

Poudre Canyon Area Meeting Notes

4/11/2014

About 6 community members in attendance

What do you want?

- Cell phone service. At Webster Mountain, would be nice to have something in place like a relay system. Because available fire fighters and EMT numbers have dropped, having better service would help people call for help. Particularly with the recreation activities in the area. There are no public phones in case of emergencies. Towers can look like trees now, so they could blend in.
- Improved road signage. Semi-trucks with airbrakes are troublesome. They come through the area at high speeds and then realize they have to slow down—the brake noises are disruptive. Could signage be added regarding no jake brakes? Or slow down—curves ahead—or something similar? State Highway Department could call these trucking companies to remind them they will be ticketed.
- Would like to see more police ticketing people. Motorcycle racing is a problem—they send scouts out to notify each other that the roads are clear—there are ticketing opportunities everywhere—people driving at high speeds—need Sheriff's office patrolling and ticketing. The most dangerous stretch of highway in the State of Colorado is the Poudre Canyon. Please talk to the Sheriff and tell them to get up here and patrol.
- Can traffic cameras be added to see if something could be done? They come up and clock speeds occasionally, but nothing ever comes of it.
- There is dead wood along the road that needs to be cleaned up as it is a safety hazard. We want forest mitigation, particularly in the road and river areas. Get dead trees out so don't block the roads and rivers.
- Would like to see a bike lane up the Canyon if at all possible—allowing space or a lane for runners too.
- What does it take to get a county dirt road paved? Wondering about the road by the fire station—particularly after the flood—even if they would just pave around the fire station itself—would be more practical surface for fire fighters to get vehicles out.
- What will the process be when flood money is available for citizens to apply? Will the County be proactive in approaching citizens? How will residents of Fall Creek know if the road qualifies? Could the County do a map of qualified areas that goes on the website and reach out to affected areas?

What needs to be improved or changed?

- Given the condition of the hillsides, if we would get normal rainfall, would be very different hill. There are no crowns on trees or ground cover to slow down the water. Can there be some re-forestation of the area? Flood risk will be here for years to come. Seed stock of Ponderosa would be good—lamb's quarters taking over area and preventing other grasses/plantings from growing—wrong choice for re-vegetation. Maybe could use volunteers for re-vegetation, such as convicts service program, workenders from community corrections, CSU forestry department, sorority/fraternities, county recovery groups, girl/boy scouts?
- Debris, dirt and rocks also going into river and water supply system. This watershed is extremely important to the front range water supplies—would think water companies would do more to protect it.

- Debris in the River could create dams we don't even know about that could break in the middle of the night and be a safety issue. There are some wonderful community resources, such as Bill Olsen (forester) that need to be included that could help the county really understand the problem.
- How FEMA money was distributed is broken. FEMA has environmental team that comes out to evaluate for cultural resources—If found, can't use property anymore—most landowners said no to visits—Will County do the same? County intent will be for access purposes only.
- Hope the County never uses funds to purchase the round culverts again—they are a problem as they collect debris.
- Forest service needs to do a better job of managing the forests—they need to work on thinning out forests/removing dead trees. Civilian management does things right—government management does not. Example—the Rawhide plant versus forest management. Would hope the County could meet more with the Forest Service to work on resolving problems/issues because the forests take up a large percentage of the County.

What else do you want us to know?

- We have no interest in having shopping areas closer to us—we moved here to be outside of the city.
- People come here and think there are no laws that apply here—that we are some kind of frontier or something. With marijuana legal now, we will probably have more trouble in the area.