

Colorado Springs Wildfire Mitigation

“Sharing the Responsibility”



CSFD Wildfire Mitigation

- Wildfire Hazard Risk Assessment
- Education and Outreach
- Fuels Management
- Development Review



CSFD Wildfire Mitigation

- Fire Behavior Analysis
- Fire Danger, Burn Ban and Fire Restrictions
- Volunteer Program
- Grants



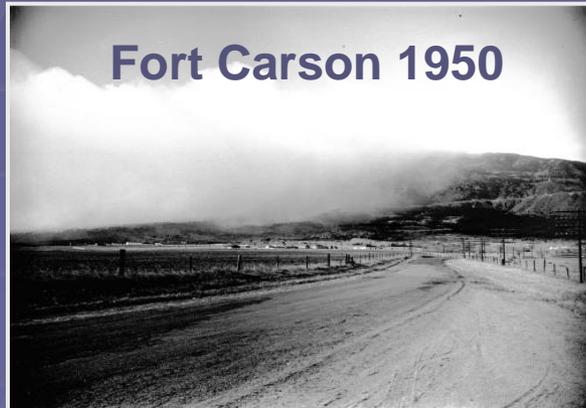
Fire History



Hayman Fire 2002

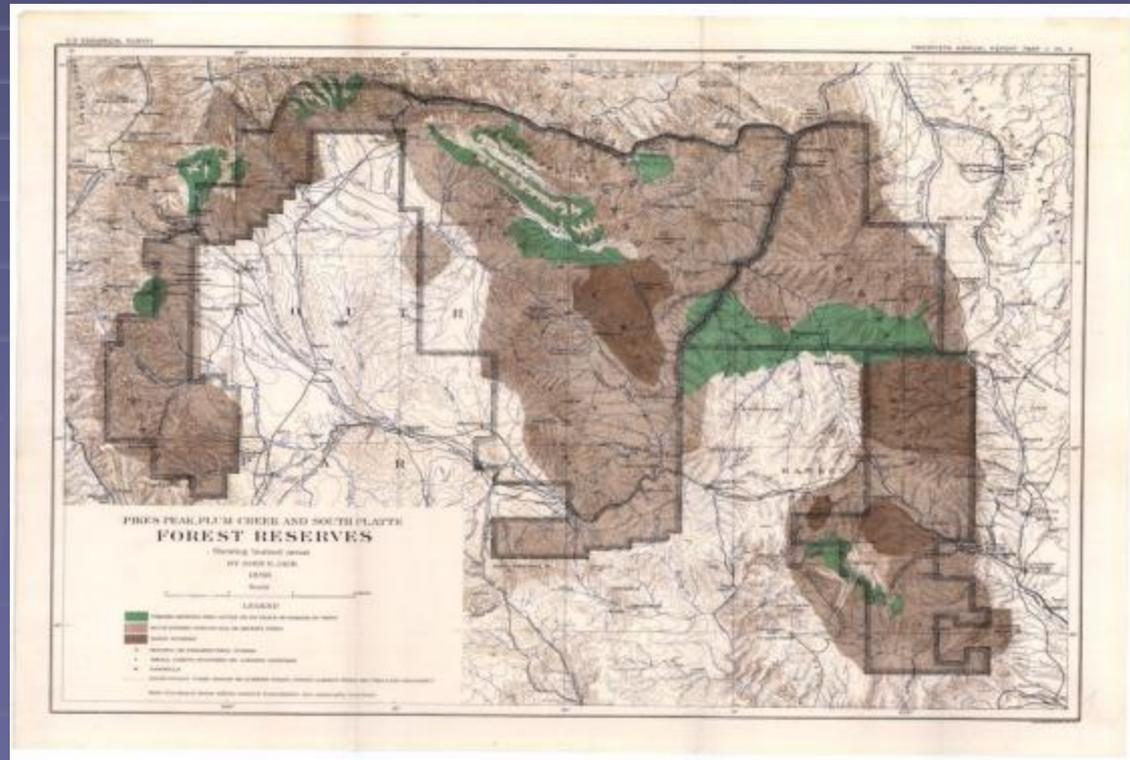


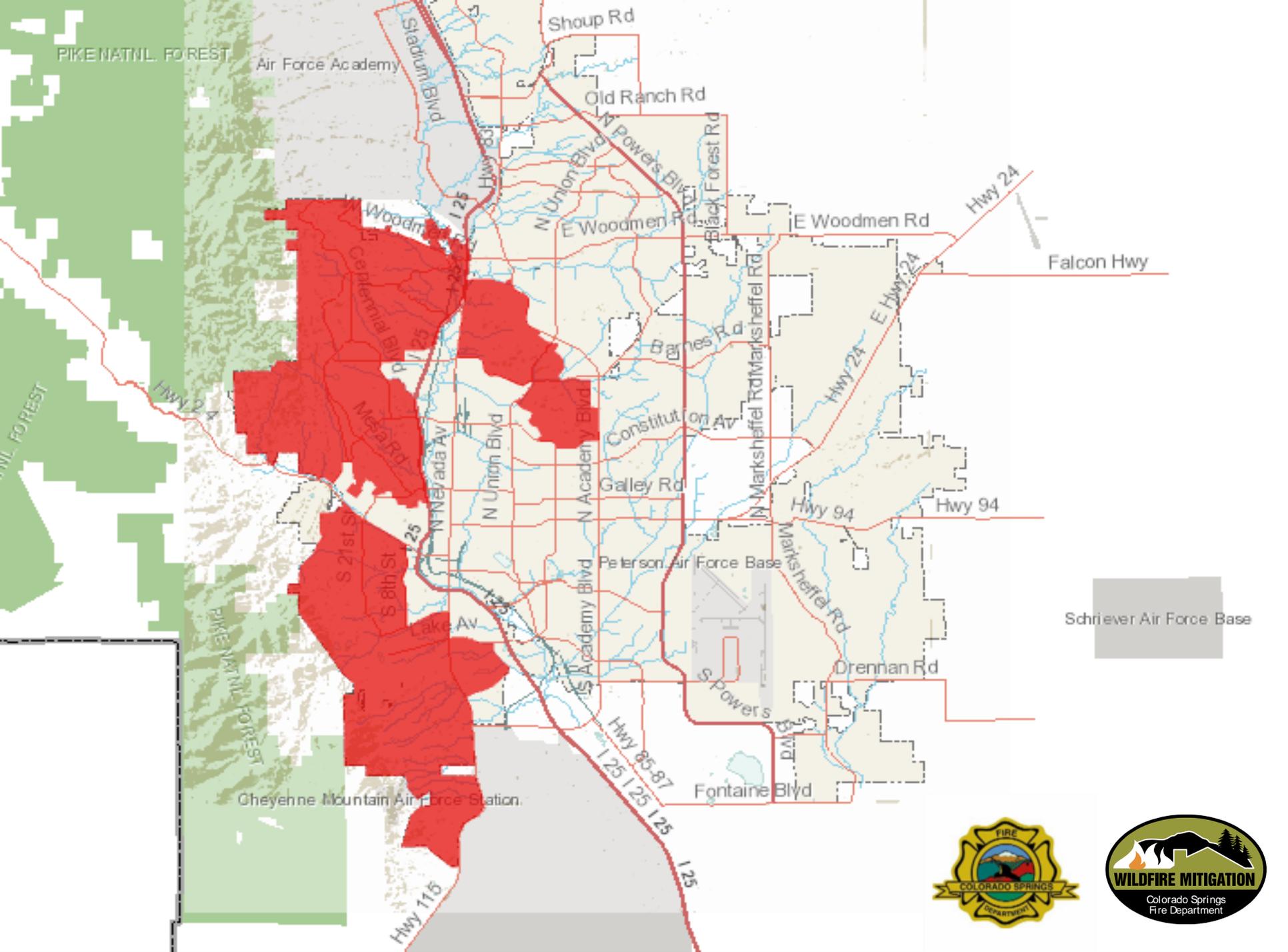
Mason Gulch 2005



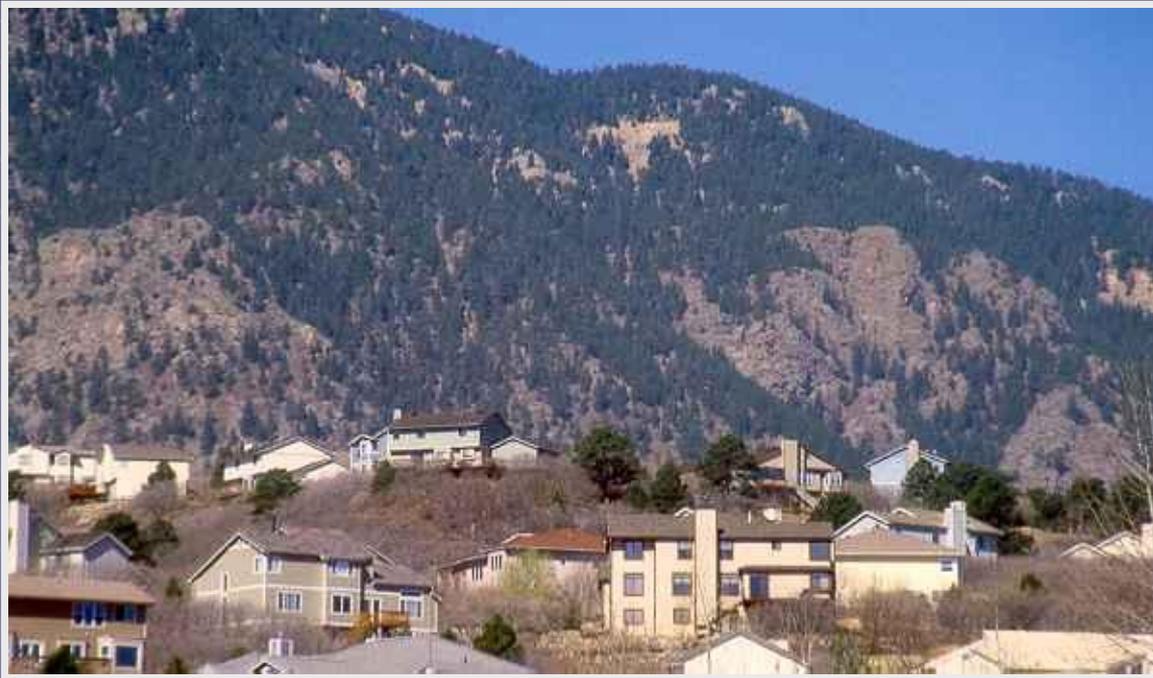
Fort Carson 1950

- Big Burn of 1854
- Westwood Fire 2005
- Incline Fire 2007
- Fort Carson Fire 2008



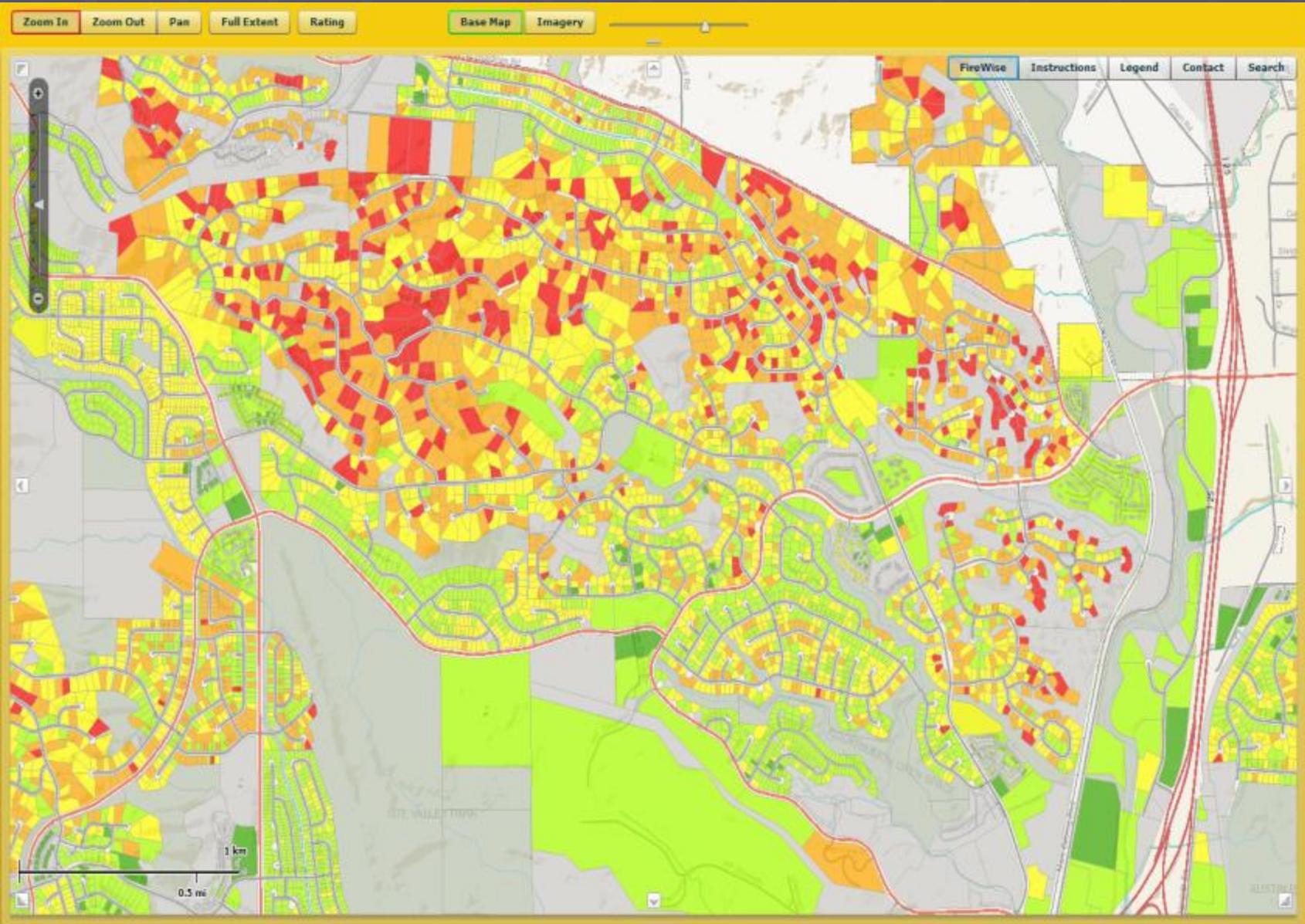


Wildfire Hazard Risk Assessment



- WHINFOE
- Assessment process
- GIS
- Weighted Values

Wildfire Hazard Risk Assessment



Education and Outreach

- Interactive website
- Neighborhood meetings
- On-site consultations
- Champion recognition



Fuels Management

- Stewardship
- Common areas
- Open spaces
- Ownership
- City asset at risk



Fuels Management

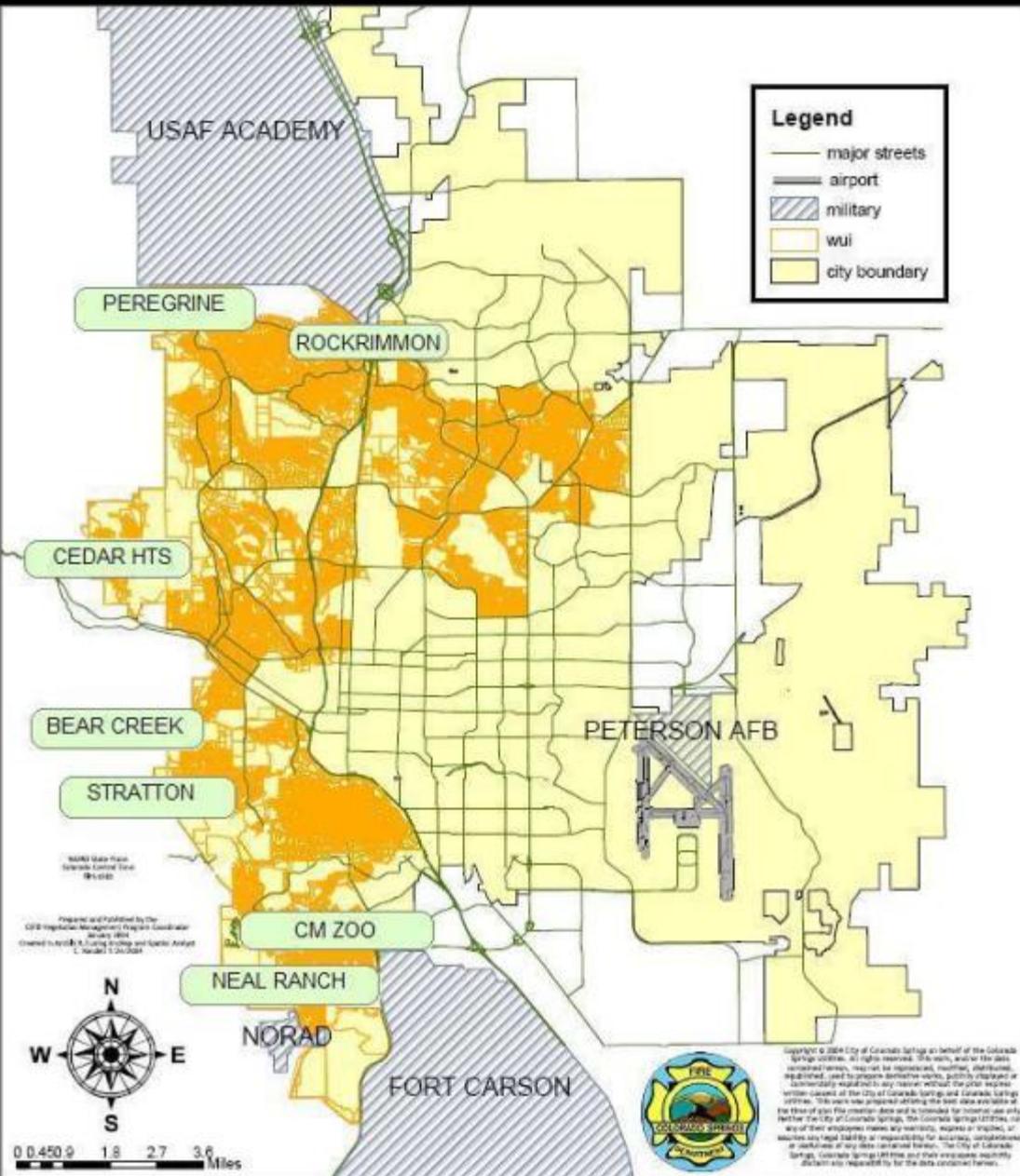
- Contracting and Seasonal Labor
- Licensed and Insured
- Arborists
- Hand thinning and mechanized treatment
- Volunteers



Colorado Springs Fire Department
Wildland Fire Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects

Project Areas

- Total Target: 1000-1400 acres/yr
- Cost per acre from \$800 - \$2500/acre
- 24% of the City lives in the Wildland Urban Interface 35,360 addresses
- Est. population in the WUI = 91,200 (COS Pop. 380k)



Grants and Contract Administration

- Total grants over \$2.7 million in federal and state grants
- Sharing the Responsibility
- City contracting



Development Review

- Front end of Development
- Hillside Ordinance
- Building Characteristics
“Engineer a Solution”
- Citywide Class A Roofing Ordinance

(* 55,209 roofs changed out to Class A since 2003)

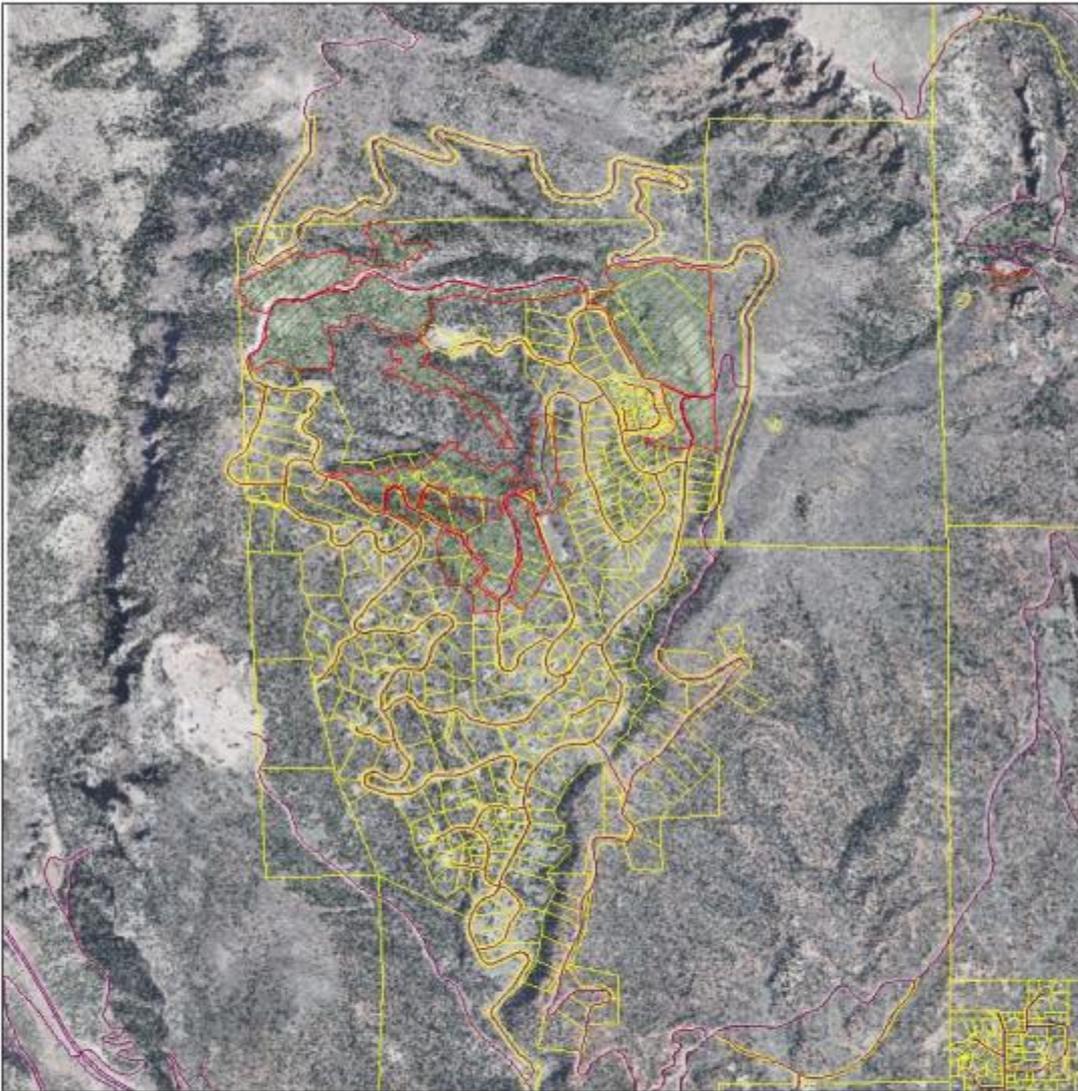


Wildland Fire SME



- Fire Behavior Analysis
- Monitor Fuel Moisture and Fire Wx for FIRE DANGER
- Hazardous Activity Permit for Rx Burn (Agency)

Wildfire Mitigation: Cedar Heights



0 412 5825 1,650 2,475 Feet



- Roads
- ▨ Mitigation Areas
- ▭ Parcel Boundaries



Mason Gulch Fire
July, 2005
Fremont County, CO

Fire Behavior - Untreated Gambel oak and Ponderosa pine
High intensity crown fire, 100% stand mortality



Mason Gulch Fire
Fremont County, CO
July, 2005

Fire Behavior - Treated Area
Gambel oak, Ponderosa Pine
Low intensity, surface fire



Mason Gulch Fire
July, 2005
Fremont County, CO

Treated area, Post-burn
Scorching, Less than 25% stand mortality

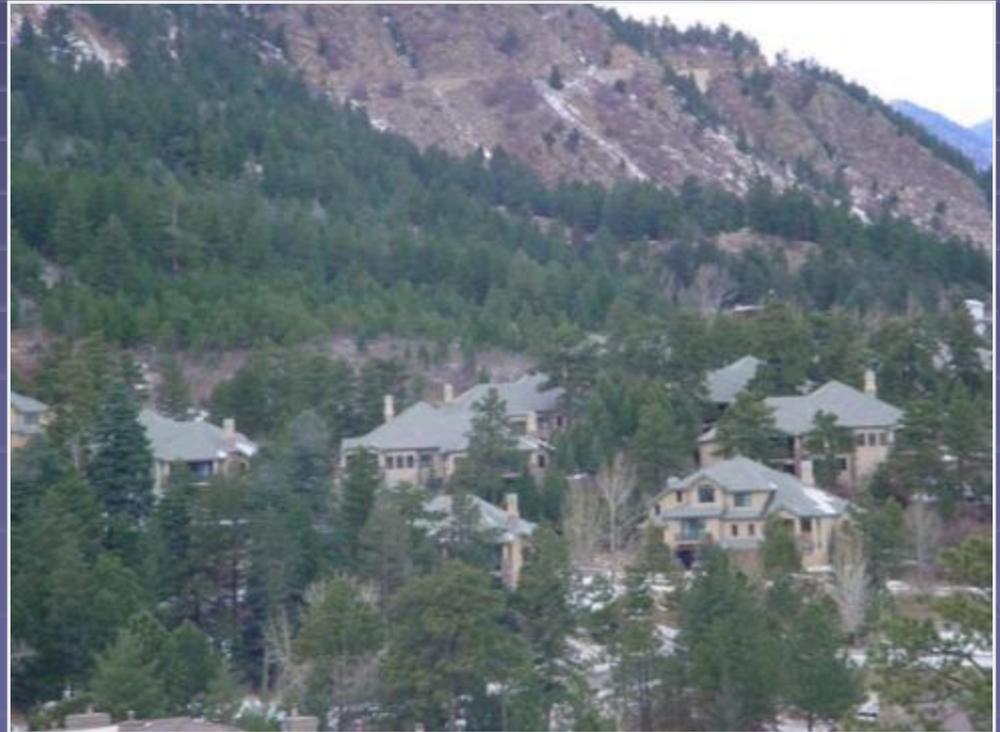
Lessons Learned

- True Wildland URBAN Interface
- Adult vs. Child Education
- Enforcement vs. Education
- Internal Customers (DRE, Planning, City Forestry, Operations)



Lessons Learned

- Motivational factors
- Detractors can be your champions
- Insurance Companies
- Covenants
- Developers and Realtors



Planning

- CWPP
- Senior / Special assistance
- Educational Program to address Grassfires
- Introduce Rx fire
- Incident updates / program information (using social media sites)
- Structural Retrofit Project (MSF)

Wildfire Mitigation Structural Retrofit



- Mt St Francis Nursing Center
- 24/7 nursing facility, patients
- Shelter v. Evacuation
- Single pane, wooden frame windows
- Flame impingement & smoke
- Eligible for Nat'l Register of Historical Places

Collaboration

- El Paso County
- FEMA
- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- Colorado Division of Emergency Management
- Colorado State Forest Service
- University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- Mount Saint Francis



Level of Commitment

“Sharing the Responsibility”

- FEMA (FEDERAL)
- CDEM (STATE)
- CSFD (LOCAL)
- Property Owner (PRIVATE)

Contact Information

- <http://csfd.springsgov.com>
(CSFD Wildfire Risk Assessment map)

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