

IDEAS FROM THE RANCH WILDFIRE COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT (2018) ALONG WITH PROGRESS TO DATE

June 19, 2022

Keep in mind the **five areas of consideration for a Fire Adapted Community: Evacuation Readiness, Access, Built Environment, Defensible Space, and Community Protection.**

Some initial ideas from The Ranch include:

- *HOA replace wood shake roofs on mail house and pump house/storage shed*
 - The wood shake roofs on the mail house and pump house/storage shed were replaced with asphalt shingles within a year of the Assessment.
- *Strongly encourage homeowners who still have wood shake roofs to replace them as soon as is financially possible*
 - At the time of the Assessment (2018) the Ranch had approximately 35 houses with wood shake roofs. Currently all but 7 have been replaced with fire resistant asphalt shingles.
- *Use the Community Assessment as an educational and inspirational tool for homeowners to comply with CSFS guidelines for defensible space and home hardening*
 - Reference is regularly made to the Community Assessment with the Board of Directors and homeowners within the Ranch. There seems to be strong support for following the guidelines.
- *Identify and continue to remove any flammable material (trees, shrubs, etc.) within zones 1 and 2 of homes; this will involve a mixture of work in common areas by the RPOA and private space by homeowners*
 - Aggressive clean-up work has been conducted throughout all the Common Areas of the Ranch and it is an ongoing exercise. Several homeowners have had Risk Assessments conducted by the Wildfire Adapted Partnership. Most, although not all, homeowners have applied Hazard Zone treatments in zones 1 and 2. The Firewise Committee at the Ranch, including the two Neighborhood Ambassadors from the Wildfire Adapted Partnership, distribute written materials, talk with homeowners and the Board, and help conduct two neighborhood clean-ups annually.
 - On June 16, a contractor removed the large, flammable juniper hedge on the entrance curve in the Ranch; Earthscapes Co. designed and will implement replacement landscape shrubs to replace the junipers; the replacements will have minimal fire hazard risk
- *Ensure that addresses are clearly marked and visible (little or no fire reflective) for each home*
 - This is an ongoing effort, and it is part of the Firewise educational program in the Ranch.
- *Replace wood street signs with reflective metal signs*
 - A decision was made by the Board not to replace the wooden street signs, but they were repainted which helped clarity of directions in the Ranch.
- *Organize a concerted effort to educate and encourage homeowners about readiness and evacuation planning as well as development of a community wide plan*

- As stated previously, educational materials on Firewise are available for homeowners regularly in the mailroom. The Ranch Firewise Committee continually works with the Board and Homeowners, including making a special point to inform new homeowners.
- *Encourage residents to register for Code Red (La Plata County Emergency Notification System)*
 - A concerted effort has been made to publicize Code Red by the Neighborhood Ambassadors and other members of the Firewise Committee in the Ranch. This is especially a focus in the fire season each year.
- *Seek Firewise Communities USA recognition*
 - The Firewise Committee has discussed this action and agreed that it is a good step to take. They believe that it is achievable. The next step is to present the idea to the Board and if approved, make application to the national Firewise Communities USA organization.
- *Identify and clearly mark an alternative exit to The Ranch that could be used if the main entrance/exit is blocked*
 - With Board approval, the Firewise Committee arranged for, and oversaw, installation of a new gate (May 2022) past the tennis court in the Ranch as a fully functioning 2nd exit for homeowners and fire protection personnel in case of a fire emergency. The Committee is in the process of developing and installing signage to alert homeowners and fire protection personnel to its existence and proper use.