Introduction

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by The Rustic Community with guidance and support from the Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District, Larimer County Emergency Services, Colorado State Forest Service, and US Forest Service. This CWPP was created according to the guidelines of Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities, March 2004. 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 define 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 Rustic CWPP are included in the following table. Their name, organization, and roles and responsibilities are indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Roles / Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don &amp; Cindy Smith</td>
<td>Community members who live within the Rustic Area</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee McKee, Tom McKee, Shirley Hudson, Bette Blinde, Steve and Elgetta Hummel, Nick Booth, Fred and Pamela Handy, Vic and Sharon McLachlan, Glenn and Janice Simmons, Grace Luedke</td>
<td>Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Stahl</td>
<td>Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District</td>
<td>Facilitation of planning process and approval of CWPP process and minimum standards. Provides input and expertise on forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Stahl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buzz Stith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boyd Lebeda</td>
<td>Colorado State Forest Service</td>
<td>Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forester, Fort Collins District</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Simons</td>
<td>Larimer County Wildfire Safety Program</td>
<td>Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services Specialist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Edwards, USFS</td>
<td>Relevant federal land management agencies (USFS, BLM, etc.)</td>
<td>Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Description

It is the goal of the Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District to create a CWPP for all areas of the district. Due to the size and layout of the inhabited areas we will split the CWPP into four Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Communities. Each community will encompass one of the four fire stations. The communities will be defined as:

Poudre Park – Station 1
Rustic - Station 2
Spencer Heights – Station 3
Manhattan Creek – Station 4

This CWPP covers Rustic and is considered phase I.

The Rustic community is defined by the natural breaks between inhabited areas. The community borders are defined as:

- East Boarder – Indian Meadows Bridge at Highway 14 mile marker 93.1
- West Boarder – Old Poudre Canyon Chapel at Highway 14 mile marker 88.8
- North & South Boarders are defined as the first visible ridge on either side of highway 14.

The WUI includes both private and federal owned land. The Rustic area WUI is located in the south ¼ of Township 9 North, Range 73 West. The WUI’s north and south section are split by highway 14 and the Cache La Poudre River. There is a strip of varying width of vegetation between the highway and the river.
Colorado State Highway 14 runs East & West through the center of the Rustic WUI. Since all residence and business sit at the bottom of the canyon, Highway 14 is the main escape route for the Rustic area.

The Cache La Poudre River runs East & West through the Rustic WUI, parallel with Colorado State Highway 14. The Cache La Poudre River is designated a Wild & Scenic River and also provides domestic and agricultural water for a large area of northern Colorado.

The Cache La Poudre River is a significant financial asset as it draws visitors interested in camping, fishing, hunting, and water sports. Most of the businesses in the Rustic area and down river depend on tourist dollars.

The Cache La Poudre River also provides some of the finest fishing in the entire state of Colorado. Near the town of Rustic, wild trout waters are managed with special regulations so that fly and lure enthusiasts have the opportunity to fish for wild trout.

**Community Access**

The main access through the Rustic Community is via Highway 14, which runs east/west through the full length of the community. Highway 14 is a state highway maintained by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). Highway 14 is accessed from Jackson County to the west, the intersection of 287 to the east, and can also be accessed from Pingree park road (MM 96) or Stove Prairie Road (MM 106) east of Rustic, or county road 69, which intersects highway 14 at the Rustic Resort, mile marker 91.

Many residences and businesses are accessed directly off highway 14, also known as Poudre Canyon Highway.

Rustic Road, Crown Point Dr., U Bar U lane, and Abbott’s Lane are all accessed by taking a bridge to the south over the Cache La Poudre River.
Rustic Road – This road is accessed via a wooden bridge with 4 steel supports. The bridge is safe to handle all current PCFPD trucks. The road is narrow and overgrown in many places, but does have a few areas sufficient for a turn around. One Concern is there’s only one bridge in and out of this road.

Crown Point Dr & U Bar U lane – To access these roads you need to cross a bridge made with concrete supports and wooden decking. The bridge was is safe to handle all current PCFPD trucks. Recently the bridge has supported a concrete truck carrying about 6 yards and also a well drilling rig.

Crown Point Drive has good access, egress, and places to turn around. U Bar U is a narrow road with overgrown vegetation and it would be difficult to turn a large truck around. If we need to get a truck in it should be backed in. The concern for these roads is only one bridge/way in and out.

Abbott’s Lane – Is access via Abbott’s Bridge near MM 89. The bridge has a locked gate with a fire department lock. The bridge can support the current fire equipment. Abbott Lane has sufficient area to turn around large equipment within the first 100', however caution is advised because the lanes are narrow with heavy brush. There is a locked gate at the entrance to “Twin Pines.” Beyond the gate the turn around area is small, and the lane is heavy with brush and would not be a safe route for any large fire truck or Rescue unit.

Abbott’s Lane – Is access via Abbott’s Bridge near MM 89. The bridge has a locked gate with a fire department lock. The bridge can support the current fire equipment. Abbott Lane has sufficient area to turn around large equipment within the first 100', however caution is advised because the lanes are narrow with heavy brush. There is a locked gate at the entrance to “Twin Pines.” Beyond the gate the turn around area is small, and the lane is heavy with brush and would not be a safe route for any large fire truck or Rescue unit.

Meadow Lane & Riverside Drive is accessed from highway 14 directly. No bridge crossing is required. These 2 roads form a loop, which allow easy access and egress.

**Vegetation Type**

The elevation in the Rustic area ranges between 7,000 and 7,500 feet. This elevation is know as the Lower Montane and consists mostly of ponderosa pine. Interspersed amongst the pine are fire-flashy Rocky Mountain juniper trees. Other trees in the area consist of blue spruce, Engelmann spruce, aspen. The rivers edge is predominately populated with cottonwood and willows, with interspersed dogwood. At this elevation there is still a fair amount of highly combustible sage brush, chokecherry, and current bushes.
Vegetation varies between the North and South facing slopes. The south aspect is predominantly sage brush and grasses. The North aspect consists of a much denser tree population, most of which is ponderosa pine. Tall prairie grasses reside along most of the roadways. During dry seasons of the year, this material would ignite quickly, carrying wildfire throughout the community

Fire History

Over the past twenty years, approximately 161 wildfires burn on average over 2200 acres each year in Larimer County. In “slow” years, such as 1996, wildfires are relatively small. During the summer of 1996, several fires ranging in size from one acre to 180 acres, threatened 50 to 60 homes throughout Larimer County. However, although threatened, no homes burned.

At the other extreme is a year like 1994 when 340 fires, including the Hourglass Fire which destroyed 13 buildings at Pingree Park, burned through Larimer County. In addition to destroying 13 buildings at Pingree Park, the Hourglass Fire threatened 12 homes in the Poudre Springs area.

Other recent fires include:

- The Snowtop Fire, in July 1993, which threatened at least 5 homes in Cedar Park.
- In 1995, the Bonner Peaks Fire threatened 8 homes west of Highway 287.
- In 2000, the Bobcat Fire burned 10,599 acres and destroyed 18 homes.
- Tragically in 2002 the Big Elk Fire burned 4413 acres and claimed 3 lives.
- In 2004, a home owner burning trash started the Picnic Rock Fire, which burned 8,908 acres and destroyed 1 home.

The Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District responds to an average of seven fire calls each year and many vehicle accidents that have potential for starting a fire. Many of these calls turn out to be minor fires, however if the volunteer department was not in the area to respond, many could have turned into a large fire quickly. One example is the night the Glen Echo Resort burnt to the ground. Due to the quick action from the Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District and their surrounding mutual aid partners, the fire was contained to the building. Had the fire moved into the surrounding ponderosa pines it had the potential to spread rapidly through the Upper Poudre Canyon.

Current Fire Risks

Colorado as well as other western states is experiencing some of the largest fires in recent memory, in part, because we are experiencing some of the most severe drought conditions in history. Fire ecology reveals that you get big fires with extreme drought. There is little one can do to control drought. Under severe drought, especially if coupled with winds, normal fire behavior is thrown out the window.

History shows the West has always experienced periodic drought, and large fires are not just a recent phenomenon. During the 1930s Dust Bowl era more than 39 million acres burned on average across the United States.

The drought condition is also a major factor in the recent pine beetle epidemic. The pine beetle has not yet hit the Rustic community in epidemic proportion as it has in many other parts of the state, but many trees have been lost to the pine beetle. However, it is predicted to crest over Cameron Pass into Larimer County in large numbers within the next few years.

Red and dead trees in large numbers will add to the vulnerability of the Poudre Canyon to experience a large scale fire. Couple that with the overgrown forest, which are in part a result of an old philosophy to suppress all fire and we have a forest vulnerable to fire. Without natural
intervention via fire or human activity such as mechanical thinning, stands have stagnated. Fire
crowning into these stands would ignite quickly, carrying wildfire throughout the community.

**Fuel Hazard Level**

- Yellow = Low
- Green = Moderate
- Red = High

The above fuel hazard map of the Rustic area shows that the current fuel hazard for most
of the area is at the moderate level. However, there is a large area of high hazard bordering the
south edge of the community. Prevailing winds are from the west and northwest. Forested areas
to the north and east are considered at moderate to low risk fuel hazard at the present time.

Fire mitigation projects completed by individuals can lend protection to individual homes
and neighborhoods as well as lessen the chances of a wildfire starting from within the
community. Many community residents have completed fire mitigation projects on their
property. Recognizing that people cannot be forced to complete fire mitigation projects on their
property, all Rustic Area landowners are encouraged to create defensible space and reduce other
fire hazards on their personal property.

**Community Risk Assessment**

Representatives from the core team for the Rustic Community of the Poudre Canyon Fire
Protection District (PCFPD) CWPP met on July 20, 2007 to discuss community values that are
potentially at risk from wildfire, as well as to create action items for mitigating wildfire risk to
these values. Participants at this meeting included community members, members from the local
volunteer fire department, the district forester from the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), a
representative from the USDA Forest Service, and a privately-contracted facilitator. The
community members played a critical role in identifying values at-risk and creating action items,
while the role of the district forester and the USFS representative was to provide technical
support and scientific information. It is important to note that the community members held the
decision-making authority. 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.

The community members and PCFPD representatives listed the following community
values that are at-risk from wildfire, and prioritized these values as high, medium, or low.
Identifying values at-risk provided this group with a basis for determining action items, as action
items specifically address values at-risk. Prioritizing these values assists the community and
PCFPD in prioritizing mitigation projects for implementation.
High Priority

- Human life/safety
- Community members with special needs
- Homes/Structures, including the community building, church, and the Eggers school
- Emergency equipment and the fire truck
- Water supply
- Cache La Poudre River watershed
- Aesthetics
- Power lines and telephone lines
- Roads and bridges
- Forests

Medium Priority

- Economic infrastructure/businesses and resorts
- Wildlife and fish
- Sense of community
- Livestock and pets
- Recreation (this was ranked medium to low in value)

Low Priority

- Fire station

Homes, Businesses, and Essential Infrastructure at Risk

9 Businesses exist in the WUI
- Indian Meadows Lodge
- Rustic Resort
- Glen Echo Resort
- Bighorn Cabins
- Poudre Canyon -Station 2
- Canyon Realty
- Canyon Utilizes
- Archer's Poudre River Resort
- Canyonside Camp Ground

162 Homes exist in the WUI
- Rustic Road
- Crown Point Drive/U bar U
- Poudre City
- And many houses along highway 14

Roads, Driveways and Structures

- Most roads are marked in the Rustic area. Larimer County is currently working on a street naming project, which will include possible street name changes. At this time we are not pursuing homeowners to mark their roads/homes. The project is expected to be completed mid 2008 and will include Larimer county enforcing the marking of roads and house numbers.
- Roads and driveways are gravel and/or dirt. Highway is paved.
• Presence of snow and mud limit seasonal access to many roads and driveways in the WUI.
• Most roads/driveways meet clearance and turnaround space needs of emergency equipment.
• From surveys returned from homeowners it seems most homes and other structures within the WUI have composite roofs. About 1/3 have metal roofs, only a few have wood shake roofs.
• Most homes are constructed of wood products and have attached wooden decks.

Bridges and Gates
• Bridges in the Rustic area will support emergency equipment.
  o Indian Meadows Bridge on Hwy 14; N 40* 42.011, W 105* 32.715. Bridge is part of highway 14.
  o Rustic Road Bridge at Hwy 14, N 40* 41. 879, W 105* 35.420. Bridge accesses 37 properties.
  o Crown Point Dr. Bridge at Hwy 14, N 40* 41. 862, W 105* 35.973. Crown Point Dr Bridge accesses 37 properties.
  o Abbott Bridge N 40* 41.905, W 105* 37.155. Bridge accesses three properties sitting on a large track of land.
• Some gates are locked. PCFPD is encouraging homeowners to allow the department to put a lock in conjunction with the homeowner lock for emergency access.

Utilities
• The Rural Electric Administration (REA) has various electric lines situated in the WUI
• There is a main power supply terminal in the seven mile creek area that is essential to the power supply in the Rustic area. N 40*42 .320, W 105*35.267
• REA Manhattan Sub Station at Goodell Corner N 40* 44.118, W105* 34.937. This is actually part of the Boy Scout Road WUI, but is a main power supply to the Rustic WUI.
• Some utilities are underground, including some of REA & CenturyTel lines.
• Propane tanks are above ground and are placed at a safe distance from structures.
• There are no natural gas lines in the Rustic Area WUI.

Water
• Most homes have wells as a primary water source and a few have cisterns.
• Poudre City has a pond that is not directly used to supply water to homes, but helps to hold ground water for shallow wells. The pond is fed by an irrigation ditch, and all water rights are held by the landowners. There have been occasions when the water commissioner has stopped the water flow to the pond.
• The Cache La Poudre River is the main water resource.

Critical Infrastructure and Values at Risk
• Old Poudre Canyon Chapel
• Community Center
• Eggers School – historical building
• Highway 14
• Cache La Poudre River
Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability

Initial response to all fire, medical and associated emergencies is the responsibility of the Poudre Canyon FPD. 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.

Water access for the fire department

- Indian Meadows bridge area - N 40° 42.014, W 105° 32.647
- Rustic Road - Wood Property 656 Rustic Road driveway access N 40° 41.830, W 105° 34.775. Actual site for F/P 150" hose & Porta Tank near Propane tank on the Poudre River.
- Bighorn cabins – Next to the Elk cabin. Since this a business water access is for emergency situations only.
- U BAR U Lane - N 40° 41.805, W 105° 36.102
- Crown Point Drive Bridge - Water Draft & F/P site, Keller Property. N 40° 41.856, W 105° 35.965
- Well site west of the Poudre Canyon Chapel - N 40° 41.965, W 105° 37.554
- Pond in Poudre City –(summer only) N 40° 41.784, W 105° 36.185
- Even though the PCFPD can not get a truck near the water in many locations, many homes along the river can be defended using a floating pump.

Landing Zones that can be used for Helicopter support

- Wilcox Meadow – N40° 41.802, W105° 35.911
- Chris Meakin’s North field - N40° 42.307, W105° 33.350
- Indian Meadows Parking Area - N40° 41.743, W105° 31.570

Generally speaking, the Rustic Area has good fire fighting and emergency services capability. The PCFPD is always working on enhancements in training and equipment. The biggest challenge for the PCFPD currently is the need to replace its current station #2. The current building is built into the side of the mountain and was damaged in the March snow storm of 2003. It is considered “condemned” and is no longer insurable. It also limits PCFPD in purchasing more modern equipment as it will not fit into the station. There is a need to design pre-planned evacuation routes, which would facilitate smoother traffic flow in an emergency.

Hazard Reduction Priorities

- Some thinning should occur on a number of properties, especially those properties that abut National Forest land and those that could cause access fire risk to others homes and structures. When properties are thinned, it is recommended that property owners retain the larger trees as well as, aspen, mountain maple and other deciduous varieties. This will allow the property to retain its forest-like quality even as wildfire protection levels are increased.
- The homes that have shake/shingle roofs are the most likely not to survive a wildfire. Flammable roofs should be replaced with non-flammable alternatives.
- Homeowners should store firewood away from homes and propane tanks.
- Should a wildfire occur, deck furniture and hemp door mats should be pulled inside the house before the fire arrives.
• Roofs and gutters should be cleaned of pine needles, leaves and other debris. Needles, leaves and other dead materials must be continually removed from the roof, decks and walkways.

• Little things are important. Any items adjacent to a house are considered “attached” to the house by a fire. This includes wood decks, fences and walkways. Metal flashing can be inserted between the house and its “attachment” it could stop the progress of a fire. For decks, residents should consider using HardiPlank or fiber cement on the side wall adjacent to the wood decking material.

• Pruning and clipping slash are occasionally disposed of into a remote area of a homeowner’s property. Slash should be removed from the area, as it creates a substantial fuel bed. If removing the slash is not practical, it should be piled in an area that is safe to burn and burned during the winter or spring when snow level allows for safe burning. Remember a burn permit is required for slash burns. If the slash is too much for the homeowner to burn in a safe manner, please work with PCFPD.

**Action Plan**

The community and PCFPD members have 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 Poudre Canyon FPD, the community supports and promotes Firewise activities as outlined in the Larimer County Fire Plan. The community 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.

**Rustic Community CWPP: Action Items**

The community members and FPD representatives referred to their list of values at-risk to create the following action items. The action items are presented in a general list according to priority level, which allows the community to implement projects in whatever order is the most efficient and effective.

**Action Items: High Priority (The items marked “*” are especially high priority)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Owner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaborate with the FS to address mitigation along shared boundaries, as well as to address other wildfire-related issues (including removing downed timber and dead trees)</td>
<td>Richard Edwards will address this with the USFS and report back to the community about what homeowners can do in the way of mitigation along their property lines and also what the USFS is doing to address the issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create partnerships between the community, Larimer County, the CSFS, and the PCFPD to address wildfire mitigation and other related issues *</td>
<td>Since most of the forest land surrounding the Rustic WUI is USFS, the community will work mostly with Canyon Lakes District. Richard Edwards will find out current USFS projects in the area and report back to the group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Item</td>
<td>Responsible Party</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find a new location for the fire house; possibly on state-owned property</td>
<td>PCFPD – will continue to pursue land in the Rustic area. There may be land available to trade for more suitable Forest Service or State land. CSFS – will check on possible available land in the area. USFS – will work with PCFPD on an appropriate land exchange.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to pursue grants to mitigate common areas and around historic structures</td>
<td>PCFPD – will continue to apply for grants and add the community mitigation efforts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create a formal evacuation plan and phone tree, which also addresses evacuating pets and livestock</td>
<td>PCFDP – will identify a team consisting of homeowners and PCFPD members in the area to develop an evacuation plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Continue to create defensible space around homes and businesses</td>
<td>Homeowners – must take this action. PCFDP will assist as needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue the slash program with the PCFPD</td>
<td>PCFDP – will continue to assist homeowners with slash burning when it is unsafe for the homeowner to burn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue efforts at community outreach and public education regarding wildfire risk and mitigation</td>
<td>PCFPD – will address at least once each year at the monthly Upper Poudre Canyon Association meetings. Homeowners – will discuss in their annual association meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitigate along the road easements</td>
<td>Homeowners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate a community collective effort to spray for mountain pine beetle</td>
<td>Homeowners – must identify a team with a member from each association to collaborate this effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure access into communities for fire response vehicles and equipment, as well as for evacuation</td>
<td>Homeowners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action Items: Low Priority</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitigate around the phone box terminal that is across from Glen Echo, and along power lines (especially the 7-mile electricity line that runs from Pingree Hill)</td>
<td>PCFPD – will perform a yearly inspection and contact the appropriate agency with mitigation request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual updates and revision to CWPP</td>
<td>The PCFPD agreed to take the lead in annually updating/revising the CWPP. The group suggested that this annual task could be incorporated into the Upper Poudre Canyon Association meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a notification process for high risk properties</td>
<td>PCFPD agreed to develop a process to notify and educate homeowners who’s property creates a wildfire risk to others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a database of property information.</td>
<td>PCFPD will create a database using information from homeowner surveys. The data base will be used in emergency response to homes to reduce risk to firefighters and property.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• The Rustic community has identified the need for a new firehouse as its top priority. The current station #2 is a condemned uninsurable building. Although it is probably a stand alone fire rated structure, its size prevents the fire department from purchasing upgraded equipment.
• Another high priority is the need for a formal evacuation plan that ensures the appropriate agencies have emergency notification procedures and evacuation plans in place and clearly understood by residents.
  o Encourage residents to put together individual evacuation plans including addressing any existing pet and livestock issues.
  o Identify a pre-established evacuation destination.
  o Identify community members to serve as key communicators in the event of a fire requiring evacuation and help monitor a check off list of residents as they leave.
  o Identify any residents that will need assistance with evacuation.
  o Distribute information about what to do when an evacuation has been ordered. This should include a map of evacuation routes.
  o Ensure Business owners have identified how they will notify and assist guests.
  o Identify a radio that homeowners can purchase and program “Poudre Tac” to use as an information source during emergency evacuation.

Other Priorities
• Support the Poudre Canyon Fire and EMS and encourage full-time residents to become volunteers. All volunteers do not need to be emergency responders. There is a need for a support team that could run supplies and/or help with logistics in an emergency.
• Assist the fire department by following FireWise homeowner guidelines and create defensible space around homes and structures.
• Rustic Road and Crown Point Road residence are investigating the possibility of adding a gate at the end the roads were it would be possible to use the other road/bridge for evacuation or other emergency use.
• Each home owner is asked to evaluate his or her property and determine if a water source (river) is accessible to fire engines. If a home owner believes water can be accessed from their property, they are encouraged to allow access to the Poudre Canyon Fire Department.
• The PCFPD currently manages a slash pile burn program in the winter and early spring. They utilize the snow cover and equipment to burn slash that is not safe for the homeowner to burn without assistance. Continuing this program is a priority.
• The PCFPD applies for mitigation grants each year. When they are successful they use the grants to encourage home owners to do mitigation. Past programs have included providing a dumpster to haul slash, selling fire extinguishers at a reduced rate, paying portions of hazard tree removal, and thinning and tree removal in common areas. Continuing this program is a priority.
**Finalizing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

The Rustic Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of Rustic have been invited to participate and provide input to the process by mail, e-mail, telephone, and face to face during CWPP meetings and homeowner visits.

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

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

**Buzz Stith**
Upper Poudre Canyon Association

**Bette Blinle**
Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District

**Boyd Lebeda**
Fort Collins District
Colorado State Forest Service

**Ellen L Hodges 9/10/07**
Canyon Lakes Ranger District
USDA Forest Service
Appendix A

The documents referred to below can be found at [http://www.co.larimer.co.us/wildfire/](http://www.co.larimer.co.us/wildfire/)

- 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)

Current copy of this CWPP can be found at [http://pcfpd.com/cwpp.aspx](http://pcfpd.com/cwpp.aspx).