

UP HOA WMC Update as of Mar 19, 2014

- At our February WMC meeting, I announced an impending liaison meeting with University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) wildfire mitigation officials. Purpose: To determine how UP and UCCS might work together to reduce wildfire risk in zones of influence along our adjoining properties. On March 14th I met with Tim Stoecklein, Program Director of Emergency Management, and Ron Honn, Environmental Health and Safety Manager and Fire Chief, both of the UCCS Department of Public Safety.
- The meeting was very open, cordial and constructive. Using annotated University Park and City Forestry maps, I briefed Tim and Ron in detail on the charter, mission, and wildfire mitigation efforts/results (to date) of our UP HOA WMC. I explained the Community-City Partnership we developed with City Forestry, and the cost savings and other benefits we have enjoyed because of that alliance. I related how the Forester's ambitious reforestation work in the Austin Bluffs Open Space (ABOS) has significantly enhanced the fire safety posture of both UP and UCCS.
- Tim and Ron reciprocated by recounting to me their noteworthy UCCS property-wide wildfire mitigation efforts since 2005, and by conveying the impact of their meetings with CSFD Wildfire Mitigation officials since the Waldo Canyon Fire. These meetings were, in some measure, prompted by initial attempts of UP residents - specifically those who own property bordering or immediately adjacent to UCCS real property - to press the university for relevant mitigation action on the UCCS-side of the property boundaries.
- Tim and Ron explained the constraints of performing mitigation work in those areas as a result of CSFD's post-Waldo Canyon Fire risk assessments of UCCS property. CSFD had codified constraints related to the very difficult topographic features and extreme erosion dangers (where slopes are 30% or greater) that ostensibly preclude mitigation in the vicinity of the adjoining properties in question. Tim and Ron further related the financial constraints that they will face with regard to proposing wildfire mitigation work in such zones.
- With an understanding of each other's wildfire mitigation programs, results-to-date, and challenges going forward, we freely conducted initial dialog on possible ways and means we might employ to mutually enhance our wildfire safety posture. Unfortunately, there are no silver bullets. However, UCCS acknowledged that a discussion with the City Forester could possibly open alternative opportunities for them because City Forestry views wildfire hazards from a long term, ecology-driven reforestation/erosion prevention approach rather than a purely "fuel removal" perspective.
- The UCCS reps will contact the City Staff Forester, learn whether or not there might be viable reforestation actions we can all take together, and we will meet again after a UCCS-Forestry meeting to discuss possibilities.
- The UP HOA BOD met on March 13th. According to the Board, June's UP Community Cleanup will be left up to individual residents and property owners to take care of their own yards, areas and vicinities. That will include any real property wildfire mitigation work residents might wish to accomplish.
- To encourage and facilitate **cleanup efforts** in June, the Board has authorized funding for Z&R Property Management to contract roll-off construction dumpsters (like last year) to be positioned for use Friday, Jun 20th to Monday, Jun 23rd. Also, due to high community demand for the service, a special HAZMAT disposal container will be positioned and staffed from noon to 3:00 pm on Saturday, Jun 21st. This will allow disposal of such hazardous materials as paint, oil, chemicals, batteries, toxic materials, etc.
- To encourage and facilitate resident **wildfire mitigation work** on private property, the CSFD chipper and crew will be scheduled to make their run through the community to chip and remove slash as soon possible after the construction trash roll-off and HAZMAT disposal containers are removed.
- Because the availability dates for the CSFD chipper and crew are not yet completely verified, Z&R Property Management will advise us of the selected date(s) as soon as they can, and the community will be notified of the cleanup details via a newsletter, mailed post card, event announcement signs at community entrances, and on the University Park website (universityparkpoints.com).

Doug Harris
Chairman, UP HOA WMC