

**West Region Wildfire Council  
Meeting Minutes  
01/08/15**

***Meeting Attendance***

	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
<b>1</b>	Austin	Tom	Log Hill Fire
<b>2</b>	Barth	Chris	BLM
<b>3</b>	Block	Sheridan	Ouray County Paindealer
<b>4</b>	Bennett	John	Telluride Fire
<b>5</b>	Bundshuh	Andy	NPS
<b>6</b>	Chavez	Thad	USFS
<b>7</b>	Davis	Michael	BLM
<b>8</b>	Ellis	Steve	DFPC
<b>9</b>	Falk	Lilia	WRWC
<b>10</b>	Fowler	Clay	USFS
<b>11</b>	Gomez	Jamie	WRWC
<b>12</b>	Long	Kamie	CSFS Grand Junction
<b>13</b>	Morrill	Scott	Gunnison OEM
<b>14</b>	Odom	Luke	DFPC
<b>15</b>	Oxford	Ross	NPS
<b>16</b>	Pankratz	Sam	Gunnison CSFS
<b>17</b>	Petersen	Drew	COEM
<b>18</b>	Robinson	Corey	USFS
<b>19</b>	Rogers	John	MFPD/LHFPD
<b>20</b>	Rogers	Kelly	CSFS Grand Junction
<b>21</b>	Shelby	Austin	CSFS
<b>22</b>	Tisdell	Ben	Ouray County BOCC
<b>23</b>	Yeager	Brain	BLM

**Objective/Purpose**

The Council gathered to discuss the following:

**Introductions**

Lilia Falk facilitated the meeting and initiated a round of introductions.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes from December’s meeting were approved as written.

**WRWC 2014 End of the Year Report and Presentation**

Lilia Falk and Jamie Gomez gave a presentation highlighting accomplishments and organizational finances for the 2014 calendar year as well as an outlook in to 2015. To view the **PowerPoint** presentation, please click [HERE](#)

To get a more comprehensive and detailed understanding of the WRWC's activities in 2014, please download the West Region Wildfire Council's **2014 End of Year Report** click [HERE](#)

## Round Robin Updates

- Steve Ellis noted that the next WRWC meeting will feature a presentation from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) regarding Annual Operation Plans (AOP) and a preview of fire danger outlooks, ongoing efforts to establish the Center of Excellence as well as upcoming opportunities. Included in the list of opportunities is the "Life Safety Grant" (application available on DFPC website) to assist with funding for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). DFPC is currently looking to get as many people to apply to ensure a competitive process and to demonstrate the need statewide.
- Ross Oxford noted that Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park still has some pile burning to accomplish on the South Rim.
- Clay Fowler noted that they have finished up about 2,500 acres of pile burning on USFS lands.
- Mike Davis noted that the BLM mostly done with pile burning. Additional, Mike noted that his final day, prior to retirement, is tomorrow. Clark Hammond will be acting in his position until his permanent replace, Brandon Lewis, starts in the early spring.
- Kelly Rogers noted that the CSFS Grand Junction office has been working with the Grand Mesa Resort Community to manage the ever expanding spruce beetle outbreak within and surrounding the unique forested community. He described the proposed project as a "timber sale in the middle of a town" and went on to describe the need for about 150 acres of treatment to deal with the dead and dying trees and resulting fire hazards. He, alongside GMR representatives, will be looking to partner with the WRWC and others to tackle this issue.
- Drew Peterson explained that Delta County's new Emergency Manager is Jeff Wright. Jeff will be starting as the new EM on (approximately) February 1st and will be overseen by a committee composed of members of the Delta County BOCC and the Delta County Sheriff's office. In addition, there will be 300-400 ICS training opportunities in Montrose or Gunnison this spring as well as an ICS 402. Drew promoted the CO Emergency Management Conference which will be focused on response and planning. Drew also discussed the fact that nearly every county will be updating its Emergency Operating Plan and that he and Scott Morrill will be working to develop a resource management plan for local areas.
- Ben Tisdell noted that he is looking forward to being sworn in as a Ouray County Commissioner. The Ouray BOCC will be setting an annual work plan and the issues surrounding the White Fir Engraver Beetle around the town of Ouray are a priority for him.

- Chris Barth promoted Mike Davis's retirement party. Additionally, he noted that Summit County, CO is looking to hire a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist. He also described the monthly fire outlook. Chris highlighted the WRWC, CSFS and BLM's recent efforts to identify and prioritize cross boundary projects. Chris noted that the Grand Mesa Resort might be an ideal candidate for the Stevens Fund. Kelly Rogers responded by stating that he has applied three times for the Steven's Fund, to go towards a GMR project, and has thus far been unsuccessful.
- Montrose is planning on holding some refresher courses and will looking to integrate the Log Hill Evacuation Plans.
- Outside of Ouray, in an area called 'the amphitheater', the USFS is still planning to conduct some pile burning.
- Scott Morrill noted that potential incident commanders should talk with their county's EM's about CodeRed, the emergency notification system that is currently being used by a large number of counties regionally.
- Austin Shelby noted that he is looking to help the CSFS at the state level to spend some additional 'State Fire Assistance' funds. He requested that anyone that might have any fuels reduction project ideas to contact him directly so that he can work directly with those landowners to develop a project.
- Luke Odom explained that the 'VFA' grant fund is currently available to fire departments to assist with aspects related to wildland firefighting. The VFA grant is a 50/50 cost share grant, and is not to be confused with the 'Life Safety' grant. Additionally, the DFPC is hiring a grant manager, to be staffed in Ft. Collins. Finally, there will be an announcement for 7 new aviation positions, based out of Montrose, for the DFPC.
- The next WRWC meeting will be held on Thursday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Details, including location, can be found by downloading the agenda from the WRWC website at: <http://www.cowildfire.org/meetings/past-meeting-agenda/>.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50 pm.

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