

Real East County FSC | 2023

Community Wildfire Protection Plan



San Diego County

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PREFACE: WHAT IS A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN?

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are blueprints for preparedness at the neighborhood level. They organize a community's efforts to protect itself against wildfire, and empower citizens to move in a cohesive, common direction. Among the key goals of Real East County (REC) Fire Safe Council (FSC) CWPP, which was developed collaboratively by citizens, and federal, state and local management agencies, are to:

- Align with the San Diego region's cohesive pre-fire strategy, which includes educating homeowners and building understanding of wildland fire, ensuring defensible space clearing and structure hardening, safeguarding communities through fuels treatment, and protecting evacuation corridors
- Identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatment
- Recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect the community
- Recommend measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan

Note: The CWPP is not to be construed as indicative of project "activity" as defined under the "Community Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter Three, Projects Subject to CEQA." Any actual project activities undertaken that meet this definition of project activity and are undertaken by the CWPP participants or agencies listed shall meet with local, state, and federal environmental compliance requirements.

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County produced this report in partnership with the San Diego County Fire Safe Council. Funding is provided by a National Fire Plan grant from the Cooperative Fire program of the U.S. Forest Service through the California Fire Safe Council. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

SECTION I: SNAPSHOT OF THE COMMUNITY

Each community in San Diego County has a unique history and identity. Below is a description of what sets this area apart, including its landscape, preparedness, and firefighting resources.

A. OVERVIEW

The Communities of Jacumba, Boulevard, and Live Oak Springs are situated along the US/Mexico Border. The communities lie within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) with fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ) ratings ranging from Very High to High. The structures are single built family homes with some over 100 years old to newer construction. There are three primary routes of travel, which include: 1) Interstate 8 East and West 2) Hwy 94 East and West, with the Eastern portion ending at Interstate 8 and 3) Old Hwy 80 East to West, with the Eastern portion ending at Interstate 8. The population in Jacumba is approximately 765. Boulevard's population is approximately 1488 which includes the community of Live Oak Springs. There are two villages within the FSC area including Live Oak Springs and Jacumba. Jacumba has been designated as a Colonia. The median age is 66.7 years, and the poverty rate is 53.6% within the Fire Safe Council's boundaries. There are varying age groups in the region, but seniors make up the majority. The vulnerable population are seniors with mobility issues as well as transportation issues. There are some non-seniors with the same issues. In general, all communities within the area are classified as "communities at risk".

There are a few community resources available to Jacumba, Boulevard, and Live Oak Springs residents. The Back Country Resource Center (BCRC) in Boulevard is designated as an SDG&E Community Resource Center (CRC) in the case of Public Safety Power Shutdowns. Additionally, the BCRC provides a facility for community meetings, events, food programs, etc. There is also the Highland Senior Center in Jacumba that serves the community with a meeting location, resources, social functions, and other services depending on community needs. There are several renewable energy facilities (Wind Turbines and Solar), two power sub-stations (one being cross border interconnect), two 500kv transmission lines (which are the main electrical to San Diego County), two post offices, one elementary school, two fire stations, one Border Patrol station, and various businesses such as grocery stores, gas stations, restaurant, etc.

Lastly, several Indian Reservations are located within the boundary areas of the REC FSC, including: the Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians, the La Posta Band of Mission Indians, and the Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation.



B. LANDSCAPE

TOPOGRAPHY

The communities that are within the Fire Safe Council boundary have similar geography. Elevations range from 2000 to 4000 feet, with mountains and valleys oriented in a Northerly to Southerly alignment. The major route transecting the area is Interstate 8. Real East County is approximately 72 miles West of San Diego and 102 miles East of Yuma, Arizona. The Eastern area of Jacumba is located at the top of Jacumba mountain, above the desert floor, which is an influencing factor for weather. To the West, lies the top of the Tecate Divide with weather influenced from both the coastal and desert area. The area's weather is influenced by the topography and from both the desert and coastal regions, creating several microclimates. The mountain slopes are steep with deep canyons, rocky terrain as well as valleys consisting of alluvial soil deposits.

Chaparral shrubland is the most common fuel type in the area. Chaparral shrublands include species such as ceanothus, chamise, buckwheat, sage, scrub oak, redshank, Oak Pinyon Pines, Juniper, and non-native trees and grasslands. The riparian areas consist of mature Oaks, grass, sage, and buckwheat. There are large swaths of vegetation interspersed between the communities and residences creating a mosaic effect. There are Oak woodlands, Juniper forests with Pinyon pine mix interspersed throughout the area. Winds are common with strong, dry North and East winds, including Santa Ana wind events. The land features orientation combined with the winds create a corridor for extreme fire potential that impact our community and neighboring communities. On average, winds are West and South during the day, changing to the opposite at night due to the ocean and desert influence. There are frequent power outages planned, unplanned, and Public Safety Power Shutdowns.

FIRE HISTORY

2020 Elliot Fire	2005 Church Fire
2019 Crestwood Fire	2005 Ribbonwood Fire
2014 Jacumba Fire	2005 Railroad Fire
2012 Border 12 Fire	2004 Range Fire
2012 Shockey Fire	2003 Jewell Fire
2010 Border 10 Fire	2000 Border 6 Fire
2008 Shockey Fire	
2008 Carrizo Fire	
2008 Mountain Fire	
2007 Inko Pah Fire	

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Infrastructure in the FSC's jurisdiction includes:

Sunrise Power Link Transmission line, South West Power Link Transmission Line, Eco Sub Station 230kv & 500kv facility & International grid tied renewable energy (Sierra Juarez Wind energy), Jacumba Solar Energy, JVR Solar Energy (planned & approved project), Boulder Brush Substation (planned & approved project), Boulevard Substation and Battery Storage Facility, Tule Wind Farm, Rugged Solar (planned & approved project), Starlight Solar (planned project approval in process), Inverngy Wind (planned & approved project), Us Border Patrol Facility, Back Country Resource Center (Sheriff substation, Public Safety Power Shutdown Resource Center, & micro grid tied facility), San Diego County Fire Station 47, San Diego County Fire Station 43, Jacumba Highland Senior Center, Jacumba Community Service District (water district), Live Oak Springs Water District, Dessert View Tower Historical site, and Jacumba Spa & Hotel (key economic business).

MAPS

Using technology and local expertise, the sponsors of this CWPP have included a series of maps depicting the site and situation of the Boulevard, Jacumba and Live Oak Springs Communities (Appendix C). The following maps are visual aids from which the Real East County FSC and community members can assess and make recommendations.

1. Area Communities Map
2. Fire Hazard Severity map
3. Fire History (2000 - 2021)
4. Evacuation Map

C. FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

Agencies with firefighting responsibilities in the Real East County FSC boundary areas include:

San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD): The SDCFPD delivers comprehensive fire protection and emergency medical services across 1.59 million acres of unincorporated San Diego County. All areas within the Real East County FSC boundaries fall under the jurisdiction of the SDCFPD for structural fire protection or emergency medical calls for service.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE): CAL FIRE provides fire protection and stewardship of over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands, known as the "State Responsibility Area" (SRA). Most areas within the Real East County FSC boundaries fall under the jurisdiction of CAL FIRE for wildland fire protection.

United States Forest Service (USFS): The USFS manages wildland fire on National Forests and Grasslands. Some areas within the Real East County FSC boundaries fall under the jurisdiction of the USFS for wildland fire protection.

Lastly, the **Campo Reservation Fire Protection District** supports fire protection in the Real East County FSC boundary area through automatic and/or mutual aid.

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

Strong working relationships are critical in ensuring that our communities are well-prepared. This section describes those key partners and their roles in developing this CWPP.

A. KEY PARTNERS

The Real East County FSC led the development of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), with guidance and support from several partners. The development team included representatives from the agencies described in the table below.

Organization	Roles/Responsibilities
CAL FIRE	Project Planning, Consultation, and establish priorities
SDCFPD	Project Planning, Help Establish priorities, Mapping, and Consultation
Real East County FSC	Education, apply for grants to continue cleanup and chipping Events, Hold Safety Events, listen to residents' concerns and seek ways to address concerns, and supply Information.
Potrero & Campo FSC	Collaborate, Share resources, volunteer help to and from each for community events. Maximize each other's efforts to connect the dots for fuel breaks and maximize dollars from donations and grants.
Tzu Chi Foundation	Volunteer work force
RCD of Greater San Diego in partnership with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County	Facilitate CWPP Review process and consultation. Provide homeowner assistance programs in the REC area.

SECTION III: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

Understanding wildfire risk is a key building block in preventing the loss of property and life. This section discusses efforts to build awareness, starting with the individual.

A. PRIORITIES

REC FSC intends to continue engaging our community by hosting Health & Safety events, sponsoring CPR classes, and offering fire extinguisher use classes. Additionally, we plan to collaborate on events with partner organizations, for example, CERT, by promoting fire safety to both adults and youth. We will continue to share updated information on available resources and grants through fliers, community signs & bulletin boards, local events, meetings, and social media.

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

For several years, our FSC has held annual chipping events and annual community cleanup events, Health & Safety events with fire extinguisher training and hands only CPR, Halloween & Christmas Events, and household and mattress recycling in collaboration with Jacumba Boulevard Revitalization Alliance.

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

Establish Back Country Resource Center as location for Real East County FSC working out an agreement with Jacumba Boulevard Revitalization. This would be the information hub for the residents as well as the place for meetings and events. Currently, we use the facility for meetings and events for no fee but want to help with the cost of operation and maintenance of facility. Additionally, we would like to inform the residents of future events to dispose of bio waste generated from Defensible Space compliance such as chipping or other environmentally friendly techniques as they become available to us. We want to work to reduce residential pile burning by offering other means to dispose of bio waste.

SECTION IV: STRUCTURAL HARDENING

Long before a wildfire sparks, there are numerous steps that residents can take to protect their homes and other structures. This section describes some of those efforts.

A. PRIORITIES

REC FSC plans to engage and encourage residents to implement fire safe landscapes (low water & drought resistant plants), retrofit vents to new approved vents, retrofit windows to dual pane windows, box in eaves, and retrofit wood decks with fire resistant composite material.

We plan to accomplish this by informing residents of available grants and resources through community events, fliers, and social media as they become available.

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

Many residents have taken advantage of grants to fire harden their homes through the years. Most residents have learned about the grants through social media (60%*), fliers (15%), community signs (5%*), or by “other” (20%*) such as word of mouth, bulletin boards, etc.

*percentages are based on survey data gathered at community events

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

Continue to actively research potential grants and those we qualify for and inform residents of opportunities available. Grants may include the RCD/FSCSDC Defensible Space Assistance Program (DSAP) program, an ember vent grant program or other grant program for home hardening measures.

SECTION V: DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Creating a buffer between buildings and the grass, trees, shrubs, and other wildland areas surrounding it are essential to improving survivability. This section looks at efforts to build this key layer of protection.

A. PRIORITIES

- Help residents dispose of debris produced from Defensible Space Compliance through grants.
- Educate residents of resources available to them through community events, fliers, and social media.
- Educate & inform residents of existing and new Defensible Space regulations through community events, fliers, and social media.
- Continue annual events e.g., Community cleanup events, chipping events, Christmas event, Halloween event, Health & Safety events to inform public what is available and engage the youth on fire safety and recruit volunteers.

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

For several years, REC FSC has hosted Community Cleanup events in four communities, including Boulevard, Campo, Jacumba, and Potrero. Now, these communities have local FSCs which have taken the lead on their events and we support/assist as a partner FSC. We have held 8 annual chipping events over the past several years in both Jacumba and Boulevard.

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

REC FSC wants to look for ecological friendly ways to eliminate bio waste generated from defensible space work. Investing in a curtain burner would help us reduce carbon emissions versus a traditional woodchipper. By offering these alternative resources to help residents reduce fuels, we want to reduce residential pile burning when feasible. We believe this can also reduce fire escape and additional carbon emissions. Our FSC plans to apply for grants to fund the equipment to complete these goals.

We also plan to continue to apply for previous approved grants to be able to host our annual events.

SECTION VI: FUELS TREATMENT

Fuels are combustible materials such as grasses, leaves, plants, shrubs and trees that feed flames. This section describes efforts to treat and manage these materials in the community.

A. PRIORITIES

- Continue to advocate for roadside thinning of flammable fuels working with CAL FIRE, Caltrans, and County Department of Public Works.
- Plan new fuel breaks to connect other existing fuel breaks and plan new strategic fuel breaks. Continue maintenance of existing fuel break through consultation, planning and implementation with all parties concerned and stakeholders.
- Keep informed on new technology that is environmentally friendly for fuels treatment.
- Ensure we do not violate CEQA or other regulations for existing projects by consulting with CalFire and San Diego County Fire Protection District that we are in compliance with our projects.

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

- Tierra Del Sol Fuel Break, Tule Jim Rd. fuel break, and Callexico Lodge fuel break.
- County roadside mowing by County Department of Public Works.
- Maintenance of existing fuel breaks by CAL FIRE.

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

Look for connecting completed fuel breaks with neighboring communities and strategic places to implement new fuel breaks possibly extending the Tule Jim Fuel Break. We plan to accomplish this by working with CAL FIRE and other partner agencies.



SECTION VII: EVACUATION PLANNING

Identifying key corridors in and out of a community – as well as temporary refuge areas – is essential to being prepared for evacuation. This section provides an overview of the PACE system (primary, alternate, contingency and emergency) used to plan ahead.

Evacuation planning is a dynamic process subject to the nuances of each community. Below is an overview of the Boulevard, Jacumba, and Live Oak Springs key ingress and egress, as well as designated evacuation corridors, Temporary Refuge Areas, completed projects, priorities and future projects.

A. OVERVIEW OF INGRESS AND EGRESS

There are 3 main routes of ingress and egress with all secondary roads and side roads intersect to one of the three. The main routes travel are East to West, and secondary routes typically are North to South. The two primary routes are Interstate 8 and Hwy 94. Hwy 94 ends at the East to Interstate East/West on & off ramps and to the West end at San Diego City. The other route would be Old Hwy 80 for some areas. Old Hwy 80 ends at the East end of Jacumba at Interstate 8 East/West on & off ramps and ends in El Cajon.

B. DESIGNATED EVACUATION CORRIDORS AND TEMPORARY REFUGE AREA(S) (TRA)

Using the PACE system, the REC FSC community has these options designated for use during emergencies (see Appendix B for maps)

- **Primary:** Interstate 8 and Highway 94
- **Alternate:** Old Highway 80
- **Contingency:** Jewel Valley Road and Tierra Del Sol Road
- **Emergency:** None
- **Temporary Refuge Area:** Golden Acorn Casino

C. PRIORITIES

Consult with CAL FIRE and San Diego Fire County Fire Protection District to help establish areas for temporary refuge where feasible.

D. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

Established two fuel breaks along roadways to allow safe travel during evacuation with one located along ridge line that separates Campo & Boulevard drainages and valleys. The County Department of Public Works does annual roadside mowing along Old Hwy 80 and Tierra Del Sol and CAL FIRE maintains the three fuel breaks with priority to roadside fuel breaks.

E. FUTURE PROJECTS

Work with Caltrans to do roadside vegetation management along Hwy 94 to reduce the amount of fuel loading close to the roadway to allow for safe travel of evacuees. Promote evacuation messaging and education, including CAL FIRE's Ready Set Go! Program. Planning and anticipating evacuation options will provide the best chance of surviving a wildfire.

SECTION VIII: OTHER MITIGATION & PREPAREDNESS PROJECTS

There are countless ways that communities can act to protect themselves ahead of wildfires. This section details additional past, current and future efforts underway that were not previously mentioned.

A. PRIORITIES

REC FSC plans to prioritize annual community cleanup events to eliminate household debris; chipping events; and informing residents of hazardous waste collection events. Continue to help Jacumba Boulevard Revitalization Alliance with recycle programs of household recycle material & mattresses recycle. This will help to reduce trash dump in the wildlands, along the roadsides, and the accumulation at residential properties and business properties.

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

- Annual cleanup events and chipping events as well as helping with recycle programs.
- Continue to advocate for reflective address signs and support residents to accessing them.

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

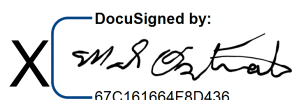
Continue to look for needs that may need to be addressed to promote and educate for fire safety. Keep informed on new and better technologies that will better achieve our priorities and goals to maintain fire safety with focus on environmentally friendly means.

SECTION IX: SIGNATURES

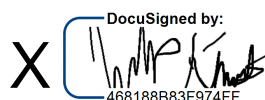
This plan must be approved by the following key parties: the local Fire Safe Council president, the chief of the primary responding fire agency and chair of the CWPP review committee. This section includes these signoffs.

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan, as developed for the Real East County Fire Safe Council, which encompasses the communities of Boulevard, Jacumba, and Live Oak Springs:

- Was collaboratively developed and meets the intent of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) in emphasizing the need for agencies to work collaboratively with communities in developing hazardous fuel reduction projects, and places priority on treatment areas identified by communities themselves in a CWPP. Interested parties and federal land management agencies in the vicinity of this CWPP have been consulted.
- Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect areas within this CWPP.
- Recommends measures to reduce ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only, utilizing a compilation of community issues/goals and projected fire mitigation strategies. The CWPP is not to be construed as indicative of project “activity” as defined under the “Community Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter Three, Projects Subject to CEQA.” Per the Community Guide, Section 3.1.1, “CEQA only applies to public agency decisions to approve, or actions to carry out, a discretionary project.” Any actual project activities meeting this definition of project activity and undertaken by the CWPP participants or agencies listed shall meet with local, state, and federal environmental compliance requirements.
- Assists and encourages compliance with current county and state fire code standards.

DocuSigned by:

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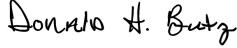
President of the
 Fire Safe Council Submitting this CWPP

DocuSigned by:

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Participating Fire Agency representative
 (State, Local, or Tribal)


SAN DIEGO COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREVENTION PLANS REVIEW COMMITTEE:

This CWPP was reviewed and recommended for approval by the San Diego Community Wildfire Protection Plan Review Committee as demonstrated by the signature below.

X DocuSigned by:

B01E933586B04F8

Don Butz, President
Fire Safe Council of San Diego County

The CAL FIRE Unit Chief has final signing authority on CWPPs in San Diego County. The signature below attests that the standards listed in the section above and the content of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan are proposed to be met and mutually accepted.

X DocuSigned by:

69A84432E235429

Tony Mecham, Unit Chief
CAL FIRE San Diego Unit

SECTION X: APPENDICES

This section includes important additional information that complements other portions of the plan.

APPENDIX A: MEETING TRACKING DOCUMENTS

This CWPP was developed for the community of Boulevard, Jacumba, & Live Oak Springs, through a series of community meetings. The Real East County FSC members who contributed to the document include the following:

Community Representatives:

- Boulevard Planning Group briefings at their meetings
- Community members attending FSC meetings
- Jacumba Sponsor Group briefings at their meetings
- SDG&E consultation on grants for projects and best utilization of grant dollars
- San Diego Regional Fire Foundation for grants that are available for operation of FSC (Internet, Insurance, etc.)
- San Diego County Fire Protection District CERT collaboration on programs that could be utilized.
- Agency Representatives
- CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire

Meetings Dates:

- Quarterly meetings of FSC through 2020 to 2022
- Monthly attendance or Information and update sheet to planning group meetings
- Meetings with SDG&E grants administrator continuous through 2020 to present
- Meeting with CERT administrator 2020 to present
- Meetings by phone with CAL FIRE Forester since formation of FSC to present

Note: because of number of dates it is hard to put all dates in and some meetings were conducted by phone or Zoom because of Covid. We are actively working to get the communities' residents to re-engage as well as public agencies with the FSC.

APPENDIX B: MAPS

FIGURE 1: AREA COMMUNITIES MAP

FIGURE 2: FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY MAP

FIGURE 3: FIRE HISTORY 2000-2021

FIGURE 4: EVACUATION MAP

Figure 1: Real East County Fire Safety Council Map

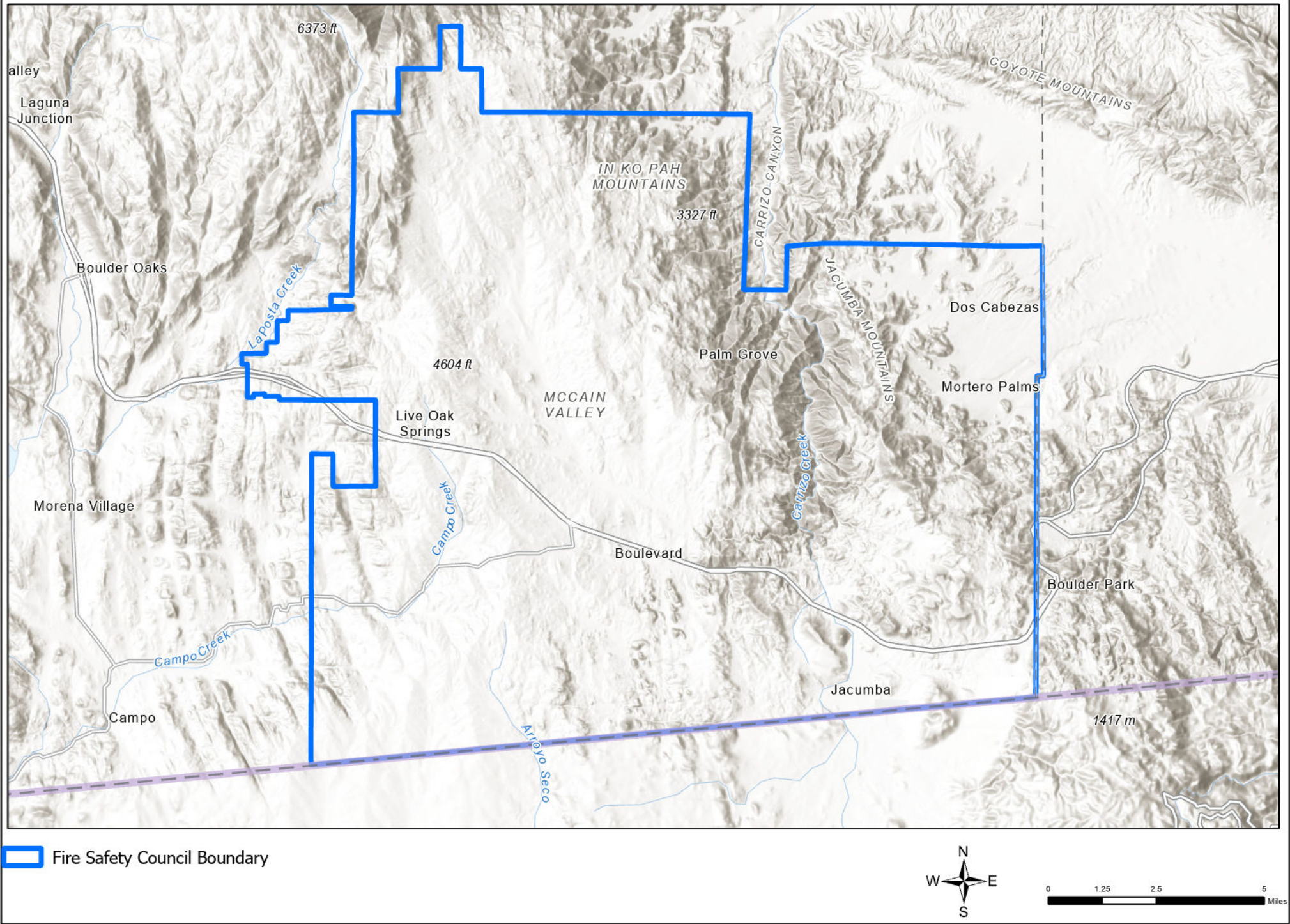


Figure 2: Real East County Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map

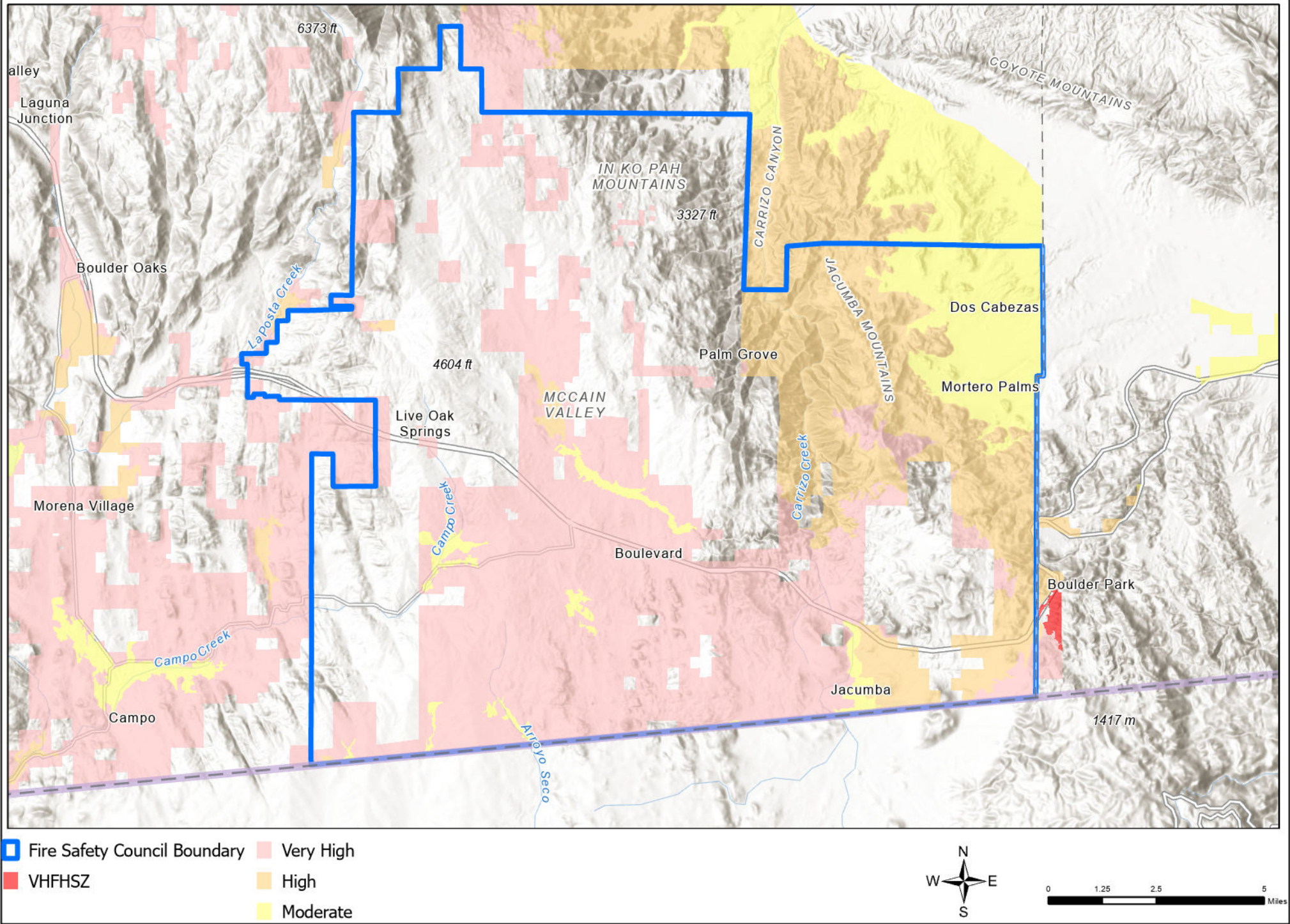


Figure 3: Real East County Fire History 2000 - 2021 Map

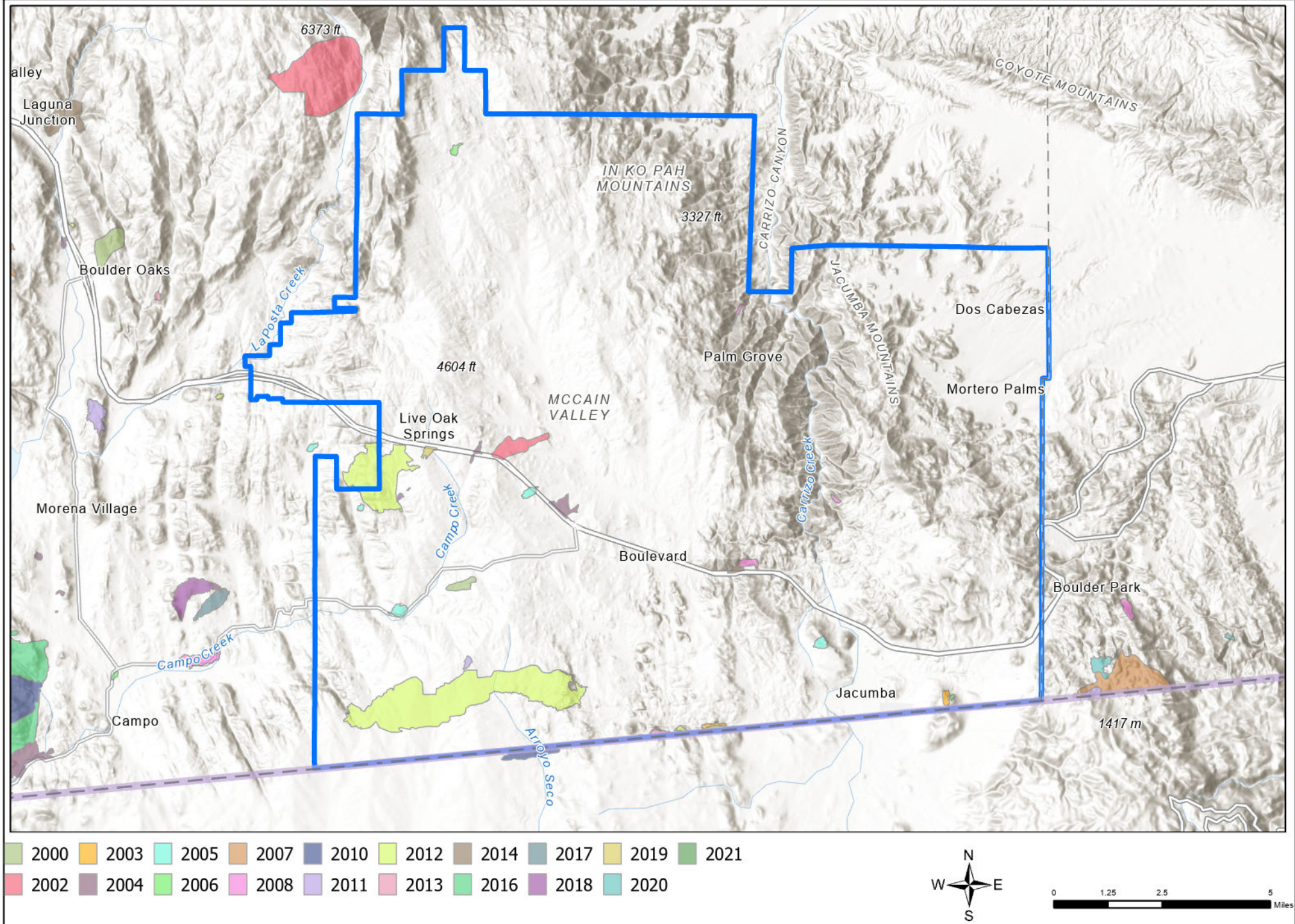


Figure 4: Real East County PACE Map

