



Jefferson County Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force

AGENDA

June 18, 2020 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

WebEx Events Virtual Meeting

Meeting goals:

- Overview of working groups' priorities and next steps
- Updates on timely fire-related issues
- Continue work on community education, revenue streams, and mitigation

2:00 p.m. Welcome and agenda overview – *Jeffco Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper, chair*

- Where we are now and a look ahead
- Timeline moving forward

2:05 p.m. Public Comment

2:10 p.m. Update: Priorities and Next Steps for Working Groups – *Co-Chairs*

- Susan Eagle, Community Education
- Garrett Stephens, Mitigation
- Jacob Ware, Revenue Streams

2:25 p.m. Roundtable Updates

- Fire Restrictions (Ray Fleer & Aaron Betcher, Jeffco Emer Mngt)
- COVID-19-related items (Fire Chiefs)
- Slash Program (Tom Hoby, Jeffco Open Space)
- CO Fire Commission, Colorado Concern & Congressman Neguse Bill (Dahlkemper)

2:40 p.m. Transition to Working Groups

Note: Task Force members will need exit and connect via separate invite

3:30 p.m. Adjourn

Handouts for today's meeting:

- Working Groups Notes: February meeting

Thank you!

NEXT MEETING: *Thursday, July 16, 2020 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.*

Jeffco Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force: Final Report Guide Notes: *Community Education* to support Mitigation

Inventory

- JeffCo CWPPs available on JeffCo Sheriff's site
- JeffCo Extension presentation info (under Open Space)
 - Web and Live presentations both available
 - Fact sheets available
 - Templated presentations

- Firewise Program and materials
- JeffCo slash program communications
- JeffCo Building Codes

Gaps

- CWPP gaps
 - Dated information (2006-2008)
 - Mitigation standards inconsistent with 2020 information
 - Passive information that most residents would not know existed, where to find it or what to do with it if it was updated
- Firewise gaps
 - Low requirements for mitigation
 - Inconsistent with CWPP
 - Slash program reduction impacts firewise designation
- Gaps
 - Funding
- Gaps
 - only communicated with new builds-nothing for existing builds with new permits

Jeffco Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force: Final Report Guide Notes: *Community Education* to support Mitigation

- Building Code Gaps (con't)
 - mitigated for build and approval process, but vegetation planted after finals
 - Fire Dept WUI code different than JeffCo bldg. codes
- Wildfire Home Assessment (2 hour) being developed by Elk Creek/Evg Fire/InnerCanyon for homeowners
- Gaps
 - in development currently
 - man hours available
 - will there be a charge?
- Data available from the Upper Platte Partnership – USPP risk assessment
- Gap
 - Understanding scale of risk
- Co State Forest Service
- Gap
- Jefferson County Conservation Dist
- Gap
- Events for Community Education:
 - Foothills Home & Garden Show
 - Community Wildfire Preparedness Day(Evg)
 - National Night Out (Aug annually)
- Gaps
 - Central Calendar for all mountain communities
- CWPIPs
- Gaps
 - Some in process with CWPP updating
 - Not consistent adaptation across county
 - Variable information per contract

Jeffco Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force: Final Report Guide Notes: *Community Education* to support Mitigation

Rec* (3-5)
*Recommendations

Cost

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Notes from 2/20/20 Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force Meeting: Mitigation

The mitigation working group began by talking through some of Garrett’s notes about the purpose and focus of the group, as well as the working definition of “mitigation”. We emphasized the 2-3 categories of mitigation from Garrett’s notes, and thought that roadside fuelbreaks could be lumped into the “forest management” category resulting in two categories: defensible space and forest management.

We focused the remained of the time on inventory (what is already happening within the County) and gaps related to each current action identified in the inventory discussion. I went around the group, giving each person a chance to weigh in on current actions from their perspective. We then went around the group again to have each person weigh in on gaps. We did not seek to arrive at recommendations, nor did we attempt to put cost estimates together for each recommendation (topic for future meetings).

Because “mitigation” is such a wide-ranging topic, there was an extensive list of current actions identified during the discussion. I’ve summarized each below in a table, along with the gaps identified for each action. There are also parking lot issues at the end that are missing either the current action or gap.

On the ground treatments

Inventory / Current Actions	Gaps
County-wide slash program	Budget shortfall, not enough sites and/or no mobile slash disposal options. Constraints also with getting rid of chips/biomass. Also could be more incentive for landowners to participate.
P & Z / County-level regulations and ordinances related to development in WUI, wildfire mitigation, etc. Also various policies, plans being prioritized.	Ensuring regulations, ordinances, etc. are stringent enough for new construction. WUI code needs to be revisited and assessed to determine if comprehensive enough, enforceable, etc. Consideration of what to do about older construction that is not up to code. Challenges with maintenance of treatments over time after initial treatments – how fund/enforce? Additional challenges specifically with short-term rentals. Another gap is enforcement of existing regulations, ordinances, etc. – many people do not follow them. Some other existing plans and policies also need to be updated. Also, need analysis of where future development can happen in the County.
Emergency Management’s Hazard Mitigation Plan: 5-year update underway, a year-long effort. Should overlap with Wildfire Risk Reduction Task	Need community participation when Hazard Mitigation Plan update conversations start.

Force. Also interest in collaborating with JCOS and FPDs in terms of sharing mitigation equipment.	For potential shared equipment, who maintains? Stores? Liability? Etc.
From perspective of City of Golden, there is a 5-department WUI strike team (between mountains and I-25) that is coordinated, but focuses more on response than mitigation.	# of firefighters, and challenges with keeping prescribed fire certifications with no opportunities to work on prescribed fires in the area.
Right-of-way maintenance by utilities (XCEL, IREA)	Not keeping up with pace of needed ROW treatments. Even in areas where ROW treatments are being implemented in a timely manner, still cannot control conditions on other people's property (public/private, private/private, public/public).
From perspective of insurance: defensible space and growing requirement for customers to engage in d-space conversations to get quote for insurance. New seminars are being provided to engage residents, realtors, and other stakeholders. Trying to get citizens "activated by other citizens", including generating more CWPIP volunteers.	Need to get more people engaged in d-space and insurance discussion.
From perspective of engaging lawmakers: Michelle working with State Rep. Cutter to get mitigation/education funding.	Limits of existing statues; also, how to get state-wide bills to apply specifically to Jeffco
Exploration of strategic partnerships (e.g., Jeffco Economic Development) to explore biomass utilization/disposal options/solutions.	Coordination and long-term forecasting; need for centralized facilities. Market limitations.
Prescribed fire: pile burning common.	Broadcast burning almost nonexistent on non-federal lands. Also issues with keeping prescribed fire certifications for FPDs (see above).
Individual CWPIPs/CWPPs in place and starting to be updated.	Not every community covered by CWPP or has coordinated CWPIP. Implementation of existing CWPPs not being tracked consistently. Many CWPPs need to be updated.
FPDs do voluntary d-space inspections when staff are available.	FPD and CSFS staffing limitations constrain inspections.
On-the-ground treatments (see Garrett's notes). Variety of different types and locations of treatments. Some remove fuel, some just rearrange it. Some treatments are patchwork,	Not sure how many acres are being treated across the County each year. Public will want to know. Could also be helpful for grants. How many

others are coordinated across ownership boundaries.	acres need to be treated across the County, and where, to make a real difference?
From JCOS's perspective, updating 1989 Forest Management Plan and accelerating pace of new treatments as well as re-treatment of previously treated areas.	Treatment acceleration significantly limited by staff (JCOS has one full time forester) and older equipment. Many JCOS projects are smaller and more strategic, intended to also protect sensitive habitat and species.
Chipping programs run by FPD	Staff, funding, and residents must choose to participate.
	Parking lot: industry engagement is a gap
Parking lot: mention was made of FPD fire modules that the work that is beginning in some areas. We did not get to a specific discussion of gaps related to FPD fire modules.	

Jeffco Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force: Final Report Guide Notes: *Revenue Streams*

Inventory

- IREA & Excel- do these utilities have any sort of mitigation programs? Should they be at the table?
- Denver Water- Funding mitigation projects through USPP. The goal is to limit the size and the scale of the fire by mitigation in pre identified watershed zones of concern.
- Individual Efforts Public Service- Fire Protection Districts various levels of involvement and work being performed. How is it funded and what is the stream?
- Private Sector- HOA's, insurance groups, realtor groups- Funded through private means/ grants Insurance Fees? Legislature is looking into it for funding
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Gaps

- The largest identified gap is the lack of knowledge of what other groups and individuals are doing. No real “parking lot” or common database for mitigation efforts and funding mechanisms
- Funding is tied to very specific projects with parameters that can be hard to meet. Land ownership, etc.
- Funding streams are also complicated because many of them involve capacity that is hard to complete without startup capital.
- General Consensus is mitigation is expensive and there is not much money around for efforts.

Jeffco Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force:
Final Report Guide Notes: ***Revenue Streams***

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Jeffco Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force: Final Report Guide Notes: *Revenue Streams*

Rec* (3-5)
*Recommendations

Cost

