

La Veta Fire Protection District Community Wildfire Protection Plan



**Update & Expansion
August 2016**

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PREFACE:

The La Veta Fire Protection District (LVFPD) Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was written by Jim Webb of Forest Stewardship Concepts, Ltd. and published in 2011. Since then it has served as the primary justification and guideline for all wildfire education and mitigation endeavors accomplished within this district. It is a 'stand-alone' assessment that should be read by any persons residing within the LVFPD. A complete copy of the CWPP is available on the Colorado State Forest Service website, as well as that of the La Veta Fire Protection District.

In 2015, the La Veta Fire Protection District-Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) initiated a CWPP review process to document the status of the recommendations outlined in the original Action Plan. Surprised by the rarity of CWPP Updates in general, yet convinced of their utility, the WMS utilized its' own assessment process in order to evaluate the progress of multiple programs, consolidate lessons-learned, and inform future planning. That project eventually evolved into the information presented this document.

This current document, titled as a "CWPP Update and Expansion", was not created to revise the original CWPP. It is intended to echo and amplify the assessments and recommendations previously given. It also is not a requirement of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2005, as was the original CWPP. Nevertheless, it is the current perception of the LVFPD-WMS that the development of this type of plan is an invaluable process, one which probably should become a mandatory component of any CWPP.

This report is intended to guide the continued implementation of informed and effective actions. It consists of an accounting of accomplishments to date, recommendations for building capacity, comprehensive task lists for neighborhoods, and an outline of challenges with proposed solutions. Updated Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) maps that will be used as tactical tools by firefighters and "Proposed Treatment Area" maps displaying potential Shaded Fuel Break projects were developed in collaboration with the CSFS- La Veta District and the USFS-San Carlos Ranger District. These maps are included for each WUI.

It is hoped that this document will effectively support, guide, and motivate local efforts to mitigate the impact of catastrophic wildfire within the LVFPD, thereby safeguarding citizens, emergency responders, key infrastructure, and essential natural systems.

(NOTE: While the vast majority of this document is original text, the following two definitions, a few key prescriptions, and several photos, are from the original plan and are the product of Forester Jim Webb. Unless, otherwise noted, all narrative and photos in this Update are the product of the La Veta Fire Protection District-Wildfire Mitigation Service.)

Two Key Definitions for “Neighborhoods in the Woods”:

A **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** is a local wildfire protection plan that can take a variety of forms, based on the needs of the community. The CWPP may address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, or structure protection – or all of the above.

The process of developing a CWPP can help a community clarify and refine its priorities for protection of life, property and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface. It also can lead community members through valuable discussions regarding management options and implications for the surrounding watershed.

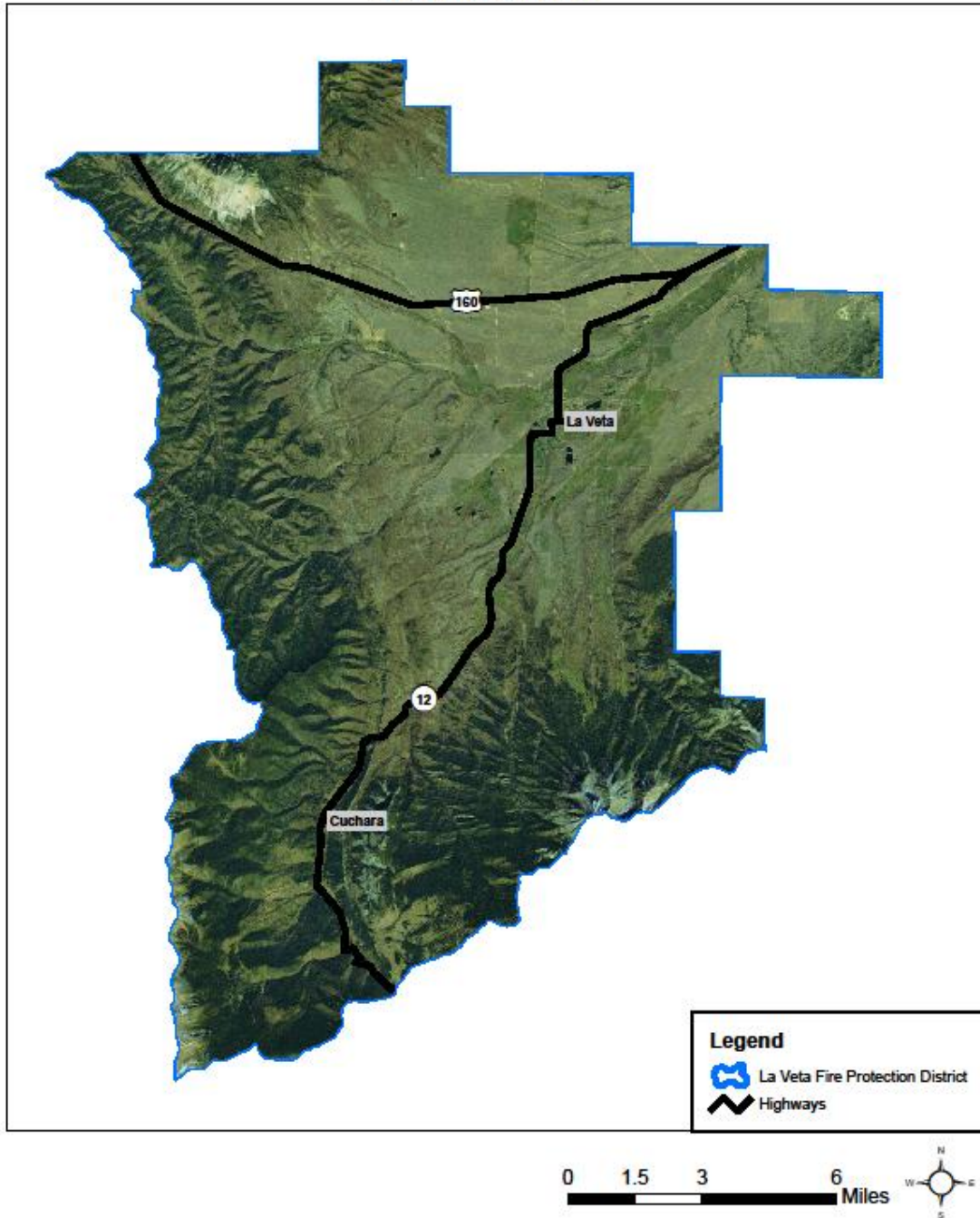
CWPPs also improve a community’s ability to compete for grants to fund hazard mitigation projects, loss prevention, and preparedness education of residents in the community.

The **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)** is term found throughout this document. It can be simply described as the geographical area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with wildland or vegetative fuels. For the purposes of community wildfire protection planning a more specific definition is used. The Healthy Forest Restoration Act defines wildland-urban interface as:

- a.) an area extending ½ mile from the boundary of an at risk community.
- b.) an area within 1.5 miles of the boundary of an at risk community, including any land that;
 - 1. Has a sustained steep slope that creates the potential for wildfire behavior endangering the at risk community,
 - 2. Has a geographic feature that aids in creating an effective fire break, such as a road or ridge top,
- c.) An area that is adjacent to an evacuation route for an at risk community that requires hazardous fuels reduction to provide safer evacuation from the at risk community.

La Veta Fire Protection District Jurisdiction Map

La Veta Fire Protection District Satellite View



LVFPD CWPP Development History

The initial CWPP Core Team meeting was held on April 21, 2011. Participants included the command staff from La Veta Fire Protection District, and representatives from the Colorado State Forest Service, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service. The initial Core Team and Stakeholder meetings were facilitated by Forester Jim Webb, who was the primary consultant and author of the original CWPP.

The Core Team reviewed the overall wildfire potential in the LVFPD and discussed issues, concerns and opportunities. Regional wildfire resource inventories were also discussed. The Core Team met again on August 15, 2011 to refine the draft CWPP, assure universal support, and commit to the Action Plan recommendations. The original CWPP was approved and published in October 2011.

In early 2014 the CWPP data was reviewed by the Core Team and planning for future projects was expanded. For this process original Core Team members were utilized as consultants from their respective agencies. These individuals include CSFS Foresters CK Morey and Mark Loveall, BLM Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Ed Skerjanic, USFS Assistant FMO Dennis Page, USFS Specialist Greg Goodland, USFS Forester Jefferson Wingate, LVFPD Fire Chief David Detray and LVFPD CWPP Coordinator and Wildfire Mitigation Service manager Paul Branson.

During 2015 and 2016 the final components of this edition were formulated incorporating recent area assessments, Core Team input, lessons-learned, and notes from several years of field work.

WUI Neighborhoods of the LVFPD	Acres
Cuchara	744
Cuchara Pass Ranch	449
Hwy 12 Corridor	8,891
Hwy 160 Corridor	8,393
Indian Creek	5,501
Middle Creek	10,594
Panadero/CMR	957
Pine Haven	181
Raspberry Mountain	3,173
School Creek	5,136
Spanish Peaks	957
Tres Valles	1,206
Wahatoya Valley	6,432
Total Acres	52,614

Local Public Outreach History

Interested parties meetings were held in Cuchara on August 15th and in La Veta September 22nd 2011. Participants discussed community wildfire planning issues and reviewed maps of the WUIs showing triaged structures and fire control features in each area. Participants were encouraged to complete a survey on wildfire hazards and mitigation opportunities. Public feedback from this survey, as well as from direct public comments served as valuable insight for the development of the Public Outreach programs of the LVFPD-WMS. Sadly, actual review of the 2011 CWPP by the public was determined to be low so significant energy was required to increase local awareness of wildfire.

Several additional Public meetings were held during the visitor seasons of 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016. Meeting topics included: CWPP implementation status, Defensible Space construction, the “Ready, Set, Go!” initiative and the NFPA Firewise Community/USA program. Public attendance and involvement at these meetings has been varied (50-110 people) but typically well attended. In general, Public meetings of any size, and the Firewise Communities/USA program in particular, have proven to be highly effective public outreach tools for raising awareness and distributing knowledge regarding wildfire mitigation. These meetings were hosted and facilitated by LVFPD-WMS staff and included representatives from state and federal agencies.

As a wildfire prevention mentality evolved locally, the topics of public interest and discussion also expanded. While local programs, such as “Firewise Communities” and “Ready Set Go”, are promoted each season, additional topics, such as forest health, insurance, and watershed conservation are attracting more public interest. In 2014, the LVFPD began to heavily promote the “Ready, Set, Go!” program as it incorporated previous program topics while emphasizing evacuation readiness. This program was continued, via door-to-door canvassing and public meetings, in the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

Public adoption of the Firewise Communities/USA program has been very high in this area with 4 WUI’s designated in 2013, 3 in 2014 and 1 in 2015. Emphasizing this program has been one of the most important accomplishments achieved by the LVFPD-WMS, as it provides an effective vehicle through which to implement a variety of risk reduction initiatives. In particular, the Firewise program has proven to be a very useful tool in raising wildfire awareness and public involvement. Currently, the focus is to build on these efforts in order to establish consistent annual planning and review sessions with each established Firewise Council. All Firewise neighborhoods have organized annual Firewise Day events, and/or work parties, with several now in their second or third year of Firewise Communities designation.

The LVFPD-WMS has prioritized the continued promotion of these important programs as it has been determined that local wildfire awareness and preparedness is greatly enhanced by this endeavor.

Updated LVFPD Wildfire Assessment

In 2012, the LVFPD-Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) began implementing CWPP Action Plan recommendations, the first of which was the promotion of the Firewise Communities/USA program into the thirteen WUI's of the LVFPD. This program was quickly embraced by many local residents and has since spread to influence most neighborhoods of the LVFPD and several outside of the district. One essential part of this program is the in-depth assessment of each neighborhood and the recommendation of specific WUI-level activities. In a sense, the neighborhood-level Firewise Assessment process is a scaled down CWPP with a more localized focus. This process has been very useful in increasing local homeowner wildfire awareness while increasing participation within their own neighborhoods.

At this writing, 8 local WUI's have been assessed by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), with LVFPD-WMS participation, and have received a detailed plan created by the local CSFS Forester. Several of these communities have made good progress on these recommendations. Each existing Firewise Council is encouraged to ensure that their local projects are implemented and maintained successfully. Coordination of this process was previously provided by the LVFPD CWPP Coordinator however presently this responsibility is assigned to the Huerfano County Wildfire Mitigation Program Manager. Every effort is being made to further the expansion of the LVFPD Firewise program until all area WUIs have been designated and all recommendations have been completed. In order to inspire and guide these efforts, updated recommendations for each WUI neighborhood within the LVFPD are included in this CWPP Update.

Many areas exist within the LVFPD that are not in officially recognized Wildland Urban Interface zones. The wildfire hazard mitigation recommendations provided to the residents of these outlying areas are exactly the same as those proposed to the formal WUIs of this district.

Recent Wildfire Activity and Continued Wildfire Potential

In spite of much improvement in public wildfire awareness, and the designation of several Firewise Communities locally, it is important to understand that the completion of the recommendations in this plan is necessary for success. Firewise Councils need to ensure that WUI-specific activities that address extreme hazards are implemented as soon as possible, whilst developing the capacity to sustain wildfire mitigation efforts indefinitely.

A brief summation the local wildfire history (from the LVFPD CWPP 2011) easily illustrates the continuing need for sustained wildfire mitigation efforts. Eight wildland fires burned on federal lands within the LVFPD between 1994 and 2011. Of those, five were 0.1 acres in size, one was 0.2 acres, one was 3.5 acres and one burnt 10 acres. There were also several large fires in close proximity to the district prior to 2012, most notably the Mauricio Canyon (3,850 acres), the Mato Vega (13,937), the Sand Dunes Fire (8,500), the Track (27,800), as well as the Bear and Purgatoire fires of 2011.

The 2013 spring season proved to be very active with three large wildfires of note. They were the 13 acre Occidental, the 68 acre Klikus and the roughly 13,500 acre East Peak fires all of which were within or bordering the LVFPD. It is important to note that each year numerous wildfires are ignited and successfully extinguished by fire personnel. These nearby wildfires should serve to remind local stakeholders of the extreme wildfire dangers that exist close to home and the potential of any small fire to explode quickly in scope and scale.

Forester Jim Webb, the author of the 2011 CWPP reminds the reader that, “this recent, yet still small, snapshot of local wildfire activity is **deceiving**. Fires have been a part of this area since lightning and dry biomass has been present on the landscape. The indigenous peoples of the area also regularly used fire as a means to rejuvenate the landscape. Evidence of historic fires is present throughout the entire area in the form of charred stumps, scarred old growth trees and large aspen forests.” (Emphasis WMS). In addition, many of the forest types within the LVFPD, especially Spruce-Fir and Mixed-Conifer forests, are naturally conducive to infrequent yet potentially high severity wildfires, a condition presently exacerbated by increasing and widespread tree mortality from disease or insects. Wildfire continues to be a natural occurrence in this area. Preparation will be the key to successfully weathering these events.

Overall, the potential for large wildfires within the WUI’s of the LVFPD remains very high. Outlying publicly managed lands may also be visited by high-severity fires of intense destructive force that can impact home owner safety and property, the local utility infrastructure, and the ability of the watershed to function in a manner beneficial to local residents. It is imperative that forest fuels are reduced both within and around the WUI’s of the LVFPD. Thankfully, active homeowner involvement, initially lackluster in some WUI’s, is steadily increasing to the levels required to establish truly defensible neighborhoods. With long-term residents already on the Firewise bandwagon, current public outreach is specifically focused on the large percentage of local homeowners that are infrequent or seasonal visitors. In addition, local State and Federal land managers have identified potential forest thinning sites on public lands throughout the various drainages of the upper Cucharas River watershed. This development is favorable, however it will require sustained local collaboration between the public, State and Federal agencies, and local fire districts in order to complete the treatments of these areas.

It is expected that homeowner involvement in this important work will continue to expand due to increased public awareness, the availability of cost-share programs, the accessibility to skilled local contractors, and the expected changes within the insurance industry regarding structures in the Wildland Urban Interface. The wide spread and highly destructive wildfires of 2015/16 have also influenced the local mindset regarding the importance of Defensible Space and pre-fire planning. A coordinated national emphasis on pre-fire mitigation will likely continue, if not increase significantly, due also to skyrocketing wildfire damage and suppression costs. We can likewise also expect that lightning strikes or human-caused fires will continue to pose a significant threat to our area especially as seasonal weather patterns gravitate toward prolonged dry weather and the conditions most conducive to wildfire. Continued prioritization on local collaborative efforts to address wildfire hazards within the LVFPD is of vital importance.

Progress Report on LVFPD CWPP 2011 Implementation

The original October 2011 plan outlined a 19 point “Action Plan for Completing the LVFPD CWPP”. Upon plan approval by the CSFS, the LVFPD-WMS began to implement the Action Plan recommendations. At present, the majority of the “Mitigation Action” items have been completed, but due to task complexity, certain items remain in process at this time.

All of Jim Webb’s recommendations have received some degree of focused attention. The following is a point by point update for each item in their original order of priority, as outlined by the LVFPD CWPP 2011:

1) *“Provide assistance to land and local homeowners in order to: Create a local FireWise Council acquire FireWise communities designations, and increase FireWise awareness”*

Starting in 2012, the LVFPD Wildfire Mitigation Service (LVFPD-WMS) began a concerted effort to cultivate the Firewise Communities/USA program within the district. At this writing, there are now 7 LVFPD district WUI’s that are designated Firewise (several are entering their second or third year), as well as one neighboring WUI outside our district which the LVFPD WMS has assisted. At present, two more districts WUI’s are in process towards Firewise designation with expected acceptance into the program in late 2016. The LVFPD-WMS continues to advocate for this important program, with strong Huerfano County Government support, in order to further expand the Firewise Communities/USA network throughout the area.

As of 2016, efforts are underway to create a wildfire awareness and mitigation coalition of local Firewise groups in order to combine resources, exchange knowledge, and consolidate long term wildfire program planning and monitoring efforts.

2) *“Hire a contract CWPP Project Coordinator”*

In 2011, or in any year thereafter, La Veta Fire Protection District was not able to fund a CWPP Project Coordinator position as recommended in the CWPP 2011. Nevertheless, the LVFPD-WMS, the self-funded wildfire mitigation arm of the LVFPD, was able to utilize its own funds to support a part-time position ensuring the execution of the original CWPP and the development of its resultant programs. Particular focus was applied to the implementation of the CWPP 2011 Action Plan as prescribed. Huerfano County leadership also prioritized Secure Rural Schools Title III funding in order to facilitate the development of this CWPP, as well as the designation and cultivation of local Firewise Communities.

Due to funding constraints, as well as the perceived completion of the original action plan, the continuation of CWPP coordination activities by the LVFPD-WMS was gradually reduced to a purely maintenance mode. The funding to continue active CWPP coordination was expended in mid 2015. In 2016, sufficient funding was allocated to complete this CWPP Update and Expansion document and fund a temporary County employee to assist the implementation of its’ revised Action Plan. This employee serves to oversee and assist the development of

multiple wildfire preparedness programs in the area, including CWPP's, however the locus of responsibility regarding Action Items is assigned to each relevant stakeholder.

3) *"Designate and sign Safety Zones for Cuchara & Middle Creek WUIs and others as needed."*

Given the hazard ratings of most of the neighborhoods within the LVFPD, focus was initially moved away from designating Safety Zones and towards Evacuation Readiness, namely in the form of developing of an active County evacuation plan and furthering the LVFPD's "Ready, Set, Go!" program. A multi-agency drill was held in August 2015 and involved significant public involvement in the Cuchara Village area. Future evacuation activities are in the planning stages and will include both 'tabletop' agency and 'live' public drills. Huerfano County and LVFPD personnel continue to visit each WUI, or annual meeting, to speak on the Code RED notification system, the "Ready, Set, Go!" program, and the importance of being Firewise.

While Safety Zones are presently recommended for each WUI, they are seen only as a "last ditch" option for residents. The identification of these areas is prioritized for 2016/17 as they are critical refuge locations for responding wildfire suppression crews. The responsibility of identifying and maintaining these areas is presently assigned to each WUI's Firewise or POA leadership and is to be informed by qualified local, state and federal authorities.

4) *"Conduct one FireWise workshop for WUI residents."*

The LVFPD-Wildfire Mitigation Service was able to host two Firewise workshops, which were open to the general public and well attended, in 2013. In addition, Firewise Communities/USA, Fire-Adapted Communities and Colorado State Forest Service literature has been delivered to homeowners and/or property owner associations for several years. The LVFPD-WMS continues to be an active distributor of several publications regarding defensible space, structural 'hardening' for wildfire, and evacuation readiness. Door-to-door canvassing visits, as well as HOA, POA, or Firewise Group presentations have become annual practices.

From experience, the WMS has determined that large public workshops are best for distributing general wildfire prevention information and providing an opportunity for the public to interact with Federal and State agency representatives. Smaller WUI level, or Firewise Community, meetings have been very effective for annual planning regarding the implementation of Neighborhood Assessments or CWPP Action Items. During 2015/16, the emphasis was shifted from recruiting new Firewise groups toward solidifying and empowering existing Firewise Councils. It is expected that this emphasis will result in more Action Plan implementation on the WUI level.

Outside of the LVFPD, however, the recruitment of new Firewise groups is the primary emphasis as this program augments existing Huerfano County OEM planning initiatives in those areas.

5) *“Provide interested parties with on site Home Ignition Zone consultations.”*

In 2013 alone, the LVFPD-WMS completed approximately 250 on-site Firewise Assessments within the WUI's of the LVFPD. Within 2014 and 2015, roughly 100 more assessments were performed and made available to private homeowners. These assessments involved site visits and the completion of the “NFPA Home Ignition Zone Structure Assessment Guide” usually with the homeowner. This service continues as of this writing.

Additional perspectives regarding Defensible Space standards in the Home Ignition Zone (from Firewise Communities/USA, CSFS, WUIC, and IBHS) have also been delivered to local residents in the form of pamphlets, brochures, videos, and flyers. The active distribution of this information also continues to date and is a core component of the LVFPD-WMS outreach program.

6) *“Create slash disposal yards near each WUI.”*

This item has been the subject of much controversy. In spite of the tangibly increased level of wildfire prevention awareness in the WUIs and its' subsequent treatment activities (namely the removal and/or transformation of biomass), the designation of local slash disposal areas within each WUI has not been accomplished. Efforts are continuing in this regard, with two WUI's expressing a basic interest in hosting such sites. They are the Panadero/CMR and Tres Valles WUIs both of which already collect and burn biomass from the thinning activities of their members.

Restrictions to this accomplishment primarily center around the actual, or perceived, aesthetic conditions of the slash disposal area and the methods used for biomass disposal. The LVFPD-WMS is focused on finding a cost-effective solution to this problem and has experienced much success with winter slash burning and/or chipping operations, however predominant social attitudes regarding the 'look' of collection sites (regardless of 'neatness' or accessibility) prevents further development of effective biomass processing within most of the LVFPD's WUI's. Efforts continue to identify additional slash disposal/processing areas within WUI's that have the space for such sites.

An effective alternative to fixed slash sites is to dispose of the biomass with mobile chippers. Several of the LVFPD WUI's conduct an annual 'Chipping Day', which is typically their Firewise Day, during which numerous piles, placed at the front of each property, are chipped by large crews of neighborhood volunteers. This has been a very successful program especially as County Title III funding can be used to pay for the chipper rental. It is anticipated that the 'mobile Chipper' method of Biomass Utilization will continue to be a effective option until existing slash burn sites can be made available to neighboring Firewise groups.

7) *“Update Evacuation Plans.”*

Because no such plans existed prior to 2011, this item was given a high priority by the LVFPD-WMS. Between 2013 and 2015 evacuation planning included two multi-agency “table-top” exercises concerning the complete evacuation of the greater Cuchara Village area, an unincorporated town with five seasonally well populated WUIs nearby. Because of the concentration of values around Cuchara, this area has been earmarked for agency trainings and enhanced public outreach regarding detailed wildfire preparedness and evacuation readiness. In addition, particular focus has been given to the identification of specific fuel reduction project sites that, once completed, will afford safe egress along the primary evacuation corridors. Similar focus is being applied to the other WUIs which exhibit hazardous wildfire conditions, especially as those areas begin to develop their respective Firewise programs.

The LVFPD has also adopted and actively promotes the “Ready, Set, Go!” evacuation readiness program. While information has been previously distributed for this program, the 2015 summer season was an active year of public outreach in this regard. The LVFPD-WMS, the LVFPD Junior Firefighter program, and the LVFPD Auxiliary all coordinated efforts to recruit every household within the greater Cuchara area, as well as the other WUIs of the LVFPD. This effort is ongoing given fluctuations of receptivity to outreach program in general and the transient nature of home/landownership in this area. As of 2016, and in spite of the high percentage of ‘absentee ownership’ within the LVFPD, roughly 800 “Ready, Set, Go!” pamphlets have been distributed to the public within the LVFPD.

In August 2015, a “Mock Evacuation Drill” was conducted that involved multiple local and county agencies, as well as the resident volunteers of one large WUI in the Cuchara Village area. Lessons learned from this highly simplified evacuation scenario greatly informed local agency policy in this regard. Elements of the “lessons learned” from this exercise are still being incorporated into local Emergency Response planning projects. It is expected that the continued prioritization of this important capacity will result in the functional ability to safely evacuate all residents inhabiting the high hazard WUIs of this area, as well as of any WUI within the Mutual Aid Network of the LVFPD.

As described in #3 above, future evacuation activities are in the planning stages as the Huerfano County OEM incorporates local LVFPD plans into its more comprehensive County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. It is anticipated that a ‘table top’ agency drill will occur in late 2016 and will focus on an area WUI neighborhood to be determined. A second Cuchara Village area drill is tentatively planned for early summer 2017.

8) *“Print 10 sets of fire control features maps for first responder vehicles.”*

The 2016 CWPP Update and Expansion process has resulted in the development of advanced WUI maps. These maps are conceived to be tools for Initial Attack as well as for sustained

suppression operations. They will also be utilized for long term wildfire mitigation planning. These 'Tactical WUI Maps' are provided in the LVFPD apparatus and are utilized for WUI Wildland fire trainings. They also provide a solid base map for any district "Pre-Attack Plans" as they are developed. Due to funding limitations, only 3 full sets of WUI maps have been created.

Presently, basic digital files of these maps are available to fire operations while more advanced GIS options are explored. Interagency collaboration on this topic is expected to produce accurate maps that are easy to access in the field while being simple to upgrade or modify. Operative digital maps should be available prior to the 2017 wildfire season.

9) *"Install "No Outlet" signs at the beginning of all dead end roads."*

Since 2012, several of the 7 Firewise Communities within the LVFPD have been actively promoting the installation of "No Outlet" signs in their neighborhoods. As the majority of the roads in these areas are county maintained, this effort has also involved the focused leadership of Huerfano County. Starting in 2013, CDOT and Huerfano County have installed new street name and "No Outlet" signs along CO HWY 12 and also throughout the neighborhoods around the Cuchara area. New street and/or "No Outlet" signs have also been installed in other WUIs of the LVFPD.

With regard to signage, we have also seen a marked increase in standardized house numbering, due in particular to the effectiveness of the LVFPD Auxiliary street address sign program.

10) *"Pursue grant to purchase 15 new VHF/800DTR radios."*

Since 2011, the LVFPD has procured additional radios for use in tactical operations. Presently, a program is in place to further expand the district's communications inventory and capability.

11) *"Pursue grants to acquire a new type 6 WUI engine & other wildland fire suppression equipment."*

After the East Peak Fire of 2013, a collaborative effort with heavy public support resulted in the addition of one Type 6 engine to the LVFPD apparatus fleet. Efforts to procure the funding to purchase additional apparatus for both structural and wildland urban interface applications continue. With the exception of this new Type 6 truck and one Command vehicle, the LVFPD apparatus roster remains unchanged since 2011.

12) *"Explore virtues of hiring a LVFPD Mitigation Crew and resolve issues relative to reimbursement work."*

Starting in 2012, the LVFPD-WMS fielded and developed a seasonal saw crew focused specifically on creating Defensible Space to NFPA Firewise standards. During the summer season of 2013, this crew achieved full time status and expanded to shaded fuel break treatments (informed by CSFS Fuel Break Guidelines). Crew members are offered access to free

advanced NWCG certifications and as of 2016 were dispatched to fight wildfires out of district. Wildfire mitigation work continues as funding for such work is acquired through various grants. To date the total properties treated is roughly 100. Potentially, between 100 and 250 additional properties will be treated by December 2017. Adjacent to two LVFPD WUIs, three Shaded Fuel Break (SFB) features have been completed covering roughly 30 acres. Two more SFB sites are in process. Since 2013, crewmembers of the WMS have also increased the LVFPD roster, with trained and conditioned personnel, thereby enhancing the wildland firefighting capacity of this area.

Local socio-economic conditions and winter weather restrictions pose significant challenges toward developing the LVFPD-WMS into a year-round wildfire mitigation program. Nevertheless, the value of such a program, especially as a recruitment, enrichment, and retention program, is very high. In addition to seasonal work, prescribed fire experience with the USFS has been made available to WMS crew members with the intent of providing opportunities for the advancement of their Wildland fire qualifications.

Winter work involving slash pile burning is influenced by the grant requirements of the previous season, i.e. whether or not the slash can be burned. The FEMA grant of 2016/17, while providing ample fire-season saw work, prohibits slash burning which will in turn significantly impact the availability of winter work for the crew. Several options to increase winter work are being explored.

13) "Analyze pros and cons of providing a LVFPD chipper for individual use during structure mitigation."

The LVFPD-WMS has determined that owning an industrial chipper is not a viable option at this time. However, rental chippers are available locally for both the WMS saw crew and the public. Several local Firewise groups are considering the cooperative purchase of a chipper for neighborhood use.

14) "Work with the County Commissioners to develop a Land Use Code that addresses wildfire hazard mitigation and road standards that facilitate fire apparatus access."

Huerfano County is progressing toward the adoption of the 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code which will inform any new building construction and neighborhood developments. In previous years, County officials have reviewed several editions of structural and property code requirements in order to compile an upgraded code system appropriate for this area. It is anticipated that codes effecting wildland urban interface neighborhoods will be proposed and adopted in late 2016 or early 2017.

In addition, preliminary work has begun on the exploration of zoning overlays for residential areas within high wildfire hazard areas. Given the assessment of the 2011 CWPP for the LVFPD, this means that potentially all WUI's within the district could fall under a wildfire hazard overlay. Further development of this option is expected during 2017-18.

15) *“Develop a list of reliable mitigation contractors and find markets/outlets for slash created by wildfire mitigation activities.”*

A list of experienced and insured, or bonded, contractors was developed in 2012 and is updated annually. The services provided by these contractors vary greatly. Much effort has been made by the LVFPD WMS to provide all wildfire mitigation type contractors with up-to-date literature on Defensible Space and Shaded Fuel Break standards.

Funding restrictions initially hampered efforts to explore biomass market options, however in 2016 Huerfano County was able to assign this topic to its Wildfire Mitigation Program manager. As of this writing, biomass utilization options are being explored including; participation in the new Sawmill near Blanca, CO; hosting biochar and or biogas industry; and developing local processing facilities to utilize local biomass resources. A preliminary inventory of local (region) wood processing is underway as is the acquisition of current research regarding where nearby forest product markets are and how to build the infrastructure to access them.

16) *“Install cisterns in areas lacking hydrants.”*

This task has been assigned to POA’s and Firewise Groups for consideration. The majority of the LVFPD WUI’s remain without established water distribution systems. Drafting sites that are accessible by firefighting apparatus have been recommended for several neighborhoods. To facilitate more effective wildfire suppression efforts, local ponds and lakes are being plotted by GPS to be classified as potential dip-sites.

17) *“Develop Emergency Response Plans for Industrial sites in wildland interface zones.”*

This topic has been prioritized by the LVFPD. All business, industrial and institutional sites have had a basic Pre-Incident Plan created as of 2014. A collaborative (multi-agency and industry management) accident protocol that outlines appropriate emergency response is being developed. All local Industry located within LVFPD WUI’s have been visited by the LVFPD personnel and have received recommendations for wildfire preparedness.

18) *“Develop Emergency Response Plans for railroad corridor in extreme fire danger areas.”*

While a general LVFPD ERP for railroad accidents is nearing completion, a specific plan for mitigating wildfire hazards along the railroad right-of-way has not been developed. In 2013 two sizable wildfires were ignited by a malfunctioning engine. Additional smaller fires were started by the same engine in 2014 and 2015. These events prompted district efforts to engage local railroad ownership and seek a solution to this problem resulting in the removal of the troublesome engine. In 2015, new county Emergency Management leadership entered this dialogue, which temporarily improved responsiveness to LVFPD requests for information and collaborative training.

In 2016, after another series of fires started by rail activity, the management of the local passenger and freight line agreed to include a fire suppression ‘follow-car’ starting the 2017 wildfire season. Until the ‘follow-car’ concept is employed, and shown to be effective, the majority of the rail corridor within the LVFPD remains vulnerable to persistent human-caused

fires during the wildfire season. Currently, very little headway has been made with railroad authorities in order to develop effective Emergency Response Plans for hazards along the railroad corridor.

19) *“Develop landscape level Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plans.”*

In 2014, the Cucharas River Wildfire/Watershed Assessment was completed by JW Associates with participation from numerous Huerfano County stakeholders. Hazardous forest fuels conditions were identified and specific vegetation management areas were proposed in order to mitigate the damages resulting from wildfires. Several of the areas targeted by this process correspond to “Proposed Project Areas” identified by the LVFPD WMS.

In the spirit of simplification, this CWPP Update document includes several maps indicating proposed project sites whose locations are informed by both wildfire mitigation and watershed conservation assessments. As these areas are particularly dense, and/or degrading forest stands, informed thinning projects could facilitate enhanced forest health and productivity while decreasing potential watershed damage and the associated human hazards involved. As a precaution however, preliminary planning is underway for post-fire flood abatement.

The implementation of the project areas identified would create an important precedent of local collaboration while reducing wildfire hazards identified by several watershed, forestry, and fire protection partners.

Progress Report on CWPP Coordination & Monitoring

As described in Progress Report #2 above, the LVFPD WMS was required to undertake the roles and responsibilities of CWPP coordination in order to begin plan execution. Funding for this capacity was shared by the WMS and Huerfano County. While, not the typical, nor the most ideal solution for plan coordination, this arrangement nevertheless was very successful in putting the entire CWPP into action while cultivating its subordinate programs into productive and stable networks.

While the complete necessity of the Coordinator role was not initially recognized, the scope and scale of the workload quickly revealed its significance. Fortunately, many of the tasks assigned to the Coordinator role overlapped easily with program development duties of the WMS manager, however several tasks were far beyond the scope of that position. The WMS moved quickly to adapt to these changes and by utilizing the knowledge and skills of the original Core Team was able to develop an effective organizational capacity that was able to effectively address multiple aspects of the CWPP.

The WMS believes that the information listed in the previous Implementation Progress Report paints a clear picture of the success of the LVFPD CWPP team within the past four years. The topics illustrated within this Update and Expansion plan should also highlight the relevance of a CWPP Coordinator position. The only addition that the WMS would add to the original core Coordinator duties is the requirement that they compile, develop, and present an Update and Expansion plan such as this. This process is a very effective tool for monitoring the overall plan implementation, identifying and overcoming challenges, and supporting the development of the CWPP over time.

With the completion its' initial CWPP project, the La Veta Fire Protection District role has shifted to a mode focused primarily on promoting the implementation of Action Plan items within the WUIs under its' jurisdiction. As of 2016, the development of any proposed forest fuels reduction projects, as well as the general supervision of this, or any subsequent, wildfire mitigation planning is assigned to the Huerfano County Wildfire Mitigation Programs Manager, a position funded until 2018.

Action Plans as Guidelines-CWPP Update and Expansion

The successful implementation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan requires a significant amount of time and energy expended consistently over time in an organized manner. These types of plans are complex guidelines with recommendations that involve several diverse yet intertwined academic disciplines. Typical activities involve everything from sawdust and tree-marking, through public meetings and site mapping and on up, to include multiple agency networking and strategic planning. Of course, most CWPP Coordinators also procure all of the funding, training, and consultation required for effective plan execution. Many CWPP

Coordinators may even stumble into the realms of local politics, private sector development and advanced wildfire behavior modeling. In short, CWPPs are comprehensive plans that should identify clear objectives, outline responsibilities, and facilitate successful implementation.

The LVFPD Wildfire Mitigation Service has experienced all the above activities and now considers them ‘par for the course’ for this type of work. It is expected that the evolution of this plan will continue to increase in scope and scale. As the original CWPP “Action Plan” played a very useful role in organizing WMS efforts, that component has been emphasized and expanded upon for this edition in the hopes of providing a detailed “To Do List” for all future stakeholders.

In the spirit of continued progress on this plan, and in alignment with original CWPP advice, it is highly recommended that the LVFPD WMS formally assess its accomplishments on at least an annual, but preferably a seasonal, basis. Further, it is important that the CWPP Core Team continues to formally evaluate this plan every two years and provide additional items to be completed as necessary.

With regard to attempts to prioritize action items, the reader should consider that ALL items listed are priorities. Modest effort is made to have the rankings of actions reflect descending degrees of importance or value; however the WMS considers this to be a nonessential exercise as it removes the focus away from what is actually important. Activities that leverage multiple projects across a broad scale and/or build local capacity are given special relevance.

The following “Action Plan for Completing the LVFPD CWPP Update & Expansion 2016” proposes the activities necessary to expand the scope and scale of LVFPD CWPP development efforts. An emphasis is placed on capacity building, inter-agency collaboration, and developing supportive infrastructure.

The actions recommended on the following list are primarily macro in nature, that is, influencing the ‘bigger picture’ issues of this endeavor and typically involve Huerfano County, Fire Protection Districts, State and Federal Agencies and other similar stakeholders. Specific ‘micro’ level actions and projects are detailed for each WUI in the section titled, “Updated WUI Summaries and Wildfire Hazard Action Plans”.

Action Plan for Completing the LVFPD CWPP Update & Expansion 2016

	HAZARD MITIGATION ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS	TARGET DATE
1	Establish a local Wildfire Council or Roundtable to oversee CWPP development and implementation, coordinate outreach activities with stakeholders, assist with funding procurement, expand the local wildfire mitigation capacity, steward wildfire preparedness programs, establish a local Biomass Utilization infrastructure, and incorporate relevant watershed and/or forest conservation initiatives.	Huerfano County, Firewise Groups, Landowners, CSFS, USFS, NRCS, BLM, CDFPC, Water Conservancy Districts, Arkansas Basin Roundtable, Business owners	1/18
2	Promote and participate in the designation of Safety Zones to be located within or adjacent to each LVFPD WUI. Once identified, add these locations to CWPP and operations maps.	LVFPD, Firewise Groups, Landowners	6/17
3	Prioritize and develop proposals to address hazardous fuels conditions on Public (USFS & BLM) lands within the LVFPD and support actions to implement NEPA requirements in this area.	USFS, LVFPD, Huerfano Co., CSFS, BLM, NRCS, CDFPC	1/17
4	Complete an operative Evacuation Plan for the Cuchara Village area, including Evacuation Order Criteria with an evacuation "Trigger Map" substantiated by up to date wildfire behavior models for that area and defined LVFPD involvement. Ensure the continuation of Evacuation Readiness programs within this district.	HCOEM, LVFPD, HCSO, USFS, CDFPC, BLM	3/17
5	Research and explore the use of a "Wildfire Hazard Area" tax overlay to assist with funding for Wildfire Mitigation in those areas.	Huerfano Co., LVFPD, Firewise Groups	3/17
6	Adopt the 2016 ICC Wildland Urban Interface Code to guide new building construction and neighborhood development within Huerfano County.	Huerfano Co., HCFPD, UHFPD, LVFPD	6/17
7	Complete an operative Railroad Wildfire Mitigation plan for the LVFPD, which clearly illustrates local stakeholder roles and responsibilities.	LVFPD, HCOEM, SLRG, CDFPC, CSFS, Middle Creek Firewise	1/18
8	Investigate and begin development of local Biomass Utilization opportunities, including the assessment of forest materials, existing extraction/transportation/processing capacity, potential markets, and available agency and/or academic resources. Also begin to establish a 'Face-to-Face' network of these stakeholders.	Huerfano Co., USFS, CSFS, NRCS, LVFPD WMS, Business owners, CSU, CU	1/17
9	Ensure the continuation of a CWPP, or similar, coordination capacity locally which can develop, supervise, implement, and upgrade all local CWPPs, Firewise Communities, and wildfire hazard mitigation projects and programs. Also prioritize how to enhance this capacity with additional personnel, scope of influence, and/or funding.	Huerfano Co., Firewise Groups, HCOEM, LVFPD, HCFPD, UHFPD	ongoing
10	Develop, participate in, and/or assist the establishment of a local (county wide) wildfire mitigation Fuels Treatment and Wildfire Suppression training program to include volunteer firefighters from all Huerfano County Fire Protection Districts, as well as any qualified candidates from local surplus labor or veterans program and local public schools.	LVFPD, HCFPD, UHFPD, Huerfano County, Huerfano Public schools, USFS, CSFS, CDFPC	3/18
11	Explore Stewardship Contracting opportunities on Public Lands	USFS, BLM, Huerfano Co.,	9/17

	within Huerfano Co.	Business owners	
12	Participate in the development and implementation of the forest fuels reduction projects identified as “Proposed Project Areas” within this CWPP Update.	USFS, CSFS, LVFPD, BLM, Huerfano Co., Firewise Groups, Landowners	ongoing
13	Identify potential Landscape Scale forest fuels reduction projects on Public Lands within Huerfano Co., especially within the Cucharas and Huerfano River headwaters areas.	USFS, CSFS, BLM, Huerfano Co., HC Water Conservancy District, LVFPD, UHFPD	9/17
14	Prioritize the promotion of programs that address forest management, and wildfire hazard, issues on large-tract private properties adjacent to WUIs within the LVFPD and solicit local landowner buy-in to nearby fuels reduction projects.	CSFS, LVFPD, USFS, NRCS, BLM, Landowners, Huerfano Co.	9/19
15	Develop a contractor training program specific to Defensible Space and Shaded Fuel Break construction. Include safety and restoration components. Collaborate with local agencies.	Huerfano Co., LVFPD, CSFS, Business owners	3/18
16	Extend information from this plan into the development of a Structural Defense Plan (or equivalent-such as Pre-Attack Plans) for each WUI as recommended by the Rocky Mtn.-Incident Management Team-Team C during the East Peak fire.	LVFPD, USFS, CDFPC	9/17
17	Utilize the recently completed Cucharas River Watershed/Wildfire Assessment (2014) to develop emergency response planning to address post-wildfire hazards such as flooding.	LVFPD, HCOEM., USFS, CDFPC, HC Water Conservancy District	9/16
18	Distribute digital copies of CWPP WUI maps and any relevant Pre-Attack Plan information to Mutual Aid partners.	LVFPD	3/17

Updated WUI Summaries and Wildfire Hazard Action Plans

The following individual WUI summaries highlight existing issues within the various Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas in the LVFPD which are supplemented by recommendations offered by the original CWPP Core Team, local stakeholders, and new partners involved in this process. The original CWPP Core Team includes personnel from the La Veta Fire Protection District, the Colorado State Forest Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Huerfano County Government and Law-Enforcement. Local stakeholders and new partners include JW Associates of the 2014 Cucharas River Wildfire/Watershed Assessment, the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, several LVFPD area Firewise Community/USA leaders as well as various local landowners.

Each of the following WUI summaries and Wildfire Actions Plans are accompanied by two updated WUI maps and one “Proposed Treatment Area” map.

Critical Priorities for all WUIs:

1 = All Residents (year-round and/or seasonal), Firewise Community groups, and HOA/POA Councils need to highly prioritize Evacuation Readiness efforts and collaborate with local agencies working to establish that capacity locally, especially the Huerfano County Office of Emergency Management, the Huerfano County Sheriff's Office & the La Veta Fire Protection District.

2= All structures existing or being built within the LVFPD require the establishment, and annual maintenance, of Defensible Space created to CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Communities/USA Standards. ALL evacuation routes servicing these structures, including private driveways, need to be thinned of hazardous forest fuels concentrations.

3= Existing Firewise groups, HOA/POA's, and/or similar leadership groups should endeavor to unite themselves into a local Wildfire Awareness and Mitigation Coalition, or similar organization, in order to more effectively steward these efforts locally while also enhancing coordination with multiple agency resources.

4= Local landowners, HOA/POA's, and/or similar leadership groups should endeavor to participate as active stakeholder interests in the assessment, design, and implementation of locally proposed projects on Public Lands in the vicinity of their neighborhoods.

5=All landowners and residents (whether year-round or seasonal) need to acknowledge that the primary burden of responsibility for any recommended Wildfire Mitigation activity lies on those maintaining ownership or those exhibiting an Authority Having Jurisdiction regarding the property.

Cuchara ~ WUI Update 2015

Size: 744 acres # Structures: 316

Overall Fire Hazard: Extreme

In 2011, eighteen of the 315 structures triaged in Cuchara were expected to survive a wildfire in the vicinity. The remaining 287 structures were likely to be destroyed by a wildfire threatening the town. 91% of all the structures in Cuchara were vulnerable to wildfire.

As of December 2015, 28 property owners have invested in the creation of Defensible Space around existing structures. The vast majority of this recent work has occurred in the portion of the Cuchara WUI that is west of HWY 12 in an area that was designated in 2013 as the Cuchara West Firewise Community. These accomplishments are significant and many homeowners are involved in both creating defensible space around their structures and also with the promotion of the Action Items outlined by their neighborhood Firewise Assessment. In spite of this, much work remains to be done throughout the rest of this WUI. Specifically, the remaining 259 structures still need to have their defensible space either assessed and/or created. It is highly recommended that the Cuchara East portion of this WUI adopt and seek designation in the Firewise Communities/USA program and promote wildfire mitigation on all properties lacking such treatment.

Road conditions in this WUI continue to be a concern due to the fact that they are narrow, have few turnaround options, and include several dead end streets. The Firewise Assessment for Cuchara West has begun addressing this topic. Both the east and west neighborhoods need to prioritize finding solutions to hazards influencing ingress and egress in these areas. Similarly, discussions regarding water supply system improvements should continue as portions of this WUI have inadequate delivery or hydrant availability as defined by standard firefighting protocols.

Areas to the west of this WUI were identified in 2011 as possible candidates for shaded fuel break development. During 2012-2014 work continued to identify and assess specific high hazard areas and formulate plans for the creation of forest fuels reduction zones. The Cucharas River Wildfire/Watershed Assessment completed in 2014 identified one Zone of Concern that correlated with specific LVFPD fuels reduction recommendations around this portion of the Cuchara WUI. This assessment endorsed the prioritization of these projects as an important starting point for conserving watershed function within the "Dodgeton Creek Vegetation Management Area #1". (See items 13, 14, 15 below). Each of these proposed projects, which are located on both private and USFS managed lands, would significantly improve the defensibility of the entire Cuchara WUI in the event of a wildfire.

In 2016, CWPP Core Team partners refined and expanded several of these projects sites in this area. Those sites are highlighted on the "Proposed Treatment Area" map for this WUI. At present, planning for pre-project environmental and wildlife assessments of this area are underway.

Given the conditions that continue to exist, the LVFPD recommends evacuation as the sole option for residents in this area, should a wildfire ignite within or near the Cuchara WUI area. It is imperative that local Firewise and/or POA organizations participate in the evacuation readiness program “Ready, Set, Go!” offered by the LVFPD. Safety Zone areas as they become designated and maintained should be used only as a ‘last ditch’ option for residents. Furthermore, sheltering in place is not an option that the LVFPD supports at this time.

Cuchara WUI-Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

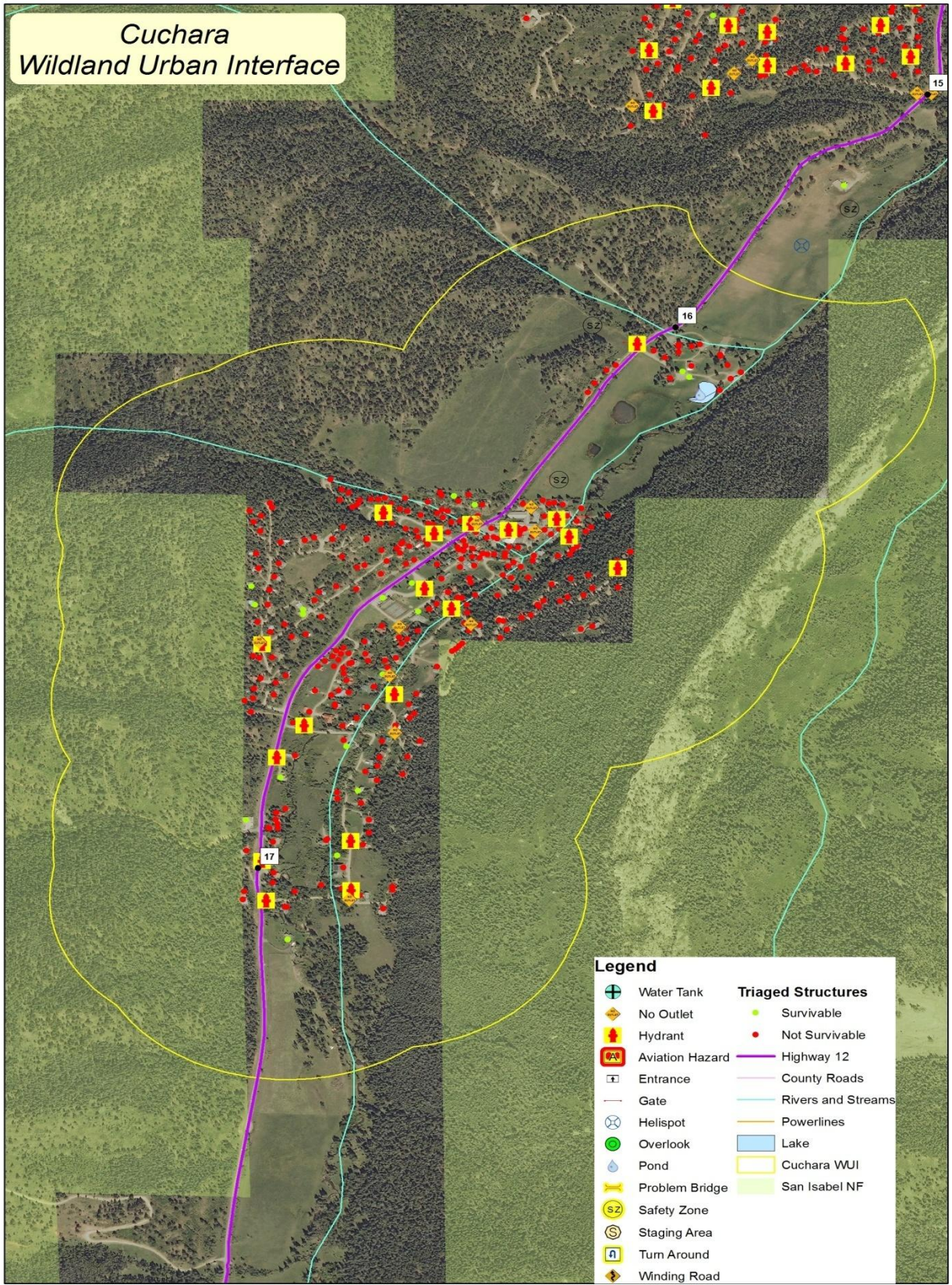
	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All residents registered for the Huerfano Co. “CodeRED” system and advised of the LVFPD “Ready, Set, Go!” program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM, POAs
2	Cuchara East-Attain designation as Firewise Community, Cuchara West-Establish an active Firewise Council	Homeowners, Cuchara Association, LVFPD, CSFS, Cuchara West Firewise
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the Cuchara WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway or on the house if no driveway is present	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	All residents ensure that Cuchara Directory info is correct.	Homeowners
6	Clear, and maintain, street easement where flammable vegetation is heavily concentrated.	Huerfano Co., Firewise Groups, HOA/POAs
7	Establish designated emergency vehicle “Turn-Around” sites on dead-end streets and label as such.	HOA/POAs, Firewise Communities, Huerfano County
8	Install “Evacuation Route” signage.	Huerfano County
9	Designate and annually maintain Safety Zones within this WUI to shelter fire personnel and apparatus during a wildfire event.	Cuchara Association, Firewise Communities, LVFPD
10	Install 2-3 more hydrants in the Albright Addition.	CSWD
11	Promote resident access to USFS lands bordering their property by utilizing available Special Use Permits that will allow for the removal of trees for firewood.	Cuchara West Firewise Cuchara Asso., USFS
12	Explore an emergency siren and PA system for this WUI.	Cuchara Asso., FWC’s, Huerfano County
13	Create a Shaded Fuel Break feature around and extending to the West of the CSWD Dodgeton Creek Water Treatment Facility on Black Bear Road. Explore Aspen Regeneration & Timber Harvest in this area.	USFS, NRCS, Huerfano Co, Landowner, CSWD, Cuchara West Firewise Community

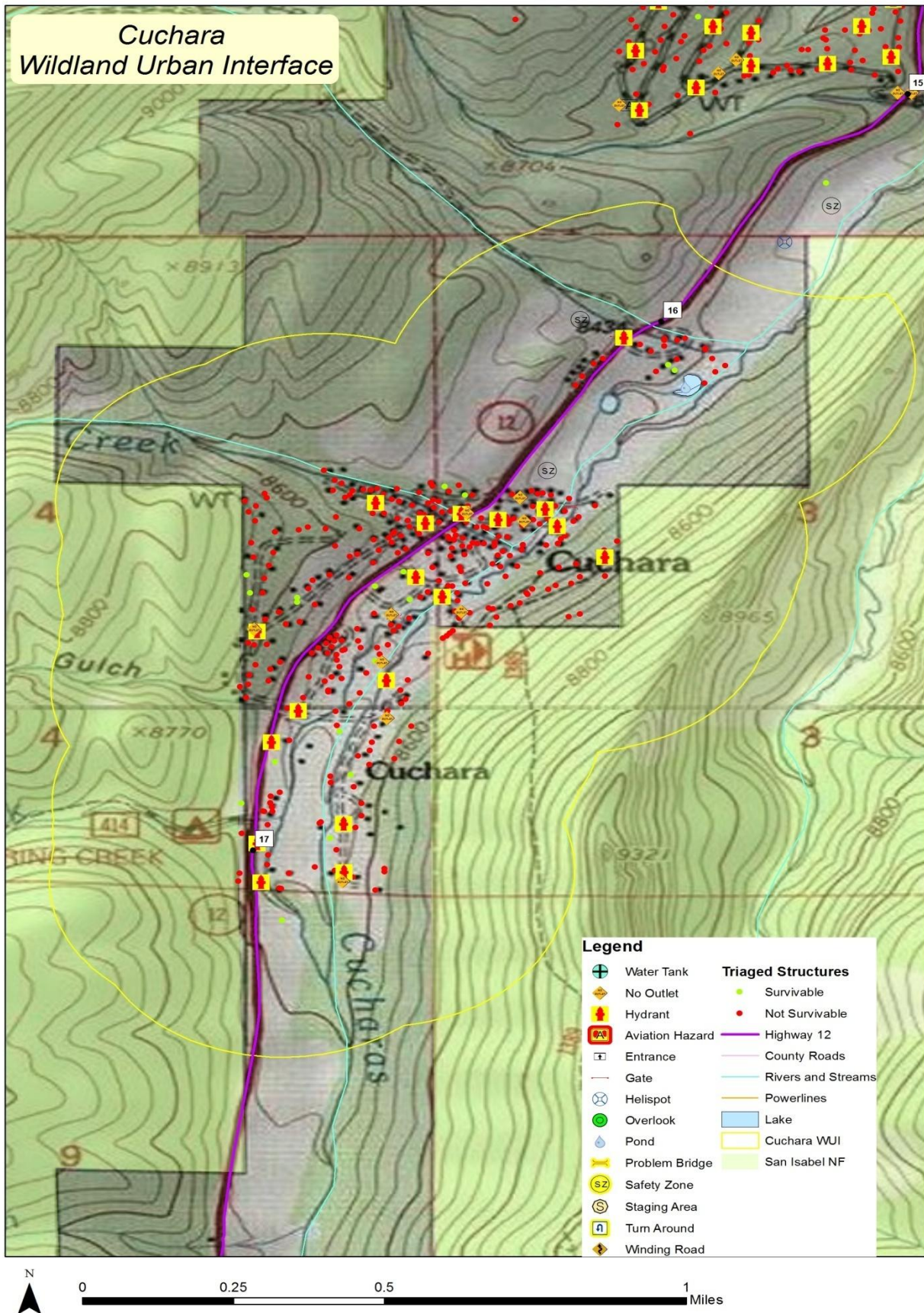
14	Create a Shaded Fuel Break structure On USFS land in the Dry Gulch drainage above and bordering the Cuchara West Firewise Community.	USFS, LVFPD, CSFS, Landowners, Firewise Communities
15	Create a Shaded Fuel Break structure North of the Spring Creek Trail corridor at FSR 414 and West of HWY 12.	USFS, LVFPD, CSFS, Firewise Communities
16	Promote and assist forest fuel reduction on private parcels bordering USFS lands East of Cuchara. Explore options for the extension of these treatments onto USFS lands.	LVFPD, USFS, CSFS, Landowners
17	Establish a designated “Chip/Burn” site within this WUI or collaborate with another WUI for access to theirs.	Firewise Communities, Cuchara Association, Landowners, LVFPD
18	Consider developing and/or active participation in a Cucharas River watershed conservation group. Focus specifically on the Cucharas River, as well as the Dodgeton and Spring Creek corridors.	Landowners, Local Firewise Communities, Arkansas River Basin Roundtable



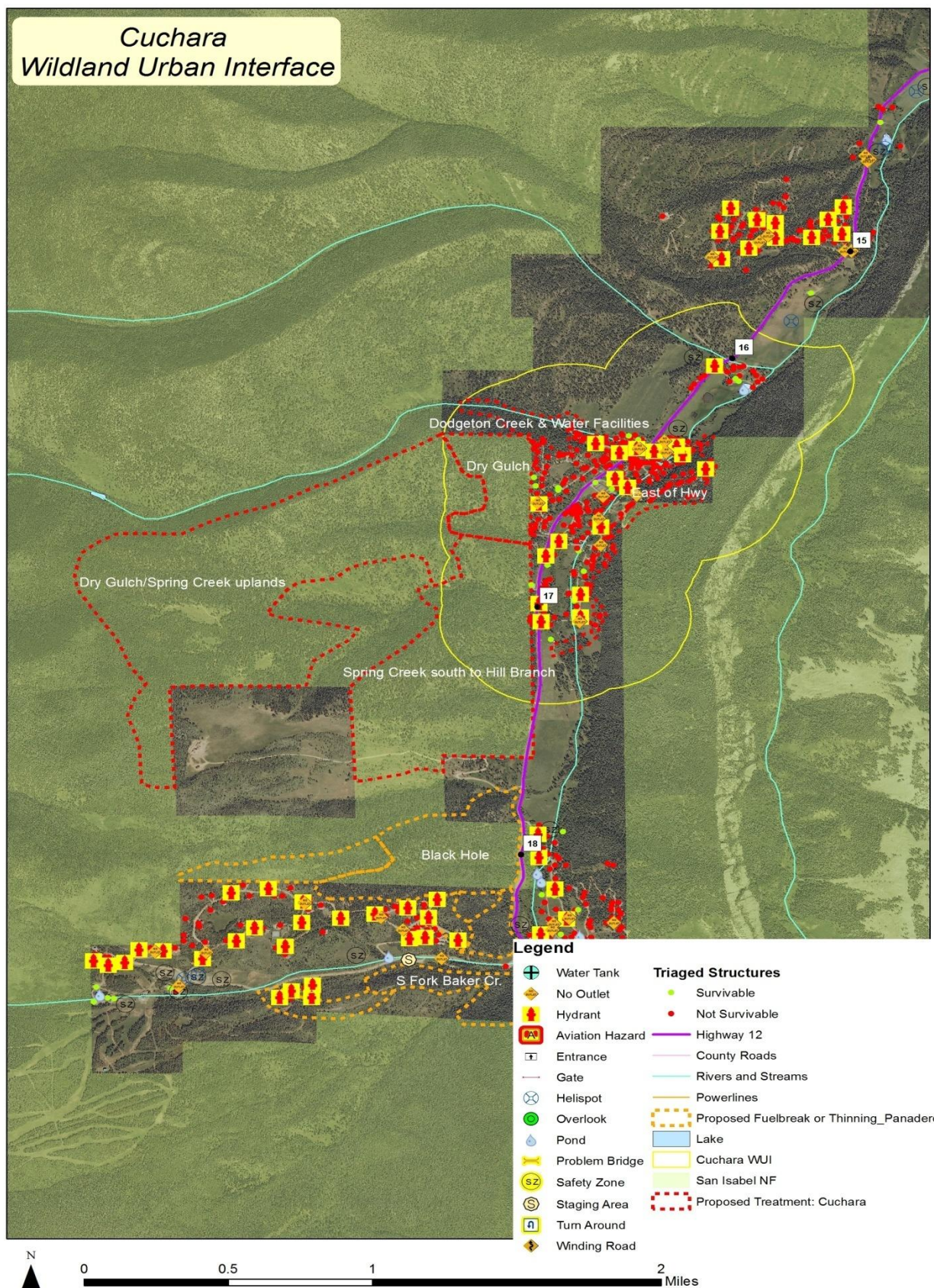
The Cuchara WUI remains vulnerable to wildfire. It is highly recommended that each property owner invest in the establishment of Defensible Space around every structure within this WUI. For structures with existing Defensible Space, annual maintenance is the priority. All tall grasses, accumulated forest duff, and hazardous human storage need to be eliminated within 100ft of all structures. (Photo: Jim Webb 2011)

Cuchara Wildland Urban Interface





Cuchara Wildland Urban Interface



Cuchara Pass Ranch ~ WUI Summary

Size: 449 acres # Structures: 9 Overall Fire Hazard: Extreme

The Cuchara Pass Ranch neighborhood straddles the Huerfano and La Animas County line, the La Veta Fire and Stonewall Fire Protection District boundary, and also the geographical divide of the Purgatoire and Cucharas River watersheds. Within the LVFPD portion of this neighborhood, it is expected that two of the nine structures present could possibly survive a wildfire in the area. The remainder will need to establish defensible space perimeters that extend a minimum of 100 feet from any structure. Ideally, expanding this perimeter to 200 feet and beyond if possible, will further enhance the defensibility of these homes. Forest fuels reduction work should also be applied to areas immediately adjacent to driveways.

It is very important for local residents to consider the value of forest fuels thinning in order to decrease potential wildfire intensity nearby while simultaneously increasing the forest health and resilience in the portions of this WUI exhibiting heavy forest fuel loads. If home or property owners are unsure of the potential wildfire hazards on their property, they are encouraged to contact the Colorado State Forest Service or the La Veta Fire Protection District for an assessment.

The Cordova Pass road (Huerfano County Road 364 and FSR 415) serves as the primary means of egress for residents on the LVFPD side of this neighborhood. Several sections of this road pass through areas of heavy forest cover which presently poses a significant hazard to safe evacuation. The road corridor needs fuels reduction work on both sides that conforms to CSFS Shaded Fuel Break guidelines. Treatment of this type would also accomplish the development of a fuel break in this area, an action also supported and recommended by the Cucharas River Wildfire/Watershed Assessment of 2014.

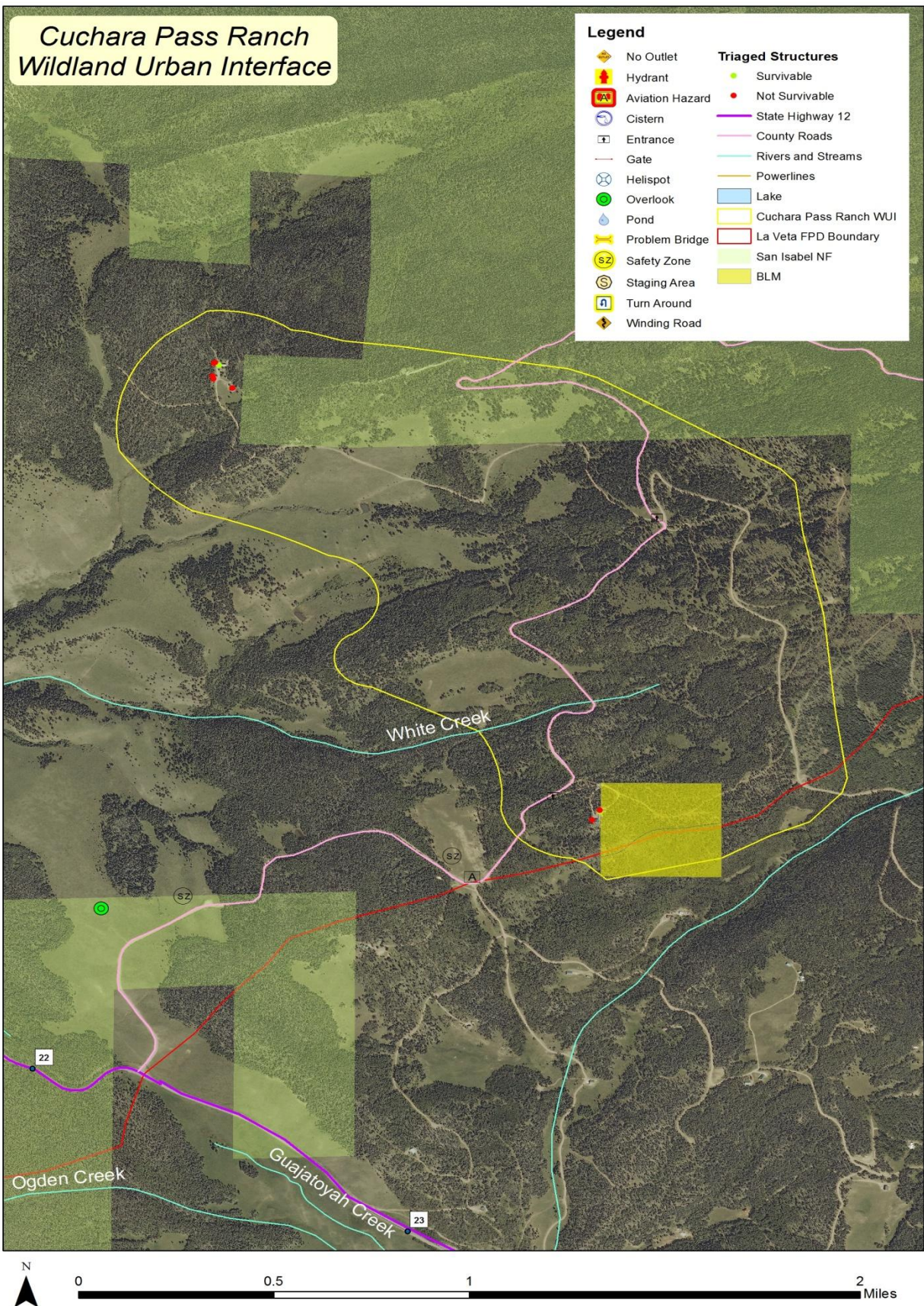
At this time, it is recommended that residents of this WUI prioritize foremost the Evacuation Readiness of their families and actively prepare to safely escape a large-scale wildfire within this area in the future. Wildfire mitigation in the form of Defensible Space creation around each structure should be viewed as a strong secondary activity for the preservation of homeowner investments. Approving and implementing well-designed Shaded Fuel Break structures within this WUI, should also be a highly emphasized focus in order to enhance personal and asset preservation within the greater Cuchara Pass Ranch WUI. Additionally, several options currently exist for developing safety zones in this WUI. Once carefully located, designated and annually maintained, these sites could serve as last ditch options within which residents and/or firefighters could take refuge from the unpredictable nature of a firestorm. As this subdivision straddles two fire districts, emergency planning will need to ensure that all stakeholders are engaged and respective fire district response plans are coordinated.

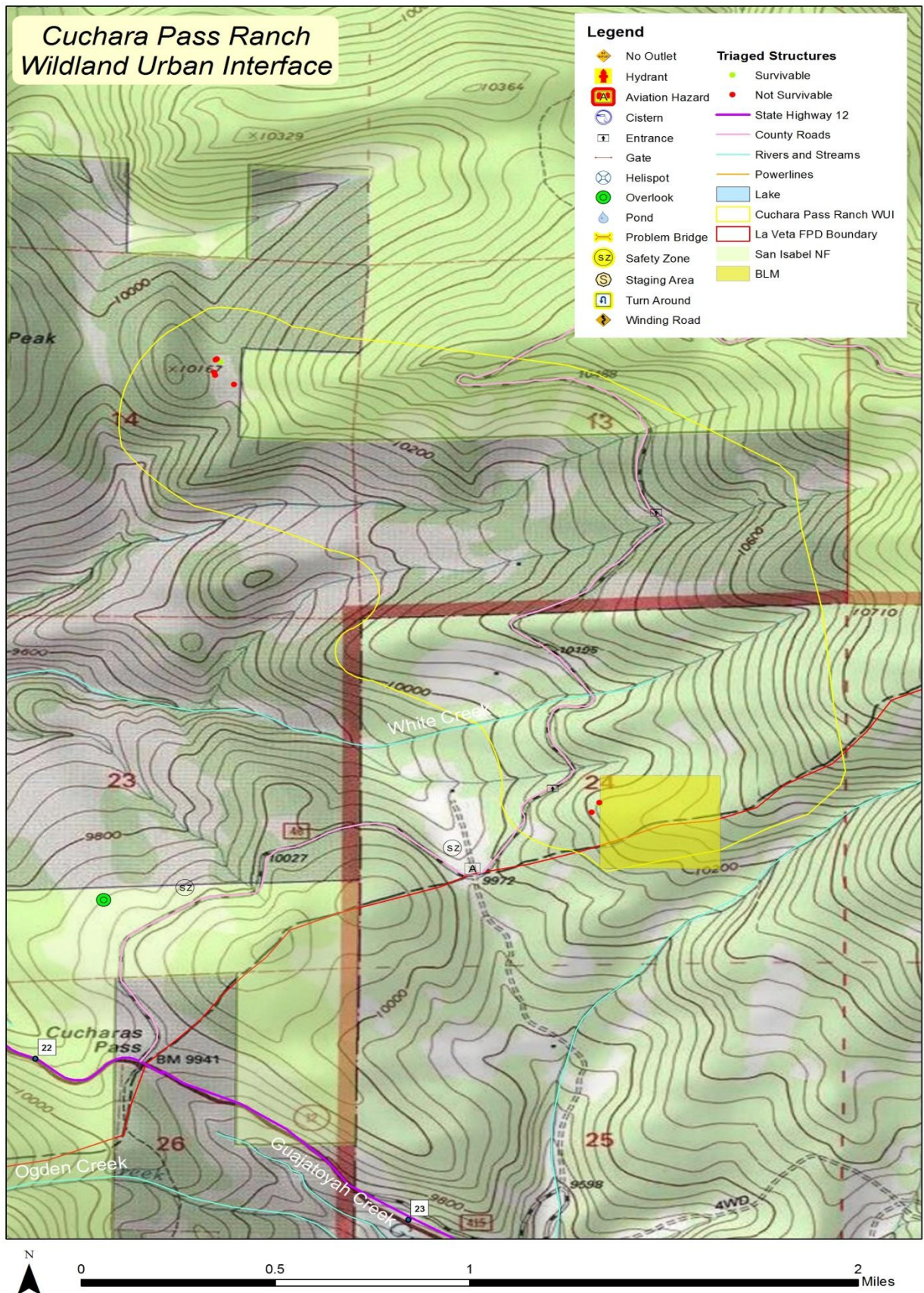
Given the present forest type and conditions existing in large portions of this Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area, forest product utilization options, including timber and/or biomass, should be actively explored by individual landowners, as well as the Cuchara Pass Ranch Property Owners Association. Potentially, forest fuels reduction efforts that include Timber

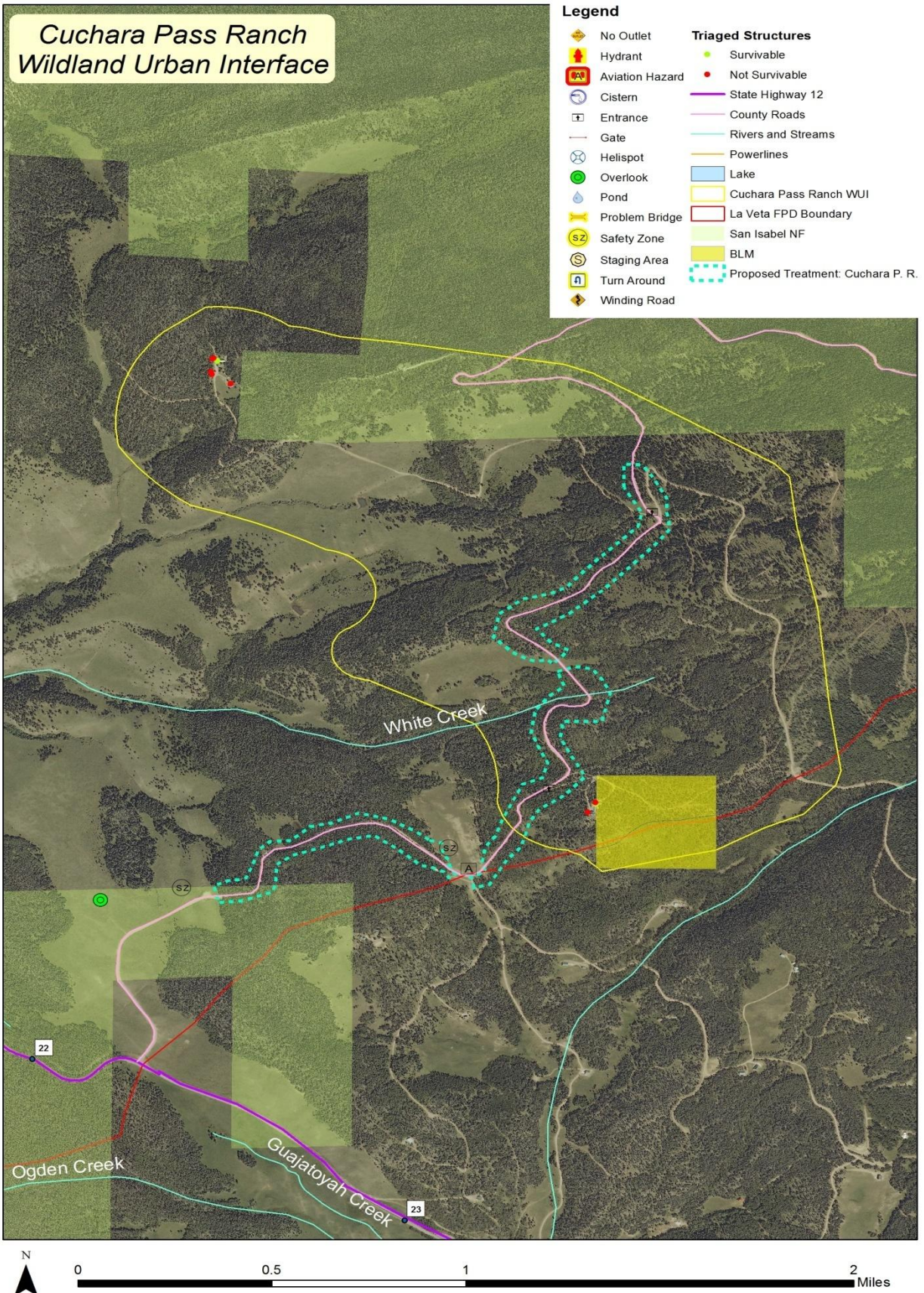
and/or Biomass sales within this area could possibly be financially attractive to local landowners, or at least provide an off-set to the cost of returning the local forest to a less hazardous condition. In addition, the presence of a well maintained road, Huerfano County Road 364, should facilitate the extraction of available forest products.

Cuchara Pass Ranch Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All residents registered for the Huerfano Co. "CodeRED" system or equivalent Las Animas Co. system and advised of the LVFPD "Ready, Set, Go!" Program	Homeowners, LVFPD, Stonewall FPD, HC OEM, LAC OEM
2	Pursue Firewise Communities/USA designation.	CPRPOA, LVFPD, CSFS, Stonewall FPD
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the Cuchara Pass Ranch WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners, CPRPOA
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	Establish a Cuchara Pass Ranch community directory and ensure that the LVFPD and Stonewall FPD receive a copy.	CPRPOA
6	Install "No Outlet" signage on all dead-end streets.	CPRPOA
7	Install "Evacuation Route" signage on CR 364/FSR 414	Huerfano Co., USFS
8	Designate and annually maintain Safety Zones within this WUI.	CPRPOA, LVFPD
9	Create a Shaded Fuel Break structures in areas of heavy forest fuels along CR 364/FSR 414. Explore this project as a multi-agency collaboration and investigate the potential of forest product sales.	CPRPOA, Landowners, Huerfano Co, LVFPD, Stonewall FPD, NRCS
10	Establish a slash "Chip/Burn" Site within the WUI	CPRPOA, LVFPD
11	Explore Aspen Regeneration project areas within this WUI and incorporate them into a larger shaded fuel break plan.	CPRPOA, CSFS, LVFPD, Stonewall FPD
12	Identify potential access road/trails for Initial Attack operations off CR 364 and FSR 414.	LVFPD, Stonewall FPD







Hwy 12 Corridor ~ WUI Summary

Size: 8,891

Structures: 97

Overall Fire Hazard: High

The emphasis regarding wildfire mitigation in this area should focus on the HWY 12 corridor being the primary evacuation route for all neighborhoods in the greater Cuchara Village area. In the event of a local large wildfire, residents will be required to evacuate toward either La Veta or Stonewall. The thinning of forest fuel concentrations along HWY 12 should be a priority for all residents of the greater Cuchara area.

This WUI contains vegetation typical to the river corridors of this region. Forests of cottonwoods and willows dominate the immediate vicinity of the Cucharas River, with grass meadows and expanses of Oak Scrub further out. Portions of this highway corridor and the nearby private lands with existing dense vegetation will need to be thinned. The entire CDOT Right of Way should be cleared of hazardous vegetation and maintained annually. Many structures are scattered throughout the area and are accessed via Highway 12. The entrance to the Raspberry Mountain POA neighborhood is also located within this WUI. Water is available in several ponds and from the Cucharas River, however fire apparatus access is uncertain in most areas and will need to be determined.

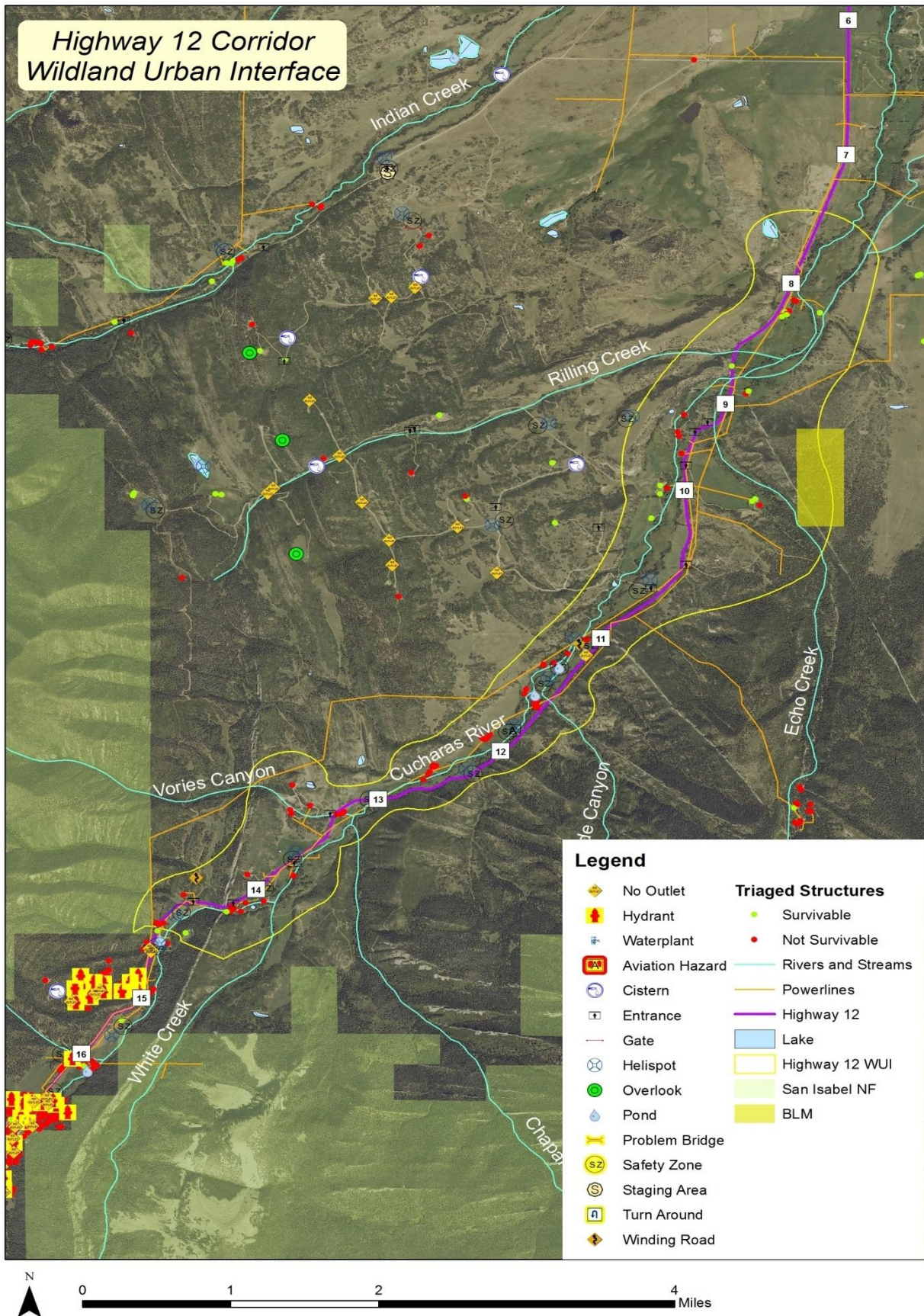
Many meadows exist within this WUI that can serve as Safety Zones if they are developed as such and maintained (mowed) annually. Safety Zones are designated to be used as; 1) a “Last Ditch Effort” option for homeowners who did not receive advanced warning through the Huerfano County CodeRED notification system or were otherwise removed from such notification, i.e. hiking out of cellular phone range and 2) primarily as a refuge for firefighting personnel attempting to preserve lives and property in the area.

The predominance of water and green deciduous trees within this area can influence a false sense of security regarding wildfire. Special care should be taken to ensure that proper Defensible Space and Evacuation Corridor thinning occurs in this area as in any other forest type. Particular focus should also be applied to the annual management of grass meadows to inhibit the spread of fast moving wildfires.

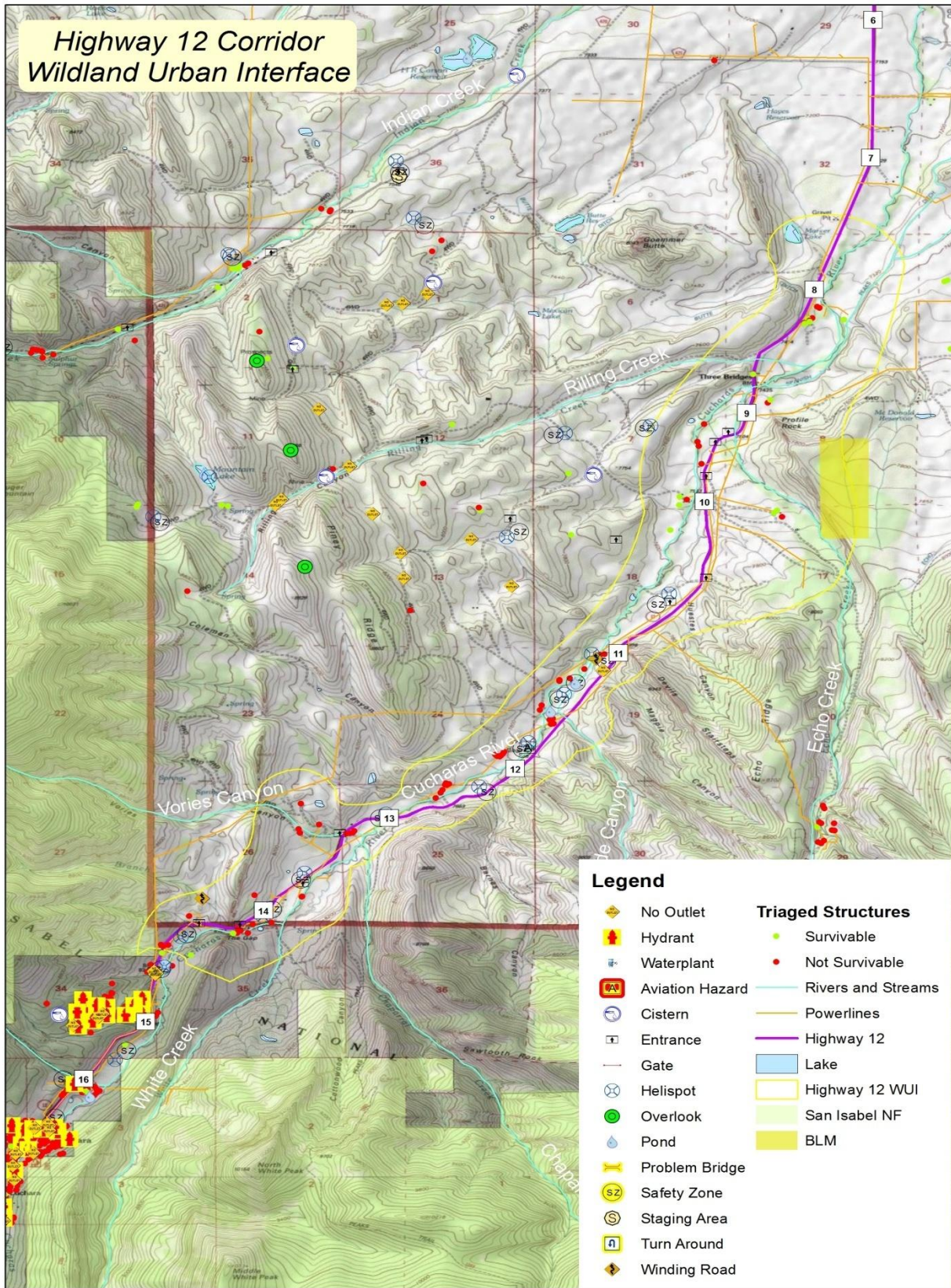
Hwy 12 Corridor Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

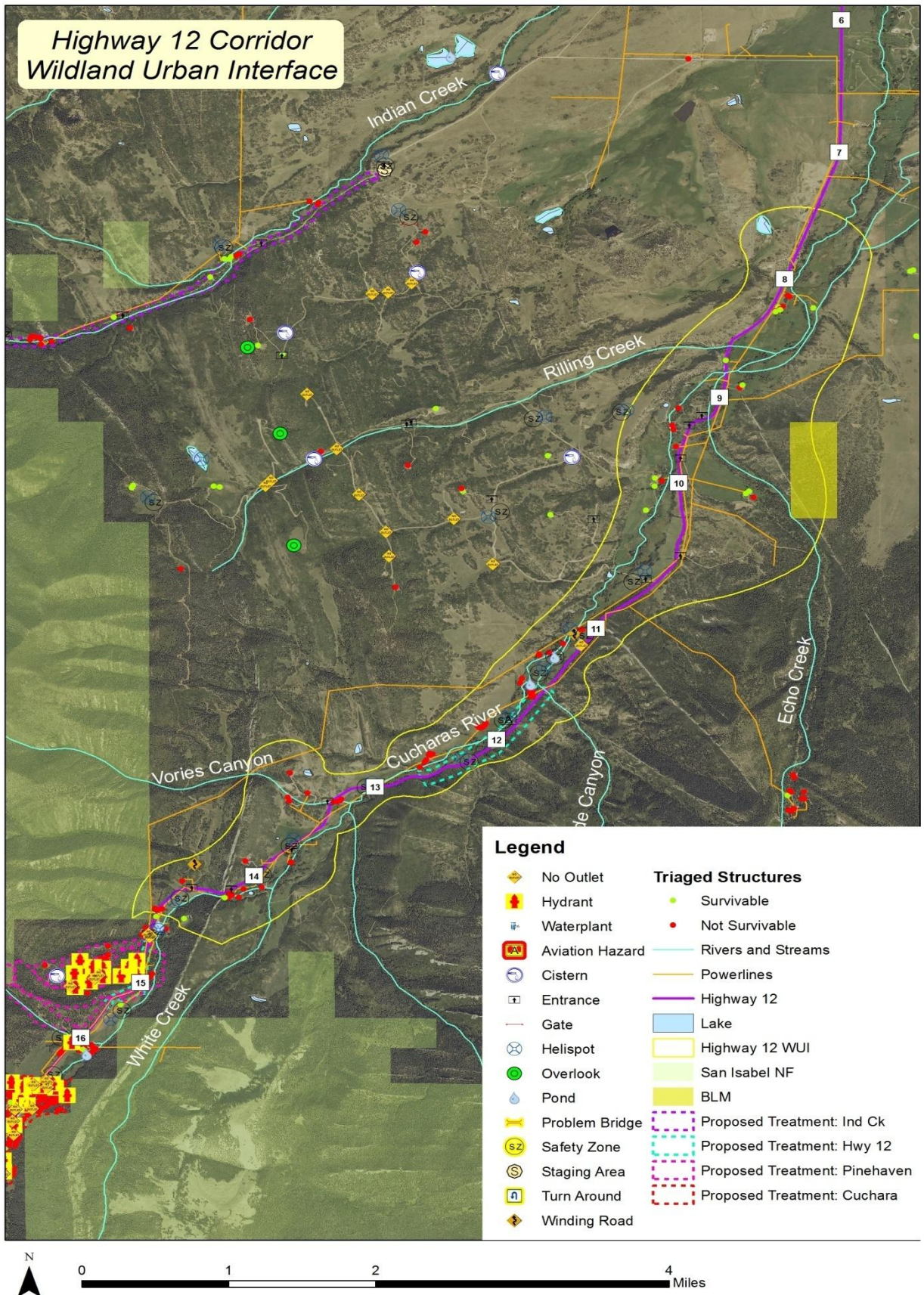
	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All Residents registered for the Huerfano Co. “CodeRED” system and advised of the LVFPD “Ready, Set, Go!” program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM
2	All residents along CO HWY12 need to install regulation address signage at the end of driveway.	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the HWY 12 Corridor WUI. Use CSFS	Homeowners

	and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	
4	All forest fuel concentrations within the CDOT Right-of-Way (ROW) need to be removed and grass mowed annually.	CDOT
5	Properties with heavy vegetation adjacent to the HWY 12 CDOT Right-Of-Way should be thinned to CSFS Shaded Fuel Break Guidelines.	Landowners
6	Establish a community directory for this WUI.	LVFPD, HC OEM
7	Install "Evacuation Route" signage.	CDOT
8	Identify, and execute pre-fire agreements to use, any ponds or river sites that can be accessed by fire equipment to draft water.	LVFPD, Landowners, Water rights ownership
9	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations off HWY 12.	LVFPD
10	Consider developing and/or active participation in a Cucharas River watershed conservation group.	Landowners, Local Firewise Communities, Arkansas River Basin Roundtable



Highway 12 Corridor Wildland Urban Interface





Hwy 160 Corridor ~ WUI Summary

Size: 8,393 acres

Structures: 39

Overall Fire Hazard: High

As a major East-West thoroughfare, CO HWY 160 is one of the most important infrastructures within the LVFPD. The vegetation type and arrangement along this corridor varies greatly with the most pronounced area of heavy forest fuels located near the North La Veta Pass Summit. Grasslands, Piñon-Juniper woodlands, and Scrub Oak expanses are predominant in the lower elevations while mature dense stands of Mixed Conifer inhabit the summit area. To ensure the integrity of this transportation route, highway corridor conditions should be specifically assessed and wildfire hazard areas mitigated as necessary. As the CDOT Right-Of-Way is well maintained, particular focus needs to be given to exploring potential cost-share opportunities for landowners adjacent to the highway.

Several homes are located within this area. The majority of these homes are accessed by long densely vegetated driveways. Thinning driveway corridors and ensuring proper address signage will improve resident and emergency responder safety during emergencies.

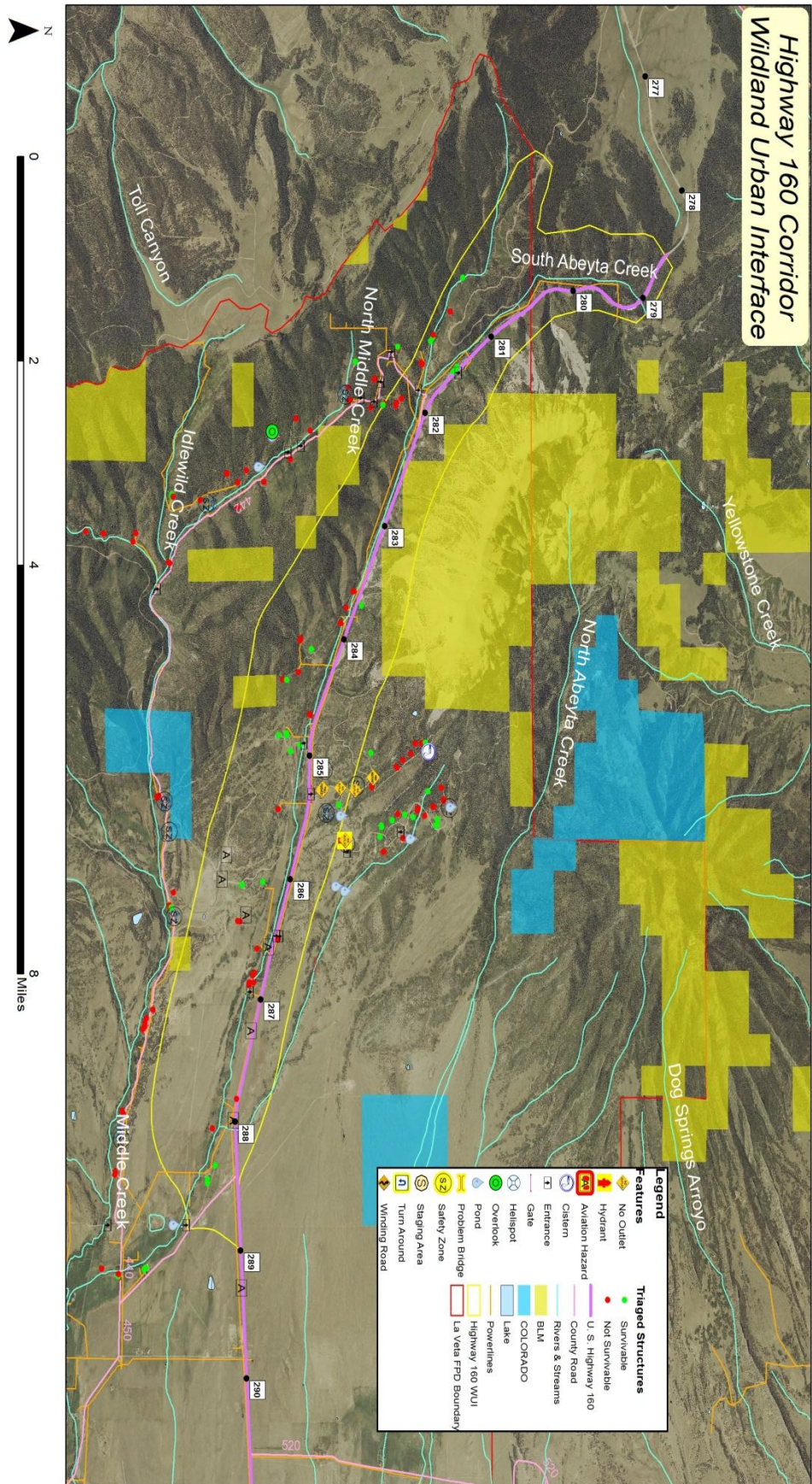
Several industrial features of note are located within this WUI. The gas processing plant with its' buried pipeline and high voltage electrical line will require an expanded Pre-Incident Plan that addresses specific emergency response considerations. The vegetation surrounding this facility should be thinned to survivable space standards. The facility management should also ensure that it has an operative wildfire defensive protocol in place.

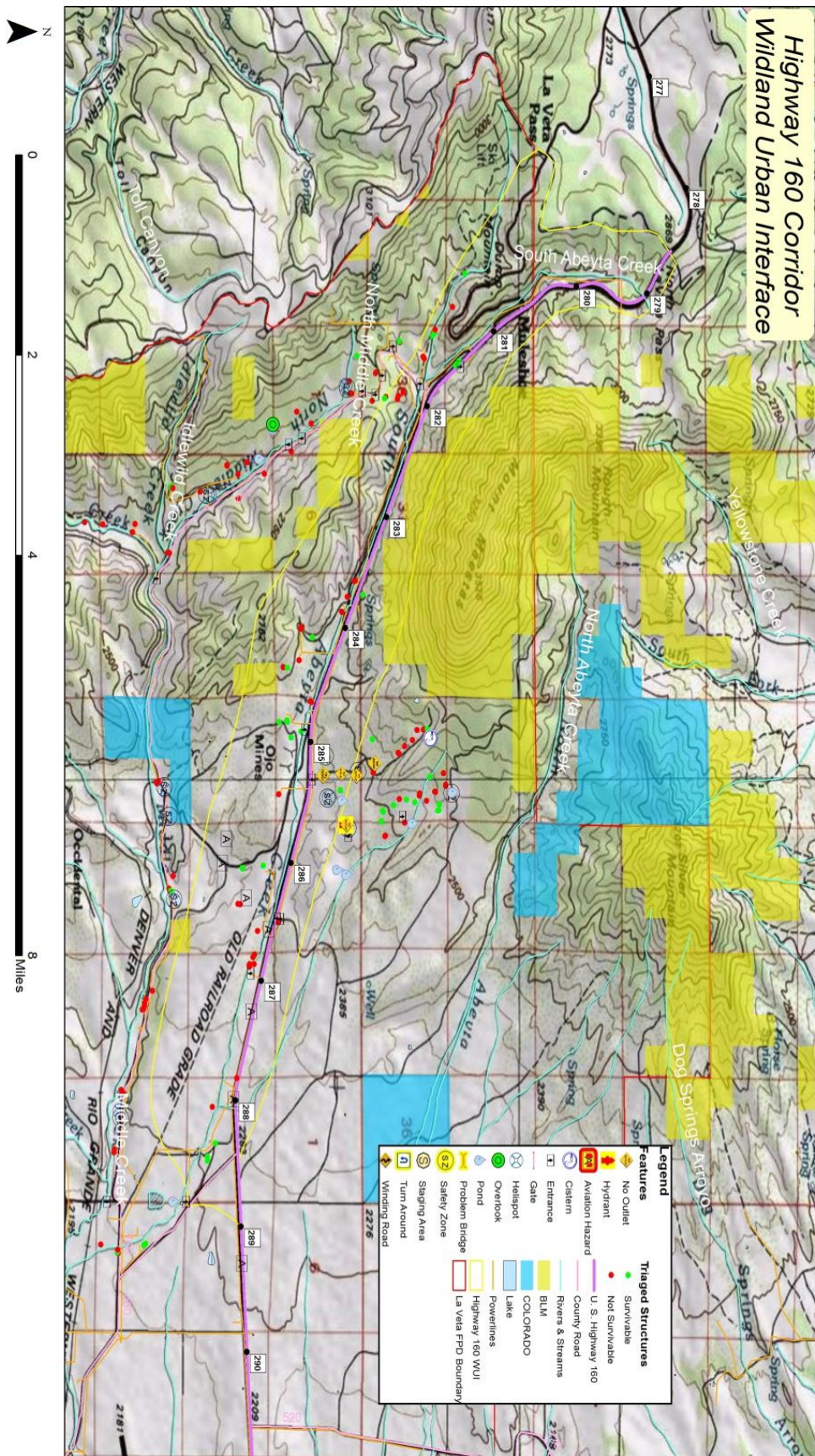
Given the diversity of cargo transported along this section of highway, a multi-agency Emergency Response Plan should be developed or revised that includes particular focus on events involving Hazardous Materials.

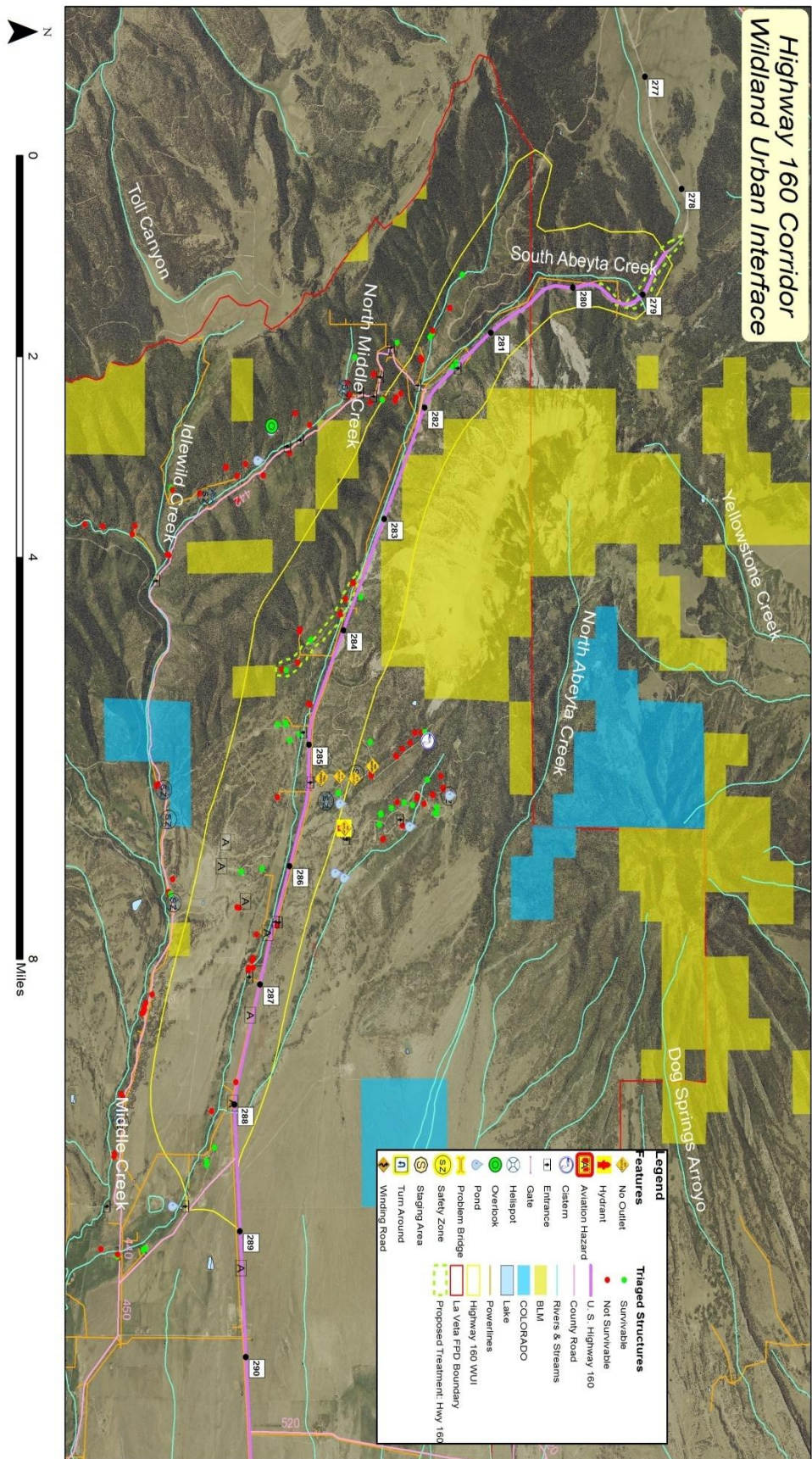
Hwy 160 Corridor Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All Residents registered for the Huerfano Co. "Code RED" system and advised of the LVFPD "Ready, Set, Go!" program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM
2	All residents along CO HWY 160 need to install regulation address signage at the end of the driveway.	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
3	Create and Maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the HWY 160 Corridor WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	Ensure that Huerfano County and Colorado State agencies have a wildfire suppression plan for the HWY 160 corridor.	LVFPD, Huerfano Co. OEM, CDOT, Colorado Highway Patrol

5	Properties with heavy forest fuels adjacent to the HWY 160 CDOT ROW need to be thinned to CSFS Shaded Fuel Break Guidelines.	Landowners
6	Develop a Resident contact list for this WUI.	LVFPD, HC OEM
7	Install "Evacuation Route" signage.	CDOT
8	Identify, and execute pre-fire agreements to use, any ponds or river sites that can be accessed by fire equipment to draft water.	LVFPD, Landowners, Water rights ownership
9	Develop or revise Emergency Response Planning for Hazardous Materials incidents on HWY 160.	LVFPD, HC OEM, CSP, CDOT
10	Develop or revise Pre-Incident Plans for the Tabula Rasa gas plant, pipeline and electrical service lines.	LVFPD, Huerfano County, Company ownership
11	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations off HWY 160 and CR 443.	LVFPD
12	Prioritize fuel reduction work in residential areas adjacent to the HWY 160 Corridor, in particular between County Roads 441 and 442.	Landowners, Middle Creek Firewise Community, Huerfano Co., LVFPD
13	Consider the implementation of the South Abeyta Vegetation Management Area 2 recommendations adjacent to HWY 160 at North La Veta Pass.	Landowners, CDOT, Water rights ownership
14	Consider developing and/or active participation in a local Cucharas River Watershed conservation group focusing on the Abeyta Creek drainage.	Landowners, Local Firewise Communities, Arkansas River Basin Roundtable







Indian Creek ~ WUI Summary

Size: 5,501 acres # Structures: 25

Overall Fire Hazard: Extreme

As of 2015, this Wildland Urban Interface area remains mostly inactive with regards to wildfire mitigation or neighborhood organization activities. The exceptions to this observation are the local summer camp and one or two other homeowners which have prioritized wildfire mitigation annually for several years. While homes and other structures are sparsely distributed within this WUI, a collective effort should be taken to prevent wildfire losses and ensure the natural function of the Indian Creek.

This WUI contains vegetation typical to the creek corridors of this elevation. Forests of cottonwoods and willows dominate the immediate vicinity of Indian Creek, with grass meadows and expanses of Oak Scrub, Piñon-Juniper, and Mixed Conifer further out. Dense Mixed Conifer, Piñon, and Oak/Pine forests exist at the higher elevations of this WUI. Portions of the CR 420 corridor and adjacent private lands exhibit hazardous concentrations of forest fuels. The entire CR 420 corridor should be cleared of hazardous vegetation and maintained annually. The sole entrance to the Piney Ridge POA neighborhood is also located within this WUI.

Water is available from the Indian Creek, however fire apparatus access is uncertain in most areas and will need to be determined.

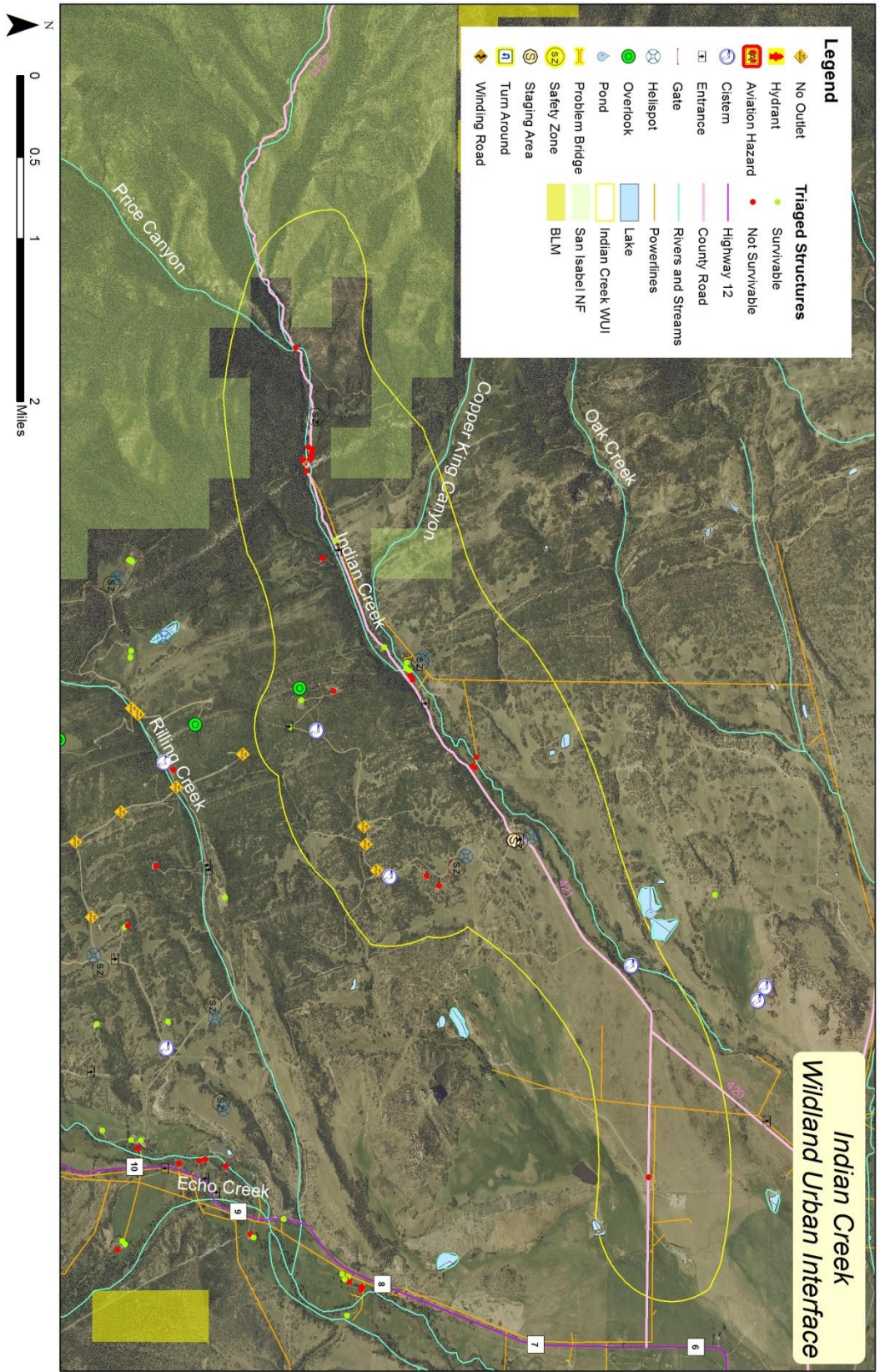
A general landscape wildfire management area was identified in the original CWPP which has been refined in order to facilitate the development of those project areas (See items #11 and 12 below).

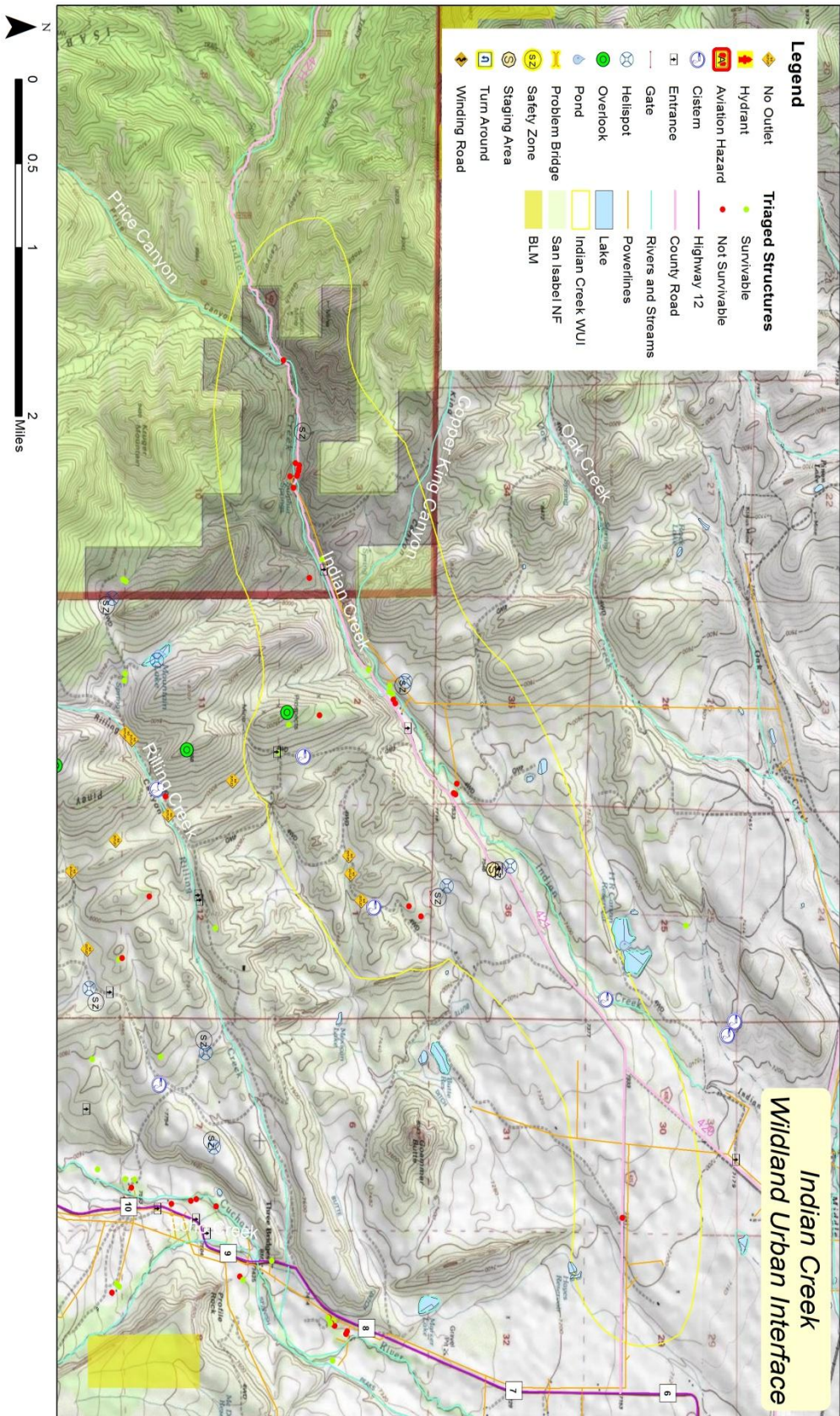
It is recommended that the USFS fuels reduction and firewood program area (in the upper reaches of this WUI) be reopened.

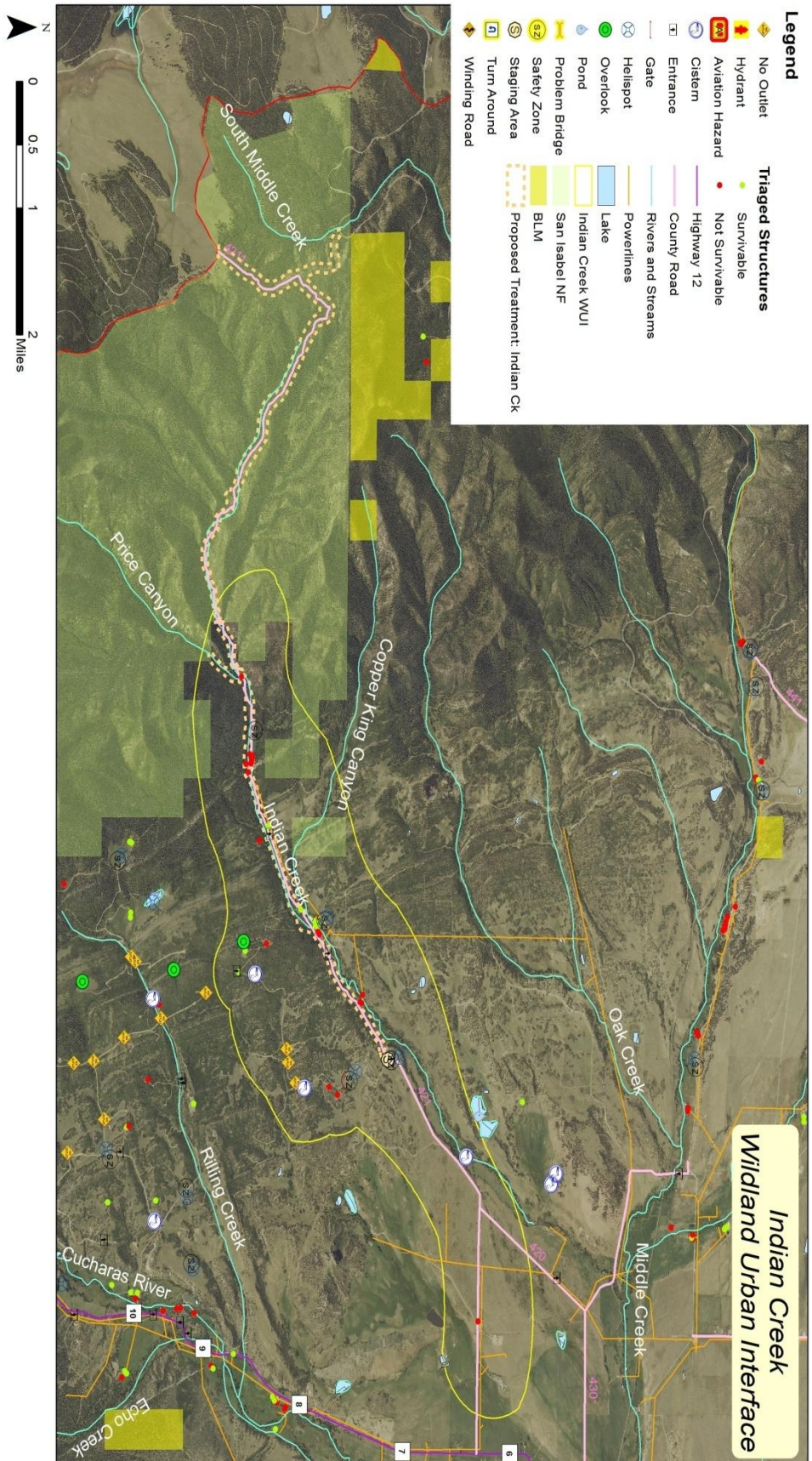
Indian Creek Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All residents registered for the Huerfano Co. "CodeRED" system and advised of the LVFPD "Ready, Set, Go!" program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM, HOA/POA's
2	Pursue Firewise Communities/USA designation.	Homeowners, LVFPD, CSFS
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the Indian Creek WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway or on the house if no driveway is present.	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	Establish an Indian Creek WUI community directory and	Homeowners, HOA/POA's

	ensure that the LVFPD and Huerfano County receive a copy.	
6	Install “No Outlet” signage on all dead-end roads.	Huerfano Co., Landowners
7	Install “Evacuation Route” signage on County Roads 420 & 421.	Huerfano Co., USFS
8	Prioritize hazardous fuels removal within and adjacent to the CR 421 corridor.	Huerfano Co., Landowners
9	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations off CR 421.	LVFPD
10	Designate and annually maintain Safety Zones within this WUI.	Landowners, LVFPD, USFS
11	Identify potential forest fuels reduction project sites within this WUI; consider heavy forest fuels areas along Price Creek, the northern slopes of Kruger Mountain, and Copper King Canyon.	Landowners, LVFPD, USFS
12	Re-open the forest fuels reduction and firewood gathering site within this WUI.	USFS
13	Establish a slash “Chip/Burn” Site within the WUI	Landowners
14	Consider developing and/or active participation in a local Cucharas River Watershed conservation group focusing on the Indian Creek Drainage.	Landowners, Local Firewise Communities, Arkansas River Basin Roundtable







Middle Creek ~ WUI Summary

Size: 10,594 acres

Structures: 93

Overall Fire Hazard: Extreme

The Middle Creek WUI is comprised of a large and frequently rugged valley encompassing both the North and South headwaters of this tributary. Many residential homes dot the landscape of this area, however most are concentrated in neighborhoods on the northern and southern end of the valley. Each residential area is accessed by CR 442; however the South Middle Creek POA is serviced by a privately owned dead-end road.

Several area home and landowners have invested considerable time and money to reduce the heavy Oak and Mixed Conifer concentrations around their properties. One landowner has even worked to established several firebreaks around the area. These improvements will increase the chances that a local wildfire could be accessed quickly and kept limited in size. This type of volunteer citizen effort is rare in the LVFPD and unique thus far to this particular neighborhood.

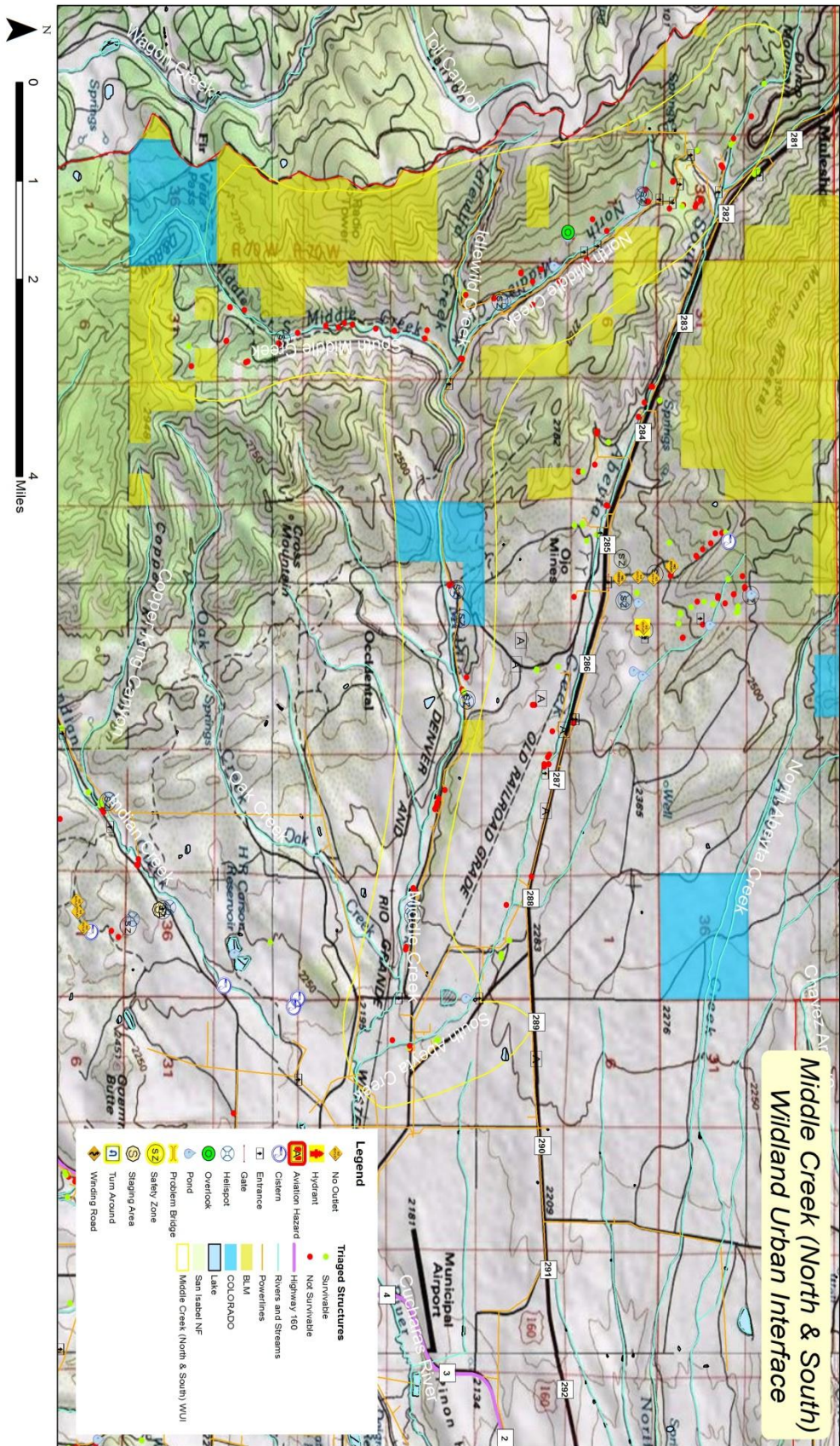
The San Luis and Rio Grande railroad line traverses along a considerable distance of the southern portion this WUI, traveling through terrain that is difficult and occasionally impossible to access with Fire and EMS apparatus. Communications via cell phone coverage is extremely limited here, although the primary LVPFD 800 and VHF radio frequencies are functional. Vegetation along the RR right of way has been ignited by malfunctioning engines during 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016. It is expected that similar wildfire ignitions will continue until the suspect engines are either repaired or retired. The LVFPD continues to petition the SL&RG RR to eliminate train caused wildfires in this area and to actively participate in the development of a general Emergency Response Plan for this area. A specific Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Plan is still required for this remote railroad corridor and, based on recent history, remains extremely necessary.

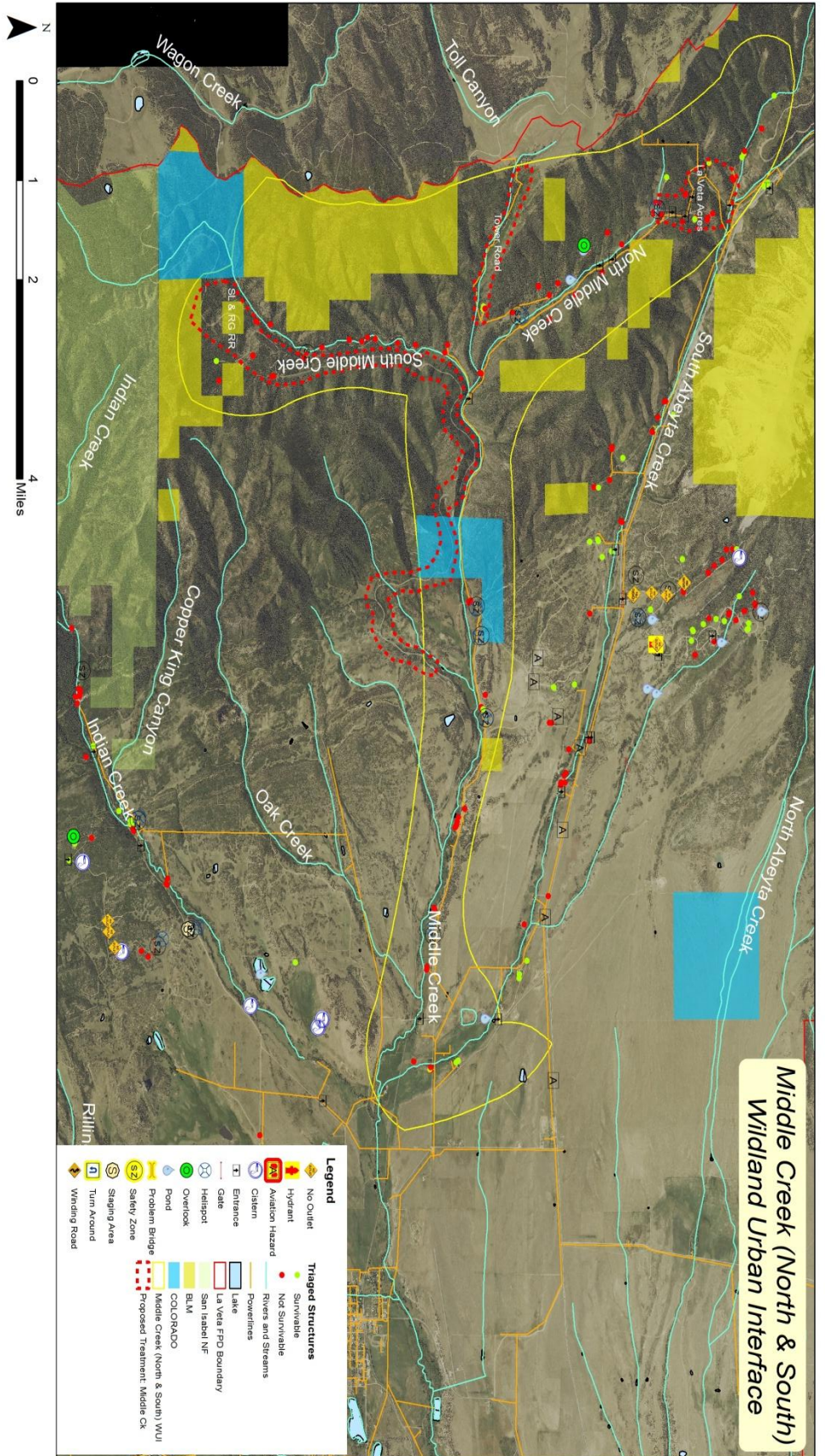
The lower portion of Middle Creek WUI has several feasible evacuation routes following County Roads 440, 441 & 442. The residents of the South Middle Creek POA have a “one way in and out” challenge for evacuation. A functional notification system and Evacuation Readiness program is required for this WUI, which may include a supplementary alert siren in addition to a phone line based system.

Middle Creek Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All residents registered for Huerfano Co. CodeRED system and advised of the LVFPD “Ready, Set, Go!” program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM
2	Pursue Firewise Communities/USA designation.	Homeowners, LVFPD, CSFS
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the Middle Creek WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	Establish a Middle Creek community directory and ensure that the LVFPD and Huerfano County receive a copy.	Homeowners, HOA/POA’s
6	Install “No Outlet” signage on all dead-end roads.	Huerfano Co., Landowners
7	Install “Evacuation Route” signage on County Roads 442, 440, and S. Middle Creek Road.	Huerfano Co., Landowners
8	Prioritize hazardous fuels removal within and adjacent to the CR 442 and S. Middle Creek Road corridors.	Huerfano Co., Landowners
9	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations off CR 442 and S. Middle Creek Road.	LVFPD
10	Designate and annually maintain Safety Zones within this WUI.	Landowners, LVFPD, Firewise Community
11	Establish at least one slash Chip/Burn site in this WUI.	Landowners, LVFPD
12	Identify, and execute pre-fire agreements to use, any ponds or river sites that can be accessed by fire equipment to draft water.	LVFPD, Landowners, Water rights ownership
13	Establish water tanks for fire emergencies within this WUI, especially in La Veta Acres and S. Middle Creek POA.	HOA/POA’s, LVFPD, Landowners
14	Continue Emergency Response Planning for Railroad incidents within this WUI. Include specific planning for Passenger, Freight, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire. Recruit effective stakeholder “buy-in” to this plan.	LVFPD, Huerfano Co., Railroad and Vendor ownership, HOA/POA’s
15	Develop a Shaded Fuel Break structure within the heavy forest fuels along CR 442 (especially within the La Veta Acres Subdivision) to improve Evacuation Route safety.	HOA/POA, LVFPD, CSFS, Landowners
16	Develop Shaded Fuel Break structures within areas of heavy fuels along Tower Road as a fire control feature.	Landowners, LVFPD
17	Explore the development of an LVFPD Fire Station within this WUI.	LVFPD, Firewise Community, Landowners
18	Create a Fire Break along the old Dinky Line above and south of CR 442 at the mouth Middle Creek canyon. Explore this as a collaborative volunteer project.	Firewise Community, Landowner, CSFS, LVFPD
19	Consider developing and/or active participation in a local	Landowners, Middle Creek

	Cucharas River Watershed conservation group focusing on the Middle Creek drainage.	Firewise, Arkansas River Basin Roundtable
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Panadero/CMR ~ WUI Summary

Size: 957 acres

Structures: 96

Overall Fire Hazard: Extreme

This WUI became the LVFPD's first Firewise Community in 2012 and led the way in local awareness-raising about wildfire prevention. The Baker Creek Demonstration Area and the "Black Hole" sites are also the first two shaded fuel break projects within the LVFPD.

The Panadero POA continues to invest in the expansion of the "Black Hole" Shaded Fuel Break and anticipates that the fuels reduction begun there will be continued on the "Proposed Treatment Area" to the North. Additional treatment remains to be done on private property to the east adjacent to HWY 12. Once completed, this fuel break would be a substantial component of a larger proposed landscape-scale forest treatment feature that spans north, across the Hill Branch drainage and on to connect to proposed treatments North of FSR 414, commonly known as the "Spring Creek Trail".

While significant work has been done in this WUI, many homes still lack effective defensible space or retain hazardous construction materials. No amount of forest thinning will improve the odds of any building with shake-shingle construction, or uncut tall grasses, surviving a large wildfire nearby. Preparations for a potential ember storm should now be addressed in this neighborhood. Regular mowing of fuel breaks within and near large meadows will help keep fires localized, smaller in size, and out of nearby forest fuels.



In spite of recent endeavors, more wildfire prevention work still needs to be accomplished within this WUI. Preparations should be made to ensure structural survivability during the expected 'Ember Storm' of a local high severity wildfire.

(Photo-Jim Webb LVFPD CWPP 2011)

Panadero Avenue provides the only evacuation route out of the WUI. The Baker Creek Demonstration Area now provides a safer egress for this WUI although it should eventually be expanded on the private property adjacent to the South Fork of Baker Creek. Evacuation signage is especially needed here due to possible confusion on Panadero Loop. Safety Zones are abundant in the WUI and should be designated as such. The Baker Creek Firewise Council should emphasize again that these Zones are for a "last ditch" option only.

As access is critical during the initial attack on any wildfire, any existing roads in this WUI need to be mapped and possibly treated for use by LVFPD vehicles. Especial attention should be directed toward existing roads on the former “Cuchara Mountain Resort”. Intentionally downed trees crossing the road can be left, and removed later by fire suppression crews, in order to thwart undesired recreational vehicle use. Nonexistent access on the heavily fueled lands to the south of the former ski resort may facilitate large fires that become difficult to contain. Establishing access roads to get fire crews as close as possible should be a high priority.

Panadero/CMR Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

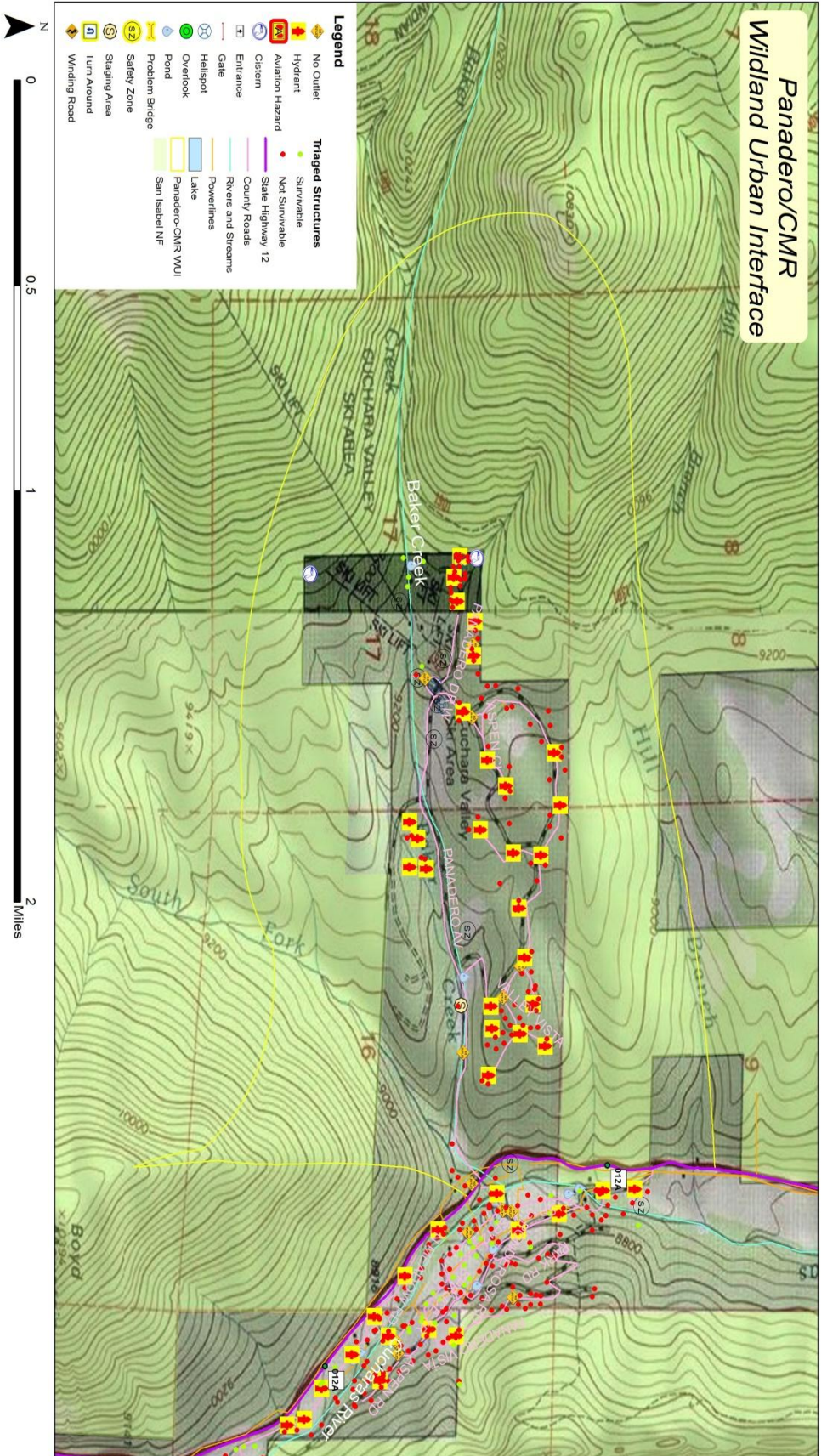
	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All residents registered for Huerfano Co. CodeRED system and advised of the LVFPD “Ready, Set, Go!” program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM
2	Develop and maintain an active Firewise Council.	HOA/POA’s, Baker Creek Firewise, LVFPD, CSFS
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the Panadero/CMR WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway or on the house if no driveway is present	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	All residents ensure that Cuchara Directory info is correct.	Homeowners
6	Clear, and maintain, any street easement where flammable vegetation is concentrated.	Huerfano County, HOA/POA’s, Firewise Community
7	Install “Evacuation Route” signage.	Huerfano County
8	Establish a designated slash “Chip/Burn” site within this WUI. Explore the possibility of letting other Firewise Groups use the site for mitigation slash processing.	HOA/POA’s, Baker Creek Firewise, Landowners
9	Designate and annually maintain Safety Zones within this WUI to provide refuge for fire suppression personnel or as a “Last Ditch” option for residents.	HOA/POA’s, Baker Creek Firewise, Landowners, LVFPD
10	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations off Panadero Avenue. Specifically include any roadway existing on the former CMR property.	LVFPD
11	Continue the expansion of the “Black Hole” shaded fuel break North onto USFS land and East up to the CO HWY12 ROW.	USFS, Panadero POA, Baker Creek Firewise, , LVFPD, CSFS, Landowners
12	Initiate Forest Fuels reduction along HWY 12 north of the	Landowners, POA’s, LVFPD,

	Panadero Avenue entrance.	CSFS, Baker Creek Firewise
13	Prioritize exploration of Aspen Regeneration projects in the many decadent Aspen stands within and adjacent to this WUI. Consider the efficacy of Prescribed Fire treatments in these areas.	Landowners, HOA/POA's, Baker Creek Firewise, CSFS, USFS, LVFPD
14	Consider the expansion of the Baker Creek Demonstration Site into the Proposed Treatment Area on the S. Fork of Baker Creek and the base of Boyd Mtn.	Landowners, Baker Creek Firewise, CSFS, BLM, USFS, LVFPD
15	Consider the development of annually maintained Fire Breaks in the tall grass meadows within this WUI.	HOA/POA's, Landowners
16	Consider developing and/or active participation in a local Cucharas River Watershed conservation group focusing on the Baker Creek drainage.	Landowners, Baker Creek Firewise, Arkansas River Basin Roundtable

Panadero/CMR Wildland Urban Interface



Panadero/CMR Wildland Urban Interface



Panadero/CMR Wildland Urban Interface



Pine Haven ~ WUI Summary

Size 181 acres

Structures: 84

Overall Fire Hazard: Extreme

Pine Haven has several conditions that cannot be altered, therefore forest fuels will need to be greatly modified to improve the overall hazard rating of this WUI. Most existing structures are close to one another and sit on steep slopes in a tapestry of hazardous fuels. All access roads are narrow with limited 'turn-arounds' for emergency vehicles. In addition, some roads are also very steep. There is only one reliable way in or out of this WUI.

Heavy wildfire fuel-loading exists within this neighborhood, especially in areas of Mixed Conifer forest types, which are located primarily in the low lying areas of this WUI. In some areas, these fuels are so heavily concentrated that they could support a large canopy fire within the neighborhood. Forest thinning adjacent to private property is also necessary in order to establish a buffer from fires entering the area. Particular emphasis should be placed on treating nearby creek drainages, low elevation areas (such as the "Dell" area), and any north facing slopes, such as along the Bend Creek drainage. Defensible spaces around structures absolutely need to be to Firewise standards with additional considerations for slope. Annual maintenance of flammable pine needles, leaves and grasses is also essential for owner safety.

Given present conditions and the lack of safety zone options in this WUI, evacuation readiness is recommended as the sole priority for this neighborhood. Adoption of the "Ready, Set, Go!" program will greatly assist residents when an emergency arises. The newly formed Pinehaven Firewise Council can be a great resource for those seeking information and/or assistance.

A good fire hydrant system exists in the Pine Haven neighborhood, but it will be overworked and under pressure during any serious fire that threatens more than a few structures. Fire personnel will be ill advised to attempt fire suppression within this WUI during a fire danger of "High" or greater. Once the fire escapes initial attack, all fire personnel and any remaining residents should get out of the WUI as soon as possible. Consistent fuels reduction in this area may eventually change these hazardous conditions allowing for fire personnel to remain in the WUI to protect more structures. Much work needs to be done before these conditions are created.

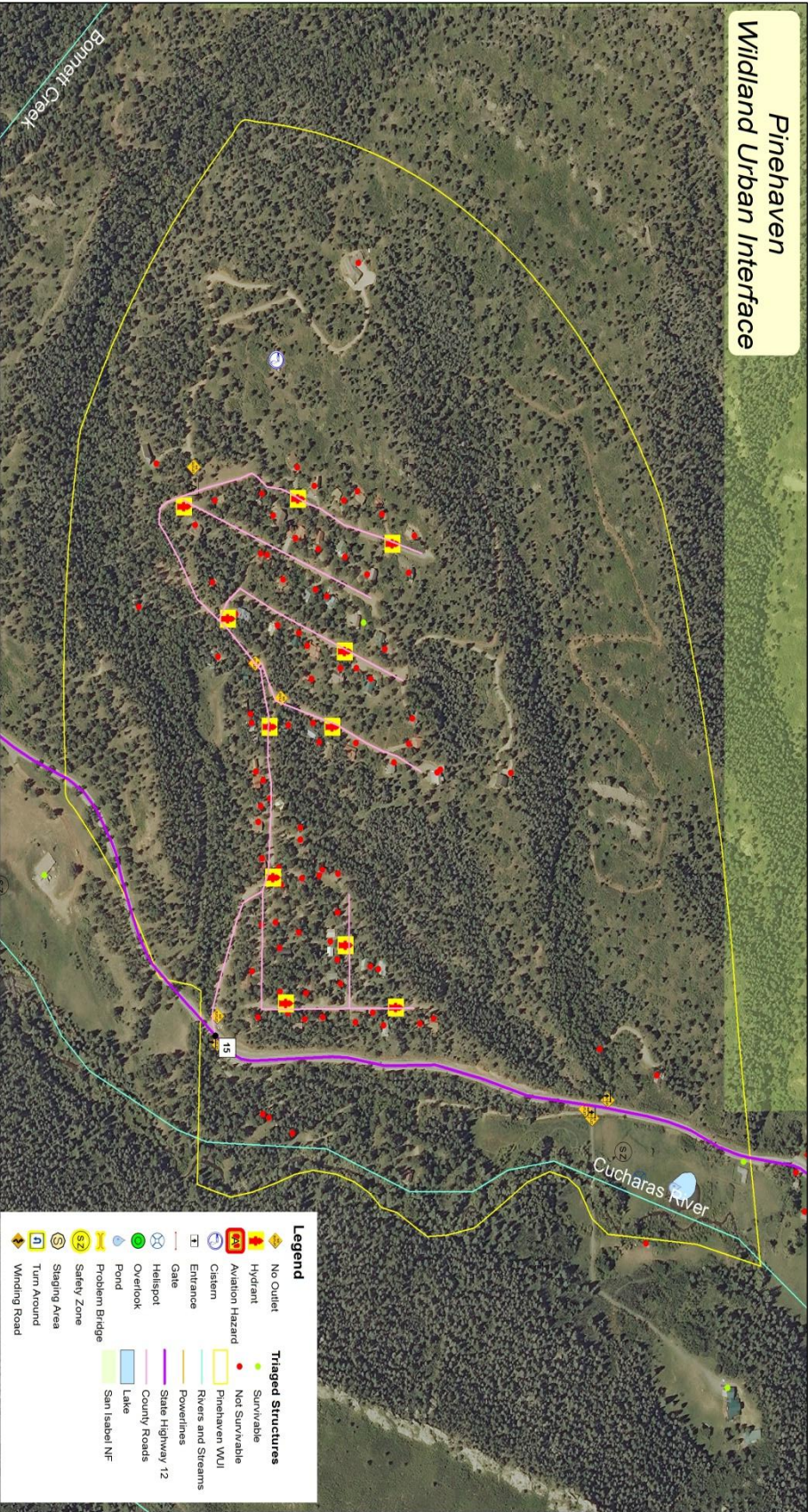
A large wildfire hazard reduction and forest conservation project is underway on the eastern border of this WUI. The Red Hill Shaded Fuel Break has been established to improve evacuation safety for the greater Cuchara area. Forest thinning has been completed along the eastern shoulder of HWY 12 from MP 14.8 to 15.2. Nearby landowners, within the Hidden Valley area, have also invested in thinning the adjacent overcrowded forest on their properties. Hazard trees along HWY 12 and the power lines below the road were removed by CDOT and SEIA crews respectively. Further expansion of the Red Hill project includes forest thinning along the eastern Bend Creek drainage. Several decades of unchecked forest growth have resulted in unsafe conditions in this area. It is important for Pinehaven POA residents to mimic this wildfire prevention attitude in order to prevent a devastating wildfire and its' post-fire

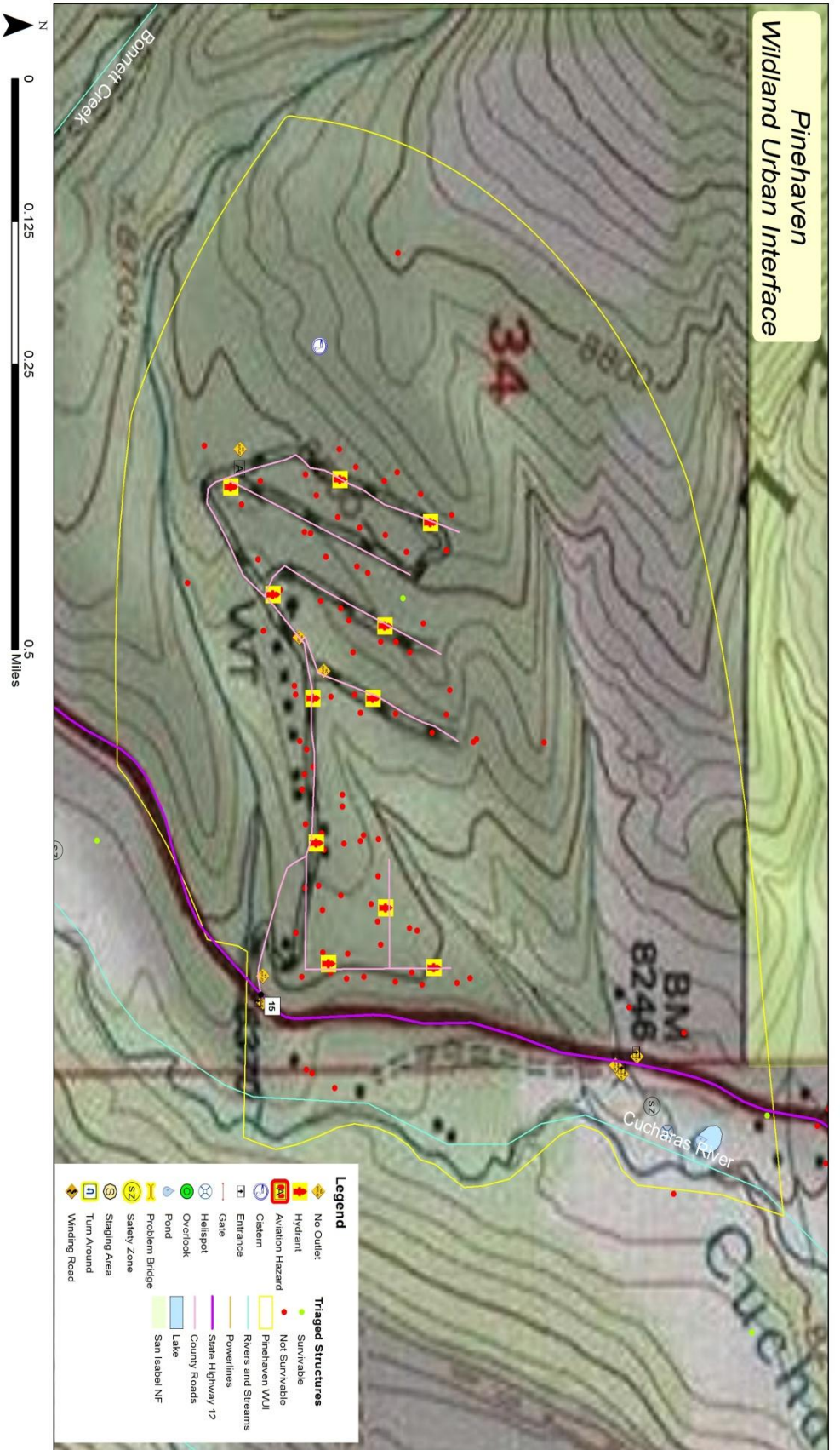
consequences. Recent studies indicate that such work will also serve to conserve the healthy function of the greater Cucharas River watershed.

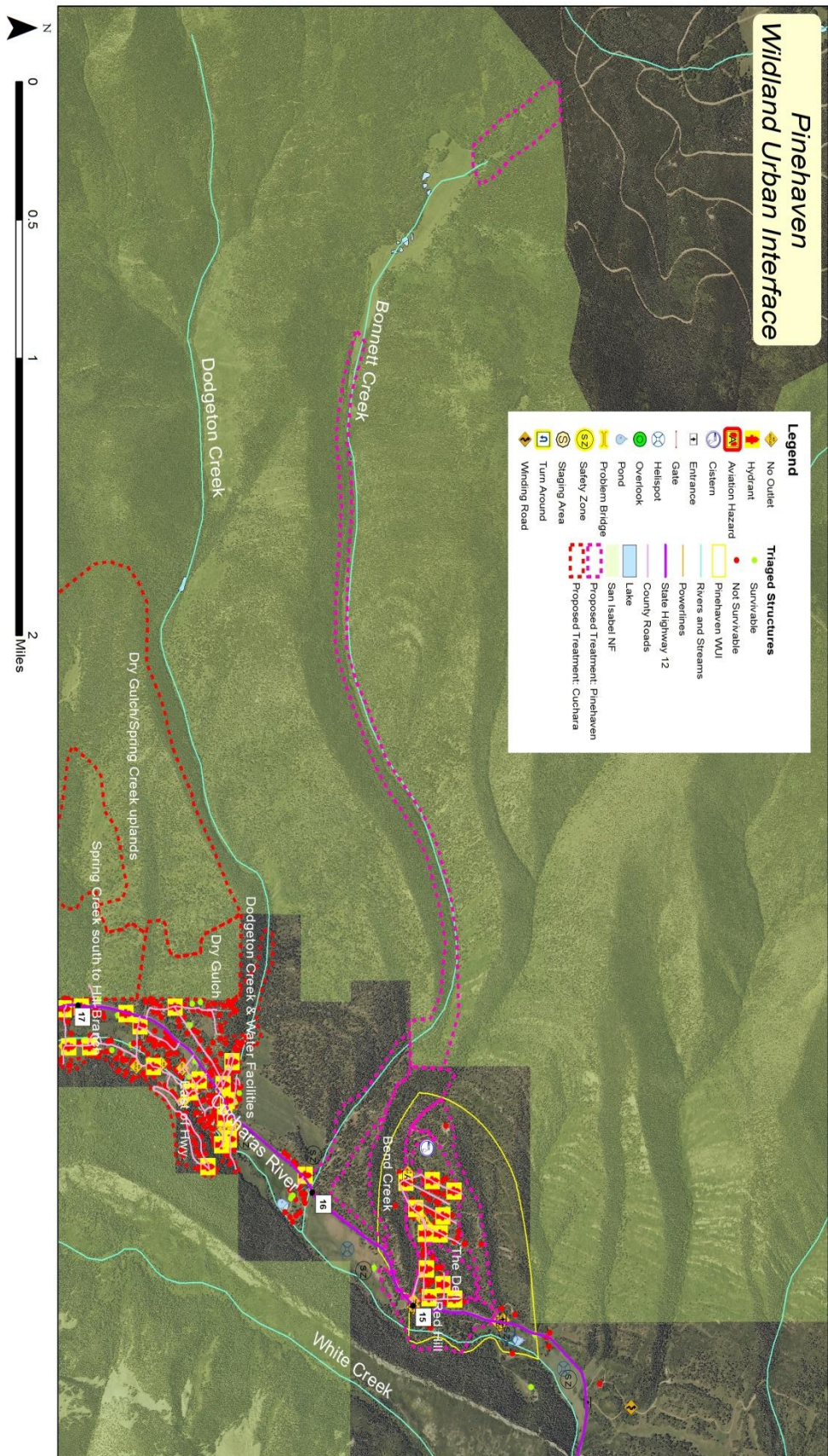
Pine Haven Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All residents registered for Huerfano Co. CodeRED system and advised of the LVFPD “Ready, Set, Go!” program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM
2	Develop and maintain an active Firewise Council.	HOA/POA’s, Pine Haven Firewise, LVFPD, CSFS
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the Pine Haven WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway or on the house if no driveway is present	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	All residents ensure that Cuchara Directory info is correct.	Homeowners
6	Clear, and maintain, any street easement where flammable vegetation is concentrated.	Huerfano County, HOA/POA’s, Firewise Community
7	Install “Evacuation Route” signage.	Huerfano County
8	Install “No Outlet” signage on all dead-end streets.	Huerfano County
9	Establish a designated slash “Chip/Burn” site within this WUI.	HOA/POA’s, Pine Haven Firewise, Landowners
10	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations within and adjacent to this WUI. Especially consider the road along Bonnett Creek at the southern boundary of this WUI.	LVFPD
11	Promote forest treatments in heavy forest fuels along private driveways.	Pine Haven POA, Pine Haven Firewise
12	Investigate forest product sales of overstocked or beetle damaged Ponderosa trees. Acquire and make accessible information regarding Forest Management Planning from the CSFS and/or NRCS	Pine Haven POA, Pine Haven Firewise, CSFS, NRCS
13	Prioritize the expansion of forest fuels reduction work from HWY 12 (and the Red Hill project site) westward along the Bend Creek drainage. Also, consider developing the effective treatments occurring in the lower “Dell” area into a formal collaborative project area.	Landowners, LVFPD, CSFS, BLM
14	Participate in the wildfire mitigation projects occurring nearby, namely the current Red Hill projects, as well as the proposed Bonnett Creek conservation project.	Pine Haven POA/FWC, Landowners, LVFPD, CSFS, USFS, BLM

15	Consider developing and/or active participation in a local Cucharas River Watershed conservation group focusing especially on the Bend Creek drainage, as well as the Cucharas River corridor within this WUI.	Landowners, Pine Haven Firewise, Arkansas River Basin Roundtable
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Raspberry Mtn. ~ WUI Summary

Size: 3,173 acres # Structures: 13

Overall Fire Hazard: Extreme

As of the 2011 CWPP assessment, sixty two percent of the structures in the Raspberry Mountain POA would likely survive a wildfire within this WUI. It is understood that this high percentage of fire adaptable structures is a mix of both, 1) the nature of existing fuels types (mostly Oak Scrub and grassland meadows) along with, 2) a more recent design of neighborhood development, resulting in this more favorable outcome. These perceived conditions can however be misleading and the overall Wildfire Hazard for this WUI remains at the Extreme level. Every effort should be put forth on the part of private homeowners, as well as the Raspberry Mountain Ranches POA to focus on the recommendations that will reduce local wildfire hazards.

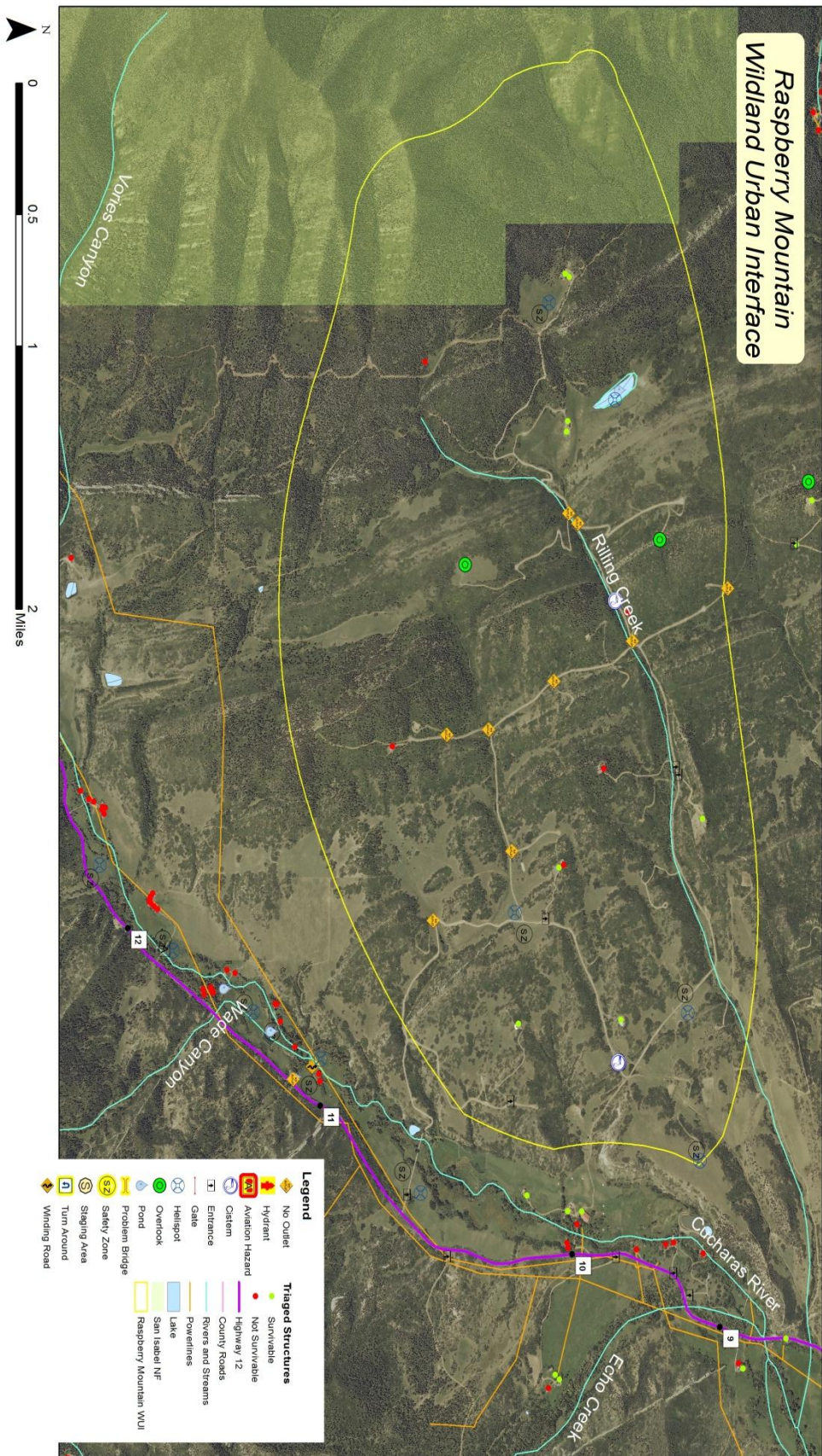
This WUI is dominated primarily by expanses of Oak scrub coupled with large meadows of grassland vegetation. In areas, the terrain and access roads are steep. Because of the predominance of fine fuels (uncut grass meadows) and expanses of dense Oak scrub, wildfires can spread quickly here and increase rapidly in size during drought years. Such large fast moving fires are very difficult to combat. Ensuring that safe evacuation routes exist, as well as establishing Evacuation Readiness within every household, should be of the highest priority to all the residents of this WUI.

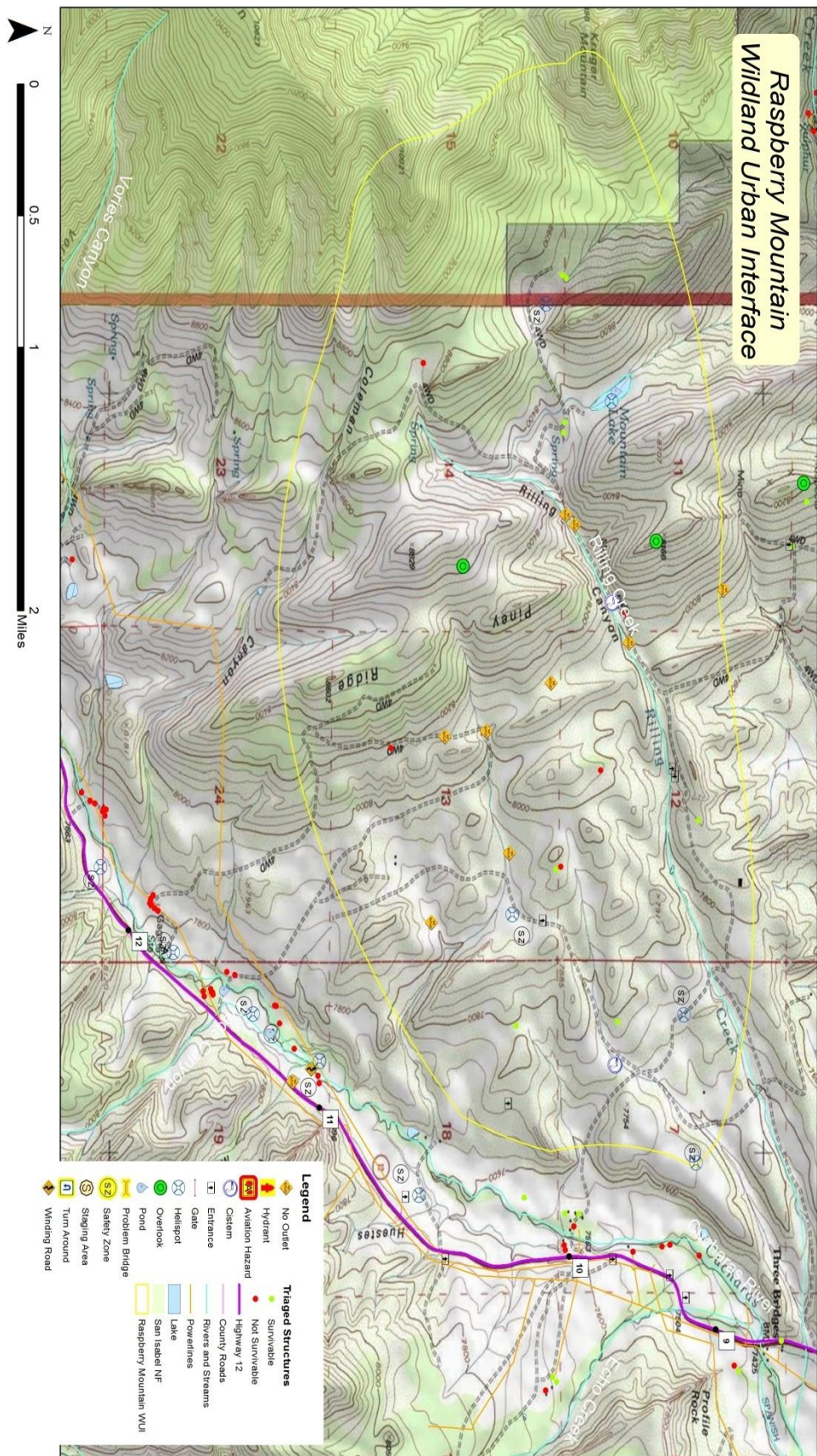
Water resources for emergency response are particularly scarce within this WUI. Water tank fill stations and/or pond drafting sites need to be established and designated.

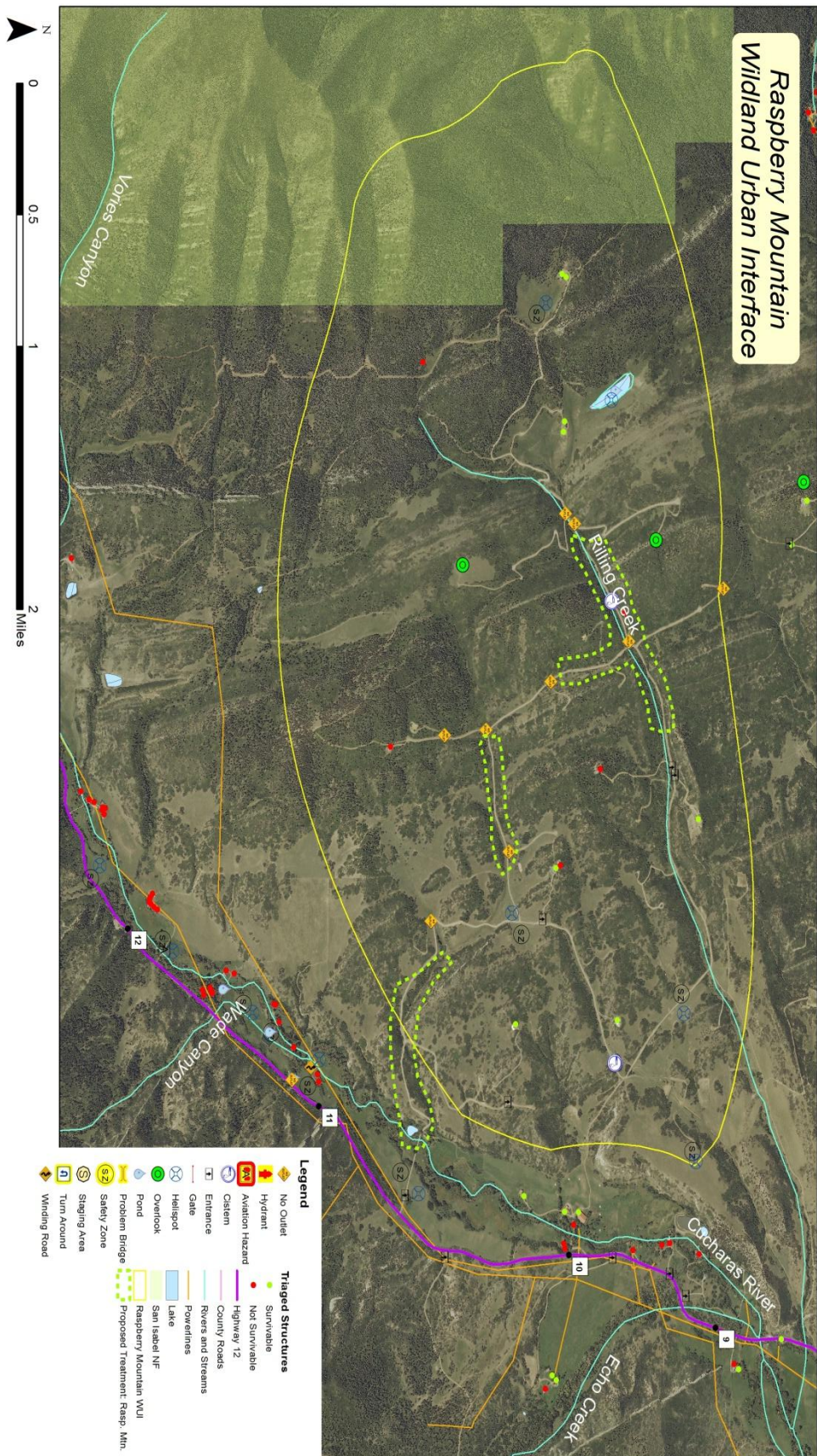
Raspberry Mountain Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All residents registered for Huerfano Co. CodeRED system and advised of the LVFPD "Ready, Set, Go!" program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM
2	Pursue Firewise Communities/USA designation.	RMRPOA, CREPOA, LVFPD, CSFS
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the Raspberry Mountain WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	Establish a community directory for this WUI and ensure that the LVFPD and Huerfano County receive a copy.	RMRPOA, CREPOA
6	Clear, and maintain, any area of the access road corridor where flammable vegetation is heavily concentrated.	RMRPOA, CREPOA, Firewise Community
7	Actively explore options for alternate evacuation routes.	RMRPOA, CREPOA,

		LVFPD, Landowners
8	Install "Evacuation Route" signage.	RMRPOA, CREPOA
9	Install "No Outlet" signage on all dead-end streets.	RMRPOA, CREPOA
10	Establish at least one designated slash "Chip/Burn" site.	RMRPOA, CREPOA Firewise Community, LVFPD
10	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations within and adjacent to this WUI.	LVFPD
11	Identify, and execute pre-fire agreements to use, any ponds or river sites that can be accessed by fire equipment to draft water.	LVFPD, Landowners, Water rights ownership
12	Designate and annually maintain Safety Zones within this WUI	RMRPOA, CREPOA, LVFPD
13	Promote forest treatments in heavy forest fuels along private driveways	RMRPOA, CREPOA, Firewise Community
14	Prioritize forest fuels thinning along the primary ingress/egress routes within this WUI, especially along Mountain Valley Rd., Longhorn Rd., Rilling Canyon Rd., Maverick Trail, and Terrance Trail. Explore this project as a long-term initiative to include annual Firewise Day events.	RMRPOA, CREPOA, Firewise Community, LVFPD
15	Establish water tanks for fire emergencies within this WUI.	POA's, LVFPD
16	Compile a well pad and pipeline map for this WUI. Ensure that the LVFPD and HC OES receive a copy.	RMRPOA, CREPOA
17	Explore options for local wildfire control projects within this WUI; especially consider Fire Break installations within dense Oak scrublands and Aspen Regeneration work within decadent Aspen stands at higher elevations. Consider the efficacy of Prescribed Fire treatments in these areas.	RMRPOA, CREPOA, Firewise Community, LVFPD, CSFS
18	Begin exploration of potential Forest Fuels thinning projects on USFS lands bordering the western boundary of this WUI, as highlighted in the original CWPP. Also, assess forest fuels conditions in the headwaters of the Rilling and Coleman Canyons.	RMRPOA, CREPOA, Firewise Community, LVFPD, CSFS, USFS







School Creek~ WUI Summary

Size: 5136 acres

Structures: 36

Overall Fire Hazard: High

Most of the structures within the School Creek WUI exhibit features that will inhibit the destructive force of a local wildfire, such as fire resistant construction and/or reduced fuel loading in the landscape. Particular attention needs to be applied to the regular maintenance of grasses within this area, as expanses of tall grass can easily explode into fast moving wildfires during dry seasons. Defensible Space Zone #1 (or roughly a 30 ft swath around the building) needs to be cleared of dense vegetation with grasses kept short and ideally well irrigated.

The properties located in the higher elevation portions of this WUI will need to address dense Oak and/or Conifer forests within 100ft of any structure. Fuel breaks (to help control the size of local wildfires) should be considered along any existing road within this neighborhood.

Given that several structures of potential historical relevance exist in this area, steps should be taken to research these sites to determine if conservation measures are appropriate, but to at least establish a basic documentation of those sites for use during wildfire suppression efforts.

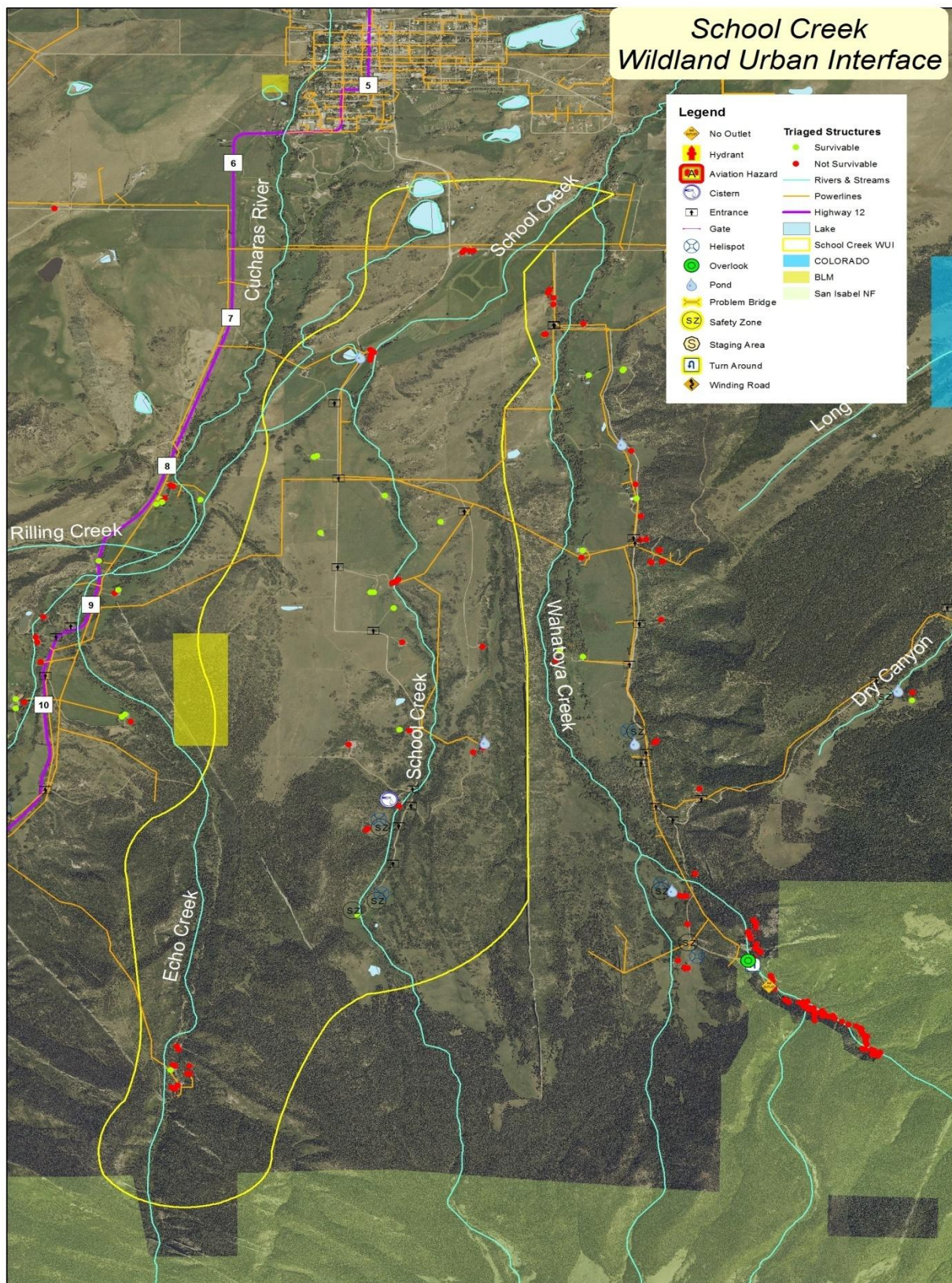
The geological formations, Dikes, of this WUI serve as natural wildfire control features. Efforts should be taken to include these structures in landscape scale fire mitigation planning.

This large area will also benefit from a concerted effort to establish water tank fill stations to assist local firefighting efforts.

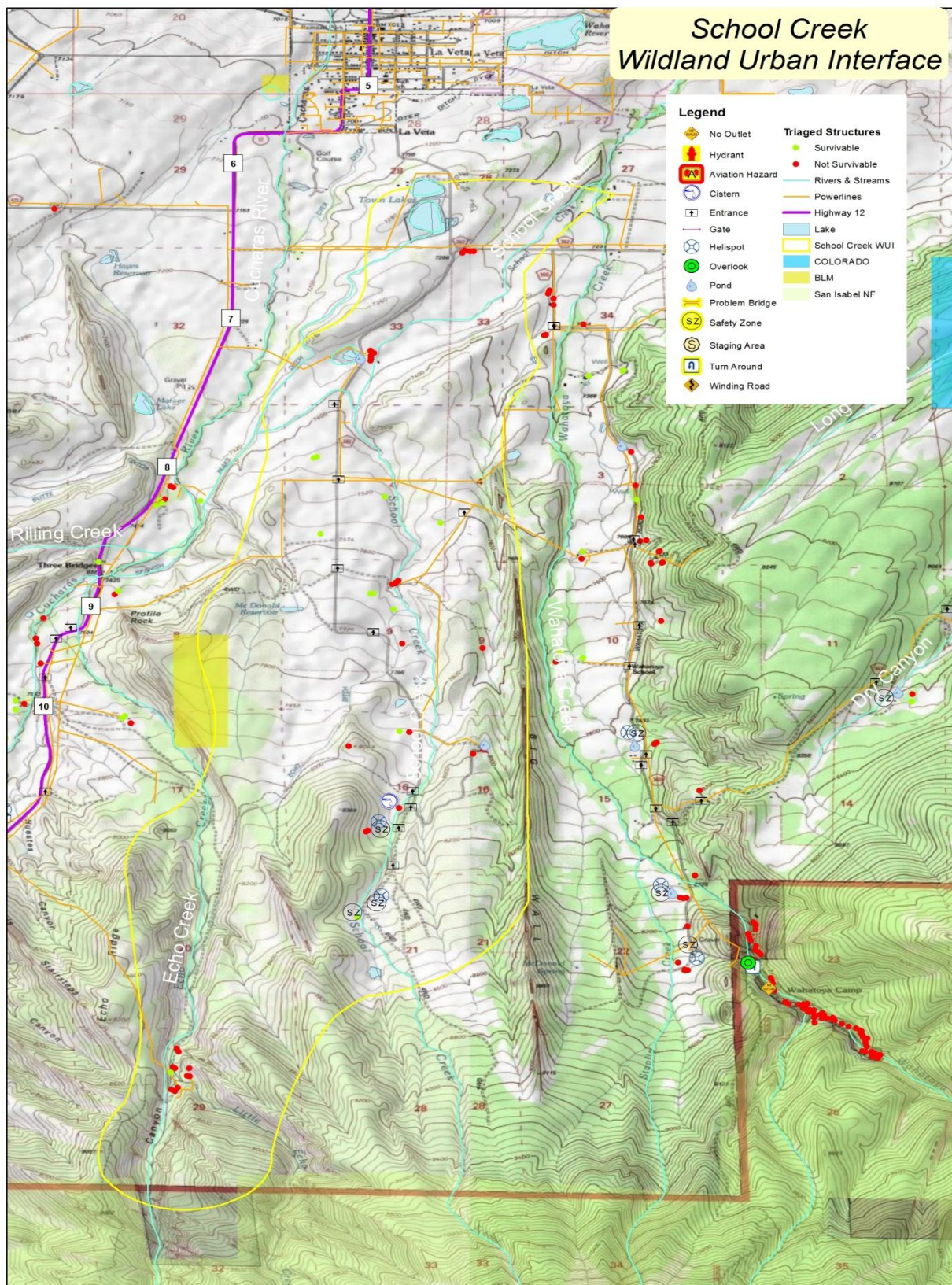
School Creek Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

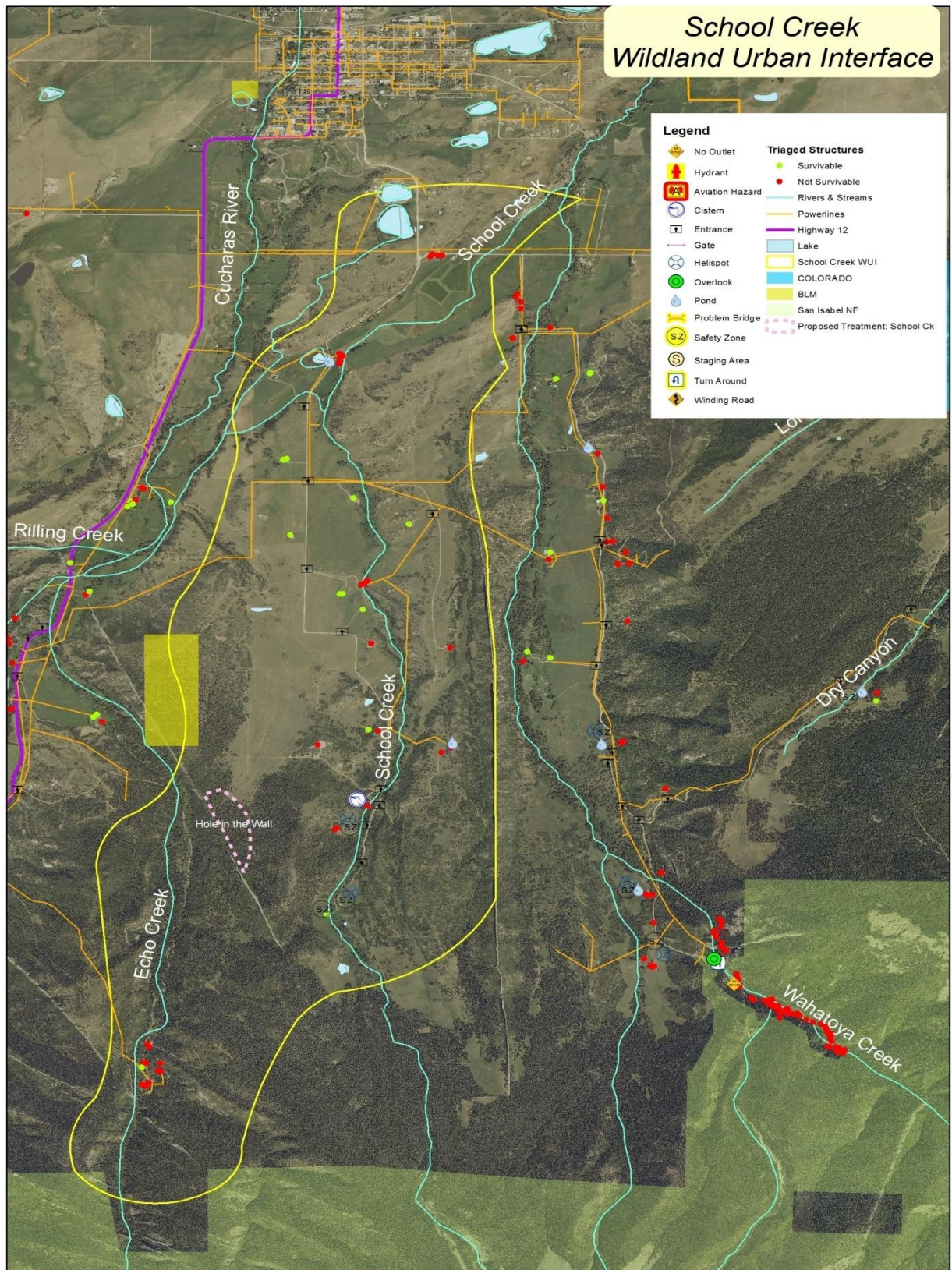
	ACTION	STAKEHOLDER
1	All residents registered for Huerfano Co. CodeRED system and advised of the LVFPD "Ready, Set, Go!" program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM
2	Pursue Firewise Communities/USA designation.	Homeowners, Hole in the Wall POA, LVFPD, CSFS
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the School Creek WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	Establish a School Creek community directory and ensure that the LVFPD and Huerfano County receive a copy.	Homeowners, Hole in the Wall POA
6	Install "No Outlet" signage on all dead-end roads.	Huerfano Co., Landowners

7	Install “Evacuation Route” signage on County Road 361.	Huerfano Co., Landowners
8	Prioritize hazardous fuels removal within and adjacent to the CR 361 and Big Wall Lane corridors.	Huerfano Co., Hole in the Wall POA, Landowners
9	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations off CR 361 and Big Wall Lane.	LVFPD
10	Designate and annually maintain at least one Safety Zone within this WUI.	Landowners, LVFPD, Hole in the Wall POA
11	Establish at least one Slash Chip/Burn site in this WUI.	Landowners, LVFPD
12	Identify, and execute pre-fire agreements to use, any ponds or river sites that can be accessed by fire equipment to draft water.	LVFPD, Landowners, Water rights ownership
13	Establish water tanks for fire emergencies within this WUI.	Hole in the Wall POA, LVFPD, Landowners
14	Explore arrangements to graze the grassland expanses of this WUI to ensure lower vegetation height during the wildfire season.	Landowners, Hole in the Wall POA
15	Prioritize the establishment of permanent and annually maintained Fire Breaks within continuous expanses of Oak Scrub. These paths could double as nature trails where appropriate. Consider existing secondary road corridors as candidate locations.	Landowners, Hole in the Wall POA, LVFPD, CSFS
16	Explore forest product utilization options for landowners in the headwaters of School Creek and around the terminus of CR 361. Consider possible forest management plan development for these landowners.	Landowners, CSFS, NRCS



0 1 2 4 Miles





Spanish Peaks ~ WUI Summary

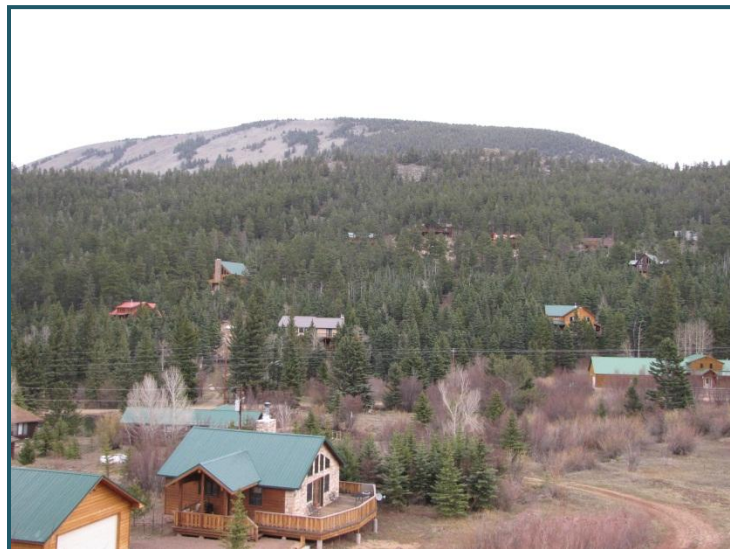
Size: 957.5 acres # Structures: 204 Overall Fire Hazard: Extreme

As of the 2011 CWPP assessment, just less than one quarter of the structures within this WUI stands a chance of surviving a large local wildfire. Although much work has been accomplished, most properties still reflect hazardous conditions. It is of vital importance that the local Firewise Community and/or property owner association influence the remaining property owners toward more fire adaptable homes and landscapes.

While the lower regions of this WUI are comprised of open grass meadows, the upper reaches involve steep slopes with heavy Mixed Conifer vegetation. This is a particularly hazardous combination, especially during periods of prolonged drought. It is recommended that after all properties, whether on the slopes or in the lowlands, are treated to Defensible Space standards; a practice of mindful annual maintenance is established. Fast moving grass fires are easily mitigated by the simple practice of mowing. Dangerous ladder fuels can likewise be easily removed to prevent devastating 'crown fire' development.

It is recommended that a concerted effort is focused on reducing the dense forest fuels that line the CO HWY 12 corridor of this WUI. This is the primary evacuation route for much of, or ALL (depending on the fire) of, the greater Cuchara area. Safe evacuation should be the highest priority for any resident of this area.

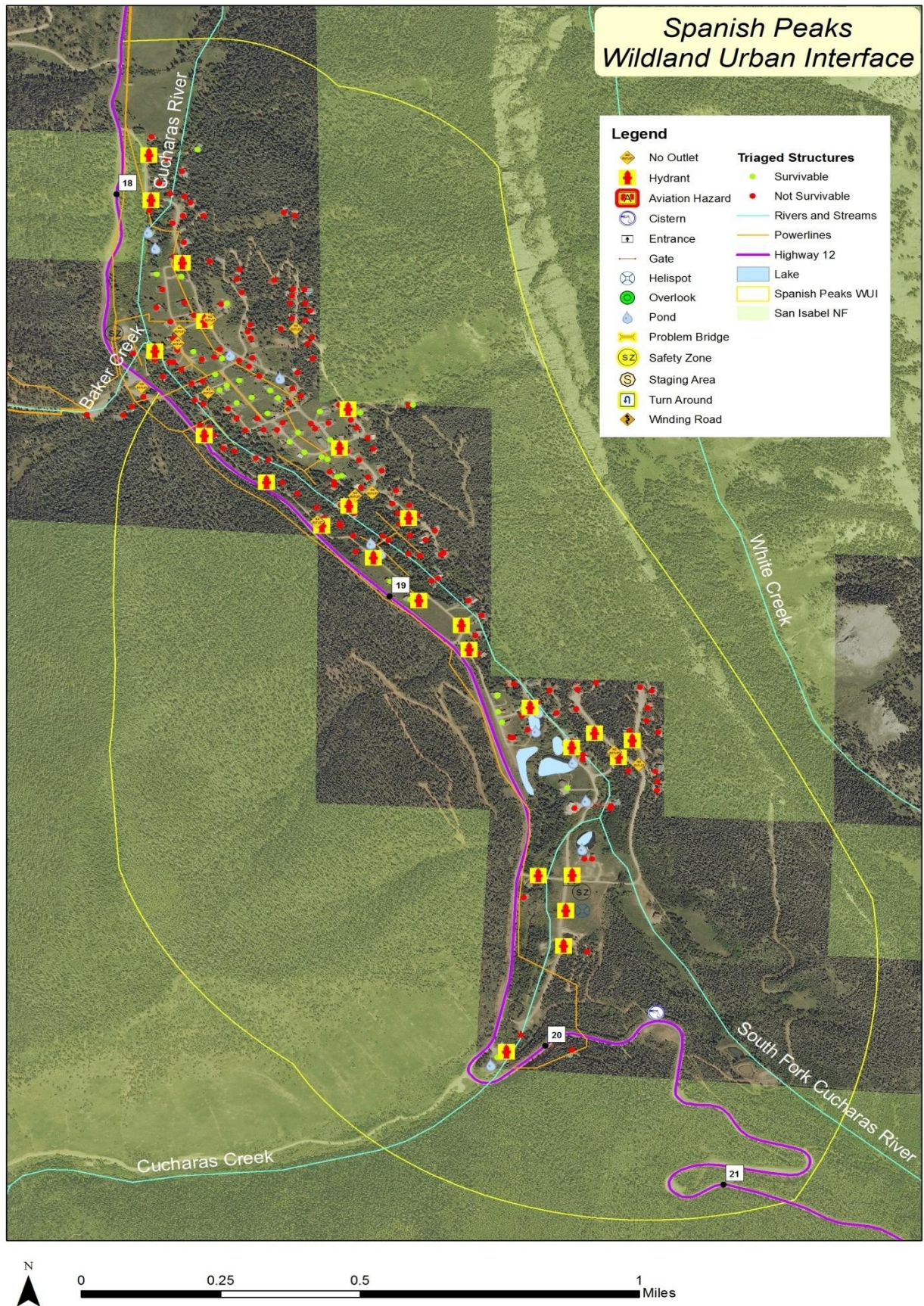
Wildfires can quickly transition from the uncut grasses to the untreated forests of this WUI. (Photo-Jim Webb LVFPD CWPP 2011)

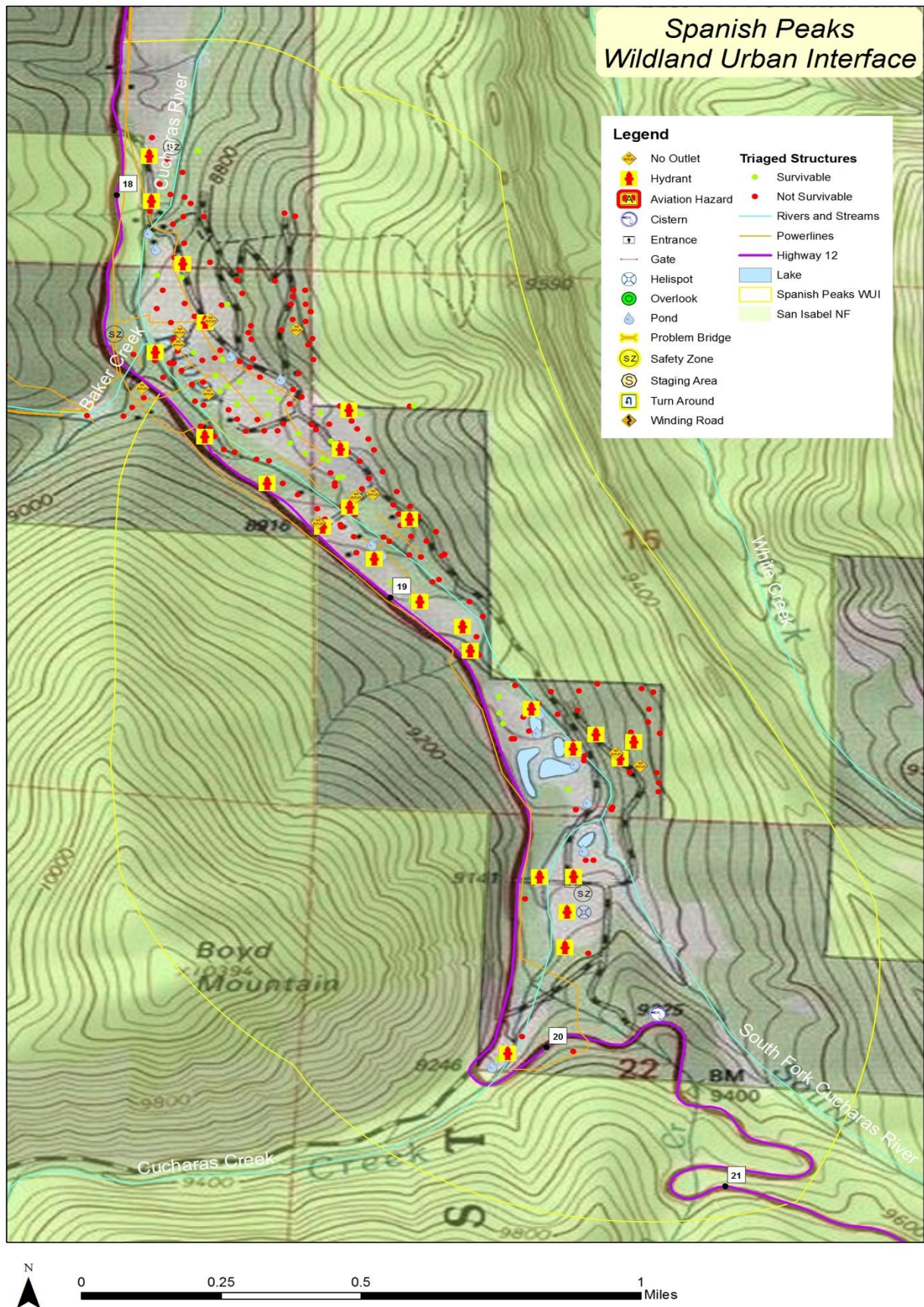


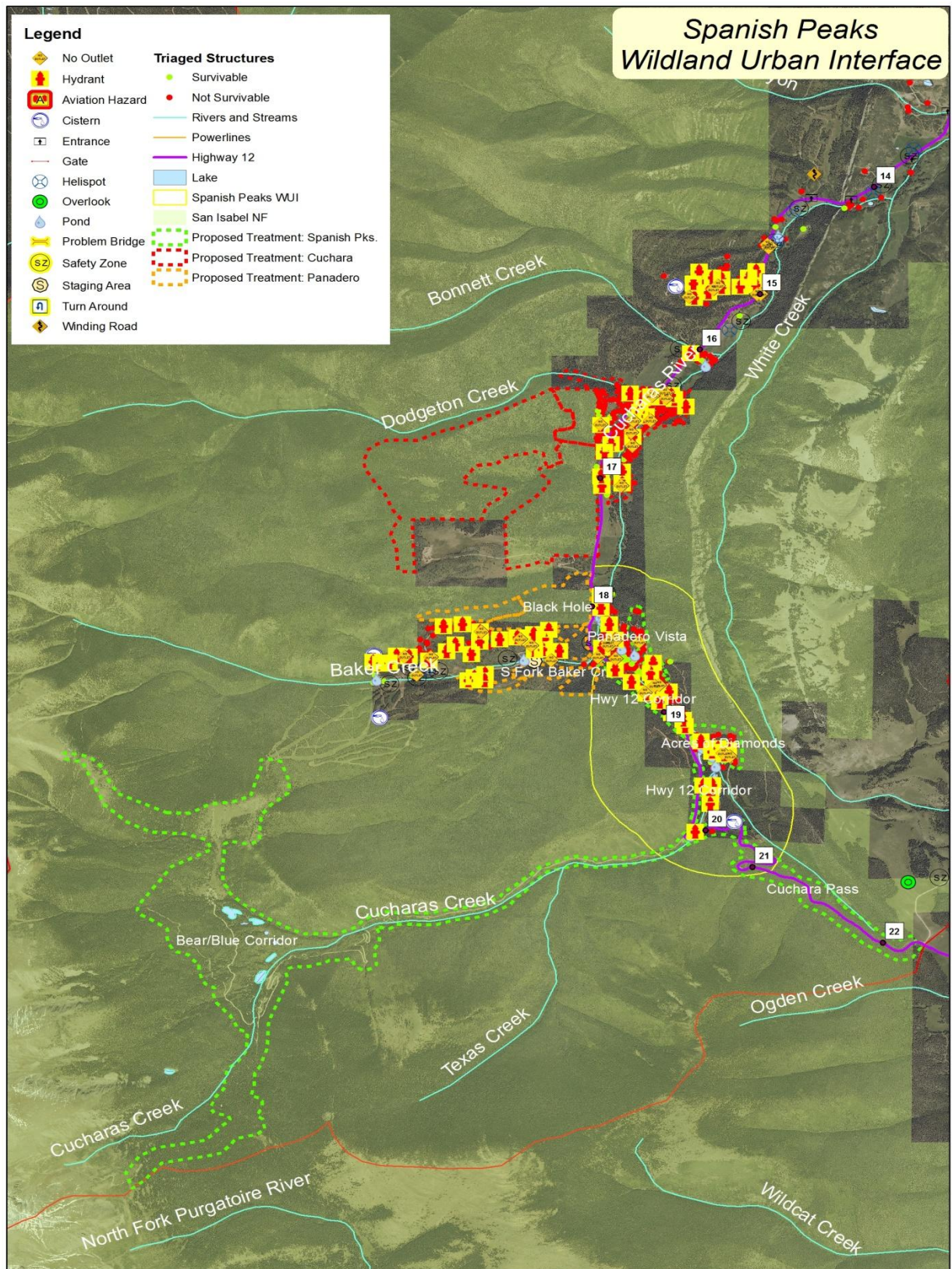
Spanish Peaks Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All residents registered for Huerfano Co. CodeRED system and advised of the LVFPD “Ready, Set, Go!” program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM
2	Develop and maintain an active Firewise Council.	Spanish Peaks HOA, Spanish Peaks Firewise, LVFPD, CSFS
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the Spanish Peaks WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway or on the house if no driveway is present.	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	All residents ensure that Cuchara Directory info is correct.	Homeowners
6	Clear, and maintain, any area of the street easement where flammable vegetation is heavily concentrated.	Huerfano Co., Spanish Peaks Firewise, Spanish Peaks HOA
7	Install “Evacuation Route” signage.	Huerfano Co.
8	Establish at least one designated slash “Chip/Burn” site within this WUI.	Spanish Peaks Firewise, Landowners, LVFPD
9	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations within and adjacent to this WUI, especially the “Dikes Trail”, the private road near the reservoirs along the South Fork Cucharas River, and the oft mentioned “Uranium Road”.	LVFPD
10	Identify, and execute pre-fire agreements to use, any ponds or river sites that can be accessed by fire equipment to draft water.	LVFPD, Landowners, Water rights ownership
11	Designate and annually maintain at least one Safety Zone within this WUI.	Spanish Peaks Firewise, Landowners, LVFPD
12	Promote a fuel reduction project in heavy forest fuels adjacent to the CO HWY 12 Corridor from FSR 422 to the Cuchara Pass Summit. Consider the efficacy of prescribed fire treatments in this area to ensure evacuation safety and regenerate the Aspen stands along the highway.	All local Firewise groups, Landowners, USFS, CSFS, LVFPD, Water rights ownership
13	Promote forest treatments in heavy forest fuels along extended private driveways.	Spanish Peaks Firewise, Landowners, LVFPD
14	Promote Defensible Space treatments onto USFS lands via Special Use permits. Especially focus on appropriate properties along Panadero Vista and in the Acres of Diamonds neighborhood.	Spanish Peaks Firewise, Acres of Diamonds Firewise, Spanish Peaks HOA, LVFPD, USFS
15	Collaborate on the removal of heavy “Dog Hair” forest fuels on the west side of CO HWY 12 between Panadero Avenue and Aspen Avenue.	CDOT, Landowner, Spanish Peaks Firewise, LVFPD

16	Endorse and participate in the wildfire mitigation projects occurring nearby, namely the proposed “Black Hole” Expansion to the West of HWY 12, the Cuchara Pass project to the South, and the Cucharas Creek Projects.	Landowners, Acres of Diamonds Firewise, Spanish Peaks Firewise, Baker Creek Firewise, CSFS, USFS, LVFPD
17	Explore the efficacy of collaborative projects to restore and enhance the “Dikes Trail” corridor in order to improve access and provide a possible fire control feature in this area.	USFS, All local Firewise groups, LVFPD
18	Investigate forest product sale options on private property. Acquire & make accessible information regarding Forest Management Planning from the CSFS and/or NRCS.	CSFS, LVFPD, Spanish Peaks Firewise, Landowners
19	Explore the possibility of a collaborative effort to regenerate the Aspen stands on the western slope of the “Dike Trail” ridge on the eastern boundary of the Cuchara and Spanish Peaks WUI’s.	USFS, All local Firewise groups, LVFPD







Tres Valles West~ WUI Summary

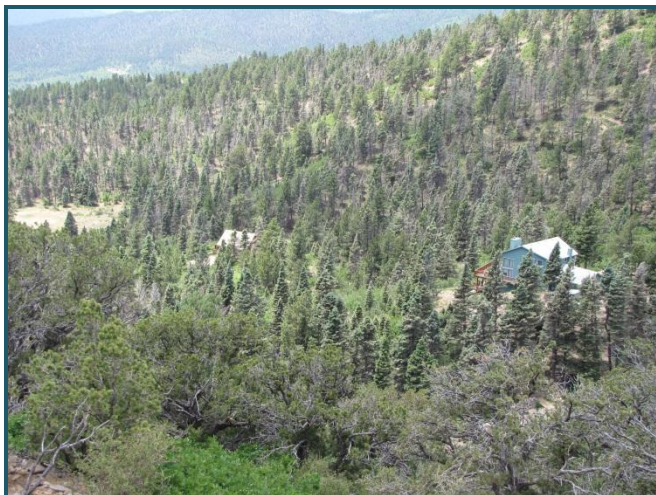
Size: 1,206 acres # Structures: 37 Overall Fire Hazard: High

This relatively new development covers a widely diversified terrain. Consequently, the existing vegetation types vary accordingly and progress from grasslands, through Oak scrub expanses and culminating up slope in dense Mixed Conifer forests. Hazardous fuel concentrations can be found in relatively defined locations around the neighborhood, but are especially concentrated in the contiguous groves of Oak and the heavily forested, and seemingly diseased, Mixed Conifer stands.

Much effort has been given within this WUI toward adopting and implementing the recommendations of their Firewise Neighborhood Assessment. It is encouraged that this momentum be continued and include the prioritization of developing a Firewise Council of several members.

Evacuation Readiness should be the top priority of this WUI followed by the investment in improved emergency water capacity. While these projects may be perceived as quite daunting, this WUI is not far from having both issues sufficiently resolved.

Focused attention is also required to effectively address the Forest Health issues present in the higher elevations of this neighborhood in order to mitigate the Wildfire Hazards they present.

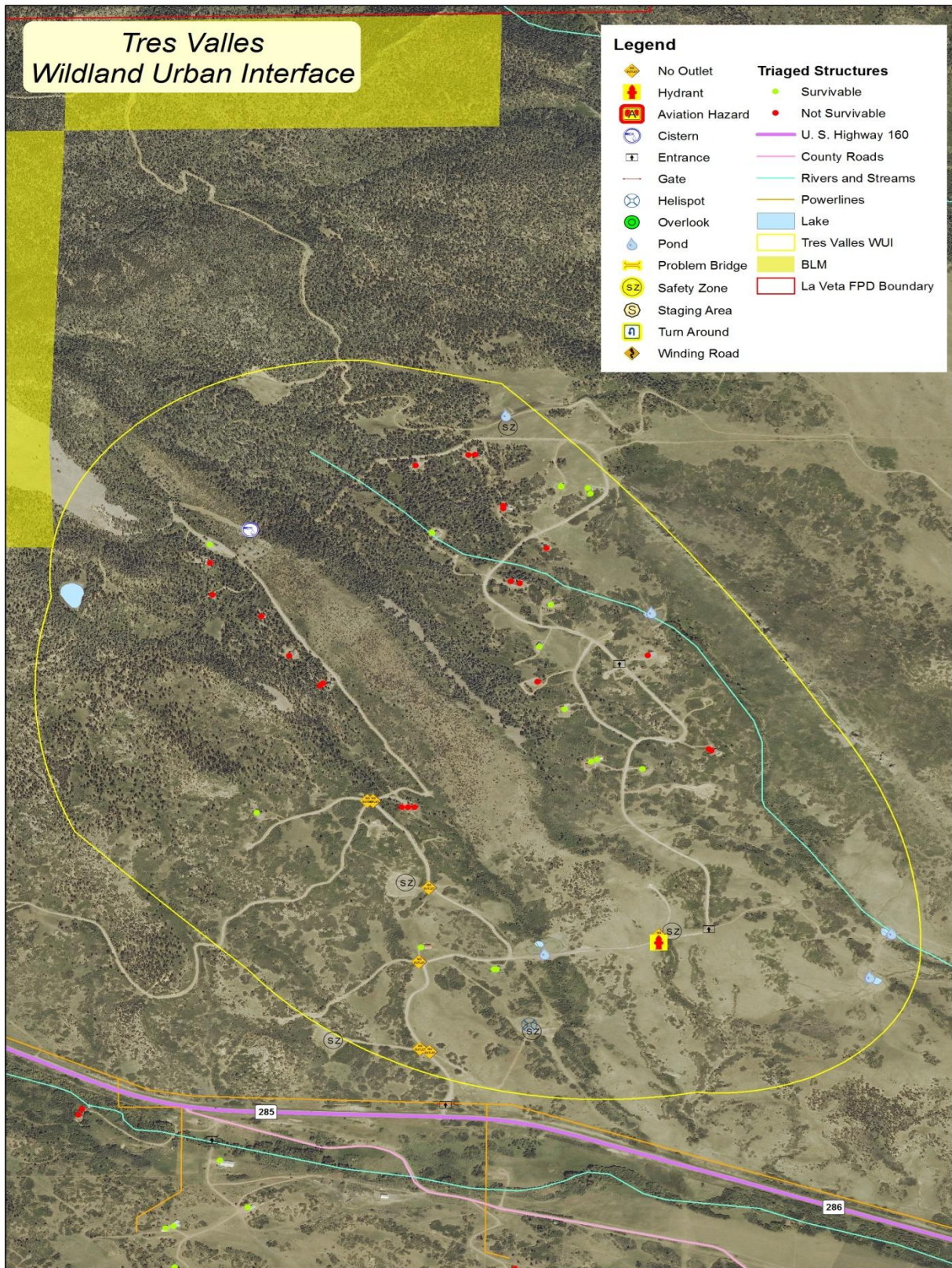


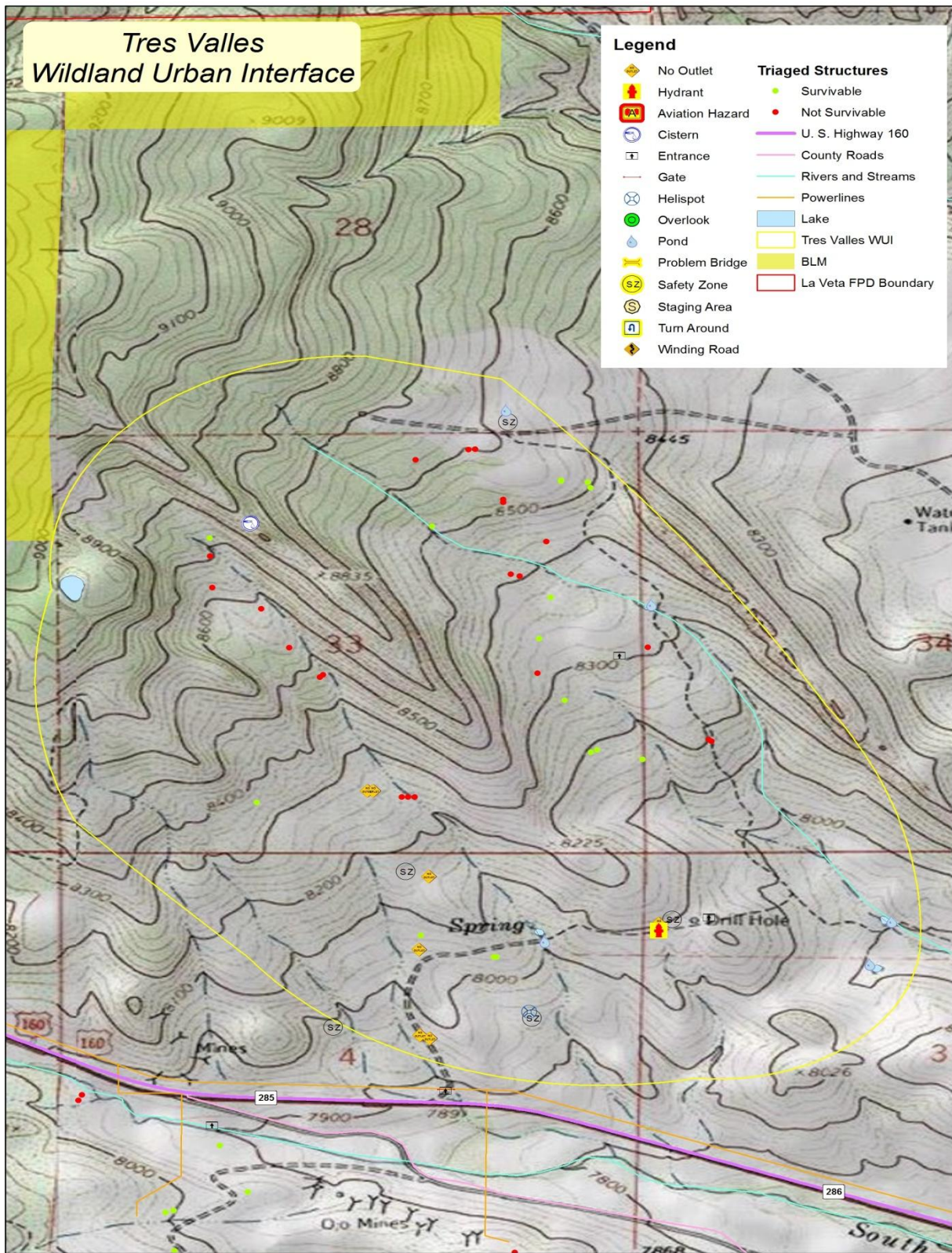
Forest fuels form a continuous canopy in many portions of this WUI. Note also the grey areas indicating insect and/or disease. (Photo-Jim Webb LVFPD CWPP 2011)

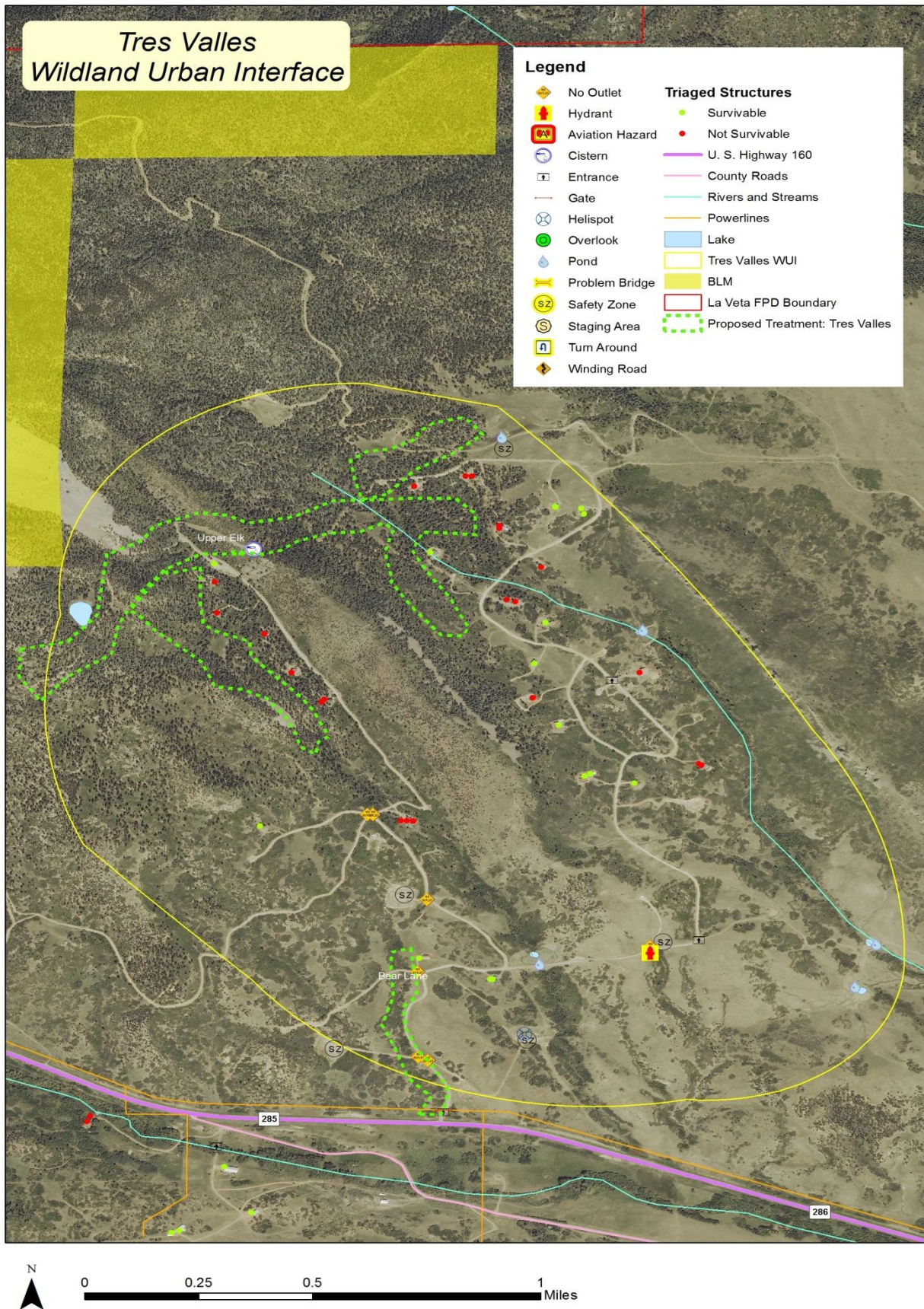
Tres Valles West Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Actions

	ACTION	STAKEHOLDERS
1	All residents registered for Huerfano Co. CodeRED system and advised of the LVFPD “Ready, Set, Go!” program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM
2	Develop and maintain an active Firewise Council.	TVWHA, Tres Valles West Firewise, LVFPD, CSFS
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the Tres Valles WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway or on the house if no driveway is present.	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	Annually update the Tres Valles West community directory and ensure that the LVFPD and Huerfano County receive a copy.	TVWHA, Tres Valles West Firewise
6	Clear, and maintain, any area of the road easement where flammable vegetation is heavily concentrated.	Huerfano Co., Tres Valles West Firewise, TVWHA
7	Install “Evacuation Route” signage.	Huerfano Co., TVWHA
8	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations within and adjacent to this WUI.	LVFPD
10	Identify, and execute pre-fire agreements to use, any ponds that can be accessed by fire equipment to draft water.	LVFPD, TVWHA, Water rights ownership
11	Designate and annually maintain at least one Safety Zone within this WUI.	Tres Valles West Firewise, TVWHA, LVFPD
12	Develop a TVWHA evacuation plan and merge with existing Huerfano County and LVFPD plans	TVWHA, LVFPD, Huerfano Co.
13	Develop and distribute an Emergency Water Production protocol for structural and wildfire emergencies in this WUI.	TVWHA, Tres Valles West Firewise, LVFPD
14	Install a Fire Hydrant at the TVW Water Plant and explore the possibility of a Dry Hydrant at Mallard Pond.	TVWHA, Tres Valles West Firewise, LVFPD
15	Compile a well pad and pipeline map for this WUI. Ensure that the LVFPD and HC OEM receive a copy.	TVWHA, Tres Valles West Firewise
16	Establish water tanks for fire emergencies within this WUI; especially consider potential locations on Elk Drive and Bear Path.	TVWHA, LVFPD
17	Prioritize the establishment of permanent and annually maintained Fire Breaks within continuous expanses of Oak Scrub. These paths could double as additional nature trails where appropriate.	TVWHA, Tres Valles West Firewise, LVFPD, CSFS

18	Prioritize the establishment of Shaded Fuel Break wildfire control features along the Lost Lake and Dead Wood Trails.	TVWHA, Tres Valles West Firewise, LVFPD, CSFS
19	Explore additional forest fuels reduction projects within this WUI. Refer to the following Proposed Treatment Area map.	TVWHA, Tres Valles West Firewise, LVFPD, CSFS







Wahatoya Valley~ WUI Summary

Size: 6432 acres

Structures: 94

Overall Fire Hazard: High/Extreme

This Wildland Urban Interface area is comprised of three distinct subdivisions. Each of these three areas reflects a unique combination of residential development, topography, vegetation type, and hazardous fuel concentration. In spite of this, all areas share a common primary evacuation route and watershed. A diversity of forest fuel treatments will need to be explored.

The vegetation types making up this WUI are quite varied. Grassland meadows, Cottonwood stands and riparian flora make up the majority of the valley floor. The higher elevations are dominated by either Mixed Conifer or Ponderosa forests and pose an Extreme wildfire hazard. Piñon/Juniper forest and scrub Oak expanses populate most of the middle elevations and present hazards ranging from High to Extreme.

Given existing conditions, emergency notification and Evacuation Readiness should be of the highest priority for all residents of this WUI, but especially those of the Wahatoya Canyon ("Little Kansas") subdivision. The creation of Defensible Space around all structures should be the strong second priority here.



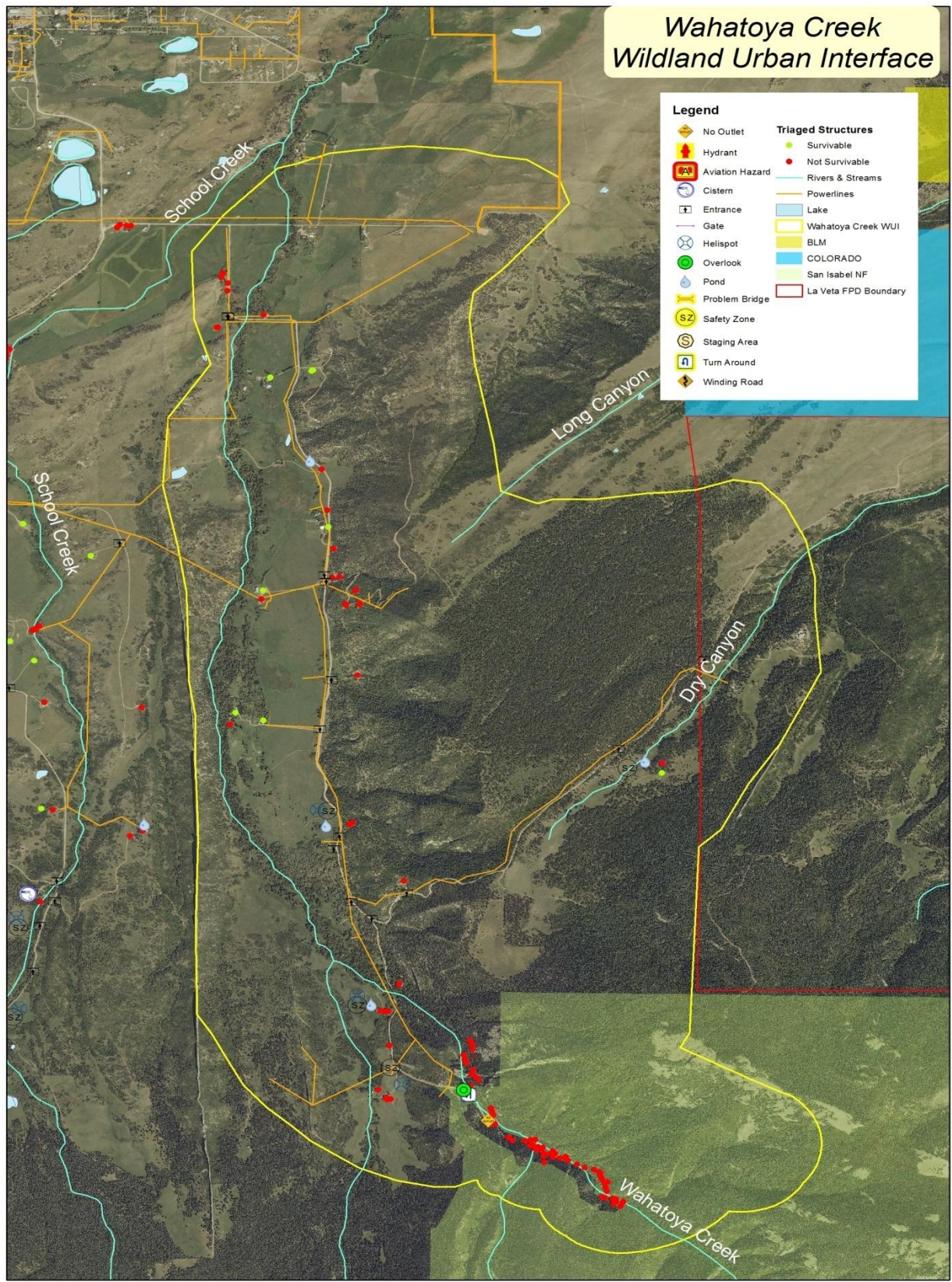
Several historical structures are located within this WUI. They should be identified so that appropriate conservation measures can be taken prior to a wildfire.

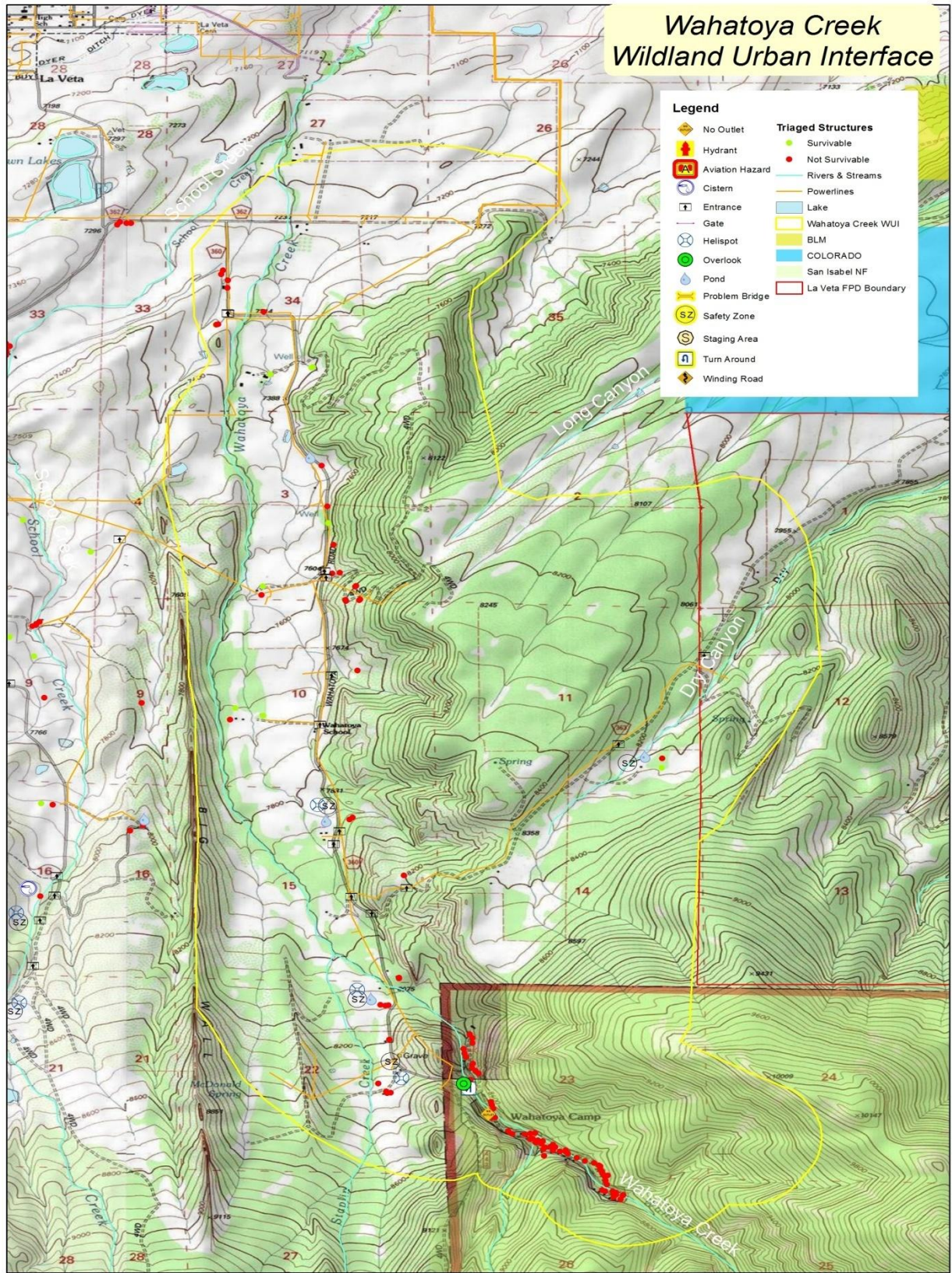
(Photo-Jim Webb LVFPD CWPP 2011)

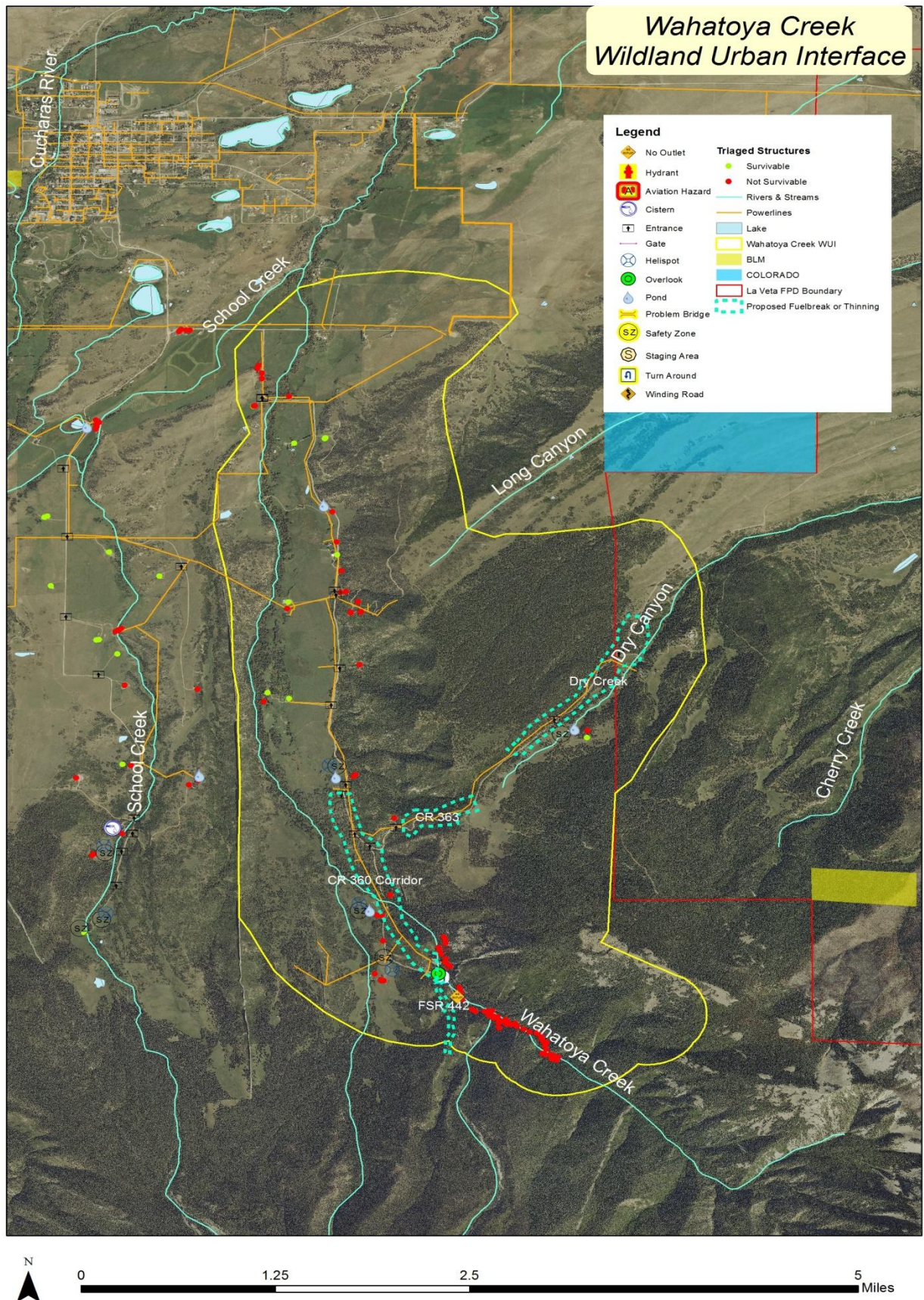
Wahatoya Valley Wildfire Mitigation Actions

	ACTION	STAKEHOLDER
1	All residents registered for Huerfano Co. CodeRED system and advised of the LVFPD “Ready, Set, Go!” program.	Homeowners, LVFPD, HC OEM
2	Develop and maintain an active Firewise Council. Especially promote inclusion from representatives within the “Little Kansas” subdivision of this WUI.	Homeowners, Wahatoya Firewise, “Little Kansas” community, LVFPD, CSFS
3	Create and maintain Defensible Space around all structures within the Wahatoya Valley WUI. Use CSFS and/or NFPA Firewise Defensible Space standards.	Homeowners
4	All residences-Install standard address signage to be located at the street end of the driveway or on the house if no driveway is present.	Homeowners, LVFPD Auxiliary
5	Establish a Wahatoya Valley community directory for all neighborhoods within this WUI and ensure that the LVFPD and Huerfano County receive a copy.	Wahatoya Firewise, Homeowners
6	Install “No Outlet” signage on all dead-end roads.	Huerfano Co., Landowners
7	Install “Evacuation Route” signage on County Roads 360, 362, and 363.	Huerfano Co., Landowners
8	Prioritize hazardous fuels removal within and adjacent to the CR 360 and CR 363 corridors.	Huerfano Co., Wahatoya Firewise, Landowners
9	Identify potential access roads/trails for Initial Attack operations off County Roads 360, 362, and 363.	LVFPD
10	Prioritize the development of a local alert system (siren, enhanced telephone service, and/or public announcement system) that will ensure proper emergency notification within the Wahatoya Canyon subdivision.	Wahatoya Canyon homeowners, Wahatoya Firewise, Huerfano Co., LVFPD,
11	Designate and annually maintain at least one Safety Zone within this WUI.	Wahatoya Firewise, Landowners, LVFPD,
12	Establish at least one Slash Chip/Burn site in this WUI.	Wahatoya Firewise, Landowners, LVFPD
13	Identify, and execute pre-fire agreements to use, any ponds or creek sites that can be accessed by fire equipment to draft water.	LVFPD, Landowners, Water rights ownership
14	Establish and maintain wildfire hazard prevention features at the SIEA sub-station on CR 362.	SIEA, Landowners, Wahatoya Firewise, LVFPD
15	Identify and/or establish water tanks for fire emergencies within this WUI.	Wahatoya Firewise, LVFPD, Landowners
16	Prioritize the creation of a Shaded Fuel Break feature along CR 360 within the “Little Kansas” Subdivision of this WUI. Explore the option of SIEA removal of the hazard trees that exist along the utility line corridor within this neighborhood.	Landowners, SIEA, Huerfano Co., Wahatoya Firewise, LVFPD, CSFS

17	Prioritize the creation of Shaded Fuel Break features along the existing access roads from CR 360 to the mesa top, from CR 360 to the Spanish Peaks/Bull's Eye Mine trailhead (FSR 442), and along the private access road to the Staplin Creek and McDonald Spring area.	Landowners, Wahatoya Firewise, LVFPD, CSFS
18	Explore forest product utilization options for landowners in the Dry Creek subdivision (the mesa top area adjacent to CR 363) and the "Little Kansas" subdivision of CR 360. Consider possible forest management plan development for these landowners.	Landowners, CSFS, NRCS, Wahatoya Firewise, LVFPD
19	Explore treatment, and funding, options for the thick forest fuels existing on private lands along the lower road of the "Little Kansas" Subdivision and the Wahatoya Creek in this area.	Landowners, LVFPD, Wahatoya Firewise, CSFS, Huerfano Co., USFS
20	Explore the possibility of collaborative projects to maintain the local trails of this area. Consider existing trail corridors as potential Fuel Break structures.	Wahatoya Firewise, USFS, LVFPD
21	Ensure Survivable Space treatment around the "Mesa Repeater" to safeguard this installation during a wildfire.	Landowners, LVFPD
22	Consider developing and/or active participation in a local Cucharas River Watershed conservation group focusing especially on the Wahatoya Creek drainage.	Landowners, Wahatoya Firewise, Arkansas River Basin Roundtable







Key CWPP Implementation Challenges and Proposed Solutions

Finally, the following brief descriptions describe areas of challenge that were confronted during the implementation of the LVFPD CWPP 2011 and are expected to continue to be issues until resolved. This summary is focused on perceived 'macro' level restrictions as lesser challenges are more easily resolved during normal operations or at the public interface, or WUI, level.

- 1) In spite of continuing and significant Public Outreach endeavors, the majority of area homeowners, and especially large tract private landowners, have not yet understood the full potential of a catastrophic wildfire in their area.

Sustained and targeted public outreach, as well as coordinated agency promotion may alter the decidedly negative outcome of this situation. Multiple sources of local 'authority' speaking to, or endorsing, the same outcome seems to have a positive impact. Particular focus needs to be applied to a concerted effort to reach and recruit "absentee homeowners" and/or seasonal visitors. Owners of un-improved parcels also need to be specifically engaged.

- 2) Collaboration between Federal agencies and local wildfire mitigation leaders, especially CWPP Coordinators, is minimal and restricts effective long-term planning.

The LVFPD WMS proposes that a high priority be giving to developing a local Wildfire Council or Roundtable to consolidate resources, coordinate planning, and assist in collective implementation activities.

More frequent, perhaps quarterly, Core Team meetings or teleconferences would facilitate better stakeholder communication and coordinated decision making.

- 3) Established fuel reduction areas on private property, and especially within defined WUI boundaries, need to be enhanced by equivalent treatments on Public Lands.

Coordinated project planning and implementation will afford more effective fire control features on a landscape of varied ownership.

- 4) The lack of established and effective Biomass Options is stemming the progress of local wildfire mitigation efforts.

A concerted focus on this topic by local, State, and Federal stakeholders is required especially with regard to developing the necessary infrastructure within economically depressed regions of the state. For such areas, collaboration and establishing resilience are mandatory, not just buzzwords or novelties. Co-locating mutually supportive forest

industries could result in significant long-term social and economic improvements, in addition to providing a variety of uses of forest products while reducing wildfire hazards.

- 5) At this time, and for the foreseeable future, access to, or treatments on local Public Lands is perceived as improbable due to lengthy environmental assessment processes or the lack of favorable prioritization of fuel reduction projects in this area.

Knowing that such assessments are a necessary safeguard of public lands and resources, the LVFPD, and local partners, will continue to pursue treatment actions on public lands through continued coordination with agency officials. Endeavors to keep local stakeholders, especially the public, up-to-date on the progression of such actions will reduce misunderstandings while promoting the importance of continued public participation in similar activities (such as Defensible Space work within WUIs).

- 6) All wildfire preparedness and mitigation programs established in the LVFPD have been done on limited resources. For such programs to continue, and especially to expand, resources have to be identified and procured that will develop and facilitate the management capacity of these affairs.

The capacity to procure and manage wildfire mitigation projects while sustaining sufficient suppression capacity needs to be prioritized and supported by those stakeholders most likely to be negatively affected by catastrophic wildfire. Rudimentary risk-assessment processes can most likely illustrate the dire consequences of not addressing this issue.

An increase in capacity building grants, focused on planning and administration personnel and specifically directed at economically challenge areas would vastly improve all aspects of wildfire control and/or suppression in those areas.

- 7) Hazardous fuels mapping and wildfire prediction models are exceptionally hard to procure and interpret by local layperson wildfire mitigation leadership.

Access to these resources or at least to qualified personnel able to produce them will significantly help short and long term planning, especially for Evacuation Initiatives and Landscape Scale fuel reduction projects.

In addition, collective map review and interpretation by Core Teams, or equivalent, would enhance partner knowledge and planning or operations decision-making capacity.