

Appendix A – Community Informational Letter (a similar letter was sent to landowners in Bakers Peak, Knez Divide and Greystone) and Community Meeting Notes.

September 18, 2004

Dear Wilderness Ranch Landowner,

Moffat County recently received a grant from the Bureau of Land Management to develop a mitigation plan for reducing risk to private property, cabins and to lives in the event of wildfire in the Wilderness Ranch Community. Our local consulting firm, *ResourceLogic, L.L.C.*, has been contracted by the County to work with you, other landowners, and the local fire management agencies to create a wildfire mitigation plan for the Wilderness Ranch community.

Your ideas and input will be important in the formation of *pre-emergency plans* and *fuel reduction plans* as they apply to you and to the community as a whole. To develop recommendations for reducing the risks of wildfire and for improving emergency response, the following information will need to be gathered:

- Identify water sources, landing zones, and safety zones/staging areas to improve response to fire or other emergencies within the community.
- Address the need for lot number signs at driveway entrances to facilitate response to emergencies. Moffat County is currently installing signs for CR 38 and new county road address signs for Wilderness Ranch to reduce confusion and improve response time for firefighters and other emergency responders.
- Work with the U.S. Forest service to plan for reduction of fuels and for fire breaks on adjacent public lands to reduce the risk of wildland fires in Wilderness Ranch.
- Evaluate emergency contact and evacuation procedures, such as a *reverse -911* system or other methods, to notify residents when fire or emergency situations occur.
- Map vegetation types in order to assess hazardous fuels, to rate fire risk in different areas of the community, and to recommend methods for reducing the risks of wildfire.

We realize that private landowners are responsible for protecting their own properties and for allowing access for emergency responders. Unfortunately, narrow driveways, insufficient turn-around space, and lack of “defensible space” around cabins often present challenges to emergency personnel when they are responding to emergencies. The Colorado State Forest Service (www.firewise.org/co) is an excellent source of information to help address these issues. Another information resource that enables you to assess fire risks on your property by filling out an interactive questionnaire is available at www.southwestcoloradofires.org/prevention/assess3.asp.

If you have information regarding the bulleted items listed above, or if you have any other ideas, comments, or questions, please feel free to contact us. We can be reached as follows:

Dale Thompson, Project Manager— 970-824-4117 (home), 970-629-9979 (cell), or e-mail: thomtrm@mindspring.com

Ann Franklin, Consultant — 970-878-4180 (home) or e-mail: baileyann@earthlink.net

Sincerely,

Dale Thompson
ResourceLogic, LLC

cc: Moffat County Board of Commissioners
Ann Franklin

Knez Divide Community Meeting Notes
October 13, 2004
Shadow Mountain Clubhouse

The meeting was held to provide Knez Divide landowners an update on the mitigation planning effort for the community and to seek input from landowners.

Participants included:

Mark Voloshin-landowner
Edith Martin-landowner
Marion Kagie-landowner
Peacock-landowner
Lynn Barclay and Cliff Hutton-BLM
Tim Jantz and Skip Duncan-Sheriff's Dept.
Jeff Comstock-Moffat County Natural Resources
Dale Thompson and Ann Franklin-ResourceLogic

Pre-Emergency planning needs

- Reliable water sources and locations
- Driveway identification
- Defensible space around homes and adequate turnaround space for firefighters
- Adjacent gas plant and gas lines that cross the community
- MCR 206 not signed—currently named Highland Drive on the east side and Meadow Lane on the west side—could be confusing for firefighters.
- Identification of safety zones and staging areas.

Fuel reduction mitigation

- Potential fuel breaks that would reduce fire risk in the community
- Protection for major transmission lines

Wilderness Ranch Community Meeting Notes
October 9, 2004
Holiday Inn, Craig, CO

The Wilderness Ranch Landowners Association held a Board of Directors meeting in Craig on October 9, 2004. The meeting provided a good opportunity to provide information to as many landowners as possible since 70 percent of parcels are absentee ownership.

Dale Thompson (ResourceLogic) and Kent Foster (USFS) provided an update of fire mitigation planning efforts, answered questions, and encouraged comments and input from the WR Board and landowners. Kent Foster also discussed the USFS planning effort to reduce Pine Beetle infestations on public lands south of Wilderness Ranch. Thinning beetle killed trees and trees with the potential to be targeted by beetles would be the most effective fuel reduction method which will help reduce fire risk on Wilderness Ranch.

Pre-Emergency planning needs:

- Identify reliable water sources and locations
- Map driveway locations and provide parcel numbers
- Defensible space around homes and adequate turnaround space for firefighters.
- Identification of safety zones and staging areas.
- Emergency contact information for landowners including names, parcel numbers, and phone numbers.

Fuel reduction mitigation

- USFS fuel reduction plans
- County road rights-of-way clearing/mowing
- Other fuel reduction recommendations in the community
- Landowner focus on reducing high risk fuel types such as spruce/fir and oak brush and work with the State Forest Service to protect structures.

Bakers Peak Community Meeting Notes
September 5, 2004-
Bakers Peak Landowners Assoc.—Bakers Peak

ResourceLogic met with several members of the BPLA and landowners to discuss the community wildfire mitigation planning effort for Bakers Peak. Landowners attending included Don Grooms, Dick and Fran Williamson, Dave Fink, and Roger Davis.

Issues discussed included:

- The need for information on water sources, roads, safety zones/staging areas, and other information that would help firefighters respond to emergencies.
- Landowners expressed the need to maintain historic road names and landmarks commonly known to BP landowners to improve response times and communications with the Sheriff's Dept.
- Landowners are very concerned about the north access to Bakers Peak being closed due to disputes with adjacent landowners.
- Re-establishment of the east access State Land Board and BLM lands.
- Informed landowners about Firewise information available from the State Forest Service for providing defensible space around cabins and meeting driveway standards and turnaround space to insure safety for firefighters and landowners in a wildfire situation.
- Identification of landowner tract numbers and associated landowner names and addresses.
- Emergency contact information.
- Request for input and comments from all BP landowners for wildfire mitigation planning.

Greystone Community Meetings Notes
July 29, 2004
Maybell Community Center

Pre-Emergency Planning –

Communication:

- There are no land lines in Greystone
- Cell phone service is spotty (unreliable); sometimes the communication is with a tower in Wyoming
- Cell phones read as unavailable when someone calls Dispatch
- Many of the cell phones in Greystone are the type that do not work without electricity
- A phone tree might be a good idea in an emergency
- A standard protocol should be followed/established detailing what information to say to Dispatch in the event of an emergency

Fire Services:

- Maybell is paged out on the EMS
- Maybell Volunteer Fire Department has a good list of equipment that is available for wildland and structure fires (water tender, 1000 gallon portable tank, 3200 gallon pumper, 2-inch pumps, a BLM heavy truck, a tanker truck, a structure truck, and a 1300 gallon tank)

Cooperative Fire Protection:

- Fire training and equipment should be available to landowners with a central cache
- Many people liked the idea of establishing a volunteer fire department which would be able to lend support towards a fire station – need support from landowners in the form of letters, community meetings, etc. – the fire station would service more than just Greystone, rather, the entire Browns Park and Hwy 318 area
- An engine barn/station could be built to house a resident deputy, BLM summer fire crews, a structure truck, etc.
- The Recreation and Public Services Act allows the BLM to deed land for a public purpose
- Someone might be willing to donate private property for the facility

Water Sources:

- A cistern that is dedicated specifically for fire fighting would be a very good idea (10,000 Gal. preferable for BLM) – there are not any reliable or easily accessible water sources
- There are many ponds available for dip sites including those on the Burton property and Raftopoulos has a tank that can be used as well.
- Tobins are willing to have a tank on their property
- Agreements need to be established for the use of water during a fire
- The Maybell tender can be used to fill trucks or tanks.

Private Property Access:

- Contact information, gate access/combinations, alternative contact person and permission for BLM/Sheriff to access onto property should be in writing and available at Dispatch
- Important for driveways to have sufficient width to allow ingress, turnarounds, and egress for fire fighting equipment

Fuel Break –

- Could be designed to work with any existing fuel breaks or plan around landowners not wishing to participate
- Recommendations are for a shaded fuel break, i.e. 100-120 ft. width with 20-30 ft. spacing between trees. The fuel break could be developed by mechanical treatment or hand thinning.
- Road should be extended on the BLM behind the Churchill, Tamlin, and Burton properties on the south side of Greystone
- The sagebrush is very thick on the east side of Greystone and a fuel break should be established there in addition to the fuel break on the western and southern sides

Grants/Funding—

- The grant Moffat County received for fuel reduction for the Greystone Community has a landowner cost share component. Participation by landowners on private property is all voluntary. Participation can include in-kind contributions (credits), i.e. labor and equipment used for reducing fuel hazards, past and future
- Clyde Anderson, Moffat County Sheriff's Dept., advised that grants are available for volunteer fire dept. fire houses

Appendix A