

# Wildfire Partners Plains Pilot Project – Project Summary Report

## Background

In 1989, the Black Tiger Fire in the foothills of Boulder County became the most destructive wildfire in terms of property loss and damage in Colorado history. Recognizing the increasing threat of wildfire in the county's forested Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and the need to adopt new regulations, the Boulder County Land Use Department divided the county into Wildfire Zone 1 - Mountains and Wildfire Zone 2 - Plains. Wildfire mitigation requirements were introduced into the building and land use codes which applied to new construction and most additions only in Wildfire Zone 1 beginning in 1993. These requirements mandated ignition resistant building materials and the creation of defensible space around structures.

In 2010, the Fourmile Canyon Fire became the current Boulder County fire to claim the state record for the most expensive and destructive wildfire to date. 168 (35%) of the 474 homes within or adjacent to the fire perimeter were destroyed. Few to none were actively defended due to the scale of the incident and intensity of the fire behavior. The post-fire findings confirmed previous research which can generally be summarized as: ***Survival or destruction of homes exposed to wildfire flames and firebrands (lofted burning embers) is not determined by the overall fire behavior or distance of firebrand lofting but rather, the condition of the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)—the design, materials and maintenance of the home in relation to its immediate surroundings within 100 feet.***<sup>1</sup>

The Wildfire Partners program was launched in 2014 to address the need for wildfire mitigation in the HIZ of existing housing stock within the county's Wildfire Zone 1 (mountains). This program is funded by Boulder County and supplemental grant funding. It has become a nationally recognized model offering on-site assessments, customized reports, on-going advising, and financial assistance to help owners mitigate their properties and prepare for wildfire. Participants who complete the mitigation measures identified in their reports receive a Wildfire Partners certificate and yard sign to recognize their work.

The Marshall Fire broke out in eastern Boulder County (Wildfire Zone 2 or plains) on December 30, 2021, and once again Boulder County laid claim to the most expensive and destructive (buildings) fire in state history. This fire destroyed 1,084 structures and killed two people and hundreds of pets and livestock. The Wildfire Partners team immediately recognized that our program should be adapted to include residents of the eastern county.

## Description & Objectives

Following the Marshall Fire, numerous residents and citizens' groups from eastern Boulder County reached out to Wildfire Partners with questions about how to best protect their homes and communities. The Wildfire Partners Plains Pilot Project (plains pilot) was conducted in 2022 as a first step to develop a wildfire mitigation program for the plains. The goal was to partner with homeowners to test the existing home assessment site visit, questionnaire, and customer report on the plains. This

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1. <sup>1</sup> Fourmile Canyon Fire Findings, USDA, General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-289, 2012, P. 80

pilot project is the first of several steps involved in developing new programs and projects that will include new partnerships, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, risk assessments, new regulations, new outreach efforts, new educational material, and increased capacity and funding.

Since there was no new funding or staffing for the pilot project, the scope of the pilot was limited. We capped participation to 100 homeowners to balance the workload of staff with the desire to include a significant sample set of plains residents. The pilot was open to residents of unincorporated eastern Boulder County. Residents from incorporated areas, including Louisville and Superior, were not eligible to participate.

The plains pilot project was initiated, designed and launched before the idea of a ballot measure for wildfire mitigation was proposed. After the Boulder County Board of Commissioners placed the wildfire mitigation measure 1A on the ballot in August, it was too late to add residents of incorporated areas into the pilot project. 1A passed in November.

From May 18 – June 30, 2022, we publicized the project through social and print media, the Wildfire Partners and Boulder County websites, and several other methods. We received 242 applications and

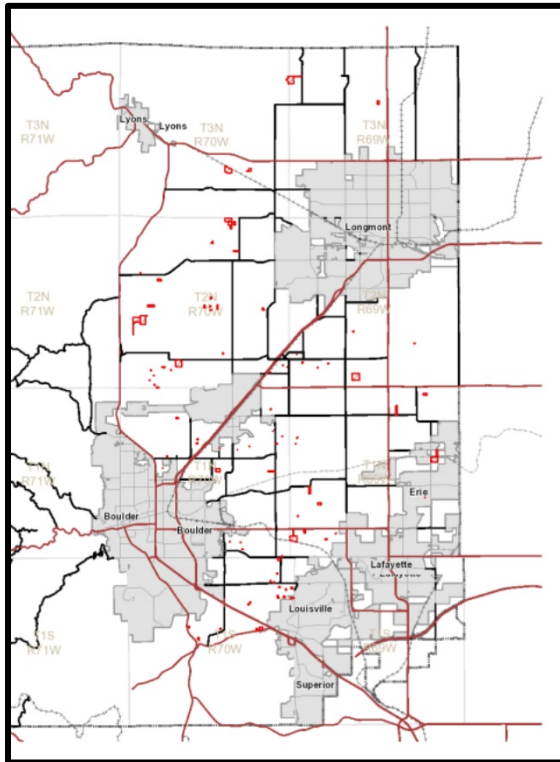
accepted 100. Our chosen households were disbursed across the eastern county as broadly as possible. We screened for variety in lot size, neighborhood density, and community risk factors like proximity to open space and ditches. We accepted a few homes that were damaged in the Marshall Fire, but homes that no longer existed did not qualify.

Individual, on-site, home assessments were scheduled between August and December 2022. Ultimately, we performed 78 assessments:

- 79 assessments were scheduled.
- 78 were completed (1 person didn't show).
- 19 people did not respond to our scheduling outreach.
- 2 people were not scheduled because their houses weren't located in unincorporated Boulder County.

The assessments were conducted by the five Wildfire Mitigation Specialists who were already working for Wildfire Partners in the mountains. We used the same assessment process and same report format as for the

mountains. We recognized that some parts of the assessment might not be relevant in the plains, and that some of the language of the report – particularly verbiage relating to the home certification process – was not relevant. This was explained to the homeowner at the beginning of the site visit. Explicit recommendations were detailed in the “Specialist’s Comments” as is standard practice for our mountain assessments. This information is specific to the individual homeowner’s situation with details on what was seen and how it can best be mitigated.



The length, scope, and format of the customer report was the same for the plains assessments as the standard mountain assessments. However, for the plains pilot, participants were not offered follow-up assessments, a path to certification, yard sign, financial assistance, or on-going phone advising services.

After each assessment was completed, the homeowners were sent a follow-up survey and the Wildfire Mitigation Specialists were asked to complete a different survey.

## **Survey Results**

Complete survey results are attached. Summary results are included below.

### ***Homeowner Survey Summary***

Of the 78 surveys that were sent out, 40 were returned. Results indicated that homeowners were highly satisfied with their assessments (4.85 out of 5) and their mitigation specialists (4.95 out of 5). 97.5% recommended the program expand services to the eastern part of the county. Almost all (4.93 of 5) said they would recommend the program to a friend or neighbor.

Input was solicited regarding what residents would like us to do differently if the county were to permanently expand the program. Answers included:

- help fund mitigation efforts
- follow-up and on-going advising
- collaboration to help make HOA requirements align better with wildfire mitigation best practices (such as ending the requirement to install wood fencing between properties).

On average, respondents indicated that they intended to implement 79% of the mitigation measures identified in their assessment reports. We asked for feedback on barriers impeding full implementation. Responses were similar to those we've received from mountain residents, with the top issues being expense, time, and knowledge/resources. **HOA covenants were additional barriers that haven't been identified by mountain residents.**

When asked if they intended to maintain their mitigation measures, 97.5% said "yes." Around half of the participants were willing to invest over \$1,000 in implementing mitigation measures with only 5% unwilling/unable to spend any money. Almost 90% of respondents intended to complete the work within a year, with most planning to do some work themselves and hiring a contractor for some portion of the work.

### ***Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Survey Summary***

Of the 78 surveys that were sent out, 73 were returned. Responses indicated that assessments on the plains took a similar amount of time as those in the mountains, with around 75% taking 1-2 hours with a few longer and a few shorter. They found the existing assessment app worked well (96% positive response) but that some of the questions were less appropriate in the plains and some of the standard language in the reports wasn't completely targeted at the plains' audience. In 64% of the cases, the specialist thought a question should be added or re-phrased, and they provided specific comments and suggestions for these changes.

Specialists were asked to evaluate both individual-property and community-level risk for each assessment. Most properties (78%) were identified as low to moderate risk. Factors like ignition resistant building materials, quantity and quality of nearby vegetation and outbuildings, and proximity of other homes were considered. Homes with wood roofs, large numbers of conifers, combustible outbuildings proximate to the house, and extensive grasslands nearby were considered high and very high risk. Community-level risk was identified as more of a threat, with 69% falling into the moderate-to-high categories. Risk factors included housing density, proximity to open space or dense vegetation, and distance from firefighting resources.

The specialists concluded that in 80% of cases, risk could be moderately or significantly reduced by implementing the recommended, high-priority mitigation measures, and that in 90% of cases, this could be accomplished from a reasonable cost/benefit perspective.

## Analysis

Wildfire Zone 2 (the plains) differs in various, significant ways from Wildfire Zone 1 (the mountains):

**Numbers and distribution of homes:** There are around 140,000 homes in Boulder County. Approximately 10,000 are in Wildfire Zone 1 which comprises about two-thirds of the geographical area of the county. Around 18,000 are in the unincorporated areas of Wildfire Zone 2. Of the remaining 112,000 or so, 46,000 are in the City of Boulder and the rest are located within one of the municipalities (Louisville, Lafayette, Longmont, Superior, Erie) that lie within the county.

**Home Density:** A limited number of homes in the mountains are on small lots encompassing less than a 100-foot radius from the home (the Home Ignition Zone). On the plains, the majority of properties are characterized by small lot sizes and minimal setbacks from property boundaries. Many of the homes in the pilot project were on small lots—approximately half included the full 30-foot spacing for defensible space zone 1 (51.7%) and half did not have the full 30-foot spacing (48.3%).

**Ecosystems:** The mountains are generally a forested environment with separated homes, while the plains are generally a built environment surrounded by grasslands.

**Firefighting:** Response times are typically faster in the more urban/suburban portions of the plains and these areas are generally served by fire hydrants. In the more rural sections of the plains, response times become slower and water resources may be less prevalent, which may limit fire response similarly to the mountains.

**Wildfire Mitigation Knowledge Base:** Residents of the mountains are repeatedly exposed to information about wildfire behavior and risk from multiple sources. These sources include Wildfire Partners; their Fire Protection Districts; agencies like the USFS, CSFS and conservation districts; and peer-to-peer learning through conversation with neighbors. Few to none of the residents who participated in the plains pilot project had any familiarity with basic wildfire mitigation concepts. As a result, specialists spent more time on foundational education (the how's and why's of fire behavior and mitigation measures) than they typically do with mountain residents. Specialists also included more foundational education in the report notes, recognizing that information isn't typically absorbed the first time it is heard.

**Emergency Preparedness & Evacuation:** While residents of the mountains are typically aware of wildfire danger and mentally/physically prepared to some degree for an evacuation response, few of the participants of the plains pilot project had given much forethought to wildfire preparation and evacuation prior to the Marshall Fire. Many commented on the chaotic nature of the evacuation response to the Marshall Fire (which many participated in). Other issues that were noted on the plains included gridlock, the need to evacuate large numbers of livestock during an emergency, and the potential for residents to have mobility issues such as physical challenges or simply having chosen a car-free lifestyle.

## Findings

### *Home Assessments*

Both the participating homeowners and the wildfire mitigation specialists found the Wildfire Partners home assessment to be worthwhile.

Participating homeowners gave very high scores for the assessment (4.85) and their mitigation specialists (4.95). They said they were likely to recommend the program to their friends and neighbors (4.93). **When asked, “if staffing and funding are available, would you recommend Wildfire Partners expands our geographic scope and offers mitigation services to residents of eastern Boulder County?” 97.5% answer “yes;” and 2.5% responded “maybe.”**

It is important to recognize that this was very positive feedback despite the fact that the participating homeowners received the mountains assessment and report rather than an assessment and report specifically designed for the plains, and they did not receive all the of typical benefits of the programs, such as financial assistance, on-going education and technical assistance, a yard sign, or a certificate.

The mitigation specialists also found the plains assessment worthwhile. When asked “Did the current app work well for this assessment,” for 95.9% of assessments they said said “yes.” The specialist’s survey did not ask specifically about expanding Wildfire Partners to the plains; however, at a team debriefing, all specialists agreed that the assessment program should be expanded. Recognizing that the demand for home assessments in the unincorporated, eastern county may exceed program capacity in the initial years, the specialist’s survey asked about the relative benefits and utility of the assessments. Their responses indicated that some assessments were more worthwhile than others, suggesting the need for a method to prioritize these assessments.

Recommendations from specialists during the team debriefing included:

- Creating a separate plains assessment app with some new questions specifically for the plains,
- Creating a separate plains assessment report with information specifically for the plains,
- Offering the same financial assistance packages to participants from the plains as are currently available for mountain participants, and
- Performing home assessments on the plains in 2023 with a new strategic approach, potentially with a Phase 2 of the Plains Pilot Project.

### ***Additional Homeowner Mitigation Services***

While the plains pilot project was designed to test the Wildfire Partners home assessment in eastern, unincorporated Boulder County, the Wildfire Partners teams recognizes that home assessments are just one part of potential, future Wildfire Partners services.

Wildfire Partners has offered a long list of additional services in the mountains, including educational videos, technical materials, photo galleries, public awareness and social media campaigns, training sessions, community presentations, community assistance, tour of homes, photo contests, blog posts, newsletters, webinars, Let's Talk Mitigation series, realtor and insurance agent training, community and individual chipping programs, slash hauling assistance, Mile High Youth Corps assistance, TEENS Inc assistance, Saws and Slaws assistance, and a before and after defensible space aerial photo mailings series to over 6,000 homeowners.

While the plains pilot project only tested the utility of individual home assessments, staff recognize that any future mitigation efforts on the plains will require us to work closely with new partners, varied communities and residents as well as develop new approaches, tools and services. In addition, any new program or services will evolve and adapt over time with improvements made based on lessons learned and feedback from everyone involved.

### ***Boulder County Municipalities***

The plains pilot did not conduct assessments in Erie, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, or Superior. (Boulder has an existing home assessment program.) As a result, this report is not designed to draw conclusions about the utility of the Wildfire Partners home assessments for these municipalities.

### ***Next Steps***

**Community Involvement and Planning:** In November 2022, Boulder County held an open house and conducted a survey to get input on wildfire mitigation ballot measure 1A. We received 393 responses to the survey, and we had a full room of participants at the open house. There was strong support for Wildfire Partners, home assessments, financial assistance, and phone advising from the survey and at the open house. However, more community involvement is needed. We will continue to work with interested plains pilot project participants by sharing this report with them and solicit their input through a virtual meeting to discuss next steps. We will hold additional community meetings and develop additional surveys to solicit more input from community members on future mitigation efforts on the plains. We will also work with partner organizations and agencies to help develop future efforts. The update of the Boulder County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and other local plans will be used to gather more input from the community. This plan will develop a vision and identify and prioritize programs and projects for implementation.

**New Approach:** Given the number of homes, the size of parcels, and the relative lack of knowledge about wildfire mitigation on the plains, Wildfire Partners' approach to mitigation will look different in this part of the county.

**Creating an Outreach & Education Program and Public Awareness Campaign:** One of the biggest take-aways from our initial work on the plains is that residents are hungry for information about wildfire risk

and mitigation. Wildfire Partners will create a new outreach and education team to work with communities on the plains and engage with residents in a variety of ways.

**Creating and Curating Appropriate Resources:** Our plains pilot participants as well as residents and contractors across the county have shown a high demand for both informational and instructional resources relating to wildfire mitigation best practices. Our team is planning to curate existing resources on the Boulder County and Wildfire Partners websites. In addition, we intend to create (or curate if available) a series of DIY videos to help illustrate many of the common home retrofit measures.

**Ambassador Program.** Wildfire Partners will explore options to facilitate and support community ambassadors based on the nationally successful model outlined in the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Tool training program.

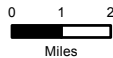
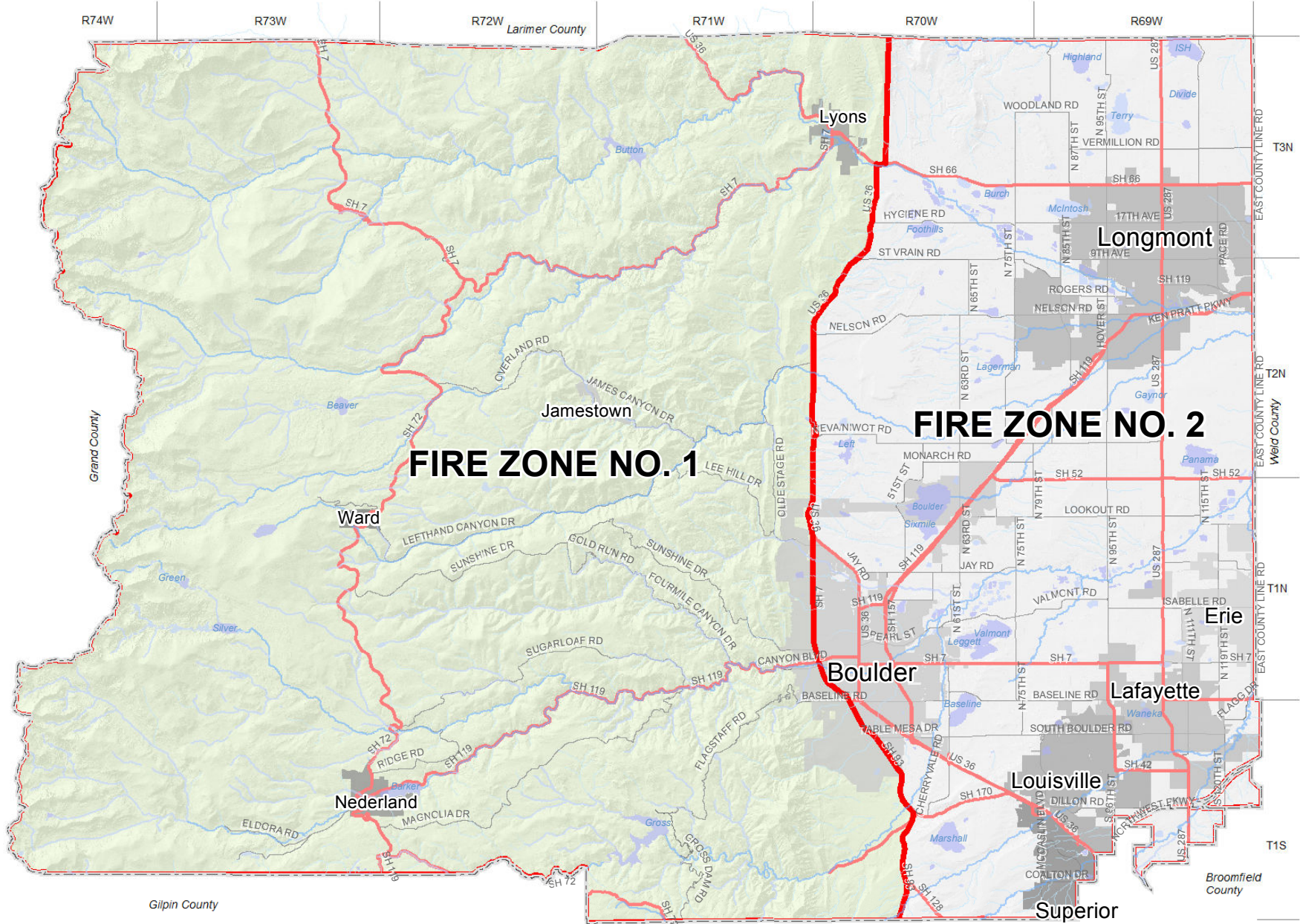
**Community Mitigation:** Homes with 30 feet or less of defensible space on their property, linked defensible spaces, and homes bordering wildland vegetation are top-line priorities. However, the one-at-a-time individual home assessment approach is unlikely to be successful in this type of community. There is some but insufficient existing research on mitigation in high-density sub/urban areas. New research and new approaches to community mitigation in these areas is needed. The county—in partnership with the community and our many collaborators—will help determine the best combination of programs, tools and services for reducing wildfire risk in the grassland-urban interface.

**Individual Home Assessments on the Plains:** Based on the science of home ignition, working with individual homeowners on larger lots where homeowners control the landscape within 100 feet of their home has the greatest chance to reduce home ignitions. In the unincorporated county, we propose to implement a Phase 2 of the Plains Pilot Project that **could** include:

- Financial assistance for 2022 phase 1 participants (using grant funding, not 1A dollars, equal to the assistance offered mountain participants);
- Additional assessments and limited financial assistance for 2023 Phase 2 participants (using grant funding, not 1A dollars, equal to the assistance offered mountain participants) based on lessons learned and prioritization from Phase 1 results; and
- Testing different home hardening financial assistance options prioritized from community input and surveys using 1A funding.



# BOULDER COUNTY WILDFIRE ZONE MAP

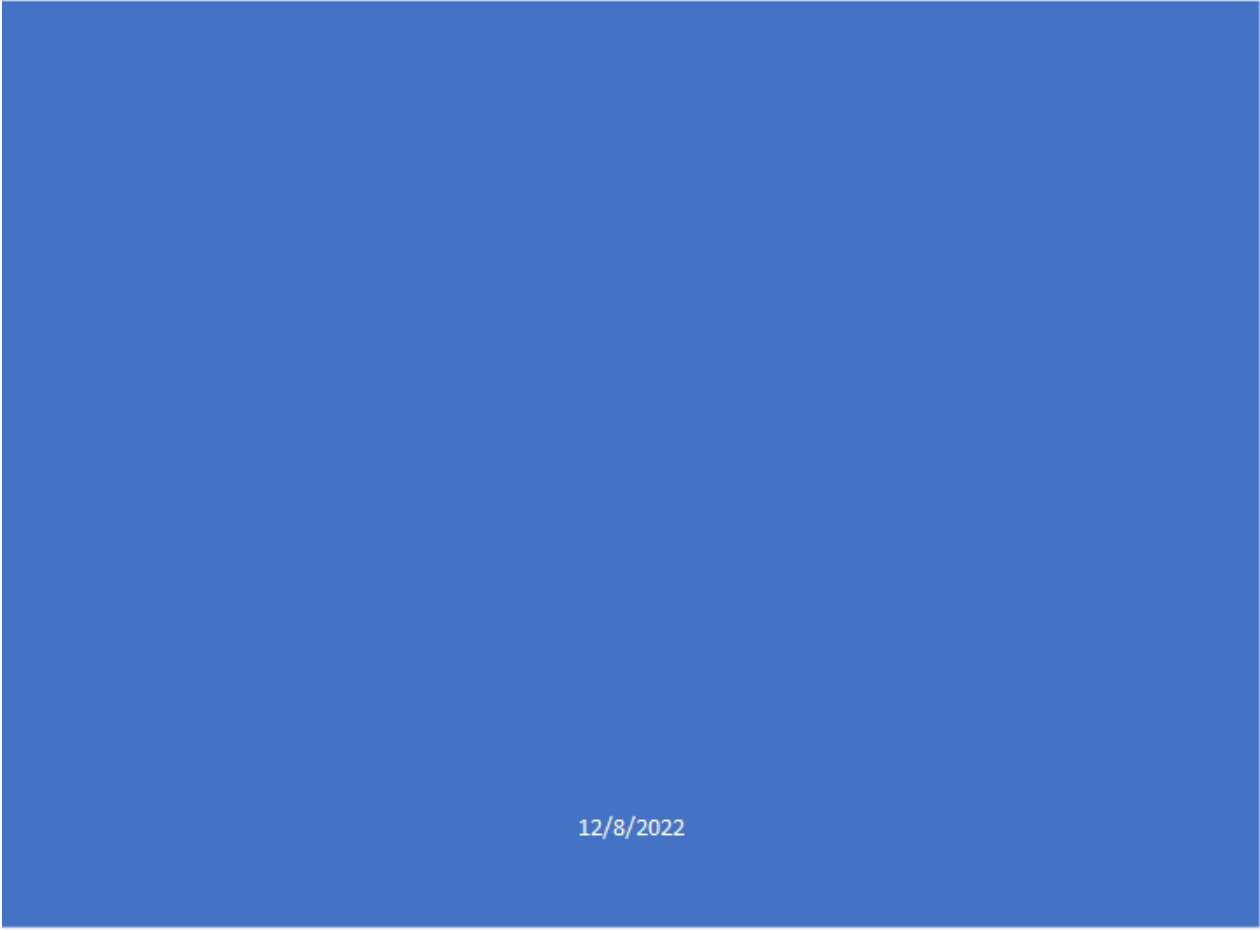


Jefferson County





# PPP HOMEOWNER SURVEY RESPONSES BY QUESTION

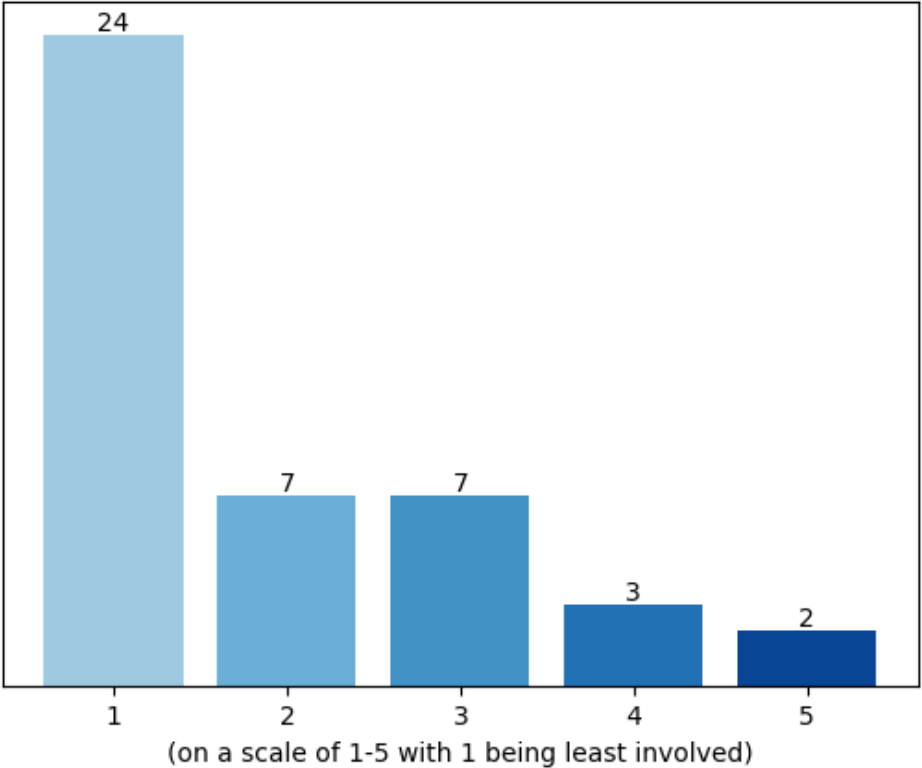


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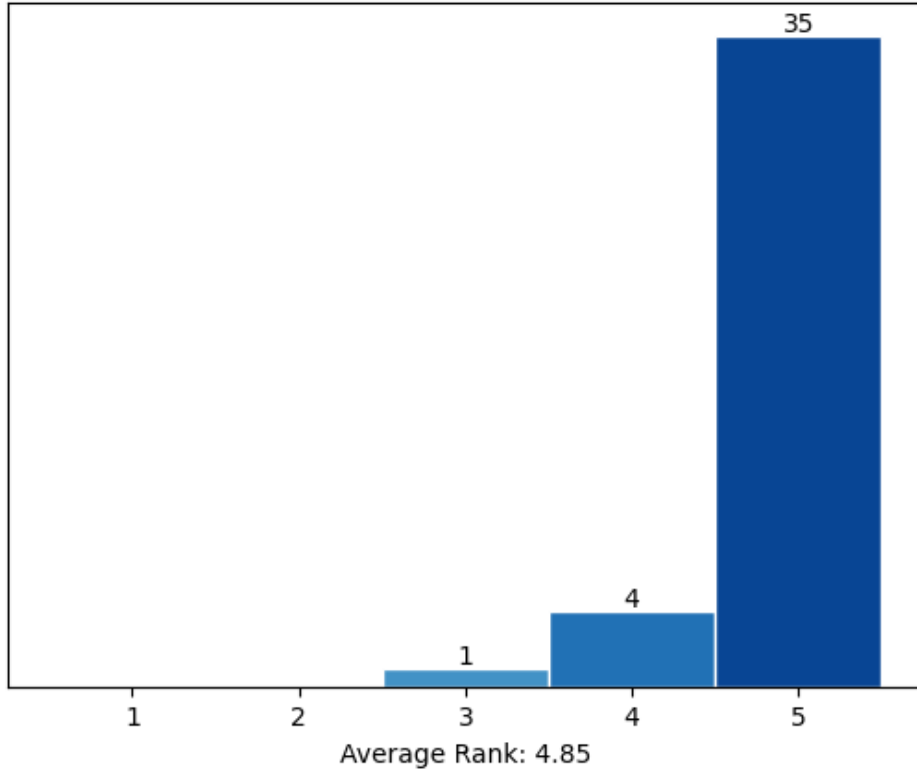
What is the name of your HOA?  
(If you are not in an HOA, please enter "N/A")

N/A (22 total N/A responses)
Boulder Hills
Cottonwood Park West
Country Creek HOA
Crystal Views HOA
Frontsteps
Gunbarrel Estates
Gunbarrel Green HOA
Lake Valley Estates HOA
Lykins Gulch Farm HOA
Orange orchards
Red Fox Hills
Shannon Estates HOA
The Cove
The Reserve
Triple Crown Meadows

How involved are you in your HOA?



Please provide an overall ranking of your assessment.  
(Ranked 1-5, with 5 being the best)



Please describe 3 important things you learned during your Assessment.

<p>That although a cedar shadow box fence surrounds our house, it does not need to be removed because it isn't adjacent to nor touching the house that a cedar fence surrounding HVAC does need removal that juniper trees act as roman candles that send embers flying and should not be in the 30' area around house</p>
<p>Need for flashing at base and removal of shrubbery adjacent to home.</p>
<p>1) Evergreens are more combustibile than deciduous trees 2) Wood mulch should be replaced with gravel -- we had a professional landscaper install our plantings, drip system and wood mulch 3) Need to seal off barn</p>
<p>1. I need to replace a portion of my fence to a noncombustible material, 2) The underside of my window overhang is a risk, and 3) I should remove or trim my juniper trees</p>
<p>Choose plants and their locations carefully; junipers can cause flames up to 5 times their height, and some broadleaf plants are more flammable than others. My Hardi-plank siding and Class 1 asphalt shake roof are good protection, but I still need to regularly clean gutters, roof and ground areas next to the house and patch some holes. Plastic window screens are a hazard if a window breaks. I don't need to remove all of my big pines but removing some is advisable and will actually improve the health of the remaining ones.</p>
<p>Mowing height for fields. My trees were OK to leave. Which trees that needed trimming. How to add rock mulch to beds near house</p>
<p>Keep leaves near house raked. Trim bushes close to house. Keep space under deck cleared.</p>
<p>1) got an overall sense of how wildfires work and what we can do to mitigate the impacts, such as 2) cutting down juniper trees close to the house 3) putting in metal sheeting between the fence and house</p>
<p>How far to prune the mug is and Fat Alberts next to our decks to keep from readily catching fire, what materials to install on the ground next to the decks to keep flames from advancing, and how far to extend that barrier from the house and deck, and to put a reflective house number on our gate post!</p>
<p>1. the importance of keeping clear any horizontal/vertical space where embers can fall and get caught 2. How much space needs to be cleared around the house (How far and how high) 3. How to prioritize what to change while focusing on prevention</p>
<p>How to prioritize brush removal and how to spot fire hazards and how dangerous my set up was!!</p>
<p>The mulch needs to be removed from areas attached to the house and deck. The front door mat is of combustibile material. The grasses (including the perennial grasses) close to the house are a no-no, even in the growing season.</p>
<p>Openings I hadn't recognized my exact zone boundaries (from map) my wife had different view of priorities than me</p>
<p>Flashing, juniper Tree removal, and debris behind trellis</p>
<p>How embers can and cannot affect the home. How neighboring properties will likely not affect our property. The need to trim up the bottom of evergreen trees on the property.</p>
<p>My home is in good shape. I needed a reflective street sign, which I bought. I won't plant within zone 1A around the house.</p>

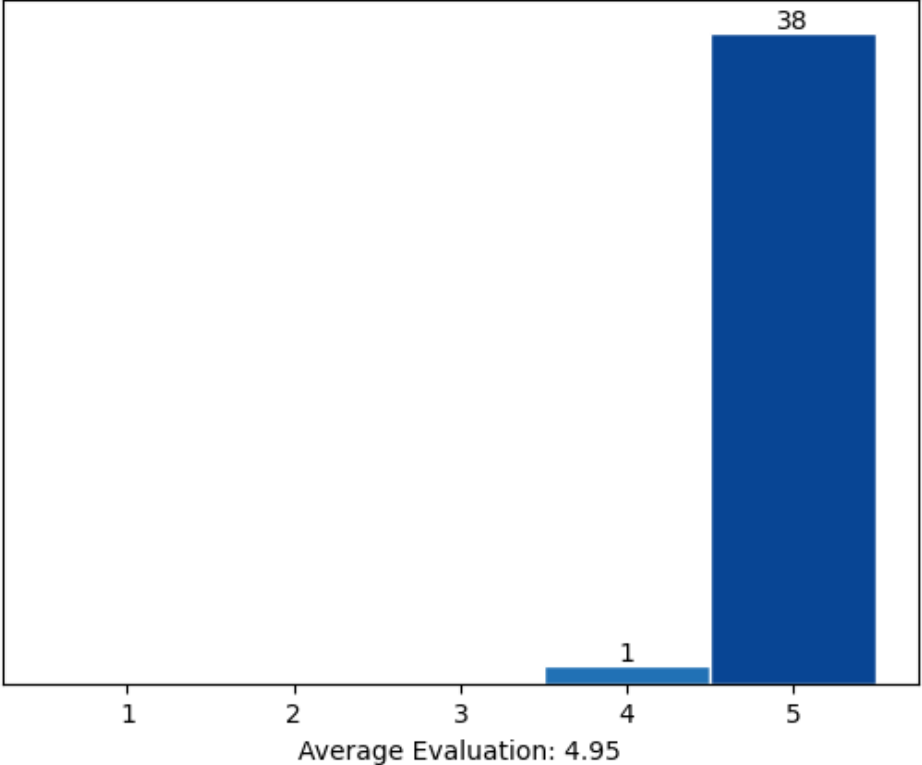
Remove mulch from zone 1a, Concrete footings are good, Trim a few trees
That sparks can enter the home through holes in the structure and garage door having a gap at the bottom. The distance burnable material and bushes should be from the home. The importance of not having a wood shake roof.
That the soffit vents should only have 1/8" openings, that the ridge vent should be checked to make sure no combustible material can be trapped there and to check dryer vent to make it closes properly. Change dryer vent to louver style.
Keep potential fuel sources away from the house and away from each other. Make a serious evacuation list. Try to think how the fire would move through the landscape.
learned what additional steps I could take to lessen risk of wildfire. 1. trim up branches so they are not so close to the ground. 2. move wood pile away from house. 3. video tape in home possessions and upload to cloud
To clear away birds' nests. Keep rock around house, update emergency numbers.
use of flashing at bottom of siding, use of 1/8in mesh over vents, types of landscaping to use
Removing the junipers beneath a large blue spruce to improve safety, Clearing out the twigs and small branches from beneath the choke cherry and lilac bushes, Planning for the eventual removal of the large junipers to the southeast of the house
the importance of keeping combustibles away from the house. that zone that is your house buffer for fires. information like fences butting up to the house as a problem area.
I learned which shrubs and trees on my property are the most combustible and susceptible to burn with flying embers. Craig pointed out some spots on my siding that could attract flying embers.
Aspens are favored trees, lattice is not acceptable to keep debris out from under deck/house, need reflective address marker.
1. The importance of mitigating overhanging areas outside the house. 2. The importance of removing landscape timbers next to the house. 3. The importance of screening vents.
1-The major emphasis on embers as opposed to flames, 2-Removal of all tinder under conifers, 3-The significance of the zone 1a, 0-5 feet
Specific mitigations along with reasons, learned a lot about how fires spread (and don't spread) to houses, e.g., deciduous vs. conifer, embers circulating in enclosed areas, fence line fuses.
That one ember can cause you to lose your house, wooden fencing up to the house is dangerous, which bushes to be removed
Actually, he reinforced and emphasized some things that I knew about through things like the web site, news articles, common sense.
1 - that my property is in very good state -- fire-wise 2 - easy ways to mitigate some of the concerns 3 - that one tree I was concerned about does not present a problem fire-wise
Wood siding flush with the ground is not good. It's ok and recommended to cut the low suckers on a 40-year-old cottonwood even though an arborist told us it was bad for the tree. Wood mulch is not wildfire safe.
Low limbing. Zones. Different areas where embers could enter.
It's a balancing act between total fire safety vs desired living environment. We had done a fire assessment recently at our home in Summit County, so we had learned a lot then.

1. What the Zones are and what mitigation steps are required within each. For example: a. Within zone 1, vegetation, mulch, debris, and wood planks must be removed, and preferably replaced with non-flammable materials, such as gravel, stone or even concrete.
2. The role of embers and how they can get into tiny openings, and the need to prevent this by sealing cracks and screening vents. For example: a. We need to cover our window wells with 1/8" mesh to prevent embers from falling into them. b. any cracks or crevices must be caulked or otherwise sealed to prevent ember entry.
3. How various types of vegetation, yard debris, and construction materials are potentially hazardous, and how to reduce the risks they pose. Examples: a. pine needles on the ground are flammable. Rake to bare earth. b. vegetation near the house can create a ladder that flames can climb, and could reach our flammable wood siding that is 5' off the ground. c. junipers in particular have highly flammable compounds and, in our case, should be removed.

I learned that 1. Mulch within 3 ft of the house is a fire hazard. 2. Nearby pine trees need to be free of branches at least 3 ft. off the ground to avoid catching on fire from debris underneath. 3. My garage door sweeps are old and ineffective in preventing things blowing into the garage. There's more, but you said 3.

How to locate and fix small entry holes fires might enter. Simple mitigation techniques for landscaping (i.e., remove low branches). Update insurance. (Which we just did)

Overall, how would you evaluate your mitigation specialist.  
(Evaluated 1-5, with 5 being the best)





Please leave any comments you may have about your mitigation specialist.

Brett was personable and friendly but professional extremely patient with multiple questions highly knowledgeable and informative punctual and thorough explanations were logical and evidence based
I thought we were going to receive a list of contractors to help us implement recommendations. That did not happen.
Non-judgmental, informed, patient
Abby was friendly and easily explained what she was looking for and how I could decrease our fire risk. The process was enjoyable.
Abby was great! Very personable, knowledgeable and straightforward. We learned a lot and she was patient in answering our questions and she gave us extra time. She was honest in the fact that this is a new program, trying to retrofit the mountains to the plains. In talking with another neighbor who had a different specialist come to her house, it seems like recommendations are still a little fluid. But also, there is room for different situations at different homes. Very complex!
He was wonderful. He was kind, caring and competent. His knowledge and experience were exceptional.
He explained the pilot program, did I thorough job of inspecting the property and afterwards explained in detail what I should do to keep the area around the house protected in case of fire.
Very thorough and explained things very well.
We've worked with Bret on another mitigation project, and he has always been very knowledgeable and insightful as to what needed to be done to help protect the structures as much as possible from a fire.
They were thorough and quick
He showed me how to think 'like a fire' and to see how embers would travel depending on the direction of the most likely winds.
Matt was friendly, professional, thorough, and very clear. He helped clarify what, in his opinion, were the top priorities for improving our site, and he answered all my questions. I was grateful for his time and expertise.
I thought Matt was clear in his recommendations, personable, and firm, but not pushy about what needs to be done, letting me know that it is up to me to do the mitigation that I think is necessary according to his recommendations.
He talked a lot
Craig was very knowledgeable and patient and took the time to answer all of my questions. He informed me of areas that were less vulnerable than I had previously thought, which helped me feel more at ease with the potential risk to my property.
Friendly, knowledgeable and clear in his assessment.
Craig was fun and informative
Personable, competent and having a good manner when giving suggests.
He did a thorough job of reviewing our property. Gave helpful information in easy-to-understand manner.
I was surprised he didn't know plant and tree names but overall, he was fantastic.

personable, attentive and knowledgeable
Clear and concise.
Very thorough and clear about areas needing mitigation
Craig is very knowledgeable and was good at explaining how best to mitigate my property and home from fire.
I appreciate that this is clearly something that he loves.
Kyle is excellent. 1-No discussion re the 2 wood porches: one at west entrance, one at east entrance???????? 2-Does the dryer vent need to be covered by screening/ UNCLEAR in report 3-On page 10, in zone 1A, on east side: I did NOT get the impression during the "walk around", that this ground cover/flower bed of vinca, and lily of the valley plants needed to be REMOVED!! 4- On page 5, Emergency Preparedness: I have NOT practiced evacuating home within 15 minutes. It took several hours. Super friendly, knowledgeable, good at explaining.
Thank you for your time and knowledge. I will do all the suggestions you recommended.
I think he did a very good job, was professional, thorough. Somehow, I thought he'd talk more about building materials and designs perhaps, but we do have a brick house which of course helps.
He really knew a lot about the various vulnerabilities that are possible. He understood how many actions I have taken are adequate and offered excellent suggestions for some important ones I still need to take.
Very knowledgeable and personable.
Very knowledgeable and helpful.
Very friendly and knowledgeable
Craig was personable, open, knowledgeable, thorough and detailed.
Craig Jones took time to walk with me around the house and not only point out fire hazards but give me ideas of how to fix the problem.

Your assessment report was sourced from an existing report template that we use for mountain properties. We recognize that this template is not a perfect fit for the pilot project, but it is being used because it was the only option available.

If we were to create a plains report, what did you like about the current assessment report? What recommendations do you have to improve this report to fit your needs as a homeowner in the plains?

Does not need improvement pictures and text complemented each other well
Need help with identifying how to implement recommendations.
I'm unsure
The mitigation certification language was unhelpful. Add a category for double pane windows since we had leaves in our window wells and so that was noted in the window section, but all of our windows are double paned so that was confusing.
I like the structure of the report, identifying Zones, and the pictures are very helpful reminders. I also like the 3 levels of concern for the checklist. Having the requirements laid out visually helps greatly. The thoroughness of the report was great because I would not have remembered it all. So basically, I really like the report, but I wonder if it will be possible to come up with tight guidelines to fit all or most plains dwellings specifically.
Adding information about open fields. Should I mow? How high? What grasses might be more fire-resistant? Do wind breaks help? Where and what to plant for a wind break. What to plant for privacy.
This man did a very thorough job educating me on the how's and whys of protecting my house.
not sure.
I'm pretty satisfied with the way it is.
This is fine but I am unclear about "obtaining certification" and what that means. Are there 4 next steps or is this just for mountain properties?
help me assess the neighboring fields and how much risk they pose. In what ways will mitigating my risk help my neighbors too?
I think the report was really detailed and helpful. I liked the checklist with the photos and recommended steps. I don't know what would make it more specific to the plains.
I have both a home in the mountains and a home on the plains. I had a wildfire assessment for the mountain home earlier this summer. I thought the assessment that I got for my plains home was very specific and different from the one that I got for my mountain home.
change required to high priority and recommended to medium priority
"Mitigate other combustible attachments identified by your specialist" ??? What exactly is this referring to.
I felt that most of what was in the report was applicable to my property. The vegetation requirements seemed appropriate and so did the home mitigation requirements. It would be helpful to have

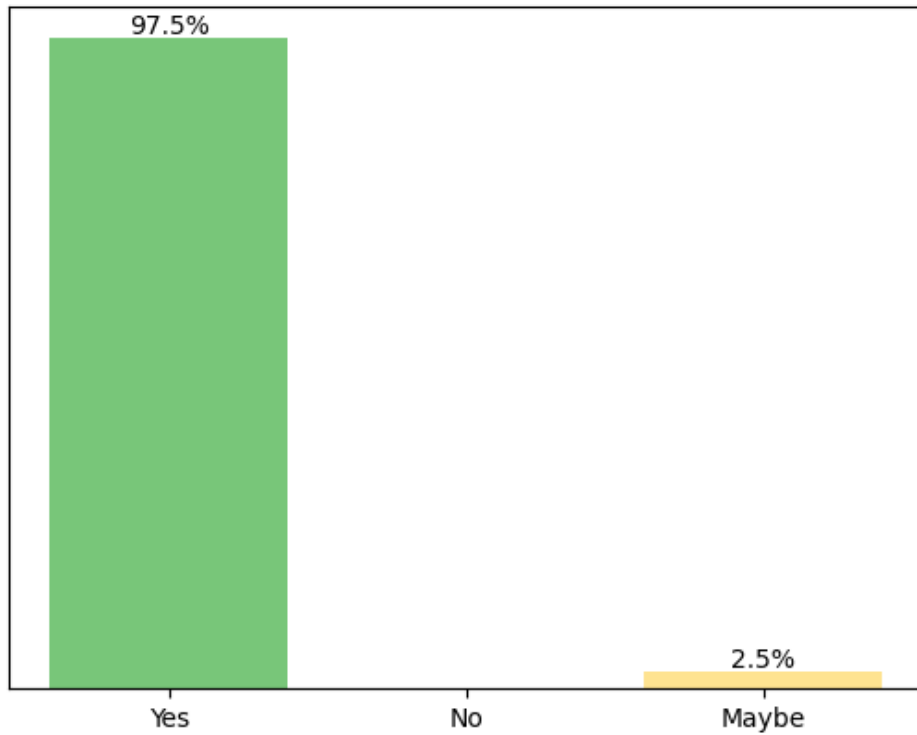
information in the report about which direction or part of our property is most vulnerable to wildfire advance. We could focus our efforts on that area and make better landscaping choices in the future.
Address fire issues related to grasses - keeping grassy areas clean, well maintained, cut when required, breaking up spaces, etc.
Red, green, yellow is helpful. For the plains / I would think about neighbor interaction things (how do I get my neighbor to trim his trees or fix his fence or remove brush). I think also an increased focused on emergency service and access / nearest station, reflective mailbox, evacuation route ☺
No thoughts.
A look at the fire risk from neighbors and the total neighborhood. Potential impact if a wildfire did reach our neighborhood, what things could our HOA and neighborhood do now and in the future to try to minimize impact.
Maybe tips on how to work with your neighbors and HOA association. How to involve the wider community.
I was satisfied with the assessment
Clear, easy to see what needs to be implemented.
Examples with photos of ways to mitigate issues
talk about the defensible space
N/A
It was succinct and informative and easy to read.
In the mountains, vegetation close to the house that the homeowner wishes to keep e.g. favorite trees, etc., can be left as long as they are considered to be part of the d-space. Maybe properties on the plains are too small to allow that?
We like the checklist and the three levels of assessment.
1- marked photos were very useful for the details 2-location of closest fire hydrants would be useful 3-discussion of ADJACENT county properties/farmers ditches including contact information would be helpful
Specialist mentioned embers circulating in enclosed spaces but there is no mention of it on the report. I am not sure how it would work, but it seems like a space for highest risk elements of neighboring properties would be useful. Houses are much closer together on the plains. With ongoing water issues, recommendations for low-water plants that are also not combustible would be helpful.
Pamphlet with information and a checklist that could be passed out at homeowners' meetings.
Maybe contact numbers, suggested evac routes but perhaps we should already know that. Also, maybe pointers to wildfire partners web site esp. about building materials and other useful information you've posted.
I can't think of anything right now.
We have a lot of trees in our subdivision, so the current report worked fine for me.
View of property from above with lot and zone lines. Photos with written descriptions.
Like the pictures and aerial maps. Liked the checklist format. Liked receiving emergency preparedness info. Need more info on how to work with neighbors - especially when 2 of your 3 neighbors are the City and County of Boulder.
I like the template. I like how it's divided into checklists for the various zones. The addition of photos is great. A couple possibilities modifications: 1. Number the pages for those of us who still print

things out. 2. The photos are nearly impossible to see on my printout, but I was able to follow along looking at the computer. There is probably no way to improve this, so I'm not sure why I'm mentioning it.

A checklist shows just what is good or bad related to fire mitigation. I'm interested in knowing how wind from my tree break would affect my house, should that area catch on fire.

Thoroughness. I felt like it worked well. Some way address neighborhoods would be useful. A street lined with homes relies on community-wide mitigation.

If staffing and funding are available, would you recommend Wildfire Partners expands our geographic scope and offers mitigation services to residents of eastern Boulder County?



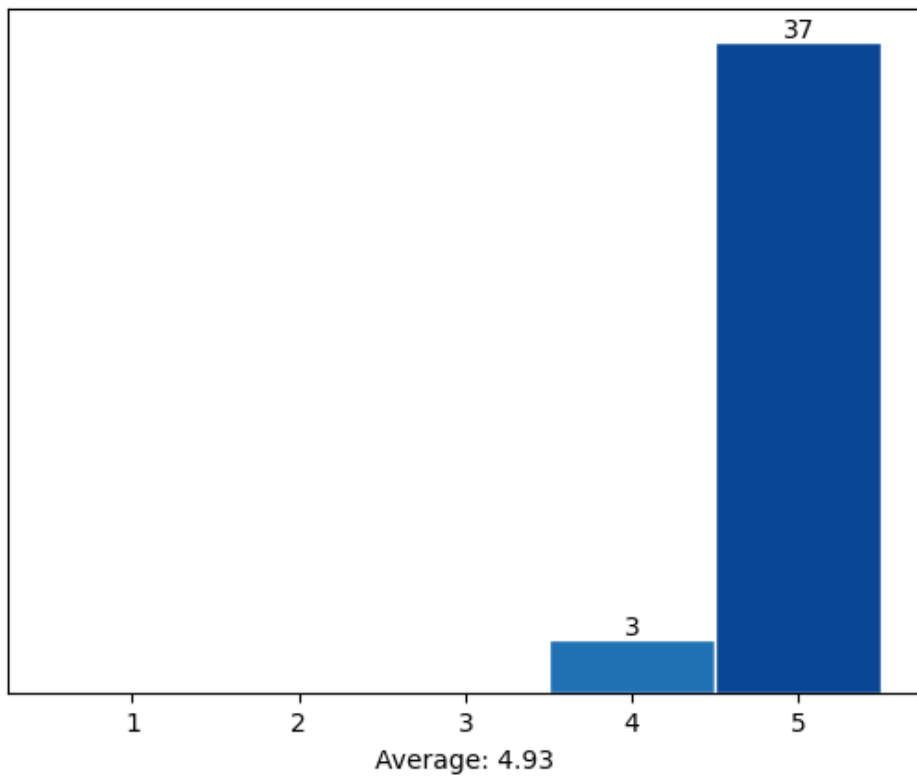
If this Plains Pilot Project were to become a permanent program within Wildfire Partners, what changes would you like to see implemented?

Support for middle income homeowners who are appealing to the county and legislators to offer financial help for home hardening we feel fire mitigation should be required and that Wildfire Partners should have a regulatory and accountability role with businesses, land and homeowners Wildfire Partners assessments must be extended to governmental bodies to truly reduce fire risk. Towns, cities, counties, fossil fuel and utility companies would ideally be required to follow assessment recommendations to conduct prescribe burns, underground power lines, remediate coal seam fires, etc.
Need help with identifying how to implement recommendations.
Unsure
I'm not sure.
It would be great to have funding for help with homeowners' mitigation efforts as exists for the mountains. That would encourage my neighbors to participate, which would enhance my safety as well. And certification would be good.
I don't know enough to comment.
I would hope that the whole neighborhood would participate in this program.
not sure
It would be great if there was a way to publicize it so that more neighbors could participate.
Some of the suggestions were costly. Grants to help with these will make it easier to get these done.
could there be a follow-up visit if we wanted it, to assess how far we've come in mitigation work and what still stands out as important to do?
Given the density of east county, some community workshops or neighborhood-level presentations could help spread the word to more residents. The one-on-one consult was exceptional, but the size of the population here might make that cost-prohibitive for everyone.
Maybe do another assessment in a few years to see if changes have been made
zone 1A guidance/support
Recommendations of contractors for things such as adding flashing
Allow certification for properties in the plains area. Provide funding/incentives for mitigation work.
none
More focus on working with emergency services and evacuation planning. Insurance discount!!
Send an email to homeowners to advertise your services.
It would be great if Eastern Plains homes could be certified like Western homes are today. Or at least the ability to have a followup to see if changes made meet requirements and if any further works needs to be done.
None
1 year follow up eval
Available to more people.
None

reduction in home insurance rates if plans are implemented and confirmed (maybe as a funding source?)
N/A
I don't see any changes at this time.
see #8. Eventually have a certification.
More coordination among neighboring properties and neighborhoods. More involvement of the county in implementation.
More time for discussion during the "walk around".
The only thing I can think of is working with HOAs so that it is easier to get approval for landscaping and other changes that are recommended. For instance, I can't just take down live trees without their permission, nor can I install the recommended address marker. It would be helpful if all this were coordinated.
Communication with Boulder County open space.
Not sure
Can't think of any right now.
Some funding for mitigation. We are hiring a landscaper to help us because we are over 65.
Outreach to neighbors. Description of most likely risk scenarios.
No suggestions
I'm not sure. I'm thrilled that the team came to our house and gave us the knowledge we need to try to protect our property. What could be better? I guess if we could get a certification, it would be useful if insurers need it to provide reduced rates.
I know this is a new project, but what resources would you recommend for a homeowner to contact?
Financial assistance for homeowners. HOA-focused programs and buy-in. E.g., our HOA requires wood fences and provides no assistance with perimeter mitigation.

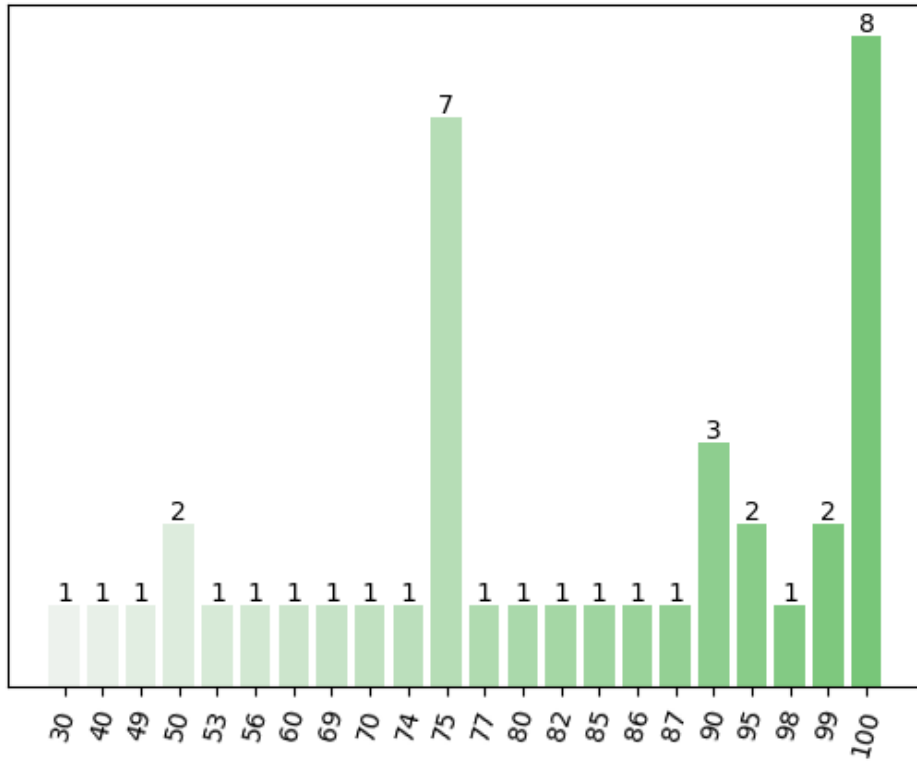


If the program is available in the future, how likely are you to recommend  
Wildfire Partners to a friend or neighbor?  
(On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being most likely)



Approximately what percentage of the mitigation measures identified in your report do you plan to implement?

(Average = 79%)



Please describe the mitigation measures that you are planning NOT to implement and why, including any barriers to implementation that you face.

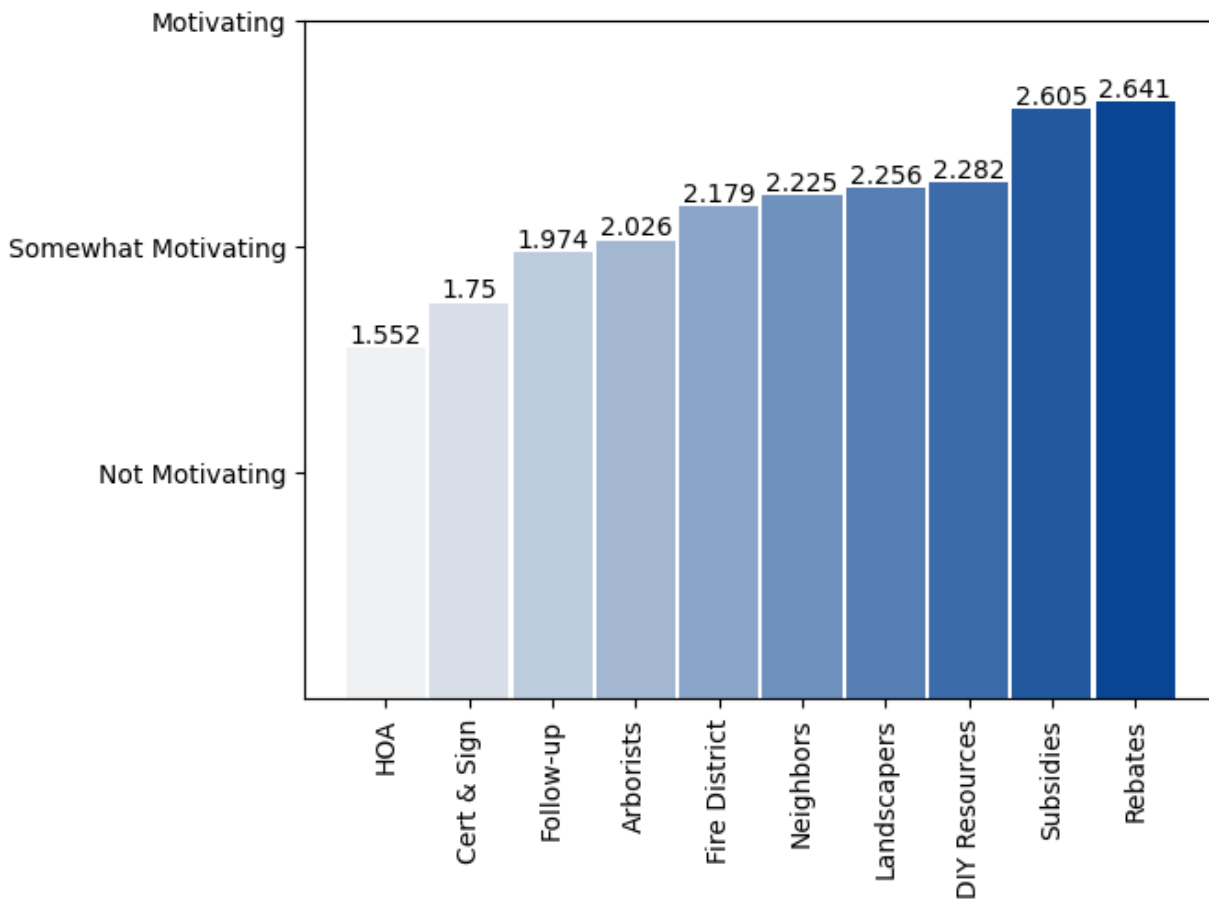
(If you plan to complete all mitigation measures please put "N/A".)

We are struggling to find siding contractors that will replace beadboard soffits with a cement product. Although not stipulated in our assessment report, Brett mentioned that we may want to consider replacement. There are no mitigation measures that we are not going to implement.
N/A
Replacing wood mulch around landscape plantings
Our house was completely redone in 2013 and 2014. The vast majority of our house uses noncombustible material and so we will not be replacing the small areas with wood. We will also not remove all the mulch, but I will remove it under the wood window boxes.
N/A
N/A
While I would like to do everything suggested it would be a big expense to change a portion of my landscaping.
We haven't yet decided. One issue is that cutting back on trees and branches near the house means less cover for the birds we feed. Haven't yet figured out how to balance that.
N/A
We would love to do everything but cannot at this time afford it. The most expensive suggestion (not a requirement) that we would love to do but cannot right now is: SIDING CONDITION: Caulk or patch all holes, gaps and other areas where embers may lodge or penetrate into the walls. Specialist's Comment Consider rebuilding the screened in porch as there are numerous ember shelves in the current design and wood is rotten in several places.
I've done almost all the grounds and juniper removal etc work but still have to do the metal work ideas -- soffit flashing, metal on west side of a shed etc. May not get at all of it.
The ground cover juniper by the street is farther than 30 feet from the house, and we have no plans to remove it at this time. It may make the to-do list once all the other measures have been addressed. It's a low risk to our house, and landscaping such a large area is expensive and difficult.
I will not limb up my blue spruce as it is a wind block for my bee hives. I will not take down the trellises on my home, but I will make sure that they don't get too tall.
will not replace lattice-less bang for buck will not do complete zone 1A measures finding contractor to remove juniper time consuming worried about look of juniper/yard post mitigation of juniper
Replace siding. costs \$100,000+
We will likely not put a reflective sign near the front of the property because we will have a lit (solar) address sign instead.
N/A
Mulch up against house.. I just had it installed and may wait until spring
New roof - functional at this time. Remove some landscaping plants - like the looks and I just increase my homeowner's insurance to cover the risk.

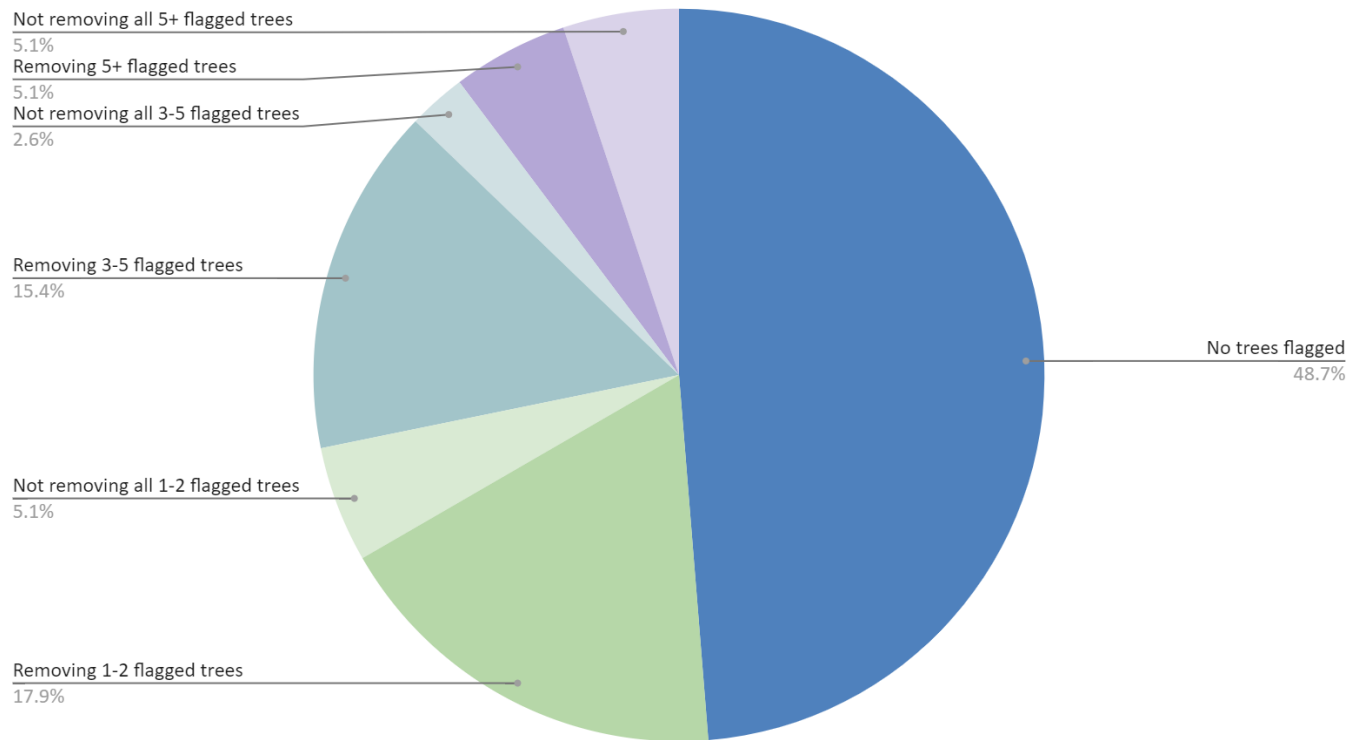
Need to find out how to change soffit venting to 1/8 inch opening without major structure work.
We need metal siding in some strange areas on our house. Seems daunting and expensive.
N/A
N/A
Removing vegetation on the East side of the house.
likely will take a while to remove the junipers to the southeast of the house
N/A
Not replacing siding - too costly Not pruning the trees to the west of my house - too costly and it is a sight barrier for my neighbor's barn and it's not an egregious offense. Not putting metal flashing under the roof covering due to cost.
I am in the process of selling the house & do not have the funds or time to re-do hardscaping.
We are unlikely to replace the siding on the house.
Ideally, I would like to do 100% mitigation. I need resources(who does this "flashing"?) to mitigate the landscape timbers adjacent to the house and garage. I have been working at mitigating combustibles for the last several years (having trees removed or pruned, .... removing needles, pine cones/cutting grass and having them hauled away....it has been very expensive and somewhat problematic with providers NOT pruning adequately.) Knowledgeable landscape providers would be helpful. Cost sharing/rebates would be helpful. Dog doors must be removed???
I will probably not remove all of the recommended trees, though I will trim them up. I'm not clear on why the address marker is important and probably won't do that.
N/A
Because of other factors, highway and wind issues, removing old junipers at margin of zones won't work, but some of the others can be done close to house.
Changing the plastic soffits under the roof eaves
N/A but due to cost it will take several months to implement the recommendations.
Removing some of our juniper bushes (trimming realistic).
Replacing house siding - impractical. Need to provide suggestions on types of noncombustible siding to utilize if one wanted
I wrote 95% but it's hard to quantify. There is one tree that the team had differing opinions on re: removal or pruning. We may decide to prune and keep the tree for a while, and decide in a few months if we can live without it. One of the most important steps will be the most challenging for us...talking to/working with neighbors. There are no bad feelings between us, it's just that I rarely see them, people are busy, etc. When the team was at our house, they mentioned the possibility of working with or reaching out to HOAs. Maybe that is the most efficient way to spread the word.
I don't think I can do anything about the wood deck at this time.
Replacing wood fencing (except maybe where directly contacts home) depends on HOA.

Please rank the following items - from not motivating to motivating – in terms of what Wildfire Partners could do to help you increase the percentage of mitigation measures you implement?

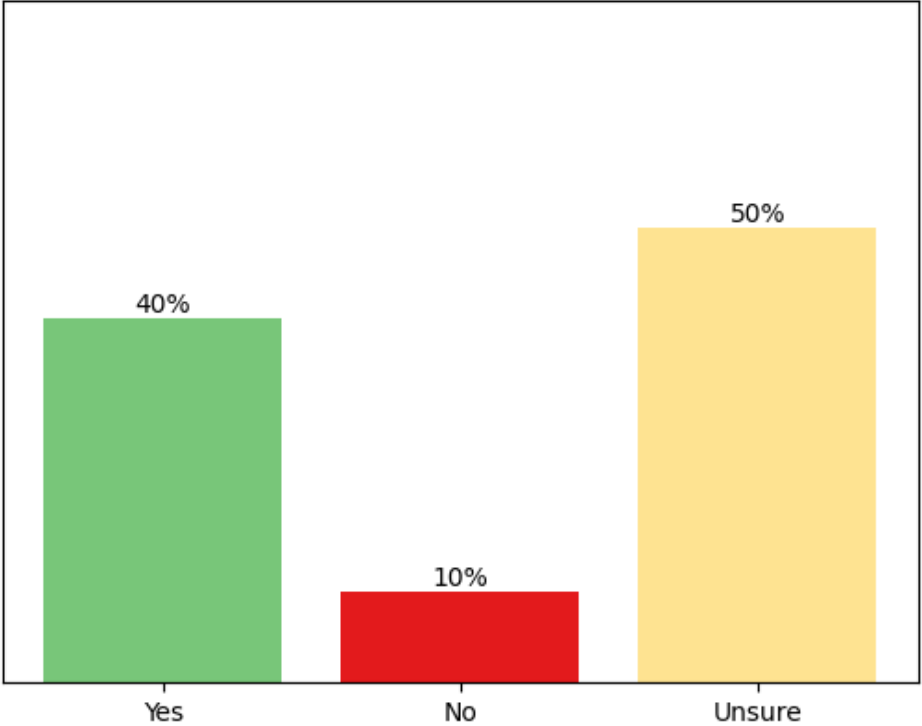
- Rebates (for homeowner mitigation expenses)
- Subsidy or cost-sharing for use of an approved contractor
- A list of home retrofit resources (i.e. DIY videos, in-person training sessions, etc.)
- A list of landscape specialists
- If some of my neighbors were participating
- Formal partnership with my fire district
- A list of arborists/tree removal services
- A follow-up site visit
- Certificate and yard sign
- Formal partnership with my HOA



Please provide us feedback on potential tree removal by selecting the option that gets the most appropriate response for your assessment.

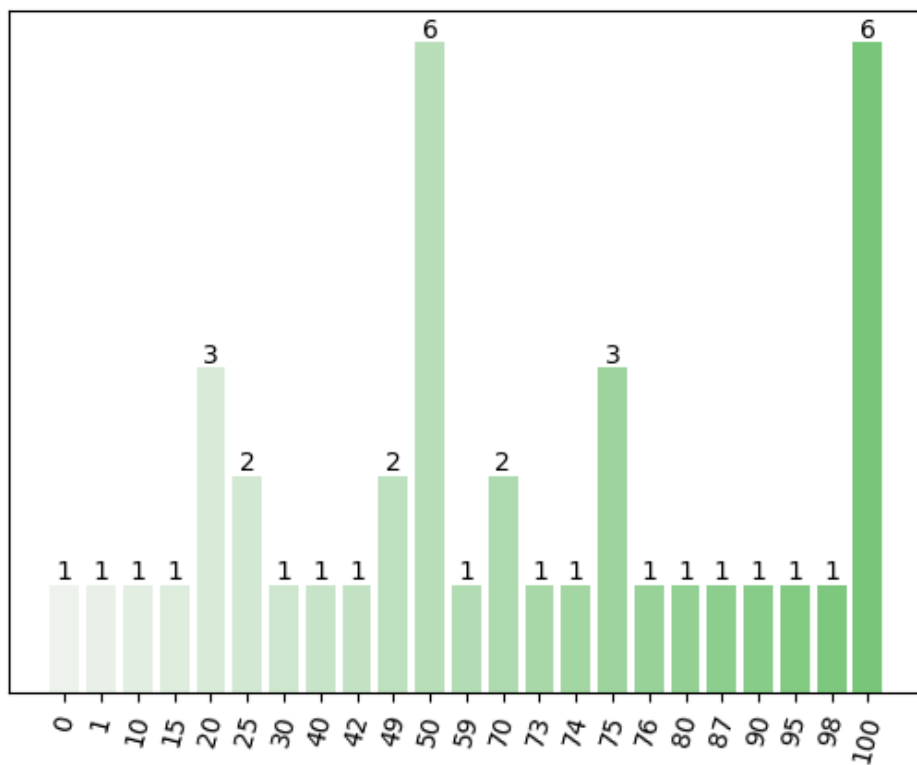


Wildfire mitigation is more effective when carried out at a neighborhood or community level. Do you plan to participate with neighbors or other members of your community on mitigation efforts?



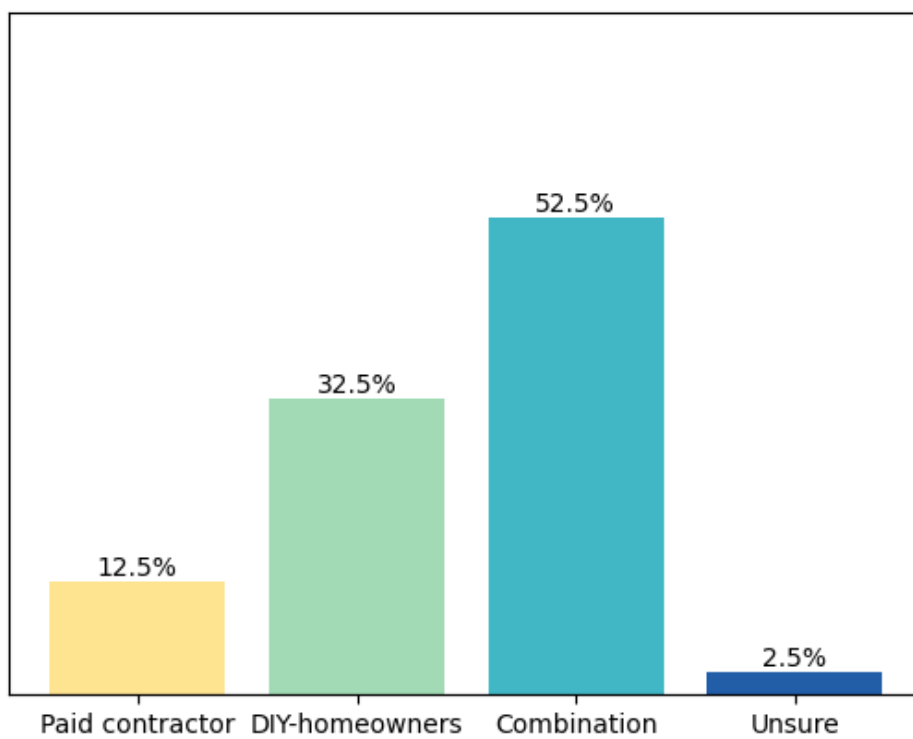
What percent of the work on your assessment are you able to do on your own?

(Average = 59%)

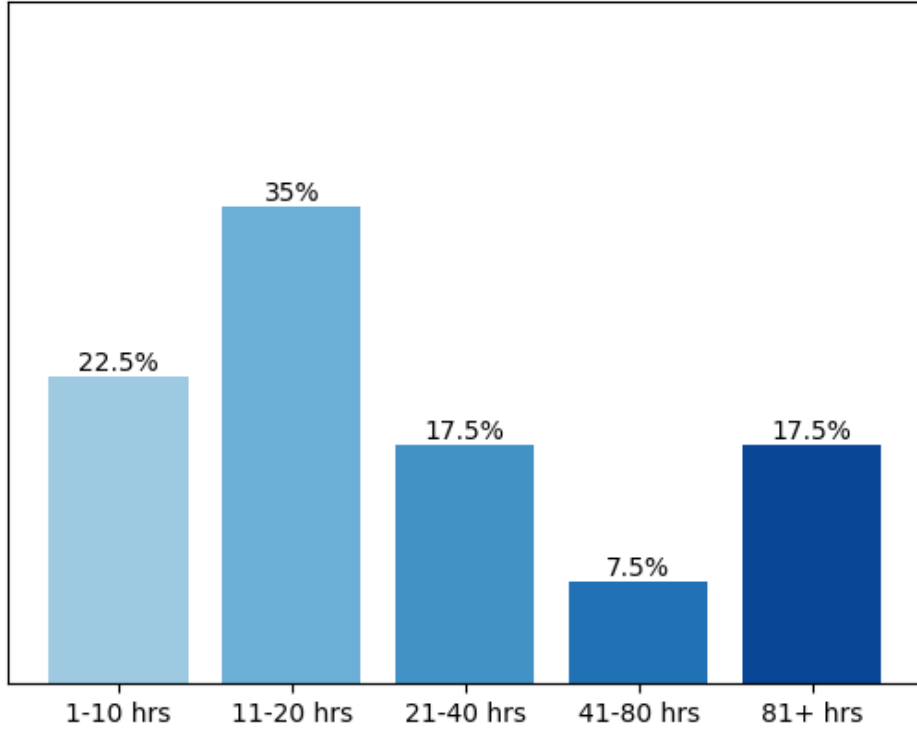




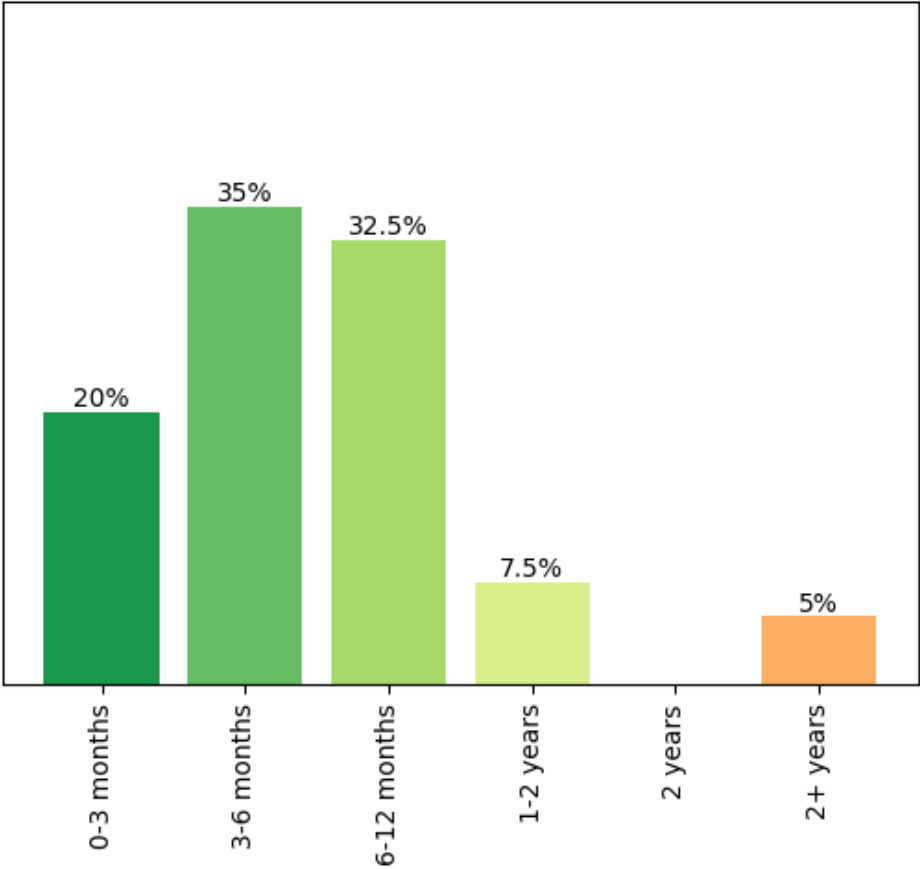
### Who will be performing your mitigation measures?



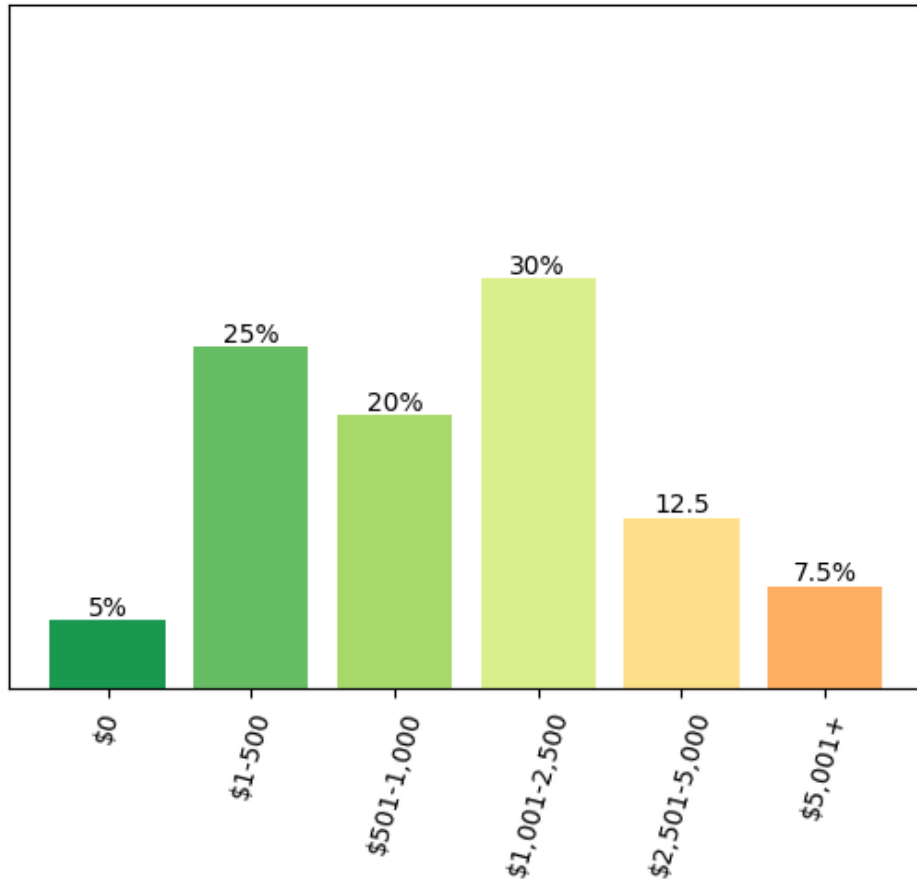
How much time are you willing to spend implementing the mitigation measures identified in your report?



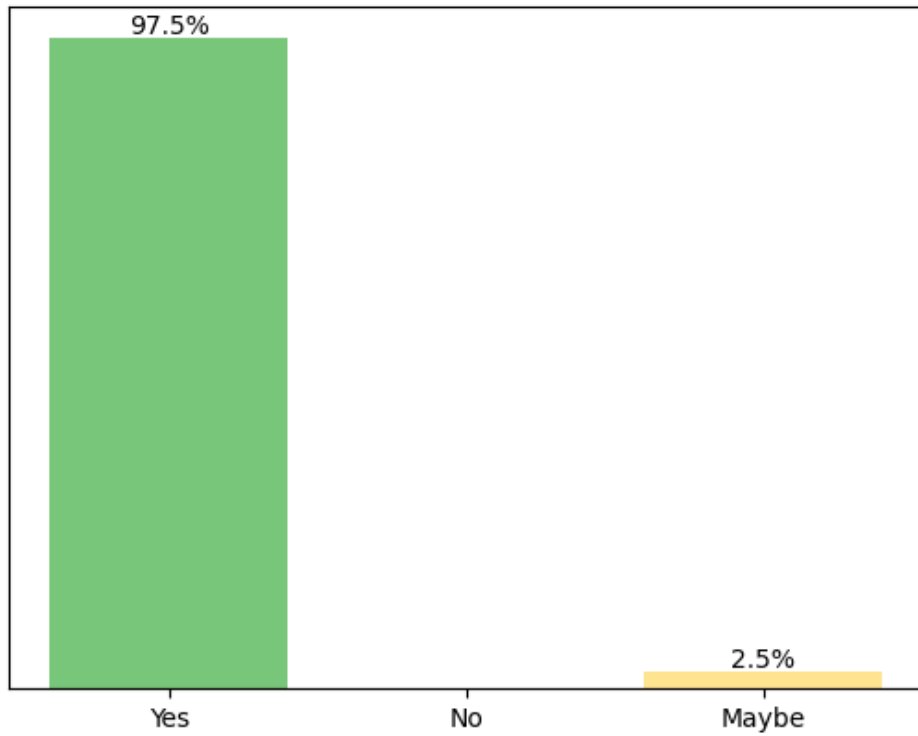
How long do you expect it will take for you to complete the mitigation measures that you choose to implement?



How much are you willing to pay in cash to implement your mitigation measures?  
(This amount should not include the value of your time spent working on mitigation)



Preparing for wildfires is an on-going, long-term effort that requires maintenance and upkeep. Do you plan to maintain the mitigation measures you implement for the duration of your time in your home?



## Do you have any final feedback to share with us?

<p>We have taken the Boulder County survey recommending that Wildfire Partners be expanded to the flatlands. We have written our neighbors that this may occur. Is there anything else we can do to expedite this process. The plains will be dry again this summer. Time is as they say of the essence.</p>
<p>Thanks for this project.</p>
<p>I appreciate you allowing me to participate in the pilot project. I learned a lot.</p>
<p>I am so relieved to have your expert opinion. You have enabled me to focus on what needs to be done rather than guessing. I had already done quite a bit of obvious things but confirmation that I was basically on the right track and guidance for next steps has been invaluable to me. I was also able to tell my neighbors about the plains program and share my experience with Wildfire Partners. There is now an HOA committee for mitigation with some input from Wildfire Partners via participating homeowners and I hope we can all get involved. THANK YOU ALL! And special thanks to Abby :-)</p>
<p>Thank you for providing this service.</p>
<p>Glad to learn about fire mitigation and the steps I need to take.</p>
<p>Just that all the mitigation has already been done.</p>
<p>We appreciate that you were able to come out and give us advice.</p>
<p>The tree removal and fallen branches were all hauled away in early November. Three hydraulic trailer loads!!! Hours of grounds work, shrub, vines removal, setting up rocks along foundation. It totally altered my fall land chores priorities this year!!</p>
<p>Thank you so much for including our home in this pilot program. The consultation was extremely informative and very appreciated.</p>
<p>I think this is a great resource and it provided me with a lot of measures that I would not have considered on my own. Very informative and helpful!</p>
<p>Luckily my property is in good shape so I don't have a lot to do. If I had a lot to do, then my ability to do them might be limited. It would be good to have loans or funds or assistance available to those who have a lot of work to do, but can't afford to do it.</p>
<p>Offer to give a presentation to HOAs and Realtor offices/BOLO Association of Realtors.</p>
<p>This is a great program and I'm hopeful that the ballot measure will be passed so more homeowners can participate. Need to continue to help people understand the importance of making changes needed properties to help reduce impacts of wildfire and their ability to spread.</p>
<p>We are so impressed and happy about this program! It is so needed!!!</p>
<p>thanks for your concern and help</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>Great info - please expand the pilot to others!</p>
<p>This is a great project &amp; I wish you the best of success.</p>
<p>Recommendations of wildfire resistant fencing and siding alternatives would be appreciated.</p>
<p>How can I get the questions answered in question #7?</p>
<p>Thank you and I'll be in contact with you to speak at our homeowners meeting.</p>

I forgot the name of my inspector and would like you to please send that to me along with his phone number. I had this on my phone and he said to refer to it if I wanted to contact him, but somehow it got lost from my phone.

Great program. Thank you for choosing us in the pilot program. The timing from application to actual assessment was quite quick.

This is an amazing service, and we are lucky to have it in our community. I hope the plains program takes off and continues to grow. Thank you for your work and for helping the population prepare for disasters.

Thank you for choosing me, as I live alone and need these recommendations to get my place in shape. Esp. since I needed areas pointed out.



# Wildfire Partners

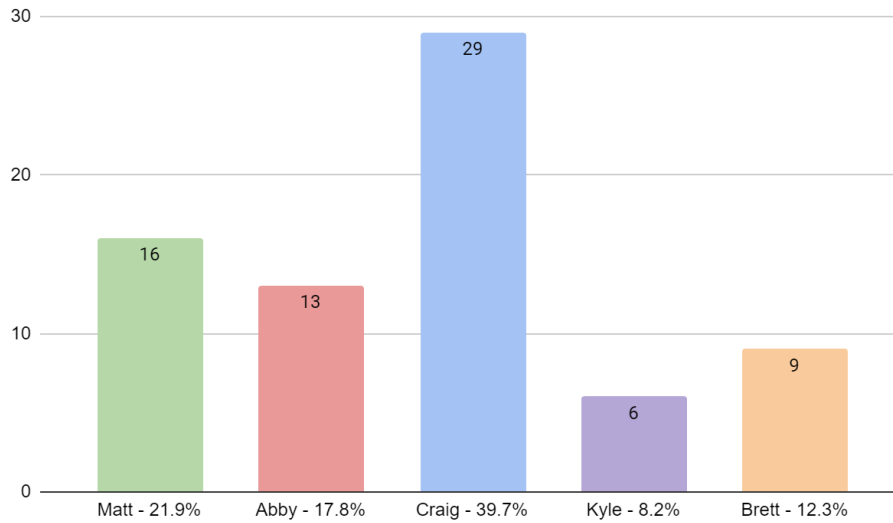
Plains Pilot Project

Wildfire Mitigation Specialists Survey Responses

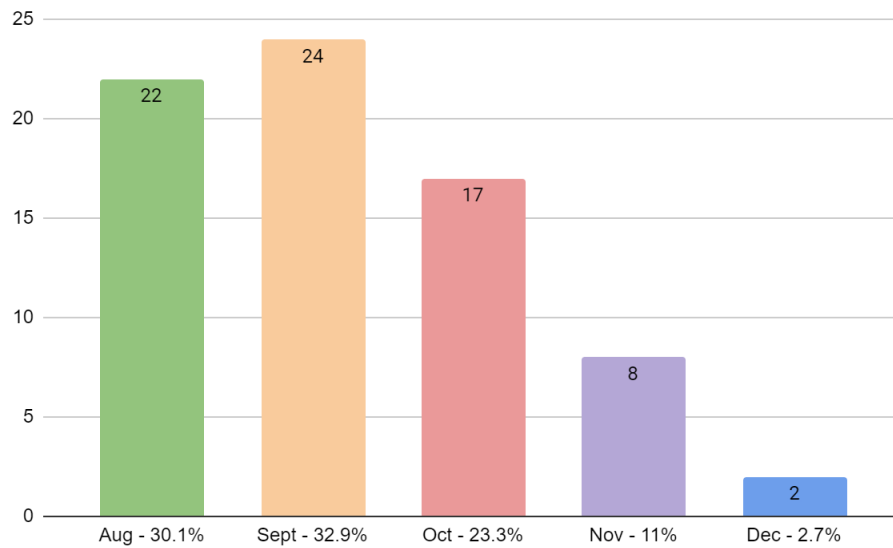




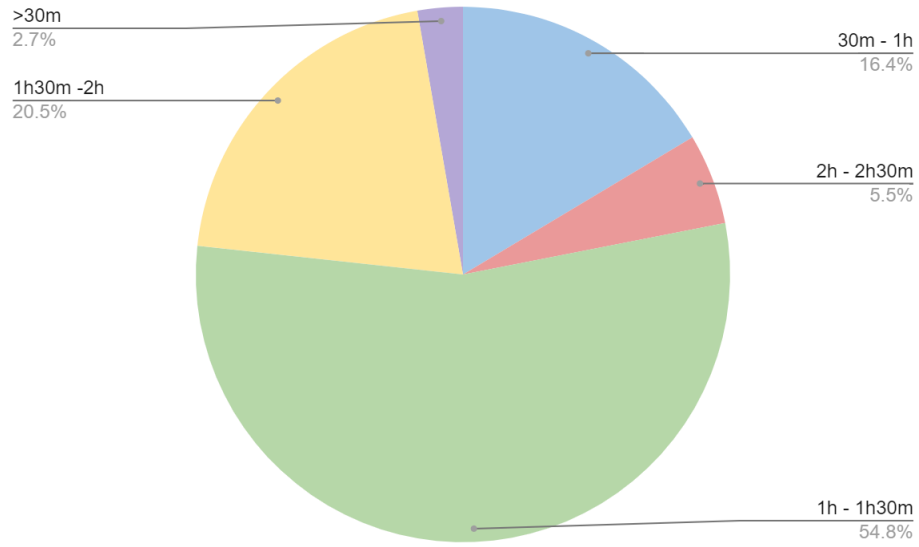
### Reports completed by Wildfire Mitigation Specialists (Total: 73)



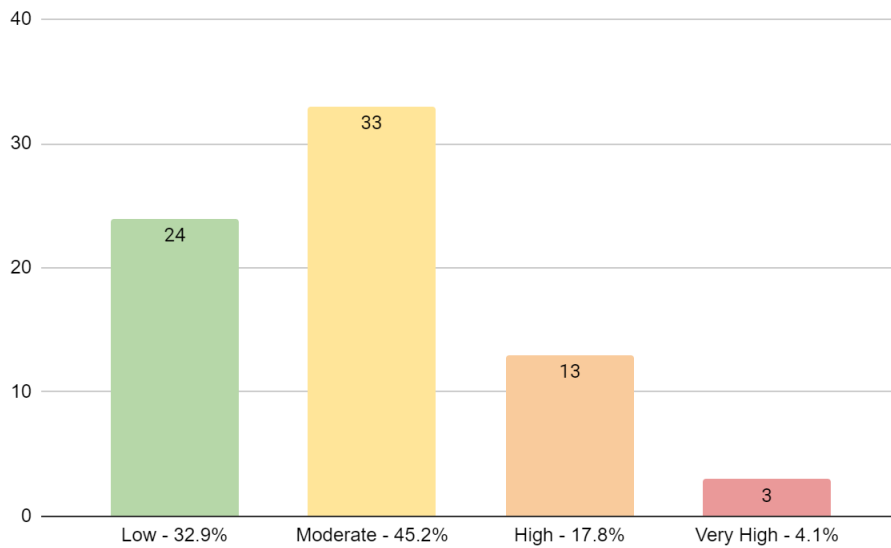
### Reports completed by Month (Total: 73)



### How long were you on site for this assessment?



### How would you assess the individual, parcel-level wildfire risk for this property? (Total of 73)



## Why? (Parcel-level wildfire risk for this property)

<b>Low:</b>
No trees near house, brand new, well-maintained structure, stucco siding, class A roof, well maintained landscape. Only recommendation was removed bark mulch. Homeowner has means to maintain home.
The surrounding greenspace, house construction and not excessive vegetation right next to house. Well maintained under decks and in general.
Adjacent greenspace areas, construction type and minimal vegetation (particularly evergreens) adjacent to house.
Space around house and property, construction type and general condition of deck, Zone 1A and well into Zone 2.
Large greenspace, house construction good access for first responders.
Absolutely bomb proof. Class a roof, stucco walls, expansive use of gravel, Astroturf and irrigated grass. No trees or accessory structures within 1000 feet. Surround land is grazed rangeland, property is well maintained and there is no clutter. This residence is not typical, even within the context of multimillion dollar homes in Boulder County.
House had noncombustible materials, on one acre lot with paved road to the west.
There were some soffit vulnerabilities, bark mulch and vegetation too close to the house.
Little ember and no flame risk outside of the individual property because there is no open space nearby or to the west and the adjacent houses are greater than 50 feet away.
Surrounding greenspace, presence of roads and hydrants, minimal vegetation adjacent to house.
Presence of roads and hydrants (access), green yard(s) no extreme vegetation around house.
Presence of roads managed open space, hydrants.
Very little vegetation in or close to property boundaries, dirt paddock, grazed or hayed fields adjacent to property, good access, hydrants nearby.
Green yards, access, presence of hydrants and firefighting resources.
Amount of green yard, construction type, land use adjacent to house, access and availability of firefighting resources/hydrants, very little flammable vegetation near house.
Land use pattern, very little vegetation near house/property access, availability to firefighting resources/hydrants, construction type.
Construction type, greenspace, very little conifers near house, access, hydrants.
Construction type, greenspace, access, hydrants, little combustible material near house.
Land use patterns, greenspace, hydrants and proximity to firefighting resources, minimal vegetation adjacent to house.
Construction type, access, hydrants, greenspace, land use patterns.
Land use of property, construction type
Vegetation on the parcel is deciduous. Grasses are kept very short, though woody mulches were identified in many areas within 10 feet of the house. Building construction was good as well.
Deciduous vegetation spaced apart and distanced from the house, building construction of the house itself, landscaping and vegetation within it, and the condition with which things were generally kept.
The house sits among old growth deciduous trees, manicured grasses, firewire landscaped vegetation, and the homes building construction is very firewire.

<b>Moderate:</b>
Vulnerable to surface fire and ember showers.
backs to open space but that space is mowed 3x/yr so the grass is low. The property itself has irrigated lawn and a lot of good hardscaping. There is a low deck and evergreen trees. Highest risk is probably from the fence but again that's split rail not pickets.
Adjacent to HOA owned open space to the north. They are in a subdivision with houses closer together, so the risk could potentially be much higher depending on the scale of the potential wildfire.
The subject structure was a quadplex (four housing units) with bark mulch, juniper shrubs and picket fences adjoining wooden walls.
There was bark mulch below the deck and overhangs, trees that needed to be limbed and expansive herbaceous materials near the deck.
In a subdivision with homes 30+ feet away, but the west side of the house is adjacent to an area with bigger one-acre lots.
Vulnerable to surface fire and ember showers.
Vulnerable to ignition from adjoining structures.
The primary risk is from a large grassy field behind the property. There is mowed lawns on both sides of a pond, before getting to the house location. Vegetation is predominantly deciduous, but there are a large number of junipers within zone 1. House construction was brick at the base.
Lots of bark mulch and robust vegetation. Wood stored under the deck, vines everywhere, robust planting beds with tall grasses.
Many combustible materials stored in one 1, no screens on attic vents, tall shrubs near houses, no limbing in zone 2..
Large shrubs and bark mulch in zone 1, rain gutters full of leaves, combustible bearish storage in zone 1.
House had noncombustible siding, irrigated lawn all around, and good separation from neighboring homes
Expansive juniper shrubs within an old neighborhood.
Adjacent to undeveloped areas, house was covered in vines, firewood under the deck.
the property was fairly large, irrigated, and good spacing around the trees. The largest risk was from a wood fence that connected the house to the west to hers.
large lot, noncombustible siding
surrounded by grasslands but home very fire resistant and the grass near the home is being well managed (irrigated and mowed/grazed)
E were lots of large herbaceous fuels below soffits, vines growing on the house and bark mulch near the deck. Wooden fences also connected to the residence.
Construction type, some vegetation in Z1A, larger planting on west side of property.
Moderate to high. Larger planting on west side of house, construction type, quite a bit of wood mulch in Z1A, detached garage (although well mitigated it attaches to the house with a "covered" walkway and is close to the 5-row shelterbelt planting on west side.
Little vegetation near or around property, land use patterns of the area, topography, access and proximity to firefighting resources.

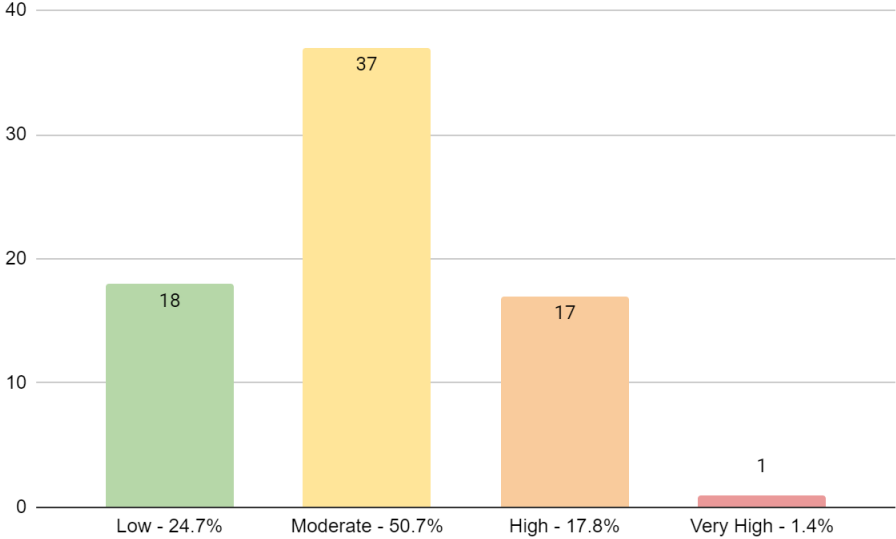
Construction type, land use of/ in the adjacent properties, vegetation, topography.
Presence of Junipers and other vegetation in close proximity to house, attached wooden shade structure, combustible debris
Construction type, vegetation (particularly Junipers on west side), access, firefighting resources, proximity of many homes.
home mostly noncombustible materials but older windows. Many fields around the home but all were grazed low.
Dense thatch below willow trees with continuity to the house, combustible materials stored below a car port.
house survived the marshall fire, built of noncombustible materials and well mitigated.
This property is not too far from a lake. The biggest risk comes from a wildfire coming through the near by golf course
The largest risk to this property is the open space directly behind the house. There is a creek that separates the property from open space, but it's continuous grasses that would conduct a wildfire easily with winds.
large lot, developed neighborhood. The largest risk factor is leaves from the abundant deciduous trees
Vegetation in community
This home is situated in an area just north of the Marshall fire footprint. The main risk to this home is the type of vegetation on the parcel and around the house. The building construction of the house lends itself to being susceptible to ember ignition.

<b>High:</b>
Single pane windows at ground level with juniper up against the glass and a mugo pine within a few feet. Large lot with grass.
The amount of flammable vegetation - particular evergreens adjacent to the house.
Overgrown landscape with numerous juniper and other shrubs forming a continuous canopy from the extent of zone 2 to the house. Bark mulch in the landscape and numerous shrubs situated below eaves and overhangs.
Surrounded by large (30+ acre) privately owned non-farmed parcels that usually do not mow their grasses
The parcel is adjacent to an HOA common area which backs up to railroad tracks and Hwy 119. The homes are greater than 30+ feet.
this is a tough call. without the barn I'd call it moderate but with a large wood barn (high end construction) filled with hay about 60 feet west of the house, I would have to raise the risk of home loss even though the home is made of extremely noncombustible materials.
Significant vegetation including many Junipers adjacent to and very close to house and detached garage. Also...combustible siding, poor base of wall protection, dryer vent, other openings inadequate Z1A, landscape timbers attached to house.
Construction type and age/condition, significant vegetation and multiple combustible structure/items in close proximity to house, proximity to St. Vrain Creek and very significant fuel component with little ability to work along the stream corridor.
Surrounded by grasslands, shake shingle siding that reaches to the ground around 2/3 of the house
Land use pattern, topography, proximity to foothills, construction type and vegetation of west side of property
Vegetation, construction type, relative proximity to foothills, tightness of nearby homes
This parcel directly backs on to Boulder County Open Space that is predominantly a grass fuel model. There are homes on either side of this parcel are within 15 feet of the property line.

<b>Very High:</b>
shake shingle roof
Shake shingle siding - house and garage, vegetation land use adjacent to property
There is dense woody vegetation all around the property. The parcel backs on to a grassy horse pasture which then abuts other horse pastures forming a continuous landscape of grasses and hay. Pine needle accumulations were deep in areas, along rooflines, and on deck surface. The main challenge to this homeowner is the vegetation surrounding the house and it's susceptibility to a fire in the area should a wildfire get onto the property. Further the accessory structure was a risk that may be difficult to mitigate given its location and construction.

# How would you assess the community-level wildfire risk?

(Total of 73)



## Why? (Community-level risk)

<b>Low:</b>
Hollow housing density surrounded by irrigated lawns, fields and pastures.
Amount of greenspace, homes not in close proximity, well manage lots.
See above.
suburban development, roads throughout, right in Niwot (assuming quick emergency response and hydrants), most of the subdivision doesn't back to open space
Isolated home on several acres.
Houses each on several acres.
No open space nearby or to the west and the adjacent houses are greater than 50 feet away.
Mountains were distant, most structures were on one acre lots.
Low to moderate due to open space to the west and to some degree ingress/egress.
Without an extreme wind event, nearby and/or subdivision fire(s) would be attacked quickly and vigorously.
Overall plains characteristics of grazed/hayed fields, large lots, access.
Access, hydrants, land use in vicinity (particularly to the west) close to firefighting resources.
General land use patterns of the area, access and availability of firefighting resources.
Access, hydrants, availability of firefighting resources, close proximity of many homes.
Access, availability of resources, hydrants.
Same
This parcel is deep within a subdivision with predominantly deciduous vegetation. Presumably it would be hard for a wildfire to spread within this community. Area surrounding the community seems unlikely to produce fire behavior that promotes ember production.



<b>Moderate:</b>
To some degree, the proximity of homes. Also, there is significant vegetation (evergreens, junipers etc.) adjacent to homes and extending to neighboring properties.
Significant greenspace, construction type in the community, general access for first responders, not a lot of surface fuels between houses or on individual properties.
Although lots are relatively large, proximity of homes and vegetation in between parcels.
Amount of greenspace, access for first responders and relatively no surface fuels.
Vulnerable to surface fire and ember showers. No houses within 500 feet of the residence.
1 acre lots, and they are on the east edge of the community. They have irrigated lawn and road to the west of their house, open space is to the east of their house.
one-acre lots, wide roads, open space is to the east of her house.
The community is far from the foothills but each structure would be very vulnerable to ember ignition.
Structure is far from the foothills but vulnerable to ember ignition.
The community is relatively continuous with relatively no adjacent open space.
Surrounded by the grassy fields.
Adjacent to grassy open space.
Entire area burned in Marshall Fire. Houses are more than 100 feet apart.
Houses are more than 100 feet apart.
newer homes, well separated. There is some grasslands in the neighborhood but also a creek, cottonwoods and generally large irrigated mowed lawns.
Not far from mountains.
larger properties, newer homes built of mostly ignition resistant materials.
homes well distanced although open grasslands surround the community
similar to the parcel level, this is farm country and the homes are quite far apart from one another
There are many older homes in the neighborhood, some are in need of repair. Structure to structure fuel continuity exits via landscape plants, fences and utility buildings.
Vegetation near adjacent homes, close to topography that could influence fire behavior.
Good access, presence of hydrants, topography to the west.
Proximity of homes, vegetation present.
Proximity to foothills, houses on small lots,
Proximity to foothills, topography between foothills and community, access and availability to firefighting resources.
Topography, high wind area/exposure, access, availability to firefighting resources/hydrants.
Topography, access, hydrants land use of adjacent properties, wind-prone area.
Land use patterns nearby, access, hydrants, proximity to firefighting resources.
Access, hydrants, land use patterns.
Proximity to foothills, topography, access, hydrants, land use patterns.
Old structures with poor maintenance contribute to overall hazard while large lot size increases structure separation distance.

The houses along the open space have the highest risk as there is little separation from those grasses to denser vegetation on the properties. Spacing of the houses is pretty good, suggesting that there would be a lower risk for a neighbor's house being an ignition source.

Developed suburban neighborhood along a major road. Houses on large lots well distanced from each other.

Relative proximity to foothills, topography, land use nearby (fences and properties adjacent were impacted by the Marshal Fire

The subdivision this parcel is in has many deciduous trees, paved roads, sidewalks, driveways, walkways, etc. Homes are spaced a decent ways apart, however, homes backing directly onto Open Space are at a much high risk for wildfire impacts.

Grasses would be the way a fire would move through this area. Because of all the ranching in the area, fields were generally kept well. The farm land to the west of the community could have some susceptibility, especially as the crops dried out in the fall before harvest.

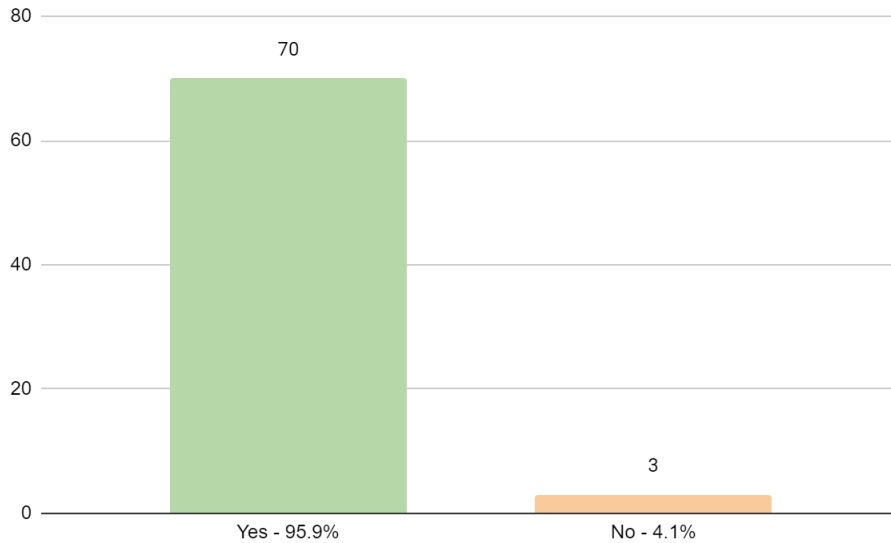
The Marshall Fire burned near this community. There are a number of differences between homes in this community with some being much more resistant to fire than others. Older properties typically had wood construction and woody vegetation nearby the house. The grassy fuel model of the landscape around this area is highly susceptible to wildfire.

<b>High:</b>
Their row of houses has open space that extends to the west.
The neighboring parcels are of similar size with similar risks.
Most of the community also is adjacent to an HOA common area which backs up to railroad tracks and Hwy 119.
Homes within this community are 30 or less apart. Whiles homes are well maintained and well constructed, there are numerous features in the community that are vulnerable to ember ignition including bark mulch, combustibile items stored under decks or near structures.
The proximity of the open space that is used for hay and the ditch that runs east/west.
There is a lot of grassland around the homes and I'm not sure how well mitigated or what materials the rest of the houses are made of.
Significant vegetation, proximity to St. Vrain Creek, adjacent land use patterns.
Moderate to High: Proximity to foothills, topography, abundance of conifers/vegetation in the community, distance to firefighting resources.
large lots with grasses
Marshall Fire burned through the community and destroyed a number of neighboring homes
This area has a lot of grasslands surrounding the community that can conduct fire easily. The build environment has more space between homes but the materials used for many of the houses are not fire resistant.
Same as above
Vegetation in community, age of homes land use pattern
Same reasons
Mainly due to the grassy fuel model that dominates the landscape. The homes in this area are spaced out significantly and therefore don't represent a risk to another home.
Grassy fields are all around homes along Niwot Rd. Vegetation appears to be close to the houses and resembles a what would be found in a mixed conifer forest.

<b>Very High:</b>
This is prairie/farmland likely to support a fast-moving grass fire.

## Did the current app work well for this assessment?

(Total of 73)



### Why not?

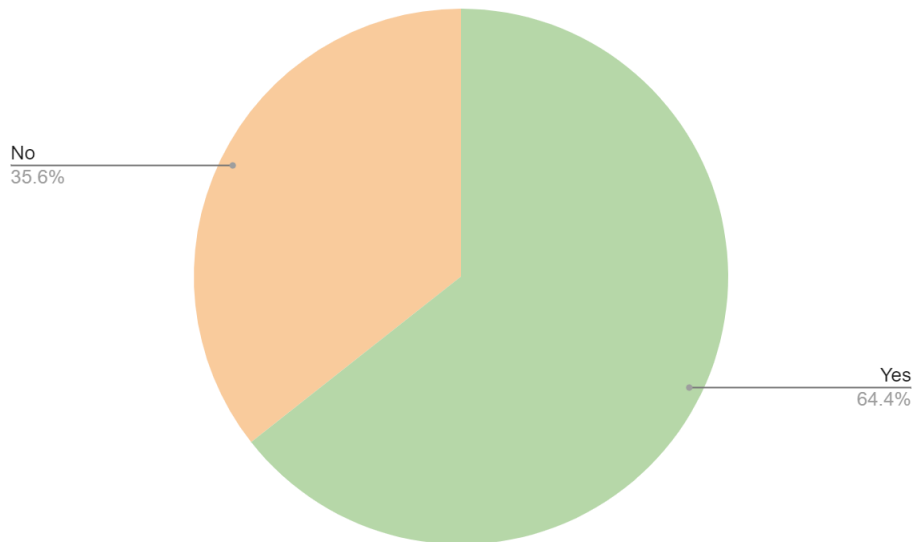
Spent about an hour onsite with Tom and 45 minutes working on the report.

The question about the reflective address sign seems out of place on the flats.

I'd say we need a specific question relating to barns. I also think we should re-examine the questions on low-limbing since the mountain/forestry standard doesn't seem totally appropriate on the plains.

Are there any new question(s) you think should be added to the assessment?

(Total of 73)



**If yes, please include what question you would like to see.**

Maybe more like add to this survey: I haven't been asked how long I spent on the assessment total. I spent 2.25 hours on site and an hour writing up my report. First because there was a lot to say, but second I wrote in more detail about why because there was less knowledge base.

Maybe we should add a question for the plains about wood mulch in zone 1. To elaborate, maybe that could be appropriate on the down-wind side of the house even if within 30 feet (our team should decide if there's an appropriate number) but maybe inappropriate anywhere on the upwind side.

I think it would be good to modify the question about single pane windows to include window wells. I always want to add notes whether or not the windows are single pane and there's no really good way to do this now. We could change it to a "check to make required" so that we can add some FYI notes in this area. Would be nice to have this for our mountain assessments as well.

something along the lines of Is the barn well-mitigated? Yes, No, NA I also think the barn could be further than 30 feet away and still be a hazard. The one I saw today is gigantic and due west of the house by 60 feet. I think the heat could possibly compromise the home's windows or catch the "noncombustible" wood deck on fire.

maybe one for emergency preparedness, discuss evacuation plan for large animals (vs pets), unusual pets (she has a dozen or so pet pigs) and large number of animals.

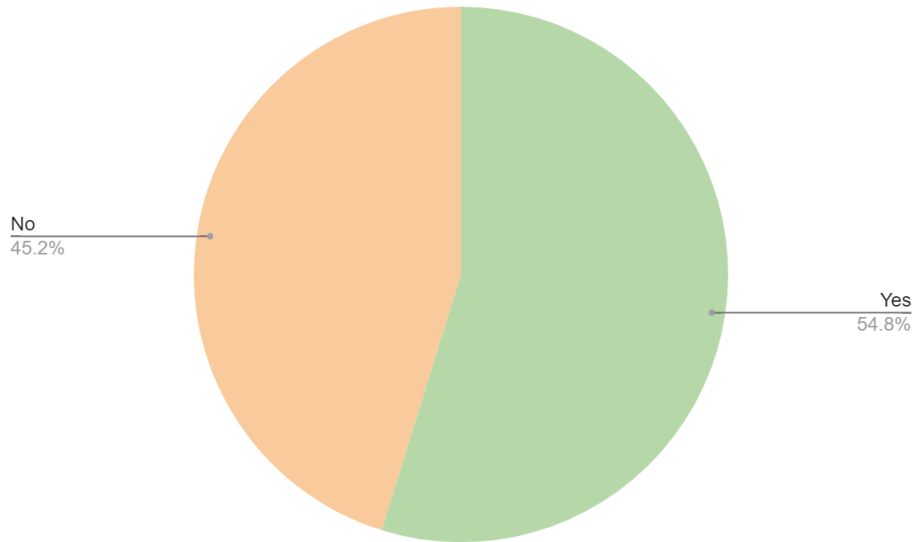
Presence of roads, hydrants, general access and overall community involvement (is there an HOA or other means which to communicate about wildfire risk and mitigation).

The app was OK, but I think an east-county app could have specific questions about leaf litter, about wood mulch, about windows at grade/window wells (whether single pane or not), about working with neighbors/community WMP for homes in more tight-packed neighborhoods.

Possibly the proximity to foothills, land use patterns/topography
Distance to foothills, topography
Land use patterns of the general area and/or adjacent to property or community.
Land use in the surrounding and adjacent area
Land use patterns nearby, topography

Did the homeowner have any comments that you found particularly interesting, insightful, or different from that of mountain residents?

(Total of 73)



**If yes, please explain why.**

She spoke specifically about how the heat was a factor in her ability to deal with her yardwork/mitigation

He loves his wood roof. Asked a lot about foaming and fire retardant products to protect the roof.

The homeowner and her neighbor were both present. They are hoping to start a mitigation committee in their HOA. They were interested in partnering with WP and also asked who else to include in their stakeholder list. We discussed many things both specific to her house and general subject matter in detail and in depth. This assessment took about 2.5 hours before I spent another 45 minutes or so writing the report.

As with some previous clients, this man lives in an HOA. He wants to start a wildfire committee and maybe has been part of discussions with the HOA board already. He mentioned he's be sharing his report at the next hoa meeting. I didn't ask whether he was on the board, sorry. I did way I'd be happy to do a presentation at an HOA meeting and he was very enthused at the idea.

This homeowner has a cabin in Grand County that was one of 2 in her neighborhood that survived the east troublesome fire.

She has a lot of livestock including some peacocks, several horses, dogs, cats (and maybe more we didn't discuss). She had some concerns about her own animals, and also about grazing cattle, noting that a herd was trapped during the Marshall Fire and had to be euthanized due to the severity of their burns.

she is trying to replace wood fencing with stucco and her HOA is hassling/forbidding her from doing so.

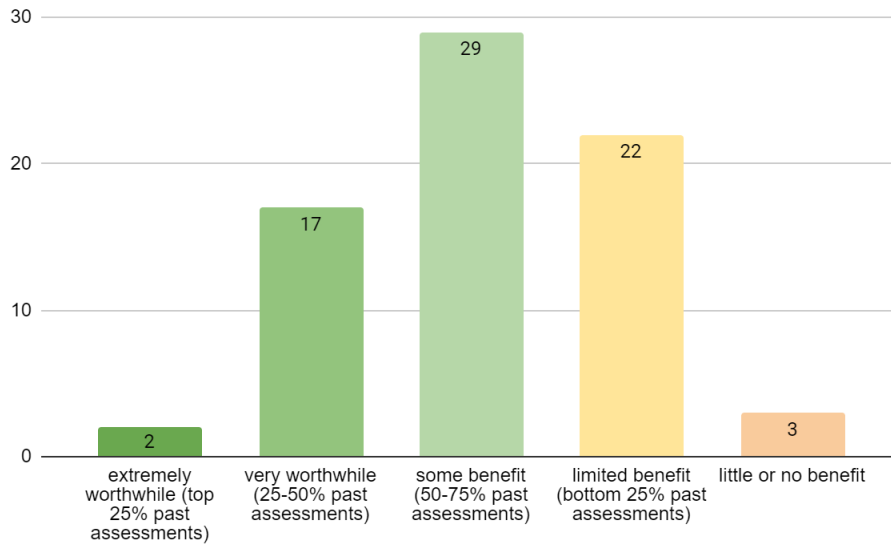
discussed her dealing with evacuating horses & pigs during the Marshall Fire

How connecting fences were part of the problem.
We discussed a number of factors involved with subdivisions such as this.
their home was breached by embers via the cooling fan which has since been removed and patched. Through sheer luck (or the grace of the angels per the homeowner) the embers didn't ignite the holiday wrapping paper that was a few feet further into the room,
He is the representative of his water district (association?) and we discussed the lack of planning and preparedness to deal with the special circumstances impacting water during and after the MF. During = lack of access. After = restoring water pressure when homes weren't heated due to power outages. I'd love to follow up and interview him about this in more detail. Different than mountains since the system serves the community integrally vs one house on it's own well.
He appreciated being able to talk about his concerns and learn about what he could do to lower risk on his property.
She too brought up the gridlock that ensued during the MF evacuation. Also the fact of her neighborhood being told to evacuate erroneously. Also how her lawn/leaf service wants to wait until all leaves are on the ground before coming to clean up, and this year it was end of November and they still hadn't come because some trees were hanging onto their leaves. She's somewhat older so she doesn't want to deal with raking herself.
As his home was partially impacted by Marshall Fire, he was interested in fire behavior factors, how stone walls may have prevented home ignition by "funneling" embers around house. He really tried to determine how his house survived when all others burned on that road.
He knows he was pretty lucky. Part of his back fence burned.
There is a lot of unfamiliarity with fire and so questions concerned how it spreads, rates of speed, and types of vegetation that would be more flammable than others.
Not necessarily different, but this homeowner was particularly concerned about winds impacts as they frequently have very strong winds in their area.
The homeowner was non-native English speaker and so there was a good amount of time communicating different fire-related concepts. Similar to other PPP assessments, homeowner was not familiar with wildfire at all.
This homeowner was older, with a limited budget and energy. The challenge because overcoming resistance to what was familiar to them to understand how what we were talking about lent itself to greater fire susceptibility.



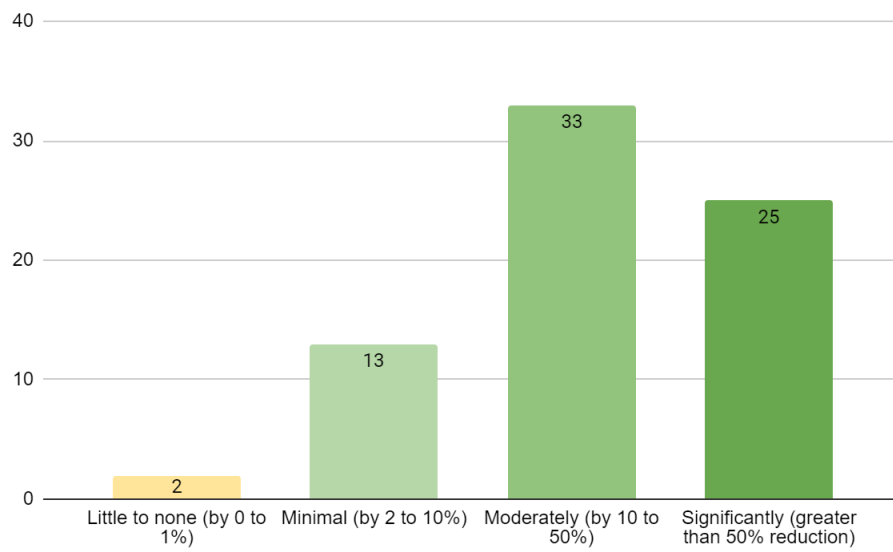
Compared to all the assessments you have performed since joining Wildfire Partners, how would you rank this assessment?

(Total of 73)



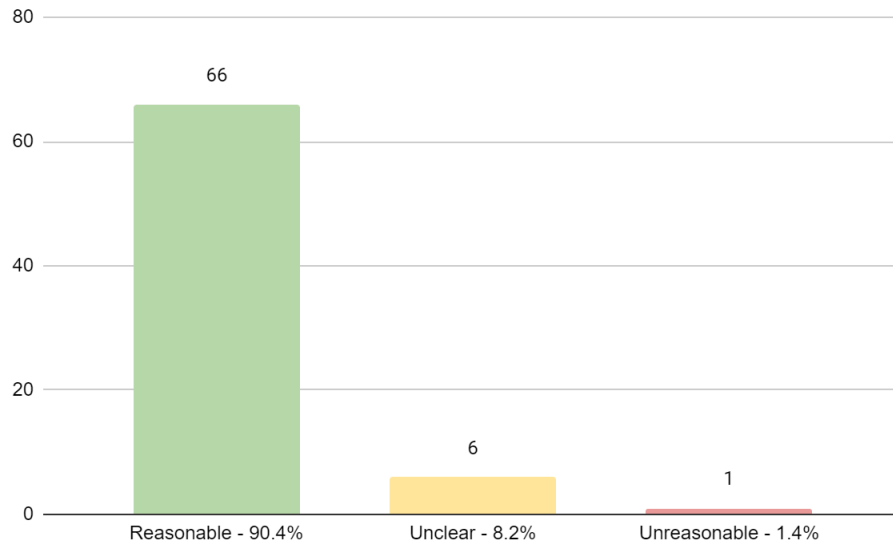
If this homeowner was able to complete all required/red mitigation measures on the checklist how much do you think they could reduce ignition potential?

(Total of 73)

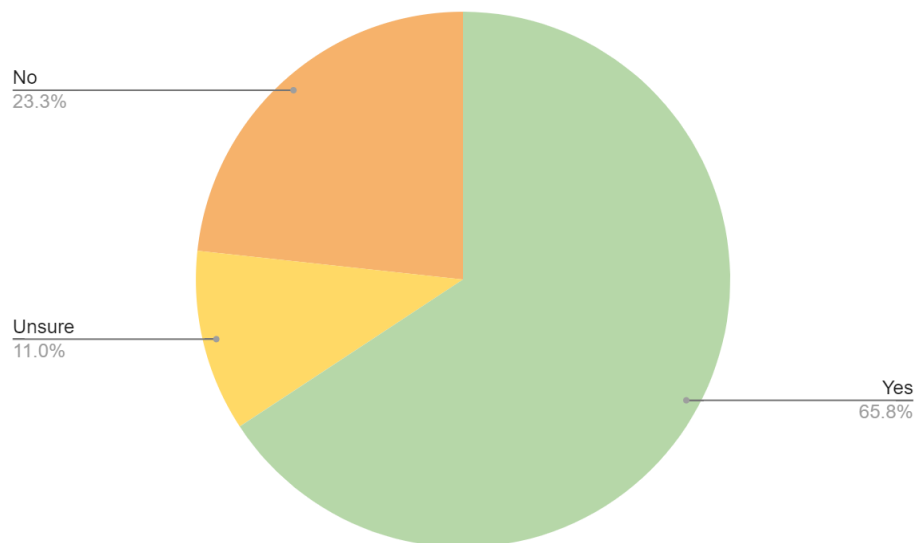


From a cost-benefit perspective, do you feel the required mitigation measures (as a total package) were:

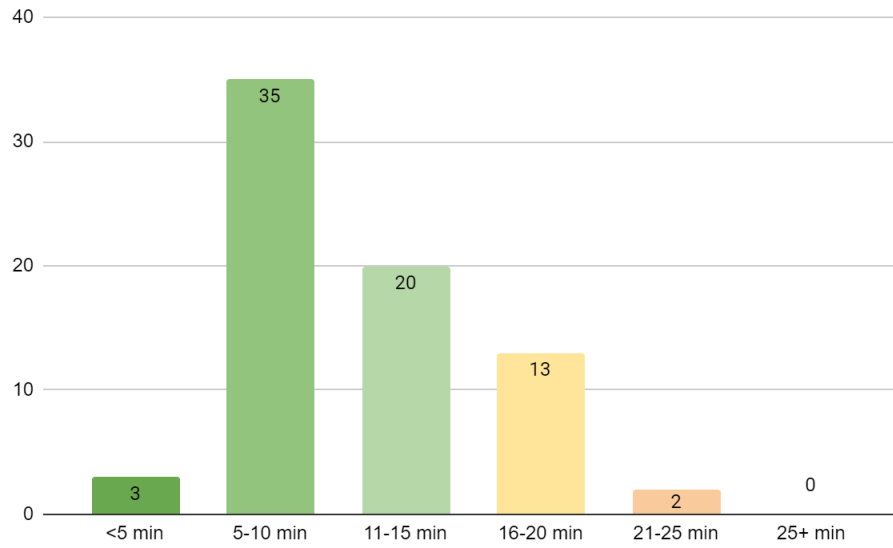
(Reasonable: costs in line with benefits) or (Unreasonable: Costs much higher than benefits)  
(Total of 73)



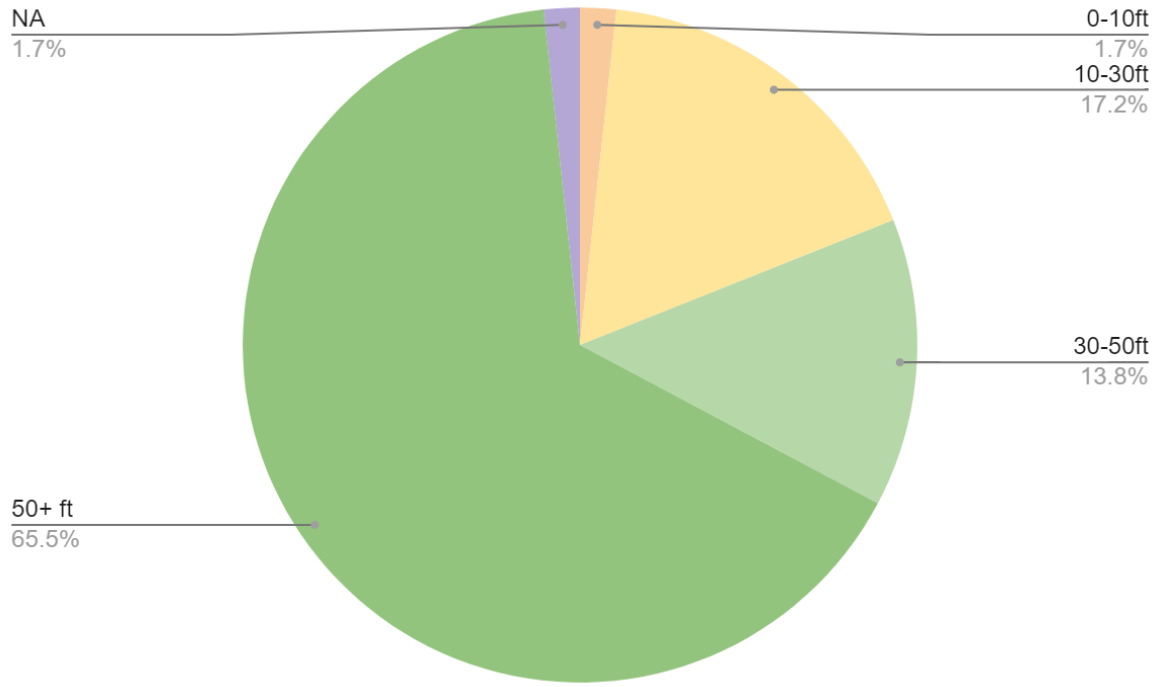
From an insurance company perspective (risk reduction), does certification make sense for this property?



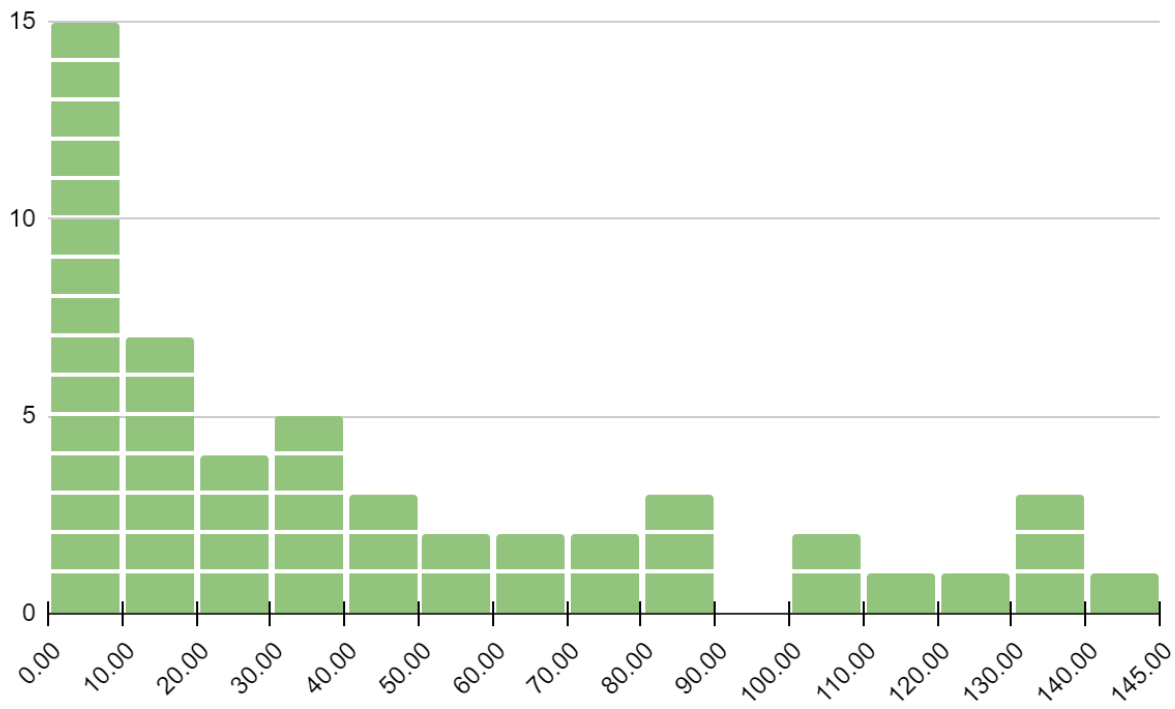
Last question for the mitigation specialists, how long did it take you to fill out this online survey? (in minutes)



What was Structure Separation Distance B? (Distance to the closest home)



Please insert actual amount (in feet)



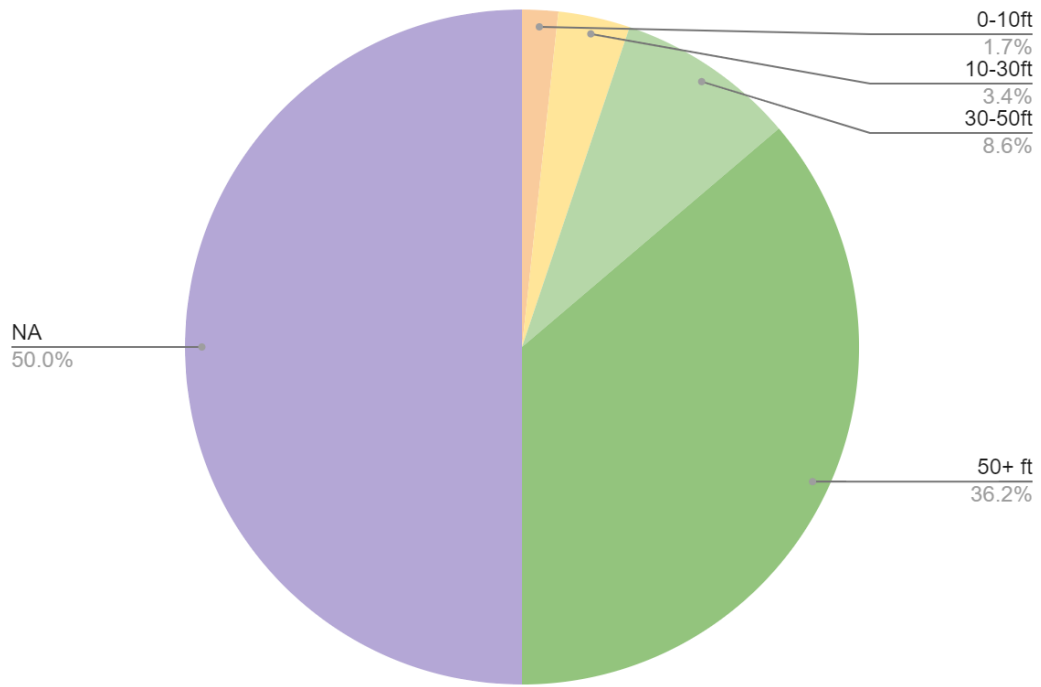
Additional respondents with a distance to closest home of:

150ft - 500 ft = 17

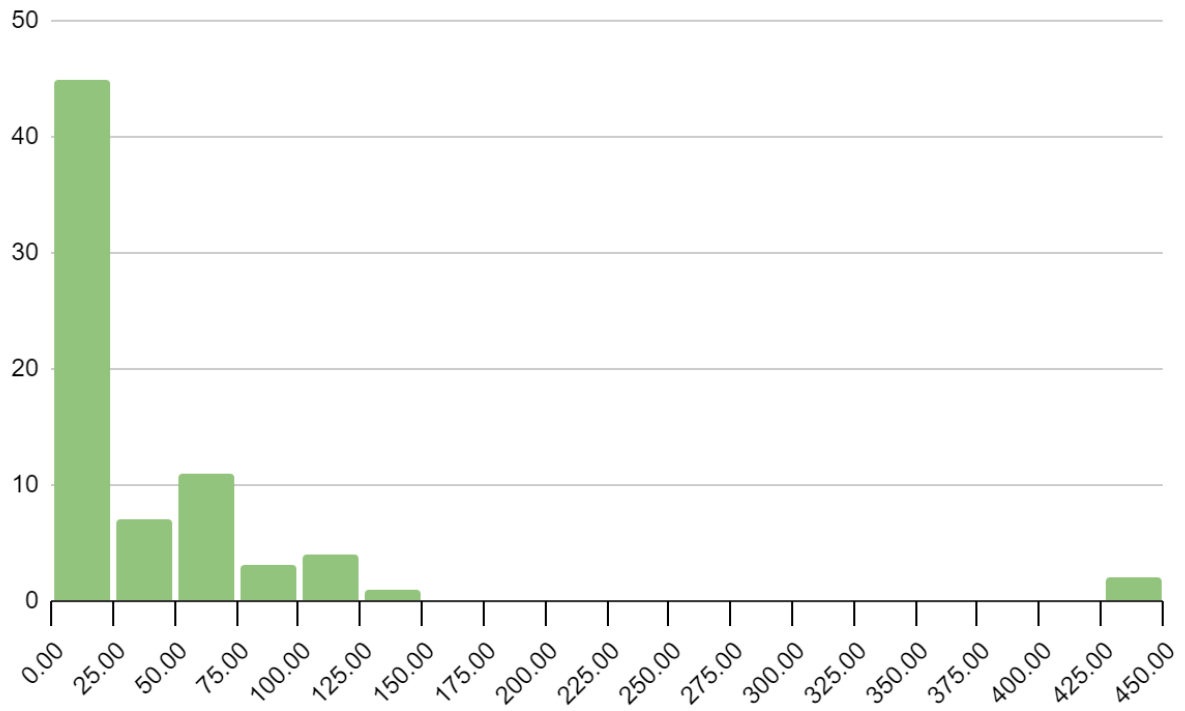
500ft - 1000ft = 4

>1000ft = 1

What was Structure Separation Distance A?  
(Distance between closest accessory structures)

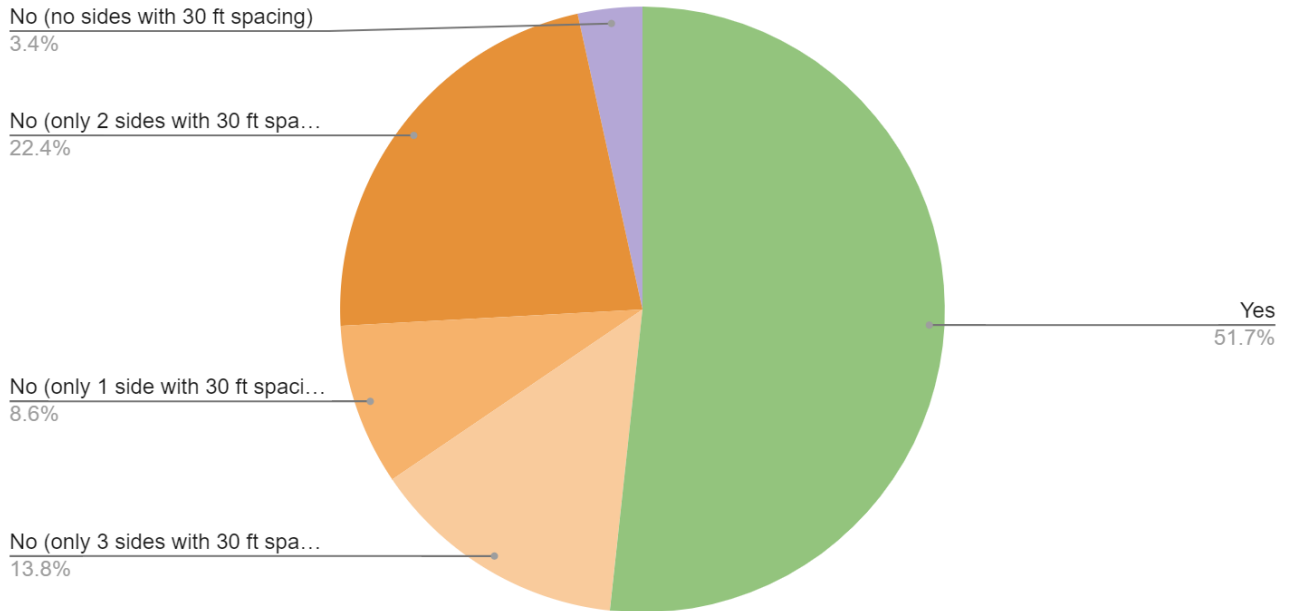


Please insert actual separation distance (in feet)

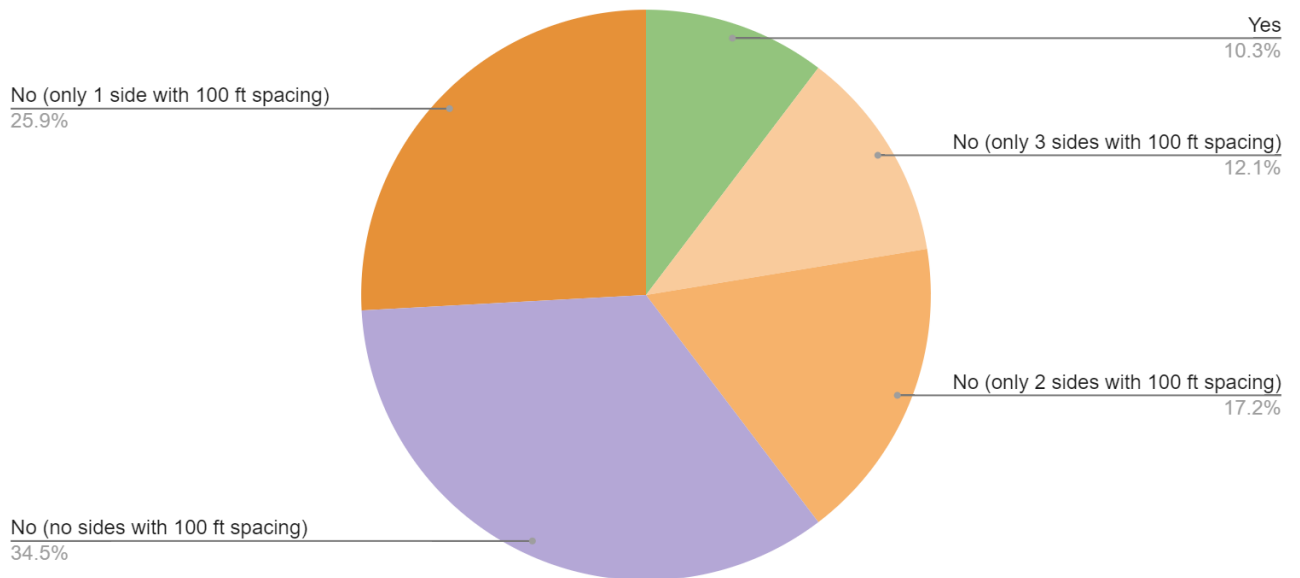




### Was there a full (30 ft) Zone 1 on this property?



### Was there a full (100 ft) Zone 2 on this property?



# Does this property border with public land?

