

BEAVER CREEK, COLORADO

Wildland Urban Interface: Community Wildfire Protection Plan



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PURPOSE

This document has the following primary purposes:

1. To provide a comprehensive, scientifically-based analysis of wildfire related hazards and risks in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas of the Beaver Creek Resort community.
2. Using the results of the analysis, generate recommendations designed to prevent and/or reduce the damage associated with wildfire to WUI values in the Beaver Creek study area.
3. Create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) document for Beaver Creek which conforms to the standards for CWPPs established by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA).

INTRODUCTION

The Beaver Creek CWPP is a result of a community-wide planning effort including extensive field data gathering, compilation of existing documents and GIS data, scientifically based analyses and recommendations designed to reduce the threat of wildfire related damages to values at risk. This document incorporates new and existing information relating to wildfire which will be valuable to citizens, policy makers, and public agencies in and adjacent to the Beaver Creek community. Participants in this project include homeowners, the Beaver Creek Resort Company, Eagle County, adjacent state and federal land managers and other stakeholders. This document meets the requirements of the federal Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 for community fire planning.

The assessment portion of this document estimates the hazards and risks associated with wildland fire in proximity to WUI areas. This information, in conjunction with identification of the values at risk, defines “areas of concern” and allows for prioritization of mitigation efforts. From the analysis of this data, solutions and mitigation recommendations are offered that will aid homeowners, land managers and other interested parties in developing short-term and long-term fuels and fire management plans.

Wildfire hazard data is derived both from the Community Wildfire Hazard Rating system (WHR) and from the analysis of Fire Behavior Potential, which are extensive and/or technical in nature. Detailed findings and methodologies for these analyses are included in their entirety in appendices rather than the main report text. This approach is designed to make the plan more readable, while establishing a reference source for those interested in the technical elements of the Beaver Creek wildfire hazard and risk assessment.

For the purposes of this report the following definitions apply:

Risk is considered to be the likelihood of an ignition occurrence. This is primarily determined by the fire history of the area.

Hazard is the combination of the WHR ratings of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) neighborhoods and the analysis of Fire Behavior Potential, as modeled from the fuels, weather, and topography of the study area. Hazard attempts to quantify the severity of undesirable fire outcomes to the values at risk.

Values at Risk are the intrinsic values identified by the citizens as being important to the way of life in the study area (e.g., life safety, property conservation, access to recreation, and wildlife habitat).

THE NATIONAL FIRE PLAN AND THE HEALTHY FOREST RESTORATION ACT

In the year 2000, more than eight million acres burned across the United States, marking one of the most devastating wildfire seasons in American history. One high-profile incident, the Cerro Grande fire at Los Alamos, NM, destroyed more than 235 structures and threatened the Department of Energy's nuclear research facility.

Two reports addressing federal wildland fire management were initiated after the 2000 fire season. The first report, prepared by a federal interagency group, was titled "Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy" (2001). This report concluded, among other points, that the condition of America's forests had continued to deteriorate.

The second report, titled "Managing the Impacts of Wildfire on Communities and the Environment: A Report to the President in Response to the Wildfires of 2000", was issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS). It became known as the National Fire Plan (NFP). This report, and the ensuing congressional appropriations, ultimately required actions to:

- Respond to severe fires
- Reduce the impacts of fire on rural communities and the environment
- Ensure sufficient firefighting resources

Congress increased its specific appropriations to accomplish these goals. 2002 was another severe season: more than 1,200 homes were destroyed and over seven million acres burned. In response to public pressure, congress and the Bush administration continued to designate funds specifically for actionable items such as preparedness and suppression. That same year, the Bush administration announced the HFRA initiative, which enhanced measures to restore forest and rangeland health and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. In 2003, that act was signed into law.

Through these watershed pieces of legislation, Congress continues to appropriate specific funding to address five main sub-categories: preparedness, suppression, reduction of hazardous fuels, burned-area rehabilitation, and state and local assistance to firefighters. The

general concepts of the NFP blended well with the established need for community wildfire protection in the study area. The spirit of the NFP is reflected in the Beaver Creek CWPP.

This CWPP meets the requirements of HFRA by:

1. Identifying and prioritizing fuels reduction opportunities across the landscape (see *Landscape Scale Fuels Modification FMU* on pages 38-43 of this document).
2. Addressing structural ignitability (see *Home Mitigation FMU* on pages 34-37 and **Appendix B**)
3. Assessing community fire suppression capabilities (see *Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capabilities FMU* on pages 29-33).
4. Collaborating with stakeholders (see **Appendix E**).

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals for this project include the following:

1. Enhance life safety for residents and responders.
2. Mitigate undesirable fire outcomes to property and infrastructure.
3. Mitigate undesirable fire outcomes to the environment, watersheds, and quality of life.

In order to accomplish these goals, the following objectives have been identified:

1. Establish an approximate level of risk (the likelihood of a significant wildfire event in the study area).
2. Provide a scientific analysis of the fire behavior potential of the study area.
3. Group values at risk into “communities” that represent relatively similar hazard factors.
4. Identify and quantify factors that limit (mitigate) undesirable fire effects to the values at risk (hazard levels).
5. Recommend specific actions that will reduce hazards to the values at risk.

OTHER DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. **Heightened community awareness:** Quantifying the community's hazards and risk from wildfire will facilitate public awareness and assist in creating public action to mitigate the defined hazards.
2. **Improved wildfire prevention through education:** Community awareness, combined with education, will help to reduce the risk of unplanned human ignitions.
3. **The facilitation and prioritization of appropriate hazardous fuel reductions:** Organizing and prioritizing hazard mitigation actions into Fire Management Units (FMUs) will provide stakeholders with social and fire-management perspectives, allowing them to make better decisions about their future efforts.

4. **Improved levels of response:** The identification of areas of concern will improve the focus and accuracy of pre-planning, and facilitate the implementation of cross-boundary, multi-jurisdictional projects.

COLLABORATION: COMMUNITY/AGENCIES/FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives involved in the development of the Beaver Creek CWPP are included in the following table. Their names, organizations, and various roles and responsibilities are indicated in **Table 1**. For more information on the collaborative process that led to the development of this CWPP, see **Appendix E**, *Beaver Creek CWPP Collaborative Effort*.

Table 1. CWPP Development Team

Name	Organization	Roles / Responsibilities
Jim Funk, OEM Director	Beaver Creek Resort Company	Local information and expertise, including community values. Development of community protection priorities. Implementation of fuels treatment project areas and methods.
Ron Cousineau, District Forester	Colorado State Forest Service	Provides input and expertise on planning and hazard mitigation. Provides information on existing and planned projects on adjacent state lands.
Eric Lovgren, Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation Specialist	Eagle County	Facilitation of planning process and approval of CWPP minimum standards. Provides input and expertise on forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.
Rod Moraga, Managing Partner- Fire Behavior Analyst Chris White, WUI Specialist Marc McDonald, Project Manager Mark McLean, GIS Project Manager	Anchor Point Group LLC Consultants	Development of the CWPP document. Scientific analysis of fire behavior, community hazard and risk. Development of hazard mitigation actions and priorities. Establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods.

STUDY AREA OVERVIEW

Beaver Creek is located immediately south of Avon, Colorado, approximately 100 miles west of Denver, Colorado. The Beaver Creek community is accessed via Highway 6. The area is considered to be in the Montane zone (6000-10,000 ft) of the western slope of the Central Rockies of Colorado.¹ The predominant vegetation in the study area is quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), varying in coverage from open-stand woodland to dense forest. Along Beaver Creek, on the northeast boundary, conifers are intermixed with riparian vegetation. The study area also contains significant stringers of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), primarily on the south end of the community.

For this project, the residential areas were divided into seven neighborhoods. Each neighborhood represents certain dominant hazards from a wildfire perspective. Fuels, topography, structural flammability, availability of water for fire suppression, egress and navigational difficulties, as well as other hazards both natural and manmade, are considered in the overall hazard ranking of these neighborhoods. The methodology for this assessment uses the WHR community hazard rating system that was developed specifically to evaluate communities within the WUI for their relative wildfire hazard.² The WHR model combines physical infrastructure such as structure density and roads as well as fire behavior components like fuels and topography, with the field experience and knowledge of wildland fire experts. **Figure 1** shows the communities that define the WUI study area. For more information on the WHR methodology please see **Appendix B**.

As a reference for the rest of this document, please see **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**, which show the general topography of the area. These graphic representations of the landforms within the study area (elevation and slope) will be helpful in interpreting other map products in this report.

¹ Elevation limits for life zones were based on life zone ranges from: Jack Carter, "Trees and Shrubs of Colorado" (Boulder, CO: Johnson Books, 1988).

² C. White, "Community Wildfire Hazard Rating Form" *Wildfire Hazard Mitigation and Response Plan*, Colorado State Forest Service, Ft. Collins, CO, 1986.

Figure 1. Hazard Ranking of Communities in the Study Area

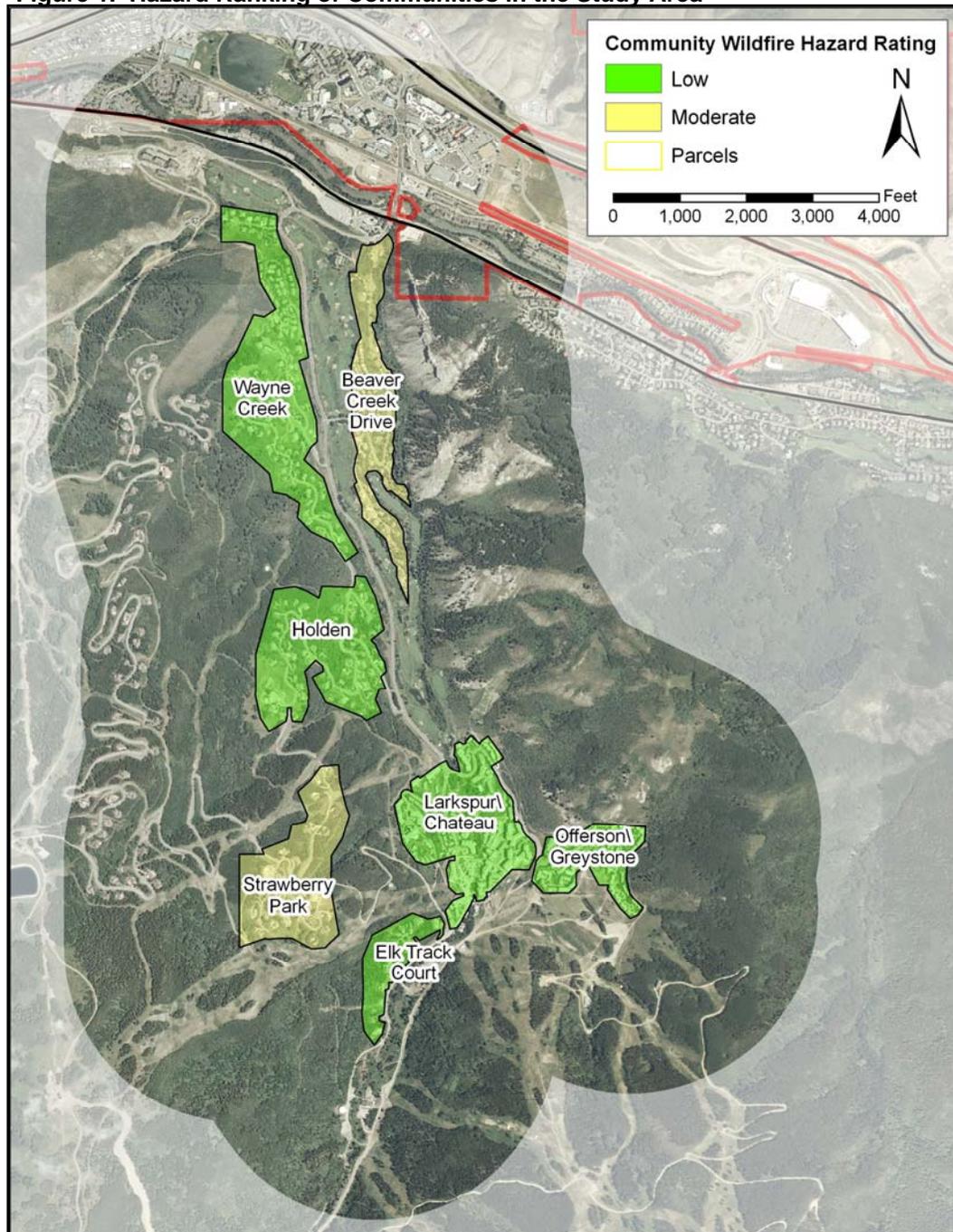


Figure 2. Slope

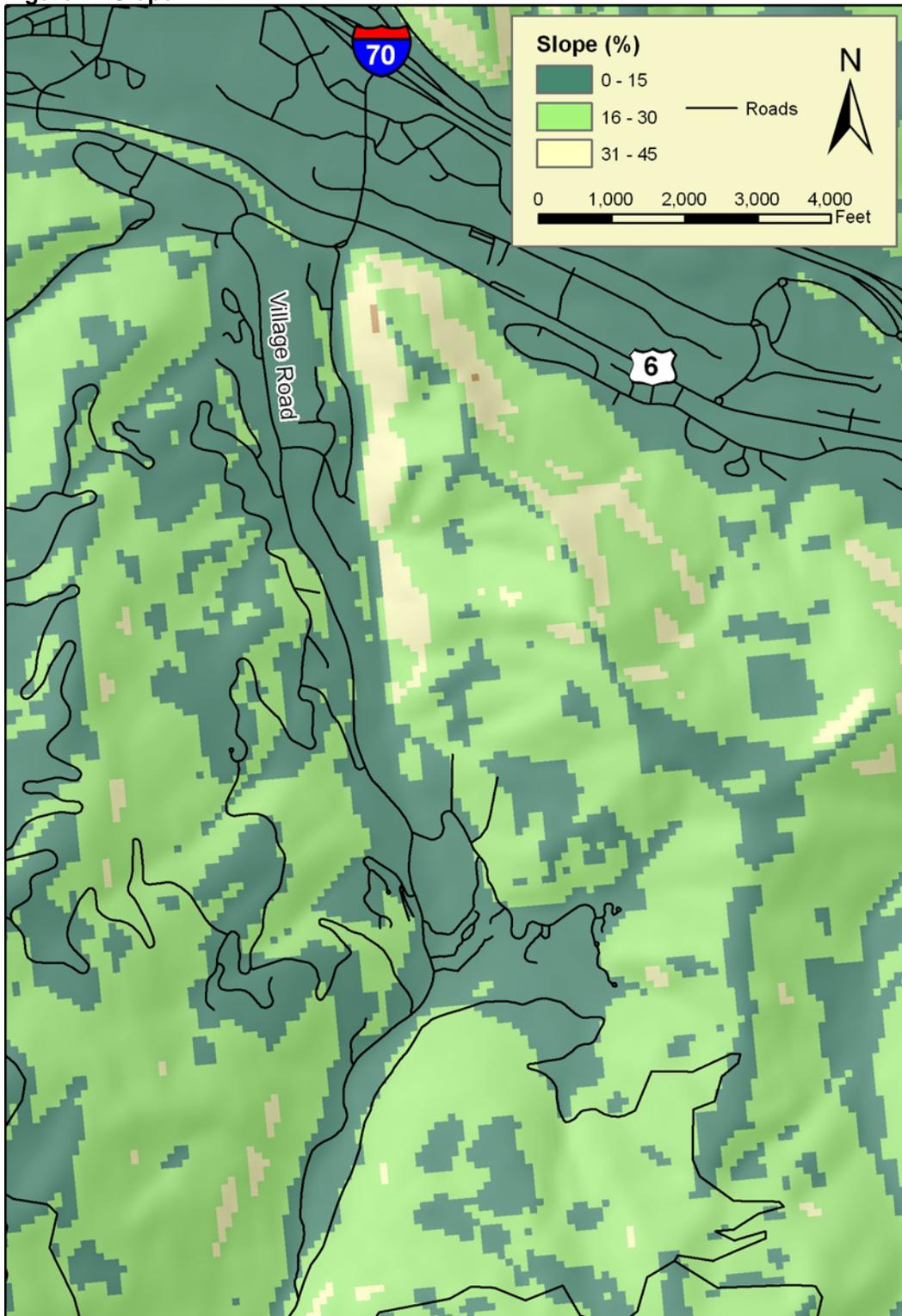
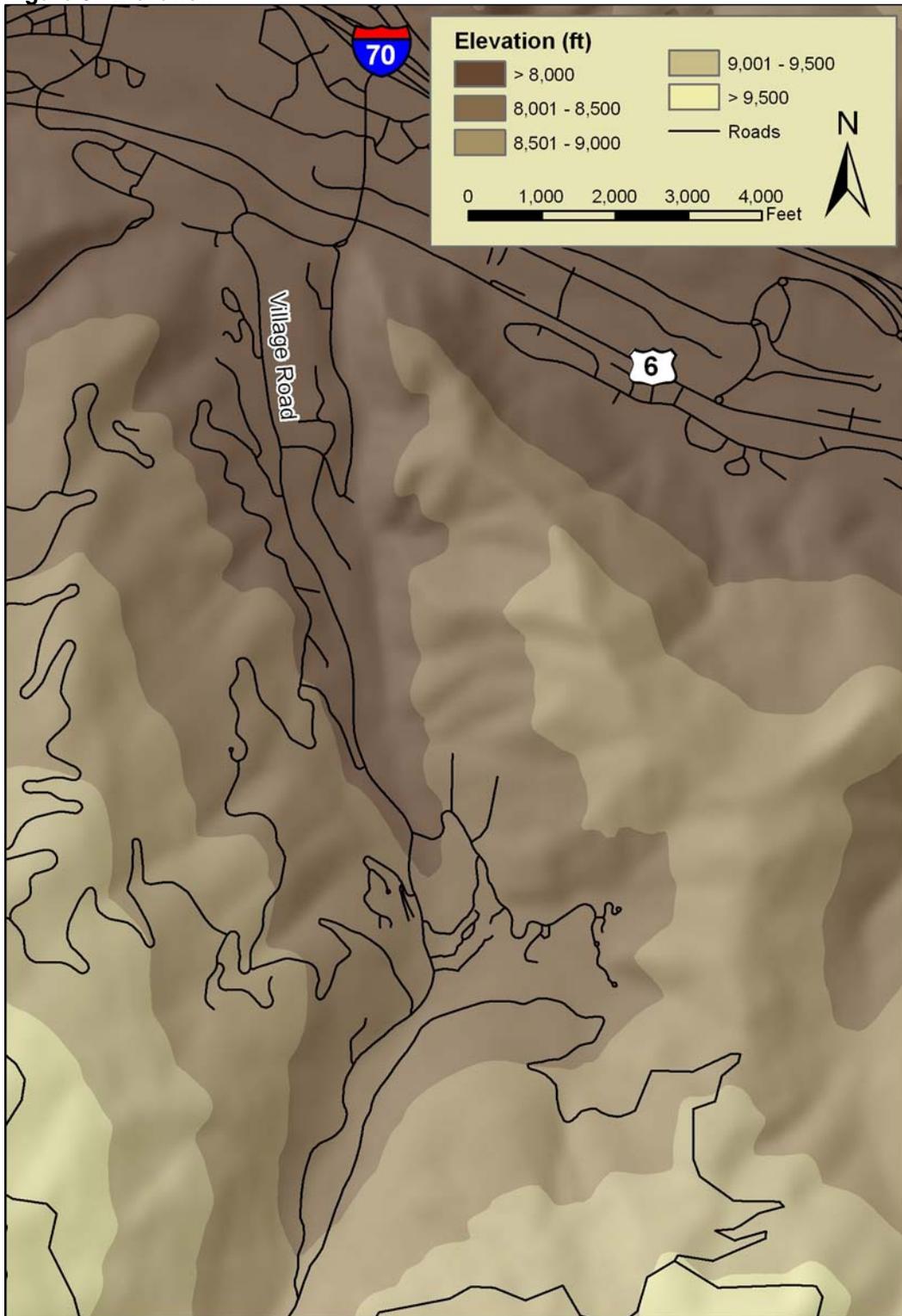


Figure 3. Elevation



VALUES

LIFE SAFETY AND HOMES

The Beaver Creek study area contains an approximate population of 250 people. It is located nine miles west of Vail and immediately south of Avon.³ In addition to the permanent population, there are several second homes; during the fire season part-time residents and guests could double the population. The study area is a gated community with single family, duplex, town home, and condominium residences.

With tens of thousands of people moving to Colorado each year, building in the once inaccessible mountain areas has become a growing concern. Of the 63 counties in Colorado, Eagle County is the sixth fastest growing county, with a population increase of 10.5% between 2000 and 2003.⁴ In 2006, 534 new building permits for single family homes were issued, and in the period from January to September of 2007, 169 permits for single family residences and 167 permits for multi-family structures were issued.⁵

Most of Eagle County is vulnerable to some form of natural disturbance, and wildland fire is one of the main concerns. Recent national disaster events have focused increased attention at both local and state government levels on the need to mitigate such events where possible, and to prepare to cope with them when unavoidable.

COMMERCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2005, Eagle County had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of \$44,200. The 2005 PCPI reflected an increase of 5.8% from 2004. The 2004-2005 state change was 4.7% and the national change was 4.2%. The 1995-2005 average annual growth rate of PCPI was 4.4%. The average annual growth rate for the state was 4.5% and for the nation was 4.1%.

In 2005, Eagle County had a total personal income (TPI) of \$2,107,633,000. The 2005 TPI reflected an increase of 9.2% from 2004. The 2004-2005 state change was 6.2% and the national change was 5.2%. The 1995-2005 average annual growth rate of TPI was 8.8%. The average annual growth rate for the state was 6.6% and for the nation was 5.2%.⁶

The earnings for people employed in Eagle County increased from \$1,542,289,000 in 2004 to \$1,721,599,000 in 2005, an increase of 11.6%. The 2004-2005 state change was 6.5% and the national change was 5.6%. The average annual growth rate from the 1995 estimate of \$756,956,000 to the 2005 estimate was 8.6%. The average annual growth rate for the state was 7.1% and for the nation was 5.5%.⁷

The Beaver Creek Ski area opened in 1980 and was host to the World Ski Championships in 1989 and 1999. A combination of chairlifts, skiing, and hiking trails create a village-to-village connection linking Beaver Creek Village to nearby Bachelor Gulch Village and Arrowhead

³ http://www.selectapro.com/Zwaan_Alida/relocation.asp

⁴ <http://www.epodunk.com/top10/countyPop/coPop6.html>

⁵ <http://socds.huduser.org/permits/index.html?>

⁶ <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/action.cfm?fips=08037&areatype=08037&yearin=2005>

⁷ <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/action.cfm>

Resort. A large percentage of lodging properties in Beaver Creek Village are ski-in ski-out. The resort, and the infrastructure that supports it, is the major employer within the study area.

Another significant component of the local economy is the quality of life that attracts professionals to establish residences. Wildfire, therefore, has the potential to cause significant damage to the local economy.

RECREATION AND LIFE STYLE

Beaver Creek Resort is the product of a master plan, resulting in a unique combination of mountain and village environments. Designed as a year-round mountain destination, Beaver Creek successfully combines the western hospitality found on the mountain and in the friendliness of its employees with the European charm of its pedestrian village.

Beaver Creek Mountain was originally designed to accommodate skiers of all ability levels, with a specific focus on winter recreation. That design proved timeless and today, the mountain is enjoyed by a variety of winter and summer sports enthusiasts.

Residents who live in the study area have a keen appreciation for their natural environment. They like to be in the mountains; they create the context for their quality of life. Recreation and the natural beauty of the area are frequently quoted as reasons local residents have chosen to live in the study area.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Residents are clear that the preservation of wildlife is important to the quality of life of the area. The White River National Forest provides critical habitat to several species of concern including Canada Lynx, Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, Boreal Toad, Leopard Frog, Townsend's Big-Eared Bat and others. Habitat effectiveness is defined as the degree to which habitat is free of human disturbance and available for wildlife to use. Effective habitat is mostly undisturbed land area, which is buffered (at least 300 feet in essentially all situations) from regular motorized and non-motorized use of roads and trails (11 or more people or vehicle trips per week).⁸ The USFS has made improving habitat effectiveness and ensuring the viability of these species one of their forest-wide objectives.⁹ Wildfire, specifically severe wildfire, can have significant adverse effects on habitat effectiveness and species viability.

The Beaver Creek CWPP process is in concert with the guiding principles of environmental stewardship. Through public involvement, local support and a regional perspective, the fuels reduction elements described in this document can and should enhance and protect the values of the study area.

⁸ Peak to Peak Community Indicators Project 2003 Presented by Peak to Peak Healthy Communities Project
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⁹ White River National Forest Land and Management Resource Plan-2002 Revision, Chapter 1, page 1-4, Objective 1c.

CURRENT RISK SITUATION

For the purpose of this report the following definitions apply:

Risk is considered to be the likelihood of an ignition occurrence. This is primarily determined by the fire history of the area.

Hazard is the combination of the wildfire hazard ratings of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities and fire behavior potential, as modeled from the fuels, weather and topography of the study area.

The majority of the study area is at a low to moderate risk for WUI fires. This assessment is based on an analysis of the following factors:

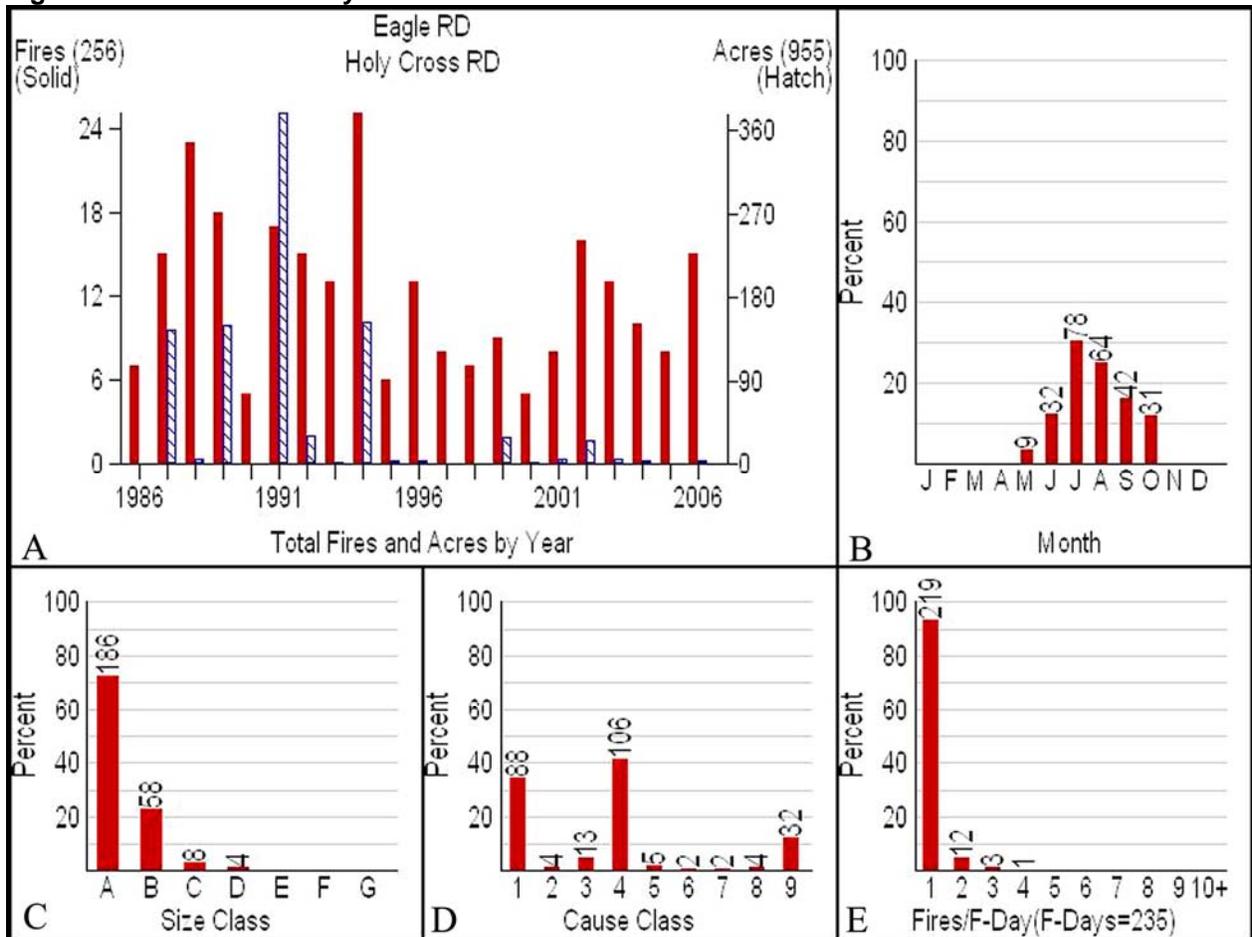
- Beaver Creek Resort is not listed in the Federal Register as a community at high risk from wildfire (<http://www.fireplan.gov/reports/351-358-en.pdf>).
- The study area is shown on the Colorado State Forest Service WUI Hazard Assessment map to be an area of low to moderate Hazard Value (an aggregate of Hazard, Risk and Values Layers).
- The USDA Forest Service fire regime and condition class evaluation of forest stands in the study area shows that historic fire regimes have been moderately altered. Please see *Fire Regime Condition Class*, pp. 13-15.
- The Eagle River Fire Department has maintained computerized records of historic fire responses within its district since 1998. According to their data, fire activity in the Beaver Creek Metropolitan District, in terms of both size and frequency, has not been significant. Indeed, all wildland fires have been less than one acre in size. Two fires displaying crown runs were reported in the WUI areas of the fire district—one in Lake Creek and one in Bellyache Ridge. Causes of wildfires in the Beaver Creek area have been limited to consumer-grade fireworks, lightning, and electrical power grid equipment failures.
- From 1972 to 2006 the Bureau of Land Management reported 6,001 fires in the Craig District. However, the United States Forest Service (USFS) reported only 256 fires from 1986-2006 in the Holy Cross and Eagle Ranger Districts of the White River National Forest (see below).

The nearest USFS lands are the Holy Cross and Eagle Ranger Districts. Both report moderate levels of fire activity (256 fires in 20 years, for an average of just over 12 fires per year). However, the nearest BLM district, Craig District, reports a very active history (6,001 fires over the last 34 years, for an average of more than 175 fires per year). Fire occurrences for the Holy Cross and Eagle Ranger Districts of the White River National Forest were calculated from the USDA Forest Service Personal Computer Historical Archive for the twenty-year period from 1986-2006. This calculation does not include any data from state, county, or private lands (see **Figure 4**). The data have been processed and graphed using the Fire Family Plus software program and are summarized below.

BLM reports are not available in a format that allows similar processing with Fire Family Plus, and reasons for the great disparity between reported fire activity on BLM and USFS lands are not clear. From the available data, the only assumption that can be drawn is the following: the risk of a significant wildfire occurrence in the study area based on federal fire history alone is

inconclusive. Nonetheless, it is worth noting that the USFS lands include areas much closer in proximity to the study area than the BLM lands. The USFS lands have therefore been given greater weight in the overall risk analysis. An analysis of the USFS data is presented below.

Figure 4. USFS Fire History 1986-2006



Size Class (in acres)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G		
	< ¼	¼ - 9	10 - 99	100-299	300-999	1000 - 4999	5000 +		
Causes	1 Lightning	2 Equipment	3 Smoking	4 Campfire	5 Debris Burning	6 Railroad	7 Arson	8 Kids	9 Misc.

Figure 4a shows the number of fires (red bars) and the total acres burned (blue hatched bars) in the Holy Cross and Eagle Ranger Districts each year. While the number of annual fires ranges from four to 25, there is little year-to-year pattern to the variation. Acres burned spiked in 1987, 1989, 1991, and 1994, primarily due to a small number of large-fire events in those years—rather than an increase in the number of fires. The number of acres burned has remained small since 1994. It is interesting to note that in 2002 (the most severe fire year in this

period for the state of Colorado), the acreage burned was relatively small and the number of fires was significantly lower than the peak years of 1988 and 1994.

Figure 4b shows the percentage and number of fires between 1986 and 2006 occurring in each month of the year. July and August had the greatest number of fires, followed by September, June, and October. No reported fires occurred between the months of November and April, which reflects the climate conditions and high elevations in this area.

Figure 4c shows the size class distribution of fires. Approximately 95% of the reported fires (244 of 256) were less than 10 acres in size. This statistic reflects the widely held opinion that throughout the western US, the vast majority of fires are controlled during initial attack.

Figure 4d shows the number of fires caused by each factor. As shown in this graph, the most common cause for ignitions is campfires (41%); the next most common cause is lightning (34%). If we remove the miscellaneous cause category, human causes represent a significant majority of ignitions (61% human causes and 39% natural causes). It should be noted that even these numbers, which suggest the predominance of human starts, are likely to be conservative. This is because the data is only for national forest areas, which lack the concentrated development and other human-related risk factors that are present in the portions of the study area where private land is dominant.

Figure 4e shows the number of fire starts for each day that a fire start was recorded. Most fires (219) occurred on days that only had one fire start. Less than 1% of fire days had two fire starts and less than .2% of fire days were reported with three or more starts in the twenty-year period. These statistics suggest that multiple start days are a rare occurrence compared to fire days with a single ignition.

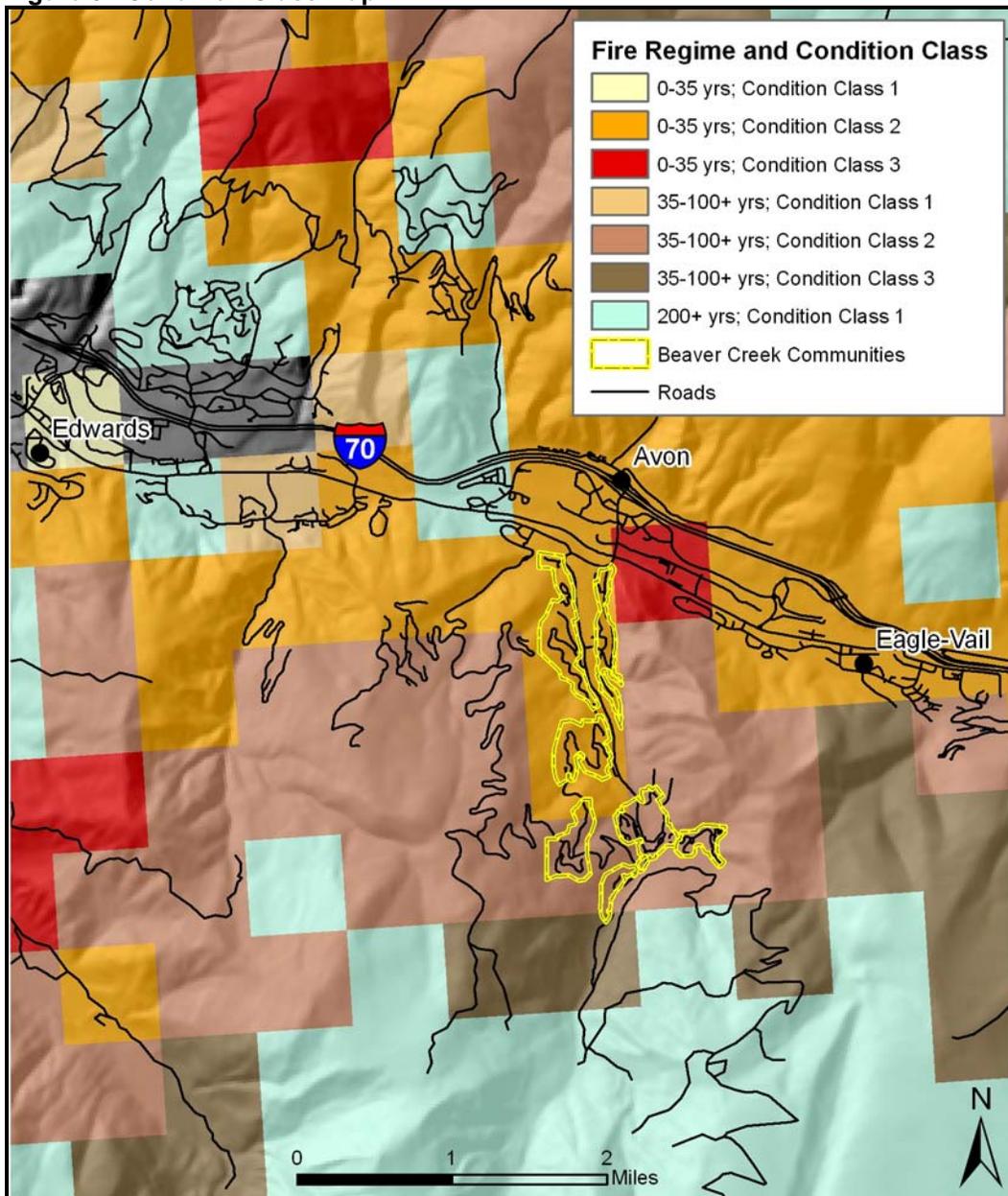
PLEASE NOTE: Residential development in the WUI is increasing in the study area. As the density of structures and the number of residents in the interface increases, potential ignition sources will multiply. Unless efforts are made to mitigate the increased likelihood of human ignition spreading to the surrounding wildland fuels, the probability of a large wildfire occurrence will increase.

FIRE REGIME CONDITION CLASS

Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) is a landscape evaluation of expected fire behavior as it relates to the departure from historic norms. The data used for this study is from a national level map. The minimum mapping unit for this data is one square kilometer.

FRCC should not be confused with the BEHAVE and FlamMap fire behavior models (detailed in **Appendix A**), which provide the fire behavior potential analysis for expected flame length, rate of spread, and crown fire development. Rather, FRCC is an expression of the current condition's departure from the historical fire regime. It is used as a proxy for the probability of severe fire effects: for example, the loss of key ecosystem components such as soil, vegetation structure, and/or species; or alteration of key ecosystem processes such as nutrient cycles and/or hydrologic regimes. Consequently, FRCC is an index of hazards to the status of many components, such as water quality, fish status, wildlife habitats, etc. **Figure 5** displays graphically the return interval and condition class of the study area.

Figure 5. Condition Class Map



To derive FRCC, current conditions are compared to an estimate of the historical range that existed prior to substantial settlement by Euro-Americans. The current condition's departure from the historical baseline serves as a proxy to likely ecosystem effects. When applying the condition class concept, it is assumed that historical fire regimes represent the conditions under which the ecosystem components within fire-adapted ecosystems evolved and have been maintained over time. Thus, if it is projected that fire intervals and/or fire severity have changed from historical conditions, one expects that fire size, intensity, and burn patterns will likewise be altered if a fire occurs. Furthermore, it is assumed that if these basic fire characteristics have changed, it is likely that there would be subsequent effects to those ecosystem components that had adapted to the historical fire regimes. As used here, the potential of ecosystem effects reflect the probability that key ecosystem components would be lost if a fire occurred within the study area. Key ecosystem components can be represented by virtually any attribute of an

ecosystem (for example, soil productivity, water quality, floral and faunal species, large-diameter trees, snags, etc.).¹⁰

The following categories of condition class are used to qualitatively rank the potential of effects to key ecosystem components:

Table 2. Condition Class Descriptions



Condition Class	Condition Class Description
1	Fire regimes are within their historical range. The risk of losing key ecosystem components as a result of wildfire is low. Vegetation attributes (species composition and structure) are intact and functioning within a historical range. Fire effects should be similar to those expected under historic fire regimes.
2	Fire regimes have been moderately altered from their historical range. The risk of losing key ecosystem components as a result of wildfire is moderate. Fire frequencies have changed by one or more fire-return intervals (either increased or decreased). Vegetation attributes have been moderately altered from their historical range. It is therefore likely that wildfires will be larger and more severe, and have altered burn patterns from those expected under historic fire regimes.
3	Fire regimes have changed substantially from their historical range. The risk of losing key ecosystem components is high. Fire frequencies have changed by two or more fire-return intervals. Vegetation attributes have been significantly altered from their historical range. It is therefore likely that wildfires will be larger and more severe, and have altered burn patterns from those expected under historic fire regimes.

The study area is dominantly classified under Condition Class 2. By definition, historic fire regimes have been moderately changed. **It is therefore likely that wildfires in the study area will be larger and more severe, and have altered burn patterns from those expected under historic fire regimes.**

¹⁰ Fire Regime Condition Class, website, <http://www.frcc.gov/>, July 2005.

FIRE BEHAVIOR POTENTIAL

From the fire behavior potential analysis carried out as a part of this study (see **Appendix A**), the fire behavior potential of the study area was mapped. These maps can be combined with the WHR and values-at-risk information to generate current and future “areas of concern,” which are useful for prioritizing mitigation actions.

Figures 6-8 show fire behavior potential maps for moderate weather conditions. They graphically display potential crown fire activity, predicted flame lengths, and predicted rates of spread. These maps were generated with FlamMap 2.0 fire behavior modeling software (see **Glossary**). Weather observations from the Dowd Junction Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) were averaged for a twenty-year period (1986-2006) to derive relevant wind and fuel moisture variables for inclusion in FlamMap. The moderate conditions class (16th to 89th percentile) was calculated for each variable (1 hour, 10 hour, and 100 hour fuel moisture, woody fuel moisture, herbaceous fuel moisture, and wind speed) using the Fire Family Plus (see **Glossary**) computer software package. This weather condition class most closely represents an average fire season day.

The extreme weather conditions maps, **Figures 9-11**, were calculated using ninety-seventh percentile weather data. This means the weather conditions existing on the three to five most severe fire weather days (sorted by Spread Component) in each season for the twenty-year period were averaged together. It is reasonable to assume these conditions may exist for at least a similar period of the fire season during an average year. In fact, during extreme years such conditions may exist for significantly longer periods. Even these calculations may be conservative (under-predict) compared to observed fire behavior.

FIRE BEHAVIOR MODELING LIMITATIONS AND INTERPRETATION

This evaluation is a prediction of likely fire behavior, given a standardized set of conditions and a single point-source ignition in every cell (each 10 x 10 meter area). It does not consider cumulative impacts of increased fire intensity over time and space. The model does not calculate the probability a wildfire will occur. It assumes an ignition occurrence for every cell. These calculations may be conservative (under-predict) compared to observed fire behavior.

This model can be conceptually overlaid with the Community Wildfire Hazard Ratings (WHR) or other values at risk identification to generate current and future “areas of concern,” which are useful for prioritizing mitigation actions. This is sometimes referred to as a “values layer.” One possibility is to overlay the fire behavior potential maps with the community hazard map (Figure 1), in order to make general evaluations of the effects of the predicted fire behavior in areas of high hazard value (that is, areas where there are concentrations of residences and other man-made values). However, one should remember the minimum mapping unit used for fire behavior modeling is one acre, so fine-scale fire behavior and effects are not considered in the model.

Weather conditions are extremely variable, and it is not possible to account for all combinations. These outputs are best used for pre-planning and not as a stand-alone product for tactical planning. If this information is used for tactical planning, it is recommended that fire behavior calculations be done with actual weather observations from the fire. For greatest accuracy, the most current Energy Release Component (ERC) values should be calculated and distributed

during the fire season for use as a guideline for fire behavior potential. A more complete discussion of the fire behavior potential methodology can be found in Appendix A.

Flame Length

Figures 6 and 7 display flame length predictions for the two weather scenarios. Flame length is a proxy for fire intensity. It is important to note that flame length is considered to be the entire distance from the base of the flame to the tip, irrespective of angle—not simply the flame height above the ground. It is possible in high wind conditions to have very intense flames (high flame lengths) which are relatively close to the fuel bed.

The legend boxes in **Figures 6-11** display flame length in ranges which are meaningful to firefighters. Flame lengths of four feet and less are deemed low enough intensity to be suitable for direct attack by hand crews, and therefore represent the best chances of direct extinguishment and control. Flame lengths of less than eight feet are suitable for direct attack by equipment such as bulldozers and tractor plows. Flame lengths of eight to 12 feet are usually attacked by indirect methods and aircraft. In conditions where flame lengths exceed 12 feet, the most effective tactics are fuel consumption ahead of the fire by burnouts or mechanical methods. Although indirect fire line and aerial attack are also used for fires with flame lengths of greater than 12 feet, as flame lengths increase, the effectiveness of these tactics decreases, and their use is generally designed to slow rates of spread and reduce fire intensity, especially in areas where values at risk are concentrated.

In the moderate fire weather scenario, the model predicts that fires in most of the populated portions of the WUI could be attacked directly by either hand crews or equipment. It should be noted, however, that there are significant stands near homes on the east side of the Beaver Creek Drive community, where flame lengths of greater than 12 feet under moderate conditions are predicted. There are also some areas near homes in the Wayne Creek and Holden communities where eight- to 12-foot flame lengths are predicted.

Under the extreme fire weather scenario, flame lengths of greater than 12 feet are predicted in portions of every community in the study area, other than Elk Track Court. In general, these areas are small and isolated, so the risk of significant control problems for firefighters is unlikely. There are, however, a few areas where high to extreme flame lengths are predicted adjacent to and extending into communities in the northern and western portions of the study area, including Beaver Creek Drive, Wayne Creek, Holden, and Strawberry Park. In these areas, the predicted flame lengths indicate that fires are likely to be too intense for direct attack by hand crews. Nonetheless, hand crews would be vital for structure preparation, triage, and the construction of indirect fire line. Under extreme weather and fuel moisture conditions, fire intensity in some of these areas could be a serious issue, and control might be difficult to establish and maintain. Of particular concern is the area of high to extreme flame lengths that could block the only access into and out of Strawberry Park.

Rate of Spread

Figures 8 and 9 show the predicted rates of spread for the moderate fire weather and extreme fire weather scenarios respectively. Rates of spread are expressed in chains/hour (CPH). A chain is a unit of measure equal to 66 feet that is commonly used by loggers and firefighters. One mile equals 80 chains.

Rates of fire spread are influenced primarily by wind, slope grade, fuel type/continuity, and fuel sheltering from the wind. Fire is the only force of nature which moves faster uphill than downhill. When all other factors are equal, fire moves twice as fast uphill on a slope of 30% than it does

on flat terrain. In areas where high to extreme rates of spread are predicted (ROS of >40 CPH or ½ mile per hour) it is possible for fires to spread faster than humans can escape, creating extremely dangerous conditions for firefighters and evacuating residents. High rates of spread also make suppression efforts less effective and increase the tactical complexity of the incident.

In the moderate fire weather scenario, high rates of spread are predicted to extend into some parts of all the communities in the southern and western portions of the study area. In general, these areas are not continuous enough within the WUI to be of great concern. However, communities where these areas cover a significant portion of the sole access route (such as Offerson/Greystone and Strawberry Park) should be considered for early evacuation if fire threatens the evacuation route.

In the extreme fire weather scenario, high rates of spread are expected to develop adjacent to and within some areas of all the communities. The highest rates of spread are predicted for the eastern edge of the Beaver Creek Drive community, the northwest edge of Wayne Creek, and significant portions of the areas to the south of Offerson/Greystone, Larkspur/Chateau, and Strawberry Park. Since the prevailing movement of fire in the study area is from the southwest, evacuations and WUI operations in the southern and western portions of the study area will be more complex under extreme conditions, and will thus require that tactic be implemented further ahead of the fire.

Crown Fire Activity

The Crown Fire Activity maps (**Figures 10 and 11**) display the potential for fires to move from the surface into the canopy of trees and shrubs. The likelihood of progression from the surface into the aerial fuels is displayed in four categories:

1. **N/A** refers to areas where surface fires are unlikely to develop, due to the lack of combustible fuels. These would include any areas such as rock, ice, snow fields, water, sand, and some urban landscapes.
2. The **Surface Fire Category** covers areas where fires are expected to be limited to the surface fuels and lack the energy to initiate and sustain vertical development into the aerial fuels. Areas in which grass fuels without overstory plants are dominant fall into this category, regardless of the energy produced by the fire due to the lack of an aerial fuel bed.
3. Areas covered by the **Torching Category** are expected to experience isolated combustion of the tree crowns in individual trees and groups of trees. In other words, individual or relatively small clusters of trees will be completely involved, but these fires lack the energy to initiate sustained horizontal movements (referred to as “runs” by fire fighters) through the crowns.
4. The **Active Crown Fire Category** includes areas where sustained horizontal movements through tree crowns are expected. This category can be further subdivided into “dependent” or “independent” crown fires.
 - A. **Dependent Crown Fires** rely on the presence of surface fires to support aerial burning. Independent crown fires develop when aerial burning is sustained, without the need for associated surface fire.
 - B. **Independent Crown Fires** are rare and associated with the most extreme fire behavior conditions. Current fire behavior models do not have the ability to predict independent crown fire development. All crown fires, regardless of whether they

are dependent or independent, represent extreme fire behavior conditions and are notoriously resistant to typical methods of suppression and control.

Under moderate burning conditions, active crown fire is only expected to develop in isolated stands to the east of the Beaver Creek Drive community and should not represent any unusual difficulties to firefighters, although sudden wind shifts could blow embers back on to wooden roofs in this community, making regular patrols desirable during fire events.

Under extreme burning conditions, active crown fires are predicted for significant portions of the area east of and extending into Beaver Creek Drive, as well as along the single access into Strawberry Park. Crews working on the eastern side of the Beaver Creek Drive community should be especially watchful of ember cast onto wooden roofs in this community.

Spotting Potential

There is little chance of embers and spots from Aspen stands. The Lodgepole pine stands within the study area could generate embers and spotting, but the resulting embers would need to land in a receptive fuel bed. Since Aspen surround almost the entire study area, there would be little chance of an ignition. Most homes have landscaping and grass lawns which are not likely to be receptive to ignition. The primary concern would be embers landing on wood shake roofs. Due to the active safety patrol schedule and nearby fire response, a fire should be detected quickly before it has a chance to extend to other structures or vegetative fuels. Additionally, a substantial water supply system is available to control any spot fires that may develop due to ember cast.

Figure 6. Flame Length Predictions (Moderate Weather Conditions)

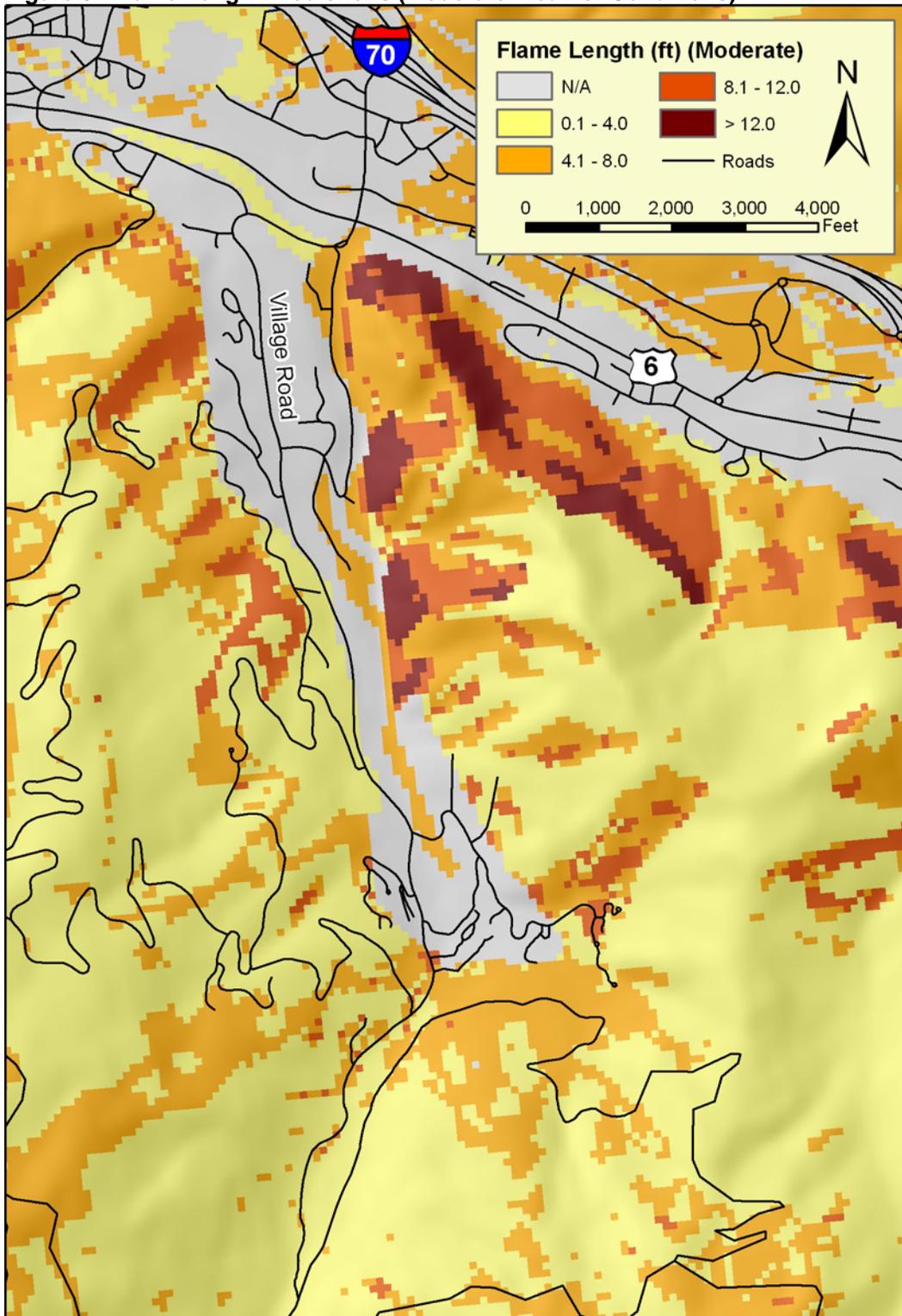


Figure 7. Flame Length Predictions (Extreme Weather Conditions)

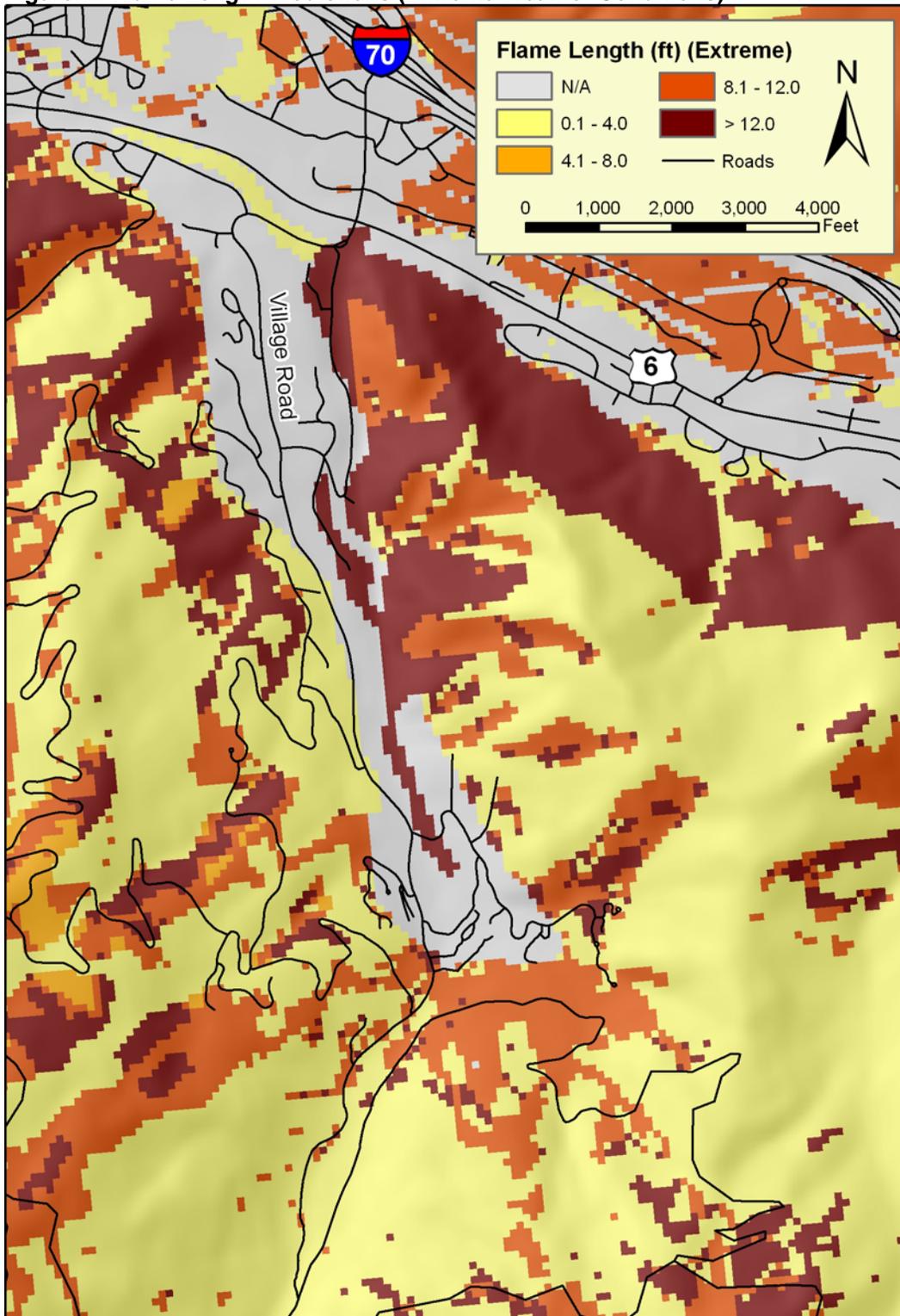


Figure 8. Rate of Spread Predictions (Moderate Weather Conditions)

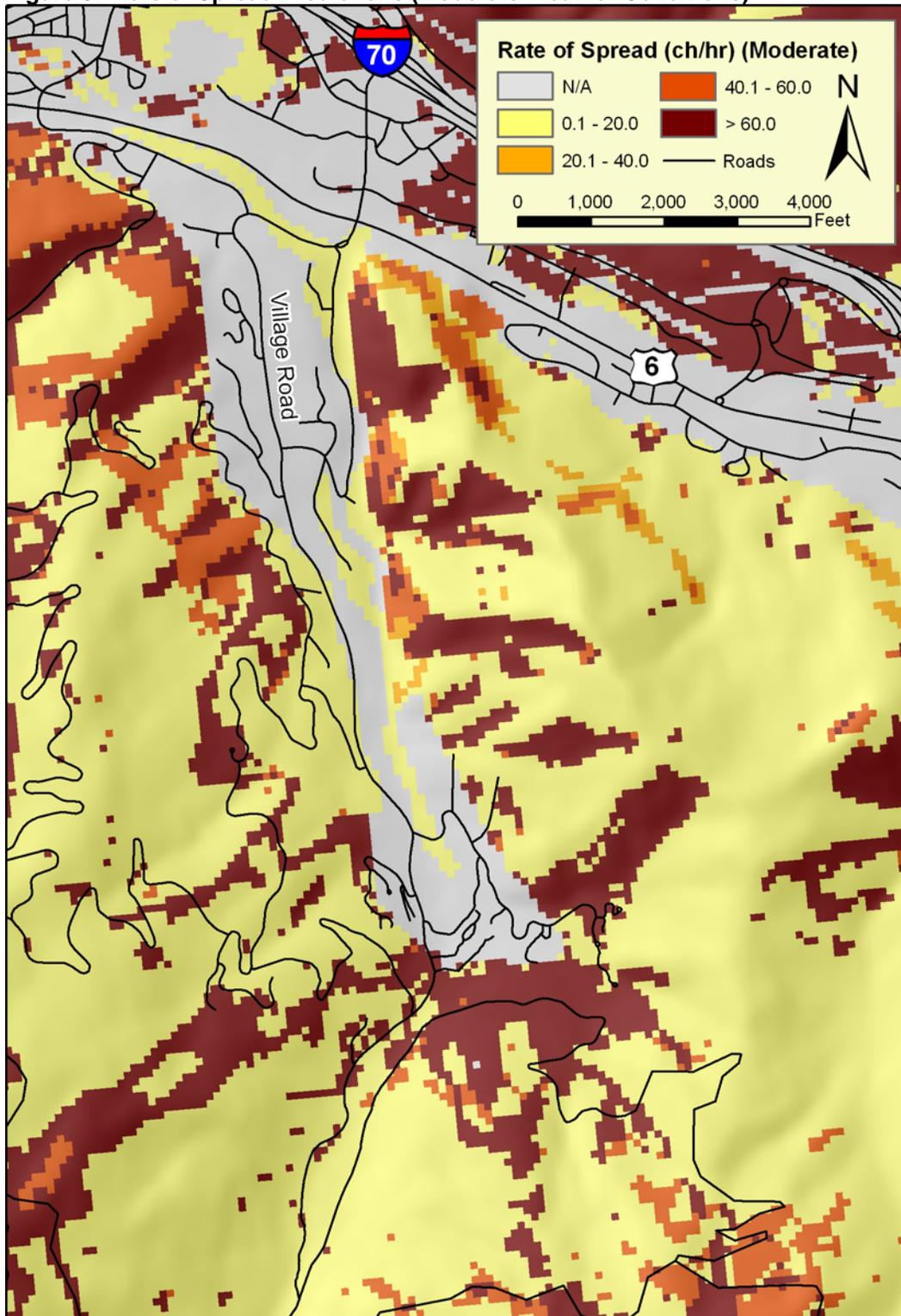


Figure 9. Rate of Spread Predictions (Extreme Weather Conditions)

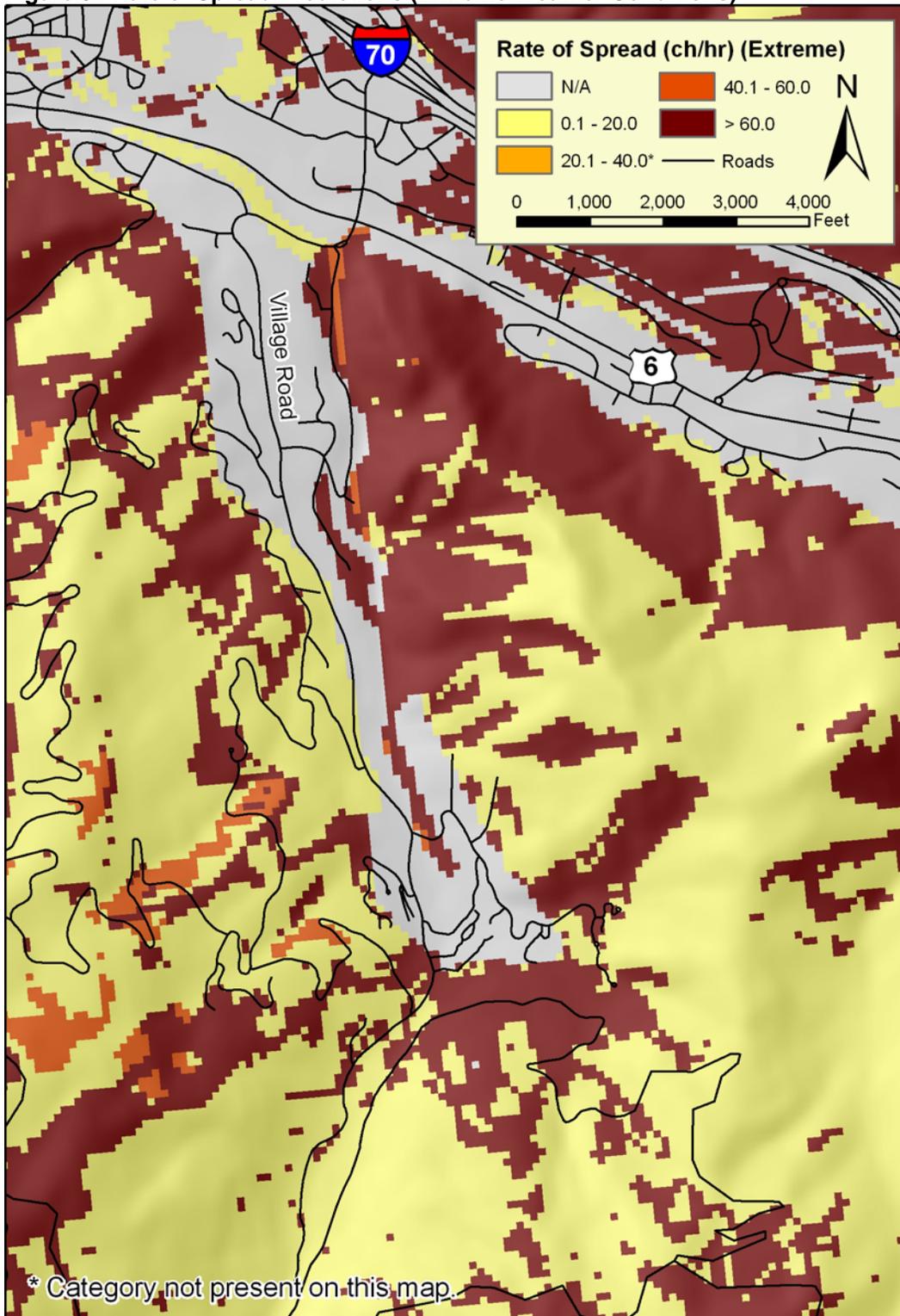


Figure 10. Crown Fire Activity Predictions (Moderate Weather Conditions)

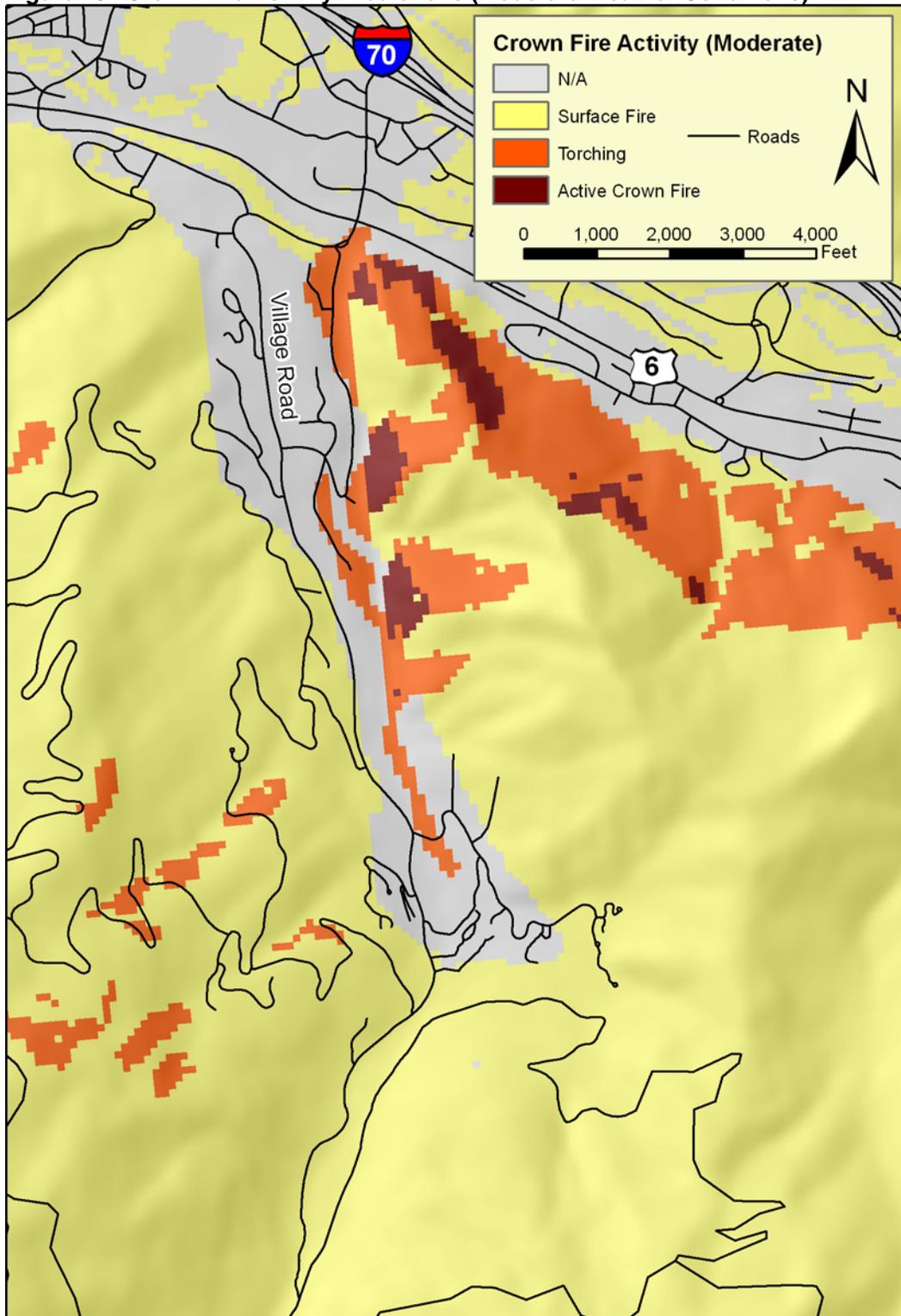
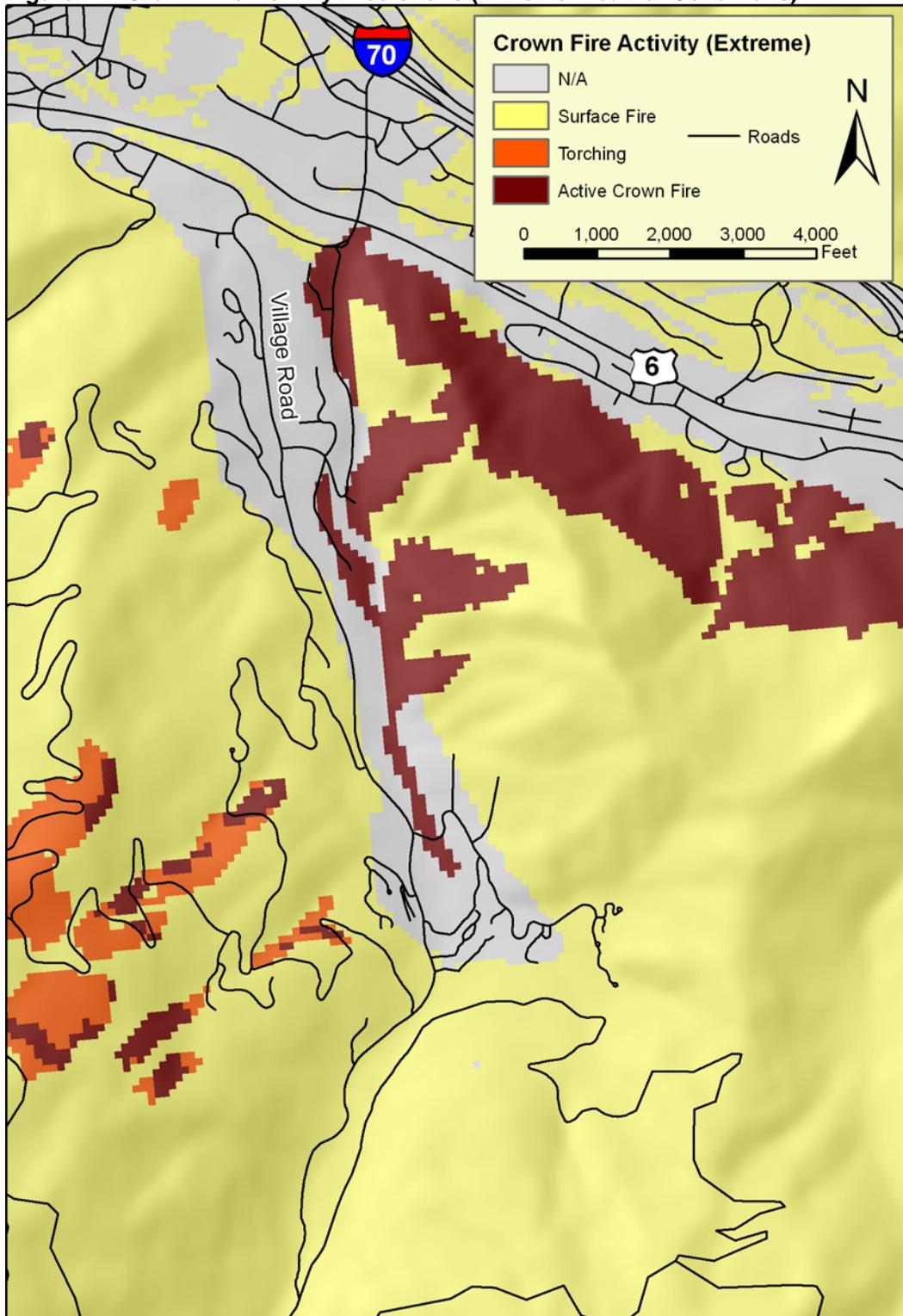


Figure 11. Crown Fire Activity Predictions (Extreme Weather Conditions)



SOLUTIONS AND MITIGATION

ESTABLISHING AND PRIORITIZING FIRE MANAGEMENT UNITS (FMUS)

An efficient way to prioritize work efforts is through the creation Fire Management Units (FMUs). FMUs should be created prior to planning or initiating fuels management projects and other mitigation. There are unique vegetation and/or mitigation management activities recommended for each unit. Units may be functional or geographic. The local land management and fire management agencies (ideally with the input of the citizen's advisory council) must determine priority actions. The following FMUs have been identified for the study area, and a situational analysis and recommendations are provided for each. **FMUs are not ranked by priority**, but priority recommendations have been provided for specific tactical mitigation actions, where appropriate, within FMUs.

- Access and Evacuation FMU
- Public Education FMU
- Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capabilities FMU
- Home Mitigation FMU
- Fuels Modification Projects FMU
- Water Supply FMU

ACCESS AND EVACUATION FMU

Addressing

Throughout the study area streets are well marked. Most homes have an address marker at the structure. However, in some of the communities, the length of the driveway and/or position of the home make it difficult or impossible to see the address marker from the street. Some of these homes do not have an additional address marker at the street, and of those that do, many of the markers are not reflective, are of differing types, and are located inconsistently. (This situation was noted in the Holden, Wayne Creek and Strawberry Park communities.)

Reflective or illuminated address markers visible from the access road are a critical operational need. From a firefighting perspective, the value of the time saved—especially at night and in difficult conditions—cannot be overstated. Knowing at a glance the difference between a road and a driveway (and which houses are on the driveway) cuts down on errors and time wasted interpreting maps. This is especially true for volunteer operators who do not have the opportunity to train on access issues as often as career firefighters. Recommendations for address markers can be found in **Appendix D**.

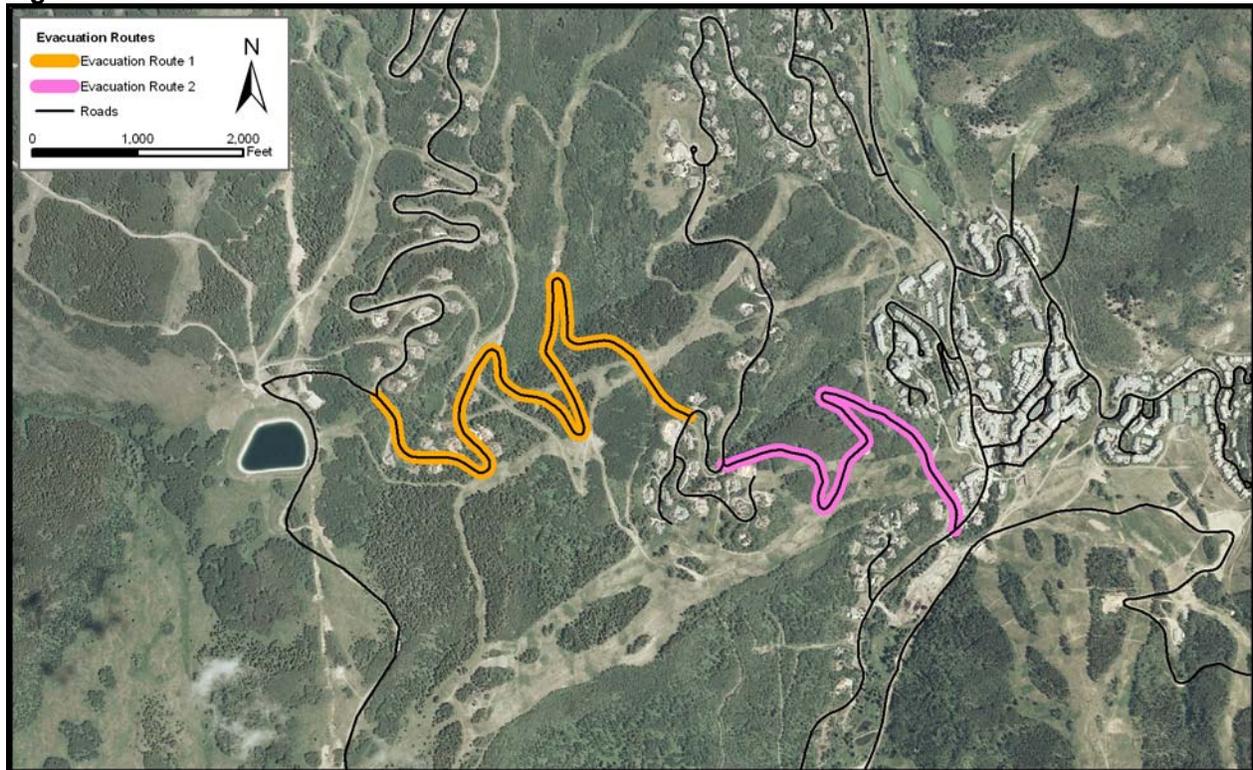
Evacuation Routes

Throughout Beaver Creek, access to the communities is generally very good. The only exception is the Strawberry Park community, where timber fuels in the drainages below the access road could possibly produce enough heat and smoke to compromise the primary access. Two roads that could serve as alternative evacuation routes to the primary access of Strawberry Park have been identified. Of these, one is potentially important, depending on the location and expected behavior of the fire. The other route's usefulness may be compromised

by rough terrain, position, and poor surface condition. These routes are highlighted in the overview of the area shown in **Figure 12**.

1. **Strawberry Park to Bachelor Gulch Service Road: *Priority level High***. It is possible to escape from Strawberry Park to Bachelor Gulch by using an existing service road that connects to US 6 and I-70 via Daybreak Ridge Road. This road is asphalt and is passable by all vehicles including passenger cars. However, it currently has a gate that blocks access at the upper (western) end. This gate should be replaced or refitted for fire department access, and this road should then be included in the fire department pre-plan as a firefighter access point, as well as a potential escape route. This road is of adequate width and generally has good clearance, but thinning should be conducted to shaded fuelbreak standards wherever predominately conifer stands are below the road, especially where the road crosses the major drainage. The priority level is high due to the relatively small amount of work needed to improve the usefulness of this route.
2. **Lower McCoy Park Road: *Priority level Low***. This road connects Strawberry Park to the Beaver Creek Base Area. It is a gated, unimproved dirt track. 4WD may be required in some conditions. This route; however may be useful for Type VI engine and hand crew access. This gate should be replaced or refitted for fire department access and this road included in the fire department pre-plan as a firefighter access point. Fuels near the road should be evaluated for thinning to conform to shaded fuelbreak standards especially where pockets of conifer fuels exist below this road.

Figure 12. Evacuation Routes



ACCESS ROUTE RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Priority level High.** Create an evacuation plan for the WUI communities of the study area. Evacuation planning in the study area will require a substantial effort and the participation of the resort company, property owners, the fire department, law enforcement, and the Eagle County OEM staff. Eagle County has identified some evacuation centers, but more work needs to be done in planning for a community-wide evacuation. The Eagle River Fire Department has suggested that one possibility would be to move residents to a shelter-in-place area within the resort village, and then to evacuation centers beyond the resort should it become necessary.
- **Priority level High.** In order to reduce potential conflicts between evacuating citizens and incoming responders, it is desirable to have nearby evacuation centers for citizens, and staging areas for fire resources. Evacuation centers should include heated buildings with facilities large enough to handle the population. Schools and churches are usually ideal for this purpose. Fire staging areas should contain large safety zones, a good view in the direction of the fire, easy access and turnarounds for large apparatus, a significant fuel break between the fire and the escape route, topography conducive to radio communications, and access to water. Golf courses and large irrigated greenbelts may make good safety zones for firefighting forces. Local responders are encouraged to preplan the use of potential staging areas with local officials and property owners.
- **Priority level High.** Utilize a reverse 911 system or call lists to warn residents when an evacuation may be necessary. Notification should also be carried out by using any existing disaster notification systems.
- **Priority level Moderate.** Perform response drills to determine the timing and effectiveness of escape routes and fire resource staging areas.

PUBLIC EDUCATION FMU

Beaver Creek, like the rest of the Vail valley, is experiencing ongoing development. Increasing property values and the associated rise in the number of non-resident owners has resulted in a varied understanding among property owners of the intrinsic hazards associated with building in WUI areas. An approach to wildfire education that emphasizes safety and hazard mitigation on an individual property level should be undertaken, in addition to community and emergency services efforts at risk reduction. Combining community values (e.g., quality of life, property values, ecosystem protection, wildlife habitat preservation) with the hazard reduction message will increase the receptiveness of the public.

A definitive shift to a shared responsibility must be promoted. Homeowners must be made aware that fire suppression resources cannot be the only line of defense against wildland fires. Landowners and homeowners must take responsibility as key players in mitigation efforts. In 2003, the Beaver Creek Resort Company disseminated over 100 FireWise information packets including pamphlets and videos to its homeowners, completed individual hazard assessments for a large portion of the resort, and assisted several at-risk homeowners in clearing dead standing vegetation. The resort is continuing to educate at-risk homeowners and work with them to reduce the hazards on their properties.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use these web sites for a list of public education materials, and for general homeowner education:
 - o http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/links/links_prevention.html
 - o <http://www.nwccg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm>
 - o <http://www.firewise.org>
 - o <http://csfs.colostate.edu/protecthomeandforest>
 - o <http://www.eaglecounty.us/commDev/wildfireInfo.cfm> Eagle County has also developed and distributes an educational CD/DVD that covers a wide a variety of wildfire information topics.
- Encourage homeowner's groups and mortgage lenders to eliminate covenants and deed restrictions requiring the retention of dangerous vegetation and/or the use of flammable building materials (such as wood-shake roofs). Request that these groups promote the development of defensible space and firewise plantings.
- Provide citizens with the findings of this study including:
 - o Levels of risk and hazard
 - o Values of fuels reduction programs
 - o Consequences of inaction for planned and unplanned ignitions within the community
- Create a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) citizen advisory council to provide peer-level communications for the community. Too often government agency advice can be construed as self-serving. Consequently, there is poor internalization of information by the citizens. The council should be used to:
 - o Bring the concerns of the residents to the prioritization of mitigation actions
 - o Select demonstration sites
 - o Assist with grant applications and awards

LOCAL PREPAREDNESS AND FIRE FIGHTING CAPABILITIES FMU

Fire suppression services for Beaver Creek are provided by the Eagle River Fire Protection District (ERFPD)—see **Figure 13**. Mutual aid is available from the Greater Eagle, Vail, and Gypsum Fire Departments. Vail Resorts keeps snow making lines charged in the summer to assist with fire suppression. The Beaver Creek Resort Company and the metro district are training their field personnel in basic wildland firefighting.

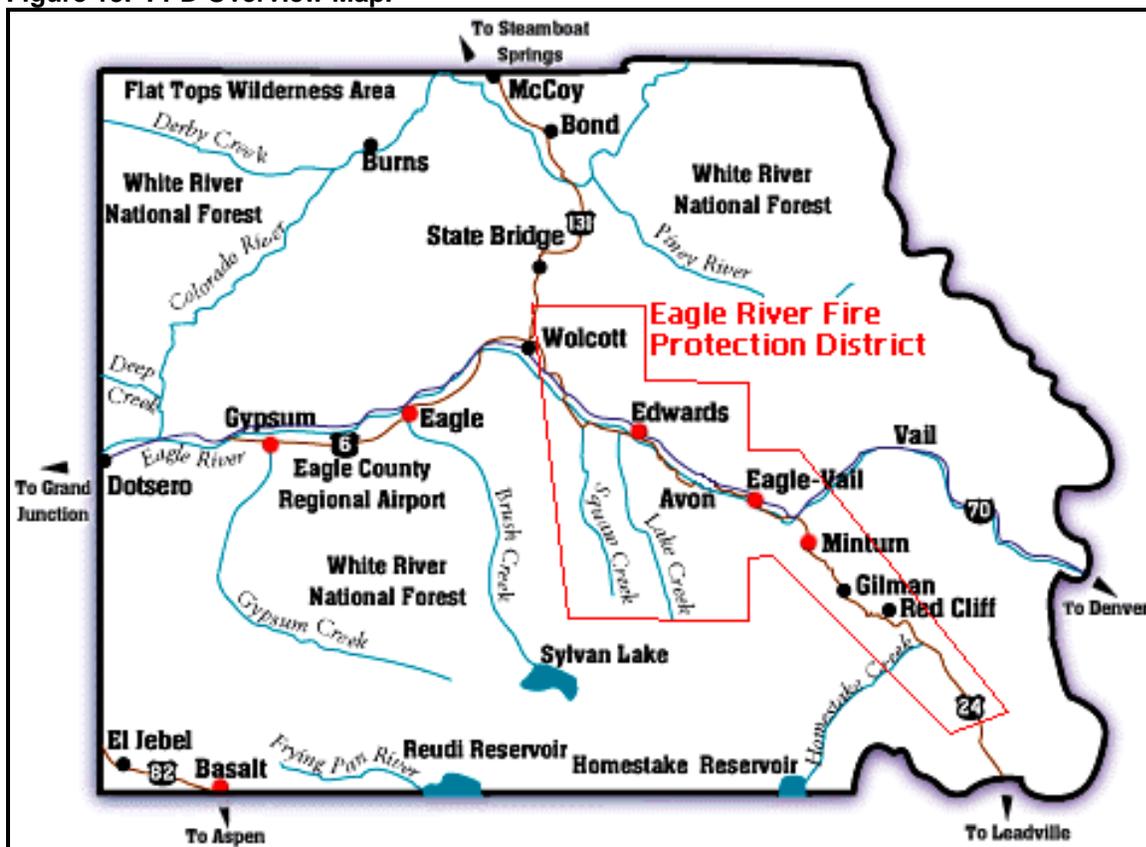
The Eagle River Fire Department (ERFD) employs more than 50 full-time staff and 22 resident/intern firefighters. All ERFD firefighters are certified to State of Colorado FF1 or higher. Most paid staff are certified to Colorado FF2. Company Officers are certified to Fire Officer 1 and 2, HazMat Operations or higher and National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) S130/190 (basic wildland firefighter) levels. ERFD has 10 employees with advanced wildland firefighter certifications (Squad Boss) and four Engine Boss qualified personnel. Two chief officers participate in the regional Incident Management Team. Cross-trained Public Safety Officers (PSOs) patrol Beaver Creek Resort, and respond with the on-duty crew. PSOs are all certified to the Security/Colorado FF1/EMT level.

ERFD operates nine fire stations and 15 pieces of fire apparatus. Six of the fire stations are staffed 24 hours a day by a crew of two to four including a Lieutenant, Engineer and firefighters. One Battalion Chief commands each shift, overseen by the Deputy Chief of Operations. Station 11 is located at the base of the Beaver Creek Ski Area and is staffed 24 hours by a Lieutenant, an Engineer and up to four resident firefighters. Within ERFD there are between 15 and 20 firefighters available in any 24-hour period. In addition to ERFD resources, there are always a minimum of two PSOs within minutes of any incident.¹¹

The distribution of ERFD apparatus changes seasonally, however Engine 131 and Engine 113 are always available in Beaver Creek. ERFD operates three wildland engines that have complete tool caches and a wildland tool cache is also maintained at Station 7 in Avon.

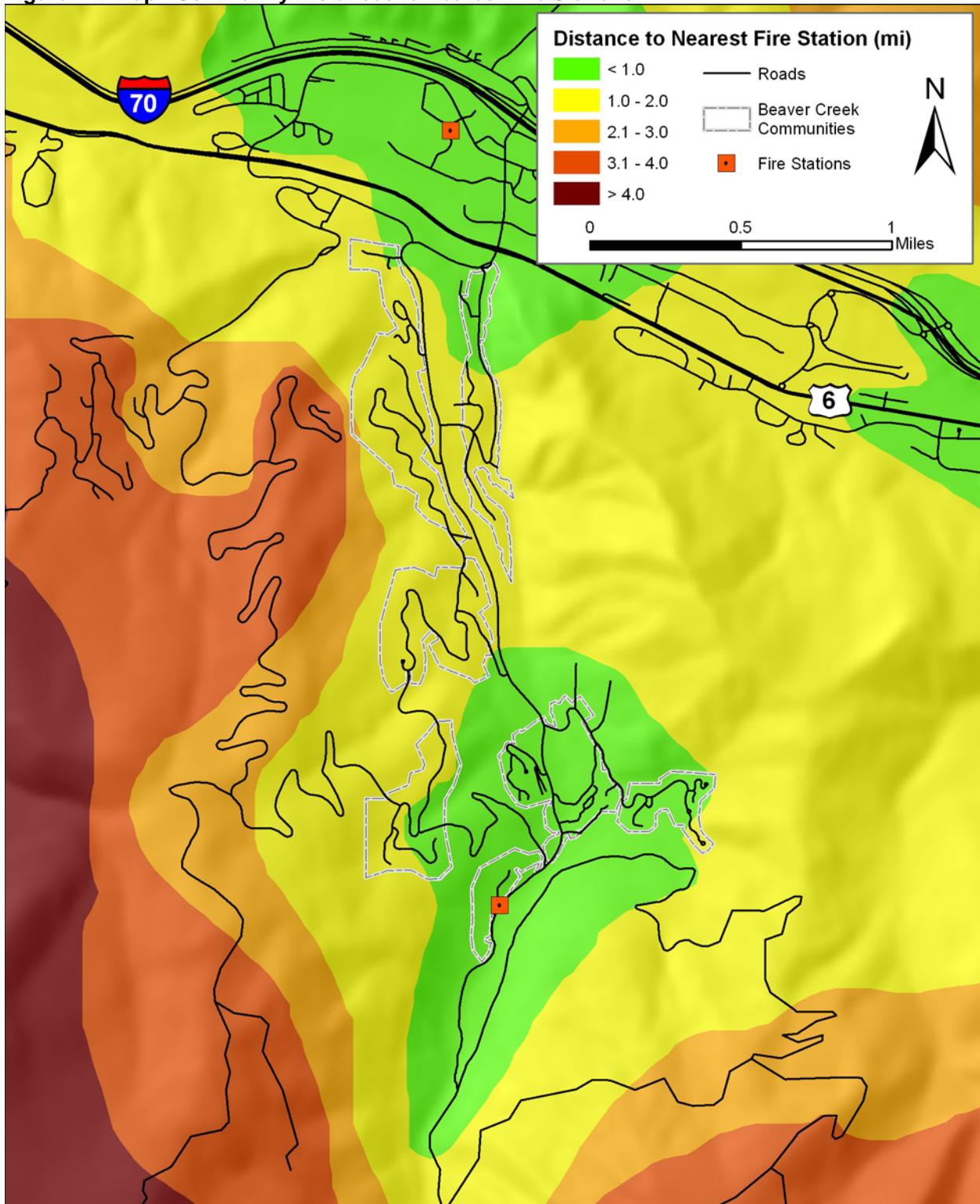
The concern among ERFD officers is that wildfire hazards and risks are increasing. Multi-acre fires will demand a substantial commitment of resources. There is the potential that suppression of simultaneous fires resulting from lightning, or possibly other causes, may burn unchecked until sufficient resources are obtained and deployed. ERFD chief officers believe the limits of local capability could be reached or exceeded in any multi-acre fire burning in 100-hour fuels, multiple ignitions exceeding two acres and/or fires requiring operations extending beyond two operational periods (24 hours). Such an event may require the deployment of a Type III Incident Management Team, assuming one is available.

Figure 13. FPD Overview Map.



¹¹ <http://www.erfpd.org/index.asp>

Figure 14. Map - Community Distances to Nearest Fire Stations



Distances to the nearest fire stations were calculated in ArcGIS and take into account the driving distance to a given area, rather than merely the “flight distance.” **Figure 14** shows the driving distances from the nearest fire station to the communities of the study area.

None of the communities in the study area is greater than five miles from a fire station. However, for the purposes of this report, this is not an Insurance Services Office (ISO) issue, but one of defining response distance to potential fire ignitions. The distance analysis calculates *drivable distance, not drive time*. However, the distance is an important factor in rating community hazards. Response times will vary greatly over the same distance, due to road conditions, steepness, curvature of roads, and evacuation traffic. Most fire service leaders agree that response time is composed of a number of distinct elements: call processing time (the time it takes for dispatchers to ascertain the location and nature of the emergency and initiate the appropriate response), turnout or staffing time (the time it takes for personnel to respond to the dispatch, board apparatus, and begin traveling to the scene), and travel time (the actual time it takes to travel from the station to the scene).

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) has established time objectives for fire response: NFPA 1710 requires:

1. Turnout time of one minute.
2. Four minutes or less for the arrival of the first arriving engine company at a fire suppression incident and/or eight minutes or less for the deployment of a full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression incident.¹²

If turnout time of one minute is met, and average driving speed is 30 MPH, then the engine company will be able to drive two miles in the four minutes established by NFPA 1710. Therefore, communities with mean distances greater than two miles from a fire station were given a weighted increase in their hazard rating.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Training: *Priority level High*.** Provide continuing education for all firefighters including:
 - o Continue to require NWCG S-130/190 for all department members. It is recommended that this requirement be extended to include all auto-aid agencies.
 - o Continue to require annual wildland fire refresher and “pack testing” (physical standards test) for all department members. It is recommended this requirement be extended to include all auto-aid agencies.
 - o S-215 Fire Operations in the Urban Interface for all firefighters.
 - o S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior for all officers
 - o I-200 and I-300 – Basic and Intermediate ICS for all officers.
- **Equipment:**
 - o ***Priority level High*.** Continue to ensure that all firefighters have wildland Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
 - (See NFPA Standard 1977 for requirements).
 - o ***Priority level High*.** ERFD currently provides gear bags for both wildland and bunker gear to be placed on engines responding to fire calls. This helps ensure that firefighters have both bunker gear and wildland PPE available when the fire

¹²<http://72.14.253.104/search?q=cache:u8XMw9ZRQUYJ:www.pcpages.com/fireman02169/1710.pdf+NFpa+1710&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&q=us> , Section 5.2.3.1.1, page 11.

- situation changes. It is recommendation that auto-aid agencies carry the same equipment on their apparatus.
- o **Priority level High.** Consider locating one type VI (4WD) engine at Station 11 from May to October.
 - o **Priority level Moderate.** Provide and maintain a ten-person wildland fire cache at Station 11 (the station located at the Beaver Creek Resort base area), in addition to any tools on the apparatus. The contents of the cache should be sufficient to outfit two squads for handline construction and direct fire attack. Recommended equipment would include:
 - Four cutting tools such as pulaskis or super pulaskis
 - Six scraping tools such as shovels or combis
 - Four smothering tools such as flappers
 - Four backpack pumps with spare parts
 - Two complete sawyer's kits including chainsaw, gas, oil, sigs, chaps, sawyer's hard hat, ear protection, files, file guides, spare chains and a spare parts kit
 - MREs and water cubies sufficient for 48 hours
 - **Communications: Priority level Low to Moderate** depending on cost effectiveness.
 - o Surveys of ERFD officers indicated that their primary communications system operates in the 800 MHz band, which is becoming more common for urban fire departments. Systems such as these offer high audio quality, but are easily blocked by terrain features. VHF radios operating in 150 MHz band are still the principle radios for many wildland fire resources and have generally better reception than 800 MHz systems in complex terrain. ERFD has provided their firefighters with Nextel units to supplement the existing radio system. According to ERFD this has solved many of the communication problems.
 - o Compatibility with other local resources such as USFS, BLM, CSFS, and auto-aid agencies should be a high priority. Federal land managers (USFS, BLM) will continue to operate on the existing VHF band. In order to have universal communication on wildland fires, responders will be required to maintain VHF radio equipment which will still have the current problem areas. The suggestions that follow will need to be evaluated for cost/benefit effectiveness by the fire department before implementation. Due to the restrictions of terrain, it is unlikely that more powerful base stations or portable radios will make any impact on VHF communication problems. Some areas may see slight improvements in base station reception by increasing the height above average terrain of the base station antenna. However, the best solution is to increase the number of VHF repeaters in the problem areas. If landowners are a barrier to fixed repeater sites, another solution is to construct one or more mobile repeaters in engines or command vehicles. Mobile repeaters allow the vehicle to be positioned for optimum communication for each incident. Repeaters are expensive, but grants and other sources of funding could be pursued in order to solve this operational problem. If it is not possible to obtain a repeater frequency (which is likely) satellite phones may be a reasonable additional tool for incident communication.

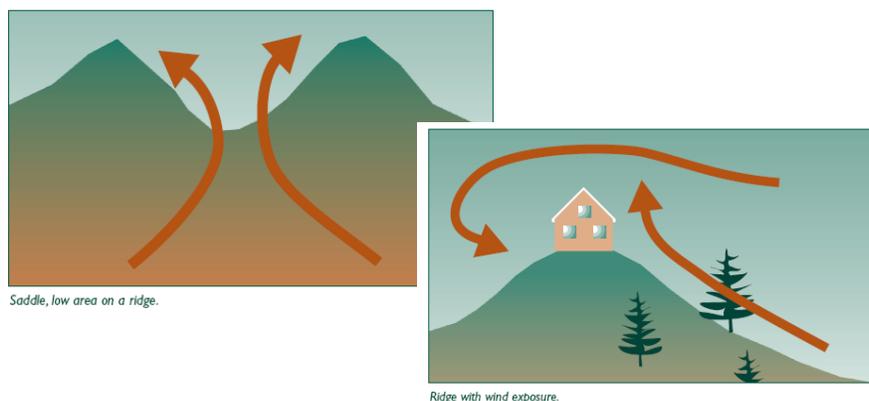
HOME MITIGATION FMU

Community responsibility for self-protection from wildfire is essential. Educating homeowners is the first step in promoting shared responsibility. Part of the educational process is defining the hazard and risks both at the community level and the parcel-level. Defensible space planning, maintenance, ignition-resistant construction, and preventative landscaping techniques are critical to the mitigation of the loss of life and property during wildfire events.

Many of the homes in the Beaver Creek community are constructed with heavy timber or full log construction and non-combustible roofing. These building elements are considered ignition-resistant. Others have cedar siding and cedar shake roofing, considered to be combustible and not ignition-resistant. All residential structures in Strawberry Park, as well as certain multi-family units such as The Meadows, are equipped with 13-R interior sprinkler systems, greatly reducing the potential for structure ignition and spread of fire to surrounding vegetation. These factors and others contribute to the relatively low hazard ratings of the communities in Beaver Creek (see **Table 3**).

In general, Beaver Creek homes have fire-resistant landscaping with irrigation, resulting in defensible fuel profiles. There are, however, some homes with flammable native and/or ornamental vegetation too close to the structure. With the exception of those structures, the fuels profile around the homes in the study area significantly reduces the probability of radiant, convective, and/or direct flame impingement on the structures. Other than ember ignition to cedar roofing, the construction features of the structures do not contribute to the propagation of fire. However, the most important element for the improvement of life safety and property preservation is for every home in the study area to have compliant, effective defensible space. This is especially important for homes with wood roofs and homes located on steep slopes, in chimneys, saddles, or near any other topographic feature that contributes to fire intensity (see **Figure 15**).

Figure 15. Saddle & Ridge Top Development¹³



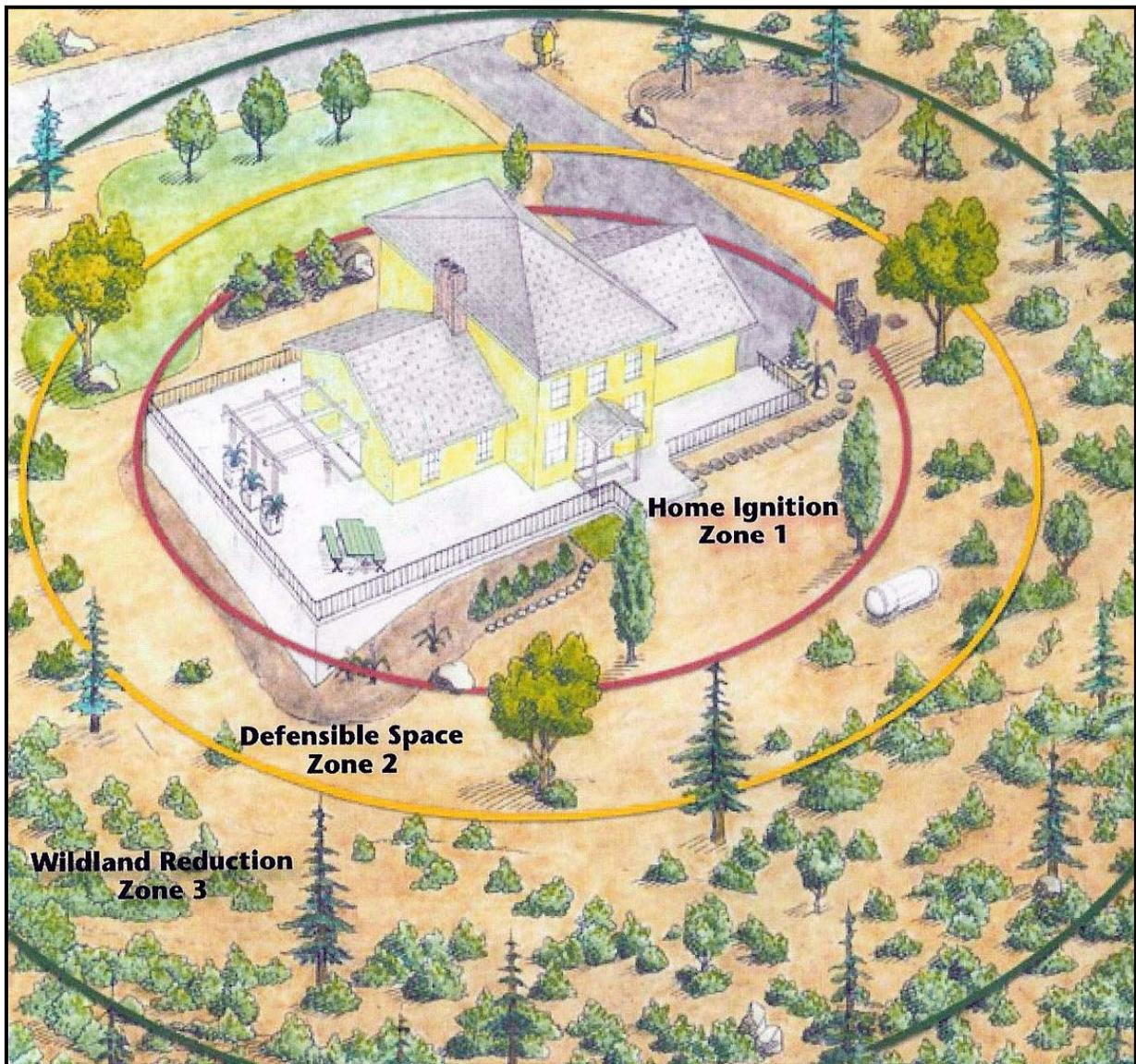
When designing defensible space treatments, there is no question that any type of dense/flammable vegetation should be removed from around a home in order to reduce the risk of structural ignition during a wildfire. The question is how much should be removed. The basic rule is to eliminate all flammable materials (fire-prone vegetation, wood stacks, wood decking, patio furniture, umbrellas, etc.) from within 30 feet of the home. For structures near wildland

¹³ *FireWise Construction*, Peter Slack, Boulder Colorado

open space, an additional 70 feet should be modified in such a way as to remove all dead wood from shrubbery, thin and trim trees and shrubs into "umbrella" like forms (lower limbs removed), and prevent the growth of weedy grasses (see **Figure 16**). Steep slopes and/or the presence of dangerous topographic features as described above may require the defensible space distances to be increased.

The term "clearance" leads some people to believe all vegetation must be removed down to bare soil. This is not the case. Removing all vegetation unnecessarily compromises large amounts of forested terrain, increases erosion, and will encourage the growth of weeds in the newly-disturbed soil. These weeds are considered "flashy fuels," which actually increase fire risk because they ignite so easily. Defensible space must be ecologically sound, aesthetically pleasing and relatively easy to maintain. Only then will the non-prescriptive use of fuels reduction around homes become commonplace.

Figure 16. Defensible Space Zones¹⁴



¹⁴ A Homeowner's Guide to Fire Safe Landscaping (2005) www.FireSafeCouncil.org

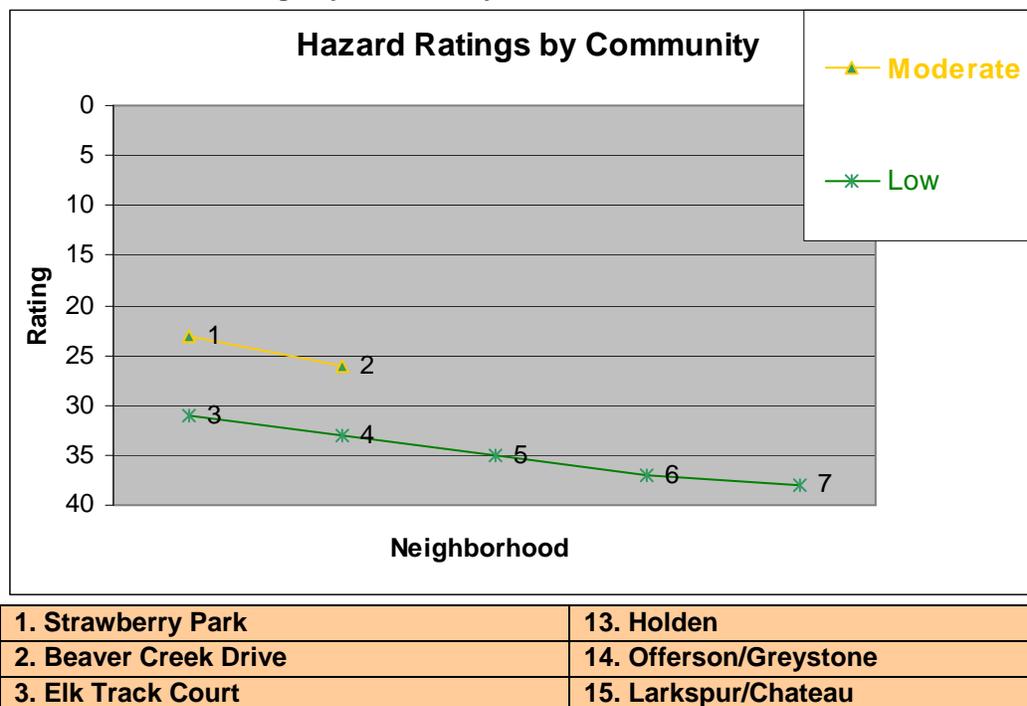
RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Priority level High.** Complete a parcel-level wildfire hazard analysis for the homes in the study area not previously surveyed and review the 27 homes surveyed in 2004 for changes in their status. Completing this process will facilitate the following important fire management practices:
 - Establishing a baseline hazard assessment for individual homes in all the communities
 - Community education through the presentation of the parcel-level Hazard-Risk Analysis at neighborhood public meetings
 - Identification of defensible space needs and other effective mitigation techniques
 - Identification and facilitation of "cross-boundary" projects
 - Community achievement of national FIREWISE status
 - Development of a Pre-Attack/Operational Plan for the study area. A pre-attack plan assists fire agencies in developing strategies and tactics that will mitigate incidents when they occur

- **Priority level High.** Add reflective or illuminated address signs at the driveway entrance to all homes that do not already have an address marker that is easily visible from the street (see **Appendix D** for recommendations).

- **Priority level High.** Use the structure triage methodology provided in **Appendix C** to identify homes not likely to be defensible.

Table 3. Hazard Ratings by Community



LANDSCAPE SCALE FUELS MODIFICATIONS FMU

One of the most effective forms of landscape scale fuels modification is the fuelbreak (sometimes referred to as “**shaded fuelbreak**”). A fuelbreak is an easily accessible strip of land of varying width, depending on fuel and terrain, in which fuel density is reduced, thus improving fire control opportunities. Vegetation is thinned by removing diseased, fire-weakened, and most standing dead trees. Thinning should select for the more fire resistant species. Ladder fuels, such as low limbs and heavy regeneration, are removed from the remaining stand. Brush, dead and down materials, logging slash and other heavy ground fuels, are removed and disposed of to create an open park-like appearance. The use of fuelbreaks under normal burning conditions can limit uncontrolled spread of fires and aid firefighters in slowing the spread rate. Under extreme burning conditions where spotting occurs for miles ahead of the main fire and probability of ignition is high, even the best fuelbreaks are not effective. That said, fuelbreaks have nonetheless proven to be effective in limiting the spread of crown fires in Colorado.¹⁵ Factors to be considered when determining the need for fuelbreaks in mountain subdivisions include:

- o The presence and density of hazardous fuels
- o Slope
- o Other hazardous topographic features
- o Crowning potential
- o Ignition sources

With the exception of Aspen, all of Colorado’s major timber types represent a significant risk of wildfire. Increasing slope causes fires to move from the surface fuels to crowns more easily, due to preheating. A slope of 30% causes the fire spread rate to double, compared with the same fuels and conditions on flat ground. Chimneys, saddles, and deep ravines are all known to accelerate fire spread and influence intensity. Communities with homes located on or above such features, as well as homes located on summits and ridge tops, are good candidates for fuel breaks. Crown fire activity values for the study area were generated by the FlamMap model and classified into three standard ranges (surface fire only, passive crown fire and active crown fire). In areas where active crown fire activity is likely to exist, fuelbreaks should be considered. If there are known likely ignition sources (such as railroads and recreation areas that allow campfires) that are present in areas where there is a threat of fire being channeled into communities, fuelbreaks should be considered.

Fuelbreaks should always be connected to a good anchor point like a rock outcropping, river, lake, or road. The classic location for fuelbreaks is along the tops of ridges to stop fires from backing down the other side or spotting into the next drainage. This is sometimes not practical from a WUI standpoint because the structures firefighters are trying to protect are usually located at the tops of ridges or mid-slope. Mid-slope positioning is considered the least desirable for fuelbreaks, but this may be easiest to achieve as an extension of defensible space work or an extension of existing roads and escape routes. One tactic is to create fuelbreaks on slopes below homes located mid-slope and on ridge tops so that the area of continuous fuels between the defensible space of homes and the fuelbreak is less than ten acres. Another commonly used tactic is to position fuelbreaks along the bottom of slopes. (Note: In most of the study area this would require the cooperation of many individual landowners.) In some areas the

¹⁵ Frank C. Dennis, “Fuelbreak Guidelines for Forested Subdivisions” (Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State University, 1983), p. 3.

only way to separate residences from fuels is to locate the fuelbreak mid-slope above homes. This would provide some protection from backing fires and rolling materials. It may be reasonable to locate fuelbreaks mid-slope below homes, where this is possible, to break the continuity of fuels into the smaller units mentioned above. Even though this position is considered the least desirable from a fire suppression point of view, it is sometimes the most effective approach.

Fuelbreaks are often easiest to locate along existing roadbeds. The minimum recommended fuelbreak width is usually 200 feet. As spread rate and intensity increases with slope angle, the size of the fuel break should also be increased, with an emphasis on the downhill side of the roadbed or centerline. The formulas for slope angles of 30% and greater are as follows: below road distance = 100' + (1.5 x slope %), above road distance = 100' – slope % (see **Table 4**). Fuelbreaks that pass through hazardous topographic features should have these distances increased by 50%.¹⁶ Since fuelbreaks can have an undesirable effect on the aesthetics of the area, crown separation should be emphasized over stand density levels. Isolating groupings rather than cutting for precise stem spacing will help to mitigate the visual impact of the fuelbreak. Irregular cutting patterns that reduce canopy and leave behind islands with wide openings (known as mosaic cuts) are effective in shrub models.

Another issue in mechanical thinning is the removal of cut materials. In Colorado's dry climate, slash decomposes very slowly. One consequence of failing to remove slash is to add to the surface fuel loading, perhaps making the area more hazardous than before treatment. It is imperative that all materials be disposed of by piling and burning, chipping, physical removal from the area, or lopping and scattering. Of all of these methods, lopping and scattering is the cheapest, but also the least effective since it adds to the surface fuel load.

It is also important to note that fuelbreaks must be maintained to be effective. Thinning usually accelerates the process of regenerative growth. The effectiveness of the fuelbreak may be lost in as little as three to four years if ladder fuels and regeneration are not controlled. Fuelbreaks should not be constructed without a maintenance plan.

Table 4. Recommended Treatment Distances For Mid-Slope Roads

% Slope	Distance Above Road	Distance Below Road
30	70 feet	145 feet
35	65 feet	153 feet
40	60 feet	160 feet
45	55 feet	168 feet
50	50 feet	175 feet

¹⁶ Frank C. Dennis, "Fuelbreak Guidelines for Forested Subdivisions" (Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State University, 1983), p. 11.

CURRENT AND COMPLETED PROJECTS

In 2003, the Beaver Creek Resort Company contracted for a wildland fire hazard and risk analysis. One of the recommendations of the hazard and risk analysis was to develop a comprehensive forest management plan. This recommendation was implemented and the forest management plan was completed in May of 2004. This plan identified three management compartments of lodgepole pine stands for fuels reduction and forest health thinning. These stands are shown in Figure 17 and a summary of these projects is given below.

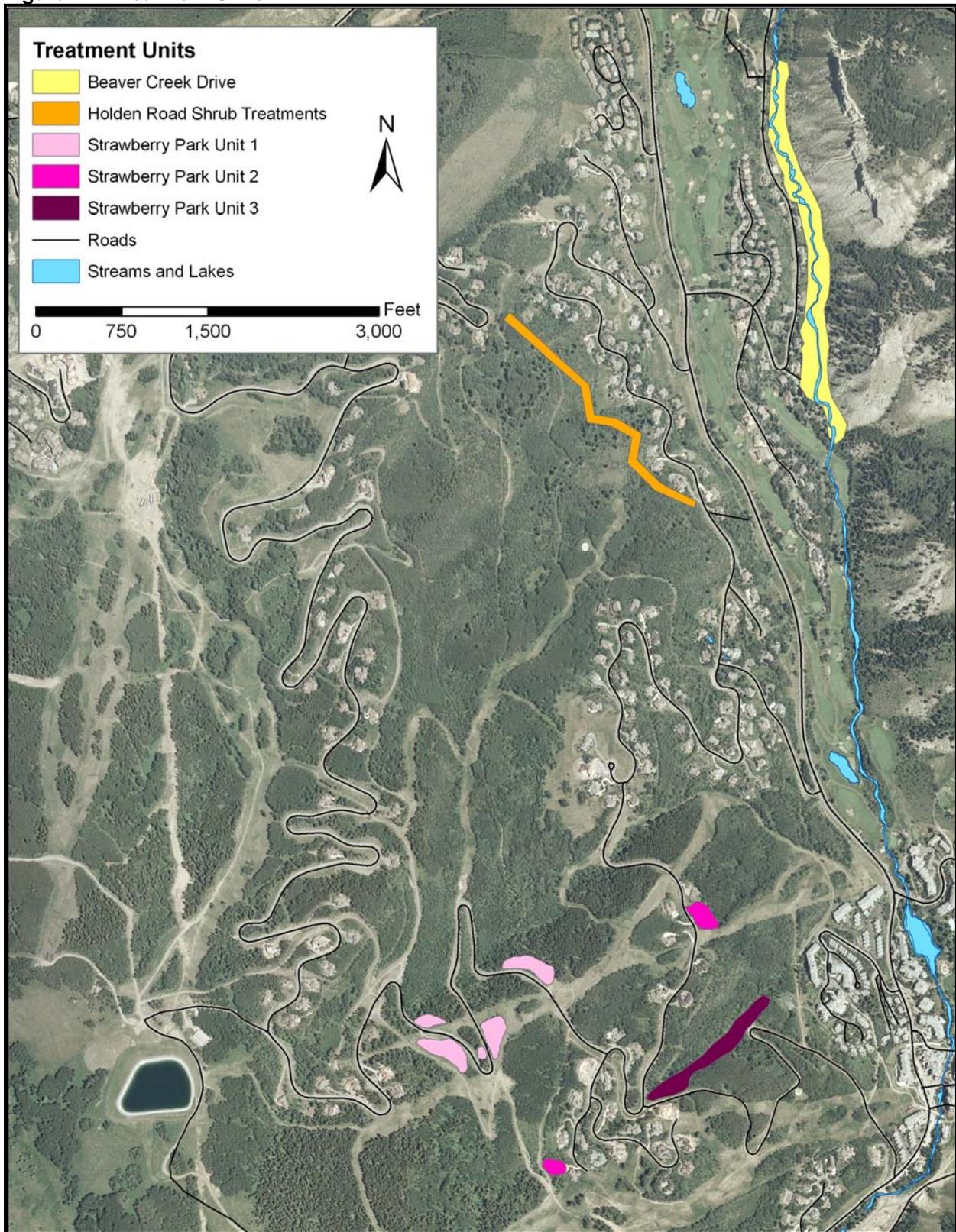
Mountain pine beetle infestations are occurring in epidemic proportions throughout Colorado. Mountain pine beetle was detected for the first time in conifer stands in the study area in 2006. In August of 2007, fuel treatments to control mountain pine beetle were begun in the lodgepole pine stands identified in the 2004 management plan. Pine beetle inventory and treatments are expected to continue on an annual basis in the study area until the current epidemic subsides.

- **Beaver Creek Drive (Approx. 14.1 Acres)** - This area has a higher wildfire hazard than most of the other communities in the study area. The road is narrow but has two ingress/egress routes, although one is through a gate. The road lies in the bottom of the Beaver Creek drainage. There are homes along the river on the east side with little or no defensible space. These homes are located in fairly dense mixed conifer with intermixed riparian vegetation. The riparian vegetation is typically lush and very fire resistant except in dormancy and during severe drought. On the east side of the creek, there is a sparse and patchy mixed conifer forest with grass. This area could have rapid rates of spread on steep slopes and could generate embers to the west along the houses. It is recommended that all homes implement and maintain defensible space treatments. If possible and legal, the creek should be kept flowing to maintain a healthy riparian corridor. Dead wood was pruned and removed from within the riparian corridor in 2006-2007, but this area should nonetheless be inspected on an annual basis and maintained as necessary to reduce the potential for re-growth.
- **Holden Road Shrub Treatments (Approx. 4.4 Acres)** – This treatment area is located adjacent to the Wayne Creek Community. Removal of flammable shrubs has been recommended for a distance of 50 feet from the property lines above and west of 236 Holden Road to 171 Holden Road. These polygons do not represent the exact treatment boundaries but are a close representation. This project is in the planning stages and is scheduled for implementation in 2008. The project area should be inspected on an annual basis and maintained as necessary to reduce the potential for re-growth.
- **Strawberry Park Lodgepole Treatments (Approx. 10.1 Acres)** – Modified patch clear cuts are recommended for the lodgepole pine stands extending into and adjacent to the Strawberry Park community, and for the stands separating the north end of Strawberry Park from the Holden community. The large accumulations of dead and down materials in the project area should also be removed. This project will serve to limit the spread and intensity of an approaching fire in the stands of lodgepole adjacent to the road and the community. This treatment also helps limit mountain pine beetle mortality by removal of infected trees. This project was begun in 2007, but could continue for several years depending on the extent and severity of the beetle infestation. Surveys for additional damage have already been planned for summer/fall of 2008. At the time of this writing (late 2007) the following work had been completed:

- **Strawberry Park Unit 1** – Removed all lodgepole pines from the Chateau to the lower portion of the Strawberry Park community. An additional two to three patches are planned for removal at the lower end of Unit 1 in the summer/fall of 2008.
- **Strawberry Park Unit 2B** – All diseased or dead trees removed at 1052 Strawberry Park Road and next to 373 Strawberry Park Road with the permission of the owner.
- **Strawberry Park Unit 3** – Hazard trees removed and limbed. Some materials were lopped and scattered and some were piled for burning.

Details of these projects can be found in the Beaver Creek Forest Management Summary (2007).

Figure 17. Treatment Units



OTHER FUELS RECOMMENDATIONS

- Both Aspen and lodgepole pine stands can be kept healthy and fire resistant by using sound forestry practices. Maintaining these stands with a scheduled thinning and limbing program will drastically reduce potential for fire growth. A forest management plan should be prepared to define proper forestry practice and to assure sustainability of the local ecosystems.
- In 2006, mountain pine beetle was detected in lodgepole stands in the study area. Tree mortality due to mountain pine beetle infestation is becoming an increasing problem in the entire Vail Valley. In addition to the ongoing beetle inventory and treatments mentioned in *Current and Completed Projects* (pp. 40-41), cross-boundary discussions designed to facilitate cooperation between public and private landowners in removing dead and diseased trees and treating for beetles are recommended.
- Begin talks with the USFS about Beaver Creek's eligibility for grants that the Forest Service could use to mitigate the public lands surrounding the study area.

WATER SUPPLY FMU

Like most of the mountainous areas of Colorado, water in the study area is a critical fire suppression issue. Beaver Creek has a well maintained and adequate network of hydrants. The Beaver Creek Resort Company also keeps snowlines charged during the summer months to assist in fire suppression. There are no homes located an excessive distance from a reliable water source in the study area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Priority level Moderate.* A program of periodic hydrant testing and inspection should be instituted to check the function and condition of hydrants throughout the study area. Hydrants should be tested at least once every two years.

GLOSSARY

The following definitions apply to terms used in the Beaver Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

1 hour Timelag fuels: Grasses, litter and duff; <1/4 inch in diameter

10 hour Timelag fuels: Twigs and small stems; ¼ inch to 1 inch in diameter

100 hour Timelag fuels: Branches; 1 to 3 inches in diameter

1000 hour Timelag fuels: Large stems and branches; >3 inches in diameter

Active Crown Fire: This is a crown fire in which the entire fuel complex – all fuel strata – become involved, but the crowning phase remains dependent on heat released from the surface fuel strata for continued spread (also called a Running Crown Fire or Continuous Crown Fire).

ArcGIS 9.x: This is Geographic Information System (GIS) software that is designed to handle mapping data in a way that can be analyzed, queried, and displayed. ArcGIS is in its ninth major revision and is published by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).

Crown Fire (Crowning): The movement of fire through the crowns of trees or shrubs, which may or may not be independent of the surface fire.

Defensible Space: An area around a structure where fuels and vegetation are modified cleared or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire toward or from the structure. The design and distance of the defensible space is based on fuels, topography, and the design/materials used in the construction of the structure.

Energy Release Component: An index of how hot a fire could burn. ERC is directly related to the 24-hour, potential worst case, total available energy within the flaming front at the head of a fire.

Extended Defensible Space (also known as Zone 3): This is a defensible space area where treatment is continued beyond the minimum boundary. This zone focuses on forest management with fuels reduction being a secondary consideration.

Fine Fuels: Fuels that are less than ¼ inch in diameter such as grass, leaves, draped pine needles, fern, tree moss, and some kinds of slash which, when dry, ignite readily and are consumed rapidly.

Fire Behavior Potential: The expected severity of a wildland fire expressed as the rate of spread, the level of crown fire activity, and flame length. This is derived from fire behavior modeling programs using the following inputs: fuels, canopy cover, historical weather averages, elevation, slope, and aspect.

Fire Danger: In this document we do not use this as a technical term due to various and nebulous meanings that have been historically applied.

Fire Hazard: Given an ignition, the likelihood and severity of Fire Outcomes (Fire Effects) that result in damage to people, property, and/or the environment. The hazard rating is derived from the Community Assessment and the Fire Behavior Potential.

Fire Mitigation: Any action designed to decrease the likelihood of an ignition, reduce Fire Behavior Potential, or to protect property from the impact of undesirable Fire Outcomes.

Fire Outcomes (aka Fire Effects): This is a description of the expected effects of a wildfire on people, property and/or the environment based on the Fire Behavior Potential and physical presence of Values-at-Risk. Outcomes can be desirable as well as undesirable.

Fire Risk: The probability that an ignition will occur in an area with potential for damaging effects to people, property, and/or the environment. Risk is based primarily on historical ignitions data.

Flagged Addressing: A term describing the placement of multiple addresses on a single sign, servicing multiple structures located on a common access.

FlamMap: A software package created by the Joint Fire Sciences Program, Rocky Mountain Research Station. The software uses mapped environmental data such as Elevation, Aspect, Slope, and Fuel Model, along with fuel moisture and wind information, to generate predicted fire behavior characteristics such as Flame Length, Crown Fire Activity, and Spread Rate.

Flame Length: The distance between the flame tip and the midpoint of the flame depth at the base of the flame (generally the ground surface)—an indicator of fire intensity.

FMU (Fire Management Unit): A method of categorizing and prioritizing fire mitigation work efforts. Units can be defined by function (e.g., public education efforts) or geography (e.g., fuel reduction projects in a given area).

Fuelbreak: A natural or constructed discontinuity in a fuel profile used to isolate, stop, or reduce the spread of fire. Fuelbreaks may also make retardant lines more effective and serve as control lines for fire suppression actions. Fuelbreaks in the WUI are designed to limit the spread and intensity of crown fire activity.

ICP (Incident Command Post): The base camp and command center from which fire suppression operations are directed.

ISO (Insurance Standards Office): A leading source of risk (as defined by the insurance industry) information to insurance companies. ISO provides fire risk information in the form of ratings used by insurance companies to price fire insurance products to property owners.

Jackpot Fuels: a large concentration of fuels in a given area such as a slash pile.

Passive Crown Fire: a crown fire in which individual or small groups of trees torch out (candle), but solid flaming in the canopy fuels cannot be maintained except for short periods.

Slash: Debris left after logging, pruning, thinning, or brush cutting; includes logs, chips, bark, branches, stumps, and broken understory trees or brush.

Spotting: Refers to the behavior of a fire producing sparks or embers that are carried by the wind and start new fires beyond the zone of direct ignition by the main fire.

Structural Triage: The process of identifying, sorting, and committing resources to a specific structure.

Surface Fire: This is a fire that burns in the surface litter, debris, and small vegetation on the ground.

Timelag: Time needed under specified conditions for a fuel particle to lose about 63% of the difference between its initial moisture content and its equilibrium moisture content.

Values-at-Risk: People, property, ecological elements, and other human and intrinsic values within the project area. Values-at-Risk are identified by inhabitants as important to the way of life of the study area and are susceptible specifically to damage from undesirable fire outcomes.

WHR (Community Wildfire Hazard Rating. AKA Community Assessment): A sixty-point scale analysis designed to identify factors that increase the potential for and/or severity of undesirable fire outcomes in WUI communities.

WUI (Wildland Urban Interface): The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. This is sometimes referred to as Urban Wildland Interface, or UWI.

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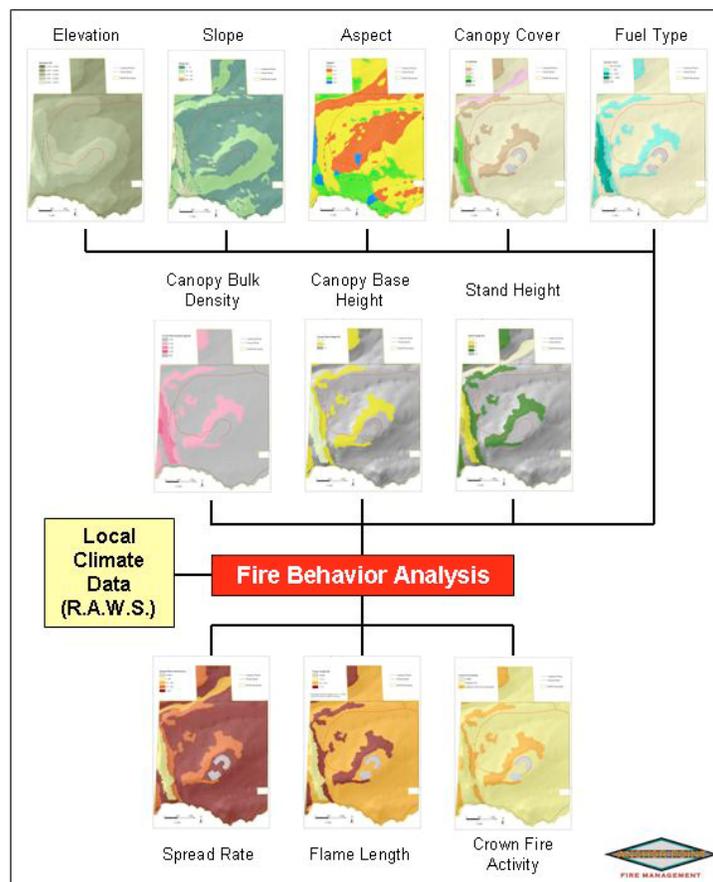
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APPENDIX A: FIRE BEHAVIOR POTENTIAL ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to describe the methodology used to evaluate the threat represented by physical hazards—such as fuels, weather and topography—to values at risk in the study area, by modeling their effects on fire behavior potential.

Figure 1. Flow Chart



The fire behavior potential analysis reports graphically the probable range of spread rate, flame length, and crown fire potential for the analysis area, based upon a set of inputs significant to fire behavior. The model inputs include aspect, slope, elevation, canopy cover, fuel type, canopy bulk density, canopy base height, stand height, and climate data. The model outputs are determined

using FlamMap¹, which combines surface fire predictions with the potential for crown fire development. Calculations for surface fire predictions (rate of spread and flame length) are based on the USDA Forest Service's BEHAVE² model.

BEHAVE

The BEHAVE fire behavior prediction and fuel modeling system was employed to determine surface fire behavior estimates for this study. BEHAVE is a nationally recognized set of calculations used to estimate a surface fire's intensity and rate of spread given certain conditions of topography, fuels, and weather. The BEHAVE modeling system has been used for a variety of applications, including prediction of an ongoing fire, prescribed fire planning, fuel hazard assessment, initial attack dispatch, and fire prevention planning and training. Predictions of wildland fire behavior are made for a single point in time and space, given simple user-defined fuels, weather, and topography. Requested values depend on the modeling choices made by the user.

Assumptions of BEHAVE:

- Fire is predicted at the flaming front
- Fire is free burning
- Behavior is heavily weighted towards the fine fuels
- Continuous and uniform fuels
- Surface fires

FlamMap

Anchor Point uses FlamMap to evaluate the potential fire conditions in the fire behavior study area. The Beaver Creek study area encompasses 805 acres. The study area for the fire behavior analysis covers approximately 3,389 acres. This area includes the study area and a half-mile buffer in all directions. The inclusion of this buffer provides the user with an analysis of potential fire behavior on adjacent lands. From both a planning and tactical perspective, it is important to evaluate exposures beyond the area of interest. The study area is broken down into grid cells of 10-meters per side (10m). Using existing vector and raster spatial data and field data, ArcGIS spatial analysis capabilities are used to calculate model inputs for each 10m cell. These values are input into FlamMap, along with reference weather and fuel moisture (long-term weather observations statistically calculated from the Dowd Junction Remote Automated Weather Station information). The outputs of FlamMap include the estimated Rate of Spread (ROS) (from BEHAVE), Flame Length (FL) (from BEHAVE) and Crown Fire Activity for a fire in that 10m cell. The model computes these values for each cell in the study area independently, so the data in each cell is unaffected by adjacent cells.

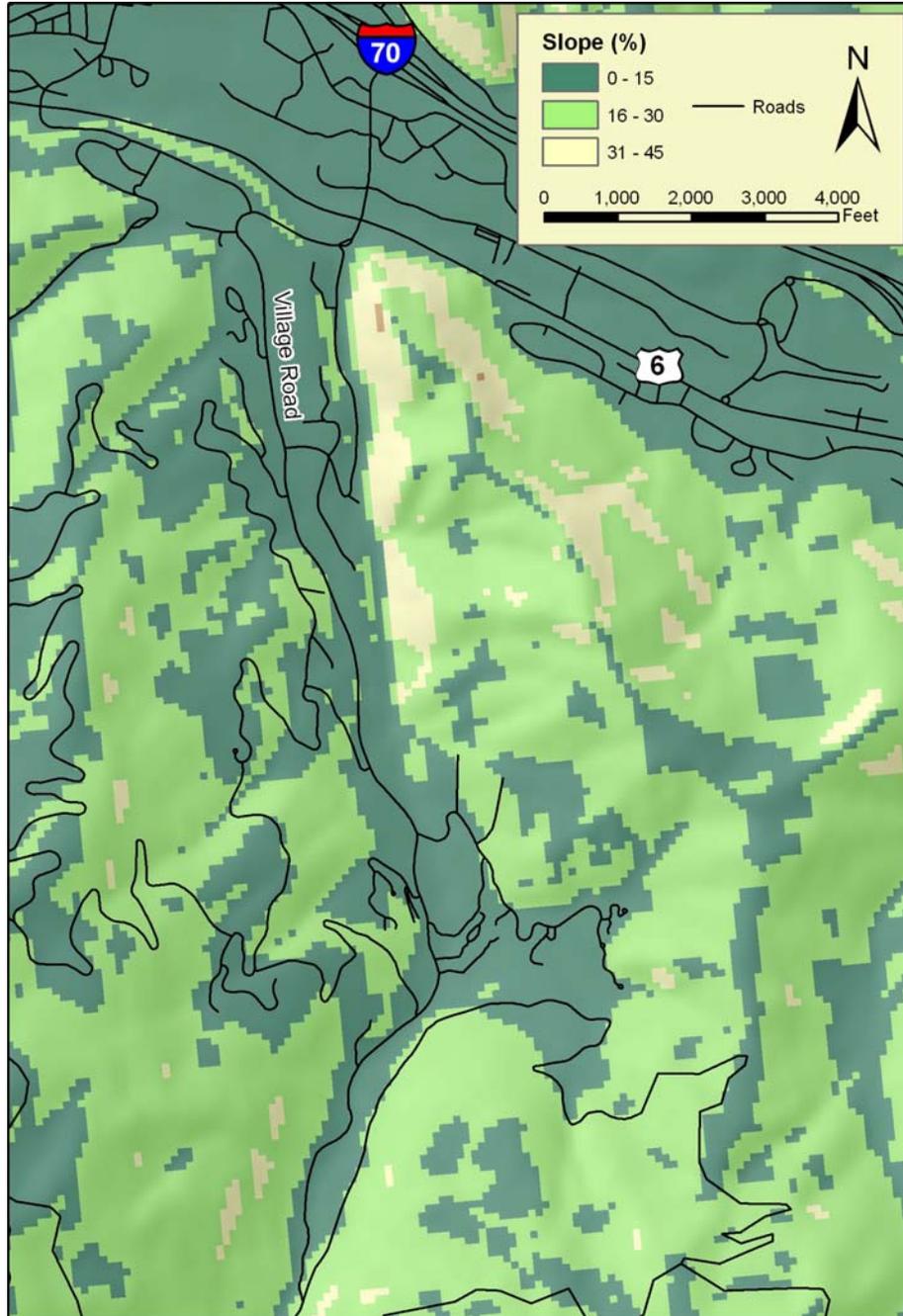
¹ Mark Finney, Stuart Brittain and Rob Seli., The Joint Fire Sciences Program of the Rocky Mountain Research Station (USDA Forest Service, Missoula, Montana), the Bureau of Land Management and Systems for Environmental Management (Missoula, Montana).

² Patricia L. Andrews, producer and designer, Collin D. Bevins, programmer and designer, The Joint Fire Sciences Program of the Rocky Mountain Research Station (USDA Forest Service, Missoula, Montana) and Systems for Environmental Management (Missoula, Montana).

Fire Behavior Inputs

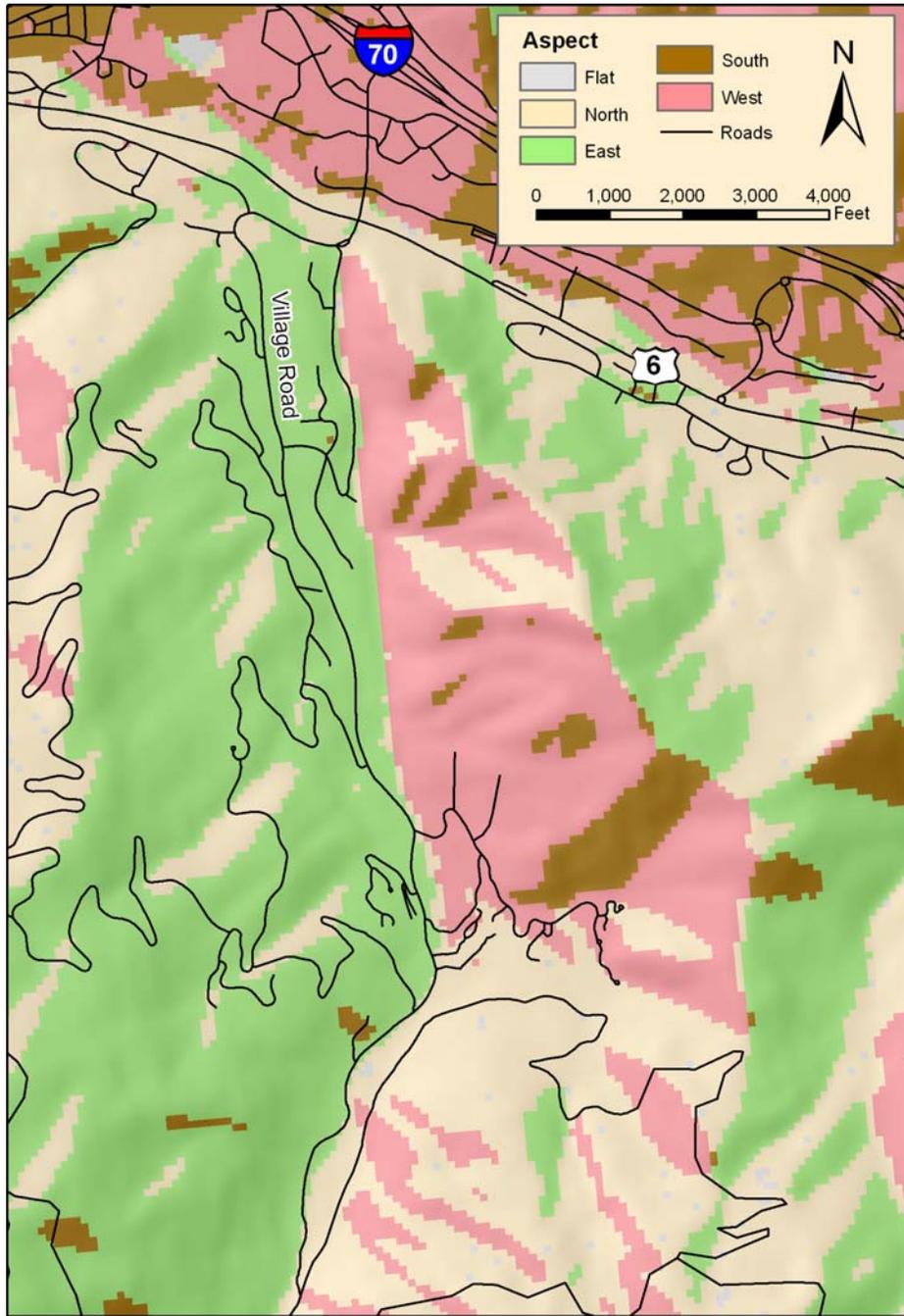
The major factors influencing fire behavior are fuels (type and coverage), weather, and topography (aspect, slope and elevation). The following pages contain a brief explanation of each.

Figure 2. Percent Slope



Slopes are shown here as percent (rise/run x100). Steeper slopes intensify fire behavior and thus will contribute to a higher wildfire hazard rating. Rates of spread for a slope of 30% are typically double those of flat terrain, when all other influences are equal.

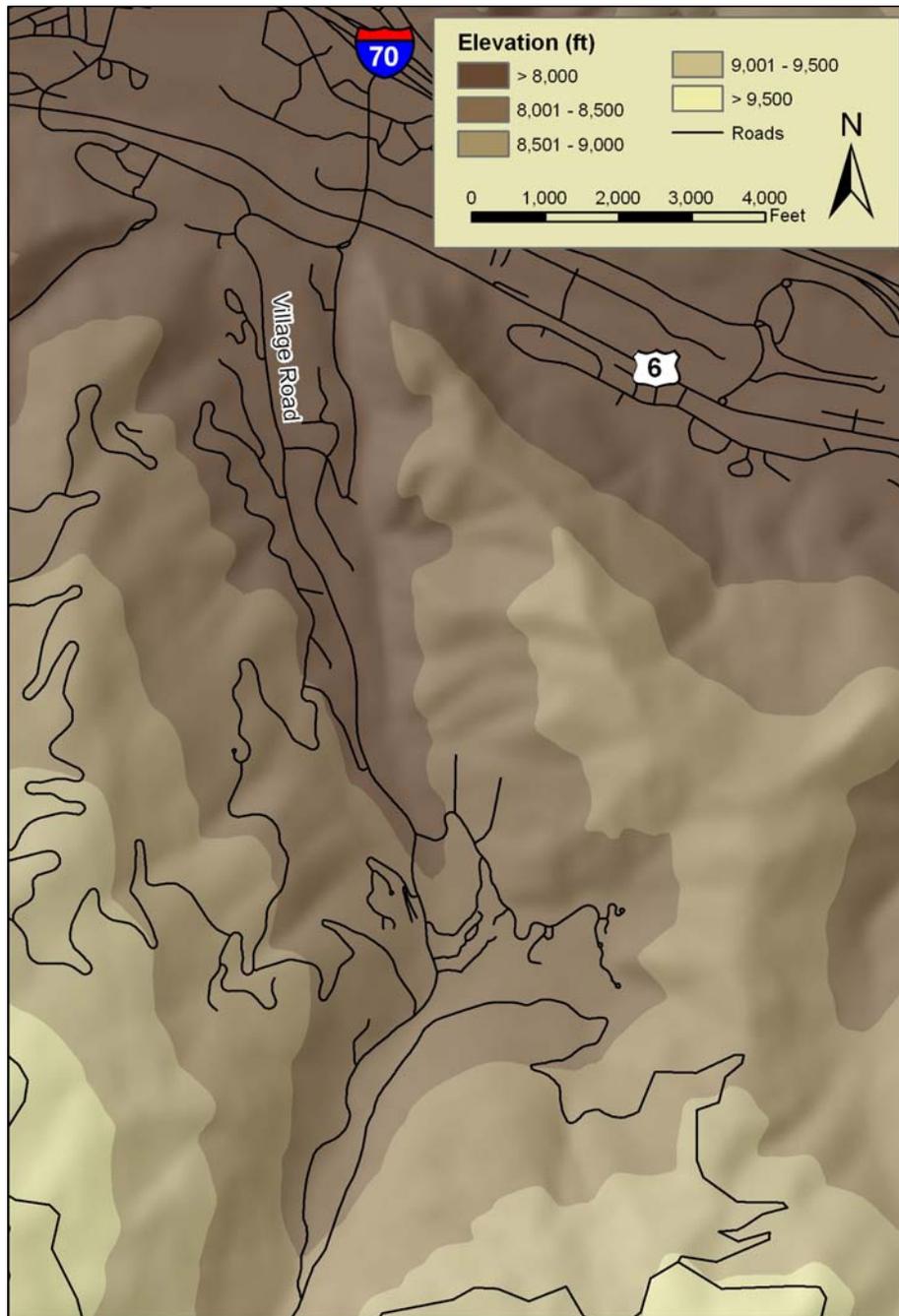
Figure 3. Aspect



Aspects are shown as degrees from north ranging from 0 to 360 according to their orientation. Aspects are influential in the type and quantity of vegetative fuels. Fuels on south facing slopes tend to be drier and more lightly loaded than fuels on north facing slopes, when all other influences are equal. Aspect also has an influence on plant species dominance.

Classification	North	East	South	West
Range	315-45	45-135	135-225	225-315

Figure 4. Elevation



Elevations within the study area range from approximately 8,300' to over 13,000'. As elevation increases, environmental conditions, fuel species, and characteristics change.

Fuel Models and Fire Behavior

Fire behavior fuel models are a set of numbers that describe fuels in terms that a fire behavior model, in this case FlamMap, can use. There are seven characteristics used to categorize fuel models.

- Fuel Loading
- Size and Shape
- Compactness
- Horizontal Continuity
- Vertical Arrangement
- Moisture Content
- Chemical Content

Each of the major fuel types present in the study area are described below in terms of the characteristics that coincide with that fuel model. Fuel model descriptions are taken from Anderson's *Aids to Determining Fuel Models for Estimating Fire Behavior*³, a national standard guide to fuel modeling, unless otherwise noted. **Vegetation for the project area may or may not be specifically listed in the description.** Plant species are only an aid to help visualize the characteristics of the model. The photos are taken from the project area and show where the local vegetation fits in. A table showing a range of surface fire behavior under moderate burning conditions based on the **BEHAVE** system is also included.

The study area is represented primarily by five fuel models (FM): FM 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 40. Other fuel models exist, but not in quantities sufficient to significantly influence fire behavior in the Wildland Urban Interface. Fuel models 97, 98, and 99 in the map legend indicate areas of insignificant combustibility such as water, rock, sand, etc. Fuel model 40 is a custom fuel model to describe standing dead stands of conifers with the needles still on (standing red-needle trees).

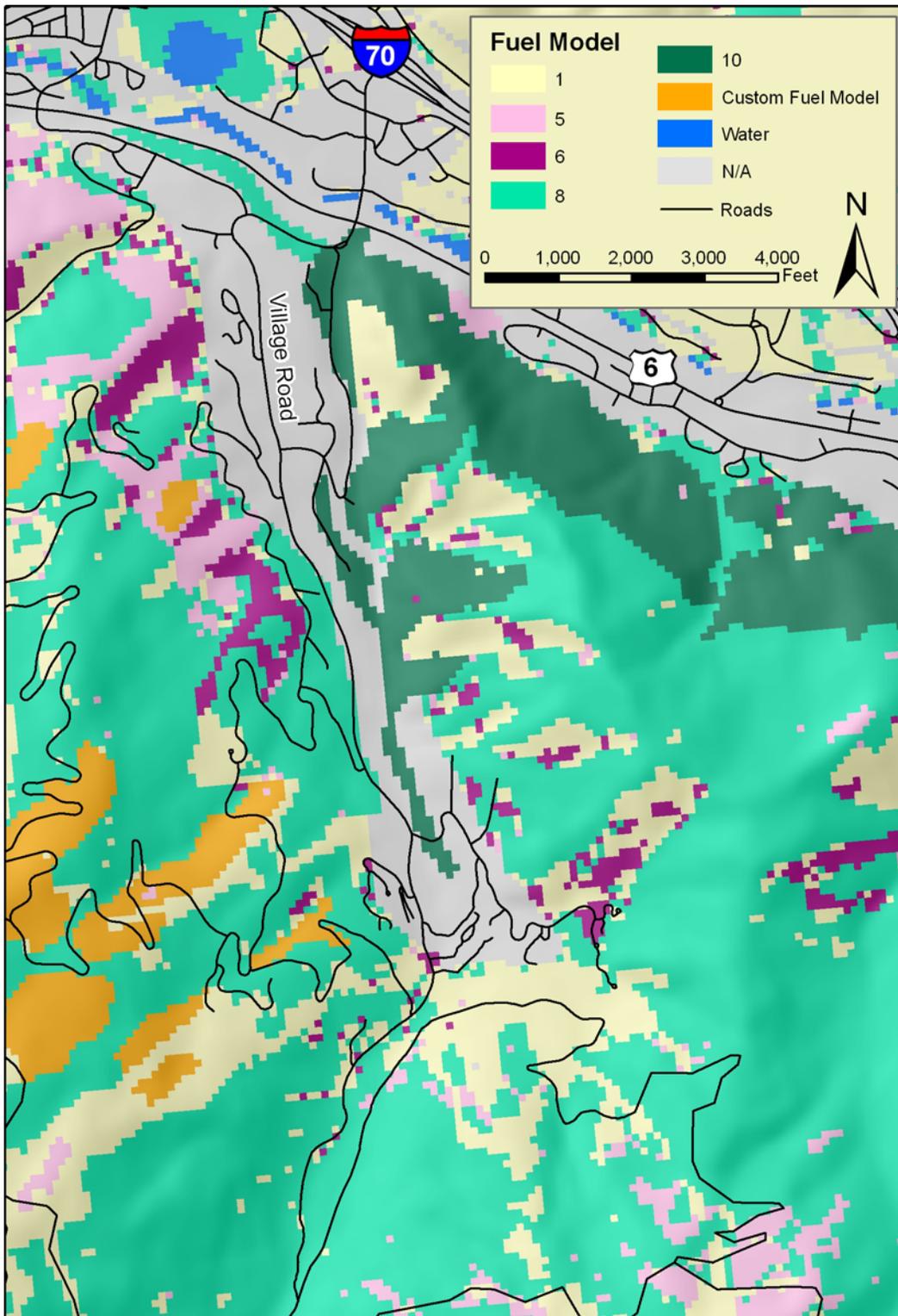
Quaking Aspen stands dominate the landscape. Aspens are very fire resistant—so much so that they are designated as safety zones on wildfires. Aspen stands can burn under extreme conditions, but even then usually only the area nearest some other more flammable fuel type that is crowning. Once the fire gets into the stand, the heat is quickly dissipated due to the green leaf canopy and the lack of ladder fuels. Once leaves drop there is little possibility for fire to carry into the overstory. The understory brush and forbs are also typically moist and difficult to burn. A low intensity surface fire is possible but should not be difficult to extinguish. Some of the Aspen stands have a sparse grass and shrub understory.

There are also stringers of Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) in the resort. This fuel type is resistant to fire in most of its life stages. Typically, there are few ladder or ground fuels and fires smolder in the duff. Only when very young or during its decline, when there are ladder fuels from other tree species and considerable dead and down material, is it very susceptible to high intensity fire.

Figure 5 displays the fuel types graphically for the study area.

³ Anderson, Hal E., *Aids to Determining Fuel Models for Estimating Fire Behavior*, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, NFES 1574, April 1982.

Figure 5. Beaver Creek Fuel Models



FUEL MODEL 1

Figure 6. Short Grasses



Characteristics

Grasslands and savanna are represented along with stubble, grass-tundra, and grass-shrub combinations.

Common Types/Species

Annual and perennial grasses are included in this fuel model.

Fire Behavior

Fire spread is governed by the fine, very porous, and continuous herbaceous fuels that have cured or are nearly cured. Fires in this fuel model are surface fires that move rapidly through the cured grass and associated material. Very little shrub or timber is present—generally less than one third of the area.

FUEL MODEL 1

Rate of spread in chains/hour
(1 chain=66 ft) (80 chains/HR = 1 MPH)

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %	2.0	28.8	92.9	203.6	362.4	570.1	665.6
	4.0	22.0	71.1	155.7	277.0	345.1	345.1
	6.0	19.4	62.4	136.8	243.4	270.1	270.1
	8.0	16.7	53.9	118.1	198.7	198.7	198.7
	10.0	11.0	35.6	64.8	64.8	64.8	64.8

10-hr fuel = 9%, 100-hr fuel = 12%, herbaceous fuel moisture = 102%, slope = 10%

Flame Length in Feet

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %	2.0	3.0	5.1	7.3	9.6	11.8	12.7
	4.0	2.4	4.1	5.9	7.8	8.6	8.6
	6.0	2.2	3.8	5.5	7.1	7.5	7.5
	8.0	2.0	3.4	4.9	6.3	6.3	6.3
	10.0	1.4	2.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2

FUEL MODEL 5

Figure 7. Young Shrub Stands with Primarily Live Fuels



Characteristics

This model consists of continuous stands of low brush. Generally, heights do not exceed six feet. The stands will have a grass or scattered grass understory. Usually shrubs are short and almost totally cover the area.

Common Types/Species

Young, green stands with no dead wood would qualify: laurel, vine maple, alder, or even chaparral, manzanita, or chamise. Mountain grasses are also associated with this type.

Fire Behavior

The fires are generally not very intense because surface fuel loads are light, the shrubs are young with little dead material, and the foliage contains little volatile material. Fire is generally carried in the surface fuels that are made up of litter cast by the shrubs and the grasses or forbs in the understory. Cured leaves retained on shrubs can cause greater intensities.

FUEL MODEL 5

Rate of spread in chains/hour
(1 chain=66 ft) (80 chains/HR = 1 MPH)

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %	2.0	9.4	21.8	37.1	54.6	73.8	94.7
	4.0	8.3	19.3	32.7	48.1	65.1	83.5
	6.0	6.8	15.9	27.0	39.8	53.8	69.0
	8.0	3.9	9.1	15.5	22.8	30.9	39.6
	10.0	2.7	6.3	10.6	15.6	21.2	21.4
	12.0	2.6	6.0	10.2	15.0	19.7	19.7

10-hr fuel 9%, 100 = 12%, woody fuel moisture = 102%, slope 10%

Flame Length in Feet

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %	2.0	4.2	6.2	8.0	9.5	10.9	12.3
	4.0	3.8	5.6	7.1	8.5	9.8	11.0
	6.0	3.2	4.7	6.0	7.2	8.2	9.2
	8.0	1.9	2.8	3.6	4.3	5.0	5.6
	10.0	1.4	2.0	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.5
	12.0	1.3	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.4	3.4

FUEL MODEL 6

Figure 8. Shrub Stands



Characteristics

The shrubs are older but not as tall as the shrub types of model 4, nor do they contain as much fuel as model 4. A broad range of shrub conditions is covered by this model.

Common Types/Species

Fuel situations to be considered include intermediate stands of chamise, chaparral, oak brush, low pocosin, Alaskan spruce taiga, and shrub tundra. Even hardwood slash that has cured can be considered. Piñon-juniper shrub lands may be represented but may over predict rate of spread except at high winds, like 20 mi/h (32 km/h) at the 20-foot level.

Fire Behavior

Fires carry through the shrub layer where the foliage is more flammable than fuel model 5, but this requires moderate winds, greater than 8 mi/h (13 km/h) at mid-flame height. Fire will drop to the ground at low wind speeds or at openings in the stand.

FUEL MODEL 6

Rate of spread in chains/hour
(1 chain=66 ft) (80 chains/HR = 1 MPH)

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %		16.6	37.1	61.7	89.2	119.2	151.3
	2.0	13.5	30.3	50.3	72.7	97.2	123.4
	4.0	11.5	25.7	42.6	61.7	82.4	104.6
	6.0	10.1	22.6	37.5	54.3	72.6	92.1
	8.0	9.2	20.5	34.1	49.3	65.9	83.6
	10.0	8.5	19.0	31.6	45.6	61.0	77.4
	12.0						

10-hr fuel 9%, 100 = 12%, woody fuel moisture = 102%, slope 10%

Flame Length in Feet

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %		4.9	7.0	8.9	10.5	12.0	13.4
	2.0	4.2	6.0	7.6	9.0	10.3	11.5
	4.0	3.7	5.4	6.8	8.0	9.2	10.2
	6.0	3.4	4.9	6.2	7.4	8.4	9.4
	8.0	3.2	4.6	5.8	6.9	7.9	8.8
	10.0	3.1	4.4	5.6	6.6	7.6	8.5
	12.0						

FUEL MODEL 8

Figure 9. Aspen Stands



Characteristics

Hardwoods that have leafed out support fire in the compact litter layer. This layer is mainly needles, leaves, and occasionally twigs, because little undergrowth is present in the stand. Amounts of needle and woody litter are also low.

Common Types/Species

Closed canopy stands of short-needle conifers or hardwoods. Representative conifer types are white pine, lodgepole pine, spruce, fir, and larch.

Fire Behavior

Fires in this fuel model are slow burning and low intensity, burning in surface fuels. Fuels are mainly needles and woody litter. Heavier fuel loadings from old dead and down trees or branches can cause flare-ups. Heavier fuel loads have the potential to develop crown fires in extreme burning conditions.

FUEL MODEL 8

Rate of spread in chains/hour
(1 chain=66 ft) (80 chains/HR = 1 MPH)

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %	2.0	1.1	2.3	3.8	5.6	7.7	9.7
	4.0	0.9	1.8	3.1	4.6	6.2	6.6
	6.0	0.7	1.5	2.6	3.8	4.8	4.8
	8.0	0.6	1.3	2.3	3.3	3.7	3.7
	10.0	0.6	1.2	2.0	3.0	3.1	3.1
	12.0	0.5	1.1	1.8	2.7	2.7	2.7

10-hr fuel = 9%, 100-hr fuel = 12%, woody fuel moisture = 102%, slope = 10%

Flame Length in Feet

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %	2.0	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.5
	4.0	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.0
	6.0	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.6
	8.0	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4
	10.0	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3
	12.0	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.2

FUEL MODEL 10

Figure 10. Decadent Mixed Conifer Stands



Characteristics

This model is represented by dense stands of over-mature ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, mixed-conifer, and continuous stands of Douglas-fir. In all stand types, heavy down material is present. There is also a large amount of dead, down, woody fuels. Reproduction may be present, acting as ladder fuels. This model includes stands of budworm-killed Douglas-fir, closed stands of ponderosa pine with large amounts of ladder and surface fuels, and stands of lodgepole pine with heavy loadings of downed trees. This model can occur from the foothills through the sub-alpine zone.

Common Types/Species

Many types of vegetation can occur in this model, but primary species are spruce/fir, ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine.

Fire Behavior

Fire intensities can be moderate to extreme. Fire moves through dead, down woody material. Torching and spotting are more frequent. Crown fires are quite possible.

FUEL MODEL 10

Rate of spread in chains/hour
(1 chain=66 ft) (80 chains/HR = 1 MPH)

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %	2.0	3.7	7.9	13.3	19.5	26.4	33.9
	4.0	3.2	7.0	11.8	17.3	23.4	30.1
	6.0	2.9	6.4	10.7	15.7	21.2	27.3
	8.0	2.7	5.9	9.9	14.6	19.8	25.4
	10.0	2.6	5.6	9.4	13.8	18.7	24.0
	12.0	2.5	5.4	9.0	13.2	17.8	22.9

10-hr fuel = 9%, 100 = 12%, woody fuel moisture = 102%, slope 10%

Flame Length in Feet

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %	2.0	3.8	5.4	6.8	8.1	9.3	10.5
	4.0	3.4	4.8	6.1	7.3	8.4	9.5
	6.0	3.1	4.5	5.7	6.8	7.8	8.7
	8.0	3.0	4.2	5.4	6.4	7.4	8.3
	10.0	2.8	4.1	5.1	6.1	7.1	7.9
	12.0	2.8	3.9	5.0	5.9	6.8	7.7

FUEL MODEL 40

Figure 11. MPB infected lodgepole stands



Characteristics

This custom model was created to capture Mountain Pine Beetle infested lodgepole pine stands. The model has most of the characteristics of FM 8 with some modifications to better represent the effects of MPB on the stand. The 1 hour fuels are increased to account for needle fall as is the fuel bed depth. The Canopy Bulk Density has been reduced to better represent the loss of red needles. This is an attempt to model an average condition. In reality, some trees lose needles more quickly and others hold them longer. Trees are also in different stages of decline depending on when they were infected.

Common Types/Species

Primary species is lodgepole pine.

Fire Behavior

Fire intensities can be moderate to extreme. Surface fires will have larger flame lengths and rates of spread with the continuous red needle layer. Transition from surface fire to torching and crowning is more likely because the needles on the trees are dead and more receptive. Some needles stay on the tree for several years and continue to create high potential for crown fire. Trees that have dropped some of the needles are more prone to torching than crowning.

FUEL MODEL 40

Rate of spread in chains/hour
(1 chain=66 ft) (80 chains/HR = 1 MPH)

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %	2.0	4.3	9.7	16.6	24.9	34.2	44.5
	4.0	3.5	7.9	13.5	20.2	27.7	36.1
	6.0	2.9	6.6	11.3	16.9	23.2	30.2
	8.0	2.5	5.7	9.8	14.6	20.1	26.2
	10.0	2.3	5.1	8.7	13	17.9	23.3
	12.0	2.1	4.6	8	11.9	16.4	21.3

10-hr fuel = 9%, 100 = 12%, woody fuel moisture = 102%, slope 10%

Flame Length in Feet

		Mid-flame Wind Speed					
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	12.0
Fine Dead Fuel moisture %	2.0	2.7	3.9	5	6	7	7.9
	4.0	2.3	3.4	4.3	5.2	6	6.8
	6.0	2	2.9	3.8	4.5	5.3	5.9
	8.0	1.8	2.7	3.4	4.1	4.7	5.4
	10.0	1.7	2.5	3.2	3.8	4.4	5
	12.0	1.6	2.3	3	3.6	4.2	4.7

Reference Weather Used in the Fire Behavior Potential Evaluation

The weather inputs for FlamMap were created by using weather data collected at the Dowd Junction Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS).

Dowd Junction Site Information

Latitude (dd mm ss)	39 ° 38' 0 " N
Longitude (dd mm ss)	106 ° 27 ' 29 " W
Elevation (ft.)	8,998

Weather observations for a twenty-year period (1986-2006) were used to calculate these conditions. The moderate conditions class (16th to 89th percentile, sorted by Spread Component) was calculated for each variable (1 hour, 10 hour, and 100 hour fuel moisture, woody fuel moisture, herbaceous fuel moisture, and wind speed) using Fire Family Plus. This weather condition class most closely represents an average fire season day.

The extreme conditions class was calculated using 97th percentile weather data. In other words, the weather conditions on the most severe fire weather days (sorted by Spread Component) in each season for the twenty-year period were used for this analysis. It is reasonable to assume that similar conditions may exist on at least three to five days of the fire season during an average year. In fact, during extreme years such conditions may exist for significantly longer periods. Even these calculations may be conservative compared to observed fire behavior. The following values were used in **FlamMap**:

Moderate Weather Conditions	
Variable	Value
20 ft Wind speed up slope	20 mph
Herbaceous fuel moisture	47%
Woody fuel moisture	102%
100-hr fuel moisture	12%
10-hr fuel moisture	9%
1-hr fuel moisture	6%

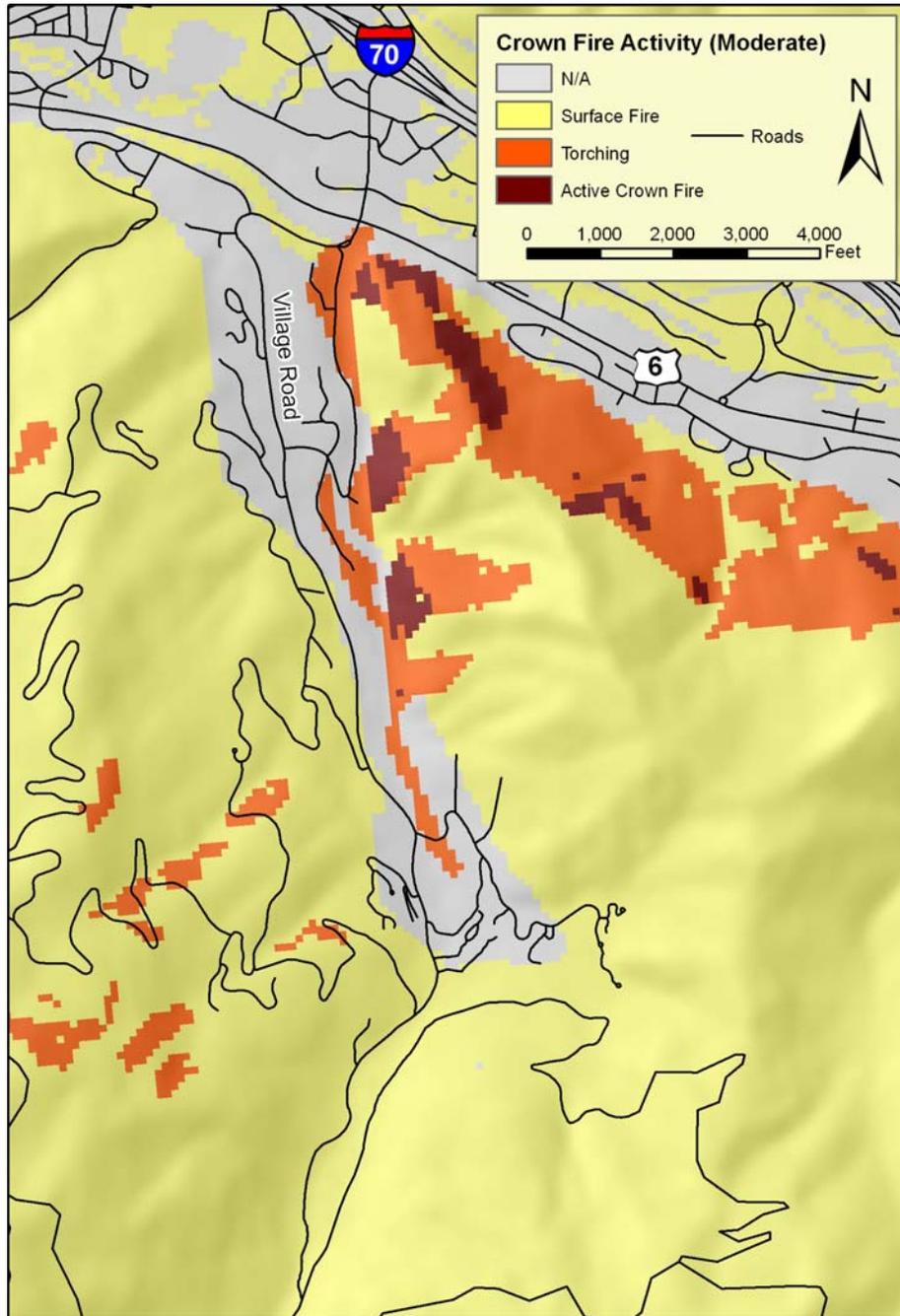
Extreme Weather Conditions	
Variable	Value
20 ft Wind speed up slope	32 mph
Herbaceous fuel moisture	30%
Woody fuel moisture	78%
100-hr fuel moisture	8%
10-hr fuel moisture	4%
1-hr fuel moisture	3%

(Note: Strong winds at 20 ft will feel significantly less noticeable on the skin at ground level. For example, a “gentle breeze” on the skin may constitute an 11 MPH 20-foot wind, adding one of the components necessary for extreme weather conditions.)

Fire Behavior Analysis Outputs

Crown fire activity, rate of spread, and flame length are derived from the fire behavior predictions. The following maps graphically display the outputs of **FlamMap** for both moderate and extreme weather conditions.

Figure 12. Predictions of Crown Fire Activity (Moderate Weather Conditions)



Crown fire activity values are generated by the **FlamMap** model and classified into four categories based on standard ranges: Active, Passive, Surface, and Not Applicable. In the surface fire category, little or no tree torching will be expected. During passive crown fire activity, isolated torching of trees or groups of trees will be observed and canopy runs will be limited to short distances. During active crown fire activity, sustained runs through the canopy will be observed that may be independent of surface fire activity.

Figure 13. Predictions of Crown Fire Activity (Extreme Weather Conditions)

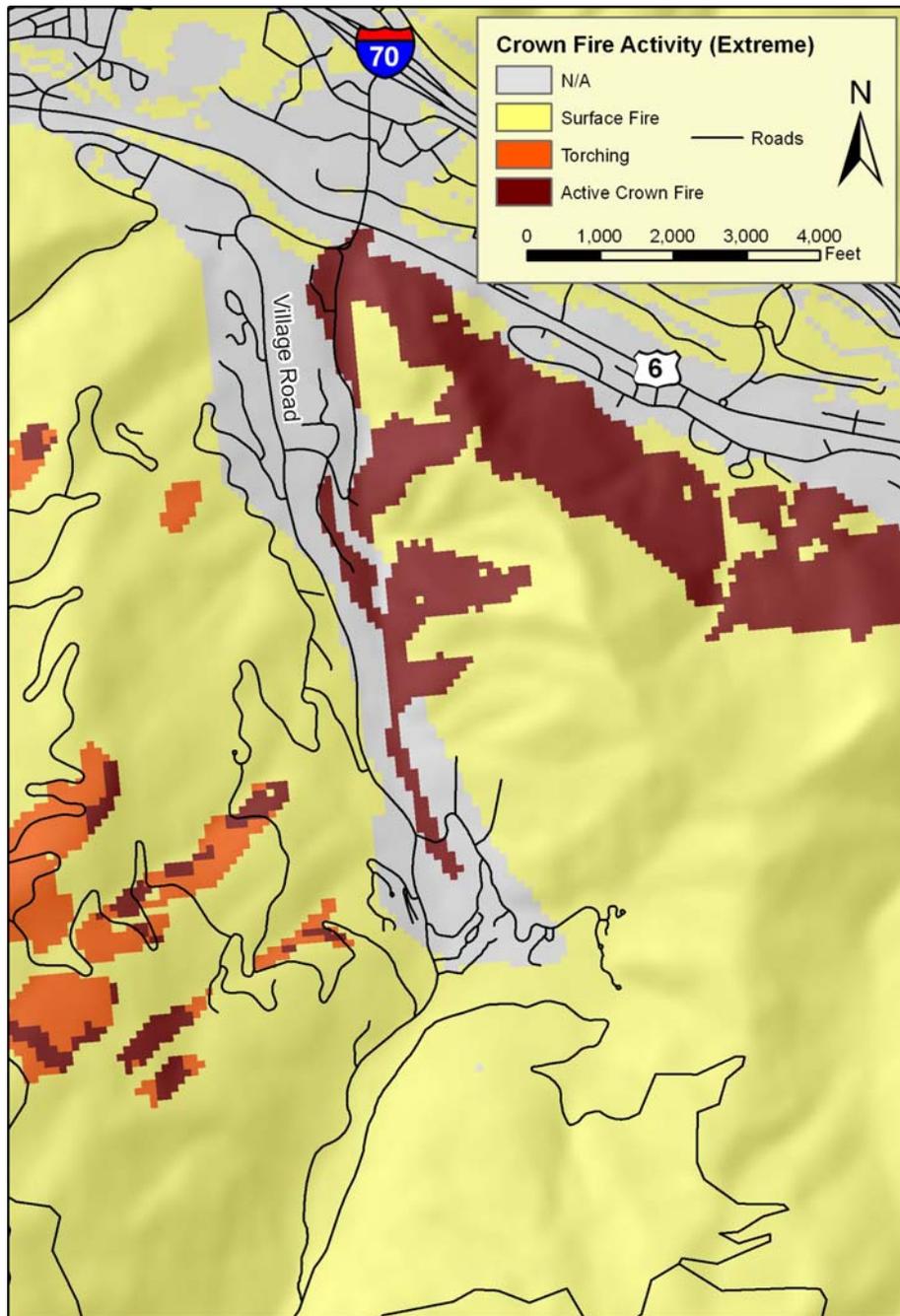
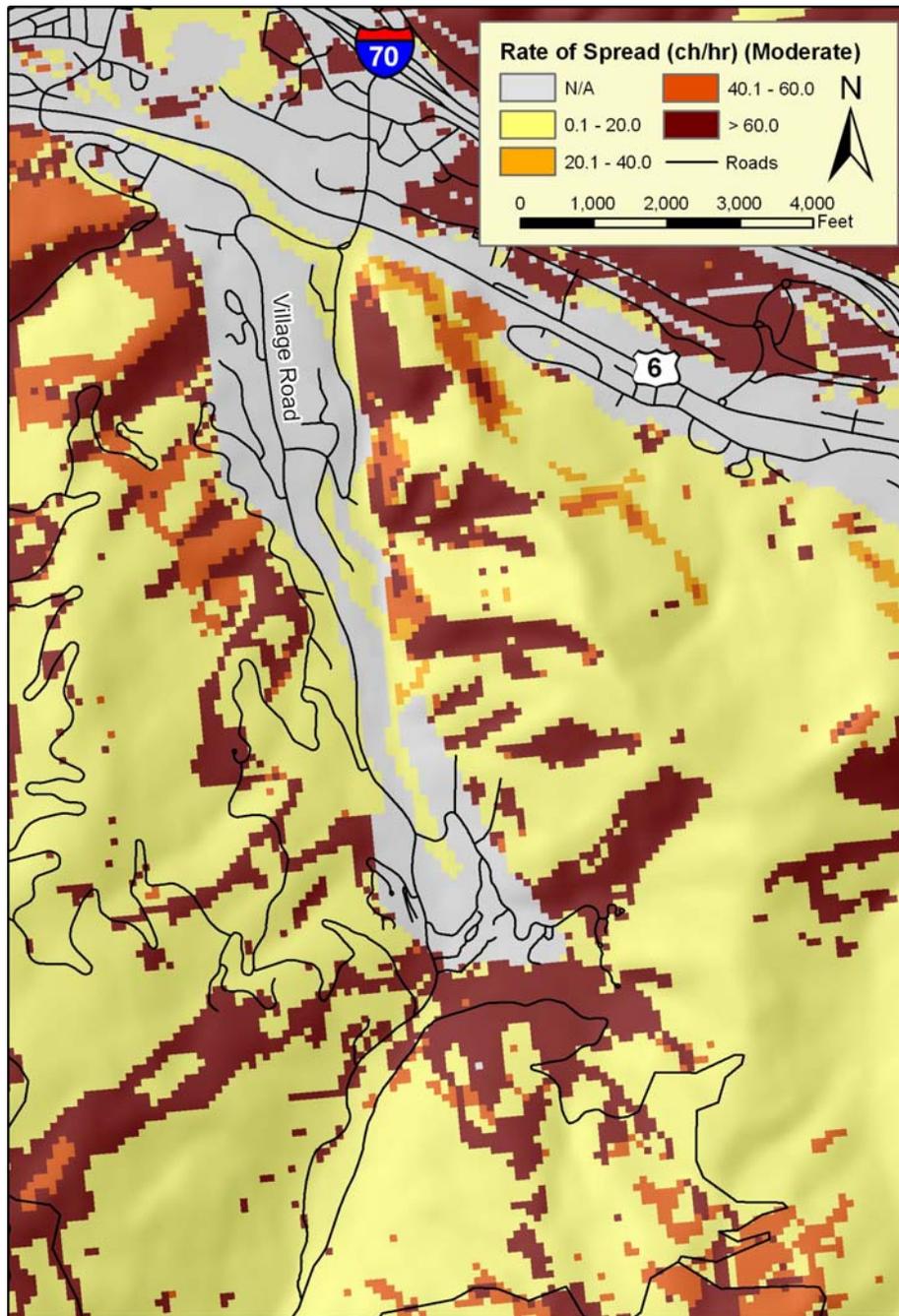


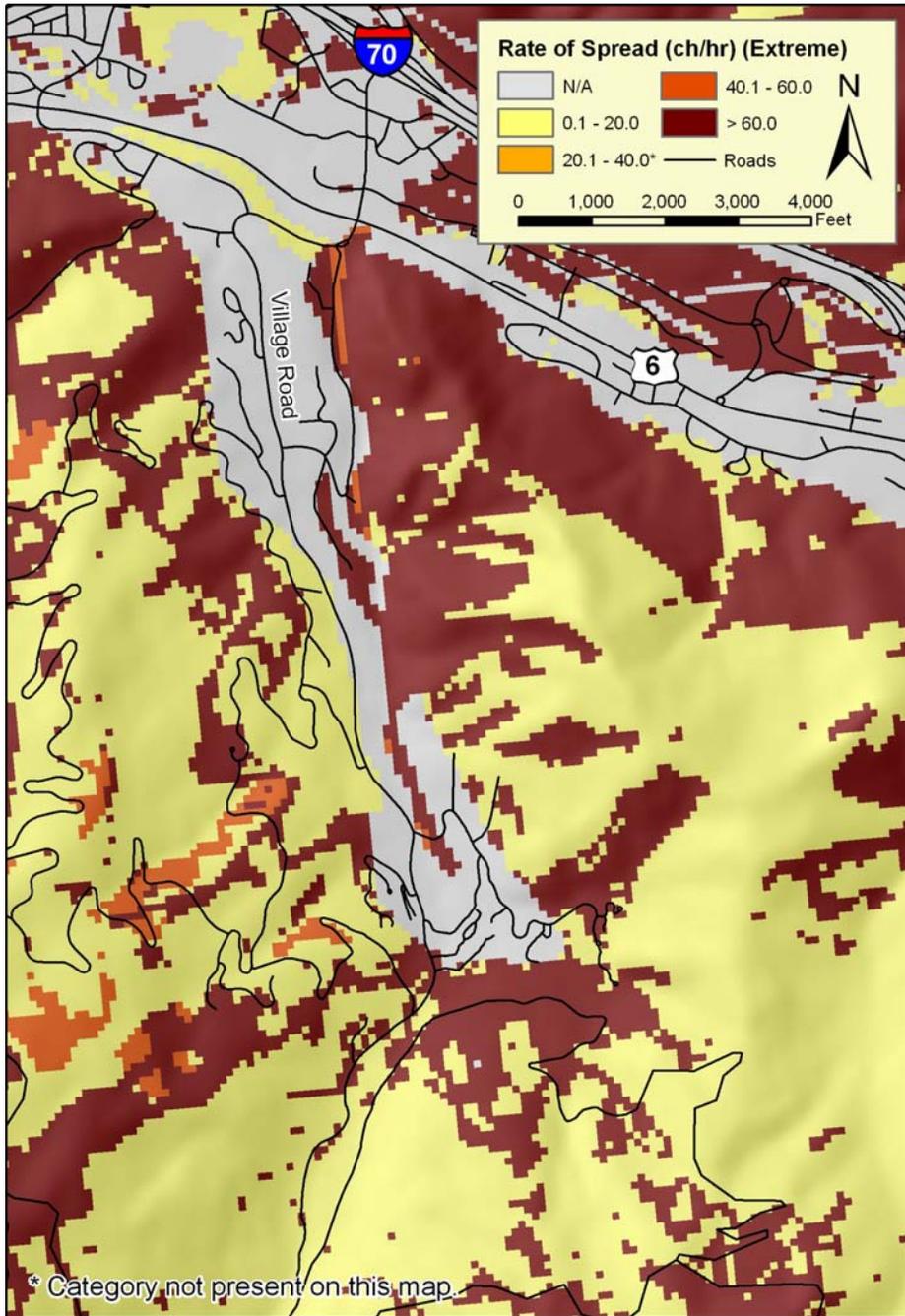
Figure14. Rate of Spread Predictions (Moderate Weather Conditions)



Rate of spread in chains/hour
(1 chain=66 ft) (80 chains/hour = 1 MPH)

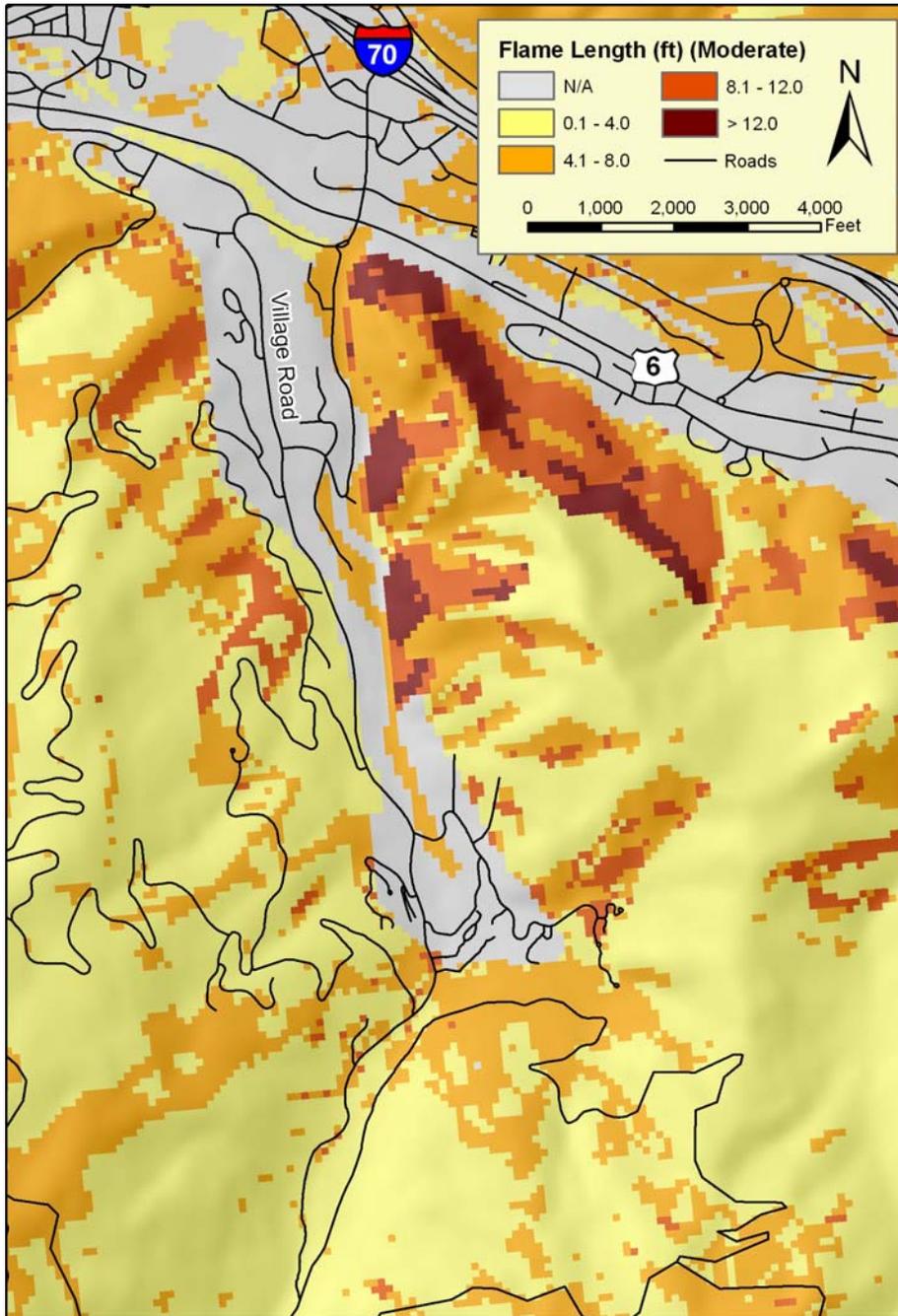
Spread rate values are generated by the **FlamMap** model and classified into four categories based on standard ranges: 0-20 ch/h (chains/hour), 20.1-40 ch/h, 40.1-60 ch/h, and greater than 60 ch/h. A chain is a logging measurement that is equal to 66 feet. One mile equals 80 chains. 1 ch/h equals approximately 1 foot/minute or 80 chains per hour equals 1 mile per hour.

Figure 15. Rate of Spread Predictions (Extreme Weather Conditions)



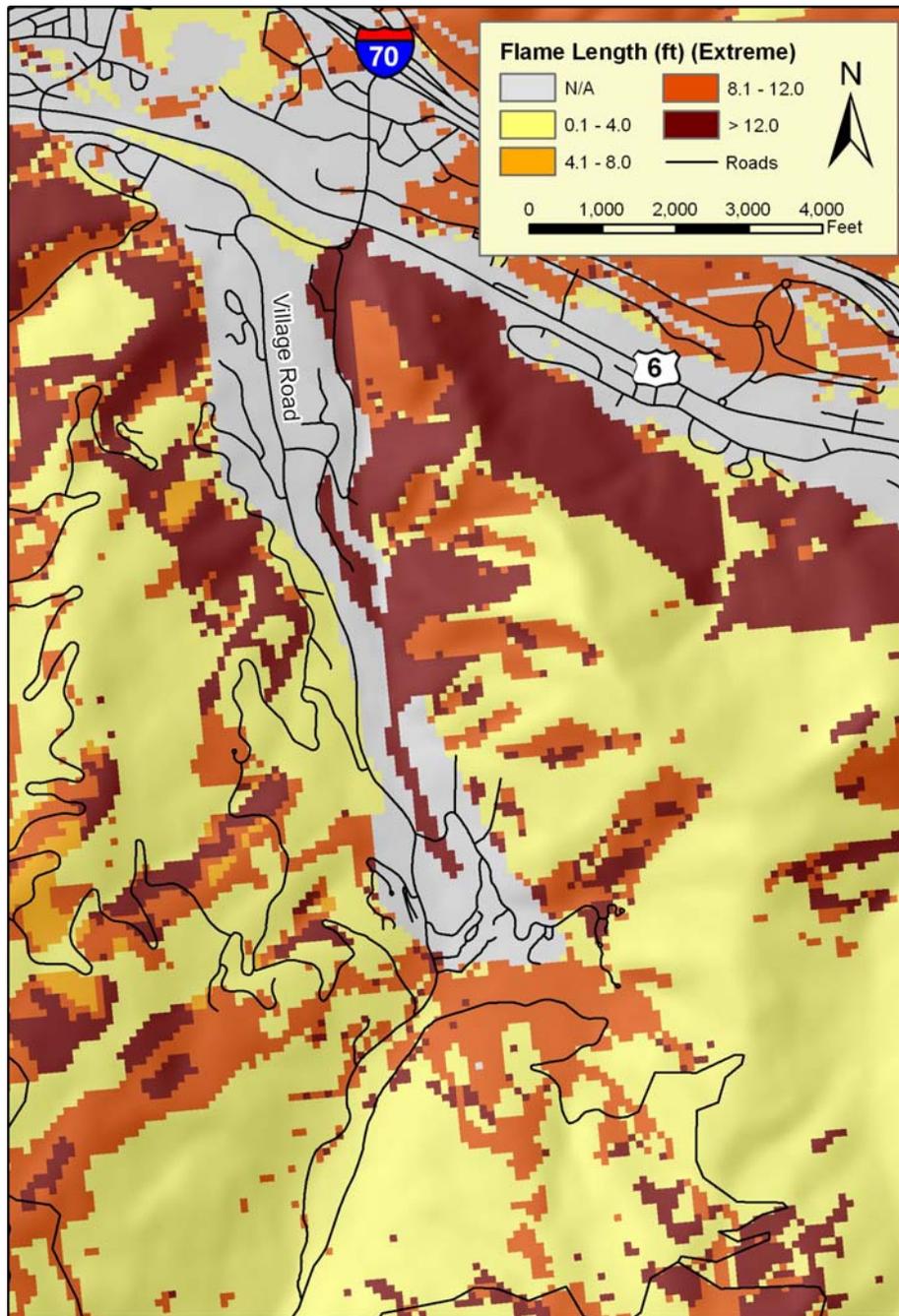
Rate of spread in chains/hour
(1 chain=66 ft) (80 chains/hour = 1 MPH)

Figure 16. Flame Length Predictions (Moderate Weather Conditions)



Flame length values are generated by the **FlamMap** model and classified in the four categories based on standard ranges: 0-4 feet, 4.1-8 feet, 8.1-12 feet, and >12 feet. Flame lengths of 4 feet and less are acceptable for direct attack by hand crews. Flame lengths of 8 feet and less are suitable for direct attack by machinery. With flame lengths of greater than 8 feet, indirect attack and aerial attack are the preferred methods.

Figure 17. Flame Length Predictions (Extreme Weather Conditions)



Fire Behavior Modeling Limitations and Interpretation

This evaluation is a prediction of likely fire behavior, given a standardized set of conditions and a single point-source ignition in every cell (each 10 x 10 meter area). It does not consider cumulative impacts of increased fire intensity over time and space. The model does not calculate the probability that a wildfire will occur. It assumes an ignition occurrence for every cell. These calculations may be conservative (under-predict) compared to observed fire behavior.

This model can be conceptually overlaid with the Community Wildfire Hazard Ratings (WHR) or other values at risk identification to generate current and future “areas of concern,” which are useful for prioritizing mitigation actions. This is sometimes referred to as a “values layer.” One possibility is to overlay the fire behavior potential maps with the community hazard map to make general evaluations of the effects of the predicted fire behavior in areas of high hazard value (areas where there are concentrations of residences and other man-made values). However, one should keep in mind that the minimum mapping unit used for fire behavior modeling is one acre, so fine-scale fire behavior and effects are not considered in the model. Additionally, weather conditions are extremely variable and not all combinations are accounted for. The fire behavior prediction maps are best used for pre-planning and not as a stand-alone product for tactical planning. If this information is used for tactical planning, fire behavior calculations should be done with actual weather observations during the fire event. For greatest accuracy, the most current Energy Release Component (ERC) values should be calculated and distributed during the fire season to be used as a guideline for fire behavior potential. Please see **Appendix B** for a further discussion of the WHR methodology.

Flame Length

Figures 16 and 17 display the flame length predictions for the two weather scenarios. Flame length is a proxy for fire intensity. It is important to note flame length is considered the entire distance from the base of the flame to the tip irrespective of angle and not simply the flame height above the ground. It is possible in high wind conditions to have very intense flames (high flame lengths) which are relatively close to the fuel bed. The legend boxes display flame length in ranges which are meaningful to firefighters. Flame lengths of four feet and less are deemed low enough intensity to be suitable for direct attack by hand crews, and therefore represent the best chances of direct extinguishment and control. Flame lengths of less than eight feet are suitable for direct attack by equipment such as bulldozers and tractor plows. Flame lengths of eight to 12 feet are usually attacked by indirect methods and aircraft. In conditions where flame lengths exceed 12 feet, the most effective tactics are fuel consumption ahead of the fire by burnouts or mechanical methods. Although indirect fire line and aerial attack are also used for fires with flame lengths of greater than 12 feet, as flame lengths increase the effectiveness of these tactics decreases, and their use is generally designed to slow rates of spread and reduce fire intensity, especially in areas where values at risk are concentrated.

In the moderate fire weather scenario, the model predicts that fires in most of the populated portions of the WUI could be attacked directly by either hand crews or equipment. However, it should be noted there are significant stands where flame lengths of greater than 12 feet under moderate conditions are predicted near homes on the east side of the Beaver Creek Drive community. There are also some areas where eight- to 12- foot flame lengths are predicted near homes in the Wayne Creek and Holden communities.

Under the extreme fire weather scenario, flame lengths of greater than 12 feet are predicted in some portions of all of the communities other than Elk Track Court. In general, these areas are small and isolated, and would therefore not be expected to result in significant control problems for

firefighters—with the exception of a few areas of high to extreme flame lengths predicted adjacent to and extending into communities in the northern and western portions of the study area, including: Beaver Creek Drive, Wayne Creek, Holden and Strawberry Park. In these areas, the predicted flame lengths indicate fires are likely to be too intense for direct attack by hand crews. Nonetheless, hand crews would be vital for structure preparation, triage, and the construction of indirect fire line. Under extreme weather and fuel moisture conditions, fire intensity in some of these areas could be a serious issue, and control might be difficult to establish and maintain. Perhaps the most disturbing is the area of high to extreme flame lengths that could block the only access into, and out of, Strawberry Park.

Rate of Spread

Figures 14 and 15 show the predicted rates of spread for the moderate fire weather and extreme fire weather scenarios, respectively. Rates of spread are expressed in chains/hour (CPH). A chain is a unit of measure commonly used by loggers and firefighters. It is equal to 66 feet; therefore, one mile equals 80 chains. Rates of fire spread are influenced primarily by the wind, slope steepness, fuel type/continuity, and fuel sheltering from the wind. Fire is the only force of nature which moves faster uphill than downhill. When all other factors are equal, fire moves twice as fast uphill on a slope of 30% than it does on flat terrain. In areas where high to extreme rates of spread are predicted (ROS of >40 CPH or ½ mile per hour) it is possible fires could spread faster than humans can escape, creating extremely dangerous conditions for firefighters and evacuating residents. High rates of spread also make suppression efforts less effective and increase the tactical complexity of the incident.

In the moderate fire weather scenario, high rates of spread are predicted to extend into some parts of all the communities in the southern and western portions of the study area. In general these areas are not continuous enough within the WUI to be of great concern, but communities where these areas cover a significant portion of the only access (such as Offerson/Greystone and Strawberry Park) should be considered for early evacuation if fire threatens the evacuation route.

In the extreme fire weather scenario, high rates of spread are expected to develop adjacent to and within some areas of all the communities. The highest rates of spread are predicted for the eastern edge of the Beaver Creek Drive community, the northwest edge of Wayne Creek and for significant portions of the areas to the south of Offerson/Greystone, Larkspur/Chateau, and Strawberry Park. Since the prevailing movement of fire in the study area is from the southwest, evacuations and WUI operations in the southern and western portions of the study area will be more complex under extreme conditions, requiring tactics to be implemented further ahead of the fire.

Crown Fire Activity

The Crown Fire Activity maps (**Figures 12 and 13**) display the potential for fires to move from the surface into the canopy of trees and shrubs. The likelihood of progression from the surface into the aerial fuels is displayed in four categories. N/A refers to areas where surface fires are unlikely to develop due to the lack of combustible fuels. These would include any area lacking a combustible fuel bed such as rock, ice, snow fields, water, sand, or some urban landscapes. The surface fire category covers areas where fires are expected to be limited to the surface fuels and lack the energy to initiate and sustain vertical development into the aerial fuels. Areas where grass fuels without overstory plants are dominant fall into this category regardless of the energy produced by the fire due to the lack of an aerial fuel bed. Areas covered by the torching category are expected to experience isolated combustion of the tree crowns in individual trees and groups of trees. In other words, individual or relatively small clusters of trees will be completely involved, but these fires lack the energy to initiate sustained horizontal movements (referred to as “runs” by fire

fighters) through the crowns. The active crown fire category includes areas where sustained horizontal movements through tree crowns are expected. This category can be further subdivided into “dependent” or “independent” crown fire. Dependent crown fires rely on the presence of surface fires to support aerial burning. Independent crown fires develop when aerial burning is sustained without the need for associated surface fire. Independent crown fires are rare and are associated with the most extreme fire behavior conditions. Current fire behavior models cannot predict independent crown fire development. All crown fires, regardless of whether they are dependent or independent, represent extreme fire behavior conditions, and are notoriously resistant to all methods of suppression and control.

Under moderate burning conditions active crown fire is only expected to develop in isolated stands to the east of the Beaver Creek Drive community and should not represent any unusual difficulties to firefighters. However, sudden wind shifts could blow embers back onto wooden roofs in this community, making regular patrols desirable during fire events.

Under extreme burning conditions active crown fires are predicted for significant portions of the area east of and extending into Beaver Creek Drive, as well as along the single access into Strawberry Park. Crews working on the eastern side of the Beaver Creek Drive community should be especially watchful for ember cast onto wooden roofs in this community.

Spotting Potential

There is little chance of embers and spots from Aspen stands. The lodgepole pine stands within the study area could generate embers and spotting, but the resulting embers would need to land in a receptive fuel bed. Since aspen surround almost the entire study area, there would be little chance of an ignition. Most homes have landscaping and grass lawns, which are not likely to be receptive to ignition. The primary concern would be embers landing on wood shake roofs. Due to the active safety patrol schedule and nearby fire response, a fire should be detected quickly, before it has a chance to extend to other structures or vegetative fuels. Additionally, a substantial water supply system is available to control any spot fires that may develop due to ember cast.

APPENDIX B

BEAVER CREEK, COLORADO NEIGHBORHOOD IGNITABILITY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



PURPOSE

The purpose of this appendix is to examine in greater detail the communities in the study area. Of the seven WUI communities in Beaver Creek, two were found to represent a moderate hazard and five a low hazard (See **Figure 1**). For easy reference, the map of communities presented in the main text has been reproduced here as **Figure 2**. **Figure 3** displays this grouping graphically.

Figure 1.

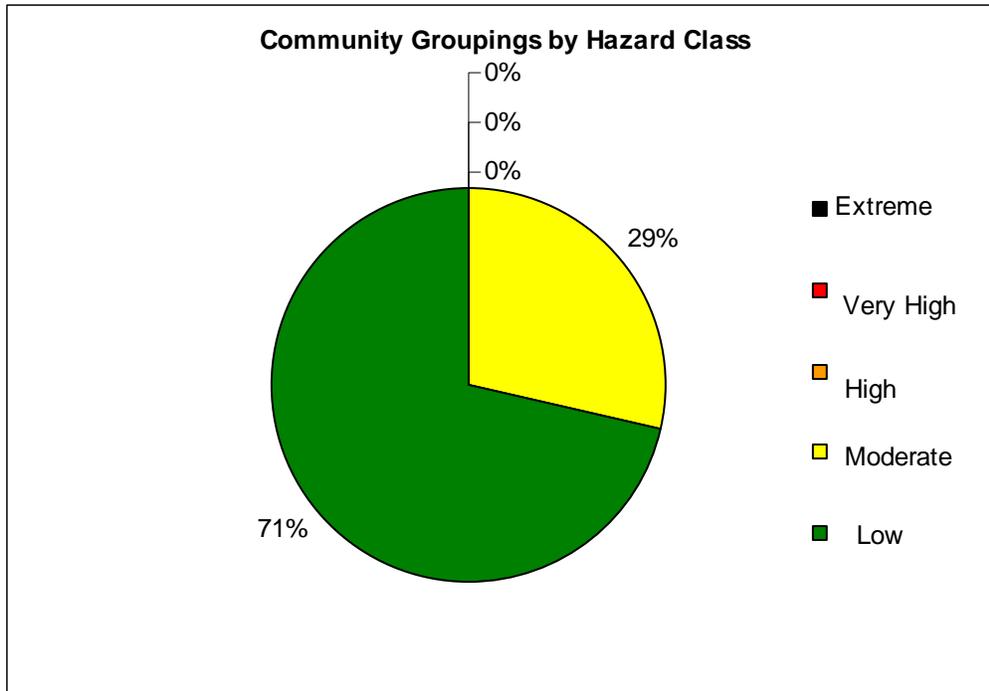


Figure 2.

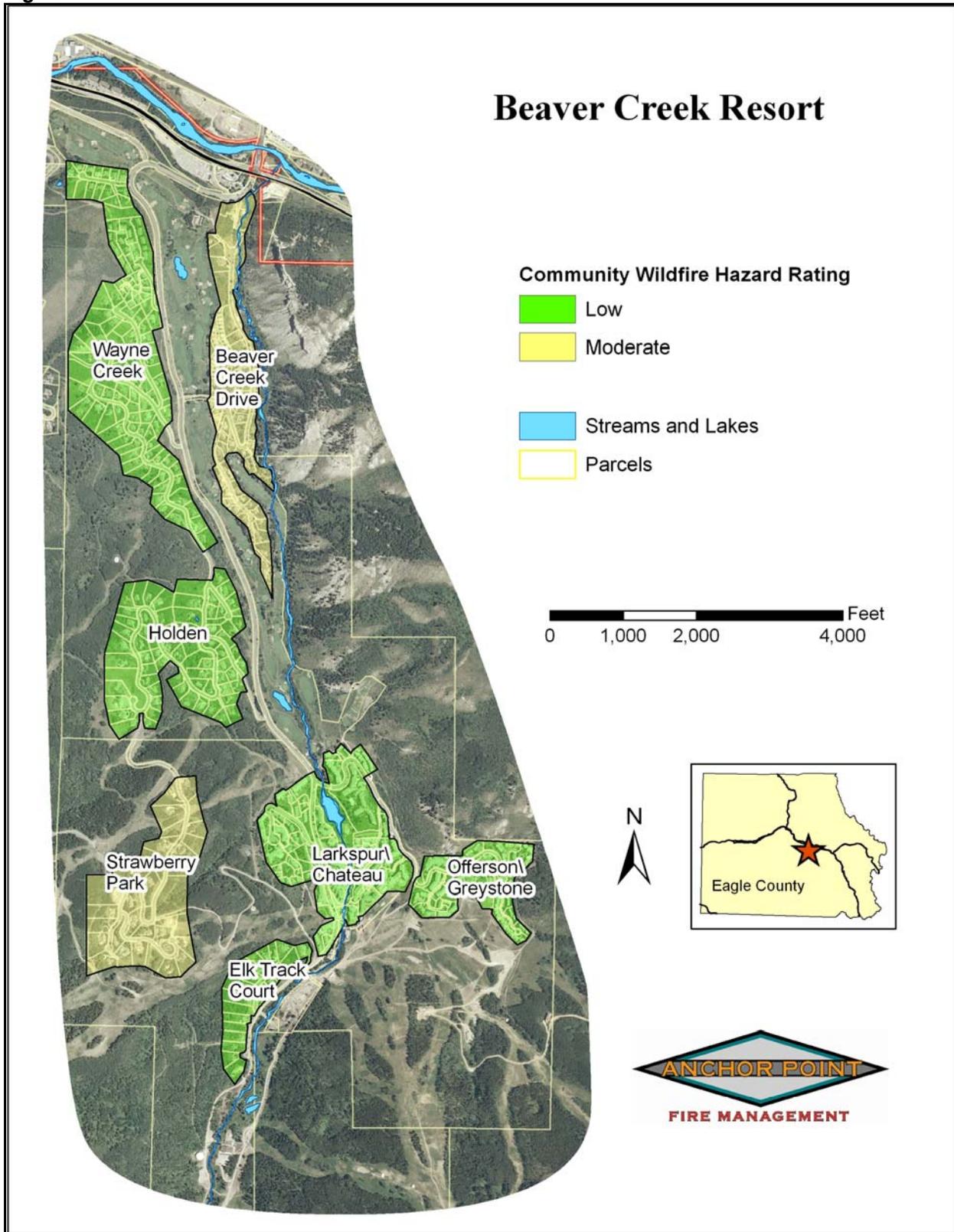
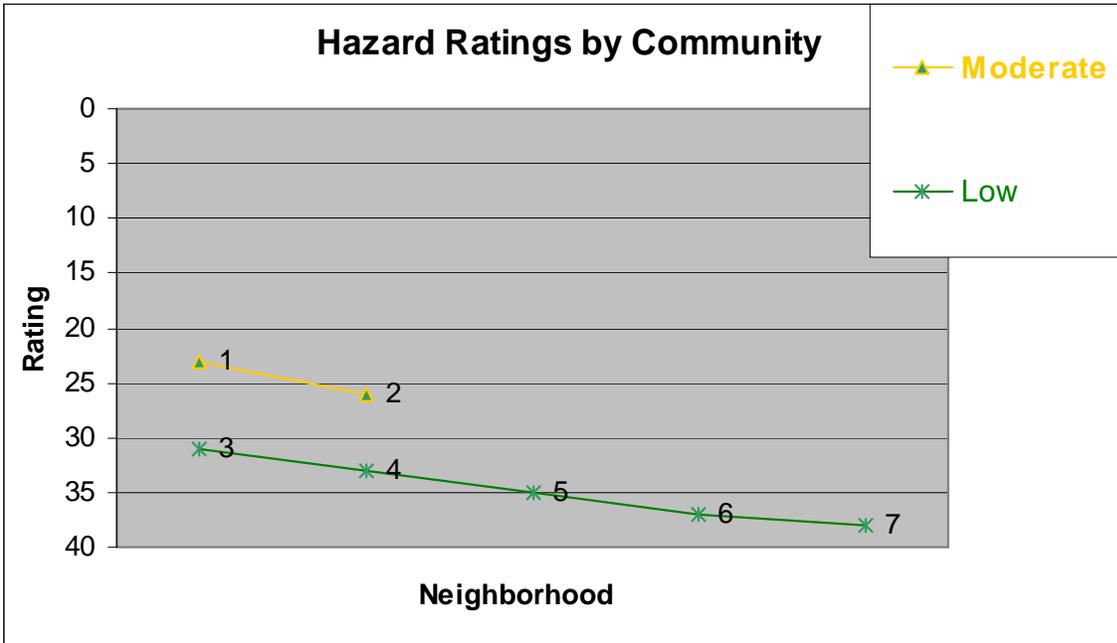


Figure 3.



1. Strawberry Park	5. Holden
2. Beaver Creek Drive	6. Offerson/Greystone
3. Elk Track Court	7. Larkspur/Chateau
4. Wayne Creek	

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

A combination of adequate access, ignition-resistant construction, and fuels management will help create a safe environment for emergency service personnel and will provide reasonable protection to structures from a wildfire. These techniques should also significantly reduce the chances of a structure fire becoming an ignition source to the surrounding wildlands.

In addition to the suggested mitigations listed for the individual communities, several general measures can be taken to improve fire safety. The following recommendations should be noted and practiced by anyone living in the Wildland-Urban Interface:

1. Stay aware of the current fire danger in the area.
2. Clean your roof and gutters at least twice a year, especially during cure-up in autumn.
3. Stack firewood uphill or on a side contour, at least 30 feet away from structures.
4. Don't store combustibles or firewood under decks.
5. Maintain and clean spark arresters on chimneys.
6. When possible, maintain an irrigated greenbelt around the home.
7. Connect, and have available, a minimum of 50 feet of garden hose.
8. Post reflective lot and/or house numbers so that they are clearly visible from the main road. Reflective numbers should also be visible on the structure itself.
9. Trees along driveways should be limbed and thinned as necessary to maintain a minimum 13'6" vertical clearance for emergency vehicle access.
10. Maintain your defensible space constantly:
 - Mow grass and weeds to a low height.
 - Remove any branches overhanging the roof or chimney.
 - Remove all trash, debris, and cuttings from the defensible space.

Note:

In the moderate-level communities a parcel-level analysis was recommended only if the evaluator found that a significant number of homes had no, or ineffective, defensible space or a significant number of hazards near homes was detected. In short, the recommendation was made if the evaluator felt information gathered by a parcel-level analysis could be used to generate a noticeable improvement in the community's defensibility.

TECHNICAL TERMS

The following definitions apply to terms used in the *Description and Comments and Mitigation* sections of this appendix.

Defensible Space: An area around a structure where fuels and vegetation are modified, cleared, or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire toward or from the structure. The design and extent of the defensible space is based on fuels, topography, and the design and materials of the structure.

Extended Defensible Space (also known as Zone 3): In this defensible space zone, treatment is continued beyond the recommended minimum boundary for defensible space. This zone focuses on forest management with fuels reduction being a secondary function.

Shelter-in-Place Areas: There are several ways to protect the public from an advancing wildfire. One of these methods is evacuation, and involves relocation of the threatened population to a safer area. Another is to instruct people to remain inside their homes or public buildings until the danger passes. This concept is new to wildfire in the United States, but not to hazardous materials incident response, where time, hazards and sheer logistics often make evacuation impossible. This concept is the dominant modality for public protection from wildfires in Australia, where fast moving, non-persistent fires in light fuels make evacuation impractical. The success of this tactic depends on a detailed pre-plan that takes into account the construction type and materials of the building used, topography, depth and type of the fuel profile, as well as current and expected weather and fire behavior. For a more complete discussion of the application and limitations of shelter-in-place concepts see *Addressing and Evacuation FMU* in the main report.

Citizen Safety Zone: An area that can be used for protection by residents in the event that the main evacuation route is compromised. The area should be maintained, cleared of fuels, and large enough for all residents of the area to survive an advancing wildfire without special equipment or training.

Fuelbreak: A natural or constructed discontinuity in a fuel profile used to segregate, stop, or reduce the spread of fire. As a practical matter, fuelbreaks in the WUI are most effective against crown fires.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The community level methodology for this assessment uses a Community Wildfire Hazard Rating (WHR) that was developed specifically to evaluate communities within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) for their relative wildfire hazard.¹ The WHR model combines physical infrastructure such as structure density and roads, and fire behavior components like fuels and topography, with the field experience and knowledge of wildland fire experts. It has been proven and refined by use in rating over 1,400 neighborhoods throughout the United States.

Many knowledgeable and experienced fire management professionals were queried about specific environmental and infrastructure factors, and wildfire behavior and hazards. Weightings within the model were established through these queries. The model was designed to be applicable throughout the western United States.

The model was developed from the perspective of performing structural triage on a threatened community in the path of an advancing wildfire with moderate fire behavior. The WHR survey and fuel model ground truthing are accomplished by field surveyors with WUI fire experience. The rating system assigns up to a maximum of 60 points based on seven categories: average lot size, slope, primary aspect, average fuel type, fuel continuity, dominant construction type and surface fuel loading. The higher the community scores, the lower its wildfire hazard. For example, a community with an average lot size of less than 1 acre and slopes of greater than 30% would receive 0 points for those factors, whereas a community with an average lot size of 5 acres and slopes of less than 15% would receive 16 points for the same factors. Additional hazards are then subtracted from the subtotal of points earned in the seven categories to give a final numeric value. The final value is then used to group communities into one of five hazard ratings: Extreme, Very High, High, Moderate, or Low.

It is important to note that not all groupings occur in every geographic region. There are some areas with no low hazard communities, just as there are some areas with no extreme communities. The rankings are also related to what is customary for the area. For example, a high hazard area on the plains of Kansas may not look like a high hazard area in the Sierra Nevada. The system creates a relative ranking of community hazards in relation to the other communities in the study area. It is designed to be used by experienced wildland firefighters who have a familiarity with structural triage operations and fire behavior in the interface.

¹ C. White, "Community Wildfire Hazard Rating Form" *Wildfire Hazard Mitigation and Response Plan*, Colorado State Forest Service, Ft. Collins, CO, 1986.

COMMUNITIES

1. Strawberry Park

Figure 4.



Hazard Rating:

Moderate

Does the neighborhood have dual access roads?

Yes, but gated and locked

Are there road grades > 8%?

No

Are all access roads of adequate width?

No

Average lot size:

1-5 Acres

Fuel models found in the neighborhood:

1, 8

Water supply:

Hydrants

Hazards:

Ravines, wood roofs

Description: This is a community of large homes on moderate-size lots. The most common construction types are ignition-resistant siding, including stucco and masonry, but the most common roof type is wood shake. Some homes have conforming defensible space, but many have flammable vegetation growing right up to the structure. Address markers are generally present, but most are not reflective and placement is not consistent throughout this community. Road surfaces are good, but roads are narrow in some areas with no shoulders and few pullouts or turnarounds suitable for fire apparatus. There are alternate accesses to this community from Bachelor Gulch and the Beaver Creek Ski Resort base area, but both of these are gated and locked. Only the main entrance, off Border's Road, can be accessed with a code. Strawberry Park has a network of hydrants. Dominant fuels are moderate to heavy loads of aspen and lodgepole pine, some insect killed, broken by significant grassy areas including ski runs and lift lines. The general topography is moderate but complicated by ravines and ridges. Most homes are built mid-slope on a steep northeast-facing slope.

STRAWBERRY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

- A parcel-level analysis is recommended.
- Adequate defensible space is recommended for all homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report for details).
- Extended defensible space is recommended for homes located in dangerous topography (above ravines and natural chimneys, mid-slope on steep slopes, on ridge-tops or summits) with heavy fuel loads near or below the home.
- Discourage the use of combustible materials for decks, siding and roofs, especially where homes are upslope from heavy fuels. Replace all shake roofs with non-combustible types such as metal or composite shingle.
- Open areas below decks and projections should be enclosed or screened to prevent the ingress of embers and kept clean of flammable materials, especially where such openings are located on slopes above heavy fuels.
- Clean leaf and needle litter from roofs and gutters and away from foundations.
- Discourage the planting of flammable ornamentals, such as conifers, within 30 feet of homes. Encourage the use of fire- and drought-tolerant plants for ornamental plantings, especially within 30 feet of homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report).
- A modified patch clear cut is recommended in the lodgepole pine stands separating the north end of Strawberry Park from the Holden community (see *Landscape Scale Fuels Modifications* in the main report).
- Vegetation should be thinned away from access roads and driveways. This is especially important for narrow driveways and road segments, and for any areas where ravines with heavy fuels are below the access.
- Consider preplanning the access from Bachelor Gulch and the one from the ski resort base area as alternate escape routes and equipping gates with firefighter access such as a Knox Box or code-activated opener.
- Wherever possible, on driveways and private roads longer than 300 feet, add pullouts for emergency apparatus. Turnarounds should be constructed at the end of all driveways and dead-end roads.
- Add reflective addressing to all driveways and homes.

2. Beaver Creek Drive

Figure 5.



Hazard Rating:	Moderate
Does the neighborhood have dual access roads?	No
Are there road grades > 8%?	No
Are all access roads of adequate width?	No
Average lot size:	<1 Acre
Fuel models found in the neighborhood:	1, 8
Water supply:	Hydrants
Hazards:	Wood roofs

Description: Beaver Creek Drive is a community of large to moderate-size homes located on primarily small lots along the Beaver Creek drainage. There is some ignition-resistant construction, but most homes are wood siding, many with rock wainscoting. The dominant roof type is wood shake, although there are some ignition-resistant roofs. Some homes have defensible space, but many have flammable ornamentals planted too close to the structure. Roads and street markers are generally good, but roads and driveways are narrow in spots and have few turnarounds and pullouts. Most homes have address markers, but most are non-reflective. This community has a network of hydrants. Dominant fuels are grass, aspen and lodgepole, broken by a golf course and irrigated greenbelt and lawns. The general topography is low to flat.

BEAVER CREEK DRIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adequate defensible space is recommended for all homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report for details).
- Discourage the use of combustible materials for decks, siding and roofs, especially where homes are upslope from fuels. Replace all shake roofs with non-combustible types such as metal or composite shingle.
- Open areas below decks and projections should be enclosed or screened to prevent the ingress of embers and kept clean of flammable materials, especially where such openings are located on slopes above fuels.
- Clean leaf and needle litter from roofs and gutters and away from foundations.
- Discourage the planting of flammable ornamentals, such as conifers, within 30 feet of homes. Encourage the use of fire- and drought-tolerant plants for ornamental plantings, especially within 30 feet of homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report).
- Vegetation should be thinned away from access roads and driveways. This is especially important for narrow driveways and road segments.
- Thinning of the dense riparian fuels along the Beaver Creek drainage to the east of this community is recommended (see the “Landscape Scale Fuels Modifications FMU” section in the main report).
- Wherever possible, on driveways and private roads longer than 300 feet, add pullouts for emergency apparatus. Turnarounds should be constructed at the end of all driveways and dead-end roads.
- Add reflective addressing to all driveways and homes.

3. Elk Track Court

Figure 6.



Hazard Rating:	Low
Does the neighborhood have dual access roads?	No
Are there road grades > 8%?	No
Are all access roads of adequate width?	No
Average lot size:	<1 Acre
Fuel models found in the neighborhood:	1, 8
Water supply:	Hydrants
Hazards:	Wood roofs

Description: Large to moderate-size homes located on primarily small lots built along the Beaver Creek drainage. Most of the homes are wood siding, many with rock wainscoting. Roofs are a mix of wood shake and ignition-resistant types. Some homes have defensible space, but many have flammable ornamentals planted too close to the structure. Roads and street markers are generally good and roads are wider with shoulders and better pullouts than most of Beaver Creek. Most homes have address markers, but most are non-reflective and placement is inconsistent. There is a network of hydrants and the Beaver Creek Fire Department station is adjacent to this community. Dominant fuels are low to moderate loads of grass, aspen, and ornamental conifers, broken by irrigated lawns and ski runs. The general topography is low to flat.

ELK TRACK COURT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adequate defensible space is recommended for all homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report for details).
- Discourage the use of combustible materials for decks, siding and roofs, especially where homes are upslope from fuels. Replace all shake roofs with non-combustible types such as metal or composite shingle.
- Open areas below decks and projections should be enclosed or screened to prevent the ingress of embers and kept clean of flammable materials, especially where such openings are located on slopes above fuels.
- Clean leaf litter from roofs and gutters and away from foundations.
- Discourage the planting of flammable ornamentals, such as conifers, within 30 feet of homes. Encourage the use of fire- and drought-tolerant plants for ornamental plantings, especially within 30 feet of homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report).
- Vegetation should be thinned away from access roads and driveways. This is especially important for narrow driveways and road segments.
- Add reflective addressing to all driveways and homes.

4. Wayne Creek

Figure 7.



Hazard Rating:	Low
Does the neighborhood have dual access roads?	Yes
Are there road grades > 8%?	No
Are all access roads of adequate width?	No
Average lot size:	1-5 Acres
Fuel models found in the neighborhood:	1, 6
Water supply:	Hydrants
Hazards:	Wood roofs

Description: Large to moderate-size homes located on primarily moderate to large lots. There is currently good spacing between the homes, but not all lots are built out. Most of the homes are wood siding, many with rock wainscoting. Roofs are a mix of wood shake and ignition-resistant types. Some homes have defensible space, but many have flammable ornamentals planted too close to the structure. Roads and street markers are generally good, but roads and driveways are narrow in some areas and have few turnarounds and pullouts. Many homes do not have address markers at the street and of those that do, most are non-reflective. This community has a network of hydrants. Dominant fuels are low to moderate loads of grass, aspen and shrubs, broken by irrigated lawns and ornamental plantings. The general topography is moderate, but steeper in some areas, with most homes constructed on the lower 1/3 of a northeast facing slope.

WAYNE CREEK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adequate defensible space is recommended for all homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report for details).
- Extended defensible space is recommended for homes located in dangerous topography (above ravines and natural chimneys, mid-slope on steep slopes, on ridge-tops or summits) with heavy fuel loads near or below the home.
- Discourage the use of combustible materials for decks, siding and roofs, especially where homes are upslope from fuels. Replace all shake roofs with non-combustible types such as metal or composite shingle.
- Open areas below decks and projections should be enclosed or screened to prevent the ingress of embers and kept clean of flammable materials, especially where such openings are located on slopes above fuels.
- Clean leaf litter from roofs and gutters and away from foundations.
- Discourage the planting of flammable ornamentals, such as conifers, within 30 feet of homes. Encourage the use of fire- and drought-tolerant plants for ornamental plantings, especially within 30 feet of homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report).
- Vegetation should be thinned away from access roads and driveways. This is especially important for narrow driveways and road segments.
- A thinning project is recommended in the shrub fuel beds bordering this community on the western side (see the Holden Road Shrub Treatment project in *Landscape Scale Fuels Modifications* in the main report).
- Add reflective addressing to all driveways and homes.

5. Holden

Figure 8.



Hazard Rating:	Low
Does the neighborhood have dual access roads?	Yes
Are there road grades > 8%?	No
Are all access roads of adequate width?	No
Average lot size:	1-5 Acres
Fuel models found in the neighborhood:	1, 8, 9
Water supply:	Hydrants
Hazards:	Ravines, wood roofs

Description: Large homes located on primarily moderate to small-sized lots. Construction types are a mix of ignition-resistant siding, including stucco and masonry, and wood siding, including some heavy timber, many with rock wainscoting. Roofs are a mix of wood shake and ignition-resistant types. Some homes have defensible space, but many have flammable ornamentals planted too close to the structure. Roads and street markers are generally good, but roads and driveways are narrow in some areas and have few turnarounds and pullouts. Most homes have an address marker on the structure, but only some have address markers at the street and most of these are non-reflective. This community has a network of hydrants. Dominant fuels are moderate loads of grass, aspen and lodgepole, broken by irrigated lawns and ornamental plantings. The general topography is moderate, but steeper in some areas and complicated by ravines. Most homes are constructed on the lower 1/3 of a northeast facing slope.

HOLDEN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adequate defensible space is recommended for all homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report for details).
- Extended defensible space is recommended for homes located in dangerous topography (above ravines and natural chimneys, mid-slope on steep slopes, on ridge-tops or summits) with heavy fuel loads near or below the home.
- Discourage the use of combustible materials for decks, siding and roofs, especially where homes are upslope from heavy fuels. Replace all shake roofs with non-combustible types such as metal or composite shingle.
- Open areas below decks and projections should be enclosed or screened to prevent the ingress of embers and kept clean of flammable materials, especially where such openings are located on slopes above heavy fuels.
- Clean leaf and needle litter from roofs and gutters and away from foundations.
- Discourage the planting of flammable ornamentals such as conifers within 30 feet of homes. Encourage the use of fire- and drought-tolerant plants for ornamental plantings, especially within 30 feet of homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report).
- A shaded fuelbreak is recommended in the lodgepole pine stands separating the southwest side of Holden from the Strawberry Park community (see *Landscape Scale Fuels Modifications* in the main report).
- Vegetation should be thinned away from access roads and driveways. This is especially important for narrow driveways and road segments, and for areas where ravines with heavy fuels are below the access.
- Add reflective addressing to all driveways and homes.

6. Offerson/Greystone

Figure 9.



Hazard Rating:	Low
Does the neighborhood have dual access roads?	No
Are there road grades > 8%?	No
Are all access roads of adequate width?	No
Average lot size:	<1 Acre
Fuel models found in the neighborhood:	1, 8
Water supply:	Hydrants
Hazards:	None

Description: This is a small community of large homes on small lots. Construction types are primarily ignition-resistant siding, including stucco and masonry, with a few wood siding structures, most with rock wainscoting. Roofs are primarily ignition-resistant types. Some homes have defensible space, but many have flammable ornamentals planted too close to the structure. Roads and driveways are generally good, but are narrow and have few turnarounds and pullouts. There is only one way in and out of this community and Greystone is a narrow cul-de-sac. Most homes have an address marker, but placement is inconsistent and most are non-reflective. This community has a network of hydrants. Dominant fuels are moderate loads of grass, aspen and lodgepole, broken by irrigated lawns and ski runs. The general topography is low to flat. Most homes are constructed at the bottom of the southwest facing slopes to the north of the Beaver Creek Ski Resort base area.

OFFERSON/GREYSTONE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adequate defensible space is recommended for all homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report for details).
- Discourage the use of combustible materials for decks, siding and roofs, especially where homes are upslope from fuels. Replace any existing shake roofs with non-combustible types such as metal or composite shingle.
- Open areas below decks and projections should be enclosed or screened to prevent the ingress of embers and kept clean of flammable materials, especially where such openings are located on slopes above fuels.
- Clean leaf and needle litter from roofs and gutters and away from foundations.
- Discourage the planting of flammable ornamentals, such as conifers, within 30 feet of homes. Encourage the use of fire- and drought-tolerant plants for ornamental plantings, especially within 30 feet of homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report).
- Vegetation should be thinned away from access roads and driveways. This is especially important for narrow driveways and road segments.
- Add reflective addressing to all driveways and homes.

7. Larkspur/Chateau

Figure 10.



Hazard Rating:	Low
Does the neighborhood have dual access roads?	Yes
Are there road grades > 8%?	No
Are all access roads of adequate width?	No
Average lot size:	<1 Acre
Fuel models found in the neighborhood:	1, 8
Water supply:	Hydrants
Hazards:	None

Description: This is a high density area dominated by multi-family buildings. Construction types are primarily ignition-resistant siding, including stucco and masonry. Roofs are primarily ignition-resistant types. Most buildings have defensible space, but a few have flammable ornamental plantings too close to the structure. Roads and driveways are generally good, but are narrow in some areas with few turnarounds and pullouts. Most buildings are well marked. This community has a network of hydrants. Dominant fuels are moderate loads of grass, aspen and shrubs, broken by irrigated lawns and large paved areas. The general topography is low to flat. Most residences are constructed along the Beaver Creek drainage, but some are located on the lower 1/3 of the northeast facing slope below Strawberry Park.

LARKSPUR/CHATEAU RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adequate defensible space is recommended for all homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report for details).
- Discourage the use of combustible materials for decks, siding and roofs, especially where homes are upslope from fuels.
- Open areas below decks and projections should be enclosed or screened to prevent the ingress of embers and kept clean of flammable materials, especially where such openings are located on slopes above fuels.
- Clean leaf litter from roofs and gutters and away from foundations.
- Discourage the planting of flammable ornamentals, such as conifers, within 30 feet of homes. Encourage the use of fire- and drought-tolerant plants for ornamental plantings, especially within 30 feet of homes (see *Home Mitigation FMU* in the main report).
- Vegetation should be thinned away from access roads and driveways. This is especially important for narrow driveways and road segments.
- Add reflective addressing to all driveways and homes.

APPENDIX C

BEAVER CREEK CWPP STRUCTURAL TRIAGE AND PREPARATION

Size Up Considerations

- What is the current and expected weather?
- Are fuels heavy, moderate, or light? What is the arrangement and continuity of fuels?
- Note any hazardous topography.
- What have fires in this area done before?
- What is the fire's current and expected behavior?
 - What is the rate and direction of spread?
 - What is the potential for spotting and firebrands?
 - Will topographical features or expected weather changes affect the rate of spread?
- What are the number and density of structures threatened?
- What are the available resources?
- Will you have to evacuate people or animals?
 - Are there residents who will not evacuate?
- How hazardous is the structure?
 - What is the roofing material?
 - Are the gutters full of litter?
 - Are there open eaves and unscreened vents?
 - Does the structure have wooden decking?
 - Is there defensible space?
 - Are there large windows with flammable drapes or curtains?
 - What is the size and location of propane tanks and/or fuel storage tanks?

Fire Fighter Safety

- What are the routes of egress and ingress?
 - What is the largest engine that can access the structure safely?
 - Are the roads two-way or one-way?
 - Are there road grades steeper than 8%?
 - Are the road surfaces all-weather?
 - Are there load-limited bridges?
- Are there anchor points for line construction?
- Are there adequate safety zones?
- What are the escape routes?
- Are there special hazards such as hazardous materials, explosives, high-voltage lines, or above-ground fuel tanks?
- Are communications adequate?

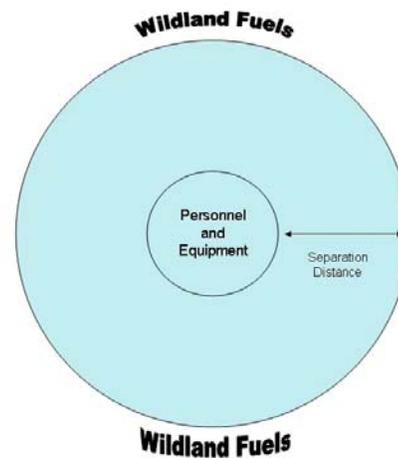
Safety Zone Guidelines

- Avoid locations that are downwind from the fire.
- Avoid locations that are in chimneys, saddles, or narrow canyons.
- Avoid locations that require a steep uphill escape route.
- Take advantage of heat barriers such as lee side of ridges, large rocks, or solid structures.
- Burn out safety zones prior to flame front approach.
- For radiant heat only, the distance separation between the firefighter and the flames must be at least four times the maximum flame height. This distance must be maintained on all sides, if the fire has ability to burn completely around the safety zone. **Convective heat from wind and/or terrain influences will increase this distance requirement.**

Flame Height	Distance Separation (firefighter to flame)	Area in Acres
10 feet	40 feet	1/10 acre
20 feet	80 feet	1/2 acre
50 feet	200 feet	3 acres
75 feet	300 feet	7 acres
100 feet	400 feet	12 acres
200 feet	800 feet	50 acres

(1 acre = 208 feet x 208 feet, or the approximate size of a football field)

CALCULATIONS ASSUME NO SLOPE AND NO WIND



Distance Separation is the radius from the center of the safety zone to the nearest fuels. When fuels are present that will allow the fire to burn on all sides of the safety zone, this distance must be doubled in order maintain effective separation in front, to the sides, and behind the firefighters. Area in Acres is calculated to allow for distance separation on all sides for a three person engine crew. One acre is approximately the size of a football field or exactly 208 feet x 208 feet.¹

¹ <http://www.nwccg.gov/pms/pubs/nfes1077/nfes1077.pdf>

Structural Triage Categories

Sort structures into three categories:

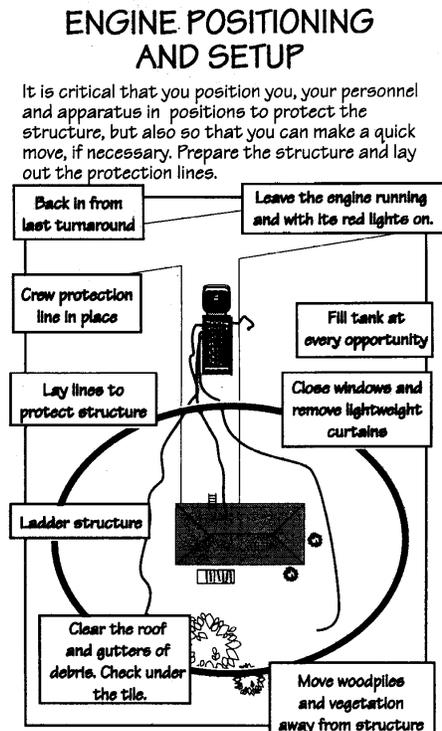
1. Stand Alone or Not Threatened
2. Defendable
3. Not Defendable

- Factors that may make an attempt to save a structure too dangerous or hopeless:
 - The fire is making sustained runs in live fuels and there is little or no defensible space
 - Spot fires are too numerous to control with existing resources
 - Water supply will be exhausted before the threat has passed
 - The roof is more than $\frac{1}{4}$ involved in flames
 - There is fire inside the structure
 - Rapid egress from the area is dangerous or may be delayed

Common Ignition Points (remember, in windy conditions, firebrands can enter almost any opening)

- Flammable roof coverings and debris
- Unscreened vents, windows, or holes
- Open doors, windows, or crawl spaces
- Wooden decks, lawn furniture, stacked wood, and trash piles
- Openings under porches or patio covers

Apparatus Placement Considerations



2

APPENDIX D

BEAVER CREEK CWPP: RECOMMENDED ACCESS GUIDELINES

Introduction

This appendix has been designed with public education in mind, and is intended to help familiarize homeowners, contractors, and developers with the general principles of the access and water supply needs of firefighters. The recommendations in this section are based on proven practices. However, they are not meant to be a substitute for locally adopted codes.

Emergency response personnel do their best to respond to calls in a timely manner, often while negotiating difficult terrain. Planning for access by emergency equipment allows for a more efficient response, improving safety for residents and their families, as well as that of the firefighters and emergency medical technicians that will arrive on scene. This is especially important in rural areas, where response times may be considerably longer than in cities.

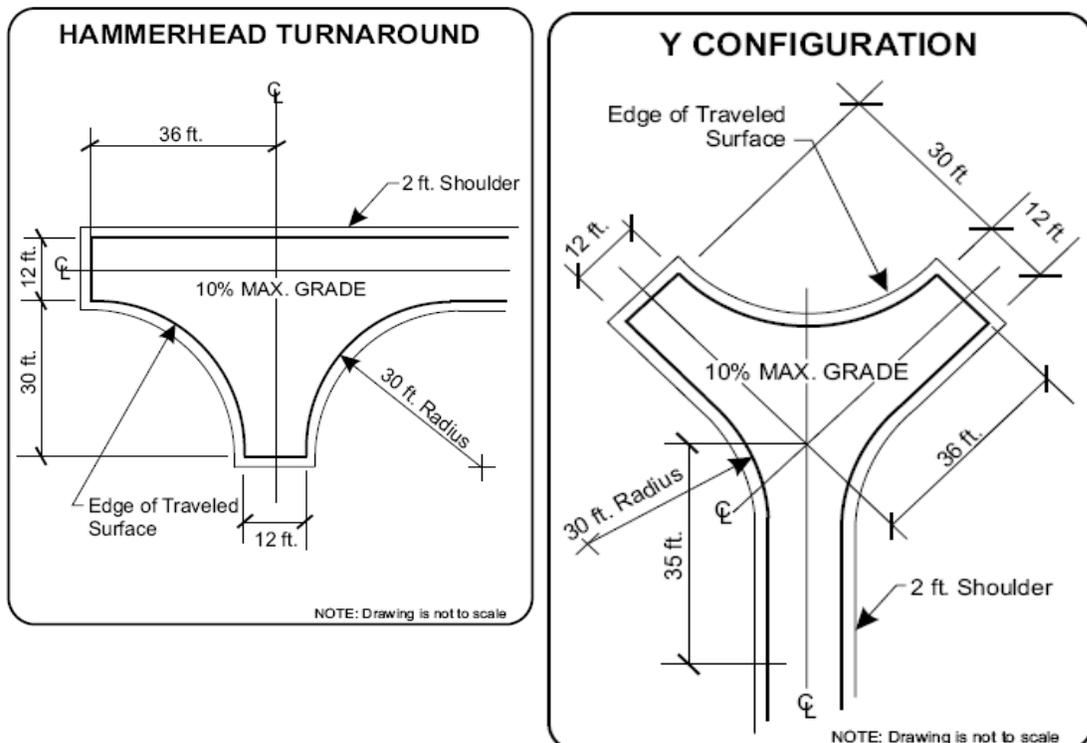
Access Guidelines

Driveway Turnarounds

Turnarounds unobstructed by parked vehicles should be located at the end of every driveway. They should be designed to allow for the safe reversal of direction by emergency equipment. The “Y” and “Hammerhead” turnarounds shown below are preferred because they provide the necessary access, while minimizing disturbance to the site.

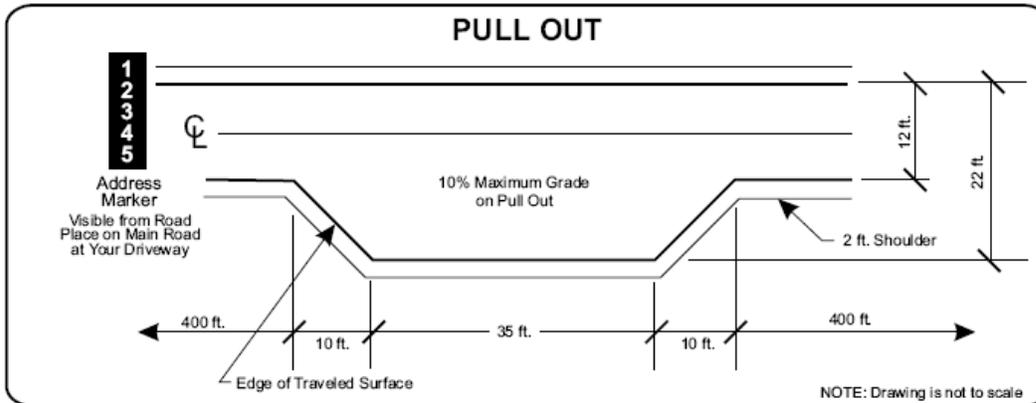
Driveway Width and Height

Driveways should have an unobstructed vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches. Trees may need to be limbed and utility lines relocated, to provide the necessary clearance. Driveways should have a 12 foot-wide drivable surface and 14 feet of horizontal clearance.



Driveway Pullouts

Driveway pullouts should be designed with sufficient length and width to allow emergency vehicles to pass one another during emergency operations. These features should be placed at 400-foot intervals along driveways and private access roads (community driveways). The location of pullouts may be modified slightly to accommodate physical barriers such as rock outcroppings, wetlands, and other natural or manmade features.



Address Markers

Every building should have a permanently posted, reflective address marker mounted on a non-combustible pole. The sign should be placed and maintained at each driveway entrance. Care should be taken to ensure that the location will not become obscured by vegetation, snow, or other features, whether natural or manmade. It is critical that the location and markings be adequate for easy night-time viewing. It is preferable to locate markers in a consistent manner within each community. A good guideline for this practice is to place the markers five feet above ground level on the right side of every driveway. Where access to multiple homes is provided by a single driveway, all addresses accessed via that driveway should be clearly listed on the driveway marker. Where multi-access driveways split, each fork should indicate all residences accessed by that fork, and the proper direction of travel to arrive at a given address. It is not adequate simply to mark addresses on a common pole in the center of the fork. Further, residential homes should have an additional reflective address marker permanently attached to the home, in clear view of the driveway or access road. Homes that are marked by lot number while under construction should have the lot number removed and a permanent address marker posted before granting a certificate of occupancy.

Bridge Load Limits

Bridge load limits should be posted with a permanently mounted, reflective marker at both entrances to the bridge. Care should be taken to ensure that these markers will not become obscured by vegetation, snow, or other features, whether natural or manmade. It is critical that the location of the markings and the markings themselves be adequate for easy night-time viewing.

Appendix E

Beaver Creek Collaborative Effort

The Need for a CWPP

In response to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), and in an effort to create incentives, Congress directed interface communities to prepare a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Once completed, a CWPP provides statutory incentives for the US Forest Service (USFS) to consider the priorities of local communities as they develop and implement forest management and hazardous fuel reduction projects. In the case of Beaver Creek, the need for a community-based hazard and risk assessment (HRA) was born from an internal need, not a federal directive.

CWPPs can take a variety of forms, based on the needs of the people involved in their development. CWPPs may address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, structure protection, or all of the above.

The minimum requirements for a CWPP are:

- Collaboration between local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- Prioritized fuel reduction in identified areas, as well as recommendations for the type and methods of treatments
- Recommendations and treatment measures for homeowners and communities to reduce the ignitability of those structures in the project area.

Project Funding and Coordination

Beaver Creek Resort used internal budgets to complete a community-wide hazard and risk assessment and the resultant CWPP.

Future community education and private landowner assistance will be coordinated through the Beaver Creek Resort. They will continue to identify funding for the implementation of mitigation projects.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

Roles and Responsibilities

To be successful, wildfire mitigation in the interface must be a community-based, collaborative effort. Stakeholders and, primarily, BCR, will have the greatest responsibility for implementing the recommended mitigation projects. The CSFS and the USFS will also be valuable participants in addressing cross-boundary projects throughout the area. Nearly all of the recommendations from this report affect HOA private land or access roads to private land. There are also mitigation recommendations for individual structures which are the responsibility of the homeowner. Homeowners will, however, need a point of contact, most likely a member of BRC, to help them implement these recommendations. The best defensible space will be created with oversight and expert advice from the fire district and or government forestry personnel. One-on-one dialog will continue to build the relationship with community members. This level of involvement will allow agencies to keep track of the progress and update this plan to reflect the latest modifications at the community level.

The Collaborative Process

“The initial step in developing a CWPP should be the formation of an operating group with representation from local government, local fire authorities, and the state agency responsible for forest management ... Once convened; members of the core team should engage local representatives ... to begin sharing perspectives, priorities, and other information relevant to the planning process.”¹”

Numerous federal, State, local, and private agencies (stakeholders) participated in the Beaver Creek Resort CWPP. These stakeholders included:

- Beaver Creek Resort
- Vail Resorts
- Beaver Creek Metro District
- Eagle River Fire
- Eagle County Sheriff’s Office
- Eagle County
- The United States Forest Service
- The Colorado State Forest Service
- Anchor Point Group

The true collaborative process was initiated thru a number of stakeholder meetings held within Eagle County. Beaver creek had a Hazard and Risk Assessment done 3 years ago and had gone to several Commissioners’ meetings related to that report. It was decided to convert that report into an official CWPP. A CWPP meeting was held in September 2007. The purpose of the meetings was to bring all past, current, and future efforts and needs to the table. The primary focus was on the identification and delineation of communities, areas of concern, and values at risk. Best practices and anticipated “roadblocks” were identified.

Funding CWPP Recommendations

There are many sources of funds available for implementing the recommendations within the CWPP. Some available grants and websites where more information can be found are provided below.

- Agency: Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness
 - Purpose: to assist local, state, regional, or national organizations in addressing fire prevention and safety. The emphasis for these grants is the prevention of fire-related injuries to children.
 - More information: <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/>

- Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - Purpose: to improve firefighting operations, purchase firefighting vehicles, equipment, and personal protective equipment, fund fire prevention programs, and establish wellness and fitness programs.
 - More information: <http://usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/grants.cfm>

- Agency: National Volunteer Fire Council
 - Purpose: to support volunteer fire departments
 - More information: http://www.nvfc.org/federal_funding.html

- Agency: Community Facilities Grant Program
 - Purpose: to help rural communities. Funding is provided for fire stations
 - More information: www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/

- Agency: Firehouse.com
 - Purpose: emergency services grants
 - More information: www.firehouse.com/funding/grants.html

- Agency: Cooperative Forestry Assistance
 - Purpose: to assist in the advancement of forest resources management, the control of insects and diseases affecting trees and forests, the improvement and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat, and the planning and conduct of urban and community forestry programs
 - More information: www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/cfda10664.html

- Agency: Forest Service, Economic Action Programs
 - Purpose: Economic Action Programs that work with local communities to identify, develop, and expand economic opportunities related to traditionally underutilized wood products and to expand the utilization of wood removed through hazardous fuel reduction treatments.
 - More information: www.fireplan.gov/community_assist.cfm

- Agency: FEMA
 - Purpose: Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
 - More information: www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/apply.cfm and www.nvfc.org/federal_funding.html