

Jackson County

North End Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Egress and Evacuation Procedures

After considering the location of the inhabited areas, the critical human infrastructure and the risk of wildfire, the North End community identified a base map representing a WUI zone around their community assets. Generally, the WUI includes all lands within approximately 500 square miles comprising the entire north third of Jackson County. These boundaries are clearly outlined in Step 4 of the Plan. Residential areas included in this plan are identified as Twisty Park, Big Creek, Pearl, Parsons Draw, Ginger Quill, Independence Mountain, Kings Canyon and Cowdrey. During the planning process, each resident was given information and encouraged to create their own personal evacuation plan for their family. There were some general aspects put into place for all within the boundary area. These included:

- Each household be a part of a reverse 911 system when put into place by Jackson County Sheriff's Department.
- Muster at a safe distance away from danger to let people know you were out and where you could be reached.
- Follow directions of emergency personnel on safest way to proceed.
- If you were not able to make contact with others, leave a note on the front door that you were no longer at the residence and where you could be reached.
- A handout on Individual and Family Wildfire Preparedness Plan was distributed to help with this process. See Appendix for a copy of this document.

General escape routes were suggested to residents in various areas. These included:

- Twisty Park, Big Creek and Pearl – JC Roads 6W, 6A, 6B and 3.
- Independence Mountain and Parsons Draw – JC Roads 2 and 4.
- Kings Canyon – 6E, 46, and 127A.
- Ginger Quill and Cowdrey – CO State Highway 125.

All residents were encouraged to follow the safest routes possible, follow directions given by first responders, keep in touch with each other, and to clear the area as soon as possible so that emergency personnel would not have traffic issues in accessing the locations.

Individual and Family Wildfire Preparedness Plan

Actions to take in advance of Wildfire Season:

- Plan for specific places to go (depending on the wildfire route, wind and direction of the smoke) in case you have to evacuate. Emergency management officials may designate and inform you of an identified evacuation site such as a church or school in a safe but nearby location.
- Make a list of important contact numbers to take with you in case you have to evacuate: family/friends/work/insurance companies/financial/etc.
- Collect all important papers, documents, and information (checklist below). Place them in a secure place and in a convenient carrying device for easy packing.
- Designate a person/number outside of the fire zone where family and friends can check in.
- Plan for your evacuation. Make sure your vehicle is in good working order. Keep tank full of fuel if a fire threatens. Have an emergency car kit. Make sure your driver's license, inspection sticker and car insurance are all current. If you do not have a vehicle, make a plan with others for transportation before there is a crisis.
- Regularly copy your computer hard drive to a portable disk or thumb drive.
- Photograph an inventory of your belongings and property.
- Make at least one extra set of keys for your residence.
- Obtain all wildfire kit items relevant to your circumstances.
- Prepare your property as a defensible space fire zone by following the Colorado State Forest Service and Colorado State University Cooperative Extension guidelines. There is a great deal of research-based information available for easy reference at the Colorado State Forest or CSU Cooperative Extension offices, or your local fire department. You might wish to check the information on their websites at www.colostate.edu/depts/csfs and www.ext.colostate.edu.
- Basic defensible space guidelines include:
 - Remove combustible materials from around structures.
 - Thin trees and brush properly within the defensible space.
 - Stack firewood uphill or on a contour away from the home.
 - Post address signs that are clearly visible from the street or road.

Actions to take if you plan to stay during a wildfire:

- Make sure that you have all relevant wildfire kit items on hand (see below).
- Let your family/friends/work know where you are planning to stay. Emergency management officials may wish to acquire your emergency contact information.
- Evacuate all family that will not be helping in defending your home such as infants, elderly, disabled, etc.

- Move valuables and heirlooms to a protected location or in fireproof containers.
- Have one landline phone and one cellular phone in the home.
- Remove trash and debris from the defensible space.
- Confine pets to one room instead of running free.
- Position garden hoses so they reach the entire house. Have hoses charged, with an adjustable nozzle, but turned off.
- Place large, full water containers around the house. Soak burlap sacks, small rugs or large rags in the containers.
- Place a ladder against the roof of the house on the opposite side of the approaching wildfire. Place a garden hose near the ladder, prepared as described previously.
- Place portable pumps near available water supplies, such as pools, hot tubs, creeks, etc.
- Leave all lights on even during daylight hours.
- Fill tubs, sinks, and any other containers with water.
- Park your car in the garage, facing out. Close the windows but do not lock the doors. Leave the keys in the ignition.
- Close the garage doors but leave them unlocked.
- Disconnect the automatic garage door opener.

Actions to take as you prepare to evacuate:

- Close or cover outside vents and shutters.
- Close all windows and doors, including garage doors. Do not lock them.
- Close all inside doors.
- Turn on a light in each room and all outside lights.
- Remove lace, nylon or any other drapes and curtains made from light fabrics. Close Venetian blinds, heavy drapes or fire resistant window coverings.
- Move overstuffed furniture into the center of the house, away from windows and sliding glass doors.
- Back up your hard drive and put a copy in a safe place.
- Unplug all electronics including computer and secure in a safe place.
- Leave a note in a prominent place in your home that says where and how you can be contacted.
- Wear protective clothing: cotton or woolen clothing, sturdy shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.
- Empty your refrigerator and freezer of items that would spoil.
- Secure your home inside and out – especially items that may be in the way of firefighters like lawn furniture.
- Turn off the gas and propane – know how to do this in advance.
- Take all of your important papers and documents with you or secure them in a waterproof, fireproof container.
- Take valuables and heirlooms with you or store in protected location.
- Have sufficient cash and credit cards with you.

- If you are not taking all of your vehicles with you, move them to an alternate location away from fire danger.
- Remove all flammable materials away from structures to alternate locations.
- Transport horses and cattle to alternate locations if possible.

Wildfire Kit

Important papers, documents, and information:

Watertight, portable container to carry papers.

Personal identification

Driver's license

Social security cards

Photographic inventory of personal property

Insurance policy information and cards:

Automobile

Health, life

Homeowners, fire, flood

Renters

Health and immunizations records

Car titles and registrations

List of prescriptions, physicians

Lists of emergency contacts, important phone number, and email addresses.

Cash, credit cards, checkbook

Phone cards

Marriage certificate, divorce decree, birth certificates, adoption papers

State and federal tax records

Retirement accounts and names, addresses and phone numbers

Deeds, leases

Account numbers, company name, address, phone numbers

Bank accounts

Credit cards

Stocks and bonds

Citizenship papers

Powers of attorney, wills

Safety deposit box key

Pet supplies:

Carry cages

Food for one week

Medications

Health records, Ids

Leashes, toys, bedding

First aid supplies:

Complete first aid kit

Cold packs

Hand wipes, hand sanitizer

Sun screen

Insect repellent

First aid manual

Medications and prescriptions

Food and water supplies:

Non-perishable food items for two days

 Canned meats, fruits, vegetables

 Boxed juices, milk, soup

Water – at least one gallon per person for each day

Dried fruits, nuts, breakfast bars

Clothing, bedding supplies:

Complete changes of clothing for one week, including shoes or boots for each person.

Rain gear

Coats and jackets

Blankets, pillows, sleeping bags

Sunglasses

Personal items:

Soap, towels

Personal hygiene supplies

 Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, comb/brush, deodorants

 Razor, shaving cream

Medications

Eyeglasses, contacts and contact lens solution

Cosmetics, mirror

Feminine supplies

Kitchen items:

Paper plates, plastic utensils, napkins, paper towels, paper cups

Manual can opener

All-purpose knife

Re-sealable plastic bags, plastic wrap, aluminum foil

Tools and other essentials

Portable radio and batteries

Flashlight and batteries

Cell phone, fully charged, with charger and extra batteries

Extra set of keys

Maps

Wrench, pliers, shovel, axe, other tools

Duct tape

Plastic sheeting

Heavy-duty garbage bags

Paper, pens, pencils

Needles and thread

Signal flares

Candles and matches in a waterproof container or lighter

Fire extinguisher

Jumper cables

Work gloves

Travel alarm clock

Jackson County CWPP Updates

April 2009

GRIZZLY CREEK

Grizzly Creek CWPP update:

It was a big year for Grizzly Creek CWPP.

Received grant in April 08 for fire mitigation/tree removal.

Just shy of 50% of lot owners participated.

Work included defensible space around homes, powerlines, roads, and community shared property.

Specific work: remove dead, dying, and live trees (logging and in-kind), remove ground fuels, burn slash piles, and limb live trees.

Numbers: 1200-1500 trees removed around homes and 60 trees removed from community shared property.

CWPP Improvements: Created an Evacuation Plan, Put up street signs, and Put up address signs on homes.

Both Double XX Ranch, and Frenchman Ranch did extensive logging.

Steven M. Orange
Forester-Sale Administration
North Timber Zone
Routt National Forest
Steamboat Springs, CO
970-870-2172
sorange@fs.fed.us

Jackson County CWPP Updates

April 2009

RAINBOW LAKES

Deb Alpe:

This report is for Work in the Rainbow Lakes West Side area. The area is on private property and has about 300 acres of timber. We have been approved for a grant from NRCS and CWPP, This has helped us protect the structures and the county road #20 that goes up to Routt National Forest. We have also started to timber along the creek that runs through the center of the property, this supplies water for human and wildlife. The total of acres cleared is at least fifty. There has also been a considerable amount of blow down which has lessened the amount of standing forest. The help of Jim Mc Daniel, Mike Alpe, with family and friends has all been appreciated. We have also done some planting of Douglas Fir around the structures and then reseeding of grass where the heavy equipment disturbed the grass. Thanks to you Deb for all you have organized and your patience.

Happier Landowner,
Sheila Caldwell Ryan

RAINBOW LAKES/WESTSIDE CWPP
JACKSON COUNTY, COLORADO

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

Prepared March 9, 2009
By Janet Lux

The CWPP was formed in the fall of 2007. Co-Leaders: Deb McLachlan and Janet Lux

SUMMARY OF 2008 ACTIVITIES

In April of 2008, the CWPP received a \$22,000 grant for landowners to create defensible space, with a deadline of September 1, 2008.

In October 2008, the grant money was distributed among the following participants: Sheila Caldwell Ryan, Don and Jeanette Nagle, Dan and Gaye Bumby, Dawn Borg, Lance Shafer, Randy and Sue Basaraba, Fred and Janet Lux, Warren James, and Deb McLachlan. Two of the participants had the work done by contractors. The rest of the work was done by the Rainbow Lakes Subdivision landowners themselves. Even though most are not fulltime residents, the part-timers gave up their weekends and vacation time to do mitigation on their land and helped out their neighbors as well. They created defensible space and cleared their portions of the county road side of hazard trees.

The Bumbys hired a contractor to clear trees from their property. The logs and slash were stacked, with some of the slash being removed. They also had pheromone patches put on some surviving trees. The results of this treatment aren't known yet.

Sheila Caldwell Ryan hired a contractor to remove her dead trees and has replanted the area with douglas fir.

Landowners, Fred and Janet Lux, live on property that is adjacent to the forest boundary. They primarily worked on creating a 300 foot wide buffer zone between the forest land and their property. The logs were stacked and slash piles created but not burned. When the snowshoe hares heard of the burn plan they registered a formal complaint with the landowners.

A contractor had been hired to clear cut the 100 acres of beetle-killed pine on the Marrs property in exchange for getting the trees but no cutting was done last summer. The trees have since lost most of the needles reducing the immediate danger of a crown fire. No further information is known at this writing.

The Forest Service cleared out a large number of hazard trees in the parking area at the trailhead and left stacks of logs. Many took advantage of this free firewood.

Even after the grant deadline arrived, the chainsaws did not stop. Hazard roadside trees were cut down near the forest boundary and dead lodge pole and aspen on the Slow Rock ridge were removed.

Deb McLachlan provided the land space for landowners to pile their slash. This pile, and hopefully a few pine beetles, was burned on New Year's Eve. The area will be available again this year for slash.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS OF MITIGATION WORK BY LANDOWNERS

A common remark from everyone is about the views we now enjoy. Several of us can even see the lights of Walden and, maybe on a down note, the lights of our neighbors.

The road receives more sun and stays clearer in the winter, helping out Conrad, our snowplow driver.

We have noticed more wind moving through the new open spaces, different snow drift patterns and more wind throw among the remaining trees. The most susceptible trees have been the living subalpine firs, many with 24 inch trunks. They became Christmas trees and makeshift shelters for birds. Ironically we have noticed only 2 trees out of the dozens of blown down were lodge poles.

Despite the reports of total devastation, there are still have many living young lodge poles with some mature ones as well. Our forest is a mixture of aspen, Engelmann spruce, sub alpine fir, douglas fir, limber pine, and ponderosa pine of all ages. At this time last year, many pines started showing red needles. We have not noticed any new dead trees this year. The red trees have since dropped most of their needles. Perhaps the beetles have moved on.

GOALS FOR 2009

In the establishment of our CWPP, Jeff Benson, our fire chief, expressed great concerns about the one road access to the Rainbow Lakes subdivision, Slow Rock, and the number of dead trees along the road. In our efforts to improve these conditions, numerous trees have been cleared from the roadside. But three areas on the road still need dead trees removed: the north side of the county road in several places along its full length up the mountain, property to the east of the Nagles and the aspen grove on the lower part of the county road. If the owners of these properties need help, just ASK your neighbors. We all use this road. If these trees are close to power lines, call Mountain Parks Electric.

We hope the Forest Service will finish its trailhead work and remove the hazard trees on the road from the forest boundary to the actual parking area. Some dead lodge poles are already leaning over the road.

We're hoping that landowners that were unable to do any mitigation work last summer will try to do so this year. Again, if you need help, just ask your neighbors. Even if you have completed your defensible area mitigation, it is possible that hazard trees you left in place because they aren't near your home, may endanger your neighbor's home.

In our wind prone location, it is important to remember that a 30 mph wind can drive flames 200 feet sideways.

NEWS

We have learned that portions of the west side of Jackson County will be under analysis this summer by the U. S. Forest Service, looking at the beetle damage. Grizzly Creek, Rainbow Lakes and Buffalo Pass areas were specifically mentioned.

To view all the current Jackson County CWPPs including any updates, go to www.csfs.colostate.edu. Look under quick links.

There are several Landowner Assistance Programs available in Colorado. Visit the following websites for more information.

Colorado State Forest Service, www.csfs.colostate.edu
970-723-4298

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), www.nrcs.usda.gov
970-723-4724

Native grass seeds and other flora are available.

There are some State Legislature bills that can benefit landowners. One, House Bill 08-1110, can provide up to \$2500. See the website, www.leg.state.co.us, for more information.

From the Jackson County Star, March 5, 2009 issue REFORESTION GRANT. The North Park Conservation District (NPCD) is now taking applications from landowners in approved Jackson County CWPP areas for a matching grant to assist with reforesting lands that have been logged to remove dead trees from the pine beetle infestation.

Funding is limited and will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. To apply, contact the NPCD at 970-723-2731 or NRCS at 970-723-4724.

This report will be posted on the Colorado State Forest Service website and will be emailed to all members of this CWPP with known email addresses. If you want to be on the mailing list, let us know at lux7000@wildblue.net or spazz76@earthlink.net.

The leaders of the Rainbow Lakes/Westside CWPP want to thank everyone who provided the labor, time, equipment and other support to make this community project a success.

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Janet Lux [<mailto:lux7000@wildblue.net>]

> Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 12:15 PM

> To: Alpe,Debbie

> Subject: Rainbow Lakes/Westside CWPP 2008 Report

Jackson County CWPP Updates

April 2009

NORTH END

Good Morning Deb,

I'm so glad that it's Friday! It's getting so weird out there in the construction world, people making it a lot more difficult than it has to be.

I'm sure that you are experiencing much of the same so I'll shut up and get to my Big Creek update.

My association update was essentially a continuation of last year as we continue to deal with the same ongoing issues.

The Big Creek Cabin Owners Association continue to work collaboratively with the Forest Service. The Parks Ranger District provides us with a safe, convenient slash pile location. In addition the district is always available for constructive consultation in the means & methods used in hazard abatement.

Our situations is unique in the Big Creek area as we experienced a blow down

2 years ago which has compounded our clean- up efforts. The blow down has left a great deal of down timber on the forest floor which has contributed to the complexity of life safety.

Last year the association has thinned approximately an additional 15 acres of infected trees in their continued abatement efforts.

Our association continues to meet annually on the weekend of the 4th. of July to discuss past accomplishments & future direction of the clean-up effort.

Some of the intended goals for 2009 include a posted residence address system, an evacuation plan & map, the ongoing forest clean-up and finally another attempt for a grant application.

Deb, I think that about covers it. I'm glad that we could help so don't hesitate to ask if there is anything else that we can do. We sure appreciate all of the effort & sincerity that you all have put forth in the program and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thanks again,

Pem

Jackson County CWPP Updates

April 2009

GOULD/CONNOR CREEK

Hi Deb,

Regarding our conversation about slash piles from beetle-killed pines:

As homeowners in Jackson County with property laced with beetle-killed pines, we have been very busy the past few summers cutting down trees, piling slash for later burning, and hauling slash. Understanding the fire danger created by these beetle-killed pines, we have been very diligent in creating defensible space around our home to reduce wildfire danger.

Last year we cut down over 40 trees. The slash we created was more than we had space for, so we hauled some to the dump until we were told not to bring anymore. Then, we hauled some more to a friend's burn pile. Luckily the snow started to fly so we were able to burn our piles. Finally, we piled more slash where those had been and burned them.

As the summer of 2009 approaches, we will begin this slash disposal process again as we continue to remove beetle-killed pines.

As with many homeowners with large numbers of pine trees to log, the most difficult thing is dealing with all the residual slash. It would be very beneficial, not only for homeowners, but for Jackson County, the Colorado State Forest Service, and the U. S. Forest Service to provide a site for homeowners to dump excess slash from the beetle-killed pines for a nominal fee.

This type of slash disposal could allow for a safer forest environment for all involved. If slash were hauled to an approved site, professionals could then dispose of it in a safe manner either by burning or chipping or some other creative means. This could encourage homeowners to begin, or continue their defensible space objectives while preventing unsafe burn piles that could result in a possible wildfire situation here in Jackson County.

Additionally, if the slash is chipped it may even become a viable commercial product in the form of mulch and create a seasonal job(s) here in Jackson County. Perhaps federal stimulus funds could help to get the program started until it is able to sustain itself.

Thanks for taking time to read this and consider this issue.

Regards,

Patsy Barry and Randy Callahan

Thanks for putting the meeting together. It was very informative. I thought I would send you an update of the progress at Connor Creek. Those homeowners who have already built homes have continued to work on defensible space. On our lot, lot 7, we have removed all the dead and dying trees within the defensible space and zone 1 (42 trees removed last summer). We will continue to work on zones 2 and 3 this summer. One thing that would really help us would be a common slash pile area where we could take slash. We had 10 + slash piles of our own that we burned but with over 40 trees there was a lot more slash. We took several loads to the dump until they told us not to bring any more. I also planted 60 pine and fir seedlings and 60 aspen seedlings. We also seeded about an acre with native grass and wildflower seed.

Ned Fenwick removed over 200 trees on his lot and his brother on the adjacent lot also removed over 100 trees. Ned has created an impressive defensible space in what was once fairly dense lodgepole forest. Sam and Kathy Addoms are surrounded by aspen (no pines) but they have removed the downed trees within their defensible space and zone 1. Ebersbachers are also surrounded by aspen with no pines. The other lot owners who have no structures on their lots have done nothing. Craig Harrison is planning to have the ranch logged sometime this year. He has consulted with local logging operations to have this done. I think the plan is to fold in the lots of the absentee lot owners with this effort if the HOA can get everyone's consent.

I will bring up the signage issue again at this summer's HOA meeting. I think since Ned, Sam and I are strong supporters of the idea, we can get people interested this year.

Regards,
Patsy Barry

Gould CWPP Update for March 5, 2009

1. Gould Community Meeting 1-19-08: "Beetle-killed Trees at the Community Center: Greg [Graves, vice-president of GCA] will review our lease with the State Land Board (in effect until 2014) and will talk with Brook Lee (Colorado State Forest) about the responsibility for tree removal."
2. Application to Jackson County Re CWPP Implementation Project Grant: Greg and Brook reviewed our lease with the SLB and determined that we [GCA] are responsible for maintenance, etc. on the entire five acres. Brook suggested removing 300 trees. Our application was for # \$15,000.00 for that many trees plus slash removal.
3. April 10, 2008: GCA president Anne Graves was notified that we were awarded \$6000.00.
4. April 24, 2008: GCA 2008 Spring Newsletter: "The Gould Community has been awarded a grant of \$6000.00 from Jackson County for removal of diseased and beetle-killed trees at the Community Center this summer. WE MUST MATCH THE \$6000.00 AMOUNT! Please indicate your pledge or donation below, and mail it promptly." [pledge or donation payable to GCA for "Matching Grant" by June 30, 2008 mailed to Anne Graves]
5. July 16, 2008 e-mail to GCA recipients Re contributing labor @ \$17.75 per hour in lieu of cash for the matching grant. Several community members took advantage of this option.
6. Gould Community Meeting 8-9-08: "Matching Grant Update: Tex Swart has removed dead and beetle-infested trees adjacent to the Community Center. 'Thanks to all who helped clean up the remaining slash!' We will be credited \$17.75 per hour for those who worked. We are very close to the matching amount required (\$6000.00). Greg will get the paperwork to Jackson County by the September 1 deadline."
7. Gould Community Meeting 1-31-09: "2008 Jackson County Fire Mitigation Grant: 'Thanks to Tex Swart for clearing out diseased and dead lodgepoles around the Community Center! Thanks to everyone who donated cash and/or labor for the matching grant!' Stumps and slash piles will be disposed of when time and weather allow."

1-31-09 treasurer's report reflects a payment to Tex Swart on 12-8-08 in the amount of \$10,2340.00. The Gould Community's matching share was \$5120.00.
8. The following documents (collected at various CWPP planning meetings) are available to Gould Community members:

Jackson County Fire District Homesite & Structure Fire Hazard Rating

Defensible Space Zones

FireWise Checklist

Home Ignition Zone

Road and Driveway Drawings and Specifications For Emergency Vehicle Access, Jackson County Colorado

Individual and Family Wildfire Preparedness Plan

Wildfire Kit

9. North Park Woman's Club is selling reflective signs (blue with yellow numerals) so that homes, summer cabins, and other structures on private property can be located in emergency situations. (Jean Krause, past president NPWC, 723-4785)

10. Legislation was enacted in the Colorado Legislature in August 2008 (House Bill 08-1110) allowing landowners a deduction from their federal taxable income for fire mitigation work beginning January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2013. In brief, the bill states that an amount equal to 50% of costs not to exceed \$2500.00 per year may be deducted, landowners must own property within a WUI area and authorized by a CWPP, and that costs cannot include funds received from any grants.

Jean Krause
Gould CO
March 5, 2009

Jackson County CWPP Updates

April 2009

Rand Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update March 5, 2009

In September, 2006, the Rand Community completed a viable CWPP according to the 8 steps outlined in the CWPP Handbook. The document can be viewed on the Colorado State Forest website.

During 2008, as well as 2007, many of our objectives have been met with regard to the community fire hazard reduction priorities and recommendations. Typically, some objectives have been met with problems and frustrations.

Work Completed or in Progress and Associated Problems

1. There is large scale timber management continuing in our designated Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Due to a huge community effort, neighborhood effort, individual effort and neighbors-helping-neighbors effort, fire-wise defensible space and reduction of other fire hazards on private properties have been created.

Problems: Logging contractors have been overwhelmed with projects and requests and their prices are high forcing local land owners to cut down their own trees which is more time consuming.

2. Within this WUI there are significant slash piling sites that still need to be burned by private land owners and/or logging contractors before they become sources of fuel.

Problems: The season is short and qualified personnel are occupied.

3. Landowners are still working on improving ingress and egress routes for emergency services.

Problems: The Colorado Department of Transportation needs to address proper road right of way and hazardous fuel reduction along Highway 125 between Rand and the summit of Willow Creek Pass, specifically between mile markers 24-29.

5. Landowners are working on standardizing displayed address nomenclature for all homes and structures in the Rand Area WUI. These reflective property signs are being sold by the North Park Woman's Club to support scholarships for students.



Howd Draw Community Signage

6. A Rand Community Bulletin can be posted at the Rand Store and/or at the Rand Post Office.

Problems: A Community emergency preparedness plan has not been developed. Hopefully, residents have individual evacuation plans. Also, there still is no reverse 911 or area-wide cell phone communication in the area. We have not explored potential defensible space assistance for senior citizens.

7. We are going into the third year of our CWPP with a sense of accomplishment knowing that work still needs to be done. We continue to be hopeful for State and Government funding for special forest and fire-wise projects.

Bonnie Neighbors, Rand CWPP Committee
Don Teem
Peg Wilcox

Jackson County CWPP Updates

April 2009

WADE-TAMLIN/SPICER

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Paul and Jeanette Vohs [<mailto:pj.vohs@earthlink.net>]

>Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 9:48 AM

>To: Paul and Jeanette Vohs; Sharon Fields; Alpe,Debbie; Sue Bloss;

>addysandy@msn.com; Mike Robbins; Danny and Lucy Meyring; Steve Kniffen;

>Honnecke Marcus Jill; Phillip Grumstrup; Gaylord, Harvey Sue; Peila

>Jerry; Amy Burkholder

>Subject: fire protection meeting in Walden

>

>Happy February:

>

>You should have received an email from Deb Alpe about a Fire Management

>meeting in Walden on March 5. Are any of you planning on attending the

>meeting? Deb needs to know who the spokesperson for our area will be.

>I provide the following update information for the WT subdivision.

>Please feel free to add or subtract from the statement as follows:

>

>Update on the WT-Spicer Peak Fire Protection Plan

>

>The landowners in the Wade\Tamlin subdivision have worked diligently to

>make certain the areas immediately surrounding their homes meet the

>suggestions made by Fire Chief Benson and State Forester Brook Lee

>following their visit to each house in the subdivision. Many

>landowners have, and continue to take down dead pine trees and to

>dispose of the slash. The west subdivision road has been improved and

>hardened to handle emergency vehicles. New signs were erected on the

>west (north-south entry road) and at the intersection of the road

>leading to the houses. Signs approved by the Fire Department and sold

>by the women's club were used. Other structures are identified by

>numbers on the southeast-most gates to the subdivision.

>

>Any other suggestions? Please let me know if you are planning to

>attend the meeting and will serve as the spokesperson for the WT-

>Spicer

>Peak Fire Plan.

>

>Thanks,

>

>Paul Vohs

>

**Jackson County CWPPs
Update Meeting**

September 26, 2007

(These notes include amended WUI maps for Gould, Rand and Grizzly Creek CWPPs as well as a few more recent updates that have been added since the Sept 26 meeting.)

**Jackson County CWPP Update Meeting
September 26, 6-8 p.m. at Wattenberg Center**

Participants: (listed in order of sign-up sheet)

Bonnie Jean Neighbors	Meg Halford
Burt McGregor	Mark Loveall
Steven Orange	Sue and Harvey Gaylord
Oscar Jones	Lynn Barclay
Mark Cahur	Arnie Schlottman
Bill Wyatt	Tricia Schlottman
Jason Zayatz	Shane West
Fred and Janet Lux	Paul Baker
Don Teem	Dawn Beall
Sandy Baker	Brook Lee
Evelyn and Don Hollingshead	Jeff Benson
Pem Eberlein	Mike Wright
Paul and Jeanette Vohs	Debbie Alpe
Sheila Caldwell	Deb McLachlan

Introductions

Debbie Alpe with CSU Extension in Jackson County welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and shared where they live, which CWPP they were involved with, and also noted if they were an agency representative. She reminded the group that the CWPPs are designed to be working documents that should be updated and amended as needed to ensure they continue to be useful to the communities.

Agency Updates

BLM

Justin Kincaid: Justin is from the Kremmling Field Office. He talked about upcoming multiyear fuels projects planned for Independence Mountain that extends into Pearl. Justin also mentioned the Sheep Mountain project that largely targets wildlife benefits and fuels mitigation. Those are the two big projects planned for implementation in 2008 and 2009.

Bill Wyatt: Bill is from the Kremmling Field Office too. Bill commented that the BLM appreciated the CWPP efforts and that they use the information in the CWPPs to target identified WUIs as they prioritize projects. They have done quite a bit of timber work up in the Gould area cleaning up fuels. Bill reiterated that the Independence Mountain project is a priority. He informed the group that there is now a slurry bomber firefighting plane stationed in Kremmling that adds an aerial resource to the NW Colorado fire unit based in Craig.

Forest Service

Mark Cahur: Mark is in the Routt/MedBow office in Steamboat Springs. Mark is the Fire Management Officer in charge of suppression efforts as well as the fuels reduction programs that tie into the timber program. He provided reports for each of the WUI areas. (Additional update information since the Sept 26th meeting is in parenthesis.)

Gould

Mark reported that the Gould stewardship project is in progress and that there is now much more work planned than when the project began, which may involve some additional harvest and slash work. Regarding the Owl Mountain analysis, that project will include timber sales. The Owl Mountain project is currently in the planning phase w/ a decision forthcoming in '08, followed by sale preparation work, hopefully scheduled for next summer. Mark explained that the timber fuels and timber management programs are intertwined in that management design includes protecting WUI communities while planning forest treatments and regeneration. He mentioned Teller City, which is an historic site where a timber blow down has recently occurred. Plans are in place to horse log that area to protect the cultural resource. Mark noted that the Owl Mountain area is near the headwaters for the Michigan River, which is the watershed for the Town of Walden. Scientists do not seem to think that the extensive beetle kill will have a significant impact on the watershed, but that a fire might have a huge impact on Walden. There is a need to do more research on that topic and the FS is exploring grant possibilities toward that end.

North End

There is a Camp Creek wildlife habitat and fuels reduction project that is underway (and has since been completed this Fall '07). When the weather conditions are appropriate the FS plans to do appx.1800 acres of controlled burning. They have been pile burning in the Big Creek/Pearl fuels project area and will continue burning this fall (This also has since been completed). Mark gave an update on the previously planned fuels project in that area, which, because of rapid and extensive changed conditions, is being updated to better address current circumstances. That proposal is due to be out soon (the first week of Dec), with a decision hopefully made by Spring '08, in time for implementation to begin this summer. The Sierra Madre and Encampment work, primarily in spruce timber, is slated to begin in Summer '08 and '09. Kings Canyon area is also being considered and discussed as a project to address in the near future.

Rand

The Green Ridge project includes seven timber sales in various stages of implementation, several of which are complete. Upcoming activity includes pile burning planned in the Whiskey sale after the first snow (now completed). Roads are being built in the Haney sale, with no logging done yet. The Synder, Grassy, and Spring timber sales have recently sold. The Willow sale is not quite ready for the sale block but will likely sell during the Winter months. Finally, the Owl sale borders private land.

Grizzly Creek

The next focus will be the West Side Analysis of a desired future condition. That analysis will be all encompassing and will begin next summer with the exception of maybe some desk planning regarding the WAPA power line right of way clearing to protect power lines and create a wider fire buffer.

Forest Wide

The road hazards project is actively being addressed. Dying lodge pole trees are expected to fall down in the next 15 to 20 years. This creates a major access and public safety issue. The main forest development roads will be prioritized in this plan with hazard trees and fuel hazard trees slated for removal. The benefits will be that roadways will stay open and larger fire breaks will be created in the process. This project involves primarily lodge pole trees.

Routt County

Mark reports that three CWPPs have been completed in Routt County including Stagecoach, North Routt and The Sanctuary. The Sanctuary community secured grant dollars to do defensible space work and the USFS put together a “good neighbor agreement” and completed some fuels clearing in the forest surrounding the community.

USFS Q and A

Mark fielded questions from the audience.

- Regarding the USFS philosophy of suppressing fires in the wilderness areas, he reported that this summer a fire in the Zirkel Wilderness Area was put out immediately, the justification being to protect homes in the Big Creek area. He noted that the wildland fire use is preferred and most often used in wilderness areas, but that with the Zirkel Wilderness Area Seven Lakes fire, the Big Creek WUI danger was too risky. Fire use was the strategy regarding another fire on top of Rabbit Ears where no suppression was implemented. For each fire, all the variables must be considered.
- A community member commented that he and friends had hiked into the Rainbow Lakes area this summer and that they will not go up again because so many trees were dead and the perceived fire danger was high. This could significantly impact the tourism industry across Colorado. Mark noted that an economic analysis including those impacts is in progress (...and now completed and available from the Northern Colorado Bark Beetle Task Force).
- A Big Creek resident asked about the decision timeline regarding the new fuels reduction project in that area. Mark says that hopefully, a decision will be made Spring '08 to enable work to begin Summer '08. Budget issues are a limiting factor with moving any of the projects forward, especially high cost implementation. Fire use is the most economically feasible strategy for fuels reduction outside the WUI.
- A question was raised regarding spraying trees for beetles in the fall. District Ranger, Mike Wright answered that it may not be the best time of year but that it

can be successfully done. Teal and Hidden Lakes campgrounds are being sprayed. They had been previously sprayed, but are going back in to target the younger, smaller trees, because the beetles are moving into smaller trees than was originally expected. The Carbaryl is supposed to last two years.

- It was noted that the Owl Mountain project will help create a buffer to surrounding private property.

Colorado State Forest Service

District Forester Brook Lee gave a brief presentation thanking the community members for being proactive and encouraging them to build on their accomplishments. The State Forest has been aggressive with fuels reduction treatments. They currently have burns planned with the DOW this fall out by the sand dunes and a burn planned for Delaney Butte next year. They are actively working with private landowners and all agency partners to address defensible space issues and assist landowners in developing projects on their property.

North Park Fire and Rescue

Fire Chief Jeff Benson used the metaphor of a mirror...when the Fire Department folks help landowners understand how to do Fire Wise projects on their properties, the benefits reflect back on the Fire Department because those projects help them do a better job with fire prevention. We have a small department to cover our area and it is much appreciated when people take responsibility for helping themselves by improving their own structure defensibility. Jeff wore out his boots walking all over Jackson County subdivisions on Sunday afternoons visiting with landowners regarding defensibility assessments and providing recommendations on what projects could be accomplished to improve defensibility. Some subdivisions, like Grizzly Creek and Wade-Tamlin coordinated the visits where Jeff assessed the entire subdivision on one or two visits. Contractors and individuals have done an exceptional job completing projects and this summer an incredible amount of defensible space work was accomplished in North Park. Jeff invites landowners to give him a call to schedule an assessment. The Fire Department can help folks get started with projects and check back in from time to time to assess progress. Regarding burning slash piles, Jeff instructed everyone to call the Sheriff to let them know when they are planning to burn and to wait till adequate snow was on the ground before burning.

Jackson County Commissioners

Commissioner John Rich thanked community members and agency partners for all their efforts in completing the CWPPs in Jackson County and following through with doing defensible space projects on their properties. He is a member of the Northwest Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative and reports Jackson County's progress during each meeting. He emphasized that the commissioners support the USFS power line and road protection projects and consider that a high priority for Jackson County.

CWPP Community Updates

North End

Pem Eberlein with the Big Creek Cabin Owners Association which consists of 13 permittees who have USFS permits to lease their properties, but they own their cabins. Pem emphasized the severity of the beetle kill situation and more recently, the damage done by the blow down incident in the Big Creek area. Their association has removed 1800 total trees commercially at a cost of approximately \$60,000. The work being done by individuals and contractors is ongoing and continuing in the area. Pem thanked the USFS Parks Ranger District for the help they have provided. During creation of their CWPP, it was recognized that emergency communication was an issue because the area has no cell service, satellite telephone or OnStar communication capability. Ernie O'Toole has a 2-way radio and is hooked up to USFS communication system which could relay information to the community in an emergency situation. Residents have discussed and mapped out several alternative exit routes to be explored for feasibility. Regarding a potential evacuation, a safety zone that may serve as an initial evacuation point might be the community of Pearl.

Attendees were reminded that the most important thing to remember is to follow directions and evacuate as soon as such an order comes through. Evacuation delays could create disastrous situations.

Grizzly Creek

Steve Orange, Grizzly Creek Subdivision resident and USFS timber sale administrator with the Routt National Forest reported for his community. There are 30 lots in the Grizzly Creek Subdivision, with the biggest lot being 5-6 acres. Currently, there are 14 houses with vacant, or half-vacant landowners. Most landowners have been very active with implementing their prevention and defensible space work in the subdivision. They estimate 80-90 percent mortality of their lodge pole trees, even in trees as small as 3 inch diameter. Work is ongoing and piles are burned only during safe times with calls to the sheriff before burning taking place. The subdivision includes 70-80 acres of common ground that includes 10-11 acres down by the creek. Residents are currently taking their slash down into that area with plans to burn big slash piles during a community party this winter. They are building four big piles and plan to burn them during the same timeframe when conditions are safe. Currently, they are maxed out on space on their common ground and there is some small scale burning of slash occurring on individual lots.

There are no street signs in the community, but quite a few residents have posted house numbers up at the end of their driveways. Escape routes are a concern because there is only one main way in and out of the subdivision. Luckily, neighbors French and Randelman have given verbal access approval to go across their property in the even of a fire that required evacuation. They are looking at two extra optional exit roads, but feel that at least they've made some progress with regard to initially only having one exit option. They have a couple of residents who are burying their propane tanks. They've

done preventative spraying and have found it has not been as successful as planned because the beetle pressure is too rampant. It is disheartening for landowners who only have a few trees. They know that they must spray and continue spraying or their trees will be hit by beetles and likely killed.

Many individuals are doing their own logging, but some has been done with commercial operators. There is no other option for some people. Steve warned attendees to be aware of potential wind throw after some of the lodge pole is cut and to use extreme caution around power lines. Lodge pole trees “hold each other up” and when we do thinning, sometimes we subject the trees to higher wind throw potential.

Absentee landowners continue to be a problem and the question was raised as to how people from the other CWPP communities are dealing with that problem. Even when the majority of residents are following defensible space guidelines and removing hazard trees, when you have 2-3 acre lots dispersed in the subdivision where nothing is being done, it puts everyone else at risk. Steve emphasized that this is the number one problem that needs to be addressed. Paul Baker from Gould noted that personal contact with landowners sometimes helps because some of the absentee folks don’t realize the extent of the problem. In the Gould community, landowners have had good response to requests that absentee landowners address this problem. One thing that the Grizzly Creek subdivision has going for it is that it is a formal homeowners association with bylaws. They are considering changing their bylaws to address landowner negligence regarding fuel hazard trees. They want to be pro-active in addressing their problem. It was noted that some counties actually have laws addressing this problem. A question came up regarding whether insurance companies might offer lower premiums to landowners who’ve completed defensible space work. This has been discussed during other CWPP meetings and the general recommendation is that it may not be wise to even raise the question to insurance companies because such communication may prompt companies to do a review and decide to drop people when they recognize the extent of our problem in this area. Some people were aware of this happening to landowners.

Gould

Paul Baker from Gould reported that since Gould was one of the first communities to get organized to complete their CWPP, many people have rallied to complete defensible space work on their properties in and around the Whispering Pines neighborhood. One of their biggest accomplishments has been posting proper addresses along the streets. Paul concurred with others regarding the problem of addressing the slash. Gould is fortunate in that they “grandfathered in” so to speak with a slash piling area on the USFS property adjacent to Whispering Pines where people have piled their slash, but it was noted that this has been somewhat problematic to monitor and control. Contrary to the prior discussion, Paul commented that some people have reported that their insurance rates have gone down. Everyone in the Gould area continues to be aware of the potential for a big fire and is concerned about the condition of the surrounding forest. Paul also noted that Jean Krause is one of their active community members who have contributed a great deal to the success of the CWPP effort in Gould. Jean couldn’t attend the update meeting due to a previously planned trip.

Regarding the Gould CWPP, Deb Alpe introduced the Schlottmans from Red Feather Guide and Outfitters and reported that the Schlottmans, Ballers and Connor Creek Subdivision area residents have expressed interest in extending the Gould CWPP WUI boundary to include their properties. Justification for that expansion is primarily that they are immediately contiguous with the Gould WUI boundary with similar landscape and fuel hazard conditions. Those landowners and agency partners present agreed that it seemed appropriate to make this change rather than to create yet another CWPP to address that small area in and around Connor Creek. Adjustments to the WUI boundary will be made on the map.

In addition, Deb Alpe shared discussion that had taken place between several agency partners and landowners regarding the logic of expanding WUI boundaries of most CWPPs to match the Jackson County boundary lines. It was decided that this too, would be a reasonable adjustment to make to the WUI boundaries. Deb will meet with Curran Trick in the Jackson County GIS office to adjust the maps. (Please refer to amended WUI maps attached at the end of these notes.)

Wade-Tamlin/Spicer Peak

Paul Vohs, a resident of the Wade-Tamlin subdivision has spearheaded getting the Wade-Tamlin/Spicer Peak area CWPP in progress. A large group of area residents and agency partners met August 29th at the Coalmont School to complete the CWPP risk assessment and prioritize needed action and projects. With assistance from agency partners, a draft CWPP was written by Paul and distributed to landowners for review and comment. Paul commented that some landowners in their area have already accomplished a great deal of fuel hazard reduction including 700 trees removed from the Gaylord property. (Since the Update meeting, this CWPP has been reviewed, amended and officially filed with the Colorado State Forest Service.)

West Side/Rainbow Lakes

Janet Lux, Rainbow Lakes subdivision resident provided an update about the efforts to complete the West Side/Rainbow Lakes CWPP. Two meetings have been held with area landowners, July 27 and August 24, and resident Deb McLachlan took on the task of putting a draft of the CWPP together. A copy of the CWPP was posted on the Colorado State Forest Service website for review and comment. Janet emphasized that one of the reasons for getting the CWPP effort going was to generate awareness and action regarding the serious fuel hazard problem in their area forests. Janet reports that hundreds of trees have been cut this summer by a number of residents and that much work remains to be done. She concurred with others regarding the problem with absentee landowners, but emphasized that through community efforts, nearly everyone in the Rainbow Lakes area is working to address fuel hazard reduction. (Since the Update meeting, this CWPP has been reviewed, amended and officially filed with the Colorado State Forest Service.)

Rand

Resident, Bonnie Neighbors shared the report attached as follows with the group.

Rand Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update September 26, 2007

In September, 2006, the Rand Community completed a viable CWPP according to the 8 steps outlined in the CWPP Handbook.

During this past year, many of our objectives have been met with regard to the community fire hazard reduction priorities and recommendations. Typically, some objectives have been met with problems and frustrations.

Work Completed or in Progress and Associated Problems

1. There is large scale timber management in progress in our designated Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). There is a huge community effort, neighborhood effort, individual effort and neighbors-helping-neighbors effort to create fire-wise defensible space and reduce other fire hazards on personal property.

Problems and lessons learned: Logging contractors are overwhelmed with projects and requests and their prices are high. There is job security at this time. Loggers sometimes leave trees felled without cleanup. The season is short.

2. Within this WUI there are many slash piling sites to temporarily handle slash produced as a result of defensible space project.

Problems and lessons learned: Need to be educated on how to handle slash properly.

3. Landowners are working on improving ingress and egress routes for emergency services.

Problems: We need to request proper road right of way of hazardous fuel reduction along Highway 125 from the Colorado Department of Transportation.

4. Mountain Parks Electric has been in Rand area past couple of months clearing under power lines.

Problems: The contracted project started out with trees being felled, de-limbed, cut and stacked. Now, since the project is overwhelming, trees are just being felled and left as is. On a positive note, however, Adam Asplund from the Asplund Tree company contracted by MPE, is recently contacting landowners regarding returning to clean up, cut and stack felled trees. They are most apologetic and, even though they won't chip the trees, they will do whatever the landowners ask in terms of clean up.

5. Landowners are working on standardizing displayed address nomenclature for all homes and structures in the Rand Area WUI. These reflective property signs are being sold by the North Park Woman's Club to support scholarships for students.

Problems: Where to get these signs? Call Jean Krause, President of NPWC at 723-4785; Bonnie Neighbors at 723-4935; order forms at Rand Store; other location in Walden.

6. The Rand Community Bulletin Board has frequently been posted at the Rand Store and Rand Post Office.

Problems: There has not been a development of a Community emergency preparedness plan. Hopefully, residents have individual evacuation plans. Also, there still is no reverse 911 or cell phone communication in the area. We have not explored potential defensible space assistance for senior citizens.

Recommended Changes to the Rand vicinity Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). There has been discussion to increase the size of the WUI to include landowners on the other side of Owl Mountain on the Rand to Gould cutoff who were not included in either the Rand or Gould CWPP-WUI Plans. In addition, Rand agreed with the suggestion to expand the WUI to match the Jackson County boundary. (Please refer to amended WUI maps attached at the end of these notes.)

Additional Information and Comments

Lynn Barclay with the BLM has assisted with the initiation and completion of Jackson County CWPPs. Lynn emphasized that the intent around the CWPPs is that communities would reconvene at intervals to review progress and recommend updates to the plans. She commended the efforts of all participants in the Jackson County CWPP effort and noted that we are one of a few Colorado counties to have successfully engaged in the CWPP process. She is impressed with the commitment of all involved and recognized the great deal of community building that has taken place in the Jackson County effort. Fighting wildland fires begins in your back yards and the exchange of ideas like we have done during this update meeting is valuable in that effort. Lynn shared some resources; a Texas newsletter regarding the value of CWPPs, the website resource, www.rockymountainwildlandfire.info, and gave the group the names and email addresses of a couple of Stagecoach residents who went for a CWPP related grant to acquire a chipper to share among residents to assist in dealing with the volume of slash product. They are Chris Zuschlag, zusch@zirkel.us and Ken Burgess, kenburgess@earthlink.net.

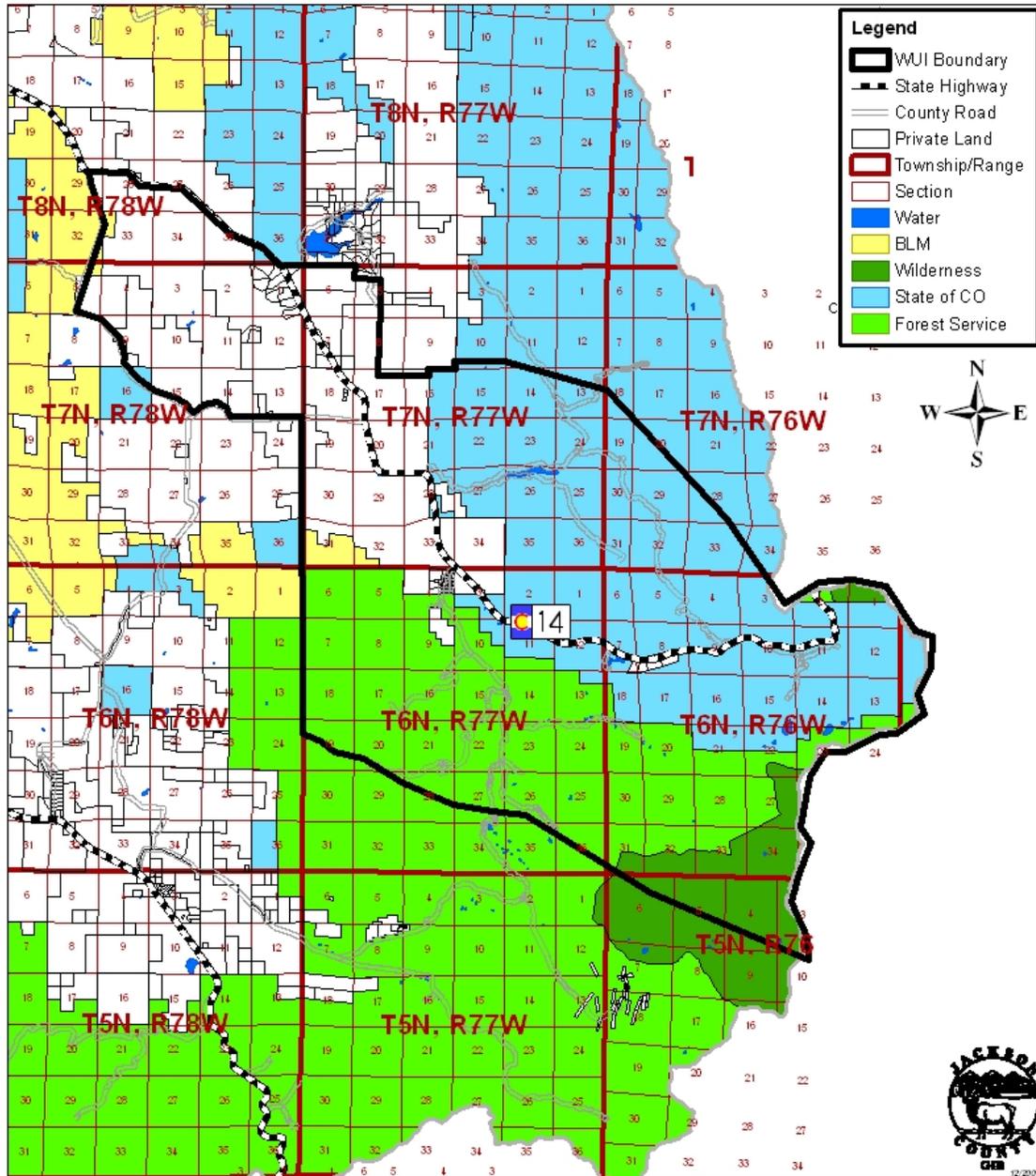
Regarding possible defensible space grants for CWPP communities and residents, Deb Alpe reported that Jackson County was successful in securing and implementing one quick turn around grant this summer and is hoping to have more grant assistance in the future. Deb McLachlan submitted a proposal from an announcement she found on the Colorado State Forest Service website at www.csfs.colostate.edu.

Finally, participants agreed that an annual CWPP update meeting in Sept of each year would be a good strategy to follow to keep the CWPP efforts active and progressing. Individual communities are encouraged to include CWPP discussions in their meetings as well.

Meeting ended at 8 pm.

Note: Amended WUI maps are attached in the following pages.

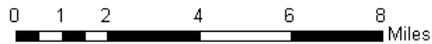
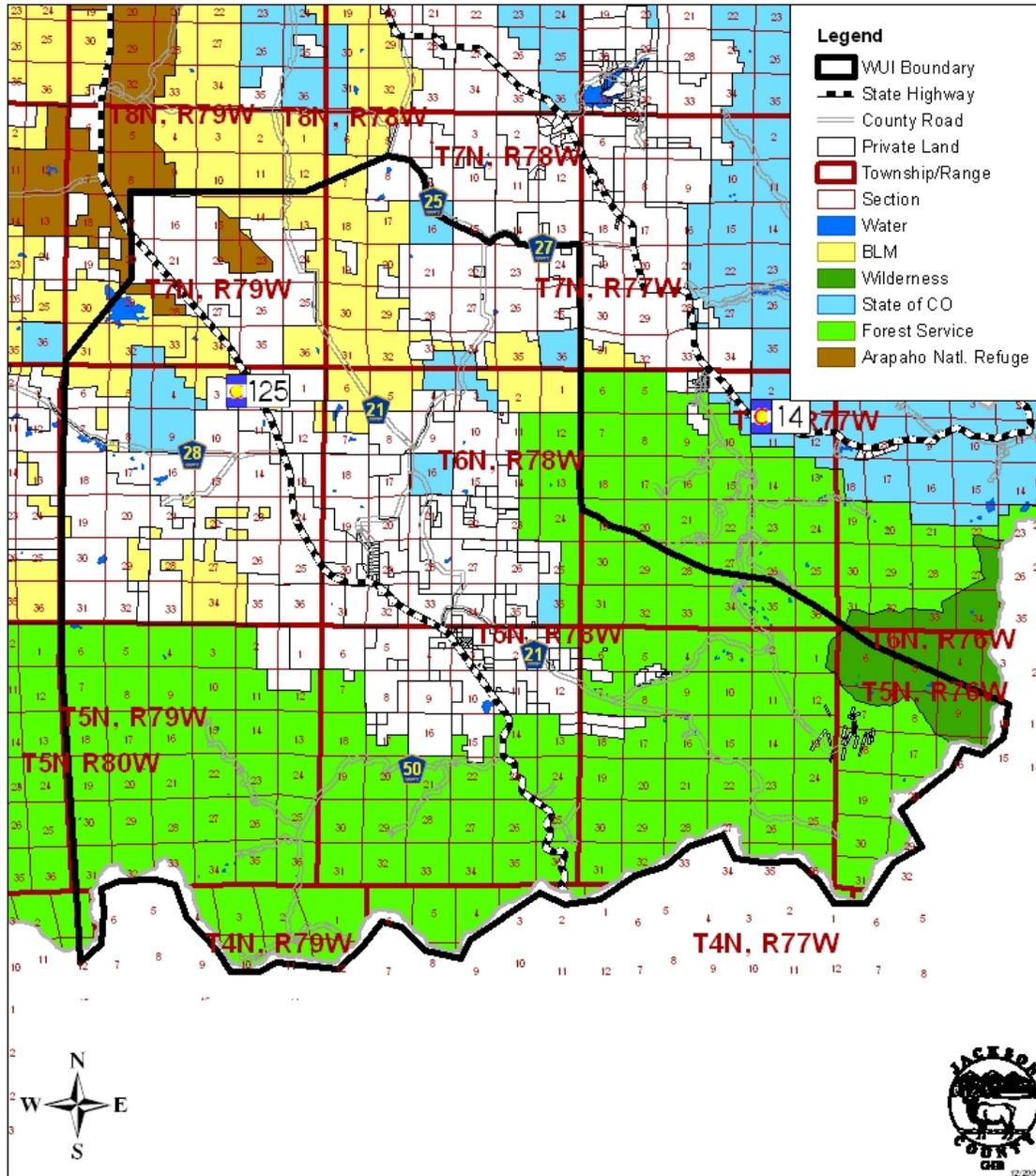
Gould/Connor Creek CWPP



0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

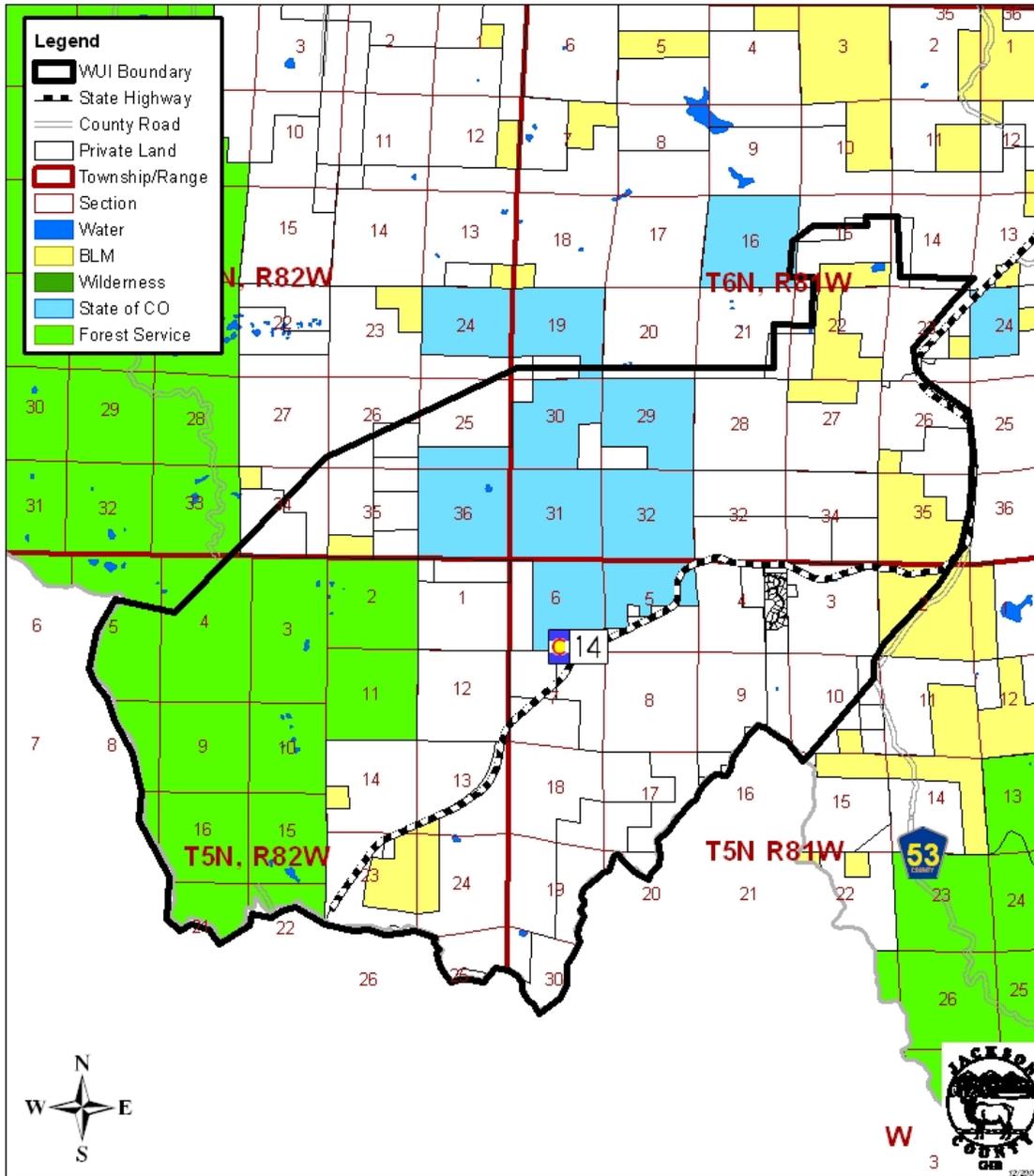
The GIS data used in this map has been developed using the best available data. The user assumes all responsibility for the accuracy of the data. The user also assumes all responsibility for the use of the data. The user also assumes all responsibility for the use of the data.

Rand CWPP



The GIS data used in this map has been developed and is based on the best available data. The County GIS staff has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the data. However, the County GIS staff is not responsible for any errors or omissions that may appear in this map. The County GIS staff is not responsible for any errors or omissions that may appear in this map.

Grizzly Creek CWPP



The GIS data used in this map has been developed by the Jackson County GIS Office. All data is the property of Jackson County. The Jackson County GIS Office is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this map. The Jackson County GIS Office is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this map. The Jackson County GIS Office is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this map.