

Appendix F

Community Interviews

Interview

Tom “Tiddle” Camino, Johnson County Fire Warden

August 21, 2003

Billy Creek Cabins Community Assessment

Brooke Levy spoke with Tom “Tiddle” Camino, Johnson County Fire Warden, regarding wildland fire hazards in the Billy Creek cabins community.

The Johnson County Fire Department is composed of 30 volunteers. The Bureau of Land Management has 4 firefighters that are readily available to assist the Johnson County Fire Department. One BLM-owned engine is kept at the BLM Buffalo Field Office.

The Johnson County Fire Department has an array of wildland fire fighting equipment. Mr. Camino noted the department is in need of a tender. A grant is in the process of being submitted. The grant is a 50/50 Farm loan.

The department’s volunteers are all trained to fight wildland fires. The department conducts its own training with BLM Type I operations.

Tom “Tiddle” Camino can be contacted at (307) 684-2412.

Interview

Marilyn Connolly, Johnson County Commissioner

August 21, 2003

Billy Creek Cabins Community Assessment

Brooke Levy spoke with Marilyn Connolly, Johnson County Commissioner, regarding wildland fire hazards in the Billy Creek cabins community.

Ms. Connolly stated the Johnson County government does not provide funding for the county fire department. The main funding mechanism for the Johnson County Fire Department is through a mill levy. An optional 1% sales tax also provides funding for the fire department. The 1% sales tax is approved in a biennial basis.

Two fire districts formed in Johnson County, the Northern District (District 1) and the Southern District (District 2). The fire districts provide the funds needed by the fire departments (*see interview comments for Tom Lohse, Johnson County Fire Board, August 12, 2003*).

Marilyn Connolly can be contacted at (307) 684-7555.

Interview
Bill Haagenson, Wyoming State Forestry Division
August 12, 2003
Billy Creek Cabins Community Assessment

Brooke Levy spoke with Bill Haagenson, Wyoming State Forestry Division, regarding the Billy Creek Cabins community assessment.

The Wyoming State Forestry Division is conducting its own assessment on state-owned land north of the Billy Creek cabin community assessment area. Cabins exist on the portion of state-owned land that the Wyoming State Forestry Division is assessing.

Mr. Haagenson thought it would be useful for the BLM and Wyoming State Forestry Division to share information about their assessment projects, as state- and BLM-managed lands border one another where assessments are taking place.

Mr. Haagenson can be contacted at (307) 684-2752.

Interview
Steve Kozisek, Johnson County Sheriff
August 15, 2003
Billy Creek Cabins Community Assessment

Brooke Levy spoke with Steve Kozisek, Johnson County Sheriff, regarding the Billy Creek cabins community assessment.

In the event of a wildland fire in the Billy Creek cabins area, Sheriff Kozisek stated that his department would provide evacuation procedures and support, as well as provide traffic direction. The police department has had some fire orientation training and is capable of fighting small fires.

Sheriff Steve Kozisek can be contacted at (307) 684-5581.

Interview
Tom Lohse, Johnson County Fire Board
August 12, 2003
Billy Creek Cabins Community Assessment

Brooke Levy spoke with Tom Lohse, Johnson County Fire Board, regarding wildland fire hazards in the Billy Creek cabins community.

Mr. Lohse indicated that the Johnson County Fire Board provides support to the county fire department. The Board can obtain wildland fire fighting equipment, as well as provide funding for wildland fire fighting training and any associated hotel fees for distant training locations. The Board also helps the fire department apply for grants to update aging equipment. Additional funding for the fire department is provided by a county levy.

The Board provides fire education to local citizens in the form of school programs, open houses, and announcements on a local AM radio station.

Mr. Lohse stated that the placement of homes of the Billy Creek cabins community would be a problem in the event of a wildland fire. Response times to the area are long, there is no stored water for fire fighting, and there is only one road for ingress and egress.

Mr. Lohse would like to have the homes in the Billy Creek cabins community identified with the use of GPS. He would like to apply for a grant to conduct the GPS work.

A mutual aid agreement exists between the Bureau of Land Management and the Wyoming State Forestry Division. Mr. Lohse stated that a good working relationship exists between the BLM and the Wyoming State Forestry Division.

Tom Lohse can be contacted at (307) 684-9413.

Interview
Rob Yingling, Johnson County Planner
August 11, 2003
Billy Creek Cabins Community Assessment

Brooke Levy spoke with Rob Yingling, Johnson County planner, regarding Johnson County zoning regulations.

Currently, there are no county building codes because there are no county zoning regulations. Regulations for subdivisions do exist, however, the Billy Creek cabins community is not considered to be a subdivision. Subdivision regulations affect such features as road width, utilities, and water and septic systems.

Covenants adopted by some communities are determined by developers with or without the help of the county planner. Home construction materials may be determined by subdivision regulations, but they are not enforced throughout the county.

Mr. Yingling is working with Johnson County on a county Land Use Plan. Mr. Yingling expects the Land Use Plan to be adopted in the next six months, at which point, zoning regulations will be enforced. A review process by the county may result in changes to community covenants.

Johnson County recently hired a GIS specialist to compile property ownership data (Randy Money, County assessor's office, (307) 684-7392).

Rob Yingling can be contacted at (307) 684-1907