



Success Stories from the Western Region

Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative (CBBC)

The Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative (CBBC) was formed in 2005 as an intergovernmental cooperative between federal and state land management agencies and municipal and county governments to address the impacts of the mountain pine beetle outbreak in Jackson, Routt, Grand, Summit and Eagle Counties. The USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management were the principal federal agencies, the Colorado State Forest Service was the primary state agency, and Northwest Colorado Council of Governments represented municipal and county governments. A steering committee made up of policy level people representing the various governmental entities guided the cooperative's efforts that were implemented by an implementation team comprised of personnel assigned by the cooperating agencies. The primary desired outcomes of the CBBC were, and remain, to affect policies that:

1. Remove administrative barriers that inhibit effective efforts.
2. Formulate, promote, and endorse state and federal legislation and funding to enhance effective efforts.
3. Promote public information and education efforts.
4. Support and promote the involvement of the private sector in addressing the effort.
5. Organize pre-disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness efforts.

In 2007 the CBBC's steering committee directed that the cooperative expand from an intergovernmental cooperative to a broad, multi-stakeholder collaborative. That directive was achieved and the CBBC developed by-laws and articles of incorporation and became an Internal Revenue Service designated 501(c)(3) public charity in 2010. The governance of the CBBC is guided by an executive committee, a steering committee, and working committees, in adherence to the adopted bylaws.

Find success stories from Western stakeholders at:

<http://sites.nemac.org/westcohesivefire/about-you//>

For Cohesive Strategy Partner Perspectives and Success Stories visit: <http://forestsandrangelands.gov>

Agreement for Collaboration

- 1) Purpose:
The Mountain Pine Bark Beetle outbreak began in north-central Colorado in 1998 and has impacted over four million acres of high elevation lodgepole pine with a high percentage of mortality of mature trees. Although the bulk of beetle activity is occurring on federal lands, lands and resources of all ownerships and jurisdictions are being affected. Due to the geographic scale of the outbreak and the long-term affects of dead and dying forests on the safety of communities, the security of public infrastructure, and the quantity and quality of water supplies, no one entity can sufficiently address the issue. It must be addressed in a collaborative approach of interested and affected public, private and non-profit organizations and individual stakeholders.

The purpose of the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative is to address the environmental, social and economic impacts of bark beetles on high elevation forests and adjacent communities across all land ownerships and jurisdictions.





Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

National Goals; Collective Solutions

Response to Wildfire
Fire Adapted Communities
Resilient Landscapes
Supported by Science

Agreement for Collaboration (continued)

2) Areas of Focus:

The focus of the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative is:

- a) The protection of human life and property.
- b) The protection of vital public and private infrastructure.
- c) The protection of critical sources of water supply.
- d) The development of resilient communities located within and adjacent to disturbance driven ecosystems such as high elevation lodgepole pine.

The Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative is a policy level, place based collaborative working specifically in Routt, Jackson, Grand, Summit, Eagle, Pitkin and Park Counties in the State of Colorado.

3) Desired Outcomes:

The Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative seeks to achieve positive outcomes in the areas of:

- e) The removal of administrative barriers within federal, state, and local governments that prevent efficient and effective actions on the ground in the areas of focus.
- f) The passage of local ordinances and state and federal legislation that will:
 - i) increase the availability of resources to enable more effective and efficient actions,
 - ii) protect human life,
 - iii) increase the security of public and private infrastructure,
 - iv) protect critical water supplies,
 - v) protect those involved in addressing the issues from unnecessary exposure to liability, and
 - vi) provide private sector incentives to increase involvement.
- g) Public outreach to increase the knowledge of citizens, visitors, and elected officials regarding the cause of forest mortality and actions necessary to address the areas of focus in order to build acceptance for on-the-ground actions.
- h) Involvement of the private sector to implement successful actions to address the issues by lowering the per-acre treatment costs so more acres can be treated.
- i) Pre-disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness to reduce the threats to human life and property, vital public and private infrastructure, and critical supplies of water.

Key Contacts for the CBBC

Richard Stem, Retired USFS R2 Deputy Regional Forester and co-founder of the CBBC
wrkrich@aol.com

Gary Severson, Retired Executive Director, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, co-founder of the CBBC and past chair of the CBBC from 2006 to 2010.
seversonbreck@msn.com

Tom Clark, Mayor, Town of Kremmling, Colorado and Chair of the CBBC
mayor@townofkremmling.org

Sloan Shoemaker, Executive Director, Wilderness Workshop and current Vice-Chair of the CBBC.
sloan@wildernessworkshop.org

Abbie Cobb, Coordinator, CBBC
abbiec@colorado.net





Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

National Goals; Collective Solutions

Response to Wildfire
Fire Adapted Communities
Resilient Landscapes
Supported by Science

4) Partners:

The CBBC is open to all interested organizations and individuals with a stake in the high elevation forests of the area of focus. Due to the impacts of bark beetle killed forests on such a large geographic and interest scale, the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative will actively seek the involvement of:

- Adjacent municipal governments
- Adjacent county governments
- Colorado Congressional Delegation
 - House staff
 - Senate staff
- Colorado State Legislature
 - House of Representatives
 - Senate
- Colorado Governor's Office
 - Governor's Tourism Office
 - Governor's Office of Homeland Security
 - Governor's Energy Office
 - Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council¹
- State agencies including:
 - Colorado State Forest Service
 - Colorado Department of Local Affairs
 - Colorado Department of Transportation
 - Colorado Department of Natural Resources
 - Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Federal agencies including:
 - USDA Forest Service – NFS
 - USDA Forest Service – S&PF
 - USDA Forest Service - Research
 - USDI Bureau of Land management
 - USDI National Park Service
 - Western Area Power Administration
 - Department of Energy
 - Department of Homeland Security
- Universities
 - Colorado State University
 - Colorado Mountain College
 - Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at Colorado State University
- Citizen based interest groups
 - National Wildlife Federation
 - Trout Unlimited
 - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 - Colorado Wild
 - The Wilderness Society
- Colorado Trail Foundation
- Continental Divide Trail Foundation
- National Forest Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Four Wheelers
- Summit Fat Tire Association
- Colorado Outfitter Guides Association
- Professional associations
 - Colorado Association of Regional Organizations
 - Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
 - Colorado Counties, Inc.
 - Colorado Municipal League
 - Colorado Fire Chiefs' Association
 - Northwest Colorado All Hazards Emergency Management Region
 - Colorado Ski Country USA
- Water providers
 - In-basin
 - Out-basin
 - Colorado River Compact
- Fire Protection Districts and Municipal Fire Departments
- Communications providers
 - Emergency communications
 - Commercial communications
- Electric providers
 - Investor owned
 - Member owned
 - Public owned
- Private land owners
- Homeowner associations
- Private sector
 - Ski areas
 - Colorado Timber Association
 - Blue stain wood trade association
 - Blue Knight trade association
 - Forest Energy

Each participating entity has an equal voice around the collaboration table.

¹ This Council was disbanded by the current governor in 2011



5) Timeframe:

The Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative is established on a year-to-year, as needed basis. Continuation of the CBBC will be addressed at the autumn meeting of the General Membership and at the fourth quarter meeting of the Steering Committee.

The CBBC General Membership will meet at least once per year.

The CBBC Executive Committee will meet quarterly

The CBBC Steering Committee will meet quarterly

The CBBC Working Committees meet as necessary

6) Decision Process:

All decisions of the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative will be consensus based with all participants having an equal voice around the collaboration table.

7) Authorities and Limitations:

The Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative has no legal authority of its own. All decisions of the CBBC are advanced through the legal authorities of the individual members. The Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative cannot enter into contracts or accept monies in the form of donations or grants. All financial transactions are conducted through a designated fiscal agent with the legal authority to do so.²

All members of the CBBC retain all of their individual authorities. Actions of the CBBC cannot cause a member to abdicate authority or responsibility, exceed authority or responsibility, or bind the member to expenditure of resources.

8) Resources:

The CBBC receives financial support from individual members and from individual public donations, and private, state, and federal grants and contracts. Information, technological, and human resources are voluntarily provided by members.

² This has changed in 2010 with the creation of the CBBC as an IRS 501(c)(3) Colorado not-for-profit corporation



Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

National Goals; Collective Solutions

Response to Wildfire
Fire Adapted Communities
Resilient Landscapes
Supported by Science

9) Accountability:

- j) All activities of the CBBC are subject to the laws of the United States of America and the State of Colorado.
- k) The financial activity of the CBBC will be included in the annual audit of the designated fiscal agent.
- l) The CBBC's Executive Committee is responsible for the financial and legal functions of the organization.
- m) The CBBC's Steering Committee establishes direction for the CBBC.
- n) The Working Committees address the topics within their scope of responsibilities.
- o) A year-end report is provided to the General Membership to measure progress.
- p) All meetings of the CBBC are open to the public under the provisions of the Colorado Open Meetings Act.
- q) All members of the CBBC are accountable to one another in the spirit of collaboration built on the foundation of:
 - i) Mutual Respect
 - ii) Mutual Trust
 - iii) Mutual Benefit

10) Commitments:

- r) Time – At least one year, equaling 8 to 48 hours or more. (see #5)
- s) Participation – Being willing to be involved, sharing opinions and ideas, not simply observing.
- t) Good Faith – Compliant with standards of decency and honesty.
- u) Mutuality – Giving Respect, building Trust, and striving to achieve Benefit for all.

Accomplishments

Remove administrative barriers that inhibit effective efforts.

- The removal of prohibitions for land owners to treat and remove beetle infected trees within prescribed distances on federal lands sharing common property boundaries.
- The removal required stumpage assessments to Forest Service permitted ski areas for the required removal of beetle killed hazard trees.
- The reduction of cancellation ceiling requirements on stewardship contracts.
- The streamlining of environmental assessments and liability requirements for maintenance of rights-of-way under electrical transmission lines by power providers.
- The streamlining of environmental assessments for the protection of critical water shed infrastructure.
- The re-valuing of timber sale contracts in sale areas devastated by mountain pine beetles.
- Removal of liabilities on wildland volunteer firefighters and the providers of wildland fire equipment.
- Streamlining the process for local governments to utilize hand-labor crews from the Colorado Department of Corrections to remove hazard trees from public lands.
- Assisting the USFS Region 2 to establish a Bark Beetle Incident Command Team, rather than working through the administration of individual national forests.



Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy National Goals; Collective Solutions

Response to Wildfire
Fire Adapted Communities
Resilient Landscapes
Supported by Science

Formulate, promote, and endorse state and federal legislation and funding to enhance effective efforts.

- From 2007 through 2010, the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative initiated and or actively supported twenty-five bills introduced into the Colorado State Legislature. All of them passed and were signed into law. Those bills include:
 - State sales tax exemptions on products manufactured from beetle killed pine.
 - Authorization for the establishment of forest health protection districts.
 - Biomass energy development.
 - Marketing for sustainable wood products industry.
 - Community Wildfire Protection Planning.
 - Immunity from personal liability for volunteer firefighters.
 - Incentives for volunteer wildland firefighters.
 - Standardization of Community Wildfire Protection Plans
 - Prescribed fire certification standards.
 - Landowner income tax deductions for forest health improvement projects.
 - Bonding for watershed protection projects through municipalities and districts.
- From 2006 to 2010, CBBC led eight delegations of locally elected officials and CBBC members to Washington, D.C. to meet with Members of Congress and federal public land management agency executives, resulting in the unification of the Colorado Congressional Delegation and the direct financial support of agencies.
- From 2006 through 2010 the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative was instrumental in helping to obtain:
 - \$12,000,000, Department of Defense via Senate Interior Appropriations Committee
 - \$44,550,000, Department of Agriculture via FS
 - \$10,000,000, ARRA funding
 - \$42,882, National Forest Foundation
 - \$50,000, Donations from CBBC members
 - \$5,000,000, State of Colorado through passed legislation
 - \$300,000, County cost sharing grants
 - \$50,000, Colorado State Forest Service revolving loan fund

Promote public information and education efforts.

- CBBC is a host or co-host of numerous workshops, seminars, and symposia regarding bark beetle impact mitigation.

Support and promote the involvement of the private sector in addressing the effort.

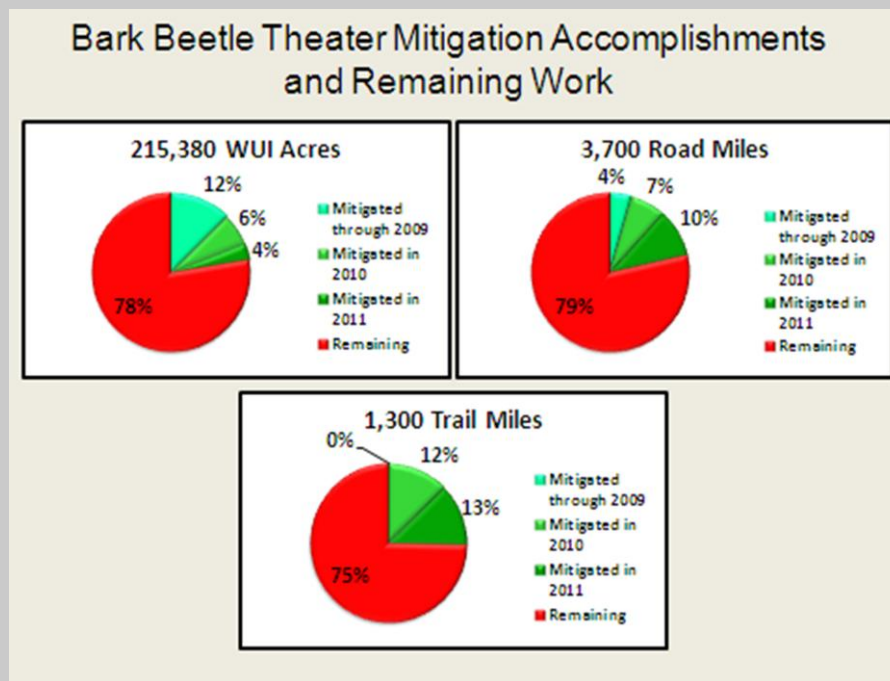
- In addition to legislation aimed at providing incentives to the private sector wood products industry, CBBC has been of assistance to local governments that attracted two new wood pellet plants utilizing bark beetle killed trees, and the installation of new grinding technology for beetle killed trees at county landfills to create useable woodchips.



Organize pre-disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness efforts.

- CBBC assisted in the development of countywide wildfire fire emergency evacuation plans.
- CBBC assisted in the development of countywide community wildfire protection plans.
- CBBC assisted the Forest Service identify high priority treatment areas to protect public infrastructure including water diversion, impoundment, and treatment facilities and emergency communications sites.

Although the CBBC is a policy level collaborative and not directly involved in on-the-ground projects, some of the policies affected by the CBBC resulted in the following on-the-ground actions in the Bark Beetle Theater in Colorado to the end of 2011 with no appeals or litigation:¹



The following are the acreage totals of treatments on national forest system lands in Colorado in 2011 alone¹:

- Treated acres in the Wildland/Urban Interface – 6,579 acres
- Treated acres in the non-Wildland Urban Interface – 6,187 acres
- Removal of hazard trees within road ROWs – 275 miles
- Removal of hazard trees along recreation trails – 162 miles
- Removal of hazard trees from developed recreation sites – 210 sites

³ USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Bark Beetle Incident Commander

⁴ USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Bark Beetle Incident, 2011 Accomplishment Report