



AGENDA

Town Council Regular Meeting | 5:30 PM

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Town Hall / Council Chambers - 302 Pine St Minturn, CO

The agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items 24 hours in advance or the deletion of items at any time. The order of agenda items listed are approximate.

This agenda and meetings can be viewed at www.minturn.org.

MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

This will be an in-person meeting with access for the public to attend in person or via the Zoom link included. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83696184135>

Zoom Call-In Information: 1 651 372 8299 or 1 301 715 8592 **Webinar ID:** 836 9618 4135

Please note: All virtual participants are muted. In order to be called upon an unmuted, you will need to use the “raise hand” feature in the Zoom platform. When it’s your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute your line and you will have five (5) minutes for public comment.

Public Comments: If you are unable to attend, public comments regarding any items on the agenda can be submitted to Jay Brunvand, Town Clerk, prior to the meeting and will be included as part of the record.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent agenda items are routine Town business, items that have received clear direction previously from the council, final land-use file documents after the public hearing has been closed, or which do not require council deliberation.

- A.** Approval of 12-20-2023 Minutes
- B.** Liquor License Renewal - 542 Main St LLC, DBA Sunrise annual renewal of a Hotel & Restaurant (City) Liquor License; 132 Main St, Douglas McAvity Owner/Manager
- C.** Liquor License Renewal - Rocky Mountain Taco annual renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage (City) Liquor license; 291 Main St, Chris McGinnis Owner/Manager
- D.** Resolution 01 - Series 2024 A Resolution Approving the Posting Sites

4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Opportunity for amendment or deletions to the agenda.

5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens are invited to comment on any item on the Consent Agenda, or not on the regular Agenda subject to a public hearing. Please limit your comments to five (5) minutes per person unless arrangements have been made for a presentation with the Town Clerk. Those who are speaking are requested to state their name and address for the record.

7. COUNCIL COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

8. STAFF REPORTS

A. Manager's Report

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentations are limited to 5 minutes. Invited presentations are limited to 10 minutes if prior arrangements are made with the Town Clerk.

10. BUSINESS ITEMS

Items and/or Public Hearings listed under Business Items may be old or new and may require review or action by the Council.

A. Resolution 02 - Series 2024 A Resolution Appointing an Interim Council Member

B. Resolution 03 - Series 2024 A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Town of Minturn and Eagle River Fire Protection District to Support Wildland Fire Mitigation

C. Resolution 04 - Series 2024 A Resolution Adopting the Eagle County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

11. DISCUSSION / DIRECTION ITEMS

A. Cross Creek Well Exploration Update

B. Gilman Disconnection

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Future Meeting Agenda Items

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e) -

Potential CWCB Agreement
CW3030 Update

14. ADJOURN

INFORMATIONAL ONLY ITEMS

Upcoming Council Meetings:

--February 7, 2023

--February 21, 2023



AGENDA
Town Council Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 20, 2023 – 5:30pm
Town Hall / Council Chambers - 302 Pine St Minturn, CO

The agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items 24 hours in advance or the deletion of items at any time. The order of agenda items listed are approximate.
This agenda and meetings can be viewed at www.minturn.org.

MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

This will be an in-person meeting with access for the public to attend in person or via the Zoom link included. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84968214440>

Zoom Call-In Information: 1 651 372 8299 or 1 301 715 8592 **Webinar ID:** 849 6821 4440

Please note: All virtual participants are muted. In order to be called upon an unmuted, you will need to use the “raise hand” feature in the Zoom platform. When it’s your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute your line and you will have five (5) minutes for public comment.

Public Comments: If you are unable to attend, public comments regarding any items on the agenda can be submitted to Jay Brunvand, Town Clerk, prior to the meeting and will be included as part of the record.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Earle B. called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

2. ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present included: Mayor Earle Bidez, Mayor Pro Tem Terry Armistead, Town Council members, Lynn Feiger, Gusty Kanakis, Brian Rodine, and Kate Schifani. Note: Tom Sullivan has resigned from the Council and his seat is vacant.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items are routine Town business, items that have received clear direction previously from the council, final land-use file documents after the public hearing has been closed, or which do not require council deliberation.

A. 12-06-2023 Minutes

Motion by Gusty K., second by Terry A., to approve the Consent Agenda of December 20, 2023 as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Opportunity for amendment or deletions to the agenda.

Motion by Kate S., second by Brian R., to approve the Agenda of December 20, 2023 as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens are invited to comment on any item on the Consent Agenda, or not on the regular Agenda subject to a public hearing. Please limit your comments to five (5) minutes per person unless arrangements have been made for a presentation with the Town Clerk. Those who are speaking are requested to state their name and address for the record.

7. COUNCIL COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gusty K. updated on a water meeting he attended.

Kate S. updated the Colorado River Water District announced an agreement to buy the Xcel Energy water rights of the Shoshone Hydro plant.

Terry A. updated on Colorado Wildlife Round Table updated on critical wildlife areas and noted one of the areas of emphasis is the Dowd Jct area. She noted that five wolves were released in Colorado with five more to be released soon.

8. STAFF REPORTS

A. Manager's Report

Bulb-Outs on Main Street Intersections

As a reminder, CDOT denied Minturn’s request for temporary bulb-outs at Minturn’s four main intersections along Main Street. These bulb outs would provide increased line of sight and improve safety at these intersections extensively. Although CDOT was not supportive of the temporary option, they did indicate they would support permanent bulb-out options. I am now interested in understanding Council’s interest in exploring permanent bulb-out options. If Council is interested, I will request Jeff Spanel to provide an engineer’s opinion of probable cost.

Snow Plowing Operations

As a reminder, only residents are approved to push snow into the Not-A-Park snow dump area for free. If snowplow contractors want to push snow into that area, they need to have the property owner sign up with the town and pay the fee. There has been some confusion with contractors thinking they can also push snow into this area and that is not how the Ordinance was approved.

Minturn Tank Operations

Tank #3 is now online and operational. I will be discussing tank loan options with the State Revolving Loan Fund representative to determine if leftover loan funds can be used to facilitate the functioning of the two tanks interchangeably. If funds can be used to improve the functioning of the system, Minturn may want to install a valve box on HWY 24. I will have more information after discussing this option with the SRF representative.

USGS Gauge on Cross Creek

Minturn currently pays for the USGS gauge on Cross Creek. This comes at an annual cost of around \$16,000. This is a federal program and I have reached out to USGS to understand why Minturn incurs this cost. Unless there is a specific reason in one of Minturn’s water rights decrees I expect Minturn to drop this expense. The CWCB and Division 5 Engineer use this gauge to make the instream flow call on Cross Creek. I expect if they wish to continue making the instream flow call on Cross Creek, they will support the federal government in maintaining the costs of the gauge.

Michelle M. verbally updated on:

- The packet includes Bulb-outs on Main St – Council was interested in pursuing permanent bulb-outs.
- Main St revitalization – Minturn North project includes a sidewalk, but we need to extend it down to North Main using the Minturn North. The grant is in the amount of \$275,000 to begin this spring and engineering is already underway.
- Michelle is going to the front range on January 19 to present to the Dept of Natural Resources for improvements to Little Beach Park
- CAST meeting January 24-25 in Crested Butte
- Phase II of the sidewalk project to begin in 2025 – we only have enough money to do one side of the road to the Boneyard Park. It is recommended that we do the river side of the road and do the west side as far as money will allow which is not all the way to the Boneyard. Council directed as presented.
- She noted she is taking next week off.

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentations are limited to 5 minutes. Invited presentations are limited to 10 minutes if prior arrangements are made with the Town Clerk.

10. BUSINESS ITEMS

Items and/or Public Hearings listed under Business Items may be old or new and may require review or action by the Council.

A. Ordinance 24 - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Increasing Council Pay

As requested by the Council, this ordinance sets the pay for Council and Mayor when such is requested to be adjusted. The Council/Mayor pay schedule has not been adjusted since 2008. This structure will go into effect for seats elected during the 4/2/24 election and thereafter. As each seat stands for election it will be increased to this structure. No changes have been made since First Reading.

Earle B. outlined the amount of time required to sit on Council and that this increase is in line with the previous discussions held by Council.

Public Hearing Opened
No Public Comment
Public Hearing Closed

Motion by Terry A., second by Kate S., to approve Ordinance No. 24 – series 2023 (Second Reading) an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Minturn Municipal Code by repealing and re-enacting section 2-2-30 establishing and providing compensation for the Town Council and the Mayor of the Town of Minturn, Colorado as presented. Motion passed 6-0

B. Ordinance 25 - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Amending Short Term Rental Fees

This Ordinance modifies the STR fee from \$300 annually to \$300 annually per sleeping area. No changes have been made since First Reading.

Public Hearing Opened
No Public Comment
Public Hearing Closed

Motion by Kate S., second by Gusty K., to approve Ordinance 25 – Series 2023 (Second Reading) as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

C. Ordinance 26 - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Amending the Fees for Minturn Municipal Court

This Ordinance changes the court fees from \$15 to \$25 plus 25%. No changes have been made from First Reading

Public Hearing Opened
No Public Comment
Public Hearing Closed

Motion by Gusty K., second by Lynn F., to approve Ordinance 26 - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Amending the Fees for Minturn Municipal Court as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

D. Ordinance 27 - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Amending the Approval Process for Special Event Fees

This Ordinance changes the court fees from \$15 to \$25 plus 25%. There have been no changes from First Reading.

Public Hearing Opened
No Public Comment
Public Hearing Closed

Motion by Kate S., second by Lynn F., to approve Ordinance 26 - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Amending the Fees for Minturn Municipal Court as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

E. Ordinance 28 - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Amending the Approval Process for Contractor Licensing Fee and Period

This Ordinance changes the Contractor Licensing fee from \$240 every three years, to \$100 annually. There have been no changes from First Reading.

Public Hearing Opened
No Public Comment
Public Hearing Closed

Motion by Gusty K., second by Kate S., to approve Ordinance 28 - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Amending the Approval Process for Contractor Licensing Fee and Period as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

F. Resolution 34 - Series 2023 A Resolution Adopting the Eagle County Emergency Operations Plan

Eagle County in cooperation with Eagle County towns, municipalities, and special districts has developed a county wide emergency operations plan and evacuation plan. The ECEOP is an all-disciplined, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of domestic incidents. It provides the structure and mechanisms for the coordination of local support as well as coordination with state and federal agencies. These combined plans are considered effective for two years upon adoption. Once adopted, this Emergency Operations Plan will be distributed to all public safety agencies and state, federal, and local governments that operate within Eagle County. The EOP will also be available to the public and area agencies responsible for developing and maintaining up-to-date internal standard operating procedures, training and exercise plans in order to support the overall Emergency Operations Plan.

Michelle M. introduced representatives from Eagle County and Eagle County Sheriff’s Office.

Earle B. asked who knocks on the doors to ensure everyone is informed. Sargent stated education is a major portion of this plan as well as full enrollment in the EC Alert program. Michelle M. also noted information is being added to the Newsletter and the website.

Discussion ensued as to specific events, impacts, bottlenecks, and information dissemination as well as the need to ensure everyone is registered with the EC Alert program. It was pointed out the importance of pre-planning and preparation, these are the first steps.

Motion by Gusty K., second by Kate S., to approve Resolution 34 – Series 2023 a Resolution adopting the Eagle County Emergency Operations Plan as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

G. Resolution 35 - Series 2023 A Resolution Approving an Update to the Jester Gibson Moore Retention Agreement for Legal Counsel

Minturn needs temporary legal support. Mike Sawyer and I have connected with Rob Marsh of Jester, Gibson Moore and believe he is positioned well to fill some gaps in the current ability of Karp Neu Hanlon to address Minturn’s legal needs. Rob Marsh has served municipalities in a variety of different capacities. Mike and I believe Rob will work well with the Minturn team to fill the needed gaps.

Lynn F. noted for the record she is no longer Of Council for Jester Gibson and Moore.

Motion by Terry A., second by Gusty K., to approve Resolution 35 – Series 2023 a Resolution to approve an update to the Jester Gibson Moore Retention Agreement for Legal Counsel as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

11. DISCUSSION / DIRECTION ITEMS

A. Metro District Code Provisions Review – Sawyer

Mike S. presented the need to establish parameters to draft code provisions to allow Metro Districts when appropriate. Over the last few years, the Town of Minturn has been approached by developers requesting the formation of metropolitan districts as part of land use approvals. At those times, the Town has engaged in ad hoc discussions about the virtues of metropolitan districts and the risks they can create. This discussion is intended to provide information about how metropolitan districts can constructively be used to accomplish town goals in a manner that does not create risks for future homeowners and that maintains consistency in Town governance. This discussion particularly relates to land use approvals that Battle Mountain will be submitting for development of the Maloit Park area.

The most common form of district that is governed separately from the municipality is a “metropolitan district.” A metropolitan district is often referred to as a Title 32 district referring to the provisions of Colorado law that govern such districts. A metropolitan district is a mini government governed by an elected (or appointed under certain circumstances) board of directors.

Metropolitan districts can provide a broad range of governmental services including: fire protection, mosquito control, parks and recreation, safety protection, sanitation, solid waste disposal facilities or collection and transportation of solid waste, street improvement, television relay and translation, transportation, and water. C.R.S. § 32-1-103. Metropolitan districts can impose property taxes to provide revenue to provide services and to pay off debt. For a metropolitan district to be formed within a municipality, the Town Council must give its consent. C.R.S. § 32-1-204.5 This is done by the Council approving a “service plan” for the metropolitan district. The service plan details what infrastructure the district can construct, what services it can provide, what taxes it can impose and what debt it can issue. Once created, the metropolitan district is governed by an elected board. The actions of the elected metropolitan district board are constrained by the service plan approved by the municipality. In other words, if the approved service plan limits a metropolitan district from providing a certain service, or imposing a property tax above a certain level, the metropolitan district cannot undertake such actions without obtaining the municipality’s approval. He noted that Battle Mtn development is an example of some of the needs that could be covered under a Metro Dist such as a water plant and associated infrastructure, private roads, and the like.

Earle B. felt several items that Mike S. expressed mirror his concerns. He desired any Metro to support the goal of attainable housing.

Terry A. expressed that Battle Mtn owners would most likely be non-fulltime-resident and asked how effective or limiting this might be. She expressed concern that one or more Metro Dist might dilute the EPA and current owner’s responsibilities. Terry A. asked what authority the town might have over a Metro Dist. Mike S. said the district would be able to operate under the approved service plan until they come into the town to request a change to that service plan and then only if that change is granted.

Lynn F. felt this would enable us to allow a district but not require us to HAVE a district. Mike S. noted we could consider a District without having a model service plan ordinance in place. She felt the need to not subdivide the community.

Brian R. agreed a Metro can serve specific services but was concerned with duplication of town efforts and intents within the development and how it fits within the town.

Gusty K. was concerned with multiple districts within the same development which would require multiple boards. Often the Town has difficulty getting candidates willing to serve.

Mr. Tim McGuire, Battle Mtn representative, clarified some of the concerns addressed and how the responsibility currently distributed liability with the EPA and current responsibility. He noted to be on a Metro Dist board within the state you must be a resident of Colorado, you can be a second homeowner but must be a state resident in your primary home.

Mr. William Ankele was on zoom, Battle Mtn Attorney, spoke of his Metro District experience. He stated you handle the metro district’s needs and costs through mill levy caps for operations and debt. It was noted that each metro district is its own entity and managed by its own board and they can be similar but separate.

Earle B. would like to see mill levy and funding caps, maintaining the town, not several enclaves, and mechanisms in place that when conflict does arise, how it can be managed.

Mike S. recommended, and Council directed, staff work to bring forward a model service plan for a future meeting discussion in late January or February.

B. Council Seat Vacancy

Earle B. noted Tom Sullivan has resigned from the Council.

Michelle M. noted we could advertise asap and then appoint on 1/17/24.

Council directed to proceed as recommended by Michelle M.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Future Agenda Items

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Environmental Matters Related to the Diligence of the Battle Settlement Agreement - Polly Jessen

Motion by Terry A., second by Kate S., to convene in Executive Session for a conference with the town attorney for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e). Motion passed 6-0.

- Battle Mountain Settlement Agreement related to properties that the town may acquire an interest in
- About contaminated lands and long-term ownership and maintenance there of

14. ADJOURN

Motion by Kate S., second by Gusty K., to adjourn the meeting at 10:24pm.

Earle Bidez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jay Brunvand, Town Clerk

INFORMATIONAL ONLY ITEMS

Upcoming Council Meetings:

- December 25, 2023 - Town Hall Closed (Christmas Day)
- January 1, 2023 - Town Hall Closed (New Year's Day)
- January 3, 2023
- January 15, 2023 - Town Hall Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- January 17, 2023



To: Mayor and Council
From: Jay Brunvand
Date: January 17, 2024
Agenda Item: Annual renewal for a Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License

REQUEST:

Staff is requesting Council to review and approve the attached annual renewal of a Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License for 542 Main St, dba Sunrise located at 132 Main St.

INTRODUCTION:

This establishment has an existing H&R License and this is the annual renewal

ANALYSIS:

Not Applicable

COMMUNITY INPUT:

Not Applicable

BUDGET / STAFF IMPACT:

The applicant has submitted the required fee of \$125.00.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

In accordance with Strategy #4 the Town will advance decisions/projects/initiatives that expand future opportunity and viability for Minturn. Both as an employer and a sales tax contributor these businesses each help further Minturn.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION:

This item is approved on the Consent Agenda, no separate motion is required.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Application and supporting documentation for the license renewal.

Submit to Local Licensing Authority

**SUNRISE
 PO BOX 1285
 Minturn CO 81645**

Fees Due		
Renewal Fee		625.00
Storage Permit	\$100 X _____	\$
Sidewalk Service Area	\$75.00	\$
Additional Optional Premise Hotel & Restaurant	\$100 X _____	\$
Related Facility - Campus Liquor Complex	\$160.00 per facility	\$
Amount Due/Paid		\$ 635.00

Make check payable to: Colorado Department of Revenue. The State may convert your check to a one-time electronic banking transaction. Your bank account may be debited as early as the same day received by the State. If converted, your check will not be returned. If your check is rejected due to insufficient or uncollected funds, the Department may collect the payment amount directly from your banking account electronically.

Colorado Beer and Wine License Renewal Application

Please verify & update all information below

Return to city or county licensing authority by due date

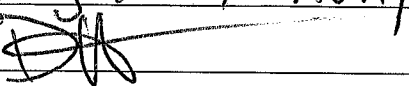
Licensee Name 542 MAIN STREET LLC		Doing Business As Name (DBA) SUNRISE	
Liquor License # 03-09182	License Type Hotel & Restaurant (city)		
Sales Tax License Number 35294481	Expiration Date 02/13/2024	Due Date 12/30/2023	
Business Address 132 MAIN STREET Minturn CO 81645			Phone Number 9708275353
Mailing Address PO BOX 1285 Minturn CO 81645		Email	
Operating Manager	Date of Birth	Home Address	Phone Number
1. Do you have legal possession of the premises at the street address above? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Are the premises owned or rented? <input type="checkbox"/> Owned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rented* *If rented, expiration date of lease <u>10/2028</u>			
2. Are you renewing a storage permit, additional optional premises, sidewalk service area, or related facility? If yes, please see the table in upper right hand corner and include all fees due. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
3a. Are you renewing a takeout and/or delivery permit? (Note: must hold a qualifying license type and be authorized for takeout and/or delivery license privileges) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
3b. If so, which are you renewing? <input type="checkbox"/> Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Takeout <input type="checkbox"/> Both Takeout and Delivery			
4a. Since the date of filing of the last application, has the applicant, including its manager, partners, officer, directors, stockholders, members (LLC), managing members (LLC), or any other person with a 10% or greater financial interest in the applicant, been found in final order of a tax agency to be delinquent in the payment of any state or local taxes, penalties, or interest related to a business? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
4b. Since the date of filing of the last application, has the applicant, including its manager, partners, officer, directors, stockholders, members (LLC), managing members (LLC), or any other person with a 10% or greater financial interest in the applicant failed to pay any fees or surcharges imposed pursuant to section 44-3-503, C.R.S.? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
5. Since the date of filing of the last application, has there been any change in financial interest (new notes, loans, owners, etc.) or organizational structure (addition or deletion of officers, directors, managing members or general partners)? If yes, explain in detail and attach a listing of all liquor businesses in which these new lenders, owners (other than licensed financial institutions), officers, directors, managing members, or general partners are materially interested. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
6. Since the date of filing of the last application, has the applicant or any of its agents, owners, managers, partners or lenders (other than licensed financial institutions) been convicted of a crime? If yes, attach a detailed explanation. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

7. Since the date of filing of the last application, has the applicant or any of its agents, owners, managers, partners or lenders (other than licensed financial institutions) been denied an alcohol beverage license, had an alcohol beverage license suspended or revoked, or had interest in any entity that had an alcohol beverage license denied, suspended or revoked? If yes, attach a detailed explanation. Yes No

8. Does the applicant or any of its agents, owners, managers, partners or lenders (other than licensed financial institutions) have a direct or indirect interest in any other Colorado liquor license, including loans to or from any licensee or interest in a loan to any licensee? If yes, attach a detailed explanation. Yes No

Affirmation & Consent

I declare under penalty of perjury in the second degree that this application and all attachments are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Type or Print Name of Applicant/Authorized Agent of Business	Title
Douglas McAuliffe	owner
Signature	Date
	12/23/23

Report & Approval of City or County Licensing Authority

The foregoing application has been examined and the premises, business conducted and character of the applicant are satisfactory, and we do hereby report that such license, if granted, will comply with the provisions of Title 44, Articles 4 and 3, C.R.S., and Liquor Rules.

Therefore this application is approved.

Local Licensing Authority For	Date
Signature	Title
	Attest



To: Mayor and Council
From: Jay Brunvand
Date: January 17, 2024

Agenda Item: Annual renewal of Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License

REQUEST:
Staff is requesting Council to review and approve the attached annual renewal of a Beer and Wine Liquor License for the Rocky Mountain Taco llc located at 291 Main St.

INTRODUCTION:
This establishment has an existing B&W License and this is the annual renewal.

ANALYSIS:
Not Applicable

COMMUNITY INPUT:
Not Applicable

BUDGET / STAFF IMPACT:
The applicant has submitted the required fee of \$125.00.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:
In accordance with Strategy #4 the Town will advance decisions/projects/initiatives that expand future opportunity and viability for Minturn. Both as an employer and a sales tax contributor these businesses each help further Minturn.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION:
This item is approved on the Consent Agenda, no separate motion is required.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Application and supporting documentation for the license renewal.

Submit to Local Licensing Authority

ROCKY MOUNTAIN TACOS LLC
PO BOX 1402
Minturn CO 81645

Fees Due		
Renewal Fee		476.25
Storage Permit	\$100 X _____	\$
Sidewalk Service Area	\$75.00	\$
Additional Optional Premise Hotel & Restaurant	\$100 X _____	\$
Related Facility - Campus Liquor Complex	\$160.00 per facility	\$
Amount Due/Paid		\$ 476.25

Make check payable to: Colorado Department of Revenue. The State may convert your check to a one-time electronic banking transaction. Your bank account may be debited as early as the same day received by the State. If converted, your check will not be returned. If your check is rejected due to insufficient or uncollected funds, the Department may collect the payment amount directly from your banking account electronically.

Colorado Beer and Wine License Renewal Application


Please verify & update all information below

Return to city or county licensing authority by due date

Licensee Name ROCKY MOUNTAIN TACOS LLC		Doing Business As Name (DBA) ROCKY MOUNTAIN TACOS LLC	
Liquor License # 03-13037	License Type Beer & Wine (city)		
Sales Tax License Number 30860025	Expiration Date 02/24/2024	Due Date 01/10/2024	
Business Address 291 MAIN STREET Minturn CO 81645			Phone Number 9704014443
Mailing Address PO BOX 1402 Minturn CO 81645		Email Rockymountaintacos@gmail.com	
Operating Manager Chris McGinnis	Date of Birth 7/9/81	Home Address 341 Main Street unit A minturn Co 81645	Phone Number 970-401-4443
1. Do you have legal possession of the premises at the street address above? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Are the premises owned or rented? <input type="checkbox"/> Owned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rented* *If rented, expiration date of lease 3/1/25			
2. Are you renewing a storage permit, additional optional premises, sidewalk service area, or related facility? If yes, please see the table in upper right hand corner and include all fees due. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
3a. Are you renewing a takeout and/or delivery permit? (Note: must hold a qualifying license type and be authorized for takeout and/or delivery license privileges) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
3b. If so, which are you renewing? <input type="checkbox"/> Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Takeout <input type="checkbox"/> Both Takeout and Delivery			
4a. Since the date of filing of the last application, has the applicant, including its manager, partners, officer, directors, stockholders, members (LLC), managing members (LLC), or any other person with a 10% or greater financial interest in the applicant, been found in final order of a tax agency to be delinquent in the payment of any state or local taxes, penalties, or interest related to a business? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
4b. Since the date of filing of the last application, has the applicant, including its manager, partners, officer, directors, stockholders, members (LLC), managing members (LLC), or any other person with a 10% or greater financial interest in the applicant failed to pay any fees or surcharges imposed pursuant to section 44-3-503, C.R.S.? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
5. Since the date of filing of the last application, has there been any change in financial interest (new notes, loans, owners, etc.) or organizational structure (addition or deletion of officers, directors, managing members or general partners)? If yes, explain in detail and attach a listing of all liquor businesses in which these new lenders, owners (other than licensed financial institutions), officers, directors, managing members, or general partners are materially interested. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
6. Since the date of filing of the last application, has the applicant or any of its agents, owners, managers, partners or lenders (other than licensed financial institutions) been convicted of a crime? If yes, attach a detailed explanation. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

7. Since the date of filing of the last application, has the applicant or any of its agents, owners, managers, partners or lenders (other than licensed financial institutions) been denied an alcohol beverage license, had an alcohol beverage license suspended or revoked, or had interest in any entity that had an alcohol beverage license denied, suspended or revoked? If yes, attach a detailed explanation. Yes No

8. Does the applicant or any of its agents, owners, managers, partners or lenders (other than licensed financial institutions) have a direct or indirect interest in any other Colorado liquor license, including loans to or from any licensee or interest in a loan to any licensee? If yes, attach a detailed explanation. Yes No

Affirmation & Consent I declare under penalty of perjury in the second degree that this application and all attachments are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.		
Type or Print Name of Applicant/Authorized Agent of Business	Title	
<i>Chris McGinnis</i>	<i>owner</i>	
Signature	Date	
	<i>12/26/23</i>	
Report & Approval of City or County Licensing Authority The foregoing application has been examined and the premises, business conducted and character of the applicant are satisfactory, and we do hereby report that such license, if granted, will comply with the provisions of Title 44, Articles 4 and 3, C.R.S., and Liquor Rules. Therefore this application is approved.		
Local Licensing Authority For		Date
Signature	Title	Attest



To: Mayor and Council
From: Jay Brunvand
Date: January 17, 2024
Agenda Item: Resolution 01 – Series 2024 Set Posting Sites

REQUEST:
Council is asked to approve Resolution 01 – Series 2023.

INTRODUCTION:
This is an annual Resolution setting the posting sites for the community meeting public notices.

ANALYSIS:
This Resolution sets the public posting sites for official town meetings as required and as set forth in the Minturn Charter Section 4.8. Our Charter requires a minimum 24 hours’ notice unless an emergency. This stipulation follows all state open meeting’s laws and regulations.

COMMUNITY INPUT:
N/A

BUDGET / STAFF IMPACT:
N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:
In accordance with Strategy #1 to practice fair, transparent, and communicative local government.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION:
This Resolution is included in the Consent Agenda and does not require a separate motion.

ATTACHMENTS:
• Resolution 01 – Series 2024

TOWN OF MINTURN

RESOLUTION NO. 01 – SERIES 2024

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING TWO PUBLIC PLACES WITHIN THE TOWN OF MINTURN AND THE TOWN WEBSITE FOR THE POSTING OF PUBLIC NOTICES AND NOTICE FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE MINTURN TOWN COUNCIL, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, AND OTHER BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND AUTHORITIES OF THE TOWN OF MINTURN.

WHEREAS, the Town of Minturn is a Home Rule Municipality under the Colorado Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Minturn Charter – Section 4.8 requires notices of public meetings be posted at two (2) public places and the Town website at least 24-hours prior thereto, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Minturn now wishes to designate two public places within its boundaries for posting of such full and timely notice to the public for public notices and notices for public meetings of the Minturn Town Council, Planning Commission, and other Boards, Commissions, and authorities of the Town of Minturn;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MINTURN, COLORADO THAT:

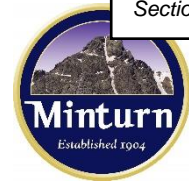
- 1) The Town Council hereby designates the following as the public places for the posting of full and timely notice to the public as provided for in the Minturn Town Charter:
 - The bulletin board on the outside of the Town Center at 302 Pine St.
 - The bulletin board outside of the Town Center at 301 Boulder St.
 - The official Town website
- 2) This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

INTRODUCED, READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of January 2024.

EARLE BIDEZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JAY BRUNVAND, TOWN CLERK



To: Minturn Town Council
From: Michelle Metteer
Date: January 17, 2024
RE: Town Manager Update

Water Treatment Facility Security Fence

A security fence will be installed at the Minturn water treatment facility this spring summer. The fence will border the eastern property line of the town and travel up the slopeside on the east side of the property only. CPW and CDPE required this design for wildlife movement to/from Cross Creek while still keeping out any vehicular traffic and pedestrians coming from the east.

Downtown Development Authority

With Jim Mann, municipal financial advisor, back on board, Minturn is moving forward again with our analysis of the Downtown Development Authority. One new factor for property valuations will be the recently adopted Historic Preservation Ordinance and how that seems to be affecting property values. This will impact the amount of funds a DDA could potentially secure, so Jim Madd will be adding this to his analysis. We hope to have a report in the coming months.

Minturn Tank Operations

Update – Jarod Limke, Jeff Spanel, Jim Mann, and I had a productive conversation with Sean Oliver, State Revolving Fund representative. Sean indicated Minturn CAN use the remaining funds from the concrete tank loan to install a PRV vault which would allow Minturn to efficiently operate both the steel bolted tank and the new concrete tank at maximum capacity. Minturn is now looking into the viability and costs associated for the rehabilitation of the steel-bolted tank. This route may also prove more cost-effective than installing a service line to the Median property for a separate project. More to come.

12/20/2023 update - Tank #3 is now online and operational. I will be discussing tank loan options with the State Revolving Loan Fund representative to determine if leftover loan funds can be used to facilitate the functioning of the two tanks interchangeably. If funds can be used to improve the functioning of the system, Minturn may want to install a valve box on HWY 24. I will have more information after discussing this option with the SRF representative.

USGS Gauge on Cross Creek

Update – I had a productive discussion with Steve Anders, USGS program manager. Steve provided a little more history regarding the stream gauge and has supplied the contact information for the CWCB representative I can reach out to for discussing cost share options. I expect the CWCB may be interested in supporting this gauge financially.

12/20/2023 update - Minturn currently pays for the USGS gauge on Cross Creek. This comes at an annual cost of around \$16,000. This is a federal program and I have reached out to USGS to understand why Minturn incurs this cost. Unless there is a specific reason in one of Minturn’s water rights decrees, I expect Minturn to drop this expense. The CWCB and Division 5 Engineer use this gauge to make the instream flow call on Cross Creek. I expect if they wish to continue making the instream flow call on Cross Creek, they will support the federal government in maintaining the costs of the gauge.



TOWN OF MINTURN
P.O. Box 309 (302 Pine Street)
Minturn, Colorado 81645-0309
970-827-5645 Fax: 970-827-5545
treasurer@minturn.org

**FROM THE DESK OF
JAY BRUNVAND, CLERK/TREASURER**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michelle Metteer, Town Manager
Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Jay Brunvand, Treasurer/Clerk
CC:
DATE: January 17, 2024
RE: Discussion regarding Council Appointment

Summary:

Section 4.6 of the Town Charter requires “the remaining Council Members shall choose by majority vote, within thirty (30) days after such a vacancy occurs, a duly qualified person to fill the unexpired term so vacant.”

Background:

On December 12, 2023 the Town received a resignation from Council Member Tom Sullivan effective immediately. On direction given at the 12/20/23 Council Meeting, Staff has proceeded in the advertisement opening and solicitation of applicants.

- 1) The position and qualifications were posted in the Public Posting boxes.
- 2) This same posting was added to the Town Website.
- 3) An advertisement was placed in the Vail Daily for the position. The ad refers interested citizens to the website or the Town Clerk for further information.
- 4) The notice was email blasted several times too.
- 5) The deadline for Letters of Interest are due in the Clerk’s Office by end of business on January 11, 2024.
- 6) Council would then appoint based on the received Letters of Interest on January 17.
- 7) The appointment would be effective through the April 2024 election and, upon candidacy, could be included in the April election.

At tonight’s Council Meeting you will consider appointment of the Council Seat. Currently the Council stands at six members in order to appoint a candidate to the vacant seat you will need four votes minimum.

Note: Following is a recommended sequence of events for the Mayor to follow in order to appoint the vacant Council seat.

- 1) Business Items
 - a. Discuss and Interview applicants
 - i. The Mayor will announce the Letters of Interest received.
 - ii. Qualified Letters of Interest received by the deadline date of 1/11/24:
 - 1. Eric Gotthelf: 541 Main St

2) Below is the standard procedure Council has traditionally followed for appointing interim council members:

- i. Each nominee will be allowed time to speak from the podium.
 1. They will each have a few minutes to introduce themselves and express their desire and qualifications.
 2. The Council will have time to ask interview questions.

Note: as of packet publication we only have one Letter of Interest. In this event, Council may verify there are no further questions, skip balloting, and move directly to the Resolution appointing the applicant.

- ii. Once all nominees have been interviewed, Council will use prepared ballots to vote for the seat.
 1. The ballots are not secret, will have your name on them for future reference, and will be numbered in the event multiple ballot votes are necessary.
 2. Ballots will be passed to the Town Clerk who will tally the votes and announce the results.
 - a. The candidate with the highest vote will be awarded the position.
 - b. In the event the first round of voting does not produce a single winning applicant, those applicants in the tie vote will stand for a revote.
 3. The Mayor will announce the voting results after each round and announce the winning applicant as determined.
- b. Resolution 02 – Series 2024
 - i. Based on the winning individual a single nominee or the final vote where one applicant receives a majority of votes, the Mayor will call for a motion to appoint the applicant and their name will be added to the Resolution provided.
- c. Swearing in of appointed applicant
 - i. Once the Resolution is approved, the Mayor will swear in the newly appointed Council Member with the following:

Nominee will raise their right hand.

I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States, the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado, and the Ordinances of the Town of Minturn, and that I will faithfully perform all the duties of the office of Minturn Town Council Member, upon which I am about to enter.

- 1) The newly seated Council Member will immediately assume their seat at the Council Table.

**TOWN OF MINTURN, COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. 02 – SERIES 2024**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TOWN COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, The Minturn Town Council has received a resignation from the Town Council and desires to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minturn Town Charter Section 4.6, the remaining Council Members shall choose by majority vote appointments to fill the vacancies.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MINTURN, COLORADO THAT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL IS HEREBY APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBER AS INDICATED:

NAME	TERM
_____	January 17, 2024 – Election Day April 2024

INTRODUCED, READ, APPROVED, ADOPTED AND RESOLVED this 17th day of January, 2024.

TOWN OF MINTURN

By: _____
Earle Bidez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jay Brunvand, Town Clerk

Jay Brunvand

From: Eric Gotthelf <egotthelf@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 31, 2023 11:42 AM
To: Jay Brunvand
Subject: Letter of Interest for The Town of Minturn Town Council
Attachments: Resume-EricGotthelf.pdf

Hello Jay,

Please accept this letter of interest for the vacant position on the Town of Minturn Town Council. I have attached my current resume and am looking forward to the possibility of re-joining Town Council and continuing the work of serving this wonderful community. I am very proud of everything Council was able to accomplish while I was an appointed and then elected member and I appreciate the opportunity to help and serve Minturn in any way I can.

Thank you so much and best regards,
Eric

--
Eric Gotthelf
egotthelf@gmail.com - 970.376.3574

Eric Gotthelf

Vail, Colorado, United States

egotthelf@gmail.com

970-376-3574

linkedin.com/in/egotthelf

Summary

Cancer Survivor!! Currently working with Stratus Information Systems to provide Cisco Cloud Security products to growing businesses in all verticals. Previously lead the Rhino Networks sales team and boasts a demonstrated history of working in the information technology and services industry. Eric was responsible for providing and executing thought leadership and innovation focused on strengthening and improving company wide sales outcomes. Strong sales professional with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) focused in Finance and Marketing from Santa Clara University. Also involved in local community and the Town of Minturn as a Town Council member.

Experience



Regional Sales Director

Stratus Information Systems

Aug 2022 - Present (1 year 5 months)



Vice President of Sales

Rhino Networks

Nov 2019 - Jul 2022 (2 years 9 months)

Council Member

Town of Minturn

Mar 2019 - Apr 2022 (3 years 2 months)



Director Of Sales And Business Development

Rhino Networks

Jul 2018 - Nov 2019 (1 year 5 months)



Regional Sales Manager

Rhino Networks

Nov 2015 - Jul 2018 (2 years 9 months)



Senior Account Manager

Cisco Meraki

Jun 2014 - Nov 2015 (1 year 6 months)



Account Development Representative

Cisco Meraki

May 2013 - Jun 2014 (1 year 2 months)



Broker Associate

Slifer Smith & Frampton Real Estate
Aug 2009 - Mar 2013 (3 years 8 months)



Information Technology - Resident Communications Consultant (RCC)

Santa Clara University
Oct 2006 - Jun 2008 (1 year 9 months)



Guest Services

Vail Resorts
Dec 2006 - Mar 2008 (1 year 4 months)



Internship

Arapaho Asset Management LLC
Jul 2006 - Sep 2006 (3 months)

Education



Santa Clara University

Bachelor of Science (BSc), Finance, Marketing
2004 - 2008

Licenses & Certifications

Certified Negotiation Expert (CNE) - Real Estate Negotiation Institute



CMNA - Cisco Meraki



Wilderness First Aid - University of Colorado

Skills

Sales • Leadership • Account Management • Channel Partner Development • New Business Development • Cloud Managed Networks • Lead Generation • Enterprise Networking • Wireless Networking • Mobile Device Management



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Michelle Metteer, Town Manager
Date: 1/24/2024
Agenda Item: Resolution 35 – Series 2023 / Legal Support

REQUEST:

Approve Resolution 3 Series 202; A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Town of Minturn and Eagle River Fire Protection District to Support Wildland Fire Mitigation

INTRODUCTION:

Minturn has participated in the regional wildland fire mitigation efforts for the last several years. This is an ongoing effort requiring the support of all regional jurisdictions. With area fuels continuing to dry and climate fluctuating, the risks associated with wildland fires remain prevalent. Minturn relies on our local organizations like Eagle River Fire Protection District to lead the effort in addressing these issues and Minturn’s supporting role through financial contributions, community education, and other means, plays a significant part toward the necessary preliminary emergency preparedness steps we can take.

ANALYSIS:

“Eagle River Fire Protection District, by and through Eagle Valley Wildland shall use the Minturn Contribution only for the direct costs to support wildfire mitigation efforts in the Minturn Area, including salary costs for Eagle Valley Wildland staff. Eagle Valley Wildland will take on all contractual needs, management, and oversight of the projects performed in the Minturn Area during calendar year 2024.”
– 2024 IGA

COMMUNITY INPUT: Valued

BUDGET / STAFF IMPACT: \$7500.00

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- PRACTICE FAIR, TRANSPARENT AND COMMUNICATIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.
- LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP OF THE NATURAL BEAUTY AND HEALTH OF MINTURN’S ENVIRONMENT
- SUSTAIN AND INVEST IN THE THINGS THAT DEFINE MINTURN AS A PROUD, STURDY MOUNTAIN TOWN TO “KEEP MINTURN MINTURN”
- ADVANCE DECISIONS/PROJECTS/INITIATIVES THAT EXPAND FUTURE OPPORTUNITY AND VIABILITY FOR MINTURN

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION:

Approve Resolution 35 Series 2023 A Resolution Approving an Update to the Jester Gibson Moore Retention Agreement for Legal Counsel

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 3- Series 2024
- Fire Mitigation IGA

**TOWN OF MINTURN
RESOLUTION NO. 03 – SERIES OF 2024**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MINTURN, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE 2024 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPPORT OF WILDLAND FIRE MITIGATION BY AND BETWEEN THE EAGLE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND THE TOWN OF MINTURN, COLORADO

WHEREAS, the Town of Minturn, in the County of Eagle and State of Colorado (the “Town”), is a home rule municipal corporation duly organized and existing under laws of the State of Colorado (the “State”) and the Town Charter (the “Charter”); and

WHEREAS, the Eagle River Fire Protection District, County of Eagle, in the State of Colorado (the “District”), is a body corporate and politic existing under the laws of the State; and

WHEREAS, the District provides wildland fire mitigation assistance services throughout its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Section 29-1-201 *et seq.*, C.R.S. authorizes intergovernmental agreements between district agencies and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Town, as a member of the District, receives fire mitigation services; and

WHEREAS, the Minturn Town Council finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare for the Town to enter into an agreement with the District to continue its provision of fire and wildfire mitigation services through the District within the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MINTURN AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
- 2. The Mayor or his designee is authorized to sign and execute the 2024 IGA, as attached, on behalf of the Town of Minturn.

INTRODUCED, READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of January, 2024

EARLE BIDEZ, MAYOR

ATTESTS:

JAY BRUNVAND, CLERK

**Intergovernmental Agreement Between
Eagle River Fire Protection District and
The Town of Minturn**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this ___ day of _____, 2024, by and between the Eagle River Fire Protection District (“Fire District”) and Town of Minturn (“Minturn”) (collectively, the “Parties”).

Agreement

Minturn will provide \$7,500.00 (the “Minturn Contribution”) to Eagle River Fire Protection District to support wildland fire mitigation in 2024, as described herein, within and in the areas immediately surrounding Avon’s boundaries (the “Minturn Area”).

Eagle River Fire Protection District, by and through Eagle Valley Wildland¹ shall use the Minturn Contribution only for the direct costs to support wildfire mitigation efforts in the Minturn Area, including salary costs for Eagle Valley Wildland staff. Eagle Valley Wildland will take on all contractual needs, management, and oversight of the projects performed in the Minturn Area during calendar year 2024.

Eagle Valley Wildland will coordinate with Minturn on all project locations, timing, and scope. Eagle Valley Wildland will identify a designated staff contact and provide such information to Minturn no later than January 30, 2024.

On a yearly basis, and at Minturn’s town council meeting, Eagle Valley Wildland will provide Minturn with financial reports and a financial report summary together with a description of the expenditures and uses to-date of the Minturn Contribution and including a description and ongoing and completed projects.

Minturn will pay the Minturn Contribution to Eagle River Fire Protection District on or before February 1, 2024. Eagle River Fire Protection, the fiscal agent for the Eagle Valley Wildland program, will handle all the invoice needs for the ongoing and completed projects. Eagle River Fire Protection District will deliver the Minturn Contribution (or any portion thereof) to Eagle Valley Wildland for expenditure as described herein. If, as of December 31, 2024, any portion of the Minturn Contribution has not been expended, the balance shall be returned to Singletree will a final accounting therefore no later than January 31, 2025.

The parties do not intend hereby to create a multiple-fiscal year direct or indirect debt or other financial obligation whatsoever. The performance of those obligations of Avon and the Fire District hereunder requiring budgeting and appropriation of funds are subject to annual budgeting and appropriations.

Nothing in this Agreement or in any actions taken by the Parties pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver of either party’s sovereign immunity under the Colorado Governmental

¹ Eagle Valley Wildland is a combined effort for wildland support and mitigation between Eagle County, Gypsum Fire Protection District, Greater Eagle Fire Protection District, & Eagle River Fire Protection District.

Immunity Act, Sections 24-10-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S., as amended from time to time. The Parties enter into this Agreement as separate, independent governmental entities and shall maintain such status throughout the term of this Agreement.

This Agreement is intended to benefit only the parties hereto and no other person or entity is intended by the parties to be a third-party beneficiary of this Agreement

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed the day and year first written above.

Eagle River Fire Protection District	The Town of Minturn
By:	By:
Printed Name:	Printed Name:
Signature:	Signature:
Title:	Title:
Date:	Date:



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Michelle Metteer, Town Manager
Date: 1/24/2024
Agenda Item: Resolution 04 – Series 2023; Community Wildfire Protection Plan

REQUEST:

Approve Resolution 04 – Series 2023 A Resolution Adopting the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

INTRODUCTION:

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan serves “as a robust and comprehensive blueprint, thoroughly designed to safeguard our community against the escalating threat of wildfires. Formulated through a collective effort, this plan not only outlines strategic processes but also highlights the unwavering commitment we hold for the well-being of our community. At the heart of the CWPP is a deeply ingrained belief that within our community we possess the capacity to influence the outcomes of future wildfires. This plan, with its overarching theme, underscores the collective strength and resilience of our community. It is not just a response to challenges, but a proactive initiative in shaping our shared future.” – CWPP 2023

ANALYSIS: The purpose and need for a community wildfire protection plan is to:

“...help communities assess local hazards and identify strategic investments to mitigate risk and promote preparedness. Assessments and discussions during the planning process can assist responders with fire operations in the event of a wildfire and help residents prioritize mitigation actions. CWPPs were directed by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA). The legislation established incentives for communities to develop comprehensive wildfire protection plans and directed the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to address local community priorities in fuels reduction treatments on federal and non-federal lands. In compliance with Title 1 of the HFRA, the CWPP requires agreement among local government, local fire departments and the state agency responsible for forest management (the Colorado State Forest Service). The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 (BIL) provides a significant investment of grant funds through 2026 for further development and implementation of CWPPs.” -CWPP 2023

COMMUNITY INPUT: Ongoing

BUDGET / STAFF IMPACT: Minimal

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

**LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP OF THE NATURAL BEAUTY AND HEALTH OF MINTURN’S ENVIRONMENT
SUSTAIN AND INVEST IN THE THINGS THAT DEFINE MINTURN AS A PROUD, STURDY MOUNTAIN TOWN
TO “KEEP MINTURN MINTURN”
ADVANCE DECISIONS/PROJECTS/INITIATIVES THAT EXPAND FUTURE OPPORTUNITY AND VIABILITY FOR
MINTURN**

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION:

Approve Resolution 04 – Series 2023 A Resolution Adopting the Community Wildfire Protection Plan

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 04 – Series 2023
- 2023 Community Wildfire Protection Plan

**TOWN OF MINTURN
RESOLUTION NO. 04 – SERIES OF 2024**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
MINTURN, COLORADO, ADOPTING THE EAGLE COUNTY WILDFIRE
PROTECTION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Town of Minturn, in the County of Eagle and State of Colorado (the “Town”), is a home rule municipal corporation duly organized and existing under laws of the State of Colorado (the “State”) and the Town Charter (the “Charter”); and

WHEREAS, the Eagle River Fire Protection District, County of Eagle, in the State of Colorado (the “District”), is a body corporate and politic existing under the laws of the State; and

WHEREAS, the District has developed a county Wildfire Protection Plan which encompasses the entirety of Eagle County; and

WHEREAS, the Minturn Town Council finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare for the Town to adopt the Eagle County Wildfire Protection Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MINTURN AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
- 2. The Mayor or his designee is authorized to sign any necessary documents to adopt such Wildfire Protection plan on behalf of the Town of Minturn.

INTRODUCED, READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of January, 2024

EARLE BIDEZ, MAYOR

ATTESTS:

JAY BRUNVAND, CLERK



Section 10, Item C.

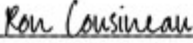

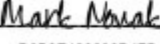
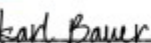
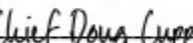
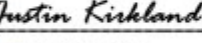
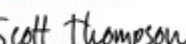

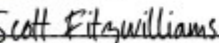
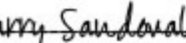
Eagle County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

December, 2023



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The Colorado State Forest Service has reviewed this Community Wildfire Protection Plan, approves its content, and certifies that it meets or exceeds CSFS Community Wildfire Protection Plan minimum standards. The planning group signatories below adopt the following plan.

DocuSigned by:  SDD787CDA09E4E1...	12/14/2023
Ron Cousineau, Colorado State Forest Service	Date
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Birch Barron, Eagle County Emergency Management	Date
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Mark Novak, Vail Fire & Emergency Services	Date
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Karl Bauer, Eagle River Fire Protection District	Date
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Doug Cupp, Greater Eagle Fire Protection District	Date
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Justin Kirkland, Gypsum Fire Protection District	Date
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Scott Thompson, Roaring Fork Fire & Rescue	Date
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Brita Horn, Rock Creek Volunteer Fire Department	Date
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Scott Fitzwilliams, White River National Forest	Date
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Larry Sandoval, BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office	Date

Eagle County comprises 1,700 square miles of primarily mountainous terrain in central Colorado. Geographic constraints coupled with rapid population growth has forced a great deal of new development into the County's wildlands and away from centrally located fire protection services. This pattern of development has substantially increased the probability of catastrophic losses from wildfire across the county.

The risk of severe wildfires in Eagle County poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of its residents. Large scale, high severity wildfires can lead to a host of negative long-term impacts related to the destruction of private property and infrastructure, suppression costs, loss of natural resources, and reductions in water quality. Much has been accomplished in an effort to address wildfire risk in Eagle County over the last decade, but more can be done to unite existing plans and efforts under the umbrella of community fire adaptation.



Photo courtesy of Todd Winslow Pierce.

The 2023 Eagle County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) stands as a robust and comprehensive blueprint, thoroughly designed to safeguard our community against the escalating threat of wildfires. Formulated through a collective effort, this plan not only outlines strategic processes but also highlights the unwavering commitment we hold for the well-being of our community.

At the heart of the CWPP is a deeply ingrained belief that within our community we possess the capacity to influence the outcomes of future wildfires. This plan, with its overarching theme, underscores the collective strength and resilience of our community. It is not just a response to challenges, but a proactive initiative in shaping our shared future.

The plan's strength lies in the collaborative partnerships formed with local organizations, government entities, and the active engagement of our community through public input sessions. This CWPP is a testament to our commitment to resilience, providing a clear roadmap for effective implementation and paving the way for a safer, more secure future. This CWPP is not destined for a shelf, it will actively guide and adapt to evolving circumstances. It is a living document that reflects our ongoing commitment to community safety, and serves as a flexible tool for effective wildfire management.



Photo courtesy of Todd Winslow Pierce.

The success of the CWPP owes much to the dedication and expertise of the core planning team, a group of individuals committed to the safety and prosperity of our community. Special gratitude is extended to:

- Eric Lovgren - Eagle County Emergency Management
- Katie Jenkins - Eagle County Emergency Management
- Marcia Gilles - Eagle County Natural Resources Department
- Paul Cada - Vail Fire and Emergency Services
- Hugh Fairfield-Smith - Eagle Valley Wildland
- Katie Scott - Eagle Valley Wildland
- Ross Wilmore - Eagle Valley Wildland
- Justin Conrad - USDA Forest Service
- Matt Walls - USDA Forest Service
- Chad Sewell - Bureau of Land Management
- Matt Schlitz - Colorado State Forest Service
- Carolina Manriquez - Colorado State Forest Service
- Stacey Todd - Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative

Their collaboration and commitment underscore the importance of proactive measures in wildfire management, ensuring that our community is well-prepared and resilient in the face of potential challenges.

Purpose and Need for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) help communities assess local hazards and identify strategic investments to mitigate risk and promote preparedness. Assessments and discussions during the planning process can assist responders with fire operations in the event of a wildfire and help residents prioritize mitigation actions. CWPPs were directed by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA). The legislation established incentives for communities to develop comprehensive wildfire

protection plans and directed the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to address local community priorities in fuels reduction treatments on federal and non-federal lands. In compliance with Title 1 of the HFRA, the CWPP requires agreement among local government, local fire departments and the state agency responsible for forest management (the Colorado State Forest Service). The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 (BIL) provides a significant investment of grant funds through 2026 for further development and implementation of CWPPs.

Recognition of Past and On-going Work

Wildfires pose the highest risk of catastrophic loss from any hazard to the communities of Eagle County. Recognizing this significant hazard, Eagle County adopted its first CWPP in 2004 and has been working extensively to mitigate potential risks ever since. The wildfire risk is not borne by any one jurisdiction within Eagle County, and therefore the mitigations must be addressed by a large number of organizations at all levels working in a coordinated fashion. Since the adoption of the first CWPP, a coordinated effort of local and county government, federal and state land management agencies, and non-profit organizations have implemented over 38,000 acres of fuels reduction treatments, adopted and strengthened local building and planning codes, implemented innovative public outreach and education programs, and developed redundant and robust emergency response and evacuation plans to ensure safe and effective wildfire response. The Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative was reinvigorated in 2022 in an effort to develop higher levels of coordination between the large number of organizations addressing wildfire risk within the county and to meaningfully address risk at a pace and scale to protect the community and guests of Eagle County. A detailed summary of previously completed wildfire risk reduction activity can be found in **Appendix D-Fuels Treatment History in Eagle County.**



Photo courtesy of Eagle Valley Wildland

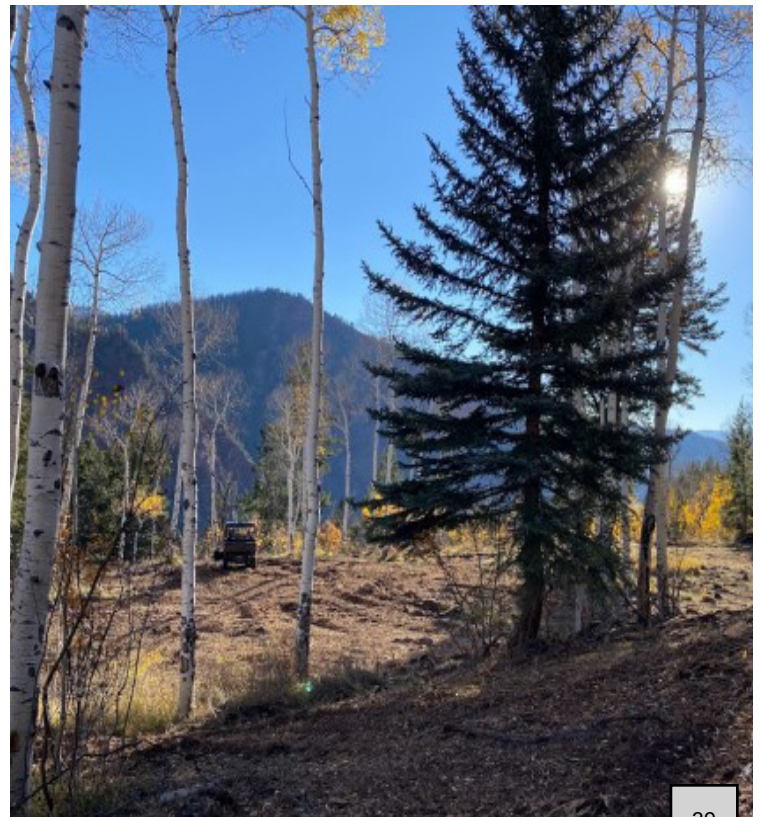


Photo courtesy of Eagle Valley Wildland

Since the adoption of Eagle County’s 2011 CWPP update, there have been many changes to population and development dynamics in Eagle County, the adoption of sub-area CWPPs, the completion of a variety of mitigation projects, and long-term impacts from wildfires themselves.

In addition to the County’s CWPP, six other communities have created CWPPs to prepare for and mitigate wildfire risk. The Cordillera Property Owners Association in Edwards published a CWPP in 2004. Followed by Beaver Creek Resort in 2007, Arrowhead and Bachelor Gulch in 2008, Eagle River Fire Protection District in 2019, and Vail in 2020. Each of these plans serve as an area-specific supplement to the goals of the Eagle County CWPP, and further prepare these communities for the inevitability of a catastrophic wildfire event. It is hoped that over the next few years, the above mentioned CWPPs will be integrated into this plan.

Source Water Protection Plans (SWPP) have also been completed for the Town of Gypsum in 2018, Town of Eagle in 2020, and Eagle River Water & Sanitation in 2022. Source water protection plans include a wide variety of actions and activities aimed at safeguarding, maintaining or improving the quality and/or quantity of sources of drinking water and their contributing areas. Many of those actions have been included in this plan, and remain an integral part of maintaining the quantity and quality of drinking water in Eagle County.

This plan also supplements the wildfire hazards section and is adopted by reference within the 2024 Eagle County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

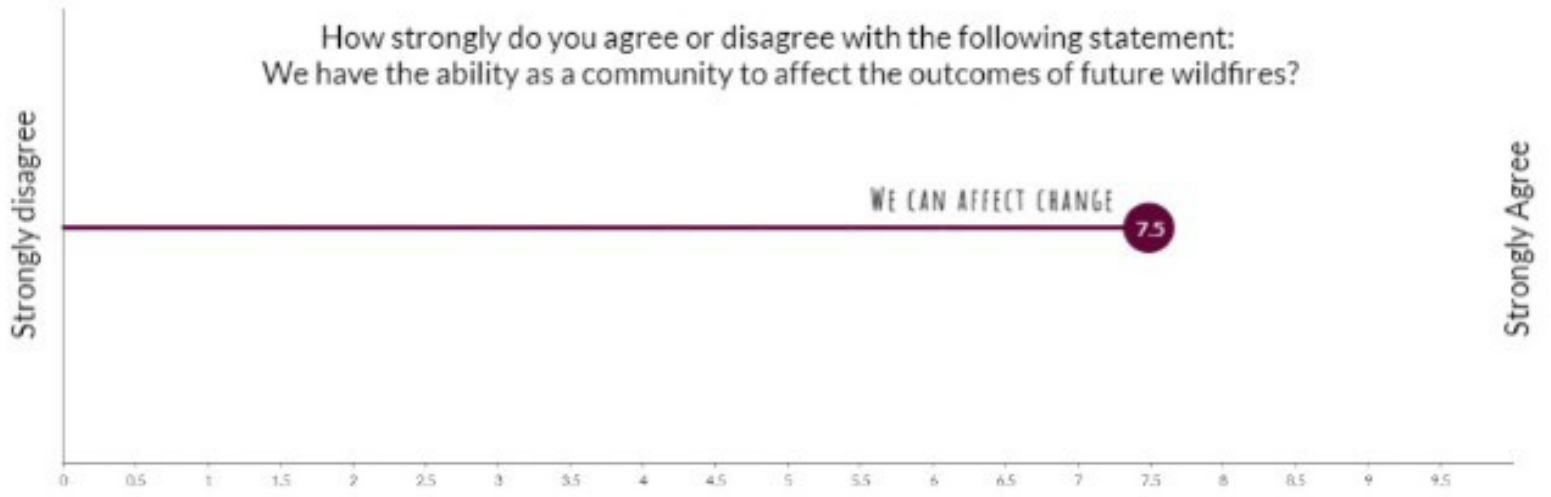
Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Eagle County began the process of updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in 2018 with a group of stakeholders comprising the Eagle County Wildfire Council. The goal was to create a collaborative, community-driven CWPP that identifies wildfire risks and outlines strategies to mitigate those risks. Over the next several years we brought together residents, landowners, state and federal agencies, municipalities/metro districts, fire districts, non-profits, utility providers, conservation groups and others to assess the risks specific to Eagle County, and develop a plan to reduce the potential impact of wildfires. In 2023, stakeholders were formally tasked with providing unique knowledge and perspectives relative to their areas of expertise in order to help identify risks and develop effective mitigation strategies.



Left: Stakeholders were engaged through community meetings and surveys to better understand their perspective on potential wildfire impacts and support for different mitigation actions. They were asked a series of questions to better understand their concerns and values throughout Eagle County. A detailed summary of stakeholder values and contributors to this plan can be found in **Appendix A - Stakeholder Engagement**.

Photo courtesy of Eagle County



The development of the goals set forth in this CWPP was guided by input from dozens of stakeholders representing a wide-ranging set of public, private, academic and non-profit organizations. The high-level nature of the strategies and actions in the plan outline an ongoing journey to improve the resilience of our community, and a proactive investment in reducing wildfire risk in Eagle County. They are intended to motivate and empower local government, communities, and property owners to organize, plan, and take action on issues impacting the safety and resilience of values at risk in the WUI. These strategies and actions should be further developed, implemented, and refined over time in order to facilitate the transfer of practical knowledge through collaboration between stakeholders.

GOAL 1 **Reducing risks to public health and safety posed by wildfire disasters**

As climate change exacerbates the size, intensity, and duration of wildfires, there is the possibility of catastrophic impacts to the health of Eagle County’s residents and visitors. As wildfires can rapidly change the face of a landscape by burning down homes and entire neighborhoods, access to safe evacuation routes and resources to support individuals and families during and after an evacuation is crucial. Poor air quality and a lack of safe and sanitary drinking water due to wildfire can cause serious health concerns in the community and can disproportionately impact vulnerable populations.

GOAL 2 **Reducing structure ignitability and improving community wildfire resilience**

Eagle County is a diverse community of over 55,000 full-time residents and millions of visitors annually. It is also a growing community, with a projected 2040 population of 71,000 people. Just as diverse as the ecosystems of the county, so is the building stock. Eagle County has nearly every type of development from low density rural landscapes, to areas of high density urban development (and everything in between). Additionally, the age of structures ranges widely from historical mining and ranching buildings built in the late 1800s, to modern construction built to the latest building codes. As a desired end goal, every structure within Eagle County will be built and maintained in a condition where it will stand alone without the need for firefighter intervention in the face of a wildfire. If every structure is resistant to wildfire threat, then every community will be as well.

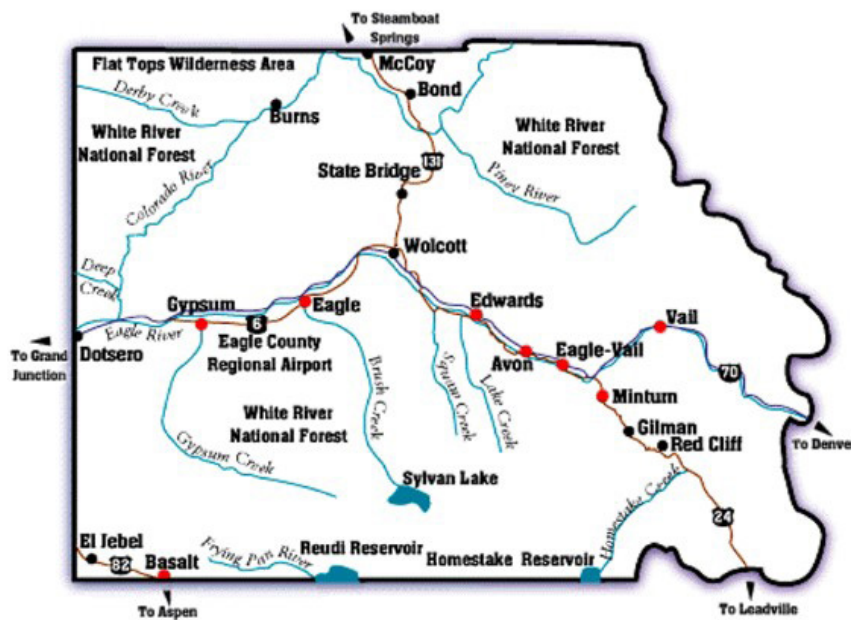
GOAL 3 **Protecting critical infrastructure from negative wildfire impacts**

The critical infrastructure of Eagle County is more than just the roads, resorts, and homes; it also consists of a complex system of transmission lines for energy, water storage and transport infrastructure, and natural systems, such as watersheds and rivers, that the County relies upon for services and community health. As Eagle County continues to grow, the demand on the complex interdependent infrastructure to provide water, electricity, transportation, and recreational and business services will follow suit. In the aftermath of the fire, mud-flow runoff and debris events have occurred in the area, along with elevated risk of future events which pose a direct threat to the stability and vitality of Eagle County.

GOAL 4 **Protecting ecosystems and natural resources by decreasing the probability of landscape scale, high severity wildfire events**

Although wildfire is an essential tool in managing ecosystem health, historically high and continuous fuel loads, increased potential for human ignitions due to recreation, and climate change is exacerbating the size, intensity, and duration of wildfires. High severity wildfires over large areas can have devastating impacts on important habitat and vital ecosystem functions; this includes damaging or destroying sensitive wetland and riparian areas, imperiling threatened and endangered species, encouraging invasive species, and endangering native plant communities. Wildfires can also fragment and reduce habitat, compromising foraging areas and protective cover for prey animals, thereby increasing predator pressures.

Eagle County, located in central Colorado, encompasses more than 1,700 square miles of unique and stunning mountainous terrain, valleys, rivers, and forests. It comprises nine communities that are as unique and diverse as the people who live in them. The communities range from the high elevation mountainous alpine resort areas of Vail and Beaver Creek, to the rangelands of Burns. Eagle County spans from Vail Pass on its eastern boundary, to the entrance of Glenwood Canyon on the western boundary. It encompasses the Camp Hale National Monument, with Tennessee Pass summit on the southern boundary, and extends to the McCoy on the northern boundary.



More than 80% of Eagle County's land is public and includes National Forests, wilderness areas, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properties, and state and local public lands, with approximately 20% private lands.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

The headwaters of the Eagle River are found along with the Colorado River, and a multitude of creeks flow through the County. The Colorado River provides water to communities on the Front Range of Colorado, as well as adjacent states. Eagle County hosts two internationally recognized ski resorts, along with other recreational assets providing 45% of jobs in the county and billions of dollars in revenue each year to the State of Colorado.

Eagle County Quick Facts

- Population: 2020 US
- Census - 55,285
- Number of housing units - 33,902
- Median home value - \$640,000



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

(Right) Vail is home to 5,305 permanent residents, plus another 5,000 part-time residents of vacation properties. Vail enjoys bountiful recreational and cultural opportunities, and also takes pride in a quality of life that provides alpine living at its best. From hiking in the summer to skiing in the winter, there's always something to do in Vail. Visitors and residents alike enjoy the 1,100 acres of open space accounting for 50% of Vail's town-owned land; 350,000 surrounding acres of national forest, crowned by 5,289 skiable acres on one of the largest and best ski mountains in the world; 17 miles of recreation paths; countless special events, the highest botanical gardens in the world and an outdoor amphitheater named for Vail's most famous resident, President Gerald R. Ford.



Photo courtesy of Town of Vail



Photo courtesy of Town of Minturn

(Left) Minturn burst to life during Eagle County's mining boom in the late 1800s and was an essential railroad division point. Located just around the corner from Vail, Minturn is an old and friendly town. A new town center, fire station and other development stand amid historic homes with character and modern amenities. Like Vail, Minturn is surrounded on three sides by White River National Forest, with the Holy Cross Wilderness bordering the southwest side of the town. forcing all development to the Highway 24 corridor. The census of 2020 reported that Minturn had 1,033 people living in 365 households.

(Right) Red Cliff is the oldest town in Eagle County. It was the first County Seat for Summit County, which included the current areas of Summit and Eagle Counties. At 8,650 feet above sea level, Red Cliff boomed at the turn of the century as a mining town with saloons, a bank, sawmills and even an opera house. The town, established in 1879, was mapped and patented in 1883 by the U.S. Government. Today it is a quaint mountain community that continues to attract rugged individualists from business entrepreneurs to outdoor enthusiasts. From Red Cliff, you get close-up views and easy access to the Mount of the Holy Cross and the surrounding White River National Forest. Red Cliff is located off the Colorado Scenic Byway, Highway 24. The census of 2020 reported that Red Cliff had 257 people living in 109 households.



Photo courtesy of Town of Red Cliff

(Right) The Town of **Eagle**, the county seat, is located west of the center of Eagle County in Eagle River valley. The town limits extend southward along the banks of Brush Creek. U.S. Route 6 passes through the center of town, and Interstate 70 passes through the northern side of town. New has risen next to historic in Eagle from the town hall to a large residential development south of town known as Eagle Ranch. The town has an extensive trail system for mountain biking, hiking and trail running. Eagle is the gateway to the Western Slope of Colorado, characterized by semi-arid climatic conditions. The climate of Eagle is characterized by cold winters, hot summers, and relatively little precipitation. The census of 2020 had the population of Eagle as 7,511.



Photo courtesy of Town of Eagle



Photo courtesy of visitvailvalley.com

(Right) The Town of **Avon** continues to revere its ranching and agricultural heritage, while growing its reputation as a commercial hub in the heart of the County. Avon sits at the base of the Beaver Creek Ski Resort and along the banks of the Eagle River. Though most of the residential and commercial development in Avon is on the valley floor, several communities ring the town's upper boundaries. The census of 2020 reported that Avon had 5,561 people living in 1,890 households.

(Left) Edwards is an unincorporated town, and a census-designated place (CDP) located in and governed by Eagle County. Edwards is in the valley of the Eagle River and extends southwards up the valleys of Lake Creek and Colorow Creek, at the north end of the Sawatch Range. It is bordered to the east by the town of Avon. U.S. Route 6 runs through the center of Edwards on the south side of the Eagle River, while Interstate 70 runs through the area north of the river. The Edwards community is truly a locals' community, comprising several neighborhoods where residents focus on family, outdoor recreation and enjoying the amenities that are offered. Undeveloped meadows, hillsides, ridge lines, stream corridors and back-country areas enhance the views and are valued natural attributes. The census of 2020 had the population of the Edwards CDP as 11,246. The Edwards Metropolitan District provides services for this area



Photo courtesy of Colorado.com



Photo courtesy of Town of Gypsum

(Left) The Town of **Gypsum** is situated along the Eagle River and the I-70 corridor. Outdoor activities are very popular including hiking, fishing, camping, biking, skiing, hunting, and off-highway recreation. Gypsum sits at an elevation of 6,300 feet, where a primary economic driver in the region is mining of local gypsum deposits. Residents enjoy affordable family housing in a great mountain valley setting. The census of 2020 had the population of Gypsum as 8,116.

(Right) The Town of **Basalt** is situated in both Eagle and Pitkin counties. Basalt is located along State Highway 82, and at the confluence of the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork rivers. The town was named for the basaltic rock formation on Basalt Mountain, and began as a railroad town. The town was impacted by the 2018 Lake Christine Fire. The town population was 3,984 at the 2020 census with 2,917 residing in Eagle County and 1,067 residing in Pitkin County.

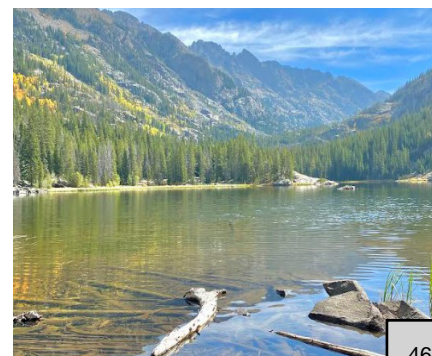


Photo courtesy of Eagle County

Unincorporated Eagle County

El Jebel is a growing residential community near Basalt in the southwestern corner of Eagle County. Its location in the Roaring Fork Valley provides some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. Above El Jebel is a large residential area known as **Missouri Heights**.

Hundreds more Eagle County residents live in the unincorporated areas of **EagleVail, Dotsero, Wolcott** and in Colorado River communities such as **McCoy, State Bridge, Burns** and **Bond**. Small residential enclaves can also be found in the remote historic mining town of **Fulford** and near the Ski Cooper Resort on Tennessee Pass.



Wildland fuels in Eagle County consist of a mix of grasses, sagebrush, gambel oak and pinyon-juniper woodlands in the lower elevations and aspen, lodgepole pine, mountain shrub, alpine meadow, and mixed conifer forests at higher elevations. Site specific fuels are driven both by elevation and aspect. The diversity of ecosystem types in the county is beneficial in creating heterogeneity across the landscape; however, it also is a primary cause of the variety of native forest disturbance experienced in the county over the past 20 years.



Photo credit to Eagle County

Nearly every ecosystem type within the county has been affected by historic, and/or ongoing insect and disease disturbance. Beginning in the early 2000s, a prolonged drought incited an epidemic of sudden aspen decline (SAD) in aspen stands across the county. This was followed by an epidemic of mountain pine beetle (MPB) which lasted from approximately 2007-2015, and affected most of the lodgepole stands in the county. Over the past 20 years, pinyon ips beetles have caused localized but significant impacts within the pinyon-juniper stands. Beginning around 2015 and continuing today, spruce beetle has made localized but significant impacts on the mixed conifer stands in the higher elevations. Much of the spruce beetle activity is localized to river corridors in areas such as Gypsum Creek, Tigwan and Lake Creek damage is more widespread. The insect and disease activity seen throughout the county varies greatly from minor impacts to near total mortality. Areas impacted by insect and disease have higher surface fuel loading of dead and down logs, as well as higher than average grass and shrub fuel loading due to higher resource availability.

Lack of disturbance is also an issue in Eagle County. Some ecosystems are undergoing type conversion. Many of the higher elevation grass meadows have been encroached up by mountain shrub communities and aspen stands. Similarly, in lower elevations juniper has encroached upon areas that were traditionally more sage steppe ecosystems.



Photo courtesy of projectupland.com

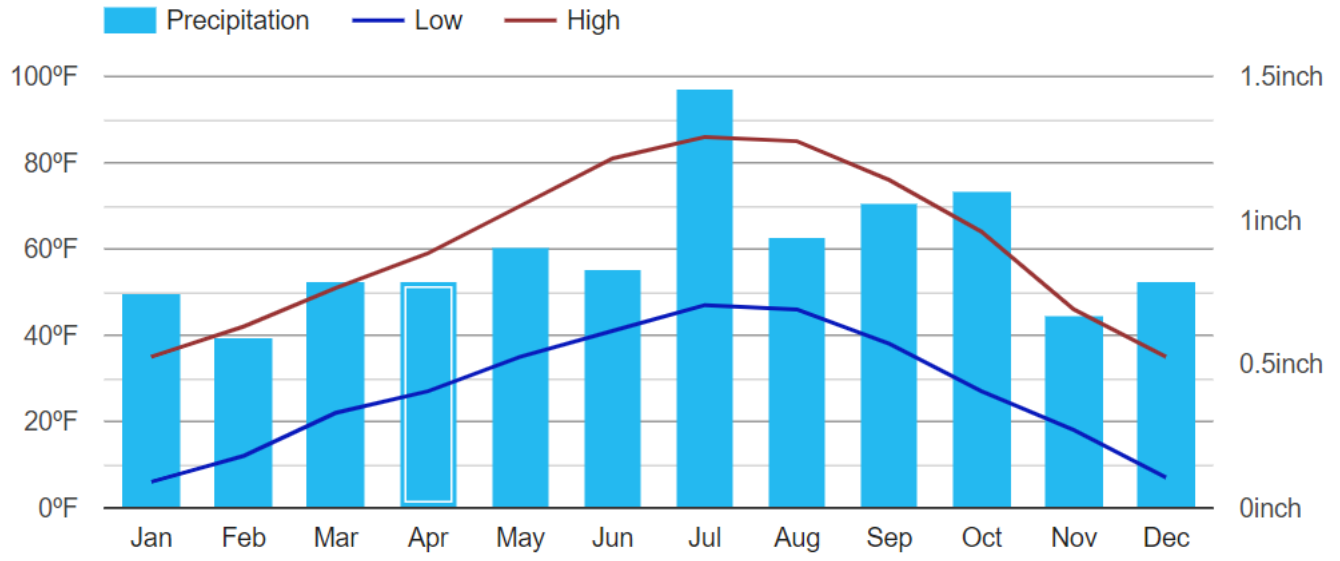
Non-native invasive plants are also making significant changes to the ecosystem. Cheatgrass has been present in Eagle County for multiple decades. Areas of high disturbance (roadways, development, overgrazing, wildfire) are especially susceptible to invasion of cheatgrass. Cheatgrass is increasing fire frequency in sage steppe and pinyon-juniper across the western United States. Post-fire these highly disturbed landscapes become monocultures of cheatgrass and other invasive species. This type of negative feedback loop is creating vast landscapes of fire prone, highly disturbed low quality ecosystems.

The combination of disturbance, lack of disturbance, and invasive plants has caused an altered fuel state throughout Eagle County. The level of departure from normal varies throughout the county. A measure of departure from historic conditions is discussed in the fire regime condition class section of this plan. It should be noted that while many of the higher elevation ecosystems are still within their historic range of variability, many of them have altered fuel conditions (more large woody debris and large accumulations of surface fuels) from traditional fuel models.

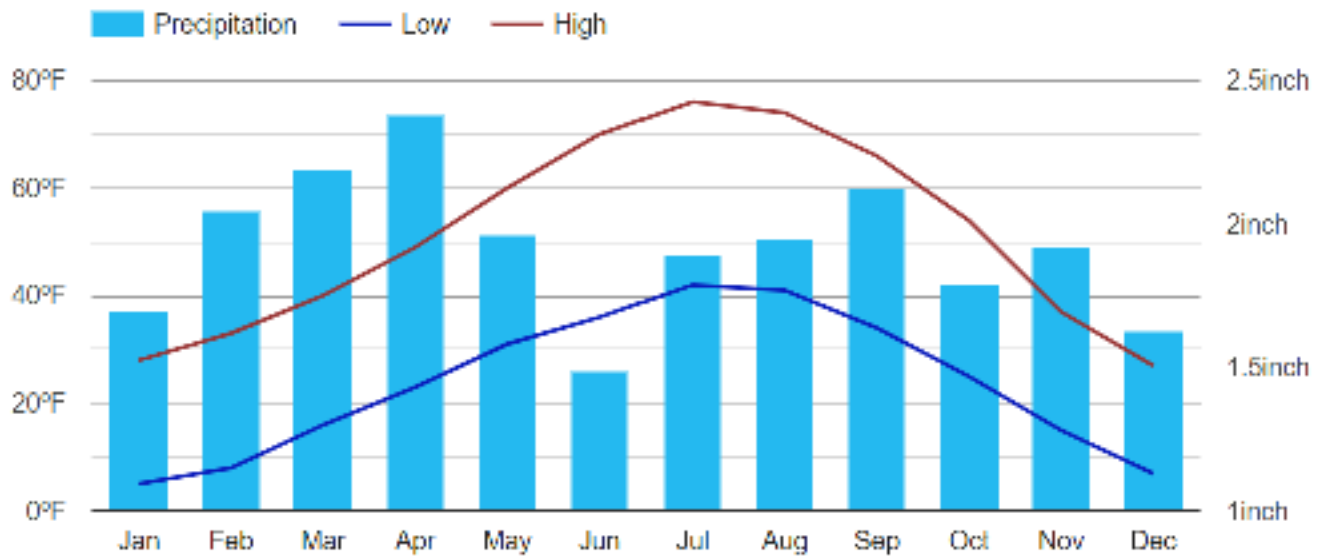


Photo credit to Eagle County

Eagle Climate Graph - Colorado Climate Chart



Vail Climate Graph - Colorado Climate Chart



Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) is an assessment tool to understand historical reference landscapes, current conditions and ecological departure <https://www.landfire.gov/frcc/frcchome.php>. FRCC is derived from the national Landfire dataset maintained by the USFS and BLM. Ecosystems are first categorized into fire regime groups by fire frequency and severity. FRCC then rates landscapes on a scale from 1 (low departure from historic conditions) to 3 (high departure from historic conditions).

Due to the large variation in elevation and topography Eagle County has a large variation in fire regime groups. Below is a table showing fire regime groups and the ecosystem types represented in Eagle County:

Fire Regime Group	Fire Frequency (fire return interval)	Fire Severity	Representative Ecosystems in Eagle County
1	0 - 35 Years	Low to Mixed	Aspen
2	0 - 35 Years	Replacement	No representative ecosystems in Eagle County
3	35 - 200 Years	Low to Mixed	Mountain shrub, pinyon-juniper, Gambel Oak
4	35 - 200 Years	Replacement	Sagebrush steppe
5	200 + Years	Replacement / Any Severity	Mixed conifer, lodgepole pine

Fire history in Eagle County is detailed in the fire history section of this plan, but it is important to note that while large fire occurrence is increasing across the county, wildfires in Eagle County have historically, and continue today, to be aggressively managed to reduce impacts to values at risk. Over the past 100 years this aggressive lean towards fire suppression has minimized wildfires' natural role as a disturbance on the landscape. Most of Eagle County has not seen natural or prescribed fire in over 100 years. The effects of this fire suppression approach are seen at various levels throughout the county. In ecosystems with historically frequent fire return intervals (1 and 2) the lack of fire creates unnaturally high fuel accumulations and successive changes in plant species composition. When fires do occur in these types of ecosystems they tend to burn with uncharacteristically high severity. In ecosystems with longer fire return intervals (3, 4, and 5) we are likely still within the historic range of variability. Significant fire in these types of ecosystems typically occur when a combination of fuel accumulation, drought, and critical weather align to create critical fire conditions. An example of this is during the 2021 Sylvan Lake Fire in lodgepole pine and mixed conifer fuels, and the 2020 Grizzly Creek in gambel oak, pinyon-juniper fuels.

Existing Building Stock and Condition

Eagle County is a diverse community of over 55,000 full-time residents and millions of visitors annually. It is also a growing community, with a projected 2040 population of 71,000 people. Eagle County has nearly every type of development from low density rural landscapes, to areas of high density urban development (and everything in between). Additionally, the age of structures ranges widely from historical mining and ranching buildings built in the late 1800s, to modern construction built to the latest building codes.

In March of 2022 The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released Technical Note 2205 WUI Structure/ Parcel/ Community Fire Hazard Mitigation Methodology <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/TechnicalNotes/NIST.TN.2205.pdf>. This technical report synthesized over 20 years of lab experiments and post fire analysis to evaluate wildfire risk within developed parcels particularly in the context of structure to structure ignitions. The report identifies a methodology to categorize development based on structure separation distance (SSD) see table below.

This analysis shows that the majority of structures in the county are located in higher density development. This information is important to consider with regards to the shared risk, if one burns the likelihood of the other to burn is high, that each structure has and points to the need for community wide solutions.

WUI Type Number	Density	SSD	Structure Count
1, 2	High Density	6-30 ft	14,844
3, 4, 5	Medium Density	30-100 ft	6,991
6, 7	Low Density	100+ ft	2,954

Table 2. WUI Types classified by structure separation distance (SSD) and typical parcel size.

Type #	WUI Type Name	SSD (ft)	Typical Parcel Size (ac)	Typical Housing Density (struct/ac)
1	High Density Interface – Perimeter	6 ^a to 30	< 0.5	2 to 8 +
2	High Density Interface – Interior ^b	6 ^a to 30	< 0.5	2 to 8 +
3	Medium Density Interface – Perimeter	30 to 100	0.5 to 1+	< 2
4	Medium Density Interface – Interior ^b	30 to 100	0.5 to 1+	< 2
5	Medium Density Intermix	30 to 100	0.5 to 1+	< 2
6	Low Density Interface	100+	1+	< 1
7	Low Density Intermix	100+	1+	< 1

For SI: 1 ft = 0.305 m, 1 ac = 0.4 ha
^a representative of parcels with a 3 ft setback (common for new construction of sprinklered residences)
^b interior of community defined as > 0.25 mi (400 m) from wildlands

Existing Building Stock and Condition

Table 3. Structure and parcel hardening effectiveness.

#	WUI Type	Probability of Structure Survivability if Neighboring Structure Ignites	Potential Fire ^a Exposure from Burning Neighboring Structure	Exposure from Other Parcel Fuels	Exposure ^b from Wildlands	Impact of Structure Ignition on Fire spread in Community	Likely Effectiveness of Partial Structure/ Parcel Hardening	Community/ Neighborhood Participation
1	HD Interface – Perimeter	Low	High	$f(\text{fuels, dist.})^c$	Variable	High	Low	Necessary
2	HD Interface – Interior	Low	High	$f(\text{fuels, dist.})^c$	Low	High	Low	Necessary
3	MD Interface – Perimeter	$f(\text{hardening})$	Moderate	$f(\text{fuels, dist.})^e$	Variable	Moderate	$f(\text{wildland fuels, parcel fuels})$	Desired
4	MD Interface – Interior	$f(\text{hardening})$	Moderate	$f(\text{fuels, dist.})^e$	Low	Moderate	$f(\text{parcel fuels})^d$	Desired
5	MD Intermix	$f(\text{hardening})$	Moderate	$f(\text{fuels, dist.})^e$	Variable	Moderate	$f(\text{wildland fuels, parcel fuels})$	Desired
6	LD Interface	$f(\text{hardening})$	Low	$f(\text{fuels, dist.})^e$	Variable	Low ^f	$f(\text{parcel fuels})$	Desired
7	LD Intermix	$f(\text{hardening})$	Low	$f(\text{fuels, dist.})^e$	Variable	Low ^f	$f(\text{parcel fuels})$	Desired

HD = high density, MD = medium density, LD = low density

$f(X)$ indicates “a function of X” (e.g., the level of exposure from other parcel fuels is a function of the fuels and distance from the target structure)

^a flames and radiation

^b based on fire history, fuel loading, wind, and topography/aspect; wildland fuel treatments may not be at the control of the community

^c parcel-level mitigation will have limited impact if nearby upwind structures catch on fire

^d would be a function of wildland fuel treatment AND hardening of most/all perimeter structures and parcels

^e parcel-level mitigation, including wildland fuel treatment, together with home hardening, will enhance structure ignition resistance

^f ignitions due to embers from burning residential structures have been observed as far as 200 ft to 300 ft downwind

Existing Building Stock and Condition

No comprehensive inventory of structural ignitability components exists for Eagle County; however, a large sample size of voluntary wildfire hazard assessments exists for select areas of the county. Due to the cold environment, and the emphasis placed on aesthetics, many structures have incorporated some (if not most) best practices for structure hardening including: enclosed eaves, double pane windows and ignition resistant siding materials. Much of the mid and upper Eagle Valley were approved and developed before wildfire was widely recognized as a significant hazard. For mostly aesthetic reasons communities such as Vail, Singletree, Beaver Creek, Bachelor Gulch and others adopted development standards which required the use of wood shake roofs on both residential and commercial structures. Additional legacy standards which create high wildfire hazards include requirements to install dense landscaping within the home ignition zone.

In 2004 Eagle County adopted wildfire regulations to address structural ignitability from wildfire. The regulations address both structure hardening, and vegetation management in the home ignition zone. The Eagle County code utilizes a site specific hazard rating to determine required mitigation actions based on the assessed hazard. The Eagle County code applies to all new construction within unincorporated Eagle County. In 2007, the Town of Vail adopted building regulations that require the use of Class A roofs for all new construction and reroofing projects. In 2018, the Town again modified codes to require structure hardening and ignition resistant landscaping in the home ignition zone. The Town of Vail code applies to new construction and additions or modifications to the exterior of a structure. In 2006, the Cordillera Property Owners Association adopted an ordinance requiring Class A roofing for all new construction, and defensible space requirements for all structures within the community.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

To address the large percentage of structures built pre-wildfire code, several programs have been developed and implemented to educate property owners on how to best address structural ignitability. For more than 20 years, nearly every partner represented in this plan has conducted site visits with property owners to provide recommendations and connections to resources. Eagle County and the Vail Board of Realtors developed REALFire: a wildfire risk reduction

program that provides homeowners in Eagle County with an opportunity to take action on their property. The program provides free property assessments to educate residents on how their home and landscaping may be susceptible to wildfire and specific ways to reduce wildfire threat. Vail Fire and Emergency Services, Eagle River Fire Protection District and Eagle Valley Wildland have assessed thousands of structures and provided recommendations to property owners throughout the county. In addition to technical assistance, residents have also had access to a variety of cost share programs funded through federal, state and local programs.



Photo courtesy of Dylan Brown

While Eagle County is ahead of many communities in the nation with regards to code adoption, access to professionals and financial assistance it should be noted that many structures in the community are still poorly prepared for wildfire.

Housing Crisis

Eagle County is known worldwide as a premier resort destination. The draw of Vail and Beaver Creek Ski areas and the abundant access to public land for recreation make the area a highly desirable area to visit and live. Availability and affordability of housing in the area has been a long standing issue but has reached crisis status in the last 10 years due to a number of factors. Increases in remote work forces, low interest rates on secondary properties, and large scale investments in short term rental properties have strained the housing market for local workers to a near breaking point. The lack of available and affordable workforce housing is identified as one of the most important issues affecting economic stability and sustainability in the county. Many employers throughout the county continually have unfilled positions due to the lack of attainable housing for their current and future employees.

To survive in this environment much of the local workforce is forced to endure less than ideal conditions of paying high rents, working multiple jobs to afford living expenses, high occupancy per housing units, long commutes, poor housing conditions and in general much of the workforce identifies that they are consistently living on the edge of housing insecurity. County housing officials are aware of a shortfall of roughly 6,000 units, half for rent and the other half for sale, and the market is not bringing affordable options to most residents. Given this current situation, the loss of an affordable housing stock would have significant impacts on the County's workforce.



Communities across Eagle County are actively addressing the housing crisis through numerous large scale and innovative programs, however these types of efforts will take time to show meaningful change. Special effort should be given to develop programs to address structural ignitability in the workforce housing. These types of programs may need to look very different from traditional assistance programs to address the specific needs of the community's workforce.



Photo courtesy of Valley Home Store

Social Vulnerability

A widely used and readily available model of social vulnerability is the CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) <https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/learn/articles/sedac-social-vulnerability-dataset>. This data is compiled at a US Census Tract level and provides an index rating incorporating socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, minority status and language and housing type and transportation. This data is incorporated into risk models as the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment and is also used in prioritizing funding in many grant programs.

While this type of information provides valuable, consistent data at a national scale; the census tract level of this information does not adequately represent the vulnerabilities of Eagle County. Across the County, disparities in income levels and access to vital resources vary significantly — in a community where the average household income is above \$106,000 annually, over nine percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Vulnerable populations within the county are spatially distributed in a way where areas of high networth washout social vulnerability. An example of this exists in the Edwards area where Eagle River Village, a high density mobile home park, sits between Cordillera, Arrowhead and several other developments of largely secondary properties.

Concentrated areas of social vulnerability can be found throughout the county. These areas tend to be in areas of high wildfire risk, and also tend to be properties that are least prepared for wildfire due to factors like overcrowding, lack of infrastructure, difficulty to replace property, etc. If structure loss occurs in these areas, this population is least likely to be able to rebuild, and will likely have a disproportionately high impact on the function of the local economy due to the high percentage of local workforce living in WUI areas.

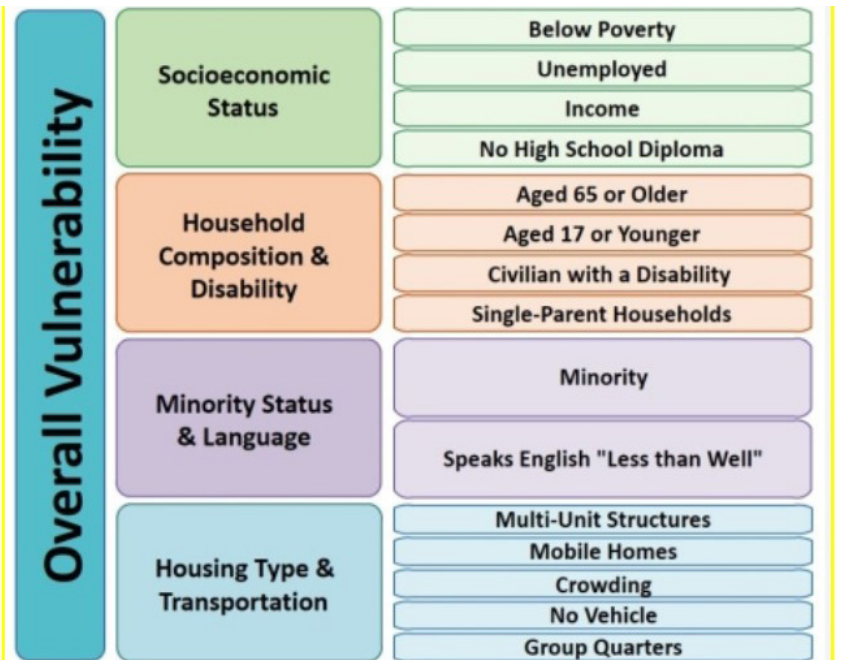


Photo courtesy of the Vail Daily

Eagle County already has a high level of transient populations due to the seasonal nature of work, and the high cost of living. If these populations are forced from their homes or lose work due to wildfire, these transient populations are more likely to move on to different communities rather than stay. This could have potentially devastating effects on post fire recovery of the economy of the county due to a lack of available employees/workers.

For the purposes of developing support programs, and to more accurately depict vulnerability for grant purposes across the county, it is recommended that Eagle County develop a finer scale vulnerability rating as it relates to the social determinants of health for our residents. For example, most homeowners have insurance that qualifies for loss replacement from wildfire (as required by their mortgage), which would pay for new construction and loss of personal property. However, renters or owners of less permanent homes (tiny house, mobile home, camper, etc.) are more likely to be under or uninsured, and unable to replace property lost to wildfire.

Infrastructure

The stakeholders of this plan identify electricity, natural gas, transportation corridors, communication, water collection sanitation and distribution as critical community infrastructure. Specific critical infrastructure in the county include electrical transmission and distribution lines, regionally significant gas pipelines, Interstate 70, Highways 6, 24, and 82, cell towers, public safety radio towers, AM/FM radio towers, interstate fiber optic lines, the headwaters of the Colorado River, ski areas, water collection structures, water treatment facilities and water distribution infrastructure. Each infrastructure type has its specific risks posed by either direct threat from fire or post fire effects. Every infrastructure provider has to some extent evaluated the potential risks posed by fire and has identified potential pre-fire mitigation and post fire recovery actions that can be taken. Actions identified later in this plan address some known vulnerabilities with critical infrastructure in this county and should be considered high priority for funding and implementation.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County



Photo courtesy of Beaver Creek Resort

Economy

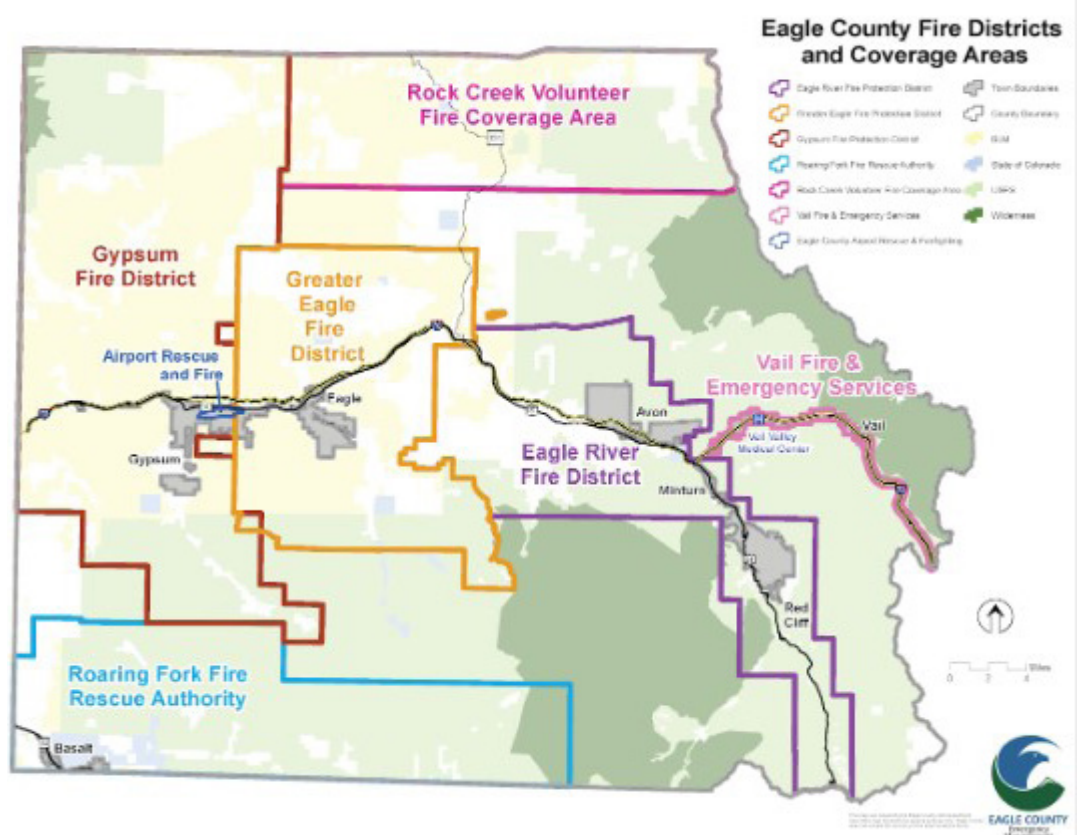
The well-being and livelihoods of residents, and the economy of Eagle County are deeply connected to the region's abundant rivers, forests, and snow-capped mountains. Eagle County's rivers and snowmelt runoff not only support farming and ranching but also a vibrant recreation economy in both the summer and winter months. The ski industry is an iconic and integral part of the Eagle County economy, providing thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic revenue. The ski industry is intimately connected to other vital industries in Eagle County including accommodation, food services, retail, and real estate and rentals. In addition, the Eagle Valley is a popular area for second home owners, vacation rentals, and getaways.



Photo courtesy of ucsf.edu

Wildfires jeopardize the health and safety, as well as economic viability, of Eagle county. Wildfires can cause closures to public lands, resulting in lost revenue from tourism. Property values and tax revenue may also decrease in the wake of wildfires and directly impact the local economy. Interruptions to interstate commerce can result in millions of dollars in lost revenue across the region. Wildfire damage to infrastructure (ski areas, campgrounds, trails, visitor facilities, etc) can result in prolonged economic hardships for local businesses, residents and visitors. Wildfire smoke impacts and area closures cause people not to visit the area resulting in further negative economic impacts. Loss of access to hunting and fishing grounds can impact license revenue and management of wildlife populations. Post-wildfire hazards like burned trees, falling rocks, and severe erosion may lead to further loss of access to hunting, fishing, and other recreation opportunities. Negative impacts to watersheds and rangelands also affect agriculture and the ranching community.

Fire response on non-federal lands is the responsibility of the fire protection district and/or fire department service area in which the fire takes place, unless this responsibility is transferred by mutual consent to the County Sheriff. Eagle County is served by the following fire districts and coverage areas: Vail Fire and Emergency Services, Eagle River Fire Protection District, Greater Eagle Fire Protection District, Gypsum Fire Protection District, Eagle County Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting, Rock Creek Volunteer Fire Department, and Roaring Fork Fire & Rescue Authority. Federal agencies have responsibility for wildfire protection on federal lands. Fire response on federal lands in Eagle County is served by the Upper Colorado River Fire Management Unit.



When the needs of an incident expand beyond the capacity of Eagle County's local fire response resources, the Mountain Area Mutual Aid (MAMA) Operating Plan

establishes mutual aid between local fire and EMS agencies within Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Lake, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit counties in the Mountain Area Region. When Mountain Area Mutual Aid is implemented, resources who respond under MAMA may be assigned to the incident and placed on a resource order for extended attack if needed and available.

The Eagle County Department of Emergency Management provides coordination and support for the independent public safety agencies and governments that deliver emergency services across Eagle County. When disasters exceed local capacity, the Department of Emergency Management works with public safety partners to activate the county Emergency Operations Center, scale up coordination structures to meet incident needs, mobilize resources, and ensure a unified response.

The Eagle County Department of Emergency Management also oversees community mitigation, 800MHz public safety communications systems, and a wide variety of emergency planning initiatives in collaboration with local, state, and federal partners.

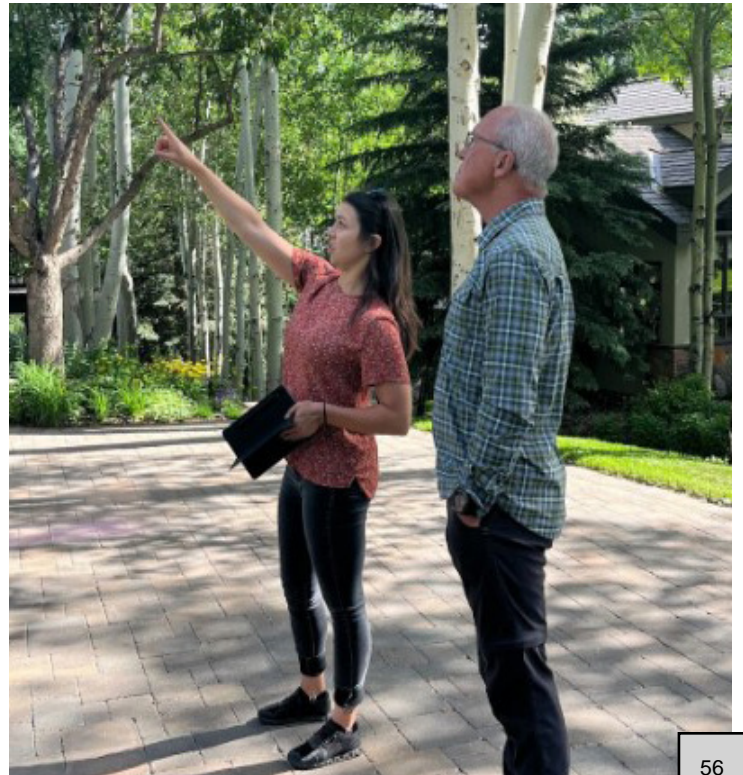


Photo courtesy of Eagle County

The wildland-urban interface, or WUI, is generally defined as any area where man-made improvements are built close to, or within, natural terrain and flammable vegetation, and where potential for wildland fire exists.

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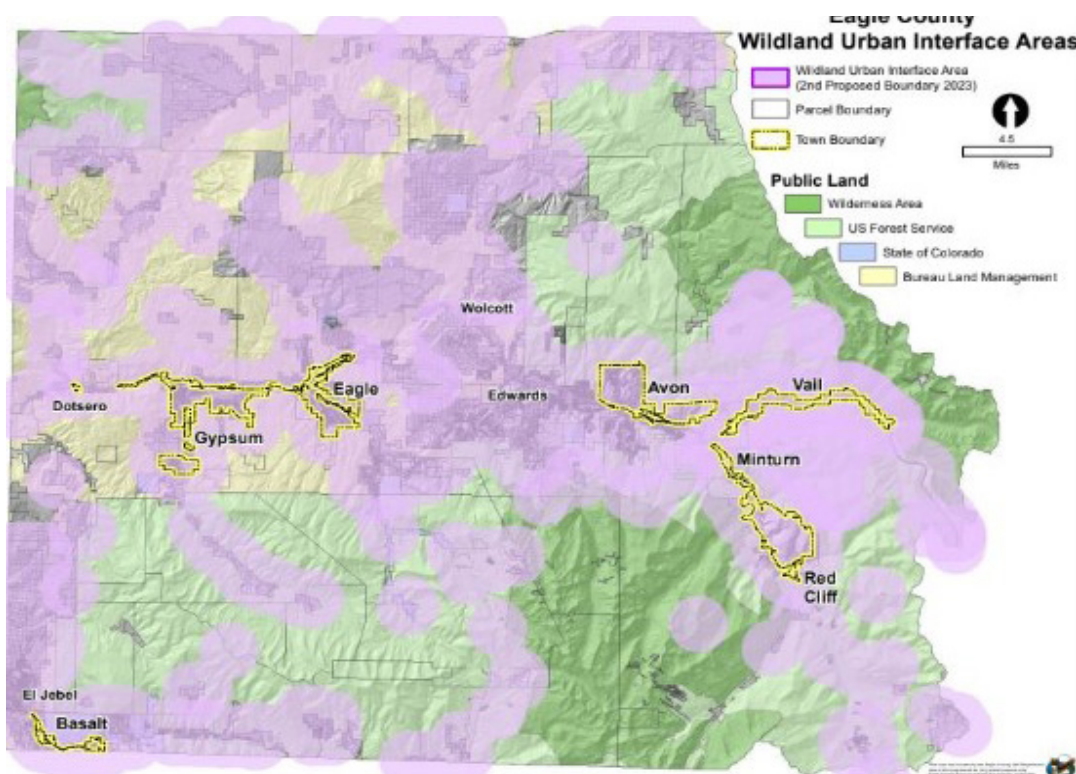
For the purposes of this plan the wildland-urban interface (WUI) is defined as an area that includes all developed private parcels of land in Eagle County and areas of special interest including Vail and Beaver Creek Resorts, the I70 corridor and major utility lines, and extends one and one half (1.5) miles from the edges of these features, including public lands. In rural areas outside of the Hwy 82 and I70 corridor(s), WUI can be defined as areas that extend one and one half (1.5) miles from the edges of structures and other developed features, including public lands.



Photo courtesy of Uncover Colorado

A visual depiction of the Eagle County WUI area can be seen below. The community values identified within this plan extend beyond the planning boundaries. WUI boundaries were determined through a collaborative planning process with stakeholders using

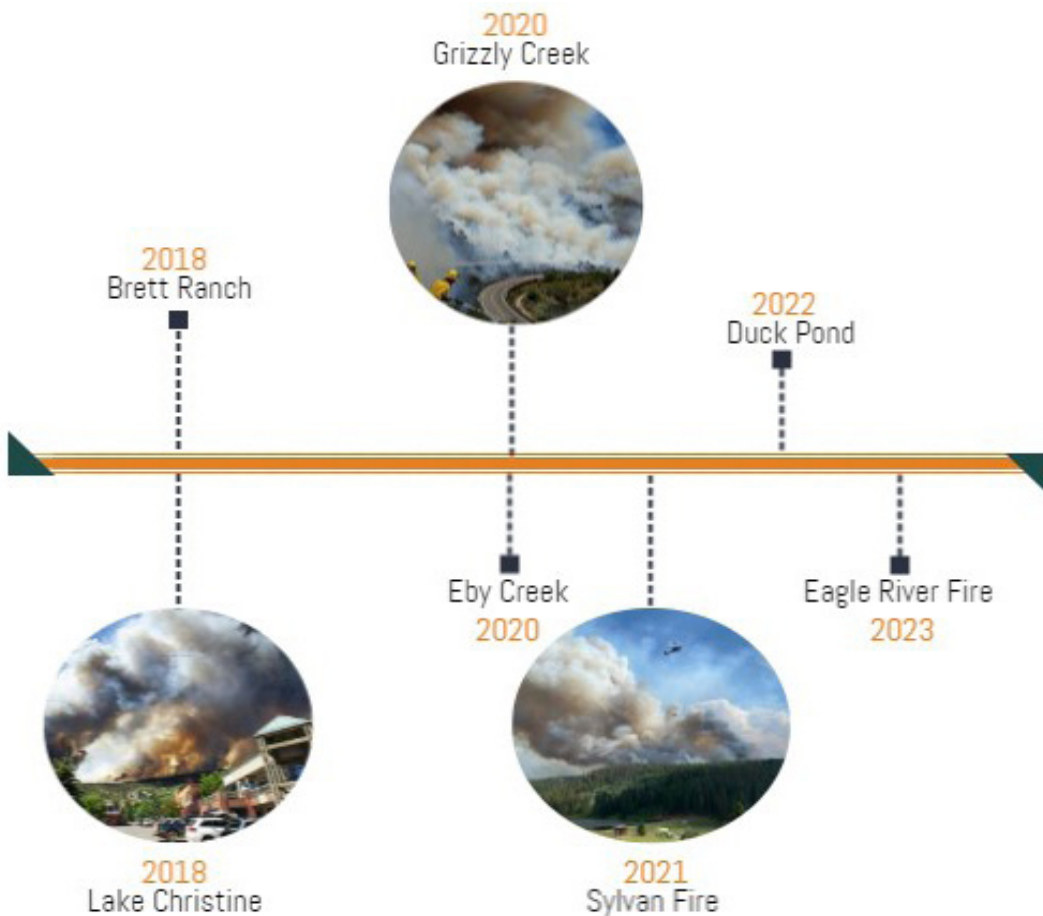
the best available scientific models and subject matter expertise, in order to guide planning and implementation of the goals and strategies set forth in this CWPP. Every area defined as WUI may not be appropriate for mitigation actions and treatment methods identified in the plan.



Eagle County continues to see an elevated level of wildfire activity, and the frequency, severity, and complexity of these fires is only expected to increase in the coming years. In 2018, the Lake Christine Fire burned nearly 13,000 acres in Eagle County, destroying three homes, and threatening hundreds more. Earlier that year, the Brett Ranch Fire almost spread to a nearby mobile home park, illustrating the potential risk of urban conflagration in similar neighborhoods. In 2020, the Grizzly Creek Fire burned over 32,000 acres and directly threatened several communities within Eagle County. The 2020 Eby Creek Fire, and 2022 Duck Pond Fire, forced people from their homes and demonstrated the need for more robust planning and communication around evacuations. The Sylvan Fire in 2021 scorched nearly 4,000 acres near popular state park, and corridor closing 2023 Eagle River Fire closed Highway 6 and Interstate 70 snarling traffic for days.



Photo courtesy of Eagle Valley Wildland



Each of these fires experienced torching and crown runs, destroyed infrastructure, and threatened entire communities. The effects of the Grizzly Creek Fire are still being felt as mudslides cause frequent closures of Interstate 70 in the Glenwood Canyon. Most wildfires in Eagle County are started by lightning, or from a variety of human causes (abandoned campfires, truck-chains dragging on highways, outdoor welding/grinding, shooting, etc). The current trendline demonstrates Eagle County's increasing vulnerability to wildfire destruction.

Eagle County residents and visitors live, work and recreate in areas which, according to the Colorado State Forest Service, are directly threatened by potential wildfires; while the soaring value of improved property throughout Eagle County causes overall values-at-risk to exceed those of many other Colorado communities.

For the purposes of this CWPP, wildfire risk was evaluated utilizing several different models recognizing risk from wildfire is both from the fire itself, as well as post-fire risks associated with the burned area. To evaluate risk for this plan the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment (CO-WRA) and the Risk Management Assistance Analysis were utilized. In addition to the publicly available risk assessments a custom proximity model was utilized to identify structure separation distance (SSD) for each individual structure within Eagle County.

The planning team chose not to aggregate the data into a single quantitative risk rating but instead saw value in identifying risk in 5 separate risk layers. The risk layers are WUI Risk and Risk of Structure Conflagration, Suppression Difficulty Index (SDI), Fire Intensity Scale and Wildfire Risk to Watershed. Maps detailing various risk layers can be found in the sub-area descriptions and viewed in **Appendix B: Assessment of Wildfire Risk In Eagle County**.

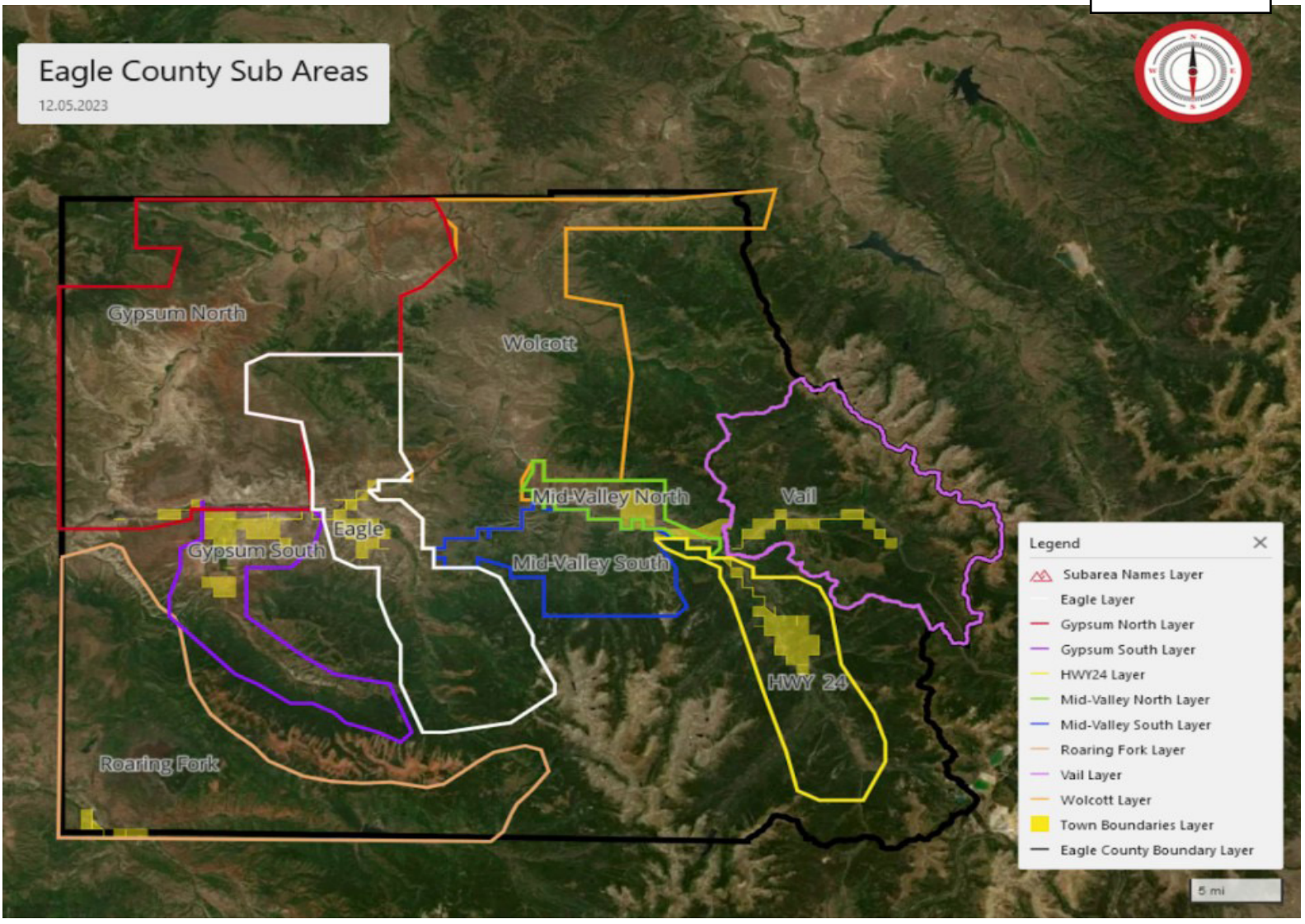
Sub-Area	Risk Rating
Vail	HIGH
Highway 24	EXTREME
Mid-Valley North	HIGH
Mid-Valley South	HIGH
Wolcott	HIGH
Eagle	MODERATE
Gypsum North	MODERATE
Gypsum South	HIGH
Roaring Fork	HIGH

Left: In addition to the spatial data available through the various risk models, Eagle County-based wildland fire coordinators and specialists have evaluated sub-areas of Eagle County and assigned wildfire risk ratings to the focus areas listed to the left.

Each focus area will be described in the following pages. The risk rating criteria were developed by local wildfire experts and reviewed/approved by local fire protection district and fire department chiefs. Each focus area was assessed for vulnerability to its general values at risk:

- **Evacuation Risk:** How easily can an area be safely evacuated based upon numbers and traffic flow potential routes, population, and expected fire behavior impacts to the road system
- **Watershed Risk:** Presence and significance of water sources, erosion potential into those water sources, and the potential for that erosion to cause damage to water infrastructure
- **Infrastructure Risk:** Presence and significance of infrastructure assets, access for firefighters, and potential damage
- **WUI Spread Potential:** Presence or absence of defensible space between homes within the WUI and combustible vegetation, combustibility of home building materials, and likelihood of home-to-home ignition.

The values at risk are individually rated within the focus area, and the focus area is then assigned a summary risk rating.



Above: A depiction of Eagle County broken down into assessed sub-areas.

Strategy: Implement and enforce Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) policies, zoning laws, building codes and regulations.

Recommended Actions:

- Develop and adopt a unified WUI Code across all jurisdictions in Eagle County.
- Improve land-use planning and zoning laws to incorporate best building and zoning practices to reduce structural ignitability in future development.
- Modify planning and design guidelines for existing developments to account for increasing wildfire risk.
- Build and maintain structures and their surrounding vegetation in a manner that resists ignition from wildfire or when ignited does not rapidly spread the fire.
- Integrate wildfire risk reduction and planning efforts with other Towns, County and federal environmental and sustainability planning goals and activities.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County



Photo courtesy of Wildfire Partners

Strategy: Incentivise existing structures to retrofit building and home ignition zone utilizing current best practices to reduce structural ignitability.

Recommended Actions:

- Encourage REALFire program participation, and provide free property assessments to educate residents on how their home and landscaping may be susceptible to wildfire and specific ways to reduce wildfire threat.
- Provide private landowners, and collective groups of private landowners, the opportunity to apply for incentive funding in an effort to reduce wildfire risk in their communities.
 - Home Hardening
 - Defensible Space
 - Community Chipping Programs
 - Noxious Weed Abatement
- Develop and implement programs which prioritize and incentivize wildfire mitigation to traditionally underserved populations and in areas of high concentrations of workforce housing.



Photo courtesy of Alice Phinney

Strategy: Identify and safeguard critical drinking water sources from contamination and degradation caused by wildfire and associated activities.

Recommended Actions:

- Consolidate data of vulnerable drinking water sources, assets and infrastructure, may include transport mechanisms Ground Aquifers, surface water bodies, infiltration galleries, (safeguard data collected in accordance with Homeland Security and/or other relevant requirements).
- Implement existing SWPPs recommendations related to wildfire risk reduction to infrastructure and watershed protection.
- Develop SWPPs for water utilities in areas not covered by existing plans and implement recommendations to protect source water from the impacts of wildfire and drought.
- Develop standards for rapid widespread water testing post-fire (including chemicals such as benzene).
- Working with municipalities to implement building code for easily accessible water shutoffs, service building backflow prevention.
- Make Metro District SWPP easily available and accessible to responders and public health ICS.
- Limit use of Phosphates (Phos Chek) near water sources. High levels of coordination need to be established with contractors working for private insurance carriers and utility providers on the application of fire retardant chemicals.



Photo courtesy of Vox

Strategy: Create redundant and resilient utility infrastructure with a focus on energy, water, and telecommunications.

Recommended Actions:

- Adopt policies that require currently above ground utilities to be undergrounded and new utilities to be buried to increase safety, improve reliability, and increase system resilience.
- Improve rural broadband to provide internet access to rural areas for wildfire evacuation, communication, and education/outreach.
- Explore opportunities to install early wildfire detection systems on new and existing infrastructure.
- Improve transmission line safety with larger line clearance, better slash management, and ignition resistant equipment.



Photo courtesy of the Wall Street Journal



Photo courtesy of Firewise USA

Strategy: Develop programs that reduce structural ignitability risk across entire neighborhoods not just on individual lots (address shared risk).

Recommended Actions:

- Encourage HOA's to participate in the FireWise USA program.
- Encourage motivated individuals to participate in the Neighborhood Ambassador program.
- Ensure all community codes and ordinances are consistent with current best practices for reduction of structural ignitability.
- Improve the public's understanding of our existing community fire protection infrastructure and limitations.
- Utilize FAC Pathways tool to classify community archetypes and identify potential strategies best suited for each community.



Photo courtesy of Colorado Public Radio

Strategy: Identify and review vulnerabilities to roadways and transportation infrastructure.

Recommended Actions:

- Obtain geospatial data on critical infrastructure (bridges, culverts, facilities, signs, etc.) and identify vulnerability to wildfire impacts, including post-fire sediment and debris flows.
- Coordinate with law enforcement and CDOT to mitigate impacts of long-term disruptions and closures to major highways and Interstate-70.
- Implement traffic management plans across multiple jurisdictions in order to maintain interstate commerce during wildfire disruptions.
- Support the development of alternative transportation routes through critical choke points such as Glenwood Canyon and Dowd Junction.

Recommended Actions

Community preparedness for wildfire

Section 10, Item C.

Strategy: Ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all community residents, visitors, and workers during and after a wildfire.

Recommended Actions:

- Make sure community and individual assets are insured against catastrophic wildfire.
- Ensure the community has appropriate emergency response and community support resources for wildfire.
- Host neighborhood events specific to emergency response, education, and preparedness.
- Support local governmental organizations in developing and/or updating continuity of operations plans (COOP). Organizations should consider impacts of significant structure loss including facility and infrastructure damage.



Photo courtesy of Eagle Valley Wildland

Strategy: Support the financial stability of individuals and communities during and after wildfires.

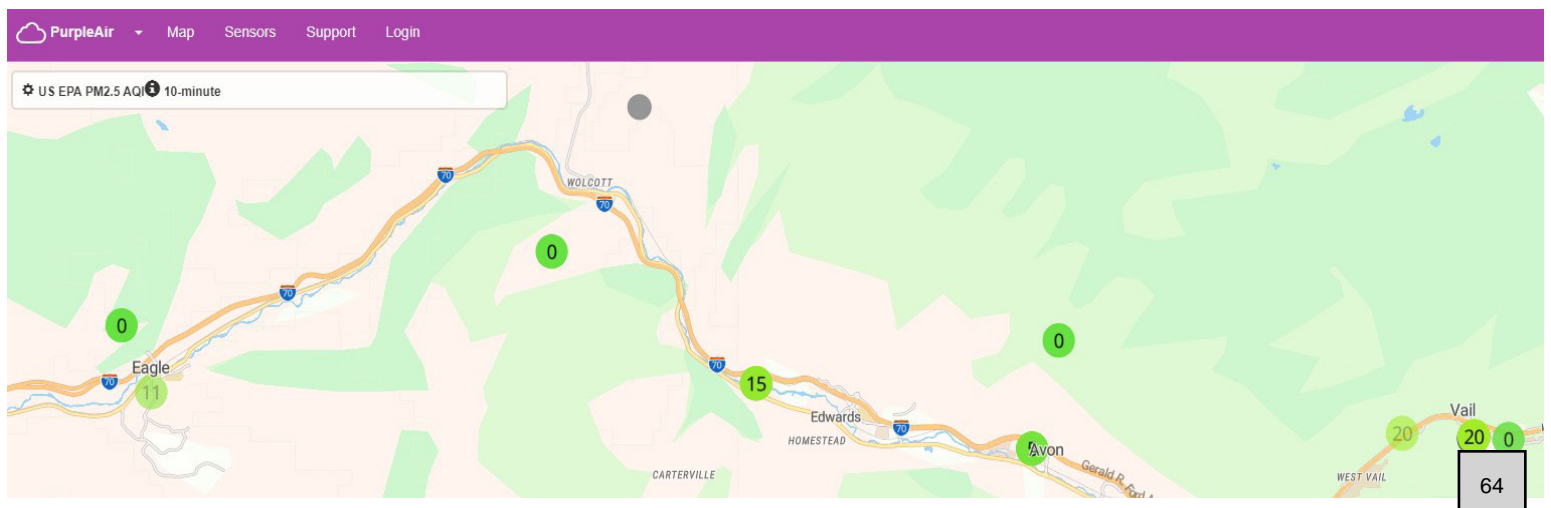
Recommended Actions:

- Develop a County-level emergency fund that displaced populations can utilize in case of emergencies.
- Ensure that displaced renters, not just homeowners, are protected and supported in a post-fire economy.
- Expand access housing and childcare for first responders and response and recovery partners.

Strategy: Increase public awareness of air quality impacts, monitoring, and response related to wildfire smoke.

Recommended Actions:

- Create and deploy an education campaign to help people understand what to do when wildfires reduce local air quality (use neighborhoods as units of change).
- Identify and communicate the location of Community Clean Air Spaces/Smoke Shelters when smoke levels become hazardous.
- Make portable air filters available to vulnerable populations.
- Develop materials that accurately portray Eagle County's air quality during smoke impacts.
- Utilize air quality monitoring and public reporting systems like Air Now and Purple Air.
- Assess the levels of smoke, particulate matter, and other pollutants during and after wildfires.
- Establish protocols for issuing public health advisories and recommendations to minimize exposure to harmful air pollutants.



Strategy: Minimize wildfire impacts to the local economy.

Recommended Actions:

- Promote an integrated marketing strategy that highlights what makes Eagle County worth visiting when wildfires are impacting the area (fire restrictions, smoke, travel disruptions, etc).
- Develop a communications and marketing strategy for post-wildfire tourism.
- Ensure that areas in the County not closed due to wildfire activity can sustain additional use and allocate resources accordingly.
- Coordinate with fire managers to minimize disruptions to air traffic at Eagle County Regional Airport.
- Coordinate with transportation partners to minimize disruptions to local traffic routes and commerce during interstate corridor closures.



Photo courtesy of Vail Valley Jet Center

Strategy: Expand community engagement and education focused on behavior changes that enhance wildfire resilience.

Recommended Actions:

- Develop and cultivate partnerships between local towns, resort businesses, and others to support the expansion of economic opportunities.
- Form stakeholder groups to share unified messaging around wildfire closures, and educate people about why the area is closed (safety, resource benefit, etc.).
- Educate residents and tourists on ways to reduce environmental impacts of consumer decisions.
- Make educational materials available in English and Spanish versions.
- Foster social acceptance of prescribed fire, WUI mitigation, smoke, etc. (pre- and post-wildfire restoration actions as well).
- Encourage HOAs to register with local jurisdictions for communication and coordination purposes.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

Strategy: Promote and provide tools to businesses to implement and improve business continuity best practices.

Recommended Actions:

- Provide financial support for individuals and businesses impacted by wildfire closures.
- Allow for flexible agency permitting for guides and special events.
- Encourage businesses to develop contingency plans for wildfire disruptions.
- Prioritize health and safety over providing recreation opportunities.
- Develop a local funding mechanism and plan ready to implement (with many stakeholders) and fund long-restoration projects/communication plans/marketing/other needs.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

Strategy: Foster and enhance coordination between organizations for pre- and post-wildfire response.

Recommended Actions:

- Strengthen relationships with partner agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, community and faith-based organizations, and other stakeholders that can support wildfire mitigation, response and recovery through the Eagle County and Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaboratives.
- Ensure proper fire response resources are in place and funded.
- Gather spatial data around critical habitat areas (including wildlife corridors) to proactively protect these areas and/or provide additional review and mitigation for planned project work.

Strategy: Ensure safe, effective, and equitable multi-modal evacuation strategies for the county.

Recommended Actions:

- Model and streamline potential evacuation routes, bottlenecks, and evacuation alternatives (i.e. open gates in private communities).
- Ensure evacuation strategies are updated across all jurisdictional evacuation plans prior to an emergency event.
- Educate all residents on evacuation procedures and emergency preparedness in culturally appropriate ways.
- Further develop a robust emergency notification system. Special attention should be given to communication with special populations such as guests, seasonal residents, access and functional needs, non-english speakers and older populations.
- Consider impacts of other priorities (traffic calming, sustainability, less cars, EVs, etc) and changing populations on evacuation effectiveness. Educate stakeholders on the need to maintain the balance between emergency response and potential competing interests.
- Design fuel treatments to protect primary and secondary evacuation routes.
- Ensure that new development provides for multiple evacuation routes.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

Strategy: Assess and address potential hazardous materials risks associated with wildfires, such as the release of toxic substances from burned structures, vehicles, or industrial facilities.

Recommended Actions:

- Develop protocols for proper handling, removal, and disposal of hazardous materials to prevent contamination of soil, air, and water. Protocols should identify who is responsible for oversight of the cleanup.
 - Asbestos
 - Ash Clean-Up
 - Household HAZMAT
- Develop protocols with landfill for disposal of HAZMAT.
- Identify systems that will be used to assess building damage rapidly post fire.
- Develop “how clean is clean” materials based on area and local geological soils and hazardous waste concerns for if hazardous contaminants are a concern and soils testing is needed.



Photo courtesy of the Denver Post



Photo courtesy of CDC

Strategy: Provide guidance related to post-fire impacts and response as it relates to Environmental Health for individuals and communities.

Recommended Actions:

- Provide ‘Food Safety Salvage Waste’ guidance to impacted populations.
- Provide ‘OWTS and Wells After a Fire’ guidance to impacted populations.
- Drinking Water after a Fire.
 - Providing drinking water - bottled water - water trucks availability
 - Providing sanitation - portable chemical toilets to communities without water for flushing. Assess availability and who and where this would be available.



Photo courtesy of Eagle Valley Wildland

Strategy: Prevent loss of access to recreation opportunities during and after a wildfire.

Recommended Actions:

- Identify where infrastructure exists (ski areas, campgrounds, toilets, boat ramps, trails, signs, etc.) and unique vulnerabilities to wildfire.
- Provide robust communication around area wildfire closures and coordinate on redirecting people elsewhere.
- Ensure that areas in the County not closed due to fire activity can sustain additional use and allocate resources accordingly.
- Encourage reimbursement for licenses, campground reservations, etc. due to wildfire impacts.



Photo courtesy of FEMA

Strategy: Facilitate flexible deployment of temporary housing post wildfire disaster.

Recommended Actions:

- Adopt flexible zoning codes to be implemented during emergencies (i.e. allow mobile homes, tiny homes, campers, and allow high occupancy in places).
- Allow for use of facilities for temporary housing (i.e. campgrounds, fairgrounds, etc.)
- Identify ways to expedite reconstruction (permits, fees, inspections).
- Identify temporary housing deployment zones to be utilized during emergencies.
- Consider how to house construction workers to facilitate more rapid reconstruction.
- Consider the impacts of people not rebuilding due to trauma, cost of reconstruction, being underinsured, and high demand for building supplies. Develop policies around large-scale acquisition of land post-wildfire by domestic and transnational companies, outside interests, and individuals.

Strategy: Support multi-jurisdictional planning for restoring and re-establishing utility infrastructure post wildfire with a focus on energy, water, transportation, and telecommunications.

Recommended Actions:

- Develop post-fire playbook for Eagle County to rapidly deploy resources after wildfire events.
- Develop standards for rapid widespread water testing post-fire (including chemicals such as benzene).
- Prepare to distribute guidance for homeowners on: Wells, Cisterns, Springs, Septic Systems.
- If necessary after a wildfire in the wildland–urban interface, a strict “Do Not Use” water order should be issued to protect public health and be targeted to affected areas.
- Develop complete plumbing safety guidance post-fire for homeowners.
- Reroute or relocate infrastructure, or use temporary structures post-fire to re-establish service.
- Identify who will coordinate long-term multi-jurisdictional post-fire recovery on both public and private property including fundraising/volunteer coordination.
- Support infrastructure planning to mitigate runoff after a wildfire (i.e. pollutants-sediment filtered through retention ponds before reaching waterways).



Photo courtesy of Todd Winslow Pierce.

Strategy: Maintain or restore forests or vegetative cover pre-wildfire.

Recommended Actions:

- Maintain or restore forest and vegetative cover in riparian areas.
- Maintain or improve the ability of forests to resist insects and pathogens.
- Prevent invasive plant species and noxious weed establishment by ensuring all materials are “weed-free” and all equipment utilized in projects are clean and free of all plant propagules when entering project areas.
- Enhance species age classes and structural diversity in forests.
- Implement wetland and stream restoration projects, including the use of low technology, process based restoration, to retain moisture and increase resilience of the landscape.
- Formulate a multi-year monitoring plan after fuel mitigation activities to ensure post-treatment invasive plant species and noxious weeds are addressed, erosion is mitigated, and vegetative succession and species composition provides productive forage and cover, including revegetation activities.
- Hold quarterly meeting(s) with stakeholders through the ECWC Natural Resource working groups to review program and project goals, funding strategies, implementation strategies, after action reviews and environmental monitoring.

Strategy: Create wildfire resilient landscapes utilizing current vegetation management best practices on private and public lands.

Recommended Actions:

- Create heterogeneous landscapes that promote diversity of species, ages and condition classes.
- Alter forest structure or composition to reduce risk or severity of wildfires through mitigation actions such as forest thinning, mastication, etc.
- Establish and maintain landscape scale fuel-breaks to increase the likelihood of containing fires within identified Potential Operational Delineations (PODS). Treatments should be designed to be effective under 97th percentile fuel and weather conditions. Create compartmentalization across the planning area where unplanned wildfire can be managed for suppression action and/or multiple resource benefits when appropriate.
- Strengthen identified Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) boundaries to improve likelihood of success containing fires within PODS.
- Promote the use of prescribed fire when appropriate on public and private lands to mimic natural disturbances to fire dependent ecosystems.
- Utilize livestock grazing as a tool for fuel reduction when appropriate.
- Increase social and political acceptance through education and success stories to increase acceptance that wildfire is a natural and integral part of the landscape.
- Reduce regulatory barriers and increase efficiency by conducting interagency planning at landscape levels with local stakeholders.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

Strategy: Reduce the risk and long-term impacts of wildfires to livestock and agriculture.

Recommended Actions:

- Support efforts to maintain and improve soil health on private and public lands.
- Match management practices to water supply and demand.
- Provide financial support to help manage invasive species and noxious weeds on production agricultural lands pre- and post-wildfire.
- Allow for flexible agency permitting for grazing allotments impacted by wildfire.
- Match infrastructure and equipment to new and expected conditions.



Photo credit to Todd Winslow Pierce.

Strategy: Create resilient wildlife populations by maintaining healthy ecosystems and habitat connectivity.

Recommended Actions:

- Cultivate partnerships with organizations focused on enhancing wildlife and ecosystem health.
- Plan, fund, and implement wildlife habitat restoration projects, especially in riparian zones.
- Gather spatial data around critical habitat areas (including wildlife corridors) to proactively protect these areas and/or provide additional review and mitigation for planned project work.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

Strategy: Restore vegetative cover post-wildfire.

Recommended Actions:

- Evaluate burned areas promptly and revegetate high severity burn areas after wildfire disturbance to improve soil health and prevent erosion.
- Ensure that post fire Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) evaluations cover all burned areas, not just federally managed lands.
- Allow for areas of natural regeneration to test for future-adapted species.
- Realign significantly disrupted ecosystems to meet expected future conditions.
- Identify what stakeholders are responsible for monitoring and define metrics for success.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

Strategy: Create a multi-jurisdictional program to develop and implement best management practices for watershed protection and post-fire recovery.

Recommended Actions:

- Coordinate source water protection planning and implementation efforts across Eagle County.
- Identify and prepare watersheds and infrastructure that are at risk from post fire flooding and debris flow.
- Manage systems to cope with decreased water levels and limited water availability.
- Adjust systems to cope with increased water abundance, and high water levels.
- Respond to or prepare for excessive overland flows (surface runoff).

Recommended Actions

Landscape-scale vegetation management

Strategy: Design and implement wildfire mitigation strategies with minimal impact to wildlife populations.

Recommended Actions:

- Provide training to personnel implementing projects on key wildlife species biology, habitat requirements, and identification of areas utilized locally.
- Consult with CPW staff regarding possible timing and/or spatial restrictions in wildlife habitat. Refer to the CPW Land Use Recommendations Table for spatial and timing restrictions according to applicable terrestrial and aquatic species.
- Utilize CPW Species Activity Mapping or the Eagle County Wildlife Interactive Map to help identify which species and what type of habitat is relevant to the specific project.
- Refer to the local District Wildlife Manager to conduct site visits and discuss individual site specific concerns.
- Prioritize areas identified for mitigation projects that are also in need of habitat enhancement.
- Expand treatments when possible to enhance larger areas of habitat that are not in a productive phase of succession
- Whenever possible, execute treatments, including fuel breaks, in a manner that results in a natural mosaic pattern that retains an appropriate balance of foraging area and cover, as well as maintains a composition of plant species that are favorable for deer and elk forage.



Above photos courtesy of Todd Winslow Pierce.



Photo courtesy of Todd Winslow Pierce



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

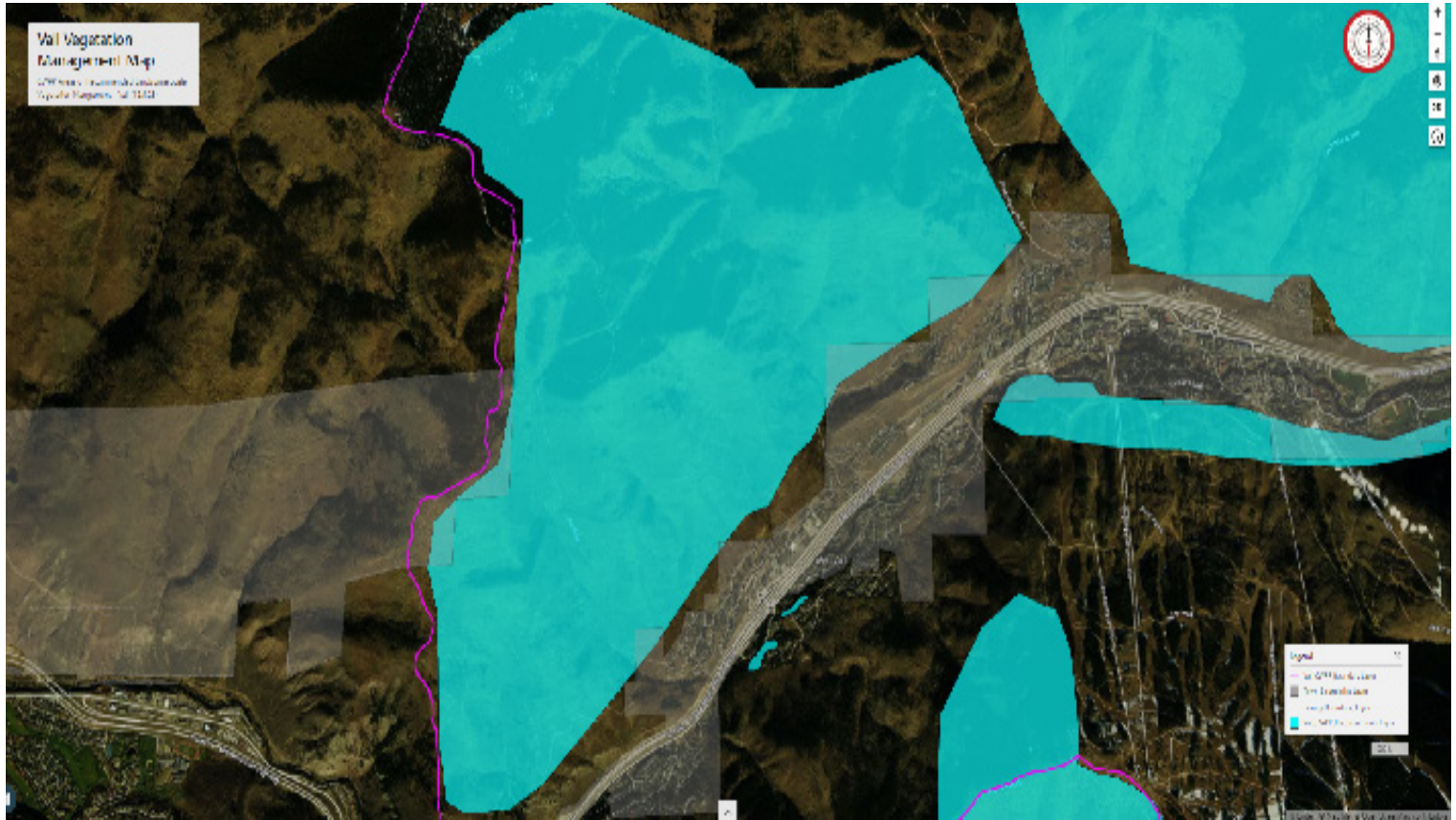
To achieve the goals of this plan much of the landscape across the county needs to be actively managed. All of these recommended treatment areas continue to build upon the over 38,000 acres already completed across the county. To accomplish these recommended treatments, it will take the combined efforts, political will and finances of all organizations in the Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative. Planning is already underway for some of these projects, while others are more aspirational, and will require extensive project development and planning to accomplish. Due to the scale of the proposed treatments, it will be critical that environmental planning, project development and implementation occur at scales that maximize efficiencies and decrease costs. Every available tool should be considered to reduce barriers, and non-traditional partnerships including public-private partnerships, utilization of non-governmental organizations and multi-jurisdictional partnerships should all be considered.



Photo courtesy of Eagle Valley Wildland

Project Area Description

The lower Gore Creek treatment area includes the area from the ridge line north of Dowd Junction east to FS road 700. Interstate 70 and the developed private property from the southeast or downhill boundary and uphill boundary is the lower extent of previous treatments off FS rd. 700 and FS rd. 734. Primary ownership within this treatment area is USFS; however, portions of the treatment area are private and state ownership. The treatment area contains several areas of critical infrastructure including transmission power lines and communications towers.



Treatment Goals

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Protect ecosystems and natural resources from high intensity wildfires.
2. Protect critical infrastructure from high intensity wildfires.
3. Create wildfire resilient landscapes

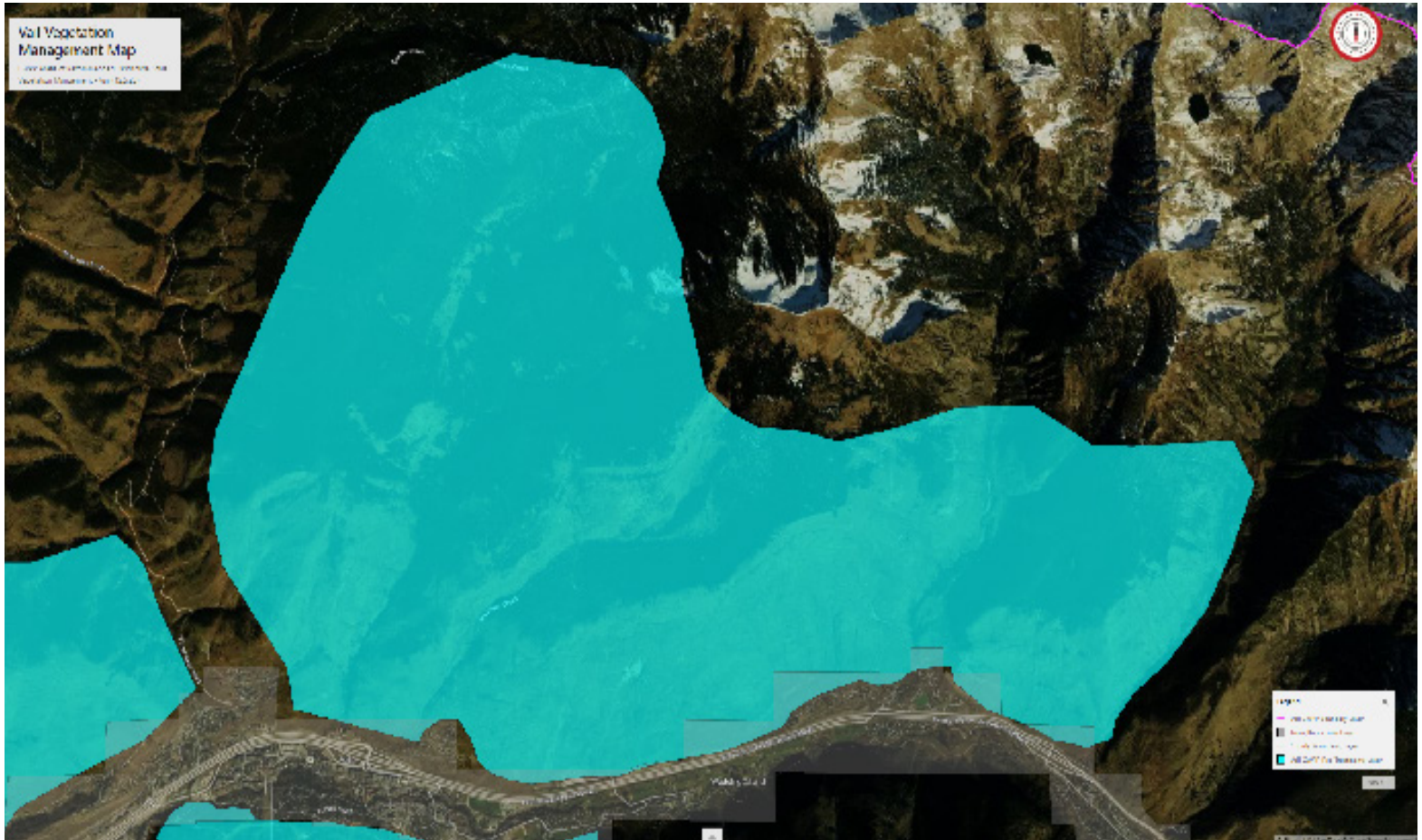
Preferred Treatment Methods

Multiple treatment methods will be necessary to accomplish the stated objectives. Below are the preferred treatment methods:

1. Use hand treatments to create linked defensible space for all structures along the downhill boundary of the treatment area. These treatments should extend from the structure to an area at least 100 feet wide.
Priority: High
2. Use a combination of hand treatments and mechanical harvest to implement point protection for critical infrastructure. Specific prescriptions for point protection should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet within 100 feet of the infrastructure).
Priority: Moderate
3. Reintroduce fire onto the landscape through the use of prescribed fire. **Priority: Moderate**

Project Area Description

The Middle Gore Creek treatment area includes the area from FS road 700 to the Pitkin Creek Drainage. Interstate 70 and the developed private property form the southern or downhill boundary. The treatment area covers the lower reaches of the Middle Creek, Spraddle Creek, Booth Creek and Pitkin Creek drainages. Primary ownership within this treatment area is USFS however portions of the treatment area are private and municipal ownership. The eastern portion of the treatment area overlaps with the boundary of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area. The treatment area contains several areas of critical infrastructure including transmission power lines and communications towers.



Treatment Goals

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Reduce high intensity fire behavior within 100 feet of structures.
2. Protect ecosystems and natural resources from high intensity wildfires.
3. Create wildfire resilient landscapes.
4. Decrease potential ignition sources by improving existing power infrastructure.

Preferred Treatment Method

Multiple treatment methods will be necessary to accomplish the stated objectives. Below are the preferred treatment methods:

1. Use hand treatments to create linked defensible space for all structures along the downhill boundary of the treatment area. These treatments should extend from the structure to an area at least 100 feet wide.
Priority: High
2. Reintroduce fire onto the landscape through the use of prescribed fire.
Priority: Moderate
3. Prioritize the undergrounding of above ground power distribution lines between the Spraddle Creek subdivision and Bald Mountain Road.
Priority: High

Project Area Description

The Benchmark/ Mushroom Bowl treatment area includes all the area in the upper reaches of the Mill Creek Drainage. The area is commonly referred to as Benchmark or the Mushroom Bowl. The area is accessed via Benchmark Road. Primary ownership within this treatment area is USFS.



Treatment Goals

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Create operational delineations on the landscape to decrease resistance to control for fires burning within Benchmark or the East Vail Chutes.
2. Reduce high intensity fire behavior along the ridgeline between Benchmark and the East Vail Chutes.
3. Protect critical infrastructure from high intensity wildfires.

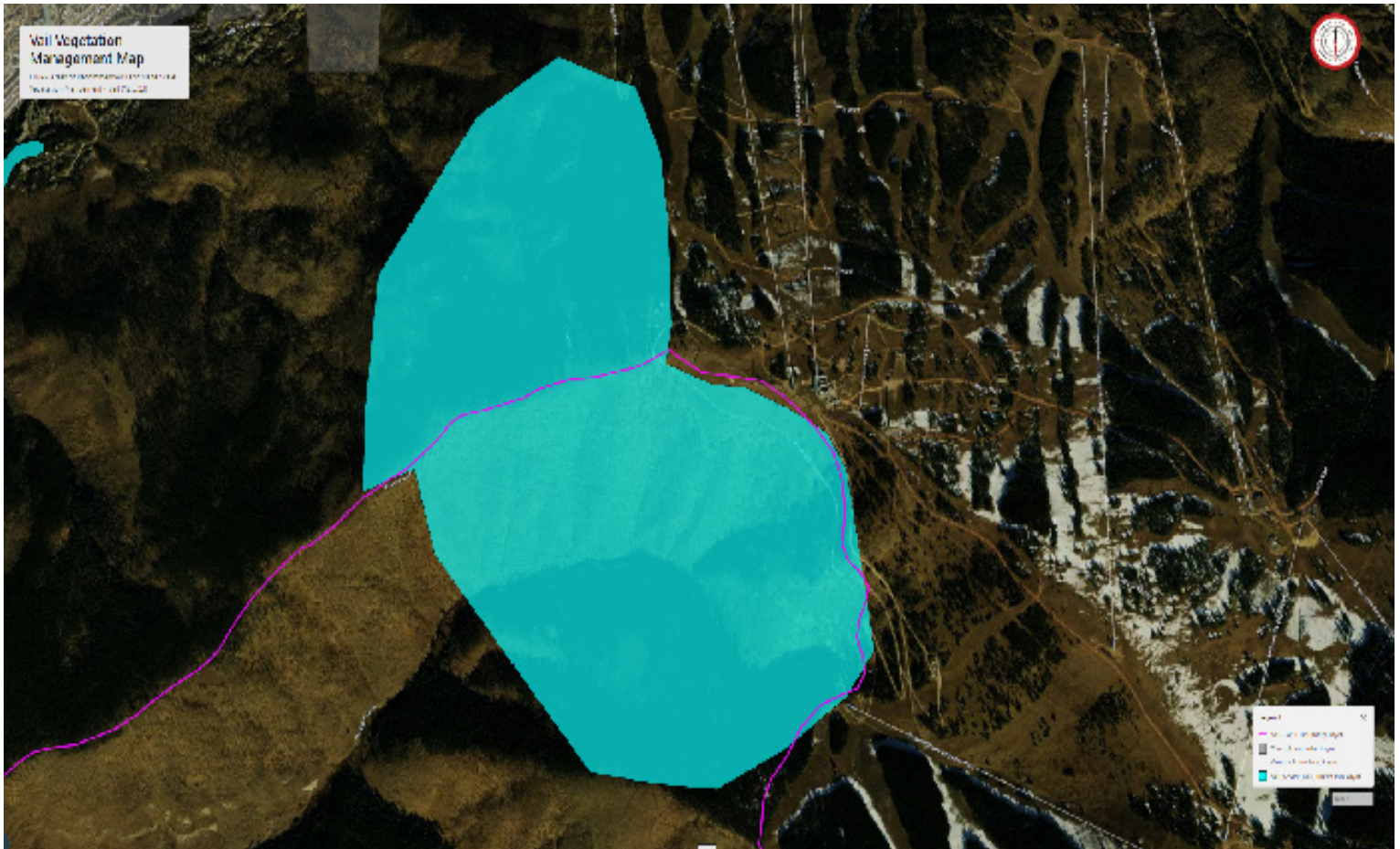
Preferred Treatment Method

1. Use a combination of commercial timber harvest and hand treatments and prescribed fire to create and maintain openings along the Northern or Eastern treatment area boundaries. Pockets of dead or diseased trees should be removed throughout the treatment area to decrease fire intensity and create potential operational delineations for fire suppression.

Priority: Moderate

Project Area Description

The Eagles Nest/ Lower Game Creek treatment area includes the area west of the Vail Ski Area Boundary from the Cascade Lift on the north over the top of the ridge to the drainage below the Game Creek Bowl. Primary ownership within this treatment area is USFS. The treatment area contains several areas of critical infrastructure including recreational ski infrastructure and communications sites. The area immediately east of the treatment area is a highly used developed recreation site for summer recreation activities. The Eagle Bahn Gondola which runs along the eastern edge of the treatment area is the primary evacuation method for moving guests from the mountain to safety in the village.



Treatment Goal

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Protect critical infrastructure and recreational facilities from high intensity wildfire.
2. Create compartmentalization on landscape.
3. Protect primary evacuation route - reduce risk of wildfire disaster.

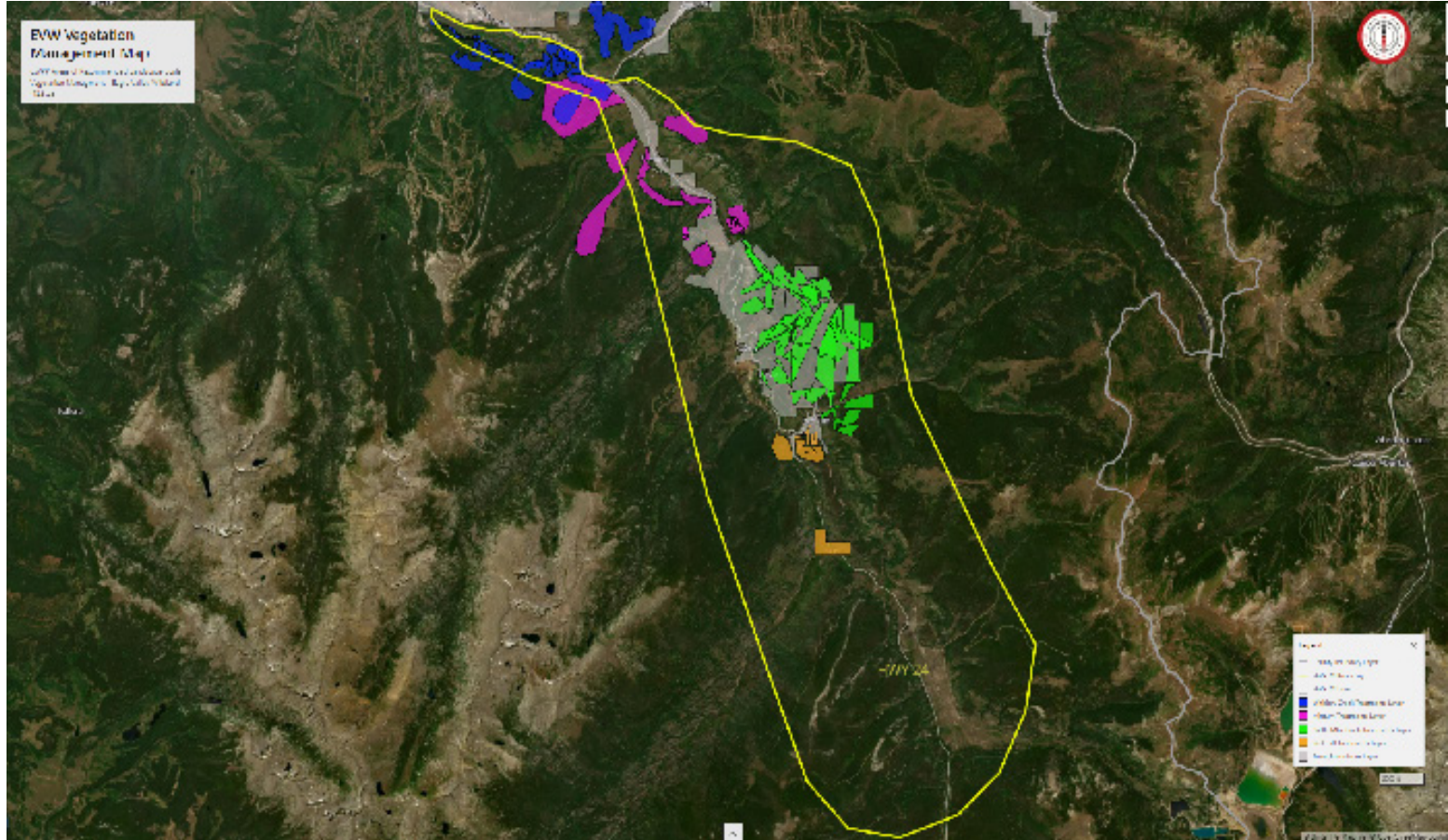
Preferred Treatment Method

Multiple treatment methods will be necessary to accomplish the stated objectives. Below are the preferred treatment methods:

1. Use a combination of commercial timber harvest and hand treatments to create and maintain openings throughout the treatment area boundaries.
Priority: High
2. Use a combination of hand treatments and mechanical harvest to implement point protection for critical infrastructure. Specific prescriptions for point protection should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet within 100 feet of the infrastructure).
Priority: High

Project Area Description

The Highway 24 treatment area encompasses the area along the Highway 24 corridor, including Minturn, Red Cliff, Tennessee Pass, recreation areas off of Tigiwon and Shrine Pass Roads (among others), and areas that are slated to be developed in the Battle Mountain area. The intersection with Interstate 70 and Highway 24 is the southern boundary. Primary ownership within this treatment area is USFS; however, portions of the treatment area are private and state ownership. The treatment area contains several areas of critical infrastructure including transmission power lines, communications towers, a major highway and bridge, water pipelines, water intake and storage facilities, railroad, and a small ski area.



Treatment Goal

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Protect ecosystems and natural resources from high intensity wildfires.
2. Protect critical infrastructure from high intensity wildfires.
3. Create wildfire resilient landscapes.
4. Improve the strategic and tactical viability of the USFS/BLM Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) by treating highly flammable fuels along boundaries.
5. Improve the effectiveness of existing and future WUI fuels projects by treating both sides of public/private land boundaries.

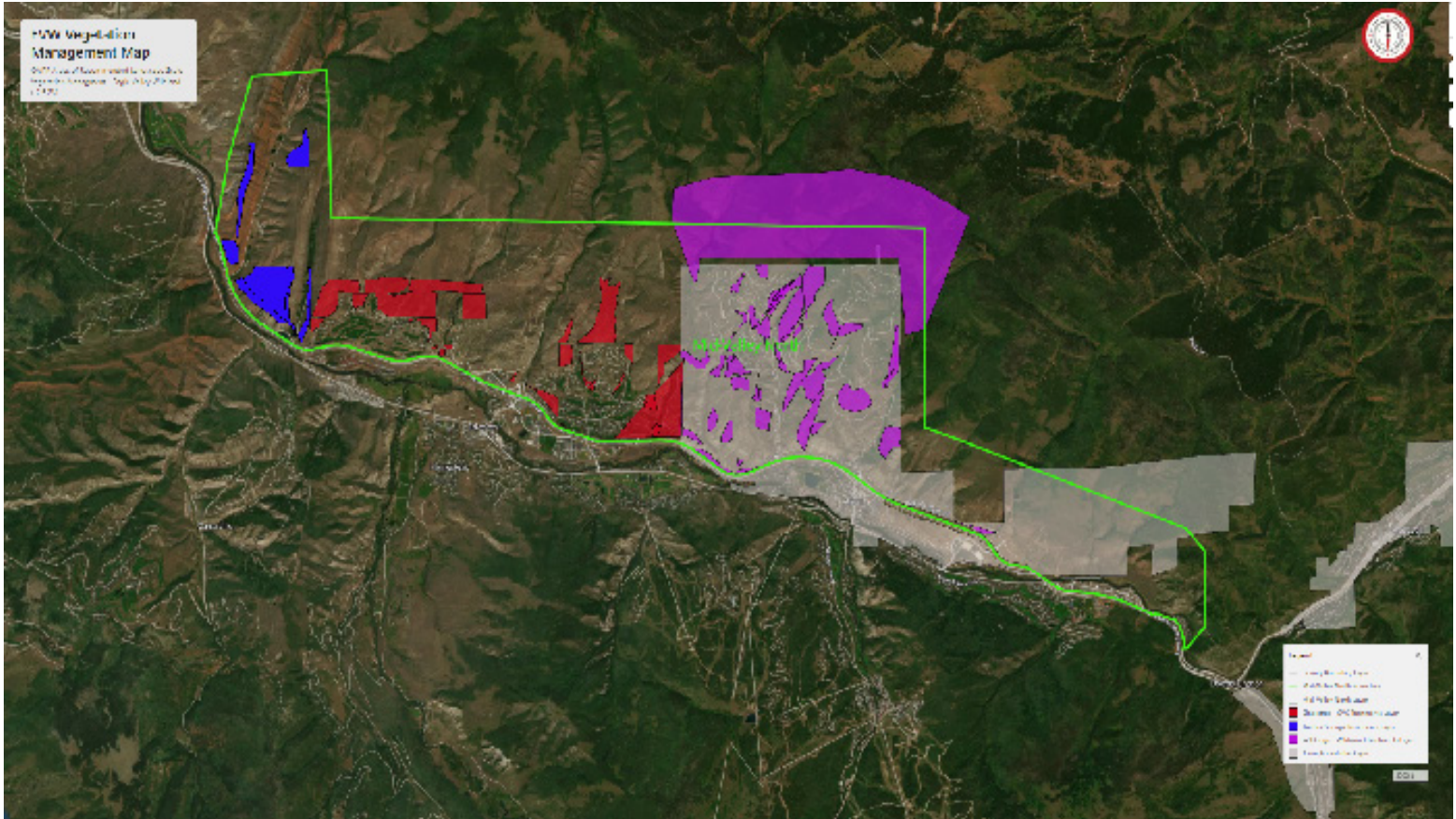
Preferred Treatment Method

Multiple treatment methods will be necessary to accomplish the stated objectives. Below are the preferred treatment methods:

1. Use mastication to create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units for all areas of population concentration and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
2. Use hand thinning to selectively thin (reduce fuel loading to appropriate levels given the vegetation type and growth patterns) and create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units around areas of population concentrations and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
3. Re-introduce low-intensity fire onto the landscape through the use of prescribed fire to reduce heavy fuel loading and reinstate ecologically appropriate fire return intervals. **Priority: High**

Project Area Description

Mid-Valley North encompasses areas in Avon and Edwards north of I-70, including the Cordillera Valley Club, Singletree, Wildwood, Wildridge, and Mountain Star sub-divisions. Primary ownership within this treatment area is private or owned by metro districts or HOA's; however, portions of the treatment area are USFS, BLM, and state ownership. The treatment area contains some areas of critical infrastructure including transmission power lines, communications towers, and recreation assets.



Treatment Goal

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Protect ecosystems and natural resources from high intensity wildfires.
2. Protect critical infrastructure from high intensity wildfires.
3. Create wildfire resilient landscapes.
4. Create resilient wildlife populations by maintaining healthy ecosystems and habitat connectivity.
5. Improve the strategic and tactical viability of the USFS/BLM Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) by treating highly flammable fuels along boundaries.
6. Improve the effectiveness of existing and future WUI fuels projects by treating both sides of public/private land boundaries.

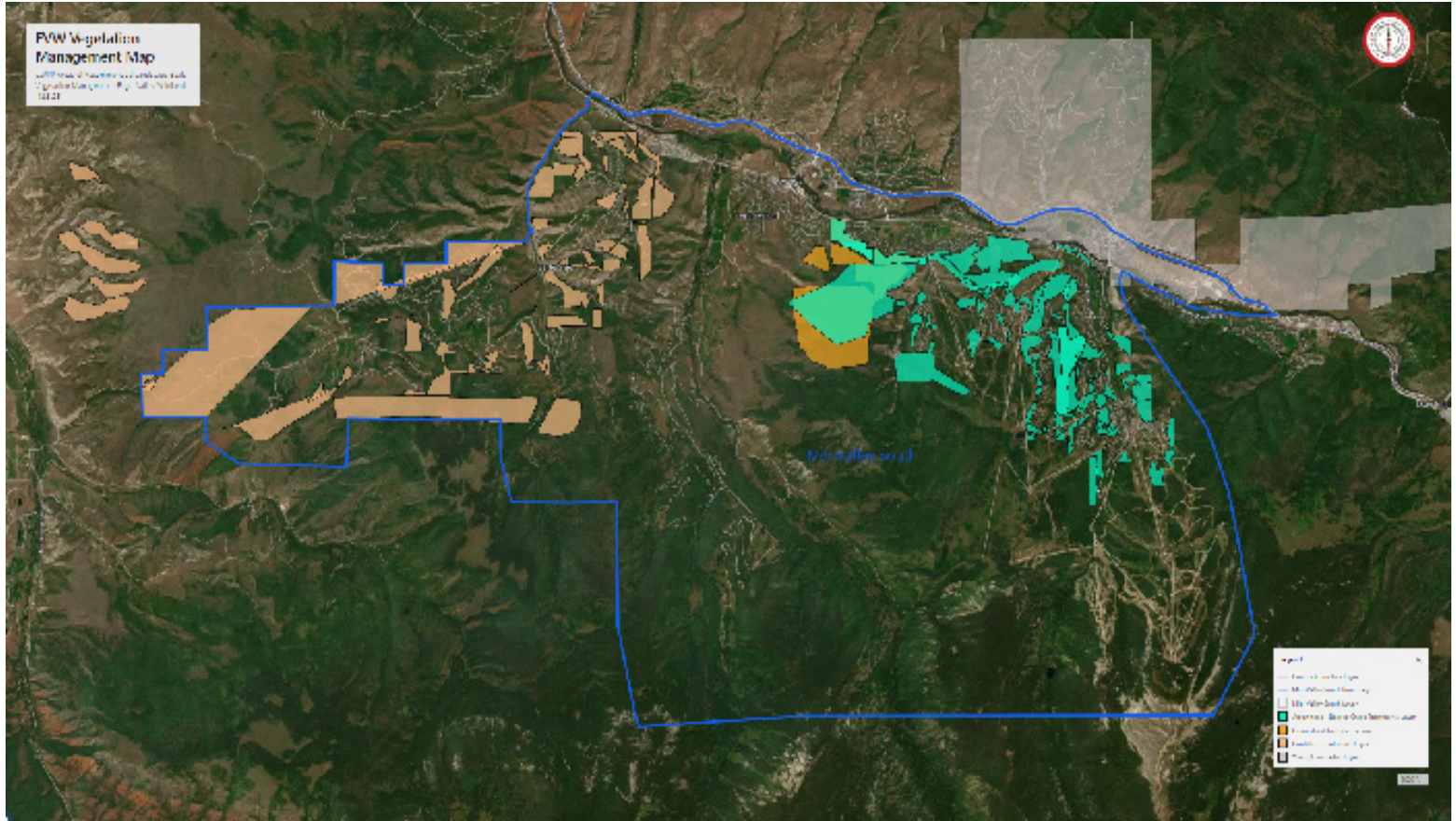
Preferred Treatment Method

Multiple treatment methods will be necessary to accomplish the stated objectives. Below are the preferred treatment methods:

1. Use mastication to create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units for all areas of population concentration and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
2. Use hand thinning to selectively thin (reduce fuel loading to appropriate levels given the vegetation type and growth patterns) and create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units around areas of population concentrations and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
3. Re-introduce low-intensity fire onto the landscape through the use of prescribed fire to reduce heavy fuel loading and reinstate ecologically appropriate fire return intervals. **Priority: High**

Project Area Description

Mid-Valley South encompasses areas in Avon and Edwards south of I-70, including Lake Creek, Creamery Ranch, Homestead, and the Cordillera, Arrowhead, Bachelor Gulch, and Beaver Creek Metro Districts. Primary ownership within this treatment area is USFS; however, portions of the treatment area are private and state ownership. The treatment area contains several areas of critical infrastructure including transmission power lines, communications towers, a major highway, water intake and storage facilities, and ski areas (with their accompanying infrastructure).



Treatment Goals

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Protect ecosystems and natural resources from high intensity wildfires.
2. Protect critical infrastructure from high intensity wildfires.
3. Create wildfire resilient landscapes.
4. Improve the strategic and tactical viability of the USFS/BLM Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) by treating highly flammable fuels along boundaries.
5. Improve the effectiveness of existing and future WUI fuels projects by treating both sides of public/private land boundaries.

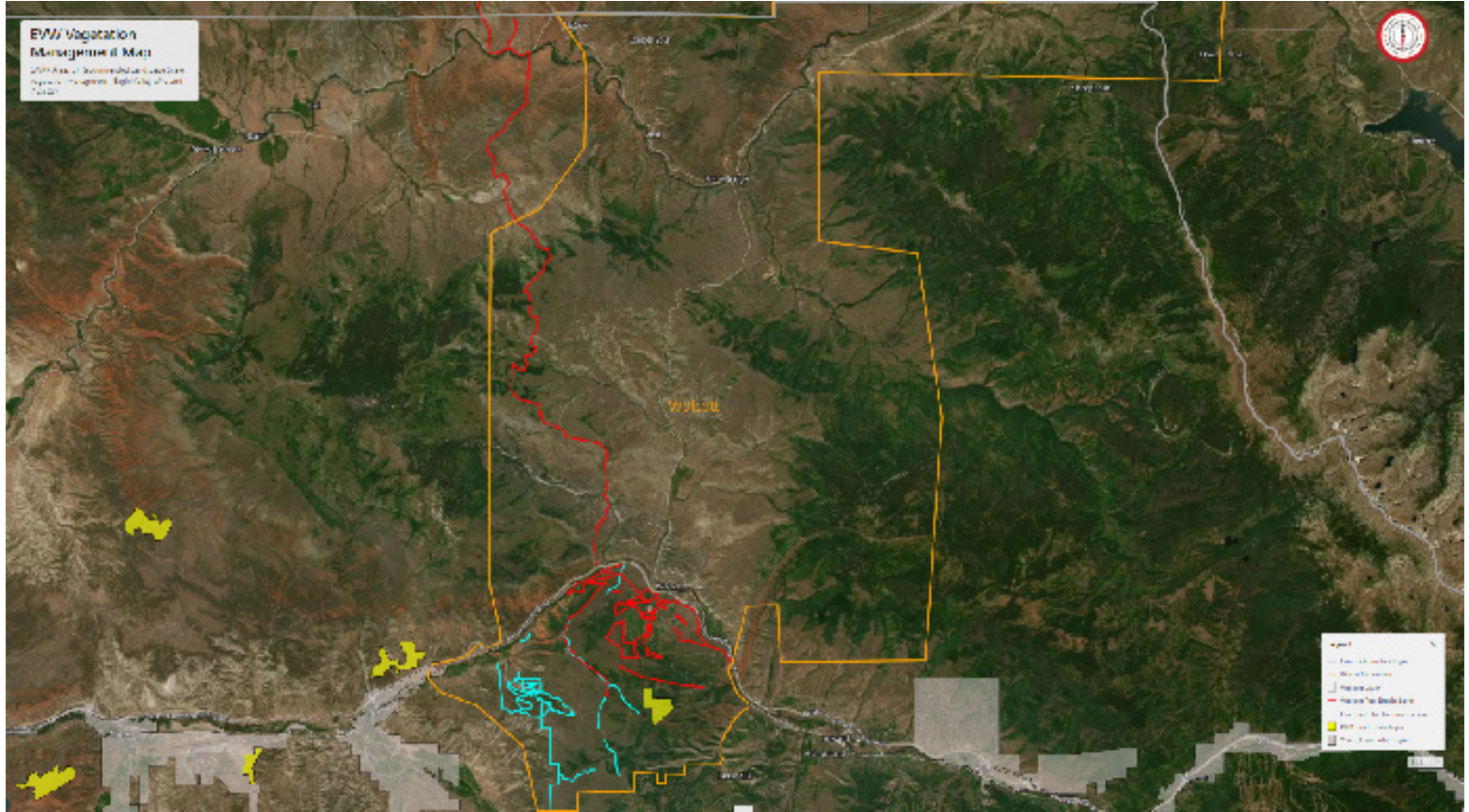
Preferred Treatment Method

Multiple treatment methods will be necessary to accomplish the stated objectives. Below are the preferred treatment methods:

1. Use mastication to create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units for all areas of population concentration and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet).
Priority: High
2. Use hand thinning to selectively thin (reduce fuel loading to appropriate levels given the vegetation type and growth patterns) and create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units around areas of population concentrations and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet).
Priority: High
3. Re-introduce low-intensity fire onto the landscape through the use of prescribed fire to reduce heavy fuel loading and reinstate ecologically appropriate fire return intervals.
Priority: High

Project Area Description

Encompasses the area around Wolcott, including Red Sky Ranch, Diamond Star, Bellyache Ridge, and public and private land along Highway 131 to McCoy (Horse Mountain Ranch, Muddy Pass, Milk Creek, and Alkali Creek Roads). Primary ownership within this treatment area is BLM; however, portions of the treatment area are private and state ownership. The treatment area contains some areas of critical infrastructure including transmission power lines, communications towers, and recreation assets.



Treatment Goals

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Protect ecosystems and natural resources from high intensity wildfires.
2. Protect critical infrastructure from high intensity wildfires.
3. Create wildfire resilient landscapes.
4. Create resilient wildlife populations by maintaining healthy ecosystems and habitat connectivity.
5. Improve the strategic and tactical viability of the USFS/BLM Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) by treating highly flammable fuels along boundaries.
6. Improve the effectiveness of existing and future WUI fuels projects by treating both sides of public/private land boundaries.

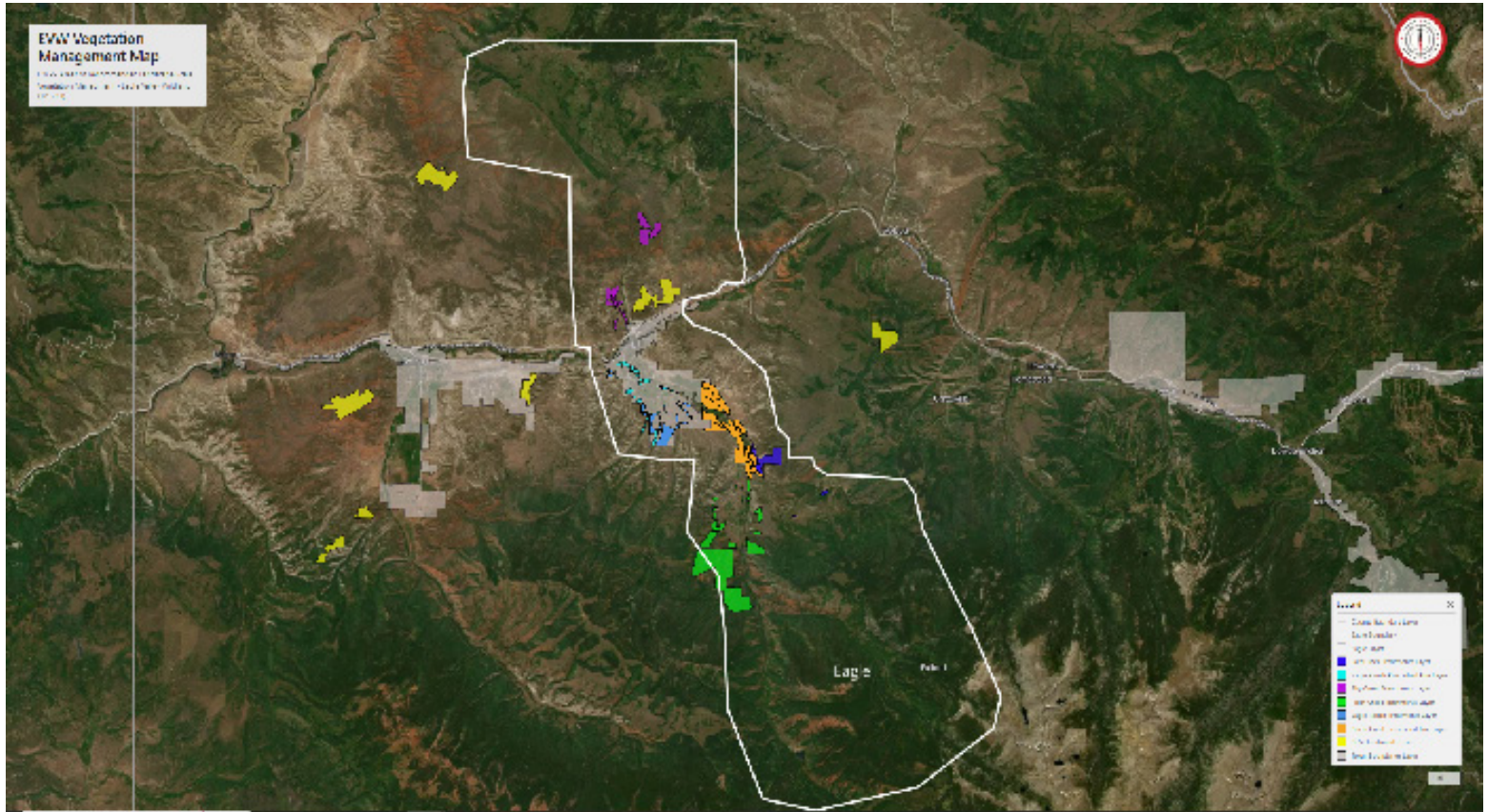
Preferred Treatment Method

Multiple treatment methods will be necessary to accomplish the stated objectives. Below are the preferred treatment methods:

1. Use mastication to create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units for all areas of population concentration and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
2. Use hand thinning to selectively thin (reduce fuel loading to appropriate levels given the vegetation type and growth patterns) and create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units around areas of population concentrations and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
3. Re-introduce low-intensity fire onto the landscape through the use of prescribed fire to reduce heavy fuel loading and reinstate ecologically appropriate fire return intervals. **Priority: High**

Project Area Description

This area encompasses Eagle and outlying areas, including the Brush Creek Valley, Eagle Ranch, Eby Creek, Upper Kaibab, Frost Creek, the Salt Creek and Bruce Creek drainages, and Sylvan Lake State Park. Primary ownership within this treatment area is private or HOA; however, portions of the treatment area are Town of Eagle, state, BLM, or USFS ownership. The treatment area contains several areas of critical infrastructure including transmission power lines, communications towers, water storage facilities, and recreation assets.



Treatment Goals

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Protect ecosystems and natural resources from high intensity wildfires.
2. Protect critical water sources and infrastructure from high intensity wildfires.
3. Create wildfire resilient landscapes.
4. Improve the strategic and tactical viability of the USFS/BLM Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) by treating highly flammable fuels along boundaries.
5. Improve the effectiveness of existing and future WUI fuels projects by treating both sides of public/private land boundaries.

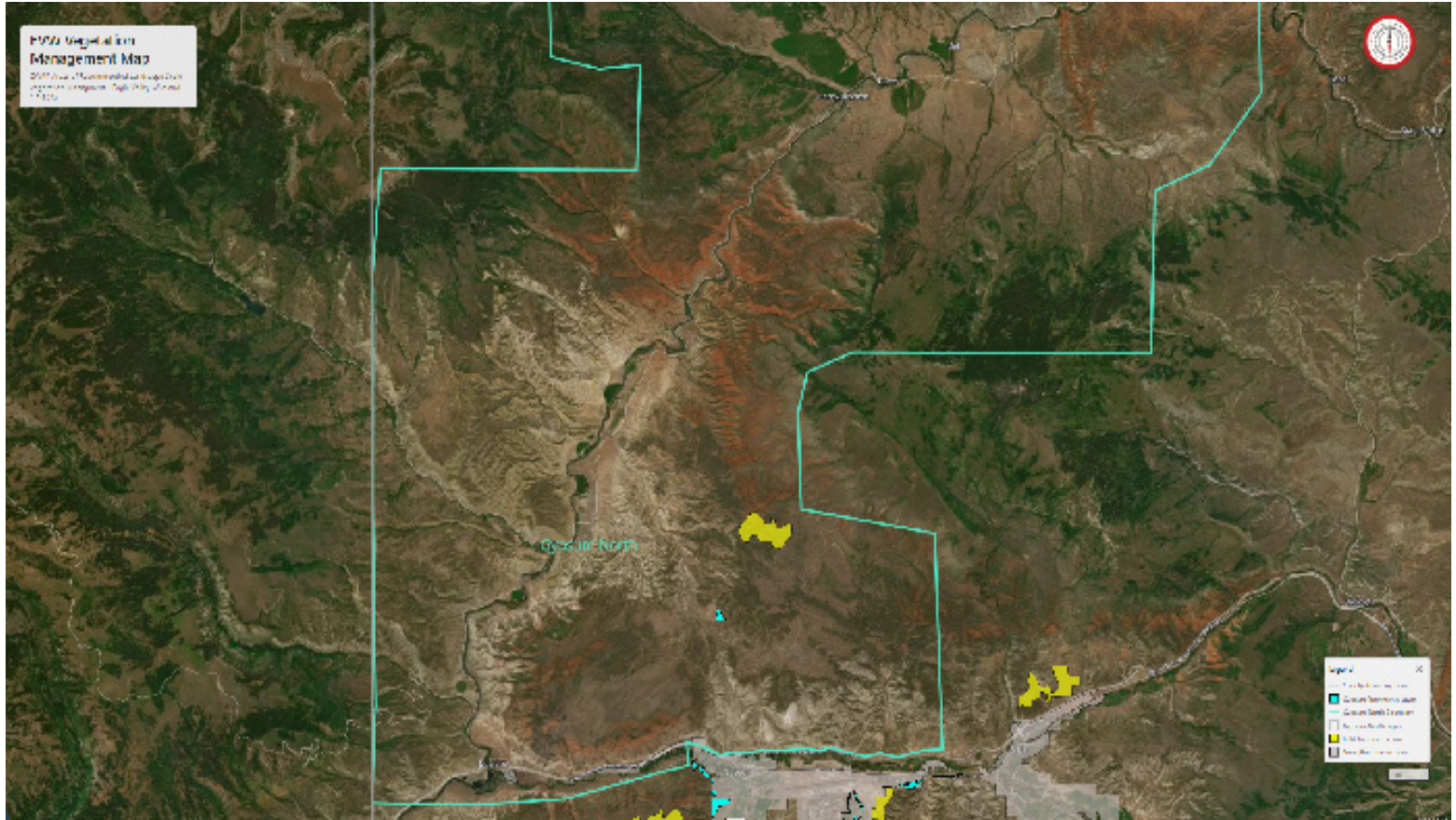
Preferred Treatment Methods

Multiple treatment methods will be necessary to accomplish the stated objectives. Below are the preferred treatment methods:

1. Use mastication to create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units for all areas of population concentration and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
2. Use hand thinning to selectively thin (reduce fuel loading to appropriate levels given the vegetation type and growth patterns) and create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units around areas of population concentrations and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
3. Re-introduce low-intensity fire onto the landscape through the use of prescribed fire to reduce heavy fuel loading and reinstate ecologically appropriate fire return intervals. **Priority: High**

Project Area Description

The Gypsum North area encompasses private and federally managed lands in the areas off the Colorado River Road and Trail Gulch Road, and the Burns, Sweetwater, and Derby Mesa communities. Primary ownership within this treatment area is BLM; however, portions of the treatment area are private and state ownership. The treatment area contains several areas of critical infrastructure including transmission power lines, communications towers, recreation assets, and railroad infrastructure.



Treatment Goals

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Protect ecosystems and natural resources from high intensity wildfires.
2. Protect critical infrastructure from high intensity wildfires.
3. Create wildfire resilient landscapes.
4. Improve the strategic and tactical viability of the USFS/BLM Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) by treating highly flammable fuels along boundaries.
5. Improve the effectiveness of existing and future WUI fuels projects by treating both sides of public/private land boundaries.

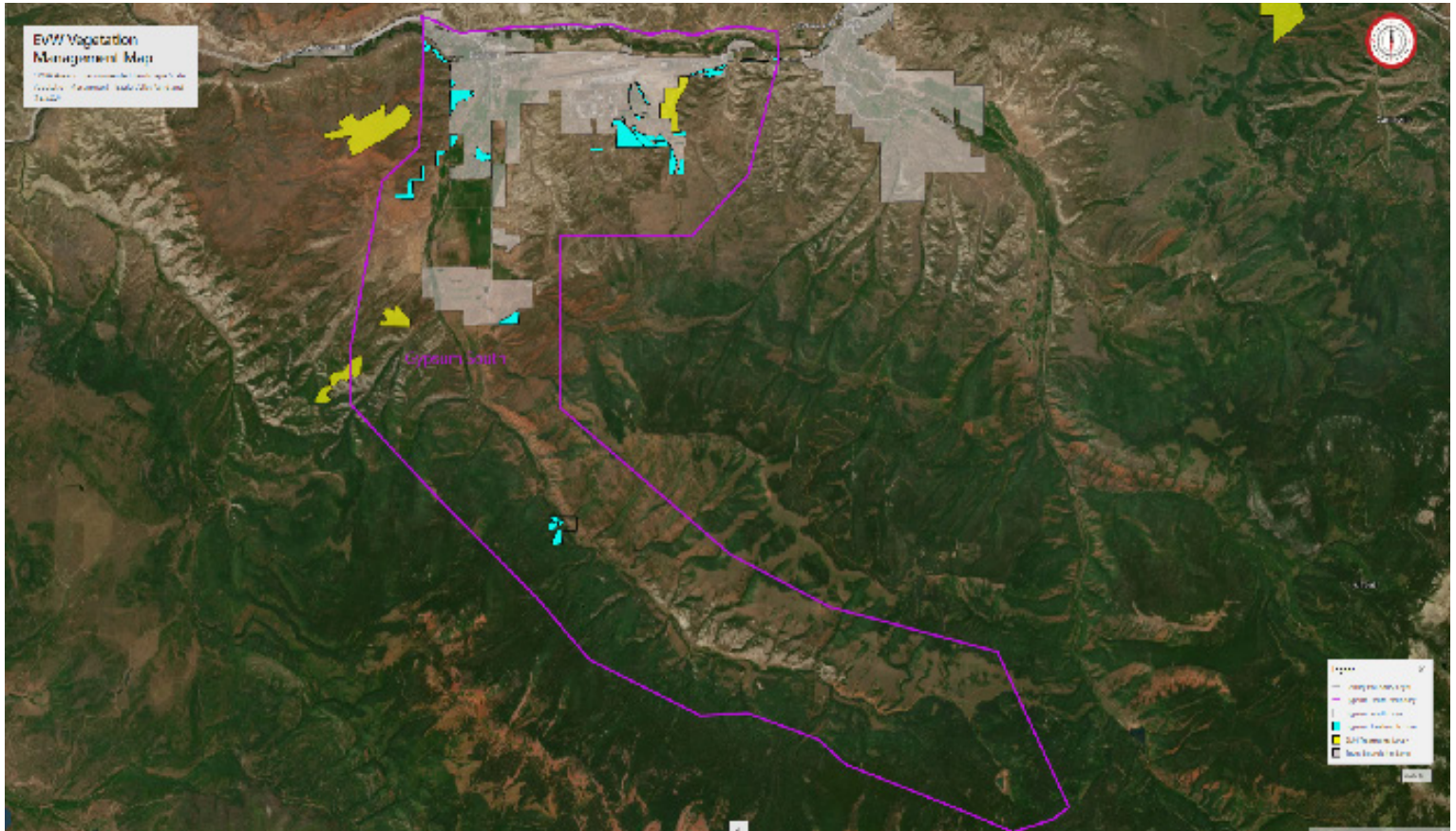
Preferred Treatment Method

Multiple treatment methods will be necessary to accomplish the stated objectives. Below are the preferred treatment methods:

1. Use mastication to create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units for all areas of population concentration and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
2. Use hand thinning to selectively thin (reduce fuel loading to appropriate levels given the vegetation type and growth patterns) and create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units around areas of population concentrations and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
3. Re-introduce low-intensity fire onto the landscape through the use of prescribed fire to reduce heavy fuel loading and reinstate ecologically appropriate fire return intervals. **Priority: High**

Project Area Description

The Gypsum South area encompasses Gypsum, the Eagle County Airport, Airport Industrial Park, Chatfield Corners, Brightwater, Spring Valley, and public and private lands in the Gypsum Creek drainage. Ownership within this treatment area is a mix of USFS, BLM, state, and private lands. The treatment area contains several areas of critical infrastructure including transmission power lines, communications towers, water sources for the town of Gypsum, water pipelines, water intake and storage facilities, and recreation assets.



Treatment Goals

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Protect ecosystems and natural resources from high intensity wildfires.
2. Protect critical water sources and infrastructure from high intensity wildfires.
3. Create wildfire resilient landscapes.
4. Improve the strategic and tactical viability of the USFS/BLM Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) by treating highly flammable fuels along boundaries.
5. Improve the effectiveness of existing and future WUI fuels projects by treating both sides of public/private land boundaries.

Preferred Treatment Methods

1. Use mastication to create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units for all areas of population concentration and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet).. **Priority: High**
2. Use hand thinning to selectively thin (reduce fuel loading to appropriate levels given the vegetation type and growth patterns) and create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units around areas of population concentrations and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
3. Re-introduce low-intensity fire onto the landscape through the use of prescribed fire to reduce heavy fuel loading and reinstate ecologically appropriate fire return intervals, particularly in the Gypsum Creek watershed. **Priority: High**

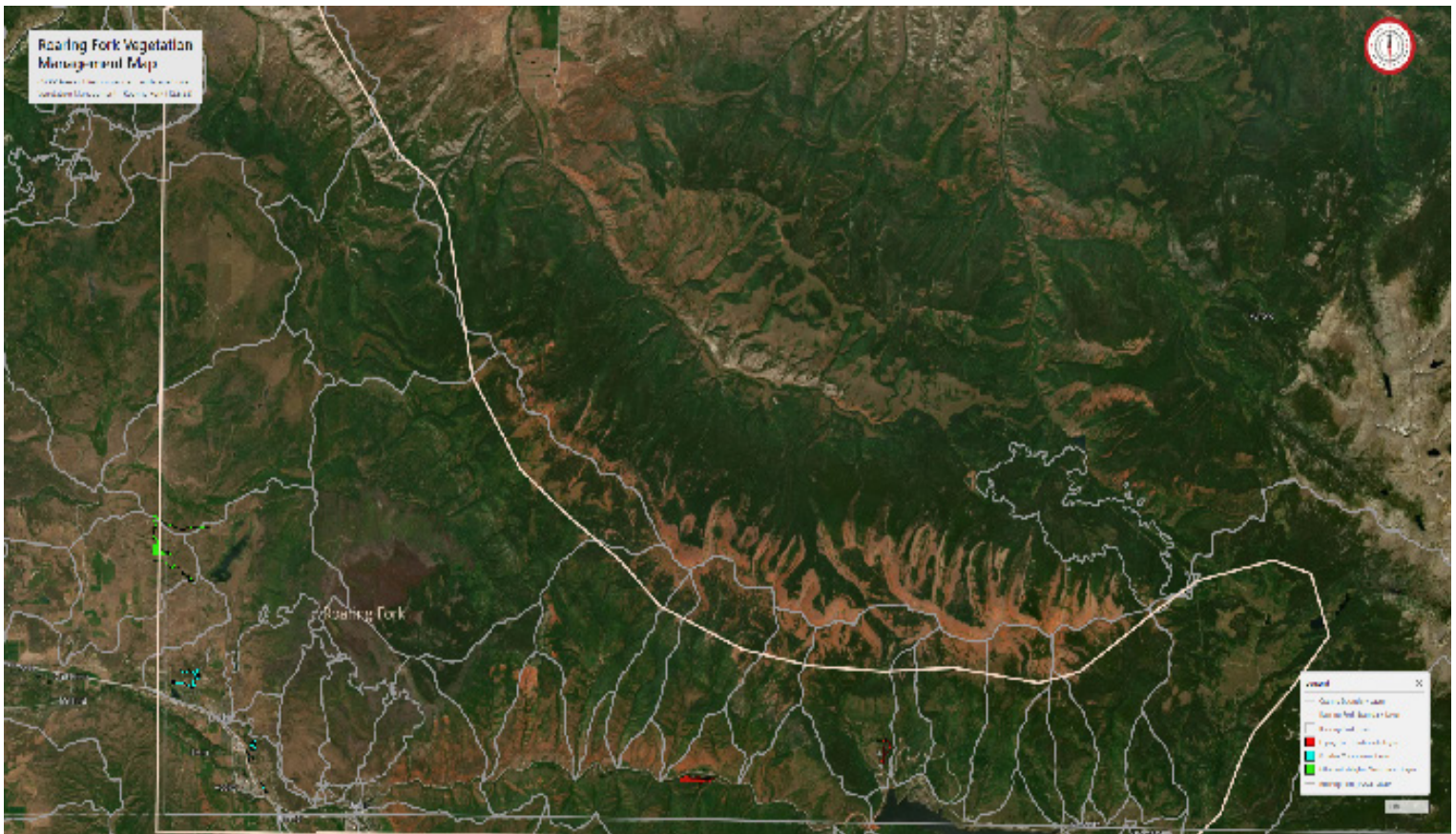
Areas of Recommended Landscape Scale Vegetation Management

Roaring Fork

Section 10, Item C.

Project Area Description

Missouri Heights is a large residential area located on the mesa above El Jebel and the Highway 82 corridor. The area can be accessed from Highway 82 via El Jebel Road which becomes Upper Cattle Creek Road as it travels through Missouri Heights, or from Garfield County via County Road 102 which becomes Fender Lane. The Town of Basalt is located along State Highway 82, and at the confluence of the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork rivers. The Ruedi Reservoir is a reservoir on the Frying Pan River. It sits about 15 miles upstream of the town of Basalt, Colorado. The reservoir is located within the White River National Forest, and straddles the county line between Pitkin County and Eagle County. The treatment area contains several areas of critical infrastructure including transmission power lines, communications towers, recreation assets, Gold-Medal trout habitat, the Town of Basalt, and the Spring Park Reservoir and Ruedi Reservoir.



Treatment Goals

The goals of this treatment area are:

1. Protect ecosystems and natural resources from high intensity wildfires.
2. Protect critical water sources and infrastructure from high intensity wildfires.
3. Create wildfire resilient landscapes.
4. Reduce high intensity fire behavior within 100 feet of structures.
5. Improve the strategic and tactical viability of the USFS/BLM Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) by treating highly flammable fuels along boundaries.
6. Improve the effectiveness of existing and future WUI fuels projects by treating both sides of public/private land boundaries.

Preferred Treatment Methods

1. Use mastication to create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units for all areas of population concentration and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
2. Use hand thinning to selectively thin (reduce fuel loading to appropriate levels given the vegetation type and growth patterns) and create linked fuel breaks and fuels reduction units around areas of population concentrations and infrastructure assets. Specific prescriptions for fuels reduction projects should decrease potential fire behavior below thresholds that would damage infrastructure (i.e. flame length less than 3 feet). **Priority: High**
3. Reintroduce fire onto the landscape through the use of prescribed fire, and managing natural wildfire ignitions for resource benefit. **Priority: Moderate**
4. Expand community engagement and education focused on behavior changes that enhance wildfire resilience. **Priority: High**

WUI - Wildland Urban Interface

CWPP - Community Wildfire Protection Plan

CPW - Colorado Parks and Wildlife

BLM - Bureau of Land Management

USFS - United States Forest Service

CSFS - Colorado State Forest Service

CDOT - Colorado Department of Transportation

OWTS - Onsite Wastewater Treatment System

BIL - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

HFRA - Healthy Forests Restoration Act

CPD - Census-Designated Place

MAMA - Mountain Area Mutual Aid

CO-WRA - Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment

HWY - Highway

IFTDSS - Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System

ICS - Incident Command System

PODS - Potential Operational Delineations

SWPP - Source Water Protection Plan

HMP - Hazard Mitigation Plan

ICS - Incident Command System

FAC - Fire Adapted Communities

BAER - Burned Area Emergency Response

EV - Electric Vehicle

HOA - HomeOwners Association

MPB - Mountain Pine Beetle

SAD - Sudden Aspen Decline

FRCC - Fire Regime Condition Class

NIST - The National Institute of Standards and Technology

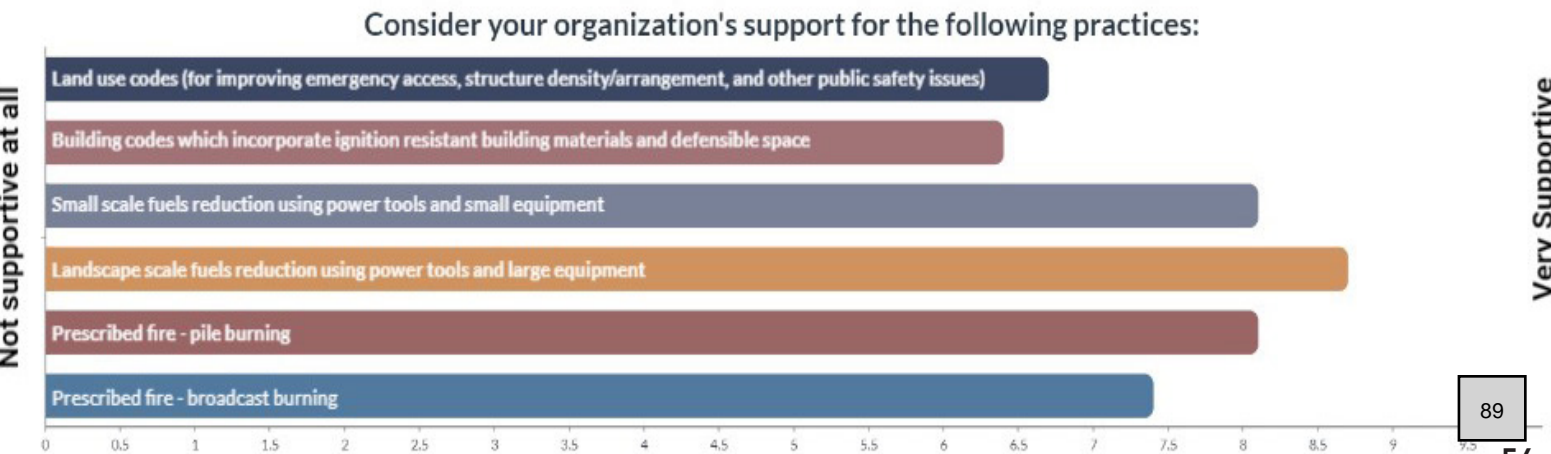
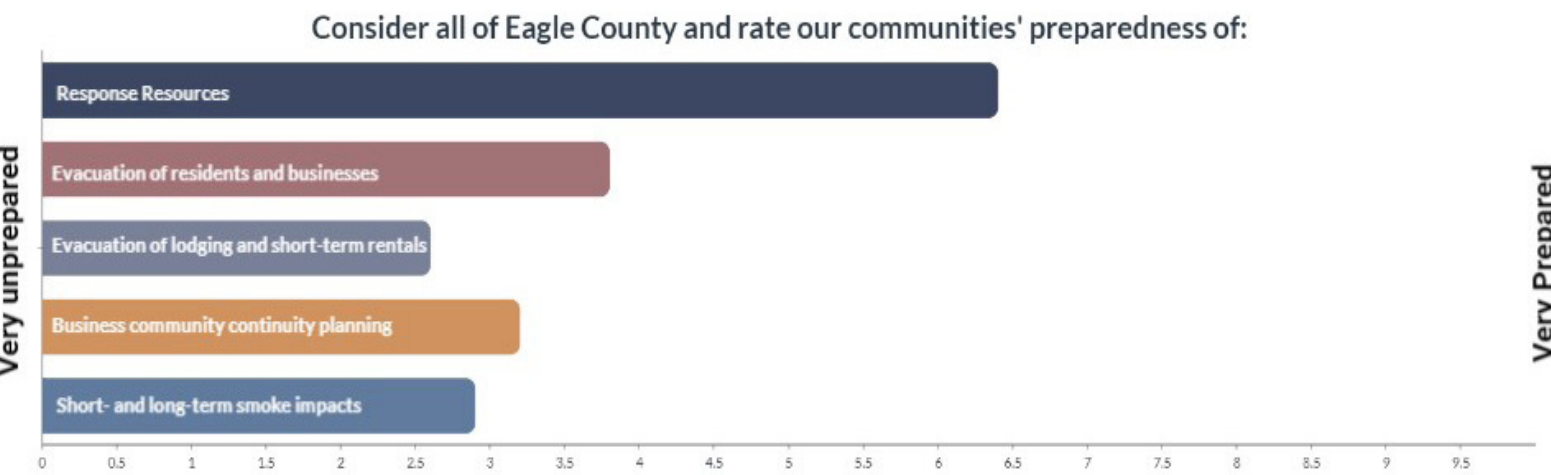
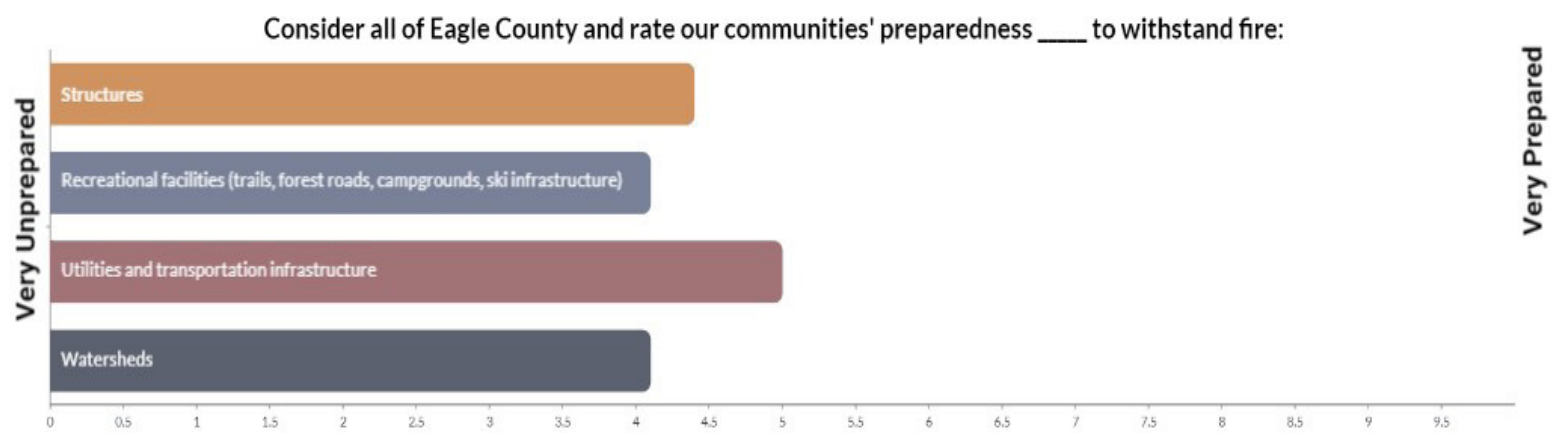
SSD - structure separation distance

CDC - Center for Disease Control

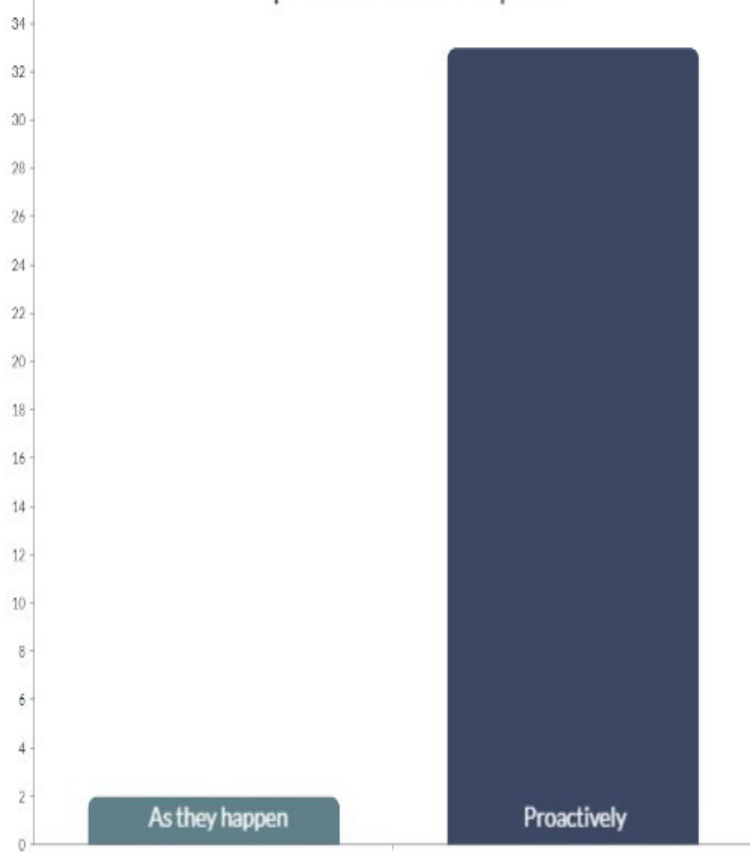
SDI - Suppression Difficulty Index

COOP - Continuity of Operations Plans

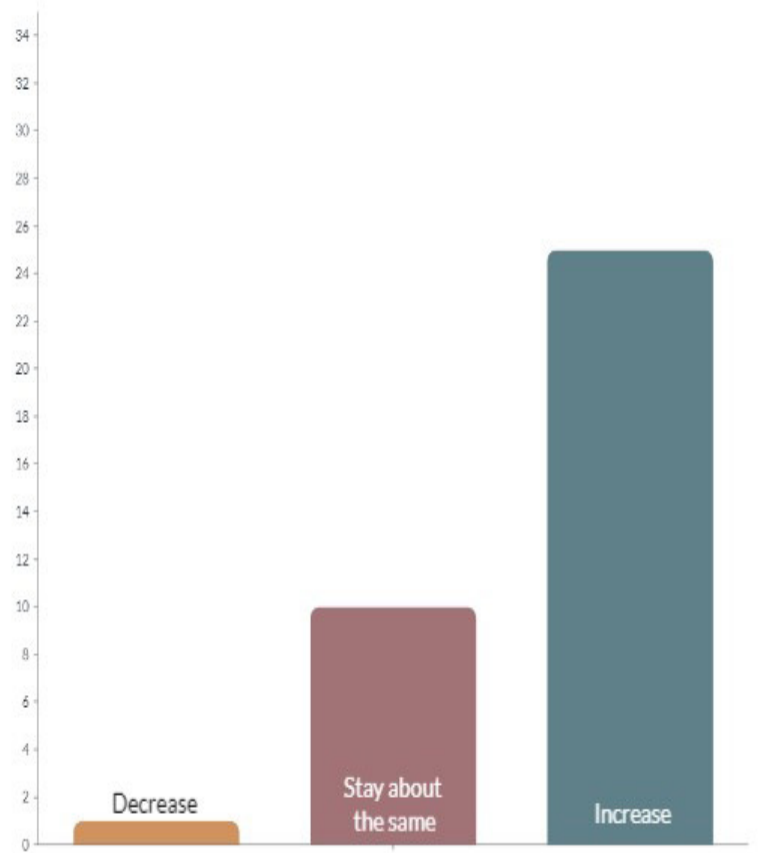
- **Vail CWPP** - <https://www.vail.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/116/637431457568430000>
- **Eagle River Fire Protection District CWPP** - https://csfs.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ERFPD_CWPP_2020.pdf
- **Arrowhead CWPP** - <https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/documents/ArrowheadCWPP.pdf>
- **Bachelor Gulch CWPP** - <https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/documents/BachelorGulchCWPP.pdf>
- **Beaver Creek CWPP** - <https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/documents/BeaverCreekCWPP.pdf>
- **Cordillera CWPP** - <https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/documents/CordilleraCWPP.pdf>
- **Town of Eagle SWPP** - https://www.townofeagle.org/DocumentCenter/View/16142/TownofEagle_SWPP_Final_Public_062320
- **Eagle River Water and Sanitation Gore Creek SWPP** - https://www.erwsd.org/sites/default/files/documents/Vail_SWPP.pdf
- **Eagle County Hazard Mitigation Plan** - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Du5EOBcKLaY2P7SXcbfCF2KxgKvjPSg7/view>
- **Eagle County Community Resilience Plan** - <https://www.resilienteaglecounty.com/>
- **Eagle County Wildfire Regulations** - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d835mFpJA3uPOcspgvfDJGyZBqyK7TWn/view>
- **REALFire Program** - <https://realfire.net/>
- **Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment (CO-WRA)** - <https://co-pub.coloradoforestatlas.org>
- **Landfire national dataset** - <https://www.landfire.gov/frcc/frcchome.php>.
- **The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)** released Technical Note 2205 WUI Structure/ Parcel/
- **Community Fire Hazard Mitigation Methodology** - <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/TechnicalNotes/NIST.TN.2205.pdf>.
- **CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)** - <https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/learn/articles/sedac-social-vulnerability-dataset>.
- **CHFA Colorado 2023 rent and income limits** - <https://www.chfainfo.com/getattachment/76fc6334-528d-4efd-b90d-1d49b412a2f4/2023-Rent-and-income-limits.pdf>



When do you believe our community should address potential wildfire impacts?



Looking to the future, do you believe wildfire risk will...



The following stakeholders contributed to the creation of this plan:

Municipalities	
Town of Vail	Russ Forrest
Town of Avon	Jena Skinner
Town of Minturn	Michelle Meeter
Town of Red Cliff	Melissa Matthews
Town of Eagle	Larry Pardee
Town of Eagle	Melissa Darna
Town of Gypsum	Taylor Slaugh
Town of Basalt	Ryan Mahoney

Conservation Districts / Non-Governmental Organizations	
Eagle River Watershed Council	James Dilzell
Eagle River Watershed Council	Anna Nakae
Eagle Valley Land Trust	Torrey Davis
Eagle Valley Land Trust	Jessica Foulis
Eagle Valley Land Trust	Keri Inoyue
Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance	Ernst Seager
Eagle County Conservation District	Laura Bohannon

Fire Districts / Departments / Organizations	
Eagle Valley Wildland	Hugh Fairfield-Smith
Eagle Valley Wildland	Ross Wilmore
Eagle Valley Wildland	Katie Scott
Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative	Stacey Todd
Rock Creek VFD	Brita Horn
Vail Fire and Emergency Services	Mark Novak
Vail Fire and Emergency Services	Paul Cada
Greater Eagle Fire Protection District	Doug Cupp
Eagle River Fire Protection District	Karl Bauer
Gypsum Fire District	Justin Kirkland
Roaring Fork Fire and Rescue	Scott Thompson

Eagle County	
Eagle County Emergency Management	Birch Barron
Eagle County Emergency Management	Fernando Almanza
Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation	Eric Lovgren
Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation	Katie Jenkins
Eagle County Manager	Jeff Shroll
Eagle County Sheriff	James VanBeek
Eagle County Natural Resources	Marcia Gilles
Eagle County Natural Resources	Maureen Mulcahy
Eagle County Natural Resources	Emily Seddon
Eagle County Vegetation Stewardship	Kallie Rand
Eagle County Environmental Health	Claire Lewandowski
Eagle County Environmental Health	Kirk Weems
Eagle County Housing and Development Authority	Kim Bell Williams

Utilities	
Eagle River Water and Sanitation	Michael Rae
Eagle River Water and Sanitation	Dan Siebert
Eagle River Water and Sanitation	Kira Koppel
Xcel	Laurin Lee
Holy Cross Electric	Bryan Hannegan
Holy Cross Electric	David Bleakley
Holy Cross Electric	Bo Jones
Colorado Springs Utilities	Jeremy Taylor
Black Hills Natural Gas	Eric Neblett
Black Hills Natural Gas	Kacee Rogers

Appendix A - Stakeholder input and involvement

Section 10, Item C.

Federal and State Agencies	
BLM - CO River Field Office	Larry Sandoval
BLM - CO River Field Office	Chad Sewell
USFS - White River National Forest	Leanne Veldhuis
USFS - White River National Forest	John Markalunas
USFS - White River National Forest	Larry Pardee
Colorado State Forest Service	Melissa Daurna
Colorado State Forest Service	Carolina Manriquez
Colorado State Forest Service	Chazz Lakin
CDOT	Kane Schneider
CDOT	Joe Bajza
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Devin Duval
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Layton Stutsman
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Heather Halbritter
CPW - Sylvan Lake State Park	Matt Westerberg
CPW - Sylvan Lake State Park	Chris Tennent
Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control	Ryan McCulley
Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control	Jesse Moreng
Colorado State Land Board	Jerod Smith

Metro Districts	
Bachelor Gulch Metropolitan District	Dave Berg
Arrowhead Metropolitan District	Jerry Hensel
Edwards Metropolitan District	Kris Miller
Berry Creek Metropolitan District	Nina Timm
Buckhorn Valley Metropolitan District	Sarah Shepherd
Eagle-Vail Metropolitan District	Steven Barber
Two Rivers Metropolitan District	Craig Plizga
Eagle Ranch Metropolitan District	Dave Crawford
Beaver Creek Metropolitan District	Bill Simmons
CDOT	Trevor Broersma
Other Critical Stakeholders	
Vail Board of Realtors	Cynthia Thrall
Vail Resorts - Vail Mountain	Jeff Babb
Vail Valley Partnership	Chris Romer
Eagle County School District	Phil Qualman

Vail

Vail is a 4.6 square mile high density development of 5000 full time residents, 5000 additional part time residents and millions of annual visitors. The community is situated along a 10 mile stretch of interstate 70 and extends approximately ¼ mile north and south of the Interstate. The community is completely surrounded by the White River National Forest and is home to Vail Mountain, one of the largest economic centers of the county. Due to the space constraints of the valley nearly all structures within the community are built within 30 feet of the nearest structure. The valley is surrounded by steep slopes and dense vegetation leading to high likelihood of high severity fire. Lower and Middle Gore Creek have known areas of geologic instability and risk for post fire flooding and debris flow is high. If a large-scale evacuation was necessary I-70 is the only route out of the community and will likely have significant congestion on the routes leading to the interstate.

Risk

The overall risk rating to the Vail area is **HIGH**. Topographic features pose a challenge for fire suppression and the density of structures lead to a high likelihood of structure to structure ignitions if fire enters into the community. Concerns surround evacuation routes capacity as well as large guest populations during high fire potential times. While burn probability is lower in the area, fire intensity is very high which increases the risks of significant post fire impacts to communities and critical infrastructure.

Highway 24

The Highway 24 area encompasses the communities of Eagle-Vail, Minturn, Red Cliff, and scattered development on Tennessee Pass. Eagle-Vail has approximately 4,000 residents with about 850 structures, and Minturn is home for 1,140 people with over 500 commercial and residential structures. Along the Highway 24 corridor are the historic towns of Minturn and Redcliff, as well as scattered development on Tennessee Pass with residential and commercial structures. The Eagle River flows parallel to Highway 24 through Minturn. Whiskey Creek flows into the Eagle River near the intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 24. The water treatment plant in Minturn has its intake on Cross Creek.

Vegetation at lower elevations in Whiskey Creek and Minturn is made up of juniper in the overstory with grasses, sagebrush, and serviceberry in the understory. At higher elevations, lodgepole pine and aspen become the predominant overstory species, with thick serviceberry in the understory. Much of the lodgepole has been killed by the Mountain Pine Beetle, with some areas experiencing 80% tree mortality. Due to suppression of the natural fire regime, the juniper is growing extremely dense, and is drought stressed. Sagebrush in the area has grown to be 2-3 feet tall and decadent.

Risk

The overall risk rating to the HWY 24 area is **EXTREME**. Topographic features pose a significant threat to life and property. Concerns surround evacuation routes and structure to structure fire movement in the communities of EagleVail, Minturn, and Red Cliff. There are also concerns about the outlying communities that surround the HWY 24 Corridor. Special attention should be given to strengthening evacuation routes and areas where movement of traffic will slow (e.g. Battle Mountain Pass).

Note: High risk areas also surround the Eagle Mine, Gilman and Camp Hail for hazardous materials and confirmed unexploded ordnance.

Mid-Valley North

Mid-Valley North encompasses areas in Avon and Edwards north of I-70, including the Cordillera Valley Club, Singletree, Wildwood, Wildridge, and Mountain Star sub-divisions, totaling 1,730 structures. There are approximately over 9,000 people in Edwards and 6,500 people in Avon. Vegetation in this area is primarily made up of pinon pine and juniper in the overstory, with grasses and sagebrush in the understory. Douglas fir and aspen are present in drainages with sagebrush and grass in the understory. June Creek and Berry Creek flow through the Singletree and Cordillera Valley Club areas, and eventually into the Eagle River. Suppression of the natural fire regime has led to extremely dense juniper and sagebrush near values at-risk. Vegetation throughout the area is drought stressed. Due to an Ips beetle outbreak, approximately 50% of the pinon pine has been killed.

Wildridge, Mountain Star, Cordillera Valley, and Singletree have power lines and other energy infrastructure running through them. Should these areas get directly impacted by wildfire, the ramifications could be felt by the residents in Avon, as well as the entire county for months to years after the event. Due to the steep terrain and dense, flashy fuels, fast and intense fire growth is possible that could overwhelm initial response.

Risk

The overall risk to life and property in Mid-Valley North is **HIGH**. The primary factors leading to the high risk rating are the fragile evacuation routes of Mountain Star, Wildridge, Singletree, Cordillera Valley Club, and Red Canyon Estates. A fire ignition of Interstate 70 could quickly compromise evacuation routes in the area. Suppression difficulty is complex due to the steep terrain in most areas. Special attention should be given to projects that support the protection of the communities.

Mid-Valley South

Mid-Valley South encompasses areas in Avon and Edwards south of I-70, including Lake Creek, Creamery Ranch, Homestead, and the Cordillera, Arrowhead, Bachelor Gulch, and Beaver Creek Metro Districts. There are over 4321 structures, with approximately over 9,000 people in Edwards and 6,500 people in Avon. Vegetation in this area is primarily made up of lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, and aspen in the overstory with grasses, sagebrush, and dense serviceberry in the understory. Due to suppression of the natural fire regime, the serviceberry and aspen are growing extremely densely. A mountain pine beetle outbreak has resulted in approximately 50% of the lodgepole pine in the area being killed.

The majority of homes and businesses are located within three subdivisions on the south side of Avon: Arrowhead, Bachelor Gulch, and Beaver Creek. These areas contain some of the highest value real estate in Eagle County, as well as a ski resort and commercial areas that provide thousands of jobs to residents throughout the county. Should these areas get directly impacted by wildfire, the ramifications will be felt by the residents in Avon, and could be felt by businesses and workers throughout the entire county (and those that commute from outside the county to work in the resorts and commercial areas).

Risk

The overall risk to Mid-Valley South is **HIGH**. The primary risk factor is one way in and one-way-out communities. Each drainage has no options of evacuation to the south other than one area on the most western boundary of Cordillera. Although the risk of a fast moving fire is lower than Mid-Valley South the burn severity is much higher. With the fuel types in these communities a well established fire will be difficult to suppress. The Bellyache ridge is the breaking point of fire severity and burn probability, meaning with the high probability of fire moving from the west and the Brush Creek Drainage into the heavy fuel types to the East of Bellyache Ridge a severe long lasting fire carries a HIGH risk of suppression difficulty and long term impact.

Wolcott

Encompasses the area around Wolcott, including Red Sky Ranch, Diamond Star, Bellyache Ridge, and public and private land along Highway 131 to McCoy (Horse Mountain Ranch, Muddy Pass, Milk Creek, and Alkali Creek Roads). Vegetation in the area is primarily made up of pinon pine and juniper in the overstory, with grasses and sagebrush in the understory. Red Sky Ranch and Bellyache Ridge have very sparse timber, with the vast majority being decadent sagebrush. Diamond Star has serviceberry, and rabbitbrush mixed in with the sagebrush in the understory, and stands of Douglas Fir at higher elevations.

Sagebrush in Red Sky Ranch and Bellyache Ridge is growing two to four feet tall, decadent, and extremely dense and continuous over steep terrain. Due to suppression of the natural fire regime, the juniper in Diamond Star Ranch is extremely dense, and drought stressed. An Ips beetle outbreak has resulted in approximately 50% of the pinon pine being killed.

Bellyache Ridge, Red Sky Ranch and Diamond Star Ranch are located in steep terrain with flashy fuels, immediately adjacent to BLM land with further dense, flashy fuels. Should a significant wildfire get established in these areas, the ensuing erosion and pollution of the Eagle River downstream could affect the Town of Eagle and Eagle County for years to come. Additionally, due to the difficult terrain and fuels, fires in these areas could overwhelm initial response. While housing density is low in the immediate vicinity, fire could rapidly reach more populated areas in Eagle or Edwards before firefighters are able to get a foothold.

Risk

Risk to the Wolcott area is **HIGH**. The communities of Diamond Star, Red Sky Ranch, Bellyache Ridge, and Horse Mountain Ranch carry the highest risk to life and property due to suppression difficulty along with fuel types along the southern boundaries. The Bellyache ridge is the breaking point of fire severity and burn probability, meaning with the high probability of fire moving from the west and the Brush Creek Drainage into the heavy fuel types to the East of Bellyache Ridge a severe long lasting fire carries a HIGH risk of suppression difficulty and long term impact. A High Risk is also being assigned to the communities of Bond, McCoy, Rancho Del Rio and the sub communities along HWY 131. Response time is the primary factor of concern in these communities.

Note: The Wolcott area has more fires per year than any other unit in the Eagle Valley Wildland response area.

Eagle

This area encompasses Eagle and outlying areas, including the Brush Creek Valley, Eagle Ranch, Eby Creek, Upper Kaibab, Frost Creek, the Salt Creek and Bruce Creek drainages, and Sylvan Lake State Park. More than 7,500 people live in Eagle. There are roughly 2,100 homes throughout the area, as well as power lines, and I-70 running through the town.

Vegetation in the area is primarily made up of pinon pine and juniper in the overstory, with grasses and sagebrush in the understory. The Bruce Creek drainage consists of a pinon-juniper overstory with sagebrush, grasses, serviceberry, and rabbitbrush in the understory, with Douglas Fir and quaking aspen at higher elevations. In Bruce Creek, Gambel oak is prolific in the understory, growing over 10 feet tall and nearly impenetrable in areas. Due to suppression of the natural fire regime, juniper is growing extremely densely and is drought stressed. An Ips beetle outbreak has resulted in approximately 50% of the pinon pine being killed.

Should a significant wildfire become established in these areas, the ensuing erosion and pollution of the Eagle River downstream could affect the Town of Eagle and Eagle County for years to come. The Eagle area is heavily used for recreation and is immediately adjacent to I-70, making it an extremely fire prone area. The Eagle Ranch neighborhood is immediately adjacent to BLM lands with dense, flashy fuels.

Risk

The overall risk to the Eagle Area is **MODERATE**. Since most of the Eagle area carries significantly less topographic concerns than many of the other locations in Eagle County the Suppression Difficulty is much less than other adjacent areas. Note that Moderate concern is elevated due to light flashy fuels in most areas and the high likelihood of wildfire in the area.

Gypsum North

The Gypsum North area encompasses private and federally managed lands in the areas off the Colorado River Road and Trail Gulch Road, and the Burns, Sweetwater, and Derby Mesa communities. It is sparsely populated, with approximately 500 known structures. Most of the land ownership is managed by the Upper Colorado River District Bureau of Land Management, with some private ranches scattered throughout. Most roads are unpaved and subject to being washed out by flash flooding throughout the summer. Cell phone coverage is minimal and there are areas without radio coverage.

Vegetation consists primarily of sagebrush, pinon pine, juniper, and native grasses, with some areas of aspen and mixed conifer forests at higher elevations. In most areas, suppression of the natural fire regime has caused sagebrush to become decadent, and juniper encroachment has increased the fuel loading to far beyond historical norms. The Colorado River sees significant recreation activity from fishing and rafting, 4 wheeling, hunting, and recreational shooting. All of these activities bring the hazard of human-caused wildfires, exacerbating the hazard caused by frequent lightning ignitions in the area.

Risk

The Overall risk to Gypsum North is **MODERATE**. Gypsum North carries a high likelihood of wildfire. However the location of most homes in the area are near moderate Suppression Difficulty and potential control feature (e.g. Colorado River or irrigated fields). The topographic feature of the Colorado River Road poses some concern but not enough to drive a high rating.

Gypsum South

The Gypsum South area encompasses Gypsum, the Eagle County Airport, Airport Industrial Park, Chatfield Corners, Brightwater, Spring Valley, and public and private lands in the Gypsum Creek drainage. Gypsum is home for 8,040 people. About 400 homes are in the Spring Valley Neighborhood.

Vegetation consists primarily of pinon pine and juniper in the overstory, with grasses and sagebrush in the understory. Due to suppression of the natural fire regime, the juniper is growing extremely densely and is drought stressed. An Ips beetle outbreak has killed about 50% of the pinon pine in the area. The area around Mosher Spring is in an ecological transition zone, where pinon pine and juniper are mixed with decadent aspen stands and lodgepole pine. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir with heavy dead-and-down in the higher elevation areas of the units. Grasses and sagebrush mix with serviceberry, rabbit brush, and other woody shrubs in the understory.

Mosher Spring is a historic homestead that supplies the town of Gypsum with drinking water after it passes through the Mosher Water Treatment plant. Should these areas get directly impacted, the ramifications could be felt by Gypsum and the entire county for decades. Both the drinking water resources and the Spring Valley neighborhood border Bureau of Land Management land that consists of flashy fuels (grass and decadent sagebrush) that can support fast and intense fire growth that could overwhelm initial response.

Risk

The overall Risk to Gypsum South is **HIGH** due to the likelihood of fire moving into the communities of Red Hill and Sky Legend, both of which carry limited egress options. The Gypsum Creek Drainage also carries a high risk of long term effects as Gypsum Creek is the sole drinking water for Gypsum. The Gypsum South unit is also home to the Eagle County Regional Airport that is well within the spotting distance.

Roaring Fork Valley

Missouri Heights is a large residential area located on the mesa above El Jebel and the Highway 82 corridor. The area can be accessed from Highway 82 via El Jebel Road which becomes Upper Cattle Creek Road as it travels through Missouri Heights, or from Garfield County via County Road 102 which becomes Fender Lane.

The primary vegetation in Missouri Heights is gambel-oak with a short grass and sagebrush understory, varying in coverage from uniformly dispersed sage to continuous stands of dense oak. Small sections of riparian vegetation are present near water sources and drainages, and a large tall grass meadow runs through the center of the community. Native and non-native ornamental grass, trees, and shrubs of various types can be found near home-sites as elements of residential landscaping.

The Town of Basalt sits at the confluence of the Frying Pan River and Roaring Fork River, and is accessed from Highway 82 via Two Rivers Road. This historic railroad town is characterized by high structure density, and mature vegetation lining narrow streets. Many homes in Basalt have been there for generations. The WUI neighborhoods of Cedar Drive, Seven Castles, Big Hat, Peachblow and Ruedi Shores are found along the Frying Pan Road towards Ruedi Reservoir heading east.

A wide variety of vegetation types are found in the planning area, including grass, sage, juniper, gambel-oak, serviceberry, aspen, lodgepole pine, and mixed conifer forests. North facing aspects in the Frying Pan River Valley have considerably higher fuel densities. Large transmission lines run below the community on its southern borders. Many homes in the area have wood siding, and most houses have conventional wood decks. Emergency responders will have to cross rated, and non-rated bridges over the Frying Pan River in order to access many homes in the community.

Risk

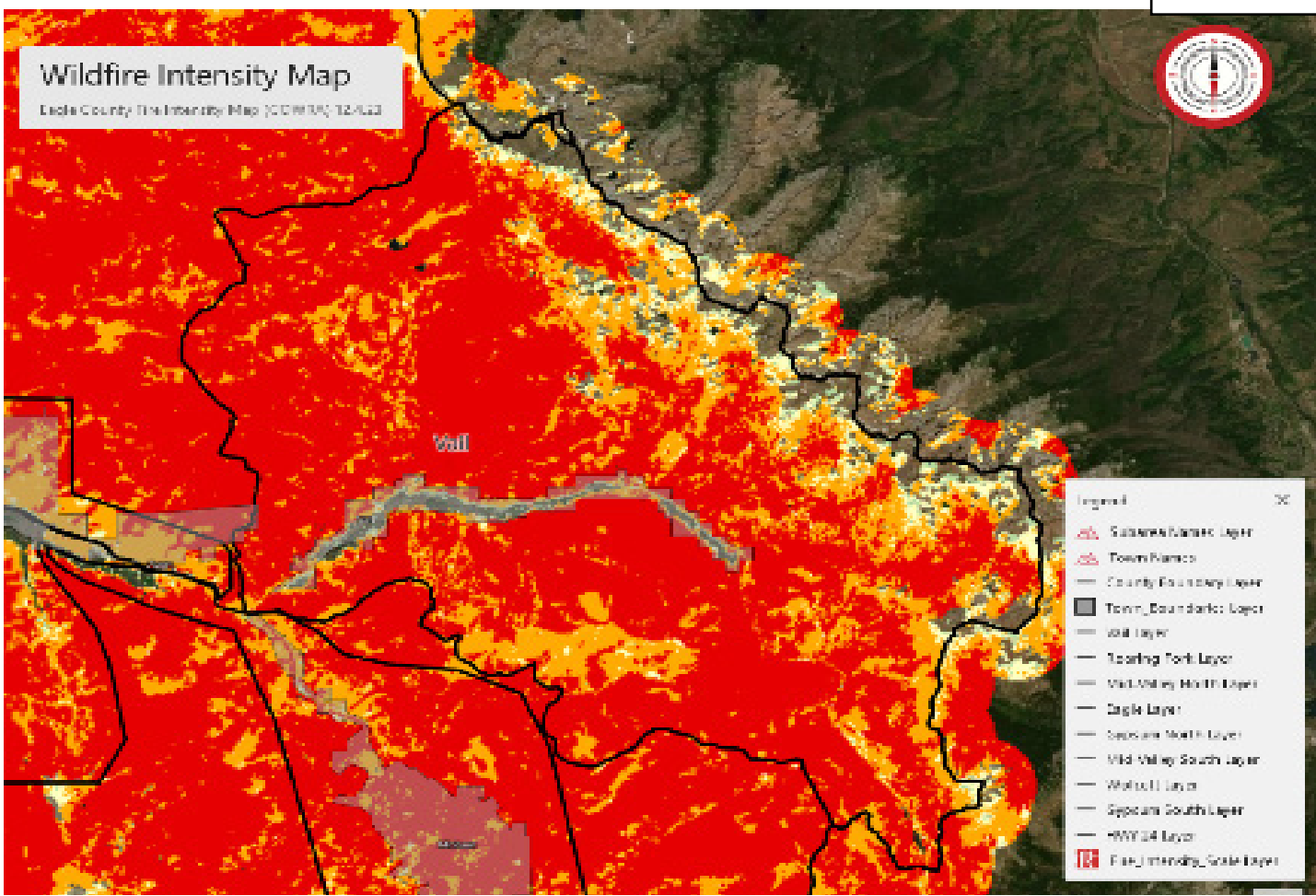
The overall risk to the Roaring Fork planning area is **HIGH**. The Lake Christine Fire in 2018 burned through the Roaring Fork Valley, heavily impacting parts of Basalt and El Jebel. This large wildfire, which spread to almost 13,000 acres over 28 days, destroyed three residences and several outbuildings. The rolling hills and drainages, along with light, flashy fuels such as grass, sage and oak, will act to spread fire quickly throughout the area. Under extreme weather and fuel moisture conditions, fire intensity could become a serious issue making containment and control difficult to establish and maintain. Many homes in the community lack adequate defensible space, and ignition resistant construction.

Use this appendix as supplemental information regarding the maps in the following pages. Each letter references a sub-area and each number references a map type.

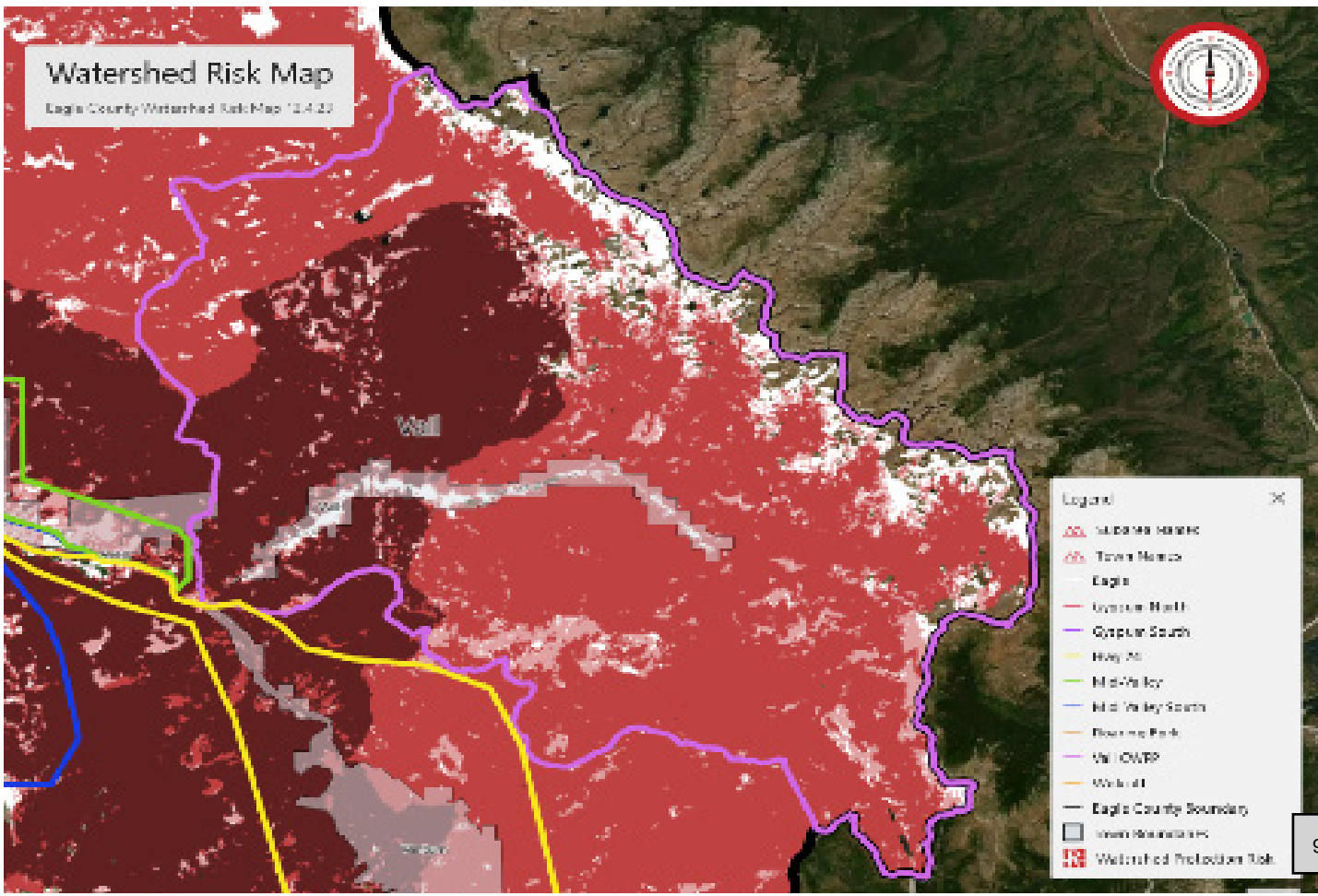
Letter Notation	Map Location
A.1-A.4	Vail
B.1-B.4	Highway 24
C.1-C.4	Mid-Valley North
D.1-D.4	Mid-Valley South
E.1-E.4	Wolcott
F.1-F.4	Eagle
G.1-G.4	Gypsum North
H.1-H.4	Gypsum South
I.1-I.4	Roaring Fork

Number	Map Type	Map Description
A - I .1	Wildfire Intensity Map	The fire intensity map shows the potential fire behavior across the planning area. The data is derived from the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment (CO-WRA)
A - I .2	Watershed Risk Map	A measure of the risk to Watershed Protection Areas based on the potential negative impacts from wildfire. The data is derived from the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment (CO-WRA)
A - I .3	Wildland Urban Interface Risk Map (WUI)	The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Index layer is a rating of the potential impact of wildfire on people and their homes. The data is derived from the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment (CO-WRA)
A - I .4	Suppression Difficulty Index Map (SDI)	Reflects the difficulty to suppress a fire given the terrain and vegetation conditions that may impact ground resource access and capabilities. The data is derived from the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment (CO-WRA).

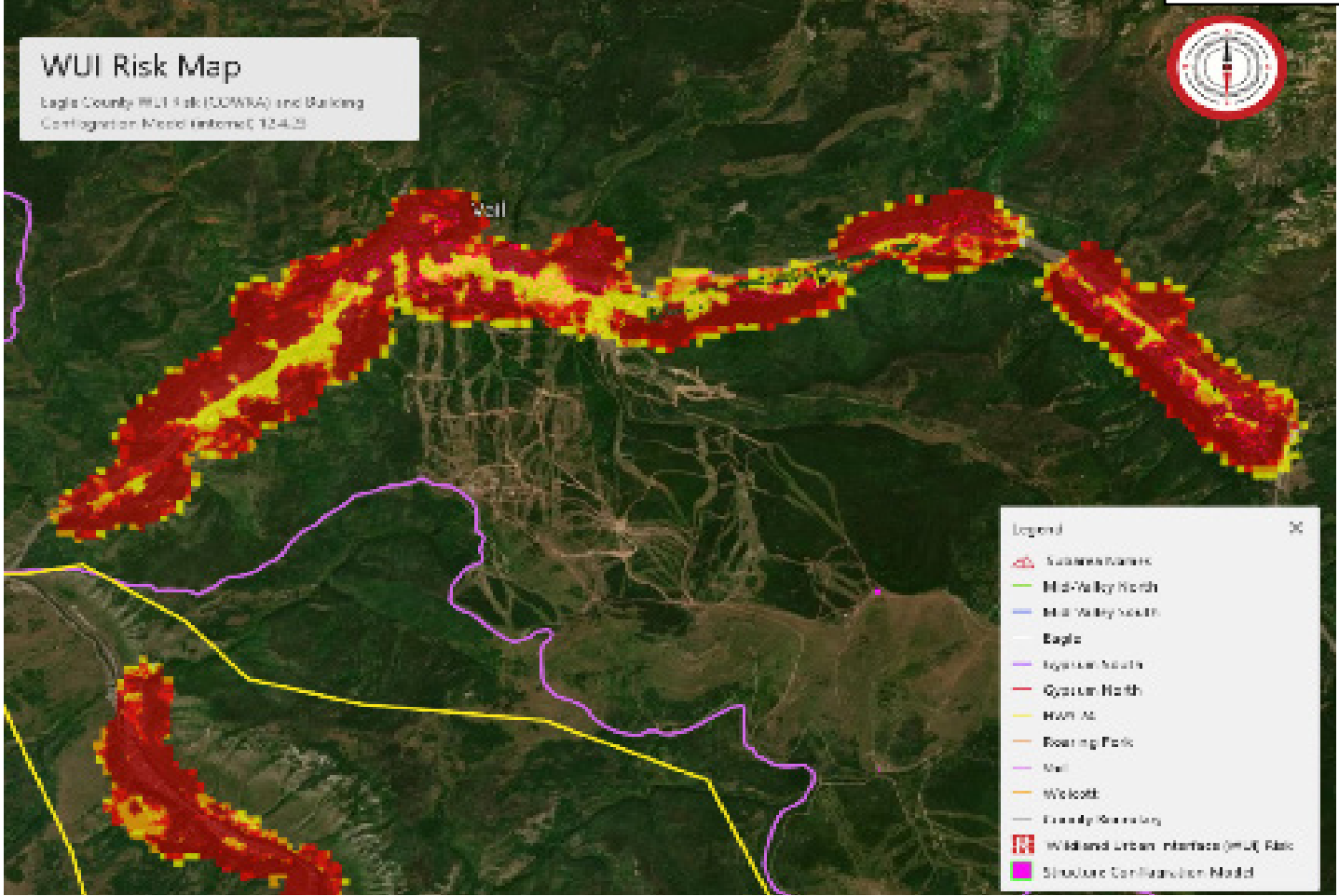
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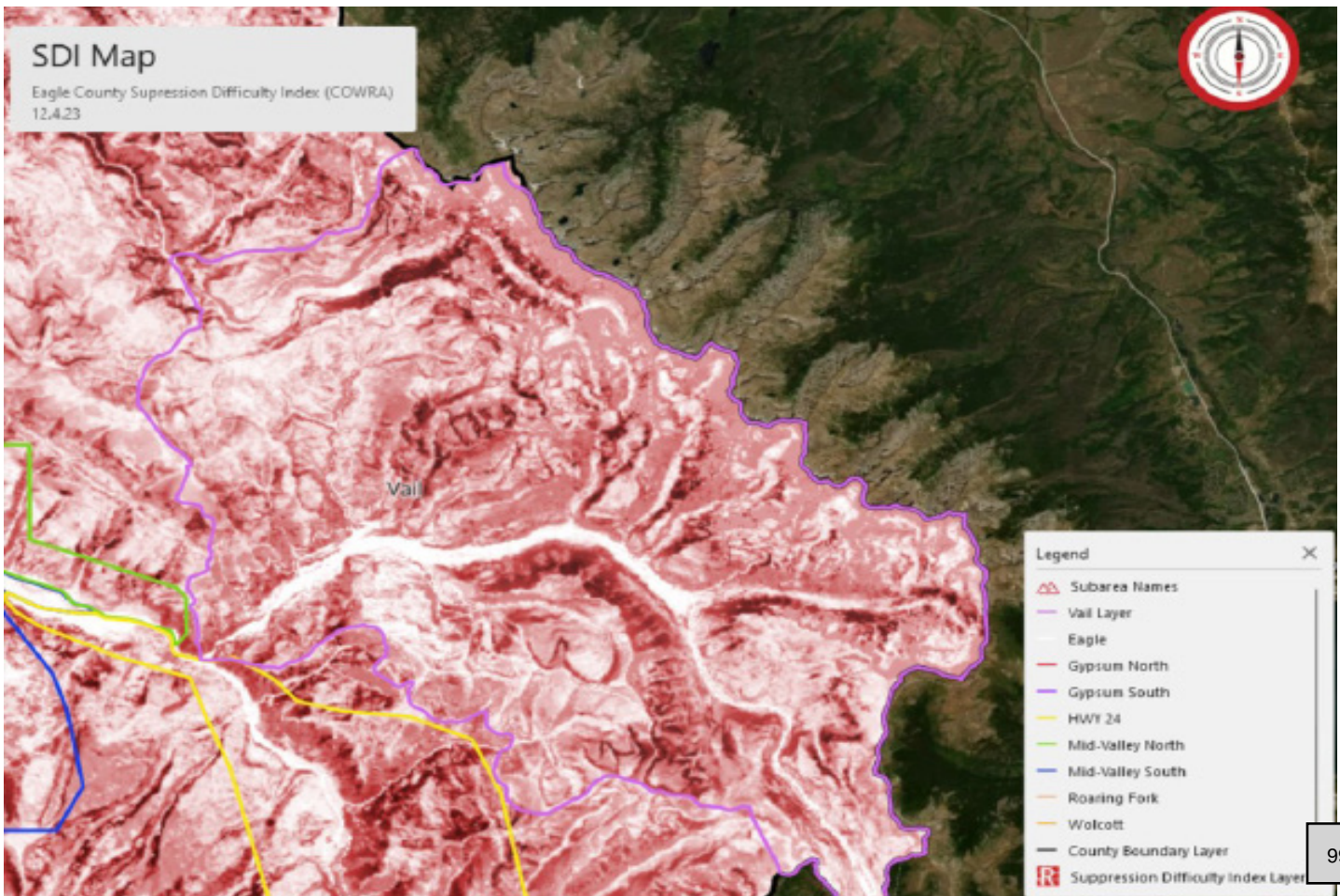
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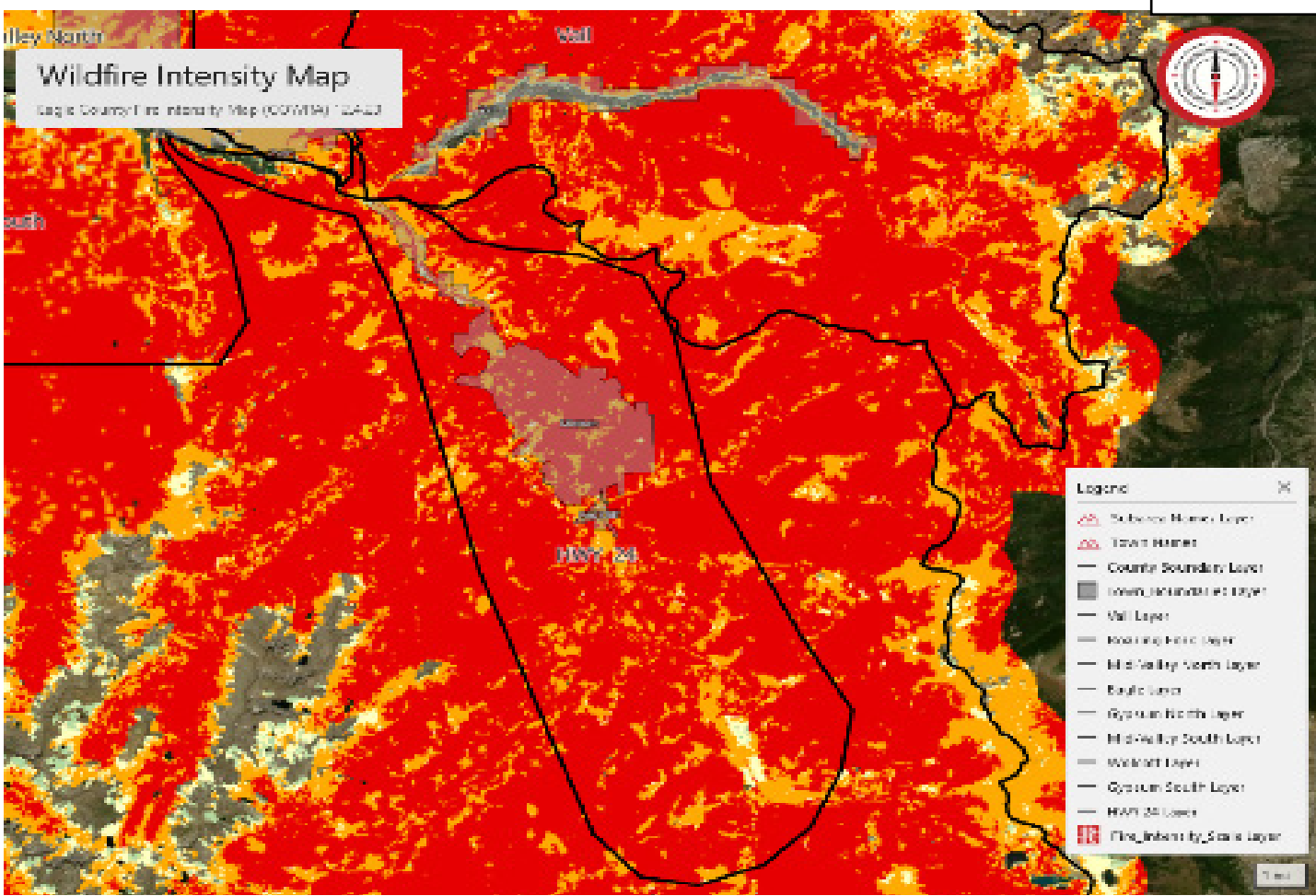
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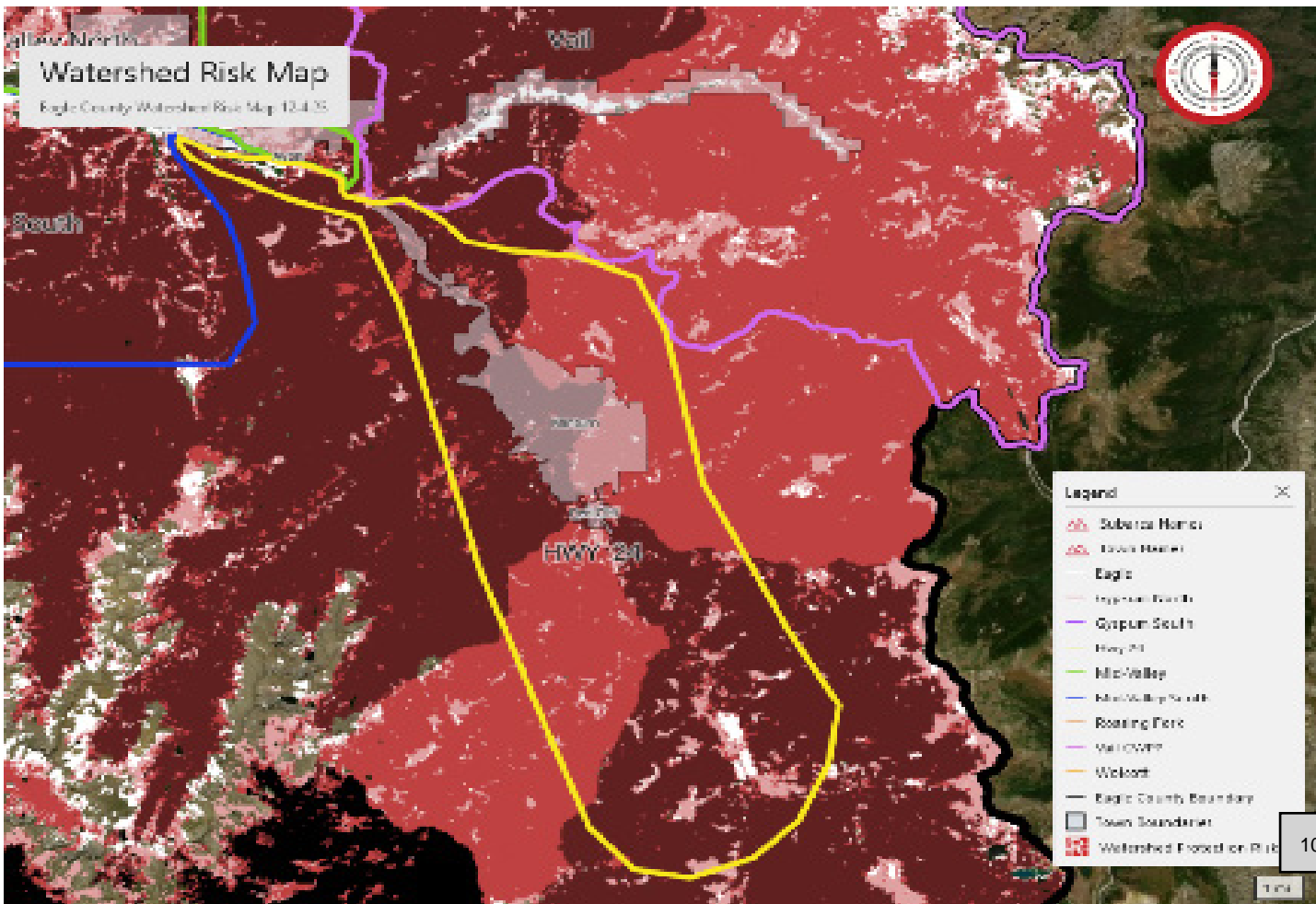
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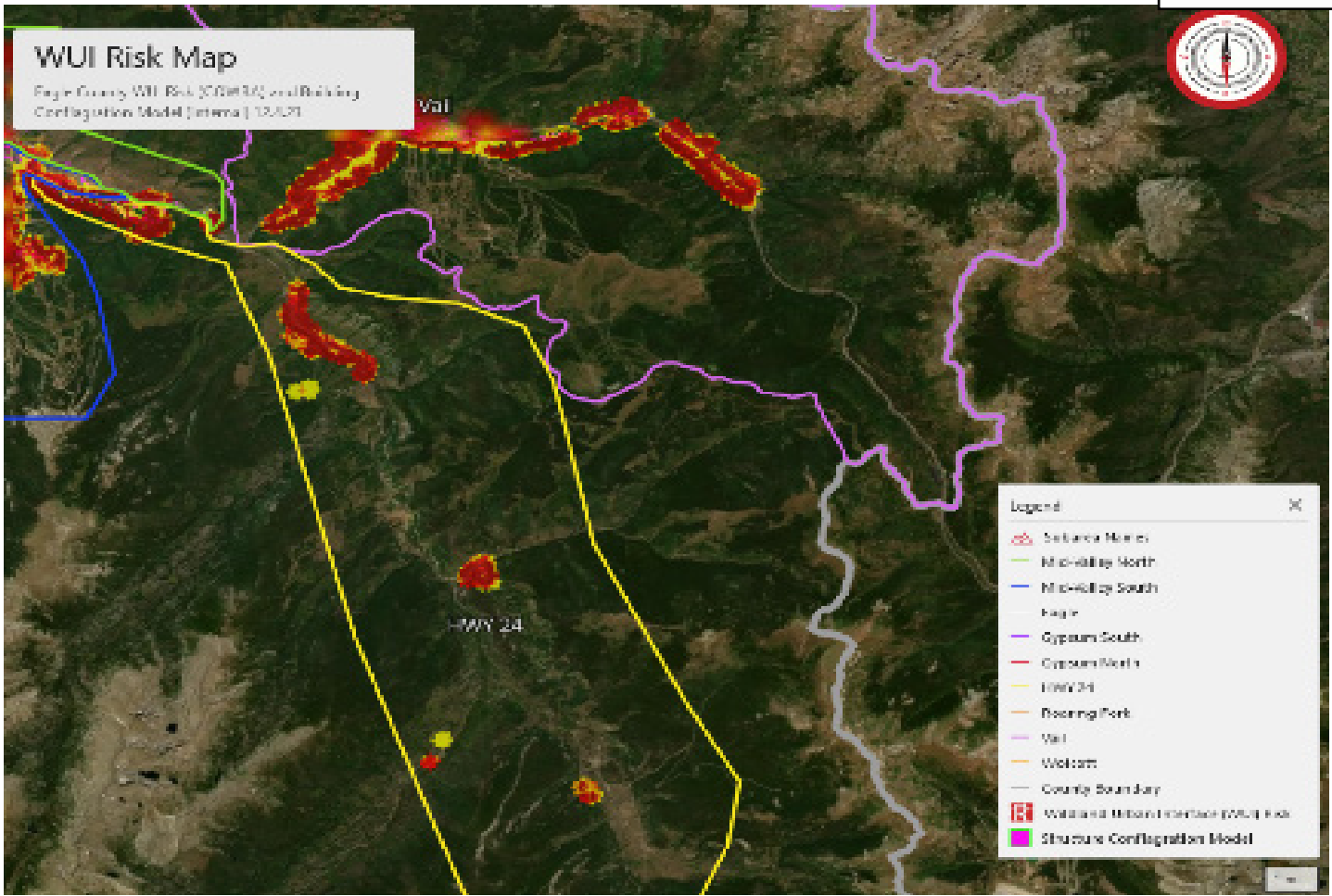
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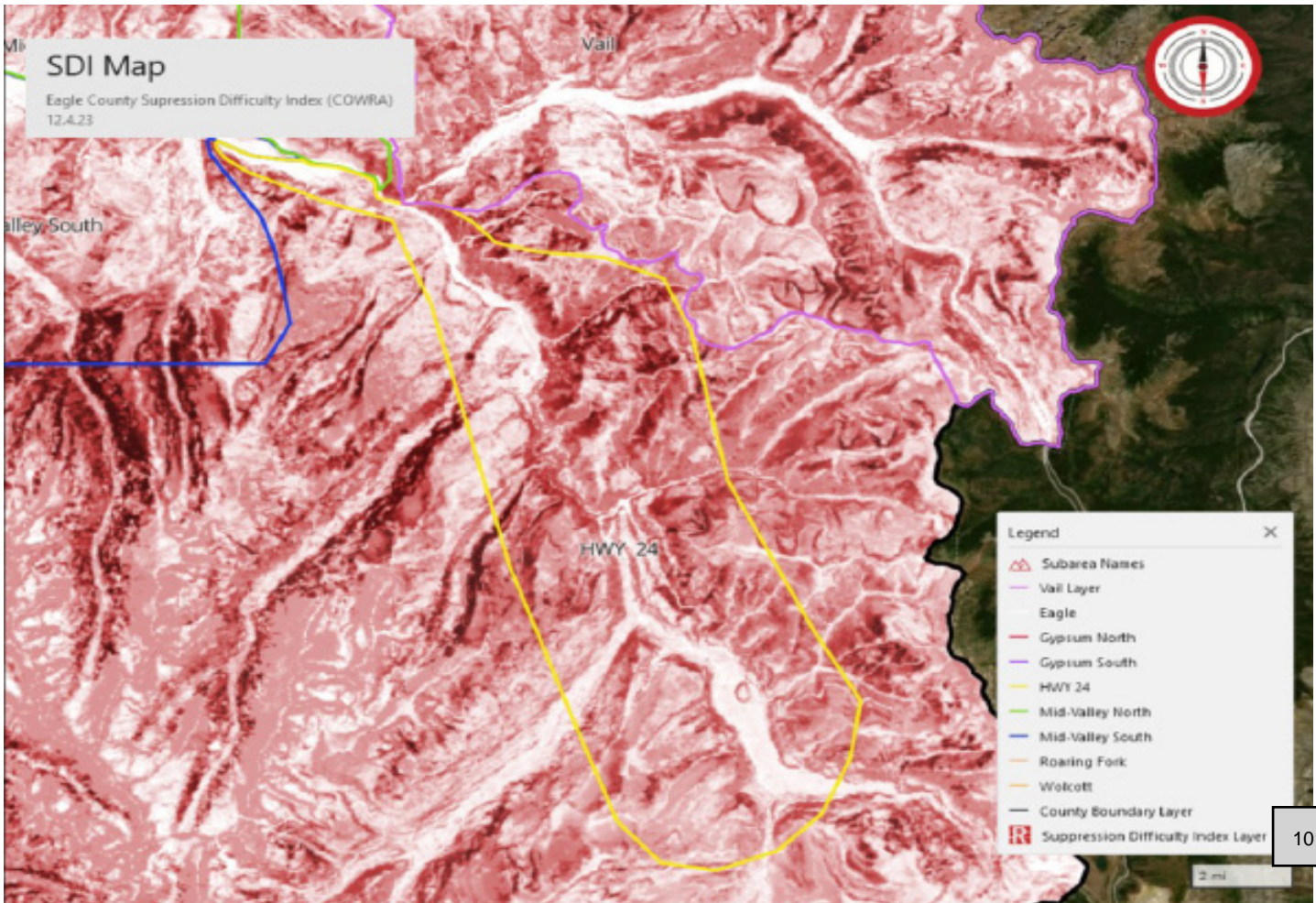
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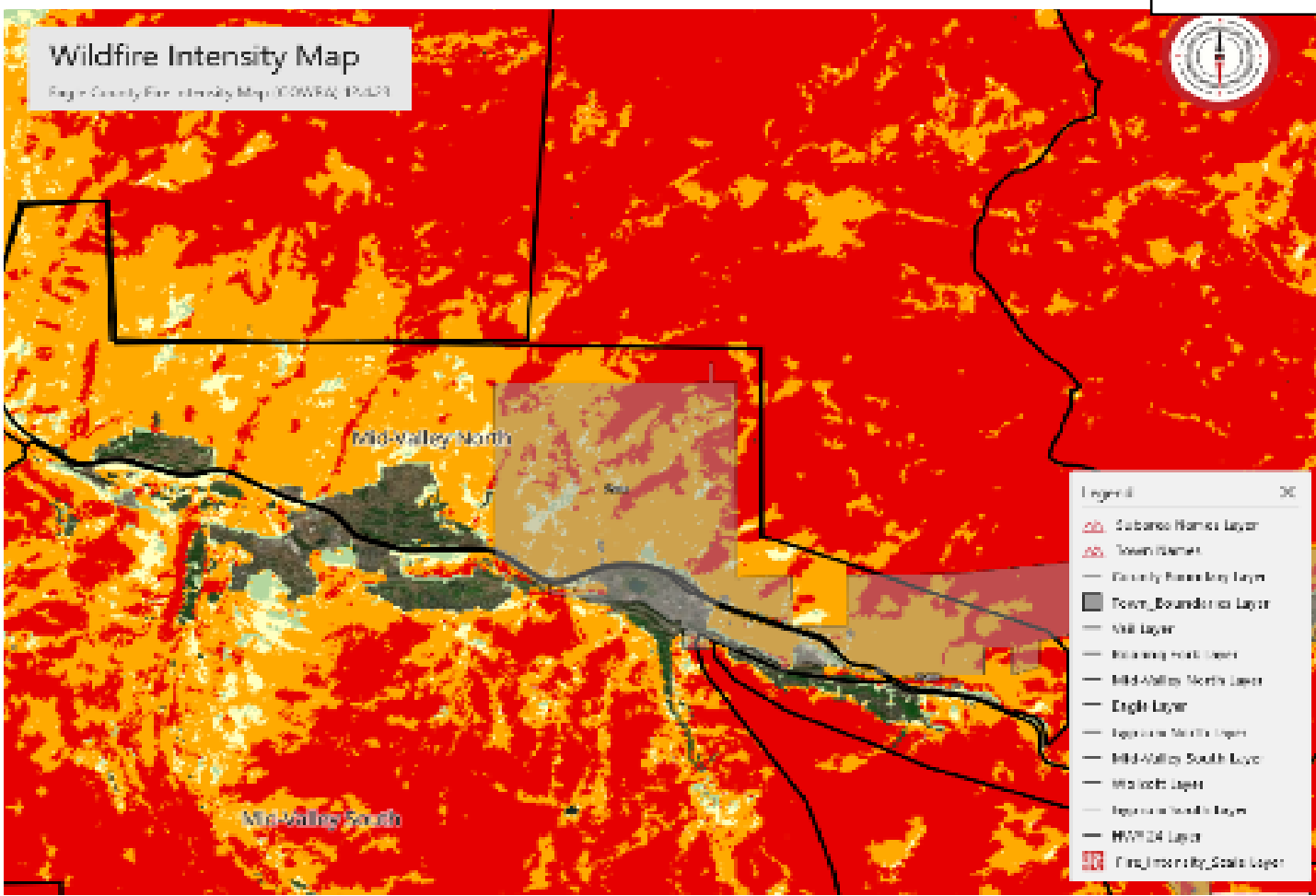
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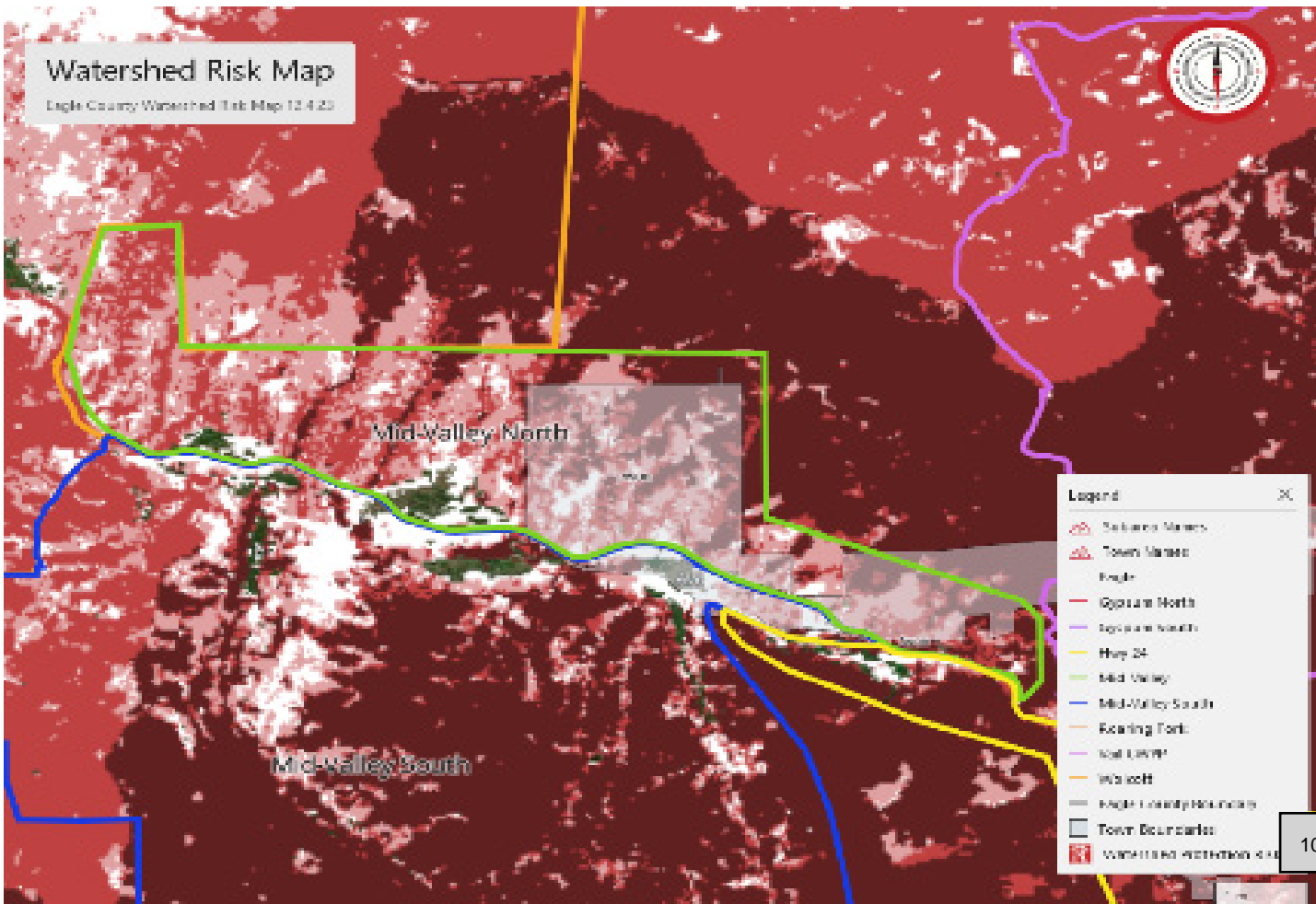
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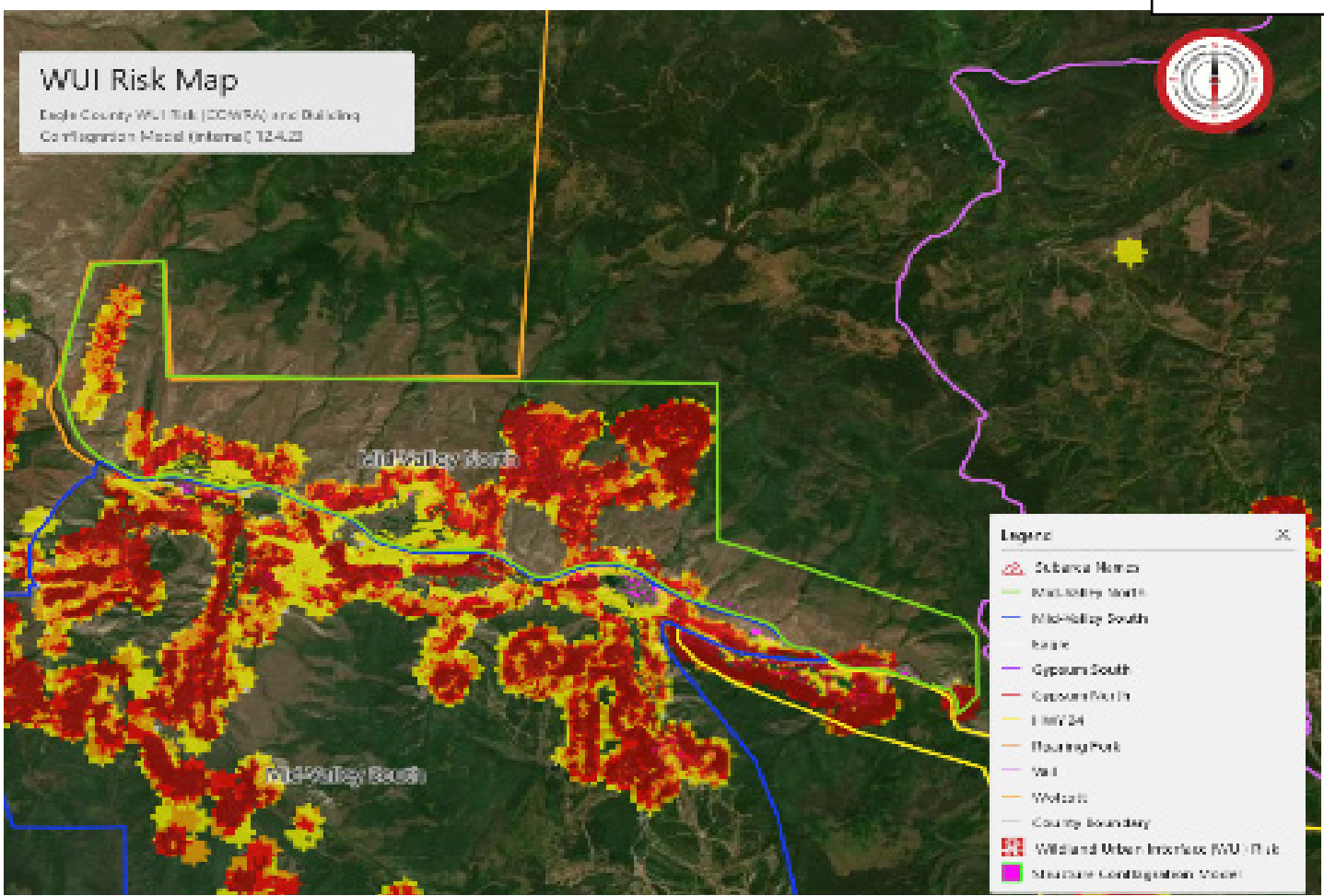
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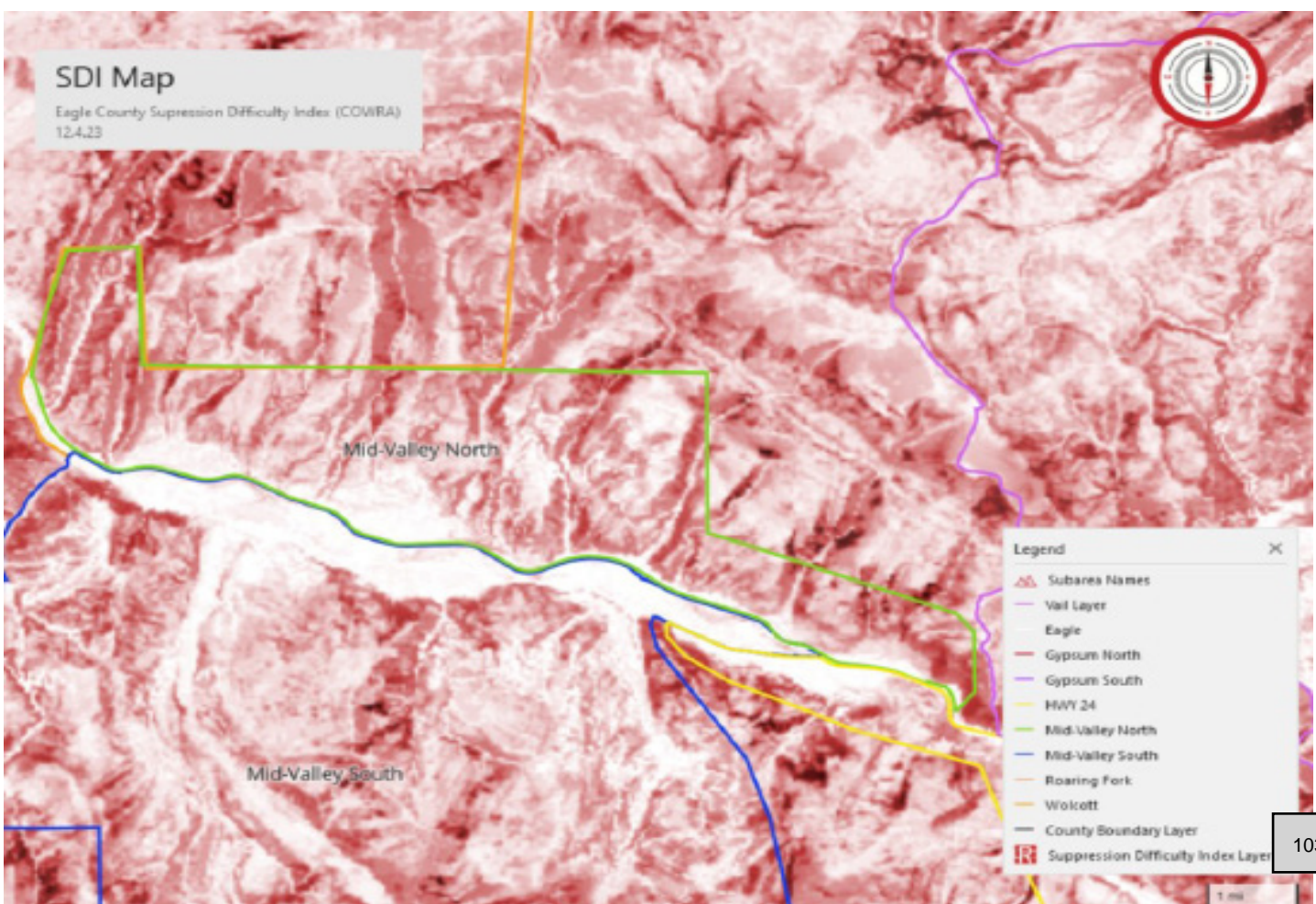
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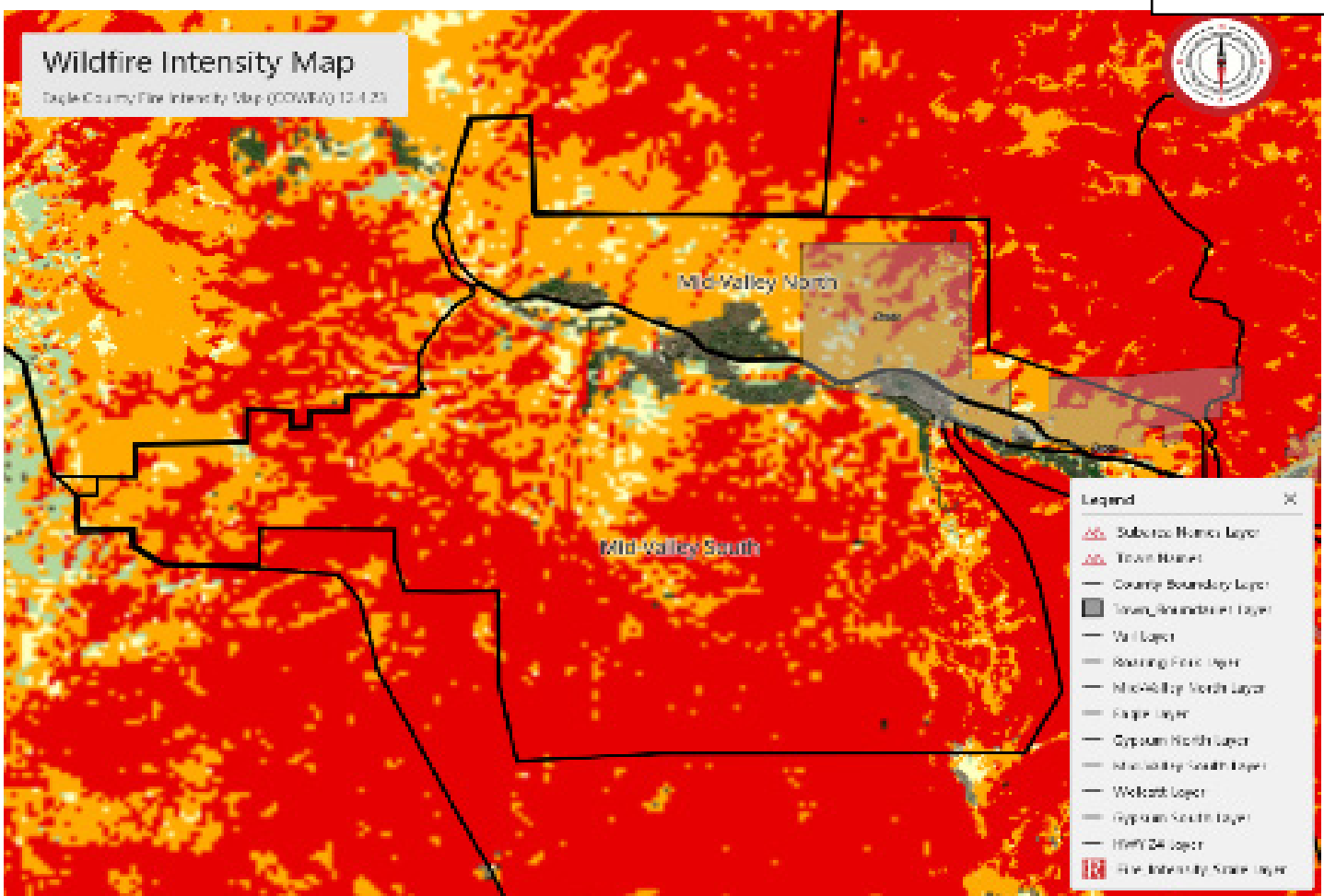
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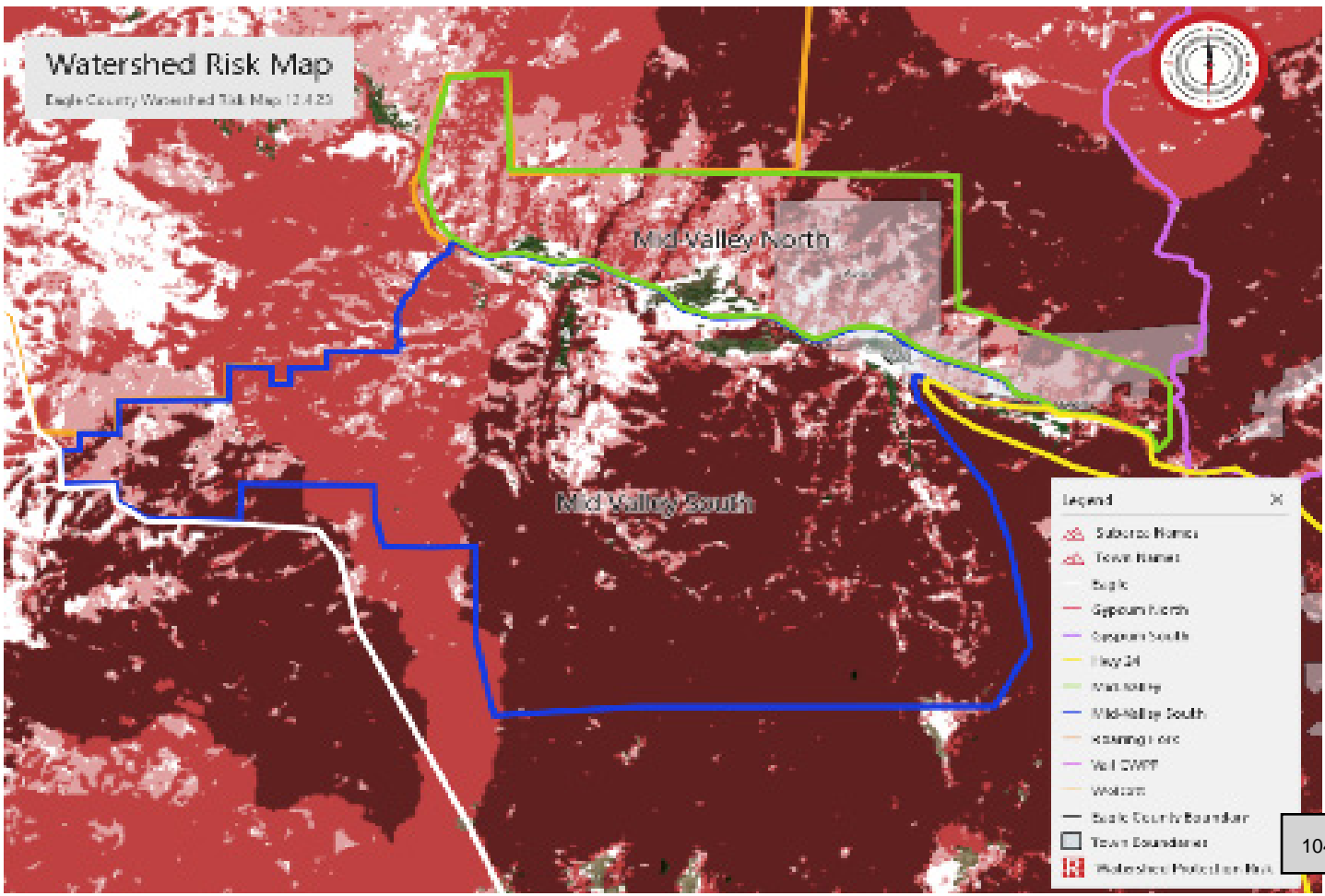
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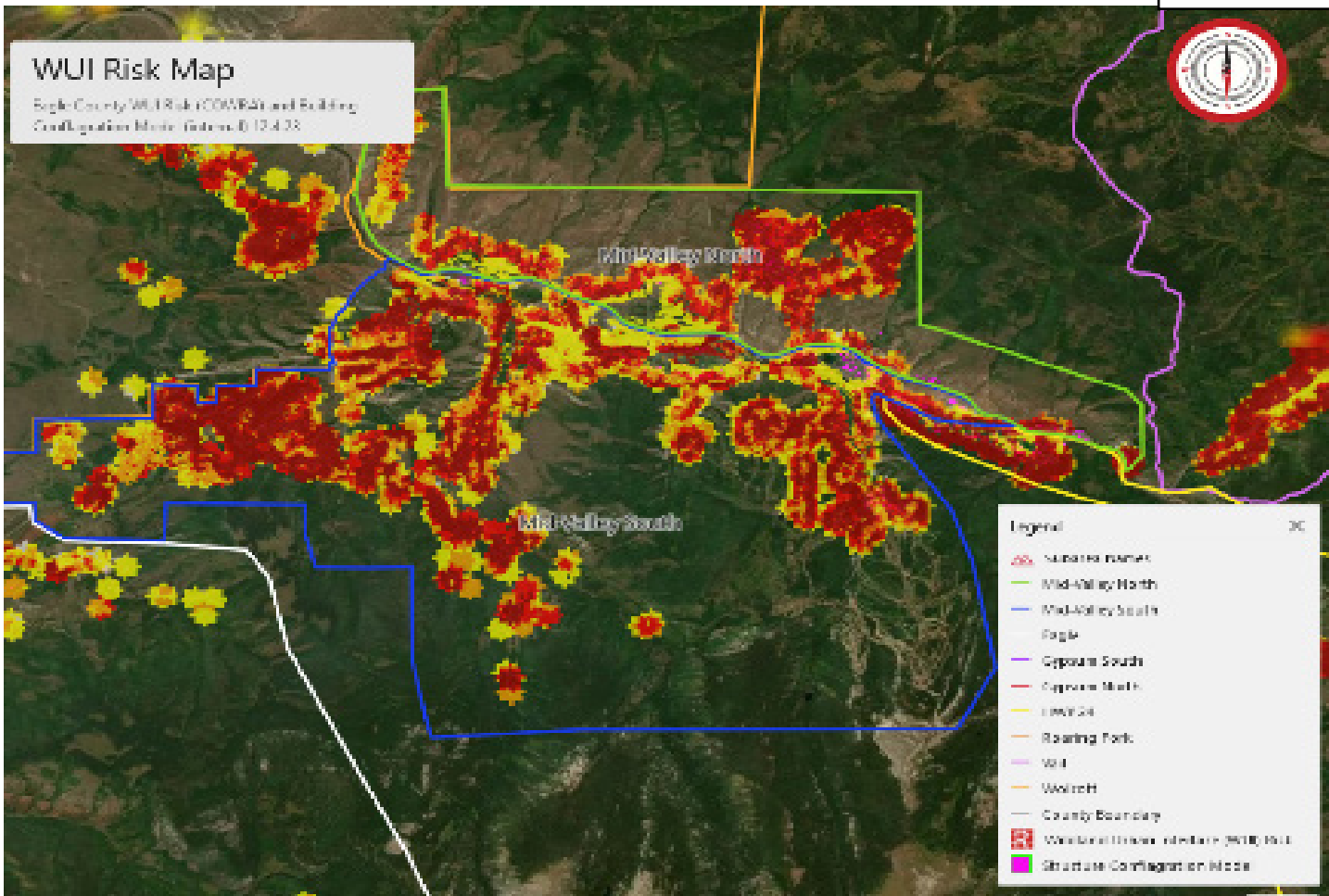
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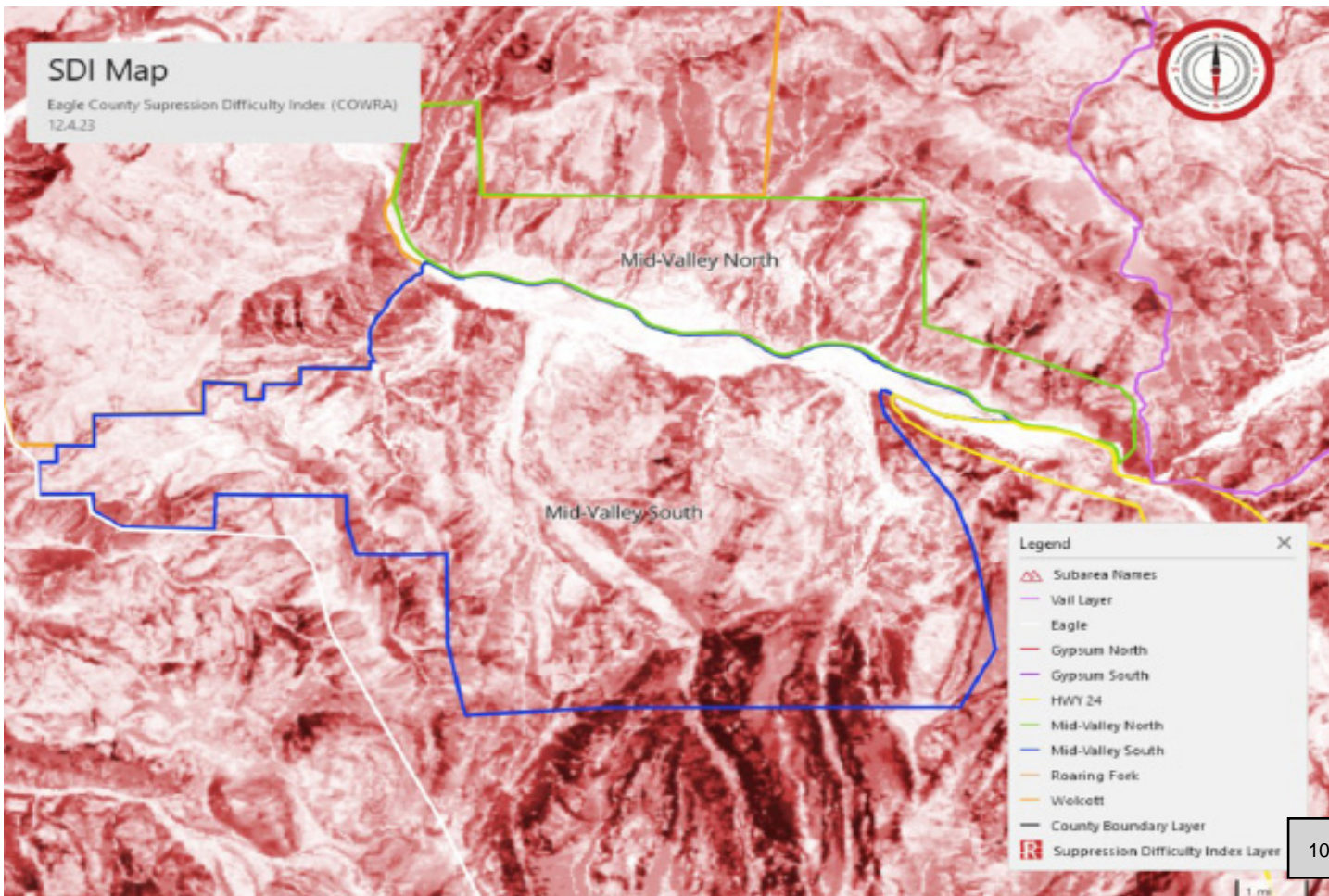
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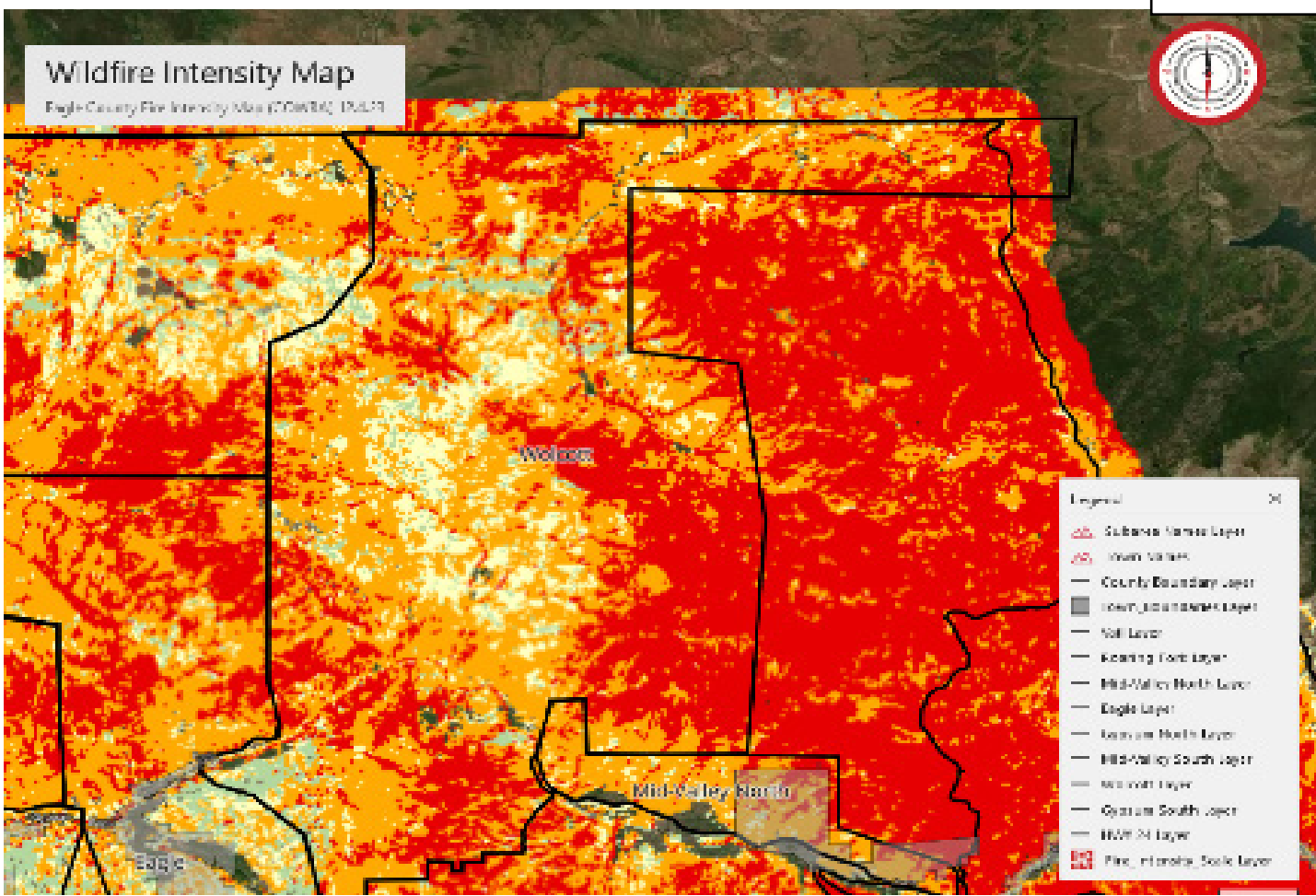
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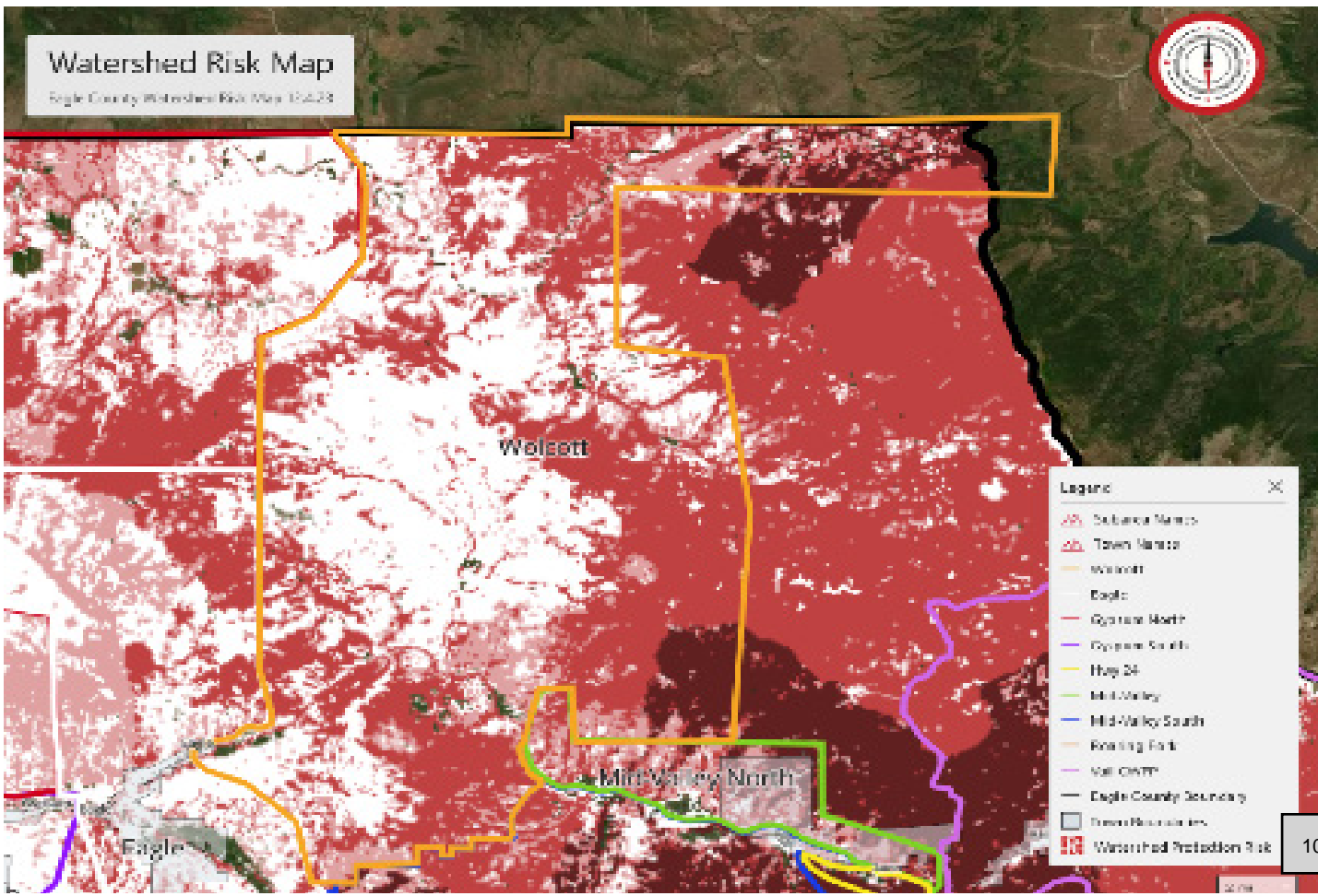
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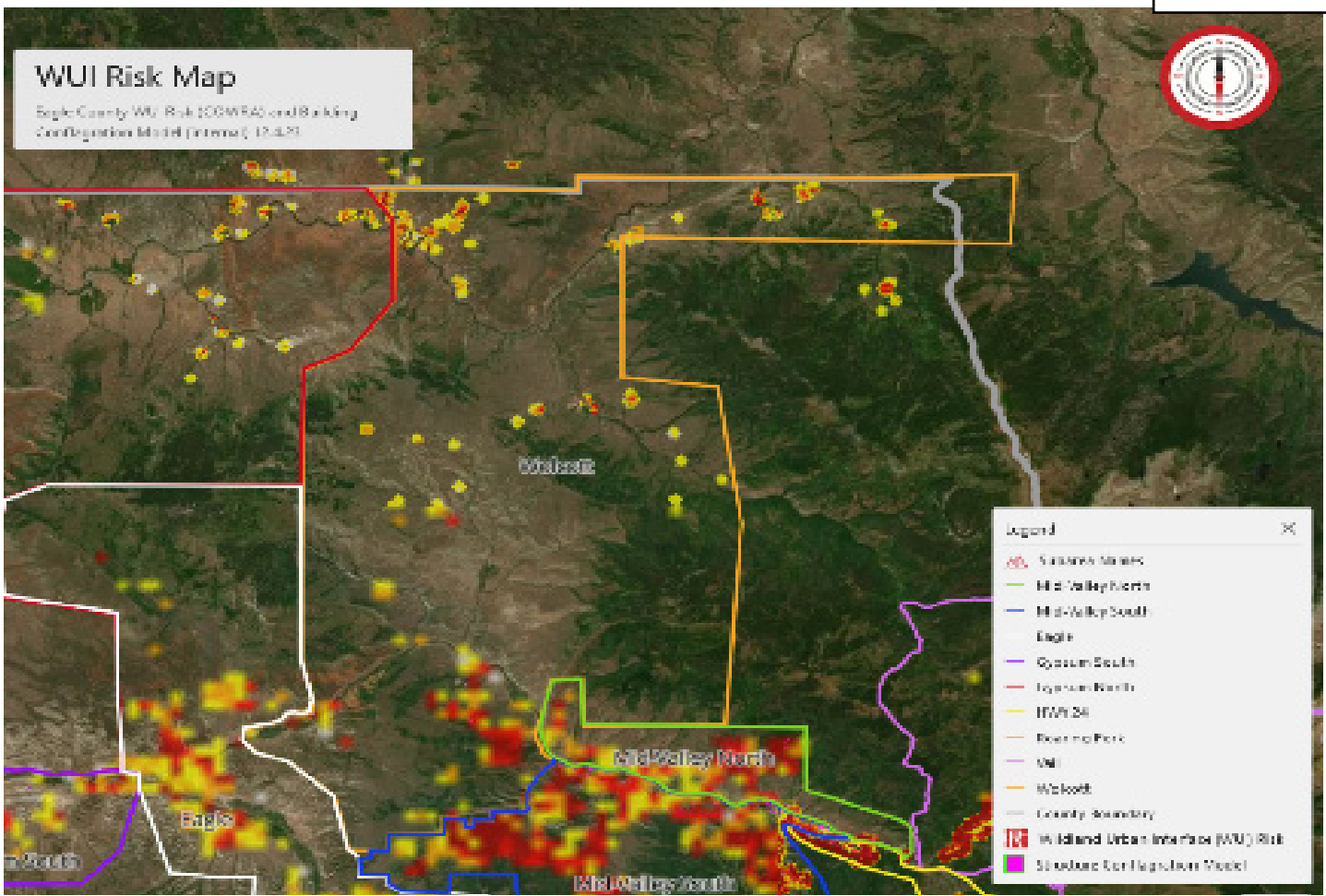
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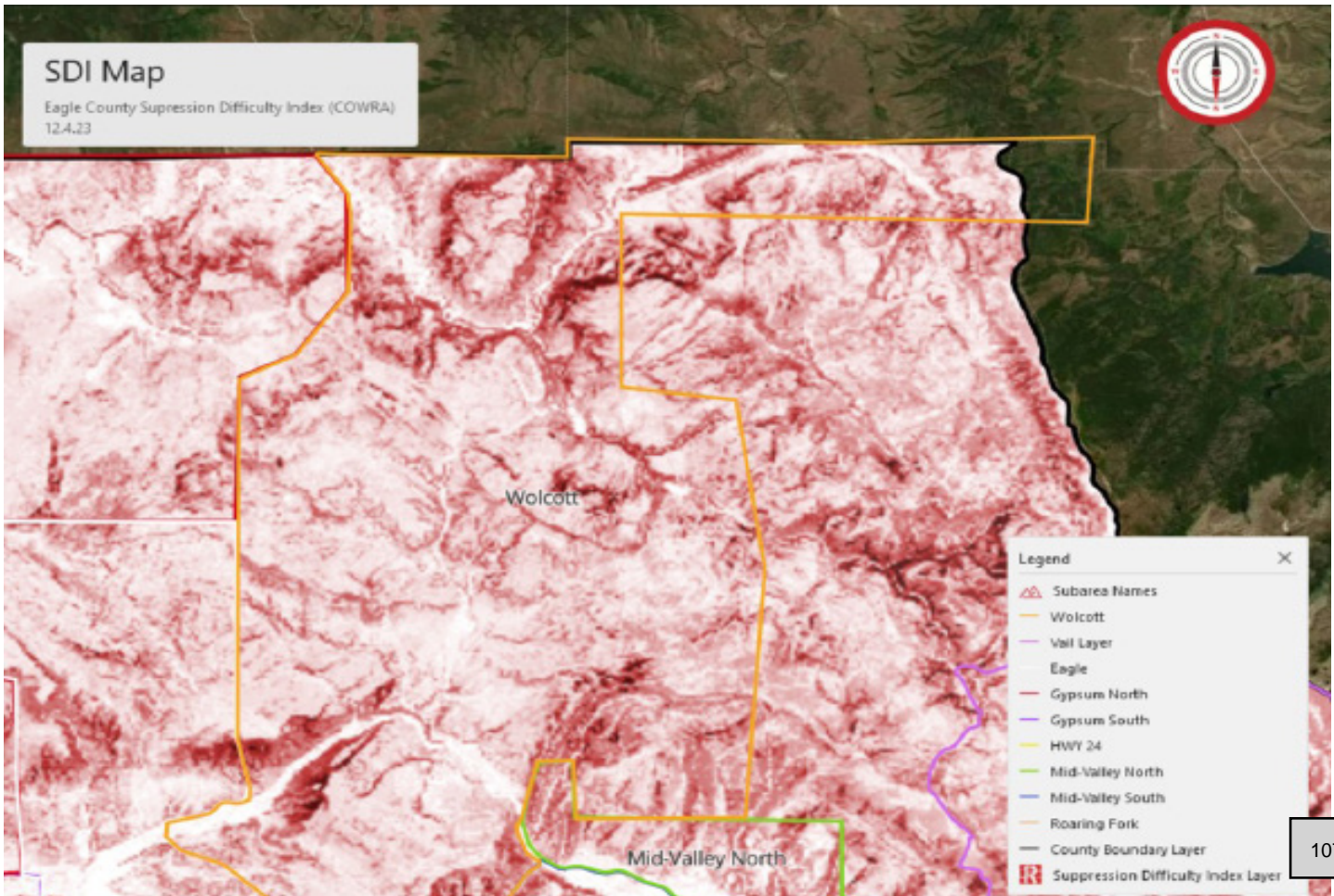
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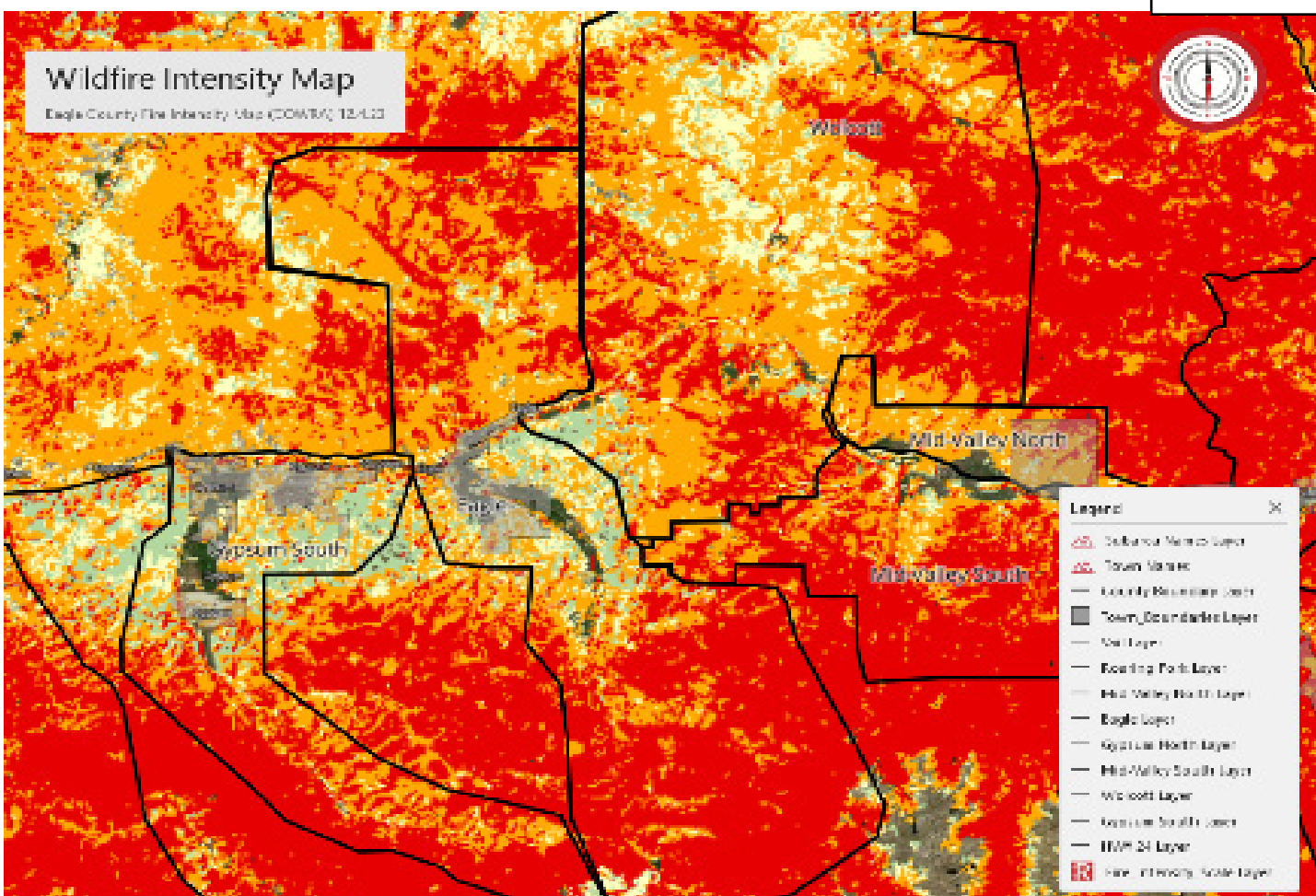
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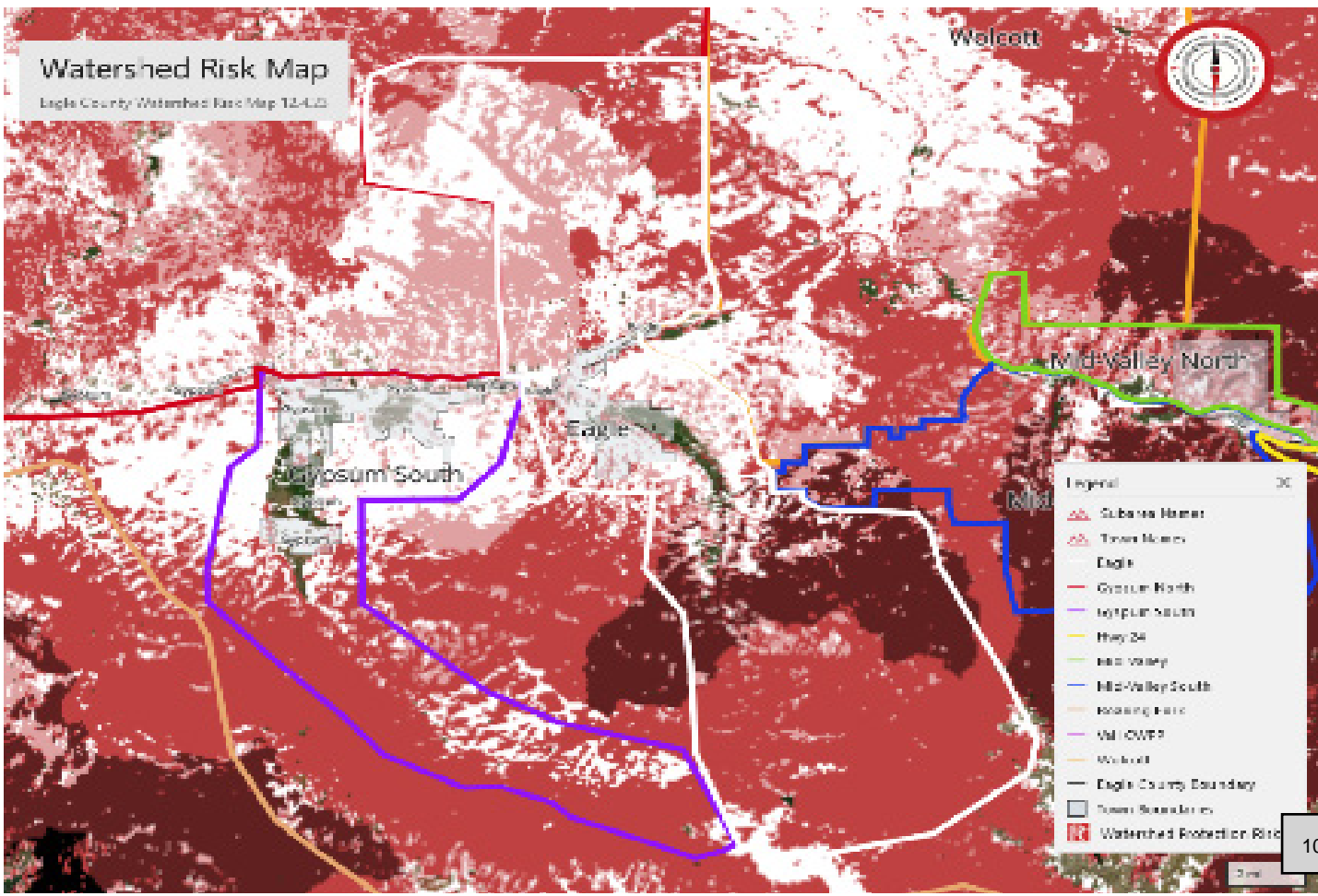
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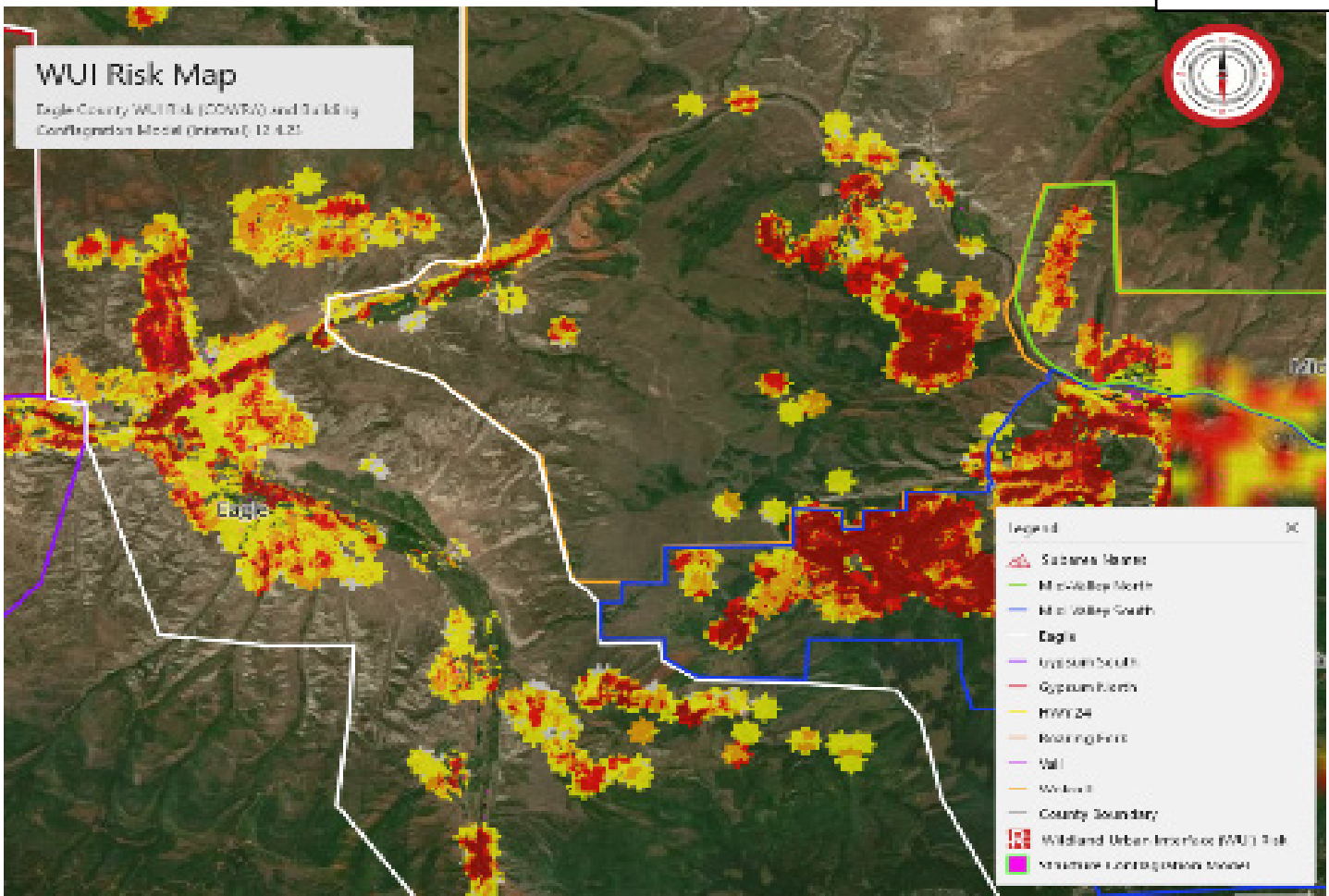
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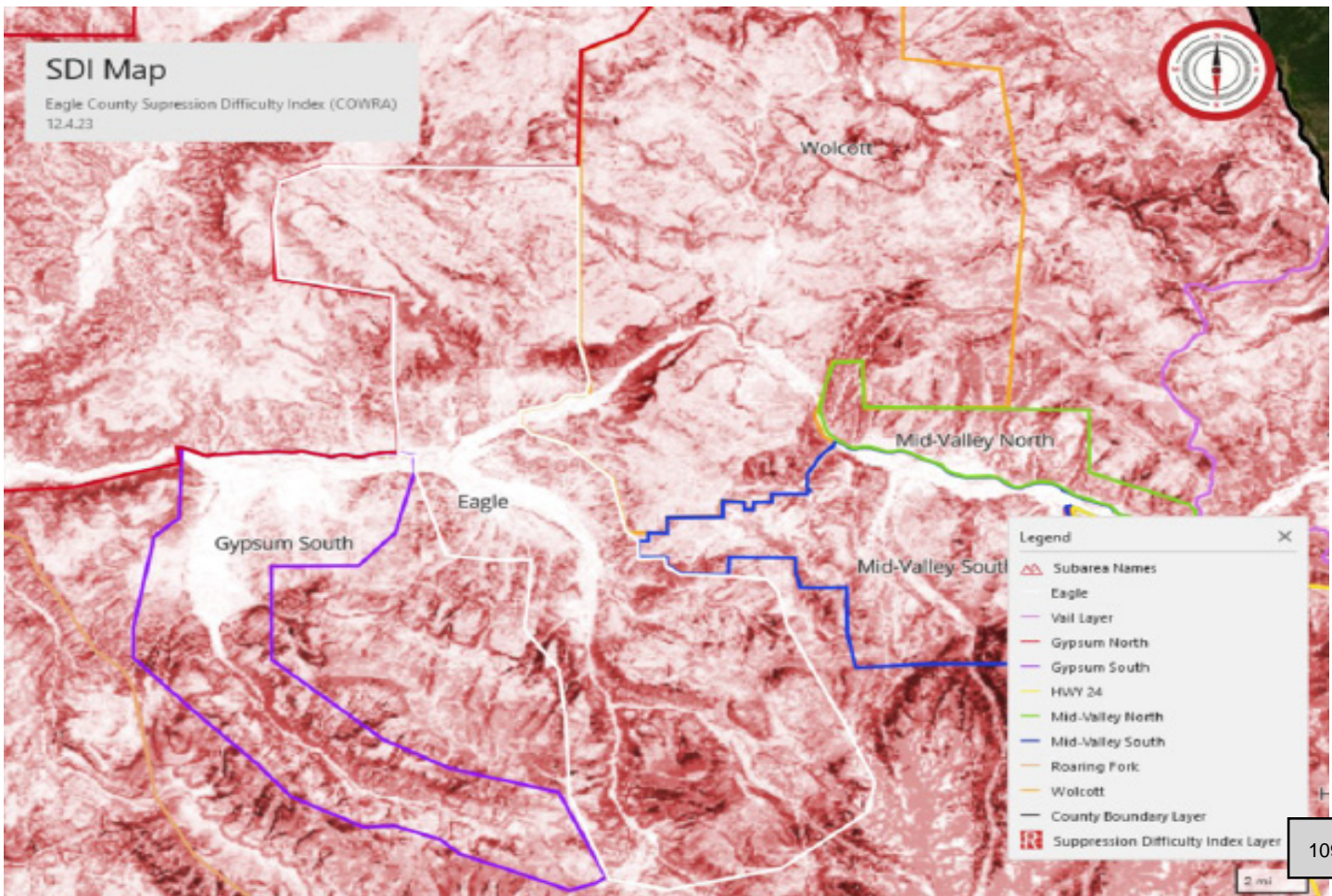
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F.3

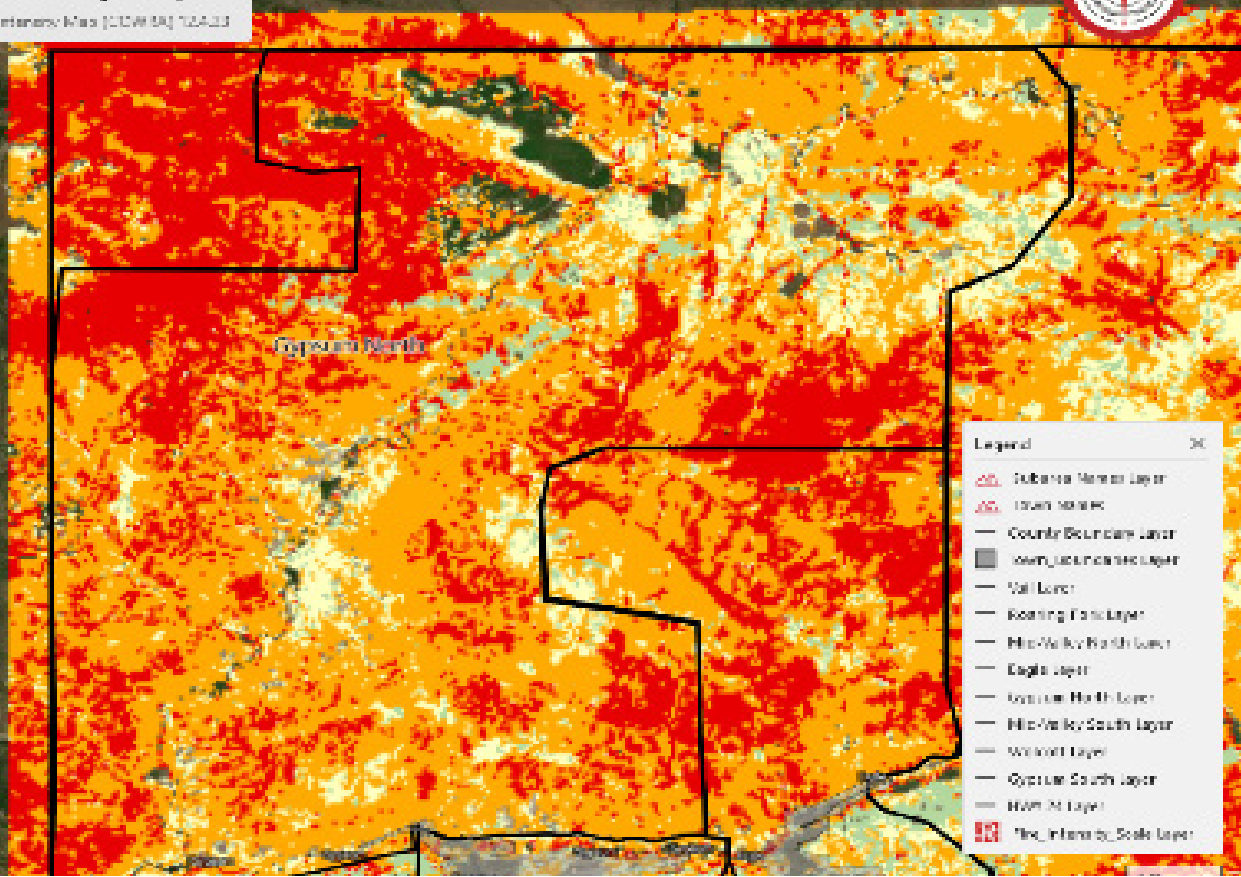


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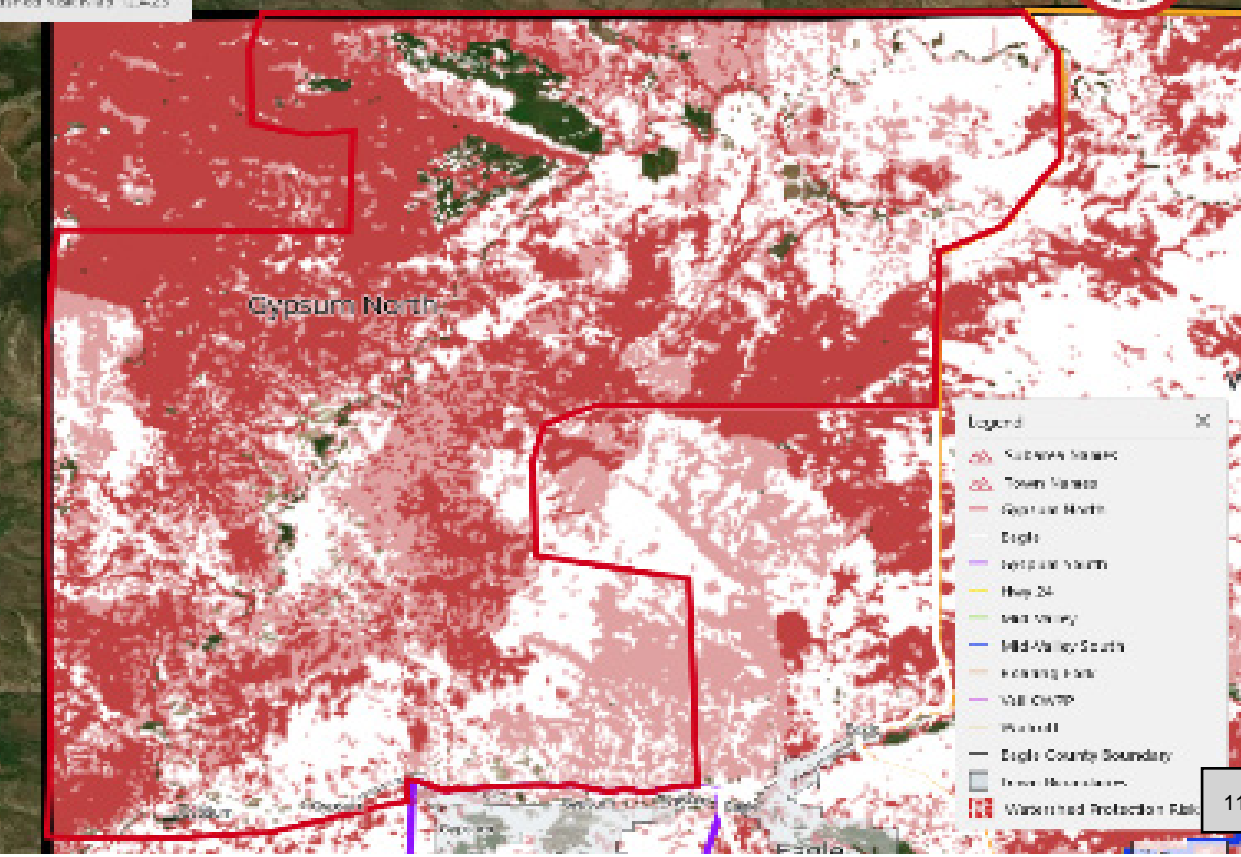
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Wildfire Intensity Map
 Eagle County Fire Intensity Map [12/28/24] 10A233

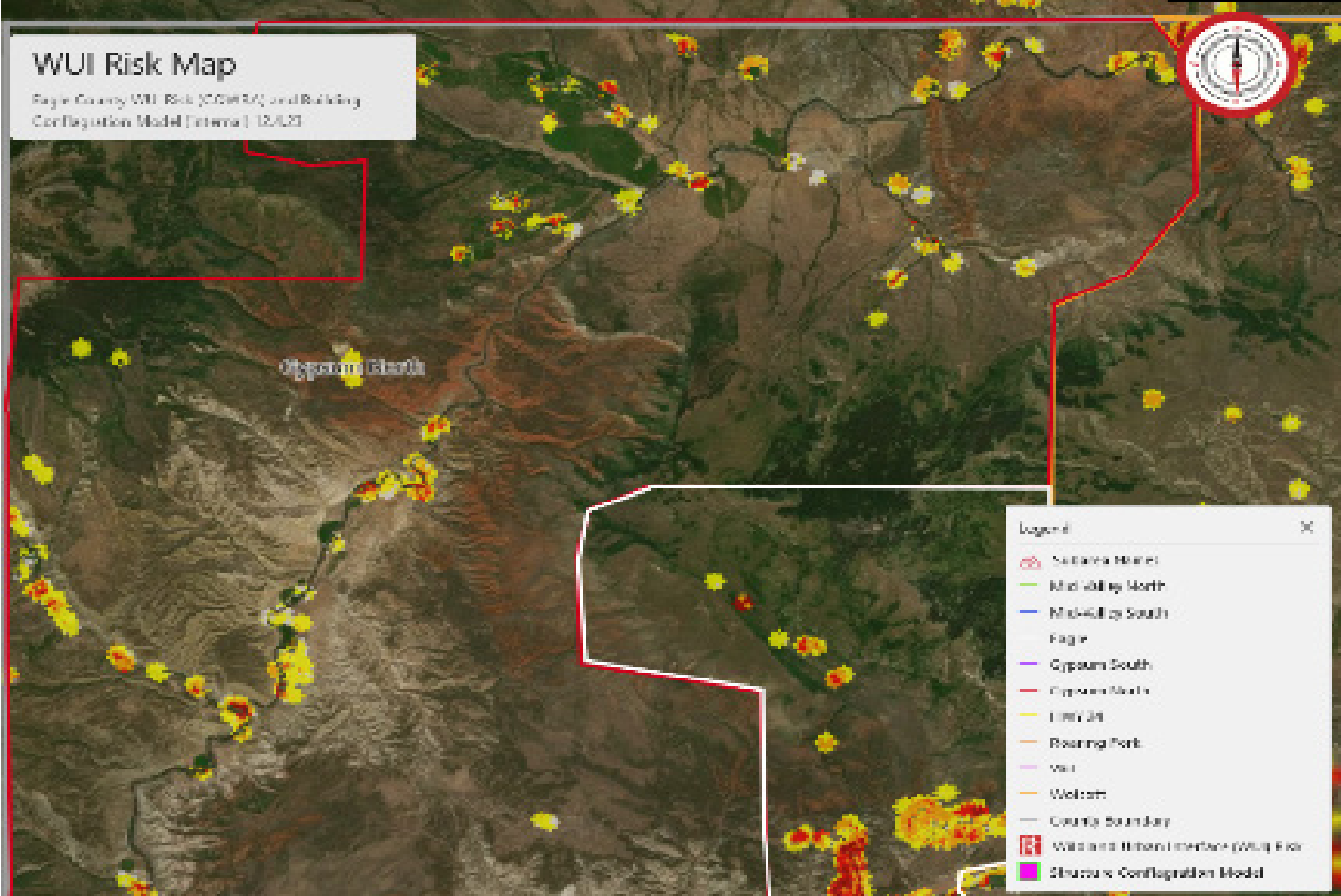


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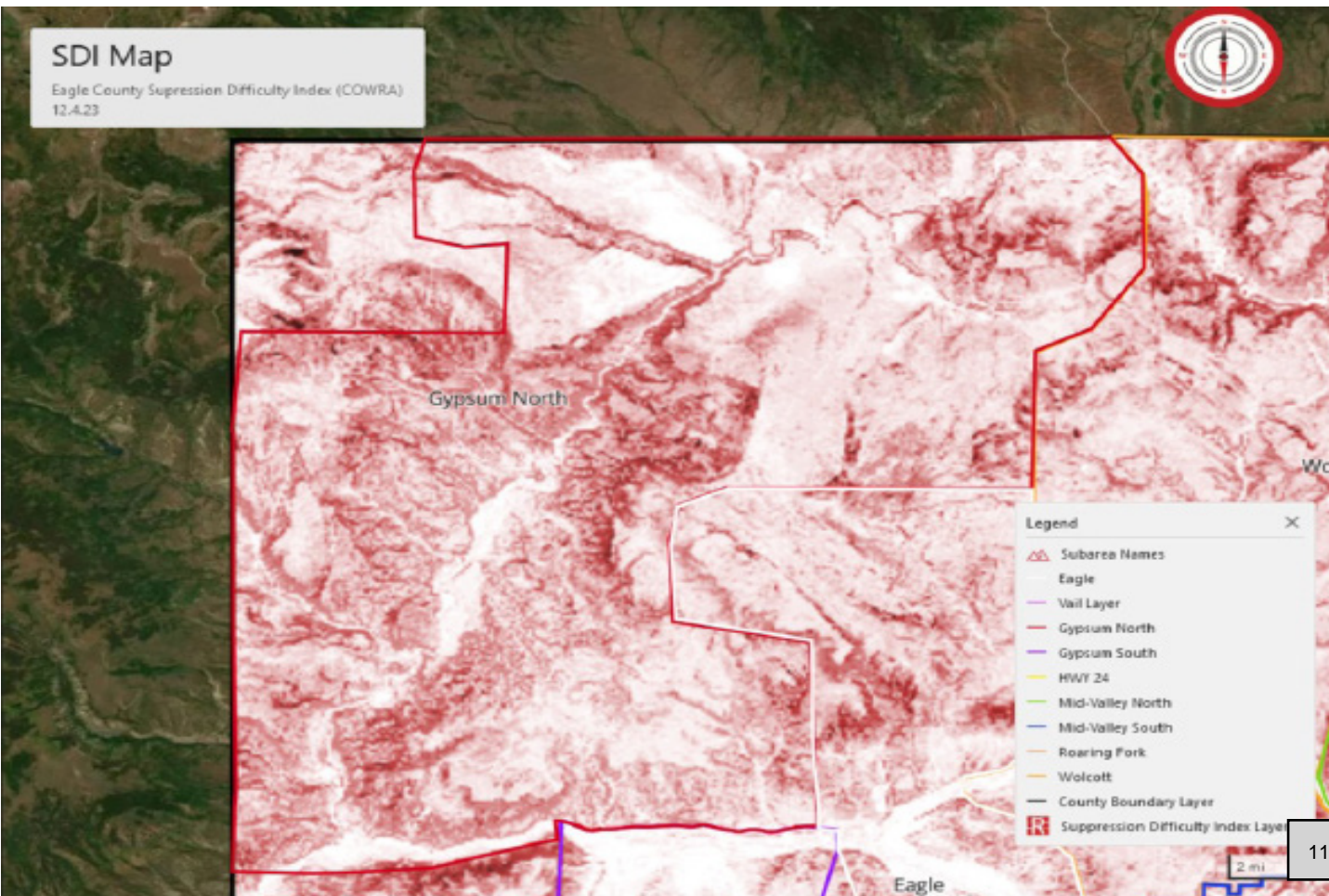
Watershed Risk Map
 Eagle County Watershed Risk Map 10A23



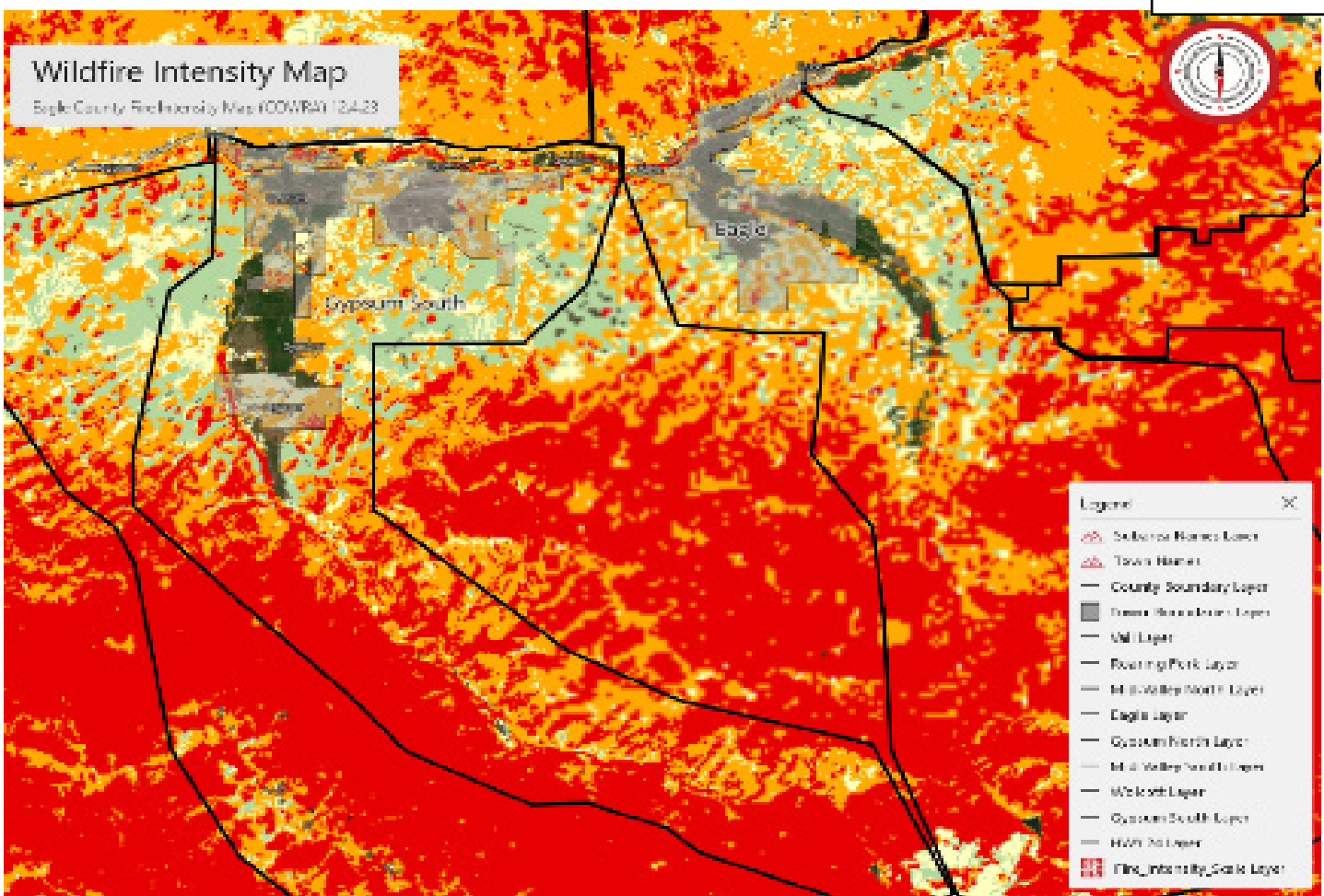
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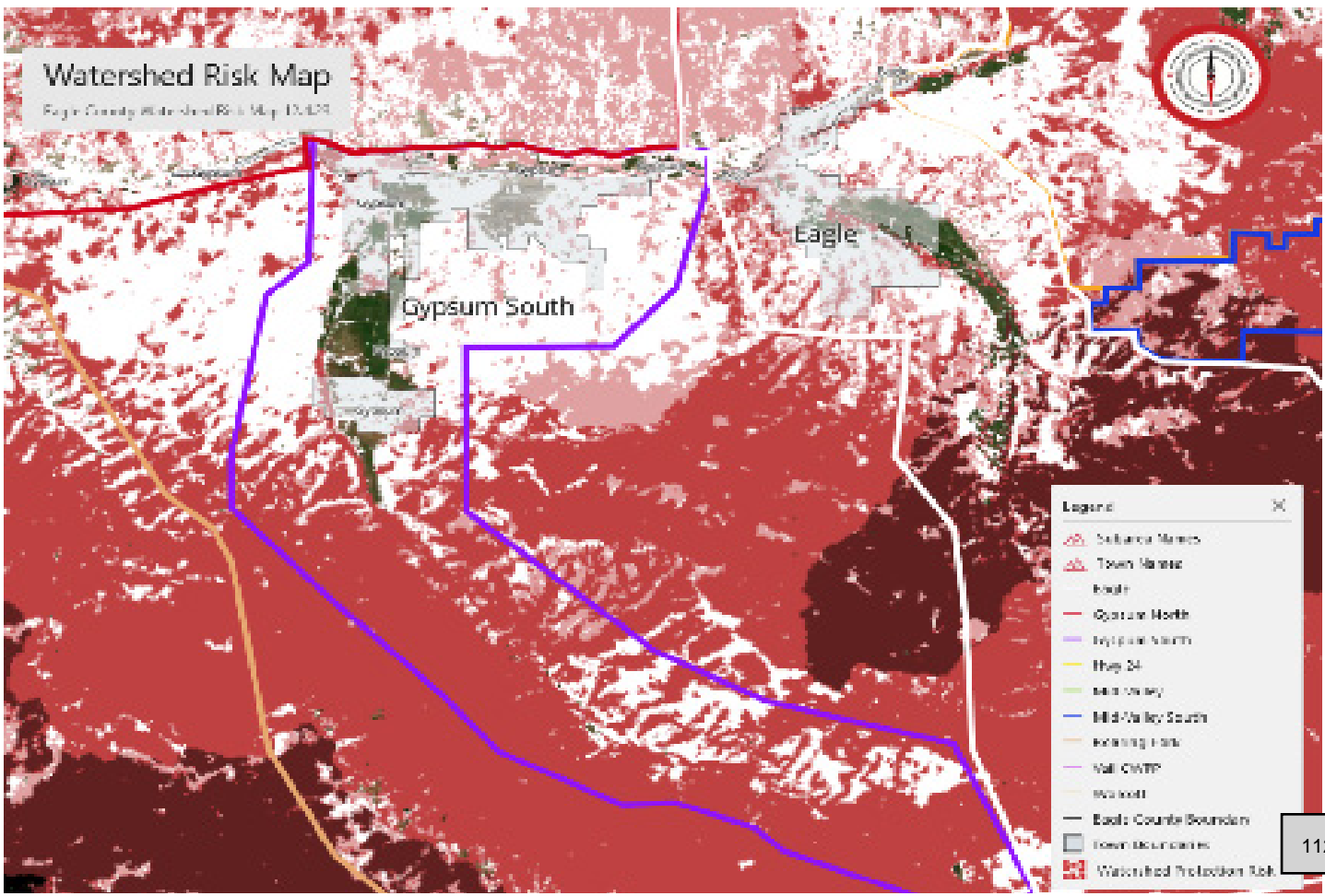
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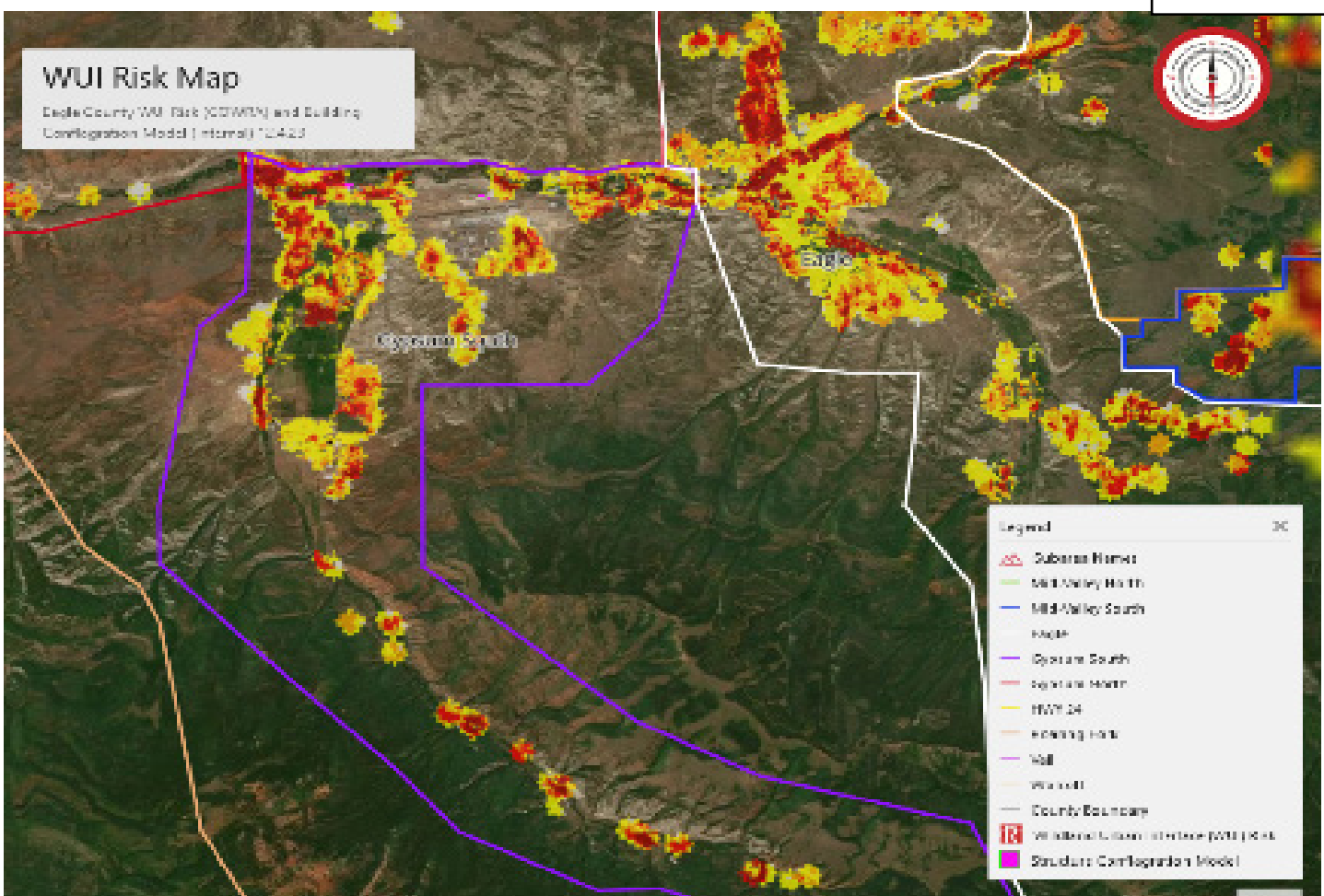
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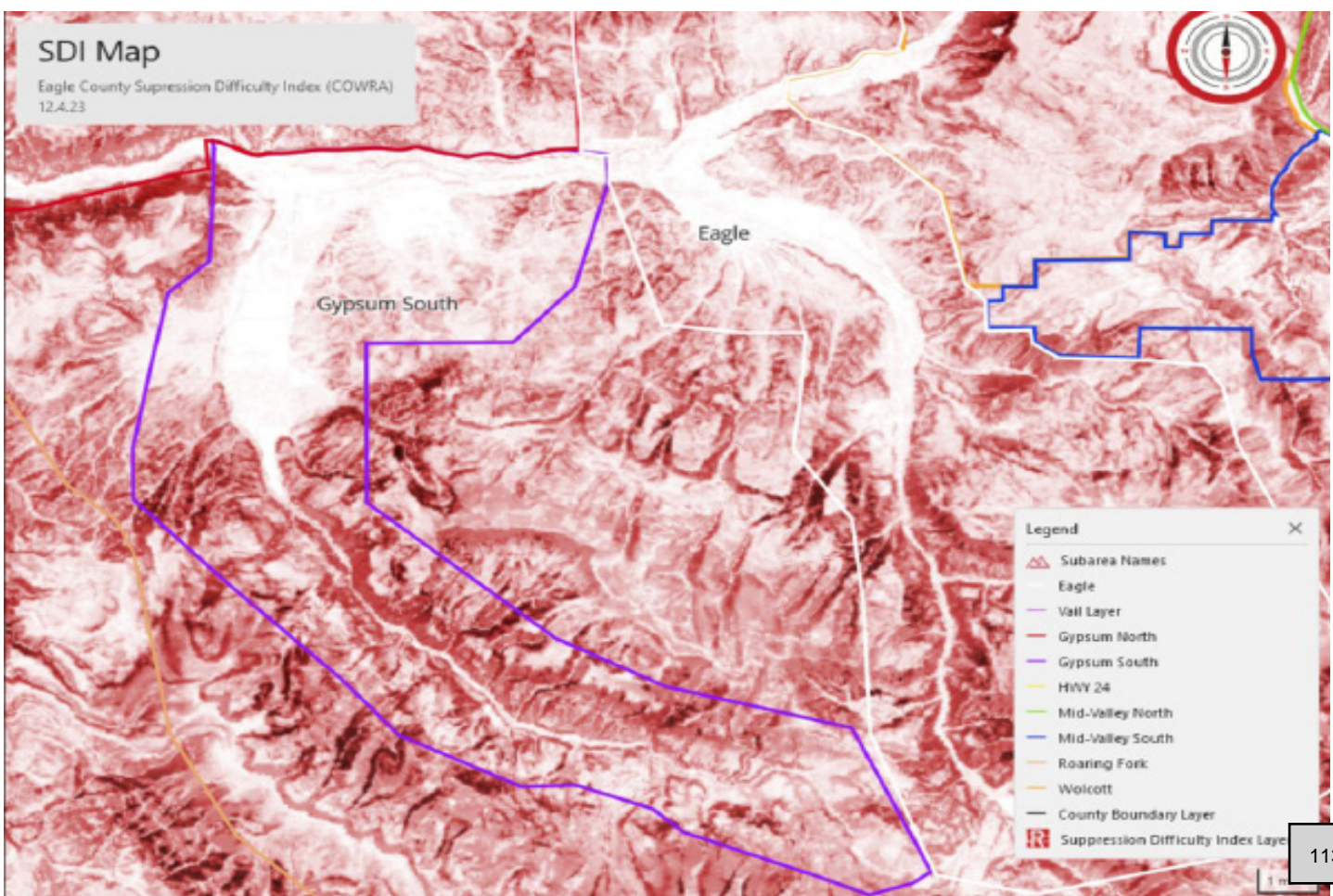
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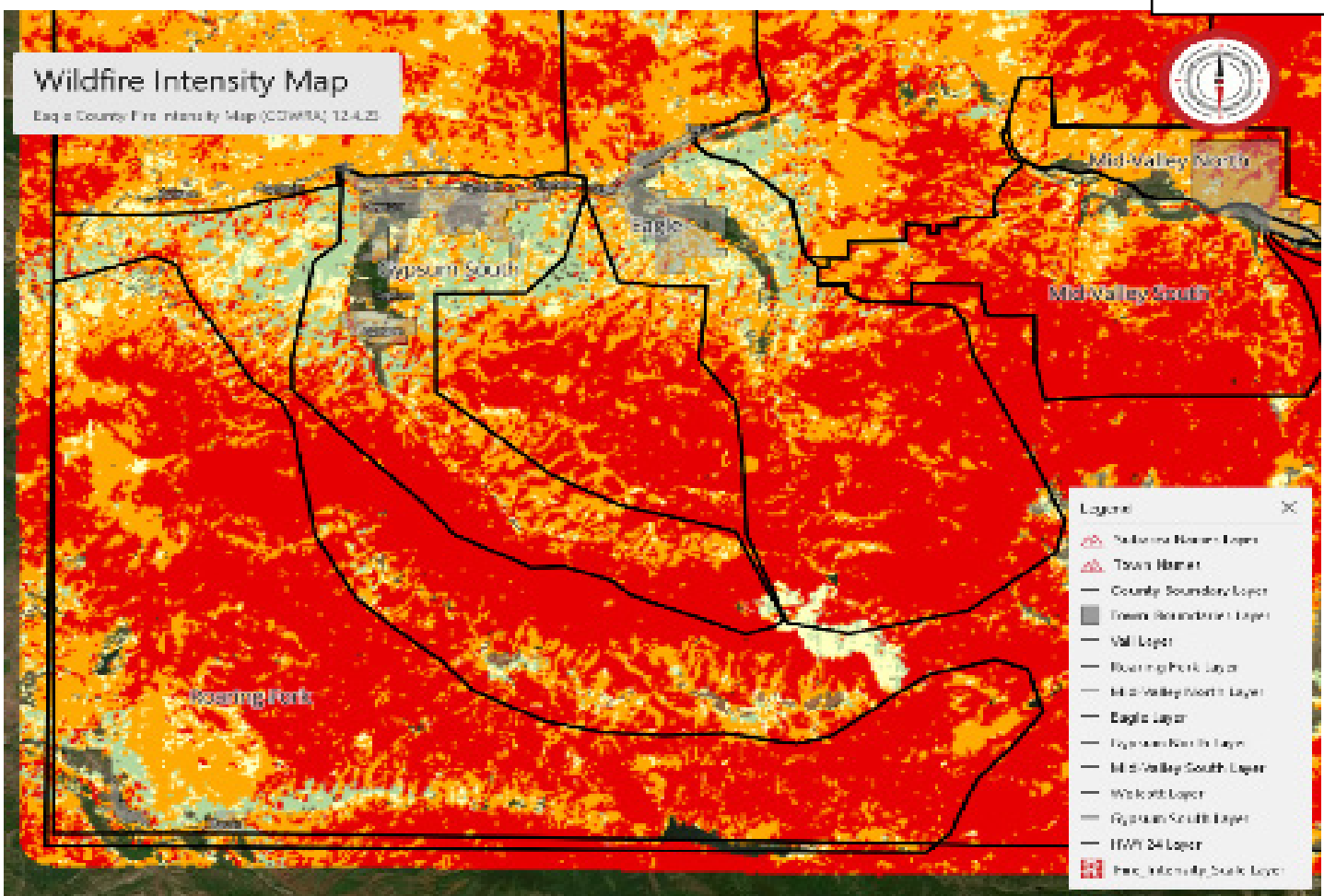
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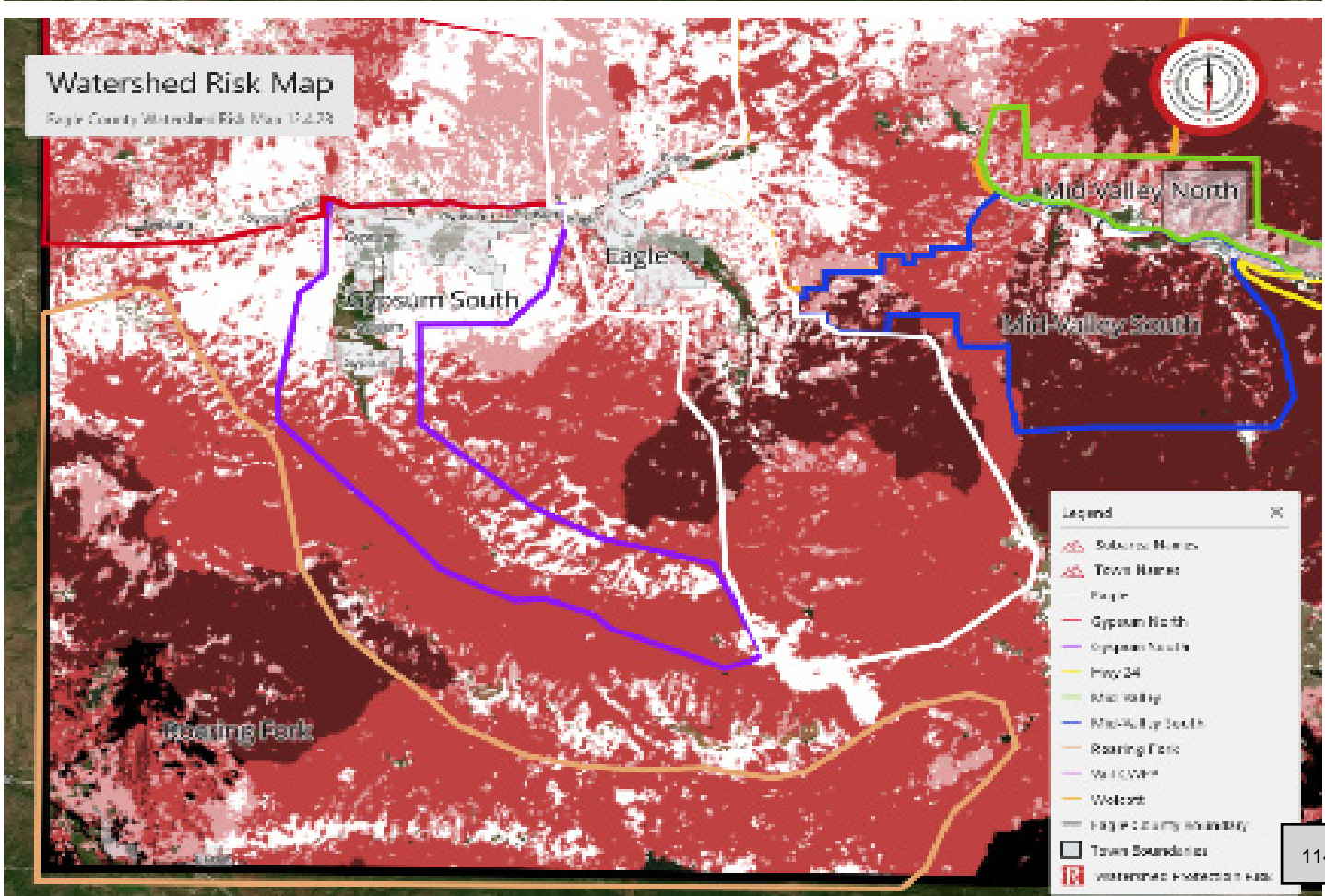
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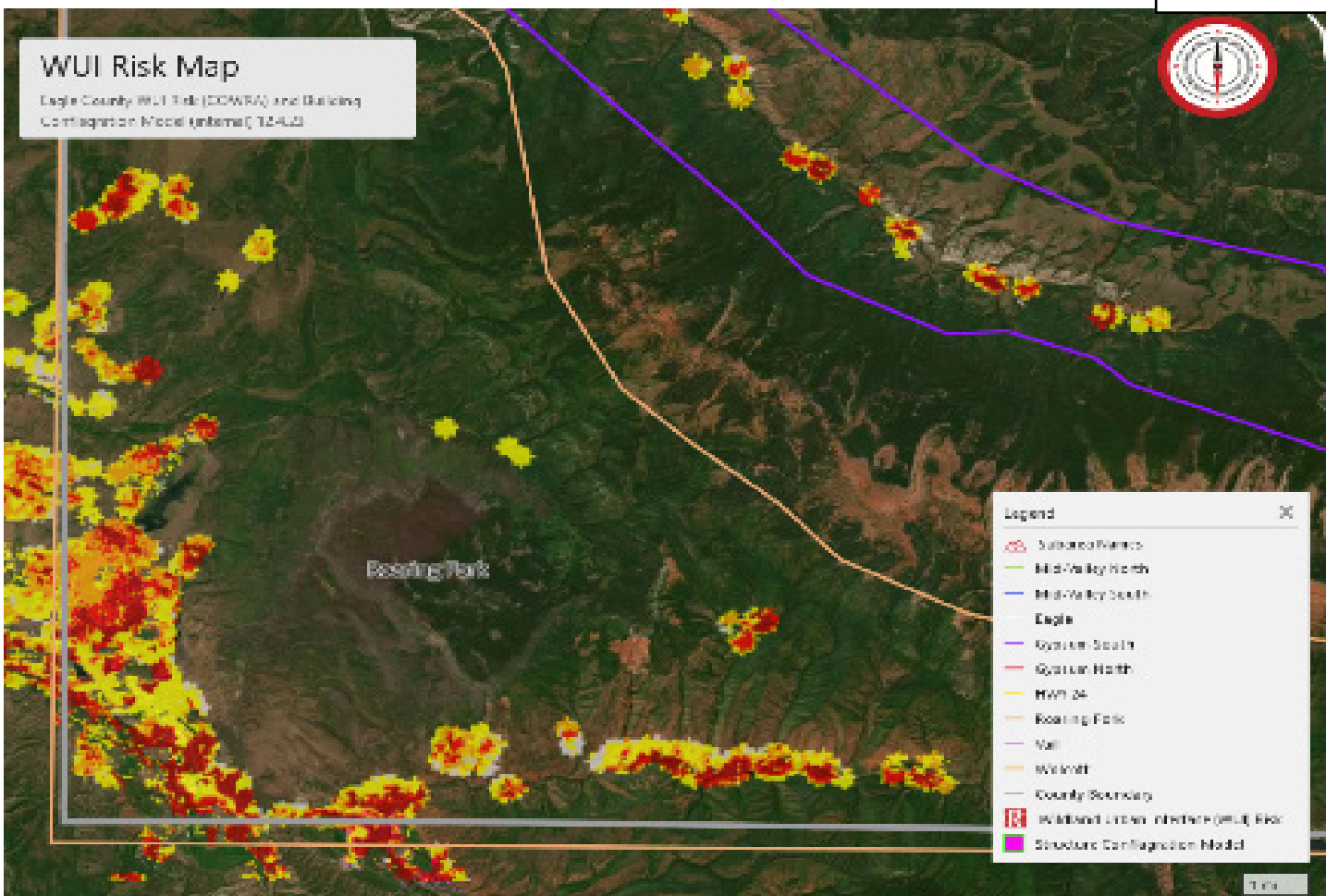
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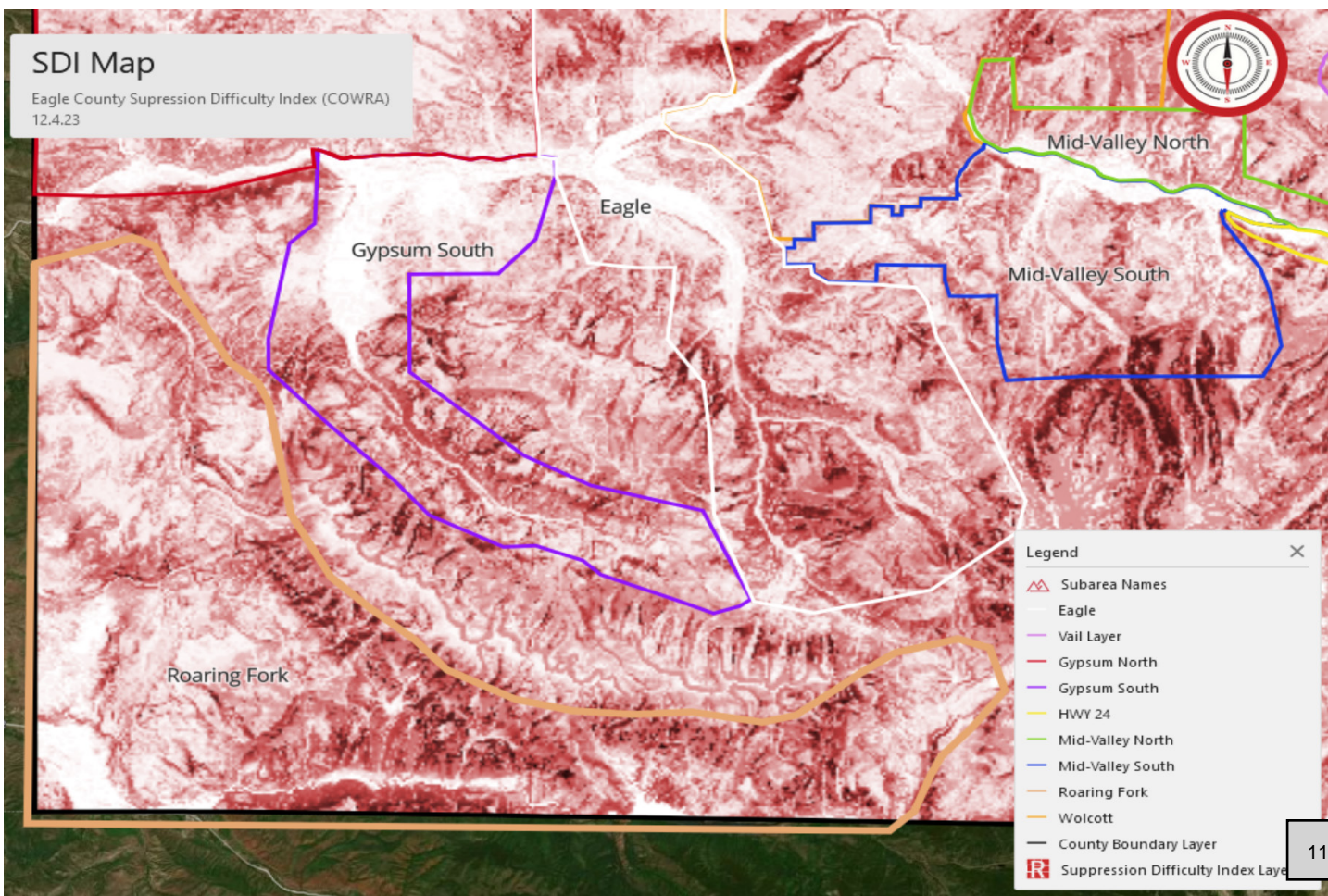
I.2



I.3



I.4



Mitigation Service	Key Services
Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mitigation planning • Grant writing • Stakeholder engagement • Wildfire recovery • Program/project guidance • Education and outreach • Policy direction
Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mitigation planning • Grant writing • Stakeholder engagement • Wildfire recovery • Program/project guidance • Education and outreach • Policy direction
Vail Fire - Fire Adapted Vail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community risk assessments • Curbside chipping • Highly impactfull cross-boundary fuels reduction projects ranging from individual defensible space to landscape scale fuels reduction coordinated with the White River National Forest and Colorado Parks and Wildlife • "Fire Adapted Vail": a strategic framework to guide preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery • Active engagement at the state and national level with Fire Adapted Colorado, Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, and the IAFC Wildfire Policy Committee
Eagle Valley Wildland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuels reduction • Prescribed fire • Community education • Community risk assessments • Fire suppression
Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with public and private agencies to implement forest health and fuels reduction projects • Leveraging grant funding from state and federal sources to implement education and outreach programs • Eagle County Wildfire Protection Plan and Wildfire Hazard Map • Facilitate learning exchanges, workshops, and training events • Open burn program • Cost-share assistance program • REALFire: a program through which local residents can request a property assessment to mitigate home risk, in addition to annual training and sharing of best practices for Realtors sponsored by the Vail Board of REALTORS

Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative

The Eagle County Wildfire Council was originally formed in 2009. In 2021, this group reorganized as the Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative (ECWC). The Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative (ECWC) is a group of stakeholders within Eagle County working together to help mitigate wildfire threats through collaboration and partnerships. Stakeholders within the ECWC include all Fire Agencies within Eagle County, Federal and State partners, Eagle County, watershed and sustainability, community leaders, wildlife experts, smoke and health experts, and leaders from various groups in ecosystem sustainability. The mission of the ECWC is to reduce wildfire risk through appropriately funded planning and program implementation focused on community engagement, education, communication, policy advocacy, and mitigation action aimed at creating fire adapted communities and resilient landscapes.



**Eagle County
Wildfire Collaborative**

- Key Services**
- Community mitigation planning
 - Grant writing
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Wildfire recovery
 - Program/project guidance
 - Education and outreach
 - Policy direction

- Key Services**
- Community mitigation planning
 - Grant writing
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Wildfire recovery
 - Program/project guidance
 - Education and outreach
 - Policy direction

Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative

The Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative works to reduce wildfire risk by identifying, prioritizing, and implementing strategic cross-boundary plans and projects aimed at creating fire resilient landscapes and fire-adapted communities while focusing on community engagement, education, and inclusion. Stakeholders within the RFVWC include all Fire Agencies within Eagle/Pitkin/Garfield County, Federal and State partners, Eagle County, Pitkin County, Garfield County, watershed and sustainability, community leaders, wildlife experts, smoke and health experts, and leaders from various groups in ecosystem sustainability.



**ROARING FORK VALLEY
WILDFIRE
COLLABORATIVE**

Vail Fire - Fire Adapted Vail

Vail Fire and Emergency Services is a department of the Town of Vail. The Department is an all risk fire department providing prevention, mitigation and emergency services to the town and surrounding area. Vail Fire has been highly engaged in wildfire risk reduction in our community since 2007. Over the past 13 years the department has completed numerous highly impactful cross- boundary fuels reduction projects.



Key Services

- Community risk assessments
- Curbside chipping
- Highly impactfull cross-boundary fuels reduction projects ranging from individual defensible space to landscape scale fuels reduction coordinated with the White River National Forest and Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- "Fire Adapted Vail": a strategic framework to guide preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery
- Active engagement at the state and national level with Fire Adapted Colorado, Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, and the IAFC Wildfire Policy Committee



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

Eagle Valley Wildland

Eagle Valley Wildland (EVW) is a collaborative partnership between multiple agencies dedicated to reducing the risk of wildfires through mitigation, suppression and community education. Includes Eagle River Fire Protection District, Greater Eagle Fire District, Gypsum Fire Protection District, and Eagle County. Eagle Valley Wildland (EVW) is responsible for fuels and fire management activities across 831 square miles of WUI, rural communities, forest, and rangeland. It oversees implementation of fuels reduction projects on county, town, and private lands. EVW has partnered with many districts, HOA's, and various associations to provide oversight and coordination on wildfire mitigation projects.

Key Services

- Fuels reduction
- Prescribed fire
- Community education
- Community risk assessments
- Fire suppression



Photo courtesy of Eagle Valley Wildland

Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation

Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation is focused on resiliency planning and creating fire adapted communities by reducing wildfire risk in the Wildland Urban Interface / Intermix within Eagle County. They negotiate with homeowners, developers, builders, local fire authorities, and others in order to achieve workable solutions while maintaining the integrity of Eagle County's Wildfire Regulations.

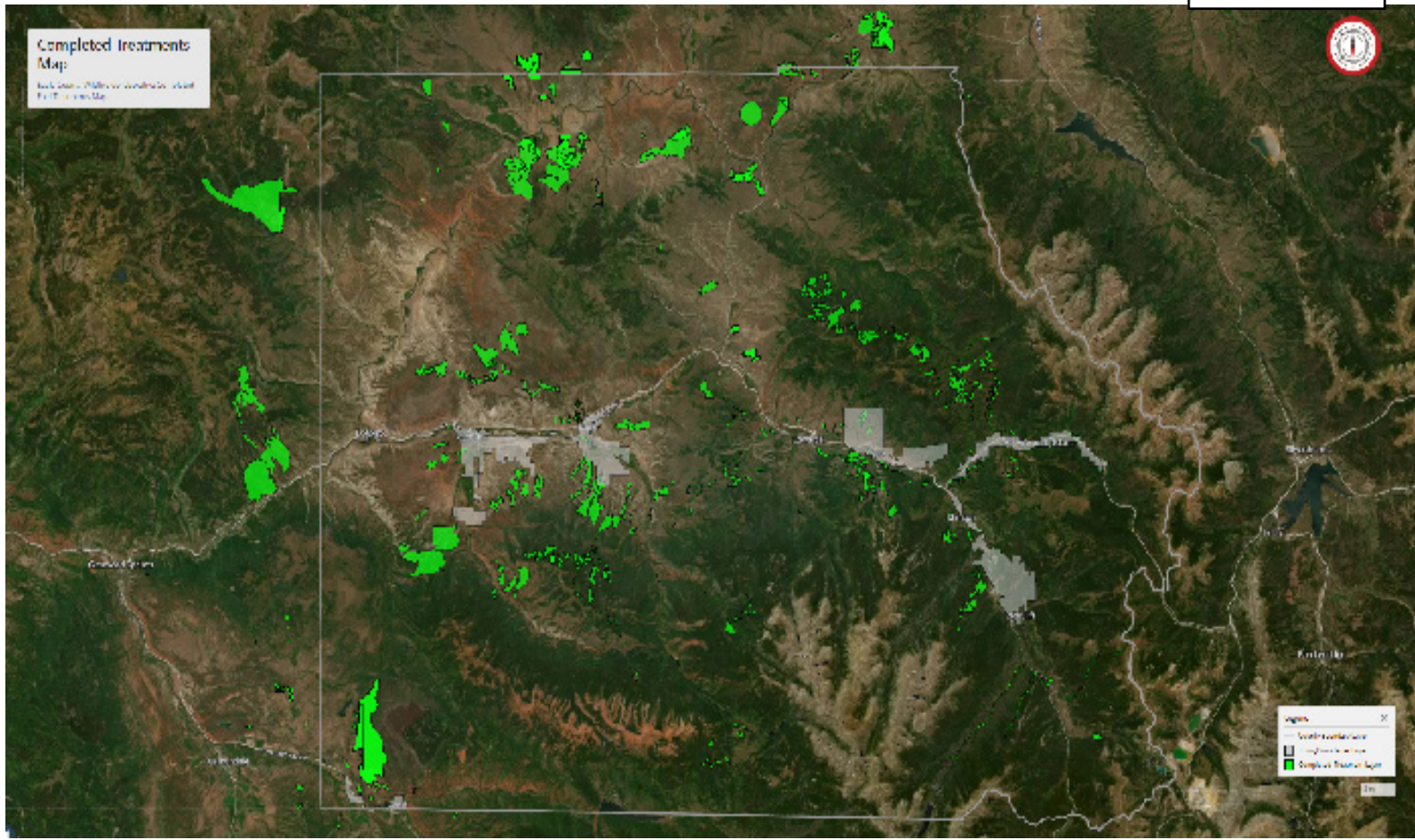


Photo courtesy of Eagle County

Key Services

- Coordination with public and private agencies to implement forest health and fuel reduction projects
- Leveraging grant funding from state and federal sources to implement education and outreach programs
- Eagle County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Wildfire Hazard Map
- Facilitate learning exchanges, workshops, and training events
- Open burning program
- Cost-share assistance program





Eagle County

Recognizing the need for wildfire education, awareness, and action, the Vail Board of REALTORS® (VBR) worked with Eagle County to create the REALFire® program in 2016. Through the program, homeowners can assess their property’s vulnerability to wildfires at no cost. REALFire® provides owners with an understanding of wildfire hazards and how to fortify the area around their homes by creating defensible space. An experienced fire professional visits the property to perform an in-depth assessment for wildfire fuels. The professional looks at potential wildland fuels surrounding the home, like fallen trees or overgrown landscaping, as well as “built fuels” on the property like fences, sheds and the home itself. After the assessment, clients receive a detailed report with voluntary actions to measurably reduce wildfire danger. Since the REALFire® program was created, 970 property assessments have been completed in Eagle County, including many large HOAs and condominium buildings in Beaver Creek, Bachelor Gulch, and Arrowhead.

The Eagle County Wildfire Assistance program was implemented after the 2018 Lake Christine Fire. This cost-share assistance program offers private landowners, and collective groups of private landowners, the opportunity to apply for incentive funding in an effort to reduce wildfire risk in Eagle County communities. Over the past 5 years, more than \$330,000 has been leveraged by community members to implement 300+ Home Ignition Zone hazard reduction projects, 100+ acres of defensible space, and develop more than a dozen community chipping programs.

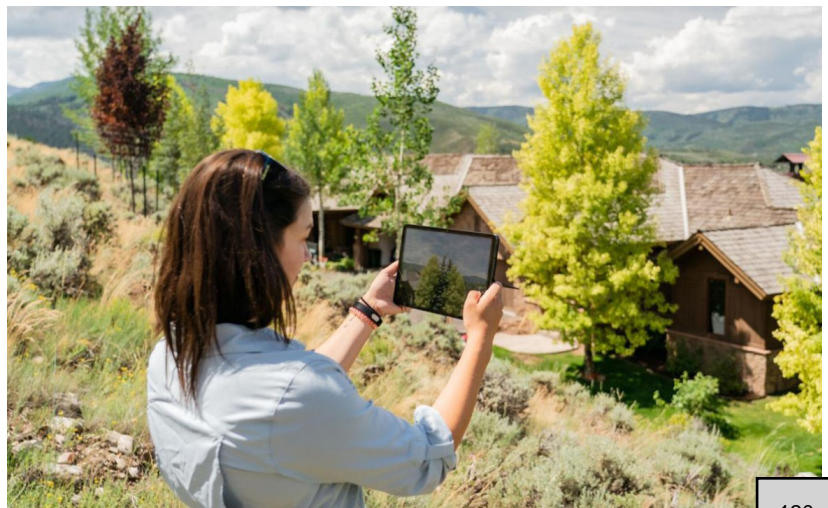


Photo courtesy of Dylan Brown

Vail Fire - Fire Adapted Vail

Since the early 2000's the Town of Vail and Vail Fire and Emergency Services have made a strong commitment to addressing wildfire risk. Beginning in 2007 the town funded a Wildfire Division within the Fire Department to complete fuels reduction and community resiliency programs and supplement wildfire response in the Town and countywide. The Wildland Division was instrumental in initially addressing increased fuel loading due to Mountain Pine Beetle mortality and since have expanded programs and services to more holistically address wildfire risk within the Vail Fire response area.

Initial work of the Wildland Division was focused on fuels reduction in the boundary areas between the Town and surrounding White River National Forest. Between 2007 and 2023 the Town and USFS have jointly implemented numerous small and large scale projects including the Vail WUI and Vail Intermountain projects. In 2023 the USFS signed a record of decision authorizing the next large scale project in Vail, Booth Creek Fuels. In addition to the productive relationships with the USFS the Wildland Division has also partnered with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to treat units on the Deer Underpass State Wildlife Area and Vail Resorts to treat land on Vail Mountain. The Wildland Division is also heavily involved in managing open space owned by the Town of Vail. A keystone project implemented in 2021 was the Booth Creek Prescribed burn. This small but significant broadcast prescribed fire was successfully implemented in a high visibility and high priority area within the community showing the tangible benefits and safe use of broadcast prescribed fire.



Photo courtesy of Vail Fire and Emergency Services

Much of the division's annual workload focuses around providing resources for community members to address wildfire risk at their residences. Since 2017 the division has been implementing a forward leaning wildfire hazard assessment program. Each year 1/5 of the Town is assessed using a rapid wildfire assessment method. The parcel specific results are shared with every property owner in an effort to provide specific risk information to each resident of the community. These assessments have led to noticeable action in the community and many follow-up visits by trained wildfire experts. A specific issue that was identified through the wildfire assessment program was a lack of defensible space in the most critical first five feet surrounding a structure. Through the support of the Vail Town Council the Fire Free Five Community Assistance Program was born as a way to incentivize property owners to create a five foot wide non-combustible landscape zone around their entire property. In the first 2 years of the program over \$250,000 of funds have been distributed to more than 140 properties including single family, multi family and commercial properties. Since nearly the inception of the Wildfire Division the town has run a curbside chipping program to assist community members with disposal of slash created implementing defensible space. Since 2016 the curbside chipping program has disposed of over 1200 tons of slash from the Town of Vail.



Photo courtesy of Vail Fire and Emergency Services

To address legacy design standards Vail has successively adopted building and development standards that incorporate best practices for reducing structural ignitability. In 2007 the Town adopted regulations requiring the use of class A roofing materials on all structures and incorporated an abatement order requiring the removal of dead trees. In 2015 the abatement order was updated to include all wildfire fuels and remains a tool useful in requiring private property owners to address high hazard vegetation. In 2018 the Town amended building and planning codes to more holistically address structural ignitability. This code package included a designation of the entire Town of Vail within the Wildland Urban Interface as well as requirements for all new construction and additions over 500 feet² to incorporate ignition resistant building materials and fire resistant landscaping into their design. In 2020 these codes were once again modified to be inclusive of any project which makes exterior modifi

Eagle Valley Wildland

Eagle Valley Wildland was created in 2019 in response to the growing wildfire threat in Eagle County. In 2021, EVW successfully implemented 35 acres of mechanical treatment, 3.5 miles of fuel breaks, and 72 acres of prescribed fire. In 2022, EVW began partnering with various stakeholders throughout the community to treat just over 1,700 acres and create 17 miles of tactical fuel breaks along the edge of homes. Building on this momentum, EVW partnered with 26 stakeholders in 2023 to leverage grant money to treat 2600 acres of land, implement 23 miles of fuel breaks, and burn over 2,000 piles.



Photo courtesy of Eagle County

Bureau of Land Management

Since the early 2000's the BLM has made a concerted effort to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fires while improving wildlife habitat and meeting other resource objectives. This work has primarily been focused on the Interstate 70 corridor and the Colorado River Road. Treatment types have included mastication, cut/pile/burn, lop & scatter, broadcast prescribed fire, timber sales, chemical treatments to control invasive species and seeding when needed. If commercially feasible biomass is made available from these projects for electricity generation, lumber and firewood.

From 2020 to present the BLM has treated on average 2,250 acres per year in Eagle County with the above described methods and continues to build additional capacity with the addition of new personnel and equipment. Additionally the BLM has provided Community Assistance Grants of over \$100,000 yearly to various organizations in Eagle County to conduct mitigation work on non-Federal lands.

Colorado State Forest Service

The Colorado State Forest Service provides technical and financial assistance for fuel reduction projects in Eagle County. Over the past decade, grant funding from the CSFS has been used to supplement thousands of acres of project work. In recent years, the CSFS has partnered with the BLM to design and implement Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) projects on public lands. In 2022, a 22 acre fuel reduction project was completed in mixed conifer forest near the Bellyache Ridge neighborhood in Wolcott. This project marks the first use of this valuable tool for completing fuel reduction projects across jurisdictional boundaries in Eagle County.

USDA Forest Service

Over the past several years, The White River National Forest has implemented numerous fuel reduction projects in Eagle County. These projects include timber sales, stewardship contracts, planning efforts, and prescribed fire. Several landscape scale projects have been completed in the Eagle area on Hardscrabble Mountain. The Wolverton, Seven Hermits, Firebox and Third Gulch timber sales (completed in 2022) resulted in nearly 950 acres of fuel reduction in aspen and lodgepole pine within the Brush Creek watershed. In addition to timber sales and stewardship agreements, USFS fire managers have successfully implemented several thousand acres of prescribed fire on the White River National Forest. Notable prescribed fire projects include: Piney Rx, Seven Hermits Rx, Intermountain Rx, Cattle Creek Rx and Basalt Mountain Rx. Prescribed fires conducted on Basalt Mountain between 2007 and 2017 had a significant impact on the Lake Christine Fire (2018), keeping the wildfire from burning into the community of Missouri Heights.



Photo courtesy of Todd Winslow Pierce



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Memorandum

To: Michelle Metteer

From: William Berg, P.G.
 Chase Van Alstine, P.G.

Date: December 29, 2023

Subject: Minturn Wells 3 and 4 Testing Summary

BACKGROUND

This memorandum summarizes the Minturn Well Nos. 3 and 4 testing activities that were performed by Cascade Environmental (Cascade) from October 31, 2023 through November 16, 2023. The purpose of the Minturn Wells 3 and 4 testing program was to assess whether Minturn Well Nos. 3 and 4 could each reliably produce approximately 225 gallons per minute (gpm) and to gather some preliminary information regarding whether the wells would be classified as groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI).

Both Minturn Well Nos. 3 and 4 have two screened intervals: one shallow and one deep. Due to the concern over the wells being classified as GWUDI, the upper screened interval in each well was to be sealed off during the aquifer testing so that only the lower screened interval was producing groundwater. This was achieved by using an inflatable packer to isolate the lower screened interval. The remainder of this memorandum describes the aquifer testing activities that took place during the testing program.

AQUIFER TESTING ACTIVITIES

Cascade mobilized from Arizona on October 30th and arrived onsite to Well No. 3 on the morning of October 31st. The rest of the 31st was spent on activities including site familiarization, coordination of well operations and well shutdowns with the Town of Minturn public works supervisor, recovering the pump column that fell of the pitless adapter in Well No. 3, and conditioning the well for the initial well video.

Well No. 3 Well Videos and Well Cleaning

The initial well video on Well No. 3 was performed on the morning of November 1. Due to conflicting well construction reports, well testing reports, and well diagrams, it was uncertain what the specifics regarding the well diameter and well construction were prior to the video. The initial well video showed that the casing size was approximately 7 inches in diameter from

the top to bottom of the well and that there was both an upper and lower screened interval. Had the upper well screen been approximately 5 inches in diameter, as indicated in the well construction and test report, the inflatable packer may not have fit in the well and the well testing would have been limited to a pump that could only produce approximately 100 gpm, regardless of aquifer ability. Construction details for Well No. 3 observed from the well videos are shown in Table 1.

The well video on November 1 showed the presence of both bacteria and mineral fouling on the well screens. Because of this, on November 1 through November 3, mechanical and chemical cleaning of the Well No. 3 screens was performed. This included using brushes of varying stiffness, an acidizing chemical treatment, and airlifting the water in the well to remove residue and chemicals from the cleaning process. Chemicals used to clean Well No. 3 were neutralized in a 500-gallon tank and released into small kettle depression approximately 60 feet east of and below the elevation of the well to avoid flow back toward the well. A second well video of Well No. 3 was performed on November 2, which showed that chemical cleaning and brushing removed some of the bacterial film on both screens, and it was Martin and Wood's opinion that more mechanical brushing was required to adequately clean out the lower screen. A third well video was taken on the morning of November 3, following the mechanical brushing, which showed additional improvement, but more brushing was considered necessary to remove material from corrosion near the joints between the top part of the lower screen, and the blank casing. Following the additional brushing, a final video on the afternoon of November 3 showed that the lower screen was cleaner, and the remaining oxidation at the joints between the casing and lower screen was considered by Cascade to not be removable and would not noticeably affect well performance.

Well No. 3 Specific Capacity Testing and Yield Results

On November 3, a specific capacity test was run for approximately two hours, where the goal was to maximize the pumping rate from the well utilizing its current pump with the discharge valve completely open, in order to estimate the maximum pumping rate from the well in its just-cleaned condition. A PVC sounding tube was installed to house the transducer for water level drawdown measurements during well testing. The static water level prior to the test was measured at 20.15 feet below ground surface (bgs), and the pump intake was set to a depth of around 77.9 feet bgs. The specific capacity test for Well No. 3 was initially run at a pumping rate of 80 gpm to measure the effect of cleaning on the screens, which indicated an improved specific capacity of 2.61 gpm/foot of drawdown from the original 2.17 gpm/foot of drawdown. The pumping rate was then increased to approximately 90 gpm, which is the maximum pumping rate that the pump and discharge valve would allow. The pumping rate needed to be maximized to stress the aquifer as much possible without reducing the water level below the level at which pump cavitation occurs (pump cavitation is when air enters the pump and is harmful to the pump). A maximum pumping water level of 61.71 feet bgs, which is the water level in the well during pumping, was obtained during the specific capacity test.

The specific capacity calculated at the maximum pumping rate of 89 gpm with a drawdown of 41.56 feet (61.71 feet bgs - 20.15 feet bgs = 41.56 feet bgs) was 2.14 gpm/foot of drawdown (89 gpm ÷ 41.56 feet of drawdown = 2.14 gpm/foot of drawdown). The decrease in specific capacity from pumping at 80 gpm to pumping at 89 gpm shows a decreasing ability

of the aquifer to keep up with increased pumping rates. Given the specific capacity, the pump intake depth, current static water level, and a maximum estimated pumping water level of approximately 68 feet bgs (cavitation will likely occur when the submergence depth of the pump is less than around 10 feet), an estimated maximum pumping rate of approximately 102 gpm was estimated for Well No. 3 ($2.14 \text{ gpm/foot of drawdown} \times [\text{pumping water level of 68 feet bgs} - \text{static water level of 20.15 feet bgs}]$) without damaging the pump components at the current static water level. Note that this test was performed without packing off the upper screen interval. A packer test was not performed on Well No. 3, as the estimated maximum pumping rate with both screens open is far less than the 225 gpm target for the well to deliver to the proposed water treatment plant.

Completion of Work at Well No. 3

Cascade disinfected and reinstalled the Town's existing pump for Well No. 3 by the end of the day on November 2. Cascade demobilized from Well No. 3 and mobilized to Well No. 4 on November 4.

Well No. 4 Initial Well Videos and Evaluation

The static water level at Well No. 4 was initially measured at a depth of 16.43 feet bgs. With some difficulty, Cascade was able to remove the pump assembly from the well and lower a bailer to remove sediment on November 4. Cascade was unable to get the bailer past the top of the lower screen, which is at a depth of approximately 67.7 feet bgs. The depth of the screened intervals and tagged bottom depth of Well No. 4 are shown in Table 1. The reasons for the difficulty in removing the pump and lowering the bailer to the bottom of Well No. 4 were made clear during an initial well video before conditioning the well. The initial well video showed warping in the lower screen at a depth of approximately 69.7 feet bgs that occluded nearly half of the 6-inch diameter. The video also showed the well contained sediment below a depth of approximately 78.2 feet bgs, along with a bend in the well casing above the lower well screen. The severity of the warping of the lower screen precluded mechanical brushing to clean the screen and would reduce the effectiveness of cleaning the lower screen with chemicals. Flocculant was added in attempts to obtain a clearer video of the well screens. A second well video was performed on November 5, which was still obscured by turbidity, despite the flocculants that were added the day prior. A static water level was measured at a depth of approximately 11.6 feet bgs from the video. The video also showed rubbing from the bailer cable on the well casing string below the upper screen at a depth of approximately 43 feet bgs. This indicates that the well is not plumb below the bottom of the upper screen at 38.4 feet bgs. An attempt was made to install a 1-inch PVC sounding tube with the original 3-inch PVC pump column pipe. The PVC sounding tube was intended to house the transducer for water level drawdown measurements during well testing. However, because of the deformed nature of the Well No.4 casing, the original pump and pump column were not able to be installed inside the casing together with the 1-inch PVC sounding tube. Cascade substituted the 3-inch PVC pipe with 2-inch steel pipe to carry out a specific capacity test for the well.

Well No. 4 Specific Capacity Testing

A specific capacity test was carried out at Well No. 4 on November 5 to see if it could yield close to 225 gpm. The intake of the pump was set to a depth of approximately 58 feet bgs. The pumping water level at Well No. 4 at approximately 89 gpm was approximately 16.7 feet bgs (19.48 feet below top of casing). Given a calculated drawdown of approximately 5.1 feet (16.7 feet bgs - 11.6 feet bgs = 5.1 feet of drawdown), the estimated specific capacity of Well No. 4 prior to cleaning was approximately 17.45 gpm/foot of drawdown (89 gpm ÷ 5.1 feet of drawdown = 17.45 gpm/foot of drawdown). Given the pump intake depth and specific capacity of Well No. 4 prior to cleaning, the well could potentially produce the 225 gpm needed for the water treatment plant.

Well No. 4 Well Cleaning and Additional Well Videos

Because of the favorable results of the initial testing, Cascade was instructed to attempt to airlift near the lower screened interval to clean out the sediment at the bottom of the well and to clean out the screens as much as possible with that same method. A well video was performed on November 6, which confirmed that the Well No. 4 lower screen was compromised (as seen on November 4) so that approximately 50% of the screen diameter was still open. The lower screen otherwise appeared to be intact and there was little evidence of screen clogging noted during the video. As described above, the well screen compromise prevented mechanical cleaning of the lower screen. The sediment in the bottom of the well appeared to be fine grained, with no evidence of filter pack sand. Because there was no evidence of filter pack sand in the well and the lower screen appeared to be intact, the well was airlifted and surged in an attempt to remove the fine grained sediment in the bottom of the well.

On November 7, a final well video of Well No. 4 was taken to see if airlift development of the screens achieved additional well cleaning. The lower screen in Well No. 4 appeared clearer, and about 5 feet of sediment was cleared from the bottom of the lower screen. There was no sign of further lower well screen compromise.

Well No. 4 Further Testing and Well Yield Results

Cascade received the packer to isolate the lower well screen from the upper well screen on November 7, and spent that day and part of November 8 setting up for further testing by running transducer cable through the packer. Martin & Wood obtained the transducer to measure water levels during testing and brought it to the site on November 8. Most of that day was spent setting up by threading the transducer cable through the packer port and splicing the cable together. Splicing was finished on November 9, and Cascade personnel left the site for a four-day break (following 10 days of work, as scheduled).

Cascade remobilized to the site on November 13. November 14 was spent testing and troubleshooting the packer assembly and installing the test pump. On November 15, additional packer assembly and transducer connection troubleshooting were performed before the testing could begin.

The bottom of the test pump was set to a depth of approximately 69 feet bgs and the pump intake was set at 66 feet bgs. The static water level could not be obtained as the packer

unfortunately prevented a depth to water measurement with a water level meter. The static water level was at 14.4 feet on November 14 and was used as the static water level on November 15 for Well No. 4 testing. At the beginning of testing of the lower screened interval in Well No. 4, the pumping rate was mistakenly set too high by Cascade, which resulted in a pumping rate of approximately 250 gpm and a drawdown of approximately 48 ft, which reduced the water level in the well to the pump intake quickly. The pump was shut down after a few minutes and the water level was left to recover.

Once the water level was 95% recovered after approximately 30 minutes, the test was restarted with a lower pumping rate of 150 gpm. Well No. 4 experienced 40 feet of drawdown immediately, resulting in a pumping water level (water level during pump testing) of approximately 54 feet. At this point it was clear that Well No. 4 was not going to be able to sustain a pumping yield much above 100 gpm from only the lower screened interval. The pumping water level at a pumping rate of approximately 100 gpm was found during testing to be approximately 57 feet bgs, which is approximately 9 feet above the pump intake. The water level was adjusted based on the drawdown observed at each pumping rate. Because the well could not sustain the original 150 gpm, the pumping rate was decrease to a point where the water level was constant at an acceptable level above the pump intake.

The Town's original pump was disinfected and reinstalled on November 16.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Well No. 3 appears to be capable of a maximum pumping yield of approximately 100 gpm with groundwater contributions from both screens. The drawdown in Well No. 3 during testing suggests that the well yield limitation for Well No. 3 is a combination of both geology and well diameter. The combination of geology and well diameter limit the rate of groundwater production from a well. The largest pump that can be installed can only produce about 100 gpm, due to well diameter limitations on what size pump can fit down the well. Because of both the well drawdown, which suggests aquifer conductivity limitations, and well casing size, Well No. 3 will be limited to approximately 100 gpm.

Well No. 4 may be capable of a maximum pumping yield of approximately 250 gpm with the groundwater contributions from both screens. However, this pumping rate was not tested due to GWUDI concerns. When the well is limited to only the lower screen, the estimated pumping yield was limited to approximately 100 gpm (during testing with the packer installed) because of the drawdown within the well approaching the pump intake. The packer limited water production to only the groundwater entering the well from the lower screen, which is the most likely non-GWUDI interval. The 100 gpm lower screen well yield limitation suggests that a significant portion of the Well No. 4 yield is from the upper screen. Because of concerns of surface water impacts from the upper screen, we conclude that Well No. 4's water production from the lower interval is limited to a well yield of approximately 100 gpm. Additionally, the lower screen in Well No. 4 is compromised and will have to be replaced at some point in the future due to well cleaning limitations.

If the Town continues to be interested in utilizing wells for its water supply, it is estimated that at least two new wells would be required to meet the demand of up to 450 gpm. We inquired with Cascade about the estimated cost for a new alluvial well in the area near the existing wells. The estimated well construction cost was approximately \$75,000 to \$85,000, depending on the well casing size. Pumping and power considerations would be separate, but at this cost, multiple additional wells may still be an attractive option to Minturn. Further testing is needed to evaluate the GWUDI status of the groundwater.

Table 1
Town of Minturn
Well No. 3 and Well No. 4 Construction Details

Well Construction	Well No. 3	Well No. 4
Inner Diameter, inches	7	6
Well Depth in feet below ground surface	87	78*
Casing material	Mild steel	Mild steel
Top of upper screen, in feet below ground surface	46	18
Bottom of upper screen, in feet below ground surface	51	38
Top of lower screen, in feet below ground surface	73	67 ¹
Bottom of lower screen, in feet below ground surface	83	78
Screen material	Stainless steel wire wrap	Stainless steel wire wrap
Static water level, in feet below ground surface	20.15	11.40

Notes:

Screen and well depths rounded to the nearest interger.

*: Bottom not reached due to sediment intrusion at this depth. Well is likely deeper.

¹: Screen is compromised approximaely 2 feet below this depth.



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Michelle Metteer, Town Manager
Date: 1/24/2024
Agenda Item: Gilman Disconnection

REQUEST:

Direct staff to draft an Ordinance to disconnect the parcels of Gilman, Roster Pile 5 and Rex Flats from the Town of Minturn.

INTRODUCTION:

It is my understanding; the former town of Gilman was originally annexed into the town of Minturn in 2008 for the purposes of total environmental remediation and turning the site into employee housing as part of the greater Ginn Development Project. Since 2008, the project has gone through several iterations and no longer includes remediation of the Gilman, Rex Flats or Roster Pile 5 areas.

ANALYSIS:

the Gilman, Roster Pile 5 and Rex Flats areas are all contaminated superfund site areas requiring enclosure by the property owner and no public access. It is common to receive trespassing calls for both Gilman and the Rex Flats areas. Currently, those calls are at the cost of the town. If disconnected, those calls would be the cost of the county. Additionally, any further environmental remediation of those areas will come with extensive costs associated and unable to be borne by the municipality.

COMMUNITY INPUT: Required. An Ordinance will include a public hearing.

BUDGET / STAFF IMPACT: Minimal

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- PRACTICE FAIR, TRANSPARENT AND COMMUNICATIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.
- LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP OF THE NATURAL BEAUTY AND HEALTH OF MINTURN’S ENVIRONMENT
- SUSTAIN AND INVEST IN THE THINGS THAT DEFINE MINTURN AS A PROUD, STURDY MOUNTAIN TOWN TO “KEEP MINTURN MINTURN”
- ADVANCE DECISIONS/PROJECTS/INITIATIVES THAT EXPAND FUTURE OPPORTUNITY AND VIABILITY FOR MINTURN

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION:

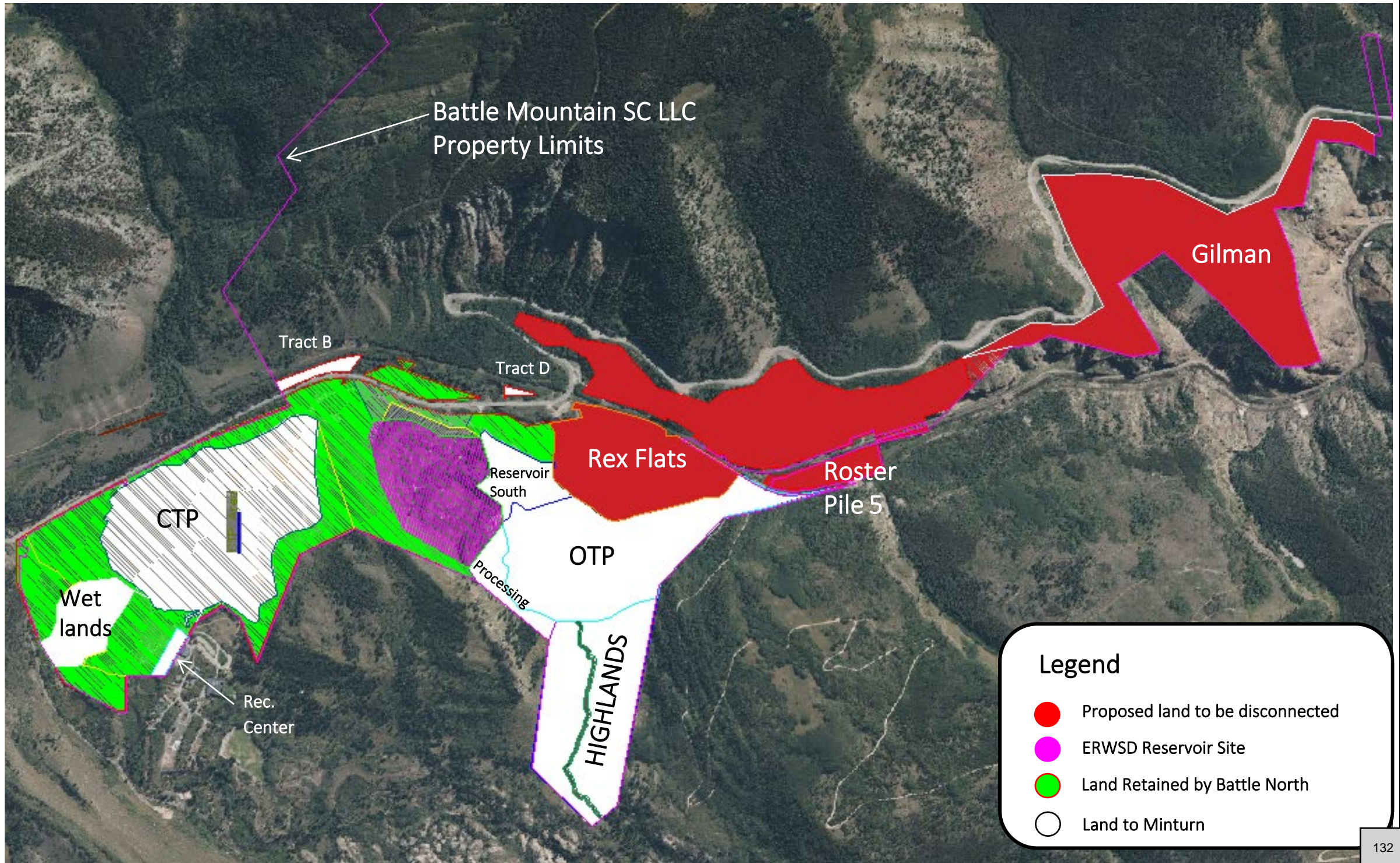
Direct staff to draft an Ordinance to disconnect the parcels of Gilman, Roster Pile 5 and Rex Flats from the Town of Minturn.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Disconnection Map

Battle North / Gilman Disconnection Map

Battle North LLC.
Nov. 29, 2023





Town of Minturn
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Minturn, CO 81645
970-827-5645
council@minturn.org
www.minturn.org

FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Below reflects proposed topics to be scheduled at future Town Council meetings and is informational only. Dates and topics are subject to change.

February 7, 2024

- Ord__ - Series 2024 (First Reading) An Ordinance Amending the Exemption Plat Process
- Ord__ - Series 2024 (First Reading) An Ordinance Rezoning the Battle North Property
- Ord__ - Series 2024 (First Reading) An Ordinance Amending Chapter 13 and Appendix C of the MMC to Exempt Battle North Water Service Requirements
- Ord__ - Series 2024 (First Reading) An Ordinance Amending MMC Sec. 16-21-710(b)(2) Addressing Development Agreements and Vested Rights

February 21, 2024

- Ord__ - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Amending the Exemption Plat Process
- Ord__ - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Rezoning the Battle North Property
- Ord__ - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Amending Chapter 13 and Appendix C of the MMC to Exempt Battle North Water Service Requirements
- Ord__ - Series 2023 (Second Reading) An Ordinance Amending MMC Sec. 16-21-710(b)(2) Addressing Development Agreements and Vested Rights

March 6, 2024

Dates to be Determined:

- Reassessment of the Minturn Single Family Equivalent (SFE) Definition
- Irrigation Tiered water rate structure
- Single Family Tiered Water Rate Structure