# Community Wildfire Protection Plan Cheyenne County Fire

March 14, 2011

(Appendix B Addition: 2013)









# Plan Approval -

The County approves the Community Wildfire Protection Plan completed March 31, 2011

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Cheyenne County Commissioners, Chairman	-Date
Betom	03-31-1(
Cheyenne County Sheriff	Date
Dayy & Sancer	03-31-11
Cheyenne County Office of Emergency Management	Date
DonnAruly-	3/31/21
La Junta District, Colorado State Forest Service	Date

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# Community Wildfire Protection Plan Cheyenne County Fire March 14, 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. (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 Cheyenne 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 Cheyenne County have participated and are a signature to the Regional Annual Wildfire Operating Plan since 2010. Other signature counties are Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers counties.

# **Participants**

Participants since the onset through direct meeting participation and/or email notifications and updates include the Cheyenne County Commissioners, the Cheyenne County Sheriff, the Cheyenne County Office of Emergency Management, and representatives from the Cheyenne County Fire Protection District (Cheyenne Wells) and the West Cheyenne County Fire Protection District (Kit Carson). Many participants also represent their communities. State partners include the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Colorado State Forest Service. The Sand Creek National Historic Site, National Park Service, although not in the county, will be updated, as they are near the south central portion of the county.

Meeting dates include – 6/17/10 Mapping assessment meeting; 9/16/10 Maps review & Firewise (Cheyenne Wells); 12/16/10 Maps review & Firewise (Kit Carson); and, 3/14/11 –CWPP draft review & 2011 Annual Plan.

# **Plan Components**

### A. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Cheyenne County's highest concern areas are the communities and all development near the communities; the Sand Creek Massacre Historic Site, near the south central border; the railroads/high-use travel corridors in the county; and the Wild Horse and Big Sandy creeks watershed and tributaries for water quality.

The communities are Cheyenne Wells (incorporated) with a population of 1010 people and 417 households (county seat), and Kit Carson (incorporated) with a population of 253 people with 164 households. Arapahoe (342 people, 136 households), and Wild Horse (68 people, 47 households) are unincorporated. The Cheyenne County population is 1906 residents. Cheyenne County is 1782 square miles.

General - The County is rural with population centers around the communities. Major state highways cross the county N-S (U.S. Highway 287, 385 & CO Highway 59) and E-W (U.S. Highway 287 & CO Highway 40). The Union Pacific/Burlington Northern Santa Fe (UP/BNSF) Railroad comes into the county on the western boundary and runs across the county east to west following Highway 40 through ALL Cheyenne County communities. Cheyenne County has multiple high pressure gas and gas by-product underground lines located throughout the jurisdiction. There are two gas production plant locations, the CIG (Colorado Interstate Gas) located South of Kit Carson on Highway 287, and the DCP (Duke Energy) Helium Plant, located West of Cheyenne Wells on Highway 40. Along with the oil and gas production there are pumping units, oil tank batteries, and heater (treater) fire units scattered around the county. These areas could pose an additional hazard/threat in a wildfire event. In the northeast/north central part of Cheyenne County the Cheyenne Ridge Wind Energy Project is developing.

The National Park Service, Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site lies in close proximity to the south central border of the county.

There are seven river drainages in the county - the Rush Creek, Big Sandy Creek, (Wild) Horse Creek, Big Spring Creek, North Fork of the Smoky Hill, and the Smokey Hill, Ladder Creek, and Big Timber Creek. Vegetation is generally sage, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grasses, short-grass prairie, and croplands dominate the majority of the county. Drainages do contain cottonwood and some tamarisk. State school land parcels are located throughout the county.

# B. Preparedness to Respond to Wildland Fire

The Cheyenne County fire protection districts and the community fire departments serve and protect 1906 residents and 1782 square miles within the county. The County utilizes a central dispatch center with Enhanced 911 services (E-911).

The Fire Departments include – Cheyenne County Fire Protection District #1(30 Volunteers) and West Cheyenne Fire Protection District (25 volunteers).

Cheyenne County has a signed mutual aid agreements with Kit Carson and Lincoln counties fire protection districts.

Cheyenne County has a signed Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection with the Colorado State Forest Service.

Cheyenne County has a signed Regional Annual Wildfire Operating Plan with Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers counties; and area federal partners including the United States Forest Service, the United States Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Colorado State Forest Service, each year since 2010.

Cheyenne Wells and Kit Carson are incorporated. These communities have central water and individual fire departments.

Cheyenne County can initiate fire bans as appropriate. Communities with in Cheyenne County participate in this process with the County. Incorporated communities have agreed to be a part of the overall county fire ban placement and rescission process.

Cheyenne 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.

Cheyenne County has a website for fire updates as appropriate (www.co.cheyenne.co.us).

### 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 Cheyenne County)

### Areas

- 1 Communities and Growth Areas (HHH)
- 2 Sand Creek Massacre Historic Site, near south central border (HHH)
- 3 Railroads/Travel corridors (HHH)
- 4 River Drainages with more public exposure Wild Horse Creek, Big Sandy (HHH)
- 5—Travel Corridors (HMH, HLH)
- 6 River Drainages, less public exposure (LHH)
- 7 High Value Agricultural/Oil and Gas Development Areas (LHH, LMH & LLH)
- 8 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 Cheyenne 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, Cheyenne County's Mapped high concern 'Red Zones' might include Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 (three HHH's). Areas 5 through 8 with two HH's are of concern; Areas 7 and 8 with 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 shelterbelts/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 shelterbelts/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, local government entities in Cheyenne 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, Cheyenne County Business Ready Planning Groups, and government entities, as appropriate.
- Providing 'General Outdoor Fire Safety' brochures 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 (Exampes Firewise, red flag warnings, fire bans, controlled burns) through public radio announcements, local Cable TV coverage, Cheyenne County web-site alerts, newspaper articles, highway signages, county fair booth participation, local event opportunities, (Fire Prevention Week, annual volunteer chili supper displays, Senior Citizen Ladies events, bazaars, 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 -

Long-term mitigation strategies (ideas) for the different areas identified in the Cheyenne 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 and 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 – Sand Creek National Historic Site, NPS (HHH)

Concern – High Risk, High Fuels, High Values Mitigation -

Education - Signage

Rules/Restrictions & Enforcement - Internal

Prevention Planning -

Developing plan for Desired Future Condition – including potentials

for grazing, mechanical treatments, prescribed burning

Fuel Mitigation - 12' Mower, gyro track for tumbleweed mulching yearly; revegetation

Suppression - 50-gallon water tank on six-wheel; water tank on north section;

DTR800 radios (Initial Attack communication)

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 287, 385, 40 & 59 – mowing

BNSF Railroad -

County – Spraying & mowing

Adjoining private properties

Grants – As opportunity arises

# 4 – River Drainages with more public exposure (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 – Travel Corridors (HMH & HLH)

Concern – High Risk, Medium/Low Fuels, High Values Mitigation -

(Same as Area 3 above)

# 6 – River Drainages, less public exposure (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)

### 7 – High Value Agricultural/Oil and Gas Development 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

# 8 – 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:**

# Cheyenne County Community Wildfire Protection Planning Fire Protection Assessment

# Cheyenne County Community Wildfire Protection Planning Fire Protection Assessment\*

# Cheyenne Wells, Colorado

June 17, 2010

**Team**: Cheyenne County Partners

<u>**Objectives**</u>: Complete a fire protection assessment of the County, assigning High, Medium, or Low ratings on these components:

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

# **Process**: Using County map as the base:

- 1. **Risk layer**: make a clear overlay outlining areas of high risk in red, medium risk in blue, everything else will be low risk. 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. <u>Hazard layer</u>: 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:

<b>Fuels</b>	&
--------------	---

<b>Topography</b>	Low	Medium	<u>High</u>
Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/NPS/Stubble/Crop Residue Weeds/tumbleweeds
<b>Dwellings</b> (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences		1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section

3. <u>Value layer</u>: 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.

<u>Uses & Examples</u>: 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.

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

<sup>\*</sup> Additionally the Society of American Foresters outline for CWPP process.

Area numbei	r	_ Ratin	g: Risk Ha	azard	Value
F	RISK COMP	ONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	NITION) PRE	SENT IN THIS AREA:
- - -		burning (Tras corridors ads	h/Pit burning)	Electron Oil/gas/ı	n with matches nic sites mining/propane/ n plant
<u>-</u>		c fences		Constru Mainten Canal	ction sites ance Projects/ Projects
	Off-hig Recrea Campg Firewo	unity/rural inte ghway vehicles		Landfill Agricul Scenic Agricul Firewor Party ar Grain Eggen Wheat H	tural burning Areas ks eas levators
-			es (near border)	Sunflowe	er Harvest (Oct)
		JMPONENI (	POTENTIAL TO BU	UKN):	
	Tuels & Copography	Low	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>	
F	ruels	Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds		PS/Stubble/Crop Residue
	Owellings as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than section	5 per
L	Vindbreaks, iving Snow Gences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than section	5 per

 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
Hog Farms	Dispersed recreation
 NPS (near south central border)	 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).

# **Communities**

ea numbe	r	1	Rating: Riskl	H HazardH_	_ ValueH
RISK C	OMP	ONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	IITION) PRESENT I	N THIS AREA:
I I	Fravel Railroa Lightn Electri Power Comm Off-hig Recrea Lamps Firework Huntin Nation	ing c fences lines unity/rural inte ghway vehicles ation grounds ood cutting ag (Seasonal Fa al Park Activiti	rmix	Children with m Electronic sites Oil/gas/mining/p helium plant Construction sit Maintenance Pro Canal Projects Landfill Agricultural bur Scenic Areas Fireworks Party areas Grain Elevators Wheat Harvest (June-July) Sunflower Harve	propane/ ses ojects/ s rning
Fuels &			<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>	
Fuels		Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood tamarisk) CRP grass/NPS/Stubl Weeds/tumbleweeds	ble/Crop Residue
Dwelling (as fuel)	_	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section	
Windbre Living S Fences		1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section	

_X_	People/Life	 Rare and endangered wildlife
_X_	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
	Hog Farms	 Dispersed recreation
	NPS (near south central border)	 Windbreaks/living snow fences
*Droi:	rio Wildlife - All High Volue	

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).

<sup>\*</sup>Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

# Sand Creek National Historic Site, NPS (near border)

number	_2	Rating: RiskI	H HazardH ValueH
RISK COMI	PONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	IITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA
	s burning (Tras l corridors ads	h/Pit burning)	<ul><li>Children with matches</li><li>Electronic sites</li><li>Oil/gas/mining/propane/</li></ul>
Lightr Electr	ning ic fences		helium plant Construction sites Maintenance Projects/ Canal Projects
	nunity/rural inte ghway vehicles		<ul><li>Landfill</li><li>Agricultural burning</li><li>Scenic Areas</li><li>Fireworks</li></ul>
Firewo	grounds ood cutting ng (Seasonal Fa	ll/Winter)	<ul><li>Party areas</li><li>Grain Elevators</li><li>Wheat Harvest</li><li>(June-July)</li></ul>
		ies (near border) POTENTIAL TO BU	Sunflower Harvest (Oct)  IRN):
Fuels & Topography		Medium	<u>High</u>
Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/NPS/Stubble/Crop Residue Weeds/tumbleweeds
Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section

_X_	People/Life		Rare and endangered wildlife
_X_	Residential/commercial development		Rare and endangered plants
_X_	Wildlife habitat		Water/riparian areas
	Wilderness (designated)	_X_	Watershed
	Wild & Scenic rivers		Soils
_X_	Visual resources		Minerals
_X_	Political values	_X_	Cultural resources
	Range/grazing		Timber
	Scenic byways	_X_	Developed recreation
	Hog Farms		Dispersed recreation
_X_	NPS (near south central border)		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).

# Railroad/Travel Corridors

Area numbe	er3	_	Rating:	Riskl	H H	azard _	_H	_ Value _	_H_
	RISK COMP	ONENTS (PO	TENTIAL	FOR IGN	NITION)	PRESE	NT IN	THIS AR	EA:
	_X_ Travel _X_ Railroa Lightn Electri Power Comm Off-hig Recrea Campg Firewo Huntin Nation	ing c fences lines unity/rural inte ghway vehicles	rmix ll/Winter) ies (near bor	der)	Elo	nildren weetronic /gas/min nelium pl onstruction intenanc Canal Pro ndfill gricultura enic Are reworks rty areas rain Elev eat Harv (June-Ju flower H	sites ing/pro lant on sites e Projects al burning as ators est ly)	pane/ cts/ ng	
	Fuels & Topography	Low	<u>Medium</u>		<u>High</u>				
	Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass Medium gr Prairie Sand Fence Row	ass Prairie d/Sage	tamari CRP gra	,	Stubble	/Crop Resi	due
	Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section		Greater section	than 5 pe	er		
	Windbreaks, Living Snow	1 per	1-5 per		Greater	than 5 pe	er		

_X_	People/Life	 Rare and endangered wildlife
_X_	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
	Hog Farms	 Dispersed recreation
	NPS (near south central border)	 Windbreaks/living snow fences

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).

<sup>\*</sup>Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

# River Drainages with more public access – Wild Horse, Big Sandy (HHH)

number	_4	Rating: Riskl	H HazardH ValueH
RISK COMP	PONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	IITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:
_X_ Travel_X_ Railro _X_ Railro Lightn Electri Power _X_ Comm Off-hi Recrea Camps Firewo Huntin Nation	ning ic fences lines nunity/rural inte ghway vehicles ation grounds bood cutting ng (Seasonal Fa nal Park Activiti	ermix ll/Winter) ies (near border)	Children with matches Electronic sites Oil/gas/mining/propane/ helium plant Construction sites Maintenance Projects/ Canal Projects Landfill Agricultural burning Scenic Areas Fireworks Party areas Grain Elevators Wheat Harvest (June-July) Sunflower Harvest (Oct)
Fuels & Topography		(POTENTIAL TO BU	High
Fuels		Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood,
Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section

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

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).

<sup>\*</sup>Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

# Travel Corridors

Area numbe	er5		Rating:	Riskl	H Ha	azard <sub>-</sub>	_M & L_	. Value :	H
:	RISK COMP	ONENTS (PO	TENTIAL	FOR IGN	NITION)	PRESE	ENT IN T	HIS ARI	E <b>A:</b>
	_X_ Travel _X_ Railron Lightn		h/Pit burninş	g)	Ele Oil. Co	ectronic /gas/mii nelium p onstructi	ning/propa lant	ane/	
	Powers X Comm Off-hig Recrea Campg Firewo	lines unity/rural inte ghway vehicles	ll/Winter)	der)	La Ag Scc Fir Par Gr Who	Canal Prondfill griculturenic Areworks areas ain Elevent Harvert (June-June-June-June-June-June-June-June-	ojects  al burning eas  s vators vest		
	HAZARD CO	OMPONENT (	(POTENTIA	AL TO BU	U <b>RN</b> ):				
	Fuels & Topography	Low	<u>Medium</u>		<u>High</u>				
]	Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass Medium gra Prairie Sand Fence Row	ass Prairie d/Sage		sk) ss/NPS/	/Stubble/C	Crop Resi	due
	Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section		Greater section	than 5 p	er		
	Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section		Greater section	than 5 p	er		

 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
 Hog Farms	 Dispersed recreation
 NPS (near south central border)	 Windbreaks/living snow fences

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).

<sup>\*</sup>Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

# River Drainages, less public exposure

Area numbe	er6		Rating: Riskl	HazardH ValueH		
1	RISK COMP	PONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	IITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:		
- - - - - - - - -	Travel Railroa Lightn Electri Power Comm Off-hig Recrea Campg Firewo	ing c fences lines nunity/rural inte ghway vehicles ation grounds ood cutting ng (Seasonal Fa	rmix	Children with matches Electronic sites Oil/gas/mining/propane/ helium plant Construction sites Maintenance Projects/ Canal Projects Landfill Agricultural burning Scenic Areas Fireworks Party areas Grain Elevators Wheat Harvest (June-July) Sunflower Harvest (Oct)		
1	HAZARD CC Fuels & <u>Fopography</u>		POTENTIAL TO BU  Medium	High		
	Fuels		Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage	Riparian (cottonwood,		
	Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section		
]	Windbreaks, Living Snow	1 per	1-5 per	Greater than 5 per		

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

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).

<sup>\*</sup>Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

# High Value Agricultural/Oil and Gas Development Areas

Area numbe	er7	-	Rating: Riskl	L HazardL_ ValueH		
	RISK COMP	ONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	IITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:		
Debris Travel Railroa Lightni Electric Powerl Commu Off-hig Recreat Campg Firewood Hunting Nationa		ing c fences lines lunity/rural inte ghway vehicles ation grounds lood cutting ag (Seasonal Fail	rmix	Children with matches Electronic sites Oil/gas/mining/propane/ helium plant Construction sites Maintenance Projects/ Canal Projects Landfill Agricultural burning Scenic Areas Fireworks Party areas Grain Elevators Wheat Harvest (June-July) Sunflower Harvest (Oct)		
	Fuels & Topography	Low	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>		
	Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/NPS/Stubble/Crop Residue Weeds/tumbleweeds		
	Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section		
	Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section		

 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
 Hog Farms	 Dispersed recreation
 NPS (near south central border)	 Windbreaks/living snow fences

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).

<sup>\*</sup>Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

# Rural Areas

Area numbe	r8	-	Rating: Risk	L Hazard _H, M & L_ ValueI	Η
F	RISK COMP	ONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	VITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:	
- - - - - - - -	Travel Railroa Lightn Electri Powerl Comm Off-hig Recrea Campg Firewo	ing c fences lines unity/rural inte ghway vehicles ution grounds ood cutting	rmix	Children with matches Electronic sites Oil/gas/mining/propane/ helium plant Construction sites Maintenance Projects/ Canal Projects Landfill Agricultural burning Scenic Areas Fireworks Party areas Grain Elevators	
_		g (Seasonal Fa al Park Activiti	ies (near border)	Wheat Harvest (June-July) Sunflower Harvest (Oct)	
I	HAZARD CO	OMPONENT (	POTENTIAL TO BU	URN):	
	Fuels & Fopography	Low	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>	
F	Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/NPS/Stubble/Crop Residue Weeds/tumbleweeds	
	Owellings as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section	
L	Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section	

 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
Hog Farms	Dispersed recreation
 NPS (near south central border)	 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).

# **Appendix B:**

2011 Annual Workplan 2013/14 Annual Workplan

# Cheyenne 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 Cheyenne 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 councils, fire departments, 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 & TeamWhat - Attend meetings to share

Where - City Councils, fire departments, conservation district

When  $-2^{\text{nd}} & 3^{\text{rd}}$  Quarter

Costs - TBD

2. Cheyenne County Fair &/or Tumbleweed Festival 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 - Cheyenne County Fair

When - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Costs - TBD

### 3. Media Releases

Who - Team

What - CWPP planning initial stages; Cheyenne County Mitigation Assessment Map;

Annual Plan.

Where - Cheyenne County Paper

When - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

### Costs - TBD

### 4. Fire Prevention Education

Who - Fire Departments

What - Fire Prevention Education

Where - Local Schools
When - Education Week

Costs - TBD

# 5. Fire Ecology Educational Box

Who - Team/Teachers

What - Teacher Educational Material

Where - Educational Box 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 - 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 - 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

When - AWOP Mtg update; mid-year

Costs - TBD

# 2. Grants

Who - Team

What - Apply for grant(s) as partners and educational &/or mitigation as opportunities arise.

# Cheyenne County Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2013-14Annual Work plan

### A. 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 & TeamWhat - Attend meetings to share

Where - County Commissioners, Chamber of Commerce, City Councils,

fire departments, conservation district

When - Year-round 2013/14

Costs - TBD

2. Cheyenne County Fair (July 30-August 3, 2013 & 1<sup>st</sup> Week August 2014) &/or Tumbleweed Festival (3<sup>rd</sup> week July) information booth w/pamphlets/handouts, as available.

Who - Team (possibly with another entity)

What - Work with existing clubs at fair to display Firewise.org banner

Where - Cheyenne County Fair

When - 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Costs - TBD

Consider Firewise.org bookmarks – library, county courthouse, etc.

3. Media Releases

Who - Team

What - Cheyenne County Mitigation Assessment Maps and 2013/14 Annual

Plan; Firewise messages, as needed.

Where - Range Ledger When - 2013/14

Costs - TBD

4. Fire Prevention Education – Firewise.org educational material

Who - Fire Departments

What - Fire Prevention Education

Where - Local Schools
When - 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 - Educational Box 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 - 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 Costs - TBD

### E.Grants and Administration

1. Identify and compile list of mitigation projects already done – 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

3. Grants

Who - Team

What - Apply for grant(s) as partners and educational &/or mitigation as opportunities arise.

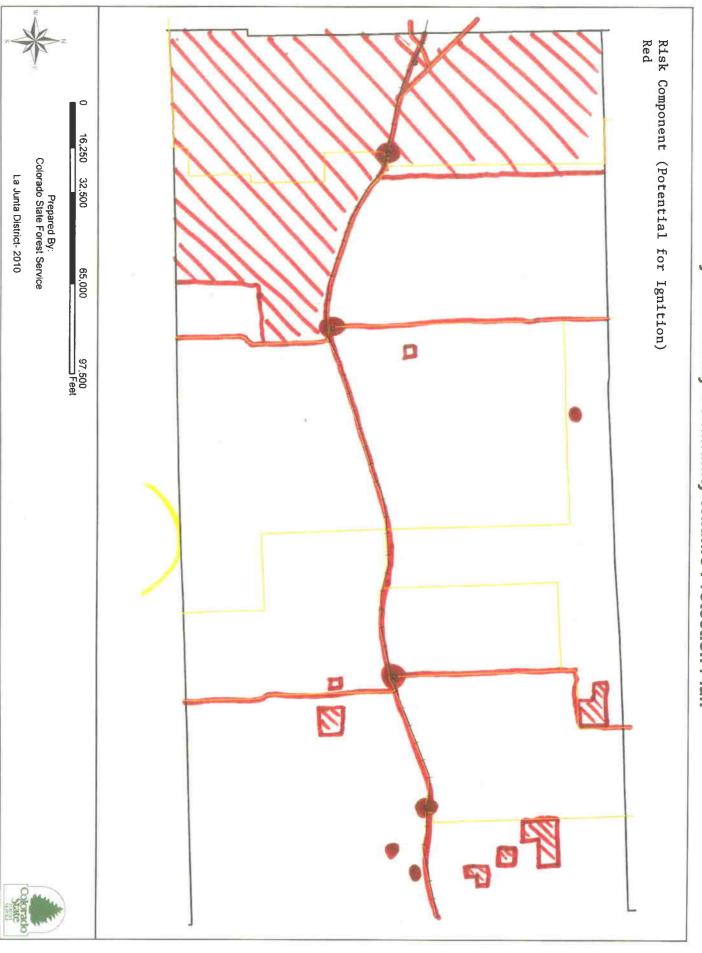
Communities do various mitigation projects – Mow city railroad right-a-ways, Spring Cleanup Day - Free landfill; Fall cleanup, for example. Some emergency grazing on CRP has been done. Firewise messages in the newspapers has occurred.

Various mitigation projects in the county were suggested. They included – draws around town (cave sides so vehicles can get across), bailers are always a potential concern, weed mowing in various locations, highway right-a-ways. Landowners implementing Firewise mitigation continues to be a need throughout the county.

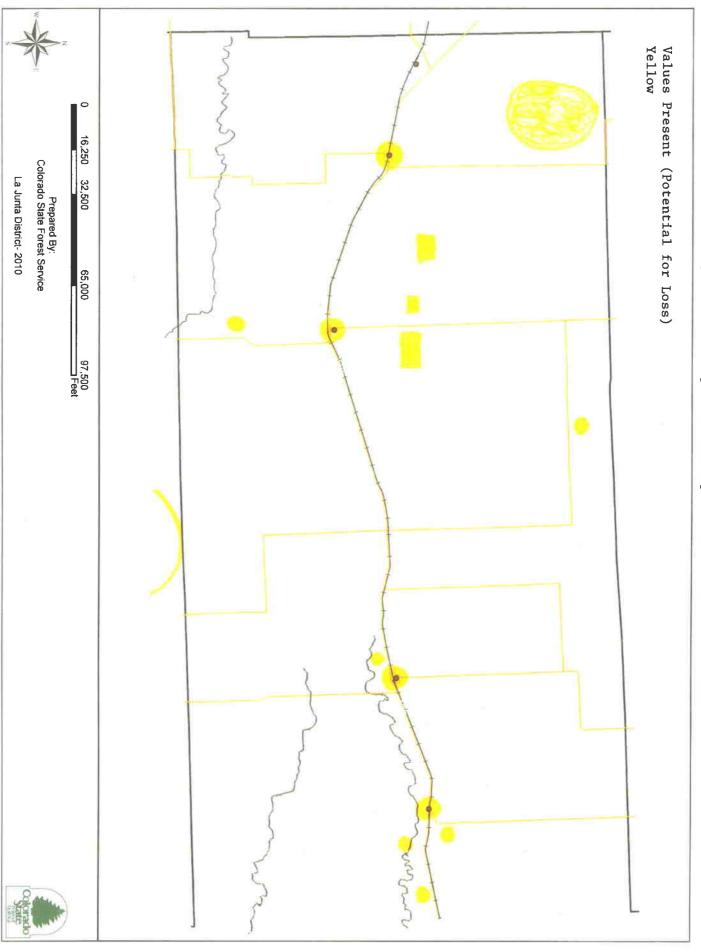
# **Appendix C:**

**CWPP Cheyenne County Maps** 

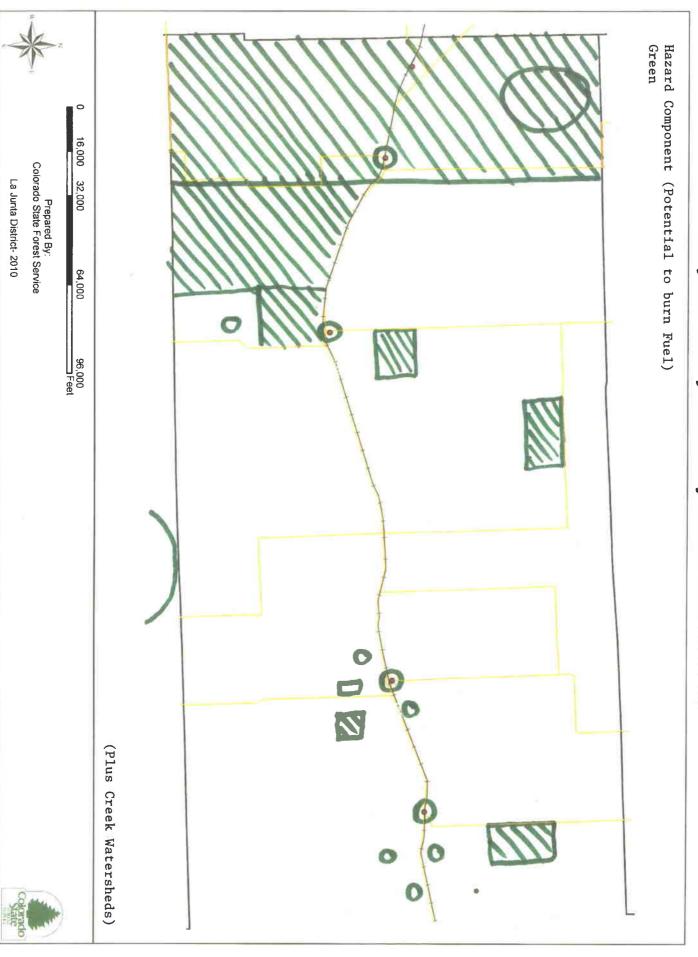
# Cheyenne County Community Wildfire Protection Plan



# **Cheyenne County Community Wildfire Protection Plan**



# **Cheyenne County Community Wildfire Protection Plan**



# Cheyenne County - High Value Wildlife Areas

