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# 2023 COLORADO FIRE COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

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SUBMITTED AUGUST 2023

## Letter from the Commission Chair

The Colorado Fire Commission has completed its fourth year of operations pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute § 24-33.5-1233. With the success and growth of the previous years, the Commission took on difficult yet critical challenges during the past year. We had great success with the past legislative session, however, we still have work to do.

We were able to establish a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board, start a Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program, increase the number of Fire Investigators, and secure funding for an additional Firehawk. The Commission was unable to pass Recommendation 21-02 (Enhance firefighter readiness through expanded training and certification opportunities). This issue remains consistent with our long term goals and requires our continued efforts.

The issues Colorado faces are not unique, however, the Stakeholders and the Colorado community are very unique. The support the Colorado Fire Commission receives has helped enhance the community and increase public safety throughout the state. The work of the Commission and fire issues ahead of us will demand our attention for many years to come. As we head into the next year, we will be focused on prescribed fire and the retention and recruitment problems we are facing. Additionally, we are soliciting input from our stakeholder agencies to provide topics and priorities for future work of the Commission.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the dedicated team supporting the Commission. We appreciate the support of the Colorado General Assembly. We will continue to drive forward and support our communities.



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



## 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

Ray Gonzalez  
Chief  
Statewide Organization Representing  
Volunteer Firefighters

Matt McCombs  
Director/State Forester  
Colorado State Forest Service

Scott Trainor  
City Manager, Fountain  
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

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

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

Brett Schroetlin  
Sheriff, Grand County  
Statewide Organization Representing  
County Sheriffs—East Slope

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

Jim Candelaria  
Commissioner, Ouray County  
Statewide Organization Representing  
Counties— West Slope

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

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

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

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

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

Bryan Karchut  
Director Cooperative Fire, U.S. Forest  
Service

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

Clark Hemker  
Fire Commission Administrator  
Division of Fire Prevention and Control

Heather Bergman  
Peak Facilitation Group



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## Executive Summary

The purpose of the Colorado Fire Commission (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, and natural resources, and increase the resiliency of local and regional communities. The Commission does this by bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders and developing broadly supported recommendations. The first four years of the Commission have been very successful. There is still work to be done as Colorado faces multiple statewide issues regarding fire and public safety.

This past year the Commission has initiated critical conversations surrounding prescribed fire and the retention and recruitment of firefighters problems within the fire service across the state. Although the Commission currently does not have any recommendations from these subcommittees, they have established a solid base and are working on finding a better understanding of the underlying issues. The Prescribed Fire subcommittee is currently working through a partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service to help guide Colorado into a safer environment and a more fire aware community. The Retention and Recruitment subcommittee is in the process of conducting a statewide survey to better understand what the communities want and need. The Delegation of Authority Subcommittee members worked on the Transfers and Delegations of Wildfire Authorities and Responsibilities process. The Members and Stakeholders agreed on what changes were necessary and the changes have been submitted for approval.



Howard Fire, July 2023



In 2023, the Colorado General Assembly addressed and funded three previous recommendations from the 2022 Commission Annual Report.

**Recommendation 21-03: Implement a Data Driven Program to Reduce Risk and Strengthen Colorado’s Fire Service.** This recommendation would increase integration of various data sources into a user-friendly platform allowing for data driven decision making around Colorado’s fire issues. Accurate fire data is critical to understanding Colorado’s true fire problem. Providing better data management for the fire service in Colorado is key to understanding existing needs to enhance data collection efforts, informing the public, and determining where the fire service is going in the future and how to get there. Additionally, data is a critical element that agencies, from the local to the federal level, use to make a case for more resources, whether in the form of funding, personnel, training, or equipment. During the 2022 legislative session, the Wildfire Matters Review Committee combined the data recommendation with fire investigations. In these days of limited funding, being able to document the need for more resources is very important. This recommendation was implemented through **Senate Bill 23-013**.

**Recommendation 21-04: Support the Statewide Community Risk Reduction Initiative.** This recommendation creates a designated Community Risk Reduction Unit within the Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) that assigns a Community Risk Reduction Specialist, equipped with an educational trailer, to each quadrant of the state. The purpose of locating these professionals in each quadrant of the state will be to aid local jurisdictions in the development, implementation, and ongoing assessment and improvement of a risk reduction program for their community. This recommendation was implemented through **Senate Bill 23-214**.

**Recommendation 22-02: Creation of a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code Board.** This recommendation creates a WUI Code Board that has focused its mission on developing safer and more resilient communities. This recommendation proposes the creation of a Wildland-Urban Interface Code Board responsible for adopting a minimum code based on wildfire hazard. The mission of the Code Board would be to develop safer and more resilient communities and reduce the risk to people and property through code adoption and enforcement. This recommendation was implemented through **Senate Bill 23-166**.



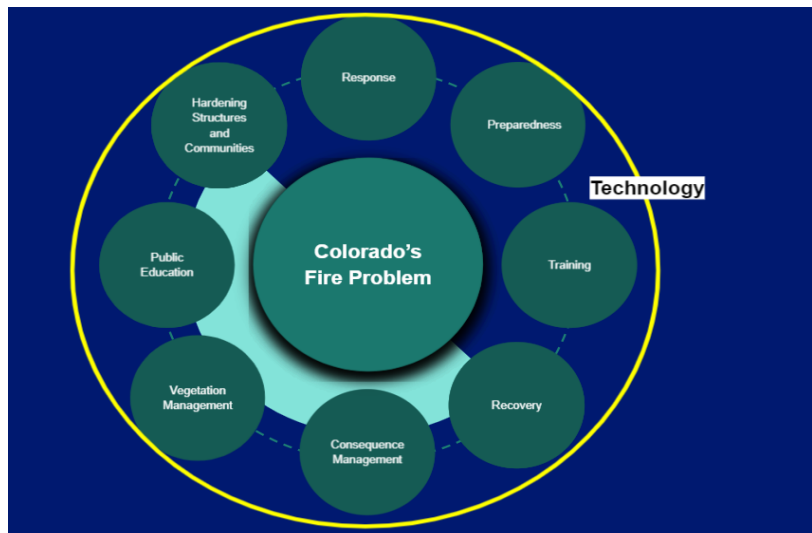
## Introduction

**Report to the House Rural Affairs and Agriculture Committee, the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, and the Wildfire Matters Review Interim Committee, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute § 24-33.5-1233.**

This report provides an overview 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.

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 therefore, 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.



Pursuant to CRS 24-33.5-1233, the Commission is composed 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 (CDPS) appoints Commission members to four-year terms. Per statute, these members must represent diverse backgrounds and geographic areas of Colorado. Since the 2022 Annual Report was published, CDPS Director Stan Hilkey appointed Jim Candelaria as a voting member to represent the Statewide Organization Representing Counties on the West Slope, Brett Schroetlin as a voting member to represent Statewide Organization Representing County Sheriffs, and Scott Trainor as a voting member to represent Statewide Organization Representing Municipalities. 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.



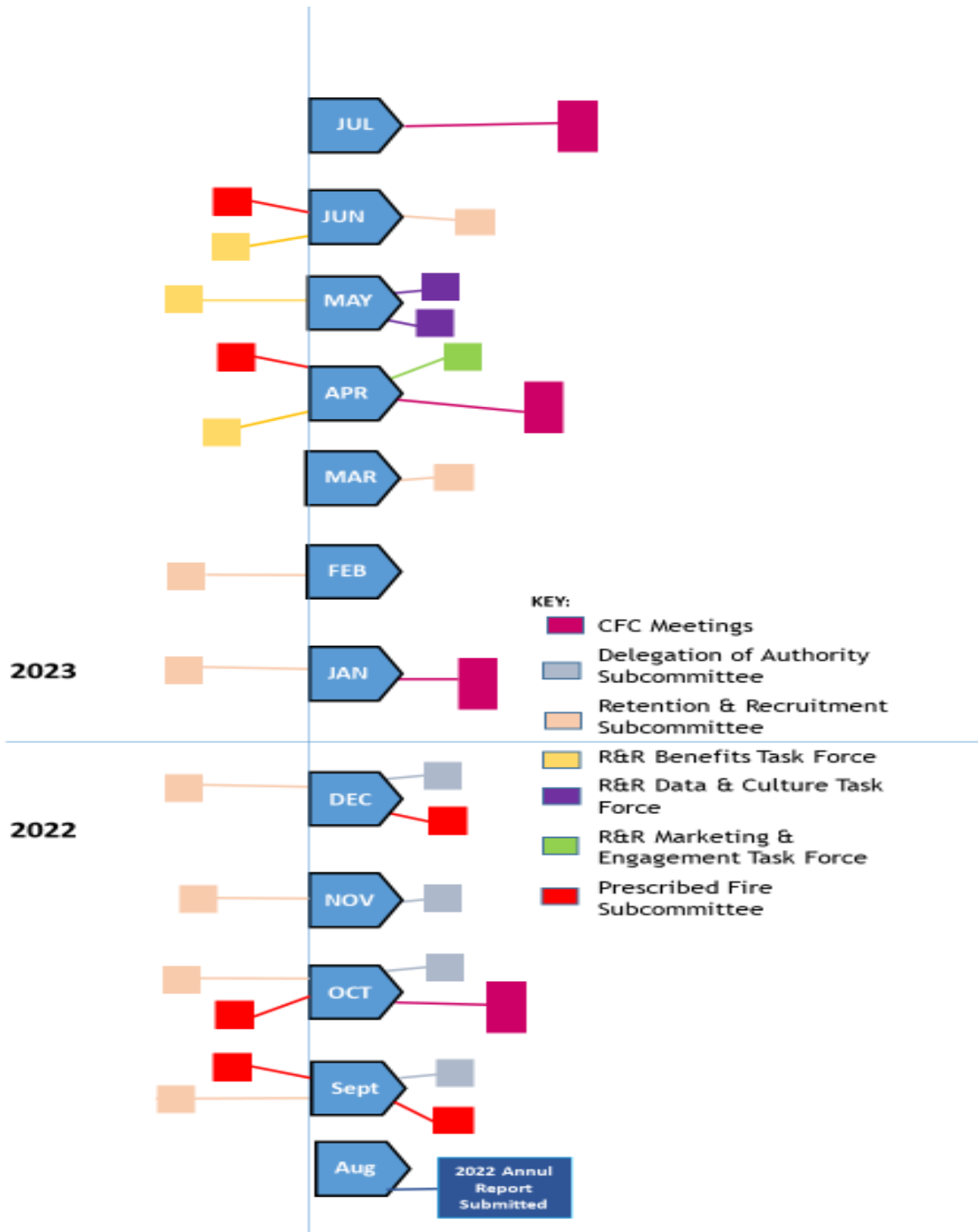
Wildfire Matters review Committee

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.

Since the release of the 2022 Annual Report, the whole Commission has met four times and the Commission's subcommittee and Task Forces met 23 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](https://dfpc.colorado.gov/FireCommission): [dfpc.colorado.gov/FireCommission](https://dfpc.colorado.gov/FireCommission).



## 2022 - 2023 Meeting Overview



## Activities of the Fire Commission

This section summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the Commission over the past year and thus far.

During the past year the Commission has primarily worked on Prescribed Fire, Recruitment and Retention, and the Transfers and Delegations of Wildfire Authorities and Responsibilities process. The Prescribed Fire Subcommittee met a total of 6 times over the past year with a concentration on developing a statewide prescribed fire strategy. The strategy and resultant strategic plan will be developed over the next year plus with involvement and participation from stakeholders across the state. The long term goal of the plan will be to improve the safety of our communities, through identification of short and long term priorities, assessing current and future treatment needs, evaluating current and needed capacities, identifying best practices, and promoting pilot and demonstration projects.

### I. Delegation of Authority Subcommittee

The purpose of the subcommittee is to evaluate the current language within statute that is in need of revision to bring it into alignment with how wildfire is currently managed within the State of Colorado. None of the proposed revisions change the current authorities for wildland fire, but rather provide clearer guidance and will hopefully clean up some of the gray areas.

### II. Retention and Recruitment Subcommittee

The purpose of the subcommittee is to develop sustainable recruitment and retention solutions to meet not only the needs of today but the needs of the future to meet the growing needs of the citizens of Colorado. This will ensure that there is an adequate workforce to sustain the fire service's ability to protect life, property, the environment, and the economy.



The Retention and Recruitment Subcommittee and its Task Forces met a total of 12 times where they had a consensus that a survey was needed to help understand what the underlying issues are. We are currently outsourcing the survey work to a local company that will develop questions and begin reaching out to current firefighters and to the public to better understand the priorities and needs of the desired workforce. The subcommittee broke into 3 Task Forces of Benefits Task Force, Culture and Data Task Force, and Marketing and Engagement Task Force.

### III. Prescribed Fire Subcommittee

The purpose of this subcommittee is to develop a strategy that balances what can realistically be achieved currently, and to establish a pace and trajectory where we can move towards this long term goal of creating forest and community conditions so that management ignited and/or natural ignitions can be implemented to scale. We must establish the use of prescribed fire under an approach of the right time, right place, right conditions, and right resources. The



Colorado Fire Commission Quarterly Meeting Steamboat Springs - July 13th, 2023

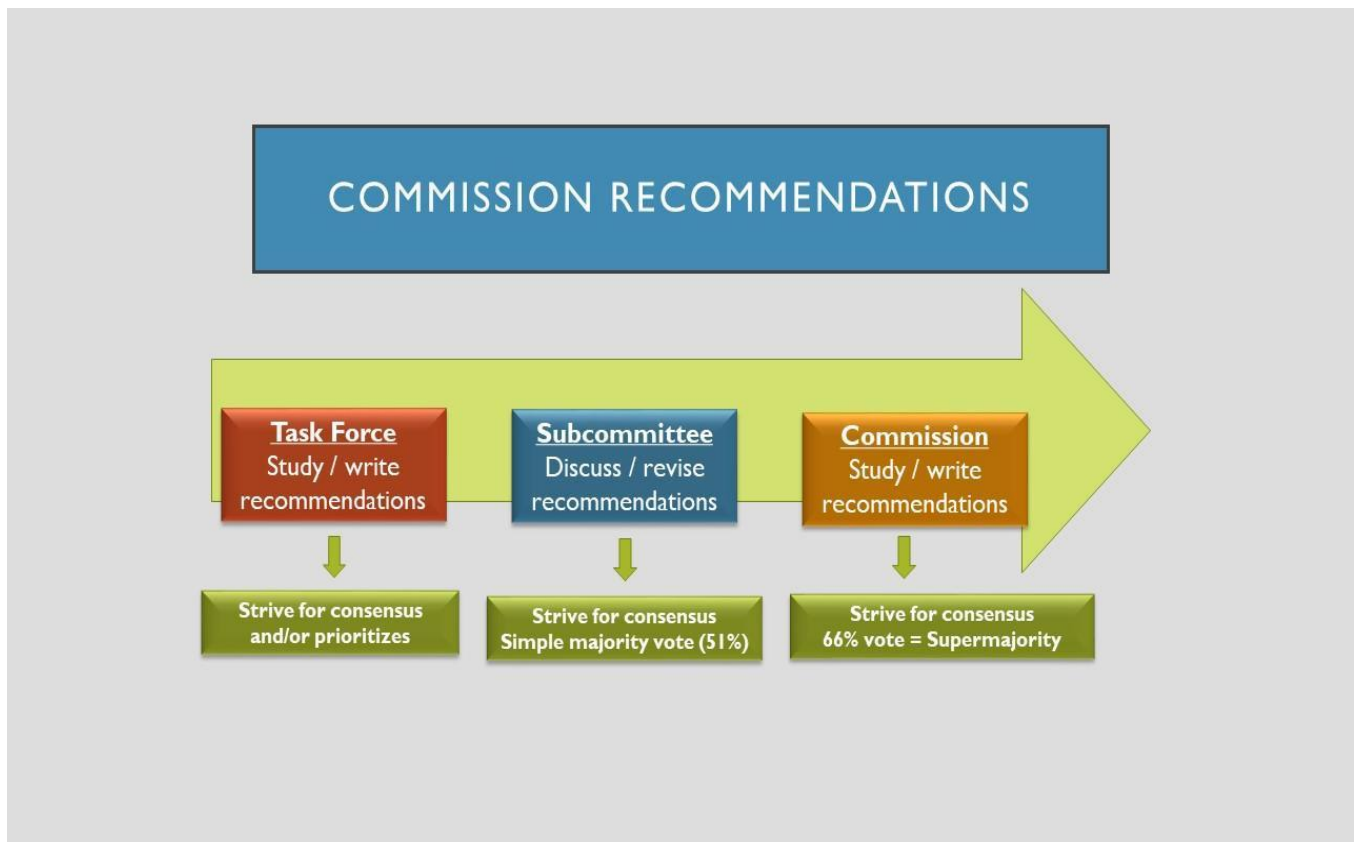


Prescribed Fire Subcommittee met a total of 6 times over the past year with a concentration on developing a statewide prescribed fire strategy.

## 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 C 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 currently working on critical issues and deciding on what



recommendations should come forth. If any recommendations are brought forth before the next annual report, an addendum will be sent out.

## Subcommittees

### I. Statewide and Regional Coordination of Mutual Aid Subcommittee

The focus of the Statewide and Regional Coordination of Mutual Aid Subcommittee was 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).

### 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).

### III. Fire Data Subcommittee

The focus of the Fire Data Subcommittee was 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 approved the recommendations: Implement a Data Driven Program to Reduce Risk



and Strengthen Colorado’s Fire Service (Fire Investigations) (Recommendation 21-03) and Implement a Comprehensive Fire Data Collection and Dissemination Program (Recommendation 20-05)

#### IV. Legislative Subcommittee

The focus of the Legislative Subcommittee was 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. This Subcommittee does not make recommendations on behalf of the Commission.

#### V. High-Risk Hazards Subcommittee

The focus of the High-Risk Hazards Subcommittee was 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.



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. The Commission approved the following recommendation: Support the Statewide Community Risk Reduction Initiative (Recommendation 21-04). Implement a Data Driven Program to Reduce Risk and Strengthen Colorado's Fire Service (Fire Investigations) (Recommendation 21-03).

## VI. 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 B. The Commission approved the recommendation: Creation of a Wildland Code Enforcement Board (Recommendation 22-01)

## VII. Training and Certification Subcommittee

The focus of this Subcommittee was 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 Commission approved the recommendation: Enhance Firefighter readiness through expanded training and certification opportunities (Recommendation 21-02).

## Past Recommendations

Recommendation #	Recommendation	Status of Recommendation
20-01	Implement the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS)	Implemented <a href="#">Senate Bill 21-166</a>
20-02	Update Mutual Aid Statutes to Support the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System	Implemented <a href="#">Senate Bill 21-166</a>
20-03	Establish State Response (Large Fire Fund)	Implemented <a href="#">Senate Bill 21-227</a>
20-04	Implement an Enhanced State Assistance Program	Implemented <a href="#">Senate Bill 21-049</a>
20-05	Implement a Comprehensive Fire Data Collection and Dissemination Program (Same as 21-03)	Implemented <a href="#">Senate Bill 23-013</a>
21-01	Implement the Colorado State Fire Coordination Center to integrate 24/7 capability for dispatching Colorado's fire- based resources	Implemented <a href="#">Senate Bill 22-206</a>
21-02	Enhance Firefighter readiness through expanded training and certification opportunities	Not implemented
21-03	Implement a Data Driven Program to Reduce Risk and Strengthen Colorado's Fire Service (Fire Investigations)	Implemented <a href="#">Senate Bill 23-013</a>
21-04	Support the Statewide Community Risk Reduction Initiative	Implemented <a href="#">Senate Bill 23-214</a>



22-01 <i>*also listed as 22-02</i>	Creation of a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code Board	Implemented <a href="#">Senate Bill 23-166</a>
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The Commission was created in a way to allow stakeholders to drive work efforts and priorities as it relates to fire problems. The following sections display the statutory duties of the Colorado Fire Commission and the status of these duties as of August 2023.

- ☒ Section 4.1: The Commission will develop 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.

*\*Status as of August 2023:*

- 21-03 Implement a Data Driven Program to Reduce Risk and Strengthen Colorado’s Fire Service (Fire Investigations) SB23-013
  - Laying out the organizational framework and hiring top level positions, who will then help with the remainder of the hiring and developing requests for proposals on the fixed assets.
- 20-05 Implement a Comprehensive Fire Data Collection and Dissemination Program SB23-013

- ☒ Section 4.2: The Commission will review the current emergency fire fund program and provide recommendations to make it more inclusive of counties throughout the state.

*\*Status as of August 2023:*

- 20-04 Implement an Enhanced State Assistance Program SB21-049
  - Provided \$1.8 M in continuously appropriated State funds to bolster State Capacity to provide early detection, ground and aviation resources, technical support, and funding to Counties and Fire Departments to limit the size, duration, costs, and impacts of unwanted wildfires.
  - Transfer existing \$1.0 M in annual County Emergency Fire Fund contributions towards the Enhanced State Assistance program in combination with designated State Funds.



- Plan to meet with non-EFF Counties in 2024, with a goal of those entities providing an entry level of contributions to the Enhanced State Assistance program by CY 2025.

☐ Section 4.3: The Commission will evaluate 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. \*Pieces have been applied, but cannot be checked off until complete.

*\*Status as of August 2023:*

- 20-03 Establish State Response (Large Fire Fund). SB21-227 - provided funding for the State Emergency Reserve.
  - As of July 2023, we have funding for all types of disasters including wildfire, but do not have a specific fire fund.
- 20-04 Implement an Enhanced State Assistance Program. SB21-049 (Wildfire Stimulus package).
  - Provided \$1.8 M in continuously appropriated funds to bolster State Capacity to provide early detection, ground and aviation resources, technical support, and funding to Counties and Fire Departments to limit the size, duration, costs, and impacts of unwanted wildfires.
  - Expanded historical uses of State Assistance funding beyond aviation and handcrews to cover pre-positioning of air and ground resources under a Preparedness Level concept.

☐ Section 4.4: The Commission will assess the capacity of the State to provide emergency fire support and technical expertise to local communities.

- *Has not been addressed yet.*

☐ Section 4.5: The Commission will develop performance measures of overall response effectiveness and identify recommended improvement areas.

- *Has not been addressed yet.*

☒ Section 4.6: The Commission will strengthen regional and statewide coordination of mutual aid resources and initial attack capabilities for fires and other hazards.



*\*Status as of August 2023:*

- 20-01 Implement the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) SB21-166
  - DFPC hired a Unit Chief of Resource Coordination and 5 Resource Coordination Battalion Chiefs to obtain stakeholder input, educate and coordinate with local fire agencies, provide training and scenarios, etc.
  - Have developed an interim resource status system (ClickUp), notification system (Signal), and Resource Order system (Google Sheets) until a permanent solution is developed. This has significantly improved the ability to identify and mobilize resources prior to and during the initial stages of escalating fire-related incidents.
  - Have refined and implemented Wildfire Immediate Need (WIN) program as a foundational model for mobilizing all types of fire resources across the State under a critical need, surge concept.
- 20-02 Update Mutual Aid Statutes to Support the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System SB21-166
  - Updated relevant portions of C.R.S. 29-5-105, 29-5-107, and 29-5-108 so that operational control and liability remain with the assisting agency rather than being transferred to the requesting agency. The changes are only applicable to fire-based agencies and do not affect law enforcement agencies.
- 21-01 Implement the Colorado State Fire Coordination Center to integrate 24/7 capability for dispatching Colorado's firebased resources SB22-206
  - DFPC has hired 10 year-round Fire Dispatcher and Fire Resource Specialist positions to support the existing interagency wildfire dispatch system, as well as year-round statewide mobilization of all fire resources when local resources have been exhausted. DFPC plans to hire the remaining positions (Deputy Center Managers and Lead Fire Dispatchers) this winter.
  - Working with the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service on the Rocky Mountain Area Dispatch



Efficiency and consolidation project to increase capacity, standardize dispatch operations, and improve dispatcher recruitment and retention. Consolidation from the current 6 interagency dispatch centers to 3 will be based on the timeline of acquiring adequate facilities in Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, and Grand Junction.

- ☒ Section 4.7: The Commission will develop 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.

*\*Status as of August 2023:*

- 21-04 Support the Statewide Community Risk Reduction Initiative SB23-214
  - Laying out the organizational framework and hiring top level positions, who will then help with the remainder of the hiring and developing requests for proposals on the fixed assets.
- 22-01 Creation of a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code Board SB23-166
  - Hiring an Administrator IV and Administrative Assistant III.

- ☐ Section 4.8: The Commission, in cooperation with the Colorado State Forest Service and other affected stakeholders, will develop and publish an assessment of fire treatment costs and cost distribution, including the costs of mitigation under emergent and non emergent circumstances, retreatment costs, and post-recovery costs.

- *Has not been addressed yet.*

- ☐ Section 4.9: The Commission will develop methodical approaches to and recommendations on Colorado's fire service concerns and issues.

- *Has not been addressed yet.*

- ☐ Section 4.10: The Commission will forecast 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.

- *Has not been addressed yet.*

To ensure the Commission is prioritizing the most relevant matters of concern, a survey has been sent to all member agencies requesting that they submit their recommendations for future Commission work. Those recommendations will be evaluated and prioritized at the October full Commission meeting.

### IV. Final Thoughts

These Subcommittees and their associated Task Forces met 42 times during the past year. The Subcommittees continue to work on developing recommendations over the next year. The fact that none were ready to move forward in this year's report speaks to the dedication of the Subcommittee members to only present intentional and well-vetted recommendations to the Commission and to the complexity of topics being solved. 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 has long struggled with. Colorado benefits from their hard work and commitment. The Colorado Fire Commission is scheduled to repeal on September 1st, 2024. It is currently going through a Sunset review process to show the importance of our work and recommendations to the General Assembly to extend our work.



Lowline Fire near Gunnison



## 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;

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(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

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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

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(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;

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(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 METHODOLOGICAL 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.

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(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

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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

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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

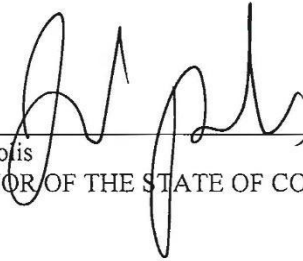


Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE



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

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## Appendix B: 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.



**COLORADO**  
Division of Fire  
Prevention & Control  
Department of Public Safety

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,



Jared Polis  
Governor



## Appendix C: Subcommittee Members

### Regional and Statewide Coordination of Mutual Aid Subcommittee

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



Greg Ward, Deputy Chief      Loveland Fire  
Mike Weege, Chief      Evergreen Fire

### Large Fire Funding Mechanisms Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
Sean Smith, Sheriff	La Plata County, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chair
Paul Amundson, Captain	Evergreen Fire
Bob Baker, Chief	South Metro Fire, Commission Member
Erin Claussen, Branch Chief of Incident Business	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Pam Feely	West Metro Fire Rescue Board, Commission Member
Brita Horn, Chief	Rock Creek Fire, Commission Member
KC Hume, Sheriff	Moffett County, Commission Member
Vaughn Jones, Wildland Fire Management Section Chief	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Mike Morgan, Director	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Jess Solze, Chief	Hugo Fire
Sarah Thorsteinson	Summit REALTORS, Commission Member
Ben Tisdell, Commissioner	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
John Bennett, Chief	Telluride Fire
Shannon Byerly, Sheriff	Custer County
Parker Coombs	Division of Fire Prevention and Control / Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center
Leslie Dahlkemper, Commissioner	Jefferson County, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chair
Doug Hall, Chief	Westminster Fire, Commission Member
Eric Howell	Colorado Springs Utilities, Commission Member
Sean Jewell, Assistant Chief	West Metro Fire Rescue, Commission Member
Susan Matthews, Interim State Forester	Colorado State Forest Service, Commission Member
Owen McKeough	Brighton Fire
Robert McCarty	Yampa Valley Regional Airport and West Routt Fire
Mike Morgan, Director	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
Becky Baker, Chief Building Official	Jefferson County
Bill Bischof, Building Code Branch Chief	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Andy Blake, Plans Examiner / President	Town of Castle Rock / CC-ICC
Bryce Boyer, Captain	Pueblo Fire, Commission Member
Chris Brunette, Fire and Life Safety Section Chief	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Don Chapman, Chief	Alamosa County Fire
Brad Davidson, Chief	La Junta Fire
Doug Hall, Chief	Westminster Fire, Commission Member
Karola Hanks, Fire Marshal	Durango Fire
Tami Holley, Fire Protection Engineer	Society of Fire Protection Engineers
Sean Jewell, Assistant Chief	West Metro Fire, Commission Member
Roger Lovell, Regional Building Official	Pike Peak Regional
Mike Morgan, Director	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Mark Novak, Chief	Vail Fire, Commission Member
Tom Pitchford, Chief Building Official	Town of Bennett
Rob Sontag, Fire Prevention Branch Chief	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Jerry Stricker, Acting Chief, Fire Marshal	Golden Fire
Bob Sullivan, Southwest Regional Director	NFPA, Commission Member
Tim Swanson, Chief Building Official	City of Greeley



David Waller, Deputy Fire Marshal	North Metro Fire Rescue
Ken Watkins, Chief	Grand Junction Fire, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chair
Kevin Whelan	Grand Valley Fire Board, Commission Member

### Wildland Urban Interface Subcommittee

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



Mark Novak, Chief	Vail Fire, Commission Member
Robert Sontag, Fire Prevention Branch Chief	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Bob Sullivan, Southwest Regional Director	NFPA, Commission Member
Sarah Thorsteinson, Executive Director	Summit REALTORS, Commission Member
Ben Tisdell, Commissioner	Ouray County, Commission Member
David Waller, Deputy Fire Marshal	North Metro Fire Rescue
Ken Watkins, Chief	Grand Junction Fire, Commission Member
Kevin Whelan	Grand Valley Fire Board, Commission Member

### Training and Certification Subcommittee

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



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

### Coordination of Fire-Based Resources Subcommittee

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



Monica Million, Executive Director	Colorado 911 Resource Center
Vaughn Jones, WFMS Section Chief	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Tracey Kern	USDA Forest Service
Becky Jossart	Bureau of Land Management
Jeff Davis	Colorado State Patrol
Justin Kirkland, Chief	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
Matt Branch, District Chief	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Ray Gonzales, Chief	Rocky Ford Fire

## Legislative Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
Bryce Boyer, Captain	Pueblo Fire, Commission Member
Lesley Dahlkemper, Commissioner	Jefferson County , Commission Member
Doug Hall, Chief	Westminster Fire, Commission Member
Vaughn Jones, Wildland Fire Management Section Chief	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Melissa Lineberger, Chief of Staff	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Joel Malecka, Legislative Liaison	CO Department of Public Safety
Mike Morgan, Director	Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Commission Member
Mark Novak, Chief	Vail Fire, Commission Member



Sean Smith, Sheriff	La Plata County, Commission Member
Bob Sullivan, SW Regional Director	NFPA, Commission Member
Kevin Whelan	Grand Valley Fire Board, Commission Member

### Retention and Recruitment Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
Aaron Green, Associate Director	Colorado State Forest Service
Bob Sullivan, SW Regional Director	National Fire Protection Association
Brad Davidson, Chief	La Junta
Brad White, Chief	Grand Fire
Chip Weule, Chief Benefits Officer	Fire & Police Pension Association
Chris Brunette, Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Chuck Altvater, Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
David Wolf, Chief	Estes Valley
Doug Gerrald, Deputy Chief	Glenwood Springs Fire Department
Gary Briese, Executive Director	Colorado State Fire Chiefs
Jeremy Burkhart	Lamar
Ken Watkins, Chief	Grand Junction
Kevin Whelan	Grand Valley Fire Board
Lisa Pine, Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Lori Lynch	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Mark Novak, Chief	Vail Fire
Matt McCombs, Director	Colorado State Forest Service
Mike Morgan, Director	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Pam Feely	West Metro Fire Board
Paul Duarte, Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Phil Daniels, Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Ray Gonzales, Chief	Rocky Ford Fire Protection District
Ryan Haynie	Colorado State FF Association
Timothy Lavin, Chief	Greater Eagle Fire Protection District
TJ Steck, Chief	Elizabeth Fire Protection District
Vaughn Jones, Wildland Fire Management	Division of Fire Prevention & Control



Section Chief

**Prescribed Fire Subcommittee**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Abe Layden	Forest Health Council
Brendan Witt	Western Resource Advocates
Bryan Karchut, Director - Safety, Fire, Fuels and Aviation Management	United States Department of Agriculture
Dan Beveridge, Fire, Fuels, and Watershed Manager	Colorado State Forest Service
Daniel Godwin, Forest Fire Planner	United States Department of Agriculture
Eric Howell, Forest Program Manager	Colorado Springs Utilities
Jody Shadduck-McNally	Forest Health Council
Katie Mcgrath-Novak	Forest Health Council
Kevin Whelan	Grand Valley Fire Board
Lesley Dahlkemper, Commissioner	Jefferson County
Mark Novak, Chief	Vail Fire
Matt McCombs, Director	Colorado State Forest Service
Mike Babler	The Colorado Prescribed Fire Council
Mike Morgan, Director	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Paige Lewis	Nature Conservancy
Parker Titus	The Nature Conservancy
Paul Cada, Wildland Program Manager	Vail Fire
Paul Duarte, WFMS Deputy Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Rebecca Samulski	Fire Adapted Colorado
Rodrigo Moraga	The Colorado Prescribed Fire Council
Steve Orr	Fire Adapted Colorado
Ty Webb, SE District Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Vaughn Jones, Wildland Fire Management Section Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control



## Delegation of Authority Subcommittee

Name	Affiliation
Kevin Grant, Deputy of State Fire	Bureau of Land Management
Dan Gibbs, Executive Director	Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Joe Pelle, Sheriff	Boulder County
KC Hume, Sheriff	Moffat County
Matt Branch, NE District Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Mike Morgan, Director	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Ray Gonzales, Chief	Rocky Ford Fire Protection District
Sam Parsons, NW District Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Sean Jewell, Captain	West Metro Fire
Sean Smith, Sheriff	La Plata County
Vaughn Jones, Wildland Fire Management Section Chief	Division of Fire Prevention & Control

