

RESOLUTION NO. 10-83

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilperson Hamilton-Bruer

Councilperson Hoffman

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF CASTLE PINES NORTH, COLORADO
SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY
WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING TO THE
COALITION FOR THE UPPER SOUTH PLATTE**

WHEREAS, the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority (“South Metro”) provides fire protection and life safety services to residents and business owners in the City of Castle Pines North; and

WHEREAS, South Metro completed and adopted its Community Wildfire Protection Plan titled “*Wildland Urban Interface: Community Wildfire Protection Plan*” in December, 2009 (the “CWPP”); and

WHEREAS, during the finalization of the CWPP, community leaders and stakeholders within the City of Castle Pines North identified priorities for wildfire management, which priority areas are identified in **CWPP Addendum A – City of Castle Pines North**, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution as **Exhibit 1**, and is incorporated herein by reference (the “CPN CWPP”); and

WHEREAS, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (“CUSP”) provides financial assistance and funding to entities seeking to implement wildfire prevention strategies outlined in a current CWPP; and

WHEREAS, the deadline to apply for Community Wildfire Protection Plan Assistance and Funding from CUSP for consideration during its current round of funding is October 20, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports submitting an application for CWPP Assistance and Funding for implementation of “The Retreat” project, as identified in the CPN CWPP (hereinafter, the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, South Metro is assisting the City, the Castle Pines North Metropolitan District (“CPNMD”), and The Retreat at Castle Pines North Homeowners Association (the “Retreat HOA”) with the submission of the application to CUSP seeking funding to assist in the implementation of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project has high visibility in the community due to its location adjacent to the City's main evacuation routes; and

WHEREAS, CUSP funding of the Project will increase neighborhood and resident awareness of wildfire mitigation strategies and will provide an excellent opportunity to educate City residents regarding hazardous fuels reduction; and

WHEREAS, the Project will also benefit the elk herd that migrates during winter, will provide an opportunity for balanced ecosystem management in Castle Pines North, and will provide other secondary benefits within the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council appreciates the guidance and support of South Metro in working with the City, the Retreat HOA, CPNMD, and other community stakeholders to: (1) complete the CPN CWPP; and (2) complete the application for CWPP assistance and funding, and file the same with CUSP by the October 20, 2010 deadline; and

WHEREAS, if CUSP approves the application for funding to assist in implementation of the Project, next steps will include the CUSP forester meeting with representatives of the City, CPNMD and the Retreat HOA to discuss the Project in additional detail and publicly bidding components of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City Council fully supports the application to CUSP.

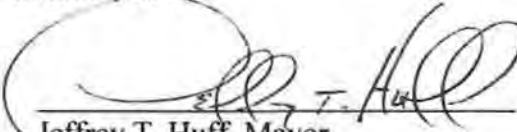
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE PINES NORTH, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The City Council hereby (a) formally declares its support for the collaborative application for Community Wildfire Protection Plan Assistance and Funding to CUSP (the "Application") to be jointly submitted to CUSP by the City, CPNMD and the Retreat HOA with the assistance of South Metro; and (b) authorizes Councilperson Kim Hoffman to execute the Application on behalf of the City when in final form.

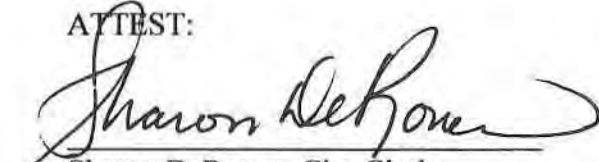
Section 2. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining issues of this Resolution.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect upon its approval by the City Council.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE PINES NORTH by a vote of six (6) in favor, none against and one (1) absent this 12th day of October, 2010.


Jeffrey T. Huff, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sharon DeRouen, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Linda C. Michow, City Attorney

Exhibit 1

CWPP Addendum A – City of Castle Pines North

CWPP Addendum A City of Castle Pines North

The City of Castle Pines North (CPN) earned a Low hazard rating because of its road network, fire-resistant homes, general lack of continuous vegetation and close proximity of commercial infrastructure, but the CWPP Stakeholders and community leaders identified several open space areas that do pose a wildfire risk to CPN neighborhoods because of their heavy concentrations of unmanaged Gambel oak, grasses and other shrubs (See Map 1).

Those priority areas are:

1. Two **Castle Pines North Metro District (CPNMD) Open Space** parcels in the northwest corner of CPN known both as Romar and Daniels Park (See Map 2). The parcels are in a drainage southwest of Grigs Road surrounded by the homes in the Jasper Point, Blue Terrace, Ventana and Topaz Vista HOAs. Other CPNMD parcels throughout CPN will become priorities in the future as these projects are implemented.
2. Open Space in **The Retreat** between Monarch Boulevard and the homes along Tangleoak Lane, Summerwood Lane, Woodstock Lane and the western spur of Berkshire Lane (See Map 3). Because of its proximity to The Retreat, a parcel of the CPNMD's land is part of this management area. Undeveloped land along the transmission line right-of-way will join this management area in the future.
3. The Open Space in the **Forest Park** neighborhood surrounded by Forest Ridge Circle and Forest Trails Drive, and bisected by Forest Park Drive (See Map 6). These parcels feature an unmanaged ponderosa pine ecosystem in addition to heavy grasses and shrubs. A dense grove of ponderosas west of Forest Trails Drive in The Ridge is also part of this management area because its proximity to the undeveloped ecosystems west of Daniel's Park Road makes it a potential bridge for flames and embers into CPN.
4. An overgrown, steep drainage in the **Buffalo Ridge** neighborhood between two levels of Buffalo Ridge Road and Glen Ridge Drive as well as the steep slope that leads from that drainage to the homes along the south side of Glen Oaks Avenue and the open space around Meadowrose Lane and north of Shady Oak Lane (See Maps 4 and 5).

Again, these areas are priorities for management because they pose threats to the residential and commercial buildings as well as the infrastructure in CPN. A wildfire that ignites in any of those areas could grow and spread quickly, especially during dry and/or windy periods, burning through the forests, oak groves and meadows that give the City of Castle Pines North its name and make it such a vibrant and scenic place to live as well as destroying homes (many of which have wood shake shingles for roofing) and businesses.

Rather than accept that risk, the CWPP Stakeholders have partnered to coordinate efforts to reduce it. There are several options for fuel treatment and ecosystem management that balance fire risk with aesthetic outcomes. For example, pruning the lower six feet of limbs from ponderosa pines make them even more resistant to grass fires and increase visibility into those groves. Cutting continuous Gambel oak stands into islands increases biological diversity in drainages and improves the health of those islands. Homeowners in PineRidge are role models for CPN for their existing efforts to reduce hazardous fuels in the open space surrounding their properties. As they discovered, the cost of any treatment varies based on geography, current market prices and the size of the project.

Because the idea of reducing wildfire risk (mistakenly) conjures images of clear-cutting, the CWPP Stakeholders recommend communities create “demonstration sites” in the city of CPN to show how wildfire mitigation balances aesthetic values with ecological health. These demonstration sites should help homeowners understand how they can improve their own properties as well as shared open space areas to improve community safety.

Demonstration Sites

As stakeholders, we determined that creating demonstration sites in four of those five target neighborhoods is the top priority for CPN. Each demonstration site would:

- Raise awareness of the local level of wildfire risk
- Raise awareness of local hazardous fuels
- Illustrate what hazardous fuels reduction resembles in two ecosystems: Gambel oak and Gambel oak with scattered ponderosa pines
- Illustrate different levels of fuels reduction appropriate for open space proximal to homes
- Show how new recreational trails may be used to reduce hazardous fuels
- Gain community support for hazardous fuels reduction/wildfire mitigation

With those objectives in mind, as well as modeling the appropriate level of hazardous fuels reduction to alter fire behavior and provide for safer suppression efforts, we prioritized the construction of the demonstration sites:

1. The first priority project would be in one of the three open space parcels owned and managed by the CPNMD: either of the parcels accessible from Grigs Road and Daniels Gate Drive or the third parcel located on the north end of the Retreat. The site will enable professionals to model different treatment methods and equipment types available for private and shared property projects.
2. The next priority site is on the open space parcel in the Retreat that is owned and managed by that homeowners association. This highly hazardous piece of open space backs up to homes with wood shake shingles, which means a wildfire could easily bridge the backyards and ignite homes while a structure fire could bridge the yards and ignite the open space. The ideal demonstration site would

encompass both the HOA-owned open space parcel and the Metro District open space parcel.

3. Creating a demonstration site in an open space parcel in the Forest Park community is the third priority. Ideally, it would tie a home's defensible space project into the fuels reduction on the open space parcel. It would differ from the sites above because Forest Park has denser ponderosa pine communities within its boundaries. It also could tie into the existing efforts in The Ridge at Castle Pines North Golf Course where mitigation efforts included pruning trees and oak stands.
4. The fourth priority area is the open space between the Buffalo Ridge and Glen Oaks homes. Although some ponderosa pines are present, this open space is characterized by large contiguous stands of Gambel oak with a significant dead component.

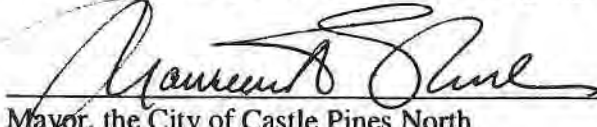
Hazardous fuel treatment methods include a combination of mechanical and hand treatments. Those choices will be finalized with a prescription for fuels treatment once the community has decided to implement the demonstration project. As we've seen in other parts of Douglas County, the results of demonstration sites include better wildfire and safety awareness, better dialogue among stakeholders and new momentum for implementing other wildfire mitigation recommendations.

Implementation Plan

- The City of Castle Pines North Metro District (CPNMD) Open Space
 - Determine demonstration site location: CPNMD, Fall 2009
 - Pursue grant opportunities: CPNMD, assistance from Stakeholders
 - Write prescription (including treatment methods): Douglas County Mitigation Staff, Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)
 - Implement project: CPNMD, 2010
- The Retreat, Forest Park, Buffalo Ridge/Glen Oaks Open Space
 - Determine level of interest with the above HOAs: CPN and South Metro Fire Rescue Authority (SMFRA)
 - If interested in moving forward with demonstration sites, need to determine sites on the ground: SMFRA, Douglas County, CSFS, appropriate HOA
 - Pursue grant opportunities: appropriate HOA, assistance from Stakeholders
 - Write prescription (including treatment methods): Douglas County Mitigation Staff, CSFS
 - Implement project: appropriate HOA, 2010

Together with the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority Community Wildfire Protection Plan, this addendum provides the City of Castle Pines North with a completed CWPP. We are seeking your recognition of the plan and your commitment to move from awareness to action in the future as opportunities arise.

We, the undersigned, recognize the importance of both the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority Community Wildfire Protection Plan and our own as well as their intent to educate our community about the wildfire risk in our area and our opportunities to reduce that risk, especially if we continue working together toward this common goal.



Mayor, the City of Castle Pines North

10/22/09
Date



President, Castle Pines North Metro Dist. Board of Directors

10-19-09
Date




President, Castle Pines North Master Association

10-15-09
Date



Assistant Chief, South Metro Fire Rescue Authority

12/7/09
Date



District Forester, Colorado State Forest Service

12-7-09
Date



Douglas County Mitigation Staff

12/7/09
Date