

# **Elk Creek Fire Protection District Board of Directors**

## **Regular Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday, January 25th 18:00hr**

**In person and Via Zoom**

**(located on ECFPD website)**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call of Board Members
- IV. Additions or Deletions to, and Approval of the Agenda
- V. Review and Approval of December 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- VI. Financial Matters
- VII. Chief Ware Report
- VIII. Public Comment #1
- IX. Director Comment
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
  - a. Fire Chief Contract Discussion
- XII. Public Comment #2
- XIII. Adjournment

**RECORD OF MINUTES**  
**Elk Creek Fire Protection District**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**December 14th, 2023, In person and via Zoom**

1. Call to Order at 6:52 PM

1. The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Elk Creek Fire Protection District (ECFPD) was called to order by President Greg Pixley at 6:52 p.m. on Thursday, December 14th, 2023. The meeting was held in both physical attendance and via Zoom virtual meeting pursuant to statutory notice.

2. In physical attendance were President Greg Pixley, Vice President Dominique Devaney, Treasurer Woods, Secretary Melissa Baker and Director Chuck Newby. Also attending in the Board Room were Chief Jacob Ware, PIO Urban and District Attorney John Chmil.

2. Agenda

1. The agenda was reviewed by all Board members in attendance. The proposed budget was moved to the first item of Old Business. Board meeting schedule and packet delivery will be the second item under New Business

3. Minutes of the September and October Meeting Minutes (no meeting was held in November)

1. Vice President Dominique Devaney requested the DRAFT watermark be included on the minutes presented in the Board.

2. The meeting minutes from the September 5th Board Meeting were reviewed. Vice President Dominique Devaney made a motion to accept the September 2023 meeting minutes with the addition of Appendix A submitted by Director Newby. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Woods. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Vice President Director Devaney made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Treasurer Woods seconded the motion. Director Newby provided a document to be included in the minutes. The letter had not been seen by all board members. Vice President Dominique Devaney rescinded her motion and made a new motion to table the approval of the October meeting minutes until January when all board members have had a chance to review the document. Vice President Devaney restated the motion that we table the approval of the October 12, 2023, meeting minutes until the January Board meeting, pending a review by legal counsel, of the document provided by Director Newby to be included in the October 2023 minutes. The motion carries 4 to 1.

4. Financial Matters

1. A motion to approve the District's November expenses as presented by Treasurer Woods was made by Vice President Dominique Devaney, seconded by Secretary Baker and was approved unanimously. The report included a review of funds, bills for payment, financial summary, and other revenue and expenses. Information on the monthly financial activities of the District is contained within the Treasurer's Report and is on file with the District.

5. Chiefs Report

1. In honor of the District's 75th Anniversary, the video created by Public Information Officer Urban was reviewed and Chief Ware recognized several members and support volunteers for their service to the District.

2. Chief Ware presented his report to the Board of Directors, which included updates on call volume, average response time, incident summary, training, and prevention. Information on the full report is contained within the Chiefs Report and is on file with the district.

7. Public Comment – Matters before the Board

1. Citizens asked questions about the future path for consolidation, long-range planning, development impacts to the District, and continued concern about Board Member's compliance with the District Board of Directors Bylaws.

8. Old Business

- Proposed 2024 Budget

1. Board members reviewed the proposed 2024 Budget that reflected several last-minute impacts to the 2024 Budget. These included the 2.5 mil that was made permanent during the election, the impacts of HH not passing and the Governor's emergency session. In addition, although Park County had shared their final valuations that were 5% lower than the preliminary numbers, Jefferson County has not shared their final valuations. This budget was built off assuming a 5% reduction for the Jefferson County valuations.

2. The proposed budget includes a new Compensation Plan, 15-20% increases in workers comp and liability insurance, new Asset Management and forecasting software, a new truck for the wildland fire team, a new generator to replacing the aging generator at Station 3, battery powered saws and several other equipment replacements. Chief Ware shared that we are trying to move to a different model of trading in equipment while it's still having value instead of keeping the equipment until it falls apart.

3. There are two fire engines that we will be purchasing, and we've been discussing how to earmark the funds so we can pay on delivery and earn interest on the funds until the time of delivery. Currently the vendors are predicting three to four years for delivery. Chief Ware shared that he will be working with legal to draft a document to earmark these funds for this future purchase.

4. Treasurer Woods made a motion to accept the budget with the understanding that the revenue in the budget will be revised with Jefferson County shares their final valuations. Treasurer Woods rescinded the motion and made a new motion to accept the budget as presented by Chief Ware with the understanding that if there are substantial changes that happen in January dues to the valuations by Jefferson County and the impacts at the State level, the Board will revise the budget at a later date. The motion was seconded by Vice President Devaney. The motion passed unanimously.

9. New Business

1. A Resolution was presented to the Board. President Pixley made a motion to approve the Resolution for Public Censure of Board Member Chuck Newby. The motion was seconded by Vice President Devaney. The motion carries 4 to 1.

2. Board Meeting Schedule and Packet Delivery. The board discussed the timing of the board packet and it's relationship to the meeting. There was discussion about providing enough time for the financial reports. It was decided that all documents for the board packet would be submitted to the District Administrator by the Thursday prior to the board meeting. Vice President Devaney made a motion to move the regular board meetings to the fourth Thursday of the month barring any holiday conflicts starting January 2024. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Woods. The Pension Board Meeting will remain on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the first month of the quarter (January, April, July, October) at this time.

3. Vice President Devaney made a motion to ratify the mill levy as presented at 12.5 mils and requested a resolution be drafted in accordance with Stature. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Woods. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Public Comment – New Topics of Discussion

1. Citizens made comments in appreciation of first responders support over the Thanksgiving Holiday, questions about the development of the Vance property on the south side of Aspen Park, concern over the Resolution to Censure Director Newby, support for a Strategic Plan with the encouragement to increase the horizon to 10 years, continued concern over the use of the district's logo and concern over Board Member behavior.

11. There being no further business to come before the Board at this time the meeting a motion was made by Vice President Devaney and seconded by Secretary Baker to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Greg Pixley – President

Dominique Devaney – Vice President

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Sharon Woods – Treasurer

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Melissa Baker - Secretary

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Charles Newby - Director

DRAFT

**ELK CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
MOTION TO RESCIND AND EXPUNGE FROM THE RECORD:  
THE DECEMBER 14, 2023 RESOLUTION FOR PUBLIC CENSURE  
OF  
ELK CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER CHUCK NEWBY**

**January 25, 2024**

**BACKGROUND OF THE MOTION:** At the October 13, 2023 Elk Creek Fire Protection District (Elk Creek FPD) Board of Directors Meeting, I was accused of illegal, unethical, and self-seeking conduct in multiple areas by Elk Creek FPD Members and Affiliates. Not one of these allegations has proven true. I was then further accused of illegal, unethical, and self-seeking conduct by Elk Creek FPD Members and Affiliates at the December 14, 2023 Elk Creek FPD Board of Directors Meeting—and once again, not one of these allegations has proven true.

The accusations and defamation directed at me culminated in actions taken at the December 14, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting where four members of the Elk Creek FPD Board of Directors improperly passed a resolution of censure consisting entirely of false allegations of improper conduct.

In addition, while conveying their displeasure, Elk Creek FPD Members did not afford me the right of due process—no prior notice was given to me, no process for findings-of-fact was followed, and certain board members willfully stifled my attempts to speak in my own defense—and, after both meetings, my physical safety was threatened by a few Elk Creek FPD Affiliates.

Finally, independent of whatever differences we may have, and the false accusations made against me, the kind of uncivil and at times vitriolic behavior directed at me, though it may not be unlawful, must cease for us to work together to best serve our community.

Therefore, I offer the following motion in good faith:

**MOTION TO RESCIND AND EXPUNGE FROM THE RECORD THE DECEMBER 14, 2023 RESOLUTION FOR PUBLIC CENSURE OF ELK CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER CHUCK NEWBY:**

- (1) **WHEREAS**, regarding the resolution allegation that Director Newby violated District Bylaw 3.2 (h) Director Conduct, which relates to "*board votes on an issue*": The subject board vote was to direct that two ballot measures proposing fire district consolidation be referred to the voters for a YES/NO decision. Subsequent to that August 2023 board vote, Director Newby did not take any action to impede the implementation of that board action.

- (2) **WHEREAS**, regarding the resolution allegation that Director Newby violated District Bylaw 3.2 (i) Director Conduct, which relates to the issue that "*individual directors have no authority to speak for the Board of the District*": With respect to the proposed fire district consolidation ballot election campaign, as in all other matters, at no time did Director Newby ever claim to speak either on behalf of the board or as a board member.
- (3) **WHEREAS**, regarding the resolution allegation that Director Newby violated District Bylaw 3.7 Performance of Duties, which relates to the issue that "*directors are prohibited from taking personal advantage of a situation or disadvantage the District*": With respect to the subject ballot election campaign, as in all other matters, neither did Director Newby take advantage of the situation to gain personal advantage nor did he ever act to disadvantage the District.
- (4) **WHEREAS**, regarding the resolution allegation that Director Newby violated the Campaign Practices Act, specifically Colorado Law § 1-45-118 by using the logo/ name of the District which relates to the alleged "*use of District resources for political campaign purposes thereby putting the District at risk for allegations of campaign finance violation*" during the subject ballot election campaign: The logo/name of District was used by the Save Elk Creek Fire Issue Committee under the federal copyright/trademark legal doctrine of fair use, which explicitly allows such usage. Importantly, the Colorado Secretary of State considered this allegation against the committee but found that it was without merit, therefore, the District was never put in danger of violations of law.
- (5) **WHEREAS**, regarding the resolution allegation that by "*campaigning or otherwise speaking against the District's proposed consolidation*", Director Newby violated his duty to the District: In accordance District Bylaw 3.2 (c) Director Conduct, the primary duty of a director is to "*meet the needs of the constituents of the District*". At all times during the subject ballot election campaign, Director Newby exercised his free speech rights guaranteed under the constitutions of the United States and the State of Colorado, through the Save Elk Creek Fire Issue Committee in his capacity as a private citizen, to speak to the community regarding the possible negative consequences of the proposed fire district consolidation.
- (6) **WHEREAS**, the December 14, 2023 resolution of censure against Director Newby was planned, written, and its passage predetermined in secret meetings among four Elk Creek FPD Board Members in the absence of any due process whatsoever—the resulting board action constitutes a violation of District Bylaw 4.8 Procedure, which directs that the board must proceed in accordance with Robert's

Rules of Order. Therefore, being out of order in the absence of due process afforded all members of a body as required under Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 12th Edition Chapter XX, Disciplinary Procedures, the December 14, 2023 resolution of censure against Director Newby is illegitimate.

- (7) WHEREAS, the December 14, 2023 resolution of censure against Director Newby was devised planned, written, and its passage predetermined in secret meetings among four Elk Creek FPD Board Members, these actions alone constitute a violation of the due process rights afforded all United States citizens under Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, are contrary to the Laws of the United States, and, therefore, make the December 14, 2023 resolution of censure against Director Newby illegitimate.

Now Therefore, the Elk Creek FPD Board of Directors resolves that the December 14, 2023 resolution of censure against Director Newby is hereby Rescinded and that the Record is Ordered Expunged of the Subject Resolution.

[End of Motion]

/s/ CF Newby

Director, Elk Creek FPD





ELK CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
Income Statement  
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2023

		Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Percent of Budget
Revenues					
104000	Property Tax Revenue - Jeffco	\$28,823	\$3,231,760	\$3,241,319	100%
104010	Property Tax Revenue -Parkco	\$1,248	\$379,898	\$388,017	98%
104040	Delinquent Taxes	(\$111)	(\$11,070)	(\$4,000)	277%
104100	Specific Own. Taxes - Jeffco	\$20,454	\$232,013	\$175,000	133%
104110	Specific Own. Taxes - Parkco	\$3,717	\$45,007	\$45,000	100%
104200	Interest Income Jeffco	\$1,976	\$5,377	\$2,000	269%
104210	Interest Income Parkco	\$87	\$716	\$500	143%
104220	Interest Income Investments	\$26,960	\$301,832	\$28,000	1078%
104300	Ambulance Billings	\$0	\$693,369	\$500,000	139%
104310	Ambulance Billings-MCR/MCD Adj	\$0	(\$265,260)	(\$120,000)	221%
104400	Other Income	\$0	\$4,286	\$0	0%
104410	Report Charges	\$0	\$515	\$0	0%
104420	Pension-State Contribution	\$0	\$13,500	\$0	0%
104430	Permits - Inspection Fees	\$287	\$7,256	\$10,000	73%
104440	Home Assessments	\$789	\$5,994	\$8,845	68%
104450	Donations	\$600	\$15,556	\$5,000	311%
104460	Lease Revenue	\$2,643	\$60,724	\$50,000	121%
104480	Revenue from Surplus Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	0%
104488	Grant Award - Fire	\$0	\$105,326	\$0	0%
104700	CRRF Reimbursement	\$0	\$928,534	\$925,000	100%
104760	Miscellaneous Income	\$0	\$2,173	\$0	0%
104800	Mitigation Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$123,000	0%
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$87,474</b>	<b>\$5,757,505</b>	<b>\$5,387,681</b>	<b>107%</b>
Expenses - Administration					
	<b>Total Expenses - Administration</b>	<b>\$156,181</b>	<b>\$1,005,062</b>	<b>\$1,033,300</b>	<b>97%</b>
Expenses - Fire					
	<b>Total Expenses - Fire</b>	<b>\$62,438</b>	<b>\$730,431</b>	<b>\$657,471</b>	<b>111%</b>
Expenses - Training					
	<b>Total Expenses - Training</b>	<b>\$13,989</b>	<b>\$213,812</b>	<b>\$267,494</b>	<b>80%</b>
Expenses - Prevention					
	<b>Total Expenses - Prevention</b>	<b>\$16,104</b>	<b>\$256,047</b>	<b>\$137,955</b>	<b>186%</b>
Expenses - EMS					
	<b>Total Expenses - EMS</b>	<b>\$86,132</b>	<b>\$1,081,132</b>	<b>\$881,106</b>	<b>123%</b>
Expenses - Wildland/Suppression					
	<b>Total Expenses - Wildland/Suppression</b>	<b>\$33,745</b>	<b>\$677,513</b>	<b>\$603,445</b>	<b>112%</b>
Expenses - Fuels Crew					
	<b>Total Expenses - Fuels Crew</b>	<b>\$11,834</b>	<b>(\$70,030)</b>	<b>\$12,200</b>	<b>-574%</b>

ELK CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
Income Statement  
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2023

	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Percent of Budget
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Expenses - CRRF				
Total Expenses - CRRF	\$26,287	\$628,060	\$765,142	82%
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Expenses - Maintenance				
Total Expenses - Maintenance	\$33,055	\$221,687	\$309,967	72%
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Expenses - Fire Stations				
Total Expenses - Fire Stations	\$4,291	\$119,919	\$142,330	84%
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Expenses - Leases/Capital				
608326 Capital - EMS	\$0	\$6,660	\$300,000	2%
608336 Capital - Fire	\$0	\$36,944	\$20,000	185%
608605 Capital - Wildland/Prevention	\$0	\$192,187	\$85,000	226%
608606 Capital - Facilities	\$0	\$120,955	\$165,000	73%
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Total Expenses - Leases/Capital	\$0	\$356,746	\$570,000	63%
Total Expenses	\$444,056	\$5,220,379	\$5,380,410	97%
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Net Income	(\$356,582)	\$537,126	\$7,271	7387%
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# Fire Department Monthly Status Report

## January 25, 2024

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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

2023 ended with C shift running the final call, call # 1212 at 1:30 on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December and then the first call of 2024 at 4:30 am on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The year ended with Elk Creek and most of the agencies in the area down in calls for service. 2022 was a record year of 1415 calls and 2023 was down over 200 calls with 1206 calls for service.

We continued the trend of 60% of our calls for service are medical calls (626 calls). There were 107 calls for motor vehicle accidents and 33 fire calls (includes wildland, structure, vehicle and misc. fires).

We were able to add 2 utility vehicles and a crew carrier for the module. We also added a new chip truck for the chipping program with a 75K dollar grant. The fleet maintenance division were able to add some lifts to the garage which is the final piece for the division. This will allow the mechanics to pick up apparatus and work safer and more efficiently.

Elk Creek had 11 recruits who have completed the Conifer Fire Academy and moving to probationary members. The division also added a new forcible entry prop. The partnership with Elk Creek and Platter Canyon on the Class A live burn facility is continuing with the goal of having a functioning facility in the summer of 2024.

The consolidation of Elk Creek, Inter Canyon and North Fork was narrowly defeated in the November election. The three departments will continue to work together through our Wildland, Prevention, Training and Fleet Maintenance Divisions. I still believe that success in the future hinges on continuing to strengthen partnerships with other agencies.

Jacob N. Ware  
Fire Chief

## **OPERATIONS (December)**

- Volunteer firefighters had 234 hours of staffing at Station 1.
- Elk Creek Averaged 3.5 members per call.
- 9% of the calls overlapped (8 Calls)
- Average Response Time 10:31

<b>December - Emergency Incidents</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
1. Fire	5	6	1
2. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) & Rescue	75	74	57
3. Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	15	10	2
3. Service Call	16	12	10
4. Good Intent Call	22	16	13
5. False Alarm and False Call	13	8	6
6. Special Incident	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>89</b>

<b>December- Additional Emergency Incidents</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Automatic/Mutual Aid Emergency Responses provided to the Elk Creek by other Agencies	6	12	3

<b>December Ambulance Transports</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	31	34	28

## **TRAINING**

- Firefighters logged 225 hours of training for the month.
- The 2023 fire academy has finished with 10 recruits moving to the probationary role in the department.

## **FIRE PREVENTION**

- Inspections: 47
- 8 Letters and County Referrals
- 6 plan reviews

## **FLEET, EQUIPMENT, & FACILITIES**

### **Facilities:**

- Station 3 has outdoor motion lights on all sides of the building as well as interior LEDs to replace the old fluorescent bulbs.



Conifer Wildland Division  
*Safety, Integrity, Professionalism, Honesty, Excellence*



# ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT

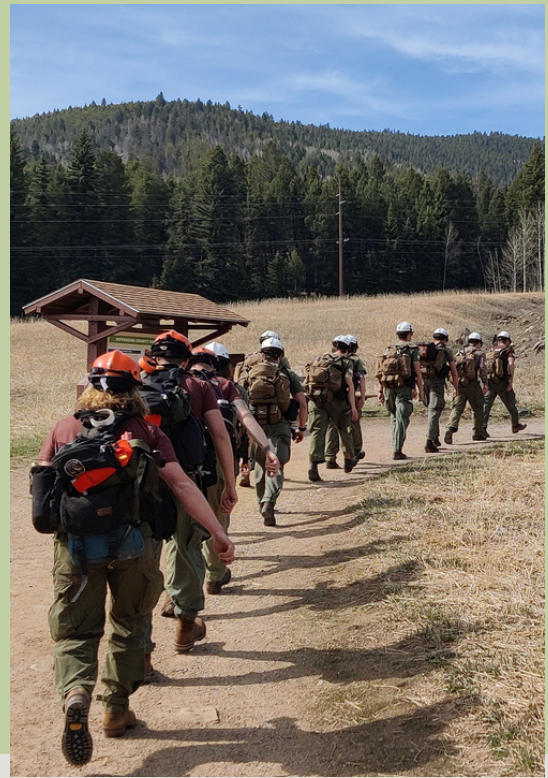
- 2023 -



Completed By  
*Ben Moses &  
Jayson Papenfus*

# 2023

A wet spring that continued into late summer, with the help of continuous monsoonal moisture, kept fire danger low well into October. With monsoons came lightning and initial attack fires in our district. However, all fires stayed under one-tenth of an acre and fire activity (and spread) remained minimal. Fire spread was mostly contained to surface fuels (leaf litter and needle cast) with no resource damage being observed or recorded.



Picture 1.1 Crew PT Hike

## A High Efficiency Organization

There is not a clear definition of a high performance organization, but research shows that organizations that fit this model all hold a common set of characteristics. Chief among these is the ability to recognize the need to adapt to the surroundings that the organization operates in. High performance organizations can quickly and efficiently change their operating structure and practices to meet needs. The Conifer Wildland Division strives to operate as a high efficiency organization and is constantly re-evaluating its operations to ensure the highest benefit to its communities and stake holders as a whole. With the real threat of wildfire lingering in our districts and surrounding areas every year, nothing could be more important.

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**Conifer Wildland Division**  
*Operational Report*





The Conifer wildland division accomplished something great in 2023. Through safety, integrity, professionalism, honesty, excellence, initiative, drive, and intensity the Elk Creek Suppression Module earned status as a type 2 WFM. Being one of only two state certified WFM's in the nation. A big thank you to the great leadership here at Elk Creek and the high efficiency organization that we are.

## A High Efficiency Organization (Cont.)

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The 2023 season proved to be a milestone for Elk Creek WFM and Elk Creek Fuels. Through years of dedication and hard work we have built a solid team and we would gladly argue it to be one of the strongest. This team is nothing short of a high efficiency organization, sought out to solve the problems of modern day wildfire and the unique challenges presented from our wildland urban interface. Over the years we have adapted to the ever-changing needs of our communities and our organization as a whole. We continue to possess the ability to rapidly change our operating structure to meet these diverse needs and challenges. Over the years we have monitored and adjusted our actionable goals to ensure that we are meeting (or exceeding) our long term planning model. All of our planning and goals are directly related to the services we provide to our communities. Our team works effectively to continue to offer (and operate) as many beneficial programs as possible, while maintaining realistic work objectives and deliverables. In addition, our leadership spends ample time improving upon our capabilities and investing in our employees. This investment, in turn, feeds back into our team and our programs. Through out this operational report you will find the data showcasing our programs and the hard work from our team that went into them.

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**Conifer Wildland Division**  
*Operational Report*





Picture1.2 Community Chipping

# COMMUNITY CHIPPING

The 2023 Community Chipping program was another challenging season for the crews. While servicing 429 properties, we removed more biomass than past years having more requests. This shows the success of our other programs (with outreach and education) and the growing initiative of homeowners. Program data, results, and public feedback can be found below.

## PROGRAM FEEDBACK

- 140 residents submitted feedback
- Rate your experience:**
- 72.2% EXCELLENT
  - 19.3% GREAT
  - 6.4% GOOD
  - 0.7% FAIR
  - 1.4% POOR
- Would you use the program again:**
- 98.6% YES
  - 0.7% MAYBE
  - 0.7% NO

## PROGRAM TOTALS

Total Parcels Chipped: 429  
Estimated Vol. Slash (non-chipped):  
~14,000 cu yds  
Total Biomass Removed (chipped):  
1,110 cu yds  
Total Piles Chipped: 3,062  
Total Personnel Hours: 348  
Total Miles Driven (Chip Trucks): 3,620  
Total Operated Chipper Hours: 125

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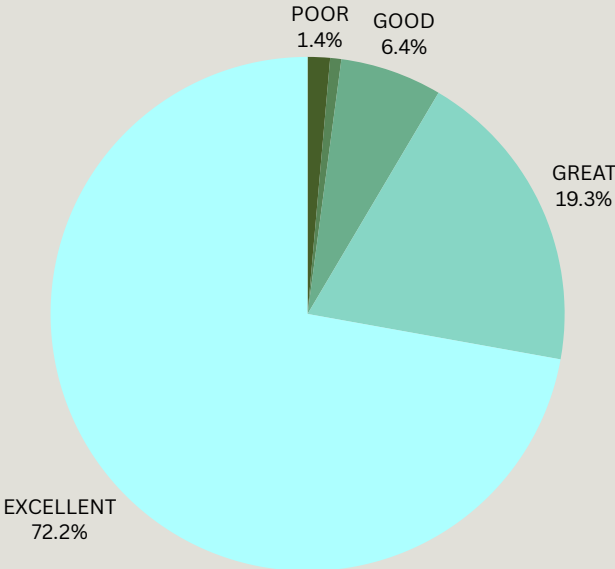
**Conifer Wildland Division**  
*Operational Report*





# COMMUNITY CHIPPING PROGRAM FEEDBACK DATA

How would you rate your experience with the Community Chipping Program?



Would you use the Community Chipping Program again?

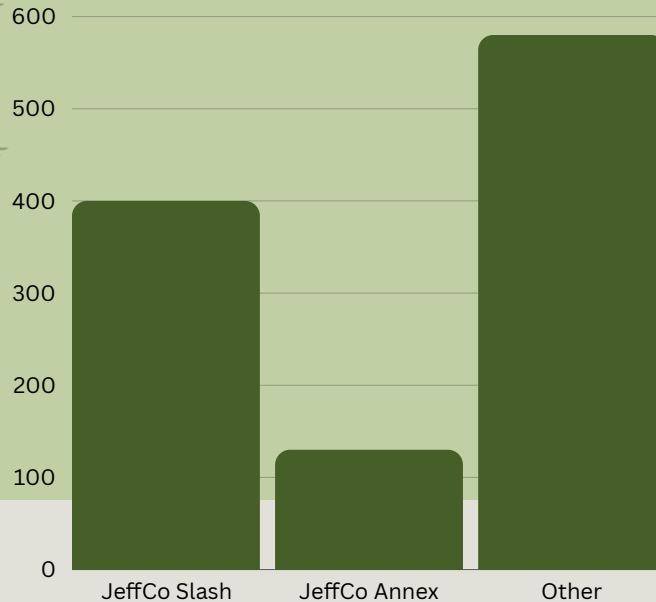


### Most Common Homeowner Suggestions:

- 1. Less delay, prompt service.
- 2. Improve communications.
- 3. Expand the program.

# COMMUNITY CHIPPING BIOMASS DATA

## Dump Site Biomass Totals (removed)

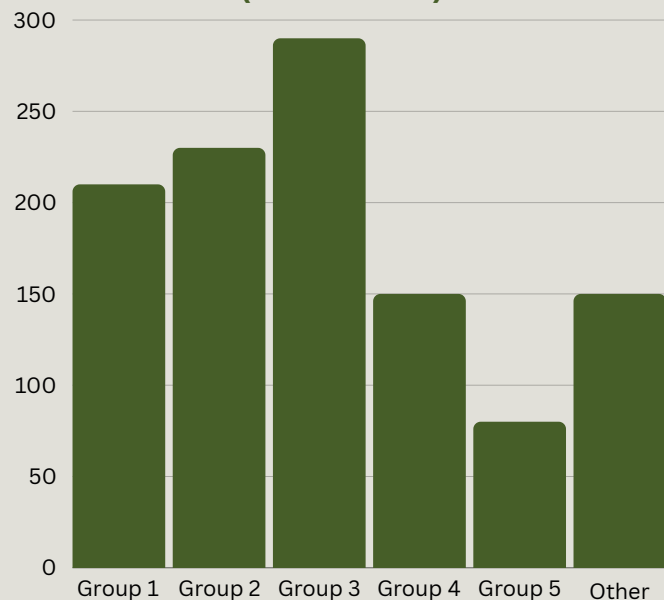


We rely heavily on our partnerships with the Jefferson County SLASH program to dispose of our chipped biomass. This year we had a community member allow us to dump 430 cu. yds. of biomass on their property for erosion control. This aided immensely in our efficiency with driving distances to and from dump sites.

This years groups consisted of the following Planning Units:

- **Group 1:** Elk Falls, Woodside, Mtn View Lakes, Highland Pines, Will-O-the Wisp, Douglas Ranch, Glen Elk, Pine Meadows, and Wandcrest.
- **Group 2:** Kings Valley, Green Valley Ranch, Conifer Mtn, Marcliff Ranchos, Shadow Mtn, Warhawk, and Black Mtn.
- **Group 3:** Aspen Park, Wamblee Valley, South Baird, Shiloh, Conifer Meadows, Silver Ranch, Silver Ranch South, and Sampson/Maxwell.
- **Group 4:** Oehlmann Park, Hilldale Pines, Pine Springs, Murphy Gulch, and West Ranch.
- **Group 5:** Homestead, Doubleheader Ranch, Eagle Cliff, and Evergreen Meadows.

## Group Biomass Totals (removed)



# Saw Projects

## Douglas Ranch Fuel Break

The Douglas Ranch Fuel Break is a continuation of a project that finished in 2020. The project purpose was to create a shaded fuel break on the ridge line surrounding the Douglas Ranch subdivision. This project totaled roughly 6 acres and tied into the Glen Elk property boundary with future plans to tie it into the Glen Elk shaded fuel brake.

## Preserve at Pine Meadows

The project located at the entrance to the Preserve at Pine meadows was another 6 acre cut project that was geared toward roadside ingress/egress preparation in the event of a fire or needed evacuation.



Picture1.3 Saw Operations

## Denver Water

The Denver Water project is located South on CR-126. This project focuses on watershed restoration and totals roughly 40 acres.

## Sampson Planning

Planning and preparation have begun for a new project in the Sampson community. This project totals 20 acres and is designed to improve a secondary escape road for community members in the event of a fire.

# 2023 Personnel Hours Committed to Cut Projects

**Total: 246 Crew Hours**

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**Conifer Wildland Division**  
*Operational Report*



# Pile Burning

## Glen Elk

Pile burning began in January for the Glen Elk Project that was completed in 2022. Pile burning will continue into 2024.



Picture1.4a Glen Elk Pile Burn



Picture1.4b Hiking in

## Preserve at Pine Meadows

Pile burning was also conducted at the Preserve at Pine Meadows. This pile burn is part of a project that was completed in 2021 for landscape restoration. Pile burning for this project is still ongoing.

**Total Piles Burned for all Projects: 207**

# 2023 Personnel Hours Committed to Pile Burns

**Total: 32 Hours**

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**Conifer Wildland Division**  
*Operational Report*



# OTHER PROGRAMS

## FMC SAMPLING

The Elk Creek Fuels Crew continued their FMC (Fuel Moisture Content) sampling program for the 2023 season. Many improvements and implementations were added to the program this year including training and data storage. This granted us the ability to process and record dead fuel moistures in conjunction with live fuel moistures. This additional data allows us to have a much better understanding of our local fire danger and annual trends. In addition, the crew also expanded their fuels data website for all operational resources to use and gain local knowledge.



Picture1.5 Training on Fuels and RAWS



Picture1.6 Masticator Working on Sampson

## MASTICATION

The Elk Creek Fuels Crew continued work on their mastication project in the Sampson community. This project involves masticating scrub oak along the main access roads for ingress/egress in the event of an evacuation or fire. While we planned to commit more time to this project, the Community Chipping Program took our full attention and effort to complete. We are grateful for our partnership with JCSO and the ability to utilize their equipment for this project.

## Program Totals

Days Sampled: 9

Hours Committed to Program: 64.5

- includes training

Conifer Wildland Division  
*Operational Report*





Picture1.3 Fire Behavior

## FIRE SUPPRESSION

This season the crews responded to 4 in-district initial attack wildfires. All fires were lightning caused and remained relatively small in size. In addition to in-district fire responses, the crews assisted Platte Canyon with a wildfire early in the spring.



## ALL HAZARD

While focused on mitigation projects, fire response, and fire prevention, the crews stayed ready to respond to back country rescues, medical calls, and traffic accidents.



Picture1.4 Medical Training

## Local Rx Fire Support

The Module and Fuels Crews assisted the Pike National Forest on several local prescribed fires. This partnership is key to our organizations working relationship and ensuring we are assisting in this vital implementation.



# Out Of District Fire Assignments

## 2023 On the Road

The Module responded to various out of state fires along with occasional Fuels Crew detailers.

During the 2023, the crew assisted the Pike National Forest, Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest, San Juan National Forest, and Stanislaus National Forest. The wetter year led to fewer burned acres and less intense fire behavior on average throughout the country, so much of the crew's efforts were focused on managing fires for resource benefit.



Due to these fires and various opportunities, the Division added many new qualifications:

**2023: 2 FFTI, 2 FEMO, 1 FAL2, and opened 2 FIRB(T) taskbooks. Crewmembers continue to work on a variety of qualifications: TFLD, CRWB, ENGB, FFTI, ICT5, and various other certifications.**

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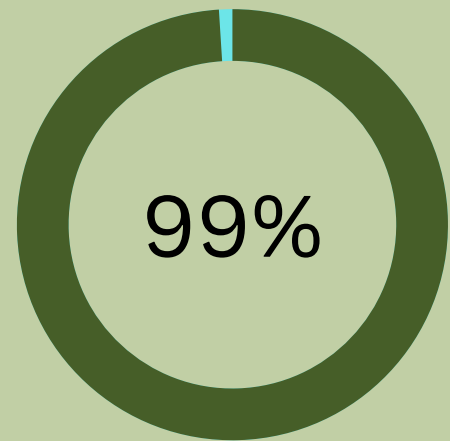
**Conifer Wildland Division**  
*Operational Report*



# WILDFIRE PREPARED PROGRAM

The Wildfire Prepared program provides wildfire risk reduction assessments to home owners. The provided reports guide homeowners with home hardening and defensible space recommendations.

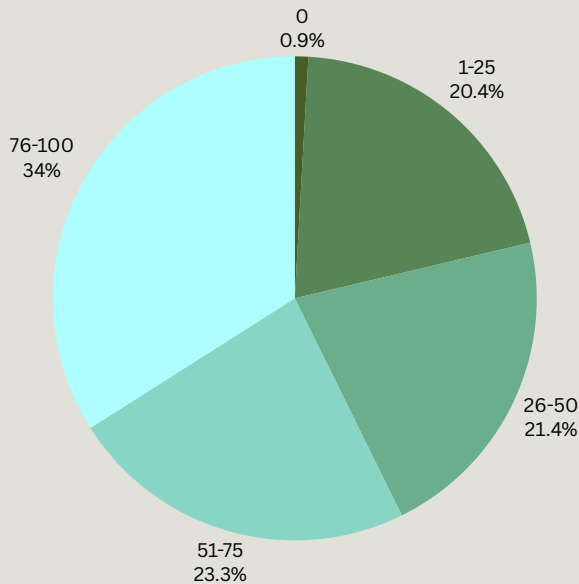
Homeowners who started work in the Home Ignition Zone:



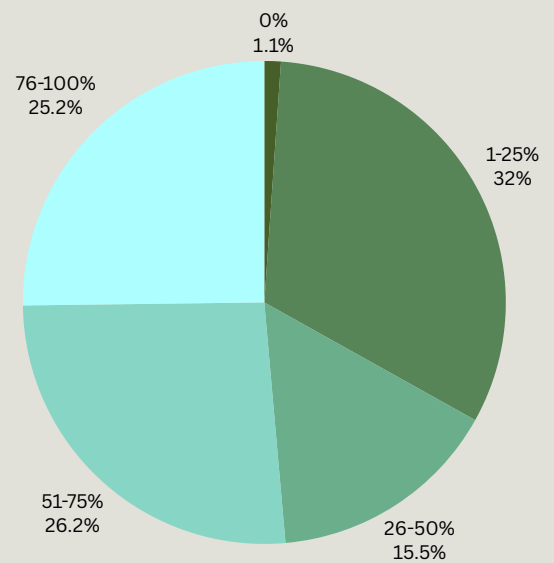
## Program Totals:

Home Assessments Completed: 75  
Certificates Issued: 5

## Percentage of Home Ignition Zone Recommendations Completed:



## Percentage Of Home Hardening Recommendations Completed:





# WILDFIRE PREPARED PROGRAM

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## Program Feedback:

- "(I) really loved how Kelleigh approached this assessment and we were pleasantly surprised how accessible her suggestions were as a starting point while she was also honest and took fire danger extremely seriously. How she did this was talk through all the steps and suggested actions, then talked to us about where to start/prioritize and then sent a very detailed report with ALL we could do so we still have that information as we plan out mitigation for next year. She also incentivized us by pointing out that the aspens and ponderosas will grow if we mitigate the semi-invasive conifers, and when she had the option to choose one of two healthy trees that were just too close together, she took the time to ask us which we would prefer that she choose/mark which allowed us to think about how mitigation could help improved the overall view (of Denver) from our house."
- "Amazing experience. Great knowledge of the crews! Couldn't ask for anything better from ECFPD"
- "It was a thorough report and a nice process. Well worth it."



# SUMMARY

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## YEAR TOTALS

Start Date: Jan 2nd, 2023

End Date: December 29th, 2023

Number of Days Assembled: 228

Total Hours Committed to Project Work: 730

Total Initial Attack Response In-District: 4

## TRAINING

Total Hours Committed to Training: 375.5

Critical Training Hours: 80

## TRANSPORTATION

Total Vehicles Assigned: 7

Equipment Assigned: 4

Total Miles Driven: 25,373

Number of Vehicle Accidents: 0

Number of Days for Vehicle Failure/Repairs: 0

Total Times Flown (Aviation Transport): 0

## PERSONNEL

Total Personnel on Crews: 14

Total 1st Year Firefighters: 2



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**Conifer Wildland Division**  
*Operational Report*

