

Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan



Wildfire Is Everyone's Fight



SUPPORTING AGENCIES

Summit County Government, Summit County Office of Emergency Management, Colorado State University Extension, Lake Dillon Fire Rescue, Red White and Blue Fire Protection District, Copper Mountain Consolidated Metropolitan District, United States Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Town of Breckenridge, Town of Dillon, Town of Silverthorne, Town of Blue River, Town of Frisco, Town of Montezuma

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Summit County's permanent resident population has more than doubled in the last several decades, with a corresponding increase in new development occurring in forested areas that have a high risk of wildfire. The community has a vested interest in minimizing the hazard of wildfire in these areas. The community, through various forums, has expressed a desire to maintain forests which not only have a reduced hazard of wildfire, but are also diverse and healthy.

Given that resources to address this concern are limited, officials from Summit County, local fire districts, state and federal forest agencies, towns and others joined forces to develop the community's first wildfire protection plan. This plan, known as the Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), was adopted in 2006.

Early in the development of this first plan, participating entities agreed that it should be generally consistent with the national model for community wildfire protection planning, as set forth by the National Association of Counties and other organizations. This national model for wildfire protection planning is an extension of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act authorized by Congress in 2003.

The original CWPP was prospective in nature in that it established the Summit County Wildfire Council and set forth various objectives, actions and policies designed to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire. Since the plan's inception, the Wildfire Council and staff have continually reviewed and refined the CWPP to meet the community's changing needs concerning wildfire protection. While the 2006 plan envisioned cooperation between various agencies, one of the most important refinements that make this an extremely effective program is the close collaboration between the County, local fire-protection districts, the Colorado State Forest, the U.S. Forest Service and the towns.

Refinements to the plan have included the establishment of "focus areas," the creation of an annual grant program to encourage and financially support fuels reduction efforts and the creation of a long-term funding mechanism through the adoption of Referred Measure 1-A in 2008 to help pay for those efforts. Further refinements include new language regarding the use of the five models that form the Community Protection Assessment (Chapter X), the need for community preparedness and evacuation planning (Chapter VII), the addition of requirements to the grant program to minimize the proliferation of noxious weeds in fuels reduction projects (Chapter XII) and management recommendations for the reduction of fire hazards for each focus area (Appendix B).

II. AUTHORIZATION

The initial authorities for community wildfire planning came from the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). Title I of HFRA outlined requirements for reducing hazardous fuels on federal lands. The Summit County plan was developed to be consistent with the requirements of HFRA and to provide Summit County with a countywide baseline from which to begin community wildfire planning in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service. The Colorado Legislature has since created specific law guiding the community planning at a County government level. The statutes providing authorization for this planning are outlined below:

- C.R.S. 23-31-312 Community wildfire protection plans, County government, guidelines and criteria, legislative declaration, definitions
- C.R.S. 29-22.5-103 Wildland fires, general authority and responsibilities
- C.R.S. 30-10-512 Sheriff to act as fire warden
- C.R.S. 30-10-513 Sheriff in charge of forest or prairie fire
- C.R.S. 30-10-513.5 Authority of Sheriff relating to fire within unincorporated areas of the County
- C.R.S. 30-15-401.7 Determination of fire hazard area, community wildfire protection plans, adoption, legislative declaration, definition.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to identify areas where the hazard and potential community impact of wildfire is greatest and to guide and coordinate community efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire through public education, reduction of hazardous fuels and reduction of structural ignitability.

IV. GOALS

The main goals of the HFRA are to enhance life-safety for residents and responders and to mitigate undesirable fire outcomes to property, infrastructure, the environment and quality of life. This CWPP addresses these goals and guides the Summit County community in implementation. The goals of this plan are to:

1. Identify and mitigate areas that 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. See <http://summitcountycolorado.gov/909/Community-Wildfire-Protection-Plan> for at risk areas.
2. Develop and/or inform plans to reduce potential loss of property, critical infrastructure and valued ecological resources while protecting the safety of the public and firefighters.
3. Implement, manage or fund projects identified in this plan.
4. Improve the public’s understanding of our existing community fire protection infrastructure and limitations.
5. Inform members of the public of the benefits of reducing wildfire hazard and their responsibilities to do so.
6. Provide a meaningful structure to update plans and strategies in the future.
7. Engage interested members of the public and affected governmental agencies to shape and effectively implement this plan.
8. Inform and support future land use decisions.
9. Integrate wildfire risk reduction and planning efforts with other County environmental and sustainability planning goals and activities.

V. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN STANDARDS

CWPPs are a direct extension of the HFRA 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 Summit County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit, the Colorado State Forest Service and fire chiefs for Lake Dillon, Red White and Blue, and Copper Mountain Consolidated Metropolitan Districts

agreed that the development of the CWPP should be generally consistent with this national model. CWPP minimum standards are:

- Collaboration
- Prioritized fuel reduction
- Treatment of structural ignitability.

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

HFRA calls for collaboration among affected agencies and interested members of the public with an emphasis on the involvement of federal agencies. The Summit County Wildfire Council (SCWC) is the collaborative body for Summit County. The SCWC meets regularly to discuss and direct the implementation of the CWPP.

VI. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A. 2006 SUMMIT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

In March of 2005, the local fire protection districts/departments, the USFS, Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit, the Colorado State Forest Service, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments and the BOCC agreed to create a Countywide CWPP based on the national model promulgated by the National Association of Counties and others. There was 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, would be a component of this Countywide plan and would serve as a model as to how the Countywide program should be structured. After approval of the draft plan, the Summit County Wildfire Council was formed and formally adopted the first Summit County Wildfire Protection Plan in September of 2006.

B. FORMATION OF THE SUMMIT COUNTY WILDFIRE COUNCIL

Consistent with the direction given in the joint March 2005 meeting referenced above, the outline of this report and general strategy for reducing the risk of wildfire were 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 and subsequently presented to both the federal and state forest services for their endorsement. An important mechanism established in this April outline was the creation of the Summit County Wildfire Council (SCWC). Direction of the SCWC includes:

- **Direct** the formation of mutually agreed upon objectives for the CWPP and determine the level of financial and human support needed to accomplish the priorities identified in the plan.
- **Review** staff-produced documents from the perspective of whether the product or process being proposed will aid locally elected officials and federal land management agency managers in making better, cooperative decisions.
- **Guide** revisions and plan updates in order to improve their quality as decision making tools and guide the implementation of these plans.
- **Evaluate** the plans and the process used to produce them.
- **Recommend** follow-up actions for the participating jurisdictions' actions to improve the process.

- **Communicate** actions and proposed actions regarding wildfire mitigation and forest-health activities to the public and other governmental jurisdictions.
- **Adopt and Revise** the C`WPP as determined necessary.

The SCWC oversees staff recommendations on fuels reduction projects, allocation of grant funding and strategic policymaking on critical issues.

C. HISTORICAL SUPPORT FOR WILDFIRE PROTECTION

Summit County has been a leader in proactive wildfire mitigation issues for the past two decades. After the Black Tiger Fire in July of 1989 destroyed 44 structures in Boulder County, the Summit County Board of Commissioners, along with stakeholders in the fire protection community, formed a task force to examine wildfire issues. This diverse task force made several strategic recommendations to the community. After analysis of these strategic recommendations, a two-tiered approach was initiated. One strategic goal was to enhance the public education efforts on wildfire prevention and mitigation issues to the community. The second broad strategic goal was to establish some criteria in local building and/or fire codes to reduce structural ignitibility and improve defensible space around new construction.

In 1992 a chapter was added in the Uniform Building Code that contained specific criteria on defensible space, non-combustible roofing materials and key provisions for reducing structural ignitibility. A part-time employee was added to the staff of the Summit County Building Department to enforce the new provisions in the Building Code and educate the public on the new provisions. The Summit County fire districts provided enhanced education efforts on the strategic and tactical issues involved with wildfire mitigation. This part-time position was expanded to a full-time position in 2001, with the Summit Fire Authority funding one half of the position and Summit County funding the other half.

Since the infancy of the wildfire program, Summit County has received numerous grants from various sources at the state and federal levels. Summit County received its first grant in 2002 to fund fuels reduction efforts and to create a comprehensive countywide plan. Community support for wildfire protection efforts was clearly demonstrated in 2008 with the approval of Referred Measure 1-A, a twelve year property tax levy to support wildfire prevention efforts as well as other County-wide initiatives. The Board of County Commissioners has voiced their intent to devote funds from this tax levy annually toward wildfire mitigation efforts and to build a cash reserve to fund fire suppression costs.

Pre-disaster mitigation is critical to minimizing loss during a wildfire. Colorado has had its share of devastating wildfires in the past decade. The trend emerging is that fires are becoming less numerous but more destructive. Between 2010 and 2013 Colorado had the four most destructive wildfires in state history in terms of homes lost. The Four Mile Canyon (162 homes), High Park (259 homes), Waldo Canyon (346 homes) and Black Forest (511 homes) fires destroyed a combined 1,278 homes and cost hundreds of millions of dollars to fight. While these types of fires are rare, they are described as low frequency but high risk.

VII. CURRENT COMMUNITY STATUS

A. COMMUNITY PROFILE

Geographical Overview

Summit County is located in the central mountains of Colorado, approximately 70 miles west of Denver. Interstate 70 bisects the county east to west, serving as a conduit to bring visitors from the Denver metropolitan area and Colorado's Western Slope.

Summit County's land area covers approximately 619 square miles, of which about 80 percent is public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. About 20 percent of the land in the county is privately owned and managed.

Elevations in the county range from 7,500 feet in the broad valley of the Blue River to 14,270 feet at the summit of Gray's Peak. The county's lowest elevations, in the lower Blue Valley, are comprised mainly of sage meadows. Above 9,000 feet, vast coniferous forests of lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir dominate the landscape. Areas above 11,500 feet (approximate tree line) consist of rock, snow and alpine tundra.

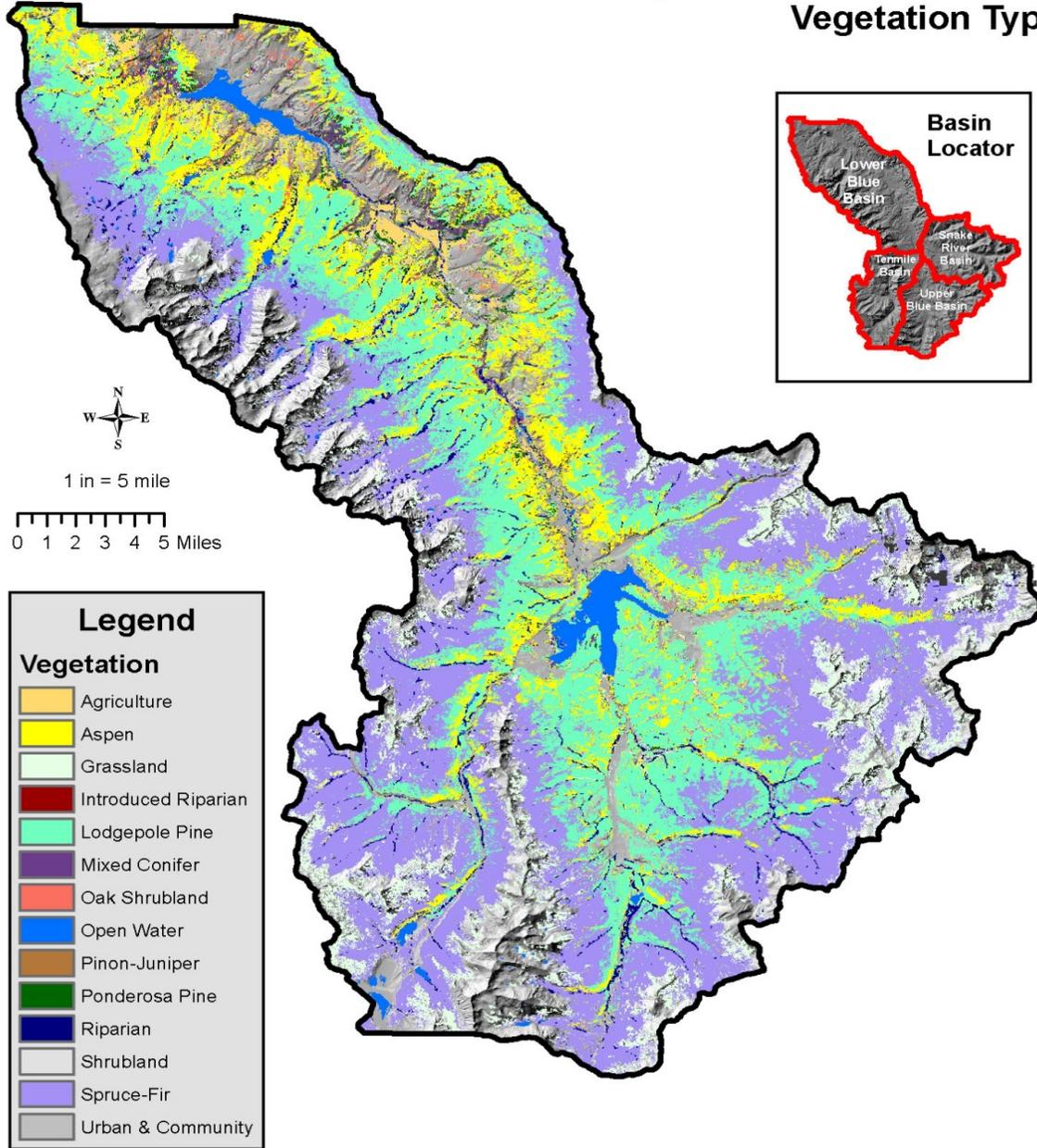
The Blue River flows from south to north, serving as Summit County's only drainage basin. Two major tributaries spill into the Blue River: the Snake River and Ten Mile Creek. The Blue River supplies two large reservoirs: the Dillon Reservoir in the central part of the county, and Green Mountain Reservoir in the county's northern end.

Summit County's fuel types, elevation and geographical location play an important part in identifying the natural fire return interval or fire regime. A fire regime is the period of time in which a forest is dependent on a fire for forest health. Summit County falls within three main fire regimes. Fuel types are the driving factor in identifying the fire return interval or natural fire regime. A large percentage of Summit County homes fall within Fire Regime IV due to the predominant lodgepole forest. The fire frequency for Fire Regime IV is predicted to be between 35-200 years. Although fires are less frequent for this fire regime, they are predicted to be high severity fires intended to consume or kill most of the aboveground vegetation (land fire). The maps below are used to identify the type of fire regime in Summit County and the type of fire that is predicted for this fuel type.



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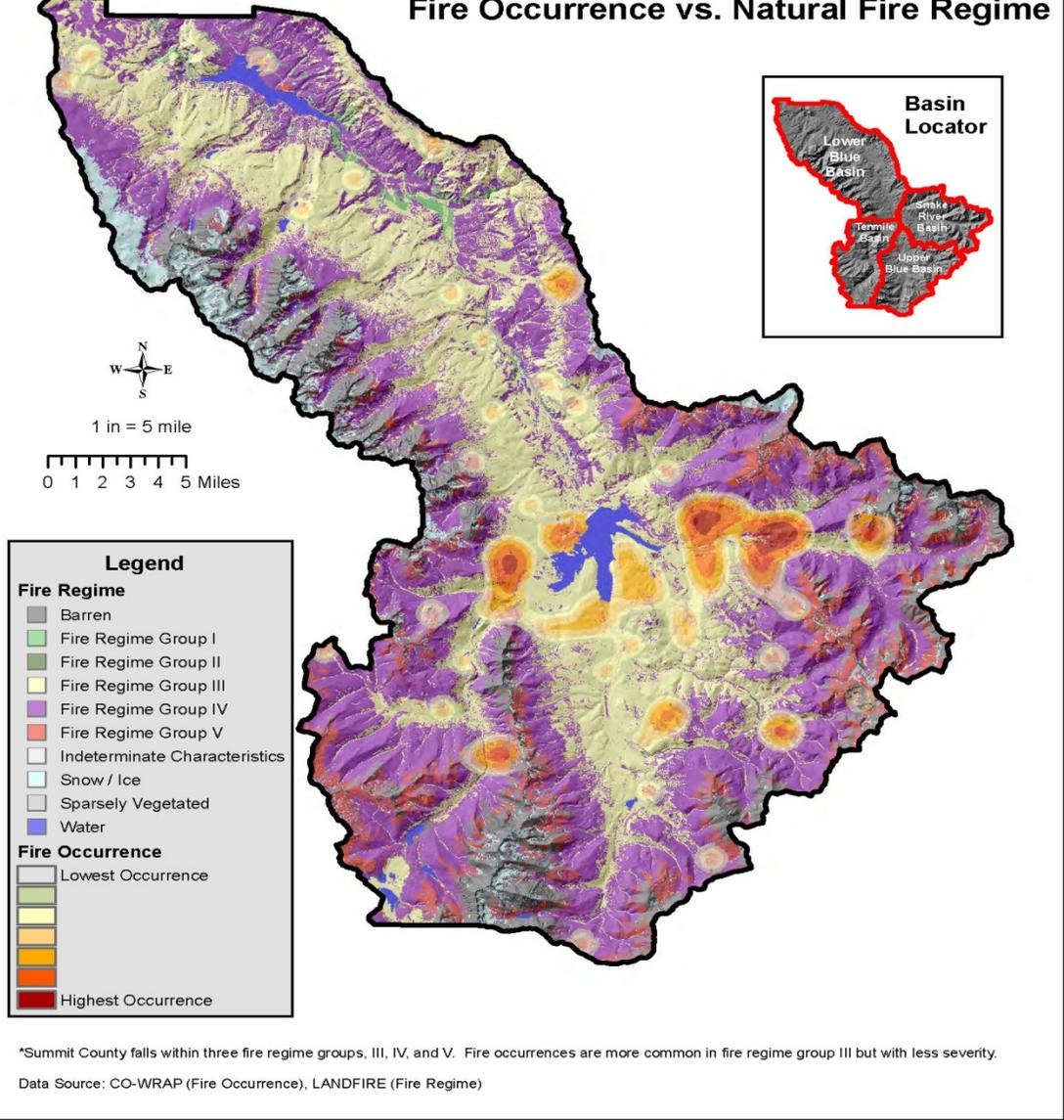
Summit County, CO Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2016 Community Protection Assessment Vegetation Types



Data Source: CO-WRAP

Vegetation map of Summit County

Summit County, CO
Community Wildfire Protection Plan
2016 Community Protection Assessment
Fire Occurrence vs. Natural Fire Regime



Summit County falls within three fire regime groups, III, IV and V. Fire occurrences are more common in fire regime group III but with less severity.

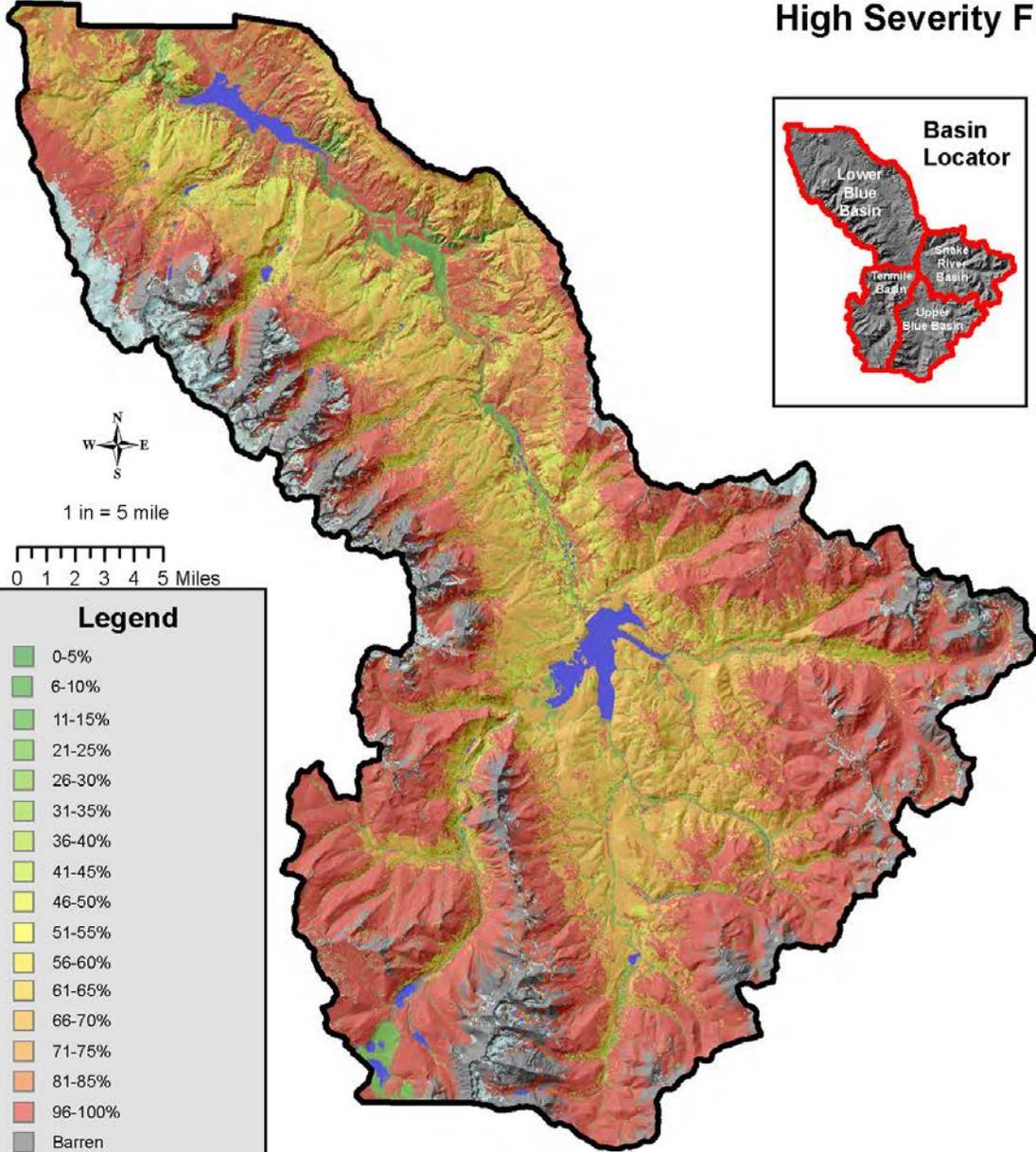
Fire Regimes

<i>Group</i>	<i>Fire Return Interval</i>	<i>Severity</i>
I	< 35 years	Low/ Mixed
II	< 35 years	Replacement
III	35-200 years	Mixed/ Low
IV	35-200 years	Replacement- High Severity
V	200+ years	Replacement/ Any



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Summit County, CO Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2016 Community Protection Assessment High Severity Fire



Legend	
0-5%	
6-10%	
11-15%	
21-25%	
26-30%	
31-35%	
36-40%	
41-45%	
46-50%	
51-55%	
56-60%	
61-65%	
66-70%	
71-75%	
81-85%	
96-100%	
Barren	
Indeterminate Fire Regime	
Snow / Ice	
Sparsely Vegetated	
Water	

Data Source: LANDFIRE, <http://www.landfire.gov/>

Fires in a large portion of Summit County can be described as low frequency but high severity.

Population Growth and Development in the Wildland Urban Interface

Summit County's permanent resident population has more than doubled in the last 20 years, with an estimated permanent resident population of 29,399 in 2014¹. Much of this residential growth has occurred in the forested "wildland urban interface" (WUI), where private lands abut federal lands, largely due to the beauty, recreational opportunities, solitude and scenery that these areas provide. As development in the WUI continues, there is a corresponding increase in the hazard that wildfire presents to lives, property and community resources.

Additionally, with the county's reputation as a national and international center for winter sports and outdoor recreation, peak seasonal population in Summit County may increase to nearly 150,000 people², greatly increasing the potential hazard posed by wildfire.

B. WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)

The Wildland Urban Interface or WUI is defined as the line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped lands or vegetative fuel.

It is estimated that approximately **99 percent** of Summit County's total population, or **29,105 people**, live within the WUI.



Houses added to the landscape increases the challenges with fire management.

The WUI area can be defined into two categories, the WUI and the Wildland Intermix. The Wildland Intermix is an area where there is no defined boundary between the forest and human development. The picture above is a good example of a Wildland Intermix. The forest and homes are intermixed.

¹ Source: Summit County Planning Dept., 2016

² Source: Summit County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, August 2013

These areas are very prevalent in Summit County and create unique hazards to residents living within them. Road access, water sources and firefighter capabilities are further challenged in these areas.

The WUI map of Summit County (see below) is a geographical representation of where the forest and urban development meet. Since embers from wildfires can travel up to one mile and can vary depending on fuel, weather and topography an area outside of the WUI is still subject to threat from wildfires.

Colorado is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, with much of this growth occurring outside urban boundaries. This increase in population across the state will impact counties and communities located within the WUI. The WUI is described as the area where structures and other human improvements meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Population growth within the WUI substantially increases the risk from wildfire.³

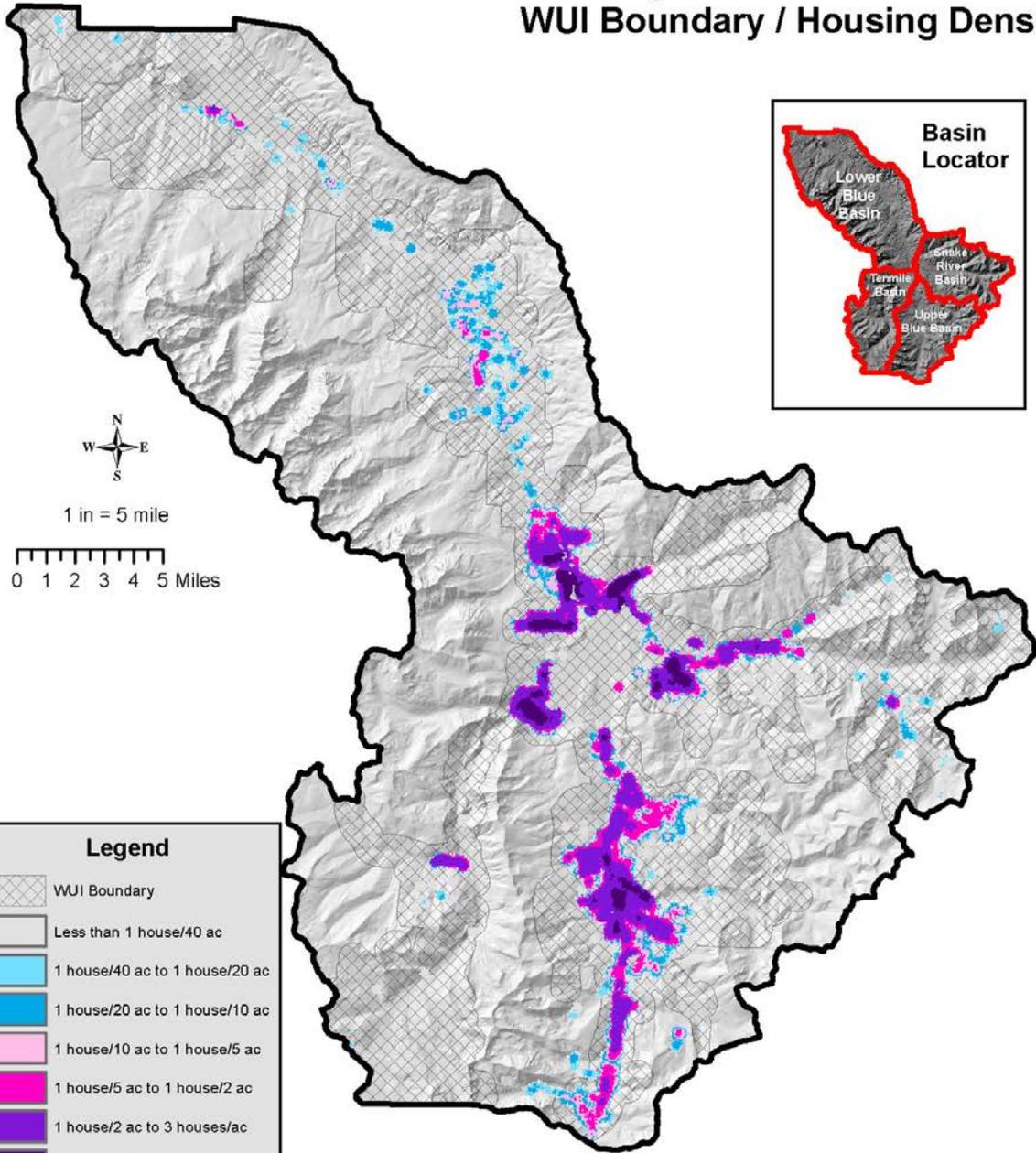
For the purposes of this plan the WUI area can be defined as one-half mile from improved parcels and also includes areas of special interest such as ski areas, critical watersheds and the I-70 corridor where fire would adversely affect human improvement on the landscape. The WUI was drawn regardless of ownership, jurisdiction or administrative designation. A visual depiction of the Summit County WUI area can be found below.

³ CSFS: COwrap



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Summit County, CO Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2016 Community Protection Assessment WUI Boundary / Housing Density



Data Source: CO-WRAP

Housing density within the WUI boundary

C. THE PINE BEETLE EPIDEMIC

Between approximately 2002 and 2012, Summit County experienced an epidemic outbreak of mountain pine beetle.

Summit County experienced an epidemic outbreak of mountain pine beetle. During this epidemic nearly every mature lodge pole pine stand in Summit County was impacted.



The percentage of dead forest is clearly identified by the red needles.

This was the second pine beetle epidemic in the county over the last 30 years. The most recent epidemic extended far beyond the boundaries of Summit County. In 2012, it was estimated that 3.4 million acres of forest in Colorado had some level of mountain pine beetle activity. The epidemic reached its peak in Summit County between 2007 and 2008 and was declared to be at its end in 2013. While the most recent pine beetle epidemic is over, the effects will be felt for decades to come. Present and future generations must work to reduce the impacts of the most recent epidemic and prevent future outbreak. Current and future active management will help to diversify the forested landscape and create a healthier, more resilient forest.

Summit County is now in the position of dealing with the later stages of the pine beetle epidemic. The forest has gone through many stages of forest decay. Many areas have seen significant amounts of blow down. The increased amount of fuel close to the ground increases potential fire behavior. Standing dead trees have become a hazard to emergency response personnel as well as the public. Falling trees are likely to impact escape routes and result in delayed fire response.

D. NEED FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

Any time people place their homes in the forest, a need arises to manage the forest. In Summit County, this management is centered on reducing the potential impacts of wildfire. Reducing fire hazard comes in many forms, including fuel breaks and defensible space, and is not just the responsibility of one party. Fuels reduction work needs to be a coordinated effort by all parties, and projects must cross jurisdictional lines to be effective.

Over 80% of the forested lands within Summit County are lodgepole pine forests. All lodgepole pine forests, alive or dead, are considered a high fire hazard forest type. Fire within this fuel type tends to be infrequent (on the order of 150-250 years), but very intense in nature. A fire can move quickly if it burns as an active crown fire, spreading from tree to tree. In addition to intense crown fire, spot fires can be expected one-half to one mile from the head of the fire. Although they are natural, crown fires can be very destructive when occurring near homes or critical infrastructure. Wildland fires are naturally occurring events and many forests are dependent on fires for forest health. The lodgepole forest is a stand replacement type forest in which the forest needs a disturbance, such as fire, for regeneration.

“Wildland Fire threat increases in lodgepole pine as the dense forests grow old.” (CSFS)



Photo: CSFS- Wildland fire involving lodgepole forest

E. FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

When Summit County drafted the CWPP in 2006, there was limited fuels reduction or forest management activity occurring in the County. Most activities occurring at the time were focused on controlling pine beetle activity. A great deal has changed since that time. With the creation of the original CWPP came the establishment of the Summit County Wildfire Council (SCWC). The SCWC has made a tremendous impact on forest management in Summit County. Through regular meetings, public outreach and various programs, the SCWC has helped to coordinate efforts and direct many landowners to conduct fuels reduction activities on their own property.

The SCWC strives to implement cross-boundary, multi-jurisdictional projects which provide the greatest amount of protection to life and property. One of the first of these projects in Summit County occurred in the Iron Springs/ Summit Medical Center focus area. This project included fuels reduction activities on National Forest, County and private properties. Activity began in 2006 and was completed in 2009, greatly reducing the hazard to the area. The Iron Springs/ Summit Medical Center projects have provided protection for the hospital, Summit County government offices, county shops at the County Commons and more than 75 residences in the Bill’s Ranch community and the Town of Frisco.

Appendix A includes a list of forest management activities that have occurred in Summit County from 2006 to the present.



Regeneration shows age diversity.



Multiple projects have occurred to reduce fuels.

F. PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

The CWPP identifies areas that are in critical need of fire hazard reduction and preparedness. Since resources – both time and money – are limited, prioritizing projects is paramount to implementing this CWPP. Through hazard mapping and field visits, the SCWC has identified “Focus Areas,” or locations most in need of work. Annually, the SCWC reviews focus areas and determines priorities based on several factors, including community buy-in, resources within the community and cooperative projects in the vicinity. Community involvement is the most important factor in successfully implementing projects.



Fuel breaks have been created throughout many areas in Summit County to push the forest back from homes. Beetlekill trees were removed.

Forest Management is a top priority for Summit County. Removing the dead trees reduces available fuels which reduces fire intensity. Removing fuel from areas around homes has shown to be highly effective to home survival.



Unmanaged forest with dead and downed trees and branches



Slash on the ground indicates that forest management treatments have occurred in this area

G. NEED FOR CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS AND EVACUATION PLANNING

Individual preparedness is paramount when it comes to wildfire planning. Action taken by homeowners in advance of a wildfire is one of the simplest things that can be done to prevent the loss of life and property. Summit County's Ready, Set, Go! program instructs homeowners to create defensible space around structures, prepare an evacuation kit and develop a family communication plan, and to be willing and prepared to evacuate when the order to do so is given. Each individual is ultimately responsible for his or her own safety and the safety of family members. [Ready, Set, Go!](#) Steps are outlined below.



Ready: Creating defensible space around structures includes the removal of most flammable vegetation from the side of each structure to 30' away from the structure (zone 1). From 30' – 100' (zone 2), flammable vegetation should be thinned. Clusters of trees and shrubs should be well spaced. By modifying the vegetation, the desired outcome is to create a naturalized buffer from the structure out and away from the structure.

Set: Preparing an evacuation kit is an easy and economical way to ensure you know what to take when an evacuation order is issued.

Include three days worth of supplies for each family member and pets. Cash, water, clothing, food, first aid and prescription medicines are just the basics. Create an inventory of household possessions by taking digital pictures or video and store important papers digitally or physically away from the structure. Contact your insurance agent to verify replacement value coverage in the event of wildfire loss.

Go: Evacuate when ordered to do so. The public is strongly encouraged by the Summit County Wildfire Council to be prepared to immediately respond to directions from public safety officials regarding wildfire emergencies. The public must prepare for the possibility of being evacuated from their home, or for not being allowed to return to their home if an evacuation order and security perimeter have been issued. The public should develop and practice home emergency plans to include all family members and pets. Abundant sources of preparedness information are available in Summit County. The section titled "Public Education" outlines more details on our efforts.

Due to the diverse nature of Summit County's residents and guests, notifications regarding fire conditions and evacuations must be communicated to the public through a number of redundant methods. The communication methods available in Summit County are:

- Reverse telephone dialing (commonly referred to as Reverse-911™)
- Cellular device text messaging
- Emergency Alert System (EAS) supported by the National Weather Service broadcast
- Radio and television announcements and scroll
- Public address systems and announcement from public safety vehicles
- Door-to-door notification.

The assessment of wildfire behavior will be a factor in the decision of the sheriff, fire or police chief to order an evacuation. The evacuation route will be identified by the incident commander and will be communicated to the public by the methods identified above. The Summit County GIS Department has prepared a wildfire evacuation map book, which creates uniquely identified zones, population

numbers and road miles for all developed areas of Summit County. Municipal government evacuation planning has been done in coordination with the Summit County map book.

The decision to order an evacuation because of a wildfire entails a series of steps that are contingent upon the personal preparedness of the members of the public and their ability to evacuate their property immediately and then follow the instructions being provided. More information about evacuations can be located in the [Summit County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan](#).

Each wildfire incident and situation will be influenced by the current fire behavior, current weather conditions and available fuels. Therefore, it has been the decision of the Office of Emergency Management not to pre-identify and establish evacuation routes for wildfire.

All wildfire evacuations will contain these consistencies: the incident commander will identify major thoroughfare roads as evacuation routes, the sheriff's office or police department will isolate the impacted area with a large-area perimeter and restrict access, the incident commander will use the notification methods identified above to announce and give directions regarding the evacuation, and the Office of Emergency Management will establish a place for those evacuated to report and continue to receive incident-specific information.

H. REDUCTION OF STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

Recent research has clearly demonstrated that ember production from a wildfire can act as a significant source of ignition in structural ignitions. The reduction of structural ignitability via building modifications can have a significant impact on a structure's ability to withstand a wildland fire. Items such as Class "A" rated roof materials, non-flammable material on the side of building, metal gutters (as opposed to vinyl), recycled compounds for decking materials, the protection of openings in soffits and gables and double pane windows can make a difference.

In 1992 Summit County added a chapter to the former Uniform Building Code that contained specific criteria for defensible space and for more fire resistive construction. Chapter 45 was added to the 2012 International Residential Code, which has been adopted in Summit County. Chapter 45 has specific criteria on the reduction of structural ignitability. Compliance with Chapter 45 is required on all new construction and most remodels to single family dwellings. Minimizing the chances of structural ignition via minor building modifications combined with defensible space results in a positive synergistic effect on a structure's ability to withstand a wildfire.

Recent post-analysis of catastrophic fires has shown the positive impact that defensible space around homes has had on reducing structural ignitability. Summit County implemented a very successful chipping program in 2014, 2015 and 2016 to encourage homeowners to remove fuel from areas around their homes.

I. DEFENSIBLE SPACE/ FUELS REDUCTION

Defensible space is an area around a structure where fuels and vegetation are treated, cleared or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire towards the structure. Defensible space also reduces the chance of a structure fire moving from the building to the surrounding forest and creates a safe zone for firefighters to carry out their work.

It is recommended that every home, business and structure in Summit County have defensible space.



The Summit County Chipping Program gives homeowners the opportunity to reduce fuels around their homes and have it removed at no personal cost.

There are several different specific standards for defensible space within Summit County, including those outlined in the Colorado State Forest Service publication “Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones”, Summit County Residential Building Code Chapter 45, the Breckenridge Defensible Space Ordinance and others. Each standard varies slightly, but all agree in general principal. Specifics of each of these standards or general information about defensible space can be obtained from the agencies listed above or the local fire protection district.



J. PUBLIC EDUCATION

Community outreach and education are key activities which have contributed to the continued success of the SCWC. From the beginning, the SCWC recognized community outreach and education as the cornerstone of a successful wildfire mitigation program. The SCWC recognizes five specific programmatic target areas: defensible space, fuels reduction, reducing structural ignitability, preparedness and family planning for evacuation, and general forest health and continued vegetation maintenance. Each of these has been described in this section. To make these target areas easy for the public to internalize the SCWC has adopted the International Association of Fire Chiefs *Ready, Set, Go!* campaign: www.wildlandFireRSG.org.

To improve wildfire protection efforts in the community, numerous community outreach and education efforts have been implemented. Additionally, ongoing outreach and education strategies around the five programmatic target areas have been developed and are being disseminated. Examples include:

- Presentations to professional organizations
- Community presentations
- Field trips for elected officials and the public
- Farmer's Markets and wildfire mitigation fairs
- On-site one-on-one landowner/homeowner meetings.

Additionally, marketing efforts aimed at increasing citizen awareness of the importance of wildfire prevention include:

- Mobile billboards on the sides of county buses
- Floating ads at the movie theater
- Radio and television spots as well as newspaper ads.

The overarching goal of this effort is to increase public awareness of the inherent hazards associated with living in a forested area, while providing residents and visitors tools to protect themselves, their property and vital infrastructure.



Public education in Summit County is the responsibility of many agencies. To provide a coordinated public information message, the SCWC directed staff to form the Education Subcommittee of the Wildfire Council to address this issue. This subcommittee is tasked with organizing educational information to be disseminated to all Summit County agencies that maintain public outreach. Ultimately, this coordinated information is made available to residents and guests so they are prepared in the event of a wildfire. SCWC outreach messaging has disseminated thousands of items to reinforce the *Ready, Set, Go!* message. Over the years items such as informational flyers, stickers, magnets, and cloth shopping bags have been given away.

In addition to educating the residents of Summit County, the SCWC recognized the need to educate the large number of guests who visit the county each year. The SCWC is currently working on addressing this large and ever-changing group. One project that has been implemented to address this group was the interpretive sign project. Six permanent sets and one mobile set of interpretive signs are placed throughout Summit County to answer visitors' questions about forest health and wildfire.



One of six interpretive signs around the county

VIII. EXISTING FIRE PROTECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

The three Summit County Fire Districts are comprised of career firefighters. The 24/7 staffed fire stations include:

Station #1	Copper Mt. – Copper Mt. Fire
Station #2	Frisco – Lake Dillon Fire
Station #4	North Breckenridge – Red, White & Blue Fire
Station #6	Central Breckenridge – Red, White & Blue Fire
Station #7	Blue River – Red, White & Blue Fire
Station #8	Dillon – Lake Dillon Fire
Station #11	Keystone – Lake Dillon Fire

A first alarm wildfire assignment in Summit County is filled with heavy Task Force from the three fire districts. Wildfires can quickly exhaust initial resources creating a need for additional resources. A second alarm wildfire assignment brings in an out-of-county Strike Team, consisting of apparatus from Kremmling Fire, Northwest (Alma) Fire, Leadville Fire, Vail Fire and Eagle River (Avon) Fire. Summit County has agreements with agencies outside of the county including Colorado State, USFS, Kremmling Northwest Fire, Leadville Fire, Vail Fire and Eagle River Fire. The Forest Service generally has one apparatus stationed in Summit County on a seasonal basis which improves initial response capabilities.

All firefighters in Summit County are trained and certified in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) criteria to at least the Firefighter II level and are Red Carded. This national certification establishes a minimum level of expertise and compatibility with our federal and state partners. Many firefighters have achieved higher levels of certification in the NWCG system to include: Firefighter I, Engine Boss, Strike Team Leader, Task Force Leader, Division Supervisor, Wildfire Investigator and Type III & IV Incident Commanders.

The following apparatus is available in Summit County for wildland or WUI responses:

Copper Mt.: 1 Type VII engine, 1 Type VI engine, 2 Type I engines, 1 Ladder truck.

Red, White & Blue Fire: 2 Type VI engines, 1 Type VII engine (seasonal), 1 Type III engine, 2 Type I engines, 1 Type II Tactical Water Tender and 1 Ladder Truck.

Lake Dillon Fire: 2 Type VI engines, 1 Type III engine, 4 Type I engines, 1 Type II Tactical Water Tender, 1 Type II Water Tender, 1 Ladder Truck.

All Summit County fire districts actively participate in out-of-county wildfire response across the United States. This enables firefighters to gain valuable experience and training that may not always be found in Summit County. Additionally, some firefighters are active members of regional and statewide incident management teams (IMTs) where they gain additional exposure to larger incidents. The Summit County fire districts work in strict compliance with the National Incident Management System to ensure coordination and safety.

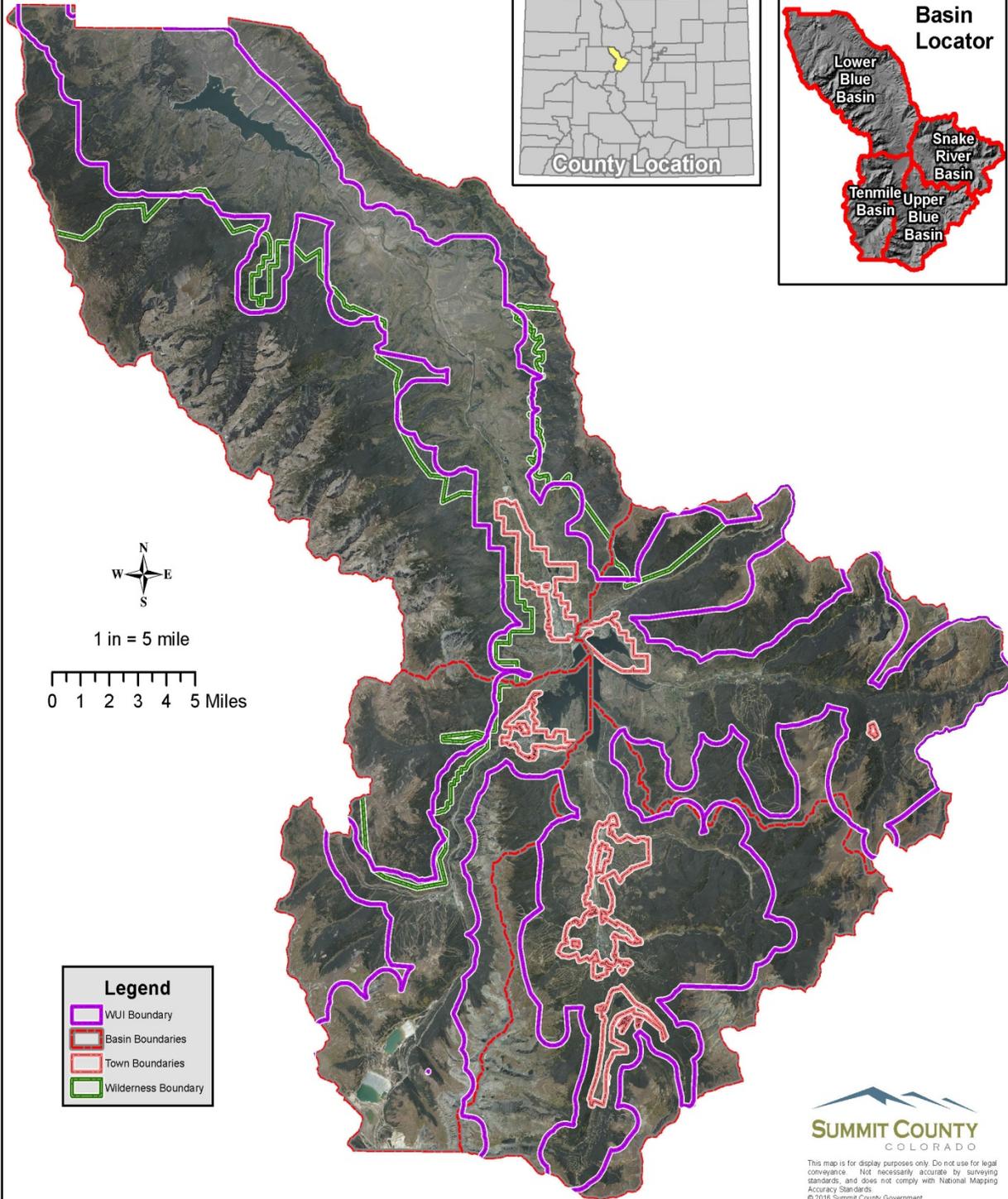
IX. COMMUNITY BASE MAP

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 September 2010
10. Dip sites for Aerial Resources
11. 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 Community Protection Assessment (see Chapter X) to better understand and analyze the conditions in Summit County. All data listed above and below are maintained by the Summit County GIS Department.

Summit County, CO Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2016 Base Map



This map is for display purposes only. Do not use for legal conveyance. Not necessarily accurate by surveying standards, and does not comply with National Mapping Accuracy Standards.
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X. COMMUNITY PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

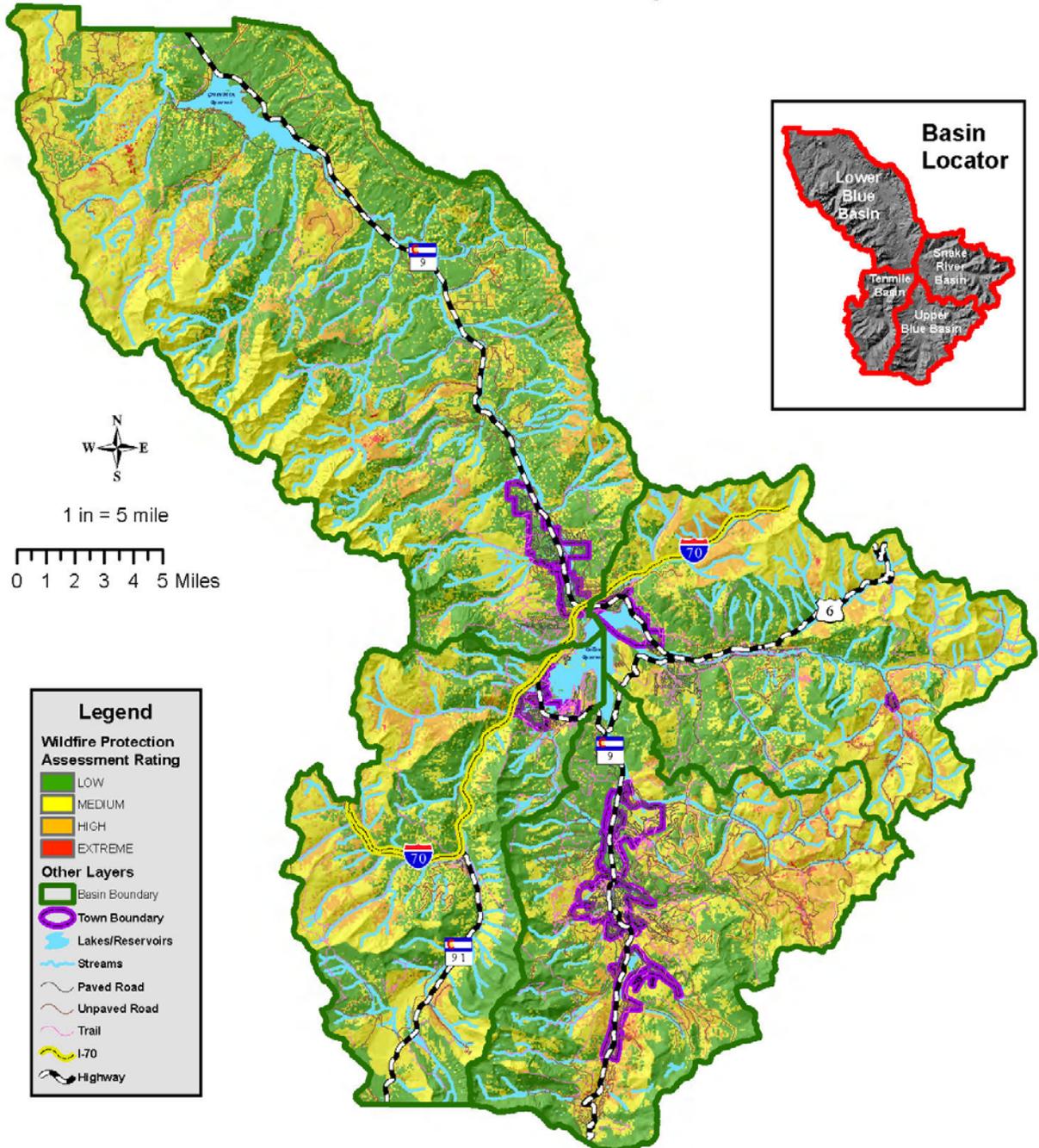
The Community Protection Assessment map was developed using standard GIS modeling techniques. The original model was developed by ESRI in partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service and Teller County. Summit County GIS staff modified the original model to fit more accurately the environmental and infrastructure conditions in Summit County and prepared all data for input. The model consists of five sub-models adopted directly from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan handbook:

- A. Fuels hazards
- B. Risk of wildfire occurrence
- C. Essential infrastructure at risk
- D. Community values at risk
- E. Local preparedness and firefighting capability.

Below is a breakdown of each of these sub-models. Once all sub-models were run, the outputs were combined using standard data-merging protocols which simultaneously incorporate all five contributing factors outlined above. Each sub-model received equal weighting in the final model analysis. This assessment can also be interpreted in depth by examining each sub-model component individually.

The real strength of this approach is that the final output establishes those areas where the need for fire protection is the greatest. The Community Protection Assessment Map depicts the level of wildfire hazard as Extreme, High, Medium and Low.

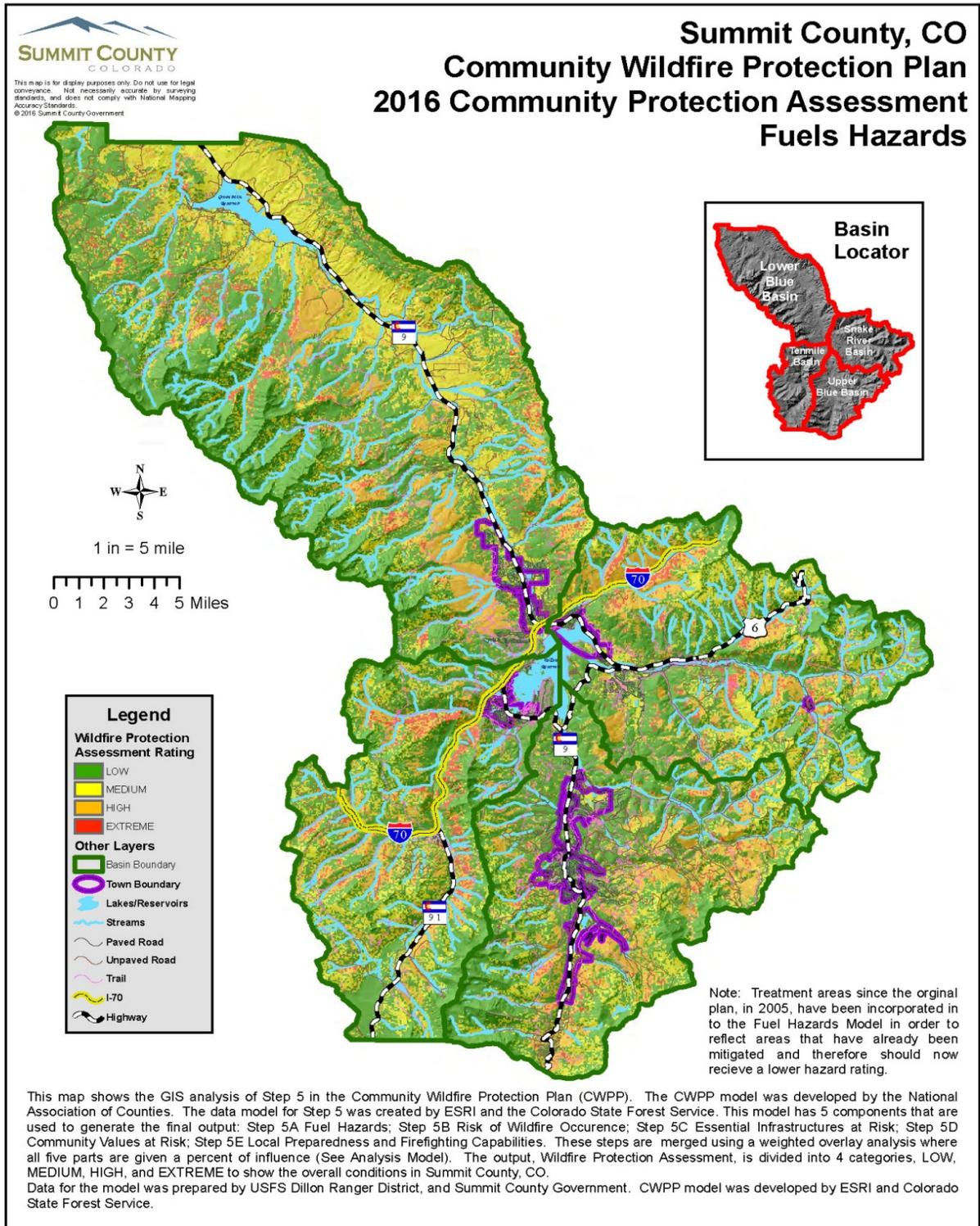
Summit County, CO Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2016 Community Protection Assessment



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.

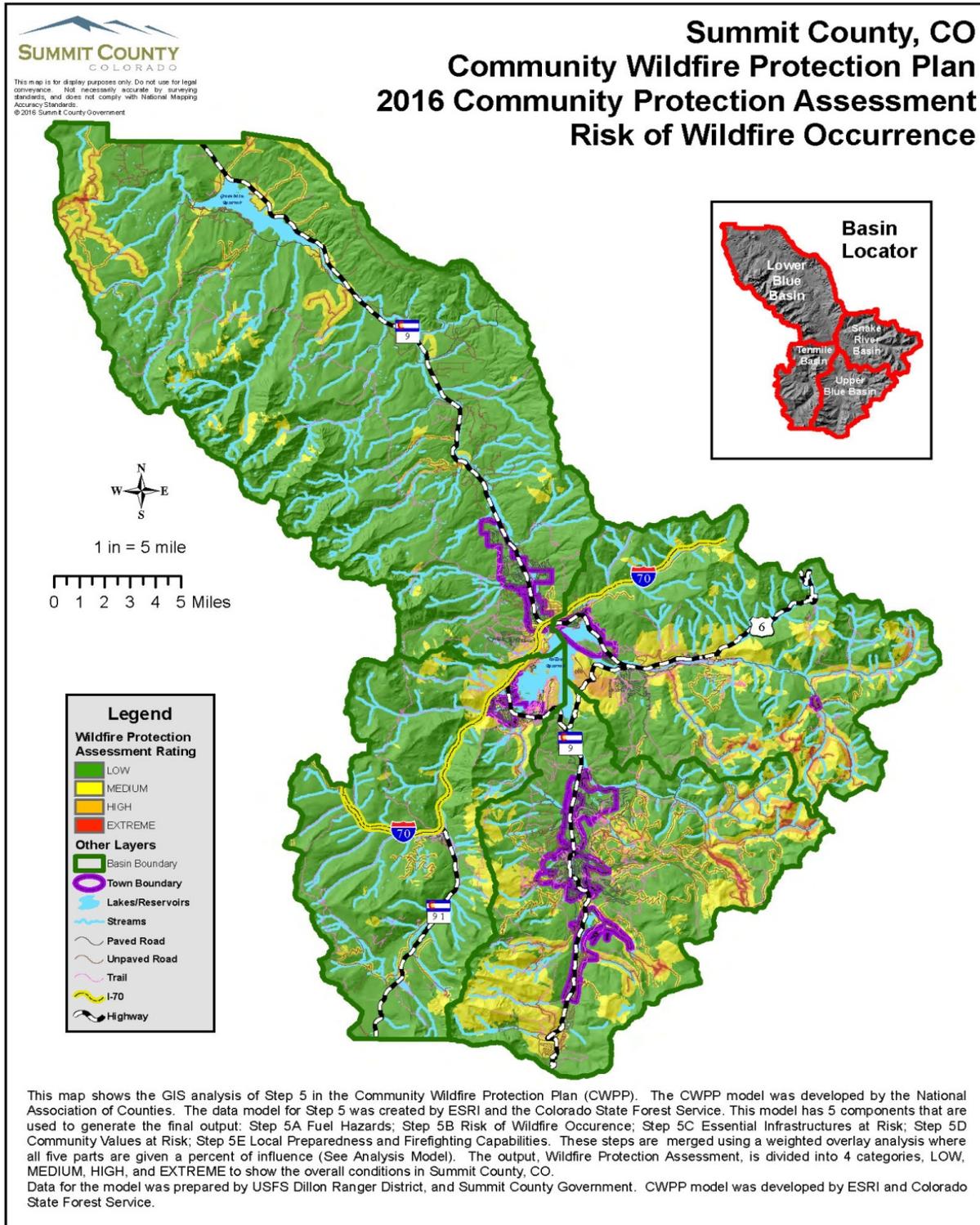
A. SUB-MODEL 5A – FUELS HAZARDS

Fuels hazards are modeled in 5A using information obtained from FlamMap. FlamMap is a fire behavior mapping and analysis program that computes potential fire behavior over an entire FARSITE landscape for constant weather and fuel moisture conditions. 5A uses the outputs of crown-fire activity, heat per unit area, rate of spread and flame length to model the fuels hazard present across the county. Each one of these four components gets equal weighting in the model. The map below shows the results of sub-model 5A



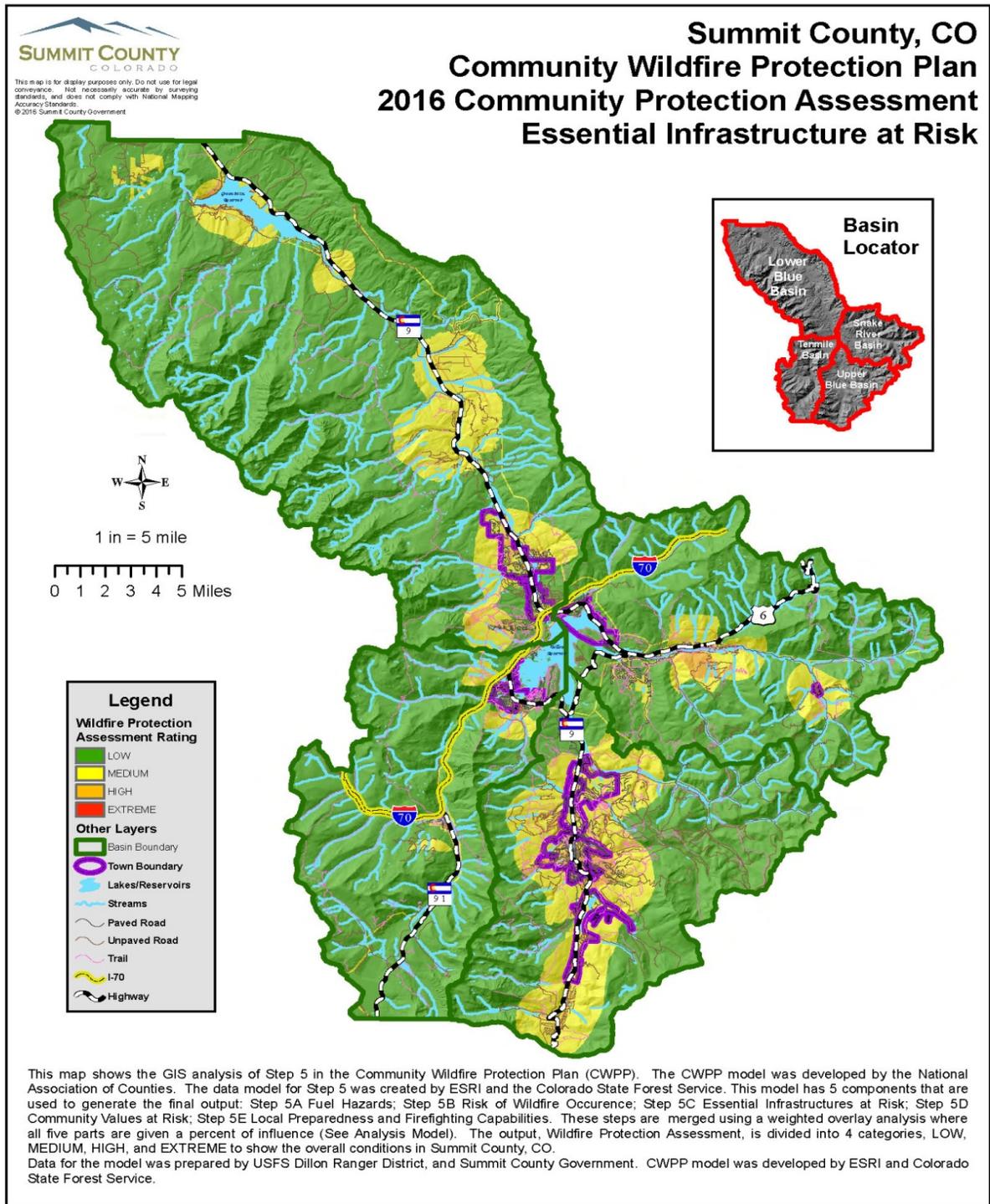
B. SUB-MODEL 5B- RISK OF WILDFIRE OCCURRENCE

Risk of wildfire occurrence is modeled in 5B. Layers utilized in this model include buffered roads, lightning strike density, historical wildfire sites, known dispersed camping areas and developed campsites. These five layers are combined into four major fire-risk categories; roads grid, lightning, fire occurrence and camping areas. Each one of the four components received equal weighting in the model outputs. The map below shows the results of sub-model 5B.



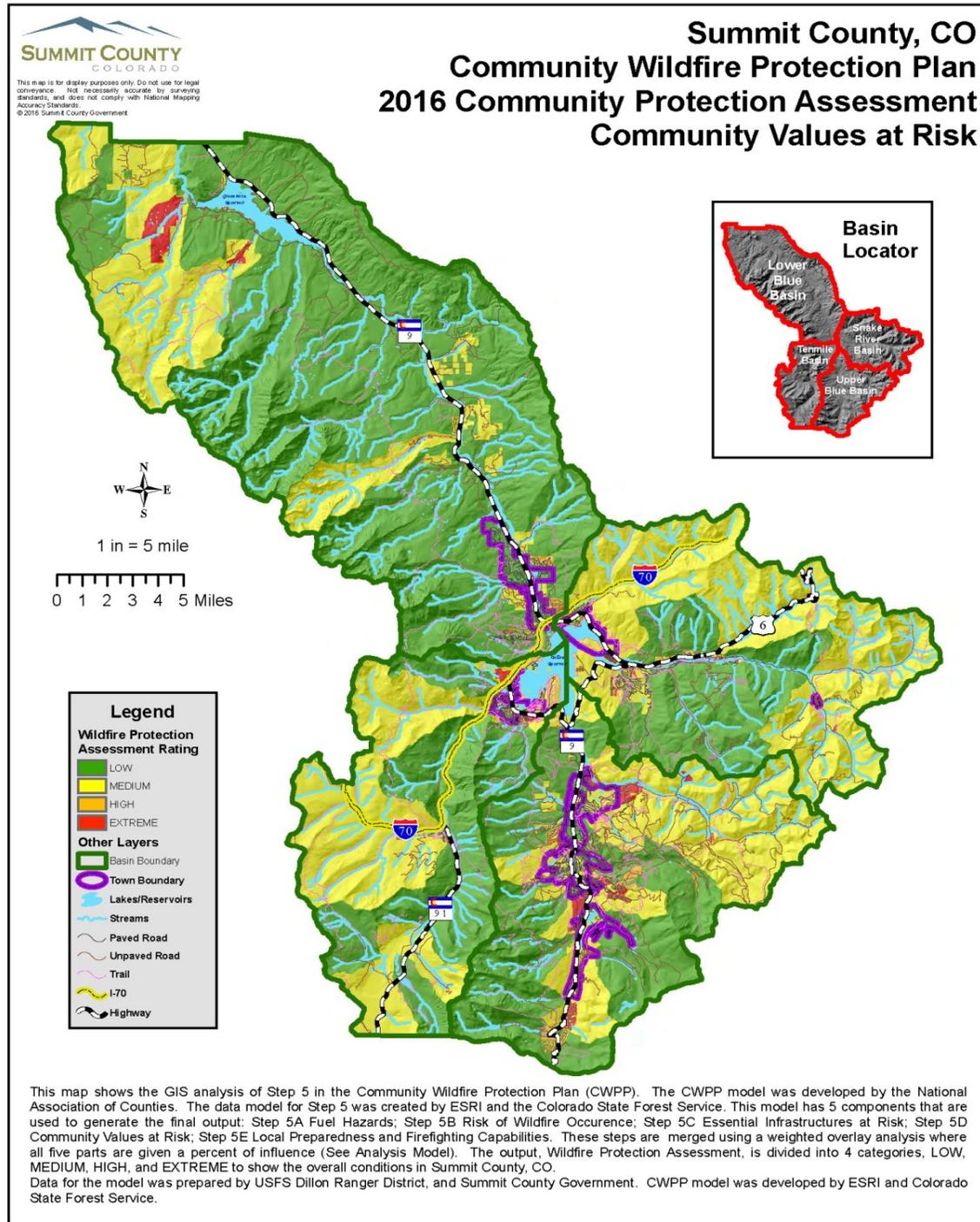
C. SUB-MODEL 5C- ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT RISK

Essential infrastructure at risk is modeled in 5C. Six different layers were utilized for this model: watersheds, homes, businesses, communications structures, power lines and escape routes. The watershed layer that was utilized was the critical watershed layer from the 2010 Blue River Watershed Assessment. The six layers were not given equal weighting in this model. Homes and businesses were given 18 percent weighting, while the rest received 16 percent weighting. This difference reflects the intent of this CWPP. The map below shows the results of sub-model 5C.



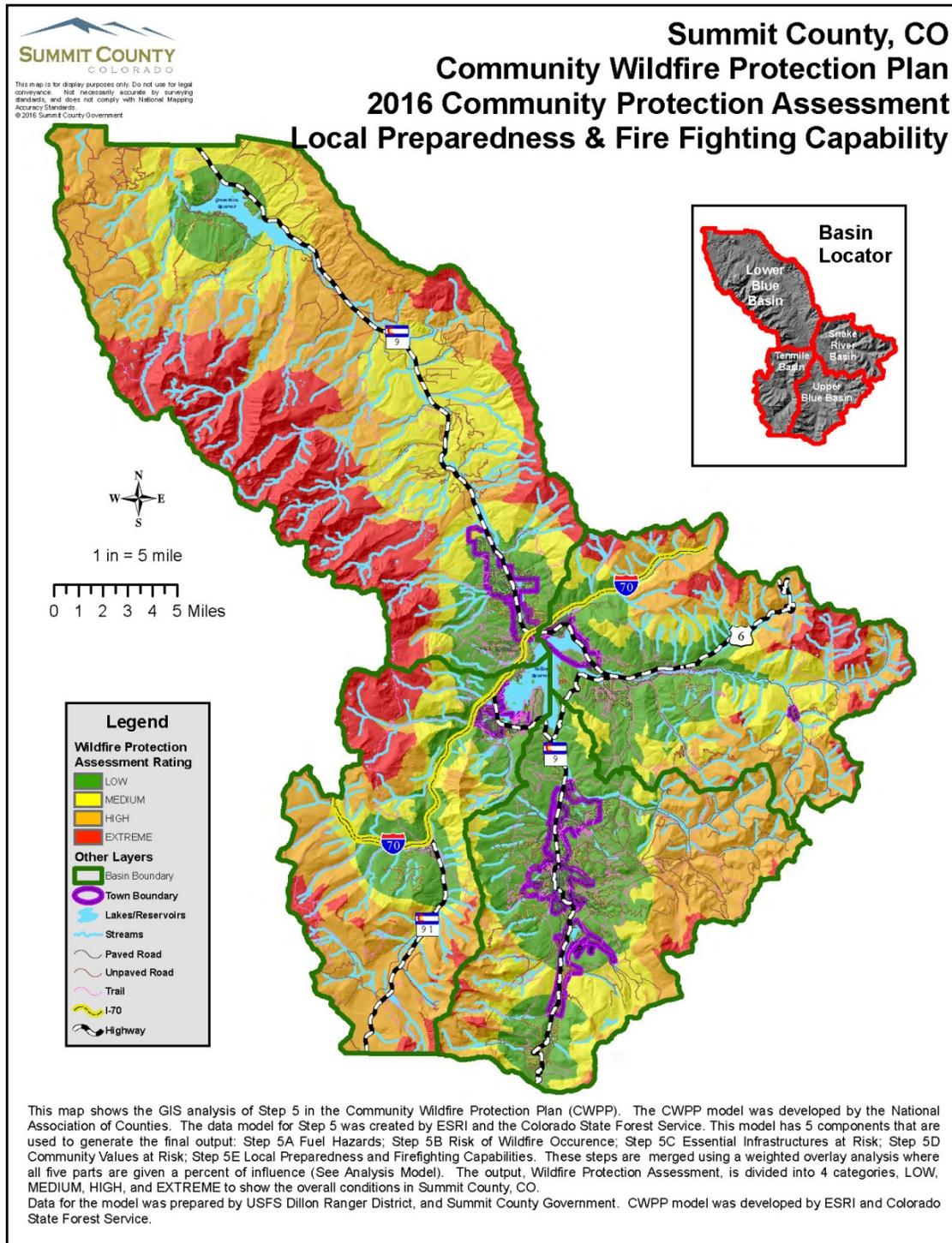
D. SUB-MODEL 5D- COMMUNITY VALUES AT RISK

Community values-at-risk is modeled in 5D. Two different layers were utilized for this model: subdivision hazard rating and threatened and endangered species. The subdivision hazard rating is derived from the rating a subdivision is given when it is platted in unincorporated Summit County. No information is available for subdivisions within town boundaries because the rating is not required for their plats. The two layers are not equally weighted. Subdivision hazard rating is weighted at 75 percent and threatened and endangered species are weighted at 25 percent. The map below shows the results of sub-model 5D.



E. SUB-MODEL 5E- LOCAL PREPAREDNESS AND FIRE FIGHTING CAPABILITY

Local preparedness and firefighting capability are modeled in 5E. Five different layers were utilized in this model: fire station locations, slope, roads, water sources and dead-end roads. These five layers were combined into four different categories for the model: fire stations, roads, water sources and dead-end roads. These four categories were equally weighted in the sub-model. The map below shows the results of sub-model 5E.



XI. FOCUS AREAS FOR REDUCING WILDFIRE HAZARDS

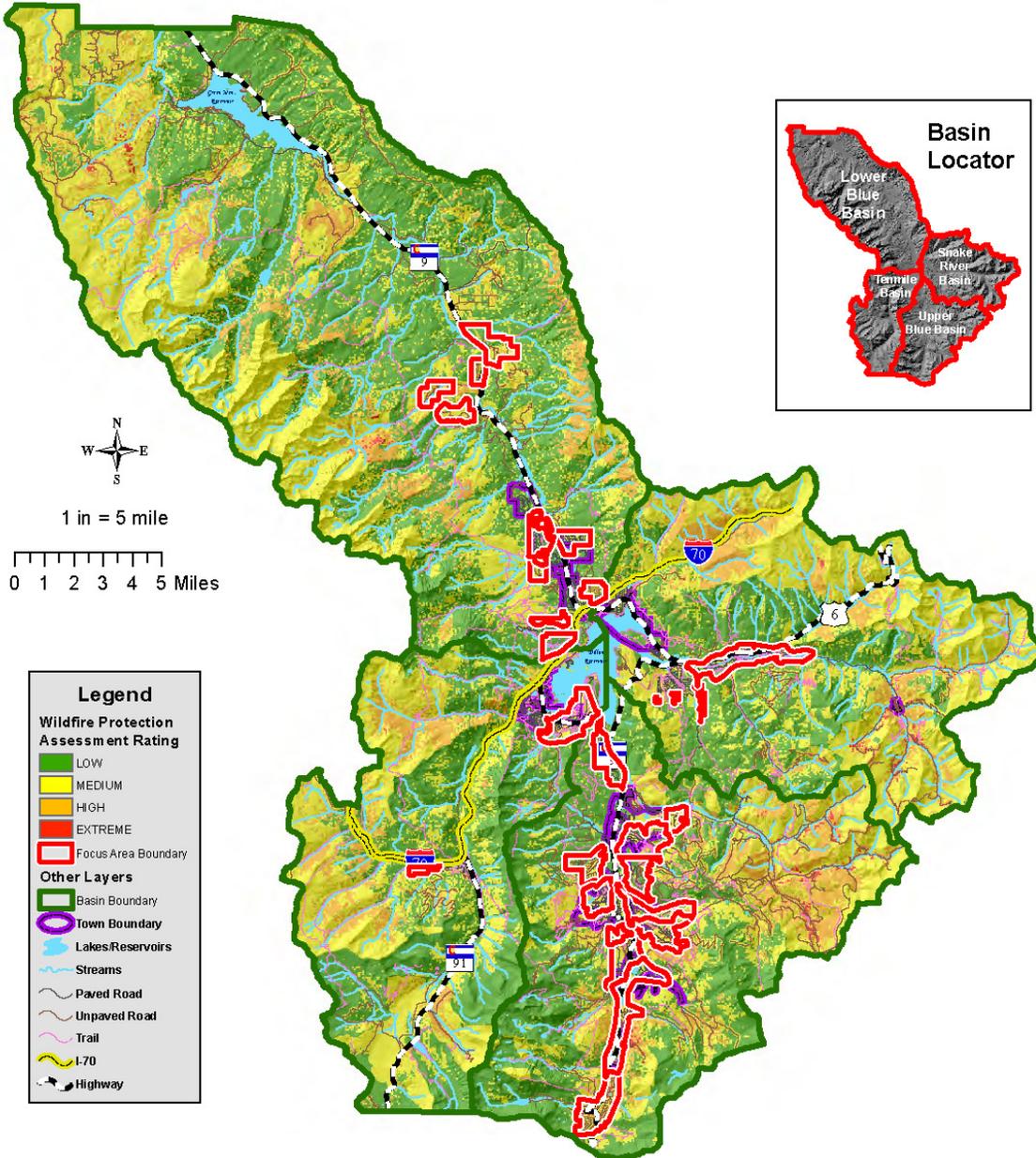
Using the Community Protection Assessment Map to identify those areas with the greatest need for fire protection, the SCWC established more limited areas where community resources should be focused to reduce potential damage from wildfire. The focus area map shows the 27 “focus areas” identified by the SCWC in 2010. A listing of the focus areas may be found in the table below. The identification and designation of these focus areas relies heavily on the Protection Assessment Map as well as the recommendations of staff and site inspections of each area by members of the SCWC. The interjection of common and practical sense through the recommendations of staff and adjustments made to reflect the values of the community as expressed by the SCWC eliminate some of the modeling imperfections that are apparent in the computer generated Community Protection Assessment Map. Focus areas may also be adjusted if appropriate to include critical community infrastructure such as transmission lines and protection of watersheds that supply municipal and community water systems. Adjustments to focus area boundaries to reflect watershed protection should be based on detailed scientific analysis.

Concurrent with the identification of these focus areas, the SCWC established management recommendations to reduce the risk of wildfire. Management recommendations for reducing the hazard of wildfire are outlined in Appendix B. Mitigation projects are prioritized based on wildfire risk and infrastructure at risk. Fuel types, house density, slope, aspect and fuel types are used to determine appropriate mitigation projects.

Focus areas are numbered starting from the north and ending in the south. Appendix B also has focus areas grouped by River Basins: <http://summitcountyco.gov/909/Community-Wildfire-Protection-Plan>.

Number	Focus Area	River Basin
1	Acorn Creek	Lower Blue
2	Sierra Bosque	Lower Blue
3	Boulder Creek Ranch	Lower Blue
4	Pebble Creek Ranch	Lower Blue
5	Eagles Nest	Lower Blue
6	Hamilton Creek	Lower Blue
7	Ruby Ranch	Lower Blue
8	Ptarmigan	Lower Blue
9	Mesa Cortina	Lower Blue
10	Salt Lick Gulch- USFS	Lower Blue
11	Keystone	Snake River
12	Keystone Ranch	Snake River
13	Summit Cove	Snake River
14	Lewis Ranch	Ten Mile
15	Iron Springs/ Hospital	Ten Mile
16	Iron Springs/ Gold Hill	Upper Blue
17	Summit Estates	Upper Blue
18	Golden Horseshoe North	Upper Blue
19	Golden Horseshoe South	Upper Blue
20	Peak 7	Upper Blue
21	Peak 8	Upper Blue
22	French Gulch	Upper Blue
23	Boreas Pass/ Baldy Rd	Upper Blue
24	Warrior’s Mark	Upper Blue
25	Crown/ Bekkedal	Upper Blue
26	Blue River	Upper Blue
27	Quandary Village/ Alpine Breck/ Valley of the Blue	Upper Blue

Summit County, CO Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2016 Community Protection Assessment



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.

The county has been divided into focus areas

XII. WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS STRATEGIES

A. OBJECTIVE - ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTOIN MAPS

1. 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.

ACTION/POLICY:

- a) Periodically the SCWC should review the Community Base Map to determine if there is reason to believe community patterns have changed sufficiently to warrant updates to the Community Base Map.
- b) If the SCWC determines that the Community Base Map should be updated, the SCWC should ask Summit County GIS staff to make appropriate updates.

2. ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN COMMUNITY PROTECTION ASSESSMENT MAPS

DISCUSSION: With limited community resources available to implement wildfire-reduction efforts, it is imperative to understand where the hazard 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 VII for more discussion.)

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

- a. As new data becomes available, 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.
- b. If the SCWC determines that community values influencing the Community Risk Assessment have substantially changed, the SCWC should work with affected jurisdictions and interested citizens to update these community values. SCWC should also review community assessment maps against the master plans and any other planning policies adopted within the county.
- c. If the SCWC determines that the protection assessment maps need to be updated, the SCWC should request that County GIS update these maps as necessary.

3. ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN MAPS THAT IDENTIFY WHERE HAZARD REDUCTION EFFORTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND WHERE THEY SHOULD BE PURSUED

DISCUSSION: Excluding land within wilderness areas, there are more than 8,000 acres or approximately 12.5 square miles of land within the County classified as having a high or extreme need for fire protection. Given the magnitude of the problem, especially in light of limited resources to reduce this hazard, the community must focus wildfire protection efforts to those areas where the hazard is the greatest and essential community values threatened. See accomplishment map book at the following link:

<http://summitcountyco.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/404>

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

- a. Each January or as otherwise established by the SCWC, it is recommended that the SCWC should review the current “Focus Areas” map. If the SCWC determines that the Focus Areas map needs to be updated, the SCWC should direct the appropriate changes and formally adopt the amendments to the plan.

B. OBJECTIVE - IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL COHESIVE STRATEGY

The vision set forth by The Wildland Fire Leadership Council states, “To safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a nation, live with wildland fire”. The National Cohesive Strategy stresses the importance of three main objectives.

1. Restore and Maintain Resilient Landscapes.
2. [Fire Adapted Communities](#):
 - a. Focus on home defensive actions.
 - b. Focus on combination of home and community actions.
 - c. Adjust building codes.
 - d. Reduce accidental human-caused ignitions.
3. Safe and Effective Emergency Response
 - a. Prepare for large, long –duration wildfires.
 - b. Protect structures and target landscape fuels.
 - c. Protect structures and target prevention of ignitions.

C. OBJECTIVE - ESTABLISH PRESCRIPTIONS FOR MINIMIZING THE IMPACTS OF WILDFIRE

DISCUSSION: Reducing the impact of wildfire on essential community infrastructure and community values requires sound and practical measures be established to reduce these risks. These measures need to reflect technical factors as well as practical considerations and community values.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Each January or as otherwise established by the SCWC, the SCWC staff should review prescriptions for minimizing the impacts of wildfire to determine if, based on the experience of the prior year, the prescriptions are still valid. If staff feels changes are needed, the changes shall be brought to the SCWC for discussion and formal adoption.
2. Land ownership will often dictate the authority for prescriptions. Prescriptions that are funded through the Summit County Grant program will be reviewed by the Summit County Wildfire Mitigation Specialist and approved by members of SCWC and County Commissioners.

D. OBJECTIVE - FUND AND IMPLEMENT THE CWPP

DISCUSSION: Promoting forest health and reducing the hazards of wildfire are monumental efforts. Aggressive funding at all public and private levels are necessary if we are to significantly reduce the hazards of wildfire and impacts of wildfire to our communities and essential infrastructure.

In 2008 residents of Summit County voted to approve a mill levy to help fund the implementation of the CWPP. This mill levy, as well as numerous cost share grants and funding from state and federal sources, have helped the partners of the Summit County Wildfire Council implement fuels reduction and wildfire mitigation projects in nearly every part of the county. While great work towards the reduction of wildfire hazards have occurred, many hazards still remain throughout the county.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Summit County Government's Wildfire Prevention Grants are a competitive cost share reimbursement program available to Summit County landowners and homeowner groups for the purpose of offsetting the cost of fuels reduction efforts and other projects identified in the CWPP (see section VIII for an overview of funded projects).
2. Any recommendation from the SCWC to the BOCC for funding should meet all of the following criteria:
 - The project is within Summit County, Colorado;
 - Private and/or other governmental funded match is required;
 - The project meets wildfire prevention priorities identified in the CWPP; and
 - The project is or will be ready to implement during the funding cycle.

E. OBJECTIVE – SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD, SUBDIVISION AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE HAZARD OF WILDFIRES

DISCUSSION: Wildfire-hazard mapping shows numerous areas within the County as having significant hazard of wildfire. The ownership pattern in these areas is often fragmented with multiple diverse ownerships and interests. Planning beyond the scope of this CWPP is ever present and ongoing. The SCWC should provide information and support to all efforts which are practical.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Work with homeowner associations and neighborhood groups to develop effective programs for reducing wildfire hazard using neighborhood resources.
2. To the extent practical, encourage homeowner associations and neighborhood groups to coordinate efforts to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of fire reduction efforts.
3. Where significant governmental resources are requested to assist homeowner association or neighborhood efforts, these requests should be incorporated into the CWPP for reducing wildfire hazard and prioritized accordingly.

F. OBJECTIVE - INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE HAZARDS OF WILDFIRE AND RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

DISCUSSION: All members of the SCWC and signers of this CWPP have agreed that informing the public about the hazard of wildfire coupled with an emphasis on personal responsibility toward emergency preparedness is an important part of implementation of this plan. These parties have also agreed that the messages provided to the public should be as uniform as possible.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Coordinate a consistent message to educate the public about defensible space, fuels reduction, reducing structural ignitability, preparedness and family planning for evacuation, and general forest health and continued vegetation maintenance.
2. Annually the SCWC should direct staff to prepare and review a public information plan. The public information plan, at a minimum, should include:
 - a. Public education efforts from the previous year;
 - b. Identification of the education materials and programs to be used and the strategy for distribution and community outreach;
 - c. How public education efforts are targeted to those areas with high wildfire hazard;
 - d. How public education efforts can be devised to augment private and neighborhood endeavors;
 - e. How public education efforts will be directed to the second homeowner and guest populations.
3. Support cooperative efforts to:
 - a. Reduce the number of human-caused fires by raising overall public awareness of the potential losses from wildfire and promoting good wildfire prevention safety measures as a civic responsibility.
 - b. Maintain coordination and collaboration among agencies with fire and fuels management responsibilities in enacting fire restrictions and developing and disseminating prevention and restriction materials and information.
 - c. Increase public understanding of landscape dynamics as part of the overall effort to create a community vision of our forested landscape as a fire-adapted ecosystem that needs disturbance such as insects and wildland fire to remain resilient and productive.
 - d. Develop consistent fire prevention and mitigation messages. These messages should explain the need to prevent wildland fires and mitigate the hazards from wildfires in areas where they are difficult to manage and have the potential for great destruction, as well as the need to manage wildfires in areas where they are desirable and can be managed safely to help restore and sustain the ecosystem.

G. OBJECTIVE - PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS IN FUELS REDUCTION AREAS

DISCUSSION: Noxious weeds can become an issue after any ground disturbing activity, including logging. The Summit County Board of County Commissioners has stated that they “do not want to trade the wildfire problem for a noxious weed problem”. Every effort should be made to prevent noxious weeds from taking over areas where fuels reduction efforts have occurred.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Work with the Summit County Weed Control Department to monitor and control noxious weeds in logged areas.
2. Educate landowners and loggers on the identification and control of noxious weeds.
3. Work with municipal, state and federal agencies to control noxious weeds on the lands under their management.
4. Provide inexpensive solutions and incentives to landowners who control noxious weeds on their own properties.

H. OBJECTIVE – SUPPORT THE UTILIZATION OF FOREST PRODUCTS

DISCUSSION: Management of forested lands to promote forest health and reduce the hazard of wildfire is expensive. Markets for logs and biomass would significantly reduce costs.

ACTIONS/POLICIES:

1. Work with the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado State Forest Service to support the use of wood products within the county and state.
2. Provide technical support and guidance for any business utilizing forest products in and around Summit County.
3. Support the utilization of wood produced by projects implemented using Wildfire Council Grant funds.

XIII. Implementation

The Summit County CWPP outlines and defines community goals toward wildfire prevention. Since its inception in 2006, the CWPP provides an ongoing cohesive strategy which Wildfire Council members and staff use to direct project work on the ground throughout the county. Since the plan's inception, it is annually reviewed and refined to meet the community's changing needs concerning wildfire protection. For over a decade the wildfire preparedness conversation has matured from a prospective concept which set forth various objectives, actions and policies to a robust outcome driven effort. In that time, an ongoing funding mechanism enabled the establishment of the fuel reduction grant program, the CWPP grant program and created an opportunity for the BOCC to address additional progressive wildfire prevention activities as they arise. Through strategic partnerships between multiple federal, state, local and private landowners, ongoing engagement has led to the completion of a variety of projects every year. As people continue to choose to live in the forested environment of Summit County, wildfire prevention and outreach education will continue to be a priority well into the future.

In December of 2008, the Summit County BOCC adopted the first Summit County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP), which is updated every 5 years. This plan is in accordance with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, which is necessary to achieve grant eligibility from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The MHMP is a comprehensive natural disaster planning document that incorporates the wildfire-specific planning contained within the CWPP. The MHMP contains community specific hazard and risk information regarding erosion and deposition, landslide, mud and debris flow, mountain pine beetle infestation and wildfire. The MHMP was updated in 2014.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Wildfire prevention activities are an ongoing effort. Agencies and government entities have all participated in various fuel reduction treatments since the implementation of the CWPP began in 2006. To understand the community condition, staff tracks all county funded projects with a focus on fuel reduction and community protection outcomes. Quantifiable metric tracking establishes where wildfire prevention activities have taken place which, in turn, informs SCWC members about where to focus wildfire prevention efforts in the future. Qualitative measures help SCWC members gauge public understanding of wildfire prevention actions. Every year the public continues to submit grant requests. Public inquiry on forest health issues and seedling tree sales continue to demonstrate public interest in forest health issues. From 2014 to 2015, participation in the chipping program increased.

Chipping Program Results

In its second year, the Summit County Chipping Program yielded outstanding results, surpassing the already-strong participation and total volume of material collected in 2014. During the program's first year, 1,486 households participated, placing 5,233 slash piles out for curbside chipping. Crews transported the resulting 923 tons of wood chips (4,400 cubic yards) to a biomass electricity plant in Eagle County.

In 2015, Climax Mine purchased the 6,500 cubic yards of chips for land and watershed reclamation.

During 2014 and 2015 combined, 3,459 households participated in the Summit County Chipping Program; 394 took advantage of the program both years.

When staff compared participation maps from both years, we observed that wildfire mitigation activities are contagious! Households adjacent to 2014 participants were significantly more likely to participate in 2015.

"I just wanted to say thank you to Summit County and all involved in helping make the chipping program so successful. My husband and I took advantage of both chipping cycles that visited our neighborhood this summer. The previous owners of our property had allowed it to get very overgrown and there were massive piles of debris we were able to clear for both fire mitigation and property beautification purposes. I was very encouraged to see that the program was a success. Kudos for getting another grant to help extend the program for next summer! Thanks again, and keep up the good work, makes us all proud to be Summit County residents."

"I wanted to thank-you for leaving a note for me on a woodpile ... and thanks for the efforts trying to lower the fire danger in Summit County."

"The Summit County Chipping program for 2015 was a great help to Miner's View Estates. We also participated in the same program for 2014 ... The folks who did the chipping were wonderful."

2015 Summit County Chipping Program by the numbers:

- Chipping Program Participants: 1,973 households
- Participation Increase Over 2014: 33%
- Slash Piles: Crews chipped and hauled 5,254 piles.
- Service Areas: We placed every residential property in Summit County into one of 14 service areas.
- Passes through the Community: Chipping crews spent two separate weeks in each service area. Two crews worked concurrently, one in the southern portion of the county and another in the northern portion.
- Project Duration: The program ran for 14 weeks, from June 29 to Oct. 2.
- Fuels Reduction: We removed 6,500 cubic yards of chipped woody biomass from Summit County residential neighborhoods. The chips were transported to Climax Mine for land and watershed reclamation.

"Nice job again this year on the wood chipping service through Bill's Ranch Neighborhood in Frisco. Your crews were courteous, safe and efficient. We all appreciate the pros doing the more difficult and dangerous part of our fire mitigation program, as many of us are not physically able to load large chipper equipment or haul it away."

CWPP Implementation 2006 to the Present

Acres Treated

2006

Summit County Wildfire Grant Program/ Private	5
U.S. Forest Service	0
Municipalities, County, Other Land Managers	0
Denver Water Board/ Colorado State Forest Service	<u>0</u>
Total	5

2007

Summit County Wildfire Grant Program/ Private	161
U.S. Forest Service	0
Municipalities, County, Other Land Managers	220
Denver Water Board/ Colorado State Forest Service	<u>50</u>
Total	425

2008

Summit County Wildfire Grant Program/ Private	523
U.S. Forest Service	632
Municipalities, County, Other Land Managers	35
Denver Water Board/ Colorado State Forest Service	<u>72</u>
Total	1,262

2009

Summit County Wildfire Grant Program/ Private	479
U.S. Forest Service	553
Municipalities, County, Other Land Managers	99
Denver Water Board/ Colorado State Forest Service	<u>28</u>
Total	1,153

2010

Summit County Wildfire Grant Program/ Private	338
U.S. Forest Service	703
Municipalities, County, Other Land Managers	136
Denver Water Board/ Colorado State Forest Service	<u>1</u>
Total	1,179

2011

Summit County Wildfire Grant Program/ Private	316
U.S. Forest Service	1,192
Municipalities, County, Other Land Managers	0
Denver Water Board/ Colorado State Forest Service	<u>0</u>
Total	1,508

2012

Summit County Wildfire Grant Program/ Private	225
U.S. Forest Service	3,713
Municipalities, County, Other Land Managers	324
Denver Water Board/ Colorado State Forest Service	<u>0</u>
Total	4,261

2013

Summit County Wildfire Grant Program/Private	38
U.S. Forest Service	269
Municipalities, County, Other Land Managers	8
Denver Water Board/ Colorado State Forest Service	<u>12</u>
Total	327

2014

Summit County Wildfire Grant Program/Private	47
U.S. Forest Service	unavailable
Municipalities, County, Other Land Managers	unavailable
Denver Water Board/ Colorado State Forest Service	unavailable
*Summit County Chipping program	<u>unavailable</u>
Total	47

2015

Summit County Wildfire Grant Program/ Private	35
U.S. Forest Service	0
Municipalities, County, Other Land Managers	12
Denver Water Board/ Colorado State Forest Service	0
*Summit County Chipping Program	<u>2,551</u>
Total	2,598

Total Acres Treated 2006 to Present **12,765**

*Specific project details can be obtained from each managing entity.

** Additional acres of treatment have occurred throughout the county as a result of Wildfire Council education efforts. However, because these acres were treated outside of the scope of the grant program, they have not been captured by any entity to date.

CWPP Implementation Grant Projects

The Summit County CWPP has several hundred individual projects listed within Appendix B, Management Recommendations for River Basins. In 2011 it was recognized that many of these projects identified did not qualify for funding because they were not fuels reduction related projects. In 2012 Summit County gave out its first CWPP Implementation Grant. The intent of this grant is to fund the “Other” projects identified in the CWPP. Below is a list by year of each project funded under the CWPP Implementation Grant Program.

2012

1. Summit Guest Ranch Road Improvements - Improved ingress and egress on a one way in - one way out road in the Summit Guest Ranch Subdivision.
2. Summit Estates Cisterns - Provided year round emergency water to within 1,000 feet of every home within Summit Estates.

2013

1. Acorn Creek Cisterns - Provided year round emergency water to the Acorn Creek and Ute pass area.
2. Town of Blue River Cleanup Day - Provided funding for the chipping of slash that was brought to the curb during the annual town cleanup day.
3. Upper Blue River Basin Addressing - Provided seed money to Red, White and Blue Fire to install reflective house addresses within the Breckenridge and Blue River Area.
4. CR 3 Hazard Tree Removal - Provided funding for Summit County Road and Bridge to remove all hazard trees along County Road 3 in the Peak 7 area protecting a vital egress route in the case of a fire.
5. Straight Creek Road Hazard Tree Removal - Provided funding for the removal of hazard trees along the Straight Creek Road.
6. Ptarmigan Access/ Egress Improvement - Provided funding for the community to upgrade/ improve critical ingress/egress routes within the Ptarmigan Subdivision.

2014

1. Lake Dillon Fire Rescue Address Signage – Provided funding to support the acquisition and installation of address plates to replace inadequate address signage for residential properties within the fire district.
2. Town of Breckenridge Chip Site – Provided funding to help defray costs associated with the wood chip piles on the Block 11 site resulting from the town and county chipping programs in the summer of 2014.

2015

1. Town of Breckenridge Chip Site- – Provided funding to help defray costs associated with the wood chip piles on the Block 11 site resulting from the town and county chipping programs in the summer of 2015.
2. Bekkedal Estates - Two cisterns holding 4500 gallons each were installed to provide fire districts with emergency water supply for suppression efforts.

CWPP Projects Funded 2006 - 2015**2006 Projects Funded**

10 Projects Funded	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost Per Acre
Total	\$230,734.50	\$129,782.00	110.30	\$2,091.88

2007 Projects Funded

29 Projects Funded	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost Per Acre
Total	\$958,484.23	\$643,301.00	285.60	\$3,356.04

2008 Projects Funded

	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost Per Acre
USDA Forest Service			623	
5 Projects Funded - Total	\$143,430.64	\$137,938.00	47.00	\$3,051.72

2009 Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost Per Acre
USDA Forest Service			553	
Eagle's Nest Defensible Space	\$36,000.00	\$18,000.00	61.00	\$590.16
Hamilton Creek Water Tank Clearing	\$50,000.00	\$12,000.00	8.00	\$6,250.00
Summit County Open Space/ Town of Silverthorne	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	6.50	\$1,538.46
Bills Ranch	\$75,000.00	\$25,000.00	31.00	\$2,419.35
Baldy Mountain Townhomes	\$14,000.00	\$7,000.00	20.00	\$700.00
Bekkedal	\$45,000.00	\$15,000.00	48.50	\$927.84
Town of Breckenridge	\$142,320.00	\$71,160.00	71.00	\$2,004.51
Blue River Corkscrew	\$22,000.00	\$11,000.00	19.00	\$1,157.89
Upper Highlands HOA	\$99,960.00	\$49,980.00	32.00	\$3,123.75
Cucumber Creek Estates Fuels Break	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	13.00	\$1,538.46
Shock Hill HOA	\$48,886.00	\$24,443.00	19.50	\$2,506.97
Woodwinds Property Management	\$61,374.00	\$30,787.00	21.00	\$2,922.57
Discovery Hill/Red White and Blue Fire District	\$2,850.00	\$1,100.00	7.00	\$407.14
Peak 7 West	\$65,000.00	\$32,500.00	3.00	\$21,666.67
Sunrise Ridge Townhouse Association	\$11,000.00	\$5,500.00	1.00	\$11,000.00
Total	\$703,390.00	\$318,470.00	361.50	\$1,945.75

2010 Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost Per Acre
USDA Forest Service			703	
Daley Ranch	\$12,000.00	\$6,000.00	4.40	\$2,727.27
Discovery Hill D-Space 1	\$79,982.50	\$39,991.25	26.80	\$2,984.42
FEMA Grant for Keystone	Completed 2011			
Great Divide Condo	\$4,416	\$2,208	1.00	\$4,416.00
Lewis Ranch	\$28,950	\$14,475	7.00	\$4,135.71
Ptarmigan	\$31,632	\$15,000	16.00	\$1,977.00
Riverwood	\$4,030	\$2,015	8.20	\$491.46
Summit Estates	\$107,630	\$53,815	33.40	\$3,222.45
Town of Breckenridge and Summit County Open Space HB1199 Grant - Blue Danube/County Commons/Blue River Corkscrew/BarneyFord/HighlandsPark	\$165,000	\$25,000	117.00	\$1,410.26
Warrior's Mark	\$19,090	\$9,545	3.50	\$5,454.29
Warrior's Preserve	\$4,165	\$2,083	2.50	\$1,666.00

Willow Brook Metro District	\$47,891	\$23,945	41.63	\$1,150.39
Total	\$504,786	\$194,077	261.43	\$1,930.87

2011 Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost Per Acre
USDA Forest Service			1,192	
Miners View Fire Fuels Reduction Program	\$40,163.00	\$20,082.00	28.50	1,409.23
Shock Hill Single Family Properties - Phase 3	\$12,050.00	\$6,025.00	13.90	866.91
Town of Blue River Hazardous Fuels Reduction	\$14,985.00	\$7,493.00	3.60	4,162.50
Highlands Park Lots 119, 120, 126, 132	\$12,600.00	\$6,300.00	9.82	1,283.10
Ranch at Breckenridge - Filing 1 & 2, Lots 10 & 19	\$10,500.00	\$4,635.00	6.40	1,640.63
Summit Estates Fire Mitigation	\$81,330.00	\$40,635.00	23.10	3,520.78
Summit Estates Fire Mitigation Ashner/Perez Property	\$16,720.00	\$8,360.00	5.20	3,215.38
Shock Hill Wildfire Mitigation Program - Phase 2	\$16,800.00	\$8,000.00	13.00	1,292.31
Ptarmigan Mountain HOA	\$30,779.00	\$15,000.00	25.80	1,192.98
Discovery Hill Defensible Space Initiative 2	\$19,155.00	\$9,578.00	8.70	2,201.72
Settlement Forest Health	\$5,424.00	\$2,712.00	1.00	5,424.00
Spruce Valley Ranch Fuel Reduction 2011	\$59,343.50	\$26,500.00	39.60	1,498.57
561 GK Healthy Forest and Fuel Reduction	\$4,375.00	\$2,188.00	9.50	460.53
Willowbrook Metro District - Additional 2 acres	\$6,000.00	\$3,000.00	2.00	3,000.00
Town of Breck/SC HB1199 Grant (Golden Horseshoe)	\$300,000.00	\$50,000.00	90.30	3,322.26
Match for FEMA Grant - Keystone	\$100,000.00	\$25,000.00	48.30	2,070.39
Total	\$730,224.50	\$235,508.00	328.72	2,221.42

2012 Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost Per Acre
USDA Forest Service			3,713	
Pebble Creek Ranch Fuels Reduction 2012	\$24,308.00	\$9,968.00	9.00	\$2,700.89
Pebble Creek Ranch - 1800	\$11,823.74	\$2,500.00	5.30	\$2,230.89
Town of Blue River HFR Project	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	5.50	\$3,636.36
Highlands Golf Course Filing 10, Lot 40	\$11,574.00	\$5,787.00	6.40	\$1,808.44
Summit Estates Fire Mitigation - 2012	\$53,923.00	\$26,550.00	28.90	\$1,865.85
Spruce Valley Ranch Fuels Reduction 2012	\$72,086.25	\$33,375.00	28.00	\$2,574.51
Gold Hill Fuels Reduction	\$28,500.00	\$14,250.00	20.80	\$1,370.19
Adams & American Placer	\$37,258.00	\$18,629.00	7.70	\$4,838.70
Claimjumper Defensible Space	\$1,958.70	\$980.00	1.00	\$1,958.70
Miner's View Lots 6 & 8 Fuels Reduction Program	\$7,384.00	\$3,692.00	4.50	\$1,640.89
Ranch at Breckenridge - Filing 1, Lots 1,2,4,6,7,11	\$57,195.00	\$28,597.00	37.10	\$1,541.64
Highlands LH 1 Rounds Road	\$48,465.00	\$24,233.00	24.00	\$2,019.38
Ptarmigan - 2012	\$14,534.82	\$6,734.00	11.90	\$1,221.41
Total	\$389,010.51	\$185,295.00	190.10	\$2,046.35

2012 CWPP Implementation Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost per Acre
Claimjumper Condos and Pinewood Village D-Space	\$26,800.00	\$12,275.00	8.50	\$3,152.94
Summit Guest Ranch	\$6,725.00	\$2,800.00	1.00	\$6,725.00
Summit Estates <i>Cistern</i> Project	\$99,826.00	\$49,913.00	N/A	N/A
Total	\$133,351.00	\$64,988.00	9.50	\$14,036.95

2013 Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost Per Acre
USDA Forest Service			269	
Golden Horseshoe II - (1/2 CODNR:1/6ToB, OST, SCWC)	\$36,793.00	\$30,240.10	74.30	\$495.20
Acorn Creek HFR 2013	\$29,847.28	\$14,923.64	6.00	\$4,974.55
Town of Blue River HFR 2013	\$9,910.00	\$4,955.00	1.70	\$5,829.41
Pebble Creek Ranch HFR 2013	\$26,747.00	\$11,525.00	22.50	\$1,188.76
86 Gold Hill Rd / Shelton Residence HFR 2013	\$16,500.00	\$8,250.00	13.20	\$1,250.00
Ptarmigan HFR 2013	\$10,813.00	\$5,398.00	15.20	\$711.38
Elk Crossing Defensible Space Project	\$5,850.00	\$2,925.00	3.80	\$1,539.47
Blue Ridge Amendment/ Sunchaser Estates Mitigation	Forfeited	Forfeited	0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$136,460.28	\$78,216.74	136.70	\$998.25

2013 CWPP Implementation Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost per Acre
Town of Blue River Clean Up	\$9,100.00	\$8,190.00	5.00	N/A
Acorn Creek <i>Cistern</i> Project	\$109,619.19	\$97,000.00	N/A	N/A
Ptarmigan <i>Access/Egress</i> Improvement	\$18,000.00	\$10,000.00	N/A	N/A
Upper Blue River Basin <i>Address Project</i> (Red, White & Blue FPD)	\$6,653.74	\$1,763.08	N/A	N/A
County Roadway Hazard Tree Removal (Road & Bridge Dept.)	\$20,644.00	\$20,644.00	38.60	\$534.82
Straight Creek Road Hazard Tree Removal	\$7,992.50	\$7,193.25	11.50	\$695.00
Total	\$172,009.43	\$144,790.33	55.10	\$614.91

2014 HFR Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost Per Acre
Highlands at Breck Golf Course	\$7,806.00	\$3,903.00	1.60	\$4,878.75
Town of Blue River	\$52,780.75	\$26,390.38	18.56	\$2,843.79
Timber Trail Association	\$43,180.00	\$20,000.00	15.00	\$2,878.67
Pebble Creek Ranch Foundation	\$20,043.75	\$9,250.00	12.00	\$1,670.31
Highlands at Breck Filings 2-5	\$790.00	\$395.00	N/A	N/A
Total	\$124,600.50	\$59,938.38	47.16	\$2,642.08

2014 CWPP Implementation Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost per Acre
Town of Breckenridge - Chipper site	\$36,915.18	\$25,000.00	N/A	N/A
Lake Dillon Fire - Address signs	\$3,725.66	\$1,862.83	N/A	N/A
Total	\$40,640.84	\$26,862.83	0.00	N/A

2015 HFR Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost Per Acre
Pebble Creek Ranch Foundation 2015	\$20,483.75	\$10,035.00	14.00	\$1,463.13
Theobald 2015	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	1.60	\$3,125.00
Town of Blue River 2015	\$18,597.00	\$9,112.00	4.93	\$3,772.21
Town of Silverthorne - Smith Ranch	\$14,300.00	\$7,150.00	7.50	\$1,906.67
Warrior's Preserve	\$23,119.50	\$11,559.75	2.50	\$9,247.80
Whispering Pines Ranch	\$12,600.00	\$6,300.00	4.00	\$3,150.00
Total	\$94,100.25	\$46,656.75	34.53	\$2,725.17

2015 CWPP Implementation Projects Funded

Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	Acres	Cost per Acre
Bekkedal Wildfire Mitigation Cisterns	\$34,501.74	\$28,260.00	N/A	N/A
Town of Breckenridge Slash Site	\$38,198.50	\$19,099.25	N/A	N/A
Total	\$72,700.24	\$47,359.25	N/A	N/A

Total Wildfire Protection Projects 2006 - 2015	Total Project Costs	Grant Contribution	Acres	Cost Per Acre
132	\$4,433,923.25	\$2,313,183.44	1,867.64	\$2,374.08

Glossary of Terms

Access Route - Principal vehicular ingress and egress to a structure or through a development, crossing more than one parcel, including public and private roads, streets, and lanes that extend to and intersect with a publicly maintained road, street, or lane.

Aspect - Direction toward which the slope faces.

Brush - Shrubs and scrub vegetation or other vegetative growth heavier than grass but not a full tree size.

Combustible - Any material that, in the form in which it occurs or is used, and under the conditions anticipated, will ignite and burn.

Defensible Space - A natural or man-made area, where vegetation capable of carrying a fire has been sufficiently treated, modified, or removed to slow the rate of spread and reduce the intensity of a fire; provide a safe area for fire suppression operations; and slow or prevent a fire from traveling – in either direction – between a structure and the vegetation.

Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) – Incorporates people, buildings, businesses, infrastructure, cultural resources, and natural areas to prepare for the effects of wildfire.

Fire Break – An area, usually a long strip of undetermined width, wherein all flammable fuels have been removed to the mineral soil layer for the purpose of stopping a fire's spread.

Emergency Access Route - A maintained vehicular roadway for ingress.

Forest Management Plan – A plan prepared by a professional forester that describes the current condition of the subject site and the proposed management activities to be conducted by the applicant. The plan shall describe how these activities improve forest health and reduce wildfire hazards. The plan shall address all components of site vegetation. Elements of the plan may include, but are not limited to, insect and disease, wildlife values, aesthetics, and other multiple resource objectives.

Fuel Break - An area, usually a long strip strategically located, wherein vegetative fuels are reduced in volume and maintained to cause a reduction of fire intensity if ignited by a wildland fire.

Fuel Loading - The volume of fuel in a given area, generally expressed in tons per acre.

Fuel Modification - The removal of fuels, increase in spacing of individual plants, or reduction of fuel loading.

Hand Thinning - The use of chainsaws and manpower to remove fuels from the prescribed area. Hand thinning has a low impact on soils, erosion and accidental removal of vegetation not involved in the prescription. This type of treatment is often used in steep terrain, valuable or fragile ecosystems.

Mechanical Thinning - The use of machinery such as excavators, are used to remove vegetation.

National Cohesive Strategy – A collaborative process with active involvement of all levels of government and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public, to seek national, all-lands solutions to wildland fire management issues.

Prescription – A detailed plan that reduces the threat of wildfire in a specified area. Prescriptions may include mechanical thinning, prescribed burn, lop and scatter, fuel breaks, pile burning, chipping, etc.

Prescribed Burning - A type of prescription to reintroduce fire as a natural means of fuel reduction and creating a fire resilient landscape.

Slope - Upward or downward incline or slant, usually calculated as a percent of slope (rise or fall per 100 feet of horizontal distance).

IBC - The International Building Code.

Wildland - An undeveloped area in its natural state containing vegetation characteristic of the region and undisturbed topographical conditions.

Wildland Urban Interface - An area where development and wildland fuels meet at a clearly defined boundary.

Wildland Urban Intermix - An area where development and wildland fuels meet with no clearly defined boundary.

Wildfire - An unplanned and unwanted fire requiring suppressive action; an uncontrolled fire, usually spreading through vegetative fuels but often threatening structures.

Wildfire Hazard - The condition of the natural and built environment creating a wildfire opportunity that is so adverse to past, current, or foreseeable construction or land use as to constitute a significant hazard to public health, safety or property. The term incorporates the combined effects of slope, aspect, topography, climatic conditions, weather, wildfire behavior, existing vegetation, and state of the vegetation, and may also incorporate additional factors such as evacuation conditions, density of structures, history of fire occurrence, and local emergency service availability.

Wildfire Mitigation Plan - A plan prepared by a professional forester that describes the current condition of the subject site and the proposed management activities to be conducted by the applicant. The plan shall describe how these activities reduce wildfire hazard levels.