

Sunshine Fire Protection District – CWPP Planning Meeting Notes

March 16, 2026

Meeting

WHEN: Monday, March 16th from 6:30-8:00 PM MST

Attendees

Abby Silver, Alan Kirton, Cathy Shoenfeld, Dan Fischer, David Battany, Dick Smith, Eric Bader, Haydee Kunner, Jerry Kunner, Josh King, Josh Shoenfeld, Leary Walker, Michael Schmitt, Stephen Donnelly

Agenda

Kickoff: Abby Silver

Announcements: Does anyone have any?

Minutes from last meeting:

2025 meeting minutes are available on the Sunshine FPD website

https://www.sunshinefpd.org/files/ugd/a30c56_4c74aa97dabc4f1094876c839760c9c0.pdf

Reports:

2025 CWPP Project Work/Spend – Alan

2025 CWPP Year End Financials – Alan

2026 CWPP Financial Outlook – Alan

2026 Projects Carried Over From 2025 – Abby/Alan

New Business:

New Projects for 2026?

Other ideas or topics?

Closing:

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2025 CWPP Project Work/Spend

2025 CWPP Spend		Point Person(s)	2025 Budgeted Cost	2025 Actual Cost	Notes
1.0	Fuels Mitigation - Community Chipping Events	Abby Silver	\$0	\$0	Spring and Fall Events. BOCO covered the cost.
2.0	Sign Maintenance Project	Brook Weathers Alan Rosenberg	\$1,000	\$0	Repair existing signs or install new signs as required.
3.0	Mine Lane Egress Road Maintenance	Chief Schmitt Sam Mishkin	\$1,500	\$0	Some maintenance performed by Eric Bader and Pat Noyes
4.0	Hazard Tree Removal Along District Roads and Near Powerlines	Abby Silver Eric Bader	\$2,400	\$5,204	
5.0	Hazard Tree Removal Along Emergency Egress Routes	Chief Schmitt Firefighters	\$1,000	\$0	
6.0	Financial Incentives to District Residents to Participate in Wildfire Partners	Abby Silver	\$5,000	\$0	
7.0	Other Egress Routes as Defined in SFPD 2013 CWPP and CR 85J	Michael Schmitt	\$0	\$0	
8.0	Grass cutting along Sunshine Canyon in the Meadows area	Michael Schmitt Abby Silver	\$0	\$0	
9.0	Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project	Alan Kirton Abby Silver	\$173,059	\$174,357	Cutting/extraction completed and grants have been closed out. SFPD received \$165,114 in grants reimbursements. There are still slash piles in the project area that need to be burned.
10.0	Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction Project	Alan Kirton Abby Silver	\$97,867	\$2,013	CSFS payment for marking trees. Project work to be done in 2026.
11.0	Community Hauling Event	Abby Silver Susan Fargo	\$1,500	\$0	
12.0	Community Presentation Boulder Mushrooms	Josh King	\$0	\$0	
13.0	Fire Prevention, Education and Neighborhood Watch	Daniel Levison	\$0	\$0	
Total			\$283,326	\$181,574	

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2025 CWPP Year End Financial Summary

2025 CWPP Revenue	Amount
CWPP Tax Revenue	\$63,429.21
CWPP Donations	\$0.00
CWPP Grant Revenue (Dry Gulch South project)	\$165,114.17
Total CWPP Revenue	\$228,543.38
2025 CWPP Expenses	Amount
Wildland Mitigation Expenses	
Hazard Tree Removal	\$5,204.00
Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project	\$174,356.50
Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction Project	\$2,013.00
Total CWPP Expenses	\$181,573.50
2025 CWPP Net Income	\$46,969.88

CWPP Reserve Fund Balance	Amount
2024 Year End CWPP Reserve Fund Balance	\$133,575.81
2025 Year End Contribution to CWPP Reserve Fund	\$46,969.88
2025 Year End CWPP Reserve Fund Balance	\$180,545.69

2026 CWPP Financial Outlook

2026 CWPP Financial Outlook	Amount
CWPP Reserve Fund 01/01/2026	\$180,546
Projected 2026 CWPP Tax Income *	\$59,007
2026 Available Grant Income - Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction Project	\$377,692
CSFS Forest Restoration and Wildfire Mitigation Grant**	\$188,846
USDA/US Forest Service - State Financial Assistance WUI Grant**	\$136,010
Boulder County Strategic Fuels Mitigation Grant**	\$188,846
Total 2026 CWPP Available Funding	\$617,245
2026 CWPP Funding Available for Projects Other than Dry Gulch North	\$239,553

* SFPD Assessed Valuation is \$1,657,500 and the CWPP mill levy is 3.56 mills

** Grants are matching grants for the Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction Project. In total SFPD cannot receive more money than it spends on the project. Current project estimate is \$377,692.

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2026 CWPP Projects Carried Over from 2025 and Past Years

Note: CWPP will not be planning or implementing any water supply improvement projects. This work is now managed by the Fire Marshall and the Fire Cistern Committee. At the SFPD Board’s discretion, CWPP funding can be allocated to be used on water improvement projects.

1.0 Fuels Mitigation - Community Chipping Events

Community Chipping events continue to be a very successful way to encourage residents to maintain their D-space and fuel breaks. We have held both Spring and Fall Chipping Events since 2015 with good participation in both events.

Project Details: Boulder County is now providing funding for chipping. SFPD will organize the dates and notify the community on how to sign up for the chipping events. Boulder County will provide funding.

Meeting Notes: Abby mentioned that there have been some residents wanting an early spring chipping event to get rid of slash from trees blown down in our wind events this winter. Several attendees mentioned that they are in that situation as well. We need 5 participants to meet BOCO’s requirements for a chipping event and it looks like SFPD can meet that for an early event. Dick Smith asked the question about whether we need to take into account the Bark Beetle infestation when scheduling chipping events. We will work with Supervisory Forester Ben Pfohl to get an answer to that question. David Battany agreed to work with Abby on managing the chipping projects.

Est. Cost for 2025 - \$0

Point Person(s) – Abby Silver, David Battany

2.0 Sign Maintenance Project

The sign maintenance project is a yearly project to replace address signs that have been damaged during the past year.

Meeting Notes: There is expected to be a larger demand for sign replacement due to our high wind events this winter. Josh Shoenfeld agreed to lead this project. Est. cost is the same as 2025 est cost.

Est. Cost for 2026 - \$500

Point Person – Josh Shoenfeld

3.0 Mine Lane Egress Road Maintenance

This project is part of the ongoing maintenance of the Mine Lane egress road that goes between Sunshine and Boulder Heights. In the past, the costs have typically been shared between Sunshine FPD and Boulder Mountain FPD.

Meeting Notes: The current condition of Mine Lane egress road is considered to be good.

Project Details: Repair as needed

Est. Cost for 2026 - \$1500

Point Person – Chief Schmitt

4.0 Hazardous Tree Removal Along District Roads

There are dead and dying trees located near district roads. These represent a threat for safe egress along the roads and a threat of wildfire should a dead tree take down a powerline in a windstorm. This project will provide a financial incentive for the property owners to remove the hazardous trees. The funding amount will be 90% of the cost of removal which is a similar match amount to those property owners that took part in past shaded fuel break along district roads project. Since SFPD is funding most of the project cost, the district will hire the contractor to do the work.

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Project Details:

Work for 2026 includes:

- Re-send a notice to the district notifying the residents of this project
- Compile the responses from the residents and work with a contractor to verify that the trees do represent a hazard and get the estimated cost
- Get License to Enter and Cutting Agreements signed
- At project completion pay contractor and get donation from property owner for homeowner portion of cost

Est. Cost for 2025 - \$2400 (Assumes 6 trees, \$400/tree)

Point Person(s) – Abby Silver, Eric Bader

5.0 Hazard Tree Removal Along Egress Routes

Besides state/county roads, there are two other defined egress roads in the district. One is at the top of Sunshine Saddle which goes to Mine Lane, Boulder Heights and the Boulder Mountain Fire District. The other is the driveway to the Star House which continues to Pine Brook Hills and the Boulder Mountain Fire District. Both roads are gated and used for emergency egress only. This project would perform hazard tree removal along these roads to help ensure that there is no blockage on the roads due to wind-blown trees.

Project Details:

Inspect and remove hazard trees as required.

Est. Cost for 2026 - \$1000

Point Person(s) - Chief Schmitt, Firefighters

6.0 Wildfire Partners Matching Funds

The Four Mile Canyon Fire final report clearly stated that the single determining factor in home survivability in the wildfire was the characteristics of the home ignition zone. This project will provide financial incentives for Sunshine residents to work with Boulder County Wildfire Partners to have a wildfire assessment performed and then to follow up with wildfire mitigation work. Wildfire Partners is currently offering to pay 50% of the mitigation cost when the homeowner uses a Wildfire Partner's contractor to perform the mitigation work. SFPD will provide a match of 25% of the mitigation cost so that the homeowner only pays 25% of the mitigation cost. The Wildfire Partners match is currently set at \$2000 maximum and the SFPD match will be set at \$1000 maximum. This money can be used to match any action identified in the Wildfire Partners assessment report for either forestry or home hardening measures.

Project Details:

We will need to make a more concerted effort to get the word out to the community regarding this project. Perhaps we need to get some help from someone who is well versed in communication to do that portion of the project (i.e. John Bauer)

Est. Cost for 2026 - \$5000

Point Person(s) – Abby Silver

7.0 Egress Routes as Defined in SFPD 2013 CWPP Document

SFPD's 2013 CWPP document defined several different emergency egress routes. Chief Schmitt has been working with BOCO to get them to improve and maintain 85J with the goal of making the road passable all the way to Salina. The other egress route under investigation is a road down to Glendale Gulch from Sunshine Saddle.

Est. Cost for 2026 - \$0

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8.0 Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project

Cutting and extraction for the Dry Gulch South project was completed in 2025. There are slash piles within the project area that were created before the CWPP project and some that were created as part of the project implementation. There will costs associated with getting those burned as well as some incidental costs associated with some lop and scatter slash to be cleaned up.

Remaining Work To Be Completed in 2026	2026 Cost
Cleaning scattered slash left by contractor	\$2000
Slash Pile Burning (74 piles remaining)	\$11,000
Total 2026 Cost	\$13,000

Point Persons: Alan Kirton, Abby Silver

9.0 Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction

The Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction project lies to the north of Dry Gulch South. It is located in an area that is to the southwest and northeast of Sunshine Canyon Dr. between mile markers 3.7 and 4.2. A ridgeline runs along the northern portion of the project area. The area south of that ridgeline drains in the Fourmile Creek watershed. The area north of that ridgeline drains into the Fourmile Canyon Creek watershed.

SFPD was awarded a State Fire Assistance – Wildland Urban Interface Grant (USDA SFA-WUI) in January, 2025. The SFA-WUI grant is a federal grant administered through the USDA, federally, and CSFS locally. The SFA-WUI award amount is \$136,010

SFPD was also awarded a CSFS FRWRM grant in February, 2025 for the Dry Gulch North project. The estimate used for this grant is more in line with cost/acre we’ve seen with Dry Gulch South. The award amount for the FRWRM grant is \$188,846.

Even though we had enough grants in hand to proceed with the project, there was uncertainty about the funding for the federal grant so the decision was made to hold off on implementation until more reliable funding could be obtained. In spring of 2025 SFPD applied for the Boulder County Strategic Fuels Mitigation Grant and was awarded the grant in July 2025. The award amount was \$188,846.

The grants are from federal, state and county governments and can be combined. However, the total amount of grant reimbursements cannot exceed the cost of the project.

Dry Gulch North Project Cost Estimate	
CSFS Marking Cost (\$80/acre x 57.4 acres)	\$4,592
Mitigation Cost (\$6500/acre x 57.4 acres)	\$373,100
Total	\$377,692
Grants Awarded	
SFA-WUI Grant	\$136,010
FRWRM Grant	\$188,846
SFMG	\$188,846
Total	\$513,702
SFPD Costs	
SFPD Cost	\$377,692
Grant Income	\$377,692
SFPD Net Cost	\$0

Point Persons: Abby Silver, Alan Kirton

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2026 CWPP Carryover Projects

2026 Carryover Projects from 2025		Point Person(s)	2026 Budgeted Cost	Notes
1.0	Fuels Mitigation - Community Chipping Events	Abby Silver David Battany	\$0	BOCO provides funding for the Community Chipping Events
2.0	Sign Maintenance Project	Josh Schoenfeld	\$500	Same cost as 2025
3.0	Mine Lane Egress Road Maintenance		\$1,500	Same cost as 2025
4.0	Hazard Tree Removal Along District Roads and Near Powerlines	Abby Silver Eric Bader	\$2,400	Same cost as 2025
5.0	Hazard Tree Removal Along Emergency Egress Routes	Chief Schmitt Firefighters	\$1,000	Same cost as 2025
6.0	Financial Incentives to District Residents to Participate in Wildfire Partners	Abby Sliver	\$5,000	Same cost as 2025
7.0	Other Egress Routes as Defined in SFPD 2013 CWPP Document and CR 85J	Chief Schmitt	\$0	Same cost as 2025
8.0	Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project	Alan Kirton Abby Silver	\$13,000	Cutting and extraction of the Dry Gulch South project was completed and grants closed out. There are still 74 piles to be burned plus some cleanup of scattered slash.
9.0	Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction Project	Alan Kirton Abby Silver	\$377,692	Assumption is that this project will be completed in 2026. The project will be totally funded by grants.
Total			\$401,592	

Net CWPP Spend on Carryover Projects - \$23,900

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2026 Possible CWPP Projects

10.0 Townsite North or Townsite South or Ingram Fuels Reduction Project

Since Dry Gulch North is fully funded by grants we have on hand, we could initiate another large mitigation project. Townsite North, Townsite South and Ingram were all projects identified in the Boulder West Wildfire Authority CWPP, which was the document jointly created by Sunshine, Four Mile, Sugar Loaf and Gold Hill FPD. Townsite North project area is 59 acres, Townsite South is 43 acres and Ingram is 42 acres. For budget and planning purposes the assumption is that project cost is \$6000/acre which is consistent with the project cost for the two Dry Gulch projects. That would put Townsite North at \$354,000, Townsite South at \$258,000 and Ingram at \$252,000. The cost of any of these projects is more than what SFPD can take on its own and based on money and volunteer resources we can only do one of these projects at a time.

2026 Work – Determine which of the three projects we should do first. Once that decision has been made, then communicate with property owners to determine their desire to be part of the mitigation project. Based on the response we will either begin the process of doing the grant applications or if there is not enough participation, then move on to one of the other project areas. Once a project area has been selected and we have a commitment from most, if not all residents, then the grant applications and award cycle will take up to a year based on the timing of when grants are available

Meeting Notes: *The consensus from the meeting was that Townsite South was the best project to proceed with in 2026. As discussed above, this selection may change based on resident participation. Eric Bader suggested that some areas to the south of Townsite South should be added to the project. Those areas are called out in the BWWA CWPP document as priority areas but given that the current Townsite South project size is 42 acres the decision was made to define that as a separate project. Leary Walker, a resident of Misty Vale, agreed to assist in communicating with the residents and getting their agreement to participate.*

2026 Cost – 0\$

Point Person(s) – Abby Silver, Alan Kirton, Leary Walker

11.0 Use CWPP Money to Encourage Tree Work Needed to Bring Resident’s Driveways in Compliance with Boulder County Emergency Egress Requirements

This project would only address tree work necessary to bring a driveway into compliance with the Boulder County Emergency Egress Requirement. The requirement is a drivable width of 12’ with a 2’ shoulder on each side. Meaning there should be no trees/shrubbery within 2’ of the road on either side. The other requirement is that there is a vertical clearance of 13’ 8”. Both requirements are critical to avoid damage to SFPD’s fire apparatus when they are responding to an emergency. The details are to be worked out, but the work involved would be to evaluate the driveway to determine what needs to be done then pay for all or part of the tree work required to bring the driveway into compliance.

Meeting Notes: *Chief Schmitt supported this project. Fire personnel could do the assessment work to define which trees/branches need to be removed. We need to hire a contractor to do this work. It would be much more efficient to have a single contractor do of the work (e.g. how we do hazard tree removal) so that we do not need to go*

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through a quote cycle for every piece of work. We also need to decide what the cost incentive would work. The current hazard tree removal project pays 90% of the cost and the property owner pays 10%. That will be more complicated on a shared driveway since the 10% as the residents would need to figure out how to share the cost. For 2026 could allocate the same cost as hazard tree removal and see how much participation we have from residents.

2026 Cost - \$2400

Point Person(s) – Firefighters will do the assessment. Abby Silver/Alan Kirton will determine how to get the work completed.

12.0 Tree Thinning at the Sunshine Saddle

Discuss in meeting.

Meeting Notes: *All the land at the Sunshine Saddle is owned by Boulder County which so far has proven to be very reluctant to allow SFPD to do any mitigation work on their property. Also, the consensus was that the Fourmile Canyon Fire burned most of that area and it doesn't really represent a fire risk.*

13.0 Mitigation Around Xcel Poles and Wires to Prevent Damage During Windstorms

Discuss in meeting.

Meeting Notes: *Xcel has a program in place to do mitigation around their trees and poles. They also have a process that allows property owners request an evaluation if they feel that there is a hazardous situation with vegetation too close to wires. If it is an emergency situation, i.e. downed line or fallen tree on line or pole, then residents should call 911. If residents notice what they think is a hazardous situation where trees are too close to lines or poles than they should call Xcel Energy Customer Support at 1-800-895-4999 to request an inspector evaluate the situation.*

14.0 Legacy Slash Piles Left After Mitigation Work at 4300 Sunshine Canyon

Meeting Notes: *This was a subject that Dick Smith brought up in the meeting. There was mitigation work done by the state in 2015 after the joint project that SFPD and CSFS did to mitigate along the shared driveway. SFPD burned their slash at the completion of their project with the state. However, when the state came back to do another pass of mitigation before the State Land Board Sale, they did not burn their piles. The piles still exist today. What is required is an inspection of the piles to determine if they are still burnable and then come up with an action plan on how to handle the piles. Alan Kirton will work with Dick Smith examine the piles.*

2026 Cost - \$0 (TBD)

Point Person(s) – Dick Smith, Alan Kirton

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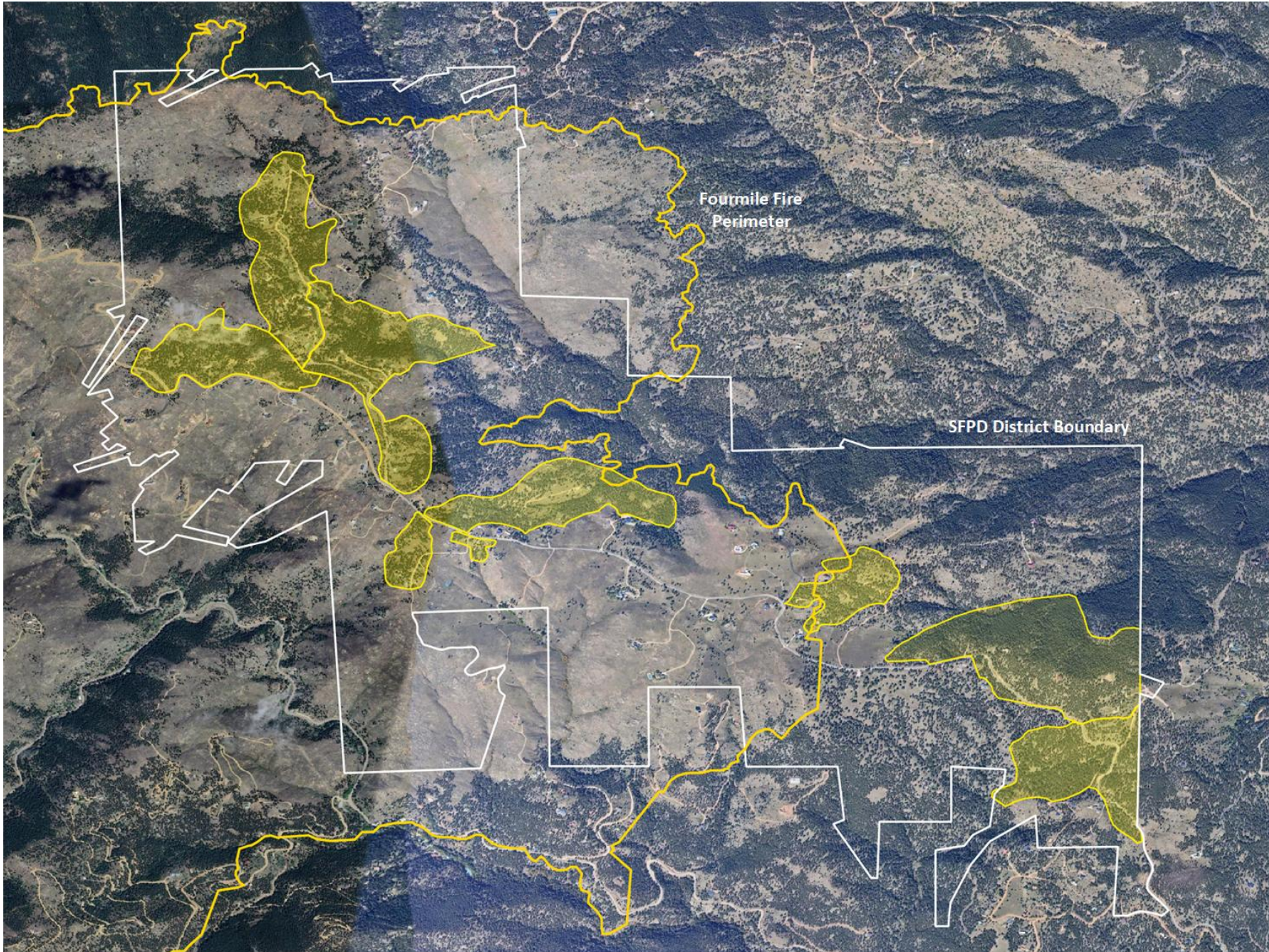
2026 Projects		Point Person(s)	2026 Budgeted Cost	Notes
1.0	Fuels Mitigation - Community Chipping Events	Abby Silver	\$0	BOCO provides funding for the Community Chipping Events
2.0	Sign Maintenance Project		\$500	Same cost as 2025
3.0	Mine Lane Egress Road Maintenance		\$1,500	Same cost as 2025
4.0	Hazard Tree Removal Along District Roads and Near Powerlines	Abby Silver Eric Bader	\$2,400	Same cost as 2025
5.0	Hazard Tree Removal Along Emergency Egress Routes	Chief Schmitt Firefighters	\$1,000	Same cost as 2025
6.0	Financial Incentives to District Residents to Participate in Wildfire Partners	Abby Silver	\$5,000	Same cost as 2025
7.0	Other Egress Routes as Defined in SFPD 2013 CWPP Document and CR 85J	Chief Schmitt	\$0	Same cost as 2025
8.0	Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project	Alan Kirton Abby Silver	\$13,000	Cutting and extraction of the Dry Gulch South project completed and grants closed out. There are still 74 piles to be burned plus some cleanup of scattered slash.
9.0	Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction Project	Alan Kirton Abby Silver	\$377,692	Assumption is that this project will be completed in 2026. The project will be totally funded by grants.
10.0	Townsite South Fuels Reduction Projects	Alan Kirton Abby Silver Lear Walker	\$0	In 2026 we will determine property owner participation and get grant funding.
11.0	Tree Removal on Driveways to Meet BOCO Emergency Egress Requirements	Chief Schmitt Abby Silver Alan Kirton	\$2,400	Firefighters will do assessments. CWPP will manage getting the work done.
12.0	Residual Slash Piles Left from Previous Mitigation Work on the 4300 SCD Driveway	Dick Smith Alan Kirton	\$0	Will assess what can be done with slash piles.
Total			\$403,492	

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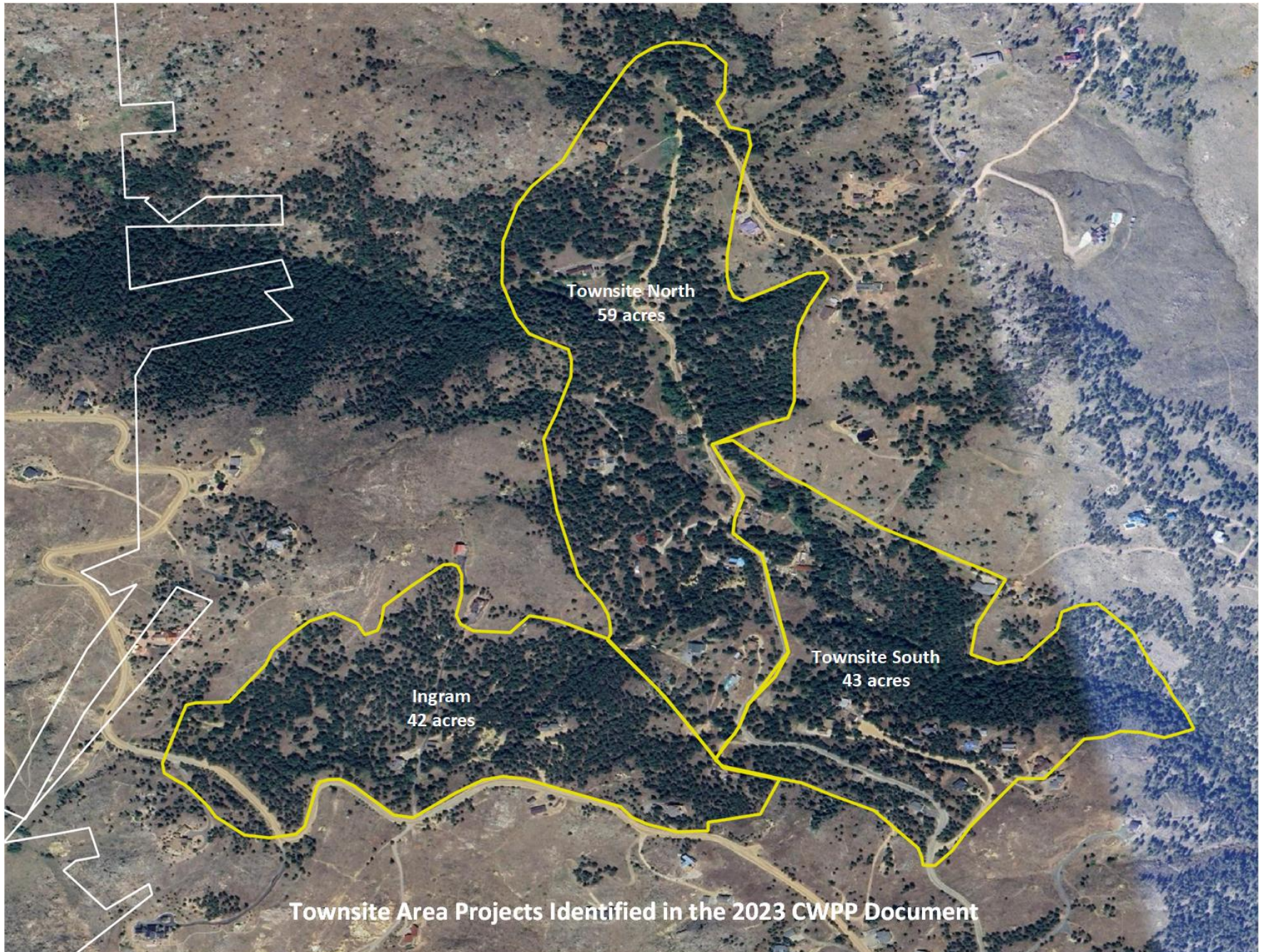
Dry Gulch North and South Fuels Reduction Projects

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SFPD Proposed Fuels Reduction Projects in the BWWA CWPP

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