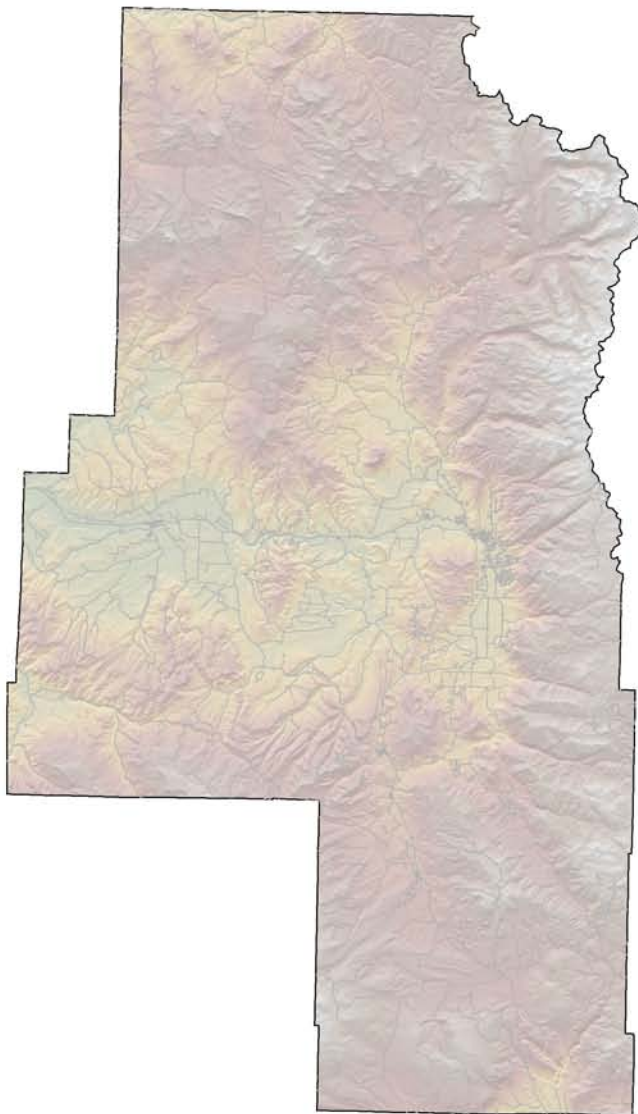


# Routt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan



*July 2010*

*DRAFT*



## **Process for Revision and Updates**

This CWPP is a living document that should be reviewed annually and updated as needed. The core individuals are encouraged to track projects and record needed revisions in an addendum section of their copy of the CWPP. It is requested that these revisions be submitted to Routt County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) once a year for inclusion in the Routt County master CWPP. Routt County OEM will maintain a single master CWPP in which all revisions and updates will be tracked.

The revised CWPP will be submitted for approval to all signatories approximately every five years or more frequently if needed.

**The following mutually agree with the contents of this Routt County Community Wildfire Protection Program (CWPP):**

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John Twitchell  
District Forester, Colorado State Forest Service

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Date

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Bob Struble  
Director, Routt County Office of Emergency Management

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Date

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Nancy J. Stahoviak  
Chair, Routt County Board of County Commissioners

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Jamie Kingsbury  
District Ranger, Hahn's Peak Ranger District  
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David Blackstun  
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Chuck Wisecup  
Fire Chief, Oak Creek Fire Protection District

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Dan Allen  
Fire Chief, Yampa Fire Protection District

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Date



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# Introduction

## Overview

Members of the Routt County community, in cooperation with local, state and federal agencies and other interested parties have collaboratively developed this Routt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This CWPP was created according to the guidelines of *Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities*, March 2004, Communities Committee, National Association of Counties, National Association of State Foresters, Society of American Foresters, Western Governors' Association. The handbook was designed to lead the community through a process that includes eight steps to completion of a CWPP.

Technical assistance was provided by US Forest Service and Routt County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department. The *Routt County, Colorado Fire Management Plan* was completed in 2003. All resource materials used are listed in the Appendix.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) passed by congress on November 21, 2003 directs the federal agencies to collaborate with communities in developing hazardous fuel reduction projects, and in the prioritization of treatment areas as defined by a community's CWPP. It identifies strategies for reducing wildfire fuels while improving forest health, supporting local industry and economy, and improving fire fighting response capabilities.

More recently in 2009, Colorado Senate Bill 09-001 was passed, signed and went into effect. This bill's purpose was to establish CWPPs at the county level, most notably, determining fire hazard areas within the unincorporated portion of the county.

The wildland/urban interface is defined as an area or zone where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.<sup>1</sup> An analysis by Jones in 1992 showed that an estimated 29,117 acres of wildland/urban interface exist in Routt County with 103 subdivisions in the affected area. Obviously, many changes including increased growth rate have occurred since this study.

Some homeowners in the planning area are actively practicing the mitigation measures recommended by FIREWISE, a tool designed to protect homes and other property from the impacts of a wildfire. However, other homeowners have taken little or no action to protect their properties from wildland fire. The inconsistent

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<sup>1</sup> McPherson, Guy R., Dale D. Wade, and Clinton B. Phillips. 1990. *Glossary of Wildland Fire Management Terms Used in the United States*. Society of American Foresters, Washington, D.C. 138 pp.

application of FIREWISE mitigation measures may place their neighbors at increased risk from wildfire.

The purpose of this document is to provide stakeholders and those living in the planning area with an overview of existing wildland fuel conditions, share preliminary findings, and recommend a possible course of potential strategies, projects, and priorities that will reduce the impacts of a wildland fire to the community.

## **Core Team & Meetings**

A core decision making team was assembled and is comprised of the following agencies and individuals:

- Bart Brown and John Twitchell, Colorado State Forest Service
- Mark Cahur, U.S. Forest Service
- Lynn Barclay, Bureau of Land Management
- Bob Struble, Routt County Emergency Management
- Ron Lindroth, Mel Stewart, Deb Funston and Leighton White, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue
- Bryan Rickman, West Routt Fire Protection District
- Bob Reilley, North Routt Fire Protection District
- Chuck Wisecup, Oak Creek Fire Protection District
- Craig Robinson, City of Steamboat Springs
- Lance Miles & Doug Allen, Steamboat Ski Corporation
- Jason Striker, Routt County Environmental Health
- Scott Havener & Kathy Connell, Steamboat Springs Rural Fire Protection District
- Emy Parmley, Routt County GIS
- Dave McIrvin, Sanctuary HOA

### **Meetings**

An initial meeting of the core team was held on August 20, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to begin the process of creating a countywide CWPP as a result of Colorado Senate Bill 09-001.

A second meeting of the core group was held on September 15, 2009. The purpose of this meeting was to focus and create a rough list of priorities in the Steamboat Springs and surrounding area.

The first public meeting/open house was held on November 12, 2009. The meeting was advertised on the radio and print media but turnout was extremely low.

A third core group meeting was held on December 9, 2009 to discuss the lack of public involvement as well as the plan moving forward.



A second public meeting was held in conjunction with the annual North Routt Fire Protection District Meeting on June 5, 2010. Twenty-seven (27) people were in attendance. The group was informed of the project and no specific concerns from the public were brought forth.

A fourth core group meeting was held on June 22, 2010. The purpose was to discuss the draft plan and any modifications, etc needed before holding a final public meeting and plan completion.

A fifth and final meeting was held on July 22, 2010. This meeting was combined with the Routt County Wildland Fire MAC Advisory Group meeting. The purpose was to discuss the draft plan and allow public an opportunity for comment before going to the Routt County Commissioners in most likely September for final approval.

**Note:** All meeting notes and summaries are located in the Appendices.

## **Background and History**

This CWPP is a result of Colorado Senate Bill 09-001. However, extensive planning in various communities began back in 2004 following the passage of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. This has resulted in the creation of several CWPPs throughout Routt County:

- Steamboat Pines CWPP, 2004
- Upper Burgess Creek CWPP, 2004
- Fish Creek – Sanctuary CWPP, 2007
- North Routt CWPP, 2007
- Stagecoach Area CWPP, 2007

These communities have already begun and/or completed projects within their respective boundaries. This county-wide CWPP will incorporate these areas as stand-alone and will be referenced accordingly.



# General Fire Information

## Fire Ecology

Throughout history wildfire has been a dominant disturbance factor effecting the structure and composition of various ecosystems. Fire alone, however, is not the sole determining factor. Topography and climate play a vital role in the successional stages of these ecosystems. As a result, fire frequency and severity have been critical link in determining which plant species exist and grow on a particular site.

Wildfire events are common and somewhat predictable in their frequency. The frequency varies with forest type. Climate also affects fire frequency. For example, fire frequency in ponderosa pine in Rocky Mountain National Park has been estimated at 30 years<sup>2</sup> whereas the frequency in lodgepole pine has been estimated at 50 years<sup>3</sup>. These numbers might be considered average as some areas have estimated frequencies at 12 to 25 years or even are infrequent as 300-400 years.

Each vegetation type reacts differently to fire. Lodgepole pine, for example, has adapted to fire by requiring fire for regeneration. When lodgepole seeds dense, “dog-hair” stands are formed and often remain until destroyed by another wildfire. While these dense, “dog-hair” stands are very common, a given species composition is dependent on several factors such as current forest conditions, weather, topography and the individual fire intensity.

Many decades of fire suppression throughout Colorado have altered these fire regimes - Routt County is no different. These suppression activities combined with the lack of forest management, the public’s misunderstanding of forestry and fire ecology, and the interdiction of people into this fire ecology have resulted in years of fuel accumulation. Combine this with the increasing number of individual homes and communities in these forested areas, a significant wildfire problem has been created. As years pass without addressing these issues simply increases the potential for disaster.

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<sup>2</sup> RMNP. 1992. *Fire Management Plan for Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado*. National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park. 140 pp.

<sup>3</sup> Skinner, Thomas and Richard Laven. 1982. *A fire history of the Longs Peak region of Rocky Mountain National Park*. Seventh Conference on Fire and Forest Meteorology.

## Fire Behavior

Wildfire is defined as any fire occurring on wildlands that requires a suppression response. If left unchecked, it is likely these fires will threaten lives and/or property. Wildfire behavior and spread are affected by many factors.

Aspect and slope are two conditions that affect fire intensity and spread. More specifically, aspect affects the fire hazard as a result of climatic differences between slopes. North and east facing slopes are cooler and moister than south and west facing slopes, consequently, fires on west and south slopes are expected to be more severe and move faster. Slope affects fire hazard by affecting rate of fire spread. Fires on steep slopes spread faster than those on moderate or flat slopes because heat rising from fire preheats and dries fuels thus increasing the rate of ignition and fire spread.

Both type and quantity of fuel are important stand considerations. Ground fuels consist of the burnable materials on the forest floor. The amount and continuity of ground fuels will influence fire direction and rate of spread. Ladder fuels are those above the forest floor such as shrubby vegetation or even tree limbs. These fuels provide a pathway for a fire burning on the ground to reach the crowns of trees.

If fire was to reach tree crowns, the amount of canopy closure (extent to which the crowns of the trees are in contact with one another) will help determine fire behavior and intensity resulting in more difficult fire suppression activities. If the trees are in close contact, a fire may burn in the treetops without ever touching the ground.

Finally weather conditions will be the determining factor in fire hazard and suppression activities. A cool, moist day with a high humidity will obviously restrict rate of fire spread in comparison to a hot, dry, windy day. When these factors are combined, all that is needed for a wildfire is an ignition source.

## Vegetative Types

Following are the characteristic vegetation types in Routt County. Fire occurrence intervals are assumed to be 100 to 150 years in the lodgepole pine type and sub-alpine fir types.

### Lodgepole pine

Lodgepole pine forests are a fire dependent species. It's not really a question of if, but rather when these forests will burn. Lodgepole pine is more vulnerable to ground fires than thicker barked species such as ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir. Because its thin bark has poor insulating properties, many trees are killed from ground fires as a result of cambial heating. However, some trees survive, and in general, low-intensity ground fires thin lodgepole pine stands.

Seeds are well protected from heat inside sealed cones. In the Rocky Mountain area lodgepole pines exhibit considerable variability in the percentage of seed cones that are serotinous (cone requires heat to open and disburse seed). However, intense crown fires that ignite the cones can destroy the seeds.

Post-fire recovery tends to be rapid as new stands quickly establish from seed released by serotinous cones. Stocking rates influences seedling growth in fire-generated stands. In overstocked stands, trees may not grow more than 4 feet tall in several decades, but in under-stocked stands lodgepole pine grows fast. Lodgepole pine seedling establishment following fire is influenced by many factors, including pre-fire over-story density, competing vegetation, and probably most important, fire intensity, which in turn affects seedbed condition, opening of serotinous cones, and seed survival.

High-intensity fires generally expose much mineral soil and open serotinous cones. Occasionally, crown fires may be intense enough to ignite cones in the crown. This destroys much of the seed supply resulting in low stocking. Following low-intensity fires, lodgepole pine stocking depends on the amount of mineral soil exposed. Generally if the duff is dry, ground fires will expose mineral soils, but if the duff is moist, less mineral soil is exposed resulting in lowered stocking. Surface fires will not open serotinous cones in the tree crowns, but most lodgepole stands in the Rockies have sufficient open-coned trees to provide seed for restocking.

Lodgepole pine girdled by ground fires, but with no crown scorching, may appear healthy for a couple of years after fire even though they are essentially dead. This is because it often takes more than 2 years for these trees to lose their needles. Trees injured by fire are susceptible to attack by insects. Most commonly, trees infested are those with greater than 80 percent basal girdling. Lodgepole pines that survive ground fires are susceptible to attack in later years by decay fungi that enter through basal wounds. Fire-killed lodgepole pine trees begin to fall 2 to 5 years after dying and most trees will be down in about 15 years.

### **Subalpine fir**

Subalpine fir is easily killed by fire. It is very susceptible to fire because it has thin bark that provides little insulation for the cambium layer. As subalpine fir matures the bark thickens and some self-pruning of lower branches occurs but both spruce and fir tends to retain lower branches that provide ladder fuels. Roots are shallow and susceptible to heat damage during a fire. Fir tends to grow in dense stands that are susceptible to crown fires. Some larger trees may survive light, surface fires but these often die later due to infection by wood-rotting fungi that enter through fire scars. Mortality in mature trees results from crown scorch, girdled stems from cambial heating and damage to shallow root systems.

Wind blown seed from surviving trees in protected pockets is responsible for most stand reestablishment. Reestablishment is more successful following small fires where surviving trees, or trees on the margin of the burn, provide a seed source. On

large, high intensity fires that kill seed trees regeneration of the sub-alpine fir forest is a slow process. Seedling establishment is best on moist surfaces where fire has consumed most, or all of the duff leaving bare mineral soil. Seedlings require some shade and do best on sites with standing dead trees or logs on the ground.

### **Aspen**

Small-diameter quaking aspen is usually top-killed by low-severity surface fire but as dbh increases beyond 6 inches quaking aspen becomes increasingly resistant to fire mortality. Large quaking aspen may survive low-severity surface fire, but usually shows fire damage. Moderate-severity surface fire top-kills most quaking aspen, although large-stemmed trees may survive. Severe fire top-kills quaking aspen of all size classes. Moderate-severity fire does not damage quaking aspen roots insulated by soil. Severe fire may kill roots near the soil surface or damage meristematic tissue on shallow roots so that they cannot sprout. Deeper roots are not damaged by severe fire and retain the ability to sucker.

Mortality does not always occur immediately after fire. Sometimes buds in the crown will survive and leaf out prior to the death of the tree. Even when quaking aspen is not killed outright by fire, the bole may be sufficiently damaged to permit the entrance of wood-rotting fungi. Basal fire scars may also permit entry of borers and other insects, which can further weaken the tree. Quaking aspen on slopes generally show greater damage than do trees on flatter areas. Flames moving uphill often curl up the lee side of trees when fanned by upslope wind, charring the stem further up its bole.

Quaking aspen generally sprouts vigorously after fire. Long-term growth and survival of quaking aspen sprouts depend on a variety of factors including pre-fire carbohydrate levels in roots, sprouting ability of the clone(s), fire severity, and season of fire. Moderate-severity fire generally results in dense sprouting. Fewer sprouts may be produced after severe fire. Since quaking aspen is self-thinning, however, sprouting densities are generally similar several years after moderate and severe fire. A low-severity surface fire may leave standing live trees that locally suppress sprouting, resulting in an uneven-aged stand.

### **Sagebrush**

Most sagebrush species are easily killed by fire. Site productivity affects the ease with which sagebrush will burn. Highly productive sites have greater plant density and more biomass, which, in turn, provide more fuel to carry a fire. Big sagebrush, which comprises a majority of the sagebrush association, has a shorter fire return interval than the low sagebrush types. Among the three major subspecies of big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush is considered intermediate in flammability. Mountain big sagebrush is most flammable, and Wyoming big sagebrush is least flammable. Fire return intervals for mountain big sagebrush are in the 15-40 year range, for basin big sagebrush in the 25-70 year range, and for Wyoming big sagebrush in the 50-100 year range.

All subspecies of big sagebrush re-invade a site by soil-stored or off-site seed. The rate of stand recovery depends on the season of fire, availability of seed, post fire precipitation patterns, and the amount of competition provided by other plant species regenerating after the fire. If a good moisture year occurs soon after the fire, reestablishment can be greatly accelerated. Pattern of burning also greatly influences the rate of post fire reestablishment. Small areas are more rapidly re-invaded from adjacent seed sources; individuals surviving within the fire perimeter may provide much of the seed for re-colonization. Sagebrush seed is not disseminated for great distances; most is shed near the base of the parent plant.

Sagebrush seedlings re-establish readily and grow rapidly on light to moderate intensity burns; reproductive maturity may occur in 3 to 5 years when competition is removed and growth conditions are optimal. Desirable pre-burn density and cover may be achieved in 15 to 20 years under favorable conditions. It may take 30 years or more before desirable pre-burn densities and coverage of big sagebrush subspecies are regained on high intensity, large burns or where herbaceous competition impedes sagebrush reestablishment.

Currently, many sagebrush communities are at or beyond the age (structure and composition) when fire would normally have intervened to move these communities back to an earlier serial stage. Lack of fire may be due in part to fire suppression efforts, lack of fine fuels related to grazing issues, or many other factors that influence the susceptibility of a vegetation community to fire. Continued exclusion of fire from these communities has and will continue to allow succession of sagebrush to advance to a point where native herbaceous plant species (fine fuels) may be limited where fuels are currently not limited. Many of these sagebrush communities in the lodgepole pine zone have seen an increased abundance of lodgepole pine trees, which replace sagebrush and more importantly, the herbaceous species needed to carry fire. These herbaceous species are critical to maintenance of the natural fire regime for these communities.

Decreased herbaceous species in the sagebrush community extends the fire return interval outside the norm until extreme conditions are necessary for a fire or other disturbance to occur. At that point, the site is susceptible to cheat grass or other non-native plant invasion and the fire return interval may become much shorter than normal. A non-desirable sagebrush community (lacking or devoid of native herbaceous vegetation) may increase the chance for cheat grass invasion following a disturbance, which in turn would be perpetuated by more frequent fire events.

### **Gambel oak**

Gambel oak is a fire-adapted species. It responds to fire by vegetative sprouting. Fire in Gambel oak may promote a brief grass-forb stage depending upon fire intensity and frequency. In most situations, Gambel oak sprouts vigorously the first growing season following fire. If successive fires occur at this stage, Gambel oak may be

reduced to a grass-forb stage. In the absence of fire, Gambel oak reaches maturity in 60- 80 years.

Gambel oak appears to be a relatively benign fire type. Its appearance is deceptive. When live fuel moistures get below 130% Gambel oak becomes very volatile. Unexpectedly hot, fast spreading fires in Gambel oak have killed over nineteen firefighters in Colorado over the last two decades.

### **Grassland–Grasses/Forbs**

Fire effects depend on the growth habit and phenology of affected plants, as well as season of burn, fire intensity, and burn severity. Fires usually top kill and consume vegetation to ground level. Rhizomatous grass and forb species are frequently favored by fire, as fire may stimulate the initiation of new shoots. Rhizomatous species usually have coarse stems and lesser amounts of leafy material, which results in rapid combustion, and little downward transfer of heat to below ground plant parts. Heat transferred downward may adversely impact meristematic growth tissues and injure the affected plant. Bunchgrass crowns characterized by coarse stems and leaves are generally considered to be less prone to prolonged burning than fine-leaved bunchgrasses.

Burns occurring in the spring, an unlikely scenario given the rare incidence of natural ignitions at that time of the year, after new growth is initiated can severely injure most grass and forb species. Likewise, burns when grasses and forbs are in the fruiting stage (generally in early to mid-summer) when root carbohydrate reserves are low can result in significant damage.

Grasses and forbs spread rapidly via surviving rhizomes following a burn. Non-rhizomatous plants establish relatively rapidly from seed banks in the soil or from off-site seed sources. Composition and production of most grass and forb species usually exceed (under optimal conditions) pre-burn levels within two growing seasons following a burn.

## **Fire Statistics**

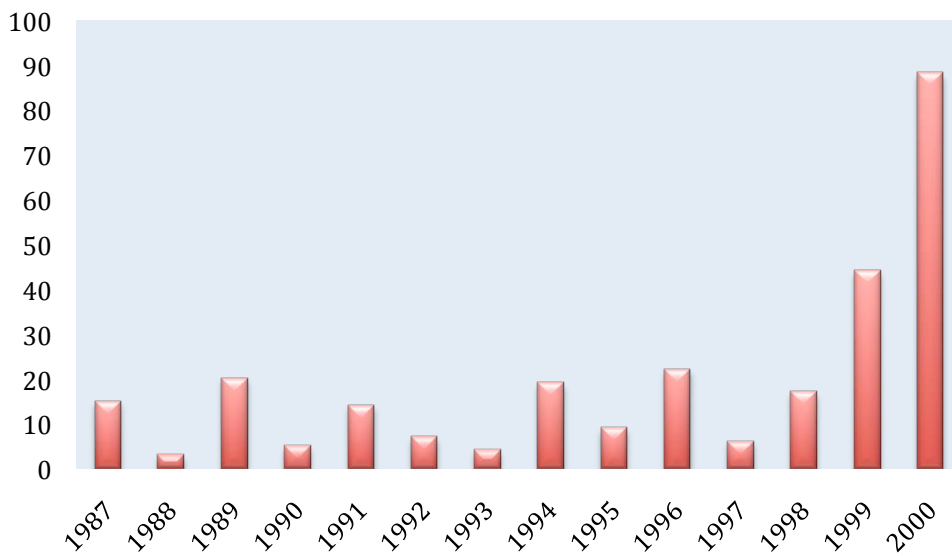
Historically, 85.25 percent of fires on state and private lands in Colorado are human caused<sup>4</sup>. However, the data in Routt County shows 79 percent are human caused (13 year average).

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<sup>4</sup> CSFS. 1995. *State of Colorado – Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Annex I. Colorado State Forest Service. Ft. Collins, Colorado.

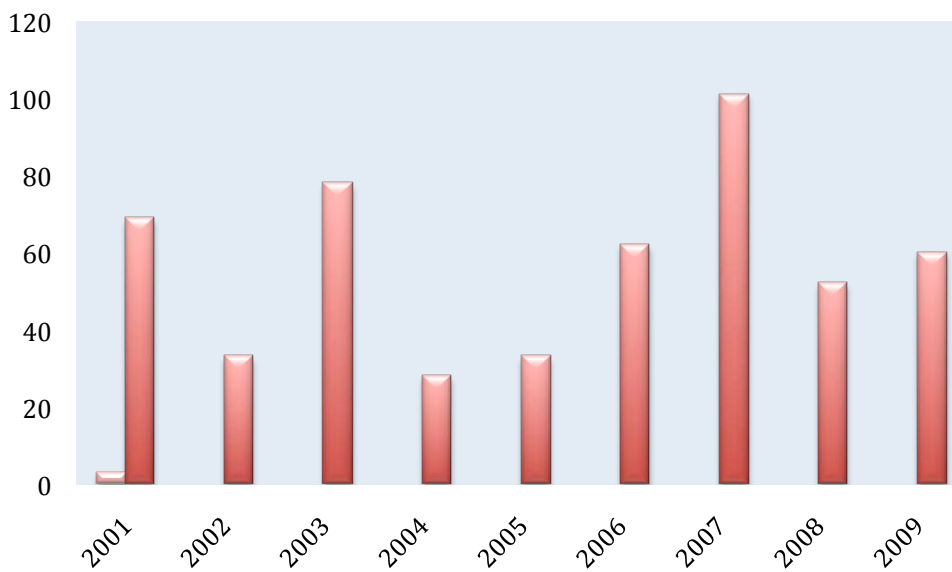


*Wildfires on State and Private Land in Routt County<sup>5</sup>*



A ten year average shows that 12 wildfires burn 264 acres each year in Routt County. Records kept by the Routt-Medicine Bow National Forest show that from 1991-2000 the forest averaged 15.3 fires involving 103.1 acres.

*Wildfires on State and Private Land in NW Colorado<sup>6</sup>*



More recent data from Craig Interagency Dispatch Center shows an annual average of 57 fires for 3,641 acres in their NW Colorado jurisdiction. Of those fires on state and private land, 28% were human caused.

<sup>5</sup> Data compiled from FD records

<sup>6</sup> Craig Interagency Dispatch Center Year End Reports, 2001-2009

## Historical Wildfires

Disastrous wildfires are not uncommon throughout Colorado. The most historic example of this wildland urban interface is the Hayman Fire (largest in Colorado's history) southwest of Denver in 2002. It was a human caused fire that consumed 137,760 acres, destroyed 600 structures, and cost \$39,000,000. Other notable fires in Colorado's recent history include: the Hi Meadow Fire in 2000 involving 10,970 acres and destroying 51 homes; the Buffalo Creek Fire which destroyed 12 homes; the Black Tiger Fire in 1989 which destroyed 44 homes and threatened at least 100 more homes in Boulder County.

The majority of these fires have been along Colorado's Front Range and, fortunately, Routt County has not experienced a major residential catastrophe such as those along the Front Range. This can be attributed to the demographics and population centers in the state. However, Routt County as well as the remainder of the western slope is certainly not immune from large wildfire incidents. In 2002 the Mt Zirkel Complex (approx. 30,000 acres), Green Creek Fire (4,400 acres) and Lost Lakes Fire Use (5,536 acres) were in the Routt National Forest with several others in neighboring counties/forests. As so many fire ecologists, firefighters, and others have said, the question is no longer **if** a major wildfire is likely to occur, but **when** and **where** the fire will burn.



*Burn Ridge Fire, 2002*



*Big Fish fire, 2002*



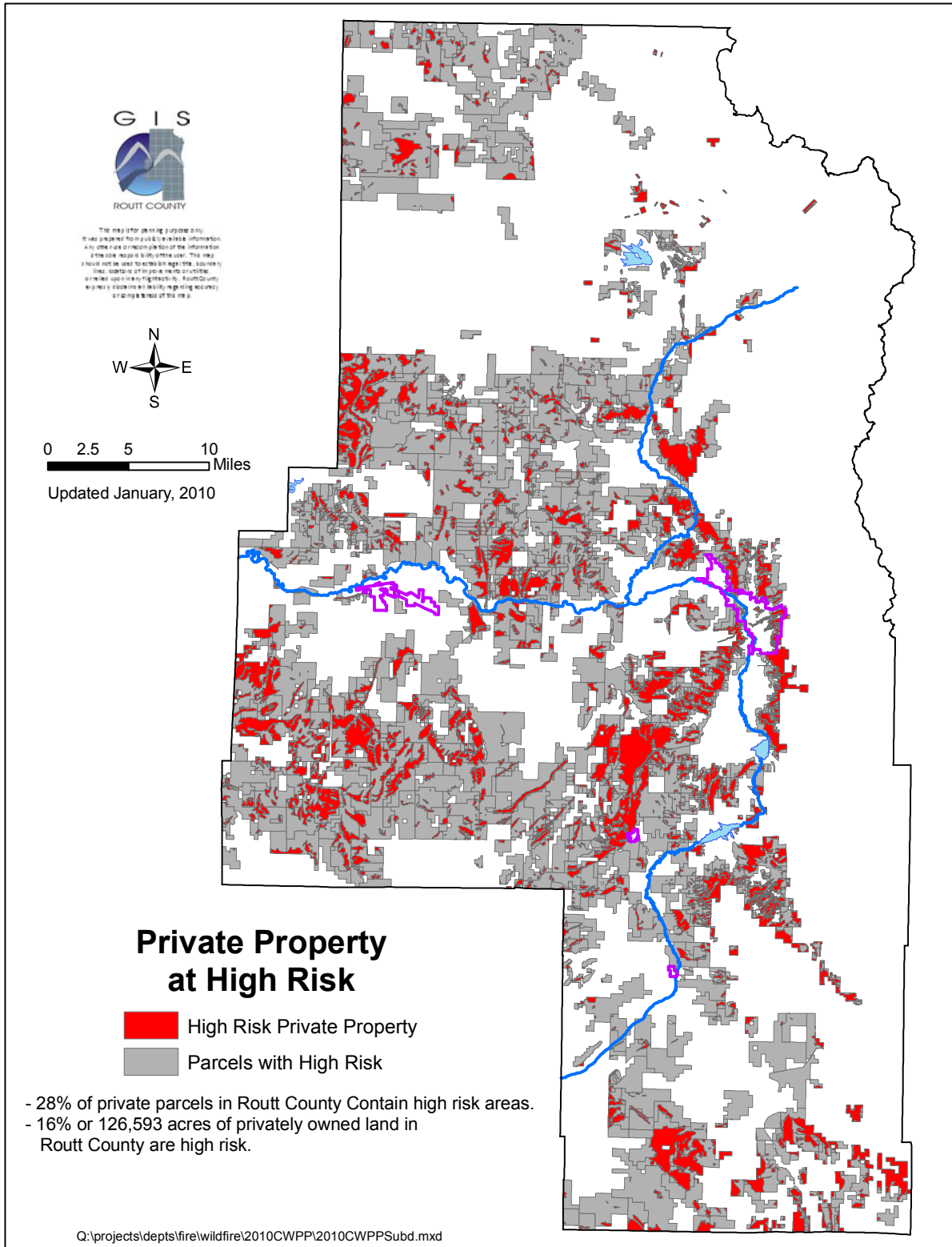
*Mt Zikel Complex photos, 2002*

## How Hazardous is Routt County?

According to Jones report, Routt County is a hazardous county with respect to wildland/urban interface. It rates as high; only 11 counties rate higher the majority of which are along the Front Range.

An estimated 28% of private parcels in Routt County are in high hazard areas. This estimate is strictly based upon the fuel hazard and does not consider ignition potential, as there is insufficient data. As growth continues, ignition potential will certainly increase.

High Fire Hazard Interface with Private Land.



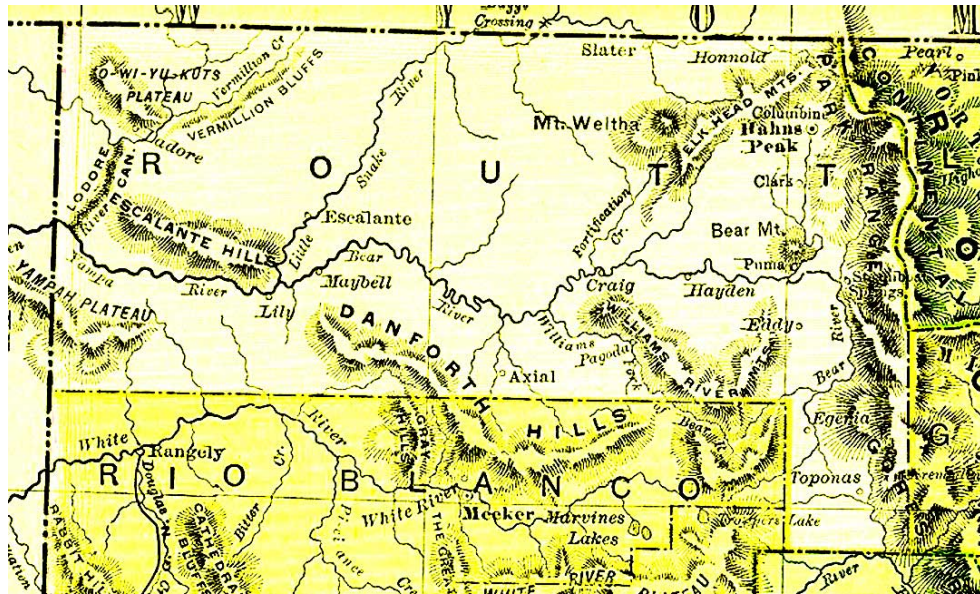




# Community Information

## General Information

Located in the northwest portion of Colorado, Routt County was established in 1877 when it was created out of the western portion of Grand County. It was named for John Long Routt, the first governor of Colorado. In 1911 the western portion was split off to form Moffat County.



*Routt County in 1877*

Routt County encompasses 2,231 square miles (1,515,909 acres) of which 766,185 acres are private ownership, 683,113 are managed by federal government and 66,610 acres are state and local government ownership. The Routt and White River National Forests and Flat Top and Mt Zirkel Wilderness areas are located within Routt County. Colorado State Parks has four parks in Routt County: Stagecoach State Park; Steamboat Lake State Park; Pearl Lake State Park; Yampa River State Park.

Prior to the settlers arrival in the Yampa Valley, the Utes found the area ideal for summer hunting. Trappers began to come to the valley in the early 1800s. They called the area The Big Bend because the Yampa River makes its turn toward the west at this point in the valley. The name Steamboat Springs is thought to have originated around this time when French trappers thought they heard the chugging sound of a steamboat's steam engine. The sound turned out to be a natural mineral spring.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Source: [yampavalley.info](http://yampavalley.info)

Ranching was the primary industry of the valley and in the late 1800s a mining boom was underway in the area of Hahns Peak. Today, cow and sheep ranching, hay and wheat farming, and coal mining are county industries with tourism as the major economic factor in the area.<sup>8</sup>

There is little doubt that prior to settlement wildland fire played a significant role in creation and perpetuation of native plant communities. The influence of wildland fire was disrupted with the arrival of early settlers into the area. The consequences of burning by the Utes, logging, grazing, and fire suppression have lead to a more or less even-aged stands of mixed conifer, an increased accumulation of forest fuels on the ground, an increase in tree density in forested areas, and an increase of trees, brush, and other species in prairie areas.

The Town of Steamboat Springs, Hayden, Hahn's Peak, Oak Creek and Yampa are the incorporated communities within the planning area.

## **Topography/Slope**

The topography of the planning area is widely varied. Generally, the terrain in the lower elevations/valleys is relatively flat but rolling, while the mountains in the northern and eastern portion is broken. Elevations range from approximately 6,200 to just over 12,000 feet. While slope is not a factor on the plains, except in drainages there is enough topographic relief that all aspects and degrees of slope are present. Routt County is on the western slope meaning it is located on the western side of the Continental Divide.

## **Meteorology**

The planning area rises from the plains/valleys to the summit of the Park Range and Elk Mountains. As a result, there are definite variations in the weather. The Wet Mountains can receive heavy snowfall and spawn severe storms that can produce lightning, hail, and lead to flash flooding.

Although floods make up about 75 percent of the state's natural disasters, experts say that Colorado is also vulnerable to a severe, long-term drought that also could have devastating impacts on people, property and the economy.<sup>9</sup>

Droughts are a normal part of the climate for all regions of the United States, but are of particular concern to the arid West where any interruption of the region's already

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Office of the Governor. 1999. Public Invited To Governor's Flood and Drought Preparedness Conference. Press Release. Available on the internet at [www.state.co.us/owenspress/11-10-99a.htm](http://www.state.co.us/owenspress/11-10-99a.htm)



limited water supplies over extended periods of time can produce significant impacts.<sup>10</sup>

Western Colorado generalizations: At the summits of mountains, temperatures are low, averaging less than 32° F over the year. Snow-covered mountain peaks and valleys often have very cold nighttime temperatures in winter, when skies are clear and the air is still – occasionally to 50° F below zero. Summer in the mountains is a cool and refreshing season. At typical mountain stations the average July temperature is in the neighborhood of 60° F. The highest temperatures are usually in the seventies and eighties, but may reach 90° F to 95° F. Above 7,000 feet, the nights are quite cool throughout the summer, while bright sunshine makes the days comfortably warm.<sup>11</sup>

Based on 97 years of records (1908-2005)<sup>12</sup>, the annual average temperature for the Steamboat Springs area is 38.9° F. The average temperature range during that period of time varies from a high of 82.4° F in July to an average minimum temperature of 1.1° F in January. Average annual precipitation is 23.97 inches. The Steamboat Springs area receives 165.9 inches of snow a year, on average. The graphs below help illustrate these trends.

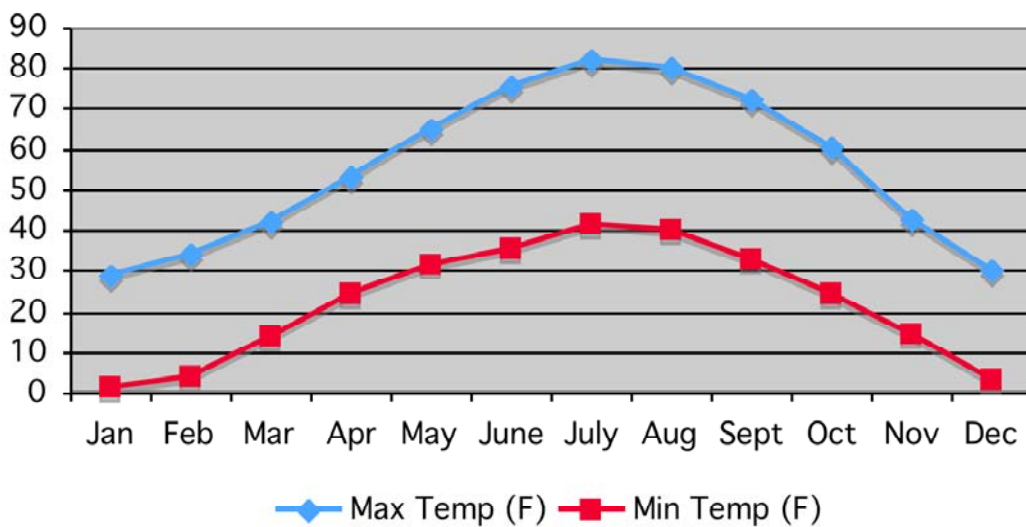
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<sup>10</sup> Ibid

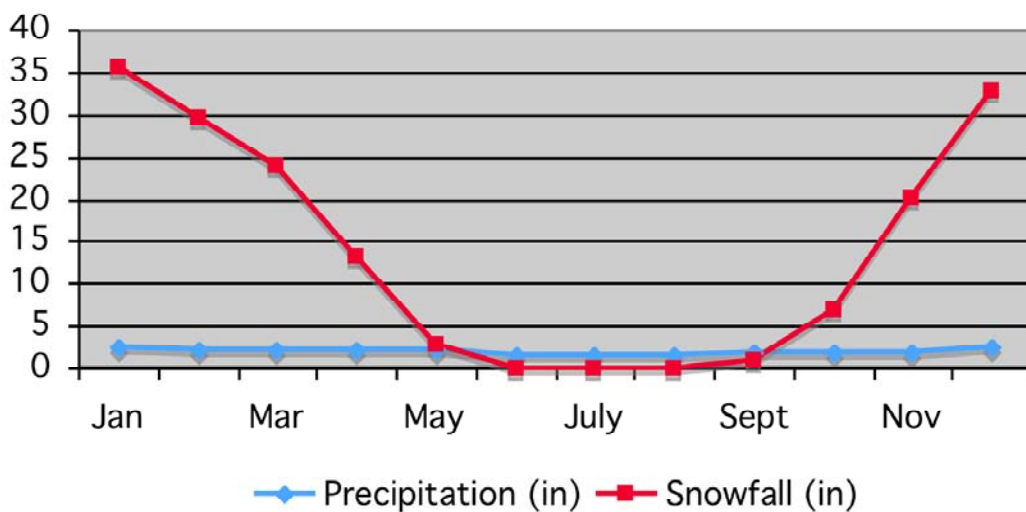
<sup>11</sup> Western Regional Climate Center. Available on the internet at:  
<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/narratives/COLORADO.htm>

<sup>12</sup> Western Regional Climate Center.

Monthly Avg. Temperatures  
*Steamboat Springs 1908-2005*



Monthly Avg. Precipitation & Snowfall  
*Steamboat Springs 1908-2005*



## Hydrology

Several municipal watersheds are located within the planning area provide surface drinking water for their respective communities (Table 1). These watersheds are extremely important to the communities that depend on them and thus any large-scale damage to the watershed would have a direct impact on the respective community.

**Table 1.** Community Water Supplies – Routt County

System	Area Served	Source
Mt Werner Water Dist	Steamboat Springs	Surface & Well
City of Steamboat Springs	Steamboat Springs	Surface & Well
Steamboat II	Steamboat II	Surface & Well
Town of Oak Creek	Oak Creek	Surface
Morrison Creek Metro District	Stagecoach Area	Surface & Well
Town of Yampa	Yampa	Surface
Catamount Metro Dist	Catamount Development	Surface
Town of Hayden	Hayden	Surface
Alpine Mountain Ranch	Alpine Mt Ranch	
Dakota Ridge	Dakota Ridge Subd.	
Agate Creek	Agate Creek Subd.	
Marabou Ranch	Marabou Ranch	
Steamboat Lake Water and Sanitation District		Surface & Well
Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District		Surface
Phippsburg		Surface & Well

Large fires in the Front Range, especially the Hayman Fire (2002) and Buffalo Creek Fire (1996) have demonstrated the importance of protecting watersheds. For example, a flash flood that occurred shortly after the Buffalo Creek Fire caused a great deal of damage to local infrastructure, greatly impacted a water storage facility operated by the Denver Water Board, and most importantly took two lives.

Heavy rains over the Mason Gulch Fire (2005) area in June and July of 2006 resulted in significant runoff in North Creek and Red Creek which damaged access roads and deposited extensive debris downstream from the burn. As indicated previously, several water systems in the planning area rely on surface water to provide the majority of the drinking water to the local community. The protection of these water sources from the impacts of a high-intensity wildland fire is extremely important.

Many dams throughout Routt County could be adversely affected by a large wildfire event. The domino effect of such event could be damage or failure of the structure itself; damage to the surrounding community; and/or loss of life. Those dams of significant or high hazard potential are listed in Table 2. In addition to these listed there are 45 low hazard dams in Routt County and 12 low hazard dams in Garfield County that directly affect Routt County.

**Table 2.** Hazard Dams Affecting Routt County.

<b>Dam</b>	<b>River</b>	<b>Hazard Class</b>
Hahns Peak Lake Dam	Willow Creek	High (Hazard 1)
YamColo Reservoir (Garfield County)	Bear River	High
Stagecoach	Yampa River	High
Catamount	Yampa River	High
Fish Creek Reservoir	Fish Creek	High
Long Lake Dam	S. Fork Fish Creek	High
Lester Creek Dam/Pearl Lake	Lester Creek	High
Gardner Park	Gardner Creek	Significant (Hazard 2)
Stillwater #1 Dam (Garfield County)	Bear River Tributary to the Yampa River	High
Grimes-Brooks Reservoir	Red Dirt Creek	High
Willow Creek Dam/Steamboat Lake	Willow Creek	High
Sheriff Dam	Trout Creek	High
Chapman Dam	Little Oak Creek	Significant
Allen Basin Dam	Middle Hunt Creek	Significant
Lake Creek Dam	Wheeler Lake Creek	Significant

## Threatened and Endangered Species

The planning area is within the historic range of the bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, which is frequently spotted along all portions of the Yampa River Basin. Other threatened and endangered species are listed below.

**Table 3.** USF&WS Threatened and Endangered Species – Routt County

SPECIES*	STATUS
Bald eagle, <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Listed Endangered
Bonytail chub, <i>Gila elegans</i>	Listed Endangered
Canada lynx, <i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Listed Threatened
Colorado pikeminnow, <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	Listed Endangered
Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Candidate for Listing
Humpback chub, <i>Gila cypha</i>	Listed Endangered
Razorback sucker, <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	Listed Endangered

\* 2010 data

The habitat needs for these and other species will be considered when finalizing individual projects.

## Homes, Businesses and Essential Infrastructure at Risk

Ranches, small groupings of homes, and freestanding homes are present throughout Routt County. Widely scattered homes located on large 35+ acre lots are prevalent in subdivisions, especially in northern and central portions of the planning area. The total population for the planning area, according to the 2000 census is 19,690. An estimate in 2008 shows the population to have increased 16.7% to 22,980. Of that, 1,634 live in Hayden, 9,815 live in Steamboat Springs, 849 live in Oak Creek and 443 live in Yampa<sup>13</sup>. The median home value within the planning area is \$268,500<sup>14</sup>.

A variety of businesses, some of which cater to area visitors because of tourism, as well as churches, and other local businesses provide area services are located in Steamboat Springs, Hayden, Oak Creek Yampa and Clark/Hahns Peak. All municipalities are served by their own water company; most rely on surface water (Table 1). Electrical power, telephone service, and cable and internet service are provided primarily by local companies or regional companies; i.e., Yampa Valley Electric Association, Qwest.

<sup>13</sup> 2000 Census

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

Yampa Valley Regional Airport provides airport service to all of NW Colorado with flights from all over the country from multiple carriers. The Steamboat Springs Airport is a small FBO airport serving mostly private individuals.

Three school districts, Hayden, Steamboat Springs and South Routt are within the planning area. Some private schools and community/charter schools are also in Routt County. The nearest medical facilities are located in Steamboat Springs.

**Other Community Values**

Recreational and day use activities (picnicking, fishing, hunting, hiking, mountain biking, skiing, etc.) are important to the area’s economy. Key recreational areas include the Steamboat Ski Area, Howleson Hill Ski Area, Perry Mansfield Camp, recreation and wilderness areas in the Routt National Forest and the four state parks that are part of CO State Parks. Many visitors to the area enjoy the views along The Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway from Yampa to Meeker.

Because of the vast history and heritage of the Yampa Valley, several properties have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Table 4.** National Register of Historic Places – Routt County

Name	Location
Bell Mercantile	Oak Creek
Christian Science Society Building	Steamboat Springs
Columbine	Clark
Crawford House	Steamboat Springs
First National Bank Building	Steamboat Springs
Foidel Canyon School	Oak Creek
Hahns Peak Schoolhouse	Hahns Peak
Hayden Depot	Hayden
Hayden Rooming House	Hayden
Maxwell Building	Steamboat Springs
Mesa Schoolhouse	Steamboat Springs
Perry-Mansfield School of Theatre and Dance	Steamboat Springs
Rock Creek Stage Station	Toponas
Routt County National Bank Building	Steamboat Springs
Steamboat Laundry Building	Steamboat Springs
Steamboat Springs Depot	Steamboat Springs
Summit Creek Ranger Station	Columbine

Many ranches in Routt County, while not listed on a register, are historic and important to the community. A few are recognized as Centennial Farms for being owned and operated by the same family for over 100 years.

**Table 5. Centennial Farms – Routt County**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Established</b>
Summer Ranch	Steamboat Springs	1889
Soash Ranch	Steamboat Springs	1904
Zehner Ranch	Hayden	1901
Crags Ranch	Hayden	1895
Hitchens Overlook Ranch	Milner	1886
Sullivan Ranch	Craig	1884

The existing CWPPs incorporated into this county-wide plan, may include additional historic areas. Please reference those plans for more information.

## **Emergency Services**

Emergency and wildland fire suppression services in Routt County are provided by eight local, state and federal agencies:

- North Routt Fire Protection District
- Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue
- West Routt Fire Protection District
- Oak Creek Fire Protection District
- Yampa Fire Protection District
- Craig Rural Fire Protection District
- US Forest Service (Hahns Peak and Yampa RD)
- BLM (Little Snake Field Office)
- CSFS

Significantly, for over a decade the majority of these departments have routinely provided each other support during wildland fire suppression activities in the form of mutual aid – both within and outside of the wildland-urban interface. The overarching goal has been the timely suppression of wildland fire in order to protect life and property. As part of the Routt County Fire Plan, the local Fire Protection Districts in Routt County adopted standardized wildland fire fighting training (beginning with basics taught in S-130/190), to acquire and use wildland fire personal protective equipment, to acquire appropriate wildland fire apparatus (when afforded the opportunity), and to use the Incident Command System in an ever increasing fashion.

All five Fire Protection Districts provide structural and wildland fire protection within their districts as well as mutual aid to surrounding areas. The USDA Forest Service has responsibility for wildland fire suppression on Forest Service lands within the Routt National Forest, and likewise the BLM with suppression on BLM Lands.

The resources of and relationship between the wildland fire response agencies in Routt County are reviewed and updated annually in the Annual Fire Operations Plan (AOP). The Routt County Department of Emergency Management has facilitated the writing of the AOP. The Routt County Sheriff, Routt County Board of County Commissioners, Colorado State Forest Service, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management formally sign it.

### **North Routt Fire Protection District**

The North Routt Fire Protection District is the northern-most local response agency in the planning area. The department was formed in 1974 as the Clark Fire Department and has a total response area of 410 square miles. The department is fully voluntary except for a paid Fire Chief. North Routt Fire Protection operates out of two fire stations with a staff of 20 volunteer firefighters. Their equipment includes 2 type-1 engines, 2 water tenders, 2 ambulances, 1 type-3 engine, 1 type-4 engine, 1 squad, 1 all-terrain gator and associated equipment.

### **Steamboat Springs Fire-Rescue**

The City of Steamboat Springs along with the Steamboat Springs Rural Fire Protection District comprises Steamboat Springs Fire-Rescue. It is the central-most local response agency in the planning area. The original Steamboat Springs Fire Department was formed in 1898 and has evolved from a voluntary organization to a combination department. It has a total response area of 384 square miles. Steamboat Fire Rescue operates out of three stations (2 manned, 1 unmanned) with a total staff of 26 career officers and firefighters and an additional 12 seasonal and volunteer firefighters. Eight personnel staff a 4-person engine and two, two person ambulances that provide a dual role of firefighter/medics. Their equipment includes: 3 type-1 engines; 2 aerials; 2 type-6 engines; 2 tactical tenders; 4 ambulances and other associated equipment.

### **West Routt Fire Protection District**

The West Routt Fire Protection District is the western-most local response agency in the planning area. The department was formed in 1963 and has a total response area of 197 square miles. The department uses paid on call staff except for a paid Fire Chief, Asst Chief and part-time Captains. West Routt Fire Protection operates out of one fire station with a staff of 22 paid per call firefighters. Their equipment includes 3 class A engines, 1 type 6 engine, 2 type 2 tenders and associated equipment.



### **Oak Creek Fire Protection District**

The Oak Creek Fire Protection District directly covers approximately 239 square miles surrounding the Town of Oak Creek. The District provides structural and wild land fire suppression, technical rescue including motor vehicle accidents, water rescue, and ALS and BLS Emergency Medical transport. Oak Creek operates out of three stations, 2 in Oak Creek and a newly constructed station in Stagecoach. Their apparatus fleet consists of 2 engines (Type-1 & Type-2), 2 brush trucks (Type-3 & Type-6), 1 water tender, 2 rescue squads, 2 ambulances, and 2 Command vehicles. Staffing is currently 4 full time staff and 12 Volunteer/Reserves.

### **Yampa Fire Protection District**

The Yampa Fire Protection District is the southern-most local response agency in the planning area. The department was formed in 1981 and has a total response area of 356 square miles. The department is 100% voluntary. Yampa Fire Protection operates out of two fire stations (Yampa and Phippsburg) with a staff of 15 volunteer firefighters and EMTs. Their equipment includes: 3 type-1 engines; 1 type-6 engine; 2 tenders; 1 rescue; 1 ambulance and associated equipment.

### **Craig Rural Fire Protection District**

The Craig Rural Fire Protection District is located in Moffat County but has a response area of 100 square miles within Routt County by Elk Head reservoir.

### **US Forest Service (Hahn's Peak and Yampa Ranger District)**

The Hahn's Peak/Bear's Ears and Yampa Ranger Districts administer approximately 980,000 acres of public lands. The agency maintains and staffs one Type-6 engine based in Yampa and one initial attack hand crew based in Steamboat Springs. The agency provides initial attack assistance through mutual aid agreements on lands identified in the Routt County CWPP.

### **BLM (Little Snake Field Office)**

### **Colorado State Forest Service**

The Colorado State Forest Service, Steamboat District is based in Steamboat Springs and encompasses Routt, Jackson and Moffat Counties. The Colorado State Forest Service does not have any first response fire suppression responsibilities. The agency fulfills their role in fire by providing training, equipment, technical assistance and funding, and by facilitating interagency mutual aid agreements and annual operating plans.

## Communications

The Routt County Communications Center provides Emergency-911 dispatch services (E-911) to all fire departments based in Routt County. Along with the E-911 telephone service, the Routt County Center also provides emergency notification to the residential public through the Emergency Preparedness Network (EPN), sometimes referred to as “Reverse 911”.

In 2009, the Routt County Communications Center completed a transition from traditional wide-band VHF and UHF radio frequencies to Colorado’s 800 MHz Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS). The Center coordinates communication with fire, EMS, law enforcement, public works, emergency management and other responders such as federal fire resources from Craig Interagency Dispatch Center. Craig Dispatch is located in Craig, Colorado. Their coverage area includes all of northwest Colorado, including Routt County.

# Mitigation Areas & Strategies

## Desired Future Conditions and Goals

The important goal of this plan is protecting the communities and homeowners from a catastrophic wildland fire. Full support by the community and stakeholders of the plan is imperative. Actions must be taken within the communities and around individual homes to provide for the safety of firefighters and the public in the event of a wildfire. One of the components of a successful program is to provide on-going educational opportunities to fully inform homeowners about *FIREWISE*. Recognizing the importance of attempting to properly sequence treatments on the landscape by working first around individual homes and within the communities and then moving further out into the surrounding landscape is necessary.

The desire of the stakeholders is to reduce the amount of hazardous fuels within and adjacent to the community, reduce and regulate fuel loading and modify the vegetation structure and stand composition as necessary to protect life, property and resources. Thinning trees and reducing ground and ladder fuels will accomplish this. When fully implemented, the stand composition in combination with a *FIREWISE* community will provide for firefighter and public safety and afford fire suppression personnel a greater than ninety percent success rate when defending a community or isolated home against a wildland fire, while respecting the aesthetic values important to the local residents and visitors.

In order to accomplish this future condition reasonable mitigation objectives and goals must be formulated.

### Goals

- Provide for firefighter and public safety.
- Protect the public and private property resource from wildfire.
- Maintain healthy watersheds.
- Coordinate fire protection strategies across property boundaries.
- Continue to raise awareness by building on the ongoing public information/Firewise programs in Routt County.

### Objectives/Strategies

- Provide defensible space around individual structures by reducing the fuel load.
- Coordinate fuels management activities across ownerships such as US Forest Service/BLM boundary areas.
- Create different vegetative communities and vegetation patterns that are less continuous, include more random openings, and consist of a variety of age classes.

- Create shaded fuel breaks in appropriate locations.
- Reduce structural ignitability.
- Increase emergency preparedness.
- Establish lines of communication with stakeholders necessary to set project priorities, request and receive funding, carryout fuel management projects.
- Provide homeowners and others with the information necessary to fully implement the *Firewise* programs on a property-by-property basis.
- Enhance ecosystem health by reducing the fuel loading and stand composition to more natural levels.
- Use a variety of treatment methods that will provide the least impact to the community and neighboring lands and, when possible, utilize the by-products.

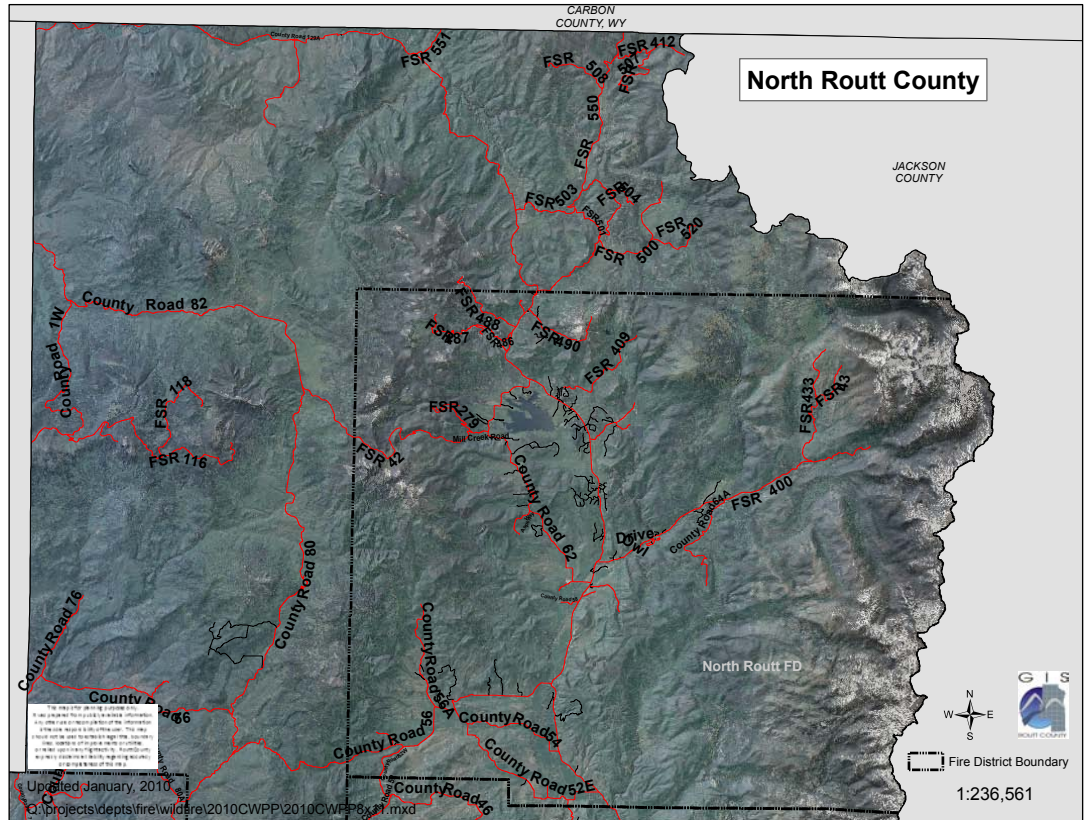
### **Planning Area Boundaries**

The planning area is the entire Routt County area. It is formed by the boundary between Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties on the West, Jackson and Grand Counties on the east, Eagle County to the south and the state of Wyoming to the north.

For ease of discussion and reference the entire planning area has been divided into four areas: North Routt, Steamboat area, West Routt, and South Routt. These areas roughly resemble those of the Fire Protection Districts with the exception being Yampa and Oak Creek FPDs being combined.

These boundaries are by no means absolute as they are only meant as a guide. Many properties might cross more than one of these boundaries.

## North Routt Area



The area of focus in the North Routt area consists of the North Routt Fire Protection District and the unincorporated areas to the north and west up to the Routt County line.

**North Routt CWPP**

The North Routt CWPP was finalized in 2007 and can be found in the Appendix. The following tables were taken from the plan and illustrate specific projects that community deemed appropriate:

**Table 6.** Fuel Treatment Projects – North Routt CWPP

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Seedhouse (In progress)	USFS	High
Larson 2 – scheduled for 2008	USFS	High
Big Creek Ridge	USFS	Other
Prospector	USFS	High
Develop fuel break system for Homeowners Association	HOAs	High
Fuel Reduction on State Parks and particularly Division of Wildlife land	Division of Wildlife, State Parks	High
Review for treatment on all state lands within the Wildland Urban Interface	CSFS	Other
US Forest Service land adjacent to Willow Creek subdivision	US Forest Service	High
Utilize existing roads for fuel breaks, thin adjacent	Routt County, Colorado	Other
State, federal and private lands adjacent to Pearl	CSFS, USFS, Division of Wildlife, BLM, State Parks and Private landowners	High
Treat fuels near homes	Private landowners	High

**Table 7.** Projects to Reduce Structural Ignitability – North Routt CWPP

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Create defensible space and reduce fire hazards on private property	CSFS, NRFPD and Private landowners	High
Evaluate defensibility of private property	CSFS, NRFPD and Private landowners	High
Post standardized address signs	Private landowners, Routt County	High
Research cost and feasibility of dry hydrant placement	CSFS, NRFPD	Other
Ensure proper handling of power and electric line slash generated during hazard reduction projects	CSFS, NRFPD residents	Other
Establish proper right-of-way clearance for all power lines in the area.	Yampa Valley Electrical Association	Other
Educate community about Fire Wise concepts	CSFS, NRFPD, CSU Extension	Other
Evaluate existing Wildland Urban Interface codes for rural communities	NRFPD	Other

**Table 8.** Projects to Increase Emergency Preparedness – North Routt CWPP

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Post standardized address signs	Private landowners, Routt County	High
Develop North Routt Area individual and community evacuation plans. <a href="http://www.readycolorado.gov">www.readycolorado.gov</a>	Landowners, CSFS, NRFPD, Routt County,	High
Recruit North Routt Area residents to become members of North Routt Fire Protection District	North Routt Area residents and NRFPD	Other
Identify community members to serve as communication liaisons in the event of evacuation	North Routt Area residents	Other
Identify residents with mobility issues and inform NR Fire and Rescue	North Routt Area residents	Other
Properly maintain road signage	Routt County, USFS BLM and CSFS	Other
Annual review of CWPP	North Routt Area residents, NRFPD, CSFS, USFS, State Parks, DOW, BLM	Other

### Completed Projects

Many landowners have begun and/or completed fuels reduction projects. Many have also been able to take advantage of grant funding to help offset the associated project costs.

Steamboat Lake State Park and Pearl Lake State Park have both completed large scale fuel reduction projects as a result of the beetle infestation. Most of these individual projects were completed in 2009 and some in 2010. A few areas are still planned for future treatments.

### **Other Areas**

The areas in northern Routt County outside of the North Routt CWPP are to the north and west of the North Routt Fire Protection District.

### Communities Involved

The primary ownerships in extreme North Routt County are large ranches. The most prominent being 3-Forks Ranch, Salisbury Ranch, and the Focus Ranch.

The Salisbury Ranch and the Focus Ranch were both placed into conservation easements by the Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Program. They are working cattle ranches and the resource shall be maintained as such.

Three Forks Ranch is located along the Colorado/Wyoming border. It is a working cattle ranch but also is a resort offering many recreational opportunities (fishing, hunting, spa, skiing).

Quaker Mountain Ranch is a subdivision west of the fire district and north of Hayden. This area is predominately in aspen, and, therefore, not of great concern for wildfire.

Smith Rancho is another large landowner north of Hayden: no real concerns at this time.

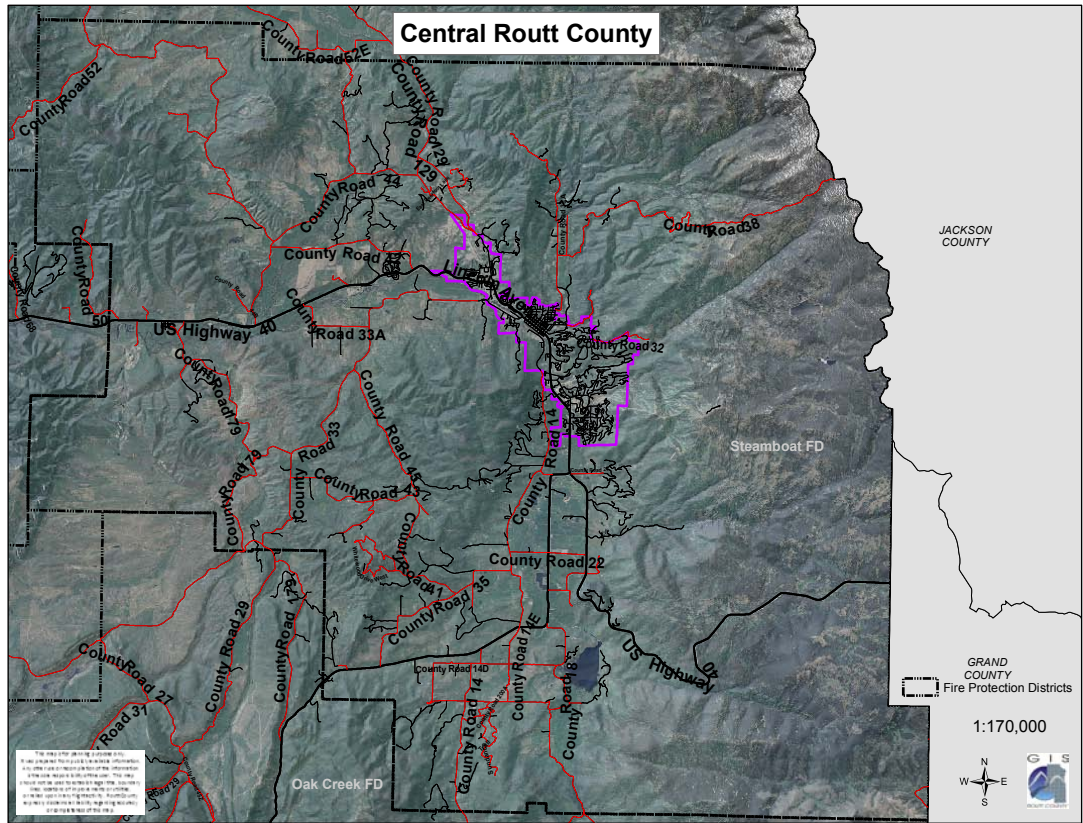
The Routt County Emergency Manager and North Routt Fire Protection District Chief are currently opening dialogs with these large landowners to further discuss any concerns they may have.

**Table 9.** Projects/Areas of Concern – North Routt

<b>Project, Activity, Concern</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Post standardized address signs	Private landowners, Routt County	High
Create defensible space and reduce fire hazards on private property	Private landowners	High
Maintain proper right-of-ways as it relates to hazard fuels/trees	Private landowners, Routt County	High
Deadwood removal and replanting as needed for proper regeneration	Private landowners	High
Maintain recreational opportunities	Private landowners	High



## Steamboat Springs Area



The area of focus in the Steamboat Springs Area consists of the City of Steamboat Springs and the Steamboat Springs Rural Fire Protection District.

The Steamboat Springs and surrounding area comprise the greatest amount of value at risk. Several Existing CWPPs were created but many gaps remain to be discussed and evaluated.

**Fish Creek - Sanctuary CWPP**

The Fish Creek – Sanctuary CWPP was finalized in 2007. That area’s projects and priorities are in the tables below. The complete CWPP is located in the Appendix.

**Table 10.** Fuel Treatment Projects – Fish Creek - Sanctuary CWPP.

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Reduce ignitable underbrush and maintain defensible space	Private landowners	High
Create fuel break along trail behind homes in Sanctuary	Private landowners; CSFS; USFS	High
Deadwood removal and replanting along Fish Creek	Private landowners	High
Annual preventative spraying	Private landowners	High
Maintain defensible space related to WAPA power grid	Private landowners; WAPA	Moderate
Identify and implement Gambel oak fuel reduction	Private landowners	Moderate
Maintain communication and collaboration with Steamboat Ski Area on ongoing and future projects	Private landowners; SSRC	Moderate

**Table 11.** Projects to Reduce Structural Ignitability – Fish Creek - Sanctuary CWPP.

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Provide fire danger/firewise information to residents		High
Provide evacuation checklist for homeowners	Private landowners	Moderate
Inform contractors of CWPP	Private landowners	Low
Provide input and voice to projects within CWPP boundary	Private landowners	Low

**Table 12.** Projects to Increase Emergency Preparedness – Fish Creek - Sanctuary CWPP.

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Reduce human caused fire risk (Smokey Sign)	Private landowners	High
Optimize Emergency Notification	Private landowners	High
Create Evacuation Plan	Private landowners	High
Ensure highly visible house numbering	Private landowners	Low
Public Education		Moderate
Maintain/Augment trails for fire access		Moderate

While the Fish Creek – Sanctuary CWPP boundary includes the Burgess Creek area, specific projects, etc are discussed in the Burgess Creek CWPP.

**Completed Projects**

In addition to annual meetings, communication, and preventative spraying, two larger projects were completed with the assistance of grant money. The first project was the Sanctuary Fuels Treatment Project in 2007. This project leveraged grant money to create a 1.5 mile shaded fuel break behind 23 lots.



*Sanctuary Fuels Treatment Project area, 2007*

The second project was completed in 2009. This grant related project involved removing the beetle kill and other deadwood along Fish Creek and replanting.



*Sanctuary Project, 2009*

### **Burgess Creek CWPP**

The Burgess Creek CWPP was finalized in 2004. The complete CWPP is located in the Appendix. This area’s projects and priorities are summarized below.

**Table 13.** Fuel Treatment Projects – Burgess Creek CWPP.

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Implement intra-community fuel hazard reduction program (defensible space)	Private landowners	High
Develop a fuelbreak along the ridge between Fish Creek and Burgess Creek	Private landowners	High
Thin lodgepole pine stand to the south of Burgess Creek	Private landowners	High

**Table 14.** Projects to Improve Emergency Preparedness – Burgess Creek CWPP.

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Improve roads and driveways where needed	Private landowners	High
Improve house number visibility	Private landowners	High
Create Evacuation Plan	Private landowners	High

### Completed Projects

Many homeowners have created defensible space either on their own or with the assistance of grant money.

In 2005, the USFS substantially reduced oak brush fuels located at the eastern end of this CWPP area (end of Ridge Road)

In 2009, most homes with mountain pine beetle related trees had them removed and those larger areas still untreated will be dealt with in the spring of 2010 with the assistance of ARRA grant money.

**Steamboat Pines CWPP**

The Steamboat Pines CWPP was finalized in 2004. The complete CWPP is located in the Appendix. This area’s projects and priorities are summarized below.

**Table 15.** Fuel Treatment Projects – Steamboat Pines CWPP.

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Implement intra-community fuel hazard reduction program (defensible space)	Private landowners	High
Coordinate a central slash disposal system for the community	Private landowners	High
Develop fuel break along top of Blue Grouse Ridge	Private landowners	High
Develop fuel break along the top of the primary ridge to the west of Steamboat Pines.	Private landowners	High

**Table 16.** Projects to Improve Emergency Preparedness – Steamboat Pines CWPP.

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Improve roads and driveways where needed	Private landowners	High
Improve house number visibility	Private landowners	High
Expand fire protection water system and increase storage capacity to at least 20,000 gallons	Private landowners	High
Create Evacuation Plan	Private landowners	High

Completed Projects

Several homeowners have created defensible space either on their own or with the assistance of grant money.

Water supply has been improved with the creation of a hydrant and underground tank.

### **Other Areas/Communities**

The Steamboat Springs area is one of the largest presently without coverage under an existing CWPP. The three previous CWPPs cover a certain amount but many other areas need discussion.

Overall, projects and priorities should focus on reducing human caused fires in recreation areas and protecting view sheds, recreation opportunities, utilities, watersheds and neighborhoods.

### **Ski Area**

**Concerns:** Utilities, infrastructure, watershed, recreational opportunities

**Priorities:** dead lodgepole removal, vegetation management around infrastructure and utilities, break up continuity of Gambel oak fuels where appropriate

### **Fish Creek/Sanctuary Area**

Even though the Fish Creek/Sanctuary CWPP already exists, Fish Creek Reservoir and Long Lake watersheds are a priority and efforts made to protect that watershed. Settlement ponds around Mt Werner Water should also be protected.

### **Spring Creek Area**

**Concerns:** maintain recreational opportunities

**Priorities:** dead lodgepole and hazard tree removal, vegetation management around adjacent subdivisions.

### **Strawberry Park to Mad Creek Area**

**Concerns:** hazard trees on ROW in Strawberry Park, Buffalo Pass, Hot Springs and top of Perry Mansfield

**Priorities:** dead lodgepole and hazard tree removal, vegetation management around adjacent subdivisions.

### **Howelson Hill/Emerald Mountain Area**

**Concerns:** maintain recreational opportunities; utilities and other infrastructure protection.

**Priorities:** dead lodgepole and hazard tree removal; vegetation management around adjacent subdivisions and infrastructure; increase signage due to usage.

**BLM Emerald Mountain Fuels Project– Proposed.** This project is located in Steamboat Springs on Emerald Mountain. It would afford protection of the community from wildfire, reduce the risk of wildfire escaping public lands, reduce the risk of large, high intensity wildfires, improve and maintain healthy ecosystems, and protect critical community infrastructures, i.e., FAA tower and power lines. Prescribed fire or mechanical methods may be used to reduce fire



hazards or improve resource conditions for this parcel. Public input will be solicited for this hazardous fuel treatment and further details will be forthcoming.

#### Milner Area (North and South)

**Concerns:** Agricultural burning is very common in this area.

**Priorities:** vegetation management around adjacent subdivisions and infrastructure; increase public awareness of ag burning and proper notification to authorities

#### Hwy 131 Corridor

**Concerns:** Agricultural burning is common in this area; hazard trees in and around structures and ROWs.

**Priorities:** dead lodgepole and hazard tree removal; vegetation management around adjacent subdivisions and infrastructure; increase public awareness of ag burning and proper notification to authorities

#### Lower Elk River Corridor

**Concerns:** Agricultural burning is very common in this area; maintain recreational opportunities; utilities and other infrastructure protection.

**Priorities:** dead lodgepole and hazard tree removal; vegetation management around adjacent subdivisions and infrastructure; increase public awareness of ag burning and proper notification to authorities

BLM Elk Mountain Prescribed Fire – 700 acres. Project site is on south side of Elk Mountain eight miles northwest of Steamboat Springs. The vegetation is thick sagebrush, mountain shrub at higher elevations with some patches of aspen. Burning will convert the sagebrush dominated areas into primarily grass and forb (wildflower) areas. Burning will reduce the height and volume of mountain shrubs but will initiate rapid resprouting which improves habitat for deer and elk. Disturbance, such as fire, is also required for aspen regeneration. In addition to hazardous fuel reduction, the introduction of fire will improve overall ecosystem health by creating a mosaic of vegetation age classes.

### Catamount/US40 Area

**Concerns:** maintain recreational opportunities; utilities and other infrastructure protection; hazard trees in and around structures and ROWs.

**Priorities:** dead lodgepole and hazard tree removal; vegetation management around adjacent subdivisions and infrastructure; increase signage due to usage and hazards.

Catamount Ranch & Club. This development along US Highway 40 has created defensible space plans for 76% of the lots as of 2009. Implementation has occurred on many with the goal being 100%.

Storm Mountain Ranch. This subdivision is along US Highway 40 adjacent to Catamount Ranch and Club. All individual lots have created defensible space plans. Many have implemented those plans (some as part of the ARRA Grant).

Lake Catamount. This development surrounds Lake Catamount to the south of Rabbit Ears Pass. While most of those lots either haven't been built upon or are located in meadow/grass, 35% of those lots have created defensible space plans.

**Table 17.** Projects/Areas of Concern – Steamboat Springs Vicinity

<b>Project, Activity, Concern</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Post standardized address signs	Private landowners, Routt County	High
Create defensible space and reduce fire hazards on private property	Private landowners	High
Implement all existing defensible space/mitigation plans	Private landowners	High
Maintain proper right-of-ways as it relates to hazard fuels/trees	Private landowners, Routt County	High
Deadwood removal and replanting as needed for proper regeneration	Private landowners	High
Increase public awareness of ag burning	Routt County	High
Maintain recreational opportunities	Private landowners	High



Completed Projects

Many of the fuel reduction projects related to mountain pine beetle mortality are being addressed in 2010 as a result of the ARRA grant the City of Steamboat Springs received.



*Burgess Creek and Steamboat Ski Area, 2008*



*Burgess Creek and Steamboat Ski Area, 2010*

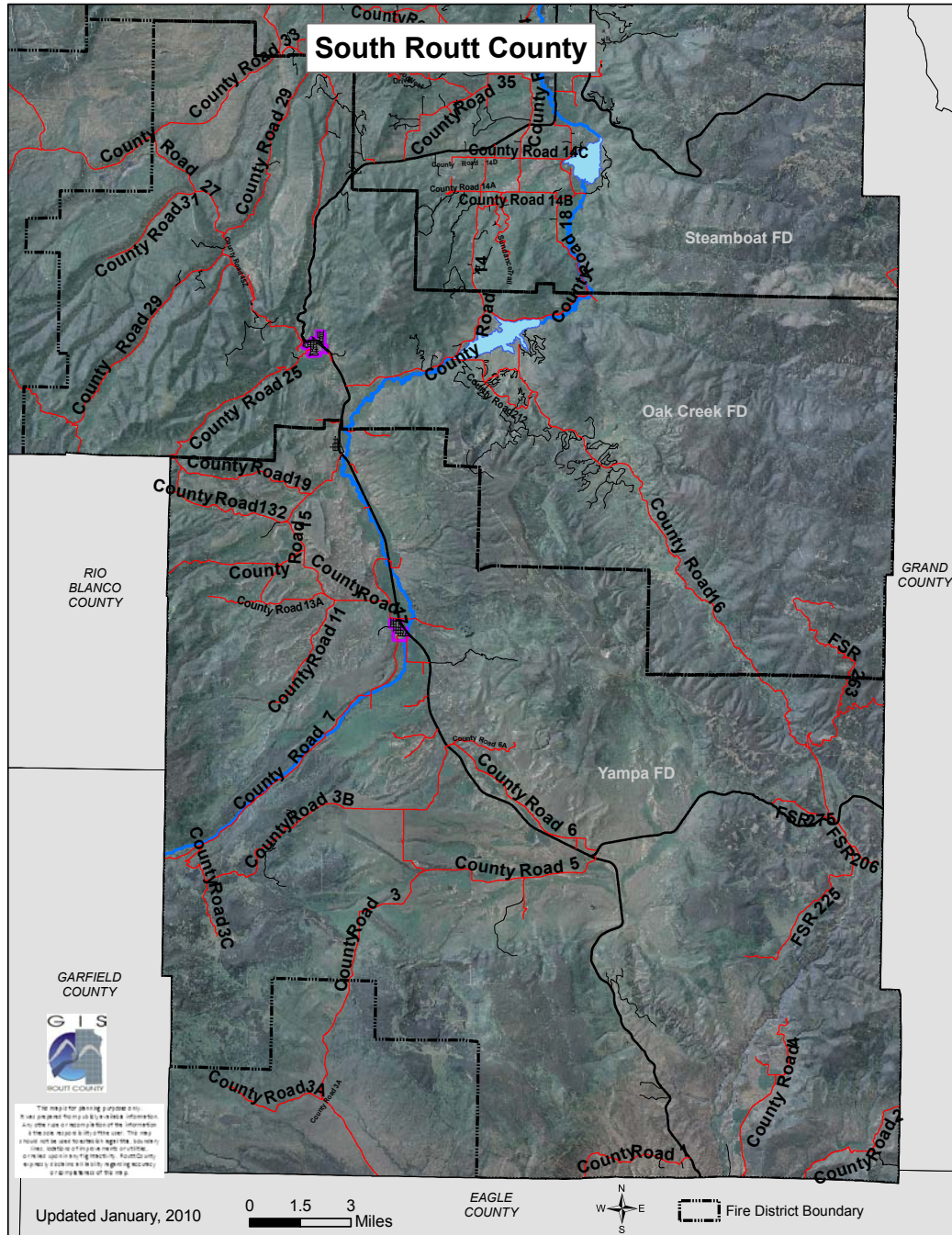
**Table 18.** ARRA Completed Projects – City of Steamboat Springs Grant

<b>Area/Units</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Spring Creek Area (Units 1,4,5,6, 7)	57.6
Burgess Creek (Units 14,15)	18.6
Steamboat Ski Area (Units 18-27)	51.8
Storm Mountain Ranch (Unit 30)	20.36
Emerald Mountain (Units 31-38)	101.2

In addition to these and individual projects, the US Forest Service has issued firewood permits to remove fuels up and down the boundary with private land in the Steamboat area.

BLM completed the Elk Mountain prescribed fire in 2010 encompassing 700 acres for hazardous fuel reduction and wildlife improvement.

## South Routt



The area of focus in the South Routt area consists of the Oak Creek Fire Protection District, Yampa Fire Protection District and the unincorporated area along the southern Routt County line.

### Stagecoach Area CWPP

The Stagecoach Area CWPP was finalized in 2007. That area's projects and priorities are in the tables below. The complete CWPP is located in the Appendix.

**Table 19.** Fuel Treatment Projects – Stagecoach CWPP.

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
For roads create a safer ingress and egress: County Road 16, Pima, Seneca, Ute Trail, 1st and 2nd Filly Trail and Colt Trail	Stagecoach Property Owners Association	High
Other Roads: Schussmark Trail, Greenridge Road, Halter, Hockeye, County Road 212, Mt. Meadow Lane	Stagecoach Property Owners Association	Other
Power line clearance (Maricopa mile marker 6 to 7 on County Road 16)	Stagecoach Property Owners Association	High
Fuel Treatment Reduction in Eagleswatch Subdivision	Stagecoach Property Owners Association & Eagleswatch Subd.	High
Defensible Space (Well houses and Booster Stations)	Morrison Creek Metro Dist.	High
Southwest portion of Middle Morrison Creek sub area	USFS	High
Mt. Elim vicinity (Bible Camp)	Mt Elim Bible Camp	High
Hideaway Ranch	Hideaway Ranch	High
Fuel Reduction on State Parks and particularly Division of Wildlife to be consistent with Division of Wildlife management objectives.	DOW, State Parks	High
Review for treatment on all state lands within the Wildland Urban Interface	CSFS	High
Timber sale on state land off of County Road 16	CSFS	High
Treat fuels near homes, FireWise	Private landowners	High

**Table 20.** Projects to Reduce Structural Ignitability – Stagecoach CWPP.

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Educate community and individual subdivisions about Fire Wise concepts	CSFS, OCFPD, Stagecoach Property Owners Association	High
Chipper projects	Stagecoach Property Owners Association, CSFS	High
Create defensible space and reduce fire hazards on private property	CSFS and Private landowners	High
Evaluate defensibility of private property	CSFS, OCFPD t and Private landowners	High
Display address nomenclature for all homes and structures in the Oak Creek Fire Protection District	Private landowners, Routt County, OCFPD	High
Encourage Routt County to participate through funding	Routt County	Other

**Table 21.** Projects to Increase Emergency Preparedness – Stagecoach CWPP.

<b>Project or Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Post evacuation route signs	Routt County and Stagecoach Property Owners Association	High
Develop Stagecoach Area individual and community evacuation plans	Landowners & HOA, CSFS, OCFPD, Routt County	High
Identify water sources (with agreements in place)	OCFPD and USFS	High
New cell towers for increased cell phone coverage	Routt County	High
For roads ensure creation of safer ingress and egress in the event of a wildfire	Routt County, Stagecoach Property Owners Association, OCFPD, CSFS and USFS	High
Identify residents with mobility issues and inform Oak Creek Fire Protection District	Stagecoach Area residents	High
Annual review of Community Wildfire Protection Plan	All parties	High
Recruit Stagecoach Area residents to become members of Oak Creek Fire Protection District	Stagecoach Area residents and Oak Creek Fire Protection District	Other
Identify community members to serve as communication liaisons in the event of evacuation	Stagecoach Area residents	Other
Communication with campgrounds, forest and park visitors	U.S. Forest Service and State Parks	Other
Properly maintain road signage	Routt County, USFS, BLM and CSFS	Other

Blacktail Mountain BLM Prescribed Fire – 915 acres. Project site is northeast of Stagecoach Reservoir. The project area is shared by BLM, Colorado State, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District and private landowners. It is managed by Colorado Division of Wildlife. This area is surrounded by ranches and residences at risk from wildfire. Wildfires have not been common in this area, however with increased frequency of drought and human activity, the risk has also risen. Habitat quality has continued to deteriorate over the years due to declining shrub species productivity. The objective is to burn 40-70% of the vegetation within the treatment area to create a mosaic and edge effects for improved wildlife habitat. It will also remove the abundance of dead and decadent vegetation which will help reduce the intensity of any future wildfires.

### Completed Projects

Several homeowners along County Rd 16 have created defensible space either on their own or with the assistance of grant money.

BLM completed the Blacktail Mountain prescribed fire in 2010 and completed hazardous fuels reduction adjacent to South Shore Subdivision in 2004.

### **Other Areas/Communities**

Projects and priorities should focus on reducing human caused fires in recreation areas and protecting view sheds, recreation opportunities, utilities, watersheds and neighborhoods.

### Oak Creek Area

**Concerns:** Agricultural burning is very common in this area; maintain recreational opportunities; utilities and other infrastructure protection.

**Priorities:** Dead lodgepole and hazard tree removal; vegetation management around adjacent subdivisions and infrastructure; increase public awareness of ag burning and proper notification to authorities

### Yampa/Toponos Area

**Concerns:** Agricultural burning is very common in this area; maintain recreational opportunities; utilities and other infrastructure protection such as water sources in the Stillwater Reservoir area.

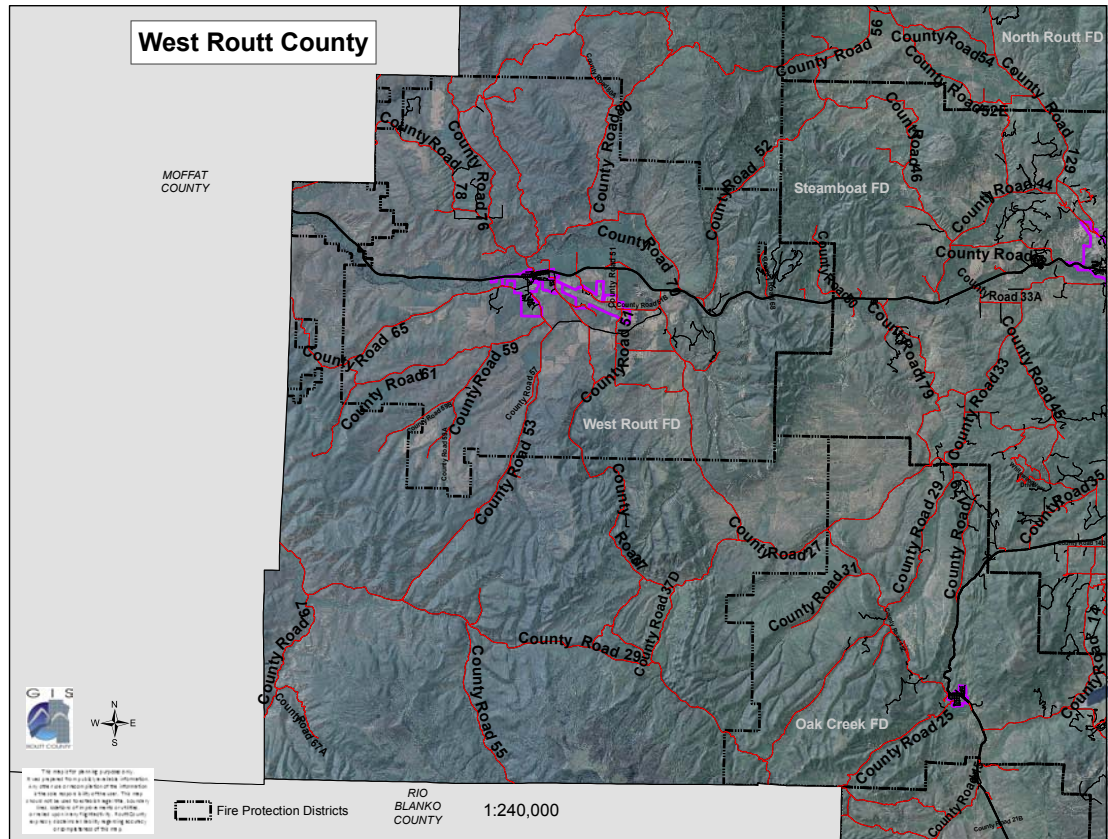
**Priorities:** Dead lodgepole and hazard tree removal; vegetation management around adjacent subdivisions and infrastructure; increase public awareness of ag burning and proper notification to authorities

**Table 22.** Projects/Areas of Concern – South Routt Area

<b>Project, Activity, Concern</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Post standardized address signs	Private landowners, Routt County	High
Create defensible space and reduce fire hazards on private property	Private landowners	High
Maintain proper right-of-ways as it relates to hazard fuels/trees	Private landowners, Routt County	High
Deadwood removal and replanting as needed for proper regeneration	Private landowners	High
Increase public awareness of ag burning	Routt County	High
Maintain recreational opportunities	Private landowners, USFS	High



## West Routt



The area of focus in the West Routt area consists of the West Routt Fire Protection District and the land to the west and south up to the Routt County line.

Agricultural burning is very common in western Routt County. The possibility for escaped prescribed fire exists. Increasing public awareness as well as proper notification by the ranchers should be a priority.

Additional priorities would be educating and assisting landowners with proper vegetation management around their structures.



**Table 23.** Projects/Areas of Concern – West Routt Area

<b>Project, Activity, Concern</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Post standardized address signs	Private landowners, Routt County	High
Create defensible space and reduce fire hazards on private property	Private landowners	High
Maintain proper right-of-ways as it relates to hazard fuels/trees	Private landowners, Routt County	High
Maintain infrastructure	Routt County and City of Hayden	High
Deadwood removal and replanting as needed for proper regeneration	Private landowners	High
Increase public awareness of ag burning	Routt County	High

## Future Projects Summary

Many projects are currently planned to help facilitate the implementation of this plan. Most of the smaller, private projects are not listed as they are difficult to track and are constantly in flux. The following tables, summaries and map help illustrate these known projects. Additional Maps can be found in the Appendix.

### North Routt Area

**Table 24.** Current and Future Projects – North Routt Area.

<b>Project, Activity, Concern</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Size</b>
Create defensible space and reduce fire hazards on private property	Private landowners	Unk
Steamboat Lake & Pearl Lake Projects	Rocky Mt Youth Corp, CSFS	50
Willow Creek Project – fuel reduction	BLM	13 acres
Willow Creek Roadless Project – fuel reduction	USFS	
Red Creek Project - fuel reduction	BLM	50-100 acres
Columbine and 42 Fuels – fuels reduction around Columbine and Captains Cove Subdivisions	USFS	
Increase public awareness of ag burning	Routt County	N/A
Road hazard right-of-ways	Private landowners, Routt County, USFS	

#### Rocky Mountain Youth Corp ARRA Grant

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act awarded a grant to The Rocky Mountain Youth Corp for the purpose of hazard tree removal and cleanup in Steamboat Lake State Park and Pearl Lake State Park. The Colorado State Forest Service is assisting in the coordination and scope of work.

#### Willow Creek Project - BLM

Scheduled for 2011 or 2012, the BLM plans on reducing hazardous fuels adjacent to the Willow Creek Subdivision. This project involves approximately 13 acres.

#### Willow Creek Roadless Project - USFS

The USFS in cooperation with the Willow Creek Subdivision plans on reducing hazardous fuels adjacent to the Willow Creek Subdivision.

#### Red Creek Project - BLM

Scheduled for 2012 or 2013, the BLM plans on reducing hazardous fuels and improving forest health south of Steamboat Lake. This project involves approximately 50-100 acres.

Columbine and 42 Fuels - USFS

The USFS is currently in the implementation phase of fuels treatments on national forest in areas near or around Columbine and Captains Cove Subdivisions. Completion is planned for 2011.

Routt County Road Hazard Project

An analysis of the hazard trees adjacent to private and public roads was conducted in 2009. Many of these roads and hazards are currently being addressed. The complete analysis can be found in the Appendix.

USFS Road Hazard Project

The US Forest Service is currently treating multiple forest service roads throughout the Routt National Forest. Full-scale tree removal along all forest roads that contain dead lodgepole pine is being utilized. Multiple roads segments are being addressed yearly with the completion anticipated in 2013.

**Steamboat Springs Area**

**Table 25.** Current and Future Projects – Steamboat Springs Area.

<b>Project, Activity, Concern</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Size</b>
Create defensible space and reduce fire hazards on private property	Private landowners	Unk
ARRA Fuels Project	City of Steamboat Springs, CSFS	300 +/- acres
Steamboat Front Emerald Mt Project	USFS	3,000
Increase public awareness of ag burning	BLM	
Road hazard right-of-ways	Routt County Private landowners, Routt County, USFS	N/A

City of Steamboat Springs ARRA Grant

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act awarded a grant to The City of Steamboat Springs for the purpose of hazard tree removal on private and city land in and around the Steamboat Springs area. There are 30 different project sites totaling approximately 300 acres of treatment planned. The following map helps illustrate those project areas.

Steamboat Front - USFS

The USFS is in the planning phase of treating dead lodgepole pine and shrubs in the interface surrounding Steamboat Springs. Approximately 3,000 acres have been identified for mechanical and prescribed fire treatments. Implementation is scheduled for 2011.

**BLM Emerald Mountain Fuels Project - Proposed**

This project is located in Steamboat Springs on Emerald Mountain. It would afford protection of the community from wildfire, reduce the risk of wildfire escaping public lands, reduce the risk of large, high intensity wildfires, improve and maintain healthy ecosystems, and protect critical community infrastructures, i.e., FAA tower and power lines. Prescribed fire or mechanical methods may be used to reduce fire hazards or improve resource conditions for this parcel. Public input will be solicited for this hazardous fuel treatment and further details will be forthcoming.

**Routt County Road Hazard Project**

An analysis of the hazard trees adjacent to private and public roads was conducted in 2009. Many of these roads and hazards are currently being addressed. The complete analysis can be found in the Appendix.

**USFS Road Hazard Project**

The US Forest Service is currently treating multiple forest service roads throughout the Routt National Forest. Full-scale tree removal along all forest roads that contain dead lodgepole pine is being utilized. Multiple roads segments are being addressed yearly with the completion anticipated in 2013.

**South Routt Area**

**Table 25.** Current and Future Projects – South Routt Area.

<b>Project, Activity, Concern</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Size</b>
Create defensible space and reduce fire hazards on private property	Private landowners	Unk
Stagecoach Fuels Project – fuel reduction in and around Stagecoach area as part of State Fire Assistance Grant	OCFPD	
Morrison Creek Project – treatment along private/USFS boundary in Morrison Creek drainage	USFS	1,200
Increase public awareness of ag burning Road hazard right-of-ways	Routt County Private landowners, Routt County	N/A

**Stagecoach Fuels Project**

Oak Creek Fire Protection District received a State Fire Assistance Grant to reduce fuels in and around the Stagecoach area. Implementation will begin in 2010.

### Morrison Creek - USFS

The USFS is in the planning phase of treating fuels through timber harvests along the national forest and private land boundary in Morrison Creek area. Approximately 1,200 acres have been identified. Implementation is scheduled for 2011.

### Routt County Road Hazard Project

An analysis of the hazard trees adjacent to private and public roads was conducted in 2009. Many of these roads and hazards are currently being addressed. The complete analysis can be found in the Appendix.

### USFS Road Hazard Project

The US Forest Service is currently treating multiple forest service roads throughout the Routt National Forest. Full-scale tree removal along all forest roads that contain dead lodgepole pine is being utilized. Multiple roads segments are being addressed yearly with the completion anticipated in 2013.

## **West Routt Area**

**Table 26.** Current and Future Projects – West Routt Area.

<b>Project, Activity, Concern</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Size</b>
Create defensible space and reduce fire hazards on private property	Private landowners	Unk
Increase public awareness of ag burning	Routt County	N/A
Road hazard right-of-ways	Private landowners, Routt County	

### Routt County Road Hazard Project

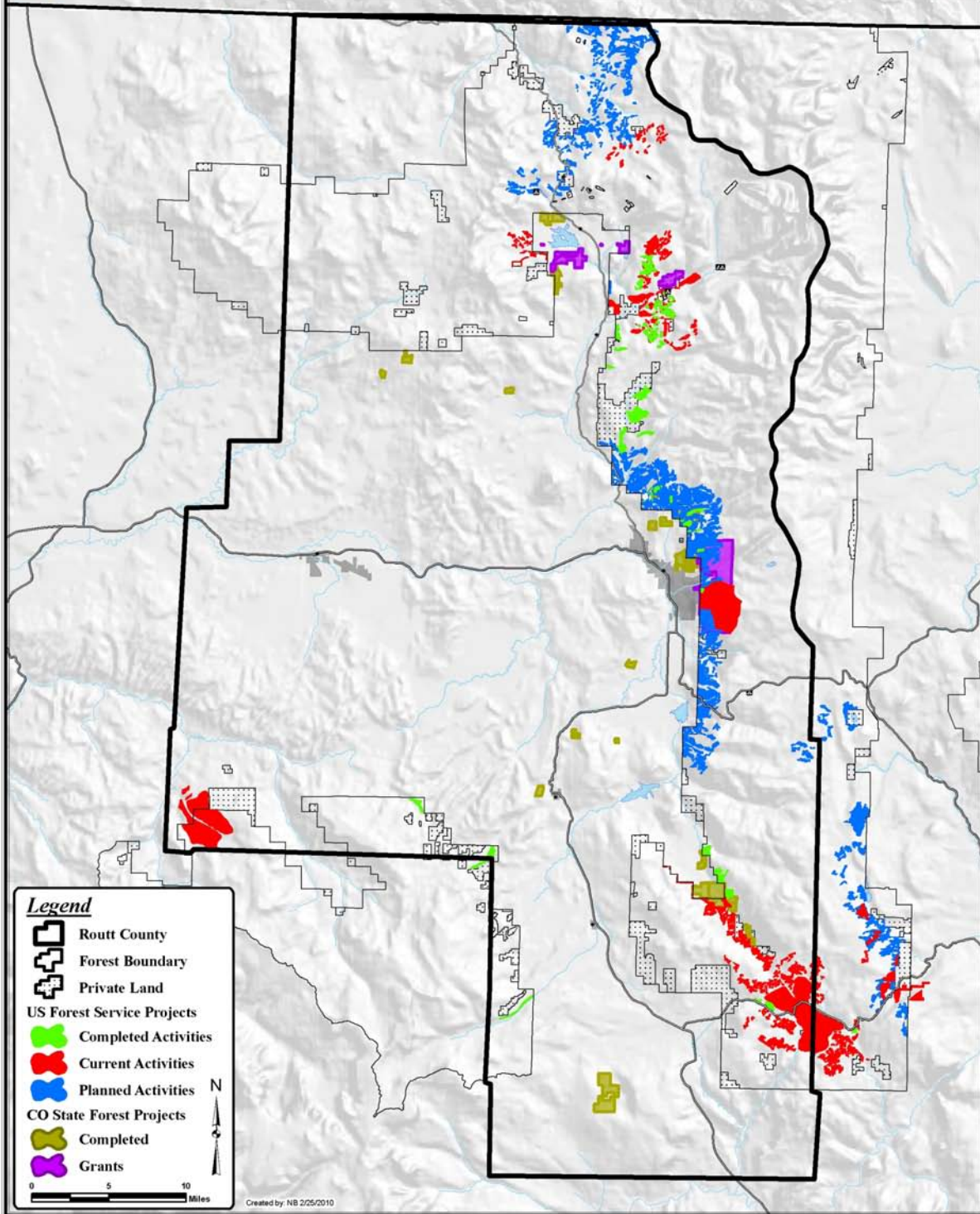
An analysis of the hazard trees adjacent to private and public roads was conducted in 2009. Many of these roads and hazards are currently being addressed. The complete analysis can be found in the Appendix.

### USFS Road Hazard Project

The US Forest Service is currently treating multiple forest service roads throughout the Routt National Forest. Full-scale tree removal along all forest roads that contain dead lodgepole pine is being utilized. Multiple roads segments are being addressed yearly with the completion anticipated in 2013.



# ROUTT COUNTY CWPP PROJECT MAP

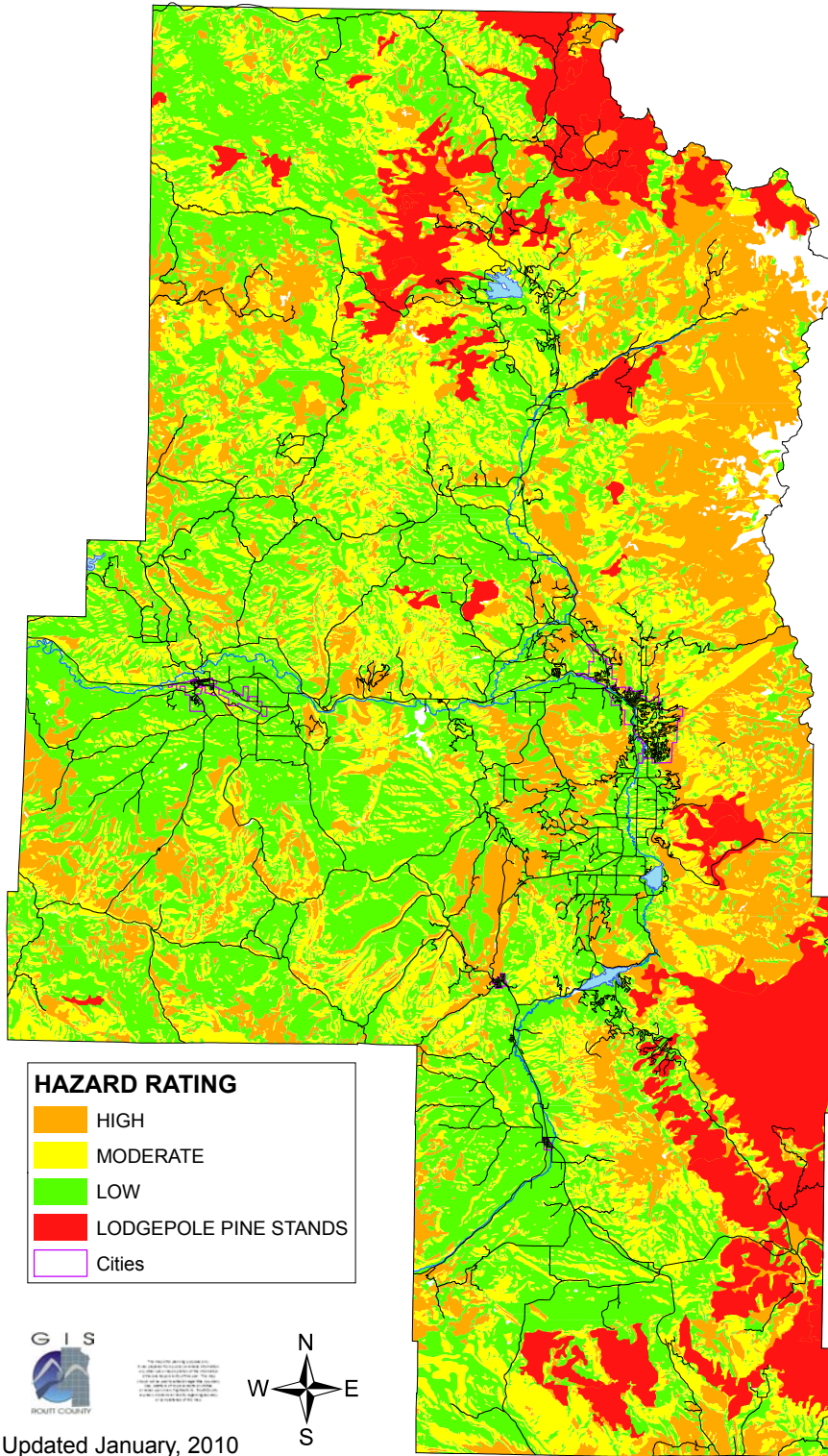


# Appendix A: Maps

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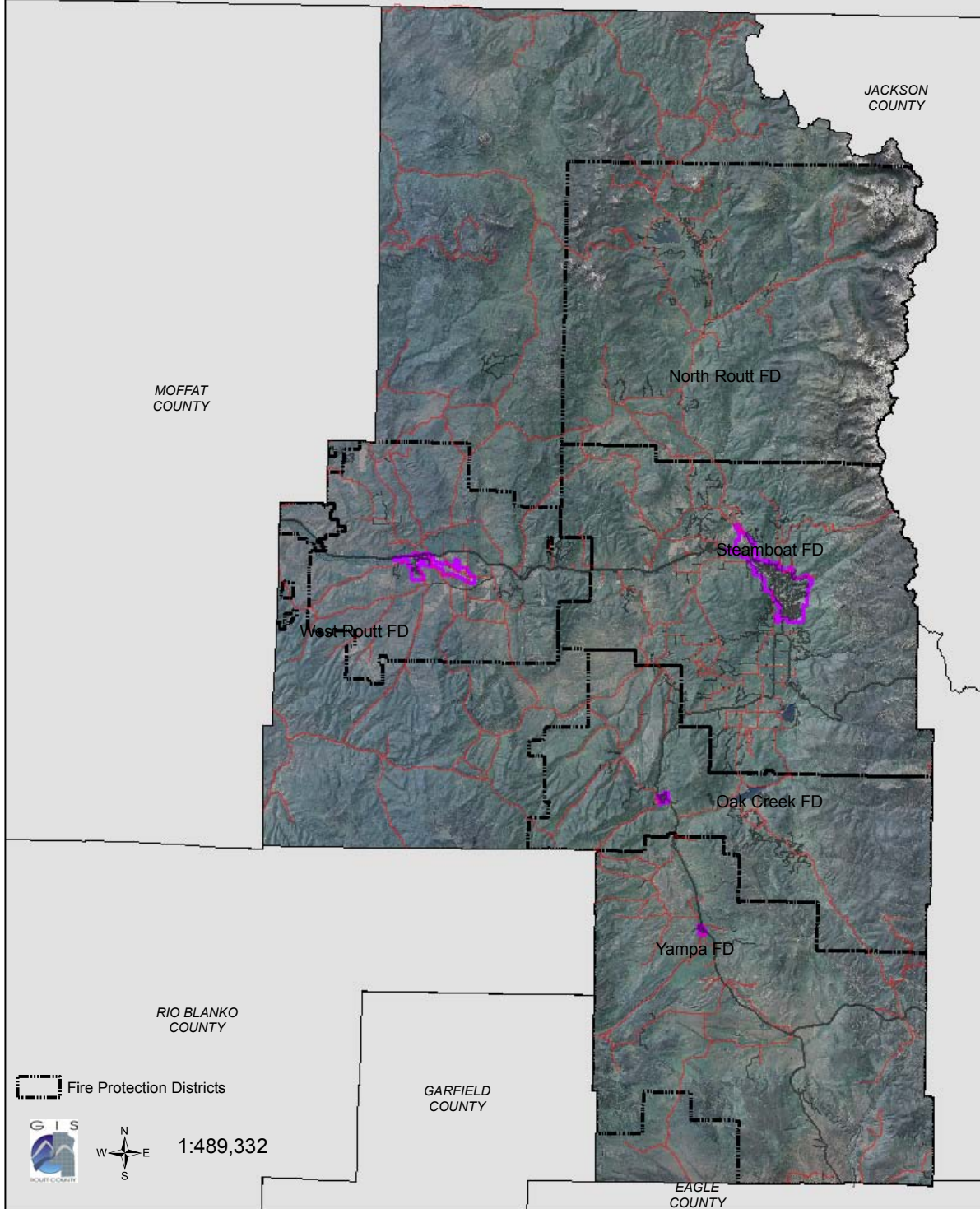


# Routt County Wildfire Hazard





# Routt County



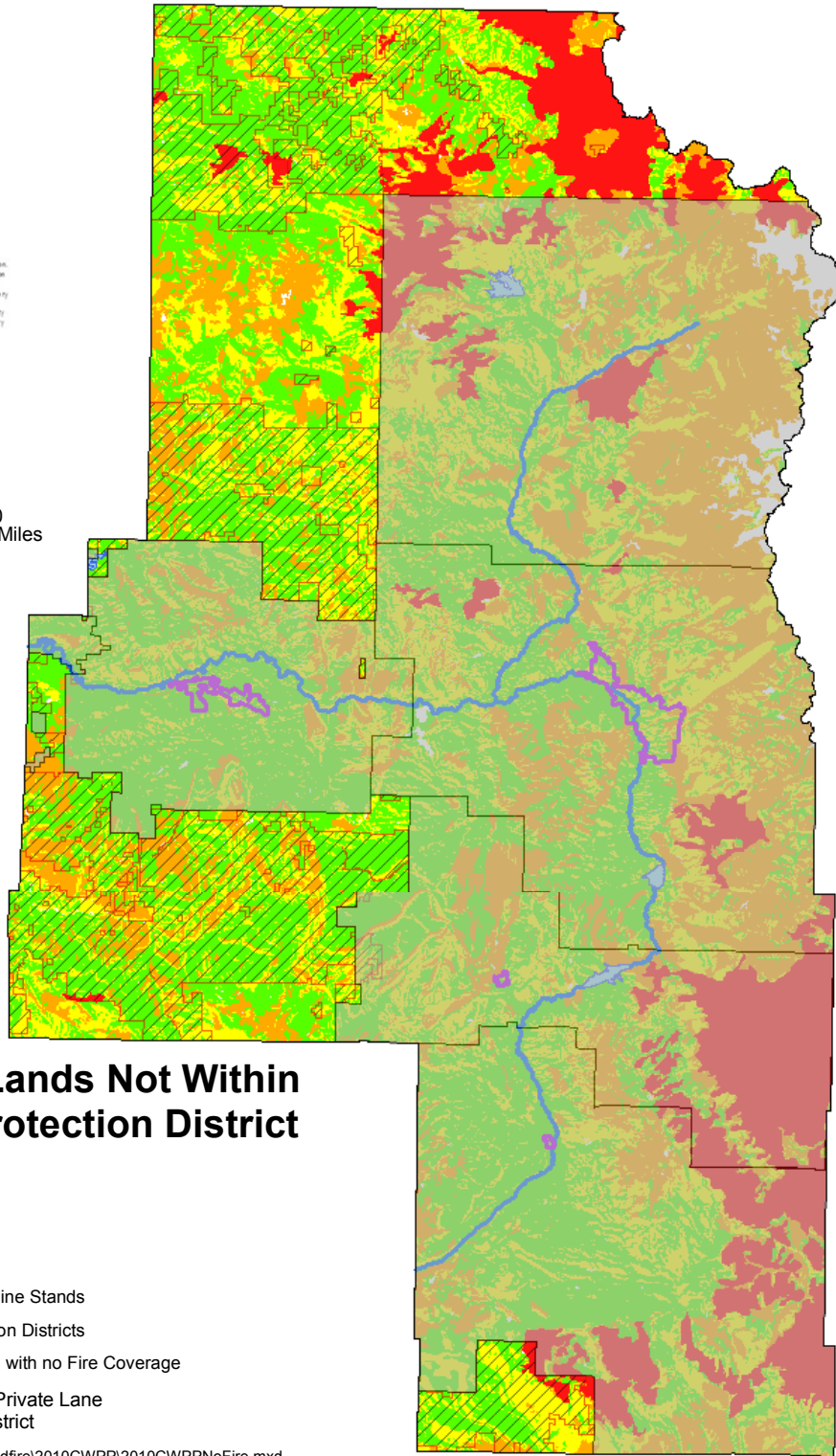


The map is for planning purposes only. It was prepared from public available information. Any other use or reproduction of the information in this map is solely at the user's risk. This map should not be used to establish legal title, boundary lines, locate or delineate legal property, or relied upon in any litigation. Rout County does not assume any liability for any inaccuracy or omissions in this map.



0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Updated January, 2010



## Private Lands Not Within A Fire Protection District

### Hazard Rating

- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Lodgepole Pine Stands
- Fire Protection Districts
- Private Land with no Fire Coverage

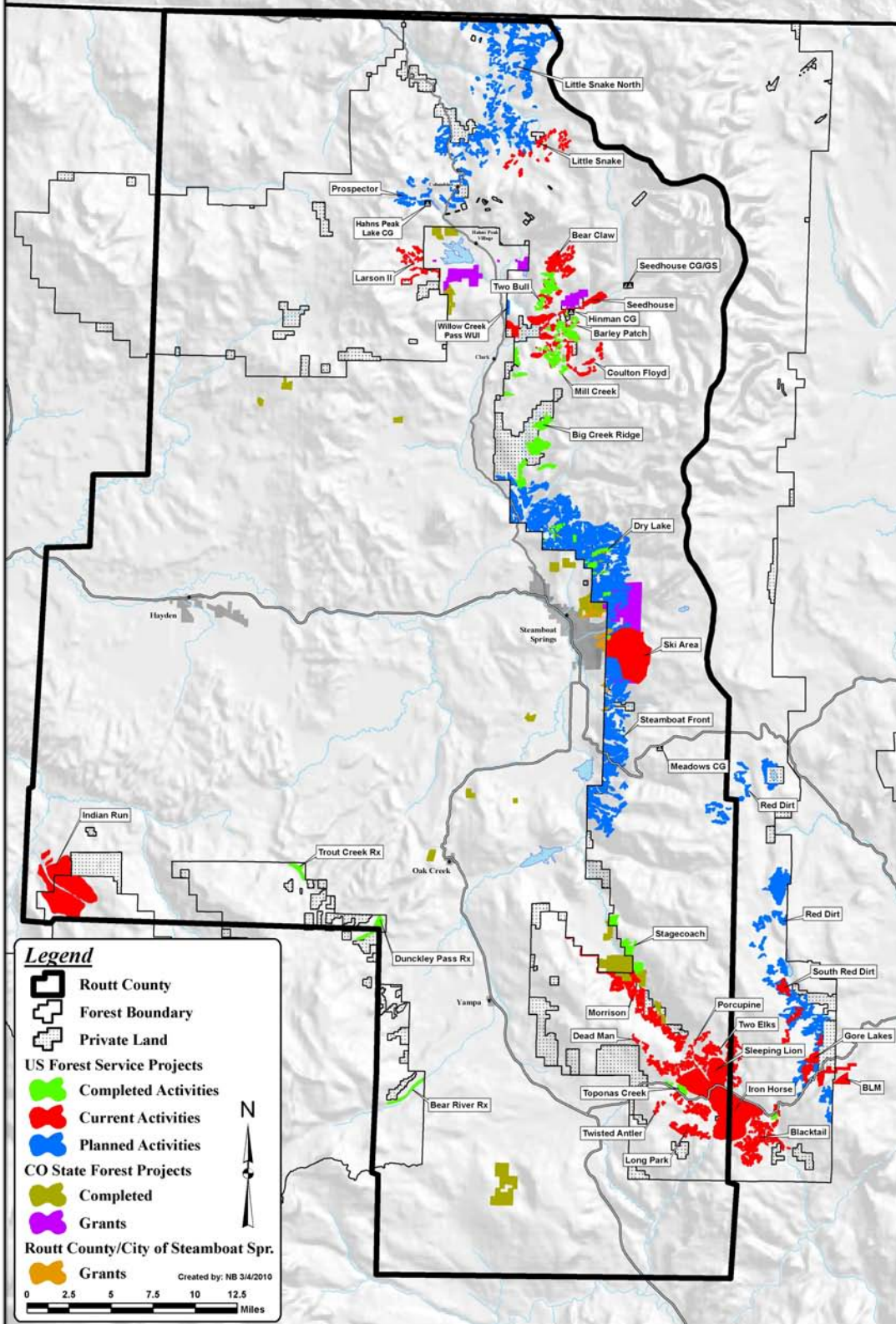
269,906 Acres of Private Lane not within a fire district

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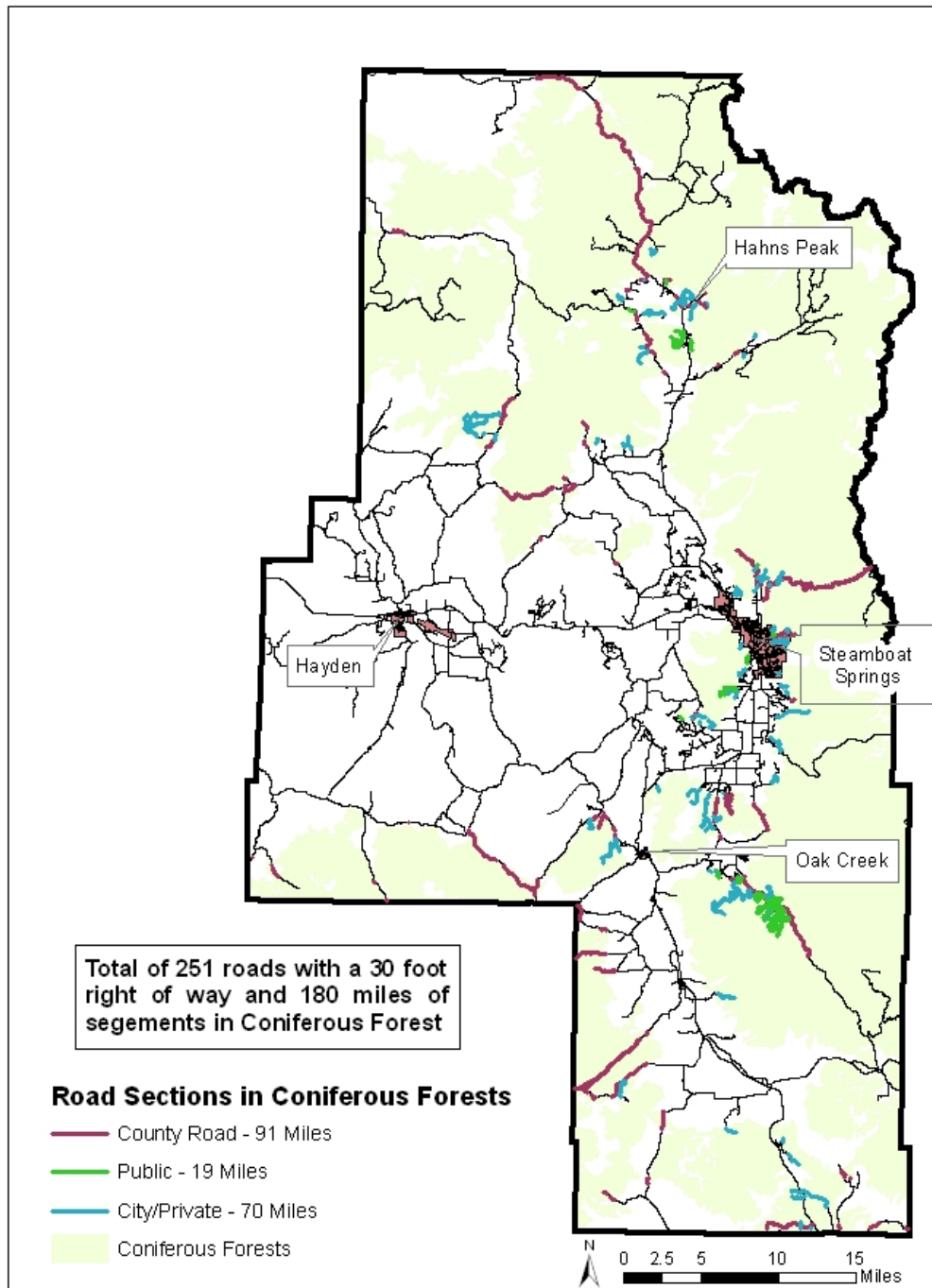




# ROUTT COUNTY CWPP PROJECT MAP

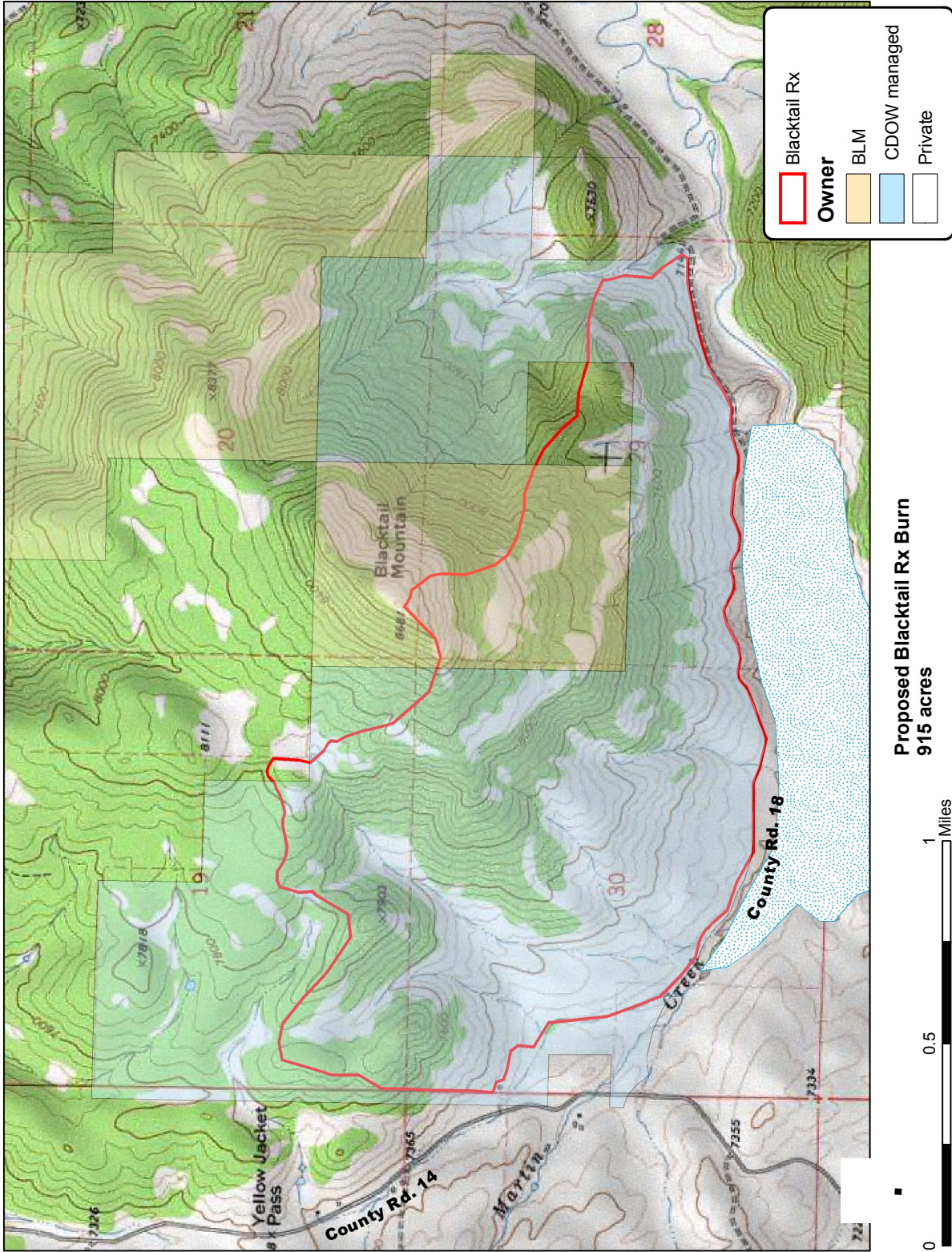


# Routt County Road Clearing Analysis

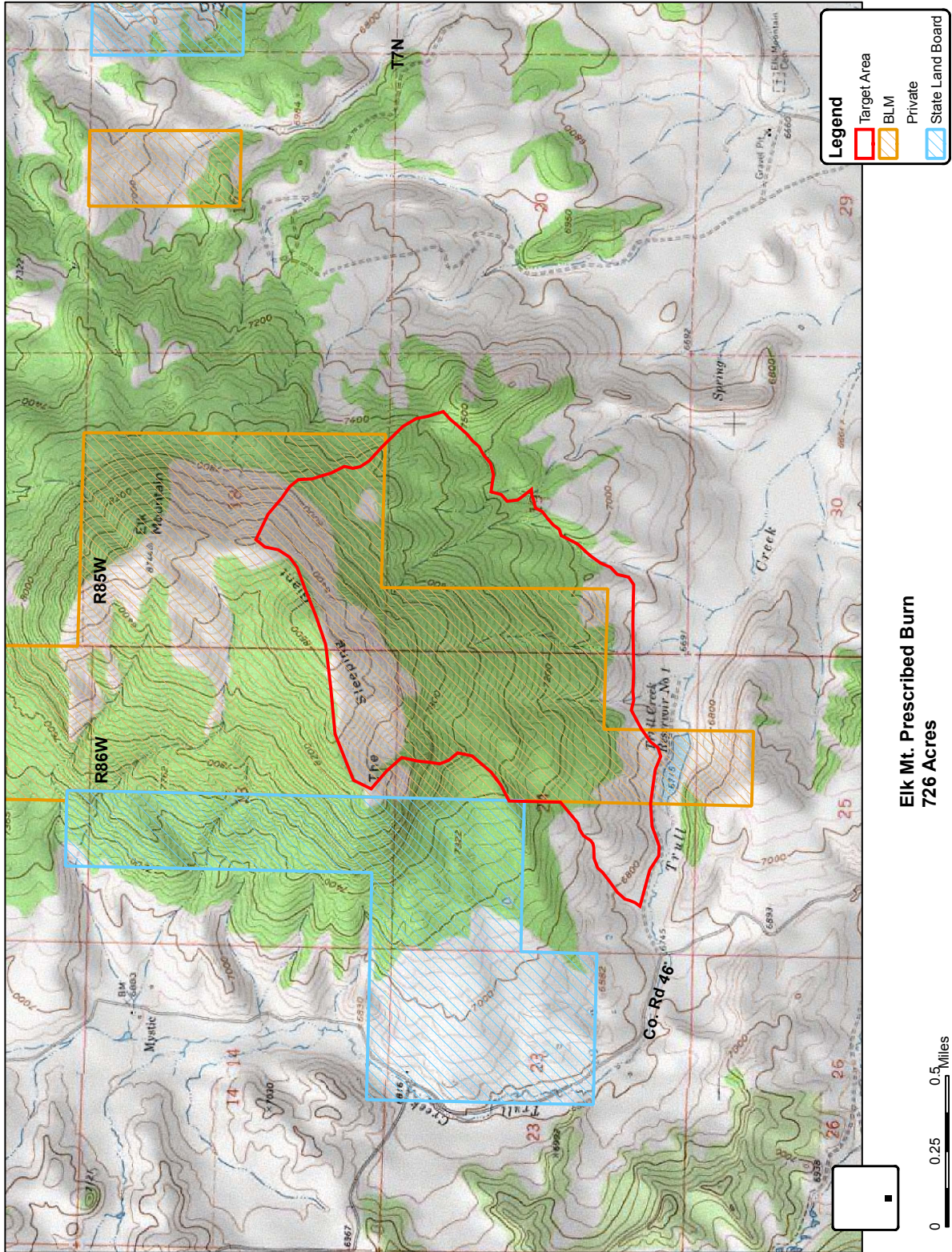


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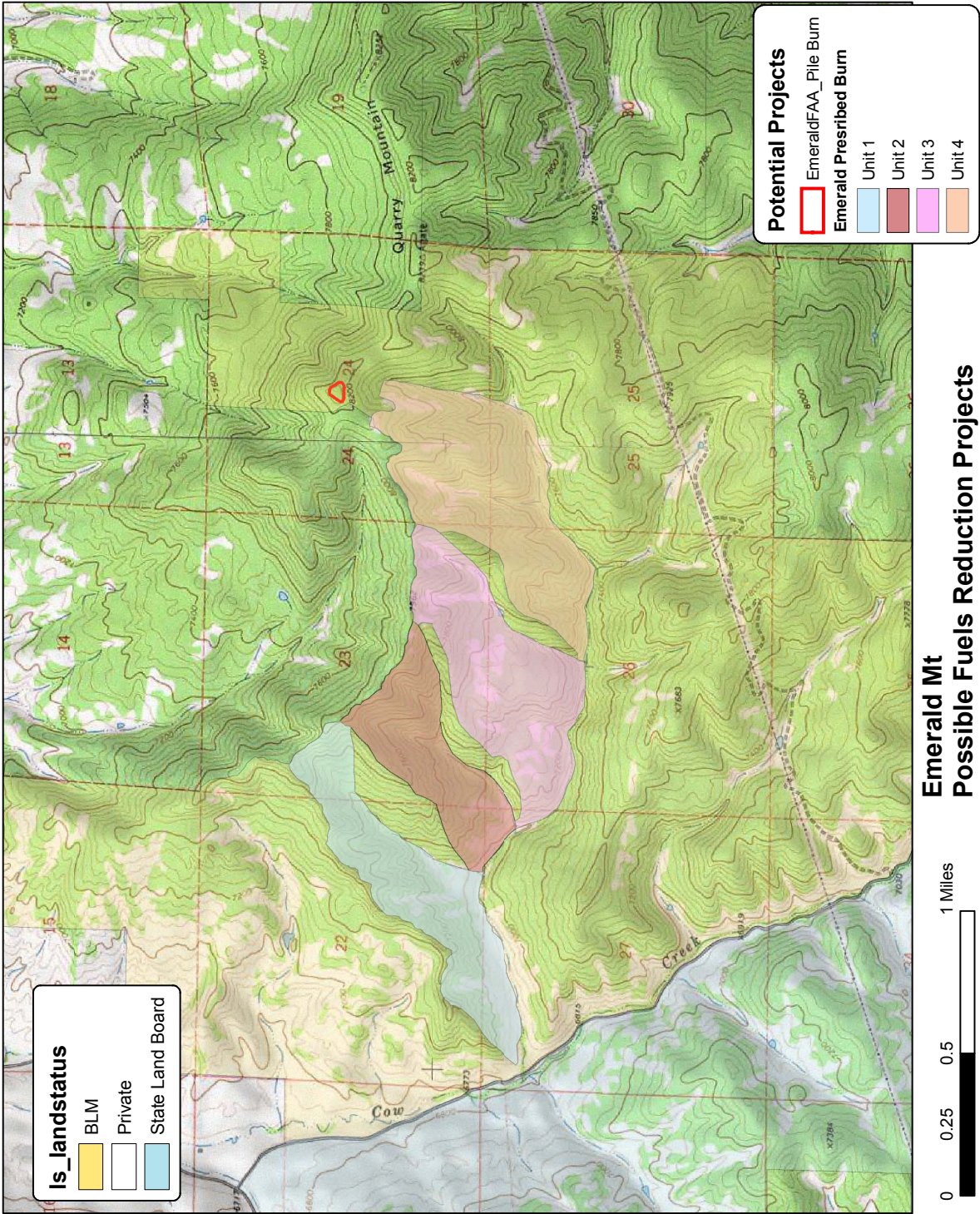




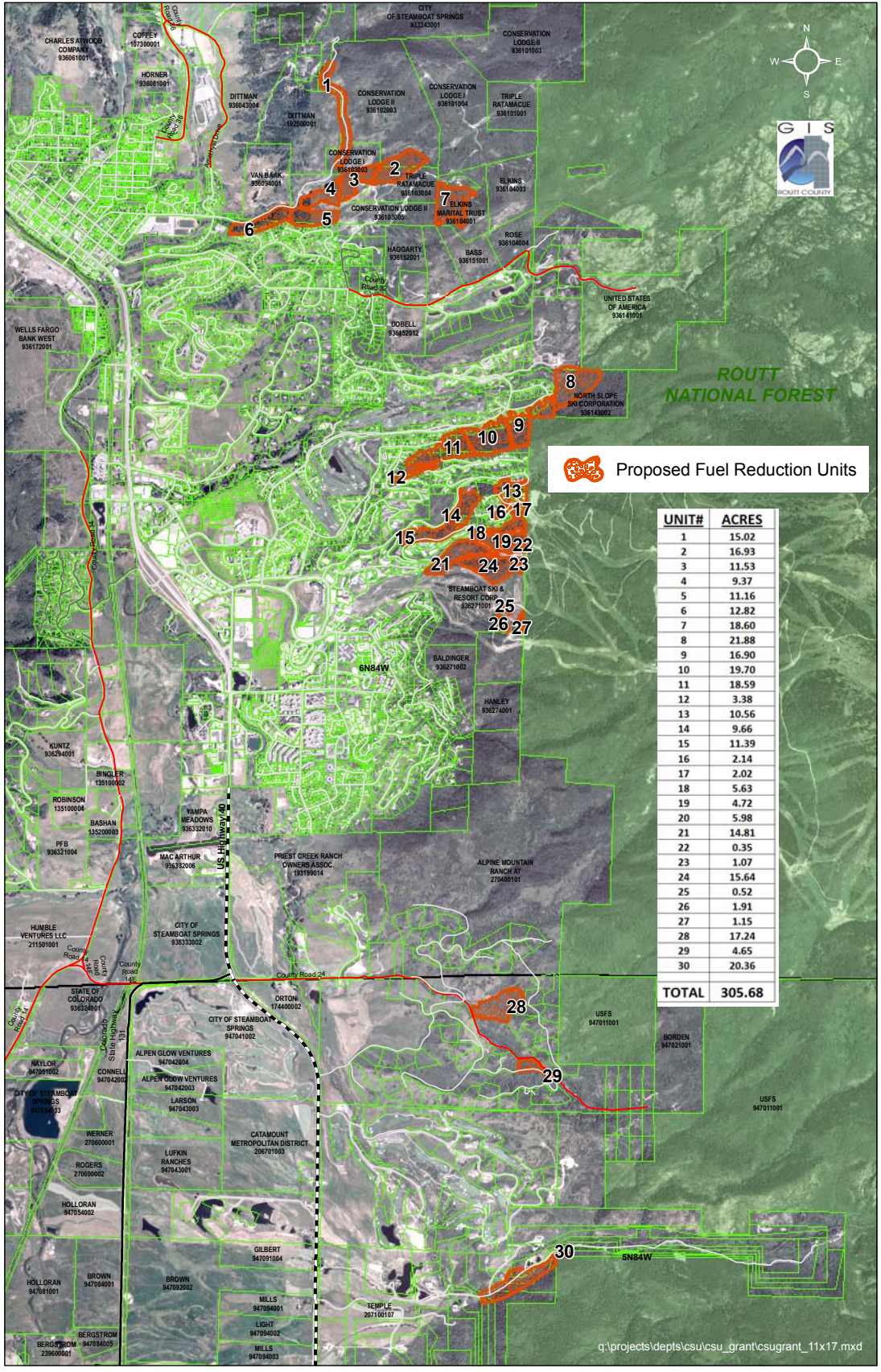












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# Appendix B: Meeting Summaries and Comments

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## **Routt County CWPP Meeting Notes August 20, 2009**

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### **Attendees:**

Bart Brown & John Twitchell (CSFS), Bob Struble (Routt OEM), Mel Stuart (SSFR), Bob Reilley (NRFPD), Jason Striker (Routt EH), Craig Robinson (SSP&R), Lance Miles (SSRC)

### **Discussion:**

County wide CWPP is unfunded mandate via Colorado Senate Bill 09-001. SB requires guidelines to be established by 11/15/09 by CSFS but CSFS doesn't expect any major modifications from existing guidelines. Projects "in process" will be grandfathered should major guideline changes occur. County has until 1/1/2011 to complete a fire hazard determination and complete the CWPP by 7/1/2011.

Some reasons for completing this sooner than later:

- Access to grant money for those not currently covered by CWPP
- Allows for CO state tax deduction for performance of wildfire mitigation for years 2009-2013

Several areas in Routt County are currently covered by CWPPs and will be incorporated in the county-wide plan. Existing plans include: North Routt CWPP; Fish Creek CWPP; Burgess Creek CWPP; Steamboat Pines CWPP; Stagecoach CWPP.

Had general discussion re identifying the key players to make up a core group before moving forward (Step 1 of CSFS CWPP Guidelines). Decided that the above attendees with the inclusion of USFS (Mark Cahur) and BLM (Lyn Barclay) and other fire districts would constitute this core group. Hope to also add one or two local citizens. Dave McIrvin and John Halverson were mentioned and will be asked to attend future meetings.

Decided to focus the county wide CWPP into 4 basic areas: North Routt, South Routt, West Routt and Steamboat Area utilizing the approximate boundaries of the Fire Districts

North Routt CWPP wishes to remain a stand-alone plan so whether the area in extreme N Routt will be included in the NR CWPP or as a separate section in the NR Area is TBD.

Broad county-wide priorities (no order): View sheds; recreation opportunities; utilities; watersheds and neighborhoods.

General timeframe and plan of attack: lay out basic information for each area prior to requesting additional public input on their values of importance. Public meetings may require moderator/facilitator such as Deb Alpe with Jackson County Extension.

Mark Cahur (USFS) has indicated a willingness to contribute GIS support but will need to confirm.

Completed CWPP by early 2010.

**Tasks:**

- John Twitchell:
  - Set up meeting with Jon Roberts, Steamboat Springs City Manager, to better explain CWPP
  - Letter to SSRFPD board to inquire as to whom they would like to represent them at these meetings (due Sept 1 to Mel)
  - Inquire with State for better definition of Ag burn
- Bart Brown:
  - Forward NR CWPP to Lance and Craig
  - Invite Dave McIrvin and John Halverson to next meeting
  - Determine next meeting location (USFS?)
- Lance Miles:
  - Bring areas of concern to next meeting
- Craig Robinson
  - Bring areas of concern to next meeting

**Future Topics:**

Please forward to Bart

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, September 15, 2009 10am-12pm @ USFS

Focus: Steamboat area priorities

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**Core Group Contact Information** (as of 8/20/09)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Bart Brown	CSFS	970.879.0475	bartbrown2@mac.com
John Twitchell	CSFS	970.879.0475	johntw@lamar.colostate.edu
Bob Struble	OEM	970.870.5551	bstruble@co.routt.co.us
Mark Cahur	USFS	970.870.2214	mcahur@fs.fed.us
Lyn Barclay	BLM	970.826.5096	lynn_barclay@co.blm.gov
Mel Stewart	SSFR	970.879.7170	mstewart@steamboatsprings.net
Bob Reilley	NRFDP	970.879.6064	northrouthfirechief@yahoo.com
Chuck Wisecup	OCFPD	970.736.8104	ocfpd@nctelecom.net
Bryan Rickman	WRFPD	970.276.3796	westrouthchief@netscape.net
Craig Robinson	City SS	970.879.4300	crobinson@steamboatsprings.net
Lance Miles	SSRC	970.871.5317	lmiles@steamboat.com
Jason Striker	EH	970.879.0185	jstriker@co.routt.co.us

# Routt County CWPP Meeting Notes September 15, 2009

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## **Attendees:**

Bart Brown (CSFS), Mark Cahur (USFS), Chuck Wisecup (OCFPD), Bob Struble (Routt OEM), Scott Havener (SRFPD), Jason Striker (Routt EH), Lyn Barclay (BLM), Mel Stuart & Deb Funston (SSFR), Bob Reilley (NRFPD), Craig Robinson (SSP&R), Lance Miles & Doug Allen (SSRC), Dave McIrvin (Sanctuary CWPP)

## **Discussion:**

Had general discussion recapping previous meeting for those not present at that meeting. County wide CWPP will be broken into 4 basic areas: North Routt, South Routt, West Routt and Steamboat Area utilizing the approximate boundaries of the Fire Districts.

Focus on today's meeting: creating rough list of priorities in the Steamboat and surrounding area.

Lyn mentioned it might be worth creating a ranking list in each area. Will leave that for public input as to create more specific rankings.

Because North Routt CWPP wants to remain separate and intact because of effort put into their plan, Bart asked Dave McIrvin if he had a preference for his (Sanctuary CWPP) plan. He did not and was ok with opening it up versus keeping separate.

As clarification, Lance questioned the level of detail needed in each area. Mark C discussed the plan being an active, changing document and that items mentioned in broad terms would be sufficient. Bob S suggested possibly referencing the Crisis Management Plan for more specifics if needed.

Discussion on Areas:

### All Areas

Human caused fires in recreation areas; view sheds; recreation opportunities; utilities; watersheds and neighborhoods.

### Ski Area

Utilities, infrastructure, watershed, recreational opportunities

**Priorities:** dead lodgepole, vegetation around infrastructure and utilities

Chuck Wisecup – concern about those areas we don't know about like internal plans from various subdivisions. Jim Ficke plans?

County CWPP might become a repository for all CWPPs and mitigation plans in county.

Fish Creek/Sanctuary Area

Existing Sanctuary CWPP

Expand boundary so that Fish Creek Res and Long Lake as reflected as priority

Spring Creek Area

Dead lodgepole pine in Spring Creek area is priority

Recreation trails and public signage

Strawberry Park to Mad Creek Area

Dead trees on ROW in Strawberry Park, Buffalo Pass, Hot Springs and top of Perry Mansfield

Habitat Plans in Mad Creek

Emerald Mountain Area

Recreation, views, dead tree removal, utilities, FAA site, public signage due to usage  
Habitat Plans (BLM)

Milner Area (North and South)

Acknowledge ag burning component

Subdivisions and utilities

Howelsen Hill

MPB related removals

131 Corridor

Hazard tree removal

14 Corridor

Elk Mountain/Blacktail fuels (BLM)

Catamount/US40 Area

Road hazard tree removal as well as on NF system roads

USFS fuels project for fuels and wildlife.

These are some areas identified. Need the public to bring other concerns to the meeting

May want to place BMPs for smoke management in a section.

Group feels comfortable with moving forward with public meeting.

Utilize SS Community Center for meeting.

Possibly do an opening statement and discussion or Open House style (ie Roadless Meeting)

Utilize web sites (SSFR and OEM) for distributing info prior to meeting as well as making comments. Should be able to utilize [stmbt@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:stmbt@lamar.colostate.edu) address for clearinghouse of email comments.

Web page should have an FAQ, CWPP basics and links to existing CWPPs

**Tasks:**

- Bart Brown & Mark Cahur:
  - Create visuals/maps for meeting
- Bart Brown & Lyn Barclay:
  - Create framework for meeting
- Deb Funston
  - Determine feasibility of blog, etc for comments on SSFR site

**Future Topics:**

Please forward to Bart

**Next Meeting:**

Public Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2009 5pm-7pm @ Community Center

Focus: Public comment on Steamboat area

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**Core Group Contact Information** *(as of 9/15/09)*

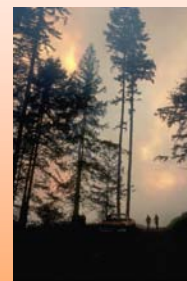
<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Bart Brown	CSFS	970.879.0475	bartbrown2@mac.com
John Twitchell	CSFS	970.879.0475	johntw@lamar.colostate.edu
Bob Struble	OEM	970.870.5551	bstruble@co.routt.co.us
Mark Cahur	USFS	970.870.2214	mcahur@fs.fed.us
Lyn Barclay	BLM	970.826.5096	lynn_barclay@co.blm.gov
Mel Stewart	SSFR	970.879.7170	mstewart@steamboatsprings.net
Bob Reilley	NRFDP	970.879.6064	northrouttfirechief@yahoo.com
Chuck Wisecup	OCFPD	970.736.8104	ocfpd@nctelecom.net
Bryan Rickman	WRFPD	970.276.3796	westrouttchief@netscape.net
Craig Robinson	City SS	970.879.4300	crobinson@steamboatsprings.net
Lance Miles	SSRC	970.871.5317	lmiles@steamboat.com
Jason Striker	EH	970.879.0185	jstriker@co.routt.co.us
Doug Allen	SSRC	970.879.6111	dallen@steamboat.com
Deb Funston	SSFR	970.879.0700	dfunston@steamboatsprings.net
Dave McIrvin	Sanctuary	970.870.0935	dmmcirvin@aol.com
Scott Havener	SSRFPD		havener@springsips.com

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**Routt County CWPP  
Open House Notes/Handouts  
November 12, 2009**

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## Steamboat Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan OPEN HOUSE



**Thursday, November 12, 5 – 7 p.m.**  
**Steamboat Springs Community Center**

A wildfire protection plan contains recommendations to address local wildfire protection concerns organized as a realistic goal-plan including:

- Maps
- Risk assessments
- Wildfire history
- Fuel hazards and mitigation plan(s)
- Evacuation information and more

Public participation is crucial to the success of the plan. Information provided by individuals will aid in planning future hazardous fuel reduction projects and improving emergency response. When attending the meeting be prepared to:

- Ask questions
- Offer comments
- Identify areas that could be at risk to wildfire
- Identify needs such as; road signage, easily identifiable addressing

There will be two presentations to discuss Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and the planning process at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Representatives from the United States Forest Service, Steamboat Ski Corporation, Bureau of Land Management, Routt County Fire Chiefs, and Home Owner Associations from The Sanctuary and Burgess Creek will be available to share information.

•Visit [http://steamboatsprings.net/departments/public\\_safety/fire\\_department/daily\\_dispatch/community\\_wildfire\\_protection\\_plan](http://steamboatsprings.net/departments/public_safety/fire_department/daily_dispatch/community_wildfire_protection_plan) to learn more about Community Wildfire Protection Plans and view completed plans from other communities

This is a public project supported by Steamboat Fire Rescue, Routt County, City of Steamboat Springs, Colorado State Forest Service, United States Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

For more information call: Colorado State Forest Service at 970-879-0475, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue at 970-879-7170, or The Routt County Office of Emergency Management at (970) 870-5549.



## Routt County firefighters seek help with community plan

By [Zach Fridell](#)

Thursday, November 12, 2009

### If you go

An open house to discuss the Steamboat Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan is from 5 to 7 p.m. today with presentations at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the Steamboat Springs Community Center. Anyone interested can learn about the project and suggest areas of concern as the plan is developed.

For more information, call the Colorado State Forest Service at 879-0475, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue at 879-7170 or the Routt County Office of Emergency Management at 870-5549, or [click here](#).

Steamboat Springs — The firefighters and forest managers of Routt County are requesting residents' help to develop a wildfire protection plan for the Steamboat Springs area.

Fire experts are seeking input about topics from road signs to defensible space as they begin creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Lynn Barclay, spokeswoman for the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit, said this is part of an ongoing process that will be updated annually to address the area's needs.

As a part of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and a Colorado Senate bill, all counties are required to have a plan in place by July 2011. Barclay said the first version of the plan likely will be created in less than eight months, with updates each year after that.

Today's meeting also is the first step in combining local plans for North Routt County, Stagecoach and the Sanctuary and Burgess Creek neighborhoods into one umbrella plan for the county.

Steamboat Springs Fire Chief Ron Lindroth, who worked on creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in Larimer County, said the plan is a general structure for fire prevention efforts.

"It's a broad brush stroke of what the community values and how we want to approach it and make sure those values are in place when we look at wildfire protection," he said.

That can include anything from the land management policies at Steamboat Ski Area — a representative from Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp. will be at the presentation — to whether a neighborhood prefers tree thinning to clear-cut fire spaces.

The open house, at the Steamboat Springs Community Center, is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. with presentations at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Barclay said it also is important to create the community plan so local groups can be eligible for federal funding.

The plan is being shepherded by the city of Steamboat Springs, Routt County and the Colorado State Forest Service with support from the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

# Steamboat Area CWPP Open House

## Schedule of Events

5:00 - 7:00 Open House (visit, interact, question, and comment)  
5:30 & 6:30pm CWPP Presentation

## What is a CWPP?

A CWPP is a Community Wildfire Protection Program. They are part of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. CWPPs are community based plans that discuss local interests and concerns regarding public safety, community sustainability, natural resources and how the community will reduce wildland fire. Additionally these plans outline those focus/priority areas of concern as well as solutions/projects (e.g. firefighting capability, defensible space, etc).

## Why a CWPP?

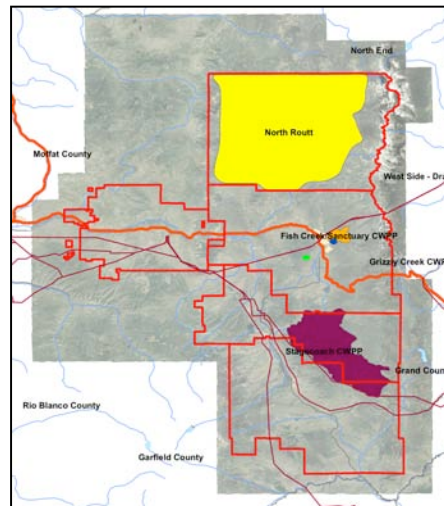
In addition to the benefits mentioned below, Colorado Senate Bill 09-001 sets forth that by July 2011 each county will have a CWPP established for the purpose of addressing the wildfire issues/wildfire areas. In order to better manage the vast and diverse areas in Routt County, the Steamboat Area will be one of four sections in a greater countywide CWPP.

## Existing CWPPs in Routt County

Several communities have already gathered, discussed, and created CWPPs for their specific areas. The existing plans within Routt county are:

- North Routt
- Steamboat Pines
- Burgess Creek
- Sanctuary
- Stagecoach Area

All of these CWPPs will be incorporated into the Routt County CWPP.



## What are the Benefits?

- A CWPP allows the community to take the lead on priority setting for its own protection.
- CWPPs help establish and give priority to those projects that protect at-risk communities or watersheds.
- Many grant opportunities are now tied to established CWPPs.
- House Bill 08-1110 establishes an income tax deduction for costs associated with wildfire protection measures during 2009-2013. However, the deduction is only valid for those areas that have a CWPP.

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### How can you help?

As a community member, we need your input on identifying those areas of importance and risk to wildfire.

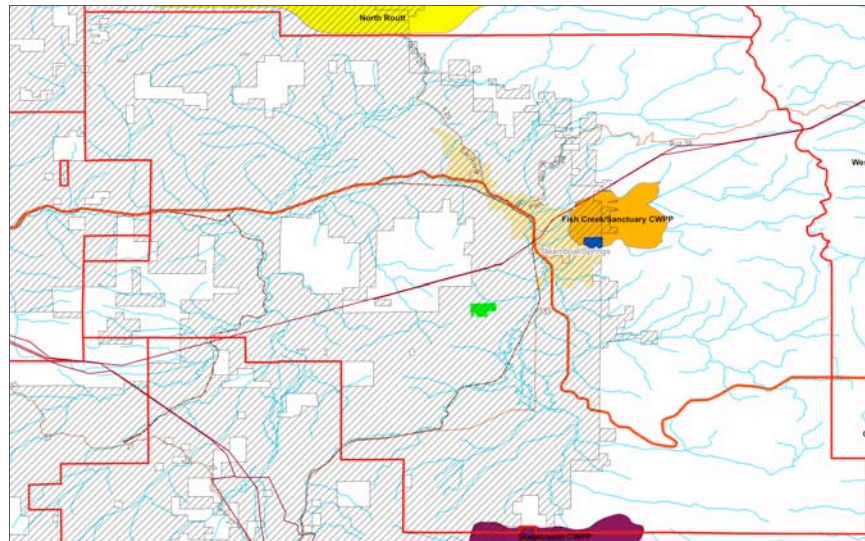
Please visit the different areas to ask questions, interact and comment on those areas of concern you may have.

Some considerations (no particular order):

- Human caused fires
- View sheds
- Recreational opportunities (Ski Area, Spring Creek, Emerald Mt)
- Utilities/infrastructure (powerlines, etc)
- Watersheds (Fish Creek)
- Neighborhoods and defensible space
- Dead trees along right-of-ways and recreational areas

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### Tonight's Area of Focus



*Steamboat Springs and Surrounding Area*

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### Comments

Public comments and participation is key to making this plan a success. Please comment on your areas of concern via the forms located throughout this venue. Should you have additional comments following this or future meetings, please utilize the following email address:

[steambt@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:steambt@lamar.colostate.edu)

SIGN-IN SHEET  
 Steamboat Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Thursday, November 12, 2009

Name & Affiliation (PLEASE PRINT)	Address	Phone/Fax/Email
Dane McIsaac Commonwealth	3232 Aspenwood St	970-0935
Linda McIvrie	"	"
Emy Parndorf - Routt County		870-5465
Bob STUMBLE - RCOEM		870-5551
T.J. BRADY	406 Cherry Drive St	208-870-4142
Jamie Kingsbury Routt National Fire	411 <del>Boardwalk</del> <del>Boardwalk</del>	970-870-2119
Winnie DeLuca	47 Route 104 POB 776104 - 80477	846-4705
Laura Blakey	PO Box 775806 Steamboat Springs, CO 80477	871-7073
Chris Wilson	City of Steamboat Spgs	879-4300

**SIGN-IN SHEET**  
**Steamboat Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

**Thursday, November 12, 2009**

Name & Affiliation (PLEASE PRINT)	Address	Phone/Fax/Email
Ben Beall City of Steamboat Spss	257 Spruce St Steamboat Spss, CO 80487	bensbeall@gmail.com

**Comment Form  
For  
Steamboat Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

Name: T.J. Brady Phone: 203-870-4142 Email: tjbrady@gmail.com

Address: 466 Cherry Dr Steamboat

Affiliation (HOA, Recreation, Ranching, etc.): Resident Date: 10/12/09

(Example of informative comment: Area: Sanctuary Comment/concern: Create firebreak along back side of houses/dead trees need to be removed around homes and roads/not all roads are signed/area around power line needs to be cleared of shrubs and trees etc.)

I attended tonight's meeting to gain further information concerning Steamboat's plan of action if/when a wildfire incident occurs. As a former wildland firefighter for the US Forest Service and current resident of Steamboat, I wanted to see what steps have been taken btw emergency services, state & federal agencies, and local property/homeowners in developing ways to mitigate wildfire, and properly handle any future incidents. I look forward to seeing this process unfold. Please keep me posted w/ any further information. Thanks for taking steps in the right direction.

Comments can be emailed to: [steambt@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:steambt@lamar.colostate.edu) or mailed to:

Steamboat Area CWPP, Colorado State Forest Service, PO Box 773657, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

**Comment Form  
For  
Steamboat Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

Name: Linda McIrvin Phone: 870-0935 Email: Lmcir@aol.com  
Address: 3232 Aspen Wood Lane  
Affiliation (HOA, Recreation, Ranching, etc.): Sanctuary HOA - Architectural Control Cmte Date: 11/12/09

(Example of informative comment: Area: Sanctuary Comment/concern: Create firebreak along back side of houses/dead trees need to be removed around homes and roads/not all roads are signed/area around power line needs to be cleared of shrubs and trees etc.)

Sanctuary is concern Landslides, boulder slides along  
ridge if substantial tree base is not left in place.  
↳ <sup>above</sup> ~~between~~ Aspen Wood Drive/Steamboat Blvd.  
Loss of shade, tree cover riparian area Fish Creek  
As member of Architectural Control Committee,  
and answerable to covenants regarding environmental  
nature of aspen preserve, concern re preservation of  
aspen stands in Ridge Preservation Area & Aspen  
Preservation Area. Minimizing logging secondary damage.

Comments can be emailed to: [steambt@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:steambt@lamar.colostate.edu) or mailed to:

Steamboat Area CWPP, Colorado State Forest Service, PO Box 773657, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

**Comment Form  
For  
Steamboat Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

Name: Dave McIrvin Phone: 870-0935 Email: dmmciv@col.com  
Address: 323A Aspen Way LN  
Affiliation (HOA, Recreation, Ranching, etc.): Sanctuary Dev't Date: 11/12/09

*(Example of informative comment: Area:Sanctuary Comment/concern: Create firebreak along back side of houses/dead trees need to be removed around homes and roads/not all roads are signed/area around power line needs to be cleared of shrubs and trees etc.)*

This is such a vital imperative to living in St. I feel  
lucky to live here and learn from such a full body  
of experts from the state, the govt, county, city  
and others in this fine community.  
Once fire season begins, apathy will wane.

Dave McIrvin

Comments can be emailed to: [steambt@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:steambt@lamar.colostate.edu) or mailed to:

Steamboat Area CWPP, Colorado State Forest Service, PO Box 773657, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477



# Routt County CWPP

## Meeting Notes

### December 9, 2009

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#### **Attendees:**

Bart Brown & John Twitchell (CSFS), Mark Cahur (USFS), Bob Struble (Routt OEM), Jason Striker & Mike Zopf (Routt EH), Lynn Barclay & Gina Robison (BLM), Layton White & Ron Lindroth (SSFR), Bob Reilley (NRFPD), Lance Miles (SSRC), Emy Parmley (Routt GIS),

#### **Discussion:**

Lack of turnout at the Open House. Press did not do the group any favors by getting the word out at most 1 day prior. While the press had the information for 2 weeks the radio station (KRAI) ran the story the day before and the Steamboat Pilot ran the story the day of the meeting. Will try and get a better targeted plan prior to the next public meeting.

Some people had concerns regarding the new CWPP guidelines from the CSFS. New guidelines require projects. Bob S asked if there was a 3 of projects required. John T interprets there is no set number. Projects were a guideline before and a standard now. Also concern that the signatories to the plan were at the state level versus local. John believes it is still at the local level.

Emy had questions/clarifications on what analysis should be done. Discussion occurred by all parties. For now a structure density analysis will be done and others TBD at a later date.

#### **Tasks:**

- Bart, Emy, Mark C:
  - Maps to be created
    - Known projects
    - Fuel hazards
    - Structure density analysis
    - Basic watershed map
    - County map with existing CWPPs and Steamboat area
- All parties
  - Forward **brief** projects summaries to Bart
- Bart Brown:
  - Begin assembling draft plan

#### **Future Topics:**

Please forward to Bart

#### **Next Meeting:**

Not set. Probably additional core group meeting prior to public meeting (late Jan early Feb)

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**Core Group Contact Information** *(as of 12/10/09)*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Bart Brown	CSFS	970.879.0475	bartbrown2@mac.com
John Twitchell	CSFS	970.879.0475	johntw@lamar.colostate.edu
Bob Struble	OEM	970.870.5551	bstruble@co.routt.co.us
Mark Cahur	USFS	970.870.2214	mcahur@fs.fed.us
Lynn Barclay	BLM	970.826.5096	lynn_barclay@co.blm.gov
Mel Stewart	SSFR	970.879.7170	mstewart@steamboatsprings.net
Bob Reilley	NRFPD	970.879.6064	northrouttfirechief@yahoo.com
Chuck Wisecup	OCFPD	970.736.8104	ocfpd@nctelecom.net
Bryan Rickman	WRFPD	970.276.3796	westrouttchief@netscape.net
Craig Robinson	City SS	970.879.4300	crobinson@steamboatsprings.net
Lance Miles	SSRC	970.871.5317	lmiles@steamboat.com
Jason Striker	EH	970.879.0185	jstriker@co.routt.co.us
Doug Allen	SSRC	970.879.6111	dallen@steamboat.com
Deb Funston	SSFR	970.879.0700	dfunston@steamboatsprings.net
Dave McIrvin	Sanctuary	970.870.0935	dmmcirvin@aol.com
Scott Havener	SSRFPD		havener@springsips.com
Kathy Connell	SSRFPD		kconnell@resortgroup.com
Ron Lindroth	SSFR	970.879.0700	rlindroth@steamboatsprings.net
Emy Parmley	Routt GIS	970.870.5465	EParmley@co.routt.co.us

## NORTH ROUNTT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 2010 ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING

Saturday, June 5, 2010  
8:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
Station 2

### SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	PHONE & E-MAIL
Tiffanie Cook	879-9411
<del>Ethan</del> Jerimah Beach	1,03-986-3730
Don Moss	879-5477 dmoss@utep.edu
MIKE ZUCKERMAN	870-8104
RBaker	819-6588
Scott Andre	810-9272 gtbtdt@w50@gmail.com
Bob Perry <sup>John Thomas</sup> Williams	846-4311 northrouttfirechief@yahoo.com
Alvin & Bob Neenan	879-5335
Kay & John Black	870-6106
Mike Swinsick	
Don Crane	
Bob Struble	846-1552 bstruble@northroutt.com
Mark & Susie Buhle	879-1564 MXBuhle@gmail.com
Dulcy Kentopp	303-287-4311 dulcy@Juno.com
Marlin Kentopp	" "
Chuck & DJ VALE	970-879-3850

## NORTH ROUTT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 2010 ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING

Saturday, June 5, 2010  
8:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
Station 2

### SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	PHONE & E-MAIL
Quentin + Alvie Peters	970-434-7379
Emmy + Dan Thomasson + Kids	970-870-7506 - happyem830@yahoo
Fred + Sandra Jones	870-0476
John Tuttle II	—
Greg Murray	—
Leslie Longrij	970-879-8710 leslie@lovejoygraphics.c
Jeff Finoff	870-6186 JFinoff@AOL.com
Lennie Wagner	819-0867- —
Joni / Dave Morse	879-9314
Cody Palmer	—
<b>Jerry &amp; Shelley Stanford</b>	<b>879 1855 jstanford@gmail</b>

**Routt County CWPP**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**June 22, 2010**

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**Attendees:**

Bart Brown (CSFS), Mark Cahur (USFS), Bob Struble (Routt OEM), Lynn Barclay (BLM), Ron Lindroth, Christopher George, Matt Workman, Matt Bernstein, Tim Baldwin, Brian McGovern (SSFR)

**Discussion/Tasks/Modifications:**

- Quick overview of CWPP for new SSFR staff.
- Discussion on stats mentioned on page 12. Decided to leave because it shows need/concern that not all fires are lightning caused.
- Add meeting discussion re county-wide plan at North Routt FPD Annual Meeting. No comments received at that time.
- Lynn suggested incorporating BLM projects into Emerald Mt Section.
- USFS firewood permits removing fuels up and down boundary in Steamboat Area.
- ARRA projects: update list.
- Page 27: Bob S to get square miles of districts to Bart.
- Maybe add more verbiage to Steamboat Area.
- Settlement ponds around Mt Werner Water a concern as well as Stillwater Res area.
- High hazard dams in county from Bob S to Bart.
- Many activities have multiple benefits such as wildlife habitat.
- Morrison Creek Project in South Routt (from USFS).
- Possibly change Project Summary section by geographic region.
- Add Leighton White to Core Group list.

**Future :**

Modify existing draft before having a public meeting in late July and wrapping up project. Place drafts on web site and get with Deb re. a possible blurb in the newspaper.

**Next Meeting:**

Late July - TBD

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**Core Group Contact Information** *(as of 6/22/10)*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Bart Brown	CSFS	970.879.0475	bartbrown2@mac.com
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Bob Struble	OEM	970.870.5551	bstruble@co.routt.co.us
Mark Cahur	USFS	970.870.2214	mcahur@fs.fed.us
Lynn Barclay	BLM	970.826.5096	lynn_barclay@co.blm.gov
Mel Stewart	SSFR	970.879.7170	mstewart@steamboatsprings.net
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Dave McIrvin	Sanctuary	970.870.0935	dmmcirvin@aol.com
Scott Havener	SSRFPD		havener@springsips.com
Kathy Connell	SSRFPD		kconnell@resortgroup.com
Ron Lindroth	SSFR	970.879.0700	rlindroth@steamboatsprings.net
Emy Parmley	Routt GIS	970.870.5465	EParmley@co.routt.co.us
Leighton White	SSFS	970.879.0700	lw@leightonwhite.com

**Routt County CWPP**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**July 22, 2010**

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**Attendees:**

Bart Brown & Mary Griffin (CSFS), Sam Duerksen (USFS), Bob Struble & Cheryl Dalton (Routt OEM), Lynn Barclay (BLM), Ron Lindroth (SSFR), Chuck Wisecup & Chris Zuschlag (OCFPD), Bob Reilley and Susan Marshall (NRFPD), Dave Bustos (RCSO), Nancy Stahoviak (RC Commissioner), Dan Allen (YFPD)

**Discussion/Tasks/Modifications:**

Bart gave quick update on the progress and status of plan: Updates from last meeting were completed - most notably the future projects and new appendix section for ease in adding annual updates.

Bart asked about the need to keep the Routt County Fire Plan in the Appendix because of size. All decided to keep in the document.

Lynn reminded the group that grant money exists for future risk assessments, etc if needed.

Bart mentioned the previous attempts at public comment and involvement and lack thereof. Group decided to place draft on Routt County's web site and hopefully CSFS and SSFR as well to see if any additional public comments will be received. Routt County will have a media event on Monday July 26 and will mention draft plan.

**Tasks/Modifications:**

- Add a comment about communication towers in the Infrastructure Section.
- Bob S will provide tower map when completed to add to plan.
- Chuck W. will provide photos and paragraph about OCFPD grant and progress.
- Add Phippsburg water supply to Table 1.
- Add David Blackstun as signatory for BLM
- Add middle initial "J" to Nancy Stahoviak
- Add paragraph re BLM and USFS fire capability/involvement

**Future:**

Modify plan with above items. Bart will coordinate with CSFS, SSFR and RC to get draft on web next week when media briefing occurs. If any additional public comments are received, add them to the plan. Go before Commissioners in probably Sept for final signatures.

**Next Meeting:**

None scheduled

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**Core Group Contact Information** *(as of 7/22/10)*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Bart Brown	CSFS	970.879.0475	bartbrown2@mac.com
John Twitchell	CSFS	970.879.0475	johntw@lamar.colostate.edu
Bob Struble	OEM	970.870.5551	bstruble@co.routt.co.us
Mark Cahur	USFS	970.870.2214	mcahur@fs.fed.us
Lynn Barclay	BLM	970.826.5096	lynn_barclay@co.blm.gov
Mel Stewart	SSFR	970.879.7170	mstewart@steamboatsprings.net
Bob Reilley	NRFPD	970.879.6064	northrouttfirechief@yahoo.com
Chuck Wisecup	OCFPD	970.736.8104	ocfpd@nctelecom.net
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## Appendix C: Existing CWPPs

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- Stagecoach CWPP
- Fish Creek CWPP
- Steamboat Pines CWPP
- North Routt CWPP
- Burgess Creek CWPP



# Appendix D: Routt County Fire Plan

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# Appendix E: Annual Project Updates and Addendums

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## Appendix F: Other Information

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- Senate Bill 09-001
- Routt County Road Clearing Analysis
- 2010 Wildfire Hazard Map Data