

The Hochatown Community Wildfire Protection Plan



AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

DATE: 11/30/2011

Prepared by: Larry Morgan, Steve Smalling, and Afton Pope

Organization: Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma

Contact Information:

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The following report is a cooperative effort between various entities. The representatives listed below comprise the core decision-making team responsible for this report and mutually agree on the plan's contents.

Community Representative(s):

Name: Denise Jordan

Address: HCT, Hochatown, OK 74728

Phone Number: (580) 513-5513

Other Contact Information:

Name: Terry Walker

Address: Hochatown, OK 74728

Phone Number: (580) 306-9463

Other Contact Information:

Local Fire Department Representative(s):

Name: Peg Jobe, Fire Chief

Address: Rt. 4 Box 64-6 Broken Bow, OK 74728

Phone Number: (580) 212-2200

Other Contact Information:

Name: Greg Jobe, Asst. Chief

Address: Rt. 4 Box 64-6 Broken Bow, OK 74728

Phone Number: (580) 236-5311

Other Contact Information:

Local Oklahoma Division of Forestry Representative(s):

Name: Andy James

Phone Number: (580) 584-3351

Name: Michelle Walker

Phone Number: (580) 306-9463

The following federal and other interested parties were consulted and involved in the preparation of this report.

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Dr. Kelly Hurt	Oklahoma Department of Forestry, Firewise Coordinator
Larry Morgan	KEDDO, Rural Fire Coordinator
Steve Smalling	KEDDO, Field Representative
Afton Pope	KEDDO, Secretary
Randy Martin	Property Owner
Michelle Walker	Oklahoma State Forestry
Andy James	Oklahoma State Forestry
Dereck R Warren	Weyerhaeuser

The Plan Contents are:

1. Community Background and Existing Situation
2. Community Based Map and Other Visuals
3. Objectives and Goals
4. Prioritized Mitigation Recommendations
5. Action Plan
6. Wildfire Pre-Suppression Plan
7. Attachments (A & B)

1) COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AND EXISTING SITUATION

Community Description:

County: McCurtain Latitude/Longitude: 34° 1' 47"N 94° 44' 16"W
Frontage Road: Highway 259 Nearest Intersection: 259/259A
Nearest Fire Department (name/location): Hochatown VFD
Interface Areas: _____ Year Established: 1966
Map #: Assessment (See Attached Map)

Community Size:

Number of Lots: 1600 Number of Structures: 1159
Estimated Acres: 64,000 Development Status: Residential and Vacation Property

Community Infrastructure:

Home Owners Association/Organization: Yes No *If yes, attach a copy of ordinances.*

Resident Population:

Full Time
 Part-Time: 100-75% 75-50% 50-25% less than 25%

Wildfire Hazard Rating: (check one)

Low Moderate High Extreme
Date Evaluated: 3-23-11 *Attach Community Assessment Form.*

Community Assessment Highlights (roads, water sources, primary fuel types, utilities and topography)

Hochatown is a community in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. The population was approx. 1250 at the time of assessment.

The history of Hochatown started when the land that would become the Choctaw Coal and Lumber camp came to life. The land was logged and the lumberjacks then moved on to different camps. Farmers moved into the area to make use of the cleared land by planting such things as cotton and hay. As a result, the population increased and a general store and school were established. During the 1920's and 1930's, the area became noted for its "moonshine whiskey." The clear waters were ideal for distilling the moonshine. But because of the lack of economic and social opportunities, very few young people stayed and the older people moved to small towns for medical and transportation facilities. With the planning of building the dam, the last family left the original village in 1966.

Hochatown is now known for its great outdoors and family fun at their local cabins. The cabins are located at the Broken Bow Lake. The Broken Bow lake covers 14,220 acres and has 180 miles of shoreline. The lake contains small islands, bass and is surrounded by pine trees.

The community sits at the foothills of the Kiamichi Mountains, a sub range of the Ouachita Mountains, the Kiamichi Mountains sit within LeFlore, Pushmataha and McCurtain counties near the City and town of Poteau and Albion. The Kiamichi peaks line up south of the Kiamichi River and reach 2,500 feet in elevation. The range is the namesake of Kiamichi Country, the official tourism designation for southeastern Oklahoma.

We divided Hochatown into two sections for the assessment; East Section and West Section. The East portion of the Hochatown fire district is heavily wooded. This is due to the ownership of these properties by state and federal agencies as well as private timber companies. The areas are primarily managed for timber growth and harvest and as such, present a threat to residences in the area. This situation is compounded by the fact that over the past few years many vacationers have discovered the beauty of the area and have built expensive log cabins and other residential structures in these areas. Many, if not most, of these structures are built with flammable siding and decks with little defensible space between them and the surrounding timberland. Often many of the residential properties have long narrow drives with locked gates that create an issue for fire crews by hampering access. In addition, the road systems and signage efforts for these areas are not sufficient to ensure safe egress and ingress during emergencies.

The West Section encompasses the residential/commercial district of Hochatown. This right-of-way allows fire access into the community. An additional concern is the lack of buffer zone around the community. Ideally a 60 to 80 foot defensible space that eliminates all underbrush and fire hazards would surround the community. The final issue of concern for community is the abundance of dense timber surrounding the community.

Ingress/Egress

The Primary access points to Hochatown, OK are Highways 259 and 259A. The access point provides for limited ingress and egress in the event of a major wildfire emergency.

Signage provides limited guidance into Hochatown from both sides and to adjacent subdivisions. The entries are poorly marked and don't provide sufficient roadways to handle emergency vehicle access into all areas of town. Although there are some roads that are marked in the rural fire district, most areas need additional signage.



The area depicted in the pictures illustrated, are areas that have many narrow and sloping roadways. In addition to all of these roads are dead ends that prohibits large fire equipment from being able to adequately protect many of the areas do to the narrow road widths, steep grades and also many of these areas have creek crossings that have small bridges that was not built to state highway standards. I say that because the load limits is not adequate for the weight of fire trucks.



Weyerhaeuser is a large land owner in McCurtain County. Therefore they have built many of the rural access roads. In which they controlled of the flow of traffic by locked gates. This picture depicts an example of many of the rural roads that are behind locked gates within the Hochatown Fire District which impedes in fire fighters ability of fighting wildfire within the district.

Below is a picture of a private residence behind locked gates. This is another huge impeding problem for fire fighters in this area because many times these residences are weekend getaways or rental locations and in the case of an emergency it is extremely hard to contact owners.



Topography

The topography is basically sloping hills with heavy timber and underbrush.



Here are two pictures that greatly depict the sloping and very narrow roads that exist within the Hochatown Fire District. They make it extremely difficult to use to gain access to remote areas in the case of emergencies.

Water Sources

Currently, there is no access to fire hydrants attached to municipal water system. Rural water flush plugs do provide limited access to water, however they are not adequate in the event of a large scale wild fire. Drafting points are accessible at boat ramps around Broken Bow lake.

Fuel Types

Vegetation is predominantly hardwoods and pines. Wildland forest fires typically include fires involving low lying vegetative fuels and large timber.



Fire Protection

The Hochatown volunteer Fire Department is proud to provide primary fire service to Hochatown, Oklahoma. Hochatown Volunteer Fire Department has a staff of eighteen volunteer firemen. The department has an I.S.O. Rating of Class 9. Equipment includes a Class A 1000 gpm engine, 1250 gpm pumper/tanker combo, two grass rigs, and two tankers.



In cooperation with other rural departments, Hochatown VFD regularly trains at Broken Bow Fire Training Center. This facility is used in various training activities to aid the department in a 100 mile radius.

Community Wildfire History: (include surrounding areas)

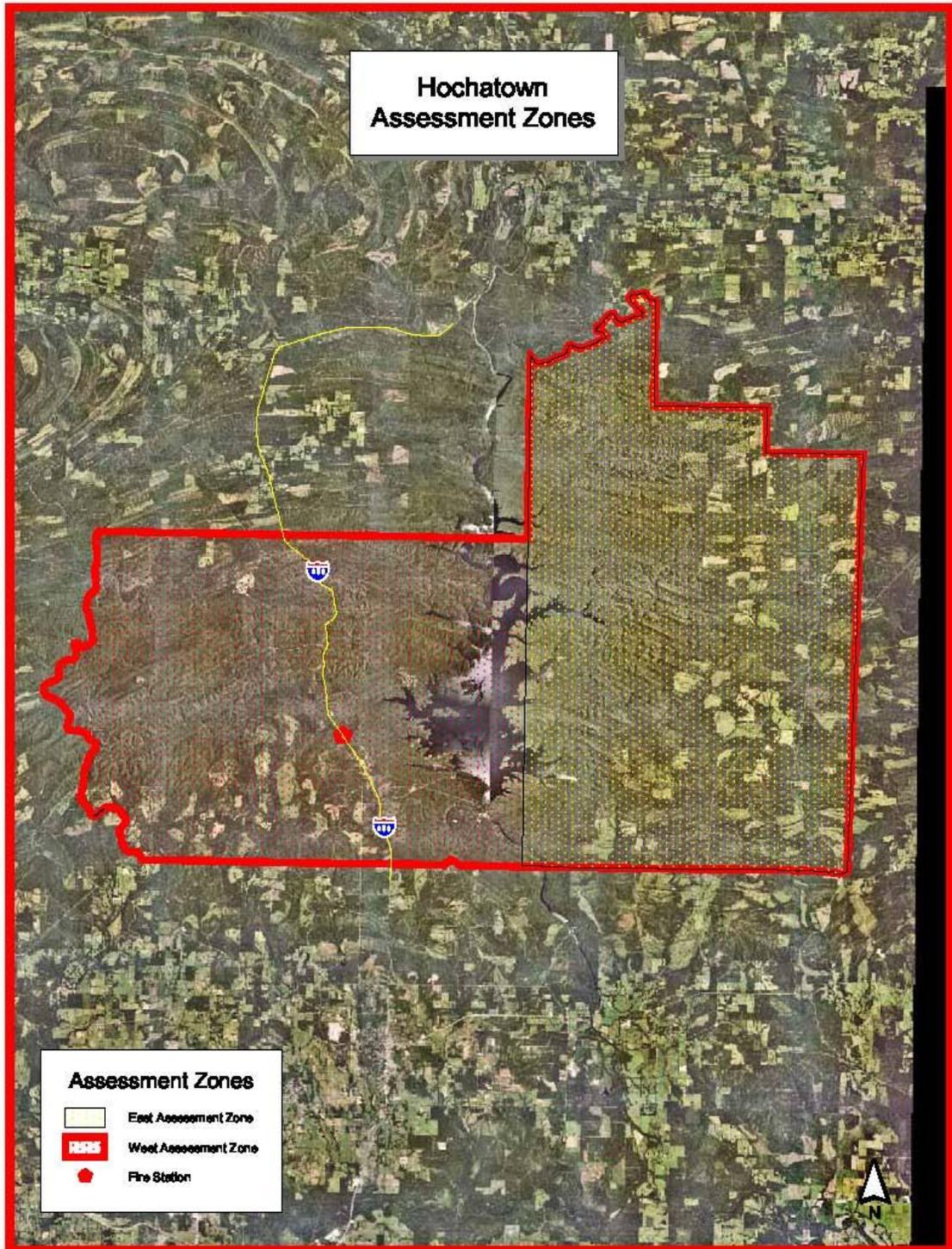
Relative Frequency: 1-2 Monthly

Common Causes: Arson and Carelessness

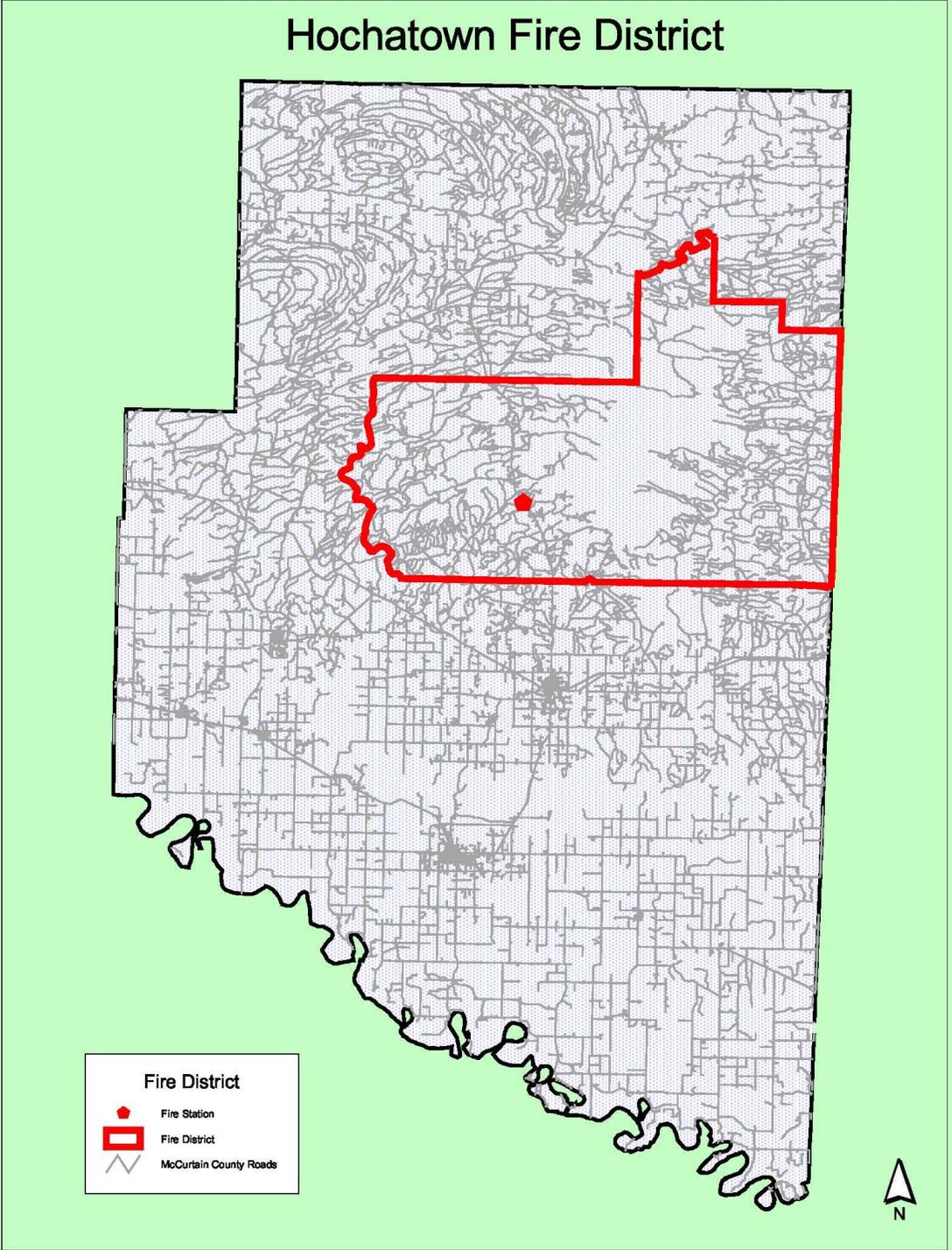
Areas of Future Concern: Lack of water sources and poor Firewise landscaping

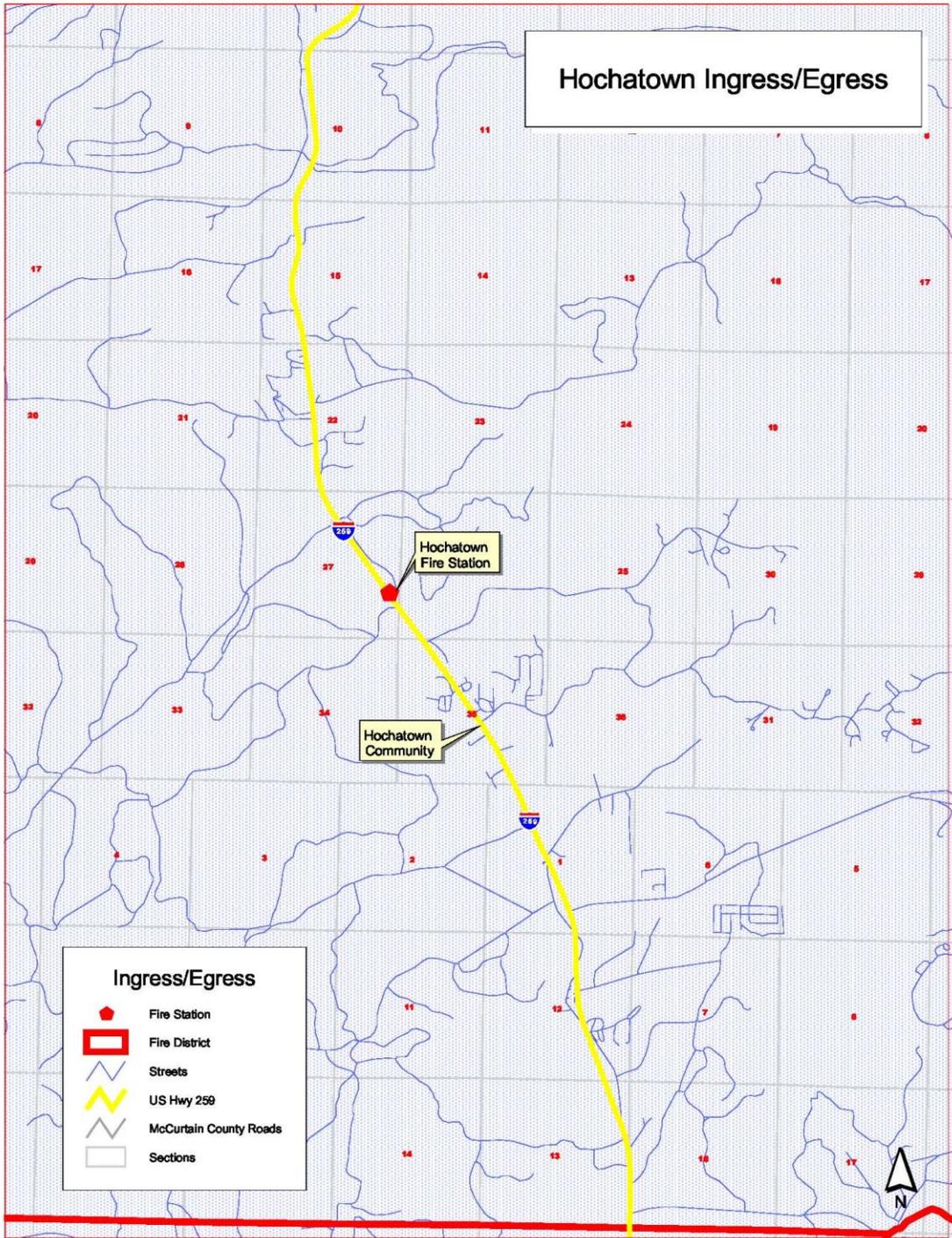
2) COMMUNITY BASE MAP AND OTHER VISUALS

Maps are located on the following three pages.



Hochatown Fire District





3) OBJECTIVES / GOALS

Objectives:

The objective of this plan is to set clear priorities for the implementation of wildfire mitigation in the identified community. This includes prioritized recommendations for the community as a whole and also for individual homeowners where appropriate.

Goals:

1. Public awareness and education about Firewise landscapes and how to have your home Firewise safe.
2. Identification and reduction of areas with an increased level of risk due to excessive vegetation or debris. Start the debris removal process.
3. Improve accessibility, ingress and egress for emergency vehicles, and to allow better egress in event of evacuation from properties with limited access is very important to us due to all of the forest land in the area.
4. Annual evaluation of plan to monitor success and set new goals or address new problems.

4) PRIORITIZED MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were developed by the Community Firewise Working Group or Fire Council as a result of the community wildfire risk assessment and follow-up meetings with local, state federal and community stakeholders. A priority order was determined based on which mitigation projects would best reduce the hazard of wildfire in the assessment area.



This is a perfect example of what is in the area as far as homes. Do to the building material that is used in the area, we feel they strongly need educated on creating Firewise boundaries around their homes.



This is a good example of what we are trying to achieve for this area. This home was still built using beautiful woods that blend into to environment. However the owners have created a good fire break around the home by setting the firewood away from the home and clearing out all brush around the home.

Proposed Community Hazard Reduction Priorities:

List area and treatment recommended.

1. Encourage homeowners to create buffer zones around structures and improve escape routes from residential properties.
2. Clearing ladder fuels and underbrush around common areas, and shred and mulch debris to ease removal.
3. Organize area residents to work with officials to install dry hydrants around the lake and area ponds.
4. Work with county officials to improve road signage.

Proposed Structural Ignitability Reduction Priorities:

Actions to be taken by homeowners.

Example: Clean roofs and gutters.

1. Clean Roof and Gutters.
2. Create buffer zones.
3. Trim/Thin Timber Area.
4. Remove flammable house siding.
5. Add fire breaks in fire district.

Proposed Education and Outreach Priorities:

Activities planned and implemented by community, local fire department and Department of Forestry.

1. Display pamphlets on Firewise at local cabins and parks.
2. Encourage local insurance companies to inform their clients of Firewise benefits to reduce risk.
3. Engage area businesses to distribute Firewise pamphlets.

5) ACTION PLAN

Funding Needs:

Outline each project (list highest priority projects first) including estimated cost and potential funding sources.

1. Purchase chainsaws and hand tools to assist in creating buffer zones. \$2500 Local funding.
2. Purchase shredder/mulcher to clear common areas and thin heavy timber. \$15000 ODAFF mitigation funding.
3. Work with county officials to increase/improve road signs. \$1500 ODAFF mitigation funding, 911 tax revenue.
4. To increase public awareness and encourage citizens to participate in the Firewise program, articles should be published in the Broken Bow News. (Free)
5. Install fire hydrants in area lake and ponds. 10x\$1500. REAP, Local match money
6. Conduct Firewise Day. (Free)

Timetables:

For each project (list highest priority projects first), provide an estimated duration, start date and targeted completion date.

1. Purchase chainsaws and hand tools and begin creating buffer zones in the spring 2012.
2. Run quarterly articles about Firewise programs and events.
3. Begin thinning timber and removing vegetation in the common areas after the purchase of shredder. Fall 2012
4. Annual Firewise event held in March or April of each year.
5. Work with KEDDO officials to begin grant writing process and explore other funding opportunities for dry hydrants. Spring 2012
6. Begin immediately working with county officials to improve road signage.

Assessment:

Describe the strategy used to assess the plans progress and effectiveness.

1. Review participation of property owners in clearing buffer zones and work with fire department to monitor the decrease in property loss.
2. Have quarterly Firewise board meetings to evaluate projects and update the CWPP timeline.
3. Monitor public awareness at annual Firewise Day.
4. Review number of road signs replaced in the first year.
5. Visit with KEDDO Rural Fire Coordinator to utilize his expertise evaluating CWPP effectiveness.

6) WILDFIRE PRE-SUPPRESSION PLAN

A. Wildfire Protection Responsibility

Structural Protection: Hochatown VFD

Wildland Protection: ODAFF Fire Fighting Division, US Forest Service and Hochatown VFD

B. Incident Command Post Location

Hochatown Volunteer Fire Department or mobilized depending on incident

C. Incident Staging Area Location

Hochatown Volunteer Fire Department -.5 miles south of Hochatown on Highway 259

D. Medical Unit Staging Area Location

Incident specific

E. Alarm Response

First Alarm

Fire Department/Rescue Squad	Travel Distance	Response Time
Hochatown Volunteer Fire Department	.5 Miles	5-10 Minutes
ODAFF	7 Miles	15-20 Minutes
US Forest Service	2 Miles	5 Minutes

Second Alarm (report to designated staging area)

Fire Department/Rescue Squad Time	Travel Distance	Response
Broken Bow Volunteer Fire Department	10 Miles	15-20 Minutes
Bethel Volunteer Fire Department	12 Miles	25-30 Minutes
Sherwood Volunteer Fire Department	15 Miles	25-30 Minutes

F. Air Support

Fixed Wing

Aircraft	Location	Telephone Number
Weyerhaeuser	Broken Bow, OK	580-981-1508
Oklahoma State Forestry	Broken Bow, OK	580-584-3354

Helicopter

Aircraft	Contact Name	Telephone Number
Weyerhaeuser	Dereck R Warren	580-981-1508
Oklahoma State Forestry	Andy James & Michelle Finch	580-584-3354

G. Water Availability (must be accessible to fire engines)

Location: Broken Bow Lake Description: Adjacent to Community
Location: Mountain Fork River Description: East of City

H. Communications (Attach Communications Plan if available)

Name	Phone Number	Radio Frequencies
Dispatch/Fire Departments		
Broken Bow Fire Department	580-584-3400	159.105 tx, 154.740 rx &t.a.
Broken Bow Police Department	580-584-3310	158.895 tx, 155.415 rx
Hochatown Fire Department	580-494-6333	158.970 tx, 154.100 rx
EMS	580- 208-2604	150.775 tx, 155.340 rx
Local Department of Forestry Office		
Oklahoma State Forestry	580-584-3351	159.45000
Other		
US Forest Service	580-494-6402	451.02500

I. Evacuation (Attach Evacuation Plan)

J. Resource List

Name	Contact Information	Payment Information
Support Agencies		
McCurtain County Sheriff	580-286-3331	
McCurtain County EMS	580-286-7584	
McCurtain County Commissioner	580-584-2434	
McCurtain County Highway Patrol	580-286-3331	
Tractor Operators		
Oklahoma Forestry	(580) 494-6479	
District One County Commissioner	(580) 584-2434	
Weyco Sub-Contractors, Jim Latta	(580) 494-6705	
Crews		
Oklahoma Forestry	580-584-3351	
Utilities		
Public Service Company	580-584-5254	
Mountain Fork Water Supply Dist.5	580-584-2918	
Broken Bow Water Company	580-584-3407	
Center Point Energy	866-275-5265	
Fuel		
Love's Travel Stop	580-584-3813	Cash & Credit Cards
E-Z Mart	580-584-2851	Cash & Credit Cards
Binger Oil Company	580-584-2444	Cash & Credit Cards
Food and Supplies		
Pruett's Food	580-584-6056	Cash & Credit Cards
Walmart	580-584-3324	Cash & Credit Cards
Lodging		
Highway Inn and Suites		Cash & Credit Cards
Broken Bow Inn	580- 584-9103	Cash & Credit Cards
Charles Wesley Motor Lodge	580-584-3303	Cash & Credit Cards
Microtel Inn	580-584-7708	Cash & Credit Cards

7) ATTACHMENTS

See Attachment A and B

OKLAHOMA FORESTRY DIVISION
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT
 (Hochatown East)

Forestry Office: Broken Bow

Community: Hochatown County: McCurtain
 Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
 Fire Department: Hochatown
 Date: 6/22/2010
 Acres: 18,000 Lots: N/A Homes: 450 approx. Future Homes: 75 approx.

CALCULATING THE WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING

SUBDIVISION DESIGN HAZARD RATING	+ SITE HAZARD RATING	+ BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HAZARD RATING	+ ADDITIONAL FACTOR HAZARD RATING	= OVERALL WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING
27	92	30	55	204

No bridges or bridges with no weight and or width restrictions	0		5
Low weight or narrow bridges restricting emergency access	5		
PRIMARY ROAD WIDTHS			
>24 ft	0		
>20 ft and <24 ft	2		2
<20 ft	4		
ACCESSIBILITY			
Surfaced road, grade <5%	0		
Surfaced road, grade >5%	2		
Non-surfaced road, grade <5%	2		5
Non-surfaced road, grade >5%	5		
Other than all-season road	7		
SECONDARY ROAD TERMINUS			
<300 ft with turnaround	0		
>300 ft with turnaround	2		
<300 ft without turnaround	4		5
>300 ft without turnaround	5		
UNSAFE ROADWAY			
No flammable vegetation threat	0		
Highly flammable vegetation along road	5		5
STREET SIGNS			
Present 4 inches in size and reflective	0		
Not present	5		5
TOTAL SUBDIVISION DESIGN			27

SITE HAZARD RATING: (within 30 feet of structure based on a majority of the properties in the community)	Rating	
DRIVEWAY CHARACTERISTICS		
Less than 150 ft long	0	5
More than 150 ft long with minimum 45 ft outside radius turnaround	3	
More than 150 ft with inadequate turnaround	5	
Average driveway width more than 12 ft	0	5
Average driveway width less than 12 ft	5	
No obstructing overhead branches below 15 ft	0	5
Obstructing overhead branches below 15 ft	5	
No bridges or bridges with no weight and or width restrictions	0	5
Bridges restricting emergency vehicle access	5	
Slopes level or less than 10%	0	0
Slopes over 10%	5	
No gate/non-locking gate	0	5
Locked gate	5	
Address clearly visible from road	0	5
Address not clearly visible from road	5	
DOMINANT TREES (within 100 ft of homes)		
Deciduous	1	10
Mixed	5	
Evergreen	10	
LADDER FUELS		
Evergreen branches pruned up at least 6 ft	0	5
Evergreen branches close to ground	5	
VEGETATION (predominant type throughout community)		
Light (e.g. grasses and forbs) NFDRS Fuels Models A, C, L, N, S and T	5	20
Medium (e.g. light brush and small trees) NFDRS Fuels Models D, E, F, H, P, Q and U	10	
Heavy (e.g. dense brush, timber and hardwoods) NFDRS Fuels Models B, G and O	20	
Slash (e.g. timber harvesting residue) NFDRS Fuel Models J,K and L	25	
SLOPE OF PROPERTY		
Flat (0-5%)	0	2
Moderate (6-20%)	2	
Steep (over 20%)	4	
DEFENSIBLE SPACE		
No trees, shrubs or tall grass within 30 ft	0	20
Well spaced trees and shrubs within 30 ft	10	
Touching crowns or tall grass within 30 ft	20	
No unthinned or unmanaged timber within 100 ft	0	5
Unthinned or unmanaged timber within 100 ft	5	
TOTAL SITE HAZARD RATING		92

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HAZARD RATING	Rating	
ROOFING MATERIALS		
Greater than 75% of homes have metal, tile or Class A shingles	0	15
50 to 75% of homes have metal, tile or Class A shingles	10	
Less than 50% of homes have metal, tile or Class A shingles	15	
SIDING / SOFFETS		
Greater than 75% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffets	0	10
50 to 75% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffets	5	
Less than 50% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffets	10	
UNDERSKIRTING		
Greater than 75% of homes have equivalent of fine mesh screening underneath	0	5
50 to 75% of homes have equivalent of fine mesh screening underneath	5	
Less than 50% of homes have equivalent of fine mesh screening underneath	10	
TOTAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HAZARD RATING		30

ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS	Rating	
FIRE CONTROL WATER SUPPLY		
Pressurized hydrants with minimum 500 gpm < 1,000 ft apart	0	7
Pressurized hydrants with <500 gpm or spaced > 1,000 ft apart	2	
Dry hydrant(s) available year round within the community	2	
Other accessible sources within community	5	
Water sources located within 4 road miles of community	7	
No water sources within 4 road miles of community	15	
UTILITIES		
Both underground	0	3
One underground, one above ground	3	
Both above ground	5	
SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
Community is not surrounded by any large natural landscapes	0	20
Large natural landscape adjoins one side of the community	5	
Large natural landscape adjoins two sides of the community	10	
Large natural landscape adjoins three sides of the community	15	
Community is completely surrounded by natural landscape	20	
UNDEVELOPED LOTS		
Less than 10% of lots have not been developed and pose no additional wildfire hazard due to lack of maintenance	0	5
10 to 50% of lots have not been developed	3	
51 to 75% of lots have not been developed	5	
Greater than 75% of lots have not been developed	10	
RISK LOCATION		
Community is located within the following designated Wildfire Risk Areas according to the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment		
Low	0	20
Medium	10	
High	20	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS		55

What does the Wildfire Hazard Rating mean?

Using the Wildfire Hazard Assessment, the highest possible rating is 247 points. Communities can be divided into the following four risk categories:

- Low Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 0 – 90 points**
The chances of a majority of homes in the community surviving a wildfire are **GOOD**. Little is needed to improve the community. Keep up the good work.
- Moderate Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 91 – 155 points**
The chances of a majority of homes in the community surviving a wildfire are **FAIR**. Some minor improvements will make the community more fire resistant. Check the areas on the form in which you scored poorly.
- High Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 155 points**
The chances of a majority of homes in the community surviving a wildfire are **NOT GOOD**. Some improvements in structure and site are necessary.
- Extreme Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 170 points**
The community **MAY NOT SURVIVE** if a wildfire passes through the area. Take a serious look at your community and make improvements. If you don't, you may be facing disaster. You will find that even small changes could make the difference.

HAZARD is defined as the potential fire behavior based on physical fuel characteristics.

Risk is defined as the probability of fire occurrence determined by the number, presence and activity of potential ignition sources.

This form may be used to evaluate your community to determine the level of wildfire risk. It covers roughly one-half of the hazards normally taken into account in calculating fire risk, but does provide an approximate indication of true risk. For more information on your home's fire risk, or for more complete evaluation of your property, contact your local Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Forestry Services office.

OKLAHOMA FORESTRY DIVISION
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT
 (Hochatown West)

Forestry Office: Broken Bow

Community: Hochatown

County: McCurtain

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Fire Department: Hochatown

Date: 6/22/2010

Acres: 18,000 Lots: N/A Homes: 300 approx. Future Homes: 25 approx.

CALCULATING THE WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING

SUBDIVISION DESIGN HAZARD RATING	+ SITE HAZARD RATING	+ BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HAZARD RATING	+ ADDITIONAL FACTOR HAZARD RATING	= OVERALL WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING
27	92	30	55	204
No bridges or bridges with no weight and or width restrictions			0	5
Low weight or narrow bridges restricting emergency access			5	
PRIMARY ROAD WIDTHS				
>24 ft			0	2
>20 ft and <24 ft			2	
<20 ft			4	
ACCESSIBILITY				
Surfaced road, grade <5%			0	5
Surfaced road, grade >5%			2	
Non-surfaced road, grade <5%			2	
Non-surfaced road, grade >5%			5	
Other than all-season road			7	
SECONDARY ROAD TERMINUS				
<300 ft with turnaround			0	5
>300 ft with turnaround			2	
<300 ft without turnaround			4	
>300 ft without turnaround			5	
UNSAFE ROADWAY				
No flammable vegetation threat			0	5
Highly flammable vegetation along road			5	
STREET SIGNS				
Present 4 inches in size and reflective			0	5
Not present			5	
TOTAL SUBDIVISION DESIGN				27

SITE HAZARD RATING: (within 30 feet of structure based on a majority of the properties in the community)	Rating	
DRIVEWAY CHARACTERISTICS		
Less than 150 ft long	0	5
More than 150 ft long with minimum 45 ft outside radius turnaround	3	
More than 150 ft with inadequate turnaround	5	
Average driveway width more than 12 ft	0	5
Average driveway width less than 12 ft	5	
No obstructing overhead branches below 15 ft	0	5
Obstructing overhead branches below 15 ft	5	
No bridges or bridges with no weight and or width restrictions	0	5
Bridges restricting emergency vehicle access	5	
Slopes level or less than 10%	0	0
Slopes over 10%	5	
No gate/non-locking gate	0	5
Locked gate	5	
Address clearly visible from road	0	5
Address not clearly visible from road	5	
DOMINANT TREES (within 100 ft of homes)		
Deciduous	1	10
Mixed	5	
Evergreen	10	
LADDER FUELS		
Evergreen branches pruned up at least 6 ft	0	5
Evergreen branches close to ground	5	
VEGETATION (predominant type throughout community)		
Light (e.g. grasses and forbs) NFDRS Fuels Models A, C, L, N, S and T	5	20
Medium (e.g. light brush and small trees) NFDRS Fuels Models D, E, F, H, P, Q and U	10	
Heavy (e.g. dense brush, timber and hardwoods) NFDRS Fuels Models B, G and O	20	
Slash (e.g. timber harvesting residue) NFDRS Fuel Models J,K and L	25	
SLOPE OF PROPERTY		
Flat (0-5%)	0	2
Moderate (6-20%)	2	
Steep (over 20%)	4	
DEFENSIBLE SPACE		
No trees, shrubs or tall grass within 30 ft	0	20
Well spaced trees and shrubs within 30 ft	10	
Touching crowns or tall grass within 30 ft	20	
No unthinned or unmanaged timber within 100 ft	0	5
Unthinned or unmanaged timber within 100 ft	5	
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50 to 75% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffets	5	
Less than 50% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffets	10	
UNDERSKIRTING		
Greater than 75% of homes have equivalent of fine mesh screening underneath	0	5
50 to 75% of homes have equivalent of fine mesh screening underneath	5	
Less than 50% of homes have equivalent of fine mesh screening underneath	10	
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ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS	Rating	
FIRE CONTROL WATER SUPPLY		
Pressurized hydrants with minimum 500 gpm < 1,000 ft apart	0	7
Pressurized hydrants with <500 gpm or spaced > 1,000 ft apart	2	
Dry hydrant(s) available year round within the community	2	
Other accessible sources within community	5	
Water sources located within 4 road miles of community	7	
No water sources within 4 road miles of community	15	
UTILITIES		
Both underground	0	3
One underground, one above ground	3	
Both above ground	5	
SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
Community is not surrounded by any large natural landscapes	0	20
Large natural landscape adjoins one side of the community	5	
Large natural landscape adjoins two sides of the community	10	
Large natural landscape adjoins three sides of the community	15	
Community is completely surrounded by natural landscape	20	
UNDEVELOPED LOTS		
Less than 10% of lots have not been developed and pose no additional wildfire hazard due to lack of maintenance	0	5
10 to 50% of lots have not been developed	3	
51 to 75% of lots have not been developed	5	
Greater than 75% of lots have not been developed	10	
RISK LOCATION		
Community is located within the following designated Wildfire Risk Areas according to the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment		
Low	0	20
Medium	10	
High	20	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS		55

What does the Wildfire Hazard Rating mean?

Using the Wildfire Hazard Assessment, the highest possible rating is 247 points. Communities can be divided into the following four risk categories:

- Low Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 0 – 90 points**
The chances of a majority of homes in the community surviving a wildfire are **GOOD**. Little is needed to improve the community. Keep up the good work.
- Moderate Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 91 – 155 points**
The chances of a majority of homes in the community surviving a wildfire are **FAIR**. Some minor improvements will make the community more fire resistant. Check the areas on the form in which you scored poorly.
- High Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 155 points**
The chances of a majority of homes in the community surviving a wildfire are **NOT GOOD**. Some improvements in structure and site are necessary.
- Extreme Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 170 points**
The community **MAY NOT SURVIVE** if a wildfire passes through the area. Take a serious look at your community and make improvements. If you don't, you may be facing disaster. You will find that even small changes could make the difference.

HAZARD is defined as the potential fire behavior based on physical fuel characteristics.

Risk is defined as the probability of fire occurrence determined by the number, presence and activity of potential ignition sources.

This form may be used to evaluate your community to determine the level of wildfire risk. It covers roughly one-half of the hazards normally taken into account in calculating fire risk, but does provide an approximate indication of true risk. For more information on your home's fire risk, or for more complete evaluation of your property, contact your local Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Forestry Services office.