

**Loma Linda Subdivision
Community Assessment
November, 2023**



Table of Contents

Location	3
Environment and Vegetation	3
Fire History and Risk	4
The Community	5
Values at Risk	5
Resources	6
Action Plan	6
Participants	7
Appendix	
Location Map	8
Topographical Map	9
Fire Hydrant Location Map	10
Fire Intensity Map	11
WUI Risk Map	12
Vegetation Map	13

Location:

The Loma Linda subdivision is located in Archuleta County, Colorado, approximately 5 miles south of the junction of US Highway 84 and US Highway 160, and 1 mile west on Eight Mile Mesa Road. The nearest town is Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 5 miles to the north. The approximate center of the subdivision is 37° 11' 5" N and 106° 58' 43" W. The development is bordered on the south and east by the San Juan National Forest. The northern boundary is multiple private mini-ranches. The eastern boundary is the adjacent Echo Canyon Ranch subdivision. Echo Canyon Ranch is a 1300 acre subdivision of 35 acre and larger lots.

Both Loma Linda and Echo Canyon Ranch have current Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and are recognized as Firewise/USA communities.

Environment and Vegetation:

Elevations in the subdivision range from 7200 to 7600 feet. The climate is semi-arid, typically with seasonal monsoons in mid-summer. The nearby Continental Divide and San Juan Mountain range encourage above average precipitation compared to the rest of the Four Corners area. The past twenty-year cycle has trended considerably hotter and drier than previously recorded in this area.

The majority of the residential sites are in ponderosa forest with Gambel oak understory. There are some lots on north facing slopes with dense, stunted Douglas fir. Rocky Mountain Juniper is scattered throughout the area. This area was clearcut between 1880 and about 1910. The current forested areas consist of predominantly single age, second growth trees. In most cases, the trees are overcrowded and stunted. The ponderosa sections have excessive ladder fuels comprised of Gambel oak and juniper.

There are also large areas of grassy mountain meadows and old pasture.

Fire History and Risk

The ponderosa/Gambel oak forested areas around Pagosa Springs are considered a frequent fire forest system. Prior to European intervention, the forests saw wildfires on five to fifteen year intervals. These were usually low intensity fires that burned back ladder fuels and thinned ponderosa stands.

The subdivision area has not seen a significant fire in over 130 years leading to excessive tree density and ladder fuels.

Significant Archuleta County Wildfires Over Twenty Two-Year Period (2002-2023)		
Date	Fire Name	Size (acres)
2002	Missionary Ridge	73,000
2003	Bolt Fire	2,160
2003	Devil Creek Fire	234
2012	Little Sand Fire	24,500
2013	West Fork Fire (cross-county fire)	58,600
2017	Eight Four Two Fire	1,000
2018	Spruce Fire (close vicinity to ECR)	10
2018	Horse Fire	700
2022	Plumtaw Fire	735
2023	Chris Mountain Fire	511
2023	Coal Mine Fire	286
2023	Quartz Ridge Fire	2,850
2023	Bear Creek Fire	1,093

Maps showing Fire Intensity, Vegetation and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk are included in the Appendix.

The Community:

The 995-acre rural-residential community consists of timbered, partially timbered, and open lands. 131 of the 186 lots have been developed with single-family residences and outbuildings. Lot sizes range from 3 to 18 acres. The majority of the lots are in the 3 to 5 acre range.

The developed lots have homes of diverse construction. Wood siding, stucco, log, concrete, metal and adobe construction can be found in a number of styles. All roofs are Class A fire rated, predominantly metal roofs with some composite shingle covered structures. A few of the homes have had Defensible Space work done. Some have not and combustible landscaping within 5 feet of structures has been observed. Almost all homes have reflective house numbers at the driveway where they are clearly visible for first responders.

There is only one entrance in and out of Loma Linda. There is one emergency egress route into neighboring Echo Canyon Ranch. All roads in the subdivision are dedicated County roads that are maintained by the Loma Linda Metropolitan District. Roads are constructed with ¾ minus material (gravel and fines) and treated with Magnesium Chloride for hard surfacing and dust control. Roads are 24 feet wide with 45-foot turn arounds on all cul-de-sacs.

La Plata Electric Association supplies electricity to all lots through a combination of overhead and buried lines. Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District supplies municipal water to all lots. There are 35 fire hydrants interspersed throughout the subdivision.

Loma Linda subdivision developed and adopted a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in 2016.

Values at risk:

- Lives, both human and animal (cats, dogs, horses, etc.)
- Residential structures
- Infrastructure (electricity, water, phone, roads, etc.)
- Views
- Lifestyle

Resources:

Loma Linda is within the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD). The District has 18 paid staff and approximately 40 volunteers. District-wide, the firefighting equipment includes seven engines, five tenders (water trucks), one aerial truck with a 75-foot ladder, five brush trucks, a mobile command vehicle, a maintenance truck and other smaller vehicles. A 1,000-gallon Type 1 engine, an 1,800-gallon Type 3 support tender, and a Type 6 brush truck are housed at Station 3 which is 1 ½ miles from the entrance to Loma Linda. Station 3 does not have staff on site.

The Archuleta County Sheriff has authority over wildfires in the County. The Office of Emergency Management, a department of the Sheriff's Office has 3 full time staff and 3 seasonal firefighters. They have two engines.

All local fire-fighting agencies have Intergovernmental Agreements that allow them to assist each other when needed.

Loma Linda has 35 fire hydrants on the PAWSD municipal water system. Immediate water availability is 100,000 gallons. Echo Canyon Reservoir, which contains 211 acre feet of water with a depth of 50 feet, is close by to the north. In the event of a wildfire, helicopters could fill buckets with water from this nearby source.

Action Plan:

Priorities (Most are continuing current efforts):

1. Educate property owners about the wildfire, the need for mitigation on their property and reimbursement opportunities.
2. Encourage creation of Defensible Space by individual owners.
3. Organize community chipping days.
4. Maintain visibility and access to fire hydrants.
5. Develop an evacuation plan for the community.
6. Establish safe areas within the community.
7. Assess driveways for accessibility by emergency vehicles.
8. Encourage property owners along the southern boundary of the subdivision to perform fuels reduction treatments to develop a shaded fuel break along the southern border with the National Forest.

Assessment Development Participants:

Peggy Beach, Wildfire Adapted Partnership Ambassador

Karn Macht, Pagosa Fire Protection District Deputy Chief

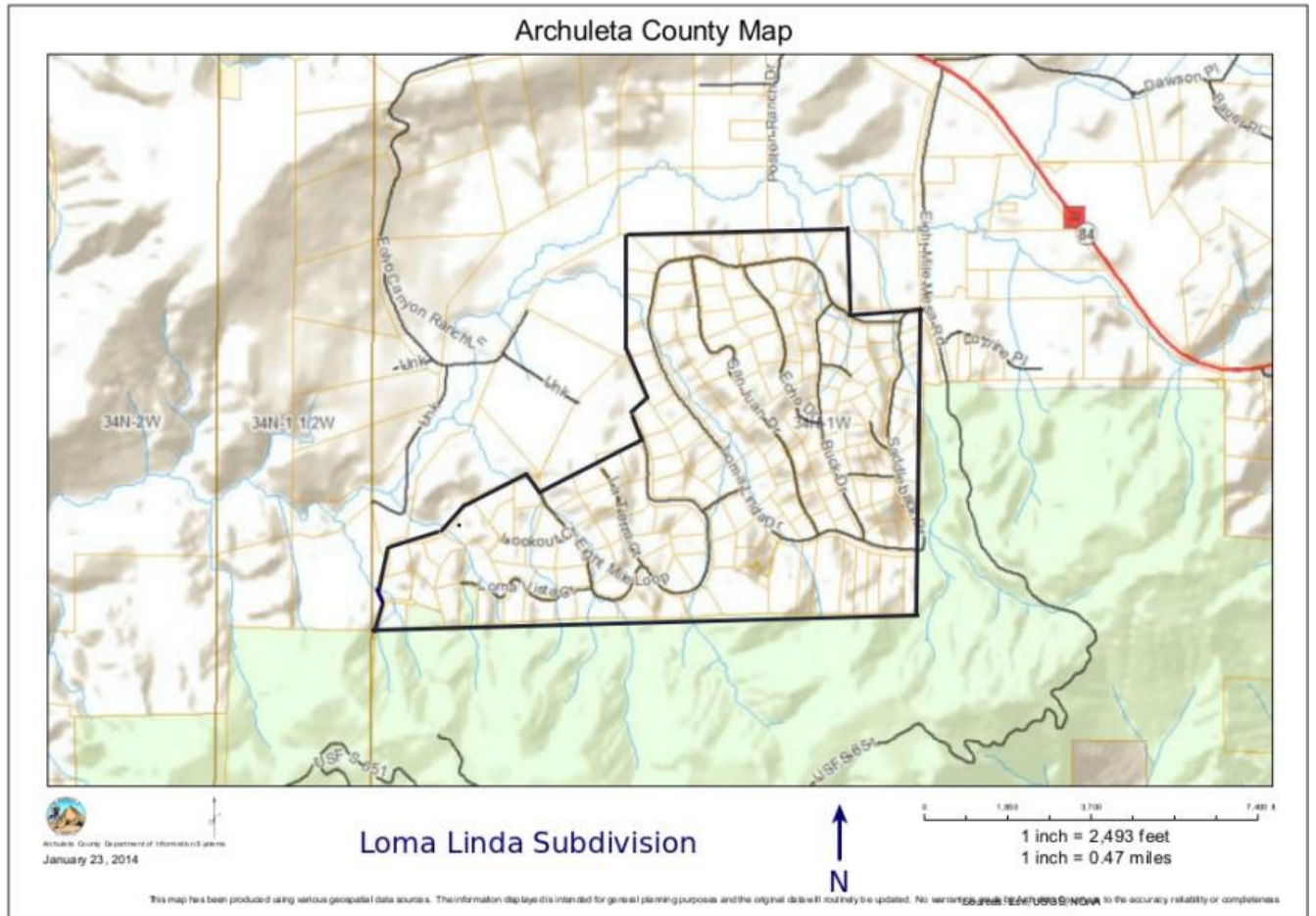
Bill Remien, Loma Linda Metropolitan District

Al Myatt, Wildfire Adapted Partnership Ambassador & Loma Linda Metropolitan District

Jo Myatt, Wildfire Adapted Partnership Ambassador

Bill Trimarco, Wildfire Adapted Partnership Archuleta County Coordinator

Topographical Map



Fire Intensity Map



Colorado Wildfire Risk Viewer

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

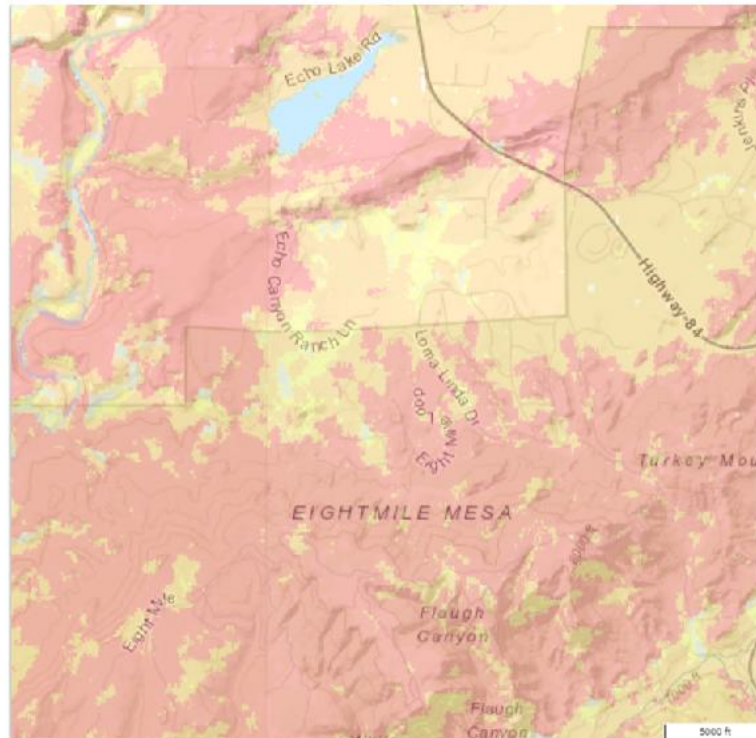
Loma Linda Fire Intensity Scale

Quantifies the potential fire intensity by orders of magnitude.

Created on:
11/27/2023, 4:34 PM

Disclaimer

The user assumes the entire risk related to their use of the Colorado Wildfire Risk 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. In no event will Colorado State Forest Service be liable to you or to any third party for any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, special or exemplary damages or lost profit resulting from any use or misuse of these data.



Fire Intensity Scale

-  Lowest Intensity
-  Low
-  Moderate
-  High
-  Highest Intensity

WUI Risk Map



Colorado Wildfire Risk Viewer

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

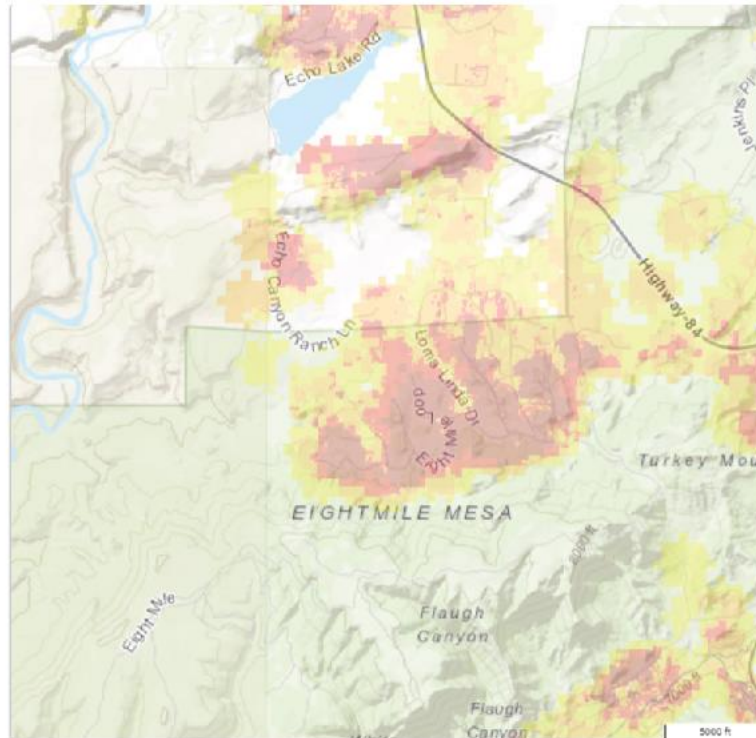
Loma Linda Wildland Urban Interface Risk

A measure of the potential impact on people and their homes from wildfire.

Created on:
11/27/2023, 4:37 PM

Disclaimer

The user assumes the entire risk related to their use of the Colorado Wildfire Risk Viewer and/or other 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. In no event will Colorado State Forest Service be liable to you or to any third party for any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, special or exemplary damages or lost profit resulting from any use or misuse of these data.



Wildland Urban Interface Risk

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

Vegetation Map



Colorado Wildfire Risk Viewer

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

Loma Linda Vegetation

General vegetation and landcover types.

Created on:

11/27/2023, 4:39 PM

Disclaimer

The user assumes the entire risk related to their use of the Colorado Wildfire Risk Viewer and/or other 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. In no event will Colorado State Forest Service be liable to you or to any third party for any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, special or exemplary damages or lost profit resulting from any use or misuse of these data.



Vegetation

- Agriculture
- Grassland
- Lodgepole Pine
- Mixed Conifer
- Oak Shrubland
- Open Water
- Pinyon-Juniper
- Ponderosa Pine
- Riparian
- Shrubland
- Spruce-Fir
- Developed
- Sparsely Vegetated
- Hardwood
- Conifer-Hardwood
- Conifer
- Barren