

# WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

For David Ellsworth Residence  
659 Coyote Hill, Allenspark CO 80510  
Docket: SPR - 06 - 032  
Inspection date: 4/26/2006



*Knowledge to Go Places*

## Prepared for:

David Ellsworth  
1378 Cobbler Road  
Quakertown, PA 18951  
Phone: 215-536-5298

## Prepared by:

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## PURPOSE OF A WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

The purpose of a Wildfire Mitigation plan is to give guidelines to reduce wildfire hazards around a home or other structures through fuels reduction. It is a document to inform urban interface home owners of the dangers and responsibilities of living in the interface. This plan will help outline the initial and ongoing fuels reduction needed to create and maintain an effective wildfire defensible space. However, having a wildfire mitigation plan, implementation of a defensible space thinning, and following all the recommendations as outlined in this plan does not guarantee that your home will survive a wildland fire; however, in combination they will give your home the best potential probability to survive a wildland fire.

## SITE LOCATION AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The property is located at Section 12, Township 3N, and Range 73W. The fire protection district is the Allenspark fire protection district (303-747-2586). There will be a new house and studio(detached) built on site. The lot is 6.4 acre in size and has a ~10-12% percent slope with a west aspect. The residence is at 8,500 feet in elevation, and has total of 2400 square feet. The proposed building site is mid-slope and it is a relatively dry site. Aspen grove west and east of the residence creates a small natural barrier that may help stop or slow the spread of a surface/crown fire on the site.

## CONSTRUCTION DESIGN AND MATERIALS

The proposed house has a relatively simple design with a simple roofline and is oriented with a west aspect. The roofing material will consist of asphalt shingles. The exterior wall material is to be stucco. Soffits are to be 3/4" thick hardi-board. The structure has 22 medium sized windows with the primary viewing direction being toward the west side of the structure. Windows will be double glazed with low e-coated tempered glass and frames made of aluminum clad. Exterior doors are to be 1-3/4", fire-rated, and made of wood. The one deck will be constructed of composite materials and supported by timber posts. The deck will be open and isolated from the surrounding landscape with crushed rock over a polyester weed barrier. The propane tank will be set on a pad of crushed rock overlaying a fiberglass weedbarrier approximately 100 feet south of the residence. Vegetation within 10 feet of the propane tank will be kept cleared. Utilities for the property will be buried from a pole located ~150 feet to the west of the residence. The septic field is located ~140 feet to the east of the residence. A well will be located ~30 feet to the south of the residence

## DRIVEWAY ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Access to the property from Lyons take Hwy 7 west to Cabin Creek Rd go east to CR 82 CR 82E to Coyote Hill Rd. The existing driveway will create a little additional site disturbance or soil compaction and will require the removal of only a few trees. The driveway is 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 13'6" and a grade that is less than 12%. The driveway is approximately 400 feet long therefore a turn around will be required. The driveway is greater than 400 feet therefore pull-outs will be required

## EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY FOR FIRE FIGHTING

The water source will be from a 1,800 gallon fire cistern ~100 feet to the southwest of the residence. The cistern will be located a minimum of 50 feet from the front of the house and no further than 150 feet from the rear of the structure. The cistern will have a dry hydrant connection with a 6 inch NH threaded connection and cap.

## FUELS REDUCTION

All trees to be removed are marked with blue spray paint. All trees that are to remain within zones 1 and 2 will be unmarked. If the property is less than 1 acre it may not have zones marked due to boundary interference. Harvested wood that remains on site will be stacked at least 30 feet from the house and at the same elevation when possible. Slash from the harvest will be Chip and haul off site. Note that if you decide to burn piles, you must obtain a valid Open Burning Permit from the Boulder County Environmental Health Department (303-441-1180) and notify your local fire protection district (Allenspark fire protection district (303-747-2586)).

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONES AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

The site has a dominant overstory consisting of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with a ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) understory component. The area is predominantly fuel model 9 with ground fuels consisting of grasses and forbs. Fuel model 9 is represented by closed canopy stands of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer. Understory may consist of small trees and shrubs, grasses, and moderate concentrations of down, dead woody litter. There is no sign of any current insect and disease problems on the property at the time of inspection.

There are three defensible space zones to be created around the structure(s) on the site. Please note that it is possible that one or more of these zones will cross over the subject property onto adjacent properties. Property boundaries must be respected; mitigation work is not required beyond immediate boundaries. However, landowners are encouraged to contact and work with neighbors if property lines limit the ability to mitigate within the prescribed area. Defensible space is a benefit, not only to the individual but also to the community as a whole.

**Zone 1** - Starts at the foundation and extends out 15 feet in all directions from the outside edge of the structure(s). Zone 1 is broken down into three segments:

**Zone 1A** - Consists of the structure(s) themselves and the area immediately adjacent to and surrounding the structure(s) on all sides. A three-foot wide, non-flammable strip will be created using crushed gravel over a polyester weed barrier material. This strip will also extend back under, and out to, two feet past the drip line of any decks.

**Zone 1B** - Extends out from Zone 1A. In this zone, all highly flammable vegetation is to be removed. Any large dead woody material on the ground will also be removed. Firewise plants will be used for landscaping and re-vegetation. Grasses will be irrigated when possible and mowed to a maximum height of 6 to 8 inches twice per growing season to a distance of 30 feet from the structure.

**Zone 1C** - This zone extends out from Zone 1B to 15 feet from the house. All understory trees (ladder fuels) will be removed as marked. These are small seedling and sapling size trees that can be ladders for fire to get in the crowns of the larger trees. A few of the larger, healthy trees are to be retained for screening. All remaining trees in this zone will be pruned to a height of 10 feet. They must be well spaced so that the crowns are not touching (10 foot minimum crown spacing). No trees will overhang the house or decks, unless approved by Boulder County or CSFS as "part of the structure" with additional fuels reduction around those trees to insure the defensible space integrity. Trees should be at least 15 feet away from the house on all sides, and a minimum of 10 feet from chimneys.

**Zone 2** - This zone extends out from Zone 1C, and acts as a transition zone between the heavily thinned areas near the house to the existing forest setting. It extends down slope between 100-170 feet depending upon slope steepness. Zone 2 also extends on either side of the structure a minimum of 100 feet and behind the house between 70-100 feet assuming no boundary restrictions. Tree spacing begins as in Zone 1C and gradually decreases as you approach the outer edge of the zone. Thinning and crown spacing becomes greater in areas of steep slopes. Ladder fuels and poor quality, suppressed and/or diseased trees, 6 to 8 inches in diameter, make up the majority of the removals. The remaining mature trees will be pruned to a height of 10 feet at the intersection of Zones 1 and 2 with limbing reduced in height to 6 feet as you approach Zone 3. If there are any questions pertaining to slope and the changes in thinning spacing and distance regulations please refer to [www.colostate.edu/Depts/CSFS/](http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CSFS/) and find the *Quick Facts 6.302 Creating Wildfire Defensible Space*.

**Zone 3** - This zone extends out from Zone 2 to the edge of the property. It may extend out to areas that are not part of the immediate mitigation efforts. In this zone, a few thicker clumps of trees are acceptable, as well as some unpruned trees near the outer edge. Thinning in this zone adds some protection, but is aimed more at forest health. Trees that are of poor quality or form, or have insect or disease infestations, should be removed. Slash in this zone can be lopped and scattered and/or piled for wildlife use.

- Thin suppressed trees and trees with disease and insect infestations and retain the larger, healthier trees.
- Snags should be retained for wildlife.
- Some slash in this zone can be lopped and scattered and/or piled for wildlife enhancement and shelter.
- Large amounts of slash should be disposed of by chipping, hauling to an approved site, or burning.
- For burning permits, check with your local fire protection district.

## MAINTENANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As detailed in fact sheet 6.302, Creating Wildfire Defensible Zones, an important factor that determines a structure's ability to survive wildfire is defensible space. Defensible space is a maintained area around a structure where fuels (flammable materials) are modified to slow the possible spread of wildfire to the structure, as well as from the structure to the surrounding areas. Defensible space provides a place where structure protection and fire suppression operations may occur. Wildfire hazard mitigation work breaks up fuel continuity, potentially decreasing a wildfire's intensity, and for more effectiveness should be completed beyond a home's defensible space, zone 1 and 2, area into zone 3.

In addition to the above recommendations, several other measures can be taken to make your home more fire safe and add an additional measure of safety for your family. While not required through site plan review, the following measures should be undertaken to maintain the home and defensible space in the future.

- Maintain your defensible space yearly; contact your local forester for a 5-year maintenance inspection
- Establish an escape route and safety zone with the aid of your local fire protection district
- Keep firewood at least 30 feet away from buildings; clear weeds and grass from around pile
- Do not stack fresh cut wood against live trees – this could invite unwanted insects
- When possible, maintain an irrigated green space; mow grasses 6" to 8" high
- Connect, and have available, a minimum of 50 feet of garden hose with an adjustable nozzle
- Have an emergency evacuation plan in place (included in wildfire mitigation plan)
- Be aware of fire danger; check the Boulder Fire Weather website at [www.crh.hoaa.gov/den/fireindx.html](http://www.crh.hoaa.gov/den/fireindx.html)
- Keep driveways and property address marked with reflective easy to see signs
- Maintain screens on foundations, soffit vents, roof vents, and attic openings
- Get rid of unnecessary accumulations of debris and trash from yards
- Keep tools such as shovels, rakes, ladders, and axes available and ready for use
- Clean debris from the roof and gutters at least two times annually
- Check screens and maintain spark arresters on chimneys annually
- Avoid storing combustibles under decks such as wood piles, scrap lumber, and fuels

## DEFINITIONS

**Aspect** – Exposure. The direction a slope faces.

**Canopy** – The cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by crowns of adjacent trees.

**Crown** – Branches and foliage of a tree.

**Dominant fuel type** – Matter that would carry a fire, found on the ground.

**Fuel Model** – A number system that identifies the types of fuels found on the property that will directly influence fire behavior

**Fire danger** - An assessment of both fixed and variable factors of the fire environment, which determine the ease of ignition, rate of spread, difficulty of control, and the fire impact.

**Fire hazard** - The potential fire behavior for a fuel type, regardless of the fuel type's weather-influenced fuel moisture content or its resistance to fireguard construction. Assessment is based on physical fuel characteristics, such as fuel arrangement, fuel load, condition of herbaceous vegetation, and presence of elevated fuels.

**Fire management** - The activities concerned with the protection of people, property and forest areas from wildfire and the use of prescribed burning for the attainment of forest management and other land use objectives, all conducted in a manner that considers environmental, social and economic criteria.

**Fire risk** - The probability or chance of fire starting determined by the presence and activities of causative agents.

**Fire season** - The period(s) of the year during which fires are likely to start, spread and do damage to values-at-risk sufficient to warrant organized fire suppression; a period of the year set out and commonly referred to in fire prevention legislation. In B.C. the fire season is considered to extend from April 1 to October 31.

**Fuel continuity** – The proximity of fuels to each other. Helps determine if a fire can sustain itself.

**Forest ecology** - The relationships between forest organisms and their environment.

**Forest health** - A forest condition that is naturally resilient to damage; characterized by biodiversity, it contains sustained habitat for timber, fish, wildlife, and humans, and meets present and future resource management objectives.

**Ladder fuels** - Fuels that provide vertical continuity between the surface fuels and crown fuels in a forest stand, thus contributing to the ease of torching and crowning.

**Limb** (verb) –To remove the branches from a tree.

**New forestry** - A philosophy or approach to forest management that has as its basic premise the protection and maintenance of ecological systems. In new forestry the ecological processes of natural forests are used as a model to guide the design of the managed forest.

**Noxious weeds** - Any weed so designated by the Weed Control Regulations and identified on a regional district noxious weed control list.

**Overstory** – The tree species that forms the uppermost forest layer (dominant and co-dominant).

**Snag** – Standing dead tree, often used by wildlife such as woodpeckers, owls, and other various mammals.



## **Annual fire safety checklist**

- Thin trees and brush properly within defensible space.
- Remove trash and debris from defensible space.
- Remove trees growing through a porch or other portions of a structure.
- Clear leaves and debris from the roof and gutters of structures.
- Remove branches that overhang a chimney or roof.
- Stack firewood uphill from a home or on a contour away from the home.
- Use noncombustible roof materials.
- Place shutters, fire curtains or heavy drapes on windows.
- Place screens on foundation and eave vents.
- Enclose sides of stilt foundations and decks.
- Use a chimney screen or spark arrester in fireplaces.
- Clear vegetation from around fire hydrants, cisterns, propane tanks, etc.
- Make sure that an outdoor water supply is available with a hose, nozzle and pump.
- Post address signs that are clearly visible from the street or road.
- Make sure that driveways are wide enough for fire trucks and equipment.
- Check with appropriate highway agencies to make sure load limits are posted on bridges and for the appropriate protocol for posting load limits for bridges on private property.
- Install and test smoke detectors.
- Practice a family fire drill and evacuation plan.

### **Evacuation tips**

- If a wildfire is threatening your area, listen to the radio for updated reports and evacuation information.
- Confine pets to one room and make plans to take care of them in the event of evacuation.
- Arrange for temporary housing with a friend or relative whose home is outside the threatened area. Leave a note in a prominent place in your home that says where and how you can be contacted.
- If your home is threatened by wildfire, you will be contacted and advised by law enforcement officers to evacuate. If you are not contacted or you decide to stay and help defend your home, evacuate pets and family members who are not needed to protect your home.
- Remove important documents, mementos, etc. from the possible fire area.
- Choose an evacuation route away from the fire if possible. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of the fire and smoke.

- Take a disaster supply kit containing:

- Drinking water.
- A change of clothing and footwear for each family member.
- Blanket or sleeping bag for each person.
- First-aid kit and prescription medications.
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Extra set of car keys and credit cards, cash or traveler's checks.
- Extra pairs of eyeglasses or other special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.

### **Defending your home**

Whether you choose to stay to defend your home or to evacuate, complete as many of the following preparations as possible.

- DO NOT JEOPARDIZE YOUR LIFE. NO MATERIAL ITEM IS WORTH A LIFE.
- Wear fire-resistant clothing and protective gear.
- Remove combustible materials from around structures.
- Close or cover outside vents and shutters.
- Position garden hoses to reach the entire house, but do not turn the water on until it is needed. Hoses should have an adjustable nozzle.
- Place large, full water containers around the house. Soak burlap sacks, small rugs or large rags in the containers.
- Place a ladder against the roof of the house on the opposite side of the approaching wildfire. Place a garden hose near the ladder, prepared as described previously.
- Place portable pumps near available water supplies, such as pools, hot tubs, creeks, etc.
- Close all windows and doors. Do not lock them.
- Close all inside doors.
- Turn on a light in each room and all outside lights. Leave them on even during daylight hours.
- Fill tubs, sinks and similar containers with water.
- Shut off gas supplies to structures at outside meters. Shut off propane supplies at the outside meter of the tank.
- Remove curtains made of lace, nylon or other light materials. Close blinds, heavy drapes and fire resistant window covers.
- Move overstuffed furniture into the center of the house, away from windows and sliding doors.
- Cars should be parked in the garage, facing out. Close the windows of the vehicle but do not lock the doors. Leave the keys in the ignition.
- Close the garage door but leave it unlocked. Disconnect automatic garage door openers.

For additional copies of these checklists, visit [www.colostate.edu](http://www.colostate.edu) and search for wildfire, view the Colorado State Cooperative Extension fact sheet on [Forest Home Fire Safety](#), or contact the local Cooperative Extension office usually listed under the county government section of your local phone book.

(Information provided by Colorado State University Cooperative Extension and the Colorado State Forest Service.)

### Safety Zone Guidelines

A Safety Zone is an area that in the event of a wildland fire you could survive the passing fire without the aid of a fire shelter. A natural safety zone could be an area already burned clean by the fire (in the black), rock areas where flashy fuels are absent, or large bodies of water. A manmade safety zones could be pre-constructed sites such as clear cuts. It should be close enough to your home to consider escape time to reach the safety zone. They should not be located upslope or downwind of the fire or in heavy fuels.

1. Avoid locations that are downwind from the fire.
2. Avoid locations that are in chimneys, saddles, or narrow canyons.
3. Avoid locations that require a steep uphill escape route.
4. Take advantage of heat barriers such as lee side of ridges, large rocks, or solid structures.
5. Burn out safety zones prior to flame front approach.
6. For radiant heat only, the distance separation between you and the flames must be at least four times the maximum flame height. This distance must be maintained on all sides, if the fire has ability to burn completely around the safety zone. Convective heat from wind and/or terrain influences will increase this distance requirement.

#### Calculations Assuming No Slope and No Wind

<u>Flame Heights</u>	<u>Distance separation</u>	<u>Area in Acres</u>
10 feet	40 feet	1/10 acre
20 feet	80 feet	1/2 acre
50 feet	200 feet	3 acres
75 feet	300 feet	7 acres
100 feet	400 feet	12 acres
200 feet	800 feet	50 acres

**Note:** Distance separation is the radius from the center of the safety zone to the nearest fuels. When fuels are present that will allow the fire to burn on all sides of the safety zone this distance must be doubled in order to maintain effective separation in front, to the sides, and behind the person.

Area in Acres is calculated to allow for distance separation on all sides for a three person family and a vehicle. One acre is approximately the size of a football field or exactly 208 feet x 208 feet.

**Example:** Given a fire with 10 foot flame heights (no wind or slope). You would need a minimum of 40 feet between you and the flames. So your total safety zone should be 80 feet x 80 feet. If you are settled into the middle of the safety zone you will have a minimum distance of 40 feet to each edge of the zone.



Landscape Scale Map  
659 Coyote Hill, Allenspark, CO  
SPR # 06 - 032

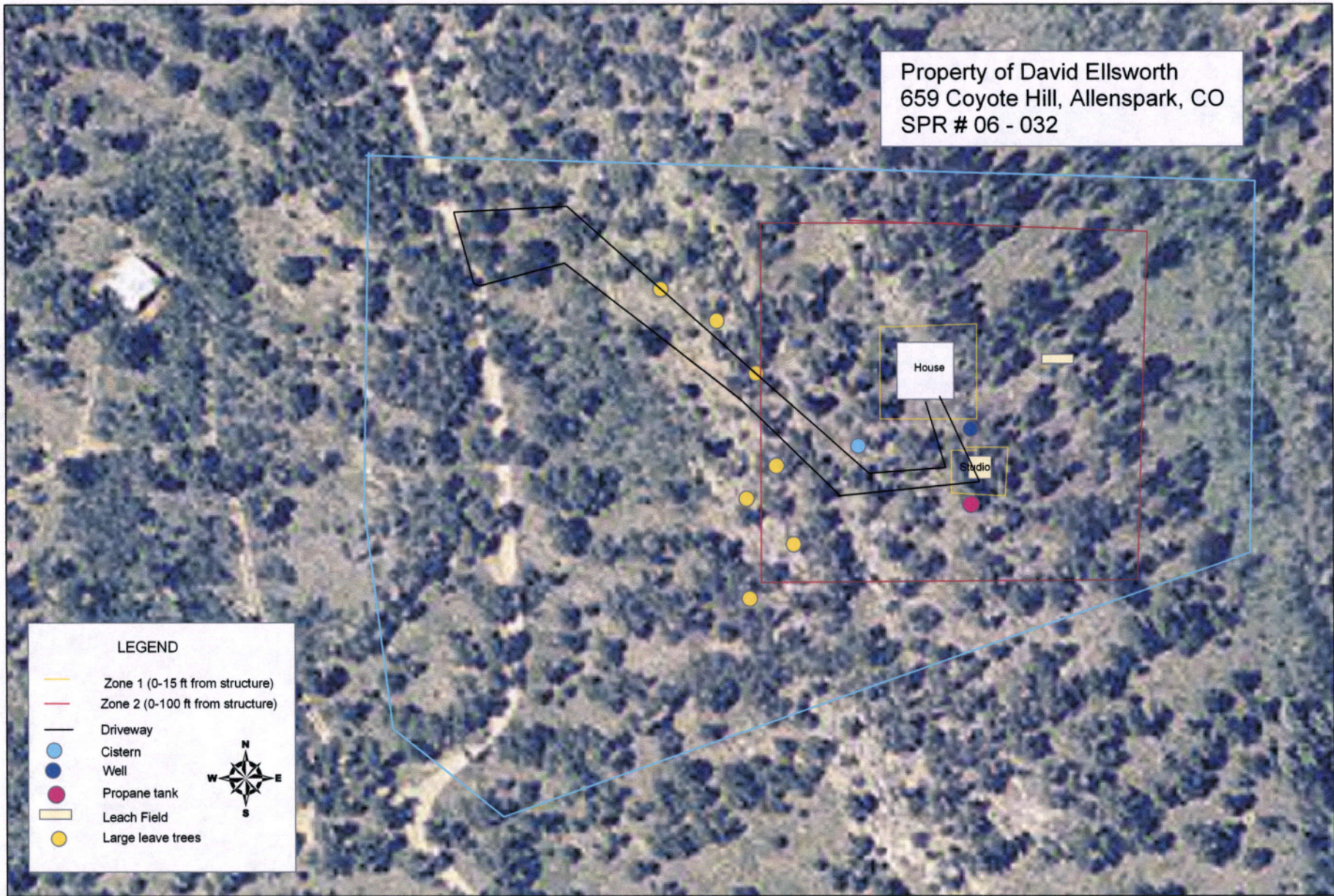
0

850

1,700

3,400 Feet

Property of David Ellsworth  
659 Coyote Hill, Allenspark, CO  
SPR # 06 - 032



**LEGEND**

- Zone 1 (0-15 ft from structure)
- Zone 2 (0-100 ft from structure)
- Driveway
- Cistern
- Well
- Propane tank
- Leach Field
- Large leaf trees

0 250 500 1,000 Feet



RODWIN ARCHITECTURE

TRANSMITTAL

To:	CORRY SECHER	From:	SCOTT RODWIN
Company:		Date:	4/28/06
Address:		Project Name:	ELLISWOOD # 128
Phone:	C. 303.824.5768	Re:	FIRE MITIGATION PLAN

Hi CORRY,

PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

Scott

PS - IS IT OKAY TO PLACE THE FIRE CISTERN UNDER THE HOUSE?

**DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING OUT FORM:**

Please fill out as complete as possible and fax to Cory Secher at 303-823-5768 or mail to 5625 Ute Highway, Longmont CO 80503-9130, or bring to scheduled marking appointment.

Any Bolded categories will be filled in by the CSFS representative at the time of initial site visit and tree marking for the defensible space. If you have any questions about this form please contact Cory Secher at 303-823-5774 or by email at [csecher@lams.colostate.edu](mailto:csecher@lams.colostate.edu).

**Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
FIELD DATA FORM**

Inspection Date: 4/26/06

Landowner name: DAVID ENSWORTH

Mailing address: 1378 COBBLER RD.

City, State, Zip: QUAKERTOWN, PA 18951

Site address: 659 Coyote Hill

Phone number: 215-536-5298 H. 215-597-7928 (C)

Road access: RT 9 TO 82 TO 82 E TO COURT HILL RD.  
(Directions from main access road)

Docket Number: SPR 06032 (SPR, L J, Etc.)

Section: 12

Township: T3N

Range: R3W

★ Legal Description: A TRACT OF LAND IN NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of SECTION 12, T3N, R4W  
OF 6<sup>th</sup> PM, CONTAINING 6.4 ACRES MORE OR LESS AND BOUNDED BY THE FOLLOWING LINES:  
 BEGINNING AT THE POINT WHERE THE NORTH QUARTER (NW) CORNER OF SAID SECTION 12 BEARS  
 NORTH 53° 29' WEST 897.9 FEET, THENCE N 70° 36' EAST 618.1 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE EAST  
 1/2 OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER OF NORTHEAST QUARTER (NW 1/2 NE 1/4), THENCE  
 ALONG SAID EAST LINE N 0° 04' W 285.9 FT MORE OR LESS TO THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 12  
 THENCE ALONG SAID NORTH LINE N 88° 09' W 684 FEET, THENCE S 0° 37' W 311.3 FEET,  
 THENCE S 10° 41' E 137.9 FEET, THENCE S 49° 30' E 103 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE  
 TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING

MPD:

Allegan Park

Dominant fuel type:

~~GRASS, GRASS~~

(Grass forbs/shrubs/slash/etc)

Dominant overstory:

PP

Co-dominant overstory:

P.P., D.F., Aspen, L.P., Linco pine

Fuel model type:

9

Slash disposal:

HAULED/CHIPPED Chipped/hauled/brushed/top-scatter

Aspect:

Western

(Direction of slope)

Slope:

~10-12%

Elevation:

9000-8500 (feet)

Building site:

(Chimney/suck le/valley/ridge/mid-slope)

Site moisture:

Dry

Natural fire barrier:

Aspen grove (West + East of residence)

Insect & Disease Diagnosis:

NO

Lot size (acres):

6.4 (Acres)

Number of Structures:

2 (All structures to be present)

Existing Structures:

NONE (House/barn/garage/etc.)

New Structure:

HOUSE / STUDIO (DETACHED) (House/Barn/new addition/etc.)

Driveway length:

400' (Actual length in feet from road to home)

Driveway trees removed:

FEW (few/many/none)

Home buffer material:

CRUSHED GRAVEL (Stone/crushed gravel/decorative stone)

House design:

SIMPLE (simple/complex)

Roof Design:

SIMPLE (simple/complex)

Roof material:

ASPHALT (Asphalt shingle/concrete tiles/metal)

Soffits type: HARDBOARD (Plywood/har board/cement board)

Siding material: STUCCO (Cement/hard board/log/stucco/stone/wood)

Windows (#): 22 (approximate number of windows)

Windows Size: MEDIUM (On average: small/medium/large)

Windows Frames: ALUM CLAD (Wood/aluminum/aluminum clad)

Windows Aspect: WEST (Dominant viewing direction)

Window Construction: TEMP./LOW-E Double Pane (Tempered glass/e-coating/etc.)

Door Material: WOOD (Wood/steel/fiberglass/composite)

Deck material: COMPOSITE (Wood/composite materials)

Deck Description: OPEN (Enclosed/open)

Deck support type: TIMBER (Timber posts/ logs/steel/concrete/stone)

Deck buffer material: CRUSHED ROCK (Crushed rock/gravel)

Deck wood barrier: POLY (Fiberglass/polyester)

Structure SQ. FT.: 2400 (Total square feet of structure)

Utility Location: BURIED For well (Pole/buried: Direction from structure)

Structure aspect: WEST (Dominant facing direction/view)

Leach field: EAST ~ 140' (Distance from house, and direction)

Cistern: FIRE-0' DISTANCE 100' SW Structure near driveway UNDER HOUSE (Distance from house, and direction)

\* Cistern Type: Fire (Domestic Cistern or Fire Cistern)

Cistern size: 1800 (gallons)

Well (if applicable): 30' south of vendors (Distance from house, and direction)

\* Propane Tank location: SOUTH (100') (Distance from house and direction)

Call -

Has under domestic Cistern away from house

