

APPENDIX E - Comments on draft document received from the public and members of Local Emergency Preparedness Committees

A public draft was presented by the staff of the Five County Association of Governments in June 2007 at “Open House” presentations publically announced and advertised locally in each of the five counties of southwestern Utah. These were held in the following locations:

- June 11, 2007 for Beaver County held in Beaver, Utah.
- June 13, 2007 for Kane County held in Kanab, Utah.
- June 15, 2007 for Iron County held in Cedar City, Utah.
- June 19, 2007 for Washington County held in St. George, Utah.
- June 28, 2007 for Garfield County held in both Panguitch, Utah at the Panguitch City Office and at Ruby’s Inn near Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah.

Comments, both written and verbal were solicited during each of the Public Open Houses.

The following comments were received:

Beaver County Open House

Comment: “There are additional areas, including east of Beaver, such as the Puffer Lake area, that should have consideration for inclusion as focus areas.”

Response: The Color Country Interagency Fuels Committee determines the regional focus areas. Those areas are a dynamic list which will and should change from time to time as fuels projects are undertaken or other circumstances warrant changes in the list of areas. When this plan document is updated local involvement in the process should address this concern.

Kane County Open House

No comments received.

Iron County Open House

No comments received.

Washington County Open House

Comment: “There were obvious solutions to the fire hazard problems that were not addressed in the plan: 1) Allow cattle to graze on hazardous areas. Ranchers keep roads and trails open. Cattle eat the tinder grasses. 2) Allow wood gathering, lumber harvesting of dead wood. 3) Harvest beetle infested trees to prevent dead wood. 4) Fight the fires! 5) Use the resources instead of leaving them to burn. ”

Response: These concerns expressed are outside the scope and realm of this landscaped-level regional plan and are issues that would be better addressed in another forum.

Garfield County Open House

Comment: “Why are additional areas not shown as focus areas. A good portion of the county has fire risk concerns of one sort or another?”

Response: Again, as above, it is the Color Country Interagency Fuels Committee that determines the regional focus areas that are identified in this document.