# Community Wildfire Protection Plan Prowers County

**January 26, 2011** 

(Appendix B Addition: 2013)









## Plan Approval -

Henry Schnabel	2-24-2011
Prowers County Commissioners, Chairman	Date
June Julel	2-24-11
Prowers County Sheriff	Date
Staklon Warn	2-2-4-11
Prowers County Office of Emergency Management	Date
Donnations	2/24/11
La Junta District, Colorado State Forest Service	Date

The County approves the Community Wildfire Protection Plan completed January 26, 2011.

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## Community Wildfire Protection Plan Prowers County

## **January 26, 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 Prowers 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 Prowers County have participated in the 'Regional' Annual Wildfire Operating Plan since 2010. Regional counties in this plan include Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers.

## **Participants**

Participants since the onset through direct meeting participation and/or email notifications and updates include the Prowers County Commissioners, the Prowers County Sheriff, the Prowers County Office of Emergency Management, and representatives from Prowers County Rural Fire Department (includes Bristol), Wiley Fire Protection District, Holly Fire Protection District (includes Hartman), Granada Fire Department, Lamar Fire Department, and Prowers County Land Use. These same individuals also represent their communities. Federal and state partners include the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Colorado State Forest Service. The Bureau of Land Management is also being notified of CWPP development in the County.

(Participants include Staffon Warn, Marshall Cook, Ricky Silva, Jim Farmer, Kyle Neil, Jim Faull, Joe Marble, Henry Schnabel, Jan White Fisher, Donna Davis, and Mike Smith with CDOW. Recent dates include – 8/26/10 Mapping assessment meeting; 10/20/10 Maps review & Firewise; 1/6/11 –CWPP draft review & 2011 Annual Plan.)

## **Plan Components**

## A. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Prowers County's highest concern areas are the communities and all development near the communities; the recreational areas; the railroad/high-use travel corridors in the county (See map); and the Arkansas River watershed for water quality.

The communities are Granada (incorporated) population 640; Hartman (incorporated) population 111; Holly (incorporated) population 1048, Wiley (incorporated) 483, Bristol (un-incorporated), Lamar 8,869 and the county seat.

The Prowers County population is 14,483. Prowers County is 1640 square miles (1,049,600 acres).

General - The County is rural with population centers around the communities. The Amache National Historic Register Site, within the National Park Service System, is located near Granada. Major state highways cross the county N-S (U.S. Highway 287/385; Highways 385 and 89) and E-W (U.S. Highway 50 and Highway 196). The Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad also comes into the county in the East/West center of the county. The Arkansas River watershed flows through the center of the county from the West to the East with various drainages and tributaries feeding it. Creek drainages that flow into the Arkansas are the Dry Creek, Willow Creek, Clay Creek, Wolf Creek, Big Sandy Creek, Buffalo Creek, Wild Horse Creek, Granada Creek, Plum Creek, Two Buttes Creek, and North and Little Bear Creeks. There are two major recreational areas – Two Buttes State Wildlife Area and Higbee State Wildlife Area. Willow Creek is also abating several ownerships through Lamar and county and is a high use dispersed recreational area. Vegetation is generally sage, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grasses, short-grass prairie, croplands and some Canyons and Pinon Juniper in the Southwest Corner 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

Prowers County and community fire departments serve and protect 14,483 residents and 1,640 square miles within the county. The County utilizes a central dispatch center with Enhanced 911 services (E-911).

The Fire Departments include – Prowers County Rural Fire Department (30 Volunteers shared with Lamar Fire), Lamar Fire Department (7 Paid, 30 Volunteers shared with Prowers County Rural), Wiley Fire Protection District (13 Volunteers), Bristol/Granada Fire Department (6 Volunteers), Hartman Fire Department (3 Volunteers), and the Holly Fire Protection District (20 Volunteers).

Additionally, the Colorado State Forest Service Type 4 Engine is housed at the Wiley Fire Department.

Prowers County has a signed mutual aid agreement with all Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers county fire departments and rural fire protection districts.

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

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

Lamar, Wiley, Granada, Bristol and Holly have water supply systems for fire suppression. Within the unincorporated area of Prowers County rural water supplies have been established ranging in quantities of 5,000 to 10,000 gallons with fire hydrants. Some static water areas have been identified such as ponds and lakes but none have installed dry hydrants. The City of Lamar has adopted current fire codes, including open and controlled burning references. Prowers County has established a resolution on open burning and procedures in place for controlled burning. Refer to the Regional AWOP along with approved burning periods and permit processes specific to each county.

Prowers 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.

Prowers 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.

Prowers County has a website for fire updates as appropriate (www.prowerscounty.net.)

## 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 Prowers County)

#### Areas

- 1 Communities & Growth Areas (HHH)
- 2 Amache National Historic Register Site (HHH)
- 3 Railroads/Travel Corridors (HHH)
- 4 Arkansas River and drainages, Higbee State Wildlife Area (HHH)
- 5 Seasonal Lakes/Recreation (Thurston Lake, Two Buttes (MHH)
- 6 Travel Corridors (HMH, HLH)
- 7 River Drainages (LHH)
- 8 Pinyon/Juniper (Cedars) Canyons (LHH)
- 9 High Value Agricultural Areas, Pivot Irrigation Systems, Feedlots (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 Prowers 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, Prowers 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); Canyons/Cliffs/Creeks; 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; stubble. 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 Prowers 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, Prowers County web-site alerts, newspaper articles, highway signages, county fair booth participation, local event opportunities (examples Lamar Days, Holly event), (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 -

Long-term mitigation strategies (ideas) for the different areas identified in the Prowers 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.

Efforts already in place are included –

#### 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). Improved larger county road signage. Mapping fuels concern areas in each community. Investigate fuel concerns around strategic values in the county (examples – Wind generators, AC/DC power switches/large infrastructure electrical locations, Amache National Historic Register Site, gas wells, grouping of homes not necessarily a community).

Fuel Mitigation – Consider example like fuel breaks in high fuel areas or breaking up continuity of fuels or vertical fuels.

Consider Grants - Potential Colorado Community Forest Restoration Grants

### 2 – Amache National Historic Register Site (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; Improved larger county road signage. 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 – Arkansas River and drainages, Higbee State Wildlife Area (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 (Thurston Lake, Two Buttes) (MHH)

Concern – Medium Risk, High Fuels, High Values

Mitigation -

Education – Signage

Rules/Restrictions, Ordinances & Enforce – Work with 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 (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 (Cedars) 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:

## Prowers County Community Wildfire Protection Planning Fire Protection Assessment

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

Lamar, Colorado

## **August 26, 2010**

**Team**: Prowers County Partners

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

- 1. <u>Risk (potential for ignition)</u>: human activity and lightening
- 2. <u>Hazard (potential to burn)</u>: 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 Prowers 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 <u>hazard ratings</u> were determined:

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/PJ-Understory Grass Weeds/tumbleweeds
<b>Dwellings</b> (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	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.

# Fire Protection Assessment For Prowers County, Colorado

# Communities & Growth Areas

Area numbe	er1	Ratin	g: RiskH l	HazardH ValueH_	
	RISK COMP	PONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	ITION) PRESENT IN THIS AF	REA:
		burning (Trass corridors	n/Pit burning)	Children with matches Electronic sites (Substations, Radio Cell Phone Towers)	
	Railro	ing c fences		Oil/gas/mining/propane Construction sites MaintenanceProjects/ Canal Projects Landfills	
	Off-hi Recrea Campa Water	nunity/rural integhway vehicles ation grounds Recreation &/ong (Seasonal Fair	r fishing	Agricultural burning Scenic Areas Fireworks Party areas Firewood cutting X Other High Population Cen Wheat Harvest	nters
Sunflo Grain		wer Harvest (Oo Elevators w Creek Corrido	,	(June-July) Wind Generators Power Generation Coal Manufacturing/Industrial areas/parks	
	HAZARD CO	OMPONENT (	POTENTIAL TO BU	JRN):	
	Fuels & Topography	Low	Medium	<u>High</u>	
	Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds Stubble	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/NPS Weeds/tumbleweeds Canyons/Cliffs/Creeks	
	Dwellings (as fuel) Windbreaks,	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section	
	Living Snow	1 per	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				
Wildlife habitat	Water/riparian areas				
Wilderness (designated)	Watershed				
Wild & Scenic rivers	Soils				
Visual resources	Minerals				
Political values/Historical	Cultural resources				
Range/grazing	Timber				
Scenic byways	Developed recreation				
Hog Farms	Dispersed recreation				
Wild & Scenic rivers Visual resources Political values/Historical Range/grazing Scenic byways Hog Farms Federal/State Public Lands	Windbreaks, living snow fences				
*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –					
Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation st	rategies				
National Threatened and Endangered List –	Least Tern, Piping Plover.				
National Species of Concern – Mountain plo	over, Blacktailed Prairie Dog, Swift Fox,				
Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish).					
<u>Colorado State Threatened</u> – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.					

# Fire Protection Assessment For Prowers County, Colorado

# Amache National Historic Register Site (HHH)

Area numbe	r2	Ratin	g: RiskH I	HazardH	Value	_H
1	RISK COMP	PONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	NITION) PRE	ESENT IN THI	S AREA
-		burning (Tras corridors	h/Pit burning)	Electron (Subs	en with matches nic sites stations, Radio Phone Towers)	
- - -	Power	ing c fences	rmix	Oil/gas/ Constru Mainten Canal Pro Landfil	/mining/propanduction sites nanceProjects/	
- - - - - -	Off-hi Recrea Campa Water	ghway vehicles	or fishing	Scenic Firewood Party and Firewood Other Firewood Wheat H	Areas rks reas od cutting High Population larvest	Centers
Sunflower Grain Elev		ower Harvest (C Elevators w Creek Corrido			(June-July) Wind Generators Power Generation Coal Manufacturing/Industrial areas/parks	
]	HAZARD CO	OMPONENT (	POTENTIAL TO BU	U <b>RN</b> ):		
	Fuels & <u>Fopography</u>	Low	Medium	<u>High</u>		
]	Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds Stubble	Riparian (cot tamarisk) CRP grass/N Weeds/tumbl Canyons/Clif	PS leweeds	
(	Dwellings (as fuel) Windbreaks,	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than section		
	Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than section	5 per	

## VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

People/Life Residential/commercial develops Wildlife habitat	ment	Rare and endangered wildlife Rare and endangered plants Water/riparian areas			
Wilderness (designated) Wild & Scenic rivers	_	Watershed Soils			
Visual resources X Political values/Historical	$\frac{-}{\mathbf{x}}$	Minerals Cultural resources			
Range/grazing	_^	Timber			
<ul><li>Scenic byways</li><li>Hog Farms</li><li>Federal/State Public Lands</li></ul>	_	Developed recreation Dispersed recreation Windbreaks, living snow fences			
*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –		windoreaks, fiving show lences			
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,  Formulia and Harris Magazana Posttlemetre, Arlsman Dog, Swift Fox,					
Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish). Colorado State Threatened – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.					

# Fire Protection Assessment For Prowers County, Colorado

# Railroads/Travel Corridors (HHH)

Area number	3	Ratin	g: RiskH l	Hazard	H	Value _	_H
Ri	ISK COMP	ONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	NITION) PR	RESEN	T IN THI	S AREA:
_>		burning (Trass corridors	h/Pit burning)	— (Sul	ronic si bstatio		
_> 	_	ing c fences		Oil/ga Const Mainte Canal P	as/mini truction enance Projects	ng/propan n sites Projects/	
	Off-hi Recrea Campa Water	unity/rural inte ghway vehicles	r fishing		cultural c Areas vorks areas vood cu High P t Harve	s atting Population est	Centers
	Sunfloy Grain	wer Harvest (Oo Elevators v Creek Corrido	,	Wind Power Manual	r Gener	ntors ration Coal ng/Industri	
н	AZARD CO	OMPONENT (	POTENTIAL TO BU	URN):			
	iels & opography	Low	Medium	<u>High</u>			
Fu	iels	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds Stubble	Riparian (contamarisk) CRP grass/ Weeds/tum Canyons/Ca	NPS	eds	
(as	wellings s fuel) indbreaks,	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater that section			
	ving Snow	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater that section	n 5 per		

## 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/Historic	Cultural resources					
Range/grazing	Timber					
Scenic byways	Developed recreation					
Hog Farms	Dispersed recreation					
_X_ Federal/State Public Lands	Windbreaks, living snow fences					
*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –						
Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies	S					
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).						
<u>Colorado State Threatened</u> – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.						

# Fire Protection Assessment For Prowers County, Colorado

# Arkansas River and Drainages, Higbee State Wildlife Area (HHH)

Area numbe	r4	Ratin	g: RiskH l	HazardH ValueH	
]	RISK COMP	ONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IGN	IITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:	
-		burning (Trass corridors	h/Pit burning)	Children with matches Electronic sites (Substations, Radio Cell Phone Towers)	
- - -	X Railroa Lightn Electri			<ul><li>Oil/gas/mining/propane</li><li>Construction sites</li><li>MaintenanceProjects/</li></ul>	
Powerlines  _X_ Community/rural in Off-highway vehicly Recreation  Campgrounds  Water Recreation & Hunting (Seasonal Trails			r fishing	Canal Projects Landfills Agricultural burning Scenic Areas Fireworks Party areas Firewood cutting _X_ Other High Population Center Wheat Harvest	
Sunfloy Grain		Amache National Historic Site wer Harvest (October) Elevators w Creek Corridor		(June-July) Wind Generators Power Generation Coal Manufacturing/Industrial areas/parks	
]	HAZARD CO	OMPONENT (	POTENTIAL TO BU	JRN):	
	Fuels & <u>Fopography</u>	Low	Medium	<u>High</u>	
1	Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds Stubble	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/NPS Weeds/tumbleweeds Canyons/Cliffs/Creeks	
(	Dwellings (as fuel) Windbreaks,	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section	
	Living Snow 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	X	Water/riparian areas	
	Wilderness (designated)	_X_	Watershed	
	Wild & Scenic rivers		Soils	
	Visual resources		Minerals	
	Political values/Historical		Cultural resources	
	Range/grazing		Timber	
	Scenic byways		Developed recreation	
	Hog Farms		Dispersed recreation	
	Federal/State Public Lands		Windbreaks, living snow fences	
*Prair	rie Wildlife – All High Value –			
Asses	s with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies	5		
Nation	<u>nal Threatened and Endangered List</u> – Least T	ern, P	iping Plover.	
National Species of Concern – Mountain plover, Blacktailed Prairie Dog, Swift Fox,				
Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish).				
<u>Colorado State Threatened</u> – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.				

## Fire Protection Assessment For Prowers 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, Pivot Irrigation Systems, Feedlots (LHH), (LMH) & (LLH) 10 - Rural Areas (LHH), (LMH) & (LLH)

Rating: Risk \_\_\_\_ Hazard \_\_\_ Value \_\_\_\_ Area number \_\_\_\_ RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA: Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning) X Children with matches  $\overline{\mathbf{X}}$ Travel corridors Electronic sites (Substations, Radio Cell Phone Towers) Oil/gas/mining/propane Railroads Lightning Construction sites Electric fences MaintenanceProjects/ **Canal Projects** Powerlines Landfills X Agricultural burning Community/rural intermix \_\_\_ Scenic Areas Off-highway vehicles \_\_ Fireworks Recreation \_\_\_\_ Party areas Campgrounds \_\_\_ Firewood cutting Water Recreation &/or fishing Other High Population Centers Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter) \_\_\_\_ Wheat Harvest **Trails** (June-July) \_\_\_ Wind Generators Camp Amache National Historic Site \_\_\_\_ Power Generation Coal Sunflower Harvest (October) \_\_\_ Manufacturing/Industrial **Grain Elevators** Willow Creek Corridor areas/parks Feedlot

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

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

## VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

	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/Historical		Cultural resources
$\overline{X}$	Range/grazing		Timber
	Scenic byways		Developed recreation
_X_	Hog Farms		Dispersed recreation
	Federal/State Public Land	$\overline{\mathbf{X}}$	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).

<u>Colorado State Threatened</u> – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.

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

# Fire Protection Assessment For Prowers County, Colorado

Area numbe	er	Ratin	g: Risk F	lazard	Value
	RISK COMP	PONENTS (PO	TENTIAL FOR IG	NITION) P	RESENT IN THIS AREA
		burning (Tras corridors	h/Pit burning)	Elec (St	dren with matches tronic sites ubstations, Radio
		ing ic fences		Oil/g Cons Main Canal	ell Phone Towers) gas/mining/propane struction sites tenanceProjects/ Projects
	Off-hi Recrea Campa Water	nunity/rural inte ghway vehicles	or fishing	Scen Firev Party Firev Othe	cultural burning iic Areas works
	Sunfloy Grain	wer Harvest (Oo Elevators w Creek Corrido	,	Wind Powe Manu	Generators r Generation Coal facturing/Industrial eas/parks
	HAZARD CO	OMPONENT (	POTENTIAL TO E	BURN):	
	Fuels & Topography	Low	Medium	<u>High</u>	
	Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairi Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds Stubble	ie tamarisk CRP grass Weeds/tur	,
	Dwellings (as fuel) Windbreaks,	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater th section	
	Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater th section	an 5 per

## VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

I	People/Life		Rare and endangered wildlife		
I	Residential/commercial development		Rare and endangered plants		
	Wildlife habitat		Water/riparian areas		
	Wilderness (designated)		Watershed		
	Wild & Scenic rivers		Soils		
	Visual resources		Minerals		
	Political values/Historical		Cultural resources		
I	Range/grazing		Timber		
	Scenic byways		Developed recreation		
I	Hog Farms		Dispersed recreation		
I	Federal/State Public Lands		Windbreaks, living snow fences		
*Prairi	e Wildlife – All High Value –				
Assess	with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies	S			
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).					
Colora	<u>Colorado State Threatened</u> – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.				

# **Appendix B:**

# 2011 Annual Workplan 2013/14 Workplan

## Prowers 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 Prowers 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, County Conservation Districts, the RC&D, and other boards); also through these contacts identify mitigation efforts already done in the county, for future partnering and grant potentials; 2) Map fuels concern areas in each community and/or high interest area; 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 city events (examples could include - Lamar Days in May, Holly event in September, and the County Fair the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August).

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 - Communities, fire departments, conservation districts

When - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (minimum three this year)

Costs - TBD

2. Lamar Days, Holly Day &/or County Fair information booth w/pamphlets/handouts, as available.

Who - Team (possibly with another entity)

What - Work with existing clubs at events/fair to display CWPP/Firewise

Where - Bent County Fair

When - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (minimum one)

Costs - TBD

#### 3. Media Releases

Who - Team

What - CWPP & Prowers County Mitigation Assessment Maps; Annual Plan.

Where - Lamar newspaper

When - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (minimum two)

Costs - TBD

#### B. Ordinances/Rules/Restrictions & Enforce

1. Possible news releases during high fire danger

Who - Team

What - News Release(s)
Where - Local media

When - As conditions change

## C. Mitigation and Revegetation (as applicable)

1. Map fuels concern areas in each community and/or high interest area

Who - Fire Chiefs Lead & Team

What - More detailed map exercise of fuels/values in the community interface/intermix

Where - Each interested community/ growth area in the county

When - 2011

2. Identify and compile list of mitigation projects already done.

Who - Donna Davis & Team

What - Identify completed projects for future partnering and grants as we share the CWPP.

Where - Countywide

When - 2011

3. 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 that are interested.

When - 2011 Costs - TBD

#### D. Grants and Administration

1. Identify and compile list of mitigation projects already done – consider application for future partners and grants.

Who - Donna Davis & 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 - Twice - AWOP Mtg update; mid-year

Costs - TBD

3. Grants

Who - Team

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

Costs - TBD

## Prowers County Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2013-14 Annual 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 & Team
What - Attend meetings to share

Where - County Commissioners, Chamber of Commerce, Communities, fire departments, conservation districts

When - Year-round 2013/14

Costs - TBD

2. Holly Gateway Fair (September 26-29) &/or Sand & Sage Round-Up (August 3-11, 2013), Lamar Days (May), Holly Days Bluegrass Festival (June), Wiley Hay Days (June) information booth w/pamphlets/handouts, as available.

Consider Wiley Lions Club Soup & Pie Supper, Wiley (February); Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Banquet, Lamar (February); Granada Pride Committee Pancake Supper (February); Annual High Plains Snow Goose Festival, Lamar (February); The Gun Show, Lamar (March); Demolition Derby, Lamar (April); Cinco de Mayo, Lamar (May); Onion Festival, Granada (July); 4<sup>th</sup> of July Events; Annual Dove Hunt, Lamar (August); Oktoberfest, Lamar (October); Two Shot Goose Hunt, Lamar (November); Hunter's Breakfast, Granada (November; Farm/City Banquet, Lamar (November).

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

Who - Team (possibly with another entity)

What - Work with existing clubs at events/fair to display CWPP/Firewise

Where - Various

When - Year-round 2013/14

Costs - TBD

#### 3. Media Releases

Who - Team

What - Prowers County Mitigation Assessment Maps and 2013/14 Annual Plan;

Firewise messages, as needed.

Where - Lamar Ledger, Holly Shopper newspapers

When - 2013/14 Costs - TBD

4. Fire Prevention Education - Firewise.org educational material

Who - Fire Departments

What - Fire Prevention Education

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 - Donna Davis & Team/TeachersWhat - Teacher Educational Material

Where - At Lamar Division of Wildlife Office

When - As available Costs - No Cost

#### B. Ordinances/Rules/Restrictions & Enforce

1. Possible news releases during high fire danger

Who - Team

What - News Release(s)
Where - Local media

When - As conditions change

#### C. Fuels Mitigation and Revegetation (as applicable)

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

Who - Donna Davis & Team

What - Identify completed projects for future partnering and grants as we share

the CWPP.

Where - Countywide When - 2013/14

2. Firewise review and mitigation assessment exercise on property with each interested fire department.

Who - Donna Davis & Team

What - Review Firewise and do an on ground mitigation assessment on a

property.

Where - Fire Departments that are interested.

When - 2013/14 Costs - TBD

#### D. Grants and Administration

1. Current partnership and grant application.

Who - Staffon Warn & Team

What - Identify 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.

Costs - TBD

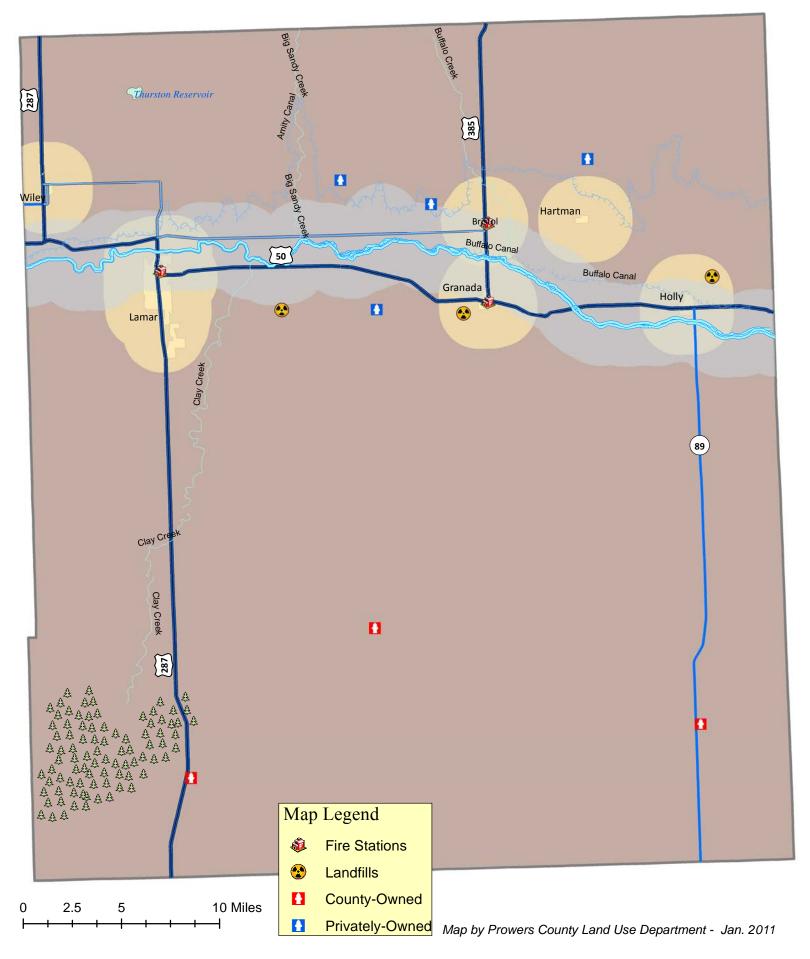
Communities do mitigation projects – mowing is an example.

Various mitigation projects in the county were suggested. They included - weed mowing in various locations, elm groove thinning, railroad right-a-ways, highway right-a-ways, tamarisk removal. The Firewise message to landowners, along with individual fuel mitigation, was a need throughout the county.

## **Appendix C:**

## **CWPP Prowers County Maps**

# FUEL SOURCES

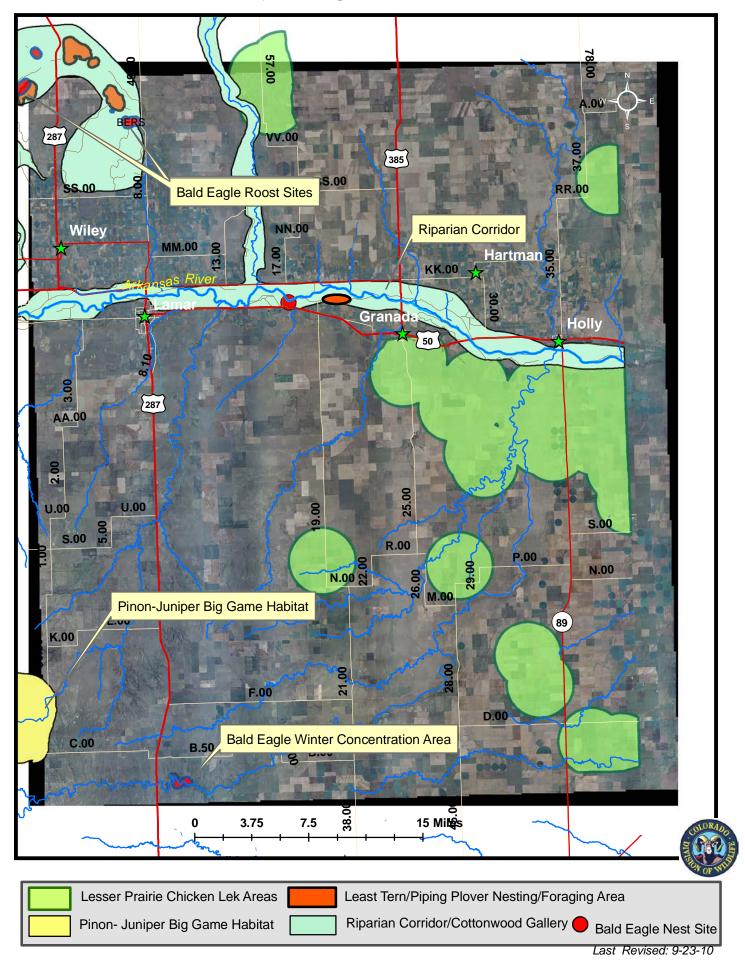




# Ignition Sources



# Prowers County - High Value Wildlife Areas



# W E

# **Values**

