

*Amanda Forrister  
Mayor*

*Rolf Hechler  
Mayor Pro-Tem*

*Merry Jo Fahl  
Commissioner*



*Destiny Mitchell  
Commissioner*

*Shelly Harrelson  
Commissioner*

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### **SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP**

A SPECIAL WORKSHOP OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO, TO BE HELD IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3<sup>RD</sup> ST., ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022 AT 9:00 A.M.

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

#### **B. INTRODUCTION**

##### **1. ROLL CALL**

Hon. Amanda Forrister, Mayor  
Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Commissioner  
Hon. Merry Jo Fahl, Commissioner  
Hon. Shelly Harrelson, Commissioner

##### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

#### **C. WORKSHOP**

- 1. Wildfire Safety Presentation and Workshop. Ryan Williams, Sierra County Emergency Services**

#### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) has been prepared in an effort to reduce the threat of wildfire to homes, structures, improvements and the general population of Sierra County. While its inception can be traced to the 20 Communities Initiative as agreed upon by the United States Forest Service and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division, many of the actions were initiated by resource professionals well before the 20 Communities initiative was officially started. In accordance with the requirements and guidelines set forth in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003, the land management agencies and entities in Sierra County have agreed to address the challenges of forest health and wildfire hazard risk reduction within the jurisdiction of the Sierra County CWPP Team.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Sierra County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Core Team was originally formed in 2003, two years after the May 2000 Cerro Grande Fire near Los Alamos, NM. NM State Forestry realized that there were a large number of communities in New Mexico that were currently at risk for a similar catastrophic wildfire. Each State Forestry District office began meeting with leaders within each of their jurisdictional boundaries to begin the process of preparing those communities for a possible wildfire. The initial meeting was held with just a few entities in attendance: Las Cruces BLM office, Black Range Ranger District Gila National Forestry, Sierra County and the Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District. From that initial group Sierra SWCD took the lead in facilitating getting folks together and served as the lead for this group for more than 12 years. Jornada Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), a non-profit organization, has since taken over the role as lead agency.

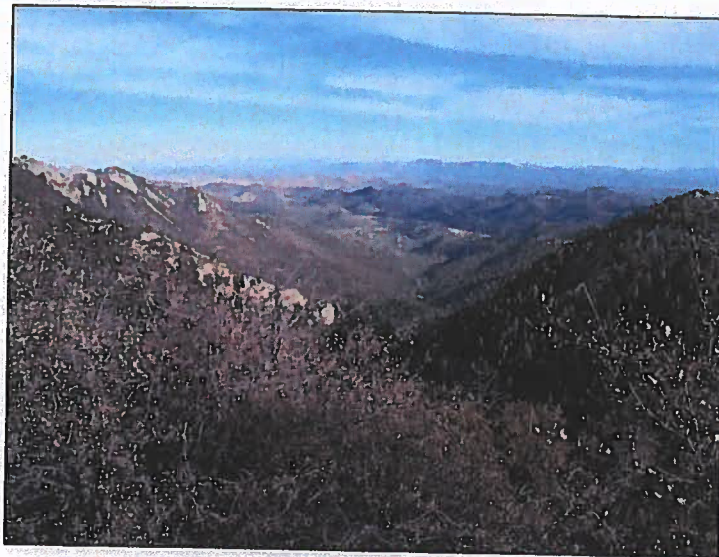
The Sierra County CWPP team has been meeting consistently every month since 2003 with great support from our federal and state partners. In the sixteen years since our first meeting, the CWPP Core Team contributes some of their success to the facilitation of the team leader, who has been the same person since its inception. The BLM fire staff from Las Cruces, NM State Forestry from Socorro and the Gila National Forest Black Range staff have been very active as members of the Core Team and have provided leadership, training input and fire experience to members of the Sierra County Volunteer Fire Departments. There are seven (7) Volunteer Fire Departments involved with this effort, three (3) substations and two (2) municipal fire departments, along with representation from Sierra County Administration and Sheriff's Office. Other key members of the team include representation from the local electric cooperative along with inter-state electric transmission companies. This diverse group of members has provided the Core team with discussions that cover a large variety of wildfire concerns.

This team has accomplished a great deal since its inception to prepare community leaders and citizens for wildfires. Some of those projects include:

- Completed a community assessment in the community of Kingston, the most at-risk community in 2009. Input from that meeting called for improvements on roads from the county and the reduction of hazardous fuels. A second assessment was completed in 2018.
- Sierra SWCD applied for and received three grants from NM State Forestry for hazardous fuel reduction projects for the Kingston and poverty Creek communities, totaling more than \$300,000
- Sierra SWCD received two Collaborative Forest Restoration Program grants to reduce heavy fuel loads-one along the Continental divide in the Black Range Mountains and one along the Bosque area of the Rio Grande



- Sierra SWCD received more than \$400,000 in funds from the New Mexico Association of Counties for hazardous fuel reduction projects along the Rio Grande
- Working with the County in the utilization of Secure Rural Schools, Title III funding, the team was able to secure funds to purchase complete Wildland gear and water truck and brush tender truck equipment for all VFDs and members who had acquired their 130/190 classes
- Working with the County in the utilization of Secure Rural Schools, Title III funding, the County secured the services of a Wildland Coordinator for a period of one year. During that time the County adopted the 310-1 Program
- Sierra County CWPP Core Team developed their own Red Card program to provide certification for VFD members working towards their NM State Forestry red card program
- Developed a Wildland Fire Response Operating Guideline
- Developed a Wildland Fire Response flow chart of communication
- Developed a Sierra County CWPP Wildland fire communication plan
- Sierra SWCD received two grants from NM Association of Counties to purchase a display that is used at community events and fairs, along with a Wildland fire home simulator
- Provided a FIREWISE workshop to City of Truth or Consequences Commissioners and their Planning and Zoning Board, along with Sierra County Commissioners and their Planning and Zoning Board
- Have completed Community assessments for five communities within Sierra County, with assistance from State Forestry and USFS staff. All assessments had good attendance and letters of follow up were provided to Sierra County
- Provided outreach materials to VFDs and community groups, with materials provided by the BLM.



*Black Range Vista*

The Sierra County CWPP Core Team intends to conduct Community Assessments on a regular basis-one pre fire season and one post fire season. The Core Team will work with each VFD to determine location and dates of these bi-annual assessments.

## **5.2. WUI Area Ranking**

The WUI community hazard ratings were prepared by the VFDs and partner agencies using the following categories:

- Flammable hazards
- Population density
- Mobile Water Available
- Fire Department Response Time
- Fuel types
- Topographic hazard rating
- Ingress/Egress issues

The CWPP team prepared a WUI hazard assessment and ranking for Sierra County. Table 3 summarizes the overall WUI hazard assessment and provides a hazard ranking of WUI areas within Sierra County.

## **5.3. WUI Area Treatment Priorities**

Sierra County CWPP Team has identified the following communities as their Five Year (5) WUI treatment priority list:

1. Poverty Creek Fuel break
2. Kingston Fuel break
3. Arrey Bosque Area (BOR tree farm)
4. Animas Creek flood debris
5. Forest Service inholdings
6. River Corridor including Mims Pond
7. Lake Valley area subdivisions
8. Percha watershed from Highway 152 south and east of the Black Range Crest

Team members are committed to working together to accomplish projects in an interagency manner on "both sides of the fence".



**TABLE 3 – SIERRA COUNTY WUI HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND RANKING**

<b>WUI Area</b>	<b>Flammable Hazards: Natural gas=1; propane=2; both=3</b>	<b>Population Density &gt; 50% = 1 concentrated &lt; 50% = 2 scattered</b>	<b>Mobile Water Available &lt; 4500 gal = 1 &gt; 4500 gal = 0</b>	<b>Fire Department Response Time &gt;15 min = 1 &lt;15 min = 0</b>	<b>Fuel Types Grass = 1 PJ = 2 Riparian fuels = 4 Bosque = 5</b>	<b>Topographical Rating flat = 1 hills = 2 steep = 3</b>	<b>Ingress/ Egress for response &gt;2 entries = 1 2 entries = 2 1 entry = 3</b>	<b>Total Score High ≥ 11 8 ≤ Med ≤ 10 Low ≤ 7</b>
Animas Creek	3	2	0	0	4	2	3	14
Arrey/Derry	3	1	0	0	1	1	3	9
Arrey/Derry Bosque	3	2	1	0	5	1	3	15
Caballo	3	2	0	0	1	1	3	10
Caballo Lake Lease Lots	3	1	0	0	1	1	3	9
Chiz	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	12
Chloride	2	2	1	0	2	2	3	12
Cuchillo	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	9
Elephant Butte	3	1	0	0	1	2	1	8
Hermosa	2	2	0	1	3	3	3	14
Hillsboro	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	7
King Canyon	3	1	0	0	1	1	3	9
Kingston	2	1	0	0	4	3	3	13
Lake Valley	2	2	0	1	1	2	3	11
Lake Valley Historic District	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	12
Mims Pond	2	2	1	0	5	1	3	14



	Flammable Hazards: Natural gas=1; propane=2; both=3	Population Density > 50% = 1 < 50% = 2 scattered	Mobile Water Available < 4500 gal = 1 > 4500 gal = 0	Fire Department Response Time > 15 min = 1 < 15 min = 0	Fuel Types Grass = 1 PJ = 2 PiPo = 3 Riparian fuels = 4 Bosque = 5	Topographical Rating flat = 1 hills = 2 steep = 3	Ingress/Egress for response > 2 entries = 1 2 entries = 2 1 entry = 3	Total Score High ≥ 11 8 ≤ Med ≤ 10 Low ≤ 7
<b>WUI Area</b>								
Monticello	2	1	1	1	4	3	2	14
Oasis	3	1	0	0	1	1	3	9
Palomas	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	10
Placitas	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	12
Poverty Creek	2	2	1	0	3	3	3	14
Rio Grande Corridor-Palomas	3	2	1	0	5	2	2	15
Seco Subdivision	3	1	0	0	4	1	3	12
Truth or Consequences	3	1	0	0	1	2	1	8
Winston	2	1	1	0	1	1	3	9

SIERRA COUNTY  
WUI COMMUNITY HAZARD RATING SHEET  
ELEPHANT BUTTE/CITY OF T OR C FIRE DISTRICT

Community Name: Mims Pond

Legal: 33° 09'06.60" N by 107° 13'02.22" w

Descriptive Location: Corner of State Highways 51 and 179

Vegetation Fuels (i.e.-salt cedar, P-J, grass): Riparian, wetlands

Estimated Density (population per sq. mile): 10

Number of lots: < 10

Total acres: 120

Construction materials: fiberglass, steel, aluminum, \*[boat storage, fuel storage, propane tanks, hazmat issues, low water table hazards for heavy vehicles]

Roofing: Steel, tin, shingles

Terrain: flat, wet

Predominate slope: zero

Aspect: N/A

Access: one way

Roads: dirt

Bridges: (how many and location): One w/o a weight limit

Driveway construction material: dirt

Water Availability – rolling water available

Closest Fire Department (in miles) Greater than 5 miles

Average Fire Hazard Rating- high

Low Water Crossings: 0



**Added concerns:** Mims Pond is an old oxbow of the Rio Grande, with most of the surrounding area loaded with Salt Cedar, Salt Grass and cattails. Adjacent to the Pond is a boat storage area, with unknown quantities of fuel. Also adjacent is a mobile home park, one residence surrounded by Bosque fuels and two small home businesses. A major concern if a wildfire occurred would be the impact of the fuels and fiberglass into the Rio Grande system.

[illegible]