

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING, JULY 12, 2005**

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTER COUNTY MET IN
REGULAR SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dale Hoag	Chairman
Dick Downey	Vice-chair
Kit Shy	County Commissioner
Ric Ferron	County Administrator
Debbie Livengood	Clerk to the Board

Also present: Chuck Feldmann – Under-sheriff
Greg Sullivan – OEM Director

Jim Zorner, representing the USFS and Kelley Rogers, CSFS Line Officer, met with the Board to update them on the Mason Gulch Fire.

According to Jim and Kelley this fire has burned 11,700 acres and is a national priority. Of the acreage burned, 2,601 acres is private land, with approx 500 acres of this private land being in Custer County and the remainder in Pueblo County and 9,168 acres is USF land.

As of today the fire is under control, with no structures being destroyed. If weather permits, the fire should be totally contained by July 13th.

It is estimated that 50% of the area that burned is a clean burn.

There has been a USF Cost Share Agreement drafted that needs to be signed by both Custer and Pueblo Counties.

According to Jim and Kelley, the county called for structure protection and evacuations in the Greenwood Village area on July 7th through July 8th at 0600 hours. The Forest Service called for resources and retardant, therefore, the cost share agreement will state that the USF will pay for the resources and retardant and all other costs starting from 0600 hours, along with the aircraft used on July 7th when the fire started up until the time EFF took over. The county could be responsible to pay the expenses for three hours of structure protection, which would be from the time the county called for structure protection until the Forest Service took over. Other expenses to the county will be for the Road & Bridge personnel and equipment involved.

Each year the county enters into an Emergency Fire Fund Agreement. This fund will help cover the expenses of the fire. FEMA will then reimburse this fund 75% of the amount they paid out. Kelley suggested that the sheriff's department make a log of all their expenses prior to the EFF taking over.

The approx. cost of the fire as of today's date is 1.8 million.

EFF does not cover the cost to rehabilitate the burn area. FEMA possibly may help with.

USFS has a "Burn Area Rehabilitation Evaluation Team" (BARE Team) that will go into the area after the fire has been controlled for seven days and prepare a plan to start rehabilitation.

Kelley informed those present that Bark Beetle and noxious weeds would be a problem in the burn area.

Being no further business the Board adjourned.