

# **Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District**

Larimer County, Colorado

## **Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

September 2008

### **Spencer Heights**

Station 3



Written by Laura Stahl with the assistance of Buzz Stith.

**Introduction**

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by The Spencer Heights 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**

On August 2, 2008 representatives from the Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District (PCFPD) and the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) met with residents of the Upper Poudre Canyon to discuss the Spencer Heights Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Representatives involved in the development of the Spencer Heights CWPP are included in the following table. Their name, organization, and roles and responsibilities are indicated below:

Name	Organization	Roles / Responsibilities
Jim and Barb VanLoenen, John Phillips, Elyse and Charles Bliss, Nancy and Lewis Patterson	Community members who live within the Spencer Heights Area	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
Laura Stahl Buzz Stith Gary Armes	Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District	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
Boyd Lebeda, Forester and Denise White, Assistant District Forester Fort Collins District	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.
Tony Simons Services Specialist	Larimer County Wildfire Safety Program	Provides input and expertise on hazard assessment, defensible space, and FireWise concepts.
Richard Edwards, USFS	Relevant federal land management agencies (USFS, BLM, etc.)	Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.

The meeting was facilitated by Geoff Butler of Alpenfire Consulting. An initial presentation discussed the local fire ecology and introduced the CWPP process. The attendees then enumerated the local values-at-risk, mitigation strategies that they would like to see considered, and the prioritization of related action items.

## 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:

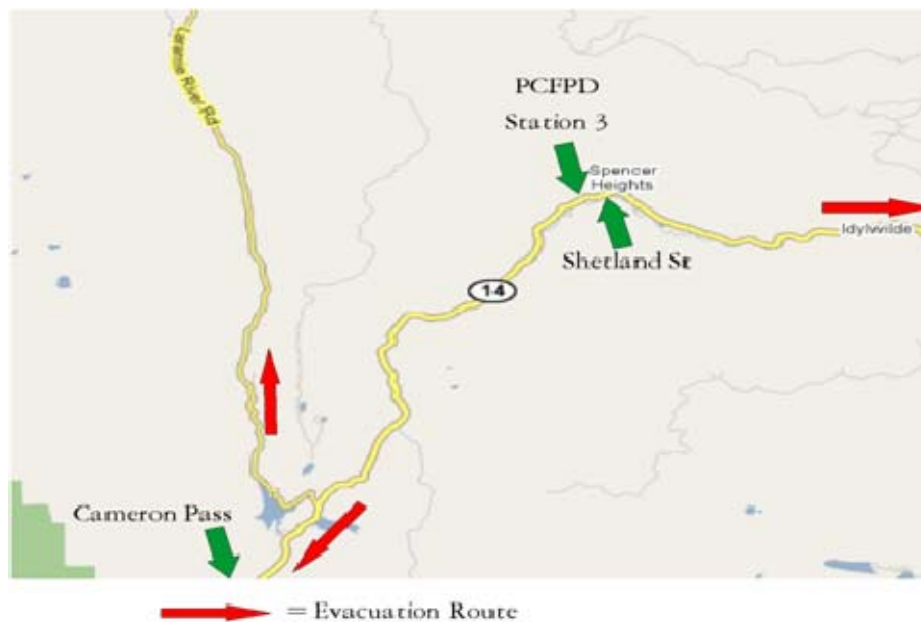
Poudre Park – Station 1  
Rustic - Station 2  
Spencer Heights – Station 3  
Manhattan Creek – Station 4

This CWPP covers Spencer Heights.

The Spencer Heights community is defined by the natural breaks between inhabited areas and encompasses the non-inhabited area west to the border on the Cameron Pass. The community borders are defined as:

- East Border – Old Poudre Canyon Chapel at Highway 14 mile marker 88.8
- West Border – Cameron Pass at MM 64
- North & South Borders are defined as the first visible ridge on either side of highway 14.

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) includes both private and federal owned land. The Spencer Heights area WUI encompasses portions of T9N-R73W, T9N-R74W, T8N-R74W, T7N-R74, and T7N-R75W. The WUI is split by highway 14. There is a strip of varying width of vegetation between the highway and the river.



Colorado State Highway 14 runs through the center of the Spencer Heights WUI. Since all residence and business sit at the bottom of the canyon, Highway 14 is the main escape route for the Spencer Heights area. The Laramie River Road can also be used as an evacuation route in the summer. However, it is not open during the winter months.

The Cache La Poudre River runs through most of the Spencer Heights 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. The businesses in the Spencer Heights 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 community of Rustic (just east of the WUI), wild trout waters are managed with special regulations so that fly and lure enthusiasts have the opportunity to fish for wild trout.

The West edge of the WUI is Cameron Pass, which, butts up to the Colorado State Forest and Jackson County. Jackson County is also active at creating and maintaining a CWPP.

Cameron Pass (el. 10,276 ft.) is a mountain pass between the south end of the Medicine Bow Mountains and the north end of the Never Summer Mountains. It sits on the border between Jackson County and Larimer County, approximately 3 mi (5 km) north of the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park. The pass is located within Roosevelt National Forest and Colorado State Forest. The pass receives much snow during the winter months and is prone to avalanches, but it usually remains open all-year round.

The pass is drained on the north side by Joe Wright Creek, a tributary of the Cache la Poudre River in the basin of the South Platte River. It is drained on the south side by the Michigan River, a tributary of the North Platte River in North Park.

### **Community Access**

The main access through the Spencer Heights 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), or county road 69, which intersects highway 14 at the Rustic Resort, mile marker 91: all are east of Spencer Height's area.

Many residences and businesses are accessed directly off highway 14, also known as Poudre Canyon Highway. There are many small un-named roads leading off of highway 14. Many of these will be named as part of the Larimer County road naming project, expected to be complete by late 2008. Below are descriptions for bridges and access to some of these areas.

- Near MM 88.5, there is a road leading back into 8 residences. There is a locked gate and the local fire department is not familiar with the terrain beyond the gate. There is also a wooden bridge which should support most type 6 engines. N 40\* 42.065, W105\* 37.685.

MM 88.5 Bridge



Black Hollow Bridge

- Black Hollow, MM 87.3 is accessed via a bridge. There are 11 residences in that area. Access is narrow. There a couple places with enough room for a type 6 to turn around. There is a creek that runs through the community, which could be used as a possible fill-site or home protection. Access is across a bridge supported by 4 Steel Beams. N 40\* 42.065, W 105\* 38.914. The Bridge should handle type 6 engines. Larger Engines may find it hard to turn around across the bridge.
- Idylwilde at MM 86.9 is an area on the North side of Hwy 14. The road loops around

providing adequate access and egress for rural fire engines.

- Home Moraine RV Park near MM 84.7 has sites for 15/20 Trailers. This is a large open area and may be a good safety zone. The owner has a residence here also. There is a bridge that leads into the back of the property N 40\* 41.731, W 105\* 41.440. There are no structures beyond the bridge.
- There is a Bridge just west of the Fish Hatcheries that is access for 2 cabins. Bridge should support type 6 engines and there is room to turn around. N 40\* 42.188, W 105\* 43.150.
- Shetland and Sheridan Street are accessed at MM 82, with a narrow entrance and a bridge. N 40\* 42.740, W 105\* 44.238. The bridge is constructed with 2 steel beams and will support type 6 engines. The bridge is access to 16 properties. Towards the end of the road there is adequate turn around space for most rural fire engines.



Shetland Street Bridge

- Across from the Trading Post at MM 78.4, there is Jacoby Bridge which does not access any residences. N 40\* 40.529, W 105\* 46.852
- Long Draw Road MM 69.6 There is no residences on this road.
- The home at Barnes Meadows, MM 71, is the last residence at the west end of the WUI. There are no residence between MM 71 and MM 64 at Cameron Pass.

### **Vegetation Type**

The elevation in the Spencer Heights WUI ranges between 7,200 and 10,000 feet. This elevation consists mostly of ponderosa pine in the lower elevations and lodgepole pines in the higher elevations. Interspersed amongst the pine are fire-flashy Rocky Mountain juniper trees. Other trees in the area consist of blue spruce, Engelmann spruce, and aspen. The rivers edge is predominately populated with cottonwood and willows. At this elevation there is still a fair amount of highly combustible sage brush, chokecherry, and current bushes.

On the east end of the WUI, 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 or lodgepole 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.

As the elevation rises and the Poudre River turns South near MM 74, the vegetation is more consistent on both sides of Highway 14. The forest is much denser with a mixture of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce being the dominate tree species along with some subalpine fir.

### **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 wildfire. 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 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.

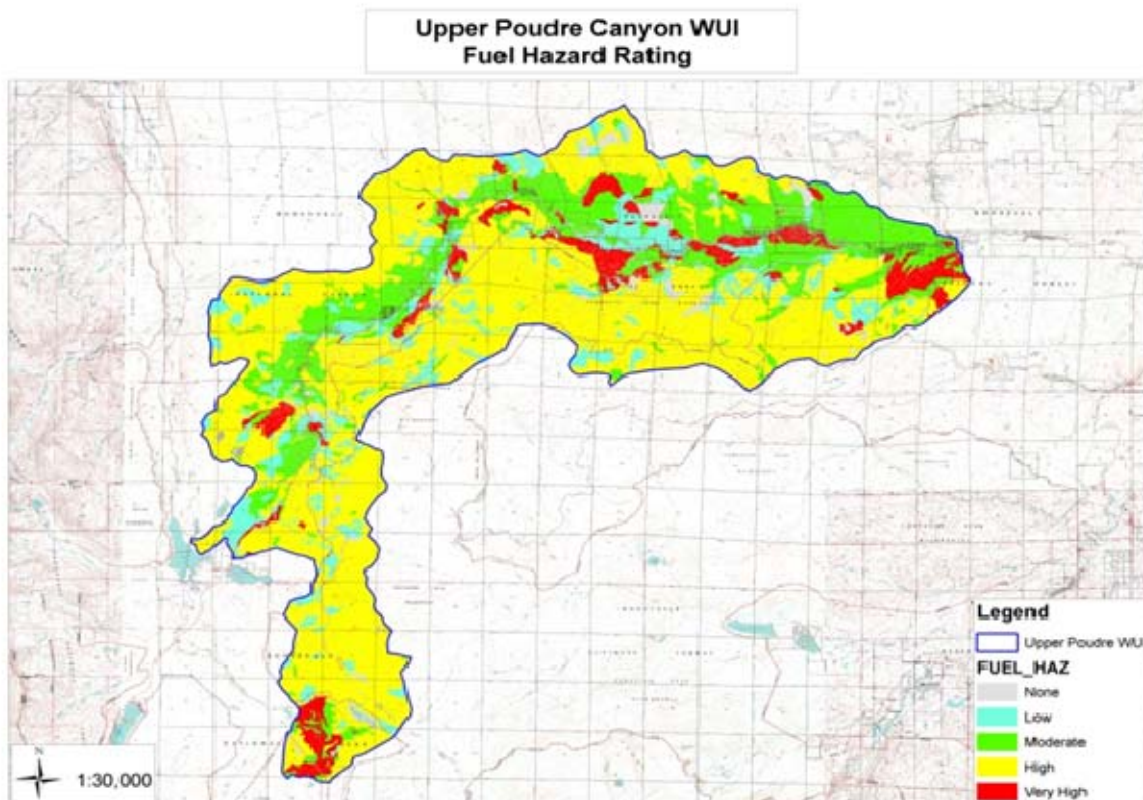
History shows the West has always experienced periodic drought, and large fires are not just a recent phenomenon. During the 1930s Dust Bowl era more than 39 million acres burned on average across the United States.

The drought condition is also a major factor in the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic. The mountain pine beetle is beginning to move into the Spencer Heights community in near epidemic proportion as it has in many other parts of the state, and we are starting to see tree loss due to the mountain pine beetle. The USFS is doing mitigation in the campground areas around Chambers Lake and Long draw road. The mitigation consists of spraying health trees and removal of beetle hit trees.

While many Engelmann spruce trees are dead due to a spruce beetle outbreak, these areas are further away from homes and not yet expected to significantly contribute to the community fire risk.

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 and relatively low stand age diversity over the watershed, which are in part a result of an old philosophy to suppress all fire and we have a forest with magnified vulnerability 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.





The above fuel hazard map of the Spencer Heights area shows that the current fuel hazard for most of the area is at a high risk level. However, there are some areas of moderate and others at very high hazard, bordering the edge of the community.

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 Spencer Heights 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 Spencer Heights Community of the Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District (PCFPD) CWPP met on August 2, 2008 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, a forester from the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), 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 forester 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, identified action items and prioritized the action items 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.

### **Priority Values-at-Risk**

- Homes, life safety
- All structures, businesses, and historic sites, including: Arrowhead Lodge, the Trading Post, CDOT facilities, Home Moraine RV park, the fish hatchery, Sportsman's Lodge, the Kinikinik Store
- Recreation resources: camping, picnic sites, water quality, forests and view-sheds
- Water quality
- Wildlife habitat
- Infrastructure: utilities, bridges, roads
- Secondary impacts, including: transportation, tourism, services, emergency services, water quality, property values

### **Homes, Businesses, and Essential Infrastructure at Risk**

5 Businesses exist in the WUI

- Historic Arrowhead Lodge, visitor center
- Home Moraine RV Park
- DOW-Poudre River Trout Rearing Unit
- Sportsman's Lodge
- Trading Post

129 Homes exist in the WUI

- Black Hollow - MM 87.3
- Idylwilde - MM 86.9
- Washout Gulch - MM 85.9
- Shetland/Sheridan Street - MM 82
- Williams Gulch - MM 80.5
- And many houses along highway 14

### **Roads, Driveways and Structures**

• Most roads are marked in the Spencer Heights 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 14 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

- Most bridges in the Spencer Heights area will support Type 6 emergency equipment.
- 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 Spencer Heights 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 Spencer Heights WUI.
- Some utilities are underground, including some of REA & CenturyTel lines.
- Propane tanks are above ground and most are placed at a safe distance from structures.
- There are no natural gas lines in the Spencer Heights Area WUI.

### Water

- Most homes have wells as a primary water source and a few have cisterns.
- The Cache La Poudre River is the main water resource.

### Critical Infrastructure and Values at Risk

- Old Poudre Canyon Chapel
- Community Center
- Historic Arrowhead Lodge
- 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**

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 trash pump or floating pump.

Established fill sites;

- MM 70.8-Chambers Lake Boat Ramp
- MM 73 – Aspen Glen Campground (floating pump) N40\* 37.164, W105\* 49.121
- MM 74.2 - Big South Campground (floating pump) N40\* 38.078, W105\* 48.417
- MM 76.8 - Tunnel Rest Area (floating pump) N40\* 39.930, W105\* 48.566
- MM 78.4 - Trading Post lodge/Jacoby Bridge N40\* 40.529, W105\* 46.852
- MM 78.5 - Sportsman’s Lodge river site (floating pump) N40\* 40.645, W105\* 46.646
- MM 78.5 - Sportsman’s Lodge Pond , west of office
- MM 79 – Sleeping Elephant parking area (floating pump) N40\* 40.916, W105\* 46.387

- MM 81 – Beaver Pond on parking road N40\* 42.348, W105\* 44.276
- MM 82 – Shetland Street Bridge N40\* 42.740, W105\* 44.238
- MM 82.7 – Big Bend Campground, near restroom (floating pump) N40\* 42.540, W105\* 46.852
- MM 83.8 – Poudre Fish Ponds has an overhead pump site and draft sites. Staff can assist.
- MM 84.7 – Home Moraine Trailer Park, near laundry mat (floating pump) N40\* 41.727, W105\* 41.621
- MM 87.3 – Black Hollow stream across bridge then left to small bridge.

### **Landing Zones that can be used for Helicopter support**

- MM 64.8 - Cameron Pass (Elev 10,251) N 40\*31.231, W105\*53.512
- MM 66.4 – Zimmerman (Elev 10,013) N 40\*32.341, W105\*52.921
- MM 67.6 – Joe Wright rest area ( Elev 9920) N 40\*33.440, W105\*52.484
- MM 71.6 – Larimer County Road 103 (Elev 9405) N 40\*36.273, W105\*50.151
- MM 75.2 – Poudre Falls (Elev 8237) N 40\*39.026, W105\*48.573
- MM75.5 – Kiehl Bridge (Elev 8140) N 40\*39.169, W105\*48.685
- MM 80.5 – Bliss Meadow (Elev 7800) N 40\*42.170, W105\*45.450
- MM 82.7 - Big Bend Campground (Elev 7785) N 40\*42.540, W105\*43.573
- MM 83.8 – Fish Ponds, north side of highway, (Elev 7700) N 40\*42.152, W105\*42.635

Generally speaking, the Spencer Heights Area has good fire fighting and emergency services capability. However, due to the lack of volunteers in the immediate area, the response time is increased as the firefighters are traveling from the Rustic area. The PCFPD is always working on enhancements in training and equipment. The biggest challenge for the PCFPD currently in the Spencer Heights area is a shortage of volunteers.

There is a need to design pre-planned evacuation routes, which would facilitate smoother traffic flow in an emergency.

### **Hazard Reduction Priorities**

- Some thinning and tree crown break creation should occur on a number of properties, especially those properties that abut National Forest land and those that could cause excessive 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, and other deciduous varieties. This will allow the property to retain its forest-like quality even as wildfire protection levels are increased.
- The structures 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.

**Spencer Heights 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)

Action Item	Owner
Through advertisements in River Bank Reporter and the fire department web site, increase local awareness of: - Fire department private gate access locks - Slash burning and chipper check-out programs - Grant availability for mitigation work	PCFPD to write an article to remind folks of the resources offered by the fire department
Continue the homeowner fire hazard surveys and initiate a field based hazard survey to increase public awareness, stimulate public action, and assist fire department planning as they relate to WUI hazards and mitigation	PCFPD and Homeowners. The fire department will continue to collect homeowner surveys Homeowners need to ensure they have completed a survey and turn into the fire department.
Continue the Craft Fair outreach, 8/16/08.	PCFPD again had a booth at the craft fair to raise funds and promote the fire department. This should continue in future years.
Continue to pursue grants to mitigate common areas and around historic structures	PCFPD – will continue to apply for grants and add the community mitigation efforts.
* Continue to create defensible space around homes and businesses	Homeowners – must take this action. PCFPD will assist as needed.
Continue the slash program with the PCFPD	PCFPD – will continue to assist homeowners

	with slash burning when it is unsafe for the homeowner to burn.
Mitigate along the road easements	Homeowners
Ensure access into communities for fire response vehicles and equipment, as well as for evacuation	Homeowners

Action Items: Medium Priority

<p><b>Evacuation Planning</b>  Develop an evacuation plan which considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public input</li> <li>- Possible safety zones</li> <li>- Coordination with the Larimer County Sheriff's Department</li> <li>- A communications plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The possible use of college students or interns for assistance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	PCFDP – will identify a team consisting of homeowners and PCFPD members in the area to develop an evacuation plan.

Action Items: Low Priority

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) Discuss options for citizen action on USFS adjoining lands (i.e. McGee's Curve).	Richard Edwards to obtain a list of current and planned projects on USFS lands in the Spencer Heights area. Also to look into possible mitigation in the area North of Highway 14 near the McGee and Horner properties.
Identify high hazard areas on USFS lands adjacent to private land.	Homeowners and PCFPD to continue to identify these areas and report them to the USFS.
Annual updates and revision to CWPP	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
Track and report unattended campfires to the USFS to help identify areas of ignition risk (i.e. 7 Mile Rd., Crown Point Rd.).	PCFPD will notify USFS when they find unattended campfires in an effort to identify high risk areas.
Create a database of property information.	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.

- The Spencer Heights community has identified the need for firefighters as its top priority. Station #3 is equipped with a Type 2 tender and a type 6 fire engine. However, there are

currently no responders in that area of the Canyon. Although, responders from station 2 respond to the Spencer Heights area, response time is long due to the distance.

- 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.
  - Encourage residents to put together individual evacuation plans including addressing any existing pet and livestock issues.
  - Identify a pre-established evacuation destination.
  - 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.
  - Identify any residents that will need assistance with evacuation.
  - Distribute information about what to do when an evacuation has been ordered. This should include a map of evacuation routes.
  - Ensure Business owners have identified how they will notify and assist guests.
  - 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.
- 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.
- PCFPD needs to make contact with home owners living on the side road at MM 88.5 to see if we can get a fire department lock on the gate and determine if there is safe access and egress.

### **Finalizing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

The Spencer Heights Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of Spencer Heights 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 Spencer Heights 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 Blinde**

Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District

**Boyd Lebeda**

Fort Collins District  
Colorado State Forest Service

**Ellen L Hodges**

Canyon Lakes Ranger District  
USDA Forest Service



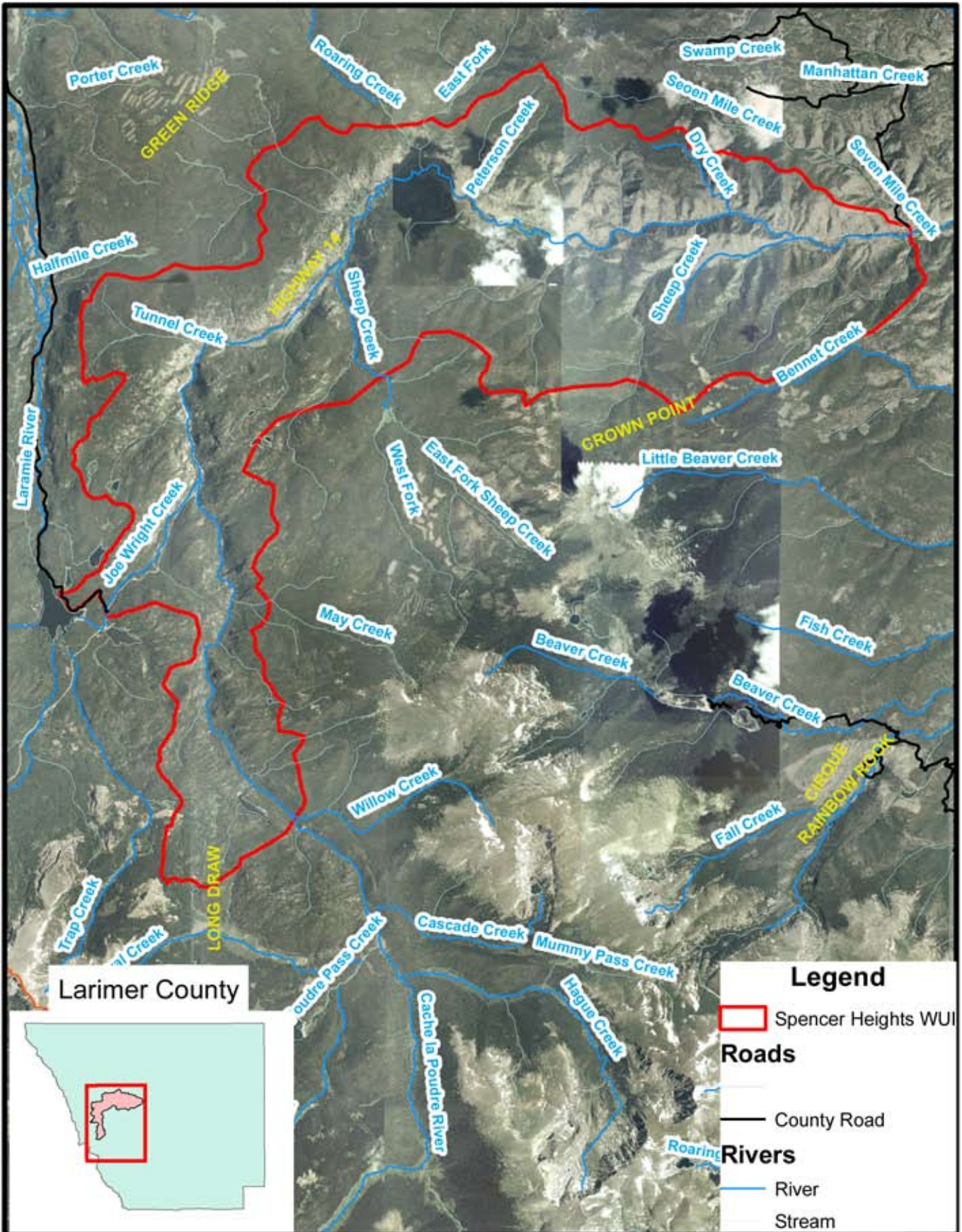
## **Appendix A**

The documents referred to below can be found at <http://www.co.larimer.co.us/wildfire/>

- ★ 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)

Current copy of this CWPP can be found at <http://pcfpd.com/cwpp.aspx>.

# Spencer Heights CWPP



0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles