

2021 COLORADO FIRE COMMISSION ANNUAL
REPORT



Letter from Commission Chair

I am pleased to present the Colorado Fire Commission's second annual report pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute § 24-33.5-1233. The members of the Commission and its Subcommittees have spent countless hours working together to develop solutions that improve how Colorado addresses fire and its consequences. The Commission, and more importantly its recommendations, benefitted from the array of public and private interests represented on the Commission and its Subcommittees. The accomplishments of the Commission are the accomplishments of each member's willingness to work as a team and look beyond their differences to find common ground.

In 2020, the Commission made five recommendations, resulting in bipartisan support for several bills passed by the 2021 General Assembly. The overwhelming support by the 2021 General Assembly validated the importance of having a stakeholder-driven Commission to proactively develop innovative solutions to Colorado's fire problem. Most notably, the Legislature made unprecedented investments in how Colorado addresses wildland fires, clearly recognizing that the most impactful solutions must address mitigation, preparedness, suppression, and recovery.

The overwhelming success the Commission saw in its first year was remarkable, however the work continues as we have only just begun addressing our legislative mandates. During its second year, the Commission turned its attention to ensuring the 2020 recommendations reached the finish line, as well as began the work of addressing high-risk hazards, the coordination of fire resources, and firefighter training. You will see in this report how the early successes motivated the Commission to dig into more of the complex issues that face Colorado while maintaining their spirit of collaboration and cooperation. These issues are complicated, and this is the group that has proven stakeholder-supported recommendations are both necessary and possible.

The Colorado Fire Commission thanks the Colorado General Assembly for its continued support. It is my honor to continue to work with those committed to ensuring the success of the Colorado Fire Commission and improving how Colorado manages fire issues for years to come.



Stan Hilkey
Colorado Fire Commission Chair
Executive Director, Colorado Department of Public Safety

Table of Contents

Letter from Commission Chair	2
Commission Members	4
Voting Members	4
Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Members.....	5
Colorado Fire Commission Staff.....	6
Executive Summary	7
Introduction	8
Legislative Intent	11
Activities of the Fire Commission	12
Commission Outreach.....	12
Commission Subcommittees and Task Forces	13
Pre-2020 Annual Report Subcommittees	14
I. Statewide and Regional Coordination of Mutual Aid Subcommittee	14
II. Large Fire Funding Subcommittee.....	15
III. Fire Data Subcommittee	16
New Subcommittees Since Last Annual Report	17
I. Legislative Subcommittee	17
II. High-Risk Hazards Subcommittee	18
III. Wildland Urban Interface Subcommittee	18
IV. Coordination of Fire Based Resources Subcommittee.....	19
V. Training and Certification Subcommittee	21
VI. Final Thoughts	23
Appendix A: Senate Bill 19-040	24
Appendix B: Subcommittee and Task Force Members	33
Appendix C: July 2021 Letter from Governor Polis.....	40

Commission Members

Voting Members

Stan Hilkey, Chair
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Safety

Sean Jewell
Assistant Chief, West Metro Fire Rescue
Statewide Organization Representing Professional Firefighters

Mike Morgan, Vice Chair
Division Director
Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control

Bryce Boyer
Captain, City of Pueblo Fire Department
Statewide Organization Representing Professional Firefighters

Vaughn Jones
Wildland Fire Management Section Chief
Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control

Paul Acosta
President, Colorado Firefighters Association
Statewide Organization Representing Volunteer Firefighters

Kevin Klein
Division Director
Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Brita Horn
Chief, Rock Creek Fire
Statewide Organization Representing Volunteer Firefighters

Mike Lester
Director/State Forester
Colorado State Forest Service

Doug Hall
Chief, Westminster Fire
Statewide Organization Representing Municipalities

Dan Gibbs
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Ken Watkins
Chief, Grand Junction Fire
Statewide Organization Representing Municipalities

Bob Baker
Chief, South Metro Fire
Statewide Organization Representing Fire Chiefs—
East Slope

Lesley Dahlkemper
Commissioner, Jefferson County
Statewide Organization Representing Counties—
East Slope

Mark Novak
Chief, Vail Fire and Emergency Services
Statewide Organization Representing Fire Chiefs—
West Slope

Ben Tisdell
Commissioner, Ouray County
Statewide Organization Representing Counties—
West Slope

Brett Powell
Sheriff, Logan County
Statewide Organization Representing County
Sheriffs—East Slope

Pam Feely
Board Member, West Metro Fire Rescue
Statewide Organization Representing Special
Districts—East Slope

Sean Smith
Sheriff, La Plata County
Statewide Organization Representing County
Sheriffs—West Slope

Kevin Whelan
Board Member, Grand Valley Fire
Statewide Organization Representing Special
Districts—West Slope

Joe Pelle
Sheriff, Boulder County
Statewide Organization Representing County
Sheriffs—East Slope

Nathan Fogg
Emergency Manager, Arapahoe County
Statewide Organization Representing Emergency
Managers

KC Hume
Sheriff, Moffat County
Statewide Organization Representing County
Sheriffs—West Slope

Monica Million
Executive Director, Colorado 911 Resource Center
911 Advisory Task Force Member established by the
Public Utilities Commission

Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Members

Bob Sullivan
Southwest Regional Director, National Fire
Protection Association
Representing Nonprofit Organization with
Expertise in Nationally Recognized Safety
Standards

Scott Sugg
Assistant Director Cooperative Fire, U.S. Forest
Service

Zane Kessler
Director of Government Relations, Colorado River
District
Representing Water Providers—West Slope

Brain Achziger
State Fire Management Officer, Bureau of Land
Management

Eric Howell
Forest Program Manager, Colorado Springs Utilities
Representing Water Providers—East Slope

Jay Lusher
Regional Fire Management Officer, National Park
Service

Carole Walker
Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Insurance
Information Association
Representing the Insurance Industry

Sarah Thorsteinson
Executive Director, REALTORS
Representing Property Owners

Tim Coleman, Government Relations Specialist,
Colorado Rural Electric Association
Representing Electric Utilities

Colorado Fire Commission Staff

Lisa Pine
Fire Commission Administrator
Division of Fire Prevention and Control

Heather Bergman
Peak Facilitation Group

Izzy Sofio
Peak Facilitation Group



2018 Buffalo Mountain Fire – Mitigation and Suppression Combined for Success.

Executive Summary

The charge of the Colorado Fire Commission (Commission) is to evaluate how Colorado manages fire and its consequences. The Commission does this by bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders to develop broadly supported recommendations. After a very successful first year, focusing mainly on the issues surround wildland fires, the Commission expanded its work to address high-risk hazards and firefighter training and certification. The Commission recognized the continued need to focus on wildland fire, so it also began exploring the issues of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and the coordination of fire-based resources on a year-round basis to address the now year-round fire season. The Data Subcommittee (formed in the Commission's first year) continued its work to find solutions to coordinating the vast amount of data available into a coordinated and user-friendly system. The Commission prioritized this issue after recognizing that it cannot offer meaningful solutions to many fire-related problems until it has the data to fully understand them.

The second year of the Commission has been busy and productive. The Commission never lost sight of its original recommendations, ensuring the 2020 recommendations were communicated to appropriate stakeholders and supported by the Legislature where necessary. At the same time, the Commission began working in new areas to improve how Colorado manages fire and its consequences. The Commission's subcommittees and task forces met 42 times to hear from subject matter experts and develop recommendations to present to the Commission.

In 2021, the Colorado General Assembly addressed and funded four of the recommendations from the 2020 Commission Annual Report. Senate Bill 21-166 Colorado Fire Commission Recommendations addressed Recommendations 20-01 (Implement the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System) and 20-02 (Update Mutual Aid Statutes to Support the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System). Senate Bill 21-227 State Emergency Reserve partially addresses Recommendation 20-03 (Establish a State Responsibility and Large Wildland Fire Fund within DFPC) by providing a more sustainable funding source for the State Emergency Reserve Fund. Senate Bill 21-049 Department of Public Safety Supplemental and Senate Bill 21-205 Long Appropriations Bill provided \$1.8 million support Recommendation 20-04 (Implement an Enhanced State Assistance Program), starting in fiscal year 2021.

At the time of this report there are no final approved recommendations from the Commission. Several subcommittees are working on recommendations to be voted on at upcoming Commission meetings. If the Commission approves recommendations by January 2022, it will submit an addendum to this 2021 report for legislative consideration.

Introduction

Report to the House Rural Affairs and Agriculture Committee and the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the Wildfire Matters Review Interim Committee pursuant to Colo. Rev. Stat. § 24-33.5-1233

This report provides an overview of the second year of the Colorado Fire Commission’s (Commission) activities. The mission of the Commission is to enhance public safety in Colorado through an integrated statewide process focused on the Fire Service’s capacity to conduct fire management and use, preparedness, prevention, and response activities to safeguard lives, property—including utility and communications infrastructure—and natural resources and increase the resiliency of local and regional communities.

Since the release of the 2020 Annual Report, the whole Commission has met four times. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the first three meetings were held virtually. In July 2021, the Commission held a hybrid (virtual and in-person) meeting in Durango. In addition, the Commission’s subcommittees and task forces met 42 times to hear from subject matter experts and develop recommendations to present to the Commission. Meeting documents and summaries can be found on the Commission [website](http://www.coloradofirecommission.com)

(www.coloradofirecommission.com).

2021 Legislative Session

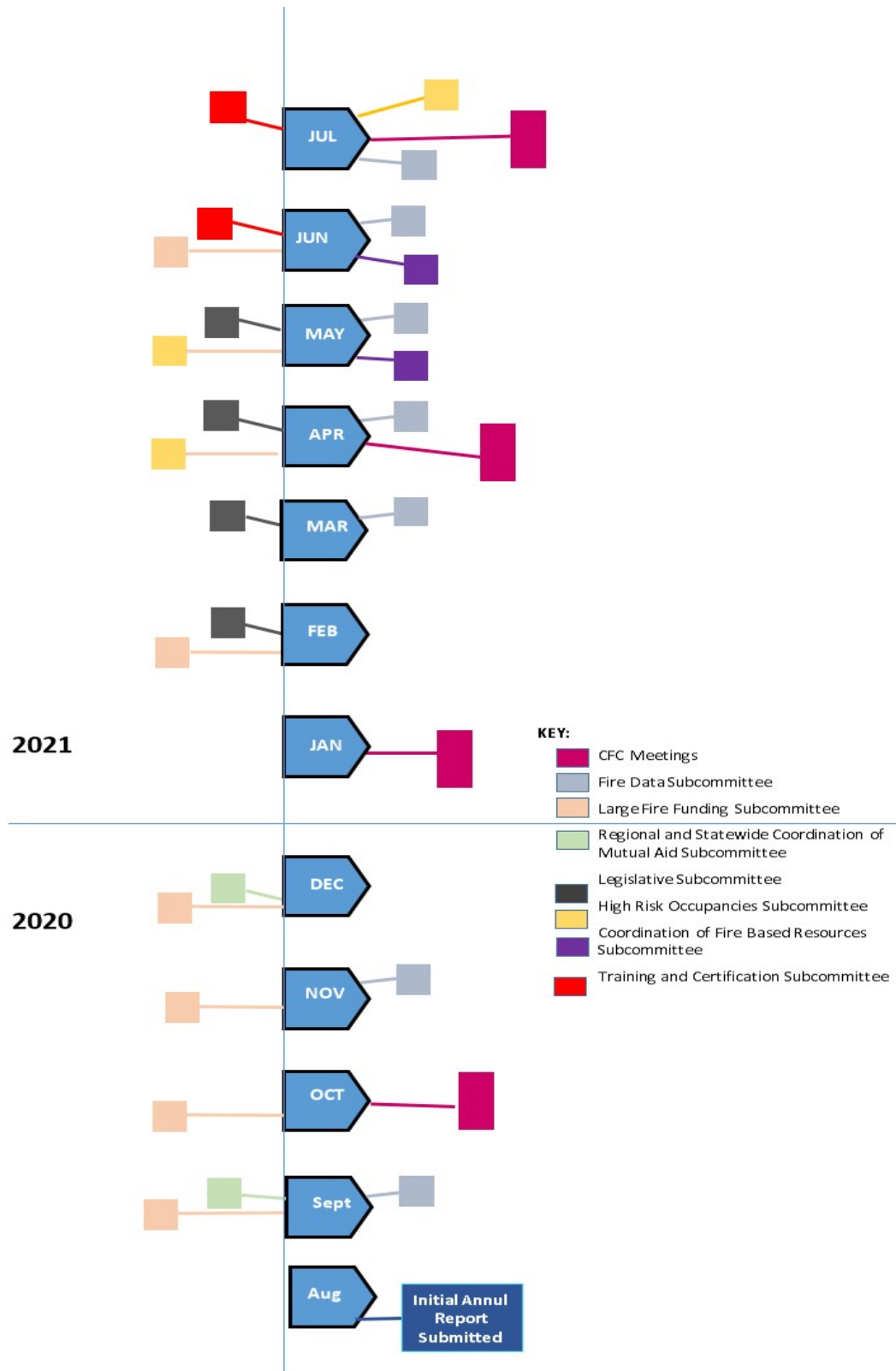
In 2021, the Colorado General Assembly passed several bills to address Colorado’s wildland fire problem. These bills provided funding for mitigation, suppression, and recovery, all of which are necessary to make a meaningful impact on a growing statewide issue. Below is a list of bills that directly address Colorado’s fire problem.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| HB21-1008 | HB21-1208 |
| SB21-012 | SB21-049 |
| SB21-054 | SB21-113 |
| SB21-166 | SB21-205 |
| SB21-221 | SB 21-227 |
| BS21-240 | SB21-258 |



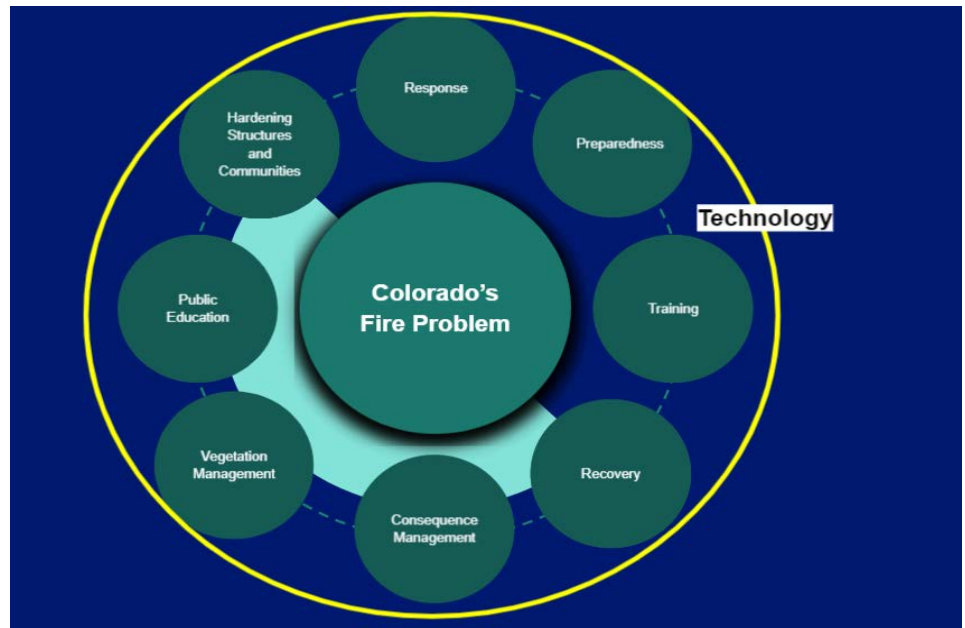
Hybrid Colorado Fire Commission meeting at the La Plata County Sheriff’s Office July 2021.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT: COLORADO FIRE COMMISSION



2020-2021 Colorado Fire Commission Meeting Overview

The Colorado Fire Commission was established in 2019 when the Colorado General Assembly recognized the importance of having a dedicated, stakeholder-driven group to address the challenges faced by Colorado’s fire service. These problems are growing in both size and complexity, and effective solutions require an updated approach. The first-of-its-kind Commission has members committed to developing innovative solutions that can be tailored to meet diverse needs. The Commission is working from many angles to ensure a holistic approach to managing fire and its consequences. Since the last annual report, the Commission has worked not only on wildland fire issues but also on addressing high-risk hazards, the coordination of fire-based resources, and ensuring a well-trained and properly equipped fire service. Tackling the fire problem requires a multifaceted approach, and the Commission continues to work on ensuring that its work is making a meaningful and impactful contribution to Colorado’s fire service and the people it serves.



A New Approach to Colorado's Fire Problem

Legislative Intent

Pursuant to CRS 24-33.5-1233, the Commission is comprised of 24 voting members—18 of whom are appointed representatives of specific stakeholder groups and six of whom were identified to serve based on their official position in State government. In addition, there are nine ex-officio (non-voting) members, bringing the total membership on the Commission to 33. The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety appoints Commission members to four-year terms. Per statute, these members must represent diverse backgrounds and geographic areas of Colorado. Since the 2020 Annual Report was published, CDPS Director Stan Hilkey appointed Tim Coleman as an ex-officio member to represent electric utilities. The Commission’s enabling legislation requires a meeting of the full Commission to meet at least every 3 months, or more as determined by the Chair of the Commission. Senate Bill 19-040, which established the Commission, is included as Appendix A.

As of July 20, 2021, Commission member Brita Horn (Chief, Rock Creek Volunteer Fire Department) has been replaced by Ray Gonzales (Chief, Rocky Ford Fire and EMS) to serve as one of the two members from a statewide organization representing volunteer firefighters.

C.R.S. 24-33.5-1233 requires the Commission to submit a written report annually to the House Rural Affairs and Agriculture Committee, the Senate Agriculture and National Resources Committee, and the Wildfire Matters Review Interim Committee on or before August 31.

Activities of the Fire Commission

This section summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the Commission since the publication of the August 2020 report.

In its second year, the four Commission meetings were focused on reflecting on opportunities for continuous improvement, determining ongoing needs for existing subcommittees, and identifying new priority areas. The Commission prioritized the need to ensure the 2020 recommendations were communicated to appropriate stakeholders and supported by the Legislature where necessary. The Commission formed a Legislative Subcommittee to keep an eye on how the 2020 recommendations were implemented by the 2021 General Assembly.

Most of the Commission's 2020 recommendations focused on wildland fire issues, which were deemed most pressing due to the growing impact of wildland fire on the State. The Commission continued its work on wildland fire issues through a new Subcommittee to look at Coordination of Fire-Based Resources. Although wildland fire is a critical focus of the Commission, members expressed a need to focus on other fire issues to truly impact the fire problem in Colorado. For this reason, the Commission formed two new subcommittees: High-Risk Hazards, which focuses on community risk reduction and fire prevention; and Training and Certification, which focuses on ensuring that Colorado's fire service is well trained and properly equipped to meet increasing service demands statewide.

While COVID-19 restrictions limited the ability for in-person Commission meetings, virtual meetings offered the opportunity for more interactions between geographically diverse Subcommittee members. Since the last report, Subcommittees and Task Forces met 42 times, as compared to only 13 meetings in the Commission's first year.

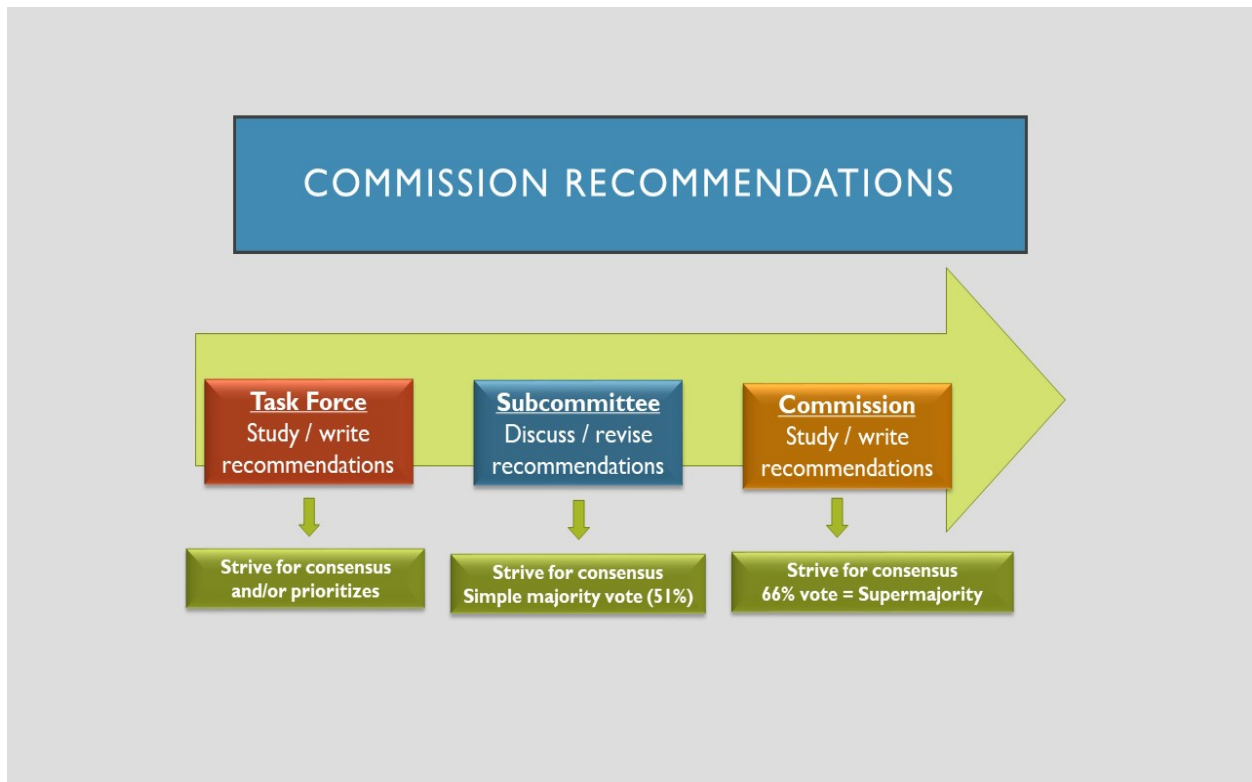
As of the July 2021 meeting, the Commission had not approved any recommendations to include in this report. Several subcommittees are developing or refining recommendations for Commission approval at an upcoming Commission meeting. If the Commission approves recommendations in October 2021 or January 2022, it will submit an addendum to this report if Commission members believe it is necessary to expedite implementation of the additional recommendations.

Commission Outreach

While the Commission's first year of outreach was focused on a broader stakeholder and public information campaign regarding the concept of the Commission itself, the second year was more tailored directly to stakeholders and policymakers around the 2020 recommendations. Specifically, the Commission published fact sheets to distill complex recommendations into plain language and FAQs. The Fire Commission members provided regular updates to the organizations they represent and both Commission and Subcommittee members assisted in identifying subject matter experts to serve on new Subcommittees.

Commission Subcommittees and Task Forces

Subcommittees and task forces allow smaller groups to work on innovative solutions to the issues prioritized by the Commission. Subcommittees and task forces include both Commission members and other subject matter experts that can provide insight and context on these issues. To focus the efforts further, subcommittees can create smaller task forces to work on one specific aspect of the subcommittee's overall work. See Appendix B for a list of subcommittee and task force members. At the time of this report there are no final approved recommendations from the Commission. Several subcommittees are working on recommendations to be voted on at either the October 2021 or January 2022 Commission meeting. If the Commission approves recommendations in October or January, it will submit an addendum to this 2021 report for legislative consideration.



Pre-2020 Annual Report Subcommittees

I. Statewide and Regional Coordination of Mutual Aid Subcommittee

The focus of the Statewide and Regional Coordination of Mutual Aid Subcommittee is to strengthen regional and statewide coordination of mutual aid resources and initial attack capabilities for fire and other hazards (see C.R.S. 24-33.5-1233(4)(b)(VI)). In 2020, the Commission approved two recommendations from this Subcommittee: Implement the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (Recommendation 20-01) and Update Mutual Aid Statutes to Support the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (Recommendation 20-02).

Recommendation 20-01: Implement the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System

The Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) is an effort to better coordinate initial attack response of fire resources to emerging incidents. This system links existing mutual aid plans and agreements to create a web of redundancy in mutual aid to improve mutual aid coordination when resources are needed beyond the local level.

Recommendation 20-02: Update Mutual Aid Statutes to Support the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System

In order to implement CCRMAS successfully, an update to the language in Colo. Rev. Stat. § 29-5-105, § 29-5-107, and § 29-5-108 was required to address liability issues. The changes proposed only affect fire and EMS agencies and do not change the language in Colo. Rev. Stat. § 29-5-108 related to law enforcement agencies. Nor do the changes impact liability related to bringing out-of-state fire resources into Colorado as other agreements govern these relationships.

Relevant Legislation and Subcommittee Status

Senate Bill 21-166 Colorado Fire Commission Recommendations. This bill addressed Recommendations 20-01 and 20-02. Governor Polis signed this bill into law on June 22, 2021.

The work of this Subcommittee concluded with the passage of SB 21-166 and the creation of the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS). The Subcommittee may reconvene to provide stakeholder input on the implementation of the CCRMAS. Several members of this Subcommittee are working on a newly formed Subcommittee focused on the Coordination of Fire Based Resources since this ties closely together with mutual aid.

II. Large Fire Funding Subcommittee

The Large Fire Funding Subcommittee was focused on two topics: creating a stable funding mechanism for large wildland fire suppression costs and updating or reforming the Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) (see C.R.S. 24-33.5-1233(4)(b)(II) and (III)). In order to holistically address wildland fire funding, this subcommittee looked at both the front end (i.e., when fires are small) and the back end (i.e., when fires exceed local capacity and become a State Responsibility Fire [SRF]). The Commission approved two recommendations from this subcommittee: Establish a State Responsibility and Large Wildland Fire Fund within DFPC (Recommendation 20-03) and Implement an Enhanced State Assistance Program (Recommendation 20-04).

Recommendation 20-03: Establish a State Responsibility and Large Wildland Fire Fund Within DFPC

The goal of Recommendation 20-03 was to create a stable funding mechanism for state suppression costs of large wildland fires based on a five-year rolling average. The 2021 request would have allocated \$20 million for the state share of suppression costs of large wildland fires.

This recommendation was partially addressed by the 2021 General Assembly through Senate Bill 21-277, which provides a more sustainable funding source for the State Emergency Reserve Fund. This bill addresses funding for all disasters in Colorado, and is not specific to wildland fire. Since the recommendation was not fully addressed, the Subcommittee's work on developing sustainable funding to cover the costs of large wildland fires continues.

SB 21-227 State Emergency Reserve. Governor Polis signed this bill into law on April 29, 2021.

Recommendation 20-04: Implement an Enhanced State Assistance Program

This recommendation identified a need for the state to assist local jurisdictions with rapid response to new wildland fires with both ground and aviation resources. The longer a wildland fire burns, the greater the impact to the community and the state.

Recommendation 20-04 estimated \$2.8 million would be necessary to fully fund Enhanced State Assistance (ESA). Since the \$1 million annual contributions to EFF are not effectively funding large fires, the Subcommittee recommended transitioning EFF to fund ESA. The Subcommittee is working with the EFF Committee to finalize this transition. In addition, these two groups are working together to develop an outreach and assessment plan to bring in the non-EFF contributing counties in time for calendar year 2023. Currently there are 21 counties on the eastern plains and 2 counties on the western slope that are not part of the EFF program. In 2021, the Colorado General Assembly funded \$1.8 million annually to support enhanced state assistance (ESA). After EFF is fully transitioned, \$2.8 million will be available annually to provide resources to local jurisdictions to help limit the impact of wildland fires through aggressive initial attack efforts.

SB 21-049 Department of Public Safety Supplemental; SB 21-205 Long Appropriations Bill. These bills provided \$1.8 million to the ESA program annually, starting in fiscal year 2021. Governor Polis signed SB 21-049 into law on March 21, 2021 and SB 21-205 into law on May 17, 2021.



III. Fire Data Subcommittee

The focus of the Fire Data Subcommittee is to address how to more effectively collect and use data to develop an accurate understanding of Colorado’s fire problems, including, but not limited to, the number of injuries and fatalities, overall fire losses, and the causes and origins of structure and wildland fires (see C.R.S. 24-33.5-1233(4)(b)(I)). The Commission prioritized this issue after recognizing that it cannot offer meaningful solutions to many fire-related problems until it has the data to fully understand them.

The Commission’s Data Subcommittee began its work in 2019 to determine what fire data is currently being collected, where there are gaps in information, how data is collected and used, and how different audiences use data to communicate about fire in Colorado. Fire data collection and dissemination is deficient for many reasons: (1) it is housed in a variety of incompatible databases; (2) it is incomplete due to the lack of reporting; (3) it is inconsistent due to how it is gathered and reported; and (4) there is no comprehensive, user-friendly dashboard on which stakeholders can access meaningful data. Based on these findings, the subcommittee then presented a framework recommendation in the 2020 Colorado Fire Commission Annual Report, Recommendation 20-05.

Recommendation 20-05: Implement a Comprehensive Fire Data Collection and Dissemination Program

Accurate fire data is critical to understanding Colorado's true fire problem. Providing better data management for the fire service in Colorado begins by investing time and analysis in how fire departments collect data statewide, what data are gathered, and how the data are used to identify and respond to ongoing fire problems and trends in Colorado. No legislative action was required to address this recommendation; it provided long and short term goals.

In 2021, the framework was further refined to identify a potential funding source and develop a concrete action plan to improve data collection and dissemination to inform decision making around Colorado's fire problem.

Data is not just about numbers. An effective data program in Colorado will require:

- Conducting research to identify available federal, state and local fire data; gaps in data collection; data use among target audiences; and data dissemination.
- Developing a robust, user-friendly data platform for multiple audiences.
- Enhancing training for data collection and use.
- Providing support to local fire departments through technical assistance and grants.
- Creating a comprehensive communications and outreach plan, including measurements of success and ongoing research.

To create a comprehensive understanding of fire in Colorado, a variety of data sources must be integrated, including data from federal, state, and local agencies. The data must also address the needs of a variety of users – from policymakers to citizens and everyone in between – to ensure it is effective and widely used.

The Data Subcommittee presented a draft recommendation to the Commission in July 2021. The Commission requested further refinement of the recommendation prior to a final vote. The Data Subcommittee is updating its original recommendation to reflect feedback for a final vote at the October 2021 Commission meeting.

New Subcommittees Since Last Annual Report

I. Legislative Subcommittee

The focus of the Legislative Subcommittee is to align the language of a bill as closely as possible with the language and intent of Commission recommendations. The Legislative Subcommittee has the authority to continue or withdraw Commission approval regarding bills initiated through the Commission process. The role of a Legislative Subcommittee member is to determine the consistency of a bill with the original recommendation as the bill is drafted and subsequently amended, and provide

testimony to the legislature on behalf of the Commission, if necessary. During the 2021 legislative session, the subcommittee met bi-weekly to track Commission bills and provided testimony on SB 21-166. This Subcommittee does not make recommendations on behalf of the Commission.

II. High-Risk Hazards Subcommittee

The focus of the High-Risk Hazards Subcommittee is to develop best practice recommendations related to high-risk hazards for consideration by the State, local jurisdictions, and first responders, including recommendations related to cooperative agreements and mutual aid resources.

The Subcommittee defined “High-Risk Hazards” as those buildings or situations in a community that pose the greatest risk to potential loss of life (public and first responder) and property. If these buildings or situations are involved in an emergency incident, there is a greater possibility that emergency services resources may be strained, overwhelmed, or compromised, as identified through the completion of a risk assessment. The risk assessment process is critical so each community can determine its ability to safely and effectively respond in these dangerous situations.



The Subcommittee is utilizing the five strategies of Community Risk Reduction (CRR) as the framework to address high-risk hazards. The five strategies, or five Es of CRR, are: Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Economic incentives, and Emergency response. Each “E” is an important piece to complete the risk reduction puzzle.

Soon after its formation, this Subcommittee acknowledged the broad scope of high-risk hazards in Colorado and established three task forces to address specific areas that pose significant risk to civilians and first responders. These task forces are focused on: the wildland urban interface, residential structures, and emerging issues that pose unknown risk, specifically marijuana extraction facilities and energy storage facilities.

Shortly after the creation of these task forces, the Commission received a letter from Governor Polis requesting the Commission look at the Wildland Urban Interface issue (see next section). As a result, the Commission decided to reorganize this task force into a Subcommittee with a more direct line to the Commission.

III. Wildland Urban Interface Subcommittee

The focus of this Subcommittee is to address the significant risk to more than 50% of Colorado’s population who reside in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). In July 2021, Governor Polis requested the Commission “...evaluate and present options to the Governor’s Office on a statewide approach to land use planning, development, perimeter defense, and building resiliency in the WUI, with a particular eye

toward the large increases in new development and population expected in the WUI in the near-term. The Commission should consider both regulatory and incentive-based solutions for safer and smarter development, while also evaluating the need for statutory changes.” The full text of the letter can be found in Appendix C.

The number of Coloradans in the WUI is expected to grow significantly, and the risks to these residents and firefighters posed by wildland fires are very real, as seen during the fires like 2020’s East Troublesome, Calwood, and Cameron Peak. Many jurisdictions have taken the initiative to address the complex issues inherent in the WUI. Some have been successful and some have hit roadblocks due to funding or political will. The purpose of this group is to take a holistic approach to assess issues and identify potential solutions for Colorado’s WUI problem. The Subcommittee’s initial tasks are to identify successful programs already in place throughout Colorado, identify unsuccessful programs to learn from past mistakes, and to identify funding, resources, political, and/or legal issues that have prevented programs from being implemented. The Subcommittee will submit preliminary information to Governor Polis by September 30, and then will develop recommendations for approval by the Commission.

IV. Coordination of Fire Based Resources Subcommittee

The focus of this Subcommittee is to improve how fire resources are coordinated and dispatched with a focus on non-federal resources. Key components that are critical to the success of this program include times of mutual aid and surge to address rapidly expanding incidents, dispatching of year-round fire and aviation resources, and movement and pre-positioning of resources during periods of higher wildfire potential and activity.

In 2020 and 2021, DFPC and federal agencies increased the total number of aviation resources in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Area (RMA), putting further strain and pressure on interagency dispatch centers. Wildfire aviation resources are mobilized and tracked by the interagency dispatch system. Trained, dedicated aviation dispatchers are critical to effectively and safely dispatching aviation resources to incidents. In addition, an integrated system of federal and state aviation resources is needed for utilization of the “closest forces concept” so that the nearest available aviation resource is dispatched regardless of fire location or ownership. The interagency centers are set up based on the historical seasonal model of wildland fire, are currently not staffed to manage aircraft on a year-round basis, and face issues nationally with limited numbers of



qualified aircraft dispatchers. The increased number of DFPC aviation resources and extended/year-round contracts will put a strain on the interagency system to dispatch those resources.

In 2014, the DFPC aviation program consisted of two Exclusive Use (EU) SEAT's on 150-day contracts, and two EU Helicopters on 120-day contracts. Through the support of the Governor's Office and the 2021 General Assembly, the DFPC aviation program has expanded to include:

- Extension of existing contracts for two Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) from 150 days to 240 days per aircraft;
- Extension of existing contracts for two Type II Helicopters from 120 days to 230 days per aircraft;
- Addition of a 110-day Exclusive Use contract for a Large Air Tanker (LAT);
- Addition of a State-owned Type I Firehawk helicopter and helitack crew that will be available on a year-round basis.



DFPC also continues to see increased demand for the two State-owned Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) that operate on a year-round basis. The DFPC aviation program also manages Call-When-Needed (CWN) contracts for additional resources including SEATs, LATs, and Scooper aircraft.

This Subcommittee is not looking at aviation resources alone. Its work dovetails with the newly formed Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) (See

Recommendation 20-01), to ensure all fire-based resources are coordinated during initial attack and the early phases of escalating incidents prior to large-scale mobilization and standup of expanded interagency dispatch and Emergency Operation Centers. CCRMAS was also designed to address the coordination needs of large extended incidents. This is not an effort to replace 911/Public Safety Answering Points or direct dispatching of local resources for mutual aid with immediate neighbors, but it is an effort to assist local dispatch if/when they get overwhelmed with escalating incidents and to verify and deconflict competing or duplicate resource orders.

The subcommittee is currently evaluating multiple alternatives and meeting with other states to evaluate their systems. Instead of inventing a whole new system, the Subcommittee hopes to apply lessons learned and to identify best practices that could work in Colorado. The goal is to have a solution in place that will have the capacity to dispatch the Firehawk helicopter on a year-round basis and integrate wildfire and all-hazard needs by late summer to fall of 2022.

V. Training and Certification Subcommittee

The focus of this Subcommittee is to ensure that Colorado has a well-trained and properly equipped fire service. Colorado has approximately 16,000 firefighters working across 375 agencies. These range from large, urban career departments along the I-25 corridor to small, all-volunteer and combination departments covering the majority of the state. Regardless of the type of department, its location, or its budget, all firefighters deserve high-quality training and the right equipment to protect themselves from the hazards of the job. Regardless of size and location, most fire departments face the same basic challenges, increasing service demand and decreasing or stagnate budgets. These challenges lead to firefighters receiving limited training and using non-National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) compliant personal protective equipment (PPE) and equipment. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) administers a voluntary firefighter certification program and provides critical training to firefighters statewide. The Certification Program measures an individual's knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) and attests that they meet nationally recognized standards. The nationally recognized standards are competency based and promote evaluation and uniformity of training programs. DFPC's certification program is voluntary and cash funded, so not all fire departments in Colorado participate in the program.

The DFPC training program is focused on increasing firefighter safety and efficacy through a variety of educational opportunities. Rural fire departments consistently identify training on basic firefighter skills as a top priority. To meet the needs of the Colorado fire service, DFPC has purchased two Mobile Live Fire Training Units, a Mobile Driver Simulator Unit, and a Mobile Pumping Operations Unit. The majority of the funding for these units came from Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) from the U.S. Fire Administration. These units are in high demand across Colorado as they provide hands-on experience in a safe (as reasonably possible) environment that improves firefighters' skills. In addition, DFPC supports regional training events and local fire departments with addressing their training needs. The majority of this training support is provided to fire departments free of charge.

DFPC also oversees the Local Firefighter Safety and Disease Prevention Grant which was created through Senate Bill 14-046. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding or reimbursement for equipment and training designed to increase firefighter safety and prevent occupation-related diseases. Similar to training, demand for this grant consistently exceeds available funds.



In order to ensure that this Subcommittee’s work is not duplicative of other efforts, this Commission has recruited members from the Colorado Fire Training Officers Association and the Governor’s Fire Service Training and Certification Advisory Board. Any effort to address firefighter certification and training should include these existing groups and stakeholders who utilize these programs.

The key to a strong fire service is healthy and well-prepared firefighters. Training and certifications are a critical part of the equation, but firefighters also need to be well-equipped with proper safety gear (Personal Protective Equipment and tools) to best support the communities they serve. This subcommittee has just begun its work understanding the needs of the fire service so they can develop actionable solutions to improve access to training, certification, and safety gear.



VI. Final Thoughts

These Subcommittees and their associated Task Forces met 42 times during the Commission's second year. The Subcommittees continue to develop and finalize recommendations. The fact that none were ready to move forward in this year's report, speaks to the dedication of the 152 Subcommittee members to only present intentional and well-vetted recommendations to the Commission. Each Subcommittee brings together stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds to ensure that all voices are considered when developing recommendations. Because these diverse stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in the development of these recommendations, the Commission and future policymakers can be reassured that all available options have been considered. The members who volunteer their time and expertise are helping to create sustainable recommendations that address issues the Colorado Fire Service has long struggled with. Colorado benefits from their hard work and commitment.



Grizzly Creek Fire, Garfield County August 2020

Appendix A: Senate Bill 19-040



SENATE BILL 19-040

BY SENATOR(S) Hisey and Fields, Bridges, Coram, Crowder, Danielson, Donovan, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Lundeen, Marble, Pettersen, Rankin, Story, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Winter, Woodward, Garcia;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Carver and Roberts, Arndt, Bird, Buckner, Buentello, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Galindo, Geitner, Gray, Herod, Hooton, Kipp, Kraft-Tharp, Larson, Lontine, McCluskie, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Singer, Sirota, Snyder, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Will.

CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLORADO FIRE COMMISSION,
AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 24-33.5-1233** as follows:

24-33.5-1233. Colorado fire commission - creation - powers and duties - report - legislative declaration - repeal. (1) **Legislative declaration.** (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS THAT:

(I) THE DIVISION HAS ENGAGED IN A TWO-YEAR,

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORT TO EVALUATE FIRE PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND IDENTIFY AREAS IN WHICH THE STATE CAN BETTER SUPPORT ITS PARTNERS;

(II) A COMMISSION STRUCTURE WILL ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY AND CREATE AN EFFICIENT AND STREAMLINED STATEWIDE PROCESS FOR ISSUING RECOMMENDATIONS, DRIVING IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND POLICIES, AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS AND LESSONS LEARNED;

(III) A COMMISSION WILL ALSO HELP THE STATE TO BE PROACTIVE ON WILDFIRE ISSUES, AND TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH THAT EMBRACES MITIGATION, PREVENTION, AND PREPAREDNESS; AND

(IV) ESTABLISHING A FIRE COMMISSION WILL ALLOW THE STATE TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP LONG-TERM STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMPLEX FIRE ISSUES.

(b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT ESTABLISHING A COLORADO FIRE COMMISSION SERVES THE INTERESTS OF THE STATE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR FIRE PREVENTION, MITIGATION, PREPAREDNESS, AND SUPPRESSION.

(2) **Commission created.** THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE DIVISION THE COLORADO FIRE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "COMMISSION".

(3) **Membership.** (a) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF TWENTY-FOUR VOTING MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

(I) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

(II) THE DIRECTOR, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

(III) THE CHIEF OF THE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT SECTION IN THE DIVISION, OR THE CHIEF'S DESIGNEE;

(IV) THE STATE FORESTER, OR THE STATE FORESTER'S DESIGNEE, TO INCLUDE RELEVANT INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-31-316;

(V) THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

(VI) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE; AND

(VII) EIGHTEEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AS FOLLOWS:

(A) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED FROM NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING FIRE CHIEFS, WITH ONE SUCH MEMBER REPRESENTING THE WESTERN SLOPE AND ONE SUCH MEMBER REPRESENTING THE EASTERN PART OF THE STATE;

(B) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED FROM NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS;

(C) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED FROM NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS;

(D) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED FROM NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING COUNTY SHERIFFS, WITH AT LEAST ONE SUCH MEMBER REPRESENTING THE WESTERN SLOPE AND AT LEAST ONE SUCH MEMBER REPRESENTING THE EASTERN PART OF THE STATE;

(E) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED FROM NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING COUNTIES, WITH ONE SUCH MEMBER REPRESENTING THE WESTERN SLOPE AND ONE SUCH MEMBER REPRESENTING THE EASTERN PART OF THE STATE;

(F) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED FROM NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING MUNICIPALITIES;

(G) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED FROM NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SPECIAL DISTRICTS;

(H) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED FROM NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING EMERGENCY MANAGERS; AND

(I) ONE MEMBER OF THE 9-1-1 ADVISORY TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED

BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

(b) (I) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT ONE NONVOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH EXPERTISE IN NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SAFETY STANDARDS.

(II) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT TWO NONVOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT WATER PROVIDERS, WITH ONE SUCH MEMBER REPRESENTING THE WESTERN SLOPE AND ONE SUCH MEMBER REPRESENTING THE EASTERN PART OF THE STATE.

(III) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT ONE NONVOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY.

(IV) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY, IN THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION, APPOINT ADDITIONAL NONVOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBERS WITH EXPERTISE IN THE COMMISSION'S AREAS OF STUDY TO AID THE COMMISSION IN FULFILLING ITS DUTIES.

(c) THE COMMISSION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING NONVOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE;

(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT; AND

(III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

(d) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL MAKE INITIAL APPOINTMENTS NO LATER THAN AUGUST 5, 2019. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL CONSIDER GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION IN APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL ENSURE, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THAT THE APPOINTED MEMBERS REPRESENT A BALANCE OF EXPERTISE IN THE AREAS OF FIRE MITIGATION, PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, LOCAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCY, AND SUPPRESSION.

(e) THE TERM OF APPOINTMENTS IS FOUR YEARS; EXCEPT THAT THE TERM OF EACH MEMBER INITIALLY APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS

PAGE 4-SENATE BILL 19-040

(3)(a)(VII)(C) TO (3)(a)(VII)(F) OF THIS SECTION IS TWO YEARS. A MEMBER MAY BE REAPPOINTED FOR ADDITIONAL TERMS. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL FILL ANY VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM. AN APPOINTMENT TO FILL A VACANCY IS SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH FOR THE VACANT POSITION IN SUBSECTION (3)(a)(VII) OR (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION, AS APPLICABLE.

(f) EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SERVES WITHOUT COMPENSATION, BUT EACH VOTING MEMBER AND EACH EX OFFICIO MEMBER APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY TRAVEL EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS OR HER DUTIES AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.

(g) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE IS THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION.

(h) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE MONTHS. THE CHAIR MAY CALL SUCH ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE COMMISSION TO COMPLETE ITS DUTIES.

(4) **Powers and duties.** (a) THE MISSION OF THE COMMISSION IS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY IN COLORADO THROUGH AN INTEGRATED STATEWIDE PROCESS FOCUSED ON THE FIRE SERVICE'S CAPACITY TO CONDUCT FIRE MANAGEMENT AND USE, PREPAREDNESS, PREVENTION, AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES TO SAFEGUARD LIVES, PROPERTY, INCLUDING UTILITY AND COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND INCREASE THE RESILIENCY OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES.

(b) IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS MISSION, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

(I) DEVELOPING AN ACCURATE UNDERSTANDING OF COLORADO'S FIRE PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF INJURIES AND FATALITIES, OVERALL FIRE LOSSES, AND THE CAUSES AND ORIGINS OF STRUCTURAL AND WILDLAND FIRES;

(II) REVIEWING THE CURRENT EMERGENCY FIRE FUND PROGRAM AND PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE IT MORE INCLUSIVE OF COUNTIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE;

(III) EVALUATING FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO LARGE FIRES, WITH CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO APPROPRIATE COST-SHARE AGREEMENTS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS, MUTUAL AID PARTICIPATION, AND LOCAL ACTIONS AND PLANS;

(IV) ASSESSING THE CAPACITY OF THE STATE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY FIRE SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES;

(V) DEVELOPING PERFORMANCE MEASURES OF OVERALL RESPONSE EFFECTIVENESS AND IDENTIFYING RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT AREAS;

(VI) STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE COORDINATION OF MUTUAL AID RESOURCES AND INITIAL ATTACK CAPABILITIES FOR FIRES AND OTHER HAZARDS;

(VII) DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO HIGH-RISK OCCUPANCIES FOR CONSIDERATION BY LOCAL JURISDICTIONS AND COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO MINIMUM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MUTUAL AID RESOURCES;

(VIII) IN COOPERATION WITH THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE AND OTHER AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS, DEVELOPING AND PUBLISHING AN ASSESSMENT OF FIRE TREATMENT COSTS AND COST DISTRIBUTION, INCLUDING THE COSTS OF MITIGATION UNDER EMERGENT AND NONEMERGENT CIRCUMSTANCES, RETREATMENT COSTS, AND POST-RECOVERY COSTS;

(IX) DEVELOPING METHODOICAL APPROACHES TO AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON COLORADO'S FIRE SERVICE CONCERNS AND ISSUES; AND

(X) FORECASTING UPCOMING FUNDING AND RESOURCE CHALLENGES AND TRENDS THAT AFFECT FIRE SERVICES AND THE ABILITY OF THE STATE AND OF LOCAL JURISDICTIONS TO RESPOND TO FIRE AND MITIGATE HAZARDS IN THE SHORT AND LONG TERM.

(c) (I) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH TASK FORCES TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION ON SPECIFIC SUBJECT MATTER AREAS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S AREA OF STUDY.

PAGE 6-SENATE BILL 19-040

(II) WHEN ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE, THE COMMISSION SHALL SET FORTH THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE AND ITS MEMBERSHIP, AREA OF STUDY, DUTIES, AND DURATION.

(III) THE CHAIR SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF A TASK FORCE, WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE COMMISSION. THE CHAIR MAY APPOINT INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TO SERVE ON A TASK FORCE. MEMBERS OF A TASK FORCE SERVE FOR THE DURATION OF THE TASK FORCE. MEMBERS OF A TASK FORCE WHO ARE NOT VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OR EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION AND WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.

(5) **Staff support.** THE DIVISION SHALL PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE, EQUIPMENT, AND STAFF SERVICES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

(6) **Reports.** (a) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31, 2020, AND ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE RURAL AFFAIRS AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED IN THIS SUBSECTION (6)(a) CONTINUES UNTIL THE COMMISSION IS REPEALED.

(b) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31, 2020, AND ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

(7) **Repeal.** THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2024. BEFORE ITS REPEAL, THIS SECTION IS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-3-1203.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, add (15)(a)(IX) as follows:

2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative declaration - definition - repeal. (15) (a) The following statutory

authorizations for the designated advisory committees are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2024:

(IX) THE COLORADO FIRE COMMISSION CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1233.

SECTION 3. Appropriation. For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, \$174,183 is appropriated to the department of public safety for use by the division of fire prevention and control. This appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional 0.8 FTE. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for wildland fire management services.

SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless

approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.



Leroy M. Garcia
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE



KC Becker
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

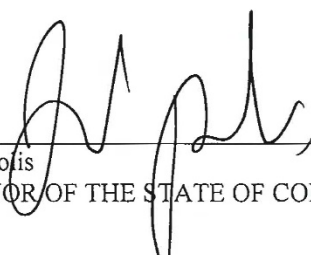


Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE



Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED June 3, 2019 at 2:40 p.m.
(Date and Time)



Jared S. Polis
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Appendix B: Subcommittee and Task Force Members

Regional and Statewide Coordination of Mutual Aid Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
Chief Mark Novak	Vail Fire and Emergency Services, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chair
President Paul Acosta	Colorado State Firefighters Association, Commission Member
Captain Bryce Boyer	City of Pueblo Fire Department, Commission Member
Emergency Manager Jerry Casebolt	Logan County
Chief Brian Caserta	Pueblo West Fire
Chief Doug Cupp	Greater Eagle Fire
Chief David DeVecchio	Canon City Fire
Chief Doug Fritz	Hotchkiss Fire
Emergency Manager Nate Fogg	Arapahoe County, Commission Member
Kevin Grant	Bureau of Land Management
Director Kevin Kline	DHSEM, Commission Member
Director Mike Morgan	DFPC, Commission Member
Sheriff Brett Powell	Logan County, Commission Member
Scott Sugg	US Forest Service, Commission Member
Chief Ken Watkins	Grand Junction Fire, Commission Member
Chief Skip Shirlaw	Inter-Canyon Fire
Chief Chris Truty	Tri-Lake Monument Fire
Deputy Chief Greg Ward	Loveland Fire
Chief Mike Weege	Evergreen Fire

Large Fire Funding Mechanisms Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
Sheriff Sean Smith	La Plata County, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chair
Captain Paul Amundson	Evergreen Fire
Chief Bob Baker	South Metro Fire, Commission Member
Branch Chief of Incident Business Erin Claussen	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Pam Feely	West Metro Fire Rescue Board, Commission Member
Chief Brita Horn	Rock Creek Fire, Commission Member
Sheriff KC Hume	Moffett County, Commission Member
Wildland Fire Management Section Chief Vaughn Jones	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Director Mike Morgan	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Chief Jess Solze	Hugo Fire
Sarah Thorsteinson	Summit REALTORS, Commission Member
Commissioner Ben Tisdell	Ouray County, Commission Member
Carole Walker	Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association, Commission Member
Rick Wetzel	Timberline Fire Board

Fire Data Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
Bob Sullivan	NFPA, Commission Member
Marlinda Acevado	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, State CFIRS/NFIRS Program Manager
Chief John Bennett	Telluride Fire
Sheriff Shannon Byerly	Custer County
Parker Coombs	Division of Fire Prevention and Control /Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center
Commissioner Leslie Dahlkemper	Jefferson County, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chair

Chief Doug Hall	Westminster Fire, Commission Member
Eric Howell	Colorado Springs Utilities, Commission Member
Assistant Chief Sean Jewell	West Metro Fire Rescue, Commission Member
Interim State Forester Susan Matthews	Colorado State Forest Service, Commission Member
Owen McKeough	Brighton Fire
Robert McCarty	Yampa Valley Regional Airport and West Routt Fire
Director Mike Morgan	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Adam Trojanowski	Division of Fire Prevention and Control Center of Excellence

High-Risk Hazards Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
Chief Building Official Becky Baker	Jefferson County
Building Code Branch Chief Bill Bischof	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Plans Examiner / President Andy Blake	Town of Castle Rock / CC-ICC
Captain Bryce Boyer	Pueblo Fire, Commission Member
Fire and Life Safety Section Chief Chris Brunette	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Chief Don Chapman	Alamosa County Fire
Chief Brad Davidson	La Junta Fire
Chief Doug Hall	Westminster Fire, Commission Member
Fire Marshal Karola Hanks	Durango Fire
Fire Protection Engineer Tami Holley	Society of Fire Protection Engineers
Assistant Chief Sean Jewell	West Metro Fire, Commission Member
Regional Building Official Roger Lovell	Pike Peak Regional
Director Mike Morgan	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Chief Mark Novak	Vail Fire, Commission Member
Chief Building Official Tom Pitchford	Town of Bennett

Fire Prevention Branch Chief Rob Sontag	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Acting Chief, Fire Marshal Jerry Stricker	Golden Fire
Southwest Regional Director Bob Sullivan	NFPA, Commission Member
Chief Building Official Tim Swanson	City of Greeley
Deputy Fire Marshal David Waller	North Metro Fire Rescue
Chief Ken Watkins	Grand Junction Fire, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chair
Board Member Ret. Kevin Whelan	Grand Valley Fire Board, Commission Member

Wildland Urban Interface Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
Chief Building Official Becky Baker	Jefferson County
Fire, Fuels, and Watershed Manager Daniel Beveridge	Colorado State Forest Service
Assistant Director, Climate, Forest Health and Energy Angela Boag	Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Fire and Life Safety Section Chief Chris Brunette	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Chief Don Chapman	Alamosa County Fire
Government Relations Specialist Tim Coleman	Colorado Rural Electric Association, Commission Member
Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper	Jefferson County, Commission Member
Vice President, Government Relations Fire and Disaster Mitigation Karl Fippinger	International Code Council
Kristin Garrison	Colorado State Forest Service
Executive Director Dan Gibbs	Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Commission Member
Fire Marshal Karola Hanks	Durango Fire
Operations Chief Chris Jackson	Grand Valley Fire

WFMS Section Chief Vaughn Jones	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Acting Director Susan Matthews	Colorado State Forest Service, Commission Member
Director Mike Morgan	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Chief Mark Novak	Vail Fire, Commission Member
Fire Prevention Branch Chief Robert Sontag	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Southwest Regional Director Bob Sullivan	NFPA, Commission Member
Executive Director Sarah Thorsteinson	Summit REALTORS, Commission Member
Commissioner Ben Tisdell	Ouray County, Commission Member
Deputy Fire Marshal David Waller	North Metro Fire Rescue
Chief Ken Watkins	Grand Junction Fire, Commission Member
Board Member Ret. Kevin Whelan	Grand Valley Fire Board, Commission Member

Training and Certification Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
President Paul Acosta	Colorado State Firefighters Association, Commission Member
Chief Tom Baumgartner	Hot Sulphur Springs
Captain Bryce Boyer	City of Pueblo Fire, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chair
Regional Training Officer Lori Brill	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Division Chief of Operations and Training Paul Capo	Estes Valley Fire Protection District
Special Operations Division Chief Jason Clark	Eagle River Fire Protection District
Chief Brad Davidson	La Junta Fire
Division Chief of Training John Hall	Summit Fire and EMS
Battalion Chief of Operations Jim Klug	Platte Valley Fire Protection District
Battalion Chief Michael Krupa	Durango Fire and Rescue
Training & Special Operations Chief David Maikranz	Westminster Fire Department

Certification Manager Marianne Maxfield	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Director Mike Morgan	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Deputy Chief/Training Coordinator Frank Nadell	Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District
Division Chief of Training Oren Bersagel-Briese	Castle Rock Fire and Rescue Department
Training Captain Christopher Piepenburg BS, CTO	Black Forest Fire Rescue
Training Officer Toni Russell	Hot Sulphur Springs
State Fire Training Director Michael Scott	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Chief Jess Solze	Hugo Fire
Division Chief - Operations Greg Ward	Loveland Fire Rescue Authority
Bret Williamson	Adams County Fire Protection District
Chief David Wolf	Estes Valley Fire

Coordination of Fire-Based Resources Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
State Fire Management Officer Brian Achziger	Bureau of Land Management, Commission Member
Director Kevin Klein	DHSEM, Commission Member
Chief Mark Novak	Vail Fire
Director Mike Morgan	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Bryan Karchut	USDA Forest Service
Sheriff Brett Powell	Logan County, Commission Member
Emergency Manager Nathan Fogg	Arapahoe County, Commission Member
Chief David Wolf	Estes Valley Fire
Chief Brad White	Grand Fire Protection District #1
Executive Director Monica Million	Colorado 911 Resource Center
WFMS Section Chief Vaughn Jones	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member

Tracey Kern	USDA Forest Service
Becky Jossart	Bureau of Land Management
Jeff Davis - CDPS	Colorado State Patrol
Chief Justin Kirkland	Gypsum Fire Protection District
Jennifer Kirkland	9-1-1 Center Manager Grand Junction Regional Communication Center
Kevin Grant	Bureau of Land Management
Cody Peel	USDA Forest Service
Vicki Pickett	JeffCom 911
Michael Alexander	Douglas County Sheriff's Office
Tim Johnson	Douglas County Sheriff's Office
District Chief Matt Branch	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Chief Ray Gonzales	Rocky Ford Fire

Legislative Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
Captain Bryce Boyer	Pueblo Fire, Commission Member
Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper	Jefferson County , Commission Member
Chief Doug Hall	Westminster Fire, Commission Member
Wildland Fire Management Section Chief Vaughn Jones	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Chief of Staff Melissa Lineberger	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Legislative Liaison Joel Malecka	CO Department of Public Safety
Director Mike Morgan	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Chief Mark Novak	Vail Fire, Commission Member
Sheriff Sean Smith	La Plata County, Commission Member
Southwest Regional Director Bob Sullivan	NFPA, Commission Member
Board Member Ret. Kevin Whelan	Grand Valley Fire Board, Commission Member

Appendix C: July 2021 Letter from Governor Polis



COLORADO
Governor Jared Polis

July 8, 2021

Colorado Fire Commission
Stan Hilkey, Chair, Colorado Fire Commission
Lisa Pine, Fire Commission Administrator
690 Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80215

Members of the Colorado Fire Commission,

Colorado's catastrophic wildfire risk has grown drastically due to decades of increasing forest density, climate change-driven drought, and expanding population. Four of the five largest wildfires in Colorado history have occurred in the last three years, while more acres burned in 2020 than ever before. Roughly half of Coloradans now live in the Wildland-Urban Interface, with significant increases both in recent years and forecasted in the coming years. Despite the risks we face, Colorado can attain healthier forests and stronger communities through bold, preventative action.

During the 2021 legislative session, the State of Colorado made historic investments in our State agencies' and local governments' capacity to address wildfires. These investments focused on our ability to improve forest health and mitigate risk (SB21-054, SB21-258, and SB21-205), respond to wildfires (SB21-049, SB21-113, SB21-205, and SB21-166), and restore burned lands and watersheds (SB21-054 and SB21-240).

While the investments during the 2021 session were necessary and worthy of celebration, they did not address a critical piece of the wildfire puzzle in Colorado: land use planning, development, and building resiliency in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Fires have always been, and will always be, a fact of nature in Colorado. As such, it's incumbent upon us to adapt our communities to this reality. The way in which communities develop in the WUI has a substantial impact on the risk to property and the safety of residents and firefighters alike.

As a local control state, it is critical that the development of any statewide policies include robust participation from local governments and other stakeholders. The Colorado Fire Commission was created to pursue comprehensive solutions to Colorado's fire issues and solicit input from the wide array of impacted stakeholders.

The Polis administration therefore requests that the Colorado Fire Commission evaluate and present options to the Governor's Office on a statewide approach to land use planning, development, perimeter defense, and building resiliency in the WUI, with a particular eye toward the large increases in new development and population expected in the WUI in the near-term. The Commission should consider both regulatory and incentive-based solutions for safer and smarter development, while also evaluating the need for statutory changes. In order to meet the challenges facing our State, it is important that this process be conducted expeditiously. We respectfully request that the Commission provide a range of options no later than September 30th, 2021.

Thank you for your continued service and commitment to the State of Colorado.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jared" and last name "Polis" clearly distinguishable.

Jared Polis
Governor