Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Bent County Fire

January 13, 2011

(Appendix B Addition: 2013)
Plan Approval –

The County approves the Community Wildfire Protection Plan completed January 13, 2011.

Bent County Commissioners, Chairman

Date

Bent County Sheriff

Date

Bent County Office of Emergency Management

Date

La Junta District, Colorado State Forest Service

Date
# Table of Contents

Overview ........................................................................................................................................................... - 4 -

Background....................................................................................................................................................... - 4 -

Participants ....................................................................................................................................................... - 4 -

Plan Components ............................................................................................................................................. - 5 -
  A. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) ........................................................................................................ - 5 -
  B. Preparedness to Respond to Wildland Fire ........................................................................................ - 5 -
  C. Community Risk Analysis (Risk, Fuels, Values) and Wildfire Mitigation Assessment Mapping. - 6 -
  D. Fuels Treatment Priorities.................................................................................................................... - 6 -
  E. Structural Ignitability Reduction Recommendations ........................................................................ - 7 -

Implementation Plan........................................................................................................................................ - 8 -

Appendix A: Fire Protection Assessment ................................................................................................... - 12 -

Appendix B: Annual Workplans .................................................................................................................... - 27 -

Appendix C: Bent County CWPP Maps....................................................................................................... - 34 -
Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Bent County

January 13, 2011

Overview

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) passed by Congress on November 21, 2003 and signed into law by President Bush on December 3, 2003.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) places renewed emphasis on community planning by extending a variety of benefits to communities with a wildfire protection plan in place. Critical among these benefits are: 1) The option to establish localized definitions and boundaries for areas having high Risk (potential), Hazards (fuels) and Values; and 2) The opportunity to help shape management priorities for federal and non-federal lands within the planning area.

The CWPP, as described in the Act, brings together diverse local interests to discuss their mutual concerns for public safety, community sustainability and natural resources. It offers a positive, solution-oriented environment in which to address challenges such as local firefighting capacity, the need for defensible space around homes (and areas of value), and where and how to prioritize land management.¹ (Colorado State Forest Service, 2005. Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Guidelines for Implementation. 4 pages.)

The purpose of this document is to provide stakeholders and those living in Bent County with an overview of the wildland fire risks, hazards and values within the planning area; recommend possible courses of action to reduce the impacts of wildfire in the planned area; and to share a current action plan.

Background

Partners and stakeholders in Bent County have participated in Annual Wildfire Operating Plans since 2009, with a ‘Regional’ AWOP (Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers counties) in place in 2010.

Participants

Participants since the onset through direct meeting participation and/or email notifications and updates include the Bent County Sheriff, the Bent County Commissioners, the Bent County Office of Emergency Management, and representatives from Hasty/McClave Rural Fire Protection District, and Las Animas/Bent County Fire Protection District. These same individuals also represent their communities. Federal and state partners notified or that have participated over time include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers John Martin Dam, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Bureau of Land Management, John Martin Reservoir State Park, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Colorado State Forest Service. Assisting with the mapping to jpg format was the Bent County Assessor’s Office.
(Participants include or have included Gerry Oyen, David Encinias, Tom Wallace, Randy Freed, Clay Hasser, Julie Davis, Tandy Hasser, Karen Downey, Darrel Six, John Merson, Steve Keefer, Mike Smith, Ed Skerjanec, Fran Pannebaker, Donna Davis, NRCS lead Working Partners Group. Recent dates include – 1/21/10 (with AWOP meeting; 3/22/10 map review; 4/28 mapping w/county assessor office; 10/26/10 Maps & Firewise; 1/13/11 –CWPP draft review & 2011 Annual Plan).

**Plan Components**

**A. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**

Bent County’s highest concern areas are the communities and all development near the communities including but not limited to the Fort Lyon State Correctional Facility, the private prison near Las Animas, the hog farm and feed lots, the hay mill, and wind farms in the county; the recreational areas including John Martin Reservoir State Park, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dam property, the Colorado Division of Wildlife managed areas; the historical areas including Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site, National Park Service (near the Otero/Bent County Line); the Bent’s New Fort site; the Boggsville National Historic Register Site (county); the Star School House site (county); the Santa Fe Trail(s) and sites; the railroad/high-use travel corridors in the county; and the Arkansas River watershed and tributaries for water quality.

The communities are Las Animas (incorporated) population 2,335 and the county seat; McClave (941 pop.), Hasty (234 pop.) and Caddoa (21 pop.) are unincorporated. The Bent County population is 6,301. Bent County is 1,541 square miles.

**General** - The County is rural with population centers around the communities. Major state highways cross the county N-S (U.S. Highway 101) and E-W (U.S. Highway 50, U.S. Highway 194 and U.S. Highway 196). The Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad also comes into the county at the west edge and runs parallel to Highway 50 to it’s exit point at the east end of the county. The railroad also has the Amarillo branch somewhat following Highway 101. An interstate high pressure gas line runs somewhat diagonally through the county with another through the southwest corner of the county. The COG plant also has a significant station within the county. River drainages are the Arkansas and Purgatoire rivers. Creeks are Adobe, Rule, Mud, Caddoa, Graveyard and Limestone. The major recreational areas are the John Martin State Park, the Purgatoire River State Wildlife Area, and Blue Lakes. Vegetation is generally sage, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grasses, short-grass prairie, croplands, and pinyon/juniper (cedar) canyons in the southern part of the County. The Bureau of Land Management parcels are also dotted within the county. Some State Land parcels are managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

**B. Preparedness to Respond to Wildland Fire**

Bent County and the Las Animas/Bent County and Hasty/McClave Fire Protection Districts serve and protect 6,301 residents and 1,541 square miles within the county. The county utilizes a central dispatch center with Enhanced 911 services (E-911).

The Las Animas/Bent County Fire Protection District has approximately 30 volunteers and the Hasty/McClave Fire Protection District has approximately 20 volunteers.

The County has a CSFS/Bent County Equipment Agreement with a Type 4 Engine housed at Hasty/McClave Rural Fire Protection District.

Bent County has a signed mutual aid agreement with all Baca, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers county fire departments and rural fire protection districts.
Bent County has a signed Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection with the Colorado State Forest Service.

Bent County signed a regional Annual Wildfire Operating Plan (AWOP) with Baca, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero counties, the United States Forest Service, the United States Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado State Forest Service, in 2009. In 2010, Cheyenne and Prowers counties were added as signatures to the AWOP, (AWOP website http://csfs.colostate.edu - Click on Local Forester, then La Junta District, then Fire Program).

Bent County has a Fire Ban Ordinance (Refer to the AWOP appendix for a copy of existing county ordinances).

Bent County can initiate fire bans as appropriate. Incorporated communities have agreed to be a part of the overall county fire ban placement and rescission process. The John Martin State Parks may have other considerations, but would hope to work closely with the county to support fire ban efforts.

Bent County has an Office of Emergency Management with an active County Director who also coordinates with other Area Emergency Management Office’s and State Resources.

Bent County has a website for fire updates as appropriate www.cofireban.info

C. Community Risk Analysis (Risk, Fuels, Values) and Wildfire Mitigation Assessment Mapping

(See Appendix A for a complete discussion of the risk analysis and assessment mapping for Bent County)

Areas
1 – Communities & Growth Areas (HHH)
2 – John Martin Reservoir State Park, Army Corps of Engineers Dam (HHH), Boggsville National Historic Register Site, Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site (on western county border), U.S.F.S. Comanche Grasslands (on southwestern county border).
3 – Railroads/Travel Corridors (HHH)
4 – River Drainages (HHH)

5 – Seasonal Lakes/Recreation (MHH)
6 – Travel Corridors (HMH, HLH)
7 – River Drainages, less public access (LHH)
8 – Pinyon/Juniper (Cedars) Canyons (LHH)
9 – High Value Agricultural Areas (LHH, LMH & LLH)
10 – Rural Areas (LHH, LMH & LLH)

Note Abbreviations – High (H), Medium (M), Low (L)
Note Abbreviations – HHH means High Risk, High Fuel, High Value. LMH means Low Risk, Medium Fuel, High Value.

Discussion – Areas rated HHH are of highest priority due to risk, fuels and values in Bent County. Areas with 2 HHs are also of high concern. For example, high fuels and high values can easily create a scenario taxing limited resources. Risk may be low or medium however a large wildfire would still create a potential economic burden to the taxpayer in the county. The same could apply to high risk and high values – although the fuel is not rated high, it does not preclude the event causing significant resource depletion.
Areas rated with two or three Ls are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource opportunities arise, however they are not the highest priority.

Therefore, Bent County’s Mapped high concern ‘Red Zones’ might include Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 (three HHH’s). Areas 5 through 10 with two HH’s are of concern; Areas 9 and 10 with only one H are not an immediate priority.

Due to typical county wind driven fire events and other fire behavior factors including high temperatures, low relative humidity, dry ignitable flashy fuels; along with distance and immediate access to many rural locations and the nature of volunteer fire organizations with manpower/response factors to consider – arbitrary lines have been drawn around the zones. For example, one mile either side of a travel corridor in a ‘typical’ fire scenario may be more than enough buffer. However in a wind driven event or late in the season when vegetation is cured – a one-mile ‘buffer’ may not be sufficient. Six miles may not be sufficient. For planning purposes, we are allowing flexibility with our zone boundaries to allow the overall goal of fire prevention/mitigation needs to be addressed.

D. Fuels Definition and Treatment Methods Discussion

Hazard Fuel Definitions –

High Fuels are defined as Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk); Conservation Reserve Program grasses (CRP); Pinyon/Juniper (PJ)-understory grass; stubble/crop residue; weeds/tumbleweeds; dwellings (greater than five/section); and/or man-made windbreaks (greater than five/section).

Medium fuels include short and medium grass prairie; prairie sand/sage; fencerow tumbleweeds; dwellings (1-5 per section) and/or man-made windbreaks (1-5 per section).

Low fuels are defined as non-irrigated cropland, fallow, zero dwellings; and/or zero man-made windbreaks.

General Fuels Treatment Methods –

Riparian Treatments (cottonwood and/or tamarisk) include combinations of mechanical removal, chemical treatment, exotic insect introductions (tamarisk), firewood (cottonwood), wood chipping, pile burning, and/or hauling away brush.

High and Medium fuel grasses; stubble/crop residue, sand sage, weeds/tumbleweeds treatments may include mechanical methods (mowing, grazing), and/or prescribed burning.

Dwellings and/or man-made windbreaks/plantings treatments may include mowing around structures, breaking up continuous ground fuels and/or ladder fuels, thinning, deadwood removal (see structural ignitability for dwelling concepts).

E. Structural Ignitability Reduction Discussion

Firewise Awareness –

Public awareness of Firewise concepts and self-implementation of applicable concepts may help landowners potentially reduce the risk of structural ignitability in the event of an encroaching wildfire.
Firewise Concepts include - Are You At Risk!, Access, Water Supply, Defensible Space, Trees and Shrubs, Construction Design and Materials, Interior Safety, and What to do When….

Target Audiences and Outreach -

Targets are homeowners, rural businesses, and as appropriate, community, county, state, and federal entities in Bent County.

Long-Term Implementation Plan (5-Year)

(See Appendix B for specific Annual Workplan.)

General Discussion -

Broad, long-term mitigation strategies discussed at our various meetings included:

- Initiating public awareness in Firewise Concepts (i.e., Are You At Risk!, Access, Water Supply, Defensible Space, Trees and Shrubs, Construction Design and Materials, Interior Safety, and ‘What to do When…’). Target audiences could include community and rural homeowners, rural businesses, and government entities, as appropriate.

- Providing ‘General Outdoor Fire Safety’ brochures/information to various publics (smoking, outdoor camping fires, trash burning, agricultural burning and other controlled burns, spark arresters, etc). Target audiences could include community and rural homeowners, rural businesses, recreational users, tourists, highway corridor travelers, and railroad personnel.

- Provide overall information/awareness about Fire Bans, Red Flag Warnings.

Tactics for the accomplishing the above included –

- Initiating countywide information outreach (Examples - Firewise, Fire Bans, Controlled Burns) through public radio announcements, local Cable TV coverage, Bent County web-site alerts, newspaper articles, highway signages, county fair booth participation, local event opportunities, (Fire Prevention Week, annual volunteer displays, Senior Citizen events, community events, etc.).

- Providing educational material including Firewise 3-ring binder availability for check out to homeowners (library/fire department); booklets and/or handouts for local events; CDs/PDFs for distribution; Firewise educational handouts for schools.

- Providing Firewise presentations or trainings and/or Homeowner Homestead Assessments (example Living with Fire – A Guide for the Homeowner) to interested volunteer groups/clubs to support public awareness and public inquiry.

Annual workplans could include components of the above and/or additional updated ideas and suggestions as appropriate for the mitigation effort that year.

Long-Term Mitigation Strategies Discussed By Area -

- 8 -
Long-term mitigation strategies (ideas) for the different areas identified in the Bent County Mitigation Assessment Map were discussed at our various meeting, and are listed below. Mitigation includes utilizing a potential mix of tools and resources, generally categorized as - A) Education and Outreach; B) Rules/Restrictions/Ordinances, and Enforcement; C) Prevention Planning; D) Fuel Mitigation; E) Grants and Administration.

1 – Communities & Growth Areas (HHH)
Concern – High Risk, High Fuels, High Values
Mitigation -
  Education and Outreach – Present Firewise Concept to various Public/Groups/Organizations (examples – Civic/Ag Clubs, fire departments); Inform publics on Fire Bans, Red Flag Warning definitions; Inform publics on safe recreational fire use; Inform publics on safe controlled burn use.
  County Ordinance – The County has a fire ban process in place
  Prevention Planning – Signage in the county (Low/Medium/High fire danger, example)
  Fuel Mitigation – Consider example like fuel breaks in high fuel areas or breaking up fuel continuity.
  Consider Grants - Potential Colorado Community Forest Restoration Grants

2 – John Martin Reservoir State Park, Army Corps of Engineers, Boggsville NHRS, Bent’s Old Fort NHS, and USFS Comanche Grasslands (HHH)
Concern – High Risk, High Fuels, High Values
Mitigation -
  Education – Signage
  Rules/Restrictions & Enforcement - Internal
  Prevention Planning – Internal
  Fuel Mitigation - Internal
  Grant – Potentials for future

3 – Railroads/Travel Corridors (HHH)
Concern – High Risk, High Fuels, High Values
Mitigation -
  Education – Signage for public corridors
  Ordinances & Enforce – Colorado Department of Transportation/ BNSF Railroad/County
  Fuel Mitigation -
    CDOT – Hwy 101, 194 & 196 – mowing
    BNSF Railroad –
    County – Spraying & mowing
    Adjoining private properties
  Grants – As opportunity arises

4 – River Drainages (HHH)
Concern – High Risk, High Fuels, High Values
Mitigation -
  Education – Watershed Protection/Water Quality, reduce threat of Large High-Intensity Fires, Wildlife Habitat, preserve ecological function, restoration, maintenance, utilization of small diameter woody material (firewood, etc)
  Ordinances – County Fire Ban
  Fuel Mitigation - Site by site basis
Grants - (Colorado Community Forest Restoration Grants)

5 – Seasonal Lakes/Recreation (MHH)
Concern – Medium Risk, High Fuels, High Values
Mitigation -
   Education – Signage
   Rules/Restrictions, Ordinances & Enforce – Work with BLM/DOW/County
   Fuel Mitigation - mitigation lakes, private properties; revegetation when needed
Grants – As opportunity arises

6 – Travel Corridors (HMH & HLH)
Concern – High Risk, Medium/Low Fuels, High Values
Mitigation -
   (Same as Area 3 above)

7 – River Drainages, less public access (LHH)
Concern – Low Risk, High Fuels, High Values
Mitigation -
   Education – Watershed Protection/Water Quality, reduce threat of Large High-Intensity Fires,
   Wildlife Habitat, preserve ecological function, restoration, maintenance, utilization of
   small diameter woody material (firewood, etc)
   Ordinances – County Fire Ban
   Fuel Mitigation - Site by site basis
Grants - (Colorado Community Forest Restoration Grants)

8 – Pinyon/Juniper (cedar) Canyons (LHH, LMH)
Concern – Low Risk, High/Medium Fuels, High Values
Mitigation – Areas with two H’s are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource
opportunities arise.
   Mitigation - Areas rated with two or three Ls are of concern and should be considered when funding or
   resource opportunities arise, however they are not the highest priority

9 – High Value Agricultural Areas (LHH, LMH & LLH)
Concern – Low Risk; May be High, Medium or Low Fuels; High Values
Mitigation – Areas with two H’s are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource
opportunities arise.
   Mitigation - Areas rated with two or three Ls are of concern and should be considered when funding or
   resource opportunities arise, however they are not the highest priority

10 – Rural Areas (LHH, LMH & LLH)
Concern – Low Risk; May be High Medium or Low Fuels; High Values
Mitigation – Areas with two H’s are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource
opportunities arise.
   Mitigation - Areas rated with two or three Ls are of concern and should be considered when funding or
   resource opportunities arise, however they are not the highest priority
Appendix A:

Bent County Community Wildfire Protection Planning
Fire Protection Assessment
Bent County Community Wildfire Protection Planning  
Fire Protection Assessment*

Las Animas, Colorado  

March 22, 2010

Team:  Bent County Partners

Objectives:  Complete a fire protection assessment of Bent County, assigning High, Medium, or Low ratings on these components:

1. Risk (potential for ignition): human activity and lightening
2. Hazard (potential to burn): fuels and topography
3. Values (potential for loss): natural or developed areas where loss or destruction by wildfire would be unacceptable.
4. Fire occurrence history.

Process:  Using Bent County map as the base:

1. Risk layer: make a clear overlay outlining areas of high risk in red. Areas of high risk are those containing the most potential for a fire to start due to human activity or lightning; medium risk areas are those containing substantial potential for fire starts, but less than the high risk areas.

2. Hazard layer: make a second clear overlay marking areas of high hazard in red, medium hazard in blue, and all else is low hazard.

The following definitions of high, medium, and low hazard ratings were determined:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fuels &amp; Topography</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>Non-Irrigated Cropland</td>
<td>Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie CRP grass/PJ-Understory Grass</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fallow</td>
<td>Medium grass Prairie</td>
<td>Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prairie Sand/Sage</td>
<td>CRP grass/PJ-Understory Grass</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fence Row Tweeds</td>
<td>Weeds/tumbleweeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwellings (as fuel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences</td>
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<td>1-5 per section</td>
<td>Greater than 5 per section</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. **Value layer**: make a third clear overlay showing high value areas in red, medium value areas in blue, and all else is considered low value. High value areas are those containing the most **values whose loss to wildfire would be unacceptable**. Medium areas contain substantial values to be protected from wildfire, but fewer than the high value areas.

4. Place the 3 clear overlays showing risk, hazard, and values on top of each other and put a fourth clear overlay on top of them. Draw adjusted boundaries on the top overlay. Mark the resulting compartments with **H, M, or L (High, Medium or Low) for Risk, Hazard, or Value**. Finally, number these compartments.

5. Copy final compartment boundaries, compartment numbers, and 3-letter ratings with black marker onto county map.

6. Complete Fire Protection Assessment forms for each compartment, documenting the compartment number, its ratings, and what risks and values are present.

7. This document, along with the fire Protection Assessment forms, and the final map is the Fire Protection Assessment package. The map may be digitized to produce a GIS map.

**Uses & Examples**: The areas marked on map as H H H (high risk, high hazard, high value) become the priority areas for prevention work, pre-attack planning, suppression resource placement, funding requests, mitigation, and other resource work planning.

Further fire protection assessments within the compartments may be mapped, in finer detail, to support on-the-ground work, such as prescribed fire, training, prevention events (schools, county fair, festivals, parades, booths, etc.), public education, homestead wildfire mitigation, fuel breaks, signing, and other projects.

* The Wildfire Mitigation Assessment exercise outlines the first five steps in the eight-step Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process initiated under the National Fire Plan.
* Additionally the Society of American Foresters outline for CWPP process.
Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

Communities & Growth Areas

Area number ___1____  Rating:  Risk __H__ Hazard __H__ Value __H__

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

___ Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning)
___ Travel corridors
___ Railroads
___ Lightning
___ Electric fences
___ Power lines
_X_ Community/rural intermix
___ Off-highway vehicles
___ Recreation
___ Campgrounds
___ Water Recreation &/or fishing
___ Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter)
___ Trails
___ National Park Activities

__ Children with matches
___ Electronic sites
___ Oil/gas/mining/propane
___ Construction sites
___ Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects
_X_ Landfills
___ Agricultural burning
___ Scenic Areas
___ Fireworks
___ Party areas
___ Firewood cutting
_X_ Other High Population Centers
___ Wheat Harvest (June-July)
___ Sunflower Harvest (October)

HAZARD COMPONENT (POTENTIAL TO BURN):

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<td>Fences</td>
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</table>
VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

_X_ People/Life
_X_ Residential/commercial development
___ Wildlife habitat
___ Wilderness (designated)
___ Wild & Scenic rivers
___ Visual resources
___ Political values/Historical
___ Range/grazing
___ Scenic byways
___ Hog Farms
___ Federal/State Public Lands

___ Rare and endangered wildlife
___ Rare and endangered plants
___ Water/riparian areas
___ Watershed
___ Soils
___ Minerals
___ Cultural resources (WPA Sites)
___ Timber
___ Developed recreation
___ Dispersed recreation
___ Windbreaks, living snow fences

*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –
Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies
National Threatened and Endangered List – Least Tern, Piping Plover.
National Species of Concern – Mountain plover, Blacktailed Prairie Dog, Swift Fox, Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish).
Colorado State Threatened – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.
Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

John Martin Reservoir State Park,
Army Corps of Engineers Dam

Area number ___2___ Rating: Risk _H_ Hazard __H__ Value __H__

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

___ Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning) ___ Children with matches
___ Travel corridors ___ Electronic sites
___ Railroads ___ Oil/gas/mining/propane
___ Lightning ___ Construction sites
___ Electric fences ___ Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects
___ Power lines ___ Landfills
___ Community/rural intermix ___ Agricultural burning
___ Off-highway vehicles ___ Scenic Areas
___ Recreation ___ Fireworks
___ Campgrounds ___ Party areas
___ Water Recreation &/or fishing ___ Firewood cutting
___ Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter) ___ Other
___ Trails ___ Wheat Harvest (June-July)
_X_ State Park/Dam Activities ___ Sunflower Harvest (October)

HAZARD COMPONENT (POTENTIAL TO BURN):

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- 17 -
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*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –
Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies

National Threatened and Endangered List – Least Tern, Piping Plover.

National Species of Concern – Mountain plover, Blacktailed Prairie Dog, Swift Fox, Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish).

Colorado State Threatened – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.
Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

**Railroad/Travel Corridors**

Area number ___3____  Rating:  Risk __H___ Hazard __H___ Value __H___

**RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:**

- Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning)
- **X** Travel corridors
- **X** Railroads
- **X** Lightning
- **_** Electric fences
- **_** Power lines
- **_** Community/rural intermix
- **_** Off-highway vehicles
- **_** Recreation
- **_** Campgrounds
- **_** Water Recreation &/or fishing
- **_** Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter)
- **_** Trails
- **_** National Park Activities

- Children with matches
- Electronic sites
- Oil/gas/mining/propane
- Construction sites
- Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects
- Landfills
- Agricultural burning
- Scenic Areas
- Fireworks
- Party areas
- Firewood cutting
- Other
- Wheat Harvest (June-July)
- Sunflower Harvest (October)

**HAZARD COMPONENT (POTENTIAL TO BURN):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fuels &amp; Topography</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Dwellings (as fuel)</td>
<td>0 per section</td>
<td>1-5 per section</td>
<td>Greater than 5 per section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windbreaks, Living Snow</td>
<td>1 per section</td>
<td>1-5 per section</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fences</td>
<td>1 per section</td>
<td>1-5 per section</td>
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</table>
VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

___ People/Life
___ Residential/commercial development
___ Wildlife habitat
___ Wilderness (designated)
___ Wild & Scenic rivers
___ Visual resources
___ Political values
___ Range/grazing
___ Scenic byways
___ Hog Farms
_X_ Federal/State Public Lands
___ Rare and endangered wildlife
___ Rare and endangered plants
___ Water/riparian areas
___ Watershed
___ Soils
___ Minerals
___ Cultural resources
___ Timber
___ Developed recreation
___ Dispersed recreation
___ Windbreaks, living snow fences

*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –
Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies
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Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

River Drainages

Area number ____4____ Rating: Risk __H__ Hazard __H__ Value __H__

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<th>Not Present</th>
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<tr>
<td>Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning)</td>
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<td>Trails</td>
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<td>National Park Activities</td>
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<td>Weeds/tumbleweeds</td>
</tr>
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Dwellings (as fuel) 0 per section 1-5 per section Greater than 5 per section

Windbreaks, Living Snow 1 per section 1-5 per section Greater than 5 per section

Fences 1 per section 1-5 per section Greater than 5 per section
VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

| _X_ | People/Life | ___ | Rare and endangered wildlife |
| _X_ | Residential/commercial development | ___ | Rare and endangered plants |
| _X_ | Wildlife habitat | __ | Water/riparian areas |
| ___ | Wilderness (designated) | ___ | Watershed |
| ___ | Wild & Scenic rivers | ___ | Soils |
| ___ | Visual resources | ___ | Minerals |
| ___ | Political values | ___ | Cultural resources |
| ___ | Range/grazing | ___ | Timber |
| ___ | Scenic byways | ___ | Developed recreation |
| ___ | Hog Farms | ___ | Dispersed recreation |
| ___ | Federal/State Public Lands | ___ | Windbreaks, living snow fences |

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Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

5 – Seasonal Lakes/Recreation (MHH)
6 - Travel Corridors (HMH, HLH)
7 – River Drainages (LHH)
8 – Pinyon/Juniper Canyons (LHH)
9 - High Value Agricultural Areas
   (LHH), (LMH) & (LLH)
10 – Rural Areas (LHH), (LMH) & (LLH)

Area number _______   Rating:   Risk ____ Hazard ____ Value ____

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

__ Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning)     __ Children with matches
  ___ Travel corridors          ___ Electronic sites
  ___ Railroads                ___ Oil/gas/mining/propane
  ___ Lightning                ___ Construction sites
  ___ Electric fences          ___ Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects
  ___ Powerlines               ___ Landfills
  ___ Community/rural intermix ___ Agricultural burning
  ___ Off-highway vehicles     ___ Scenic Areas
  ___ Recreation               ___ Fireworks
  ___ Campgrounds             ___ Party areas
  ___ Water Recreation &/or fishing ___ Firewood cutting
  ___ Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter) ___ Other
  ___ Trails                  ___ Wheat Harvest (June-July)
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VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

- People/Life
- Residential/commercial development
- Wildlife habitat
- Wilderness (designated)
- Wild & Scenic rivers
- Visual resources
- Political values
- Range/grazing
- Scenic byways
- Hog Farms
- NPS, USFS, BLM
- Rare and endangered wildlife
- Rare and endangered plants
- Water/riparian areas
- Watershed
- Soils
- Minerals
- Cultural resources
- Timber
- Developed recreation
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Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

Area number __________  Rating:  Risk _____ Hazard _____ Value _____

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

___ Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning)  ___  Children with matches
___ Travel corridors  ___  Electronic sites
___ Railroads  ___  Oil/gas/mining/propane
___ Lightning  ___  Construction sites
___ Electric fences  ___  Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects
___ Powerlines  ___  Landfills
___ Community/rural intermix  ___  Agricultural burning
___ Off-highway vehicles  ___  Scenic Areas
___ Recreation  ___  Fireworks
___ Campgrounds  ___  Party areas
___ Water Recreation &/or fishing  ___  Firewood cutting
___ Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter)  ___  Other
___ Trails  ___  Wheat Harvest (June-July)
___ National Park Activities  ___  Sunflower Harvest (October)

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<td></td>
<td>Living Snow section</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>section</td>
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VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

___ People/Life ___ Rare and endangered wildlife
___ Residential/commercial development ___ Rare and endangered plants
___ Wildlife habitat ___ Water/riparian areas
___ Wilderness (designated) ___ Watershed
___ Wild & Scenic rivers ___ Soils
___ Visual resources ___ Minerals
___ Political values ___ Cultural resources
___ Range/grazing ___ Timber
___ Scenic byways ___ Developed recreation
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Appendix B:

2011 Annual Workplan
2013/14 Annual Workplan
Bent County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
2011 Annual Work plan

The purpose of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan is to provide stakeholders and those living in Bent County with an overview of the wildland fire risks, hazards and values within the planning area; recommend possible courses of action to reduce the impacts of wildfire in the planned area; and to share a current action plan.

The main goals for 2011 are to: 1) share the CWPP and Mitigation Assessment Maps with the community at large (city council, fire departments, Bent County Conservation District, Arkansas River Conservation District, and other boards); 2) Compile a list of mitigation efforts already done in the county, for future partnering and grant potentials; 3) Review the Firewise message and possibly do a mitigation assessment exercise with the fire departments; and, 4) As available, additionally share the CWPP and Mitigation Assessment Maps at local clubs/events (via club presentations, media, local events, and the County Fair).

There is no funding for this plan at this time. Potential grant applications may be considerations (For example, an IMR National Fire Plan Community Assistance Grant from the Department of Interior, National Park Service may become available for application).

To this end, the CWPP group has identified action items and completion dates for 2011. Action items are generally categorized under - A) Education and Outreach; B) Rules/Restrictions/Ordinances, and Enforcement; C) Prevention Planning; D) Fuels Mitigation; E) Grants and Administration.

A. Education and Outreach

1. Share the CWPP and Mitigation Assessment Maps with the community-at-large.
   Who - Donna Davis & Team
   What - Attend meetings to share
   Where - Las Animas, fire departments, conservation district
   When - 2nd & 3rd Quarter
   Costs - TBD

2. Santa Fe Trail Days or County Fair information booth w/pamphlets/handouts, as available.
   Who - Team (possibly with another entity)
   What - Work with existing clubs at fair to display CWPP/Firewise
   Where - Bent County Fair
   When - 3rd Quarter
   Costs - TBD

3. Media Releases
   Who - Team
   What - CWPP planning initial stages; Bent County Mitigation Assessment Map; Annual Plan.
   Where - Bent County Paper
   When - 3rd Quarter
   Costs - TBD
4. Fire Prevention Education
   Who - Fire Departments
   What - Fire Prevention Education Hasty-McClave (K-6) and Las Animas (K-4)
   Where - Local Schools
   When - Education Week
   Costs - TBD

5. Fire Ecology Educational Box
   Who - Team/Teachers
   What - Teacher Educational Material
   Where - At Lamar Division of Wildlife Office
   When - As available
   Costs - No Cost

B. Rules/Restrictions/Ordinances, and Enforcement
   1. Possible news releases during high fire danger
      Who - Team
      What - News Release(s)
      Where - Local media
      When - As conditions change

C. Prevention Planning

D. Fuels Mitigation and Revegetation
   1. Identify and compile list of mitigation projects already done.
      Who - Tom Wallace & Team
      What - Identify completed projects for future partnering and grants.
      Where - Countywide
      When - 2011
      Costs - TBD

   2. Firewise review and mitigation assessment exercise on property with each fire department.
      Who - Donna Davis & Team
      What - Review Firewise and do an on ground mitigation assessment on a property.
      Where - Fire Departments
      When - 2011
      Costs - TBD

E. Grants and Administration
   1. Identify and compile list of mitigation projects already done –
      consider application for future partners and grants.
      Who - Tom Wallace & Team
      What - Identify completed projects for future partnering and grants.
      Where - Countywide
      When - 2011
      Costs - TBD

   2. Meetings/CWPP maintenance
      Who - Team
      What - updates/developments
      Where - TBD
2. Grants
   Who  - Team
   What - Apply for grant(s) as partners and educational &/or mitigation as opportunities arise.
F. Education and Outreach

1. Continue to share the CWPP, Mitigation Assessment Maps & 2013/14 Annual Workplans, Firewise U.S.A. criteria with the community-at-large.
   - Who: Donna Davis & Team
   - What: Attend meetings to share
   - Where: County Commissioners, Chamber of Commerce, Las Animas, fire departments, conservation district
   - When: Year-round 2013/14
   - Costs: TBD

2. Santa Fe Trail Day (April) or Bent County Fair & Rodeo (July 27-August 3, 2013) information booth w/pamphlets/handouts, as available.
   Consider Highway 50 Yard Sale, Las Animas (May); Huck Finn Day, Las Animas (May); 4th of July Fireworks, Las Animas; Ag Appreciation BBQ, Las Animas (August); Boggsville Days, Las Animas (September); Big Bail of Hay Contest, McClave (September); Harvest Show, Las Animas (October); Las Animas/Bent County Community Center Craft Show, Las Animas (December).
   Consider Firewise.org bookmarks – library, county courthouse, etc.
   - Who: Team (possibly with another entity)
   - What: Work with existing clubs at fair to display CWPP/Firewise
   - Where: Various
   - When: Year-round 2013/14
   - Costs: TBD

3. Media Releases
   - Who: Team
   - What: Bent County Mitigation Assessment Maps and 2013-14 Annual Plan; Firewise messages, as needed.
   - Where: Bent County Democrat
   - When: 2013/14
   - Costs: TBD

4. Fire Prevention Education - Firewise.org educational material
   - Who: Fire Departments
   - What: Fire Prevention Education Hasty-McClave (K-6) and Las Animas (K-4)
   - Where: Local Schools
   - When: Fire Education Week
   - Costs: TBD

5. Fire Ecology Educational Box; Firewise.org educational material; Firewise Program – Engaging Youth in Reducing Wildfire Risk
   - Who: Team/Teachers
What  - Teacher Educational Material  
Where  - At Lamar Division of Wildlife Office  
When  - As available  
Costs  - No Cost

G. Rules/Restrictions/Ordinances, and Enforcement
1. Possible news releases during high fire danger
   Who  - Team  
   What  - News Release(s)  
   Where  - Local media  
   When  - As conditions change

C. Prevention Planning
D. Fuels Mitigation and Revegetation
1. Identify and compile list of mitigation projects already done – consider application of future partnerships and grants.
   Who  - Team  
   What  - Identify completed projects for future partnering and grants.  
   Where  - Countywide  
   When  - 2013/14  
   Costs  - TBD

2. Firewise review and mitigation assessment exercise on property with each fire department.
   Who  - Donna Davis & Team  
   What  - Review Firewise and do an on ground mitigation assessment on a property.  
   Where  - Fire Departments  
   When  - 2013/14  
   Costs  - TBD

H. Grants and Administration
1. Consider application for future partners and grants.
   Who  - Team  
   What  - Identify completed projects for future partnering and grants.  
   Where  - Countywide  
   When  - 2013/14  
   Costs  - TBD

2. Meetings/CWPP maintenance
   Who  - Team  
   What  - updates/developments  
   Where  - TBD  
   When  - Annually  
   Costs  - TBD

2. Grants
   Who  - Team  
   What  - Apply for grant(s) as partners and educational &/or mitigation as opportunities arise.
County mitigation project near the Highway 50 bridge (Las Animas).

Various mitigation projects in the county were suggested. They included weed mowing, highway right-a-way mowing, tamarisk removal, elm grove thinning. The Firewise message to landowners, along with individual fuel mitigation, was a need throughout the county.
Appendix C:

CWPP Bent County Maps
Legend

- Towns
- Potential for Ignition
- High Risk Potential Ignition
- Roads
- Streams
- Towns
- Lakes
- Bent County

Colorado Counties

Red Values Bent County

[Map showing the location of towns, streams, roads, and lakes in Bent County, Colorado, with red values indicating potential for ignition.]
Hazardous Fuels
Bent County

Legend
- Towns
- Potential Ignition
- Streams
- Roads
- Lakes

Colorado Counties

Towns: Hasty, Ninaview, McClave
Potential Ignition Areas
Streams
Roads
Lakes

Miles: 0 2.5 5 10 15 20

Orientation: North

Map of Bent County showing hazardous fuels, potential ignition areas, towns, streams, roads, and lakes.
Wildlife

- Roads
- Ferruginous_Hawk/Swift_Fox/Burrowing_Owl
- Great_Blue_Heron_Colony
- Piping_Plover_Least_Tern
- Mountain_Plover
- Bald_Eagle
- Massasauga_RattleSnake
- Arkanas_Red_Darter

Blacktailed Prairie Dog habitat is county wide