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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Interagency Wildland/Urban Interface Working Group

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Interagency Wildland/Urban Interface Working Group.

1. Background and Need.

Technological advancements and shifts in societal values have resulted in tremendous rates of growth in Colorado. Increased population densities and areas of urban development within native wildland vegetation magnify the potential for catastrophic impacts from fire. The addition of structures to the wildland has significantly increased the complexity of the fire protection and natural resource management challenges in the wildland/urban interface. Fire protection policies and their interpretation by agencies at different levels of government need to be consistent. The appropriate tools to address the complex issue of mitigating wildfire hazards in interface areas must be developed and are best implemented through locally developed plans and strategies.

2. Mission.

The Wildland/Urban Interface Working Group (“Working Group”) is hereby established. The mission of the Working Group is:

- A. To assess and make recommendations to the Governor on fire policies and their statewide funding priorities for implementation in the wildland/urban interface. These policies are critical to preventing future loss of life and property, scenic values, wildlife habitat, and water quality.
- B. To assess and make recommendations to the Governor on processes and systems that will increase cooperation and coordination in the safe use of all appropriate land management practices including prescribed fire as a tool to improve the health of Colorado’s forests, rangeland, and prairie ecosystems and to mitigate the fire danger in the wildland/urban interface.

- C. To enhance the involvement of a diverse group of stakeholders, professionals, and decision-makers on fire policy matters. This includes federal, state, tribal, and local governments, the insurance industry, homebuilders, firefighter representatives, home and business owners, and other interested parties.
- D. To focus on: awareness programs; land use development policies; cooperation between landowners, local government, and developers; consistent application of mitigation practices; and the sharing of knowledge and policies that increase public safety, reduce wildfire hazards, and achieve desired ecological goals in interface areas.
- E. To identify barriers to mitigating wildland/urban interface fire hazards and recommend solutions to overcome those barriers.
- F. The Working Group shall submit a written report with an executive summary of its findings and recommendations to the Governor by May 1, 2001.

3. Membership.

- A. The Working Group shall consist of the following representatives to be appointed by the Governor. All representatives of the Working Group shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
 - i.) Three county commissioners.
 - ii.) The Regional Forester of the U.S. Forest Service or his/her designee.
 - iii.) The State Director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management or his/her designee.
 - iv.) The Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources or his/her designee.
 - v.) The Dean of the College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University.
 - vi.) A sheriff as recommended by the Emergency Fire Fund Committee.
 - vii.) A fire chief as recommended by the Emergency Fire Fund Committee.

viii.) The Director of the Office of Emergency Management or his/her designee.

ix.) The Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety or his/her designee.

B. The Director of the Colorado State Forest Service shall serve as the chair of the Working Group.

4. Duration.

The Working Group shall sunset upon submission of its report to the Governor on May 1, 2001, unless otherwise extended or terminated by further executive order of the Governor.

Given under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this 31st day of
August, 2000.

Bill Owens
Governor