



**BLUE RIVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MONTH**

**Tuesday, June 17, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

**0110 Whispering Pines Circle, Blue River, CO**

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**Agenda**

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The public is welcome to attend the meeting either in person or via Zoom.

The Zoom link is available on the Town website:

<https://townofblueriver.colorado.gov/board-of-trustees>

Please note that seating at Town Hall is limited.

**Call to Order, Roll Call**

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

- I. Minutes
- II. Approval of Bills-\$51,537.39

**Communications to Trustees**

Citizens are welcome to provide in person comments on non-agenda items. Comments are limited to 5-minutes per speaker. Written communications for any non-agenda items have been distributed separately to the Board of Trustees.

- III. Communications

**New Business**

- IV. Hazard Mitigation Staff Report
- V. Approval of Spruce Creek Road Addendum for Culvert Repair-\$32,000

**Reports**

- VI. Mayor & Trustee Reports
- VII. Attorney Report
- VIII. Staff Reports

**Other Matters Brought Before the Trustees**

**Executive Session**

**Adjourn**



**BLUE RIVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**MONTH**

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

**0110 Whispering Pines Circle, Blue River, CO**

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**Minutes**

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**The public is welcome to attend the meeting either in person or via Zoom.**

**The Zoom link is available on the Town website:**

**<https://townofblueriver.colorado.gov/board-of-trustees>**

**Please note that seating at Town Hall is limited.**

**Call to Order, Roll Call**

Mayor Decicco called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Nick Decicco

Trustee Jonathon Heckman

Trustee Ted Slaughter

Trustee Barrie Stimson

Trustee Ben Stuckey

Trustee Jodie Willey

EXCUSED: Noah Hopkins

Also present: Town Manager Michelle Eddy; Town Attorney Bob Widner via Zoom.

**Work Session**

This Work Session is to discuss

**I. Discussion about Home Rule**

Attorney Widner provided information on Home Rule municipalities and the pros and cons of going home rule. He also discussed process. The Trustees had a discussion on opportunities and reasons to move towards home rule.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Decicco moved and Stimson seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**II. Minutes**

**III. Approval of Bills-\$56,980.05**

**Communications to Trustees**

Citizens are welcome to provide in person comments on non-agenda items. Comments are limited to 5-minutes per speaker. Written communications for any non-agenda items have been distributed separately to the Board of Trustees.

- Chris Daly, Lakeshore Loop-commented on short-term rentals in his neighborhood and the impacts on the full-time residents.
- Leah Lentz, Creek Side Drive- commented on the plowing concerning the road scraping of the road base and the upcoming contract.
- Dan Cleary, 0034 Rustic Terrace-commented on the plowing and the scraping of road base timing. Additional comments were provided on the discussion of home rule. He commented on clean up, landscaping, and weed control at the Tarn. He finally commented on the potential annexation discussion from April.

#### **IV. Plow Contract Public Comments**

#### **New Business**

#### **V. Elevated Health Presentation**

Sarah Dayton, Director of Strategic Operations & Development with Elevated Health gave a presentation of the organization formally known as Summit Community Care Clinic. She presented information on the need for a pediatric dentist as current dentist is retiring.

#### **VI. Plow Contract 2025-2026 Bids**

Mayor Decicco noted the plow contract was put out to bid per the request of the Board of Trustees. One bid was received from the current contractor in the amount of \$304,242 an increase of 16% from 2025.

- Noted the contract should reflect 3" versus 4".

Discussion on whether or not to rebid it again. Discussion on whether to cut the pack versus slashing and timing. Discussion of the contract and potential terms of a new contract.

Willey moved and Decicco seconded to approve renewing the contract with Highland Galloway with conditions to review fees and contract terms at a future meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Continuing Business**

#### **Reports**

#### **VII. Mayor & Trustee Reports**

Mayor- excited about Spruce Creek.  
Trustee Slaughter-reported the Wildfire Council reviewed defensible space grants.

#### **VIII. Attorney Report**

No report.

**IX. Staff Reports**

Manager Eddy reported on the safe streets grant with the county as well as updates on the tarn and the Spruce Creek Road project.

**Other Matters Brought Before the Trustees**

**Executive Session**

Executive session pursuant to CRS Section 31-6-402 (b) and (e) to receive legal advice and instruct negotiators concerning the status of an approximately 4 acre property adjacent to the town and the proposal to annex the property.

- X.** Executive session pursuant to CRS Section 31-6-402 (b) and (e) to receive legal advice and instruct negotiators concerning the status of an approximately 4 acre property adjacent to the town and the proposal to annex the property.

Willey moved to adjourn into executive session pursuant to CRS Section 24-6-402(b) and (e) to receive legal advice and instruct negotiators concerning the status of an approximately 4 acre property adjacent to the town and the proposal to annex the property at 6:40 p.m. Decicco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Stimson recused himself from the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Decicco moved and Slaughter seconded to adjourn out of executive session with no action taken and to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:18 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted:

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Michelle Eddy, MMC  
Town Clerk



**BLUE RIVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MONTH**

**Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

**8:00 AM**

**0110 Whispering Pines Circle, Blue River, CO**

**Minutes**

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**The public is welcome to attend the meeting either in person or via Zoom.**

**The Zoom link is available on the Town website:**

**<https://townofblueriver.colorado.gov/board-of-trustees>**

**Please note that seating at Town Hall is limited.**

**Call to Order, Roll Call**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

PRESENT: Mayor Nick Decicco

Trustee Noah Hopkins

Trustee Ted Slaughter

Trustee Barrie Stimson

Trustee Ben Stuckey

Trustee Jodie Willey

EXCUSED: Jonathon Heckman

Also present: Town Manager Michelle Eddy; Town Attorney Bob Widner

**8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**A. Reflect 2024 Accomplishments**

Spruce Creek Road

Speed limit reduction

Chain Station

Land Purchases

Trail connections

Setback regulations

Pothole Repairs

Hiring of a Code Ambassador

**B. Common Retreat Themes-8 minute discussion**

Document provided by Town Attorney Widner with rules and themes to help frame the retreat.

### C. Priority Setting

A world cafe session was held to identify challenges and priorities.

Challenges identified:

- Lot density/managing property development
- Roads/maintenance/drainage (plowing; culverts; spring run-off; bus stops; bike/walking path; shoulders)
- Short-term rentals
- Water resource management
- Wildfire Risk Awareness
- Code consistency/enforcement and enforcement equity
- Tarn management
- Public transit/safe access along Hwy 9
- Managing town growth outside of town limits

Priorities identified:

- Roads
- Property development
- Annexation
- Hwy 9 improvements
- Safe transit/access
- Blue River Trail
- Ordinance Enforcement
- Water study
- Short-term rental enforcement/education on expectations and code enforcement

Top priorities identified for 2025

#### 1. Roads

Goal Statement: Create a strategic multi-year roads plan to ensure there are safe high-quality roads throughout town.

#### 2. Property & Land Management

Goal Statement: Preserve community and environment through land use and development regulations.

#### 3. Short-term Rentals

Goal Statement: Preserve the balance of property owners/residents with the experience of the visitor by minimizing the impact on the community.

### **12:00 p.m.-Lunch**

### D. Working Session

#### 1. Code of Ethics

Attorney Widner reviewed options for developing and adopting a code of ethics and reasons the town should consider it. Discussion of the benefits of being home rule for the code of ethics as well as other benefits.

There was a review of liability and how the board should conduct business.

**2. Lines of Communication**

Attorney Widner provided information on how lines of communications should take place between Trustees, Manager and Staff.

**1:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**E. Review & Highlight Rules of Order**

Discussion and review of the rules of order.

**1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**F. Executive Session**

Trustee Willey moved to hold an executive session pursuant to CRS Section 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice concerning the statutory procedures for annexation and the application of the procedures to a proposal to annex of the Lodge by the Blue property at 12:50 p.m. Trustee Hopkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Slaughter moved to adjourn out of executive session with no action taken at 1:46 p.m. Trustee Hopkins Mayor Decicco. Motion passed unanimously.

The special meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Michelle Eddy, MMC  
Town Clerk

# Bill Payment List

Town of Blue River

May 1-31, 2025

DATE	NUM	VENDOR	AMOUNT
1072 Bill.com Money Out Clearing			
05/01/2025		Highland Galloway Investments	-48,816.67
05/01/2025		Marchetti & Weaver, LLC	-695.85
05/01/2025		CIRSA	-978.98
05/01/2025		Above All Seamless Gutter Systems, LLC	-935.00
05/01/2025		HD Supply	-110.89
<b>Total for 1072 Bill.com Money Out Clearing</b>			<b>-\$51,537.39</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>-\$51,537.39</b>



# Town of Blue River Memorandum

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TO: Mayor Decicco & Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Town Manager Michelle Eddy

DATE: June 10, 2025

SUBJECT: **Hazard Mitigation Study**

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Mayor & Trustees

In September 2024, the Town of Blue River passed an emergency ordinance to place a moratorium on development of parcels greater than two acres. The purpose of the moratorium was to allow time for a study to be conducted to review potential hazard areas within the Town and determine if additional regulations should be implemented to protect the rural mountain character of the town. Below are preliminary findings and recommendations for consideration for adoption into the town code and 1041 regulations. This is not an exhaustive list and it is recommended to evaluate applying for additional grants to hire consultants to work with the Town in developing a most comprehensive plan. It should also be noted that the Town of Blue River is participating with Summit County and other municipalities in updating the Summit County Hazard Mitigation Plan which could further identify hazards and recommendations. Included in this report are the areas identified in 2020 for hazard mitigation.

## **Wetlands**

There is a prevalence of wetlands throughout the Town of Blue River (“Town”). The Blue River runs through Town and flood risk exists for all properties on both sides of the river. The Town does not participate in the National Flood Insurance program and it is up to individual property owners to obtain flood insurance. Along with the Blue River, the Pennsylvania Creek and several other springs and tributaries flow through the Town collecting at the Goose Pasture Tarn.

Currently, the Town does not require any setbacks from the wetlands and allows for construction up to but not into any wetlands. On properties where wetlands may exist, the Town requires a wetlands delineation with construction plans to ensure compliance with regulations.

### *Recommendations:*

It is recommended that moving forward, the Board of Trustees adopt land use regulations to further protect wetlands. Below are recommended setbacks for wetlands.

- Lots less than 2 acres 5-10 feet
- Lots greater than 2 acres 50 feet
- Commercial Use 50 feet
- Construction or improvements along Hwy 9 100 feet

## **Fire Risk**

The Town of Blue River is at risk for wildfire based on fire risk maps included in this report. The risk includes the fact that the Town is surrounded by National Forest Service lands. To date 25% of properties throughout the Town have taken steps to develop defensible space around their homes. Colorado State Forest Service project on the east and west sides of the valley. These projects provide an additional buffer zone.

### *Recommendations*

It is recommended the Board of Trustees continue to support and promote fire mitigation projects both in partnership with Summit County Wildfire Council and in the development of residential grants.

It is further recommended the Town apply to become a Firewise community. Currently both Timber Creek Estates and Spruce Valley Ranch have received neighborhood designations.

A final recommendation pertains to 1041 regulations prohibiting idling vehicles along the shoulders of the highway.

## **Wildlife**

The Town of Blue River is populated by wildlife including bears, deer, moose, bobcats, fish, mountain lions and ermine. In review of Colorado Parks and Wildlife information our aquatic life may include a boreal toad population and several other aquatic species.

### *Recommendations*

It is recommended to further the awareness of living with wildlife and providing additional grants for bear proof containers. The Board of Trustees may consider requiring, with

enforcement bear proof containers and applying for grant funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife to support those efforts.

Additional recommendations include working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to identify the various aquatic species and develop regulations for protections around wetlands.

### **Water Resources**

Most of the Town of Blue River relies on well water for home use and augmented water rights for any additional uses outside the home including hot tubs.

Total properties built: 822

Properties on Timber Creek Estates Water District Water: 71

Properties on wells: 751

Total known hot tub permits: 121 (2015-2024)

### *Recommendations*

It is recommended the Town complete a water study to integrate with a self-assessment provided by the Division of Water.

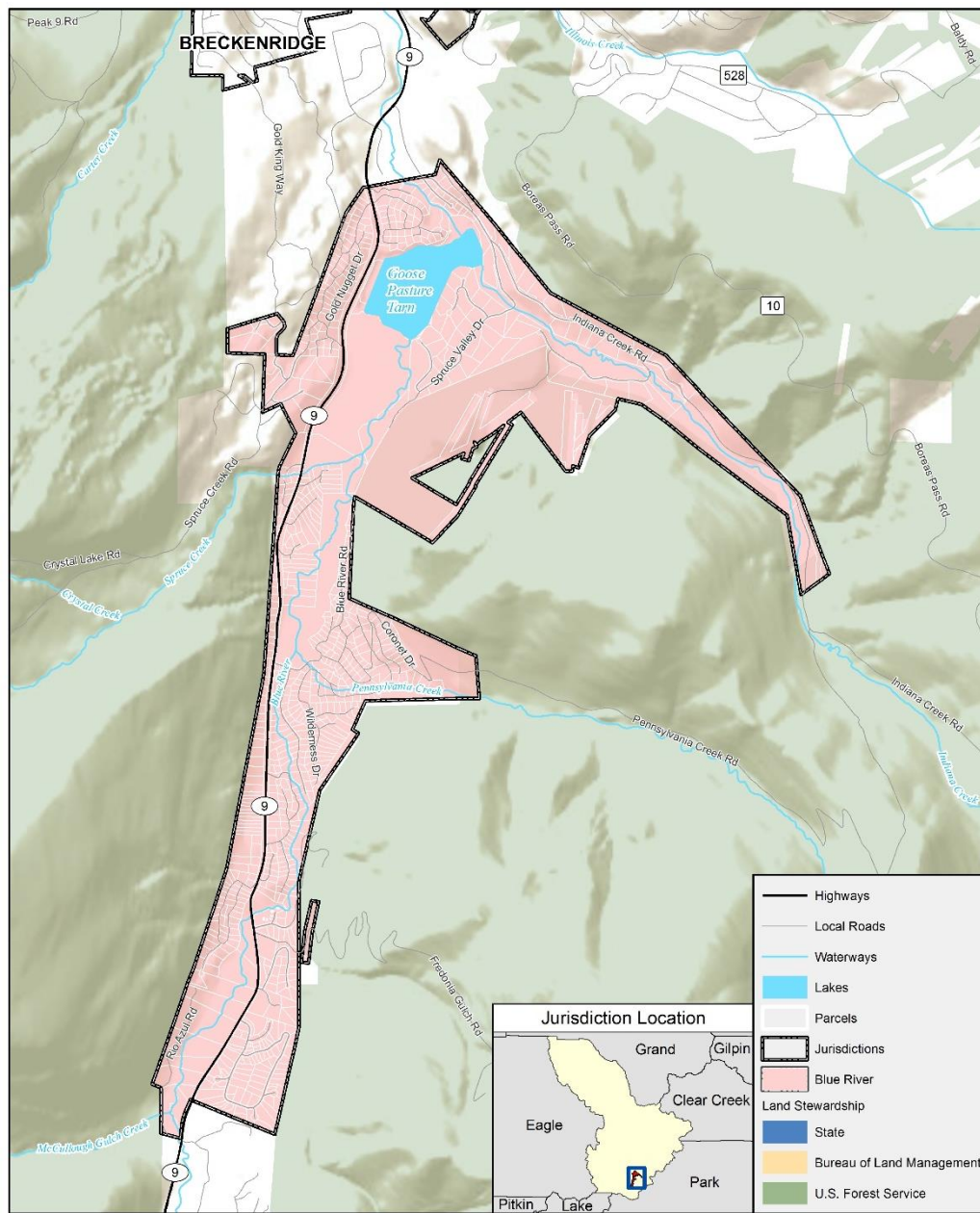


# ANNEX B: TOWN OF BLUE RIVER

## B.1 Community Profile

Figure B-1 shows a map of the Town of Blue River and its location within Summit County.

Figure B-1 Town of Blue River



wood.  
 Map compiled 11/2019;  
 intended for planning purposes only.  
 Data Source: US Census TIGER  
 Database, CO Open Data Portal,  
 CO BLM, Summit County, ESRI World  
 Terrain Basemap



## B.1.1 Geography

The Town of Blue River has a total area of 2.3 square miles. It is located along the Blue River approximately four miles south of the Town of Breckenridge at an elevation of 10,020 feet above sea level. Indiana Creek, Spruce Creek, Pennsylvania Creek, and McCollough Gulch Creek are all tributaries that flow into the Blue River (the main waterway) within Town.

## B.1.2 Population

According to the Colorado State Demographer, the estimated 2018 population of Blue River was 926, a population change of 73 from the 2010 Census numbers although the exact number fluctuates from year to year. Select U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) demographic and social characteristics for Blue River are shown in the following tables and figures.

Table B-1 Blue River Demographic and Social Characteristics 2012-2017

Town of Blue River	2012	2017	% Change
Population	890	932	5%
Median Age	39.0	39.3	0.8%
Total Housing Units	732	738	0.8%
Housing Occupancy Rate	49.0%	35.4%	-27.8%
% of Housing Units with no Vehicles Available	0.00%	0.00%	0.0%
Median Home Value	\$616,000	\$605,500	-1.7%
Unemployment	11.5%	4.4%	-61.7%
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)	14.5	18.1	24.8%
Median Household Income	\$87,426	\$94,844	8.5%
Per Capita Income	\$40,613	\$50,376	24.0%
% Without Health Insurance	16.9%	13.3%	-21.3%
% of Individuals Below Poverty Level	11.0%	6.4%	-41.8%
# of Households	359	261	-27.3%
Average Household Size	2.48	3.11	25.4%
% of Population Over 25 with High School Diploma	98.2%	100.0%	1.8%
% of Population Over 25 with Bachelor's Degree or Higher	60.9%	55.2%	-9.4%
% with Disability	3.7%	3.3%	-10.8%
% Speak English less than "Very Well"	1.5%	0.0%	-100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017





Table B-2 Demographic and Social Characteristics Compared to the County and State

Demographic & Social Characteristics (as of 2017)	Blue River	Summit County	Colorado
Median Age	39.3	39.2	36.5
Housing Occupancy Rate	35.4%	30.80%	89.80%
% of Housing Units with no Vehicles Available	0.0%	1.60%	5.30%
Median Home Value	\$605,500	\$547,700	\$286,100
Unemployment	4.4%	2.60%	5.20%
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)	18.1	16.4	25.2
Median Household Income	\$94,844	\$73,538	\$65,458
Per Capita Income	\$50,376	\$37,192	\$38,845
% Without Health Insurance	13.3%	21.40%	9.40%
% of Individuals Below Poverty Level	6.4%	10.30%	11.50%
Average Household Size	3.11	3.1	2.55
% of Population Over 25 with High School Diploma	100.0%	93.40%	91.10%
% of Population Over 25 with bachelor's degree or Higher	55.2%	47.80%	39.40%
% with Disability	3.3%	6.10%	10.60%
% Speak English less than "Very Well"	0.0%	7.50%	6.00%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017

Table B-3 Demographics by Race and Sex

Blue River	Population	%
Total Population	932	
Male	354	48.2%
Female	381	51.8%
White, not Hispanic	704	95.8%
Hispanic or Latino	13	1.8%
Black	3	0.4%
Asian	0	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Some other race	16	2.2%
Two or more races	3	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017





Table B-4 Types and Total Amounts of Housing Units in Blue River

Type of housing units	Total	Percentage
Total housing units	738	
1-unit detached	644	87.3%
1-unit attached	31	4.2%
2 units	23	3.1%
3 or 4 units	0	0.0%
5 to 9 units	18	2.4%
10 to 19 units	15	2.0%
20 or more units	0	0.0%
Mobile home	7	0.9%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	0	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017

Figure B-2 Age Distribution in Blue River

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017

### B.1.3 Economy

The Town of Blue River is a residential community with little industry or commercial business. According to 2017 Census Bureau estimates, the industries that employed the highest percentages of Blue River’s labor force were professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (25.2%); educational services, and health care and social assistance (18.4%); retail trade (11.8%); finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (9.4%); construction (9.2%); and arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services (9.3%).





As shown in Table B-1, per capita income in Blue River was \$50,376 in 2017, which is roughly 30% above average for both Summit County and the State of Colorado. A breakdown of Blue River's income distribution is shown in Table B-3.

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### Figure B-3 Income Distribution in Blue River as of 2017

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017

## B.2 Hazard Identification and Profiles

Blue River's HMPC identified the hazards that affect the community and summarized their geographic location, probability of future occurrence, potential magnitude or severity, and overall significance specific to the Town (see Table B-5). In the context of the countywide planning area, there are no hazards that are unique to Blue River.





Table B-5 Blue River Hazard Summary

Hazard Type	Geographic Location	Probability of Future Occurrence	Magnitude/Severity	Overall Hazard Rating
Avalanche	Isolated	Unlikely	Limited	Low
Dam Failure	Large	Unlikely	Critical	Medium
Drought	Large	Occasional	Limited	Low
Earthquake	Large	Unlikely	Limited	Low
Erosion/Deposition	Small	Likely	Critical	Medium
Flood	Small	Occasional	Limited	Medium
Hazardous Materials Release (Transportation)	Isolated	Unlikely	Limited	Low
Landslide, Mudflow/Debris Flow, Rockfall	Small	Occasional	Limited	Medium
Lightning	Large	Likely	Limited	Low
Pest Infestation (Forest and Aquatic)	Small	Highly Likely	Limited	Medium
Severe Winter Weather	Large	Highly Likely	Critical	High
Wildfire	Large	Likely	Critical	High
Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions	Small	Likely	Negligible	Low
Windstorm	Large	Likely	Limited	Low

Note: See Section 3.2 of the HIRA document for definitions of these hazard categories.

Information on past events for each hazard can be found in Section 3.2 Hazard Profiles of the main plan.

## B.3 Vulnerability Assessment

The intent of this section is to assess Blue River’s vulnerability to hazards separate from that of the planning area as a whole, which has already been assessed in Section 3.3 Vulnerability Assessment of the main plan. This vulnerability assessment analyzes the population, property, critical facilities, and other assets at for the more significant hazards or where available data permitted a more in-depth analysis. For more information about how hazards affect the County as a whole, see Chapter 3 Risk Assessment of the main plan HIRA document.

### B.3.1 Community Asset Inventory

Table B-6 shows the total number of improved parcels, properties, and their improvement and content values for the Town of Blue River. Note that only those parcels with improvement values greater than \$0, or those which were classified as “exempt,” were accounted here and in vulnerability assessments to follow, so that those non-developed or non-improved parcels were left out for the purposes of conducting the vulnerability assessments in this annex. Counts and values are based on the latest county assessor’s data (as of November 2019), which was provided in GIS format. Contents exposure values were estimated as a percent of the improvement value here and under the hazard vulnerability assessment, specifically: 50% of the improvement value for Residential structures, and 0% for Exempt parcels. These percentage calculations are based on standard FEMA Hazus methodologies. Finally, Total Values were aggregated by adding the improvement and content values for each parcel type category.

Table B-6 Blue River’s Improved Parcel and Property Exposure





Parcel Type	Parcel Totals	Total Properties*	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value
Exempt	41	42	\$0	--	\$0
Residential	721	758	\$516,501,499	\$258,250,750	\$774,752,249
Total	762	800	\$516,501,499	\$258,250,750	\$774,752,249

Source: Summit County Assessors Data, November 2019.

\*Property totals were obtained by counting the number of separate property records that were part of the same parcels. As such, the improved values and subsequent totals stem from the total individual property records, not stand-alone parcel totals.

Table B-7 lists summary information about the 9 critical facilities and other community assets identified by Blue River’s HMPC as important to protect or provide critical services in the event of a disaster. Table B-8 details more information on the critical facilities in question found in the town and considered in the GIS analysis within each hazard’s vulnerability assessment for planning purposes, to estimate whether it might be at risk of the various hazards assessed. For additional information on the definitions behind each critical facility category, source, and other details refer to Section 3.3.2 of the main plan HIRA document.

Table B-7 Blue River Critical Facilities and Infrastructure Summary

FEMA Lifeline	Critical Facility Type	Total
Food/Water/Shelter	Static Water Structures	5
	Wastewater Facilities	1
Safety and Security	Fire Station	1
	Government Buildings	1
	Police Stations	1
TOTAL		9

Source: Summit County GIS, Summit County HMPC.

Table B-8 Detailed List of Critical Facilities and Infrastructure in Blue River





FEMA Lifeline Category	Critical Facility Type	Facility Name	Facility Location	Notes or Additional Details
Food/ Water/ Shelter	Static Water Structures	Theobald Way Draft Point	Blue Grouse Trail	Access on both sides of stream, Distance = 10 Ft, Stream
		CR 801 Pond Draft Point	87 CR 801 "Purbin's House"	May be accessible off driveway with rig. Recheck in summer., Distance = 50 Ft, Pond
		Indiana Creek Draft Point	Spruce Valley Drive	Access on upside of road, Distance = 20 Ft, Stream
		Spruce Valley Tarn Access Draft Point	Spruce Valley Drive	Access is just past canoe house, may be accessible w/ type 6 as well, Distance = 100 Ft, Pond
	Blue River Rd Draft Point	Blue River Rd & Royal Drive	Water is available on W side of RD in a natural pool, Distance = 10 Ft, Stream	
	Wastewater Facilities	Breckenridge Treatment Plant	--	--
Safety and Security	Fire Station	RWB Station 7	120 Whispering Pines Ln, Blue River 80424	--
	Government Buildings	Blue River Town Hall	--	\$350,000 replacement value
	Police Stations	Blue River Marshall Office - Summit County Govt.	110 Whispering Pines Cir, Blue River 80424	--

Source: Summit County GIS, Summit County HMPC.

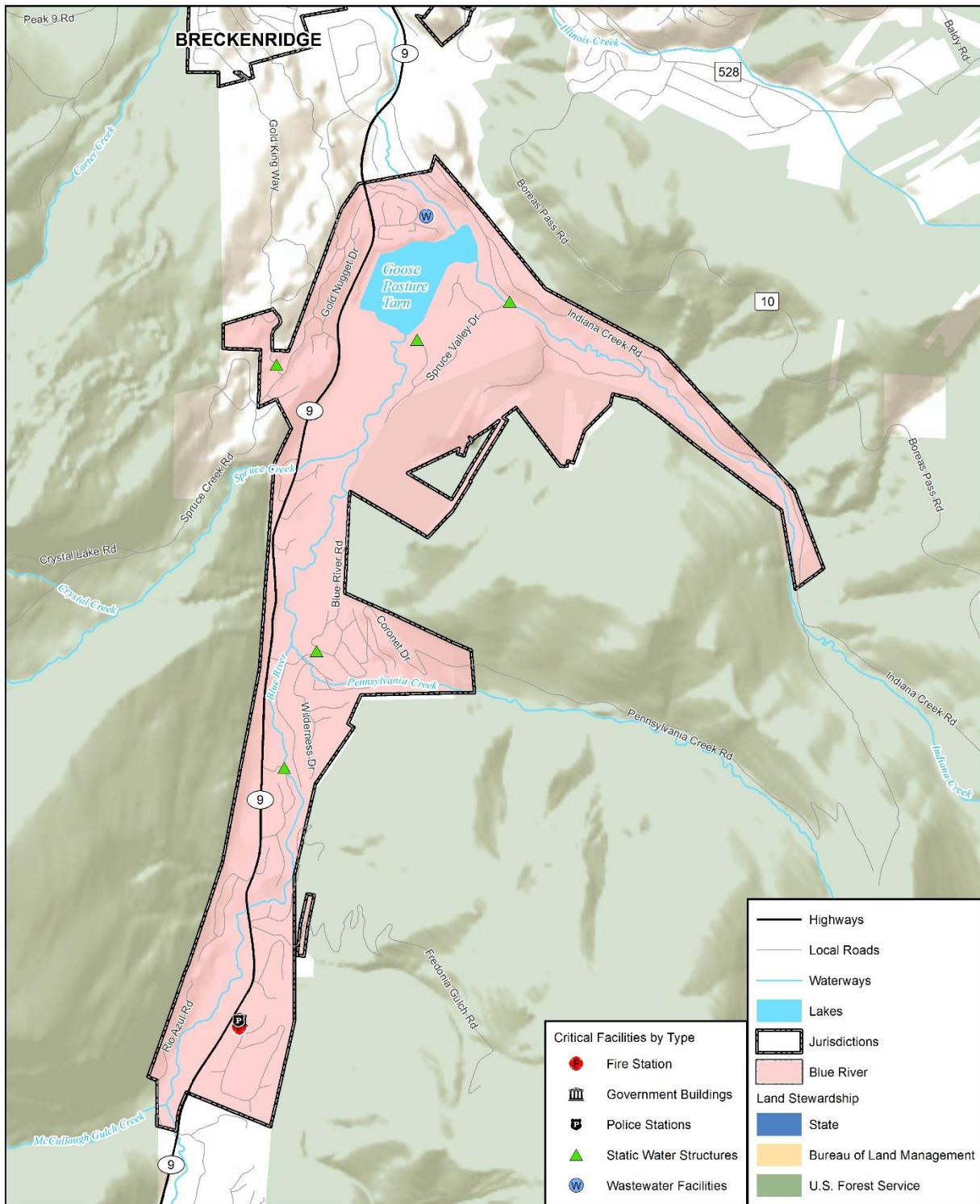
The past 2013 HMP noted the Town Park as a community asset with a \$200,000 approximate replacement value.

The locations of identified critical facilities and infrastructure in Blue River are illustrated in Figure B-4.

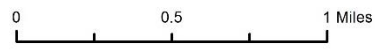




Figure B-4 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure in the Town of Blue River



wood.  
Map compiled 11/2019;  
intended for planning purposes only.  
Data Source: US Census TIGER  
Database, CO Open Data Portal,  
CO BLM, Summit County, ESRI World  
Terrain Basemap, HIFLD





## B.3.2 Vulnerability by Hazard

This vulnerability section analyzes existing and potential future risk in more detail where the risk varies from the rest of the planning area. Vulnerability details for the following bulleted hazards are often difficult to compile or estimate for specific jurisdictions and are already described in the Section 3.3.3 of the Base Plan.

- Drought
- Earthquake
- Erosion/Deposition
- Hazardous Materials (Transportation)
- Lightning
- Pest Infestation (Forest and Aquatic)
- Severe Winter Weather
- Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions
- Windstorm

Only Flood, Dam Inundation, Landslide/Mudflow/Debris Flow/Rockfall, and Wildfire hazards will be profiled in the following vulnerability assessment sections, due to the ability to quantify vulnerability further with available data.

### Dam Failure

#### ***General Property***

The Goose Pasture Tarn Dam is located in the Town of Blue River, on the north end, and has a maximum storage capacity of approximately 811 acre-feet. The Town also lies downstream of the Upper Blue Lake Dam, which is located near the Summit County and Lake County boundary, about 5 miles east of the Robinson Tailings Pond. The Upper Blue Lake Dam has a maximum storage capacity of approximately 2,100 acre-feet.

While there is no concrete data available to indicate any likelihood of failure, based on best available dam inundation data there might be structures potentially at risk of dam failure flooding. The dam failure inundation maps contain sensitive information and are not available for display in this public planning document. Based on a GIS analysis performed with the county parcel layer and the available dam inundation mapping (for planning purposes only), the following potential damages would be expected in Blue River. Note that additional details on the GIS analysis methodology, data preparation process, and other helpful information for understanding how vulnerability assessment results were obtained can be found in Section 3.3. Vulnerability Assessment within the main plan HIRA document.





Table B-9 Estimated Dam Inundation Risk to Properties in Blue River

Parcel Type	Total Properties Exposed	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value	Population Exposed
Exempt	1	\$0	--	\$0	--
Residential	143	\$72,556,720	\$36,278,360	\$108,835,080	443
TOTAL	144	\$72,556,720	\$36,278,360	\$108,835,080	443

Source: Summit County GIS and Assessor’s Office, U.S Census, Wood Analysis

### People

Based on the GIS analysis summarized in Table B-9 above, it is estimated that around 443 people in Blue River might be at risk of dam inundation hazards. These totals were obtained by multiplying the average number of persons per household in Summit County (which equals 3.10) times the number of residential properties where dam inundation extents were available.

### Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

Based on the critical facility inventory considered in the updating of this plan and intersected with the dam inundation extents available for the Town of Blue River, 2 critical facilities were found to be at potential risk. These are summarized in the table below.

Table B-10 Critical Facilities in Blue River at Risk of Dam Inundation

FEMA Lifeline Category	Critical Facility Type	Facility Name
Food/Water/Shelter	Static Water Structures	Theobald Way Draft Point
		Spruce Valley Tarn Access Draft Point
TOTAL		2

Source: Summit County, HIFLD, Wood Analysis

### Economy

A dam inundation event that affected the major roads which give access to the town (e.g. Highway 9) could significantly affect the local economy, by limiting or completely impeding access to shops, restaurants, hotels, and other major industries which keep the local economy thriving.

### Historical, Cultural, and Natural Resources

Dam or reservoir failure effects on the environment would be similar to those caused by flooding from other causes. For the most part the environment is resilient and would be able to rebound, though this process could take years. However, historic and cultural resources could be affected just as housing or critical infrastructures would.

### Future Development

A dam failure would likely result in impacts greater than the 100- and 500-year flood events, as modeled by the latest FEMA NFHL data. The Town should consider dam failure hazards when permitting development downstream of the Goose Pasture Tarn and Upper Blue Lake Dams.





## Flood

Though not fully delineated by the latest FEMA NFHL data (dated July 17, 2019), the Blue River is likely a cause for riverine flooding in the town, as it is the largest waterway crossing through it. Other streams which are present in Blue River include Pennsylvania Creek, Spruce Creek, Indiana Creek, and McCullough Gulch Creek, though flooding from these sources has not been included in the latest FEMA mapped areas and is hence not well known. However, the Goose Pasture Tarn Dam to the north of town reduces the peak discharge of the Blue River due to rainfall, but the effect is only marginal for runoff due to snowmelt, which is normally the major cause of peak flows. Other reservoirs provide only incidental flood protection (FEMA, 2018).

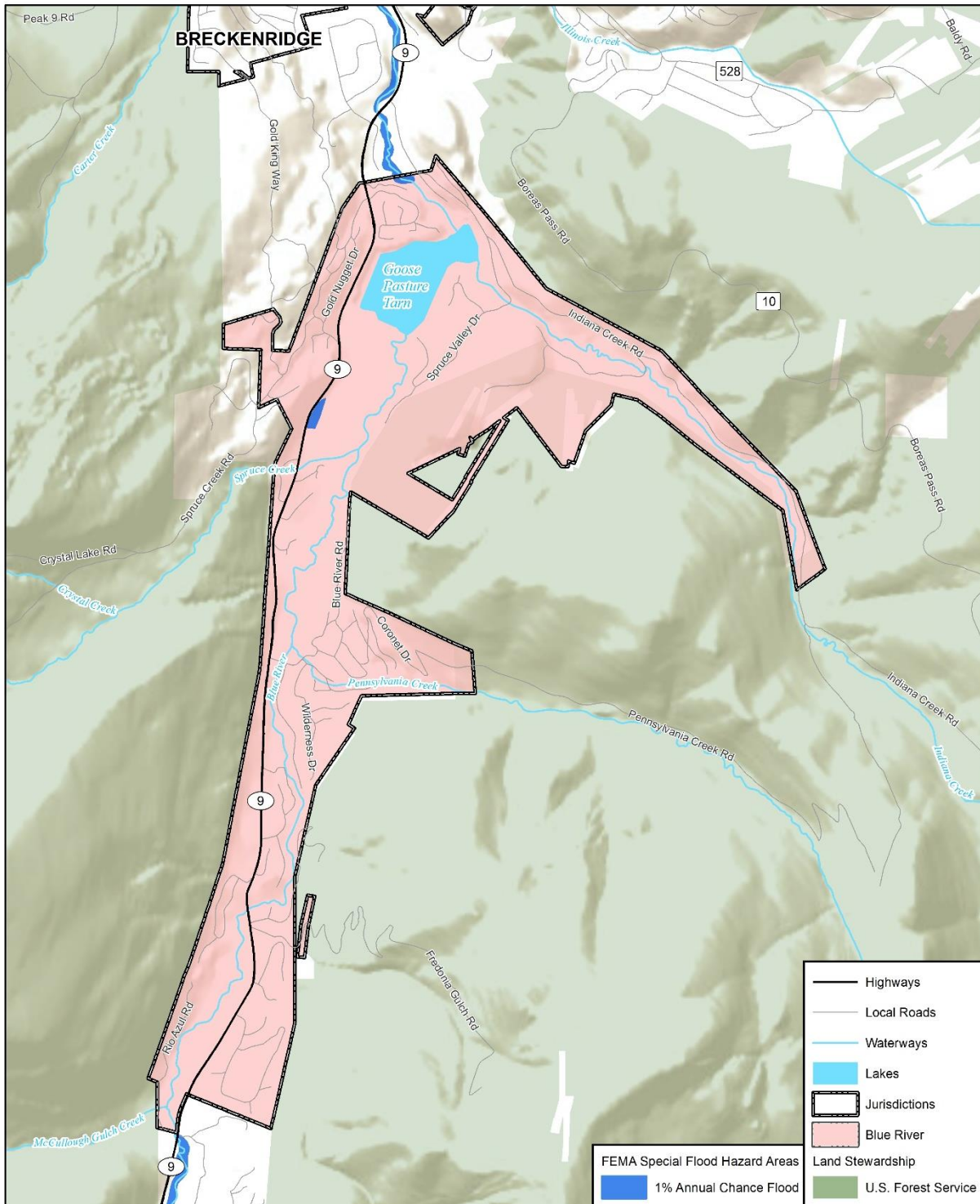
### ***General Property***

Vulnerability to flooding was determined by summing potential losses to Summit County's properties in GIS, by using the latest FEMA NFHL data along with the Summit County parcel layer the provided by the Assessor's Office. FEMA's NFHL data depicts the 1% annual chance (100-year) and the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) flood areas. Figure B-5 below displays the FEMA special flood hazard areas present in the town, color coded based on flood event.





Figure B-5 FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas in Blue River



**wood.**  
 Map compiled 12/2019;  
 intended for planning purposes only.  
 Data Source: US Census TIGER  
 Database, CO Open Data Portal,  
 CO BLM, Summit County, ESRI World  
 Terrain Basemap, FEMA NFHL



Based on the GIS analysis performed with the county parcel layer and the available FEMA flood mapping, the potential risk for the Town is shown in Table B-10. Blue River’s 1% annual chance flood zone shows that one residential structure is potentially at risk. No 0.2% annual chance flood zones are available in map form, and as such no exposure to this type of flooding was estimated using this methodology.

Table B-11 Summary of Properties Vulnerable to Flood in Blue River by Type

Flood Event	Parcel Type	Total Properties	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value	Loss Estimate (25% of Total Value)	Population
100-year	Residential	1	\$942,742	\$471,371	\$1,414,113	\$353,528	3

Source: Summit County, FEMA NFHL, U.S. Census Bureau, Wood analysis

**People**

The population exposed to the flood hazards described in the flood vulnerability analysis above was estimated by applying an average household size factor (based on 2018 U.S. Census estimates for Summit County, which equal to 3.1 persons per household) to the number of improved properties identified in the flood hazard areas within Blue River. Note that only those parcels of type Residential were used to estimate populations exposed. These estimates yielded the population exposures shown in the table above (Table B-10). As such, the 1% annual chance flood would potentially displace 3 people based on the single residential structure which falls in this flood zone.

**Critical Facilities and Infrastructure**

No critical facilities were found to overlap with the flood zones mapped for Blue River. The Town has experienced problems with collapsing culverts and the bridge over the Blue River on Blue River Road. This issue has been resolved by implementing a hazard mitigation project as described in Section B.6.

**Economy**

Flooding can have a major economic impact on the economy, including indirect losses such as business interruption, lost wages, and other downtime costs. Flooding often coincides with the busy summer tourism months in Summit County, and may impact, directly or indirectly (such as from the negative perception of potential danger to his hazard), the revenues of shops, restaurants, hotels, and other major industries which keep the local economy thriving. In addition, major flooding which led to road or other infrastructure closures could additionally limit access to the Town by tourists, locals, and even basic goods and services.

**Historical, Cultural, and Natural Resources**

The environment is mostly resilient to general flooding. However, cultural or historic properties within floodplains would be affected in similar ways as property and critical facilities/infrastructure, especially those with underground or basement levels where water would easily seep and potential ruin archives, resources, or other important assets.

**Future Development**

Blue River does not have a floodplain ordinance but there is not anticipated to be new development in the small amount of mapped Special Flood Hazard Area. The building regulations do allow the Town to require that new construction meet certain drainage requirements at its discretion.





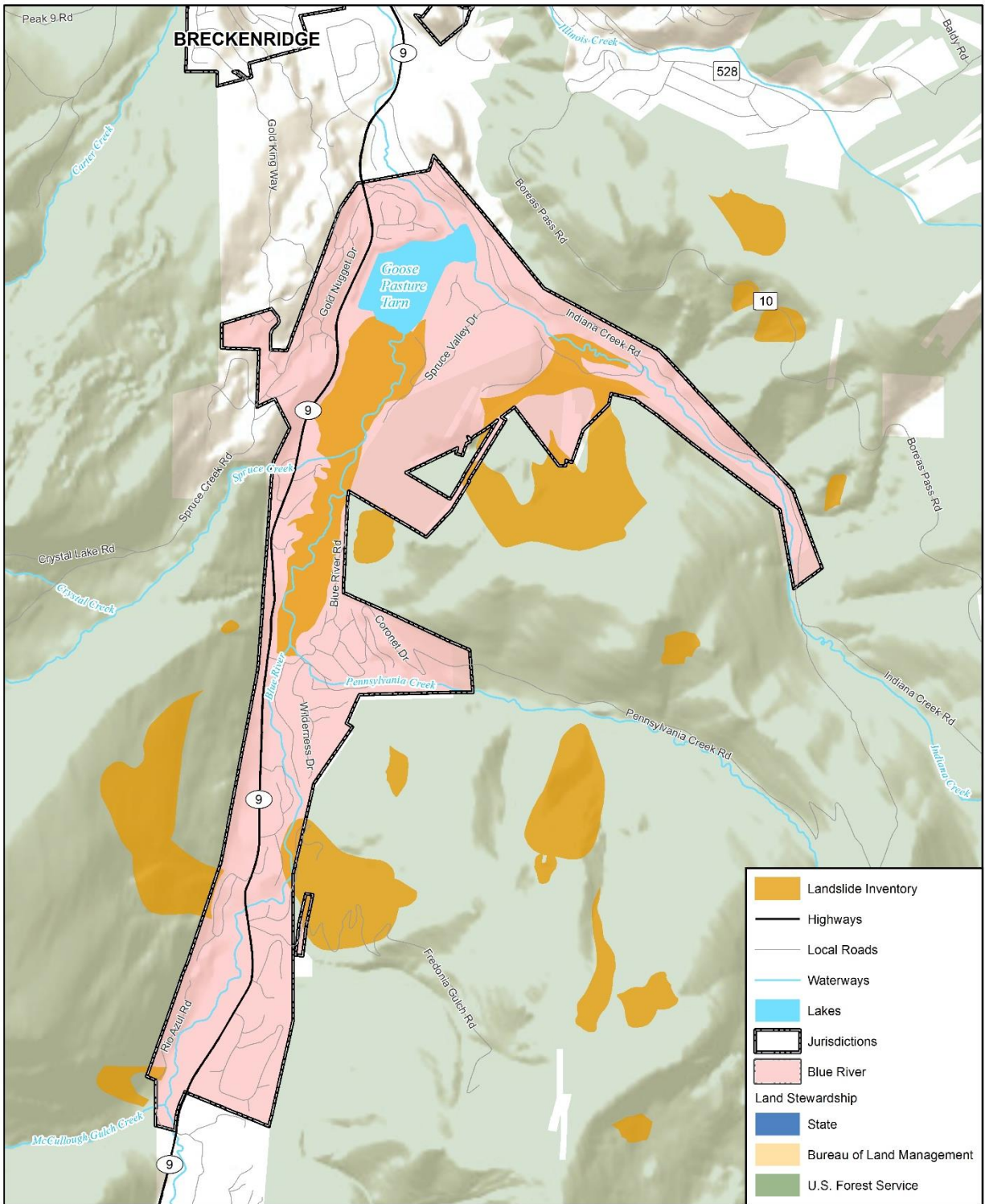
## Landslide, Mud Flow/Debris Flow, Rock Fall

General landslide hazard areas are present in the Town of Blue River, particularly south of the Goose Pasture Tarn and along the Blue River, up until the Pennsylvania Creek merge. There are smaller hazard areas along Indiana Creek to the east of the town, and south of Wilderness Drive, east of Highway 9 towards Fredonia Gulch Road (see Figure B-6 below).

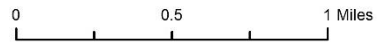




Figure B-6 General Landslide Hazard Areas in Blue River



**wood.**  
 Map compiled 11/2019;  
 intended for planning purposes only.  
 Data Source: US Census TIGER  
 Database, CO Open Data Portal,  
 CO BLM, Summit County, ESRI World  
 Terrain Basemap, CGS





### General Property

Potential losses for general landslide areas were estimated using Summit County GIS and assessor’s parcel data. Based on the GIS analysis performed, the potential risk to general landslide areas in Blue River is summarized in Table B-12. For the purposes of this analysis, if a parcel’s centroid intersected the landslide hazard polygons, that parcel is assumed to be at risk. Content values were calculated from the improvements as a percentage of property improvement values based on their occupancy type (using FEMA Hazus guidance), so that Residential properties received content values worth 50% of their improvements. Property improvements and content values were then totaled to arrive at the Total Value column. Note that additional details on the GIS analysis methodology, data preparation process, and other helpful information for understanding how vulnerability assessment results were obtained can be found in Section 3.3. Vulnerability Assessment within the main plan HIRA document.

Blue River’s Residential properties have a total exposure value of over \$35.8 million. A total of 26 properties are exposed to these landslide hazards.

Table B-12 Property Exposure to General Landslide Hazard Areas in Blue River

Parcel Type	Total Properties	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value	Population
Residential	26	\$23,906,229	\$11,953,115	\$35,859,344	81

Source: Summit County GIS/Assessor Office, Colorado Geological Survey, U.S. Census, Wood analysis

### People

People could be susceptible if they are caught in a landslide or debris flow, potentially leading to injury or death. There is also a danger to drivers operating vehicles, as rocks and debris can strike vehicles passing through the hazard area or cause dangerous shifts in roadways. Based on Table B-12 above, an estimated 81 people could be at risk of general landslide hazards in Blue River. At risk population was estimated by multiplying the average number of persons living in each household in Summit County (which is 3.1 per home) times the number of properties of type “residential” where landslide areas have been inventoried in Blue River.

### Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

Only one critical facility is found at risk of landslide hazards in Blue River. It is the Spruce Valley Tarn Access Draft Point just past the canoe house south of the Goose Pasture Tarn, and it is classified as a static water structure. This facility is categorized under the Food/Water/Shelter FEMA Lifeline.

The major transportation route present in the town and hence key infrastructure allowing access in and out of it includes Highway 9. This route could be affected by the geologic hazards in question if closures were required, impeding the normal flow of goods and services, for example.

### Economy

Economic impacts related to landslide, rockfall, debris fall, and mudslide hazards typically center around transportation routes temporarily closed by debris flow or other activity. The major route mentioned above (Highway 9) would be at most risk due to their heavy flow of goods, services, and populations which keep the economy thriving.





### Historical, Cultural, and Natural Resources

As primarily natural processes, landslides and debris flows can have varying impacts to the natural environment as well as cultural or historical resources found on their path. For buildings and other structures, impacts would be similar as those seen on general property or critical facilities/infrastructure.

### Future Development

The severity of landslide problems is directly related to the extent of human activity in hazard areas. Adverse effects can be mitigated by early recognition and avoiding incompatible land uses in these areas or by corrective engineering. The mountainous topography of Summit County and much of Blue River presents considerable constraints to development, most commonly in the form of steep sloped areas. These areas (defined as having a grade change of 30% or more) are vulnerable to disturbance and can become unstable.

### Wildfire

#### General Property

Wildfire threat was estimated from the County’s Wildfire Protection Assessment Rating layer, which breaks up areas into Low, Medium, High, and Extreme ratings. This wildfire layer was used in GIS to determine the number, type, and improvement values for properties found to overlap with them, and hence estimate potential property risk to wildfire threat in Blue River. For the purposes of this analysis, the wildfire zone that intersected a parcel centroid was assigned as the threat zone for the entire parcel. Improvement values were then summed by wildfire rating area and then sorted by parcel type. From the improvement values were the content values calculated next, as a percentage of property improvement values based on their occupancy type (using FEMA Hazus guidance as follows): Residential parcels received content values worth 50% of their improvements, and Exempt parcels received content values worth 0% of their improvements. Property improvements and content values were then totaled to arrive at the Total Value column, which is also the estimated value at risk based on FEMA loss curve standards for wildfire hazards.

Wildfire protection assessment areas for Blue River are displayed in Figure B-7 for reference.

Table B-13 Property Values in Wildfire Zones by Parcel Type, Blue River

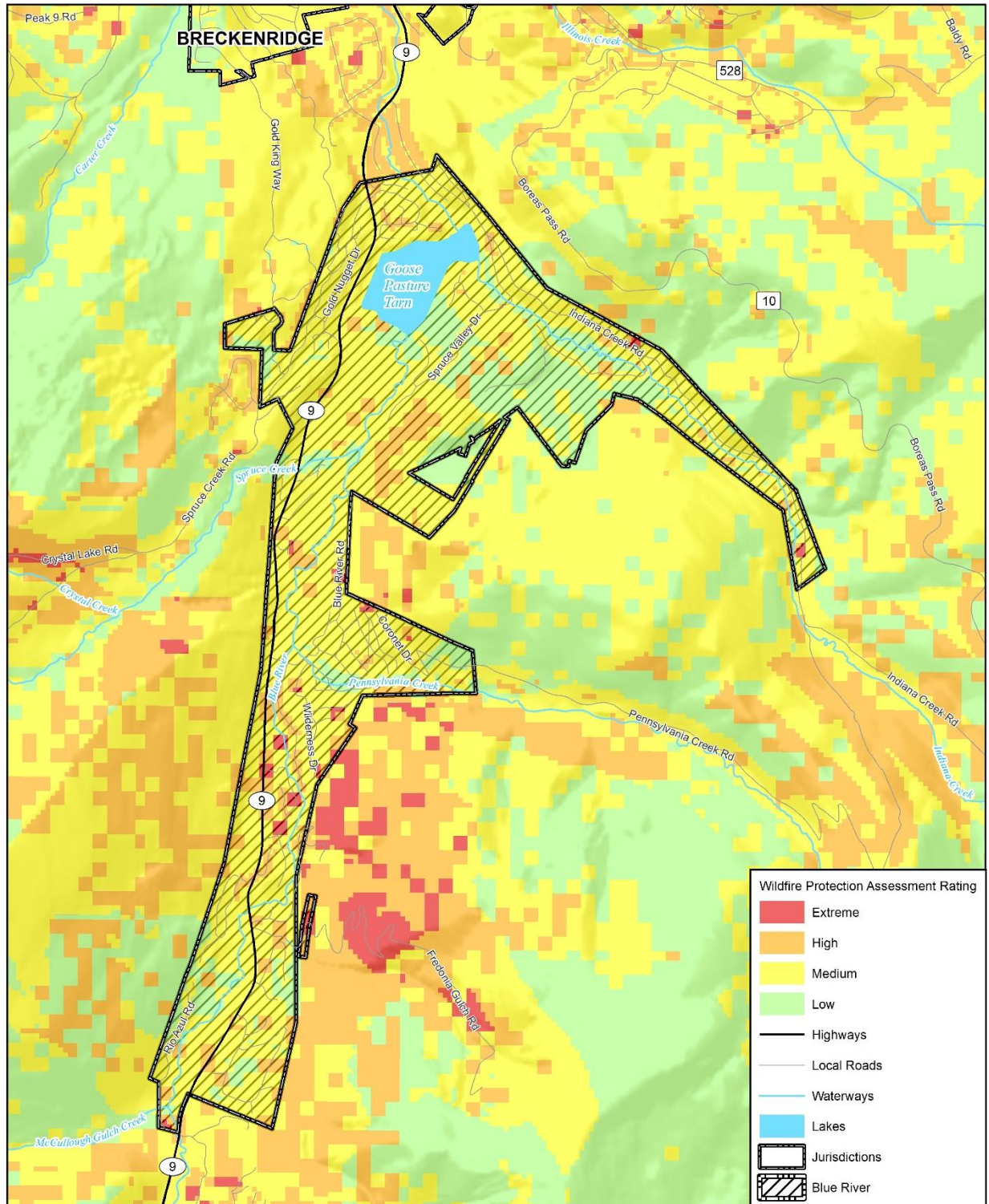
Parcel Type	Total Properties	Improved Value	Content Value	Total Value	Population at Risk
Residential	689	\$435,593,437	\$217,796,719	\$653,390,156	2,136
Exempt	4	\$0	--	\$0	--
TOTAL	693	\$435,593,437	\$217,796,719	\$653,390,156	2,136

Source: Summit County GIS/Assessor Office, CO-WRAP, U.S. Census, Wood analysis



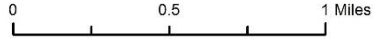


Figure B-7 Wildfire Protection Assessment Areas and Ratings in Blue River



wood.

Map compiled 11/2019;  
intended for planning purposes only.  
Data Source: US Census TIGER  
Database, CO Open Data Portal,  
CO BLM, Summit County, ESRI World  
Terrain Basemap, CO-WRAP





## **People**

The last column of Table B-13 above summarizes the number of people at risk to wildfire in the analyzed fire zones. Based on the assessment conducted, Blue River has an estimated 2,136 people at risk of Medium, High, and Extreme rated wildfire zones. These totals were estimated by multiplying the average persons per household in Summit County, which is 3.1, times the number of residential properties falling within the fire zone/s. While this is higher than the actual population, it may also be indicative of the population that surges during the summer season.

However, smoke resulting from fire is an issue to local populations, as noted by the Summit County's HMPC. For example, the County Public Health Department has received calls in the past from tourists asking if they should cancel travel plans in the county due to smoke and potential health and safety related concerns.

## **Critical Facilities and Infrastructure**

All 9 critical facilities located in Blue River are found in either Medium or High wildfire threat areas. Since all the facilities profiled in this plan update were already discussed in the Community Asset Inventory subsection of this annex, more details are available in Table B-7 and Table B-8. These are summarized again in the bullet points below for reference:

- Food/Water/Shelter
  - Static Water Structures: Theobald Way Draft Point, CR 801 Pond Draft Point, Indiana Creek Draft Point, Spruce Valley Tarn Access Draft Point, and Blue River Road Draft Point
  - Wastewater Facilities: Breckenridge Treatment Plant
- Safety and Security
  - Fire Station: RWB Station 7
  - Government Buildings: Blue River Town Hall
  - Police Stations: Blue River Marshall Office – Summit County Government

The Red, White, and Blue Fire Protection District, which provides fire protection services to Breckenridge, Blue River, and surrounding area, is considered an initial attack center for wildland fires on all private land and takes a joint responsibility with the U.S. Forest Service for fires on federal land.

## **Economy**

Tourism, the accommodation and food services industry (e.g. hotels and restaurants), and retail are major components of Summit County's economy, and Blue River's as well. Wildland fires can, for example, lead to significant tourism reductions due to health and safety concerns, causing lost revenues from lack of visitation, stays in hotels, spending on restaurants and other commerce sources, and more.

## **Historical, Cultural, and Natural Resources**

Wildfires are a common and naturally occurring phenomenon in forested areas and can benefit forest health in many respects. But the climate change trend which is leading to hotter, more widespread, and destructive fires can make it more difficult for the environment to recover, and lead to increased flood runoff or other secondary/cascading hazards. This can severely impact water quality and watershed health for years after the fire.

With regards to historic or cultural structures and resources, wildfires would affect those in similar ways as general property and critical facilities/infrastructure, having the potential for burn downs and hence possible complete loss of important historical assets in Blue River.





### Future Development

New construction in Blue River must meet defensible space regulations, which is included in the Town’s code.

### B.3.3 Growth and Development Trends

Table B-14 illustrates how Blue River has grown in terms of population and number of housing units between 2012 and 2017.

Table B-14 Blue River—Change in Population and Housing Units, 2012-2017

2012 Population	2017 Population Estimate	Estimated Percent Change 2012-2017	2012 # of Housing Units	2017 Estimated # of Housing Units	Estimated Percent Change 2012-2017
890	932	5%	732	738	+0.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017

The Town of Blue River Comprehensive Plan states:

Blue River is a unique municipality in that it encompasses only residential subdivisions and has no commercial uses that typically define downtowns or commercial corridors in other communities. Adding to its uniqueness is the fact that approximately 44% of the homes in the town are utilized as part-time residences or vacation homes (Census Bureau). For the most part, the full-time residents in Blue River are employed and commute to work in other communities, as evidenced by the 89% workforce participation rate and median household income of \$78,000 per year, both of which are higher than other comparable small towns in the area including Frisco, Dillon and Fraser (Census Bureau).

## B.4 Capability Assessment

Capabilities are the programs and policies currently in use to reduce hazard impacts or that could be used to implement hazard mitigation activities. The capabilities assessment is divided into four sections: regulatory mitigation capabilities, administrative and technical mitigation capabilities, fiscal mitigation capabilities, and mitigation outreach and partnerships.

### B.4.1 Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

Table B-15 lists planning and land management tools typically used by local jurisdictions to implement hazard mitigation activities and indicates those that are in place in Blue River.

Table B-15 Blue River—Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

Regulatory Tool (Ordinances, Codes, Plans)	Yes/No	Comments
Master Plan	Yes	Covered by Joint Upper Blue Master Plan (2011)
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	Chapter 16 of Town Ordinances
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	Chapter 17 of Town Ordinances
Growth Management Ordinance	Yes	Addressed in Comprehensive Master Plan
Floodplain Ordinance	No	
Other Special Purpose Ordinance	Yes	Wildfire mitigation standards





Regulatory Tool (Ordinances, Codes, Plans)	Yes/No	Comments
Building Code	Yes	2018 International Residential Code adopted in 2019
Fire Department ISO Rating	Yes	Rating: 2
Erosion or Sediment Control Program	Yes	Coordinating on this category and Stormwater with the Upper Blue Sanitation District. As sewer projects are being conducted the Town replaces culverts and drainage control measures
Stormwater Management Program	Yes	See above statement
Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes	Architectural Guidelines
Capital Improvements Plan	Yes	Capital Improvement Plan (2018)
Economic Development Plan	Yes	Included in Comprehensive Master Plan
Local Emergency Operations Plan	No	Update in progress with other Municipalities
Other Special Plans	Yes	Defensible space plans being developed
Flood Insurance Study or Other Engineering Study for Streams	No	Contract with water specialist and looking at future water projects

## Town of Blue River Comprehensive Plan

The Town’s Comprehensive Plan contains existing hazard mitigation capabilities via goals and strategies such as Goal 11, aimed at reducing the risk of wildfire hazards particularly associated with the local conifer forests. Thinning of vegetation around and near structures is noted as helping to reduce wildfire risk, as well as establishing and maintaining fire breaks. The three strategies contained within this goal are as follows:

- Strategy A: Work with the Red White and Blue Fire Protection District to attain “Fire Wise” status for Blue River
- Strategy B: Improve the Town addressing system and address signage standards for faster and more efficient EMS response
- Strategy C: Develop a program and funding for ware cisterns for fire protection

## Town of Blue River Ordinances

### ***Chapter 7 Health, Sanitation, and Animals***

The purpose of Division II Forest Management of Article V Trees is to preserve the rural mountain character of the Town by minimizing the removal of live trees while protecting the life and property of the residents of the Town by establishing minimum wildfire mitigation standards. These include defensible space regulations for new construction.

### ***Chapter 16 Zoning***

#### **Sec. 16-6-50. Site and structure requirements.**

- a) Density. The applicant shall be responsible for justifying the proposed density level in terms of land planning and physiographic data, but in no case shall the gross density exceed six (6) dwelling units per acre of land.





- b) Yard requirements. Yard requirements will be determined upon submission and approval of the preliminary development plans. The applicant shall be responsible for justifying the proposed yard requirements in terms of land planning and fire safety.
- c) Height requirements. The maximum height of structures must be approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission upon review of each planned residential development in relation to the following factors:
  - 1) Geographical position.
  - 2) The probable effect on surrounding slopes and hills.
  - 3) Adverse visual effects imparted to adjoining property owners, other areas of the development, public lands or public rights-of-way.
  - 4) Potential problems for adjacent sites, both within and out of the development, caused by shade, shadows, loss of air circulation or loss of view.
  - 5) Surrounding traffic conditions and lines of sight.
  - 6) Uses within each building.
  - 7) Fire prevention measures. (Prior code 6-6-4)

### **Sec. 16-8-80. Compliance with Building and Fire Codes.**

Where approval of an accessory apartment is sought by an owner for a unit existing before adoption of this Article, the unit shall be inspected and shall comply with applicable requirements of the Building and Fire Codes<sup>1</sup>. (Prior code 5-5-8)

### ***Chapter 18 Building Regulations***

Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, any person who builds or erects any structure must contact the Town by calling or writing the building inspector to obtain approval for issuance of the certificate of occupancy. Approvals of the septic/sewer authority, the fire protection district, the Architectural Review Board, and homeowners' association may be required. Approval may, at the Town's sole discretion, require completion of the following improvements:

- Installation of culverts
- Grading or regrading any disturbed or damaged roads or driveways or other areas necessary for proper drainage
- All runoff created by or redirected by the construction, erection and landscaping of the structure on the property shall be treated, contained, and controlled so that there are no increases in runoff or other drainage consequences resulting from said construction, erection, and landscaping

### **Floodplain Regulations and NFIP Participation**

There are limited flood areas mapped in Blue River, as indicated by the most current FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer data (November 2018). The Town of Blue River does not participate in the NFIP as of September 12, 2019 and has been sanctioned since 11/16/12. According to the HMPC, due to limited impacts from flooding and the cost of enforcement the Town has opted not to participate. This means

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<sup>1</sup> See Chapter 18 of this Code.





that the community has a mapped special flood hazard area but is not regulating development in those areas and flood insurance is not available for residents that may choose to have it.

### B.4.2 Administrative/Technical Mitigation Capabilities

Table B-16 identifies the personnel responsible for activities related to mitigation and loss prevention in Blue River.

Table B-16 Blue River—Administrative and Technical Mitigation Capabilities

Personnel Resources	Yes/No	Department/Position	Comments
Planner/Engineer with Knowledge of Land Development/Land Management Practices	Yes	Land Planner	Contract position
Engineer/Professional Trained in Construction Practices Related to Buildings and/or Infrastructure	Yes	Building Inspector	Full time position with Town
Planner/Engineer/Scientist with an Understanding of Natural Hazards	Yes	Engineer	Contract Position
Personnel Skilled in GIS	No		Utilize Summit County GIS
Full Time Building Official	Yes	Building Inspector	
Floodplain Manager	No		Handled by contract Engineer
Emergency Manager	Yes	Town Manager	Town Manager fulfills these duties
Grant Writer	Yes	Town Manager	Town Manager fulfills these duties
Other Personnel	Yes	Town Manager/Clerk	
Warning Systems/Services	Yes		Provided by Summit County Communications Center

### B.4.3 Fiscal Mitigation Capabilities

Table B-17 identifies financial tools or resources that Blue River could potentially use to help fund mitigation activities.

Table B-17 Blue River—Fiscal Mitigation Capabilities

Financial Resources	Accessible/Eligible to Use (Yes/No)	Comments
Community Development Block Grants	No	
Capital Improvements Project Funding	No	
Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes	Yes	
Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas, or Electric Services	No	
Impact Fees for New Development	Yes	
Incur Debt through General Obligation Bonds	Yes	
Incur Debt through Special Tax Bonds	Yes	
Incur Debt through Private Activities	No	
Withhold Spending in Hazard Prone Areas	Yes	





## B.4.4 Mitigation Outreach and Partnerships

Blue River continues to partner with the Red, White, and Blue Fire Protection District to implement defensible space projects for property owners to reduce wildfire risk. The Town plans to continue this program in the future and has maintained a wildfire mitigation budget line for the purpose of matching grants.

## B.4.5 Past Mitigation Efforts

The Town of Blue River in partnership with Red, White & Blue; Summit Wildfire Council and a private contractor has worked to provide defensible space grants to encourage residents to create defensible space around their homes. In addition, the Town has, with assistance from DOLA and Summit Wildfire Council in partnership with Red, White & Blue Fire District installed cisterns in 21 locations throughout Town to allow for enhanced fire response.

## B.4.6 Opportunities for Enhancement

Based on the capability assessment, Blue River has several existing mechanisms in place that already help to mitigate hazards. There are also opportunities for the Town to expand or improve on these policies and programs to further protect the community. Future improvements may include providing training for staff members related to hazards or hazard mitigation grant funding in partnership with the County and DHSEM. Additional training opportunities will help to inform Town staff and board members on how best to integrate hazard information and mitigation projects into the Town policies and ongoing duties of the Town. Continuing to train Town staff on mitigation and the hazards that pose a risk to the Town will lead to more informed staff members who can better communicate this information to the public.

## B.5 Mitigation Goals and Objectives

Blue River adopts the hazard mitigation goals and objectives developed by the HMPC and described in Chapter 4 Mitigation Strategy.

## B.6 Mitigation Actions

The planning team for Blue River identified and prioritized the following mitigation actions based on the risk assessment. Background information on how each action will be implemented and administered, such as ideas for implementation, responsible agency, potential funding, estimated cost, and timeline also are included.





## Mitigation Action: Blue River—1 Culvert and Bridge Replacement

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title:</b>	Replace collapsing culverts and rebuild bridge over the Blue River on Blue River Road.
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Flood
<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	Summit County
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	Town of Blue River, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	\$300,000
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protect public health and safety</li><li>• Reduce damage due to flooding</li><li>• Prevent bridge collapse</li><li>• Improve evacuation routes</li></ul>
<b>Timeline:</b>	--
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed.</b> This is complete and culverts are cleared on an annual basis to ensure functionality





## Mitigation Action: Blue River—2 Defensible Space Program

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title:</b>	Continue homeowner defensible space program begun in 2007
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Wildfire
<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	Forest pests has killed many trees in town increasing the wildfire danger. As we are told by the fire district, it is not if, but when a wildfire will break out. The Town of Blue River has embarked on a defensible space program to help with fire mitigation. The Town has had the program in place since 2007. We also now have hydrants in the Town.
<b>Ideas for Implementation:</b>	Encourage homeowners and property owners to clear a 30-foot defensible space around their homes through education and rebates. Seek funding to continue this program each year.
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	Red, White, and Blue Fire Protection District
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	Town of Blue River, grant from Red, White, and Blue Fire Protection District, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	We have budgeted (the Town) \$15,000 with a matching grant from Red, White and Blue Fire Protection District for \$15,000.
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help residents take responsibility for mitigation of their homes</li><li>• Reduce potential loss of life and structures</li></ul>
<b>Timeline:</b>	Annual Implementation
<b>Status:</b>	The Town provides funding each year towards the defensible space grant program in conjunction with the Summit County Wildfire Council.





## Mitigation Action: Blue River—3 Regrade Spruce Creek Road

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title:</b>	Re-grade Spruce Creek Road to allow safe automobile passage to homes and national forest trails
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Erosion/Deposition, Flood
<b>Priority:</b>	Low
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	The current road is being washed away. Complete re-engineering is required to bring it up to a safe standard. This is a major thoroughfare into the National Forest and is heavily used. If the Town deems it unsafe and we cannot get it repaired, we will have to close the road for safety reasons.
<b>Ideas for Implementation:</b>	We have approached the county for assistance since our Town road connects with the County and on to the National Forest.
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	Summit County
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	--
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	It has been estimated at \$1,000,000 to reconstruct the road.
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure safety of road for residents and visitors to the national forest.</li><li>• Avoid closing the road.</li></ul>
<b>Timeline:</b>	--
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed.</b> The road was addressed as best possible given funding and terrain. Safety of this road is addressed in the Blue River Capital Improvement Plan and will be completed as funding is available.





## Mitigation Action: Blue River—4 Augment Water Supply

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title:</b>	Structural Project – Augment water supply – Cistern Project
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Wildfire
<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	The Town intends to purchase land to install cisterns in strategic locations for wildfire and structure protection.
<b>Ideas for Implementation:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	Red, White and Blue Fire Protection District, Wildfire Council
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	Grants, Awards, Town funds
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	\$100,000 for each system, plus land acquisition costs
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	There are few hydrants throughout the jurisdiction and firefighting requires shuttling water with tenders. The additional water would be a benefit in initial attack of a wildfire or structure fire or structure protection.
<b>Timeline:</b>	--
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed.</b> Action added in 2013. Cisterns have been installed in 21 locations throughout town. As easements are granted and requests submitted, additional cisterns will be installed per the capital improvement plan.





## Mitigation Action: Blue River—5 Comprehensive Master Plan

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title:</b>	Prevention– Comprehensive Master Plan
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Multi-Hazard
<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	The Town is in the process of developing a comprehensive master plan. The plan includes annexation and tax alternatives.
<b>Ideas for Implementation:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	Summit County Planning
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	Town funds
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	Staff Time
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	The plan will provide the Town with a comprehensive planning strategy for the future.
<b>Timeline:</b>	2-5 years. The Plan was adopted in 2015 and is being updated in 2020.
<b>Status:</b>	In progress. Action added in 2013. In 2019 the Town completed and adopted the capital improvement plan. This plan is being utilized and a planning document and the town is working towards funding the plan as part of a long-term project. In 2020 the Town will be updating the 2014 Comprehensive Plan.





## Mitigation Action: Blue River—6 Realign Spruce Creek Road

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title:</b>	All Hazards – Structural Project – Re-alignment of Spruce Creek Road with Colorado Highway 9
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Multi-Hazard
<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	The Town is looking into a seasonal closure as one alternative to addressing the safety hazard at the Spruce Creek Road and Highway 9 intersection. A second alternative would be the permanent closure of the intersection. A third alternative would be the re-alignment of the intersection with the State Highway.
<b>Ideas for Implementation:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	Colorado Department of Transportation
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	Grants, Awards, State and Town funds
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	The intersection is a blind entrance point onto Highway 9 where the posted speed limit is 50 mph. During the winter months the weather elements cause motorists to slide into the intersection as well as having extreme difficulty in climbing up the grade on Spruce Creek Road from the highway. This is dangerous because of the grade, road construction material, and weather elements.
<b>Timeline:</b>	--
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed.</b> Action added in 2013. Safety mirrors are being installed.





## Mitigation Action: Blue River—7 Develop Emergency Plan for Highway Closures

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title</b>	Emergency Plan for Highway Closures
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Multi-Hazard
<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	When I-70 is closed, traffic is diverted through the Town of Blue River along Hwy 9 to Hoosier Pass. In cases of inclement weather, we lack a plan to address traffic back up, accidents and overall mitigation including resources. A plan needs to be developed outlining protocols and procedures including how to address safety closures of Hwy 9
<b>Ideas for Implementation:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	Summit County OEM, Summit County Sheriff's Office, Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Department of Transportation
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	Grants, Awards, State and Town funds
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	\$0
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	With a plan in place, we will be able to prevent and/or respond better to accidents and safety concerns along Hwy 9.
<b>Timeline:</b>	Spring 2020
<b>Status:</b>	New in 2020





## Mitigation Action: Blue River – 8 Fuel Reduction and Fuel Breaks

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title:</b>	Fuels reduction and creation of a break area on National Forest Service and County land that borders the Town of Blue River
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Wildfire
<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	The Town of Blue River has worked diligently to encourage defensible space around private property within the Town limits. The area that surrounds the Town is both County and National Forest that is in need of fuels reduction to create a healthy forest and buffer in case of a wildfire.
<b>Ideas for Implementation:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	Summit County Wildfire Council, USFS
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	HMA Grants, HMGP -Post Fire following FMAG, County
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	Unknown
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	By conducting a fuels reduction along the Town borders, it will increase the ability to effectively protect the Town and properties in case of a wildfire.
<b>Timeline:</b>	2021
<b>Status:</b>	New in 2020





## Mitigation Action: Blue River – 9 Bury Utilities

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title:</b>	Work to bury utilities throughout Town
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Multi-Hazard, Wildfire, Severe Weather
<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	Electrical lines are currently above ground within Town limits. This exposes the Town to power outages and potential fire risk during inclement weather.
<b>Ideas for Implementation:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	Xcel Energy, Comcast
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	HMA Grants
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	Unknown
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	By burying the lines, this will assist in protecting vital communication lines and power.
<b>Timeline:</b>	2023
<b>Status:</b>	New in 2020





## Mitigation Action: Blue River – 10 Implement Capital Improvement Plan Projects

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title:</b>	Complete Capital Improvement Plan projects for roads to improve drainage and avoid flooding risks and road damage. Good neighbor program.
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Flood
<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	Many Town road lack proper drainage. During periods of heavy run-off or melting, properties are facing flooding into homes.
<b>Ideas for Implementation:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	FEMA
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	HMA Grants,
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	\$2,000,000
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	By completing projects within the Town of Blue River Capital Improvement Plan, proper drainage and culverts may be installed allowing for water to run off of roads, into ditches and proceed to wetlands. In cases of heavy rain, flooding or run-off this will help protect properties
<b>Timeline:</b>	2023
<b>Status:</b>	New in 2020





## Mitigation Action: Blue River – 11 Winter Preparedness Kits

<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Town of Blue River
<b>Action Title:</b>	Winter preparedness kits and information for mountain road traveling along Hwy 9 and Hoosier Pass
<b>Hazard(s) Mitigated:</b>	Severe Winter Weather
<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Background/Issue:</b>	Winter preparedness kits and information for mountain road traveling along Hwy 9 and Hoosier Pass. Being a major thorough fair for those traveling to and from Summit County, the Town experiences inclement weather and the possibility of stranded motorists.
<b>Ideas for Implementation:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Town of Blue River Town Management
<b>Partners:</b>	
<b>Potential Funding:</b>	Staff Time
<b>Cost Estimate:</b>	Unknown
<b>Benefits: (Losses Avoided)</b>	Being able to provide weather kits and expanding information about traveling through Blue River and being prepared, will help mitigate incidents.
<b>Timeline:</b>	2023
<b>Status:</b>	New in 2020





## B.7 Implementation and Maintenance

Moving forward, the Town will use the mitigation action worksheets in the previous section to track progress on implementation of each project. Implementation of the plan overall is discussed in Chapter 5 in the Base Plan.

### B.7.1 Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms

The information contained within this plan, including results from the Vulnerability Assessment, and the Mitigation Strategy will be used by the Town to help inform updates and the development of local plans, programs and policies.

#### Integration of 2013 Plan into Other Planning Mechanisms

The risk and vulnerability information the 2013 Summit County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Town of Blue River annex was used to inform the 2015 update to the Town of Blue River Comprehensive Plan, as noted in section B.4 Capability Assessment. Refer to subsection B.4.1 Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities for more information related to the integration and acknowledgment of the hazards in the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

#### Process Moving Forward

Moving forward, the Town may utilize the hazard information when reviewing a site plan or other type of development applications. The Town will also incorporate this HMP into future updates to the Town of Blue River's Comprehensive Plan as appropriate.

As noted in Chapter 5 Plan Maintenance, the HMPC representatives from Blue River will report on efforts to integrate the hazard mitigation plan into local plans, programs and policies and will report on these efforts at the annual HMPC plan review meeting

### B.7.2 Monitoring, Evaluation and Updating the Plan

The Town will follow the procedures to monitor, review, and update this plan in accordance with Summit County as outlined in Chapter 5 of the Base Plan. The Town will continue to involve the public in mitigation, as described in Section 5.4 of the Base Plan. The Town Manager will be responsible for representing the Town in the County HMPC, and for coordination with Town staff and departments during plan updates. The Town realizes it is important to review the plan regularly and update it every five years in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act Requirements.



## Aquatic & Riparian Best Management Practice Precedents

Danielle Neumann, CPW Land Use Specialist

Reference Only

### Aquatic Buffer Best Management Practices Precedents

<b>Table 1200-1. Aquatic Buffer Best Management Practices Precedents Agency</b>	<b>Buffer Distance</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Applies To</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reference</b>
BLM	0.5-mile	Stream Buffer	Native Trout, Blue & Red Ribbon Fisheries	Blue & Red Ribbon Fisheries are the equivalent of Gold Medal Waters. This RMP provided opportunities for oil and gas development.	Lewistown, Montana	2020 Lewistown Field Office Resource Management Plan
BLM	0.5-mile	Stream Buffer	Native Trout, Blue Ribbon Fisheries	Applies to Blue Ribbon Fisheries, which are the equivalent of Gold Medal Waters.	Billings, Montana	Billings Field Office Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan, Appendix S

BLM	0.25-mile	NSO	Colorado River cutthroat trout conservation populations and streams	0.25-mile (1,320 foot ) NSO buffer to conserve Colorado River cutthroat trout.	Tres Rios Field Office, Colorado	Tres Rios Field Office Resource Management Plan, Appendix H
BLM	328 feet	NSO	Streams/Springs Possessing Lotic Riparian Characteristics	Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities within a minimum distance of 100 meters (328 feet) from the edge of the ordinary high-water mark (bankfull-stage).	Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado	Grand Junction Field Office, Resource Management Plan, Allowable Use W-AU8, Stipulation NSO-2

BLM	0.25-mile	NSO	Perennial Water	NSO for up to 0.25-mile from perennial water sources, if necessary, depending on type and use of the water source, soil type, and slope steepness.	Little Snake Field Office, Colorado	Little Snake Field Office, Resource Management Plan, Perennial Water LS-105 No Surface Occupancy Stipulation
USFS	350 feet	NSO	Fisheries	NSO for Gold Medal Fisheries and the recreational opportunities provided by the fisheries.	White River National Forest, Colorado	White River National Forest, Oil & Gas Leasing Final Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision 1993
BLM	0.5-mile	Stream Buffer	Native trout and Blue Ribbon Fisheries	Applies to Blue Ribbon Fisheries, the equivalent of Gold Medal Waters.	Dillon, Montana	2006 Dillon Field Office Resource Management Plan, Appendix K

**Riparian Buffer Distances Shown in Literature**

<b>Riparian Buffers Relevant To:</b>	<b>Distance (Feet (“ft.”))</b>	<b>Citation</b>
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Amphibians	≥ 200 ft. <sup>2</sup>	Boyd, L. 2001. Buffer zones and beyond: Wildlife use of wetland buffer zones and their protection under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act. Project report to the Department of Natural Resources Conservation, University of Massachusetts. 33 pp.
Amphibians	384–673 ft.	Sheldon, D., T. Hruby, P. Johnson, K. Harper, A. McMillan, T. Granger, S. Stanley, and E. Stockdale. 2005. Wetlands in Washington State - Volume 1: A Synthesis of the Science. Washington State Department of Ecology, Olympia, WA. 85 pp.
Amphibians	390–1,900 ft.	Granger, T., T. Hruby, A. McMillan, D. Peters, J. Rubey, D. Sheldon, S. Stanley, and E. Stockdale. 2005. Wetlands in Washington state - volume 2: guidance for protecting and managing wetlands. Washington State Department of Ecology. Publication #05-06-008. Olympia, WA. 398 pp.
Boreal Toads	300 ft.	United States Department of Agriculture and United States Forest Service. 2002. White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. White River National Forest, Supervisor's Office. Glenwood Springs, Colorado. 201 pp.
Boreal Toads	300 ft.	"Crockett, H. (ed.). 2023. Conservation plan for the boreal toad ( <i>Anaxyrus boreas boreas</i> ) in the southern Rocky Mountains. Boreal Toad Conservation Team. 80 p. + appendices. Access at: <a href="http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/Recovery-Conservation-Plans.aspx">http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/Recovery-Conservation-Plans.aspx</a> "
Fish	≥ 100 ft.	Granger, T., T. Hruby, A. McMillan, D. Peters, J. Rubey, D. Sheldon, S. Stanley, and E. Stockdale. 2005. Wetlands in Washington

		state - volume 2: guidance for protecting and managing wetlands. Washington State Department of Ecology. Publication #05-06-008. Olympia, WA. 398 pp.
General	100–300 ft.	Chase, V. P, L. S. Deming, and F. Latawiec. 1995. Buffers for wetlands and surface waters: a guidebook for New Hampshire municipalities. Audubon Society of New Hampshire. 80 pp.
General	100–750 ft.	Calhoun, A.J.K. and M.W. Klemens. 2002. Best development practices: conserving pool-breeding amphibians in residential and commercial developments in the northeast United States. MCA Technical Paper No. 5. Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society. Bronx, NY. 57 pp.
General	10–840 ft.	Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. 2005. Riparian buffers and corridors: technical papers. Waterbury, VT. 39 pp.
General	100–950 ft.	Environmental Law Institute. 2008. Planner's guide to wetland buffers for local governments. 25 pp.
General	≥ 300 ft.	Bennett, K., ed. 2010. Good forestry in the granite state: recommended voluntary forest management practices for New Hampshire. 2nd ed. UNH Cooperative Extension, Durham, NH. 224 pp.
General	100–750 ft.	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2015. Vernal pool best management practices (BMPs). New England District. 5 pp.

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# COLORADO GROWING WATER SMART: COMMUNITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

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## Introduction

The first step in becoming water smart is understanding your current conditions. This self-assessment is designed to guide your community through a data gathering process that will help inform your team's work sessions during the Growing Water Smart Workshop.

**Keep responses high level and brief enough to guide your discussions and provide weblink or document and page citations so that you can quickly dive deeper, if necessary. In cases where you do not have information, simply acknowledge what you do not know.** The capacity of your community and history of planning will influence the depth and breadth of the data available.

**Each of the four Growing Water Smart Self-Assessment sections will likely be completed by representatives from different departments.** If you are gathering data from multiple entities, such as multiple water providers or community planning departments, please ask each agency/organization to complete their Self-Assessment sections in a new document. A spreadsheet format is available upon request. **When using multiple copies of this document, please list the agency's name filling out the report in each document's header.**

**Part 1** gathers data related to trends that influence your community's water supply and demand, such as growth rates and drought. This information is likely to be found in current plans such as the general plan, climate adaptation plan, or emergency preparedness plan. Sources of data will likely be from within the planning department. If you have no local data, you can find data on trends at the Colorado Basin Roundtable page for your region (<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/about-us/basin-roundtables>) and the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade (<https://choosecolorado.com/>).

**Part 2** gathers information typically found in water planning documents or water budgets about your water supply and demand. Depending upon the capacity of your community, you may not have all this information available. Sources of data will likely be water utilities or water resource managers.

**Part 3** gathers information on current water conservation and efficiency efforts included in water and land use policies and plans. Data sources will likely be the planning department, water utilities, or water resource managers.

**Part 4** gathers information regarding your community's current policies that are most likely to link water and land use beyond traditional water conservation and efficiency standards, including connecting water demand to growth patterns, water quality, and watershed health. The planning department or planning commission are the likely sources for this section.

**Please enter your responses into the green highlighted boxes. Please review your completed self-assessment(s) with your team before the workshop to accelerate your team's progress during the Growing Water Smart Workshop.**

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Sonoran Institute at [growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org](mailto:growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org).

### Part 1: Trends that Influence Water Supply & Demand

Data will likely come from the planning department. If you have no local data, you can find data on trends at the Colorado Basin Roundtable page for your region (<https://cwb.colorado.gov/about-us/basin-roundtables>) and the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade (<https://choosecolorado.com/>).

AREA OF INFLUENCE	RESPONSE			NOTES/SPECIFIC NUMBERS	
Economic					
1. In general, is our economy growing, steady, or declining?	Growing	Steady	Declining	Notes/specific numbers	
2. Property tax base change from 2000 to current period					
3. Sales tax change from 2000 to current					
4. Trends in specific sectors:					
• Agricultural					
• Commercial					
• Industrial					
• Other					
• Which is the most significant economic sector; is it changing?					
AREA OF INFLUENCE	RESPONSE			NOTES/SPECIFIC NUMBERS	
Population & Development					
5. Total Population?					
6. What is our projected population growth rate?					
7. Number of building permits issued annually	Growing	Steady	Declining		
8. Projected build-out date?					
9. Where is the new development located? Write in a percentage for each category, if known.	Urban Core (infill)	Inner-suburbs	Outer-suburbs (exurban)	Fringe (greenfield)	Rural
10. What is the most frequent type of development application? (i.e., major subdivisions, minor subdivisions, multi-family, etc.)					
AREA OF INFLUENCE	RESPONSE			NOTES/SPECIFIC NUMBERS	
Climate					
11. How have the following climatic factors changed in our community in the last ten years?	Growing	Steady	Declining		
• Temperature					
• Drought					
• Wildfire frequency and/or intensity					
• Flooding frequency and/or intensity					
12. Does our community have specific environmental concerns or priorities?					

**UPDATE COMMUNITY/ENTITY NAME HERE, Colorado**

Colorado Growing Water Smart 2023 | Community Self-Assessment

<p>(e.g., low stream/lake levels, water temperature, water quality, salinity, erosion, subsidence, etc.)</p>	
<p><b><i>Section Impressions: What were your key takeaways from this section? What is your community doing well? What are your community's challenges?</i></b></p>	
<p><b><i>Have you identified any needs or next steps that would further integrate water and land use planning?</i></b></p>	

**Congratulations! You have completed section 1 of 4!**

## Part 2: Water Supply & Demand

Data sources will likely be from the water utility or the water resources/public works department(s).

If you have multiple water providers, please have each of them complete this section. To use a spreadsheet version instead of a document to compile and compare responses across providers, please contact [growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org](mailto:growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org).

WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	
	Current	Projected
<b>1. What is our total current and projected supply and demand in acre feet?</b>		
• Current Supply (dry year average):		
• Projected Supply (to what year):		
• Current Demand:		
• Projected Demand (to what year):		
<b>2. Is our water supply and demand balanced? Please mark the most accurate option with an X. Add any additional information here.</b>		We have not calculated our current water supply and demand balance.
		Our water budget is currently balanced, but a shortage is projected for the future if trends continue.
		Our water budget is currently balanced and is projected to remain balanced.
<b>3. Do we have a study or plan that summarizes our water supply and/or demand? If yes, please provide a link to the report or study.</b>		
<b>4. What is the composition of our water supply?</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Projected</b>
• Surface water (AF)		
• Tributary Groundwater (AF)		
• Non-tributary Groundwater (AF)		
• Reuse (AF)		
• Individual household wells (number)		
<b>5. What is the sector breakdown of our current water demand? (in AF)</b>		
• Agriculture		
• Industrial		
• Residential Single-Family		
• Residential Multi-Family		
• Municipal		
• Commercial		
<b>6. If current gallons per capita water demand (e.g., GPCD) is known, please provide. If you use other criteria to measure demand, include that instead.</b>		
<b>7. Do we have a gallons per capita water demand goal or other targets for conservation? Please provide.</b>		
<b>8. Are additional water supply storage projects being considered to meet future demand? Yes/no, and add an explanation if necessary.</b>		
<b>9. Has an assessment of the impacts of water conservation been conducted? (e.g., revenue, water infrastructure, etc.) Yes/no, and add an explanation if necessary.</b>		
<b>10. Is climate vulnerability and variability part of the assessment of future water supply? Yes/no, and add an explanation if necessary.</b>		

<p><b>11. Does our community have a means of assuring water supply for development? Yes/no, and please describe the process.</b></p>	
<p><b>12. Are population and growth projection methodologies used to determine future water demand?</b>  <b>a. If yes, please indicate which methods:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A linear population growth model is used</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Low, medium, and high population projections are used</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Growth scenario modeling is used</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Demand projections are tied to land use. If so, are demands linked to zoning (C-1, C-2, etc.), or are demands tied to specific development types within zones (restaurants, dry cleaners, etc.)?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Other</li> </ul>	
<p><b>13. Have projected land use changes been connected to water demand projections in calculating future demand?</b>  <b>a. If yes, please indicate which methods:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Based on population projection</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Based on the total number of households/taps based on growth projections</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Based on density or historical land use type per acre</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Other</li> </ul>	
<p><b>14. What is the source of the population data?</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Colorado Department of Local Affairs</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consultant</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Other</li> </ul>	
<p><b>15. Have we included climate vulnerability and variability as part of our future water supply assessment? If yes, how did we assess vulnerability? What is our firm yield?</b></p>	
<p><i>Section Impressions: What were your key takeaways from this section? What is your community doing well? What are your community's challenges?</i></p>	
<p><i>Have you identified any needs or next steps that would further integrate water and land use planning?</i></p>	

**Congratulations! You have completed section 2 of 4!**

### Part 3: Water Conservation and Efficiency Programs

Data sources will likely be from the water provider, water utility, or the water resources/public works department(s).  
 If you have multiple water providers, please have each of them complete this section. To use a spreadsheet version instead of a document to compile and compare responses across providers, please contact [growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org](mailto:growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org).

WATER CONSERVATION QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
<b>1. Do we, as a water utility or provider, utilize any of the following plans to guide water efficiency?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Link to policy</i>
• Water Supply Plan			
• Water Conservation Plan			
• Drought Preparedness Plan			
• Other:			
<b>2. Do we, as a water utility or provider, conduct any of the following water conservation programs?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Link to policy</i>
• Cash for grass/turf replacement			
• Rebates for indoor fixtures and appliances			
• Water efficient product giveaways			
• Conservation education for consumers			
• Landscaping education for property owners			
• Landscaping education for landscaping professionals			
• Water efficiency rebates			
• Rainwater harvesting education and/or incentives			
• Water audits			
• Secondary water metering			
• Conservation rate structuring			
• Effluent Reuse			
• Other:			
<b>3. If we have a utility that uses rate structuring to promote water conservation, which of the following does the utility use? Please mark the structure used with an X.</b>			
• Drought Demand Pricing: Rates are higher during drought periods			
• Excess Use: Rates are higher for above average water use			
• Inclining Block: Rate per block increases as water use increases			
• Indoor/Outdoor: With separate meters, rates for indoor use are lower rates for outdoor use			
• Penalties: Customers are charged for exceeding allowable limits of water			
• Scarcity Pricing: The costs of developing new supplies is added to bills			
• Seasonal Pricing: Water rates are higher during the season with the most demand			
• Sliding Scale: The unit price increases based on an average consumption			
• Spatial Pricing: Water rates are determined by the actual costs to supply water to specific locations			
• Time-of-Use: Water rates are higher during peak days or specific hours of the week			
• Water Budget: Block rates are defined for each customer based on an efficient level for that customer			
• Other:			
<b>4. Do you use water restrictions?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
• Seasonally, required			
• Seasonally, voluntary			
• Only under drought restrictions, required			
<b>Section Impressions: What were your key takeaways from this section? What is your community doing well?</b>			

<i>What are your community's challenges?</i>	
<i>Have you identified any needs or next steps that would further integrate water and land use planning?</i>	

**Congratulations! You have completed section 3 of 4!**

### Part 4: Local Government Land Use Plans, Policies, and Processes

Sources of data will likely be from the planning and development services department.

GENERAL/COMPREHENSIVE PLAN QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
	Yes	No	
<b>1. How does our comprehensive/general plan address water demand?</b>			<i>Please link to the plan</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It does not address water</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have a discrete water element or subsection of a chapter</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Water considerations are deliberately integrated throughout relevant sections</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Other</li> </ul>			
<b>2. Does our comprehensive/general plan reference our water conservation targets or goals?</b>			
<b>3. Does our comprehensive/general plan include recommended goals and/or strategies for the following topics?</b>	Yes	No	<i>Please link to the plan and cite location or excerpt language here.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sustainable water supply and/or demand management</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Water quality protection and/or water source protection</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Watershed health</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Water conservation and efficiency</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Designated growth areas connected to water infrastructure</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promotion of compact development patterns</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Drought management</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wastewater management</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Floodplain and stormwater management</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Groundwater management and protection</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Social equity regarding water service, quality, and cost</li> </ul>			
<b>4. Does your general plan include forecasted water demand?</b>			
<b>5. Are your general plan population and water demand projections consistent with your water supply plan?</b>			
<b>6. Does our general/comprehensive plan contain strategies to address the following considerations?</b>	Yes	No	<i>Please link to the plan and cite location or excerpt language here.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Re-zonings, development approvals, and permits demonstrate adequate water supply and do not adversely affect water supplies and infrastructural capacity</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Water efficient land use and urban form (e.g., urban growth boundary, cluster development, approaches to increase density, and volume/demand-based tap fees)</li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirements that future land use code amendments are consistent with the general/comprehensive plan</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water efficient landscaping (e.g., soil quality improvements, low-water use plant lists, turf limitations, irrigation system efficiency requirements, etc.)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watershed health, floodplain management, and water supply source protection</li> </ul>			
<b>7. Does our community have any supporting plans that include elements of water resource management?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link to the plan</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A climate action plan, adaptation plan, or resiliency plan</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A sustainability plan</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A hazard mitigation plan</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A floodplain management or watercourse plan</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An integrated water resources plan, water supply plan, or One Water plan</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other?</li> </ul>			
<b>8. Does our community track the implementation of water and land use goals stated in our comprehensive/general plan? If so, how?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
<b>DEVELOPMENT REVIEW QUESTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSE</b>	
<b>9. When are water resources staff/utilities engaged during the development review process?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link any references</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-application meetings</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary plat review</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site design</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site inspection</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Who conducts the water adequacy review for development proposals?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link any references</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review by the State (for well permits)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning Commission</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Resource Department or Engineer</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utility Department</li> </ul>			
<b>11. Are planning commissioners and elected officials trained or educated about community water management goals?</b>			
<b>12. Do you ever use your development agreements to require compliance with water efficiency or watershed protection efforts?</b>			
<b>13. Do we use design review incentives, such as expedited review, to encourage water efficiency?</b>			
<b>14. Are new economic development projects required to engage with water planners/providers to assess water availability?</b>			
<b>DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSE</b>	
<b>Water Supply Requirements</b>		<b>LINK TO POLICY</b>	
<b>15. Does your Development Code include a policy for the provision of adequate water supply for new development?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link any references</i>
<b>15a. If yes, does the adequate water supply provision include any of the following components?</b>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A definition for a “sustainable water supply” such as defined period of time for water sustainability</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A requirement for demonstration of both legal water adequacy</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A requirement for proof of physical water supply adequacy, either a water plan or hydrological study</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning overlays for different water adequacy rules depending on location</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniform application to all development</li> </ul>			
<b>16. Who conducts the water adequacy review for development proposals?</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review by the Colorado Department of Water Resources</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link any references</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review by the State Engineer’s Office</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Commission or Elected Officials</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Staff or Engineer                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Resource Department</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utility Department                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water District</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>16. How do we evaluate the water demand of individual developments?</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We rely on the will serve letter and the water provider’s methodology</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We require all developments to submit an estimate of a development’s water demand at build out in our development application                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If yes, do we use an established methodology for calculating that demand?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We require economic development projects to engage with water planners/providers to assess water availability (e.g., water allocation policy, etc.)</li> </ul>			
<b>17. At what point is the proof of water required in the development approval process?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link any references</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial or preliminary plat submittal</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At final development approval</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By development phase(s)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At building permit</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other</li> </ul>			
<b>18. Do we use your development agreements to require compliance with water resource goals (e.g., water efficiency, watershed protection, etc.?)</b>			
<b>19. Are planning commissioners and elected officials trained or educated about community water management goals?</b>			
<b>DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS</b>			
<b>Site Development Standards for Water Quality</b>			
<b>20. Does our Development Code include zoning or development standards for water quality protection?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link to the code section</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development standards for sensitive areas such as limits to site disturbances</li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development standards for stream buffers and setbacks to protect water quality</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation protection standards that minimize disturbance to vegetation within the riparian corridor</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other</li> </ul>			
<b>21. Does our Development Code include zoning or development standards for water quality protection?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link to the code section</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zoning districts that require lower densities and/or cluster development to protect sensitive areas</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated surface and/or groundwater districts with standards to minimize contamination of streams and shallow aquifers that will protect existing and potential sources of drinking water supplies. (e.g., watershed overlay zone, groundwater protection zone, aquifer recharge zones)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other</li> </ul>			
<b>DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSE</b>	
<b>Water Efficient Land Use Patterns</b>		<b>LINK TO POLICY</b>	
<b>22. Does our Development Code include policies that promote and/or support compact form?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link to the code section</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher density and smaller lot sizes by right</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed use by right</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing types by right other than single-family (e.g., MF, townhomes, ADUs, condos, etc.)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural land conservation/cluster subdivisions</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development incentives for water efficient development (e.g., density bonus, reduced fees)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated future growth and/or infill areas or boundaries with infrastructure available for higher density development</li> </ul>			
<b>23. Does our Development Code have a provision requiring water conservation and efficiency in our:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link to the code section</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned Development Policy</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annexation Policy</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other</li> </ul>			
<b>DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSE</b>	
<b>Efficient Outdoor Water Use</b>		<b>LINK TO POLICY</b>	
<b>24. Does our Development Code include landscaping standards to reduce outdoor water use?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link to the code section</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape plan requirement</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turf species limitation (type of turf)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turf area limitation (square footage maximums)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total landscaped area maximums</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant density standards</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant type requirements (e.g., native/xeric plants)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil enhancements and organic mulching requirements</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irrigation system efficiency practices (e.g., drip, bubblers, low flow sprinklers, rain and/or ET sensors)</li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watering schedules (e.g., time of day, day of the week, seasonal)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water budgets for outdoor water use (limitations on allowable water supply in a landscape area, e.g., 15"/sq ft or maximum acre feet/gallons)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rainwater harvesting standards</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low Impact Development standards (swales, rain gardens, curb cuts, detention, etc.)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water waste/water run-off limitations</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative water source requirements (greywater standards or nonpotable water)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site inspection verification of landscape plan</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code enforcement and fines for violations of standards</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other</li> </ul>			
<p><b>25. Does our development code include any regulations, restrictions, requirements, or incentives for homeowners associations managing their public landscapes for greater water efficiency?</b></p>			
<p><b>BUILDING &amp; PLUMBING QUESTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Efficient Indoor Water Use</b></p>	<b>RESPONSE</b>		<b>LINK TO POLICY</b>
<p><b>26. Do we have plumbing efficiency standards that promote water conservation for <i>Residential</i> uses?</b></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link to the code section</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water efficient plumbing fixture requirement (e.g., WaterSense, Energy Star, etc.)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water efficient appliance requirement (e.g., WaterSense, Energy Star, etc.)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greywater plumbing systems</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other</li> </ul>			
<p><b>27. Do we have plumbing efficiency standards that promote water conservation for <i>Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional</i> uses?</b></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water efficient plumbing fixture requirement (e.g., WaterSense, Energy Star, etc.)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water efficient appliance requirement (e.g., WaterSense, Energy Star, etc.)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional commercial standards for high water consumption uses (e.g., car washes, golf courses, hotels, restaurants, laundromats, etc.) including:</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-rinse spray valves</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Recycling Systems</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greywater Systems</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decorative Water Features</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Saving Signage</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other</li> </ul>			
<p><b>28. Does our code include any plumbing and building water saving standards?</b></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<i>Please link the code section</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metering for commercial and single-family units for new development connections</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submetering for multifamily units for new development connections</li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fee incentive for new development to incorporate additional water efficient fixtures, appliances, plumbing above the required standard</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Requirement for plumbing fixture retrofit on resale or for rehabilitation of property to receive C.O. or as a fee incentive for new development</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tap availability limitations</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tap fee incentives for water conservation measures</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Section Impressions: What were your key takeaways from this section? What is your community doing well? What are your community's challenges?</b></p>			
<p><b>Have you identified any needs or next steps that would further integrate water and land use planning?</b></p>			
<b>Final Question</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>		<b>LINK TO POLICY</b>
29. Are we doing anything else to conserve water that is not already mentioned in this assessment?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
a. If Yes, please describe:			

**Congratulations! You have completed section 4 of 4!**

Please let your workshop coordinator and your team know once all four sections are completed.



# Colorado Wildfire Risk Viewer

<https://co-pub.coloradoforestatlas.org>

## Fire Intensity Scale

Quantifies the potential fire intensity by orders of magnitude.

### Created on:

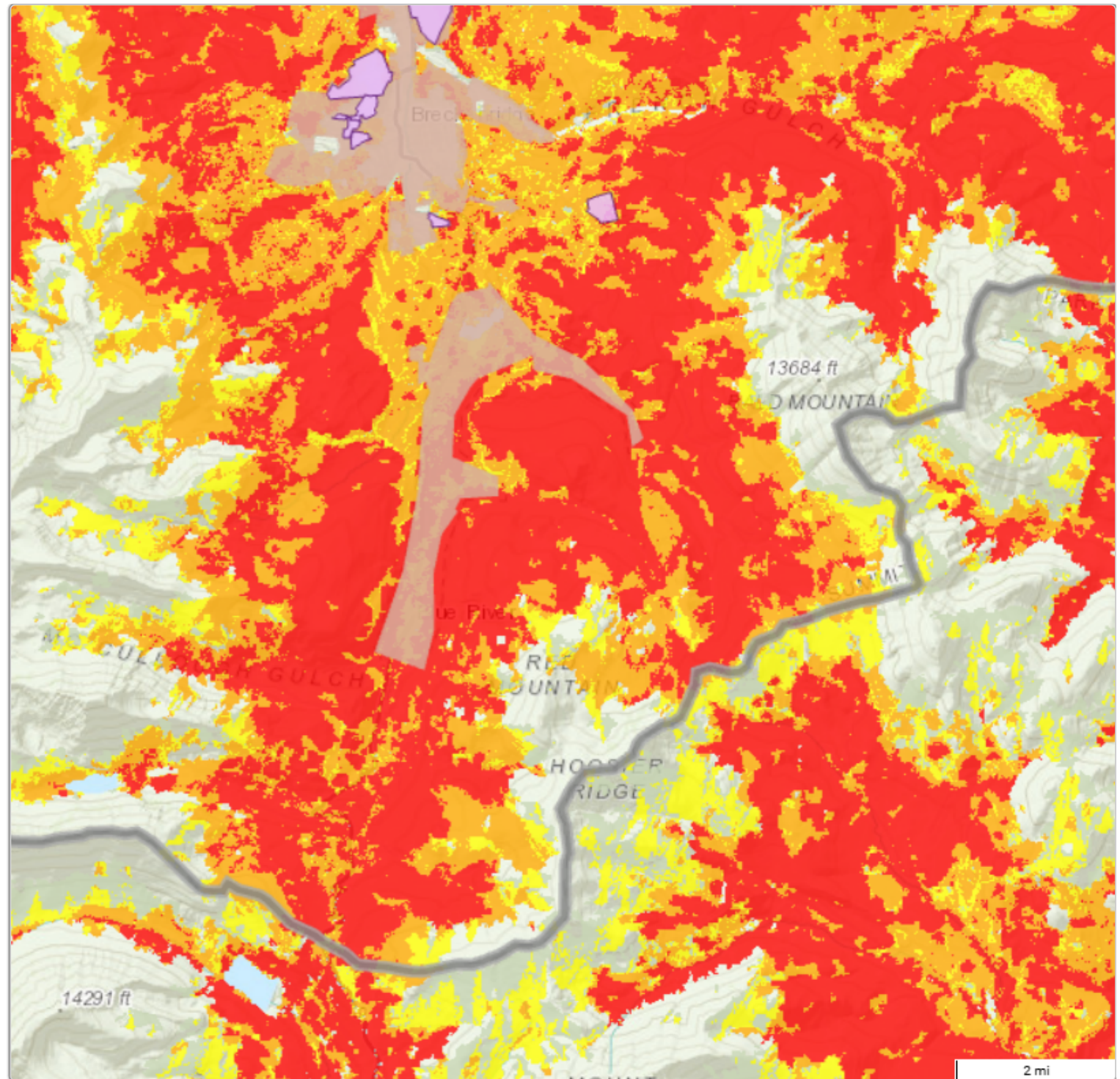
3/5/2025, 2:18 PM

## Disclaimer

The user assumes the entire risk related to their use of the Colorado Wildfire Risk Viewer and either the published or derived products from these data.

The Colorado State Forest Service is providing these data "as is" and disclaims any and all warranties, whether expressed or implied, including (without limitation) any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

In no event will Colorado State Forest Service be liable to you or to any third party for any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, special or exemplary damages or lost profit resulting from any use or misuse of these data.









# Legend

<https://co-pub.coloradoforestatlas.org>

## Fire Intensity Scale

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-  Lowest Intensity
-  Low Intensity
-  Moderate Intensity
-  High Intensity

## Counties

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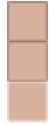
## Firewise USA Recognized Sites

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## Cities

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## Town of Blue River Wildfire Risk Assessment

### Introduction:

On October 14, 2024, the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) received a letter from the Town of Blue River in Summit County, Colorado requesting information, recommendations, and technical assistance to assist the town to study, evaluate, and potentially designate potential wildfire hazard within the town boundaries and surrounding areas pursuant to Section 24-65.1-302, CRS.

The Town of Blue River is situated in the Blue River Valley on the southern end of Summit County, Colorado. This region is characterized by abundant tree cover both within the community and its surrounding forested areas. This valley plays a critical ecological role, providing vital wildlife habitat, supporting fish populations, and serving as a significant water source. Given the valley's importance, any wildfire in this region could have severe consequences, not only for residents' life safety and property values, but also to the thousands of people that rely on its water in other areas of the county and state.

This document outlines the wildfire risks and hazards in the Town of Blue River. It reviews completed and future wildfire mitigation projects and offers technical recommendations on areas where mitigation efforts should be prioritized.

### Methodology/Results:

The wildfire risk assessment for the Town of Blue River was conducted using a combination of the Wildfire Risk Reduction Planner, a web-based application that incorporates data from the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment (CO-WRA) and on-the-ground reconnaissance for ground-truthing. Last updated in 2022, the Wildfire Risk Reduction Planner, developed by CSFS, is a tool designed to support community wildfire protection planning by providing access to statewide wildfire risk data. It is primarily used by government officials, hazard mitigation planners, and wildfire professionals to assess and plan for wildfire risks.

The risk assessment was performed using several key themes and data layers, each representing different aspects of wildfire risk in the region. The following themes were considered:

1. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk (Figure #1) – Area where structures and other human improvements meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or

vegetative fuels. This rating is the potential impact of wildfire on people and their homes.

2. WUI House/Acre (Figure #2) – it reflects housing density (houses per acre) consistent with Federal Register National standards.
3. Watershed Protection Risk (Figure #3) – identifies those watershed areas with the greatest potential for adverse effects from wildfire.
4. Values at Risk Rating (Figure #4) – an overall rating that combines the risk for WUI, Forest Assets, Riparian Assets, and Drinking Water Importance Areas into a single measure of values-at-risk.
5. Road Availability (Figure #5) – poor egress vs. good ingress in case of a wildfire.
6. Fire Intensity Scale (Figure #6) – identifies areas where significant fuel hazards and associated dangerous fire behavior potential exist.
7. Defensible Space Score (Figure #7) – also known as the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ), identifies the score on the likelihood of a home surviving a wildfire event.
8. Building Density (Figure #8) – identifies the density of human made structures in a given area.
9. Building Damage Potential (Figure #9) – identifies the damage potential of human made structures in a given area.

Furthermore, this data was compared and compiled with the 2016 Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assigned areas around the Town of Blue River.

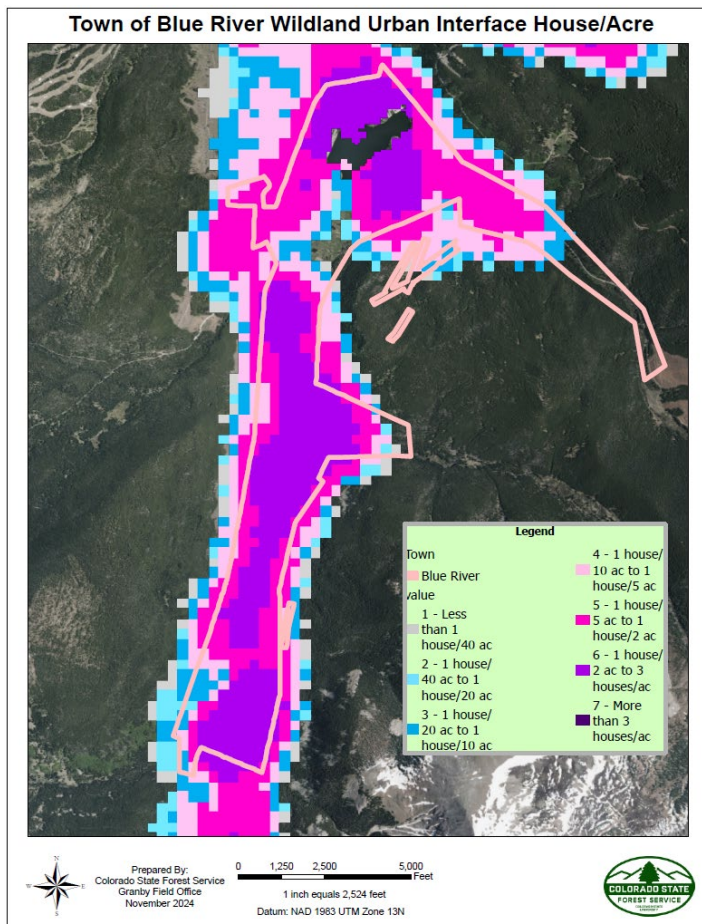
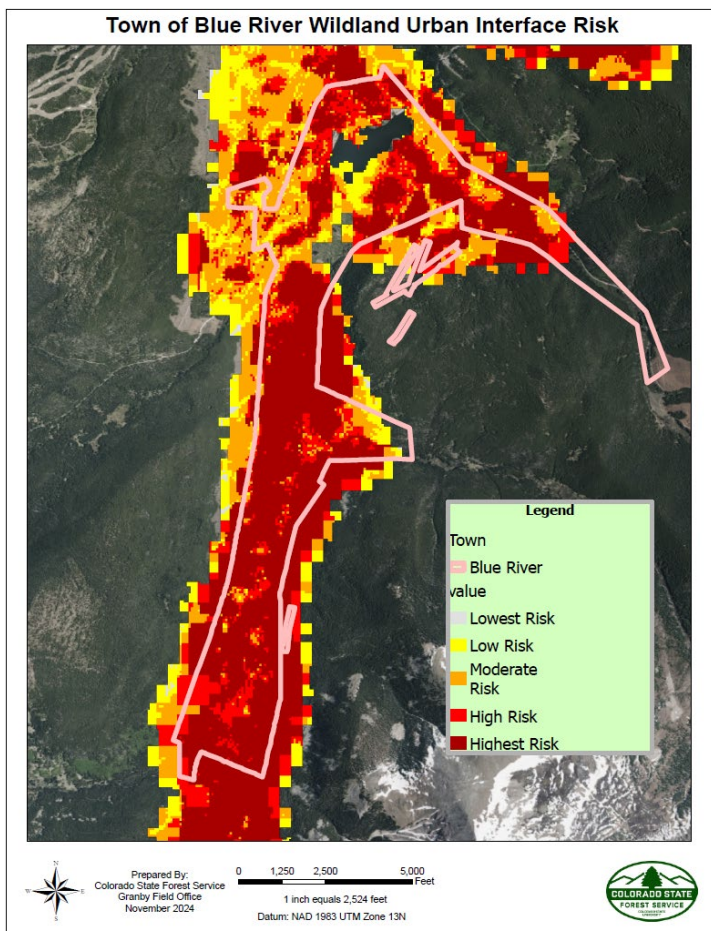


Figure #1 – Wildland Urban Interface Risk

Figure #2 – Wildland Urban Interface House per acre

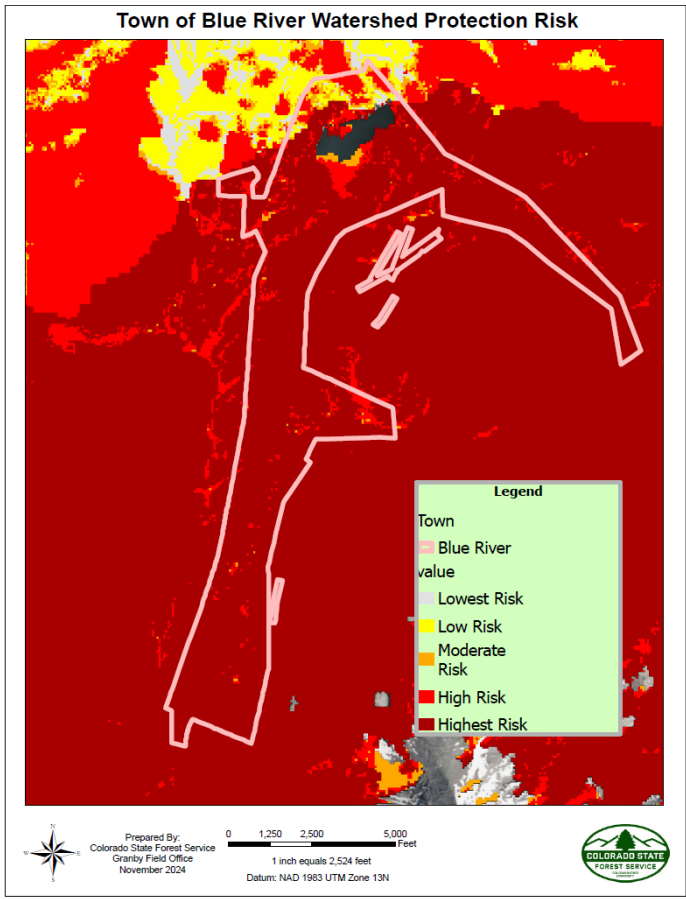


Figure #3 – Watershed Protection Risk

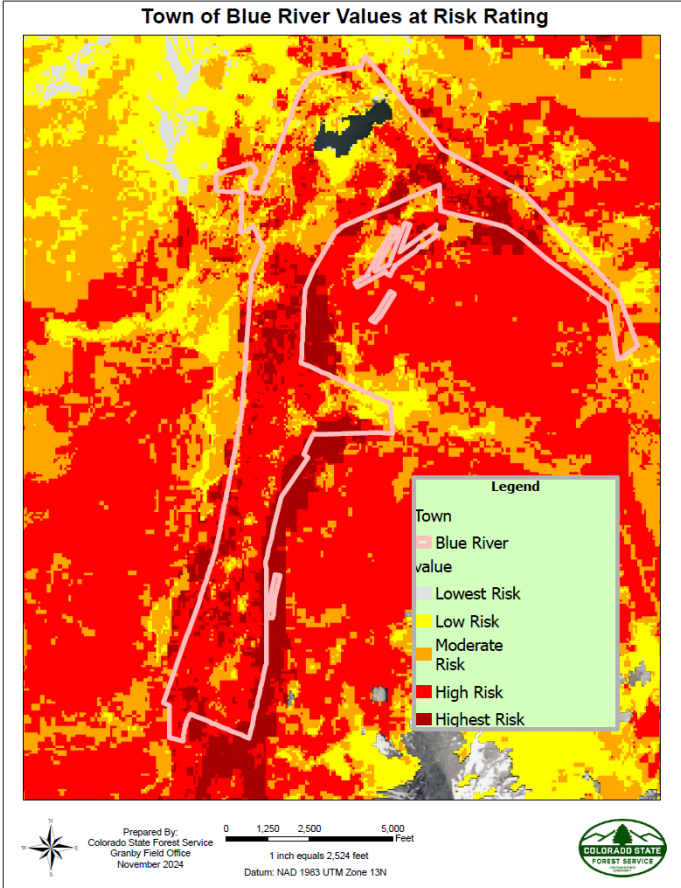


Figure #4 – Values at Risk Rating

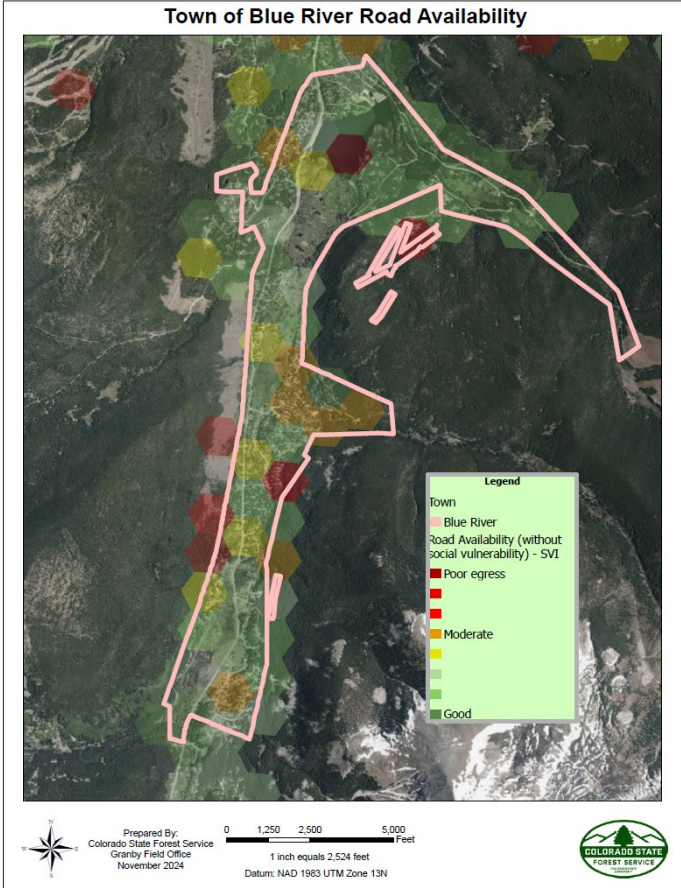


Figure #5 – Road Availability

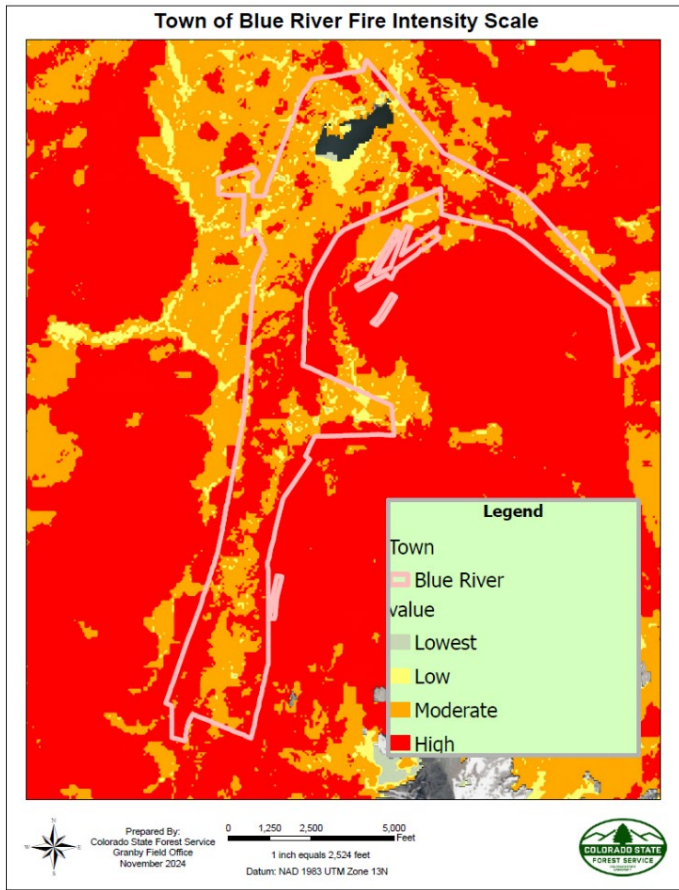


Figure #6 – Fire Intensity Scale

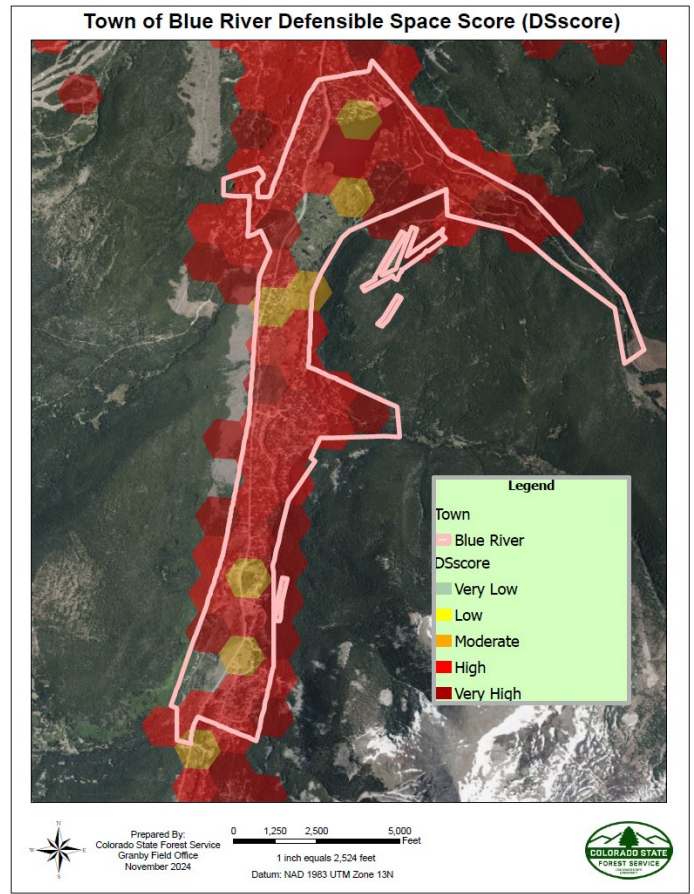


Figure #7 – Defensible Space Score

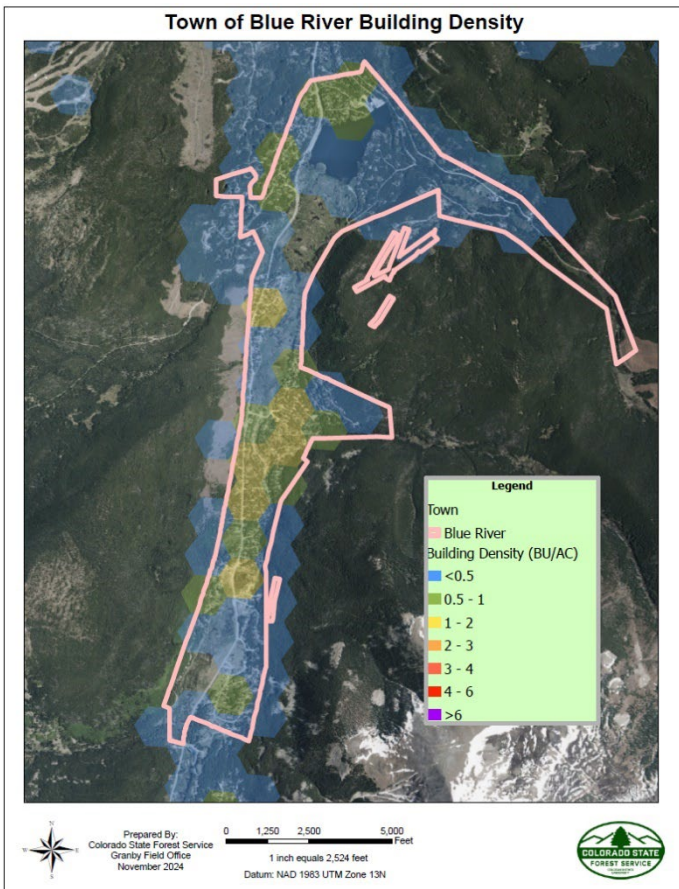


Figure #8 – Building Density

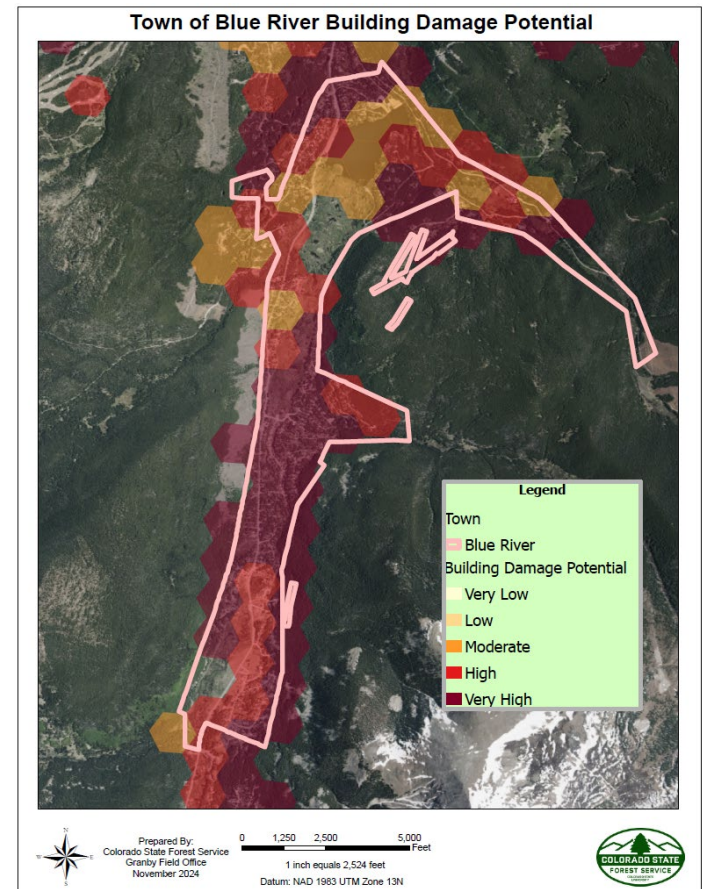


Figure #9 – Building Damage Potential

As per the figures above, the Town of Blue River has high to very high levels of wildfire risk and potential impacts to values. Specifically, the communities of The Crown, Spruce Creek, Blue River Estates, and Rio Azul exhibit some of the higher risk.

These communities show poor Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) areas surrounding private property (Figure #7, Photos #1, #3, #4 and #5), dense crown densities surrounding houses and communities (Photo #2) which will increase the fire intensity scale (Figure #7), moderate to poor ingress and egress (Figure #5), and high to very high levels of building damage potential and values at risk (Figure #9 and Figure #4).

These areas were assessed by CSFS staff on November 4, 2024. The pictures below confirm the data provided by CO-WRA and Summit County's CWPP.



Photo #1 – Private property where Home Ignition Zone is recommended



Photo #2 – Crown Spacing recommended



Photo #3 – Private property where Home Ignition Zone is recommended



Photo #4 – Private property where Home Ignition Zone is recommended



Photo #5 – Private property where Home Ignition Zone is recommended

Work Completed to Date in and around the Town of Blue River

The following wildfire mitigation projects have been completed in the Town of Blue River and in the surrounding areas:

Blue River West and Spruce Creek:

The Blue River West and Spruce Creek projects were completed in the summer of 2022 and the summer of 2023 respectively. It consisted of two prescriptions (hand and mechanical) over five units for a total of 118 acres on USFS lands as shown on Figure #11.

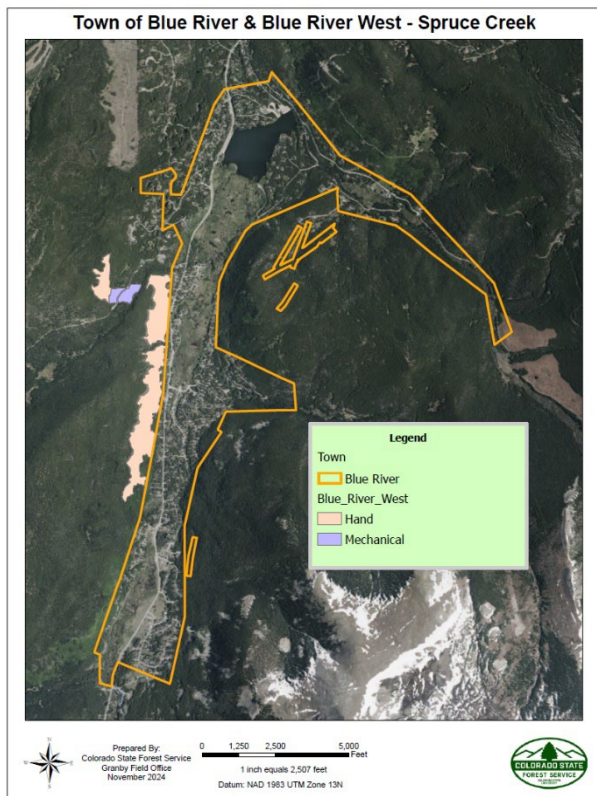


Figure #11 – Blue River West and Spruce Creek a Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) project

Private Land projects:

Much work has been done on private lands over recent years. This work has made an impact on private lands within the Town. However, as this report highlights there remains a high need for additional/ continued work. Especially within zones 2 & 3 of the home ignition zone which is explained in the recommendations section.

Work to be Completed in and around the Town of Blue River

The following wildfire mitigation project will be completed in the Town of Blue River and in the surrounding areas:

Blue River East:

The Blue River East project will consist of six prescriptions over multiple units for a total of 82.5 acres on USFS land, Summit County Open Space, Town of Breckenridge, Town of Blue River and private lands as shown on Figure #12. The project is set to start in the summer of 2025.

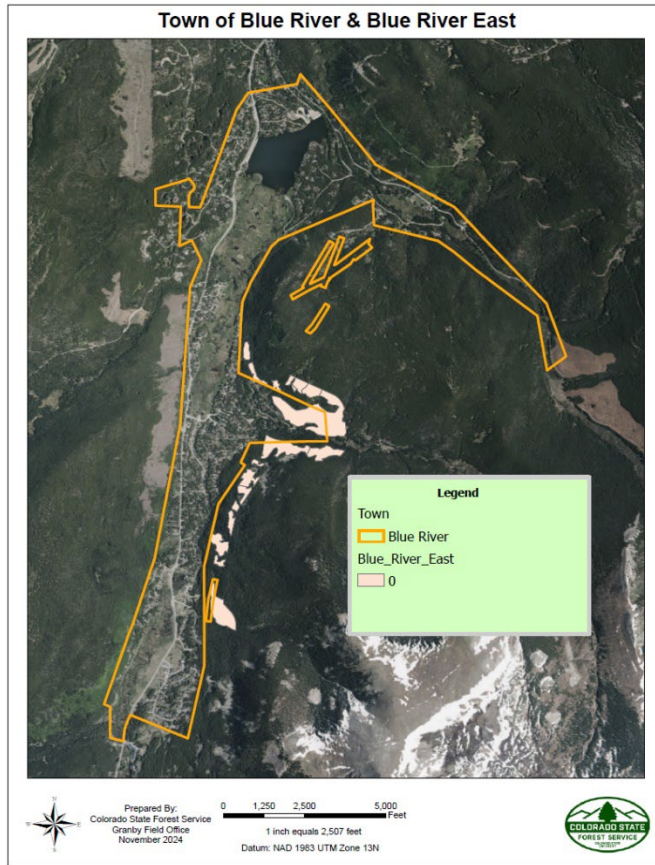


Figure #12 – Blue River East a Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) project

All these projects are consistent with the recommended treatments in Summit County’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), as shown on Figure #14, with the CO-WRA results shown above, and with NEPA assigned areas as shown on Figure #13.

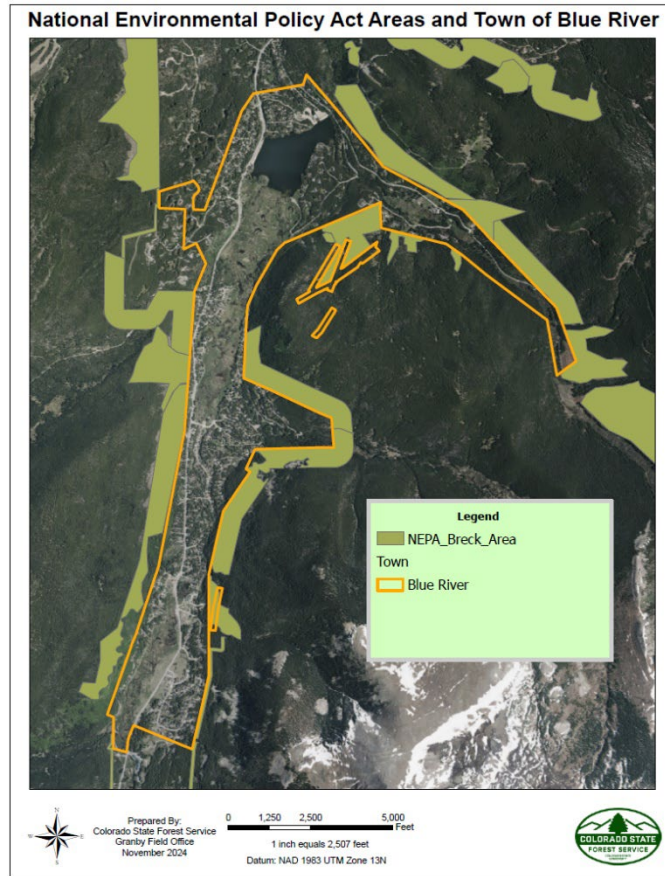


Figure # 13 – NEPA assigned areas around the Town of Blue River

### Recommendations

The wildfire hazard and risk in the Town of Blue River are classified as high to very high. As illustrated in the figures above, wildfires present a significant risk to buildings, values, watersheds, and other assets. According to data from the CO-WRA, Summit County’s CWPP, and the attached images, areas within the town – specifically The Crown, Spruce Creek, Blue River Estates, and Rio Azul – are particularly vulnerable to wildfire hazards.

To mitigate the risks in these areas, it is essential to continue fire mitigation practices within the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) and on adjacent private and federal forest lands. A HIZ is an area around a structure where the landscape materials have been modified or designed to reduce wildfire intensity.

There are three primary ways in which homes can ignite during a wildfire: ember ignition, surface fire/contact with direct flames, and radiant heat.

- **Ember Ignition:** Embers (or firebrands) are small, burning materials carried by wind, sometimes more than a mile ahead of a wildfire. These embers can land on any flammable surface, inside or outside a home, and are the leading cause of home ignitions. Addressing ember ignition is crucial, even in areas where it may seem difficult for fire to spread.
- **Surface Fire/Direct Flame Contact and Radiant Heat:** Although less common, these are still potential sources of ignition. By following recommended practices in each HIZ, the risk of ignition from these sources can be significantly reduced.

In the urbanized areas within the town limits, the choice of landscape materials and design elements can either increase or reduce the risk within the HIZ. When reviewing properties, the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and fire professionals assess various factors related to wildfire hazard, including slope and aspect, lot size, natural fuels, road systems and access, and available water sources.

It is strongly recommended that HIZ be established around both new and existing developments. These zones should be divided into three distinct areas: Zone 1 (0-5 ft from the structure), Zone 2 (5-30 ft from the structure), and Zone 3 (30-100 ft from the structure). This modification is critical for effective wildfire suppression, particularly for both new and existing developments. Furthermore, in bigger landscapes, effective mitigation treatments may include clearcuts, group selection, thinning from below, and cutting ladder fuels.

It is also recommended that landscape plans incorporate **FireWise Plant Materials** within these zones to minimize ember receptivity and reduce the potential for fire spread. A current list of FireWise plant materials can be found here: [FireWise Plant Materials - 6.305 - Extension \(colostate.edu\)](https://colostate.edu)

In addition to vegetation management, adopting "hardened" construction techniques is vital for reducing the probability of home ignitions, both from wildland fuels and structure-to-structure fires. It is recommended that noncombustible roofing, decking, and siding materials be used in all new construction. Roofing and siding are the primary factors in determining a structure's vulnerability to wildfires. By choosing these materials, you significantly lower the risk of a structure being consumed by a wildfire.

More information on the Home Ignition Zone can be found in this link: [https://csfs.colostate.edu/media/sites/22/2021/04/2021\\_CSFS\\_HIZGuide\\_Web.pdf](https://csfs.colostate.edu/media/sites/22/2021/04/2021_CSFS_HIZGuide_Web.pdf)

Given the highly fire-prone landscape of the Town of Blue River, proactive fire mitigation efforts are critical. To effectively protect homes, it is recommended that the focus should be across all HIZ.

Effective communication and collaboration with key stakeholders, including the USFS, Summit County, Summit County Open Space, private landowners, and neighboring communities – will be vital to ensure appropriate treatment of surrounding areas both now and in the future. There

are existing programs and partnerships between the stakeholders mentioned above already in place for the Town of Blue River to explore and take advantage of.

The Town of Blue River is making steady progress in line with the recommendations in Summit County's CWPP (Figure #14). Most of the recommended treatment areas have already been addressed or are scheduled for future treatment. Continuing and expanding these fire mitigation efforts will be essential for reducing wildfire risks and protecting the town and its surrounding ecosystem. If further engagement with the community, government, fire officials and other partners is desired, a CWPP could be created.

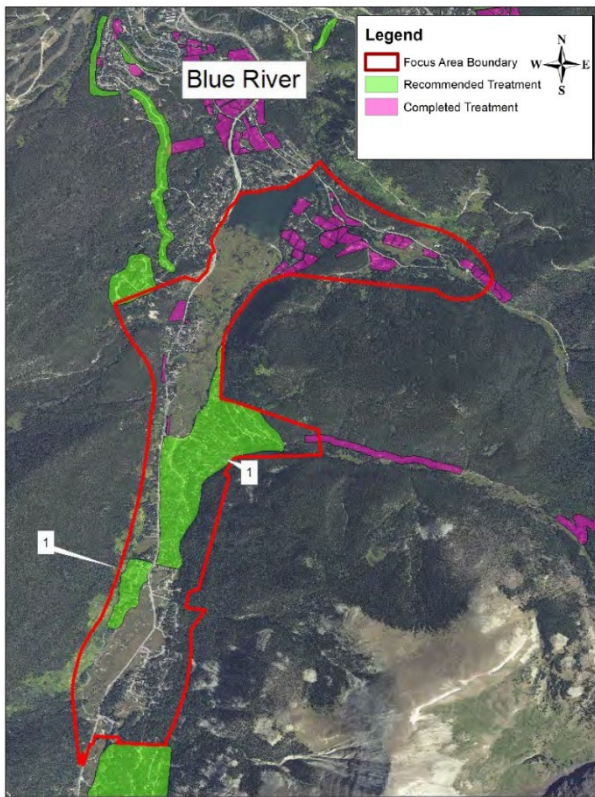
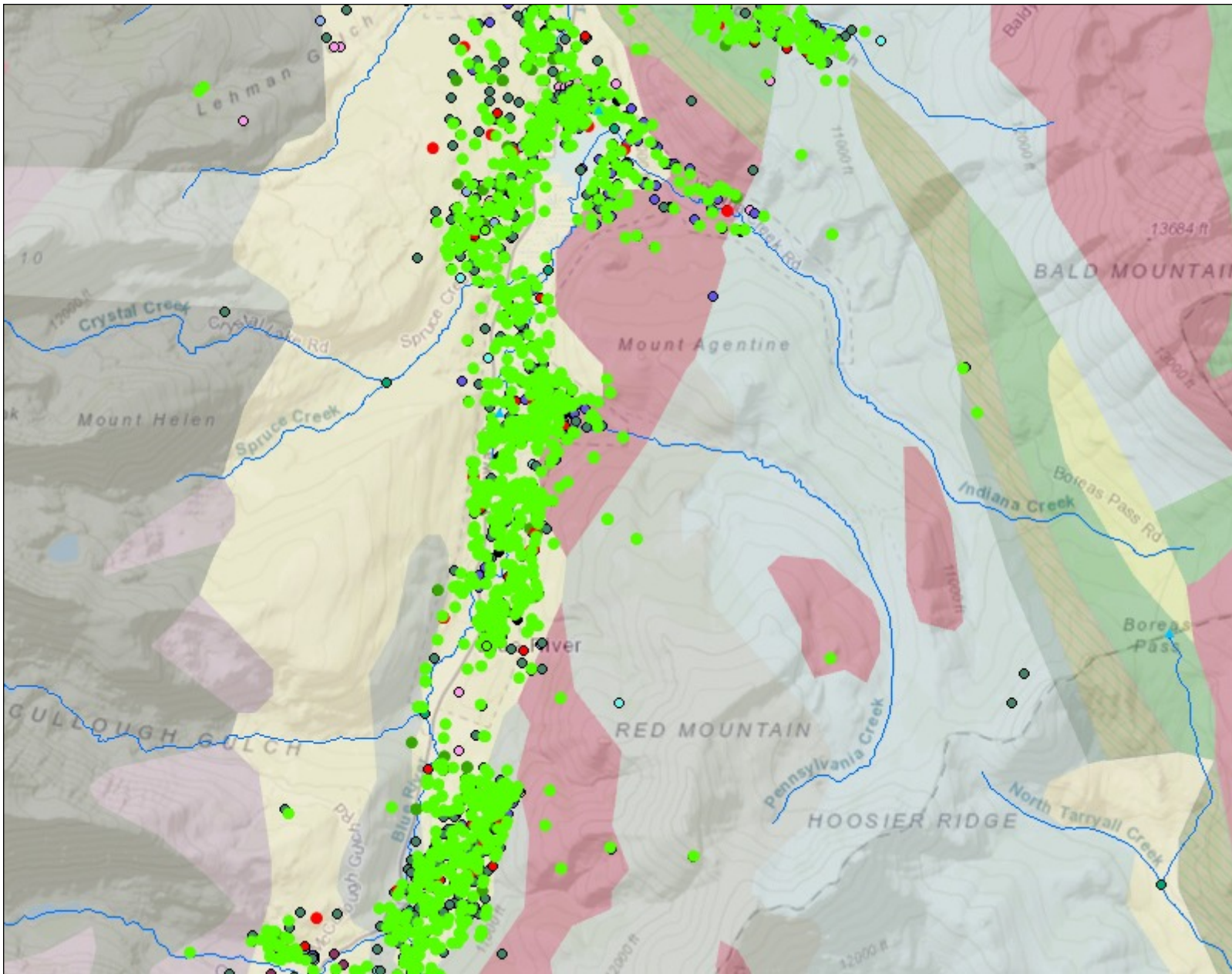


Figure #14 – Summit County’s CWPP completed and recommended treatments in and around the Town of Blue River



### Legend

- ▲ All Points of Interest
- All Well Applications
  - Application Denied
  - Application Hold
  - Application Information Requested
  - Application Received
  - Application Withdrawn
  - Hydrogeology Review Requested
  - Permit Canceled
  - Permit Expired
  - Permit Extended
  - Permit Issued
  - Well Abandoned
  - Well Replaced - Abandonment Req
  - Well Constructed
  - Well Constructed - Replacement P
  - Well Replaced

### Location

### Notes

1.77 0 0.89 1.77 Miles



1: 56,128



*This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.*

Date Prepared: 3/5/2025 2:09:50 PM



## **Blue River Manager Report**

June 2025

Submitted by: Town Manager Michelle Eddy

### **Colorado Municipal League Conference Update**

- The Annual Colorado Municipal League Conference will be in Breckenridge will take place June 24-27<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Decicco, Trustee Slaughter, Manager Eddy, Attorney Widner and Deputy Clerk DeBee have registered to attend.

### **Defensible Space, Chipping & Right-of-Way Grants**

- The Town submitted six projects to the Wildfire Council which were recommended for approval to the Board of County Commissioners.
- The right-of-way grant work began June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Twenty-nine homes and Spruce Valley Ranch that have agreed to tree mitigation.
- Summit County is once again hosting the Chipping Program. The chipper will be working Blue River July 7-11<sup>th</sup> with work in Spruce Valley Ranch June 30-July 3.

### **Blue River East Fire Mitigation**

- The Blue River East Fire Mitigation began June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Information on the project is available on the website: [Wildfire Restrictions, Defensible Space & Webinars | Town of Blue River](#)

### **Blue River Watershed Group**

The Town is participating in the Blue River Watershed Group which is working to identify post fire hydraulic hazards.

### **Countywide Evacuation Assessment Plan**

The Town is participating in the Countywide Evacuation Assessment plan. Information on the work and a public survey is available here: [Summit County Comprehensive Emergency Evacuation Assessment](#)

### **Safe Streets**

After discussion with the County who is working on a Safe Streets Plan to cover all of Summit County, it was determined to wait for that plan to be completed before moving forward. The plan has identified areas in Blue River as a priority. Once the plan is completed, the Town will be in a better position to apply for project funds to address the safety issues identified in the plan.

### **Mountain Energy Coalition**

The Town is participating with the Towns of Breckenridge, Dillon, Frisco, Keystone, Silverthorne and Summit County in appealing to the Public Utilities Commission on an Xcel request. Synapse has been hired to consult on the process. An intergovernmental agreement will be brought forward for review by the Trustees.

### **Spruce Creek Road Project Update**

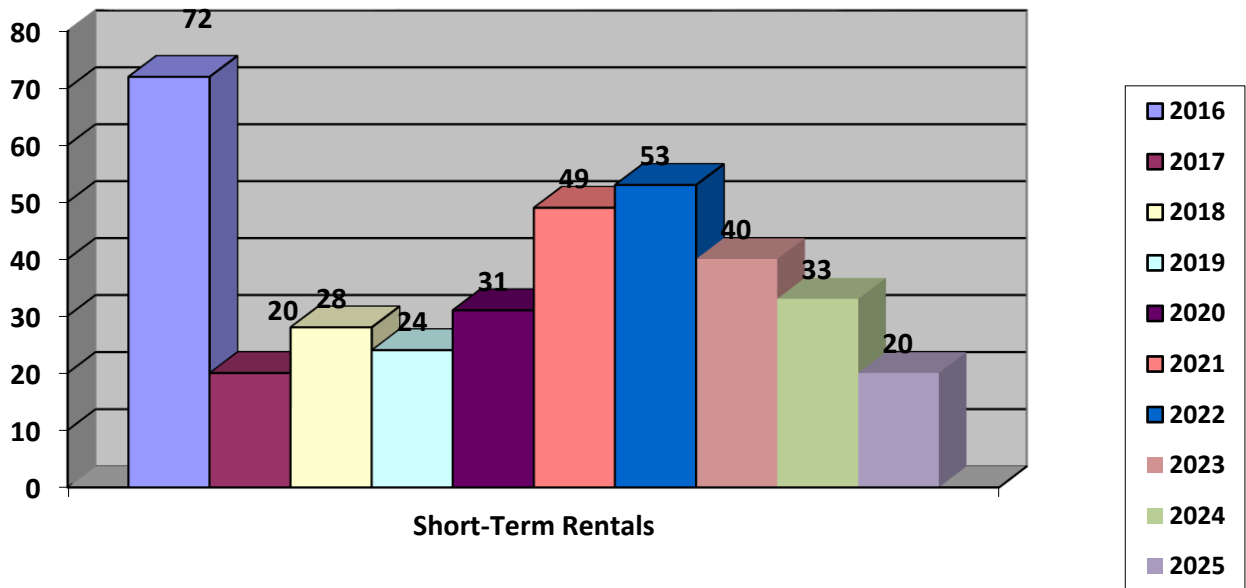
Work began on Spruce Creek Road June 9<sup>th</sup>. Spruce Creek Road is completely closed with residents accessing homes via Gold Nugget. Crown Drive has signs posted for local

residential traffic. Messaging has been going out to discourage non-residential traffic. Work will be conducted Monday-Saturday until July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Upcoming Events

### *Trails Day, Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>*

A Trails Day event is being put together in partnership with the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County. The work will include trail rerouting and rebuilding the bridge off of the Bonanza lot. Volunteers may sign up at [info@townofblueriver.org](mailto:info@townofblueriver.org). More information to come soon.



### Town Statistics

Facebook Page Likes  
 Town-1,300  
 Police Department-915  
 Instagram-1,269 followers  
 Threads-220  
 Residents on Email List-1,063  
 Blue River News-1,249  
 TextMyGov-167  
 Business Licenses-267  
 Lodging Registrations Issued-224

### Building Statistics-May 2025

Permits Issued: 25  
 YTD Total: 59  
 Inspections: 60  
 YTD Total: 217  
 New Construction: 0  
 Certificate of Occupancy: 8

## Financial Summary Report

Prepared by: Michelle Eddy, Town Manager

Month Ending May 31, 2025

Quarterly revenues are currently up 9.46% to budget primarily under the lodging taxes, natural gas franchise fees and lodging registrations. Expenses are below budget by 5.08%.

### Reserve Accounts

#### Unrestricted

Reserve accounts Alpine Bank:	\$1,504,542.58
Colorado Trust Assigned to Capital:	\$2,950,122.20
Colorado Trust Assigned to Broadband:	\$318,761.19
Colorado Trust Assigned to General:	\$288,971.89
CSAFE:	\$100.00
Illiquid Trust Funds:	\$1,187.42
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$5,063,685.28</b>

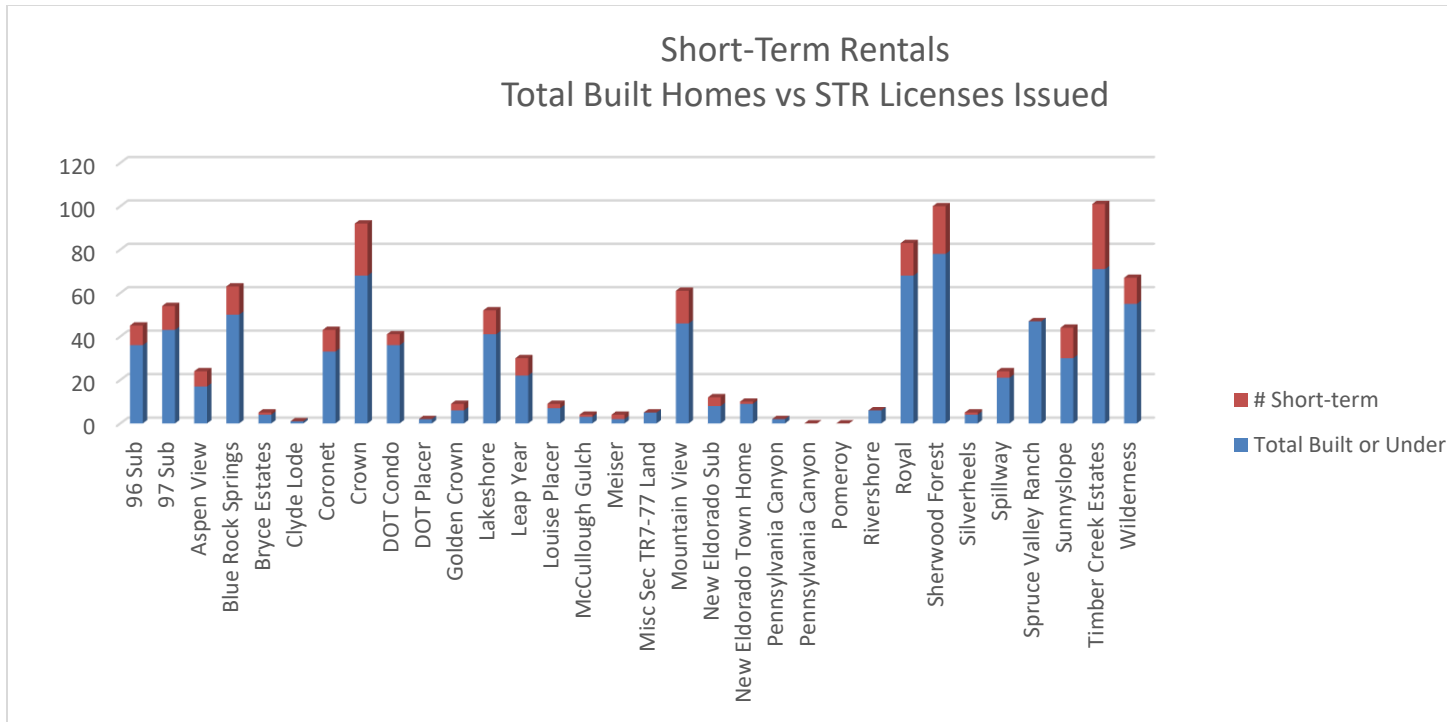
#### Restricted

American Rescue Plan Funds:	\$188,977.66
Conservation Trust:	\$166,999.10
<b>Total Reserves Restricted</b>	<b>\$355,976.76</b>

### Annual Revenue

Year	Sales Tax	Lodging Tax
2016	\$264,757.05	\$123,742.00
2017	\$237,468.92	\$126,585.55
2018	\$286,968.54	\$155,511.07
2019	\$425,616.72	\$166,883.33
2020	\$842,141.13	\$176,339.81
2021	\$844,558.23	\$228,743.34
2022	\$1,002,256.27	\$327,762.62
2023	\$996,818.50	\$303,230.72
2024	\$1,064,654.64	\$383,711.68
2025	\$487,415.99	\$189,559.78

## Short-term Rental Locations





## End of Month Report: May 2025

### Calls for Service

Total number of a calls: 148

Top 10 calls as follows:

Traffic Stop	99
Motorist Assist	5
Drunk Driver Report	4
Other Agency Backup	4
Suspicious Person/Veh	4
Civil Standby	3
Medical	3
Road Hazard	2
Code Enforcement	2
Extra Watch Requested	2

**Summary:** May was statistically slower for criminal activity than previous months. With no motor vehicle accidents and no DUIs, the department was able to better focus on training and administrative processes. Pro-active traffic enforcement on Hwy. 9 continued to be a priority.

Arrests: 1 = misdemeanor warrant  
 Motor Vehicle Crash: 0  
 DUI: 0

### Citations Issued

Municipal = 12  
 County = 1

### Current Administrative Focus

- New Officer – The new officer training was completed.
- New Patrol Vehicles – all new vehicles are in-service.
- Officer Recognition – One officer received a MADD/CDOT award for individual efforts in DUI enforcement.

Report prepared by:  
 Chief, David Close



# Town of Blue River Memorandum

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TO: Mayor Decicco & Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: John DeBee

CC: Town Manager Michelle Eddy

DATE: 05/29/2025

SUBJECT: Summit County Transit Advisory

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Mayor & Trustees,

Staff attended the monthly Summit County Transit Authority meeting on May 28, 2025.

Meeting Summary:

- Financial
  - Sales tax collections appropriated to Mass Transit with prior year comparisons indicate:
    - Mass transit tax collections are down 5.9%.
    - Construction mass transit tax collections are down 20.5%
    - STR mass transit collections are down 9.6%
- Planning
  - Summit Stage wants to conduct their own survey of Town residents to address the downward trend in Blue River ridership. Staff informed Town Residents about the survey via the May edition of the Town newsletter.
  - As the Summit County Transit staff is exploring the possibility of service between Silverthorne and Kremmling, a brief discussion took place about TreadShare Carpooling. A similar concept to Uber however it involves carpooling with other riders at a reduced transportation cost. The cost for each rider would be a contribution towards fuel. There will be more discussion about TreadShare at our next meeting.
  - Discussion of the new Transit Headquarters and Employee Housing facility included:
    - The budget, schedule and scope of work remain on track.
    - Long lead times are showing for receiving some materials.
    - The fiber optic line relocation is being redesigned to meet future expansion.
    - Building permits submitted April 16, are being delayed due to PUD modifications. Site grading continues.
- Operations
  - There is not an update on the charging stations for the electric buses.



# Town of Blue River Memorandum

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TO: Mayor Decicco & Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Code Ambassador Ryan Cyphert

CC: Town Manager Michelle Eddy

DATE: June 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Code Enforcement May EOM

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Mayor & Trustees

For May 2025, it was another slow month regarding visible complaints. There were 3 recorded violations for Trash and Parking. But we finished the month with a total of 34 violations.

### Breakdown

Street parking	2	66%
Trash	1	33%
STR ad violations	31	

### Takeaways

Trash and Street Parking are still the top daily violations. Street parking slowed due to much lower visitation numbers in April/May. Not all instances received violations if able to remedy quickly. The trash violation was due to bear activity. The container was toppled and trash strewn across the property. I am seeing even more active signs of bears this month. Do your part, keep your cans inside.

At the beginning of the month I started sending out notices and violations for my April research into non-compliant STR ads and listings. I issued 31 violations for inaccurate reporting of bedrooms and occupancy limits and sent a plethora of warning notices for missing STR license numbers on all ads.

I also completed a training course through Cirsa in May, with John DeBee, for playground inspection certification. I created a Playground Checklist specific to our equipment at Theobald Park based off Cirsa's recommendations. I have been inspecting the playground and the tarn to maintain the grounds and to collect trash from our new Dog Poo Stations we installed. We removed signs, added signs and cleaned up the tarn information center for better compliance and visibility. We also replaced the plastic bubble at the playground due to vandalism.