

## Camp Rainbow Gold Wildfire Mitigation Plan

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Wildfires are a natural part of the environment in the East Fork Watershed and could pose a risk to inhabitants in this area. There are many approaches to reducing or eliminating these threats including fire suppression, public education, evacuation, and mitigating risks before the wildfire. Mitigation is defined as "sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects." Objectives of wildfire mitigation measures proposed for Camp Rainbow Gold are:

1. Reduce or eliminate wildfire damage to property and assets of Camp Rainbow Gold.
2. Improve safety for fire fighters during wildfire suppression activities at or near Camp Rainbow Gold.
3. Reduce wildfire risks to the shelter in place structure (dining hall) in the event of inability to evacuate the property due to nearby wildfire.

The property has coniferous forest to the south of the camp site that steeply rises from the East Fork of the Big Wood River (photo in Figure 2 shows the vegetation types described in this paragraph). A natural fuel break of sparse vegetation just south of the crest of this ridge provides a natural barrier to rapid fire spread to the North (photo in Figure 4). The East Fork and associated riparian/meadow area provides a natural firebreak that would significantly slow the spread of fires from the forested area. However embers from a wildfire in the forested area could be blown across the East Fork to the irrigated land to the north. The area between the East Fork of the Big Wood River and the East Fork Road has and will continue to be irrigated to maintain an open, fire resistant grassland. Steep slopes to the north of the East Fork Road are sagebrush dominated and would be susceptible to wildfire starts and spread.

Firewise protocols ([www.firewise.com](http://www.firewise.com)) and the 2015 International Wildland Urban Interface Code (IWUIC 2015, <http://codes.iccsafe.org/app/book/content/2015-I-Codes/2015%20IWUIC%20HTML/Copyright.html>) will be followed in implementing wildfire mitigation actions and activities on the property. Specifically, Appendix B, "Vegetation Management Plan" and Appendix F, "Characteristics of Fire Resistive Vegetation" in IWUIC 2015 provide relevant standards to implement the mitigation measures recommended below. Fire mitigation measures identified in this plan includes but is not limited to the areas surrounding all structures and the mechanical fuel reduction treatments proposed in sagebrush dominated rangeland along a portion of the East Fork Road and in or near the irrigated portions of the property.

These fire mitigation activities are supported by the May 2016 addendum to the Blaine County Idaho Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Appendix A) for the East Fork and Triumph area. It includes the following activities to reduce wildfire threat: "... prescribed fire, mechanical, chemical, seeding/planting. Mowing, hand thinning, and seeding to create defensible space around homes."

Given the values at risk to a wildfire, Firewise guidance for a 30 foot defensible space around structures will be increased to 50 feet (IWUIC 2015).

The following mitigation actions will be implemented to reduce wildfire hazard at or near Camp Rainbow Gold:

1. Mow and maintain herbaceous vegetation in the 4 acres that are watered with sprinklers from the pond on the north side of East Fork Road (pond in photo of Figure 2). Seeding of fire resistant vegetation may be necessary on portions of this five acre area. Mowing may be required on an annual basis to reduce fuel loads in this area. The location of this irrigated vegetation would help reduce the wildfire hazard at the west entry/exit road onto the East Fork Road.
2. Mow and maintain a fuel break where slopes are less than 25% between the Camp Rainbow Gold east and west entry roads and north of the East Fork Road (photo in Figure 3). To enhance safety in case of a wildfire evacuation from the east exit road, mow and maintain a fuel break 25 feet north of the East Fork Road and 200 feet east from the camp's east exit road. The purpose of this treatment, in addition to improving camp evacuation safety, is to reduce fuel loads and volatility to improve direct attack activities and increase fire fighter safety during suppression and/or burn-outs (backfires). This treatment would also enhance the safety of other residents evacuating the area on the East Fork Road. Native herbaceous vegetation in the understory of the sagebrush will minimize increases in flammable annual grasses and noxious weeds. Maintain by mowing at the intervals required to minimize sagebrush return to dominance.
3. Maintain the functionality of the pond on the north side of East Fork Road (pond in top photo of Figure 2) as a potential water source for fire suppression units along the East Fork Road. Control algae, keep debris at a minimum, and maintain full water level in the pond during fire season to minimize water draw issues to fire suppression engines that may need to draw water from this pond.
4. Irrigate land that was historically irrigated (approximately 70 acres) to maintain vegetation greenness and resistance to wildfires (photo in Figure 2). Water rights allow this irrigation to continue until early August and vegetation greenness would be expected to remain high through mid to late August once irrigation stopped. If needed, irrigated areas could also be mowed to reduce fuel buildup in late summer. Conversion of part of the current flood irrigation system to sprinklers or another type of above ground system would promote a more even and efficient method to water vegetation and would provide a way to immediately water vegetation if a wildfire was approaching. Low growing, fire resistant vegetation would also be established and watered during the fire season around structures following Firewise guidance for Zones 1, 2, and 3.

5. Utilize a 12 foot gravel road between the two main camp areas to serve as an alternate route from the Camp Rainbow Gold area if one of the entry/exit roads is blocked near the East Fork Road. This road would also facilitate fire suppression or emergency vehicle movement between both camp areas.
6. Apply Firewise landscaping around all structures associated with the camp. Increase defensible space from the standard 30 feet to 50 feet in these areas. This 50 foot area should be “lean” (minimal amount of flammable vegetation), “clean” (no accumulation of dead or flammable debris) and “green” (irrigated and green during the fire season). Landscaping trees should be nonresinous (deciduous trees) in the structure areas (IWUIC 2015). Since the dining hall is the designated shelter in place facility surround it with a lawn and “xeriscape” landscaping (low growing, fire resistant plants interspersed with rock or gravel beds).
7. Utilize pressurized fire hydrants or cisterns on camp property for fire suppression actions on the land surrounding the camp. These water sources would also be available for use for fire suppression on private or public lands surrounding the camp
8. Have portable fire extinguishing equipment on site for campfire or other outdoor activities.

# CAMP RAINBOW GOLD WILDFIRE HAZARD REDUCTION

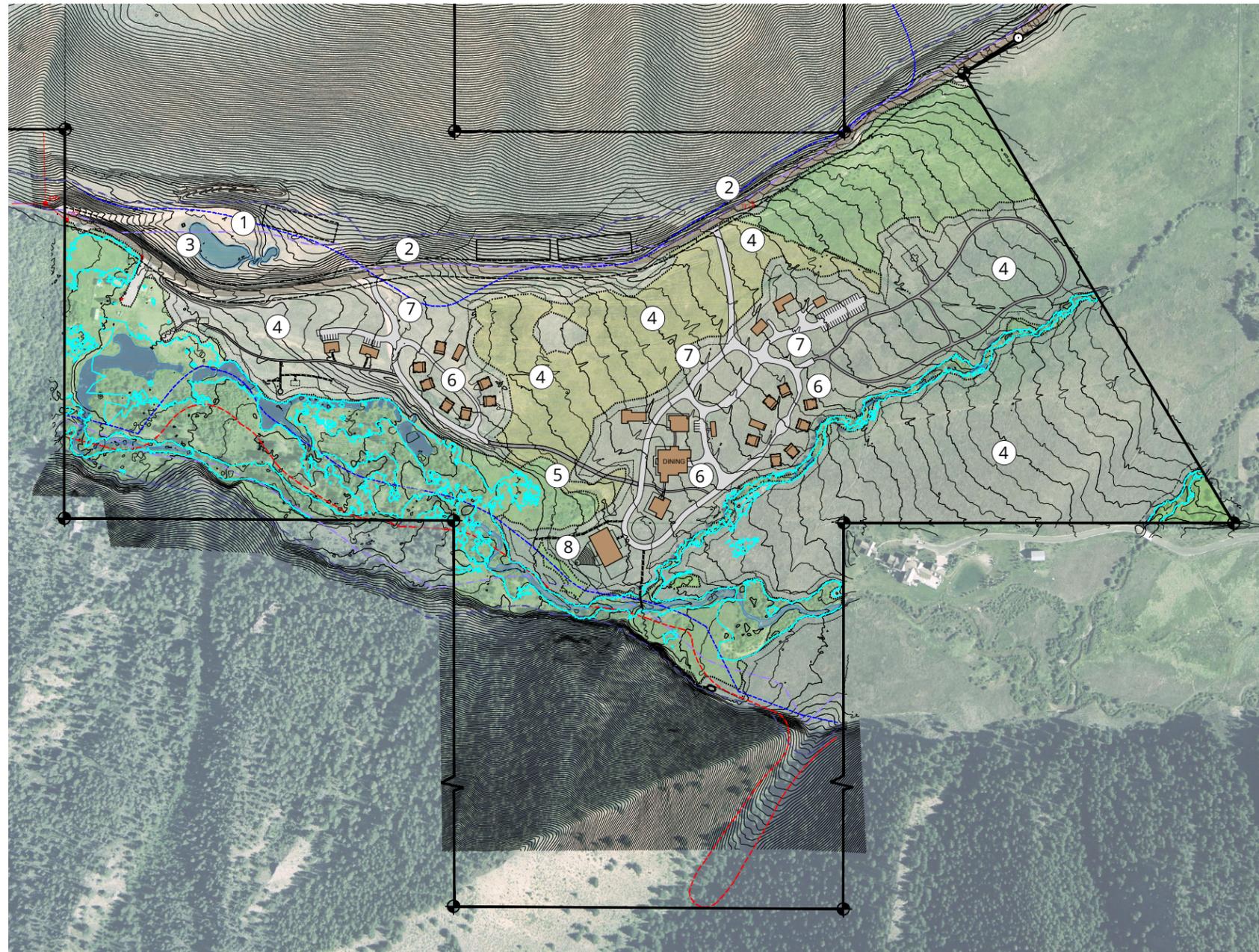


FIGURE - 1

## READY

- Fire Emergency Action Plan
- Defensible Space
- Fire Resistive Construction
- On-Site Fire Protection

## SET

- Activate Emergency Action Plan
- Monitor Conditions
- Emergency Supplies - medicines, water, map with evacuation routes, flashlights, spare batteries

## GO - Act Early

- Camp is evacuated if there is a possible threat to the camp or evacuation route using the approved evacuation plan

\*The above is compiled based on the recommendations of the International Fire Chiefs Association, the Bureau of Land Management, USFS, Cal Fire, National Fire Protection Association FireWise Program.

## FUELS MANAGEMENT AND FIRE MITIGATION ACTIONS

- ① Reduce the wildfire hazard at the west entry/exit road onto the East Fork Road by mowing and maintaining herbaceous vegetation in the 4 acres irrigated from the pond.
- ② Improve the fire safe zone along the north side of East Fork Road by mowing and maintaining a fuel break between the west and east entrance roads into the camp.
- ③ Maintain existing pond as a potential water source for fire suppression units during fire season.
- ④ Increase the safe area around the camp by irrigating and maintaining vegetation on historically irrigated lands.
- ⑤ Utilize a 12 foot gravel road to serve as an alternative exit or emergency vehicle route in case entry/exit roads are blocked.
- ⑥ Ensure a 50 foot defensible space and Firewise landscaping around camp structures.
- ⑦ Utilize pressurized fire hydrants or cisterns on camp property for fire suppression actions on private or public lands surrounding the camp.
- ⑧ Have portable fire extinguishing equipment on site for campfire or other outdoor activities.  
(Typical throughout camp)

\*See Camp Rainbow Gold Wildfire Mitigation Plan for additional information.



FIGURE - 2



FIGURE - 3



FIGURE - 4