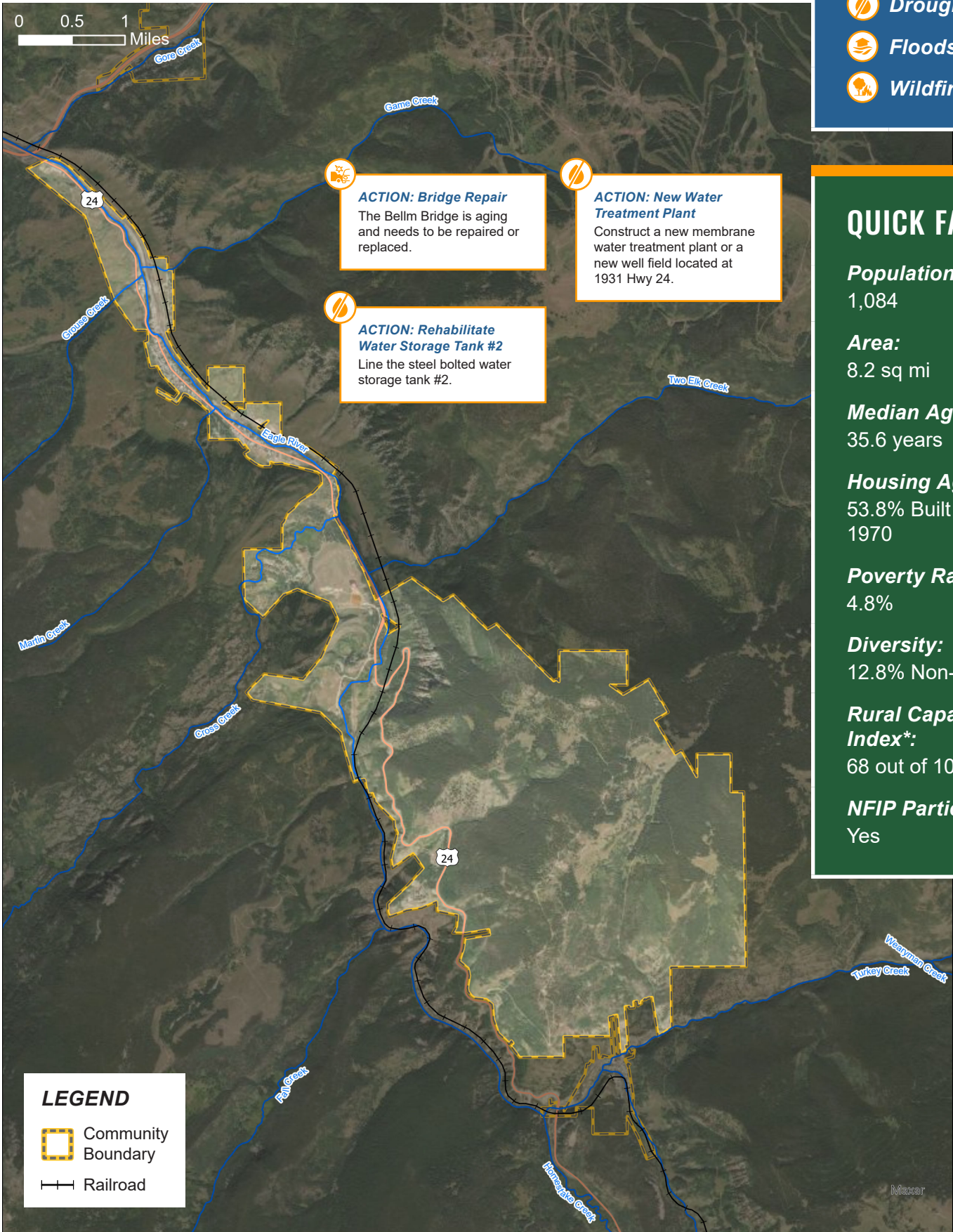


# Town of Minturn

## EAGLE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2024



### PRIORITIZED HAZARDS

- Drought
- Floods
- Wildfire

### QUICK FACTS

- Population:** 1,084
- Area:** 8.2 sq mi
- Median Age:** 35.6 years
- Housing Age:** 53.8% Built Prior to 1970
- Poverty Rate:** 4.8%
- Diversity:** 12.8% Non-White
- Rural Capacity Index\*:** 68 out of 100
- NFIP Participation:** Yes

\*Headwaters Economics. 2022. "Rural Capacity Index. <https://headwaterseconomics.org/equity/rural-capacity-map/>

## Local Planning Team

### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	R1 Meeting	R2 Meeting
Michelle Metteer	Town Manager	Town of Minturn	Yes, Materials Development	Yes, Materials Development

### Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans are living documents and should be updated regularly to ensure effectiveness and reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside planning document updates, before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles beginning.

The Town Manager will be responsible for reviewing and updating this participant profile outside of the five-year update. The Town of Minturn will review the plan bi-annually and the public will be notified through public town council meetings.

## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the Town of Minturn's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning and regulatory capabilities, administrative and technical capabilities, fiscal capabilities, and education and outreach capabilities.

### Capability Assessment

Capability Mechanism	Yes/No
Comprehensive Plan	Yes
Capital Improvements Plan	Yes
Economic Development Plan	Yes
Emergency Operations Plan	Yes (County)
Floodplain Management Plan	No
Storm Water Management Plan	No
Zoning Ordinance	Yes
Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes
Building Codes	Yes
Source Water Protection Plan	Yes
Water System Emergency Response Plan	Yes
National Flood Insurance Program	Yes
Community Rating System	No
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes (County)
Other (if any)	Wildfire Risk Study
Planning Commission	Yes
Floodplain Administration	Yes
GIS Capabilities	Yes
Chief Building Official	Yes

Capability Mechanism	Yes/No
<b>Civil Engineering</b>	Yes
<b>Grant Manager</b>	No. Minturn contracts with an outside firm for grant writing services
<b>Mutual Aid Agreement</b>	Yes
<b>Other (if any)</b>	-
<b>1- &amp; 6-Year Plan</b>	No
<b>Applied for grants in the past</b>	Yes
<b>Awarded a grant in the past</b>	Yes
<b>Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes such as mitigation projects</b>	No
<b>Gas/Electric/Water/Sewer Service Fees</b>	Yes
<b>Storm Water Service Fees</b>	No
<b>Development Impact Fees</b>	No
<b>General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds</b>	Yes
<b>Other (if any)</b>	-
<b>Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc. Ex. CERT Teams, Red Cross, etc.</b>	No
<b>Ongoing public education or information program (e.g., responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)</b>	Yes
<b>Natural disaster or safety related school programs</b>	No
<b>StormReady Certification</b>	No
<b>Firewise Communities Certification</b>	No
<b>Tree City USA</b>	No
<b>Other (if any)</b>	-

**Overall Capability**

Overall Capability	Limited/Moderate/High
<b>Financial resources to implement mitigation projects</b>	Limited
<b>Staff/expertise to implement projects</b>	Limited
<b>Public support to implement projects</b>	Moderate
<b>Time to devote to hazard mitigation</b>	Limited
<b>Ability to expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation</b>	Limited

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

Minturn is a member of the NFIP having joined 9/17/1980 and the town's Floodplain Manager oversees the commitments and requirements of the NFIP. Any new development or substantial improvement located in the floodplain must receive a Floodplain Development Permit that is reviewed by the Town Engineer. The FEMA Map Service Center is used to determine if a structure is in the floodplain. Substantially improved structures in the floodplain are identified through the building permit review process. The town's floodplain regulations do not exceed State of Colorado requirements. Letters of Map Change have not occurred in the community but if they were, Minturn would submit information to the state and FEMA.

The local planning team has stated that Minturn will remain in good standing and continue involvement with the NFIP in the future. Additional NFIP information is given in the table below.

#### Minturn NFIP Information

NFIP Overview	
Floodplain Administrator (FPA):	Yes
Is FPA a Certified Floodplain Manager?	No
Is Floodplain Management an Auxiliary Function?	Yes
Date of NFIP Participation:	September 17, 1980
Number of NFIP Policies In-Force:	12
Total NFIP Premium (\$):	\$19,578
Total NFIP Coverage (\$):	\$4,155,000
Number of Claims Paid Out:	1
Total Amount of Claims Paid Out (\$):	\$6,035
Number of Repetitive Loss Structures:	No
Number of Severe Repetitive Loss Structures:	No
Is the Community Currently Suspended from the NFIP?	No
Any Outstanding Compliance Issues?	No
FIRMs Digital or Paper?	Digital

#### Building Values & Floodplain

The planning team acquired GIS parcel data from the County Assessor to analyze the location, number, and total value of structures in the community located in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. A summary of the results of this analysis is provided in the following tables.

#### Structures and Value in the 100-Year Floodplain

Number of Structures	Total Actual Value of Structures	Number of Structures in Floodplain	Total Value of Structures in Floodplain	Percentage of Structures in Floodplain
827	\$517,831,940	14	\$12,907,830	1.7%

Source: County Assessor, 2023

#### Structures and Value in the 500-Year Floodplain

Number of Structures	Total Actual Value of Structures	Number of Structures in Floodplain	Total Value of Structures in Floodplain	Percentage of Structures in Floodplain
827	\$517,831,940	0	\$0	0%

Source: County Assessor, 2023

### Plans and Studies

The Town of Minturn has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or how it contains hazard mitigation principles. When the town updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the update.

#### Building Code (2021)

The building code sets standards for constructed buildings and structures. The town has adopted the 2021 International Building Code and eliminated the need for indoor sprinkler/fire suppression in single family homes under 6,000 square feet.



### **Capital Improvements Plan (2023)**

The capital improvements plan outlines projects the community would like to pursue and provides a planning schedule and financing options. The plan includes improving transportation routes. Projects from the hazard mitigation plan will be integrated into the capital improvements plan.

### **Comprehensive Plan (2023)**

The comprehensive plan is designed to guide the future actions and growth of the town. It includes goals aimed at safe growth and encourages infill development. It does not directly discuss specific hazards or hazard mitigation principles.

### **Floodplain Regulations (2021), Zoning Ordinance (2009), and Subdivision Regulations (2009)**

Minturn's floodplain regulations, zoning ordinance, and subdivision regulations outline where and how development should occur in the future. These documents include the ability to implement water restrictions and discourage development in the floodplain. The hazard mitigation plan has not been integrated into these documents.

### **Water System Emergency Response Plan**

A water system emergency response plan serves as a guideline for water operators and town administration to minimize the disruption of normal services to consumers and to provide public health protection during an emergency event. The document identifies several natural and human-caused events and discusses the water system's response during those events.

### **Watershed Protection Plan (2008)**

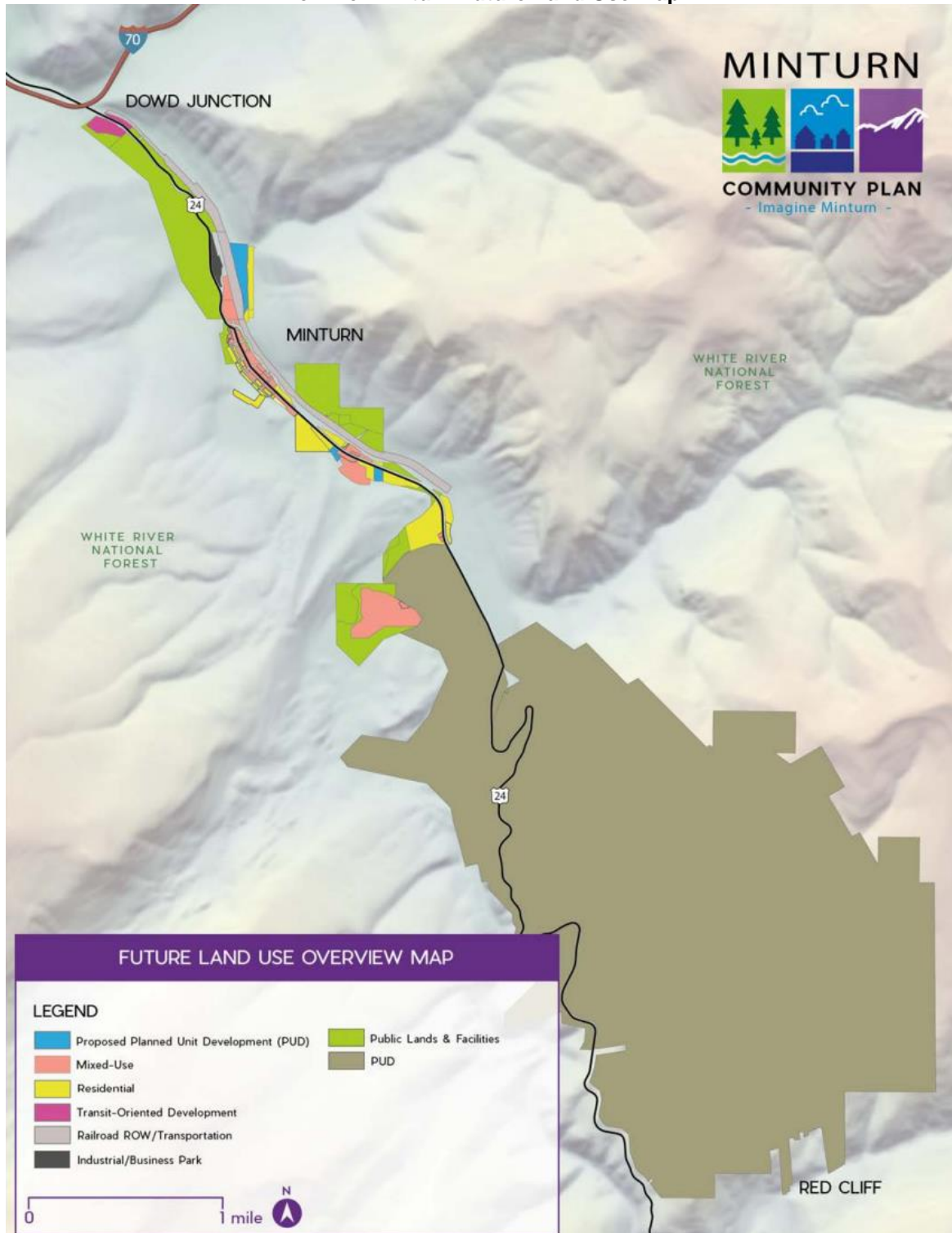
The purpose of the watershed protection plan is to maintain and protect the town's water supplies and waterworks from injury, pollution, and any other activity that may create a risk to health or adversely impact the water supply. The plan outlines prohibited activities and permitted activities within the watershed, outlines the permitting process, and discusses enforcement and penalty.

## **Future Development Trends**

Over the past five years, very little has changed in the town with no new developments. In the next five years, a new infill development of 39 units is planned near the railyard. Additionally, the Maloit Park area will see a 130-unit school district development. The community does not anticipate adding or losing any major employers. All new developments are required to consider hazard impacts. Minturn's future land use map can be seen on the next page with most of the planned housing being in the center and southern portions of the community.

For hazards like drought, lightning, severe wind, and severe winter weather, all future developments could be impacted regardless of where they are located. The entire community is in the wildland urban interface, so all future developments have an increased risk to wildfire. The two planned housing projects will be located close to Highway 24 which increases risk to transportation incidents. According to the local planning team the future housing projects will not be located in any other known hazard locations.

Town of Minturn Future Land Use Map



Source: Town of Minturn

## Community Lifelines

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifelines include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.

Most of the town has evacuation and access challenges. There is only one road in and out of the community with hills to the east and west. In addition, many streets are narrow and end in dead ends. There is no fire or police department located in the town.

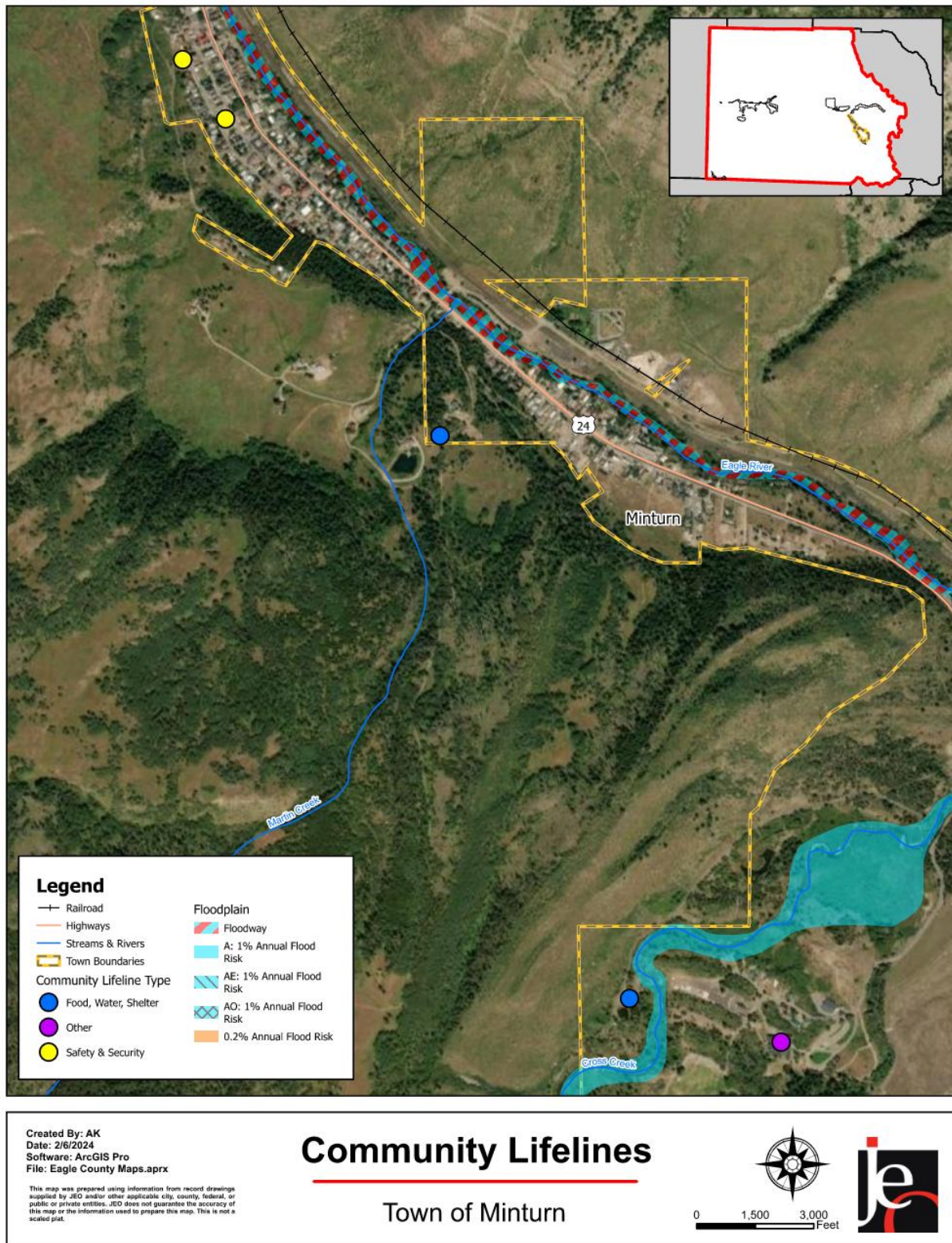


### Community Lifelines

Name	Community Lifeline Type	Generator (Y/N)	Floodplain (Y/N)
Eagle River Fire Protection District – Station 5	Safety & Security	No	No
Minturn Water Tank #2	Food, Water, Shelter	No	No
Minturn Water Treatment Plant / Water Tank #3	Food, Water, Shelter	No	No
Town Hall	Safety & Security	No	No
Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy	Other	No	No

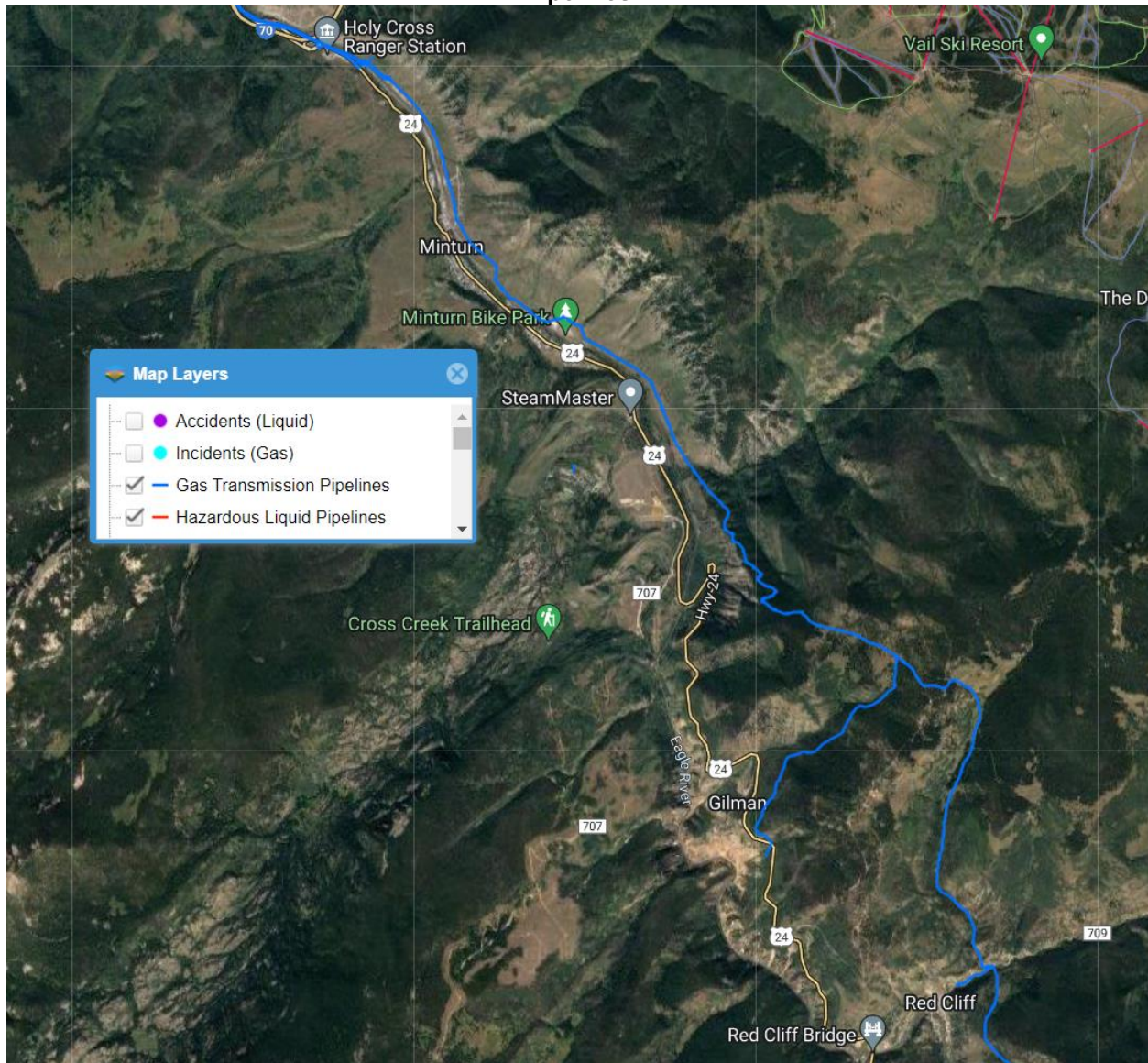


### Community Lifelines Map





### Pipelines



Source: National Pipeline Mapping System<sup>1</sup>

## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Eagle County Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the county, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Minturn which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past significant local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by the Town of Minturn. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review, analysis, and full list of historical hazard events, please see *Section Four* and *Appendix A*.

<sup>1</sup> National Pipeline Mapping System. 2023. "Public Viewer." Accessed August 2023. <https://pvnpm.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer/>.

### **Drought**

Drought was selected as a prioritized hazard because of climate change increasing the risk of drought and the town only having one water source. Past droughts have caused water restrictions due to the town running up against their consumptive use water rights. To reduce the vulnerability of drought, Minturn has installed a leak detection system throughout all of the water mains, installed new smart water meters on all properties, and built a new concrete water tank. The town has also adopted a tiered water rate system for outdoor irrigation users. Water for the community comes from Cross Creek. In the future the town would like to construct a new water treatment plant, dredge the intake pond, rehabilitate storage tank #2, and establish a secondary water source for the community.

### **Floods**

Minturn experienced mild flooding in the spring of 2020, but it did not cause any major damage. The mapped floodplain in the community is located along the Eagle River on the northern portion of town. Bellm Bridge, the main bridge in town over the Eagle River, is aging and needs repair or replacement. The community has applied for a grant to conduct a feasibility study on the bridge.

Minturn is the downstream town of the high hazard Homestake Project Dam. If this dam were to fail, Minturn would likely see flooding in excess of the 100-year floodplain. *Appendix A* shows the locations of all high hazard dams in the county.

### **Severe Winter Weather / Avalanche**

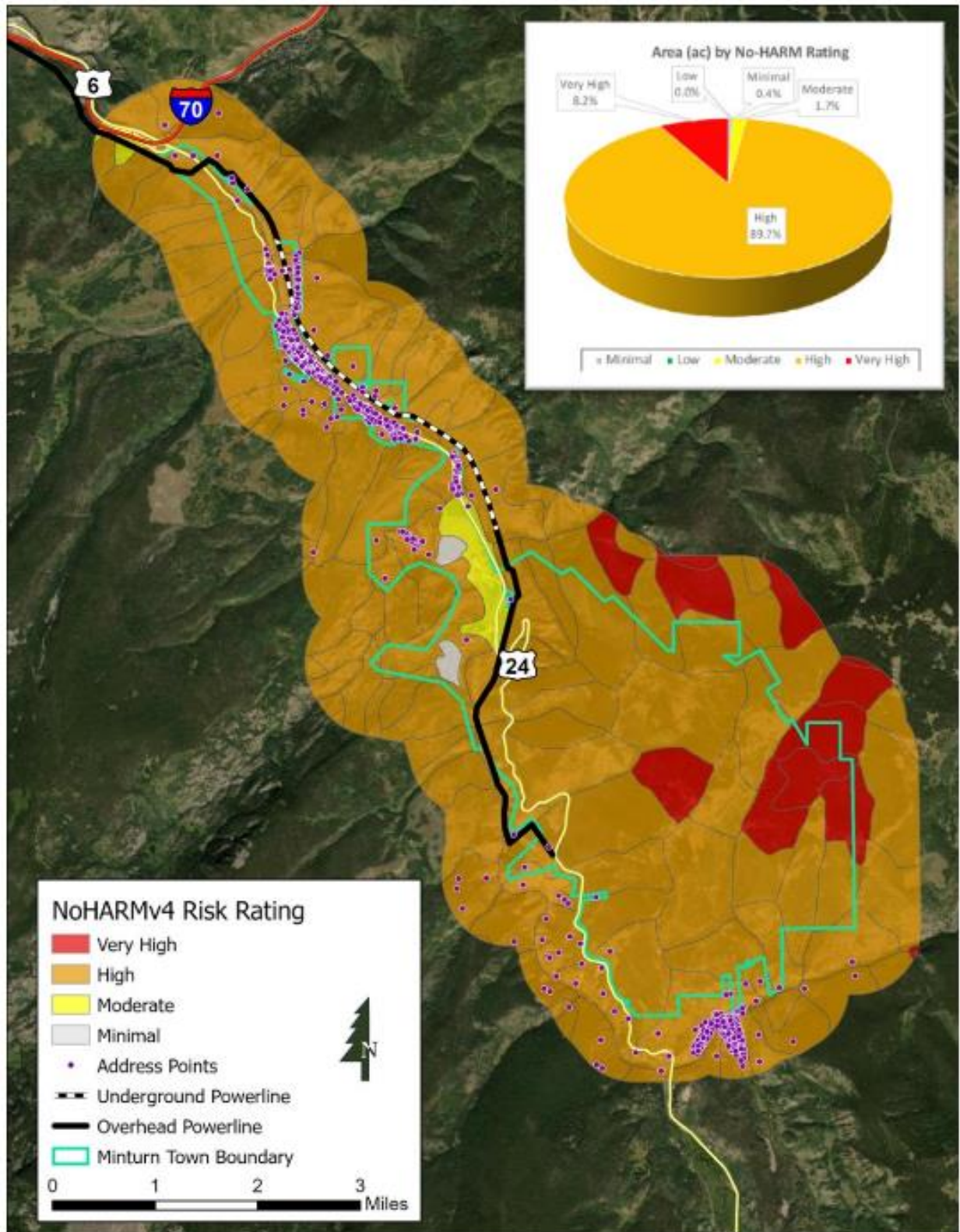
Avalanches occur at the southern end of Minturn's border on Highway 24. These avalanche events impact access to and from the community from the south. Additionally, with CDOT's labor shortages for plowing Highway 24, combined with the town's limitations to plow emergency access routes 24/7, snow removal issues could arise. Power loss is also a concern as many of the electrical lines are not buried. The winter of 2023/24 has also brought avalanches to the north end of town blocking Highway 24 access to Interstate 70. This required the use of County Road 14/Minturn Road as a detour route.

### **Wildfire**

Minturn recently had a wildfire risk report completed for a potential new transmission line. It shows the town's vulnerability to wildfire is high or very high depending on location. This does not consider the potential powerline in this assessment. Minturn has experienced two fires in the past five years, both originating at the Two Elk Target Range. No damage was done in the community, but one required a full emergency response by multiple agencies including aircraft support. Many homes in the community are in the wildland urban interface and are older wooden structures. To help reduce the risk of wildfires, Minturn has completed two small fuels reduction projects next to the water treatment plant. However, additional fuels reduction and fuel break projects are needed.



Wildfire Risk Rating for Minturn



Source: Anchor Point Group



**New Mitigation and Strategic Actions**

Action	Backup Generators
Description	Purchase backup generators for the water treatment plant and the Town Hall.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Avalanche, Floods, Landslides, Lightning, Severe Wind, Severe Winter Weather, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$100,000+
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Town Manager, Town Council
Status	On hold until funding becomes available.

Action	Bridge Repair
Description	The Bellm Bridge is aging and needs to be repaired or replaced.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Floods
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Town Manager, Town Council
Status	Not Started. A request for proposals has been put out for a feasibility study.

Action	Dredge the Intake Pond
Description	Dredge the water intake pond.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Town Manager, Town Council
Status	Planning Stage

Action Name	New Water Treatment Plant
Description	Construct a new membrane water treatment plant or a new well field located at 1931 Hwy 24.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	Membrane Plant: \$15,000,000 - \$18,000,000 Well Field: \$500,000 - \$1,000,000
Local Funding	Congressionally Directed Spending Funds
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Town Manager, Town Council
Status	Planning Stage

Action	Public Education and Outreach
Description	Educate staff and residents on their risks to hazards, how to get information and emergency notifications, and preparedness actions to keep themselves safe. Coordinate with Eagle County and other project partners on outreach and education projects and materials.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All Hazards
Estimated Cost	\$1,000+, Staff Time
Local Funding	General Budget, Staff Time
Timeline	5+ Years
Priority	Low
Lead Agency	Town Manager
Status	Not Started

Action	Rehabilitate Water Storage Tank #2
Description	Line the steel bolted water storage tank #2.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought, Wildfire
Estimated Cost	\$150,000
Local Funding	General Budget
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	High
Lead Agency	Town Manager, Town Council
Status	Pending Town Council approval to investigate the option.

### Kept Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Secondary Water Source
Description	Find a secondary water source for the community to serve as a backup to the main source. Secondary source options include a diversion on the Eagle River.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	\$8,000,000 - \$10,000,000
Local Funding	Enterprise Funds, Bond, Grants
Timeline	2-5 Years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	Town Manager, Town Council
Status	This project has not been started due to financial cost. The town is currently working to build a new water treatment plant (either a membrane plant or well field). A secondary water source would be a phased option if a membrane plant is built.

### Removed Mitigation and Strategic Actions

Action	Fuel Break & Fuel Reduction
Description	Construct a fuel break at Pine Street and Harrison Avenue.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Wildfire
Status	Removed. A fuel break is no longer needed in this location.