

The
Murry Spur
Community Wildfire Protection Plan



AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

DATE: 6/29/2012

Prepared by: Larry Morgan, Afton Pope, and Kim Green

Organization: Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma

Contact Information:

Address: 1002 Highway 2 North, Wilburton, OK 74578

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Fax: (918) 465-3873

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: Robert McCullar

Address: 17827 Boarder's Line Rd, Spiro, OK 74959

Phone Number: (479) 806-6335

Other Contact Information:

Local Fire Department Representative(s):

Name: Carry Carter, Fire Chief

Address: 20098 Myers Rd, Spiro, OK 74959

Phone Number: (479) 221-6479

Other Contact Information:

Name: Cody Myers, Asst. Chief

Address: 20168 Myers Rd, Spiro, OK 74959

Phone Number: (479) 221-6479

Other Contact Information:

Local Oklahoma Division of Forestry Representative(s):

Name: Craig Marquaudt

Phone Number: (918) 527-2764

Name: Chris Parerton

Phone Number: (918) 465-2082

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
Afton Pope	KEDDO, Secretary
Loyal E Mantooth Jr.	Property Owner
Craig Marquaudt	Oklahoma State Forestry
Kim Green	KEDDO, GIS Technician

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: LeFlore Latitude/Longitude: 35° 26' 37" 27 94° 53' 96 25
Frontage Road: Highway 9 Nearest Intersection: Hwy 9/271
Nearest Fire Department (name/location): Spiro Fire Department
Interface Areas: _____ Year Established: 2005
Map #: Assessment (See Attached Map)

Community Size:

Number of Lots: 1100 Number of Structures: 675
Estimated Acres: 28,000 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: 4-16-12 *Attach Community Assessment Form.*

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

Ingress/Egress

The Primary access points to Murry Spur, OK are Highways 9 and 9A Junction. The access point provides for limited ingress and egress in the event of a major wildfire emergency.

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



The area depicted in the picture illustrated, is an area that has 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 along with narrow road widths, steep grades and creek crossings with small bridges.



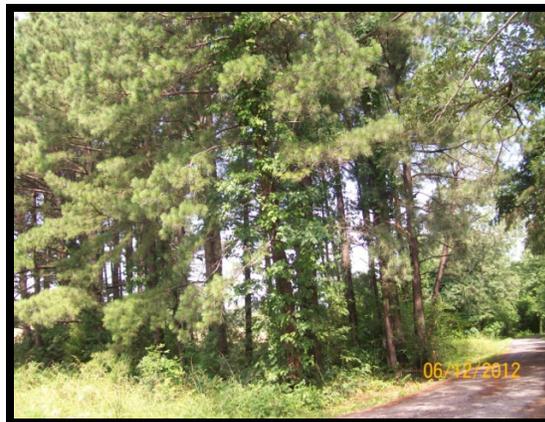
Above is a picture of a road with locked gates at the end of it. This is another huge impeding problem for fire fighters in this area because many times getaways are in the way of locations and in the case of an emergency it is extremely hard to contact owners.



Above is a picture of a bridge that would have to be used in the case of emergencies. Do to the excessive weight of the emergency vehicles, the bridges like the one in the picture would not support the weight of the vehicles. Also, many bridges are extremely narrow and they make it difficult for the emergency responders to respond in a timely manner.

Topography

The topography is basically sloping hills with timber, underbrush, and large hayfields.



Here are two pictures that greatly depict the very narrow roads that exist within the Murry Spur 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, and there are some 6" lines on highway frontage, however

they are not adequate in the event of a large scale wild fire. Drafting points are accessible on the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers.

Fuel Types

Vegetation is predominantly hardwoods and cedar. Wildland forest fires typically include fires involving low lying vegetative fuels, large timber, and surrounding hayfields.



Fire Protection

The Murry Spur volunteer Fire Department is proud to provide primary fire service to the Murry Spur Community of Oklahoma. Murry Spur Volunteer Fire Department has a staff of twenty volunteer firemen. The department has an I.S.O. Rating of Class 9. Equipment includes a 2000gal pumper tanker, 1000gal pumper, (2) 2500gal tankers, and (2) 200gal grass rigs.



In cooperation with other rural departments, Murry Spur VFD regularly trains at Poteau 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)

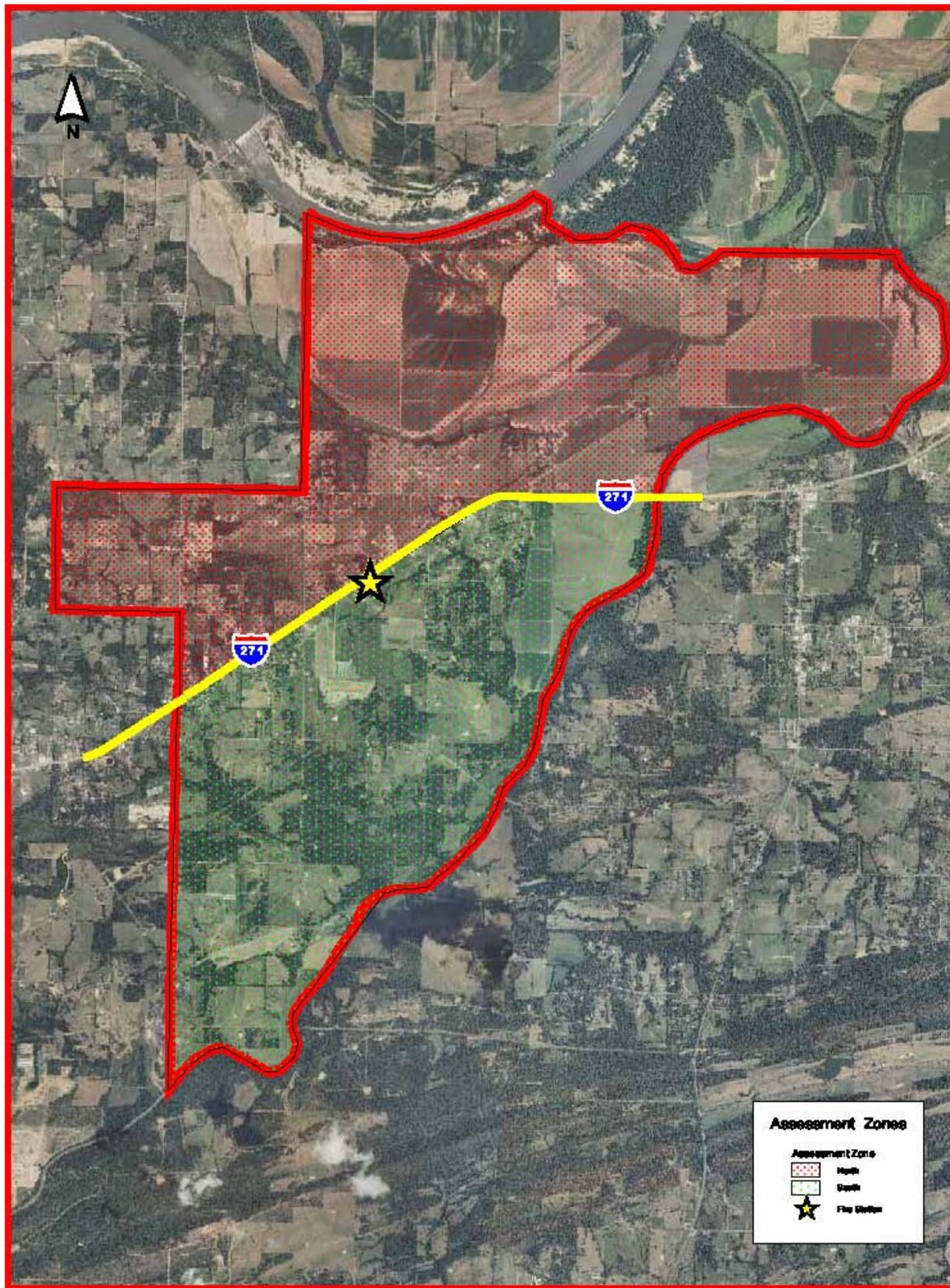
Relative Frequency: 1-6 Monthly

Common Causes: Arson, Carelessness, and Lighting Strikes

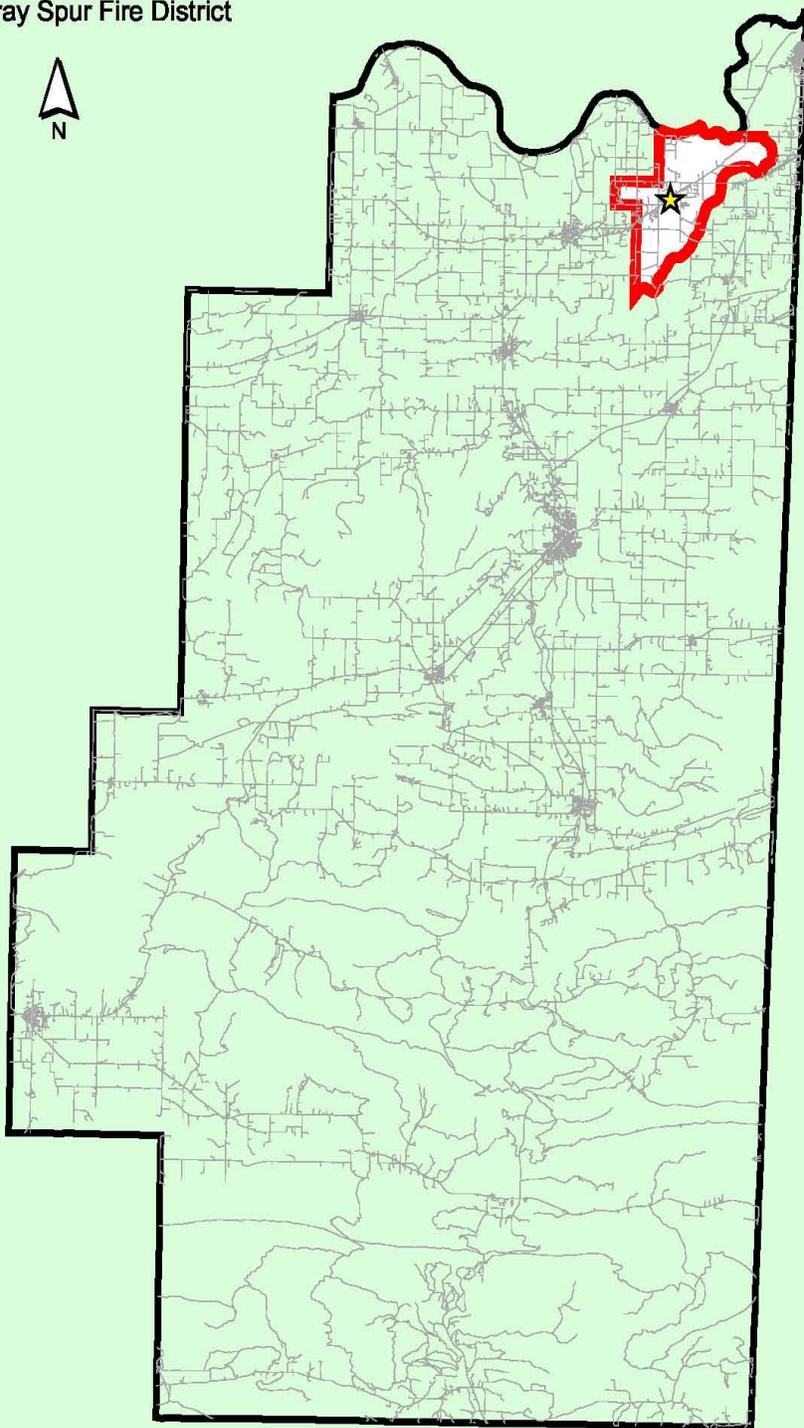
Areas of Future Concern: Lack of water sources and poor Firewise landscaping

2) COMMUNITY BASE MAP AND OTHER VISUALS

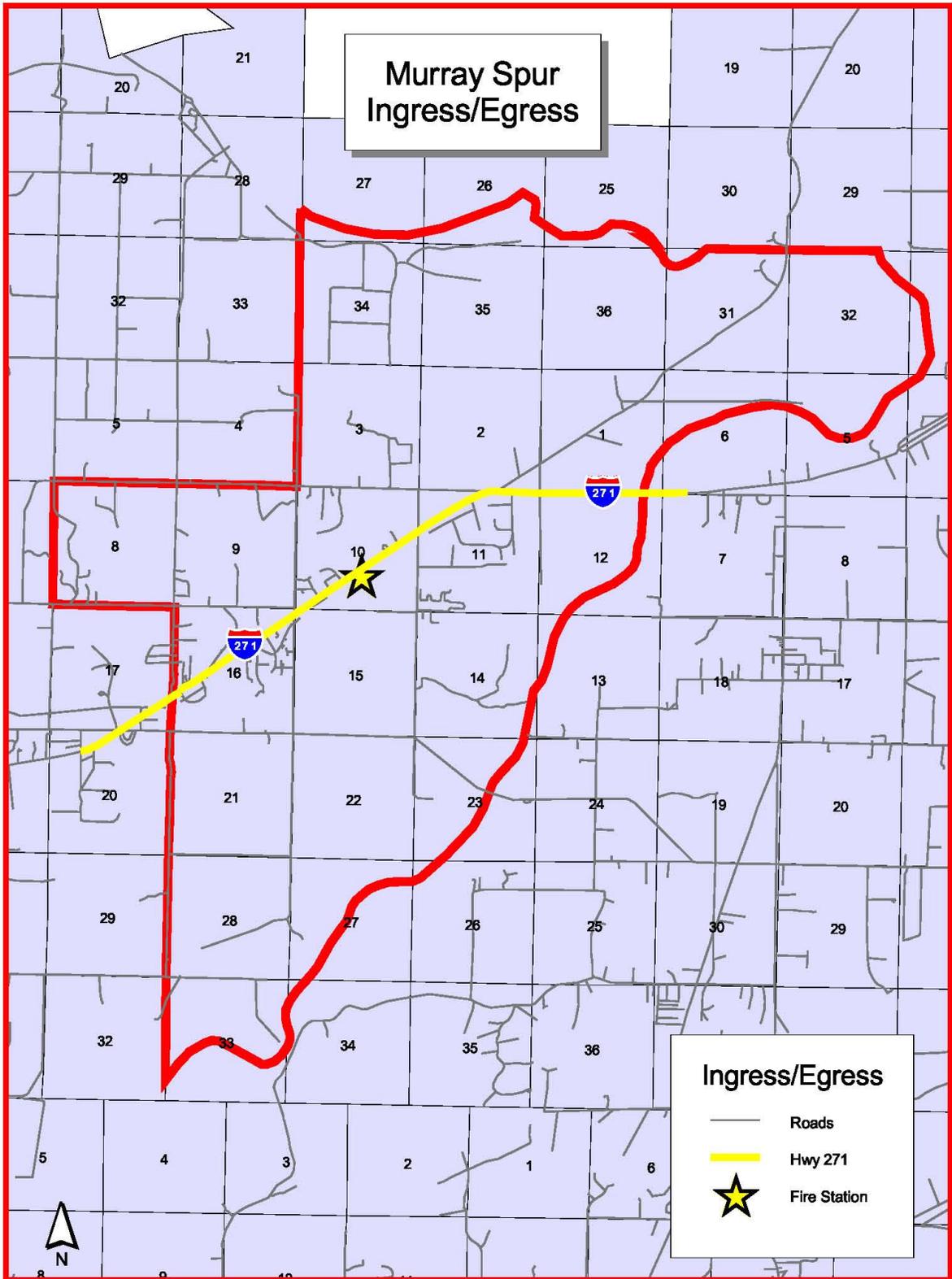
Maps are located on the following three pages.



Murray Spur Fire District



Fire District	
☆	Fire Station
—	Roads
■	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 Murry Spur Fire Dist.
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 extensive growth 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. The owners have created a good fire break around the home by 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 community gatherings.
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.
5. Install fire hydrants in rivers 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 2013.
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 2013
4. Work with KEDDO officials to begin grant writing process and explore other funding opportunities for dry hydrants. Spring 2013
5. 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: Murry Spur VFD

Wildland Protection: ODAFF Fire Fighting Division & US Forestry at Hodgen and Wilburton.

B. Incident Command Post Location

Murry Spur Volunteer Fire Department or mobilized depending on incident

C. Incident Staging Area Location

Murry Spur Volunteer Fire Department -.5 miles east of Spiro on Highway 9/27

D. Medical Unit Staging Area Location

Incident specific

E. Alarm Response

First Alarm

Fire Department/Rescue Squad	Travel Distance	Response Time
Murry Spur Volunteer Fire Department	5 Miles	5-10 Minutes
ODAFF	5 Miles	15-20 Minutes
US Forest Service	15 Miles	30-45 Minutes

Second Alarm (report to designated staging area)

Fire Department/Rescue Squad Time	Travel Distance	Response
Spiro Volunteer Fire Department	5 Miles	10-15 Minutes
Pocola Volunteer Fire Department	6 Miles	5-15 Minutes
Ft. Coffee Volunteer Fire Department	5 Miles	10-20 Minutes
Hogeye Volunteer Fire Department	10 Miles	10-30 Minutes

F. Air Support

Fixed Wing

Aircraft	Location	Telephone Number
Ft. Smith, AR	Ft. Smith, AR	479-452-7000
Oklahoma State Forestry		918-465-2082

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

Location: Arkansas River

Description: Adjacent to Community

Location: Poteau River

Description: East of Community

H. Communications (Attach Communications Plan if available)

Name	Phone Number	Radio Frequencies
Dispatch/Fire Departments		
Spiro Fire Department	479-883-4090	1-55595
Pocola Fire Department	479-650-8502	
Murry Spur Fire Department	479-459-8430	153935
EMS	918- 649-0530	158-730
Local Department of Forestry	918-465-2082	
Oklahoma State Forestry	918-465-2082	159.45000
LeFlore County Sheriff	918-647-2317	153700
US Forest Service	580-494-6402	451.02500

I. Evacuation (Attach Evacuation Plan)

J. Resource List

Name	Contact Information	Payment Information
<i>Support Agencies</i>		
LeFlore County Sheriff	918-647-2317	
LeFlore County EMS	918-649-3945	
LeFlore County Commissioner	918-962-9477	
LeFlore County Highway Patrol	918-683-1382	
<i>Tractor Operators</i>		
Oklahoma Forestry	(918) 653-2991	
District One County Commissioner	(918) 962-2477	
Pettyrew Construction Co.	(479) 414-0696	
<i>Crews</i>		
Oklahoma Forestry	918-653-2991	
<i>Utilities</i>		
OG&E	918-647-1183	
Arkansas Gas	1-800-842-5690	
Arkansas Valley	918-436-2419	
Spiro East Water Dist.	918-962-3355	
<i>Fuel</i>		
Sac and Pack	918-436-2998	Cash & Credit Cards
E-Z Mart	918-962-3069	Cash & Credit Cards
<i>Food and Supplies</i>		
Marvin's IGA	918-962-3069	Cash & Credit Cards
Walmart	918-647-5040	Cash & Credit Cards
<i>Lodging</i>		
Days Inn	918-647-3510	Cash & Credit Cards
Best Western	918- 647-4001	Cash & Credit Cards
Black Angus	918-647-3246	Cash & Credit Cards
Holiday Express	918-649-0123	Cash & Credit Cards
All Season's	918-962-5174	Cash & Credit Cards

7) ATTACHMENTS

See Attachment A and B

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

Forestry Office: Wilburton/Hodgen

Community: Murry Spur County: LeFlore
 Latitude: 35.263727 Longitude: 94.539625
 Fire Department: Murry Spur Vol. Fire Department
 Date: 6/01/2012
 Acres: 2,800 Lots: 1100 Homes: 625 approx. Future Homes: 50 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	52	201

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	5
One underground, one above ground	3	
Both above ground	5	
SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
Community is not surrounded by any large natural landscapes	0	15
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		52

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: Wilburton/Hogden

Community: Murry Spur

County: LeFlore

Latitude: 35263727

Longitude: 94.539625

Fire Department: Murry Spur

Date: 6/01/2012

Acres: 2,800 Lots: 1100 Homes: 675 approx. Future Homes: 100 approx.

CALCULATING THE WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING

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27	92	35	52	206

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		5
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UNSAFE ROADWAY			
No flammable vegetation threat	0		
Highly flammable vegetation along road	5		5
STREET SIGNS			
Present 4 inches in size and reflective	0		5
Not present	5		
TOTAL SUBDIVISION DESIGN			27

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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
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ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS	Rating	
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Pressurized hydrants with <500 gpm or spaced > 1,000 ft apart	2	
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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.