

**West Region Wildfire Council
Meeting Minutes
2/13/14**

Meeting Attendance

	Last Name	First Name	Agency
1	Barth	Chris	BLM
2	Bennett	John	Telluride Fire
3	Berg	Eric	SMSO
4	Casey	Justin	Hinsdale SO
5	Chappell	Randy	BLM
6	Chavez	Thad	USFS
7	Davis	Michael	BLM
8	Dinsmore	Jenn	SMSO EM
9	Ellis	Steve	DFPC
10	Falk	Lilia	WRWC
11	Flores	Joseph	NPS
12	Latta	Trevor	Ouray FD
13	Mattivi	Junior	Ouray Sheriff
14	McKee	Fred	DCSO
15	Odom	Luke	DFPC
16	Oxford	Ross	NPS
17	Petersen	Drew	OEM
18	Robinson	Corey	USFS
19	Rogers	John	Montrose/ Log Hill Fire
20	Rowan	Tad	Montrose Fire
21	Smith	Mickey	USFS
22	Stilley	Kevin	Arrowhead Fire

Objective/Purpose

The Council gathered to discuss the following:

Introductions

Introductions were made by those that attended; roster above.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved

Annual Operating Plans 2014

Round Robin

2014 AOP Discussion- Steve Ellis and Luke Odom (DFPC)

Steve Ellis with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control started off the meeting with a brief history of DFPC reminding folks that the agency has been around for about 19 months and has been working on policies and procedures since the transition from the Colorado State Forest Service.

DFPC and AOP History:

- DFPC is the State of Colorado's lead agency for wildland fire management
- Historically, there has been an agreement between the Rocky Mountain Region and Washington DC (Stafford Act) that says that there will be a State-wide AOP. This is sometimes referred to as the 'Master Agreement'
- With the transition of CSFS fire responsibilities to DFPC, the state of Colorado Attorney General's Office has signed an addendum to the 'Master Agreement' replacing CSFS with DFPC. This is a State/Federal Agreement.
- In the past, to meet the requirement of having a statewide AOP, Colorado has taken all 64 County AOPs and made the statewide AOP. However, the last couple of years Colorado has tried to meet the Statewide AOP requirement. In 2013, this document was signed in August (late).
- This year, the statewide AOP is already signed and in place.

County AOP Template:

- Each county will have an AOP that will be in the standard template. There are approximately 27 primary topics that must be covered in the AOP.
- All the participants in each county will agree to the language in the plan.
- Historically since 1989, each county has signed a EFF agreement (5 year agreement) that says there will be a county AOP and all partners (Fed, State, County) will work together and mutually agree to AOP.
- Basically, all AOPs will look the same after the template is implemented. For example, section 7 in every AOP will have the same information. However, verbiage within the plans will be county specific.

County/ State Agreement Template:

- The State Attorney's office didn't agree to the format so this year, they are developing a state/county template to be implemented in 2015. Each county will have two weeks to comment on the templates legal aspects before it is finalized by the state.
- This state template will have a "statement of work" and this will be the meat of the agreement..
- The State is planning six separate stakeholder meetings across the state where discussions will be held concerning the statement of work. The closest meetings to our region will be held in Durango, Salida, and Rifle.

Discussion:

- Eric Berg asked if billing cycles will be determined as part of this process (fed vs. calendar year) Confusion surrounds payment on different billing cycles. Steve responded that this would be a good topic to bring up at one of the regional meetings.
- Steve also mentioned that he is strongly encouraging counties and fire districts to have agreements in place (some do).

Minimum County Commitment:

- Each county pays into EFF. Funds are managed by a board of directors.
- The EFF agreement states that counties will have a minimum commitment of resources
- Some counties don't have the resources they've committed to in the agreement. They may however have MOUs with departments that do have equipment.
- Steve is proposing a language change so that it only commits resources that the county actually has control over. Examples include road and bridge resources, sheriff's deputies, fairgrounds for ICPs, etc.
- DFPC is also encouraging counties and fire districts to consider developing a line item within their budgets for the cost of suppression efforts.

Mutual Aid Boundary:

- In the past, it has been agreed to that the MA boundary is within 1 mile of a common boundary. Resources show up and work the incident until it's determined whose fire it is.
- Important to protect the origin point of the fire from a cost recovery standpoint.
- Language in the AOPs need to be adjusted concerning cost recovery, but Federal agencies request that other agencies don't speak on their behalf when fire threatens or is on public land.
- Federal agencies will potentially explore cost recovery means when there is negligence and cost are incurred protecting federal land. Cost recovery could include the time/ expenses from when federal resources were dispatched even if that's within the mutual aid period.

Regional County AOP Meetings:

- **Delta:** Thursday February 20th 1:30pm (Delta County Courthouse)
- **Gunnison:** Tuesday February 18th 1:00pm (Gunnison EOC)
- **Hinsdale:** Wednesday February 19th 1:00pm (Coursey Annex, Lake City)
- **Montrose:** Thursday March 7th 1:30pm (location TBD)
- **Ourray:** Monday March 10th, 1:30pm (Ridgway State Park Visitor Center)
- **San Miguel:** Thursday March 6th 10:00am (Placerville Fire Station)

Round Robin

- Luke Odom (DFPC):
 - Montrose area will be getting an engine crew for the summer. They are currently hiring two permanent positions and one seasonal position for a type 4 engine. There will be room for folks to go out with the engine for qualification training, etc. Captains will be trained on EFF. Links to position announcements here:
 - Engine Boss: http://www.cdfpc.org/jobs/DFPC_Supervisory_Firefighter.pdf
 - Assistant Engine Boss: http://www.cdfpc.org/jobs/DFPC_Senior_Firefighter.pdf
 - Seasonal Wildland Firefighter: http://www.cdfpc.org/jobs/DFPC_Firefighter.pdf
- Drew Petersen:

- There will be a wildfire exercise with the South West Incident Management Team in the Telluride area May 1st and possibly May 2nd.
- Lilia Falk:
 - The WRWC grant will open on Friday March 14th
 - The WUI conference in Glenwood Springs (April 16-17) website: <http://wildfire-colorado.com/>
- Chris Barth:
 - National Wildfire Preparedness Day- May 3rd. Funding opportunities available for communities through State Farm Insurance: www.wildfireprepd.org

NEXT MEETING
Delegations Best Practices
Thursday, March 13th 2014
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Montrose Public Lands Center