



Jefferson County Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force (“JWRRTF”)

AGENDA

March 18, 2021 from 2:00 – 3:30pm

WebEx Virtual Meeting

Meeting goals:

- Provide input on federal wildfire policy during discussion with Congressman Neguse.
- Discuss progress related to task force’s recommendations & future task force meetings.
- Share legislative update on wildfire-related bills and gauge interest in advocacy.

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

2:05 p.m. **A Look at 2021 Federal Wildfire Legislation** – *Congressman Joe Neguse*

- Questions & answers with task force members
- JWRRTF members share ideas re: federal wildfire policy; priorities; needs, etc.

2:30 p.m. **JWRRTF Recs/Staff Input** – *Task Force members*

- Update from county staff on progress on recommendations & input from task force members; identify how next steps inform future task force meetings.

3:10 p.m. **Legislative Update/Advocacy: Wildfire bills** – *Commissioner Dahlkemper and Chief of Staff Deborah Churchill*

3:15 p.m. **Slash Program** - *Tom Hoby, Parks & Open Space Director*

3:25 p.m. **Public Comment**

3:27 p.m. **Next Steps** – *Commissioner Dahlkemper*

3:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Handouts for today’s meeting:

- *Draft Recommendations Action Plan*
- *Draft 2021 Meeting Agenda Topics*
- *Bill copies (as needed/available)*

NEXT MEETING: April 15, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

To join, click <https://jeffco.webex.com/jeffco/onstage/j.php?MTID=e341da4283914363a7ea32972ae0bf0bf>

To receive a call back, provide your phone number when you join the event, or call the number below and enter the access code.

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Jeffco Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force

Recommendations: Draft Action Plan

(3/15/21)

RECOMMENDATIONS	NEXT STEPS/NOTES (staff, co-chairs & task force ¹)	TIMELINE	WHO
<p>MITIGATION</p>			<p>Garret (co-chair) & Mitigation Committee</p>
<p>Create a county-wide clearinghouse for past, present and future mitigation efforts drawing on Geographic Information Systems data – or mapping – provided by partner agencies to build collective knowledge, prioritize mitigation efforts and enhance collaboration regarding public and private land mitigation efforts. (1)</p>	<p><i>Could this be part of the proposed website? See existing websites that combine both. Examples: 1) CALFIRE 2) www.TahoeLivingwithFire.com</i></p> <p><u>STAFF COMMENTS:</u> TOM: CO State Forest Service and Forest Stewards Guild are developing a forest health plan, which will id mitigation needs and how to be strategic with adjoining lands. GIS data will be part of this effort, including Jeffco data.</p> <p>Several Jeffco partners have GIS folks on our teams and Jeffco is accumulating a good data set. We want to look at the WUI and be strategic about highest impact mitigation; then id, map, and catalog what’s been done.</p>	<p>The work on the forest health plan will wrap up in the next 60 days and then revisit next steps for Jeffco.</p> <p><u>CO-CHAIRS’ COMMENTS:</u> CHIEF WARE: A lot of folks are working on their CWPPs right now and it may be worth reaching out to the fire rescue agencies for that GIS data, esp. if gaps exist. The Forest Steward Guild is housing it all – and could we could sign waver so we can all access the data for our needs?</p> <p>GARRETT: To build on this rec, Jeffco would create or administer this GIS tool. It could use data but Jeffco needs to house it in such a way as the Tahoe website example so it’s</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Hoby & Steve Murdock, JCOS • Kevin Michalak, Fire Management Officer, Jeffco Emergency Mgt Team • CO Forest Restoration Institute & CO Forest Service (invite to speak to task force about this effort)

¹ Task force input to be added to this chart after 3/18/21 meeting

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	<p>Would need general revenue funds to stand this up.</p> <p>STEVE: We'll get a set of countywide data from the work.</p> <p>CHRIS: Don't forget about private efforts in addition to public. Every subdivision has a wildfire mitigation plan and explains how it will be implemented.</p> <p>HAL: We want to be involved in all GIS efforts and include new Fire Management Officer.</p>	<p>user-friendly. The State Forest Service has a tool that serves a different function than what we're envisioning and the Guild is developing a one-time forest plan, but I don't think they will update it as we envision for this rec...but we can find out for sure. Not certain if those efforts would meet the task force goal... ours would be a live tool and constantly changing and being updated. People will add new data that partners will download to further help inform their efforts.</p>	
<p><i>Advocate at the county, state and federal level for increased pace, scale and funding of mitigation</i> on public and private land in Jefferson County. Jefferson County can coordinate and convene partner agencies and organizations through the task force to support state and federal legislation surrounding forest and wildfire policy. (2)</p>	<p>LESLEY: This work is now underway w/ updates to the task force in Jan. from Mike Morgan on the 2021 legislative session and in March from Cong. Neguse on federal legislative efforts. We'll continue to track and report wildfire bills to the task force during the legislative session. I also serve on the CO Fire Commission's legislative committee; we look at all wildfire bills with laser-focus</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deb & Lesley (standing agenda item?) • Hal (keep us in the loop and help ensure our efforts are collaborative w/ Hazard Mitigation planning committee)

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	<p>on CFC recs (e.g., mutual aid, etc.)</p> <p>HAL: We'll also be focused on advocacy efforts through the Hazard Mitigation Plan and its planning committee. We'll do federal advocacy too. It will be good to synch up our efforts with the task force.</p>		
<p>Address in 2021 the bottleneck surrounding biomass utilization and forest industry shortages. This may be done under a current or additional subgroup. Additional considerations may include economic incentives. (3)</p>	<p><i>The mitigation committee can tackle this with the help of other subject matter experts.</i></p> <p>TOM: We have created the natural resources function in Jeffco Parks to look at a multi-pronged approach in dealing with these materials in the context of the carbon footprint and more.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garrett, co-chair, Mitigation • Mitigation Committee • Tom, JCOS
<p>Strengthen county regulations and enforcement on defensible space that build upon efforts over the last two years by Jefferson County Planning and Zoning. Track the impact of regulation and enforcement on the creation of defensible space and implementation of wildfire mitigation plans. (4)</p>	<p>JEANIE, CHRIS, RUSS: P&Z is updating regs with Russ's team taking the lead. P&Z is proposing that the county requires a defensible space permit for all new structures in the WUI.</p> <p>Other related efforts include updates regarding evacuation</p>	<p>3-4 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russ Clark, Jeffco Planning & Zoning (w/ Jeanie and Chris)

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	<p>planning that would create criteria when evac plan needs to be submitted with rezoning and what plan has to include.</p>		
<p><i>Encourage the county to more proactively promote and collaborate with fire protection districts implementing defensible space home assessment certification programs to grow these programs county-wide.</i> Evergreen and Elk Creek Fire Districts are implementing home assessment programs, similar to that of Boulder and Summit Counties. County leadership’s engagement is needed to support and grow these programs to reach the entire county. (5)</p>	<p>CHRIS: This rec falls outside of the county’s regulations, but it’s an important educational program. We could also consider attaching this rec to a house when you put it on the market. We could tie this to building permits. Seems like a promotional kind program that has to grow its own wheels. P&Z doesn’t have the capacity at this time.</p> <p>TOM: Fire dists and private sector insurance agencies – a potential collaboration? We can promote these programs on Terra Source. This would be part of the BRIC capacity building grant. Garrett agrees re: Tom’s point about BRIC grant/capacity.</p> <p>DEB: We can create a regular placeholder in Engage Jeffco for this and other wildfire issues.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	

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<p>COMMUNITY EDUCATION</p>			<p>Susan (co-chair) & Community Education Committee</p>
<p>Create, brand, maintain and promote a one-stop web page on reducing wildfire risk in Jefferson County that focuses largely on wildfire mitigation and emergency preparedness. (1)</p>	<p><i>See reference above to mitigation projects and GIS mapping.</i></p> <p>TOM: I'm worried about fragmentation – we have 111 different resources for landowners on land use; we don't claim Terra Source is perfect. But we want it to be the one stop shop for landowners – we have a better chance of them spreading the word if we collaborate on this and would love to talk further with the Community Education Committee about concerns; areas of improvement; incorporating additional wildfire content; etc.</p>	<p>2-3 months*</p> <p>*to further explore needs id'd by committee; other exemplar websites like CALFIRE or TAHOE; begin to add components; resources a concern</p> <p>SUSAN: We need to make sure we create a marketing plan to promote. That is the big piece! Who will take on that effort? There's a lack of public awareness about Terra Source – how do we boost awareness? 1) Develop a comms plan/marketing plan to link different resources and simply 2) Identify what addnl content we need above and beyond what terra Source offers on wildfire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Hoby, JCOS (Lily is the point person for Terra Source.) • Community Education Committee • Lesley* • Deb* <p>*BCC coordinates and hosts meeting</p>
<p>Create a communication calendar for the dissemination of proactive mitigation content targeted at specific audiences for distribution throughout the year. (2)</p>	<p>LESLEY: Excellent opportunity to engage the task force on a regular basis to create a year-round comms calendar of proactive mitigation content to reduce wildfire risk. I</p>	<p>Next 2-3 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JWRRTF informs calendar content (standing agenda item?)

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	<p>envision us building it into the meeting agenda as a regular item: 1) in-depth work upfront to flesh out the calendar; 2) disseminate short monthly blurbs to task force members to share with their networks via their communications tools as well as including blurbs in the wildfire placeholder spot in Engage Jeffco. Measure results and adjust as needed.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCC Office to draft and disseminate short blurbs; keep calendar updated throughout the year with task forces' help.
REVENUE STREAMS			Chief Ware (co-chair) and Revenue Streams Committee
<p><i>Define what the wildland-urban interface is</i> in Jefferson County and a provide a physical description of where it is based on current science and fire behavior to create clear boundaries for mitigation and forest restoration efforts. (1)</p>	<p>JEANIE: We've started work to look at wildfire hazard overlay vs. WUI – that's a critical step and it could lead to some major changes, esp. on this side of the Hogback. Subject matter experts will look at those boundaries. If it proves to be more complicated in terms of how we define the WUI, we may need to pull that part out separately and the timeline may change.</p>	Next 3-5 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russ Clark, P&Z

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<p>Update the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) at the county level to address and prioritize risk areas and guide development and growth in those areas of the county. This effort can also help complement the county’s Comprehensive Master Plan, which guides development and growth. This work should include coordinating local fire protection districts’ CWPPs. (2)</p>	<p>HAL: We’re working on updating the CWPP; reviewing the current version, looking at what needs to be updated, and will work closely with fire chiefs and other stakeholder groups.</p>	<p>Goal is to have operational drafts of the updated CWPP early next year.</p> <p>(EMT is now updating the county’s Hazard Mitigation Plan and it has a few other priorities next in queue.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hal Grieb, Jeffco Emergency Mgt. Team
<p>Hire a full-time grant writer to research and write grants as well as have grant projects developed ahead of time using county expertise (e.g., Planning & Zoning, fire districts, etc.). In addition, explore the feasibility of applying for FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities or BRIC grant, which could generate up to \$50 million in funding. Larger grants require a lot of administrative work and bandwidth to successfully complete. (3)</p>	<p>TOM: If we could create a Jeffco Wildfire Mitigation Scorecard that tracks the recs and monitors and reports progress -- what’s been accomplished; what’s ahead – it would be a great comms tool for us (inc. for grant writing). JCOS has a person who does grants – JCSO too.</p> <p>DEB: I believe there is a county-wide group – a grant working group – with several individuals from different departments.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deb Churchill, Jeffco Board of County Commissioners Office

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<p>Research tax options for sustainable funding for mitigation (e.g., Summit and Chafee Counties) and whether a tax increase or new tax would be countywide or only in the WUI to support wildfire risk reduction. Tax options could include one or more of the following, such as a mill levy increase, sales tax, visitors' impact tax, etc. (4)</p>	<p>TOM: New bill related to the creation of special districts could help here. (BRIC grant)</p> <p>LESLEY: Rep. Cutter hazard mitigation bill could help draw down additional FEMA dollars. Cong. Neguse is also asking about infrastructure/resiliency needs at the county level; shovel-ready projects (e.g., conservation corps). Can also see this as part of a future 1A initiative. CO Fire Commission is also looking at significant updates to the Emergency Fire Fund.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeffco Board of County Commissioners
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Jeffco Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force
Draft Meeting Agenda for 2021
(3/15/21)

MONTH	TOPIC/S	SPEAKERS	NEXT STEPS/NOTES
March <i>(federal wildfire legislation & advocacy; moving recs forward)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal wildfire legislation & task force input Next steps on JWRRTF recs/staff input; gather feedback from task force Legislative updates on wildfire bills Events, roundtables on wildfire issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congressman Joe Neguse Select staff (e.g., Jeanie, Chris, Russ, Tom, Hal, etc.) Lesley, Deb Deb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Les to note Mitigation Comt's role re: biomass rec Placeholder – Jeffco wildfire mitigation scorecard Deb & Les to track wildfire legislation for any updates Track events, roundtables
April <i>(a deeper dive on recs; input from task force)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of forest health plan and what it may mean for GIS mapping tools & prioritizing mitigation efforts in Jeffco Defining the WUI in Jeffco Strengthen county regulations and enforcement on defensible space Legislative updates on wildfire bills Events, roundtables on wildfire issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom Hoby, Jeffco Open Space; CO Forest Restoration Institute; CO Forest Service Jeanie, Chris and Russ Jeanie, Chris and Russ Lesley, Deb Deb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deb & Les to track wildfire legislation for any updates Placeholder – possible task force survey re: recs after staff outlines what's doable; role of task force/committees; role of commission moving forward in 2021. Prep materials for Wildfire Commission conversation in May
May <i>(transition to Wildfire Commission; deeper dive on year-round calendar rec; a look</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input from task force on transition to Wildfire Commission in the fall Create a year-round communication calendar for the dissemination of proactive mitigation content (<i>Engage</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task force members Task force members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesley shares input w/ BCC post-meeting; BCC direction; Deb makes changes to website, application, membership, meeting times, etc.

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<p><i>at other county efforts)</i></p>	<p><i>Jeffco, Civic Alert – Notify Me, send through Task Force listserve – members and invited guests)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placeholder: Update on other wildfire risk reduction efforts the county is working on of interest to task force Legislative updates on wildfire bills Events, roundtables on wildfire issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD Lesley, Deb Deb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a template year-round calendar prior to brainstorming exercise; note dissemination of blurbs to task force’s networks and in Engage Jeffco; measure use of blurbs; refine further as needed Deb & Les to track wildfire legislation for any updates
<p>June <i>(a deeper dive on some of the recs)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a county-wide clearinghouse for past, present and future mitigation efforts – what would it take? (post Forest Service planning) Address in 2021 the bottleneck surrounding biomass utilization and forest industry shortages 2021 legislative session wrap up (targeted date: June 16 but could be before Memorial Day weekend) Note that applications open July 1 to Wildfire Commission Determine application review group (e.g., co-chairs and other members of task force who may wish to join). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom Hoby, JCOS; Susan Eagle, Community Education Team Tom, Garrett, and outside speaker Lesley, Deb Deb Deb, Lesley w/ task force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that JCOS and Community Education team will have met prior to task force discussion; bring ideas to task force Deb & Les to track wildfire legislation for any updates

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and add any updates to communications calendar • Events, roundtables on wildfire issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task force • Deb 	
July (off) (Wildfire Commission applications due)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that applications close July 31 to Wildfire Commission 		
August <i>(a deeper dive on some of the recs; review of applications by smaller review group; updates)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placeholder for additional deeper dive and/or measurement of progress against task force recs. • Application review group reviews applications and provides recommendations to Deb • Add any updates to communications calendar & measure use of blurbs, etc. • Events, roundtables on wildfire issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD • Lesley, Deb, review team • Task force • Deb 	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that BCC will select and approve candidates for the Jeffco Wildfire Commission to start Jan. 2022 • Placeholder for additional deeper dive on task force recs. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclude task force’s work with a celebration; note progress. 		
October	<i>Floater, if needed</i>		
November	<i>Floater, if needed</i>		
December (off)			

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