Curry County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update 2016

RESOLUTION 2016 - 31

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CURRY COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN 2016 UPDATE

WHEREAS, in recent months Curry County has partnered with State and County agencies and local citizens to develop an update to the collaborative Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP); and

WHEREAS, the goal of the CWPP Update is to enable local communities to better work with government agencies to identify areas at high risk for wildfire and prioritize areas for mitigation, fire suppression, and emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, this CWPP Update is designed to confront the increasing threat of wildfire to community, ecological and economic values in Curry County; and

WHEREAS, the CWPP Update provides recommendations to abate catastrophic wildfires and minimize the impact of wildfire on local communities; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations in this plan are specific to areas in Curry County and are intended to be used as guidelines to reduce the loss of life and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the plan provides a framework for fuel reduction, fire prevention, and emergency response when federal, state, or local funding opportunities become available.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Curry County Commissioners, which is the governing body of Curry County, pursuant to its powers under §4-37-1, et. seq., hereby adopts the 2016 Curry County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update.

Passed and adopted on this 17th day of May, 2016.

Wendell Bostwick

Wendell Bostwick, Chairman

SEAL

Attest to:

Chief Deputy

Rosalie Riley, Curry County Clerk

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This 2016 update to the Curry County Wildfire Protection Plan was completed using New Mexico Association of Counties' Wildfire Risk Reduction Program for Rural Communities funding. A contract, which provided for the collection of data and the writing of this CWPP update was awarded by the Curry County Commission to Fire Service Support LLC.

The cooperation of the City of Clovis, Village of Melrose, Grady, Broadview, Field, Texico and Pleasant Hill Fire Departments, along with the City of Clovis Police Department, Curry County Sheriff's Office, Curry County Roads Department, City of Clovis Public Works, Curry County IT Department, Curry County Emergency Management and New Mexico State Forestry made the completion of this CWPP Update possible. This cooperation was invaluable and much appreciated. Without exception all personnel in the agencies and organizations were very cooperative and helpful.

SIGNATURES

Declaration of Agreement

The following partners in the development of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update have reviewed and do mutually agree with its contents:

Wendell Bostwick 7/26/16 _____
Curry County Commission

Annetta M. Cantu 8/1/2016 _____
NM EMNRD, Forestry Division (Las Vegas District)

Michael Pole 7/25/16 _____
City of Clovis Fire Department

Quentin Wood 7-21-16 _____
Broadview Fire Department

Kay Grant 7-21-16 _____
Village of Melrose Fire Department

7/21/16 _____
Village of Grady Fire Department

J. Riley 7/25/16 _____
Pleasant Hill Fire Department

Cody Moberly 7-27-16 _____
Field Fire Department

Lewis Cooper 7/14/2016 _____
Texico Fire Department

7/26/16 _____
City of Clovis Police Department

Signatures continued

7-26-16

Curry County Roads Department

7-26-16

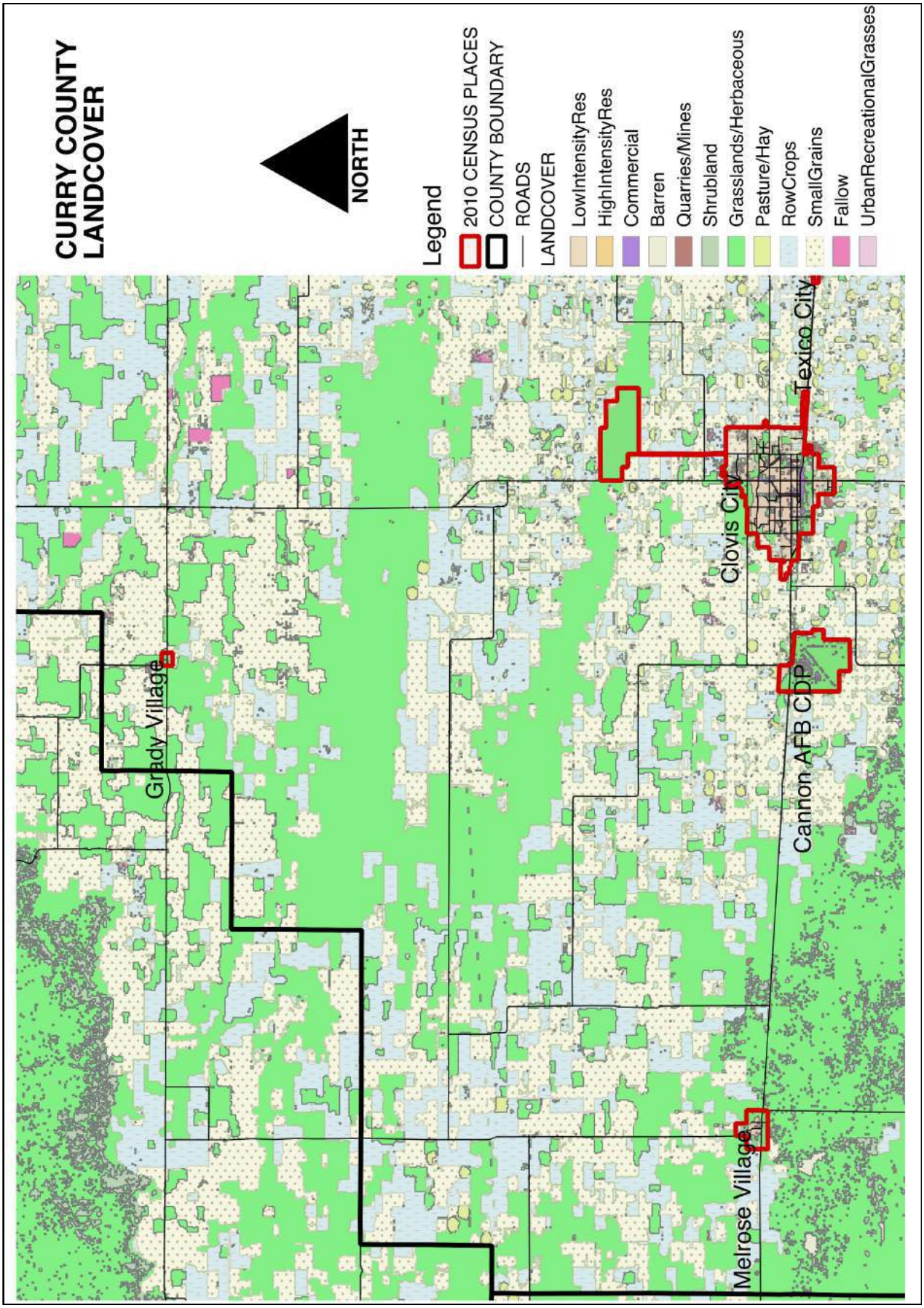
City of Clovis Public Works

7-26-16

Central Curry County Soil & Water Conservation District

7-18-16

New Mexico State Land Office


CURRY COUNTY
LANDCOVER
NORTH
Legend
2010 CENSUS PLACES
COUNTY BOUNDARY
ROADS
LANDCOVER
LowIntensityRes
HighIntensityRes
Commercial
Barren
Quarries/Mines
Shrubland
Grasslands/Herbaceous
Pasture/Hay
RowCrops
SmallGrains
Fallow
UrbanRecreationalGrasses
Texico City
Clovis City
Cannon AFB CDP
Grady Village
Melrose Village

Planning Core Team Participants

AGENCY	NAME
City of Clovis Fire Dept	Mike Nolen, Chief
Village of Melrose Fire Dept	Kenny Jacobs, Chief
Village of Melrose/ City of Clovis Fire Depts	John Bradley
Broadview/City of Clovis Fire Depts	Michael Booth
Broadview Fire Dept	Quentin Wood
Curry County	David Kube, Wildland Coordinator
Pleasant Hill Fire Dept	Ted Richardson, Chief
Curry County Roads Dept	Dennis Fury
Curry County Sheriffs Office	Wesley Waller, Sheriff
Curry County Sheriffs Office	Mike Reeves
City of Clovis Public Works	Bill Kshir
NM State Forestry	Eugene Pino, FMO
Grady Fire Dept	Jerome Provencio
Grady Fire Dept	Walon Jones
City of Clovis Police Dept	Douglas R Ford
City of Clovis IT Dept	Paul Nelson
City of Clovis Fire Dept	Johnnie Gibson
City of Clovis Fire Dept	Dale Hand

CWPP Update Goals and Objectives

As an update to the existing 2008 CWPP by Anchor Point Group LLC, this plan's goals are to continue work on the recommended Action Items of the original plan, as well as to establish the following goals:

- Enhance life safety for residents and responders
- Build and maintain active participation from each Volunteer Fire Department and participating emergency response agencies;
- Set realistic expectations for reducing wildfire risk and prepare for post-fire recovery
- Identify incentives for fire protection and community participation;
- Promote visible projects and program successes;
- Monitor the changing conditions of wildfire risk and citizen action over time; and
- Institute fire-related programs and sustain community efforts for fire protection and post-fire recovery.
- Become a resource to inform emergency operation plans, land use plans, regional water plans and hazard mitigation plans

Implementation and sustaining fire protection plans will be complex. Building a collaborative and cooperative environment between fire districts and local government has been the first step in identifying and prioritizing measures to reduce wildfire risk. Gaining cooperation with the public is a long-term effort that requires commitment of all partners involved.

In the past, there has been limited awareness about the investment required to maintain fire protection. From fuels reduction to regulations, education and prevention to evacuation, residents need information and resources to be active participants in reducing their risk to wildfire. There has been a reliance on insurance, local government, fire service, federal agencies and many other types of organizations to aid when disaster strikes. This plan encourages citizens to take an active role in identifying needs, developing strategies and implementing solutions to address wildfire risk by assisting with the development of this plan (via survey and community meetings) and participating in countywide fire prevention activities. Resident action may be cleaning up brush around homes, installing new smoke detectors, voting to increase support to the local fire district, volunteering to be a part of an auxiliary, attending community meetings, or passing along information on fire prevention to neighbors and friends. With this plan as a foundation, local action can guide successful implementation of fire hazard and protection efforts in the County.

Planning Process

This update involved three Core Team meetings and two public outreach meetings. The first public outreach meeting was not attended by any members of the public, however County, City and Emergency Management officials, and members of the Wildland Team at Cannon Air Force Base were in attendance. As a result of the lack of participation by the public a survey which

had been developed to gather responses from the meeting attendees was instead placed online and Curry County sent it out to members of the community via social media. Results of that survey are included in this update and many of the questions and comments from the survey are incorporated into new action goals. (See Appendix B)

The Core Team has been expanded greatly with this update in an effort to create a more cooperative effort between all emergency response agencies within the county.

UPDATED COUNTY PROFILE

Curry County consists of 1408 square miles of mostly private land and roughly 55,000 acres of NM State Land Office agricultural leases, *(nmstatelands.org)* and approximately 150,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (usda According to the 2010 Census), there are now approximately 51,000 people, and 21,000 homes *(census.gov).*

Curry County is a largely rural county and the economy is predominantly based on agriculture. Another large part of the economy is Cannon Air Force Base which employs approximately 5,000 military and civilian staff. The most common land use is rangeland which comprises 60% of land use. Cultivated farmland makes up 39% of the county. According to the Census of Agriculture, approximately 82% of this farmland is dryland and the remaining 18% is irrigated cropland, although the irrigated farmland acreage has been shrinking recently because of declining Ogallala Aquifer (USDA 2007). Urban development and roads make up 5% of land use. Playas, the only surface water in the county, cover approximately 1.0% of land (Guthery et al. 1981), and contain water only infrequently.
June 2014, Wetlands Action Plan for Playa Lakes, Curry County, New Mexico, Robert Martin, The Nature Conservancy and New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau

Volunteer Districts

Broadview Fire Department
Pleasant Hill Fire Department
Field Fire Department

Municipal Fire Departments

Melrose Fire Department
Grady Fire Department
Texico Fire Department
Clovis Fire Department
Canon Air Force Base

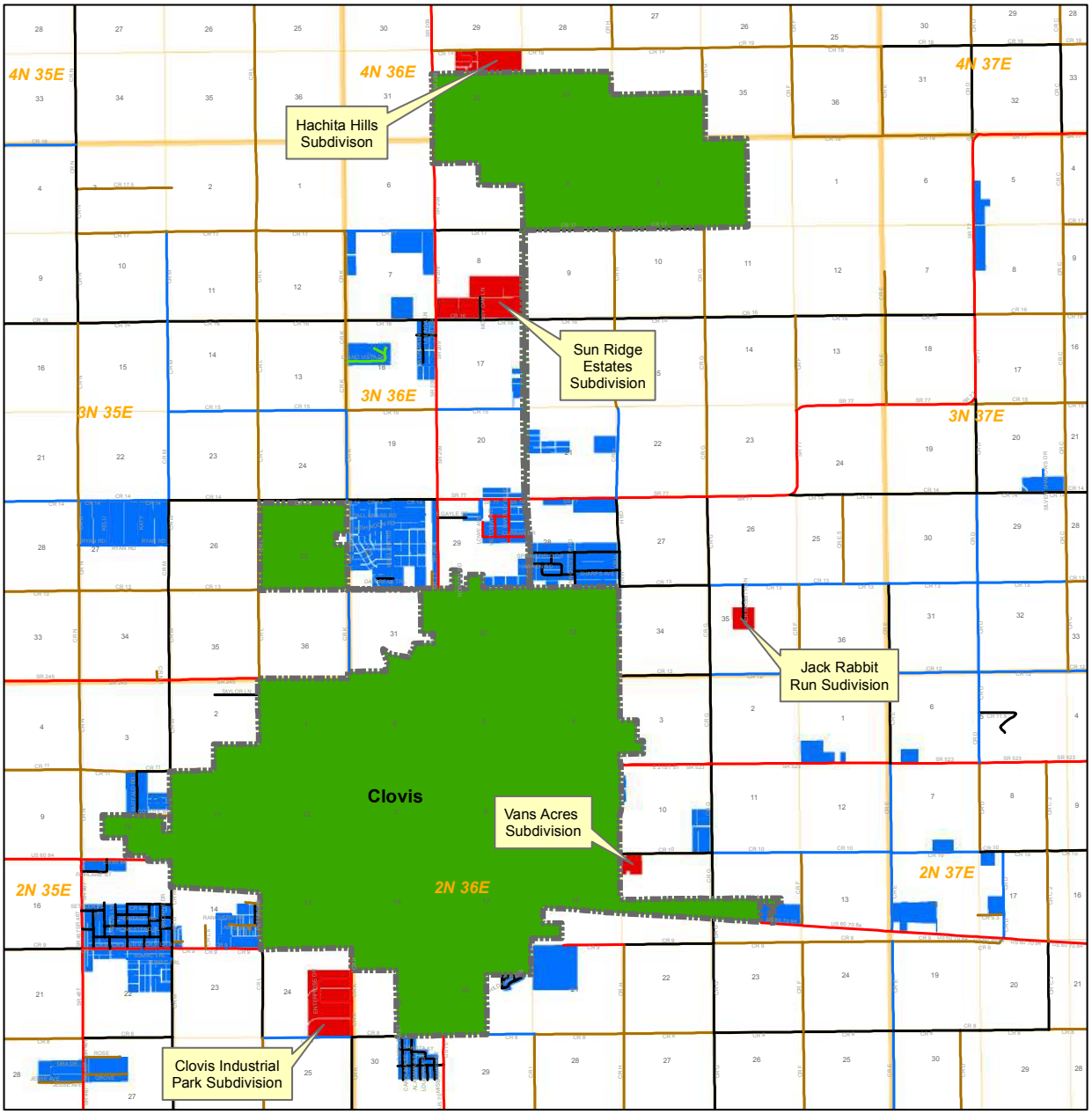
All apparatus, manifests, and other resources are inventoried and being consolidated into the County Resource Book, which has been done in the process of the County's Emergency Operations Plan.

Updated Communities at Risk

The original six communities of Melrose, Grady, Clovis, Bellview, Turquoise Estates and Broadview are noted below. Several new subdivisions have been developed since 2008. Three of these subdivisions share or are very close to a boundary with Clovis. The original CWPP's guidelines, as well as documentation of response to recent fires in the area were taken into consideration in the following ratings:

Community Name	RISK RATING 2008	RISK RATING 2016
Melrose	HIGH	HIGH
Grady	MODERATE	MODERATE
Clovis	MODERATE	MODERATE
Bellview	MODERATE	MODERATE
Turquoise Estates	MODERATE	MODERATE
Broadview	MODERATE	MODERATE
Vans Acres		MODERATE
Jack Rabbit Run		MODERATE
Sun Ridge Estates		MODERATE
Hachita Hills		MODERATE
Texico		MODERATE
Clovis Industrial Park		LOW

Table 1: Community ratings from 2008 and updated ratings for 2016.



Legend

Roads

Surface

- Asphalt
- Caliche
- Chipseal
- Dirt
- Gravel

- County Townships & Ranges
- County Sections

- Texico
- Clovis
- Cannon Air Force Base
- Curry County Subdivision Since 2007
- Curry County Subdivision

N W E S

Source data compiled from GIS databases by RKJ. This map is a graphical representation of Curry County and should only be used for illistrative purposes. In no way should this map, in part or in whole, be used to settle any boundry disputes or locational conflicts.

0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles

Updated Values at Risk

Along with potential loss of homes and businesses within Curry County, economic loss due to a wildfire could be catastrophic. One example of this was the Tire Fire in April 2011. 71,000 acres burned south of Curry County and cost the agricultural community approximately $16 million that year with an estimated $40 million more in costs over time *(Clovis News Journal, May 19, 2011).*

With the expansion of Southwest Cheese in 2010 and a second expansion due in 2016, and general agriculture and ranching being the main economic drivers for Curry County, protection of farmlands and ranches is also a priority. Cooperative agreements for use of fire protection water sources on dairy farms supplying materials is in the works, and outreach to ranchers and agricultural producers should be emphasized.

Playas are a significant feature of Curry County and are important in groundwater recharge. The economic impact from damage to these structures and the resulting decline of the aquifer would affect not only the main source of water for the area, but also landowners and communities seeking to provide bird watching, hunting and wildlife watching activities *(Wetlands Action Plan for Playa Lakes, Curry County, New Mexico, Robert Martin, The Nature Conservancy and New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau, June 2014).*

Photo: Tish McDaniel, from The Curry County Playa Lakes Wetlands Action Plan

Action Plan Updates

The major topics covered in the original CWPP included:

1. Organization and Funding
2. Fire Prevention
3. Reducing Structure Ignitability
4. Fuels Treatments
5. Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capabilities
6. Water Supply
7. Areas of Special Interest

Progress on each of these topics is continuing. The County has hired a Fire Marshall in 2016 which will help to coordinate resources and keep track of progress.

Completed In progress Planned

ACTION ITEM CHECKLIST

STATUS	PRIORITY	ACTION ITEMS	DESCRIPTION
ORGANIZATION and FUNDING			
		Create chiefs association - fire activities	Chief's meetings are being resurrected and held on a regular basis
		Multi-agency operating plan	An EOP being developed by the County Emergency Manager is in progress
		Fire budget	the County is actively searching for alternative funding, including SAFER and AFG grants, as well as anticipating to apply for Pre-Hazard Mitigation funding once their EOP and HMP are completed and approved
		State Fire Marshall funding	Position has been opened and applications have been accepted
		NMSF collaboration	Improving fire reporting in progress

STATUS	PRIORITY	ACTION ITEMS	DESCRIPTION
		AARs	Being developed. SEE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS section
		Public communication	PSAs are regularly created and aired. See EDUCATION and OUTREACH section for more
		FIRE PREVENTION	
		Fire prevention	searching for funding
		Fire Danger Rating signs	In progress, several signs have been placed
		Fire prevention campaigns	PSAs are regularly created and aired. See EDUCATION and OUTREACH section for more
		Firewise materials	searching for funding for capacity
		Local ordinances	County is actively looking at IWUI codes and nuisance ordinances to adopt
		Address map books	searching for funding
		WUI codes	County is actively looking at IWUI codes and nuisance ordinances to adopt
		All Hazard symposium	searching for funding
		STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY	
		Home assessments	searching for funding. See http://fireadaptednm.org/index.php/resources/assessments for info on home assessments
		Address markers	E-911 was implemented however, annexations are causing confusion with certain roads
		Structure triage	This should be wrapped in with home assessments, searching for funding
		Brochures	searching for funding

STATUS	PRIORITY	ACTION ITEMS	DESCRIPTION
		FUEL TREATMENTS	
		DOT Right of ways maintenance	Completed to funding limit
		Home/Landowner mowing	Included with fire prevention section, looking for funding to aid landowners
		FSA CRP program oversight	Not completed, work with FSA to develop
		SWCD weed treatments	Not completed, work with SWCD to develop and fund
		Mapping grass parcels	Not completed, work with GIS to implement
		PREPAREDNESS / FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES	
		Firefighter training	Talks are ongoing with wildland team at Cannon Air Force Base to help with training opportunities
		Firefighter safety	utilize wildland team at Cannon AFB for training, find grants/funding for PPE for all volunteers and paid staff. S130/190, I100, L180 for all firefighters at a minimum. Develop in house qualification tracking
		Dispatcher open houses, familiarization	Planned for implementation
		Fire danger broadcasting	Suggest Nixle or Nextdoor for notifications
		Fire officer to dispatch during extended attacks	Not complete
		Comms plan	In progress and searching for funding to complete
		Radio programming	In progress and coordinating with Cannon AFB

STATUS	PRIORITY	ACTION ITEMS	DESCRIPTION
		Radio inventory	Being developed as part of EOP
		Frequency patch box	Being developed as part of EOP
		Additional repeater near Grady	Searching for funding
		Open burn procedures	Suggest Nixle or Nextdoor for notifications. Develop ordinance to have emergency burn ban in place during Red Flag days and Fire Weather Watch days.
		Cell phone cache	Not complete, work with Plateau Communications
		Class A foam on apparatus	Foam available on existing wildland apparatus
		Equipment maintenance	Being developed
		Type conversions	Completed as part of RMP with NMSF
		Secondary water retrieval on elevated tanks	Agreements are being made with dairy farms for water use
		Hydrant maintenance	searching for funding
SPECIAL AREAS			
		Ned Houk Park	Done to the extent of funding
		Frio Draw	Develop pre-attack plan, access agreements
		Cannon AFB	Coordination, courtesy calls, mowing, structure hardening, edu materials being developed

Hazard Fuels Reduction

Mowing of the following areas are a priority and are undertaken as budgets allow:

ROAD TREATMENTS:

Minimum width along each side of 20 feet, height mowed to 5 inches

- Hwy 467.
- Hwy 267 / 268.
- US60.
- Hwy 224.
- Hwy 311.
- Hwy 288.
- CR AB.
- Hwy 209.
- Hwy 241.
- Hwy 469.
- Ned Houk Park

FUEL BREAKS:

Minimum width of 50 feet, height mowed to 5 inches

- West side of Melrose
- West and South side of Grady

Emergency Operations

The Curry County Department of Emergency Services is responsible for coordinating emergency management throughout the County. Volunteer Fire Districts, however, are often the first responders not just to fire, but natural and human-caused disasters as well. A County Emergency Operations Plan is being developed at this time. This will provide a strong baseline of information to make connections to fire professionals and strengthen emergency management procedures related to fire protection.

The most important finding through the Core Team meetings held, and the needs identified is that there is a need for strong partnerships and coordination among the fire, emergency management, roads management, Cannon Air Force Base and planning professions to prepare for and respond to a disaster. Emergency Management objectives are to develop strategies to strengthen emergency management, response and evacuation capabilities for wildfire and build relationships between County government, Cannon AFB and local fire districts.

ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Clarify policies and procedures for Emergency Operations. Develop roles, MAAs and SOPs	Ongoing	Fire/LE/EM
Provide Incident Command System and Multi-Agency Coordination training to all responders	2016-	Fire/LE/EM
Strengthen public education and agency coordination on evacuation procedures	2016-	Fire/LE/EM
Develop/utilize public information and warning systems	2016-	County/EM
Develop and maintain a multi-agency resource management system	2016-	County/EM/Fire/LE
Develop and routinely implement multi-agency hazard trainings and exercises	2016-	County/EM/Fire/LE
Encourage S130/190, and ICS training for roads department crews and law enforcement, contact NMLTAP or neighbor states for wildland specific classes	2016-	County/NMSF/Fire
Develop partnerships with organizations that can help with post-fire recovery actions	2016-	County
Research funding sources for wildland PPE for all volunteer fire departments and road crew personnel	2016-	County/Fire
Locate safe zones, livestock drop sites, shelter sites, and plans for special needs residents	2016-	County/Fire
Fund a Fire Marshall position to help volunteer departments with grants, training and compliance issues	Hired in 2016	County/Fire

Table 2: Emergency Operations action items, timeline for implementation and responsible entity

Education and Community Outreach

Education and Outreach has been met with some resistance by County residents. Education and Outreach objectives are to develop ongoing strategies for increasing citizen awareness and action for fire prevention and to reach out to all citizens (including people of all ages, ethnicities and income levels.) Utilizing a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew of youth (ages 14-25) to do fuels mitigation on public areas, and public outreach may be a way to not only boost youth employment, but also to encourage volunteering for a local fire department (and build an interest in a career in fire) and engaging community members in wildfire mitigation.

ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Develop partnerships with community organizations to help with public education and outreach	2016-	County/Fire
Develop more strategies to engage the community in preparing, responding and recovering from wildland fire	2008 -	County/Fire
Focus on efforts with kids and develop wildfire awareness and prevention school programs with partners	2016-	County/Fire
Partner with engaged residents to create more wildfire risk awareness within communities	2016-	Fire
Create a hazard assessment system to assess risk and engage public	2016-	County/Fire
Adopt ReadySetGo! program county-wide	2016-	Fire
Utilize existing social media strategy to update public on fire prevention programs and successes	2016-	County/Fire
Utilize existing City/County sponsored clean up, weed and litter, and hazardous waste disposal events to encourage wildland fuels reduction around homes	Ongoing	County

Table 3: Education and Outreach action items, timeline for implementation and responsible entity

Post Fire Recovery Planning

The loss of grazing areas due to wildfire can have an immediate and devastating impact on ranchers within the County. After the Tire Fire in 2011, several ranchers were forced to dramatically reduce herds and sell equipment. Wildfires that burn hot due to increased winds and fuels loading can burn roots of native grasses that are necessary for livestock and prolong the recovery processes.

ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Establish a partnership with NM State Land Office, NRCS, FSA, SWCD and NM Environment Dept and other organizations that can provide immediate assistance to those affected by wildfire	2016-	County
Work with NRCS and SWCD to develop landowner checklists for steps to take post-fire to aid in recovery and restoration	2016-	County

Table 4: Post Fire Recovery Planning action items, timeline for implementation and responsible entity

Monitoring Strategy

Monitoring should be a continuing function of this plan that provides for measuring the progress of goals and objectives, and accountability to the public. Monitoring is also necessary for the funding needed for many of the Action Items activities. Evaluation of ongoing activities, increased public awareness and collaboration between local government entities will strengthen the value and impact of this plan. Monitoring and tracking data from these items will also provide compelling justification for future grant proposals.

Organization and Funding Monitoring

- Develop a calendar based table of grants and funding available and review annually
- Track and document all projects for use in future grant proposals
- Research partnerships that could be utilized to piggyback funding opportunities i.e.; conservation groups' funding which could provide a fire prevention benefit

Fire Prevention Monitoring

- Create database of home/community assessments and update annually or biannually
- Document all outreach events, PSAs and track response via survey, sign-ins, outreach materials used annually
- Evaluate methods of outreach annually
- Document numbers and types of programs for schools annually
- Document all new partnerships with community organizations that can provide help with outreach

Fuels Treatments Monitoring

- Document all fuels treatments, number of acres, type of treatment, resources used annually
- Any fuels treatments also used for firefighter training should be noted with numbers of firefighters trained, qualifications of all participants annually

Preparedness and Firefighter Training

- Track all firefighters qualifications, training hours, type of training and instructors, summarize annually
- Track all gear/PPE acquired and update annually
- Inventory all equipment and update annually

Homeowner Recommendations

Mitigation measures by homeowners is a crucial part of wildfire protection. The following recommendations, used in conjunction with the Education and Outreach actions can help educate home and landowners on how they can best protect their properties.

Defensible Space:

- Create a zone of about 15 feet surrounding the home and any other structures that is mowed to 6 inches high or less, and free from dead and dry vegetation.
- Limb any tree branches hanging near the ground, and trim back branches that overhang structure roofs.
- Clean gutters of any dry debris
- Keep firewood piles at least 15 feet away from home
- Propane tanks, grills, and burn barrels should have an area of 10 feet cleared surrounding them.
- Create and/or maintain a fuel break around windbreaks and snow fences by mowing on either side of them
- Keep grasses and vegetation mowed in areas where vehicles or equipment are parked
- Repair any missing or damaged skirting around mobile homes to prevent embers from entering

Home Hardening:

- Roofs are especially vulnerable to ember exposure, when planning on replacing a roof, consider a rated material such as fiber cement shingles, tile, concrete or metal.
- Open, overhanging eaves should be enclosed with a flat soffit to prevent ember encroachment.
- Siding should also be fire resistant: stucco, fiber cement panels, brick or other fire-resistive material
- Skirting material should be non-combustible

- Double paned windows or tempered glass windows are recommended as replacements. Temporary wood or metal shutters are an option to cover windows during a wildfire
- 1/8” metal screening should be placed around chimneys and stovepipes, as well as any other opening into the home
- Clean vegetation and debris from under decks

Prepare to Leave:

- Put together a “go bag” of essential items including:
  - Water in refillable bottles
  - Prescriptions or medications
  - Extra contacts or eye glasses
  - Change of clothes
  - An extra set of car keys, credit cards and/or cash
  - First aid kit
  - Copies of important documents such as birth certificates, passports, insurance, etc)
  - Extra chargers for cell phones
  - External backup computer drives
  - If taking pets, pet food and medications and extra water
- If there is time before the fires arrives:
- Move combustible furniture away from the house or store it inside
- Cover windows with temporary shutters
- Close all windows and doors
- Turn on an outside light or a light in a front room to increase the home’s visibility in heavy smoke or darkness
- Shut off natural gas or propane
- Move interior furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors
- Remove drapes or curtains

Fire Weather Resources

Communication between the National Weather Service and incident commanders on wildfire events is crucial. (Reference: *10 Standard Firefighting Orders*, #1 - Keep informed of fire weather conditions and forecasts)

Routine Services provided by the National Weather Service:

Several products are issued by the National Weather Service to aid local fire officials. The formats of the fire weather products will comply with standards set forth in NWS Instruction 10-401 and are standardized in an effort to better serve fire fighters.

Fire Weather Forecasts:
http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge2/fire/ (see Appendix C for an example)

The forecasts will contain the following elements:

- Headline - If a Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch is in effect, a headline is mandatory.
- Outside of these conditions, headlines may be used to convey concerns about significant trends, but are not required.
- Discussion – This is a short paragraph outlining the synoptic features affecting the forecast area during the next 24 to 36 hours.
- Forecast elements will include: cloud cover, chance and type of precipitation, precipitation amount, max and min temperatures and its trend, max and min relative humidity and its trend, 20-foot winds in MPH, mixing height in 1000's of feet, and transport winds in knots.
- Extended forecast will be appended to the end of the tabular part of the product and will include the winds through day 7. Haines Index may also be included.

SPOT Weather Forecasts
http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge2/fire/docs/WS_FORM_D_SPOT.pdf (see request form in Appendix D)

Site-specific forecasts (Spot) are issued by an NWS office in support of wildfire and natural resource management. These forecasts aid the fire control agencies in protecting life and property during wildfires, fuel reduction burns, and rehabilitation and restoration of natural resources.

Educational Resources

FirewiseUSA

http://www.firewise.org

Firewise communities can be favored for grants and can encourage communities to become responsible for their neighborhood safety

Five Step Process:

1. Do a risk assessment (can be incorporated into home assessments)
2. Community forms a small Firewise committee
3. Community conducts a “Firewise Day” consisting of small projects that contribute to wildfire safety
4. Community invests $2 per capita in either cash or in-kind work i.e.: participation in Firewise day counts towards volunteer hours
5. Submit an application to the state Firewise Liaison

firewise.org also has brochures that can be printed and other materials free of charge available from NFPA.

ReadySetGo!

http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/

The RSG! Program tenets help residents be **Ready** with preparedness understanding, be **Set** with situational awareness when fire threatens, and to **Go**, acting early when a fire starts. Materials and brochures can be shipped free of charge.

Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS)

https://disastersafety.org/wildfire/

IBHS does some amazing research of structural ignition issues. They have brochures available to download such as retrofit guides and home assessment checklists.

Fire Adapted New Mexico Learning Network

http://www.fireadaptednm.org

Resources and accounts of educational programs that have worked across the state

Funding Opportunities

Secure Rural Communities Title III (requires firewise communities)
http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/countyfunds/faqs

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program
http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/RFPs/RFPMain.html

Wildfire Risk Reduction for Rural Communities Grant Program
http://www.nmcounties.org/homepage/local-state-and-federal-collaboration/fire/

New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps
http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/YCC/

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)
http://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program

Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S)
http://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)
http://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program

TecGen PPE
http://fire.tecgen.com/grants/

New Mexico Fire Protection Grants
http://fgc.prc.newmexico.gov/

USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grants
http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/nm

Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) Program
http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/fepp/index.html

Appendix A - Meeting Sign-in Sheets

25 FEBRUARY 2016

Name	Agency	email or phone
Mike Nolen, Fire Chief	City of Clovis	mnolen@cityofclovis.org
Kenny Jacobs, Fire Chief	Village Of Melrose	melrose@yucca.net
John Bradley	melrose fire / clovis fire	Jbradley@cityofclovis
MICHAEL BOOTH	BROADVIEW FIRE / CLOVIS FIRE	MBooth@cityofclovis.org
Quentin Wood	Broadview Fire	QOK.wood@gmail.com
DAVID KUBE	CURRY CO. WILDFIRE COOR.	dkube@curryco.org
Ted Richardson	Chief Pleasant Hill	Richardson@plateautel.net
Dennis Fury	Curry County Road Dept.	dfury@currycounty.o
WESLEY WALLER	CURRY CO. SHERIFF	WWALLER@CURRYCOUNTY.OR
Mike Reeves	Curry County S.O.	mreeves@currycounty.or
Bill Kshir	Clovis Public Works	bkshir@cityofclovis.org
Eugene Pino	NM State Forestry	eugene.pino@state.nm.us
Sandra Stewart	Curry County	sstewart@curry[illegible]
KRIS INSTROM	FIRE SERVICE SUPPORT	ffwfd25@gmail.com
JEROME PROVENCIO	Grady Fire Dept	jeromeprovencio@yahoo.com
Walon Jones	Grady FD	Walonj@plateautel.com
Douglas R. Ford	Clovis P.D.	dford@cityofclovis.org
Paul Nelson	City of Clovis	pnelson@cityofclovis.org
Johnnie Gibson	City of Clovis Fire Dept.	JGibson@cityofclovis.org
DALE HAND	City of Clovis Fire Dept	dhand@cityofclovis.org

CURRY COUNTY WILDFIRE PLANNING MEETING
MARCH 28, 2016

NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	EMAIL	PHONE
Karen Burns	EMS Director	CFD	kburns@cityofclovis.org	575-799-2104
Johnnie Gibson	Training Officer	CFD	JGibson@cityofclovis.org	575-763-9209
Dan Heerding	Emergency Manager	Clovis/curry County	dheerding@cityofclovis.org	575-763-9485
DAVID KUBE	WILDLAND FIRE COOR.	CURRY COUNTY	dkube@currycounty.org	575-760-7888
John Bradley	LT/P	melrose fire / clovis fire		
MICHAEL BOOTH	LT/P – ASST. CHIEF	CLOVIS F.D. / BROADVIEW F.D	m.booth@CITYOFCLOVIS.org	575-942-7006
Dale Hand	Bat. Chief Paramedic	Clovis F.D.	dhand@cityofclovis.org	575-714-1377
Michael Nolen	CFD chief	Clovis F.D.	mnolen@cityofclovis.org	575-760-8533
ALLAN SILVERS	CFD FIRE MARSHAL	CFD	ASILVERS@CITYOFCLOVIS.ORG	575-763-9211
Dennis Fury	Road Supt.	Road CURRY COUNTY	dfury@currycounty.org	575-309-5481
Clint Bunch	Public Works Director	City of Clovis P.W.	cbunch@cityofclovis.org	575-769-2376
Julie Winkles	Exec Admin	Clovis Fire	jwinkles@cityofclovis.org	575-769-7814

SIGN IN SHEET

Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan Public Meeting
April 12, 2016 5:30 p.m.

Name	Address	E-mail Address
CHET SPEAR	15 JILL ROAD CLOVIS, NM 88101	CSPEAR5@MSN.COM
Lance Pyle	700 North Main, Ste. 10 Clovis, NM 88101	lpyle@curryco unty.org
Wendell Bostwick		wendellbostwick@gmail.com
Ben McDaniel		BMCDANIELB@AOL.COM

Appendix B - Public Comment Survey and Results

Please rate your thoughts on the following statements							
We can create landscapes that are more fire-safe while protecting conservation values	AGREE	○	○	○	○	○	DISAGREE
Prescribed fire is a necessary component to effectively manage fuels and restore ecosystems	AGREE	○	○	○	○	○	DISAGREE
I'd like to learn more so that I can better protect/enhance my land	AGREE	○	○	○	○	○	DISAGREE
Building coalitions of conservation groups/land agencies and fire safety groups is important to address fire issues	AGREE	○	○	○	○	○	DISAGREE
We have sufficient funding to address fire safety	AGREE	○	○	○	○	○	DISAGREE
The risk of damaging wildfire is increasing	AGREE	○	○	○	○	○	DISAGREE
We need better science before we can effectively manage fuels on a landscape scale	AGREE	○	○	○	○	○	DISAGREE
Some natural systems depend on fire to rejuvenate	AGREE	○	○	○	○	○	DISAGREE
I believe the current level of wildfire preparation and response is sufficient	AGREE	○	○	○	○	○	DISAGREE
I believe fire responders in my area are well equipped and capable of mounting an effective response	AGREE	○	○	○	○	○	DISAGREE

If you have additional comments in response to the preceding questions, please describe below:

Please list 3 questions that you would like answered in educational and/or planning meetings regarding wildfire

1

2

3

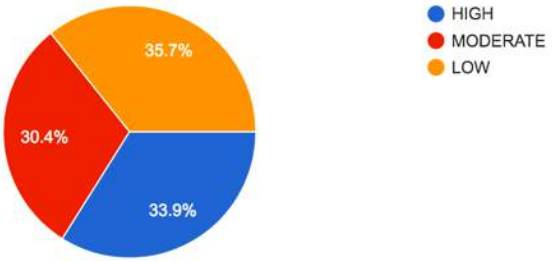
Would you be interested in having someone assess the survivability of your home and make recommendations for reducing risk?	YES NO

If yes: NAME: CONTACT INFORMATION:

How much of a threat to your home is wildfire?		HIGH MODERATE LOW
What are your biggest concerns regarding wildfire? (describe in box below)		
Please rate from low to high (1-5) what you value most about your property		
Recreational opportunities		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
Maintaining property values		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
Wildlife and ecological value		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
Economic value		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
Clean water and air		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
If there are others, please describe them:		
From lowest to highest,please rate your concern about a fire threatening your community:		
Damage to your home		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
Personal safety of yourself and family members		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
Economic disruption		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
Damage to land		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
Damage to water supplies		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
Damage to grazing areas		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH
Property value loss		LOW ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ HIGH

Survey Results:

How much of a threat to your home is wildfire? (56 responses)

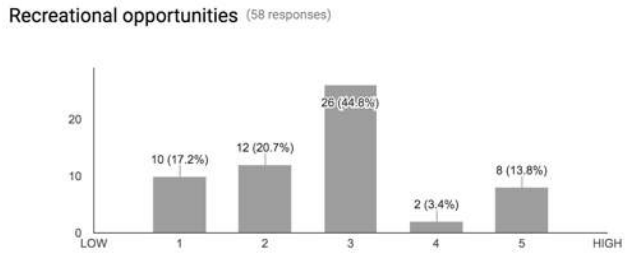


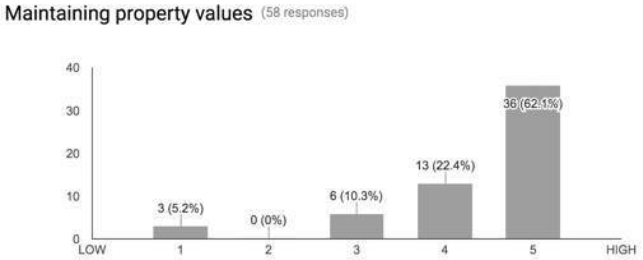
What are your biggest concerns regarding wildfire?

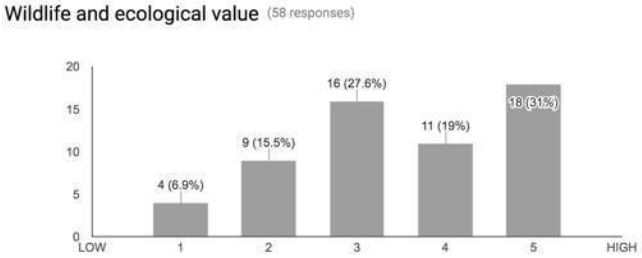
- Lack of Community Awareness on prevention
- Burning down homes
- Homes and people
- That if it happened to me it would threaten my animals and employees
- The wind we have here could drive a wildfire to destroy so much before it could be controlled
- Rapid spread of fire due to high winds
- Careless cigarettes thrown out windows and local debts unable to control resulting fires
- Smokers, not getting trailers & vehicle checks that cause sparks
- Fire
- Houses in the country carelessly burning trash
- How to prevent
- How quickly they spread
- Lose of recourses and property
- Being unable to evacuate all of the Livestock from my property before a fire reaches it. This area is so dry and windy fire travels fast. Also having limited water to fight a fire with.
- The load of plant biomass around the city and the LOADS of trash that exist within it!
- The county roads dept. called out to help with wildfires with no training
- Loss of lives and homes
- The speed at which it can spread and the destruction it can cause
- Loss of life, homes. A lack of landowners interest/committment to keeping their property defensible to wildfire
- The wind blows daily - some days worse than others and it is very difficult to stop wildfires with the wind blowing like it does in our area
- Financial loss
- The amount of dry grass in the county and people don't realize how dry and flammable it is
- Lose of property
- Lack of resources to put out
- I'm not from this areas of the country. My lack of experience/education about wildfires instills fear and anxiety
- Loss or damage of home or livestock

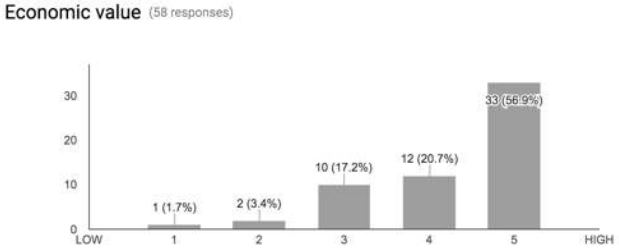
- Loss of our home
- Fires that start along railroad and/or highway right of ways which become intensified and enlarge due to high winds during dry periods
- Loss of assets
- Inability to stop one with winds encountered locally
- Ability for the fire department to make a successful stop in the WUI
- Lack of emergency responders and infrastructure to support firefighting
- My pets
- Unprepared for fast moving fire
- Smoke and fire extension into populated areas
- Damage to homes and people
- Loosing my home
- Access by fire department blocked due top railroad crossings
- Losing ground cover, creating issues with erosion from the wind
- Blowing embers and starting fires in other areas
- Destruction of wildlife
- The damage it can do especially during times of high wind
- Lightning, high winds and open pastures puts us in high danger all around our house. The volunteer fire department is several miles away and the volunteers are even further. The trucks are outdated as is the firehouse.
- Spreading to homes and large livestock areas

Rate from LOW to HIGH what you value most about your property



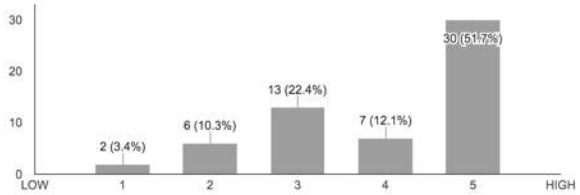




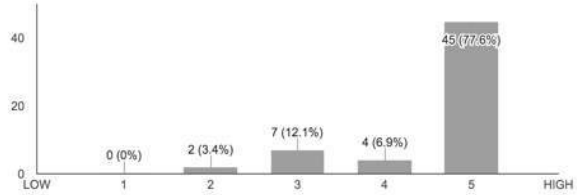


From LOW to HIGH, please rate your concern about a fire threatening your community

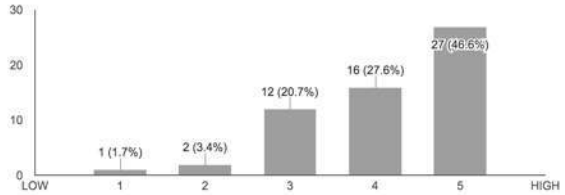
Damage to your home (58 responses)



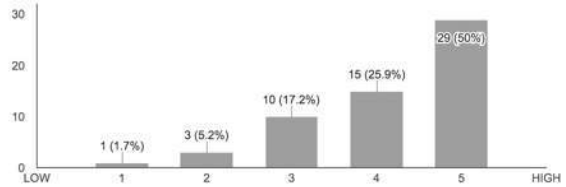
Personal safety of yourself and family members (58 responses)



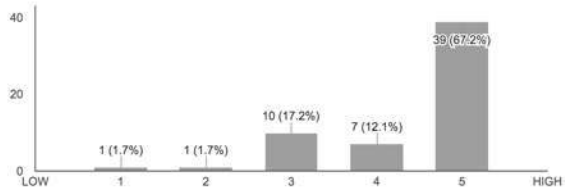
Economic disruption (58 responses)



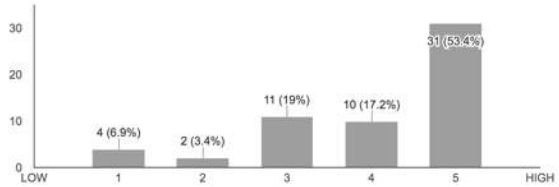
Damage to land (58 responses)



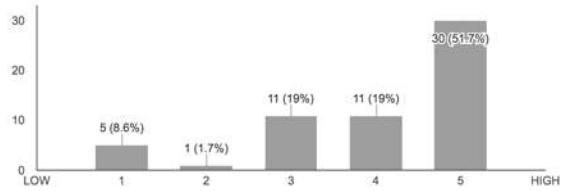
Damage to water supplies (58 responses)



Damage to grazing areas (58 responses)

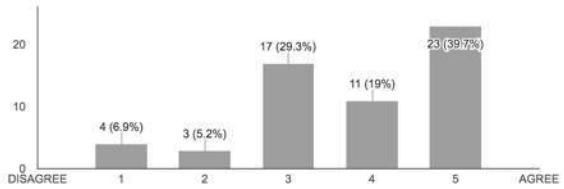


Damage to pasture (58 responses)

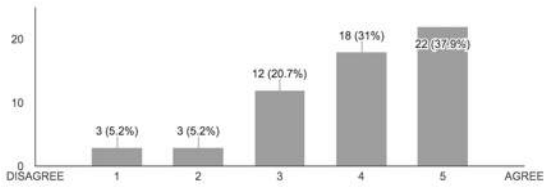


Please rate your thoughts on the following statements:

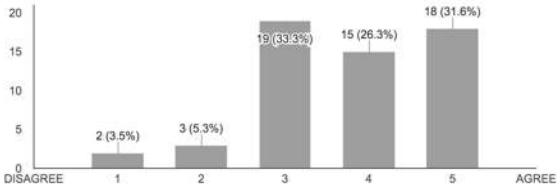
We can create landscapes that are more fire-safe while protecting conservation values
(58 responses)



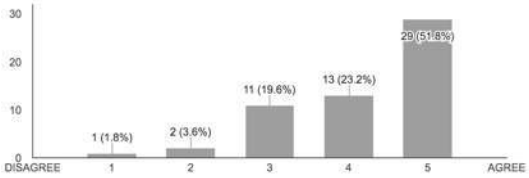
Prescribed fire is a necessary component to effectively manage fuels and restore ecosystems
(58 responses)



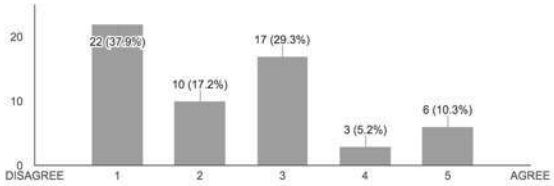
I'd like to learn more so that I can better protect or enhance my land
(57 responses)



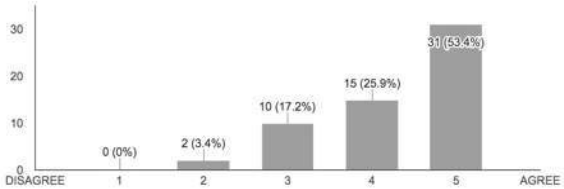
Building coalitions of private land owners and fire safety groups is important to address fire issues
(56 responses)



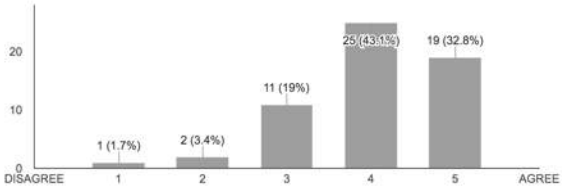
We have sufficient funding to address wildfire safety (58 responses)



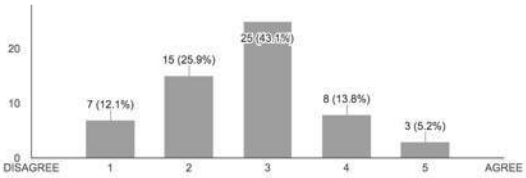
The risk of damaging wildfire is increasing (58 responses)



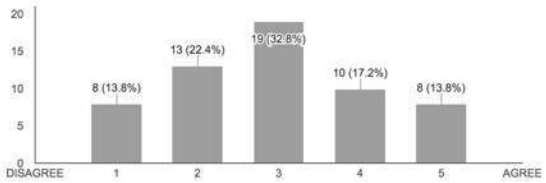
Some natural systems depend on fire to rejuvenate (58 responses)



The current level of wildfire preparation and response is sufficient (58 responses)



First responders in my area are well equipped and capable of mounting an effective response to wildfire
(58 responses)



If you have any additional comments in response to the previous questions, please describe below:

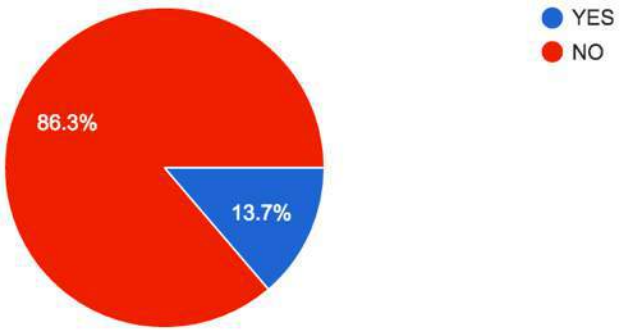
- Need to provide more training to first responders
- Fire
- Local firefighters need more equipment designed especially for fighting wildfires
- Roads Depts should be made a part of all wildfires
- Are the first responders trained for wildfires? Remote areas have limited man power
- Responding agencies MUST start utilizing NIMS and a unified command to manage wildfire. A lack of coordination and communication between responding agencies presents a serious risk top first responders and citizens alike. Unify Command. Keep it stationary so that people can find it. Have representatives from responding agencies in the command post. Keep the command post out of the fire.
- Our volunteer fire department needs newer equipment and an adequate fire station to be better prepared. I don't think we need prescribed burns in this part of the state.
- Modernize firefighting in north end of county
- New brush trucks at broadview
- Vol. dept needs new up to date trucks and equipment
- I live on the edge of the city limits following the one mile radius city rezoning and infrastructure doesn't support fire fighting i.e. there is no fire hydrant within a mile of my property
- Answers to a few of the answers would be different if my home was not in town
- I'm not sure prescribed burns will work in the flat lands like it works in mountainous areas
- Our fire department has some trucks to fight fire in grass lands. They need better equipment to do the job

Please list 3 questions that you would like answered in educational and/or planning meetings regarding wildfire:

- What type of training is provided to first responders?
- How much wildfire awareness is presented in public schools?
- Local meetings regarding burning of refuse
- What are some ways we can prevent the careless burning of trash in Curry County?
- Why don't we have regulations preventing?
- Are there evacuation plans for residents in the event of a wildfire?
- Does the county have a plan to assess wildfire risk on a set basis (annually, biannually or seasonally)?
- Please address the amount of trash that can be seen DAILY anywhere you go in this town and on the outskirts!
- Training for road graders fighting fires
- Where do rural departments get water to fight fires with?
- Who is available to help me with my risk issues?
- Are the road grader operators properly protected with wildfire response gear and direct communications with command?
- How can we homeowners out in the county better protect our homes from grass fires?
- Is there a demand for only class a pumpers and not brush trucks - we have more grass fires than structure?

- Strategies for protecting homestead areas on ranches and farms from wildfires
- Means of creating better fire-resistant landscapes
- What is the actual threat to residents within city limits?
- What are some ways of protecting homes and property?
- Is County considering regulations on preventing wildfires? if no, why?
- How much media attention does wildfire awareness get?
- Local meetings regarding fireworks
- Could free access to dump trash prevent the careless burning of trash?
- Does cannon air force base assist with fighting wildfires?
- What are water resources for fighting wildfires in the rural areas?
- How much funding is procured or set aside to prevent and manage wildfire risk?
- Can safety equipment be provided for road employees?
- What agreements are in place for mutual aid for area fire departments?
- Is there a cost to me?
- What is the criteria for activating the command post?
- Is there some way we can get training locally for our volunteer firefighters?
- What plans the county road maintenance crews have to prepare roadways in order to reduce fire danger?
- Increasing training and equipment for first responders
- How does the threat level compare to individuals who live/own property outside of town?
- Does the city/county have a wildfire fighting plan currently in existance?
- What is the plan and response time to county residents?
- What can landowners do to prevent wildfires?
- Could more be done to make the community aware of the seriousness of this issue?
- Enforcing individual fireworks activity which occurs during planned fireworks events
- Are people that are burning during burn bans cited?
- Has a plan been made to include farmers and ranchers in the plan to fight wildfires?
- Does the county feel they have sufficient livestock holding areas available if a large wildfire impacted the area forcing livestock to be evacuated?
- Can we all have radios to be able to have contact with fire fighters and road dept?
- Whether this movement is being promoted by a source which has an ulterior profit motive associate with the process?
- Are mutual aid agreements in place to rely on outlying fire departments in the event of a wildfire?

Would you be interested in having someone assess the survivability of your home and make recommendations for reducing risk?
(51 responses)



Appendix C - Fire Weather Forecast

Routine Fire Wx Fcst (With/Without 6-10 Day Outlook)
2 Miles NE Melrose NM

Issued by NWS Albuquerque, NM

Home | Oldest Version | Previous Version | **Current Version** | All | Graphics & Text | Save Text | Print | Product List | Glossary On

Product Version: 7:30:31 AM Select

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181
FNUS55 KABQ 131330
FWFABQ

FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST FOR NORTH AND CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ALBUQUERQUE NM
730 AM MDT WED APR 13 2016

.DISCUSSION...WEATHER CONDITIONS WILL BECOME MORE SETTLED TODAY WITH
LIGHTER WINDS AND JUST A SLIM CHANCE FOR A HIGH TERRAIN SHOWER
OR THUNDERSTORM THIS AFTERNOON. TEMPERATURES WILL CLIMB SEVERAL
DEGREES ABOVE YESTERDAY`S READINGS. ON THURSDAY BREEZY TO WINDY
CONDITIONS WILL TAKE SHAPE OVER NEW MEXICO WITH THE STRONGEST WIND
SPEEDS FOUND IN THE NORTHEASTERN PORTIONS OF THE STATE. TEMPERATURES
WILL RISE SEVERAL DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL THURSDAY AFTERNOON...AND A
COUPLE TO A FEW HOURS OF LOCALIZED CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER WILL BE
POSSIBLE IN PORTIONS OF THE EASTERN PLAINS. STRONGER WINDS WILL
DEVELOP ON FRIDAY...AND COOLER THAN NORMAL TEMPERATURES WILL ARRIVE
IN THE WEST WHILE ABOVE NORMAL READINGS PERSIST IN THE EAST. HUMIDITY
WILL FALL CLOSE TO CRITICAL LEVELS IN SOME ZONES FRIDAY...BUT AT THIS
TIME IT APPEARS THE WORST THREAT FOR CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS
WILL STAY MOSTLY SOUTH OF THE FORECAST AREA. NO CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER
CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED THIS WEEKEND AS COOLER TEMPERATURES ARRIVE
WITH INCREASED CHANCES FOR PRECIPITATION.


NMZ108-132130-
NEW MEXICO FIRE WEATHER ZONE 108
EAST CENTRAL PLAINS/ROSWELL BLM/ABZ-SNZ-
730 AM MDT WED APR 13 2016

.TODAY...
* SKY/WEATHER.........PARTLY CLOUDY IN THE MORNING THEN CLEARING.
  PATCHY FOG IN THE MORNING.
* MAX TEMPERATURE.....69-74.
*    24 HR TREND......UP 20 DEGREES.
* MIN HUMIDITY........26-36 PCT.
*    24 HR TREND......DOWN 37 PCT.
* WIND...20 FOOT......SOUTHWEST 5 TO 15 MPH.
* 10000 FT MSL WIND...NORTHWEST 10 TO 20 MPH.
* CHANCE OF PRECIP....10 PCT.
* LAL.................1.
* HAINES INDEX........3 VERY LOW.

.TONIGHT...
* SKY/WEATHER.........MOSTLY CLEAR.
* MIN TEMPERATURE.....44-48.
*    24 HR TREND......UP 5 DEGREES.
* MAX HUMIDITY........73-93 PCT.
*    24 HR TREND......DOWN 16 PCT.
* WIND...20 FOOT......SOUTH 5 TO 15 MPH.
* 10000 FT MSL WIND...WEST 5 TO 15 MPH.
* CHANCE OF PRECIP....0 PCT.
* LAL.................1.
* HAINES INDEX........3 VERY LOW.

.THURSDAY...
* SKY/WEATHER.........MOSTLY SUNNY.
* MAX TEMPERATURE.....79-84.
*    24 HR TREND......UP 10 DEGREES.
* MIN HUMIDITY........15-20 PCT.
*    24 HR TREND......DOWN 12 PCT.
* WIND...20 FOOT......SOUTH 5 TO 15 MPH INCREASING TO 15 TO 25 MPH
  IN THE AFTERNOON.
                       GUSTS UP TO 35 MPH.
* 10000 FT MSL WIND...SOUTHWEST 10 TO 20 MPH INCREASING TO 20 TO 30
  MPH IN THE AFTERNOON.
* CHANCE OF PRECIP....0 PCT.
* LAL.................1.
* HAINES INDEX........3 VERY LOW INCREASING TO 4 LOW IN THE
  AFTERNOON.
```

Appendix D - SPOT Weather Request Form

WS FORM D-1
(1-2005)
(Supersedes Previous Editions)

SPOT REQUEST
(See reverse for instructions)

U.S. Department of Commerce
NOAA
National Weather Service

Please call the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) when submitting a request and also after you receive a forecast to ensure request and forecast were received.
Please provide feedback to WFO on forecast.

1. Time†	2. Date	3. Name of Incident or Project	4. Requesting Agency

5. Requesting Official	6. Phone Number	7. Fax Number	8. Contact Person

9. Ignition/Incident Time and Date

10. Size (Acres)

11. Type of Incident
- o **Wildfire**
- o **Prescribed Fire**
- o **Wildland Fire Use (WFU)**
- o **HAZMAT**
- o **Search And Rescue (SAR)**

12. Reason for Spot Request (choose one only)
- o **Wildfire**
- o **Non-Wildfire** Under the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services (USFS, BLM, NPS, USFWS, BIA)
- o **Non-Wildfire** State, tribal or local fire agency working in coordination with a federal participant in the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services
- o **Non-Wildfire** Essential to public safety, e.g. due to the proximity of population centers or critical infrastructure.

13. Latitude/Longitude:

14. Elevation (ft, Mean Sea Level)
Top: **Bottom:**

15. Drainage

16. Aspect

17. Sheltering
- o **Full**
- o **Partial**
- o **Unsheltered**

18. Fuel Type: __Grass __Brush __Timber __Slash __Grass/Timber Understory __Other_____
Fuel Model: 1,2,3 4,5,6,7 8,9,10 11,12,13 2,5,8

19. Location and name of nearest weather observing station (distance & direction from project):

20. Weather Observations from project or nearby station(s): (Winds should be in compass direction e.g. N, NW, etc.)

Place	Elevation	†Ob Time	20 ft. Wind		Eye Level Wind.		Temp.		Moisture		Remarks *(Relevant Weather, etc)*
			Dir	Speed	Dir	Speed	Dry	Wet	RH	DP	

21. Requested Forecast Period
Date

Start _____

End _____

Forecast needed for:
- o **Today**
- o **Tonight**
- o **Day 2**
- o **Extended**

22. Primary Forecast Elements (Check all that are needed) ***(for management ignited wildland fires, provide prescription parameters):***

	Needed:
Sky/Weather	__
Temperature	__
Humidity	__
20 ft Wind	__
Valley	__
Ridge Top	__
Other (Specify in #23)	__

23. Remarks (other needed forecast elements, forecast needed for specific time, etc.)

24. Send Forecast to:
ATTN:

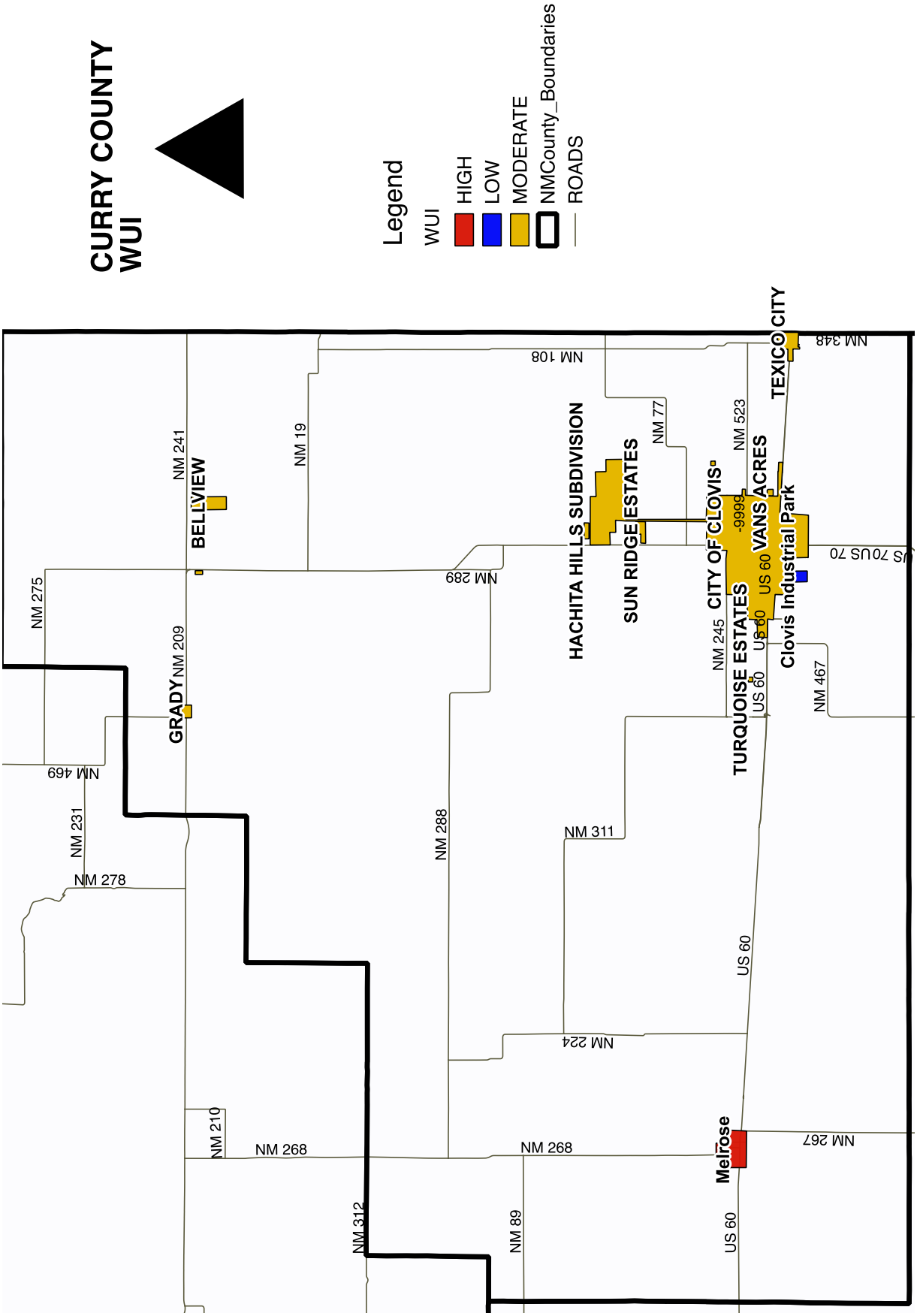
25. Location:

26. Phone Number:
Fax Number:

27. Remarks (Special requests, incident details, Smoke Dispersion elements needed, etc.):

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS: **† Use 24-hour clock to indicate time. Example: 10:15 p.m. = 2215; 10:15 a.m. = 1015**
Indicate local standard time or local daylight time

CURRY COUNTY WUI MAP



FIRESERVICE SUPPORT LLC

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES