

ROUTT COUNTY WILDFIRE  
MITIGATION COUNCIL PRESENTS

# THE 2021 ROUTT COUNTY WILDFIRE CONFERENCE

*Learning from 2020 to Prepare for  
Wildfire Season*

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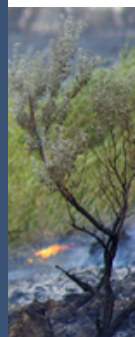
Four-part webinar series  
Thursdays, April 29-May 20

At this year's Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Conference, we will have local and regional experts present on steps that we all can take - from the individual homeowner to our community stakeholders - to mitigate risks and be prepared in the face of a wildfire.

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## KICK-OFF – LEARNING FROM 2020 TO PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE SEASON

April 29 • 5-6:30 pm

Through a moderated conversation, our panel of expert stakeholders will discuss lessons learned from the 2020 fire season and what is happening at the state and local level to get ready for this season.

### Speakers

- Dan Gibbs, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Executive Director
- Kevin Thompson, USFS, South Zone Fire Management Officer for the Med Bow/Routt National Forests
- Mo DeMorat, Routt County Emergency Management, Emergency Management Director
- Brad White, Grand Fire Protection District #1, Fire Chief
- John Twitchell, CSFS, Supervisory Forester NW Area
- Julie Baxter, City of Steamboat Springs, Senior Planner and RCWMC Board member

### Resources

- [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#)
  - [Routt County Emergency Management](#)
  - [2020 Colorado Forest Action Plan](#)
  - [2020 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests \(video\)](#)
  - [2020 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests](#)
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## HOME IGNITION ZONE & READY, SET, GO – BEING PREPARED AS AN INDIVIDUAL HOME OR RANCH OWNER

May 6 • 5-6:15 pm

Wildfire mitigation starts with YOU as a landowner. This webinar will focus on what landowners can do to reduce wildfire risk around their property. Detailed information will be provided on the Home Ignition Zone/Defensible space concepts and how to get ready to evacuate in the event of a wildfire.

### Speakers

- Dan Beveridge, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, Colorado State Forest Service.
- Todd Hagenbuch, Routt County Agriculture Agent and Director, CSU Extension.

### Resources

- [Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide](#)
- [Firewise USA - Research Fact Sheet Series](#)
- [Colorado Forest Atlas - Portal](#)
- [Wildfire Mitigation and Education](#)
- [CSU Extension Fire Preparedness Resources](#)
- [ReadyAg Workbook](#)
- [DisasterSafety Prepare for Wildfire Resources](#)
- [Colorado's Wildland-Urban Interface](#)
- [Assessing Structure Ignition Potential from Wildfire Training](#)

## HOAS AND SMALL COMMUNITIES – CASE STUDIES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR MITIGATION

May 13 • 5-6:15 pm

No matter how prepared you are as a landowner, it is critical to address wildfire risks throughout your community. This webinar focuses on the concept of a fire adapted community (FAC), and what a community/HOA could do to reduce wildfire risk at a bigger scale. We will discuss in detail the idea of a FAC and learn best practices from a local case study.

### Speakers

- Rebecca Samulski, Executive Director, Fire Adapted Colorado
- Charles “Chuck” Wisecup, Fire Chief, Oak Creek Fire Protection District

### Resources

- [Colorado Wildland Fire Conference](#)
  - [Building Fire Adapted Communities Through Active Volunteers: The Neighborhood Ambassador Approach](#)
  - [Effective communication can ignite wildfire safety engagement](#)
  - [Fire Management Today: Fire Adapted Communities](#)
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## COMMUNITY LESSONS LEARNED – PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY

May 20 • 5-6:15 pm

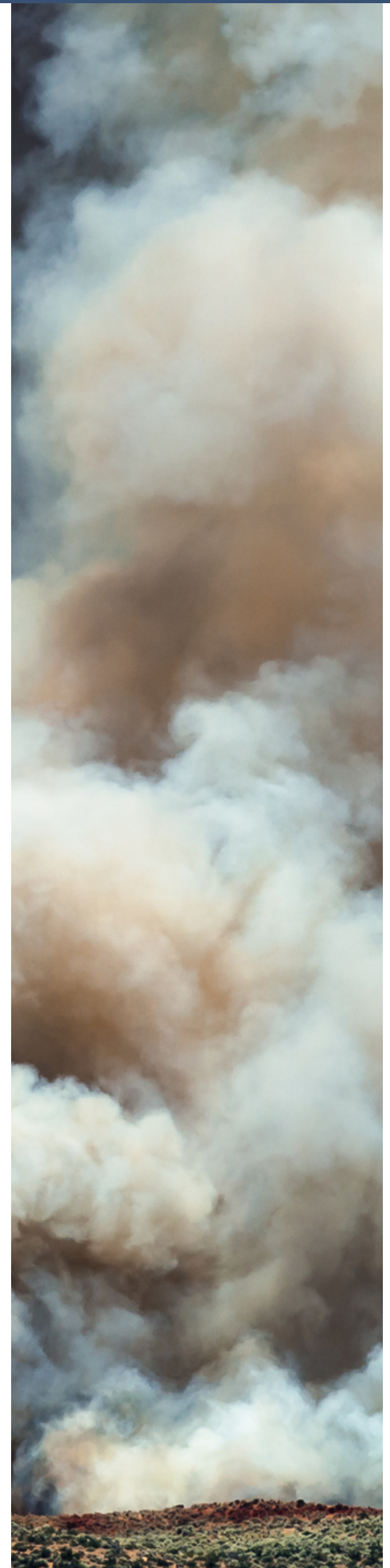
Wildfire not only damages our homes but can impact community infrastructure and assets. This webinar will focus on wildfire preparedness and recovery across an entire community. Our presenters will address what can be done before a wildfire and the work that comes after, reflecting on last year's fire season and some of those lessons learned.

### Speakers:

- Schelly Olson, Assistant Fire Chief/PIO, Grand Fire Protection District
- Frank Alfone, General Manager, Mount Werner Water District
- Kelly Romero-Heaney, Water Resources Manager, City of Steamboat Springs
- Liz Schnackenberg, Hydrologist, US Forest Service

### Resources

- [Grand County Wildfire Council](#)
- [Grand County Wildfire Council: Fire Adapted Communities](#)
- [Fish Creek Watershed Wildfire Protection Plan](#)
- [Wildland fire in ecosystems: effects of fire on soils and water](#)
- [Field guide for mapping post-fire soil burn severity](#)
- [Post-wildfire recovery](#)





## About the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council

**Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council Mission Statement:** The mission of the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council (RCWMC) is to create resilient fire-adapted communities to minimize potential impacts of wildfire. We do this through partnerships and coordination, education and outreach, and programs that assist with long-term risk reduction.

**2021 Routt County Wildfire Conference Steering Committee Members:**

Todd Hagenbuch, Sarah Jones, Phil Lauinger, Carolina Manriquez, Madison Muxworthy, Ulrich Salzgeber, Nathan Stewart and Tim Sullivan.

Learn more at [routtwildfire.org](https://routtwildfire.org)

# SPEAKERS

## WEBINAR #1

### DAN GIBBS

As Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Dan Gibbs leads the development and execution of the Department's initiatives for the balanced management of the state's natural resources. Dan works on an array of issues pertaining to all of Colorado's natural resources, including water, wildlife, state lands, oil and gas and mining. Prior to joining the Department of Natural Resources, Dan served as a Summit County Commissioner from 2010-2018. Before his tenure as a Commissioner, Dan served in the Colorado House of Representatives and in the Colorado State Senate where he served on the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.



Dan is a certified wildland firefighter and is affiliated with the ROSS system, through which he is on call to fight wildfires throughout the United States. He chaired the statewide Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Matters Advisory Council, and represented county governments on the Forest Health Advisory Committee. Dan is a graduate of Western State Colorado University and completed the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program. He is also a Marshall Memorial Fellow. Dan enjoys all that living in the high country has to offer, including skiing, running, mountain biking, hunting and fishing. He is a resident of Breckenridge, Colorado, where he lives with his family.



### KEVIN THOMPSON

Kevin was born in southeast Montana. He went to college at Dickinson St. Univ. in North Dakota and graduated with a B.A. in Biology. His fire career started in southeast Montana in 2000. In 2005, Kevin took a job with the Craig Hotshots. As a member of Craig Hotshots, he fought fire in almost all the western states. In 2007, Thompson had the opportunity to fight fire in Australia for 30 days. He became the Fuels Specialist for the BLM in Kremmling, Colo. in 2012.

From 2013-15, Kevin was a Division trainee and Division Supervisor on Region 2 Incident Management Teams, Team Black and Team Red. In 2016, he took the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland, South Zone Fire Management Officer position in Yampa, Colorado. That position oversees 27 staff in the South Zone fire program. Thompson has been a part of Beaver Creek, Big Red, Silver Creek, Ryan, Mullen, East Troublesome, and Middle Fork fire management, as well as numerous smaller fires in the local area. Project wise, he has worked on Steamboat Front, Little Snake North prescribed fire, Morrison Creek Fuel break, and pile burning projects locally. Kevin enjoys doing all the activities that the Yampa Valley offers with his wife, son and dog.

## DAVID “MO” DEMORAT

Upon graduation from Pennsylvania State University, Mo DeMorat spent the next 24 years on active duty with the United States Marine Corps. Mo’s last active duty assignment was with the North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), which is where he first started working in Emergency Management. Upon his military retirement in 2010, Mo worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from 2011 to 2017, where he was responsible for assisting local and state agencies in preparing for emergencies through training and exercises, as well as deploying to numerous disaster locations

to implement the FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) program and conduct response analysis. Mo began his current position as Routt County Emergency Operations Director and Emergency Manager in March, 2017.



## BRAD WHITE

Brad White is the Fire Chief at Grand Fire Protection District #1 and began his career as a volunteer firefighter in Grand County and has over 15 years in fire district management. Brad has served on several state and regional committees and advisory boards regarding wildland fire and resource mobilization for various organizations, including the Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association and the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control. Brad is a founding member of Grand County Wildfire Council and was the chair of the GCWC Mitigation Subcommittee for 4 years, and has assisted many Grand County citizens and subdivisions in preparing their homes and communities for wildland fire.

## JOHN TWITCHELL

John Twitchell is a Society of American Forester Certified Forester and SAF Fellow. He has worked in both state and private forestry in New Hampshire, Alaska, and Colorado. He has been a forester with the Colorado State Forest Service since 1998. He managed the Colorado State Forest until 2005 and has supervised the Steamboat Springs Field Office since that time. John assists in the management of state, private lands and federal lands throughout Northwest Colorado in his current position as a Supervisory Forester.

John has had the opportunity to fight fire across the west as a wildland firefighter for the CSFS for over twenty-five years of his career. He also worked through the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic over a similar period of time. These experiences have shaped his views as a proponent of managing forests across ownership boundaries to achieve social and environmental objectives at a meaningful scale. He has worked extensively with the Good Neighbor Authority and other collaborative mechanisms to help achieve these objectives.



## JULIE BAXTER, AICP, CFM

Julie is a Senior Planner in the City of Steamboat Springs Planning and Community Development Department. She also serves on the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council Governing Board. Her professional focus is on assisting all levels of governments in long-range and strategic planning, communications, and policy development with an emphasis in natural resources, land use, hazard mitigation, and resiliency.

Julie previously served as the program manager for the hazard mitigation planning program for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VIII in Denver. As the senior planner for the Mitigation Division, she managed mitigation planning, technical assistance, and training for local, tribal, and state governments for six states. She left federal service in 2014 to return to Steamboat Springs and work as a consultant on the program management team for FEMA's RiskMAP program and on several projects supporting the State of Colorado following the 2013 flood disaster, including the Colorado Emergency Watershed Protection Program and Department of Local Affairs community resiliency projects. Julie was the consultant lead for the Steamboat Springs Yampa River Stream Management Plan (one of her all-time favorite projects), prior to accepting her current position with City staff in 2018.

Julie holds a Master of City and Regional Planning in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan.



## WEBINAR #2



## DAN BEVERIDGE

Daniel Beveridge is the Wildfire Mitigation Program Specialist for the Colorado State Forest Service. He manages a variety of statewide programs that promote forest & watershed health, fire management success, community fire adaptation, and awareness of fire's role in ecosystems. Daniel spent the majority of his professional career to date as an operational wildland firefighter with local, state, and federal agencies in Arizona and Colorado. He values the importance of collaboration in promoting resilience.

Daniel maintains numerous National Wildfire Coordinating Group operational and planning qualifications, is an International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist, and holds a Master's Degree in Natural Resources Stewardship with a Forest Science concentration from Colorado State University - Fort Collins.

## TODD HAGENBUCH

Todd Hagenbuch is the Ag/Natural Resources Agent and County Director for Colorado State University Extension in Routt County. The fourth generation of his family to ranch in Routt County, Todd understands first-hand the challenges surrounding ranching on the West Slope. Wildfire preparation and the need to think-through those efforts hit home when the Green Creek Fire (2002) burned above his family's ranch and they were kept from grazing cattle on their forest permit due to the fire. He began his career in Extension in 2012 and handles all manners of agricultural issues including land management, weed identification and control, horticulture, family succession facilitation, and more.



# WEBINAR #3

## REBECCA SAMULSKI

Rebecca (Becca) Samulski joined Fire Adapted Colorado as the contracted Director in fall 2018 after seven years of growing the Neighborhood Ambassador and other local support programs with Wildfire Adapted Partnership in southwest Colorado. She has a BA in Anthropology from Fort Lewis College and got her initial wildland firefighter training when working as a seasonal Archaeologist for the San Juan National Forest and Mesa Verde National Park. Becca also engaged in community development and land use planning during an intern program associated with her Master's degree in Political Science from CU Denver.



Becca enjoys working with communities to help them live more safely with wildfire. With a broader Cohesive Strategy perspective on wildfire, she launched the Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest (DWRF) Collaborative in 2015 to create a more resilient 667,000 Upper Dolores River Watershed. Now her focus is on helping to connect the Fire Adapted Communities leaders around the state with the knowledge and support they need to be successful with their communities.

When Becca is not 'FACO'ing, or volunteering for the DWRF Collaborative, School, or Fire Department, she enjoys spending time playing, hiking, and gardening, with her husband, two sons, and two dogs on their piñon-juniper woodland property near Dolores, Colorado.



## CHARLES "CHUCK" WISECUP

Chuck has lived in Routt County his whole life and remains an active leader in the community. He was a volunteer firefighter for 20 years at the Oak Creek Fire Protection District and has now served as their District Fire Chief for the last 18 years. Before this position, he spent 20 years as the Oak Creek Public Works Director.

As chair of the Planning/Analysis Committee, Chuck guides data collection and review from Routt County and other entities that have current or proposed wildfire mitigation plans or that have identified hazard areas. Chuck wants to pass on his extensive knowledge and experience with fire mitigation projects through his role in the Council.

Chuck's other community involvement includes having served on several community boards and commissions, having owned an outfitting business for 10 years, and he is currently the Mayor Pro Tempore for the Town of Oak Creek.



# WEBINAR #4

## SCHELLY OLSON

Schelly Olson has been a full-time employee of the Grand Fire Protection District since 2011. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from the University of Minnesota. Prior to joining Grand Fire, Schelly was a volunteer firefighter/EMT in Grand Lake and worked at Grand County EMS and Granby Medical Center.

She is a NREMT-IV and a CPR and First Aid instructor. She also holds certifications for FFII (structure), FFT2 (wildland), Haz Mat Ops, Fire Instructor I, and Fire & Life Safety Educator I. Chief Olson is a Command

and General Staff member of the Northwest Colorado Type 3 Incident Management Team and a qualified Public Information Officer. She enjoys instructing wildland urban interface/fire adapted communities courses for the National Fire Academy and currently serves as a member of the Mission-Centered Solutions cadre of instructors delivering fire leadership courses across the country.

Schelly founded the Grand County Wildfire Council in 2013, and maintains [bewildfireready.org](http://bewildfireready.org), the website that helps "Grand County residents and visitors live and play more safely with the threat of wildfire." She is currently the Vice Chair of the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Wildland Section and the Treasurer of Fire Adapted Colorado, connecting with others to reduce the impact of wildfire on communities across the state. Chief Olson was recently appointed as Alternate on the NFPA's Wildland and Rural Fire Protection Committee. Schelly lives in Grand Lake with her husband and enjoys reading, hiking and boating. Their older daughter lives and works near Boulder while their younger daughter attends business school at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins.



## FRANK ALFONE

Frank joined Mt. Werner Water as General Manager in May 2015. He also served six years as District Manager for the Skyland Metropolitan District and East River Regional Sanitation District in Crested Butte, CO.

Frank has over 25 years of executive-level Business and Operations Management experience. Throughout his career, he has been the Project Manager for many large-scale, multi-million-dollar capital projects including constructing new water source supply, water plant infrastructure upgrades with state-of-the-art monitoring and equipment automation, sanitation treatment plant.

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## KELLY ROMERO-HEANEY

Kelly Romero-Heaney has endeavored to understand, protect, and enhance the health of the Yampa River Watershed throughout her 19-year career in watershed management, environmental compliance, and water supply planning. As the Water Resources Manager for the City of Steamboat Springs she strives to integrate the diverse water demands of a community that relies on the river for its municipal and recreational needs while supporting the unique ecosystem of a free-flowing river. As a sixth-generation Coloradoan, Kelly's passion for western rivers stems from her hope to see her state move into a more resilient water future—one that provides for healthy streams amid growing communities.



## LIZ SCHNACKENBERG

Liz Schnackenberg has over 25 years of experience working as a hydrologist for the US Forest Service. Her work focuses on the effects of land management activities on watershed hydrology and wetland/riparian condition. She has been a member of the Colorado Riparian Training Team since 2004. She has worked internationally in Mongolia, China, and Georgia on wetland conservation and post-flood planning.

Her first post fire emergency response assignment was in 2000 on the High Meadow Fire. She has continued to work in post fire emergency response planning both nationally and internationally. In 2009 she was part of a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team sent to Australia, and in 2017 and 2018 she travelled to Portugal to help with post-fire planning following unprecedented fires. She has a bachelor's degree in geology from Colorado College and a master's degree in watershed science from Colorado State University.