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Yuma County Community Wildfire protection Plan

The following entities mutually agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Yuma County Board of Commissioners

Dean Wingfield Chairman Date 5/31/11 kan

Yuma County Sheriff

Chad Day Date 5/31/11

Yuma Rural Fire Protection District

Tom Blach Board Chairman

Date 5/18/11

Yuma County Fire Protection District

Brent Deterding Board Chairman

Colorado State Forest Service

Date <u>5 / 13 / 11</u> Date <u>6 / 14 / 11</u>

Yuma County Wildfire Protection Plan

Overview:

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are authorized and defined in Title I of the *Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA)* passed by Congress on November 21, 2003 and signed into law by President Bush on December 3, 2003.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) places renewed emphasis on community planning by extending a variety of benefits to communities with a wildfire protection plan in place. Critical among these benefits are - 1) The option to establish localized definitions and boundaries for areas having high Risk (potential), Hazards (fuels) and Values; and 2), The opportunity to help shape management priorities for federal and non-federal lands within the planning area.

The CWPP, as described in the Act, brings together diverse local interests to discuss their mutual concerns for public safety, community sustainability and natural resources. It offers a positive, solution-oriented environment in which to address challenges such as local firefighting capacity, the need for defensible space around homes (and areas of value), and where and how to prioritize land management.¹ (Colorado State Forest Service, 2005. Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Guidelines for Implementation. 4 pages.)

The purpose of this document is to provide stakeholders and those living in Yuma County with an overview of the wildland fire risks, hazards and values within the planning area; recommend possible courses of action to reduce the impacts of wildfire in the planned area; and to share a current action plan.

Elements of the Plan

- I. Yuma County's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)
- II. Yuma County's Risk Analysis
- III. Yuma County's Preparedness To Respond and Firefighting Capabilities
- IV. Methods to Reduce Structural Ignitability
- V. Yuma County Implementation Plan

Goals:

- 1. Outline strategies that private landowners can use to reduce wildfire risk
- 2. Identify areas having moderate or high risk of wildfire
- 3. Identify public education strategies using information gathered in the development of this plan.
- 4. Improve suppression resources through mutual aid agreements and MOU'S with other agencies and adjacent jurisdictions in Nebraska and Kansas.

Plan Development and Participants

The following agencies contributed to the development of this plan:

County Entities:

Yuma County Commissioners Yuma County Emergency Management Yuma Rural Fire Protection District Yuma County Fire Protection District Yuma County Sheriff's Department Yuma County Residents

State Entities:

Bonny State Park Colorado Division of Wildlife Colorado State Forest Service

Federal Entities:

Bureau of Reclamation

Incorporated Cities & Towns:

City of Yuma Fire Department City of Wray Fire Department Town of Eckley Fire Department

Residents of the unincorporated towns and rural areas.

Joes	Yuma County FFA
Kirk	Community of Remote Farmsteads
Idalia	

I. Yuma County's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI):

Yuma County is occupied by widely scattered communities, and agricultural and industrial sites. The primary wildland fuel is made up of flammable grasses, cured crops, and other vegetation. The wildland-urban interface exists throughout the county. It is simply described as any situation where flammable grasses and other vegetation exists near homes or other structures, equipment, facilities, etc. The "urban" component is described as all areas where people live, work, recreate, or otherwise habitat. "Communities" are the cities, towns, historic sites, remote industrial facilities, the collection of scattered farmsteads, etc.

II. Yuma County's Risk Analysis:

Wildland Fire Fuels in Yuma County

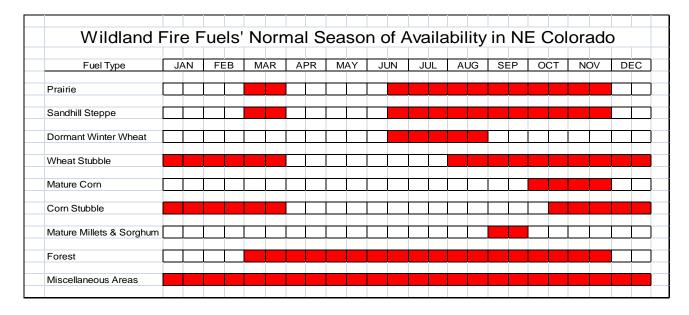
Wildland fire fuels can be divided into four categories: grazing land, cultivated agricultural land, forested lands, and miscellaneous. Grazing lands are primarily made up of sandhill steppe and prairie, and exhibit rather predictable seasonal burning characteristics. Cultivated agricultural land includes irrigated and non-irrigated crop land and has very dynamic burning characteristics and seasons. Forested land includes the riparian forest, windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snowfences, wildlife habitats, and urban forests in the wildland urban interface (WUI). Miscellaneous areas include transportation rights-of-way, fence lines, disturbed areas, and other areas that contain tumbleweeds, grasses, wild sunflowers, and other weeds.

The prairie contains native mixed grasses, small brush, and some introduced grass species. It is generally described as "short grass" and other types of prairie. In many areas livestock grazing maintains a rather sparse fuel load.

Sandhill steppe is a conglomerate of sand sage and mixed grassed, generally including some introduced grass species. These areas are usually grazed by livestock. The fuel load on these lands is moderate to heavy. Very large fires have occurred with this fuel type, especially during times of high winds prevalent in the spring.

The cultivated agricultural land is used to produce various crops including; corn, winter wheat, sugar beets, onions, grass hay, alfalfa hay, carrots, beans, cabbage, sunflowers, millets, and others. Of these, the crops of concern as wildland fire fuel are dormant stands of winter wheat, wheat stubble, mature corn, corn stubble, grass hay, and mature millets and sorghum. Each of these crops is available as fuel during a specific season of the year. These seasons can differ widely. Also, the fields may contain different crops from year to year. This dynamic nature of the fuel locations and seasons of availability adds considerably to the challenge of suppression preparedness.

The forested lands are located along rivers, seasonal water courses, ponds, and lakes; scattered across the county as windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snowfences, and Wildlife habitats; and in the vicinity of farmsteads and urban areas in the wildland Urban Interface. In most cases the forest includes a surface cover of grass and brush, which is the primary carrier of the fire. The tree species of concern in the windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snowfences, and wildlife habitats are primarily Eastern Red Cedar,

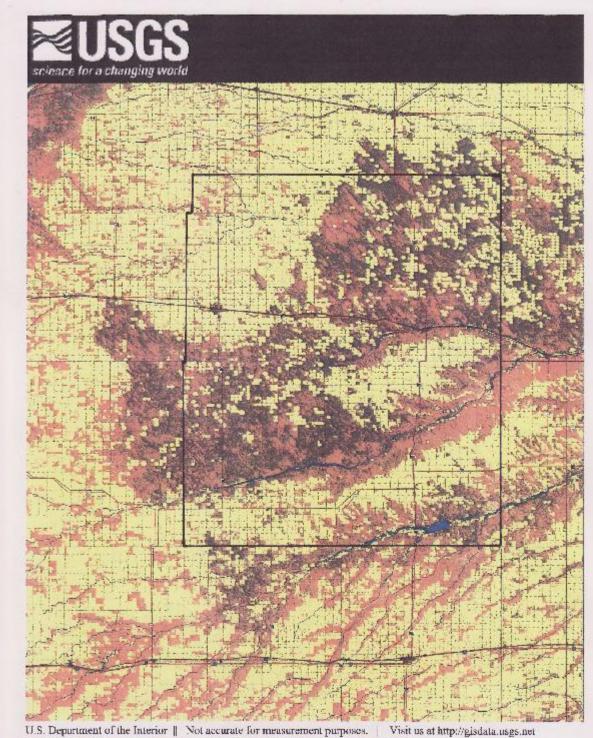


Rocky Mountain Juniper, Ponderosa Pine, and Colorado Blue Spruce. Examples of shrub species include Caragana, Cotoneaster, Chokecherry, Native Plum, Sumac (Skunk Bush), Sandcherry, Nanking Cherry, European Sage, Buffaloberry, and Fourwing Saltbush. In many instances, these species; along with other trees such as Cottonwood, Siberian Elm, Burr Oak, and Hackberry have been planted near homes and outbuildings.

In Northeastern Colorado the long-term weather patterns have flowed as a series of years of "normal" precipitation, followed by a series of drought years. Generally the fire season is from March through November. In drought years the fire season has been year-long. A period of high winds and an abundance of dried fuels from the previous year have produced extreme fire behavior in early March. There is usually a season of spring moisture and "green-up" from April to early June. Beginning in late May or early June the cool season grasses such as cheatgrass cure out and become available as fuel. In late June wheat begins to cure with harvest beginning in July. This harvest may last three to four weeks and fires can occur in these fields. The wheat stubble left on some fields may remain as fuel throughout the winter. Corn begins curing out in October and is available as fuel until harvest is completed by late November. Corn stubble may remain on the field and be available as fuel until spring tillage begins. The rangeland fuels are available throughout the year, but most prevalent in March and from mid-June through November. Forest fuels include the

grasses, brush, trees, and the dead leaves and woody material on the forest floor. These fuels are available year-around in drought years, and from March through November in years of "normal" precipitation.

Yuma County Vegetation Cover - Fuel Hazard Map



U.S. Geological Survey | Images are derived from *The National Map* Seamless Server

Yuma County Vegetation Fuel Cover From U.S.G.S. National Map LANDFIRE Data Products U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S.D.A. Farm Service Agency Satellite Imagery

Image Color	Description	Fuel Model (Anderson)
	Western Great Plains Sandhill Steppe	1, 2, 8
	Western Great Plains Short Grass Prairie	1
	Introduced Upland Vegetation - Perennial Grassland & Forbland	1
	Southern Rocky Mountain Pinyon Juniper	1, 2, 5
	Central Mixed Grass Prairie	2
	Agriculture & Irrigated Agriculture (Standing dry crops, i.e., dry corn, dry wheat & stubble, CRP, etc.) **	3 **
	Riparian Mixed Hardwoods*	2,5,8
	Urban Mixed Hardwoods*	2,5,8

- * Note: Fuel Type not shown on LANDFIRE image, but observed in ground survey. Includes cottonwood, tamarisk, russian olive, willow, juniper, and others.
- ** Note: Fuel description modified for local conditions. Fuel Model not given by LANDFIRE, so inserted from observed ground survey.

www.landfire.gov

13 Anderson Fire Behavior Fuel Models: These original 13 standard fire behavior fuel models serve as input to Rothermel's mathematical surface fire behavior and spread model (Rothermel 1972). Fire behavior fuel models represent distinct distributions of fuel loading found among surface fuel components (live and dead), size classes, and fuel types. The fuel models are described by the most common fire-carrying fuel type (grass, brush, timber litter, or slash), loading and surface area-to-volume ratio by size class and component, fuelbed depth, and moisture of extinction. These fire behavior fuel models can serve as input to the FARSITE fire growth simulation model (Finney 1998) and FlamMap fire potential simulator (Stratton 2004). Further detail on these original fire behavior fuel models can be found in Anderson (1982) and Rothermel (1983). These data were refined for based upon comments obtained from fuel and fire behavior specialists. Moreover, these data were updated to reflect the effects from recent (1999 to 2008) disturbances (for example, wildland fire, wind, insects, and management activities) and succession. (Obtain Refresh Disturbance Perimeter Data.) The FBFM13 layer was derived from the FBFM40 layer using a look-up table from Scott and Burgan (2005).

Anderson, H.E. 1982. Aids to determining fuel models for estimating fire behavior. General Technical Report INT-122, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, UT. 26 p.

Finney, M.A. 1998. FARSITE: Fire Area Simulator-model development and evaluation. Res. Pap. RMRS-RP-4, Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fort Collins, CO. 47 p.

Rothermel, R.C. 1972. A mathematical model for predicting fire spread in wildland fuels. Research Paper INT-115, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, UT. 42 p.

Rothermel R.C. 1983. How to predict the spread and intensity of forest and range fires. General Technical Report INT-143, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Reserach Station, Ogden, UT. 53 p.

7 of the 13 Anderson Fire Behavior Fuel Models Are Found in NE Colorado

Fire Behavior Fuel Model 1

Fire spread is governed by the fine, very porous, and continuous herbaceous fuels that have cured or are nearly cured. Fires are surface fires that move rapidly through the cured grass and associated material. Very little shrub or timber is present, generally less than onethird of the area. Western annual grasses such as cheatgrass, medusahead ryegrass, and fescues.

Fire Behavior Fuel Model 2

Fire spread is primarily through the fine herbaceous fuels, either curing or dead. These are surface fires where the herbaceous material, in addition to litter and deaddown stemwood from the open shrub or timber overstory, contribute to the fire intensity. Open shrub lands and pine stands or scrub oak stands that cover one-third to two-thirds of the area may generally fit this model; such stands may include clumps of fuels that generate higher intensities and that may produce firebrands. Some pinyon-juniper may be in this model. Scattered sage within grasslands.

Fire Behavior Fuel Model 3

Fires in this fuel are the most intense of the grass group and dislay high rates of spread under the influence of wind. Wind may drive fire into the upper heights of the grass and across standing water. Stands are tall, averaging about 3 feet (1 m), but considerable variation may occur. Approximately one-thrid of more of the stand is considered dead or cured and maintains the fire. Wild or cultivated grains that have not been harvested can be considered similar to tall prairie and marshland grasses.





Fire Behavior Fuel Model 4

Fires intensity and fast-spreading fires involve the foliage and live and dead fine woody material in the crowns of a nearly continuous secondary overstory. Stands of mature shrubs, 6 or more feet tall, such as California mixed chaparral, the high pocosin along the east coast, the pinebarrens of New Jersey, or the closed jack pine stands of the north-central States are typical candidates. Besides flammable foliage, dead woody material in the stands significantly contributes to the fire intensity. Height of stands qualifying for this model depends on local conditions. A deep litter layer may also hamper suppression efforts.

Fire Behavior Fuel Model 5

Fire is generally carried in the surface fuels that are made up of litter cast by the shrubs and the grasses or forbs in the understory. The fires are generally not very intense because surface fuel loads are light, the shrubs are young with little dead material, and the foliage contains little volatile material. Usually shrubs are short and almost totally cover the area. Young, green stands with no dead wood would qualify: laurel, vine maple, alder, or even chaparral, manzanita, or chamise. Green, low shrub fields within timber stands or without overstory are typical.

Fire Behavior Fuel Model 8

Slow-burning ground fires with low flame lengths are generally the case, although the fire may encounter an occasional "jackpot" or heavy fuel concentration that can flare up. Only under severe weather conditions involving high temperatures, low humidities, and high winds do the fuels pose fire hazards. Closed canopy stands of short-needle conifers or hardwoods that have leafed out support fire in the compact litter layer. This layer is mainly needles, leaves, and occasionally twigs because little undergrowth is present in the stand. Representative conifer types are white pine, and lodgepole pine, spruce, fir, and larch.

Fire Behavior Fuel Model 9

Fires run through the surface litter faster than model 8 and have longer flame height. Both long-needle conifer stands and hardwood stands, especially the oak-hickory types, re typical. Fall fires in hardwoods are predictable, but high winds will actually cause higher rates of spread than predicted because of spotting caused by rolling and blowing leaves. Closed stands of longneedled pine like ponderosa, Jeffrey, and red pines, or southern pine plantations are grouped in this model. Concentrations of dead-down woody material will contribute to possible torching out of trees, spotting, and crowning.









Fire Behavior By Vegetative Fuel Cover

Fire Behavior by Vegetation Fuel Cover From BEHAVEPlus 5.02 Fire Modeling System Input Variables U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Moisture Content Rocky Mountain research Station 1-hr Fuels Moisture 9 % 10-hr Fuels Moisture 10 % 100-hr Fuels Moisture 11 % Live Herbaceous Moisture 90 % Live Woody Moisture % 120 Image Description Color Western Great Plains Short Grass Prairie: Anderson Fuel Models Wind Speed 1 - Short Grass (mph) Flame Rate of Spread Length (ft/min) (ft.) 5 94 5 270 7 10 7 15 270 270 7 20 Central Mixed Grass Prairie: Anderson Fuel Models 2 - Timber Grass & Wind Speed 1 - Short Grass (mph) understory Flame Rate of Rate of Flame Spread Length Spread Length (ft.) (ft/min) (ft/min) (ft.) 5 94 5 41 7 270 7 138 12 10 7 15 270 287 17 270 7 485 21 20 Western Great Plains Sandhill Steppe: Anderson Fuel Models Wind Speed 2 - Timber Grass & 1 - Short Grass (mph) understory Rate of Flame Rate of Flame Spread Length Spread Length (ft.) (ft/min) (ft/min) (ft.) 5 94 5 41 7 270 7 138 12 10 15 270 7 287 17 270 7 485 21 20 Introduced Upland Vegetation - Perennial Grassland & Forbland: Anderson Fuel Models Wind Speed 3 - Tall Grass & 1 - Short Grass 5 - Brush Understory (mph) Rate of Flame Rate of Flame Rate of Flame Spread Length Spread Spread Length Length (ft.) (ft.) (ft/min) (ft/min) (ft/min) (ft.) 5 94 5 118 13 26 6 270 7 285 20 67 10 10 7 483 118 13 15 270 26 20 270 7 702 31 175 15

Southern Rocky Mountain Pinyon Juniper:

And	orcon	Fuel	Model

	Anders	son i dei fric	ueis	
Wind Speed (mph)	1 - Shoi	rt Grass	1 101 1000 1000 1000	er Grass & erstory
	Rate of Spread (ft/min)	Flame Length (ft.)	Rate of Spread (ft/min)	Flame Length (ft.)
5	94	5	41	7
10	270	7	138	12
15	270	7	287	17
20	270	7	485	21

Agriculture & Irrigated Agriculture (Standing dry crops, i.e., dry corn, dry wheat & stubble, CRP, etc.): **

Anderson F	-uel	Models
------------	------	--------

Wind Speed	3 - Tall	Grass &
(mph)	Unde	rstory
	Rate of	Flame
	Spread	Length
	(ft/min)	(ft.)
5	118	13
10	285	20
15	483	26
20	702	31

Riparian Tamarisk: **

	on Fuel Mod	els
Wind Speed (mph)	4 - Cha	aparral
	Rate of	Flame
	Spread	Length
	(ft/min)	(ft.)
5	82	20
10	211	32
15	371	41
20	556	.49

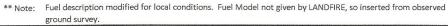
Riparian Mixed Hardwoods:*

			Anders	on Fuel Model	s			
Wind Speed (mph)	1 - Shoi	rt Grass		er Grass & erstory		t Needle ter	9- Hardw	ood Litter
	Rate of Spread (ft/min)	Flame Length (ft.)	Rate of Spread (ft/min)	Flame Length (ft.)	Rate of Spread (ft/min)	Flame Length (ft.)	Rate of Spread (ft/min)	Flame Length (ft.)
5	94	5	41	7	2	1	9	3
10	270	7	138	12	5	2	27	5
15	270	7	287	17	5	2	53	7
20	270	7	485	21	5	2	87	9

Urban Mixed Hardwoods:*

Wind Speed (mph)	1 - Shoi	rt Grass		er Grass & erstory	0 (24(<u>5</u>))	t Needle ter	9- Hardw	ood Litte
	Rate of Spread (ft/min)	Flame Length (ft.)	Rate of Spread (ft/min)	Flame Length (ft.)	Rate of Spread (ft/min)	Flame Length (ft.)	Rate of Spread (ft/min)	Flame Length (ft.)
5	94	5	41	7	2	1	9	3
10	270	7	138	12	5	2	27	5
15	270	7	287	17	5	2	53	7
20	270	7	485	21	5	2	87	9

* Note: Fuel Type not shown on LANDFIRE image, but observed in ground survey. Includes cottonwood, tamarisk, russian olive, willow, juniper, and others.



Risk of Wildfire occurrence

Yuma County is rural in nature and has a land area of 2379 square miles, County population is 9800 with the major concentrations being in the City of Yuma located in West central Yuma County 3287, Town of Eckley located in Central Yuma County 278 and the City of Wray located in East central Yuma County 2130.

The majority of the rest of the population is centered around the unincorporated towns of Idalia, Kirk & Joes.

US highways 385, 36 & 34 traverse Yuma County, Colorado SH 59 is the only state highway in Yuma County. There are a total of 2281 miles of county maintained county roads in Yuma County most of which are unpaved. All Yuma County roads are signed , and landowners are encouraged to provide an address sign for their residence. CDOT and Yuma County routinely control vegetation by mowing & spraying their ROW. CDOT will be encouraged to mow the entire width of ROW instead of doing just one pass as they do now.

All Yuma County bridges and cattle guards are signed regarding weight restrictions and all fire dept personnel are aware of any restrictions in their areas. Yuma County Road & Bridge controls vegetation adjacent to wooden bridges to reduce ignitability.

The BNSF railroad traverses Yuma County through the towns of Yuma, Eckley & Wray with 25 -30 trains per day. The railroad basically follows US highway 34 through the county. The railroad routinely controls vegetation along their ROW by spraying and mowing.

Many of the structures in rural Yuma County are 60+ years old. Through education residents are encouraged to use fire resistant materials when replacing or remodeling structures.

Residents are also encouraged to remove flammable vegetation around structures, fuel storage and propane tanks.

There are six wildlife areas in Yuma County that are managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife . These are Landsman Creek, Sandy Bluffs, Sandsage, Simmons, South Republican, and Stalker Lake. These are located along the North and South Republican river basins and the Arickaree River Drainage. The vegetation in these areas consists of a thick growth of trees, brush along the river bottoms along with tall grasses. The pasture land in Yuma County consists of long & short grasses, yucca & sage. There is no BLM Land in Yuma County , ninety eight percent of the land in Yuma County is privately owned.

Goal . Identify areas having moderate or high risk of wildfire.

All of Yuma County is subjected to the risk of wildfire . The areas of the highest risk are the sand hills areas of non-irrigated pastureland located in the Eastern third of the county. Wildfires in these areas are typically caused by severe weather events (Lightning) and tend to spread rapidly. These areas consist of steep hills and canyons with few roads or trails. Response to wildfires in these areas can be difficult.

Other areas include harvested dry land crop areas (corn stalks and wheat stubble) and other areas of natural grasses ie land enrolled in the Crop Reduction Program (CRP)

Wildfires can and do occur year round, however the greatest risk exists during the spring and summer months which is the severe weather season. Cloud to ground lightning is the major cause of all wildfires in Yuma County. Fall is also considered a high risk time as crops have matured and are drying out in the fields and harvesting is in progress. "Controlled Burns" conducted by landowners are done mostly in the Spring.

The most significant wildfires occurred in August 1999 when some 6,500 acres of pasture land burned and in March of 2006 in which some 14,500 acres of pastureland burned.

Community Values To Be Protected

Examples of Yuma County's values to be protected include; farmsteads, homes, businesses, "essential infrastructure", cities and towns, gas wells and facilities, railroads, feedlots, dairies, crops, livestock, other agricultural facilities, Beecher Island and other historical sites, recreation areas, Bonny State Park, Stalker Lake, Hale Ponds State Wildlife Area, Wray Fish Hatchery, rural churches and cemeteries, and livelihoods.

Recent Large Fire Behavior and Fire Spread.

The predominant wildland fires in Yuma County are fast moving wind-driven grass fires. These occur in every month of the year, and are only lessoned when the fuel is snow-covered and during "greenup", usually in June. Major ignition sources are lightning and human activity. A significant weather concern is the high winds of Spring.

The largest wildland fire in recent history was the "Yuma County Fire" March 1, 2006. This fire was caused by high winds blowing two power lines together near a gas well. It started about noon and was pushed through dry grass fuels by 50 mph winds for over three hours. It ran almost 20 miles and covered some 15,000 acres and came within a mile of the town of Wray. Homes and other structures were burned, firefighters were injured, the Wray Fish Hatchery was damaged, a stretch of railroad was damaged, as well as causing evacuations in the town of Wray.

III. Identification of adjacent landowners -- (land that touches the community's external boundary)

Yuma County is bordered by Washington County on the West, Phillips County on the North, Dundy County Nebraska and Cheyenne County Kansas on the East, and Kit Carson County on the South. Mutual aid agreements and MOU'S are in place for the Colorado Counties that Border Yuma County. Dundy County Nebraska and Cheyenne County Kansas have signed the INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Attached) with Yuma County. The Washington/Yuma Combined Communications Center in Yuma has the capability to link communications between the agencies in Nebraska and Kansas together to provide for interoperability. The Yuma Fire Department and the Yuma Ambulance service routinely respond to incidents in Washington County. The boundaries are Washington County Road UU on the West to County Road 30 on the South a County Road 54 on the North.

IV. Yuma County's Preparedness To Respond and Firefighting Capabilities

Yuma County is organized into two fire districts.

These districts consist of eleven Fire Departments strategically located in Yuma County and staffed with approximately 218 volunteers. These volunteers man a total of 66 firefighting vehicles which are located in the eleven departments county wide, each with a defined area of responsibility. These Departments have equipment that is suited to the terrain in their area of responsibility. All Fire Volunteers are "paged out" from the Washington/Yuma Combined Communications Center (WYCC) in Yuma which is the single point for reporting fires and dispatching personnel. All Fire fighting vehicles are equipped 800 Mghz radios, personnel have the ability to communicate with each other, adjacent counties in Colorado and also with agencies from neighboring jurisdictions in Nebraska and Kansas. The communications center also notifies fire personnel of conditions that could cause fires, i.e. severe weather watches and warnings and red flag warnings.

Firefighter Training

All fire department personnel are NIMS trained at the 700 level and command officers (Chiefs Captains and Lieutenants) are encouraged to reach the ICS-200 level. Personnel are also encouraged to take wild land fire training. Training materials and information are made available through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) catalogue. Part 2 (<u>www.NWCG.gov</u>.)

Emergency Citizen Notification

The Washington/Yuma (W/Y) County Combined Communications Center employs reverse 911 to alert citizens of natural hazards. A program is also in place to allow citizens register their cell phones to receive reverse 911 calls . The registration forms are also available in Spanish and phones can be registered on the <u>www.ReadyNortheast.org</u> website. A NOAA all hazards radio transmitter is located in Wray. Continuous weather information is broadcast from the National Weather Service office in Goodland KS. The station is also available to broadcast "Civilian Emergency Messages" at the request of the emergency manager. The W/Y Communications center can also enable the cable override for the town of Wray to deliver an emergency message.

Evacuations

There is no formal evacuation plan for the residents of Yuma County. The Yuma County fairgrounds have been designated to receive livestock and household pets.

V. Methods to Reduce Structural Ignitability:

Many residences and outbuilding structures in rural Yuma County were built in the 40's and 50's. As these structures are refurbished and /or are replaced, land owners are encouraged to use fire resistant materials. Insurance companies provide incentives through rate reductions for replacing wooden roofs with metal and for fire resistant siding. Most of the replacement and new outbuildings being constructed on the farms and ranches in Yuma County are made of metal.

VI. Yuma County Implementation Plan

Fuels Reduction Goals

Our plans are to contact the USDA and request a ruling to allow mowing of the land enrolled in the CRP, for fire protection purposes. Residents are also encouraged to bulldoze abandoned structures and remove dead trees and other unwanted vegetation. The Yuma County Road & Bridge will be encouraged to mow more regularly along county roads, the Colorado Department Of Transportation will be requested to mow wider strips and more regularly along U.S. Highways, and the Yuma County Pest Control District will be encouraged to increase spraying along roadways.

Fire mitigation information for all residents

Firewise public presentations have been presented at all eleven fire departments in Yuma County and were attended by the residents in each departments area. Additional mitigation information is available through the Yuma County Office of Emergency Management, the individual Yuma County Fire Departments, the USDA Office in Wray, the CSU Extension Office, and the local FFA chapter.

Goal . Outline strategies that private landowners can use to reduce wildfire risk

Public Information & Education:

The initial hazard reduction priorities in this plan concentrate on providing fire prevention awareness information to residents through newspaper articles and public service announcements over local radio stations. Mitigation information will also be available through both the East &West Yuma County Chamber. This same information will also be promoted at the annual Yuma County Fair, The "Wray Daze" celebration and at local fire Department functions where the public is invited. These efforts will be ongoing throughout the year with special emphasis during times of high risk (i.e. Spring when wind events are common)

During the first six months of 2009 "Fire Wise" informational meetings were held at the Wauneta Fire Dept, Wray Fire Dept, Yuma Fire Dept. Idalia Fire Dept. Joes Fire Dept and the Eckley Fire Dept. Notices inviting residents to attend and provide their input were put in the local newspapers prior to each meeting. Board Members of the Yuma County Fire Protection District and the Yuma Rural Fire Protection District also attended one or more of the area meetings. These programs will be continued throughout the county in future years. Landowners with tree lines and fence lines will be encouraged to keep those lines free of tumbleweeds and other debris.

Goal . Improve suppression resources through mutual aid agreements and MOU'S with other agencies and adjacent jurisdictions in Nebraska and Kansas.

Mutual aid agreements review:

The fire districts will be asked to review all of their mutual aid agreements in 2011 and update if necessary, and establish agreements with adjoining counties in Nebraska and Kansas. Dundy County Nebraska has signed the Colorado intergovernmental agreement for Emergency Management and Cheyenne County Kansas will be signing very soon.

Other Mitigation Actions:

Water Resources

The Fire Departments and Fire Districts will pursue locating and mapping alternative sources of water to replenish water tenders when fighting wildfires. The target date for this project is the fall of 2011. The Yuma County GIS officer is assisting in this endeavor.

Ordinances and/or Resolutions

The Yuma County Commissioners will be asked to do two things:

1) Require that all controlled burns be reported to the W/Y Communications Center.

2) Mandate that no burning be allowed during the periods that red flag warnings are in effect.

Haystacks and Feed Storage facilities

Dairies, feedlots, and ranchers will be asked to stack their hay and other feedstocks so that they can be readily accessible to fire vehicles should the need arise. Feedlots and

dairies are being encouraged to build smaller haystacks to reduce the loss if a stack ignites.

Community Values to be Protected	e Fuel Hazards	Risk of Wildfire Occurrence	Priority	Mitigation Projects	Project Manager	Planned Accomplishment Date.
	Dead trees in and around	High, especially during severe weather season and in periods of	High	Removal of dead trees and shrubs near farmsteads and old windbreaks	Landowner/Occupant	Ongoing
	tarmsteads.	drought.			Fire Warden	Ongoing
					Landowner/Occupant	Ongoing
		High, especially during severe		- FireWise	Fire Warden	Ongoing
		weather season and in periods of drought.	High	rning.	Landowner/Occupant	Ongoing
	Tall decadent grasses and weeds			Mowing, grazing, etc. around farm buildings and other values.	Landowner/Occupant	Ongoing
	and CRP ground.	High - Lightning	High	(None)	(None)	
		High - Farm Machinery	High		Fire Warden	Ongoing
		High - Carless Burning	High	on - FireWise	Fire Warden	Ongoing
		Moderate - Carless Hunters	Moderate	on - FireWise	Fire Warden	Ongoing
Farmsteads - People, buildings, equipment, animals; livelihoods,		High. especially during severe		0	Fire Warden	Ongoing
historical values, rural schools, cemetaries, rural churches, community infrastructur, fish	Dead vegetation in windbreaks.	weather season and in periods of drought.	Moderate	old	Landowner/Occupant	Ongoing
hatchery, etc.	-	High, especially during severe		ation - FireWise	Fire Warden	Ongoing
	I umbieweeds Accumulation	weather season and in periods of drought.	Moderate	mbleweeds from reaks. etc.	Landowner/Occupant	Ongoing
		High, especially during severe	-		Fire Warden	Ongoing
	Ury or dormant crops	weather season and in periods of drought.	Moderate	E	Landowner/Occupant	Ongoing
		-		Public education - FireWise presentations.	Fire Warden	Ongoing
		High, especially during severe weather season and in periods of drought.	Moderate	Encourage destruction of abandonded farmsteads (Controled burns & fire dept. Iraining.)	Landowner/Occupant	Ongoing
	Abandoned Farmsteads			Public education - FireWise presentations.	Fire Warden	Ongoing
		Moderate - Illegal occupation and meth labs.	Moderate	Encourage destruction of abandonded farmsteads (Controled burns & fire dept. training.)	Landowner/Occupant	- Ongoing -
				Public education - FireWise	Fire Warden	- Ondoing -
		High, especially during severe weather season and in periods of drought.	Moderate	presentations. Encourage destruction of abandonded farmsteads (Controled burns & fire dept. training	Landowner/Occupant	- Ongoing -
	Abandoned Farmsteads			Public education - FireWise	Fire Warden	Ongoing

Community Risk Mitigation Projects

- Ongoing -	Fire Warden	Encourage CDOT and the county to mow the entire highway ROW more that once a year.	High	weather season and in periods of drought.	T all decadent grasses and weeds.	Road Rights-of-way.
Ongoing	County Weed Manager	Improved weed & pest control by the pest district.		High. especially during severe	-	
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Mowing, grazing, etc. around wells and tanks.				
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Secure power lines so they won't cause arking during high wind events.	High	High - Wind		
Ongoing	Fire Warden	Public education - FireWise presentations.				
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Mowing, grazing, etc. around wells and tanks.	Moderate	High - Lightning	Oil & Gas Wells, substations, and Tall decadent grasses and weeds fuel storage areas	Oil & Gas Wells, substations, and fuel storage areas
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Mowing, grazing, etc. around wells.				
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Prescribed burning,		drought.		
Ongoing	Fire Warden	Public education - FireWise presentations.	High	High, especially during severe weather season and in periods of		
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Mitigate the CRP ground as regulations allow.				
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Properly dry hay, build small stacks, remove fuels from around stacks, etc.	High	lightning and wind, and in periods of drought.		
Ongoing	Fire Warden	Public education - FireWise presentations.		High, especially during severe	Groon how Dried grass and	
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Removal of dead trees and shrubs near farmsteads and old windbreaks	Moderate	weather season and in periods of drought.	Dead vegetation in windbreaks.	
Ongoing	Fire Warden	Public education - FireWise presentations.		High, especially during severe		
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Removal of tumbleweeds from fences, windbreaks, etc.		drought.		
Ongoing	Fire Warden	Public education - FireWise presentations.	Moderate	High, especially during severe wasther season and in periods of	Du or dormant orons	
Ongoing	Fire Warden	Public education - FireWise presentations.	Moderate	Moderate - Carless Hunters		
Ongoing	Fire Warden	Public education - FireWise presentations.	High	High - Carless Burning		
Ongoing	Fire Warden	Public education - FireWise presentations.	High	High - Farm Machinery		
	(None)	(None)	High	High - Lightning	and CRP ground.	Cropland, pastures, haystacks, livestock (Farmers' Livelihood).
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Mowing, grazing, etc. around farm buildings and other values.		2	sses and weeds	
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Prescribed burning.	IBILI	drought.		
Ongoing	Fire Warden	ireWise	4211	High, especially during severe		
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Mitigate the CRP ground as regulations allow.				
Ongoing	Landowner/Occupant	Encourage destruction of abandonded farmsteads (Controled burns & fire dept. Itraining.)	Moderate	Moderate - Illegal occupation and meth labs.		

			itigation Pro	Jecis	11 11 Mar		-
	lke & Wray Fish	Planned Accomplishment Date.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
	, Stalker Lal a	Project Manager	Fire Warden	Landowner	Fire Warden	Fire Warden & County Commissioners	
Structure Ignightability	Communities of: Joes, Kirk, Vernon, Beecher Island, Wray, Stalker Lake & Wray Fish Hatchery, Yuma, Eckley, Wauneta	Mitigation Projects	Public education.	Renovate or remodel buildings using fire resistant building materials. Consider fire retardant roofing materials.	Public education.	Recommend development of Building codes & enforcement	
Structure bes, Kirk, Vernon, Be Hatchery, Yur	Joes, Kirk, Vernon, E Hatchery, Yı	Priority	High			Medium	
	Communities of:	Community Values to be Protected	There are hundreds of older buildings throughout the county. Many were built with	techniques and materials that render them easily ignighted.		New construction	

Structure Ignitability Mitigation Projects

Improving Communities of J	Communities' Preparedness to Respond to Wildfire oes, Kirk, Vernon, Beecher Island, Wray, Stalker Lake & Wray Fish	Communities' Preparedness to Respond to Wildfire bes, Kirk, Vernon, Beecher Island, Wray, Stalker Lake & Wray	/ildfire & Wray Fish
	Hatchery, Yuma, Eckley, Wauneta	ckley, Wauneta	i
Suggested Improvements	Wildfire Response Improvement Projects	Project Manager	Planned Accomplishment Date.
Troining	Basic Wildland Firefighting Training	Fire Departments and Protection Districts	Ongoing
	Continuing Training Wildland Firefighting Training	Fire Departments and Protection Districts	Ongoing
Foldatanks	Equip Fire Departments with Foldatanks	Fire Protection Districts	Ongoing
County Road signs	Repair, Install, and maintaing county road intersection signs.	County	Ongoing
Address Signs	Develop a program for establishing standard address signs.	County	Ongoing
Increase recruitment of firefighters.	Develop a program to recruit and retain firefighters.	Fire Protection Districts	Ongoing
Create Fire Resource Maps of the County	Create maps of the county which accurately display fire resources, such as accurate and complete road locations and names, water sources, hazards atc	Fire Protection Districts	Ongoing
Current agreements	Update all current argeements and create new agreements where necessary.	County and Fire Protection Districts	Ongoing
Reverse 911 capability for cell phones.	Establish and promote the use of reverse 911 capability for cell phones.	County and Fire Protection Districts	- Ongoing -
Remote Water Sources	Identify and develop possible remote water sources	County and Fire Protection Districts	2011

Fire Response Improvement Projects

Collaborators & Contributors:

Other county residents and officials that participated in the development of this plan.

Yuma County Fire Protection District Board of Directors:

Brent Deterding Board Preesident

Dean Tyner Board Member

Kurt Soehner Board Member

Mason Chamberlin Board Member

Ron Oestman Board Member

Sherry Ramseier Board Secretary

Yuma Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors

Tom Blach Board President

Ron Baucke Board Member

Ron Higgins Board Member

Lyn Hagemeier Board Member

Gerland Klein Board Member

Rose Schmidt Bopard Secretary

Others:

Chad Day Yuma County Sheriff

Trent Bushner Yuma County Commissioner

Robin Wiley Yuma County Commissioner

Dean Wingfield Yuma County Commissioner

Mike Fisher CSU Cooperative extension

Fred Raish Yuma County Pest District Bob Shade Park Ranger Bonny State Park Dave Nichols Colorado Division of Wildlife Hale Josh Melby Colorado Division of Wildlife Craig Scott US Bureau of Reclamation

Landowners and Rural Residents

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Tracy Lungwitz

Don Hansen

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Harry Ekberg

Marv Southerds

Jeff Kelly

James Check

Dwayne Bullock

Darus Fix

Steve & Kelly Murphy

Bill & Vicky Hull

Spencer & Jaime Johnson

Dave & Julie Keeler

Devin & Tami Ridnour

ORGANIZATION												-			
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	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>									
•	EMAIL ADDRESS									
	PHONE #	359-222V	359-2257							
ADDRECC	MUMERS	20 S. Main	347 Sw Konson							
NAME		Son Turrey	Dearne Pletches 347 Se Kansa							

Three Rivers Alliance 970 354 7487 1 10:23a Don Andrews p.1 Jan 18th Remote Farmsteads survey Stroh Farms (Sake Stroh) Thow Ranc (Dana Show) Seecher Island Battle Memorial Havegal Bobby Heinrichs & Blorice nation Andrews _____ Sel G Miling (CDOW) ___ KURT & JOYCE MUSGRAVE KENNETT SCHNEIDLE (TROY SCHNOT) Tillson Burnidge, TNC

VERNON Community Fire Protection Meeting: March, 14th 2011. Don HASLETE Lace Delecte Alva Defending John Nanduck Steve allison Casef Study

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matrice	ORGANIZATION										•		
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Intergovernmental Agreement For Emergency Management

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, intergovernmental agreements to provide functions or services, including the sharing of costs of such services or functions, by political subdivisions of the State of Colorado are specifically authorized by Section 29-1-203 C.R.S. (1986) and other sections of the C.R.S.; and

WHEREAS, establishment of an intergovernmental agreement will serve a public purpose and will promote the safety, security, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the jurisdictions hereto are each authorized to provide, establish, and maintain disaster emergency services as defined by each jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, disaster emergencies may arise in one or more of the jurisdictions, resulting in greater demands than the personnel and equipment of that jurisdiction can handle, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the jurisdictions that it may have service of and from the other jurisdictions to assist it in reacting to disaster emergencies; and

WHEREAS, other jurisdictions who provide similar resources may in the future desire to be included in this agreement, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of each of the jurisdictions to have access to emergency resources to supplement their own during an emergency; and

WHEREAS, to receive the resources cited above, it is cost effective for each of the jurisdictions to make available during disaster emergencies, its own resources to other affected jurisdictions.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED by and between each of the signatory jurisdictions as follows:

- 1. a. This Intergovernmental Agreement is promulgated under the provisions of Article 1, the relevant portions of Articles 5 and 22, Title 29, and 24-32-2105 C.R.S. The statute shall control in case of conflict between this agreement and the statute. Each and every term, provision, or condition herein in subject to and shall be construed in accordance with the provisions of Colorado law, the Charters of the various jurisdictions, and the ordinances and regulations enacted pursuant hereto.
 - b. It is understood and agreed by the jurisdictions hereto that if any part, term or provision of this Agreement is by the courts held to be illegal or in conflict with any law of the State of Colorado, or of the United States of America, the validity of the remaining

portions or provisions of the remaining portions or provisions shall not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the jurisdictions shall be construed and enforced as if the Agreement did not contain the particular part, term, or provision held to be invalid.

- c. All terms and words herein shall have the same definition as provided in Titles 24 and 29 of C.R.S. except as herein otherwise indicated. "Disaster Emergency" shall have the same definition as provided for "Disaster' at 24-32-2103 (1) C.R.S. Where terms and words herein are not so defined they shall have the commonly accepted definition.
- 2 This Agreement provides for the joint exercise by the jurisdictions of the function or service provided herein, but does not establish a separate legal entity to do so, nor does it constitute any jurisdiction as an agent of any other jurisdiction for any purpose whatsoever. This agreement shall provide only for sharing or in-kind resources by the jurisdictions.
- 3. For and in consideration of the promises of each participating jurisdiction, each agrees with the others that in the event there are disaster emergencies in the territory served by one jurisdiction which are beyond the capabilities of that jurisdiction, each other jurisdiction, subject to the limitations herein set forth, will assist the other, by causing and permitting its resources to be used in responding to such disaster emergencies in the other jurisdictions. The need for such assistance shall be determined by the jurisdiction requesting assistance, subject however, to the following limitations:
 - a. Any of the signatory jurisdictions shall be excused from making their resources available, or continuing to make their resources available, to any of the other jurisdictions, in the event of the need of the resources of such jurisdiction within the territorial area of such jurisdiction or any other jurisdiction, or their prior use at any other place. Such decision of availability shall be made by the jurisdiction requested to give mutual aid, and such decision shall be conclusive and in the providing jurisdiction's sole discretion.
 - b. Mutual aid response by any jurisdiction beyond the political boundary of the responding jurisdiction is hereby deemed to be approved by the respective Executive and Legislative governing bodies of the jurisdictions, and such response shall require no further approval by responsible officials of any jurisdiction, except as provided by the limitations in Article 3 a. (above).
- 4. Each jurisdiction shall, at all times, be responsible for its own costs incurred in the performance of this Agreement, and shall not receive any reimbursement from any other jurisdiction, except for third party reimbursement under Article 7, and except as may be negotiated and agreed to separately, in writing, by both the requesting and receiving jurisdictions.

Page 3 Intergovernmental Agreement for Emergency Managers

- 5. Each jurisdiction waives all claims and causes of action against all of the other jurisdictions for compensation, damage, personal injury or death occurring as a consequence, direct or indirect, of the performance of this agreement, to the extent permitted by, and without waiving any protection or other provisions of, the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act.
- 6. Each jurisdiction agrees to allow any other governmental jurisdiction defined under Colorado law to join in this Mutual Aid Agreement after formal approval by its governing body and notification by the depository cited in Article 13 of such action to each of the other signatory jurisdictions to this Agreement. Each party who initially executes this agreement to the office of the person executing this Agreement, or such other parties as they may further designate in writing, the authority to execute such amendments as may be necessary in the future to accommodate the jointer of new jurisdictions to this Agreement, without change of any other terms or conditions of the Agreement.
- 7. Each jurisdiction agrees that it will reasonably pursue any legal reimbursement possible, pursuant to state laws, for incidents including, but not limited to, hazardous materials incidents, occurring within its jurisdiction, on behalf of all assisting jurisdictions. Upon payment by the responsible entity, and after subtracting the reasonable costs of pursuing and collecting the reimbursement, the receiving jurisdictions will distribute the received funds in a fair and equitable manner to assisting jurisdictions, based upon a pro rata share of their documented expenses for the involved incident.
- 8. Nothing contained in this Agreement, and no performance under this Agreement by personnel of the jurisdictions hereto, shall in any respect alter or modify the status of officers, agents, or employees of the respective jurisdictions for purposes of worker's compensation or their benefits or entitlements, pension, levels or types of training, internal discipline, certification, or rank procedures, methods, or categories, or for any purpose, or condition or requirement of employment. Worker's Compensation Coverage shall be as structured in C.R.S. 29-5-109, if the request meets the requirements of C.R.S. 29-5-103 through 108, otherwise the claim shall be processed as if it were generated by any other work assignment within the providing jurisdiction. The providing jurisdiction shall remain responsible for processing any worker's compensation claims filed by their own resources.
- 9. This Agreement shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of each of the jurisdictions hereto, except that no jurisdiction may assign any of its rights or obligations hereunder, without the prior written consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the other signatory jurisdictions.
- 0. It is expressly understood and agreed that enforcement of the terms and conditions of the Agreement, and all rights of action relating to such enforcement, shall be strictly reserved to the named jurisdictions hereto, and nothing contained in this Agreement shall give or allow any such claim or right of action by any other or third person on such Agreement. It is

the express intention of the named jurisdiction that any person other than the named jurisdiction receiving services or benefits under this Agreement shall be deemed to be an incidental beneficiary only.

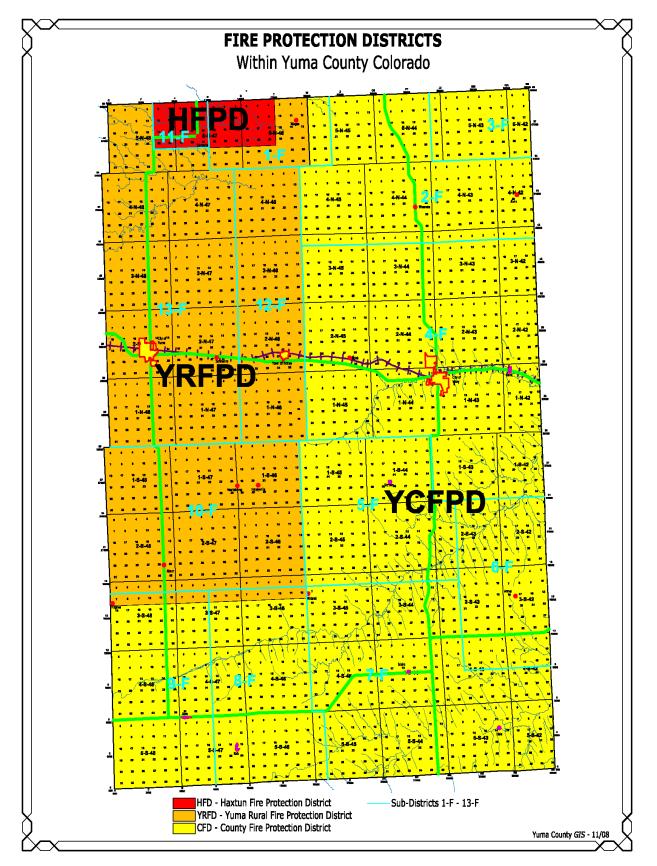
- 11. Amendments to this Agreement may be made only upon unanimous consent by all then current signatory jurisdictions. Such consent shall become effective upon its receipt in writing at the depository cited below in Article 13.
- 12. Any jurisdiction hereto may terminate this Agreement, with or without cause, upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the signature depository provided below.
- 13 This Agreement shall be executed by each jurisdiction on a separate signature page. Original signature pages will be held by the Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM) or its successor agency, at its offices at 15075 South Golden road, golden, Colorado 80401-3979 or at such place as OEM shall determine. Copies of signature pages shall be provided and certified by OEM to each party jurisdiction, and such copies shall have the full force and effect as if they were originals. OEM shall provide timely notice to all party jurisdictions of all additions to and withdrawals of party jurisdictions, as well as timely notice of the effective date of any amendment to this Agreement.

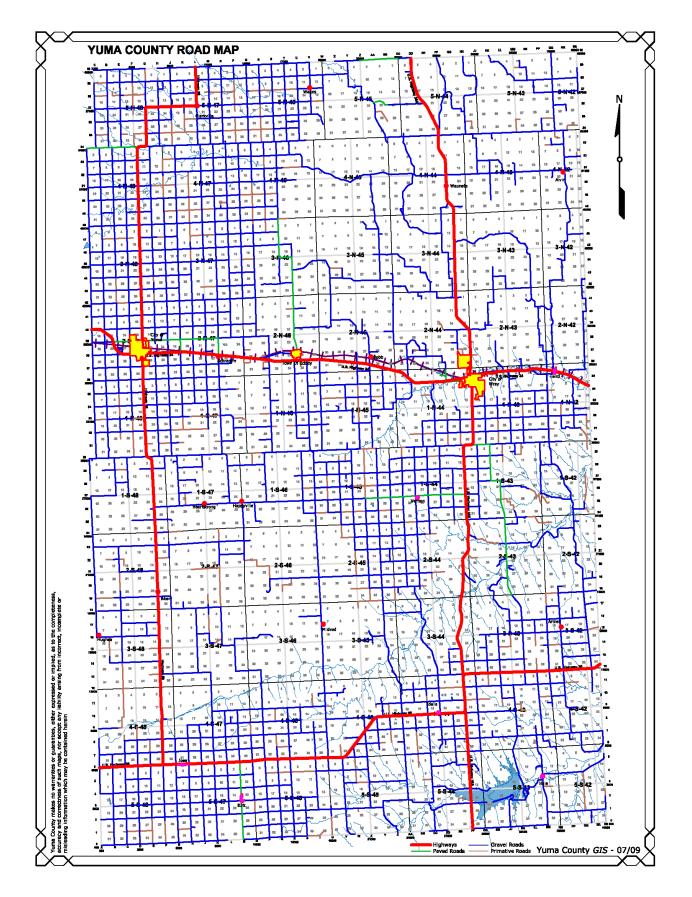
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

As outlined in the foregoing Intergovernmental Agreement, the below designated jurisdiction executes this Agreement on the most recent date indicated below.

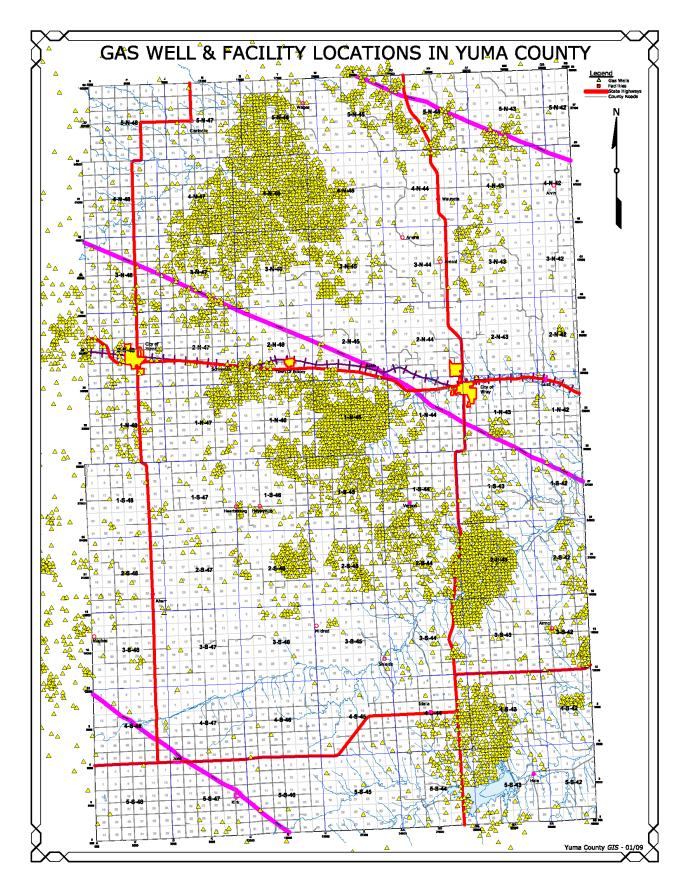
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By:	
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Yuma County Fire Protection Districts

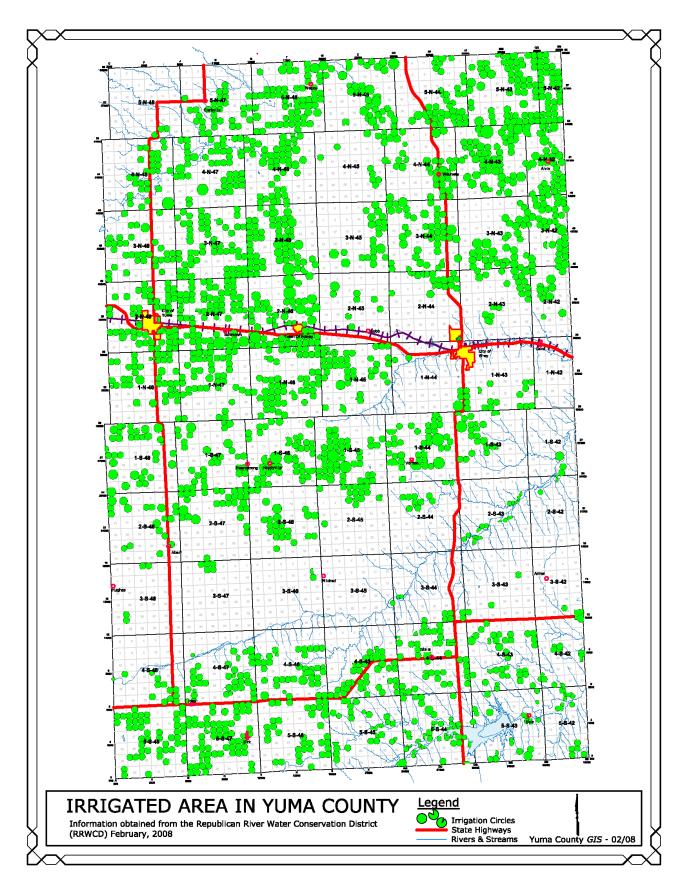




Yuma County Gas Well & Facility Locations







Yuma County Fire Department Locations Map

