

**Douglass Ranch
Firewise Committee Meeting
May 3, 2018**

An exploratory Firewise Committee meeting was held at the home of Tom Washburn on Thursday May 3rd. The following members of the neighborhood were present

Attendees:

Charlie Williams
Mike & Cathy Rheinberger
Susie Price
Dave & Marie Sanders
Gary Jorgensen
Kate & Tom Washburn

The meeting started at 6:00 pm.

Topics:

FW Renewal Application

Tom presented a new DR website tool to enter the hours, expenses and mileage associated with Firewise tasks. You can ‘test run’ this tool by entering a comment containing text such as “This is a test”. The comment question is on the last page of the tool . Additionally there is no longer a need to save and submit receipts.

Annual FW Education Event

Tom asked for help in working 2018’s Firewise Education Event and Community Event. The 2018 Firewise Application was presented with discussion on the need to report a community-wide education event and a community-wide mitigation effort.

Dave & Marie Sanders agreed to work the Education Event – where a neighborhood wide event is planned and held to inform residents of the threat of wildfires.

Several education possibilities were listed on the 2018 Firewise Application. Dave and Marie will contact the Black Forest Together group to see whether they would be willing to talk to our neighborhood about their wildfire experience in 2013.

Annual FW Community Event

Susie Price agreed to work the community-wide mitigation effort. Cathy Rheinberger will help.

The group agreed to follow the mitigation plan as written in the [2017 Multi Year Action Plan](#) for Douglass Ranch. For 2018, mitigation along the private drives will be the goal. Hopefully neighbors will again mitigate their own properties. A chipper from Elk Creek Fire Department will be sought.

Susie mentioned that her work on the mitigation effort will likely take place in the fall.

Tom sent Susie the Aaron Betcher's contact info at Jeffco Sheriff department (Aaron did chipping for us last year). Aaron Betcher might be a "fall-back" if ECFD's chipper is not available.

Shaded Fuel Break Status

Tom summarized where coordination attempts with the Catholic Church, Greg Podd, Glenelk Association and the to-be contracted consultant (Steve Deiteman). A consultant's assistance was being sought to write a Forest Management Plan for Douglass Ranch. While the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) mentioned that they could write a (no-charge) plan, it would be late in the year before the plan would be completed. CSFS is reportedly quite understaffed.

The Catholic Church is building shaded fuel breaks along their roads. (ref: [Krogh Ranch Forest Management Plan](#)). A fuel break with Douglass Ranch would pass through adjoining property (Greg Podd, Elk Creek Estates) and tie together at an open meadow located between Podd's land and the conference center.

As an aside, per a mid-April meeting with Michael Six, (who is the public representative for the Emmaus Conference Center), Mr Six expressed support for an emergency egress route (through Podd's land). Obviously, we must first work this with Mr Podd.

In a conversation with Greg Podd in March Mr Podd agreed with the idea of a shaded fuel break, but wanted more details. He is also open to the idea of an egress route, but again, wanted more details.

Progress on a DR Forest Management Plan has been slow. CSFS offered to talk in April with ECFD about the needs of Douglass Ranch. Unfortunately CSFS failed to follow through – with the result that a number of unproductive weeks passed by. Tom is now attempting to talk directly with Jacob Ware, Chief ECFD. The goal is to bring our planned consultant into the discussion.