

Draft Outline
(8/16/2005)

Magnolia/Winniger Ridge
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

I. Participants

A. Core Participants

1. Roger Durham -- High Country Fire Protection District
2. Chad Julian -- Boulder County Parks and Open Space
3. Cory Secher – Forester, Colorado State Forest Service
4. Terry Greenberg – Homeowner/Project Leader
5. Dorothy Whalen – Homeowner/Project Leader

B. Other Participants

1. Mark Martin (?) – U.S. Forest Service
2. Karen Riggenback Vaughn -- Excel Energy
3. Bill Meier -- United Power
4. Tom Plant (?) – State Representative for District
5. Peak-to-Peak Healthy Community
6. Various Homeowners (list of names & addresses in appendix)

II. Community wildland-urban interface

1. Map
2. Narrative {objectives: 1. detail area & demonstrate need; 2. demonstrate history of community working together to meet needs }

As shown on Maps 1 and 2, the Middle - Magnolia/Winniger Ridge Community Wildfire Protection Planning Area (Planning Area) is defined as the private property along both sides of Magnolia Road from approximately mile marker 5 to mile marker 9, encompassing an estimated 4,000 acres or about 6.25 square miles of forests, mountain meadows, and wetlands. As seen on the map 3, the lands surrounding the Planning Area consist of areas owned and administered by the Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests, Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department and Denver Water (MEPP; p. 7-1).

Within the planning area are aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), and mixed conifer forests. The area also includes small mountain meadows and wetland areas. The area is home to a wide range of wildlife including numerous birds, deer, elk, lynx and mountain lions. There are approximately 425 private owners, of which an estimated 255 are year round residents.

This planning area was selected for a number of reasons.

1. The forests in this area are in need of work to improve their health and to mitigate the risk of wildfires to the forests themselves, wildlife habitat and private homes.
2. A natural community with a history of working together to meet community needs already exists for this area.
3. The area is fully contained within the planning area for the Federally funded Winiger Ridge pilot project.

History of Community

The residents living along the entire 12 mile stretch of Magnolia road from Boulder Canyon to The Peak-to-Peak Highway have a long history of coming together to care for the needs of community. In 1993 residents of the area came together to begin working to maintain "... Magnolia Road's unique rural qualities, unfragmented habitats, wildlife, scenic and recreational resources while creating community with our neighbors and partnership with the agencies which manage public lands in our area" (MEPP; summary) and formed the Preserve Unique Magnolia Association (PUMA). In 1997 the association initiated the Magnolia Environmental Preservation Plan (MEPP) to "plan for the future uses of Magnolia's natural, historical, recreational, cultural and scenic resources." (MEPP; p. summary). The effort resulted in a 250+ page report being published in 1999, attached here in electronic form. {accomplishments?}

{insert discussion of history of interest in wildfire mitigation & chipping grant and use}.

{insert discussion of history of MRIC}

Winiger Ridge Pilot Project

In addition to the efforts of local residents, in 1996 the Boulder County Ecosystem Cooperative (BCEC) was formed as a subgroup of the Boulder County Wildfire Mitigation Group. BCEC identified several issues in addition to fire mitigation relevant to forest ecosystem health. ("Winniger Ridge History" at [http://lamar.colostate.edu/~csfbo/winiger history.htm](http://lamar.colostate.edu/~csfbo/winiger%20history.htm)) The group proposed a "pilot project to incorporate hazard reduction with ecosystem improvement efforts" for the Winniger Ridge area on Federal lands. {add discussion of work completed.} Besides the Winiger Ridge project that we (state) assisted the USFS

State Projects

Inside or adjacent to the Planning Area, there are 663 acres currently under active annual forest management through a program administered by the State

Forest Agriculture. There are seven land owners participating with land parcels ranging from 40 acres to 258 acres.

Conclusion

The Planning Area with its dense aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), and mixed conifer forests is the type of Wildland Urban interface that could benefit significantly from efforts to improve forest health and mitigate fire danger through fuels reduction. There is already fuels reduction thinning being implemented by the federal and state agencies in and around the project area. A grant from the 2006 Colorado Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program would help individual, private land owners build upon and extend the work and benefits of the current and ongoing governmental projects to privately owned property.

III. Community preparedness

A. High Country Fire Department

The High Country Fire Protection Department is an all volunteer unit rated ___ from _____. Two of its five stations, 1 and 4, are within the Planning Area. The other three stations are located south of the planning area in Gilpin County.

1. Department personnel & equipment
2. Interagency agreements
3. Water resources
4. Response time

B. U.S. Forest Service

C. Evacuation Plans

1. People
2. Large & small animals

IV. Community risk analysis

A. Discussion of general area

1. fuel hazards
2. risk of wildfire occurrence
3. community values to be protected

One purpose in developing the MEPP, which is attached to this plan on a CD, was to identify community values that need protection. Chapter 3 focuses on water resources and the water shed many depend on for drinking water. Chapters 4 and 5 cover the vegetation, ecosystems, and wildlife habitat in the area. In Chapters 6

and 7 cultural areas and recreational resources are addressed. While the MEPP should be consulted for a detailed discussion of each type of resource, there are three specific areas the reader should be aware of.

First, people live or visit in the planning area for various reasons, but the reasons are all linked to the beauty and serenity offered the forests and mountain meadows, as well as the sense of living close to nature. As I'm writing this, a lynx or bob cat just walked by my office window which is at ground level. The joy and elation I felt feeds the soul of those living and visiting in the forests. Protecting the forests and meadows that provide wildlife habitat is very important to the local residents.

Second, within or near to the Planning Area are several historical sites. A cabin on the Reynolds Ranch just west of the planning area and a cabin on the Scates Homestead located in the planning have been recommended for National Register of Historic Places.

And, protecting the recreational activities for residents and visitors that are provided on the public lands surrounding the Planning provide is also important. This socioeconomic need for continued recreation in the surrounding area is very important to the local recreational businesses and local economy.

4. The assessment will be completed by the local volunteer fire department, participating community members, Colorado State Forest Service, and other agencies as needed. The Colorado State Forest Service representative, Mr. Cory Secher, will lead the home and community wildfire assessment, along with training volunteers and supplying assessment forms.

B. Individual Subdivisions

1. Porter Ranch
2. Twin Sisters
3. Pine Glade & Aspen Meadows
4. Lazy Z & CR 97
 - a. Lazy Z Estates Subdivision – moderate wildfire hazard rating {include as example of info assessment will provide}

The Lazy Z Estates Subdivision encompasses _____ acres. It consists of 3 narrow (about ___ feet wide) private roads, Aspen Way, Evergreen Way and Spruce Way. Each road connects to Lazy Z and Evergreen Way & Spruce Way connect with Aspen Way. The road grade for the most part is 5% or less. The grade where Evergreen Way and Spruce Way connect to Lazy Z is about _____% for _____ feet. Street signs are present at all intersections. The subdivision abuts National Forest to the north, and Lazy Z road to the west.

There are 32 owners, 5 that own vacant lots, 6 that are part-time residents, and 21 year round residents. Two of the year round residents also own an additional vacant lot. The lot sizes are at least 1 acre and as large as 5 acres. Homes are primarily wood sided with wood decks and non-wood roofs.

5. Other Areas

C. Individual Sites (??)

1. 57 Aspen Way

{include as example of assessment to be done.}

Newer stucco and stone home on 5 acres. Has county required defensible space using the specifications outlined on the Quick Facts 6.302 Creating Wildfire Defensible Zones. These requirements include a 3 feet of non-burnable material the circumference of the around house and under deck constructed of fire resistant material. The resident will have thinned a 100 foot minimum circumference around the house by reducing the forest density (ladder fuels) and crown continuity (10-15 foot spacing between crowns). Lot bounded by gravel roads on west and south sides. Primary risk would be fire coming from north where lot has ____% slope. That area has a high fuel load and backs to National Forest, which also has high fuel load.

V. Fuels Treatment Priorities

{removal or chipping of deadfall & slash, & thinning of forest to 6.302 Creating Wildfire Defensible Zones standards?}

VI. Reducing Structural Ignitability

A. create individual defensible space around home {focusing on County defined zones 1 & 2 ?}

B. replace wood siding with cement based product

C. upgrade roofing material to fire rated materials

VII. Implementation

A. Individual Projects

community cisterns (minimum 1,800 gallon personal or 10,000 gallon community)

private land fuel reduction & fire mitigation work implementation between homes

B. Time line for projects

C. Measurements of Progress

1. percent homeowners participating

2. number of homes with a well defined defensible space

VIII. Ongoing Maintenance – annual monitoring and maintenance