

Appendix C: Cost Comparison

Caribou County contains numerous developments, subdivisions and communities separated by miles of rough terrain. Countywide there are approximately 2,900 homes and three incorporated communities. Most areas of Caribou County are at risk to wildfires. Hazardous fuel reduction, increased wildfire emergency services, and improved county emergency services communications can mitigate risk to life and property in Caribou County.

Appraised value of residential homes in Caribou County yielded an averaged assessed value of \$83,100 per residence. Fifteen percent of this average was added for personal property in the homes. This provided the total average value of \$95,500 per residence.

Using an average home value of \$95,500 the total estimated value of Caribou County homes is \$242,008,550. Add to this the value of farmland, county structures, communication sites, and court houses the estimated total value of assets at risk to wildfire is over \$301,408,500.

This total does not include the value of timber resources, or expense in protection of watersheds, and vegetation rehabilitation or soil erosion control efforts after a wildfire.

Estimated costs for wildfire mitigation recommendations for the six-wildfire mitigation goals within Caribou County are: \$519,990.

Stakeholders evaluating the economic benefits of mitigation should consider numerous “direct” scenarios, including, but not limited to avoiding:

- Building/property damages
- Content damages
- Inventory damages
- Rental income losses
- Relocation and disruption expenses
- Proprietor’s income losses

Some of “indirect” effects to consider, (positive or negative) include changes to the following:

- Commodity and resource prices
- Availability of resource supplies
- Building and land values
- Capital availability and interest rates
- Availability of labor
- Economic structure
- Infrastructure
- Local, state, and national regulations and policies

- Insurance availability and rates

Total economic impacts are the sum of direct and indirect economic impacts. Decision makers should understand the total economic impacts of natural disasters in order to calculate the benefits of a mitigation activity.

Additionally, it must be realized that benefit/cost analysis, when used alone, may divert attention from other important issues. It is important to consider the qualitative factors of a project associated with mitigation that cannot be evaluated economically. There are alternatives. Many communities and developments are looking towards developing multi-objective projects, including: integration of natural hazard mitigation with projects related to watersheds, wildfire protection, environmental planning, community economic development and small business development.

Appendix D: Financial/Technical Resources

Financial resources that can provide support for various wildfire mitigation action items include various State and Federal grants administered through Idaho Department of Lands, the Bureau of Land Management, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Hazardous fuels reduction grants for Caribou County can be combined from developments in the county and applied for through Idaho Department of Lands. Grant administration costs should be included into countywide grant requests.

Caribou County VFDs grant application is through the BLM program for VFD assistance and the FEMA grant program, grant application from county wide priorities should assist the Caribou County VFD as grant recipients.

Numerous technical resources are available for wildfire mitigation. Internet home pages of Idaho Department of Lands, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and NFPA can be accessed for additional information.

Wildfire Technical Resources:

Idaho Department of Lands, internet address for information about state of Idaho lands is
Website: www2.state.id.us/lands

Federal Wildland Fire Policy, Wildland /Urban Interface Protection Federal report describing areas that need improvement nationally
Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wildfire>

National Academy of Public Administration, Wildfire Suppression: Strategies For Containing Costs
Website: www.napawash.org

Bureau of Land Management, National Fire Plan, and links,
Website: www.blm.gov

USFS Fire Sciences Laboratory
www.firelab.org

Appendix E: List of Acronyms

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| AMSL | Above Mean Sea Level |
| BDS | Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| Cfs | Cubic feet per second |
| CRP | Conservation Reserve Program |
| °F | Degrees Fahrenheit |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| GPS | Global Positioning System |
| HOAs | Home Owners' Associations |
| ICS | Incident Command System |
| IDL | Idaho Department of Lands |
| LEPC | Local Emergency Planning Committee |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MSL | Mean Sea Level |
| NEPA | National Fire Protection Association |
| NWCG | National Wildfire Coordinating Group |
| PPE | Personal Protective Equipment |
| RFD | Rural Fire Department |
| TBD | To be determined |
| USFS | United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service |
| VFD | Volunteer Fire Department |
| WGA | Western Governors' Association |
| WUI | Wildland/Urban Interface |