

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership Roundtable: Creating a Long-term Vision to Protect Communities and Restore Forest Health



The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership Roundtable convened for the first time in May 2004. A precedent-setting consortium of 30 organizations including representatives from environmental organizations, academic and scientific communities, local governments, and federal and state agencies, the Roundtable developed a long-term vision for Front Range forest lands. The purpose of the vision is to engage communities and foster support for the implementation of forest management goals that help protect communities and restore forest health.

In addition, Roundtable members also have cultivated support for the work of the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership, an interagency partnership to reduce wildland fire risks through sustained fuels treatment. The Partnership was formed following the 2002 fire season, the worst in Colorado's recorded history.

During its first year, the Roundtable supported the Partnership by sharing information about accomplishments with important constituent groups and decision-makers. The Roundtable also established four working groups—community engagement, ecology, economics and policy. The groups developed information and data to foster discussion and support for the adoption and implementation of a Front Range vision focused on community protection and forest health.

Each working group also developed materials for presentations at four affiliate Roundtable meetings in the Grand County Region, Boulder/Larimer County Region, El Paso/Douglas County Region and Parker/Teller County Region in early fall 2005. Representatives from non-governmental conservation organizations; local, county and state governments; land-management agencies; homeowner groups and others participated in the meetings and provided feedback on a Front Range vision. Follow-up meetings are planned in 2006.

The information and data developed by the working groups and feedback gathered at affiliate Roundtable meetings provided the foundation for the Roundtable's report *Living with Fire: Protecting Communities and Restoring Forest Health, Findings and Recommendations of the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership Roundtable*, released May 18, 2006. The report details the group's findings and recommends 10 initiatives for successful implementation of a Front Range vision to protect communities and restore forest health in Colorado's 10 Front Range counties (Boulder, Clear Creek, Douglas, El Paso, Gilpin, Grand, Jefferson, Larimer, Park, and Teller).

Key Roundtable contacts:

- Lisa Dale, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition, 303.445.4363; lisa.dale@colostate.edu
- Peter Fogg, American Planning Association, Colorado Chapter, 303.441.3930, ext. 2608; pfogg@co.boulder.co.us
- Tom Fry, The Wilderness Society & Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance, 303.650.5818, ext. 110; tom_fry@twso.org
- Merrill Kaufmann, Rocky Mountain Research Station (Emeritus), 970.282.0163; mkaufmann@fs.fed.us
- Paige Lewis, Colorado State Forest Service, 303.623.5635, ext. 115, plewis@lamar.colostate.edu
- Patricia Limerick, Center of the American West, 303.817.9216; patricia.limerick@colorado.edu
- Brian McPeck, The Nature Conservancy, 303.444.2950, bmcpeek@tnc.org

Key Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership contacts:

- John Bustos, USDA Forest Service, 970.295.6674, jbustos@fs.fed.us
- Mike Foley, USDA Forest Service, 970.295.6635, mfoley@fs.fed.us
- Dave Hessel, Colorado State Forest Service, 303.635.1597, dhessel@lamar.colostate.edu
- Katherine Timm, Colorado State Forest Service, 970.295.6892, katherine.timm@colostate.edu