

Amendment to Deer Valley Estates Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is a critical component of all natural resource management programs. Monitoring provides information on whether a program is meeting its goals and objectives. The purpose of this monitoring strategy is to track implementation of planned activities and evaluate how the goals of the DVE CWPP are being met over time. The data gathered will help to determine if the objectives of the plan are being met, if updates need to be made, and if the plan is useful and being implemented as envisioned.

This CWPP is a “living” document and must be continually monitored and updated as conditions and community values change. Monitoring of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) activities has been identified as a major weakness at the national level.

The purpose of this monitoring strategy is to track implementation of activities and evaluate how well the goals of the CWPP are being met. The following are three different types of monitoring:

- Implementation: Did you do what you said you would do?
- Effectiveness: Did treatments meet the objectives?
- Verification: Did our actions lead to outcomes we expected?

Each functional element of the DVE CWPP provides monitoring task for recommended action items. Table 7 provides a summary of tasks for each of these functional areas. Evaluations were conducted on an annual basis and adjusted as required.

Summary of Accomplishments

The action plan as outlined in Table 7 has essentially been completed with some very minor exceptions. There are two lots that still require considerable mitigation of oak brush and tree thinning removal. Forty-one (41) private lots were mitigated for a total of seventy (70) acres. In addition, one hundred (100) acres were mitigated outside of DVE that were in the DVE WUI. Additionally, DVE collaborated with the U.S.F.S. to conduct controlled burns surrounding DVE in the Sauls Creek area.

All of the fuel breaks were completed as outlined in the CWPP as two hundred sixty-four (264) trees were removed from our right of ways as was significant oak brush and any noxious weeds by volunteers who contributed approximately one hundred twenty-five (125) hours.

Funding from a State of Colorado WUI grant provided the first dollars to start the work as outlined in the action plan. Additional funding from the Stevens and Watershed Grants via the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District provided on the ground work throughout the entire subdivision.

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Monitoring and Evaluation (continued)

In regards to the monitoring questions outlined in the Action Plan (Table 7), we did in fact do what was proposed, the treatments did meet the objectives, and the outcomes did lead to actions we expected.

Additionally in 2021, ten (10) Owners participated in hiring a private contractor to reduce the new oak brush growth on their properties. Approximately twelve (12) acres were mitigated. Also, many Owners continue to reduce new oak brush growth on their own on a yearly basis.

Recommended Follow-up

- Provide updated information to the Board of Directors.
- Continue education of Owners in regards to defensible space issues.
- Engagement of Owners to perform yearly mitigation on their properties including noxious weeds.
- Work with the U.S.F.S. towards performing controlled burns in areas surrounding DVE.
- Continue to be proactive with the efforts of the U.P.R.F.P.D.
- Support wildfire efforts of La Plata County Board of Commissioners.
- Keep abreast of State and Federal programs toward wildfire mitigation.
- Evaluate the construction of two turnarounds on dead-end roads.
- Conduct another evacuation simulation.
- Continue to monitor emergency routes out of DVE together with the U.S.F.S.

Table 7 (page 32) in the CWPP has been updated in the completed column to reflect the actions taken over the years.

Table 7: Action Plan for Completing the Deer Valley Estates CWPP

Mitigation Action	Target Dates	Assigned to	Completed
Completion of Universal Street Addressing Signage	08/01/2009	Addressing Committee	Signage Completed on All Lots in 2009
Defensible Space Around Structures	Fall 2010	Board of Directors	Yes - 2010 - 2016
Laminated Triage Maps (20 sets)	Fall 2009	Firewise Ambassador	Not done for lack of funds
Prioritize and Construct Turnarounds on Dead End Streets	Fall 2012	Board of Directors	Turnaround Completed on Wieland Drive only
Beaver Creek Drive fuel break	Fall 2009	Board of Directors	Yes – 2010
Elk Valley Road fuel break	Spring 2010	Board of Directors	Yes - 2010
Spur Lane fuel break	Spring 2010	Board of Directors	Yes - 2010
Sawmill Circle fuel break	Spring 2010	Board of Directors	Yes - 2010
Stagecoach Road fuel break	Spring 2010	Board of Directors	Yes - 2010
Log Cabin Lane fuel break	Fall 2009	Board of Directors	Yes - 2010
Wieland Drive fuel break	Fall 2009	Board of Directors	Yes - 2010
Area 1	07/01/2011	Board of Directors	Yes – 2009 to 2016
Area 2	07/01/2012	Board of Directors	Yes – 2009 to 2016
Area 3	07/01/13	Board of Directors	Yes – 2009 to 2016
Area 4	07/01/2014	Board of Directors	Yes – 2009 to 2016
Area 5	07/01/2015	Board of Directors	Yes – 2009 to 2016
Area 6	07/01/2016	Board of Directors	Yes – 2009 to 2016
National Forest (North)	07/01/2017	Board of Directors	Yes – 2009 to 2016
Fuel Break Maintenance	Ongoing	Board of Directors	Done Annually
Negotiate Emergency Routes Out of DVE	ASAP	Firewise Ambassador	Approval given from U.S.F.S. in 2010
Seek Funds for the Plan	Ongoing	Firewise Ambassador	U.P.R.F.P.D. secured Grant Funds -2010/2012
Evacuation Simulation	Spring 2010	Board of Directors	Conducted - 2009

