

# South Metro Fire and Rescue Authority and Aurora Fire Community Meeting



South Metro Fire Rescue Authority Station #43  
8165 N. Pinery Parkway  
Parker, CO

October 20, 2010  
7:00 p.m.

## **CWPP Core Team Members Present**

Josh Keown, Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation  
Jill Alexander, Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation  
Kristin Garrison, Colorado State Forest Service  
Thomas Welle, Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources  
Einar Jensen, South Metro Fire and Rescue Authority

## **Community Attendance**

4 attendees signed in at the meeting. Attendees represented the communities of Pinery East, Tomahawk near Black Forest, and the Powell Road area. In addition to the community members who signed in, there were several members of South Metro Fire Rescue Authority who were present. Representatives from Aurora fire were unable to make the meeting due to last minute personal matters. *We appreciate both fire department's support in this process.*

## **Meeting Proceedings:**

A presentation covering the following topics was given to the participants at the meeting: CWPP Background, Douglas County Process, Draft Hazard Map/Community Delineation, County Lands Assessment, Draft Fuel Treatments, and Next Steps.

After the presentation a general question and answer session was held and attendees reviewed maps. The meeting ended at approximately 8:45 p.m.

**Questions and Comments:** The following summarizes the questions and comments captured during the meeting proceedings.

- **Comment:** There is a concern for people and fires in the undeveloped portion of the Pinery and is there any enforcement in the area?  
**Response:** The Timbers is private land under the ownership of the Timbers. There have been issues in the past with bonfires, but the Douglas County Sheriff's Office has been responding when they are aware. The goal is for Misty Pines and the Timbers to get a CWPP in place then engage the landowner to discuss solutions for that property.
- **Comment:** It would be good to add a fire hydrant at the undeveloped area at Powell Road.  
**Response:** When the area is developed they will most likely have a central water system that includes fire hydrants.
- **Comment:** There is a concern about fire hazards in the open space parcel by Lightening View Drive. The parcel is vegetated with tall grass, oak, pine and dead vegetation. The parcel extends uphill which is a concern to neighbors.  
**Response:** The Pinery HOA is working with collaborators through the Pinery CWPP process including Douglas County and SMFRA. Several parcels near Lightening View Drive have been identified for treatment in the Douglas County CWPP County Lands assessment.
- **Question:** Who owns open space? There seems to be differences in ownership.  
**Answer:** The differences in ownership were explained. Certain parcels are deeded to the Douglas County through the development process in addition to those that are purchased with the open space tax. There are also open space parcels deeded to Home Owners Associations and Metro Districts. Parcels are also deeded for schools through the development process. Not all naturally vegetated parcels within subdivisions are necessarily open space, as some may be private lots that have not yet been built on.
- **Question:** Who maintains open space lands?  
**Answer:** The deeded owner maintains their own open space lands. In the case of Douglas County, Douglas County Department of Open Space and Natural Resources (DC OSNR) maintains open space lands deeded to Douglas County. DC OSNR does not mow their parcels on a regular basis because they are intended to serve as natural areas. DC OSNR is committed to mitigating properties according to the recommendations in the Douglas County CWPP, but will also have to take into take into consideration additional issues such as funding, wildlife habitat, and easements.
- **Comment:** A landowner in the audience said that she realized fire is a natural part of this ecosystem and since it has been suppressed there is a lot of fuel buildup. She advocated for more prescribed burns and mentioned how much good the Bayou Gulch burn did.

**Response:** Bayou Gulch is a regional park maintained by DC Parks. A controlled burn was recently implemented in the park in partnership with Douglas County and South Metro Fire and Rescue Authority. There was further discussion regarding the prescribed burn that took place at Bayou Gulch Regional Park. Fire is a natural process to manage fuel build up. Decomposition in this area is slow. The community was advocating for more prescribed burning to manage hazardous fuels. The prescribed burn at Bayou Gulch raised a lot of awareness, and was a very successful burn outside of the regular air quality window for allowed burning.

- **Question:** Why do people get permits to build in hazardous areas?  
**Answer:** There are homes and subdivisions that were built and platted before the current wildfire regulations were in place. There are now building codes in place that provide for wildfire mitigation to be performed in certain areas during the development process as well as defensible space requirements during the building process.
- **Question:** How you can tell exactly where the Douglas County open space parcels recommended for treatment are?  
**Answer:** You can go to the MapIt program on Douglas County's webpage and enter the state parcel number of the open space parcel you are interested in. Open space parcels that are recommended for treatment and their state parcel numbers can be found on the County Owned Lands Treatment Recommendations Map.