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**CWPP Questionnaire and
Community Response**



Clear Creek County
County-Wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
QUESTIONNAIRE • NOVEMBER 2007

Your input on this very important topic will help to create an effective plan. Please provide the following information:

1. What community do you live in or closest to?

 2. How great of a risk do you think wildfire poses to your community?
 Extreme Risk Moderate Risk Low Risk No Risk
 3. Do you think your community is currently protected against potential wildfire?
 Yes. If so, how: _____
 No. If not, why: _____
 4. Do you think your community is currently prepared to deal with a wildfire?
 Yes. If so, how: _____
 No. If not, why: _____
 5. Rank the types of areas in your community that you think pose a fire risk to homes or property (1 being the highest risk, 4 the lowest).
 Forests Meadows and Grasses Shrubs and Bushes Other _____
 6. Do you think any areas in the county are an extreme fire hazard?
 No. Yes, this (these) area(s): _____
 7. Rank what you consider to be the best ways to mitigate or reduce wildfire risks (1 providing the highest benefit and 10 the lowest).

<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce vegetation (grasses, trees, etc.) on public land by mechanical treatments (tree thinning, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce vegetation on public land by controlled burns. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop shaded fuel breaks along roads and strategic locations. <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade firefighting equipment . <input type="checkbox"/> Improve fire department volunteer recruitment efforts.	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase water availability. <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage private landowners to develop defensible spaces around structures. <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct community outreach and education programs. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ _____ _____
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 8. Have actions been taken to reduce the risk of wildfire in your community?
 Not that I am aware of. Yes. Please explain _____
 9. Have fire education programs occurred in your community?
 Not that I am aware of. Yes. Please describe _____
- Please provide contact information in case we have further questions. Do you wish to receive future project information? Yes No
- Name _____ Email _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
- How did you find out about this project?
 this mailer newspaper insert newspaper ad/article flyer in town County website other _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30, 2007

<p><u>Please email, fax or mail your response to:</u> Walsh Environmental Clear Creek County CWPP Project Manager EMAIL: cwpp@walshenv.com FAX 303-443-0367 PHONE: 303-443-3282 4888 Pearl E. Circle, Suite 108 • Boulder, CO 80301-2475</p>	<p>For more project information or <u>to reply electronically, go to:</u> www.co.clear-creek.co.us Click on: </p>	<p><u>Drop-off boxes are located at:</u> Safeway - Idaho Springs</p>
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Clear Creek County CWPP Questionnaire Feedback			
1) What community do you live closest to?			
Community	Count	Community	Count
Chicago Creek	2	Hill Creek Park	1
Bailey	1	Howard	1
Bakerville	2	Hyland Hills	2
Beaver Brook	3	Idaho Springs	54
Bendmeer	1	"Jefferson is closest to property"	2
Berthoud Falls	2	Lake Edith Improvement Company	1
Black Hawk	1	Lakewood	1
Blue Valley	10	Lawson	4
Boulder County	1	"Lives in Arvada"	1
California	1	Loch Lomond	2
City of Golden	1	Miners Candle	1
Clear Creek	3	Morrison	1
"Does not reside in area"	4	North Springs Gulch	1
Dumont (Mill Creek Park)	18	Prescott Lakes, Arizona	1
Empire	15	S. Spring Gulch Road	1
Evergreen (Saddleback, Bergen Park, Pine Valley)	20	Saddleback Mountain	2
Fall River Road (Montezuma Cortez Community/York Gulch)	8	Saddleback Ridge Estates	5
Floyd Hill	9	St. Mary's (Glacier, Alice, Silver Lakes, Winterland)	26
Georgetown	12	Silver Plume	3
Heffeman Gulch	1	Squaw Mountain	1
Henderson Mine Site	1	York Gulch	11
2) How great of a risk do you think wildfire poses to your community?			
Extreme	Moderate	Low	None
123	100	16	0

3) Do you think your community is currently protected against potential wildfire?	
Yes	No
47	178
If no, why?	
Residents and Local Community:	
There are a lot of dead trees and brush	
Dead fuels, especially along hillside	
Dead trees and brush	
Forest is too dense and thick (overgrown)	
Too much dry fuel	
Overgrown forest a problem	
Forest is too thick in St Mary's	
Hownowners need to cut trees	
Not many property owners have cleared their properties and many have the "It won't happen to me syndrome." Ugh!	
Many houses do not have a defensible zone	
Not all homes have defensible space	
The excessive amount of brush around homes	
Most vacation homes are built with heavy timber	
Mitigation work needs to be performed	
Not enough fire mitigation, too many trees, too much ladder fuel	
No fire breaks and no clearing has been done	
No fire breaks, dead trees, etc.	
Lodgepole piles are of concern	
Some owners do not live on lots to maintain their land (clearing of standing dead)	
Although our neighbors and HOA have worked to minimize pine beetle and slash, large scale work needs to be done.	
Beetle kill is a major issue	
Clearing of land/beetle kill seems to be a major concern	
Urban wild land interface is a hazard	
Preparation and Evacuation:	
No protection or evacuation plans in place	
Insufficient number of escape routes and number of cisterns	
Egress and access issues are a huge concern	
Some roads are difficult to travel	
One road access routes	
I'm not aware of any evacuation plan for our area	
No evacuation plans, lots of dead fuel, nearby camping areas	
Plans still being developed	
Difficult terrain for emergency vehicles	
We are surrounded by an evergreen forest. If a fire starts, our surrounding forest is very dense and there is nothing to stop the spread of fire.	
There is only one fire hydrant-They don't keep secondary road open-Little Bear Creek Rd.	
Failure to establish rules and regulation and enforcement of same	
Public Officials and Support Outside Community:	
There is not much for fire protection	
No engagement by public officials and low numbers of volunteers	
Communication with communities seems to be a problem	
Not enough training, equipment or resources to help	
Damage to watershed after wildfire is not typically looked at--only property damage	
Fire suppression over the years has increased the relative risk	
Forest Service does not maintain	
No controlled burns or information on mitigation	
No prescribed burns	
Inadequate education	
Unclear which fire authority is responsible for our area	
There are no bans on campfires, shooting, ATV's, etc. when conditions are extremely dry	
Other:	
Not enough water	
No water supply for firefighters	
There are no water reserves or defensible space	
Little moisture in the area	
Drought problems	
Location and small population a problem--too remote or outside city limits	
No fire district in some areas---areas too remote	
Cigarette butts being thrown from cars can cause a problem	
Few communities can really protect against wildfire, example, California	
Not feasible	

4) Do you think your community is currently prepared to deal with a wildfire?	
Yes	No
61	160
If no, why?	
Preparation and Evacuation:	
No evacuation plans	
No plans are in place	
No evacuation plan, no communication to residents about what to do if there is a wildfire	
Very little preparation	
No plan at the grassroots level	
Communities are not properly prepared	
Not enough owners around to detect fires	
Few believe a fire could actually happen	
Need more education and planning	
No alternative exit routes	
Again, the road (Little Bear Creek Rd.) and all along the switchbacks the trees are dead.	
Access/egress issues	
No fire breaks	
Lack of leadership	
The need of more forest management	
Forest Service not doing enough to inform public	
Inadequate training, communication, and experience	
No engagement of local officials	
No one is ever really prepared, however our HOA has established evacuation routes and a notification call-down list.	
Officials have indicated that some regions are low priority	
We don't have a community wildfire plan and we only have one road (Mill Creek Rd.) into and out of our neighborhood.	
There is no fail proof plan	
No, not possible	
Fire Services:	
No active fire department in some areas	
Limited fire fighting resources	
Distance from fire protection	
I am happy to see Clear Creek County take proactive approach to this potential problem. Some of the roads are bad enough to present a challenge for emergency vehicles and evacuation efforts. Some roads may be impassable for fire trucks.	
Fuels Reduction:	
Fuel removal	
Lodgepole pine stands	
Dead trees/brush--need thinning	
No fire breaks/defensible zones around many houses	
The need of mechanical thinning and fire retardant gels	
Forest Service refuses to allow cutting of dead timber	
Not enough effort to create defensible space	
Properties that border national forest are of concern because the state does not perform mitigation	
Technology:	
Lacking state of the art technology	
Colorado does not have quick access to aerial apparatus	
Mobile pumps are not adequate	
Other:	
Apathy	
Limited access to water	
No water	
No spraying at passes	
Droughts are of concern	
No funding	
No beetle kill programs	
Major clean up needs to be done	
Lack of manpower	
Housing density	
Location and population an issue	
Failure to acknowledge threat possibility	

5) Rank the types of areas in your community that you think pose a fire risk to homes or property (1 highest, 4 lowest):			
Meadows and Grasses	Forest	Shrubs and Bushes	Other
27 ranked this as #1	190 ranked this as #1	31 ranked this as #1	13 ranked this as #1
If other, describe:			
Steep slopes with dead trees			
Old dead growth			
Hillsides			
Trash and trees			
People			
Arsonists			
Careless recreation uses			
Careless smokers			
No access to escape			
Lack of or limited egress			
Public campgrounds.			
Camping areas.			
Vegetation and high risk properties			
Too many new structures (homes and buildings) being built			
Wood roofs and fences			
Old buildings			
Firewood stored next to houses			
Limited roadside fire breaks			
No mitigation measures			
Mine, trash, and junk piles			
A gas station			
Location			
Careless ATV operators, visitors to National Park (forests)			
Elk Valley Drive there are No escape routes! They are all on the eastern end of the Saddleback area.			
6) Do you think any areas in the county are an extreme fire hazard?			
Yes	No		
181	24		
If yes, what?			
Anywhere the trees haven't been thinned out			
Uncut dead trees			
Our neighboring communities and the National Forest			
National Forest			
National Forest			
The forest areas			
All remote areas, dead trees and vacant houses, dense cover, forest land adjoining properties, irresponsible camping and shooting, and all forested areas.			
Any area with dry timber ofr beetle kill			
Beetle infested are a potential			
Beetle kill areas			
Western due to beetle kill trees			
Jones Pass is showing signs of beetle investation. They're coming.			
Most of the foothills areas, national forest hiking and biking trails, and beetle kill areas.			
Acres with too much new growth.			
The lower elevations, steep canyons and valleys, areas frequently used by general public.			
Old dead standing beetle kill			
The majority of unincorporated Clear Creek County below timberline where houses exist.			
All of Clear Creek County			
The entire county			
The whole county has such thick forest with patches of standing dead			
Most of the county that has dense forest			
Along I-70			
Eastern slope Bakerville to Loveland Pass			
St Mary's/Rainbow Rd.--tourists don't care			
Upper Bear Creek Road (my husband is trained as a firefighter and this area is considered high risk in			
No awareness of condition in County: Alice, St. Mary's, Arapahoe National Forest, Upper Clear Creek,			
Areas with difficult access			
High mt areas			

7) Rank what you consider to be the best ways to mitigate or reduce wildfire risk (1 highest, 10 lowest):	
Reduce vegetation on public land by mechanical treatment	101 ranked this as #1
Reduce vegetation on public land by controlled burn	35 ranked this as #1
Develop shaded fuel breaks along roads and strategic locations	46 ranked this as #1
Upgrade firefighting equipment	36 ranked this as #1
Improve fire dept volunteer recruitment	25 ranked this as #1
Increase water availability	43 ranked this as #1
Encourage private landowners to develop defensible space	85 ranked this as #1
Conduct community outreach	44 ranked this as #1
Other	25 ranked this as #1
If other, describe:	
Residents:	
Encourage homeowners to mitigate properly.	
Enforce landowners responsibility, and encourage to clear/clean areas.	
Enforce mitigation efforts when a resident's property condition threatens other properties.	
Eliminate dead trees, dry grass around homes.	
Replacement of roofs to aluminum roofs.	
Insurance should reflect landowner's defensible space efforts.	
Ban residents from burning trash on private property.	
Cannot access my property now--do not live there.	
Free slash dumping (I would take mulch if it wasn't full of nails and crap).	
All of the above	
Local Community:	
Make it easier and less expensive to dispose of slash (county could have pick up days.chipping crew).	
Land owners need an economical way to dispose of slash.	
Special improvement districts to fund mitigation of public and private lands.	
Improve emergency evacuation routes and access by emergency vehicles.	
Develop escape routes if fire starts lower and spreads to St. Mary's or anything else.	
Provide evacuation routes for Floyd Hill.	
Order removal of all abandoned and dilapidated trailers on St. Mary's.	
Have plan in place for regional response quickly.	
Advise on how to achieve defensible spaces--public education.	
Foam and retardant gels for rural homes stockpile on site.	
Map fo available well water and lakes.	
Possibly provide funds for the community by selling wood for firewood at a later date.	
Stop allowing so much new building.	
Quit building subdivisions in fire prone areas.	
Camping and Recreation:	
Ban campfires, shooting and off-road vehicles.	
Strict enforcement of open space fires on public lands.	
Signs for recreation users explaining fire hazards.	
Safe camping procedures, etc.	
Other:	
Defense against pine beetle infestation.	
Beetle kill treatment--removal of old beetle kill and standing dead trees.	
Prosecute people that throw cigarette butts from cars, etc...dirt bike riders...	
Danger of I-70 users throwing out cigarette butts--signs raising fines for that.	
Develop a market with NREL for the wood chips for ethanol production.	
Revise land use regulations to prevent too much congestion and to create fire breaks.	
Accelerate the Yankee Hill project timeline.	
Have air defense on call.	
Problem too big for just county resources.	

Appendix E – CWPP Questionnaire and Community Response

8) Have actions been taken to reduce the risk of wildfire to your community?	
Yes	Not that I am aware of
129	102
If yes, what?	
Fuels Reduction:	
Cutting down/clearing of dead trees	
People actively removing dead forest debris	
Thinning is taking place	
Private land defensible space requirements	
Defensible space and annual clean up has taken place	
HOA rents chipper for Floyd Hill	
Reduced vegetation	
Reduced slash	
Norsemen have removed trees prone to wind and fire damage	
Mill Creek Park conducts an annual "Slash Day" where residents cut and put their slash on the road and we chip it.	
Defensible spaces on private land	
Several property owners have done some mitigation.	
I have personally worked on making my house safer, but there has not been a community plan up Hwy 103.	
Planning and Other Mitigation:	
Individual and USFS fire mitigation	
Some of us have tried to educate the member of our HOA. All new residents (and current ones) are given an info packet which includes WF info.	
Controlled burns	
Known forest service planning	
County codes and regulations on defensible space	
Telephone fire evacuation list	
Community education in progress	
A CWPP committee has been formed	
Yankee Hill project	
U.S. Forest Service Yankee Hill Fuel Reduction Project	
In the Arapaho National Forest	
This survey indicates action	
Dry hydrants have been placed around county	
Lake pump placed in 2005	
Placed cisterns	
Fire bans	
9) Have fire education programs occurred in your community?	
Yes	Not that I am aware of
141	86
If yes, what?	
Fire assessment surveys and inspections	
Fire assessment and survey inspections	
HOA meetings	
HOA meetings	
HOA meetings have invited fire personnel	
OEM and HOA information meetings	
Educated talks and HOA meetings and info given to residents	
Talks by the fire department	
Several years ago on the Hidden Wilderness area	
The (fire) chief speaks with the HOA.	
State Forestry to advise residents upon request	
CSU sent someone out to evaluate properties upon request	
In the past, counselors advised on which trees to cut around houses	
Meetings at the Evergreen Recreation Center	
EMERGE meetings	
Einar Jensen presentations	
About six years ago, Henrik Jensen evaluated each property in Mill Creek Park for fire risk. We didn't live here then, so don't know what education took place.	
At a community meeting	
Programs at GCS	
School programs	
Fire science course at high school, articles in paper	
Annual fire department classes	
Forest Service programs and articles in the local paper	
Forest Service literature	
Fire hazard guides in County office	
Flyers and mailers	
Although I have seen info in local newspapers.	
Homeowners website	
Website information	
The radio	
EG/IS	
CERT	
10) How did you find out about this project?	
Self mailer	158
Newspaper insert	33
Newspaper article	8
Flyer in town	4
Clear Creek County website	6
Other (e.g. HOA meeting, word of mouth, other website, etc.)	38

