2022 Village of Taos Ski Valley CWPP Update

Acknowledgments

The 2022 Village of Taos Ski Valley CWPP was updated by Community Engagement Specialist, Scotney Blackburn, an Enchanted Circle Corp member serving with the Village. She coordinated with the efforts of Taos County, The Village of Taos Ski Valley, Taos Ski Valley, Inc., the Village Firewise Board of Directors, and many other parties who have made impacts on fire safety within Taos County and the Village Boundary. Thank you to all who contribute their time and energy to make the Village a safer place.

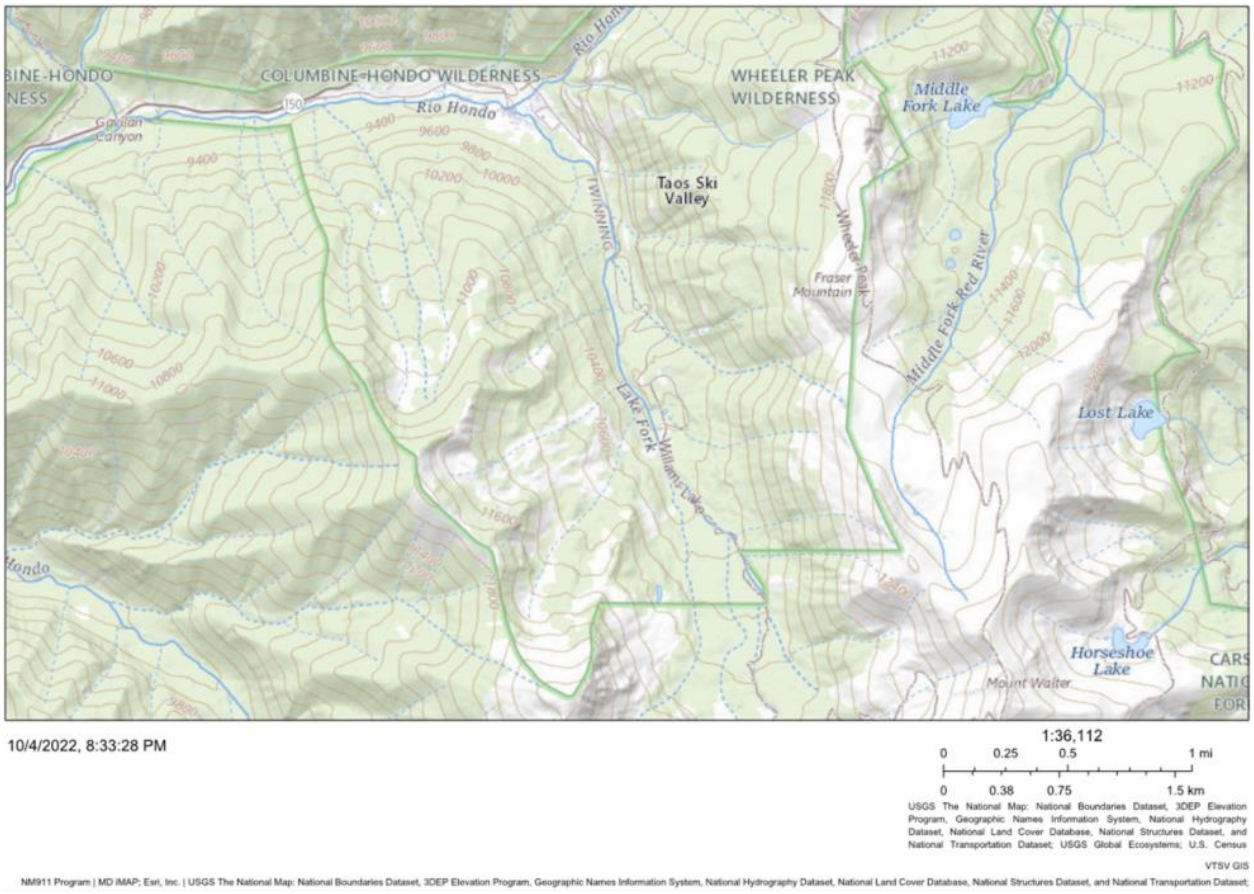
Herbert (Matthew) Foster, previously the Village Planner, developed the Village's first Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2016. He worked with the Taos County Core CWPP Team, the Village Council and Mayor, Planning and Zoning Commission, the Firewise Board of Directors, and Village Staff to create a framework work for the CWPP for our community.

Chapter 1 – Executive Summary

The 2016 and 2022 CWPPs represent a strong commitment to protect the natural resources and built environment across the Upper Rio Hondo watershed. The CWPP is the result of a collaborative effort to bring together residents, property owners and business owners, elected and appointed officials, all levels of government, and community organizations to reduce the risks associated with a devastating forest fire and to contribute to a regional landscape planning process for forest fire protection and watershed restoration.

The CWPP recognizes the inherent connections between forest fire prevention, watershed health, and the benefits to human health, serenity, and survival. A healthy watershed that retains and purifies water, supports wildlife, regenerates vegetation, and evolves in harmony with itself serve the Village population and downstream communities in many financial and qualitative ways. A healthy forest and watershed provide numerous opportunities for recreation, employment, and natural beauty.

The previous version of the CWPP contained many objectives for the community, elected officials, and the Village staff to work towards and document statistical information pertinent to mitigation of wildfires. In 2003, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) was passed, creating a demand for the CWPP document and the collaborative process required to keep this information up to date. As this CWPP was updated, Blackburn created a reporting system that the Village Core CWPP Team will be tasked with completing over the next 5 years. Moving forward the Village Core CWPP Team will consist of VTSV staff, council, and mayor, TSVI and the Firewise Board of Directors. The reporting system is a living document that can be found here: By including living documents within the CWPP, we can ensure that everyone is viewing the most up to date information.

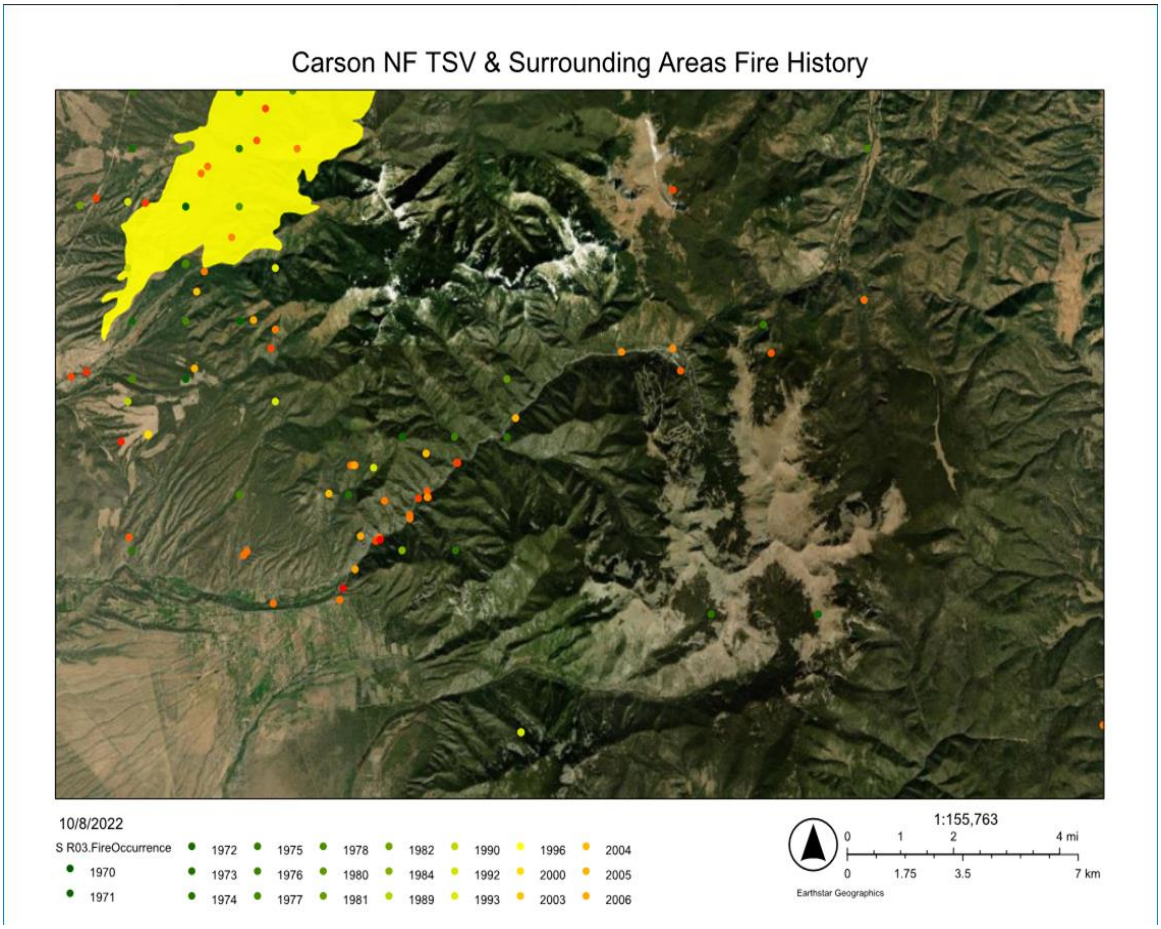


Information on the resources available to Taos County, including the most up to date CWPP can be found at http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/FireMgt/cwpps.html

Chapter 2 – Background Information

The Village of Taos Ski Valley (Village) is at risk of catastrophic wildfire. Determined by the Taos County Core Team, the Village is ranked #4 on the Communities at Risk (CAR) Table during the update of this CWPP. The most recent copy of the Taos County CAR Table includes the ratings of the 62 communities within Taos County.

This table "shows the relative risk determination of hazardous conditions for each community". Ratings of this capacity help the County "identify the risks of fire, establish priority fuel reduction treatment areas and develop the implementation plans and strategies to protect our communities and watersheds." (2022 Taos County CWPP Update)

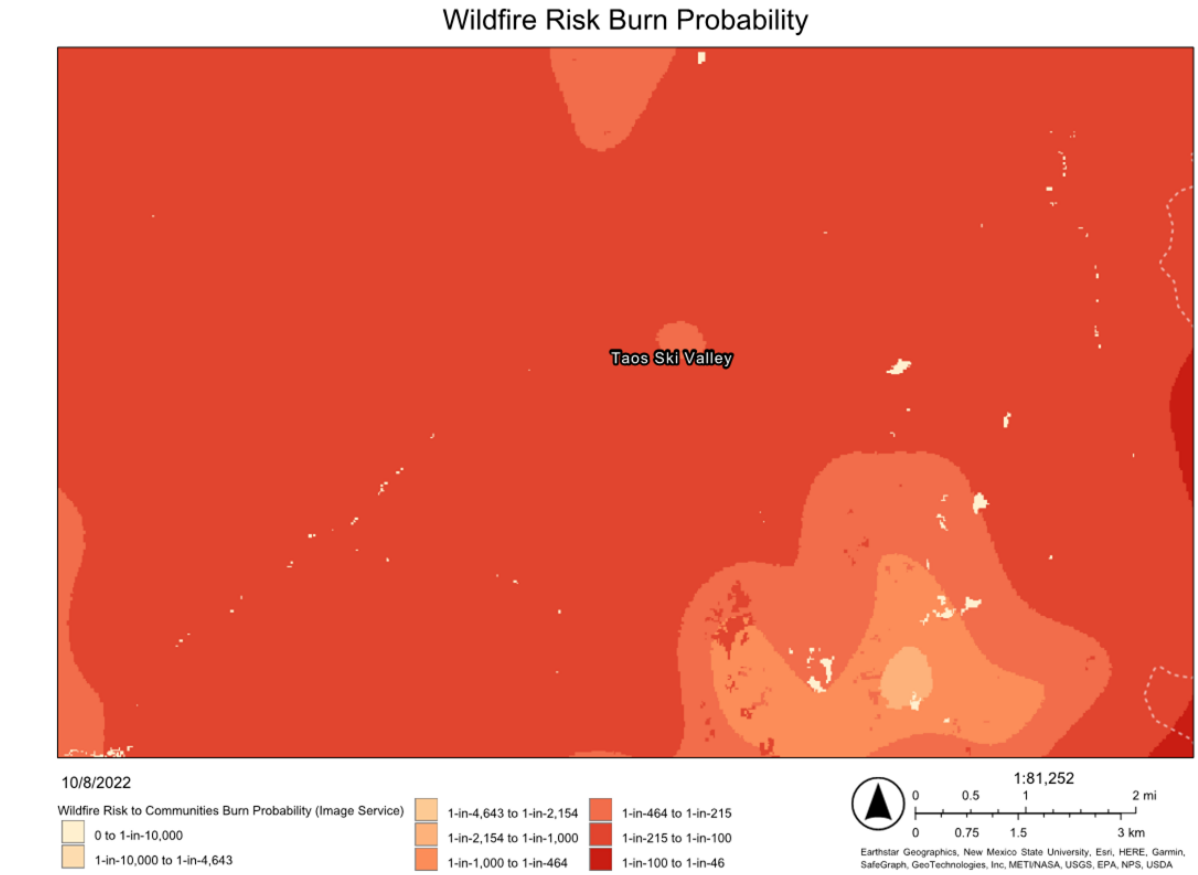


The Columbine-Hondo Wilderness and the Wheeler Peak Wilderness are the Village's closest neighbors. Wilderness areas by definition are to be protected from the impact of man, other than providing non-motorized recreation. Fire mitigation of protected wilderness areas is not allowed. This blessing is also a hazard to be recognized. The Village and its citizenry while fortunate, are also at risk, taking this responsibility seriously is an important undertaking.

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) acknowledges these risks and outlines a specific plan

of action to minimize the risks and protect the Village and its resources from the devastating impacts of a wildfire.

The CWPP is the result of a collaborative effort. It represents the long-term commitment to protect the community from wildfire. Representatives from the Village worked closely with the Taos County 2022 CWPP Core Team and numerous stakeholders who have a direct interest in the health of the forest and the Upper Rio Hondo watershed.



The Village CWPP is intended to act as the detailed implementation plan of the County's CWPP. Accordingly, it describes the risks, resources, and specific objectives that are specific to the Village. The Village Planner worked with the Firewise Board of Directors in developing the first and second drafts and presenting them to the community for feedback. The Firewise Board endorsed the first draft on April 5, 2016. The Commission approved Resolution 2016-309 at their regular meeting held on June 6, 2016. This resolution endorsed the CWPP and encouraged the Village Council to formally adopt the CWPP. The Village Council adopted the CWPP on June 14, 2016 by Resolution 2016-310. The Chief of the Village's Volunteer Fire Department approved the plan on June 6, 2016. Finally, the New Mexico Fire Planning Task Force approved the plan on December 13, 2016.

In 2022, Scotney Blackburn, an AmeriCorps Member whose host site was the Village of Taos Ski Valley, took on the updates of the CWPP. Blackburn met with the Taos County 2022 Core Team and

worked closely with the Firewise Board of Directors, the Village Planner Patrick Nicholson and the Village Building Official Jalmar Bowden to update the CWPP document. After Blackburn's term was over, Mitch Daniels took over the completion of the updates.

The CWPP was created to attract financial and technical resources and to mobilize the community to implement the objectives of the CWPP. In 2021, the Building Official Jalmar Bowden applied for the Non-Federal Lands Grant. The Village was awarded $348,000 when they were awarded the Non-Federal Lands Grant to mitigate public and private properties within the Village Boundary.
During 2022 the application period opened and a substantial number of homeowners stepped up to participate. Mitigation activities will start in 2023.

Furthermore, the CWPP updates will be distributed to property owners to inform them about the availability of technical resources and financial opportunities to create defensible space, evacuate the Village in the event of a fire, and inform them about the variety of public education events that are conducted throughout the year.

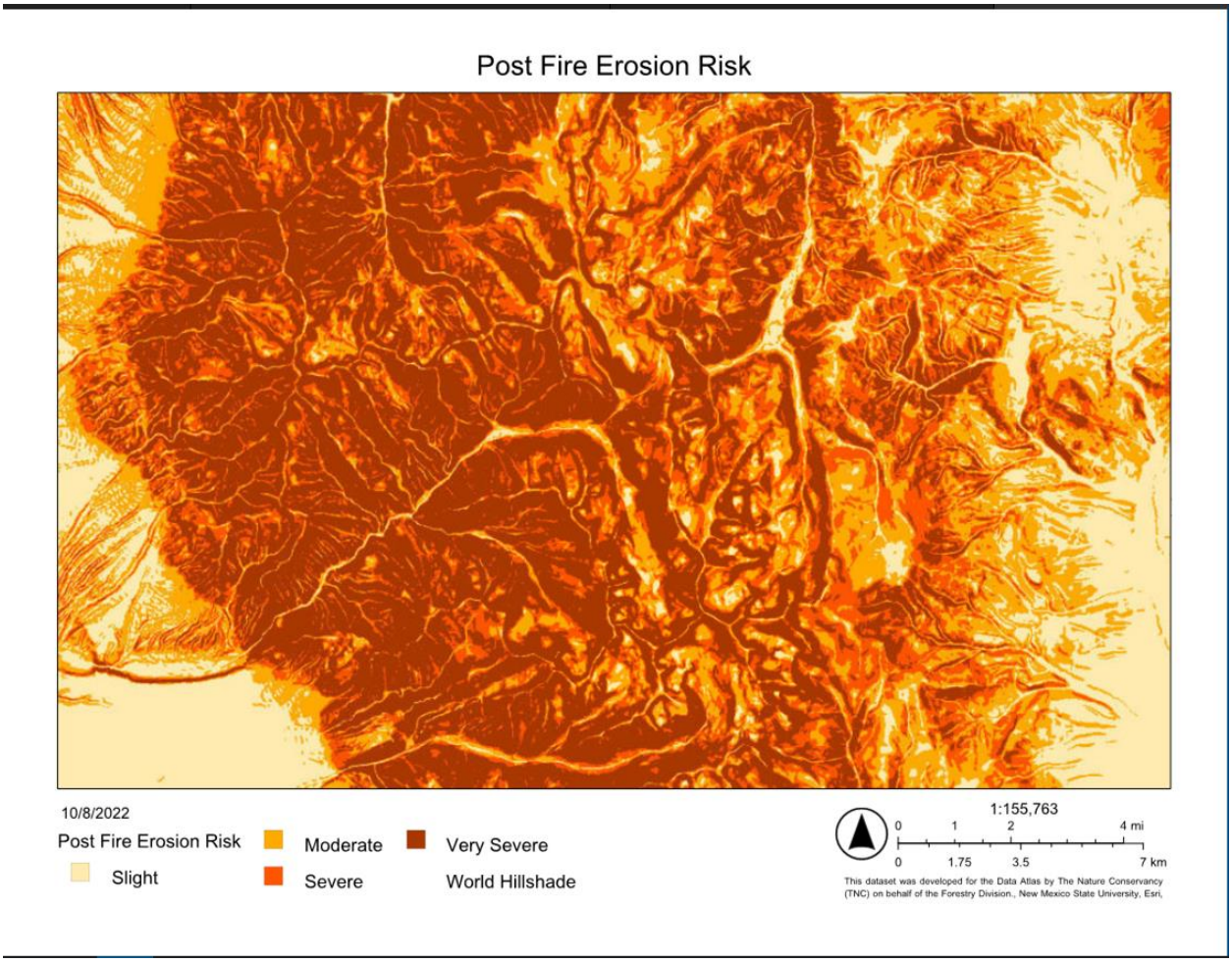
Much of the surrounding landscape is at greater slope than 30%, forest mitigation, where allowable, ranges from difficult to impossible. Fighting wildfire on slopes such as these is also difficult and dangerous. It remains incumbent on landowners in the Village and immediate surroundings to create and maintain defensible space.

Chapter 3 Goals of the CWPP

The goals of the CWPP include protection of lives, property, natural resources, and watersheds while also identifying and prioritizing objectives and forest fuel treatments, attracting investments, encouraging various committees to collaborate, and coordinate efforts that align with the various other plans and strategies that support Taos County.

The Various Plans and strategies identified to remain aligned with include the Village Comprehensive Plan, the Taos County CWPP, the State Forestry Assessment, Firewise Action Plans, and the Rio Grande Watershed Coalition Landscape Restoration Strategy. Links to the plans and strategies mentioned are linked below.

2020 New Mexico Forest Action Plan
2016 Taos Regional Water Plan
2020 New Mexico Forest Action Plan
2017 Village Comprehensive Plan

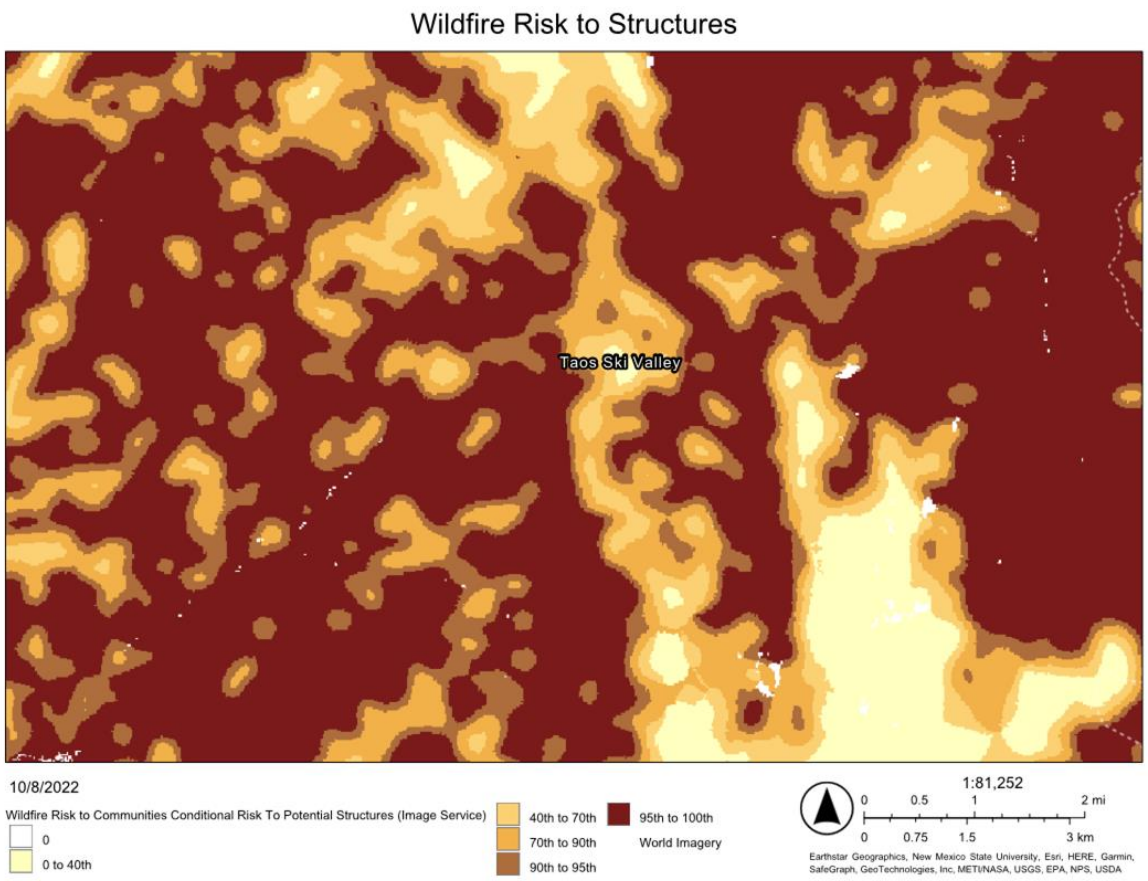


The scope of time it will take to completely implement the objectives of the CWPP is uncertain. Implementing the CWPP depends on the sustained level of community support and education, changing climate conditions, the availability of funding, the amount of fuel treatments that can be completed, and the availability of new science that might change priorities or proposed locations and types of forest fuel treatments. The Village recognizes that not all the objectives will be completed within a five-year period; however, the Village will update the CWPP every five years to re-evaluate the priorities. Furthermore, this update includes new objectives for the entities in the Ski Valley and indicates that the work is never truly complete.

The scope addresses the requirements of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. The minimum requirements for a CWPP as described in the HFRA are:

1. **Collaboration:** A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
2. **Prioritized Fuel Reduction:** A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
3. **Treatment of Structural Ignitability:** A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners

and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures by wildfires throughout the area addressed by the plan.



- **<u>Taos County CWPP</u>**

The Taos County Board of Commissioners adopted the Taos County CWPP in 2009 and updated it in 2016 and 2022. The 2009 CWPP rated the Village as a MEDUIM risk, but the 2016 ranks the Village as a HIGH risk. The Village's current ranking is still rated as a HIGH risk and VTSV is ranked as the 4th highest risk in Taos County. The Taos County CWPP does not identify the conditions or criteria that distinguish between a high, medium, or low risk rating.

The Village appears on the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps list of "Wildland Urban Interface Treatments & Defensible Space Fuels Treatment Projects" and is included in the assessment of Volunteer Fire Department Wildlands Capabilities.

- **2013 State Forestry Assessment**

The Village requested assistance for the New Mexico Forestry Division in 2013 to assess the hazardous fuels treatment priorities on a landscape scale. “It proposed mitigation measures to reduce the “threat of wildfire damage to property, life, and the land.” Much of the information was derived from the Taos County 2009 CWPP.

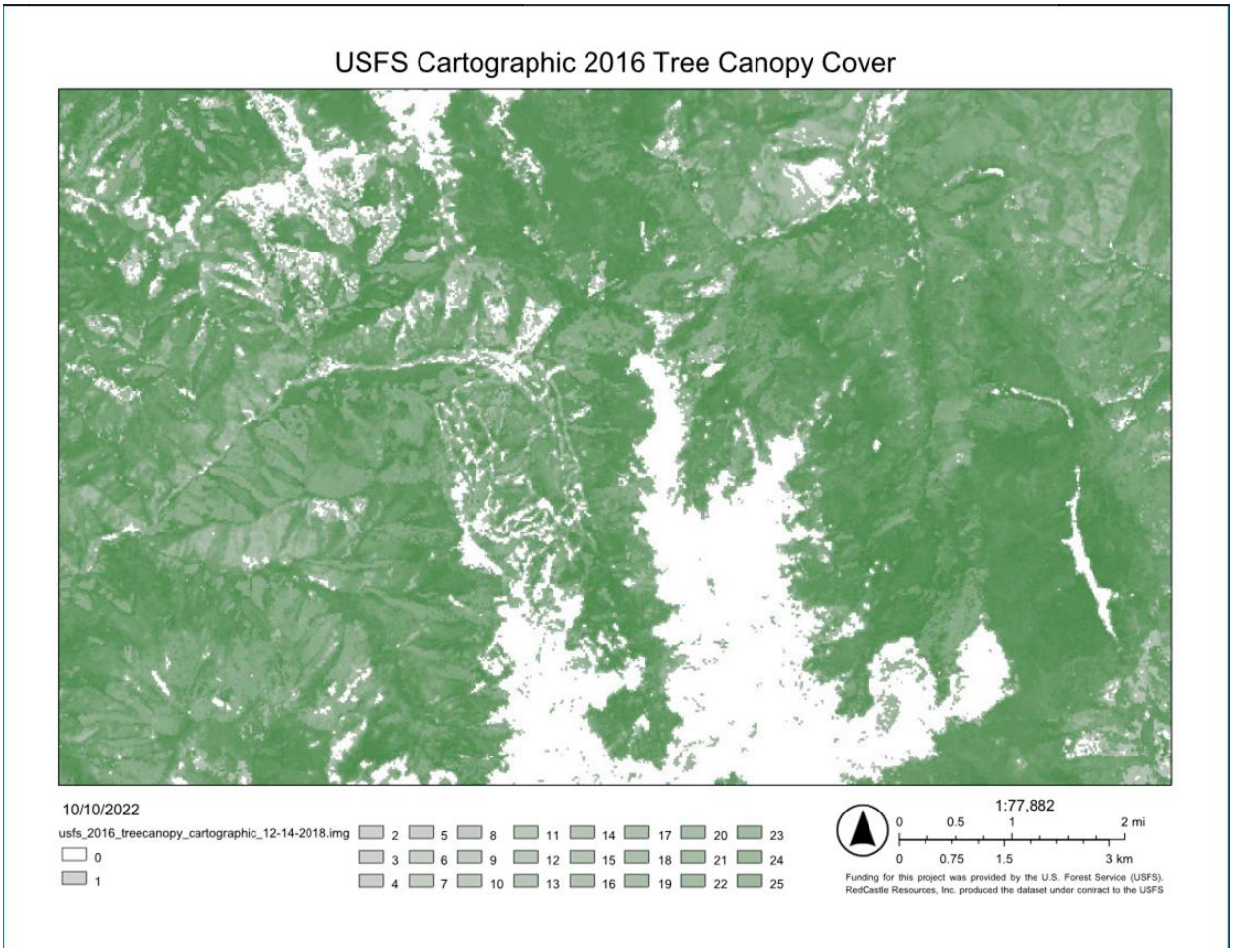
“The majority of the forested portions of the property contain Spruce-Fir and Mesic Mixed Conifer. These forest types typically are located in more remote and steep- sloped areas and have a fire regime that is characterized by very infrequent, high- intensity crown fire. In general, treatments are not recommended in these types of vegetation unless they are implemented to protect human structure. Forest treatment around buildings and along roads would consist of heavy thinning, including canopy and some pruning. Heavy thinning that would include mature timber removal (and usage) may have to be done in stages since spruce and fir are susceptible to wind-throw (sudden canopy openings may result in trees being blown over).”

The Assessment includes a “Risk Assessment” based on a point system and several criteria. In 2016, The Village was rated with 103 points resulting in a “high” hazard community ranking. The most notable “observations and recommendations” of the Assessment were:

1. develop other ingress and egress routes to and from VTSV
2. widen all proposed evacuation routes out of VTSV
3. maintain main road to accommodate forest service responders to house fires in all weather conditions
4. develop turnarounds for fire service equipment
5. maintain signage for emergency responders
6. develop evacuation routes and post signs accordingly
7. conduct and maintain defensible space treatments and forest management treatments
8. educate the property owners on defensible space
9. provide use of chipper days
10. fireside construction on all new structures
11. bury electric lines

The assessment also recommended that all forested areas within the Village WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) should be thinned to reduce the canopy density to a level that will not support a crown fire.

The Assessment resulted in the Village moving forward in requesting designation as a Firewise USA community. Since the designation of the Firewise Board several initiatives have been set into motion including the education of property owners on defensible space, burial of electric lines, development of evacuation routes and emergency planning, as well as upcoming chipper programs for residents.



- **<u>Firewise Action Plans</u>**

At the recommendation of the 2013 State Forestry Assessment, the Village applied for the Firewise Communities / USA status. One of the prerequisites of applying for the recognitions was the development of a Firewise Action Plan.

As a result of receiving the Firewise Communities / USA recognition, the Village Firewise Board is committed to four minimum requirements:

1. Maintain a Firewise Community Program and track its progress or status,
2. Invest a minimum of $2.00 annually per capita in its Firewise activities,
3. Observe a Firewise Community / USE day each year that is dedicated to a local Firewise project,
4. Submit an annual report to Firewise Communities / USA.

The Village Firewise Board made this commitment and was designated as a Firewise USA community in December 2014.

The 2016 Firewise Action Plan summarizes the history and background of the Firewise Board, outlines previous accomplishments, and identifies several projects for 2016. The Action Plan calls

for GIS mapping of properties with adequate (or inadequate) defensible space, multiple mass mailings to educate the community about defensible space and to share recent success stories, a series of "Firewise Education Days", consideration of an ordinance to mandate thinning, ongoing participation in regional meetings and activities, and purchasing additional sirens. The Action Plan also calls for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)specific to the needs, risks, and opportunities of the Village.

The 2021 Firewise Action Plan

- **Rio Grande Water Fund & Taos Valley Watershed Coalition Landscape Restoration Strategy**

The Landscape Restoration Strategy (LRS) was developed over seven months during 2014-2015 by the Taos Valley Watershed Coalition. The Coalition developed several strategies to identify the most suitable forest treatments across the Rio Grande watershed under certain forest conditions. The Coalition worked together to develop a list of priority areas for future forest treatments and to seek funding for future planning, environmental clearances under the National Environmental Policy Act, and for forest thinning projects. The strategy for treating the forest within the Upper Rio Hondo watershed is to "integrate the natural distribution of rocky ridges, talus slopes, and other landscape features as anchor points for breaking up fuel continuity." Aspen management is a primary focus of the landscape restoration strategy and the recommended fuel treatments. This strategy is applied "on the ground" and illustrated in the **Upper Rio Hondo Forest Fuel Treatments Map.**

Chapter 4 – 2022 CWPP Updates and Changes Since 2016

Progress from each entity

Northside TSV

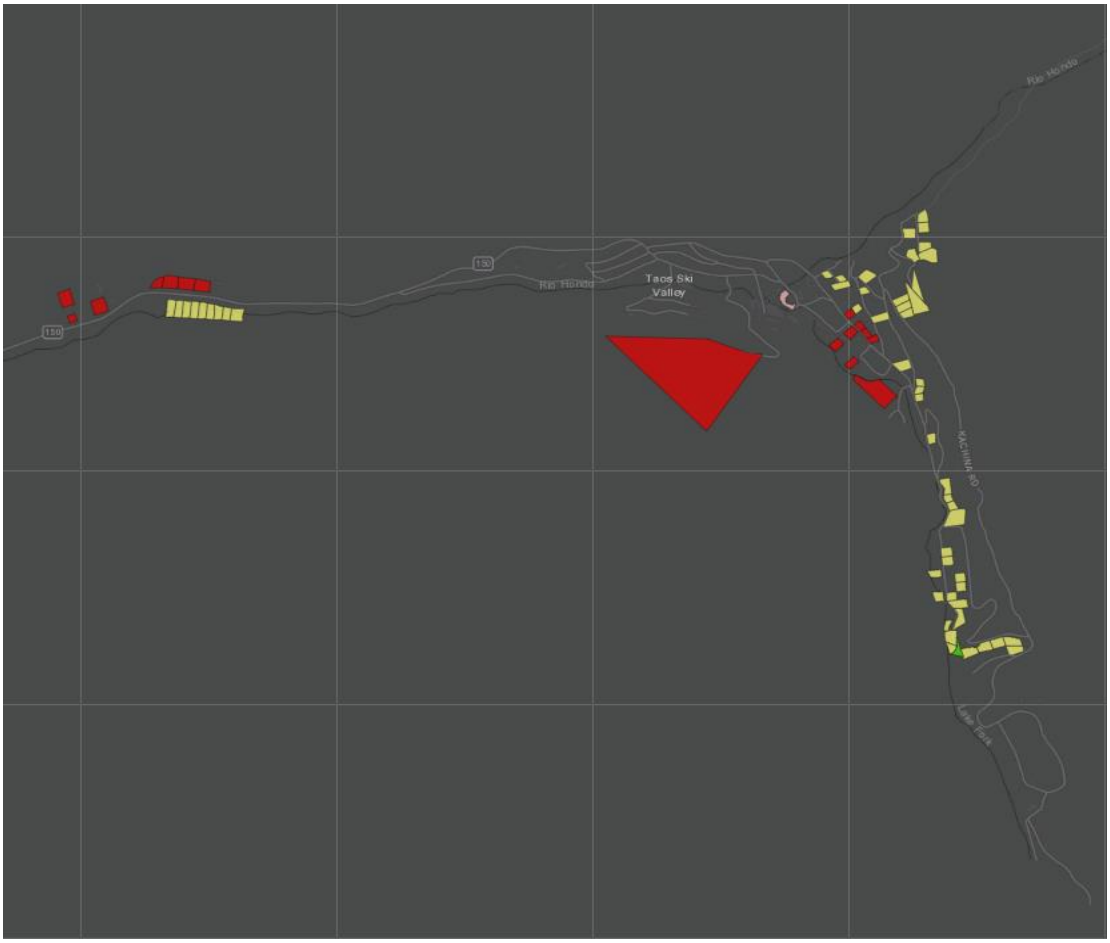
Northside at Taos Ski Valley has been actively engaged in forest restoration and fuels mitigation work over the last two years with over 95 acres of mastication work, 25 acres of lop and pile work, and 10 acres of hazard tree and blowdown removal. The treatments have been laid out and implemented to be perpendicular to the modeled fire behavior and direction in the valley to protect the citizens and the water source. Additionally, canopy retention metrics have been factored in to enhance snow capture and reduce sublimation and evaporation with the hopes of increasing water supply to the village and downstream water users. Another 300 acres are laid out and are planned to tie some of these fuel breaks together. The plans for 2022 entail continued efforts on hazard tree/blowdown removal which Northside has suffered a lot of damage. This should include another 21 acres of blowdown in the lower portion of the property and another 25 or so acres of lop and pile in the upper zones of the property to protect Bull of the Woods spring and Gunsite Spring. All of this work has been owner financed by Bob Corroon and all of it has been stewardship based.

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC)

In 2017, RMYC completed several projects in the Ski Valley with multiple entities including The Pattison Trust and Taos Ski Valley, Inc. These thinning projects treated several acres on the Northside TSV and the Taos Ski Valley, Inc. properties.

In 2019, RMYC treated two different areas funded by the Rio Grande Water Fund (TNC). The thinning projects included 2.8 acres of thinning in El Salto and another 2.8 acres of thinning along Highway 150. Job 315 is another project along Highway 150, completed in 2019 and funded by Taos Ski Valley, Inc. the number of acres treated is unknown. The Rio Lucero project (job 417) was funded by the Rio Grande Water Fund (TNC), where RMYC treated 115 acres between 2020 and 2021.

Even though some of the reported work for Rocky Mountain Youth Corps wasn't completed within the Village boundary, it is important to note that any work done in the surrounding area makes an impact on fire risk in the Ski Valley. RMYC is planning on continuing their work in El Salto with up to 16 acres of treatment to look forward to. Currently, RMYC has an application in with the New Mexico Outdoor recreation Division for the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant. This grant will fund over 1.2 miles of trail work which includes activities such as thinning, removing ground litter and debris, and helping remove blow down from the Village's existing trails and expanding the trails system. They are also on the Contractor List for work in 2023 to mitigate private and public properties for the Non-Federal Lands Grant.



Village of Taos Ski Valley

In 2021, the Building Official Jalmar Bowden applied for the Non-Federal Lands Grant. In 2022 the Village was awarded $348,000 through the Non-Federal Lands (NFL) Grant to mitigate public and private properties within the Village Boundary. The NFL Grant received amazing participation from landowners within the Village Boundary. Mitigation work will be ongoing in 2023.

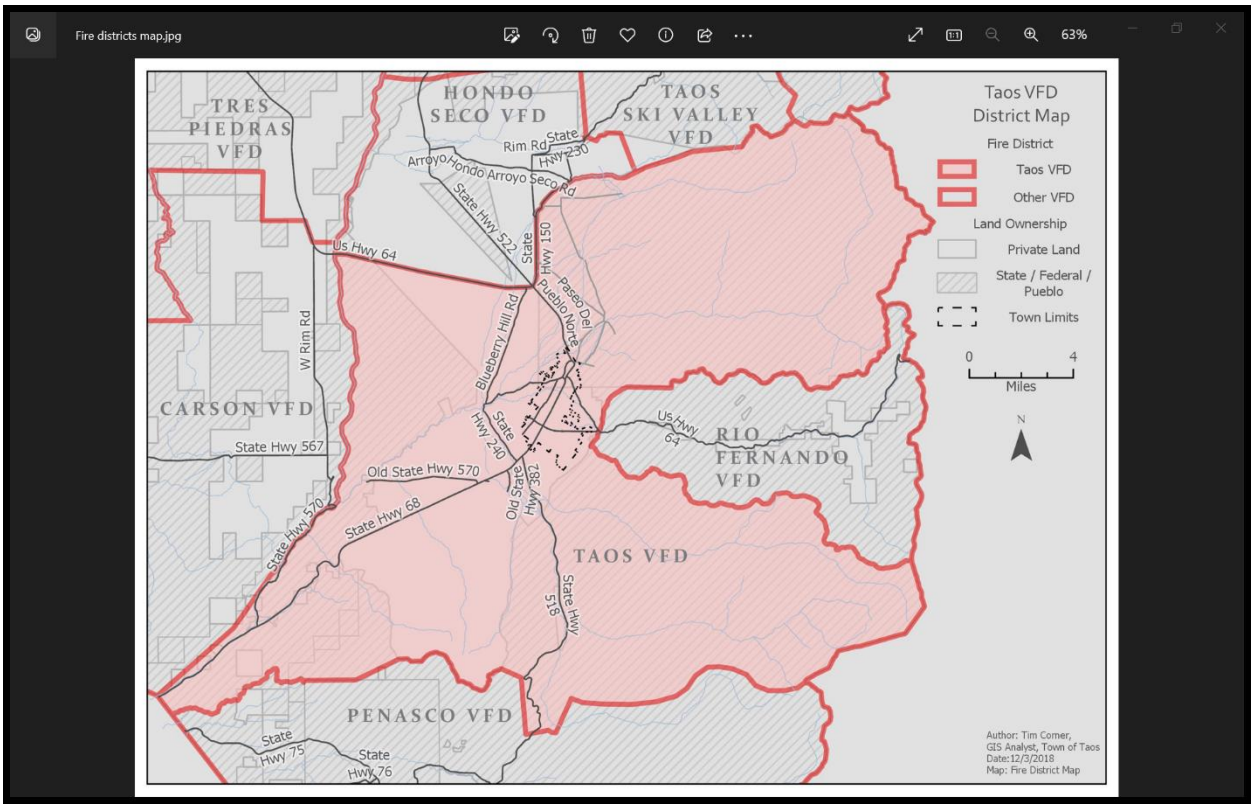
The Public Safety Committee and the Firewise Community Board published an updated Evacuation Plan May 13, 2022. Village Evacuation plans should be updated on a yearly basis and a copy of the most recent version of the Evacuation Plan can be found on the Village website. www.vtsv.org

In November of 2020, The Village Council adopted the 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) through Ordinance No. 2021-44 . This code encourages the use of fire resistive construction materials in new buildings. Increasingly strict vegetation management requirements are required dependent upon the fire safety of the building itself. Each new residence then has an enforceable plan for ongoing maintenance of the property's vegetation. The principles laid out in this IWUIC are serving as a guide for risk assessment of applicant properties for the Non-Federal Lands Grant.

The Village of Taos Ski Valley contracted James Porter, owner and operator of SageGIS LLC, to create a Geographic Information System (GIS) to support the Village's needs such as mapping, address, correspondence with the Taos County Assessor's Office, and much more. By utilizing GIS technology, the Village has been able to access information, increase productivity, and share and store project information. Most notably, James Porter, Scotney Blackburn, and Jalmar Bowden collaborated to come up with a way to collect data in the field while rating public and private properties for the Non-Federal Lands Grant. This specific portion of the GIS software provides a semi-automated system for data collection that helps with organization, decision making, and reporting.

The Department of Public Safety was reformed in July 2022. DPS Director Virgil Vigil oversees, Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Search & Rescue. This map is representative (Taos Ski Valley VFD) of the area for which Village of Taos Ski Valley Public Safety acts in first response capacity.

Source Water Protection Plan 2021



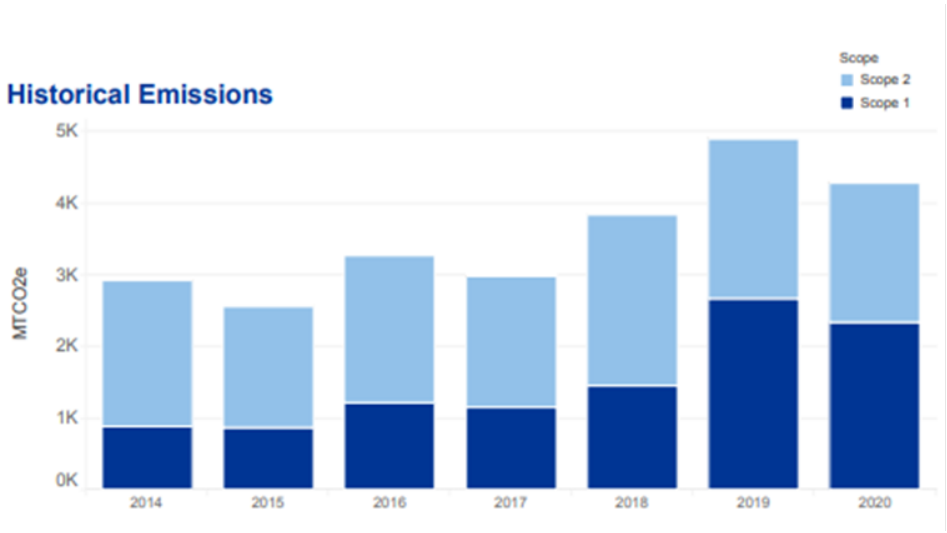
Taos Ski Valley, Inc.

Taos Ski Valley continues to have a Net Zero or zero emissions goal by 2030. This summer TSVI became a Carbon Neutral Certified company through a certification and offset purchase project facilitated by Climate Impact Partners.

TSVI has many ongoing sustainability projects, the most notable are listed below.

- Food waste is turned to compost using a BioCoTech M4 aerobic composter. This diverted more than 28k pounds of food waste from the landfill in 2021 and kept 9 metric tons of carbon and other greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere. The compost material can be used annually for landscaping around the resort or shared with local farmers.
- We increased the number of available EV chargers from 16 to 18. We have Enel X pedestals mounted with two Juicebox Pro 40 chargers each. Charging is currently free for resort guests.
- The Taos Air Airline is 100% carbon offset with offsets from a native grassland restoration project in southeast Colorado.
- The local electric utility that serves Taos Ski Valley (Kit Carson Electric Co-Op is now 100% daytime solar. Currently between 50-60% of our daytime electric use comes from solar farms located around the Kit Carson Electric service territory.
- The Blake hotel was certified and commissioned as a LEED certified silver building. Notably the building uses geo exchange wells set in an adjacent ski slope in conjunction with ground source heat pumps to efficiently heat and cool the various hotel and commercial spaces located within.

- Our snowmaking system is constantly undergoing improvements. We have over 200 high efficiency snow guns on the mountain. TSV also uses a software system called Sno.Matic which offers automation and promotes efficient operation of the snowmaking system.
- Calculations from summer of 2022 totaled over 300 acres of forest thinned of spruce and fir mortality.
- A staff shuttle runs daily during summer and winter seasons to reduce single occupancy commuting (reduced employee fuel use by 10,480 gallons in the 2021).
- For the 2023 ski season TSV will have 9 electric snowmobiles and one all electric snowcat that will reduce diesel and gas use for resort operations.



- TSVI has many ongoing sustainability projects, the most notable are listed below.
    i. Staff shuttle to reduce single occupancy commuting (reduced employee fuel use by 10,480 gallons in the 2021-2022 season so far)
    ii. Food waste is turned to compost using a BioCoTech M4 aerobic composter. This diverted more than 10k pounds of food waste from the landfill in 2021 and kept 3.2 metric tons of carbon and other green house gases from entering the atmosphere. The compost material can be used annually for landscaping around the resort.
    iii. We increased the number of available EV chargers from 6 to 16. We have Enel X pedestals mounted with two Juicebox chargers each. Charging is currently free for resort guests.
    iv. The Taos Air Airline is 100% carbon offset with offsets from a native lands grassland restoration project in southeast Colorado.
    v. The local electric utility that serves Taos Ski Valley (Kit Carson Electric Co-Op) plans to be 100% daytime solar powered by the end of 2022. Currently between 50-60% of our daytime electric use comes from solar farms located around the Kit Carson Electric service territory.
    vi. The Blake hotel was certified and commissioned as a LEED certified silver building. Notably the building uses geo exchange wells set in an adjacent ski slope in conjunction with ground source heat pumps to efficiently heat and cool the various hotel and commercial spaces located within.

vii. Our snowmaking system is constantly undergoing improvements. Most of the snow guns we use are high efficiency HKD air/water guns. TSV also uses a software system called Sno.Matic which offers automation and promotes efficient operation of the snowmaking system.

- The Green Team paused during the Covid Pandemic, but I am working to recreate a team of dedicated people from many of our departments that will serve the same purpose.
- Calculations from summer of 2021 totaled roughly 245 acres of forest for spruce and fir mortality treated by TSVI.
- Due to the wind events in December 2021 and April 2022, large amounts of trees were blown down. TSVI has treated over 300 acres of forests that were damaged in the storms.

Chapter 5

Policies and Objectives

POLICIES:

1. The Village will collaborate with all levels of government and community organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, Taos County CWPP Core Team, the US Forest Service, and New Mexico Forestry, and the Firewise Board in completing the Village Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

2. The Village Public Safety and Firewise Boards will ask Village Staff for quarterly updates to apply to the CWPP.

3. The Village will support the Firewise Board in promoting Education Day and other special events associated with wildfire prevention and education.

4. The Village will make every effort to provide educational materials and financial incentives to the community prior to considering ordinances that mandate wildfire protection measures on private property. The Village will lead by example regarding fire prevention and protection efforts.

OBJECTIVES:

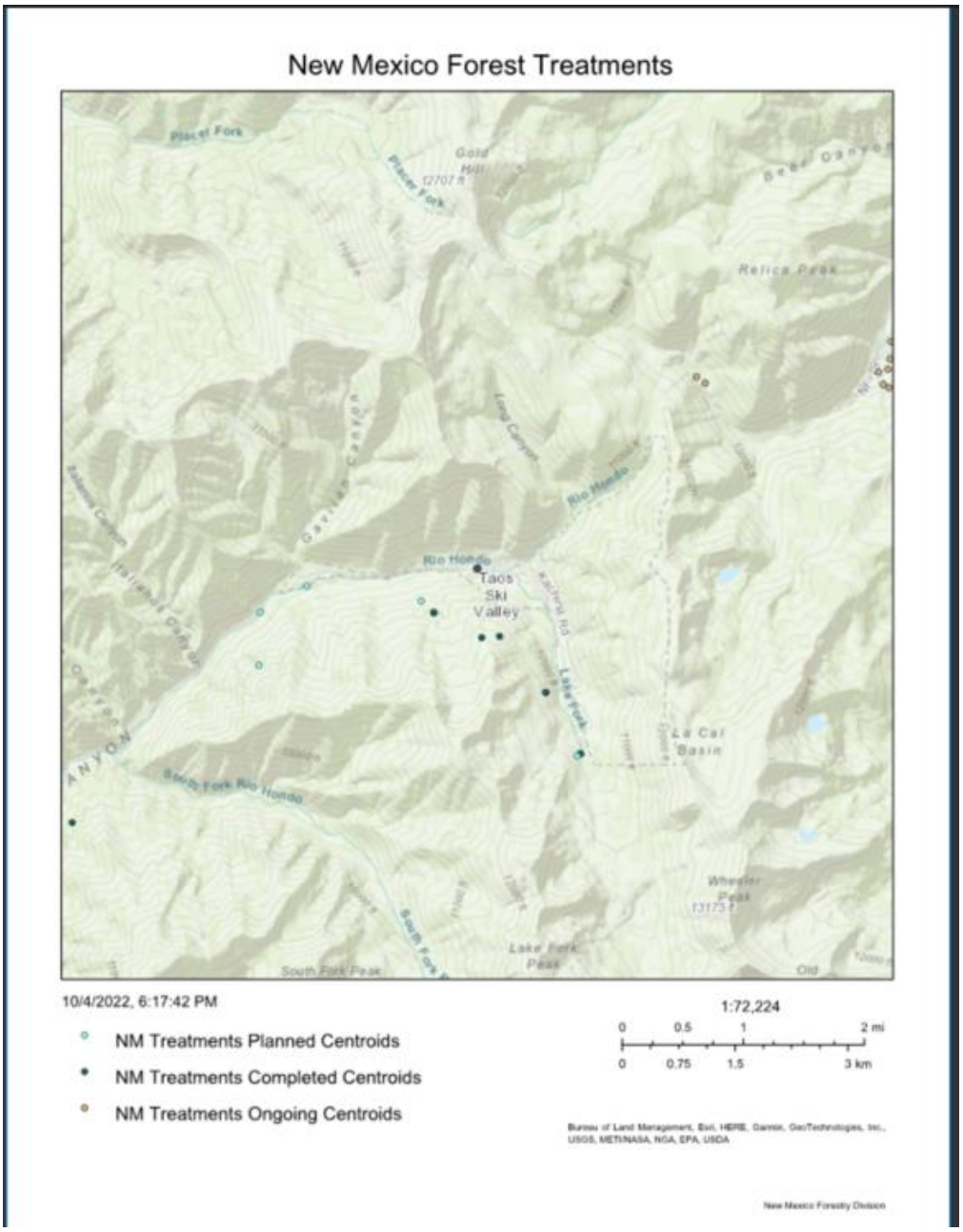
1. Adopt the Updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The CWPP will provide specific strategies and objectives for government agencies, community organizations, and landowners about the types and specific locations of treatments necessary to reduce wildfire hazards within the upper Rio Hondo watershed. It will also include specific recommendations for public education, improving the capacity of the Village's Public Safety and Volunteer Fire Departments. The CWPP will be consistent with the Taos County CWPP update and the Landscape Restoration Strategy described by the Taos Valley Watershed Coalition.

2. Implement Forest Treatments

The Village will work with the US Forest Service, private property owners, TSV Inc., State Forestry, and community organizations in funding the recommended forest treatments within the upper Rio Hondo

watershed. Potential funding sources include the US Forest Service Non-Federal Lands grants, Community Forestry Restoration Projects, and the Rio Grande Water Fund.



3. Adopt the 2021 International Code Council Wildland-Urban Interface Code.

The Village Council adopted the 2015 code (Village Wildland Interface Ordinance 2021-44) in November of 2020; replacing the 2003 International Urban-Wildland Interface Code adopted November 2006 as 2007-44. The Village has stayed in step with New Mexico code cycles, the general ICC building codes at time of this writing are 2015 versions.

However, adopting the newer 2018 or 2021 code will improve the fire prevention requirements for new construction. “Building Code adoption and enforcement are the backbone to a safe built environment.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, modern and well enforced building codes are one of the most effective means to prepare communities for natural hazards."

https://www.governing.com/community/Building-Safetys-Essential-Role-in-Resilience-and-Recovery.html

https://www.governing.com/community/building-safetys-essential-role-in-resilience-and-recovery.html

The Village must consider fire protection and access for emergency vehicles in the design and construction of new infrastructure. Roads should be wide enough with the minimal slope possible to provide adequate access for emergency vehicles; road signage, including street addresses, should be always clear and visible and during all seasons; fire hydrants should be located for easy access and clear visibility; fire lanes must be clearly marked and signed; overhead power lines should be buried.

Twining Road is in design phase currently (January 2022) for improvement of the first 1.25 miles above Bull of The Woods Trailhead. Taos Ski Valley Resort is also in the design phase of roadway improvement of the parking lot to provide safer access throughout parking and to the Village above.

4.Complete work for the Non-Federal Lands Grant

The Non-Federal Lands Grant was applied for by Building Official Jalmar Bowden in 2021 and is a 2-year reimbursement grant. The Village should be able to report a variety of figures tracked through the GIS database, spreadsheets, and mitigation work.

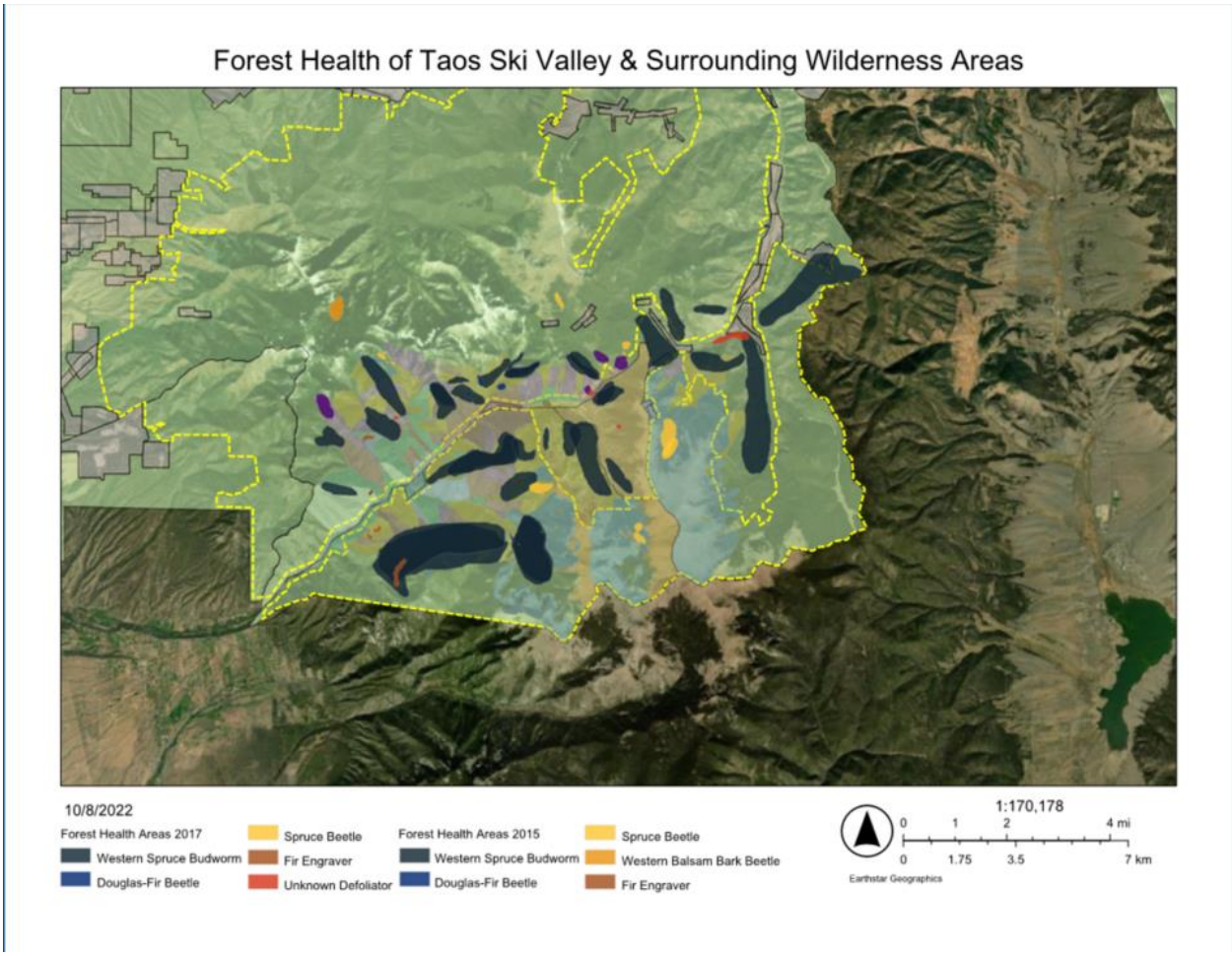
Chapter 6

RISKS & VULNERABILITIES

A wildfire represents a variety of risks and consequences to the Village, the tourism industry, the natural environment, and property owners. These risks are outlined below:

1. The forest surrounding the Village is overgrown with small diameter, dead and-down and dead-and-standing trees due to fire suppression policies that remained in place by the US Forest Service for many decades. The Wilderness status of the surrounding forests prevents mechanical treatments, rendering any cost-effective forest treatments surrounding the Village and within the Upper Rio Hondo watershed impossible.

2. There are 628 different property owners within the Village, and of this total, only 80 parcels were owned from individuals with a mailing address from within the Village (12.7%), 126 had mailing addresses from Albuquerque (20.0%), 330 from New Mexico (52.5%), and 298 from out of state (47.4%). With most of the property owned by individuals who live outside the Village, the threat of wildfire seems remote.



3. A wildfire would have disastrous consequences to wildlife and wildlife habitat, including the potential for massive fish kills in the Rio Hondo.

4. Soil erosion would damage waterways and increase flood potential.

5. Irrigated agriculture and grazing in downstream communities would be at risk of water pollution in the Rio Hondo due to ash and debris deposited in the river following a wildfire.

6. Persistent drought increases fire potential.

7. Invasive insect species kill trees, increasing the ignitability of the forest.

8. A fire could damage the Phoenix Spring and Infiltration Gallery, which provides the Village's sole source of drinking water. Ash and debris after a fire would impair the water quality at the sources of snow- making infrastructure for TSV, Inc. and thereby affecting spring runoff and use of water for downstream users, i.e. - acequias.

9. The forest is used for many cultural and recreational activities, including hiking, skiing, biking, mushroom collecting, camping, fishing, relaxation, and peaceful contemplation and prayer. A wildfire would be disastrous to the aesthetics and usability of the forest.

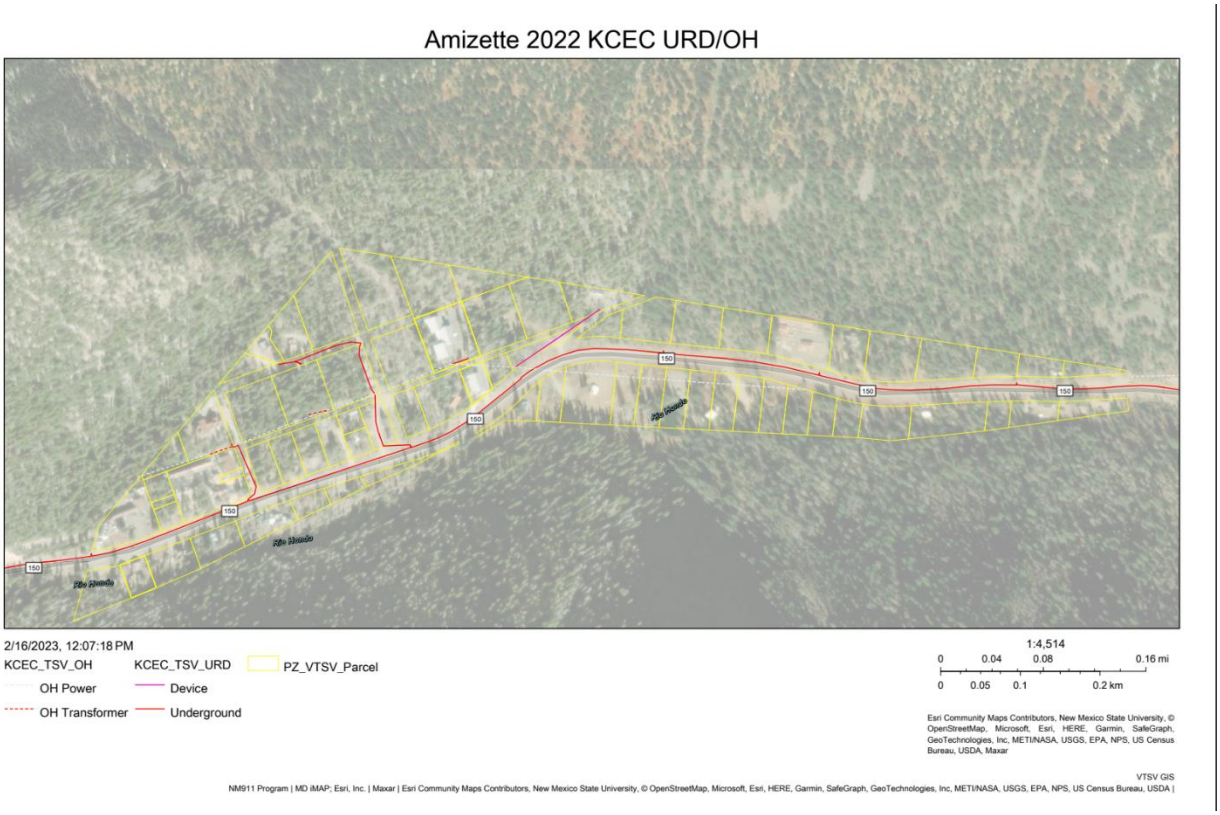
10. Hundreds of millions of dollars being invested by TSV Inc. in the redevelopment of the core area and infrastructure improvements are put at risk.

11. State highway 150 is the single access road to and from the Village making emergency evacuation problematic and dangerous. Roads are steep and virtually inaccessible by fire trucks, especially in winter.

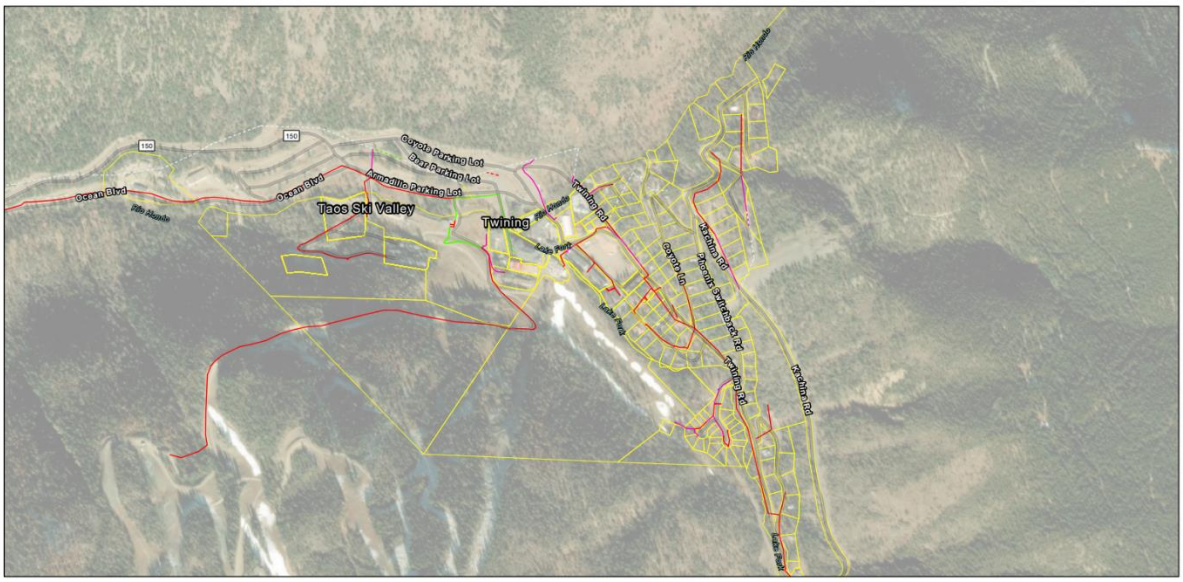
12. Careless visitors may accidentally or intentionally (e.g. – through campfires, smoking, or fireworks) start a fire in remote areas or campgrounds.

13. Above-ground electric utility poles along NM 150 and within the Village are at risk from trees or limbs falling on the lines, from high winds and many other factors beyond human control.

KCEUG MAP



VTSV core KCEC URD_OH



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OH Device
OH Power
OH Switch
OH Transformer
KCEC_TSV_URD
Device
Switch
Transformer
Underground
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PZ_VTSV_Parcel

1:9,028

0 0.07 0.15 0.3 mi
0 0.13 0.25 0.5 km

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VTSV GIS

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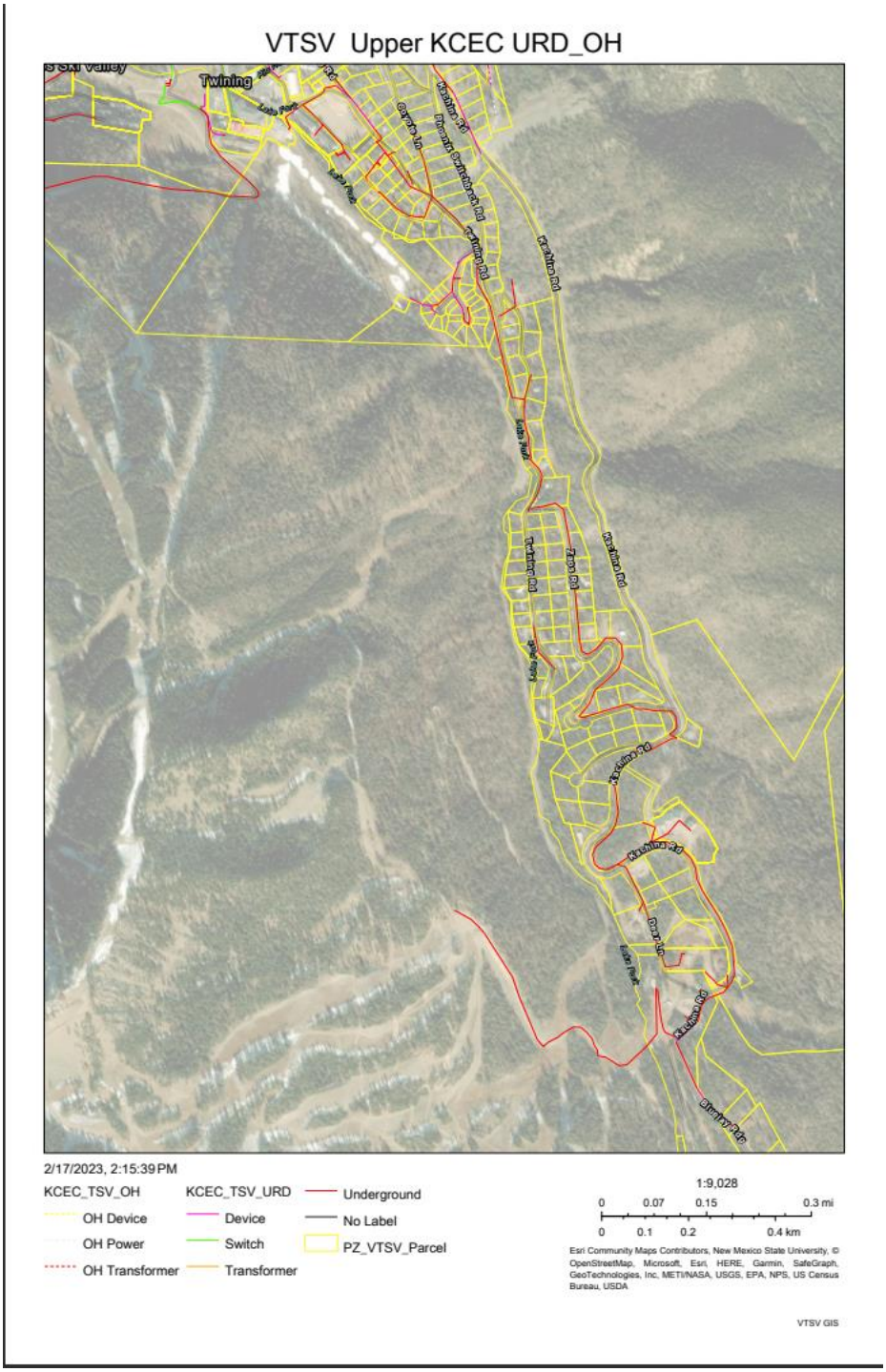
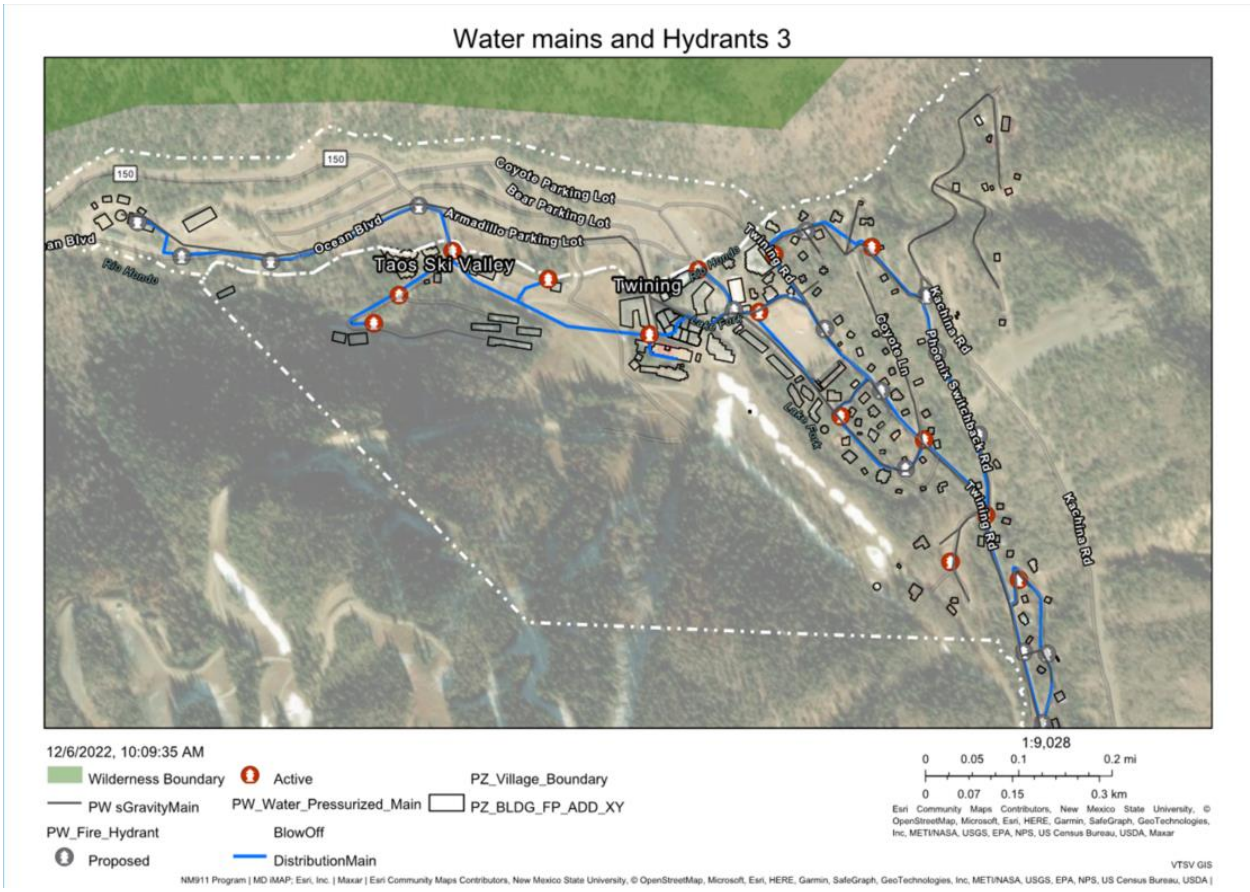


14. The Village has limited financial resources to provide the necessary training and equipment to fight wildfires.

15. FIRE HYDRANT MAPPING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Coyote Parking Lot
Bear Parking Lot
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Taos Ski Valley
Twining
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Phoenix Swiftshadow Rd
Kachina Rd
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PW sGravityMain
PW_Fire_Hydrant
Proposed
Active
PW_Water_Pressurized_Main
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PZ_BLDG_FP_ADD_XY
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Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, Maxar
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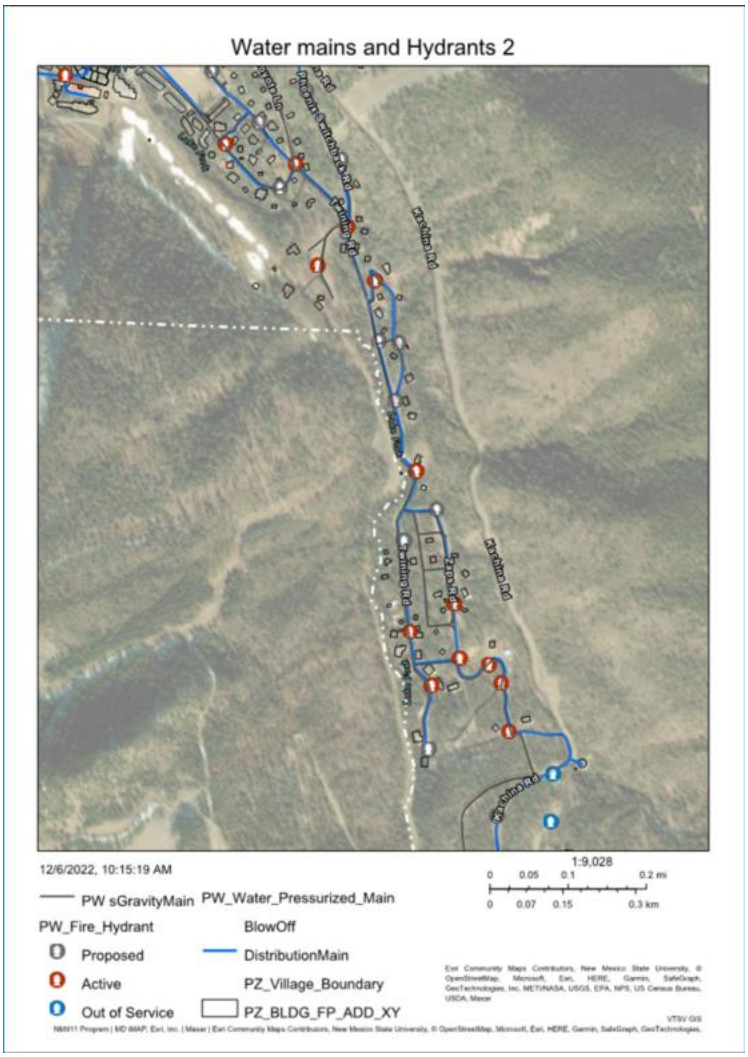
NM911 Program | MD iMAP, Esri, Inc. | Maxar | Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA |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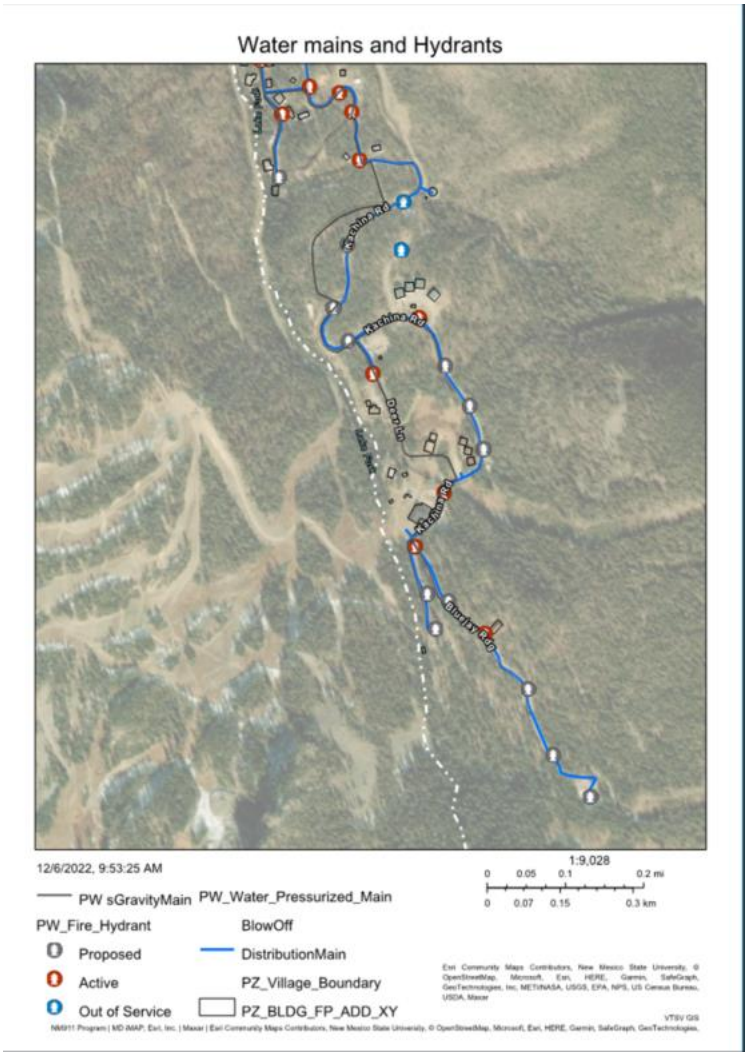
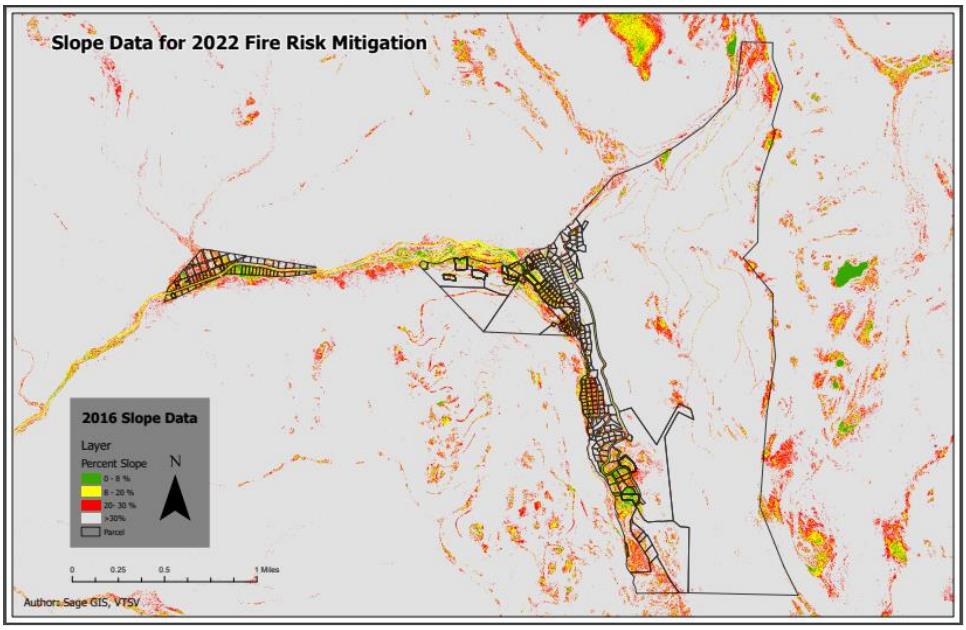


15. Difficulty in getting fire hazard insurance for residences and commercial buildings.

16. Future extreme weather events like the Blow Downs in 2021-2022, could cause fires if all undergrounding is not completed.

Chapter 7



Maps from the previous CWPP that need to be updated.

Map #1 Vicinity Map

Map #2 Upper Rio Hondo Watershed Wildland-urban interface

Map #3 Upper Rio Hondo forest fuel treatments

Map #4 Land use Maps & CWPP Base Maps

Map #5 Surface Water Map

Map #6 Aerial Imagery

Map#7 Canopy Cover

Map # 8 Vegetation Type

Map #9 Roads Trails and Buildings

Map # 10 Water and Sewer Utilities

Map # 11 Fire History

Map #12 Fire Risk Assessments

Map #13 flame length

Map #14 Crown fire activity

Map #15 Rate of Spread

Map #16 Fuel Models

Chapter 9

OBJECTIVES -

OBJECTIVE #1 - PROVIDE PUBLIC EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND REDUCING STRUCTURE FIRES.

The HFRA requires a CWWP to "recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures by wildfires throughout the area addressed by the plan." In accordance with this requirement, the Village will provide a variety of educational opportunities and resources to individual property owners, businesses owners, and visitors. The content will address DEFENSIBLE SPACE, READY, SET, GO! Program, SIM Table demonstrations, BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS, the availability of FIRE-RESISTANT BUILDING MATERIALS and FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS, HOME MAINTENANCE, AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS and INSURANCE INCENTIVES, EVACUATION PROTOCOLS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION opportunities.

The Village will provide these resources through written materials, digital & social media, and public events as described below:

· Written Materials

a. At the Village Office

b. At local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce

c. On bulletin boards, trailheads, and other visible public places

· Digital & social media

a. On the Village web page & blog

b. E-mail blasts

c. Free App called AlertMe from Regroup – push notifications for weather, emergencies, etc.

· Public Events

a. During Firewise Board meetings, Village Volunteer Firefighters meetings, committee meetings,

b. Firewise Education Day

c. 4th of July parade

d. During a community slash pickup

Fire Risk Assessments will be conducted for all properties and property owners will be informed so that they can make changes to the property to be more fire safe.

OBJECTIVE #2 – REDUCE FOREST FUELS WITH RECOMMENDED TREATMENTS AND ON-GOING MAINTENANCE.

The HFRA requires a CWPP to "prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure." The Village will collaborate with stakeholders to treat the forest fuels in the areas recommended by the US Forest Service – Questa Ranger District and are consistent with the Landscape

Restoration Strategy proposed by the Taos Valley Watershed Coalition. The forest fuel treatments are identified on the Prioritized Forest Fuel Treatments Map (Map #3); however, the Fire Risk Assessment Map forthcoming from Anchor Point may reveal additional areas or alternative priorities, and as the science of forest fuel treatments improves and as experience with on-going treatment provides additional information, the priorities and treatment types may change over time and as financial resources are available.

The Questa Ranger District of the US Forest Service is in the on-going process of preparing the documentation for NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) clearance of several areas identified for forest fuel treatments. These on-going efforts are the highest priority. They include:

1. Glading of the "Wild West" and the "Minnesotas" within the TSV, Inc. Permit Area continues to be an ongoing project managing dead, dying and windblown trees.

2. Clearing a 25 acre buffer around the Phoenix Spring and infiltration gallery, including possible fencing to prevent elk form eating aspen trees, and

3. Clearing a 150 to 200 foot buffer along the NM 150 corridor between the Village and Valdez, including the areas around the Lower Hondo Campground, the Cuchillo del Medio Campground, and the Cuchilla Campground.

4. Creating defensible space in all private property. The NFL Grant is focusing on Mitigation Corridors as the highest priority to provide fire firefighters with opportunity to contain fires within specific areas of the Village once started. Individual applicants for the NFL Grant found to have properties at highest risk will be the next priority. Many of the property owners in the Village are participating in the grant and those properties will all have evaluations performed. Those properties that were not applicants for the grant funding will have property evaluations completed through a partnership of the Firewise Board and Village staff. These evaluations then should be communicated to property owners along with encouragement to improve their safety and provided with information for funding if more becomes available.

The next immediate steps to implement the priority treatments are to tour treatment areas, update the Forest Treatment Map each year as treatments are completed, clearly define the specific burn prescription, and establish a budget for the remaining treatment areas.

The preferred method is to cut, pile, and burn the wood on site. The trees to be targeted for cutting are mixed conifer. The Village will work closely with the fire management staff at the Questa Ranger District to identify the most efficient methods for thinning, removing, and/or burning the slash.

Implementing the forest treatments requires a considerable financial investment and has been sought out through the NFL Grant. The Village will need to continue to seek out further grant opportunities and public/private partnerships to leverage the costs of treatments. New potential and old potential funding sources can be found in the funding section of this document.

Reducing Structure Ignitibility

Research indicates that the potential for structure ignitions during wildfires, including high intensity fires, depend on a structure's "fuel characteristics" and a heat sources within 0-120' feet adjacent to a

home (Cohen 2004; Cohen 2000; Cohen 1995; Cohen, J,. and Butler, B., 1998). Heat sources within the first 30‘adjacent to a home are the most important.

The NFL Grant is focusing on creating defensible space for property owners who applied for mitigation opportunities through the grant, within the Village Boundary.

Home Ignition Zone

The condition of the home ignition zone (this can include any structure) principally determines the potential for structure ignitions during a wildfire. A structure burns because of its interrelationship with everything in its surrounding home ignition zone. To avoid a structure ignition, the property owner must eliminate a wildfire's potential to ignite anything on or near the structure.

This plan recognizes two zones surrounding the structure that should be addressed by residents in order to reduce the overall vulnerability of their home. The two zones that make up the Home Ignition Zone include: Zone 1 (this area includes structures and immediate surroundings). Using Fire Hardened Structures means that a home is less vulnerable to embers and direct flame impingement from fire. Fire hardened structures provide protection at a structure’s vulnerable area using proven building materials and/or techniques to resist ignition from heat and flame, as well as the ember storm that accompanies large wildfires.

Roof

Keep the roof free of bird’s nests, fallen leaves, needles and branches. Residents should be extra vigilant about keeping all flammable materials at least 10 feet away from the home.

Vents

Building Codes may require vented roofs. Vents must be designed to prevent flames and embers from entering a building. There are several products coming onto the market that address this need and are exceptionally good candidates for retrofitting a structure. They combine a back-up system (such as baffles or honeycombs) in addition to the required screening. The WUI Building Standards state that vents must resist the intrusion of embers and flames or shall be protected by corrosion-resistant noncombustible (no plastic components) wire mesh screen with 1/4-inch openings. 1/8-inch mesh is also allowed. Use a design that incorporates two sets of through-roof vents, one set for inlet air located near the roof edge and another for outlet air located near the ridge. Do not permanently cover vents, as they play a critical role in preventing wood rot.

Exterior Walls and Siding Exterior

Walls need to resist heat and flames as well as embers. Non-combustible materials like stucco and concrete obviously resist flames but may not always resist heat and embers. Ensure that there is a sheet rock barrier underneath the finishing material and that any gaps along the bottom or top edges are sealed or caulked.

Windows, Skylights, Doors

Installing windows that are at least double-glazed and utilize tempered glass for the exterior pane is recommended. The type of window frame (wood, aluminum or vinyl) is not as critical; however, vinyl

frames can melt in extreme heat and should have metal reinforcements. Keep skylights free of leaves and other debris, and

remove overhanging branches. If skylights are to be placed on steep pitched roofs that face large amounts of nearby fuels (a mature pine tree or another house), consider using flat ones constructed of double-pane glass. Embers can enter gaps in doors, including garage doors, so solid-closing doors have non-combustible material or heavy, solid wood. If there is a pet door, be sure to have a way to completely close it to keep it from opening during a wildfire allowing embers a pathway into a structure.

Balconies and Decks

To harden a home's deck and balconies (or any cantilevered addition) enclose the projection all the way to the ground and keep it ember-resistant by sealing cracks and joints. Heavy wood decking (with adequate defensible space) may be allowed, but a better choice might be fire-retardant treated wood or composite decking. Do not allow vegetation or flammable items to accumulate under decks and balconies.

Rain Gutters

Keep rain gutters free of bird's nests, leaves, needles, and other debris. Check and clean them several times during the year, more often in fire season.

Addressing

Throughout the Planning Area, firefighters and other emergency personnel are faced with the challenge of finding homes quickly and safely during an emergency. The minimum letter/number height of 3" for residential properties and minimum of 6" for commercial properties is required with additional posting for longer access routes.

Retrofitting a Structure

While it is easier to construct a new structure to a "fire-hardened" standard, it is also possible to improve an existing structure's resistance to wildfire. Hardened structure features are mandatory for new construction, yet these same suggestions apply for remodeling or improving a home's fire safety. Three very effective locations to target are a roof, vents, and decks. Retrofitting a structure with ignition-resistant materials in these three areas and rigorously maintaining defensible space will significantly enhance a structure's protection.

Defensible Space Zone

Zone 1

Previously referred to as "Combustible Construction", this Zone is now referred to as the "Immediate Zone"- Defensible space is the area directly adjacent to a structure out 15-feet. This area is where the greatest vegetation modification will occur. Within this zone, plant nothing within 3 to 5 feet of the structure, particularly if the building is sided with wood, logs, or other flammable materials. This is an innovative idea for walkways and rocks but not flammable mulch. A nonflammable surface acts as an ember tray, allowing embers to fall to the surface and go out.

Zone 2

Previously known as “Non-Combustible Construction”, this Zone is now referred to as the “Intermediate Zone and correlates with the area 15 feet to 30 feet of a structure. Recommendations in this section remain the same with the inclusion of moving wood piles 30’ from the structure.

Remove all ladder fuels from under the remaining trees. Locate propane tanks at least 30-feet from any structures, preferably on the same elevation as the house. Flammable vegetation should be cleared within 10 feet of these tanks. Under no circumstances should propane tanks be screened with shrubs or vegetation. Dispose of limbs, branches and other woody debris removed from trees and shrubs through hauling material to an appropriate disposal site, or chipping.

Should local fire code require that hazard mitigation work be completed further away from the house, target dead, diseased and damaged trees and shrubs first, before considering removing additional native vegetation. This zone should not be cleared of all vegetation due to degradation from erosion, landslides, and the need to preserve habitat. Follow recommendations and employ best management practices. This zone should modify the fire behavior by breaking up the fuel load, shading, and biomass reduction. Remove dead material, prune vegetation above the soil, and reduce the grassy and weedy vegetation to ground level.

Taos Ski Village residents are eligible for cost share assistance from the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District Private Lands Fuel Reduction Treatment Program. Applications by residents are reviewed after June 30 and December 31st every year and are ranked by site assessments. Assessments are ranked after a site assessment that includes project location, on site structures, fuel types and densities and fuel hazard ratings. Approved applicants may receive both technical assistance and funding for private property fuel reduction treatment.

As of 2021 fire research, rating, and reporting documents a third zone has been identified as an important part of structural ignitability and is referred to as the “Extended Zone”. The Extended Zone is 30 feet from a structure and extends out to the property line.

OBJECTIVE #3 - PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING TO VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS TO IMPROVE RESPONSE TIMES.

A well trained and fully equipped fire department cannot always prevent a wildfire, but it can be highly effective at minimizing the damage once a fire starts. The Village of Taos Ski Valley Volunteer Fire Department acts as the first responder to wildfire and should therefore be fully trained and equipped to respond. The Director of the Village’s Public Safety Department identified the following needs to increase the wildfire response capability of the Volunteer Fire Department in responding to a wildfire or structure fire:

· EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

o The Village Volunteer Fire Department has purchased an Initial Attack Brush Truck, Initial Attack mini-pumper and is awaiting grant approval to purchase a Tactical Tender with 2000-gallon tank. There is a new three-bay fire house being constructed. Once finished, tentatively 2023, the fire department will have 3 stations with a total of 6 bays to store apparatus for wildland and structure response.

· TRAINING

o Volunteers attend training in CS 100 (Incidence Command Training) S 130 (Firefighter Training) / 190 (Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior) through the NWCG (N – Basic Wildland Firefighting. Additional training depends on the level of commitment each volunteer displays. Volunteers also attend ECRFPA mini academy for structure fire training.

o TSVI Summer mountain crew are required to complete these trainings and earn a "Red Card." A Red Card allows a holder to respond to wildland fire incidents and assist federal agency fire-fighting crews in fighting a wildland fire. They can oversee operations of the air curtain incinerator (name brand: Burn Boss) when it is located on forest service land. Training should be on-going as new volunteers are recruited.

Training opportunities can be in the form of demonstration projects where the volunteer fire department would create defensible space around residences and commercial buildings.

OBJECTIVE #4 – UPDATE THE VILLAGE EVACUATION PLAN ANNUALLY TO REFLECT CHANGES TO THE VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS.

The evacuation plan is updated annually to reflect the safest and most efficient methods for evacuating the community in the event of a wildfire or other life-threatening hazard. The Village fire department uses Safe Alert to communicate between fire personnel. Regroup Mass Notification is used to inform the public of mass notifications.

OBJECTIVE #5 – UPDATE AND COMPLETE THE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALL PRIVATE PROPERTY.

In 2015 the members of the Firewise Board conducted an assessment of private property to determine the risk of a fire for each property based on the conditions of the surrounding vegetation. Not all of the properties were assessed, however. Each of the properties that were assessed was ranked as extremely high, high, moderate, or minimal risk of igniting from a wildfire.

The NFL Grant has focused on evaluating the properties that applied for mitigation and the Village has taken on the responsibility of completing all remaining property assessments. These ratings should be completed and reported in the next CWPP Update.

OBJECTIVE #6 – ADOPT POST WILDFIRE BURN AREA EMERGENCY REHABILITATION PROTOCOLS.

Wildfires have lasting impacts to the entire watershed, including:

· Loss of wildlife habitat, such as fish kills in streams

· Soil erosion and sediment transport

· Surface water quality is impaired due to ash and debris

Downstream water users, such as acequias and mutual domestic water associations, are all at risk of impaired water quality after a wildfire.

The Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) protocols will identify the specific actions to be taken to minimize these impacts. The BAER will answer the basic questions of what do and who is responsible for these actions after a fire:

· Organize a team of local, state, and federal agencies and establish communication protocols and priorities

· Erosion control

· River restoration

· Request recovery funds from FEMA, NRCS, USDA, and the Department of Interior BAER programs

· Process insurance claims

· Inspect buildings and infrastructure for damage

· Restore drinking water sources and monitor water quality

A Memorandum of Understanding should be developed and signed prior to a fire in order to clarify roles, duties and identify coordination efforts.

OBJECTIVE #7 – PARTICIPATE IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS.

Taos Ski Valley, Inc. pledged to reduce its carbon footprint as part of its participation in the National Ski Area Association's (NSAA) Climate Challenge. In 2015, TSV, Inc. educed greenhouse gas emissions by 340 metric tons of CO2, representing a 10.9 percent reduction over the previous year. TSV, Inc. reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 10.9% in just one year through several initiatives, including the sourcing of local and organic foods, retrofitting its lighting systems and installing water bottle refilling stations, expanding the recycling program, increasing the public transportation offerings for its employees (that took an average of 125 vehicles off the road every day during the 2015-16 season and preventing 22,000 round trips and 299 metric tons of CO2, and saving 33,000 gallons of fuel), and making its snowmaking capabilities more efficient (resulting in an 18 percent reduction in energy use with a 15 percent increase in water-to-snow conversion). Taos Ski Valley has also mobilized its staff base to encourage sustainability. Two staff positions were added specifically devoted to sustainability projects. This led to the creation of the "Green Team"— a group of employees dedicated to aiding sustainability projects throughout the resort. The new Blake Hotel, which is slated to open in late fall of 2016, will be LEED certified, with ground source heat pumps and other energy-saving technologies.

In following the lead of TSV, Inc. the Village will also participate in regional and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Some of these efforts include the TSV, Inc. Green Team the Regional Water Plan, and events sponsored by Renewable Taos.

Specific strategies should include:

· Join the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.

· Include renewable energy in the design of Village buildings and facilities.

-The Village has not designed new Village buildings. Unknown if those requirements can be requested of the private developer under current ordinance.

· Replace the Village fleet with vehicles with improved gas mileage or with alternative fuel vehicles.

-Newer units have been purchased but no Data about efficiency is available.

· Conduct a greenhouse gas emission inventory, set targets for reducing GHG emissions, and set priorities for investments.

-The Village will work with local, regional, and national organizations to identify the most economic and effective methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to drought conditions. These organizations include Renewable Taos, River's & Birds, the Model Forest Policy Project, and the Climate Project.

· Perform an energy audit of Village buildings; invest in energy and water conservation.

· Provide direct financial incentives for energy and water conservation to builders and developers; provide information to architects, homeowners, and builders regarding state and federal tax incentives for energy and water conservation and renewable energy improvements. No Financial incentives available locally, more information about conservation can be provided by the Village and the website can include information from state and federal sources

OBJECTIVE #8 – THE VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT & INSURANCE SERVICES ORGANIZATION (ISO) RATING.

Improving the ISO Rating requires a variety of improvements, including improved firefighter response, purchasing fire equipment such as apparatus, building additional fire stations, and providing additional water delivery and storage capacity. An improved ISO rating will increase funding provided to the Village's Volunteer Fire Department and will contribute to reducing homeowner's insurance rates.

The general criteria for reducing the ISO rating are:

· Communications System. Emergency dispatch is by Taos County Central Dispatch. The Village has little influence over its operations and funding capacity.

· Water Supply. The Village is currently investing in a new water tank in the Kachina area to increase water storage capacity and pressure to support new development and improve the water supply in the event of a fire.

· Equipment and Training. The Village's Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan and the Comprehensive Plan – Community Service and Natural Hazards Elements - call for purchasing additional equipment to improve fire-fighting response and capacity. The VTSVVFD conducts hose testing and pump testing to ensure proper operations of equipment.

Increase in water storage by 250,000 gallons. A Water Master Plan has been completed for our water system in partnership with Taos Ski Valley, Inc

- The Kachina water tank installed/finished, August 27, 2020

-How will it help the Village?

- Increase in water storage by 250,000 gallons. The previous tank storage capacity was 500,000 gallons (two – 250,000 gallons)
- Created the High Blue water pressure zone which has increased the pressure from 35 psi to over 120 psi in this area.

The Village received its first ISO rating in 1997 then again in May, 2015. The ISO rating went from an 8 to a 6 between 1997 and 2015. ISO has set a goal of surveying every department every three to five years. The ISO rating is strictly applicable to the capacity to fight a structure fire versus a wildfire.

The current ISO rating is 5, the next ISO rating updating is scheduled for 2023.

OBJECTIVE #9 - EVALUATE EXISTING ORDINANCES AND BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS AND UPDATE THEM TO INCREASE FIRE PROTECTION STANDARDS.

Individual property owners are responsible for creating defensible space around their own property when they apply for a building permit, but it does not guarantee that a neighbor will take the same responsibility on undeveloped property. Several subdivisions have been developed with small lots and narrow setbacks between buildings. Although building codes provide minimum separation distances between buildings, it does not guarantee that a fire will not migrate from one lot to an adjacent structure.

Additional regulations may be imposed to require the property owner to create defensible space prior to issuing a building permit. The Planning & Zoning will need to decide at what level of investment in new construction will legally justify the added cost of creating defensible space. For example, will a permit application for a new deck or bedroom addition trigger the defensible space requirement or does the building permit have to be for a new residence to trigger the requirement? Does an existing residence or commercial building get “grandfathered” or do all property owners have to create defensible space within a specific timeframe of the Village approving the new regulation? Alternatively, the Village may require the creation of defensible space of only those properties that have received a high or extremely high-risk rating, allowing for appeals and alternative assessments and proposed treatments. The Village may redefine the WUI boundary and require the creation defensible space within the WUI only instead of a “one regulation fits all” approach. Because retrofitting an existing building can be very expense (e.g. – replace a new roof with fire resistant materials), perhaps a new regulation would apply only to clearing the vegetation surrounding the building and not apply to building retrofits. The Village may consider a full or partial waiver of building permit fees for certain types of new construction as an incentive for retrofitting existing buildings to become more fire resistant. Regardless of the level of regulation and the approach to introducing new regulations to the community, the level of regulation must be appropriate for the level risk.

The Firewise Board, the Village Council and the Planning & Zoning Commission will provide educational outreach and incentives prior to entertaining mandatory requirements. Local leaders should ask themselves prior to entertaining any new regulation, "Is the new regulation legal?" then they should ask themselves "Is the new regulation politically acceptable" in the community. Just because a regulation is legal does not mean that it will be accepted and implemented in the community.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Firewise Board will be primarily responsible for monitoring the progress toward implementing the objectives and accomplishing the goal of the CWPP. Members of the Village staff, the VTSVVFD, the Planning & Zoning Commission and Village Council will also evaluate the effectiveness and accomplishments of the CWPP. Accomplishing each objective will undoubtedly take more than five years; therefore, the Village will need to update the CWPP within five years of its approval. Each objective of the CWPP will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and any progress documented for the CWPP update. Monitoring the implementation of the CWPP will also be based on the following checklist of questions:

a. Did a wildfire ignite and how was the CWPP used to help prepare and respond?

b. Was the risk assessments of private property updated?

c. How many forest fuel treatments were completed?

d. Were any new land developments approved in the WUI? What wildfire prevention techniques were used in the development's design?

e. Did the Village complete any infrastructure improvements that increase firefighting capabilities? Were any new sirens installed and tested?

f. Did the Village test the Safe Alert program?

g. Is any new mapping data available? How can it inform the location, type, or priorities for forest fuel treatment areas?

h. Can the Village reduce the fire risk rating from high to moderate?

i. Are there any new collaborators that can contribute to the updated CWPP?

j. What level of collaboration that took place since the last CWPP was adopted?

k. What public education and outreach activities that took place since the last CWPP was adopted?

l. Have any fuel treatment practices been made available that would amend the proposed priorities or treatments? Are there any new scientific discoveries of wildfire behavior that would amend the CWPP?

Any forest fuel treatments will require maintenance and evaluation. Any accumulated ground fuels and "litter" should be burned (e.g. – broadcast burning) and remaining tress should be pruned.

OBJECTIVES	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Deliverables & Indicators of Success	Potential Funding Sources
#1 – Public education opportunities	Firewise Board Village Staff VTSVVFD	Funding for materials · Coordination and planning for events · Grant applications · Technical assistance · Political support for code amendments · Staff time	· The number of presentations, hand-outs, education days and public events. · The number of properties treated for defensible space and structures improved to minimize ignitability. · The number of grants provided.	· Village · TSWCD · TITLE III Forest Service Reserves · NFL · Forestry Division - Urban and Community Forestry Program · Forestry Division - Forest Legacy · Land Conservation Tax Credits · National Forest Foundation · Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program · Wildland Urban Interface Community and Rural Fire Assistance · Natural Resources Conservation Service - Emergency Watershed Protection Program · The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and American International Group, Inc. (AIG)
#2 – REDUCE FOREST FUELS WITH RECOMMENDED TREATMENTS AND ON-	· Firewise Board · Village Staff · USFS · TSV, INC.	Funding · Grant applications · Identification of utilization of wood products · National Environmental Policy clearances ·	· The acres of fuel treatments completed.	USFS · TSWCD · Rio Grande Water Fund · Conservation Partnership · New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps

GOING MAINTENANCE.		Education and cooperation with private property owners · Staff time		· Hazardous Fuels Treatments on Non-Federal Lands · Forestry Division – Wildland-Urban Interface · Forestry Division - Forest Health Initiative · Collaborative Forest Restoration Program · Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund · Stewardship Contracting · National Forest Foundation · Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program · Wildland Urban Interface Community and Rural Fire Assistance · Natural Resources Conservation Service - Emergency Watershed Protection Program · Chiefs' Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership · The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and American International Group, Inc. (AIG)