

APPENDIX C

FIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT

A.	Subdivision Design	Points	
	1	Ingress/Egress	
		Two or more primary roads available to each lot for ingress/egress	1_____
		Two or more primary roads in the subdivision	2_____
		One road	3_____
		One-way road in, one-way road out	5_____
	2	Width of Primary Road	
		20 feet or more	1_____
		Less than 20 feet	3_____
	3	Accessibility	
		Road grade 5% or less	1_____
		Road grade more than 5%	3_____
	4	Secondary Road Terminus	
		Loop roads, cul-de-sacs with an outside turning radius of 45 feet or greater	1_____
		Cul-de-sac turnaround	
		Dead-end roads 200 feet or less in length	3_____
Dead-end roads greater than 200 feet in length		5_____	
5	Street Signs		
	Present	1_____	
	Not present	3_____	
B.	Vegetation	Points+	
	1	Fuel Hazard (see photos for reference)	
		Low	1_____
		Moderate	10_____
		High	20_____
	2	Treated Space	
		70% or more of site treated	1_____
		30% or more, but less than 70% of site, treated	10_____
	Less than 30% of site treated	20_____	
c.	Topography	Points+	
		8% grade or less	1_____
		More than 8% grade, but less than 20% grade	4_____
		20% grade or more, but less than 30% grade	7_____
		30% grade or more	10_____

D.	Roofing Material		Points
		Class A Fire Rated	1 _____
		Class B Fire Rated	5 _____
		Class C Fire Rated	10 _____
		Non-rated	20 _____
E.	Fire Protection-Water Source		Points
		500 GPM hydrant within 1,000 feet	1 _____
		Hydrant farther than 1,000 feet or draft site	2 _____
		Water source 20 min. or less, round trip	5 _____
		Water source farther than 20 min., and 45 min. or less, round trip	7 _____
F.	Existing Building Construction Materials		Points
		Noncombustible siding/deck	1 _____
		Noncombustible siding/combustible deck	5 _____
	Combustible siding and deck	10 _____	
G.	Utilities (gas and/or electric)		Points
		All underground utilities	1 _____
		One underground, one above ground	3 _____
	All aboveground	5 _____	
Total for Subdivision _____			
	Moderate Hazard	40 - 59	
	High Hazard	60 - 74	
	Extreme Hazard	75+	

+Point assessments for fuel hazard, treated space, and topography to be filled out by the County Fire Inspector, the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), or a designated representative.

Initials certifying that the point totals for fuel hazard, treated space, and topography were filled out by the County Fire Inspector, the AHJ, or a designated representative: _____

Fire Hazard Assessment Ratings

LOW –

Characteristics of a Low Fuel Hazard rating would include little to no woody debris on the ground level. Grass components would be less than 2 feet tall, irrigated, grazed or cut regularly. Intermittent trees may be present, but no ladder fuels may be present within 20 feet of the ground and crown spacing of greater than 20 feet must exist. Wildland fires that originate on Low Fuel Hazard parcels should have little to no chance of forming a flaming front and spreading rapidly. The potential for an ember shower originating on adjacent forested lands is a consistent possibility throughout Missoula County. In areas of Low Fuel Hazard ratings, the result of an ember shower would result in small spot fires with no spread potential. The effects of slope should be minimal to fire risk due to the sparse nature of the fuels. In general, Low Fuel Hazard areas should have little to no probability of wildland fires starting or spreading.



MODERATE –

Characteristics of a Moderate Fuel Hazard would include some accumulation of woody debris and duff on the ground level. Grass and Brush fuels present at the surface level would produce flame lengths between 2 and 4 feet, resulting in a rapidly moving flame front under high to extreme fire conditions. If trees are present, the ladder fuels could lead to group torching, but not support a running crown fire. Trees may be thick in places but breaks in crown spacing should be wide enough to prevent fire spread independent of the ground fire. The impact from an ember shower originating on adjacent forested lands would result in spot fires that may grow and spread. The effects of slope would be significant in Moderate Fuel Hazard areas, resulting in convective heat that may make it dangerous to responders. In general, Moderate Fuel hazard areas would be susceptible to wildland fire, with initial attack efforts having a high probability of successful and safe suppression efforts.



HIGH –

Characteristics of a High Fuel Hazard would include a heavy accumulation of woody debris on the ground level. Grass and brush fuels are contiguous and would result in flame lengths above 4 feet, resulting in a rapidly moving flame front with a high probability of spotting. If trees are present, ladder fuels would result in torching and have the potential to spread through the canopy independently. The impact from an ember shower originating on adjacent forested lands would result in spot fires that would grow and spread rapidly, producing further spotting and suppression difficulties. The effects of slope would be extreme in High Hazard fuel areas, resulting in convective heat columns that would be dangerous to first responders, produce rapid fire growth and spotting. In general, High Fuel Hazard areas would be highly susceptible to wildland fire starts with a low probability of initial attack efforts being successful.

