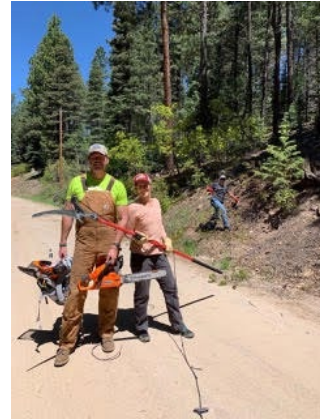


Enchanted Forest Estates

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

March 2023 Update



Signatures of Approval

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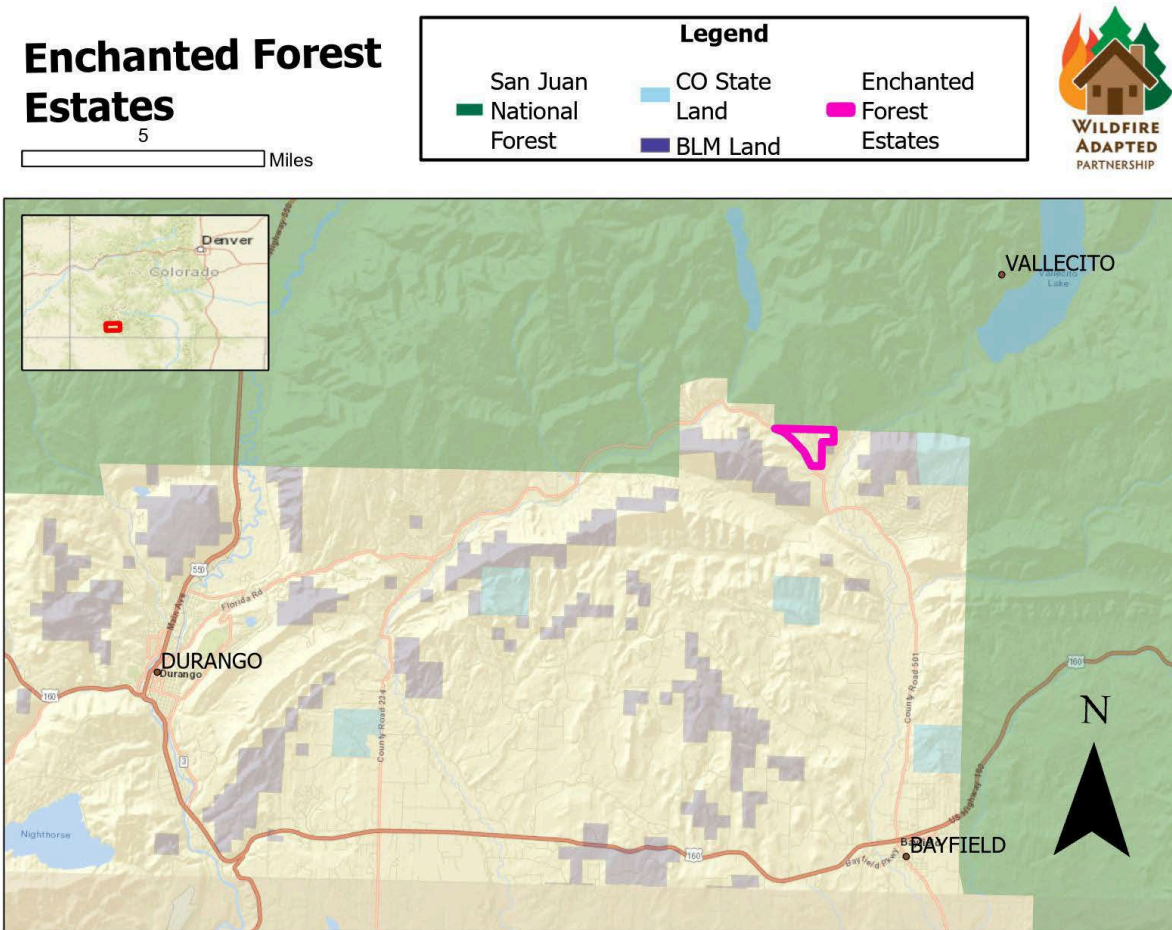
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Introduction

The Enchanted Forest Estates (EFE) subdivision lies in an incredibly beautiful part of Colorado. The Board of Directors of the Enchanted Forest Estates Property Owners Association recognizes that the subdivision is at risk from wildfires moving into, or originating within, the subdivision. An effort to educate property owners about fire risk and to mitigate around structures wildfire adaptation efforts have been underway for several years. As stewards of the land and survivors of the Missionary Ridge Fire, EFE residents are aware of the risk of wildfire and many have voluntarily carried out mitigation activities on their property. EFE’s original Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed in 2015.

Updating EFE’s 2015 CWPP is an important link in providing comprehensive wildfire mitigation and preparedness across the local landscape. The adjacent subdivisions of Los Ranchitos (2012), ‘Tween Lakes (2012), Forest Lakes (2011), Vallecito (2014), Greater Lemon Reservoir (2017) and La Plata County (2006) also have completed CWPPs. Completion and approval of this document is an important step in protecting forest and property values not only in EFE and adjacent subdivisions, but also across the broader landscape, including the forests of the public lands that are contiguous with EFE (Figure 1).



Enchanted Forest Estates is a residential community situated in La Plata County with 78, three-plus acre lots, and one parcel of one acre (Figure 2). Thirty-nine lots are full time residents, 16 are part time residents, 22 are vacant, and 1 has an outbuilding (Figure 3). Three new homes have been recently built and 3 lots are being developed. There are about 3.8 miles of unpaved roads within the subdivision and three entrances that originate on County Road 240. The roads are well-maintained, but tend to be narrow and steep in some areas (Figure 4).

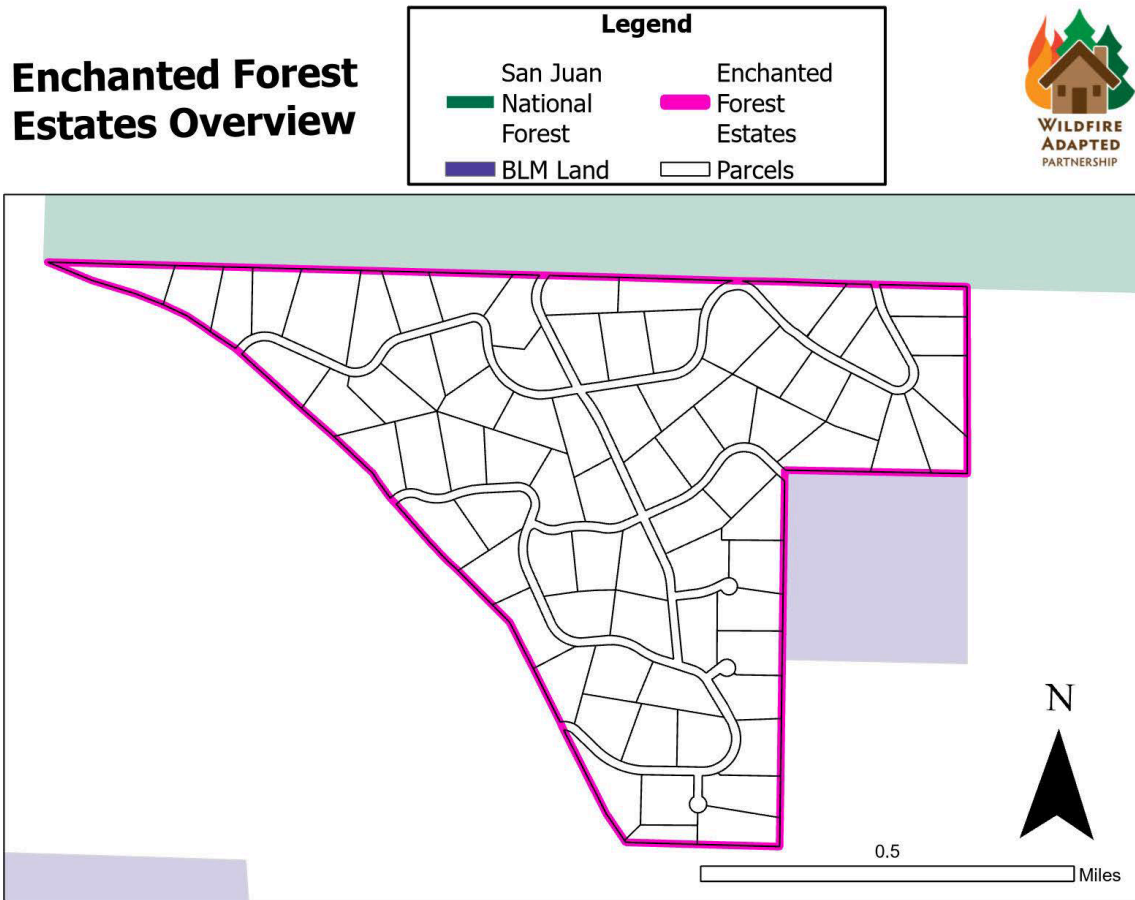


Figure 2. Enchanted Forest Estates BLM and San Juan National Forest Boundaries.

Enchanted Forest Estates Parcel Status

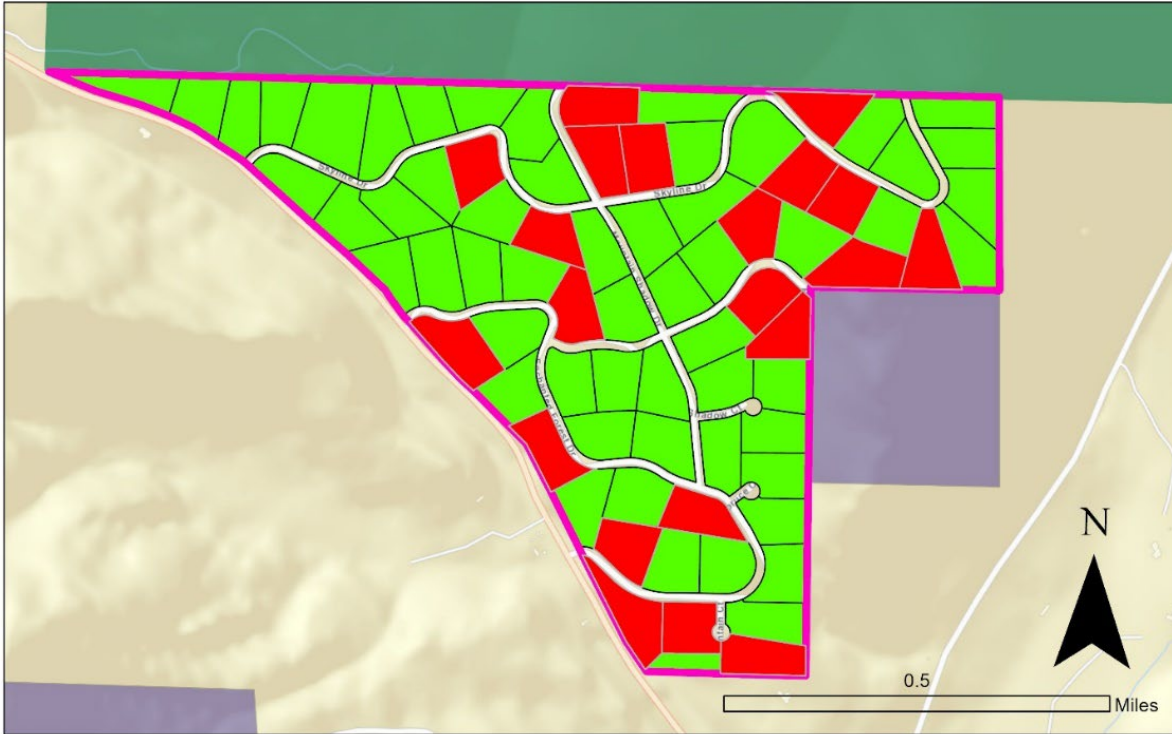
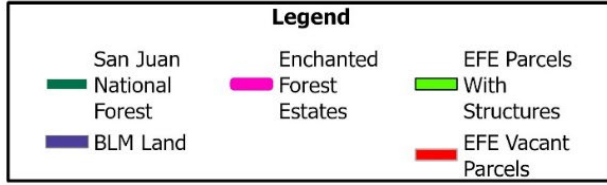


Figure 3. Enchanted Forest Estates parcel status.



Figure 4. Enchanted Forest Estates is bordered by County Roads 240 and 501. There are three entrances into the subdivision from County Road 240.

This CWPP was developed for the EFE subdivision with guidance and support from the Colorado State Forest Service, San Juan National Forest, Bureau of Land Management – Southwest District, La Plata County Office of Emergency Management, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District, Wildfire Adapted Partnership, and the Enchanted Forest Estates POA Board of Directors. The CWPP was developed according to the guidelines set forth by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (2003) and the Colorado State Forest Service’s Minimum Standards for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (2022). This plan is consistent with the goals and strategies described within the La Plata County CWPP (2006), and provides strategic and tactical direction specific to wildfire protection and mitigation for the EFE community.

Location

Enchanted Forest Estates is located in La Plata County between Lemon and Vallecito Reservoirs, approximately ten miles northwest of Bayfield, and 15 miles east of Durango, on the northeast side of County Road (CR) 240 (Figure 5). It is located in sections 33 and 34 of Township 36N, Range 7W, NMPM, La Plata County, Colorado. Elevation of the subdivision

ranges from 7,600 feet along the southern border at CR 240 to approximately 8,150 feet at northern border, the end of Skyline Drive.

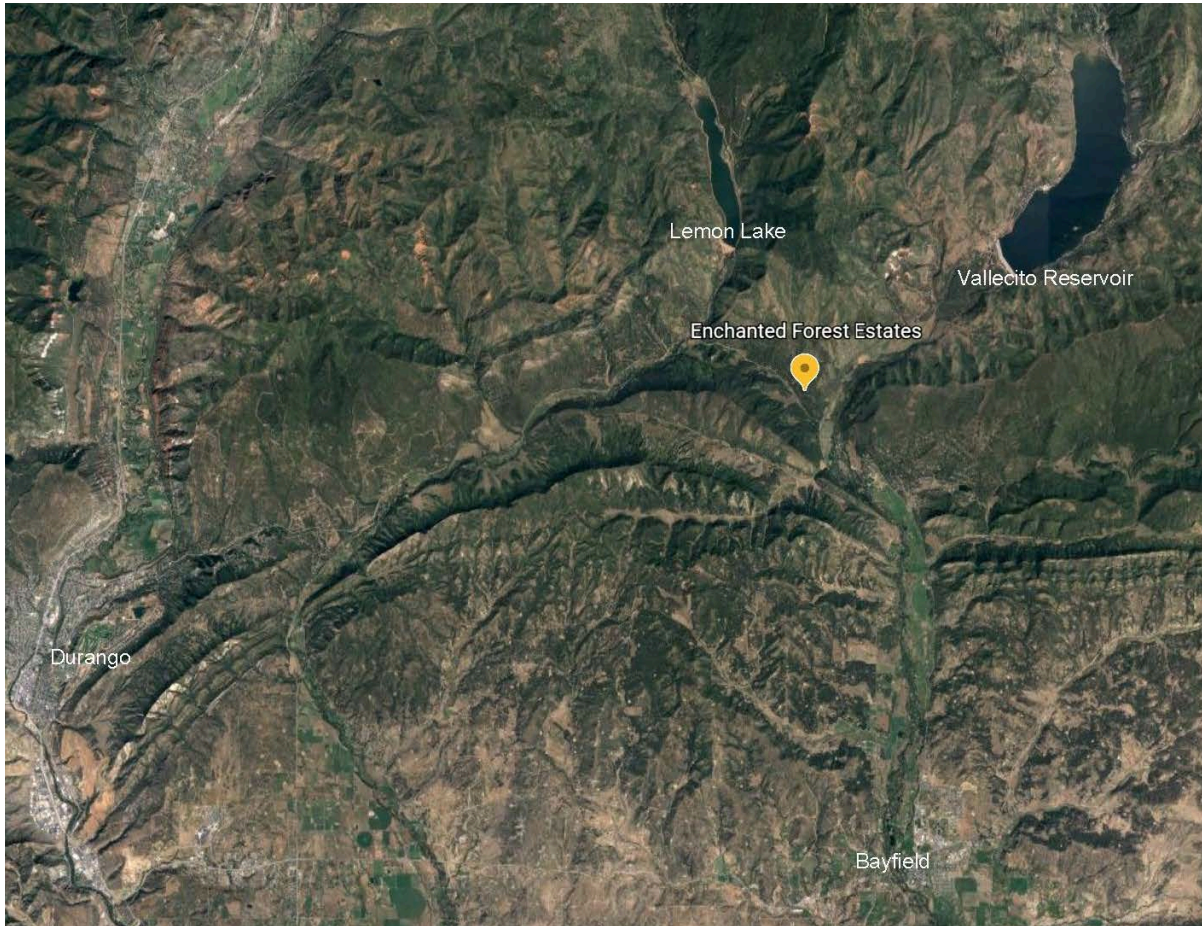


Figure 5. Enchanted Forest Estates is located between Lemon Lake and Vallecito Reservoir, northeast of Durango, and northwest of Bayfield, La Plata County, CO.

The beauty of La Plata County attracts people from all over the world. Many build their lives and their homes in the heart of the forested landscape, which is at high risk for catastrophic wildfire. The population of La Plata County had a population growth rate of 11.9 % from 2010 to 2020 (US Census Bureau). Much of the growth happens in the WUI, which is broadly described as the zone where structures and other features of human development meet and intermingle with flammable wildland or vegetative fuels. In La Plata County, many lots in the WUI have similar characteristics:

- Lack emergency access routes (one way in/one way out);
- Are in poor proximity to water sources;
- Are in areas with steep slopes;
- Have high risk vegetation types; and/or
- Are in close proximity to fuels on public lands.

EFE meets the definition of a WUI and is an at-risk community (Figure 6).



Colorado Risk Reduction Planner

<https://co-pro.coloradoforestatlas.org>

Enchanted Forest Estates Wildfire Risk

The overall composite risk occurring from a wildfire derived by combining Burn Probability and Values at Risk Rating.

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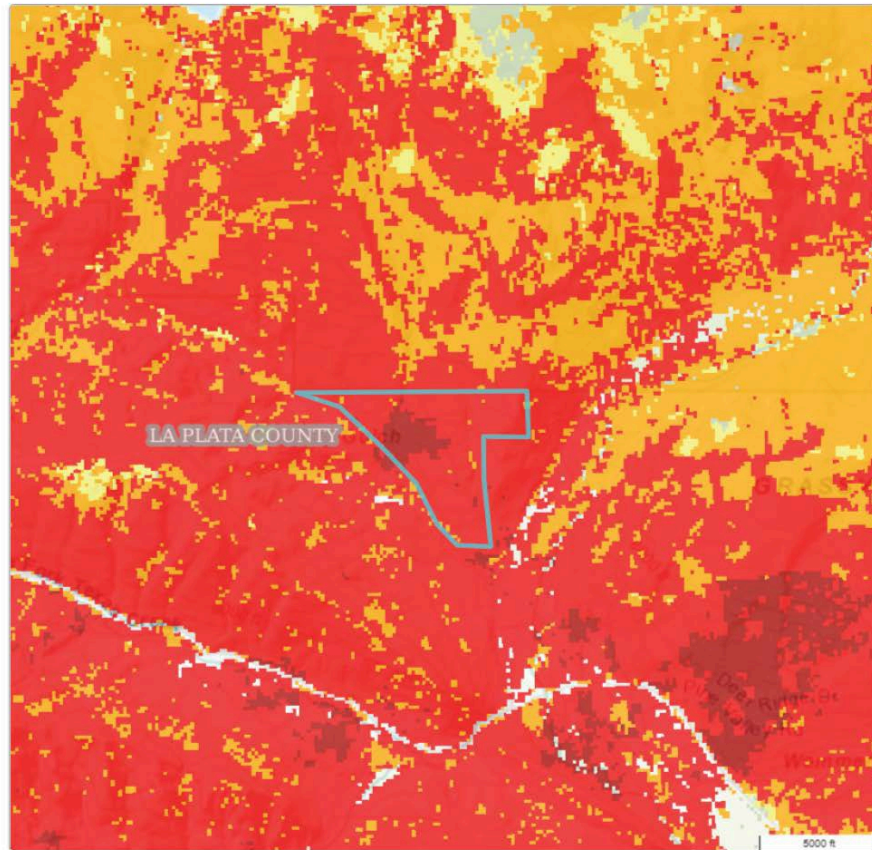
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Disclaimer

The user assumes the entire risk related to their use of the Colorado Wildfire Risk Public Viewer and either the published or derived products from these data.

The Colorado State Forest Service is providing these data "as is" and disclaims any and all warranties, whether expressed or implied, including, without limitation any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

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Legend

<https://co-pro.coloradoforestatlas.org>

Wildfire Risk

- Lowest Risk
- Low Risk
- Moderate Risk
- High Risk
- Highest Risk

Counties

< 1:1,500,000

Figure 6. Enchanted Forest Estates wildfire risk map source: Colorado State Forest Service Forest Atlas.

Fire History

In 2002, the Missionary Ridge Fire sent shock waves through the county as it burned over 70,000 acres and 56 homes and outbuildings including approximately 100 acres (portions of 31 lots) within the EFE subdivision. The map below shows the outline of the Missionary Ridge Fire boundary and the area where the fire burned within EFE (Figure 7). Although all homes were saved, sheds, equipment, decks, and forested lands were lost. EFE residents were evacuated for seven days. Most of the stand replacement burned area has regenerated to Gambel oak and aspen. The consequences of the Missionary Ridge Fire included: mudslides, erosion, road closures, and unstable snags along trails.

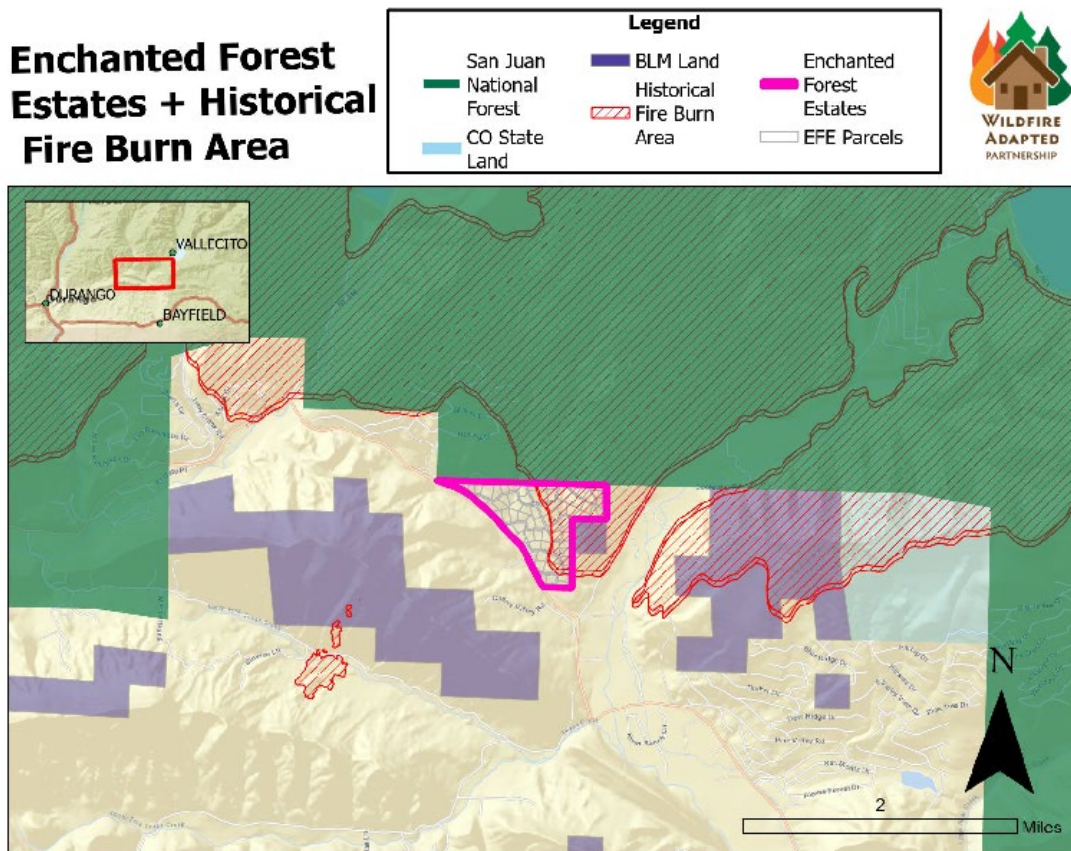


Figure 7. Missionary Ridge burn area and burn area within EFE.

Then, in 2018, the 416 Fire burned 52,778 acres in La Plata County and caused 1,300 homes and businesses to evacuate. Both the 416 Fire and Missionary Ridge Fire remain in the top 10 largest fires in Colorado history and both took place in La Plata County. Other examples include the Black Ridge Fire (1994) that burned over 10,000 acres in piñon/juniper approximately 25 miles southwest of the subdivision, the Sambrito 2 Fire (2011) that burned 500 acres of ponderosa pine and piñon/juniper 30 miles southeast of the subdivision, and the Red Creek Fire that burned approximately 33 acres of mixed-conifer forest only 6 miles southwest of Enchanted Forest in 2010. In 2012, the 1400-acre Vallecito Fire, burned an area of standing dead and down material that had burned in the Missionary

Ridge Fire, approximately 6 miles to the northeast of EFE. In addition, 3 small fires caused by lightning occurred within EFE. The long history of wildfires shows evidence of the active fire regime within the county and EFE's direct vicinity. For a list of significant local fires over a 20-year period (Table 2). The severity of these fires led to EFE's CWPP, yet EFE aims to have an up-to-date living document as wildfires have become an expected occurrence.

Table 1: Significant La Plata County Wildfires Over Twenty-Year Period (2002-2022)		
Date	Fire Name	Size (acres)
2002	Missionary Ridge Fire	73,000
2009	Pinon Fire	111
2011	Sambrito 2	522
2012	Vallecito Fire	1,400
2012	Goblin Fire	800
2012	State Line Fire (FireID: 641185)	550
2012	Air Park Fire	500
2012	Stateline Fire: (FireID:637721)	350
2017	Lightner Creek Fire	412
2018	358 Fire	51
2018	416 Fire	54,129
2020	84 Fire	25
2020	East Canyon Fire	2,905
2022	Perins Peak Fire	106
2022	Ute Pass Fire	30

CWPP Authorization and Process

Enchanted Forest Estates holds regular meetings to address goals, strategies, accomplishments, and updates to the current CWPP. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Brian Crowley, UPRFPD, attended an EFE meeting and offered assistance in writing the 2015 CWPP. EFE also held discussions with Charlie Landsman and Alex Graf, La Plata County Coordinator's with WAP, and Upper Pines Fire Protection District to update the CWPP starting in 2020. In addition, volunteers for the CWPP committee were solicited. All attendees were extremely interested and deeply concerned about fire mitigation for their individual properties and the community of EFE. A group of interested individuals volunteered to be on the committee. Since forming, the CWPP committee has met on almost a monthly basis. In November 2022, WAP staff met with EFE Ambassador's and came on board to provide assistance and expertise. On February 9th, EFE Board Members and partners met to provide input and discuss the progression of the CWPP update. Partners continually reviewed and provided input into the CWPP update in early 2023.

In these meetings, it was decided what information to disseminate to property owners, contents of the CWPP were discussed, assignments regarding the CWPP document were made, a questionnaire for the residents was developed, the WUI boundary was developed with partners, potential fire mitigation projects were discussed, and a CWPP email address was established to facilitate communication between property owners and the CWPP committee. In addition, information regarding mitigation work that had been completed, responses to questionnaires, the number of blue reflective signs that have been posted, and updates on community participation and response were summarized by the committee chair, Amy Paylor.

The regular meetings, the application, receipt and completion of a WAP Kickstart project, and the completion of this document indicate that EFE has a dedicated core of volunteers willing to improve fire safety, fire preparedness, and forest health within their community. It is anticipated that mitigation projects, communication, and information distribution will continue to be a high priority for the homeowners within this subdivision.

Partners in this CWPP Update

- Enchanted Forest Estates POA Board of Directors
- Upper Pine River Fire Protection District
- Colorado State Forest Service
- La Plata County Office of Emergency Management
- Bureau of Land Management Tres Rios Field Office
- San Juan National Forest
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership (formerly FireWise of Southwest Colorado)

Wildland Urban Interface

The CWPP covering the WUI area was developed collaboratively with the EFE POA, subdivision residents, the Colorado State Forest Service, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District, Wildfire Adapted Partnership, the Bureau of Land Management, and the San Juan National Forest – Columbine District. The WUI area is based on the area centered on the subdivision likely to burn in high fire danger conditions during a single burning period if pushed by 20-mph winds. HFRA defines Wildland Urban Interface within the legislation:

...areas extending 1½ miles from the boundary of a community-at-risk defined by the USFS and BLM inventory and which lack emergency access routes; are in poor proximity to water sources; have areas with steep slopes; have high risk vegetation types; and/or that are in close proximity to fuels on public lands.

The WUI boundaries are from the intersection of the Florida River and CR 240 by “Helen’s Corner” northeast along CR 243 one mile then east up a ridge to a bench at the 9,000 foot elevation, then northeast along the 9,000 foot contour to the head of the tributary to Spring Gulch, then southeast along the 9,000 foot contour to the divide between Spring Gulch and the Los Pinos River, then south along the divide to CR 501, then south along CR 501 past the mouth of Spring Gulch to the top of the divide between Spring Gulch and the West Fork Texas Creek, then northwest along the divide to the Florida River and then north to Helen’s Corner.

Total WUI area is 3,315 acres. Private land in the WUI covers approximately 2,067 acres. The remaining 1,248 acres are public lands; 345 acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management and 903 acres of National Forest System lands (Figure 1).

The 2,067 acres of private land within the WUI boundary includes the 249-acre Enchanted Forest Estates subdivision with 78 lots. Land uses are generally residential, agricultural (pasture and hay production) and non-industrial business. Public lands within the EFE WUI include 345 acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management located to the south of the subdivision and 903 acres of National Forest System lands (Figure 2). Most of the National Forest inside the WUI burned in the 2002 Missionary Ridge Fire (Figure 7), and approximately 80% of the fire in that area was stand replacement. The regenerating forest is dominated by Gambel oak and aspen with scattered ponderosa pine. The remaining National Forest is mixed-conifer forest. The BLM lands in the WUI are mixed-conifer forest.

Structural and wildland fire protection is provided by the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District (UPRFPD). Both structural and wildland fire engines resources are available. The UPRFPD maintains eight fire stations, three are staffed 24 hours (Stations 1, 2, and 5), and one is staffed 40 hours per week. The fire district minimum staffing is 7 personnel daily. The fire district also has a seasonal Type III fire engine positioned near EFE from March 1 to October 31. During wildfire season from March to October seasonal firefighters reside in Fire Station 3 on Florida Road (CR 240), Fire Station 6 on CR 502, and Fire Station 4 at Lake

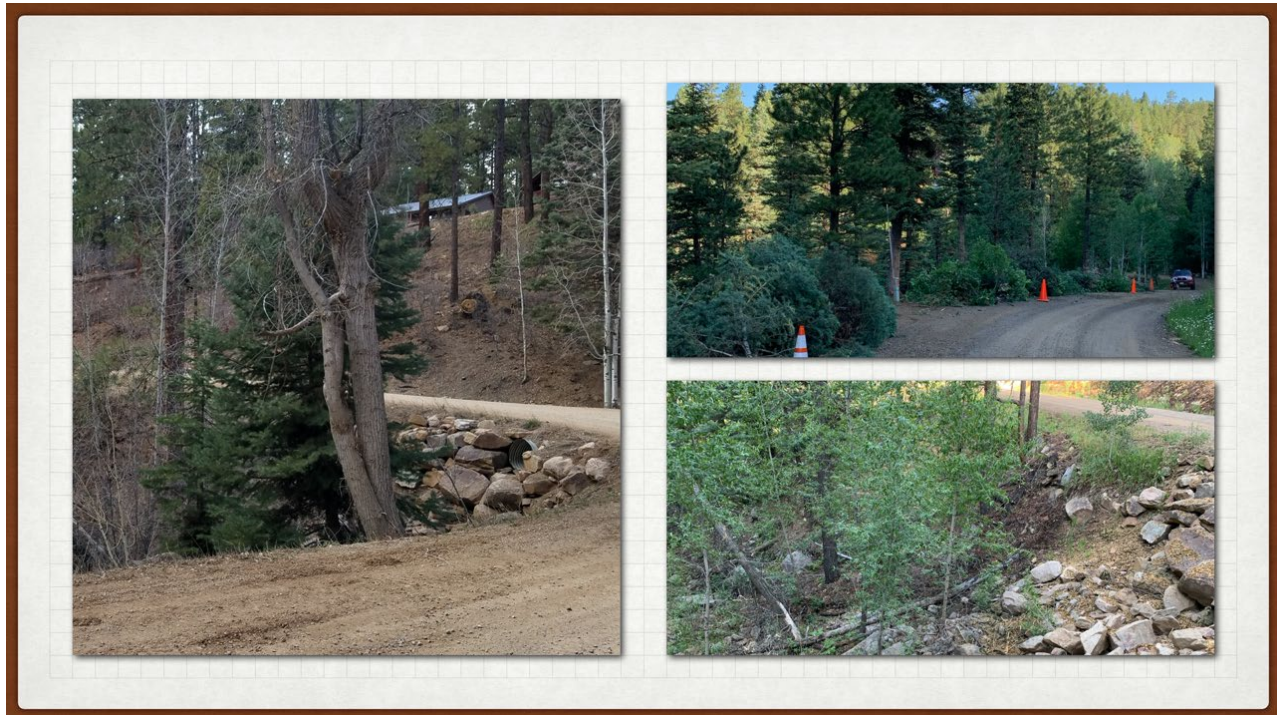
Vallecito. The UPRFPD maintains a 10-person fuels crew in the summer to assist in mitigation of private property and to fight wildland fires, if needed.

Other wildland fire resources are available through Durango Interagency Dispatch Center. Wildland fire resources include engines and crews from the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes. An air tanker base is located at Durango - La Plata Regional Airport - and additional aerial wildfire support can be provided by the Mesa Verde National Park initial attack helicopter at Hesperus, the Ute Mountain Ute initial attack helicopter at Towaoc and air resources from the Division of Fire Prevention and Control. The counties, federal land management agencies, DFPC and fire protection districts in southwest Colorado operate under the La Plata County Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for wildfire protection.

Accomplishments since last CWPP

Table 2: Enchanted Forest Estates Accomplishments					
	Group	Priority	Activity/project	Estimated cost	Completed
1	POA Board	1	*Include budget line item for fire mitigation	Request \$5k per year	In 2019, Board approved \$1k annually for mitigation. In 2020, Board approved \$2k annually. In 2021, Board approved \$10k for drainage project which included fire mitigation.
2	POA, WAP, UPRFPD	1	Assist homeowners with individual defensible space creation and fuel mitigation by providing annual information and education programs on effective mitigation techniques	\$1,100-1,200 per acre for mitigation	Since 2014, sent information and educational resources to all residents via email annually.
3	POA, UPRFPD	1	Develop a subdivision emergency notification phone tree. Encourage residents to sign up for "Code Red" notifications	\$0	Sent Code Red informational email annually.
4	POA	1	Familiarize residents with evacuation routes and protocols. Encourage practicing alternate exit routes.	\$0	Since 2014, emailed all residents with routes and protocols annually. Information was also included in 18 new resident packets.
5	POA, UPRFPD	2	Create shaded fuel breaks along subdivision roads through fuels reduction	\$16,500/mile of road treated	In 2021, completed ROW fuel break and drainage along all of Skyline Drive.
6	POA	2	Community workdays	\$0	Since 2014, conducted at least 1 annual community workday. In 2019, conducted 8 community work days. Recommended work on personal property in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID. 1 community work day in 2021.

7	CWPP committee, WAP	2	Provide new residents to EFE a package that includes pertinent FireWise information, links to websites, and introduces them to what they need to know to be fire safe and prepared	\$200.00/yr.	Ongoing since 2014. In 2019, provided 8 packets to new residents. In 2020, provided 10 packets to new residents.
8	POA	2	Make a contribution to WAP	\$100.00/yr.	Contributed \$200 in 2019 and \$200 in 2021
9	POA	2	Post uniform blue reflective address signs	\$0	In total, 42 residences posted blue reflective signs between 2015 and 2021. Update blue address sign map annually.
10	POA, UPRFPD	3	Develop relationships with adjoining landowners (public and private) to create and maintain network of fuel breaks	\$0	Had meeting with USFS in 2019. Discussed good neighborhood partnerships with Engler's and CSFS lower parcel.
11	POA, WAP, FireWise	3	Work towards FireWise Community status		Obtained FireWise Community status in 2020, 2021, and 2022.
12	POA	3	Erect dead-end signs	\$125	Completed in 2015
13	POA	1	Widen Skyline Drive dead-end		Completed in 2015
14	POA	1	Widen Mt. Shadow hammerhead turn and dead-end turn around		Completed in 2015
15	POA	1	Maintenance on Enchanted Forest Drive loop	\$22,000	Firesmart contractor completed mitigation work in 2021.
16	POA UPRFPD	2	Community Chipping Day	\$250	Conducted annually since 2017
17	POA	1	Drainage work and maintenance on Skyline Drive	\$18,000	Firesmart contractor completed work in 2020.



Enchanted Forest Estates Past Community Projects

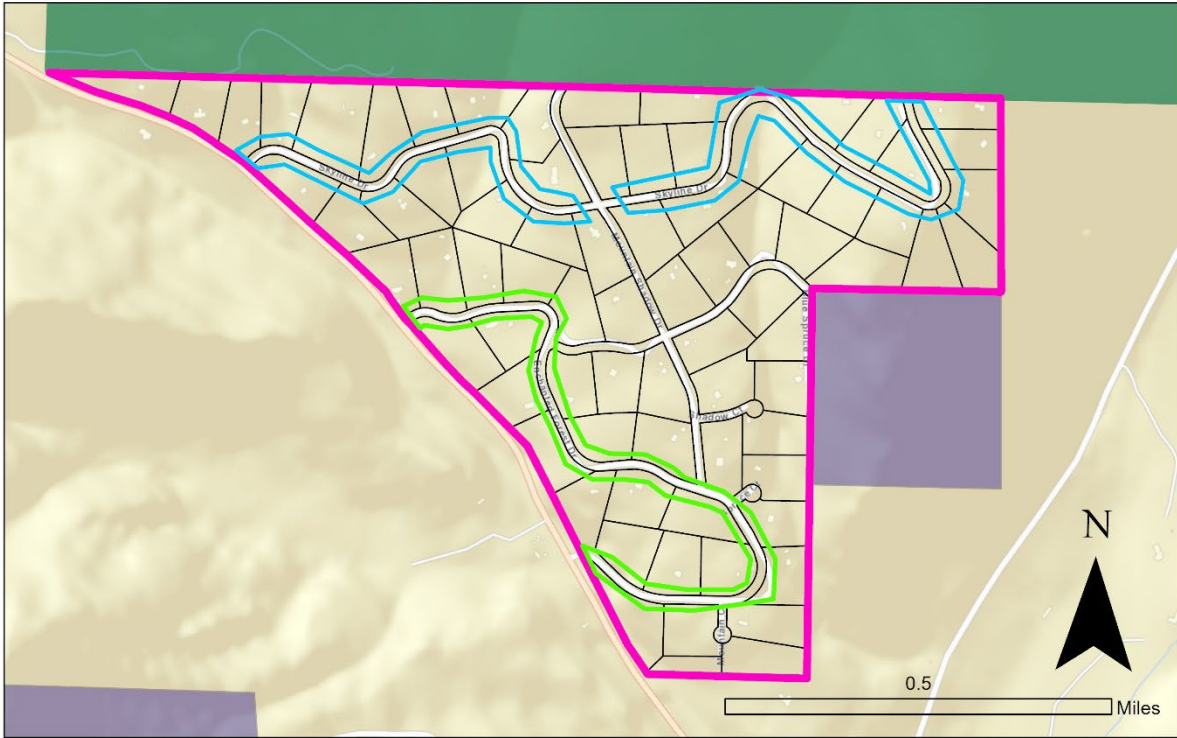


Figure 8. Enchanted Forest Estates Past Community Projects.

Revised Goals, Strategies, and Partner Responsibilities

Table 3: Enchanted Forest Estates Action Plan				
Year	Group	Priority	Activity/project	Estimated cost
Monthly	POA	2	Provide mitigation info to community via email/website/bulletin board	\$50 per yr.
Quarterly	POA WAP	2	Provide residents with information about d-space	\$0
Quarterly	POA WAP	2	Ask lot owners for mitigation hours to report to WAP & FireWise	\$0
Annually	POA	1	Ongoing mowing of previously treated ROW on Skyline Dr. and Enchanted Forest Dr.	TBD
Annually	POA UPFPD	3	Ask residents to sign up for CodeRed emergency notification service	\$0
Annually	POA	2	Contact and work with owners of vacant lots to initiate fuels treatments and maintenance	\$100 per yr.
Annually	POA WAP	2	Promote the use of WAP's incentive programs	\$0
Annually	POA	1	Community chipper day	\$3,000 per yr.
Annually	POA	3	Encourage maintenance of defensible space and shaded fuel breaks	TBD
Annually	POA UPFPD	3	Encourage landowners with narrow/steep driveways to improve access for fire vehicles.	\$0
Annually	POA	2	Examine the Covenants, Standing Rules, and Bylaws of the Association to ensure they are consistent w/ Firewise	\$0
Annually	POA WAP	2	Update community risk assessment	
Annually	POA WAP UPFPD	3	Review/revise CWPP	\$0

2023	POA	1	Final tree removal clean up on previous projects	TBD
2023	POA UPFPD	2	Complete ROW on Blue Spruce & small cul-de-sacs	\$22,000 bid
2024	POA UPFPD BLM	3	Thin trees on adjacent parcels of BLM land (consistent with other CWPPs in area)	TBD
2024	POA UPFPD	2	Maintenance on Skyline Drive including removing dead trees, mowing, slash removal, etc.	TBD
2025	POA UPFPD	2	Maintenance on Enchanted Forest Drive including removing dead trees, mowing, and slash removal	TBD
2025	POA UPFPD	2	Explore options and install a 2,000-gallon underground water tank for emergency response efforts	TBD
2025	POA UPFPD	1	Create shaded fuel break along CR 240	TBD
2026	POA UPFPD	2	Maintenance on Mountain Shadow/Blue Spruce including removing dead trees, mowing, slash removal, etc.	TBD
2026	POA	1	Maintenance on Mountain Court, Spruce Court, and Shadow Court including removing dead trees, mowing, slash removal, etc.	TBD

Proposed Adjacent Land Treatments

Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO) finalized in January 2021 the Durango Area Programmatic Hazardous Fuel Project Environmental Assessment. The project will reduce wildfire risk to public safety and infrastructure, improve forest health, and enhance wildlife habitat. Project implementation started in 2022, continuing over a 10-year period to meet vegetation restoration needs. Fuels reduction treatments on the BLM Skyline Unit located west and the small east section of Enchanted Forest Estates are planned to start in 2025.

Information about the BLM Durango Area Programmatic Hazardous Fuels Project EA
<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1505044/570>

Engler Property

The Engler property, which borders Enchanted Forest Estates to the north, has recently done some work to improve their existing roads. This was done to facilitate access as well as prepare for planned fuels treatments on the property. However, it also benefits Enchanted Forest Estates by reinforcing the utility

of the road as a firebreak as well as providing excellent access should there ever be need for future wildfire suppression efforts.

The Engler family has been working with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and the San Juan National Forest (SJNF) to treat approximately 80 acres of bordering fuels on their property as well as a 40 acre SJNF inholding. To this point, available funds have not been sufficient to facilitate treatment, but with the addition of new potential funding sources as well as increased interest in the area from local land management agencies, collaboratives and initiatives, hopefully these treatments can be completed in the near future.

Enchanted Forest Estates Planned Community Projects

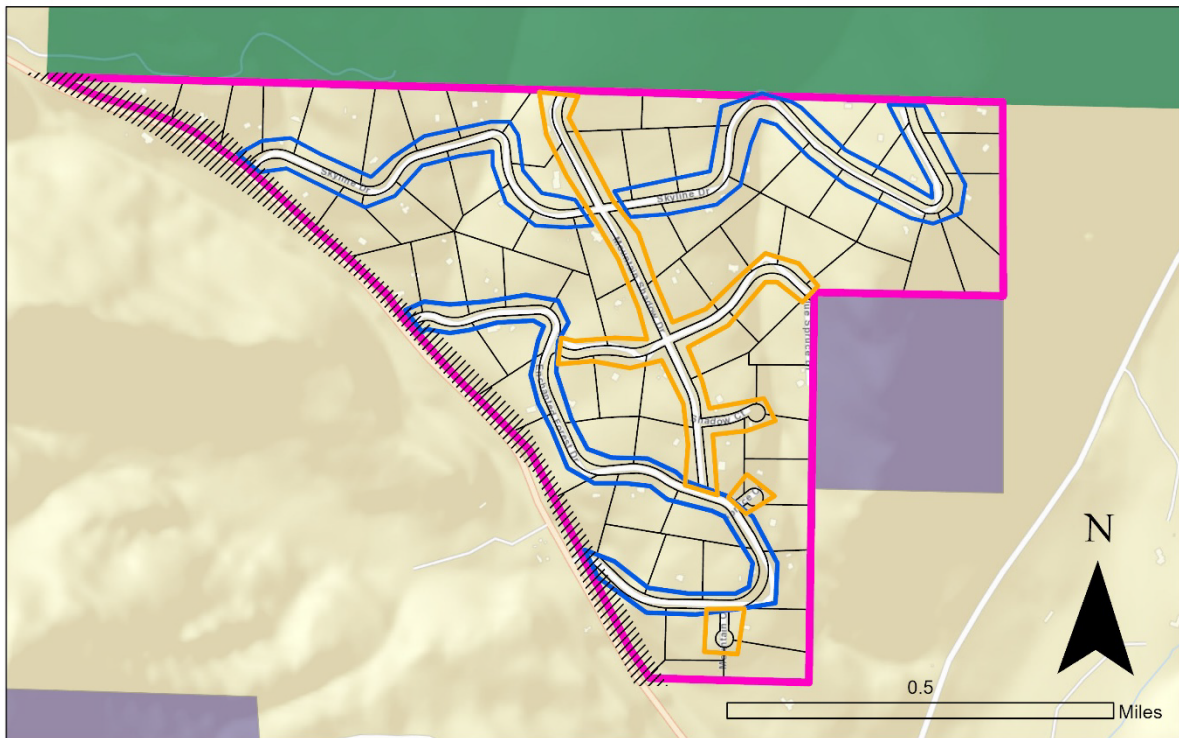
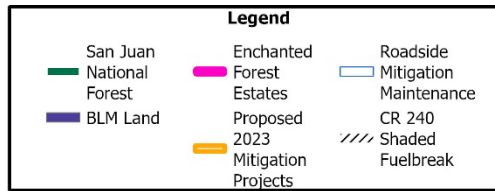


Figure 9. Enchanted Forest Estates Planned Community Projects.

Updating CWPP

The Enchanted Forest Estates CWPP will be reviewed each year to update with accomplishments or to address new priorities/areas of concern. Review of the CWPP will be the responsibility of the Enchanted Forest Estates POA. Annual accomplishments will be summarized during the annual meeting and will be incorporated into the CWPP.

Every five years the key stakeholders will take on the responsibilities (lead by the POA) of a more detailed review of the CWPP and list of accomplishments. At the five-year period, Enchanted Forest Estates POA will take a closer look at priority areas/area of concerns and update the CWPP that reflect any changes.

Summary

This CWPP complements and builds upon the Enchanted Forest Estates CWPP (2015). It incorporates key principles and guidelines arising from the HFRA. The plan lays out an ambitious program for:

- Reducing wildland fire risk in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)
- Accomplishing important fuel treatments on private lands
- Reducing structural ignitability
- Increasing community safety
- Continuing successful education and community mobilization endeavors
- Continuing to enhance partnerships between federal, state and local agencies and among community organizations and local residents.