

**Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)
Colorado Fire Commission (CFC) Prescribed Fire Subcommittee Meeting
May 28, 2025
Virtual
Meeting Summary**

ATTENDANCE

Prescribed Fire Subcommittee: Connie Johnson, Kevin Whelan, Rocco Snart, Charles Lanoue, Brendan Witt, Brian Keating, Daniel Beveridge, Parker Titus, Becca Samulski, Jody Shadduck-McNally, Jennifer Mueller, Katie McGrath Novak, Samuel Parsons, Paige Lewis, Tracy LeClair, Alison Lerch

DFPC: Jennah Kitchell

Facilitation: Katie Lobodzinski

ACTION ITEMS

Daniel Beveridge, Katie Lobodzinski	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss and plan for the shared resource drive.
Rocco Snart	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report back after internal DFPC meetings on the Statewide Strategy.
Subcommittee members	Complete the implementation planning exercise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liability: Katie McGrath Novak, Parker Titus, Brendan Witt, Jennifer Mueller (and colleagues)• Training & Certification: Charles Lanoue, Samuel Parsons• Permitting: Becca Samulski• Treatment Coordination: Brian Keating, Daniel Beveridge, Katie McGrath Novak• Public and Political Outreach: Brian Keating, Brendan Witt• Funding: Parker Titus, Brendan Witt

MEETING GOALS

- Receive and discuss administrative and legislative updates.
- Identify the best approach to developing an implementation plan for the Statewide Prescribed Fire Strategy over the coming months.

Administrative Items

- Katie Lobodzinski will take over facilitation from Heather Bergman, as the group transitions from strategy development to implementation planning.
- Dan and Rocco welcomed new participants and thanked returning members for their continued contributions. Rocco emphasized the importance of developing a clear path forward and ensuring inclusive stakeholder representation. The next phase will require substantial effort, especially given the uncertain budget outlook and limited funding opportunities.

- The group is working to increase representation from both the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and the Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC). There was also discussion about better engaging the Colorado Prescribed Fire Council. Brian Keating, a current Council member, offered to help connect with additional representatives. The Council, which includes private, local, state, federal, and fire district stakeholders, is currently undergoing a refocusing effort and lacks active facilitation.
- Rocco noted that the Council has existed since the early 2000s and expressed hope that it could eventually find a more permanent home with dedicated funding to ensure stability.
- Dan proposed creating a shared repository of resources to support the subcommittee's work. Katie and Dan will define what this might include, and Becca offered to assist. The goal is to maintain an organized and accessible set of relevant materials as implementation planning progresses.

Legislative Updates

- Brendan shared that SB 25-007, which establishes a claims fund to support prescribed burning, did receive funding—\$250K—and an FTE was added to administer the program. The bill is expected to be signed shortly. It also includes a reciprocity clause, allowing DFPC to recognize out-of-state burn boss qualifications. Montana has now followed Colorado's lead in including this provision.
- HB 25-1182, a wildfire risk modeling bill, aims to encourage homeowners to conduct wildfire mitigation around their properties. While not focused on prescribed fire, the broader engagement around wildfire risk supports the cultural shift needed for broader acceptance of prescribed burning.
- SB 25-015 expands DFPC's responsibilities around wildfire communication by requiring coordination with counties to provide local updates through the state wildfire center website. While the bill is unfunded and adds no new FTEs, it could become a secondary platform for prescribed fire information in the future.

Statewide Strategy Implementation Plan

- The Colorado Fire Commission established this subcommittee in 2023 to develop a Statewide Prescribed Fire Strategy. The group completed its work earlier this year, producing a set of 21 strategies. The Colorado Fire Commission approved the strategy in March, and the final report was published in April. It will be submitted to the General Assembly in August as part of the Commission's annual report.
- To begin implementation planning, the subcommittee agreed on a framework to apply to each of the 21 strategies. This framework will be recorded in a shared spreadsheet and includes the following criteria:
 - **Who – the doers:** Who is responsible for implementing the strategy? Who else needs to be involved, and what is their capacity to contribute?
 - **Sequencing and prerequisites:** Are there tasks that must be completed in a particular order, or can they be done in parallel? What authority is required to act, and is funding available or needed? Are there external dependencies or enabling conditions?
 - **Optimal timeframe:** When should this strategy be implemented? Classify it as short-term (within 1 year), medium-term (1–3 years), or long-term (3–5 years).
- The spreadsheet will also include sub-tasks and track the locus of change (e.g., administrative, legislative, or other) to help clarify responsible parties and timelines.
- Parker noted that the claims fund legislation calls for collaboration in developing rules for the program, and this subcommittee is well positioned to support DFPC in that process.

Rulemaking is still required, and DFPC's policy analyst will be involved. DFPC will conduct an internal review of the Statewide Strategy in the next two weeks.

- As strategies are reviewed, the group discussed the importance of identifying specific implementers, timelines, and actionable next steps. Legislative-related strategies that do not require funding could be prioritized and advanced through the Fire Commission's legislative subcommittee. Several Commission members have already expressed support for moving these forward.