



Larimer County Fire Plan

Prepared By:

Tony Simons, Larimer County Wildfire Safety Specialist

June 2003-updated 02/04, 07/05, 06/06

Special Thanks To:

Tom Bender, Larimer County Commissioner (Former)
Kathay Rennels, Larimer County Commissioner
Don Griffith, Larimer County Emergency Services
Mike Babler, Colorado State Forest Service
Ellen Hodges, United States Forest Service
Jesse Duhnkrack, Rocky Mountain National Park
Dan Kunis, Larimer County GIS Specialist

Table of Contents

Mission Statement.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Authority.....	5
Larimer County Characteristics.....	5
Geography.....	5
Land Ownership.....	6
Fire History.....	6
Larimer County Wildland Fire Hazard Identification.....	7
Wildland Fire Hazard Area.....	7
Wildland Fire Hazard Maps.....	7
Interagency Cooperation.....	8
Larimer County Coordinating Group.....	9
Agency Responsibilities.....	9
Prevention.....	9
Preparedness.....	9
Mitigation.....	10
Suppression-- Wildland Fire.....	10
Reclamation/Rehabilitation.....	11
Fiscal.....	11
Community Wildfire Protection Plans.....	12
Template.....	13
Colorado State Forest Service Minimum Standards.....	16
Fire Planning Categories.....	18
Current County-Policy with regard to state and private lands.....	19
Wildland Fire Use—Agency Roles and Responsibilities.....	20
Prescribed Fire—Agency Roles and Responsibilities.....	24
County Fire Plan—Layout.....	26
Activity Submittal Form.....	27
Management Objectives.....	28
Prevention:.....	19
Preparedness:.....	31
Mitigation:.....	37
Suppression:.....	43
Reclamation/Rehabilitation.....	35
Fiscal:.....	47
Maps.....	48
Larimer County Location.....	48
Larimer County Land Status.....	49
Larimer County Residential Improvement.....	50
Larimer County Fire Protection Districts.....	51
Larimer County Wildfire Hazard Area.....	52
Larimer County Wildfire Hazard.....	53
Larimer County Fire Plan Strategies.....	54
Appendix I.....	55
Agreements.....	55
Appendix II.....	60
Memorandum of Understanding.....	60

Mission Statement

To provide a cooperative framework under which fire management programs are developed and implemented to protect human and natural resource values in an effective and efficient manner.

Introduction

In 2000, the Colorado Legislature passed legislation clarifying responsibilities for wildland fire management in the State. House Bill 1283 redefined the responsibilities of County Sheriffs, the State Board of Agriculture, and the State Forester from preventing and controlling wildland fires to managing them. The Bill authorized Boards of County Commissioners to cooperate in managing as well as preventing and suppressing forest fires.

The legislation authorized counties to prepare and implement a County Fire Plan. The Larimer County Fire Plan is intended to aid in the implementation of a seamless, coordinated effort between all relevant agencies in determining appropriate combinations of wildland fire management actions and programs in the county.

The Larimer County Fire Plan outlines six interagency management objectives that are necessary to achieve and implement effective wildland fire management programs: prevention, preparedness, mitigation, suppression, reclamation /rehabilitation and fiscal. This plan identifies the roles and responsibilities of Larimer County, the United States Forest Service—Arapaho–Roosevelt National Forest, Canyon Lakes Ranger District (ARNF), Colorado State Forest Service-Fort Collins District (CSFS) and Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), specifies contacts for each agency, and lists interagency agreements to meet these objectives. *See Appendix I.* Activities needed to achieve the objectives are identified and prioritized. Each activity listed contains a brief description of the issue, background information, and specifies agencies involved, estimated costs, funding sources and estimated completion date.

Additionally, this Fire Plan is intended to assist landowners/managers in identifying and mitigating wildland fire hazard areas on public and private land and to work cooperatively in developing mitigation options to reduce the impact of a wildland fire.

The Larimer County Fire Plan is a dynamic document. Activities are expected to be added or deleted under each management objective as the issues within the County change or activities are completed.

Authority

The Larimer County Fire Plan is being prepared and implemented between various governmental authorities under a Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement establishes a mutual commitment to the mission and objectives outlined in the Larimer County Fire Plan to facilitate interagency collaboration in the implementation of a wildland fire program in Larimer County. *See Appendix II.*

Larimer County Characteristics

Geography

Larimer County is located in north central Colorado. It is the seventh largest county in Colorado based on population and ninth largest in area. According to 2000 census data, 251,226 people reside in Larimer County, with 68,819 residing in unincorporated areas. The county extends to the eastern edge of the Continental Divide, and includes several mountain communities and Rocky Mountain National Park. The county encompasses 2,640 square miles, about 60 miles long by 50 miles wide. Over 50% of Larimer County is publicly owned, most of which is land within the Arapaho - Roosevelt National Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park. In addition to these federal lands, Colorado State Parks and Recreation Areas, Larimer County Parks and local parks within urban areas combine to provide a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors. The elevation ranges from a low of 4,800 feet on the plains, to 13,562 feet on the high mountain peaks. [*See Map--Larimer County Location.*](#)

The county is quite diverse topographically. The terrain includes low river valleys, flat plains, rolling hills, scenic ranch lands, forests, and rugged mountains. The irrigated land—some of the finest irrigated farmland in Colorado -- lies in a narrow belt in the eastern portion of the county adjacent to streams. The dry cropland lies along the foothills and on the high ridges between river valleys. On the plains, the average annual rainfall is 14.4 inches, with an average annual snowfall of 45 inches. The average frost-free period is from 100 to 140 days.

Land Ownership

Larimer County consists of 1,689,600 acres, of which 870,775 acres are privately owned 645,400 acres are managed by the USFS, 143,100 acres are managed by RMNP, and 27,600 acres are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and 2725 acres are managed by CSFS.

[See map--Larimer County Land Status.](#)

Over 11,000 platted parcels exist within the designated Larimer County Wildfire Hazard Area and are therefore exposed to potential wildland fire hazards. [See Map--Larimer County Residential Improvement.](#) Structures are present on about half of these parcels. Additionally, there are an estimated 172,700 acres of private land intermixed within the forest boundary. Fire protection within the county is provided by 18 professional and volunteer fire departments, the Larimer County Sheriff's Department, USFS, CSFS and RMNP. [See Map--Larimer County Fire Protection Districts.](#)

Fire History

Wildland fire occurrence in Larimer County is tracked by three agencies. The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest records fire data from national forest lands. Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) keeps records of fires on state and private lands Rocky Mountain National Park collects fire information within the Park Boundary. CSFS statistics only reflect those wildland fires reported by local fire departments. Unfortunately, not all fire departments submit incident reports to the Colorado State Forest Service (Farmer 1998).

As with most natural events, wildland fire appears to be cyclical. Statistics indicate the annual number of wildland fires peaks every six to eight years. An average of 161 wildfires occur annually in Larimer County. Although these fires burn an estimated 2209 acres each year, most of the losses occur in one-or two-year periods every eight to nine years (Farmer 1998).

Records provided by the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest show that 55% of all wildland fires are human-caused. The remaining 45% are lightning-ignited. Historically, on state and private lands in Colorado, 49% of all wildland fires are human-caused and 11% are started by lightning. Though the cause

of the remaining 40% is unknown, most of these are probably human-caused. It is interesting to note that 1% of the fires account for 90% of the total acres burned (Farmer 1998)

Larimer County Wildland Fire Hazard Identification

Wildland Fire Hazard Area

In 1998, Larimer County identified a wildland fire hazard area that coincided with a roofing ordinance adopted in 1990. [See Map--Larimer County Wildfire Hazard Area](#). Generally, this area is from west of Range 69 to the continental divide.

Within the Wildland Fire Hazard Area, all new building construction and new land development must meet wildland fire mitigation codes and regulations. These building codes and land use regulations are posted on the wildfire safety program's web site at www.larimer.org/wildfire.

Wildland Fire Hazard Maps

Larimer County, United States Forest Service, National Park Service and Colorado State Forest Service worked together to create a unified, cross-boundary vegetation map for the Wildland Fire Hazard Area. This vegetation map was utilized to determine the wildland fire hazards throughout the County. [See Map--Larimer County Wildfire Hazard](#).

Wildland Fire Hazard was determined by combining vegetation cover type, habitat structural stage, percent crown cover, slope and aspect.

Interagency Cooperation

Since Larimer County encompasses a mosaic of land ownership and jurisdictional boundaries, interagency cooperation is essential not only for wildland fire suppression but also for prevention, preparedness, mitigation, reclamation / rehabilitation and fiscal issues to provide efficient and effective wildland fire programs. Currently, all fire agencies within Larimer County are working aggressively to provide a consistent and a unified approach to most fire programs regardless of ownership. However, differences do exist between agencies due to internal policies and procedures as well as land base and jurisdictional boundaries.

Larimer County Coordinating Group

Larimer County Coordinating Group (LCCG) seeks to provide a community-based approach to hazardous fuels management through collaborative processes, using scientific expertise and local knowledge. The overall goal of the partnership is to enhance community sustainability and restore fire-adapted ecosystems through identification, prioritization, and implementation of treatment projects in the Front Range of Colorado.

In order to achieve the goal of the partnership and facilitate local collaboration, a community-based coordinating group has been established the Larimer County Coordinating Group. This is an interagency group consisting of but not limited to Larimer County, US Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, and Rocky Mountain National Park. The primary role of the coordinating group is to provide leadership and coordination for all fuels management activities in Larimer County.

Role of Coordinating Group

- Ensure the completion and routine maintenance of a comprehensive landscape-level fuels assessment utilizing the best available scientific tools that will evaluate hazards, values, and risks
- Utilize the fuels assessment findings to prioritize, design, and locate effective fuel treatments in a cohesive strategy; invest in projects that seek to protect communities and watershed values

- Coordinate and support Community Wildfire Protection Planning and *FireWise* efforts with local communities
- Coordinate and support on-going NEPA efforts by federal agencies; and support work on lands other than federal lands
- To the greatest extent possible, support on-the-ground efforts by sharing resources and expertise; overcome financial barriers to collaborative efforts
- Encourage private enterprise participation in treatment implementation
- Seek financial and political support from federal, state, county, and municipal governments and their leadership
- Given the proportionally high amount of congressionally designated wilderness and National Park land in the county, work to facilitate the operational feasibility for managing wildland fire for resource benefit, including such benefits as protection of watersheds
- Provide a communication link with the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership Steering Committee and Leadership Team for upward reporting of accomplishments and close coordination of planning and implementation of projects

Agency Responsibilities

Prevention

With the exception of enforcement, wildland fire prevention is a shared responsibility of all agencies. Education and information associated with wildland fire is not jurisdictional and relates to all land ownership. Education and awareness materials are available through all partnering agencies.

The USFS and RMNP responsibility for enforcement of wildland fire prevention is tied to primary National Forest lands and National Park land respectively. Larimer County enforces wildland fire prevention on state and private lands.

All agencies cooperate to establish restrictions and closures when wildland fire conditions meet pre-established criteria outlined in the Larimer County Annual Operating Plan (AOP).

Preparedness

USFS and RMNP responsibility is primarily tied to National Forest lands and National Parks lands respectively. The CSFS and Larimer County assist all agencies, communities and associations with fire planning, readiness and wildland fire hazard identification. All agencies share responsibility to coordinate and cooperate in FireWise planning, Pre-attack planning and communication with the public and the news media.

Mitigation

USFS and RMNP fuels reduction implementation is tied primarily to National Forest lands and National Park lands. The CSFS has coordinated and assisted on fuel reduction projects on state and private lands. Recent agreements allow for cross-jurisdictional fuel reduction project planning and implementation.

Larimer County's wildland fire safety program was established in 1998 to help citizens meet adopted building and land use codes, to provide individual wildland fire hazard site inspections and assessments, to provide slash disposal options and to promote education and awareness of wildland fire and what citizens can do to prepare themselves.

Suppression--Wildland Fire

Larimer County Sheriff

The Larimer County Sheriff is responsible for all wildland fire suppression activities on private and state lands within Larimer County. Initial control actions are normally taken by fire departments, fire protection districts or Larimer County firefighters dispatched by the Larimer County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Communications Center, or Ft. Collins (FTC) Dispatch Center (Annual Operating Plan (AOP)).

Colorado State Forest Service

The Colorado State Forest Service will, upon request, assist all agencies on wildland fires within Larimer County. The CSFS will assume duties as specified under provisions of the Emergency Fire Fund when a forest fire exceeds the county's resources, upon agreement of the Larimer County Sheriff or designated representative and the State Forester or designated representative (AOP).

United States Forest Service

The United States Forest Service is responsible for all fire management activities on National Forest lands. Due to the complex intermix of private land within the forest boundary, Larimer County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Communications Center will notify Ft. Collins Dispatch Center (FTC) per attached dispatch procedures in Section XIV for all forest fires reported within the National Forest or areas of said intermixed ownership (AOP).

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for fire suppression activities on BLM lands. In Larimer County, through cooperative agreement with the BLM, the USFS has initial attack responsibilities for these lands (AOP).

Rocky Mountain National Park

The National Park Service is responsible for all fire suppression activities on Rocky Mountain National Park lands. RMNP will normally dispatch and make initial attack, or manage wildland fires for resource benefit on fires reported on National Park lands, and will also notify LCSO Communications Center or Fort Collins Dispatch Center of any fires reported to RMNP outside the park boundary (AOP).

Reclamation/Rehabilitation

The US Forest Service and National Park Service are responsible for burn area emergency rehabilitation (BAER) primarily on affected National Forest lands and National Park lands. Close coordination and cooperation with other agencies is necessary to determine values at risk that may be affected by adjacent land owners. CSFS provides technical assistance to property owners, with support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Larimer County coordinates with other county departments, state and federal agencies to assist private landowners affected by wildland fire occurrence.

Fiscal

Funding for prevention, preparedness, mitigation and burn area rehabilitation by Forest Service personnel is tied to National Forest lands. The Colorado State Forester administers the Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) for those Colorado counties that contribute to the fund. Larimer County contributes annually

to this fund. At the Larimer County Sheriff's request, the CSFS District may request EFF designation from the State Forester. If approved, EFF will reimburse county suppression costs according to the current Annual Operating Plan (AOP), the master EFF agreement, and as agreed to for the specific incident. The CSFS will request Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement for qualified suppression costs according to the most current agreements. CSFS administers various grants to assist local fire departments and property owners as funds are available for suppression, training and other projects.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forest restoration Act (HFRA) passed by congress on November 21, 2003 and signed into Law by President Bush on December 3, 2003. The Healthy Forest Restoration Act places renewed emphasis on the community planning by extending a variety of benefits to communities with a wildfire protection plan in place. Critical among these benefits is the option of establishing a localized definition and boundary of the wildland-urban interface and the opportunity to help shape fuels treatment priorities for surrounding federal and non-federal lands.

The CWPP, as described in the Act, brings together diverse local interests to discuss their mutual concerns for public safety, community sustainability and natural resources. It offers a positive, solution-orientated environment in which to address challenges such as: local firefighting capability, the needs for defensible space around homes and subdivisions, and where and how to prioritize land management – on both federal and non-federal land.

The Larimer County Fire Plan may serve as an umbrella plan for smaller communities, until communities identify more site specific detail needed for project specific planning. Therefore communities that are applying for grants, can state that they are in progress of developing a CWPP. Larimer County proactive approach with wildfire mitigation has completed some of the base steps required for a CWPP or the steps are incorporated into other County agreements.

The Larimer County Coordinating Group (USFS, CSFS, RMNP, and Larimer County) have developed talking points, a template for communities and accepted the Colorado State Forest Service minimum standards for a CWPP. See below and are available at www.larimer.org/wildfire.

Talking Points:

- Is a tool used to engage federal, state, and local partners in building relationships while working toward the common goal of community wildfire protection.
- Provides the opportunity for the community to identify hazards and values at risk and to develop treatment options on private and public lands within the designated wildland urban interface zone.
- Enhances the ability to compete for potential funding and receive agency assistance to implement community established priority projects.
- Originates from the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 which directs the USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management give specific consideration to the community established priority projects on these federal lands.
- Tiers directly off of the Larimer County Fire Plan and several other associated documents, to assist communities and ease the completion process.
- A CWPP when completed is a way to evaluate hazard mitigation progress within the community.

Template

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

[Insert community name]
Larimer County, Colorado

[Insert date]

Introduction

This *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* (CWPP) was developed by [insert community name] with guidance and support from [list agencies and individuals]. This CWPP supplements several Larimer County documents referenced in Appendix A. Information in this plan will be provided at a level of specificity determined by the community and appropriate agencies.

The process of developing a CWPP can help a community clarify and refine its priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface. It can also lead community members through valuable discussions regarding management options and implications for the surrounding watershed.

Community / Agencies / Interested Parties Involved

Representatives involved in the development of the [Insert community name] CWPP are included in the following table. Their name, organization, and roles and responsibilities are indicated below:

CWPP Development Team

Name	Organization	Roles / Responsibilities
	[Insert community name] Homeowners Association and/or Community Representatives	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
	[Insert community name] 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
	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.
	Larimer County Wildfire Safety Program	Provides input and expertise on hazard assessment, defensible space, and FireWise concepts.
	Relevant federal land management agencies (USFS, BLM, etc.)	Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.
	Other organizations designated by the core team (Environmental groups, utilities, recreational groups, etc.)	Provides input and expertise. This could include community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and

		methods.
--	--	----------

Identification of Values at Risk

Using technology and local expertise, [insert community name here] has developed a base map and narrative of the community and adjacent landscapes of interest. This map will act as a visual aid from which community members can assess and make recommendations. The base map includes, at a minimum, the following:

- Inhabited areas and values at potential risk to wildland fire
- Areas containing critical human infrastructure—such as evacuation routes, municipal water supply structures, and major power or communication lines—that are at risk from wildfire
- A preliminary designation of the community’s Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone.

Community Risk Assessment

The purpose of the community risk assessment is to help to prioritize areas for treatment and identify the highest priority uses for available financial and human resources. This section is divided into five areas of concern:

- Fuel Hazards – An evaluation of vegetation conditions within the community and on adjacent lands. Products included are:
 - Larimer County Wildfire Safety Program – Subdivision Wildfire Hazard Review
 - Larimer County Fuel Hazard Map
- Risk of Wildfire Occurrence – An evaluation of the probability of fire ignition within the community and surrounding lands.
- Risk to homes, businesses, and essential infrastructure – An evaluation of the vulnerability of structures within the community to ignition from firebrands, radiation, and convection. Also includes an evaluation of risks to essential infrastructure such as evacuation routes, water supply structures, and power and communication lines. Products may include:
 - Structure Assessment (construction materials, structure access, defensible space, etc.)
 - Infrastructure Assessment (utilities, water, community roads, power lines, etc.)
- Risk to Other Community Values – An evaluation of risk to other community values such as wildlife habitat, recreation and scenic areas, water supplies, and landscapes of historical, economic or cultural value.
- Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability
 - Initial response to all fire, medical and associated emergencies is the responsibility of [insert local fire department name]. 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 response are the responsibility of the local fire department and the agencies listed above.

Hazard Reduction Priorities

[Attach a prioritized list of community needs regarding fuel reduction treatments within the WUI zone.

- Fuel reduction needs (Attach map identifying treatment types and ways to reduce structural ignitability.)
- Fire response needs

Action Plan

[Insert community name here] has developed and attached an action plan which identifies roles and responsibilities, funding needs and timetables listed in Hazard Reduction Priorities. The core team will meet annually to evaluate progress and mutually agree on treatment priorities.

In cooperation with the Larimer County Fire Education Group, the Larimer Fire Council, and the [insert local fire department and other supporters] the [insert community name] supports and promotes Firewise activities as outlined in the Larimer County Fire Plan. [insert community name] supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitibility through meeting Larimer County Building Code Requirements and utilizing Colorado State Forest Service FireWise Construction Fact Sheets.

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

[Insert community organization name]

[Insert local fire department]

Fort Collins District
Colorado State Forest Service

[Insert other organization or agency]

Appendix A

Larimer County Fire Plan a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Larimer County 2004)

Larimer County Wildfire Mitigation Plan (CSFS 1998)

Recommendations for Improving Wildfire Safety in Larimer County (CSFS 1997)

Larimer County Subdivision Wildfire Hazard Review (Larimer County/CSFS 2002)

Larimer County Annual Operating Plan (updated annually)

FEMA—Northern Colorado Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2004)

Minimum Standards

Colorado State Forest Service Minimum Standards for Community Wildfire Protection Plans

1. Participants

- The core planning team must include local government, local fire authority, local CSFS representative and representatives of relevant federal land management agencies.
- Planning activities that involve assessing community risks and values, identifying community protection priorities, or establishing fuels treatment project areas and methods MUST involve diverse representation from interested non-governmental stakeholders.

2. Plan Components

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans must include the following components:
 - A definition of the community's 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.

3. Level of Specificity

- A CWPP may be developed for any level of “community,” from a homeowner’s association or mountain town to a county or metropolitan city.
- Information contained in the plan should be at a level of specificity appropriate to the size of the community being addressed. For example, data used to develop a community risk analysis or identify fuels treatment priorities for a small town would need to be at a finer scale than that use for a county.
- County level plans can be used as an umbrella for plans in smaller communities, but should not be considered a substitute. A county plan will not provide the detail needed for project level planning.

4. **Adapting Existing Plans and Combining Related Plans**

- If a community has an existing plan that already meets the majority of the CWPP criteria, it is preferable to work with the community to adapt that plan to meet the remainder of the criteria. However, plan adaptations must be collaborative as described in (1) above and include stakeholder representation. This is particularly important if the adaptation involves establishing fuels treatment priorities.
- Communities are encouraged to combine CWPPs with related documents such as FEMA All-Hazard Mitigation Plans where appropriate.

Fire Planning Categories

A/B/C/D Polygons

In developing the Larimer County Fire Plan, the United States Forest Service, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado State Forest Service and Larimer County identified fire categories that define the desirability of wildland fire in specific geographic areas with an emphasis on the wildland-urban interface. Each agency-identified-polygon utilized the A/B/C/D classification provided by Colorado State Forest Service Quick Plan. Polygons were drawn with careful consideration for landscape features and conditions that influence fire behavior, threat to values, and difficulty of control. This information was transferred to a geographical information systems map created by Larimer County. [*See Map--Larimer County Fire Plan Strategies.*](#)

- **A-polygons** are areas where wildland fire is highly undesirable. Fire has the potential to create great losses and result in high suppression costs. Within the A-polygons, fire suppression and prevention and education actions will be aggressive to keep ignitions to a minimum and restrict fires that do start to a small size. A-polygons are often wildland-urban interface or intermix communities or neighborhoods. Concentrated FireWise and related preparedness education and hazard mitigation efforts will be directed to those areas.

- **B-polygons** are areas where wildland fire is undesirable under current conditions. Fuel accumulations have created conditions under which wildland fires are likely to burn with unacceptable intensity and duration. Rapid fire spread may present serious threats to public safety or fire containment. Fire prevention and suppression efforts will be aggressive in these areas. Although under current conditions the potential for catastrophic fire is significant, appropriate fuels management programs may permit restoration of fire-adapted landscapes in which wildland fire is acceptable or desirable. Prescribed fire (and other hazard mitigation) should be concentrated in the B-polygons. Over time, B-polygons might be converted to C-polygons.
- **C-polygons** are areas where wildland fire is acceptable and often desirable. These are restored fire-adapted landscapes where fire can play a constructive role without creating significant negative side effects. Prescribed fire may be used regularly in C-polygons to maintain fire-adapted conditions and achieve management objectives. Suppression of unplanned fires will be more measured with careful consideration of costs and benefits. Prevention efforts may target certain identified high-risk activities and times of greater risk of ignition.

D-polygons are areas where wildland fire is acceptable or desirable and where the potential for damage is insignificant. Prevention and fuels treatment will be relatively uncommon in these areas. Fires that start may be managed to enhance natural resource or ecological values. Suppression will be limited to times where continued burning might pose some special risk to values outside the polygon.

Current county policy with regard to state and private lands

Currently, on all private lands that fall within any of the A/B/C/D categories, the Larimer County Sheriff's department, with assistance of local fire departments, maintains a full suppression policy.

Management of wildland fire suppression efforts is based on life safety, values at risk, tactical planning and resource availability.

How does a landowner/manager change categories?

Changes can be in any direction. Vegetation can increase or change in ways that control of fire becomes more difficult, or values at risk have increased. The opposite situation is also possible. Examples could include development, in growth of trees or brush, changes of management, identification of unique habitat, reduction of fuel loads. The plan will be reviewed and all factors assessed as needed. Following identification of changes, plan will be adjusted accordingly.

Land managers and property owners that desire to change the status of their property prior to planned review / revision, need to document what has changed, impacts on fire control, values at risk, relationship to adjacent polygons. Agency partners will evaluate the request and make changes if appropriate.

Wildland Fire Use—Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Definition: The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined areas outlined in approved land management plans or fire management plans. Operational management is described in the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) for each fire.

A Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) for wildland fire use-- is required by the United States Forest Service and National Park Service. This plan considers resource benefits and includes:

- Objectives
- Factors affecting decision criteria for wildland fire use
- Preplanned implementation procedures
- Impacts of implementation
- Required personnel

- Critical records (approved plan, monitoring plan, periodic fire assessment, funding codes, fire history, and other records – i.e. photo points)
- Cost Tracking

Unites States Forest Service

US Forest Service objectives are: to use fire from natural ignitions in a safe, carefully planned, and cost-effective manner to benefit, protect, maintain, and enhance natural resources; to reduce future fire suppression costs; and, to the extent possible, to restore natural ecological processes and achieve management objectives adopted in approved forest land and resource management plans.

Wildland fire use refers to the planning and implementation of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific, pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas as defined in the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and outlined in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest's Fire Management Plan.

Rocky Mountain National Park

The National Park Service, in accordance with policies established by the Department of the Interior, utilizes the full range of strategic options to manage wildland fire, provided that selected options do not compromise firefighter and public safety, cost effectiveness, benefits, and values to be protected. Suppression of unwanted, potentially environmentally damaging wildland fires is guided by directives provided in the RMNP Fire Management Plan. That plan also outlines the authority to manage naturally ignited wildland fires for resource benefits within areas designated for that management option. Wildland fire use is a desirable method to maintain fire-dependent ecosystems. All wildland fires, regardless of location, that do not meet wildland fire use prescriptive criteria or that are determined to be unwanted wildland fires are defined in the decision criteria checklist will receive a suppression response.

Colorado State Forest Service

CSFS's role is to assist citizens of Colorado with wildland fire management on private and public lands. CSFS will assist agencies and other government entities with use of naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific, pre-stated resource management objectives. Costs of projects are determined according to current CSFS policy.

Larimer County

At this time there is no policy in Larimer County allowing wildland fire use on private lands. Policies are being developed in conjunction with the Colorado State Forest Service. Policy and procedures are currently being developed by Larimer County and the Colorado State Forest Service. A landowners' kit is being developed that identifies a step by step process that needs to be followed to conduct a prescribed fire on private land.

Update:

Prescribed Fire—Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Definition: Any fire ignited by management actions under certain predetermined conditions to meet specific resource management objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and agency requirements must be met prior to ignition.

United States Forest Service

USFS objectives are: to use fire from management ignitions in a safe, carefully planned, and cost effective manner to benefit, protect, maintain, and enhance natural resources resources; to reduce future fire suppression costs; and, to the extent possible, to restore natural ecological processes. Prescribed fire refers to the planning and implementation of management-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific, pre-stated resource management objectives as defined in the environmental analysis and accomplished through the interdisciplinary team process. At least once a year, district staff meets with local cooperators to discuss future and current fuels projects. Typically, the meetings include the County's fuels hazard mitigation staff and local representatives of the Colorado State Forest Service. Discussions have most often revolved around where to initiate new projects in the urban-wildland intermix.

Prior to implementation, the following requirements are fulfilled:

- Prepare and approve burn plan
- Obtain smoke permit
- Prepare communications plan
- Prepare monitoring plan
- Provide advance notification to State smoke regulators and (through the Dispatch Center) to area cooperators
- Provide advance notification to news media, elected officials and neighbors as described in the communications plan
- Complete a project file including the components required in the burn plan

Rocky Mountain National Park

The National Park Service is responsible for planning, implementing, and monitoring fuel treatments to protect communities, municipal watersheds, park infrastructure, and resource values from negative impacts of wildland fire. A variety of fuel treatment options are utilized in Rocky Mountain National Park including, but not limited to, thinning, piling, mechanical fuel treatments, and prescribed fire.

Colorado State Forest Service

CSFS will assist agencies and individuals with the planning and implementation of prescribed fire to accomplish specific resource management objectives. Costs to individuals and agencies of projects are determined according to current CSFS policy.

Larimer County

Larimer County policy only allows slash pile burning through a permit process in conjunction with the County Health Department. Policies regarding prescribed wildland fire on private lands are being drafted between Colorado State Forest Service and Larimer County.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requires air quality permits for burns conducted by NPS, USFS and CSFS. Other agencies should verify that predicted smoke production of the proposed burn does not require a CDPHE smoke permit.

County Fire Plan—Detailed Layout

The County Fire Plan identifies six management objectives essential to achieve this plan's mission statement. These management objectives include -- Prevention, Preparedness, Mitigation, Suppression, Reclamation / Rehabilitation and Fiscal. For each of the management objectives, contact positions and phone numbers are listed for each agency. Additionally, any agreement that refers to a particular management objective is also listed. A reference appendix will be created that will contain a copy of each agreement. Each management objective lists a statement that summarizes the goal and objective, plus activities that need to be accomplished to meet the objectives and the overall mission statement. For each activity listed, a brief background is provided, along with agencies involved, priority, status, estimated costs, funding sources and completion schedule. Larimer County will serve as the primary agency for all listed activities.

Annual Review

An interagency group will review the County Fire Plan, management objectives and activities listed to ensure that objectives are being accomplished.. Activities that are listed to be annually or ongoing will be evaluated by March 1. The County Fire Plan will be reviewed on a as needed basis. Activities will likely be added to and removed from the plan due to completion of projects and changes in priorities. The Larimer County Emergency Services/Wildfire Safety will serve as the lead agency and coordinate updates and annual reviews. Future activities can be submitted by any Larimer County resident to the interagency group for review and addition to the year's County Fire Plan. The following format should be utilized for activity submittal.

Activity Submittal Form

Nominating agency _____

Primary Contact _____

Date _____

Activity _____

Background _____

Agencies Involved _____

Estimated Costs _____

Funding Sources _____

Schedule _____

Management Objectives

Prevention Reduce human caused wildfire ignitions through information, education and enforcement.

Agency Contacts:

USFS	Canyon Lakes Ranger District Fire Management Officer	970.295.6780
RMNP	Fire Education, Prevention and Information Specialist	970.586.1264
CSFS	Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District	970.491.8660
Larimer County	LCES	970.498.5303

Activity (P1) **Develop a consistent FireWise message for (1) Homeowners (2) Contractors/Developers/Architects and (3) Children**

Background Currently, the FireWise message of “landowner responsibility” is clearly identified for current and future homeowners and landowners. However, the program has expanded and additional messages for developers, contractors and children are needed.

Agencies Larimer County, CSFS, RMNP, USFS

Priority Moderate

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs Agency staff time

Funding Sources Existing program funds

Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__ COMPLETED

Activity (P2) **Develop an interagency cadre to present “Are You FireWise?” presentations**

Background To meet the demands for “Are You FireWise?” educational presentations, a cadre of either volunteer or professional personnel needs to be trained to present wildland fire education and awareness information

Agencies Larimer County, CSFS, RMNP, USFS

Priority Moderate

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs Agency Staff Time
Funding Sources Existing program funds/grants
Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__

Activity (P3) Improve public awareness

Background The individual property owner/occupant has the primary responsibility to protect their property from a wildland fire event. Only limited numbers of citizens in the general public are aware of the wildland fire threat. Information is available, but a coordinated approach to educational and outreach is needed.

Agencies Larimer County, CSFS, RMNP, USFS

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs Agency Staff time

Funding Sources Existing program funds/grants

Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__

Activity (P4) Develop an on-line catalog that includes an interagency listing of all wildland fire education materials.

Background There is no current list of wildfire education materials available from each agency. Citizens and fire departments should be able to view materials on a web site and order materials if needed.

Agencies Larimer County, CSFS, RMNP, USFS

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs \$1000 to develop web page, \$500 annually to deliver products, \$1000 annually to purchase and restock materials.

Funding Sources Existing program funds/grants

Schedule Completed, CSFS maintains list.

Activity (P5) Develop homeowner/landowner contact database for all agencies

Background Each agency makes contact with landowners, homeowners associations, and communities regarding mitigation issues. We need to keep track of all contacts to develop effective and efficient interagency cross-boundary mitigation projects.

Agency Larimer County, CSFS, RMNP, USFS

Priority Low

Status Does not exist yet

Estimated Costs \$2,500 setup costs, \$500 annual maintenance

Funding Sources Grants

Schedule December 2007

Activity (P6) Improve wildfire reporting process private and state lands

Background Provide fire departments an efficient process to report wildfire events.

Agency CSFS, RMNP, USFS

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs Agency Staff Time

Funding Sources Existing program funds/grants

Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__

Activity (P7) Develop ways to update news media and Larimer County residents of the current wildfire danger

Background Utilize news media outlets and Public Information personnel officers to inform the citizens of current wildland fire danger.

Agency Larimer County, CSFS, RMNP, USFS

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs Agency Staff Time.

Funding Sources Staff Time. Existing program funds/grants

Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__

Preparedness

Plan the most effective level of resources to protect human and natural values.

Agency Contacts:

USFS	Canyon Lakes Ranger District Fire Management Officer	970.295.6780
RMNP	Fire Management Officer	970.586.1287
CSFS	Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District	970.491.8660
Larimer County	Emergency Services	970.498.5300

Activity (Pr1)

Larimer County rural site addressing improvement project

Background

The County's current road naming and site addressing system is urgently in need of improvement. Although proper road naming and site addressing is occurring through the land division review and approval process, many very serious deficiencies exist in older platted subdivisions, on metes & bounds parcels, and in 35+ acre developments. Emergency service personnel and parcel delivery companies often are unable to locate properties quickly or at all due to the lack of a road name and site address. Due to inaccurate or inadequate information provided by property owners, many properties have received address numbers that are not accurate, further adding to the confusion. A major barrier to overcoming the many deficiencies of the current system is likely to be resistance by some property owners to naming their road or changing their address.

To remedy this situation, Larimer County has hired a consultant to improve site addressing in rural area of the County through a Phase II project. Phase I will develop the appropriate solution. Phase II will get all roads named, road signs added, and addresses added or altered accordingly. Phase I began in April 2003 with completion by August 2003. Phase I is funded jointly by Larimer County and the Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA). Phase II is planned for 2004, subject to funding availability.

Agencies

Larimer County Planning and Building Services Division, Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Poudre Fire District, the Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA) and the County GIS department

Priority

High

Status

Ongoing (Phase 1)

Estimated Costs

Phase I, \$60,000. Possible grant funding sources for Phase II will be identified in Phase I

Funding Sources

Existing program funds and grants

Schedule

Annual March 1, 20__, Larimer County Planning and Building Services Division Lead.

Activity (Pr2)**Develop wildland fire hazard education teams**Background

In 2000, the Colorado State Forest Service held trainings to develop Wildfire Hazard Education Teams (WHET) to conduct wildland fire hazard mitigation informational meetings for residents, homeowners associations, county officials and other stakeholders who live in outlying areas of a fire incident. The teams will assist and work cooperatively with local agency, county, fire protection districts and fire management team public information officers during and immediately following a wildland fire incident.

Agencies

Larimer County, USFS, RMNP, CSFS

Priority

High

Status

Structure exists but personnel shortage

Estimated Costs

Agency Staff Time

Funding Sources

Existing program funds and grants

Schedule

Available on request

Activity (Pr3)**Assist in the development of evacuation plans**Background

Evacuation during a wildland fire event continues to be a problem in the urban-wildland interface. Assisting local fire departments with the development of warning and evacuation systems and protocols will be an overall benefit to the communities at risk. Education of area residents about warning and procedures through mailings, door hangers and public meetings is critical to the success of an evacuation plan.

Agencies

Larimer County, USFS, RMNP, CSFS—local fire department participation is critical.

Priority

High

Status

Ongoing

Estimated Costs

County staff time and fire department staff time

Funding Sources

Existing program funds and grants

Schedule

Available on Request

Activity (Pr4)**Assist in the development of pre attack plans**Background

Assisting local fire department personnel with the development of a pre attack plan for subdivisions or developments within their particular response area is essential in preparing both the emergency response agencies and the residences in the area for a wildland fire event. To build consistency and credibility, it is

anticipated that the Colorado State Forest Service pre-attack format will be utilized for all plans.

<u>Agencies</u>	Larimer County, USFS, RMNP, CSFS—local fire department participation is critical.
<u>Priority</u>	High
<u>Status</u>	Ongoing
<u>Estimated Costs</u>	Agency staff time and fire department staff time
<u>Funding Sources</u>	Existing program funds and grants
<u>Schedule</u>	Available on request

Activity (Pr5) Create complete map books for Larimer County

Background Map or run books of subdivisions and forested areas throughout Larimer County will aid emergency response agencies with locations outside their normal response areas.

<u>Agencies</u>	Larimer County
<u>Priority</u>	High
<u>Status</u>	Complete
<u>Estimated Costs</u>	Agency Staff time
<u>Funding Sources</u>	Existing program funds and grants
<u>Schedule</u>	Complete

Activity (Pr6) Develop contact list to disseminate information on current wildland fire danger

Background Visitors and residents need to be aware of daily wildfire danger and where they can obtain more information about fire dangers.

<u>Agencies</u>	Larimer County, CSFS, USFS, RMNP
<u>Priority</u>	High
<u>Status</u>	Ongoing
<u>Estimated Costs</u>	Staff time or contract out
<u>Funding Sources</u>	Grants
<u>Schedule:</u>	Complete

Activity (Pr7)**Update the fire department/district response area map**Background

The current fire department/district map needs to be updated. Many of the fire departments and districts response areas are expanding due to greater wildland urban-interface development.

Agencies

Larimer County

Priority

High

Status

Ongoing

Estimated Costs

Agency Staff time

Funding Sources

Grants

Schedule

Annual, March 1, 20__

Activity (Pr8)**Georectify aerial photos and establish a maintenance schedule**Background

Existing aerial photography of Larimer County has not been incorporated into a County GIS system due to the cost and time required. A maintenance schedule needs to be developed that will update the photography and a regular basis. Need to investigate cost sharing opportunities with other agencies.

Agencies

Larimer County

Priority

Low

Status

Exists only in some areas.

Estimated Costs

Agency Staff time or contract out

Funding Sources

Grants

Schedule

December 2007

Activity (Pr9)**Prepare data needed for fire behavior forecasts. Place data on CD's by Township-Range-Section (T-R-S)**Background

Developing a library of data required to generate fire behavior predictions will allow fire behavior specialists to make better predictions during a wildland fire event.

Agencies

Larimer County, USFS, RMNP, CSFS

Priority

Low

Status

Does not exist

Estimated Costs

Agency Staff time or contract out

Funding Sources Grants

Schedule March 2007

Activity (Pr10) Determine additional fire equipment needs and locations

Background As the wildland-urban interface continues to expand and more structures are built, planning for the additional fire equipment needed and the location of new fire stations is becoming an interagency issue. In the event that the USFS receives a request to locate structures or fire equipment on National Forest land, the USFS will evaluate the proposal based on criteria in the Special Uses Proposal Screening process (initial and secondary levels). Considerations include whether the use can be accommodated on private land, whether the use is compatible with Forest Plan direction, etc. Other agencies may be asked to provide information in order to verify details of the proposal.

Agencies Larimer County, USFS, RMNP, CSFS, fire departments and districts

Priority Moderate

Status Does not exist yet

Estimated Costs Agency Staff time

Funding Sources Existing program funds/grants

Schedule Complete/ Review as needed

Activity (Pr11) Coordination of burn restriction information.

Background Guidelines exist within the annual operating plan for determining the need for fire restriction and/or fire closures. Information as well as implementing or lifting closures/restrictions shall be coordinated with all agencies.

Agencies Larimer County, CSFS, USFS, RMNP

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs Agency Staff time

Funding Sources Existing program funds/grants

Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__

Activity (Pr 12) Promote, coordinate and assist in the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Background Incentive for communities to engage in comprehensive forest planning and prioritization was give new unprecedented impetus with the enactment of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act in 2003. A Larimer County Coordinating Group was established to define, coordinated and assisting communities in developing and maintaining a Community Wildfire Protection Plan; talking points and a CWPP addendum has been developed to assist communities through the planning process.

<u>Agencies</u>	Larimer County, USFS, CSFS and RMNP
<u>Priority</u>	High
<u>Status</u>	On-going
Estimated Costs	Agency Staff Time.
<u>Funding Sources</u>	Existing program funds/grants
<u>Schedule</u>	Annual, March 1, 20__

Mitigation

Plan and implement action to reduce potential negative impacts on human and natural values from wildland fire.

Agency Contacts:

USFS	Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader	970.295.6760
RMNP	Fire Management Officer	970.586.1287
CSFS	Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District	970.491.8660
Larimer County	LCSO	970.498.5303

Activity (M1) Provide listing of current building and land use codes that address wildland fire hazard mitigation

Background Larimer County has taken proactive steps and adopted building codes and land use codes that address wildland fire hazard mitigation and enforcement capabilities.

Agencies Larimer County

Priority High

Status Complete—Posted at www.larimer.org/wildfire

Estimated Costs Agency staff time

Funding Sources Staff Time. Existing program funds/grants

Schedule Complete

Activity (M2) Provide citizens with an economical and efficient means of disposal for slash generated during wildland fire mitigation techniques.

Background The Larimer County wildfire safety program has developed a slash disposal program which provides citizens options for disposal. These options include community collections sites, 50/50 cost share, and pile burning

Agencies Larimer County

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs \$30,000-\$50,000 annually

Funding Sources Grants

Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__

Activity (M3) Develop FireWise demonstration sites

Background FireWise demonstration sites have been created on county parks and open lands properties, USFS properties and other private properties. These sites are designed to be highly visible and demonstrate forest management techniques that not only improve forest health conditions but also reduce the impact of a wildland fire event.

Agencies Larimer County, USFS, RMNP, CSFS

Priority High

Status Complete but continually expanding

Estimated Costs \$15,000-\$60,000 annually

Funding Sources Staff Time. Existing program funds/grants

Schedule Annual, March 1, 200__

Activity (M4) Conduct required and voluntary wildland fire inspections

Background The Larimer County wildfire safety program currently conducts required wildland fire inspections per the adopted building code and voluntary wildland fire inspections requested by residents.

Agencies Larimer County, fire departments and CSFS

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs Agency staff time

Funding Sources Staff Time. Existing program funds/grants

Schedule Available on request

Activity (M5) Update wildland fire hazard assessment/identification maps

Background Vegetation and the associated wildland fire hazard are constantly changing due to natural growth, mortality, fires and human activities. Larimer County, Colorado State Forest Service and United States Forest Service have developed

seamless vegetation and wildland fire hazard maps for Larimer County. These maps constantly change and need to be checked for accuracy and updated.

<u>Agencies</u>	Larimer County, CSFS, USFS, RMNP
<u>Priority</u>	High
<u>Status</u>	Base map completed—updating needed.
<u>Estimated Costs</u>	Agency staff time
<u>Funding Sources</u>	Existing program funds, grants
<u>Schedule</u>	Completed

Activity (M6) Conduct subdivision/development wildland fire assessments

Background Over 250 subdivisions and developments are located in the wildland-urban interface of Larimer County. Many of these subdivision and developments have been evaluated by the Colorado State Forest Service for wildland fire hazards. A complete and updated list of all current subdivisions and developments is needed. This complete list will identify the most hazardous subdivisions and developments for targeted extensive education and awareness programs. This list will be updated as needed.

<u>Agencies</u>	Larimer County, CSFS, USFS
<u>Priority</u>	High
<u>Status</u>	Ongoing
<u>Estimated Costs</u>	Agency staff time
<u>Funding Sources</u>	Staff Time. Existing program funds/grants
<u>Schedule</u>	Completed

Activity (M7) Identify cross-boundary fuel reduction projects / Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership

Background Under existing agreements Larimer County, Colorado State Forest Service, Rocky Mountain National Park and the United States Forest Service are working together to identify cross-boundary fuel reduction project within the wildland urban interface. Projects will focus on area where agencies have planned actions to address environment and watershed issues and where residents have expressed interest and support.

<u>Agencies</u>	Larimer County, CSFS, USFS, RMNP
<u>Priority</u>	High
<u>Status</u>	Ongoing

Estimated Costs Project dependent and agency staff time

Funding Sources Existing program funds and grants

Schedule Available on request

Activity (M8) Develop FireWise communities

Background The Larimer County wildfire safety program and the Colorado State Forest Service work together to identify and inform communities of the National FireWise Communities recognition program.

Agencies Larimer County, CSFS

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs Agency staff time, community dependent

Funding Sources Existing program funds and grants

Schedule Annual, March 1, 2005

Activity (M9) Develop an accurate media list to disseminate the current wildland fire danger.

Background Accurate news media information is needed to coordinate lifting closures/restrictions and to ensure a cooperative interagency approach and unified presentation to residents.

Agencies Larimer County, CSFS, USFS, RMNP and fire departments

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs Agency staff time

Funding Sources Staff Time. Existing program funds/grants

Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__ COMPLETE

Activity (M10) Utilize the Alternative Sentencing Unit (ASU) inmates as a labor force to assist with fuels reduction projects on public and private lands.

Background Larimer County Sheriff department proposed utilizing the ASU inmates as a cost effective labor force to assist with fuels reduction projects throughout Larimer County. The Wildfire Safety Program has used ASU on projects in Horsetooth Mountain Park, Glacier View, and magic Ski Girls Scout Ranch with overwhelming success. Future project are currently in the planning process.

Agencies Larimer County, USFS, CSFS and RMNP

Priority High

Status OnGoing

Cost Estimated Approximately \$15,000 annually

Funding Sources Existing Program Funds

Schedule Annually, March 1, 20__

Activity (M11) Develop a County-wide contact that coordinates, tracks, schedules and implements fuels reduction efforts on County lands.

Background Fuel reductions –forest heath or fire mitigation/demonstration—projects are being implemented throughout the County by many different County departments: Wildfire Safety Program, Emergency Services, LC Sheriff—ASU, Parks and Open Lands, Horsetooth Mountain Park, Weed District. However, a central coordination point to organize the limited resources and funds in the most effective, manner is needed to ensure effectiveness and avoid duplication of efforts, plus explore large scale funding options.

Agencies Larimer County

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Cost Estimates Agency staff time

Funding Sources Existing Program Funds

Schedule Annually, March 1, 20__

Activity (M12) Maintain Fire Mitigation Crews

Background Maintain fire mitigation crew -- utilize Emergency Service Firefighters as a sawyers to implement fire mitigation, forest management projects on County , non-profit, or public lands.

Agencies Larimer County

Priority High

Status Ongoing

Estimated Costs \$25,000-\$125,000

Funding Sources Agency staff time grants

Schedule

Annually, March 1, 20__

Suppression

Use appropriate strategies and tactics for safe and cost effective protection of human and natural resource values from wildland fire.

Agency Contacts:

USFS	Canyon Lakes Ranger District Fire Management Officer	970.295.6780
RMNP	Fire Management Officer	970.586.1287
CSFS	Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District	970.491.8660
Larimer County	Emergency Services	970.498.5300

Activity (S1)

Larimer County resource list

Background

Maintaining a current list of equipment and personnel available for response to wildland fire events in Larimer County is essential for resource coordination. Lists should contain dept./agency contact information, equipment type, National Wildfire Coordinating Group qualified personnel and qualification level.

Agencies

Larimer County, USFS, CSFS, RMNP

Priority

High

Status

Exists in various formats

Estimated Costs

Agency Staff time

Funding Sources

Existing program funds

Schedule

Annual, March 1, 20__

Activity (S2)

Implementation of FMAZ (Fire Management Action Zones) planning levels

Background

Update and disseminate to all responding agencies current FMAZ zones to enhance interagency initial attack. Current FMAZ structure outlines initial resources dispatch in the county by type and number based on area and current fire conditions.

Agencies

USFS, RMNP Larimer County

Priority

High

Status

Ongoing

Estimated cost Agency Staff time
Funding Sources Existing program funds
Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__

Activity (S3) Identify and establish county wide map for A/B/C/D polygons

Back ground The identification and designation of areas in Larimer County based on the A/B/C/D polygon definitions will be instrumental in orienting where mitigation, prevention, pre-planning and suppression projects and activities should be coordinated. The mapping will also serve to assist with cross boundary projects coordinated with state and federal land management agencies.

Agencies Larimer County, USFS, RMNP and CSFS

Priority High

Status Complete

Estimated cost Agency staff time

Funding Sources Existing Program Funds

Schedule Complete

Activity (S4) Larimer County Annual Operating Plan (AOP)

Background The Larimer County AOP defines the current suppression relationship and fire business management practices between local, county, state and federal wildland fire suppression resources in Larimer County. This document is reviewed and signed by the Larimer County Commissioners, LCSO, USFS, CSFS, RMNP and BLM annually.

Agencies LCSO, USFS, RMNP, CSFS, BLM and Board of County Commissioners

Priority High

Status Complete

Estimated Cost Existing program

Funding Sources Agency Program budgets

Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__

Activity (S5)**Mutual aid agreements**Background

Rapid mobilization of resources after initial reports of wildland fire is critical in keeping fires small and reducing the risk to lives and property. To insure maximum resource response, mutual aid agreements are maintained between the LCSO and each Fire Protection District and Volunteer Fire Dept. in Larimer County. These agreements allow each agency to tap closest resources to assist them on wildland fires without consideration for reimbursement for costs for the first 12 hours on the incident.

Agencies

LCSO, fire departments and volunteer fire departments in Larimer County

Priority

High

Status

Complete- needs updating

Estimated Costs

Agency staff time

Funding Sources

Agency budgets

Schedule

January, annually

Activity (S6)**Coordinated communications**Background

Currently different radio systems are in use throughout Larimer County. There are additional changes on the horizon with VHF and 800 mg Hz. systems that will have an impact countywide. For agencies to maintain functional communications with each other and to assist in budgetary planning for future system purchases, there needs to be a coordinated effort through existing fire service associations to keep up to date. The Northern Colorado Front Range Wildfire Cooperators Group (NCFRWCG) and Larimer Fire Council (LFC) are currently trying to keep everyone up to date and coordinate issues as they arise.

Agencies

Larimer County, LCSO, USFS, CSFS, RMNP

Priority

High

Status

Coordination needed

Estimated cost

Agency staff time

Funding Sources

Existing program budgets

Schedule

Status meeting July/August NCFRWCG, LFC

Reclamation/Rehabilitation

Assess impact of wildland fire on human and natural values. Identify the roles and responsibilities of appropriate agencies and funding sources.

Agency Contacts:

USFS	Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest Staff Hydrologist	970.295.6633
RMNP	Fire Effects Specialist	970.586.1434
CSFS	Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District	970.491.8660
Larimer County	Emergency Management	970.498.5548

Activity (R1)

Infra-structure assessment and Agency Contact

Background

During and after wildland fire incidents, there will often be impacts on the infrastructure in burn areas. These impacts may require a variety of county, State or Federal agencies to mitigate the impact and assure quality of life for the citizens of Larimer County. Additional funding sources may need to be identified and applied that could impact service providers. To prepare for these situations, a list of possible fire impacts on the infrastructure and what agency/department would be involved in assessment and mitigation will be coordinated through the Larimer County Emergency Manager.

Agencies

Larimer County Emergency Manager, Larimer County Manager, USFS, RMNP

Priority

Moderate

Status

To be done

Estimated Costs

Current staff time

Funding Sources

Agency program budgets

Schedule

Annual, March 1, 20__

Fiscal Establish funding priorities and budget strategies for management objectives.

Agency Contacts:

USFS	Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest Fire Management Officer	970.295.6631
RMNP	Fire Management Officer	970.586.1287
CSFS	Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District	970.491.8660
Larimer County	Emergency Services	970.498.5300

Activity (F1) Identify, prioritize and develop cost estimates.

Background Cooperators will identify, prioritize and develop cost estimates for common management objectives. Cooperators will be identified that can contribute an amount. Other cooperators will then be able to submit future budget requests. This process will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Agencies Larimer County, USFS, RMNP, CSFS

Priority Moderate

Status Does not exist

Estimated Costs Current staff time

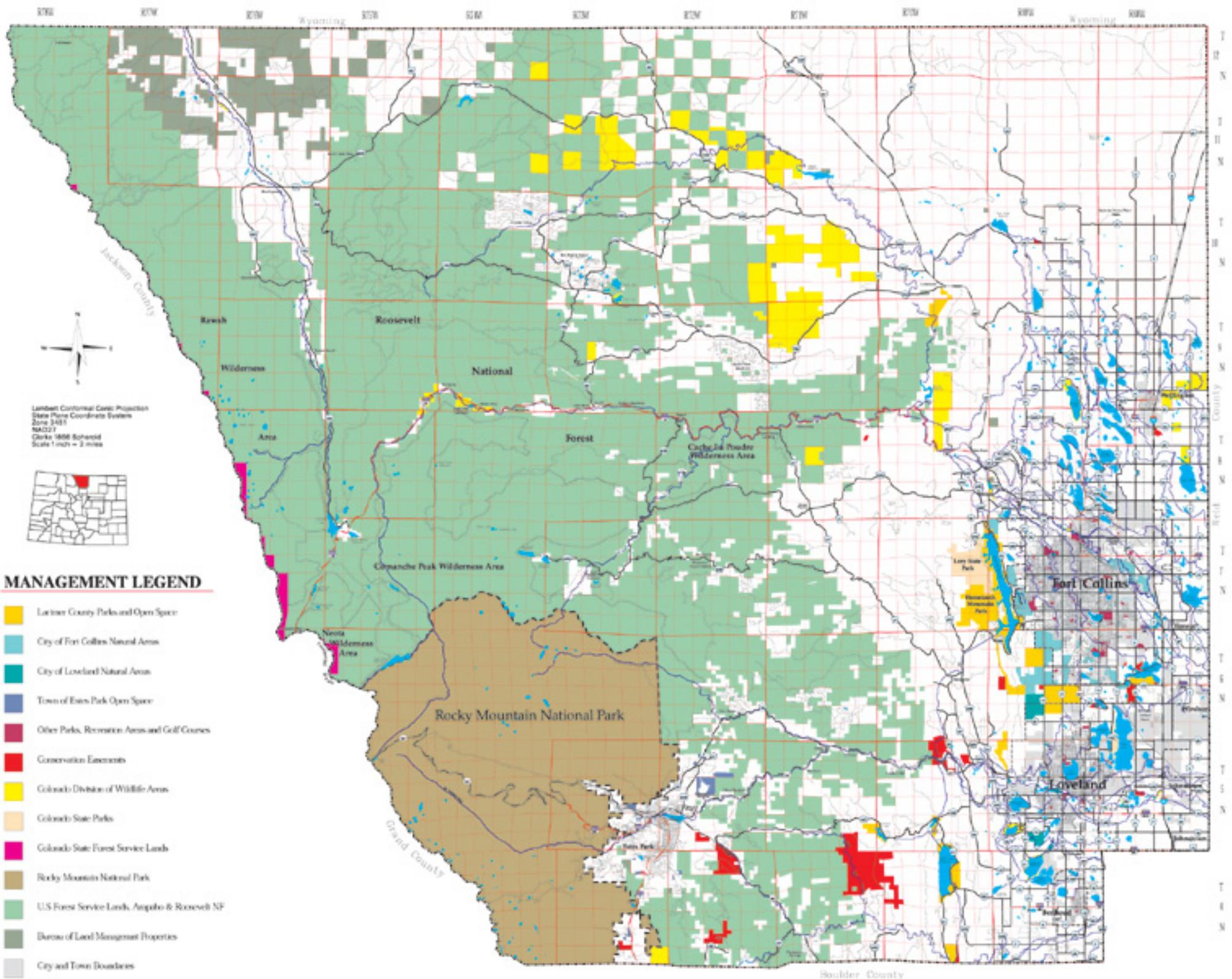
Funding Sources Agency Program Funds

Schedule Annual, March 1, 20__

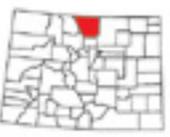
Maps

- [Larimer County Location](#)

- [Larimer County Land Status](#)



Lambert Conformal Conic Projection
 State Plane Coordinate System
 Zone 10N
 NAD83
 Clarke 1866 Spheroid
 Scale 1 inch = 2 miles



MANAGEMENT LEGEND

- Larimer County Parks and Open Space
- City of Fort Collins Natural Areas
- City of Loveland Natural Areas
- Town of Estes Park Open Space
- Other Parks, Recreation Areas and Golf Courses
- Conservation Easements
- Colorado Division of Wildlife Areas
- Colorado State Parks
- Colorado State Forest Service Lands
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- US Forest Service Lands, Arapaho & Roosevelt NF
- Bureau of Land Management Properties
- City and Town Boundaries
- Open Water

Larimer County Land Status Map

NOTE: PLEASE CONTACT INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES FOR INFORMATION ON ACCESS AND USE

The information on this map is designed for general planning purposes. It is not intended for engineering, legal or other purposes. Larimer County does not guarantee as to the accuracy or reliability of the information other than for its intended use by the Larimer County Planning Division. The Planning Division and other departments reserve the authority in the alternative depicted on the map, in order to continuously improve its database.

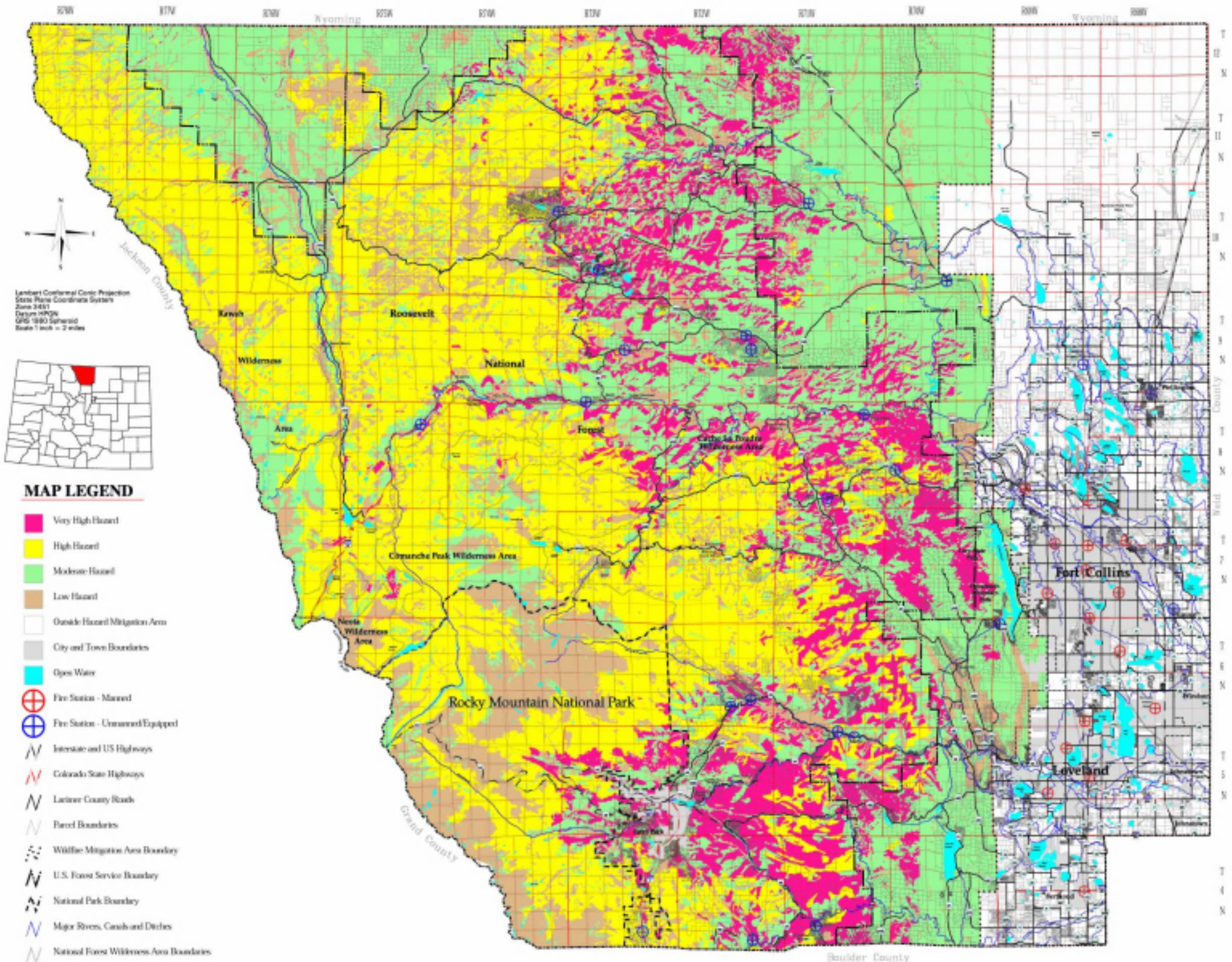


This map was published by DANE on April 15, 2011 with the parks, referenced.

- [Larimer County Residential Improvement](#)

- [Larimer County Fire Protection Districts](#)

- [Larimer County Wildfire Hazard Area](#)



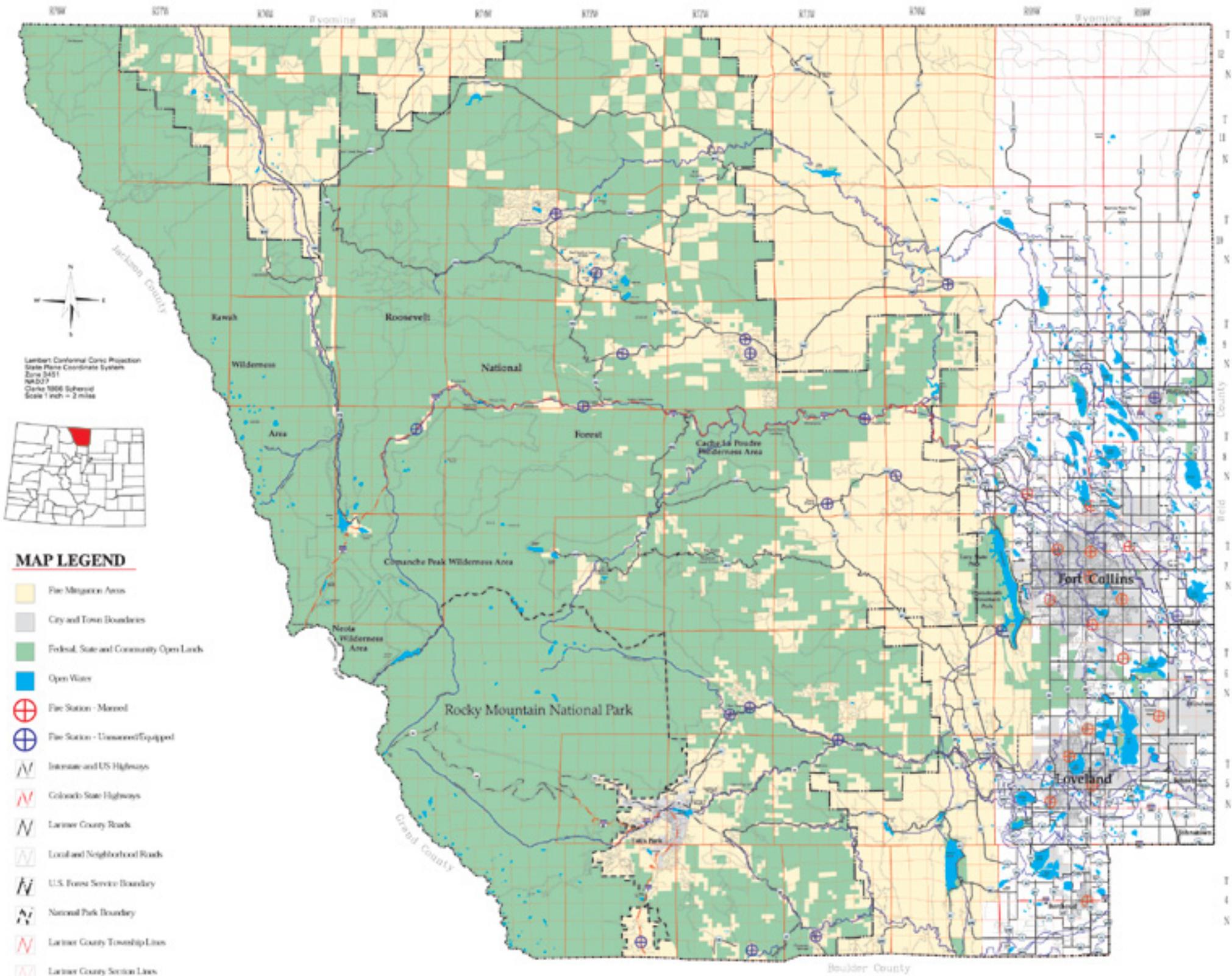
Larimer County Wildfire Hazard Areas Map

NOTE: Wildfire Hazard Area Mapping (WHAM) completed October 11, 2006.
 Wildfire Hazard Areas Map Adopted by the Larimer County Commissioners on June 25, 2001.

The information on this map is designed for general planning purposes. It is not intended for engineering, legal or other purposes. Larimer County retains the copyright on this map. Any use of this map for other than the intended use is the user's responsibility. The Planning Division reserves the right to modify the information on this map, in order to continuously improve its quality.



- [Larimer County Wildfire Hazard](#)



MAP LEGEND

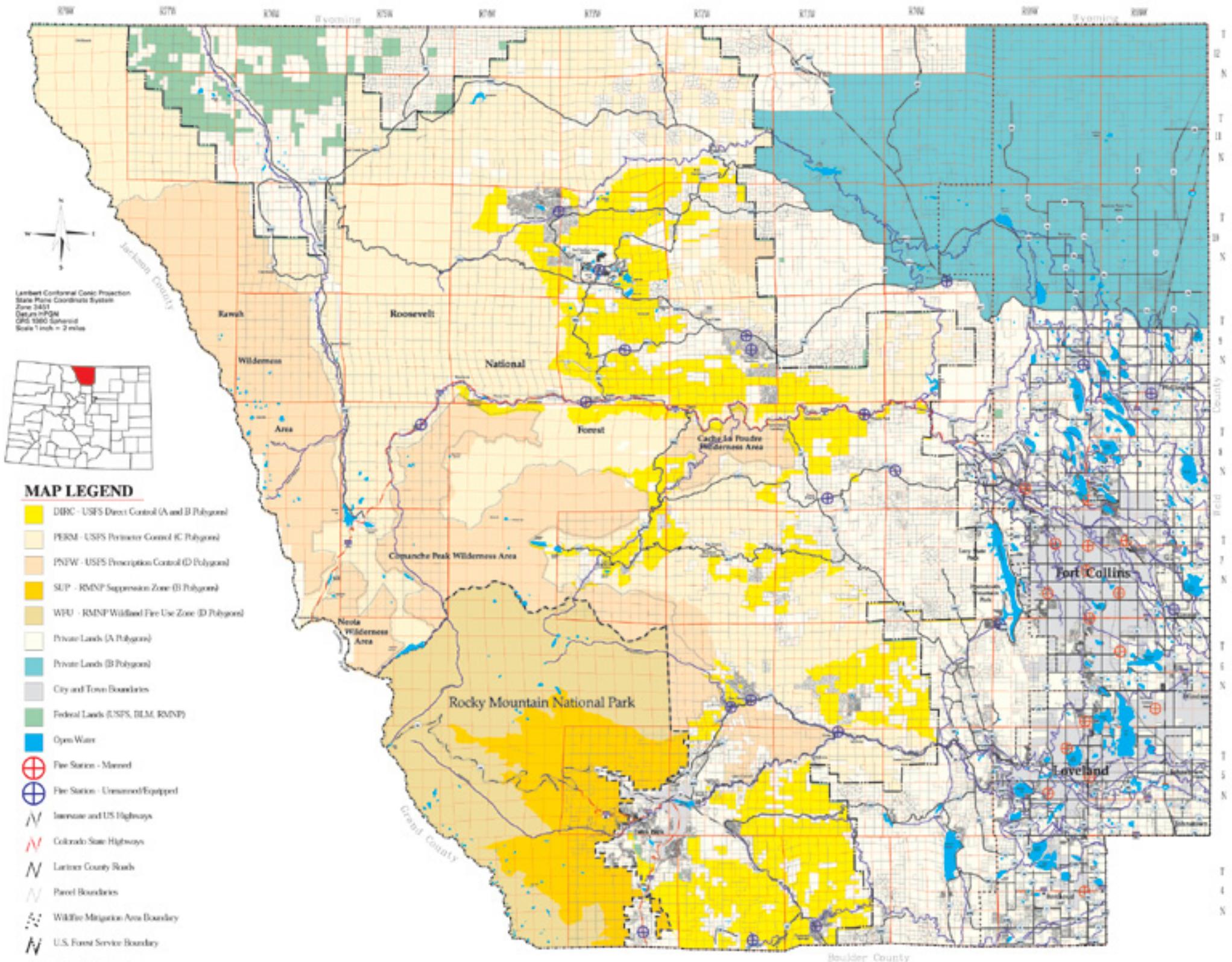
- Fire Mitigation Area
- City and Town Boundaries
- Federal, State and Community Open Lands
- Open Water
- Fire Station - Manual
- Fire Station - Unmanned/Equipped
- Interstate and US Highways
- Colorado State Highways
- Larimer County Road
- Local and Neighborhood Roads
- U.S. Forest Service Boundary
- National Park Boundary
- Larimer County Township Lines
- Larimer County Section Lines
- Major Rivers, Canals and Ditches
- National Forest Wilderness Area Boundaries

Larimer County Wildfire Mitigation Area

The information on this map is designed for general planning purposes. It is not intended for engineering, mapping, legal or other purposes. Larimer County does not guarantee the accuracy or reliability of the information other than for its intended use by the Larimer County Planning Division. The Planning Division assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information depicted on the map, or for any consequences that may result from its use.



- [Larimer County Fire Plan Strategies](#)



Lambert Conformal Conic Projection
 State Plane Coordinate System
 Zone 1401
 Datum: NAD83
 GRS 1985 Spheroid
 Scale 1 inch = 2 miles



MAP LEGEND

- DIRC - USFS Direct Control (A and B Polygon)
- PERM - USFS Prescribed Control (C Polygon)
- PNW - USFS Prescription Control (D Polygon)
- SUP - RMNP Suppression Zone (B Polygon)
- WPU - RMNP Wildland Fire Use Zone (D Polygon)
- Private Lands (A Polygon)
- Private Lands (B Polygon)
- City and Town Boundaries
- Federal Lands (USFS, BLM, RMNP)
- Open Water
- + Fire Station - Manned
- + Fire Station - Unmanned/Equipped
- Interstate and US Highways
- Colorado State Highways
- Larimer County Roads
- Parcel Boundaries
- Wildfire Mitigation Area Boundary
- U.S. Forest Service Boundary
- National Park Boundary
- Major Rivers, Creeks and Ditches
- National Forest Wilderness Area Boundaries

Larimer County Fire Plan Strategy Map

NOTE: Wildfire Hazard Area Mapping (WHAM) completed October 11, 2000.
 Wildfire Hazard Areas Map Adopted by the Larimer County Commissioners on June 25, 2001.

The information on this map is designed for general planning purposes. It is not intended for specific engineering, legal or other purposes. Larimer County does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information other than for its intended use by the Larimer County Planning Division. The Planning Division and other departments reserve the authority in the alternative depicted on the map, in order to continuously improve its database.



Appendix I

Agreements

Prevention

CSFS

- Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement Among United State Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado; National Park Service, Intermountain Region; Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Region; Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain Prairie Region; United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region; The State of Colorado, State Board of Agriculture, Colorado State Forest Service.
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection In Larimer County
- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Watershed Protection Agreement NEED TITLE

USFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- North Zone Fire Management Action Plan
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)

NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)

Preparedness

CSFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- North Zone 2002 Fire Management Action Plan – Fire Management Analysis Zones (FMAZ)
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)

USFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forests Fire Management Plan
- North Zone Fire Management Action Plan – Fire Management Analysis Zones (FMAZ)
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)

NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)

Mitigation

CSFS

- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan
- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- MOU – Good Neighbor Agreement (Colorado State)
- MOU – Development of a Collaborative Fuels Treatment Program (USFS, BLM, NPS, FWS, National Assn. of State Foresters, National Assn. of Counties)

USFS

- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- MOU – Good Neighbor Agreement (Colorado State)
- MOU – Development of a Collaborative Fuels Treatment Program (USFS, BLM, NPS, FWS, National Assn. of State Foresters, National Assn. of Counties)

NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan

Reclamation/Rehabilitation

CSFS

- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan
- MOU – State Conservation Districts (in progress)

USFS

- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan
- MOU – State Conservation Districts (in progress)

NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan

Suppression

CSFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Annual Operating Plan
 - Mutual Aid Agreement
 - MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
 - MAC – Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Plan
- FTC - Fort Collins Dispatch Center Mobilization Guide
- Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forests Fire Management Plan
- North Zone 2002 Fire Management Action Plan

USFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Annual Operating Plan
 - Mutual Aid Agreement
 - MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
 - MAC – Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Plan
- FTC - Fort Collins Dispatch Center Mobilization Guide
- Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forests Fire Management Plan
- North Zone 2002 Fire Management Action Plan

NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Annual Operating Plan
 - Mutual Aid Agreement
 - MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
 - MAC – Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Plan
- FTC - Fort Collins Dispatch Center Mobilization Guide

Fiscal

CSFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Granger-Thye Act, as Amended (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1584.12)
- The Reciprocal Fire Act (FSM 1580.14 and FSM 1582.01)
- The Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of 12/12/75 (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1587.11)
- The Cooperative Funds Act of 6/30/14 (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1584.11)

USFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Granger-Thye Act, as Amended (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1584.12)
- The Reciprocal Fire Act (FSM 1580.14 and FSM 1582.01)
- The Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of 12/12/75 (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1587.11)
- The Cooperative Funds Act of 6/30/14 (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1584.11)

NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- Fire Cost Share Agreement for CSFS, BLM, USFS, and NPS

Appendix II

Memorandum Of Understanding

