

Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department

Larimer County, Colorado

RCVFD

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

8/9/09 – V 1.0

10/2/09 – V1.1 – Added maps

1/1/2010- Final Submission

3/26/2010 – Updated with changes from Mike Hughes

Introduction

This *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* (CWPP) was developed by Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department (RCVFD) to address communities within and bordering the RCVFD response area.

The purpose of the CWPP is to formalize and coordinate efforts ongoing and proposed to help the community prepare for wildland fires and mitigate the effects. Included is information related to:

- Mitigation efforts and what can be done to address fire issues generally and in particular instances.
- Public education and efforts to involve community members in a preparing for wildland fires
- Response planning both for the RCVFD as well as the members of the community,
- Plan for future activities and hazards, such as the effect of infestations like the pine beetle, growth, urban intrusion.
- Documentation of specific hazard areas and critical infrastructure and planning related to these items.

It is of interest to note that RCVFD has a long and rich history of activities included in this CWPP – many of the items discussed here are items that were undertaken by RCVFD and community members many years ago – but that have not been formalized in a plan such as this one – in many ways RCVFD is ‘ahead of the game’ with respect to activities in a CWPP. Perhaps the most obvious example of this was the creation of RCVFD by a group of concerned residents in 1975. These leaders not only saw the need for a wildland fire focused fire department, but organized and personally funded the establishment of RCVFD.

That said, the goal of the RCVFD CWPP is to unify and coordinate these efforts in a way that will allow RCVFD and community members to more effectively plan and execute needed efforts as well as evaluate the effectiveness of current programs.

It should be noted that a CWPP is not a static plan – it should be disseminated, criticized, updated and added to. If static, it has failed.

RCVFD and Community Profile

Upon initial inspection, one may ask, “Why a RCVFD CWPP and not one more focused on specific communities?” RCVFD serves a number of areas, ranging from relatively accessible properties along Rist Canyon Road, to much more remote “communities” such as the upper Buckhorn Canyon. Would it not make sense to develop CWPP’s for each local?

The simple answer is no.

RCVFD serves a number of somewhat distinct areas; however, there are several key factors that unify these communities in a way that makes an overall RCVFD CWPP relevant and effective. They include:

- The area covered by RCVFD represents, essentially, a number of ‘bedroom’ and ‘retirement’ communities. The vast majority of residents commute and work in nearby town. While there are various “Road” and Home Owner” associations, the only unifying organization is the RCVFD.
- One purpose of a CWPP is to coordinate efforts for fire mitigation and planning. By using the RCVFD as an umbrella – duplicative efforts can be coordinated. Furthermore, efforts that are in conflict may be addressed.
- A second purpose of a CWPP is to act as a plan that allows an organization to pursue funding and grants related to wildland fire activities – and to fit in with ongoing activities in neighboring areas. Creating individual CWPP’s for each would tend to fragment these efforts – and in many cases there is no real “organization” that

could act as a receiving entity. RCVFD is already structured and established with formal BOD level representation for each major geographic/residential area and can be that organization.

- While spread over a number of square miles, the topography, population density, fuel models and wildland issues for the entire RCVFD area are relatively consistent. Therefore a unified plan with specific sections to address specific area issues makes allows more leverage and effectiveness.
- RCVFD already has in place many of the aspects of a good CWPP – so efforts to recreate those aspects in sub communities is neither productive or likely.

RCVFD Profile

The Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department was established as a non-profit corporation in 1975 with the specific purpose of wildland fire protection. The original capabilities and commitments, published in 1978 said:

“RIST CANYON VFD is committed to the prevention and prompt extinguishment of wildland fires, and to the control of structure fires within the 38 square mile Rist Canyon – Stove Prairie areas...”

Today the RCVFD Capabilities and Commitments says:

RCVFD, as an organization, is committed to providing, to the best of our ability and within constraints of providing for RCVFD responder safety, emergency response to life and property threatening fires, life or property threatening emergencies such as natural disasters and medical emergencies, accidents and rescue situations. RCVFD operates within our response boundaries as defined in the RCVFD by-laws.¹

Today RCVFD still operates as a donation based volunteer fire department. RCVFD responds to primary fire and medical response area of 105 square miles with a mutual area adding 70 sq miles. RCVFD operates 10 apparatus out of 3 permanent stations and one summer only location. A forth permanent station and additional apparatus are planned.

RCVFD serves a rugged and mountainous area to the North West of Fort Collins, CO. While the address of RCVFD and many of RCVFD’s residents is “Bellvue, CO”, it should be noted that the town of Bellvue is not located in RCVFD’s response area and does not represent anything but the nearest post office. Many of the addresses in the south west portion of RCVFD’s response area are similarly Masonville and Loveland addresses – but again, none of those towns are in RCVFD’s area. In fact, RCVFD does not include any incorporated areas – and is not a special district. The boundary of RCVFD is defined simply by the RCVFD By-laws.

The RCVFD response area incorporates several geographic and residential areas. These are described below – but detailed information about each area is included later:

RCVFD Community sub-areas:

- Rist Canyon Area: This refers residences (excluding several specific areas discussed below) accessed directly from Rist Canyon Road (AKA Larimer County Road 52E) from the mouth of the canyon (7000 block) to the top of “Ford Hill” (16000 block). The “Rist Canyon area is defined as Rist Canyon area 1 and served primarily by RCVFD Station 1 located at 11822 Rist Canyon Road.
- Whale Rock/Saddle Ridge: Whale Rock is a residential area accessed by Whale Rock Road which branches south from Rist Canyon Road at about mile 8.5 (8500). For the purposes of this CWPP, the Whale Rock area is assumed to include Saddle Ridge unless specifically noted. It is of note that the eastern part of Whale Rock and all of Saddle Ridge actually lies within Poudre Fire Authority Fire Protection District. However, RCVFD provides automatic mutual aid to PFA in these areas and RCVFD Station 4 is actually located within the Whale Rock area.
- Pine Acres: Pine acres is a rugged area located north of Rist Canyon Road. Pine Acres is accessed by a single road about mile 9 of Rist Canyon Road and has only a few residences.
- Davis Ranch/Redstone Estates: The Davis Ranch/Redstone Estates residential area is located south of Rist Canyon road about mm10. This area also includes the RistVue RLP. Davis Ranch is the most populous residential area in RCVFD’s response area.
- Stratton Park: Stratton park is residential area lying north of Rist Canyon Road and by Stratton Park road at about mile 14 of Rist canyon Road.

¹ For full capabilities and commitments, see RCVFD Standard Operating Guidelines
Bob Gann

- Stove Prairie: Stove Prairie is a relatively large and dispersed area defined more by the geography and Stove Prairie Road than a collection of homes. Stove Prairie extends from the intersection of Stove Prairie Road and the Buckhorn Canyon Road, north past Rist Canyon Road to about 1 mile south of the Poudre Canyon (Colorado Highway 14). RCVFD Station 3 is located approximately ½ mile from the intersection of Rist Canyon Road and Stove Prairie Road.
- Paradise Park: Paradise Park is a residential area west of Stove Prairie road access at about mile 1.5. Paradise Park is served by RCVFD Station 3.
- Buckhorn Canyon: Currently the “Buckhorn Canyon” area is defined as running from the RCVFD boundary at mile 14 on Buckhorn Canyon Road to mile 33. However, as there area a number of distinct areas along this road – with different population profiles and wildland fire issues, for the purposes of this CWPP the Buckhorn Canyon will be subdivided to :
 - Upper Buckhorn
 - Lower Buckhorn
 - Crystal Mountain
 - Ballard Road
 - Buckhorn Estates
 - Stringtown Gulch
- Forest Areas: RCVFD provides 1st out mutual aid response to a significant portion of USFS and governmentally owned land. In general, the RCVFD CWPP plan applies only to private land within our area with the following exceptions:
 - Access mapping
 - Fire route designation
 - Response pre-planning
 - Cooperative efforts with the government agency efforts
 -

General RCVFD Community Wildfire Characteristics and issue

RCVFD’s response area is a classic urban-interface wildland fire area characterized by:

- Multiple houses in the woods
- Steep and rugged terrain, poor access roads and no established water system
- Relatively mature Pine forest managed by homeowners.
- High level of community awareness with respect to wildfire mitigation efforts and needs, supported and driven by RCVFD community outreach and awareness.
- Significant forest management efforts coordinated and supported by both RCVFD and Colorado Tree Farmers Association.

Values at Risk

The RCVFD community is essentially a bedroom community comprised of mostly single family dwellings located either on large tracts of land or clusters of houses on smaller parcels. Many residences and several of the residential areas are accessible only by single access roads, mostly dirt/unimproved and often 1 or 1.5 lane width. Residences in the area range from small cabins and part time residences to multi-million dollar residences. There are a few special structures/hazards and multi-person dwellings.

The following table lists the overall characteristics of the RCVFD area as well as special developments and characteristics of the sub areas.

Area Designation	Number of Residences and/or special structures	Comments	Larimer County Hazard Rating (2002 review)
RCVFD Total Area	Approximately 600 to 1000	RCVFD’s mailing list includes approximately 1000 valid address. These addresses represent both owners and tenants with land or property in the area.	Ranges 1-3, Extreme to High
Davis Ranch - Redstone Estates		This is the largest ‘development’ area in the RCVFD area. Primary access via single road	2- Severe
Stratton Park		Residential – single access	1 - Extreme
Whale Rock – Saddle Ridge		Very high exposure with limited single access. Rough terrain, 4wd required much of the year. Split response with PFA (automatic mutual aid)	2- Severe 1 – Extreme (Saddle Ridge)

Pine Acres		Few houses, but very limited access	2 - Severe
Paradise Park			3-High
Stove Prairie		Ranges from the Buckhorn Canyon to the Poudre Canyon. Includes Stove Prairie School	3 - High
Buckhorn Canyon		Defined by CR 44H from Masonville to Pennock Pass. Lower Buckhorn includes many residences. Upper Buckhorn is largely part time residences and USFS	Ranges 1-3 Extreme to High

Special Hazards, Risks and Structures of special concern/benefit.

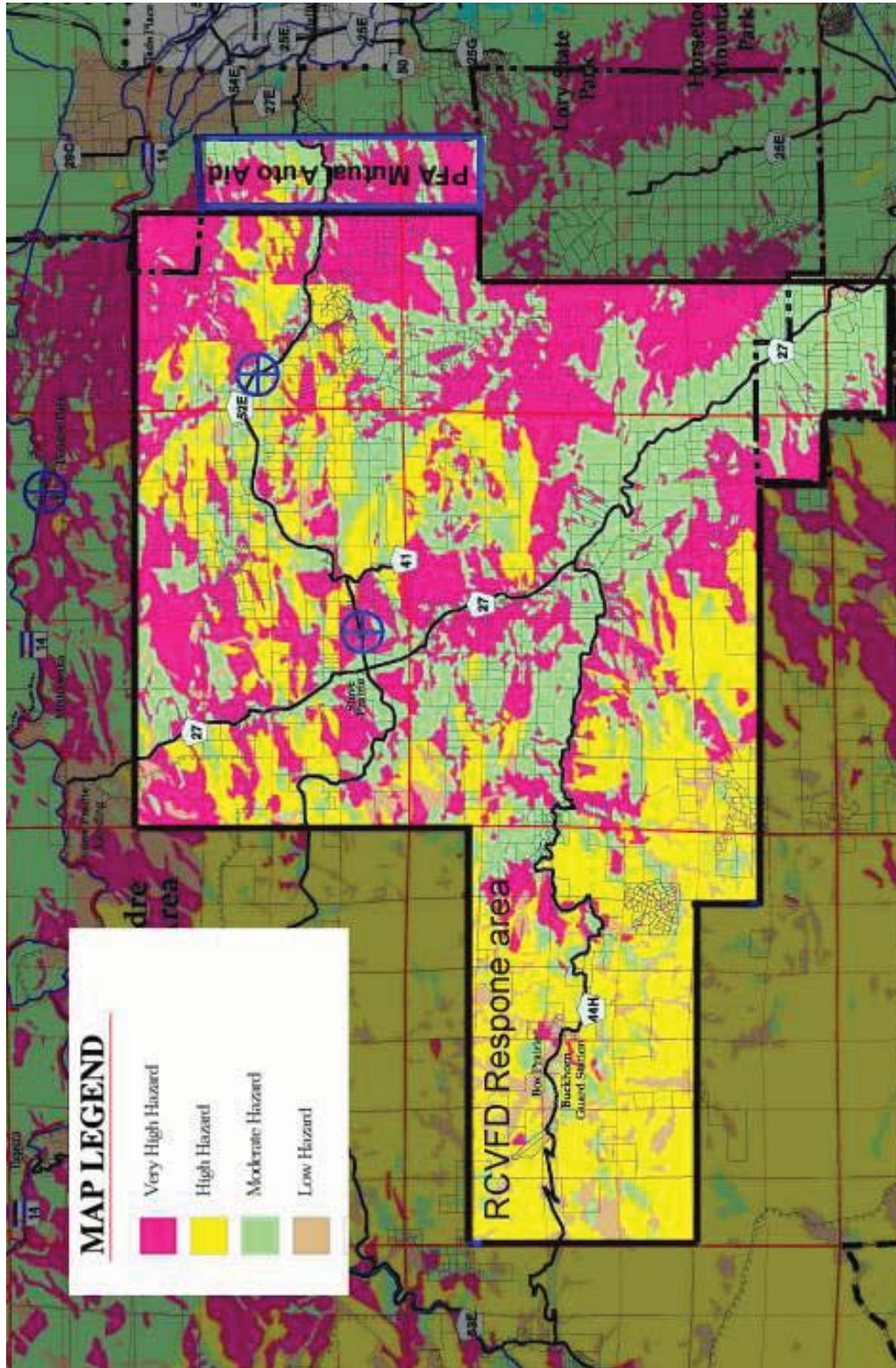
- **Stove Prairie School** is located in the RCVFD response area. The school represents a valuable historic and community resource and is well situated from a wildland fire perspective. The school has good defensible space and can serve both as an evacuation/support location and a command center in major events. Stove Prairie School has stand-alone backup generation and can be served by high speed internet. RCVFD has emergency access to Stove Prairie School.
- Special Actions for Stove Prairie School include:
 - Early establishment of structure protection
 - Potential command center
- **Buckhorn Church Camp.** The Buckhorn Church camp is both a special risk and a potential command site. The site has multiple cabins as well as a meeting hall and dormitory. During the summer months, the church camp frequently hosts summer programs for children including disabled and special needs children. From this regard the church camp is a high priority for protection and evacuation. The location is defensible, but is reachable only by a single road (there are potential emergency egress routes, but they are long and rough).
- Special Actions for Buckhorn Church Camp
 - Early Evacuation notice and establishment of structure/evacuation protection teams.
 - Potential command/staging center
- **W.O.L.F.** WOLF is a wolf/hybrid rescue facility housing something over 30 animals. WOLF is located 2 miles down RCVFD Fire Route 11 on a single access, single lane, privately maintained road. The WOLF facility was evaluated in 2008 as non-defensible in a aggressive wildland fire situation due to terrain, location, access. RCVFD recommends:
 - Early evacuation of the animals by trained personnel if time allows. Evacuation will require several hours.
 - Mandatory evacuation of personnel in the event of fast approaching wildland fire. It is anticipated that the animals living within enclosures will enter dens they have created and survive a fire as established dens have little ground vegetation.
 - Post burn-over, trained WOLF personnel (accompanied by fire fighters) should, if possible and safe, evaluate fencing integrity and make emergency repairs to prevent animal escape.
 - WOLF maintains a safe zone in the case of an entrapment.

Overall Wildland Hazard Rating

The RCVFD response area is largely considered a high risk area as shown by the Larimer County Wildland Fire shown in the table above.

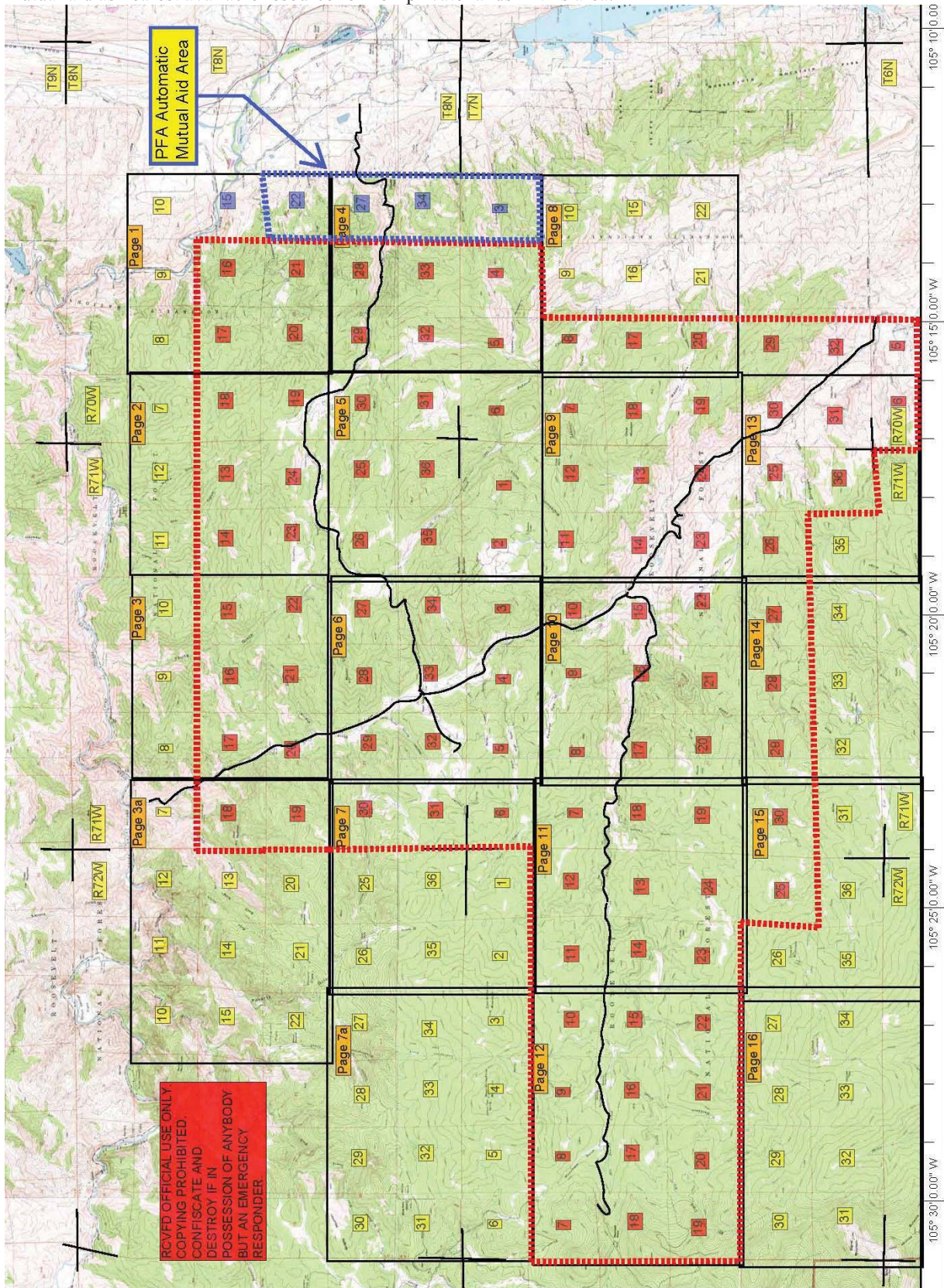
Wildfire hazard Map

The following map is the RCVFD relevant section of the Larimer County Wildland Fire Hazard Map as adopted by the Larimer County Commissioners, June 5, 2001. This excerpt of the adopted indicates areas of very high, high, moderate hazard in the RCVFD area. The RCVFD primary response boundary is indicated on the map. This acts as a visual supplement to the hazard rating table on the previous page. Mitigation efforts are impacted by the area rating – however are not limited to the highest area only. Since RCVFD’s area is all moderate or above hazard, we encourage landowners to mitigate in all areas – however RCVFD’s focus is on higher hazard areas.



RCVFD Response Area

The following map shows the primary RCVFD response area for both medical and fire. Note, RCVFD is responding in mutual aid as nearest available resource for non-private lands in this area.



Fire History

Over the past twenty years, approximately 161 wildfires burn on average over 2200 acres each year in Larimer County. In “slow” years, such as 1996, wildfires are relatively small. During the summer of 1996, several fires ranging in size from one acre to 180 acres, threatened 50 to 60 homes throughout Larimer County. However, although threatened, no homes burned.

At the other extreme is a year like 1994 when 340 fires, including the Hourglass Fire which destroyed 13 buildings at Pingree Park, burned through out Larimer County. In addition to destroying 13 buildings at Pingree Park, the Hourglass Fire threatened 12 homes in the Poudre Springs area. RCVFD was 2nd in on the Hourglass fire operating under the nearest available resource plan for Larimer County. RCVFD did primary evacuation, structure protection and RCVFD Chief Gann was assigned as staging manager for the 1st shift.

Other recent fires include:

- The Snowtop Fire, in July 1993, which threatened at least 5 homes in Cedar Park.
- In 1995, the Bonner Peaks Fire threatened 8 homes west of Highway 287.
- In 2000, the Bobcat Fire burned 10,599 acres and destroyed 18 homes. Bobcat fire bordered the south side of RCVFD’s response area.
- Tragically in 2002 the Big Elk Fire burned 4413 acres and claimed 3 lives.
- In 2004, a home owner burning trash started the Picnic Rock Fire, which burned 8,908 acres and destroyed 1 home.
- The Buckhorn-Davis Ranch fire in 2000 impacted approximately 100 acres in the heart of Rist Canyon
- Cloudy Pass fire – 2003. One (abandoned) structure lost. This was a notable day due to the fact that RCVFD was responding to 4 fire calls at the same time.

RCVFD responds to between 50 and 100 calls per year. Currently, the mixture is about 50/50 fire/medical (rescue). RCVFD is a classic Urban Interface (houses in the woods) fire department and faces all the challenges created by that. As the population density and number of visitors to our area increases, RCVFD continues to see a more diverse set of responses and a higher level of expectation. It is important that, if you visit or live in a rural area such as RCVFD’s response area, you understand the limitations imposed upon emergency response by that area. The fact that we have no hydrant system and must deal with diverse weather and topography and long travel distances (not to mention volunteer staff) means that RCVFD will never provide the 4- minute response expected in town. This means that we (RCVFD and the community) must work together to provide appropriate and timely responses. RCVFD is committed to providing the very best professional emergency services we can and continually strive to improve or expand our services.

Current Fire Risks

Colorado as well as other western states is experiencing some of the largest fires in recent memory, in part, because we are experiencing some of the most severe drought conditions in history. Fire ecology reveals that big fires occur during times of extreme drought. There is little one can do to control drought. Under severe drought, especially if coupled with winds, normal fire behavior is thrown out the window. History shows the West has always experienced periodic drought, and large fires are not just a recent phenomenon. During the 1930s Dust Bowl era more than 39 million acres yearly burned on average across the United States.

The drought condition is also a major factor in the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic. The pine beetle has not yet hit the RCVFD community in epidemic proportion as it has in many other parts of the state, but many lodge pole and ponderosa trees have been lost to the mountain pine beetle. However, the mountain pine beetle is predicted to crest over Cameron Pass into Larimer County in large numbers within the next few years and impact is growing. RCVFD has an active education program related to pine beetle in support of the Colorado Tree Farmers programs.

Red (dried standing with needles) and dead trees in large numbers will add to the vulnerability of the RCVFD to experience a large scale fire. Couple that with the overgrown forest, which is in part a result of an old philosophy to suppress all fire and we have a forest that is very vulnerable to fire. Without natural intervention via fire or human activity such as mechanical thinning, or prescribed burns, tree stands have stagnated. Fire crowning into these vulnerable stands would ignite quickly, carrying wildfire throughout the community.

Fire mitigation projects completed by individuals can lend protection to individual homes and neighborhoods as well as lessen the chances of a wildfire starting from within the community. Many community residents have completed fire mitigation projects on their property. Recognizing that people cannot be forced to complete fire mitigation projects on their property, all RCVFD landowners are encouraged to create defensible space and reduce other fire hazards on their personal property.

Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability

Initial response to all fire, medical and associated emergencies is the responsibility of the Rist Canyon VFD. Wildland fire responsibilities of Larimer County, Colorado State Forest Service, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land

Management and the National Park Service are described in the current *Larimer County Annual Operating Plan*. All mutual aid agreements, training, equipment, and response are the responsibility of the local fire department and the agencies listed above.

Water access for the RCVFD

The RCVFD area has no established water system; however numerous ponds and streams provide water via drafting, including several ponds equipped with dry hydrants and ponds suitable for helicopter bucket operations. The Horsetooth reservoir is the nearest major water source and is appropriate for fires along the eastern edge of the RCVFD area – however, Horsetooth requires significant vertical climb to reach most of RCVFD’s area.

Landing Zones that can be used for Helicopter support

RCVFD has several established and mapped LZ’s appropriate for helicopter operations. They include:

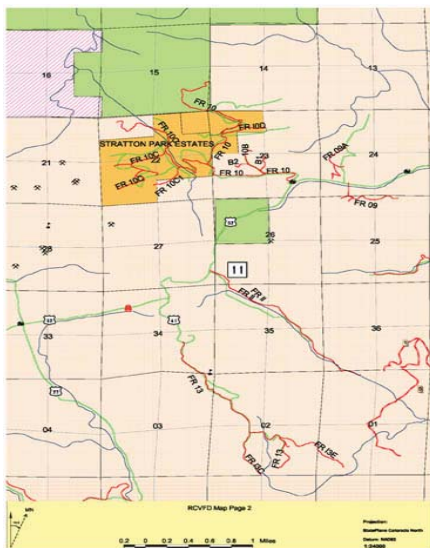
- RCVFD Station 1 LZ: Excellent quality LZ with excellent approach and departure located near RCVFD Station 1. There is also a pond appropriate for bucket operations at RCVFD Station 1 LZ.
- Stove Prairie School LZ. The Stove Prairie LZ is located in fields across from Stove Prairie School and provides good approach and departure but with some slope and power line hazard. This LZ has been used for both medical and fire helicopter support. There are nearby ponds for dipping.
- Buckhorn Ranger Station LZ. Located approximately mile 33 of the Buckhorn Canyon at the USFS Buckhorn Ranger station this LZ has good approach and departure, but care must be taken not to use the LZ area as a parking/camping location for fire fighters and engines. There are limited water sources in the form of ponds in the Crystal Mt Area.

There are several other LZ locations that can be utilized in medical cases, or for fire fighting operations if needed.

Access and Mapping

RCVFD has extensive and comprehensive custom maps maintained by RCVFD for our response area. In addition, all major roads and accesses in RCVFD’s area are marked with RCVFD Fire Routes as shown below.

- Note: RCVFD Maps may contain private information and for that reason RCVFD maps shall not be provided to non-emergency personnel and may not be used for anything but emergency response and planning. For that reason, RCVFD’s maps are not included in this CWPP, however an example map section is shown here:



Command Posts:

RCVFD has several identified areas that can and have been used for command posts. Note, this list includes properties not owned by RCVFD and so permission should be obtained for usage:

- RCVFD Station 1: This is RCVFD’s primary command center for the eastern half of RCVFD’s response area. Station 1 provides meeting room, maintenance and storage, phone and internet access and is located near a good LZ as well as appropriate camping/staging areas. Station 1 is defensible.

- Stove Prairie School: This would be a recommended primary command center for fires in the western part of RCVFD's area, excluding the upper Buckhorn. Stove Prairie school can provide food facilities (limited), nearby camping/staging, phone, water and internet connection. Stove Prairie School has backup power generation. Stove Prairie School is defensible.
- Buckhorn Church Camp: This, private, facility could be a good command center for fires near it's location on CR41 (FR 12). This facility has excellent food/sleeping accommodation. However, it is not expected to be available for no charge and may or may not be occupied. The Church camp is defensible, but access is single road and that road is not fully defensible.
- Buckhorn Ranger Station: This USFS (part time) station in the upper Buckhorn Canyon could be an appropriate command center for fires in the USFS area south of the Buckhorn. Communications here are somewhat limited due to terrain and there is no outside power source, phone or internet.

RCVFD Evacuation Pre-Plan

RCVFD has an established evacuation plan for most areas. The RCVFD Evacuation pre plan addresses:

- Area Name
- Number's of Residents (full and part-time)
- Primary and Secondary Evac Routes
- Fire Routes
- Safety Zones
- Street Names
- Special Concerns (Med/Access/Public)

The following is an example page from the pre-plan

RCVFD Area Evacuation Pre Plan

Area Name	Davis Ranch	6/20/2002	Residence Count is # Homes, not people	Phone Service	Yes
Special Concerns	High Population Congestion at FR 1 near 52E during Evac	Approx Full Time Res	60	Approx Part Time Res	10
Comments:	Primary Evac Route Down FR1 to Rist Canyon Road (52E)				

Fire Route(s)	Secondary Evac Routes
1	FR 5 to FR 11
2	FR 1 to FR 7 (just past FR 5)
3	FR 4 to FR 11 (unverified)
4	FR 1 to FRA (unlikely to be used if FR 1 is accessible)
5	FR 4 to Davis ranch to FR 1
6	
2a/b	

Safe Zones	Street name
Meadow at Davis Ranch	Davis Ranch Road
FR 1 and FR3	Redstone Dr
Meadow at FR2, FR2A	El Arbel
FR 1 just past FR 5	La Escena
	Withrow Ct
	Cox Ct
	Riley Dr
	Valnes Ln
	Redstone Ct
	Chopp Ct

RCVFD CWPP Hazard Reduction Priorities

The following items apply to all RCVFD areas.

Note, the basis for prioritization of actions is the RCVFD Fire Operations Priorities as follows:

- 1) Safety of fire fighters and emergency responders.
 - a. Note: to those not involved in emergency response, it may seem counter intuitive that the primary priority is the safety of the emergency responders. After all – regardless of actions taken, the emergency responders are accepting a higher level of risk and are tasked with (in the case of RCVFD, volunteer to) protecting life and property. Upon reflection, it is understood that the safety of the responders must be considered first because loss of emergency responders due to accident or injury during a response has a compounding effect of lowering the available response capability dramatically and immediately – which cascades to higher risk and impact for the public.
- 2) Safety and protection of the public

- 3) Protection of property/structures from oncoming emergencies
- 4) Extinguishment of fires.

Fire Reduction Priorities

- Improvement of structure survivability by reduction of specific hazards, such as (but not limited to)
 - Establishment of defensive space for structures, homes, key roads
 - Replacement of shake shingle roofs with fire resistant types
 - Appropriate storage of firewood away from structures and propane tanks
 - Screening under decks and in vents/eaves to prevent blowing of burning material into areas that may cause ignition of the structure.
 - Little things are important. Any items adjacent to a house are considered “attached” to the house by a fire. This includes wood decks, fences and walkways. Metal flashing can be inserted between the house and its “attachment” it could stop the progress of a fire. For decks, residents should consider using HardiPlank or fiber cement on the side wall adjacent to the wood decking material.
 - Roofs and gutters should be cleaned of pine needles, leaves and other debris. Needles, leaves and other dead materials must be continually removed from the roof, decks and walkways.
 - Homeowner evacuation pre-plan which includes steps like moving flammable deck furniture, mats, etc into the house before leaving
- Improve access to structures and communities
 - Improve roads to structures where possible
 - Add pull outs to narrow lanes to allow 2-way traffic
 - Assure fire truck turn-arounds at all houses.
 - Improve addressing to allow coordinated response.
- Appropriate forest management to reduce fuel load in absence of natural fire and help limit spread of intense fires
 - Some thinning should occur on a number of properties, especially those properties that abut National Forest land and those that could cause access fire risk to others homes and structures. When properties are thinned, it is recommended that property owners retain the larger trees as well as, aspen, mountain maple and other deciduous varieties. This will allow the property to retain its forest-like quality even as wildfire protection levels are increased.
 - Pruning and clipping slash are occasionally disposed of into a remote area of a homeowner’s property. Slash should be removed from the area, as it creates a substantial fuel bed. If removing the slash is not practical, it should be mulched or piled in an area that is safe to burn and burned during the winter or spring when snow level allows for safe burning. Remember a burn permit is required for slash burns.
 - National Forest treatments adjacent to private land

Fire Response Priorities

- Continue established RCVFD mapping and signage programs. This benefits both RCVFD and mutual aid departments or out of area fire fighters that may not have good understanding of the RCVFD response area
- Continue educational efforts in the community using the RCVFD web page and the Rist Watch newsletter.
- Pre-plan for key areas and structures, both defensive and evacuation plans
- Encourage clear address marking.
- Continue effective and comprehensive training of RCVFD fire fighters to appropriate level
- Continue to staff and equip stations for effective response.
- Strive for improved communications with external agencies
 - This is particularly complicated by the mixed adoption and viability of VHF and 800MHz communication systems. While intended to improve communications, the mixture of systems increases complexity and can easily lead to worse, not better, communications.

Evacuation related priorities

- Maintain and update RCVFD Evacuation pre-plan
- Extend the emergency evacuation marking program started in Whale Rock
- Identify and/or establish emergency evacuation routes for all areas.
- Identify and/or establish and mark safe zones for cases where evacuation is not possible
- Educate community on evacuation procedures.

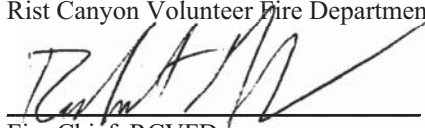
RCVFD CWPP Action Items

The following items are identified actions that RCVFD and community organizations will pursue. It is expected that new action items will be added as this CWPP is revised. In each case, the owner of the action item is identified. The order here does NOT imply priority.

Description	Owner	Status	Area
Complete and publish CWPP	RCVFD Operations	Ongoing with Annual Review	All
Continue fire management outreach efforts particularly in light of the pine beetle infestation starting to impact RCVFDs area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue established RCVFD Chipping Program 	RCVFD BOD	Ongoing	All
Support Pine Beetle Mitigation efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Education programs Support CSFS and Colorado Tree Farmers Efforts 	RCVFD BOD, Colorado Tree Farmers (local members)	Ongoing	All
Update RCVFD Evacuation Pre-Plan and publish on RCVFD Website	RCVFD Operations	Update bi-annually	All
Encourage all homeowners to perform fire mitigation, survivability and defensible space efforts on their properties using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rist Watch articles Rcvfd.org website Community Meetings 	RCVFD BOD, Operations, Area Representatives	Ongoing	All
Improve access and addressing to all residences/structures.	Landowner or Road Assoc	Ongoing	All
Improve defensibility of roads – particularly in areas that have only single access. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce fuel loading and ladder fuels along all roads. Review roads with regard to using roads as fire breaks 	Landowner or Road Assoc with support of RCVFD Ops	Ongoing	All non county roads
Establish emergency evac routes for all areas with single primary ingress/egress. These routes are for evacuation only – one way out.	Landowner or Road Assoc with support of RCVFD Ops	Ongoing	All residential areas w/o multiple access
Establish turnouts and passing areas for all primary roads that are likely to need to support 2-way traffic. These should allow passing of 2-way traffic of fire engines and trucks with trailers (livestock)	Landowner or Road Assoc with support of RCVFD Ops	Till completed	All residential areas served by narrow roads
Establish and mark Safe Zones for all residential areas with special focus on those areas with limited access	Landowner or Road Assoc with support of RCVFD Ops	Ongoing till completion	All, but focus on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stratton Park Paradise Park Pine Acres Whale Rock Upper Buckhorn Stringtown Gulch Davis Ranch
Develop water sources – improved access and availability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install pump at Michaud Pond 	RCVFD Ops	Ongoing	All
Update RCVFD Maps with new structures, Roads, areas	RCVFD Mapping Coordinator	Ongoing	All

Establish Station 5 – Buckhorn Station to serve the Buckhorn Canyon (upper and lower)	RCVFD	Land identified, grant submitted	Buckhorn.
Upgrade E641 and E651 to newer type 6x	RCVFD	Grant submitted	Whale Rock, Buckhorn
Expand Community awareness and involvement using the new RCVFD website.	RCVFD Ops/BOD	New Website	All
Support Firewise and Firewise Construction by providing information to residents via RistWatch and RCVFD website	RCVFD	Ongoing	All
Pursue new grants based on CWPP – particularly to defray costs of and improve effectiveness of RCVFD activities such as. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation efforts, slash burning training, Slash chipping program, education (RistWatch), RCVFD website 	RCVFD	Ongoing	All

The following community representatives / agencies have reviewed and support this *Community Wildfire Protection Plan*.

Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department

 Fire Chief, RCVFD

Fort Collins District
 Colorado State Forest Service

Canyon Lakes District Ranger
 US Forest Service

Appendix A

Referred and related documents

- Larimer County Fire Plan a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Larimer County 2004)
- Larimer County Wildfire Mitigation Plan (CSFS 1998)
- Recommendations for Improving Wildfire Safety in Larimer County (CSFS 1997)
- Larimer County Subdivision Wildfire Hazard Review (Larimer County/CSFS 2002)
- Larimer County Annual Operating Plan (updated annually)
- FEMA—Northern Colorado Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2004)

CWPP Development Team

Name	Organization	Roles / Responsibilities
Robert Gann - Fire Chief	RCVFD	Primary development of CWPP and decision making – community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods
Boyd Lebeda, District Forester, and Michael Hughes, Assistant District Forester, Fort Collins District	Colorado State Forest Service	Facilitation of planning process and approval of CWPP process and minimum standards. Provides input and expertise on forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.
Tony Simons Services Specialist	Larimer County Wildfire Safety Program	Provides input and expertise on hazard assessment, defensible space, and FireWise concepts.
Dick Edwards	Relevant federal land management agencies (USFS, BLM, etc.)	Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.
RCVFD Area Representatives	The RCVFD has elected area representatives who interact and represent each community area in the RCVFD response area.	Provides input and expertise. This could include community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods.