

MINUTES FROM FRONT RANGE ROUNDTABLE Q3-11 QUARTERLY MEETING AND FIELD TRIP



Date of meeting: Friday, Aug. 19, 2011, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Location: Sunshine Fire Protection District Station 1, 311 County Road 83, Boulder

Roundtable contact: Gali Beh, c/o Beh Management Consulting, Inc., 1107 12th St., Boulder CO 80302, 303-499-1576, gali@behconsulting.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the West Boulder County Healthy Forest Initiative for hosting this tour. The HFI consists of six fire protection districts: Boulder County Rural FPD, Boulder Mountain FPD, Coal Creek FPD, Gold Hill FPD, Lefthand FPD and Sunshine FPD. Thank you also to the Gold Hill Inn for use of its picnic area and the Gold Hill Museum.

ATTENDEES

At the Front Range Roundtable Quarterly meeting in West Boulder County, Colorado on August 19, 2011, 26 members and guests participated. If you attended the meeting but your name is not recorded in the list below, please send an email to Kendall Slee at Kendall@behconsulting.com.

Name	Organization
Greg Aplet	The Wilderness Society
Gali Beh	Beh Management Consulting, Inc.
Pavel Bouska	Sunshine Fire Protection District
Hannah Brenkert-Smith	CU Institute of Behavioral Sciences
Jenny Briggs	US Geological Survey
Peter Brown	Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research
Patty Champ	Rocky Mountain Research Station
Casey Cooley	Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
Jonas Feinstein	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Cesar Gellido	Coal Creek Community
Kris Gibson	Gold Hill Fire Protection District
Brett Haberstick	Sunshine Fire Protection District
Jeff Jahnke	Colorado State Forest Service
Craig Jones	Colorado State Forest Service
David Lasky	Sugarloaf Fire Protection District
Russell Leadingham	Lefthand Fire Protection District
Paige Lewis	The Nature Conservancy
Susan Linner	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Steve Lynn	Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District
Bryan Martin	Colorado Mountain Club
Pam Motley	West Range Reclamation, LLC
Aaron Ortega	US Forest Service, PSICC
John Ring	Bureau of Land Management

Kendall Slee	Beh Management Consulting, Inc.
Marcus Staley	Boulder Ranger District
Kevin Zimlinghaus	US Forest Service

MEETING AGENDA AND TOUR ITINERARY

9:30-9:40 am	Introductions, review agenda, announcements
9:40-9:45 am	Review background on Front Range Roundtable and goals for 2011
9:45-10 am	Introduce WBCHFI, why this community was selected, its values at risk
10-10:30 am	Update on working teams Implementation & Mapping → WBCHFI Fundraising Outreach & Policy Biomass Utilization & Slash Sites CFLRP Monitoring → Science & Monitoring
10:30-10:45 am	Fundraising and contracting
10:45-11:10 am	Field trip itinerary, logistics, instructions and briefing
11:10-11:40 am	Load into vans for tour and drive to Gold Hill
11:40 am-12:10 pm	Stop 1: Gold Hill Fire Protection District, Gold Hill Museum (Park in front of Gold Hill Inn and walk up.)
12:10 -12:45 pm	Walk back to Gold Hill Inn picnic area for lunch (please bring your own).
12:45 – 2:35 pm	Stop 2: Load into vans and drive on Licksillet Road, through Rowena at the bottom of the road. (This road is a high-priority treatment area for the WBCHFI.) Continue through part of Lefthand Canyon (Lefthand Fire Protection District). Stop at Church Camp Paul Hummel to view fuel break credited from stopping Fourmile Fire from entering Boulder Heights; light hike to view past and planned fire mitigation work.
2:35-3:10 pm	Stop 3: Poorman Road - Lower Sunshine Canyon to discuss the area as a Firewise community.
3:10-3:30 pm	Return to Sunshine FPD Station 1

MEETING NOTES

Speaker: Gali Beh, Roundtable Facilitator

Introduction to Front Range Roundtable

- Review of accompany presentation (available on the Website, http://frontrangeroundtable.org/Roundtable_Documents.html)
- Need for restoration and forest mitigation on 1.5 million acres.
- Fire and monitoring map

- Recording of Gali giving an introduction to the Roundtable and West Boulder County Healthy Forest Initiative on Roundtable website, with accompanying presentation at the 7/21/11 IM Team meeting (<http://frontrangeroundtable.org/IM.html>)
- Living with Fire document – 10 initiatives.

West Boulder County Healthy Forest Initiative (WBCHFI)

- Why did the IM Team select WBCHFI as a demonstration community?
- There is a large area in WBCHFI that covers both forest restoration and protection acres (yellow zone)
- Liked collaboration between six districts.
- Fourmile Fire can be a catalyst and the community is motivated to mitigate.
- We appreciate Fire District participation in Roundtable.
- Community interest in restoration.
- Calwood Facility, Saws and Slaws, outreach efforts.
- Fire Chiefs have history of working together on other issues.
- Boulder County offered financial and administrative support.
- Lessons learned from Bald Mountain help landowners see value of once-controversial mitigation.
- Mill Levy in Sunshine Canyon for funding mitigation efforts.
- In-house GIS capability.
- Numbers from The Nature Conservancy: Values at Risk. (See meeting presentation.)

Community Implementation Timeline

- In process of looking at possible funding sources
- In September will be seeking grants and making direct appeals to Roundtable members.
- Hope to have money in hand to start process in March.

The Roundtable expects that WBCHFI will:

1. Work with the Roundtable to gather the information needed to create winning funding proposals
2. Use any funds received through Roundtable efforts for the following four efforts, across the board
 - Fuels reduction and forest restoration in the lower montane
 - Creating defensible space around homes and infrastructure
 - ½ miles of fuels reductions in non-lower montane
 - Biomass removal where feasible
3. Commit the time and organizational resources needed to plan the partnership and implement the agreed upon project when funding is available
4. Be responsible for timely implementation of the project plan once funding is available

5. Work with the Roundtable on other common priorities outside of WBCHFI, such as providing emergency response expertise and guidance to Roundtable activities
6. Cooperate with the Roundtable on outreach and media relations regarding this partnership (and tell your story to future communities, such as WPHFI)
7. Work within constraints of desired funding sources (e.g., some funding sources may require that the WBCHFI put out competitive RFPs for contracts)

Speaker: Brett Haberstick, Chief of Sunshine Fire Protection District

The WBCHFI expects that the Roundtable and its Implementation & Mapping Team will:

1. Focus community implementation fundraising efforts exclusively on WBCHFI until the initiative is sustainable including:
 1. Provide grant writing capacity to WBCHFI fundraising efforts
 2. Asking for donations from Roundtable members
2. Provide data and expertise as needed and possible in forest treatment planning and monitoring (not implementation)
3. Work with member organizations to direct internal resources toward projects in proximity to WBCHFI projects to achieve landscape-scale results
4. Work with WBCHFI on issues outside of the partnership as needed and possible given the expertise of members of the Roundtable
5. Share GIS responsibilities for the partnership

The community is responsible for the implementation of the project.

Patty: At some point we'd talked about trying to get funding to collect socio and economic data through the process.

Gali: I think it's on the table, it's not required. If community helps further that goal, that's up for discussion as well.

Craig: What is scope of partnership? Within FPDs?

Gali: Anywhere within the red boundaries of the FPDs. We haven't counted their communities.

Craig: We have definition based on census data. There may be good reason to refine the boundaries.

Gali: We will work from bottom up on projects. Each of FPD's CWPPs.

Greg: So it's really implementing CWPPs.

Jenny: How is RT keeping tabs?

Peter: Ecological monitoring.

Brett: Those data are important for establishing baseline. It would be hopeful we can have something like that.

Gali: If the science and monitoring team wants to add that in, they can do that.

Brett: Most forester grants don't cover those costs. It will have to come from outside of that scope. We developed in relationship with the RT five goals of the HFI. It's focusing a lot of community implementation.

- RT to provide grantwriting expertise. Asking for donations. It's an unfunded mandate right now and contributions will help with that.
- We want to be involved with the Roundtable, as busy as we are. I know Chief Benson has an interest in Fire policy. We have interest in prescribed fire, different education programs and developing Firewise communities.
- GIS will be very important. There are capacities within the HFI and we'd like to expand on that.
- Gold Hill and Sunshine FPDs have one of few CWPPs written by the constituents. Priority to maintain relationships with homeowners.
- As we will see on our tour to Gold Hill, it's an incredibly rich town.
- As a priority of the HFI, the entire foothills has entire history that could be lost. The Goal of the HFI is to protect those.
- We have as fire districts mandate to educate our communities. The awareness of residents toward wildfire risk. Ingress/egress issue is paramount to everybody. We want to promote environments that will help residents get out. We're hoping the HIF becomes a model for cross collaboration.

Roundtable Team Updates

Outreach and Policy Team

- Fourmile Canyon Fire Field Trip for legislators, Aug. 24, 2011
 - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program delegation visit to Washington, DC and congressional representatives, Sept. 13-15, 2011
- Future Plans:
- Outreach for WBCHFI.
 - Help Executive Team form a policy coalition

BUSS Team

- Revisited and completed revised talking points in June. (Available on Web site.)

CFLR Monitoring Team

- Team is done. Completed initial monitoring report this summer.
- Speaker: Aaron Ortega
- CFLR projects completed on Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest FY 2011 - 2,600 acres
Pre monitoring data in place.

- Pike San Isabel National Forest, 1,883 acres for FY 2011.
- Roundtable Science and Monitoring Team to start up this fall, and discuss how to engage in CFLR monitoring process.
- Partnerships: Wooldland Park HFI (the first Roundtable demonstration community) will be completing 95% on their priority 2 list from CWPP.
- CFRI and Rocky Mountain Research Center reconstructing historical fire histories in ponderosa in Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest.
- Jenny Briggs: Supplemental monitoring before and after CFLR treatments on Front Range land and partner agencies. Southern Rockies Landscape cooperative grant. The two national forests have had great job doing standard stand inventories before treatment. Jonas and Paula and I will build on to those Forest Service monitoring plots, adding full understory plant community survey, wildlife monitoring, “Jonas Feinstei clumpiness transect.” Adding new plots to supplement. Inventories on lands to be treated. And control monitoring on lands not to be treated. Will resurvey plots next summer and compare with untreated sites as well to see what changes are between treatments and controls pre- and post-treatment.
- Greg: Would like clarification between relationship between CFLR and RT from ET.
- Gali: Haven’t done that yet.
- Glenn: Seems like a good discussion for fall.
- Gali: Science and monitoring team. We are going to restart. Anyone who wants to come just to the organizing meeting can come. Define RT involvement in short-term and long-term monitoring.

Roundtable Fundraising

- Budgeting: will ask larger counties for \$2,500
- We will start the process soon.
- Executive Team to set full calendar at its next meeting.
- Next quarterly Roundtable meeting will be Nov. 4, 9:30 am-3:30 pm in Colorado Springs.

FIELD TRIP NOTES

Stop 1: Gold Hill, visit to Gold Hill historic museum

- Comments on Licksillet Road which the tour is about to drive through by Brett Haberstick: This is a high priority road for mitigation. Important for ingress and egress. 150 feet of treantnet on both sides, shaded fuel break for thinning, CSFS standards.
- “Those treatments need to be extracted”
- North side of Lefthand Canyon is USFS land. Most of the other lands are private. Landowner participation is going to be a challenge.
- Brett: “We’re very invested in developing relationships with landowners. We can come into conversations with familiarity.”

Stop 2: Church Camp Paul Hummel fuel breaks

Speaker: Steve Lynn, Boulder Mountain FPD

- The church camp uses a lot of firewood from treatments. Burned slash piles.
- After Fourmile fire, the community feels the fuel breaks saved them. The fire fighters were able to reach out from the fuel breaks into this area to fight the fire. One little gap in the fuel breaks broke their lines though, shows the importance of everyone participating.
- Currently an effort is underway to extend fuel breaks on the western edge of Broomfield Heights. Working to raise \$50,000 toward the effort; much comes from donations from homeowners there. Neighborhood homeowners have donated a total of \$42,000 since the Fourmile Fire. The HOA of Carriage Hills provides \$20,000 a year.
- Boulder Mountain FPD has a 12-man crew, seasonal staff that switches out year round. Burn pile and chipper. Crew typically works four 10 hour days; some weeks goes overtime.
- A \$330,000 mill levy - \$60,000 goes to fire dept. (\$300,000 fire district budget)
- People love to hire firefighters to do treatments on their land. They trust the mitigation crew.
- Best communication to get people to mitigate on their land is neighbor to neighbor communication, word of mouth. “If I can get them, I can usually talk them into it.”
- “Some of the hardest to turn are now leaders of the neighborhood”
- Frustration about absentee landowners who don’t respond

Speaker: Dave Bailey, Neighborhood leader in Boulder Heights who has been rallying support for the fuel breaks

- Used multiple methods to request donations from residents for the fuel breaks. \$600 per household recommended donation, but ask to give what you can
- He estimates that 80% of residents have donated.
- He is constantly promoting and “hammering” on this effort. Neighbor to neighbor promotion. Sends monthly newsletter promoting the fuel breaks. (See scans of these newsletter accompanying these minutes on Front Range Roundtable website.)

Stop 3: Poorman Road - Lower Sunshine Canyon

Speaker: Rob O’Donnell, Boulder Rural FPD Fire Chief

- Seven Hills Community, view of sheltered fuel break and Dry Creek Area that ties into Sunshine and Boulder Mountain FPD fuel breaks. View of Betasso preserve (water treatment facilities there for Boulder)
- We did major thinning that people were up in arms about. We still have people’s eyes and ears after the Fourmile Fire”
- 75% participation in giving for further fuel break efforts.
- There are 700-some homes from Knollwood to Pinewood. Offered a 5/50 cost-share program for treatments on private lands.
- CWPP for FPD was completed about the same time.
- Good candidate for Firewise community
- Biomass issues: What to do with it?
- From this area down is one way out.
- Also in the community is the notorious “dead-end 1400 block” – difficult and dangerous for residents in a wildfire situation

- Beetle Busters program to educate homeowners – Free inspection from team to help identify infestations on private land
- Calwood facility potential demonstration site for prescribed fire treatments
- Kevin: USFS has pushed up Boulder Heights work on USFS lands to complement HFI efforts.