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I. Executive Summary

A. Sponsorship
This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is sponsored by the Valley Park Home Owners Association (VPHOA) for the safety of life and protection of property in the Valley. It was immediately apparent that the fate of Valley Park is tightly tied to its adjacent neighbors. Hidden Valley and the Metes / Bounds subdivisions to the north are regularly combined and referred to as Hidden Valley, and the large private parcel adjacent to the southwest. This CWPP covers all four areas and will refer to all of them as the Community. Additionally, this plan will be referred to as the Valley Park CWPP (VPCWPP). Development of this CWPP focused primarily on wildfire hazard identification, fuel mitigation and emergency response. Wherever possible, other values such as wildlife habitat enhancement, forest health restoration, improved aesthetics and increased property values are considered.

B. Community Background
The Community is no stranger to wildfires and the need for wildfire prevention and protection. The media coverage of Cherokee Fire (2003, 1,200 acres), the Buffalo Creek Fire (1996, 11,000 acres), Hi Meadow Fire (2000, 12,000 acre) and the Hayman Fires (2002, 138,000 acres) emphasized the fact that wildfires “can happen here!”. While the area has escaped all major wildfires in the past decade, the Hayman Fire came within five miles of the community. As windblown embers fell within the Community, the fire’s Incident Command evacuated the Community for the safety of its residents and consequently the Hayman Fire has left a lasting impressing on the residents.

C. Valley Park Home Owners Association
The VPHOA is an organization whose membership is voluntary and consists of Community citizens concerned with improving the subdivision. Its membership represents approximately 40% of the Valley Park property owners. The annual revenue from dues is $800-$1,000. The VPHOA has recognized the need to mitigate property in the Community for a number of years and has regularly included firewise and mitigation presentations at its meetings sponsored training sessions. These efforts have resulted in most owners performing some level of mitigation on their property. However, no properties in the Community are considered fully mitigated. In early 2010, the VPHOA recognized the importance of taking additional action and developing a program to address the wildfire risk to the Community. It began by forming the Firewise Committee to develop a CWPP. The CWPP is intended to generate additional focus on the need of owners to mitigate their property and provide them guidance and priorities.

II. Plan Initiation

A. Core Team
The Core team consisting of the Community Firewise Committee, and participation from a broad stakeholder group including Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), Larkspur Fire Protection District
(LFPD), USDA Forest Service (USFS), Douglas County Public Works Department (DCPW), Douglas County Park and Open Space (DCOS), Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation staff and Douglas County Office of Emergency Management (DCOEM) had its first kick off meeting in March 2010. This was followed with numerous meetings of this Core team, focus groups, and Community meetings.

B. Outside Threats
The Community has significant areas outside of their boundaries that could pose a potential wildfire threat to the Community. These areas are termed in total as the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). They are bounded by Pike National Forest (Pikes Peak Ranger District) to the West, Sandstone Ranch to the North and DC Road 105 (Perry Park Road) to the East and primarily the Woodmor Mountain Community to the South.

C. Community Work Areas
With this CWPP, care was taken to propose mitigation within the Community for fuel treatments to lower the risk of spreading wildfire internally and to protect residents from potential wildfire intrusion from the various risk sections of the WUI. Five compartments with varying degrees of required mitigation were identified within the Community. Mitigation of these areas should be reviewed annually for progress and re-prioritization with full completion to take from eight to fifteen years, depending on availability of funds from multiple sources. Fuel treatment is not a one-time event. Maintenance will be required on a periodic basis to remove ladder fuels and/or re-open stands with crown closure.

D. Primary Mitigation Strategies
Three primary strategies are employed to achieve mitigation: 1) Encouragement and support of the private land owners doing their own wildfire fuel mitigation; 2) Working with the Douglas County agencies that own lands within the development; 3) Support of on-going fuel and future treatment projects on USFS properties.

E. Outside Agencies
This CWPP identifies the response from agencies that may be employed for wildfire protection and wildfire suppression threatening the community. Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, represented by DCOEM, in conjunction with LFPD has the primary responsibility for protecting life and property in the Community in the event of a wildfire incident. If a wildfire event is beyond LFPD resource capability, LFPD would look for assistance from DCOEM and would consider transitioning responsibility for the fire to the Sheriff. The Sheriff statutorily is the Fire Warden for the unincorporated areas of the County. DCOEM (inclusive of LFPD) is party to a mutual aid agreement for support from other fire departments from all over the Front Range.

F. Resident Notification
The CWPP also discusses direct communication and informational efforts to notify residents and keep them apprised of emergency wildfire situations directly affecting them. Communication methods and support of the general public will vary and will be determined by different intensities of identified emergencies.
G. This Document
This CWPP is a “living” document that will be evaluated and maintained annually as a responsibility of the VPHOA Board of Directors. Consequently, this plan should be amended and edited annually to assure that it stays viable and achieves its original intent. Annual meetings should be held with stakeholder agencies to review the progress and effectiveness of this CWPP. A general public meeting should also be conducted annually to receive public input. The recommendations described in this plan are provided as a resource to homeowners who voluntarily take an active role in reducing fire hazards on their property. The plan does not require homeowners or agencies to implement the recommendations on their respective properties.

III. History of Valley Park
In the early 1900’s Elmer Ware, who originally homesteaded the Valley Park area in the late 1800’s, rented the property to the Sedbook family. During this same time Joseph Metz had homesteaded Metz Canyon which is located just to the west of the subdivision in the Pikes Peak National Forest. Joseph was of German descent and married Ms. Sedbook who was of Irish descent and probably part of the Sedbook family in Valley Park. The Metz’s were to have ten children, seven girls and three boys while living in the canyon. One of Metz’s main crops was the timber in the area. It was primarily used to create railroad ties. The ties were hauled on mules to the railhead in Larkspur, where they were sold to the railroad.

Visitors of Metz Canyon have seen the remains of two cabins near the waterfall. These cabins were actually built in the 1960’s during exploration for uranium. Little or no uranium was found, but during the search, silica sand, feldspar and molybdenum were discovered. Silica sand was used for cleaning oil well equipment; feldspar to make porcelain for sinks, toilets, and dishes, and molybdenum to harden steel.

Meanwhile back in the Valley, the homestead was lived in by a progression of tenants after the Sedbook’s, Matt Davis, the Murr’s, and then the Ira Raymond family. Wallace Turner and family moved there in 1936 and lived there for 5 years.

During the time the Turners lived in the Valley homestead, the log house was moved from its original setting further down in the valley to its present location in the center of Valley Park. The move took two weeks to complete but located it close to a spring in the draw which was used to keep things cool much like a refrigerator. Corn, oats and hay were raised on the ranch to help feed the cattle.
When the Turners moved out, Mrs. Turner’s folks, Mr. and Mrs. Jay McClure moved in. Around 1940 while the McClure’s lived on the property, Tom Starr bought the homestead from Elmer Ware and ran electricity to the property.

About 1950 Doc Forest Button purchased the ranch from Tom Starr. The McClure’s continued to live in the log house until Mrs. McClure passed away in 1955. Mr. McClure stayed on for a few years until Doc Button sold the ranch to a developer in the early 1960’s. Mr. McClure then moved into a little house at his granddaughter’s place, now the Tommy Prince residence on Fox Farm Road.

It took the developer until 1972 to develop the Valley Park Plat Filling with its 75 lots on 592 acres and start selling. There were six houses built in 1972 and the Valley Park sub-division was off to a fast start. As of 2010, 56 lots have been developed, and there are 63 owners. The average home value in the development is $487k per the Assessor’s Office.

The history provided here came from two lifelong residents of the Larkspur area. Betty Prince was a resident of Larkspur until she passed away in December of 2007, and from Lewis Been (aka Louie). His father-in-law was Charlie Metz, one of Joseph’s three sons. Louie married Charlie’s daughter, Georgie. Children from this marriage were Lois, Gloria and Gerry Been. Gerry lives in Larkspur and is a direct descendant of Joseph Metz.
IV. Establish Community Base Map

A. Community Location
The Community is located along the front range of Colorado, in south-central Douglas County.

B. Fire Protection District
The Community is located outside of Larkspur in the Larkspur Fire Protection District (LFPD). The LFPD encompasses approximately 110 square miles of land and is located half way between Denver and Colorado Springs metropolitan areas. The neighboring sub-developments of Perry Park and Woodmoor Mountain both have active CWPP’s in place.
C. Other Developments
Between the Community and Perry Park is the Sandstone Ranch that has been approved for development. Between the Community and Woodmoor Mountain are a number of smaller ranches and ranchettes.
D. Community Description
The community consists of 89 lots each approximately 5 acres. Each lot with residential construction is served by a well and septic system. There is no central, community water supply. All roads in the community are gravel.

E. Utilities
The community has above ground electric poles and most houses have natural gas. Most of the remaining homes use propane. Most phone lines are buried. There is no cable in the Community. Cell phone reception is limited.

F. Wildfire Urban Interface
The Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI) is an area where structures and other development adjoin or are intermixed with hazardous vegetation. The Community protection zone is shown in the following figure:
Figure 7: Valley Park WUI

1. **Primary Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Boundary Descriptions:**
   
   a) The Primary WUI includes private holdings, Douglas County right of ways, Douglas County Open Space lands and federal land within the Pike National Forest.
   
   b) The Primary WUI has a perimeter of 10.86 miles and an area of approximately 5.53 square miles or 3,539 acres.
   
   c) The Primary WUI boundary for the Valley Park CWPP includes all property parcels within the Valley Park subdivision boundary. The west boundary of the Valley Park subdivision is the Pike National Forest boundary.
   
   d) The properties located within the Hidden Valley subdivision to the north of Valley Park are included within the Primary WUI and are comprised of private land parcels and private roadways.
   
   e) The large private land parcel adjoining the south west corner of the Valley Park subdivision is included in the Primary WUI and is a private land parcel.
   
   f) A section of the Sandstone Ranch that is surrounded on three sides by the Pike National Forest is also included within the Primary WUI boundary and is private land.
   
   g) The federal lands included within the Primary WUI are located within the Pike National Forest and are a part of the Rampart East Roadless Area. As such, the proposed Colorado Roadless Petition defines an area within a designated roadless area that is within 1-1/2 miles of a
community’s border, and meeting certain criteria, as a Community Protection Zone or CPZ. The CPZ, as designated by the Colorado Roadless Petition, is included in the Primary WUI of the Community.

h) Lands within the Primary WUI and CPZ are the areas of highest priority for fuel reduction efforts and implementation of other wildland fire mitigation strategies as defined within this CWPP.

2. **Secondary WUI Boundary Descriptions:**
   a) Lands within the Secondary WUI include private parcels, Douglas County right-of-way and Federal land within the Pike National Forest.
   b) This area includes a total of approximately 5.23 square miles or 3,347 acres of area beyond the Primary WUI boundary and has a perimeter of 19.65 miles.
   c) The Secondary WUI for the Valley Park CWPP encompasses an area beyond the Primary WUI and includes a portion of Sandstone Ranch adjoining to and north of Valley Park and Hidden Valley within approximately one mile of the Primary WUI.
   d) The Secondary WUI encompasses a portion of the East Plum Creek basin to the south of Valley Park which includes; the Douglas County LIFE Center (previously the Griffith Center), the Vaux Ranchettes subdivision, a northern portion of the Woodmoor Mountain subdivision, and federal land within the Pike National Forest.
   e) The Secondary WUI boundary is used to identify lands where fuel reduction and other wildland fire mitigation efforts would have a great impact on the reduction of wildland fire risk to Valley Park.
   f) The Secondary WUI boundary is defined by terrain features and land use elements that may be utilized through preparatory mitigation efforts to inhibit the progress and reduce the effects of wildland fire, or enhance the tactical fire fighting options against a wildland fire that starts in another location and approaches Valley Park.

3. **Watershed WUI Boundary Description:**
   a) The Watershed WUI boundary for the Valley Park CWPP is the area to the southwest of the Primary and Secondary WUI boundaries that encompasses the upper segments of the Gove Creek drainage basin and the East Plum Creek drainage basin.
   b) This WUI area extends southwest to Rampart Range Road within the East Plum Creek drainage basin. Lands contained in the Watershed WUI are almost exclusively Federal land in the Pike National Forest with the exception of small private land in-holdings or claims within the Pike National Forest.
   c) The Watershed WUI boundary has a perimeter of 22.61 miles and covers approximately 15.00 square miles or 14,470 acres of area beyond the Primary and Secondary WUI boundaries.
   d) The Watershed WUI boundary is used to identify lands defined by terrain features and land use elements that may be utilized through preparatory mitigation efforts to inhibit the progress and reduce the effects of wildland fire, or enhance the tactical firefighting options against a wildland fire that starts in another location and approaches the Community and to reduce the impacts of wildfire to the upper sections of the Gove Creek basin and the East Plum Creek basin watershed.
Wildland fire damage to these watersheds would have significant impact on water quality and significantly increase the potential for damaging floods to those water users and residents downstream of the area.

4. **WUI Boundary**
The total area covered within all WUI boundary definitions for the Valley Park CWPP is approximately 25.76 square miles or 16,486 acres.

V. **Assessment of Wildfire Risks in the Community**
This section of the CWPP addresses the identification and assessment of the fuels currently within Community. For an assessment of the general factors influencing fire in this area of the Front Range, see Appendix 1: Factors Influencing Fire Behavior in the Front Range. The wildfire risks section addresses all areas in Community and those areas immediately outside of its boundaries in the WUI.

A. **Methodology:**
1. Wildfire behavior in the Community will be affected by fuel, weather and topography. No attempt was made to use fuel modeling for determining fire behavior for any one event. Instead, all areas will be treated as if fire can start at any point in or around the Community and be affected by an infinite number of probabilities. Wildfire is capable of coming from any direction.
2. Wildfire threatening the Community is just as likely to approach from the southeast, driven by an upslope wind, as it is to approach from the Pike National Forest to the west.
3. The Community has been divided into five compartments. Each compartment has specific treatments intended to prevent a wildfire from spreading to another compartment.
4. Treatments are spelled out in The Treatments Section.
5. Each compartment’s overall hazard rating is based on the highest rated fuel type within the compartment.

B. **Fuel Types**
Four main “fuel types” are found within the Community. For those of us that are not fire professionals, fuel models are complicated, confusing and have little meaning. For the residents of the Community, the fuel models are simplified to “Grasslands”, “Open Pine with Grasses and Gambel Oak”, “Mature Brush”, and “Heavy Timber”.

*Note:* the rate of spread and flame length information listed below are general figures for fires with no slope and low winds (5 mph). Topography, high winds, fuel moisture and relative humidity will affect the rate of spread and flame length, and may be higher or lower during an actual wildfire.
1. **Grasslands – Moderate Hazard:**

   ![Figure 8: Grasslands Example](image)

   - Typically light, flashy fuels with scattered yucca, three-leaf sumac and noxious weeds. Occasional scattered ponderosa pines are present.
   - Anticipated Fire Behavior- Flames less than five feet high, higher flare-ups rare; duration of flame lengths brief; fire spread slow to fast (~1 mile per hour); spotting is generally rare and with a short range.
2. **Open Pine with Grasses and Gambel Oak - High Hazard:**

![Figure 9: Open Pine with Grasses and Gambel Oak](image)

- Typically scattered ponderosa pines with grass and light brush understory. Gambel oak acts as a ladder fuel carrying fire from the ground into the tops of the trees creating a crown fire situation which makes controlling the fire difficult.
- Moderate understory fuels may be present that contribute to areas of crowning.
- Anticipated Fire Behavior - Intermittent flare-ups occurring up to many feet above tree tops; short and medium range spotting common; flame lengths will generally be 4-10 feet with rates of spread less than a mile per hour.
3. **Mature Brush – High Hazard:**

- Areas with heavy brush (Gambel Oak, three-leaf sumac and mountain mahogany) and scattered Ponderosa Pines and Douglas-Firs. Brush affected by frost and drought kill.
- Anticipated Fire Behavior; Flames 5-20 feet high, brief duration and with high spread rate. Short range spotting from blown embers is common.

*Figure 10: Mature Brush*
4. **Heavy Timber – Severe Hazard:**

![Figure 11: Heavy Timber](image)

- Areas with heavy, dense and clumpy stands of Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-Fir. Overtopped and suppressed trees contribute to ladder fuels.
- Crown fire potential is high.
- Anticipated Fire Behavior- Flare-ups higher than tree tops are frequent to continuous; spread rates of up to several miles per hour are possible; spotting of up to ¼ of a mile is common.

5. **Fuel Hazards**

Fuels and the fuel hazard do not respect property lines, nature has created its own lines. The Fuel Hazard Map below identifies the fuel levels within the Community.
Note: No properties in the Community are considered low hazard. There are small low hazard areas within lots, such as graded horse arenas, gravel road/driveway surfaces and ponds. Areas currently mowed on an annual basis lower a moderate hazard to a low hazard. However, failure to mow, for even one year, returns these areas to moderate hazard.

C. Compartment Descriptions

The Community Compartments are shown in the following figure:
Figure 13: Community Compartments

1. Compartment A - This area is bounded by the Pike National Forest along its entire western boundary and includes the large private parcel adjacent to the south and Douglas County Open Space on the south. Its Eastern boundary is Valley Park Drive. Primarily heavy fuels and steep slopes will be a hindrance to containment efforts. Attempts at containment of wildfire may be limited to the roadway given current fuel loading to the west. Crown fire potential is high. Property in this compartment is generally rated as severe risk.

2. Compartment B - This area is bounded by Valley Park Drive on the west and Valley Park Boulevard on the east. Containment or exclusion of wildfire from this compartment will be aided by areas of lighter, grass fuels. Crowning in oak possible. Property in this compartment is mostly rated as high risk.

3. Compartment C - This area is bounded by the meadow edge east of Valley Park Boulevard, the subdivision boundary to the north, and Valley Drive to the east and south. Dense stands of Ponderosa Pines and heavy Gambel Oak will make containment difficult. Roadway access may be impeded by heavy fuels along roadways. Crown fire potential is high. Property in this compartment is mostly rated as high risk.
4. Compartment D - This area is predominantly fine grass fuels bounded by Perry Park Road on the east and Valley Drive on the west. Property in this compartment is primarily rated as medium risk.

5. Compartment E - This area is the Hidden Valley Subdivision with fuels consistent with Compartment C. The narrow private roads may be a hindrance to firefighting efforts and evacuation. Crowning in oak possible with torching of individual trees and tree clumps. Property in this compartment is generally rated as high risk.

D. Community Egress

All residents should be encouraged to develop and practice an evacuation plan. The following proposed egress routes should be reviewed and approved by the Sheriff’s office. In addition, signage and public education will be required. Primary egress from the Community is to the east onto Perry Park Rd (Hwy 105). If this route is blocked egress would be to the west through Sandstone Ranch and then north to Perry Park Rd.
E. **Assessment of County Right-of-Ways (ROW) in Valley Park:**

1. **Ingress/Egress**

   The County ROW is not wide enough to provide a shaded fuel break along the egress routes and will require shared responsibility to mitigation on both the ROW and adjacent private property. The centers of the roads in Valley Park are supposed to be thirty feet from either side of the Right of Way as platted by the developer. However the actual boundaries are unclear. Maintenance of the area between the actual road and the adjacent property is the responsibility of DCPW. DCPW Operations does not have adequate resources to remove trees and brush from the ROW for the sole purpose of providing fire mitigation. However, DCPW Operations will coordinate with the fire mitigation committee to identify those areas where sight distance, usable roadway width and drainage conveyance improvements are required. Brush and trees obstructing regulatory signs create a hazardous situation and will be addressed first. The LFPD has expressed concern that, during a wildfire, some roadways would not simultaneously accommodate incoming fire apparatus with outgoing residential traffic, thus, those areas where usable roadway width has narrowed due to vegetation will be addressed next. Because DCPW Operations has limited resources work will be prioritized against other department projects and responsibilities and will be scheduled in accordance with available County manpower and equipment. A copy of DCPW’s policy for Tree Removal from ROWs is found in Appendix 2: DCPW ROW Tree Removal Policy.

   a) Fire impinging on ingress / egress routes is a life safety issue. Sadly, recent events in Israel (December 2010) where many individuals burned in a bus while attempting to rescue others demonstrate the importance of maintained right-of-ways, adjacent property and driveways. The Israel fire was just one of many fires where most of the fire related deaths occurred during evacuation.

   b) Burning fuels along roadways and driveways may hinder evacuation of residents and ingress of firefighting resources.

   c) There are many sections of County ROWs within Valley Park where hazardous fuels are growing in the area between the road and the adjacent property.

      1) Of highest priority would be the section of Vista Drive that has large and small trees growing in the ditch of the county ROW on both sides of the road. Vista is part of the primary Egress Route for a large portion of the subdivision.
2) The next priority would be the southern section of Valley Park Drive. This section has large overly dense trees growing within the county ROW on both sides of the road with some trees impinging on power lines.

3) The section of Valley Park Blvd at the intersection of Vista has large trees growing within the county ROW on the side of the road across from Vista. This blocks the view of oncoming traffic, and is on the primary egress route.

d) There are sections of Douglas County ROWs within Valley Park where trees are growing in the right of way and creating unsafe driving conditions:

1) On the approach to Valley Drive from the north on Valley Park Boulevard the view of the stop sign is blocked by trees growing in the ROW.
2) Across from the bottom of Vista Drive there are trees growing in the ROW of Valley Park Boulevard that block the view of vehicles approaching Vista from either direction on Valley Park Boulevard.

3) Trees and shrub growth at intersections may also be a hindrance to firefighting resources by blocking signage and sight distances. Night time and heavy smoke conditions can further reduce visibility.

4) Out-of-district firefighters may be assigned during a wildfire event. Lack of clearly visible street signs will be critical if they do not have current GIS mapping or GPS capabilities.

F. Assessment of Private Roads in Hidden Valley

The private roads within Hidden Valley are about 20 feet wide. This width makes difficult for two vehicles to pass and will be a hindrance to first responder’s ability to reach the site of a fire and the ability of residents to safely evacuate. Gridlock could easily occur. The roads themselves are in poor condition. The road easement between Hwy 105 and the development is 60 feet wide, but within the properties, the easement reduces to 30 feet. In addition, growth along the shoulders of the roads and adjoining property will provide fuel for wildfires and make the roads impassable.

G. Assessment of Douglas County Open Space Parcels in Valley Park

1. Supporting Documentation

The regulations guiding DCOS are shown in Appendix 3: DCOS Regulations. A self-assessment by Douglas County’s staff of its Open Spaces in Valley Park along with a map is in Appendix 4: DCOS Parcel Wildfire Hazard Assessment and Treatment Recommendations Valley Park CWPP.
2. **Threat Assessment**

Five of the eight parcels were identified for treatment within the community; more detailed information can be found in Appendix 4: DCOS Parcel Wildfire Hazard Assessment and Treatment Recommendations Valley Park CWPP.

H. **Topography and Potential Fire Behavior**

1. **General Description**

   The Community is in a valley that has Rampart Range to the southwest of it. Slopes range from gentle meadow slopes of 5-8% to steeper areas of 20-100% with heavy timber. Rate of spread will be increased on steeper areas of the Community. The terrain is made up of numerous draws, ravines and small saddles. These will impact fire behavior by increasing wind speeds.

2. **Accessibility**

   It is estimated that over 80% of the Community is accessible by all-wheel drive vehicles and equipment for fire suppression and fire prevention activities.

3. **Additional Resources**

   A more thorough introduction to wildfire behavior and topography is found in the CSFS publication “Shaded Fuel Breaks for Rural Subdivisions and Mountain Communities”.
I. Weather and Fire Behavior

1. Wind
The Community is often affected by high winds from the west associated with frontal passages. Upslope weather patterns occasionally generate winds out of the south and southeast.

2. Thunderstorms
Gusty winds typically accompany thunderstorms which produce dry lightning. These gusty winds accelerate the spread of fires. Thunderstorm winds tend to be erratic in direction and speed, posing one of the greatest dangers for firefighters.

3. Lightning
The Community is located in a high lightning strike zone. This zone extends from the Pikes Peak Region to the northern edge of the Palmer Divide in southern Douglas County. About half of all forest fires in Colorado are ignited by lightning (source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).
J. Structural Ignitability
The Larkspur Fire Protection District has completed baseline home assessments for all homes in its jurisdiction and as part of this CWPP process all lots in the Community were assessed for wildfire hazards. In addition many homeowners have implemented some level of wildfire mitigation. However, none should be considered fully Firewise at this time.

1. Roofing
No homes in the Community have wood shake roofs. Most have composition roofing.

2. Siding
A majority of the homes have wood siding. A few of the newer homes have stucco siding.

3. Decks
Most of the homes have decks.

K. Assessment of General Forest Health
General Forest Health in the Community has been affected by limited active forest management and wildfire suppression along with insects, diseases and the following events. This is most notable in the areas where no cleanup has been done.

1. The area has suffered an extended drought during which the trees were under severe stress and are still exhibiting signs of this stress.
2. The trees in the area are being affected by several insects and diseases including:
   • Western Spruce Budworm.
   • Dwarf mistletoe (evident in both Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-Fir),
   • Douglas-fir is attacked by three different bark beetles typically associated with tree stressing agents such as drought, wildfire damage or insect defoliation (collectively called Douglas Fir bark beetles):
     o Douglas-fir Beetle
     o Douglas Pole Beetle
     o Douglas-fir Engraver
   • The Ponderosa is attacked by two different beetles:
     o Mountain Pine Beetle
     o Ips Engraver Beetle
3. Since 2003 there have been three major snow storms in the Community.
   a) These storms have caused widespread and severe damage to the area’s trees.
   b) This damage is especially evident by the many dead topless trees, dead & downed trees, and dead limb material on the ground in the National Forest and private property.
   c) There are a lot of new growth Douglas-fir trees and oak brush under the forest canopy in the western portion of the Community and beyond in the National Forest.
L. Assessment of VPHOA and Community Residents

1. VPHOA
The Valley Park Home Owner Association is a voluntary organization. Residents of the community may choose to participate or not participate. About 40% of the residents are members of the organization. Dues are collected from members resulting in an annual operating budget of $800-$1,000 depending on the membership numbers. The organization has no other funding sources. These funds pay for lighting and maintenance the Valley Park entrance development sign and flag. Any remaining funds are used for special projects decided by the board of directors and the membership.

2. Community Residents
The residents of the Community can be classed as “older”. There are a few households with young children. But there are a significant number of households where the residents are retired or nearing retirement. Property mitigation can be expensive and or physically demanding and therefore challenging for a number of the property owners. However, most owners support the need to mitigate their property and most have taken some level of action.

M. Assessment of Signage Issues

1. Signage in Valley Park:
   a) Valley Park Drive has two cul-de-sacs where the dead end signs are poorly located.
   b) There are no road signs at the intersection of Valley Park Boulevard and Valley Park Drive (near Sandstone Ranch).
   c) There is no signage for Valley Park’s Emergency Egress and evacuation routes.
   d) The possible use of Sandstone Ranch as an alternative emergency egress exit is not identified with signage. In addition, the route out of the Ranch is not labeled.
   e) Most house numbers are not posted effectively for first responders.
   f) The original development planned for Valley Park Drive to be a continuous loop. The loop was never completed and was left as two dead end cul-de-sacs. All of the maps used by local first responders have been corrected as a part of the work on this CWPP. However, this correction has not been reflected in national maps such as MapQuest. It should be expected that first responders from outside of Douglas County will not have corrected maps.

2. Signage in Hidden Valley
   a) There is not a “No Public Access to National Forest” sign at the entrance to Hidden Valley. First responders that are unfamiliar with the area may lose time searching for National Forest access.
   b) There are no signs for Hidden Valley residents to identify the Emergency Egress and evacuation routes.
   c) Most house numbers are not posted effectively for first responders.
   d) Road naming in Hidden Valley is not consistent. Google Maps and MapQuest have different names for the roads in this area and residents believe the main road in the community is not
named. This could lead to confusion when emergency crews attempt to locate properties in the area.

N. Assessment of Emergency Staging Areas
Potential staging areas are for planning purposes only as the actual use will depend on the current and predicted fire behavior during a wildfire event. Identified areas are:

- The center of the entrance to Valley Park is considered a possible staging area by the LFPD and the DCOEM.
- The DCOS parcels 276901001001 and 276901002001 at the back of Valley Park near the Sand Stone Ranch gate is considered a possible staging area by the LFPD and the DCOEM.

O. Assessment of the Community Water Resources

1. Residential Water Supply
Water supply for properties within the Community consists of individual private wells serving the residents. These wells are not considered an adequate source of water for fire suppression.

2. LFPD Tenders
The LFPD uses tenders to truck water to fire events within the Community.

3. Emergency Cistern
Valley Park has an emergency cistern of 10,000 gallons located on the north side of Vista Dr. near the entrance to the community. This cistern is maintained by the LFPD. However, in a wildfire event, more water is always better. Additional cisterns or possible development of existing private ponds should be investigated.

P. Assessment of the Alert & Notification Systems
Timely and accurate notification of the public is critical in a wildfire event. The Community does not have an alert and notification system and will be dependent upon public and government systems. All residents should be encouraged to develop and practice an evacuation plan and not rely on technology.

1. Douglas County Citizen Alert Messaging:
   a) This notification system automatically uses existing landlines. In addition, there is a sign-up feature that allows citizens to subscribe by entering additional means by which they would like to be notified such as cell phones, pagers, blackberries, and e-mail. It is not known to what extent residents have subscribed to this service.
   b) The system takes time to alert thousands of devices, therefore it is most efficient when used for a well-defined geographic area that has less than 10,000 subscribers. For time sensitive events (such as tornados) this is not the best choice since such alerts generally need to notify very large numbers very quickly (tornadoes last approximately 13 minutes on average). It takes approximately 30 minutes to notify the entire county.
c) This system will be used for incidents such as: HAZMAT spills, floods, criminal activity, missing children, and wildfires.

2. Media Text/Voice Alerts:
   a) Denver TV Channels 4, 7 & 9 all provide a free service for which citizens can sign up. These services provide customized weather alerts for the individual based upon the address provided during sign up.
   b) The alert level is customized by the subscriber so that one can receive watches and/or warnings. These are excellent and timely.
   c) The DCOEM works directly with the Sheriff’s Public Information Office to provide alert information to the media.

3. Douglas County Twitter & Facebook Messages:
   a) DCOEM also uses Twitter and Facebook to get messages out. Both Emergency Management and the Sheriff’s Office have accounts and will use this method during emergencies.
   b) This is not a primary form of notification; however, it is growing in popularity so it will continue to be used as an adjunct to notify citizens.

Q. Assessment of LFPD’s Wildfire Response Capability

1. Larkspur Fire Protection Capabilities
   Appendix 5: LFPD Response Capability is a summary of the Larkspur Fire Protection District’s capabilities and resources. Concerns or questions about the LFPD should call 303-681-3284 and ask for the Fire Marshall.

2. Needs Assessment
   The LFPD has identified the following needs within its wildland fire and mitigation programs:
   
   a) Procurement of a Type 3, single axel fire truck;
   b) Replacement of a Type 2 Tender;
   c) Additional specialized training for prescribed fire program positions;
   d) Funding for CWPP development and implementation;
   e) Funding for wildland fire mitigation work in non CWPP areas;
   f) Funding for wildland fire mitigation work on private lands;
   g) Wildland fire mitigation projects on the Pike National Forest lands adjacent to the LFPD.
   h) Wildland fire mitigation projects on County Open Space lands within the LFPD

3. Summary
   a) Overall, the capacity of the LFPD to successfully contain and control wildland fire upon initial attack is very good.
   b) The LFPD response is enhanced through mutual aid from adjoining fire districts which respond on the initial call out for wildland fire events.
c) Throughout the years, there have only been a couple of wildland fires that have moved into the extended attack mode and covered more than one operational period for total suppression. No homes or major structures have been lost due to ignition from wildland fire within the LFPD.

d) However, given the natural fuels, weather and topography within the LFPD, the potential for a wildland fire event that escapes initial and extended attack and/or that will threaten lives or consume homes and other structures remains high within the LFPD.

e) The LFPD views that continued educational efforts related to wildland fire mitigation are key to the defense of homes during a fire event.

f) Many residents within the District have made great strides in making their homes and properties more resistant to the effects of wildland fire through appropriate mitigation measures including fuel reduction.

R. Assessment of the National Forest West of the Community

Fire suppression and a lack of forest management have resulted in the extreme fuel conditions that exist in the National Forest.

1. Assessment of Conditions Encountered in the National Forest
   a) Combinations of drought, insects and snow storms have stressed the local forest. These were detailed in a prior risk section.
   b) The amount of dead and dry fuel available from each damaging snow storm has increased steadily, and these dense piles of fuel on the ground will escalate the intensity of fire behavior when an actual fire does occur.
   c) The density and size of new growth Douglas-Fir trees and Gambel Oak now provides an abundance of ladder fuels that will dramatically increase the likelihood of any ground fire developing into a crown fire event in a short period of time.

2. Roadless Area and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
   a) The area of National Forest west of the Community that is included in its WUI is all in a designated Roadless Area. Current direction is that no cutting of trees can occur in a roadless area without approval from the Regional Office. Such approvals have been limited. No categorical exclusion would be allowed for a project area of this size. This designation has prevented any cleanup from occurring. A wildfire in the National Forest will likely move into the Community.
   b) A NEPA study would be required before any action towards developing a Good Neighbor Policy with the Community and the residents bordering the National Forest. The Colorado Roadless Rule is under review, but no decision is expected until late in 2011. Delay in Colorado Roadless Rule decision and the time required for a NEPA study mean that mitigation in the National Forest will not be possible for some time. Until this mitigation occurs there is a clear and present danger to the Community which further emphasizes the need of homeowners taking steps to reduce wildfire hazards on their property regardless of what actions take place in USFS land.
3. **Insects**
The possible infestation of the area by the tussock moth and spruce budworm are of concern to the USFS District Ranger. However, the forest entomologist has reviewed the area and confirmed that no epidemic exists at this time. There is active western spruce budworm in this area and significant defoliation has occurred. Monitoring of this area will continue.

4. **Terrain**
Like fuels, the terrain does not follow property lines. However it needs to be noted that on the southwestern boundary of the Community there is terrain that would be operable for machine mastication to develop a shaded fuel break between the Community and National Forest. This workable terrain is on National Forest, Douglas County Open Space, and Private Property as the map below shows.

![Operable Terrain for Fuel Break](image_url)

Figure 20: Operable Terrain for Fuel Break

5. **Summary**
As a result of fire suppression, no active forest management, storms, insects, and impediments of the Roadless Rule there has been no effort to reduce the extreme fuel conditions that exist in the area of the National Forest bordering the Community. To protect the Community, a fuel break should be
constructed along the property boundary between National Forest and the Community. Such a fuel break will require mitigation for 150’ on either side of the property lines as shown on the map below. Such a fuel break will require a combination of mastication and hand work.

**Figure 21: Valley Park Community Shaded Fuel Break**

**VI. Treatment Objectives and Priorities**

**A. Community Values and Objectives**

The objectives of the CWPP were established early in the process. These objectives are as follows:

1. **Save Lives** = Safe evacuation for residents and safe access for First Responders;
2. **Save Property** = Defendable zones around each home and building;
3. **Save Lifestyle** = Mitigate fuels beyond defendable zones and the community.
B. Priorities for Treatment

Based upon the Community objectives, treatments have been prioritized. Priority one being egress routes to save lives, Priority two are home defense zones to save property, and Priority three consists of the remaining land in the Community to save rural lifestyle.

1. Routes for Evacuation from fires - All heavy fuels along roadways and driveways should be treated to reduce fire intensity to a level that can be survived while in a vehicle. The objective for all roadways and driveways is to have flames on the ground in lighter fuels versus dangerous flame lengths that may extend into the roadways and driveways. The recommended guidelines for this type of treatment are spelled out in the CSFS publication “Fuelbreak Guidelines for Forested Subdivisions & Communities”.

2. Home Defense Zones – The homes in the Community are of significant value, averaging close to $500k. The best way to protect homes is to create a zone around the house that makes defending the home possible. All areas around homes should be mitigated to a level sufficient to reduce the possibility of home ignition from both flame impingement and aerial firebrands (embers). All homeowners should follow CSU Extension Fact Sheet 6.302, Creating Wildfire-Defensible Spaces.

3. Property and Community Zones - Areas beyond each home’s defense zone will affect fire behavior from one lot to the next and compartment to compartment. This means mitigating the remaining areas of one’s property that are outside the home defense zone. These areas should be thinned to prevent the spread of fire from or to an adjacent property as well as promote forest health. Guidelines for treating beyond the defensible space are listed in the CSU Extension Fact Sheet 6.302 under Zone 3. Treatments surrounding the Community should work towards meeting the criteria for “shaded fuel breaks” per CSFS publication “Fuelbreak Guidelines for Forested Subdivisions and Communities”.

C. General Treatment Methods within Compartments

The Community has been divided into five compartments. They range from open grasslands to heavy timber. Owners’ efforts should start with the easiest and the least expensive. The areas closest to the home and driveway should be addressed first and then move outward to the property lines. It should
be noted that any mitigation effort that will impact traffic flow requires a County permit. This should be considered when large trees that might fall on the roadway are to be removed.

1. Properties in Compartment A – Heavy Timber: Prescription for treatment should focus on improving tree health while creating crown separation to reduce crown fire risk. Selected areas
should be treated to CSFS shaded fuel break specifications when adjacent to large areas of
untreated fuels (See Figure 21 Valley Park Community Fuel Break). Overtopped and suppressed
trees should be removed from underneath mature conifers. Brush should be cleared from under
conifers to a distance ten feet beyond their drip lines (extent of outer branches) to reduce tree
branch ignition. Branches of larger trees should be pruned to a height of ten feet above ground
level. Individual tree spacing should follow the tree spacing guide shown in CSU Publication
6.302 Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones. Estimated fuel treatment cost is $1,200-1,800/acre
(est. cost based on hand cutting or mastication of overtopped/suppressed trees and mastication
of slash. If chipping is used for slash disposal, est. cost is $2,500/acre.).

2. Properties in Compartment B – Open Pine with grasses: Prescription for treatment is periodic
mowing of grasses and removal of larger trees lower branches to a height of 10 feet above
ground level. Ladder fuels under mature conifers should be removed to reduce tree losses.
Trees should be thinned to create crown separation per CSU Publication 6.302 Creating Wildfire-
Defensible Zones. Estimated fuel treatment cost is $500/acre (mowing at $25/acre, weed
control at $75/acre, pruning and slash disposal at $400/acre).

3. Properties in Compartment C – Mature Brush: Prescription for treatment is to break up fuel
continuity both horizontally and vertically. Remove dead material and prune oak clumps to a
three foot height. Clumps should not be wider than two times their height. Clump separation
should be at least 2.5 times their height. Recommended oak clump spacing is listed in CSU
Publication 6.311, Managing Gambel Oak. Due to vigorous re-sprouting maintenance of oak will
be needed every 5-7 years depending on regrowth. Estimated fuel treatment cost is $800/acre
(est. cost based on use of mastication equipment. If hand treated, est. cost can be as high as
$1,200/acre).

4. Properties in Compartment D – Grasslands: Prescription for treatment is regular mowing and
noxious weed control. Timing of mowing is typically at time of grass curing/drying (July/August).
Areas not mowed in late summer or fall should be mowed in the spring if insufficient snow was
present to lay down grass. Mowing should also be timed to allow for adequate reseeding of
native grasses and wildflowers. Estimated fuel treatment cost is $100/acre (mowing at $25/acre,
weed control at $75/acre).

5. Properties in Compartment E – Mature Brush: Prescription for treatment is to break up fuel
continuity both horizontally and vertically. Remove dead material and prune oak clumps to a
three foot height. Clumps should not be wider than two times their height. Clump separation
should be at least 2.5 times their height. Recommended oak clump spacing is listed in CSU
Publication 6.311, Managing Gambel Oak. Due to vigorous re-sprouting maintenance of oak will
be needed every 5-7 years depending on regrowth. Estimated fuel treatment cost is $800/acre
(est. cost based on use of mastication equipment. If hand treated, est. cost can be as high as
$1,200/acre).

D. Reducing Structural Ignitability Methods
Structural ignitability and good home maintenance methods often go hand in hand. Many of the most
critical actions involve only a little time and effort. Fire ignitability should always be considered when
building or remodeling all structures. All homes, even those well away from native vegetation, should have measures taken to protect them from firebrands or embers lofted into the area by an advancing wildfire. Firebrands can be lofted high into the air and carried up to a mile, placing all homes in the Community at risk.

1. **General Maintenance**
   General maintenance practices will remove easily ignitable material from around the structure. A more complete list can be found in CSU Publication 6.304, Forest Home Fire Safety.
   
   a) Removal of trash and debris
   b) Cleaning of leaves and needles from gutter, roofs, and around the structure
   c) Stack firewood away from structure
   d) Do not use under deck areas for storage

2. **Construction Methods**
   Fire resistant materials should always be considered when building and remodeling. Additional information can be found in CSFS Publication: Firewise Construction Design and Materials.

   a) There are restrictions by Douglas County requiring certain roofing materials. Homeowners are to use Class B or better roofing materials which are less prone to ignition. Wood shakes are not permitted.
   b) Decks present a large flat surface on which firebrands can land and remain. Composite decking material has proven to be more fire resistant that wood materials.
   c) Replacing wood siding with fire-wise building materials should be considered.

3. **Landscaping Considerations**
   Landscaping materials and plants should be considered when assessing fire risk. Owners should follow CSU Extension Publication 6.305, Firewise Landscaping, and 6.306, Firewise Plant List, which are available at [http://www.csfs.colostate.edu](http://www.csfs.colostate.edu).

**VII. Action Plan and Assessment Strategy**

**A. Summary of Action Plan**

1. **Approach**
   Based upon the Community objectives of saving lives, property, and lifestyle, the following action lists have been established. The action items identified in this document and in Community meetings have been divided into fuel treatments and a second list of all other action items. The action plans identify organizations or individuals that are responsible for the activity. Many of the action items can occur in parallel with other activities on the lists. It is acknowledged that each responsible party faces challenges in completing their action items. Financial, legal, other priorities, cooperation of individuals and organizations are just a few of these challenges. An individual homeowner may be able to make great
strides in the mitigation of their property. But without actions from the surrounding properties their efforts will have limited benefit. This must be a complete team effort to improve the safety of the Community.

2. Review
An annual review of the Community CWPP is planned. This review will include an evaluation of the current action items on the list along with documentation of Community activities such as attendance at educational meetings. This review will be used to as input to produce an updated CWPP for the Community.

B. Property and Home Owner Actions

1. Education of Home Owners
Owners must become educated on the possibility and dangers that wildfires pose. The CWPP is the first step in this education process, and a number of educational meetings have already been held in the Community. But education is a continuing process, both to include new residents and to also expand the understanding of longer term residents. The Valley Park HOA is tasked with taking a leading role in planning and organizing these training sessions. It is recommended that the VPHOA make a Firewise training part of their regular HOA meetings. In addition, it is recommended that a spring mitigation kick off training and coordination meeting be held. This meeting should not only include training, but allow for planning Community mitigation activities for the coming season. A more complete list can be found in Appendix 6: Education Topics for Property and Home Owners, but identified topics include:

   a) The Valley Park CWPP
   b) Community evacuation routes
   c) Development an evacuation / preparedness plan
   d) Property preparation and mitigation
   e) Warning and notification systems
   f) Home address sign standards

2. Improved House Signage
Effective house numbers are critical for first responders attempting to locate individual properties. Each owner needs to insure that their address numbers are posted in a manner that meets NFPA standards. These standards are presented in Appendix 7: Home Address Sign Standards.

3. Elimination of Egress Hazards
It is a top priority of this plan to save lives, both for the residents and for first responders. As such, residents are encouraged to work on insuring that routes from their homes out of the Community will be safe during a wildfire. There are two areas of focus for the owner:

   a) Their driveway must be safely passable during a fire emergency if they are to reach public roads and safety. Each owner must insure that mitigation efforts are undertaken on each side of their drive to insure they will not become trapped.
b) The public egress routes need to have improved mitigation. While the road ROW is the responsibility of DCPW, the individual owners along these routes also have a responsibility.

1) The ROW is not of adequate depth to insure that the roads will remain passable. The recommended mitigation depth is 150 feet either side of the road. Each owner, for their safety and that of their neighbor’s safety needs to mitigate their property within this range.

2) Each owner needs to request and encourage the DCPW to mitigate the ROW adjacent to their property. The DCPW looks for guidance in this area from the adjacent owner. Property owners that wish to have work done along the ROW adjoining their property should call DCPW – Operations, Director at 303-660-7480.

3) All roads are of concern, but of particular concern are sections of roads within the Community that act as primary routes for large numbers of people trying to exit the community. Of particular focus are:

   o Valley Park
     ▪ Vista Drive
     ▪ Valley Park Drive
     ▪ Valley Park Boulevard (egress route to Sandstone Ranch)

   c) Hidden Valley

   1) The roads in Hidden Valley are private but those residents should consider widened and improved roads for access.

   2) The road sometimes referred to as Cowpath Trail running from Perry Park Rd to Valley Park Boulevard is a primary egress road from this area and should take priority in treatment.

4. Creation of Defendable Homes and Structures

A defendable space must be created around each structure if the first responders are expected to have any chance of saving the property from a wildfire. There may not be enough resources to protect every home and in many instances the fire will burn through the area before firefighters can arrive so it is critical to have defensible space. The structures themselves must be built and maintained so that they are as fire resistant as possible.

a) Homeowners are encouraged to have the LFPD to come to their property and give them a one on one firewise analysis of their property. This evaluation will allow each owner to best plan what mitigation or structure changes would be the most beneficial for their situation. Follow up evaluations may also be requested to review completed actions and plan next steps.

b) A major impediment to homeowner mitigation is disposal of the biomass, or slash disposal. A number of disposal sites and other options such as chipping or mastication are presented in Appendix 8: Slash Disposal Options for the owners’ consideration.

5. Valley Park Water Resources Actions

a) Valley Park already has an emergency supply of 10,000 gallons located on the north side of Vista Dr. near the entrance to the community. Work with LFPD to identify funds for another
emergency supply cistern in Valley Park preferably on the south side of the community. There are several lots suitable for a cistern that would allow the cistern to be filled from one road and gravity extraction from a lower road. Work with the developers of the Sandstone Ranch to identify any ponds that could be developed and to bring a fire hydrant to the gate between Valley Park and the Ranch. It is acknowledged that this will not happen until the infrastructure is being developed and the developer is ready to move forward with the community.

b) Work with LFPD and property owners to evaluate private ponds in Community that could become an alternate water resource. If an acceptable pond is identified, work with LFPD and owner to identify funds for its development. Four ponds have been identified within the Community.

C. Douglas County Office of Emergency Management Actions

1. Signage within the Community
During the development of this plan multiple signage issues were identified. The DCOEM is willing to assist with coordination between Douglas County departments the task of adding, correcting or improving these issues. Additional departments will probably include Engineering and Public Works and if road renaming is involved Community Planning and Sustainable Development Department will need to be engaged.

It is also noted that not all signage changes and additions will be paid for by Douglas County. Some signs will be the responsibility of the Community to purchase.

2. Emergency Egress for Community
Primary egress is assumed to be east and onto Perry Park Rd. The secondary egress is to the west and north through the south entrance to Sandstone Ranch. See Figure 13 for a map showing primary egress routes. Signage identifying these routes needs to be developed and installed.

   a) Signage to identify main exit onto Perry Park Rd (DC105) as an Emergency Exit for the Community.
   b) Signage to identify the Private entrance into Sandstone Ranch as an Emergency Exit

3. Signage Identified for Valley Park
   a) Valley Park Drive was never completed as originally planned. There are two unconnected segments of the road at each end of the subdivision resulting in confusion. This issue must be addressed.

      1) Possible solutions include:
         a. Renaming one or both of the segments
         b. Detailed signs at various critical intersections

      2) Valley Park Drive not being completed has also resulted in dead end roads that are poorly labeled.
a. The dead end sign at the north cul-de-sac should be moved to the turn where Valley Park Boulevard ends and Valley Park Drive begins.

b. Valley Drive becomes Valley Park Drive at a bend in the road. It is at this point that the “road” is noted as a dead end.

3) Stop sign at junction of Vista and Valley Park Blvd stops the traffic that has an unobstructed view of all other traffic. Sign should be moved to stop traffic that is west bound on Valley Park Blvd.

b) A prominent “No Public Access to National Forest” sign at the entrance to Valley Park.

4. **Signage for Hidden Valley**
   a) Signage for Hidden Valley residents and first responders to identify the private driveway through the lot on the west side of Hidden Valley that connects to Valley Park Blvd as an alternate emergency egress route from Hidden Valley to Valley Park.
   b) Need signage to identify primary (Perry Park Rd) evacuation route for Hidden Valley Residents.
   c) A prominent “No Public Access to National Forest” sign at the entrance to Hidden Valley.

D. **Douglas County Public Works Actions**

1. **ROW Mitigation**
   DCPW Operations supports the Community’s fire mitigation goals and will partner with the Community, when possible. However, the main assistance will be done in conjunction with two fundamental department missions; a) maintaining roadway safety, and b) maintaining roadside drainage conveyance. These are the two primary areas of responsibility within DCPW Operations and any fire mitigation accomplished would be a by-product of these two core responsibilities. It is understood that these actions will need to be undertaken in cooperation with the adjacent property owners. Priority areas are listed below.

   a) The southern section of Valley Park Drive has large overly dense trees growing within the county right of way (ROW) on both sides of the road with some trees impinging on power lines.
   b) Vista Drive has large and small trees growing within the county ROW on both sides of the road;
   c) The section of Valley Park Blvd where the secondary egress from Hidden Valley and Open Space parcel #277106001010 meet has dense growth of scrub Oak growing in the ROW.

2. **Traffic Hazards**
   There are sections of ROW within Valley Park where trees are growing in the right of way and creating unsafe driving conditions.

   a) The approach to Valley Drive from the north on Valley Park Boulevard the view of the stop sign is blocked by trees growing in the ROW.
   b) The section of Valley Park Blvd, at the intersection with Vista has large trees growing within the county ROW obscuring oncoming traffic approaching Vista from either direction on Valley Park Boulevard.
E. National Forest Service Actions

1. Forest Mitigation

The Community shares much of its southern and western boundary with the Pike National Forest. This area of the National Forest is classed as a “roadless” area. Partly as a result of this classification, a high fuel load of dead standing and fallen trees has accumulated. This area needs to be mitigated. The Community would like to see a shaded fuel break in this area (USFS and private land) of sufficient depth to allow a reduction in extreme wildfire behavior and provide opportunities for control and suppression. This would aid in preventing a wildfire from moving between the National Forest and the Community. The Forest Service needs to:

a) Before progress can be made the Colorado Roadless Rule must be adopted.
b) Initiate a NEPA study for the area as a first step so that other paths of mitigation may be taken.
c) Use the Good Neighbor Authority to treat USFS land when similar treatments are occurring on adjoining private lands. The Good Neighbor Authority can be used to create the fuelbreak along the boundary once NEPA has been completed, the Colorado Roadless Rule issue has been resolved, adjoining landowners agree to treatment on their lands, and the USFS secures funding for treatment on USFS lands.
d) Work with LFPD, CSFS and DCOS personnel and private land owners to develop a shaded fuel break on the boundary with the Community.

F. Douglas County Open Space Actions

1. Open Space Mitigation

The following Open Space parcels have been identified as conditionally recommended for treatment.

- SPN: 277106001010
  - Compartment: B
  - Size: 2.3 Acres
- SPN: 277106003006
  - Compartment: B/C
  - Size: 6.8 Acres
- SPN: 277107003004
  - Compartment: C
  - Size: 0.7 Acres
- SPN: 277106003007
  - Compartment: C
  - 2.7 Acres
- SPN: 277107004021
  - Compartment: A
  - 17 Acres
G. Assessment of Progress

The assessment of progress on the action items will be done in conjunction with future plan revisions and updating. This plan is sponsored by the Valley Park HOA and it will be at their direction to drive the review process. It is recommended that this review happen on an annual basis, and will include the following:

1. **Homeowner Items:**
   a) Record education classes and the attendance of each one
   b) Recognize those home owners who have improved their driveways and defendable space based upon LFPD site visit records
   c) Review of home address signs that meet standards

2. **DC Office of Emergency Management Coordinated Items:**
   a) Record new signs and improved signs
   b) Verify and record access to / from Sandstone Ranch
   c) Resolve confusion related to the cul-de-sacs on Valley Park Drive

3. **DC Public Works Items:**
   a) Record mitigation of Right of Ways
   b) Record elimination of traffic hazards

4. **National Forest Service Items:**
   a) Progress on Colorado Roadless Rule adoption
   b) Record progress of NEPA study
   c) Record progress of Good Neighbor Authority progress
   d) Record progress on Shaded Fuel Break west of Valley Park

5. **DC Open Space Items:**
   a) Record mitigation on Open Space parcels

H. Action Plan Lists

This plan is a voluntary plan intended to help the Valley Park Community better prepare for and lessen the impact of wildland fire. Property owners in the community are encouraged to read and understand this plan and implement recommended wildland fire mitigation measures on their property. This plan does not provide for entry to anyone onto any private property or public lands for the implementation of CWPP recommendations without the owner’s explicit permission.

The due dates listed in these Action Plans are for planning purposes only and are subject to change based on community needs.
## 1. Community Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CWPP Maintenance</td>
<td>Maintain CWPP information on website</td>
<td>VPHOA</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Document projects implemented</td>
<td>VPHOA</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hold annual meeting with community/core team to review/update plan</td>
<td>VPHOA</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apply for grants as opportunities arise</td>
<td>VPHOA</td>
<td>As Necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education / Outreach</td>
<td>Provide training sessions for homeowners on the following topics: Valley Park CWPP, evacuation routes, mitigation techniques, warning systems, signs.</td>
<td>VPHOA</td>
<td>As Possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Encourage utilization of LFPD home assessment program</td>
<td>VPHOA</td>
<td>As Possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Explore becoming recognized as a FireWise Community USA</td>
<td>VPHOA</td>
<td>As Possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Events</td>
<td>Create a community slash day. Either renting a chipper or arranging for slash pickup.</td>
<td>VPHOA</td>
<td>As Possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrange demonstrations</td>
<td>VPHOA</td>
<td>As Possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer recruitment and sign up</td>
<td>VPHOA</td>
<td>As Possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compartments A: Improve dead end labeling of Valley Park Dr on both north and south ends</td>
<td>DCPW, DCEng, DCOEM, VPHOA, Owners</td>
<td>EOY 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compartments A: Resolve addressing confusion between the two segments of Valley Park Dr</td>
<td>DCPW, DCEng, DCOEM, VPHOA, Owners</td>
<td>EOY 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compartments B: Valley Park secondary egress signs (Sandstone Ranch)</td>
<td>DCPW, DCEng, DCOEM, VPHOA, Owners</td>
<td>EOY 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compartments B: Resolve addressing confusion between the two segments of Valley Park Dr</td>
<td>DCPW, DCEng, DCOEM, VPHOA, Owners</td>
<td>EOY 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compartments B: Improved placement of stop sign at Vista and Valley Park Blvd</td>
<td>DCPW, DCEng, DCOEM, VPHOA, Owners</td>
<td>EOY 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### VII Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

| Compartment C&D: Removal of foliage blocking view of stop sign at Valley Park Blvd (east end) and Valley Park Dr | DCPW, DCEng, DCOEM, VPHOA, Owners | EOY 2012 |
| Compartment D: Hidden Valley secondary egress sign (Cow Path and Roberts Property) | DCPW, DCEng, DCOEM, VPHOA, Owners | EOY 2013 |
| Compartment D: "No public access to NF" for Valley Park and "No public access to NF" for Hidden Valley | DCPW, DCEng, DCOEM, VPHOA, Owners | EOY 2013 |
| **Addressing** | **VPHOA** | As Possible |
| Encourage homeowners to improve visibility of addressing signs | VPHOA | As Possible |
| **Water Supply** | **VPHOA/LFPD** | EOY 2013 |
| Evaluate additional water supply opportunities in the following areas: | VPHOA/LFPD | EOY 2013 |
| Compartment A: Additional cistern south side of the Community | VPHOA/LFPD | EOY 2013 |
| Compartment B: Evaluate and develop private ponds as water source. | VPHOA/LFPD | EOY 2013 |
| Compartment E: Evaluate and develop private ponds in Hidden Valley as water source. | VPHOA/LFPD | EOY 2013 |
| **USFS Support** | **VPHOA, USFS** | As Possible |
| Support Colorado Roadless Rule | VPHOA, USFS | As Possible |
| Support NEPA efforts on fuel break area | VPHOA, USFS | As Possible |
| **Demonstration Site** | **VPHOA, Owners** | EOY 2012 |
| Determine site | VPHOA, Owners | EOY 2012 |
| Complete demonstration site | VPHOA, Owners | EOY 2012 |
| Develop signage | VPHOA, Owners | EOY 2012 |
| Acquire and install signage | VPHOA, Owners | EOY 2012 |
| Photographically document "Before" and "After" conditions. | VPHOA, Owners | EOY 2012 |
| **Road Improvement** | **Hidden Valley Owners** | EOY 2015 |
| Widen and improve the Cow Path road in Hidden Valley | Hidden Valley Owners | EOY 2015 |
### 2. Fuel Treatment Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compartment</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment - Egress</td>
<td>ROW Mitigation along Valley Park Drive from south upper cul-de-sac</td>
<td>DCPW &amp; Adjacent Owners</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment - Egress</td>
<td>ROW Mitigation along Valley Park Drive from north / lower cul-de-sac</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment - Shaded</td>
<td>Shaded Fuelbreak along western and southwestern edge of community</td>
<td>Multiple see below</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fuel Treatment - Shaded</td>
<td>(150 feet both side of community boundary)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fuel Treatment - Shaded</td>
<td>Lots adjacent to border</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fuel Treatment - Shaded</td>
<td>Douglas County Open Space Parcel 277107004021 - conditionally treat</td>
<td>DCOS</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>with adjoining landowners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fuel Treatment - Shaded</td>
<td>USFS lands via Good Neighbor Agreement</td>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>2025</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment - Zone 1</td>
<td>Mitigation around driveways and structures (Zone 1) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment - Zone 2</td>
<td>Mitigation around structures (Zone 2) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment - Zone 3</td>
<td>Mitigation (Zone 3) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| <strong>B</strong>       | 1        | Fuel Treatment - Egress       | ROW Mitigation along Valley Park Blvd West from intersection with Vista Dr | DCPW &amp; Adjacent Owners | 2020     |
|             | 1        | Fuel Treatment - Egress       | Douglas County Open Space Parcel 277106001010 - conditionally treat      | DCOS DCPW Owners     | 2030     |
|             | 1        | Fuel Treatment - Egress       | ROW Mitigation along Valley Park Drive (north side, lower cul-de-sac)     | DCPW &amp; Adjacent Owners | 2022     |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fuel Treatment Egress</th>
<th>ROW Mitigation along Valley Park Drive (north side, lower cul-de-sac) on north side of private lane</th>
<th>Owners</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment Zone 1</td>
<td>Mitigation around driveways and structures (Zone 1) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment Zone 2</td>
<td>Mitigation around driveways and structures (Zone 2) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment Zone 3</td>
<td>Mitigation (Zone 3) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment Open Space</td>
<td>Douglas County Open Space Parcel 277107003004, 277106003006 - conditionally treat when adjacent lots mitigate</td>
<td>Owners DCOS</td>
<td>2030</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>Fuel Treatment Egress</th>
<th>ROW Mitigation along Vista Drive</th>
<th>DCPW &amp; Adjacent Owners</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment Egress</td>
<td>ROW Mitigation along east end of Valley Park Blvd between Valley Dr and Vista Dr</td>
<td>DCPW &amp; Adjacent Owners</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment Egress</td>
<td>ROW Mitigation along south side of Valley Park Dr in south east corner of community</td>
<td>DCPW &amp; Adjacent Owners</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment Egress</td>
<td>ROW Mitigation along south side of Cowpath Trail</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Fuel Treatment Zone 1</td>
<td>Mitigation around driveways and structures (Zone 1) defensible space.</td>
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<td>Fuel Treatment Zone 2</td>
<td>Mitigation around driveways and structures (Zone 2) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment Zone 3</td>
<td>Mitigation (Zone 3) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment Open Space</td>
<td>Douglas County Open Space Parcel 277106003007 -conditionally treat when adjacent lots mitigate</td>
<td>Owners DCOS</td>
<td>2030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### VII Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

#### D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fuel Treatment-Zone 1</th>
<th>Mitigation around driveways and structures (Zone 1) defensible space.</th>
<th>Owners</th>
<th>2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment-Zone 2</td>
<td>Mitigation around driveways and structures (Zone 2) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment-Zone 3</td>
<td>Mitigation (Zone 3) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### E

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fuel Treatment-Egress</th>
<th>ROW Mitigation along north side of Cow Path</th>
<th>Owners</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment-Zone 1</td>
<td>Mitigation around driveways and structures (Zone 1) defensible space. All Hidden Valley lots</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment-Zone 2</td>
<td>Mitigation around driveways and structures (Zone 2) defensible space. All Hidden Valley lots</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment-Zone 3</td>
<td>Mitigation (Zone 3) defensible space.</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fuel Treatment-Zone 3</td>
<td>Mitigation (Zone 3) defensible space. All Hidden Valley lots</td>
<td>Owners</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### I. Douglas County Lands and Right-of-Way

Douglas County recognizes its responsibilities as a landowner in the Valley Park community. The County has recently adopted the Douglas County Wildland Fire Protection Plan. The Valley Park community is included in the Larkspur Fire Protection District.

Requests for mitigation efforts on Douglas County roadway rights-of-way should be made to the Douglas County Public Works Operations (303-660-7480). The County will follow its plans and procedures regarding rights-of-way requests (see Appendix 2) and complete mitigation activities as time and funds permit. Roadway public safety concerns should also be referred to the Public Works Department or a request for service can be made on the County’s web page at the citizen CONNECT link ON THE Douglas County webpage:

http://www.douglas.co.us/
Open space parcels within the Valley Park community will be mitigated pursuant to individual plans prepared for those lands. The preservation of the open space values will be a key element in the planning process. The County will look at uses and mitigation treatments as part of its comprehensive planning process and its regulations (see Appendix 3).

J. Preparedness
Wildland fire is a significant disaster threat in Douglas County. Community wildland fire protection plans are an effective mitigation measure. Circumstances may arise where a wildfire event poses a significant threat to lives and property. In those instances an evacuation may be required.

Emergency preparedness notifications are issued by Douglas County using traditional reverse-911 calls, the news media, Citizen and email Alerts. If you utilize a cellular phone and/or VOIP communications systems at your homes or as your primary telecommunication system, please take the time to register for emergency notifications at the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office website or the Douglas County webpage as noted below.

http://www.dcsheriff.net/

The Federal Emergency Management Agency maintains an emergency readiness program that residents within the wildland fire interface may wish to use to help prepare for disaster preparedness.

http://www.ready.gov/wildfires

VIII. Appendix 1: Factors Influencing Fire Behavior in the Front Range
A. General Discussion:
   1. Topography, weather, and fuels are the three major factors influencing fire behavior. It is these characteristics of the local area that must be examined in order to understand the options and capacity for response to wildland fires within and around Valley Park.
a) Topography within the LFPD is varied with elevations ranging from 6200 – 7800 feet above sea level. On the eastern edge of the LFPD, numerous buttes dot the rolling grasslands of the high plains which abut the steep and dramatic terrain of the Rampart Range - the base of which lies along the western edge of the LFPD. Slopes of up to and exceeding 100% are found within the Rampart Range formations. Several creeks and gulches provide for riparian ecosystems that transform in character as they flow from the upper elevations of Rampart Range down through the grasslands below.

b) The LFPD has many areas of terrain with steep slopes that can support the rapid development of wildland fire and promote extreme fire behavior. Dramatic changes in topography also influence the weather and can play a role in where precipitation will fall and in what quantities, influence the development of thunderstorms with the resulting lightning activity, result in variations in local humidity and affect the strength and direction of wind flow.

c) Topography can also impede the detection of fires by restricting visibility to and from some locations allowing the fire to expand substantially prior to being reported. Topography is also a major factor in defining the location of roadways, which can increase the response time to some locations due to circuitous routes around terrain features. Steep terrain with a substantial elevation increase can also reduce the capacity and increase the time frame to deliver water to a fire via hose conveyance or to totally preclude that tactic. The type, location and density of vegetation are affected by the steepness of terrain and the existence and type of soils that may be present.

d) Topography plays an important role in the prevalence of wildland fire, the detection and response times to wildland fire, and shades the palette of tactical options available for suppressing wildland fires or influencing the severity of wildland fire behavior. The ability of anyone to alter the topography is limited to very small changes in very limited areas and is generally not an effective method for wildland fire mitigation. However, due to its influence on wildland fire behavior, topography must be a primary consideration when planning wildland firefighting strategy and tactics.

2. Weather is the most variable and unpredictable element affecting wildland fire behavior. As such, it deserves an in depth discussion in order to gain an understanding of its influence on wildland fire and how it affects the ability to suppress a wildland fire event. The following description of Colorado weather and climate is from the “Climatography of the United States No. 60” (updated January of 2003) by Nolan J. Doesken, Roger A. Pielke, Sr. and Odilia A.P. Bliss., shown below in quotes and italics. This information has been supplemented with additional material from the LFPD regarding the implication of various weather and climate elements to wildland fire and weather information regarding the local environment.

B. Topographic Features
1. To understand the regional and local climates of Colorado, you must begin with a basic knowledge of Colorado's topography. Colorado lies astride the highest mountains of the Continental Divide. Nearly rectangular, its north and south boundaries are the 41° and 37° N.
parallels, and the east and west boundaries are the 102° and 109° W. meridians. It is eighth in size among the 50 states, with an area of over 104,000 square miles. Although known for its mountains, nearly 40 percent of its area is taken up by the eastern high plains.

2. Of particular importance to the climate are Colorado's interior continental location in the middle latitudes, the high elevation of the entire region, and the mountains and ranges extending north and south approximately through the middle of the State. With an average altitude of about 6,800 feet above sea level, Colorado is the highest contiguous State in the Union. Roughly three-quarters of the Nation's land above 10,000 feet altitude lies within its borders. The State has 59 mountains 14,000 feet or higher, and about 830 mountains between 11,000 and 14,000 feet in elevation.

3. Emerging gradually from the plains of Kansas and Nebraska, the high plains of Colorado slope gently upward for a distance of some 200 miles from the eastern border to the base of the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The eastern portion of the State is generally level to rolling prairie broken by occasional hills and bluffs. Although subtle when compared to the high mountains of the Rockies, there are also important topographic features across eastern Colorado. Two major river valleys dissect eastern Colorado - the South Platte River in northeastern Colorado and the Arkansas River to the southeast. Higher ground extends eastward from the Rockies between the river valleys. High ground also extends eastward along the New Mexico border to the south and along the Wyoming and Nebraska borders to the north. These features have an impact on temperatures, wind patterns and storm tracks in all season of the year.

4. Elevations along the eastern border of Colorado range from about 3,350 feet at the lowest point in the State where the Arkansas River crosses into Kansas to near 4,000 feet. Elevations increase towards the west to between 5,000 and 6,500 feet where the plains meet the Front Range of the Rocky Mountain chain. Here elevations rise abruptly to 7,000 to 9,000 feet. Backing the foothills are the mountain ranges above 9,000 feet with the higher peaks over 14,000 feet. The most dramatic feature is Pike's Peak near Colorado Springs where elevations rise abruptly from less than 5,000 feet near Pueblo in the Arkansas Valley to over 14,000 feet at the top of the mountain. During the summer months, this topographic feature becomes a "thunderstorm machine" as thunderstorms develop almost any day that humidity is sufficiently high.

5. West of these "front ranges" are additional ranges, generally extending north and south, but with many spurs and extensions in other directions. These ranges enclose numerous high mountain parks and valleys. Farther westward the mountains give way to rugged plateau country in the form of high mesas (some more than 10,000 feet in elevation) which extends to the western border of the State. This land is often cut by rugged canyons, the work of the many streams fed by accumulations of winter snow.

6. Colorado is a headwater state. All rivers in Colorado rise within its borders and flow outward, with the exception of the Green River, which flows diagonally across the extreme northwestern corner of the State. Four of the Nation's major rivers have their source in Colorado: the Colorado, the Rio Grande, the Arkansas, and the Platte.
C. General Climate

1. The combination of high elevation, mid latitude interior continent geography results in a cool, dry but invigorating climate. There are large seasonal swings in temperature and large day to night changes. During summer there are hot days in the plains, but these are often relieved by afternoon thundershowers. Mountain regions are nearly always cool. Humidity is generally quite low; this favors rapid evaporation and a relatively comfortable feeling even on hot days. The thin atmosphere allows greater penetration of solar radiation and results in pleasant daytime conditions even during the winter. Outdoor work and recreation can often be carried out in relative comfort year round, but sunburn and skin cancer is a problem due to the intense high-elevation sunlight. At night, temperatures drop quickly, and freezing temperatures are possible in some mountain locations every month of the year.

2. The climate of local areas is profoundly affected by differences in elevation, and to a lesser degree, by the orientation of mountain ranges and valleys with respect to general air movements. Wide variations occur within short distances. The difference (35 degrees F) in annual mean temperature between Pikes Peak and Las Animas, 90 miles to the southeast, is about the same as that between southern Florida and Iceland. The annual snowfall at Wolf Creek Pass (elevation 10,850 feet) in the southern mountains averages nearly 400 inches and sometimes exceeds 600 inches while at Manassa in the San Luis Valley just east of Wolf Creek Pass annual snowfall is barely 40 inches. Statewide average annual precipitation is 17 inches but ranges from only 7 inches in the middle of the San Luis Valley in south central Colorado to over 60 inches in a few mountain locations. While temperature decreases, and precipitation generally increases with altitude, these patterns are modified by the orientation of mountain slopes with respect to the prevailing winds and by the effect of topographical features in creating local air movements.

3. As a result of the State's distance from major sources of moisture (the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico), precipitation is generally light in the lower elevations. Prevailing air currents reach Colorado from westerly directions. Eastward-moving storms originating in the Pacific Ocean lose much of their moisture falling as rain or snow on the mountaintops and westward-facing slopes. Eastern slope areas receive relatively small amounts of precipitation from these storms, particularly in mid-winter.

4. Storms moving from the north usually carry little moisture. The frequency of such storms increases during the fall and winter months, and decreases rapidly in the spring. The accompanying outbreaks of polar air are responsible for the sudden drops in temperature often experienced in the plains sections of the State. Occasionally these outbreaks are attended by strong northerly winds which come in contact with moist air from the south; the interaction of these air masses can cause a heavy fall of snow and the most severe of all weather conditions of the high plains, the blizzard. This cold air is frequently too shallow to cross the mountains to the western portion of the State so while the plains are in the grip of a very severe storm, the weather in the mountains and western valleys may be mild.
5. Occasionally, when the plains are covered with a shallow layer of cold air, strong westerly winds aloft work their way to the surface. Warmed by rapid descent from higher levels, these winds bring large and sudden temperature rises. This phenomenon is the "chinook" of the high plains and temperature rises of 25 to 35°F within a short time are not uncommon. Chinook winds greatly moderate average winter temperatures in areas near enough to the mountains to experience them frequently. Due to these wind patterns, some locations in the eastern foothills are warmer than adjacent areas on the eastern plains on many days during the winter.

6. Warm, moist air from the south moves into Colorado infrequently, but most often in the spring, summer and early autumn. As this air is carried northward and westward to higher elevations, the heaviest and most general rainfalls (and sometimes wet snows) occur over the eastern portions of the State from April through early September. For southern and western Colorado, the intrusions of moist air are most common from mid July into September associated with wind patterns sometimes called the Southwest Monsoon. Frequent showers and thunderstorms continue well into the summer. At times during the summer, winds shift to the southwest and bring hot, dry air from the desert Southwest over the State. Such hot spells are usually of short duration.

7. Climate Of The Eastern Plains
   a) The climate of the plains is comparatively uniform from place to place, with characteristic features of low relative humidity, abundant sunshine, infrequent rains and snow, moderate to high wind movement, and a large daily and seasonal range in temperature. Summer daily maximum temperatures are often 95°F or above, and 100°F temperatures have been observed at all plain stations. Such temperatures are not infrequent at altitudes below 5,000 feet; above that elevation they are comparatively rare. The highest temperatures in Colorado occur in the Arkansas Valley and lower elevations of South Platte and Republican Rivers. The hottest temperature ever recorded in Colorado was 114°F at Las Animas in July 1, 1933 and at Sedgwick on July 11, 1954. Because of the very low relative humidity accompanying these high temperatures, hot days cause less discomfort than in more humid areas. The usual winter extremes in the plains are from zero to -10°F to -15°F but have reached extraordinarily low readings of -30 to -40°F during some of the most extreme cold waves.
   b) An important feature of the precipitation in the plains is the seasonal cycle. A very large proportion (70 to 80 percent of the annual total) falls during the growing season from April through September. Cool season precipitation can be important for soil moisture recharge, but midwinter precipitation is light and infrequent. More often, winter brings dry air and strong winds contributing to the aridity of the area. From early March through early June, periodic widespread storms bring soaking beneficial moisture that helps crops and grasslands. Summer precipitation over the plains comes largely from thunderstorm activity and is sometimes extremely heavy. Localized rains in excess of 4" sometimes fall in just a few hours contributing to local flooding. In late May 1935, nearly two feet of rain fell along the Republican River in
eastern Colorado causing one of the worst floods in state history. June flash floods in 1965 were also devastating. The weather station at Holly in southeast Colorado measured 18.81" of rainfall in that extraordinarily wet month. It is more common, however, to be too dry. Annual average precipitation ranges from less than 12 inches in the Arkansas Valley between Pueblo and Las Animas to almost 18 inches in extreme northeastern and southeastern corners of the state. Many years are drier than average, and some years receive only half or less the long-term average. The region seems almost always in or on the verge of drought. Multi-year drought is common to the area such as the decade-long drought of the 1930s, the severe drought of the mid 1950s and 1970s and the recent intense widespread drought of the early 2000s.

c) At the western edge of the plains and near the foothills of the mountains, there are a number of significant changes in climate. Average wind movement is less, but areas very near the mountains are subject to periodic, severe turbulent winds from the effects of high westerly winds over the mountain barrier. These winds are sometimes referred to as "Chinook Winds" when they warm, and "Bora Winds" when they are associated with a strong cold frontal passage down slope off of the mountains. Temperature changes from day to day are not quite as great; summer temperatures are lower, and winter temperatures are higher. Not surprisingly, this milder corridor close to the mountains is where the majority of Colorado’s population now lives. Precipitation, which decreases gradually from the eastern border to a minimum near the mountains, increases rapidly with the increasing elevation of the foothills and proximity to higher ranges. The decrease in temperature from the eastern boundary westward to the foothills is less than might be expected with increasing altitude. This results from mountain and valley winds and greater frequency of the Chinook Winds. Below the Royal Gorge of the Arkansas River, the mountain and valley winds are persistent enough to modify the climate over a considerable area. Descending air currents frequently prevent the stratification of air necessary for the occurrence of excessive cold. As a consequence, the winter climate is milder near Canon City and Penrose than anywhere else in the State.

8. Severe Storms

a) Thunderstorms are quite prevalent in the eastern plains and along the eastern slopes of the mountains during the spring and summer. These often become quite severe, and the frequency of hail damage to crops in northeastern Colorado is quite high. With an average frequency of 6 or more hail days per year, some counties of eastern Colorado are among the most hail prone areas in the entire country.

b) Tornadoes, once thought to be only a small threat to the residents of eastern Colorado, have been found to be quite common with the improvement in severe storm detection in recent decades. Tornadoes are relatively rare in the mountains and western valleys but do occur. In most years, at least 40 tornadoes are
confirmed. Most of these tornadoes are small and short lived, usually classified in intensity as F0 or F1. However, occasional strong tornadoes have been reported. The number of tornado fatalities remains very low for Colorado, but much of this is due to the low population density of some of the most tornado prone areas of eastern Colorado.

c) Lightning has emerged as one of the greatest weather hazards in Colorado. Each year there are typically several fatalities and injuries. Unlike tornadoes that are most common in selected areas of the state, lightning can and does occur everywhere. Lightning strike statistics indicate that the most lightning prone areas of Colorado are the high ground above tree line between Denver and Colorado Springs and the Raton Plateau south and southeast of Trinidad near the New Mexico border.

d) Fall, winter and spring blizzards on the eastern high plains are another weather hazard deserving attention. While Colorado blizzards are less frequent and drop less snow than in areas further east and north, they can still be devastating. As recently as 1997 several fatalities were directly attributable to an October blizzard which caught many travelers unprepared.

e) Heavy snows in the high mountains are much more common. Each year several lives are lost due to avalanches. Avalanches pose a serious problem to residents, road maintenance crews and back country travelers. Considerable effort is made each year to predict and manage avalanches.

f) A spring flood potential results from the melting of the snow pack at the higher elevations. In a year of near-normal snow accumulations in the mountains and normal spring temperatures, river stages become high, but there is no general flooding. In years when snow cover is heavy, or when there is widespread lower elevation snow accumulation and a sudden warming in the spring, there may be extensive flooding.

g) The greatest threat of flooding in Colorado is not snowmelt, however. It is flash flooding from localized intense thunderstorms. The most flash-flood prone regions of Colorado are found along the base of the lower foothills east of the mountains. Several extreme floods such as the infamous Big Thompson Canyon flood of July 31, 1976 have occurred in this vulnerable area. Flash floods occur on the western slopes as well, but with somewhat lower frequency and intensity due to a reduced supply of low level moisture to fuel such storms.

h) Within the LFPD the general weather pattern is similar to the weather pattern in the Denver area but, is influenced by a slightly higher elevation and prominent topographical features. The LFPD abuts the eastern base of Rampart Range and lies on the north side of the Palmer Divide. These topographic formations affect the general weather patterns and they influence the generation of micro-climates within the LFPD. Micro-climates in the LFPD can alter the humidity, precipitation and winds that may be present thereby changing the immediate surroundings of specific areas from the general weather conditions. These changes can be slight or
dramatic, depending on location, season, time of day and perspective, but certainly have the ability to influence a wildland fire in a manner that is different from the surrounding general weather conditions. Awareness of these micro-climates and recognition of their potential to alter fire behavior are key to employing effective fire fighting tactics, ensuring fire fighter safety and should be considered when developing and implementing fire mitigation techniques in order to optimize their effectiveness.

i) The generally low (and sometimes extremely low) humidity level of the area is a key weather factor affecting the fuel moisture content of fuels and their susceptibility to ignition and ability to affect the rate of spread of fire. When humidity levels are very low and stay low for an extended period of time, the fuels quickly dry out, which results in a higher potential for ignition and promotes rapid rate of fire spread.

j) The climate and the day-to-day weather are very volatile factors impacting wildland fire. In general, the climate determines the broad scope weather patterns, temperature ranges, and precipitation amounts for a given area. Over time, this is a factor in determining what types of soils will develop and what native plant materials that will grow at a location. It is the combination of climate, resulting seasonal weather patterns, and vegetation that is the major influence in establishing the fire regime for a particular area.

D. Assess Fuels (Vegetation) in the Local Area

1. General Discussion:

a) Due to the variation in elevation within the LFPD and the abrupt change in topography at the eastern base of the Rampart Range and around the various buttes, there are a variety of ecological life zones (elevation dependent biomes) that support different vegetation types. It is prudent to assess the basic nature of the zones, the variety in vegetation types and density (fuel models), and how this relates to wildland fire behavior and our ability to successfully intervene during fire events.

b) In a landscape scale context, the character of these ecological life zones is affected by: elevation, latitude, climate, geographical position relative to predominate weather patterns, and regional topological influences such as high mountain ranges. These ecological life zones generally occur within ranges of elevation particular to the latitude of the location, however, terrain generated micro-climates exist that allow vegetation elements of a life zone to occur within lower or higher elevations than they might normally be found.

c) Generally, latitude and elevation are inversely related when it comes to the location of life zones. At higher latitudes, a life zone will occur at lower elevations than it will at lower latitudes. Elements such as slope steepness and aspect, soil type, terrain generated micro-climates, riparian corridors and major topographical features influence the character and composition of the life zones on the local level.
d) In many locations, two or more of these zones merge within a transition environment and exhibit many or all of the vegetation characteristics of the zones involved. These areas often contain the highest degree of vegetation diversity and form some of the most complicated and intense wildland fire behavior environments.

2. The Plains Ecological Life Zone:
   a) The high plains short grass prairie is found throughout the eastern third of Colorado and comprises the Plains ecological life zone within the LFPD. It is also found as isolated elements and as understory in portions of the Foothills and lower Montane Zones as well, with the vegetation species mix transforming as elevation increases. Historically, it was a more common component within the Foothills and lower Montane Zones when wildland fire was unregulated within these zones. It is characterized by short, relatively sparse vegetation cover. Grasses and forbs are the most common plant life found in the high prairie and are known as fine or light fuels within the context of wildland fire. Woody plants such as sagebrush and rabbit brush are also common as are various species of cactus in more mature or climax prairie environments. These woody plant materials will increase the intensity and flame lengths of wildland fire and complicate fire control and suppression efforts.
   b) Riparian ribbons that thread through the high plains add a variety of plant materials that depend on the greater availability of water and include many more woody plants such as cottonwood trees, willows and a diversity of brushy vegetation. In general, the plant materials found within the riparian corridors have higher moisture content than those outside the corridors, due to the increased available water supply. The higher moisture content of the fuels lessens the likelihood of ignition and can even function as a fire break under certain conditions. However, in severe drought times, the concentration of woody fuels within riparian environments will add substantial available fuel to a wildland fire. The fine fuels and open environment of the Plains zone make for readily ignited and fast moving wildland fires that are generally weather driven during periods of low relative humidity and strong winds.
   c) Fires in this ecosystem generally occur more frequently, are of a shorter duration, exhibit less intense fire behavior and respond to control measures more readily than wildland fires in heavy brush or timber environments. However, it is the speed at which these fire events can progress that poses the greatest threat, due to a short or non-existent notification time to prepare for the event or to move out of harm’s way. In addition, the rapid rate of fire spread in this environment can contribute to many acres being burned in a single fire event. Notification and response times to these fire events, is a critical aspect of the fire suppression effort for fires in this environment.

3. The Foothills Ecological Life Zone:
   a) The Foothills zone is generally characterized by shrubs such as Mountain Mahogany, Gambel Oak, Three-leaf Sumac, American Plum, and Choke Cherry, although species composition can be highly diverse. In the north to central portions of the Front Range of Colorado, the species mentioned above generally dominate. Further south, juniper
becomes more common as the annual precipitation is less and provides a climate more favorable for junipers and less favorable for some other species.

b) The LFPD is within a transition zone of these vegetation types and has elements of both. Within the LFPD, the juniper variety is the Rocky Mountain juniper which generally occurs in rocky outcrop areas and can be found as secondary growth under Ponderosa and Douglas fir stands within rugged and exposed sites. At the higher elevations in the foothills region, forest vegetation becomes more predominate and Ponderosa pine becomes more common.

c) The grasslands within the Foothills environment are infected with massive invasions of Gambel oak which also intrudes into the understory of the Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forests of the higher elevations. This is primarily due to the suppression of wildland fire over the last one hundred or more years. There are locations where the forests are choked with a mix of Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Gambel oak and Rocky Mountain juniper. These areas are some of the most volatile natural venues for wildland fire behavior due to the density of the fuels and their ground to crown ladder fuel arrangement.

d) The extensive, unbroken continuity of these fuels is also a factor that promotes large fire growth and complicates suppression strategy and tactics. Under very dry weather and fuel conditions along with high sustained winds, fires in this environment have the ability to grow large quickly and escape initial attack efforts.

4. The Montane Ecological Life Zone:

a) The Montane zone is the highest elevation ecological life zone within the LFPD. The Montane zone can be divided into an upper and lower zone and it is the lower portion of this zone that is most prevalent where the Montane zone exists within the LFPD. Historically, the identifying characteristic of this zone was the open canopy Ponderosa pine woodlands.

b) Within the LFPD, there are currently few examples of an open Ponderosa stand. Fire was and is an important component in maintaining the open canopy and grassy understory of these Ponderosa pine woodlands and the long-time suppression of low intensity ground fires have allowed a buildup of debris and an increased density of trees and shrubs within formerly open Ponderosa pine stands. On some sites, Ponderosa pine co-dominates with Douglas fir and in these areas a closed canopy forest is generally formed. This type of forest is more prone to high intensity crown fires due to the close spacing of the tree crowns.

c) Higher in the Montane zone, Douglas fir becomes the more dominant species due to an increase in precipitation and available water and generally forms a very dense forest. Douglas fir concentrations can also be seen on north aspect slopes of lesser elevations and in narrow canyon riparian environments with the largest specimens occurring there.

d) The majority of the area burned in the 2002 Hayman Fire occurred in the Montane ecological life zone and burned in fuel types and fuel loading that is typically found within areas of the LFPD. This should be noted and is of concern. It is the amount and
condition of the fuels in this environment, combined with the often very steep terrain inhibiting access that pose the fire suppression challenge here.

5. Changes within the Life Zones:
   a) Historically, the composition and more importantly, the density of the vegetation were much different along the Front Range of Colorado than they are today. Time, fire events, damaging insects, plant diseases, and human activities are the major factors for changes in character within the ecological life zones.
   b) Over the course of years, decades, and centuries, the composition, extent, and range of various ecologic life zones have changed and it is the consequences of this change that must be addressed when contemplating wildland firefighting and mitigation strategies.
   c) Climate modification is the major agent of change over the centuries for life zones. As temperature and precipitation shift gradually over time, it can affect the plant species composition and density of vegetation. These climate shifts may also influence the fire regime of the life zone and impact the local weather patterns affecting the frequency of lightning strikes and therefore fire starts.
   d) Fire events, insects and plant disease can cause modifications that are very wide in geographic scope and have impacts that last for decades. These changes will alter the balance of species composition and increase vegetative diversity as new growth that replaces the destroyed vegetation will likely be of different species and grow in different densities. This has implications for the fire regime of the affected areas, at least for a period of many decades.
   e) Along the Front Range within the lower Montane zone, it is estimated that the historic fire regime had a cycle of occurrence of approximately 60 years in Ponderosa pine / Douglas fir forests, depending on the location. There is research to support that there were more low-intensity ground fires and less stand replacement, high-intensity fires than what is seen today.
   f) Historically, there were fewer areas and acreage of dense forest susceptible to high-intensity stand replacement fire events, and larger areas comprised of less dense fuels than what is the reality today.
   g) Fires are started primarily due to lightning and the influences of humans, in both an anthropological and post-European settlement context. The incidence of lightning strikes that start fires is likely to be very similar today as compared to pre-European settlement times.
   h) Within the LFPD, this is the primary source of ignition for wildland fires. In pre-European settlement times, there is evidence that indigenous humans started wildland fires in some areas to manage the vegetation for food production, in hunting techniques and as a battle tactic. Although it is confirmed that fire was used as a survival tool for aboriginal peoples, it must be supposed that there were some fires in pre-European settlement times that could also be attributed to escape of controlled fire and to arson. In pre-European settlement times, fires were probably not suppressed at any effective level by humans.
i) Suppression of wildland fires would have been a natural process involving: time, location, weather, topography, and dispersion and state of the fuels. Therefore, it is likely that low intensity fires could have burned substantial acreage in any given fire event. Whereas today, low intensity wildland fires are more easily suppressed by fire crews than high intensity fire events and this generally results in a lower acreage of consumption per event than with high intensity fires. High intensity, stand replacement fires are far more difficult to control and suppress and generally consume the most acreage on a per event basis.

E. Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Concern in the Area of the CWPP

1. The area is within the historic range of the Mexican spotted owl (Strix occidentalis lucida) and includes potential habitat areas.
   a) In connection with a USFS mitigation project, the western boundary of Perry Park around Bear Creek has been surveyed twice in the last decade for the Mexican spotted owl.
   b) Both surveys returned negative findings for that species.
   c) The Mexican spotted owl is listed as a Federally Threatened and State Threatened species.

2. The Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse (Zapus hudsonius preblei) has substantial areas of habitat along riparian corridors within the LFPD. The Preble’s mouse is listed as a Federally Threatened and State Threatened species.

3. The Bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) has been witnessed by residents on rare occasions within the LFPD and is listed as a State Threatened species.

4. The Ferruginous hawk (Buteo regalis) has also been sighted by district residents and is listed as State Special Concern status (not a statutory category).

5. The Swift Fox has been sited within the district and is of State Special Concern status (not a statutory category).

IX. Appendix 2: DCPW ROW Tree Removal Policy

DOUGLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

POLICY FORM
PURPOSE: To help ensure the safety and integrity of County roadways.

DEPARTMENTS

RESPONSIBLE: Community Planning and Sustainable Development (CPSD) - Engineering Division

Public Works – Operations

DEPARTMENT(S)

AFFECTED: CPSD – Engineering Division

Public Works - Operations

POLICY:

No tree located within Douglas County rights-of-way shall be removed without written permission from the County.
Circumstances warranting removal of trees shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

   A) Construction of roadway or drainage improvements;
   B) Trees that create a driving hazard or inhibit sight distance;
   C) Dead or dying trees;
   D) Trees or tree roots causing damage to roadways or other infrastructure;
   E) Trees inhibiting drainage or roadside maintenance;
   F) Wildfire mitigation;
   G) Any circumstance that may create health, safety and operational hazards related to a tree location.

PROCEDURES:

The Department of CPSD – Engineering and Department of Public Works - Operations are responsible for the administration of the following procedures:

Trees located on private property or areas maintained by community associations

In the event trees, limbs, shrubs, vines, hedges or other plant material located on private property or upon areas maintained by a community association are deemed to constitute a hazard to drivers or pedestrians, the County shall pursue the removal of said obstructions pursuant to 42-4-114 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. Community associations are defined as organizations that have been given responsibility for the maintenance of plant material on County right-of-way through a license agreement or other means and shall be considered “property owners” within this policy.

Trees located on County owned right-of-way or County right-of-way easements:

1. In the event trees are to be removed from County owned rights-of-way or County right-of-
way easements, the County will flag the trees and notify immediate adjacent property owners by certified mail at least fourteen (14) days in advance of removal. Other affected Douglas County Departments will also be notified at that time. For the purpose of this policy, “immediate adjacent property” shall be defined as illustrated on Attachment A, and shall hereinafter be referred to as “adjacent property.” If the tree is located within National Forest boundaries, tree removal shall be coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service. If the tree is located upon County right-of-way where a community association such as a metro district or homeowner’s association has responsibility for landscape maintenance, notice shall be given to the community association.

2. Adjacent property owners shall have the right of first refusal concerning transplantable trees to be removed from the right-of-way (note: utility conflicts may render some trees impractical for transplanting). If the adjacent property owner wishes to transplant said tree(s), the property owner must notify the applicable department within seven (7) days of receipt of notification and shall relocate said tree(s) at no cost to Douglas County within (14) days of notification. The property owner shall obtain necessary permits from Douglas County, locate affected utilities, restore the grade to what existed prior to relocation of the tree(s) and mitigate any damage to utilities. A no-cost permit will be issued for the tree relocation(s), however, a refundable security deposit from the property owner in the amount of $250.00 per tree up to a maximum of $1,000.00 shall be retained by the County until permit requirements have been met. No deposit will be required from community associations for the transplanting of trees within the right-of-way. Extensions of the timeframe for removal may be granted depending upon the urgency of removal.

3. If the adjacent property owner does not respond within seven days of receipt of notification, tree removal will proceed at the discretion of the County after the 14-day notification timeframe has expired.

4. Trees located within County rights-of-way normally will not be removed other than for the reasons listed above. However, if the adjacent property owner wishes to remove a tree(s) located within the public right-of-way (and adjacent to his or her property), said property owner may make a request in writing to the Department of CPSD – Engineering Inspections Division. Such request will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The property owner shall be responsible for obtaining applicable permits and shall meet all other requirements found within paragraph 2. (above).

5. If the County determines that an emergency condition exists that requires the removal of a tree(s), any or all provisions of this policy may be waived.
Attachment A

Illustration of Immediate Adjacent Property

Examples:
- Lot 1 shall be considered as immediately adjacent to Area A.
- Lot 9 shall be considered as immediately adjacent to Area B.
Appendix 3: DCOS Regulations

RESOLUTION NO. R-005-033
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
DOUGLAS COUNTY PARKS, 'RAILS AND OPEN SPACE LANDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-9-117, SECTION
29-7-101, AND SECTION 30-11-107(1)(a), C.R.S., and REPEALING ALL
ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT
THEREWITH

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Douglas, State of Colorado (the”Board”),
has the authority pursuant to 18-9-1 17, 29-7-101, and 30-11-107(1)(a), C.R.S., to adopt rules and
regulations for the regulation and control of County lands and facilities; and
WHEREAS, on August 12, 2004 the Board adopted Resolution No. R-004- 108, A Resolution Adopting
rules and Regulations for Douglas County Parks Trails, and Open Space Lands Pursuant to Section 18-9-1
17, Section 29-7-101 and Section 30-1 1-107(1)44, C.R.S.; and
WHEREAS, the Board now desires to repeal Resolution No. R-003-105, and adopt amended rules and
regulations for Douglas County Parks (“Park(s)”) and Douglas County Open Space lands (“Open Space”);
and
WHEREAS, pursuant to 29-7-101 C.R.S. the Board has the authority to adopt the penalty assessment
procedure provided in 16-2-201 C.R.S. and a graduated fine schedule for violations of these rules and
regulations; and
WHEREAS, the Board desires lo adopt this Resolution establishing consolidated Rules and Regulations
for Parks, Open Space, and certain other lands; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to 29-7-101(3), C.R.S., the board of county commissioners has the authority to
designate specific county personnel to enforce the rules and regulations adopted by the county to
control and regulate the use of county lands and facilities by issuance of summons and complaint or
penalty assessment; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Douglas that Douglas County
Parks and Open Space rules and regulations are promulgated and adopted as follows:
SECTION I: GENERAL

Purpose. To regulate and control Parks certain other lands and facilities and Open Space lands, owned
and/or operated by Douglas County (the “County”) by adopting the rules and regulations listed herein.
Enforcement. This resolution shall be enforced by the Douglas County Sheriff or a Douglas County Park
Ranger.
Violation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of these rules and regulations in
any Parks or Open Space lands.
Penalties. Any person who violated any of these rules and regulations in any Park or Open Space
commits a Class 2 Petty Offense and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a Fine of Fifty Dollars
($50.00) for each separate violation. The penalty assessment procedure provided in 16-2-201 C.R.S.,
may be followed by the issuing officer for any such violation of these rules and regulations. In the event
an individual is charged with subsequent offenses, the fine shall increase to One Hundred Dollars ($1
00.00), for a second violation and shall increase by One Hundred Dollars ($100.00), for each violation
thereafter, up to a maximum of Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00).
The foregoing penalties are in addition to any penalties which may apply to enforcement of these rules
as misdemeanors pursuant to 18-9-117, C.R.S., when said rules and regulations have been prominently
posted as provided in 18-9-117, C.R.S.
Scope. These rules and regulations shall apply to all County-owned or operated Parks and Open Space within Douglas County. These rules and regulations shall in no way limit application and enforcement of any Resolution, Ordinance, or lawful order of the County or the statutes of the State of Colorado but shall be in addition thereto.

Disposition of Fines. All fines and forfeitures for the violation of these rules and regulations and all monies collected by the Courtly for violation thereof shall be paid to the Douglas County Treasurer’s Office.

Severability. If any part or parts of these rules and regulations are for any reason held to be invalid such provision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of these rules and regulations. The Board hereby declares that it would have passed this Resolution, these rules and regulations, and each part or parts thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one part or parts be declared invalid.

Repeal. All ordinances and/or resolutions or parts of ordinances and/or resolutions inconsistent with provisions of this Resolution and these rules and regulations are hereby repealed. All previous resolutions adopting rules and regulations for either Douglas County Parks or Douglas County Open Space are hereby repealed including but not limited to Resolution M-985-303, Book 581, Page 734; Resolution R-990-072, Reception Number 9016818, Book 921. Page 332; and Resolution R-000-189, Reception Number 00081534, Book 1921, Page 1264 Resolution R-002-208, Reception Number 2002077646, and Resolution No. R-003-105, Reception No. 2003122786. However, this repeal shall not affect or prevent the prosecution or punishment of any person for any act done or committed in violation of any ordinance or resolution repealed hereunder prior to the effective date of this Resolution.

SECTION II: DEFINITIONS
“Park” shall mean, wherever used in these rules and regulations, all public recreation lands and all trails, waters, buildings, structures, roads, parking lots and facilities located on such lands owned or operated by Douglas County that are managed or administered by the Douglas County Division of Parks and Trails. “Open Space” shall mean wherever used in these rules and regulations: (a) any land that Douglas County owns in fee, designated by the Board of County Commissioners as open space; (b) any land or interest in land that Douglas County holds through conservation easements under 38-30.5-101 et seq., C.R.S., if the conservation easement authorizes permits, or allows public access or use of such lands or interests in land; and other lands owned or operated by Douglas County that are managed or administered by the Douglas County Division of Open Space and Natural Resources; and (c) all trails, waters, buildings, structures, roads, parking lots or facilities located on such lands.

“Law Enforcement Officers” shall mean the Sheriff Undersheriff, and his deputies.
“Park Ranger” shall mean an employee of Douglas County, authorized by the Board of County Commissioners to enforce the rules and regulations on Park and Open Space lands.

SECTION III. PROHIBITIONS
It shall be unlawful unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director of the Douglas County Parks and Trails Division or the Director of the Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources Division, for any person:

A. To enter, use or occupy any Park or Open Space lands, or any portion thereof, during the time such lands, or any portion thereof, are closed to entry, use or occupancy, including seasonal closures.
B. (i) To remove, destroy, mutilate, deface or damage any building, structure, facility, sign, marker, rock, vegetation, or other object located on Parks or Open Space lands.
   (ii) To construct, place, or maintain any kind of road, trail, structure, signs, markers, fence, enclosure, communication equipment or other improvements on Park or Open Space lands without written permission from Douglas County.
(iii) To excavate, dig, or disturb the ground of any Park or Open Space lands including but not limited to any rock, soil, sediment or vegetable matter without the written permission of Douglas County.

(iv) To utilize any metal detector or similar device to search for any object in Parks or Open Space lands without the written permission of Douglas County.

C.  (i) To deposit or leave any refuse, trash, litter, household construction debris, or commercial garbage or trash, including but not limited to brush, lawn trimmings, and Christmas trees, in or upon any Park or Open Space lands except by depositing such refuse, trash, debris or litter in designated refuse receptacles.

(ii) To leave any refuse or rubbish generated on Parks or Open Space lands except when deposited in designated receptacles.

D.  (i) To build, start, or light any fire of any nature on any Park or Open Space lands except in outdoor fireplace grills or camp stoves within designated areas.

(ii) To build, start or light any fire of any nature in an outdoor fireplace grill or camp stove or any other place whatsoever, even within designated areas, on Park or Open Space lands at any time that the Board has passed a resolution banning such fires due to fire danger in the County or neighboring areas.

(iii) To burn any material in a careless manner, or to leave any fire unattended, or to fail to completely extinguish any fire, on any Park or Open Space lands.

(iv) To collect firewood on any Park or Open Space lands, except with the written permission of the County.

E.  (i) To feed, hunt, trap, catch, molest, take, harass, harm or kill any wild animal, bird, fish, reptile, or amphibian or to disturb their habitat on any Park or Open Space lands except:

(a) In designated areas where hunting is allowed by written permission from Douglas County in accordance with rules and regulations administered by the Colorado Division of Wildlife; or

(b) With written permission from Douglas County for purposes of scientific studies, research, wildlife census, education, or interpretation.

(ii) To allow domestic pets to harm, kill, chase, or otherwise harass any wild animal, bird, fish, reptile, or amphibian on any Park or Open Space lands. Any dog or other domestic animal within a Park or Open Space land shall be restrained by a leash, cord, rope or chain and under physical control of a persona except as otherwise provided for in this paragraph or posted with approval from the Board of County Commissioners.

(iii) To relocate or release animals, fish, birds, or insects onto any Park or Open Space lands without the written permission of the County.

F.  (i) To possess, use, cock, aim, or discharge any firearm, including but not limited to B-B guns, pellet guns, paint ball guns, and air guns on any Park or Open Space lands.

(ii) To possess, use, draw or discharge any archery equipment, including but not limited to bows, longbows, crossbows, arrows, darts and bolts on any Park or Open Space lands.

(iii) To possess, use or discharge any device capable of discharging any projectile by any means whatsoever, including but not limited to slingshots and wrist rockets or any Park or Open Space lands.

(iv) To ignite or launch any model rocket or any Park or Open Space lands.

(v) To use, ignite, or fire any fireworks or explosives on any Park or Open Space lands, except in designated areas when authorized in writing by Douglas County.

(vi) To golf or hit golf balls except where specifically permitted.

G.  (i) To operate any motorized vehicle on any Park or Open Space lands except on designated roadways and parking lots, which are open to public use. Emergency, maintenance, and patrol vehicles are specifically excluded.

(ii) To operate without written authorization by Douglas County a motorized vehicle upon any roadway located on Park or Open Space lands that is designated a “service road”
(iii) except during lighted sporting events, or with written permission from the Director of the Division of Parks and Trails or the Director of the Division of Open Space and Natural Resources to park or leave unattended any vehicle on any Park or Open Space lands at any time between one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

H. To park vehicles or trailers on any Parks or Open Space lands where prohibited or in such a manner as to create a hazard to vehicular, pedestrian, equestrian, or bicycle traffic, except at an approved special event.

I. To camp overnight, or to park a trailer or camper for overnight camping purposes, on any Park or Open Space lands except in areas which are designated for camping; or to camp, or to park a trailer or camper, in such a designated area for a period of time in excess of the posted or permitted limits except for an approved special event.

J. To enter, use or occupy Park and Open Space lands between the hours of one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise except when such entry, use or occupancy is within a designated active regional or local park where recreational activities maybe allowed until 11:00 p.m., or when such entry, use or occupancy is authorized in writing by the Director or the Douglas County Division of Parks and Trails or the Director of the Douglas County Division of Open Space and Natural Resources.

K. (i) To molest, harm, chase, or otherwise harass any livestock on any Park or Open Space lands.
   (ii) To allow domestic pets to molest, harm, chase, or otherwise harass any livestock upon any Park or Open Space lands.
   (iii) To turn livestock onto or to negligently or intentionally allow livestock to graze upon any Park or Open Space lands without written permission of the County.

L. To swim or wade in waters within any Park or Open Space lands except in designated areas.

M. (i) To operate any boat or other flotation device on waters within any Park or Open Space lands, except in designated areas.
   (ii) To anchor or beach boats unattended overnight on any Park or Open Space Lands or waters, except in designated areas.
   (iii) To launch any boat from a trailer, car, truck or any other conveyance on any Park or Open Space lands, except in designated launch areas.

N. (i) To engage in any activity on any Park or Open Space lands that unreasonably endangers the health safety, and welfare of any person, animal or property.
   (ii) To engage in disorderly conduct, as defined in 18-9-106, C.R.S.

O. To conduct any commercial activity, or provide any service product or activity for which a fee is charged on any Park or Open Space lands except when such activity is authorized in writing by Douglas County.

P. (i) To fail to restrain any dog, cat, horse, or other domestic animal on any Park or Open Space lands that one owns or that is in one's custody, care, or control, by use of a leash, cord, or rope not to exceed 10 feet in length, except in designated areas.
   (ii) To allow any vicious dog, as that term is defined in Douglas County Resolution No. R-998-100, onto any Park or Open Space lands.
   (iii) To leave unattended on any Park or Open Space lands any dog, cat, horse, or other domestic animal that one owns or that is in one's custody, care, or control.
   (iv) To bring any dog, cat, horse, or other domestic animal that one owns or that is in one's custody, care or control into the Highland Heritage Regional Park, located southwest of the intersection of Quebec Street and University Boulevard, the Columbine Open Space property and the Sharptail Ridge Open Space property, except where permitted by signs as provided in paragraph P.(iv) below.
   (v) Any person who brings a dog into a Park or Open Space land shall pick up, carry out and dispose of that dog's excrement.
(vi) The Director of the Douglas County Division of Parks and Trails may authorize dogs, cats, horses and other animals in the Highland Heritage Regional Park for special events subject to those conditions deemed necessary by the Director to protect the public health and safety.

Q. To exceed the speed of 20 miles per hour or as otherwise posted on all roadways and parking areas on any Park or Open Space lands.

R. For any person to consume malt, vinous, or spirituous liquor (alcohol in excess of 3.2%) on any Park or Open Space lands, except on liquor licensed premises.

S. To carry, possess or discard any glass container or bottle on any Park or Open Space lands.

T. To walk, run, jog, hike, bicycle or ride a horse off-trail, on any Park or Open Space lands that contain any trail except under the immediate direction and control of a Douglas County employee or an authorized Douglas County Parks or Open Space volunteer, unless otherwise designated.

U. To interfere or attempt to interfere with any Park Ranger, other County employee, contractor, or volunteer while in the performance of their official duties, or to give false or misleading information with the intent to mislead said person in the performance of their duties.

V. To conduct any of the following at Bingham Lake:
   (i) Any commercial enterprise
   (ii) Motorized boats except those propelled solely by electric motors
   (iii) Boats exceeding twenty feet in length
   (iv) Model airplanes using internal combustion engines
   (v) Skateboarding
   (vi) Skating, including in-line, roller, and ice skating
   (vii) Scuba diving
   (viii) Any use of firearms persons other the law enforcement personnel
   (ix) Any activity that may result in violation of the Clean Water Act, 33 USC
   (x) Swimming
   (xi) Camping
   (xii) Fireworks
   (xiii) Open fires
   (xiv) Dumping of trash
   (xv) Ice fishing
   (xvi) Archery

SECTION IV: AUTHORITY OF DOUGLAS COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE RANGERS

A. Pursuant to 29-7-103 C.R.S., Park Rangers employed by Douglas County are hereby designated to enforce these rules and regulations by issuance of a penalty assessment.

B. The foregoing designation shall not preclude the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office from enforcement of these rules as misdemeanors pursuant to 18-9-117 C.R.S., when said rules and regulations have been prominently posted as provided in 18-9-117 C.R.S.

SECTION V: ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

A. Violation of any of these rules and regulations shall be grounds for eviction from the property.

B. These regulations shall not be applicable to nor prohibit any act by an officer, employee, or contractor of Douglas County who is engaged in the performance of any act within the scope of his or her employment.

C. Organized events for recreational, athletic, social, training, or educational purposes are allowed only by Special Use Permits issued by the Director of the Douglas County Division of Parks and Trails or the Director of the Douglas County Division of Open Space and Natural Resources.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of March, 2005, in Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado.
XI. Appendix 4: DCOS Parcel Wildfire Hazard Assessment and Treatment Recommendations Valley Park CWPP

The Douglas County Division of Open Space and Natural Resources manages 8 parcels within the Valley Park primary WUI boundary. Seven of these parcels reside in the lower elevation bottomland areas of the subdivision and are intermixed with private ownership. The 8th parcel is located on the southwest end of the subdivision, at a relatively higher elevation, and is bordered by the Pike National Forest to the west and private ownership to the north, east, and south. Generally, the 7 lower elevation parcels are drainage tracts characterized by flat to gentle slope and vegetated with short, perennial grasses. Short riparian vegetation, including willow species, occupies several of these drainage tracts. Toward the west, the lower elevation parcels contain few, isolated clumps of conifers and Gambel oak. The parcels toward the east contain heavier Gambel oak and conifers. The vegetation on these parcels is part of a more continuous forest stand, but county ownership within this stand is limited as the parcels are very narrow in width (on average approximately 50 feet). The single higher elevation Open Space parcel on the southwest end of the subdivision can be characterized by steep topography and mixed conifer forest. It resides within the vast, continuous forest stands of the Front Range that are part of the Pike National Forest and also held by private ownership.

A wildfire hazard assessment was conducted and treatment recommendations were made for the Open Space parcels within the Valley Park primary WUI boundary by the Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation Staff. The assessment was conducted as part of a larger effort to assess and make recommendations for all non-right of way lands deeded to the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners through the Douglas County CWPP planning process. The county-wide assessment assigned the following 5 treatment recommendation categories to non-right of way county lands:

1. Treat: Parcel is recommended for treatment. Fuels and topography are capable of supporting significant control problems (i.e. flame lengths not controllable by standard apparatus or equipment, generation of aerial embers likely, multiple tree torching, active crown fire, etc.) and/or pose a significant hazard to nearby values at risk. Parcels that would serve as effective demonstration sites were also recommended for treatment.

2. Conditionally Treat: Treatment on parcel alone will not significantly reduce hazard, usually because the treatable area owned by the county is too small. Benefit of treatment requires participation of treatment on neighboring ownerships. Treatment will be recommended with commitment from adjacent land owners.

3. Management Plan: Property has multiple and complex management objectives and hazard reduction treatments should be conducted as recommended in a land management plan for the property.
4. **Structure:** A structure is on site of the parcel, defensible space should be created around the structure if needed.

5. **No Treatment:** Fuels will not likely support significant control problems or pose a significant hazard to nearby values at risk.

Once parcels are recommended for treatment or conditionally recommended for treatment, Douglas County Division of Open Space and Natural Resources will work with the Wildfire Mitigation Staff and other applicable entities to develop annual priorities among those parcels. Priorities will be influenced by budget, impact to conservation values (wildlife, recreation, water quality, etc.), easement restrictions, stakeholder input, adjacent property owner commitment for conditionally recommended treatments, and other applicable factors. All treatments on Douglas County Open Space will be accomplished either by county staff or by contractors selected by county staff. Parks and Open Space rules and regulations, specifically R005-033 Sec. III B (i) prohibits anyone removing, destroying, or damaging anything on parks or Open Space, including vegetation. This is also covered in the broad context of CRS 18-9-117 Unlawful Conduct on Public Property which allows jurisdictions to restrict activities of the public in order to protect its resources. Douglas County Department of Open Space and Natural Resources is aware of the potential fire hazards on Open Space lands and is willing to work with the community reduce those hazards as opportunities arise following the treatment recommendations generated from the county assessment. Any issues related to Douglas County Open Space may be addressed by contacting the Douglas County Division of Open Space and Natural Resources at (303) 660-7495.

Initially, the Valley Park assessment resulted in 4 Open Space parcels being conditionally recommended for treatment and 4 parcels not recommended for treatment. At the request of the Valley Park CWPP Core Team, a reassessment was conducted by Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation and Douglas County Division of Open Space and Natural Resources in conjunction with Larkspur Fire Protection District. As a result, one parcel (SPN 277106001010) was re-classified from a no treatment recommendation to a conditional treatment recommendation changing the assessment results to 5 parcels being conditionally recommended for treatment and 3 parcels not recommended for treatment. The following descriptions summarize the treatment recommendations made for Open Space parcels in Valley Park. For locations of Open Space Parcels please see accompanying map:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPN</th>
<th>Compartment</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>276901002001</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>6.4 Acre</td>
<td>No Treatment</td>
<td>Fuel type short grass. Slope gentle. Potential fire type is surface fire only. Potential flame length is low to moderate, increasing with wind. Potential rate of spread is low to high, increasing with wind. Potential flame duration is low. Potential burn severity (post burn affect to above ground vegetation) is low. Potential for ember generation is low. Fuels on parcel are not in close enough proximity of private structures or other values at risk to affect ignition.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPN: 276901001001
Compartment: B
Size: 11.3 Acres
Recommendation: No Treatment.
Comments: Fuel type short grass. Riparian vegetation is present. Few small, isolated oak clumps exist but are insignificant to potential fire behavior. Slope gentle. Potential fire type is surface fire only. Potential flame length is low to moderate, increasing with wind. Potential rate of spread is low to high, increasing with wind. Potential flame duration is low. Potential burn severity (post burn affect to above ground vegetation) is low. Potential for ember generation is low. Riparian vegetation is valuable for wildlife forage and cover, soil stabilization, and maintaining water quality. Fuels on property are not in close enough proximity of structures or other values at risk to affect ignition.

SPN: 277106001010
Compartment: B
Size: 2.3 Acres
Recommendation: Conditionally Recommended for Treatment.
Comments: Fuel type short grass. Few isolated clumps of oak are present near road. Slope gentle. Potential fire type is surface fire only. Potential flame length is low to moderate in grass and low to high in oak, increasing with wind. Potential for oak to become an available fuel is highly dependent on live fuel moisture, except for dead component. Potential rate of spread is low to high, increasing with wind. Potential flame duration is low in grass and moderate in oak clumps. Potential burn severity (post burn affect to above ground vegetation) is low. Potential for ember generation is low in grass and moderate in oak clumps. Oak clumps are in close proximity to road creating some potential for spotting over road compromising the road’s effectiveness as a fire break. Conditional treatment restricted to oak. Treatment of this parcel is recommended to be in conjunction with treatment of oak on privately held parcel west of road and oak on adjacent parcel to the east to make treatment fully effective.

SPN: 277106001008
Compartment: B
Size: 5.2 Acres
Recommendation: No Treatment.
Comments: Fuel type short grass. Riparian vegetation is present. Slope gentle. Potential fire type is surface fire only. Potential flame length is low to moderate, increasing with wind. Potential rate of spread is low to high, increasing with wind. Potential flame length duration is low. Potential burn severity (post burn affect to above ground vegetation) is low. Potential for ember generation is low. Fuels on property are not in close enough proximity of structures or other values at risk to affect ignition. Riparian shrubs are generally not readily combustible except in extreme cases. Riparian vegetation is valuable for wildlife forage and cover, stabilizing soil, and maintaining water quality.

SPN: 277106003006
Size: 6.8 Acres
Compartment: B/C
Recommendation: Conditionally Recommended for Treatment.
Comments: Primary fuel type short grass. Patches of oak with significant dead component are present and adjacent to private parcels. Riparian vegetation is present. Slope gentle. Potential fire type is surface fire only. Potential flame length is low to moderate in grass and low to high in oak, increasing with wind. Oak availability as fuel is highly dependent on live fuel moisture except for dead component. Potential rate of spread is low to high, increasing with wind. Potential flame duration is low in grass and moderate in oak clumps. Potential burn severity (post burn affect to above ground vegetation) is low. Potential for ember generation is low in grass and moderate in oak. Riparian shrubs are generally not readily combustible except in extreme cases. Riparian vegetation is valuable for wildlife forage and cover, stabilizing soil, and maintaining water quality. Conditional rating restricted to oak. Oak on north side of parcel is a narrow edge of a larger stand mostly held by private ownership. Treatment of oak on privately held parcels (between structures and open space parcel) is necessary for treatment of oak on Open Space parcel to be effective in reducing hazard to nearby structures. Treatment of this parcel is recommended to complement efforts completed on the adjacent privately held parcels.

SPN: 277107003004
Size: 0.7 Acres
Compartment: C
Recommendation: Conditionally Recommended for Treatment.
Comments: Primary fuel types timber litter, oak with conifer overstory. Ladder and crown fuels present. Slope gentle. Potential fire types are surface, passive crown, and active crown. Potential flame length is low to high, increasing with wind and dependent on fire type. Potential rate of spread is low to high, increasing with wind. Potential flame duration is high. Potential burn severity (post burn affect to above ground vegetation) is high. Potential for ember generation is high. Fuel is the edge of a larger forest stand that is held almost entirely by private ownership. Conditional treatment limited to large dead/down woody fuels, oak, and conifers. Due to the extreme narrowness of this Open Space parcel, causing limited county ownership of the hazardous fuels, treatment on this parcel alone would not likely reduce potential fire behavior. Treatment of private parcels to the east is first necessary to cause any significant reduction in fire behavior. Treatment of this parcel is recommended to complement efforts completed on the adjacent privately held parcels.

SPN: 277106003007
Size: 2.7 Acres
Compartment: C
Recommendation: Conditionally Recommended for Treatment.
Comments: Primary fuel types grass, timber litter, and oak with conifer overstory. Ladder and crown fuels present. Slope gentle. Potential fire types are surface, passive crown, and active crown. Potential flame length is low to high, increasing with wind and dependent on fire type. Potential rate of spread is low to high, increasing with wind. Potential flame duration is high. Potential burn severity (post burn affect to above ground vegetation) is high. Potential for ember generation is high. Fuel is the edge of a larger forest stand that is held almost entirely by private ownership. Conditional treatment limited to large dead/down woody fuels, oak, and conifers. Due to the extreme narrowness of this Open Space parcel, causing limited county ownership of the fuels, treatment on this parcel alone would not likely reduce potential fire behavior. Treatment of private parcels to the north and/or south is necessary to
cause any modifications to fire behavior. Treatment of this parcel is recommended to complement efforts completed on the adjacent privately held parcels.

**SPN:** 277107004021  
**Area:** 17 Acres  
**Compartment:** A  
**Recommendation:** Conditionally Recommended for Treatment.  
**Comments:** Primary fuel types grass, timber litter, and oak. Most of the parcel contains a conifer overstory. Slope gentle to steep. Potential fire types are surface, passive crown, and active crown. Potential flame length is low to high, increasing with wind and dependent on fire type. Potential rate of spread is low to high, increasing with wind. Potential flame duration is high. Potential burn severity (post burn affect to above ground vegetation) is high. Potential for ember generation is high. Parcel is surrounded by forested stands that extend approximately 1/4 to 1/3 miles to the east and north toward the nearest structures, and deep into the Pike National Forest and privately held lands to the west and to the south. Because parcel is surrounded my masses of timber on all sides, is relatively small in comparison to the forest stand it resides in, and is not in close proximity to structures or other values at risk, treatment alone would not provide significant benefit. Recommend treating this parcel as part of a larger landscape scale effort in conjunction with the Pike National Forest and adjacent private ownership. Steep terrain will potentially limit available area in parcel that can be treated with equipment.
XII. Appendix 5: LFPD Response Capability

A. Stations
The Larkspur Fire Protection District (LFPD) operates a total of three fire stations:

1. Station 161 is the main station and is located at 9414 S. Spruce Mountain Road and is within the Town of Larkspur. Station 161 is approximately three miles from the entrance to Valley Park.
2. Station 162 is located within the Perry Park subdivision at 5672 Red Rock Drive. Both of these stations are manned by career staff 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Station 162 is approximately six miles from the entrance to Valley Park.
3. Station 164 is located in the southeastern part of the District at 15205 Furrow Road and is a volunteer response station. Station 164 is approximately 10 miles from the entrance to Valley Park.
4. The descriptions below are from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide – (PMS 310-1) and document the official requirements to be
qualified for any wildland fire job position. The NWCG is the organization that regulates such matters and develops all the courses and task books that are needed to complete the requirements for a wildland fire position.

5. The LFPD adheres to the NWCG system as well as does the CSFS. To be allowed on a federally managed wildfire event you must be qualified by this system at the position you will perform on the fire.

B. Personnel

1. Overall the LFPD has a total of 22 career staff and 39-44 volunteer fire fighters.

2. The LFPD administrative staff includes:
   a) Chief –1
   b) EMS Division Chief – 1;
   c) Fire Marshal – 1;
   d) Training Lt. – 1;
   e) Administrative Assistant – 1;

3. The LFPD volunteers include:
   a) Volunteer Division Chief – 1;
   b) Volunteer Lt. – 3;
   c) Volunteer Fire Fighters – 35-40;
   d) Volunteer fire fighters are required to work shifts with the career staff for a total of 24 hours per month.

4. The LFPD utilizes 3 shifts to provide fire fighting and medical coverage for the district 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

5. Each LFPD career shift staff includes:
   a) On duty Lt. – 1;
   b) Full time Fire Fighters – 4 (Includes 2 paramedic/firefighters);
   c) Part time Fire Fighters – 1;

C. Wildland Fire Positions

All wildland fire positions within the LFPD are qualified per NWCG standards, including prerequisite NWCG courses and the completion of an NWCG task book as appropriate for the position. The following is a listing of NWCG positions held by LFPD personnel:

1. LFPD Personnel Qualified Wildland Fire Positions:
   a) Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4) – 1;
   b) Engine Boss, Single Resource (ENGB) – 4;
   c) Crew Boss, Single Resource (CRWB) – 1;
   d) Fire Fighter Type 1 (FFT1) –3;
   e) Fire Fighter Type 2 (FFT2) – 12;
   f) Training Specialist (TNSP) – 1.

2. LFPD Personnel Trainee Wildland Fire Positions:
a) Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN) – 3;
b) Engine Boss Single Resource ENGB – 2;
c) Dozer Boss, Single Resource (DOZB) – 3;
d) Fire Fighter Type 1 FFT1 – 4;
e) Field Observer (FOBS) – 2;

D. NWCG Courses
All LFPD career and volunteer fire fighting personnel (whether they have achieved an NWCG qualified position or not) have taken these NWCG courses:

1. S-130, Firefighter Training and S-190, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior. These are a mandatory part of the curriculum to become a fire fighter at the LFPD.
2. All fire fighting personnel are also required to take the annual wildland fire refresher course. This is mandatory every year prior to the start of the wildland fire season.
3. All fire personnel that desire to listed within the federal ROSS system and be eligible for fire deployments, must also successfully complete the appropriate NWCG Work Capacity test each year.

E. Coordination with Colorado State Forest Service
In addition, the LFPD is a cooperating agency with the Colorado State Forest Service and as such is listed within the federal dispatch system for deployment to wildland fires outside of the LFPD.

1. When requested by the Federal Dispatch Center in Pueblo, Colorado, the LFPD will send engines and personnel to wildland fires in areas outside of the LFPD. Often this is to fires in other states.
2. The LFPD has been deployed to Florida, Texas, California, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming as well as to various locations within Colorado. These experiences are brought back to the LFPD and enhance the ability of the LFPD to fight wildland fire within our District.
3. During the 2010 and 2011 fire seasons, the LFPD also has a ten person hand crew that is performing fuel mitigation work within the Perry Park sub-division under the ARRA grant program and is available for initial attack on wildland fire within the District and Douglas County. The hand crew members are all NWCG qualified at FFT2 and above.

F. Apparatus & Equipment
1. The LFPD has a variety of apparatus and equipment well suited to the task of engaging wildland fire. Depending on the location and tactics employed, the LFPD will make use of the apparatus best suited for the task at hand.
2. The following is a listing of the various apparatus and equipment that the LFPD has available;
   a) Large Pumpers (Type I Engines) – 4;
   b) Brush Trucks (Type 6 Engines) – 4;
   c) Water Trucks (Type T1 Tactical) – 1;
   d) Support Water Trucks (Type S2) – 2;
e) Medical Response Trucks – 3;
f) Administrative Pickups – 2;
g) Support Pickups – 2;
h) All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) – 3;
i) Portable Water Tanks – 4 @ 2500 gallons to 3000 gallons each.
j) Mark 3 Portable Pump – 1;
k) Small portable pumps – 2;
l) Drip torches – 7;

3. Engines are equipped with wildland fire hand tools and hose as required per typing, at a minimum.

4. All LFPD personnel are equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for fighting wildland fire.

G. **Education of the public and LFPD’s Internal Staff:**

1. The LFPD presents wildland fire information to district residents in several fashions:
   a) Annual Fire Safety presentation to the children at Larkspur Elementary School;
   b) Presentations at HOA meetings;
   c) Onsite consultations with home owners for wildland fire mitigation assessments;
   d) Onsite inspections of campfire locations for the LFPD campfire permit process;
   e) Participation in the creation of wildland fire mitigation demonstration projects;
   f) Participation in Community Wildfire Protection Plan development;
   g) Provision of Smokey Bear fire danger signs displayed within the District;
   h) LFPD participation on Perry Park FireWise Committee and their public events.

2. The LFPD offers multiple training opportunities within the organization throughout the year for wildland fire fighting
   a) The LFPD conducts prescribed fire burns within the district to provide hands-on live fire training;
   b) The LFPD participates in prescribed fire burns in other locations;
   c) LFPD fire fighters also attend wildland fire trainings with the Multi-Jurisdictional Training Consortium which includes the LFPD, Castle Rock Fire, Jackson 105 Fire, Franktown Fire, West Douglas Fire, Elizabeth Fire, and Palmer Lake Fire.
   d) LFPD fire fighters also train on wildland firefighting with the El Paso County North Group fire departments.
   e) LFPD fire fighters attend the winter and summer sessions of the Colorado Wildland Fire & Incident Management Academy (CWFIMA).
   f) LFPD fire fighters deploy to wildland fires in other areas of Colorado and to other states exposing them to new ideas, techniques, fuel models and other conditions and allows additional opportunities to have hands-on experience with wildland fire.
XIII. Appendix 6: Education Topics for Property and Home Owners

A. Community’s CWPP
B. Evacuation Routes
C. Property Preparation
   1. CSFS 6.302 – Defendable Zones;
   2. CSFS 6.303 – Fire-Resistant Landscaping;
   3. CSFS 6.304 - Forest Home Fire Safety;
   4. CSFS 6.305 – Fire Wise Plant Materials;
   5. CSFS 6.306 – Grass Seed Mixes to Reduce Wild Fire Hazards;
D. Early Warning Systems:
   1. Reverse 911 The link to sign up with Everbridge Alert Program is:
      https://ww2.everbridge.net/citizen/EverbridgeGateway.action?body=home&gis_alias_i
         d=170711
   2. Land lines vs. cell phones
   3. Corded vs. cordless phones
   4. Radio Stations that carry warnings.

XIV. Appendix 7: Home Address Sign Standards

A. Location
   1. The address sign should be located at the intersection of the drive and the street.
   2. If the mailbox is on the other side of the street from the drive, then an address sign post
      should be placed at the intersection of the drive and the street with the address
      number.
   3. Drives that service more than one home should have all the addresses shown at the
      drive/street intersection and each individual drive should have an address posted at the
      intersection with the common drive.
   4. For drives servicing multiple homes and using "gang mailboxes" where the mailboxes
      are mounted close together on individual posts or on a common structure, the
      addresses shall be posted as stated above and not obstructed from view by adjoining
      mailboxes or support structure.
B. The Address Sign
   1. The address number should be on the both sides of the sign or mailbox.
   2. The numbers should be perpendicular to the traveled road so they can be read from
      either direction of travel.
   3. The numerals should be a minimum of 4 inches in height, have a minimum stroke width
      of ½ inch.
   4. The numerals should be made of reflective material and should contrast with the
      background of the post or mail box during daylight.
   5. The address sign should be constructed of fire proof materials.
XV. Appendix 8: Slash Disposal Options

A. Douglas County currently operates a “Slash-Mulch Site”, located in Castle Rock. The site is currently cost-free for Douglas County residents and is open on Saturdays from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. [http://www.douglas.co.us/publicworks/Slash_and_Mulch.html](http://www.douglas.co.us/publicworks/Slash_and_Mulch.html)
   1. Open May 27, 2011 thru Sept 2, 2011
   2. Saturday 8:00-1:00
   3. Site is located 18 miles from the community

B. Black Forest also operates a slash and mulch program. While this site is further from our community, its extended hours make it another alternative. [http://www.bslash.org](http://www.bslash.org)
   2. Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:00-7:30
   3. Saturday 7:00-4:00
   4. Sunday 12:00-4:00
   5. Site is located 26 miles from the community.

C. Onsite Chipper – These units can be rented either by individuals or groups of owners.

D. Mitigation Contractors – There are many companies that specialize in mitigation of property or will work with the owner in the removal or chipping of the slash.
   1. Contractors may also recommend the use of a mastication machine to deal with slash or as a very cost effective way to address mitigation on the property.
   2. Mastication of slash piles is recommended when material is a significant distance from roadways. Slash can be piled adjacent to treated areas and masticated by driving the machine to the piles or debris. This option is typically limited to slopes less than 40%.

E. “Lop-and-scatter” of slash can be done in areas away from structures and roadways. A short-term fuel loading occurs over the first three years of treatment and then drops rapidly thereafter.

F. Pile burning is an option if offered by the local fire agency with appropriate permitting required for both burning and smoke generation.

G. All owners are encouraged to retain the chipped material on their properties as mulch in their landscaping. This will avoid having material end up in landfills.

XVI. Appendix 9: Approval Signatures
The Valley Park Community Wildfire Protection Plan was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, including Valley Park and Hidden Valley homeowners, Larkspur Fire Protection District, Douglas County Public Works, Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation Staff, Douglas County Emergency Management, Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources, US Forest Service-Pikes Peak Ranger District, and the Colorado State Forest Service, participated and provided input to the process.

The CWPP identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect the Community. It also recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area.

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

William Logue
Valley Park HOA President

Randy Johnson, Fire Marshall
Larkspur Fire Protection District

Kristin Garrison, District Forester
Colorado State Forest Service, Franktown District