

FALCON ACRES
WILDLAND FIRE AND HAZARD MITIGATION REPORT

November 2, 2021

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This Wildland Fire and Hazard Mitigation Report will include information for parcel proposed to be platted as Falcon Acres in central El Paso County located at 16455 Davis Road, between Curtis Road and Blaney Road. The Site is located within the north half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 14 South, Range 64 West of the 6th Principal Meridian. The current El Paso County Assessor's schedule number for this property is 4404000014. A Vicinity Map is included in the Appendix for reference.

The site is 49.23 acres of land which is situated on the west side of Curtis Road, south of Davis Road, north of Highway 94. Curtis Road, a public asphalt road with 60 ft right-of-way, is adjacent to the eastern edge of the site. Davis Road, a public gravel road with 60 ft right-of-way, is adjacent to the northern edge of the site. An unplatted parcel zoned RR-5 with existing single family residential development is located east of the site. A vacant unplatted parcel is located south of the site.

The property is currently vacant land. The ground cover, which is in fair to good condition, consists of native grasses and sparse brush.

The proposed Falcon Acres development will subdivide the existing lot into eight (8) lots each containing a single-family residence. The overall net density of the proposed project is 0.16 dwelling units per acre (or 6.15 acres per dwelling unit). The site is located within the Falcon Fire Protection District with an equipped and staffed fire station located within three miles of the site.

ACCESS, INGRESS, EGRESS AND EVACUATION

Public vehicular access to the eight proposed single family residential lots will be via a proposed roadway connecting the site to Davis Road. Each lot will have an individual driveway connecting to the proposed driveway.

WATER SUPPLY

Residences within the proposed subdivision will utilize individual on site wells for their water supply.

VEGETATIVE CHARACTERISTICS

The site can be characterized as grassland/shrubland. Aerial mapping is attached showing the ground cover of the site. The included Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report also contains vegetative cover descriptions specific to this site.

WILDFIRE RISK ASSESMENT

The Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report is included in the Appendix of this report. The Summary Report contains information on Wildland Urban Interface, Wildfire Risk, Threat, Fire Behavior, Fuels and Vegetation specific to this site. According to the summary report the site is located in an area with a moderate-high burn probability, with a mid level rate for fire occurrence. The characteristic rate of spread is high to extreme, indicating that potential fires have the chance of spreading rapidly throughout the region.

FIRE MITIGATION

It should be noted that there is no way to completely eliminate wild fire danger, however, there are several techniques that can be taken to reduce the spread of fire.

Defensible Space: According to *The Home Ignition Zone A guide to preparing your home for wildfire and creating defensible space*, by the Colorado State Forest Service, it is important to maintain a defensible space around homes to reduce the chance of ignition by a wildfire. The defensible space outlined in the *Home Ignition Zone Guide* is divided into three zones (1-3) and stretches 100 feet around a home. Each zone is described below.

Zone 1 is made up of the 0-5 foot area surrounding the home. The intention of this zone is to design it in such a way that it prevents flames from coming in direct contact with the home. This zone should be made up of hard surface materials such as rock, gravel. Sand, cement, bare earth or stone/concrete pavers. All flammable vegetation should be removed from this zone. Firewood and other combustible materials should not be stored within this zone. Trees should be trimmed so that there are no branches hanging over the roof, and all fuels should be kept a minimum of 10 feet from the chimney. This zone should be kept free of organic debris, such as pine needles, and dead leaves. The space under decks should not be utilized for storage and should be properly screened to prevent the build-up of organic debris.

Zone 2 is made up of the area 5-30 feet from the home. The proper design of this zone will give an approaching fire less fuel, which will reduce its intensity as it approaches a home or structure. Grasses within this zone should be maintained at a height of no more than four inches. Large accumulations of surface fuels such as logs, branches, slash and mulch should be avoided within this area. Trees should maintain a minimum of 10 feet of space between crowns (outermost branches). Small groups of two or three trees are allowable within this zone as long as tree clusters are spaced at least 30 feet apart from other trees. Any vegetation that can bring the fire up from the ground and into the trees (ladder fuels) should be removed from this area. Tree branches should be pruned to a height of 6-10 feet from the ground or one third of the total tree height, whichever is less. Any dying, diseased or dead vegetation should be removed from this area. Ground junipers should be removed from zone 2 as they are highly flammable and tend to hold flammable materials beneath them. Isolated shrubs are only allowed in this area as long as they are at least 10 feet from tree branches. Shrubs should be pruned and maintained regularly to prevent the build-up of flammable materials. Clumps of shrubs should be spaced at least 2 ½ times their mature height and each shrub should have a diameter no more than twice their mature height.

Zone 3 is made up of the area 30-100 feet from the home or structure. The goal of this zone is to keep fires on the ground while improving the overall health of any surrounding forest. It is not necessary to mow any grasses located within this zone, but ladder fuels should be minimized where possible. Trees should be spaced 6-10 feet apart with larger spaces between small clumps of trees so that the fire must transition to the ground to keep spreading.

Continuity: Creating fire breaks, which remove continuous lines of fuel, helps reduce the speed of spread. Given the location of the site, which is within an area prone to high winds, fire breaks are important tools that can be used to mitigate any effects high winds can have on the spread of a wildfire. A fire break around the property can be provided by mowing a minimum of 5 feet wide strip around the border of the site. The height of the mowed grass should not exceed 2 inches in height. Roadways are another source of fire breaks. Davis Road to the north and Curtis Road to the East each provide fire breaks from the surrounding areas. The development of the site will create a fire break through the western portion of the site by way of the proposed roadway. These fire breaks will reduce the rate at which the fire spreads giving the Falcon Fire Protection district more time to respond.

Topographic Considerations: As topography of the proposed development cannot be readily modified to any significant degree, the placement of the structures becomes important. Location of structures should be placed outside of drainage's, saddles, and other topographic risks.

Actual placement of structures is subject to change within that envelope due to other factors such as bed rock, views, accesses, and utilities. Occasionally, it will also be necessary for a structure to be located in a topographically more susceptible area. In these instances, it is recommended that more intense fuel modification be performed.

Construction: All new construction should consist of fire resistant materials and engineering as much as is practical. It is also recommended that owners explore fire safe construction options, which may include, but are not limited to, metal, tile, or other non-flammable materials for roofs, sprinkler systems in or around structures, and fire retardant exteriors, including stucco, brick, metal, and fire resistant siding. It is recommended that all decks at ground level be sealed off, in an effort to prevent flammable debris from getting underneath.

Inadequate addressing has been a common discrepancy when accessing a fire. Highly visible addresses for each individual site should be placed along roadways, with letters a minimum of 4" high.

Roads and driveways to individual lots should be no less than 24 feet wide, to allow for simultaneous access of emergency equipment and evacuation. The entrance to any driveways from public roads should not exceed a ninety degree angle and a turnaround should be provided at all structure sites with driveways more than 150 feet long. Where driveways are over 200 feet and area less than 20 feet wide, it will be necessary to provide turnarounds along the drive.

Evacuation: Immediate evacuation from the subdivision will be by way of the individual private driveways, the proposed private road, and Davis Road to the north. An evacuation plan away from the neighborhood area should be developed in cooperation with local fire department officials.

Available Fire Fighting Resources:

Falcon Acres is located in the Falcon Fire Protection District (FFPD) service area. The District has committed to serve the proposed subdivision. The District also participates in mutual aid response with surrounding fire districts and fire departments.

FFPD has three full service/full time manned fire stations. The closest station to Falcon Acres is Station 3, located at 7030 Meridian Road, which is 8.0 miles from the site via established public roads. Response times are difficult to predict due to traffic conditions, weather conditions and other factors. However, in favorable conditions, response time to the site is estimated to be 12 minutes. The department has four fire engines, three ambulances, three brush trucks, four water tender trucks, and various command vehicles.

FFPD carries Class 10 ISO rating for all properties that are not located within 5 road miles of a Falcon FPD fire station, regardless of fire hydrant protection. Falcon heights is not located within five road miles of a Falcon FPD fire station. Therefore, the ISO rating for this property is class 10.

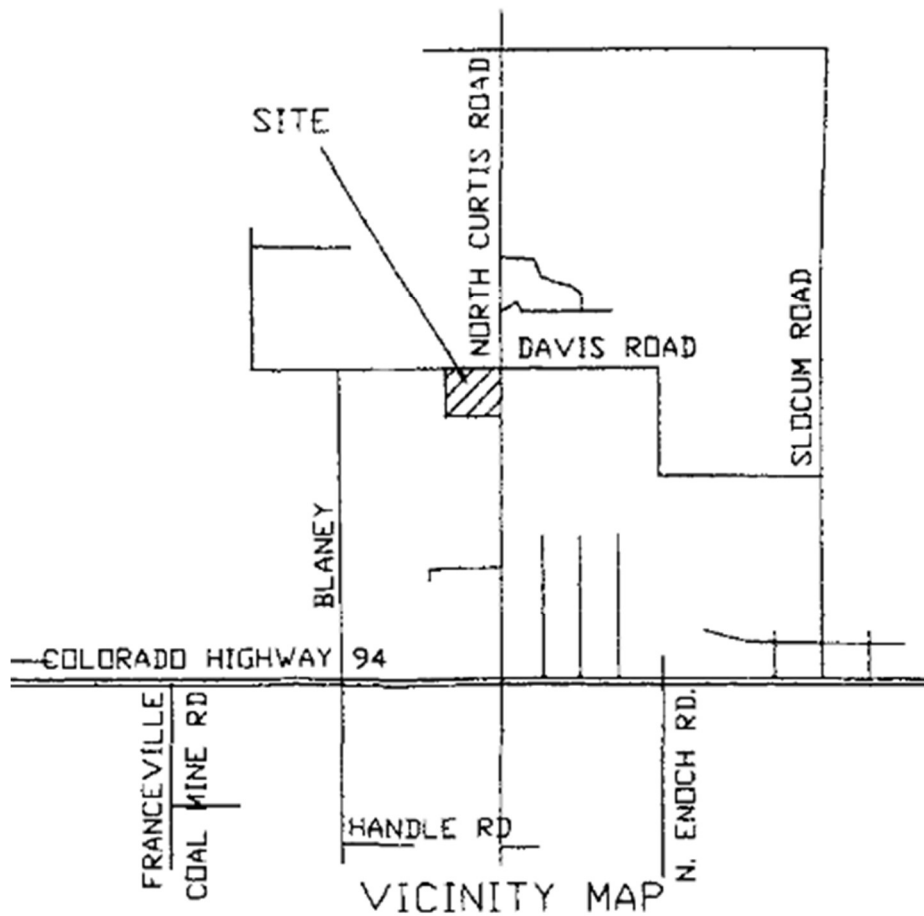
APPENDIX

Vicinity Map

Areal Photograph

Falcon Acres Final Plat

Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report



VICINITY MAP

Falcon Acres

Legend

Davis Rd

Davis Rd

SITE

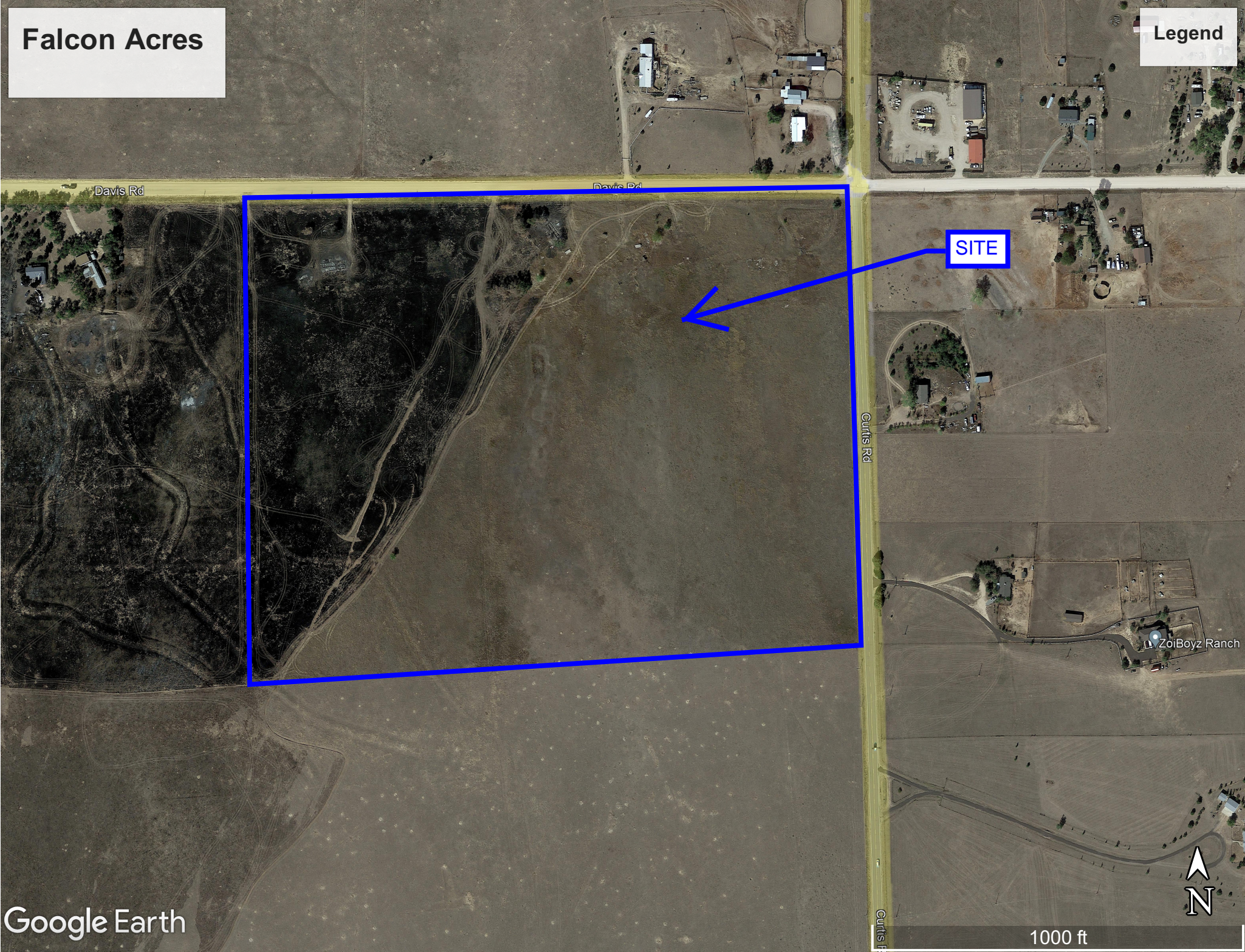
Curtis Rd

ZoiBoyz Ranch

Google Earth



1000 ft





FALCON ACRES

A PORTION OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH,
RANGE 64 WEST, OF THE 6TH PM,
EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

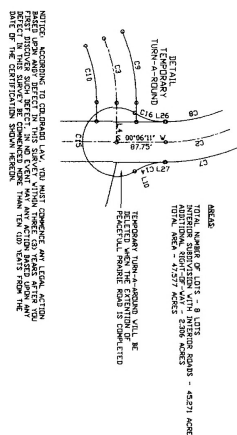
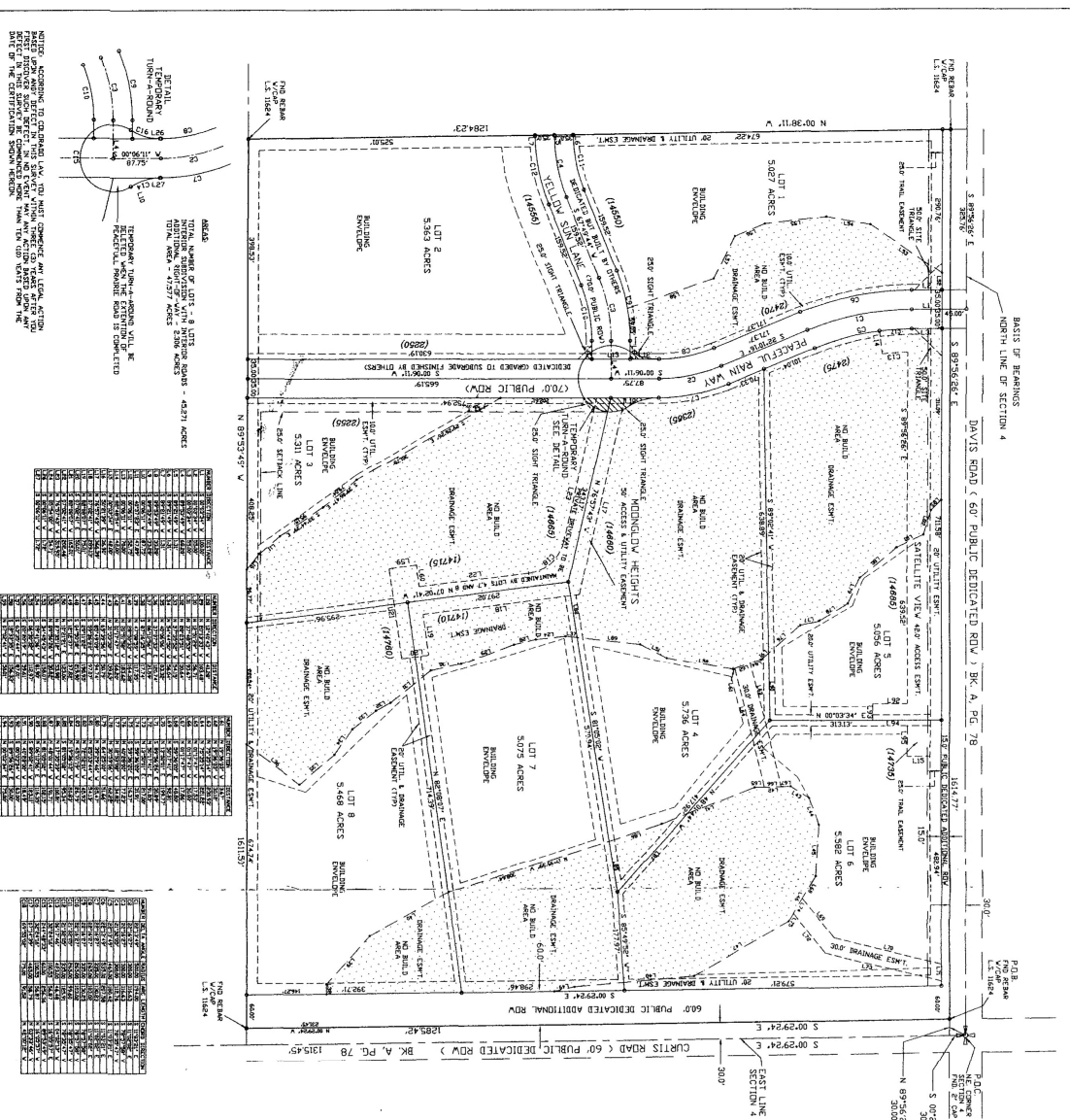


TABLE 1: LOT DATA

LOT	ACRES	AREA (SQ FT)	PERCENTAGE
LOT 1	5.427	471,120	10.00%
LOT 2	5.534	481,152	10.00%
LOT 3	5.311	460,000	9.50%
LOT 4	5.728	496,000	10.00%
LOT 5	5.582	483,000	10.00%
LOT 6	5.468	474,000	9.50%
LOT 7	5.075	441,000	9.00%
LOT 8	5.468	474,000	9.50%

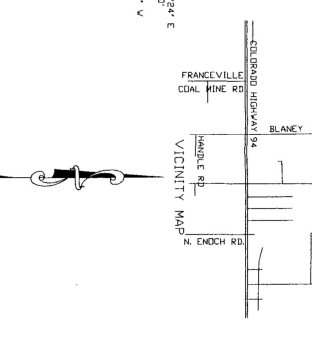
TABLE 2: EASEMENT DATA

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
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TABLE 3: EASEMENT DATA (Continued)

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
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NOTICE: ACCORDING TO COLORADO LAW, YOU MUST OBTAIN AN EASEMENT AND LEGAL ACTION FIRST BEFORE YOU CAN OBTAIN A DEED OR CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE. THE FIRST PART OF THIS NOTICE IS A WARNING THAT YOU SHOULD OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL BEFORE YOU SIGN ANY INSTRUMENT THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR INTERESTS IN REAL ESTATE. THE SECOND PART OF THIS NOTICE IS A WARNING THAT YOU SHOULD OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL BEFORE YOU SIGN ANY INSTRUMENT THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR INTERESTS IN REAL ESTATE.



SCALE: 1" = 100'

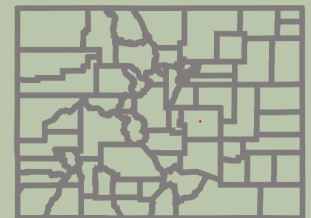
FRANCEVILLI COAL MINE RD
BLANEY
NORTH CURTIS ROAD
DAVIS ROAD
SILTCLUM ROAD

DATE: MARCH 03, 2008
PROJECT: 06-0809
SHEET: 1 OF 1

2017
COLORADO WILDFIRE
RISK ASSESSMENT
SUMMARY REPORT



FalconAcres



Report was generated using

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User should also note that property boundaries included in any product do not represent an on-the-ground survey suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. They represent only the approximate relative locations.

Introduction

Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Report

Welcome to the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Reporting Tool.

This tool allows users of the Risk Reduction Planner application of the Colorado Forest Atlas web portal to define a specific project area and generate information for this area. A detailed risk summary report can be generated using a set of predefined map products developed by the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment project which have been summarized explicitly for the user defined project area. The report is generated in PDF format.

The report has been designed so that information from the report can be copied and pasted into other specific plans, reports, or documents depending on user needs. Examples include, but are not limited to, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Local Fire Plans, Fuels Mitigation Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, Homeowner Risk Assessments, and Forest Management or Stewardship Plans. Example templates for some of these reports are available for download on the Colorado Forest Atlas web portal.

The Colorado WRA provides a consistent, comparable set of scientific results to be used as a foundation for wildfire mitigation and prevention planning in Colorado.

Results of the assessment can be used to help prioritize areas in the state where mitigation treatments, community interaction and education, or tactical analyses might be necessary to reduce risk from wildfires.

The Colorado WRA products included in this report are designed to provide the information needed to support the following key priorities:

- Identify areas that are most prone to wildfire
- Plan and prioritize hazardous fuel treatment programs
- Allow agencies to work together to better define priorities and improve emergency response, particularly across jurisdictional boundaries
- Increase communication with local residents and the public to address community priorities and needs



Products

Each product in this report is accompanied by a general description, table, chart and/or map. A list of available Colorado WRA products in this report is provided in the following table.

COWRA Product	Description
Wildfire Risk	The overall composite risk occurring from a wildfire derived by combining Burn Probability and Values at Risk Rating
Burn Probability	Annual probability of any location burning due to wildfire
Fire Intensity Scale	Quantifies the potential fire intensity by orders of magnitude
Wildland Urban Interface	Housing density depicting where humans and their structures meet or intermix with wildland fuel
Wildland Urban Interface Risk	Annual probability of any location burning due to wildfire
Values at Risk Rating	A composite rating of values and assets that would be adversely impacted by a wildfire by combining the four main risk outputs
Suppression Difficulty Rating	Reflects the difficulty or relative cost to suppress a fire given the terrain and vegetation conditions that may impact machine operability
Drinking Water Risk Index	A measure of the risk to Drinking Water Risk Index Areas (DWIA) based on the potential negative impacts from wildfire
Forest Assets Risk Index	A measure of the risk to forested areas based on the potential negative impacts from wildfire
Riparian Assets Risk Index	A measure of the risk to riparian areas based on the potential negative impacts from wildfire
Characteristic Flame Length	A measure of the expected flame length of a potential fire

COWRA Product	Description
Characteristic Rate of Spread	A measure of the expected rate of spread of a potential fire
Fire Type Extreme Weather	Represents the potential fire type under the extreme percentile weather category
Surface Fuels	A measure of the expected rate of spread of a potential fire
Characteristic Rate of Spread	Characterization of surface fuel models that contain the parameters for calculating fire behavior outputs
Vegetation	General vegetation and landcover types
Forest Assets	Identifies forested land categorized by susceptibility or response to fire
Riparian Assets	Forested riparian areas characterized by functions of water quantity and quality, and ecology
Drinking Water Importance Areas	A measure of quality and quantity of public surface drinking water categorized by watershed

Wildland Urban Interface

Description

Colorado is one of the fastest growing states in the Nation, with much of this growth occurring outside urban boundaries. This increase in population across the state will impact counties and communities that are located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The WUI is described as the area where structures and other human improvements meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Population growth within the WUI substantially increases the risk from wildfire.



For the **FalconAcres** project area, it is estimated that **2** people or **100.0 %** percent of the total project area population (2) live within the WUI.

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) layer reflects housing density depicting where humans and their structures meet or intermix with wildland fuels. In the past, conventional wildland-urban interface datasets, such as USFS SILVIS, have been used to reflect these concerns. However, USFS SILVIS and other existing data sources did not provide the level of detail needed by the Colorado State Forest Service and local fire protection agencies.

The new WUI dataset is derived using advanced modeling techniques based on the Where People Live dataset and 2016 LandScan USA population count data available from the Department of Homeland Security, HSIP dataset. WUI is simply a subset of the Where People Live dataset. The primary difference is populated areas surrounded by sufficient non-burnable areas (i.e. interior urban areas) are removed from the Where People Live dataset, as these areas are not expected to be directly impacted by a wildfire. This accommodates WUI areas based on encroachment into urban areas where wildland fire is likely to spread.



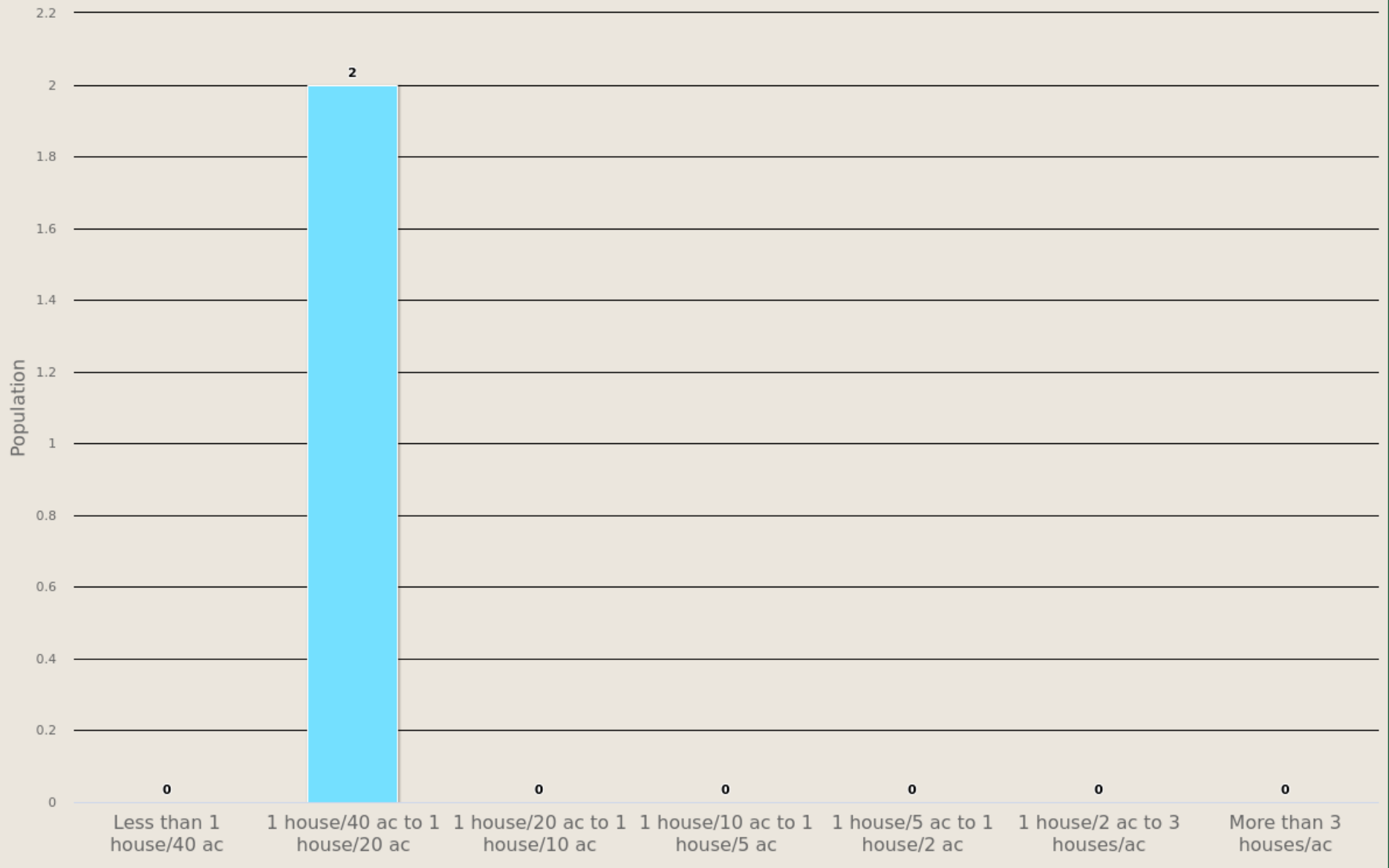
A more detailed description of the risk assessment algorithms is provided in the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment (Colorado WRA) Final Report, which can be downloaded from www.ColoradoForestAtlas.org.

Data are modeled at a 30-meter cell resolution (30 m² or 900 m area per map cell), which is consistent with other Colorado WRA layers. The WUI classes are based on the number of houses per acre. Class breaks are based on densities understood and commonly used for fire protection planning.

Housing Density	WUI Population	Percent of WUI Population	WUI Acres	Percent of WUI Acres
Less than 1 house/40 ac	0	0.0 %	9	24.0 %
1 house/40 ac to 1 house/20 ac	2	100.0 %	17	45.0 %
1 house/20 ac to 1 house/10 ac	0	0.0 %	11	28.7 %
1 house/10 ac to 1 house/5 ac	0	0.0 %	1	2.3 %
1 house/5 ac to 1 house/2 ac	0	0.0 %	0	0 %
1 house/2 ac to 3 houses/ac	0	0.0 %	0	0 %
More than 3 houses/ac	0	0.0 %	0	0 %
Total	2	100.0 %	38	100.0 %

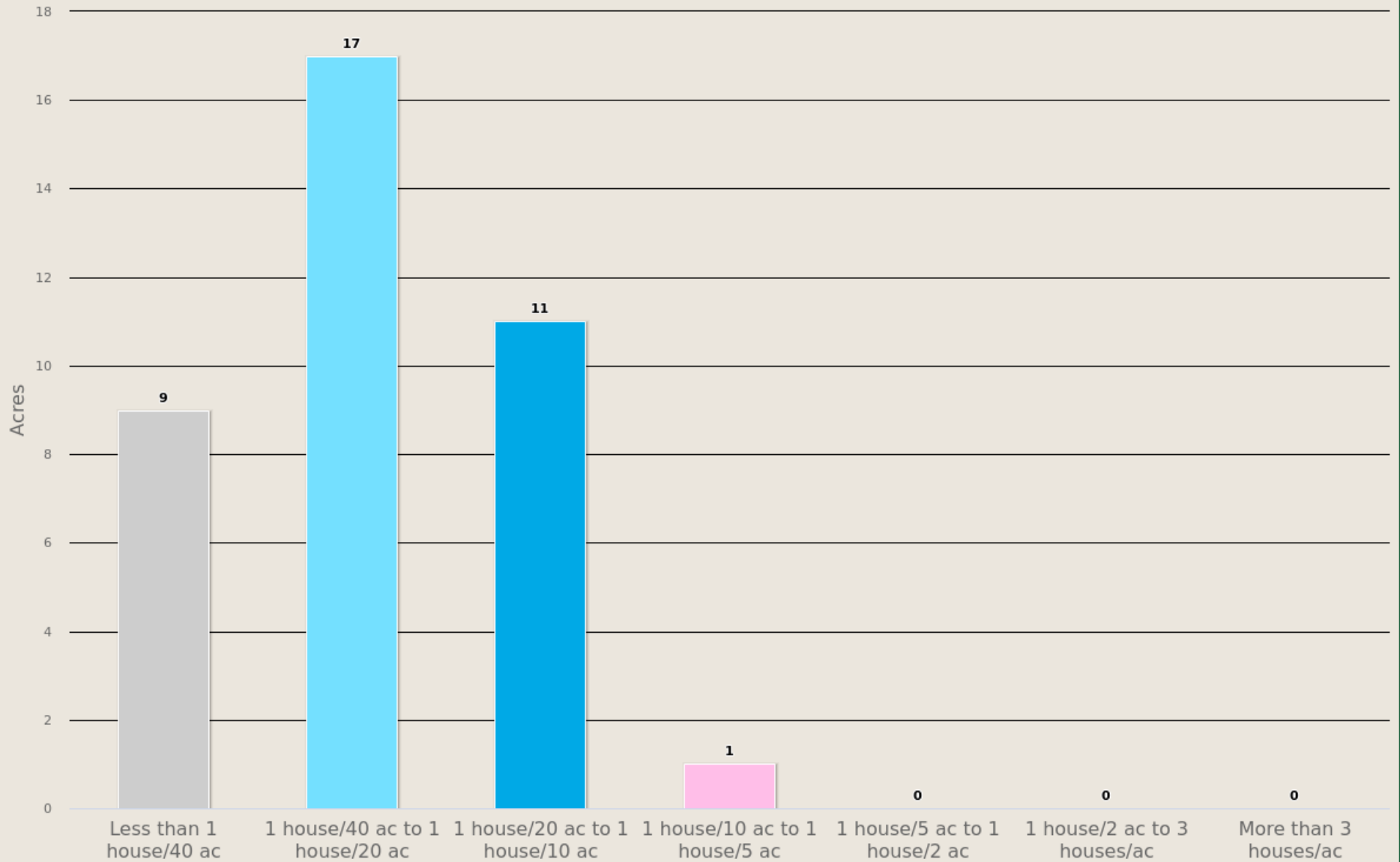
Wildland Urban Interface

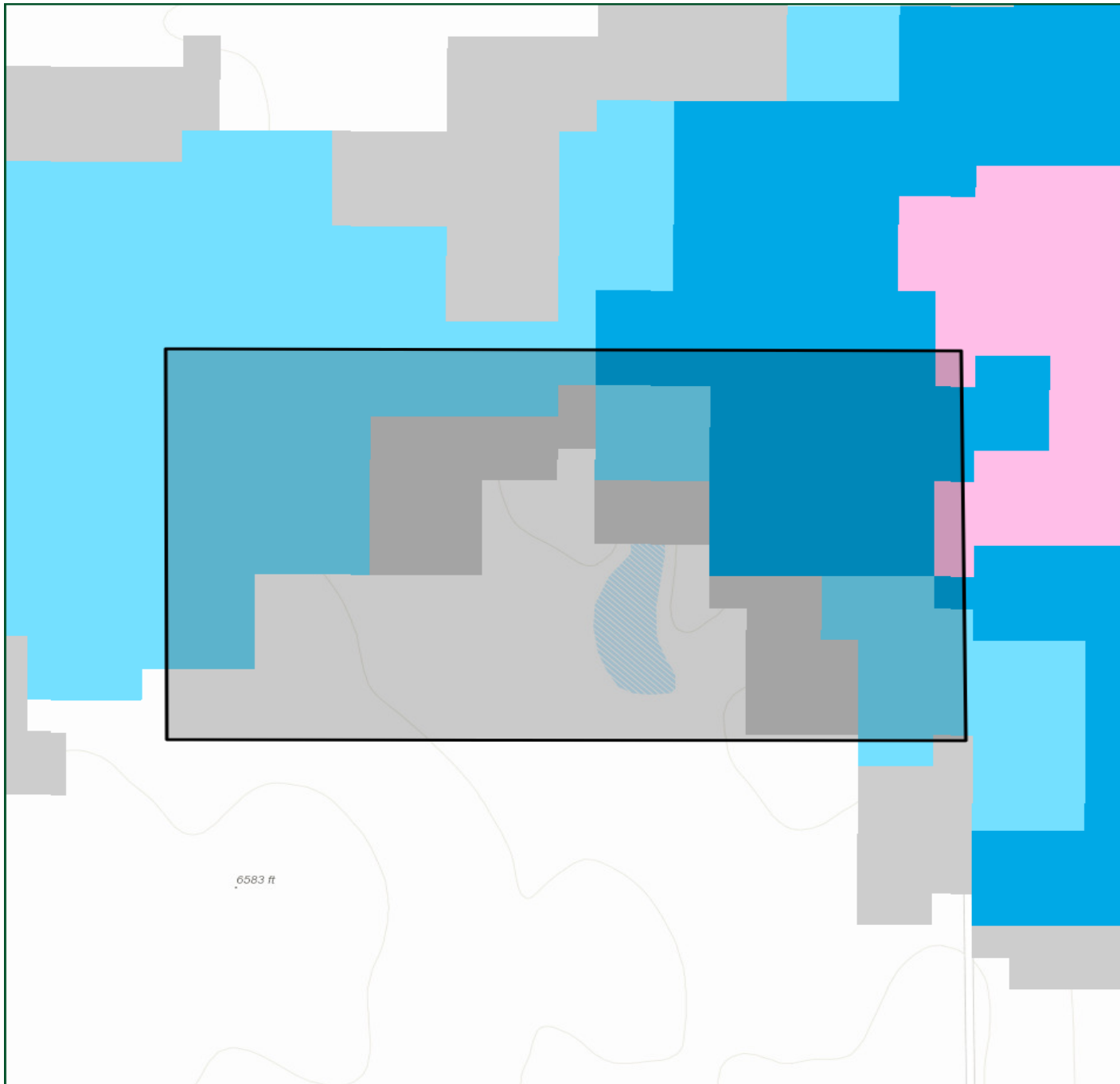
FalconAcres



FalconAcres








Wildland Urban Interface





FalconAcres

Wildland Urban Interface

-  Less than 1 house/40 ac
-  1 house/40 ac to 1 house/20 ac
-  1 house/20 ac to 1 house/10 ac
-  1 house/10 ac to 1 house/5 ac
-  1 house/5 ac to 1 house/2 ac
-  1 house/2 ac to 3 houses/ac
-  More than 3 houses/ac

500 ft



Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment
www.ColoradoForestAtlas.org

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Index

Description

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Index layer is a rating of the potential impact of a wildfire on people and their homes. The key input, WUI, reflects housing density (houses per acre) consistent with Federal Register National standards. The location of people living in the wildland-urban interface and rural areas is essential for defining potential wildfire impacts to people and homes.

The WUI Risk Index is derived using a response function modeling approach. Response functions are a method of assigning a net change in the value to a resource or asset based on susceptibility to fire at different intensity levels, such as flame length.

To calculate the WUI Risk Index, the WUI housing density data were combined with flame length data and response functions were defined to represent potential impacts. The response functions were defined by a team of experts led by Colorado State Forest

Service mitigation planning staff. By combining flame length with the WUI housing density data, it is possible to determine where the greatest potential impact to homes and people is likely to occur.

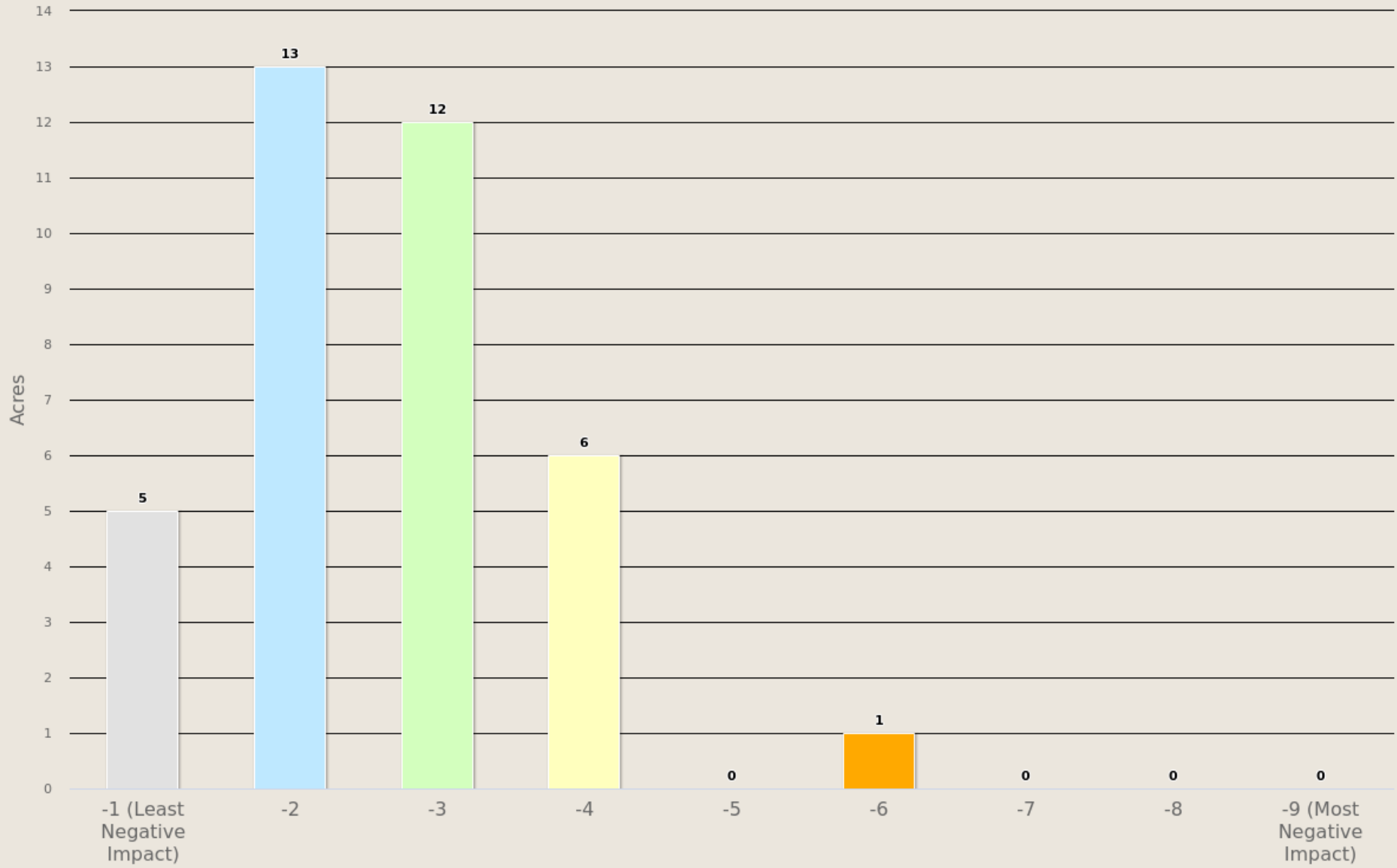
The range of values is from -1 to -9, with -1 representing the least negative impact and -9 representing the most negative impact. For example, areas with high housing density and high flame lengths are rated -9, while areas with low housing density and low flame lengths are rated -1.

The WUI Risk Index has been calculated consistently for all areas in Colorado, which allows for comparison and ordination of areas across the entire state. Data are modeled at a 30-meter cell resolution, which is consistent with other Colorado WRA layers.

	WUI Risk Class	Acres	Percent
	-1 (Least Negative Impact)	5	13.1 %
	-2	13	35.1 %
	-3	12	32.7 %
	-4	6	17.3 %
	-5	0	0 %
	-6	1	1.8 %
	-7	0	0 %
	-8	0	0 %
	-9 (Most Negative Impact)	0	0 %
	Total	37	100 %










FalconAcres

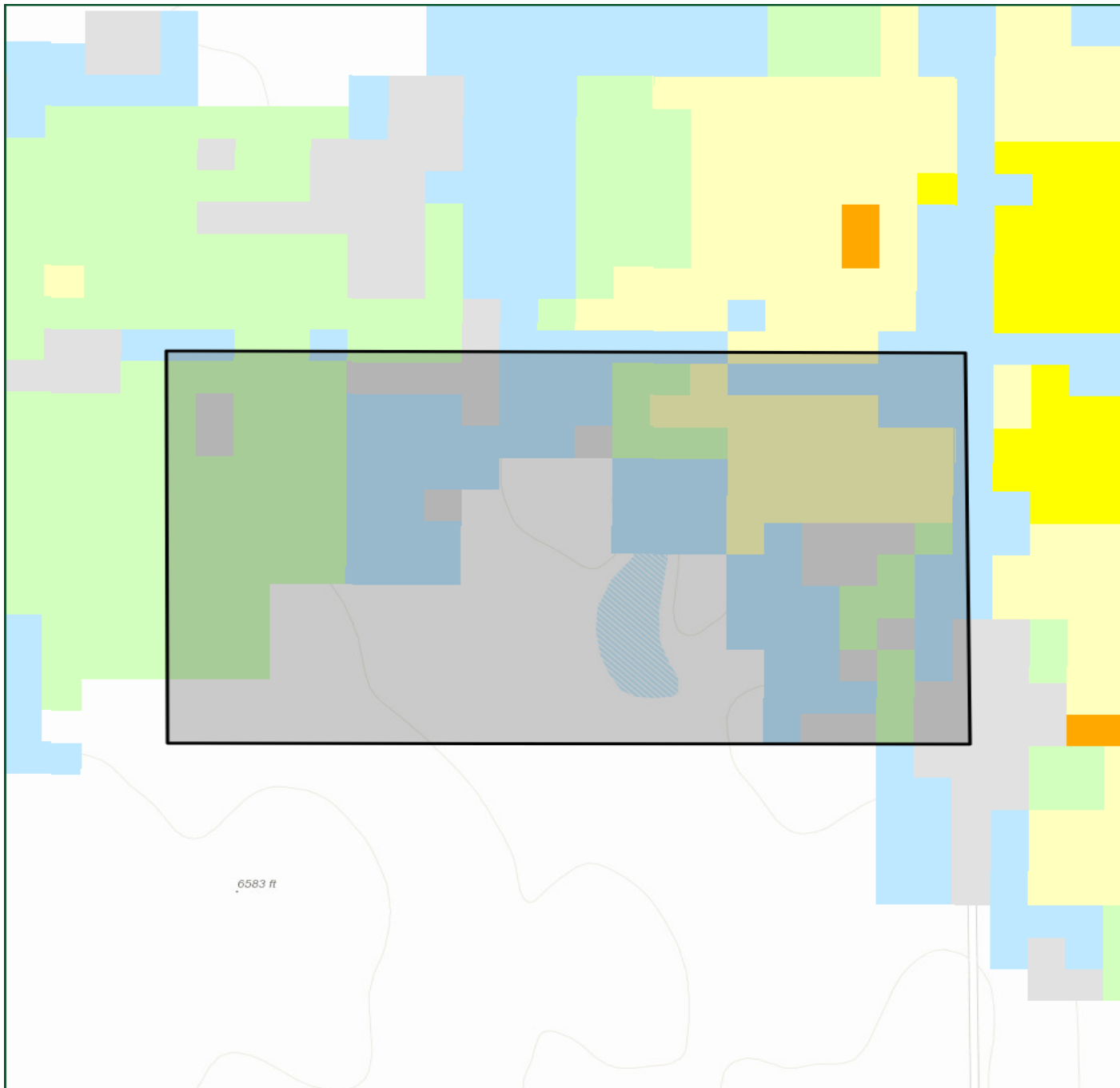
Wildland Urban Interface Risk Index



FalconAcres

Wildland Urban Interface Risk

-  -1 (Least Negative Impact)
-  -2
-  -3
-  -4
-  -5
-  -6
-  -7
-  -8
-  -9 (Most Negative Impact)



500 ft



Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment
www.ColoradoForestAtlas.org

Firewise USA®

Description

Firewise USA® is a national recognition program that provides resources to inform communities how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to take action together to reduce their wildfire risk. Colorado communities that take the following five steps can be recognized as Firewise:

1. Form a Firewise board or committee
2. Obtain a wildfire risk assessment from the CSFS or local fire department, and create an action plan
3. Hold a Firewise event once per year
4. Invest a minimum of \$24.14 per dwelling unit in local Firewise actions annually
5. Create a National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) profile and follow the application directions located at <https://portal.firewise.org/user/login>

The Firewise USA® dataset defines the boundaries of the recognized communities. Mapping Firewise USA® boundaries will generally be completed by CSFS staff.

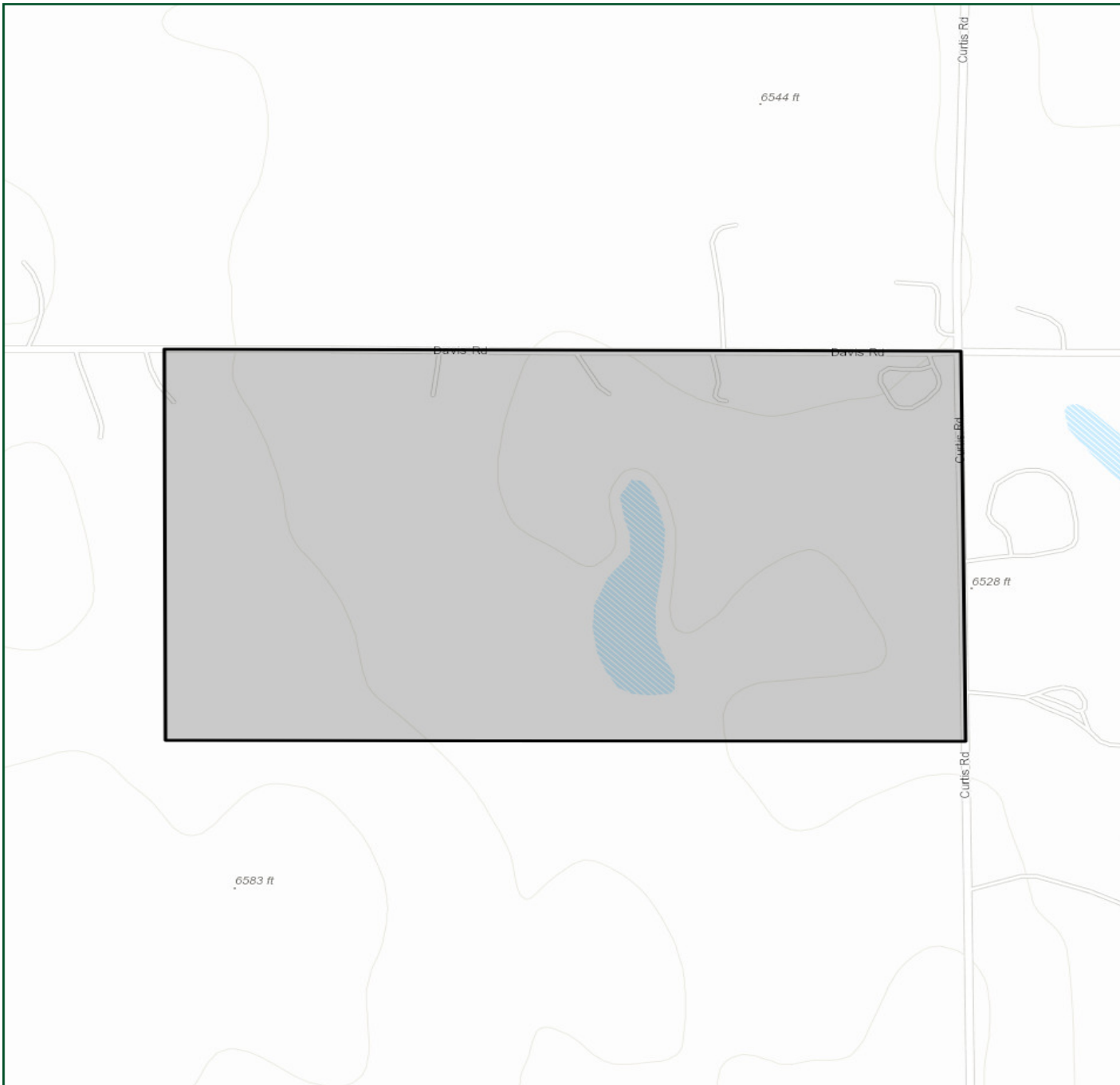
Note: These are estimated boundaries using a variety of methods with varying degrees of accuracy. These are not legal boundaries and should not be construed as such. The boundaries may overlap with CWPP areas and are subject to change over time as the communities develop, change, and continue to implement wildfire mitigation efforts.

To learn more about the Firewise USA® recognition program or to fill out an application, visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA> - OR - <https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/colorado-firewise-communities/>



FIREWISE USA®
Residents reducing wildfire risks

The designated area does not contain data for this section.



Falcon Acres

Fire Wise Communities

 Fire Wise Communities 2018

500 ft



Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment
www.ColoradoForestAtlas.org

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)

Description

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a document developed and agreed upon by a community to identify how the community will reduce its wildfire risk. CWPPs identify areas where fuels reduction is needed to reduce wildfire threats to communities and critical infrastructure, address protection of homes and other structures, and plan for wildfire response capability. The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) supports the development and implementation of CWPPs and provides resources, educational materials and information to those interested in developing CWPPs.

The CWPP dataset represents the boundaries of those areas that have developed a CWPP. Note that CWPPs can be developed by different groups at varying scales, such as county, Fire Protection District (FPD), community/subdivision, HOA, etc., and as such, can overlap. In addition, the CWPPs can be from different dates. Often a county CWPP is completed first with subsequently more detailed CWPPs done for local communities within that county or FPD. CO-WRAP provides a tool that allows the user to select the CWPP area and retrieve the CWPP document for review (PDF).

At a minimum, a CWPP should include:

- The wildland-urban interface (WUI) boundary, defined on a map, where people, structures and other community values are most likely to be negatively impacted by wildfire
- The CSFS, local fire authority and local government involvement and any additional stakeholders
- A narrative that identifies the community's values and fuel hazards
- The community's plan for when a wildfire occurs
- An implementation plan that identifies areas of high priority for fuels treatments

CWPPs are not shelf documents and should be reviewed, tracked and updated. A plan stays alive when it is periodically updated to address the accomplishments of the community. Community review of progress in meeting plan objectives and determining areas of new concern where actions must be taken to reduce wildfire risk helps the community stay current with changing environment and wildfire mitigation priorities.

If your community is in an area at risk from wildfire, now is a good time to start working with neighbors on a CWPP and preparing for future wildfires. Contact your local CSFS district to learn how to start this process and create a CWPP for your community: <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/your-local-forester.html>

For the FalconAcres test project area, there are 1 CWPPs areas that are totally or partially in the defined project area.

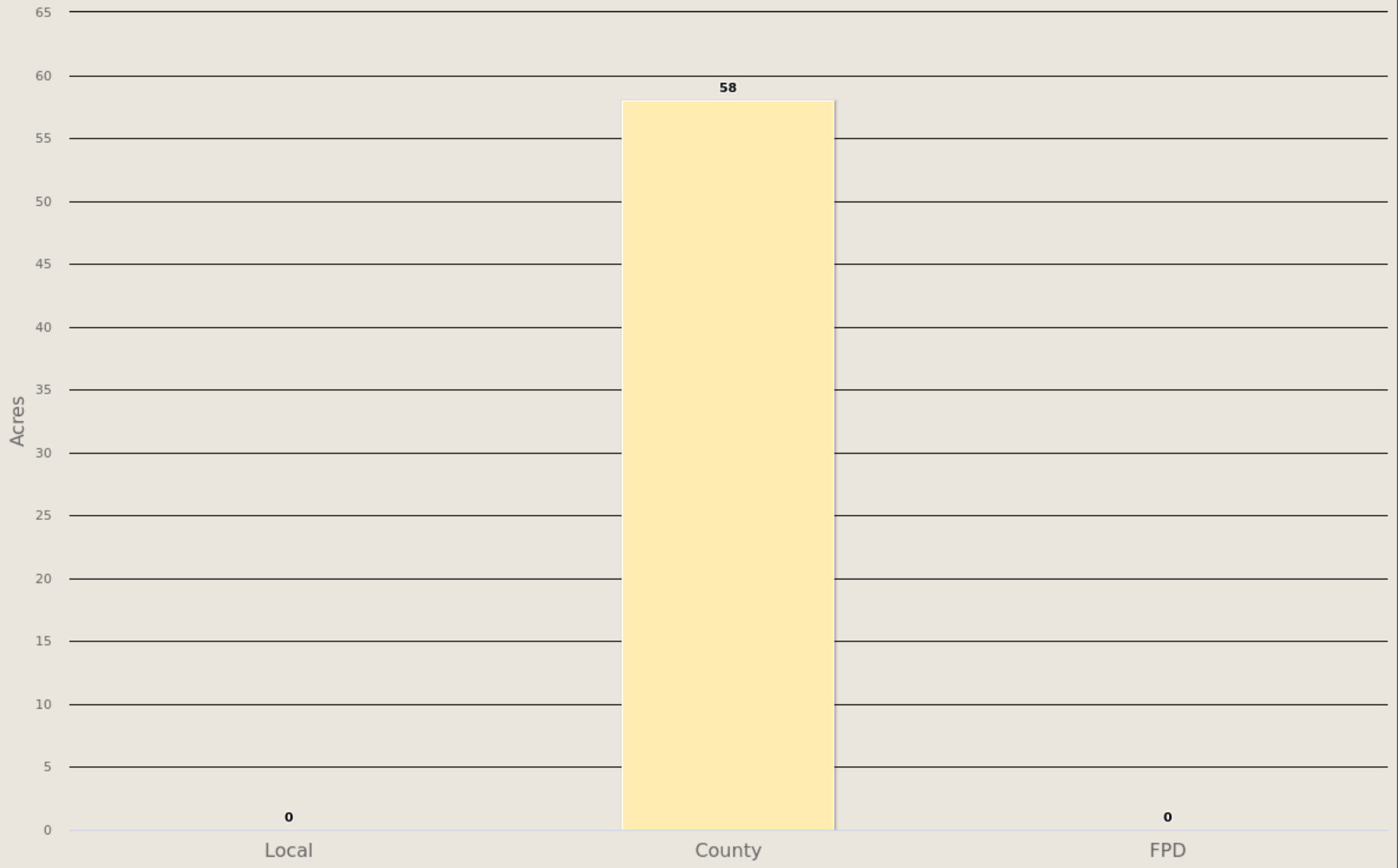


Community input is the foundation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that identifies community needs and garners community support.

Community CWPP Name	CWPP Type	CSFS District	Acres inside project area	Total Acres
El Paso County	County	Woodland Park	58	1,361,915
Total Acres			58	1,361,915




FalconAcres

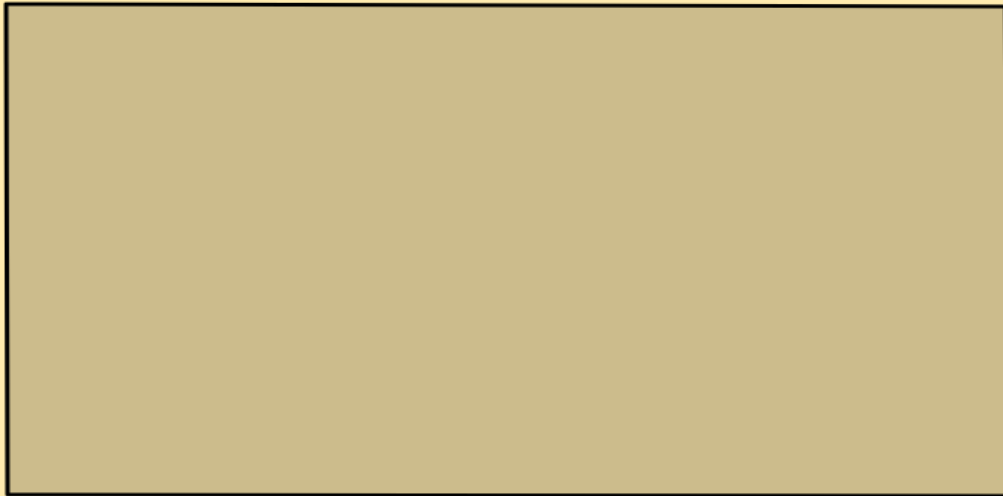
Community Wildfire Protection Plans



FalconAcres

CWPP

-  Community
-  FPD
-  County



500 ft



Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment
www.ColoradoForestAtlas.org

Wildfire Risk

Description

Wildfire Risk is a composite risk rating obtained by combining the probability of a fire occurring with the individual values at risk layers. Risk is defined as the possibility of loss or harm occurring from a wildfire. It identifies areas with the greatest potential impacts from a wildfire – i.e. those areas most at risk - considering all values and assets combined together – WUI Risk, Drinking Water Risk, Forest Assets Risk and Riparian Areas Risk.

Since all areas in Colorado have risk calculated consistently, it allows for comparison and ordination of areas across the entire state. The Values at Risk Rating is a key component of Wildfire Risk. The Values at Risk Rating is comprised of several inputs focusing on values and assets at risk. This includes Wildland Urban Interface, Forest Assets, Riparian Assets and Drinking Water Importance Areas (watersheds).

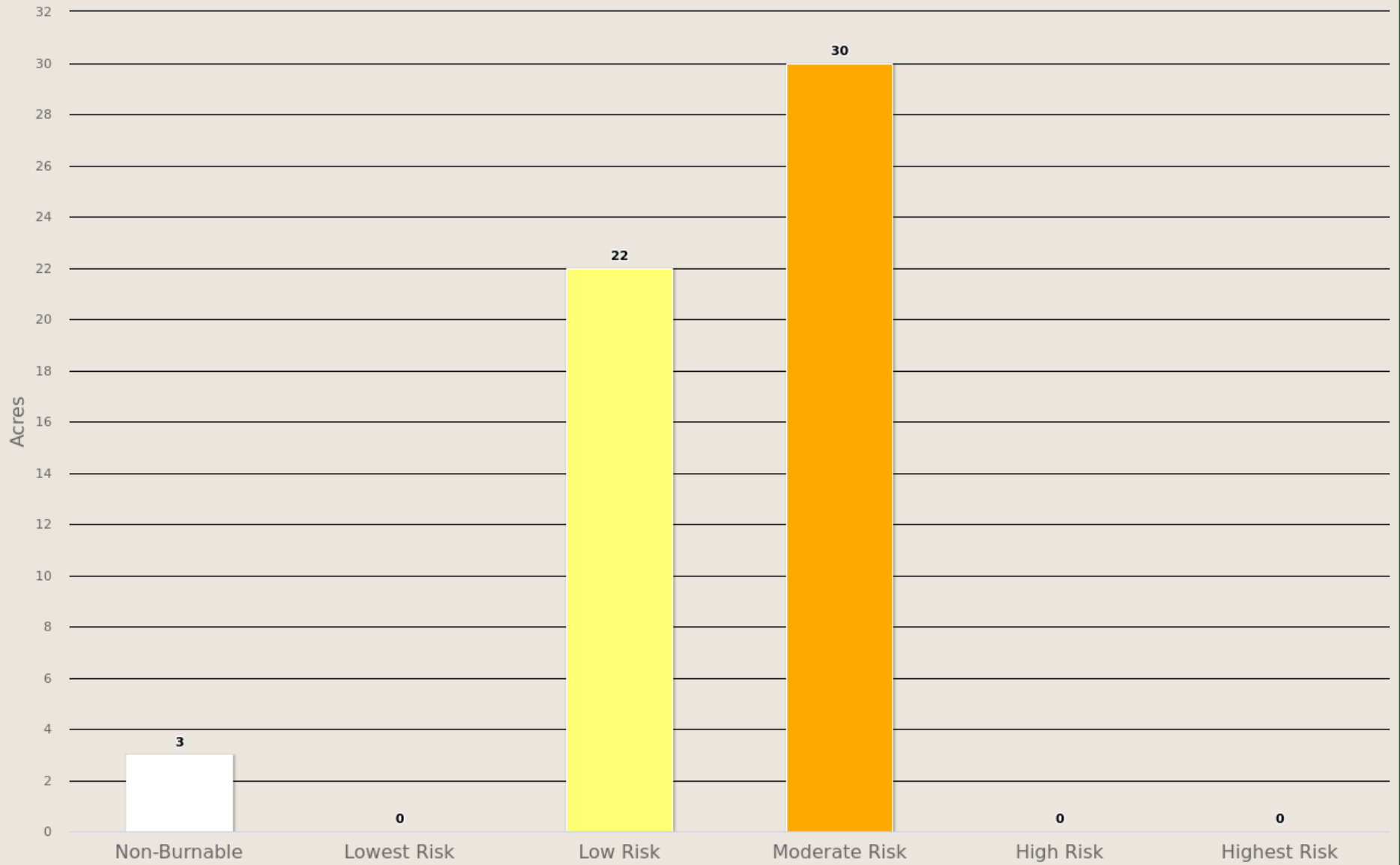
To aid in the use of Wildfire Risk for planning activities, the output values are categorized into five (5) classes. These are given general descriptions from Lowest to Highest Risk.

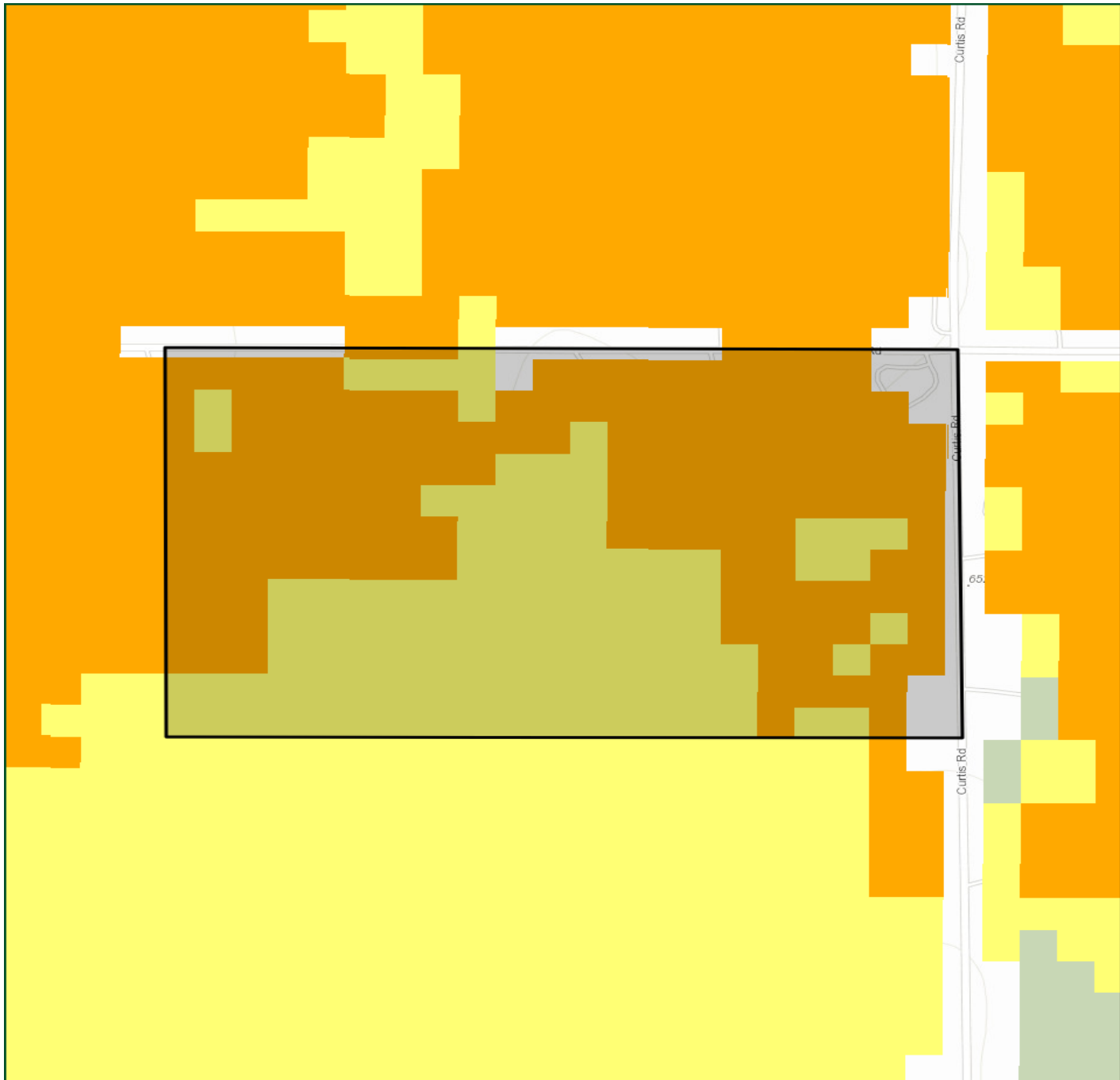
Wildfire Risk Class	Acres	Percent
Non-Burnable	3	6.0 %
Lowest Risk	0	0 %
Low Risk	22	40.1 %
Moderate Risk	30	54.0 %
High Risk	0	0 %
Highest Risk	0	0 %
Total	56	100 %



FalconAcres







Wildfire Risk





FalconAcres

Wildfire Risk

-  Non-Burnable
-  Lowest Risk
-  Low Risk
-  Moderate Risk
-  High Risk
-  Highest Risk



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Burn Probability

Description

Burn Probability (BP) is the annual probability of any location burning due to a wildfire. BP is calculated as the number of times that a 30-meter cell on the landscape is burned from millions of fire simulations. The annual BP was estimated by using a stochastic (Monte Carlo) wildfire simulation approach with Technosylva's Wildfire Analyst software (www.WildfireAnalyst.com).

A total number of 3,200,000 fires were simulated across the state, including those fires outside the Colorado border which were used in a buffer area around the state, to compute BP with a mean ignition density of 8.68 fires/km². The simulation ignition points were spatially distributed evenly every 500 meters across the state. Only high and extreme weather conditions were used to run the simulations. All fires simulations had a duration of 10 hours.

The Wildfire Analyst fire simulator considered the number of times that the simulated fires burned each cell. After that, results were weighted by considering the historical fire occurrence of those fires that burned in high and extreme weather conditions. The weighting was done by assessing the relationship between the annual historical fire ignition density in Colorado and the total number of simulated fires with varying input data in the different weather scenarios and the historical spatial distribution of the ignition points.

The probability map is derived at a 30-meter resolution. This scale of data was chosen to be consistent with the accuracy of the primary surface fuels dataset used in the assessment. While not appropriate for site specific analysis, it is appropriate for regional, county or local protection mitigation or prevention planning.

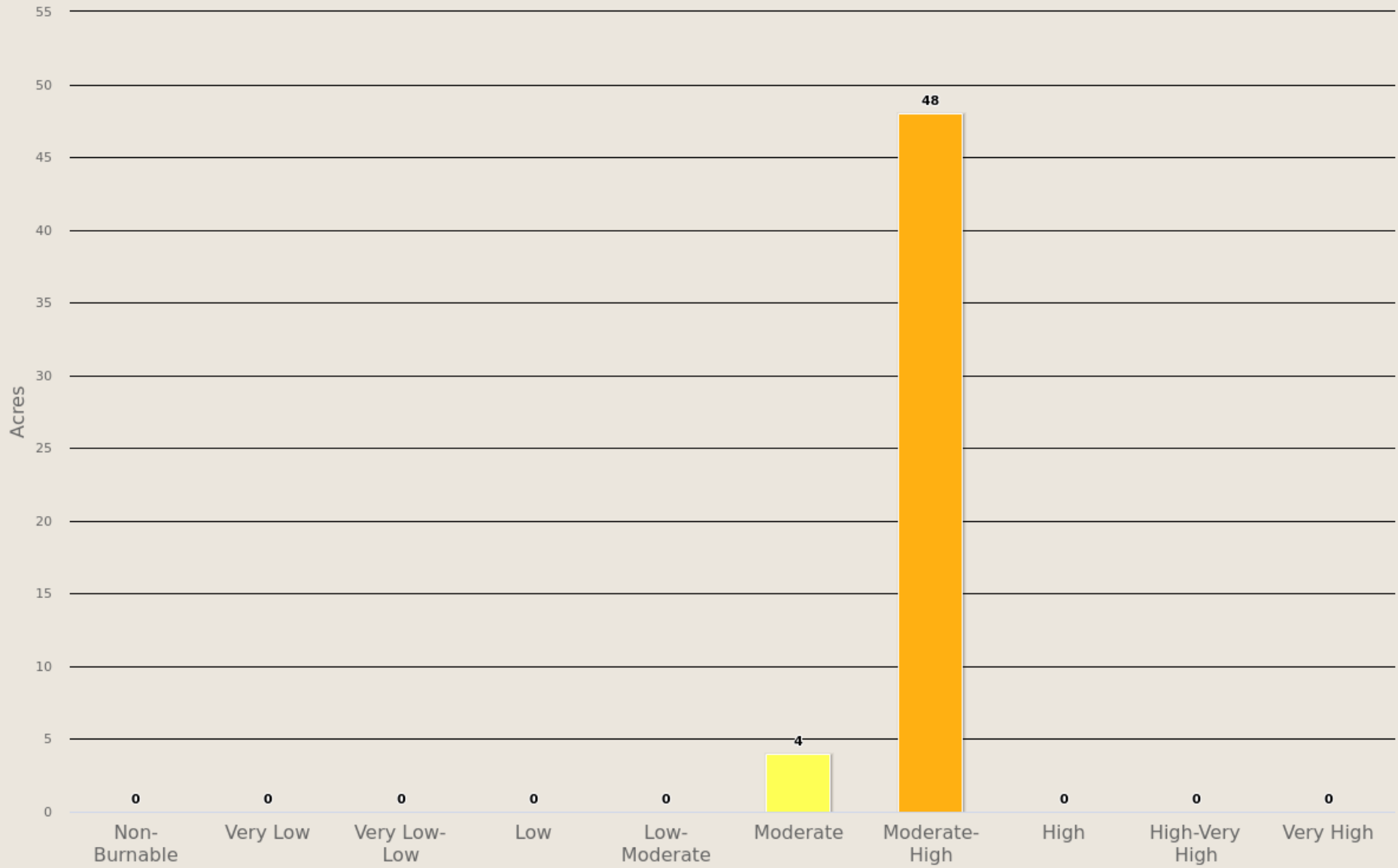
To aid in the use of Burn Probability for planning activities, the output values are categorized into 10 (ten) classes. These are given general descriptions from Lowest to Highest Probability.

A more detailed description of the risk assessment algorithms is provided in the Colorado WRA Final Report, which can be downloaded from www.ColoradoForestAtlas.org.

Burn Probability Class	Acres	Percent
Non-Burnable	0	0 %
Very Low	0	0 %
Very Low-Low	0	0 %
Low	0	0 %
Low-Moderate	0	0 %
Moderate	4	7.3 %
Moderate-High	48	92.7 %
High	0	0 %
High-Very High	0	0 %
Very High	0	0 %
Total	52	100 %











FalconAcres

Burn Probability



FalconAcres

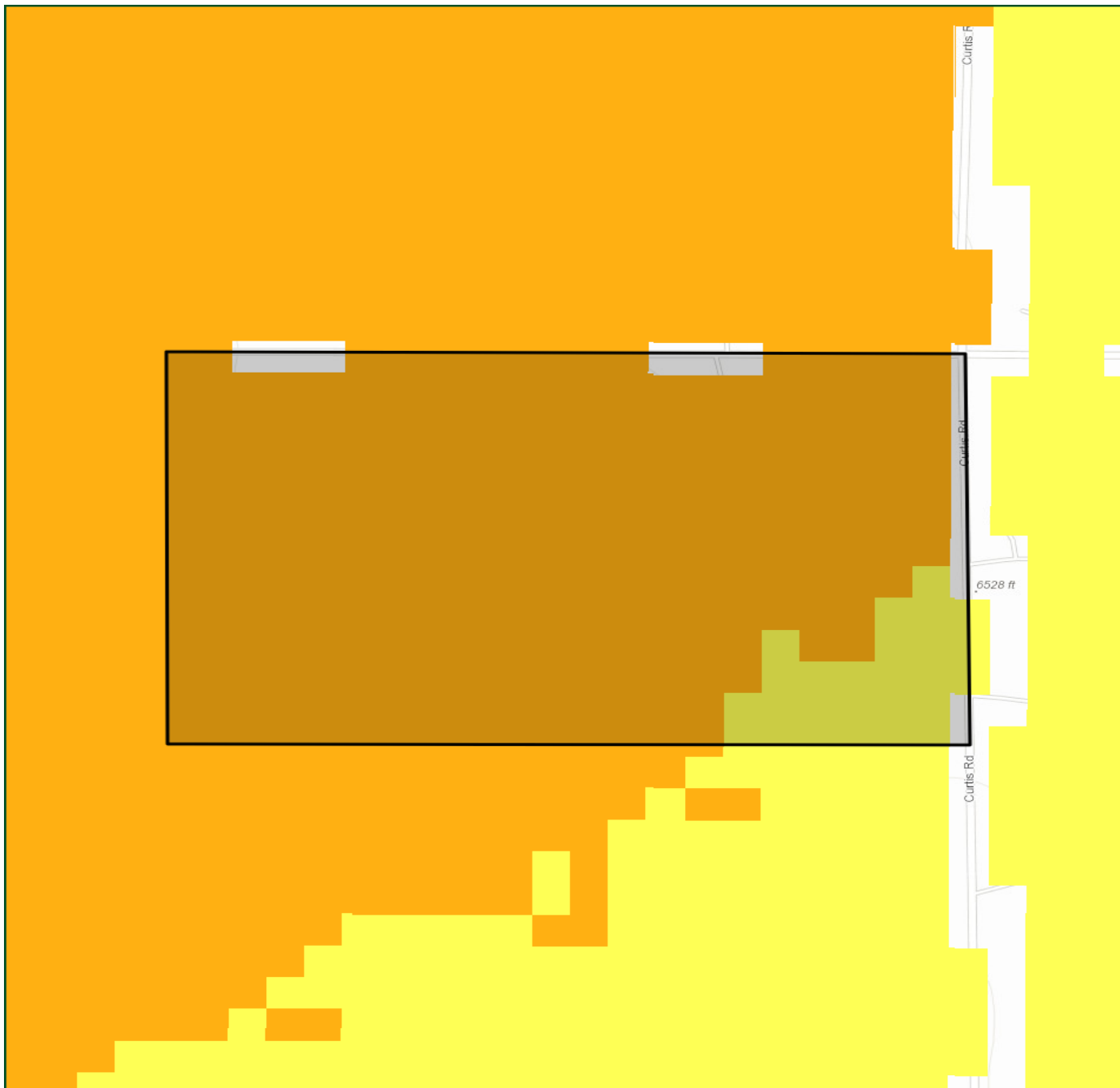
Burn Probability

-  Non-Burnable
-  Very Low
-  Very Low-Low
-  Low
-  Low-Moderate
-  Moderate
-  Moderate-High
-  High
-  High-Very High
-  Very High

500 ft



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Values at Risk Rating

Description

Represents those values or assets that would be adversely impacted by a wildfire. The Values at Risk Rating is an overall rating that combines the risk ratings for Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), Forest Assets, Riparian Assets, and Drinking Water Importance Areas into a single measure of values-at-risk. The individual ratings for each value layer were derived using a Response Function approach.

Response functions are a method of assigning a net change in the value to a resource or asset based on susceptibility to fire at different intensity levels. A resource or asset is any of the Fire Effects input layers, such as WUI, Forest Assets, etc. These net changes can be adverse (negative) or positive (beneficial).

Calculating the Values at Risk Rating at a given location requires spatially defined estimates of the intensity of fire integrated with the identified resource value. This interaction is quantified through the use of response functions that estimate expected impacts to resources or assets at the specified fire intensity levels. The measure of fire intensity level used in the Colorado assessment is flame length for a location. Response Function outputs were derived for each input dataset and then combined to derive the Values Impacted Rating.

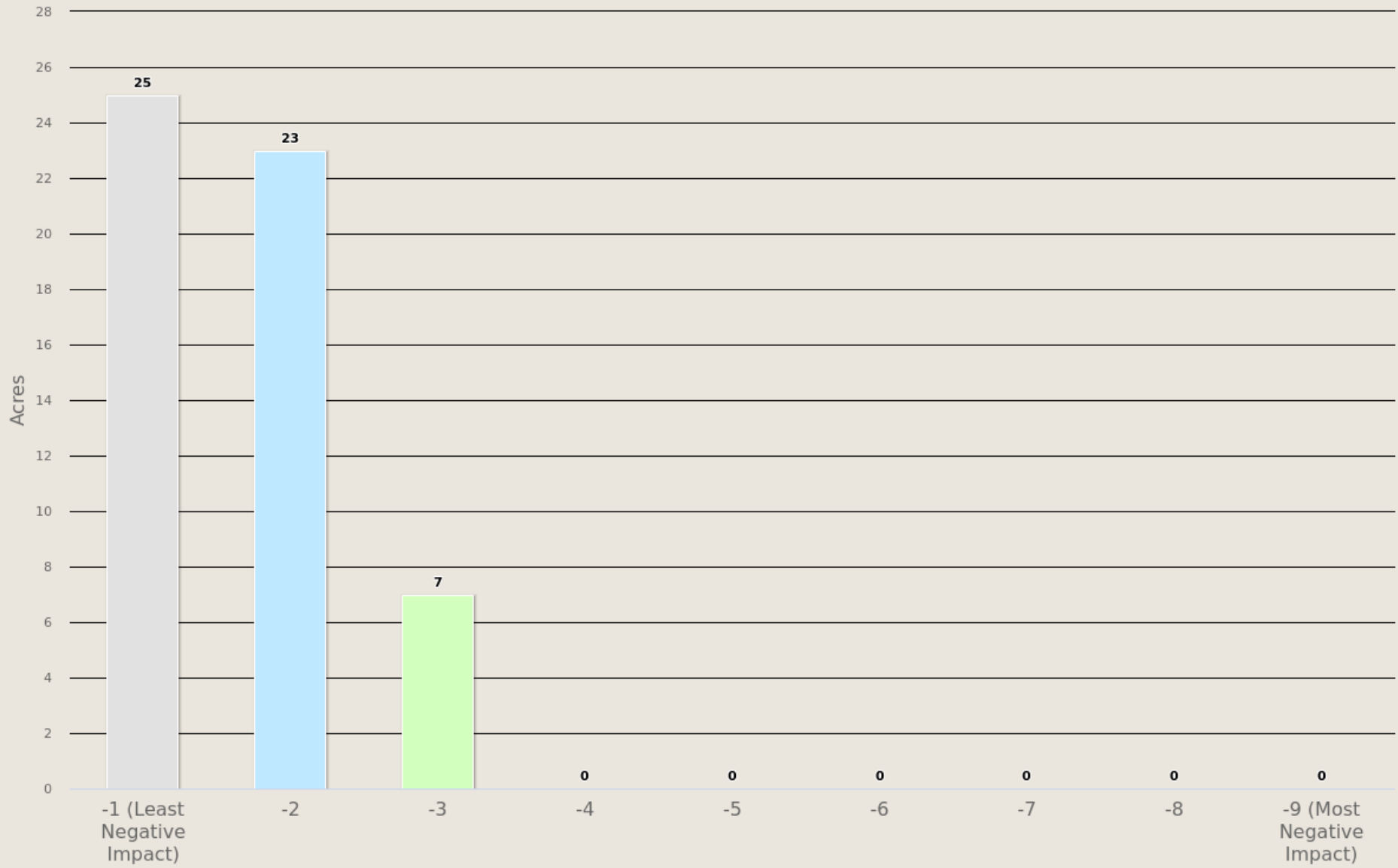
Different weightings are used for each of the input layers with the highest priority placed on protection of people and structures (i.e. WUI). The weightings represent the value associated with those assets. Weightings were developed by a team of experts during the assessment to reflect priorities for fire protection planning in Colorado. Refer to the Colorado WRA Final Report for more information about the layer weightings.

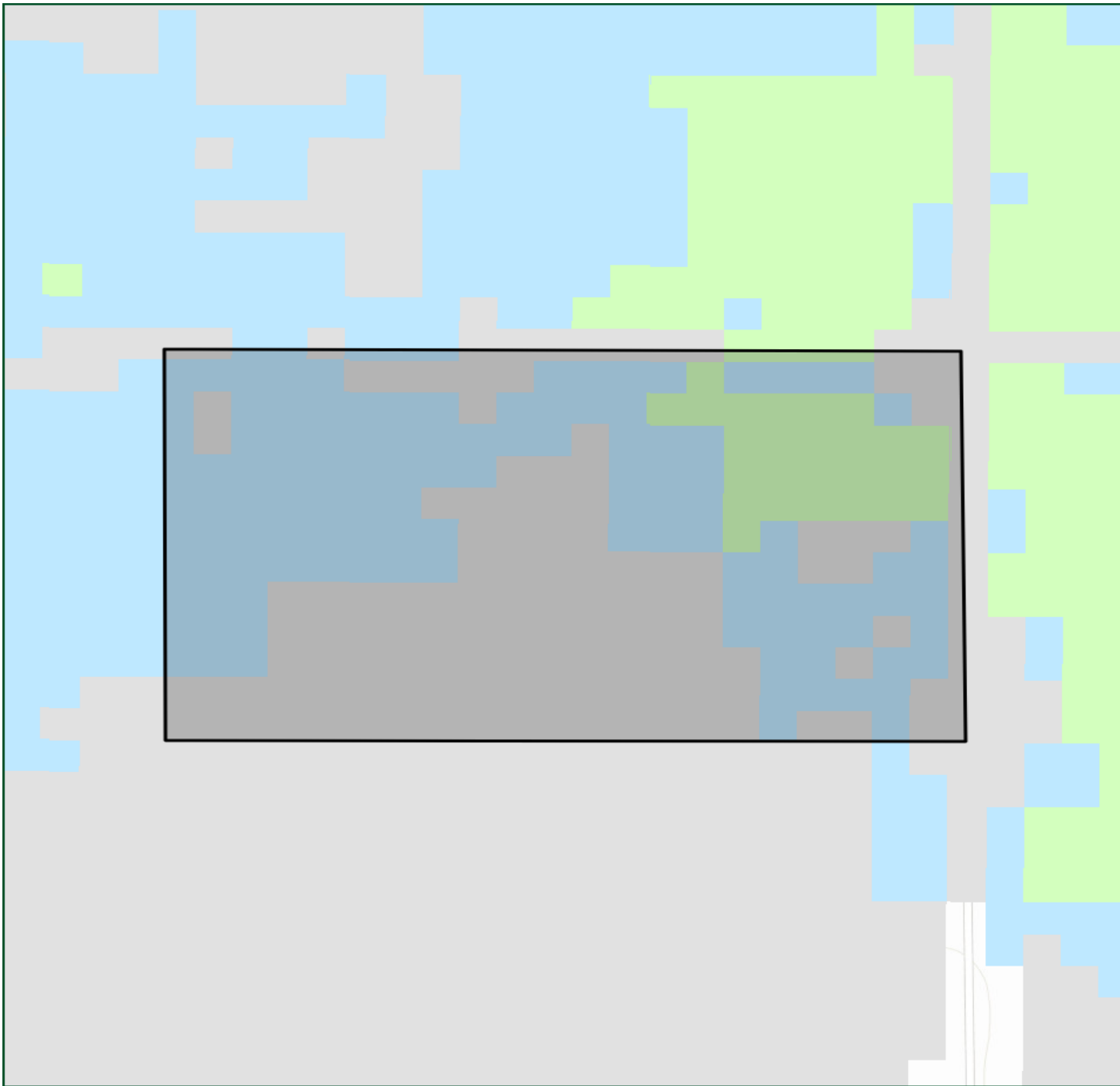
Since all areas in Colorado have the Values at Risk Rating calculated consistently, it allows for comparison and ordination of areas across the entire state. The data were derived at a 30-meter resolution.

	Values at Risk Class	Acres	Percent
	-1 (Least Negative Impact)	25	45.6 %
	-2	23	41.6 %
	-3	7	12.8 %
	-4	0	0 %
	-5	0	0 %
	-6	0	0 %
	-7	0	0 %
	-8	0	0 %
	-9 (Most Negative Impact)	0	0 %
	Total	56	100 %

FalconAcres

Values at Risk Rating





FalconAcres

Values at Risk Rating

- Non-Categorized
- 1 (Least Negative Impact)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9 (Most Negative Impact)



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Suppression Difficulty Rating

Description

Reflects the difficulty or relative cost to suppress a fire given the terrain and vegetation conditions that may impact machine operability. This layer is an overall index that combines the slope steepness and the vegetation/fuel type characterization to identify areas where it would be difficult or costly to suppress a fire due to the underlying terrain and vegetation conditions that would impact machine operability (in particular Type II dozer).

The rating was calculated based on the fireline production rates for hand crews and engines with modifications for slope, as documented in the NWCG Fireline Handbook 3, PMS 401-1.

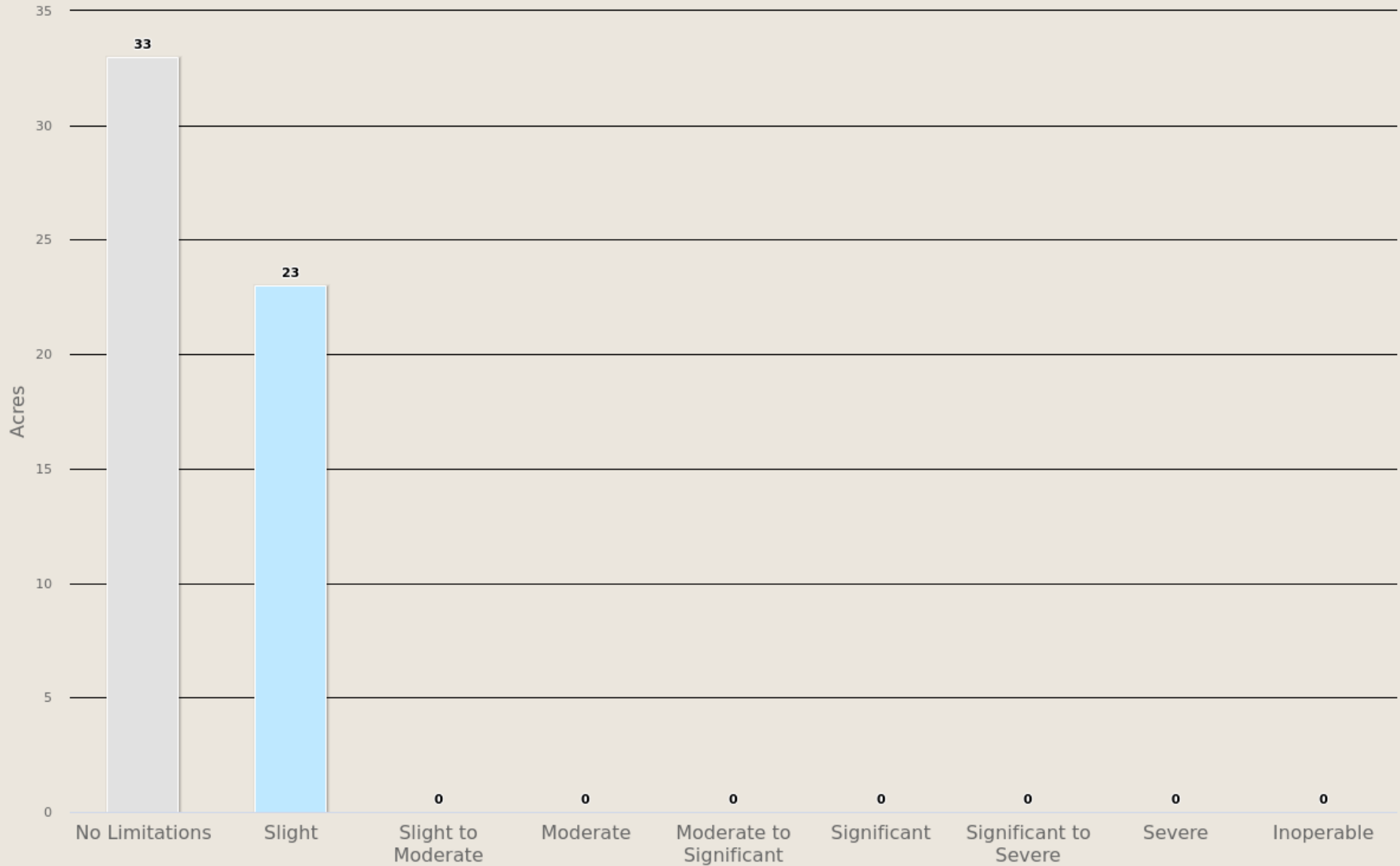
The burnable fuel models in the Colorado WRA were grouped into ten categories: Grass, Grass/Shrub, Shrub/Regeneration, Moderate Forest, Heavy Forest, Swamp/Marsh, Agriculture, Barren, Urban/Developed, Water/Ice.

Fireline production capability on six slope classes was used as the basic reference to obtain the suppression difficulty score. The response function category is assigned to each combination of fuel model group and slope category.

	SDR Class	Acres	Percent
	No Limitations	33	58.7 %
	Slight	23	40.5 %
	Slight to Moderate	0	0.8 %
	Moderate	0	0 %
	Moderate to Significant	0	0 %
	Significant	0	0 %
	Significant to Severe	0	0 %
	Severe	0	0 %
	Inoperable	0	0 %
	Total	56	100 %










FalconAcres

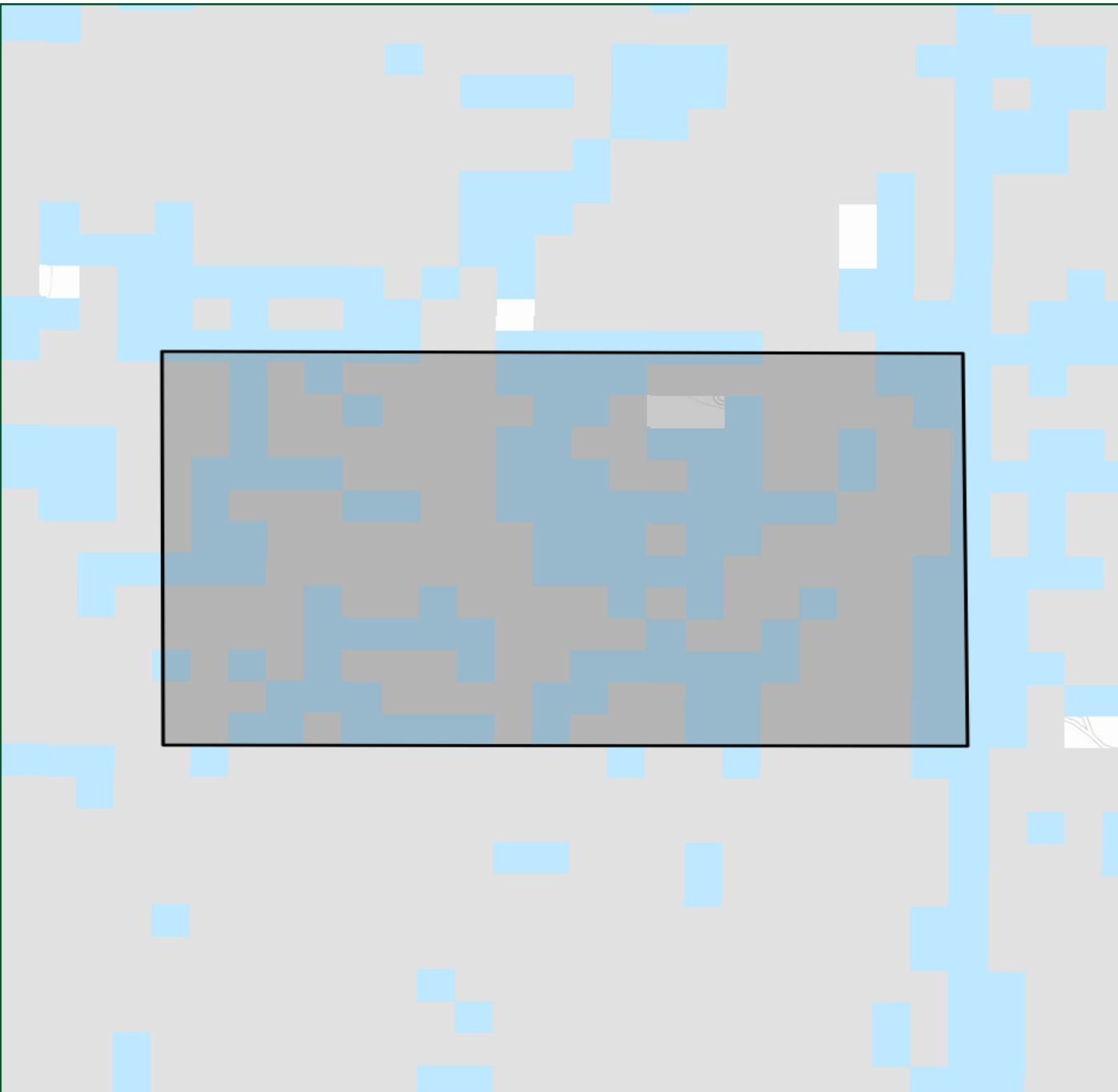
Suppression Difficulty Rating



FalconAcres

Suppression Difficulty

-  No Limitations
-  Slight
-  Slight to Moderate
-  Moderate
-  Moderate to Significant
-  Significant
-  Significant to Severe
-  Severe
-  Inoperable



500 ft



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Fire Occurrence

Description

Fire Occurrence is an ignition density that represents the likelihood of a wildfire starting based on historical ignition patterns. Occurrence is derived by modeling historic wildfire ignition locations to create an ignition density map.

Historic fire report data were used to create the ignition points for all Colorado fires. The compiled fire occurrence database was cleaned to remove duplicate records and to correct inaccurate locations. The database was then modeled to create a density map reflecting historical fire ignition rates.

Historic fire report data were used to create the ignition points for all Colorado fires. This included both federal and non-federal fire ignition locations.

The class breaks are determined by analyzing the Fire Occurrence output values for the entire state and determining cumulative percent of acres (i.e. Class 9 has the top 1.5% of acres with the highest occurrence rate). Refer to the Colorado WRA Final Report for a more detailed description of the mapping classes and the methods used to derive these.

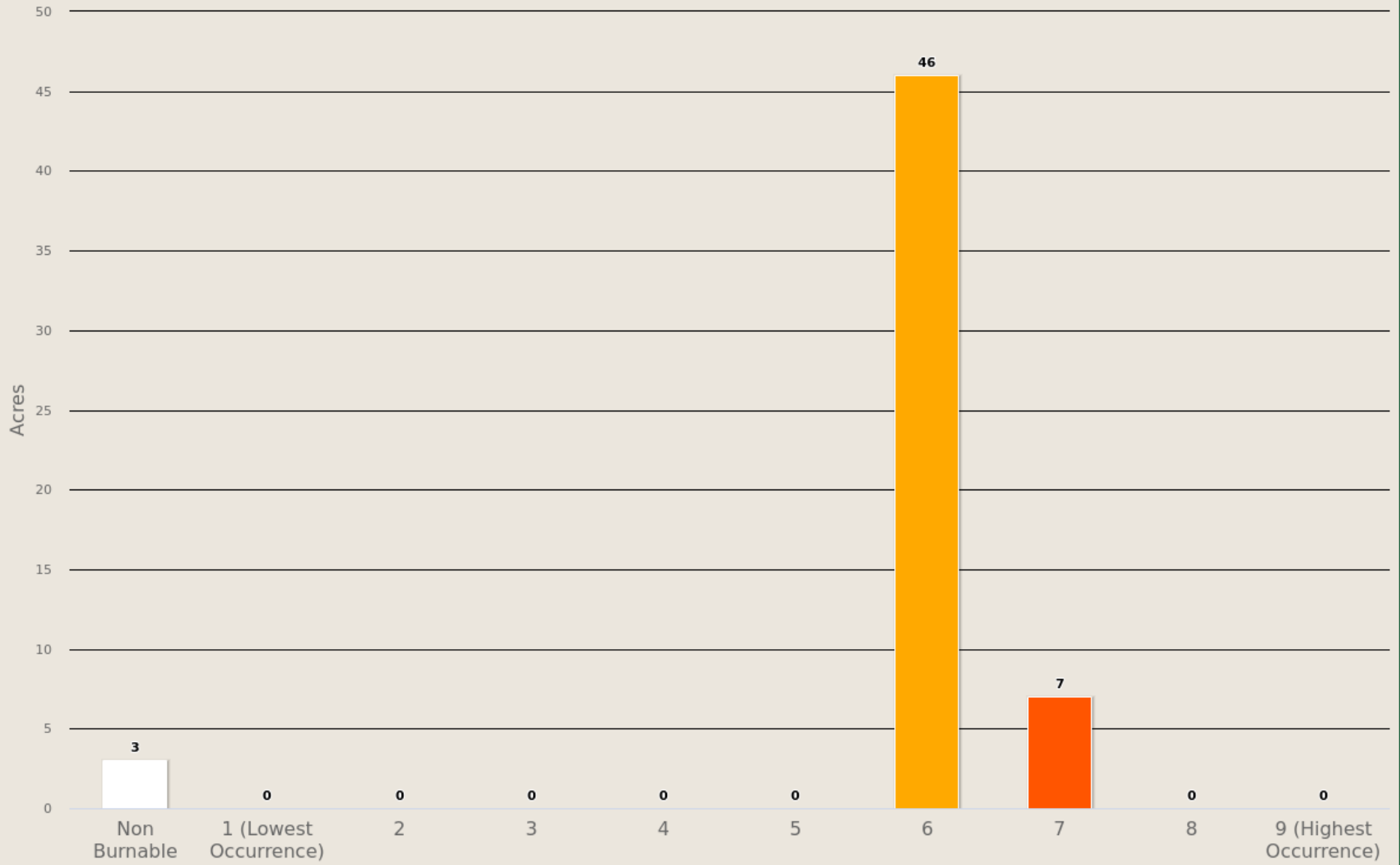
The Fire Occurrence map is derived at a 30-meter resolution. This scale of data was chosen to be consistent with the accuracy of the primary surface fuels dataset used in the assessment. While not sufficient for site specific analysis, it is appropriate for regional, county or local protection mitigation or prevention planning.

A more detailed description of the risk assessment algorithms is provided in the Colorado WRA Final Report, which can be downloaded from www.ColoradoForestAtlas.org.

Fire Occurrence Class	Acres	Percent
Non Burnable	3	6.0 %
1 (Lowest Occurrence)	0	0 %
2	0	0 %
3	0	0 %
4	0	0 %
5	0	0 %
6	46	81.7 %
7	7	12.3 %
8	0	0 %
9 (Highest Occurrence)	0	0 %
Total	56	100 %











FalconAcres

Fire Occurrence



FalconAcres

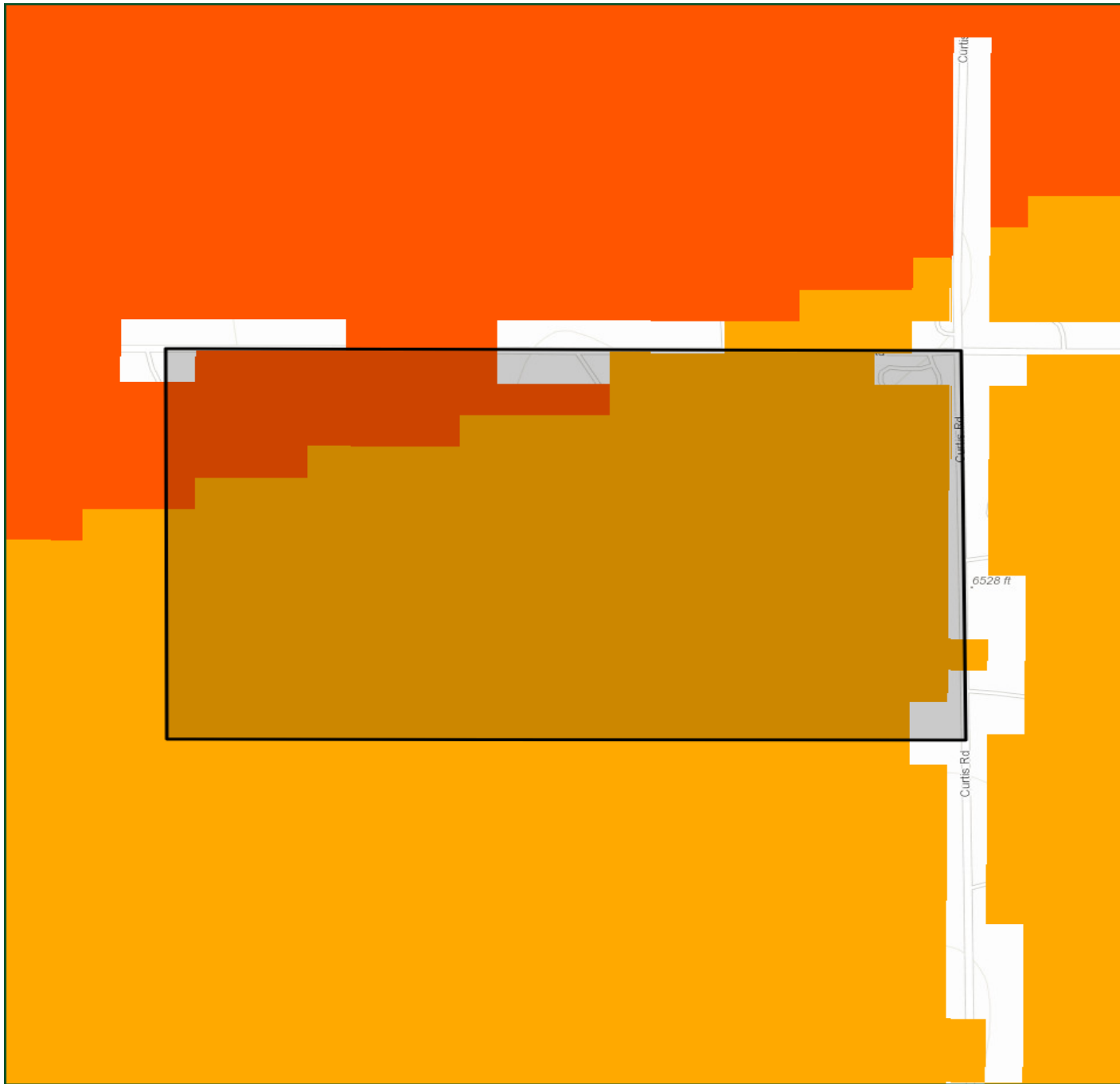
Fire Occurrence

-  Non Burnable
-  1 (Lowest Occurrence)
-  2
-  3
-  4
-  5
-  6
-  7
-  8
-  9 (Highest Occurrence)

500 ft



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Fire Behavior

Description

Fire behavior is the manner in which a fire reacts to the following environmental influences:

1. Fuels
2. Weather
3. Topography

Fire behavior characteristics are attributes of wildland fire that pertain to its spread, intensity, and growth. Fire behavior characteristics utilized in the Colorado WRA include fire type, rate of spread, flame length and fireline intensity (fire intensity scale). These metrics are used to determine the potential fire behavior under different weather scenarios. Areas that exhibit moderate to high fire behavior potential can be identified for mitigation treatments, especially if these areas are in close proximity to homes, business, or other assets.



Fuels

The Colorado WRA includes composition and characteristics for both surface fuels and canopy fuels. Assessing canopy fire potential and surface fire potential allows identification of areas where significant increases in fire behavior affects the potential of a fire to transition from a surface fire to a canopy fire.

Fuel datasets required to compute both surface and canopy fire potential include:

1. **Surface Fuels** are typically categorized into one of four primary fuel types based on the primary carrier of the surface fire: 1) grass, 2) shrub/brush, 3) timber litter, and 4) slash. They are generally referred to as fire behavior fuel models and provide the input parameters needed to compute surface fire behavior. The 2017 assessment uses the latest 2017 calibrated fuels for Colorado.
2. **Canopy Cover** is the horizontal percentage of the ground surface that is covered by tree crowns. It is used to compute wind-reduction factors and shading.
3. **Canopy Ceiling Height/Stand Height** is the height above the ground of the highest canopy layer where the density of the crown mass within the layer is high enough to support vertical movement of a fire. A good estimate of canopy ceiling height is the average height of the dominant and co-dominant trees in a stand. It is used to compute wind reduction to mid-flame height, and spotting distances from torching trees.
4. **Canopy Base Height** is the lowest height above the ground above which sufficient canopy fuel exists to vertically propagate fire (Scott & Reinhardt, 2001). Canopy base height is a property of a plot, stand or group of trees, not an individual tree. For fire modeling, canopy base height is an effective value that incorporates ladder fuels, such as tall shrubs and small trees. Canopy base height is used to determine whether a surface fire will transition to a canopy fire.



5. **Canopy Bulk Density** is the mass of available canopy fuel per unit canopy volume (Scott & Reinhardt, 2001). Canopy bulk density is a bulk property of a stand, plot or group of trees, not an individual tree. Canopy bulk density is used to predict whether an active crown fire is possible.

Weather

Environmental weather parameters needed to compute fire behavior characteristics include 1-hour, 10-hour and 100-hour time-lag fuel moistures, herbaceous fuel moisture, woody fuel moisture and the 20-foot, 10-minute average wind speed. To collect this information, Weather data (1988-2017) from NCEP (National Center for Environmental Prediction) was used to analyse potential weather scenarios in which assessing fire behavior and spread. In particular, the North American Regional Reanalysis (NARR) product from NCEP was selected because of it provides high resolution weather data for all of Colorado. The following percentiles (97th, 90th, 50th and 25th) were analysed for each variable in each 30km NARR point to create four weather scenarios to run the fire behavior analysis: “Extreme”, “High”, “Moderate” and “Low”. After computing the weather percentiles of the NARR variables, an IDW algorithm was used to derive 30m resolution data to match the surface fuels dataset.

The four percentile weather categories are intended to represent low, moderate, high and extreme fire weather days. Fire behavior outputs are computed for each percentile weather category to determine fire potential under different weather scenarios.

For a detailed description of the methodology, refer to the 2017 Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Final Report at www.ColoradoForestAtlas.org.

Topography

Topography datasets required to compute fire behavior characteristics are elevation, slope and aspect.

FIRE BEHAVIOR CHARACTERISTICS

Fire behavior characteristics provided in this report include:

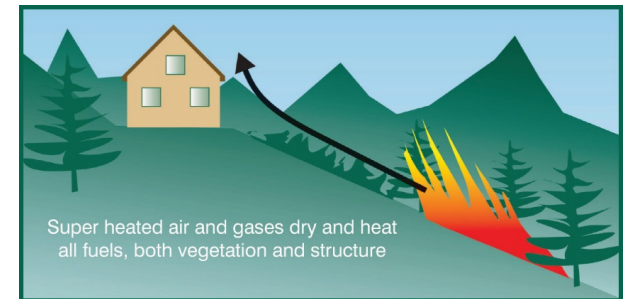
- **Characteristic Rate of Spread**
- **Characteristic Flame Length**
- **Fire Intensity Scale**
- **Fire Type – Extreme Weather**

Characteristic Rate of Spread

Characteristic Rate of Spread is the typical or representative rate of spread of a potential fire based on a weighted average of four percentile weather categories. Rate of spread is the speed with which a fire moves in a horizontal direction across the landscape, usually expressed in chains per hour (ch/hr) or feet per minute (ft/min). For purposes of the Colorado WRA, this measurement represents the maximum rate of spread of the fire front. Rate of Spread is used in the calculation of Wildfire Threat in the Colorado WRA.

Rate of spread is a fire behavior output, which is influenced by three environmental factors - fuels, weather, and topography. Weather is by far the most dynamic variable as it changes frequently. To account for this variability, four percentile weather categories were created from historical weather observations to represent low, moderate, high, and extreme weather days for each 30-meter cell in Colorado. Thirty (30) meter resolution is the baseline for the Colorado WRA, matching the source surface fuels dataset.

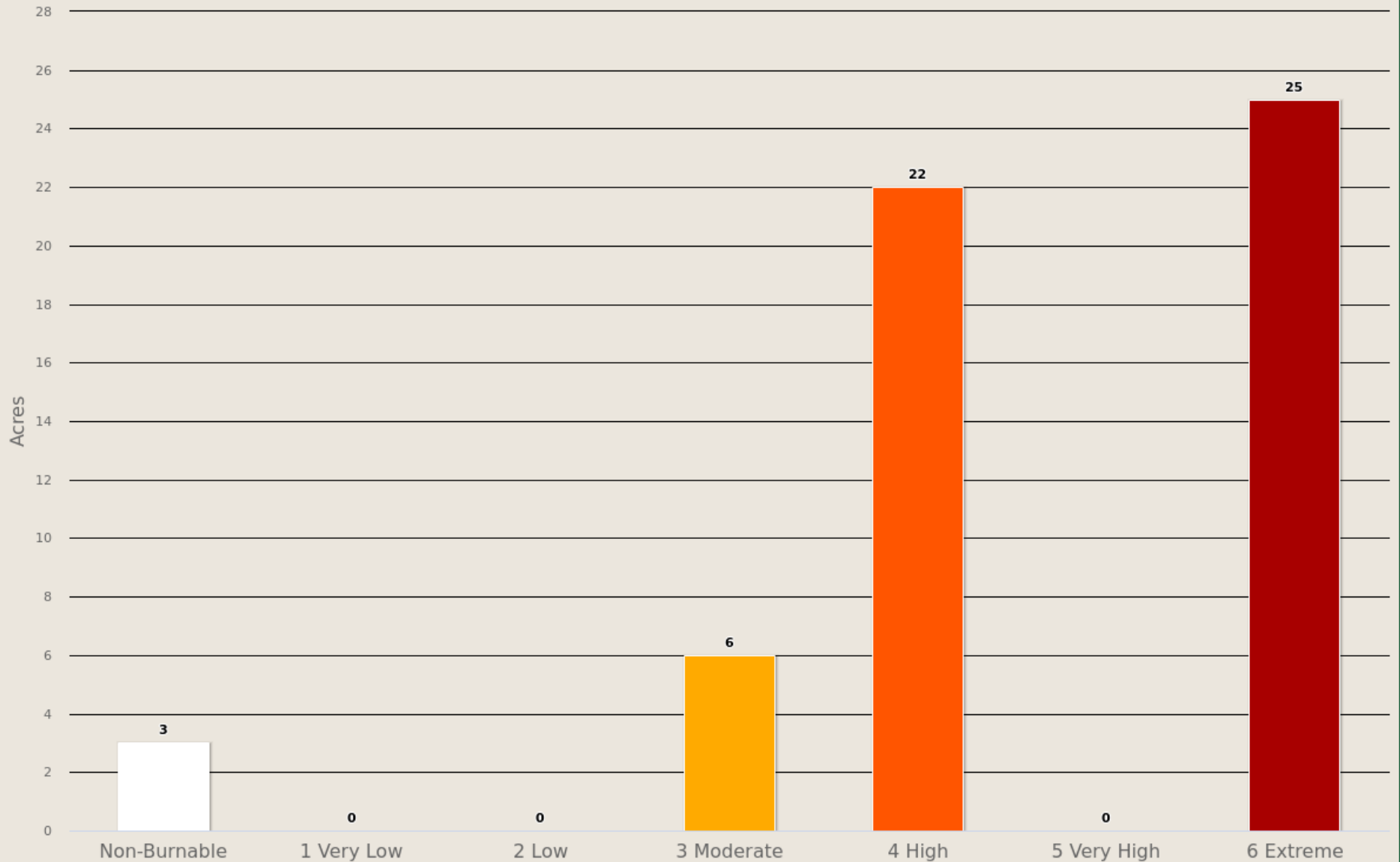
The “characteristic” output represents the weighted average for all four weather percentiles. While not shown in this report, the individual percentile weather ROS outputs are available in the Colorado WRA data.

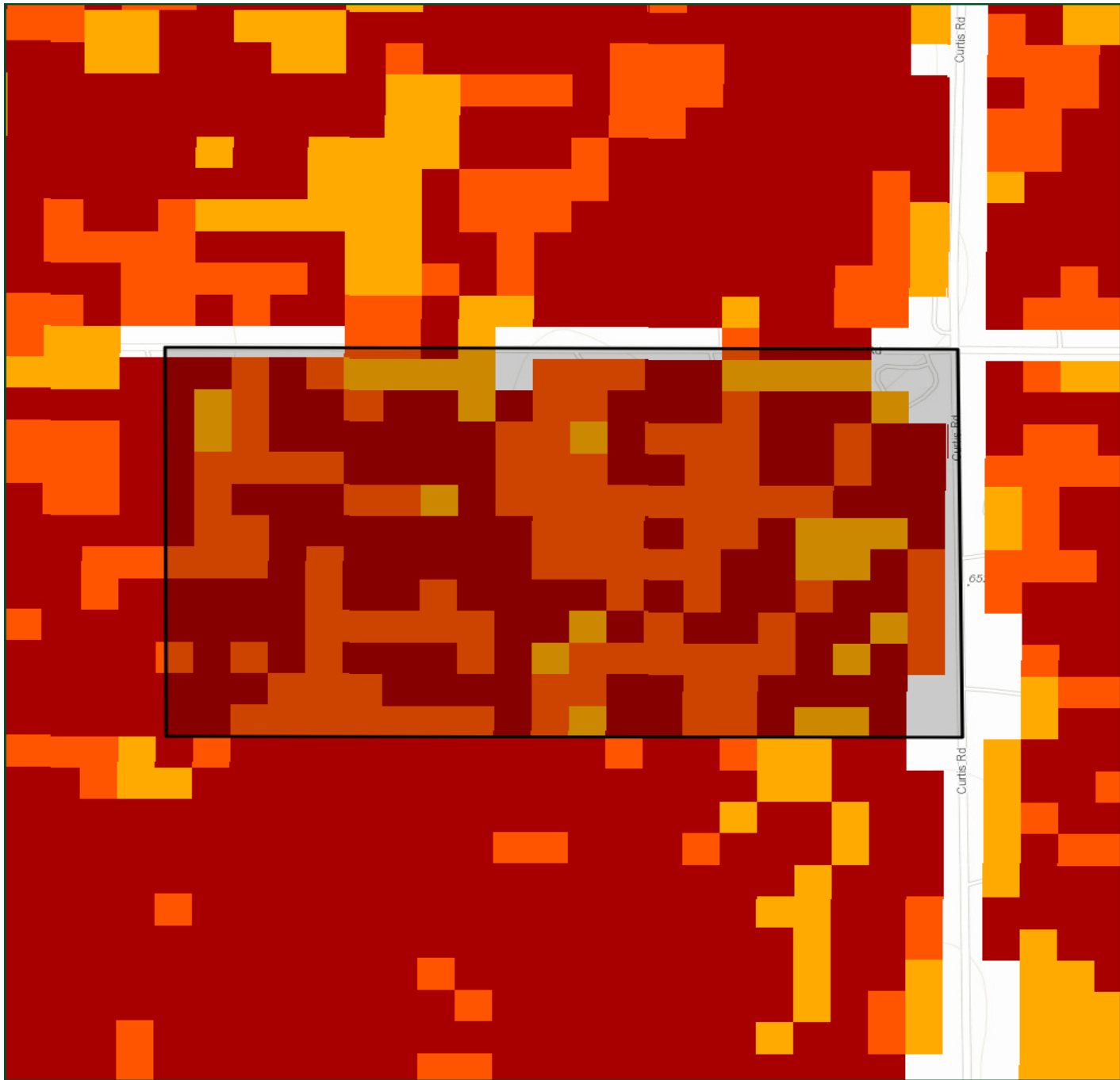


Rate of Spread	Acres	Percent
Non-Burnable	3	6.0 %
1 Very Low	0	0 %
2 Low	0	0 %
3 Moderate	6	10.3 %
4 High	22	38.9 %
5 Very High	0	0 %
6 Extreme	25	44.8 %
Total	56	100 %

FalconAcres




Characteristic Rate of Spread





Falcon Acres

Characteristic Rate of Spread

-  1 Very Low
-  2 Low
-  3 Moderate
-  4 High
-  5 Very High
-  6 Extreme

500 ft



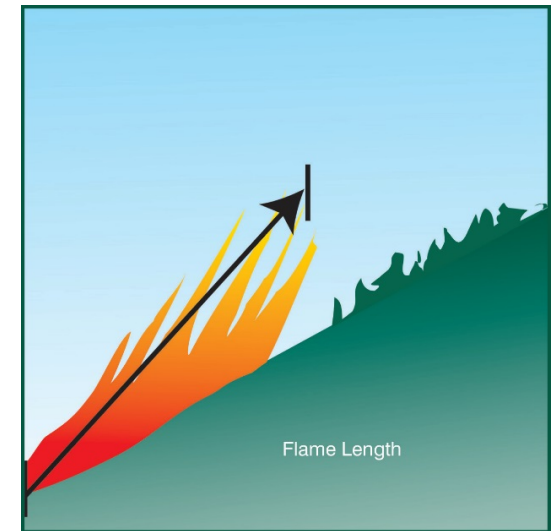
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Characteristic Flame Length

Characteristic Flame Length is the typical or representative flame length of a potential fire based on a weighted average of four percentile weather categories. Flame Length is defined as the distance between the flame tip and the midpoint of the flame depth at the base of the flame, which is generally the ground surface. It is an indicator of fire intensity and is often used to estimate how much heat the fire is generating. Flame length is typically measured in feet (ft). Flame length is the measure of fire intensity used to generate the Fire Effects outputs for the Colorado WRA.

Flame length is a fire behavior output, which is influenced by three environmental factors - fuels, weather, and topography. Weather is by far the most dynamic variable as it changes frequently. To account for this variability, four percentile weather categories were created from historical weather observations to represent low, moderate, high, and extreme weather days for each 30-meter cell in Colorado.

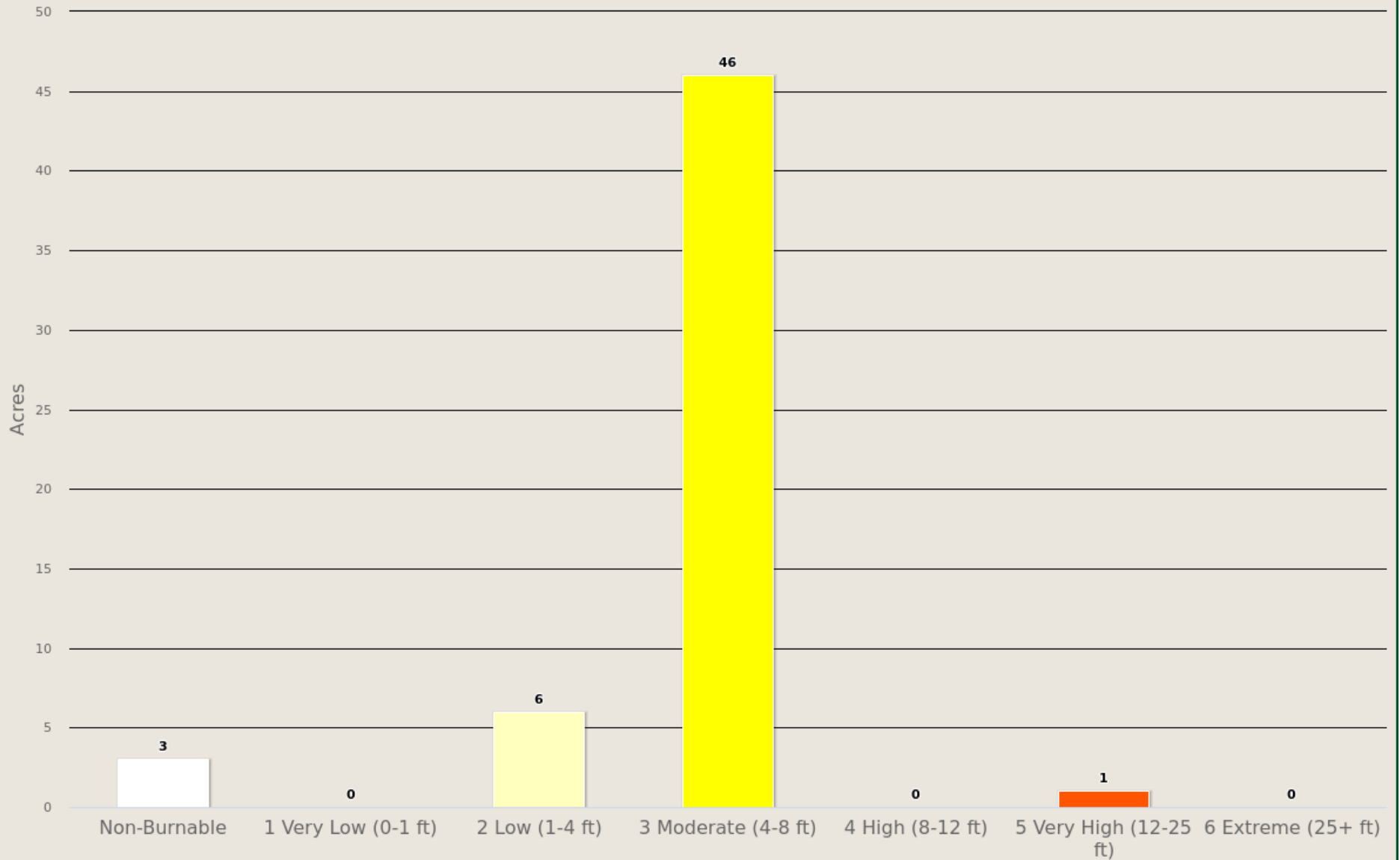
This output represents the weighted average for all four weather percentiles. While not shown in this report, the individual percentile weather Flame Length outputs are available in the Colorado WRA data.



Flame Length	Acres	Percent
Non-Burnable	3	6.0 %
1 Very Low (0-1 ft)	0	0 %
2 Low (1-4 ft)	6	10.3 %
3 Moderate (4-8 ft)	46	82.1 %
4 High (8-12 ft)	0	0 %
5 Very High (12-25 ft)	1	1.6 %
6 Extreme (25+ ft)	0	0 %
Total	56	100 %

FalconAcres

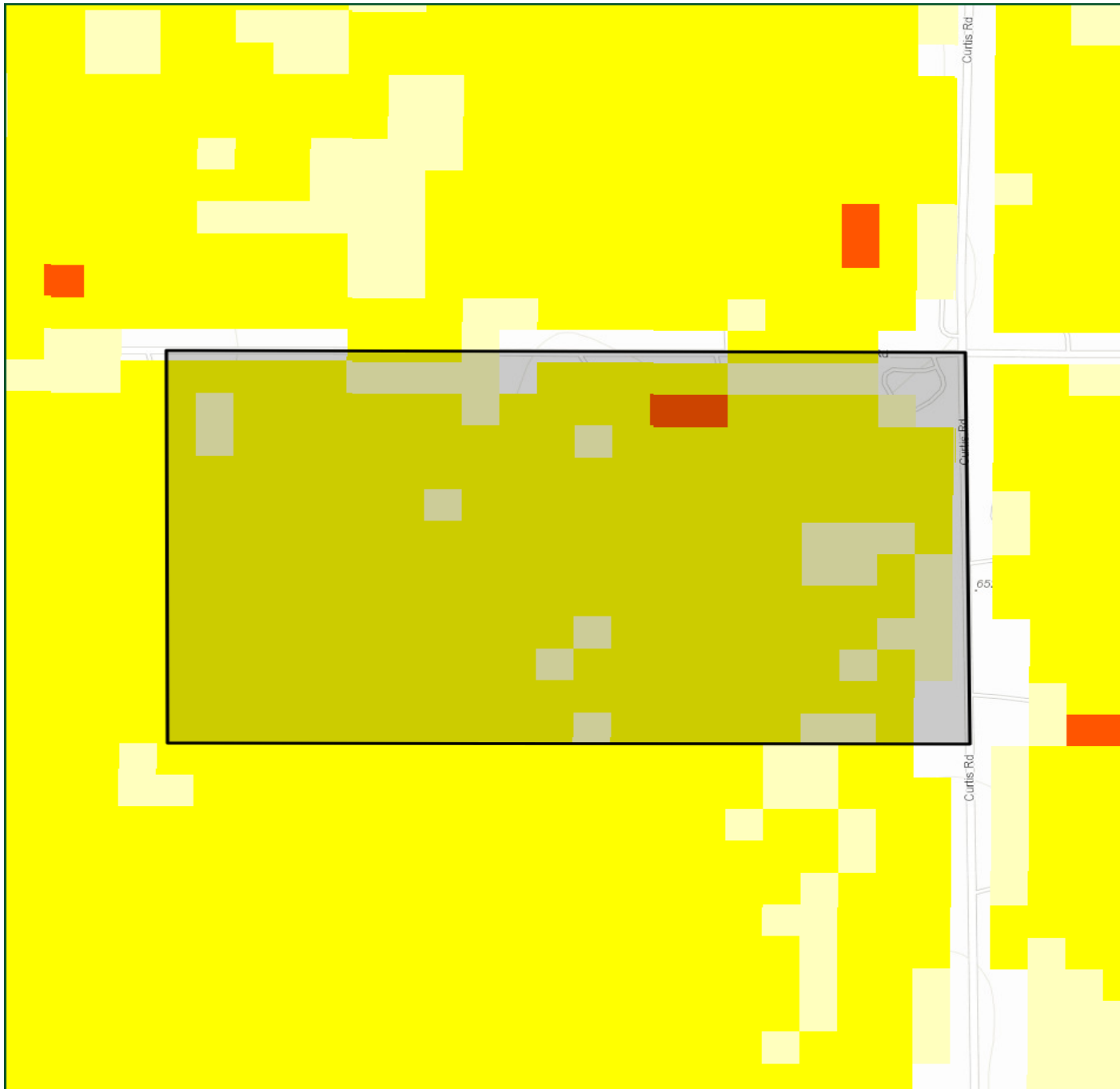
Characteristic Flame Length



FalconAcres

Characteristic Flame Length

- Non-Burnable
- 1 Very Low (0-1 ft)
- 2 Low (1-4 ft)
- 3 Moderate (4-8 ft)
- 4 High (8-12 ft)
- 5 Very High (12-25 ft)



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Fire Intensity Scale

Description

Fire Intensity Scale (FIS) specifically identifies areas where significant fuel hazards and associated dangerous fire behavior potential exist. Similar to the Richter scale for earthquakes, FIS provides a standard scale to measure potential wildfire intensity. FIS consist of five (5) classes where the order of magnitude between classes is ten-fold. The minimum class, Class 1, represents very low wildfire intensities and the maximum class, Class 5, represents very high wildfire intensities.

1. Class 1, Lowest Intensity:

Very small, discontinuous flames, usually less than 1 foot in length; very low rate of spread; no spotting. Fires are typically easy to suppress by firefighters with basic training and non-specialized equipment.

2. Class2, Low:

Small flames, usually less than two feet long; small amount of very short-range spotting possible. Fires are easy to suppress by trained firefighters with protective equipment and specialized tools.

3. Class 3, Moderate:

Flames up to 8 feet in length; short-range spotting is possible. Trained firefighters will find these fires difficult to suppress without support from aircraft or engines, but dozer and plows are generally effective. Increasing potential for harm or damage to life and property.

4. Class 4, High:

Large Flames, up to 30 feet in length; short-range spotting 1. common; medium range spotting possible. Direct attack by trained firefighters, engines, and dozers is generally ineffective, indirect attack may be effective. Significant potential for harm or damage to life and property.

5. Class 5, Highest Intensity:

Very large flames up to 150 feet in length; profuse short-range spotting, frequent long-range spotting; strong fire-induced winds. Indirect attack marginally effective at the head of the fire. Great potential for harm or damage to life and property.

Burn Probability and Fire Intensity Scale are designed to complement each other. The Fire Intensity Scale does not incorporate historical occurrence information. It only evaluates the potential fire behavior for an area, regardless if any fires have occurred there in the past. This additional information allows mitigation planners to quickly identify areas where dangerous fire behavior potential exists in relationship to nearby homes or other valued assets.

Since all areas in Colorado have fire intensity scale calculated consistently, it allows for comparison and ordination of areas across the entire state. For example, a high fire intensity area in Eastern Colorado is equivalent to a high fire intensity area in Western Colorado.

Fire intensity scale is a fire behavior output, which is influenced by three environmental factors - fuels, weather, and topography. Weather is by far the most dynamic variable as it changes frequently.

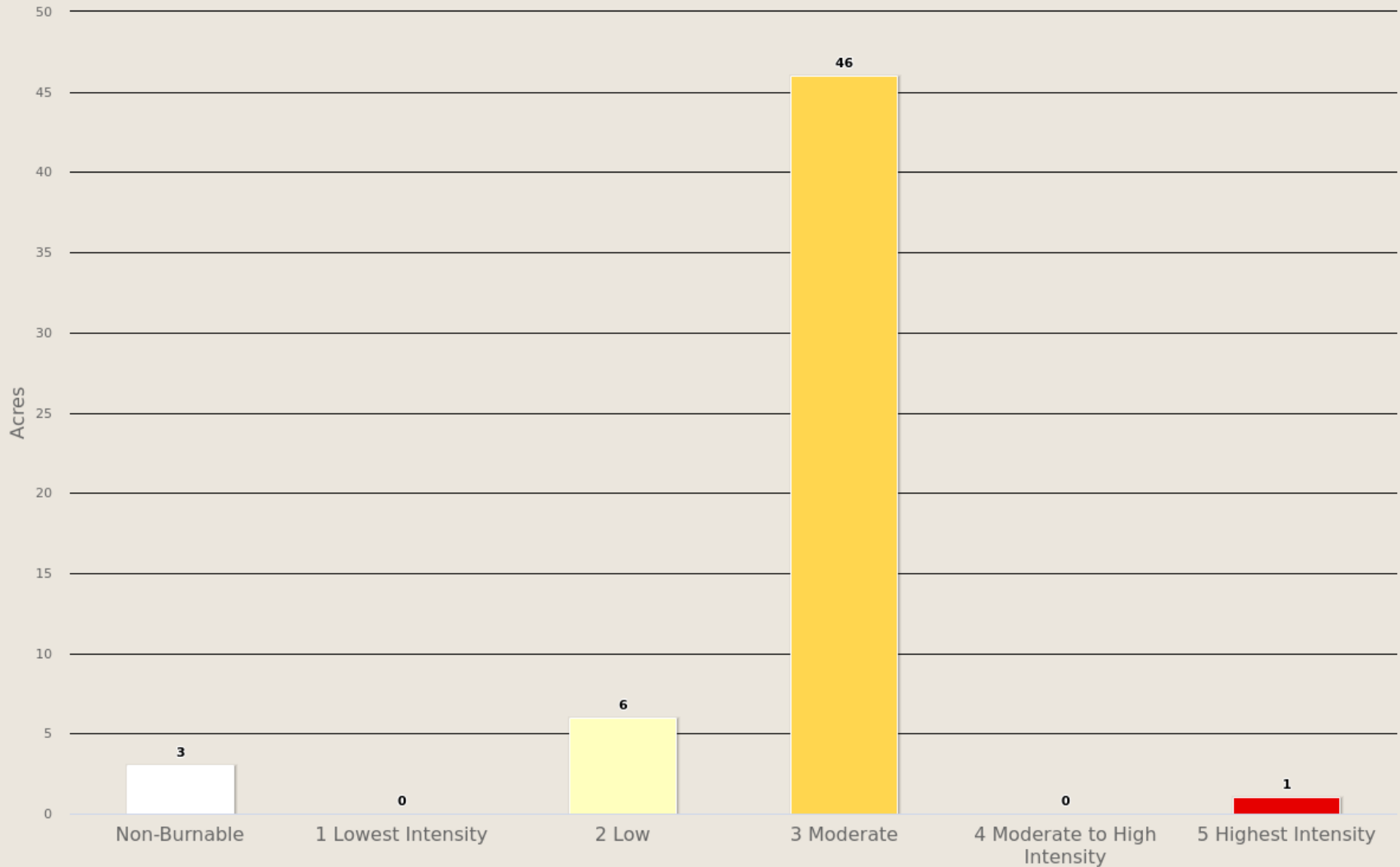
To account for this variability, four percentile weather categories were created from historical weather observations to represent low, moderate, high, and extreme weather days for each 30-meter cell in Colorado. The FIS represents the weighted average for all four weather percentiles.

The fire intensity scale map is derived at a 30-meter resolution. This scale of data was chosen to be consistent with the accuracy of the primary surface fuels dataset used in the assessment. While not appropriate for site specific analysis, it is appropriate for regional, county or local planning efforts.

FIS Class	Acres	Percent
Non-Burnable	3	6.0 %
1 Lowest Intensity	0	0 %
2 Low	6	10.3 %
3 Moderate	46	82.1 %
4 Moderate to High Intensity	0	0 %
5 Highest Intensity	1	1.6 %
Total	56	100 %

FalconAcres

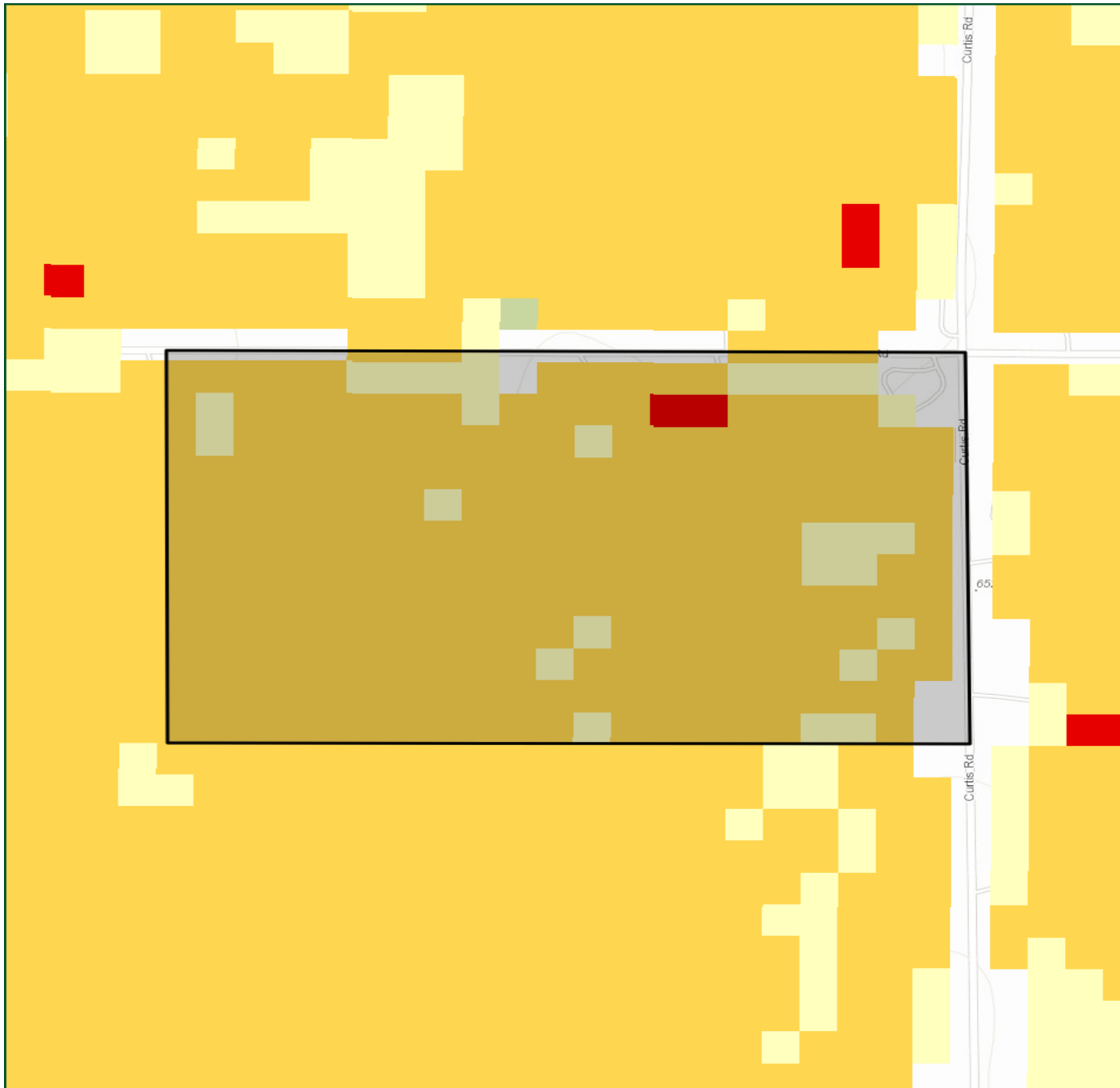
Fire Intensity Scale



FalconAcres

Fire Intensity Scale

- Non-Burnable
- 1 Lowest Intensity
- 2 Low
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Moderate to High Intensity
- 5 Highest Intensity



500 ft



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Fire Type – Extreme Weather

Fire Type – Extreme represents the potential fire type under the extreme percentile weather category. The extreme percentile weather category represents the average weather based on the top three percent fire weather days in the analysis period. It is not intended to represent a worst-case scenario weather event. Accordingly, the potential fire type is based on fuel conditions, extreme percentile weather, and topography.

Canopy fires are very dangerous, destructive and difficult to control due to their increased fire intensity. From a planning perspective, it is important to identify where these conditions are likely to occur on the landscape so that special preparedness measure can be taken if necessary. Typically canopy fires occur in extreme weather conditions. The Fire Type – Extreme layer shows the footprint of where these areas are most likely to occur. However, it is important to note that canopy fires are not restricted to these areas. Under the right conditions, it can occur in other canopied areas.

There are two primary fire types – surface fire and canopy fire. Canopy fire can be further subdivided into passive canopy fire and active canopy fire. A short description of each of these is provided below.

Surface Fire

A fire that spreads through surface fuel without consuming any overlying canopy fuel. Surface fuels include grass, timber litter, shrub/brush, slash and other dead or live vegetation within about 6 feet of the ground.



Passive Canopy Fire

A type of crown fire in which the crowns of individual trees or small groups of trees burn, but solid flaming in the canopy cannot be maintained except for short periods (Scott & Reinhardt, 2001).



Active Canopy Fire

A crown fire in which the entire fuel complex (canopy) is involved in flame, but the crowning phase remains dependent on heat released from surface fuel for continued spread (Scott & Reinhardt, 2001).

The Fire Type - Extreme Weather map is derived at a 30-meter resolution. This scale of data was chosen to be consistent with the accuracy of the primary surface fuels dataset used in the assessment. While not appropriate for site specific analysis, it is appropriate for regional, county or local planning efforts.

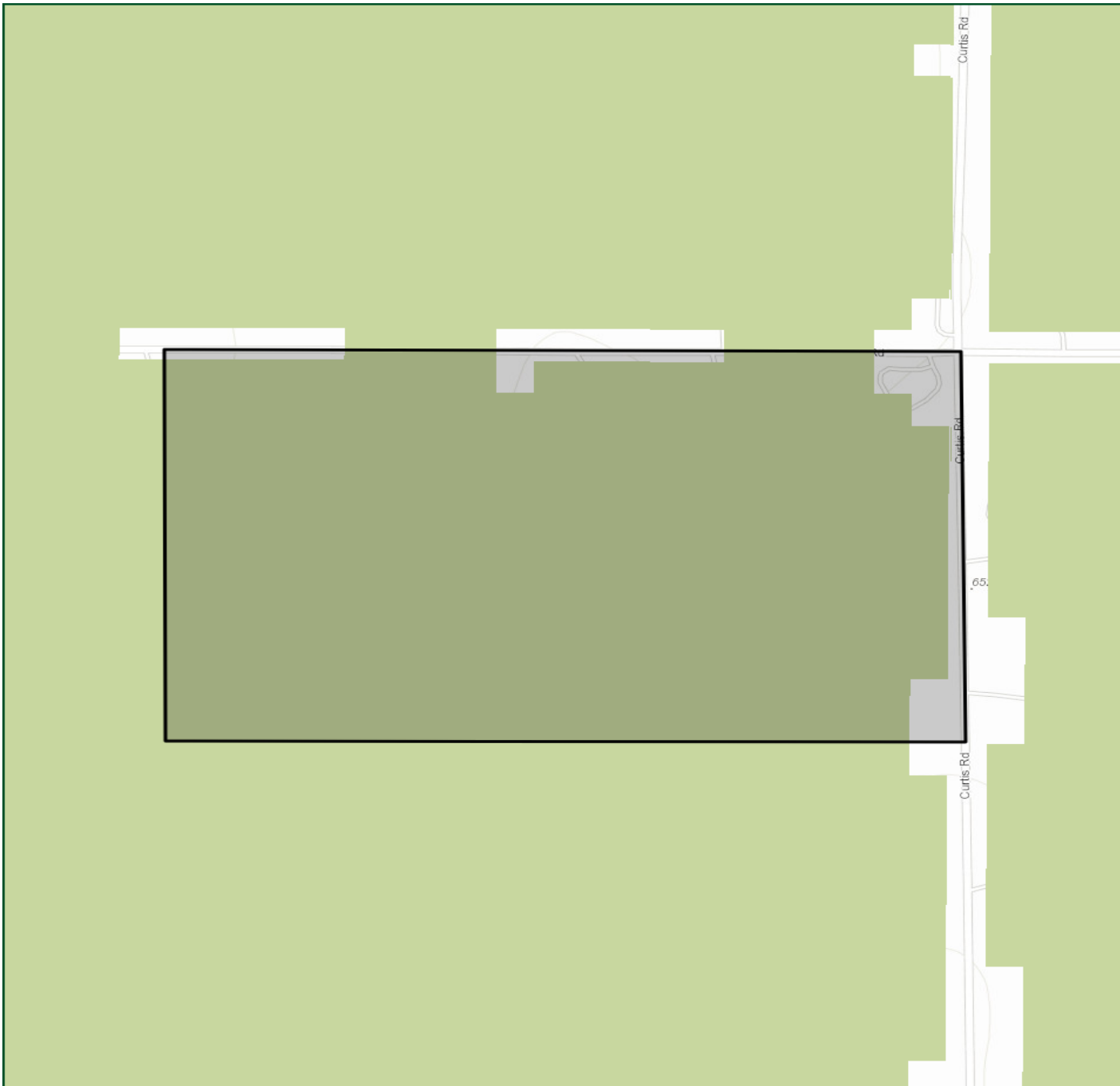


Fire Type - Extreme Weather	Acres	Percent
Surface Fire	53	100.0 %
Passive Canopy Fire	0	0 %
Active Canopy Fire	0	0 %
Total	53	100 %

FalconAcres




Fire Type - Extreme Weather





Falcon Acres

Fire Type Extreme Weather

-  Surface Fire
-  Passive Canopy Fire
-  Active Canopy Fire



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Surface Fuels

Description

Surface fuels, or fire behavior fuel models as they are technically referred to, contain the parameters required by the Rothermel (1972) surface fire spread model to compute surface fire behavior characteristics, including rate of spread, flame length, fireline intensity and other fire behavior metrics. As the name might suggest, surface fuels account only for surface fire potential. Canopy fire potential is computed through a separate but linked process. The Colorado WRA accounts for both surface and canopy fire potential in the fire behavior outputs. However, only surface fuels are shown in this risk report.

Surface fuels typically are categorized into one of four primary fuel types based on the primary carrier of the surface fire: 1) grass, 2) shrub/brush, 3) timber litter, and 4) slash. Two standard fire behavior fuel model sets have been published. The Fire Behavior Prediction System 1982 Fuel Model Set (Anderson, 1982) contains 13 fuel models, and the Fire Behavior Prediction System 2005 Fuel Model Set (Scott & Burgan, 2005) contains 40 fuel models. The Colorado WRA uses fuel models from the 2005 Fuel Model Set.

The 2017 Colorado Surface Fuels were derived by enhancing the baseline LANDFIRE 2014 products with modifications to reflect local conditions and knowledge. A team of fuels and fire behavior experts, led by the CSFS, conducted a detailed calibration of the LANDFIRE 2014 fuels datasets. This calibration involved correcting LANDFIRE mapping zone seamlines errors; adding recent disturbances from 2013 to 2017 for fires, insect and disease, and treatments; correcting fuels for high elevations; adjusting fuels for oak-shrublands and pinyon-juniper areas; and modifying SH7 fuel designations. This calibration effort resulted in an accurate and up-to-date surface fuels dataset that is the basis for the fire behavior and risk calculations in the 2017 Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Update.



Unmanaged forest with dead and downed trees and branches



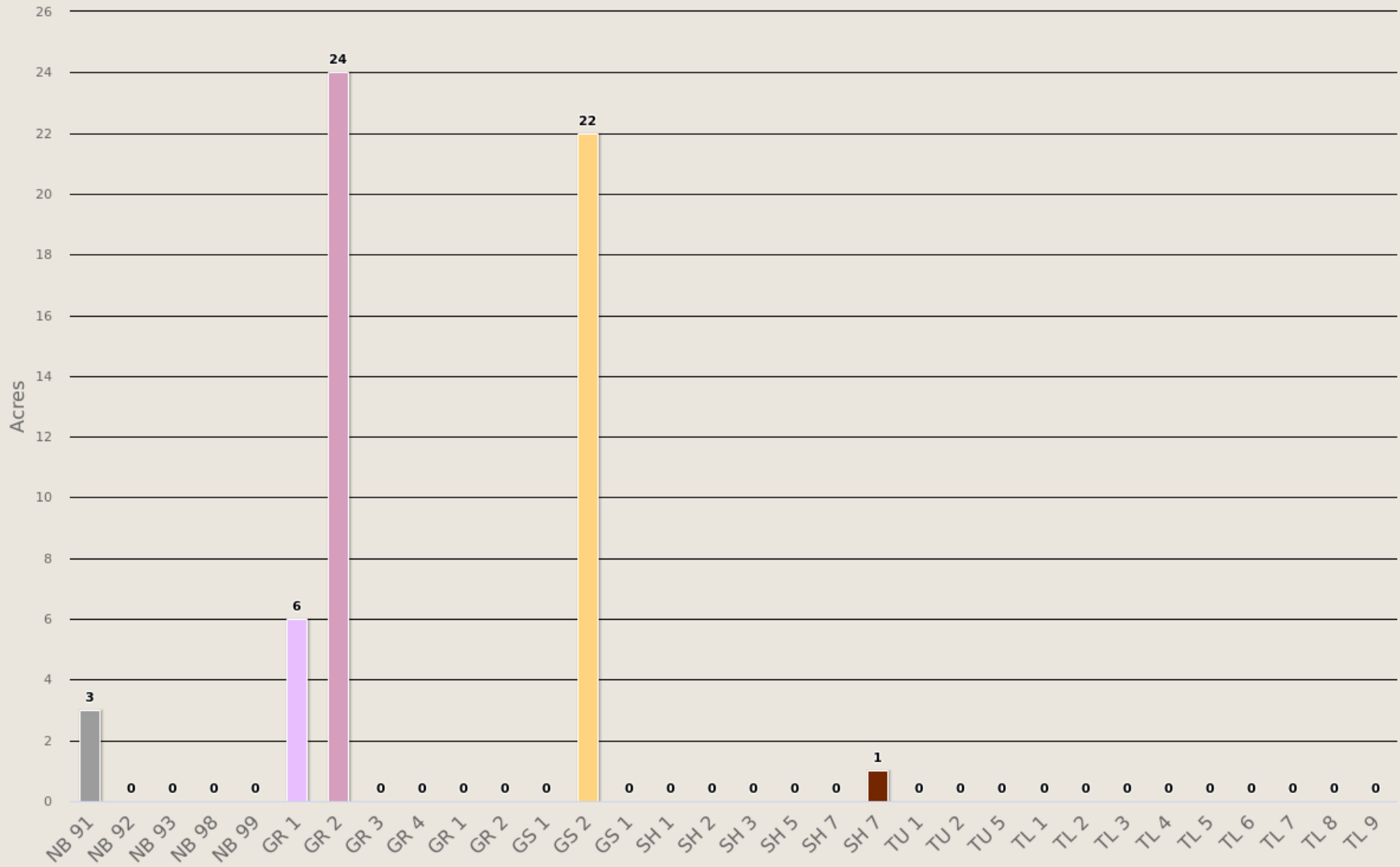
Slash on the ground indicates that forest management treatments have occurred in this area

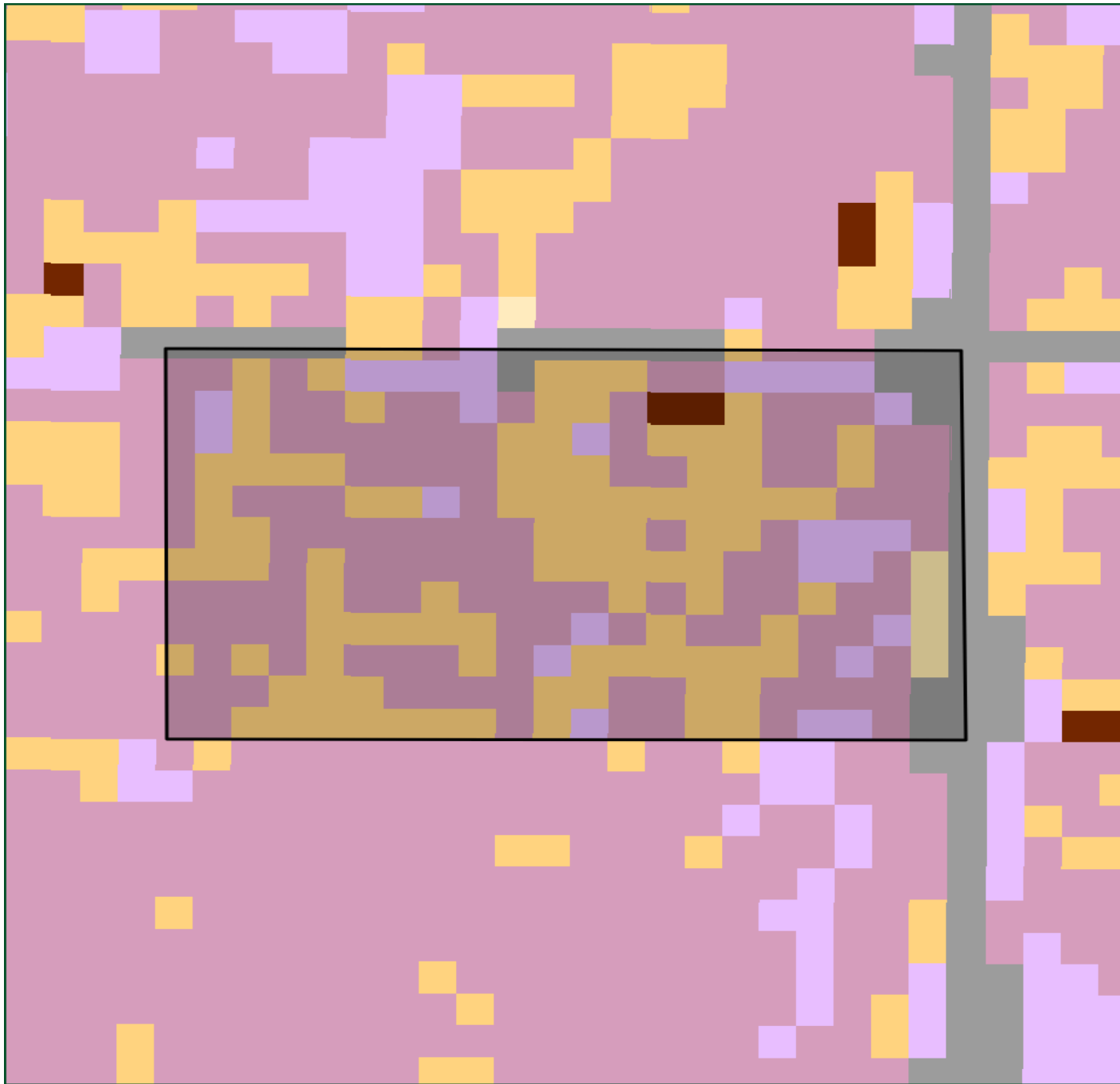
A detailed description of the fuels calibration methods and results is provided in the CSFS 2017 Fuels Calibration Final Report (July 2018).

Surface Fuels	Description	Acres	Percent
NB 91	Urban/Developed	3	5.2 %
NB 92	Snow/Ice	0	0 %
NB 93	Agriculture	0	0 %
NB 98	Water	0	0 %
NB 99	Barren	0	0.8 %
GR 1	Short, sparse, dry climate grass	6	10.3 %
GR 2	Low load, dry climate grass	24	43.3 %
GR 3	Low load, very coarse, humid climate grass	0	0 %
GR 4	Moderate load, dry climate grass	0	0 %
GR 1	GT 10,000 ft elevation	0	0 %
GR 2	GT 10,000 ft elevation	0	0 %
GS 1	Low load, dry climate grass-shrub	0	0 %
GS 2	Moderate load, dry climate grass-shrub	22	38.9 %
GS 1	GT 10,000 ft elevation	0	0 %
SH 1	Low load, dry climate shrub	0	0 %
SH 2	Moderate load, dry climate shrub	0	0 %
SH 3	Moderate load, humid climate shrub	0	0 %
SH 5	High load, humid climate shrub	0	0 %
SH 7	Very high load, dry climate shrub	0	0 %
SH 7	Oak Shrubland without changes	1	1.6 %
TU 1	Light load, dry climate timber-grass-shrub	0	0 %
TU 2	Moderate load, humid climate timber-shrub	0	0 %
TU 5	Very high load, dry climate timber-shrub	0	0 %
TL 1	Low load, compact conifer litter	0	0 %
TL 2	Low load, broadleaf litter	0	0 %
TL 3	Moderate load, conifer litter	0	0 %
TL 4	Small downed logs	0	0 %
TL 5	High load, conifer litter	0	0 %
TL 6	Moderate load, broadleaf litter	0	0 %
TL 7	Large downed logs	0	0 %
TL 8	Long-needle litter	0	0 %
TL 9	Very high load, broadleaf litter	0	0 %
Total		56	100 %

FalconAcres

Surface Fuels





FalconAcres

Surface Fuels

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| ■ NB 91 | ■ SH 5 |
| ■ NB 92 | ■ SH 7 |
| ■ NB 93 | ■ SH 7 |
| ■ NB 98 | ■ TU 1 |
| ■ NB 99 | ■ TU 2 |
| ■ GR 1 | ■ TU 5 |
| ■ GR 2 | ■ TL 1 |
| ■ GR 3 | ■ TL 2 |
| ■ GR 4 | ■ TL 3 |
| ■ GR 1 | ■ TL 4 |
| ■ GR 2 | ■ TL 5 |
| ■ GS 1 | ■ TL 6 |
| ■ GS 2 | ■ TL 7 |
| ■ SH 1 | ■ TL 8 |
| ■ SH 2 | ■ TL 9 |
| ■ SH 3 | |



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Vegetation

Description

The **Vegetation map describes the general vegetation and landcover types across the state of Colorado**. In the Colorado WRA, the Vegetation dataset is used to support the development of the Surface Fuels, Canopy Cover, Canopy Stand Height, Canopy Base Height, and Canopy Bulk Density datasets.

The LANDFIRE 2014 version of data products (Existing Vegetation Type) was used to compile the Vegetation data for the Colorado WRA. This reflects data current to 2014. The LANDFIRE EVT data were classified to reflect general vegetation cover types for representation with CO-WRAP.



Oak shrublands are commonly found along dry foothills and lower mountain slopes, and are often situated above Piñon-juniper.



Piñon-juniper woodlands are common in southern and southwestern Colorado.



Douglas-fir understory in a ponderosa pine forest.



Grasslands occur both on Colorado's Eastern Plains and on the Western Slope.



Wildland fire threat increases in lodgepole pine as the dense forests grow old.

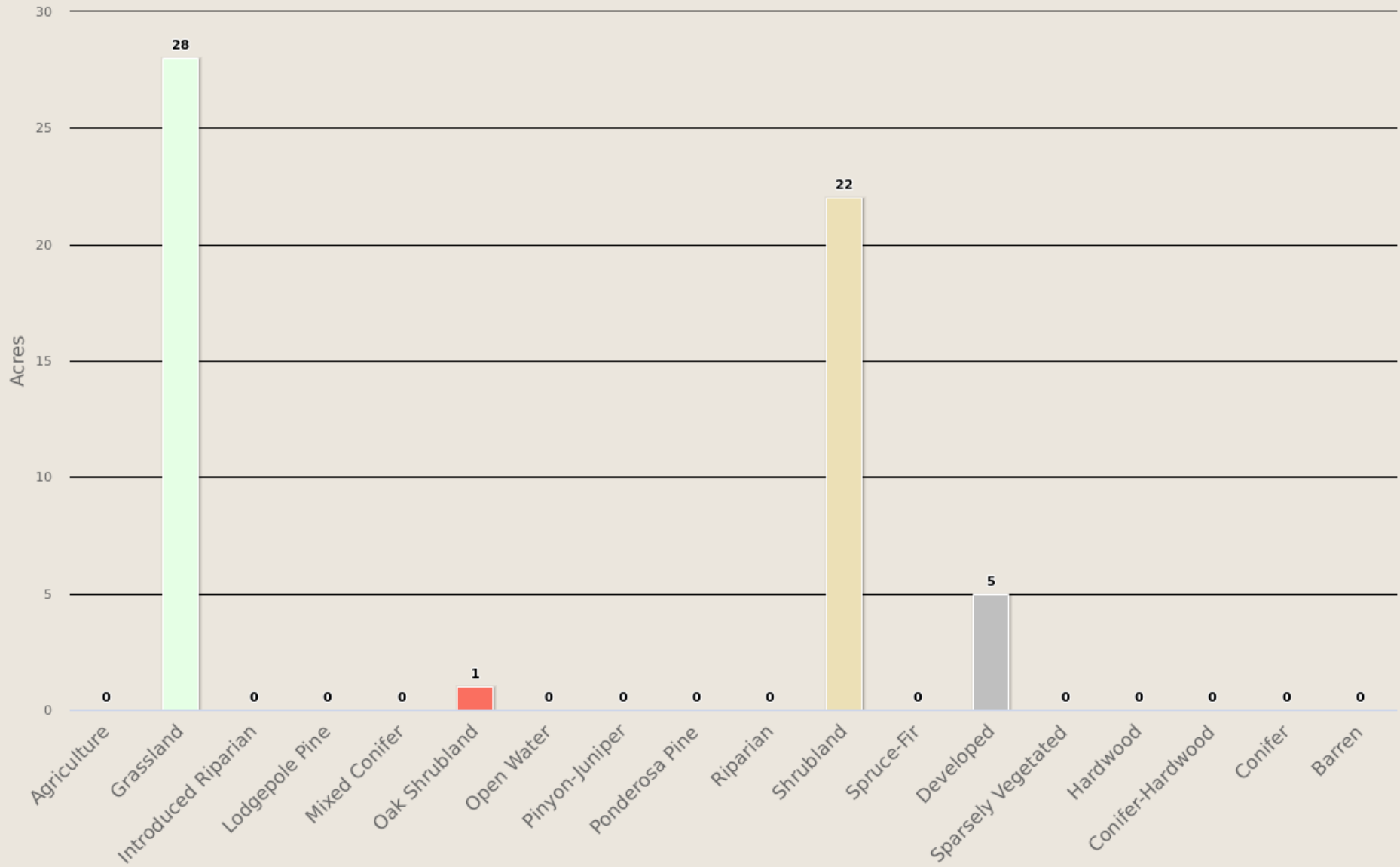


Overly dense ponderosa pine, a dominant species of the montane zone.

Vegetation Class	Acres	Percent
Agriculture	0	0 %
Grassland	28	50.0 %
Introduced Riparian	0	0 %
Lodgepole Pine	0	0 %
Mixed Conifer	0	0 %
Oak Shrubland	1	2.0 %
Open Water	0	0 %
Pinyon-Juniper	0	0 %
Ponderosa Pine	0	0 %
Riparian	0	0 %
Shrubland	22	38.9 %
Spruce-Fir	0	0 %
Developed	5	8.3 %
Sparsely Vegetated	0	0.8 %
Hardwood	0	0 %
Conifer-Hardwood	0	0 %
Conifer	0	0 %
Barren	0	0 %
Total	56	100 %

FalconAcres

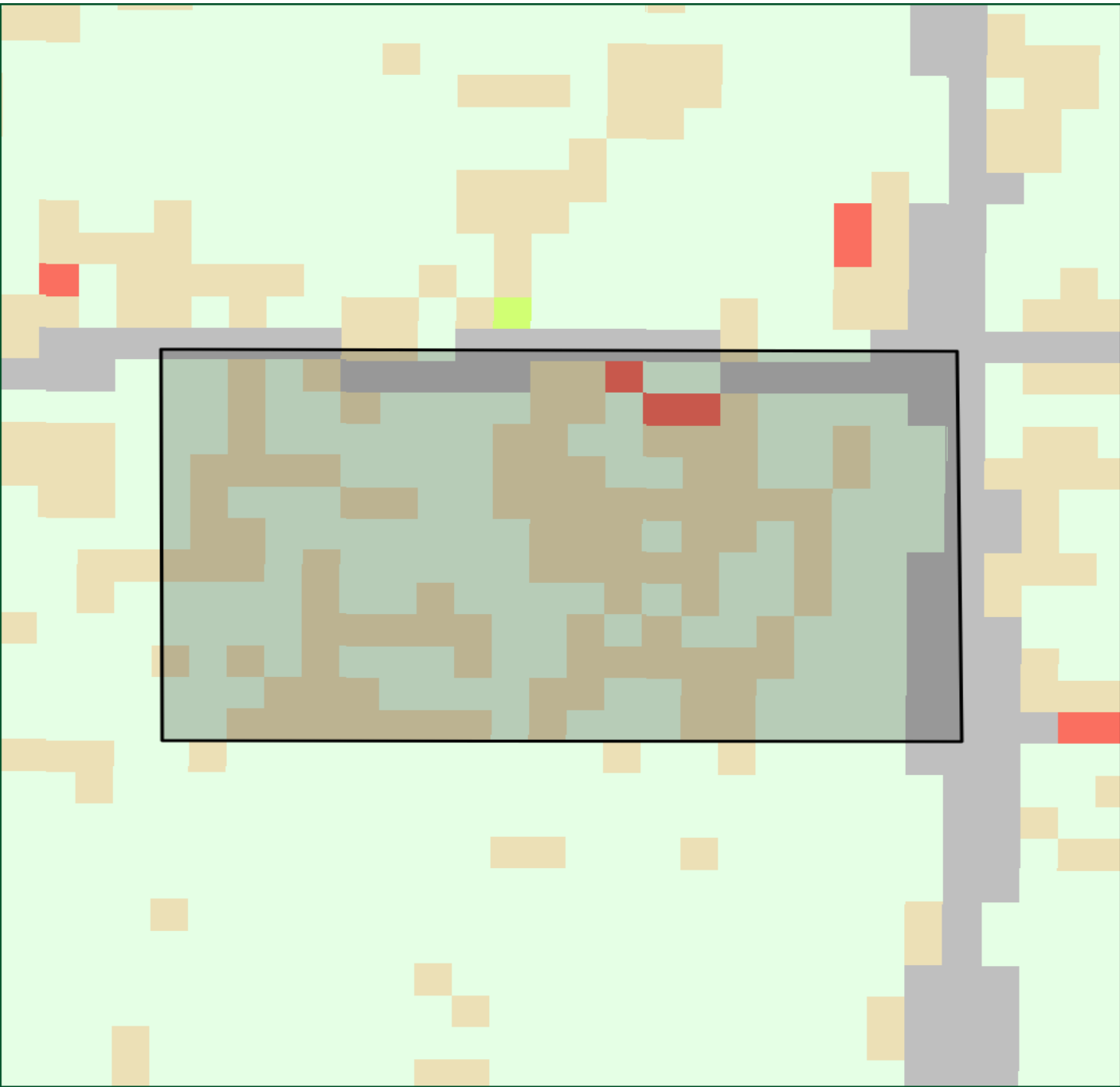
Vegetation



FalconAcres

Vegetation

- Agriculture
- Grassland
- Introduced Riparian
- Lodgepole Pine
- Mixed Conifer
- Oak Shrubland
- Open Water
- Pinyon-Juniper
- Ponderosa Pine
- Riparian
- Shrubland
- Spruce-Fir
- Developed
- Sparsely Vegetated
- Hardwood
- Conifer-Hardwood
- Conifer
- Barren



500 ft



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Drinking Water Importance Areas

Description

Drinking Water Importance Areas is the measure of quality and quantity of public surface drinking water categorized by watershed. This layer identifies an index of surface drinking water importance, reflecting a measure of water quality and quantity, characterized by Hydrologic Unit Code 12 (HUC 12) watersheds. The Hydrologic Unit system is a standardized watershed classification system developed by the USGS. Areas that are a source of drinking water are of critical importance and adverse effects from fire are a key concern.

The U.S. Forest Service Forests to Faucets (F2F) project is the primary source of the drinking water data set. This project used GIS modeling to develop an index of importance for supplying drinking water using HUC 12 watersheds as the spatial resolution. Watersheds are ranked from 1 to 100 reflecting relative level of importance, with 100 being the most important and 1 the least important.

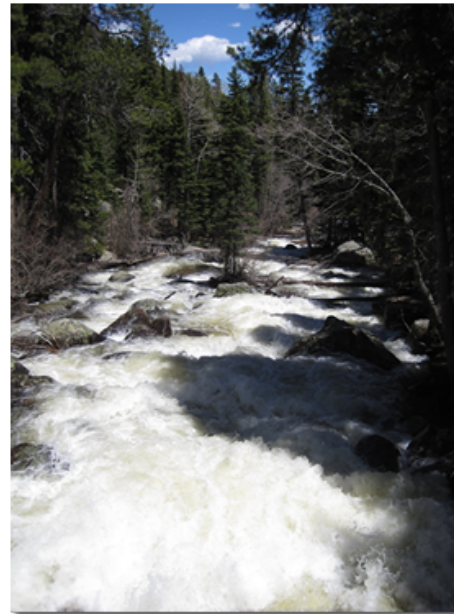
Several criteria were used in the F2F project to derive the importance rating including water supply, flow analysis, and downstream drinking water demand. The final model of surface drinking water importance used in the F2F project combines the drinking water protection model, capturing the flow of water and water demand, with a model of mean annual water supply.

The values generated by the drinking water protection model are simply multiplied by the results of the model of mean annual water supply to create the final surface drinking water importance index.

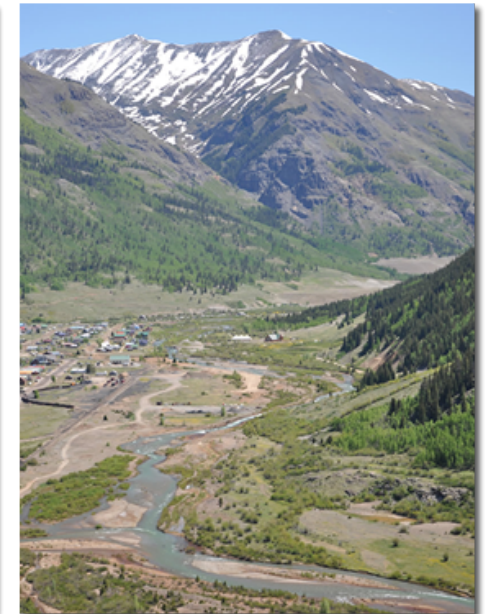
Water is critical to sustain life. Human water usage has further complicated nature's already complex aquatic system. Plants, including trees, are essential to the proper functioning of water movement within the environment. Forests receive precipitation, utilize it for their sustenance and growth, and influence its storage and/or passage to other parts of the environment.

Four major river systems – the Platte, Colorado, Arkansas and Rio Grande – originate in the Colorado mountains and fully drain into one-third of the landmass of the lower 48 states. Mountain snows supply 75 percent of the water to these river systems.

Approximately 40 percent of the water comes from the highest 20 percent of the land, most of which lies in national forests. National forests yield large portions of the total water in these river systems. The potential is great for forests to positively and negatively influence the transport of water over such immense distances.



Virtually all of Colorado's drinking water comes from snowmelt carried at some point by a river.

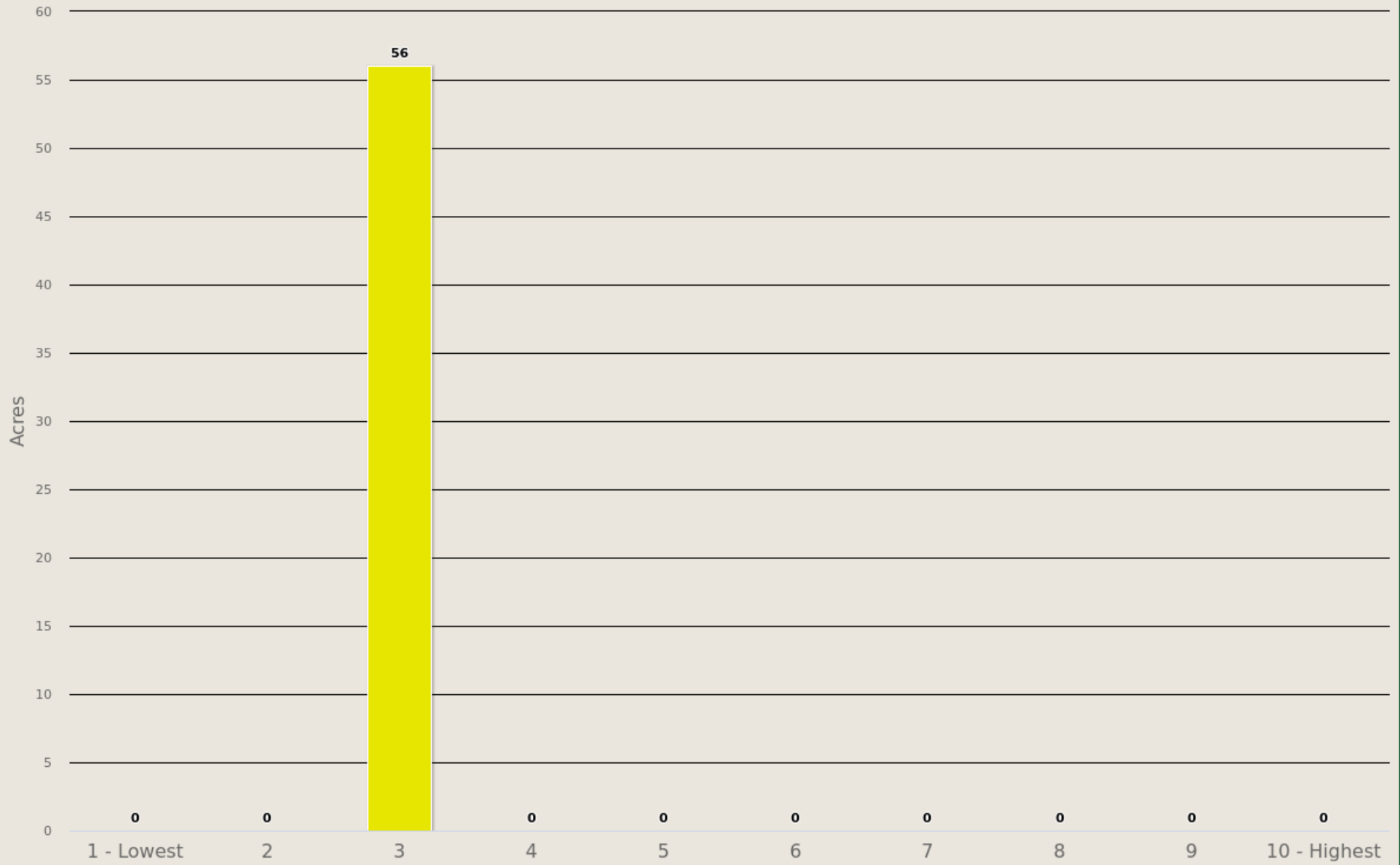


The headwaters of the Animas River begin near Silverton, CO at elevations greater than 12,000 feet.

Drinking Water Class	Acres	Percent
1 - Lowest	0	0 %
2	0	0 %
3	56	100.0 %
4	0	0 %
5	0	0 %
6	0	0 %
7	0	0 %
8	0	0 %
9	0	0 %
10 - Highest	0	0 %
Total	56	100 %



FalconAcres

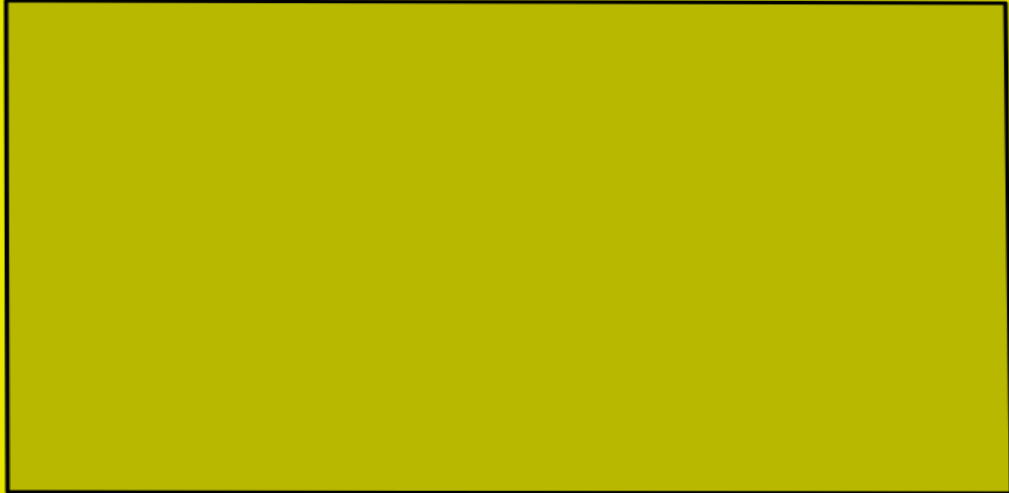
Drinking Water Importance Areas



FalconAcres

Drinking Water Importance Areas

-  1 - Lowest
-  2
-  3
-  4
-  5
-  6
-  7
-  8
-  9
-  10 - Highest



500 ft



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Drinking Water Risk Index

Description

Drinking Water Risk Index is a measure of the risk to DWIAs based on the potential negative impacts from wildfire.

In areas that experience low-severity burns, fire events can serve to eliminate competition, rejuvenate growth and improve watershed conditions. But in landscapes subjected to high, or even moderate-burn severity, the post-fire threats to public safety and natural resources can be extreme.

High-severity wildfires remove virtually all forest vegetation – from trees, shrubs and grasses down to discarded needles, decomposed roots and other elements of ground cover or duff that protect forest soils. A severe wildfire also can cause certain types of soil to become hydrophobic by forming a waxy, water-repellent layer that keeps water from penetrating the soil, dramatically amplifying the rate of runoff.

The loss of critical surface vegetation leaves forested slopes extremely vulnerable to large-scale soil erosion and flooding during subsequent storm events. In turn, these threats can impact the health, safety and integrity of communities and natural resources downstream. The likelihood that such a post-fire event will occur in Colorado is increased by the prevalence of highly erodible soils in several parts of the state, and weather patterns that frequently bring heavy rains on the heels of fire season.

In the aftermath of the 2002 fire season, the Colorado Department of Health estimated that 26 municipal water storage facilities were shut down due to fire and post-fire impacts.

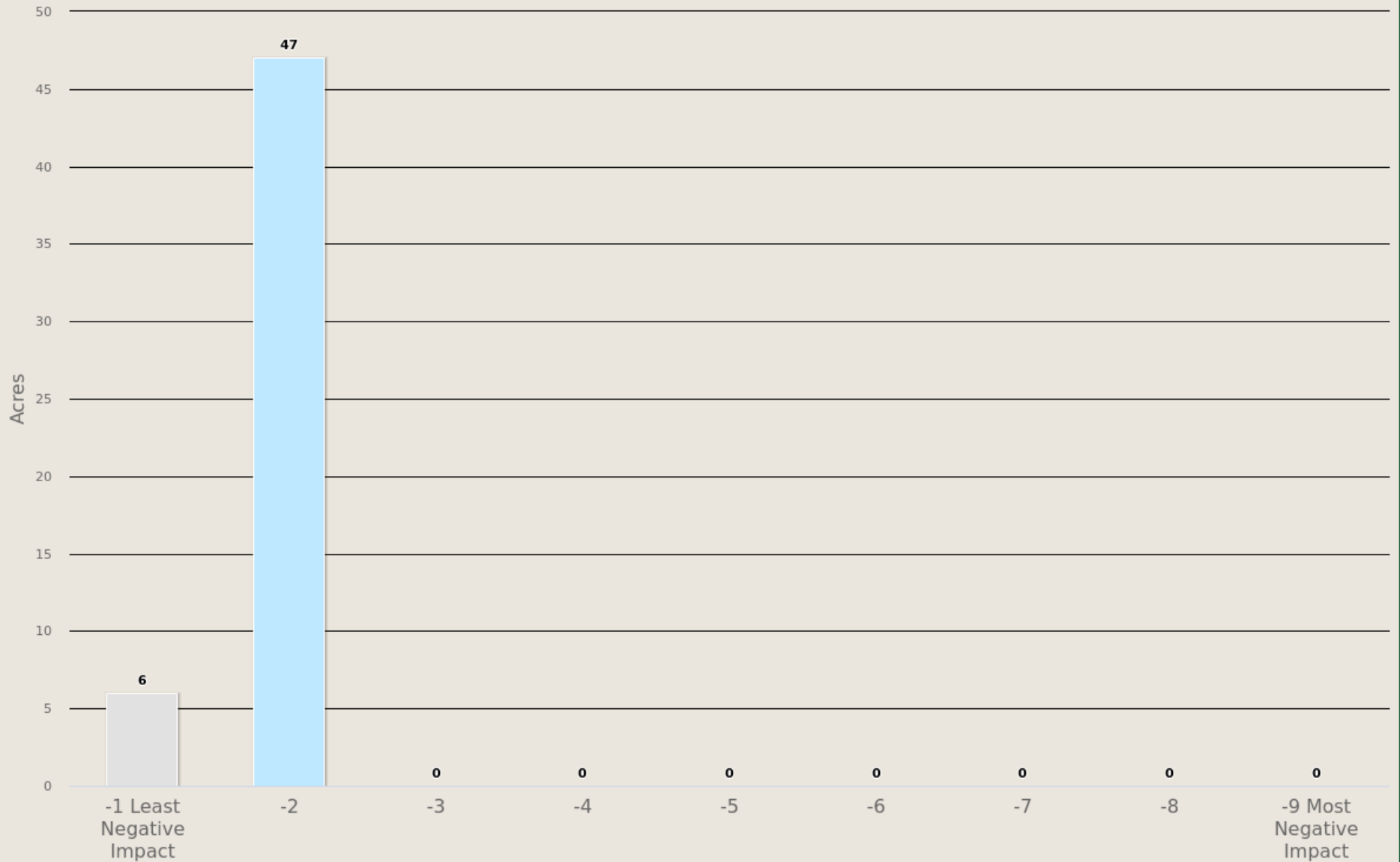
The potential for severe soil erosion is a consequence of wildfire because as a fire burns, it destroys plant material and the litter layer. Shrubs, forbs, grasses, trees and the litter layer disperse water during severe rainstorms. Plant roots stabilize the soil, and stems and leaves slow the water to give it time to percolate into the soil profile. Fire can destroy this soil protection.

The range of values is from -1 to -9, with -1 representing the least negative impact and -9 representing the most negative impact.

	Class	Acres	Percent
	-1 Least Negative Impact	6	11.0 %
	-2	47	89.0 %
	-3	0	0 %
	-4	0	0 %
	-5	0	0 %
	-6	0	0 %
	-7	0	0 %
	-8	0	0 %
	-9 Most Negative Impact	0	0 %
	Total	53	100 %










FalconAcres

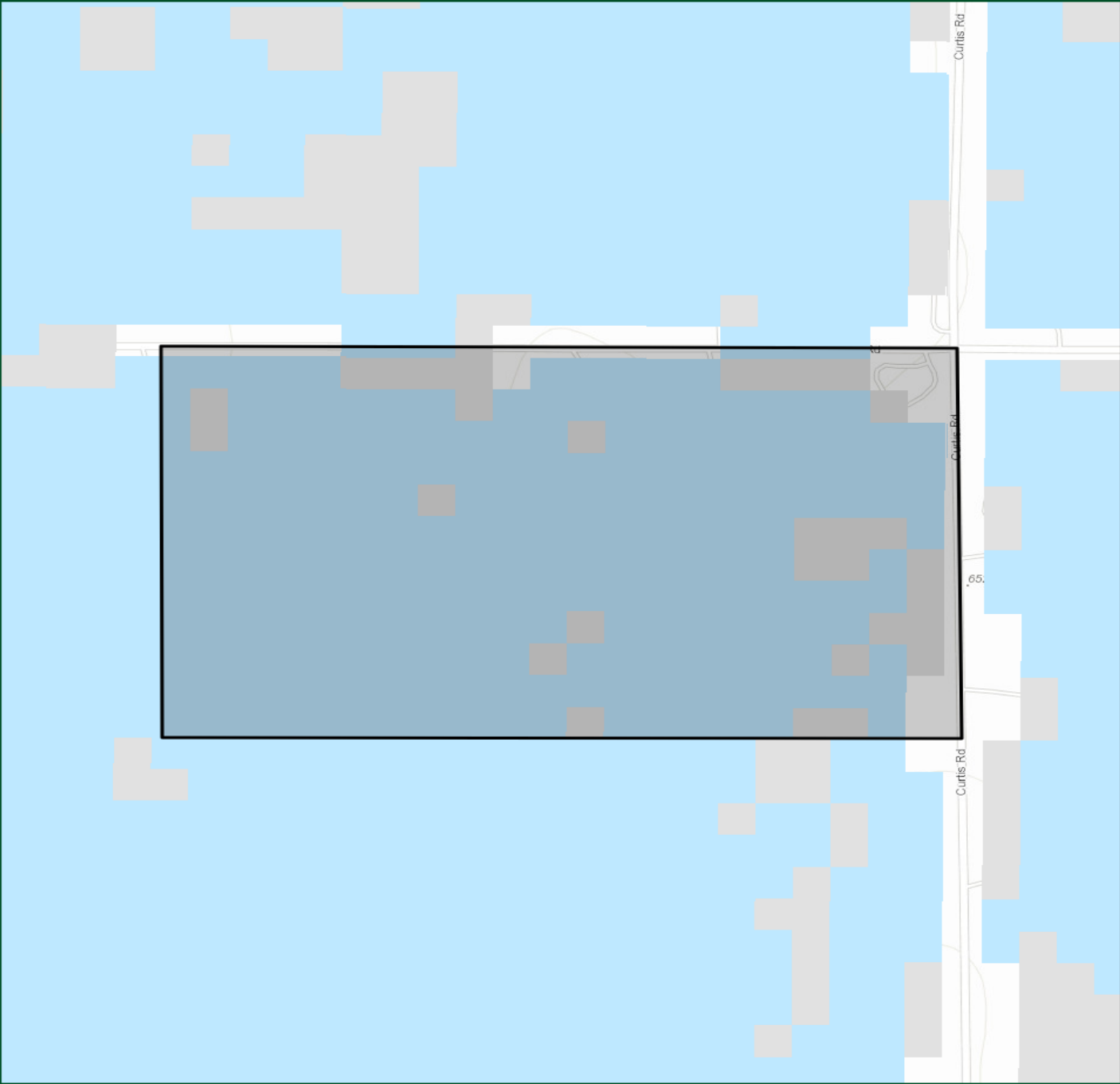
Drinking Water Risk Index



FalconAcres

Drinking Water Risk Index

-  -1 Least Negative Impact
-  -2
-  -3
-  -4
-  -5
-  -6
-  -7
-  -8
-  -9 Most Negative Impact



500 ft



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Riparian Assets

Description

Riparian Assets are forested riparian areas characterized by functions of water quantity and quality, and ecology. This layer identifies riparian areas that are important as a suite of ecosystem services, including both terrestrial and aquatic habitat, water quality, water quantity, and other ecological functions. Riparian areas are considered an especially important element of the landscape in the west. Accordingly, riparian assets are distinguished from other forest assets so they can be evaluated separately.

The process for defining these riparian areas involved identifying the riparian footprint and then assigning a rating based upon two important riparian functions – water quantity and quality, and ecological significance. A scientific model was developed by the West Wide Risk Assessment technical team with in-kind support from CAL FIRE state representatives. Several input datasets were used in the model including the National Hydrography Dataset and the National Wetland Inventory.



The National Hydrography Data Set (NHD) was used to represent hydrology. A subset of streams and water bodies, which represents perennial, intermittent, and wetlands, was created. The NHD water bodies dataset was used to determine the location of lakes, ponds, swamps, and marshes (wetlands).

To model water quality and quantity, erosion potential (K-factor) and annual average precipitation was used as key variables. The Riparian Assets data are an index of class values that range from 1 to 3 representing increasing importance of the riparian area as well as sensitivity to fire-related impacts on the suite of ecosystem services.




Riparian Assets Class	Acres	Percent
Least Sensitive to Wildland fires	11	100.0 %
2	0	0 %
Most Sensitive to Wildland fires	0	0 %
Total	11	100 %

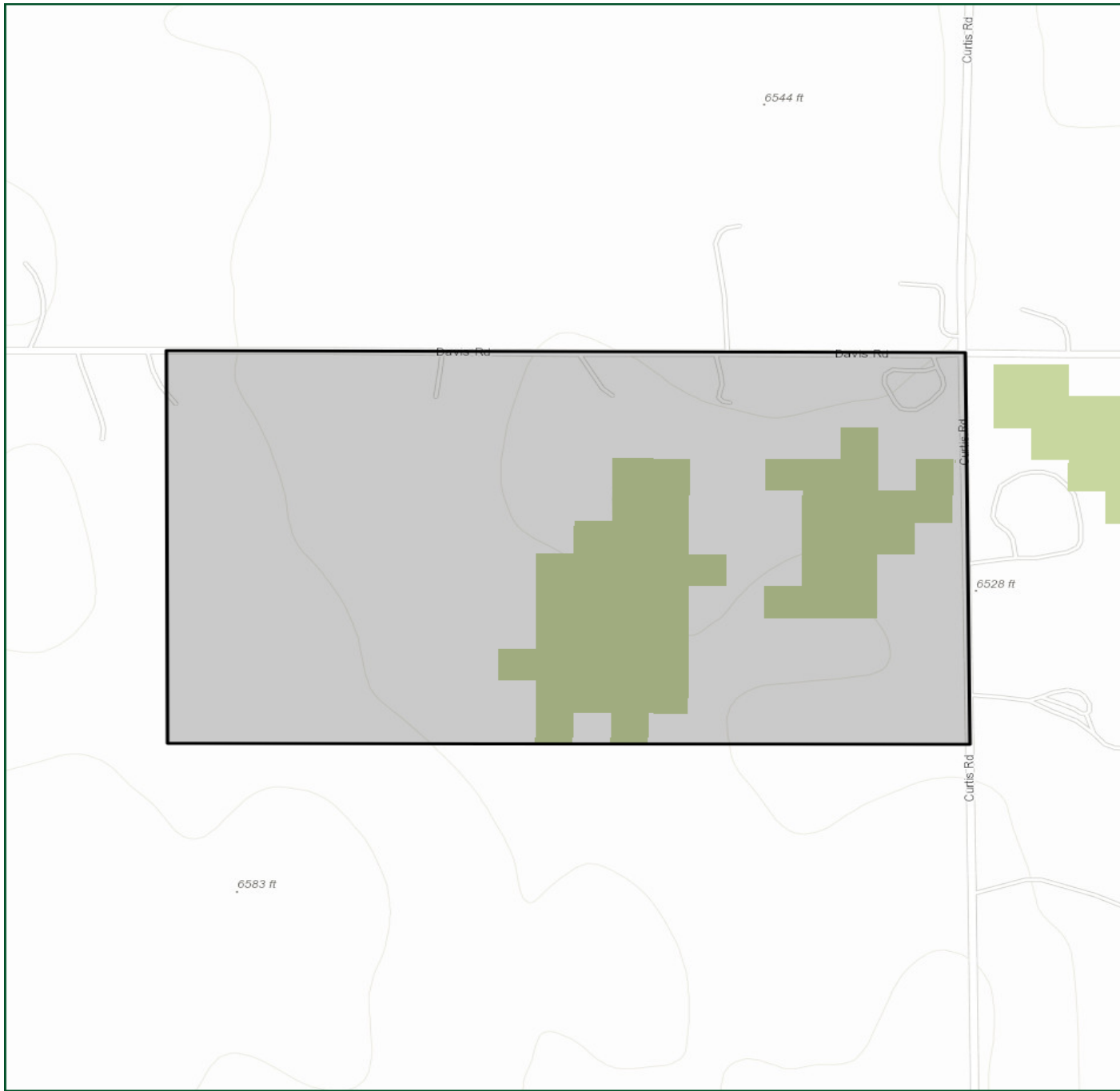
FalconAcres
Riparian Assets



FalconAcres

Riparian Assets

-  Least Sensitive to Wildland fires
-  2
-  Most Sensitive to Wildland fires



500 ft



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Riparian Assets Risk Index

Description

Riparian Assets Risk Index is a measure of the risk to riparian areas based on the potential negative impacts from wildfire. This layer identifies those riparian areas with the greatest potential for adverse effects from wildfire.

The range of values is from -1 to -9, with -1 representing the least negative impact and -9 representing the most negative impact.

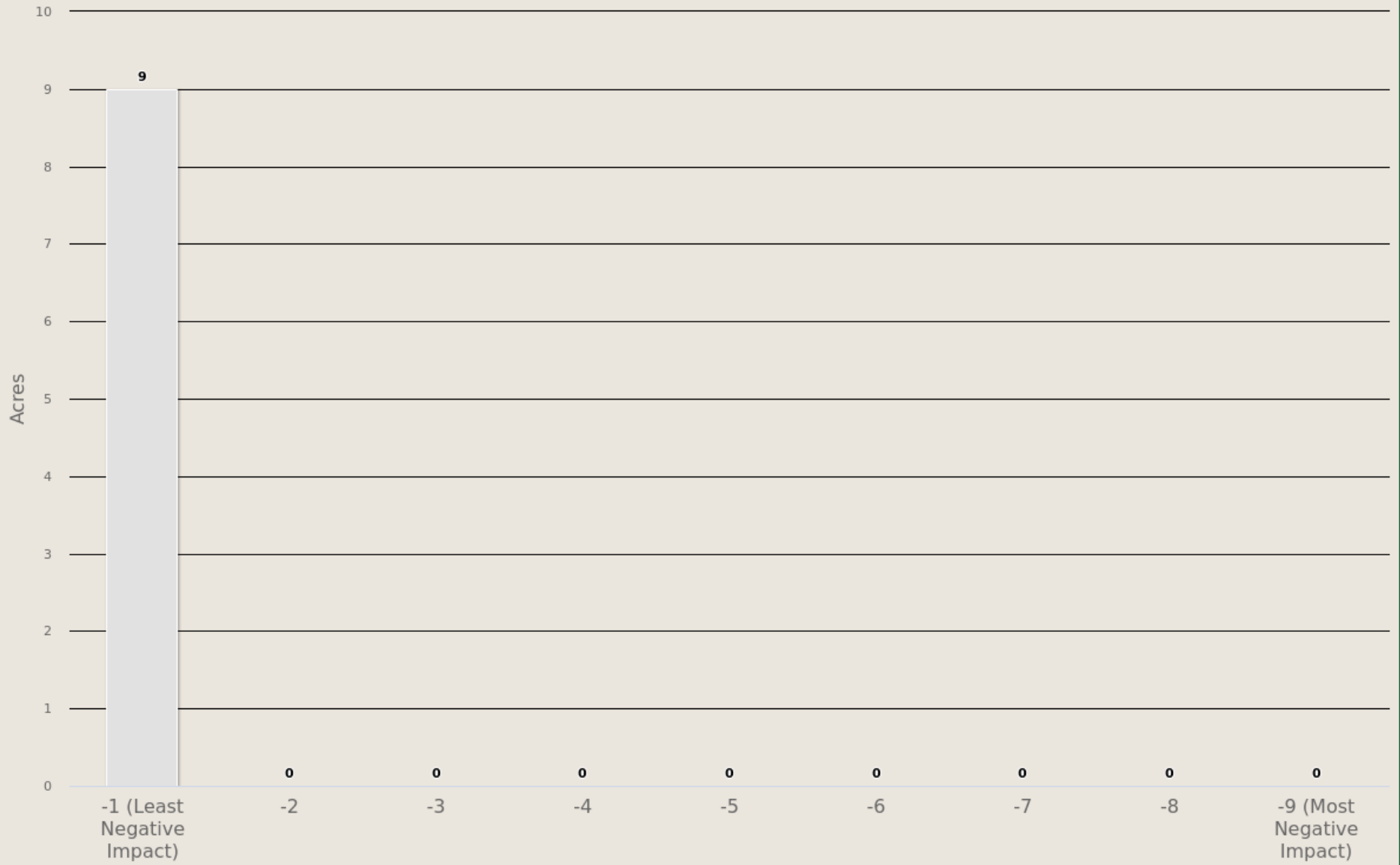
The risk index has been calculated by combining the Riparian Assets data with a measure of fire intensity using a Response Function approach. Those areas with the highest negative impact (-9) represent areas with high potential fire intensity and high importance for ecosystem services. Those areas with the lowest negative impact (-1) represent those areas with low potential fire intensity and a low importance for ecosystem services.

This risk output is intended to supplement the Drinking Water Risk Index by identifying wildfire risk within the more detailed riparian areas.

Riparian Assets Risk Class	Acres	Percent
-1 (Least Negative Impact)	9	100.0 %
-2	0	0 %
-3	0	0 %
-4	0	0 %
-5	0	0 %
-6	0	0 %
-7	0	0 %
-8	0	0 %
-9 (Most Negative Impact)	0	0 %
Total	9	100 %










FalconAcres

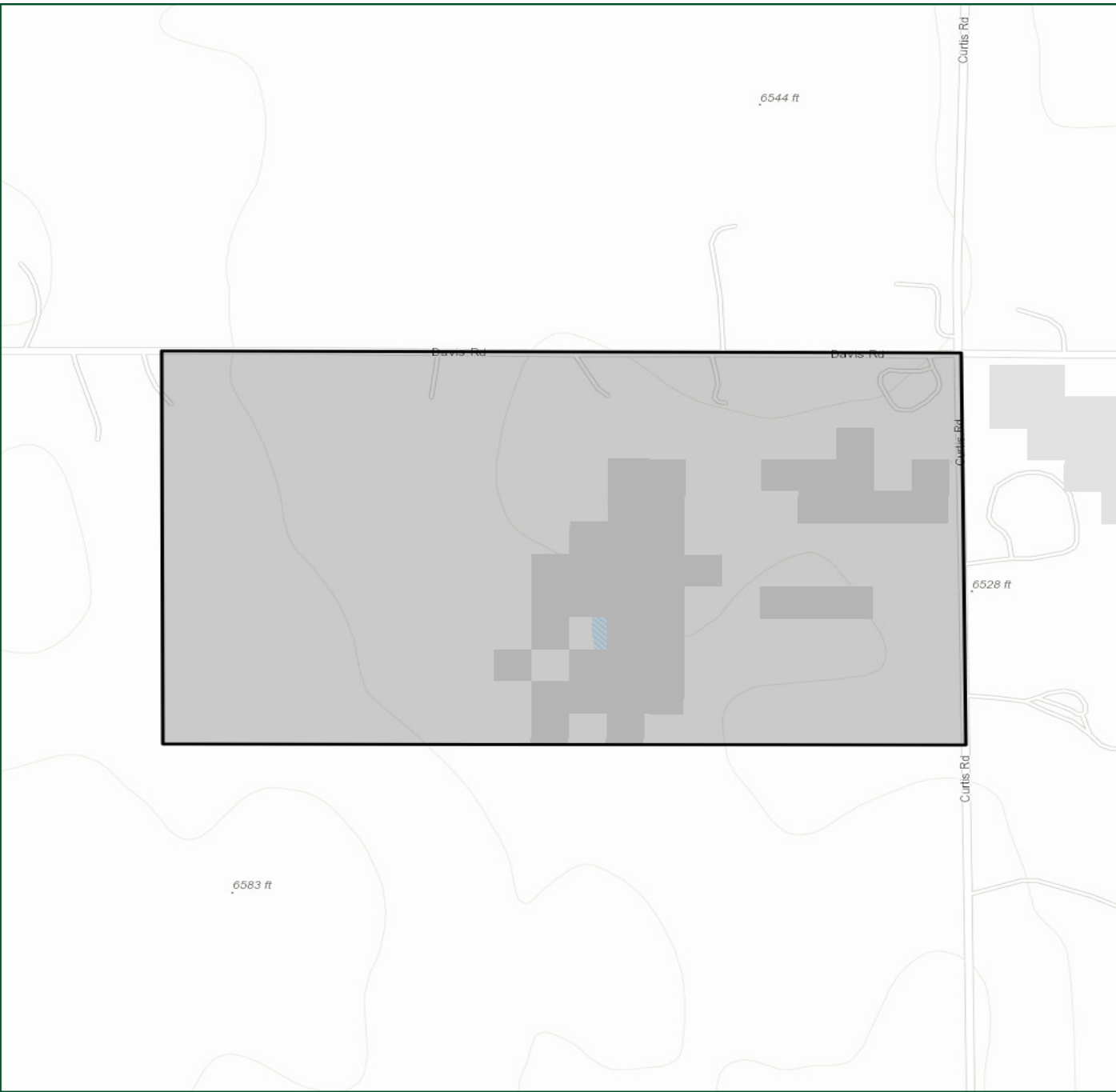
Riparian Assets Risk Index



FalconAcres

Riparian Assets Risk Index

-  -1 (Least Negative Impact)
-  -2
-  -3
-  -4
-  -5
-  -6
-  -7
-  -8
-  -9 (Most Negative Impact)



500 ft



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Forest Assets

Description

Forest Assets are forested areas categorized by height, cover, and susceptibility/response to fire. This layer identifies forested land categorized by height, cover and susceptibility or response to fire. Using these characteristics allows for the prioritization of landscapes reflecting forest assets that would be most adversely affected by fire. The rating of importance or value of the forest assets is relative to each state's interpretation of those characteristics considered most important for their landscapes.

Canopy cover from LANDFIRE 2014 was re-classified into two categories, open or sparse and closed. Areas classified as open or sparse have a canopy cover less than 60%. Areas classified as closed have a canopy cover greater than 60%.

Canopy height from LANDFIRE 2014 was re-classified into two categories, 0-10 meters and greater than 10 meters.

Response to fire was developed from the LANDFIRE 2014 existing vegetation type (EVT) dataset. There are over 1,000 existing vegetation types in the project area. Using a crosswalk defined by project ecologists, a classification of susceptibility and response to fire was defined and documented by fire ecologists into the three fire response classes.

These three classes are sensitive, resilient and adaptive.

- **Sensitive** = These are tree species that are intolerant or sensitive to damage from fire with low intensity.
- **Resilient** = These are tree species that have characteristics that help the tree resist damage from fire and whose adult stages can survive low intensity fires.
- **Adaptive** = These are tree species adapted with the ability to regenerate following fire by sprouting or serotinous cones

The range of values is from -1 to -9, with -1 representing the least negative impact and -9 representing the most negative impact.

The risk index has been calculated by combining the Forest Assets data with a measure of fire intensity using a Response Function approach. Those areas with the highest negative impact (-9) represent areas with high potential fire intensity and low resilience or adaptability to fire. Those areas with the lowest negative impact (-1) represent those areas with low potential fire intensity and high resilience or adaptability to fire.

This risk output is intended to provide an overall forest index for potential impact from wildfire. This can be applied to consider aesthetic values, ecosystem services, or economic values of forested lands.

	Forest Assets	Acres	Percent
	Sensitive	0	0 %
	Resilient	0	0 %
	Adaptive	0	0 %
	Total	0	0 %

FalconAcres
Forest Assets

Acres
0

0

0

0

Sensitive

Resilient

Adaptative

FalconAces

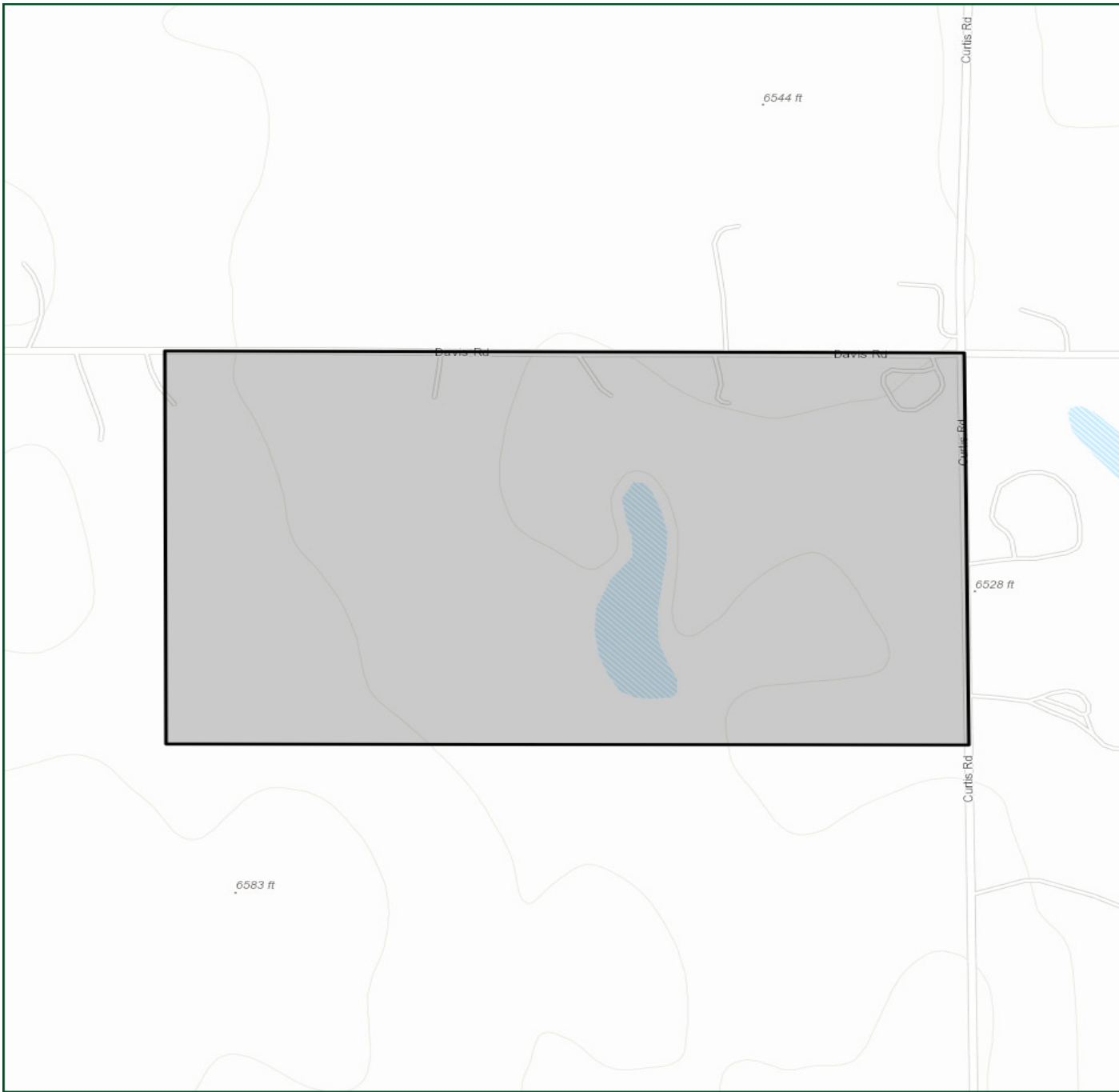
Forest Assets

-  Sensitive
-  Resilient
-  Adaptative

500 ft



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Forest Assets Risk Index

Description

Forest Assets Risk Index is a measure of the risk to forested areas based on the potential negative impacts from wildfire. This layer identifies those forested areas with the greatest potential for adverse effects from wildfire.

The range of values is from -1 to -9, with -1 representing the least negative impact and -9 representing the most negative impact.

The risk index has been calculated by combining the Forest Assets data with a measure of fire intensity using a Response Function approach. Those areas with the highest negative impact (-9) represent areas with high potential fire intensity and low resilience or adaptability to fire. Those areas with the lowest negative impact (-1) represent those areas with low potential fire intensity and high resilience or adaptability to fire.

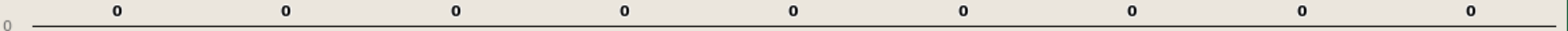
This risk output is intended to provide an overall forest index for potential impact from wildfire. This can be applied to consider aesthetic values, ecosystem services, or economic values of forested lands.

Forest Assets Risk Class	Acres	Percent
-1 (Least Negative Impact)	0	0 %
-2	0	0 %
-3	0	0 %
-4	0	0 %
-5	0	0 %
-6	0	0 %
-7	0	0 %
-8	0	0 %
-9 (Most Negative Impact)	0	0 %
Total	0	0 %

FalconAcres

Forest Assets Risk Index

Acres



-1 (Least
Negative
Impact)

-2

-3

-4

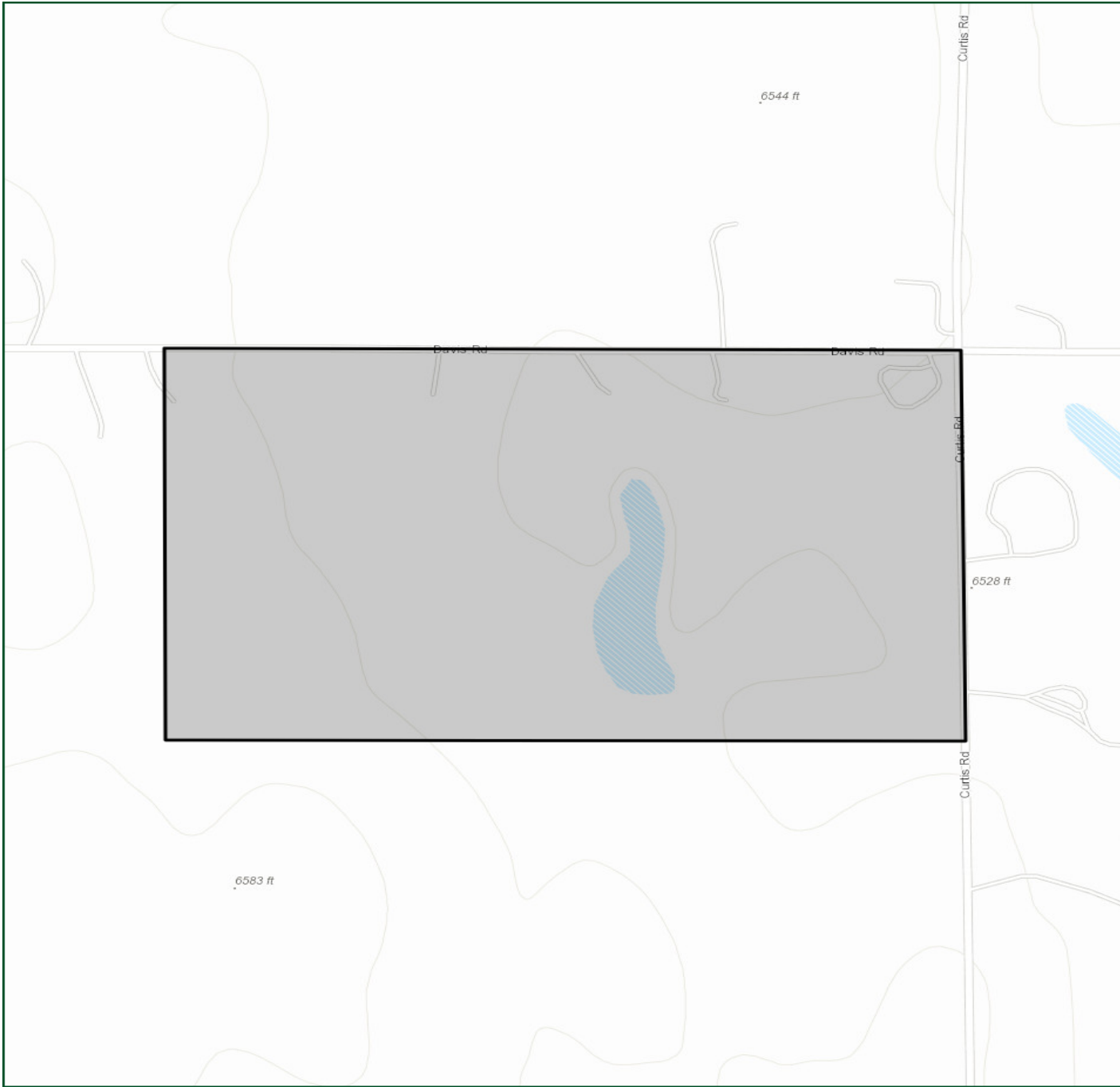
-5

-6

-7










-8

-9 (Most
Negative
Impact)



FalconAcres

Forest Assets Risk Index

-  -1 (Least Negative Impact)
-  -2
-  -3
-  -4
-  -5
-  -6
-  -7
-  -8
-  -9 (Most Negative Impact)

500 ft



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