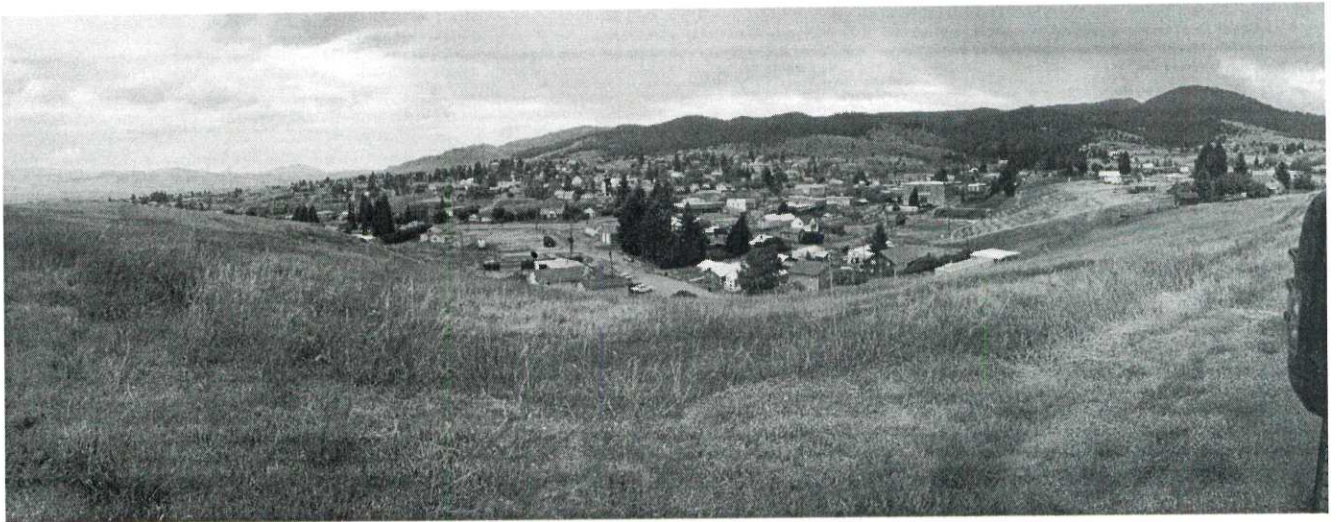


Phillipsburg Community Wildfire Protection Plan



2023

firelogistics
INCORPORATED

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Preface: What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are blueprints for preparedness at the neighborhood level. They organize a community's efforts to protect itself against wildfire, and empower citizens to move in a cohesive, common direction. Among the key goals of the Phillipsburg CWPP, which is developed collaboratively federal, state, and local management agencies, are to:

- Align with the County's hazard mitigation strategy, which includes educating homeowners and building understanding of wildland fire, ensuring defensible space clearing and structure hardening, safeguarding communities through fuels treatment, and protecting evacuation corridors.
- Assist the Town of Phillipsburg with implementation of the Town Plan.
- Identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatment.
- Recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect the community.
- Recommend measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the Phillipsburg.

Section I: Snapshot of the Town of Phillipsburg

Phillipsburg has a unique history, landscape and identity. Below is a brief description of what sets Phillipsburg apart from the rest of Granite County.

A. Overview



Phillipsburg is a town in and the county seat of Granite County, Montana. The population was 841 at the 2020 census. The townsite was platted in 1867, by Philip Deidesheimer, who designed and supervised the construction of the ore smelter around which the town was formed.

The Town of Phillipsburg is located on Montana Highway 1, between Drummond and Anaconda, about 25 miles south of Interstate 90.

B. Landscape (Topography, Fire History, Key Infrastructure, Maps)

Topography:

Phillipsburg lies in the Flint Creek Valley on the western foothills of the Flint Creek Range. The topography ranges from flat to hilly. Slopes range from flat to 5-10% in the townsite.

Fire History:

There is no significant fire history in the Town of Phillipsburg, however, the Rumsey Gulch Fire occurred in 2013 and burned 400 + acres just 2 miles south of town and burned 8 structures. Historical large fire activity has been in the western portion of Granite County (see Granite County Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2021).

Data from the Montana State Fire Marshal's Office indicates that there has been a total of 79 incidents reported by Phillipsburg Fire Department from 1/1/18 – 12/31/22. Of those incidents, 16 were wildland fire, and 21 were structure fires.

Key Infrastructure:

- Water systems and waterways
The Phillipsburg water system is supplied by Fred Burr Reservoir located in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The entire Fred Burr watershed is in an area designated extreme potential for a wildfire. The watershed is owned and managed cooperatively by the Town of Phillipsburg and the United States Forest Service.

The water system has storage of approximate 400,000 gallons and fire hydrants located throughout the town.

The most current Public Protection Classification report from the Insurance Services Office indicates that there are 22 fire hydrants on the water system that are equipped only with a 2 ½ - inch outlet or with less than a 6-inch branch line.

- Residential structures
According to the draft Town of Phillipsburg Community Plan, there were 414 residential structures in 2019. A significant number of vacant houses and buildings exist in the community. Some of these vacant properties are at extreme risk from a wildland fire.
- Landmarks, parks
Winninghoff Park is in the center of Town and serves as a skating rink in the winter and amphitheater in the summer. Town Park which includes ballfields, tennis courts, basketball courts and a running track is adjacent to Phillipsburg town limits.
- Businesses
Since the 1990's numerous buildings have been purchased and restored in the town's historic district. The Sweet Palace candy store opened in 1998, the Broadway Hotel reopened in 2003. Granite County Medical Center and Rest Home, Granite County Courthouse, Granite County Jail, and Phillipsburg School District are in Phillipsburg. There are many other retailers located in the community, including Phillipsburg Brewing Company, Bed and Breakfasts, churches, grocery stores, spas, insurance agencies, and dining establishments.
- Historical sites
The Phillipsburg Historic District contains the major commercial, residential, governmental, and religious structures in town. The historic district which includes Phillipsburg's original 87-acre townsite was established in 1986. In addition, Phillipsburg is also home to the nearby Granite Ghost town.

Maps:

1. Vicinity Map
2. Wildfire Likelihood
3. Risk to Structures
4. Fire History (1980-2021)
5. Risk to Watershed Map
6. Evacuation Route Map

C. Firefighting Resources

Phillipsburg Fire Department

505 Hamilton Court
Phillipsburg, MT

Fire Chief David Ray

Phillipsburg FD is a volunteer fire department with 26 members and is responsible for structural and wildland fire protection in the Town of Phillipsburg. The members staff the following fire apparatus for both Phillipsburg FD and the Flint Creek FSA:

- 1 Type I Fire Engine (2004)
- 1 Type II Aerial Ladder (year)
- 1 Type II Water Tender (year)
- 1 Command Vehicle (year)



Flint Creek Fire Service Area

Flint Creek FSA is responsible for structural and wildland fire suppression, vehicle fire and auto extrication within the boundaries of the Fire Service Area.

- 1 Type I Fire Engine (year)
- 1 Type II Aerial Ladder (year)
- 1 Type II Water Tender (year)
- 1 Type V Wildland Engine (year)
- 4 Type VI Wildland Engines

The Phillipsburg Fire Department has an automatic aid agreement with Georgetown Lake Fire Service Area and a mutual aid agreement with the Valley Fire District.

Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation – Anaconda Unit

1300 Maguire Road
Anaconda, MT

Fire Management Officer Jonathan Clark

Anaconda Unit Resources:

- 3 Type V Wildland Engines staffed by 7 firefighters
- Fire Operations Specialist
- Fire Management Officer

Garrison Station Resources (Staffed only during fire season):

- 3 Type V Wildland Engines staffed by 7 firefighters
- Assistant Fire Management Officer

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest – Pintler Ranger District

88 Business Loop
Phillipsburg, MT 59858

Fire Management Officer Jerod Russel

Pintler Ranger District Resources:

1 Type VI Wildland Engine staffed by 8 firefighters
1 10 Person Initial Attack Module with 3 crew transports
Miscellaneous UTV's/ATV's

Section II: Collaboration

Strong working relationships are critical in ensuring that our community is well-prepared. This section identifies key partners who assisted in the development of Phillipsburg Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Key Partners

Organization	Roles / Responsibilities
Town of Phillipsburg	Provided Review and Input into the CWPP
Mayor Daniel Reddish	Provided information, review and input to the CWPP
Maureen Connor	Provided information, review and input to the CWPP
Phillipsburg Fire Chief Ray	Provided information, review and input to the CWPP
USFS Fire Management Officer Jerod Russel	Provided information, review and input to the CWPP
USFS Assistant Fire Management Officer Matt Latray	Provided information, review and input to the CWPP
DNRC Fire Management Officer Jonathon Clark	Provided information, review and input to the CWPP
Granite County DES Jackie Bolster	Provided information, review and input to the CWPP
Granite County Sheriff	Provided information, review and input to the CWPP

Section III: Community Engagement & Education

Understanding wildfire risk is a key building block in preventing the loss of property and lives. This section will discuss efforts to build awareness, starting with the individual.

A. Completed Projects

The Phillipsburg FD provides ongoing community education to ensure that citizens are aware of the critical preparedness information. Community education focuses on:

- Annual fire prevention activities in the schools.
- Fire prevention education for the day care centers in Phillipsburg.
- Referring public inquiries to Fire Safe Montana web site (www.firesafemt.org).

B. Future Projects

- Engage the community of Phillipsburg so they understand their role and then act to reduce wildfire and structure fire risk in Phillipsburg.
- Engage the residents of Phillipsburg and Granite County and state and federal agencies to ensure fuel management is accomplished in Fred Burr drainage to protect the Town of Phillipsburg's water supply.
- Develop a public education program that highlights the significance of the historical structures in Phillipsburg and the importance of protecting those structures from fire by maintaining them and reducing flammable vegetation around them. It is important that the owners and occupants understand that it is not only their problem if a fire breaks out in their single building located in a tightly packed historic district. Conversely, a fire originating in a nearby building poses a threat to their property and safety. Effective fire and security protection for collocated structures under separate ownership depends on consensus that it is a shared concern and responsibility requiring the cooperation of all historic district property owners.

Section IV: Structural Hardening

Long before a wildfire sparks, there are numerous steps that residents and the Town of Phillipsburg can take to protect their homes and other structures

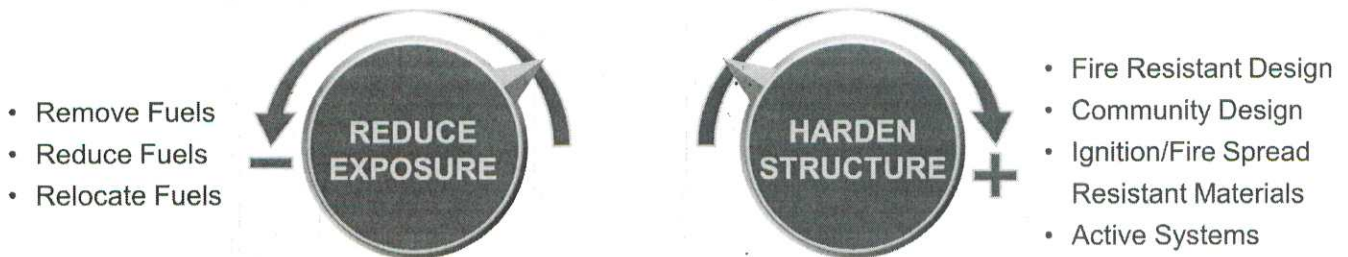


Figure 1. Wildland Urban Interface fire hazard mitigation is a balance between two input dials – reducing exposure and increasing structural hardening.

Wildland and structure fires spread primarily by:

1. **Ember generation and deposition.** Burning or smoldering pieces of material generated during a fire incident can land on combustible material.
2. **Radiant heat.** The heat from a fire raises the heat of combustible material until that material reaches ignition temperature and burns.
3. **Flame impingement exposure (conduction).** The flame from a fire touches a combustible material and the material burns.
4. **Convection.** The transfer of heat by moving hot gases ignites combustible material.

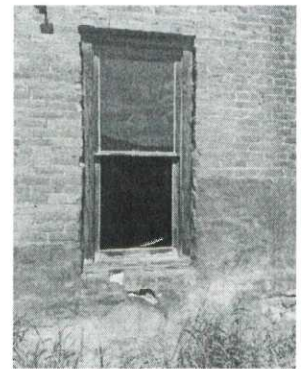
This section describes some of those structural hardening or increasing a building's fire resistance effort.

A. Completed Projects

- The Town of Phillipsburg has adopted a "Dangerous Buildings" Ordinance. The ordinance was originally adopted in 1964 and amended in 2007. The ordinance defines dangerous buildings, requires such a building to be maintained or be removed through enforcement by the fire chief or other public health official.

B. Priorities

- Utilize the "Dangerous Buildings" Ordinance to ensure historic structures are secured, i.e., board up openings in structures, such as this window.
- Consider the adoption of Building and Zoning Codes
- Consider National Fire Protection Association Standard 914 – Code for the Protection of Historical Structures.



C. Future Projects

- The Town Council should consider adopting Building and Zoning Codes to not only protect the community from wildfire, but to protect the historical features of Phillipsburg. Current codes and standards, as well as sound land use practices must be in use and enforced for new development and rebuilding in wildfire-prone areas and to protect the community from a conflagration.
- Phillipsburg should consider utilizing the National Fire Protection Association Standard 914 Code for the Protection of Historical Structures to protect the Historic District buildings.

Section V: Defensible Space

Creating a buffer between buildings and the grass, trees, shrubs, and other wildland areas surrounding Phillipsburg are essential to improving their chance of survival.



This section looks at efforts to build this key layer of protection by removing the fuel and/or reducing the fuel.

A. Completed Projects

Defensible Space – current work

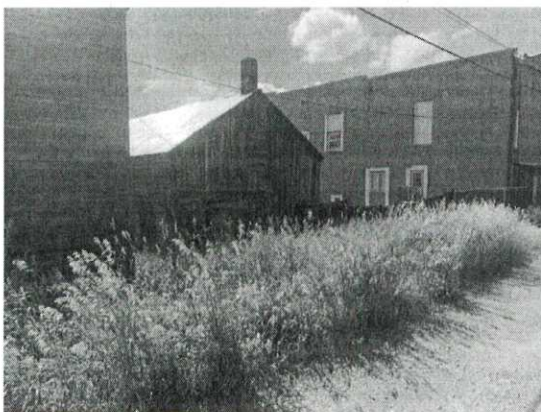
- Some owners are maintaining their properties by mowing or weed eating the flammable grasses around their structures.

B. Priorities

- Defensible space around the Cenex Bulk Plant.
- Adopt a Zoning or a Weed Abatement Ordinance.

C. Future Projects

- Create a defensible space zone around the Cenex Bulk Plant.
- Develop a Zoning or a Weed Abatement Ordinance to maintain defensible space around structures in Phillipsburg to reduce the chances of a grass fire extending into the historic structures.

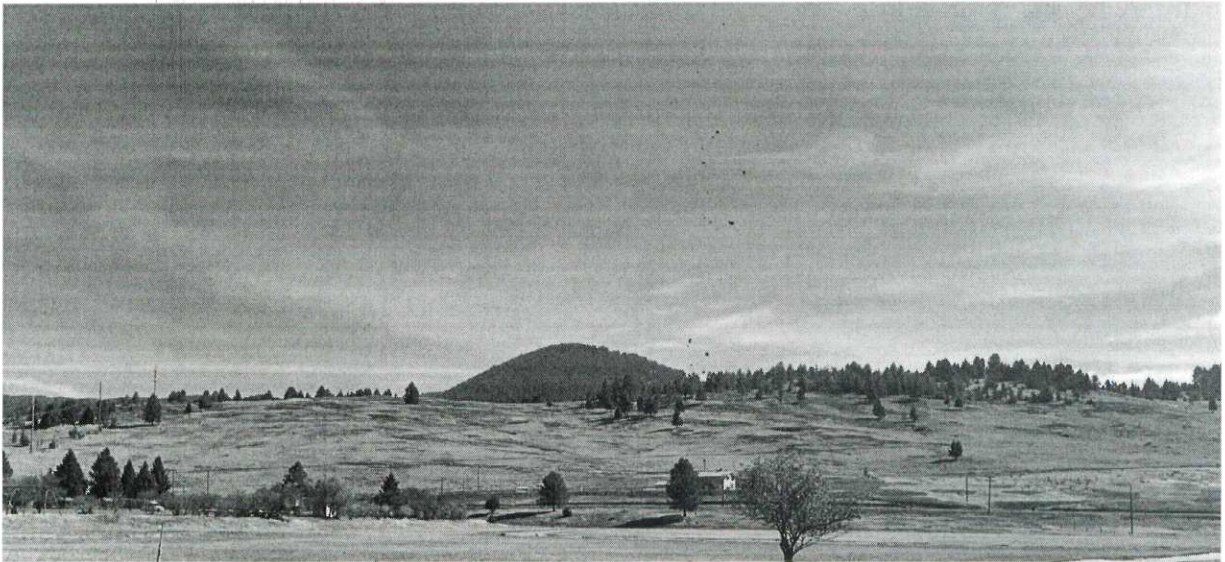


Section VI: Fuel Treatments

Fuels are combustible materials such as grasses, leaves, plants, shrubs, and trees that feed flames. This section describes efforts to treat and manage these fuels in Phillipsburg and its watershed.

A. Completed Projects

The Forest Service has completed projects on federal lands adjacent to Phillipsburg and will reduce potential impacts of a wildland fire on the Town of Phillipsburg. In the photo below, you can see where the mining claims come over the ridge the Juniper and smaller conifers were not treated according to Matt Latray.



B. Priorities

1. Plan and conduct fuel reduction projects to protect the watershed for Phillipsburg in Fred Burr Creek drainage.
2. Plan and conduct fuel reduction projects to protect the Phillipsburg water supply infrastructure.
3. Plan and conduct fuel reduction projects in areas of open space or large vacant lots in Phillipsburg.
4. Assist in implementation of the Phillipsburg's Town Plan.

C. Future Projects

- Conduct fuels reduction in the Fred Burr Creek Drainage. (HMP 2021)
- Reduce fuels around the exposed portion of the Phillipsburg water supply line. (HMP 2013)
- Plan and conduct fuel reduction projects around Phillipsburg in areas of open space or large vacant lots.

Section VII: Evacuation Planning

Identifying key corridors in and out of Phillipsburg – as well as temporary safe refuge areas – is essential to being prepared for evacuation.

Evacuation planning is a dynamic process subject to the nuances of each community. Below is an overview of the Phillipsburg's key ingresses and egresses, as well as designated evacuation corridors, areas of refuge Areas, completed projects, and future projects.

A. Overview of Ingress & Egress

Roads need to have sufficient vehicle capacity to both meet community evacuation demands and accommodate the arrival of emergency responders during a wildfire emergency.

Roads serve three functions during a wildfire:

- as access routes for emergency responders and their vehicles and equipment.
- as escape (or egress) routes for residents
- as firebreaks to interrupt or slow the progress of the fire and assist firefighting efforts

Ingress and egress to the Town of Phillipsburg is by MT Highway 1 to West Broadway Street or to Business Loop Road.

B. Designated Evacuation Corridors & Areas of Refuge

Evacuation Corridors in Phillipsburg include West Broadway Street and the South Sansome Street to Business Loop Road then either North or South on Highway 1 depending on the location of the incident causing the evacuation.

Safe areas of refuge within the community become critical in the following cases:

- high risk populations with non-ambulatory and/or resource limitations
- aggressive, fast-moving wildfires that impinge on evacuation routes prior to evacuation initiation or completion
- low visibility due to *smoke* that makes evacuation unsafe
- incidents that impede traffic on evacuation routes (e.g., motor vehicle *incidents*, bridge failures, downed power lines)

Areas of refuge can be best integrated into communities by designating existing community facilities. Or wildfire mitigation can be incorporated into the decision-making process to determine the location and size of new community facilities. The following community facilities can be used as areas of refuge:

- Town Park
- Granite County Schools Football field

C. Completed Projects

The Granite County Sheriff has adopted the standard language and terms for evacuations established by the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.

D. Future Projects

- Identify functional needs residents that might require resources to be safely evacuated or to be safe in other emergencies. See:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a54f5a7f09ca43eb4829c08/t/627c12c757b89e15b54395e2/165229844475/functional-needs-planning-toolkit.pdf>
- Develop and adopt subdivision regulations that emphasize emergency ingress and egress and minimize the threat of wildland fire.

Section VIII: Other Mitigation & Preparedness Projects

There are countless ways that Phillipsburg can act ahead of fires and/or wildfires to protect themselves.

A. Completed Projects

- A generator was installed at the Phillipsburg Fire Station in 2019.
- Northwestern Energy has replaced approximately 50% of the power poles in the Town of Phillipsburg. In addition, a new substation was installed in Phillipsburg in 2018.

B. Priorities

- Protect the historical character of Phillipsburg.
- Develop and adopt subdivision regulations that emphasizes protecting new development from the threat of wildland fires.
- Make improvements to the fire protection system in Phillipsburg identified in Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification report.
- Add additional water storage capacity. The basic fire flow needed for the ISO report is 2000 gpm for 2 hours, however, fire flows more than 3500 gpm are required for 3 hours (630,000 gallons).

C. Future Projects

- Automatic fire sprinkler systems should be installed in all the buildings on a priority basis. The priority being the buildings that are used for sleeping purposes. The second priority should be the buildings that are occupied by large groups of people. The third priority should be buildings that are of the most historical significance.
- Implement hydrant inspection and flow testing program of the Town's fire hydrants.
- Replace water mains and fire hydrants that are on a branch line of less than 6-inches or with only a 2 ½ -inch outlet. A recommendation to replace 5 fire hydrants is included in the Granite County 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- New development or annexations should be in areas that pose the lowest possible wildfire hazard to the community with the least impact to infrastructure of the Town.
- Work with the Phillipsburg Fire Department to improve the capability of the fire department through increased staffing, training, apparatus replacement, and community risk reduction.
- Include fire protection capital improvements, such as fire apparatus, self-contained breathing apparatus, personal protective equipment, in the Town's Capital Improvement Fund.

Section IX: Signatures

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan as developed for the Town of Phillipsburg:

- Was developed and meets the intent of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) in emphasizing the need for agencies to work collaboratively with communities in developing hazardous fuel reduction projects, and places priority on treatment areas identified by communities themselves in a CWPP. Interested parties and federal land management agencies in the vicinity of this CWPP have been consulted.
- Identifies areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments that will protect areas within Phillipsburg.
- Recommends measures to reduce ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only, utilizing a compilation of community issues/goals and projected fire mitigation strategies.



Mayor

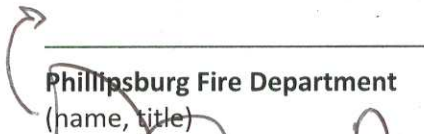
6-15-23
Date

Reviewed by:



Phillipsburg Town Council
(name, title) Scott A. Lewis, Pres.

7-13-23
Date



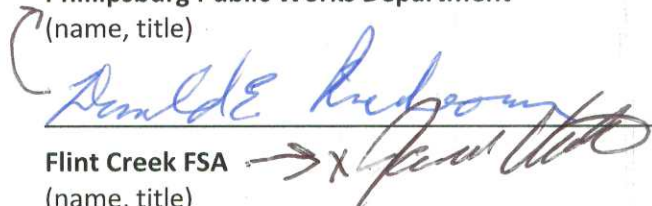
Phillipsburg Fire Department
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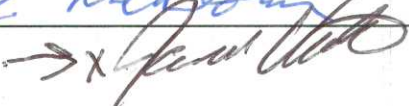
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Phillipsburg Public Works Department
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6-19-23
Date



Flint Creek FSA → 
(name, title)

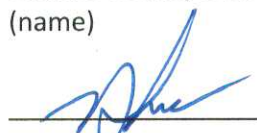
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7-13-23
Date



Granite County Board of County Commissioners
(name)

7/25/23
Date



Granite County Sheriff
(name)

6/15/23
Date

Jackie Bolster

Granite County DES
(name, title)

6/15/23

Date

Sam Powell

Pintler Ranger District, Acting
(name, title)

7/1/2023

Date

B. S. Bell, Anaconda Unit Manager

DNRC Southwest Land Office
(name, title)

8/11/2023

Date

Tom [Signature]

Phillipsburg School District
(name, title)

8/1/23

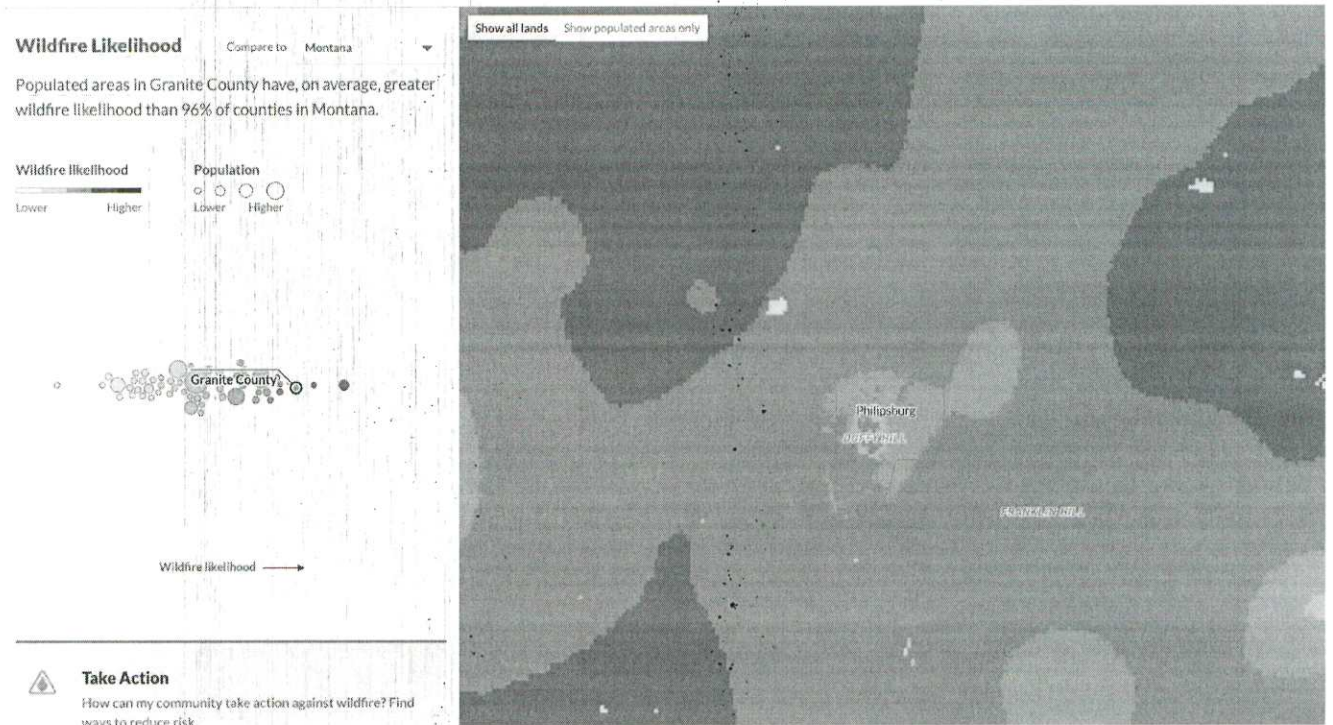
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Section X: Appendices

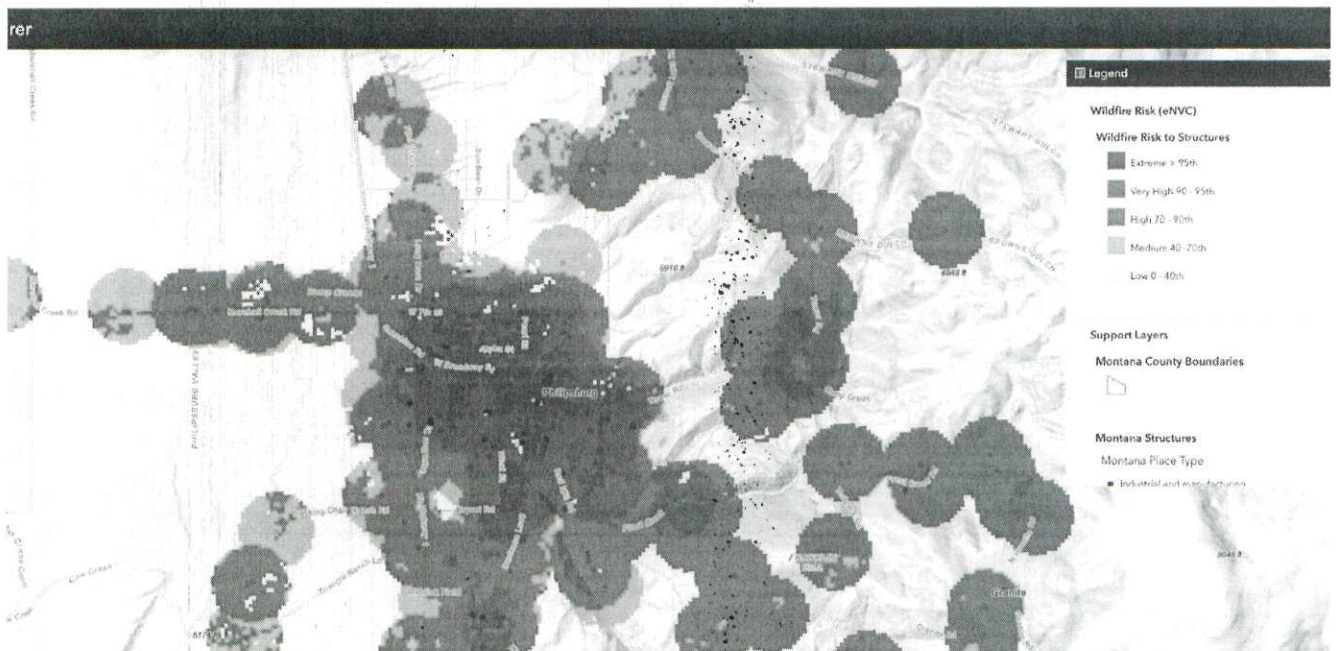
Appendix A: Maps



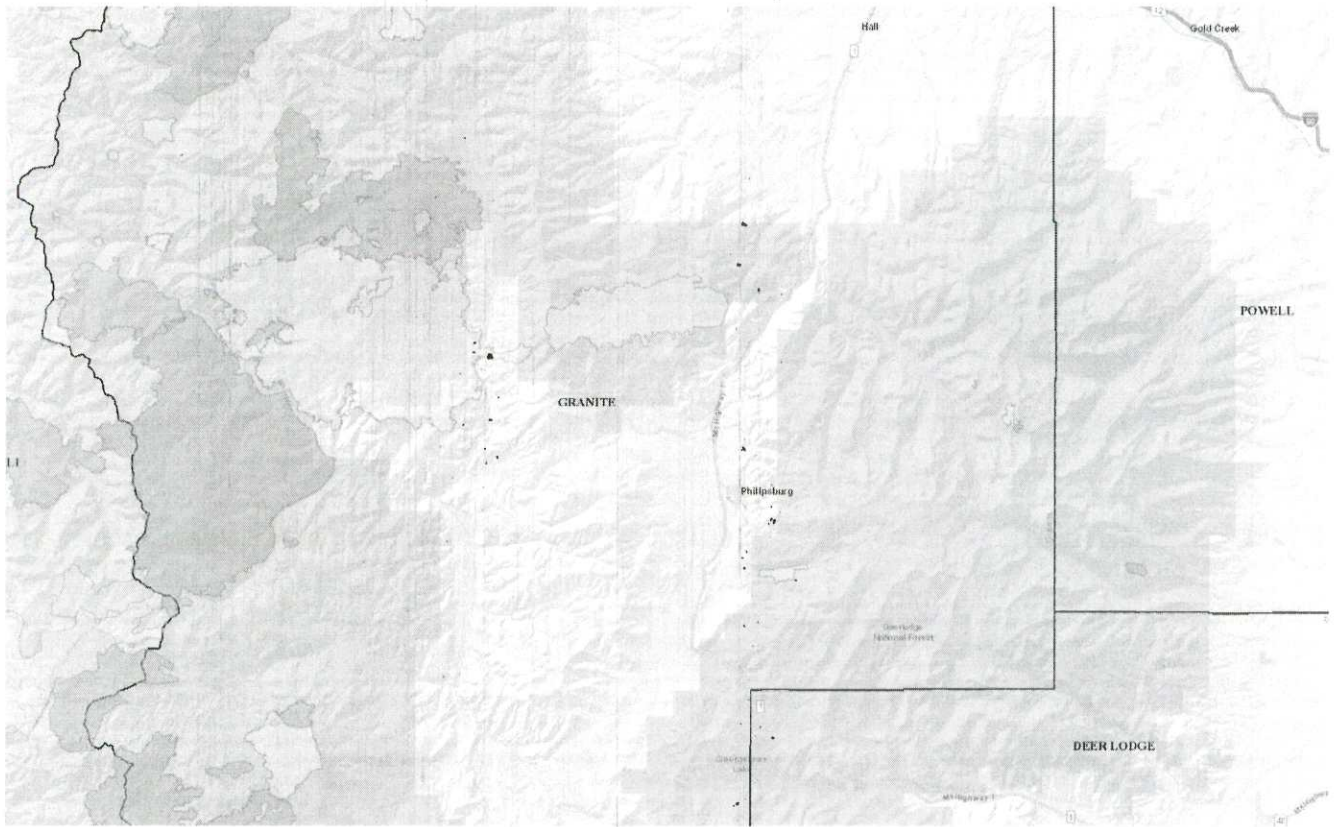
Map 1: *Vicinity Map*



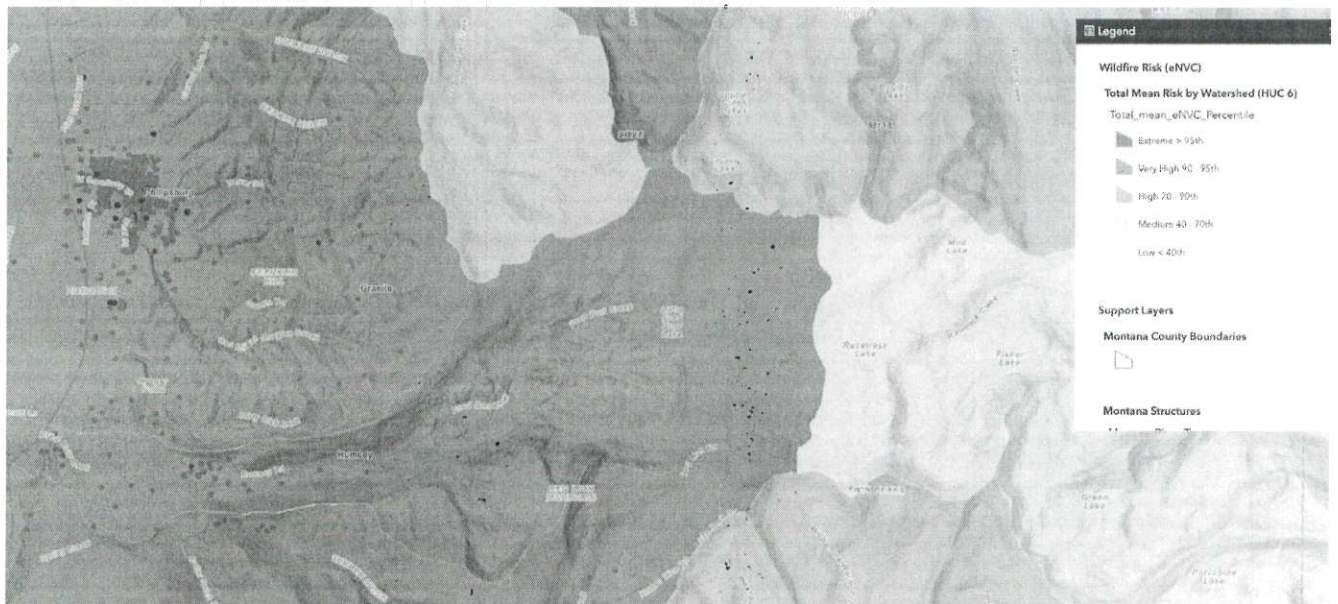
Map 2: Wildfire Likelihood



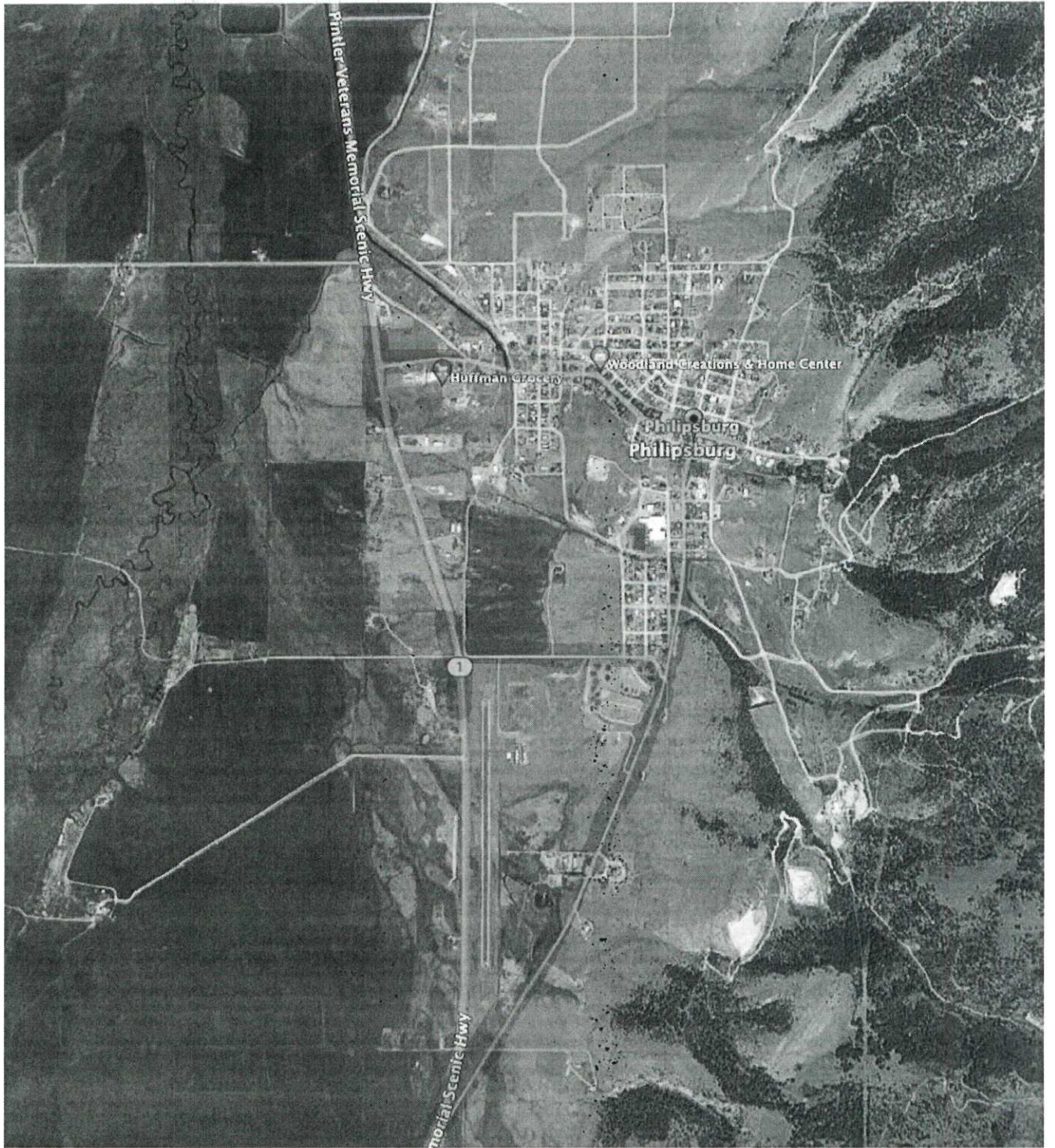
Map 3: Risk to Structures



Map 4: Fire History (1980-2021)



Map 5: Risk to Watershed Map



Map 6: *Evacuation Route Map*