



Town of Green Mountain Falls

Regular Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

September 27, 2021, at 6:30 p.m; **ZOOM MEETING ONLY**

Join the Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88164032253?pwd=a3JlQXVubktiUi9ZczRpWEcxTEFnZz09>

Meeting ID: 881 6403 2253 Passcode: 065568

To make a **public comment** please **pre-register** by 4pm on the day of the meeting via email: planner@gmfco.us

REGULAR MEETING:

TIME*		ITEM	DESIRED OUTCOME
6:30	1.	CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	
6:30	2.	ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTION TO THE AGENDA	FMC Action Desired
6:30	3.	PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA: 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER	Information Only
6:30	4.	CONSENT AGENDA a. Minutes from 8/30/2021	FMC Action Desired
6:35	5.	Old Business a. Revisions to Evacuation Plan b. CUSP Grant – Fuels Mitigation c. New FMAC Facebook page for public education and communication d. Tree mortality report from CSFS	FMC Action Desired
7:05	6.	New Business a. Citizen notification of matching funds	FMC Action Desired
7:35	7.	Reports a. Notification and Evacuation b. Fuels Mitigation c. Grants d. Education	Information Only
8:00	8.	CORRESPONDENCE a. Review document with links to Fire Mitigation education resources	Information Only
8:00	9.	ADJOURN	Information Only

*Please note: Times are approximate.

**The Town shall provide reasonable accommodation for those with disabilities on a case by case basis. Please send accommodation requests to clerk@gmfco.us by 4pm on the date of the meeting.



MEETING MINUTES

Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee August 30, 2021 6:30 p.m. In-Person/Zoom Hybrid Meeting

Committee Members Present: David Douglas, Fred Thrash, Dan Battin

Committee Members Absent: Rich Bowman

GMF Staff: Matt Gordon (Town Clerk), Nate Scott (Town Planner)

Agenda Item	Motion/Discussion	M/S	DD	FT	DB	RB	
1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Meeting called to order at 6:36pm						
2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, & CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA	No changes to agenda, “approved” but no official motion. No objections.						
3. PUBLIC COMMENT	Ann Esch shared comment on Blizzard of Embers, reminded all about the tax-deductible donation option to the Town, and mentioned Parks and Trails committee members as valuable assets to mitigation efforts.						
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- July 26, 2021	Moved to approve, motion passed unanimously.	DB/FT	A	A	A		
5. OLD BUSINESS							
a. Revisions to Evacuation Plan	Douglas provided an update on the BOT’s review of the notification and evacuation plan presented to the BOT at a previous BOT meeting and reporting that the approval of the evacuation plan was contingent on the following revisions. Updating the narrative and map to reflect rally points correctly, getting approval from the school district for use of the elementary school, updating the maps to reflect the						

MEETING MINUTES

Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee

August 30, 2021

6:30 p.m. In-Person/Zoom Hybrid Meeting

	<p>correct roads and providing info to know which map to refer to depending on fire location, speaking to the fire department regarding methods of notification, approaching the owners of Joyland for use of their parking lot.</p> <p>Volunteer Nate Scott offered to talk with the school district about using the school as a rally (“Temporary Refuge Zone” point in evac situations and reporting back to the FMAC.</p> <p>Members agreed to write the draft of the narrative of the evac plan separately and would report to Douglas with changes for Douglas to compile.</p> <p>Further discussion ruled out the school as a “Temporary Refuge Zone”. Due to logistics, potential conflict with school traffic, proximity to RT 24.</p> <p>Chair Douglas will reach out to Joyland owners about using that lot as a “Temporary Refuge Zone”.</p> <p>Map reference – how to refer to a specific map? Evac plan (not map) should have narrative about which specific situation(s) correspond to which evacuation map.</p> <p>No formal committee action.</p>						
b. CUSP Grant – Fuels Mitigation	<p>Adrian Knight from CUSP provided an update on the 53 acres grant with 8 acres to be used for fire mitigation on GMF Town Property. Members discussed where to spend the fire mitigation money and determined that it would be spent on the Iona/Scott mitigation project as well as continuing work on Thomas Trail and the Wallace Reserve. Members then</p>						

MEETING MINUTES

Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee August 30, 2021 6:30 p.m. In-Person/Zoom Hybrid Meeting

	<p>discussed what could be used of the grant for private property fire mitigation and Adrian Knight confirmed that there would be 3 acres available, and that CUSP would commit to a 70%/30% match for private landowners. The timeline for the grant project to start would be slated to begin in late September through November of 2021.</p> <p>How to inform public of the matching grant funding through CUSP. Determined that residents should contact CUSP directly for assessment of property and participating in the program. Staff will touch base with the “Iona letter” respondents and get them in touch with Michelle Connelly.</p> <p>Discussed other methods of informing public of the ongoing program. Post office presence, etc.</p> <p>No official committee action.</p>						
6. NEW BUSINESS							
a. Blizzard of Embers Campaign	Conversation transitioned to the Blizzards of Ember proposal created and presented by Resident Carolyn Bowers. Members agreed to pursue the concept of Blizzard of Embers. Discussion commenced about how this would look – independent website vs. page on the Town website that requires Staff management. Further discussion and logistics planning will be discussed at future meetings.						
b. Recruiting new committee members	Battin moved to appoint Nate Scott to Secretary position. Seconded by Thrash. Motion passed unanimously.	DB/FT	A	A	A		
i. Appoint Vice Chair	Battin moved to appoint Rich Bowman to Vice Chair. Second by Thrash. Motion passed unanimously.	DB/FT	A	A	A		
ii. Appoint Secretary							

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c. Citizen notification of matching funds							
7. REPORTS							
a. Notification and Evacuation	Triage data from Rich and Dan. Nate has not been able to map this information yet.						
b. Fuels Mitigation	Nothing in addition to Iona project, CUSP discussion.						
c. Grants	Nothing reported.						
d. Education	This was covered in Blizzard of Embers. Need ideas for information dissemination. Wallace Reserve, Town meetings, Post Office notices, other ideas. D. Battin recommends taking before and after pics of Iona project to broadcast on webpage.						
8. CORRESPONDENCE	Next meeting, Monday, Sept. 27 th , 2021, 6:30 PM						
9. ADJOURN	Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm						

Town of Green Mountain Falls, CO.

Fire Evacuation Plan

Fire Evacuation Zones.

- Zone A (NW of the town, including Hondo Ave, Denver Ave, Belvidere Ave, Grandview Ave, Olathe St, Maple St, Catamount St, and all area NW)
- Zone B (SE of the town, including Foster Ave, Oak St, Lake St., Illinois Ave, Park Ave, Boulder St, El Paso Ave East, Pine St, Spruce St, and all areas SE)

Evacuation Routes.

- Review attached maps.
- Major evacuation will be accomplished using Hwy 24 East and west as directed.
- Incident commanders and first responders will direct residents how to evacuate.
 - In general:
 - Use Evacuation Plan A (Zones split to Hwy 24 West and East to evacuate) if fire is coming from the west or east (down Mt. Rebecca or from across Hwy 24).
 - Use Evacuation Plan B (Zones both evacuate Hwy 24 East) if fire is coming from the north (Crystola/Woodland Park).
 - Use Evacuation Plan C (Zones both evacuate to Hwy 24 West) if fire is coming from the south (Chipita Park/Cascade).
- The evacuation plan could change depending on wind direction or other factors. Residents should listen to direct and official messaging from first responders regarding evacuation procedures.

During Evacuation.

- Evacuate Immediately when alerted to do so.
- Know your neighbors. Assist those who may need it. (Children, elderly, handicapped)

- During evacuation, if you are unable to exit the town, know your Temporary Refuge Zones. These zones will provide temporary refuge while you search for an evacuation method:
 - A: Town Hall and Joyland parking lots.
 - B: Gazebo Lake Park – Lake St. lot.
- TEMPORARY REFUGE ZONES SHOULD ONLY BE USED IF ESCAPE IS NOT POSSIBLE.
- **If Trapped in your home dial 911.**
- Listen to local news media and local officials for the latest evacuation updates.
- Wear durable clothes during evacuation. Jeans, long sleeve cotton shirt, boots, gloves, and N.95 respirator if available.
- When driving, turn on lights and leave car windows up if smoke and flame are present.
- Avoid pulling a trailer. Changing directions or turning may be difficult.
- Turn your home's exterior lights on. Turn gas or propane off.
- Prior to departing your home close all windows and doors.
- Leave a note on the door stating you have evacuated. Include date, time, and where you are evacuating to. Leave door unlocked.
- If you are not ordered to evacuate but heavy smoke is presenting health concerns – or you do not feel safe – self-evacuate to a secure location.
- Consider making plans for an extended stay with friends or at hotels out of the immediate area.
- **Most of all, stay calm.** It will assist you and your loved ones.

Know that choosing not to evacuate can endanger not only yourself but potentially first responders as well.

Town of Green Mountain Falls, Colorado

NW Evac Zone (Zone A)

SE Evac Zone (Zone B)

Evacuation Plan A:

Zones Split to Escape:

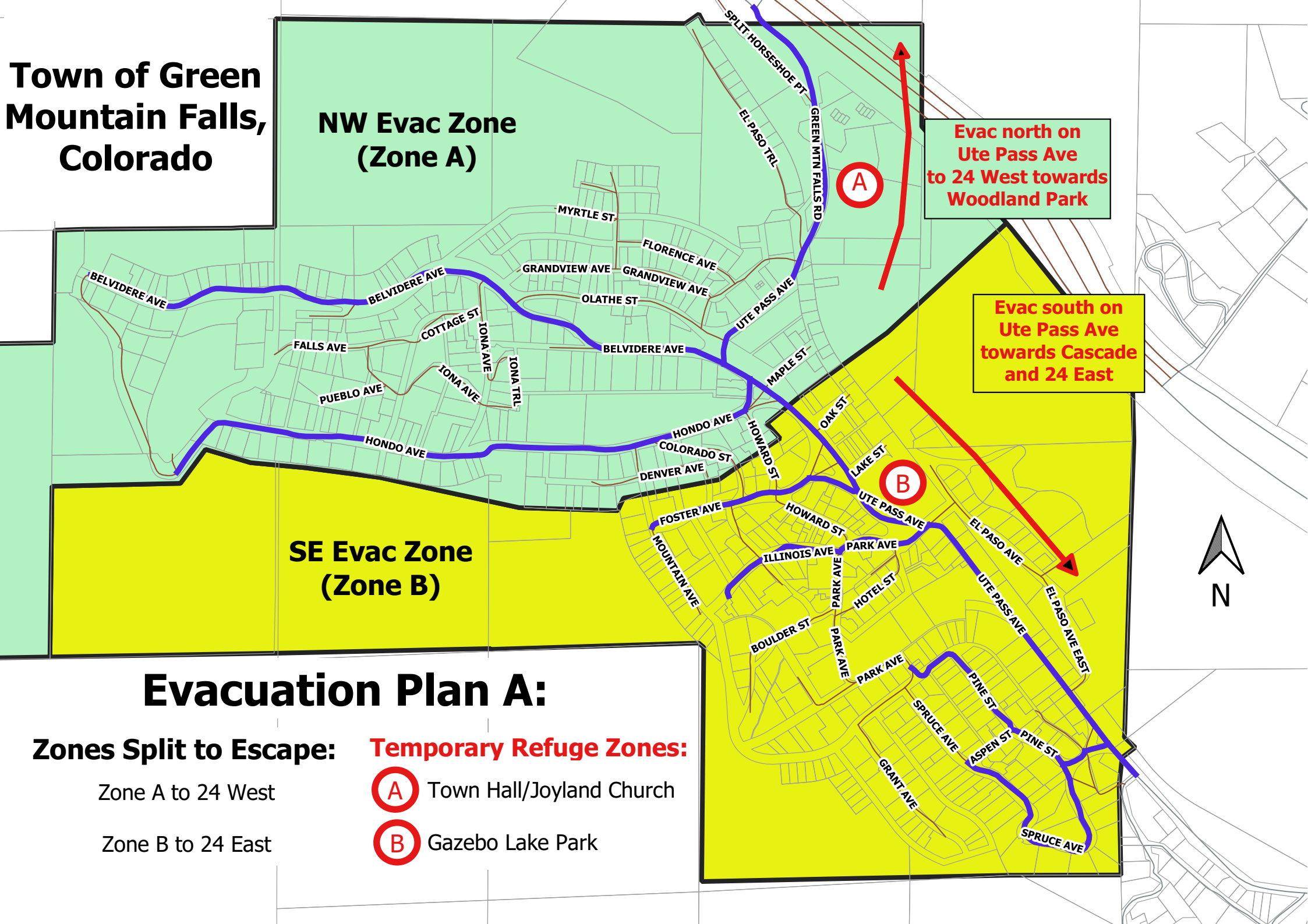
Zone A to 24 West

Zone B to 24 East

Temporary Refuge Zones:

(A) Town Hall/Joyland Church

(B) Gazebo Lake Park



Town of Green Mountain Falls, Colorado

NW Evac Zone (Zone A)

SE Evac Zone (Zone B)

Evacuation Plan B:

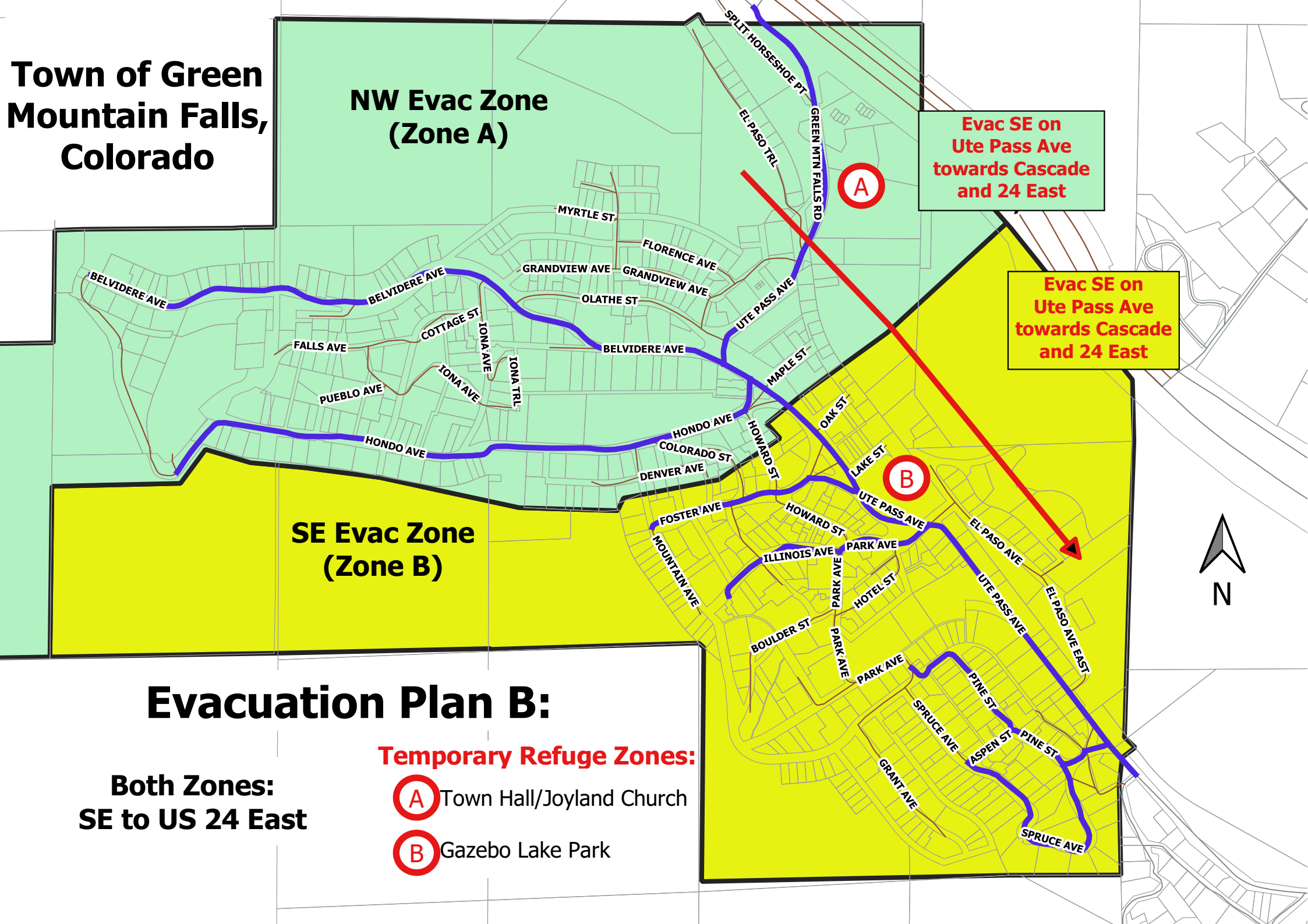
Both Zones:
SE to US 24 East

Temporary Refuge Zones:

- (A)** Town Hall/Joyland Church
- (B)** Gazebo Lake Park

Evac SE on
Ute Pass Ave
towards Cascade
and 24 East

Evac SE on
Ute Pass Ave
towards Cascade
and 24 East



Town of Green Mountain Falls, Colorado

NW Evac Zone (Zone A)

SE Evac Zone (Zone B)

Evacuation Plan C:

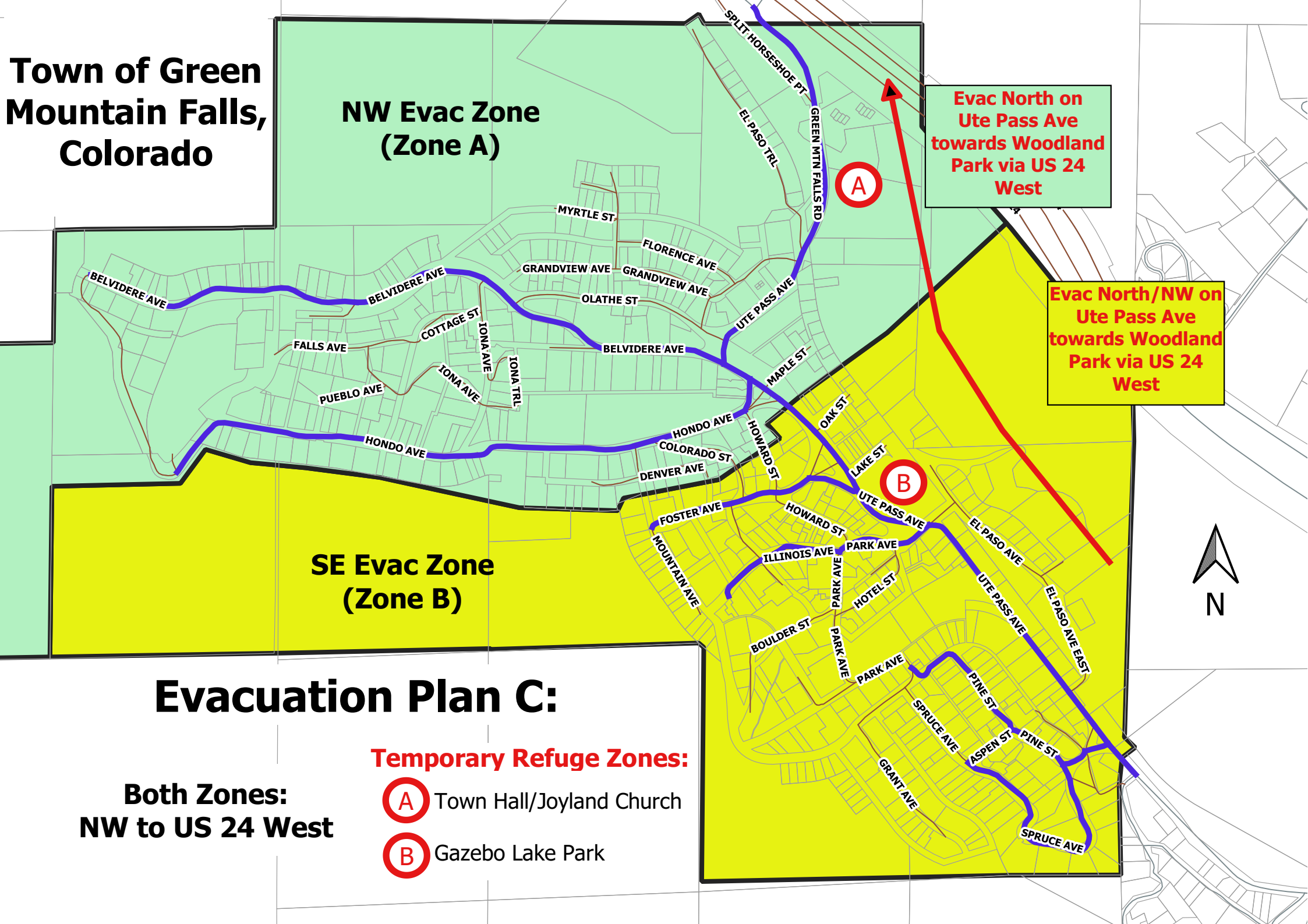
**Both Zones:
NW to US 24 West**

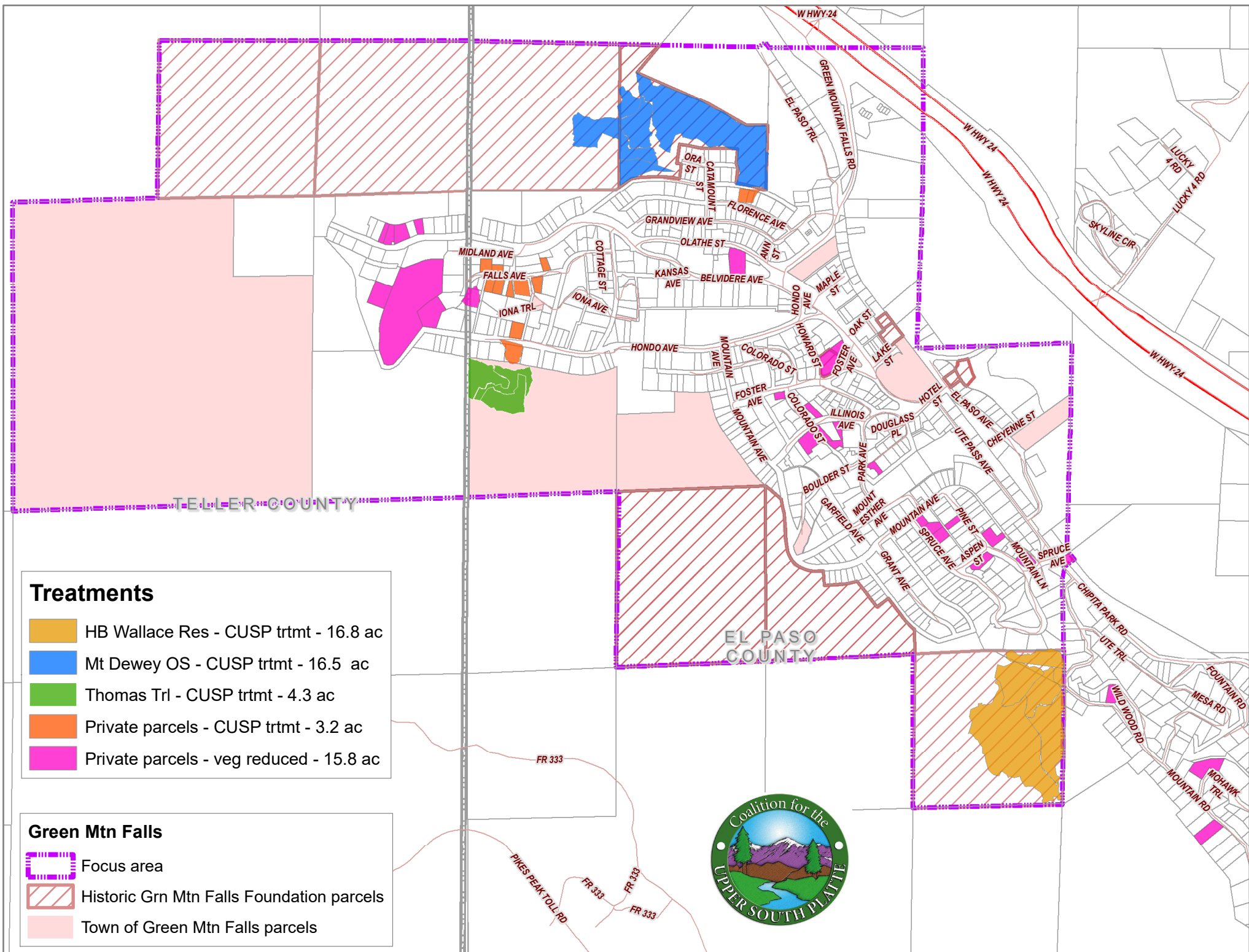
Temporary Refuge Zones:

- (A)** Town Hall/Joyland Church
- (B)** Gazebo Lake Park

**Evac North on
Ute Pass Ave
towards Woodland
Park via US 24
West**

**Evac North/NW on
Ute Pass Ave
towards Woodland
Park via US 24
West**





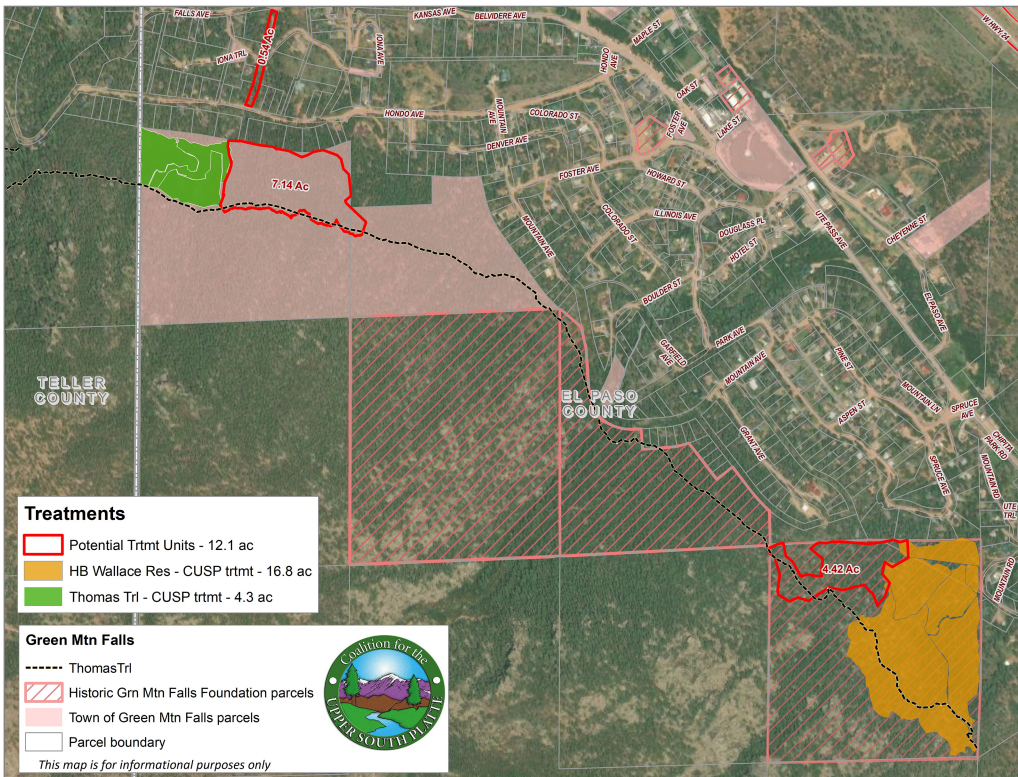
Treatments

- HB Wallace Res - CUSP trtmt - 16.8 ac
- Mt Dewey OS - CUSP trtmt - 16.5 ac
- Thomas Trl - CUSP trtmt - 4.3 ac
- Private parcels - CUSP trtmt - 3.2 ac
- Private parcels - veg reduced - 15.8 ac

Green Mtn Falls

- Focus area
- Historic Grn Mtn Falls Foundation parcels
- Town of Green Mtn Falls parcels







To: Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee

From: Nate Scott, Town Planner

Date: September 24, 2021

Re: Dissemination of information to the public on behalf of FMAC.

Background

The members of the Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee (FMAC) wish to have an online presence by which to publish valuable information to the public and specifically residents of the Town of Green Mountain Falls regarding fire mitigation education, specific mitigation efforts, and general activity of the FMAC. Discussion occurred last meeting about what that would look like. Can the FMAC have its own webpage, managed by FMAC members or volunteers? Can the FMAC have a dedicated page on the Town website managed by Staff? The latest suggestion seems to be having an “official” FMAC Facebook page.

Developments since last meeting:

- Nate Scott, Town Planner, has consulted with Angie Sprang, Town Manager, about these ideas. Town staff agrees that this information is incredibly valuable to the Town and its residents.
- However, because the FMAC is an official Town committee, any information it disseminates must be approved and managed by staff.
- As a reminder of the FMAC’s mission: “The Town of Green Mountain Falls enacted Ordinance 2020-03 on July 22, 2020, establishing a Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee. Pursuant to Ordinance 2020-03, the Fire Mitigation Committee's purpose is "to advise the Board of Trustees and to coordinate with El Paso County Emergency Management, the Colorado State Patrol, and other governmental agencies on fire-related issues affecting the Town, and to develop a notification and evacuation plan for the Green Mountain Falls Community.”

Staff recommendation

Staff concludes that the best way to disseminate FMAC information, including valuable mitigation education to residents, ways to participate in FMAC efforts, and means of participating in valuable CUSP mitigation efforts will be to:

1. Have staff create and maintain pages on the official Town of Green Mountain Falls website.
 - a. FMAC members may send any relevant information to staff.
 - b. Staff will do its best to review, format, and post the information in a timely matter.
2. Staff can also periodically post FMAC events and other critical information via the Town’s official Facebook page. This can include FMAC events, valuable mitigation information, and intermittent reminders to residents about the importance of mitigation efforts.



Woodland Park Field Office | 719-687-2951 | 113 S. Boundary St. | Woodland Park CO 80863

Town of Green Mountain Falls

July 30, 2021

On July 29th, the Colorado State Forest Service conducted an assessment of the Town of Green Mountain Falls property spanning from Hondo Ave to Falls Ave. The purpose of the inspection was to identify any insect and/or disease issues that should be addressed during upcoming fire mitigation efforts.

Findings

During our inspection, we identified several trees that had been killed by Douglas-fir beetle. The Douglas-fir beetle mortality was preceded by Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe, a parasitic plant that weakens trees. High tree densities and the associated competition-related stress likely contributed to the beetle related mortality as well. We only found one tree that potentially has an active beetle infestation, so the insect may have run through susceptible hosts (large Douglas-fir) and the outbreak may now be waning.

We used pink ribbon to flag these dead trees for removal along with several green trees. The green trees are primarily Douglas-fir infested with dwarf mistletoe. While it may take several years for dwarf mistletoe to kill trees, it is a serious pest that will result in tree death, and removing these trees will create a stronger firebreak.

Other Observations

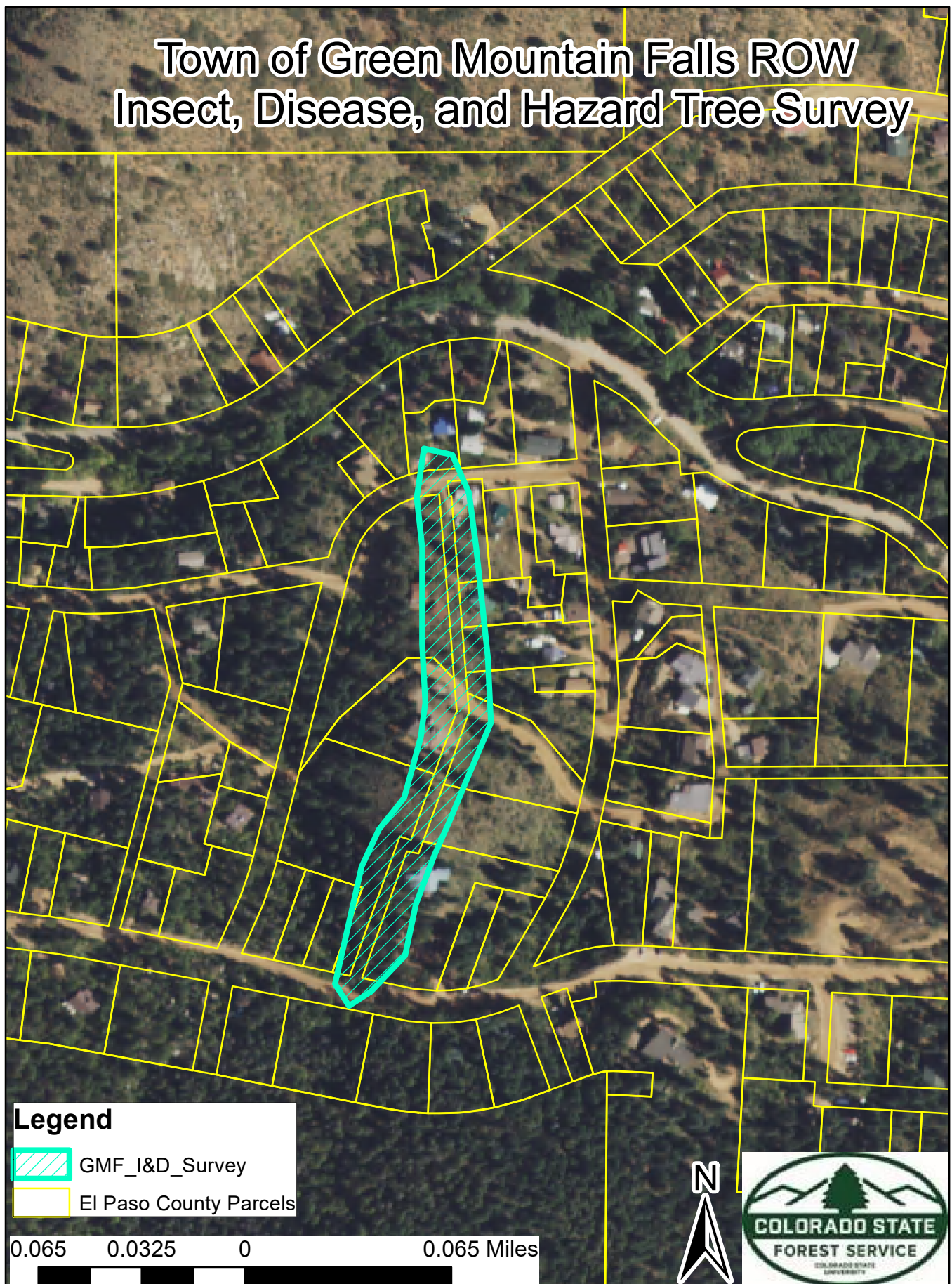
While we followed the shape of the city property, we did mark additional trees on the adjacent private property to the east, straying approximately 20 to 40 feet from the city parcel. There is a large swath of dead trees on the private parcel east of the city parcel on Hondo Ave that were not marked.

Recommendations

The dead trees no longer pose a risk of spreading Douglas-fir beetle, as the insects have attacked these trees and moved on. Dwarf mistletoe is an obligate parasite, meaning that when the trees are cut and killed, the mistletoe will also die. There is no concern of spreading dwarf mistletoe through firewood. More green trees could be infested with the Douglas-fir beetle by the time the mitigation work takes place (they generally fly and infest new trees in the spring), however given that Douglas-fir beetle populations are already widespread in the town of Green Mountain Falls, we do not believe that using these trees as firewood will heighten the risk of tree mortality if the firewood is used within the community, especially if the wood is cut into short lengths to promote rapid drying. The green wood could also be chipped in order to eliminate the spread of insects altogether. If it is going to be used as firewood outside of the community, it should be seasoned (or given a solar/heat treatment) so it is no longer a vector for forest pests.

If using these trees for firewood, it is important that homeowners pile the firewood uphill and at least 30 feet from homes or other buildings.

Town of Green Mountain Falls ROW Insect, Disease, and Hazard Tree Survey



Useful links for public and FMAC:

Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management:

<http://www.coemergency.com/p/fire-bans-danger.html>

- Information on Fire bans, incident status, COVID, etc.

Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) Publications

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/csfspublications/#1554911218200-07f5f9e5-0554>

- Valuable information on wildfire mitigation tools and education, forest insects, etc.

CSFS “Protect your home” site: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/protect-your-home-property-from-wildfire/>

CSFS “Home Ignition Zone” resources:

- Guide: https://csfs.colostate.edu/media/sites/22/2021/04/2021_CSFS_HIZGuide_Web.pdf
- Checklists: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/home-ignition-zone-checklists/>

CSFS Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2eDp4L1qLJHupFCuIFP2Q>

CSFS News Releases (with subscription option): <https://csfs.colostate.edu/news-releases/>

Possible mass-notification service - HyperReach:

<https://www.hyper-reach.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Hyper-Reach-brochure.pdf>