



## Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership

Organizational Board/Stakeholder Meeting

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 12:00 - 1:30 PM MT

### Meeting Goals:

- Understand pathways for achieving mitigation goals on federal land in Clear Creek watershed in partnership with USFS
- Chart the path to next round of successful grant applications using WSRF resources

### Agenda

12:00 PM Welcome, introduction of new attendees

- New attendees: James White (USFS) and Scott Haas (USFS), Martin Kimmes (City of Thornton), Brian Tracy (City of Golden)

12:05 PM USFS presentation on Collaboration, Implementation, and NEPA

Scott Haas, USFS Clear Creek District Ranger &  
James White, USFS Prescribed Fire & Fuels Specialist for ARP

- Arapahoe-Roosevelt-Pawnee National Forest (ARP) is focusing on community engagement with recently established fireshed and watershed groups. Lots of work still ahead that needs further engagement. This engagement is important to USFS because larger scale initiatives and strategies need to translate down to the ground—community support is the translator service.
- There are many ways that we can split and value this landscape. Very clear that the Front Range is high-risk and in need of significant-scale treatment. USFS has mapped out firesheds—Idaho Springs fireshed is the one that includes Clear Creek watershed. James introduced the USFS's tentative ribbon strategy to have interconnected treatments up/down the Front Range as a band to break fire paths.
- National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy pillars: community wildfire readiness, wildfire response, landscape restoration.

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- This illustrates how we might set up a multi-pronged approach. For a wildfire-ready community, look at localized WUI treatments and home mitigation. For strategy and response, Potential Operational Delineations gives us a leg up on spatial areas for which to implement controls and response. Landscape restoration through the Front Range ribbon approach and coordinating cross-ownership project area. All of these should be moved forward together, and attacked as a team between USFS and local partners.
- St Vrain NEPA work and Black Diamond project area are examples of landscape-scale mitigation efforts that the USFS is working on with community partners.
  - [St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership storymap](#)—this is a primary outreach tool developed to share info with the community throughout the NEPA process. It will continue to be added to with tools for community outreach and engagement as the NEPA process moves forward.
- Additional comments from Scott: this is about a partnership of equals. We want the CCWFHP behind the wheel, maybe USFS is holding the map. The pre-wildfire planning study for Clear Creek is an awesome starting point for bringing local community values into the conversation of what work needs to be done.
- Questions:
  - George Marlin: what can individual local gov't investments contribute to this? Seems like building local community engagement would be #1 on the list. How can our local governments help get us toward these goals?
    - Scott: It really depends, but social engagement and sharing mutually agreed-upon priorities will help. The St Vrain NEPA has been a community-ed effort by some of the fire departments and the Left Hand Watershed Conservancy.
    - James: Getting folks together with a common goal, bringing different skills and resources, networking, brings together lots of resources. It's about having conversations to share what our needs and resources are, to shine light on where we can leverage overlapping priorities/needs/resources.
    - National level Wildfire Crisis Strategy (10yr plan) – Front Range landscape is one of national priority. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildfire-crisis>
    - Larimer County and Boulder County are moving things forward. Grand County Fireshed and Clear Creek Partnership are in similar places of forming the groups.
  - Kerry: Lefthand Watershed Conservancy will be presenting to our group in May. What do we need to do to get NEPA going here?
    - Scott: Start with the why, the Pickle Gulch workshop will be helpful in getting it started to have community hearing our community 'why'. It's not

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about the USFS putting logs on trucks, not about the USFS goals. For USFS it's about providing consistent services and working with communities on community protection. Need to get the community on board with the need and engaged in the planning.

- James: From what I've seen, developing the community is the foundation of how this works. How can you draw in folks? Get as many as reasonable around the table with a single point of contact for the community. The Grand County Fireshed recently did a Community Mitigation Assistance Team work through the CMAT process to figure out the path for identifying mitigation locations. Big emphasis on the need for an entity to act as the go-to so that everyone has one centralized network (is this the CCWFHP role?).
  - [Grand County CMAT Storymap](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fa4f0e2c359646c1b14fdbc30e73bf16)  
(<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fa4f0e2c359646c1b14fdbc30e73bf16>)
- Scott: We are working on a CMAT for Evergreen, we can invite some of Clear Creek into these conversations to understand what might come from a similar process for us.

#### 12:40 PM Member & Partnership updates

- May 14 USFS Mitigation Workshop at Pickle Gulch Campground in Gilpin County 10a-12p
  - Scott Haas: This is our first best opportunity to get out into the field with you and discuss how we can work together across landownership. Looking forward to working with the group on this. This was very small-scale work with a huge amount of community angst, will likely hear some community concerns.
  - Kerry Major: Missouri Creek is just below this campground, so we can preview the CSM senior design stream restoration area while there!
- Website is live with pre-wildfire planning study project map: [clearcreekpartnership.org](http://clearcreekpartnership.org)
- Jennifer Cook: The Ember Alliance gave Gilpin County an estimate for a CWPP update and the estimate is \$120k with the new state requirements. This helps ballpark the grant funding needs.

#### 12:50 PM Grants Update

- Healthy Rivers Fund application submitted March 30 for Missouri Creek Stream Restoration—thanks for your letters of support!
- CWCB WSRF \$25k officially approved!

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- Expected to have a dedicated personnel by the time we got these funds, so the execution and timeline need to be adjusted. Strategic planning discussion to occur later in April to triage tasks and make a near-term capacity plan.
- Looking ahead
  - Colorado Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management / FEMA-- [Hazard Mitigation grants](#)
    - August 30<sup>th</sup> deadline: Mitigation Projects include broad eligibility for our identified projects. Funds can also support 'Capability and Capacity Building,' including planning activities (HMP, CWPP?) and project scoping assistance. Gilpin and Jefferson Counties are in the top tier of geographic priority.
  - FRWRM -- August deadline – please let the Partnership know if matching funds are needed
    - Jeremy Jones: CCFA is working on an application in the Idaho Springs area, will share a preliminary project scope when available and do anticipate requesting letters of support.

1:15 PM      Next Steps & Action Items

- Working on May meeting being a virtual/in-person hybrid event at Golden Fire Department Training Room

1:25 PM      Adjourn.

## April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Virtual Meeting Info

### Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership Meeting

Hosted by Kerry Major

<https://cityofgolden.webex.com/cityofgolden/j.php?MTID=mf31261cdc20716af76006d7cd4fadbe3>

**Wednesday, Apr 6, 2022, 12:00 pm** | 1 hour 30 minutes | (UTC-06:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)

Occurs the first Wednesday of every month effective 9/1/2021 until 4/6/2022 from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM, (UTC-06:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)

**Meeting number:** 146 643 2871

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