

**AGENDA**  
**SUMMIT COUNTY WILDFIRE COUNCIL**

Thursday, May 20, 2021

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Information Below

- 1:30 - 1:35**    **Welcome**
- Approval of Agenda and Approval of February 18, 2021 Minutes**
- 1:35 - 3:00**    **HR & CWPP Grant Program Discussion; 11 Projects**
- 3:00 – 3:30**    **River Basin Representative Discussion**
- 3:30**            **Adjournment**

CSU Extension Staff is inviting you to a scheduled Summit County Wildfire Council Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2429372902>

Meeting ID: 242 937 2902

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**SCWC 5/20/2021  
HFR & CWPP Grant Program; 11 Projects Discussion  
5/5/2021 Sub-Committee Meeting Notes**

On Tuesday, May 4, staff and SCWC Members reviewed each application. Reviewers included: Jim SCG, Dan CSUE, Ashley CSFS, Ryan CSFS, Matt RWB, Steve SFEMS, Chapin ToB, Caitlin ToS. The following notes are presented in an attempt to provide background information about each grant proposal in an effort to support an efficient use of our time at the May 20th SCWC meeting. Maps are not ready as of this writing; they will be reviewed at the SCWC meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

The following projects were submitted as Hazardous Fuel Reduction *Grant Applications*.

<b>Project Name &amp; brief intent</b>	<b>Grant Request</b>	<b>Proposed Match</b>	<b>Proposed Project Total</b>	<b>Average Score</b>
Blue River Defensible Space. To mitigate 45 homes.	\$96,670.12	\$96,670.12	\$193,340.24	13.6
Ruby Ranch: To analyze Eagle's Nest Wilderness fuel reduction project by conducting the required NEPA Environmental Assessment	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00	\$78,000.00	9.8
Alders at Keystone: To remove forest fuel, both live and standing dead on 1.38 acres.	\$9,651.00	\$9,651.00	\$19,302.00	10.8
Beetle Kill Tree Guys - County Wide. To mitigate 12 homes.	\$25,240.00	\$25,240.00	\$50,480.00	13.2
Eagle's Nest. 7 acres of fuel reduction on USFS land adjacent to Eagles Nest community.	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$40,000.00	13
Flying Dutchman at Keystone: They plan to limb 30 trees and remove 40 trees on ½ acre. This is the most costly project at 32K per acre.	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$16,000.00	9.8
Highlands in Breckenridge. They proposed to mitigate fuel on 5 areas at a total of 2 acres.	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$14,000.00	13.6
Pebble Creek Ranch Foundation: 6.5 acres will be mitigated. This will be the final piece of the PCRf mitigation connectivity.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00	16
<b>Totals for HFR Grant Awards</b>	<b>\$215,561.12</b>	<b>\$215,561.12</b>	<b>\$431,122.24</b>	

The following projects were submitted as CWPP Implementation *Grant Applications*.  
 The CWPP *Grant Application* reviews each proposal by the following four core areas.

**1. Life Safety**

Life safety projects directly increase the safety of citizens and emergency responders in the event of wildfire. Examples include emergency water supply and subdivision access/egress improvements.

**2. Critical Infrastructure**

Critical infrastructure projects provide protection to critical infrastructure. Examples include the creation of defensible space around power lines and communications towers, safeguarding water structures and fresh water resources and protecting vital service providers such as hospitals and designated evacuation centers.

**3. Design/Pre-Engineering**

The design/pre-engineering category recognizes that many of the projects identified in the CWPP are large, very expensive and may require multiple years to complete. To initiate these projects groups may apply for funds to pay for the design/pre-engineering necessary to take the first steps.

**4. Education**

Education is a pillar of the entire CWPP. All signatories to the CWPP agree to participate in the education process on their own level. The education category provides financial support for the education mission. Projects in this category may include the purchase of educational materials to teach citizens, visitors and emergency responders of Summit County about wildfire prevention and safety.

<b>Project Name &amp; brief intent</b>	<b>Grant Request</b>	<b>Proposed Match</b>	<b>Proposed Project Total</b>	<b>Score</b>
Town of Montezuma fire hydrant. Originally proposed in 2019. A 5 <sup>th</sup> fire hydrant will provide water to the town and act as a drip to avoid freezing. 71% SCG / 29% Applicant	\$55,430	\$22,470	\$77,900	9.8
Ruby Ranch: Vault to Interconnect north-side water tanks with south-side water tanks. 25% SCG / 75% Applicant	\$56,250	\$168,750	\$225,000	13.6
Bill's Ranch neighborhood work day will support community wide wildfire prevention while thinning willow and alder. 53% SCG / 47% Applicant	\$5,340	\$4,800	\$10,140	16
<b>Totals for CWPP Grant Awards</b>	<b>\$117,020</b>	<b>\$196,020.00</b>	<b>\$313,040.00</b>	
<b>Total Grant Requests for Both HFR &amp; CWPP</b>	<b>\$332,581.12</b>	<b>\$411,581.12</b>	<b>\$744,162.24</b>	



SUMMIT COUNTY WILDFIRE COUNCIL

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Partner Updates

A few agencies were able to offer an update (on short notice). The following are the updates as submitted.

Summit County Wildfire Council Meeting  
May 20, 2021



US Forest Service Update  
Dillon Ranger District

Forest Health, Hazardous Fuels & Fire Prevention Projects

2020 Projects Under Contract

Peak 7 Phase II	97 acres
Golden Horseshoe	469 acres
Indiana Creek	<u>168 acres</u>
Total	734 acres

Treatment

Cut, Remove, Handpile, Burn  
Mechanized removal (complete 2021)  
Mechanized removal (start August 2021)

2021 Planned Projects

White Cloud Unit 122	138 acres
Blue River	236 acres
Ophir Mtn Thinning	600 acres
Peabody Unit 328	38 acres
Breckenridge U412, 413, 424	<u>8 acres</u>
Total	1,020 acres

Treatment

Cut and Remove  
Cut and Remove/Handpile, Burn  
Cut, Lop and Scatter  
Cut and Remove  
Cut and Handpile, Burn

Dillon Fuels Crew: 1 crew lead + 3 crew members began their season on April 26<sup>th</sup>. They will be removing hazardous fuel around the Heaton Bay campground and in the Breckenridge WUI.

Dispersed Recreation Crew: 1 crew lead + 4 crew members began their season on May 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be patrolling the dispersed camping areas with a focus on public education and fire prevention.

Future Project Planning

The **White River National Forest Health and Fuels Project Categorical Exclusion** is near completion. This will allow the forest to implement timber stand improvement projects (thinning) in areas that were previously treated over the last 40 years, such as Ophir Mountain.

The Dillon Ranger District is in the process of analyzing our **Ruby Ranch Fuels Reduction** project. This treatment would occur in the Eagles Nest Wilderness, adjacent to the Ruby Ranch Subdivision. The public scoping period recently ended. Field surveys will occur this summer with a decision expected in the fall.

The White River National Forest is currently conducting an environmental analysis for our **Forestwide Aspen Management Project** proposal. The purpose of this project is to increase the vigor and presence of aspen on the landscape.

The Dillon Ranger District is in the process of identifying treatments and access in and around the **Swan Mountain** area. The purpose of the treatments would be hazardous fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, while improving forest health in the project area. Public comment period is expected fall 2021.

**Colorado State Forest Service Update:**

- The new HIZ guide was just released. Find it here: [https://csfs.colostate.edu/media/sites/22/2021/04/2021\\_CSFS\\_HIZGuide\\_Web.pdf](https://csfs.colostate.edu/media/sites/22/2021/04/2021_CSFS_HIZGuide_Web.pdf) We will also have copies available from Ashley in the next few weeks. We are excited that the updated HIZ guide incorporates more home hardening and structure protection information as well as defensible space guidelines.

- We are providing technical assistance, project development and management, and grant management in partnership with Summit County, the USFS Good Neighbor Authority, Denver Water, local government and private landowners. We have many projects in development and in progress in 2021.
- This spring we have had many questions about insect and disease treatment and prevention in Summit County. Spruce beetle and Western Balsam Bark beetle do have pockets of activity in the county. At this time we do not recommend preventative treatment unless a positive currently infested tree is identified in the immediate area. Spraying and/or pheromone treatments for mountain pine beetle are not recommended. The 2020 I&D Story Map can be found here: <https://csurams.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=da30b9878be14561afa900aad9f73ae9>
- The 2021 Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant applications are/were due May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Wildfire Council may want to consider developing a grant application for the next round of grants, especially because there may be another round of funding in 2021. These statewide competitive grants do take some time to develop, so if you have a project idea let's look at it and develop it over the next few months. Information is found here: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/funding-assistance/>
- The Routt County Wildfire Council has hosted a series of webinars for Wildfire Awareness Month. Many of the issues Routt County is facing are similar to the issues Summit County is facing. Anyone interested in viewing the 1 hour webinars can find them on the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council YouTube page here: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEbWcSsOP8hzQ\\_Y7YQTjOg/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEbWcSsOP8hzQ_Y7YQTjOg/featured)
- I put together a Summit County Forestry Contractors List. This list is of known area contractors. It is not an endorsement of any specific contractor. They are listed in alphabetical order as a resource for residents. Please feel free to share as necessary. If you know of any interested contractors not on the list, they can contact me and I will periodically update the list. Summit County has shared the list on the Wildfire Mitigation Grants page here: <https://co-summitcounty2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/31807>

### **Red White and Blue Fire Protection District Update:**

RWB has been busy on two fronts getting ready for Wildfire season. From an Operations point of view, all of our firefighters have been doing their refresher training, pack tests and dusting off their wildland gear to make sure everything is ready. Refresher training consists of minimum hours and specific subjects to make sure every firefighter is trained to specific standards. Additionally, many of our firefighters participate in our Mitigation Program where they are trained to help homeowners prepare their properties to withstand wildfire threats. In a typical year we don't start meeting with homeowners until all the snow is melted but this year we have already started because so many people have requested evaluations. We are ready and already engaged in mitigation efforts for the 2021 season, please feel free to email us at [mitigation@rwbfire.org](mailto:mitigation@rwbfire.org) if you have questions about preparing your property.

### **Town of Breckenridge Update:**

- Planning Division:
  - Processing required Development Permit applications for tree removal
  - Provided annual wildfire mitigation update to Town Council in April from USFS, RWB, Summit County
- Open Space Division (author: Anne Lowe, copied):
  - Town and County Open Space programs are working with the Colorado State Forest under 1A funding to treat approximately 45 acres of the Peabody Placer property near the Highlands and Gold Run Gulch Road. The project will consist of lodgepole clear cuts and selective hand treatments in other areas to promote spruce, fir, and aspen. It is anticipated that the project will take 6 weeks total and will conclude before the end of October. The Colorado State Forest will be working with the Town and County on messaging to neighbors and trail users. The Wellington Forestry project that took place in 2020 resulted in piles of timber that need to cure before they can be burned. The Open Space Division will be evaluating the piles with our partners to

determine if the piles are cured enough to burn during the winter of 2021-2022. Open Space is also working with the Colorado State Forest on eight acres of Town-owned open space above Airport Road. Several neighbors are also joining in the project for their properties that abut open space. Open Space is exploring other potential projects with the Colorado State Forest on additional Town open spaces above Airport Road. Finally, the Town and the County are partnering once again with The Nature Conservancy to continue evaluating the effectiveness of snow fencing to promote young aspen growth in the Barney Ford clear cut. Additional aspen saplings will be planted this summer. The Town and its partners are also evaluating other clear cuts as potential sites for aspen plantings. Open Space will have volunteer opportunities through the Friends of Breckenridge Trails program to assist in many of these efforts.

**Summit Fire and EMS Update:**

Summit Fire & EMS has just received a new Type-6 wildland engine that is being equipped and will be put into service by June. Additionally, the department for the first time has established a role of seasonal wildfire specialist for the summer, who will be taking the lead on crew training and equipment, administrative tasks such as coordinating deployment availability, mitigation efforts on private property in conjunction with the community-resource officer and coordinating on wildfire responses with our partners at Red, White & Blue Fire, the U.S. Forest Service and the Summit County Sheriff's Office. Engineer and wildfire veteran Kyle Iseminger is the primary person in this new role, backed by medic Jonathan Sinclair and fire-medic Tony Marzo as needed. Finally, our crews are polishing off their pack tests and continuing-education training in advance of what may be a busy fire season, as witnessed by the fact that we've already responded to two wildfires in our district.