

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

for jurisdictions and stakeholders located within the

Greater Ruidoso Area Wildland Urban Interface

In accordance with the requirements and guidelines set forth in the *Healthy Forest Restoration Act* of 2003, the land management agencies and entities represented below, have agreed to address the challenges of forest health and wildfire hazard risk reduction within the jurisdictions of the *Greater Ruidoso Area Wildland Urban Interface Working Group*. This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) represents a collaborative effort to address hazard mitigation, structure protection, and community preparedness.

COLLABORATION

Formal community-based forest planning and prioritization began in November of 2000 with the formation of the *Greater Ruidoso Area Wildland Urban Interface Working Group*. (formerly the Ruidoso Willand Urban Interface Group) **Each month, state, local, tribal, and federal agencies, in addition to fire departments, private landowners, insurers, and local businesses convene. The group discusses, fire hazard mitigation and fire protection planning projects that are focused in the established priority areas.** The collaborative group has identified numerous values at risk, including public safety, community infrastructure, economics, real estate, watershed productivity, cultural resources and values, recreational opportunities, woody products, wildlife habitat, ecosystem health, aesthetics, and historical sites. In addition, the group acts as a forum to share information regarding grant opportunities, public awareness themes, and system resources such as forest contractors and woody materials utilization enterprises.

Partners in the *Greater Ruidoso Area Wildland Urban Interface Working Group* include **Bureau of Indian Affairs Mescalero Agency, Lincoln National Forest, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, EMNRD Forestry Division, New Mexico State Land Office, New Mexico Environment Department, Northern Arizona University Ecological Restoration Institute, County of Lincoln, Village of Ruidoso, Ruidoso Fire**

Department, Mescalero Apache Tribe, City of Ruidoso Downs, City of Alamogordo, Lincoln County Emergency Services, Ruidoso Downs Volunteer Fire Department, Bonito Volunteer Fire Department, Glencoe/Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Department, Nogal Volunteer Fire Department, South Central Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council, Upper Hondo Soil and Water Conservation District, Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority, Mescalero Forest Products, SBS Wood Shavings, Sierra Contracting & Composting, City Bank New Mexico, Zia Natural Gas, High Country Insurance, KBUY/KWES Radio, Ruidoso News, Alto Lakes Golf & Country Club, Sun Valley Sanitation District, Ranches of Sontera Homeowners Association, additional homeowners associations, local, state and federal elected officials and various thinning contractors.

<p>PRIORITIZED FUEL REDUCTION</p>
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As indicated on the attached map, the *Greater Ruidoso Area Wildland Urban Interface Working Group* has established geographical boundaries where priorities and treatments are being applied. **The map is a multi-jurisdictional product showing the collaborations of planning and implementation. Priorities are further defined by location in the southwest portion of the Wildland Urban Interface based on group consensus considering historic wind directions during fire season.** Wildfire entering the Wildland Urban Interface from the southwest during a high wind event is the worst-case scenario. Each individual community within the Wildland Urban Interface will seek funding and implement projects within their jurisdiction. Emphasis will be placed on prioritizing treatable forest areas located on the southwest side of jurisdictions, while all high hazard forest areas, regardless of location, will eventually be considered for treatment. Prioritization of forest health and watershed management issues will be addressed when considering areas for treatment, such as acres affected or susceptible to insect and disease outbreaks.

Approximately 164,000 acres are encompassed within the Greater Ruidoso Area Wildland Urban Interface including two incorporated communities, numerous unincorporated communities, and federal, private, municipal, state trust, and tribal lands.

Treatment goals recognize the need for various management objectives within the different land owning agencies and entities. **Individual treatment prescriptions will vary, but the members of the group have agreed upon general overarching treatment goals. They are to:**

1. **Encourage or Establish and Implement catastrophic fire mitigation measures on public, private, state, and tribal lands utilizing the best available science regarding wildfire hazard reduction.**
2. **Restore and monitor forest ecosystems and watersheds to maintain forest health and protect communities.**
3. **Engage private enterprise by supporting existing and emerging forest-based economic development.**
4. **Maintain the high quality of life in forest areas while sustaining and nurturing real estate and tourism-based economies.**

Each community will build their own “piece of the puzzle,” with regard to fuels management projects, based on available resources including grant opportunities and collaborations with local, state and federal agencies.

<p>TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY</p>
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In addition to fuels management measures, the *Greater Ruidoso Area Wildland Urban Interface Working Group* recognizes the need to provide guidelines and recommendations to homeowners and communities within the Wildland Urban Interface to reduce the potential of structural ignitability, through public awareness campaigns such as Firewise Workshops. **The group recommends implementation of programs or methods that assess structural ignitability by use of a “fire hazard rating form” similar to examples provided in the URBAN WILDLAND INTERFACE CODE created by the International Fire Code Institute.** Attached is the fire hazard rating form included in the Village of Ruidoso Ordinance 2004-02. This form can be amended as needed for specific needs of the communities within the Wiland Urban Interface.

“We the undersigned endorse and support the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:”

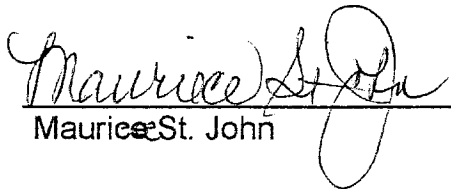
Village of Ruidoso

(See Attached Resolution)

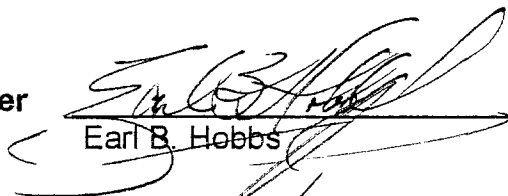
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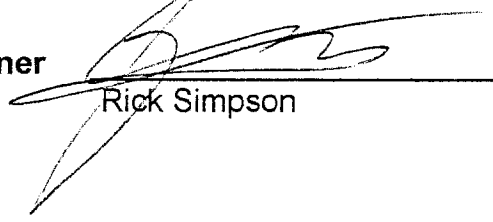
Lincoln County

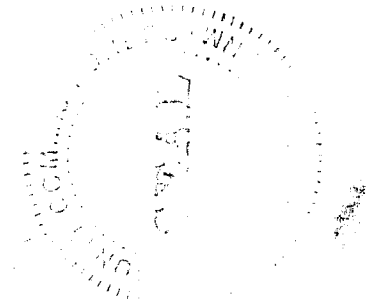
Commissioner 
Rex Wilson date

Commissioner  10-19-04
Maurice St. John date

Commissioner _____
Leo Martinez date

Commissioner 
Earl B. Hobbs date

Commissioner 
Rick Simpson date



“We the undersigned endorse and support the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:”

New Mexico Forestry Division:

Capitan District Forester

Barbara E. Luna

date

Fire Departments:

Lincoln Co. Emergency Services:

William Martin

date

For:

Bonito Fire Volunteer Fire Department

Glencoe/PaloVerde Volunteer Fire Department

Nogal Volunteer Fire Department

Municipal Fire Department Chiefs:

Ruidoso Fire Department

Virgil Reynolds

date

**Ruidoso Downs Fire Department
Department of Public Safety**

Robert Logan

date

“We the undersigned endorse and support the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:”

Unincorporated Communities:

Alto Lakes Golf & Country Club

Roy Reynolds date

Ranches of Sontera

date

Sun Valley Sanitation District

date

“We the undersigned support the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:”

Collaborating Agencies

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Bernie Ryan date

**Bureau of Land Management
Pecos District**

Doug Berger date

**Lincoln National Forest
Smokey Bear Ranger District**

Buck Sanchez date

New Mexico State Land Office

Jim Norwick date

Supporting Stakeholders:

Natural Resources Conservation Service

New Mexico Environment Department

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NAU Ecological Restoration Institute

City of Alamogordo

South Central Mountain RC&D

Upper Hondo SWCD

Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority

Mescalero Forest Products

SBS Wood Shavings

Sierra Contraction & Composting

City Bank New Mexico

Zia Natural Gas

High Country Insurance

KBUY/KWES Radio

Ruidoso News

Southeastern NM Economic Development District

Eastern New Mexico University, Ruidoso

APPENDIX DOCUMENTS (CHECKLIST):

- 1. WUI MAP**
- 2. VILLAGE OF RUIDOSO FIRE HANDLING AND SAFETY ORDINANCES**
- 3. WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING FORM (IGNITABILITY)**
- 4. NM COMMUNITIES AT RISK ASSESSMENT PLAN**
- 5. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS CONSIDERATIONS (ERI)**
- 6. FIRE RESEARCH DATA**
- 7. WATERSHED RESEARCH DATA**
- 8. LIST OF PARTNERS (ROSTER)**
- 9. GLOSSARY OF TERMS**