

# **Archuleta County Community Fire Plan**

## ***A Component of the National Fire Plan***

### **Background :**

The Archuleta County Community Fire Plan is a direct extension of the National Fire Plan authorized by Congress, as a response to the tragic summer fires of 2000. As a component of the National Fire Plan, the County Community Fire Plan is meant to help coordinate fire readiness efforts between local communities and federal agencies through four major goals.

- 1.) Ensure firefighting resources
- 2.) Rebuild communities and ecosystems damaged by the fires of 2000
- 3.) Thin vegetation in areas that are adjacent to public lands
- 4.) Help local residents to reduce fire risk and improve fire protection.

This Community Fire Plan has been developed to assist the Sheriff, Fire Officials, and residents of Archuleta County, Colorado, in the identification of private and public lands at risk of severe wildland fires, to explore strategies for the prevention and suppression of such fires, and to improve firefighting resources.

Over 50% of the total landmass of Archuleta County is in public ownership. Federal lands within the County consist primarily of the San Juan National Forest in the northern half of the county, a small amount of BLM land in the south central portion of the county, and a few small areas of State Land scattered across the remainder of the county. All three have fire management programs in place. The Southern Ute Tribe is the largest landowner in the southwest quarter of the county holding approximately 125,000 acres. The Southern Ute Tribe also has a fire management program in place.

Archuleta County, Colorado ranked as the fifth fastest growing county in Colorado and the ninth in the United States last year. Much of this residential growth has been occurring in the wildland/urban interface where private lands are adjacent to federal and tribal land (US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Southern Ute Indian Tribe). These thickly forested interface areas into which people are moving are highly susceptible to wildland fire.

While the risk of wildfire on public land is generally understood, much of the adjacent private land is equally at risk. These areas adjoining public lands are becoming increasingly valued for their scenic beauty, solitude, and access to recreation opportunities. As development in these areas continues to increase, the risk to lives, property, and resources correspondingly increases.

**Authorization:**

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Under Colorado law, the county Sheriff has been given the authority to act as fire warden for the county as provided by the following statutes:

- C.R.S. v.9 30-10-512 Sheriff to act as fire warden.
- C.R.S. v.9 30-10-513 Sheriff in charge of forest or prairie fire.
- C.R.S. v.9 30-10-513.5 Authority of Sheriff relating to fire within unincorporated areas of county.

**Archuleta County's Fire Protection Infrastructure:**

Archuleta County has one fire protection district. The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) covers an area of 165 square miles and serves about 75 percent of the county with funds collected from a special tax district. It responds to structure fires within its boundaries, but works on wildland fires outside of its jurisdiction only if asked and able to. The remaining 25 percent of the county has no dedicated structural fire protection. County road-maintenance crews provide wildland fire suppression response under direction of the Sheriff's office. However, the road crews have little or no training in responding to structural fires. All federal agencies respond to fire calls within one mile of their boundaries, providing free services for the first 24 hours of a fire. If it is not suppressed by then a fee is charged for firefighter time and equipment. Many times, the US Forest Service, BIA and BLM have responded to wildfires on private lands as a part of their interagency activities.

During 2001, county commissioners implemented a county-wide planning ordinance requiring real estate developers to thin fire-prone parcels before receiving final plat approval. At least two developers have paid a private business as much as \$500 per acre to thin forested lots plotted for sale. Early response to the requirement has been positive. Through the county's *Site Development Standards* requirement, five developments have conducted, or are conducting, thinning projects: Elk Park Meadows, Timber Ridge, The Reserve at Piedra Peak, Powderhorn Subdivision, and Snow Circle. This pro-active approach is an excellent example for other counties in the region.

Related to this action, the Archuleta County Planning Department recently purchased a new computer and GIS fire-risk assessment software to identify and characterize fire-prone areas in an effort to plan practical and safe new residential development. However, it may be several months before this can affect issues of development and policy. Once in place, this system should help county officials immensely in long range strategic planning. Additionally it will provide excellent information for county residents concerned with fire safety.

**Overall Goals of the Archuleta County Community Fire Plan:**

The Archuleta County Community Fire Plan is a living document intended to be used as a tool to stimulate community involvement and long range strategic planning. This document should be evaluated, and updated on a regular basis as new information is gathered. The following goals have been identified as initial desired outcomes of this plan.

- Identify areas thought to have high or moderate risk of wild fire.
- Document and outline strategies for protecting community values such as watersheds, residences, recreation resources, economic resources etc.
- Outline planning & design strategies that private landowners can use to reduce wildfire risk.
- Improve the fire suppression resources of the community by identifying equipment and training needs.
- Coordinate fire suppression efforts between the county and federal land agencies.
- Coordinate fuels reduction opportunities between private landowners and federal land management agencies.
- Identify potential public/ private lands fuels reduction demonstration projects that can illustrate fuels mitigation techniques and results.
- Identify economic development and networking opportunities regarding fuel reduction enterprises.
- Identify public education strategies using information gathered through the development of this plan.

**Archuleta County Community Fire Plan -----****The Process:**

Information for the plan was recorded during five meetings and several follow-up conversations held in Archuleta County during late summer and fall of 2001. Participants included US Forest Service fire management officers with the San Juan Public Lands, the Pagosa Ranger District, Pagosa Fire Protection District Chief, county Sheriff's office, county emergency management office, planning staff director and (GIS) technician, and about 12 residents. The Office of Community Services, at Fort Lewis College, drafted the fire plan through a cost-share agreement with the San Juan Public Lands.

**Wildfire Risk Mapping:**

Community leaders, and individuals with specialized knowledge of the surrounding land base were interviewed to provide information and opinions on the level of fire risk for private and public lands within the county. Information gathered through these interviews was used to map areas where the risk of

wildfire could pose a special threat to homes, property or other cultural resources.

**Mapping criteria:**

Areas were identified and mapped based in part on the following subjective criteria:

- o Remote areas where fire starts would prove to be difficult to access or suppress.
- o Developing areas with excessive fuel loading.
- o Developing areas that lie outside a fire protection district.
- o Developing areas adjacent to public lands which due to terrain and fuel load could pose an increased fire risk. (ie. Home sites situated at the top of heavily wooded canyons etc.)
- o Areas where a lack of water sources would hamper fire suppression.
- o Areas where pending development may compound fire risk.
- o Areas where fire starts could spread to sensitive areas. (community watersheds, archaeological resources, wildlife habitat, oil or gas fields, etc.)

**Wildfire Risk Areas Identified: (Appendix 1)**

Thirty -four areas of private lands along the urban/ wildland interface thought to be at some degree of risk from wildfire were identified and mapped. These areas include;

1. Aspen Springs (Unit 6)	18. Cimarron
2. Log Park	19. Continental Estates
3. Pagosa Lakes	20. Eagle Peak
4. San Juan River Resort Village	21. Alpha
5. Alpine Lakes Estates	22. Ghost Elk Valley
6. Loma Linda	23. High West
7. Burns Canyon	24. Holiday Acres
8. Pagosa Peak Reserve (Design Reg)	25. Keyah Grande
9. Piedra Peak (Design Regulations)	26. Lower Blanco
10. Snow Circle (Design Regulations)	27. Navajo River Ranch
11. Elk Park Meadows (treated area)	28. Rito Blanco
12. Timber Ridge (Design Regulations)	29. Stevens Canyon
13. Turkey Springs	30. Tierra del Oro
14. Alpine Lakes Subdivision	31. Twin Creek
15. Echo Canyon	32. Upper Blanco
16. Chris Mountain Estates	33. Wildflower
17. Blue Mountain Estates	34. Crowley Ranch

Of these thirty-four areas, six areas of special concern have been tentatively identified and labeled as “At Risk”. These areas include:

- o **Aspen Springs, Unit 6** – Located approximately 10 miles west of Pagosa Springs the Aspen Springs Subdivision is bisected by Highway 160. The

- subdivision is thought to be at risk because of thick timber and heavy brush, insufficient water sources for firefighting, steep slopes, and adjacency to heavily timbered Public and Tribal Lands. Furthermore new construction with exposed timber framing, and construction trash piles contribute manmade hazards. The area is also crisscrossed with roads making navigation more difficult. This subdivision is within the Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District, and there is a sub station located near the entrance. Response times are relatively quick, but are hampered by the proliferation of roads. Improved signage could help the navigational situation.
- **Alpine Lakes Estates** – Located approximately 20 miles south of Pagosa Springs this relatively remote subdivision is thought to be at risk because of heavy timber and brush. Furthermore there is only one access road leading into the subdivision which could potentially create a “bottle neck” situation. The subdivision is not within the Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District, and response time may take 30 to 45 minutes by road.
  - **Log Park** – Located approximately 3 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs, this subdivision may be at risk because of the presence of thick timber and brush, steep slopes, and adjacency to heavily timbered public lands. Furthermore the single access road lead to the subdivision could create “bottle-neck” situations. The Log Park Subdivision is located within the Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District, and response times may take up to 15 minutes by road.
  - **San Juan River Resort Village** – Located approximately 6 miles north east of Pagosa Springs, this subdivision may be at risk because of the adjacency to heavily timbered public lands. The subdivision is located within the Pagosa Fire Protection District and response times are usually within 10 minutes by road.
  - **Burns Canyon** - The Burns Canyon Area Is located approximately 10 miles south west of Pagosa Springs. The area is sparsely populated, but it is thought to be at risk because of the heavy brush and timber, extremely steep slopes, difficult road and foot access, and a lack of water sources. This area has historically been the location of a high number of fire starts due to lightning, and prevailing winds could push a fire towards more populated areas to the east. Response time may take as long as 30 minutes by road and even longer when fire crews finally hit the ground because of the extremely rugged terrain. Effective fire fighting in many parts of this area is too dangerous to attempt by ground crews leaving air attacks as the only practical means of fire suppression.
  - **Pagosa Lakes (near Martinez Canyon)**- Located approximately 6 miles northwest of Pagosa Springs, this area is thought to be at risk due to its

adjacency to a large area of thick timber and heavy brush on National Forest land. Also, because of its location along the eastern side of the timbered area, there is concern that prevailing winds could push a wildfire into this populated area from the National Forest land. Response times are usually within 10 minutes by road.

### **Additional Map Data:**

In addition to the location of subdivisions thought to be at “high risk”, two other areas of private land thought to be “at risk” have been identified and mapped. These areas are:

- **The Crowley Ranch** – Located approximately 25 miles southeast of Pagosa Springs, this relatively remote subdivision is thought to be at risk because of the thick stands of timber and brush, steep slopes and lack of water to suppress fires. Not located within the Fire Protection District, response time can take as long as 45 minute to an hour by road.
- **Mesa Cortado** – Located approximately 25 miles south of Pagosa Springs this multi- jurisdictional area is thought to be at risk because of the thick stands of pinyon/ juniper, brush, steep slopes, and lack of water for fire suppression. This relatively remote area is not within the Fire Protection District and response times can take as long as 45 minutes to an hour by road.

Also shown are two “at risk” subdivisions with landowners who are interested in doing fuels reduction treatments. These subdivisions are;

- **Holiday Acres** – Located approximately 5 miles south of Pagosa Springs.
- **Loma Linda** – Located approximately 8 miles south of Pagosa Springs.

**Federal Projects;** Federal fuels treatment projects are also located on the map. As indicated there are a number of planned and previous treatments near subdivisions that have been identified as having some level of risk.

### **Emerging Issues;**

Through the interview process a number of issues that can be addressed in the plan have emerged.

- 1.) **Data gaps within existing wildfire hazard map.** There are a number of data pieces that could be added to the hazard map, which would make the map more useful in the coordination of emergency responses and strategic planning. These data gaps include, but are not limited to the following.

**A.) Parcel, Cultural, residential densities & Subdivision**

**Information;** The inclusion of parcel and subdivision information would be helpful to emergency response teams who could use field GPS units to help locate their vicinities, property lines, water sources, utilities, and other cultural values such as oil wells, tank batteries, watersheds, archeological sites etc, which may play a role in fire suppression activities.

**B.) Comprehensive roads layer with mile marker reference points;**

Updated county wide road information including mile marker reference points would assist in strategic emergency response. Additionally it may be helpful to indicate roads that may have seasonal closures, or other roads that may be permanently closed but which could offer access under extreme conditions.

**C.) Location of fire stations, fire hydrants, & water line sizes;**

A good inventory of fire protection resources may be helpful in projecting fire response strategies and implementing suppression efforts.

**D.) Fire Protection District Boundaries;**

Delineation of Fire Protection District Boundaries on the fire hazard map would benefit intra- agency coordination.

**E.) Inventory of past fire starts;**

Delineation of past fire starts could assist in strategic planning by identifying areas more prone to fire starts due to lightning etc. Delineation of past burns can also indicate areas where fire risk has been reduced.

**F.) Section Lines;**

Inclusion of section lines could aid in reference locations.

- 2.) **Federal land boundaries are difficult to locate on the ground.** There is concern over fire suppression efforts that inadvertently cross federal land property lines. Because they are typically the first responders on the scene, local fire fighters need to have some latitude to perform fire suppression activities in areas where fire starts on federal ground may pose a direct threat to private property. Regular exchange of information and training opportunities would help to maintain strong working relationships between federal and local agencies and provide more technically skilled firefighters.
- 3.) **Continued air support is essential in suppression of fire in remote areas, and along private/ public interface lands.** Continued and if possible expanded air support is key in controlling fire starts in

inaccessible or remote areas in effort to maintain control over the situation until ground efforts can get in place.

- 4.) **Access to water.** Lack of water is the biggest obstacle to fire suppression once a fire starts. Having air support helps to alleviate this problem. However remote development should plan ahead to provide on site water sources of at least 2,500 gallons.
- 5.) **Fire Fighting Equipment & Training Needs;** There has been a modest increase in personal safety equipment for volunteers over the last year; however, there are still substantial gaps to be filled.
- 6.) **Proactive fire preparedness by private homeowners;** The risks of wildfire striking and hazards of it spreading rapidly are serious. Fire departments can do only so much to respond to fire. In the event of a large fire, or multiple fires, it may not be possible to protect every home in the wildland/urban interface. Homeowners can make a difference by taking action to protect themselves and their property from wildfire. Following defensible area guidelines provided by the Colorado State Forest Service and the local fire district is one way. Also, commercial businesses are increasingly available to provide fuel reduction services.
- 7.) **Funding shortfalls;** The funding issue basically has two parts.
  - A.) Adequate Funding for the Fire Protection Districts;** The Fire Protection Districts are constantly trying to keep up with a growing demand for services, increasing equipment needs, and increasing training needs. Archuleta County received approximately \$5,326 dollars in State grant monies last year and should expect roughly the same amount for next year. Additional monies may be available through Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grants and through the Rural Fire Assistance Program (RFA) cost share grants.
  - B.) Fuels Treatments and Defensible Areas;** Fuels reduction efforts by private individuals can be a daunting task. Faced with limited resources many landowners cannot afford to hire commercial businesses to complete work, and many times the extent of the treatment required is more than a landowner can accomplish by themselves. There is a grant program through the Colorado State Forest Service available to help offset the costs of fuels treatments. Archuleta County received approximately \$2,500 in grant monies last year to assist private landowners with fuels reduction. The status of the grant program for 2003 is unclear at this time.

- 8.) **Access into developing areas;** Many new subdivisions are often limited to one road in and out, which can potentially cause a “bottleneck” situation with residents trying to leave a subdivision while emergency crews are trying to enter the subdivision.

### **Current Fuels Reduction Efforts:**

There are a number of fuels reduction efforts underway in Archuleta County by private landowners or developers. These areas, once completed can be very helpful in showcasing the finished product of fuels reduction and defensible space, in addition to the process. Subdivisions which will be completing work as required by the Land Use Code, or by their own initiative include:

- Timber Ridge
- Piedra Peak
- Snow Circle
- Elk Park Meadows
- Timber Ridge/ Crowley Ranch
- Pagosa Peak Reserve

Additionally the Federal Forest Service has fuels reduction demonstration areas underway in:

- Turkey Springs
- Fawn Gulch

## **Archuleta County Wild Fire Plan** **Implementation -----**

The following recommendations have been developed in an effort to reach the goals stated in of the Community Action Plan. As a living document, these recommendations should be reviewed periodically and new recommendations or amendments to the existing recommendations should be included where appropriate.

### **Action Recommendation # 1**

**Continue to refine, update, and circulate the wildfire risk map on an annual basis, between the Sheriff’s Department, Fire Districts, County Commission, County Planning Commission, Emergency Management Offices, Federal Agencies and other appropriate stakeholders.**

The Wildfire Risk Map (**appendix 1**) is designed to be a Living Map that provides common geographical reference information for the Community Action Plan. The

map is intended to be used as a resource to help coordinate the long range, intra-agency strategic fire management goals identified in the (CAP).

As a common resource, the map will help local and federal government agencies;

- Prioritize and coordinate mitigation treatments on private and public lands, to reduce fire risks.
- Provide decision-making data for the County Commissioners, and County Planning Commission, regarding development.
- Identify resource gaps.
- Protect and manage community values such as; residences, watersheds, archeological or historic sites, view-corridors, recreation resources, wildlife habitat, energy resources, grazing and timber resources etc.
- Provide common reference and direction for fire suppression efforts between Fire Districts and Federal Fire Management Officers.
- Keep "up-to-date" information on new developments locations.
- Keep track of lands that are in need of fuels treatments, lands that have been previously treated, and when treatments were conducted.

In the months ahead additional map refinement will include a polygon mapping exercise known as the "Quick Fire Plan" to more narrowly focus in on geographical areas where hazardous fuels, residences, and other community values overlap. **(appendix 2)**

### **Action Recommendation # 2**

**Develop and sustain a general public informational campaign and concentrate special efforts in areas identified as high risk.**

Expanding the use of public informational tools already in place is an immediate action step that can be taken. Fire-wise publications and videos produced by the Colorado State Forest Service, and the San Juan Public Lands Center, are available in addition to "Fire wise" information that can be found over the internet.

Additional steps may include:

- Development of an informational presentation booth to be used at public events such as the County Fair, Rodeos, school events etc. Such a

- display may include photo documentation of good mitigation work examples, and graphic illustration of “fire wise” homes.
- Local newspaper coverage. Feature articles dealing with wildfire preparedness could be run in the paper on a regular basis to maintain a high level of fire awareness at the community level.
  - Seek ways to raise the level of recognition for the fire districts. Possible action steps may include; hosting an “open house”, community radio spots, etc.
  - Informational briefs and videos can be broadcast over the community closed circuit television station.
  - Integrate “fire wise “ education into school curriculum. Involve local clubs such as 4H, FFA, boy & girl scouts etc.
  - Working with homeowners associations, builders, realtors and a door-to-door outreach program to individual landowners in an effort to jumpstart word- of -mouth community networking.
  - Develop highly visible on-going demonstration projects. (Several projects are already underway.)
  - Expand the ranks of volunteer fire fighters.
  - Provide more comprehensive and frequent fire training for existing fire fighters.
  - Conduct a door-to-door public outreach effort in areas thought to be at risk.
  - Exchange information regularly on a regional scale.
  - Encourage subdivisions and developments to elect a “fire board” with one person identified as a point person for other working groups and disseminating information and ideas within other developments.
  - Post information on the County Web Site.

### **Action Recommendation #3**

**Create a mechanism for the oversight and management of the Archuleta County Community Fire Plan.**

To maintain momentum the (CAP) regular monitoring will be required. Some possibilities for accomplishing this duty may include; oversight through the Sheriff's office, oversight through The Fire Protection District, oversight through the County Planning Commission, or creating a local Fire Council. Other possibilities for the assumption of this role can be discussed among county officials.

Some of the oversight functions may include but not be limited to;

- Administering a sustained public education strategy.
- Administration and follow –up on grant applications.
- Coordination between Counties/ Fire districts.
- A contact point for coordination with Federal Agencies.
- Monitoring equipment and training needs.
- Administering/ coordinating post- fire rehabilitation efforts such as damage assessment, erosion control, reseeding, weed control etc.
- A contact point for public “fire boards”, or individual landowners, which could provide a vehicle for the dissemination of information and ideas.
- Review rehabilitation proposals.

#### **Action Recommendation #4**

**Continue to support and promote private contractors who perform fire safe mitigation work.**

There are a number of contractors in the region who provide fire safe maintenance and mitigation work for private landowners. For a list of contractors providing these services see (appendix 8.)

Opportunities exist for local contractors to start new businesses or to expand on existing businesses within the fire prevention /fuels reduction market. Some possibilities could include:

- Contracting with private landowners for fire prevention work.
- Contracting for fire prevention work with Federal, State or Tribal entities.

- Extraction of saleable material from fire prevention projects, which could include; saw timber, pulp, fence posts, firewood, mulch products for landscaping, compost material or wood for furniture and other ornamental purposes.
- Use State Grant opportunities as matching funds to catalyze action among neighborhood inhabitants.

### **Action Recommendation #5**

#### **Continue to use the Land Use Code as a vehicle for maintaining the momentum of wildfire management strategies on private lands.**

The existence of regulations intended to pro- actively address the dangers of wild fires on private lands is a ground- breaking accomplishment for the region. Other counties look to the Archuleta County Land Use Code as a model to help them draft their own version of fire management strategies. Other amendments to the code can be made over time to reflect new techniques or improve upon existing management strategies. Some possible ideas include;

- On-going fuels reduction within developments. Because fuels tend to re-accumulate over time, periodic maintenance is needed to maintain fuel loads at an acceptable level. The land use code may be a way to carry the fuels reduction requirements placed upon new developments into the future rather than just as a one -time requirement.
- Regulatory procedures for “landowner initiated burns”. Controlled burning is an integral part of agricultural management. Burns can be an effective management tool for improving grazing range and annual cleanup of irrigation ditches and fields. However, landowner initiated fires that get out of control can have catastrophic effects on neighboring structures, property values and other community values. Furthermore fires of this nature carry an enormous amount of liability for the individual responsible for the ignition. Out of control fires of this nature consume vast amounts of community resources in time and in dollars. Good pre-burn planning can help to alleviate much of this threat.

Possible steps to improving the pre-burn planning effort include;

- Low level regulation, such as a courtesy call to the Sheriff department’s dispatch, to describe the location, estimated size, and proposed time of burn. Recommendations regarding appropriate procedures could be passed on to the landowner based on burn reports from local weather centers. Dispatch could recommend postponement of burning on “Red Flag Warning Days”.

- Higher level regulation, such as an ordinance requiring a mandatory call to dispatch requesting permission for an open burn. Or by requiring an “open burning permit” from the Sheriff’s office. Such permits could be issued based on current fire/weather conditions and could include an onsite visit by a Sheriff’s department representative, to evaluate the situation under certain conditions. Penalties for noncompliance would need to be addressed.

### **Action Recommendation # 7**

#### **Continue to pursue grant monies to build fire-fighting capacity within the Fire Protection Districts, and for fuels reduction on private lands.**

Successfully pursuing grant monies for equipment and training needs within the Fire Protection Districts, and for Fuels Reduction Treatments on private lands requires diligent monitoring of grant requests. Because of the competitive nature of the grant system it is often necessary to reapply for grants every grant cycle. Therefore, it may be beneficial to set up some sort of a mechanism to provide for the preparation and administration of grants. The creation of a matrix to help keep track of what needs to be, or has been funded could be helpful.

### **Action Recommendation # 8**

#### **Provide a means for county residents to dispose of slash accumulated through thinning efforts.**

Enormous amounts of slash are generated through the thinning process creating a disposal problem for private landowners. Leaving slash in piles is not a preferred option because it still contributes to the fire danger. Burning slash piles can be a hazard in itself, and could only be done during the winter. Mulching is the preferred option but it can be fairly cost prohibitive. Some possible solutions could include;

- Providing an approved dumping site for vegetative slash. (this could include slash generated through spring prunings, Christmas trees etc. within the city limits as well.)
- Develop a County/City partnership to purchase and operate an industrial sized chipper to create mulch from slash piles. (The resulting mulch could be given away or sold to interested community members.)
- Contract with a local business to chip slash into mulch. (The resulting mulch could be given away or sold to interested community members.)

Some benefits to a proactive community approach to the slash disposal problem may include;

- 1.) Better control of the outbreaks of pests such as the Ips beetle, which are more attracted to downed branches than live trees. Because beetles are attracted to the tree volatiles secreted from fresh cuts, one large slash pile would be better than many small piles. Also by concentrating the slash, chemical treatment of the pile to kill existing beetle larva would be more practical.

## (Appendix 2)

### Quick Fire Plan

The quick fire plan will have two basic objectives;

- 1.) Identify areas where wildland fire would be **highly undesirable (Class A)**. Where management activities will be focused on aggressive suppression, prevention, and where there is a need for immediate mitigation work.
- 2.) Identify areas where wildland fire would be **undesirable under current conditions (Class B)**. Where short-term management activities will be focused on aggressive suppression and prevention, and long-term management focused on fuels reduction.

### The Quick Plan Process

- Areas will be designated as **Class A**; or **Class B**.
- *Criteria for Class A polygons: are the existence of values that have a high likelihood of being unacceptably altered or damaged as a result of exposure to fire intensities and durations expected under current conditions. (These may be Watersheds, view sheds, infrastructure, cultural resources, subdivisions etc.)*
- After areas are designated, the township, range and section number closest to the center of the area will be recorded and an easily recognizable name will be assigned to the area.
- A written assessment of each area will be drafted which will include; a description of the size and shape of the area, an evaluation of the level of ignition risk, a description of fire hazard conditions, an analysis response potential, and an evaluation of potential losses as related to the conditions described.
- **Class A** areas will be ranked from those most in need of attention to those in less urgent need based on the evaluations.
- General “Fire Protection Action Plans” will be developed for each area.
- Completed maps and evaluations will be circulated amongst cooperating agencies to coordinate fire management and suppression activities.

**(Appendix 3)****Contacts List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Greg Comstock	Planner	Archuleta County	264-5851
Marcus Baker	GIS Technician	Archuleta County	264-5851
Karn Mach	Under Sheriff	Archuleta County	264-2131
Warren Grahms	Fire Chief	Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District	731-4191
Russell Crowley	Emergency Management	State of Colorado	263-3330
Bill Nobles	CSU Extension	State of Colorado	264-5931
Bob Frye	FMO	U.S. Forest Service	264-1524
Jo Bridges	District Ranger	U.S. Forest Service	264-1520
Pat Ullrich	Resident	Aspen Springs Metro District	731-3061
John Applegate	Resident	Pagosa Lakes	731-9325
Bonnie Masters	Resident	(Putting together a list of Archuleta County HOAs)	731-9263
Kurt Raymond	Resident	Pagosa Lakes	731-5858
Tom McCullogh	Resident		264-6812
Paula Marlatt	Resident		
Anna Reilly	Resident		
Bill Whitbred		Loren Enterprises	264-5713
Eric Stone	Owner	Timber Tech	382-2526
John Walstrop	Owner	Fire Smart	

