

THE FRONT RANGE FUELS TREATMENT PARTNERSHIP

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE • NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • USDA FOREST SERVICE



2012 ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

In 2012, *Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) agencies treated 28,183 acres, bringing our nine-year total to 291,990 acres.*

Since 2002, the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) has addressed the challenges of making Colorado's Front Range forests more resistant to catastrophic wildfires, insects and diseases.

The 2012 FRFTP accomplishments report highlights the actions of homeowners, communities, government agencies and others to reduce wildfire risk on the Front Range. The report provides a summary of fuels

treatment projects and activities of the Front Range Roundtable.

The purpose of this report is to serve as a catalyst for promoting understanding of the benefit of forest management relative to fire risk reduction and community safety.

Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership agencies are committed to continuing their efforts to implement fuels treatment projects in areas determined to be most at risk to catastrophic wildfires. This will require a shared vision and the wisdom to learn from the past, while looking to the future.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nine-year Fuels Treatment Total Reaches 291,990 Acres

In 2012, partnership agencies collectively treated 28,183 acres, bringing our nine-year total to 291,990 acres (36,499 acres were treated in 2011; 40,086 in 2010; 38,907 in 2009; 31,023 in 2008; 30,777 in 2007; 34,629 in 2006; 24,908 in 2005; and 26,978 in 2004).

Following are the 2012 accomplishment highlights by each partner agency.

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

GUIDING FOREST TREATMENTS IN COLORADO

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University (CSU).

In addition to the state headquarters on Colorado State University's Foothills Campus in Fort Collins, the CSFS maintains 17 district field offices throughout Colorado. These locations offer Colorado's citizens an easily accessible source of professional and technical forestry assistance coupled with educational outreach.

For more information about the agency, visit www.csfs.colostate.edu.

CSFS DISTRICT TREATMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2012, the six Colorado State Forest Service districts along the Front Range continued to participate in the FRFTP – Boulder, Fort Collins, Franktown, Golden, Granby and Woodland Park – treated a total of 8,823 acres on state and private land along the Front Range.

Following are highlights of on-the-ground accomplishments for these six Front Range CSFS districts:

CSFS District	2012 Total Acres Treated
Boulder	1,017
Fort Collins	980
Franktown	1,018
Golden	1,346
Granby	1,507
Woodland Park	2,955

BOULDER DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

The CSFS Boulder District partnered with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) and Lefthand Fire Protection District mitigation staff to complete two priority forest restoration projects. A 17-acre fuels treatment project was completed on Hall Ranch, a 3,700-acre Boulder County Parks and Open Space property. The project created an open mosaic of trees with varying diameters interspersed with meadows, which yielded 60 cords of firewood and generated 170 piles of slash. Boulder County Youth Corp assisted with this project. A 20-acre fuels reduction project also was completed on the North Foothills Ranch Subdivision HOA, resulting in defensible space around seven homes and a fuelbreak on adjacent open space property.

FORT COLLINS DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT

The CSFS Fort Collins District worked with the Cherokee Meadows community in northern Larimer County to implement a 95-acre fuels reduction treatment identified within the community's Community Wildfire Protection Plan to reduce wildfire risk. In addition, the district implemented a 9.3-acre fuels reduction project on the adjacent Meadow Creek State Land section to complement work in Cherokee Meadows.



Fuels treatment completed in Cherokee Meadows, Larimer County, CSFS Fort Collins District.

FRANKTOWN DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT

More than 43 acres of fuels treatment were completed on 15 properties in the Perry Pines/Parkridge Pines communities, southwest of Castle Rock. Work focused on breaking up contiguous Gambel oak stands, removing ladder fuels from residual trees

and thinning smaller-diameter ponderosa pine. Properties served as demonstration sites for other landowners on how to reduce the fire hazards and improve forest health. In addition, the communities continued to offer a slash program.



Slash from fuels treatment projects was ground into mulch, Douglas County, CSFS Franktown District.

GOLDEN DISTRICT

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT

Partnering with the Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife, the CSFS Golden District continued its fuels treatment project to reduce fire hazard and improve forest health on Golden Gate Canyon State Park, west of Golden. This 38-acre treatment project focused on the Mule Deer Trail section of the park and created a contiguous fuelbreak from Gap Road south to Frasier Meadows along the trail corridor by connecting two previous fuels treatments on the north and south sides of the project.



Fuels treatment project focused on the Mule Deer Trail section of Golden Gate Canyon State Park, CSFS Golden District.

GRANBY DISTRICT

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT

The CSFS Granby District worked with Snow Mountain Ranch-YMCA of the Rockies to treat 61 acres of mountain pine beetle-killed lodgepole pine, removing hazardous fuels and hazard trees along roads and trails to provide for visitors' safety on the guest retreat. A second project utilized clearcutting to treat hazardous fuels and hazard trees along the nine-mile hiking trail. This project also removed MPB-killed trees along five miles of roads and other trails.

WOODLAND PARK DISTRICT

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT

After the Waldo Canyon Fire, Forest Edge, on the east side of Woodland Park, mitigated hazardous fuels that threatened homes. The CSFS Woodland Park District, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) and Northeast Teller Fire Protection District (FPD), helped the Friends of Forest Edge determine how best to protect the community. The CSFS and NRCS worked with residents to thin hazardous fuels from their properties; Woodland Park Public Works crews thinned nearby city open spaces; NE Teller FPD assisted landowners with cutting; and CUSP provided the chipping. In 2012, Forest Edge was recognized as a Firewise Community.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

During 2012, several fuels reduction projects were implemented in the wildland-urban interface at Rocky Mountain National Park; projects were completed by Park staff and contracted resources. A total of 727 acres were treated.

2012 HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS

Small Pile Burns: 203 acres

- 130 acres of small piles were burned along trails on the north slopes of Deer Mountain
- 55 acres of small piles were burned on Deer Mountain in the Sleepy Hollow addition
- 18 acres of small piles were burned along the Bear Lake Road above the visitor transfer lot

Large Pile Burns: 140 acres

- 1 large pile generated from 140 acres of fuels reduction around the park headquarters compound was burned at Moraine Park Admin site

Manual Fuels Reduction (Park Staff): 250 acres

- 200 acres (100 cut; 100 stacked) were treated near the Fall River Entrance along the park boundary
- 50 acres (25 cut; 25 stacked) were treated east of Glacier Basin Campground

Manual Fuels Reduction (Contracted): 134 acres

- 80 acres (40 cut; 40 stacked) of manual fuels reduction work was completed south of Lily Lake along Highway 7
- 54 acres (27 cut; 27 hauled) of manual fuels reduction work was completed along lower Bear Lake Road

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The park conducts an active fire education program that raises awareness among the general public, and facilitates collaborative efforts with adjoining private landowners, and local municipal, county and state governments.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

ARAPAHO AND ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FORESTS

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests (ARNF) treated a total of 12,735 acres to reduce hazardous fuels. In addition, forest personnel assisted local communities in developing Community Wildfire

Protection Plans; continued the efforts of the Front Range Roundtable, Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative and Northern Front Range Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group; and implemented projects through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project. The Front Range Long-Term Stewardship contract was important in successful implementation of projects and utilization of biomass.

ARAPAHO AND ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FORESTS – DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BOULDER & CLEAR CREEK RANGER DISTRICTS

In 2012, hazardous fuels reduction treatments were completed on 3,791 acres within the districts' wildland-urban interface. Of these acres, 3,702 were accomplished through mechanical thinning and 89 through prescribed fire. Activity occurred in the following project areas: Evergreen, Gill, James Creek, Lump Gulch, St Vrain, Sugarloaf and Yankee Hill.

CANYON LAKES RANGER DISTRICT

In 2012, hazardous fuels reduction treatments were completed on 4,175 acres; nearly 78 percent of the treatments occurred within the wildland-urban interface. Of the total acres, 2,845 were treated through mechanical thinning and 1,330 acres through prescribed fire. Activity occurred in the following project areas: Estes Valley, Lone Tree, Pingree Hill, Red Feather and Stringtown West. Addressing adverse effects of the mountain pine beetle epidemic continued, some of which occurred in non-wildland-urban interface areas.

SULFUR RANGER DISTRICT

In 2012, hazardous fuels reduction treatments were completed on 4,769 acres to reduce the adverse effects of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Of the total acres, 4,562 were accomplished through mechanical treatments and 207 through prescribed fire. Activity occurred in the following project areas: Arapaho National Recreation Area, Upper Fraser Valley, Willow Creek, Winter Park and throughout the district along roadside areas with mountain pine beetle-killed hazard trees.

PIKE NATIONAL FOREST

In 2012, the Pike National Forest treated a total of 5,898 acres. In addition to further implementation of the 10-Year Long-Term Stewardship Project, the forest continues working with other land managers, fire managers, emergency managers, community groups and private landowners to reduce wildfire risks along the Front Range of Colorado.

PIKE NATIONAL FOREST – DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PIKES PEAK RANGER DISTRICT

Guided by the Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative (WPHFI), the district thinned 1,506 acres. In FY 2012, layout, pre-treatment monitoring and other preparatory work were completed on 1,300 acres; implementation will be included in the FY 2013 program of work.

SOUTH PARK RANGER DISTRICT

The South Park Ranger District completed 2,063 acres of hazardous fuels treatments. Prescribed fire was used to treat 43 percent of these acres. The remaining acres were mechanically thinned. All treatments were completed in the wildland-urban interface areas of the Lake George vicinity, which includes Landis, Eleven Mile Village and Eleven Mile Lakesites subdivisions.

SOUTH PLATTE RANGER DISTRICT

Through an agreement and continued cooperation with Denver Water, the district mechanically treated fuels on 2,329 acres in the Upper South Platte Watershed. During FY 2012, layout, pre-treatment monitoring and other preparatory work were completed on 1,700 acres; implementation will be included in the FY 2013 program of work.

FRONT RANGE ROUNDTABLE

ANNUAL REPORT



In 2012, the Front Range Roundtable continued its mission to “serve as a focal point for diverse stakeholder input into efforts to reduce wildland fire risks and improve forest health through sustained fuels treatment along the Colorado Front Range.”

The Roundtable is a coalition of individuals from state and federal agencies, local governments, environmental and conservation organizations, academic and scientific communities, and industry and user groups, all with a commitment to forest health and fire risk mitigation along Colorado’s Front Range. The focus area of the Roundtable encompasses Boulder, Clear Creek, Douglas, El Paso, Gilpin, Grand, Jefferson, Larimer, Park and Teller counties.

Since 2006, 438 people from 150 organizations have participated in the Roundtable.

In 2012, the Roundtable accomplished the following:

- The Landscape Restoration Team drafted a proposed adaptive management process for use in the Front Range Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Project; evaluated and discussed ecological desired conditions on CFLR treatment sites; and published two addenda to the Front Range CFLR Monitoring Plan (Changes to Common Stand Exam for Future Plots¹ and Changes to Social-Economic Monitoring Methods²).
- The Landscape Restoration Team launched research to expand the description of Lower Montane desired conditions, including:
 - A wildlife monitoring team that is prioritizing an abridged list of species to monitor from the 2011 CFLRP Monitoring Plan, setting population trends for each target species expected if forest restoration is achieved, and recommending data collection and monitoring methods for each target species given funding constraints and monitoring methods in use);
 - A spatial heterogeneity monitoring team that is recommending a process for monitoring spatial heterogeneity in forest canopy structure within

treatment projects and across the treatment landscape;

- A social and economic monitoring team, which published its report³ on 2011 social and economic monitoring and made recommendations to changes in methods for 2012;
 - A team focused on designing an adaptive NEPA process for the Upper Monument Creek forest treatment project on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest to help resolve some of the questions about desired future conditions and protocols for restoration management;
 - A team was assembled to create a USFS General Technical Report (GTR) on a science-based framework for forest restoration, with the goal of developing a set of principles to guide restoration of Front Range ponderosa pine and dry mixed-conifer forests, and to provide a framework for restoration treatment implementation; and
 - A team conducting Front Range historical forest stand reconstruction and fire history to reconstruct historical (ca. 1860) ranges of variability (HRV) in forest stand metrics and fire regimes as models for future restoration goals.
- The Roundtable launched a new Community Protection Team, to complement its CFLR Team and align its operations with the dual mission of restoring forests and reducing fire risks.
 - The Roundtable Executive Team reached its fundraising goal of more than \$50,000 from numerous funders, bringing multi-party support to achieving the Roundtable’s collaborative goals and funding its annual operations.

The Roundtable thanks all of its members, guests, funders and teams for helping the Roundtable achieve or make progress on many of its 2012 goals.

¹http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/CFLRP_Plan_Addendum_1_hg_110712_updated_fs_cse_monitoring_techniques_for_cflr_project.pdf

²http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/FR_CFLR_SE_monitor_plan_amendment.pdf

³http://www.frontrangeroundtable.org/uploads/FR_CFLR_SE_monitoring_report_Final-1_copy.pdf

Front Range Roundtable 2013-2015 Goals

Executive Team	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annually fundraise at least \$50,000 2. Plan and execute quarterly Roundtable meetings and agendas 3. Respond to letter of support requests as needed
Community Protection (CP) Team [draft goals]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Consistent Communication and Outreach Initiative: Limit the growth of fire risk in the wildland urban interface by developing a consistent message around wildfire mitigation issues and a comprehensive outreach and education initiative 5. Work with insurance companies to standardize insurance guidelines for defensible space and home initiation zone
Biomass Utilization and Slash Sites (BUSS) Team	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Share information on a monthly basis and by email about biomass utilization developments across the Front Range (via monthly calls)
Landscape Restoration (LR) Team	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Serve as the Front Range CFLR project multi-party monitoring group 8. Develop an adaptive management process and recommendations 9. Revise the June 2011 CFLR monitoring plan (through addendums until funding identified for a re-write)
Wildlife Team	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. By Spring 2014, recommend a wildlife monitoring plan for the CFLRP by prioritizing an abridged list of species to monitor, hypothesizing expected post-treatment population trends for each target species, and proposing data collection and monitoring methods for each target species, with budgets
40 Year Treatment Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Goal still to be defined (starting with review of USFS long terms treatment plans at May 31 meeting)
Prescribed Fire Initiative	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Goal still to be defined (starting with checking in with prescribed fire council)
Policy Initiative	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Goal still to be defined (Community Protection team will brainstorm ideas)
Implementation initiatives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Work with a community to develop a project plan and attract funding for a turn-key project in a priority landscapes 15. Update the Front Range 10-County map of completed treatments



= Top priority

Front Range Roundtable



= If capacity allows

© 2012. All rights reserved.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2012 FRFTP Annual Report was developed and produced by the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership. Special thanks to the staff of these agencies and to the Front Range Roundtable for their contributions to this report.



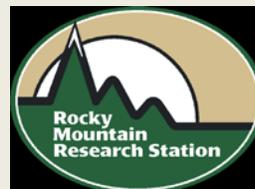
FRONT RANGE FUELS TREATMENT PARTNERSHIP AGENCIES

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION

USDA FOREST SERVICE



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE AT:

www.frftp.org