

**SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO**  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AGENDA

April 28, 2021

**DUE TO THE COVID 19 EMERGENCY SAN JUAN COUNTY WILL CONDUCT ALL OF ITS PUBLIC MEETING VIRTUALLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO CONNECT TO THIS PUBLIC MEETING IS LISTED BELOW**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:00 P.M.  
Flood Plain Work Session

BOCC Meeting Minutes for April 14, 2021

**APPOINTMENT**

6:35 P.M. Jim Donovan, OEM – Evacuation and Re-Entry Plan  
7:00 P.M. Public Hearing – Colorado Liquor Retail License Application, The Lift at Cascade, LLC  
7:30 P.M. Gilbert Archuleta, Fire Authority

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Colorado State Forest Service – 2020 Health of Colorado’s Forest  
Bonita Peak Mining District Update  
CAG Letter  
CDOT/San Juan County Meeting  
Rural Colorado COVID-19 Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Memorandum of Understanding – San Juan Basin Health and San Juan County Public Health  
Public Comment  
Commissioner and Staff Reports

**Next Regular Meeting – May 12, 2021 8:30 A.M.**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/92136473203>

Meeting ID: 921 3647 3203  
One tap mobile  
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+12532158782,,92136473203# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)  
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Meeting ID: 921 3647 3203



SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021  
AT 8:30 A.M.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Fetchenhier. Present were Commissioners Ernie Kuhlman and Austin Lashley, and Administrator William Tookey. The meeting was held with the Commissioners and Administrator present in the Commissioner's Room and the general public attended via Zoom.

Payment of Bills: Commissioner Kuhlman moved to authorize payment of the warrants as presented. Commissioner Lashley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

Minutes: Commissioner Lashley moved to approve the minutes of March 24, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Kuhlman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

Terry Morris was present to provide an update on the CAG activities. He noted that the CAG will be sending the EPA a letter that expresses their concerns.

James Simino and Lew Sovocool of the San Juan National Forest Service were present to notify the Commissioners that a private property in with mining claims in the Island Lake area had approached the Forest Service to see if they were interested in purchasing the claims. The Forest Service is proceeding with the purchase of those claims. James Simino also informed the Commissioners that the South Mineral Road will probably be opened in mid-May and that they are planning on locating 4 porta johns at the Ice Lake trailhead.

The Commissioners received a letter from the Town of Silverton concerning OHVs. The Commissioners discussed potential OHV staging areas.

Social Services Director Martha Johnson was present to provide the Commissioners with a monthly update and to provide additional information concerning Social Services programs and funding. Also present were Elizabeth Barszcz from the Silverton School to discuss the TANF funding they received to support their summer program. And Sara Mordecai from the Silverton Family Learning Center to discuss the TANF funding they have received. Martha Johnson is recommending that the Commissioners continue to support the Silverton School program with \$22,000 in TANF funding and the Family Learning Center with \$14,000 in TANF funding. It was the consensus of the Commissioners to proceed with contracts with both entities in the amounts recommended.

A Public Hearing was held to receive comment concerning the Land Use Permit application submitted from Stacie and Victor Hunsicker to construct a Driveway, Culvert, Gate, Signs, and Electric on the Gold Spur Mill Site USMS No. 16761B, Lower Cunningham Gulch Road County Road 4. Upon completion of the Public Hearing Commissioner Lashley moved to approve the installation of a driveway, a culvert with location and size to be determined by Road Supervisor Girodo, a simple gate without any lettering as per the conditions recommended by the Planning Director in particular the site visit for a Historic Review of the site and for wetlands consideration. Commissioner Kuhlman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that the application was incomplete concerning the issue of installing electric power to the site and for camping

on the site for a period in excess of 20 days. The installation of signage must be done in compliance with the County Sign Code.

Road Supervisor Louis Girodo was present to discuss dust control on county roads for the summer season. It was the consensus of the Commissioners to allow the Road Department to apply enhanced mag chloride as proposed.

Public Health Director Becky Joyce, Emergency Manager Jim Donovan and Public Information Officer DeAnne Gallegos were present to provide the Commissioners with a COVID-19 update. The public health order requiring the use of masks will be extended until May 15, 2021.

The Commissioners recessed for lunch.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:30 pm.

A Public Hearing was held to review the temporary restrictions placed upon CR 22 for last summer. Upon completion of the public hearing the Commissioners discussed various options for CR 22. Commissioner Kuhlman stated that the barricades should be removed, and the road opened to motorized through traffic. Commissioners Fetchenhier and Lashley were in favor of keeping barricades on the road that would allow for both motorized and non-motorized traffic but would prevent motorized through traffic. They would like the barricades improved to prevent dirt bikes and other motorized traffic from going through or around the barricades. They would also like to see them improved to allow bicycles to have easy access through the barricades. Commissioner Lashley moved to improved barricades on CR 22. Commissioner Fetchenhier seconded the motion. The motion passed with Lashley and Fetchenhier voting yes and Commissioner Kuhlman voting no.

Resolution 2021-03 to accept the GOCO Resilient Community Grant was presented to the Commissioners. Commissioner Kuhlman moved to approve Resolution 2021-03 as presented. Commissioner Lashley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

The Commissioners were presented with the January, February and March Treasurer's Reports for their review.

Administrator Tookey provided the Commissioners with an update on sales tax.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Upon completion of their regular meeting the Commissioners inspected the new fire truck and toured the fire station.

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Scott Fetchenhier, Chairman

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Ladonna L. Jaramillo, County Clerk



photo: Evacuation traffic Estes Park, 2020

# Evacuation and Re-Entry Plan

An Annex to the Emergency Operations Plan

San Juan County, Colorado

2021



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## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to ensure the safe and orderly evacuation of people threatened by hazards in San Juan County, and to provide for the safe re-entry of the affected area. This annex outlines provisions to quickly evaluate and assess the immediate human and animal needs (food, water, health / medical, and housing), the operational status of vital community infrastructure (transportation, communications and utility systems), and to assist impacted localities with the restoration of essential services.

## II. SCOPE

This annex adopts an all-hazards approach to preparing for and managing evacuations. It establishes a methodology that is applicable to any threat, hazard, or event that results in the need to evacuate. This Annex includes all areas of unincorporated San Juan County including public land areas. Mass Evacuation is a highly complex event and this plan provides guidance for the probable scenarios. It is important to maintain maximum flexibility with the incident. As such, this annex provides considerations for the evacuation of populations affected by large or small incidents within San Juan County.

- A. **LEAD PLANNING AGENCY:** San Juan County, Office of Emergency Management
- B. **LEAD OPERATIONAL AGENCY:** San Juan County Sheriff's Office
- C. **SUPPORTING AGENCIES:** San Juan County Public Health, San Juan County Social Services, Silverton San Juan Fire, Silverton Medical Rescue, San Juan County Road and Bridge, Town of Silverton Public Works, La Plata County Humane Society, Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Department of Transportation, U.S. Forest Service and American Red Cross. San Miguel Power Association, Bureau of Land Management.

## III. AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 24-33.5-704 Colorado Disaster Emergency Act outlines the powers of local and state governments to respond to emergencies and disasters, including the authority to evacuate residents and visitors in order to provide for public safety. Evacuation orders of local authorities and Sheriffs are legally enforceable , and a person disobeys an evacuation order at his or her own peril. With regards to evacuations, the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act:

- A. Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the state if the governor deems this action necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery;
- B. Prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in connection with evacuation.

## IV. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

San Juan County is capable of supporting evacuations and supporting jurisdictions through existing

agreements. However, a large incident, either within San Juan County or the region, may necessitate regional or state support. These incidents will require actions and support by many agencies, multiple local jurisdictions and nongovernmental organizations.

## **Planning Assumptions**

- A. The primary means of evacuation for most individuals will be personal vehicles. Individuals who rely on other means of transportation (carpool, vanpool, public transportation, etc.) may require assistance in evacuating.
- B. Individuals with access and functional needs may require evacuation assistance and/or transportation coordination.
- C. Spontaneous evacuation will occur.
- D. Some individuals will resist an order to evacuate.
- E. Residents will utilize all available public information sources to acquire emergency information.
- F. More than one incident could cause evacuation.
- G. There is a potential that public transportation and roadways could be disrupted or damaged. This will demand maximum flexibility in responses.
- H. Dissemination of information to the public is essential to gaining control of the situation, reducing fears and implementing an organized effort for evacuation.
- I. Tourist and Business Travelers--Adequate transportation may not be available in a large-scale evacuation from a tourist area for tourist and business travelers.
- J. It may be difficult to locate and inform seasonal and homeless populations, and to estimate the scope of the transportation requirements.
- K. Information that is available to the public may be conflicting amongst various sources and may cause credibility issues with official information sources.
- L. Some percentage of the population automatically assigns suspicion to the motives of government agencies, particularly with regards to evacuations.
- M. Communication of accurate information is crucial during an emergency, as conflicting, incorrect and often disruptive information is common in larger disasters.

## **V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **Evacuation**

- A. The authority for evacuation in San Juan County rests with the San Juan County Sheriff's Office, who will make determinations regarding the evacuation of residents and visitors from affected areas within San Juan County.
- B. The Emergency Operations Plan establishes the use of the Incident Command System to manage events in San Juan County.
- C. All evacuation plans will be accomplished in coordination with the ICS structure established for the incident to ensure accountability of personnel.



## **Evacuation Orders and Notifications**

- A. Evacuation Orders will be issued by the San Juan County Sheriff's Office.
- B. San Juan County will use the Everbridge (Nixle) as the primary system for all emergency notifications and evacuation orders. Additionally, orders will be sent via public address systems, through local media, and social media. Provisions will be made for translation services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing and those who do not speak English. Dispatch Centers will coordinate as needed with neighboring counties to ensure communities along the San Juan County line are given consistent evacuation information.
- C. IPAWS (The Integrated Public Alert & Warning System) is a part of the Nixle/Everbridge system.
- D. Social media (twitter, facebook, others) will be used to disseminate accurate official information. This will be directed by the Public Information Officer.

## **San Juan County will implement two types of notification:**

- A. Voluntary Evacuation – To alert residents (when time is available) that evacuation may occur and to be ready for the order, and to alert residents who need additional assistance or time to begin evacuation actions for their own safety
- B. Mandatory Evacuation – The mandatory evacuation order of the affected population. Exceptions would include public safety officials, disaster response personnel and organizational / agency employees designated as "essential" to emergency operations.

## **Evacuation Information**

The following information will be helpful for affected residents and workers to receive prior to an evacuation order:

- A. Nature of the hazard.
- B. Methods of warning and who will carry out the warning.
- C. Evacuation routes.
- D. Information about emergency evacuation points.
- E. Information about risks of sheltering-in-place (as needed).
- F. Information about care of pets and domestic animals (as needed).
- G. Need to connect with a public official at the evacuation point for more information related to the hazard and necessary safety actions

## **Refusal to Evacuate**

Persons who refuse to comply with a mandatory evacuation order will not be arrested nor forcibly removed from their homes. Those who refuse to evacuate should be informed that they should not expect rescue or other lifesaving assistance during the incident. If minor juvenile children are present and under the care of those who refuse to evacuate, the children may be taken into protective custody if Law Enforcement believes the children are in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death. According to county policies, the Human Services Department will be contacted for continued care and custody of juvenile children. Additionally, and

depending on the circumstances, those who refuse to evacuate that are under the influence of alcohol, drugs or displaying severe behavioral health issues may be taken into protective custody.

A primary reason people refuse to evacuate may be due to pets not being allowed to transport with their owner, or a lack of provisions for the shelter and care of pets. San Juan County recognizes this need and has plans in place to ensure the evacuation of pets with people.

### **Ready-Set-Go Model for Evacuation**

- A. Ready indicates that a person is prepared for evacuation and has a personal plan in place. If they are a property owner they have taken steps to prepare their dwelling for an evacuation. They have cleared brush from around the area and turned off gas and water. They can volunteer to evacuate at this time. Persons should have a “go bag” and important documents with them.
- B. Set indicates the person is essentially prepared to evacuate at a moments notice. Public safety officials communicate that it is with 1 hour of a high probability. If they are able to evacuate it is recommended. Evacuation is still voluntary.
- C. Go indicates immediate evacuation from the area. Instructions are provided on how to evacuate and where to go. This is Mandatory Evacuation.

### **Evacuation Centers and Shelter Destinations**

The American Red Cross, in coordination with San Juan County OEM, has established priority evacuation centers and shelter locations for communities outside of San Juan County. This list will be used as a first measure to determine sites and inform the public. ESF 6 is the lead for mass care operations in the San Juan EOC and will designate and shelters as appropriate.

- A. **Transportation-** Transportation issues include outbound traffic volumes and routes, inbound emergency access routes, traffic control, motorist communication and disabled vehicle removal.
- B. **Evacuation Routes** - will be established as soon as practical following an emergency and will be assessed regularly as the incident unfolds. Due to the two largest hazards in San Juan, wildfire and flood, these routes may change as the incident grows and/or changes.
- C. **Inbound Emergency Access Routes** - If possible, one lane on every evacuation route will be kept available for inbound emergency vehicles. The inbound routes will be used for authorized emergency travel including ambulances, buses, fuel trucks, tow trucks etc. There may be circumstances where both lanes of any given road/highway will be used for evacuation purposes or circumstances where the road is not wide enough for two-way traffic.
- D. **Means of Controlling Flow of Evacuees** - The evacuation of large numbers of people from vulnerable areas will stress the limited capabilities of roadways available for this purpose, potentially requiring additional time to complete an evacuation. Consequently,

evacuation must be initiated as soon as feasible upon recognition of the threat, and must continue to function efficiently until completion. In order to manage the flow of evacuees in a safe and orderly manner, evacuation zones will be established by Incident Command. These zones will be identified in advance of a threat whenever possible.

- E. **Motorist Communication** -Highway message signs, radio broadcasts, weather alert radio broadcasts, and law enforcement will direct the flow of traffic and communicate information on evacuation routes.
- F. **Disabled Vehicle Removal** - Tow trucks and/or those resources that can provide similar services may be essential during an evacuation. The function of this service would be to remove disabled vehicles and assist with the repair of vehicles so the evacuation routes are kept moving. Limited fuel supplies could also be delivered.

### **Provisions for People Unable to Self-Evacuate**

- A. Access and Functional Needs population. Likely to require assistance with transportation out of evacuated areas and back into affected areas once the emergency is stabilized. Service Animals shall be allowed to remain with their people throughout evacuation, shelter and re-entry.
- B. School. Planning must include arrangements for family reunification and availability of school buses and drivers
- C. Daycare Provider. In addition to family reunification plans, infant seats and close supervision will be required.
- D. Tourist and Business Travelers. Transportation may be required to assist travelers and tourists without adequate transportation.
- E. Seasonal and Homeless Populations. Additional transportation and information requirements will be needed to locate and inform seasonal and homeless populations, and to estimate the scope of the transportation requirements.
- F. Air Transport. Air ambulances may be needed for evacuation of patients that may otherwise go by ground transport, due to evacuation route congestion or other travel delays and difficulties. This would involve multiple agencies, including the Colorado National Guard.

### **Provisions for Domestic Animals**

The La Plata County Humane Society is the lead agency for evacuation and shelter of domestic animals. Animals are not allowed in human shelters because of the risk of animal allergies and phobias, potential bites and scratches, food hygiene and other public health issues. Service animals are the exception.

- A. Whenever possible, domestic animals should be sheltered near human shelters to allow pet owners to care for their pets while evacuated.
- B. With planning, arrangements may be made for animals to be sheltered with: Friends, Veterinarians, Humane Society, Local Boarding or Grooming Kennels, Local Hotels and Motels that accept pets. Provisions for Large Animals and Livestock –humane

society.

## **Perimeter Control Requirements**

Plan to maintain access points and establish policies for permitting traffic in and out for official business.

- A. Plans must be flexible to allow for additional evacuations of people who initially refused, if they may be evacuated safely.
- B. Emergency personnel will not be engage in evacuation attempts of “hold outs” if the risk is deemed unreasonable
- C. Assure the public that patrols are routinely monitoring the evacuated areas to discourage theft and/or looting

## **Accountability**

Data Collection assignments will be made by the EOC Planning Section at the San Juan County Emergency Operations Center.

The following events, resources, or information must be accounted for in an evacuation operation:

- A. Where and when evacuation warnings have been issued
- B. Number evacuated
- C. Number remaining in the risk area, including provisions for functional needs and people with disabilities (medical conditions, medications, mobility, etc.)
- D. Number of evacuees in shelters
- E. Data Collection will be done in coordination with Damage Assessment Teams and Emergency Responders.
- F. Consider using a large map of the affected area to visualize the evacuation zones, closed roads, security check points and other facilities.
- G. Indicate which homes have been evacuated or are empty, and which households have been warned but are not leaving.
- H. Maintain a transmittable data file in common software format for data sharing when possible

## **Re-Entry Plan**

### **Return to the Risk Area – Re-Entry**

The process for re-entry into the evacuated areas must be coordinated to ensure safety of the public, protection of property, and the continuation of response and recovery activities. The Sheriff’s Office will be responsible for notifying residents when it is safe to return to their homes and businesses. Law enforcement will be responsible for ensuring the return occurs in an orderly and safe fashion.

## **Re-Entry Decision**

The decision of when to permit residents to return to the affected area will be made cooperatively between the Incident Commander, Sheriff, County EOC and municipalities in the impacted areas based upon the three scenarios above. The decision to allow re-entry will be based on an overall evaluation of the situation, including the following major factors:

- A. Access. Following a major event a survey (ground or aerial) of the impacted areas should be conducted immediately to identify and prioritize the most seriously damaged areas of the locality. This can determine the level of damage to major routes into the area and help to determine the time needed for debris clearance from those routes.
- B. Essential Emergency Services. Emergency Services agencies that have been moved to a safe haven prior to an evacuation need to return back to their service areas.
- C. Water Levels. Floodwaters have receded from most of the area.
- D. Wildfire Areas. Wildfire activity is controlled and no longer a threat to the public.
- E. Public Health. Water and sewer services are operating, or reasonable accommodations are in place or available.
- F. Subsistence. Food is available or made available in the impacted area.
- G. Utilities. Electricity, water, telephone, propane and natural gas services are operating or information is available about when they will be available in the affected area or reasonable accommodations are in place or available.
- H. Existing services can support the people already in the impacted area as well as an additional influx of people.

## **Pre-Reentry Teams**

Teams should begin the process of clearing access to critical facilities and roads to facilitate the reentry process.

The Pre-Reentry Teams consist of but are not limited to:

- A. Public Works Team with heavy equipment (wheel loader, backhoe, etc), and chain saw crews.
- B. Power Crews to identify and remove downed utility lines (Power, Cable, etc).
- C. Emergency Medical Service to provide medical support to victims that are located while opening up roads.
- D. Fire Service Agencies to provide incident, evacuation and re-entry support Law enforcement to provide security for crews.

It needs to be understood that the Pre-Reentry Teams are not Search and Rescue Teams, they are only tasked with opening up roads to gain access so Search and Rescue Teams and Damage

Assessment teams can gain access to areas of destruction.

## Informing Evacuees of Re-Entry Procedures

Public Information Officers at the Incident Command Post, EOC and JIC will coordinate messaging regarding re-entry procedures. This will be done through multiple means, including news releases, public briefings, social media, website messaging and Everbridge notifications.

### Phased Re-Entry

Once the decision to permit re-entry has been established, law enforcement personnel should set up checkpoints and roadblocks as needed based upon the level of damage that has occurred. Re-entry can proceed as recommended based upon a phased re-entry. This can ensure primary access to essential personnel and help to manage the number of people entering the disaster area.

- A. Phase A – Phase A allows the re-entry of agencies and groups that play key roles in restoring normal operations in the impacted areas following a disaster. Law enforcement personnel should restrict access during this phase to provide for area safety and security.

Phase A agencies and groups may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Law enforcement and security agencies (including private security for facilities and residential communities)
- b. Search and Rescue Responders
- c. Fire and EMS crews
- d. Facility/Industry Emergency Response Teams
- e. Debris Clearing and Removal Crews
- f. Infrastructure and Utilities Repair Personnel
- g. Official Damage Assessment Teams
- h. Other personnel at the direction of the EOC/IMT.

- B. Phase B – Phase B allows for the short-term limited re-entry of other critical groups as well as residents and business owners to assess damages. The local EOC in coordination with public safety personnel should determine when it is safe to begin Phase B entry.

- a. These groups may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- b. All agencies and personnel listed under Phase A
- c. Resident and Business Owners (with Insurance Adjusters and Contractors) to conduct insurance assessments (access may be temporary)
- d. Relief Workers
- e. Commodities Points of Distribution (POD) Teams
- f. Health Agencies
- g. Hardware/Grocery Store Operations and Staff (to support recovery ops)
- h. Hotel/Motel Staff (to prepare for receiving of State and Federal relief agencies)

- C. Phase C – Phase C allows for the re-entry of only those residents and business owners who can prove they live, own, rent, lease or otherwise have a need to be allowed into the affected areas. It includes all agencies and personnel from Phase A and B, as well as residents and business owners within the evacuated area. Phase C may still involve road blocks and areas where access is limited.
- a. **Temporary Housing** - If the impacted areas cannot support the return of evacuated residents, temporary housing may be established in the non-impacted areas near the disaster area. State and county authorities in accordance with the San Juan County Recovery Plan will make decisions on the location and operation of temporary housing facilities.

### **Checkpoints and Routes**

In order to expedite the reentry process, an Identification Verification Area (IVA) should be established close to each checkpoint for people with questionable identification. Every effort should be made to ensure that residents return to their homes as soon as safely possible. Law enforcement may limit the flow of returning traffic to better manage the checkpoints.

- A. Evacuees will return to the area following primary and secondary evacuation routes. Pre-established Traffic Control points will be used to verify residents or workers have a need to re-enter a restricted area, or serve as a road block to deny entry for those looking to sight-see or other undesirable intent.
- B. Local law enforcement officers should be primarily responsible for establishing and staffing checkpoints for re-entry in their locality. Local check points may be supplemented by county, state, and mutual aid assistance. Secondary check points may be established by local jurisdictions where required.
- C. Identification Procedures
  - a. Identification procedures are intended to provide guidance for law enforcement personnel who may be directing access to disaster-impacted localities.
  - b. Residents should have proper identification that proves residence within the disaster area, such as a driver's license, voter's registration, utility bills, property tax receipts, etc.
  - c. Relief workers and business owners should have a company ID card, and/or Dash Pass with agency information to enter an impacted area.

### **Roadblocks**

The strategic location of roadblocks is an important part of the re-entry process. Roadblocks can be utilized to seal entry points into devastated areas for two main reasons:

- A. Roadblocks can be used to prevent mass entry of the civilian population, which can clog rescue routes for people in the impacted areas who may require medical attention.
- B. Roadblocks are a method to help curtail acts of unlawfulness such as looting.

## **Curfews**

Curfews may be initiated as a crime prevention measure depending on the intensity of the disaster and the level of damage sustained. The decision to implement a curfew and the duration rests with the local governing body, but said curfews should be coordinated between appropriate law enforcement agencies and governing bodies to ensure continuity among jurisdictions. Curfews may be implemented countywide, regionally or within a municipality depending on the impact of the emergency.

## **EVACUATION AND RE-ENTRY PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The Public Information Officer, in coordination with the Joint Information Center (if activated), will lead the public information process for evacuation from and re-entry to disaster affected areas. The PIO will issue news releases to local, state and national media outlets to inform the public of evacuation status and the county's re-entry policy.

## **VI. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. San Juan County Office of Emergency Management**

- a. Activate Evacuation Plan
- b. Activate the Alert and Warning Plan
- c. Activate the Public Information Plan
- d. Activate the Re-Entry Plan
- e. Communicate with neighboring jurisdictions and the State EOC
- f. Organize Damage Assessment Teams
- g. Coordinate with all partners and supporting agencies
- h. Deactivate the Re-Entry Plan

### **B. San Juan County Sheriff's Office**

- a. Coordinate evacuations in the impacted areas
- b. Establish, coordinate and monitor checkpoints and roadblocks in unincorporated areas of the county, as specified by the Operations Section of the EOC
- c. Provide security
- d. Support re-entry activities as needed in the impacted areas
- e. Conduct search and rescue in impacted areas within their jurisdictions
- f. Enforce curfews within unincorporated areas, if required.
- g. Monitor road conditions and report traffic flows and counts.
- h. Conduct aerial surveys of the impacted areas of the county
- i. Provide mutual aid to mutual aid law enforcement through the Operation Section of the EOC

### **C. San Juan County Road and Bridge**

- a. Provide signage for re-entry, if needed



- b. Provide resources for debris removal for primary routes
- D. San Juan County Public Health
- a. Provide health assessments of the affected area and provide guidance on the following:
    1. Asbestos
    2. Household Hazardous Waste
    3. Water Quality Standard
    4. Potable Drinking Water
    5. Safe Clean-Up
    6. Health Masks
    7. Tetanus and First Aid Guidance
    8. Food Safety Guidance
    9. Mental Health Support
    10. Infectious Diseases
- E. San Juan County Social Services
- a. Coordinate out of jurisdiction population sheltering
  - b. Food and water
- F. Mutual Aid Law Enforcement Agencies
- a. Establish and monitor checkpoints and set up roadblocks in their jurisdictions
  - b. Provide security within their jurisdictions
  - c. Enforce curfews, if required, in their jurisdictions in coordination with other law enforcement agencies to avoid confusion
- G. Colorado State Patrol
- a. Monitor traffic conditions on state and federal highways and report to the county EOC
- H. La Plata County Humane Society,
- a. Provide for the safe and effective evacuation and shelter of small and large animals affected by the emergency or disaster
- I. Fire, Rescue and EMS Departments
- a. Conduct search and rescue in impacted areas within their jurisdictions
  - b. Provide fire protection, suppression and hazardous materials response
  - c. Provide traffic management support to Law Enforcement
- J. Public Information Officers / Joint Information Center
- a. Ensure that the public is informed about the identification required for re-entry

- b. Ensure that the public is notified once re-entry begins

## **VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

This plan is the principal source for guidance concerning evacuation and re-entry in San Juan County following an event that forces a significant evacuation of citizens from any area within the county. Overall coordination of this plan will be administered by the San Juan County Sheriff's Office. The San Juan Office of Emergency Management is responsible for developing and maintaining this annex. This annex will be reviewed annually and updated as needed to remain current.

## RESIDENTIAL ACCESS PASS REGISTRATION

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of all household residents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle #1    Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_

                  Plate #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_

Vehicle #2    Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_

                  Plate #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_

Vehicle #3    Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_

                  Plate #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_

Emergency Contact Information:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pass # \_\_\_\_\_

Pass # \_\_

Pass # \_\_\_\_\_

Pass # \_\_

Pass # \_\_\_\_\_

Pass # \_\_

## DISASTER RESPONSE AREA RE-ENTRY PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

(Modify as needed for each specific incident)

You are returning to an inherently hazardous area with very limited utility service or emergency communications. You are primarily responsible for your own safety. We are counting on the self-reliant nature of San Juan County residents.

### Hazards Include:

- **Fire:** There are unburned areas that could carry significant and dangerous fire (life threatening). Be aware of safe zones and escape routes.
  - **Safe Zone** – Places where you can survive without special equipment
  - **Escape Routes** – A path to safely get to a safe zone
  
- **Injury/Medical Response:** Responders are limited in their capacity to respond to medical emergencies and injuries. Be careful and work in pairs/teams so that in the event of an emergency, one person can go for help.
  
- **Power/Water:**
  - **Power** inside subdivisions may be off for as long as 2-4 weeks
  - **Potable Water** will be available in VERY limited quantities at the following locations. Bring your own containers. No truck tanks will be filled.
  - **Generators.** If you use a generator, make sure you are not connected to the electric grid (main power connection). If you do not know what you are doing, don't use one – get advice.
  - **If you have your generator on the grid** you will back feed down lines and can kill somebody or start a fire. Also, if grid power is restored – your generator will basically explode.
  - **Hazardous Structures, Trees, Poles, and Wires**
  - **Damaged structures** may not be safe to enter. Deck supports may be burned and unstable.
  - **Power Lines** and poles are down. They should be off but may be back-fed by generators. Use Extreme Caution.
  - **Falling Trees** and rocks make moving dangerous
  
- **Traffic:**
  - There is heavy utility and fire traffic in addition to all the returning residents. Drive at slow speeds and always yield to utility and fire traffic.
  - Everyone allowed to enter the affected area will be required to have credentials – display that in your car at all times.
  - Minimize your trips in and out – carpool if possible

- o During the initial days of the re-entry phase, NO LARGE VEHICLES OR TRAILERS. Nothing larger than a standard pickup truck until further notice. Larger vehicles will be turned away at the checkpoints.
- o No delivery trucks (for appliances or other items) allowed in the canyon. Arrange to meet them outside the area and transfer to pick-up or small vehicle
- o Insurance adjusters are allowed if accompanied by resident
- o Residents may bring a few friends – no additional vehicles (NO TOURS OR SIGHT SEEING).
  
- **Animals:**
  - o Minimize re-population of animals and NO large animals (Horses, Cattle, etc) at this time.
  - o There is a lot of wildlife around and on the roads. Lots of deer on the road. Drive slowly and carefully.
  
- **Re-Evacuation and Notification:**
  - o Reverse 911 may or may not work
  - o If you see a fire – proceed to a safe zone
  
- **Household Hazardous Waste:**
  - o Many household chemicals can change character when exposed to heat. Be cautious of inhaling ash/dust or getting ash on your skin or in your eyes. Wear appropriate clothing.
  - o **Dumpsters** are for SPOILED FOOD ONLY. Dumpsters will be located at the following locations:

### **Emergency Notifications**

- **To Report an Emergency:**
  - o Use a cell phone if operable, Dial 911
  - o Drive to the closest fire station if no phone is available
  - o Responders will be located in the following additional locations:

## Public Information and Notification

A set of public information and notification pre-scripted sets are used to communicate via

1. Nixle/IPAWS
2. Social Media and Email Lists
3. Print Media
4. Broadcast Media
5. Sandwich boards
6. Flyers at strategic locations (post office, visitor center, count courthouse, town hall)
7. Create bilingual materials

Public information is monitored for misleading information or disinformation and is dealt with immediately

Public information is establish early in the incident to maintain credibility and accuracy. The general public is encouraged to direct questions to the authoritative social media sources.

Disinformation and misinformation can move as quickly as verified and accurate information.

Graphics for social media, print media and alerting systems.

### WILDFIRE EVACUATION

Sign up for San Juan County, Colorado Emergency Alerts "Nixle", text 81433 to 888-777. Listen to public safety officials on what to do. Be prepared .

#### LEVEL 1: GET READY

Prepare yourself, get important documents and valuables together, have a "go bag" for you and your family.

#### LEVEL 2: GET SET

Be prepared to leave within an hour. Pre-evacuate if you can. If you need assistance evacuating let public safety officials know.

#### LEVEL 3: GO!

Leave Immediately, follow instructions.



\*\*For Emergency Updates  
text 81433 to 888-777  
San Juan County, CO\*\*



\*\*For Emergency Updates  
text 81433 to 888-777  
San Juan County, CO\*\*



\*\*For Emergency Updates  
text 81433 to 888-777  
San Juan County, CO\*\*

# Colorado Liquor Retail License Application

**New License**  
  **New-Concurrent**  
  **Transfer of Ownership**  
  **State Property Only**  
  **Master file**

• All answers must be printed in black ink or typewritten  
 • Applicant must check the appropriate box(es)  
 • Applicant should obtain a copy of the Colorado Liquor and Beer Code: [www.colorado.gov/enforcement/liquor](http://www.colorado.gov/enforcement/liquor)

1. Applicant is applying as a/an  
 Individual  
 Limited Liability Company  
 Association or Other  
 Corporation  
 Partnership (includes Limited Liability and Husband and Wife Partnerships)

2. Applicant If an LLC, name of LLC; if partnership, at least 2 partner's names; if corporation, name of corporation  
The Lift at Cascade, LLC      FEIN Number 86-1771433

2a. Trade Name of Establishment (DBA)      State Sales Tax Number      Business Telephone  
20211055550      970-749-6200

3. Address of Premises (specify exact location of premises, include suite/unit numbers)  
50827 HWY 550 N. DURANGO, CO 81301

City      County      State      ZIP Code  
DURANGO      SAN JUAN      CO      81301

4. Mailing Address (Number and Street)      City or Town      State      ZIP Code  
74 COUNTESS DR.      DURANGO      CO      81301

5. Email Address  
the lift cascade@gmail.com

6. If the premises currently has a liquor or beer license, you must answer the following questions

Present Trade Name of Establishment (DBA)	Present State License Number	Present Class of License	Present Expiration Date

Section A      Nonrefundable Application Fees*	Section B (Cont.)      Liquor License Fees*
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<input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee for New License ..... \$1,550.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee for New License w/Concurrent Review ..... \$1,650.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee for Transfer ..... \$1,550.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Liquor-Licensed Drugstore (County) ..... \$312.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Lodging & Entertainment - L&E (City) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Lodging & Entertainment - L&E (County) ..... \$500.00
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Section B      Liquor License Fees*
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<input type="checkbox"/> Add Optional Premises to H & R ..... \$100.00 X      Total _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Add Related Facility to Resort Complex \$75.00 X      Total _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Add Sidewalk Service Area ..... \$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Arts License (City) ..... \$308.75 <input type="checkbox"/> Arts License (County) ..... \$308.75 <input type="checkbox"/> Beer and Wine License (City) ..... \$351.25 <input type="checkbox"/> Beer and Wine License (County) ..... \$436.25 <input type="checkbox"/> Brew Pub License (City) ..... \$750.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Brew Pub License (County) ..... \$750.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Liquor Complex (City) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Liquor Complex (County) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Liquor Complex (State) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Club License (City) ..... \$308.75 <input type="checkbox"/> Club License (County) ..... \$308.75 <input type="checkbox"/> Distillery Pub License (City) ..... \$750.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Distillery Pub License (County) ..... \$750.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel and Restaurant License (City) ..... \$500.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel and Restaurant License (County) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel and Restaurant License w/one opt premises (City) ..... \$600.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel and Restaurant License w/one opt premises (County) ..... \$600.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Liquor-Licensed Drugstore (City) ..... \$227.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Manager Registration - H & R ..... \$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Manager Registration - Tavern ..... \$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Manager Registration - Lodging & Entertainment ..... \$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Manager Registration - Campus Liquor Complex ..... \$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Optional Premises License (City) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Optional Premises License (County) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Racetrack License (City) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Racetrack License (County) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Resort Complex License (City) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Resort Complex License (County) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Related Facility - Campus Liquor Complex (City) ..... \$160.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Related Facility - Campus Liquor Complex (County) ..... \$160.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Related Facility - Campus Liquor Complex (State) ..... \$160.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Gaming Tavern License (City) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Gaming Tavern License (County) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Liquor Store License-Additional (City) ..... \$227.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Liquor Store License-Additional (County) ..... \$312.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Liquor Store (City) ..... \$227.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Liquor Store (County) ..... \$312.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Tavern License (City) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Tavern License (County) ..... \$500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Vintners Restaurant License (City) ..... \$750.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Vintners Restaurant License (County) ..... \$750.00
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**\* Note that the Division will not accept cash**

**Questions? Visit: [www.colorado.gov/enforcement/liquor](http://www.colorado.gov/enforcement/liquor) for more information**

**Do not write in this space - For Department of Revenue use only**

Liability Information

License Account Number	Liability Date	License Issued Through (Expiration Date)	Total \$

## Application Documents Checklist and Worksheet

**Instructions:** This checklist should be utilized to assist applicants with filing all required documents for licensure. All documents must be properly signed and correspond with the name of the applicant exactly. All documents must be typed or legibly printed. Upon final State approval the license will be mailed to the local licensing authority. Application fees are nonrefundable. **Questions? Visit:** [www.colorado.gov/enforcement/liquor](http://www.colorado.gov/enforcement/liquor) for more information

Items submitted, please check all appropriate boxes completed or documents submitted	
<b>I.</b>	<b>Applicant information</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Applicant/Licensee identified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. State sales tax license number listed or applied for at time of application <input type="checkbox"/> C. License type or other transaction identified <input type="checkbox"/> D. Return originals to local authority (additional items may be required by the local licensing authority) <input type="checkbox"/> E. All sections of the application need to be completed <input type="checkbox"/> F. Master file applicants must include the Application for Master File form DR 8415 and applicable fees to this Retail License Application
<b>II.</b>	<b>Diagram of the premises</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. No larger than 8 1/2" X 11" <input type="checkbox"/> B. Dimensions included (does not have to be to scale). Exterior areas should show type of control (fences, walls, entry/exit points, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> C. Separate diagram for each floor (if multiple levels) <input type="checkbox"/> D. Kitchen - identified if Hotel and Restaurant <input type="checkbox"/> E. Bold/Outlined Licensed Premises
<b>III.</b>	<b>Proof of property possession (One Year Needed)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Deed in name of the applicant (or) (matching question #2) date stamped / filed with County Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> B. Lease in the name of the applicant (or) (matching question #2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Lease assignment in the name of the applicant with proper consent from the landlord and acceptance by the applicant <input type="checkbox"/> D. Other agreement if not deed or lease. (matching question #2)
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Background information (DR 8404-I) and financial documents</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Complete DR 8404-I for each principal (individuals with more than 10% ownership, officers, directors, partners, members) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Fingerprints taken and submitted to the appropriate Local Licensing Authority through an approved state vendor. <b>Do not complete fingerprint cards prior to submitting your application.</b> The Vendors are as follows: <b>IdentoGO</b> – <a href="https://uenroll.identogo.com/">https://uenroll.identogo.com/</a> Phone: 844-539-5539 (toll-free) Identogo FAQs: <a href="https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cbi/identification-faqs">https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cbi/identification-faqs</a> <b>Colorado Fingerprinting</b> – <a href="http://www.coloradofingerprinting.com">http://www.coloradofingerprinting.com</a> Appointment Scheduling Website: <a href="http://www.coloradofingerprinting.com/cabs/">http://www.coloradofingerprinting.com/cabs/</a> Phone: 720-292-2722 Toll Free: 833-224-2227 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Purchase agreement, stock transfer agreement, and/or authorization to transfer license <input type="checkbox"/> D. List of all notes and loans (Copies to also be attached)
<b>V.</b>	<b>Sole proprietor/husband and wife partnership (if applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Form DR 4679 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Copy of State issued Driver's License or Colorado Identification Card for each applicant
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Corporate applicant information (if applicable)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Certificate of Incorporation <input type="checkbox"/> B. Certificate of Good Standing <input type="checkbox"/> C. Certificate of Authorization if foreign corporation (out of state applicants only)
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Partnership applicant information (if applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Partnership Agreement (general or limited). <input type="checkbox"/> B. Certificate of Good Standing
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Limited Liability Company applicant information (if applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Copy of articles of organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Certificate of Good Standing <input type="checkbox"/> C. Copy of Operating Agreement (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> D. Certificate of Authority if foreign LLC (out of state applicants only)
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Manager registration for Hotel and Restaurant, Tavern, Lodging &amp; Entertainment, and Campus Liquor Complex licenses when included with this application</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A. \$75.00 fee <input type="checkbox"/> B. Individual History Record (DR 8404-I) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. If owner is managing, no fee required



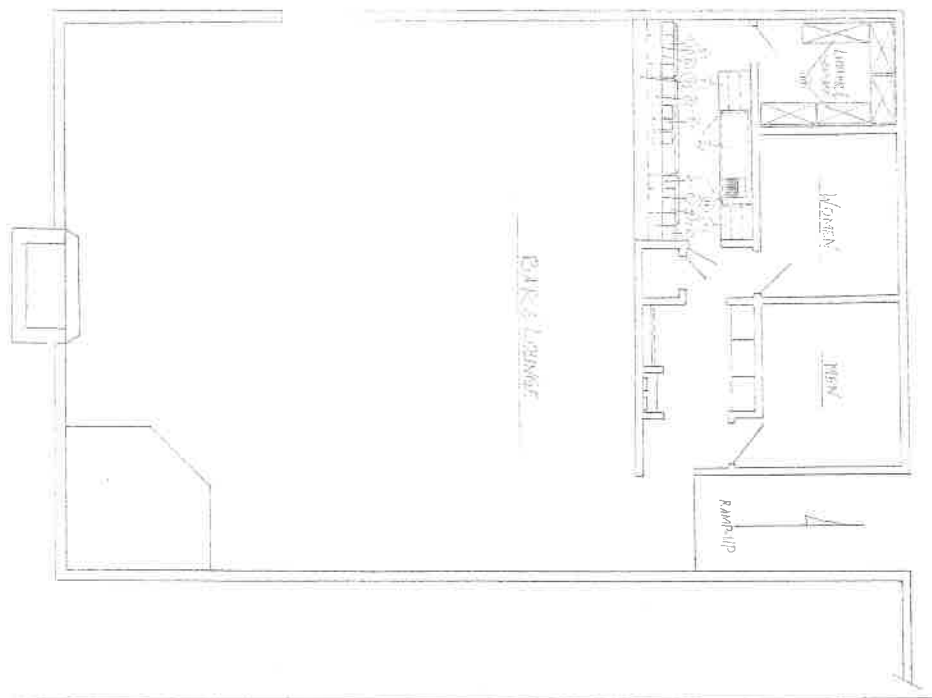
Name	Type of License	Account Number		
7. Is the applicant (including any of the partners if a partnership; members or managers if a limited liability company; or officers, stockholders or directors if a corporation) or managers under the age of twenty-one years?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
8. Has the applicant (including any of the partners if a partnership; members or managers if a limited liability company; or officers, stockholders or directors if a corporation) or managers ever (in Colorado or any other state):				
a. Been denied an alcohol beverage license?		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b. Had an alcohol beverage license suspended or revoked?		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
c. Had interest in another entity that had an alcohol beverage license suspended or revoked?		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
If you answered yes to 8a, b or c, explain in detail on a separate sheet.				
9. Has a liquor license application (same license class), that was located within 500 feet of the proposed premises, been denied within the preceding two years? If "yes", explain in detail.		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
10. Are the premises to be licensed within 500 feet, of any public or private school that meets compulsory education requirements of Colorado law, or the principal campus of any college, university or seminary?		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Waiver by local ordinance? <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Other: _____				
11. Is your Liquor Licensed Drugstore (LLDS) or Retail Liquor Store (RLS) within 1500 feet of another retail liquor license for off-premises sales in a jurisdiction with a population of greater than (>) 10,000? <b>NOTE:</b> The distance shall be determined by a radius measurement that begins at the principal doorway of the LLDS/RLS premises for which the application is being made and ends at the principal doorway of the Licensed LLDS/RLS.		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
12. Is your Liquor Licensed Drugstore (LLDS) or Retail Liquor Store (RLS) within 3000 feet of another retail liquor license for off-premises sales in a jurisdiction with a population of less than (<) 10,000? <b>NOTE:</b> The distance shall be determined by a radius measurement that begins at the principal doorway of the LLDS/RLS premises for which the application is being made and ends at the principal doorway of the Licensed LLDS/RLS.		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
13 a. For additional Retail Liquor Store only. Was your Retail Liquor Store License issued on or before January 1, 2016?		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
13 b. Are you a Colorado resident?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
14. Has a liquor or beer license ever been issued to the applicant (including any of the partners, if a partnership; members or manager if a Limited Liability Company; or officers, stockholders or directors if a corporation)? If yes, identify the name of the business and list any <u>current</u> financial interest in said business including any loans to or from a licensee.		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
15. Does the applicant, as listed on line 2 of this application, have legal possession of the premises by ownership, lease or other arrangement?		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Detail) _____				
a. If leased, list name of landlord and tenant, and date of expiration, <b>exactly</b> as they appear on the lease:				
Landlord	Tenant	Expires		
Cascade Village HOA	The Gift at Cascade LLC			
b. Is a percentage of alcohol sales included as compensation to the landlord? If yes, complete question 16.		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
c. Attach a diagram that designates the area to be licensed in black bold outline (including dimensions) which shows the bars, brewery, walls, partitions, entrances, exits and what each room shall be utilized for in this business. This diagram should be no larger than 8 1/2" X 11".				
16. Who, besides the owners listed in this application (including persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies) will loan or give money, inventory, furniture or equipment to or for use in this business; or who will receive money from this business? Attach a separate sheet if necessary.				
Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	FEIN or SSN	Interest/Percentage
Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	FEIN or SSN	Interest/Percentage
<b>Attach copies of all notes and security instruments and any written agreement or details of any oral agreement, by which any person (including partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, etc.) will share in the profit or gross proceeds of this establishment, and any agreement relating to the business which is contingent or conditional in any way by volume, profit, sales, giving of advice or consultation.</b>				
17. Optional Premises or Hotel and Restaurant Licenses with Optional Premises:		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Has a local ordinance or resolution authorizing optional premises been adopted?				
Number of additional Optional Premise areas requested. (See license fee chart)				
18. For the addition of a Sidewalk Service Area per Regulation 47-302(A)(4), include a diagram of the service area and documentation received from the local governing body authorizing use of the sidewalk. Documentation may include but is not limited to a statement of use, permit, easement, or other legal permissions.				
19. Liquor Licensed Drugstore (LLDS) applicants, answer the following:				
a. Is there a pharmacy, licensed by the Colorado Board of Pharmacy, located within the applicant's LLDS premise?		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
If "yes" a copy of license must be attached.				

Name <i>The Lift at Cascade, LLC</i>	Type of License <i>Liquor</i>	Account Number		
<b>20. Club Liquor License applicants answer the following: Attach a copy of applicable documentation</b>				
a. Is the applicant organization operated solely for a national, social, fraternal, patriotic, political or athletic purpose and not for pecuniary gain?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b. Is the applicant organization a regularly chartered branch, lodge or chapter of a national organization which is operated solely for the object of a patriotic or fraternal organization or society, but not for pecuniary gain?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
c. How long has the club been incorporated?				
d. Has applicant occupied an establishment for three years (three years required) that was operated solely for the reasons stated above?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>21. Brew-Pub, Distillery Pub or Vintner's Restaurant applicants answer the following:</b>				
a. Has the applicant received or applied for a Federal Permit? (Copy of permit or application must be attached)		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>22. Campus Liquor Complex applicants answer the following:</b>				
a. Is the applicant an institution of higher education?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b. Is the applicant a person who contracts with the institution of higher education to provide food services? If "yes" please provide a copy of the contract with the institution of higher education to provide food services.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>23. For all on-premises applicants:</b>				
a. Hotel and Restaurant, Lodging and Entertainment, Tavern License and Campus Liquor Complex, the Registered Manager must also submit an Individual History Record - DR 8404-I and fingerprint submitted to approved State Vendor through the Vendor's website. See application checklist, Section IV, for details.				
b. For all Liquor Licensed Drugstores (LLDS) the Permitted Manager must also submit a Manager Permit Application - DR 8000 and fingerprints.				
Last Name of Manager		First Name of Manager		
<b>24. Does this manager act as the manager of, or have a financial interest in, any other liquor licensed establishment in the State of Colorado? If yes, provide name, type of license and account number.</b>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>25. Related Facility - Campus Liquor Complex applicants answer the following:</b>				
a. Is the related facility located within the boundaries of the Campus Liquor Complex? If yes, please provide a map of the geographical location within the Campus Liquor Complex. If no, this license type is not available for issues outside the geographical location of the Campus Liquor Complex.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b. Designated Manager for Related Facility- Campus Liquor Complex				
Last Name of Manager		First Name of Manager		
<b>26. Tax Information.</b>				
a. 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?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b. 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.?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>27. If applicant is a corporation, partnership, association or limited liability company, applicant must list all Officers, Directors, General Partners, and Managing Members. In addition, applicant must list any stockholders, partners, or members with ownership of 10% or more in the applicant. All persons listed below must also attach form DR 8404-I (Individual History Record), and make an appointment with an approved State Vendor through their website. See application checklist, Section IV, for details.</b>				
Name	Home Address, City & State	DOB	Position	%Owned
<i>Madeline Dearien</i>	<i>74 Columbine Dr. Durango, CO</i>	<i>12-26-99</i>	<i>owner</i>	<i>50</i>
Name	Home Address, City & State	DOB	Position	%Owned
<i>Christina DeBeckme</i>	<i>74 Columbine Dr. Durango, CO</i>	<i>8-15-79</i>	<i>owner</i>	<i>50</i>
Name	Home Address, City & State	DOB	Position	%Owned
Name	Home Address, City & State	DOB	Position	%Owned

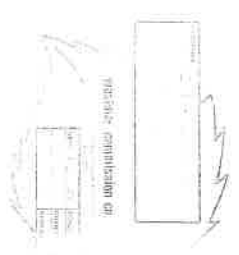
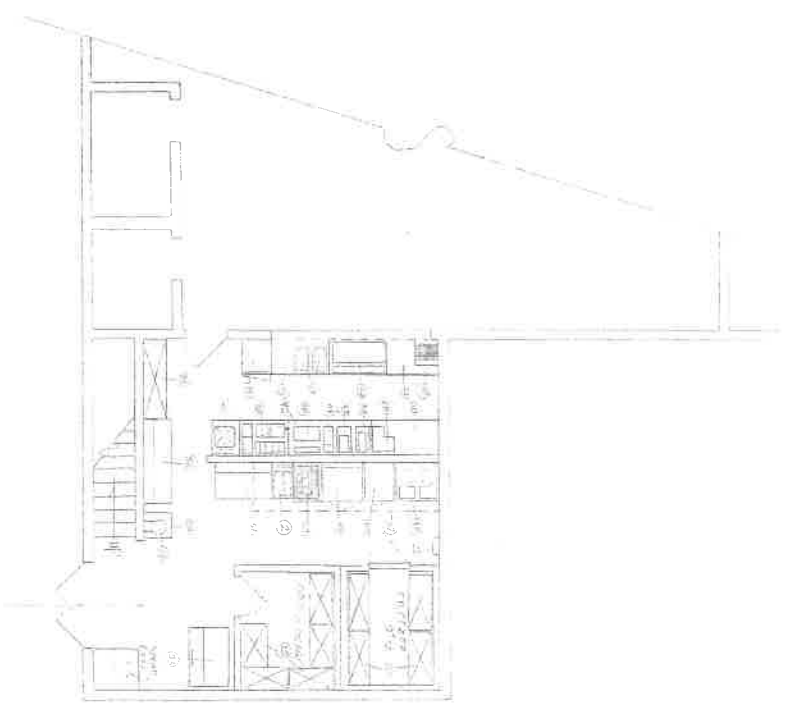
\*\* If applicant is owned 100% by a parent company, please list the designated principal officer on above.  
 \*\* Corporations - the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer must be accounted for above (Include ownership percentage if applicable)  
 \*\* If total ownership percentage disclosed here does not total 100%, applicant must check this box:  
 Applicant affirms that no individual other than these disclosed herein owns 10% or more of the applicant and does not have financial interest in a prohibited liquor license pursuant to Article 3 or 5, C.R.S.

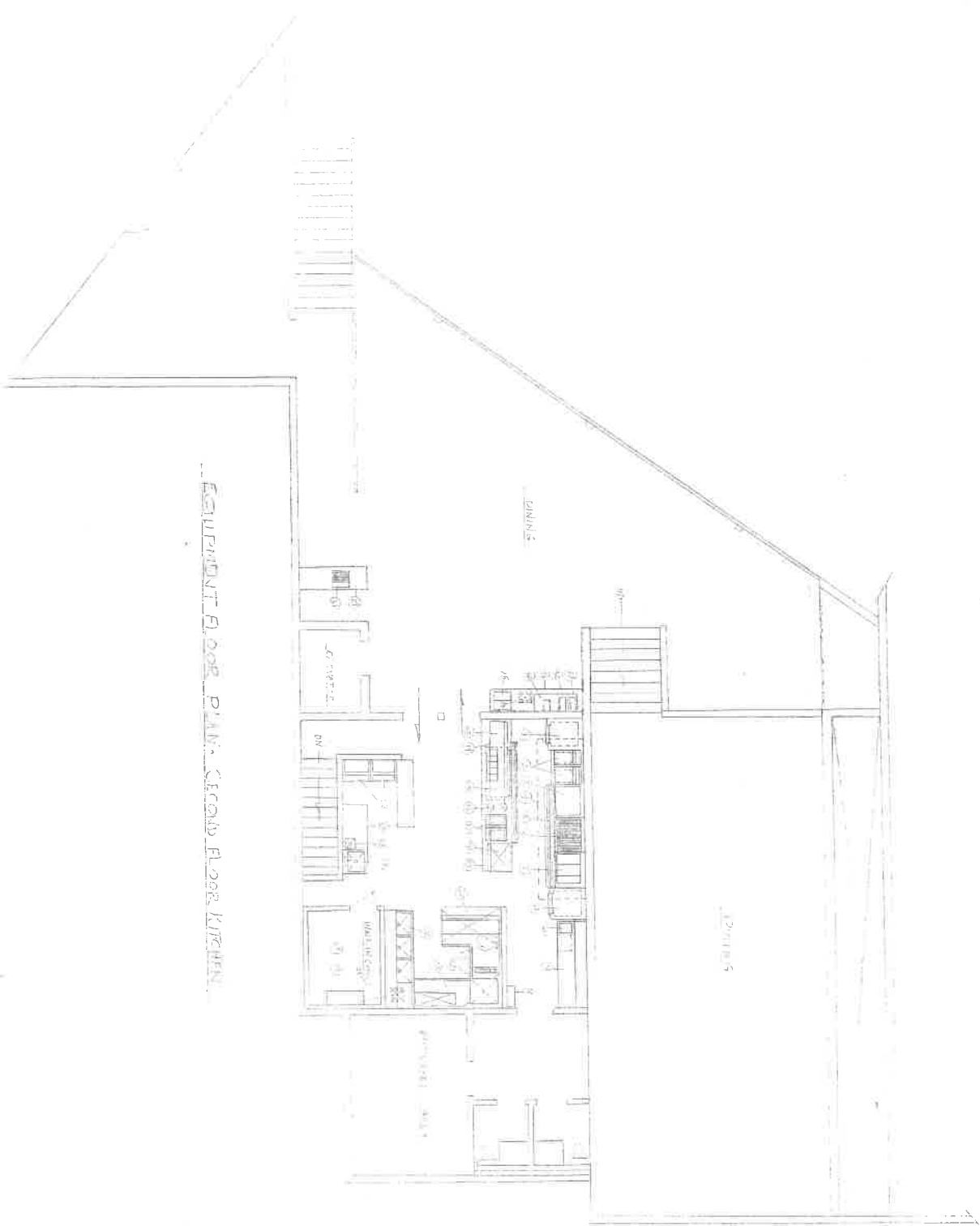
Name <i>The LiFT at Cascade, LLC</i>	Type of License <i>LIQUOR</i>	Account Number	
<b>Oath Of Applicant</b>			
I declare under penalty of perjury in the second degree that this application and all attachments are true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also acknowledge that it is my responsibility and the responsibility of my agents and employees to comply with the provisions of the Colorado Liquor or Beer Code which affect my license.			
Authorized Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	Printed Name and Title <i>CHRISTINA DEFFERMERE Owner</i>	Date <i>3/15/24</i>	
<b>Report and Approval of Local Licensing Authority (City/County)</b>			
Date application filed with local authority	Date of local authority hearing (for new license applicants; cannot be less than 30 days from date of application)		
The Local Licensing Authority Hereby Affirms that each person required to file DR 8404-I (Individual History Record) or a DR 8000 (Manager Permit) has been:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprinted <input type="checkbox"/> Subject to background investigation, including NCIC/CCIC check for outstanding warrants			
That the local authority has conducted, or intends to conduct, an inspection of the proposed premises to ensure that the applicant is in compliance with and aware of, liquor code provisions affecting their class of license			
(Check One)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Date of inspection or anticipated date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Will conduct inspection upon approval of state licensing authority			
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the Liquor Licensed Drugstore (LLDS) or Retail Liquor Store (RLS) within 1,500 feet of another retail liquor license for off-premises sales in a jurisdiction with a population of > 10,0000?	Yes	No	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the Liquor Licensed Drugstore(LLDS) or Retail Liquor Store (RLS) within 3,000 feet of another retail liquor license for off-premises sales in a jurisdiction with a population of < 10,0000?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>NOTE:</b> The distance shall be determined by a radius measurement that begins at the principal doorway of the LLDS/RLS premises for which the application is being made and ends at the principal doorway of the Licensed LLDS/RLS.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Does the Liquor-Licensed Drugstore (LLDS) have at least twenty percent (20%) of the applicant's gross annual income derived from the sale of food, during the prior twelve (12) month period?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The foregoing application has been examined; and the premises, business to be conducted, and character of the applicant are satisfactory We do report that such license, if granted, will meet the reasonable requirements of the neighborhood and the desires of the adult inhabitants, and will comply with the provisions of Title 44, Article 4 or 3, C.R.S., and Liquor Rules. <b>Therefore, this application is approved.</b>			
Local Licensing Authority for	Telephone Number	<input type="checkbox"/> Town, City <input type="checkbox"/> County	
Signature	Print	Title	Date
Signature	Print	Title	Date

BAR SUNSHINE FLOOR PLAN



EQUIPMENT FLOOR PLAN FOR SET OF 25 WHEELS





EQUIPMENT ROOM, PLUMBING, SECOND FLOOR KITCHEN.



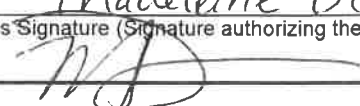
## Tax Check Authorization, Waiver, and Request to Release Information

I, Madeline Deanen / Christina Osterwald am signing this Tax Check Authorization, Waiver and Request to Release Information (hereinafter "Waiver") on behalf of Madeline Deanen / Christina Osterwald (the "Applicant/Licensee") to permit the Colorado Department of Revenue and any other state or local taxing authority to release information and documentation that may otherwise be confidential, as provided below. If I am signing this Waiver for someone other than myself, including on behalf of a business entity, I certify that I have the authority to execute this Waiver on behalf of the Applicant/Licensee.

The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Revenue is the State Licensing Authority, and oversees the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division as his or her agents, clerks, and employees. The information and documentation obtained pursuant to this Waiver may be used in connection with the Applicant/Licensee's liquor license application and ongoing licensure by the state and local licensing authorities. The Colorado Liquor Code, section 44-3-101, et seq. ("Liquor Code"), and the Colorado Liquor Rules, 1 CCR 203-2 ("Liquor Rules"), require compliance with certain tax obligations, and set forth the investigative, disciplinary and licensure actions the state and local licensing authorities may take for violations of the Liquor Code and Liquor Rules, including failure to meet tax reporting and payment obligations.

The Waiver is made pursuant to section 39-21-113(4), C.R.S., and any other law, regulation, resolution or ordinance concerning the confidentiality of tax information, or any document, report or return filed in connection with state or local taxes. This Waiver shall be valid until the expiration or revocation of a license, or until both the state and local licensing authorities take final action to approve or deny any application(s) for the renewal of the license, whichever is later. Applicant/Licensee agrees to execute a new waiver for each subsequent licensing period in connection with the renewal of any license, if requested.

By signing below, Applicant/Licensee requests that the Colorado Department of Revenue and any other state or local taxing authority or agency in the possession of tax documents or information, release information and documentation to the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division, and its duly authorized employees, to act as the Applicant's/Licensee's duly authorized representative under section 39-21-113(4), C.R.S., solely to allow the state and local licensing authorities, and their duly authorized employees, to investigate compliance with the Liquor Code and Liquor Rules. Applicant/Licensee authorizes the state and local licensing authorities, their duly authorized employees, and their legal representatives, to use the information and documentation obtained using this Waiver in any administrative or judicial action regarding the application or license.

Name (Individual/Business) <u>The Lift LLC at</u>		Social Security Number/Tax Identification Number <u>86-1771433</u>	
Address <u>50827 Hwy 550 N.</u>			
City <u>Durango</u>		State <u>CO</u>	Zip <u>81301</u>
Home Phone Number <u>970-749-6200</u>		Business/Work Phone Number <u>970-749-6200</u>	
Printed name of person signing on behalf of the Applicant/Licensee <u>Madeline Deanen</u>			
Applicant/Licensee's Signature (Signature authorizing the disclosure of confidential tax information) 			Date signed <u>3/15/21</u>

### Privacy Act Statement

Providing your Social Security Number is voluntary and no right, benefit or privilege provided by law will be denied as a result of refusal to disclose it. § 7 of Privacy Act, 5 USCS § 552a (note).



- For this Record...**
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- [Business Home](#)
- [Business Information](#)
- [Business Search](#)

- [FAQs, Glossary and Information](#)

## Summary

Details			
<b>Name</b>	The Lift at Cascade, LLC		
<b>Status</b>	Good Standing	<b>Formation date</b>	01/20/2021
<b>ID number</b>	20211055550	<b>Form</b>	Limited Liability Company
<b>Periodic report month</b>	January	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	Colorado
<b>Principal office street address</b>	50827 Hwy 550 n, Durango, CO 81301, US		
<b>Principal office mailing address</b>	n/a		

Registered Agent	
<b>Name</b>	Christina Doffermyre
<b>Street address</b>	74 Columbine dr, Durango, CO 81301, US
<b>Mailing address</b>	n/a

- [Filing history and documents](#)
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Willy Tookey &lt;admin@sanjuancolorado.us&gt;

## Liquor Licenseing Hearing on 4/28/21

4 messages

Gary Leonhard <gleonhard21@gmail.com>  
To: admin@sanjuancolorado.us

Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 10:18 AM

04/27/21

To: Mr. William Tookey, County Administrator, San Juan County

My name is Gary Leonhard and along with my wife, Annelle, we have been owners of condo units at Cascade Village for 7 years. Our condos would be less than 500 feet from the proposed bar. Like the majority of people at Cascade Village, we manage these units as part of our business; we rent them out to guests wishing to experience all that southwest Colorado has to offer. It is a significant business as tourism is extremely important to San Juan County (and to us as well); and every year we file a Schedule E with our 1040 federal tax returns listing those units as our business. We believe that this gives us standing to speak of the matter of granting a liquor license at Cascade Village. We would greatly appreciate it if you would see that this letter is presented to all of the Liquor Licensing officials involved before the hearing on 4/28/21.

We oppose the granting of the proposed liquor license on the basis of:

**1. Sufficient notice of the license hearing was not given to the residents and business managers who reside at Cascade Village or in the surrounding area as required by statute.**

As a matter of fact, the vast majority of residents, owners and business managers in the immediate surrounding area are from Cascade Village. We, just three days ago, "accidentally" discovered that this hearing was scheduled on Wednesday, 4/28/21. No prior direct notice was made available to the over 120 owners at Cascade Village. To be specific, I went outside of the building that is expected to house the bar in question, in order to look for the required public notice posting on the facility. I searched all over the building and could not find one. I finally had to ask whether such a posting existed. I was told yes and was informed it was posted high up on a stanchion that supports part the roof that covers a driveway in front of the door entrance (it is not posted on the building at all). Standing in front of that building, I still had to ask the employee to point to it as I still could not see it. It was not until I moved in much closer and away from the main building that I could make it out (but it was still difficult to read as it was placed way above eye level).

The sign was not placed in a conspicuous place where all interested parties could have seen it. Instead it was in a place where 98% the residents or business managers entering Cascade Village could not have possibly see it (as they continue driving in an opposite direction). There is no way for a driver in a moving vehicle to have comprehended what the notice was about or what it said (assuming that he/she saw it at all). It is mostly only service vehicles such UPS, FedEx or the postal carrier turn up that driveway to make deliveries. Residents or business managers almost never go up that driveway. If one did want to view the sign, they would need to literally stand in the middle of a paved entrance where traffic is free to drive through at any time. Bottom line: In order to view this Notice, it could put someone at risk of being hit by a car.

A "conspicuous" place would have been on the front door entrance or nearby windows of the building in question where everyone could easily see the notice as they go into that building all the time to pick up mail and use the pool, etc. .

Additionally, given that the vast majority of the property owners and business mangers reside outside of the state (e.g.- Arizona, New Mexico), other means to provide such notice to the stakeholders should have been given. All neighborhood stakeholders should have been given the opportunity to decide if they wanted to express an opinion or not. Also, the Cascade Village HOA Board never sent out a communication about this meeting. I have already expressed my concern, along with another owner ( Tom Brunner), to the Board directly and we appreciate that the Board has heard our concern and may very well be considering the importance of this point.

Bottom line: 95% of Cascade Village owners have no awareness that this meeting, which is obviously handling a high stakes issue, is occurring.

Because 95% of our Cascade Village community are unaware of this hearing, they have been denied the fundamental right they should have to be heard and voice their opinion. Meanwhile, San Juan County would be disabling its own ability to truly survey the wishes of the very large group of residents, owners and business managers who together form the largest tax base (property, sales and lodging) for all of San Juan County. We believe that the most pro-business and equitable decision for San Juan County to make is to simply give this group, who constitute the immediate neighborhood that this bar would affect, the right to consider this liquor license application and provide their comments back to you.

There is no doubt that the owners of the proposed establishment wish to move forward, but why rush a process that does not have the full input from the impacted stakeholders when this decision would be making a huge potential change to Cascade Village.

**We are requesting that at the very minimum, due to serious faults in procedure and notice, that this hearing be delayed at least 30 days to allow for such communication to occur, both to and from all area residents, owners and business managers.** Please see the attached photos showing actual placement of the notice as well as the conspicuous location where the notice should have been placed.

2. **It cannot be shown that the granting of this application meets the “reasonable needs and desires” of the residents and business managers of the neighborhood.** The region in question is a very sparsely populated mountainous area. It is already service by 5 drinking establishments/bars and two liquor stores within a 4 mile radius. Two bars located at the Purgatory Ski Resort (1.5 miles away), one at The Nugget (about 2.5 miles away), one at the Sow's Ear restaurant (about 3.5 miles away and one at The Old Schoolhouse restaurant (about 4 miles away). The liquor stores are located at the Purgatory Ski resort (1.5 miles away) and next to the Needles Country Store (4 miles away).

**Reasonable alcohol consumptions needs and desires are clearly already being met** in this small mountainous region. **There is no reasonable “need” for another bar in the area.**

3. **Concern and confusion about who will actually be the liquor license owner.**

There are two named officers on the liquor license notice. One is Chrissy Doffermyre, and another is Madeleine Dearien. The Board has only informed us of the role that Ms. Doffermyre would potentially play. Given we were never informed about the background of Ms. Dearien, we believe it is even more important to delay this application hearing. What little information that could be quickly discovered was that Ms. Dearien is a college student.

The granting of a liquor license is one of the most serious licenses governmental entities can give. It is appropriate for CV owners to know whether a college student may be given a liquor license and whether she will seemingly be making daily decisions about who to serve and not to serve. Please remember, owners at Cascade Village are typically middle aged people who have invested tens of thousands of dollars into their condos, all which benefits San Juan County. We have informed the Cascade Village Board of our concern about having a college student, or someone barely over the drinking age limit, being granted a liquor license to make decisions that could gravely affect the future of the image of Cascade Village.

4. **Safety Issues.**

Cascade Village is located at the very entrance the famous Million Dollar Mile. While truly an area of tremendous beauty, it is also a roadway that is of a very windy, narrow and precipitous drop-off nature. It is subject to high volume and high speed traffic. Introducing further potential alcohol-impaired driving into that driving environment is very dangerously problematic. **There is not a reasonable reason take this added dangerous risk.**

Historically, the roadway in front of Cascade Village has been famously transversed by thousands of vehicles including motorcycle caravans and clubs and RV's of all sizes who always have just driven right past Cascade Village on their way to Silverton and other locations (they have never had a reason to stop at Cascade Village as it has not offered them any reason). With a bar located at Cascade Village, there will now a be an enticing reason for many of these vehicles to pull off there and take a break by imbibing a favorite alcoholic beverage and then

get right back on that windy, high speed mountainous road as they start up the beginning of the Million Dollar Highway. Taking that potentially deadly risk is not a necessity.

**5. Covid 19 Risk.**

La Plata County and especially Silverton have taken a very wise and conservative approach in dealing with and controlling the spread of this deadly virus. The whole town of Silverton was closed off to non-residents for many months; establishments were closed and vacation rentals were halted (including at Cascade Village). Given the prognostications of the Covid experts and scientists and the concern for public health safety, we believe that the previously exhibited caution should still be a determining factor in any new decision that might be made.

In conclusion, the residents, owners and business managers of Cascade Village should be given the opportunity to express their opinions and concerns about granting this license. Cascade Village, in totality, we believe is the largest contributor to property taxes, sales taxes and lodging taxes in San Juan County; and that is primarily due to the success of this same group who deserve the right to be heard and to be taken seriously.

Sincerely,

Gary and Annelie Leonhard



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**2 attachments**



**IMG\_5921.jpg**  
1070K



**IMG\_5913.jpg**  
851K

**Willy Tookey** <admin@sanjuancolorado.us>  
To: Ladonna Jaramillo <clerk@sanjuancountycolorado.us>

Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 11:01 AM

William Tookey  
San Juan County Administrator  
970-387-5766  
[admin@sanjuancolorado.us](mailto:admin@sanjuancolorado.us)  
PO Box 466, Silverton CO 81433

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**2 attachments**



**IMG\_5921.jpg**  
1070K



**IMG\_5913.jpg**  
851K

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**Willy Tookey** <[admin@sanjuancolorado.us](mailto:admin@sanjuancolorado.us)>  
To: Gary Leonhard <[gleonhard21@gmail.com](mailto:gleonhard21@gmail.com)>

Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 11:02 AM

Hi Mr. Leonhard.  
Your letter will be presented to the Commissioners as part of the public hearing.  
Thank you for your comments.  
Willy

William Tookey  
San Juan County Administrator  
970-387-5766  
[admin@sanjuancolorado.us](mailto:admin@sanjuancolorado.us)  
PO Box 466, Silverton CO 81433

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Willy Tookey** <[admin@sanjuancolorado.us](mailto:admin@sanjuancolorado.us)>  
To: Gary Leonhard <[gleonhard21@gmail.com](mailto:gleonhard21@gmail.com)>

Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 12:28 PM

Mr. Leanhard,  
I forgot to inform you that you are welcome to attend the public hearing via zoom.  
The login information is as follows:  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/92136473203>  
Meeting ID: 921 3647 3203  
One tap mobile











04/26/21

To: Mr. William Tookey, County Administrator

San Juan Board of Commissioners

**RE: Liquor license application for The Lift**

**Position: Objection to granting of license at this time**

My name is Tom Brunner and my wife Maria and I have owned a condominium at Cascade Village for nearly five years. In that time our family has heavily invested in community enhancing projects, including spearheading the effort – while collaborating with community partners - to earn a fiber optic grant for our neighborhood in southern San Juan County. It is with serious concern that my wife and I write this letter.

In short, we object to the granting of a liquor license to The Lift, at this time. We strongly encourage San Juan county to delay voting on this issue until at least a 30-day pause has been put in place, in order to give reasonable time for all the owners of Cascade Village to know this kind of hearing is taking place.

As a co-owner (Gary Leonhard) has pointed out, and is true, the Cascade Village ownership was never directly informed about the date and time of this hearing by its internal leadership until the last day or two. And unlike many liquor license application situations this board may have handled in the past, the vast majority of neighborhood citizens who would be most affected stakeholders are out of town owners. So the standard practice of posting a notice does not address – and account for - the out-of-town owner reality.

Cascade Village has been around for over 30 years, and as a collective of over 90 vacation rental business, constitutes the largest “hotel” tax base for San Juan County. We at Cascade Village are grateful for the long partnership we have cultivated with San Juan County.

Unfortunately, it was only by accident that a few owners like myself became aware of this hearing. **Meanwhile, one of largest changes to Cascade Village ever proposed is being discussed at this meeting.** One would think that there would have been an internal due diligence effort to ensure all owners knew about this meeting. There was no such effort. This is not the fault of San Juan County, but it does mean that leading up to this meeting tonight, there was no intentional methodology used to ensure a representative sampling of opinions was harvested.

There is no doubt that some people may be excited to know they may have an eatery in our neighborhood. But excitement for a change is not enough reason to grant a liquor license. To be clear, a representative sampling of opinions is not gathered when the vast majority of the immediate neighborhood never had the chance to see the notice of a meeting. San Juan County should postpone this hearing until the Board can rectify the communication gap between the Board and the ownership.

Even if someone from Cascade Village were to argue that some owners may feel positive about the fact that they could walk over to a place to grab a beer, instead of driving down the road, lets us not make the unscientific assumption that there is no need to survey the community. After all, look at what is at stake. **We all know that the granting of a liquor license is one of the most serious decisions governmental entities make.** For example, that is why these licenses, in Colorado and other states, per law, cannot be granted too close to schools.

**Like Gary Leonhard and his wife, Maria and I only just three days ago accidentally discovered that this hearing was scheduled on Wednesday, 4/28/21.** How exactly do we rest comfortably, knowing the multitude of business owners who have sunk tens - or hundreds - of thousands of dollars into their vacation rental investments have no idea we are here tonight discussing this weighty issue? If I was one of the vast majority of owners, I would certainly want to know about this meeting.

A liquor license granted to a person means they are being trusted with daily decisions about who to serve alcohol to, who to stop serving, who might be at risk for driving under the influence, who might cause a neighborhood brawl. These are the real issues in the trenches. Many of us can recall mistakes we have made when drinking. We all know trusting someone to know who to serve is a grave issue.

In saying this, I have only three days ago learned that one of the two people on the application is – seemingly – not much beyond the legal drinking age is one of the two liquor license applicants: Madelein Dearien. While I understand one only needs to be 21 in order to grant a liquor license, that does not mean there should not be a good faith effort to ensure CV owners have time to further assess Ms. Dearien. I have not heard Ms. Dearien’s name until it was seen on the Public Notice posted at Cascade Village.

After reflection, I find the above information to be justify a delay in this hearing. There are very serious liability issues at stake, and regardless of how much insurance Cascade Village requires the owners to get, the ownership in our Community should know more about BOTH liquor license applicants. On this note, I have seen no resume, online information, or proof of character regarding Ms. Chrissy Doffermyre. I have asked our Board for a resume and none was available.

If you have heard of my collaborative work to build up southern San Juan County, you know I am pro-business. I am not against growing the tax base of San Juan County. Another business would help San Juan County, but we must carefully weigh the risks and benefits through a reasonable procedure. Right now, at the current meeting, you may hear from a tiny sliver of those owners who work hard to attract guests who then spend significant money in Silverton.

Moreover, while I shall not repeat Gary Leonhard’s points about how there are already several liquor establishments in our immediate area, this is a reality. **Let’s not forget that anyone at Cascade Village can drive 2 minutes down the road to drink alcohol or liquor at one of four bars. Meanwhile, the most common guests at Cascade Village are families.** The reason our community at Cascade attracts so many tourism dollars is the brand we have that allows us to boast of having a family friendly neighborhood. To put this another way, our ability to continue to be a successful family oriented destination, thus collecting payments which turn into tens of thousands of dollars SJ County, means we

must protect our brand fiercely. **Time for vetting would allow more to be known about such things as why someone the Board has not mentioned is on the liquor license application.** This is not a trivial issue.

How would any Commissioner, or attendee of this meeting feel if they found out in home neighborhood, someone would be putting a bar/restaurant in, and suddenly they learn a very young person might be granted very significant decision privileges. Would a majority of owners want to know more before this was approved? Yes!

The best tourism is driven by offering a diversity of establishments, rather than trying to do the same thing people down the road have done. Right now, it is unclear what the affect of this establishment would have. This is a deeply financial issue. Everyone can agree on that. The decision made can drastically affect Cascade Village's image.

My wife and I, having already significantly contributed to the betterment of San Juan County, simply ask that there be a 30-day pause while the ownership at Cascade Village actually has time to know who exactly is applying for the liquor license, and what is being proposed. Our owners are in the dark, and this situation deserves to be brought into the clear light of day. As all readers of this letters know, this is not the kind of decision to take lightly, or to move forward on without ensuring we represent the best interest of the community at large.

Thank you for giving this letter serious consideration.

Respectfully,

Tom and Maria Brunner





Durango Field Office  
FLC 7233  
1000 Rim Drive  
Durango, CO 81301  
(970) 247-5250  
csfs.colostate.edu

April 9, 2021

San Juan County Board of County Commissioners  
Post Office Box 466  
Silverton, Colorado 81433

Dear San Juan County Commissioners:

Enclosed is the *2020 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests*. Each year the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) prepares an annual report to summarize the current health and condition of forests across the state. After a historic wildfire year in 2020, this report offers guidance on what we must do to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk to residents, lands, water supplies and economies. As always, the report also offers an update on insect and disease activity in Colorado's forests, as well as a look at our state's carbon storage problem.

In addition to summarizing forest conditions statewide, we have broken the state into four quadrants in the report to provide trends and analysis on what is happening in forests by region, providing a quick, comprehensive snapshot of the information most pertinent to forests in your area. You can also learn about insect and disease activity specific to your county through interactive maps at [bit.ly/ForestHealthReport](https://bit.ly/ForestHealthReport).

In regard to local insect and disease issues, Silverton and surrounding areas faced a below average snowpack during the 2019-2020 winter followed by a warm dry summer. These weather events added stress to our trees. Within the Durango Field Office service area, spruce beetle is still active, western spruce budworm is defoliating conifers, and aspen are being impacted by multiple pathogens. The Durango Field Office continues to work with landowners, communities and our Federal partners to mitigate the impacts of the insects and diseases.

We sincerely hope this report will be of use to you. **We appreciate the opportunity to provide this report to you as a County Commissioner, as we very much appreciate your support of forestry management and wildfire mitigation treatments on a local level.** The expertise you have in your local forests and wildfire management in your county is valued, welcomed and appreciated at the CSFS.

As the lead state agency providing forest management and wildfire mitigation assistance to private landowners and on state lands, the CSFS is here to ensure that forest landowners, decision-makers, land managers and others have the information and tools they need to help us achieve stewardship of Colorado's diverse forest environments.

If you have questions or would like additional information about Colorado's forests and the programs we offer to address forest health concerns, please contact me at 970-247-5250 or [mark.loveall@colostate.edu](mailto:mark.loveall@colostate.edu). After looking over the report please let me know if you have any questions or would like a presentation.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Loveall  
Supervisory Forester  
Durango Field Office

# COLORADO WILDFIRE RISK

Understanding the wildland-urban interface risk index



## SAN JUAN COUNTY

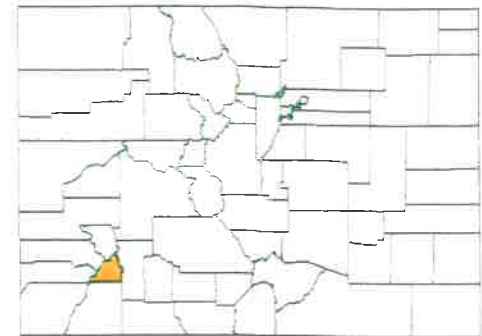
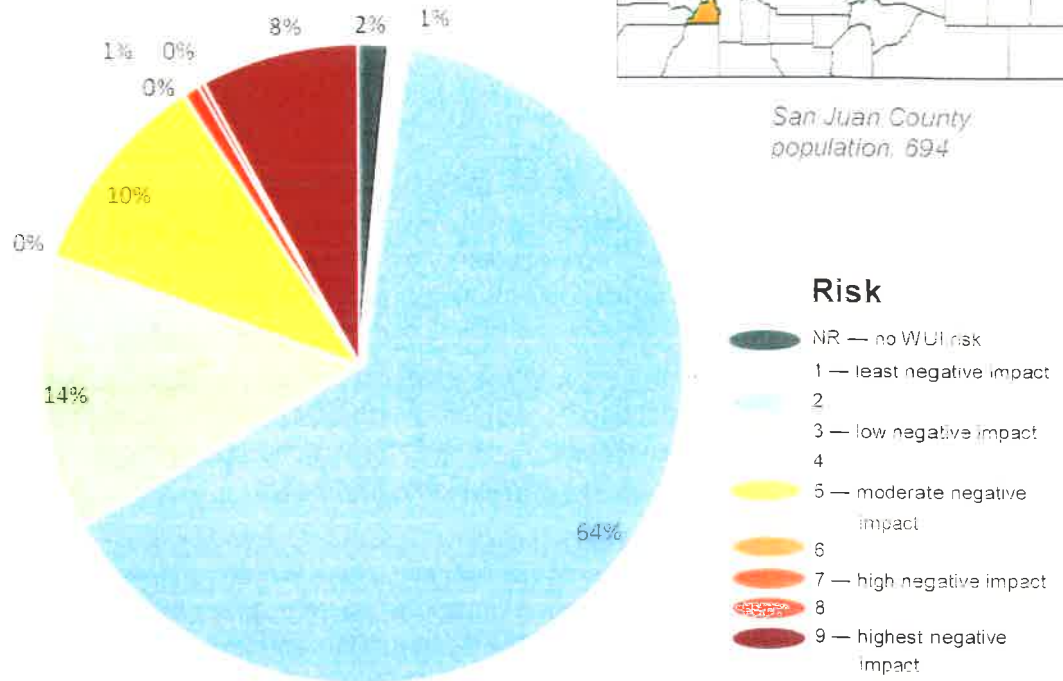
### Adapt, Prepare by Knowing Fire Risk

Each county in Colorado is unique, with a character shaped by individual history, land, climate, people and resources. However, something every county in the state shares is the potential to be negatively affected by wildfires.

In order to effectively prepare for the impact of wildfires, residents, leaders and community planners must be aware of the wildfire risk associated with living in the wildland-urban interface and recognize actions that can be taken to reduce this risk. Connecting with wildfire resources — like those listed below — can help guide wildfire adaptation efforts from a personal to a community-wide level.

### WUI Risk

This chart shows the portion of San Juan County's residents who live within the wildland-urban interface classified by level of wildfire impact on lives and property.



San Juan County population, 694

**THE DATA:** The Wildland-Urban Interface Risk Index, created by the Colorado State Forest Service, is a rating of the potential impact of a wildfire on people and their homes. It is created using housing density combined with modeled fire behavior to determine where the greatest potential impact to people and homes is likely to occur. The index is calculated consistently for each Colorado county, available in the Colorado Forest Atlas at [coloradoforestatlas.org](http://coloradoforestatlas.org).

### WUI

The wildland-urban interface (WUI) is an area where structures or other human developments meet or intermingle with wildland vegetation or fuels.

Approximately half of Colorado's population lives in the WUI. As of 2018, 2.9 million of the state's 5.7 million residents live in these vulnerable areas.



### Wildfire Impact

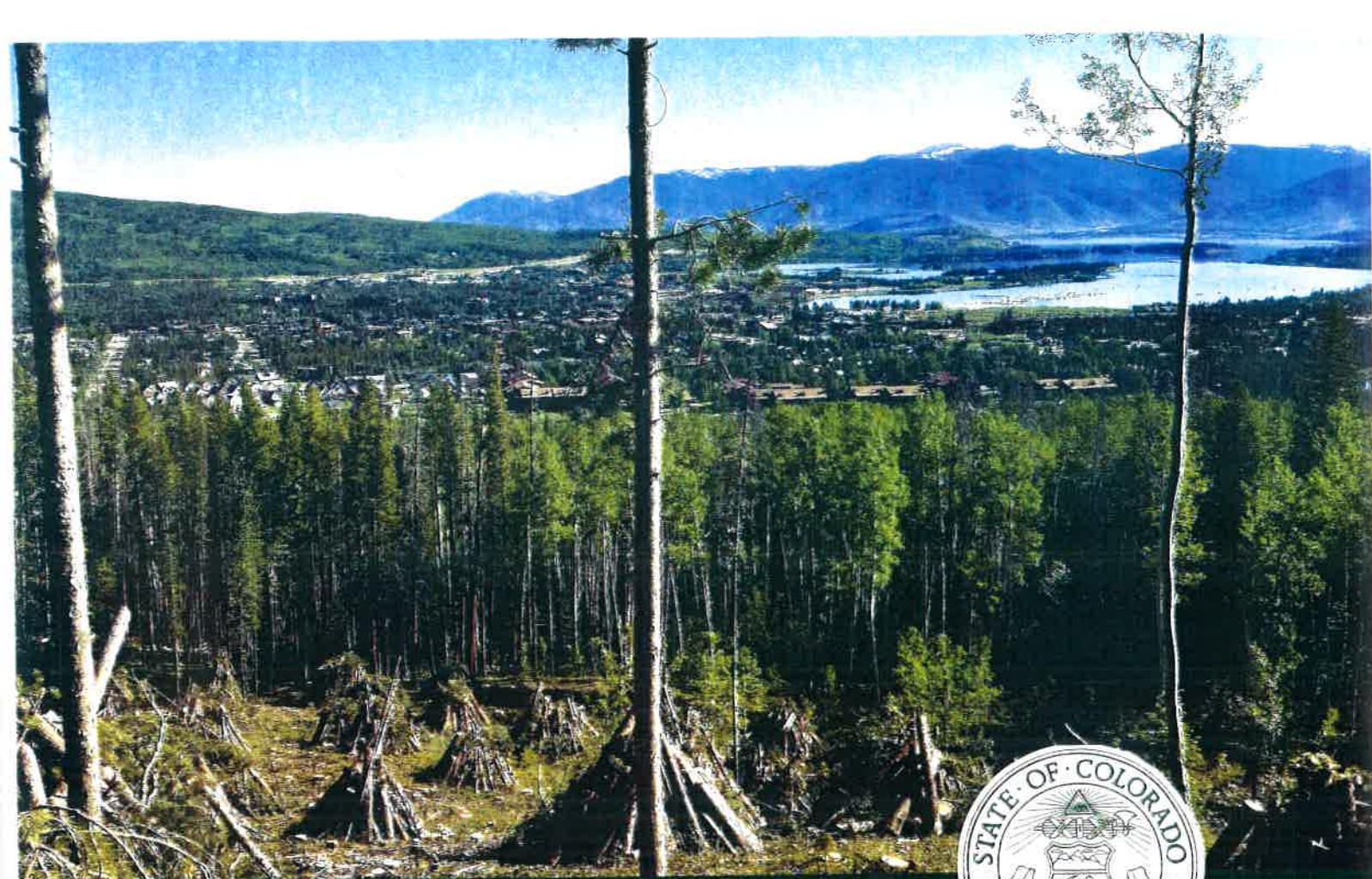
Wildfires are a natural part of every ecosystem in Colorado. However, wildfire can also harm human improvements and health. The impact a fire can have in any WUI location is determined primarily by ignitability of structures, natural vegetation (fuel) present, and the proximity of fuels to human improvements.

### What Can Be Done?

There are many actions that can reduce wildfire risk. From homeowners establishing defensible space and hardening structures, to community-wide mitigation efforts and fire department risk assessments, to county-wide building code and regulation adoption. Programs exist to guide efforts to adapt to living with wildfire in Colorado.

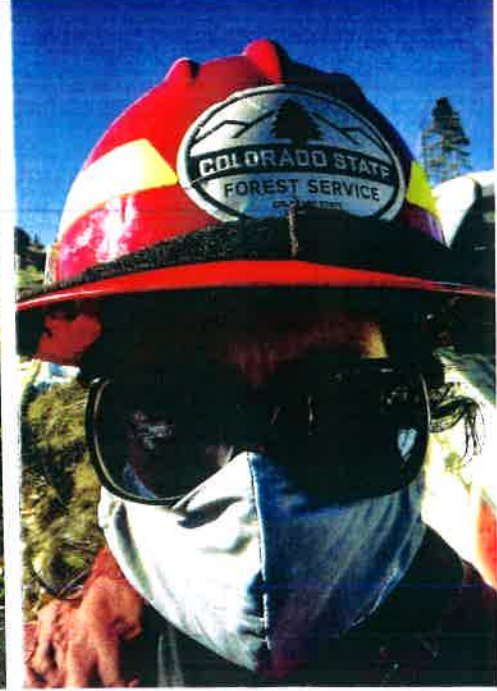
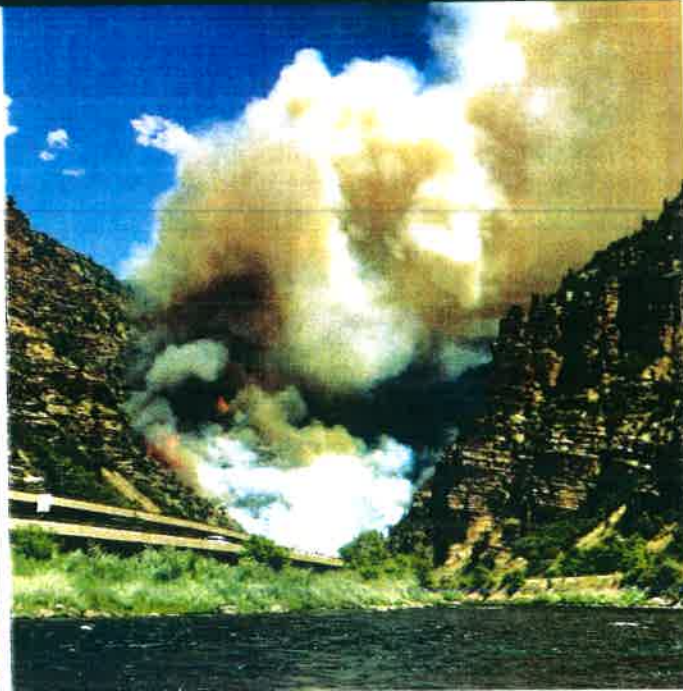
#### Learn more

The Colorado State Forest Service offers more about wildfire mitigation at [csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation](http://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation).



# 2020 REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF COLORADO'S FORESTS

Protecting Our Future After a Historic Wildfire Year





West of Grand Lake, only a house foundation and charred trees remain after the East Troublesome Fire. The second largest wildfire in state history left thousands of dead trees in critical watersheds along the Colorado River that will require mitigation. Photo: Zach Wehr, CSFS

Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Colorado State Forest Service

## We Must Do More to Match Our Forest Health Challenge



Dan Gibbs

In the midst of the most serious public health crisis of the 21st century, we also experienced an unprecedented wildfire season. The 2020 Colorado wildfires, including the three largest in our state's history, burned over 600,000 acres in some of our most pristine watersheds due to severe drought and high fuel loads. My thoughts are with all those impacted. I thank

all of the firefighters, first responders and those working on wildfire preparedness and recovery for their service.

As the director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and a certified wildland firefighter, I know firsthand the critical importance of forest health. Healthy forests protect public health and safety, water resources, wildlife habitat and recreation. I am honored to work with the Colorado State Forest Service to ensure Coloradans have support for forest stewardship and education, community risk assessments and fuels reduction.

As the 2020 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests emphasizes, we must do more to match the scale of our forest health challenge. A century of fire suppression, our warming climate and more people living in the wildland-urban interface create the perfect conditions for wildfire tragedies like those we experienced last year. Colorado's Shared Stewardship agreement and the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative bring much-needed strategic focus to restoring forest health at landscape scales, and we need everyone at the table to enhance the resilience of Colorado's forests and protect people, the environment and our way of life for future generations.

Dan Gibbs, Executive Director,  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources



Michael B. Lester

Last year was challenging for all of us, but it also reminded us how important our forests are. Living through a pandemic, Coloradans escaped to our wildland and urban forests seeking tranquility, peace and a place to recreate and exercise.

Along with supporting our mental and physical health, our forests provide habitat for Colorado's charismatic wildlife, bolster local economies through the forest products industry, sequester carbon and help filter clean air, as well as provide clean water for Colorado, 18 other states and Mexico.

Many of Colorado's forests depend on some wildfire to regenerate, but the types of uncharacteristic fires we saw last year put these benefits in jeopardy. I watched, with all of you, in horror and amazement as our forests burned in historic fashion, leading to the state's three largest wildfires and a host of social, economic, health and resource problems.

Our forests are experiencing many challenges, from longer fire seasons to ongoing drought to more people living in the wildland-urban interface. In the face of these challenges, the Colorado State Forest Service and its partners are making a difference, as you'll read in this report. That way, when fires like we saw last year occur again, they won't be as severe or costly to Coloradans.

After 2020, we now better understand just how much we need our forests — and what can happen if we don't invest in maintaining their health. We all need to do more so our forests continue to provide priceless benefits now and into the future.

Michael B. Lester, State Forester and Director,  
Colorado State Forest Service



The spruce beetle remains the most damaging forest pest in Colorado. Read about the state's prominent forest insects and diseases — and how bark beetles affect wildfire behavior.



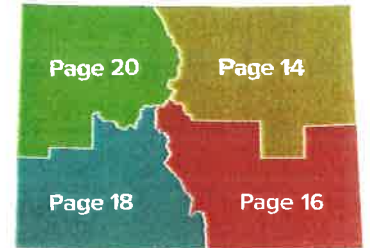
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The forest management needed to reduce wildfire risk to residents, lands, water supplies and economies is not happening fast enough. Read analysis of the historic wildfire year and what the Colorado State Forest Service is doing to meet this growing challenge.

# 2020 KEY FOREST TAKEAWAYS



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Forests benefit Colorado residents in many ways. They are an important source of revenue through outdoor recreation and forest products. They also provide clean air and water, wildlife habitat and physical and mental health benefits. Learn about how forests also need to be healthy in order to store carbon and mitigate climate change.

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The Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program continues to be a critical source of funding to address forest health on a local level. Read about how a state grant helped a community in Colorado Springs successfully mitigate its wildfire risk prior to the Bear Creek Fire in November.

Despite the pandemic, the Colorado State Forest Service continues to work alongside landowners and strategic partners to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk where it is most needed. Read about CSFS projects happening in every corner of Colorado.

## Forest Action Plan Maps Colorado's Forest Health Priorities Over Next 10 Years



[csfs.colostate.edu/forest-action-plan](https://csfs.colostate.edu/forest-action-plan)

Coloradans know our forests contribute greatly to our state's economic and social well-being. They provide us with what we need to survive and thrive, including clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, world-renowned recreation opportunities to experience and more.

As stewards of our forests, the Colorado State Forest Service recently unveiled the *2020 Colorado Forest Action Plan* — a road map that guides forest management for the next decade. Rooted in science and driven by collaboration, this 85-page report built by the CSFS, federal, state and community partners provides an in-depth analysis and solutions to improve the health of Colorado's forests and ensure they persevere.

It's up to each of us to be good stewards of our wild spaces and do our part to keep the "Colorful Colorado" nickname living strong. Here at the CSFS, we're looking forward to the next decade, continuing to steer Colorado's forests to health and longevity for future generations.



*The 2020 wildfire season brought three record-breaking blazes to the Colorado landscape.*

**Above:** *The Cameron Peak Fire, the state's largest wildfire, crests a hillside above Loveland at night. Photo: Amy Bulger, CSFS*

**Right:** *The plume from the state's second largest wildfire, the East Troublesome Fire that ignited near Granby, covered skies near Walden. Photo: Blair Rynearson, CSFS*



### **Until Colorado takes greater action,**

wildfires will remain a problem and continue to affect our air, our water and our safety.

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### **As the 2020 fire season clearly illustrated,**

the forest management needed to reduce fuels and mitigate wildfire risk to Colorado's residents, lands and water supplies is not happening fast enough.

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### **We are primed to face the same types of uncharacteristic wildfires we saw last year**

unless an increase in the pace and scale of forest management is made a statewide priority, work is done more quickly and the buildup of beetle-killed and living fuels is addressed across the landscape in areas that can be accessed. Fire plays a crucial role in the long-term health and resiliency of fire-dependent forests in Colorado, but a long history of fire suppression and lack of forest management, combined with more people living in the wildland-urban interface, have led to a growing and unsustainable problem for our state.



## Wildfire Season Highlights the Growing Need to Increase Forest Management Across State

In 2020, Colorado experienced a record-breaking wildfire year that resulted in the three largest wildfires in our state's history. The Cameron Peak Fire in Larimer County now stands as Colorado's largest fire at 208,913 acres. It burned through forests of high-elevation spruce-fir, lodgepole pine thick with beetle-killed trees and mixed conifer stands. The East Troublesome Fire, which started near Granby, became one of the quickest moving fires on record in Colorado as it engulfed stands of dead lodgepole pines at the epicenter of the state's mountain pine beetle outbreak in the mid-1990s. It became the state's second largest fire, traveling through the timber all the way to forests near Estes Park and eventually growing to 193,812 acres. Setting the state record for third largest, the Pine Gulch Fire north of Grand Junction torched 139,007 acres of grass, brush and timber fuels. All three eclipsed the previous record-holding Hayman Fire, which burned 138,114 acres.

The reasons why 2020's large, uncharacteristic fires grew so massive are complex. Of all the factors that led to a historic wildfire year, forest managers can directly address only one: the health of our forests. When forests in poor health combine with drought conditions, high winds, challenging terrain and warmer temperatures linked to climate change, it can turn a mild fire year into one that runs rampant long into the fall months and leaves us with smoke rising from underneath the year's first blankets of snow.

From an ecological perspective, fires like East Troublesome and Cameron Peak can have positive long-term impacts on natural environments. Fire plays an integral role in maintaining healthy forests and regenerating some forest types. From a human perspective, however, the wildfires last year were costly, causing loss of life and more than a thousand structures, numerous evacuations, closures of Interstate 70 and many recreation areas, poor air quality and

an increased risk of post-fire erosion that could impact water sources. The Grizzly Creek Fire burned forests on steep slopes on both sides of the Colorado River along the I-70 corridor. Its burn scar now threatens the water supply for not only Glenwood Springs but more than 40 million people downstream who rely on the Colorado River watershed for clean drinking water.

The East Troublesome Fire burned in a forest of heavy, downed, beetle-killed "jackstrawed" timber, named for the way the large logs haphazardly cover the forest floor like pick-up sticks and allow new trees to grow through these downed fuels. Add prolonged dry and windy conditions, such as those experienced during the fire's period of large growth in mid-October, and fire in these fuels can grow rapidly. These types of blazes create heavy smoke, scorch and degrade soils, burn rapidly through tree canopies and produce embers that create new spot fires.

Such embers allowed the East

80%

of Colorado residents rely on forested watersheds for clean drinking water



Data: Colorado's Water Plan estimate  
Photo: Williams Fork Fire, InciWeb



Colorado residents saw visible drops in air quality during the 2020 wildfire season. This image of Lake Loveland taken at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 22, 2020, shows how smoke from the Cameron Peak Fire darkened skies along the Front Range. Photo: Amy Bulger, CSFS

Troublesome Fire to jump the Continental Divide in Rocky Mountain National Park, starting a spot fire that forced the evacuation of parts of Estes Park. During a notable 36-hour period in mid-October, East Troublesome burned through nearly 150,000 acres of forest, contributing to the loss of 580 structures and sending up billows of smoke that resulted in poor air quality along the Front Range.

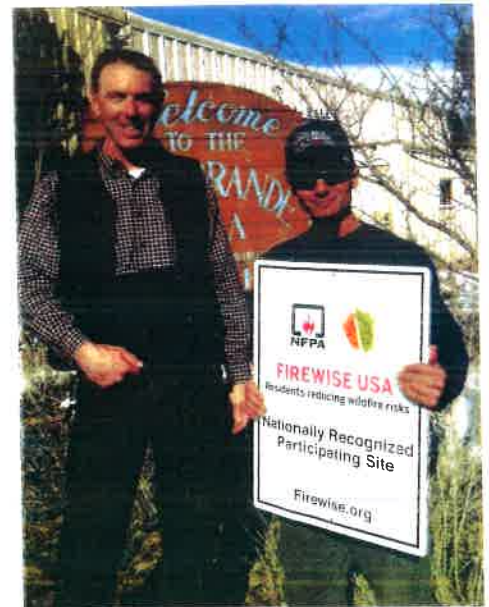
As Colorado's population continues to expand into wildfire-prone areas, additional homes, lives and communities are at increased risk of being affected by fires. Post-fire impacts to water supplies and poor air quality due to smoke will continue to be significant public health issues.

Half of the state's population currently lives in the 3.2 million acres of the state designated as the wildland-urban interface (WUI), where human development meets or intermingles with wildland vegetation. Colorado government models project more than 7.7 million people will reside in the state by 2050. By then, the WUI area could encompass over 9 million acres.

The number of Coloradans living in the

WUI is increasing faster than landowners, the Colorado State Forest Service and its partners can perform mitigation work. Activities such as removing fuels, creating fuel breaks that protect neighborhoods, making defensible space around structures and reducing structural ignitability, as well as adopting Community Wildfire Protection Plans and land-use policies, are effective at reducing the risk of costly, high-severity fires, but the work needs to occur at a faster pace.

The Colorado State Forest Service already works with landowners and diverse partners to implement these necessary fuels reduction treatments across jurisdictional boundaries. But by working together on a larger scale, foresters and communities can focus on creating more fire-adapted communities and reducing forest stand densities to lower the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire. This will prepare residents already at risk and improve the health and resiliency of our forests, so when fires like those we saw in 2020 occur again, they are not as severe or as costly to our residents.



CSFS forester Adam Moore, left, presents a Firewise USA® award to Jim Vanderpool of Baca County Emergency Services for fire mitigation work completed in the Baca Grande residential area north of Alamosa. Community-driven mitigation efforts are increasingly important as residential areas sprawl farther into Colorado's wildland-urban interface. Photo: CSFS



A large air tanker drops fire retardant behind buildings at Colorado State University's Mountain Campus in Pingree Park. The October air mission and other firefighting efforts during the Cameron Peak Fire were successful at saving all campus structures, in part because of previous mitigation work done on the ground to lower wildfire risk. Photo: Cameron Peak Fire Incident Management Team

## Previous Wildfire Mitigation Efforts Helped Save CSU's Mountain Campus

**T**he Cameron Peak Fire roared through Colorado State University's Mountain Campus area in Pingree Park on Oct. 9-10, 2020. As flames torched the surrounding forests of lodgepole pine and mixed conifer, fire crews successfully saved all structures on campus, thanks to ongoing mitigation work.

A decade ago, CSU Housing and Dining Services and the Colorado State Forest Service embarked on a series of projects on the campus to protect structures and thin stands of beetle-killed trees in the wake of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Staff with the CSU Mountain Campus and CSFS Fort Collins Field Office cleared thousands of trees growing adjacent to power lines, log cabins and other structures in critical areas around campus. Crews also felled and removed many hazardous trees.

At the time, the goal was to improve forest health and clear beetle-killed trees, and "by doing that, we also created a campus that was defensible from wildfire,"

**The goal was to improve forest health and clear beetle-killed trees, and "by doing that, we also created a campus that was defensible from wildfire."**

— Greg Zausen, CSFS forester

said Greg Zausen, forester in the CSFS Fort Collins Field Office.

Over the years, CSU maintenance crews, volunteers, contractors, and students and faculty with the Warner College of Natural Resources continued this mitigation work, removing trees around buildings and power lines, planting a diversity of trees and shrubs to improve forest health and installing metal roofs on buildings.

Additionally, the CSFS has collaborated with a nonprofit organization in Fort Collins and other partners to harvest lodgepole pines from an area of the Mountain Campus that burned in the 1994 Hourglass Fire,

thinning the regenerating forest to promote forest health. These trees were given to low-income families that might not have been able to purchase a Christmas tree.

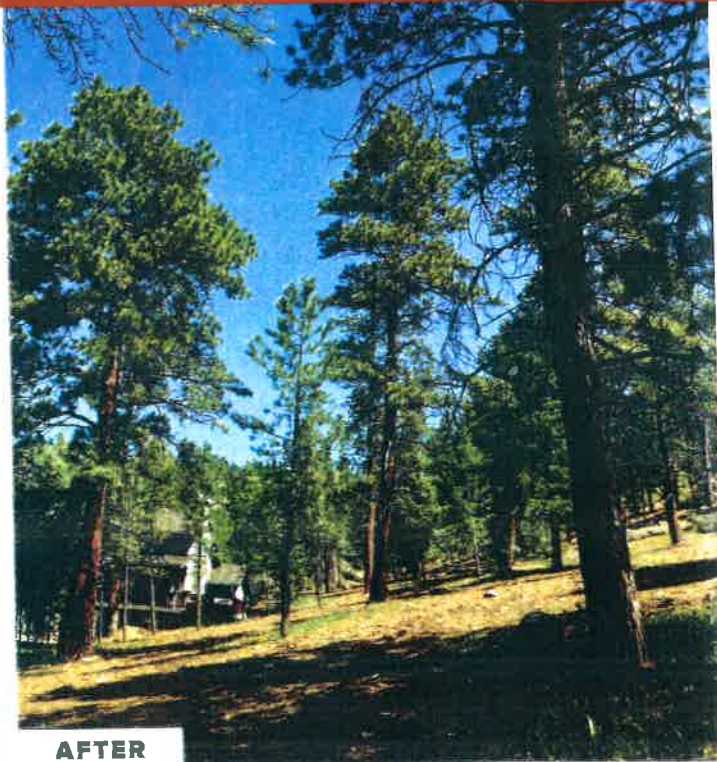
When the Cameron Peak Fire threatened the Mountain Campus last fall, the years of forest management work paid off.

Fire crews took advantage of the previous mitigation efforts to shore up defenses and save the campus. "On multiple occasions, fire operations teams called out and complimented us on our prior work done on campus," said Seth Webb, Mountain Campus director.

The work done at the CSU Mountain Campus illustrates the importance of being proactive with fire mitigation activities and ongoing maintenance to lower wildfire risk and give firefighters a solid starting point to defend a property. Overnight, the Mountain Campus became a real-life example of how mitigation works — and how it helped a unique gem and learning center in Colorado's forest west of Fort Collins remain standing to welcome future generations.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

The same tree in the right foreground offers a landmark in an otherwise exceptionally different looking landscape. These before and after pictures show how a Colorado State Forest Service forest management project near Evergreen cleared dense standing timber to reduce wildfire risk on this homeowner's land. Tree thinning is one tool that can bolster forest health and protect property. Photo: Emma Brokl, CSFS

## Changing Homeowner Perceptions Helps Protect Houses Near Evergreen

**S**ometimes, cutting down trees growing close to a house can be a daunting project for a homeowner who doesn't know what to expect. Removing trees around a home, however, is critical for creating defensible space, which is one factor that lowers the risk a home will be burned during a wildfire. Having good defensible space gives firefighters who may be called to defend a home an opportunity to strategically protect the property.

In the North Turkey Creek area near Evergreen, about 500 homes have been built in the foothills of the state's wildland-urban interface. The community has a high wildfire hazard rating because of overly dense trees, steep terrain and limited emergency access. Thankfully, community leaders and Evergreen Fire Rescue recognize this risk and are doing something about it — which includes efforts to change perceptions about cutting trees.

"The more you see fuels treatments, the more comfortable you get with them," said Emma Brokl, a Colorado State Forest Service forester in the Golden Field Office. "When wildfires come through this area, the risk can be mitigated."

Working with the CSFS and Evergreen Fire Rescue, community members created defensible space around two homes in the Evergreen Highlands neighborhood and made a 6-acre fuel break along a major evacuation route in the Timbers neighborhood. These treatments not only improve safe and effective response to wildfire and improve forest health, they serve as showcase examples of wildfire mitigation projects that meet standard guidelines for defensible space and fuel breaks.

By doing these treatments, Brokl said, the CSFS and Evergreen Fire Rescue now have powerful, on-the-ground examples to show



**MORE THAN  
HALF**

of Colorado residents live in the wildland-urban interface and are at some risk of being affected by wildfire.

Source: CSFS WUI Risk Assessment 2017

Learn more about the  
**WUI risk in your county**  
at [coloradoforestatlas.org](http://coloradoforestatlas.org)

more homeowners the benefits of creating defensible space around their homes. Public meetings and tours of the project sites are in the works, and the community and several partners received a federal State Fire Assistance grant to continue mitigation work in the area.

The Upper South Platte Partnership also supported this project and are partners in ongoing work in the North Turkey Creek community, and the U.S. Forest Service provided project funding.

## Summit County Forestry Partners Work to Protect Multiple Communities

**W**here the forests meet civilization in Colorado — a place known as the wildland-urban interface — homes and communities stand in paths where catastrophic wildfires could blaze trails of devastation. To reduce this risk in Summit County, the Colorado State Forest Service is joining with partner agencies and private landowners to create fuel breaks and community protection zones in and adjacent to key populated areas near the White River National Forest. These strategic projects better protect hundreds of residents and homes and promote healthy, long-term forest conditions, increasing the likelihood residents and visitors alike will be able to enjoy Summit County destinations long into the future.

“Together we can do more,” said Ashley Garrison, a CSFS forester based in Summit County. “Building partnerships enables us to cross forest boundaries to create more effective treatments and be better stewards of our forests.”

The following on-the-ground examples of shared stewardship are funded through the voter-approved Summit County 1A Strong Future Fund, empowering Summit County government to work with the U.S. Forest Service, White River National Forest, CSFS, Denver Water and private landowners to prioritize and implement forest management projects in the county.

A Good Neighbor Authority agreement on USFS land in the project areas allows for the CSFS to assist with projects. The GNA program was expanded nationally in the 2014 Farm Bill, so the USFS and Bureau of Land Management can enter into agreements with state agencies like the CSFS to pool resources and ensure critical forest management work happens quickly.

**PEAK 7 NEIGHBORHOOD** – This 46-acre fuel break in Breckenridge lessens wildfire risk by breaking up the continuity of hazardous fuels, reduces impacts of future wildfires and creates a safer way for firefighters to engage wildfires. This project also protects Dillon Reservoir, part of the watershed that supplies drinking water to 1.5 million people downstream along the Front Range and beyond. This is a multi-year project with over 500 acres of strategic fuel breaks planned.

**MINER’S CREEK** – Dead and live lodgepole trees were cut and piled, leaving aspen, spruce, fir and lodgepole regeneration to



*The Ponsse Ergo Harvester, a steep-slope extractor, made its Colorado wildfire mitigation debut last year on the Peak 7 forestry project, removing lodgepole pine above Breckenridge neighborhoods. Built like a tractor with robotic arms, the harvester can traverse steep inclines with minimal impact on the ground to cut trees, strip branches and stack logs for removal. “In the past, a project like this would have required a helicopter, which was expensive, or a hand crew,” said Bill Wolf, a Colorado State Forest Service forester. Photo: Denver Water*

grow on 39 acres in Frisco. A popular trail system runs through this area south of the Peak 1 neighborhood and St. Anthony Summit Medical Center, highlighting the importance of forests for recreation and showing trail users firsthand how wildfire mitigation impacts forest health.

**SWAN MOUNTAIN** – North of Breckenridge, this 24-acre fuel break next to Tiger Road protects residents living outside of town and a vital power infrastructure. Regenerating lodgepole pine were removed in the area; spruce and fir were retained. Future fire intensity and fire spread will be reduced due to these fuel breaks.

**GOLDEN HORSESHOE** – Fuel breaks were linked and expanded across 94 acres near the Wellington neighborhood to decrease the risk of high-intensity fires and the potential for crown fires in the wildland-urban interface.

## Colorado Forest Atlas: Distilling Forestry Data for Landowners, Working Partners



[coloradoforestatlas.org](http://coloradoforestatlas.org)

The Colorado State Forest Service made it easier for landowners, land managers and others to access information about Colorado forests with the click of a few buttons.

The Colorado Forest Atlas website, billed as a one-stop mapping shop for the public and partners, launched in May. This repository for forestry and wildfire risk data can help communities learn about wildfire

risk, aid in developing forest management projects and provide resources for writing forestry plans.

The atlas currently contains three apps: the public **Wildfire Risk Viewer**, the **Risk Reduction Planner** for partners and professionals and the **Forest Action Plan 2020**. A GeoTracks app is being developed in 2021, to be used by the CSFS to plan and track forestry projects and activities.

## CSFS Leading Efforts to Address Wildfire in Colorado

Last year's wildfire season is yet another wake-up call that Colorado needs to invest more in the health of our forests to reduce fuels and mitigate wildfire risk. As the examples in this report — and many others across Colorado — show, we can make a difference for our residents, forests and watersheds.

As the state's lead forestry agency, the Colorado State Forest Service will take a number of actions to reduce the chances that future wildfires are as severe or costly as they were in 2020, including:

» **Participate** in partnerships, such as the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative, that work across boundaries, leverage resources and increase the pace and scale of forest health projects

» **Reduce** forest fuels and create fuel breaks that protect communities and watersheds, alter the behavior of uncharacteristic wildfire and enhance forest health

» **Promote** and support the growth of fire-adapted communities through planning, outreach and education, landscape treatments, and resident and community mitigation efforts

» **Grow** seedling trees through the CSFS Nursery for reforestation and conservation plantings

» **Serve** as a non-regulatory, non-biased, trusted and science-based resource for forestry advice and information for landowners

» **Provide** no-cost seedling trees through the Restoring Colorado's Forests Fund to help landowners reforest lands burned by wildfire or otherwise affected by natural disasters

» **Offer funding** support to homeowners associations, local governments, fire protection districts, utility providers and other groups through the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program

» **Investigate** and make data updates to the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment and associated applications in the Colorado Forest Atlas



The Living with Wildfire section in the 2020 Colorado Forest Action Plan details more goals, strategies and approaches for addressing wildfire in Colorado. [csfs.colostate.edu/forest-action-plan](https://csfs.colostate.edu/forest-action-plan)



Mike Till, a forester with the Colorado State Forest Service, plants a seedling as part of a reforestation effort near La Veta. Photo: Luke Cherney, CSFS

## Wildfire Resources and Services

The Colorado State Forest Service offers a number of services to help residents, communities and land managers recover from wildfires, including:

- » Technical assistance for evaluating tree survival
- » Reforestation needs, including seedlings
- » Salvage of burnt timber
- » Hazard tree identification on non-federal lands

To learn more about these services, contact your local CSFS field office or visit [csfs.colostate.edu](https://csfs.colostate.edu).

For wildfire mitigation publications, resources and services, visit [csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation](https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation).



# Colorado's Carbon Problem



Despite encompassing over 24 million acres, Colorado's forests emit more carbon than they store. We're one of the five worst Lower 48 states in forest carbon emissions by some estimates.

Colorado is contributing to a global problem, partly because our trees aren't as healthy as they could be. Living in a weakened state affects a tree's ability to take in and store carbon dioxide. Healthy trees that take in carbon dioxide help lower carbon concentrations in the atmosphere.



## 2 SOLUTIONS TO CURB EMISSIONS

Improving and maintaining forest health will improve forest carbon storage.

**FACT:** Over 22% of the standing trees in Colorado forests are dead wood.

Most are killed by insects (65%), disease (23%) and fire (4%). The decomposing dead wood releases carbon into the air instead of storing it. Increasing drought further stresses trees.

### SOLUTIONS:

» **Manage** forests for healthy conditions and promote forest regeneration. Healthy trees not only absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, they also absorb ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulates.

» **Embrace** adaptive forest management practices to plan for future changes. Having different ages and types of trees makes forests more resilient.

**FACT:** Wood products generated by logging can store carbon. But timber markets are lacking and timber value has declined.

### SOLUTION:

» **Support** a vibrant wood products industry with the capacity to meet forest management needs.

## 6 DISRUPTIONS TO COLORADO'S CARBON CYCLE



### When we help forests, they return the favor



A rapid response to increase management and reforestation efforts will improve forest health and bring solutions to carbon problems. The CSFS is encouraged by legislative efforts underway on state and national levels to consider funding resources devoted to forest management. Colorado's forests require investment. Only then will they continue to support us.

## 3 ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

### AT THE CSFS:

The 2020 Colorado Forest Action Plan recommends solutions to aid carbon storage through reforestation, forest and wildfire management, urban and community forestry and avoiding forest conversion.

These practices can be incorporated into the state's goals to reduce emissions following Colorado's Climate Action Plan.

### AT THE STATE LEVEL:

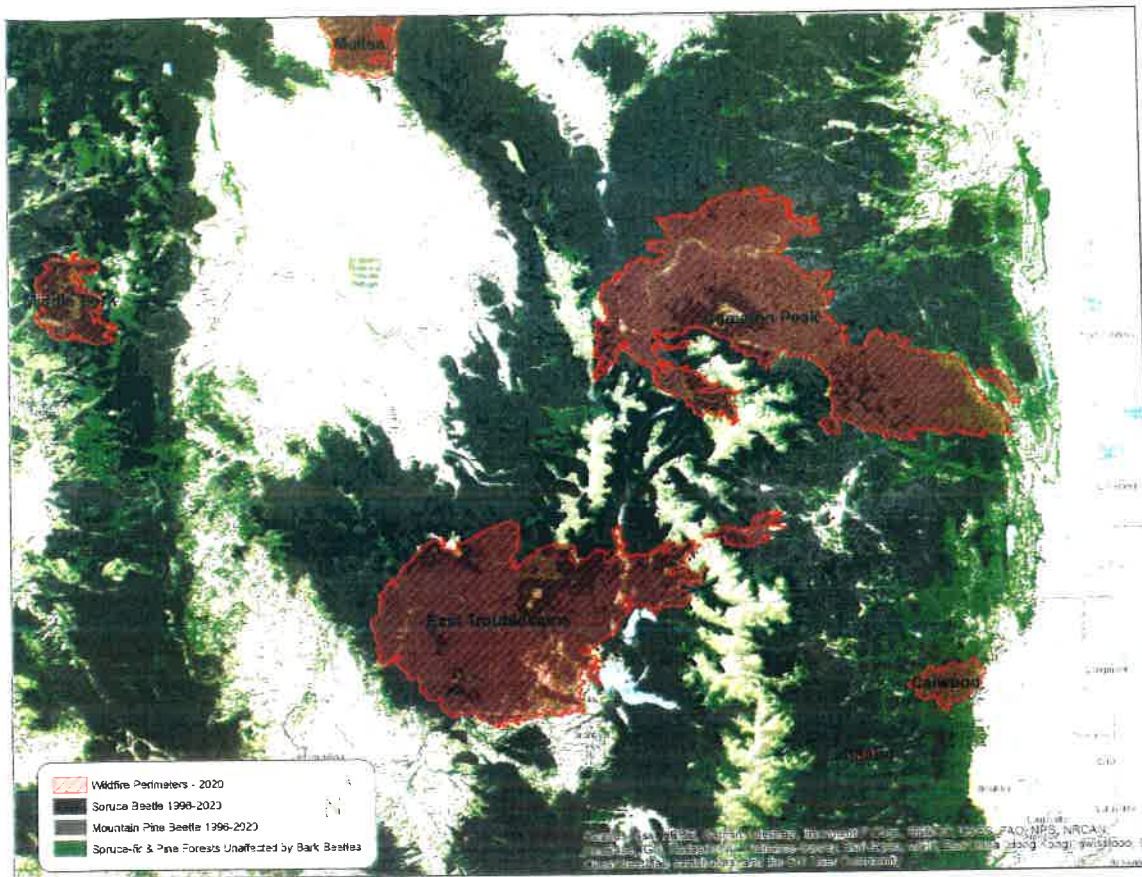
Colorado has an aggressive strategy for greenhouse gas reductions. House Bill 19-1261 requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions to at least 90% of 2005 levels by 2050.

The Colorado Natural and Working Lands Climate Task Force is developing recommendations for management and practices on forests, farms, urban

greenspace, rangelands and wetlands to help meet HB 19-1261 goals.

### GLOBALLY:

Colorado is a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of governors, state agencies and nonprofit organizations committed to reducing emissions in line with the 2016 Paris Agreement.



### Where Beetle-Kill Timber and Wildfires Overlap

The two largest fires in Colorado history, Cameron Peak and East Troublesome, burned through forests heavily affected by mountain pine beetle and spruce beetle, as shown by the gray areas in the map. While not all trees in those areas had been killed or impacted, beetle outbreaks in those forests in recent decades resulted in fuel arrangement and fuel loads that likely contributed to the fires' behaviors and growth.

Burn perimeter data: National Interagency Fire Center. Insect data: U.S. Forest Service Aerial Detection and Forest Health Survey. Map: Dan West, CSFS

## Exploring Interactions Between Bark Beetles, Wildfire

**B**ark beetles have affected many of Colorado's forests in recent decades, altering the arrangement of wildland fire fuels in many locations. Since the mid-1990s, mountain pine beetle has affected roughly 80%, or about 3.4 million acres, of ponderosa-lodgepole pine in the state, while the spruce beetle has caused tree mortality in approximately 40% of Colorado's high-elevation Engelmann spruce forests. When wildfires burn in forests dense with beetle-killed trees, the resulting fuel arrangement often significantly affects a fire's behavior, its ecological effects and options available for fire managers.

Drought conditions are ever important when considering wildfire — and equally important when considering bark beetles. Trees defend themselves from bark beetle attack through a series of resin ducts and chemical compounds therein. Precipitation has become more variable in recent years. With inadequate rain and snow fall, trees' ability to defend themselves from attack typically decreases as available resin is

### Fire and Beetles

Interactive maps and information on fire and beetle interaction can be found at [bit.ly/ForestHealthReport](http://bit.ly/ForestHealthReport)

reduced. During drought seasons, often lasting consecutive years, bark beetle populations may build to epidemic levels. Likewise, fire activity is most associated with years of below-average precipitation, when fuels are very dry, as they were in the summer and fall of 2020.

Regardless of drought conditions, standing trees infested and killed by bark beetles contain less moisture than live trees and contribute to a more complex fire environment since they ignite and burn more easily. Following tree death, needle transition and drop occurs, usually over a 1- to 3 year period. There is an increased possibility of active crown fire while needles remain on the trees through yellow, red and gray stages, but that risk is temporary. Oftentimes, greater forest and

fire management challenges occur after the needles have fallen, larger branches are shed and whole trees fall and become "jackstrawed" (intermingled large fuel arrangements of varying height).

Large accumulations of surface fuels can contribute to extreme fire behavior and rapid growth even if fires do not exclusively burn through tree crowns, particularly during very dry and windy conditions such as those that occurred at times during the 2020 fire season. Such surface fuel loads complicate fire management, produce significant amounts of smoke while burning, can readily transition fire to remaining green trees in the right conditions and can result in increased burn severity through soil heating than would otherwise occur.

The arrangement and condition of fuels affected by widespread beetle infestations intertwine with weather conditions and topography to affect wildfire behavior — and can pose a higher risk of uncharacteristic fire. More research is needed to improve our understanding of the interactions between bark beetles and wildfires.

## Spruce Beetle Remains Colorado's Most Damaging Forest Pest

Since the 1950s, forest managers have taken to the skies to detect and monitor disturbances to forests from insects and disease, collecting data that provides an annual snapshot of forest health conditions in Colorado.

Due to pandemic safety protocols in 2020, trained aerial observers with the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region and Colorado State Forest Service only flew over priority areas, where there was a likelihood of forest pests causing widespread tree mortality.

In total, they monitored 16.3 million acres last year, compared to 30.2 million acres in 2019. Because of the reduced acreage flown, numbers of affected acres are not included in this report since comparison between years is not possible.

Despite the restricted flights, observers were able to detect and track a number of forest pests causing disturbances in previously unaffected areas.

For the ninth consecutive year, spruce beetle remained the most destructive forest pest in Colorado. While the intensity of spruce beetle and Douglas-fir beetle activity decreased in 2020, many areas adjacent to previously affected forests continue to experience tree mortality. Some forested areas experienced localized, moderate to severe bark beetle infestations as well.

Weather plays an important role in insect and disease activity, as noted in the bark beetles and wildfire information on page 12. In 2020, winter and spring had average precipitation amounts. Thereafter, severe and extreme drought conditions across most of Colorado occurred through the summer and fall. These drought conditions compounded forest disturbance and further set the stage for bark beetles and tree defoliating insects to build populations in 2021.

### Spruce Beetle

*[Dendroctonus rufipennis]*

Spruce beetle continues to infest high-elevation Engelmann spruce throughout



Aerial surveys in 2020 were limited to priority areas of the state, such as Wolf Creek Pass, where spruce beetle continues to infest forests and grow populations. Photo: Dan West, CSFS

much of Colorado. Since 2000, this small, native bark beetle has affected at least 1.88 million cumulative acres of forest.

Newly infested forests in eastern Gunnison and western Chaffee counties are experiencing severe, intense infestations. Spruce beetle populations in 2020 increased in Hinsdale, San Juan and La Plata counties. Beetle outbreaks in Huerfano and Custer counties continue to expand as well, though not as rapidly. In Grand County, the intensity of infestations has declined from past years as the beetle continuously depletes large-diameter Engelmann spruce from the forest.

### Douglas-fir Beetle

*[Dendroctonus pseudotsugae]*

Douglas-fir beetle continues to cause significant Douglas-fir tree mortality in the central and southern forests of Colorado, having depleted many of the largest trees in this area of the state over the past decade.

Gunnison, Saguache, Hinsdale and Mineral counties continue to see severely affected Douglas-fir stands. While many of the larger diameter trees have died in

recent years, smaller diameter trees are now susceptible to attack and are currently succumbing to the beetle.

Drought conditions exacerbated beetle activity in 2020, and the summer of 2021 is forecast to see significant bark beetle-caused tree mortality as a result of the ongoing drought.

### Western Spruce Budworm

*[Choristoneura freemani]*

Western spruce budworm is a defoliator of Douglas-fir, white fir, and Engelmann and blue spruce. In its caterpillar stage, the insect partially consumes the needles, leaving a rust/burnt color to the remaining foliage not fully consumed by the budworm. Trees repeatedly damaged by budworm over numerous years are at high risk of attack from Douglas-fir beetle, which can build populations quickly and cause widespread mortality.

Forests in south-central Colorado infested by this budworm are experiencing intense disturbance, with Saguache, Gunnison, Chaffee, Park and Fremont counties among the most affected in 2020.

**Interactive Maps and Data** on these and other forest insects and diseases: [bit.ly/ForestHealthReport](https://bit.ly/ForestHealthReport)



Once popular as windbreaks and privacy divisions, Russian olives are now on Colorado's invasive species list. A project is underway at Jackson Lake State Park and nearby state wildlife areas to remove the invasive species, replacing them with native and noninvasive trees, shrubs and grasses to restore natural habitat. Photo: Dustin Duskocil, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

## Stunting the Spread of a Jackson Lake Invader

**E**ighty miles east of Denver where wind whips the northeastern plains near Jackson Lake, the Colorado State Forest Service is working to keep in check a hyperactive invasive species that pushes out native vegetation.

The CSFS is removing about half of the Russian olives that line picnic areas, campsites and hunting spots around Jackson Lake State Park and the nearby Andrick Ponds and Jackson Lake state wildlife areas.

Introduced over 50 years ago in the U.S. as a popular windbreak, this stalwart tree grows quickly, feeding more than 50 species of wildlife with its fruit and providing shelter beneath thick branches. Yet its invasive tendencies for adapting, spreading and overtaking native plants landed it on the Colorado Department of Agriculture's noxious weed list in 2002. When it takes over an area, it can impact avian nesting and brooding and add nitrogen to the soil, which disrupts natural nutrient cycling and taxes water quality.

It's also a silent drain the Colorado plains can't afford. Though difficult to quantify, some research estimates one Russian olive near a water source may consume about 75 gallons of water a day — more than the average 50 gallons per day a residential Denver Water customer uses.

"Russian olives use a lot of water," said Matt Norville, the CSFS Northeast Area forester overseeing the Morgan County project. "There are some areas around Jackson Lake State Park where ground vegetation won't even grow because of these trees. All

the water those Russian olives are using isn't getting used for agriculture, or for the state park, or surrounding vegetation."

The 39-acre CSFS project to manage this invasive species includes cutting and applying herbicide to ensure stumps don't sprout new growth. The cut trees will be removed or chipped. To improve and restore natural habitat for wildlife, hunters and other recreation seekers, a variety of native and noninvasive trees,

**The 3- to 5-year project will help control the invasive Russian olive, improve water quality and quantity and re-establish habitat.**

shrubs and grasses will be planted where Russian olives are taken out. The 3- to 5-year project will help control the invasive Russian olive, improve water quality and quantity and re-establish habitat.

In partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and with funding from its Wetlands for Wildlife grant, work has begun in a multi-phased approach to respect the high public demands on these three state recreation areas that welcome more than 200,000 visitors each year.

"For hunters, it will be beneficial in the long run because, ecologically, we're creating better habitat to attract more birds. Positive impacts to the wildlife species may bolster hunting and birdwatching activities on these properties," Norville said.



NORTHEAST

COLORADO

**1.6M**acres in the  
wildland-urban  
interface**12 OF  
EVERY 25**residents live  
with some WUI risk**293,749**people live  
in areas with  
highest wildfire risk

Source: CSFS WUI Risk Assessment 2017. "Highest risk" is levels 7-9 on WUI scale. Access WUI risk data specific to each county at [coloradoforestatlas.org](http://coloradoforestatlas.org).

## Forest Health Issues

### Emerald Ash Borer

[*Agrilus planipennis*]

Considered the most destructive tree pest ever introduced in North America, the emerald ash borer further spread across the northern Front Range. New detections of EAB in 2020 occurred in Louisville, Arvada and north of Fort Collins, all outside of a former quarantine area.

Last year, the Colorado Department of Agriculture repealed the quarantine encompassing Boulder County. The insect was detected outside of the quarantine zone in 2019. While the quarantine served its purpose, giving communities time to prepare for EAB, the threat of this insect remains as it spreads to new cities and towns. About 15% of all trees in Colorado's urban forests are ash.

In 2020, the CSFS implemented the "Your Ash is on the Line" project to help small and mid-sized communities along the Front Range prepare for EAB. Resources for the project, including a recording of an ash wood utilization workshop held in 2020, are available at [csfs.colostate.edu/eab](http://csfs.colostate.edu/eab).

### Frost Damage

Weather played a role in damaging trees in the Northeast Area in 2020. An October cold snap followed warm weather in the fall of 2019. This didn't give trees a chance to transition to dormancy. As spring arrived, extreme temperature fluctuations in mid-April 2020 compounded injuries and stress sustained in the fall.

This resulted in frost damage in ponderosa and other pine species, spruce and deciduous trees. CSFS foresters and residents noticed damage across the Front Range; however, trees in Douglas, El Paso and Elbert County communities were particularly affected. Frost-damaged pine and spruce had a range of symptoms, from just the tips of needles being affected to all upper foliage changing to white or straw-colored.

Unfortunately, little could be done for the damaged trees, said Meg Halford, a forester in the CSFS Franktown Field Office. If this occurs again, she advises residents to give the trees a chance.

"Buds on frost-injured trees may survive, and they may produce new growth," Halford said. "Don't count them out just yet, and ensure these stressed trees get plenty of water."

## Empowering Boulder County Residents to Fight Wildfires Before They Begin

With prophetic timing last August, Boulder County officials launched an innovative, community-driven plan for forest management, focused on dousing the risk of wildfires before they start.

By October, the CalWood and Lefthand Canyon wildfires were burning within county boundaries, causing evacuations and spreading already exhausted firefighting resources even thinner.

"The fires highlight the reason there needs to be this kind of cross-boundary effort," said Ben Pfohl, a forester with the Colorado State Forest Service in Boulder. "Those fires burned over 10,000 acres, but there are still a lot of acres at risk in the county."

Residents know about risk. Since 1989, more than 260 homes and structures in the county have burned in wildfires. A CSFS wildland-urban interface risk analysis reveals at least 25,000 Boulder County residents live in areas with elevated risk of wildfires impacting lives and property. The county also supplies water to more than 300,000 downstream residents and offers forested habitat for more than 90 species of wildlife and native plants.

As the CSFS, federal, state and local partner agencies dig into the Memorandum of Understanding signed in August, they're finding coordinated ways to reduce wildfire risk and better protect Boulder County residents, watersheds, recreation areas and natural resources.

The Saint Vrain Forest Health Partnership, led by the Lefthand Watershed Center, was formed to develop and guide MOU work in the Saint Vrain watershed. Key to this partnership is the participation of local stakeholders in planning and implementation processes, along with numerous MOU partners.

The CSFS — skilled at working across boundaries on forest management projects throughout the state — will help establish focus areas and offer project support with forestry data and resources.

One crucial piece of the plan has already begun — educating and supporting residents about wildfire risk and mitigation.

"Five years from now, we want momentum from the community to support these projects and drive the process," Pfohl said. "The goal is to have treatments done spanning public and private land. But, just as important, the community will help define the goals and successes. They'll be able to articulate and know the risk to their forests and watersheds, and also know how to move forward."



Part of making areas safer includes monitoring tree health. At Lake Pueblo, CSFS foresters evaluated 191 trees in 2020, marking safety issues such as dead trees overhanging popular trails, left, and rotting limbs at risk of falling near picnic areas. Photos: Vince Urbina, CSFS

## Keeping Outdoor Recreation Safer at Lake Pueblo

One of the last things that comes to mind when heading to a state park to recreate is to watch out for dangerous trees. That's thanks in part to the Colorado State Forest Service's work doing hazard tree assessments, which helps ensure our state's recreational destinations remain safer for visitors. Trees are an important part of the landscape at Lake Pueblo, providing wildlife habitat, wildlife viewing, small game and waterfowl hunting and shade along trails and rest areas for park visitors.

Last year at Lake Pueblo State Park — one of the most popular state parks in Colorado with annual visitors exceeding 2.4 million — CSFS foresters assessed 191 trees over 200 acres of land, focusing on trails and campground areas. Trees with the 75 highest scores for safety concerns based on the Colorado Tree Coalition Tree Risk Assessment/Management Rating system inventory were tagged for mitigation. Colorado Parks and Wildlife will handle the mitigation and potential removal of these trees.

Foresters inspected trees for broken and hanging limbs, large dead limbs and other hazards such as trees compromised by insects or disease that could cause injury or harm to people and structures if they were to fall within the park. The 75 earmarked trees included willows and Siberian elms, but the worst offenders were larger cottonwoods, some of which were burned or rotting. These large, hollow cottonwoods pose a risk because they do not have enough sound wood to support the tree in an upright position

when strong wind events occur.

"We make things happen on the ground so that landowners can meet their land use and stewardship objectives," said John Grieve, the CSFS supervisory forester in the Southeast Area who worked on the hazard tree assessment.

**Last year at Lake Pueblo State Park, CSFS foresters assessed 191 trees over 200 acres of land, focusing on trails and campground areas.**

Being able to enjoy the great outdoors was an important part of daily life in 2020, and hazard tree assessments help land managers mitigate risk to people so they may recreate more safely in public spaces. The Lake Pueblo assessments helped reduce risk to park users by flagging dead trees and branches for removal; they also ensured high-use spaces like trails and public gathering areas, such as gazebos and picnic tables, had reduced risk for problematic trees to impede use in these areas. Tree risk assessments are a continuation of a CSFS forest stewardship project at Lake Pueblo State Park that began in 2013.



SOUTHEAST

COLORADO



**3.7M**

forested acres  
in southeast  
Colorado

**860K**

acres in the  
wildland-urban  
interface

**15 OF  
EVERY 25**

residents live  
with some WUI risk

**218,212**

people live  
in areas with  
highest wildfire risk

Source: CSFS WUI Risk Assessment 2017. "Highest risk" is levels 7-9 on WUI scale. Access WUI risk data specific to each county at [coloradoforestatlas.org](http://coloradoforestatlas.org).

## Forest Health Issues in Southeast Colorado

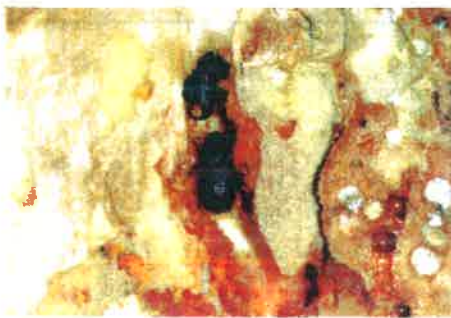


Photo: Dan West, CSFS



Photo: Stephen Rudolph, CSFS



Photo: CSFS

### Spruce Beetle

*[Dendroctonus rufipennis]*

Spruce beetle continues to infest new acres of high-elevation Engelmann spruce-fir forest in the Southeast Area, while also increasing its impact on already infested forest. This native bark beetle is most widespread in Custer, Fremont and southern Park counties, but smaller populations of the insect exist throughout the area.

The CSFS has held salvage timber sales on hundreds of acres of spruce beetle-infested forests in recent years, but more trees are being killed than can be brought to market. Remoteness, terrain and seasonal limitations can make access to treating spruce stands difficult. Even in accessible stands, it's a challenge to harvest and fully utilize the beetle-killed wood before some of it deteriorates.

Remnant beetle-killed trees increase the risk of high-severity fire, which consequently elevates the risk to important headwaters and air quality.

### Western Spruce Budworm

*[Choristaneura freemani]*

This forest pest is widespread throughout the Southeast Area in Douglas-fir and white fir forests. Infestations of western spruce budworm are especially prevalent in western Fremont County and the Wet Mountains in Custer and Huerfano counties. A lack of disturbance in these forests has resulted in dense stands of trees with multiple canopy layers, which are ideal conditions for the insect.

The budworm feeds on buds and new shoots, causing the tops and branches of host trees to turn reddish-brown. If the infestation is severe and persists over a long time, trees will eventually die, or become susceptible to bark beetles.

To mitigate the budworm's impact, CSFS foresters harvest trees through targeted treatments, creating areas with well-spaced trees growing at uniform height. This creates favorable conditions for species not susceptible to western spruce budworm, such as aspen and pine, to regenerate, while lowering the risk of high-severity fire.

### Drought Stress

Drought remains a persistent issue that affects all forest types across the Southeast Area. It can kill trees or weaken and predispose them to a host of health issues. While trees try to acclimate to the dry conditions, it is difficult for them to adjust and take advantage of precipitation when it falls.

The ongoing drought in the Southeast Area is placing a long-term stress on trees that's compounding year after year.

In 2020, due to a dry spring and drought that was prevalent through the end of the year, trees faced a tough growing season.

To address the issue, CSFS foresters harvest unhealthy trees from dense stands so remaining trees have more resources, promoting individual tree vigor and overall forest health.



Foresters and contractors clear trees affected by mountain pine beetle near Gunnison. Photo: Kellon Spencer, kellonspencerphotography.com

## Controlling Beetle Outbreak a Race Against Time

**W**hile time seemed to slow down for many last year with stay-at-home orders due to COVID-19, foresters in Gunnison County were in a rush to contain an outbreak of another kind – the mountain pine beetle.

Working quickly to prevent the beetle outbreak from becoming an epidemic around the Taylor Canyon area as it has in other parts of the state, the strength of partnership made all the difference. In a record-breaking 4-month-long effort, the Colorado State Forest Service, National Forest Foundation and U.S. Forest Service completed the planning, public engagement and implementation for phase one of the project.

“Although mountain pine beetles, in small populations, are an important native beetle to our Western forests, we are hoping to keep them in check so we continue reaching our goals of managing for diverse, healthy and resilient forests in the future,” said Sam Pankratz, supervisory forester with the Colorado State Forest Service in the Southwest Area.

Had the beetle continued to increase populations at a rapid pace within lodgepole pine tree stands in this area, the risk of a catastrophic wildfire in the forest would greatly increase. Swift treatments helped reduce the spread of the bark beetle to adjacent healthy stands, mitigate wildfire risks and protect critical infrastructure in Taylor Canyon before the mountain pine beetle flight period in July 2020.

This urgent, cross-boundary forest management project is centered about 13 miles northeast of Gunnison, in the Wilder on the Taylor and Gunnison Highlands communities near Taylor Canyon. This portion of the Taylor River watershed houses two

growing subdivisions with 63 different parcels and covers both private and National Forest lands. Treatments were completed on seven private parcels, as well as adjacent USFS lands.

Last year our state got a glimpse of how fast wildfires can quickly become devastating as they spread through forests thick

**Working quickly to prevent the beetle outbreak from becoming an epidemic as seen in other parts of the state, the strength of partnership made all the difference.**

with beetle-killed trees. The mountain pine beetle affected nearly 3.4 million acres of forests in Colorado from 1996 to 2014.

“I am extremely impressed at the rapid collaborative effort that has taken place over the past few months aimed at reducing potential impacts from mountain pine beetle in the Taylor River and Taylor Park areas,” Pankratz said.

A total of 260 acres were treated and approximately 47,419 beetle-infected trees were removed to improve forest health and reduce fuel sources. By proactively treating as many infected and vulnerable stands as possible, foresters hope to slow the outbreak within three years and return the forest to its once thriving condition. Funding for phases one and two, completed in December 2020, was provided by the USFS, NFF and private landowners. Additional funding is needed to begin further treatment phases.





SOUTHWEST

COLORADO



**9.6M**  
forested acres  
in southwest  
Colorado

**772K**  
acres in the  
wildland-urban  
interface

**21 OF  
EVERY 25**  
residents live  
with some WUI risk

**66,198**  
people live  
in areas with  
highest wildfire risk

Source: CSFS WUI Risk Assessment 2017. "Highest risk" is levels 7-9 on WUI scale. Access WUI risk data specific to each county at [coloradoforestatlas.org](http://coloradoforestatlas.org).

## Forest Health Issues in Southwest Colorado



Photo: David Casey, Dolores Ranger District, San Juan National Forest



Photo: CSFS



Photo: CSFS

### Roundheaded Pine Beetle

*(Dendroctonus adjunctus)*

Roundheaded pine beetle is a native bark beetle that attacks ponderosa pine. It is often found with several other species of bark beetles — typically western pine beetle, pine engraver beetles and mountain pine beetle. Working in conjunction, these insects produce a “bark beetle complex” that results in tree injury and death.

In the Southwest Area, roundheaded pine beetle remains active, primarily in Dolores and La Plata counties. It is particularly active in The Glade area of the San Juan National Forest northwest of Dolores and the Cherry Creek drainage in western La Plata County. Smaller populations can also be found in adjacent forests.

To address the issue, CSFS foresters are working with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to treat an outbreak on land owned by the tribe in western La Plata County. Foresters have also partnered with federal and local agencies on forest health projects in Montezuma County and other nearby counties to reduce the risk of the beetle’s impact.

### Western Spruce Budworm

*(Choristoneura freemani)*

Western spruce budworm continues to be Colorado’s most damaging and widespread forest defoliator. In the Southwest Area, the budworm is spreading throughout the San Juan and La Plata mountains and north into the San Miguel Mountains in Dolores and San Miguel counties. It is also active in forests in and around the San Luis Valley.

For several years in a row, moisture and temperature levels have fluctuated wildly in the Southwest Area and a drought has gripped the region. Combined, these weather patterns stress trees. Western spruce budworm defoliation further stresses trees, leaving those infested by the budworm more susceptible to bark beetle attack.

The combination of weather factors and budworm activity is weakening trees in the Southwest Area, setting the stage for potential bark beetle outbreaks in the future.

### Spruce Beetle

*(Dendroctonus rufipennis)*

Colorado’s most damaging forest pest continues to be active in the Southwest Area. Spruce beetle is moving into previously uninfested forests in the Needle Mountains in Archuleta and San Juan counties, as well as the north-central San Juan Mountains within Hinsdale and Gunnison counties.

Since 2016, the CSFS has worked closely with partners to help spruce-fir forests recover and build resiliency to the spruce beetle.

Treatments include thinning trees in greener forests to increase the variety of tree ages and species and remove dead and dying spruce from stands experiencing excessive mortality. Local saw mills process logs into usable lumber, locking up carbon in forest products, supporting local economies and reducing the potential for high-intensity wildfires.



The CSFS oversees the Owl Mountain Good Neighbor Authority project near Walden. Granby's Colorado Timber Resources has purchased wood from the project, which helps regenerate the forest, as well as the state's declining timber industry. Photo: Carolina Manriquez, CSFS

## In Balance: Forest, Industry Benefit at Owl Mountain

In the southeast corner of Jackson County, the forest landscape at Owl Mountain is improving while at the same time bolstering revenue for the timber industry.

Despite a declining wood products industry in the state, the Colorado State Forest Service is helping sustain this local economy in northwest Colorado through the Owl Mountain Good Neighbor Authority project. This 376-acre project spanning private, state and Department of Interior/Bureau of Land Management properties will reduce fire risk on the landscape while also creating jobs for area loggers and timber mills and generating revenue for state and federal agencies through a timber sale. Approximately \$180,000 worth of wood has been sold to Colorado Timber Resources, a Grand County lumber mill that will turn the trees into 2x4 studs for use in construction.

These future studs come from harvesting dead beetle-killed lodgepole pine and spruce, as well as some live trees greater than 9 inches in diameter that are likely to blow over if left standing. The logging operation gives this area of forest a chance to regenerate. The newer, younger trees that grow back will help create a more resilient landscape, increase age and structure diversity and improve forest health and habitat for wildlife in an area long known as a great hunting destination, where many species of animals roam under the forest canopy.

The Owl Mountain Good Neighbor Authority project also offers potential economic protection for the future.

"Every dollar spent to remove trees from fire-prone forests would save approximately \$7 in avoided firefighting costs," said Carolina Manriquez, a Northwest Area CSFS forester.

It also helps protect a critical watershed – the headwaters

Despite a declining wood products industry in the state, the Colorado State Forest Service is helping sustain this local economy in northwest Colorado.

of the North Platte River, which runs from North Park through Wyoming to Nebraska and provides water to neighboring states.

Funding through the GNA agreement comes from the project participants: the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado State Land Board and an adjacent private ranch owner.

Throughout the project, CSFS foresters are working diligently to assist the landowner in accomplishing project-related work, thereby strengthening community partnerships and promoting forest stewardship into the future.

"That's the beauty of the work we get to do. We can implement treatments at the landscape level by leveraging our relationships with private landowners to work in places where that wouldn't have happened otherwise," Manriquez said.



## NORTHWEST

**8.6M**  
forested acres  
in northwest  
Colorado

**611K**  
acres in the  
wildland-urban  
interface



## COLORADO

**18 OF  
EVERY 25**  
residents live  
with some WUI risk

**92,468**  
people live  
in areas with  
highest wildfire risk

Source: CSFS WUI Risk Assessment 2017.  
"Highest risk" is levels 7-9 on WUI scale. Access WUI risk  
data specific to each county at [coloradoforestatlas.org](http://coloradoforestatlas.org)

## Forest Health Issues in Northwest Colorado



Photo: John Twitchell, CSFS

### Subalpine Fir Decline

Across higher elevations in the Northwest Area, a decline in subalpine fir is becoming more prevalent, with groups of trees turning red before dying. Both younger and mature trees are affected, particularly around Rabbit Ears Pass and Buffalo Pass in the Routt National Forest, in north Routt County and even around Steamboat Springs and Emerald Mountain.

A combination of *Armillaria* root rot and western balsam bark beetle (*Dryocoetes confusus*) is likely causing the decline in subalpine fir, exacerbated by ongoing drought that has weakened tree defenses.

Aside from harvesting infested trees before adult beetles fly the following year, foresters can do little to curtail the problem, since *Armillaria* fungi are present in the soil and western balsam bark beetle populations are considered endemic. In certain areas impacted by this decline, however, dead trees have been removed to address public safety issues and reduce wildfire risk.



Photo: Ron Cousineau, CSFS

### Lodgepole Pine Beetle Kill

While the mountain pine beetle epidemic has subsided in the Northwest Area (and across most of the state), the impacts of this native bark beetle on forests continue. Across forests in Grand, Jackson, Summit and Routt counties, many new, young trees are growing through dead and downed lodgepole pines. This creates high fuel connectivity, with continuous vegetation from the forest floor to the tree canopy. These fuel conditions are concerning and exemplified by the wildfires in 2020.

To address the problem, the CSFS has removed fuels from tens of thousands of acres of state and private forestland that has grown thick with beetle-killed trees, with some areas containing up to 90% dead timber. Foresters at the CSFS continue to work on these lands and develop new federal partnerships to work across land ownership boundaries to remove more forest fuels. This reduces the chance of more uncharacteristic fires in the Northwest Area and helps ensure the regenerating forest is healthy now and into the future.



Photo: Dan West, CSFS

### Piñon Ips

(*Ips confusus*)

In the Northwest Area, the piñon Ips beetle continues to attack new stands of piñon pines. Despite being a native insect, this bark beetle is a tree killer, affecting piñon-juniper forests in the Glade Park and Gateway Canyon areas of Mesa County, the Cedaredge area of Delta County and around Rifle in Garfield County. Extreme drought in these areas (and statewide) has stressed piñon trees, leaving them susceptible to attack and allowing the piñon Ips beetle to build populations.

Beetle-killed trees left on the land increase the risk of high-severity wildfire, so CSFS foresters work with residents to offer science-based guidance on managing their forests to prevent problematic piñon Ips beetle infestations. In 2020, the CSFS published a new guide for managing for this beetle, available at [csfs.colostate.edu](http://csfs.colostate.edu) or by contacting a local CSFS field office.

## Grant-Funded Mitigation Helped Defend Bear Creek Houses

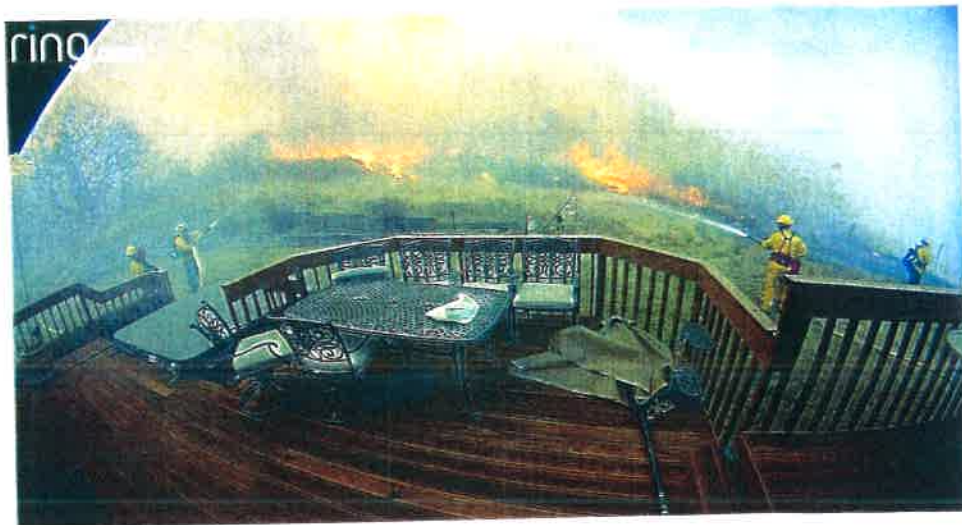
**W**hen the Bear Creek Fire ignited on Nov. 19 near a Colorado Springs neighborhood, it burned right up to fences and backyards and quickly spread to 23 acres. A video captured by a homeowner's backyard camera, played later in news clips, shows firefighters keeping flames at bay near a deck. It was an unsettling image, but one Bear Creek Cañon Park residents had spent years preparing for.

Prior wildfire mitigation projects that began in 2016 helped this community turn the emergency into a story of success. As the wildfire took hold, residents evacuated from about 235 homes. But a few hours later, all were allowed back to a welcomed sight — every home remained undamaged.

"We have so many residents in Colorado Springs who take mitigation seriously. I can't thank them enough," said Colorado Springs Fire Department Fire Chief Ted Collas at a press conference the day of the fire. "The mitigation efforts they have taken, and some of the mitigation efforts we've done with our own fire department in the open space areas, kept the fire low to the ground."

The success came in part because property owners and city foresters — all motivated to curb wildfire risk — had the state's financial support to get work done with a Colorado Department of Natural Resources Wildfire Risk Reduction grant. The grant allowed for projects to take place that connected other mitigation work also completed on the landscape.

Management of the DNR grant program transferred to the Colorado State Forest



Crystal Martin's Ring camera shows firefighters in her backyard defending her home from the 2020 Bear Creek Fire in Colorado Springs. The neighborhood was praised for completing wildfire mitigation work that helped firefighters quickly suppress the blaze. Photo: Crystal Martin

### More About Grants

Information about the CSFS Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program is online at [csfs.colostate.edu/funding-assistance](https://csfs.colostate.edu/funding-assistance)

Service in 2017. Combined with the CSFS Forest Restoration grant, it was renamed the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program. It uses state severance tax funds to support forest restoration, wildfire mitigation and capacity building projects on non-federal land, assisting homeowners associations, fire districts, counties, cities and more.

Demand for funding has consistently exceeded the amount of funding available. In 2020, the CSFS received 65 applications — with funding requests for over \$5.07 million.

The Colorado Legislature allocated an additional \$1 million for FRWRM funds in 2020, allowing the CSFS to award over \$1.4 million to applicants. Awards for successful grant applications will be made in April 2021. Legislative changes in the 2020-2021 grant cycle also allow for grant funds of an individual project to cover up to 75% of the total project cost for projects located in areas with fewer economic resources. In all other project locations, funds will continue to cover up to 50% of the total project.

### Report Acknowledgments

The following individuals and groups provided content, guidance and technical review for this report:

- U.S. Forest Service, Region 2, State and Private Forestry and Tribal Relations, and the Forest Health Management group
- Dan Gibbs and Angela Boag, Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Seth Webb, Colorado State University Mountain Campus Director
- Dan West, Forest Entomologist, CSFS
- CSFS program division staff and associate directors
- CSFS field office personnel

### Cover Photography

**Top:** A CSFS fuels reduction project in the Miner's Creek area near Frisco was one of several 2020 wildfire mitigation projects in Summit County. Read about other Summit County projects on page 9. Photo: Bill Wolf, CSFS

**Bottom left:** CSFS Forester Mike Till plants seedlings in a burn area. Photo: Luke Cherney, CSFS. **Center:** The Grizzly Creek Fire burns along Interstate 70 near Glenwood Springs, seen by a group tubing down the adjacent Colorado River. Photo: InciWeb. **Right:** CSFS Forester Carolina Manriquez snaps a selfie while leading a media tour at the Owl Mountain Good Neighbor Authority project site near Walden. Read about the project on page 20.

# CSFS: Serving Colorado Communities for Over 65 Years

Since 1955, the Colorado State Forest Service has served the residents and communities of Colorado by helping manage trees and forests on private and public lands across the state. With 17 field offices and over 100 staff, the CSFS works alongside landowners and diverse partners to improve forest health, offering:

- » Leadership, resources and guidance in forest management
- » Wildfire risk reduction and community planning
- » Adaptive forest management to address climate change
- » Wood utilization and marketing support
- » Outreach and education to youth and adults
- » Insect and disease detection, surveys and response
- » Forest monitoring, inventory and data analysis
- » Seedling trees and other plants for conservation projects
- » Urban and community forestry assistance



Carolina Manriquez, a Colorado State Forest Service forester, shows a seedling to a young volunteer at the annual ReTree tree planting event. Photo: Yampa Valley Sustainability Council

With headquarters in Fort Collins, the CSFS is a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources

at Colorado State University and provides staffing for the Division of Forestry within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

## CSFS Budget Analysis: Fiscal Year 2020

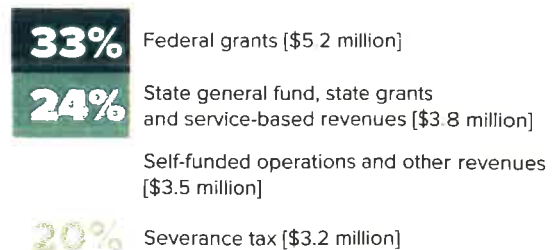
The Colorado State Forest Service provides forestry services throughout the state as an agency of Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University. In 2020, CSFS employed 125 staff and 57 student and non-student hourly employees at the Fort Collins state office and 17 field offices around Colorado.

Annual CSFS budgets originate from a variety of sources, including federal grants, state general fund and other state funds, self-funded operations and other revenues, severance tax and wildfire risk reduction funding. Over the span of five fiscal years (FY2016 – FY2020), the CSFS has continued to grow in capacity while responding to new opportunities to support our mission.

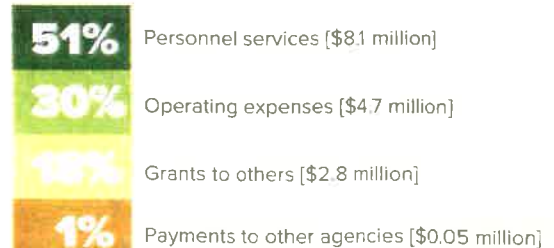


### 2020 TOTAL BUDGET: \$15.7 MILLION

#### FUNDING



#### EXPENDITURES



\*capital improvements/equipment accounted for surplus in 2020

# WE NEED OUR FORESTS, MORE THAN EVER.

Since the global pandemic arrived in early 2020, Colorado's wild and urban forests have been havens where residents can find solace and joy, exercise, rest and feel the healing benefits of connecting with nature.

Our forests will continue to offer respite as we face ongoing challenges – stalwart reminders that Colorado is truly something special and worth our efforts to protect.



Photo: StockSnap, Pixabay



**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Natural Resources

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dnr.colorado.gov



\*\*\*\*\*  
Colorado State University  
5060 Campus Delivery  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060  
(970) 491-6303  
csfs.colostate.edu



**WARNER COLLEGE  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

\*\*\*\*\*  
Colorado State University  
1401 Campus Delivery  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1401  
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warnercnr.colostate.edu

## OUR MISSION

*To achieve stewardship of Colorado's diverse forest environments  
for the benefit of present and future generations*

# Bonita Peak Mining District Update

April 2021



COLORADO  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak>

## Site Updates

- In preparation for the 2021 field season at the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund site, EPA is drafting a list of upcoming projects and tasks, which will continue to focus on the established site goals of improving water quality, stabilizing source areas, and minimizing unplanned releases.

These projects include implementing cleanup at certain mine locations identified in the 2019 IROD, continuing the Mayflower tailings investigation, moving forward with remedial investigations, and designing a repository. One of the planned projects includes an investigation of the rock quality around the Gold King Mine adit. To conduct this investigation, EPA plans to drill a borehole parallel to the existing adit to gather information on the geology and rock quality. Data gathered from this borehole would be part of a multiyear effort to evaluate what long-term improvements are needed or are available for the Gold King Mine. The 2021 task list and five-year plan will be posted on the website when they are finalized.

- EPA and its contractors are working on a preliminary design for the long-term waste repository. As part of the design process, EPA is continuing to gather information and will share updates as they are available.
- The 2018 seeps and springs report and the 2019 addendum are available on EPA's website. Mountain Studies Institute collected high- and low-flow data at numerous seeps, springs, and mines throughout the district, which provides information about the site's hydrology and metals load.
- Mayflower Impoundments pre-peak runoff water sampling began in March and is set to continue in April as part of the remedial investigation. High-flow data will be collected in May/early June. This information will aid our understanding of physical and source characteristics, nature and extent of contamination, and transport mechanisms. Surface water and groundwater sampling is ongoing in addition to the pre-peak runoff sampling. This work is being done by Sunnyside Gold Corporation pursuant to an administrative order with EPA.
- EPA and the State will be onsite in early May to collect information to aid in planning summer field work.



*Mayflower Tailings drainage*

## New on the web

- [BPMD Update, March 2021 \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100010323) (2 pp, 1 MB)  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100010323>
- [2016-2018 Seeps, Springs, and Draining Mines Characterization Report \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007694) (481 pp, 15 MB)  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007694>
- [2019 Addendum to 2018 Seeps, Springs, and Draining Mines Report \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100009811) (35 pp, 1.5 MB)  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100009811>



# Bonita Peak CAG

Dr. Joy Jenkins  
Superfund Project Manager, EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

RE: Comments on the 2021 Task List and Draft Five-Year Plan,  
Bonita Peak Mining District

April 16, 2021

Dear Dr. Jenkins:

After our Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>, we wanted to follow up with some written comments on this upcoming field season activities (the Task List) and on the draft Five-Year Plan developed under the Bonita Peak Mining District Site Management Plan. The Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD) was put on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 2016, so the end of the five-year plan will represent nine years as a Superfund site.

We are dismayed that after nine years and tens of millions of dollars, it appears that no projects will be completed by EPA and partnering agencies that will substantially improve water quality other than the continued treatment of the Gold King Mine drainage. While some maintenance work at mine sites under the 2019 Interim Record of Decision (IROD) might be helpful, we do not see that work as a high priority and don't believe those projects will substantially improve water quality. The CAG recognizes that while completing the site-wide repository at the Mayflower Tailings Pond #4 will be an important step, construction by itself doesn't afford any on-the-ground water quality improvements.

## Essential Questions

From our perspective, there are some high priority questions that EPA should ask itself and answer regarding the Task List and Draft Five-Year Plan.

1. If a large metal load is reduced high in the watershed, will that reduction translate to a large metal reduction downstream and a corresponding improvement in water quality and aquatic habitat?
2. Where can EPA make large environmental improvements in a relatively short period of time?
3. In the Operating Unit 3 (OU3), the fundamental question is, if and by how much does the Sunnyside Mine Pool affect the biggest metal contributors in the BPMD (the mines around Gladstone)?

4. What important information does EPA hope to obtain by drilling behind the inner bulkhead at the Gold Prince tunnel?
5. In reference to Goal #3 for the BPMD, minimizing unplanned releases, is EPA meeting the objectives of this goal by opening up mines with collapses at the entrance or doing the opposite and increasing the risk of unplanned releases?

## Discussion

Question 1 & 2. The Red & Bonita mine drainage plays a central role in the first two questions. For short periods of time, the drainage from both the Red & Bonita and the American Tunnel have been run through the treatment plant at Gladstone, in addition to the treatment of the Gold King Mine drainage. The infrastructure is in place for conveyance of these drainages to the plant. According to the Final Remedial Investigation Plan, February 2021, Exhibit 3-7, the Red & Bonita drainage averages 55 pounds per day (lbs/d) of zinc, and the American Tunnel averages 21 lbs/d of zinc. That is more than half of EPA's initial estimated zinc-load-reduction needed to meet water quality standards at A72 (Exhibit 3-4). The Red & Bonita is easily the largest, untreated point-source of metals in the BPMD, and the American Tunnel is essentially tied for the second largest, untreated point-source. Running one or both of these currently untreated drainages through the treatment plant would be an excellent test for answering the first question and is also undoubtedly the best answer for the second question.

Of course, the other method of removing the metal load from the Red & Bonita drainage is to shut the valve on the pipe through the existing bulkhead. A short-term test of this method was already conducted from mid-July to mid-October in 2020. Results of that test have yet to be reported and inexplicably, reporting those results does not appear on this year's task list. *We ask that the issuance of that report be included in the Task List.*

We understand the challenges EPA currently faces with sludge handling at the Gladstone treatment plant, but those difficulties should be mitigated once the Mayflower repository is completed. We also believe that given the current drainage of about 350 gallons per minute (gpm) at the Gold King and 300 gpm at the Red & Bonita, the Gladstone treatment plant has enough redundant capacity to handle this flow twice over.

At the end of the five-year plan, there is reference to a Phase 1 IROD for OU3. That might refer to shutting the Red & Bonita bulkhead valve, driving a new tunnel to intercept the Gold King workings, or something else entirely. Regardless, it appears that EPA is not planning on permanently closing the valve on the Red & Bonita bulkhead for at least ten years after the bulkhead was installed (2015). *We think it is unacceptable for this drainage to continue to flow unplugged or untreated for another five years.*

Question 3. EPA is planning on drilling in several locations around the BPMD this year. We are perplexed as to why drilling into the Sunnyside Mine Pool from the Lake Emma area isn't included. In fact, we're surprised it hasn't already been done, since it was part of the unilateral order EPA issued Sunnyside Gold Corp. several years ago. Clearly, if EPA could have monitored

the pool level when the Gold King was running at a much higher flow rate than it is today, it would have been helpful to determine if there is a nexus between the Sunnyside Mine Pool and the Gold King Mine drainage. It's unclear how EPA can develop a groundwater hydrologic or geochemical model of OU3 without data collected from the mine pool. *Why isn't drilling into the Sunnyside Mine Pool a top priority?*

Question 4. As has been expressed in previous meetings, we don't see a strong rationale for drilling behind the Gold Prince bulkhead and believe EPA should provide one before spending the resources to drill at 12,500 feet elevation. Mine maps as well as personal observations show a connection behind the bulkhead to the Sunnyside workings above Lake Emma (meaning above the mine pool) that is approximately fifteen feet higher than the bulkhead itself. The bulkhead is perhaps 60 vertical feet below the land surface making it impossible for a lot of head to be backed up behind it. *Please explain what important data EPA will acquire by drilling this well?*

Question 5. In the Task List under the 2019 IROD, EPA discusses opening up several collapsed portals. Over the last thirty years, we do not know of any unplanned releases from portals collapsed at the entrance that were not related to heavy equipment working around the entrance. We do know of multiple unplanned releases from inside mine workings when there was no human activity around the mine site and no collapses at the entrance. We suspect that these internal releases were caused by water backing up behind a sludge or ice dam, or roof collapse until enough pressure built up for a release. If material in front of a collapsed entrance has been removed, there is nothing to mitigate or modulate an internal, unplanned release. *EPA should conduct a risk analysis to determine if opening up collapsed entrances to mines is more or less likely to cause unplanned releases.*

In addition to asking and answering the questions above, we would like to have EPA include a review and update of the 2019 Community Involvement Plan (CIP) within the five-year plan. Stakeholder interests may change over time, and it is important that the CIP is adapted to those changes.

We also want to note that EPA is focusing the next few years on the fluvial tailings between Eureka and Howardsville. This is a challenging, complex area to characterize. We have concerns that if EPA goes into this reach and removes pockets of historic tailings that disturbing the fluvial material may do more harm than good. However, if EPA is contemplating a much fuller river restoration of the area by better defining the channel, revegetating the banks, creating riffles and runs, etc., we believe the community would be very supportive of that effort. We are not sure what is possible given the geomorphology, but we believe it deserves more investigation.

Finally, while this comment letter is directed at EPA, we note that in the Five-Year Plan we see very little activity that will make any real water quality improvements in the BPMD by EPA's

federal partners – the US Forest Service and the US Bureau of Land Management. Their five-year plans consist of more study and planning plus some maintenance at a few of their mine sites. Neither agency has shared any of their data publicly that they have collected over the past several years, and neither agency expresses any plans to share data or engage with the community under their respective tasks listed in the draft five-year plan. Enabling people to evaluate all the data being collected with public monies is important for transparency and good decision-making.

We look forward to additional discussion regarding long-term plans for the BPMD and would like further discussion on the questions above at one of the next couple of CAG meetings. Some of the CAG members have over twenty-five years of experience in the Animas River Basin characterizing water quality and conducting mine remediation projects. We want to be a valuable resource to EPA for its work in the basin

Regards,



Peter Butler, Ph.D.  
Chair, Bonita Peak CAG  
[Butlerpeter2@gmail.com](mailto:Butlerpeter2@gmail.com)  
970-317-0584  
[www.BonitaPeakCAG.org](http://www.BonitaPeakCAG.org)

cc:

Senator Michael Bennet	CDPHE-John Putnam
Senator John Hickenlooper	SWCD – Jenny Russell
Rep. Lauren Boebert	EPA-Brigid Lowery
La Plata County Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton	EPA- Doug Ammon
San Juan County Commissioner Scott Fetchenhier	EPA-Shahid Mahmud
Silverton Mayor Shane Fuhrman	EPA-Schatzi Fitz-James
Durango Mayor Kim Baxter	EPA- Helen Duteau
USFS – Kara Chadwick	EPA-Deb Thomas
BLM- Kris Doebbler	
DNR– Tim Mauck	



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Compose

Inbox

Starred

Sent

Drafts

Meet

New meeting

My meetings

Hangouts

Willy

No recent chats

### CDOT/San Juan County Meeting May 5th



**Morschauser - CDOT, Linda**

1951 Apr 24 10:24 AM

Hi Willy

I'm just sending a reminder to submit any particular topics for discussion for our 1 hour meeting next Wednesday May 5th at 4pm. The CDOT planning team would like time to prepare responses and be able to discuss. Please ask the BOCC and submit any topics to you can.

Also, I will be adding Zoom call credentials to the invite this week and I will also email the info to you to share with the commissioners. Here's is the agenda for our one-hour meeting

1. Introduction and overview
2. Review the 4 year plan
3. TPR construction update
4. County topics and questions

**Linda Morschauser**  
Administrative Assistant II





Willy Tookey <admin@sanjuancolorado.us>

## For your awareness--- Fwd: US 50 full road closures start April 29

1 message

Thatcher - CDOT, Elise <elise.thatcher@state.co.us>

Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 5:02 PM

Hi SW Colorado agency partners,  
 This is a courtesy heads up that the US 50 Little Blue project has an update on closures which went out today. **Please sign up for email updates and text updates if you are following this project (text us50 to 21000).** I would also recommend that you connect with Public Information Manager Kathleen and her team if you have any questions or anticipate questions down the road:  
*Kathleen Wanatowicz, Public Information Manager*  
*US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon Improvement Project*  
*Project Information: 970-340-4333*  
*Project Email: [us50LittleBlue@gmail.com](mailto:us50LittleBlue@gmail.com)*  
*Project Webpage: [www.US50info.com](http://www.US50info.com)*  
*Text Alerts: Text us50 to 21000*  
*Project Resource Studio | [prstudioco](http://prstudioco)*

As you probably know, this is not a CDOT project, so I want to make sure you're signed up through the project team to get the latest info.  
 thank you, Elise

--  
 Elise Thatcher  
 NW Colorado Regional Communications Manager



**COLORADO**  
 Department of Transportation  
 Office of Communications

P 970.683.6213 | C 303.927.8299 | [elise.thatcher@state.co.us](mailto:elise.thatcher@state.co.us)  
[www.codot.gov](http://www.codot.gov) | Real time updates and conditions: [www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org)  
 222 South 6th St, Grand Junction, CO 81501

----- Forwarded message -----  
 From: **US 50 Little Blue Canyon Creek Improvement** <[US50LittleBlue@gmail.com](mailto:US50LittleBlue@gmail.com)>  
 Date: Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 2:50 PM  
 Subject: US 50 full road closures start April 29  
 To: <[elise.thatcher@state.co.us](mailto:elise.thatcher@state.co.us)>

[View this email in your browser](#)



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

**US 50 LITTLE BLUE  
 CREEK CANYON  
 IMPROVEMENTS**



## PROJECT UPDATE

### US 50 road full roadway closures will begin April 29

The Little Blue Creek Canyon project team announces full roadway closures between MP 123 – MP 127 through Little Blue Creek Canyon will now take place on Thursday, April 29, the first closure will begin at 8:30 a.m. Regularly scheduled roadway closures will go into effect as posted on [www.us50info.com](http://www.us50info.com) at this time.



#### TRAFFIC & RECREATION IMPACTS

Motorists should prepare for long delays during the opening roadway windows and plan to take detour routes. Estimated delay times during roadway opening windows are between 30 minutes to one hour.

US 50 will be open to two-way traffic with no delays from Friday at 5:30 p.m. – Monday at 8:30 a.m.

Full roadway closures will be Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Full roadway closures will occur through the night Monday – Thursday 7:30 p.m. – 6:30 a.m. Plan your travel around the opening windows and be prepared to queue at designated areas.

#### **Estimated Construction Timeline and Traffic Impacts: April 2021- November 2022**



Travel Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6:30-8:30AM	Open to two-way traffic	Open for single-lane, alternating operations				Open to two-way traffic without delays	
8:30AM-12:30PM	Full roadway closures						
12:30-1:30PM	Open for single-lane, alternating operations						
1:30-5:30PM	Full roadway closures						
5:30-7:30PM	Open for single-lane, alternating operations				Open to two-way traffic		
7:30PM-6:30AM	Full roadway closures						

All closures and operations are weather dependent. Traffic schedule and timeline is tentative and subject to change

Month-to-Month

2021										2022									
April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Road Closures													Daytime: Alternating Traffic   Nighttime Closures						



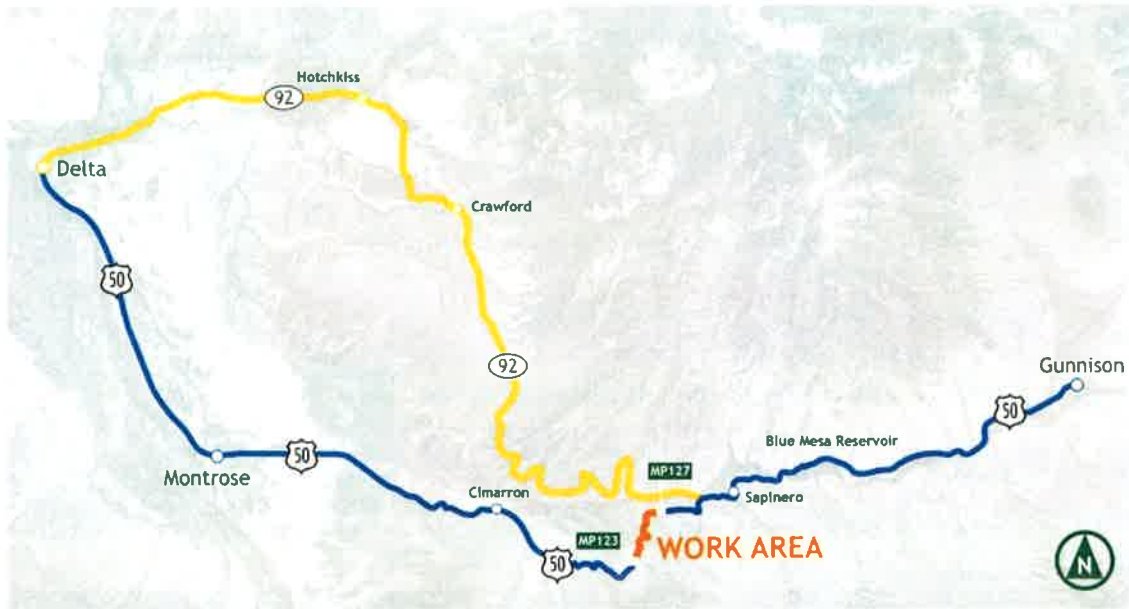
**Detour options during nighttime closures:**

When US 50 is closed, local passenger vehicles and small trucks can use Colorado Highway 92 as a local alternate route. All other trucks and recreation vehicles over 70 feet in length will need to use I-70 to the north, US 160 to the south, or wait for one of the planned openings. Please allow additional time due to the restricted open times and single-lane operations.

Vehicles carrying hazardous materials will need to use I-70 to the north, US 160 to the south, or wait for one of the planned openings. Please allow additional time due to the restricted open times and single-lane operations.

**LOCAL DETOUR MAP**

CO 92 detour for local traffic only and trucks less than 70' in length. No hazardous materials will be permitted on the detour.



### OFFICIAL DETOUR MAP



### PROJECT & TRAVEL INFO

For additional information about this project, including assistance for agricultural producers and residents of the Arrowhead community, contact the project team.

- Project hotline: 970-340-4333
- Project email: [us50LittleBlue@gmail.com](mailto:us50LittleBlue@gmail.com)
- Project webpage: [www.us50info.com](http://www.us50info.com)
- Project text updates: Text us50 to 21000
- A text message notifications system is available for this project. Register for alerts by texting us50 to 21000; charges may apply.

## **High Alpine Roadmap to Recovery Overview**

### **Background:**

DOLA is now accepting formal applications from eligible rural communities to form Regional Community Teams with shared economies to receive technical assistance to develop a “Rural Colorado COVID-19 Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan” (“Recovery Roadmap” for short). They will award technical assistance to up to 16 teams to create their Recovery Roadmap and accelerate their communities toward thriving and resilient economic futures. Region 10, in partnership with Region 9 is helping to facilitate and administer a High Alpine Roadmap to Recovery Project.

The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), along with Community Builders, are partnering to provide this opportunity to regional communities. This opportunity is funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration

### **High Alpine Roads Roadmap to Recovery Proposal**

#### Core Team Members:

Ouray, San Miguel, Hinsdale and San Juan Counties along with the towns of Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride, Mountain Village, Norwood, Lake City, Silverton and Rico (Dolores County)

#### Key Partners:

BLM, USFS, Lake City DIRT, Scenic Byways, San Juan Economic Recovery Group

The High Alpine Roads Roadmap to Recovery brings together communities, that, although they are part of different planning regions (Region 9 and 10), that due to their shared economies have a unique opportunity to come together to form a sub-region planning partnership.

Our communities share a history of deep connection to public lands. Where in the past it was mining or forestry, we have moved into recreation-based economies. Our communities have so much in common with our history and visitation-based economies. We were all going in an increased visitation direction pre-COVID, but with COVID visitation grew exponentially – stressing our communities, public lands and back-country. Resource preservation is increasingly an issue as people use public lands and back-country that is no compatible with wild-fire concerns and resource preservation. Our trend line is that people who live in our communities are not going to be able to stay there. We need to create communities that our businesses and residents can stay and grow. It is important for us to know how to meet the needs right now and plan for the next 30 years.

This DOLA planning project is an opportunity (especially now that we know we can meet virtually) to work together on what is uniquely our own “sub-planning” region addressing issues that are not always addressed in the larger economic region. This provides an opportunity to work together for consistency, inter-connectivity of policies, guidelines, and usage.

The proposed priority focus areas under this project :

1. Comprehensive management of policies related to our connected public plans and high alpine roads.
2. Addressing lack of affordable housing for our workers and residents.
3. Resilience to natural disasters and climate change.

### **About the project and process**

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

During this project, relevant regional team staff and other key stakeholders will participate in the following major phases of the project:

1. Introductory Groundwork Sessions led by the DOLA/OEDIT/Community Builders
2. Development of economic recovery and resiliency plans specific to the team
3. “Reimagining the Rural Economy - Data Analysis & Guidance”
4. Roadmap implementation and reporting

#### **DELIVERABLES**

Successful completion of the project will result in the adoption by the High Alpine Team of a Regional Roadmap to expedite and shape the recovery from COVID-19 within the region and build long-term resiliency.

#### **REGIONAL COMMUNITY TEAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The team is responsible for the following:

1. Region 10, in partnership with Region 9, will be lead on the project.
2. Team members will actively participate in all phases of the economic recovery and resiliency plans

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
SAN JUAN BASIN HEALTH, A PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY  
AND  
SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is made and entered into effective January 1, 2021, by and between SAN JUAN BASIN PUBLIC HEALTH, 281 Sawyer Drive, Suite 300, Durango, CO 81303 (“SJBPH”), and SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH, 1315 Snowden Street, Silverton, CO 81433 (“SJCPH”) (the parties are sometimes hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Parties”).

**PREMISES**

A. SJBPH is a public district health agency, as that term is defined by C.R.S. § 25-1-502; SJBPH’s district includes all of La Plata and Archuleta counties, Colorado (the “District”); SJBPH provides public health services as set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506.

B. SJCPH is a county public health agency, as that term is defined by C.R.S. § 25-1-502 which serves San Juan County.

C. SJCPH desires for SJBPH to provide the public health services to residents of San Juan County as more fully described on Exhibit “C” attached hereto.

D. SJBPH and SJCPH desire to enter into this MOU to provide a full statement of their rights and responsibilities in connection with the Services as defined in this MOU.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises and the mutual promises and covenants set forth herein, the Parties agree as set forth below.

**AGREEMENT**

- 1) **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SJBPH.** Throughout the term of this MOU, SJBPH shall have the rights and responsibilities as outlined on Exhibit “C” attached hereto.
- 2) **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SJCPH.** Throughout the term of this MOU, SJCPH shall have the rights and responsibilities as outlined on Exhibit “C” attached hereto.
- 3) **SJCPH PAYMENT TO SJBPH FOR THE SERVICES.** See Exhibit “C” for fees and payment information.
- 4) **TERM OF AGREEMENT; TERMINATION.**

- a) Term. This MOU is effective commencing January 1, 2021 (“Commencement Date”) and automatically renews on January 1 of each subsequent year, unless terminated earlier as provided herein.
- b) Termination.
  - i) For Cause Termination. Either Party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement, for cause, upon thirty (30) days’ written notice to the other Party. Any such notice shall specify the cause upon which it is based. The violating Party shall have thirty (30) days to rectify the cause specified in the notice of termination, and if such cause is not rectified, in the sole discretion of the non-breaching Party, within such thirty (30) day period, this Agreement shall thereupon automatically terminate; provided, however, that if such cause cannot reasonably be rectified within such thirty (30) day period, this Agreement shall not automatically terminate so long as the violating Party has commenced to rectify the cause within such thirty (30) day period and thereafter diligently and continuously proceeds to rectify such cause. It is understood and agreed by the Parties that “cause” for termination subject to notice and cure under this Section includes material breach by either Party of any of its obligations under this Agreement, including, failure by a Party to perform its service, payment or other obligations in accordance with the requirements and standards specified in this Agreement. Notwithstanding the notice provisions hereof, no notice and opportunity to cure shall be required if a Party has previously received notice for the same or a substantially similar breach within the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the breach.
  - ii) Automatic Termination. As set forth in *Exhibit “A”*, this Agreement shall be automatically terminated for violations of federal payor requirements.
  - iii) No Cause Termination. This MOU may be terminated by either Party without cause by providing thirty (30) days advance written notice of termination.
  - iv) Effect of Termination. Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement, the Parties shall cooperate with the orderly transfer of responsibilities.
- 5) General Provisions.
  - a) Compliance. Each Party and the employees of each Party will at all times conduct themselves in compliance with all local, state, federal and applicable laws and shall conduct themselves with highest standards of business ethics and integrity.
  - b) General Provisions. The Parties agree that this MOU is subject to the standard provisions set forth on *Exhibit A* attached hereto and incorporated herein.
  - c) HIPAA. As set forth in Section 1.1 of *Exhibit “A”*, each Party shall comply with all laws, including HIPAA. SJBPH is a “covered entity” as defined by HIPAA, and therefore, SJBPH is subject to the confidentiality obligations of HIPAA. To the extent there is any question about whether SJBPH is a “covered entity” under HIPAA, the Parties agree they shall execute SJBPH’s form Business Associates Agreement as required by HIPAA.
  - d) Entire MOU; Integration. This MOU, including the referenced Exhibits, supersedes all previous understandings, contracts or agreements between the Parties with respect to the same subject matter and constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties. There are no agreements, representations, or warranties

between or among the Parties other than those set forth in this MOU or the documents and agreements referred to in this MOU.

- e) Notice. Whenever under the terms of this MOU written notice is required or permitted to be given by a Party to the other Party, such notice shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been sufficiently given if personally delivered, delivered by a national overnight courier service (such as Federal Express), transmitted by electronic facsimile or deposited in the United States Mail, in a properly stamped envelope, certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the Party to whom it is to be given, at the address set forth with in the first paragraph of this MOU.
- f) Execution. By signing below the Parties represent that: (a) she is authorized to execute and enter contracts on behalf of such Party; (b) she has read and understands the Agreement. A duplicate, a copy, and/or an electronic execution of this MOU will have the same force and effect of an original signature.

AGREED TO AND APPROVED BY:

FOR SJBPH:

\_\_\_\_\_

By: Liane Jollon, Executive Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR SJCPH:

\_\_\_\_\_

By: Becky Joyce, Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXHIBIT A - STANDARD PROVISIONS**

(SJCPH Version 4-20-21)

*For purposes of this Exhibit A, San Juan County Public Health shall be referred to as "Contracting Party".*

1.1. Compliance with all laws; Compliance with HIPAA. Each party agrees that in connection with this MOU each shall, at all times, comply with all applicable laws including, but not limited to, the following: (a) applicable federal and Colorado law and regulations, including those of the Colorado Department of Health and Environment and the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended; and (b) to the extent applicable to this MOU, with the Medicare Conditions of Participation and any other requirements for participation in Medicare and Medicaid; and (c) the reasonable requirements of any other applicable regulatory or accrediting agency or third party payor; and (d) the professional and ethical guidelines of applicable professional associations. To the extent this MOU would provide the Contracting Party with "protected health information" as that term is defined by 45 CFR 160.103, each party shall not use, disclose, create, receive, maintain, or transmit protected health information other than as allowed by the HIPAA regulations at 45 CFR 160.101, et seq. Further, both parties agree to promptly (within 3 business days) report to the other any breaches of the foregoing limitation regarding use or disclosure of protected health information.

1.2. Insurance. Each of the Parties shall, at his/her/its sole cost and expense, procure, keep and maintain throughout the term of this MOU, insurance coverage in the minimum amounts of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) annual aggregate, negligence, errors and omissions, and comprehensive general liability. In addition to the coverages specifically listed herein, each of the Parties shall maintain any other usual and customary policies of insurance applicable to the services or other work being performed pursuant to this MOU. Said insurance policy shall cover all Services or other work provided under or in connection with this MOU and shall provide for at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice to the other party for cancellation or diminution in coverage to take effect. Upon request, each party shall provide the other party with a certificate evidencing such insurance.

1.3. Responsibility for Own Acts. Each party shall be responsible for its own acts and omissions and shall be liable for payment of that portion of any and all claims, liabilities, injuries, suits, and demands and expenses of all kinds that may result or arise out of any alleged malfeasance or neglect caused or alleged to have been caused by said party, its employees, agents, or subcontractors, in the performance or omission of any act or responsibility of said party under this MOU. In the event that a claim is made against both Parties, it is the intent of both Parties to cooperate in the defense of said claim and to cause their insurers to do likewise. Both Parties shall, however, retain the right to take any and all actions they believe necessary to protect their own interests.

1.4. Governing Law. This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with



the laws of the State of Colorado applicable to agreements made and to be performed wholly within that state, irrespective of such state's choice-of-law principles.

1.5. Partial Invalidity. If any provision of this MOU is found to be invalid or unenforceable by any court or other lawful forum, such provision shall be ineffective only to the extent that it is in contravention of applicable laws without invalidating the remaining provisions of this MOU, unless such invalidity or unenforceability would defeat an essential business purpose of this MOU.

1.6. Cumulation of Remedies. The various rights, options, elections, powers, and remedies of the Parties contained in, granted, or reserved by this MOU, are in addition to any others that the Parties may be entitled to by law, shall be construed as cumulative, and no one of them is exclusive of any of the others, or of any right or priority allowed by law.

1.7. Waiver. Any waiver of any term or condition of this MOU must be in writing and signed by the Parties. No delay or failure by either party to exercise any right or remedy it may have shall operate as a continuing waiver of such right or remedy, or prejudice such party's right to insist upon full compliance by the other party of the terms of this MOU. Only SJBPH's Executive Director, duly authorized, has the authority to waive provisions of this MOU on behalf of SJBPH.

1.8. Further Assurances. Each party agrees, at its own cost, to do such further acts and things and to execute and deliver such additional agreements and instruments as the other may reasonably require to consummate, evidence or confirm the agreements contained herein in the manner contemplated hereby.

1.9. Assignment. Neither party shall not have the right or the power to assign this MOU nor any of the rights or obligations inuring to or imposed upon it herein, and any attempted or purported assignment shall be null and void and of no effect.

1.10. Amendments. This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the Parties without additional consideration, provided that, before any amendment shall become effective, it shall be reduced to writing and signed by each of the Parties.

1.11. Survival. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this MOU, all covenants, agreements, representations and warranties, expressed and implied, shall survive the termination of this MOU, and shall remain in effect and binding upon the Parties until they have fulfilled all of their obligations hereunder and the statute of limitations shall not commence to run until the time such obligations have been fulfilled.

1.12. No Third Party Beneficiaries. There are no third party beneficiaries to this MOU. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as creating or giving rise to any rights in any third parties or any persons other than the Parties.

1.13. Headings. The headings of the sections of this MOU are included for the purposes of convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of any provision hereof.

1.14. Force Majeure. Neither party hereto shall be liable for any delay or failure in the performance of any obligation under this MOU or for any loss or damage (including indirect or consequential damage) to the extent that such nonperformance, delay, loss or damage results from any contingency which is beyond the control of such party, provided such contingency is not caused by the fault or negligence of such party. A contingency for the purposes of this MOU shall be Acts of God, fires, floods, earthquakes, explosions, storms, wars, hostilities, terrorist attacks, blockades, public disorders, quarantine restrictions, embargoes, strikes or other labor disturbances, and compliance with any law, order or control of, or insistence by any governmental or military authority. The party claiming to be affected by such contingency shall give immediate notice to the other party, giving full particulars thereof, and all such contingencies shall, as far as is reasonably possible, be remedied with all reasonable efforts and dispatch. The existence of such contingencies shall justify the suspension of performance hereunder by either party and shall extend the time for such performance for a period equal to the period of delay; provided, however, that if such period of delay shall exceed sixty (60) days from the date of such notice, either party shall have the right to cancel this MOU.

1.15. Confidentiality. Each of the Parties shall treat all non-public information obtained as part of this engagement as confidential and shall not, without written authorization from the other party, release or share such information with any third party, except as may be required by law. Each of the Parties agrees that, prior to reporting any actual or perceived violation of law to any governmental entity, even if required by law to do so, said party will first discuss any potential legal or compliance matter with the other party's most senior leader (e.g., as to SJBPH, its Executive Director) and, unless otherwise required by law, provide the other party with an opportunity to investigate and appropriately report any compliance matter brought to its attention by said party.

1.16. Relationship of the Parties; Independent Contractor. In the performance of this MOU, the Parties mutually understand and agree that each is at all times acting as and shall be treated as independent contractors vis-a-vis the other. Each of the Parties shall exercise independent judgment at all times and shall not be subject to the direction, control, or supervision of the other in the performance of this MOU, except that each of the Parties shall be subject to the standards, including but not limited to the performance standards set forth in this MOU. Additionally, each of the Parties shall be solely responsible for the salary, compensation, benefits, payroll taxes, required insurance, workers' compensation insurance, compliance with employment laws and similar items of said party. The Contracting Party shall purchase and provide SJBPH with proof of its workers' compensation coverage for such employees.

1.17 CGIA. SJBPH and SJCPH are provided certain immunities and limitation of damages under the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, and at no time has SJBPH or SJCPH waived such immunity or limitations.

*TO THE EXTENT APPLICABLE TO EACH PARTY, THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS SHALL APPLY:*

2.1. Compliance with Federal Payor Requirements.

2.1.1 Excluded Provider & Indemnification. Each of the Parties hereby represents and warrants that it is not now and at no time has it been excluded from participation in any federally funded health care program, including Medicare and Medicaid. Each of the Parties hereby agrees to immediately notify the other of any threatened, proposed, or actual exclusion of the notifying party from any federally funded health care program, including Medicare and Medicaid. In the event that a party is excluded from participation in any federally funded health care program during the term of this MOU, or if at any time after the Effective Date of this MOU it is determined that such party is in breach of this Section, this MOU shall, as of the effective date of such exclusion or breach, automatically terminate. Each of the Parties shall indemnify and hold harmless the other against all actions, claims, demands and liabilities, and against all loss, damage, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising directly or indirectly, out of any violation of this Section by such party, or due to the exclusion of such party from a federally funded health care program, including Medicare or Medicaid. This Section shall survive the termination of this MOU.

2.1.2 Application of Requirements. SJBPH and Contracting Party specifically recognize that each party may provide services to patients covered by the Medicare program (Title XVIII of the Social Security Act) and that each has an obligation to comply with the requirements of the Medicare program for payment for services provided by SJBPH-based physicians, to the extent that such services are provided pursuant to this MOU. Each party hereby agrees to cooperate with the other in order to assure that these requirements are met.

2.1.3 No Billing in Violation of Medicare Regulations. Group shall not submit on behalf of itself or Contracting Party any claim to any federally funded health care program, state funded health care program, a patient, insurer or any other third person for Services provided by Contracting Party under this MOU. SJBPH may immediately terminate this MOU upon Contracting Party's violation of this Section, and Contracting Party shall indemnify SJBPH for all losses suffered by SJBPH as a result of any such violation, whether intentional or negligent. This Section shall survive the termination of this MOU.

2.1.4 Recordkeeping. If and to the extent required by Section 1395x(v)(1)(i) of Title 42 of the United States Code ("U.S.C."), until the expiration of four (4) years after the termination or expiration of this MOU, each of the Parties shall make available, upon written request by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the "Secretary"), or upon request by the Comptroller General of the United States General Accounting Office, or any of their duly authorized representatives, a copy of this MOU and such books, documents and records as are necessary to certify the nature and extent of the costs of the Services provided by said party under this MOU. Each of the Parties further agrees that, in the event it carries out any of its duties under this MOU through a subcontract with a related organization with a value or cost of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or

more over a twelve (12) month period, such subcontract shall contain a provision requiring the related organization to make available until the expiration of four (4) years after the furnishing of such goods or services pursuant to such subcontract upon written request to the Secretary, or upon request to the Comptroller General of the United States General Accounting Office, or any of their duly authorized representatives, a copy of such subcontract and such books, documents and records of such organization as are necessary to verify the nature and extent of such costs.

2.1.5 Compliance with Medicare Anti-Kickback, Self-Referral and Anti-Rebate Laws. Neither party shall engage in any activity prohibited by 42 U.S.C. Section 1395nn (42 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 411 (411.1 to 411.361)), 42 U.S.C. Section 1320a-7a and 42 U.S.C. Section 1320a-7b (42 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1001 (1001.952(a) to 1001.1001)) or any other federal, state or local law or regulation relating to the referral of patients, including, without limitation, anti-rebating and self-referral prohibitions and limitations, as those regulations now exist or as subsequently amended, renumbered or revised, nor shall either party associate or engage in similar activities with respect to any third party payors, including, but not limited to, soliciting or receiving, directly or indirectly, any compensation, in cash or in kind, or offering to pay any compensation to a third person in exchange for referring an individual to a person for the furnishing of any item or service for which payment may be made in whole or in part by Medicare or Medicaid or any other state or federally funded healthcare payment program.

2.1.6 No Referral Obligation. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to require Contracting Party to refer patients to SJBPH or to require SJBPH to refer patients to Contracting Party.

2.2. Jeopardy. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein contained, in the event the performance by either party of any term, covenant, condition or provision of this MOU jeopardizes the licensure of SJBPH, its participation in, or the payment or reimbursement from, Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross or other reimbursement or payment programs, or its accreditation or licensing through CDPHE or any other state or nationally recognized accreditation organization, or the tax-exempt status of SJBPH or any affiliated entity, any of their property or financing (or the interest income thereon, as applicable), or will prevent or prohibit any health care professionals or their patients from utilizing SJBPH or any of its services, or if for any other reason said performance should be in violation of any statute, ordinance, or be otherwise deemed illegal, or be deemed unethical by any recognized body, agency, or association in the medical fields, SJBPH may initiate negotiations to resolve the matter through amendments to this MOU and, if the Parties are unable to resolve the matter within thirty (30) days thereafter, SJBPH may, at its option, terminate this MOU immediately. The Parties acknowledge and agree that this provision imposes a duty on each of the Parties to act in good faith, and where agreement is required, such agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld. After an initial notice is given as provided for in this Section, the Parties agree to cooperate and to act in such a manner as to eliminate or minimize to the extent possible any of the potential conditions described herein. This Section shall apply regardless of the reason that one or more of the described potential

conditions exists, including, but not limited to, because of the occurrence of substantially changed circumstances.

2.3 Nondiscrimination. To further the goals of public health, the Parties agree to accept all Medicare and Medicaid patients and to treat all medically indigent patients without regard to ability to pay and without regard to race, color, national origin, citizenship, sex, age, disability, religion or other factors unrelated to the patient's need for services.

## EXHIBIT B - HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATES AGREEMENT

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") requires the San Juan Basin Health a public health agency and a "Covered Entity," to comply with HIPAA. HIPAA mandates that if San Juan Basin Health contracts with any third-party "Business Associate" (i.e., generally an entity/person that (a) is not a Covered Entity, and (b) might view/access/receive a patient's protected health information), then that Business Associate must agree to comply with the provisions of HIPAA as set forth in this Business Associates Agreement.

### 1) DEFINITIONS.

- a) General definitions: The following terms used in this Agreement shall have the same meaning as those terms in the HIPAA Rules: Breach; Data Aggregation; Designated Record Set; Disclosure; Health Care Operations; Individual, Minimum Necessary; Notice of Privacy Practices; Protected Health Information; Required By Law; Secretary; Security Incident; Subcontractor; Unsecured Protected Health Information; and Use.
- b) Specific definitions:
  - i) Business Associate. "Business Associate" shall generally have the same meaning as the term "business associate" at 45 CFR 160.103.
  - ii) Covered Entity. "Covered Entity" shall generally have the same meaning as the term "covered entity" at 45 CFR 160.103. For purposes of this Business Associates Agreement, San Juan Basin Health is the "Covered Entity".
  - iii) HIPAA Rules. "HIPAA Rules" shall mean the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification, and Enforcement Rules at 45 CFR Part 160 and Part 164.

### 2) OBLIGATION AND ACTIVITIES OF BUSINESS ASSOCIATE. Business Associate agrees to:

- a) Not use or disclose protected health information other than as permitted or required by the Agreement or as required by law;
- b) Use appropriate safeguards, and comply with Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 164 with respect to electronic protected health information, to prevent use or disclosure of protected health information other than as provided for by the Agreement;
- c) Report to covered entity (not delaying more than three days of Business Associates discovery) any use or disclosure of protected health information not provided for by the Agreement of which it becomes aware, including breaches of unsecured protected health information as required at 45 CFR 164.410, and any security incident of which it becomes aware;
- d) In accordance with 45 CFR 164.502(e)(1)(ii) and 164.308(b)(2), if applicable, ensure that any subcontractors that create, receive, maintain, or transmit protected health information on behalf of the business associate agree to the same restrictions, conditions, and requirements that apply to the business associate with respect to such information;
- e) Make available protected health information in a designated record set to the Covered Entity as necessary to satisfy covered entity's obligations under 45 CFR 164.524;
- f) Make any amendment(s) to protected health information in a designated record set as directed or agreed to by the covered entity pursuant to 45 CFR 164.526, or take other measures as necessary to satisfy covered entity's obligations under 45 CFR 164.526;
- g) Maintain and make available the information required to provide an accounting of disclosures to the Covered Entity as necessary to satisfy covered entity's obligations under 45 CFR 164.528;
- h) To the extent the business associate is to carry out one or more of covered entity's obligation(s) under Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164, comply with the requirements of Subpart E that apply to the covered entity in the performance of such obligation(s); and

- i) Make its internal practices, books, and records available to the Secretary for purposes of determining compliance with the HIPAA Rules.
- 3) PERMITTED USES AND DISCLOSURES BY BUSINESS ASSOCIATE.
- a) Business associate may use or disclose protected health information as necessary to perform the services as set forth in a written agreement between the parties.
  - b) Business associate may use or disclose protected health information as required by law.
  - c) Business associate agrees to make uses and disclosures and requests for protected health information consistent with covered entity's minimum necessary policies and procedures.
  - d) Business associate may not use or disclose protected health information in a manner that would violate Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164 if done by covered entity except for the specific uses and disclosures set forth below:
    - i) Business associate may use protected health information for the proper management and administration of the business associate or to carry out the legal responsibilities of the business associate; and/or
    - ii) Business associate may provide data aggregation services relating to the health care operations of the covered entity.
- 4) PROVISIONS FOR COVERED ENTITY TO INFORM BUSINESS ASSOCIATE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES AND RESTRICTIONS.
- a) Covered entity shall notify business associate of any limitation(s) in the notice of privacy practices of covered entity under 45 CFR 164.520, to the extent that such limitation may affect business associate's use or disclosure of protected health information.
  - b) Covered entity shall notify business associate of any changes in, or revocation of, the permission by an individual to use or disclose his or her protected health information, to the extent that such changes may affect business associate's use or disclosure of protected health information.
  - c) Covered entity shall notify business associate of any restriction on the use or disclosure of protected health information that covered entity has agreed to or is required to abide by under 45 CFR 164.522, to the extent that such restriction may affect business associate's use or disclosure of protected health information.
- 5) PERMISSIBLE REQUESTS BY COVERED ENTITY.
- a) Covered entity shall not request business associate to use or disclose protected health information in any manner that would not be permissible under Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164 if done by covered entity. This specifically excludes any use or disclosure by business associate protected health information for business associate's management, administration and legal responsibilities and data aggregation.
- 6) TERM AND TERMINATION.
- a) Term. The Term of this Agreement shall be effective when executed by both parties and shall continue throughout the term of any written agreement between the parties unless earlier terminated as set forth below.
  - b) Termination for Cause. Business associate authorizes termination of this Agreement by covered entity, if covered entity determines business associate has violated a material term of the Agreement and business associate has not cured the breach or ended the violation within the time specified by covered entity.
  - c) Obligations of Business Associate Upon Termination. Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, business associate, with respect to protected health information received from covered entity, or created, maintained, or received by business associate on behalf of covered entity, shall:

- i) Retain only that protected health information which is necessary for business associate to continue its proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities;
- ii) Return to covered entity or, if agreed to by covered entity, destroy the remaining protected health information that the business associate still maintains in any form; and
- iii) Continue to use appropriate safeguards and comply with Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 164 with respect to electronic protected health information to prevent use or disclosure of the protected health information, other than as provided for in this Section, for as long as business associate retains the protected health information;
- d) Survival. The obligations of business associate under this Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

7) **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.**

- a) Amendment. The Parties agree to take such action as is necessary to amend this Agreement from time to time as is necessary for compliance with the requirements of the HIPAA Rules and any other applicable law.
- b) Interpretation. Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be interpreted to permit compliance with the HIPAA Rules.
- c) Regulatory References. A reference in this Agreement to a section in the HIPAA Rules means the section as in effect or as amended.

<p><b>Covered Entity:</b> San Juan Basin Public Health</p> <p>By: _____ Liane Jollon, Executive Director</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p><b>Business Associate:</b> San Juan County Public Health</p> <p>By: _____ Becky Joyce, Director</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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**EXHIBIT "C" TO MOU**  
**BETWEEN SJBPH AND SJCPH**

**I. SERVICES.**

a) The Service Area: San Juan County, Colorado.

b) Services:

i. *The services ("Services") include:*

- 1) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(IV), as to administration and enforcement of laws pertaining to public health, air pollution, solid and hazardous waste, and water quality;
- 2) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(IV), as to investigation and abatement of environmental-related nuisances;
- 3) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(IX), to make available chemical, bacteriological, and biological labs, except as such labs are in La Plata and/or Archuleta counties;
- 4) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(XI), as to carrying out health programs offered by SJBPH. SJCPH shall be notified in advance of said programs, including enrollment therein or grant applications therefore;
- 5) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(XIII), to make necessary sanitation and health investigations and inspections for matters affecting public health, including all OWTS permitting, inspection and enforcement, pursuant to San Juan Basin Public Health On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Regulations 2018, as amended;
- 6) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(XIV), as to collaboration with the state department on all matters pertaining to water quality, air quality, air pollution, and solid and hazardous waste;
- 7) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(XV), as to San Juan County's establishment of local or regional child fatality prevention review team; and
- 8) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(XII), to collect, compile and tabulate reports of births and deaths for San Juan County:
  - a. San Juan County agrees to transfer all birth and death records currently held to SJBPH within 30 days of the execution of this MOU;
  - b. All birth and death records for San Juan County will be held by SJBPH in its Durango office.

ii) *The Services do not include:*

- 1) SJBPH clinics in San Juan County (any persons in the Service Area desiring SJBPH clinic services will need to travel to La Plata and/or Archuleta County for SJBPH clinic services);
- 2) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(I), completion of a community assessment;
- 3) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(II), advising San Juan County on public policy issues;
- 4) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(III), as it is San Juan County's obligation to arrange for its core public health services;
- 5) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(IV)(B) and (C), as to vital statistics for San Juan County and as to the orders, rules and standards of the state board;

- 6) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(VIII), as to investigation of non-environmental nuisances;
- 7) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(X), to purchase and distribute biological or therapeutic products to physicians and veterinarians in San Juan County;
- 8) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(XI), as to carrying out health programs not offered by SJBPH;
- 9) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(XIV), as to collaboration with the state department as to public health matters of San Juan County.

iii) *In addition, the Services do not include the following:*

- 1) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(V), investigate and control epidemic or communicable diseases in San Juan County;
- 2) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(VI), establish, maintain, and enforce quarantines in San Juan County; and
- 3) the agency duties set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-506(b)(VII), close schools and public places in San Juan County.

II. **SJBPH'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** Throughout the term of this MOU, SJBPH shall have the following rights and responsibilities:

SJBPH shall provide the Services to the Service Area in accordance with the obligations and standards set forth in C.R.S. § 25-1-501, *et seq.*

III. **SJCPH'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** Throughout the term of this MOU, SJCPH shall have the following rights and responsibilities:

- a) SJCPH shall be responsible for forming its public health agency and all obligations mandated by C.R.S. § 25-1-501, *et seq.*, for San Juan County other than those Services provided by SJBPH.
- b) SJCPH agrees that it shall not, at any time, submit billing to Medicaid, Medicare or otherwise for the Services provided by SJBPH in the Service Area.

IV. **JOINT OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** The Parties will periodically meet (upon the formal request of either) during San Juan County Board of Health meetings to discuss public health issues relevant to this MOU.

V. **FEES; BILLING.**

- a) Fees: SJCPH shall pay SJBPH the sum of *fourteen dollars (\$14.00)* for each person in the Service Area as determined by the last available population estimate by the Colorado State Demography Office.
- b) SJBPH will retain any fees charged for services provided through this MOU.

# THE Durango HERALD

## Deadly Colorado avalanche season prompts reflection on messaging

12 people died in slides statewide, 5 in San Juans as of this week

By Jonathan Romeo

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County & environment reporter

Friday, April 16, 2021 5:33 AM



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After one of the deadliest avalanche seasons in recorded history in Colorado, snow researchers and emergency management officials are reflecting and thinking of new ways to approach next winter to avoid loss of life.

“This year was especially dangerous for people,” said Ethan Greene, executive director of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center. “And it’s not a problem we can solve in isolation.”

As of Thursday, a total of 12 people died recreating in the backcountry, tying the other high fatality winter of 1993-94, according to records that go back to 1950, when outdoor recreation is considered to have started in the state in full force.

Five of those deaths this year happened in the San Juan Mountains, outside Silverton. (Backcountry ski season, and therefore avalanche danger, is not over typically until May.)

To find the last time more than 10 people died in avalanches, other than this year and winter 1993-94, one would have to go back to records in the late 1800s during the heyday of mining across the state, Greene said.

The root cause of increased avalanche activity this year can be traced to conditions that set up the winter snowpack this fall.

“The bad avalanche season always begins in fall,” Greene said. “And this year was no exception.”



Ron Corkish, president of La Plata County Search and Rescue, said experienced backcountry skiers can sometimes become comfortable with their knowledge and skill set, but it's imperative to remember the basics of backcountry travel before venturing out.

Courtesy of San Juan County Search and Rescue/Silverton Medical Rescue

Colorado received decent snow in October, but then experienced a dry period from mid-November into December. And when snow is on the ground, and then an extended dry period hits, snowpack weakens and becomes unstable.

Put more snow on top of that weak base and conditions become ripe for slides.

As a result, the avalanche danger throughout the entire winter was considered one of the highest years of risk for triggering slides in recent memory, with many researchers calling conditions a 1-in-10-year event.

“It’s like a house of cards where it can take a lot of weight on top, but it doesn’t take much effort at all, just a little push, and then it collapses,” said Jim Donovan, director of San Juan County’s Office of Emergency Management.

The CAIC is tasked with forecasting avalanche danger, and then getting that message out to the public. This year, the center ramped up its effort, starting a social media campaign, buying billboards and even putting out TV ads.

But still, tragic events occurred in the backcountry.

The first fatality occurred Dec. 18 near Ohio Pass in Gunnison County after a backcountry skier was caught and killed in an avalanche. And then, just a day later, two backcountry skiers were killed in a slide outside Silverton.

News of the deceased – Durango residents Dr. Jeff Paffendorf, 53, and Albert Perry, 55, known as “Bert” – sent shock waves through the community, especially because the pair were regarded as experienced, seasoned outdoor recreationists.

In a subsequent investigation report

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It is also believed Paffendorf and Perry were traveling uphill in an avalanche path when they triggered the slide, which started above them, the CAIC wrote in its investigation report.

Then, on Feb. 1, tragedy struck again in Southwest Colorado after an avalanche caught four backcountry skiers, also west of Silverton, ultimately killing three of the skiers who were from Eagle County.

The group, too, was considered veteran backcountry skiers, but erred after going into a gully where they triggered the slide

(<http://durangoherald.com/lms/loading.html#rotftwetu=aHR0cHMlM0EvL2R1cmFuZ29oZXJhbGQyY29tL2FydGljbGVzLzM3MDgwOS1jcn>)

according to a CAIC report. The deceased were Seth Bossung, 52, Andy Jessen, 40, and Adam Palmer, 49.

A common theme throughout Colorado's 12 avalanche deaths, Greene said, was that most of the people who died were experienced and knowledgeable about backcountry travel in the mountains.

"They were not new to backcountry travel," he said.

Ron Corkish, president of La Plata County Search and Rescue, said even if a backcountry skier is experienced and has taken avalanche courses, it's always important to remember the basics before going out.

"When you're going into a backcountry situation, focus on the basics and don't overthink it," he said.



Throughout the entire winter, avalanche forecasters and emergency management officials worked to improve messaging about avalanche danger in the mountains. Despite these efforts, 12 people have died in avalanches in Colorado this year, as of Thursday.

Courtesy of San Juan County Search and Rescue/Silverton Medical Rescue

Avalanche recovery missions, which more often than not deal with fatalities, took a heavy toll on search and rescue teams this year, Donovan said. San Juan County has about 30 people available to help with missions.

And this is especially difficult in the tight-knit community of Southwest Colorado, Donovan said, where it's not uncommon for rescuers to have a personal connection with the person they are trying to dig out.

"The mental impact is real," he said, adding the team has a therapist on hand if needed. "There's just a lot of stress on the rescuers when they're out there."

The two recovery missions were especially challenging, as avalanche danger posed a risk to search and rescue crews. Recovering the Eagle County residents took several days.

Donovan said the three men were buried 9, 11 and 20 feet deep, respectively, requiring the use of chainsaws and other equipment made specifically for deep burials. Corkish estimated they moved 22 tons of snow.

“You’re there just getting the job done and you don’t try to internalize it too much because it’ll tear you up during the rescue,” Donovan said. “Honestly, you put it out of your mind.”

Donovan said he believes after the Feb. 1 avalanche, people started to use more caution in the backcountry. As of Thursday, no other accidents involving avalanches had been reported to the CAIC in Southwest Colorado.

“People got pretty spooked by that accident,” he said. “It was a shocker to a lot of people.”



In the San Juan Mountains outside Silverton, search and rescue crews had to respond to two tragic incidents over the winter that resulted in the deaths of five people. Jim Donovan, director of San Juan County’s Office of Emergency Management, said the recovery missions took a toll on the crew.

Courtesy of San Juan County Search and Rescue/Silverton Medical Rescue

Backcountry skiing has been growing in popularity for years, but the growth of the sport was accelerated in the last year with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been sparking people’s interest in outdoor sports.

“The world we were living in bled into the backcountry and made things harder for everyone,” Greene said. “Backcountry recreation is an escape from all that, but we always take some of that stuff with us.”

But given the fact most people who died in slides this year were experienced, emergency management officials realize the message needs to reach skiers who may have grown comfortable with their skill set.

“It’s hard to get people to realize how much risk they’re taking,” Donovan said.

Greene said it’s imperative to get everyone in the backcountry skiing community – user groups, guide companies, ski shops – involved to help reach and educate as many people as possible about avalanche risks.

For next year, CAIC wants to boost communication, increase staff around the state and install signs at trailheads about avalanche danger. But educators can only do so much, and backcountry skiing, inherently, is a risky sport.

“I’m proud of the work the center did this year,” Greene said. “But, of course, it’s hard to be proud of the work you’ve done with 12 people dead, and we don’t take that lightly at all, and it definitely feels like there’s more work to do.”



Town of  
**Silverton**

PO Box 250  
Silverton, CO 81433  
970-387-5522



**SAN JUAN COUNTY**

PO Box 466  
Silverton, CO 81433  
970-387-5766

Date: April 25, 2021.

For: April 28 Board of County Commissioners Meeting.

From: Town/County Planning Director.

Regarding: Some of the Planning Department Work During the Past Two Weeks.

#### Recent Town/County Meetings

- The Town Master Plan Committee met on April 6.
- The Town Personnel and Ordinance Committee met on April 9.
- The Planning Commission met on April 20.
- The Town Board will meet on April 26.
- Floodplain Work Sessions will occur on April 26 and April 28.
- The Town Master Plan Committee will meet on April 27.
- The Town Staff meets weekly every Thursday morning.

#### Recent Town/County Projects

- Since the snow is melting, there have been a lot of calls about mining claims, camping, and septic systems.
- Interim Town Administrator Edwards is preparing a grant application on behalf of the Town Planning Department, for a request for DOLA funding, to hire a Planning Consultant firm in Durango (RPI), to update certain sections of the Town zoning regulations, which would be beneficial to the Town citizens.
- I have prepared a packet for Town and County Floodplain Work Sessions, to be held on August 26 and 28, in conjunction with CWCB, FEMA, and AECOM.
- I am currently processing many incomplete Town Applications, including notifying adjacent land owners.
- I am reviewing draft proposed infrastructure plans, usually in the Town's Slope Hazard Overlay District, including coordination with the applicants, their neighbors who will be sharing costs, the Town Public Works Director, and the applicants' engineers and architects.
- I am working on processing a Town Vacation Rental application.
- I have been working with Town Administrator/Building Inspector regarding affordable housing concepts.
- I have been working on some Town 2005 Avalanche Hazard Overlay District regulation and map issues.
- I am updating County forms for Mining Reclamation and Special Events/Film Permits.
- There are a few County Special Events/Film Permit Applications for summer.
- There are a few County applications (received and incoming) for proposed structures.
- There is a high volume of emails and calls about real estate, Town/County regulations, variances, permit applications, condos, extending infrastructure, wetlands issues, historic building façade improvements, resubdivision of Town lots, RVs and camping, septic systems, and mining claim questions.
- I am working on some redlining of both Town and County codes for upcoming proposed revisions.
- I ran an ad in the newspaper for a Town Planning Department part time clerical trainee.
- I worked on 3 Town Ordinances: Vacation Rentals, Architectural Review Overlay District, and Development Reimbursements.
- Please contact me with any questions at (970) 946-9408 or [ladair@silverton.co.us](mailto:ladair@silverton.co.us)

