

Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection District Profile

Planning Team

Name	Title
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Location and Geography

The Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection District covers a territory of 72 square miles. The coverage area includes public land (Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, Garfield County, etc.) as well as private land. The District's coverage area encompasses approximately 16,000 residents, with nearly 10,000 within the City of Glenwood Springs. The primary access to the district is via Interstate Highway 70 and Colorado Highway 82. The District maintains three facilities:

- Station One is located in West Glenwood on Mel Ray Drive.
- Station Two is located in downtown Glenwood Springs on 8th Street and Cooper Avenue.
- Station Three is located on Four Mile Road (County Road 117) one mile south of the intersection of CR 117 and Midland Ave.

The facilities above are considered the Glenwood Springs FPD's critical facilities. One urban area is within the District's boundaries: The City of Glenwood Springs.

Glenwood Springs

- Glenwood Springs is about 8 square miles in area.
- Glenwood Springs' population grew from about 9,756 people in 2015 to 9,915 people in 2019, an increase of approximately 200 people at an average annual growth rate of 0.4 percent. Glenwood Springs' population accounted for 16.8 percent of County population in 2019.
- Several regional transportation routes bisect Glenwood Springs: I-70 (which is also a hazardous materials transportation route), a rail line, and several State highways. A network of recreational trails also surrounds the City.
- Downtown Glenwood Springs is an important retail center and tourist destination with significant historical and cultural importance.

Transportation

The District is centered around the City of Glenwood Springs with the major transportation routes of I-70 and Highway 24 running east-west and Highway 82 that runs south towards Carbondale.

Development Trends

The majority of development that has occurred in the area are primarily within and around the City of Glenwood Springs. Specifically, there are several apartment buildings which have been built just outside the city limits which would require services from Glenwood Springs Fire District.

For any properties not currently protected, the fire district strives to provide necessary emergency services and will continue to evaluate feasibility of inclusion of those areas into the district. As development continues to occur in the areas outside of Glenwood Springs the district may adopt or provide services to additional areas within the district as needed.

Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

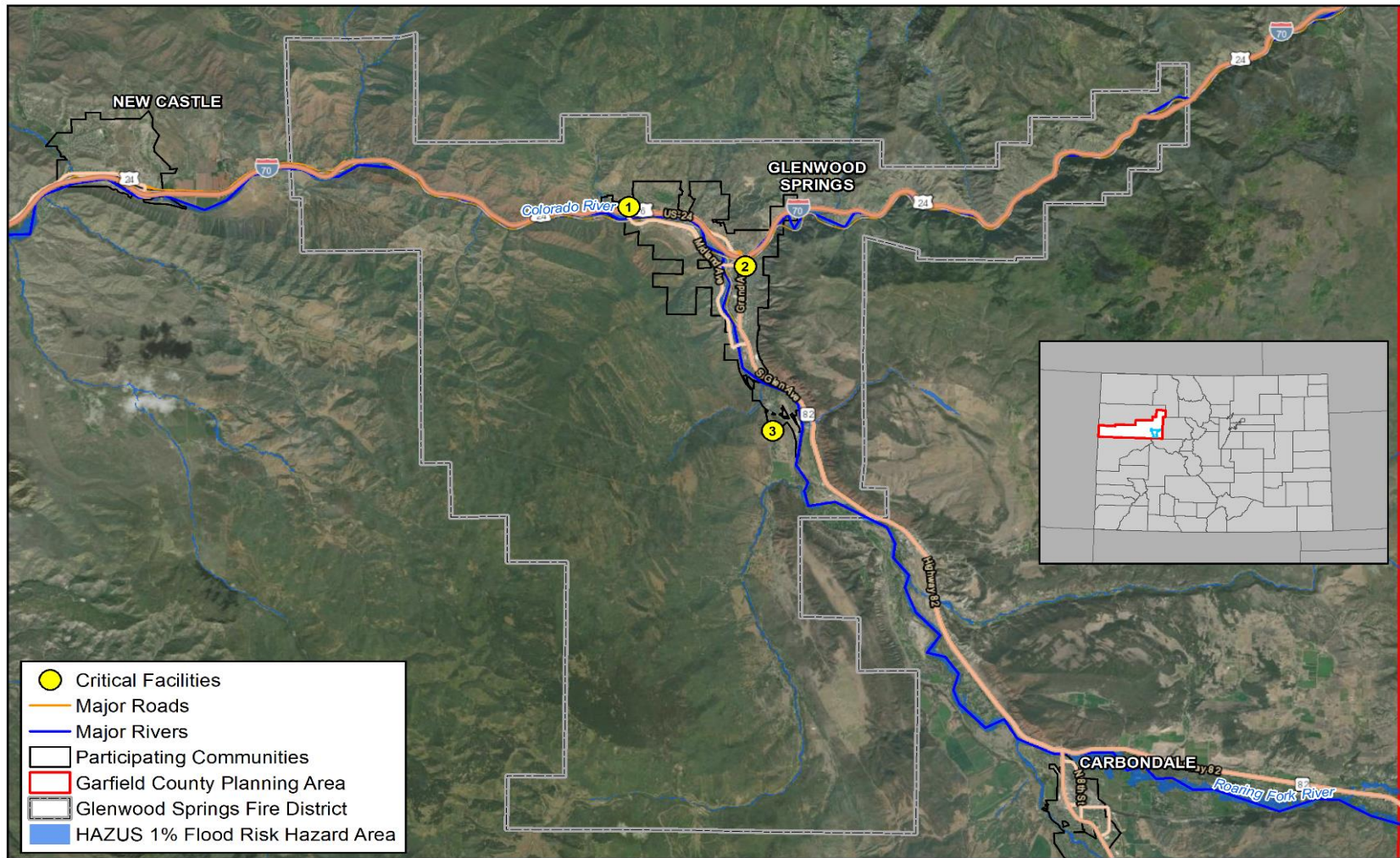
Each participating jurisdiction identified critical facilities vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction’s functions to normal during and after a disaster. Critical facilities were identified during the original planning process and updated by the local planning team as a part of this plan update. The following table and figure provide a summary of the critical facilities for Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection District and whether they are in known hazard areas.

Table GSFPD.1: Critical Facilities

Number	Name	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain	Dam Inundation	Wildfire Hazards	Geologic Hazards
1	Station 1	N	No	Yes	Moderate	Soils
2	Station 2	N	No	Yes	Low	Landslides
3	Station 3	N	No	No	Moderate	Soils

Although not listed in the table above, critical infrastructure may also include power substations, cell towers, alert sirens, or key transportation corridors in the district. While these assets are typically owned and maintained by other agencies, they are key resources for emergency response and mitigation strategies to reduce natural hazard risk.

Figure GSFPD.1: Critical Facilities



Created By: MW
 Date: 1/28/2022
 Software: ArcGIS 10.8
 File Name: GlenwoodSpringsFireCriticalFacilities.mxd
This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JED and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JED does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

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Critical Facilities

0 2.5 5 Miles



Glenwood Springs FPD Hazard Prioritization

The Garfield County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and man-made hazards which pose a risk to the county and communities. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Glenwood Springs FPD which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of local events, vulnerabilities, and mitigation actions the community wishes to pursue. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Glenwood Springs FPD local planning team, including:

- Wildfire
- Flood
- Severe Winter Weather
- Hazardous Materials

For a review and analysis of other natural hazards, please see the county-wide summary in *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

Wildfire

The primary concern of the Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection District is wildfire. The District participates in the Garfield County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, last updated in 2022, which provides a comprehensive assessment of wildfire hazards and risks.

Glenwood Springs and its surrounding areas experience frequent, sometimes significant, wildfire events. Many of these incidents are in the WUI and evacuations are not uncommon. The most noteworthy recent event was the Grizzly Creek Fire which burned 32,641 acres, cost over \$34,000,000 to contain, caused evacuations, and had a lasting negative impact on the economy, critical infrastructure, and the environment.

The intensity and frequency of wildfires in the district have increased over the past several decades which can be attributed in part to higher temperatures, drought conditions, and tree mortality. These impacts have stretched local resources and capabilities. There is an increase strain on district staff, equipment, and surrounding resources. The Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection District regularly works with communities within its service area to implement wildfire mitigation projects.

Mitigation Successes

- Private homeowners throughout the district working on household mitigation such as debris removal or fire-resistant building materials.

Flood

The Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection District may be sent out for rescue calls during periods of flooding. Common concerns for flooding in the district are due to rapid snowmelt or drainage pattern impacts from wildfires and burn scars. There is an emerging significant threat due to the increase frequency and magnitude of fires in the area, areas receiving heavy rainfall are also likely to see increased flood impacts. Fires cause tree mortality and destabilize soils, increasing sloughing and debris flow risks during heavy rainfall. As of 2021 the Colorado River has not received severe rainfall to produce such an event.

Specifically, the area near the trailer park off Midland was identified as an area of concern. The No Name drainage areas has an increased risk of flooding due to debris flow impacts in the area.

There are approximately 80 homes in this drainage area which are at risk. In the case of major flood events, the Fire District would assist with responses and rescues.

The Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection District is not an eligible participant for the National Flood Insurance Program and thus does not participate.

Severe Winter Weather

Winter storms have the potential to impact transportation routes; resulting in a delayed response time for rescue calls. Primary concerns for the fire district pertain primarily to blocked transportation corridors and rescues. Due to the rural nature of the planning area, some homes or development in the district may have very limited transportation corridors. These paths can easily be blocked by debris, snow accumulation, or ice. The district is working to update its vehicular fleet to 4WD in order to better perform in snow or ice conditions.

Hazardous Materials

The proximity of the railroad, I-70, and Highway 82 causes hazardous materials to be a concern for the district. Other areas of concern include cell tower batteries, auto body shops, and other chemical storage areas. Local capabilities are limited for resources, staff, and training. The nearest HAZMAT teams are located in Grand Junction and Eagle County. The district would request assistance from other districts for large specialized hazardous material incidents.

Capability Assessment

Due to the unique structure of fire protection districts, the typical capability assessment table was not used. The following table summarizes the district’s overall capabilities. The Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection District will continue to utilize existing relationships with local, county, state, and federal agencies to aid in the implementation of mitigation projects.

Table GSFPD.2: Capability Assessment

Overall Capability	2017 Plan Limited, Moderate, High	2022 Plan Limited, Moderate, High
Does the jurisdiction have the financial resources needed to implement mitigation projects?	Moderate	Limited
Does the jurisdiction have the staff/expertise to implement projects?	High	High
Does the jurisdiction have the community support to implement projects?	High	High
Does the jurisdiction have the time to devote to hazard mitigation?	Moderate	Limited

Local capabilities in order to apply for and administer grants is limited in the district. There is no designated grant manager for the department. Completing grants is a lengthy process and often requires a great deal of time and supporting documentation. The district noted it likely has moderate capability to write and submit grant applications; however, the district has limited resources to manage grants throughout the implementation process. The city of Glenwood Springs has a grant manager who may be available to assist grant development.

Plan Integration

Plans listed in below were reviewed by the local planning team to identify opportunities to integrate the HMP with current planning mechanisms. These documents were also used by the local planning team to assist in identifying risks, vulnerabilities, and potential mitigation actions. The

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documents directly contributed to the hazard prioritization and mitigation action items sections of this district profile. When these plans and other relevant district planning mechanisms are updated, the local planning team will review the HMP for opportunities to incorporate the goals, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the plan update as appropriate.

The Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection District developed a CWPP in 2007. This plan identifies areas within the district with an increased risk of wildfire and identifies strategies to mitigate wildfire impacts. The district also participated in the Garfield County CWPP in 2022 which had risk data and mitigation actions integrated into this HMP update. The Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection District will continue to participate in the Garfield County CWPP in future updates as well.

The district does have and participates in a Continuity of Operations Plan which was developed for all five fire protection districts in Garfield County. The original development of the plan was spurred during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in case a department lost all available responders or staff.

The district also has a “No Harm” plan which includes strategies to reduce fire risk throughout the district but does not include individual homeowner risk assessments. The district would like to update both this plan and the Glenwood Springs Rural Fire Protection CWPP in the coming years. Additionally in the coming years the district is looking to establish evacuation zones to assist response activities and emergency notification procedures.

Mitigation Action Items

Short and long-term action items identified through the planning process are an important part of the mitigation plan. Action items are detailed recommendations for activities that local departments, citizens and others could engage in to reduce risk. Although not all the actions below fit the definition of mitigation, they add to the overall resilience of the community and are thus included within the hazard mitigation plan.

Completed Actions

Action and Description	Hazards Addressed	Goals	Status
Create Wildfire Response Plan	Wildfire	1,2	The district has developed and updated Mutual Aid agreements, a Continuity of Operations Plan, and Emergency Operations Plan which outline response activities.
Community Wildfire Protection Plan: Participate in the ongoing development of an updated CWPP to ensure that future updates to the CWPP and the Garfield County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan are coordinated to reflect the best available data and comprehensive set of risk reduction actions.	Wildfire	1,2,3,4,5	Glenwood Springs FPD has a district specific CWPP and participated in the Garfield County CWPP. The district will continue to participate in CWPP updates in the future.

New and Ongoing Actions:

Action and Description	Hazards Addressed	Goals	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Lead Agency	Status
Community Education Plan: Develop a community education plan (e.g. FireWise) to educate property owners in fuels management, defensible space construction, harden homes construction and maintenance	All Hazards	1,5	Varies by community /area	Fire Districts' Budget	3-5 years	High	Fire Chief	This is a continued mitigation action. The Glenwood Springs Fire Protection District utilizes numerous strategies to educate property owners in wildfire mitigation. This includes utilizing social media and digital media.

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Action and Description	Hazards Addressed	Goals	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Lead Agency	Status
<p>Ensure Fire Protection: Ensure all areas of the county are covered by a fire protection district.</p>	Wildfire	1,3,5	Unknown	Fire District Budget	1-3 years	High	Fire Chief	This is a continued mitigation action. The district continues to have conversations about providing services to all properties within the county by encouraging landowners not currently in a fire district to become part of a fire protection district.
<p>Backup Generators: Purchase and install new backup generators to provide redundant power to fire stations.</p>	All Hazards	1,2	Varies by Need	Fire District Budget	5+ years	High	Fire Chief	This is a new mitigation action. Station 1 will have a backup generator once remodel is completed. Stations 2 and 3 need generators
<p>Implement CWPP Actions Implement fuel management projects in vulnerable areas and projects identified in the Garfield County CWPP.</p>	Wildfire	1,5	Varies by project	Fire District's Budget	5+ years	High	Fire Chief	This is a new mitigation action. The fire district implements fuel management projects as funds or resources are available. See the Garfield County CWPP for a list of specific fuel management projects identified for the district.

Removed Actions:

Action and Description	Hazards Addressed	Goals	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Timeline	Priority	Lead Agency	Reason for Removal
Develop Regional Response Plan: Develop regional response plan for all hazmat releases. This would include mapping vulnerable areas and critical management sites.	Hazardous Materials	1,3,4	\$30,000	Fire Districts' Budget, Title III, County General Fund	2-5 years	High	Fire Chief	At this time this project is not feasible for the district. The district relies on HAZMAT response from CSP, Eagle County, and GJFD.
Fire Resistant Building Materials Retrofit critical facilities with fire resistant building materials.	Wildfire	1,2,3	Varies by project	Fire District Budget, County General Fund	Ongoing	Medium	Fire Marshall	This action would be the responsibility of other agencies. No fire district facilities are in need of fire resistant building materials.
Conduct Hazmat Training Conduct hazmat training and acquire necessary equipment.	Hazardous Materials	1,3	Unknown	Fire District Budget	3-5 years	Low	Fire Chief	While the district will continue to conduct operational hazmat training, the district does not have the support resources to fulfill training and equipment for full HAZMAT teams.