

Front Range Stakeholder Roundtable Community Roundtable Feedback

I. ECOLOGY

- Make sure differences between restoration and risk reduction are clear.
- Address risk reduction and ecological restoration issues for forest / fuel types beyond the lower montane.
 - Lodgepole pine (Grand / Boulder - Larimer), mixed conifer (Boulder - Larimer), Gambel oak (Douglas – El Paso), spruce-fire (Douglas-El Paso), aspen (Park-Teller). Also, explore conditions and treatments needed in the transition zone between lower-montane and other forest types.
- Provide a list of key references and a set of management guidelines for each primary forest / fuel type, including those not outside their HRV.
- Address potential impacts, both positive and negative, on watersheds and wildlife from both fuel treatment projects and catastrophic fire.
- Offer suggestions for fuels treatment in high-risk but sensitive areas (north slopes, steep slopes).
- Explain what data is being used as a basis for Roundtable report and consider developing a GIS database that could be shared cooperative among the ten Front Range counties.
- Address how monitoring will be conducted across ownerships within the Front Range? Consider establishing “indicator species” as one way to gauge long-term success.
- Explain criteria used to establish priorities. What criteria will be used to establish a “key watershed?”
- Provide information to contractors to help them understand locally unique conditions.
- Emphasize road rehabilitation for any roads constructed to implement Roundtable objectives.

II. ECONOMICS

- What is the cost of risk reduction versus that of ecological restoration? How do we set priorities for resources given that people have chosen to live in high-risk areas and should bear some cost of risk reduction themselves?
- How do the potential ecological costs of certain kinds of treatment figure into the economic equation?
- Homeowners, landowners and developers need to be pushed to take on more responsibility for reducing risks and associated costs in the WUI.
- Provide information on and explore opportunities related to biomass in the new Energy Bill.
- What opportunities are there for co-generation, use of biomass for power?
- Bio-heating:
 - Potential for multi-county efforts?
 - What is needed to make it economical?
 - Could it be sustainable in forests such as lodgepole?

- Would it be sustainable if mechanical treatment is increasingly replaced by prescribed fire?
- Could local bio-heating provide an incentive for local private land treatment?
- Funding:
 - Explore opportunities to tap locally / Colorado based foundations as source of funding for treatment on non-federal land.
 - Provide information on and explore opportunities to use FEMA funding for mitigation planning and implementation.
 - Explore opportunities for funding through EQIP and other Farm Bill programs.
- Markets:
 - Create a preference / incentive for local use of local wood.
 - Opportunities to increase markets for small-diameter wood, products-other-than-logs (POLs), blue-stain wood, incentives of use of local wood by local businesses
 - Explore ways to compensate potential users for hauling costs.
- Consider establishing a cache of defensible space equipment that could be shared along the Front Range.
- Increasing project size would require increased public support and contractor training / monitoring.
- Establish incentives for the development of CWPPs.
- Increase and coordinate slash-mulch programs.
- What about a community-based location for storage, sorting and processing the full range of woody materials produced through treatments?

III. ACTION ADVISORY

- Toolkit Structure and Presentation
 - Make sure it is jargon-free and as simple as possible
 - Make information more user-friendly, easily accessible
 - Post on the web and link to as many organizations and frequently accessed public sites as possible.
 - Clarify desired audience and how information will be marketed to that audience.
 - Consider developing differentiated sets of tool kits for key subject areas such as defensible space, biomass utilization, prescribed fire, etc.
 - Consider including photos and illustrations.
 - What scale of information is most appropriate for this toolkit versus for more localized information clearinghouse sites? Make sure toolkit is linked to and references other available info sites.
 - Include information on areas of expertise for each contact listed.
 - Include and maintain an “Ask the Expert” section

- Policy Issues
 - Provide more information on Community Wildfire Protection Plans – funding opportunities, template, examples of completed plans, opportunities for technical assistance, etc.
 - Provide more information on federal policies and legislation, include those related to antiquities and culture resources.
 - Need suggestions on how to engage absentee landowners.
 - Consider developing a registry for private land treatments as a way to track where work has been done.
 - Provide models / examples of policy solutions that have worked for other communities: mill levies, ordinances, planning and zoning actions, other incentives or disincentives.
 - Explore opportunities to lower acreage threshold for ag-tax program so that more interface landowners could benefit.
 - Explore ways to make prescribed fire more publicly acceptable. Make information on the web more user-friendly for landowners. Explore whether current regulations are inhibiting use of fire.
 - Provide information on recent state legislation limiting HOAs ability to prevent creation of defensible space.
 - Explore opportunity to create a law similar to pest control acts that requires treatment of hazardous conditions. (Oregon example?)
 - Increase engagement from realtors by putting fire mitigation on list of information that have to disclose and/or by making wildfire education part of the requirement for a real estate license.

IV General Comments

- Provide a draft report with recommendations for review by affiliate roundtables prior to finalizing.
- Make sure final recommendations are specific enough to be meaningful but flexible enough to be implemented by diverse organizations and landowners.
- Need more participation from: fire departments and fire protection districts, homeowners' associations, real estate and insurance industries, developers and home builders, fire marshals / sheriffs, water providers and water conservancy districts, Division of Wildlife, wildlife habitat organizations.
- Consider expanding the Front Range to include Las Animas and Huerfano Counties.

FRONT RANGE STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE NOTES

Grand County Community Roundtable

August 16, 2005

Grand Lake Fire Station

18 local participants / 9 Roundtable reps

Ecology

- Local concerns revolve around how to address the beetles in a way that retains some forest cover, provides community protection and leads to restoration.
- Front Range Partnership and Roundtable need to more clearly articulate and address the **issues related to high-elevation / lodgepole pine ecology**, both in terms of community protection and ecosystem health.
- Concern for **potential impacts on water if a catastrophic fire hits** in the Ute Pass / Williams Fork area or near Kremmling (examples).

Economics

- **Disposal of slash and related small woody materials** is a major challenge in Grand County.
- Currently burning most slash but can't really increase burning due to smoke concerns in Fraser valley.
- **Bioheating** is promising, but doesn't offer job opportunities like a mill would.
- Grand County is talking with Summit County about being a *provider* of wood if Summit pursues a bioheating effort.
- Increasing project sizes may appeal to contractors but would require a major public information campaign to get public support. Would also need training for contractors to ensure they're using responsible forest practices.
- The Town of Winter Park recently approved a **mill levy to support fuels treatment** on non-federal public lands (\$150,000 per year). Summit County requires mitigation for new construction and remodels prior to issuing a certificate of occupancy.
- **For further exploration:**
 - Opportunities to promote sale of local wood in local markets.
 - Blue-stain wood.
 - Does a sustainable harvest to support bio-heating make sense in lodgepole forests?
 - Potential for a coalition of counties or entities within a region to work together to make bioheating economical.
 - Explore foundations with Colorado connections as a potential source for non-federal funding (e.g. Coors).
 - Use of small diameter wood for construction materials.
 - Need information on opportunities provided for biomass in new Energy Bill.
 - Consider establishing a cache of defensible space equipment to be shared between Front Range counties.

Policy

- Make sure tool kit is **jargon free** and as simple as possible.
- **Expand state and national policies** addressed.
- Want more information on **Community Wildfire Protection Plans**: funding opportunities, template and examples of other plans, technical support for development, etc. Grand County currently has FEMA funding to develop an all-hazard mitigation plan and wants to focus on fire.
- How to engage and address **absentee landowners**?
- How to track what work is being done on private land. Suggested a registry.
- **Model ordinances** or examples of planning and zoning actions, mill levies and taxes, other incentives or disincentives being used locally.
- Need clearer idea of how tool kit would be marketed to potential users. Make more user-friendly.

Overall Group Observations

- More information that addresses the unique situation of Grant County.
 - Provide “nuts and bolts” information that can be used / implemented.
 - More exploration of connection to water and watersheds.
 - **How do we pay** for what we need to do?????
 - Others to consider involving: Department of Local Affairs, Division of Wildlife, Northwest Council of Governments, Water Conservancy District.
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Boulder / Larimer Community Roundtable

August 17, 2005

Estes Park Town Hall

17 local participants / 8 Roundtable reps

Ecology

- Give more consideration to unique soil types, topography and **forests of Boulder area**.
- How does information from the St. Vrain research natural area compare to information gathered around Cheesman prior to Hayman?
- Need more consideration of **issues beyond forest conditions**, such as biodiversity and watershed health.
- How does the thinning model for risk reduction in ponderosa pine translate for risk reduction in **lodgepole pine** forests with intermixed communities?
- Role of climate change and climate cycles in development of reference conditions and desired future conditions?

Economics

- What is the **cost of risk reduction vs. ecological restoration** and how do “we” decide where to invest limited funds given that it’s **people’s personal choice** to build and live in high-risk areas?

- Explore economic “**disincentives**” that might keep people from moving to high-hazard areas.
- Explore opportunities for use of **FEMA funding** for hazard mitigation planning and implementation.
- Need **incentives (potentially requirements) for development of CWPPs** and for local entities to take a more active role in hazard planning and mitigation.
- How do mobile vs. in-place biopower production facilities compare? Which is better suited to the Front Range.
- Explore opportunities through the Green Building industry.
- Incentives for small business to expand work on defensible space treatments.

Policy

- Need to **clarify desired audience for tool kit and how tool kit will be presented / marketed** to that audience.
- Tool-kit should be as **simple** as possible. Targeted rather than exhaustive. Consider building **differentiated sets of tool kits** that apply to specific subject areas such as defensible space, biomass, prescribed fire, etc.
- Develop tool kit into a **web accessible** product, ideally a searchable data base.
- Address public resistance to increased use of prescribed fire.
- Lower the acreage threshold for **forest ag tax classification** to 35 acres to match local community zoning requirements.
- Provide information on how to make **cross-boundary projects** work (i.e. agreements, how to manage collaborative processes).

Overall Group Observations

- Consider separating final recommendations into **landscape-level questions/ issues and defensible space level questions / issues**.
- Increase involvement from Fire Protection Districts, Homeowners Associations, real estate and insurance industries.
- Make sure differences between restoration and risk reduction are clear.
- Provide group with updates once more information and recommendations are available, especially on ecology. Didn't feel there was enough information provided to comment on.

Douglas / El Paso Community Roundtable

August 24, 2005

Douglas County Events Center

17 local participants / 7 Roundtable reps

Ecology

- **Gambel oak** is a significant fuel type in Douglas and El Paso Counties and they would like to see the Roundtable offer a synthesis of research and/ or management recommendations for fire risk reduction and ecologically sound treatments in this vegetation.

- Consider work done on Air Force Academy lands and by the Nature Conservancy in Aiken Canyon.
- Should ponderosa pine in the Black Forest be managed differently than similar forests in the foothills?
- Clearly describe the positive and negative **impacts of forest treatments on wildlife** and wildlife habitat. Consider that sometimes thicker vegetation is needed in the interface to protect critical wildlife corridors.
- It is important to understand the ecology of an area so that treatments are effective in the long term and are not just short term stop gaps that must be repeated every year (e.g. herbicides in oak).
- **Transition zone** where Douglas fir becomes more common in ponderosa pine forests is of concern.
- Consider **spruce-fir** systems such as those around Eleven Mile and Spinney State Parks. Are associated with homes and frequent human use.
- Concerns with fuels treatment include subsequent slope movement and erosion, noxious weed invasion, and water quality impacts.
- Need to know strategies for **fuels treatment in more sensitive areas** such as north slopes and steep slopes.
- Is there a plan for acquiring high resolution GIS data that could be shared cooperatively along the Front Range?
- What consideration is being given to **consistent monitoring** of effects across boundaries?
- Consider establishing “indicator species” to gauge the long-term success of Roundtable actions.

Economics

- What options are available through the new Energy Bill regarding biomass?
- What about the economic impacts on contractors that have geared up to provide hydroaxing / mulching services?
- What is the potential of co-generation?
- **How do the potential ecological costs of certain kinds of treatment figure into the economic equation?** Consider the benefits of accomplishing treatment using manual labor when performed in an area that would not be treated if only mechanical means were available.
- How do we convey the message nationally that we need to invest in management in order to reduce suppression costs?
- What is the existing capacity to treat more sensitive and/or less accessible areas at risk?
- Homeowners, landowners and developers need to be pushed / encouraged to **take on more responsibility** for reducing risks and associated costs.
- Consider expanding the Ag Tax program model to fit more landowners in the interface.

Policy

- Make sure toolkit is linked to commonly accessed websites that the general public would likely seek out.
- Consider including time-lapse models in the toolkit that show what happens in a particular forest type without treatment.
- Include **models and case studies** as part of toolkit. Ordinances, funding mechanisms, various regulations, landowner incentives.
- Need ideas for dealing with **absentee landowners**.
- Include reference to recent state legislation on HOAs and defensible space.
- What is the relationship between county all-hazard mitigation plans, community wildfire protection plans, subdivision and homeowner defensible space plans, etc.?
- Explore the institution of a law similar to pest control act that requires treatment of hazardous conditions. (Oregon example?)

Overall Group Observations

- Make sure final recommendations are flexible enough that they can be applied on the ground by a variety of agencies.
 - Others to involve: Fire Departments, Fire Marshalls, Sheriffs, developers, home builders, realtors
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Park / Teller Community Roundtable

August 25, 2005

Woodland Park Library

17 local participants / 9 Roundtable reps

Ecology

- Most of Park County is not in the lower montane. What information will be provided the address **other fuel / forest types**?
- Would like information on how to treat areas that are at high risk in the **transition zones** between ecological zones. (e.g. the higher elevation areas involved in the Hayman fire).
- Be careful not to create an “artificial separation” between mechanical treatment and prescribed burning.
- Consider areas with insect and disease infestation as potential **priority for treatment**.
- What criteria will be used to define “**key watershed**?” How will the ecological benefits of watersheds be balanced against human use priorities?
- It would be beneficial for this workgroup to help set **treatment priorities** that can implemented across ownerships and jurisdictions.
- Would like **key references** on information and treatment for each primary forest type.
- Consider making recommendations about the seasonal timing of treatments so as to avoid negative impacts on wildlife during mating, nesting, etc.
- Provide information to contractors to increase their knowledge of locally unique ecological conditions.

- Important to emphasize rehabilitation of any roads constructed for implementation of the roundtable vision.
- Will the workgroup address aspen restoration? Example given of aspen clones resprouting in areas that have been treated for fuel reduction.
- Consider developing “**5 ecological dos**” for each forest type.

Economics

- Is there hard data to back up the premise behind the trade-offs between investment in management and suppression?
- What is the longevity of **biofuels** efforts if the need for mechanical treatment falls off dramatically in the future?
- Could a local **bioheating** project provide incentives for treatment by local landowners?
- What opportunities are there to increase markets for products other than logs (POLs)?
- We need to find a way to compensate users of woody materials for the **hauling costs** (e.g. local utilities).
- Increase and coordinate slash / mulch programs.
- The mechanics of grant programs need to be simplified to increase use.
- Explore landowner incentive and cost-share opportunities through EQIP and other Farm Bill programs.
- Need to find a way to build **self-sustaining land management programs** on non-federal land that are not dependent on federal grant funding.
- What about a community-based location for storage, sorting and processing the full range of woody material produced through treatments? (e.g. Park County proposal)
- Opportunities for business development through RC&Ds.
- Green Building industry.

Policy

- Put the **toolkit on the web** and make sure that other organizations in the roundtable have links to it.
- What scale of information will be provided in the toolkit – regional / Front Range or local community level? How would local information clearinghouse sites tie in to the roundtable’s toolkit?
- Consider organizing contact information in toolkit by counties. Include information on each contact’s area(s) of expertise.
- Develop **flow charts** that illustrate the steps needed to accomplish key tasks such as pile burning, defensible space, etc.
- Ensure language is jargon-free.
- Include illustrations and photos.
- Develop and update an “**ask the expert**” section on the web.
- Find a way to establish a preference for use of local wood for local projects.
- Change building codes that exclude some kinds of wood products that would come from fuels treatment.
- Simplify the smoke management / prescribed fire info on the web to make process easier for landowners.

- Increase public acceptance of smoke.
- Get fire mitigation included on the list of information **relators** have to disclose and/or make wildfire education part of requirement for real estate license.

Overall Group Observations

- Considering expanding Front Range to include **Las Animas and Huerfano** Counties.
- Motivate and engage HOAs, possibly through super associations.
- Involve large wildlife organizations from habitat improvement slant.
- Need to facilitate greater volunteer fire department participation.

FRFTP Roundtable Community Workshop Attendees

Boulder/Larimer Counties

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|---------------------|---|
| 1. Stan Austin | National Park Service |
| 2. Boyd Lebeda | District Forester, Colorado State Forest Service |
| 3. Bob Bundy | Colorado State Forest Service |
| 4. Kirk Cunningham | Sierra Club |
| 5. Kevin Darst | Ft. Collins Coloradoan |
| 6. Scott Dorman | Chief, Estes Park VFD |
| 7. Richard Edwards | USFS- Canyon Lakes District, A-R NF |
| 8. Gerry George | Chief Building Official, Boulder County Land Use Dept. |
| 9. Therese Glowacki | Resource Management Mgr, Boulder County Open Space |
| 10. Mark Martin | Planning Team Leader, USFS- Boulder District, A-R NF |
| 11. Kevin O'Dea | Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance |
| 12. Allen Owen | District Forester, Colorado State Forest Service |
| 13. Eric Philips | Wildfire Mitigation Coord., Boulder County Land Use Dept. |
| 14. Sue Pinkham | Town of Estes Park |
| 15. Chris Wanner | Ecologist, City of Boulder Open Space |
| 16. Ron West | Natural Resource Planner, Boulder County |
| 17. Scott Woods | Colorado State Forest Service |

Roundtable Members Present:

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|---------------|--------------------|
| • Tom Fry | • Tim Brown |
| • Paige Lewis | • Randy Frank |
| • Jim Bedwell | • Merrill Kauffman |
| • John Bustos | |

Grand County

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|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Libby Aron | Grand County Planning Department |
| 2. Lynn Barclay | Mitigation/Education Specialist, BLM |
| 3. Rick Caissie | Suphur Ranger District, USFS |
| 4. Ron Cousineau | District Forester, CSFS |

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|--------------------|---|
| 5. Jon Eicher | Snow Mountain Ranch |
| 6. Mandy Hanifen | active citizen |
| 7. Jim Holahan | Grand County Office of Emergency Management |
| 8. Todd Holzwarth | Chief, East Grand Fire District |
| 9. Rod Johnson | Sheriff, Grand County |
| 10. Mike Long | Grand Lake Fire Protection District |
| 11. Craig Maquire | Suphur Ranger District, USFS |
| 12. James Shockey | Town Planner, Town of Grand Lake |
| 13. Nancy Stuart | Commissioner, Grand County |
| 14. Matt Sugar | Winter Park Resort |
| 15. Billy Sumerlin | Grand Co. Dept of Natural Resources |
| 16. Ted Wang | Town of Granby |
| 17. Bill Wyatt | BLM Kremmling Field Office |

Roundtable Members Present:

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| • Scott Sticha | • Mary Ann Chambers |
| • Mary Mitsos | • Kathie Detmar |
| • Paige Lewis | • Pete Fogg |
| • Jim Bedwell | • Mike Foley |
| • John Bustos | • Tom Fry |

Douglas/ El Paso Counties

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|----------------------|---|
| 1. Scott Campbell | Colorado Springs Utilities |
| 2. Kevin O'Dea | Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance |
| 3. Mike Kerrigan | Fire Management Officer, USFS |
| 4. Michael Rogers | Upper Arkansas South Platte Project |
| 5. Christina Randall | Fuels Mitigation Officer, CO. Spgs Fire Dept. |
| 6. Kevin Tobey | Park Manager, Eleven Mile State Park |
| 7. Jim McGannon | Forester, Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation |
| 8. Ben Pedrett | Park Manager, Roxborough State Park |
| 9. Jill Alexander | OEM, Douglas County |
| 10. Craig Paddock | Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, Douglas County |
| 11. Jackie Sanderson | Natural Resource Specialist, Douglas County |
| 12. Rich Dudley | Park Manager, Cheyenne Mountain State Park |
| 13. Dave Root | District Forester, CSFS |
| 14. Ryan Tetertiller | Planner, CO Spgs Planning Dept. |
| 15. Phil Friesen | Senior GIS Analyst, Colorado Springs |
| 16. Mike Bahm | District Forester, CSFS |
| 17. Andy Hough | Planning Resource Specialist, Douglas County |

Roundtable Members Present:

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|---------------|-----------------|
| • Paige Lewis | • Randy Frank |
| • Tom Fry | • Carol Ekarius |
| • Lisa Dale | • Vic Ecklund |
| • Pete Fogg | |

Park/ Teller Counties

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|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Greg Griswold | Lieutenant, Teller County Sheriff |
| 2. Eric Howell | CO Spgs Utilities, Environmental Services Dept. |
| 3. Kirsta Scherff Norris | |
| 4. Marti Campbell | Coalition for the Upper South Platte |
| 5. Jonathan Bruno | Coalition for the Upper South Platte |
| 6. Dave Root | District Forester, CSFS |
| 7. Peter Marchand | Director, Catamount Institute |
| 8. Kevin O'Dea | Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance |
| 9. Jean Smith | Upper Arkansas South Platte Project |
| 10. Brent Botts | District Ranger, USFS |
| 11. Ryan Boggs | The Nature Conservancy |
| 12. Mike Kerrigan | Fire Management Officer, USFS |
| 13. Thomas King | Teller County Conservation District |
| 14. Leon Kot | Teller/Park Natural Resource Conservation Service |
| 15. Kevin Tanski | Teller County Parks Department |
| 16. John Deagan | Planner, Park County |
| 17. Gary Nichols | Director of Tourism, Park County |
| 18. Sara Mayben | District Ranger, USFS |

Roundtable Members Present:

- Paige Lewis
- Tom Fry
- Lisa Dale
- Nan Johnson
- Randy Frank
- Carol Ekarius
- Bob Leaverton
- Vic Ecklund