



COLORADO BARK BEETLE COOPERATIVE
Draft Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
10AM – 2PM Friday, July 19, 2013
Colorado Mtn. College
107 Denison Placer Rd., Breckenridge, CO

List of Attendees:

Sloan	Shoemaker	Wilderness Workshop	sloan@wildernessworkshop.org
Tony	Cheng	CFRI	tony.cheng@colostate.edu
Don	Kennedy	Denver Water	don.kennedy@denverwater.org
Abbie	Cobb	NWCCOG	acobbcbbc@gmail.com
Sally	Edwards	Xcel energy	sally@montanasky.net
Jan	Burke	USFS	jburke@fs.fed.us
Jan	Cutts	USFS	jcutts@fs.fed.us
Rich	Edwards	CSFS	rich.edwards@colostate.edu
Marcus	Selig	NFF	mselig@nationalforests.org
Tim	Reader	CSFS	treader@lamar.colostate.edu
Ian	Lyle	Representative Scott Tipton's Office	ian.lyle@mail.house.gov
Casey	Cooley	CO Parks & Wildlife	casey.cooley@state.co.us
Carina	Wyborn	Univ. of Montana	Carina.Wyborn@cfc.umt.edu
Howard	Hallman	FHTF/Greenlands Reserve	future1946@yahoo.com
Ron	Turley	WAPA	turley@wapa.gov
Rob	Davis	Forest Energy	rdavis@forestenergy.com
Jennifer	Scott	Grand County DNR	jscott@co.grand.co.us
Liz	Mullen	NWCCOG	lmullen@nwccog.org
Bruce	Ward	Choose Outdoors	Bruce@chooseoutdoors.org
Chuck	Vale	CO Office of Emergency Mgmt	chuck.vale@state.co.us

Following are the actions/expected actions arising from the January 18, 2013 meeting:

- *January 2013 meeting minutes were approved.*
- *A sub-committee made up of Jan B., Bruce W., Tony C., and Howard will meet and discuss the possibility of a summer field trip to look at the regeneration that is occurring in the CBBC area.*
- *Sloan will draft a letter to Dan Jiron/USFS recommending that a project similar to the PSW-GTR-220 (identifying relevant science, building agreement, and integrating that into forest management) in the Sierras be a priority for CO and Region 2.*
- *Abbie will contact Lyle Laverty and discuss his interest in working with the CBBC Communications WG.*

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. All were welcomed and introductions made.

- M/S/P Bruce Ward/Ron Turley to approve the minutes of the January 2013 Steering Committee.

Financial Update

- Excel grants available again.
- WAPA and Denver Water still interested in providing CBBC funding.

Grand County Community & Adaptive Capacity Project

Carina Wyborn (postdoctoral researcher at U of MT, funded by RMRS) is working on a project in Grand County that looks at how people react to social & environmental changes related to an incident such as the mountain pine beetle outbreak. The study looks at 3 scenarios related to climate change/water diversion issues related to the MPB outbreak:

- 1) "Some like it hot" – the economy stays basically the same
- 2) "The seasons they are a changin'" – economic growth enabled by warmer, dryer summers
- 3) "Feast or Famine" – economic decline

She has been conducting interviews with a number of different "sectors" in Grand County. While she is still collecting information, the overall impression seems to be that the beetles have caused stakeholders to work together and that people are conflicted as to which scenario will apply. People see conflicts in all of the above scenarios. Five focus groups will be conducted in late April with a final meeting outlining the results of the study and what can be done on May 2 in Granby. One of the desires from this project is to see how the collaboration developed during this MPB incident could be sustained long-term in other aspects of the community. Carina will share the results of the study and her work with the CBBC when the project is finished.

COWRAP – New CSFS Web Portal

Matt Tansey demonstrated a new tool that has been deployed by the CSFS called CO-WRAP (Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal). The project began in response to increasing demand for more accurate and up-to-date wildfire risk information across the state. Users can access data layers that generate maps, tables of wildfire risk, fuel models, watersheds, population, etc. Through CO-WRAP, the CSFS is creating awareness among the public and providing state and local government planners with information to support mitigation and prevention efforts. It can also be used for information necessary to generate Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's). To view the tool, go to <http://csfs.colostate.edu/> - under "Quick Links", click on Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (CO-WRAP)

Wood Utilization Working Group/ Beetle Kill Recognition Event

Rich Edwards reported that the Wood Utilization WG has recently been re-formed and he is the lead. The group has had 3 meetings since January – they meet (by phone) on the 1st Thursday of each month. The mission of the group is to inform the CBBC of wood utilization policy and projects. Rich will distribute minutes from the group's meetings at CBBC Steering Committee meetings. Bruce Ward is coordinating a beetle-kill wood recognition event, which the WG is involved in organizing.

A beetle-kill wood utilization recognition event and roundtable presented by Choose Outdoors and the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative is scheduled for 20 May 2013; 1000-1400 @ the American Mountaineering Center in Golden. The event will recognize the work that Ben Nighthorse Campbell has done to raise awareness of beetle kill wood in DC as well as businesses that have worked on the issue. About 33 organizations will be recognized at the event, which will include presentations, lunch and a roundtable discussion on collaboration possibilities. A CBBC consensus vote was approved to support the event. Representing the CBBC will be Sloan Shoemaker.

Rep. Tipton's Forest Health Legislation

Ian Lyle from Rep. Scott Tipton's office was at the meeting to present background information on proposed HR818. His information included his following points:

- ✓ This resolution would provide more authority to state and local governments to engage in forest management
- ✓ It is not intended to take away from the work of the USFS, rather to expand the tool box available

- ✓ HFRA in the WUI has been successful and this expands on it – allow for communities that don't fall under HFRA to have the same rights as those who do.
- ✓ This process can expand emergency treatment areas

Ian also addressed written comments from Rocky Smith (of the Wilderness Workshop) in opposition to the bill

- ✓ Smith says the “bill could violate the US Constitution” by turning management authority over to states - Lyle says that is not true, that Congress has the authority to manage public lands in whatever ways.
- ✓ Smith says existing authorities are more than enough, Lyle says we need other ways to do this.
- ✓ Smith says the bill had 14 co-sponsors, Lyle says 15.

Comments and discussion from the CBBC on the bill included:

- ✓ There is concern that just because a decision could be made locally does not mean that there is more wisdom.-
- ✓ The 30-day review period called for in the bill is not long enough.
- ✓ Regarding 20-year stewardship contracting proposed in the bill – some felt that this was too long to tie the government to, especially with our current fiscal situation. Some felt that the current 10-yr stewardship contracting was not long enough from the business perspective.
- ✓ Policy could be made at the whim of local or state government.
- ✓ Concern that this bill would circumvent the roadless rules
- ✓ Overall, these forests belong to all of us in the US and we as citizens should have a say in what occurs in all of our forests. This bill would allow for very different management practices in different areas.

Sen. Mark Udall Information

Jill Ozarski from Sen. Udall's office was present to discuss Udall's forest health agenda for this year. It includes a package of bills that would address:

- ✓ Stewardship contracting – included in the Farm Bill or if necessary, stand-alone legislation
- ✓ Good neighbor authority – has bi-partisan support and would extend across all Western states (also included in Tipton bill). This might be independent legislation or included in the Farm Bill.
- ✓ The National Forest Insect and Disease Treatment bill being introduced would create a program to designate new national forest acreage for expedited treatments of acreage suffering from insect and disease epidemics. This could also be a part of the Farm Bill or stand-alone legislation.

One of the biggest issues is how we can tweak budgets to get more money for treatment on the ground.

Discussion of issues related to this included the following points:

- ✓ We still have 20 years worth of clean-up work to be done
- ✓ Stewardship contracting can keep the money on the ground - \$ back to the Treasury
- ✓ Some felt the biggest cost of resource management is NEPA – would streamlining process address this?

The Colorado delegation is working together on ways to address all of these issues.

2 Proposals for Summer “Activities”

There were suggestions for upcoming activities for the CBBC:

- ✓ A summer field trip to look at the regeneration that is occurring. It was suggested that a field trip for CBBC members (to be expanded to later include others) might be helpful in informing our “collective assumptions”. Jan Burke suggested that flying over the extent of the beetle infestation is mind-boggling and might be a good place to start. Flying for 2.5 – 3 hours does not get you out of the area. Sloan knows of a company that might work with the CBBC on this. A sub-committee will look at this. Participants are Jan B., Bruce W., Tony C., and Howard. Suggested was a morning flight with a meeting immediately following in the afternoon. The group will come up with options and a recommendation, to be decided upon prior to the next CBBC meeting in July.

- ✓ There are many groups working on similar issues in the same watershed. Do we need a summit of all stakeholders to come together and share their knowledge? Tony will need to collect much of this data anyway. Tony would be interested in a summit on forest health management and restoration issues – maybe in the fall. Watershed groups should also be included. Two questions could be asked of all groups: 1) what are the existing issues and 2) what each group is doing. The take-aways that Tony would like to see are building consensus on science and determining future landscape desires.

CFRI/CBBC Project

Tony thanked CSFS for providing funds to get a CSU student to work on this geospatial data project for CFRI/CBBC. The focus of the project would be to update the mapping exercise (desired conditions) that the CBBC did back in 2007 at Snow Mountain Ranch as well as develop a spatial model of existing post-outbreak conditions on a large watershed scale. An atlas of data layers would be produced for the CBBC. The CBBC could use this tool to engage its stakeholders for further clarification of desired future conditions. Tony showed a video of how CSU students will do this modeling.

Another project that the CBBC Vision WG discussed with Regional Forester Dan Jiron was the building of consensus on science to inform future work in post-MPB forests. Dan worked on a similar project in the Sierras called PSW-GRT-220 and would like to see the same thing happen in CO. CFRI could undertake the project as a fair and impartial party and work with the RMRS (as a cost share). The cost of the project would be about \$70,000. Sloan will draft a letter to Dan recommending that this be a priority for CO. The project would be focused on ecosystems, not species, in the central Rocky Mountain sub-alpine forests.

WG Reports

Communications WG – now that a vision statement has been developed for the CBBC, maybe the Communication WG can move forward. Abbie will talk to Lyle Laverty and see if he is still interested in working with this group.

Vision WG – Sloan handed out the new CBBC vision document. There was a brief discussion about it at the meeting and general head nods of agreement.

Other Reports

Excel – Sally Edwards reported that Xcel and the USFS have executed an MOU to allow Xcel to work out of right-of-ways.

The next CBBC Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 19, 10AM – 2PM at CMC in Breckenridge.