

Lake County Wildfire Mitigation Program

CAROLINE SCHAEFER, WILDFIRE MITIGATION SUPPORT
ARWC/COCO

Background Information

- ▶ 2016 Colorado Water Conservation Board Grant Funding
 - ▶ Significant Water Resources at Risk
 - ▶ Opportunity to work in the Upper Arkansas Watershed



Collaboration & Partnership

- ▶ Colorado State Forest Service
 - ▶ 40 acre thinning near Twin Lakes
 - ▶ Home Risk Assessment Process
 - ▶ Technical Support
- ▶ Lake County (LLCFR, OEM)
 - ▶ Wildfire Mitigation Outreach & Education
 - ▶ Equipment
 - ▶ Support



Wildfire Risk

- ▶ Asbestos Forest? No, long fire return intervals.
- ▶ Wildfires are in our forests and our subdivisions are in our wildfires...
- ▶ Cost of Mitigation Vs. Response, Recovery

Home Wildfire Risk Assessments

- Locations: Beaver Lakes Estates, Pan-Ark, Gordon Acres(Twin Lakes), E.E. Hill/Reva Ridge, Sylvan Lakes, Turquoise Lake Estates
- Process: Outreach, Rapid Assessment, Individual consultation as per CSFS Wildfire Risk Assessment Sheet, Risk Rating Map, Continued work with Homeowners, Community Chipping Days, Potential for Cost Sharing Opportunities



Colorado State Forest Service Salida District
(719) 539-2579

Wildfire Risk Rating Key

Date		
Collector		
Category	Observed Condition	Points
Address Visible	Posted and reflective	0
	Posted, NOT reflective	5
	Not visible from road	15
Access	Two or more roads in/out	0
	One road in/out	10
Slope	Less than 20%	0
	Between 20%-45%	20
	Greater than 45%	40
Back Ground Fuels	Light	25
	Moderate	50
	Heavy	75
Defensible Space	Greater than 100'	0
	Between 30'-100'	50
	Between 10'-30'	75
	Less than 10'	100
Category	Observed Condition	Points
Roofing Material	Class A: non-combustible	0
	Class B or C: Combustible (wood)	200
Building Exterior	Non-combustibles	0
	Log, heavy timbers	20
	Weathered wood, vinyl	60
Other Combustibles	None, greater than 30' from structure	0
	Between 10'-30' from structure	10
	Less than 10' from structure	30
Decking and Fencing	None	0
	Non-combustible deck/fence attached	20
	Combustible deck/fence attached	50
Water Source	Yes	0
	No	20
Other	None	0
	Low	10
	Medium	20
	High	30
Total Rating		
Overall Total Rating	Likely Structure Triage Action	
Low	Standalone	
Moderate	Prep and Hold	
High	Prep and Leave	
Very High	Prep and Leave	
Extreme	Rescue Drive By	
Overall Total Rating	Minimum	Maximum
Low	25	150
Moderate	151	225
High	226	250
Very High	251	349
Extreme	350	630

Wildfire Risk Assessment Sheet

Homeowner: Bill Burgess
Date: June 17, 2016
Address: 327 Lang

City: Twin Lakes
State: CO
Zip Code: 81251

e-mail address: bill.burgess@me.com

Two factors have emerged as the primary determinants of a home's ability to survive a wildfire – quality defensible space and a structure's ignitability. Together these two factors create a concept called the Home Ignition Zone (HZ), which includes the structure and the space immediately surrounding the structure. To protect a home from wildfire, the primary goal is to reduce or eliminate fuels and ignition sources within the HZ.

Defensible Space: the area around the home that has been modified or cleared to reduce fire hazard. Fuels are treated, cleared, or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire.	Value –	Comments
	Y = Complete N = Not Complete NA = Not Applicable C = Combustible NC = Non-Combustible	
Structure ignitability: reducing the risk of wildfire on the home or structure	Value	Comments
Fire-resistant roof • Asphalt, metal, fiber-cement shingles, membrane roofs, concrete, slate or clay tiles all have a Class A rating and are fire-resistant	Y	Complete
Fire-resistant exterior walls/siding • Fire-retardant-treated lumber, plywood, fiber cement panels/boards/shingles, metal, stucco or concrete synthetic stone are acceptable materials	Y	Complete
Chimney is screened or has a spark arrestor	Y	Complete
Vents are enclosed with 1/8-inch or smaller metal mesh	NA	
Fences – no flammable fence is attached to the structure	NA	
The deck is not being used for a storage area, especially with firewood or other combustible material	Y	Complete
Decking material – Wood or Ties		
Removed all leaves, needles and other debris from all decks, roofs, and gutters	Y	Gutters are screened. Make sure gutters are debris free even with screens.

Figure 1



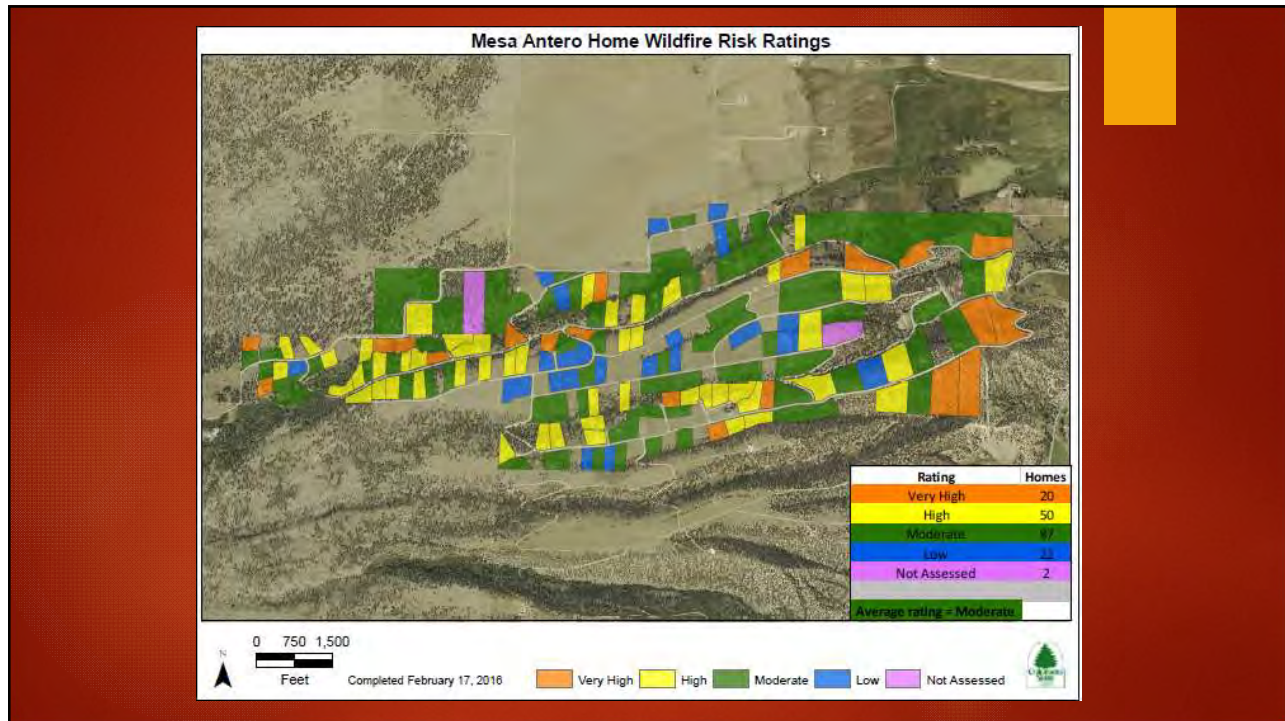


Figure 2





Findings

- ▶ 443 Home Assessments Completed
- ▶ Mean Home Risk Assessment Rating : HIGH, followed by VERY HIGH
- ▶ 60 Individual Home Risk Assessments Completed
- ▶ Interest for Cost Share Funding & Community Chipping Day Sign Ups

Community Chipping Days





Moving Forward

- ▶ 2017 CO DNR Fuels Reduction Grant
 - ▶ \$45,000 DNR
 - ▶ \$25,000 National Cohesive Strategy
 - ▶ Fire Adapted Communities (Home assessments, Outreach/Education, Meetings, etc.)
 - ▶ Enhanced Fire Response (Tactical Map, Hydrant Checks, Training, etc.)
 - ▶ Resilient Ecosystems (Fuels mitigation projects, Restoration, Forest Management)
 - ▶ Continued Partnership with CSFS & LLCFR

As of Today May 27, 2017

- ▶ 25 acres + Proposed Defensible Space and Fuels Mitigation Projects, this number is expected increase
- ▶ Fuels mitigation at CO Outward Bound
- ▶ Continued Outreach, Education, and Assessment

Questions?

