

6G

Community Cluster.....6

Landscape Class.....G

Description

These Western Counties exhibit a high percent of federal ownership and have a mixed forested landscape. These areas are very rural with low population density; they have few roads, and very flammable vegetation. These counties include sparsely populated areas north of Spokane, WA and northwest of Missoula MT; the southeast Utah Tribal Lands; central Colorado USDA Forest Service lands mixed with old mining towns; and a mix of landscapes and federal ownership near Socorro, NM.

These areas may be good candidates for wildland fire use and increased targeted prescribed fire. There is a greater than average number of homes exposed near large tracts of federal ownership, so buffers that are funded by state and federal funds will be required.

Example of a Typical County

Sagauche County, Colorado: This county includes the Rio Grande national Forest and BLM lands. It has experienced few large wildfires in the last decade.



Challenges and Opportunities

Vegetation and Fuels

These counties may have contiguous areas that could benefit from the use of landscape-scale prescribed fire. Strategic fuel breaks may be warranted. There may be limited areas within these counties where wildfire could be considered for restoring landscapes, but planners could be aware of the conflicts with communities. Mechanical treatments are an option, but with limited forest products industries nearby, this approach may not be cost effective.

Homes, Communities and Values at Risk

Communities can plan and take coordinated action, in combination with individual actions by property owners. This can include the creation of buffers and strategic fuel breaks. These counties could adjust building and construction codes in non-municipal areas.

Human-Caused Ignitions

Human caused ignitions are not as great here as in other parts of the country, but may deserve attention if a local situation dictates.

Effective and Efficient Wildfire Response

Prepare for large, long duration wildfires.

National Priorities

Vegetation and Fuels	High
Homes, Communities and Values at Risk	High
Human-Caused Ignitions	Very Low

Effective and Efficient Response:
There is high risk of large wildfires, more potential for resource benefits.

6G County Names

Colorado

Lake

Saguache

Kentucky

McCreary

Montana

Sanders

New Mexico

Socorro

Taos

Utah

San Juan

Washington

Pend Oreille