

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Bent County Fire

January 13, 2011



Plan Approval –

The County approves the Community Wildfire Protection Plan completed January 13, 2011.


Bent County Commissioners, Chairman 2-2-11
Date


Bent County Sheriff 2-2-11
Date


Bent County Office of Emergency Management 2-2-11
Date


La Junta District, Colorado State Forest Service 2-2-11
Date

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Community Wildfire Protection Plan Bent County

January 13, 2011

Overview

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are authorized and defined in Title I of the *Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA)* passed by Congress on November 21, 2003 and signed into law by President Bush on December 3, 2003.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) places renewed emphasis on community planning by extending a variety of benefits to communities with a wildfire protection plan in place. Critical among these benefits are - 1) The option to establish localized definitions and boundaries for areas having high Risk (potential), Hazards (fuels) and Values; and 2), The opportunity to help shape management priorities for federal and non-federal lands within the planning area.

The CWPP, as described in the Act, brings together diverse local interests to discuss their mutual concerns for public safety, community sustainability and natural resources. It offers a positive, solution-oriented environment in which to address challenges such as local firefighting capacity, the need for defensible space around homes (and areas of value), and where and how to prioritize land management.¹ (Colorado State Forest Service, 2005. Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Guidelines for Implementation. 4 pages.)

The purpose of this document is to provide stakeholders and those living in Bent County with an overview of the wildland fire risks, hazards and values within the planning area; recommend possible courses of action to reduce the impacts of wildfire in the planned area; and to share a current action plan.

Background

Partners and stakeholders in Bent County have participated in Annual Wildfire Operating Plans since 2009, with a 'Regional' AWOP (Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers counties) in place in 2010.

Participants

Participants since the onset through direct meeting participation and/or email notifications and updates include the Bent County Sheriff, the Bent County Commissioners, the Bent County Office of Emergency Management, and representatives from Hasty/McClave Rural Fire Protection District, and Las Animas/Bent County Fire Protection District. These same individuals also represent their communities. Federal and state partners notified or that have participated over time include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers John Martin Dam, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Bureau of Land Management, John Martin Reservoir State Park, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Colorado State Forest Service. Assisting with the mapping to jpg format was the Bent County Assessor's Office.

(Participants include or have included Gerry Oyen, David Encinias, Tom Wallace, Randy Freed, Clay Hasser, Julie Davis, Tandy Hasser, Karen Downey, Darrel Six, John Merson, Steve Keefer, Mike Smith, Ed Skerjanec, Fran Pannebaker, Donna Davis, NRCS lead Working Partners Group. Recent dates include – 1/21/10 (with AWOP meeting; 3/22/10 map review; 4/28 mapping w/county assessor office; 10/26/10 Maps & Firewise; 1/13/11 –CWPP draft review & 2011 Annual Plan).

Plan Components

A. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Bent County's highest concern areas are the communities and all development near the communities including but not limited to the Fort Lyon State Correctional Facility, the private prison near Las Animas, the hog farm and feed lots, the hay mill, and wind farms in the county; the recreational areas including John Martin Reservoir State Park, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dam property, the Colorado Division of Wildlife managed areas; the historical areas including Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, National Park Service (near the Otero/Bent County Line); the Bent's New Fort site; the Boggsville National Historic Register Site (county); the Star School House site (county); the Santa Fe Trail(s) and sites; the railroad/high-use travel corridors in the county; and the Arkansas River watershed and tributaries for water quality.

The communities are Las Animas (incorporated) population 2,335 and the county seat; McClave (941 pop.), Hasty (234 pop.) and Caddoa (21 pop.) are unincorporated. The Bent County population is 6,301. Bent County is 1,541 square miles.

General - The County is rural with population centers around the communities. Major state highways cross the county N-S (U.S. Highway 101) and E-W (U.S. Highway 50, U.S. Highway 194 and U.S. Highway 196). The Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad also comes into the county at the west edge and runs parallel to Highway 50 to its exit point at the east end of the county. The railroad also has the Amarillo branch somewhat following Highway 101. An interstate high pressure gas line runs somewhat diagonally through the county with another through the southwest corner of the county. The COG plant also has a significant station within the county. River drainages are the Arkansas and Purgatoire rivers. Creeks are Adobe, Rule, Mud, Caddoa, Graveyard and Limestone. The major recreational areas are the John Martin State Park, the Purgatoire River State Wildlife Area, and Blue Lakes. Vegetation is generally sage, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grasses, short-grass prairie, croplands, and pinyon/juniper (cedar) canyons in the southern part of the County. The Bureau of Land Management parcels are also dotted within the county. Some State Land parcels are managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

B. Preparedness to Respond to Wildland Fire

Bent County and the Las Animas/Bent County and Hasty/McClave Fire Protection Districts serve and protect 6,301 residents and 1,541 square miles within the county. The county utilizes a central dispatch center with Enhanced 911 services (E-911).

The Las Animas/Bent County Fire Protection District has approximately 30 volunteers and the Hasty/McClave Fire Protection District has approximately 20 volunteers.

The County has a CSFS/Bent County Equipment Agreement with a Type 4 Engine housed at Hasty/McClave Rural Fire Protection District.

Bent County has a signed mutual aid agreement with all Baca, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers county fire departments and rural fire protection districts.

Bent County has a signed Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection with the Colorado State Forest Service.

Bent County signed a regional Annual Wildfire Operating Plan (AWOP) with Baca, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero counties, the United States Forest Service, the United States Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado State Forest Service, in 2009. In 2010, Cheyenne and Prowers counties were added as signatures to the AWOP, (AWOP website <http://csfs.colostate.edu> - Click on Local Forester, then La Junta District, then Fire Program).

Bent County has a Fire Ban Ordinance (Refer to the AWOP appendix for a copy of existing county ordinances).

Bent County can initiate fire bans as appropriate. Incorporated communities have agreed to be a part of the overall county fire ban placement and rescission process. The John Martin State Parks may have other considerations, but would hope to work closely with the county to support fire ban efforts.

Bent County has an Office of Emergency Management with an active County Director who also coordinates with other Area Emergency Management Office's and State Resources.

Bent County has a website for fire updates as appropriate www.cofireban.info

C. Community Risk Analysis (Risk, Fuels, Values) and Wildfire Mitigation Assessment Mapping

(See Appendix A for a complete discussion of the risk analysis and assessment mapping for Bent County)

Areas

- 1 – Communities & Growth Areas (HHH)
- 2 – John Martin Reservoir State Park, Army Corps of Engineers Dam (HHH),
Boggsville National Historic Register Site, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site (on western county border), U.S.F.S. Comanche Grasslands (on southwestern county border).
- 3 – Railroads/Travel Corridors (HHH)
- 4 – River Drainages (HHH)

- 5 – Seasonal Lakes/Recreation (MHH)
- 6 – Travel Corridors (HMH, HLH)
- 7 – River Drainages, less public access (LHH)
- 8 – Pinyon/Juniper (Cedars) Canyons (LHH)
- 9 – High Value Agricultural Areas (LHH, LMH & LLH)
- 10 – Rural Areas (LHH, LMH & LLH)

Note Abbreviations – High (H), Medium (M), Low (L)

Note Abbreviations – HHH means High Risk, High Fuel, High Value. LMH means Low Risk, Medium Fuel, High Value.

Discussion – Areas rated HHH are of highest priority due to risk, fuels and values in Bent County. Areas with 2 HHs are also of high concern. For example, high fuels and high values can easily create a scenario taxing limited resources. Risk may be low or medium however a large wildfire would still create a potential economic burden to the taxpayer in the county. The same could apply to high risk and high values – although the fuel is not rated high, it does not preclude the event causing significant resource depletion.

Areas rated with two or three Ls are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource opportunities arise, however they are not the highest priority.

Therefore, Bent County's Mapped high concern 'Red Zones' might include Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 (three HHH's). Areas 5 through 10 with two HH's are of concern; Areas 9 and 10 with only one H are not an immediate priority.

Due to typical county wind driven fire events and other fire behavior factors including high temperatures, low relative humidity, dry ignitable flashy fuels; along with distance and immediate access to many rural locations and the nature of volunteer fire organizations with manpower/response factors to consider – arbitrary lines have been drawn around the zones. For example, one mile either side of a travel corridor in a 'typical' fire scenario may be more than enough buffer. However in a wind driven event or late in the season when vegetation is cured – a one-mile 'buffer' may not be sufficient. Six miles may not be sufficient. For planning purposes, we are allowing flexibility with our zone boundaries to allow the overall goal of fire prevention/mitigation needs to be addressed.

D. Fuels Definition and Treatment Methods Discussion

Hazard Fuel Definitions –

High Fuels are defined as Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk); Conservation Reserve Program grasses (CRP); Pinyon/Juniper (PJ)-understory grass; stubble/crop residue; weeds/tumbleweeds; dwellings (greater than five/section); and/or man-made windbreaks (greater than five/section).

Medium fuels include short and medium grass prairie; prairie sand/sage; fencerow tumbleweeds; dwellings (1-5 per section) and/or man-made windbreaks (1-5 per section).

Low fuels are defined as non-irrigated cropland, fallow, zero dwellings; and/or zero man-made windbreaks.

General Fuels Treatment Methods –

Riparian Treatments (cottonwood and/or tamarisk) include combinations of mechanical removal, chemical treatment, exotic insect introductions (tamarisk), firewood (cottonwood), wood chipping, pile burning, and/or hauling away brush.

High and Medium fuel grasses; stubble/crop residue, sand sage, weeds/tumbleweeds treatments may include mechanical methods (mowing, grazing), and/or prescribed burning.

Dwellings and/or man-made windbreaks/plantings treatments may include mowing around structures, breaking up continuous ground fuels and/or ladder fuels, thinning, deadwood removal (see structural ignitability for dwelling concepts).

E. Structural Ignitability Reduction Discussion

Firewise Awareness –

Public awareness of Firewise concepts and self-implementation of applicable concepts may help landowners potentially reduce the risk of structural ignitability in the event of an encroaching wildfire.

Firewise Concepts include - Are You At Risk!, Access, Water Supply, Defensible Space, Trees and Shrubs, Construction Design and Materials, Interior Safety, and What to do When....

Target Audiences and Outreach -

Targets are homeowners, rural businesses, and as appropriate, community, county, state, and federal entities in Bent County.

Long-Term Implementation Plan (5-Year)

(See Appendix B for specific Annual Workplan.)

General Discussion -

Broad, long-term mitigation strategies discussed at our various meetings included:

- Initiating public awareness in Firewise Concepts (i.e., Are You At Risk!, Access, Water Supply, Defensible Space, Trees and Shrubs, Construction Design and Materials, Interior Safety, and ‘What to do When...’). Target audiences could include community and rural homeowners, rural businesses, and government entities, as appropriate.
- Providing ‘General Outdoor Fire Safety’ brochures/information to various publics (smoking, outdoor camping fires, trash burning, agricultural burning and other controlled burns, spark arresters, etc). Target audiences could include community and rural homeowners, rural businesses, recreational users, tourists, highway corridor travelers, and railroad personnel.
- Provide overall information/awareness about Fire Bans, Red Flag Warnings.

Tactics for the accomplishing the above included –

- Initiating countywide information outreach (Examples - Firewise, Fire Bans, Controlled Burns) through public radio announcements, local Cable TV coverage, Bent County web-site alerts, newspaper articles, highway signages, county fair booth participation, local event opportunities, (Fire Prevention Week, annual volunteer displays, Senior Citizen events, community events, etc.).
- Providing educational material including Firewise 3-ring binder availability for check out to homeowners (library/fire department); booklets and/or handouts for local events; CDs/PDFs for distribution; Firewise educational handouts for schools.
- Providing Firewise presentations or trainings and/or Homeowner Homestead Assessments (example *Living with Fire – A Guide for the Homeowner*) to interested volunteer groups/clubs to support public awareness and public inquiry.

Annual workplans could include components of the above and/or additional updated ideas and suggestions as appropriate for the mitigation effort that year.

Long-Term Mitigation Strategies Discussed By Area -

Long-term mitigation strategies (ideas) for the different areas identified in the Bent County Mitigation Assessment Map were discussed at our various meeting, and are listed below. Mitigation includes utilizing a potential mix of tools and resources, generally categorized as - A) Education and Outreach; B) Rules/Restrictions/Ordinances, and Enforcement; C) Prevention Planning; D) Fuel Mitigation; E) Grants and Administration.

1 – Communities & Growth Areas (HHH)

Concern – High Risk, High Fuels, High Values

Mitigation -

Education and Outreach – Present Firewise Concept to various Public/Groups/Organizations (examples – Civic/Ag Clubs, fire departments); Inform publics on Fire Bans, Red Flag Warning definitions; Inform publics on safe recreational fire use; Inform publics on safe controlled burn use.

County Ordinance – The County has a fire ban process in place

Prevention Planning – Signage in the county (Low/Medium/High fire danger, example)

Fuel Mitigation – Consider example like fuel breaks in high fuel areas
or breaking up fuel continuity.

Consider Grants - Potential Colorado Community Forest Restoration Grants

2 – John Martin Reservoir State Park, Army Corps of Engineers, Boggsville NHRS, Bent’s Old Fort NHS, and USFS Comanche Grasslands (HHH)

Concern – High Risk, High Fuels, High Values

Mitigation -

Education – Signage

Rules/Restrictions & Enforcement - Internal

Prevention Planning – Internal

Fuel Mitigation - Internal

Grant – Potentials for future

3 – Railroads/Travel Corridors (HHH)

Concern – High Risk, High Fuels, High Values

Mitigation -

Education – Signage for public corridors

Ordinances & Enforce – Colorado Department of Transportation/ BNSF Railroad/County

Fuel Mitigation -

CDOT – Hwy 101, 194 & 196 – mowing

BNSF Railroad –

County – Spraying & mowing

Adjoining private properties

Grants – As opportunity arises

4 – River Drainages (HHH)

Concern – High Risk, High Fuels, High Values

Mitigation -

Education – Watershed Protection/Water Quality, reduce threat of Large High-Intensity Fires, Wildlife Habitat, preserve ecological function, restoration, maintenance, utilization of small diameter woody material (firewood, etc)

Ordinances – County Fire Ban

Fuel Mitigation - Site by site basis

Grants - (Colorado Community Forest Restoration Grants)

5 – Seasonal Lakes/Recreation (MHH)

Concern – Medium Risk, High Fuels, High Values

Mitigation -

Education – Signage

Rules/Restrictions, Ordinances & Enforce – Work with BLM/DOW/County

Fuel Mitigation - mitigation lakes, private properties; revegetation when needed

Grants – As opportunity arises

6 – Travel Corridors (HMH & HLH)

Concern – High Risk, Medium/Low Fuels, High Values

Mitigation -

(Same as Area 3 above)

7 – River Drainages, less public access (LHH)

Concern – Low Risk, High Fuels, High Values

Mitigation -

Education – Watershed Protection/Water Quality, reduce threat of Large High-Intensity Fires, Wildlife Habitat, preserve ecological function, restoration, maintenance, utilization of small diameter woody material (firewood, etc)

Ordinances – County Fire Ban

Fuel Mitigation - Site by site basis

Grants - (Colorado Community Forest Restoration Grants)

8 – Pinyon/Juniper (cedar) Canyons (LHH, LMH)

Concern – Low Risk, High/Medium Fuels, High Values

Mitigation – Areas with two H's are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource opportunities arise.

Mitigation - Areas rated with two or three Ls are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource opportunities arise, however they are not the highest priority

9 – High Value Agricultural Areas (LHH, LMH & LLH)

Concern – Low Risk; May be High, Medium or Low Fuels; High Values

Mitigation – Areas with two H's are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource opportunities arise.

Mitigation - Areas rated with two or three Ls are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource opportunities arise, however they are not the highest priority

10 – Rural Areas (LHH, LMH & LLH)

Concern – Low Risk; May be High Medium or Low Fuels; High Values

Mitigation – Areas with two H's are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource opportunities arise.

Mitigation - Areas rated with two or three Ls are of concern and should be considered when funding or resource opportunities arise, however they are not the highest priority

Appendix A:

**Bent County Community Wildfire Protection Planning
Fire Protection Assessment**

Bent County Community Wildfire Protection Planning Fire Protection Assessment*

Las Animas, Colorado

March 22, 2010

Team: Bent County Partners

Objectives: Complete a fire protection assessment of Bent County, assigning High, Medium, or Low ratings on these components:

1. Risk (potential for ignition): human activity and lightening
2. Hazard (potential to burn): fuels and topography
3. Values (potential for loss): natural or developed areas where loss or destruction by wildfire would be unacceptable.
4. Fire occurrence history.

Process: Using Bent County map as the base:

1. **Risk layer:** make a clear overlay outlining areas of high risk in red. Areas of high risk are those containing the most potential for a **fire to start due to human activity or lightning**; medium risk areas are those containing substantial potential for fire starts, but less than the high risk areas.
2. **Hazard layer:** make a second clear overlay marking areas of high hazard in red, medium hazard in blue, and all else is low hazard.

The following definitions of high, medium, and low hazard ratings were determined:

Fuels &

<u>Topography</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>
Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/PJ-Understory Grass Weeds/tumbleweeds
Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section

3. **Value layer:** make a third clear overlay showing high value areas in red, medium value areas in blue, and all else is considered low value. High value areas are those containing the most **values whose loss to wildfire would be unacceptable**. Medium areas contain substantial values to be protected from wildfire, but fewer than the high value areas.
4. Place the 3 clear overlays showing risk, hazard, and values on top of each other and put a fourth clear overlay on top of them. Draw adjusted boundaries on the top overlay. Mark the resulting compartments with **H, M, or L (High, Medium or Low) for Risk, Hazard, or Value**. Finally, number these compartments.
5. Copy final compartment boundaries, compartment numbers, and 3-letter ratings with black marker onto county map.
6. Complete Fire Protection Assessment forms for each compartment, documenting the compartment number, its ratings, and what risks and values are present.
7. This document, along with the fire Protection Assessment forms, and the final map is the Fire Protection Assessment package. The map may be digitized to produce a GIS map.

Uses & Examples: The areas marked on map as H H H (high risk, high hazard, high value) become the priority areas for prevention work, pre-attack planning, suppression resource placement, funding requests, mitigation, and other resource work planning.

Further fire protection assessments within the compartments may be mapped, in finer detail, to support on-the-ground work, such as prescribed fire, training, prevention events (schools, county fair, festivals, parades, booths, etc.), public education, homestead wildfire mitigation, fuel breaks, signing, and other projects.

- * The Wildfire Mitigation Assessment exercise outlines the first five steps in the eight-step Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process initiated under the National Fire Plan.
- * Additionally the Society of American Foresters outline for CWPP process.

Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

Communities & Growth Areas

Area number 1 Rating: Risk H Hazard H Value H

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning)
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel corridors
<input type="checkbox"/> Railroads
<input type="checkbox"/> Lightning
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric fences
<input type="checkbox"/> Power lines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community/rural intermix
<input type="checkbox"/> Off-highway vehicles
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Campgrounds
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Recreation &/or fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter)
<input type="checkbox"/> Trails
<input type="checkbox"/> National Park Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Children with matches
<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/gas/mining/propane
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landfills
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural burning
<input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks
<input type="checkbox"/> Party areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Firewood cutting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other High Population Centers
<input type="checkbox"/> Wheat Harvest (June-July)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower Harvest (October) |
|---|--|

HAZARD COMPONENT (POTENTIAL TO BURN):

Fuels &

<u>Topography</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>
Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/ PJ-Understory grass Weeds/tumbleweeds
Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section

VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People/Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered wildlife |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential/commercial development | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Water/riparian areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness (designated) | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild & Scenic rivers | <input type="checkbox"/> Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political values/Historical | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources (WPA Sites) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Range/grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic byways | <input type="checkbox"/> Developed recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hog Farms | <input type="checkbox"/> Dispersed recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal/State Public Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Windbreaks, living snow fences |

*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies

National Threatened and Endangered List – Least Tern, Piping Plover.

National Species of Concern – Mountain plover, Blacktailed Prairie Dog, Swift Fox, Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish).

Colorado State Threatened – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.

Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

***John Martin Reservoir State Park,
Army Corps of Engineers Dam***

Area number 2

Rating: Risk H Hazard H Value H

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Children with matches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel corridors | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Railroads | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil/gas/mining/propane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric fences | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Power lines | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community/rural intermix | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural burning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off-highway vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Party areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Recreation &/or fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood cutting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat Harvest (June-July) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Park/Dam Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower Harvest (October) |

HAZARD COMPONENT (POTENTIAL TO BURN):

Fuels &

<u>Topography</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>
Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland Fallow	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/PJ-Understory Grass Weeds/tumbleweeds
Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section

VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> People/Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential/commercial development | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Water/riparian areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness (designated) | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild & Scenic rivers | <input type="checkbox"/> Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political values/Historical | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources (WPA Sites) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Range/grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic byways | <input type="checkbox"/> Developed recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hog Farms | <input type="checkbox"/> Dispersed recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal/State Public Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Windbreaks, living snow fences |

*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies

National Threatened and Endangered List – Least Tern, Piping Plover.

National Species of Concern – Mountain plover, Blacktailed Prairie Dog, Swift Fox, Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish).

Colorado State Threatened – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.

Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

Railroad/Travel Corridors

Area number 3

Rating: Risk H Hazard H Value H

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Children with matches |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel corridors | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic sites |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Railroads | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil/gas/mining/propane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric fences | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Power lines | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community/rural intermix | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural burning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off-highway vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Party areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Recreation &/or fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood cutting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat Harvest (June-July) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Park Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower Harvest (October) |

HAZARD COMPONENT (POTENTIAL TO BURN):

Fuels &

<u>Topography</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>
Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	<u>Riparian</u> (cottonwood, tamarisk) <u>CRP grass</u> /NPS Weeds/tumbleweeds
Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section

VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> People/Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential/commercial development | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Water/riparian areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness (designated) | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild & Scenic rivers | <input type="checkbox"/> Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political values | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Range/grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic byways | <input type="checkbox"/> Developed recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hog Farms | <input type="checkbox"/> Dispersed recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal/State Public Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Windbreaks, living snow fences |

*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies

National Threatened and Endangered List – Least Tern, Piping Plover.

National Species of Concern – Mountain plover, Blacktailed Prairie Dog, Swift Fox, Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish).

Colorado State Threatened – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.

Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

River Drainages

Area number 4

Rating: Risk H Hazard H Value H

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Children with matches |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel corridors | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic sites |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Railroads | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil/gas/mining/propane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric fences | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Power lines | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfills |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community/rural intermix | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural burning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off-highway vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Party areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Recreation &/or fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood cutting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat Harvest (June-July) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Park Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower Harvest (October) |

HAZARD COMPONENT (POTENTIAL TO BURN):

Fuels &

<u>Topography</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>
Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	<u>Riparian</u> (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/NPS Weeds/tumbleweeds
Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section

VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People/Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered wildlife |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential/commercial development | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered plants |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water/riparian areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness (designated) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild & Scenic rivers | <input type="checkbox"/> Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political values | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Range/grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic byways | <input type="checkbox"/> Developed recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hog Farms | <input type="checkbox"/> Dispersed recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal/State Public Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Windbreaks, living snow fences |

*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies

National Threatened and Endangered List – Least Tern, Piping Plover.

National Species of Concern – Mountain plover, Blacktailed Prairie Dog, Swift Fox, Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish).

Colorado State Threatened – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.

Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

- 5 – Seasonal Lakes/Recreation (MHH)**
6 - Travel Corridors (HMH, HLH)
7 – River Drainages (LHH)
8 – Pinyon/Juniper Canyons (LHH)
9 - High Value Agricultural Areas
(LHH), (LMH) & (LLH)
10 – Rural Areas (LHH), (LMH) & (LLH)

Area number _____ Rating: Risk _____ Hazard _____ Value _____

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children with matches |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel corridors | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Railroads | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil/gas/mining/propane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric fences | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powerlines | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community/rural intermix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural burning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Off-highway vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Areas |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Party areas |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Recreation &/or fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood cutting |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat Harvest (June-July) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Park Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower Harvest (October) |

HAZARD COMPONENT (POTENTIAL TO BURN):

Fuels &

<u>Topography</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>
Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/NPS Weeds/tumbleweeds
Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section

VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> People/Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered wildlife |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential/commercial development | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Water/riparian areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness (designated) | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild & Scenic rivers | <input type="checkbox"/> Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political values | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Range/grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic byways | <input type="checkbox"/> Developed recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hog Farms | <input type="checkbox"/> Dispersed recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NPS, USFS, BLM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Windbreaks, living snow fences |

*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies

National Threatened and Endangered List – Least Tern, Piping Plover.

National Species of Concern – Mountain plover, Blacktailed Prairie Dog, Swift Fox, Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish).

Colorado State Threatened – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.

Fire Protection Assessment
For
Bent County, Colorado

Area number _____ Rating: Risk _____ Hazard _____ Value _____

RISK COMPONENTS (POTENTIAL FOR IGNITION) PRESENT IN THIS AREA:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debris burning (Trash/Pit burning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Children with matches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel corridors | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Railroads | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil/gas/mining/propane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric fences | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Projects/Canal Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powerlines | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community/rural intermix | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural burning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off-highway vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Party areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Recreation &/or fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood cutting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting (Seasonal Fall/Winter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat Harvest (June-July) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Park Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower Harvest (October) |

HAZARD COMPONENT (POTENTIAL TO BURN):

Fuels &

Topography Low Medium High

Fuels	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Short grass prairie Medium grass Prairie Prairie Sand/Sage Fence Row Tweeds	Riparian (cottonwood, tamarisk) CRP grass/NPS Weeds/tumbleweeds
Dwellings (as fuel)	0 per section	1-5per section	Greater than 5 per section
Windbreaks, Living Snow Fences	1 per section	1-5 per section	Greater than 5 per section

VALUES PRESENT IN THIS AREA (POTENTIAL FOR LOSS):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> People/Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential/commercial development | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and endangered plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Water/riparian areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness (designated) | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild & Scenic rivers | <input type="checkbox"/> Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political values | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Range/grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic byways | <input type="checkbox"/> Developed recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hog Farms | <input type="checkbox"/> Dispersed recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal/State Public Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Windbreaks, living snow fences |

*Prairie Wildlife – All High Value –

Assess with DOW, as applying mitigation strategies

National Threatened and Endangered List – Least Tern, Piping Plover.

National Species of Concern – Mountain plover, Blacktailed Prairie Dog, Swift Fox, Ferruginous Hawk, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Arkansas Darter (fish).

Colorado State Threatened – Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie Chicken.

Appendix B:
2011 Annual Workplan

Bent County Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2011 Annual Work plan

The purpose of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan is to provide stakeholders and those living in Bent County with an overview of the wildland fire risks, hazards and values within the planning area; recommend possible courses of action to reduce the impacts of wildfire in the planned area; and to share a current action plan.

The main goals for 2011 are to: 1) share the CWPP and Mitigation Assessment Maps with the community at large (city council, fire departments, Bent County Conservation District, Arkansas River Conservation District, and other boards); 2) Compile a list of mitigation efforts already done in the county, for future partnering and grant potentials; 3) Review the Firewise message and possibly do a mitigation assessment exercise with the fire departments; and, 4) As available, additionally share the CWPP and Mitigation Assessment Maps at local clubs/events (via club presentations, media, local events, and the County Fair).

There is no funding for this plan at this time. Potential grant applications may be considerations (For example, an IMR National Fire Plan Community Assistance Grant from the Department of Interior, National Park Service may become available for application).

To this end, the CWPP group has identified action items and completion dates for 2011. Action items are generally categorized under - A) Education and Outreach; B) Rules/Restrictions/Ordinances, and Enforcement; C) Prevention Planning; D) Fuels Mitigation; E) Grants and Administration.

A. Education and Outreach

1. Share the CWPP and Mitigation Assessment Maps with the community-at-large.
 - Who - Donna Davis & Team
 - What - Attend meetings to share
 - Where - Las Animas, fire departments, conservation district
 - When - 2nd & 3rd Quarter
 - Costs - TBD

2. Santa Fe Trail Days or County Fair information booth w/pamphlets/handouts, as available.
 - Who - Team (possibly with another entity)
 - What - Work with existing clubs at fair to display CWPP/Firewise
 - Where - Bent County Fair
 - When - 3rd Quarter
 - Costs - TBD

3. Media Releases
 - Who - Team
 - What - CWPP planning initial stages; Bent County Mitigation Assessment Map; Annual Plan.
 - Where - Bent County Paper
 - When - 3rd Quarter
 - Costs - TBD

4. Fire Prevention Education

- Who - Fire Departments
- What - Fire Prevention Education Hasty-McClave (K-6) and Las Animas (K-4)
- Where - Local Schools
- When - Education Week
- Costs - TBD

5. Fire Ecology Educational Box

- Who - Team/Teachers
- What - Teacher Educational Material
- Where - At Lamar Division of Wildlife Office
- When - As available
- Costs - No Cost

B. Rules/Restrictions/Ordinances, and Enforcement

1. Possible news releases during high fire danger

- Who - Team
- What - News Release(s)
- Where - Local media
- When - As conditions change

C. Prevention Planning

D. Fuels Mitigation and Revegetation

1. Identify and compile list of mitigation projects already done.

- Who - Tom Wallace & Team
- What - Identify completed projects for future partnering and grants.
- Where - Countywide
- When - 2011
- Costs - TBD

2. Firewise review and mitigation assessment exercise on property with each fire department.

- Who - Donna Davis & Team
- What - Review Firewise and do an on ground mitigation assessment on a property.
- Where - Fire Departments
- When - 2011
- Costs - TBD

E. Grants and Administration

1. Identify and compile list of mitigation projects already done – consider application for future partners and grants.

- Who - Tom Wallace & Team
- What - Identify completed projects for future partnering and grants.
- Where - Countywide
- When - 2011
- Costs - TBD

2. Meetings/CWPP maintenance

- Who - Team
- What - updates/developments
- Where - TBD

When - AWOP Mtg update; mid-year
Costs - TBD

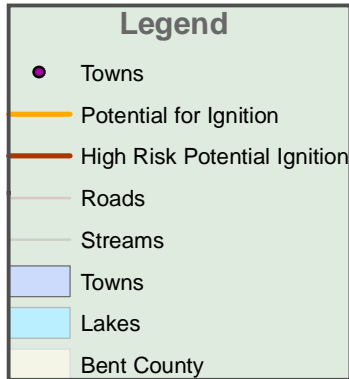
2. Grants

Who - Team

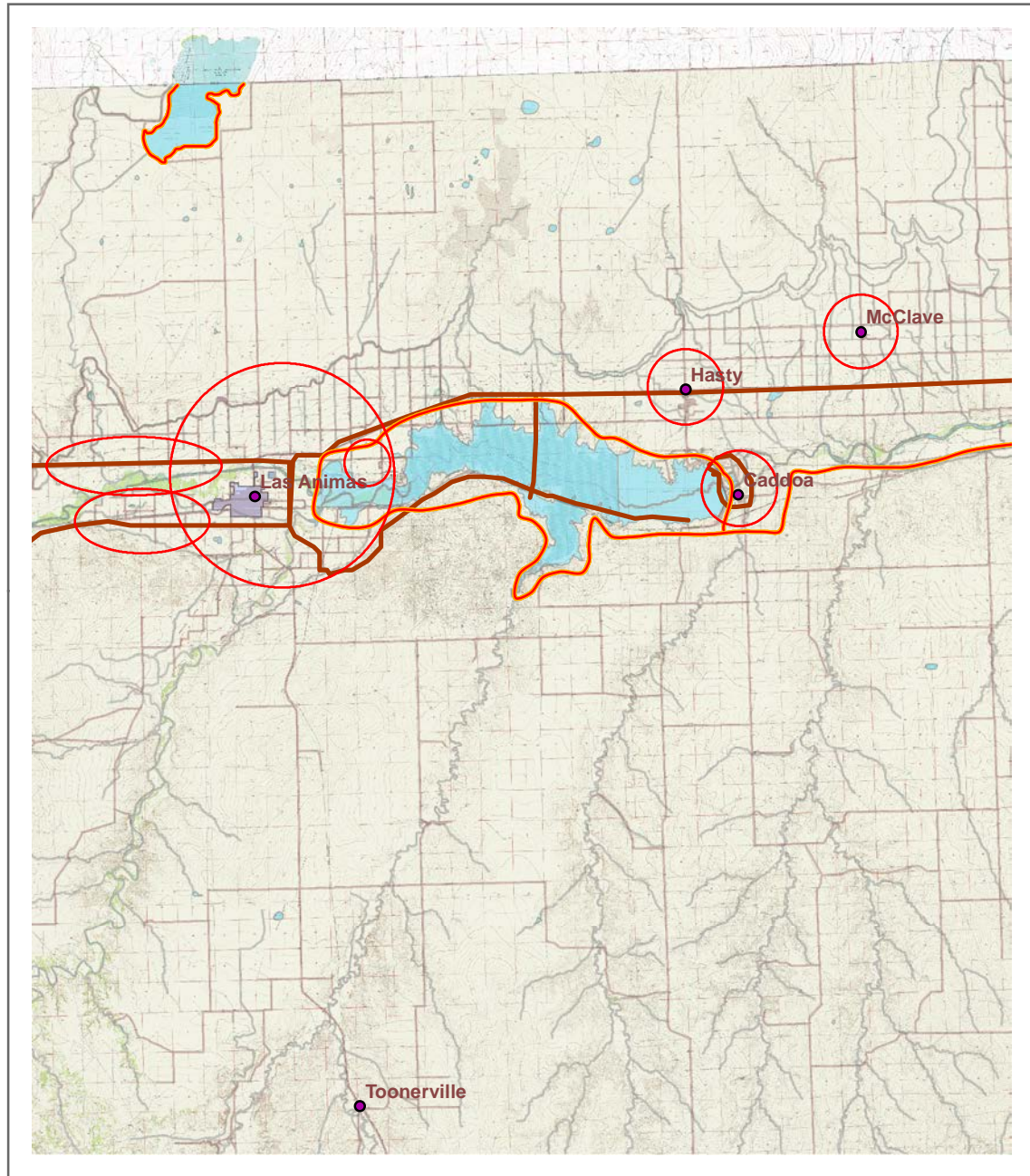
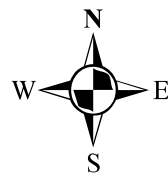
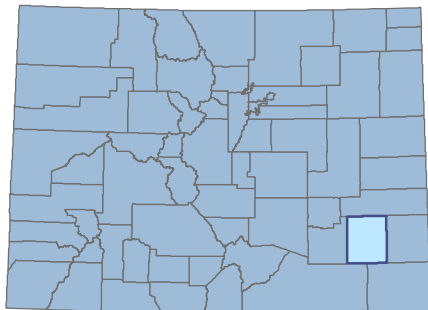
What - Apply for grant(s) as partners and educational &/or mitigation as opportunities arise.

Appendix C:
CWPP Bent County Maps

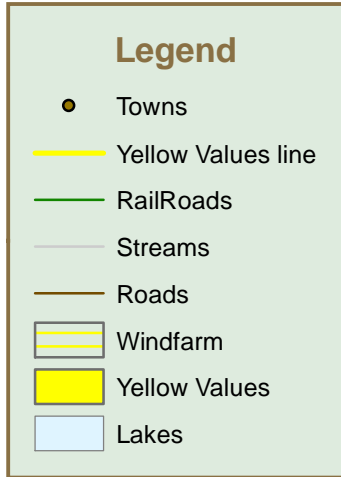
Red Values Bent County



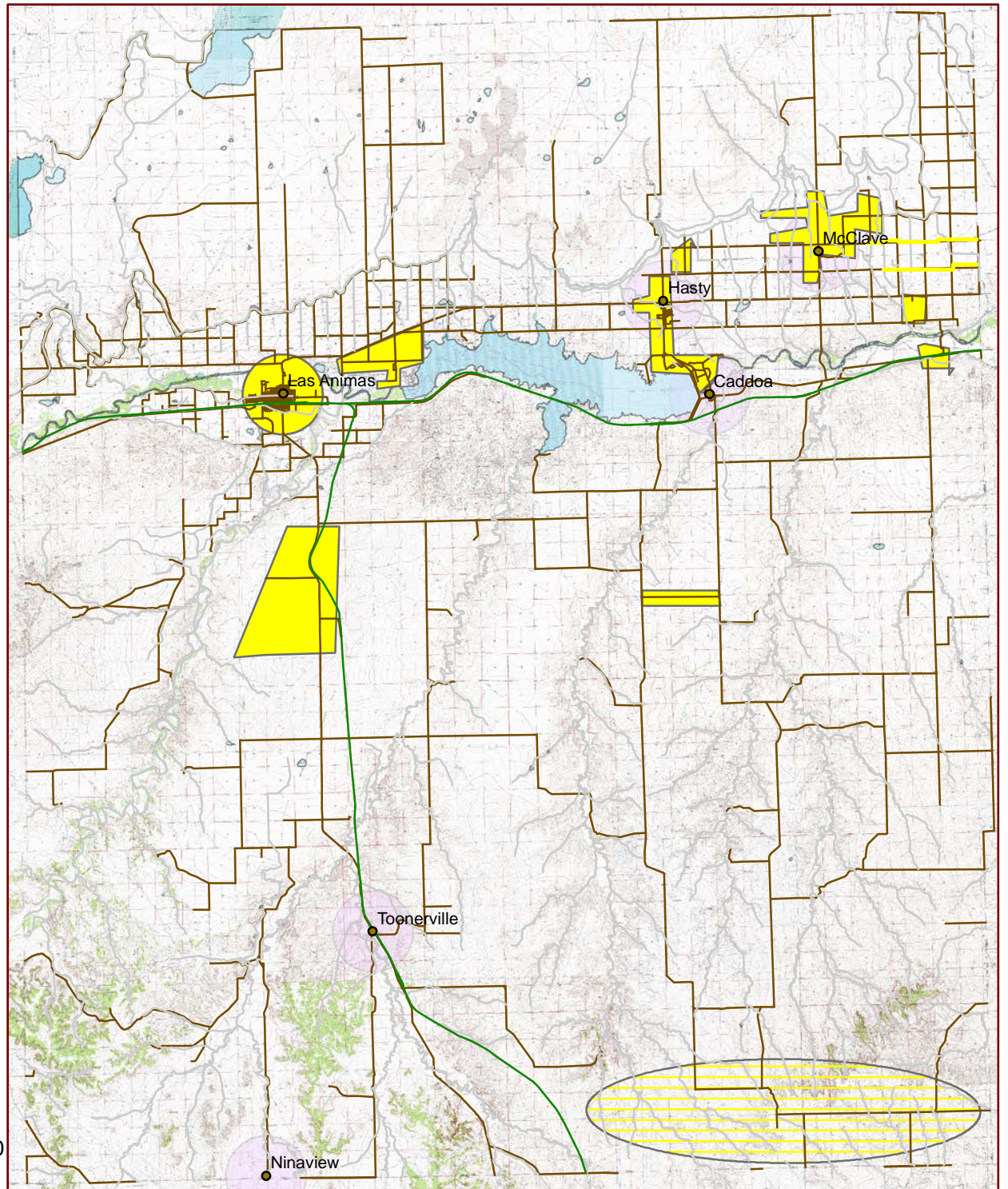
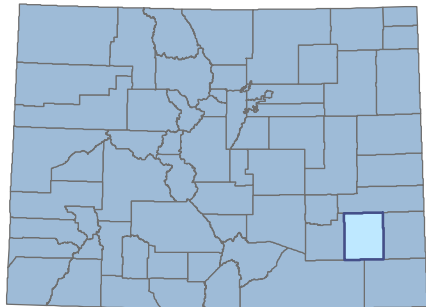
Colorado Counties



Yellow Values Bent County



Colorado Counties

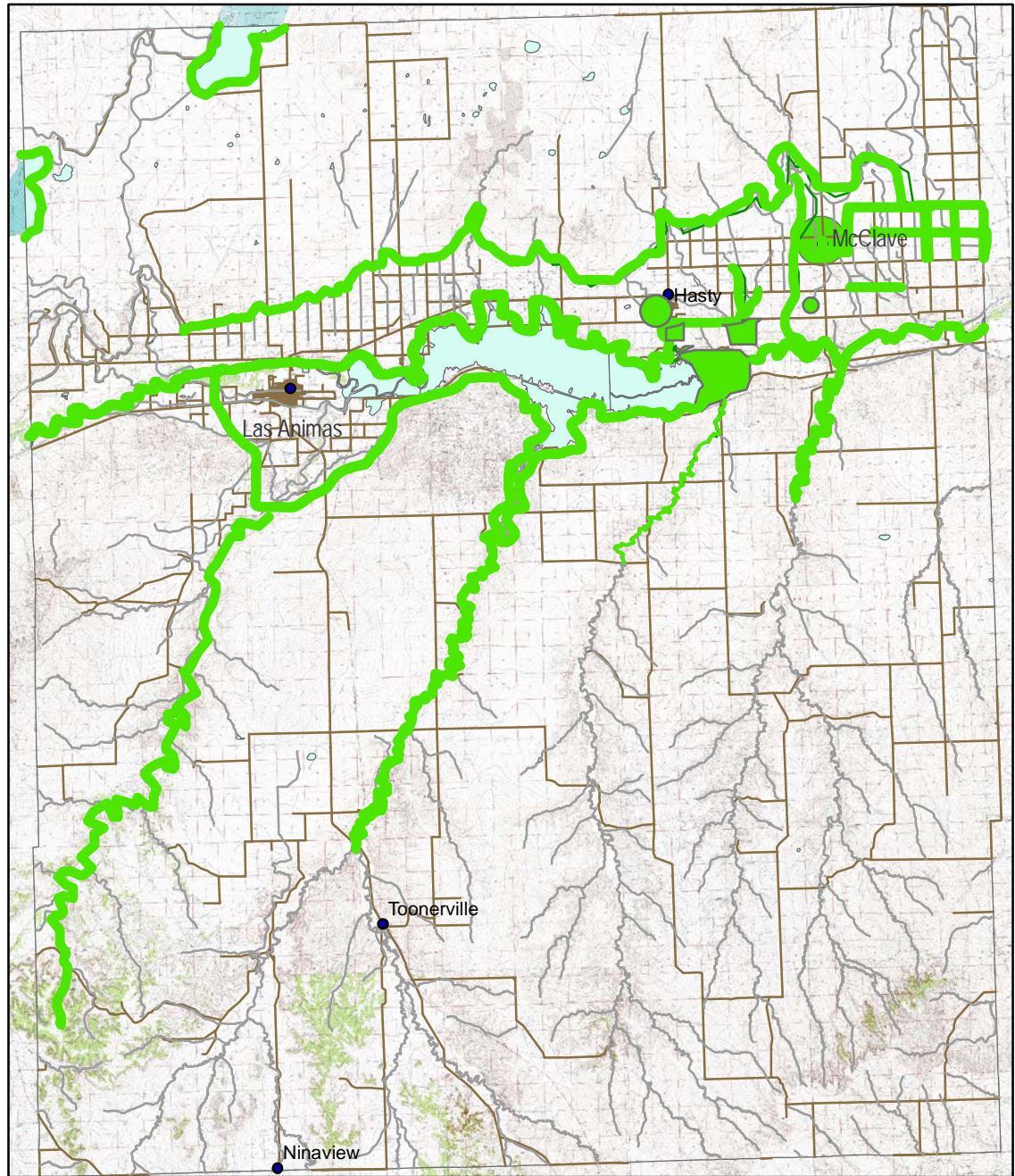
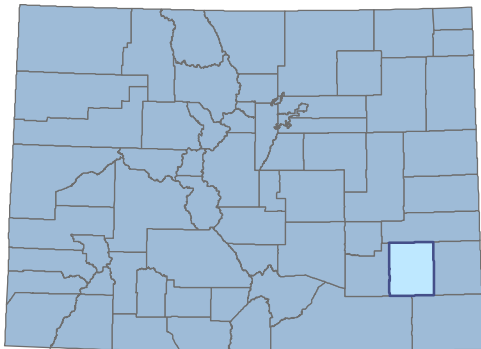


Hazardous Fuels Bent County

Legend

- Towns
- Potential Ignition
- Streams
- Roads
- ▭ Lakes

Colorado Counties



Bent County Colorado WildLife

Wildlife

- Roads
- Ferruginous_Hawk/Swift_Fox/Burrowing_Owl
- Great_Blue_Heron_Colony
- Piping_Plover_Least_Tern
- Mountain_Plover
- Bald_Eagle
- Massasauga_RattleSnake
- Arkanas_Red_Darter

Blacktailed Prairie Dog
habitat is county wide

0 3 6 12 18 24

Miles

