



MINUTES FROM FRONT RANGE ROUNDTABLE Q3-12 QUARTERLY MEETING

Date of meeting: Thursday, August 23, 2012, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Jefferson County Building, 100 Jefferson County Pkwy, Golden, CO

Date minutes posted: November 13, 2012

Roundtable contact: Gali Beh, c/o Beh Management Consulting, Inc., 637-B South Broadway, #134, Boulder CO 80302, 303-499-1576, gali@behconsulting.com

Meeting presentation: http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/Roundtable_Q3-12_mtg_presentation_082312.pdf

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ATTENDEES

Table 1. Roundtable Meeting Attendees, August 23, 2012—Golden, Colorado

Full Name	Organization
Rob Addington	Colorado State University
Greg Aplet	The Wilderness Society
Kevin Atchley	US Forest Service, ARP
Sean Babington	Office of Senator Michael Bennet
Mike Battaglia	US Forest Service
Gali Beh	Beh Management Consulting, Inc.
Jenny Briggs	US Geological Survey
Peter Brown	Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research
Marti Campbell	Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Glenn Casamassa	US Forest Service, ARP
Patty Champ	Rocky Mountain Research Station
Sallie Clark	El Paso County
Casey Cooley	Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
Lisa Dale	Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Megan Davis	Boulder County
Yvette Dickinson	Colorado State University

Full Name	Organization
Cindy Domenico	Boulder County
Carol Ekarius	Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Jonas Feinstein	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Hal Gibbs	US Forest Service, ARP
Kris Gibson	Gold Hill Fire Protection District
Faye Griffin	Jefferson County
Chelsea Gunsalus	US Forest Service, ARP
Brett Haberstick	Sunshine Fire Protection District
Joseph Hansen	Jefferson Conservation District
Claire Harper	US Forest Service, R2
Eric Howell	Colorado Springs Utilities
Jon Johnson	Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative
Craig Jones	CDJ Consulting
Dale Karlin	Peterson Design
Don Kennedy	Denver Water
Elsha Kirby	US Forest Service, ARP
Dave Lethbridge	El Paso County
Paige Lewis	The Nature Conservancy
Lucy Maldonado	US Bureau of Reclamation
Jerri Marr	US Forest Service, PSICC
Kathie Mattor	Colorado State University
Sara Mayben	US Forest Service, PSICC
Patrick McLaughlin	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Jon Monson	City of Greeley
Don Moore	American Planning Association
Pam Motley	West Range Reclamation, LLC
Andrew Notbohm	Colorado Springs Fire Department
Shirley Pfankuch	Slash Solutions LLC
Brad Piehl	JW Associates
Brandon Rattiner	Office of Senator Mark Udall
Eric Reckentine	City of Greeley
John Ring	Bureau of Land Management
Eric Schroder	US Forest Service, ARP
Tony Simons	Larimer County
John Smeins	Bureau of Land Management
Rocco Snart	Colorado Department of Public Safety
Glenda Torres	Bureau of Land Management
Lisa Voytko	City of Fort Collins
Ben Wudtke	Colorado State University

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS AND/OR THEIR STAFF ABOUT THEIR VISIONS FOR HOW COLORADO CAN BETTER ADDRESS BOTH FOREST RESTORATION AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION NEEDS

- **Guest Speakers:** Lisa Dale, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Brandon Ratner, Office of Senator Udall, and Sean Babington, Office of Senator Bennet; **Panel Moderator:** Megan Davis, Boulder County Board of County Commissioners

- Megan Davis: The intent of the panel is to get legislators together to talk about elected officials' vision for how Colorado can address forest restoration and community protection. The Roundtable will plan to have another panel after the elections.
- Lisa Dale, Assistant Director of the Department of Natural Resources; Executive Branch of the State: The Department of Natural Resources and CSFS are connected through the Division of Forestry as administrative conduits to the Governor's office. Mike King (Director) testified at a congressional hearing in Colorado Springs. The Governor sent a letter to D.C. to support provisions that show up in the Farm Bill (i.e. extending and permanent stewardship and good neighbor authority and identifying critical areas for treatment). The Governor is aware of community risk in Colorado. After the Lower North Fork commission hearing, the Governor is looking to develop a coherent set of forest priorities (legislative session January-May). The place-based collaboratives are working within an informal association and planning a forest summit in October (first planning meeting was on August 22). The Governor is also interested in the use of biomass for thermal energy and heating buildings (working with legislators that would incentivize use of woody biomass for energy).
- Brandon Ratner with Senator Udall's Office: Brandon conducts outreach and aggregate level communications for the Denver area. Brandon will update Jill Ozarski and the Senator with what occurs at the Roundtable meeting. Udall is an advocate for forest health; he encouraged the mutual cancellation decision, encourages language for stewardship contracting, and prompted the Fourmile Canyon fire study through the Rocky Mountain Research Station. This made it obvious that we need to do more to improve the WUI as it is projected to increase 300% by 2030. We also need to make forest health more sustainable and economical, and have better defense in home ignition zones, the most important item for homeowners. Everything comes back to the land.
- Sean Babington with Senator Bennett's Office; Energy, Natural Resources: We are constantly working with limited resources. We need to ensure the target is the biggest bang for our buck. Try to ensure that Colorado forests have as many resources as possible to deal with challenges. We also need good science informing forest policy. Bennett is on the Senate Agriculture committee, which is increasing resources for the treatment of insects, provides conservation title contributing to healthy ecosystems in Colorado, and provides additional oversight on forest health science and conservation forestry/natural resources, and collaborative discussions at the community level that can be extracted and put into national policy (i.e. CFLRP).
- Q: Lisa, you talked about plans the state has moving forward. It's been a challenging and difficult fire season for us. Moving forward, in terms of policy ideas, how do you see the role of the Roundtable and its partners developing in terms of legislation, policy, and state level plans?
 - Paige Lewis is involved with meetings with collaborative groups, so she can serve as the representative for the Roundtable. This group has a valuable store of information and the dedicated commitment within the group is a valuable resource. Please come to the forest summit to get 20-30 more organizations involved with the issues. The Forest Health Advisory Council was dissolved because Hickenlooper believed place-based collaborative groups were already doing work that was discussed within the FHAC. The informal group of place-based collaboratives has pledged to hold an annual summit to maintain linkages between the state and what's happening in place-based groups. It will

- include a handful of panels, federal policy, state policy, restoration, insurance/recovery, industry, and community panels. It will be a Thursday-Friday event in October.
- Q: Brandon Ratner for Sean Babington: Provided the things that are going on at the federal level and the movement of the Farm Bill at the Senate level, do you see other things coming that we should pay attention to, such as budget issues beyond the Farm Bill? How can we better engage with your staff to be more effective with issues and how we move forward?
 - Brandon Ratner: Forestry issues – The things that are coming down the pipeline are exacerbations of the fire season. This season was more intense than the recent past; we reached a perfect storm between drought, beetles, and more people. Science doesn't suggest there will be a big change in this pattern. We are continuing to understand what mitigation efforts to employ and how to prioritize. It is becoming more important to figure out how to educate homeowners to prevent fires. Bennett/Udall are securing money for forest treatments. D.C. is distracted by the election, but the fiscal cliff is coming at the end of December. Bush tax cuts expire and debt ceiling activation can do big damage to economy – much of the conversation is what spending is appropriate for D.C. in terms of smarter vs. bigger government. Simpson-Bowles will modify the tax code and get Washington going on a pragmatic path. Budget affects everything. Outreach to Jill or Brandon (8 in the office), contact regional directors if you want to open up lines of communications.
 - Sean Babington: The path forward on the Farm Bill is murky right now; there is pressure for the House of Representatives to take up what the House committee did. The Speaker didn't have enough votes to get the bill passed. Members are visiting districts to see forest health issues and drought. These visits may provide certainty that comes with the Farm Bill and will hopefully ratchet up pressure to get something done before it expires at the end of September. The bill is a vehicle for a lot of policy prescriptions to manage forests in a healthy way. The Natural Resources committee is doing great work. Politics may be holding up floor time for bills that have moved through committee. Fiscal cliff could have a big impact to federal agencies that manage federal and private lands. In order to help the office be responsive to policy suggestions or information, paper copies are great, but electronic copies are easier to find and retrieve to provide to other legislators. Check and re-check with Sean or others within Senator Bennet's office on how a given task is coming along.
 - Q: We have had a lot of forest health issues across Colorado in different forest zones and have seen a lot of money going to bark beetle as of the last few years. Most of the community protection issues are in the same forests. Do you see that shifting in the future in terms of funding, and given that we're spending so much Forest Service money on fire suppression? What can the Roundtable do to re-energize the conversation around community protection and restoration around Colorado?
 - Sean Babington: When we're talking about how to best allocate scarce resources, we need to look to science to inform decisions. The Roundtable has been a strong model nationally. Colorado is the only state that had two CFLRP projects approved. Diverse perspectives come together – checking ideological affiliation is at the door – and to try to come to a consensus to

- provide communities with certainty, and move the ball forward to withdraw from a tenuous situation. Constructive conversations, rather than talking past each other, is very valuable for federal office.
- Brandon Ratner: Beetle kill money versus fire suppression in a technical way is unknown in D.C. Fires highlighted that the bigger areas that need to be targeted are around WUI areas. The importance of defense in home ignition zones can't be over-stated. It is no myth that the beetle is the reason the Waldo Canyon fire kept burning. Prioritization areas are developing. There are 3 things the Roundtable can do (great model so far): 1) help encourage homeowners, 2) encourage more fuel reduction treatments near WUI, and 3) support more creative ideas for forest products utilization.
 - Lisa Dale: Mike King testified at last week's congressional hearing; there is concern about fire transfers, particularly if it is taken away from recreational resources, which is a huge draw for the economy. The Roundtable serves as a nice place where scientists and policy makers sit at the same table. Many policy makers have scientific questions, so it is really useful to have scientific information to provide to legislators that are interested in the issues.
- Audience comment: We have mentioned WUI a lot. During the first day of Hayman, the fire moved 12 miles in one day. The entire Front Range is in the WUI because fires grow so rapidly and so widely.
 - Audience comment: We continue to let people live in areas where they shouldn't – for most of us it's a land use issue. If we are serious about this, we should direct open space money to purchase land identified as having severe wildfire potential or issues, otherwise the land gets developed.
 - Audience comment: State law for land use planning: Look into whether the state or local jurisdiction should handle this task, or if there should be a restriction on that type of land use planning. Many communities have poor access or just one way out. The state could modify the current structure so that certain kinds of land use can't occur and would stay under county control. El Paso County is struggling with the fact that there isn't money available for recovery. For instance, flooding and damage to public/private lands aren't covered under FEMA or category B. NRCS is doing work, but the county or homeowners don't have the money to pay for that.
 - The Senator is aware there is not enough money for recovery efforts. Udall and Bennet were instrumental in waiving the waiting period for flood insurance for victims in areas affected by fires. The SBA has grants and money available for small businesses impacted physically or economically (economic injury fund). Contact offices if people need help in securing funds; the pot is small though.
 - Timelines are problematic with SBA. There is very little time to communicate messages with regard to the 30-day wait period. The counties and local governments need more time to be able to get things in place and communicate to citizens. Not everyone can qualify for SBA loans or can't afford to pay loans back.
 - Sean Babington: USDA-NRCS has programs to help deal with flooding risks and drinking water infrastructure. The emergency watershed protection program can only be funded through appropriations through Congress. Udall and Bennet drafted a letter to the appropriations committee in order to tap the fund. Supplemental appropriations bills are difficult, but elected officials should stay in touch to use networks in other states that are in leadership of

- committees to make sure we can move toward bills that fund programs that are really needed for recovery, and to mitigate future risks. Sean will keep the group apprised of when timing is right for requests from the Roundtable and forward the letter that Udall/Bennett sent to the appropriations committee. The Senate is looking into an emergency, supplemental type bill.
- Small business, private enterprise, and organizations can create local jobs and generate local income. Researchers are at the table with an objective point of view. At the next meeting, we should invite someone from the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union that would have interest in the group discussions because of land use and water issues. Farmers often feel they are stewards of the land, so they should be involved; they could also have political influence.
 - Q: Is the good neighbor agreement a practical or effective tool moving forward? Is it a good use of government funds?
 - Lisa Dale: The state Forest Service relies on it quite a bit and sees it as valuable; we have used it with success in this state. The state is looking to extend the authority to other locations. It blurs the public and private ownership boundary. The Governor continues to advocate for a permanent provision of authority.
 - Sean Babington: There are concerns about designations and we are looking at the issue of contactors marking their own timber. We are also looking at how to satisfy concerns, so there can be a wider reauthorization of good neighbor. An amendment to the farm bill was sent to the floor that would have done that, but it didn't go into final agreement. There were 72 amendments voted on: the bark beetle funding amendment got in, but the good neighbor issue did not. We understand the power and usefulness of good neighbor, but will continue to look at the issue nationwide.
 - Udall and Bennet supported language similar to the critical areas concept and streamlined review. Most of the language emphasizes insect and disease affected forests. Many forests are in poor health for other reasons. How will critical areas impact the Front Range and help Front Range forests as well as bark beetle?
 - Lisa Dale: The provision has appeared in different contexts and forms. One of the issues is who would identify critical areas. The current proposed legislation identifies the Governor. We advocated for areas in the WUI, but it has also been shown for watersheds, utilities, and powerlines as a way to more quickly respond to threats in important and threatened areas. There is legitimate concern about extending authority that would remove environmental reviews.
 - Brandon Ratner: Congress is not sure how to balance beetles versus not and is not necessarily viewing the issue that way. The Senator is aware that bark beetle is not the primary driver of forest fires that have occurred. Udall has made a distinction between catastrophic and wildfire. Udall has said that wildfires are not natural phenomenon, but we can make efforts to ensure catastrophic fires do not occur. Land use management policy on the local level is vital, as well as understanding what communities are threatened so the community can take advantage of defending their own property. Solutions that will make removal of materials profitable will help the process move along.
 - Sean Babington: The issue is precipitated by people looking at the number of acres treated following HFRI. Some want the authority expanded to do more. What allows us to do work that needs to be done in the appropriate areas? At

the committee level, we have had discussions about whether the Forest Service's national disease risk management tool is the appropriate tool. We want to continue the discussion and have gathered perspectives from organizations represented on the Roundtable. On the ground, experience will be helpful and can show where the pitfalls lie. Need to not let emotions get in the way of important decisions that are science based.

- Land use issues – in top priorities. The next panel with state legislators and commissioners would be a more appropriate place to dig into those questions and discussions.
- Wrap Up:
 - Lisa Dale: Look forward to seeing everyone at the Summit. Contact me if you have any questions.
 - Brandon Ratner: We are aware that 50% of the funding goes to fire suppression. For a different outcome, we need a different approach. Consensus building from the ground up is the way to move that forward.
 - Sean Babington: Thank you for your time.

BACKGROUND ON THE FRONT RANGE ROUNDTABLE

Speaker: Hal Gibbs, U.S. Forest Service ARP

- Mission: The FRRT serves as a focal point for diverse stakeholder input into efforts to reduce wildland fire risks and improve forest health through sustainable fuels treatment along the Colorado Front Range.
- Fire mitigation area and ecological restoration goals – 400,000 acres overlap, which is the focus of effort for treatment.
- There are ten goals the Roundtable identified in 2006. “Change local policy to limit growth of fire risk in WUI” hasn’t had a lot of progress, which ties into our discussion that there is a continuing need for that. It is one of the more difficult tasks on the list.
- The Roundtable has an Executive team that provides guidance, a facilitator, members, and four sub-teams that focus on different areas. FRFTP, CWWPWG, and NFRMPBWG are also associated with the Roundtable.
- Executive Team: Glenn Casamassa, Jerri Marr, & Joe Duda (acting); Conservation (Paige Lewis); two county commissioners (Vacant and Cindy Domenico); the other stakeholder group is open right now.

DISCUSSION ON RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES TO ROUNDTABLE

Speaker: Paige Lewis, The Nature Conservancy

- At the last quarterly meeting, the facilitator talked to us about over-spending and under-fundraising.
- This issue triggered the group to consider how we’re doing business, how to be more effective and efficient, and how to create more commitment and buy in.
- A group of Roundtable members met (core participants). Their goal was to identify ways the Roundtable could streamline the collective workload, increase the role of Roundtable members, and have a more sustainable budget.
 - Recommendations:
 - Focus on three work groups with an explicit tie to the Roundtable mission (Community Protection and Landscape Restoration, and where the two meet):

- Community Protection: Identify opportunities to improve WUI preparedness; identify and communicate lessons learned; place for HFI; seek ways to align mitigation and restoration.
- Landscape Restoration: Retain science and research, concentrate on CFLR implementation, look at underpinning of science and research within the Roundtable, align mitigation and restoration, prioritize and pursue research, synthesis and communication needs related to science.
- Biomass Utilization: Share information on current timber management and biomass.
- Policy and outreach will go to executive team and/or tasks for policy/outreach will occur on an ad hoc basis; will be absorbed within the Roundtable.
- Focus time of contract facilitator on high-level coordination and facilitation.
 - Increase engagement and responsibility of Roundtable members.
 - Adopt a meeting (Groups that can't contribute more money)
 - Note taking (working group meetings)
 - Special events
 - Team liaisons
 - Expand Executive Team membership.
 - Add team liaisons and a treasurer (Carol Ekarius).
 - Designate Executive Team members as liaison to contractor.
- Establish fundraising team apart from contract facilitator (Paige and Megan currently).
- Encourage members to contribute in some way.
- Switch our calendar to the fiscal year, and send initial requests early enough to facilitate budgeting (request funding around August).
- Include emergency/opportunity fund as part of our fundraising goals.
- CUSP as fiscal agent (lower % overhead than ARP Foundation and it is a Roundtable member).
- Conduct monthly financial reporting to the executive team.
- It might be time to refresh/establish new goals; this year is an opportunity to engage in policy.
- Clarify purpose, needs and member benefit for contribution and commitment.
- Removing policy and outreach group – still need to outreach to others that aren't always present at meeting. Might be too soon to get rid of group?
 - It didn't make sense to have a group separate from other working groups. Discussions are still going to happen within the proposed groups, so outreach can occur from within proposed groups. We may have to get a group of people together on an ad hoc basis, but it doesn't necessarily have to be a standing committee.
- Treasurer: Invoices went out for 2012 accidentally – payments/invoices will be voided. USFWS has already paid for 2013.

PARTNER AND WORKING TEAM UPDATES

Speakers: Brad Piehl (JW Associates), Jon Johnson (CO Renewable Resources), Kathie Mattor (CSU), Jenny Briggs (US Geological Survey).

- **Brad Piehl, a partner organization to the Roundtable, the Watershed Wildfire Protection Group (WWPG):** Reenergizing group and trying to focus on watershed protection before and after wildfires. An organizing meeting is being scheduled because there are a lot of interested people; the meeting will most likely be held October 26. The group is hoping the Regional Forester will be there from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. The group is talking about watershed assessments, the forests to faucets program, and how to generate funding for projects, partnerships, and focus going forward.
- **Jon Johnson, Roundtable Biomass Utilization Team:** Look on the biomass projects website; meetings with Bennet and Udall resulted in getting two more sort yards put together with a third in the works. Two hundred loads of logs can be taken in one collection site. Materials from the combination sort yard in Fairplay are used in the local school. Air curtain burners are being retrofitted or are manufactured differently to trap heat, which can power an electrical generator to heat buildings. This technology has been shown to produce \$140,000 in fuel savings. Jon met with Jefferson County, which has an interest after seeing the site in Boulder. The group is working with retrofitting schools, county buildings, and jails.
- **Kathie Mattor, CFLR Social/Economic Monitoring Team (part of the Roundtable Landscape Restoration Team):** The monitoring plan was based on national indicators, CFLRP monitoring goals, and FRRT goals. The plan sought to identify economic contributions of CFLR related task orders (labor income, value added, employment generated, employee and subcontractor locations, amount of mechanical and manual work); measure wood utilization levels (amount and type of materials); determine social perception of forest treatment (literature review, future management is to conduct prescribed fire, focused on social perceptions of prescribed fire, still in progress); and identify levels of collaboration (done through interviews with Roundtable members).
 - Preliminary findings:
 - Six task orders completed in 2011:
 - \$1.8 million labor income.
 - 1.6 million in GDP.
 - 38 full time jobs on the Front Range.
 - Wood utilization – over 3,000 acres treated in 2011 half on Pike, half on ARP.
 - 99% mechanical treatment materials available for value-added uses but none of manual treatment.
 - All value-added materials purchased by 12 Colorado businesses.
 - Collaboration:
 - Achievements: diverse representation, positive effect on relations, high levels of trust and strong commitment.
 - Challenges: Some missing interests identified, needed a clear sense of roles and responsibilities, there was a lack of clear process for collaborative to influence project implementation.
 - Social Perceptions: Focus on prescribed fire, concerns about factors affecting public perception, and outreach to provide information.
- **Jenny Briggs, Roundtable Science and Monitoring Team:** Building onto CFLR project.
 - The Roundtable is effective as a body to get funding for projects on the ground.
 - Objectives: Restore a complex mosaic of density, age, and size at landscape scale, more characteristic fire regime, diverse native plant community, and improve habitat for wildlife.

- RT monitoring team – most of the money was allocated to doing the work for restoring forest structure. One of the essential parts of funding was to monitor the effects of treatments. Budget for monitoring wasn't very big, so monitoring team tried to define historic range of variability (HRV) and desired future conditions (DFC).
- CFRI developed monitoring plan, and the Forest Service provided the common stand exam. The team looked for supplemental funding for additional monitoring (beyond basic monitoring) into things that stakeholders/members of the public want to know.
- The Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative proposal was awarded for 2011 and 2012. Established study sites on areas that were planned for restoration on ARP, PSICC, and on BCPOS. Had 79 plots. Built on pre-existing monitoring plots, but added wildlife, insects, tree ages, etc.
- Plots 1/10th acre.
- Understory plants (pretreatment) – Found diverse native species throughout the Front Range monitoring area.
 - The understory at all sites dominated by litter.
 - There were no differences between treatment and control sites.
 - Larger understory plants of diverse species provide 20-40% cover in ponderosa-dominated sites.
 - Juniper and kinnikinnick make up 25% of plant cover. Treatment and control plots mostly matched each other.
 - 15 exotic species were encountered.
 - 5 noxious weeds.
- Wildlife use – measured every wildlife use and signs that could be seen on monitoring plots. Divided species of interests into “guilds” and recorded signs of presence: tree squirrels, birds, ungulates, large mammals, small mammals, invertebrates.
- Before treatments, all plots had some sign of at least one guild. The team wants to watch how the numbers change on control plots after treatment.
- Clumpliness transects – measuring percentage of clumps and openings.
- The team is almost done collecting post-treatment data at year one.
- Treatment methods/effects varies among all agencies.
- The ARP had a lot of manual treatment.
- Next steps: Complete data collection and analysis. Consider if there were differences between pre/post treatment, and what the changes were over time. The study can provide information to improve monitoring methods and adaptive management.

UPDATES ON HIGH PARK AND WALDO FIRE

Speakers: Sara Mayben, (US Forest Service, PSICC), Andy Notbohm (Colorado Springs Fire Department), Eric Howell (Colorado Springs Utilities), Tony Simons (LRX), Kevin Atchley (US Forest Service, ARP), Eric Schroeder (US Forest Service, ARP), John Monson (City of Greeley)

- Waldo Canyon Fire: In middle of CFLR project.
 - US Forest Service, PSICC, Sara Mayben: The fire started June 23 as a small fire, but quickly blew up. It grew from 200 to 2,000 acres within the first day, and eventually to 18,000 acres. It had a huge impact to the community, as the fire sat in an area that is locked within WUIs. Emergency treatments are underway: coordination with city, county, state, and utilities; heli-mulching, which includes 2,000 acres of wood shred

- material dropped on the ground that will be provided from the chipping on site from the Catamount project conducted by West Range and 1,000 acres of ag-straw aerial mulching. The aerial mulching will reduce the impact of rain causing debris flows; hoping for 20% reduction from treatments. The Upper Monument Creek project was identified as needing treatment, but overlapped 15,000 acres of planned analysis. The Forest Service is debating whether to include long-term restoration as part of NEPA for Upper Monument Creek. We are beginning immediate BAER response.
- Colorado Springs Fire Department, Andy Notbohm: Impacted 36,000 homes and 35 square miles, borders federal land on three sides.
 - Denominators in Wildfire Disaster: rated 35,000 homes of level of risk category. Majestic and Courtney areas were of high to moderate level. Fuel, weather, and topography were drivers of the incident: major wind event, spotting and ember production. It quickly changed from a wildfire to a WUI fire with fire brands/spotting, receptive surfaces, exposures, and surface fire.
 - 345 homes were destroyed and 47 were damaged. 187 of those homes were on two streets (in an urban conflagration), 186 had wood/composite lap siding, tightly constructed, and 30 had wood shake roofs. 205 homes were damaged/destroyed in non-conflagration areas, 80 homes had wood/composite lap, 58 had wood shake roofs. Groups from across the country are helping the department analyze data. Neighbors with wood lap/composite/wood shake roofs greatly impacted each other – building material affected neighbors’ survivability. Firefighter intervention made it possible to respond to vulnerable receptive surfaces. The fire department is trying to assess wildfire risk. There is a community chipping program in place which is funded by a pre-disaster mitigation grant, which entails masticating material in Cedar Heights. There is one spot over Cedar Heights Drive that went into the interior in treatment areas which helped. The team and fire fighters were able to utilize aviation the next day. In Cedar Heights, you can see where behavior changed from untreated to treated fuels.
 - Q: Are there any lessons learned that are emerging that might inform our discussions about policy initiatives or advocating for certain kinds of changes?
 - In our interface, it’s a true WUI. Program started because the Colorado Springs Fire Chief was part of the Oakland Hills Fire and knew this situation was possible. Need to address fuels and adjacency. It is a land use development and building issue. Try to address with new construction or development, but most of the land around Colorado Springs has been developed.
 - Q: Heard the Lower North Fork escaped is getting a bad reputation from treatments.
 - In Cedar Heights, it was the only way firefighters could do it and maintain new growth. Buildup of fuels and initially masticate, 3-4 years after initial entry on Cedar Heights. Colorado Springs “easy acres” are already accomplished.
 - Q: Do you have research established on what building materials are most resistant available on your website to help those that don’t understand?
 - The Colorado State Forest Service and the Rocky Mountain Research Stations have the best information available. The Firewise program has a lot of information as well. Lot level assessment is unique because of what defensible space means on neighbor’s property.

- Q: Did you get re-burn?
 - It happened a lot in Cedar Heights and in other areas within the fire.
- Colorado Springs Utilities, Eric Schroeder: Making presentations in wildlife commissions, utility boards, etc. Trying to approach the fire from the fire team's perspective and then transition out to BAER team.
 - Cedar Heights is a separated subdivision that is limited on water supply; the neighborhood requires several pump stations and water tanks. It is limited in providing water for fire protection. Utilities can bring tenders, dozers, a 25-person staff, and three engines. The utility is attached to Colorado Springs Fire – structure protection attached to Type-1 team.
 - Communication sites operate tanks. If the fire had taken the communication tower, no water would have been available. Colorado Springs Utilities worked closely with the incident management team to ensure critical assets were covered to maintain water supplies.
 - On July 26, we kept seeing smoke moving north to Queen's Canyon and into Mountain Shadows.
 - Reservoirs were highly threatened – Rampart Reservoir has a series of tunnels. Most of the water is brought over from the Collegiate Peaks and ends up in the Rampart Reservoir.
 - Fire was contained on July 10 – 3,678 private land. 60 acres of utilities' property burned.
 - Contacted the PSICC/BAER team to move forward to restore.
 - High Burn severity = 3,375 acres, Moderate = 7,286 acres, Low = 7,856 acres, Wnburned = 842 acres within perimeter.
 - Low severity around Rampart Reservoir.
 - Drainages go into West Monument Creek, which is of immediate concern for utilities.
 - Low burn severity – remaining root structure; Moderate burn severity – heat penetration into soil; High burn severity – complete loss of vegetation, duff layer, extreme heat into soil where hydrophobic soils that exacerbate run off.
 - Colorado Springs Utilities provide water, wastewater, gas and electric to the Forest Service. The utility lost 24 poles and a 34.5kV power line that serves the community. There were large efforts to keep the fire north of Highway 24. Provide to Green Mountain Falls and Cascade. The utility is working to stabilize the area.
 - Impacts and restoration – flood flows, sediment, erosion, watershed stabilization, and reforestation. As we try to work individually, other people are suffering from flooding issues. It will have to be a bigger collaborative effort.
 - There were 2.5" of rain in a 24-hour period, at the bottom of Stanley Canyon where treatment plants are located, which have had significant washout on pipelines. Will cost \$10 million to restore the road and pipelines. Caretaker's house in the floodplain is being moved. Sacrificing a smaller reservoir for a sediment control structure – all related to West Monument Creek.
 - What are lessons learned? What was needed from a policy standpoint?
 - Eric Schroeder: Focusing on forest type that is in trouble, where fires are occurring. Focus on forest health conditions, advancing what's happening in ponderosa pine stands.

- Sallie Clark: Land managers, municipalities, and home owners are not taught how to deal with the effects after the fact. The fire itself is covered, but restoration is not. There are three municipalities involved, including Manitou Springs and unincorporated areas of the county. Timelines to get help from federal and state governments are much different than what is happening on the local level. Grant application windows closed and September 9 is the date that the waiver period ends. How are we impacted on recovery? How do we make sure money is available to recover? The National Association of Counties has this high on their radar in all western states to figure out how to deal with forest mitigation issues, balancing with environmental policies. Legislative policies that deal with recovery efforts, timelines, grant opportunities would help. It would help with recovery management to have a single point of contact.
- High Park Fire:
 - Larimer County Sheriff's Department, Tony Simons: Emergency services directly responsible for wildfire on private land in Larimer County. 4" below average, PP77, LP40.
 - Above 100th percentile as far as energy release components when fire started.
 - Hewlett, Stuart Hole, Camman – received over ¾" of rain on Thursday night before the High Park Fire started.
 - The fire was 14,000 acres in size at the end of the first day. The Forest Service had severity resources on the forest that could assist.
 - Fire was officially out on August 14.
 - There were four active heads burning with 150 people.
 - The fire reached 36,934 acres at the end of the second day.
 - The fire grew 11,000 acres in three hours with a spot fire over the Poudre River.
 - The Hewlett burn area was instrumental in stopping the progress.
 - Within the Glacier View neighborhood, 57 of 64 homes burned.
 - The county made lists of what was left standing rather than what was gone – went to public meetings with homes that were still standing.
 - Assessor, building inspector, Red Cross representative, and field observers did detailed assessment.
 - 434 structures burned - \$32 million in assessed value.
 - Joint Information Center (JIC) was established – volunteers and information experts came to help.
 - Ownership was roughly 50% forest and 50% private land.
 - Recovery mode has begun with an established interagency leadership group that is concerned about flooding outside of the incident.
 - US Forest Service, ARP, Kevin Atchley:
 - The fire was caused by lightning on Stove Prairie Road.
 - Communication Site is still standing, but the fuels around the site were destroyed.
 - Low RH, high temps, high ERCs, erratic winds, low fuel moistures, and night time moisture recoveries were low.
 - The media was involved immediately. The incident and agency administrators treated national media the same as local media; information was only available during media briefings.
 - ICP was on City of Fort Collins land at the National Guard Armory.

- There are significant bark beetle stands in the East White Pine/West White Pine areas; trees are still standing that were dead from bark beetle. There are changes in ecosystems with bark beetle and likely enhancement in behavior, but it does not appear to have been a hugely significant factor on the High Park fire.
- 2.7 million gallons of water was dropped.
- Over 800,000 gallons of retardant was dropped.
- It was the second largest fire in CO history.
- Recovery group – division devoted to recovery on incident.
- US Forest Service, ARP, Eric Schroeder:
 - Rapid assessment of burned area.
 - Assembled interagency BAER team, which includes leadership, hydrology, soil science, engineering, recreation, botany and noxious weeds, wildlife, fisheries, and archaeology.
 - 11% high burn severity.
 - Burn severity mapping – satellite imagery (BARC) and fieldwork.
 - BAER watershed based study – hydrologist divided into sub-watershed, did hydrologic modeling. Modeled for 1.5” rainstorm in an hour. The peak flows are 4-6 times above what is typical.
 - Critical values – BAER values at risk.
 - Human life and safety - in close proximity to burned National Forest System lands.
 - Buildings, water and utility systems, road and trail prisms, dams, wells, or significant investments.
 - Water used for municipal, domestic, hydropower or agricultural supply, etc.
 - Values at risk are run through the probability matrix.
 - Flooding, debris flow, sediment – risk high to very high in multiple locations through burned area that can affect home, property, water diversion, infrastructure, roads, trails, users, and recreation facilities.
 - Every agency anticipates investing quite a bit of money into keeping the road network safe and usable.
 - BAER considers ingress/egress for emergency vehicles.
 - Poudre Park and Fall Gulch had a significant level of values at risk.
 - Ash-laden flows – creeks that don’t typically flow in unburned condition are beginning to flow.
 - Water quality degradation to major water providers – Greeley, Fort Collins, Tri-districts with flooding, debris flows, and sediment.
 - 2/3 of burned area pours into the Poudre River.
 - Expansion of noxious weeds are an area of concern – monitoring, detecting and treating.
 - Proposed aerial mulching with ag straw and wood shred – wood shred mulching is a relatively new practice. Mulching polygons on 20-60% slopes with moderate and high soil burn severity, forest floor/protective ground cover removed, connected to values at risk. The mulch ends up to be about one ton per acre.
 - Next Steps include: Implement, Road rehab, Monitor, Repair and Maintain, and continued coordination.
- City of Greeley, John Monson:

- Seaman Reservoir was burned to the water's edge.
- Water quality remains high, and the municipalities are working to ensure it remains that way.
- Fire went right down to the filter plant; the infrastructure had to be protected.
- A ¼" rain is putting debris right into the Poudre River and into the Bellvue treatment plant. Greeley is not using the Poudre filter plant at this time after they tried to use the water and got so much sediment that they had to refrain.
- After Hewlett, the city is using an alternate supply from Horsetooth and has been slightly affected. It's a \$710,000 mitigation project, \$90,000 change order, and \$1.4 million change order – going to mitigate 5,600 acres on private land, 5,600 federal treated by Forest Service.
- Erosion plugs diversion structures and fill reservoirs.
- Runoff creates carbon, taste, and chemical disposal issues.
- Debris is going into the Seaman Reservoir.
 - JW Associates providing independent analysis.
 - Greeley providing staging site.
 - Need 250 agreements on High Park – Larimer County will help the city get permission. Start mitigation on Monday (8/27).
 - NRCS had a reimbursement agreement with Greeley.
- High Park Fire- \$10 million cost estimate for rehabilitation – The project will start at the end of August. Contract from Hewlett Gulch ordering materials. Continue treatment in phase 1 until weather changes.

DISCUSSION: REACTIONS TO LESSONS LEARNED, ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES, AND PANEL DISCUSSION

- Mike Battaglia: Areas that were treated in High Park where burned into Hewlett and into Picnic Rock, fairly large fires for their time. Acreage that we treat needs to be large in order to modify fire behavior. Hoping to increase acreage, how can we go about doing that on the PSICC and ARP? How can the Roundtable facilitate that?
- Don Kennedy: How do we get more landscape treatments done faster? How do we get partnerships going to make that happen? More private land partnerships and public land partnerships do more landscape treatments. Why didn't NRCS get more money for PWP?
 - NRCS started with \$9 million nationally and has \$100 million worth of backlog requests. We need money for restoration, or even just stabilization.
 - There needs to be more streamlined implementation of structures to put in place to protect water supplies.
 - There is a Categorical Exclusion being proposed that will allow repair without having to do an EA or EIS.
- Jenny Briggs: Have fires given forests more flexibility? Can you rearrange CFLRP funded treatments to be more strategic at protecting high-risk areas of watersheds? Is CFLRP planning ahead and becoming adaptable?
 - Everything is changeable, but we have to do additional planning. Areas that are already planned may be high priority.
 - There is a lot of flexibility in the CFLR proposal, in identified restoration zones and where there are overlaps with WUI. Based on where the Waldo Canyon fire was, we knew it was an area that needed to be treated. In the process of getting treated, the fire came too soon. Private lands need to be treated as well.
 - Springer fire showed areas that treatment occurred and the fire laid down.

- Paige Lewis: How do we get bigger treatments – is there anything else that would help besides money?
 - There are certain things that we can do. Contracting issues create challenges; if any value is associated with wood or wood products on landscape, they have to go through a more rigorous approach on how we implement actions. Criteria that could identify products as a liability instead of a value. Rx fires would be effective if smoke regulations and there was public acceptance. Agencies taking back responsibility of air quality.
 - Opportunity to try to instill a change in perception – the value of the land is in ecosystem services, not in the trees.
 - Watershed management is a huge component.
- Moderate and high burn severity areas act the same on the ground. The 7,000 acres of low burn severity mimics what we would like to see on the landscape.
- There's a good opportunity for scientists to quantify the positive effects of previous fires on recent fires. We are trying to model fire behavior in the monitoring component of CFLRP. Keep documenting and publicizing decreased fire hazard as much as possible.
- Paige/Megan: Treatments on both sides of land boundary and proactive approach by landowners and communities – hence the idea about a community protection working group. Is there the energy to get people from local planning, local government, insurance, etc.? We need more proactive communities. Who do we need to get to the table in order to partner with the Roundtable?
 - Jefferson Conservation District provides guidance to private landowners, which began on a 40-acre basis. The conservation district started to take a holistic approach at the watershed level. We currently have at least seven projects in which a significant amount of buy-in exists from landowners to do the work. Projects are 1,000 acres. Private acres aren't the limiting factor; money to implement work and contractors who are at the scale to do the work are the issue. We need to find contractors with equipment that can do heavy overstory removal, but at a mid-range scale, anywhere from 15 acres to 300 acres. Write grants through CSFS and match with NRCS.
- How can we reduce the cost of the treatment?
 - Pilot project developing mobile pellet plant that could be moved to the site, which would relieve some costs because it would reduce the transportation problem.
 - Jefferson Conservation District is always left with the question of what to do with the slash.
- When hearing about the pieces to the overall problems, who is going to tackle this problem? The Roundtable seems like a logical place to tackle the problem. Seize the current opportunity for change; Colorado has seen this type of opportunity before and it lasts 1-2 years and then we are right back where we were before. How do we get more value out of the things we do? Utilize wood more (there are good examples of how to help do that). Create more value out of what is left in the forest. CBBC talking about more value in forests in Colorado than just wood or saving people's houses. There's recreation, which can increase the value of what we do while reducing cost at the same time.
- The air burner generates heat that can be captured and captures electricity that can be put on the grid. Why can't we have biomass electrical systems? Burns 6-8 tons per hour – 2 burners provide enough electricity for 25 homes. They are portable and Jon Johnson is working with Rob Davis on pellets. There is a supply line problem because propane and kerosene are easily retrievable, unlike pellets. Air burners handle the slash. When looking at the possibility of slash collection, look at economics in order to put power on the grid. Put wood in the area it is being picked up.

- Roundtable next steps – This could be a turning point because of the recent fire season. Add more to executive team to bring ideas together and outreach to more communities to make them aware that it exists to help them with mitigation and restoration or rehabilitation of watersheds after large fire events. Proposal: Work on how to get prescribed fire on landscape, and assemble a smoke management group. Also, change the name of group to include the word forest.
- Next meeting in November – have a conversation about other initiatives that need to happen. Is there a new set of initiatives or priorities we want to pursue as a Roundtable?
 - Have findings from the Fourmile report, presentations today, there are opportunities for sharing the message with the public. Discuss defensible space and home ignition zones. There are opportunities even without funding – if we can't pay for mitigation on private land, we can still educate communities. When funding options are available, we'll have people engaged in doing landscape scale projects with private lands. We should use quarterly meetings to bring together what groups are doing. The IM Team wanted to look back at Roundtable goals and think about what's relevant for each of the groups and what we want to work on to bring to the November meeting.
 - The Roundtable has to do something different because every county has had a significant fire in the last few years. Change name to something that's active and capitalizes on silver lining in severe events to propel us forward with more impact at all levels.
- It is not the climate to ask for more money, but we know where the hazards are.
- Group is qualified to understand fires and learn from experience. We need to bring in the small business community to make that which is trying to be disposed of into an asset. If we bring other networks into the group and offer information, you will see breakthroughs because people want to find a creative solution, especially if they can make money from it.
- There are certain kinds of catastrophic events that occur that cannot be prevented. There is no sense of failure; there are events that are beyond our control. We should be focusing on certain things that are educational and interpreting events that have occurred. Take a look at how to utilize the things that we may consider a liability. There is a need to change how we approach the value associated with the forest – look at environmental services, byproducts people may be able to use, but the value is what is left, not what we take off. There is a one year window where this is in the forefront of people's minds.

CALENDAR

Next meeting to be held after the election: Friday, November 30 in Colorado Springs.