



## Town of Green Mountain Falls

Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Agenda  
10615 Green Mountain Falls Road  
Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819

August 29, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

OR Join the Zoom Meeting below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82590329850?pwd=dmY3R2ltTnY0cTZwRmdlRnFzeitWdz09>

Meeting ID: 825 9032 9850; Passcode: 510690; Dial-in: 346-248-7799

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

[david@falconpartnersltd.com](mailto:david@falconpartnersltd.com)

### REGULAR MEETING:

TIME*		ITEM	DESIRED OUTCOME
6:30	1.	CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL	
6:30	2.	ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTION TO THE AGENDA	<b>FMC Action Desired</b>
6:30	3.	PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA: 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER	Information Only
6:30	4.	CONSENT AGENDA a. Minutes from 6/22/22 b. Minutes from 7/25/22	<b>FMC Action Desired</b>
6:35	5.	OLD BUSINESS a. CUSP Update – Fuels Mitigation – Adrian Knight b. Update regarding Chipper Program sign up and public awareness	Information Only
7:05	6.	NEW BUSINESS a. Education Program b. Assessment Plan	Information Only
7:35	7.	REPORTS a. Notification and Evacuation b. Fuels Mitigation c. Grants d. Education	Information Only
8:00	8.	CORRESPONDENCE a. None	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@gmfcu.us](mailto:clerk@gmfcu.us) by 4pm on the date of the meeting.



## MEETING MINUTES

### Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee June 22, 2022 6:30 p.m. In person or Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present: David Douglas, Dan Battin (Zoom), Rich Bowman, Kelly Hunter (Zoom)

Committee Members Absent:

Ex-officio member Trustee Donzello: on Zoom

GMF Staff: Nate Scott (Town Clerk/Treasurer, FMAC Secretary)

Agenda Item	Motion/Discussion	Motion/ 2nd	DD	DB	RB	KH	
1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm						
2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, & CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA	<b>Motion to accept agenda as it stands.</b>	RB/DB	A	A	A	A	
3. PERSONS NOT PRESENT ON THE AGENDA: 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER	Carolyn Bowers asks if chat is turned off. N. Scott says that we don't monitor chat during Zoom. C. Bowers asks for K. Hunter's email address.  No other public comment.						
4. CONSENT AGENDA	a. Minutes from 05/30/2022  <b>Motion to approve minutes without changes.</b>	DB/RB	A	A	A	A	
NEW BUSINESS							
5. Project Prioritization Exercise – David Douglas	Chair Douglas introduces the conversation as refocus to more local-level activities that should be prioritized. Chair Douglas explains the table of priority ranking. Chair Douglas asks committee members to take the lead on these project areas.						

## MEETING MINUTES

### Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee

June 22, 2022

6:30 p.m. In person or Zoom Meeting

	Kelly Hunter volunteers to head up the Education Team area. Dan Battin volunteers to lead Assessment Team and Homeowner assistance areas. Rich Bowman will work with Don Walker on the slash, logs, and debris removal. Chair Douglas will take on the RoW mitigation and Chipper Projects areas. Next meeting should have draft scope-of-work documents for each program. <b>No formal action taken.</b>						
6. Green Box Mayor's Forum – Materials Review – David Douglas	Chair Douglas leads review of the materials to presented at the Forum: Private Owner's Participation Form, reminder of the hike through Wallace Reserve that will take place after the Mayor's Forum, and the Fire Mitigation Resource List for Citizens of the Town of GMF. <b>No formal action taken.</b>						
7. Bronc Day Booth Update – Dan Battin and/or Kelly Hunter	K. Hunter updates process regarding getting a banner for the booth – discussion about possible alternatives. Discussion about other handouts that could be gathered for the booth. N. Scott advises that the town can print regular quality handouts, but not glossy brochures. Discussion about taking donations; N. Scott says the town can account for these, and that staff and board are working on donation policy for larger amounts. <b>No formal action taken.</b>						
8. MHYC/COSWAP Grant Update	<p>a. SOW for slash and log removal</p> <p>Chair Douglas summarizes the history of the COSWAP grant and the town's responsibility to remove fuel from the work site.</p> <p>i. Don Walker work plan</p> <p>Discussion about the plan as presented and email correspondence which is in the packet. Discussion about the evolution of plans for fuel removal and concerns that staff raised about the winching work plan. Don Walker summarizes his work plan and the timeline of his submittal. Mr. Walker questions why his</p>						

## MEETING MINUTES

### Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee

June 22, 2022

6:30 p.m. In person or Zoom Meeting

	<p>work plan hasn't been fully accepted. Discussion about the merits of and concerns with the plan and how it could move forward, and what the other options are. A meeting was scheduled to meet and discuss the winching plan further and N. Scott will immediately ask the crews to leave trees intact up to 30' so that the winching plan can be an option in the future.</p> <p>Discussion about the work that MHYC has been doing: D. Battin has concerns about the crown spacing and that some stumps have been left too high. N. Scott will talk to the crew and will be reviewing the site with Forester David Poletti. MHYC already advised that the high stumps will be taken care of.</p> <p>ii. Volunteer Coordination – Rich Bowman and Don Walker; no specific discussion on this.</p> <p>b. MHYC reporting coordination – Nate Scott</p> <p>N. Scott states that MHYC will be sending him statistics every three weeks and there is a form for the Town to rate their work as well.</p>						
9. CUSP Mitigation work update – Nate Scott	<p>N. Scott reports on his conversation with Adrian Knight of CUSP: SWIFT work crew is done, there was a change in logistics that made the partnership impractical. CUSP will use their crew for the Scott/Iona area and will be soliciting bids for the Thomas Trail area. Chair Douglas requests to be notified of further discussions with Adrian (CUSP).</p>						



**MEETING MINUTES**

**Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee**

**June 22, 2022**

**6:30 p.m. In person or Zoom Meeting**

	Public comment is allowed – Dori Guyan(?) – comments that previous clerk Chris Frandina used to enforce the nuisance tree ordinance and asks if it can be enforced again now. Chair Douglas suggests that she should direct the question to the Board of Trustees.						
10. CORRESPONDENCE							
11. ADJOURN	Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.						



## MEETING MINUTES

### Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee July 25, 2022 6:30 p.m. In person or Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present: David Douglas, Dan Battin, Kelly Hunter

Committee Members Absent: Rich Bowman

Ex-officio member Trustee Donzello: on Zoom

GMF Staff: Mayor Todd Dixon present to operate Zoom

Agenda Item	Motion/Discussion	Motion/ 2nd	DD	DB	RB	KH	
1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm						
2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, & CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA	<b>No changes to Agenda by any committee members.</b>		A	A		A	
3. PERSONS NOT PRESENT ON THE AGENDA: 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER	Carolyn Bowers asked how many Resident Fire Mitigation participation Pledges had been received. Chairman Douglas disclosed that 2 pledges had been received and asked CB to help get the word out and encourage residents. CB asked if the Pledge document had been posted on the Town website. Chair Douglas responded it had not. Chair Douglas stated that the Pledge forms would be available at the FMAC booth at Bronc Day this coming Saturday.  No other public comment.						
4. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE SECRETARY	Chair Douglas explained due to the resignation of current Secretary Nate Scott, the FMAC would need to elect a new secretary from its ranks. After discussion it was agreed that the election be postponed to the next meeting. Chair	DB/KH	A	A		A	

## MEETING MINUTES

### Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee

July 25, 2022

6:30 p.m. In person or Zoom Meeting

	Douglas agreed to fulfill secretarial duties in the interim. <b>Motion made to table election of Secretary until next meeting and accept Chair Douglas as Secretary in the interim.</b>						
5. CONSENT AGENDA	<b>No minutes prepared by Secretary Nate Scott. Promised for next meeting of the FMAC.</b>						
NEW BUSINESS							
6. Election of new FMAC member	<p>Chair Douglas stated that an application had been submitted for consideration of the committee by Paul Yingling. Mr. Yingling was not present. Mr. Yingling's application was reviewed by the committee and agree that his qualifications appeared to be appropriate including is previous tenure on the Planning Committee. Mayor Dixon was asked, as a former committee member of the Planning Committee if he could provide endorsement for Mr. Yingling. Mayor Dixon spoke favorable of Mr. Yingling's service to the Planning Commission stating he was always present.</p> <p><b>Motion made to recommend Mr. Yingling to the BoT for its approval of Mr. Yingling's appointment to the FMAC.</b></p>	DB/KH	A	A		A	
7. Chief Steve Murphy discussion of Chipper program for GMF	<p>Chair Douglas introduced guest speaker Fire Chief Steve Murphy who is presenting ideas for use of a chipper and a formal program of offering chipper services to GMF residents.</p> <p>Chief Murphy stated the chipper would be available September 24 and 25 for use. The Fire District department would provide trained staffing for the equipment and would transport the equipment to the residents' homes where the chipping would be performed and the material blown back on to the property of the owner. The program would need to be made available to Chipita Park since it is part of the district.</p>						

	<p>GMF FMAC would be responsible for getting the word out and marketing the program. A flyer explaining the chipper program and the responsibilities of the participants is available which can be used to promote the upcoming chipper program dates. Town Manager Frank agreed to work with Chief Murphy to modify the flyer specific to GMF and the dates of the Chipper program. This flyer would be available in time for use by FMAC at Bronc Day. It was recommended that a special gmail account be set up as the way for residents to sign up for the program. Town Manager Frank agree to have the flyer posted to the town website. Mayor Dixon offered to send the flyer to his newsletter email list if the flyer is provided to him. Chair Douglas stated that Town Manager Frank could forward the flyer to Mayor Dixon since is responsible for final edits of the flyer.</p>						
8. Nuisance Trees Definition Revision.	<p>The FMAC was asked by the Mayor of GMF to assist in providing additional definition to the Town Ordinance Article VIII Nuisance Trees by adding Standing Dead Trees to the definition of Nuisance Trees. Mayor Dixon stated at the meeting that adding language to specifically define dying trees would be helpful. Following discussion, the next step was that Chair Douglas would right a statement to at Standing Dead Trees to the Nuisance Tree definition which would be presented to the BoT for approval. The definition of dying trees should come from the Colorado State Forestry Service and this would be requested by Town Staff.</p> <p><b>Motion made to recommend that Town Staff contact CSFS for a definition of dying trees which would be added to the definition of Nuisance Trees.</b></p> <p><b>Motion made to recommend to BoT the addition of standing dead trees to the definition of Nuisance Trees under Article VIII of the Town Code.</b></p>	DB/KH	A	A		A	
9. GOCO/CYCA Grant Opportunity for 2023	<p>Grant opportunity was presented to the FMAC for action. The action required was not specified by the Town Clerk who</p>						

## MEETING MINUTES

### Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee

July 25, 2022

6:30 p.m. In person or Zoom Meeting

	<p>was requesting the committee's review. Town Manager Frank was asked by Chair Douglas for guidance on the action required by the committee. TM Frank stated she had no knowledge of this grant request or the meeting to be held at Town Hall the next morning with the Grantors. TM Frank could offer no guidance and stated she would attend the meeting the next morning and the inform the committee what was expected. Chair Douglas read a memo from Town Clerk Nate Scott which was included in the agenda packet in which TC Scott stated that the meeting was occurring July 26<sup>th</sup> with GOCO/CYCA and TC Scott would keep the FMAC informed. The committee discussed the grant opportunity and agreed that the grant is beneficial to GMF's fire mitigation efforts and an application for the grant would be supported by the committee.</p>						
OLD BUSINESS							
10. UPDATE ON EDUCATION AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS DEVELOPMENT	<p>Committee members Battin and Hunter were asked for a report on progress of the Education and Assessment programs development. No progress to report. Chair Douglas asked for progress by next meeting of the FMAC</p>						
11. ADJOURN	<p>Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.</p>						

## FMAC Prioritization Exercise

June 22, 2022

RB	KH	DB	DD	Average	Project
E	D	F	F	E	Assessment Team
F	E	E	E	F	Education Team
A	F	B	D	D	ROW
B	A	D	A	A	Chipper
C	C	A	B	B	Homeowner Assistance
D	B	C	C	C	Slash, Log, and debris removal

### Project Reference

- A. Chipper Projects
- B. Homeowner assistance
- C. Slash, logs, and debris removal
- D. RoW mitigation
- E. Assessments Team
- F. Education Team



## The Town of Green Mountain Falls

P.O. Box 524, 10615 Green Mountain Falls Road, Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819  
(719) 684-9414 www.gmfco.us

To: Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee  
From: Nate Scott, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Planner  
Re: Fire Mitigation Report, August 23, 2022

### **COSWAP:**

- MHYC Final report (10-week summer season):
  - 7.31 total acres thinned
    - o 5.05 acres of slash spread
    - o 2,233 trees removed
    - o 2,744 trees bucked and/or limbed
    - o 162 cubic feet of firewood stacked
  - Here are the hours for the last four weeks of the season (320 hours/week avg is the goal):
    - o 7/18-21: 309
    - o 7/25-28: 220
    - o 8/1-4: 277
    - o 8/8-11: 315
  - o 5 more weeks of work upcoming (Sept. 6 thru Oct. 6)
  - o They will also be holding a training class the week of Aug. 29, so some bonus cutting will take place.
- I met with forester David Poletti on 8/16 to review the work done already by MHYC. His comments and suggestions for next five weeks of work and fuel on the ground:
  - Crown spacing looks good overall. He is fine with the remaining tree groupings he witnessed since there is adequate spacing around them.
  - o No more stacking firewood-sized boles, especially next to trees.
  - o If these stacks aren't removed for firewood, scatter as much as possible **(potential volunteer work)**.
  - o Continue to cut felled trees into smaller boles (less than 36" in length, **(potential volunteer work)**).
  - o For any large trees that aren't laying flush to ground, cut into smaller sections **(potential volunteer work)**.
  - o Lop and scatter limbs as much as possible **(potential volunteer work)**.

### **CUSP:**

- I met with Adrian on Friday, 8/19.
  - o Their latest request for bids has identified a contractor for continued work @ \$2,400/acre (60% town share = \$1,440). Contract has been signed by town staff.

- Plan for CUSP work: 10 acres south and east of the recent work along Thomas Trail. They will likely have to get another bid for the steeper areas in 2023 (likely higher cost/acre).
  - Due to the high cost/acre of working this area, town should budget as much as possible to continue this cost-share work through 2024.
- I will direct MHYC to stay on the 16.5-acre town property ([parcel 8308307035](#)) for the next 5 weeks, that way CUSP can focus on the other two town-owned parcels ([8308307001](#) and [R0011069](#)).

#### **COGO Grant:**

- Town staff has submitted a grant application for a GOCO grant (see attached). The grant request is written to continue the work that MHYC started this year, and to cut some of the 30' felled trees for a better scatter outcome.
- This grant request requires a 10% town match (cash or in-kind contributions). The fire district will hold a vote at its September meeting to possibly help with this cost.
- Total cost of 8 weeks of a chainsaw crew is \$82,200, making the town's contribution amount = \$8,220.



## APPLICANT INFORMATION

**Name:** Nate Scott **Title:** Town Clerk/Treasurer  
**Organization Name:** Town of Green Mountain Falls  
**Organization Type:** Municipality  
**Phone:** 719-684-9414 x1 **Email:** clerk@gmfco.us  
**Partnering Conservation Service Corps:** Mile High Youth Corps

## TECHNICAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact person for coordination of technical aspects of project (if different from applicant, above)  
**Name:** Same as above **Title:**  
**Organization Name:**  
**Phone:** **Email:**

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** GMF Healthy Forest  
**Property Name:** Green Mountain Falls Forest Park (Thomas Trail parcels)  
**Landowner Name:** Town of Green Mountain Falls  
**Property Type:** Publicly owned open space  
**County/Counties:** El Paso County  
**What entities will facilitate the required 4 hours of education per week:** (check all that apply)  
☒ Applicant ☒ Conservation service corps ☒ External facilitator ☒ Other: Local Fire District

## BUDGET INFORMATION

Select from the pulldown menu the type of conservation service corps crew requested and number of weeks for that crew type:

<b>Example</b>	<b>Crew Type:</b> <i>Select a Crew Type</i>	<b>Weeks:</b> 2	<b>Total \$:</b> \$16,700
	<b>Crew Type:</b> Chainsaw Crew - \$10,275/wk	<b>Weeks:</b> 8	<b>Total \$:</b> \$82,200
	<b>Crew Type:</b> Select a Crew Type	<b>Weeks:</b>	<b>Total \$:</b>
	<b>Crew Type:</b> Select a Crew Type	<b>Weeks:</b>	<b>Total \$:</b>
	<b>Crew Type:</b> Select a Crew Type	<b>Weeks:</b>	<b>Total \$:</b>
	<b>Crew Type:</b> Select a Crew Type	<b>Weeks:</b>	<b>Total \$:</b>

**TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED:**

## MATCH INFORMATION

Please input the matching funds provided, cash or in-kind (if applicable):

Item	Source	Calculation	Cost
Cash	Town of Green Mountain Falls	8 weeks \$1,027.50/week	@ \$8,220

**TOTAL MATCH PROVIDED:** \$8,220.00

**BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

In the box below, provide a brief summary/overview of your proposal (100 words or less):

The Town of Green Mountain Falls is almost completely surrounded by public and privately-owned open space, which contain many popular hiking trails. The town is also in one of the [highest fire risk zones](#) in the state and country. Over the past few years, fire mitigation work has taken place on some of this land to date, with the help of COSWAP funding and youth corps labor. The Town, Fire District, and private owners wish to continue this coordinated work, with the goal of completing a continuous fuel break around the community. This grant would help fund this crucial effort.

**Answer each of the following Selection Criteria questions:** Three (3) pages maximum, 11-point type, 1-inch margins. Please include the question title (**not the entire question**) and answer each question.

### **1. PROJECT OVERVIEW, NEED, and BENEFITS:**

Chainsaw crews will be used to continue the mitigation work within town-owned parcels, by performing forest thinning and management of cut fuels above and below the popular Thomas Trail, which is a mile-long section of trail that connects the southeast area of town with the west area of town and the very well-known Catamount and Mount Dewey Trail systems. These forested parcels have become infested with multiple species of beetles and mistletoe, with the effect of leaving large stands of dead and dying trees of multiple evergreen species. This has created an extremely high-risk fire environment directly adjacent to many residential properties.

As with work performed under the recent COSWAP grant award, a prescription created by a local Colorado State Forester will guide the work. The prescription details crown spacing, species promotion, and specifications for dealing with the cut fuel. Fuel removal is also a challenge in this area, as there is limited access into these parcels through private property. Crews will also be directed to manage already cut fuels by working to clean up areas where trees have been felled and left at length, so that smaller sized boles can possibly be removed as firewood or appropriately scattered to the prescribed 12-inch depth.

This work will transform this popular open space into a more aesthetically pleasing, park-like space while also creating a fuel break that will connect to previous and future mitigation efforts on privately owned to the southeast. The area is steep and rugged, making mitigation work technical and expensive. Various mitigation crews have only averaged about 1-acre per week on this slope, but the work is critical. This grant could enable the continued mitigation and/or improvement of 8-12 acres of forest within the targeted town-owned open space. It would also continue the momentum of mitigating the greater area as a whole and help convince neighboring owners such as the US Forest Service, Colorado Springs Utilities, and private entities to initiate or continue similar projects and to partner with the town for future efforts.

This project is a priority for the town because of the extremely high fire risk our community lives with. The town has formed a Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee in response to this risk, which has identified this continuous fuel break as a priority goal to continue work on. When this area is fully mitigated, there will be a 2-mile-long fuel break along the south side of town that will provide some buffer in the event of a wildfire. If this grant is not awarded to the town, it will delay the town's progress in completing this work.

### **2. PLANNING & READINESS, and SUSTAINABILITY:**

Town staff is currently managing the COSWAP grant, which is a workforce development crew-time award performed by Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC). C.J. Runge, Regional Manager at MHYC, notified town staff of this GOCO opportunity, and both sides feel that this is a great opportunity for the town to continue the work that was started this summer. The town owns the land on which the work will be done, and town staff has established relationships with private landowners who have granted through-access in strategic locations. The work is currently familiar to the adjacent residents, the MHYC crews are familiar with the land, and it would be beneficial to keep the work going while everyone is

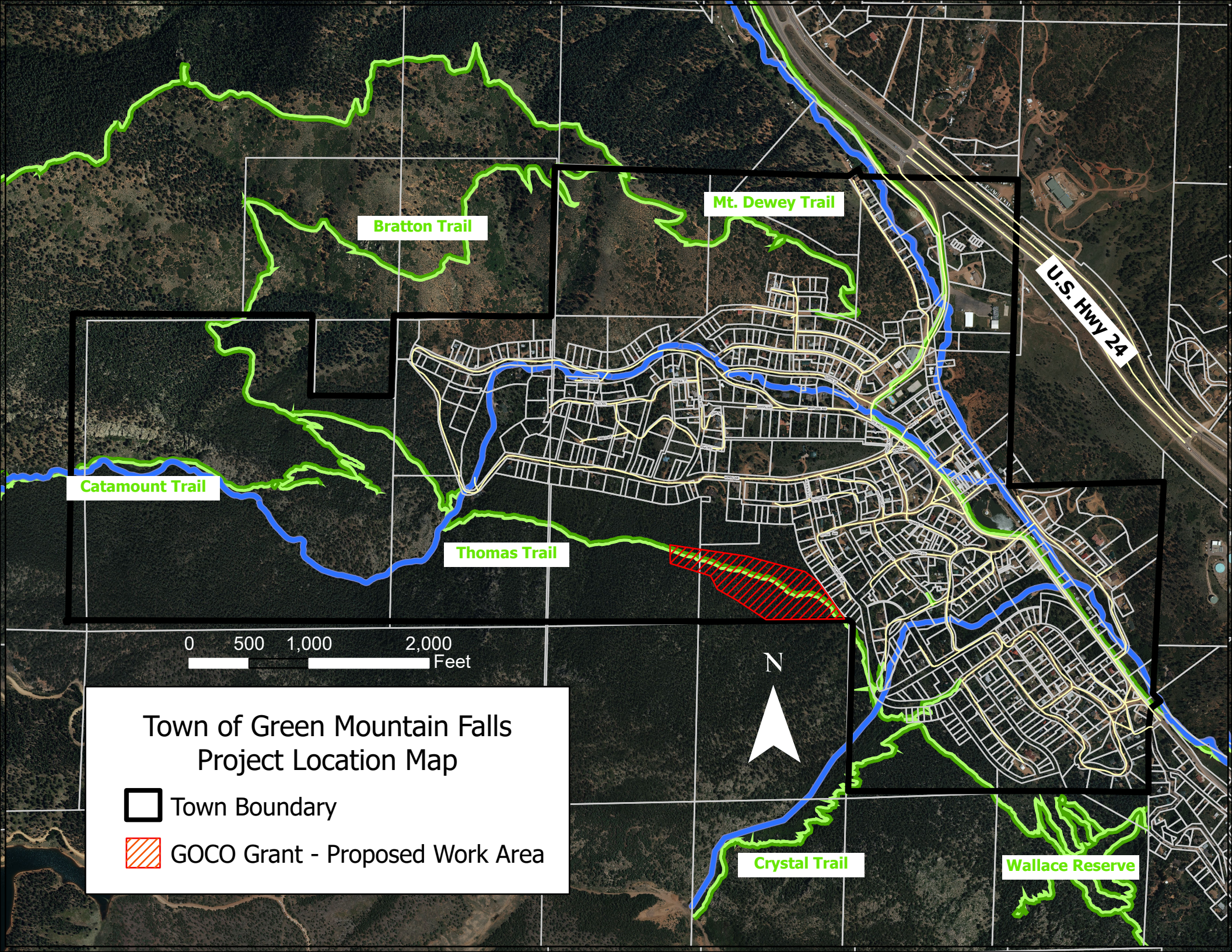
accustomed to the process. The town and MHYC have established a very good working relationship. There are no barriers that would prevent this work from being completed by December 31, 2023.

Regarding sustainability and impacts, this project will have a significant positive impact to this land in multiple ways. Along with creating a substantial fuel break, improvements will benefit overall forest health and the aesthetics of what is informally called “Green Mountain Falls Forest Park”, hence the “GMF Healthy Forest” project name. This multifaceted impact also means that there is a direct correlation to two of the town’s committees, the Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee and the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Committee.

The existence of these two committees, along with an active nonprofit called Friends of Ute Pass Trails, ensures that there will be many community members who have eyes on the land to monitor the acreage and recommend future maintenance activities to town staff. Town staff and community members are aware that there will be periodic maintenance required to sustain the mitigated status of the resulting healthier forest, with volunteers and staff alike being called upon to act after the heavy lifting (prescribed cutting) is complete.

It will be a team effort: staff will be responsible for listening to the committee members and will budget for necessary work accordingly. Ladder fuels will need to be kept under control, the land will have to be monitored for erosion control, and successive diseased trees may need to be felled. The town’s committee and board members have expressed steadfast support for fire mitigation efforts and have budgeted funds accordingly the last few years, and this will need to continue for further mitigation and mitigation maintenance.





Bratton Trail

Mt. Dewey Trail

U.S. Hwy 24

Catamount Trail

Thomas Trail

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

N

# Town of Green Mountain Falls Project Location Map

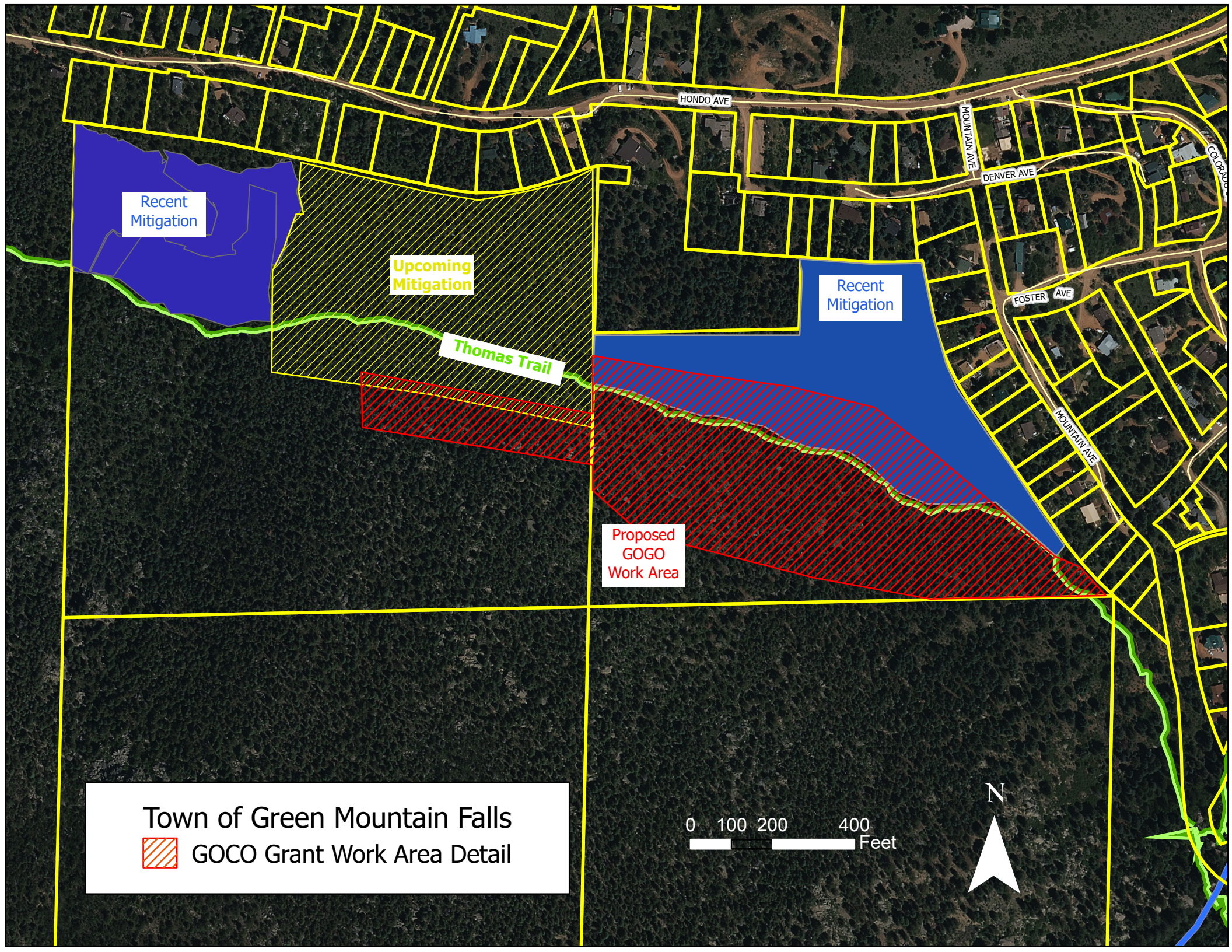
 Town Boundary

 GOCO Grant - Proposed Work Area

Crystal Trail

Wallace Reserve





Recent Mitigation

Upcoming Mitigation

Thomas Trail

Recent Mitigation

Proposed GOGO Work Area

Town of Green Mountain Falls



GOCO Grant Work Area Detail

0 100 200 400 Feet







## ASSURANCE, AUTHORIZATION, & SIGNATURE FORM

### ASSURANCE

I certify that I am authorized to sign on behalf of the applicant and that, if awarded a grant for this project, the applicant will comply with the grant administration requirements of both GOCO and CYCA. I further certify that the applicant collaborated on this proposal with the conservation service corps indicated and that the conservation service corps is fully aware of and agrees to the scope of the project, budget, and timeline.

Name and title of conservation service corps staff consulted on this proposal:

**Name:** C.J. Runge, Mile High Youth Corps

**Title:** SFT Regional Manager: Land Conservation

### AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE FUNDS

Applicant recognizes that it will not receive payment from GOCO. By its signature below, applicant hereby authorizes GOCO to make payment on its behalf directly to CYCA in the event this project is chosen for funding.

### SIGNATURE

*(electronic and pdf signatures are accepted)*

**Name:** Nate Scott

**Title:** Town

**Clerk/Treasurer**

**Organization Name:** Town of Green Mountain Falls

**Signature:**

**Date:**

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