April 18, 2019

To El Paso County Commissioners

Mary Redetzke 774 230 6643

Petition against overdevelopment of this area. 1285 have signed as of April 17 2019.

Page from California Policy of how close houses should in wildfire areas. Yes, I know we are not California, however, the original plot plan of 2002 was ahead of its time, Please read the distances between houses.

California article about wildfires.

Small overview of August 2001 Forest Lake Project

April 7, 2021

To: El Paso County Commissioners

Mary Reuterbie 77 E 230 Lake

re: letter against over development of this area. 1265 have signed as of April 17 2019

page from County area plan of how close houses should to wildlife areas. If you know we are non
California, previously, the original plan of 2002 was allowed of its time. Please read the water
between 1 acre

California wildlife in San wildfires.

Small overview of August 2021 Forest Lake Project

231
190
180 – 49

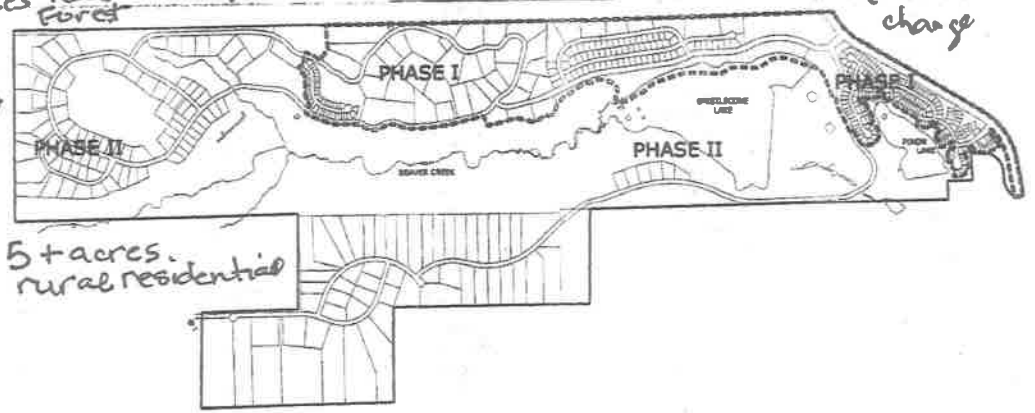
increase
no change
2016 – 2019

no increase
2015 – 2019

Pikes Peak Forest

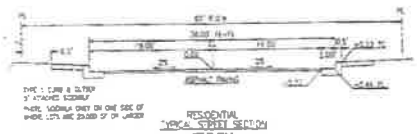
August 24 2001
131 lots

PROJECT PHASING



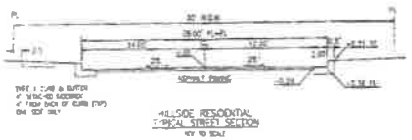
STREET CROSS-SECTIONS

COLLECTOR
TYPICAL STREET SECTION
NOT TO SCALE

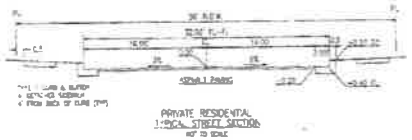


RESIDENTIAL
TYPICAL STREET SECTION
NOT TO SCALE

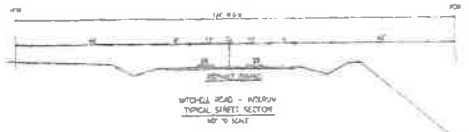
PRIVATE LANE
TYPICAL STREET SECTION
NO SCALE



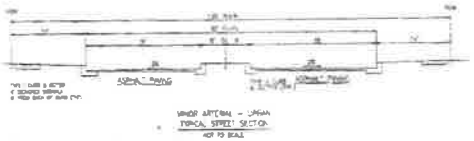
ALL-SIDE RESIDENTIAL
TYPICAL STREET SECTION
NOT TO SCALE



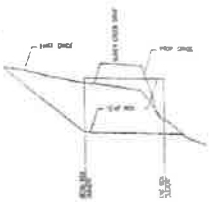
PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL
TYPICAL STREET SECTION
NOT TO SCALE



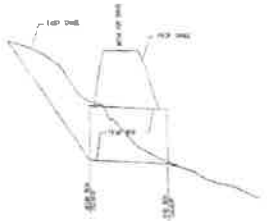
MITCHELL ROAD – MODIFIED
TYPICAL STREET SECTION
NOT TO SCALE



MINOR ARTERIAL – URBAN
TYPICAL STREET SECTION
NOT TO SCALE



CULVERT CROSS SECTION
FOR BEAVER CREEK DRIVE
NO SCALE



CULVERT CROSS SECTION
FOR MESA TOP DRIVE
NO SCALE

TYPICAL FOREST LAKES METROPOLITAN
DISTRICT TRAIL SECTION
NO SCALE

TYPICAL EL PASO COUNTY TRAIL SECTION
NO SCALE

FOREST LAKES
PRELIMINARY PLAN

DATE: AUGUST 24, 2001
DRAWN: ADT
CHECKED: ADT

PHASING/
STREET CROSS
SECTIONS

SHEET NO.
16
of 16 SHEETS

occur, but they are relatively rare (Alger 1971, Los Angeles City-County Fire Bd. Inquiry 1971).

The Uniform Building Code (UBC), Uniform Fire Code (UFC), and most subdivision codes are based on two assumptions: an internal ignition and a fire department response time of less than 15 minutes. These are relatively safe assumptions in most cities and some fire districts, but are valid only in very limited areas where fire protection is provided by a county, State, or Federal agency. They are almost totally irrelevant in most mountain and wildland areas where only seasonal resource fire protection is usually available (Alger 1971).

In addition to being subject to external ignition and up to 2-hour response times, structures built on sloping ground are affected by the same fire behavior phenomenon discussed earlier in relation to the wildland fuel. The slope creates an effect similar to that of wind and causes fire to spread faster uphill than downhill or on the level. Buildings situated on slopes should be required, therefore, to be spaced farther apart than similar buildings built on essentially level ground. On excessively steep slopes (more than 55 percent), all wood frame construction probably should be prohibited[a] (Los Angeles County Fire Dep. 1970, Oreg. St. Dep. For. 1978b, County Sup. Assoc. Calif. 1966, San Bernadino County Bd. Sup. 1974, Helm and others 1973).

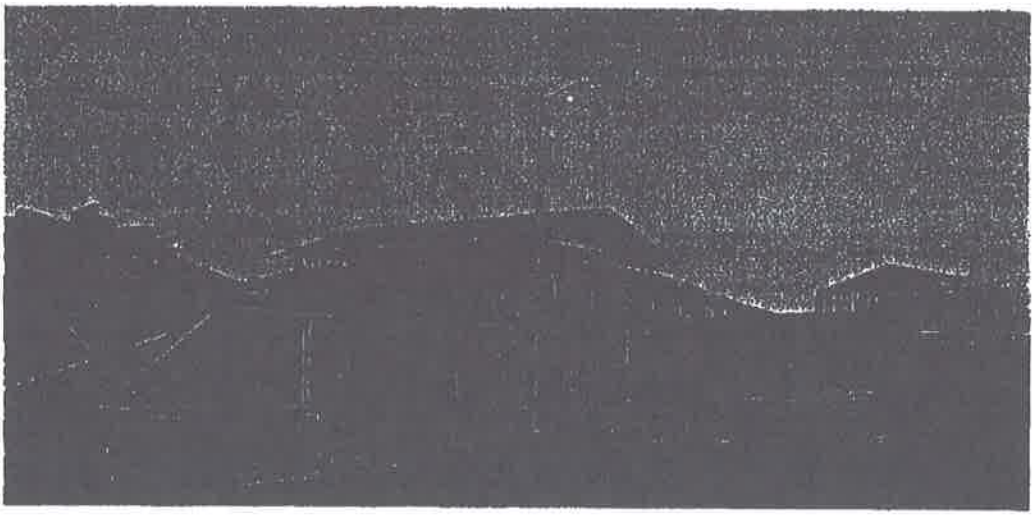
In recent years a new concept in residential development has been adopted in some areas. This is the cluster development in which the population density limitations of general land-use plans are met by placing individual homes or multifamily residences (e.g., duplexes, apartments, condominiums) in small groups on smaller lots than would otherwise be required. The land area thus saved is reserved for community open space. This practice is esthetically pleasing to most people, and can also improve the fire safety in rural or wildland areas as long as certain minimum spacing standards are followed. The space between buildings, for instance, should not be less than half that required between residences in conventional subdivisions in similar areas. And the native vegetation should be modified at least to fuelbreak standards of width and hazard reduction in the spaces between clusters (Task Force on California's Wildland Fire Probl. 1972, Colo. St. For. Serv. 1977).

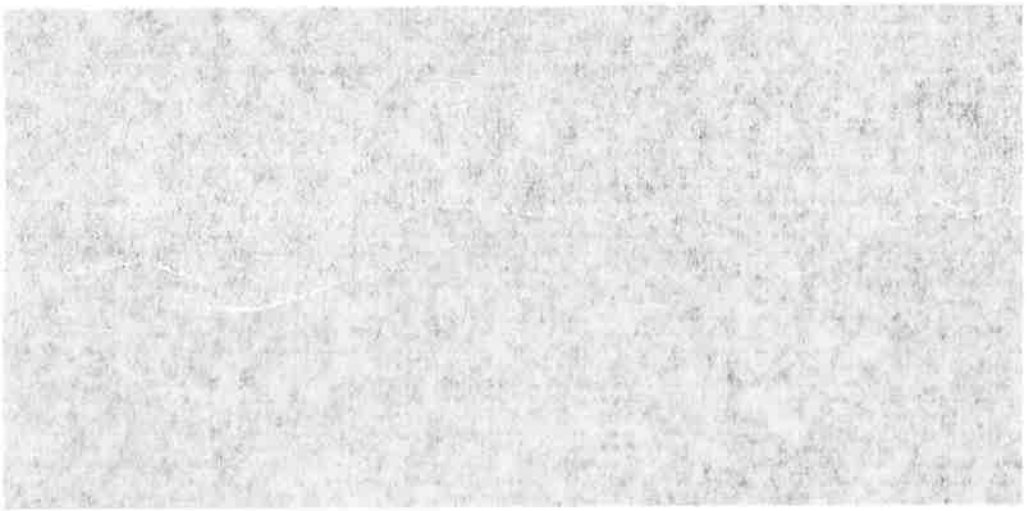
Because of the close spacing commonly employed in mobile home parks, those situated in wildland fire hazardous areas are particularly susceptible to destruction or serious damage from conflagrations. Required spacing between mobile homes in such parks should be no less than that allowed between buildings in a cluster development in a similar fire hazard classification zone (Los Angeles County Fire Dep. 1970).

Most of the references on structure density and spacing base their recommendations primarily on slope. Only rarely are the other primary factors contributing to wildland conflagrations (i.e., fuels and weather) mentioned, mostly in work done in the late 1970's. The most logical and defensible standard on which to base structure density and spacing requirements is fire hazard severity classification and mapping (Colo. St. For. Serv. 1977, Helm and others 1973).

Proposed Standards: Establish minimum standards of building spacing and density, as shown below. Provide for the imposition of higher standards or the prohibition of building where local conditions (e.g., excessively steep slopes, ridge saddles, canyon mouths) create critical fire hazards:

Hazard class:	Individual buildings			Clusters	
	Density	Spacing	Prop. line setback	Between bldgs.	Between clusters
			Feet		
Moderate	3 per acre	60	30	30	100
High	1 per acre	80	40	40	150
Extreme	1 per 4-5 acres	100	50	50	200





California's wildfires are not "natural" — humans made them worse at every step

We fuel them. We build next to them. We ignite them.

By Umair Irfan Updated Dec 8, 2017, 2:47pm EST

SHARE

Firefighters work to save a home from an encroaching fire during the Lilac fire in Bonsall, California on Thursday, December 7, 2017. *Sandy Huffaker/AFP/Getty Images*

Even before Southern California began its frantic fight against six major fires that have been raging through dry shrubland this week, 2017 was in the record books as the worst season ever for wildfires in California.

As of December 3, fire officials had tallied 8,747 fires that burned through more than 1 million acres and killed 43 people in the state. The total does not include two new fires that ignited Thursday in Riverside and San Diego counties.

This week's fires have torched more than 158,000 acres and are inching perilously close to densely populated areas in Ventura and Los Angeles, shrouding them in dangerous air pollution. And the fires are still going, as you can see in this map of current wildfires in California below:

Luckily there have been no deaths so far in the Southern California fires. But Napa and Sonoma counties in the north are still reeling from the Tubbs fire, which ignited on October 8. It killed 22 people, damaged 5,643 structures, and burned 36,807 acres, making it the single most destructive fire in California history. (The New York Times has a fantastic graphic showing how quickly this fire spread.)

"It was like a blowtorch," said Scott McLean, deputy chief at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). "We could've put every piece of equipment in its path and that fire would've gone over it, under it, through it. It wouldn't have mattered."

California's wildfires are not "natural" — humans made them worse at every step

Even before Southern California began its frantic fight against six major fires that have been raging through dry shrubland this week, 2017 was in the record books as the worst year for wildfires in California.

As of December 3, fire officials had tallied 9 fires that burned through more than 1 million acres and killed 44 people in the state. The total does not include the Thomas Fire that ignited Thursday in Riverside and San Diego counties.

This week's fires have torched more than 158,000 acres and are inching perilously close to densely populated areas in Ventura and Los Angeles, shrouding them in dangerous smoke. And the fires are still going, as you can see in this map of [illegible] below:

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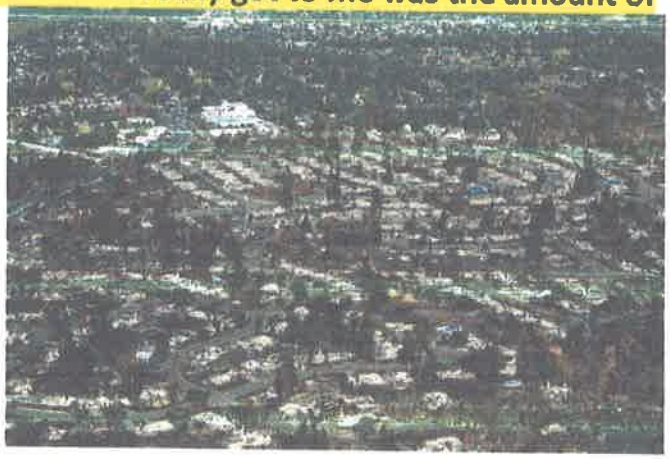
Entire neighborhoods turned to ash, and many were caught off guard as the fire roared through homes in the middle of the night, leaving little time for escape. "What really got to me was the amount of vehicles still parked in their driveways," McLean said.



Ashes of homes in Santa Rosa, California, after the Tubbs fire, the most destructive wildfire in state history. *George Rose/Getty Images*

Though seasonal wildfires are a natural occurrence in the Golden State, humans are making them worse and more dangerous every step of the way.

And California's fires are just the latest unfolding tragedy in what has already been an epic fire season across the United States as a whole, with more than 9.2 million acres burned and smoke choking many parts of the West.

Fires are more damaging because we keep building in harm's way

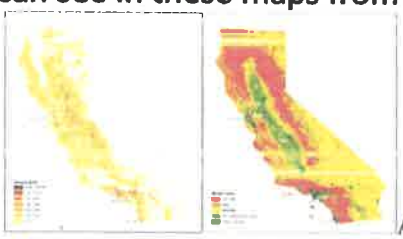
The California fires stretch the definition of "natural disaster" because human activities have exacerbated their likelihood, their extent, and their damage. **Deliberate decisions and unintended consequences of urban development over decades have turned many parts of the state into a tinderbox.**

This year's blazes particularly stand out because of how close they are to suburbs and major cities.

"When we get wildfires close to residential areas, that's what makes them extraordinary events," said Heath Hockenberry, fire weather program manager at the National Weather Service. It's also getting increasingly hard to keep people at a safe distance from the embers.

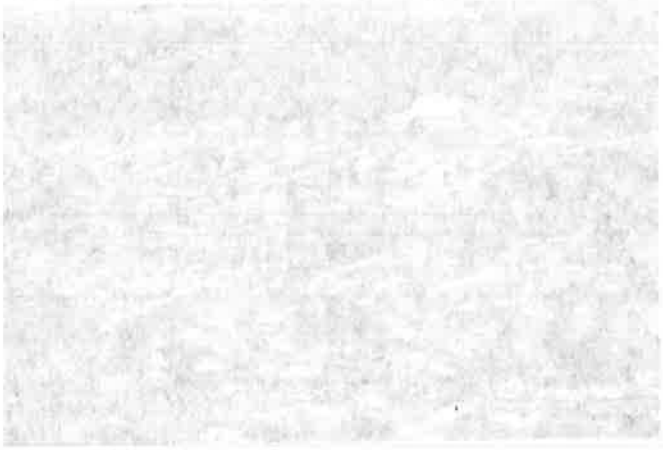
Harrowing scenes of flames and smoke have emerged, like this video from Santa Rosa, 55 miles north of San Francisco:

Much of California is naturally hot, dry, and prone to fires for parts of the year. But the state's population is growing, leading to a significant overlap between the areas of high fire risk and areas with a growing population density, as you can see in these maps from a 2014 study of population trends in California projecting out to 2050.



A map showing population density growth projections (left) and a map showing fire hazards *Mann et al. | Land Use Policy*

The study estimated that by 2050, 645,000 houses in California will be built in "very high" wildfire severity zones.



"We are definitely seeing [construction in fire-prone regions] happen more and more: 95 percent of the population of the state lives on 6 percent of the land," said Lynne Tolmachoff, a spokesperson for Cal Fire.

Californians are drawn to views of mountains, forests, and grasslands and are building ever closer to these features that often have a propensity to burn. And places like Napa and Sonoma counties, picturesque regions that are now charred, have some of the fastest-growing property values and highest-priced homes in the United States.

This proximity is part of what's driving the death toll and the embers haven't discriminated between wealthy and poor Californians. "Where these fires occurred, I think the risk is generalized all around," Tolmachoff said. "They went from the rural areas to very urban areas. ... It affected everyone pretty much evenly."

Building in or near fire-prone forests has also led to fire prevention land management practices that **paradoxically increase fire risk**. For instance, policies for preventing wildfires have in some areas led to an accumulation of the dry vegetation that would ordinarily burn away in smaller natural blazes.

"The thing that gets missed in all of this is that fires are a natural part of many of these systems," said Matthew Hurteau, an associate professor at the University of New Mexico studying climate impacts on forests. "We have suppressed fires for decades actively. That's caused larger fires."

We keep starting these fires

A study published earlier this year in the *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science*, or *PNAS*, found that 84 percent of wildfires are ignited by humans, whether through downed power lines, careless campfires, or arson.

"Human-started wildfires accounted for 84% of all wildfires, tripled the length of the fire season, dominated an area seven times greater than that affected by lightning fires, and were responsible for nearly half of all area burned," the paper reported.

Transmission lines appear to be the culprit behind the wine country fires, but officials are still investigating other causes.

The utility serving the region, Pacific Gas and Electric, has previously been billed for firefighting costs for fires stemming from its transmission lines and could have to pay billions of dollars in damages for some of the current blazes.

John Abatzoglou, a climatologist at the University of Idaho who studies wildfires and is an author of the *PNAS* study, noted that some of the fires in California ignited in multiple places around the same time, hinting at arson. "That is a possibility in play here," he said. Whatever the cause, these fires don't seem to be "natural" disasters, he said.

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T[illegible]

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We keep changing the climate, which makes fires more likely

There are some unique weather conditions that are driving the exceptionally swift California fires, like strong winds and high temperatures. But long-term trends linked to global warming also exacerbated this year's fire season across the United States.

"Fuel, wind, and long-term dry conditions: Those are the three facts that are really what's causing this right now," said the National Weather Service's Hockenberry.

After years of drought that left behind ample dry vegetation, California saw intense rainfall last year and then a cool, wet winter. The increased precipitation led to a sudden growth spurt in combustible grasses, shrubs, and trees.

What followed during the summer was a period of intense, dry heat throughout the state, including the highest temperatures ever recorded in the Bay Area.

"When it dried out, it dried out really hard, and it got really hot," Hockenberry said.

It was the warmest April through September on record, Abatzoglou said. "Big fires typically happen a year after it being quite wet."

Lastly, the dry autumn Santa Ana winds in the southern part of the state and Diablo winds in the north pushed flames through dry kindling.

While San Francisco is cooled by an ocean breeze year-round, the Diablo winds roll down the Sierra Nevada to the north and the east.

"Just like you pump up a bike tire, you're compressing the air and heating it," said Abatzoglou.

These winds were exceptionally strong this year and will likely continue the rest of the year. They typically blow through California at speeds between 35 and 40 mph, but meteorologists reported hurricane strength gusts this year as high as 70 mph.

"Those northerly winds were fairly well forecasted," Abatzoglou said. "We did see this coming, though people did not probably expect the breadth of fire activity."

Though the winds are seasonal, and it's difficult to attribute any individual wind event to climate change, humanity's fingerprints are all over the fuel for forest fires that sparked earlier this year.

Abatzoglou co-authored a study last year that found that climate change due to human activity accounted for roughly **55 percent** of the aridity in Western US forests between 1979 and 2015.

This led to a doubling of the area torched by forest fires than would have occurred in the absence of human-caused factors.

However, the California fires are burning through grasses and shrubs, not forests, and Abatzoglou was hesitant to make similar pronouncements about the current blazes.

"I would be cautious in saying climate change was a significant factor here," he said. "This is very different from the fires we had [last month in forests] in much of the Western states."

Jon Keeley, a research ecologist at the US Geological Survey, agreed. He noted that Southern California already has a hot and dry climate for much of the year, so rising temperatures don't alter the fire risks and there is no discernible climate change signal in the current blazes.

The main factor behind the ongoing devastation around Los Angeles is that the fires ignited right as seasonal Santa Ana winds picked up. It's a dangerous combination, but one that has a precedent in the region.

"The fire season is worse than usual, no question about that," Keeley said. "It's not anomalous in the history of California."

Nonetheless, the California fires do align with what researchers expect to see across the United States as average temperatures rise.

"The length of the fire season is increasing in the Mountain West," said the University of New Mexico's Hurteau. "The mechanism for that is in part because [as] the atmosphere warms up, the air expands and can hold more moisture."

This warming draws moisture out of plants, creating drier conditions earlier in the season. It also causes an earlier snowmelt in the spring, leading to more arid conditions in the summer.

"We could have a lot more fire on these landscapes," Hurteau said.

Wildfires also contribute to global warming: Flames coursing through woodlands and grasses send greenhouse gases and particulates into the air.

"When the plant material in forests combusts, we're putting a lot of emissions of different types into the atmosphere," said Hurteau.

Some kinds of particles trap heat, while other particles have a cooling effect. Both pose a huge health hazard, and when they land on snowcapped mountains and glaciers, they accelerate melting.

The good news: We can take steps to reduce fire risks

Tactics like cutting **fuel breaks** — or strips of land where the vegetation has been cut back to block the spread of fires — between combustible vegetation and homes can help reduce risks. Better forecasts, early warning systems for fire risks, and mandatory evacuation can also keep people out of danger.

"It doesn't solve the larger problem, but it does reduce the risk to property," Hurteau said.

Firefighters are now bracing for more winds that may expand the range of these fires, especially after record heat baked Southern California last week, pushing back the prospect of a season-ending rainfall event to quench dry grasses and shrubs before they ignite.

"It's sort of a little bit of a game of beat the clock," Abatzoglou said. "What we typically see is the jet stream will start moving further south and it will start raining in California."

"We're hoping we get one of these juicy precipitation events pretty soon, because the longer we go without rain, the more tenuous the situation is," he added.

As of April 17, 2019

1,285 have signed. Let's get to 1,500!

Lisa Crawford signed 7 hours ago

Braden Willingham signed 9 hours ago A

SAVE THE PIKE NATIONAL FOREST!!!

started this petition to Representative Doug Lamborn and 12 others

Help save the land adjacent to the Pike National Forest, at the base of the foothills in Monument, Colorado. A mass home development partnership, Classic Homes and N.E.S. Inc., Land Development / Architects, are pushing another high density housing development. They are ignorantly moving

forward with this development, violating the Tri Lakes Comprehensive Plan of 2000 (lots were zoned RR3 and RR5).

In addition, the environmental effects of a house can reach far beyond its immediate site, leading to biodiversity declines and biotic homogenization. Thus, housing growth both within protected areas (i.e., on private inholdings) and in their immediate vicinity has direct negative effects (National Academy of Sciences).

Such development and accompanying landscape fragmentation pose substantial challenges for the management and conservation of the ecosystem services and amenity resources of National Forest System lands, including access by the public. Research such as this can help planners, managers, and communities consider the impacts of local land use decisions (US Department of Agriculture).

This property is a vast stretch of land that is home to Elk, the ***endangered*** Preble Jumping Mouse, Bear, Mountain Lion, Deer, Coyote, and Migrating Birds. If developed, the dramatic effects will be felt by all residents and visitors to the Pike National Forest. This type of development will alter the beauty and the reason that people choose to live/visit Colorado.

Equally as important as the wildlife are the water supply and eminent fire danger:

Water Supply

Water is a Colorado relic, which is leading El Paso County down a road to families without water. Many developers are touting that they have enough water, for these mass developments, because it says so on paper. We live in the marginal zone and thus we will lose water prior to the other areas who live over the deeper parts of the aquifers. Of course in the Forest Lake plan, there is alternate source of water, but it will come at a steep cost.

FACT: Forest Lakes is built on a premise that it would be a "renewal water resource development". The reservoirs would supply water for 467 homes in the final build out. The wells in place would only be used to supplement any potable water required by homes if the reservoirs could not maintain enough water. How can this be guaranteed when it has not been tested?

FACT: Residents of Forest Lakes were sold properties with the implied promise that the lake was for beautification and recreation only. Current residents were told recently that it could go dry, but they had enough well water to keep the lake at a an acceptable level and if not they could drill more wells.

FACT: To date the reservoir at Forest lake has not been used supply potable water to any of the existing homes. Per the 1986 contract with Colorado Springs, the renewable water source is being supplied by 660 af of return flow water which was purchased from Las Vegas Wastewater Treatment Facility (located down stream in Colorado Springs). But in this contract there is a stipulation that if the flow from the creek drops below 5 cfps that Forest Lakes would have to pay for the water or supplement it from the existing wells. It has not been proven to date that this plan will work.

FACT: Drilling more wells into the deeper aquifers is expensive and the need to treat the water is expensive. Water to fill the lakes is lost to evaporation and to seepage that is not addressed. In addition, more wells in close proximity will decrease the amount of water from surrounding wells.

FACT: In 2002 a plan was put forth and passed for the development called Forest Lakes... Many people fought this large development. The aquifers are being depleted and less development is far better for those who have no other means of water, except from existing private wells. It is wrong to penalize the current residents for wanting to protect a very precious resource.

Wild Fire Danger

After lengthy conversation with the Tri Lakes Fire Department District, Chief Truty, the ONLY involvement the fire department has with the developer is in proposing road widths and exits. The Tri Lakes Fire Department District doesn't even have ability to request fire hydrants, locations, or volume of flow.

Additionally, but with no authority, the Tri County Fire Chief is VERY concerned about the urban wild-land interface, and the proximity of the newly proposed houses to the forest/ forest service land.

Currently, the expected response time is 7-10 minutes in this development... **IF** the response team is **NOT** on a prior call. The Tri Lakes Fire Department District is quite understaffed for the expanse and growing population of the district. The Tri Lakes Fire Department District paid Denver-based BBC Researching & Consulting about $10,000 to prepare a study, which was presented to commissioners. The report suggests charging builders $777 for each new single-family home and $0.24 per square foot of commercial development. The study attempted to determine what it costs the districts to serve each home and business. The commissioners voted against this proposal.