year of the Forest*, an excellent tie-in.
7. **DH:** We have a PPT on the status of watershed assessments. Our partners include water providers. We completed four 6<sup>th</sup> level assessments, almost done with two, starting one, have 16 in phase one assessments [in queue]. We are honing in on 6<sup>th</sup>-level watersheds for planning. We used USP as a test case. We have completed the Upper Colorado, in addition to Blue River, Pikes Peak. The Arkansas Headwaters and St. Vrain are near completion. The South Platte Headwaters is just starting. All are involving key water providers in the process similar to CWPPs. We are building emphasis on the need for watershed protection. We would never have guessed that we'd be this far along when we started one year ago. Green areas should be completed by March. Still need to sort out the next step in CWP<sup>2</sup>, the planning of projects in the priority areas.
8. **GB:** There's a question on the Front Range name.
9. **DH:** We're going to meet February 1<sup>st</sup> to talk about whether to change the group's name because we're starting to move out of the Front Range.
10. **Judy Geniac, USFS Partnership Liaison:** Are the assessments on the web?
11. **DH:** Yes, at the JW Associates web site, <http://www.jw-associates.org>
12. **Sara Mayben, USFS-PSI:** How will agencies use these assessments?
13. **DH:** Like CWPPs, to decide where to do treatments to protect communities. Funding is another question.
14. **Wade Yates, Jefferson County Special Projects Coordinator:** Don, do water providers know their top customers in demand? E.g., Clear Creek = Coors—what kind of industry is impacted?
15. **DK:** I don't think water is from Clear Creek for Coors [laughter]. Yes, you can use assessments to see where the providers' facilities are, and locate the demand. It's a good process.
16. **Commissioner Jeanne Nicholson, Gilpin County:** Other important stakeholders are the Metro Mayors. They have an organization that meets regularly. I'd like for us to do a presentation for them so they understand the impact to their cities [of watershed risk].
17. **DH:** A key thing for us is coordination with the Roundtable through the OEO team.

## 10. NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE WORK GROUP (NFRMPBWG)

1. **Christine Walsh, CSFS ARNF Boulder Ranger District:** The NFRMPBWG includes the five northern Front Range counties which are the focus of MPB efforts now: Boulder, Larimer, Gilpin, Clear Creek, and Jefferson. We share information among government agencies on MPB. We wanted to provide common messages and explain why there are different approaches in different places. We've been meeting for two years to focus on communications. We have a strategy and tools to share. In this presentation, we'll show our members, goals, and objectives.
  - a. **First Objective:** Our first objective is communication. By sharing products, having a website, and two excellent brochures, we wanted to get out basic

messages and target visitors and plains residents. We will put out a follow-up publication for landowners about how to manage property to deal with MPB. We sent this to newspaper subscribers and it's been available in mountain communities. These are targeted locally so that they can know what resources are available for waste disposal and resources for consultants. All brochures are available for anyone to use for their purposes.

- b. **Second Objective:** Dialog. By meeting once-to-every-other month, invite speakers, share information between meetings. We want to be on the same page, and share research and new ideas.
- c. **Third Objective:** Biomass Utilization. Remaining locally focused. Communities have evolved past the economic niche and are trying to back into the utilization niche. People are considering different kinds of work now so there may be a good match.
- d. **Fourth Objective:** Collaboration. We're mapping done or planned treatments. Anchor Point's \$1.7 m grant will be implemented in our region. Our group was in a good position to put the data together and poised to work together across ownerships. The group provided materials to Anchor Point for their ARRA proposal.

## 11. COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES (CSU) BIOMASS UTILIZATION PROJECT

### 1. Carol Ekarius, CUSP:

- a. [Sharing notes provided by CSU project manager who could not attend:] Steve Randolph (Mayor of City of WP) knows the manager of the CSU plant. He asked them if WP biomass had the right specs for their co-firing needs. We will study the 15–20% rate of co-combustion. If preblending does not work, then they would have to renovate the plant for boiler unit #7. If co-firing works, it would use 100k tons of biomass/year. They are the first, big, local Front Range user. We have done supply management: Confluence Energy is the approved contractor to deliver site-ready material. City Council approved the biomass grant. We are evaluating different firing schemes, modeling, and expect to start construction, final design, and procurement this year—to be fully operational some time in 2011. We're looking at investing in air pollution control, but wood reduces enough of the pollution that they won't have to invest in the new technology: good news. We may do at least one more boiler in 2012 or 2013 if all goes well with the forest.
  - b. **South Park Recreation District** is using 35k gallons of propane, invested in pellet type boiler with pellets from Kremmling. On January 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be open house to look at the unit.
  - c. **Fair play School District** voted for a bond to build a new school campus LEED-certified with biomass heating. We expect a demand of 500 tons per year (from ~13 acres of thinning). We can come up with that right around Fairplay.
  - d. A few things on the energy side finally look like we're going to hit the tipping point. Eight of us here today were at the first Front Range Roundtable meeting. We never would have thought these operations weren't pipedreams back then. But now we're really making headway.
2. **SF:** I got a call from a coal-fired power plant in the south of the state at the same scale as CSU. So it's beginning to happen. It takes some early entrepreneurs who take some early risks on what may not be the best business plans.

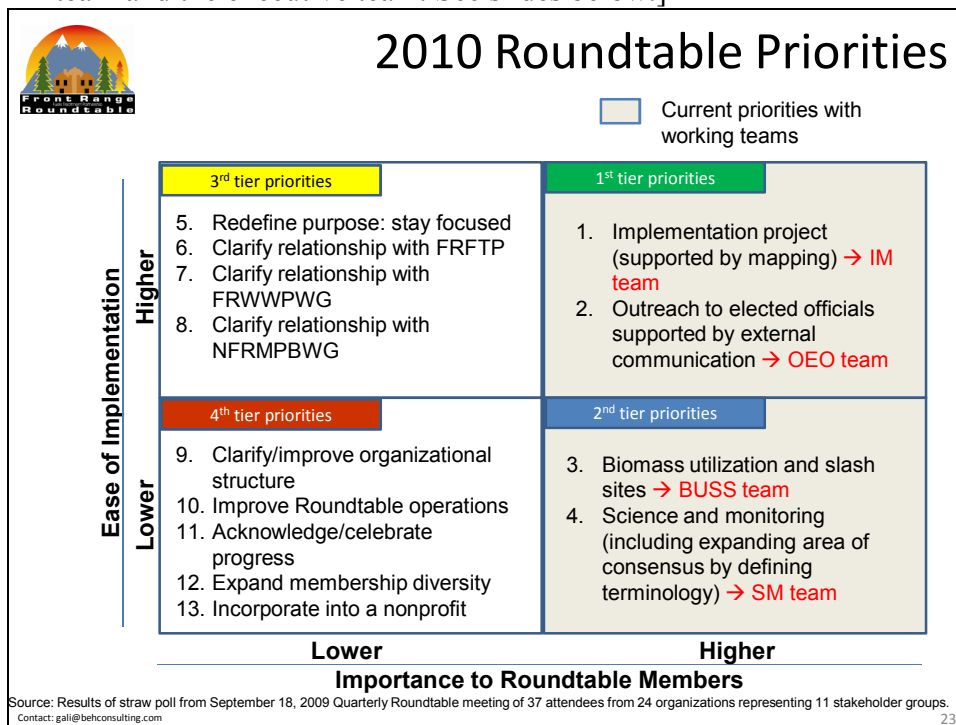
3. **CE:** We received a \$250k grant from ARRA for an \$8m project at CSU which could save \$30m from air pollution control changes. The money will be used to double grind the biomass, as we need it at almost saw dust size, because the specification for delivery is three-inch minus. A forced air blower will be used. We grind on-site after delivery.
4. **Tom Mahon, CRRC:** How many years is the contract for the supplier?
5. **CE:** Not sure—maybe 10 years—we’re going to talk.


**12. WOODLAND PARK HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE (WPHFI)**

1. **CE:** Thanks to the Roundtable for helping the WPHFI get started as a demo project, which was selected out of nine applicants. We celebrated one year this past summer. We’re going to do a paper with insights and comments that we will bring to you at another meeting. The July 23 Roundtable meeting will be in WP with a field trip. We will see projects in town and Cody’s work in Ridgewood. Leadership team (LT) and core team of the WPHFI will attend. With the ARRA grant for five southern counties, we will emulate this approach of a leadership team across the five counties. The LT also has educational speakers and is updating a CWPP for the WP area, which will be facilitated by John Chapman. We’ll have new maps of where work has been done and where it is planned.

**13. ROUNDTABLE WORKING TEAMS**

1. [Gali reminded everyone about 2010 Roundtable priorities and how working teams were aligned against those priorities. Then Gali ran through the 2010 goals of each working team and the executive team. See slides below.]





## Summary of Team Goals

<b>Executive Team</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lead CFLR proposal (including further prioritizing Roundtable priority areas best suited to mechanical treatments)</li> <li>2. Implement approved organizational changes</li> </ol>
<b>Implementation and Monitoring (IM) Team</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify 1–3 landscape-scale areas that meet defined criteria in order to focus Roundtable resources for implementation planning.</li> <li>2. Select one or more communities to partner with on developing scopes of work and implementation roles for each partner</li> <li>3. Develop a project plan and attract funding for a turn-key project around at least one of the highest priority landscape identified.</li> </ol>
<b>Outreach to Elected Officials (OEO) Team</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create external communications that all four Front Range groups<sup>1</sup> can use to describe forest health challenges and each group's role in addressing those challenges</li> <li>2. Coordinate on outreach to elected officials, including scheduling joint meetings when possible.</li> <li>3. Inform one another of planned activities so that team members are aware of what other groups are doing on their own, to minimize audience confusion and fatigue.</li> </ol>
<b>Biomass Utilization and Slash Sites (BUSS) Team</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop communications on the state of biomass utilization in the Front Range</li> <li>2. Advocate for policy changes and other actions that would help biomass utilization</li> <li>3. Exchange information on biomass utilization developments across the Front Range</li> </ol>
<b>Science and Monitoring (SM) Team</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluate progress of forest treatments in the Roundtable's 2006 priority areas.</li> <li>2. Consider becoming the monitoring body for the USFS's stewardship contract</li> </ol>

Contact: gall@behconsulting.com 24

## 14. IMPLEMENTATION AND MAPPING (IM) TEAM

[See slides presented at: [http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Roundtable\\_Q1-10\\_Quarterly\\_Meeting\\_010810\\_gb\\_v1.pdf](http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Roundtable_Q1-10_Quarterly_Meeting_010810_gb_v1.pdf)]

1. **HG:** Some CWPPs are a bit too general and don't identify specific treatments. Then some do. Overall we'd do better working with more specific CWPPs. Local vs. county not entirely accurate characterization. We won't have a problem finding a community with CWPP to partner with in the Front Range; we're almost entirely covered. IM team will use NFRMPB's current map. We didn't have a lot of facilitated or funded treatments from the CSFS. But now we do, although they are not yet incorporated into this map.
2. **DK:** St. Vrain watershed assessment will be done shortly. Groups will discuss map needs in early February.
3. **HG:** Biggest question is the watershed group map, if it will be ready by end of February for the overlap map.
4. **SF:** How does this fit with timeline of state assessment and response time?
5. **JJ:** It is completed through the draft stage. The next step is to go out to communities to develop strategies. We're going to work with CFRI, starting in February. This would feed in well to that process.
6. **PL:** NFRMPB map shows areas that have been treated and where they plan to treat. Have you looked at where you would like to treat, in those places where there are no plans yet?
7. **Megan Davis, Boulder County:** Each county is approaching it differently: in Boulder we're going to drill down and look at treatment areas. Each will list out their status, whether waiting for funding, etc. There are 15k acres now ready, but just waiting for funds to implement.



## 15. OUTREACH TO ELECTED OFFICIALS (OEO) TEAM

[See slides presented at: [http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Roundtable\\_Q1-10\\_Quarterly\\_Meeting\\_010810\\_gb\\_v1.pdf](http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Roundtable_Q1-10_Quarterly_Meeting_010810_gb_v1.pdf)]

1. **John Bustos, USFS:**
  - a. Team is rethinking the trip to DC and would like to join with another group when we go. For now, we're not planning this.
  - b. List of elected officials doesn't show county commissioners right now. Make changes regarding chair/vice chair/ issues.
  - c. Presented Outreach template document that we're putting together.
2. **GB:** We need help in valuing merchantable timber.
3. [Name not captured:] We need to show the number of people in other states, too, that depend on Front Range water.
4. **JJ:** We should compare how well the legislations, passed and proposed, have matched with our 2006 recommendations.
5. **SF:** Payment in lieu of taxes (PELT): Does any of that go to forestry? Group said, no. We should have the option for counties to invest this money in forests. Grand is doing this for hazard tree removal along roads.

## 15. BIOMASS UTILIZATION AND SLASH SITES (BUSS) TEAM

[See slides presented at: [http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Roundtable\\_Q1-10\\_Quarterly\\_Meeting\\_010810\\_gb\\_v1.pdf](http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Roundtable_Q1-10_Quarterly_Meeting_010810_gb_v1.pdf)]

1. **Mike Smith, CRRC:** Park County very active now in new biomass projects: recreation center, school, county jail.
2. **CN:** We have 350 loads of biomass with nowhere to go, that should be changing soon.
3. **PJ:** What does *available* mean?
4. **CJ:** Well not really *available* if you don't have the infrastructure to move or process it. Maybe only 20% of the treatments being done are having the biomass going anywhere.
5. **Laure Kenyon, CRRC:** We need better terminology because Cody's biomass is *available*, so we need to define better.
6. **MS:** Why is Jackson not part of the Front Range?
7. **HG:** Sulphur Ranger district didn't want to deal with half of the forest in the FRFTP and half out. 70% of the water from the district comes to the Front Range, so that's why Grand is in the FRFTP. Jackson is not part of the AR. We had a Grand County Commissioner involved then (one of the first commissioners to be on Roundtable).
8. **CJ:** Peak to Peak, five of the 10 counties, Boulder, Larimer, and Gilpin particularly stepped up to the plate to fund their slash sites operations. So Peak to Peak grant money does not need to go to that. Half of the hauling we did this year did pay for itself and half didn't, we're trying to improve those margins.
9. **CE:** There is a mistake on the slash site slide, the site is at Devy not Deckers. It is a county-owned facility, \$5/truck-tipping fee, manned Friday, Saturday, Sunday from April to November 1<sup>st</sup>. We have a big pile we have not gotten rid of— everything we've collected since 2002, which is now really dirty slash, worth very little other than sewer plant composting.
10. **MS:** The Roundtable can become the one-stop shop where someone can get all the information they need on biomass, no one else is doing that.

11. **CE:** GOE is putting out a bucket of grants over the next few months, which are posted on the website. The list presents proposed grants they hope to issue between now and July. Two are biomass related: feasibility study on biomass for buildings and implement biomass.
12. **BL:** We need to write a definition for “available” based on the Roundtable’s recommendations.
13. **Jenny Briggs, USGS:** If we use the example of “X many acres translates into X tons,” this is compelling. We can use that type of conversion in our communications, which makes the process clear, and come alive.
14. **Ryan Ludlow, Boulder County:** Boulder is funding our sites. Is there a business model where a private industry can set up these sorts of yards? We’re putting a lot of money in, and there is at least one private slash site in the 10 counties. Can there be more?
15. **SF:** Mike brings to this the idea of a cooperative. How do we work better together?
16. **MS:** Our philosophy is that none of us is as good as all of us.

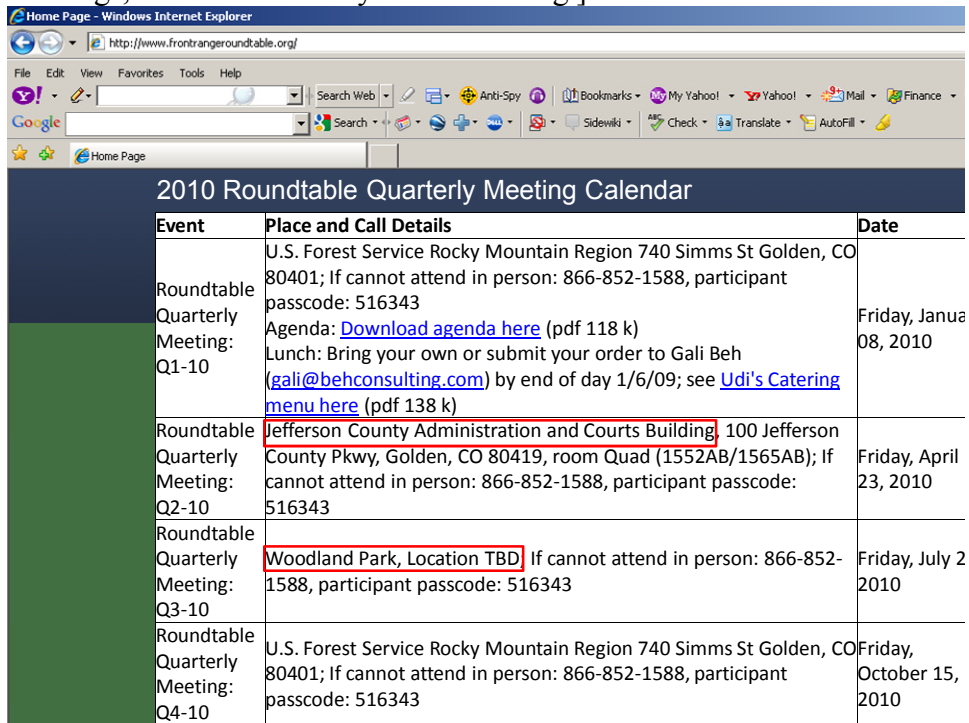
## 16. SCIENCE AND MONITORING (SM) TEAM

[See slides presented at: [http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Roundtable\\_Q1-10\\_Quarterly\\_Meeting\\_010810\\_gb\\_v1.pdf](http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Roundtable_Q1-10_Quarterly_Meeting_010810_gb_v1.pdf)]

1. **HG:**
  - a. The team is more focused on monitoring right now, but science has been a really important part of the Roundtable since it started. Science formed the basis of the original report, and, at this point, we’ve shifted more to monitoring. But it could shift back in the future to science.
  - b. Our GIS help was stolen for executive team. We have all the data we need. We’ve made huge progress just collecting the data. We may have someone from AR help us on GIS. We also talk about finding a place to store all this data that would be available to everyone on the Roundtable. *[editor’s note: found GIS help]*
  - c. We may have our map done by the end of January. *[editor’s note: more like February]*
  - d. Since 2004 we have treated 90,000 acres on the Front Range—at least initial treatment, a lot of work. Not a lot when you consider 1.5m acres, but still a lot of work. We have a lot more planned that we haven’t been able to fund.
  - e. Apache-Sitgreaves has a monitoring group with a matrix of goals and measures, that we can leverage.
2. **SF:** What about the bigger piece of looking at the whole range of treatments and doing comparisons and analysis about treatments on land done on non-federal land?
3. **JJ:** The goal is eventually to do all of it. We’re just at different stages of development.
4. **JB:** CFRI has ongoing agreements to monitor treatments in many other parts of Colorado for other groups and agencies. So if we establish this working relationship where CFRI is doing its own monitoring, and we work with them on federal monitoring, there would be consistency. CFRI has spearheaded coordination among all agencies on comparing their monitoring needs and approaches. This created a multi-agency consensus process used to influence CFRI’s methodology—a methodology not produced in a vacuum but carefully developed in collaboration with the agencies.

## 17. CLOSING

[Gali introduced the new website domain, showed the calendar of remaining 2010 Roundtable meetings, and thanked everyone for coming.]



2010 Roundtable Quarterly Meeting Calendar		
Event	Place and Call Details	Date
Roundtable Quarterly Meeting: Q1-10	U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region 740 Simms St Golden, CO 80401; If cannot attend in person: 866-852-1588, participant passcode: 516343 Agenda: <a href="#">Download agenda here</a> (pdf 118 k) Lunch: Bring your own or submit your order to Gali Beh ( <a href="mailto:gali@behconsulting.com">gali@behconsulting.com</a> ) by end of day 1/6/09; see <a href="#">Udi's Catering menu here</a> (pdf 138 k)	Friday, January 08, 2010
Roundtable Quarterly Meeting: Q2-10	<a href="#">Jefferson County Administration and Courts Building</a> , 100 Jefferson County Pkwy, Golden, CO 80419, room Quad (1552AB/1565AB); If cannot attend in person: 866-852-1588, participant passcode: 516343	Friday, April 23, 2010
Roundtable Quarterly Meeting: Q3-10	<a href="#">Woodland Park, Location TBD</a> If cannot attend in person: 866-852-1588, participant passcode: 516343	Friday, July 2 2010
Roundtable Quarterly Meeting: Q4-10	U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region 740 Simms St Golden, CO 80401; If cannot attend in person: 866-852-1588, participant passcode: 516343	Friday, October 15, 2010