

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Colorado State Forest Service Success Story

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Implementation Grant



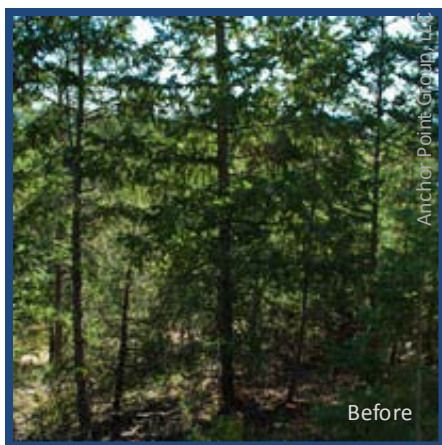
FIRE MANAGEMENT

www.AnchorPointGroup.com

Anchor Point Group, LLC, is a wildfire management consulting firm based in Boulder that specializes in services related to wildland-urban interface issues. The company was named after the fire suppression term “anchor point,” which describes a location where a fire crew can safely begin to work a wildfire. Since 1999, Anchor Point has applied state-of-the-art fire science to wildfire mitigation, forestry, planning, municipal codes and insurance issues.



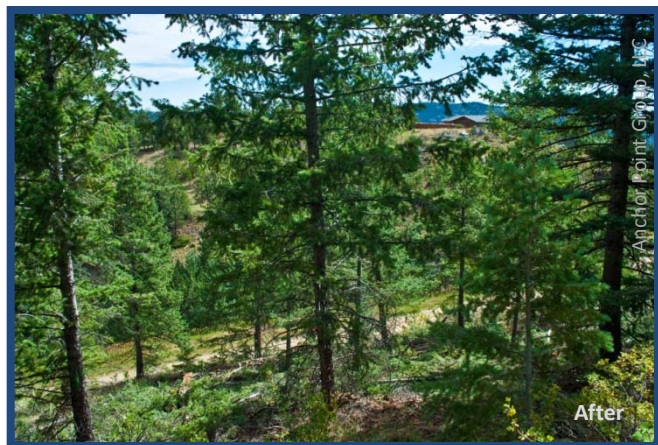
Anchor Point chose to implement projects in Boulder, Gilpin, Grand and Larimer counties. The proposed project areas had high or very high wildfire risk ratings and existing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). Taking a proposed project on paper and making it a reality on the ground takes time and patience, particularly when multiple landowners are involved. Yet implementation of CWPPs is critical to help protect lives, property and important natural resources.



In spring 2010, Anchor Point worked with a contractor to help Grand County complete a county road easement thinning project on 43 acres. Meanwhile, dialog with property owners in proposed project areas continued. Sometimes, potential projects that make sense on a map don't pan out on the ground, but thanks to the diligence of Anchor Point employees, 21 projects moved forward.

Winter and spring meetings and on-site visits began to pay off in July and August, and several projects were put out for bid. In Gilpin County, five contractors looked at the 18-acre and 20-acre projects that were a collection of 14 properties along North County Road; two would be awarded a contract.

In September, seven projects were active and utilized the services of six contractors. As the initial projects were completed, others began. Most contractors cut the trees by hand with chainsaws; however, mechanized equipment also was used on several projects. Contractors came from fire departments, county mitigations crews or the private sector.



As autumn 2010 passed, three of the four counties evacuated residents in the wildland-urban interface due to human-caused wildfires. Three Anchor Point projects were within a mile of the fire perimeters. The fire prevention price tag is high, with implementation costs between \$1,400 to \$3,500 an acre depending on the terrain and market for wood products, but to do nothing is far more costly in the end.



Storm'n the Rockies successfully bid on two Grand County projects. Earl Storm has owned the business for 13 years, and employs four people who use traditional logging equipment to cut, process and remove the trees. Storm also is a volunteer firefighter.

Steve White, president of a homeowners association that benefitted from the project near Grand Lake, recently wrote, "It looked like someone cleaned a very dirty house. The finished project was way beyond my expectations and puts a nice cap to our 10-year struggle with the tree problems that have cost more than \$250,000. I can't say enough positive about their work."



Similar accolades were given to Summit Forestry for two completed projects in Larimer County. Tony Mahon started his business in 2004, and is no stranger to fire mitigation work. Recently, Summit Forestry completed a third project in Larimer County. He employed 12 people this summer.

In Gilpin County, a seven-person Native Ecology crew thinned 200-foot wide corridors across a half-mile of lodgepole pine forest to complete the north half of the Yankee Hill shaded fuelbreak. Although the main objective was fuels reduction, trees infected with dwarf mistletoe also were removed, allowing clumps of aspen to expand.

Not far from the Fourmile Canyon Fire perimeter, four firefighters from two fire protection districts worked together to complete a 19-acre shaded fuelbreak in

Boulder County. Two of the firefighters are involved in fire mitigation work year-round; the other two help when needed.



In January, Matt Lloyd was hired as a forestry/fire technician by Anchor Point Group. He is responsible for the 11 projects in Larimer and Grand counties and is involved in Community Wildfire Protection Plan development. He previously was an engine crewmember on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, Canyon Lakes Ranger District in Fort Collins. "This position has allowed me to gain a great deal of supervisory, time management and project management experience, and reinvigorated my forestry knowledge," said Lloyd.

In April, Dave Oettinger filled the new forest manager position at Anchor Point. He is responsible for the contractual side of the projects and has a supervisory role. Oettinger was previously an urban forester and is excited to work in the wildland-urban interface. "The impact this job has had on me has been tremendous," said Oettinger. "It is really rewarding to help communities improve their forest health and reduce the threat from wildfire, and I work with a great bunch of people."

