

SUMMIT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

DRAFT
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Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

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I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of this plan was made possible through the tremendous support and cooperation of the United States Forest Service, Lake Dillon, Copper Mountain, Red White and Blue Fire Protection Districts, the Summit County Board of County Commissioners, Colorado State Forest Service, the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments and the Towns of Breckenridge, Frisco, Silverthorne, Dillon, Blue River and Montezuma. Special thanks go to the following individuals for their help in writing this plan and for their willingness to put community interests first, Jeff Berino, Patti Maguire, Ross Wilmore, Gary Severson, Rick Newton, Trip McLaughlin, Jessica Pettee, Cary Green (USFS) and Mike Harvey. Thanks also are extended to Steve Hill for coordinating and preparing this plan.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last 25 years the population of Summit County has tripled, with much of this new development occurring in forested areas that have, or are anticipated to have, a high risk of wildfire. In an effort to minimize the risk of wildfire occurrence in these areas, the community has expressed their desire to take appropriate measures to promote forests that not only have a reduced risk of wildfire but that are diverse and healthy.

Given this community desire and the recognition that resources to address this concern are limited, the County, fire districts, State and U.S.D.A. Forest Service, towns, the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments and others joined forces to develop this Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (SCCWPP). This plan is designed to:

1. Improve our understanding of our existing community fire protection infrastructure.
2. Improve the community's understanding of what areas are at particular risk from wildfire loss, especially those areas that are "at-risk" as identified in Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.
3. Develop and implement a plan to reduce potential loss of property and valued ecological resources while protecting the safety of the public and firefighters.
4. Outline a strategy for informing the public of their responsibilities to reduce wildfire risk.
5. Provide a meaningful structure to update plans and strategies in the future.
6. Engage interested members of the public and affected governmental agencies to shape and effectively implement this plan.

The entities listed above agreed in March of 2005 that this SCCWPP should be generally consistent with the national model for community wildfire protection planning, as set for by National Association of Counties and others. This national model for wildfire protection planning is an extension of the Healthy Forest Act authorized by Congress in 2003. While this plan for Summit County is not formatted in the eight steps outlined in the national model, all eight steps are clearly incorporated in this plan.

To insure this plan is maintained and implemented in the future this plan envisions the establishment of a “Summit County Wildfire Council”. This Council has many responsibilities including amending this plan and defining the Wildland/Urban Interface areas.

The strategy to engage all communities in the planning process and the defining of the Wildland/Urban Interface boundaries has been accomplished via multiple planning meetings in the Upper Blue River and Lower Blue River areas. The planning meetings are comprised of county, municipal, fire, forest service personnel as well as homeowners and key members of Homeowners Associations. The continuing engagement of all communities will be accomplished with the participation in the Summit County Wildfire Council.”

III. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

THE GROWING PINE BEETLE EPIDEMIC

Over the last several years Summit County has experienced an epidemic of mountain pine beetles. The area and number of trees affected has increased significantly since 2002. In 2002 a cooperative aerial survey conducted by the US Forest Service and Colorado State Forest Service showed about 8,000 dead trees in an area of just less than 6,000 acres. In 2003 the aerial survey showed over 25,000 dead trees in an area just less than 10,000 acres. Preliminary estimates from the 2004 aerial survey show over 100,000 trees on over 38,000 acres.

This is the second pine beetle epidemic in the county over the last 20 to 25 years. The root cause of these epidemics is that the majority of the lodgepole pine in the County is over 120 years old and has reached or surpassed the mature age for lodgepoles. The stands of these lodgepoles are often dense and the average diameter of many of the trees is greater than 8 inches. These three factors combine to make the lodgepole pine forests of Summit County highly susceptible to mountain pine beetle outbreaks.

DEVELOPMENT IN THE WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE

Summit County’s population has more than doubled over the last 15 years and has increased over three fold over the last 25 years. Much of this residential growth has occurred in the wildland/urban interface where private lands are adjacent to federal lands. These thickly forested interface areas have seen substantial residential growth partly due to the beauty, recreational opportunities, solitude and scenery that they offer. As development in these areas continues to increase, the risk to from wildfire to lives, property, and resources increases correspondingly.

NEED FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

According to the White River Forest Plan, it is estimated that within Summit County there are over 75,000 acres of forested land administered by the United States Forest Service that have a management prescription that includes timber management. Additionally, according to Mike Harvey with the Colorado State Forest Service there are an estimated 35,000 acres of private land that are forested within Summit County. While it is clearly not necessary, appropriate or desirable to pursue fuel reduction and forest management on all of these lands, many of these 110,000 acres would benefit from some type of fuel reduction efforts.

In addition to the wildfire risk associated with the browning of our forests, the public has expressed concern about how these changes may be a detriment to the character of our community and the health of our tourism/second home economy that relies heavily on the tree covered mountainsides as the backdrop to our vital communities.

HISTORICAL SUPPORT FOR WILDFIRE PROTECTION

The Summit County Board of Commissioners along with the Summit County Fire Protection Districts have long been concerned about fire safety in the Wildland/Urban Interface Zone. In 1992, with the encouragement of fire protection districts within the County, the County adopted a fire mitigation code. For a decade the County administered this code in-house. Since 2001, the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District has contracted with the County to administer the County's fire mitigation program. In 2001 the position of the Wildfire Mitigation Officer was expanded to full time to address a myriad of other responsibilities including; public education, coordinating fuel reduction programs, pursuing grants, monitoring the wildfire danger weather conditions, inspecting controlled burns, issuing burn permits and designing projects to reduce the risk of wildfires within the Wildland/Urban Interface.

Efforts to create a fire council began in 2002 when the Wildfire Mitigation Program received a \$30,000 USDA, Forest Service grant to fund fuel reduction projects and develop a county plan.

Early in 2004 the Summit County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) expressed their desire to help promote forest health while reducing hazardous fuels through the development of a wood burning bio-fuels plant. In February 2005, the Board gave their conceptual approval to build a wood fired heating facility at the County Commons. Preliminary estimates suggest this plant will burn approximately 5,000 tons of slash and clean woody debris fuel a year.

In the spring of 2004, the Town of Breckenridge, sharing many of the same concerns as the fire districts and the County, enlisted the services of the Northwest Colorado Council

of Governments to help them develop a strategy to help promote forest health while reducing hazardous fuels.

CALL FOR ACTION

In March of 2005, the Board of County Commissioners, Fire Chiefs for Lake Dillon, Snake River, Red White and Blue and Copper Mountain Fire Protection Districts, USFS Dillon District Ranger, Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit, and the Colorado State District Forester agreed to develop an integrated strategy for identifying hazardous fuels, establishing a strategy and priority for removing these hazardous fuels and finally to work aggressively to develop markets to use these fuels in beneficial ways. These entities also agreed that the most appropriate vehicle for doing all of this is the development of a “Community Wildfire Protection Plan”.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANNING

Community Wildfire Protection Plans are a direct extension of the Healthy Forest Act authorized by Congress in 2003. In an effort to promote these plans and to encourage consistency in the development of these plans, a model handbook was prepared by the Communities Committee, National Association of Counties, National Association of State Foresters, Society of American Foresters and the Western Governors’ Association. The Board of County Commissioners, Dillon District Ranger, Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit, the Colorado State District Forester and Fire Chiefs for Lake Dillon, Red White and Blue and Copper Mountain Fire Protection Districts agreed that the development of the Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (SCCWPP) should be generally consistent with this national model. The Development of a SCCWPP should:

1. Help improve our understanding of our existing community fire protection infrastructure.
2. Improve the community’s understanding of what areas are at particular risk from wildfire loss, especially those areas that are “at-risk” as identified in Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.
3. Develop and implement a plan to reduce potential loss of property and valued ecological resources while protecting the safety of the public and firefighters.
4. Outline a strategy for informing the public of their responsibilities to reduce wildfire risk.
5. Provide a meaningful structure to update plans and strategies in the future.
6. Engage interested members of the public and affected governmental agencies to shape and effectively implement the SCCWPP.

It should also be noted that this countywide effort is consistent with and supportive of previously referenced efforts in the Upper Blue Basin.

IV. AUTHORIZATION

The most recent authorities for community fire planning come under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). Title I of this act outlines requirements for reducing hazardous fuels on Federal Lands. This plan has been developed consistent with requirements of this act. Additional authorization is outlined below:

- C.R.S. v.9 30-10-512 Sheriff to act as fire warden.
- C.R.S. v.9 30-10-513 Sheriff in charge of forest or prairie fire.
- C.R.S. v.9 30-10-513.5 Authority of Sheriff relating to fire within unincorporated areas of the County.

V. EXISTING FIRE PROTECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

Citizens within Summit County have long recognized the importance of building a strong infrastructure for minimizing risk from fires and for responding to fires in a professional and effective manner when fires do occur. Attachment “A” provides an overview of the existing fire fighting infrastructure and response capabilities within Summit County.

VI. OVERVIEW OF PROCESS

ADOPTION OF FIRE MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS

In 1992 Summit County adopted a performance-oriented amendment to the Uniform Building Code that required new construction mitigate the potential of a wildfire igniting structures and reducing the potential for structures to ignite the forest. In 1998 these fire mitigation requirements were simplified and revised.

In 2002 the County incorporated these same requirements in its local amendment package to the International Series of Building Codes.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS – 2001 THROUGH 2004

Through the mutual cooperation of the Lake Dillon, Snake River, Red White and Blue and Copper Fire Protection District, and the Summit County Board of Commissioners, the County created the fulltime Wildfire Mitigation Officer position to administer the program. Since 2001 a number of significant strides have been made in reducing community wildfire risk. Some of the more notable efforts are outlined below:

- Numerous public meetings have been held to help inform the public about wildfire issues, defensible space techniques and life/safety tips for homeowners including meetings with the Summit County Builder’s Association, Rotary Club, and community open houses with as many as 250 people present.
- Working with various community and homeowner associations to reduce hazardous fuels including Ptarmigan, Ruby Ranch, Bekkedal, Prospector

Village and Wildernest/Mesa Cortina Homeowners Associations. Additionally, the Forest Service has treated their side of the wildland/urban interface surrounding the entire Wilderness-Mesa Cortina neighborhood with a slash and burn project in the fall of 2004.

- Working with the Upper Blue Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Committee to identify areas at risk for wildfire.
- Completion of the Upper Blue Stewardship Plan by the U.S.F.S. which allows the U.S.F.S. and Colorado State Forest Service to implement fuels reduction from Frisco south to Peak 7.
- Many sub-divisions and municipalities have formed grass root fire prevention and fuel reduction efforts on their own to supplement and enhance the existing infrastructure. Examples include but are not limited to: fuel reduction, establishing defensible space, adding additional water sources such as ponds and dry hydrants, street improvements, burying overhead power lines, improved addressing and other suggestions from the *Firewise* efforts. The county has recently implemented a reverse 911 for notification and evacuation.
- Assisting the Lower Blue Homeowners Associations to form a Wildfire Mitigation & Forest Health Steering Committee.
- Presentations at various community events including, the Mountain Community Fair, the Keystone Home & Garden Show along with participating in numerous neighborhood and town clean-up days.
- Implementing public information through signage including working with CDOT to have the I-70 signs inform the public about wildfire danger and installing Smoky Bear signs at Fire Stations in the key entrance corridors of Keystone, Silverthorne and Blue River
- Working with local and state media sources to address fire issues in dozens of articles and TV and radio newscasts.
- Conducting inspections for compliance with the Summit County Wildfire Mitigation Code, Chapter 44, pertaining to remodels and new construction for the unincorporated land in Summit County.
- Conducting surveys for a “Redzone” community assessment project.

Towns within the County along with Summit County government have also been involved with reducing wildfire risks over the years. Some of the more notable efforts include:

- Town of Breckenridge – Implemented the West Moonstone forest management plan to improve forest health, species diversity and some wildfire management through patch cutting and thinning. The Town also provide incentives to private land owners by offering free inspections and contract referral along with providing chipping and hauling of trees moved to the curbside.
- Town of Dillon – community clean up and removal of over 200 diseased or dead trees
- Town of Frisco – allocated \$49,000 to fuel reduction efforts in addition to funds for preventive tree spraying. The Town also provided a drop off site for slash during a Town clean-up day. Frisco also completed their annual count of trees

- infected with Mountain Pine Beetle and realized a four-fold increase in infected trees from 2004 to 2005.
- Town of Silverthorne - provided a drop off site for slash and disposed of slash via a chipper. The Town also added fire mitigation requirements into the Town Code.
 - Town of Blue River – promoted the pick-up of slash.
 - Summit County is actively managing four of its open space properties - Blue Danube, Iron Springs, Mesa Cortina/Wilderness Buffer, and Mesa Cortina Trailhead - to mitigate the impacts of mountain pine beetle infestation and improve forest health. These management activities include annual monitoring to identify infested trees, selective removal of infested trees, and regenerative cuts. To date the County has removed over 1,300 trees on these four properties and anticipate this number to exceed 3,000 by year-end. On other lands owned by the County, including the County Commons, beetle infected trees have been identified and are being removed. Additionally, the County will be spraying stands of healthy trees as they are identified.

COMMUNITY AND AGENCY ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act calls for collaboration among affected agencies and interested public with an emphasis on involvement of federal agencies. As referenced above in the background section of this report, in March of 2005 the local fire protection districts, the Dillon Ranger District, Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit, the Colorado State Forest Service, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments and the Board of County Commissioners agreed to cooperate in the creation of a Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan based on the national model promulgated by the National Association of Counties and others. There was also agreement that the multi-jurisdictional effort in the Upper Blue basin spearheaded by the Town of Breckenridge and facilitated by Gary Severson with the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments should be a component of this Countywide plan and should serve as a model as to how the Countywide program should be structured.

Public and agency involvement in the creation of the Upper Blue Wildfire Mitigation and Forest Health Plan are outlined in Appendix “B”

At this joint meeting in March 2005 it was also recognized and agreed to that neighborhood plans, including efforts with homeowner associations for Eagles Nest, Willow Creek Highlands, Ruby Ranch, Pebble Creek and Maryland Creek, are included as components of the Summit County Wildfire Protection Plan. An overview of the public process used in developing this wildfire protection strategy for this area is provided in Appendix “C”

Consistent with the charge given in the joint March meeting referenced above, the outline of this report and general strategy for development of this plan was developed jointly by the staffs of the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District, the Northwest Colorado Council of

Governments and Summit County on April 15, 2005. This strategy was subsequently presented to both the Federal and State Forest Service for their endorsement. An important mechanism identified to formalize the development and maintenance of a countywide strategy for protecting against wildfires is the endorsement of cooperative efforts through the creation of a Summit County Wildfire Council (SCWC). The charge of this Council is outlined in Appendix “F” and further refined in the Memorandum of Understanding establishing this Council:

It is important to note that in order to be consistent with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the SCWC will need to continue to engage the public as this plan is refined and more specific implementation measures are established.

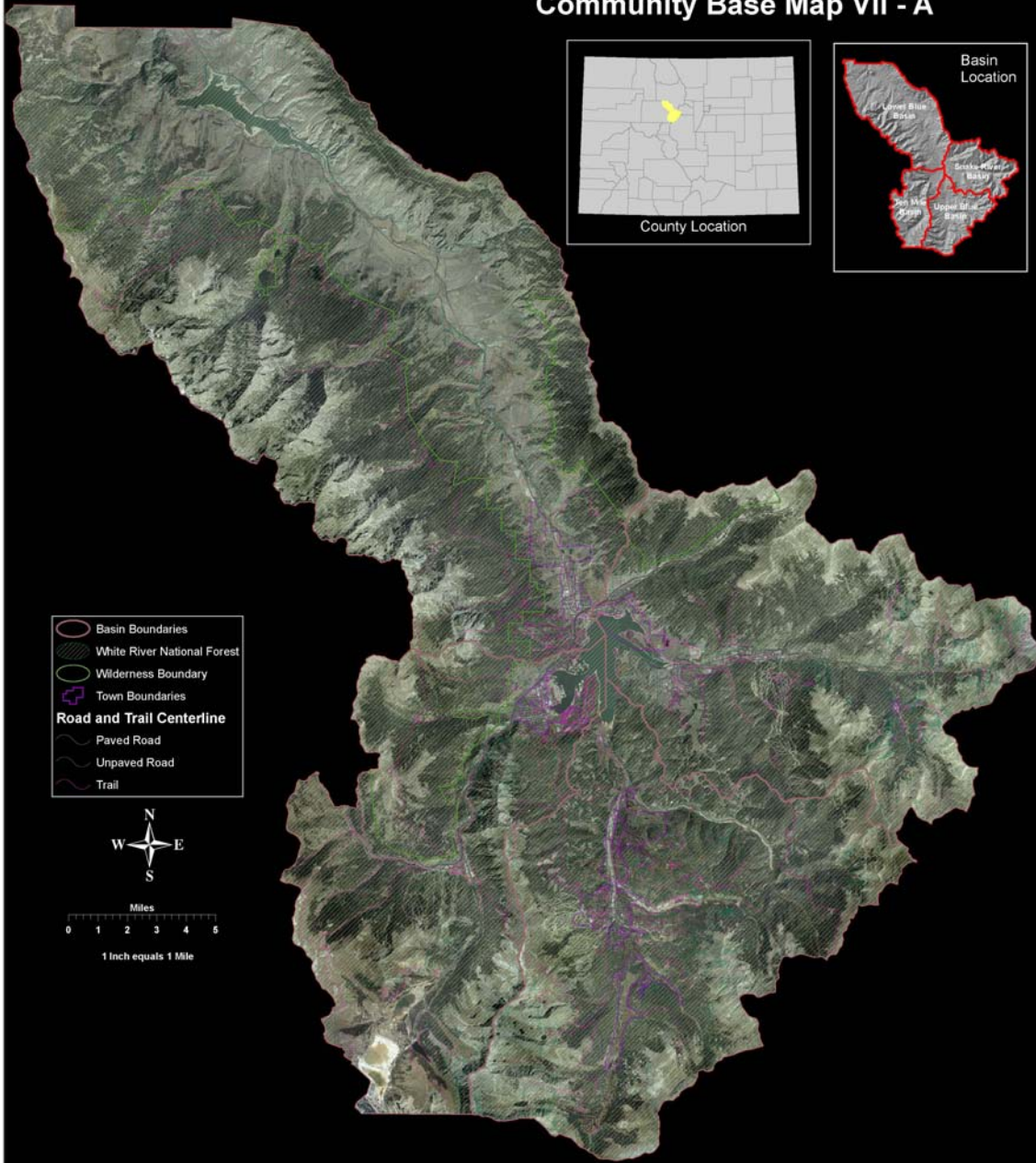
VII. COMMUNITY BASE MAP

Understanding the basic geography of the County is a prerequisite to developing any effective strategy to reduce wildfire risk within a community. A community base map has been prepared to provide this understanding of the basic geography within the County through the preparation of a series of digital data layers used to describe the details of the county. The base map contains the following data layers:

1. Basin Boundaries
2. Town Boundaries
3. Private Parcel Boundaries – with Summit County Assessor data for ownership
4. White River National Forest Lands
5. Wilderness Area Boundaries
6. Streams, Lakes, and Reservoirs
7. Fire Response Zones
8. Roads and Trails Centerline
9. Aerial Imagery from 10/2004
10. 10M Digital Elevation Model

The different layers may be overlaid to allow closer examination of an area and to aid in mapping. These data layers are to be used with the final protection assessment outlined in action/policy VII of the SCCWPP to better understand and analyze the conditions in Summit County. The scale of the final printed copy of the base map is 1:63,360 or 1 inch equals 1 mile.

Summit County, CO Community Wildfire Protection Plan Community Base Map VII - A



VIII. COMMUNITY PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

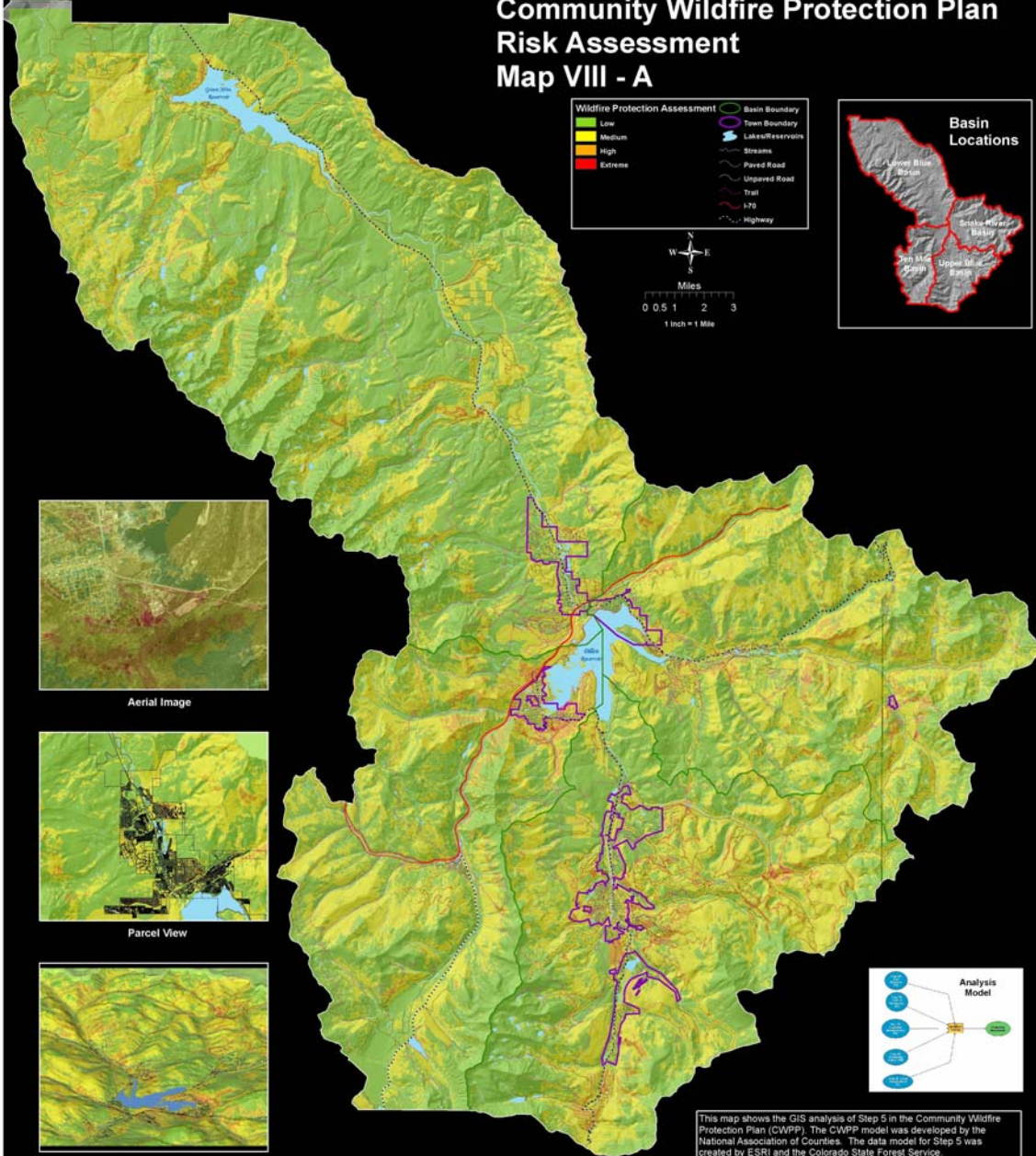
The community protection assessment was developed using standard Geographic Information System (GIS) modeling techniques. The original model was developed by Environmental Systems Resources Institute (ESRI) in partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service and Teller County. GIS staff with the USFS and Summit County modified the original model to more accurately fit environmental and infrastructure conditions in Summit County and prepared all data for input. The model consists of five components adopted directly from the CWPP handbook. These components are:

- 1) Fuel Hazards
- 2) Risk of Wildfire Occurrence
- 3) Essential Infrastructure at Risk
- 4) Community Values at Risk
- 5) Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability

Once all sub-models were run, the outputs were combined using standard data-merging protocols, which produced a final model output.

The real strength of this approach is that the final output spatially depicts a community protection assessment that simultaneously incorporates all contributing factors. The assessment can also be interpreted in depth by examining each model component individually.

Summit County, CO Community Wildfire Protection Plan Risk Assessment Map VIII - A



Wildfire Protection Assessment

- Low
- Medium
- High
- Extreme

Basin Boundary

Town Boundary

Lake/Reservoir

Streams

Paved Road

Unpaved Road

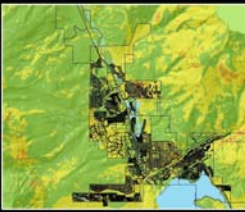
Trail

I-70

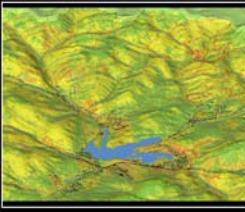
Highway



Aerial Image



Parcel View



Terrain Model



This map shows the GIS analysis of Step 5 in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP model was developed by the National Association of Counties. The data model for Step 5 was created by ESRI and the Colorado State Forest Service.

This model has 5 components that are used to generate the final output: Step 5A Fuel Hazards; Step 5B Risk of Wildfire Occurrence; Step 5C Essential Infrastructures at Risk; Step 5D Community Values at Risk; Step 5E Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capabilities. These steps are merged using a weighted overlay analysis where all five parts are given a percent of influence (See Analysis Model). The output, Wildfire Protection Assessment, is divided into 4 categories, LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH, and EXTREME to show the overall conditions in Summit County, CO.

Data for the model was prepared by USFS Dillon Ranger District, and Summit County Government. CWPP model was developed by ESRI and Colorado State Forest Service.



This map is for display purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a legal document. For more information, please contact the Summit County Planning Department at 970.462.3000.

IX. FIRE PROTECTION STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. OBJECTIVE – ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A COMMUNITY BASE MAP

DISCUSSION: Knowing the location of residences, businesses, governmental buildings, water supply improvements, roads and other physical improvements is a prerequisite to developing wildfire protection strategies that can effectively guide efforts to protect these improvements. (Please see section VII for more discussion)

ACTION/POLICY:

Each January, or as otherwise established by the SCWFC, the SCWC should review the current base map (see Map VII-A) to determine if there have been significant changes to the development pattern within the County that may warrant an update to the base map. If such an update is warranted, the SCWC should request the United States Forest Service and Summit County Information Service to update the Community Base Map (see Map VII – A)

B. OBJECTIVE – ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT MAPS

DISCUSSION: With limited community resources available to implement wildfire reduction efforts, it is imperative to understand where the risk of wildfires is the greatest and where these fires may have the greatest impact on individuals, homes, businesses, essential community infrastructure and other values that the community has defined as important. (please see section VIII for more discussion)

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Each January, or as otherwise established by the SCWC, the SCWC should review the current protection assessment maps (see Map VII-A) and determine if there have been substantial changes to the information that these maps are based on and if the protection assessment maps need to be updated.
2. If the SCWC determines that the protection assessment maps need to be updated, the SCWC should request the County Information Service update these maps as necessary.
3. Each January the SCWC should review the community values that are used in weighting the Community Protection Assessment maps with affected jurisdictions to determine if there is reason to believe community values have changed which may substantially alter the Community Protection Assessment.
4. In the event it is determined by the SCWC that community values influencing the Community Protection Assessment have substantially changed, the SCWC should work with affected jurisdictions and interested citizens to update these community values.

C. OBJECTIVE - ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY HAZARD REDUCTION STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

DISCUSSION: Map VIII-A shows land within the County, excluding wilderness lands, as having a high or extreme wildfire risk. Given the magnitude of the problem, especially in light of limited resources to reduce this risk, the community must focus wildfire protection efforts to those areas where the risk is the greatest and important community values threatened.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Endorse the Interim Hazard Reduction Strategy outlined in Appendix “D” until such time that the SCWC is established and revises this strategy.
2. The SCWC should evaluate the community base maps and the protection assessment maps along with the Interim Hazard Reduction Strategy to establish a prioritized program for reducing wildfire risk based on the risk of wildfire and the potential of threatening important community values.
3. Each January, or as otherwise established by the SCWC, the SCWC should prepare a written evaluation of the previous year’s efforts to reduce wildfire risk. In preparing this evaluation the following should be addressed for each major program conducted in the previous year.
 - Was the objective met?
 - Was the timeline met?
 - Did the program come in on budget?
 - What refinements and improvements should be considered?
 - Should the project be continued?
4. Each March, or as otherwise established by the SCWC, the SCWC should prepare a comprehensive strategy for reducing wildfire risks which:
 - Focuses efforts to those areas that have the highest risk.
 - Explicitly states the project objective and estimated costs.
 - Includes private and public lands.
 - Considers the recommendations from neighborhood and area Wildfire Protection Plans.
 - Evaluates the benefits and costs of various alternative actions.
 - Employs resources from a variety of public and private sources.
 - Promotes cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk.
 - Recognizes budget limitations of participating entities. Projects with significant budget impacts should generally be proposed for the following year to allow the item to be appropriately budgeted.
5. Each April, or as otherwise established by the SCWC, the SCWC should forward their recommended strategy to entities that will be responsible for implementing the plan.

D. OBJECTIVE – CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE EXISTING PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

DISCUSSION:

Lake Dillon, Red White and Blue and Copper Mountain Fire Protection Districts fund a position dedicated to promoting public education. Public education efforts have a profound impact in getting homeowners to protect their own structures and improve the safety within their subdivisions. Some examples of homeowner initiated items include: visible street addresses, reducing the size of wood piles and moving wood piles away from structures during wildfire season, using extreme caution while conducting slash burns, locating propane tanks to minimize risk to firefighters, burying overhead power lines and removing overhanging trees and branches from driveways.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Continue to fund and support efforts of the Summit County Wildfire Mitigation Officer to educate the public about opportunities to promote fire safety around their homes, neighborhoods and subdivisions.
2. Endorse the public education efforts proposed by staff for 2005 as outlined in Appendix “E”.
3. Each November, or as otherwise established by the SCWC, the SCWC should recommend a public education strategy to present to the Lake Dillon Fire Authority for their consideration. At a minimum this review should include:
 - Evaluation of public education efforts from the previous year.
 - Suggested revisions from staff.
 - How public education efforts benefit those areas with high wildfire risk.
 - How public education efforts can be devised to augment private and neighborhood endeavors.

E. OBJECTIVE – PROMOTE MAINTENANCE OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE

DISCUSSION: Defensible space involves reducing the fuel load at or near a structure. Defensible space reduces the chance of a ground fire working its way into the crown of trees and provides more space between these crowns thereby reducing the chance of structural ignition and reducing the extent of a crown fire. Suppression efforts are possible with ground fires but often problematic in crown fires.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. A significant component of public education efforts (see objective D) should focus on defensible space. Special emphasis should be placed on:
 - Simple reduction of slash, removal of dead & down material, pruning and thinning out the crowns of trees is often all that makes the difference.
 - Removal of diseased trees or those in proximity to a structure.

- Planting trees which are less susceptible to volatile ignition such as aspen are encouraged as an alternative to conifers.
-

F. OBJECTIVE –REDUCE STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

DISCUSSION: Building modifications can have a significant impact on a structure’s ability to withstand a wildland fire. Items which can reduce ignition include but are not limited to: using non-combustible Class A rated roof materials and using non-flammable material on the exterior sides and decks such as stucco, hardy plank™, recycled plastic compounds for decking material, stone or brick veneer.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. A significant component of public education efforts (see objective D) should help citizens understand how they can reduce structural ignitability.
2. Once established, the SCWC should consider opening discussions with the Towns of Frisco and Breckenridge to evaluate the benefits and appropriateness of requiring Class “A” rated roof materials on all structures within the Urban Interface Area.

G. OBJECTIVE–SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD, SUBDIVISION AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRES

DISCUSSION: Wildfire risk mapping shows numerous subdivisions within the County as having an extreme wildfire risk. The ownership pattern is generally fragmented with multiple diverse ownerships and interests. Sometimes active and effective Homeowner Associations (HOAs) exist with the authority to require wildfire reduction efforts but generally HOA’s usually have limited authority and resources to actively pursue wildfire reduction efforts.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Continue to support and fund the efforts of the Summit County Wildfire Mitigation officer.
2. Work with homeowner associations and neighborhood groups within the Urban/Wildland Interface Area to develop effective programs for reducing wildfire risk using neighborhood resources.
3. To the extent practical, encourage subdivisions, homeowner associations and neighborhood groups to coordinate efforts to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of fire reduction efforts.
4. Where significant governmental resources are requested to assist homeowner association or neighborhood efforts, these requests should be incorporated into the Countywide plan for reducing wildfire risk (see objective I) and prioritized accordingly.

H. OBJECTIVE – DEVELOP A VIABLE STRATEGY FOR UTILIZING WOOD WASTE

DISCUSSION: The active management of forested lands to promote forest health and reduce the risk of wildfire is very expensive. The cost of forest management is compounded by the fact there is little market for the wood and consequently there is an added cost to dispose of the trees and slash. Developing a market for small diameter wood products will benefit property owners by providing some limited economic value to the wood product while reducing their cost to dispose of the slash.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Support Summit County's efforts to develop a bio-fuels heat facility at the County Commons.
2. Pursue grant dollars to acquire a large capacity grinder to reduce the cost of producing fuel and other usable wood product such as landscape wood chips.
3. Establish an advisory committee to recommend strategies that support private and public efforts to grind and remove wood waste and transport this waste to bio-fuel facilities and other places where it can be used beneficially.
4. Work with Colorado State Forest Service to promote other wood products within the County and State.

I. OBJECTIVE – EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES DEVELOPED AT THE COUNTYWIDE, AREA AND NEIGHBORHOOD LEVEL

DISCUSSION: Strategies to reduce wildfire risk have and are currently being pursued on a Countywide, basin area (i.e. Upper Blue) and neighborhood level. While there is value to developing wildfire protection strategies at each of these levels, these efforts must be carefully coordinated to insure that the limited resources available are used on projects where the benefits are the greatest. In deploying these resources it should also be recognized that it might often be the desire of a neighborhood, town or other local entity to use their resources only within their geographic area.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. This Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan should retain the general structure and orientation as outlined in this initial plan. More specifically, the SCCWPP should:
 - Provide the framework and direction for properly coordinating and integrating this plan with Area Specific and Neighborhood Plans (see discussion below)
 - Define the process for allocating resources and priorities on a countywide basis.
 - Direct the maintenance of a web based list of projects throughout the County that are designed to reduce the risk of wildfire.
2. Once established, the SCWC should work with participating entities and the public to define the geographic scope of any future area plans. In establishing this

scope, the SCWC should balance the benefits of narrowing the geographic scope of wildfire planning with the additional staffing and cost of maintaining area plans. In general, the SCWC is encouraged to limit the number of these area plans to the greatest extent possible.

3. In the development of Area Specific plans, the following guidelines should be followed:
 - Promote consistency between plans, the format and mapping (including the community base map and protection maps) should be consistent with the SCCWPP.
 - Community protection maps should be adjusted to reflect the values of the communities and populace within the boundaries of the Area Specific Plan.
 - The principal focus of Area Specific Plans should be the identification and prioritization of specific projects and the implementation of projects to reduce the risk of wildfire. These projects should look to enlisting local resources and participation to the greatest extent possible. To this end, neighborhood-planning efforts should be integrated and supported in the development of these Area Specific Plans.
4. Local efforts to develop projects to reduce wildfire risk may be initiated by neighborhoods, municipalities, local government or other government agency. In general, these neighborhood efforts should be supported to the greatest extent possible.
5. Where proponents of neighborhood wildfire protection projects require or request significant governmental staff or financial resources, minimal information should be provided outlining the following:
 - Objective
 - Geographic Scope
 - Estimated timeline
 - Estimated cost
 - Wildfire risk level
 - Land ownership (e.g. public or private)
 - Relationship to neighborhood or area wildfire protection plan
 - Public and private resources anticipated
 - Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk
 - Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost
6. Self-initiated efforts at any level that don't require significant governmental support should be encouraged and supported to the extent that governmental resources allow.

J. OBJECTIVE - FUND AND IMPLEMENT THE SCCWPP.

DISCUSSION: Promoting forest health and reducing the risk of wildfire are monumental efforts. Aggressive funding at all public and private levels will be required to have significant impact on the health and safety of our forests and communities.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. The Board of County Commissioners should initiate efforts in conjunction with the towns, fire districts and other local entities to solicit additional funding for USFS forest management efforts.
2. In developing annual budgets, entities endorsing this plan will give consideration to funding proposals to reduce the risk of wildfire.
3. To the extent practical and consistent with other programs, all entities endorsing this plan should aggressively pursue grant and other funding opportunities.

K. OBJECTIVE – ESTABLISH A WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE AREA BOUNDARY THAT REFLECTS WILDFIRE RISK IN SUMMIT COUNTY

DISCUSSION: Wildland/Urban interface (WUI) areas define those lands where fuel reduction efforts should be focused. If not otherwise defined, WUI's are considered to encompass lands with towns and those areas within ½ mile of any town boundary. Significant development exists with Summit County that is more than ½ mile from an existing town boundary and, much of it in areas with high wildfire risk. Through the Community Wildfire Planning process communities are able to define a WUI that reflects the unique geography of the community.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Using information presented in the Community Base Map, Community Protection Assessment Map and other information available the SCWC shall establish a map delineating the “Wildland/Urban Interface Area”.
2. Every two years the SCWFC should review and make appropriate adjustments to the “Wildland/Urban Interface Area” map.

APPENDIX “A”
Statement of Summit County Wildfire Suppression Abilities
By Deputy Chief Berino

Current Status:

- All wildfires south of UTE Pass Rd. are responded to with a 24/7 staffed crew of at least 3 firefighters in proper gear.
- All Summit County Fire Districts/Departments have specialized Wildland fire fighting equipment along with proper protective safety equipment
- Summit County has entered into an auto and mutual aid agreement with the U.S.F.S. and neighboring counties for assistance on wildfires of significance
- Summit County is part of the EFF (Emergency Firefighting Fund) which provides for some State reimbursement in a large fire
- Adequate communication channels and response maps are available and used on a regular basis
- County Fire districts assist U.S.F.S. personnel on fires on their land and U.S.F.S. personnel will assist on private land. In areas not clearly defined either agency will commence initial attack
- Over 90% of Summit County firefighting personnel are Federally qualified to engage in hands-on firefighting activities through a stringent Federal Qualification System
- Adequate fire suppression apparatus and equipment exists to combat small to moderate sized fires within Summit County
- An alert system is in place to warn Wildland firefighters of dangerous weather or fire conditions.

Strengths:

- Personnel trained at the average or above average level for a suburban department with wildland interface potential
- Strong emphasis on training both classroom and through contract work on Federal fires out of County
- Strong support from the community
- Extreme emphasis on safety
- Pre-planning through mapping and software programs
- A Summit County Incident Management Team to assist with larger events
- Strong mutual aid agreements in place to supplement local resources
- Efficient public relations campaigns and building code modifications for new construction, including a county-wide fire mitigation officer

Weaknesses:

- The vast majority of Summit County firefighters have not been involved in “campaign type” fires or anything beyond initial attack in it’s incipient stages

- Lack of depth for running an operation more than one operational period (12-16) hours
- Limited senior staff trained at upper level operations in a large Wildland fire
- Extensive beetle kill, poor forest health, limited access and water supply to key areas.
- Many new firefighters with class experience, but limited field experience
- Extended drought and extended time period since a major fire leading to increased fuel load.
- Lack of Federal response crews in or near Summit County (45 minutes away)

APPENDIX “B”

Public and Agency Involvement in the Creation of the Upper Blue Wildfire Mitigation and Forest Health Plan

The cooperative multi-jurisdictional effort began with an organization meeting on August 18, 2004. The steering committee for the effort generally meets once per month with few exceptions. The steering committee has accomplished the following to date:

1. Formed a policy level “steering committee” to guide all efforts. The steering committee is comprised of policy level representatives from the following jurisdictions and agencies:
 - A. Town of Breckenridge
 - B. Summit County
 - C. Red, White and Blue Fire Protection District
 - D. Breckenridge Open Space and Trails
 - E. Summit County Open Space
 - F. Colorado Division of Wildlife
 - G. Colorado State Forest Service
 - H. Dillon Ranger District, White River National Forest
 - I. Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
2. Drafted a Memorandum of Understanding and is in the process of individual jurisdiction adoption of the MOU. To date, the Town of Breckenridge, Summit County and Division of Wildlife have adopted.
3. Developed purpose and needs statement for the effort.
4. Established the geographic scope of the effort to include all lands, public and private, within the boundaries of the Red, White and Blue Fire Protection District.
5. Participated in classroom and field tutorials, conducted by the USDA Forest Service, to learn of fire behavior, insect and disease cycles.
6. Applied for grant funding from the Colorado State Forest Service to aid in planning efforts.
7. Raised sufficient funds necessary to develop GIS mapping to aid in resource allocation decision making.
8. Identified community values pertaining to wildfire mitigation and forest health.
9. Developed GIS mapping to aid in resource allocation decision making.
10. Evaluated the GIS maps for resource allocation purposes.
11. Developed a public information and involvement plan.

APPENDIX “C”

Public and Agency Involvement in the Creation of the Wildfire Protection Strategy for a Portion of the Lower Blue Basin.

The following summarizes efforts with the Lower Blue Wildfire Mitigation & Forest Health Committee.

- December 2004 - Representatives from Willow Creek Highlands, Eagles Nest, Ruby Ranch and Maryland Creek had their initial meeting to initiate efforts to gain “Firewise” community status
- February 2005 - The group met again to discuss objectives in the Wildland/urban interface, funding opportunities, subdivision focus and action plans.
- March 2005 - The group met to plan how to build partnerships with public entities in support of development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Participants included representatives from NW Colorado Council of Governments, the USDA Forest Service, Town of Silverthorne, Lake Dillon Fire Authority, Colorado State Forest Service and member of the Lower Blue Community.
- March, 2005 - A draft of the Lower Blue Wildfire Mitigation & Forest Health Committee presented a draft agreement to proceed.
- April, 2005 –Meeting focused on eliminating the spread of beetle killed, dead and diseased standing and fallen trees. Mountain Pine Beetle education and organizing a community assessment were also accomplished at this meeting.
- May, 2005 - A Mountain Pine Beetle workshop was held in Willow Creek Highlands to survey and mark beetle infested trees in the neighborhood. Ron Cousineau, CSFS and Phil Bowden, USFS along with Patti Maguire, Summit County Wildfire Mitigation program canvassed the neighborhood with residents to mark beetle trees. Letters were sent to affected homeowners reporting the presence of beetles on their property. Homeowners were advised to remove the affected trees according to homeowner covenants and Town of Silverthorne ordinances.
- June 2005 – A second workshop to assess general forest health in relation to wildfire danger forest on both the national forest and private lands was held.

APPENDIX “D”
Interim Hazard Reduction Strategy

For 2005 the following projects are proposed as an interim strategy:

Project - Wilderndest/Mesa Cortina Fuel Reduction Project

- 1) **Objective:** Reduce fuel levels in WUI by thinning, piling and burning slash
- 2) **Geographic scope:** 82 acres on White River National Forest bordering the Wilderndest/Mesa Cortina communities
- 3) **Estimated timeline:** completion of project by end of 2005
- 4) **Estimated cost:** none to community, Forest service crews and volunteers
- 5) **Wildfire risk:** moderate – high density community
- 6) **Land ownership:** USDS Forest Service
- 7) **Relationship to neighborhood or area wildfire protection plan:** Part of ongoing attempts to reduce wildfire threat and enhance forest health in the WUI boundary area
- 8) **Public and private resources anticipated:** enhanced forest health
- 9) **Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risks:** USDA Forest Service, local community and volunteer services combined to reduce risks and enhance forest health.
- 10) **Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost:** reduced fuels in the area proportionally reduces the risk of severe wildfire behavior, protects property values wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities

Project - Northstar Subdivision Fuel Reduction Project

- 1) **Objective:** reduce wildfire danger and enhance forest health
- 2) **Geographic Scope:** 5-7 acre
- 3) **Estimated timeline:** completion by winter 2005
- 4) **Estimated cost:** \$20,000
- 5) **Wildfire risk:** moderate to high
- 6) **Land ownership:** private
- 7) **Relationship to neighborhood or are wildfire protection plan:** part of the Northstar Village wildfire mitigation and forest health plans
- 8) **Public and private resources anticipated:** enhanced property values and protection from effects of a serious wildfire event
- 9) **Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk:** collaboration between Red, White & Blue Fire Protection District in supporting the communities efforts to reduce wildfire risk
- 10) **Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost:** fuel reduction treatment estimated to cost \$2,000 per acre. Value of homes in neighborhood average over \$500,000.

Project - Mesa Cortina Water Tower Fuel Reduction Project

- 1) **Objective:** creating defensible space surrounding the Mesa Cortina water tower
- 2) **Geographic scope:** 15 acres
- 3) **Estimated timeline:** completion by the end of 2005
- 4) **Estimated cost:** USDA Forest Service Labor
- 5) **Wildfire risk:** moderate ranked area – essential water supply
- 6) **Land ownership:** Buffalo Mountain Metropolitan Water District
- 7) **Relationship to neighborhood or area wildfire protection plan:** priority to protect local water supply is high
- 8) **Public and private resources anticipated:** defensible space created in exchange for post and pole timber value

- 9) **Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk:** collaboration between Buffalo Mountain Metropolitan Water District and the USDA Forest Service.
- 10) **Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost:** protected water facility and revenue from post and pole sale is equitable for both parties

Project – Lower Blue Forest Health & Wildfire Mitigation

- 1) **Objective:** coordinate Mountain Pine Beetle treatment and fuel reduction activities in the Lower Blue River corridor including the private lands of Willow Creek Highlands, Eagles Nest, Three Peaks, Ruby Ranch, Pebble Creek and Maryland Creek Ranch and the public lands of the Wildland Urban Interface including the White River National Forest and Eagles Nest Wilderness
- 2) **Geographic Scope:** Ultimately the Lower Blue River Basin from Silverthorne, north to Green Mountain Reservoir and Heeney
- 3) **Estimated timeline:** 1 – 5 years, in yearly phases designated by wildfire danger and insect infestation issues
- 4) **Estimated costs:** preventive spraying for beetle kill, \$10.00 per tree/average. Tree removal (beetle kill) \$75.00 avg. Fuel reduction \$2,000 per acre average costs. Costs may be offset as grant opportunities are realized
- 5) **Wildfire risk:** moderate, future conditions may worsen as affects from MPB kill increases tree mortality
- 6) **Land ownership:** private subdivisions and public lands, forest and wilderness areas
- 7) **Relationship to neighborhood or area wildfire protection plan:** area is identified in both Forest Service fuel reduction objectives and community wildfire protection plans
- 8) **Public and private resources anticipated:** individual property owners responsibility, government expenditures as available
- 9) **Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk:** excellent partnership to communicate, plan & implement MPB treatment and fuel reduction on both side of the Wildland Urban Interface.
- 10) **Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost:** \$2,000/acre to potentially save a \$500,00- \$1,000,000 home. Cost in time, commitment, labor is heavily outweighed by the benefit of healthier forest, reduced fire danger, curbed beetle infestation, aesthetic visual resource management benefits, conservation of critical habitat and watersheds.

Project - Town of Frisco Open Space Fuel Reduction

- 1) **Objective** – to remove diseased and dead trees from primary visual and recreational use areas on Town Open Space. Objective #2 Initiate preventive tree spraying on Town owned land
- 2) **Geographic Scope** – Fuel reduction in the Frisco Peninsula Area as a primary focus – Preventive spraying throughout the Town of Frisco
- 3) **Estimated Timeline** – June 1, 2005 until October 1, 2005
- 4) **Estimated Cost** \$49,000
- 5) **Wildfire risk** – moderate (Note: Frisco has NO High hazard areas in Town Boundaries)
- 6) **Land ownership:** Public Land
- 7) **Relationship to neighborhood or area wildfire protection plan:** Area is identified on current wildfire maps as high fuel hazard
- 8) **Public and private resources anticipated:** Labor is outsourced with administrative support from the Public Works Department
- 9) **Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk:** Cooperation between entities is seen at the Peninsula where a joint fuel reduction effort is underway between the U.S.F.S. and the Town of Frisco on the jointly owned parcel.
- 10) **Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost:** Reduced risk is seen as more as a forest health issue than direct threat to infrastructure. Reduced risk with the associated lower risk of wildfire directly protects critical watershed.

Project - Forest Health Improvement – Summit School District

- 1) **Objective:** Remove 600 diseased and dead trees
- 2) **Geographic Scope:** Behind (east) of the current Middle School
- 3) **Implementation** 7/15/05 – 9/1/05
- 4) **Estimated cost** \$13,000
- 5) **Wildfire risk** = moderate
- 6) **Land ownership:** Private land owned by the School District
- 7) **Relationship to neighborhood or area wildfire protection plan:** Reduces risk of wildfire spread to the nearby Lagoon Town home sub-division and is identified as a fuel hazard in current maps.
- 8) **Public and private resources anticipated:** Outsourced labor with administrative assistance from the Maintenance Division (Kerry Barth) of the Summit School District RE 1
- 9) **Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk:** Cooperation is seen by the School District to implement a fuel reduction action on land which borders critical wetlands and municipal properties
- 10) **Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost:** Reduced risk is more of a forest health issue than direct threat to infrastructure. However, protection of critical wetlands, wetland habitat and critical watershed will be the result.

SUMMIT COUNTY PROJECTS

Project: Blue Danube Open Space - Mountain Pine Beetle Management

1. **Objective:** To control existing mountain pine beetle infestation and improve long-term forest health while preserving the view corridor along Highway 9.
2. **Geographic Scope:** Approximately 40 acres
3. **Estimated timeline:** Inventories and/or tree removal work completed in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.
2005 work completed in June 2005.
Inventory anticipated in September 2005.
2006 work to be completed by June 2006
4. **Estimated cost:**

2005:	\$3925
2004:	\$8733
2003:	\$5488
2002:	\$8800

Approximate cost to date: \$26,946
5. **Wildfire risk level:**
6. **Land ownership (e.g. public or private):** Summit County Open Space
7. **Relationship to neighborhood or area wildfire protection plan:** Unknown
8. **Public and private resources anticipated:** Work is being completed annually by independent contractors
9. **Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk:** Surveys have been completed annually by Colorado State Forest with their funding and technical assistance
10. **Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost:** This project is viewed as the most cost effective way to meet the multiple goals for forest management on this property and promote a sustainable forest in the long-term.

Project: Iron Springs Open Space -Forest Health Improvements and Mountain Pine Beetle Management

1. **Objective:** To promote long-term forest health through increased age and species diversity while preserving the view corridor along Highway 9.
2. **Geographic Scope:** Approximately 4 acres
3. **Estimated timeline:** Inventories and/or tree removal work completed in 2002, 2003 and 2004.
2005 work completed in June 2005.
Inventory anticipated in September 2005.
2006 work to be completed by June 2006
4. **Estimated cost:**

2005:	\$10,500
2004:	\$1558
<u>2003:</u>	<u>\$4325</u>

Approximate cost to date \$16,383
5. **Wildfire risk level:**
6. **Land ownership (e.g. public or private):** Summit County Open Space
7. **Relationship to neighborhood or area wildfire protection plan:** Unknown
8. **Public and private resources anticipated:** Work is being completed annually by independent contractors
9. **Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk:** Surveys have been completed annually by Colorado State Forest with their funding and technical assistance
10. **Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost:** This project will improve age and species diversity through selective regeneration cuts totaling approximately 4 acres in lieu of direct treatment through the removal of infested trees. This treatment has similarities with treatments being undertaken on adjacent National Forest. Direct treatment was viewed as providing limited benefit due to the extent of the existing infestation on the property and on adjacent National Forest. This treatment is viewed as the most cost effective way to meet the multiple goals for forest management on this property and promote a sustainable forest in the long-term.

PROJECT: Mesa Cortina/ Wildernest Buffer Open Space: Mountain Pine Beetle Management

1. **Objective:** To control existing mountain pine beetle infestation and improve long-term forest health while addressing concerns of adjacent landowners regarding mountain pine beetle infestations and wildfire risk.
2. **Geographic Scope:** Approximately 69 acres
3. **Estimated timeline:** Inventories and/or tree removal work completed in 2002, 2003 and 2004.
2005 work completed in June 2005.
Inventory anticipated in September 2005.
2006 work to be completed by June 2006
4. **Estimated cost:**

2005:	\$1800
2004:	\$3075
<u>2003:</u>	<u>\$170</u>

Approximate cost to date: \$5045
5. **Wildfire risk level:**
6. **Land ownership (e.g. public or private):** Summit County Open Space

7. **Relationship to neighborhood or area wildfire protection plan:** US. Forest Service has been undertaking treatments to reduce fire risk to the surrounding subdivisions in the past two years.
8. **Public and private resources anticipated:** Work is being completed annually by independent contractors
9. **Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk:** Surveys have been completed annually by Colorado State Forest with their funding and technical assistance
10. **Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost:** This project is viewed as the most cost effective way to meet the multiple goals for forest management on this property and promote a sustainable forest in the long-term.

PROJECT - County Commons Beetle Kill Tree Removal and Preventative Spraying

- 1) **Objective:** - To remove recently identified Beetle Infested trees and initiate a preventative spraying program to reduce and limit future infestations.
- 2) **Geographic Scope:** - All Summit County parcels located within the County Commons PUD.
- 3) **Estimated Timeline:** - May 15 - June 24, 2005 On-going in future years as problems dictate.
- 4) **Estimated Cost:** 2005, \$54,000 - 2006 -Estimated \$40,000
- 5) **Wildfire risk:** - Moderate
- 6) **Land ownership:** Summit County
- 7) **Relationship to neighborhood or area wildfire protection plan:** Identified on wildfire maps as high fuel hazard
- 8) **Public and private resources anticipated:** Labor is outsourced with administrative support from the Building & Grounds Department
- 9) **Cooperation between entities involved in efforts to reduce wildfire risk:** Cooperation with Open Space & trails Department and U.S.F.S.
- 10) **Comparison of benefit in reduced risk to anticipated cost:** Done for Forest Health and reduced fire risk more than more than comparison of anticipated costs.

APPENDIX “E”
Public Education Efforts for 2005

The following public education efforts are anticipated for 2005.

1. Actively work with the Upper Blue Group in implementation of local efforts under the scope of the CWPP
2. Assist a “Lower Blue” group in formation and implementation strategies which fall under the CWPP
3. Assist and participate in neighborhood slash clean-up in Willow Creek Highlands, Ruby Ranch, Eagles Nest and Maryland Creek.
4. Actively promote slash burning until mid-June, late fall and winter.
5. Implement house-by-house triage and face-to-face communication while implementing the Red Zone Wildfire program. This will be accomplished via 2-4 people throughout the summer.
6. Host booth at the Mountain Community Fair, fire department open houses and other major community events.
7. Host a contractors seminar, defensible space and firewise construction techniques
8. Host a mountain pine beetle seminar.
9. Participate and develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

APPENDIX “F”
Summit County Wildfire Council Charter

PURPOSE: To guide the development and implementation of Wildfire Mitigation and Forest Health activities within Summit County, maintaining the focus of the efforts on intergovernmental cooperation, public participation and education, policy development, collaborative decision making, and to provide for the incorporation of existing master plans, forest plans and local planning processes.

ORGANIZATION:

Tenure of Committee: The Summit County Wildfire Council is an on-going voluntary countywide organization.

Members: Membership on the Summit County Wildfire Council is voluntary and limited to elected officials from the appropriate county, municipal, and fire protection district jurisdictions. Executive staff from appropriate fire protection districts and decision level personnel from federal and state land and resource management agencies within Summit County may also participate. Summit County Wildfire Council members shall serve annual terms.

Governance: A memorandum of understanding (MOU) shall be drafted by an organizing committee comprised of interested persons and placed before appropriate public jurisdictions and resource management agencies for adoption. When adopted by action of the jurisdictions and agencies, the adopting entity shall become a member of the Summit County Wildfire Council. The Summit County Wildfire Council shall adopt a set of bylaws to govern the conduct of the business of the Council.

Meetings: The Summit County Wildfire Council will meet only when there is appropriate business to conduct. It is anticipated that the Summit County Wildfire Council will meet quarterly. At a minimum the Council will meet one time per year. The Summit County Wildfire Council will attempt to conduct as much business as possible via electronic or print means of communication.

Administrative Support: Staff members from member jurisdictions and agencies will support the Summit County Wildfire Council in all administrative matters.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The primary responsibility of the Summit County Wildfire Council is to maintain a decision focus for all wildfire mitigation and forest health activities. The Council will accomplish this focus by:

- a. Develop a coordinated and integrated plan to maximize the effectiveness of community efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire.
- b. Guide education and public outreach efforts to provide accurate and helpful information.
- c. Coordinate efforts to work with Homeowners, Homeowner Associations and the public to reduce wildfire risk on private land.
- d. Guide the maintenance of base information and tools to evaluate and assess the risk of wildfire as presented in the Draft Wildfire Protection Plan dated September 2005.

- e. Cooperate in refining and revising the Draft Summit County Wildfire Protection Plan dated September 2005.
- f. Evaluating and assessing the effectiveness of wildfire planning efforts and revising the wildfire protection strategy as necessary.
- g. Communicating actions and proposed actions regarding wildfire mitigation and forest health activities to the public and other governmental jurisdictions.

AUTHORITIES: The Summit County Wildfire Council will have the authority to amend this plan and to recommend policies and procedures for Summit County Wildfire Mitigation and Forest Health projects within the parameters of existing laws, policies, plans and budget constraints of the participating jurisdictions.

INVITED MEMBERS: **Counties,** Summit County. **Municipalities,** Town of Blue River, Town of Breckenridge, Town of Dillon, Town of Frisco, Town of Montezuma, Town of Silverthorne, **Fire Protection Districts,** Copper Mountain Fire Protection District, Lake Dillon Fire Authority, Red White & Blue Fire Protection District. **Federal Agencies,** Dillon Ranger District, White River National Forest, USDA Forest Service. **State Agencies,** Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife. **Others,** Denver Water Board.