

FORESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
October 14, 2008

ATTENDEES:	Bill Hicks	Jim Schomaker	Val Philpott
	Fred Balmos	Skip Zopf	Ken Siefken
	Mike Backsen	Wayne Eisenbrandt	Joe Humpfer
	Rick Caissie	Chip Wait	

FILING RESPONSIBILITY LIST

The re-worked filing list was handed-out. Filings 9, 13 and 14 each gained new members.

BEETLE INSPECTION

Filing maps were distributed, along with the hour's log and pink and black flagging. Those responsible for Filings 1, 5, and 7 need to pick-up their maps from Val. If more flagging is needed, Chip holds the supply. The beetle inspection starts Nov. 1, and will be finished the end of January, 2009. Return your maps, marked as accurately as possible, to Chip and the hour's log to Val. A brief refresher course on flagging the suspect trees ensued. Put 3 bands of the flagging around the trunk and tie flagging on the end of a branch or two- this will be most helpful in sighting the infested tree. If the beetle tree is surrounded by a dense grove of trees put flagging on the surrounding trees so the MPB tree can be found more easily. For the most part Chip will be looking for these trees from his car.

GRANT 2009

We had a CWPP in development and the hours spent on fire mitigation were collected. The last week in July, one week before the WUI grant was to be sent, the rules were changed. You must have a CWPP on file before being eligible for a government grant. John Hvizdos, Chuck Stephens, and Val will continue to look for a grant, we will be eligible for a government grant at this time since our CWPP has been completed, but most of them are not legislated until the summer months.

OPEN DISCUSSION

As stated in the previous paragraph the CWPP Document has been completed. It was sent by e-mail on September 15<sup>th</sup> to 5 individuals representing various County, State, and Federal agencies for their signatures. At this time we have not been successful in getting these people to sign (actually 3 of the 5 are dragging their feet). Val is getting in touch with Mark Thomas, with the Chaffee County Fire Protection District, he had offered his help and hopefully can push these 3 to get on board.

Chaffee County did purchase a chipper. We are hopeful that they will be offering their services to the individual HOA's, but that decision has not been reached as yet.

20-Acre Timber Sale- The cutting is finished. Slash piles need to be consolidated in some cases and thinned in others. The Forestry Committee will assist Chip in this task

October 29, 30 and 31. Chip did not indicate a starting time, so if you are interested call him.

The Subdivision Wildfire Hazard Rating Form was distributed to all attendees. Mark Thomas and Damon Lange feel this is a necessary activity for Game Trail to embrace in order to be awarded a Forestry Grant. This issue was discussed at the September CWPP meeting and though it was first introduced as a rating of each lot or home, which was unpopular amongst the Game Trail attendees, it was later okayed as a rating of areas- perhaps by Filings or maybe broken into a couple of areas within each Filing. Mark felt we could hire an outside Forester to do the rating, the Forestry Committee feels it can be done by our members. Game Trail was rated by the Chaffee County Fire Protection District as a Moderate Hazard, we were given 39 points out of a possible 60 plus. This is an excellent rating for Game Trail, there is one rating below moderate and 3 ratings above ours- High, Severe, and Extreme.

Open Space at West Ridge and Main Range has been dubbed 'No Name Park' until such time there is a name. (This is Val's thing she's obsessed with a name, just humor her.) The small tree grove in No Name Park has been infected with mistletoe. It is in the beginning stages and can be controlled at this time, but we need to take out some of the bigger trees that are passing this infection along and prune what can be pruned on the trees that will remain.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2008