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(Neb.)- Fire Recovery Meeting Held Monday Night



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 04/29/2013 07:46 PM

(Chadron)- Area residents turned out to Monday night's Fire Recovery and Progress Update meeting held in the CSC Student Center ball room. Presentations were made by the Nebraska Game and Parks, Nebraska Forest Service, and the Nebraska National Forest regarding action currently being taken and steps in the future that will be implemented toward recovering from the 2012 wildfires.

In discussion regarding a bill in legislature known as the Wildfire Control Act, it appears as if modifications will be made to the bill. Original wording in the bill requested a single engine air tanker to be placed in both Valentine and Chadron, and after progress has been made in legislative discussion, it has been narrowed down to one single engine air tanker to be placed in either Valentine or Alliance. The oversight of the air tanker would be controlled by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

Dawes County Commissioner Stacy Swinney reported that the Dawes County Road Crews are currently participating in fire training school in order to better equip them for wildfires in Dawes County.

In describing damage from the fires, several ranchers say they are dealing with fence losses on private property. Nebraska Game and Parks say that they are currently working on a way to provide \$1,000 to ranchers for every mile of fencing that needs replaced, provided they meet certain criteria.

Other resources brought up at Monday night's meeting included the Nebraska Wildfire Academy, grants for those adjacent of lands with hazardous fuels, and a thinning project that includes an area at the Highway 385 corridor and to the east.

There were several other items talked about at the meeting that will continue to be highlighted this week on KCSR/KBPY News.