**Friends of Monument Preserve**

**P.O. Box 634**

**Monument, CO 80132-1216**

**Board Meeting**

**March 8, 2017**

**I. Call to Order and Attendance:** The Board meeting of the FOMP began at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Center Classroom. Members present were Jon Nordby, president; Chris Tirpak, vice president, Diane Strohm, treasurer, and Marianne LaRivee, secretary; as well as Bill Benson, Brian Mullen, Hermann Spielkamp and Diane Bandle, members at large; Judy Benson, Joe Ennis, Steve Roscia, Jeff Shapiro, Larry Bryant, Nancy Spielkamp, and Oscar Martinez, District Ranger, were also in attendance.

**II. Issues:**

**A. USFS Update:** Oscar Martinez, Pikes Peak District Ranger, addressed a number of FOMP concerns. He passed around a diagram showing the proposed area to be enclosed by fencing, encompassing primarily the helipad and working and living quarters for the Hot Shots and Helitack crews. He hopes to start construction of the fence this summer near the gate. Next, he addressed the area restoration initiative, and explained that the plan includes aggressive cutting of scrub oak, as well as burning. He aims to raise the pine canopy while clearing out lower dead and crowded fuel growth.

**B. Trails:** Chris Tirpak said FOMP volunteers have found 25 entrance locations to the Monument Preserve and asked if USFS had “No Motor Vehicle” signs we could install to discourage motorized use of trails. Oscar agreed that USFS could supply carsonite signs with symbols.

**C. Trailhead:** Chris also discussed crowding and the lack of facilities at the trailhead. Jeff Shapiro asked about dispersed camping. Oscar said USFS will be addressing these issues with an overall usage plan, with FOMP input. He suggested the preserve area may be designated daily use only, to preclude camping and parties along roads.

**D. Forestry Efforts:** Diane Strohm described recent efforts re: planting and seedling release. Oscar suggested we coordinate before further planting to ensure we don’t conflict with future burn sites. Diane and Oscar agreed that threats from Ips Beetle, Mountain Pine Beetle, Tussock Moth, and Spruce Budworm are all low this year.

**E. Newsletter**: Chris said Amy Smith is willing to do a Spring 2017 Newsletter if members will send her articles.

**F. Elections:** Postponed until April because we ran out of time.

**III. Adjournment**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.