



History of the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative

By Thomas A. Clark and Jan Hackett

11/11/2010 created

10/24/2011 last update

2004

- The topic of dead and dying trees in NW Colorado that were the result of the mountain pine beetle (MPB) infestation in lodgepole pine forests, was first addressed by Bill Wallace, Summit County Commissioner, at a Northwest Colorado Council of Governments meeting in Vail. Many agreed that this would be a good topic to pursue.

2005

- The Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative (CBBC) first met in the fall as the Northern CBBC, which included Grand, Summit, Routt, Eagle, and Jackson counties. The group was formed to begin formulating responses to the extensive beetle induced mortality in the high elevation forests of Colorado. The objectives were to protect life and property, water supplies, and critical infrastructures. The initial participants were USFS, BLM, NPS, CSFS, and NWCCOG.

2006

- NCBBC published the Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy and Assessment that for the first time attempted to capture the scope of the problem and chart a path to successful mitigation.
- NCBBC invited members of Colorado's conservation community to join the Cooperative.
- In September, a pine beetle legislation meeting was held in Kremmling (should probably note what was accomplished here).

2007

- The group decided to broaden stakeholder involvement by including NGOs, private landowners and water utilities. The additional counties of Park, Pitkin, Garfield, and Lake joined the CBBC at this time.
- In September of 2007 a mapping exercise, held at Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby, was implemented to help with prioritization of MPB treatment areas.
- In December of 2007 the steering committee had been designed to sunset and so it did at this time. Jeff Jahnke, the Colorado State forester, wrote a letter stating this closure of the steering committee and gave directions as to where the CBBC could go from here.

2008

- The CBBC continued to expand its activities through collaborative efforts and expanded participation. The core team added water utilities, emergency management, and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) representing infrastructure to start phase II with a new steering committee.
- March 2008 Sloan Shoemaker suggested that we needed to add community resilience to our three protection statements. This resiliency piece would look toward the future and work with the communities to help them adapt to the changing forests.
- May 2008 the CBBC began to develop workgroups at the meeting in Eagle.
- Summer 2008 Tony Cheng and Jessica Clement from the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute stepped in to help facilitate the growth and expansion of the CBBC and develop the consensus decision-making process.

- October 2008 some of the working groups included joint ecology, communications, water, infrastructure, implementation and monitoring, and protecting home, life, and community (proposed but not implemented).

2009

- Bylaws were adopted, Colorado Mountain College was added to the steering committee, and the transition from a cooperative to a collaborative began.
- Policy direction better developed to include 1) cooperation with all Colorado place-based forest collaborative and with the Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council (FHAC). The CBBC will not compete for reallocation of existing funding, but rather will work with other forest collaboratives and the FHAC to obtain additional funding for the state of Colorado, 2) CBBC will determine when trips to Washington, DC are necessary and will notify and coordinate trips with the FHAC and the CBBC will not compete for existing funds, but strive to increase total funding.
- The Colorado Forest Restoration Institute will work with the place-based collaborative and the FHAC to develop unified messages for all groups to utilize. The question was raised to the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative, "actively advance the priorities of, protection of human life, protection of public infrastructure, and protection of critical water supplies in the development of the statewide forest assessment, determination of priority acres, funding recommendations, the definition of wild land and urban interface, and other key policies being developed by the governor's forest health advisory Council. The answer was yes and the implementation team was directed to recommend the best ways to achieve this direction".
- Focus of the CBBC for 2009 included work for passage of appropriate state legislation to address wildfire and falling tree mitigation efforts, establish working relationships with new members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation and the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, strive to increase federal and state funding to address the hazard mitigation needs posed by the bark beetle including working with the Obama stimulus package, continue the process of identifying and mapping high priority areas for hazard mitigation efforts on federal and non-federal lands. An emphasis was placed on watershed and infrastructure mapping, working collaboratively with the Colorado place-based forest collaborative and the FHAC in order to maintain unity in message and establish statewide policy.
- In July, the steering committee decided to increase the number of steering committee members from 20 to 25 and added recreation and wildlife advocacy.
- In October the steering committee adopted the logo and filed the Articles of Incorporation.

2010

- A review of accomplishments from the prior year showed that the CBBC had done a good job accomplishing the 2009 goals. Possible 2010 projects were discussed:
 - ✓ Omnibus Public Land Management Act 2009 (landscape restoration). The group decided this was a good project for the Front Range Round Table.
 - ✓ Restoring the Headwaters. CBBC would like to help the USFS with goals and guidelines for this project.
 - ✓ The Colorado Forest Restoration Institute would like to help with ecological monitoring; this includes agency capacity and community capacity (setting up demonstration projects, local data collection).
- A retreat was held Nov 11-12, 2010 to do a self evaluation and establish new and continued directions.
- Phase III began with a new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, along with new working groups; vision, wood utilization, communication, monitoring and implementation, and funding.

2011

- Working groups continue towards accomplishing goals established in 2010 – communications plan, vision statement, monitoring direction.
- Future Forests Summit held in Breckenridge on October 28.