

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

For ESTES PARK

Revision – January 2009

TOWN OF ESTES PARK
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Course of Action for Estes Park

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) gives communities the opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal lands, and how additional federal funds may be distributed for projects on non-federal lands. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan is the vehicle for local communities to take advantage of this opportunity.

This *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* for Estes Park (the "Plan") was developed by the Town of Estes Park with guidance and support from Richard Edwards, US Forest Service (USFS), Mike Lewelling, Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), Nate Williamson (RMNP), Diana Selby, Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), Lowell Richardson, Steve Barlow, Bob Goehring, Town of Estes Park, Scott Dorman, Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department, and Sue Pinkham, WUI Fire Education Coordinator. This CWPP supplements several Larimer County documents and other documents, which are listed as references after Section 9.

As a minimum, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) must begin with a collaboration between local and state agencies in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties. It must include identification and prioritization of areas for hazardous fuel reduction, recommended types of treatment, and show how to protect at-risk essential infrastructure. And it must recommend measures for homeowners, business owners, and communities to reduce ignitability of structures within the community.

More specifically the content of the CWPP, as established by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, must include;^{1 2}

- a definition of the community wildland-urban interface (WUI), preferably outlined on a map with an accompanying narrative,
- a discussion of the community's preparedness to respond to wildland fire,
- a community risk analysis that considers, at a minimum, fuel hazards, risk of wildfire occurrence, and community values to be protected, both in the immediate vicinity and the surrounding zone where potential fire spread poses a realistic threat,
- identification of fuels treatment priorities, including locations on the grounds and preferred methods of treatment,
- recommendations regarding ways to reduce structural ignitability,
- an implementation plan or Action Plan, and
- the plan must specifically identify the community for which the plan is prepared.

¹ Colorado State Forest Service Minimum Standards for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP); May 16, 2006

² Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan – A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities; March 2004, Society of American Foresters

1.2 Current Status

The overall course of action has been established in accordance with guidelines provided by the Colorado State Forest Service.³ Many of these steps, such as identifying the wildland urban interface zone, and engaging local, state and federal agencies have already been implemented. The remaining steps, the first three of which have been completed, include:

- develop a community Risk Assessment
- establish community Priorities and Recommendations
- develop an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy
- communicate Plan to the community
- track Progress and Update the Plan

This document will be revised and updated periodically as treatment projects are completed and wildfire risks change. Updates in the form of attachments may also be added periodically as a) Annual Operating Plan Supplements to include funding needs and timetables, and b) Action Plans for specific fuels reduction projects. Each version of this document will be identified by an annual revision notation such as "Revision - January 2009" or "Revision 2011-B". Each Action Plan attachment will be identified by a release date and the name of the local area of the specific fuels reduction project.

2. ESTES PARK, COLORADO

This document describes the details of this *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* for the Town of Estes Park (the "Town").

Estes Park is located in the southwest corner of Larimer County, Colorado and is shown on the USGS *Estes Park, Colorado* quadrangle map (N4022.5 - W10530 / 7.5). It is centered at approximately 40° 22.5' North Latitude and 105° 31.7' West Longitude. The Town's size is almost 6 square miles and the Town occupies parts of Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32, Township 5 North, Range 72 West; Section 6, Township 4 North, Range 72 West, Sections 1 and 2, Township 4 North, Range 73 West, and Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34 and 35, Township 5 North, Range 73 West, 6th P.M. The elevation varies from 7200 to almost 8400 feet above sea level.

Estes Park, which is the eastern gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), is a small town nestled in a lush valley surrounded by riparian and montane zone lands managed by US Forest Service and RMNP. The potential of a wildfire to burn structures and threaten lives is high as many homes and cabins have been built within the wildland urban interface (WUI) zone. As a result of two large fires in proximity to our WUI (the Bobcat Gulch Fire in 2000 and the Big Elk Fire in 2002), interest in preventing wildfires in and near the community has increased. Rocky Mountain National Park obtained a grant from the National Fire Plan Community Assistance Program to fund an Interagency Fire Education Coordinator to work with the US Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, RMNP, Larimer County and Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department staff to develop wildfire prevention awareness programs to help residents of the Estes Valley understand their role in preventing wildfires and accompanying damage to their homes and other structures, and to encourage the communities to develop CWPPs.

³ *A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities*; March 2004, Society of American Foresters

With the added problem of advancing pine bark beetles and other forest insects and diseases throughout the area, in both lodgepole and ponderosa forests, residents and town officials are concerned about forest health, wildfire, and the need for defensible spaces. The Town of Estes Park has developed a Public Information Officer (PIO) team to provide timely and accurate information to the public.

Because Estes Park is a resort town, much of the local revenue is derived from tourism. Sales tax revenue is the primary source of government funding. Large wildfires in the Estes Park WUI and the Estes Valley have the potential to cause a significant and lengthy interruption of tourism which could damage the Town's ability to provide the current level of municipal services.

3. DECISION-MAKERS, FEDERAL AGENCIES and INTERESTED PARTIES INVOLVED

The organization representatives listed in the tables in this Section were involved in the development of the CWPP. Persons identified as "core team" members were responsible for primary development and decision-making for the plan. Persons identified as "extended team" provided input and expertise to the core team to ensure that this document reflects the highest priorities of the community.

The government of the Town of Estes Park strongly supports this Community Wildfire Protection Plan as evidenced by the following statement by the mayor:

"In recent years, major wildfires throughout the west have heightened awareness of the risk we face in the Estes Valley. Our scenic surroundings represent both a major attraction and also a potential threat to life and property. Wildfire protection and preparedness planning is a critical step to mitigate fire hazards and to protect our community. This plan outlines actions needed to prepare and equip Estes Park residents to live and prosper within our surrounding forests. Our thanks to the organizations and individuals who collaborated on the development of this Community Wildfire protection Plan ... essential to the future of this special place." Bill Pinkham, Mayor of The Town of Estes Park.

In addition to those individuals and organizations listed here, at least two Home Owner Associations (HOA) or property owner associations located in the Estes Valley and within a few miles of the Town have already prepared CWPPs for their local communities.

Core Team

Name	Organization	Roles and Responsibilities
Steve Barlow Lowell Richardson Bob Goehring Sue Pinkham	Town of Estes Park	primary development of CWPP and decision-making; community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods
Scott Dorman	Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department	primary development of CWPP and decision-making; community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods
Diana Selby	Colorado State Forest Service	facilitation of planning process and approval of CWPP process and minimum standards; provides input and expertise on forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts
Jim Austin	Volunteer	Writer

Extended Team

Name	Organization	Roles and Responsibilities
Tony Simons	Larimer County Wildfire Safety Program	provides input and expertise on hazard assessment, defensible space, and FireWise concepts
Richard Edwards Mike Lewelling Nate Williamson	US Forest Service Rocky Mountain National Park	provides input and expertise on hazard assessment, defensible space, and FireWise concepts

4. BASE MAP AND RELATED MAPS

With input from the personnel listed in Section 3., a base map, showing the wildland-urban interface, has been prepared. This base map is shown in Figure 1. Employees of the Town of Estes Park prepared this map using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and local expertise to show the Town and the preliminary designation of the community's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone. This preliminary WUI includes all properties within the Town and it extends up to approximately 4 miles beyond the Town

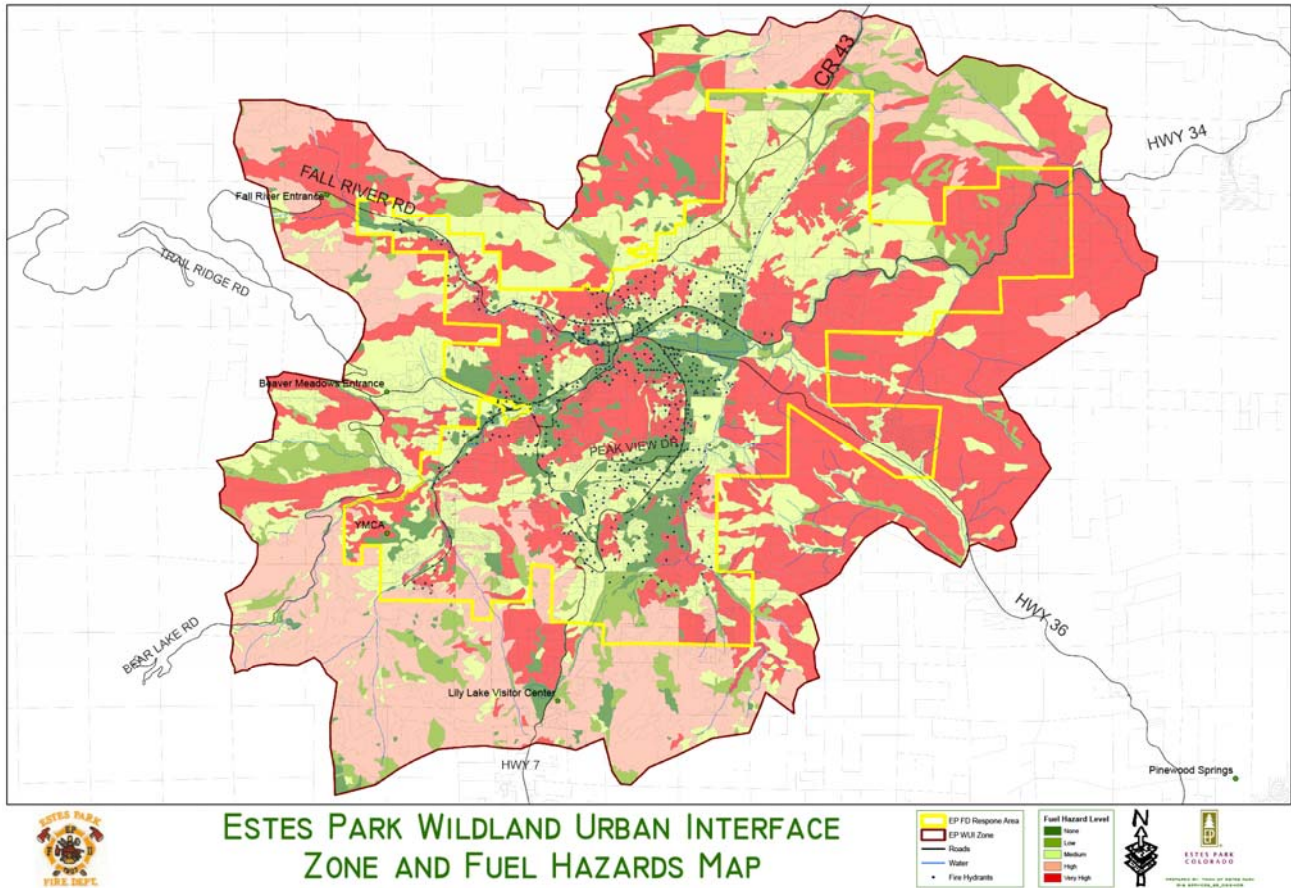


Figure 1. Map of Wildland Urban Interface for Estes Park

boundaries in some areas. This extension of the WUI boundaries allows inclusion of significant amounts of native wildland fuels in the grassy meadows and the densely forested hillsides in these inhabited, adjacent areas and areas on adjacent federal properties.

This map shows the fuel hazard levels, using color codes, in and close to the residential and commercial areas in the Estes Valley. In May of 2005, Larimer County rated approximately 42 residential subdivisions in unincorporated Larimer County outside of the Town of Estes Park. Fifteen of the subdivisions were rated either high, severe or extreme. Very little change has occurred in the intervening years that would suggest changes in those ratings.

Other maps, showing the priority treatment areas, locations of fire hydrants, access and evacuation routes, and community infrastructure (water treatment facilities, communication towers, power lines, etc.), residential areas, commercial and government properties, are being considered.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 Community Risk Assessment

The staff of the Estes Park Fire Department and the volunteer members of the Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department, along with other community members, have reviewed the WUI base map to help prioritize the areas in greatest need of fuel reduction processes in view of the at-risk residents and the developed properties and infrastructures.

The Wildfire Hazard Rating method used by Larimer County has been put into tabular form for use by wildfire personnel to evaluate the Estes Park WUI properties. The tables are given in Appendix I.

Based on the Community Risk Assessment, the priorities will be established, and revised periodically, for fuels reduction treatments. The limited availability of both financial and human resources must be considered when preparing supplements to the annual operating plan.

5.1.1 Fuel Hazards

The Wildfire Hazard Rating tables include standardized ratings for fuels hazards. An additional factor which might be used by the inspectors, depending on severity of the risk, is sheer magnitude of available fuels.

5.1.2 Wildfire Occurrence based on historic data of reported fires in area

The risk of wildfires in the WUI is real as evidenced by the record of occurrences show here and on the Wildland Fire History Map in Appendix II.

Wildfire occurrences - years 1996 to 2008

year	wildland in town	wildland out of town	grass in town	grass out of town	trash in town	trash out of town	Other
2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2007	1	10	2	2	0	1	10
2006	0	9	2	1	1	0	5
2005	0	6	1	0	2	0	3
2004	0	2	2	0	0	0	5
2003	4	5	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
2002	5	32	"	"	"	"	"
2001	6	36	"	"	"	"	"
2000	6	28	"	"	"	"	"
1999	9	23	"	"	"	"	"
1998	12	20	"	"	"	"	"
1997	2	9	"	"	"	"	"
1996	5	21	"	"	"	"	"

5.1.3 Community Values to be Protected

Of course, the first priority must be the protection of human lives. Other categories of values to be protected, in no specific order, are pets, wildlife, safety infrastructure, residential, commercial and government property improvements, and our local trees and forests. A more specific list identifying all community values to be protected would be too extensive to be included here.

5.1.4 At-Risk Infrastructure

Infrastructure elements can be divided into two categories; those which are safety related, and those which are inherently protected from wildfire and which are not crucial in an immediate wildfire crisis.

The safety-related elements of the local infrastructure include evacuation routes, communications systems and towers, emergency power systems, and water sources.

5.1.5 Other Values at Risk

TBD

5.2 Summary and Prioritizing of High Risk Areas

Personnel of the Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department (EPVFD) used the wildfire hazards map to help determine the values at highest risk in the WUI Zone and to develop a list of priorities in treating those values. These have been prioritized in two categories: critical infrastructure and geographic localities.

5.2.1 Critical Infrastructure

Communications for all emergency services for the Estes Valley are of highest concern. Other factors in considering risk levels for areas include: community water sources and treatment plants in remote areas, the possibility of higher intensity fires due to beetle killed or infected trees, suitable access/egress roads for fire apparatus, and water supply for fighting fires.

Without emergency services being able to communicate, Estes Park responders could be working in isolation and would be in potential danger. The areas where our communications systems are most vulnerable are:

1. Top of Prospect Mountain:
 - a. Concern is
 - i. Radio Communication Equipment for ALL emergency services in the area.
 - ii. Town of Estes Park wireless network antennas
 - iii. Platte River Power Authority (PRPA), Western Area Power Authority (WAPA) and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) communications to power plants and water flows as well as communication with like devices in Grand Lake
 - iv. No immediate water supply (for fire suppression)
 - v. Limited access
 - vi. Private Cell and Data towers
 - vii. Overhead Power and Fiber lines that feed the Towers
2. Giant Track Saddle
 - a. Concern is
 - i. PRPA, WAPA and BOR communications to power plants and water flows as well as communication with like devices in Grand Lake
 - ii. Overhead Power and Fiber
 - iii. Water treatment plant west/south of giant track above Mary's Lake
 - iv. No immediate water supply (for fire suppression)
 - v. Limited access

- vi. Part of the Power Grid for both sides of the Divide, lines travel through the Alva B. Adams Tunnel.

Some communications lines are above ground while others are buried underground. Those lines that are overhead are subject to heat and fire and are carried through, sometimes dense, forests. Since communication lines share the same poles as PRPA, PRPA has prepared a map and will be a helpful partner in determining exactly what are the fuel reduction priorities in this area.

- 3. Towns Fiber Ring (see map – in process of being developed) – may increase priority of an area.
 - a. Concern is
 - i. PRPA and Town of Estes Park Network
 - ii. Private Laterals used by ISPs
 - iii. Mostly overhead and subject to heat and fire
 - iv. 12 miles of fiber ring some running thru dense trees
 - v. Approximately 5 miles of lateral feeds through timber, some in heavy forest
 - vi. Scattered across the valley and may not be recognized as important
 - vii. (When mapped, can put neighborhoods that have lines running through them at a higher risk level.)
- 4. PRPA/Town Fiber
 - a. Concern is
 - i. PRPA and Town of Estes Park Network
 - ii. Carries Communication for WAPA Power Grid
 - iii. Extends along the High Line from Loveland to Estes via Pole Hill
 - iv. Extends for a distance of 24 miles and could be hard to protect
- 5. QWEST Fiber
 - a. Concern is
 - i. Carries Communication to Qwest for phone and data in Estes Park
 - ii. Extends overhead from Lyons to Estes Park along Hwy 36
 - iii. Extends for a distance of roughly 20 miles and could be hard to protect

Town water system

- b. Concern is
 - i. Contamination of Glacier Creek Water Treatment plant
 - ii. Contamination of Mary's Lake Water Treatment plant

5.2.2 Geographic localities

Firefighters of the EPVFD have listed the major geographical areas of high risk by priority in the order listed below:

- 1. Areas around Prospect Mountain and Giant Track Due to communication towers
 - a. Have private property issues
 - b. Access to towers issues – especially on Giant Track
 - c. Water to fight fire concern
 - d. Homes in area have one way in - streets are not connected higher up on mountainsides.
 - e. Some homes totally inaccessible for fire fighting on shoulders of Prospect Mt. and behind Mary's Lake
- 2. Fall River corridor – narrow stream valley.
 - a. Side roads may not connect with another road to have two exits, nor do those roads have cul-de-sac turn-arounds at the ends of the roads.
 - b. Many resort accommodations are along Fall River and on the hillsides near RMNP lands.

- c. A large residential facility is itself in a low hazard area, but might have difficulty evacuating everyone quickly.
 - d. The historic hydro plant + picnic area is a tourist attraction in the summer.
 - e. Area around Old Man Mountain – may have archaeological significance.
 - f. Access to area –narrow roads, dead ends, no turn-arounds.
 - g. Steep hillsides with forested lands above homes.
3. West Wonderview area
 - a. Heavily wooded area, seasonal occupancy, conference center at end of road, turn around would be difficult if many cars are parked in area.
 - b. Roads do have 2 exits.
 4. Moraine Ave west of the Donut Haus
 - a. Accommodations/Commercial properties
 - b. High Drive area, some roads not connected to each other, no adequate turnarounds.
 - c. Private property abuts RMNP
 - d. Seasonal occupancy high
 - e. Water for fighting fires an issue
 5. Spur 66 area (Colorado State Highway 66)
 - a. Southern end (YMCA camp, Thunder Mountain and Windcliff) have CWPPs and are working on fuel mitigation in their areas.
 - b. Western Area Power Authority lines go to and through the tunnel
 - c. Limited access
 - d. Limited water supply – draw from stream or ponds
 - e. Forested area behind and between residences
 - f. Beetle killed trees an issue.
 6. Fish Creek Road /Carriage Hills
 - a. Some streets dead end
 - b. Some homes in forested areas, others have a few trees around the property
 7. U S Highway 36
 8. U S Highway 34 (to Big Thompson Canyon)
 9. Black Canyon Hills
 10. Elkhorn Lodge and Davis Hill

As our action plans are implemented and our knowledge and mapping of the area covered by the CWPP increases, the EPVFD will make updates to this risk assessment.

5.3 Wildfire Preparedness and Fire Department Capabilities

The initial response to all fire, medical and associated emergencies within the WUI is the responsibility of the Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department as authorized by an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Larimer County, the Larimer County Sheriff and the Town of Estes Park.

Wildland fire responsibilities of Larimer County, Colorado State Forest Service, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service are described in the current *Larimer County Annual Operating Plan*. All mutual aid agreements, training, equipment, and responses are the responsibility of the local fire department and the agencies listed above.

5.3.1 Local Preparedness

A large portion of Estes Park Fire Department response area is within the WUI zone. Access to many of the properties within this zone is limited to narrow dirt dead-end roadways. Many of the structures in the area are addressed while some are not, and many have poorly posted or hard to read addresses. Some subdivisions only have one access road and do not have adequate escape routes. Some subdivisions have

been working on improving access/egress for emergency vehicles and mitigating the fuels on access roads, but much still needs to be done.

Wildland fire education and mitigation efforts have long been a priority of the Estes Park Fire Department. The fire department has assisted in procuring grants, instituting a slash collection site, providing property site visits and WUI education.

Community notification would be made via reverse 911 and the local media. This would be followed up by law enforcement and/or fire personnel going door to door. The local CERT responders may be requested to assist with the evacuation.

Three predetermined helicopter landing Zones (LZ's) have been identified. These are the helipad at the Estes Park Medical Center, the High School football field and MacGregor Ranch. Additional LZ's would be at the golf courses, YMCA and the many open fields, parking lots or highways in the area.

5.3.2 Water Supply

There is an adequate municipal water system with fire hydrants in much of the populated area. Additionally, there are two large bodies of water, Lake Estes and Mary's Lake, and the area also has many rivers and streams as alternate water sources.

The fire department has trained and been tested on drafting and transporting water for the non fire hydrant areas by means of the ISO® water supply shuttle test. The Estes Park Fire Department currently has two water tenders and has the availability of additional tenders from the Town of Estes Park and through mutual aid and automatic aid agreements with adjoining fire departments.

5.3.3 Staging Areas and Safety Zones

Staging areas and safety zones would be incident specific although two main predetermined staging areas and safety zones have been identified. These are at the YMCA and the local High School.

5.3.4 Evacuation Routes

There are five evacuation routes out of the community, of which four are available year-round. These routes include Trail Ridge Road accessed either by Highway 36 or Highway 34 to the west; Highway 7 south bound through Allenspark; Highway 36 south east bound through Lyons; Highway 34 east bound through Loveland and County Road 43 north bound through Glen Haven. Note that Trail Ridge Road is not accessible through the winter months.

The main evacuation routes for fires in the Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department (EPVFD) response area are as follows: From the southern portion of the EPVFD response area would be either north or south on US Highway 7. Evacuation from properties with Tunnel Road (Colorado 66) access in the south-west portion would be north on Tunnel Road to Highway 36. Evacuation from the Fall River Road corridor would be either to the west via Trail Ridge Road or East on Highway 34. Evacuation from the northern portion of the response area would be either north on County Road 43 or south on County Road 43 to Downtown Estes Park or south on Dry gulch Road to US Highway 34. Evacuation from the eastern portion of the response area would be southeast on US Highway 36 to Lyons or east on US Highway 34, south on US Highway 7 or west to downtown Estes Park to other routes. Evacuation routes will be marked and posted with signs and/or law enforcement or CERT personnel in the event of an emergency.

5.3.5 Fire Department Resources and Response Capabilities

Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department Resource & Response Capabilities

Apparatus	Pumping capacity Gallons per minute (GPM)	Booster tank volume Gallons
Engine 1	1250	750
Engine 2	1000	500
Engine / Tender 10 (foam)	1500	1800
Engine 5	125	300
Brush 9 (foam)	150	350
Ladder 6 (75 ft height)	1500	300
Squad 8 (heavy rescue truck)	N/A	N/A
Squad 3 (Haz Mat truck)	N/A	N/A
Tender 4	60	1200
Dive Rescue 1 (still & swift water rescue)	N/A	N/A
Utility 5 (personnel vehicle)	N/A	N/A
Command Vehicle	N/A	N/A
Decon Trailer Decontaminate up to 60 persons per hour	N/A	N/A
Mass Casualty Trailer (Large incident medical response equipment)	N/A	N/A

In addition to fire fighting apparatus for use on structure fires, the Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department has one specialized “brush truck” and a tender. Other equipment specifically for use in fighting fires in wildland areas is available under the terms of mutual aid agreements, from adjacent fire departments and districts as well as from Larimer County, the Colorado State Forest Service, the United States Forest Service, and the National Park Service.

5.3.6 Fire Department Personnel

- 1 Career Fire Chief
- 1 Career Fire Training Captain
- 28 Volunteer firefighters
- 1 Paid administrative assistant

6. PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Priority List

The priorities for fuels reduction projects undertaken by the Town and local fire safety officials will be in accordance with the priorities established in Section 5.2. Other projects on private properties and

initiated by local community members will be supported to the extent that personnel and funding are available.

6.2 Recommended Treatments for Specific Fuels Conditions

The specific treatments for fuel conditions in specific areas will be determined at the time the action plans are developed for those specific areas by consultation with representatives of the USFS, CSFS, Larimer County, EPVFD, and community members to determine the best method for each specific area or project.

Examples of treatments include the following:

1. Thin out continuous tree and brush cover to create a “defensible space” within 10 feet of a structure
2. Trim trees up at least 6 –8 ft above ground level
3. Clean debris from gutters and roof valleys
4. Remove leaves, needles and cones close to walls of wooden structures to a width of at least 3 feet from the structure
5. Remove branches that overhang a roof or wooden deck
6. Thin trees on outer edge of properties so that the crowns of trees are at least 10-15 feet apart. The exception is in a Lodgepole or Aspen forest or grove where a higher density is needed to protect the trees from wind throw.
7. Create fuel breaks (width dependent on fuels and topography)
8. Dispose of all slash by chipping, spreading, hauling away, burning or cutting up for firewood
9. Replace wood shingle and other flammable roof materials with asphalt or metal roofing.

The prime objective is to reduce available fuels, particularly dead forest debris, near structures and near at-risk infrastructure components.

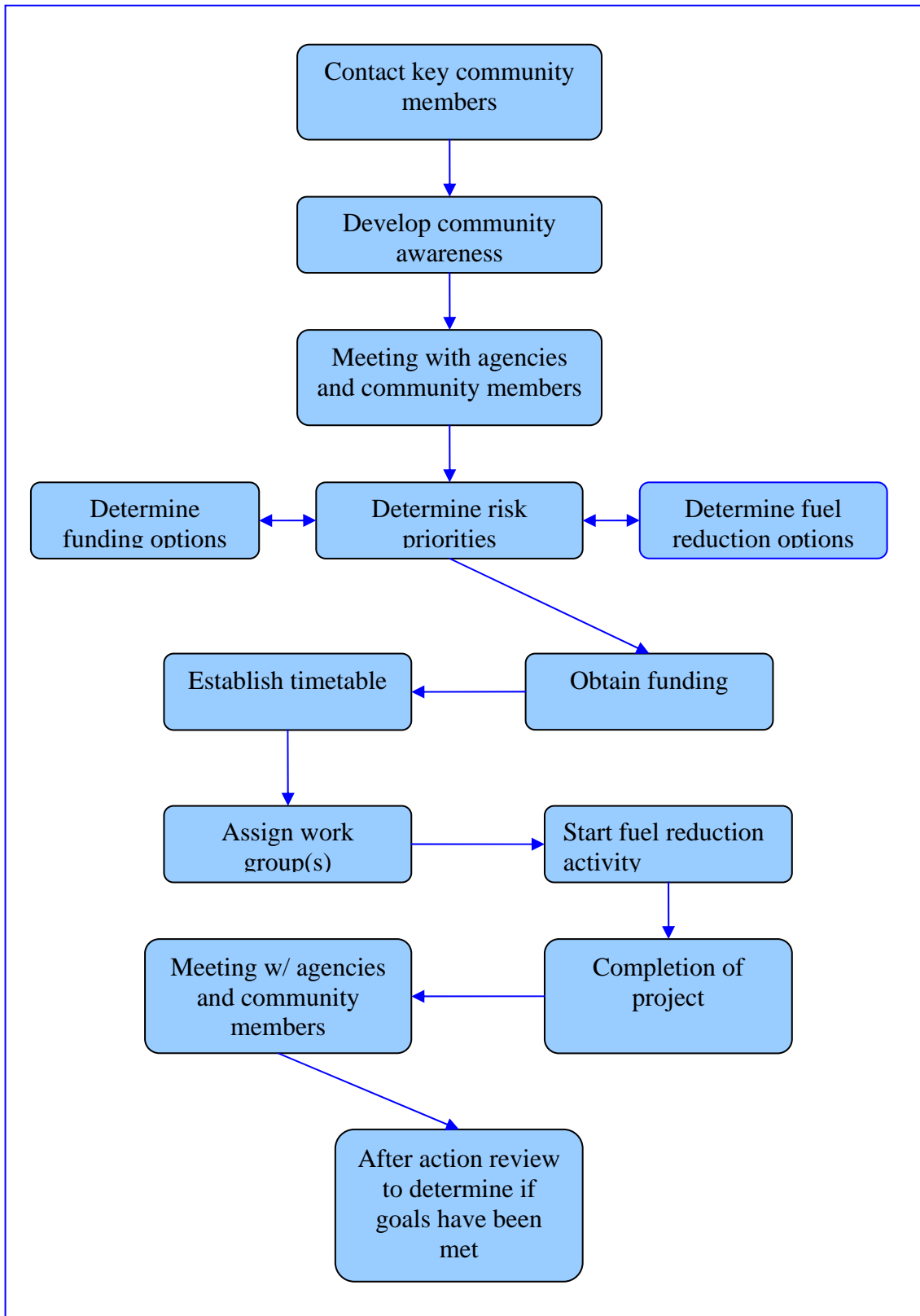
7. ACTION PLAN AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

Fuels reduction projects in compliance with this CWPP will be a series of on-going tasks spanning many years into the future. For this reason and because of the diversity of the forests, terrain, and property improvements throughout the WUI, it is impractical to prepare a single action plan sufficient for the complete area although a master plan or outline plan may be developed in the future.

The current concept is to prepare an action plan for each specific fuels reduction project or a group of related projects to be completed at about the same time. Each such local Action Plan will become a virtual attachment to this CWPP and will be identified by a release date and the name of the local community area or areas of the specific fuels reduction project. A flow chart for an action plan is given below and shows the development, fuels reduction activities, and completion of a typical project.

Some steps of a local Action Plan must be taken or developed for the specific local conditions prior to completion of the Plan. These include the initial meetings, selection of fuels reduction methods, obtaining funding, setting a timetable, and identifying work personnel. The outline of the Action Plan can include an initial listing of these steps. After these initial steps are completed, the local Action Plan can be completed and work can begin.

Flow Chart for Action Plan



Personnel should keep in mind that the objective of the CWPP is not about an elegant and lengthy Action Plan; it is about the results of each fuels reduction project. The Action Plan is simply the roadmap of how to accomplish the project goals. So the completed plan can be as simple and straightforward as a bullet-form listing of the actions and items shown in the flow chart and listed in Section 7.1 below.

7.1 Action Plan

Each local Action Plan can include a title, date, and reference to the Estes Park CWPP as in the example below, and then list the content listed below.

Title: Community Wildfire protection Plan for [give name of specific area or areas]

Date: _____

This CWPP Action Plan is in compliance with the CWPP for the Estes Park WUI and is an attachment to the COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN for ESTES PARK.

An Action Plan shall include the following steps:

- Contact key community members- developing an awareness of problem through out-reach educational activities.
 - Have meeting of key members with US Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Larimer County, and Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department representatives to determine best approach and goals for community meeting.
 - Determine best way to get information to local community
- Community/Agencies meeting
 - Discuss options on best methods for fuel reduction
 - Information presented by agency representatives (listed above)
 - Determine local risk priorities
 - Reach consensus on best fuel reduction method
 - Determine funding requirements
 - Apply for grant with community providing in-kind match
 - Educational out reach to larger community explaining what the specific local community is planning.
- Obtain funding
- Establish timetable for fuel reduction to take place
 - More education and public awareness of the action taking place
 - Create fun experience for the specific community if needed to bring them together.
- Assign work group(s) and start fuel reduction activity
- Complete the fuel reduction activity
- Tour fuel reduction area and have a community meeting (debriefing) with community members and agency representatives.
- After Action Review-
 - Discuss successes and opportunities for improvement
 - Determine if goals have been met
 - Discuss next steps

The first local area for which a local Action Plan will be initiated is in the Prospect Mountain area. As funds and personnel are available other plans will be initiated in the other geographical high risk areas, in accordance with the prioritizations of Section 5.2.

Some of the ground work has already been accomplished by the WUI Fire Education Coordinator through site visits to properties on the east side of Prospect Mountain and in many other high risk areas of the

Estes Valley. The purpose of the site visits are to help the property owners become aware of steps needed to create and maintain a defensible space around their structures to protect against a wildfire.

Important results from this undertaking will be the continued education of Estes Park residents about the risks of wildfire and how the risks can be reduced, both by individual and Town of Estes Park actions.

7.2 Assessment Strategy

The Core team will meet periodically to assess progress, to recommend changes and updates to the CWPP or Action Plans, and to select and update recommended treatment methods and priorities.

8. COMMUNICATION OF CWPP TO COMMUNITY

The WUI Fire Education Coordinator will host general public meetings as well as meetings with local community members, property owners and business owners. The purpose of these meeting will include

- Familiarization with the CWPP
- How to initiate a local fuels reduction project and a local Action Plan
- Discussions of fuels reduction methods
- Results of previous projects
- Advantages of the CWPP for the Estes Park residents, businesses and visitors.

In cooperation with the Larimer County Fire Education Group, the Larimer Fire Council, and the Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department, the Town of Estes Park supports and promotes FireWise activities as outlined in the Larimer County Fire Plan. Estes Park supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitability through meeting Larimer County Building Code Requirements and utilizing Colorado State Forest Service FireWise Construction Fact Sheets.

9. TRACKING PROGRESS AND UPDATE CWPP

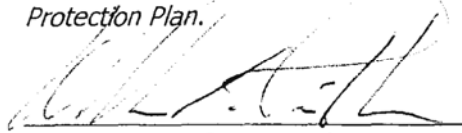
Two methods will be used to monitor and track the progress of the CWPP.

- At the completion of a project the extent that the project goals were met will be evaluated, and feedback on recommendations for improvements in methods will be studied in order to incorporate those that offer advantages to future projects.
- On a larger scale, annually or as appropriate, the overall progress of the CWPP will be measured in terms of total acreage that has been treated.


The results will be reported to the Estes Park Public Safety Committee, the Town Board of Trustees, the Colorado State Forest Service and to the Estes Park and Estes Valley community.


As projects are completed and land development occurs in the WUI, some of the risk areas will change. Also, over long periods of time, some high fuels areas that have been treated will again become the subject of a new fuels reduction project. These factors will necessitate updates to the risk assessment and some reprioritization of the risk areas. As these events occur the CWPP will be revised and updated accordingly.

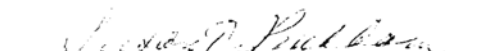
The following community representatives / agencies have reviewed and support this *Community Wildfire Protection Plan*.

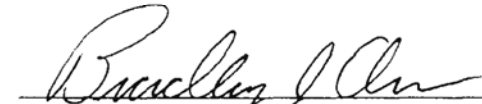

Town of Estes Park


Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department


Fort Collins District
Colorado State Forest Service


Rocky Mountain National Park


Estes Park WUI Fire Education Coordinator


District Ranger, Canyon Lakes District
U.S.D.A. Forest Service

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Larimer County Fire Plan - a Community Wildfire protection Plan, Larimer County, 2004

Larimer County Wildfire Mitigation Plan, Colorado State Forest Service, 1998

Recommendations for Improving Wildfire Safety in Larimer County, Colorado State Forest Service, 1997

Larimer County Subdivision Wildfire Hazard Review, Larimer County & Colorado State Forest Service, 2002

Larimer County Annual Operating Plan, Larimer County (updated annually)

Northern Colorado Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, FEMA, 2004

Appendix I WILDFIRE HAZARD RATINGS

Larimer County has used the following assessment form, created by the Colorado State Forest Service in 1994, to establish the wildfire hazard of subdivisions within unincorporated Larimer County.

Areas or subdivisions should be inspected and the wildfire hazard or risk should be tabulated using the criteria and point system of Table I-A. Then the numeric rating can be converted to a relative rating of low to severe using the conversions of Table I-B.

Table I-A
Wildfire Hazard Rating

Subdivision or area: _____ date: _____

Inspector: _____

feature	possible points	points	Feature	possible points	points
subdivision design			vegetation		
ingress / egress			fuel type		
2 or more primary roads	1		Grass	1	
one road	3		litter beneath timber	3	
one way in & out	5		Brush	5	
primary road width			logging slash	10	
20' or more	1		defensible spaces completed		
20' or less	3		> 70 % of homes	1	
Accessibility			30% to 70% of homes	5	
road grade 5% or less	1		< 30% of homes	10	
road grade 5% or more	3		topography		
other	5		slope < 10%	1	
secondary road terminus			slope 11% to 30%	5	
loop roads or turn-arounds > 45'	1		slope > 30 %	10	
turn-arounds < 45'	2		fire protection		
dead-end roads < 200' long	3		response time		
dead-end roads > 200' long	5		< 15 minutes	1	
average lot size			16 to 30 minutes	5	
> 10 acres	1		> 31 minutes	10	
between 1 and 10 acres	3		water source in subdivision		
< 1 acre	5		500 gpm hydrants; < 1000' spacing	1	
street signs			draft location, dip site	5	
present	1		no water source in subdivision	10	
not present	5				
continued on next page					

Table I-A, continued
Wildfire Hazard Rating

feature	possible points	Points	feature	possible points	points
fire protection, continued			materials, continued		
water source off-site			wood siding, non-wood roof	5	
20 minute round trip	1		wood roof	10	
21 to 45 minute round trip	5		utilities (gas & electric)		
> 45 minute round trip	10		all underground	1	
structure hazard			one above; one below ground	5	
materials (predominant)			all above ground	10	
roof & siding; no wood	1		total points for subdivision or area		

Table I-B
Hazard Rating Points Conversion

total points	hazard rating
0 to 36	low
37 to 50	moderate
51 to 64	high
65 to 78	severe
> 78	extreme

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