

Common Themes- St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Desired Conditions workshops February 2020, December 2020

VISION: The Partnership’s vision is to achieve a healthy and resilient watershed that can sustain wildfire and other natural disturbances while protecting communities, keeping water supplies clean and reliable, and supporting diverse native flora and fauna for current and future generations.

MISSION: The mission of the Partnership is to bring together diverse partners and community members to collaboratively plan and implement cross-jurisdictional landscape-scale forest restoration in the St. Vrain Watershed that will prepare the landscape and community to receive wildland fire as a natural part of the ecosystem.

TOPIC	STAKEHOLDER GOAL/COMMENT
Forest Health/Ecology/Resilience	
	Diverse mosaic landscape: diversity of species, age class, size class, gaps.
	Minimize dense monotypic stands of trees
	Restore forests on landscape or watershed scale (rather than site/project scale).
	Prevent forest density from further increasing.
	Resilient landscape that can bounce back after fire without significant intervention.
	Resilience in the face of climate change.
	Diversity of Flora and Fauna
	Resilient riparian areas during and after fires.
	Maintain or enhance gaps and/or forest openings.
	Reduce presence and impacts of noxious weeds
	Use prescribed fire to implement process-based restoration. Burn it if you want to save it.
Water Resources	
	Establish post-fire conditions that do not impact or impair water quality/quantity for municipal and ag water users.
	Increase water supply yield following forest restoration treatments.
	Reduce post-fire risks including debris flows.
	Improve soils and water holding rates
	Establish sediment catchment zones and reconnect streams to their floodplains to benefit water quality.
Wildfire Risk	
	60% of landscape can accommodate fire without harm/threat to community.
	Establish fire adapted communities
	Create (well designed and managed) fire breaks that reduce risk to critical infrastructure and communities.
	Minimize post-treatment wildfire risk by creating a plan for downed material and surface fuels.
	Reduce infrastructure in high wildfire risk areas
	Demonstrate fire treatment effectiveness post fire. How much worse would it have been without treatments?
	Develop conditions that allow firefighters the time and space to get into a community and protect it.
	Develop conditions that allow the fire to stay on the surface for wildfire response
Wildlife	
	Presence of wildlife and adequate or enhanced habitat
	Sustained or enhanced prebles habitat in riparian corridors
	Maintained or enhanced Big Horn Sheep habitat
	Maintained or enhanced elk habitat
	Maintained or enhanced habitat for Northern Goshawk
	Maintained or enhanced Big Horn Sheep lambing areas as appropriate
Aesthetics	
	Minimize aesthetic impacts on landscape from access points/roads. Re-use same roads to greatest extent possible.
	Trees still remain in the forest
	Maintain beauty of the forest
	Minimize length of time slash piles are present on the landscape
Recreation	
	Maintain well managed recreation opportunities that help fuel local economies and that do not impact ecological aspects of forested or riparian resources.
	Ability to bike/hike/run/camp/recreate in the trees.
Cultural	
	Conservation/protection of cultural resources such as settlement history and agricultural history on forested lands.
Education	
	Build collective understanding among partners and community members regarding desired future conditions, and the restoration methods used to achieve those.
	Get community to appreciate and understand the value of the mountain landscape without trees or with much fewer trees.
	Build understanding regarding the of history of fire suppression and impacts on the landscape.
	Communities that are accustomed to forest fires as a normal part of a healthy ecosystem.
Economic	
	Reduction of wildfire response and insurance costs due to pre-fire mitigation.
	Reduce financial barrier for agencies and landowners to rearrange fuels & complete two step treatment processes.
	Develop partnerships with forest product businesses to extent feasible to
Community & Planning Approaches	
	Strong collaboration, coordination, and communication across landownership.
	Strong buy-in and support for landscape-scale restoration efforts.

	Desired Future conditions should align with what is already defined in existing planning resources (CWPP, SMP, etc).
	Coordinating management plans and funding to work across landscape effciently.
	Landowners are considered team members from beginning of projects.
	Follow desired conditions process outlined on GTR 373.
	Adjust objectives and restoration targets based on location and site specific goals/objectives.
	Develop solutions that allow wildlife, community and wildfire goals to co-exist.
	Long-term plans must be adaptable to climate change, property ownership
	Plans must be reasonable and affordable.
Individual Goals	
	Forget the houses, save the trees.
	Develop conditions that provide options for community members to shelter in place during wildfire