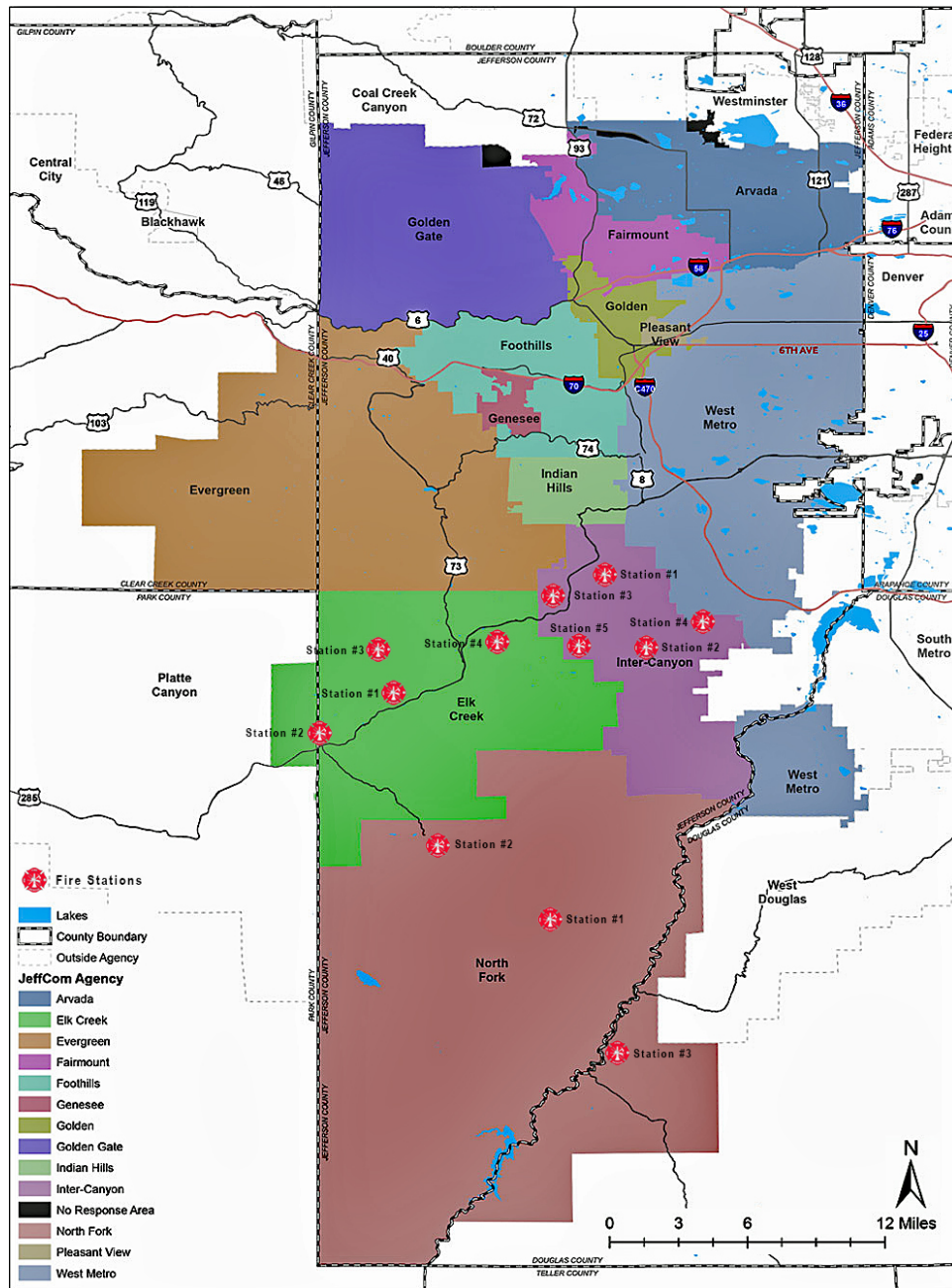


## EXPLAINER: PROPOSED FIRE DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

INTRODUCTION: As you may know, Fire Chiefs of the [Elk Creek](#), [Inter-Canyon](#), and [North Fork](#) Fire Protection Districts (FPDs) advocate a merger of the three districts, seek to increase our common mill levy to as much as 16 mills, and hire an additional 12 firefighter/EMTs on rotating shifts for 24/7 service.



**FIGURE 1:** Elk Creek, Inter-Canyon, and North Fork FPDs, source [JeffCom GIS](#).

The proposed merger would consolidate the firefighting, emergency services, and rescue operations; firefighter/EMT personnel; firefighting apparatus/equipment; as well as the fire station facilities into a single fire district deploying more than 100 firefighter/EMT personnel; covering almost 400 sq-mi; utilizing 12 fire stations with apparatus and communication towers; and involving \$10M+ of annual spending while serving 24,000 full-time residents. A comprehensive study of possible collaboration between the Elk Creek, Indian Hills, Inter-Canyon, and North Fork FPDs conducted in 2021 can be found here: [Consolidation Study](#) (Indian Hills FPD subsequently dropped out of consideration going forward).

**CURRENT FIRE DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICS:** Table 1 lists key demographics and statistics for the three individual fire protection districts compared with the proposed merged fire protection district.

**TABLE 1:** Fire Protection District Demographics and Statistics.

DEMOGRAPHIC/ STATISTIC	ECFPD	ICFPD	NFFPD	Merged FPD
<b>POPULATION</b>	17,000	5,250	1,700	24,000
<b>GEOGRAPHIC AREA</b>	98 sq-mi	52 sq-mi	240 sq-mi	390 sq-mi
<b>CURRENT MILL LEVY</b>	12.54 <sup>1</sup>	13.56	12.08	16.00 <sup>2</sup>
<b>2022 ANNUAL REVENUE SPENDING PER- PERSON PROPERTY VALUATION<sup>5</sup></b>	\$5,800,000 <sup>3</sup> \$340/person \$366,826,000	\$2,313,000 \$440/person \$170,575,000	\$450,000 <sup>4</sup> \$265/person \$37,252,000	\$10,000,000 \$420/person (estimated)
<b>CAREER FIREFIGHTER/EMT PERSONNEL</b>	12 3 shifts of 4 24/7 service	3 no 24/7 service	2 no 24/7 service	24 <sup>6</sup> 3 shifts of 8 24/7 service
<b>VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER/EMT PERSONNEL</b>	35	30	30	90
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL</b>	5 <sup>7</sup>	3 <sup>7</sup>	3 <sup>7</sup>	5
<b>FIRE STATIONS</b>	4	5	3	12 <sup>8</sup>
<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	5	5	5	5 or 7 <sup>9</sup>

## NOTES FOR TABLE 1:

1. Unless reapproved by fire district voters, 2.5 mills of the current Elk Creek FPD mill levy will expire at the end of 2023 thus the district mill levy will revert to total of ~10.00 mills.
2. Estimated annual revenue is based on a 16 mill levy across the entire fire district using current property valuations.
3. The Elk Creek FPD \$5.8M in annual revenue includes ~\$1.2M of CRRF ([Colorado Resource Report Forms and Guidelines](#)) Wildfire Reimbursements for firefighting services delivered outside the fire district, thus, the 2022 revenue/spending within the fire district is projected to be approximately \$4.6M or ~\$270/person. Some of the CRRF reimbursements are for consumables (diesel fuel), salaries, and day rates for fire engines. The actual "profit" to Elk Creek FPD for in-district use is unknown to CoSECC.
4. Estimated from \$208,000 in property taxes; \$12,000 in specific ownership taxes; \$90,000 in fees-in-lieu of-taxes; and \$140,000 in ambulance fees.
5. Fire district property valuations shown are the total combined commercial and residential property valuations as determine by the respective county assessors associated with the fire district.
6. Twenty-four, full-time career personnel would allow the consolidated fire protection district to staff multiple fire stations with 24/7 rotating firefighter/EMT crews at locations within Conifer, Morrison, and Pine Grove service areas.
7. Currently, three administrative personnel are shared among the Elk Creek, Inter-Canyon, and North Fork FPDs.
8. Some fire district facilities may be closed, refurbished, and/or newly constructed in order to accommodate additional firefighter/EMT personnel.
9. The makeup of the board of directors for a consolidated district has not been determined; however, the number of members of the new Board of Directors would be 5 or 7. CoSECC presumes some members would be elected from wards of equal population with one or two members elected at-large.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Clearly, the proposed consolidation of our three local fire districts is a matter of serious concern for members of all three communities, as a result, we strongly encourage you to attend the monthly board of directors meetings for your district. Ask questions, express concern, and make comments regarding this proposal. The leadership at your fire district want to hear from you!

**Elk Creek FPD:** Board of directors meeting are held every 2nd Thursday of the month beginning at 6:00pm at Station #1 located at 11993 Blackfoot Road, Conifer CO 80433. You can also find a Zoom option at the fire district website here: [Elk Creek FPD BoD Meetings](#)

**Inter-Canyon FPD:** Board of directors meeting are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month beginning at 6:00pm at Station #3 located at 8445 U.S.-285, Morrison CO 80465.

**North Fork FPD:** Board of directors meeting are held every 3rd Wednesday of the month beginning at 1:00pm at Station #1 located at 19384 County Road 126 Buffalo Creek CO 80425.

You can find your fire district-specific survey – which should run through the middle of December – using one of the links below. Importantly, the survey does not contain a map. You should have a copy of our CoSECC map (Figure 1 above) beside you when you answer the questions. This will help visualize the three districts and the geographic ties that bind them.

**Elk Creek FPD:** [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Elk\\_Creek\\_LIVE](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Elk_Creek_LIVE)

**Inter-Canyon FPD:** [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Inter-Canyon\\_LIVE](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Inter-Canyon_LIVE)

**North Fork FPD:** [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/North\\_Fork\\_LIVE](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/North_Fork_LIVE)

**CONTACT US:** Also, please sent your comments, questions, and concerns to us via email at: [cosecc.co@gmail.com](mailto:cosecc.co@gmail.com)