



Firewise/USA Community 2024-2026 Action Plan For The Forest Gate Homeowners Association El Paso County, CO October 2023

This Community Action Plan establishes a prioritized list of Forest Gate HOA (FGHOA) Community risk reduction projects or investments for the Forest Gate HOA Firewise site, along with suggested homeowner actions and education activities our community will strive to complete annually or over a three-year period. The Action Plan is broken down by year and reflects our community's goals. This document will be updated at least every three years so that it best reflects our community's needs and past accomplishments.

The Forest Gate Firewise community consists of a 200-acre neighborhood with fifty 2½ to 5-acre home sites on the southern edge of the Black Forest. Partnering with adjoining neighbors who also support our firewise goals has added an additional 70 acres in mutually defensible space on our southern flank. The FGHOA ecosystem is approximately 75% forested and 25% open space grassland. Through the collective efforts of all homeowners - not just a few, the National Fire Protection Association has nationally recognized us every year since 2014 for meeting their annual certification requirements.

FGHOA covenants provide homeowners guidance on their responsibilities for removing any diseased trees, or trees that are infested with harmful insects, which might contaminate or spread to adjacent trees and lots, and to meet any other Colorado State Forest Service recommendations or requirements pertaining to thinning of trees. In addition to these requirements, unless necessary to comply with written fire safety or Firewise recommendations or your homeowners insurance company: trees of a diameter of 6 inches or greater shall not be destroyed or removed except as approved in writing by the Architectural Committee. *Cut and paste the following link to obtain the whole document.*
<http://forestgatehoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Third-Amendment-Restrictions-and-Covenants-Forest-Gate-Subdivision-2017-Signed-filed.pdf>

The Black Forest Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is our overarching strategic plan that identifies specific wildland fire hazards and risks facing neighborhoods and the Black Forest community. This was prepared specifically for the Black Forest community and provides recommendations designed to reduce those hazards and risks. The Black Forest Fire of 2013, that took two lives, destroyed over 500 homes, and burned over 140,000 acres; increased awareness of the devastating impacts wildfire can have on a community. The primary goal of this CWPP through outreach, education, strategic planning, and action; is to protect human life, animals, private property, the forest itself, and essential infrastructure and resources. *Cut and paste the following link to obtain the document.*
https://csfs.colostate.edu/media/sites/22/2017/01/Black_Forest_09142016_Final.pdf

Forest Gate 2024 Firewise Committee Members:

Chair: Mal Johnson

Members: Craig Meeks, David Georgian, Kevin Koenke, and Mark Schreder.

Action	Description	Estimated Timeline
Education	Annual Firewise events for FGHOA on fire prevention and responsibilities of lot owners. (Annual HOA picnic, HOA meetings, Firewise Newsletter)	Annually: Spring, Summer, and Fall
Administration	Complete grant applications for matching grants	Annually starting when available (due ~ April each year)
Administration	Complete Firewise paperwork	Yearly starting in 2021
Administration	Complete Risk Assessment	Fall 2023
Administration	Complete Firewise Renewal	Yearly
Administration	Hold Firewise Committee meetings	Minimum of twice per year or more often as needed.
Horizontal Fuel Reduction	Mowing native grasses & irrigated lawns (Critical in the spring, after snow is gone but before plants green-up) and in the fall, when grasses dry out).	Spring and Fall
Vertical ladder Fuel Reduction	Ladder fuel reduction (Pruning tree branches up to 6-10' from ground. Remove/chip limbs and branches left from thinning)	<p>Primary annual focus while recognizing homeowner risk is unique to each Lot & should be addressed accordingly.</p> <p>2024: Zone 1 (from 0-5')</p> <p>2025: Zone 2 (from 5'-30')</p> <p>2026: Zone 3 (from 30'-100')</p> <p>2027: Beyond (beyond 100')</p>
Promote Defensible Space	Minimize the ability of the home to ignite and & reduce or eliminate nearby fuel. (The area around structures modified to reduce fire hazard by creating space between potential fuel sources).	<p>Primary annual focus while recognizing homeowner risk is unique to each Lot & should be addressed accordingly.</p> <p>2024: Zone 1 (from 0-5')</p> <p>2025: Zone 2 (from 5'-30')</p> <p>2026: Zone 3 (from 30'-100')</p> <p>2027: Beyond (beyond 100')</p>
Promote Forest Health	Reduce fuel load and excessive competition among trees (1. thin out) smaller diameter trees to promote larger adjacent trees. 2. Remove enough trees to create at least 10' between crowns)	<p>Primary annual focus while recognizing homeowner risk is unique to each Lot & should be addressed accordingly.</p> <p>2024: Zone 2 (from 5'-30')</p> <p>2025: Zone 3 (from 30'-100')</p> <p>2026: Beyond (beyond 100')</p> <p>2027: Zone 2 (from 5'-30')</p>