



# BIG HORN COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN



## OPERATING GROUP

Big Horn County Commissioners

Big Horn County Fire Districts

USDA Forest Service

USDI Bureau of Land Management

Wyoming State Forestry Division

Big Horn County Office of Homeland Security

Wyoming Game and Fish

Technical Forestry Services, LLC

**Date:** 1/30/09      **Time:** 10:00 am to 12:00 noon  
**From:** Technical Forestry Services, LLC  
**Subject:** BH County CWPP Operating Group - Minutes from 1/30/09 Meeting No. 1  
**Location:** Alamo Room – Basement of Bank of Greybull  
**Submitted by:** Chris Weydeveld - BH Co Firewise Coordinator

### Call to Order

### OG Members Present

Present: Brent Godfrey (County Fire Warden), Jim Waller (BH County Planner), Paul Morency (WSFD District Forester), Brian Russell (WSFD Assistant District Forester), Jack Mononi (BLM), Mike Wingert (BLM), Eve Warren (BLM), Tom Shirran (Hyattville Fire Chief), Daren Wagner (Frannie/Deaver Fire Chief), Bob Mangus (Lovell Fire Chief), Cecil Mullins (Manderson Fire Chief), Terry Mueller (Shell Fire Dept.), Butch Kraus (Burlington Fire Chief), Tom Easterly (WGFD/Greybull Fire Dept.), Jack Lindsey (USFS Cabin lease holder), Marvin Hunt (BH County Assistant Firewise Coordinator), and Chris Weydeveld (BH County Firewise Coordinator)

### Guests Present

George Ivory (Interested party)

### Previous meeting's minutes: None to report

1. **Agenda Item 1:** Communities-at-risk
  - a. A discussion took place amongst the OG members about areas in the County that were considered “at-risk” in the event of unwanted fire. The group was at great advantage by having fire chiefs from nearly every town as well as state and federal fire specialists and other individuals familiar with the County and historical fire occurrence. Several potential “at-risk” areas were listed on a white board.
  - b. Jim Waller projected a series of maps on the screen showing the location of the river and creek drainages in the County. Also shown were all the “occupied” structures. (Structures that had no address information on file with the Assessors office such as barns, sheds, etc.. are not recorded in the data base). The OG discussed at length what criteria the group should adopt to identify an at-risk community. It was determined that “local expertise” should be used to create a rough Base Map of the County and that we would refine at the next meeting. The following approach was stated:
    - i. Include all municipalities (including unincorporated towns) that occur along a drainage.
    - ii. Include river drainage sections where occupied dwellings are within ½ mile of the center of the river/creek.

Jim will use these definitions to create a map that can be used at the February meeting.
2. **Agenda Item 2:** Priorities
  - a. Once the at-risk communities have been identified and agreed upon by the OG we will prioritize the communities on the basis of risk. The method will be primarily one of local knowledge and expertise. Additionally, once the weather warms Marvin Hunt will visit a sample of the communities and fill out a Community Rating Scorecard. This method will involve identifying hazardous conditions such as:

---

**To improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, and for other purposes. HFRA, 2003**

Difficult access (ingress and egress), unnaturally heavy fuel loadings, structure density, topography, defensibility, response times, etc...

3. **Agenda Item 3:** Public Outreach

- a. Some ideas for educating the public on Firewise principles included: 1) field tour looking at “right and wrong” community layout, defensible space examples, 2) Brochures mailed with bank statements or through the Conservation District, 3) Quarterly newsletter, 4) web site, 5) radio or TV spots, 6) Give the Planning and Zoning Commission a “packet” that can be given to groups that are planning a new subdivision, 7) Talk with insurance companies about Firewise standards, 8) Contact State Legislatures regarding a need for better Firewise planning for new and existing developments.
4. **Agenda Item 4:** Next Meeting date. February 20 was an initial suggestion but that day turned out bad for a few people so the meeting is now scheduled for February 19 at 1:00 pm in the Alamo Room (Basement of the Bank of Greybull).

