**2021 Enchanted Forest Estates CWPP Committee Yearly Wrap Up Report**

* CWPP committee notified property owners of the following by email and neighborhood HOA meetings:
	+ 2020 Enchanted Forest Estates CWPP Committee Yearly Wrap Up Report
	+ Quarterly requests for resident mitigation hours & costs reporting
	+ Winter Fire Tips, Avoiding Winter Home Fires
	+ Snow Shedding tips for gas lines (winter safety)
	+ Virtual National Wildfire Preparedness Day with Covid in mind via WAP (Wildfire Adaptive Partnership) online seminars. EFE CWPP community events were again cancelled in 2021 due to the pandemic that continued in the country & La Plata County.
	+ Reminders to track mitigation hours
	+ Link to CSU pamphlet: Protect Your Home, Property & Forest from Wildfire <https://csfs.colostate.edu/media/sites/22/2021/04/2021_CSFS_HIZGuide_Web.pdf>
	+ Health Alert regarding smoke in the air from western wildfires drifting into SW Colo
	+ Link to La Plata County Emergency Fire Restrictions website to keep up with fire ban status in the county
	+ Grant announcement for 2021 Skyline Dr. mitigation project
	+ Notifications, reminders, bid info and details re: the Skyline Dr. Right-of-Way Fuels Mitigation Project with Fire Smart contractor Jon Westrup (multiple emails including but not limited to: invite to meet the contractor on initial visit to plan project details, flagging requests for private property owners for trees they wish to keep/ok to cut, safety requests when driving, hiking, walking or recreating in or near the sawyer crews during the project and a Neighborhood to Neighbor buddy system designed to get cut rounds cleared from project area (majority of contact requests handled by committee), etc.
	+ Code Red Signup Info/Reminder (also posted at middle entrance mailbox message board)
	+ Mitigation Contractors for Hire Link to WAP/CSFS list of local contractors: <https://www.wildfireadapted.org/contractors-list>
	+ Property Wildland Fuels and Home Ignition Site Assessments reminder w/links to UPRFPD, CSFS & WAP
	+ Importance of blue reflective address signing for every lot, especially lots with structures\*\*
	+ Neighborhood Chipper Day & reminders (1 day this year due to financial constraints with hiring a private contractor & unavailability of UPRFPD crews due to western wildland fires) Chipper Day was 9.15.2021 by Upper Pine Fire Protection District crews
	+ WAP Personal Chipper Rental Rebate availability
	+ Multiple WAP emails, links & forwarded emails to encourage property owners to get involved as WAP Ambassadors &/or with the EFE CWPP committee and the educational opportunities re: Wildfire Science, Safety, and Resources, etc. that are available via this resource
	+ Links to Wildfire Adaptive Partnership website and encouragement to keep up to date with their announcements.
	+ Burn Permit Information w/link & photos of sample “chipper ready” slash piles (oak brush & evergreen)
	+ Slash pile tips if planning to burn (size limits and recommended “safe” locations)
	+ Reminder to find EFE CWPP on EFE website: <https://enchantedforestestates.org/cwpp>
	+ Vallecito Slash Depot Days Information for the 3 weekends avail (also posted at mailbox message board at EFE center entrance message board)
	+ CWPP document update status
	+ Invite to join CWPP committee
	+ Reminder to burn slash piles in winter
	+ Electrical line dangers in winter with wind events, falling trees & snow loads
	+ **Requests for additional committee members since Amy Paylor and Jan Pielech would like to step back from the committee and the committee needs some new, fresh perspectives and energy**
* ***The EFE CWPP Committee’s big news and accomplishments for 2021 (despite the continuation of cancelled community CWPP Committee events/work days due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns) were the amazing amount of work done by residents on their own properties. Many worked on their own properties and some hired private contractors to work on their lots, although many did not report hours or costs to the committee.***

**Secondly, and most importantly, the committee’s single largest accomplishment was the Right-of-Way Fuels Mitigation project that ran the length of Skyline Dr and has a direct impact on 50 property owners, with further reaching impacts for all property owners in case of neighborhood-wide evacuations and/or wildfires. The committee thanks and appreciates the support of the EFE Board of Directors in accomplishing this huge annual goal for the safety of the neighborhood and to the expectations of our CWPP agency partners and looks forward to continued support from the neighborhood to complete all right of ways within the community in 2022 and beyond.**

Committee member Jan Pielech worked directly with Fire Smart contractor Jon Westrup during the entire process of the mitigation project. Jan also worked with Ashley Downing, Executive Director, Wildfire Adapted Partnership and in partnership with BLM (Bureau of Land Management) to secure a matching grant (with the EFE BOD commitment of $10,000) to secure the bid/contract with Fire Smart to complete the Skyline Dr. right-of-way mitigation goal. The goal consisted of thinning out trees and clearing ground fuels to Upper Pine River Fire Protection District’s Chief Evan’s expectations. The Fire Chief has grave concerns regarding ingress and egress to EFE properties due to the neighborhood’s narrow roads, steep terrain and high fuel density loads, both for the purposes of evacuating residents and sending crews into the subdivision in the event of a wildfire starting in/threatening the neighborhood. The Skyline Dr. project was earmarked as the priority project due to the reasons above, with priority in 2021. In the last 3 years there have been 4 fire starts, 3 across county road 240 (2 on the northern, south-facing ridge adjacent to Texas Creek or county rd. 245). ***These fire starts have Upper Pine on high alert due to the danger they pose to EFE and ‘Tween Lakes subdivisions***.

* Jan also worked to submit the annual application for National FireWise Neighborhood status. The committee is pleased to announce that with the limited community mitigation hours (less than ½ of 2020 reporting), and the large neighborhood financial investment the EFE BOD made to mitigate the entire length of the Skyline Dr. right-of-way in 2021, EFE was able to secure FireWise status for a 3rd year. This national recognition is included in our CWPP document and is a goal to maintain going forward. The national award can be viewed at FireWise.org:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Firewise-USA-Resources/Firewise-USA-sites/State-listing-of-participants>

* Although there were no community work days in 2021 again due to Covid-19 virus concerns, Amy Paylor and Jan & Joe Pielech worked to prepare for the Skyline Dr. mitigation project. As per the contractor’s initial request, and with a vacant property owner’s permission, a small overgrown access point to the main Skyline Dr. drainage area on the tight curve on lower Skyline Dr. (same area that a previous mitigation project had accessed the specific property with) was thinned out. This preliminary work was done to help contractor crews access fuels from below the hairpin curve, if they had had the time and funding to mitigate fuels/a little deeper into the drainage. Due to limited funds and thus time constraints during the Skyline Dr. project, the crews did not end up using this access and did not get as deep into the ravine as they would have liked. The committee is grateful to the property owners who worked on behalf of the entire EFE community on their own lots and to help make the Skyline Dr. mitigation project a success! THANK YOU especially to Joe and Jan for your time and efforts on behalf of the community! 😊
* Committee members Amy and Jan checked in on the status of the EFE CWPP 5-year document update (Enchanted Forest Estates Community Wildfire Protection Plan). The EFE CWPP document (found on our EFE website: <https://enchantedforestestates.org/cwpp> and at the Colorado State Forest Service’s website: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/media/sites/22/2015/09/EnchantedForestCWPP-FINAL-9-24-15.pdf> ) , accompanying photo album and historical documents from the last 5 years for the 5-year required update had been submitted in late 2020 for approval. The CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) requires an ongoing 5-year update for neighborhood accountability, CWPP “active” status, National Neighborhood Firewise status and keeps EFE eligible to apply for fuels mitigation grants should they become available. Agency partners include: \*\*Colorado State Forest Service’s District Forester, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District’s Fire Chief, La Plata County Office of Emergency Management’s (OEM) Director and EFE HOA’s Board President. Once the updated CWPP document has been approved by all parties mentioned above, it will also be updated on the EFE and CSFS websites for your perusal. *The electronic copy of the CWPP is currently still under review with agency partners who will sign off on the document, eventually*. The updated document is currently undergoing final revisions and approval under the primary direction of the CSFS Supervisory Forester of Forest Planning & Implementation, Mark Loveall, located at the Durango CSFS office.
* In October and early November 2021, the CWPP committee worked with the EFE Road Committee to have road signing replaced/moved as per Chief Evan’s requests previously. The Enchanted Forest Dr. sign at the lower Enchanted Forest Dr. entrance (completely missing due to winter La Plata County plowing?) was replaced. Also, the dead-end signing for Mountain Court was moved back further on Mountain Court so as not to confuse lower Enchanted Forest Dr and Mountain Court as evacuation routes to CR 240. The committee thanks the Road Committee for their diligence in getting these street signing concerns addressed for the safety of all residents.
* **Committee Reminders for the 2022 Fuels Mitigation and Wildfire Season**

**Blue Reflective Street Address signing**

Blue reflective street signing is still a goal of the CWPP Committee for 100% off all lots in EFE. The concern continues to be Upper Pine Fire Department’s concern in their ability to respond to an emergency within the neighborhood quickly.  The reasons given by the fire department for having this reflective blue signing at driveway entrances and ***clearly visible to oncoming traffic*** are as follows:

1) Firefighters and emergency responders are trained to look for these address markers specifically when out on a call.

2) During wildfire season firefighting crews from neighboring fire districts, counties, states and assisting agencies (BLM, CSFS, La Plata County EOM responders, etc.) are also trained to look for these address signs specifically when partnering with our local fire department

3) These signs are more easily seen in the dark, in heavy smoke and/or snow fall than other signing

4) ***Multiple fatalities have resulted in our Upper Pine fire district due to the inability of responders to locate a call address (fatalities include a choking child, stroke victims, heart attack victims, etc.)***

Because these specific blue reflective address signs are so critical to emergency responders the CWPP committee requests signs be relocated if not easily seen from the road, or be installed as soon as possible if a lot is not signed, at the request of our local emergency responders. If a property owner does not have one of these signs posted (and **vacant lots are included)** should a lightning fire start on any lot it will be difficult to report the fire.

The Blue Reflective Address signs can be purchased at:

La Plata County Planning & Building Department

211 Rock Point Dr. Durango Tech Center, Durango, CO 970.382.6251 Hrs: Mon-Fri   8am-5pm (not avail 1-2) Cost:   $15

Upper Pine has requested the blue reflective signs be posted**:**

a.  8-10 feet from the ground (emergency search lights are mounted high on the vehicles)

b.  so as to be easily seen to oncoming traffic (some property owners have purchased and installed 2 signs pointing in opposite directions & visible to oncoming traffic coming from different directions) and unobstructed by tree branches, bushes, snow plow drifts, etc.

d.  located at your driveway entrance

***\*\*Please do NOT attach any signing to utility poles or equipment (private property of utility companies and an electrical and life-threatening danger to utility crews needing access to the poles and equipment)***



**CODE RED Residential Signups**

Upper Pine continues to be concerned that not all property owners are signed up for La Plata County’s Code Red Emergency Notification System. **\*\*\*Signing up for CODE RED is critically important!!** It is every property owner’s only notification to wildfire pre-evacuation and evacuation notifications.

**PLEASE, EVERYONE (including vacant lot owners\*) signup immediately at this La Plata County CO link:**

<https://www.co.laplata.co.us/divisions/administration/oem_search_and_rescue.php#:~:text=La%20Plata%20County's%20emergency%20notification,t%20have%20a%20land%20line>.

**Code Red** ***notifications may be your only notification*** that wildfire or flooding is threatening and/or occurring in our neighborhood and WILL impact your safety and your property.

* Residents and property owners please be aware of the HOA’s CWPP information on the neighborhood website and EFE Facebook page. The committee has its own webpage with information and links specific to wildland fuels mitigation, evacuation information, etc. (<https://enchantedforestestates.org/cwpp>) The Facebook group is a closed group that can be joined by property owners via approval by the EFE HOA Facebook contact Peggy Lewis <https://www.facebook.com/groups/237667986993523/>
* **Mitigation Hours Reported in 2021:** \*\*Half the hours (but increased expenses) were reported by individual property owners in 2021 than in 2020. The bulk of expense reporting was due to the Skyline Dr. mitigation project in 2021.

**Enchanted Forest Estates 2021 Fire Mitigation Hours (through 12.31.2021)**

**\*\*\*Extra LOW Reporting this year**

**2021** **Mitigation Hrs.** **CWPP Hrs.** **COST** **Bio-Mass cubic yards**

1st qtr. 123 30 $1042.00 750

2nd qtr. 405 51 $196.00 0

3rd qtr. 202 0 $5750.00 0

4th qtr. 156 34 $1267.00 0

YTD TOTAL 886 115 $8255.00 750

**COMBINED TOTALs 1001 $8255.00 750**

**\*\*\*$10,000.00 For EFE HOA investment for Skyline Dr. Mitigation Project in June 2021 with $8,840 (and in-kind resident mitigation hours for 2021 season) grant match from WAP/BLM**

**The EFE CWPP committee enrollment/participation is 2 committee members but is always welcoming more property owners and residents to join. The CWPP committee is a primarily seasonal committee and is always looking for participants to help us out and/or to take over the committee responsibilities, regardless of your “seasonality status”. 😊**

Respectfully submitted by your EFE CWPP Committee Members,

Amy Paylor, Wildfire Adaptive Partnership (WAP) Ambassador Jan Pielech (WAP Ambassador)