

Douglass Ranch Firewise - 2018

Year End Firewise Activity Summary

7 November 2018

Tom Washburn

DR Firewise 2018 Accomplishments

- Firewise sign installed
- Two neighborhood Slash & Chip days
 - Early May chipping focused on private roadside mitigation
 - August/September chipping focused on homeowner property mitigation (Defensible Space)
- 56% of residents have worked mitigation efforts
 - 760+ hours of effort
 - \$10,900+ spent on mitigation
 - Total 'investment' of hours (at \$24/hr) and money: \$29K

DR Firewise 2018 Accomplishments

- Annual Firewise Education event on 16 October
- Aaron Betcher
 - Fire Management Officer, Jeffco Sheriff Dept
 - Defensible Space discussion
- Met with Glen Elk President Valerie Amburn mid-May
 - Discussed:
 - Firewise for GlenElk,
 - a SFB between our neighborhoods, and
 - a one-time-use emergency escape route

Current State of Neighborhood

- ECFD will not save our neighborhood in the event of a wildfire. Per DR Assessment:
 - “During extreme wind events, stopping any fire in the area would be difficult.”
 - “In the event of a significant fire in the community, the probability of losing multiple structures is high.”
 - “Evacuation of the community would be the first priority.”
- It is up to us to work and implement mitigation so our homes can withstand a wildfire without us being there
 - On an individual home level
 - On a neighborhood level

Mitigation

- Three mitigation options:
 - Structure choices
 - Building with fire resistant materials
 - Defensible space around home(s)
 - Managing fuel sources near home(s)
 - Fuel breaks around neighborhood
- “Wildfires will go to ground in neighborhoods and areas where mitigation is uniform, and will “spread like wildfire” in areas where it is not.”
- “Residents inhabit a naturally defined commons; and what one co-habitant of the common space/resources does or does not do by way of wildfire mitigation inevitably affects the well-being of all others who share the commons.”

(ref: Wildfire Mitigation Law in the Mountain States of the American West: A Comparative Assessment, University of Colorado Denver, 2012)

Mitigation Effectiveness

Proactive Fuel Breaks Protect Nearly \$1 Billion in Homes, Infrastructure During Colorado Wildfire

Posted by Holly Krake, Rocky Mountain Region, USDA Forest Service in [Forestry](#)
Jun 28, 2018



Fuel breaks on the White River National Forest in Colorado directly protect nearby homes during the Buffalo Fire in the community of Silverthorne, Colo. on June 12, 2018. (Photo credit: USDA)

Officials: Fuelbreaks 'Without A Doubt' Save Homes In Grand Lake Golf Course Fire

July 2, 2018 at 12:51 pm Filed Under: Grand Lake, Grand Lake Golf Course, Local TV, Rocky Mountain National Park, Wildfires

OCT 25, 2018

Does Wildfire Mitigation Work? 16 Examples and Counting!

By: Allison Jolley

Forest Overgrowth



The view along the South Platte River in the Pike National Forest, in 1903 and 2012. When wildfires burn in dense forests today they are often hotter and can destroy more trees.

Ref: Looking To History To Combat Wildfires, CPR, Grace Hood, June 7, 2018

DR Firewise 2018 Accomplishments

- Forest Management Plan (FMP) completed
 - Author: Steve Deitemeyer, ret'd CSFS Forester
- TOC is on next page
- A FMP is called for in:
 - DR CC&R's, dated 1989, section 5.6
 - DR Articles of Incorporation, dated 1989, section IV, paragraphs (a), (b) and (b-xv)
- The above two documents call for a forest management program:
 - To assure review of proposed building improvements in connection with
 - mitigation of wildfire safety problems
 - control of harmful insect infestation
 - regulation of wildfire protection measures

Douglass Ranch Forest Mgmt Plan

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Douglass Ranch Property Owners Association

Pine Junction, Jefferson County, Colorado



Steven W. Deitemeyer, Consulting Forester

Douglass Ranch Property Owners Assoc.

Wildland Resources

3724 Union Court

Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033

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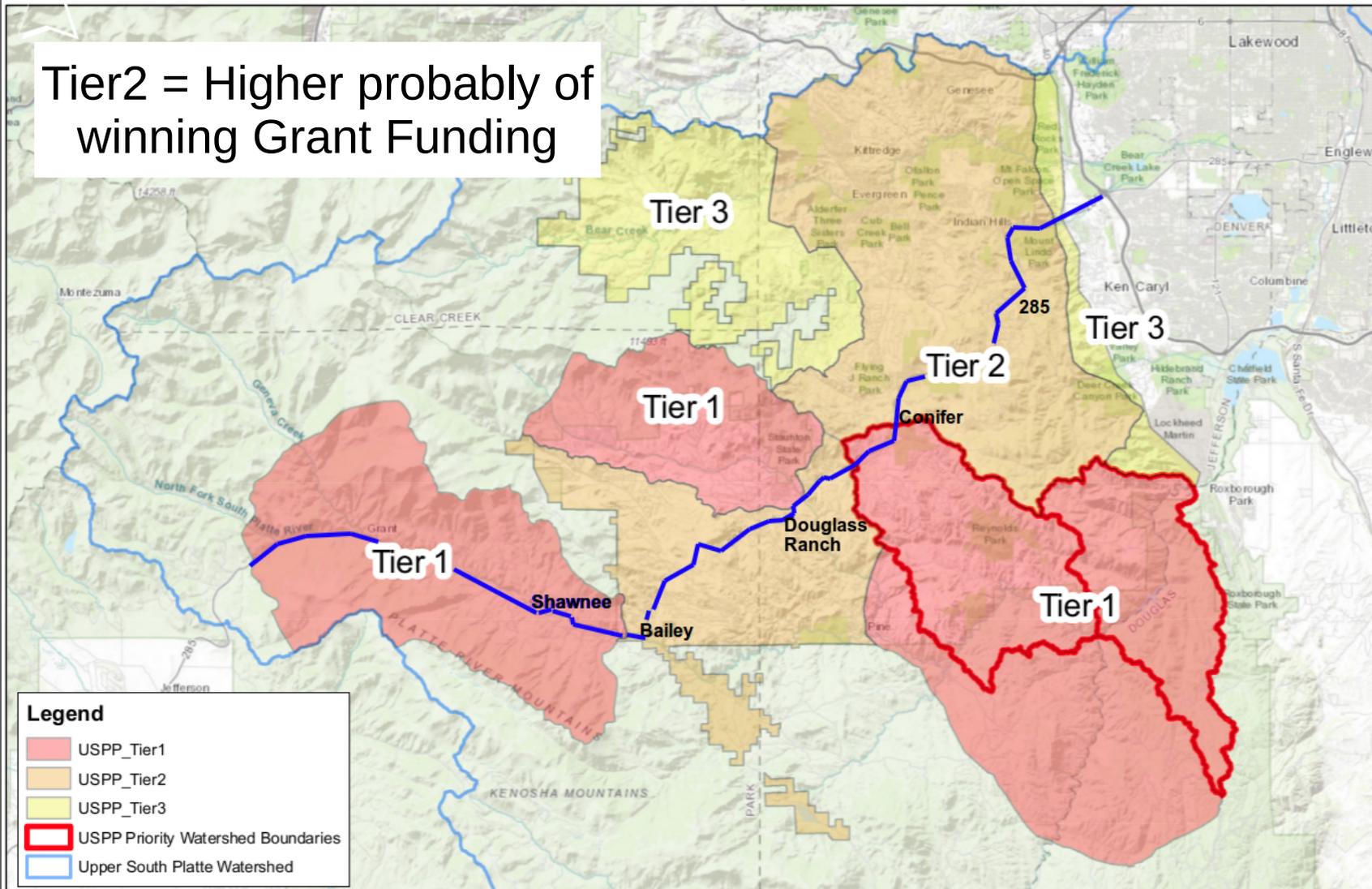
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DR is in a Tier2 Watershed Area

USPP Boundary Expansion

Tier2 = Higher probably of winning Grant Funding



Grant Funding

- Two sources of Grant Funding were available this year
 - Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program (FRWRM)
 - Upper South Platte Partnership (USPP)
- Competition for grant funds is intense
- Current Grant applicants / participants
 - The Preserve at Pine Meadows
 - Evergreen Wildfire Protection Project
 - Forbes Park Mitigation and Firebreaks
 - Foxtan Fuels Reduction Project
 - Roxborough State Park 2018 Fuels Mitigation
 - Tomahawk Ranch Fuels Mitigation

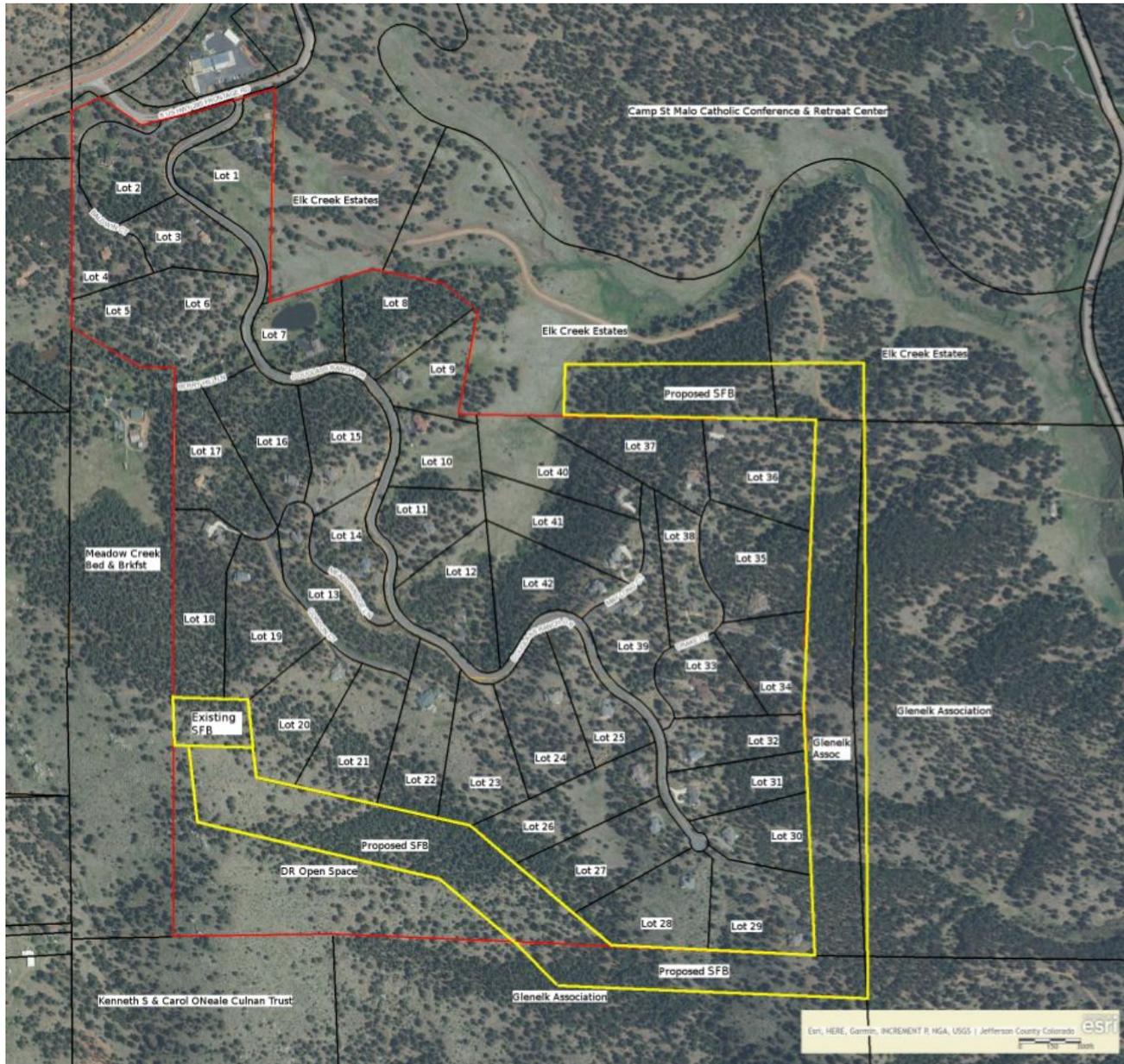
Path Forward

- Shaded Fuel Breaks are recommended for Douglass Ranch in the DR Assessment and in the CWPP.
 - A SFB is a strip of land where fuel has been modified or reduced to limit the fire's ability to spread rapidly. Typically 300 ft wide.
- Do DR residents believe Shaded Fuel Breaks be an effective wildfire defense?

Path Forward

- Assumption: Shaded Fuel Breaks are an effective wildfire defense.
- Should DR implement a SFB in the DR Open Space?
- Staged approach:
 - First stage: SFB along west edge of adjoining properties: 11.5 A, \$29K
 - Second stage: Mitigate remaining Open Space: 20 A, \$50K
 - Third stage: East side SFB(s):
 - Glen Elk: 14.5 A, \$36K,
 - Podd: 8.3 A, \$11K

SFB's on Glen Elk & Podd lands



Glen Elk:
14.5 ac

Podd:
8.3 ac

Open Space:
11.5 ac

Estimated Costs of DR SFB(s)

Mitigation Task	Acreage	Estimated Cost	Notes
Open Space SFB – adjacent to DR lots	11.5 A (300' x lots 20,21,22,23,26,27,28)	\$29 K (\$2500 * 11.5)	Manual thinning, burn slash
Open Space SFB – remaining OS	20 A (31.5 - 11.5 = 20 A)	\$50 K (\$2500 * 20) (Est is high – low tree density?)	Manual thinning, burn slash
East side SFB – on GlenElk land	14.5 A (240' * 2625')	\$36 K (\$2500 * 14.5)	Manual thinning?
East side SFB – on Podd land	8.3 A (240' * 1500')	\$21 K (\$2500 * 8.3)	Manual thinning?
		\$136 K	

Path Forward

- Should DR Implement an escape route?
 - Via Lot 31 & Glen Elk property
 - Route could work for GlenElk as well as DR
 - Or Via Lot 37 & Podd property
 - One-time use route
 - Requires dirt “road” construction
 - Should be suitable for passenger car
- At this point: Cost is unknown
 - Effort would be contracted out
 - Needs “route” through Lot 31 / 37 (no trees in the route)

Comments?

Questions?

Backup Information

- CC&R extract re: FMP
- Articles of Incorporation extract re: FMP
- 2018 Shaded Fuel Break in DR 'Open Space'
- Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program Overview

DR CC&R's, section 5.6

DR's CC&R's, section 5.6, is titled Forest Management Program. It reads:

The Association intends to implement a forest management program in cooperation with recommendations from the Colorado State Forest Service to assure review of proposed building improvements in connection with mitigation of wildfire safety problems, control of infestation of harmful insects and regulation of wildfire protection measures. All Owners hereby covenant and agree to strictly adhere to any and all rules and regulations which may be imposed in connection with the implementation of this program.

The DR Articles of Incorporation, section IV, para's (a), (b) and (b-xv)

DR's Articles of Incorporation, Section IV, is titled Purposes and Powers.

(a) Purposes: To promote the health, safety, and welfare of all Members of the Association and to establish, provide and maintain a desirable community and environment for all owners.

(b) Powers: In furtherance of the foregoing purposes, but not otherwise, the Association shall have and may exercise all of the following powers:

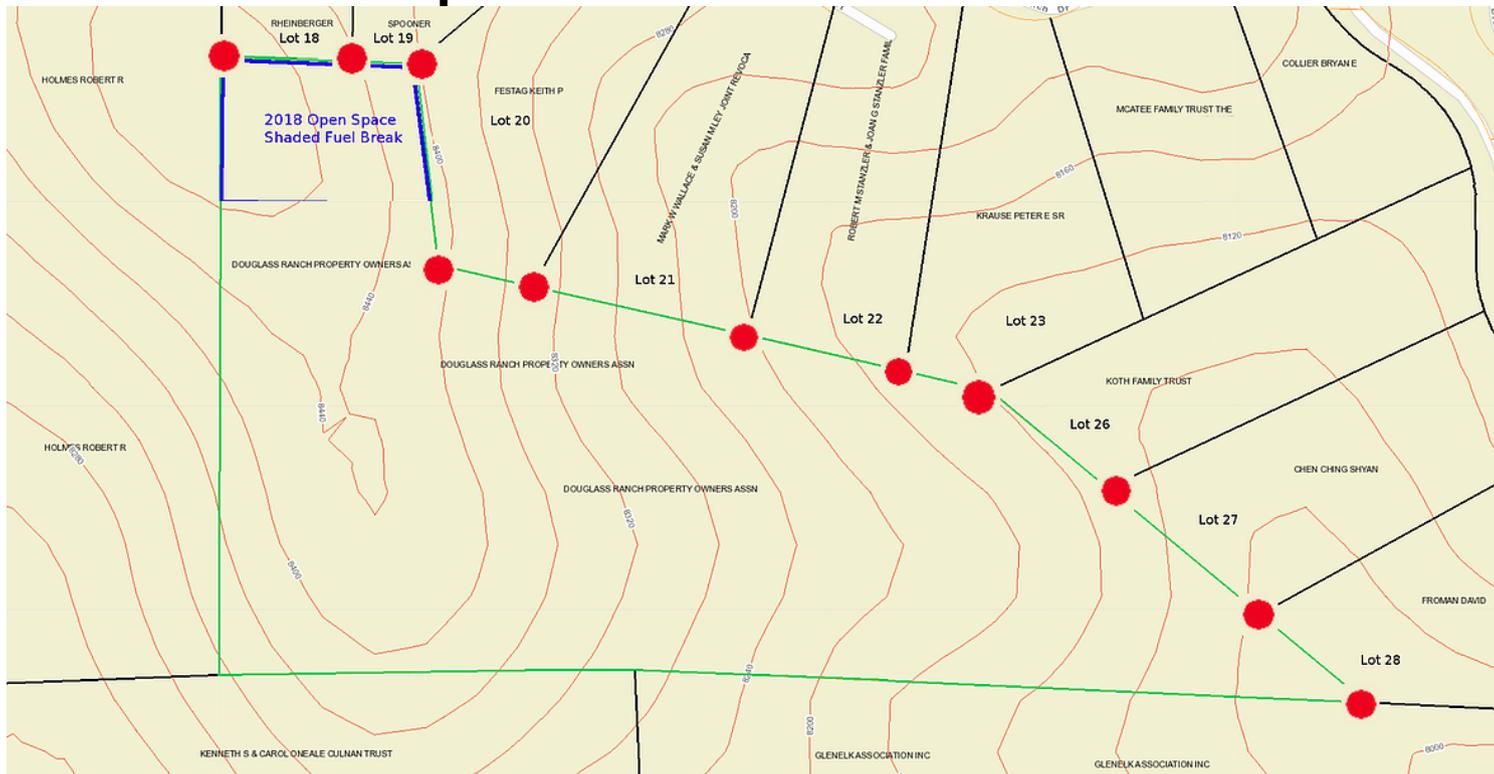
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(xv) Forest Management Program: To implement a forest management program in accordance with the Declaration and to impose and enforce rules and regulations in connection therewith.

Note: "the Declaration" refers to the Declaration of Protective Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's)

Shaded Fuel Break in DR 'Open Space'

- Located south of Rheinberger & Spooner lots
- Approx 375 ft x 300 ft, 2.6 A
- Before & After pictures are on DR web site



Open Space SFB – 2018



Before, May 2018



After, Sept 2018

Open Space SFB – 2018



Before, March 2018



After, Sept 2018

Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program

- **Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program (FRWRM)**
- A overview of the FRWRM grant:
 - Maximum amount of grant funding available to us -- 250K
 - Total grant funds - \$1M. The funding award could be for less than our requested amount.
 - A project involving multiple neighborhoods are a plus
- The FRWRM grant can be used for a SFB (shaded fuel break) or Defensible Space
- Funded in June '19. You have 3 years to complete.
- Use of contractor is required. CSFS to manage contractor.
- ECFD is willing to do the steeper terrain (30% slope or greater). Use of in-kind (community labor) is a plus.
- A border survey is useful for CSFS to know where to cut - finding property pins would help.
- While Glenelk has expressed interest in this grant, we have not yet planned the details of work to be done.
- And while Greg Podd was "OK" with a shaded fuel break on his land, he too wanted more details
- **Douglass Ranch does not yet have a specific plan describing where grant money would be used.**