



Genesee

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Genesee Fire Protection District 2021 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)



Our incredible mountain community is a place that we share with each other and with nature as our homes and businesses are inter-mixed with picturesque ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests and grassy meadows. The beauty along with the proximity to both the conveniences of the city and peaceful nature of the foothills provides us with an incredible place to live and work. At the same time, we need to be diligent about managing wildfire risk and preparing for potential wildfire emergencies, as demonstrated by the 2020 wildfire season in Colorado.

The entirety of the Genesee Fire Protection District (GFPD) is located within the Wildland-Urban-Interface (WUI)--an area where structures and development meet with wildland fuels and vegetation. The WUI has continued to expand with the increasing rate of migration of people from the city to foothills communities. This trend has not only increased the density and size of the WUI but also increased the risk of structure loss from wildfire and the likelihood of fire starts.

According to the 2020 Wildfire Risk to Communities analysis by the U.S. Forest Service, populated areas in GFPD have a greater risk than 97% of communities in Colorado in terms of potential damage from wildfires based on housing density and potential fire behavior. This very real risk is shared by foothills communities across Colorado and in many fire-prone parts of the western United States. It is critical that we all do our part to build a safer community, and that starts with an objective understanding of our current situation and environment and the steps we can take to reduce our risk.

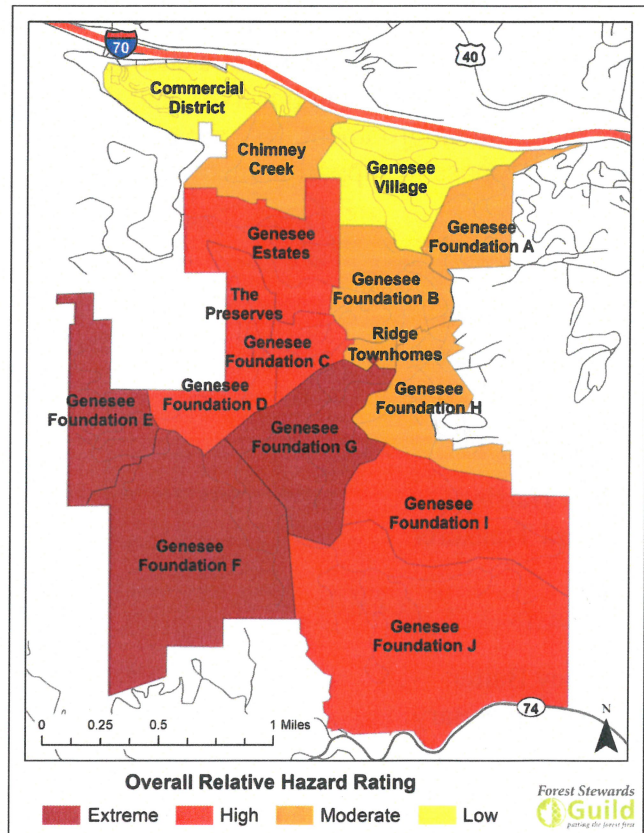


Figure 1. Relative Hazard Rating

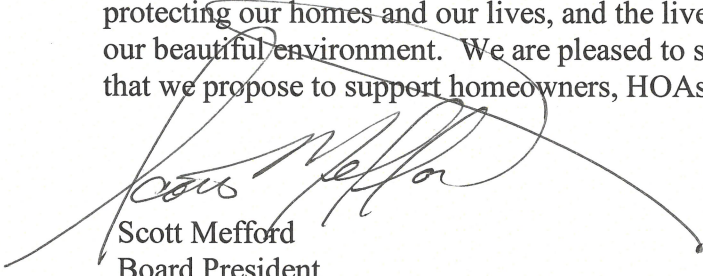
The GFPD partnered with The Forest Stewards Guild to build a foundation of understanding through scientific analysis and modeling to produce a completely revised Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Your feedback through surveys and community leadership input has helped to shape this “Call to Action.”

A CWPP provides a community with a roadmap for wildfire risk reduction, structure protection, identification of hazards, and evaluation of roadways for emergency access and evacuation. The graphic in this letter (Figure 1) synthesizes the relative risk of different portions of the GFPD based on fire risk, fire suppression challenges, evacuation hazards, and home ignition zone hazards. The basis for these ratings is fully explained in the CWPP. In addition, the CWPP contains an analysis of evacuation challenges within our District.

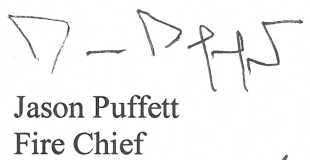
You will find the full CWPP, a summary of findings, FAQs, and supporting reports and findings at www.geneseefire.org or using the QR Code at the top of this letter. We ask, respectfully, that you attend our upcoming community-wide presentation of the 2021 CWPP. If you cannot attend, you can view a recording of the meeting that will be posted on our website where you will also be able to ask questions.

What: Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Presentation
When: April 7th 6:00-7:30PM
Where: Zoom link located on the www.geneseefire.org

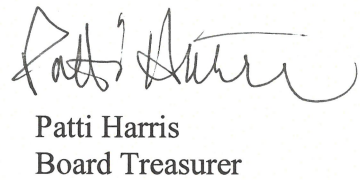
The work that has been accomplished over the last 18-months has produced a tool that can empower every one of us to make a positive change in our community. We each need to take responsibility for protecting our homes and our lives, and the lives of firefighters, from risks that go along with living in our beautiful environment. We are pleased to share the findings of the study along with the initiatives that we propose to support homeowners, HOAs, governmental partnerships, and business owners alike.



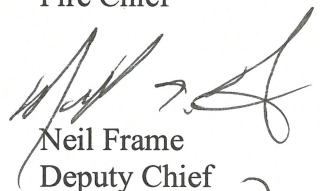
Scott Mefford
Board President



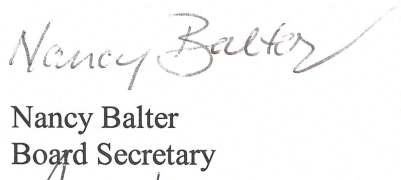
Jason Puffett
Fire Chief



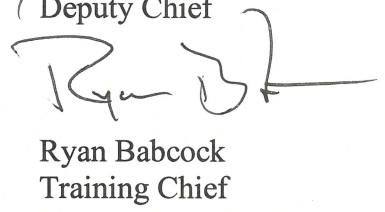
Patti Harris
Board Treasurer



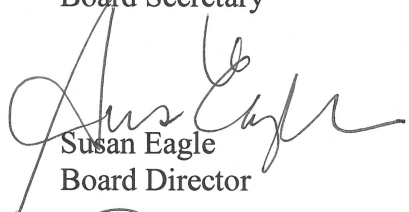
Neil Frame
Deputy Chief




Nancy Balter
Board Secretary



Ryan Babcock
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Susan Eagle
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Wildland Specialist



JP Brewer
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