

# Rist Canyon Area Meeting Notes

## 4/29/2014

About 18 community members in attendance

### What do you like?

- Like the idea of keeping uses open and not much meddling from the Government.
- Like that the County plows roads—we don't expect someone else to take responsibility for our road.
- Would like to thank and congratulate the road crew for putting signage up to minimize lookie loos—could there be another sign up Rist Canyon about the Buckhorn being closed?

### What do you want?

- Community wildfire protection plan. Get the community involved/educated. Prioritize steps to create action steps (Wes R.). Could hold a meeting to discuss the plan with community. The Colorado State Forest service has a new guide regarding forest management. Could look to local forest service for guidance as well. The Forest Service wants to do work in communities who are working towards mitigation. This is happening in Woodland Park area now. Rist Canyon fire did put a plan together that would make our area eligible for some grants. Need to get community involved in making it happen to get a plan organized and goals and priorities set.
- Also regarding fire mitigation. Need a chipper or air curtain burner and limit burn permits. Would like to see the County sponsor a big chipper to come to the area and allow people to bring their slash. Or maybe a mobile unit? It is hardest to get it out and down the canyon. Make it easier by bringing tools closer to the community. If we could find ways to incentivize people to take care of their property and help educate them, that would be desired. The County could help do that. Grants usually go to local governments and communities and not to individual property owners. The citizens in Red Feather Lakes bought a chipper/burner—the County could maybe provide a better one. The slash and branches are the biggest problem—not the marketable wood. Boulder has a good program to use as an example. Terry Pines in Douglas County doing well.
- Larimer County doesn't appear to have anyone that writes grants to aide local communities. That might help the community and the whole area with time, money, and resources issues. In the past, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources had left over dollars that could have gone to local communities if there would have been someone to help get the grant money.
- If private property owners have to mitigate, the government should have to mitigate the forest lands. It is hard to get the Forest Service to do mitigation—difficult because of required environmental studies, etc.
- Is there a plan in place for the Buckhorn Drainage to mitigate future damage from additional rain water and debris within the Buckhorn area?
- Keep area zoning. Would want to see freedoms continue for uses on property.
- Want County to continue plowing roads.
- Would like to see more time and dollars spent on schools in the area. Would like to keep the school in the area. It is difficult to have to deal with the potential of the school closing every 3 years.
- Is there any talk of another fire station between here and Masonville on Buckhorn Road? There has been rumor or talk of refurbishing a station on Rist Canyon.

- Could we get signage where bikes rest to tell them to always ride in view where they can be seen from driveways or to maintain visibility that will remind them of safety? Or could we add speed limits for bikes? Could there be signs to ask them if they could stop if a deer jumps out in front of them?
- Could bicyclists be required to have a license plates so you can call them in if they are not following the rules? Right now there is no way to ID them. If they share the roads—they should share the costs of maintaining the roads. Skateboarders are also a problem here.
- Part of the problem is there is overall not much enforcement of the rules and laws, especially with drugs involved. We don't have a real frequency of patrol in the area and we are left to self-police.
- Can the County influence improvement to cellular service in the area? Currently, there are no incentives for providers to locate in the rural areas.

### **What needs to be improved or changed?**

- How can we share the roads better with bicyclists? The roads here are not really set up for bikes. Some roads are too narrow (if your pulling a trailer it is impossible to get around them). Most bike use in the area is recreational—may need to go to the State level to change laws/regs (regarding recreational use not being transportation based which are what bike laws are primarily written for). See if Commissioners would lead a charge to get laws changed and citizens could use guidance to assist.
- Bike races also contribute to traffic problems. Would like to see the number of events restricted in certain areas or a limit placed on the number of races allowed/number of bikers participating, etc—change the special events permits.
- Can bike races be restricted until the narrows are opened? Can't avoid the bikes with the road closed.
- Races are just a piece of the bike issue, weekend and regular riders are a big part of the problem.
- The notion of restricted use might not be feasible. Has anyone considered using GOCO funds to create recreational bike paths to keep them off the roads like they do near Vail? Do a paved path on a smaller scale near the road.
- Could bike clubs be educated about the traffic counts to help direct them to other places? Would like to see bike enthusiasts included in these meetings to help find solutions.

### **What else do you want us to know?**

- The school is willing to partner with the County for overall sustainability of the area. Anything we can do to partner and increase attendance to meetings, we are willing. The Commissioners host meetings at Livermore and Red Feather Lakes. We would be willing to host something similar here.
- In order to get different people at a town hall meeting, will need to plan at different times, such as an evening at 7:00 or later. 6:00 people are still getting home from work. Early morning meetings are not convenient for everyone—schedule a night meeting for Commissioners with the community or come to one of our Saturday BBQ's.
- It is daunting to raise kids in the County and State with the marijuana laws as they are. We want the County to drag their feet on this issue. Particularly for edibles.
- Some things we don't want in our backyards, as that is not why we moved up here—bikers/long boards, the transfer of illegal substances, etc. We need more police presence up here.