PINEROOD SPRINGS

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

MARCH 2010
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Introduction
Location

The community of Pinewood Springs was established in 1958. The Pinewood Springs subdivision covers 631 developed acres and contains 363 lots. The community of Pinewood Springs is contained within the Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District, which covers 3225 acres. Pinewood Springs is located on Colorado Highway 36, roughly halfway between Lyons and Estes Park at mile marker 12 through 13. Pinewood Springs is bordered on all sides by Roosevelt National Forest.

CWPP Development Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Roles / Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Wilcox, Fire Chief</td>
<td>Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District</td>
<td>Primary development of CWPP and decision making – community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Lucas, Assistant Fire Chief</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristen Owen, Wildland Mitigation Specialist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Caruso, Board President</td>
<td>Pinewood Springs Property Owners Association</td>
<td>Primary development of CWPP and decision making – community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Owen, District Forester</td>
<td>Colorado State Forest Service</td>
<td>Facilitation of planning process and approval of CWPP process and minimum standards. Provides input and expertise on forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyd Lebeda, District Forester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Simons</td>
<td>Larimer County Wildfire Safety Program</td>
<td>Provides input and expertise on hazard assessment, defensible space, and FireWise concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Atchley, District Ranger</td>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Pinkham, Inter-Agency Wildfire Educator</td>
<td>Town of Estes Park</td>
<td>Provides input and expertise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Chapman, CWPP Coordinator</td>
<td>Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance</td>
<td>Providing mentoring and mapping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Galensky, GIS Specialist</td>
<td>Center for Native Ecosystems</td>
<td>Providing mapping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Lucas, GIS Speciality</td>
<td></td>
<td>Providing mapping.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Community Risk Assessment
Initial community risk assessment was done using the most current GIS data available to us, and area history recorded. As more data is made available, this document will reflect that.

Wildfire Hazard Rating for Community
from Larimer County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingress/Egress</th>
<th>Primary Road Width</th>
<th>Accessibility</th>
<th>Secondary Road Terminus</th>
<th>Average Lot Size</th>
<th>Street Signs</th>
<th>Fuel Type</th>
<th>Defensible Space Completed</th>
<th>Slope</th>
<th>Response Time</th>
<th>Water Source (within subdiv.)</th>
<th>Water Source (off site)</th>
<th>Structural Materials</th>
<th>Utilities (gas &amp; electric)</th>
<th>TOTAL SCORE</th>
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<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>57</td>
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Pinewood Springs Wildfire Hazard Rating: **Severe**

These numbers are derived from a Wildland Hazard Rating Form, found on the Larimer County Web site. The Larimer County Web site rates Pinewood Springs with a score of 40, putting the community in a “Moderate” category. However, the Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District (PSFPD) has conducted the same survey, and found discrepancy in some of the results. Here is a breakdown of the results of the Wildfire Hazard Rating:

**Ingress/Egress:**
Both Larimer County and PSFPD scored this the best possible, a 1, indicating that the community has two or more primary roads.

**Primary Road Width:**
Both Larimer County and PSFPD scored this the best possible, a 1, indicating that the primary roads are 20 feet wide, or more.

**Accessibility:**
Larimer County assessed that our roads had a grade of 5% or less. The PSFPD has determined that many roads, especially in the areas most affected by wildfire risk, are at a grade of more than 5%. So, our score on this category goes from a 1 to a 3.

**Secondary Road Terminus:**
Larimer County scored this as a 1, which would indicate that we have loop roads, and dead ends have turn-arounds of 45 feet or more. PSFPD would score this as a 5, which would indicate that we have deadend roads that are more than 200 feet long without a proper turnaround. These are important things to note for this community, because it could cause confusion in the event of an evacuation, and because it is very hard to get fire apparatus turned around on such roads.

**Average Lot Size:**
Both Larimer County and the PSFPD agree that the average lot size in Pinewood Springs is 1-10 acres, riving a score of 3. Lots and inhabitation of Pinewood Springs can be found in the Appendix of this document, on page 25.
Street Signs:
Both Larimer County and PSFPD scored this the best possible, a 1, indicating that street signs are present.

Fuel Type:
Larimer County has given this category a rating of 1, which indicates that our primary surface fuel is grass. PSFPD has given this a rating of 5, which indicates brush as our primary surface fuel. A detailed map of area fuel types can be found in the Appendix of this document, on page 28.

Defensible Space Completed:
Larimer County rated this a 5, which would indicate that 30-70% of all homes in the area have completed establishing and maintaining a defensible space around their home. PSFPD would score this as a 10, which would indicate that less than 30% of the homes have done so.

Slope:
Larimer County and PSFPD agree that the topography in Pinewood Springs has a slope that ranges from 11-30%, which would be a score of 5. A detailed map of area slope can be found in the Appendix of this document, on page 22.

Response Time:
Larimer County scored this as a 1, which would indicate that the response time of the PSFPD is under 15 minutes. While PSFPD personnel are always en route within that amount of time, apparatus does not arrive on scene in that amount of time. So, PSFPD has scored this as a 5, which would indicate a response time of 16-30 minutes.

Water Source:
Both Larimer County and PSFPD have given this a score of 5, which would indicate that Pinewood Springs has a drafting or dip site for water.

Structural Materials:
Both Larimer County and PSFPD has given a score of 5, indicating that the predominantly houses in the area have wood siding with a non-wood roof.

Utilities:
Both Larimer County and PSFPD have given a score of 10, indicating that all gas and electric utilities are above ground.

Our total score is 57. A rating of 50-59 is severe.

Fuels Hazards

Pinewood Springs contains a variety of

[Diagram showing Inhabited Area Forest Cover by Acres]

Pinewood Springs Community Wildfire Protection Plan
vegetation, including predominantly meadow grasses and Ponderosa pine. There is also Douglas fir, spruce, aspen, juniper, and mountain shrubbery throughout.

In our area, the meadow grasses that make up a large part of the area grow tall, and are dead and dry for nine months of the year.

With the exception of some recent mitigation work done in the forest lands west of Pinewood Springs as part of the Estes Valley Fuels Reduction Program, there is substantial understory growth, and a lot of dead and down trees as fuel sources in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) surrounding the community. There are similar fuel sources within the community, as well.

Pinewood Springs rests at the bottom of a valley, at an elevation of 6,500 feet and is surrounded by mountains that range from 7,500 to 8,075 feet. The slopes in this area can be greater than 45%.

A detailed map of area vegetation can be found in the Appendix of this document, on page 28.
Risk of Wildfire Occurrence

Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District responds to numerous wildland fire incidents and smoke reports per year. Since 1988, the average is seven wildland incidents per year, with as many as 23 incidents in 2002, 17 incidents in 1988, and 15 per year in 2000 and 2001.

Many wildfires in the area are started by lightning, while some are caused by humans. Colorado State Highway 36 runs directly through the community of Pinewood Springs, increasing the probability of human-caused wildfires.

In recent history, the most destructive wildland fire in the area was the Big Elk Fire in 2002. The Big Elk fire started the afternoon of June 17 along County Road 47, in the Pinewood Springs Fire District. During the peak of the fire, it was categorized as a Type 1 incident.

Fire behavior was extreme, reflecting the extreme conditions in the area, and throughout Colorado. Initial spread was rapid, moving up a southeast slope in Ponderosa pine with prolific torching and crowning. Spread the following days was by intense surface fire with torching, sustained crown fire runs in mixed conifer and lodgepole pine stands.

The Big Elk Fire took two weeks to contain, burned approximately 4,800 acres, and claimed the lives of three firefighters.

A map showing the recent history of wildfire in the area is shown in the Appendix of this document, on page 30.
**Homes, Businesses and Essential Infrastructure at Risk**

Pinewood Springs has approximately 400 homes (see map on page 25), most of which would be at risk in the event of a wildfire. The area of Estes Park Estates is especially of concern, due to the limited access, steep slope, and heavy fuel load.

Pinewood Springs is also home to a quarry and two restaurants, whose economic viability is approximately 1.5 million dollars per year. In our community is also an electromagnetic product testing business, a church, horse property and numerous home-based businesses.

Highway 36 is a major thoroughfare that connects Lyons to Estes Park, and is responsible for at least 2,000,000 cars annually that travel to Estes Park, most during the summer months. Estes Park depends heavily on tourism for its economy, and should the highway have to close it would have a indefinable negative impact on the Estes Park economy.

Pinewood Springs has a 50 acre-feet community water storage reservoir, water treatment plant, two water storage locations, four water storage tanks that total an additional storage capacity of 1.5 million gallons of water, the Little Thompson watershed, and district water distribution infrastructure.

The Pinewood Springs Fire Station is a sixty-year-old wood structure, with a composite shingle roof.

Additional infrastructure of value in Pinewood Springs includes three-phase electrical power, primarily used by the water treatment plant, above ground phone line coming up the canyon from Lyons, and two phone equipment cabinets containing electronics, and two designated escape routes. A map of Pinewood Springs infrastructure can be found in the Appendix of this document, on page 26.

**Estes Valley Fuels Reduction Project**

Some of the areas surrounding Pinewood Springs are being mitigated by the USFS through the Estes Valley Fuels Reduction Program. This program is intended to mitigate the woods in Wildland Urban Interfaces around the town of Estes Park, and the inhabited areas around Estes Park. Over 8,000 acres are to be treated through this program. A map of the areas that are going to be treated, or have already been treated, can be found in the Appendix of this document, on page 30.
Local Preparedness
&
Firefighting Capability
Access Issues

Primarily in areas in proximity to the WUI, community roads can be narrow, steep, have tight turns and inadequate turnarounds and dead-ends. These areas make for difficult apparatus access and egress. Escape routes are not adequate as there are minimal loop routes. All viable escape routes have not yet been defined and identified.

Helicopter Landing Zones

Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District has designated helicopter landing zones, with the primary landing zone being across the street from the fire station at approximately N40.277 degrees and W105.360 degrees. There are other meadows that can be used for landing zones in the area, and the highway can also be used.

Staging and Safety Zones

There are a few staging areas that have been used on incidents in the past, each accommodating only a small number of apparatus in single file. There are numerous open meadows that make for reasonable safety zones.

Water Sources

In addition to the three hydrants in Pinewood Springs, water can be drafted from multiple water sources. Water can be drafted by truck or helicopter from various locations along the Little Thompson River, by truck or helicopter from Crescent Lake, a seasonal lake, or by truck or helicopter from the Pinewood Springs Reservoir. The Pinewood Springs Fire Station also has a 4,500 gallon cistern.

Pinewood Springs has a unique situation, with regards to water. There is no water to spare in the area, and if apparatus were to take water from the system when there wasn't enough to take, it could cause a collapse in the community's water infrastructure. It is currently protocol for the Pinewood Springs fire apparatus to be filled with water in Lyons when it is non-emergent. Taking water from Pinewood Springs requires contacting the Water Superintendent so that pumps can be turned on that will provide the hydrant we're using with the proper water supply. We are a community that would benefit from more cisterns for fire use.

Inventory of Fire Protection Resources

As of September 2008, the Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District (PSFPD) consists of a maximum of 25 members. Mandatory training includes Red Card certification. For apparatus, PSFPD has one Type 6 engine with a 250-gallon tank, foam and portable CAFS; one Type 6 engine with a 300-gallon tank with CAFS; one Type 1 engine with a 750-gallon tank, 1,250 GPM pump and foam; and a Type 4 tender with a 2,000-gallon tank and 1,000 GPM pump. PSFPD also has a Utility Terrain Vehicle,
capable of getting supplies and water to hard to reach places, and carries 50 gallons of water with foam capability.

The Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District has an ongoing Wish List that includes the following: vacuum, copy machine, all-terrain vehicle, home gym equipment, office chairs, large coffee maker, Energizer alkaline batteries (sizes AAA, AA, C, D and 9-volt), reams of printer paper, printer cartridges (HP 57 and 56), energy bars (Power Bars, Clif Bars, etc.), bottled water, bottles of Gatorade, individually wrapped Advil and Tylenol, sunscreen, unopened lip balm, bandannas, wet wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags, coffee, coffee supplies.

**Pinewood Springs Fire Station**

PSFPD currently has a small fire station. The needs of the community and the fire district have outgrown the current fire station, and there are plans to build a new one in the next ten years. Plans for a new fire station have been drawn, and PSFPD is hoping that grants will pay for most of the station.

**Community Evacuation**

Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District does not currently have an evacuation plan, nor does the Pinewood Springs Property Owner's Association have a neighborhood watch program or calling tree. In the event of evacuation, PSFPD relies on Reverse-911 to notify the residents.
Community Hazard Reduction Priorities
Priority One: Property Owner Education

PSFPD has an assigned Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator whose mission is to assist with education of the property owners with wildfire mitigation, and help facilitate mitigation efforts within the community. This staff position is also the fire district point of contact for the CWPP.

Priority Two: Property Mitigation Surveys & Defensibility Ratings

PSFPD will encourage homeowners to seek mitigation / defensible space surveys through available resources. PSFPD will assist with educating the public about those resources. It is also in the interest of PSFPD to establish defensibility ratings for individual property parcels to assist with wildfire response planning and decision making. A property owner's individual rating may be shared with that owner upon request.

Priority Three: Property Mitigation

PSFPD will encourage homeowners to mitigate their properties and create defensible space. PSFPD will assist with educating the public about available mitigation resources. See Appendix

Priority Four: WUI Mitigation

PSFPD will assist the Forest Service with establishing areas of priority for WUI mitigation.

Priority Five: Evacuation Plan & Route Improvements

Pinewood Springs will identify, designate and communicate additional evacuation routes and improve existing evacuation routes. Pinewood Springs will add or improve turnarounds where appropriate. Pinewood Springs will investigate adding loop routes where appropriate.

Priority Six: Public Information System

PSPOA will organize an information distribution system for dissemination of critical information, i.e. a phone tree or Web site improvements.
Preferred Treatments

For large mitigation efforts, we prefer that the PSPOA rents a chipper for use of the community's limbing projects.

Removal of dense undergrowth
Removal of snags
Thinning and limbing of trees
Burning slash piles
Create safety zones in high hazard areas for fire crews and residents that cannot evacuate

Priority Treatment Areas

1.) Southwest corner of the fire district (in the area of Chipmunk Drive, Apache, Pinewood Court and Elk Road.)
2.) The area of Seminole Court, Cree Court, Chieftain Court and Iroquois.
3.) The area of Ute Crossing and Kiowa Road.
Action Plan
&
Assessment Strategy
Action Plan for 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January – March</th>
<th>April – May</th>
<th>June – August</th>
<th>September – December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have CWPP completed and submitted</td>
<td>Establish and identify CWPP action group</td>
<td>Organize volunteers to assist with defensible space efforts for neighbors unable to do their own.</td>
<td>Evaluate the year, and plan for 2011.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update PSFPD Web site with CWPP and defensible space information</td>
<td>Coordinate a forest health spray day</td>
<td>Schedule a Community Work Day</td>
<td>Define locations for turnaround creation and/or improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSFPD will begin defensibility rating surveys of all properties</td>
<td>Send a healthy forest mailer to residents</td>
<td>Make a mitigation demonstration on common grounds</td>
<td>Define improvements to existing evacuation routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise money to spray trees in common areas for forest health</td>
<td>Have a community informational meeting about preparing a defensible space</td>
<td>Have a chipping day for residents' slash piles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Define additional evacuation routes</td>
<td>Work with community to develop priorities for Forest Service projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organize public information system</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate WUI for mitigation projects on USFS land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distribution of information to the community about chipping day</td>
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</table>

Funding Needs

The primary need for funding for our action plan is to have funds available for the residents to engage survey and mitigation resources to consult with them, remove trees, limb trees, and spray for pine beetle. We would like to be able to provide a chipper at least once a year for free use by residents, and this would also have its cost. We would also like additional, ongoing mitigation work done in the WUI surrounding Pinewood Springs. Funding would be necessary for the improvements to general escape routes and access roads. Funding would be needed in support of information and materials distribution. Funding would be needed to improve the water infrastructure and water availability to the fire department. And, funding would be needed to build a larger, newer fire station that would better meeting the needs of our growing community.
Monitoring and Assessment

- PSFPD will keep records of the defensibility rating for each property. As community members improve their defensible space, the records will be updated.
- GIS data and maps will be updated as changes to data are made available.
- At the end of 2009, a map will be added to the CWPP which illustrates mitigation progress in the community.
- An annual review of the CWPP's action plans and timelines will be conducted to evaluate the past year's activity, revise and refine the activities and strategies for the next year.

Summary

This CWPP is a starting point for protecting the community from wildfire. As the community and the needs of the community change over time, this document will also be changed to reflect those needs. This document serves as a form of guidance for wildland mitigation, and participation by community members is strongly encouraged. The CWPP does not force any action on any private property, nor does it force any action to be taken by a property owner. It is entirely a voluntary participation plan.

The purpose of the CWPP is to open the lines of communication amongst community members about wildfire mitigation and wildfire hazards, and to make available grant monies that can assist with the associated activities. It is also intended to find areas that our community can be improved, and implement plans to keep Pinewood Springs safer in the event of wildfire.

Your interest and involvement in this plan will determine the plan's effectiveness, level of involvement and continuation.
Appendix A:
Pinewood Springs Maps
Pinewood Springs CWPP
Area Topography

Aerial Photograph

Topographic Map

3-D Topographic Map
Appendix B: Firewise® Mitigation Guidelines

(Excerpt from www.firewise.org. For more information, please visit the Web site.)
Guide to Landscaping

The primary goal for Firewise landscaping is fuel reduction — limiting the level of flammable vegetation and materials surrounding the home and increasing the moisture content of remaining vegetation. This includes the entire ‘home ignition zone’ which extends up to 200 feet in high hazard areas.

Use the Zone Concept

Zone 1 is the 30 feet adjacent to the home and its attachments; Zone 2 is 30 to 100 feet from the home; Zone 3 is 100 to 200 feet from the home.

Zone 1 (All Hazard Areas)
This well-irrigated area encircles the structure and all its attachments (wooden decks, fences, and boardwalks) for at least 30 feet on all sides.

1) Plants should be carefully spaced, low-growing and free of resins, oils and waxes that burn easily.
2) Mow the lawn regularly. Prune trees up six to ten feet from the ground.
3) Space conifer trees 30 feet between crowns. Trim back trees that overhang the house.
4) Create a ‘fire-free’ area within five feet of the home, using non-flammable landscaping materials and/or high-moisture-content annuals and perennials.
5) Remove dead vegetation from under deck and within 10 feet of house.
6) Consider fire-resistant material for patio furniture, swing sets, etc.
7) Firewood stacks and propane tanks should not be located in this zone.
8) Water plants, trees and mulch regularly.
9) Consider xeriscaping if you are affected by water-use restrictions.

Zone 2 (Moderate and High Hazard Areas) Plants in this zone should be low-growing, well-irrigated, and less flammable.

1) Leave 30 feet between clusters of two to three trees, or 20 feet between individual trees.
2) Encourage a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees.
3) Create ‘fuel breaks’, like driveways, gravel walkways and lawns.
4) Prune trees up six to ten feet from the ground.

Zone 3 (High Hazard Areas) Thin this area, although less space is required than in Zone 2. Remove smaller conifers that are growing between taller trees. Remove heavy accumulation of woody debris. Reduce the density of tall trees so canopies are not touching.

Maintaining the Firewise Landscape

- Keep trees and shrubs pruned six to ten feet from the ground.
- Remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches.
- Mow the lawn regularly and dispose of cutting and debris promptly.
- Store firewood away from the house.
- Maintain the irrigation system regularly.
Familiarize yourself with local regulations regarding vegetative clearance, debris disposal, and fire safety requirements for equipment.

Guide to Construction

“When considering improvements to reduce wildfire vulnerability, the key is to consider the home in relation to its immediate surroundings. The home’s vulnerability is determined by the exposure of its external materials and design to flames and firebrands during extreme wildfires. The higher the fire intensities near the home, the greater the need for nonflammable construction materials and a resistant building design.” – Jack Cohen, USDA-Forest Service

Use Rated Roofing Material. Roofing material with a Class A, B or C rating is fire resistant and will help keep the flame from spreading. Examples:
- Composition shingle
- Metal
- Clay
- Cement tile

Use Fire-Resistant Building Materials on Exterior Walls. Examples include:
- Cement
- Plaster
- Stucco
- Masonry (concrete, stone, brick or block)

While vinyl is difficult to ignite, it can fall away or melt when exposed to extreme heat.

Use Double-Paned or Tempered Glass. Double-pane glass can help reduce the risk of fracture or collapse during an extreme wildfire. Tempered glass is the most effective. For skylights, glass is a better choice than plastic or fiberglass.

Enclose Eaves, Fascias, Soffits and Vents. ‘Box’ eaves, fascias, soffits and vents, or enclose them with metal screens. Vent openings should be covered with 1/8” metal screen.

Protect Overhangs and Other Attachments. Remove all vegetation and other fuels from around overhangs and other attachments (room additions, bay windows, decks, porches, carports and fences). Box in the undersides of overhangs, decks and balconies with noncombustible or fire-resistant materials. Fences constructed of flammable materials like wood should not be attached directly to the house.

Anything attached to the house (decks, porches, fences and outbuildings) should be considered part of the house. These act as fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials.
1) If a wood fence is attached to the house, separate the fence from the house with a masonry or metal barrier.
2) Decks and elevated porches should be kept free of combustible materials and debris.
3) Elevated wooden decks should not be located at the top of a hill. Consider a terrace.
Declaration of Agreement

The following signatures attest to our agreement and collaboration on the contents of this document.

Signature                      Date

Kristen Owen, CWPP Coordinator, PSFPD

Richard Wilcox, Fire Chief, PSFPD

Andrew Lucas, Assistant Fire Chief, PSFPD

Art Caruso, President, PSPOA

Allen Owen, District Forester, CSFS

Boyd Lebeda, District Forester, CSFS

Kevin Atchley, District Ranger, USFS

Sue Pinkham, Inter-Agency Fire Educator