

# Sunshine Fire Protection District – CWPP Planning Meeting Notes

## March 26, 2024

### Meeting

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 PM

**WHERE:** Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88690856632?pwd=cGc0M0RySUtHUEI1U3FKdkQ3cEJHUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 9085 6632

Passcode: 471124

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### Attendees

Abby Silver, Alan Kirton, Dan Breed, Diana Breed, Dick Smith, Elaine Smith, George Woodward, Haydee Kuner, Jean Gatzka, Josh Shoenfeld, Kathryn Porter Drapeau, Mark Battany, Michael Johnson, Michael Schmitt, Zach Chupa

### Agenda

**Agenda Download Link:**

[https://www.sunshinefd.org/files/ugd/a30c56\\_f24b829fb64849eca019ea10fd8736ee.pdf](https://www.sunshinefd.org/files/ugd/a30c56_f24b829fb64849eca019ea10fd8736ee.pdf)

**Kickoff:** Abby Silver

**Announcements:** Does anyone have any?

**Minutes from last meeting:**

2023 meeting minutes are available on the Sunshine FPD website

[https://www.sunshinefd.org/files/ugd/a30c56\\_598a935691854692ab37a29b30f544fc.pdf](https://www.sunshinefd.org/files/ugd/a30c56_598a935691854692ab37a29b30f544fc.pdf)

**Reports:**

2023 CWPP Project Work/Spend – Alan

2023 CWPP/Water Improvements Year End Financial Summary – Alan

2024 CWPP Financial Outlook – Alan

2023/2024 CWPP Grant Status – Abby/Alan

Projects Carried over from 2023 – Abby/Alan

**New Business:**

New Projects for 2024

Other ideas or topics?

**Closing:**

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**2023 CWPP Project Work/Spend**

<b>2023 Projects</b>		<b>Point Person(s)</b>	<b>2023 Est. Cost</b>	<b>2023 Act. Cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>1.0</b>	Fuels Mitigation - Community Chipping Events	Abby Silver	\$18,000	\$11,700	SFPD paid for Spring event and BOCO grant paid for the Fall Event
<b>2.0</b>	Pressurized (Gravity Fed) Wet Hydrant on County Road 83	Alan Kirton Water Comm.	\$50,000	\$0	
<b>3.0</b>	Fire Cistern on Whispering Pines	Alan Kirton Water Comm.	\$2,000	\$0	
<b>4.0</b>	Sign Maintenance Project	<b>Need Lead</b>	\$300	\$0	
<b>5.0</b>	Mine Lane Egress Road Maintenance	Eric Bader	\$500	\$490	Chris Voorhees performed the maintenance on Mine Lane
<b>6.0</b>	Hazard Tree Removal Along District Roads and Near Powerlines	Eric Bader	\$2,400	\$0	
<b>7.0</b>	Hazard Tree Removal Along Emergency Egress Routes	Eric Bader	\$1,000	\$0	
<b>8.0</b>	Financial Incentives to District Residents to Participate in Wildfire Partners	Abby Sliver Alan Kirton	\$5,000	\$0	
<b>9.0</b>	Egress Route from Sunshine Saddle to Left Hand Canyon via Glendale Gulch	Michael Schmitt Pat Noyes	\$0	\$0	Working with Left Hand FPD and trying to understand public access rights to road
<b>10.0</b>	Other Egress Routes as defined in SFPD 2013 CWPP and CR 85J	Michael Schmitt Abby Silver		\$0	
<b>11.0</b>	Joint CWPP with Four Mile FPD, Sugarloaf FPD and Gold Hill FPD	Abby Sliver Alan Kirton	\$1,706	\$1,706	The Joint CWPP was completed in May, 2023. Expenditure covered the cost of paid FMFPD personnel who did much of the grant writing.
<b>12.0</b>	Dead Tree Removal and Mitigation at Intersection of CR83 and Sunshine Canyon	Abby Sliver Eric Bader	\$3,000	\$720	Eric Bader removed dead trees and performed some additional tree removal work at the intersection.
<b>13.0</b>	Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project	Alan Kirton	\$50,000	\$0	Two grants are in hand. Implementation will start in spring of 2024. See project description.
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$128,906</b>	<b>\$14,616</b>	

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**2023 CWPP Year End Financial Summary**

<b>2023 CWPP Revenue</b>	<b>Amount</b>
CWPP Tax Revenue	\$50,713.86
CWPP Donations	\$0.00
CWPP Grant Revenue	\$0.00
<b>Total CWPP Revenue</b>	<b>\$50,713.86</b>
<b>2023 CWPP Expenses</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>CWPP General Expense</b>	
Joint CWPP with Four Mile, Sugarloaf and Gold Hill FPD	\$1,706.25
<b>Wildland Mitigation Expenses</b>	
Community Chipping Events	\$11,700.00
Hazard Tree Removal	\$720.00
Mine Lane Road Maintenance	\$490.00
<b>Total CWPP Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,616.25</b>
<b>2023 CWPP Net Income</b>	<b>\$36,097.61</b>

<b>CWPP Reserve Fund Balance</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2022 Year End CWPP Reserve Fund Balance	\$130,687.45
2023 Year End Contribution to CWPP Reserve Fund	\$36,097.61
<b>2023 Year End CWPP Reserve Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$166,785.06</b>

**2023 Water Improvements and Cistern Fund**

<b>Cistern Fund Revenue</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Water Supply Donations	\$0.00
<b>Total Cistern Fund Revenue</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Water Improvement Expenses</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Water Improvement Expenses	\$0.00
<b>Water Improvement Net Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>Cistern Fund Balance</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2022 Year End Cistern Fund Balance	\$9,179.00
2023 Year End Cistern Fund Contribution	\$0.00
<b>2023 Year End Cistern Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$9,179.00</b>

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**2024 CWPP/Water Improvements Budget Projections**

<b>2024 CWPP/Water Improvements Budget Projections</b>	<b>Amount</b>
CWPP Reserve Fund 01/01/2024	\$166,785
Projected 2023 CWPP Tax Income *	\$63,588
<b>2024 Available Grant Income - Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project</b>	<b>\$294,480</b>
CSFS Incentives for Local Government Grant (ILG) **	\$124,600
BOCO Strategic Fuels Mitigation Grant (SFMG) **	\$169,880
Cistern Fund (to be used for water projects only)	\$9,179
<b>Total 2024 CWPP/Water Improvements Available Funding***</b>	<b>\$534,032</b>

\* SFPD Assessed Valuation is \$17,861,700 and the CWPP mill levy is 3.56 mills

\*\* Both grants are matching grants for the Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project. SFPD will receive a 50% reimbursement of actual expenses from the CSFS ILG grant and a 40% reimbursement of actual expenses from the Boulder County SFMG grant. In both cases the maximum reimbursement is the award amount and comes only after CSFS certification of the work. Progress payments are available which helps alleviate cash flow problems for a large project.

\*\*\* Grant income, which can only be used as a match for Dry Gulch South expenditures, makes up \$294,480 of the \$534,032 of available funding.

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### CWPP Grant Status for 2023-2024

#### **2023 CSFS Incentive for Local Government Grant Program – Awarded in May 2023**

The Incentives for Local Government Grant Program (ILG) is run through the Colorado State Forest Service. The grant requirements and application are identical to the FRWRM grant with the exception that the grant is only open to Colorado local government entities. As a Colorado Special District, SFPD is eligible for this grant. It is a matching grant, meaning that the grant covers 50% of the cost of the project.

SFPD's grant application was for the Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project which is a 70 acre project located on both sides of Sunshine Canyon between 3100 and 3700. In the grant application the mitigation cost was assumed to be \$3500/acre with a total project cost of \$249,200. The grant matches 50% of the cost with a total award of \$124,600.

#### **2024 State Fire Assistance – Wildland Urban Interface Grant (SFA-WUI) – Submitted May, 2023**

The SFA-WUI grant is a federal grant, which for our region is administered by the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF). SFA-WUI is administered at the federal level by the USDA Forest Service. The application is a multi-year process whereby we first work with our local CSFS district to submit a Pre-Proposal to CWSF. CSFS does a vetting process on the pre-proposal application it receives and then sends the selected applications to CWSF. CWSF also provides a vetting process and selects a number of the pre-proposals to move forward with the grant process with USDA.

The grant application was for the Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction Project. The project covers an area that is to the southwest and northeast of Sunshine Canyon Dr. between mile markers 3.7 and 4.2. The project is 67 acres and project cost was estimated at \$4000/acre. Total project cost was estimated at \$272,020. It is a matching grant so the grant award would be \$136,010.

CSFS has forwarded our pre-proposal to CWSF. We will find out this spring whether our pre-proposal will be sent to USDA Forest Service.

Since SFA-WUI is a federal grant, it can be matched by both state and local grants. The plan is to do applications for the Dry Gulch North project with both CSFS Grants (FRWRM and ILG) and Boulder County grants (SFMG) with hopes of getting a larger share of the project funded with grant money.

#### **2023 Boulder County Strategic Fuels Mitigation Grant (SFMG) – Awarded February, 2024**

SFMG is a new grant program administered by Boulder County. Because it is a local grant, it can be used to match against either state or federal grants. In fact, one of the stipulations of SFMG is that you must have an identified state or federal grant to provide the match. In the case of SFPD, we have the CSFS ILG grant in hand to provide that match.

SFPD's application was for the Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project. Based on conversations we had with CSFS as well as proposals we had received for the mitigation work on the Dry Gulch project, it became evident that the cost per acre was going to be significantly higher than originally estimated for that project. For the SFMG grant we assumed \$6000/acre as compared to the \$3500/acre cost assumed for the ILG grant. The total project cost was estimated to be \$424,700. The grant provides a 40% match which results in a grant award of \$169,880.

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### 2024 CWPP Projects for 2024

#### **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 manage the projects and Boulder County will provide the funding.

**Est. Cost for 2024 - \$0**

#### **2.0 Pressurized (Gravity Fed) Wet Hydrant on County Rd. 83**

This project covers the installation of a pressurized (gravity fed) hydrant on County Rd 83. Location would be ~200' south of the Misty Vale intersection. The hydrant would be fed from the 130,000 gallon cistern located at Station 2. Initial work would entail planning and development of the project scope and cost estimate. Assuming that cost comes in close to expectations then project work would proceed. This project was discussed in Section 8.7 Emergency Water Sources of the 2013 SFPD CWPP document and was submitted by Sunshine FPD in the Boulder County Emergency Planning document.

##### **Project Details:**

- ***Need a project lead***
- In 2022 SFPD contracted with Flatirons Survey to write the legal description for the area to the west of CR 83 where we will be placing the hydrant. We were provided an easement by the landowner at 280 CR 83 for the placement of the pipe and the hydrant and the easement has been filed with BOCO County Clerk.
- Engineering work to plan the project
- Discussion with Boulder County Transportation on requirements for building a turnout on County Rd 83 and placement of fire hydrant
- Put together bid package for the installation of the pipe and hydrant
- Go out for bids and award contract
- Proceed with project implementation

**Est. Cost for 2024 - \$50,000**

#### **3.0 Fire Cistern for Whispering Pines**

Whispering Pines does not currently have a dedicated water supply for firefighting. The driveway is such that a tanker relay is not practical. We are waiting for the outcome of a Community Wildfire Defense Grant application which would cover 75% of the project cost. Assuming the grant is awarded, the work for 2023 will be to finalize the location for the cistern, get a survey done of the cistern site, get an easement for the cistern and submit a Limited Impact Special Use Review application to BOCO. It should be assumed that the Limited Impact Special Use Review and getting the Building and Grading Permits for the project will take approximately one year.

##### **Project Details:**

Work items for 2024 include:

- ***Need a project lead***
- Determine cistern location
- Do work necessary to submit for Limited Impact Special Use Review and the Building and Grading Permits.

**Est. Cost for 2024 - \$2000 (total project cost estimated to be \$108,000 assuming a 20k gallon fiberglass cistern)**

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### **4.0 Sign Maintenance Project**

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

***We will need volunteers to do the project for 2024.***

**Est. Cost for 2024 - \$300**

### **5.0 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

**Project Details:** Repair as needed

**Est. Cost for 2024 - \$500**

### **6.0 Hazardous Tree Removal Along District Roads and Powerlines**

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 tree take down a powerline in a windstorm. This project will provide a financial incentive for the property owner to remove the hazardous trees by providing funding for the removal of the tree. 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 the shaded fuel break along district roads project. Since SFPD is funding the majority of the project the district will hire the contractor to do the work and will be paid a donation by the property owner equal to 10% of the cost of the project.

**Project Details:**

Work for 2024 includes:

- Re-send a notice to the district notifying the residents of this project
- Compile the responses from the residents and work with contractor to verify that the trees do represent a hazard and get 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 2024 - \$2400 (Assume 6 trees, \$400/tree)**

### **7.0 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 on 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 2024 - \$1000**

### **8.0 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

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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 to \$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 2024 - \$5000**

### **9.0 Egress Route from Sunshine Saddle to Left Hand Canyon via Glendale Gulch**

The egress route from the Sunshine saddle to Left Hand Canyon via Glendale Gulch was included in both the 2008 and 2013 CWPP documents (Section 8.3.A.2). The advantage of this route for Sunshine residents is that it would be primarily downhill vs. the Mine Lane egress route which is steeply uphill. Michael Schmitt and Pat Noyes have done some investigation regarding public access along Glendale Gulch Rd. Pat Noyes could find no evidence that there was an existing agreement for public access. There are approximately 10 parcels of property that the road passes through. The likelihood of getting agreements from all landowners to provide access rights is very unlikely. We will keep a placeholder for this project.

**Est. Cost for 2024 - \$0**

### **10.0 Other Egress Routes as Defined in SFPD 2013 CWPP Document**

SFPD's 2013 CWPP document defined a number of different emergency egress routes. Should we investigate the feasibility of improving these routes to make them more accessible? 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.

**Est. Cost for 2024 - \$0**

### **11.0 Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project**

SFPD has been awarded both the CSFS Incentives for Local Government and the Boulder County Strategic Fuel Mitigation Grant for the Dry Gulch South Project. SFPD put out an RFP for this project in October, 2023. The project is 70 acres and for purposes of the RFP, the project was divided into 3 project areas, North (24.6 acres), East (17 acres) and South (26.8 acres). We received acceptable proposals for the South and East project areas and contracts have been put in place for both the South and East project areas. Work on the South project area is anticipated to start in March or April, weather permitting. Work on the East project area is expected to start in June or July. We are expecting both of these areas to be completed by the end of 2024 or early 2025.

The plan is to rebid the North project area in the spring of 2024 with an anticipated completion by the end of 2026.

**Est. Cost for 2024 - \$279,810**



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### **12.0 Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction**

Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction project 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.

The project is 67 acres and contains 10 parcels of private property ranging in elevation from 6400 to 7000 ft. Parcel sizes range from 2 acres to 20 acres with a median parcel size of 5.9 acres. The project is in mountainous terrain with numerous ridgelines and difficult access. Slopes range from 20% to 60%. The project is adjacent to and north of the Dry Gulch South project.

SFPD submitted a State Fire Assistance – Wildland Urban Interface Grant (SFA-WUI) in May of 2023. This is a federal grant. The plan is to put in applications for both the CSFS ILG and the BOCO SFMG grant on this project as well. The ILG grant is a state grant and the SFMG is a county grant. If SFPD can get 2 out of the 3 grants awarded, then we will have sufficient funding to do the project. The total project cost is estimated to be \$442,000.

**Est. Cost for 2024 - \$0 (In 2024 we will be applying for grants to fund this project)**

### **13.0 Mowing Along Sunshine Canyon Drive in the Meadows Area**

As shown in 2023, the grass growth along Sunshine Canyon Dr. in the Meadows neighborhood can become a significant hazard for safe egress during a wildfire event. This project would mow along the roadway to create a 6' buffer on each side of the road.

**Est. Cost for 2024 - \$0 Chief Schmitt will check with the county/state to determine if we can get them to mow in this area. If that is not possible then we may pay a contractor to mow alongside the road**

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**2024 CWPP Projects**

<b>2024 Projects</b>		<b>Point Person(s)</b>	<b>2023 Est. Cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>1.0</b>	Fuels Mitigation - Community Chipping Events	Abby Silver	\$0	Spring and Fall Events. BOCO will be covering the chipping cost.
<b>2.0</b>	Pressurized (Gravity Fed) Wet Hydrant on County Road 83	Michael Johnson	\$50,000	Will be looking for Fire Dept. Cistern Committee to take over this project. \$9179 will be taken from Cistern Fund to fund this project and balance using CWPP money.
<b>3.0</b>	Fire Cistern on Whispering Pines	Michael Johnson	\$2,000	Will be looking for Cistern Committee to take over this project. Cost covers the initiation of the BOCO site plan review which takes a year to complete.
<b>4.0</b>	Sign Maintenance Project	<i>Need Lead</i>	\$300	Repair existing signs or install new signs as required.
<b>5.0</b>	Mine Lane Egress Road Maintenance	<i>Need Lead</i>	\$500	Maintain road as needed
<b>6.0</b>	Hazard Tree Removal Along District Roads and Near Powerlines	Eric Bader	\$2,400	Assumes 6 trees, \$400/tree
<b>7.0</b>	Hazard Tree Removal Along Emergency Egress Routes	Eric Bader	\$1,000	
<b>8.0</b>	Financial Incentives to District Residents to Participate in Wildfire Partners	Abby Sliver Alan Kirton	\$5,000	Abby will push this in her wildfire mitigation presentation with the community in April. Maybe get some help from John Bauer for getting info to the community.
<b>9.0</b>	Egress Route from Sunshine Saddle to Left Hand Canyon via Glendale Gulch	Chief Schmitt Pat Noyes	\$0	Will continue to investigate but it seems unlikely that this is a feasible because there is no existing public access for Glendale Gulch Rd.
<b>10.0</b>	Other Egress Routes as Defined in SFPD 2013 CWPP and CR 85J	Michael Schmitt	\$0	Michael Schmitt is continuing to work with BOCO to try to get them to provide some maintenance and improvement to 85J.
<b>11.0</b>	Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction Project	Alan Kirton Abby Silver	\$279,810	We will be getting approximately \$147,240 in grant reimbursements to help cover the project expenses.
<b>12.0</b>	Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction Project	Alan Kirton Abby Silver	\$0	We have submitted an SFA grant for this project. In 2024 we will submit applications for CSFS ILG grant and BOCO SFMG grant.
<b>13.0</b>	Grass cutting along Sunshine Canyon in the Meadows area	Michael Schmitt Abby Silver	\$0	Michael Schmitt will contact CDOT to determine if we can get them to do the grass cutting.
<b>Total CWPP and Water Improvement Expenses</b>			<b>\$341,010</b>	

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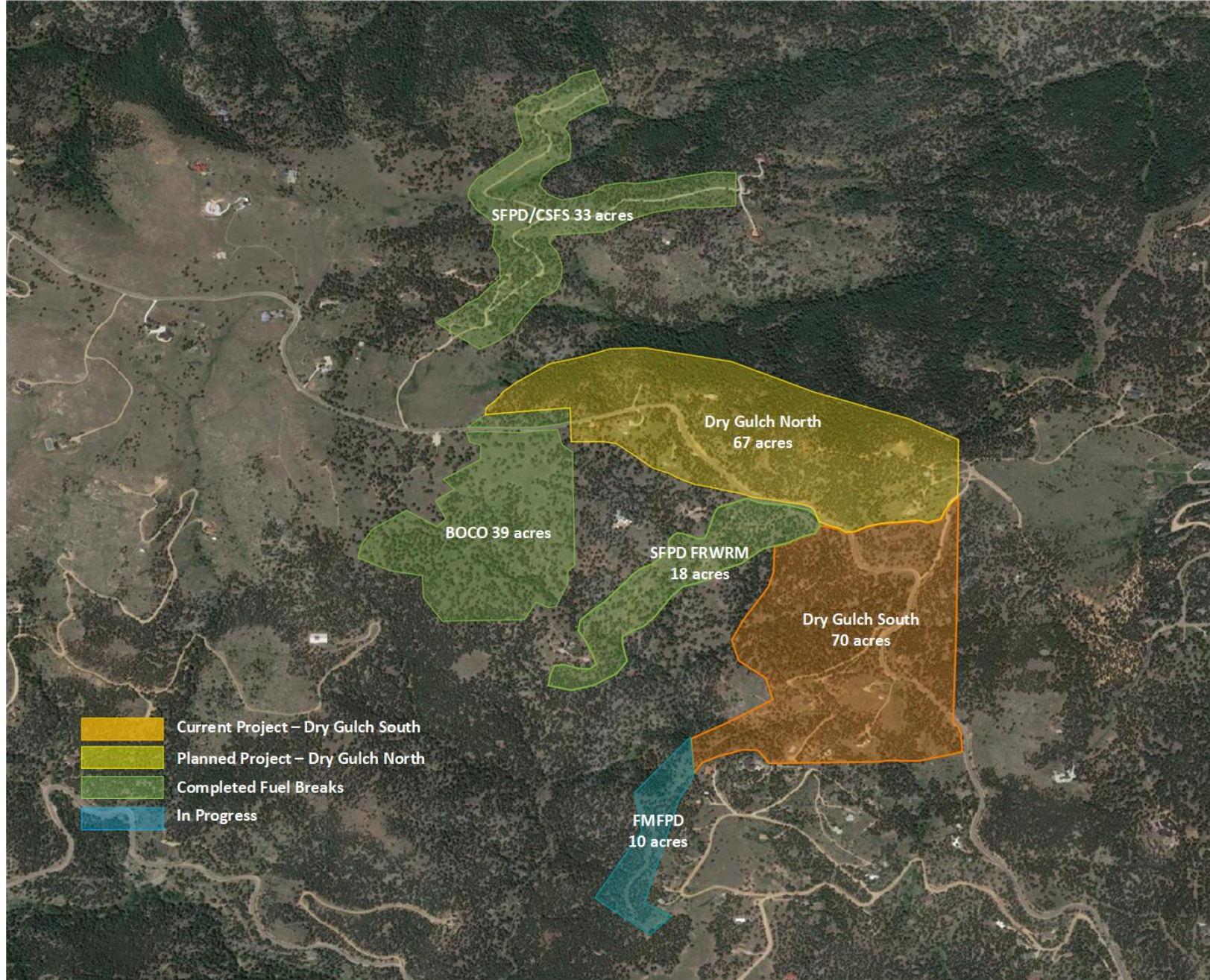
<b>CWPP Expenses - Grant Income</b>		<b>\$184,591</b>	Expenses offset by grant income of \$147,240 and Cistern Fund transfer of \$9,179
<b>CWPP Net Income = CWPP Expenses - CWPP Tax Revenue</b>		<b>(\$121,003)</b>	CWPP will be receiving tax income of \$63,588 resulting in a net income of <b>(\$121,003)</b> . This will require a transfer from CWPP Reserves leaving \$45,782 in CWPP Reserves at YE 2024.

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**Dry Gulch South and Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction Projects**

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Dry Gulch Fuels Reduction Projects