

Spencer Heights

The Spencer Heights community is defined by the natural breaks between inhabited areas and encompasses the area west of the fish hatchery. The community borders are defined as:

- East Border – MM 84 Big Bend
- West Border – MM 76
- North & South borders are generally defined as the first visible ridge on either side of Hwy. 14.

Legal

Township 8 North, range 75 West of the 6th PM
Sections 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 16
Township 9 North, Range 75 West of the 6th PM
Sections 25, 26, 35, 36
Township 9 North, Range 74 West of the 6th PM
Sections 30, 31

The Spencer Heights community is defined by the natural breaks between inhabited areas and encompasses the area west of the fish hatchery. Colorado State Highway 14 runs through the center of the Spencer Heights WUI. Highway 14 is the escape route for the Spencer Heights area.

The Cache La Poudre River runs through the Spencer Heights WUI, parallel with Colorado State Highway 14. The Cache La Poudre River is designated a Wild & Scenic River and also provides domestic and agricultural water for a large area of northern Colorado. The Cache La Poudre River is a significant financial asset as it draws visitors interested in camping, fishing, hiking, riding, hunting, rafting and other summer sports. In winter, skiing and snow shoeing are popular. The businesses in the Spencer Heights area and down river depend on tourist dollars. The west edge of the WUI is Cameron Pass, which, butts up to the Colorado State Forest and Jackson County. Cameron Pass (el. 10,276 ft.) is a mountain pass between the south end of the Medicine Bow Mountains and the north end of the Never Summer Mountains. It sits on the border between Jackson County and Larimer County, approximately 3 mi (5 km) north of the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park. The pass is located within Roosevelt National Forest and Colorado State Forest. The pass receives much snow during the winter months and is prone to avalanches, but it usually remains open all-year round. The pass is drained on the north side by Joe Wright Creek, a tributary of the Cache la Poudre River in the basin of the South Platte River. It is drained on the south side by the Michigan River, a tributary of the North Platte River in North Park.

Community Access

Access through the Spencer Heights Community is via Highway 14, which runs east/west through the full length of the community. Highway 14 is a state highway maintained by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). Highway 14 is accessed from Jackson County to the west, the intersection of 287 to the east, and can also be accessed from Pingree Park road (MM 96), Stove Prairie Road (MM 106), or County Road 69, which intersects Highway 14 at Rustic, mile marker 91: all are east of Spencer Height's area. Majority of residences and businesses are accessed directly off Highway 14, also known as Poudre Canyon Highway.

Below are descriptions for bridges and access to community areas.

- Shetland is accessed at MM 82, with a narrow entrance and a bridge. N 40* 42.740, W 105* 44.238. The bridge is constructed with two steel beams and will support type 6 engines. The bridge is access to 16 properties. Towards the end of the road there is adequate turn around space for most rural fire engines.
- Across from the Trading Post at MM 78.4, there is Jacoby Bridge which does not access any residences. N 40* 40.529, W 105* 46.852
- At MM 77.3 there is cable trolly across the river that serves one house.

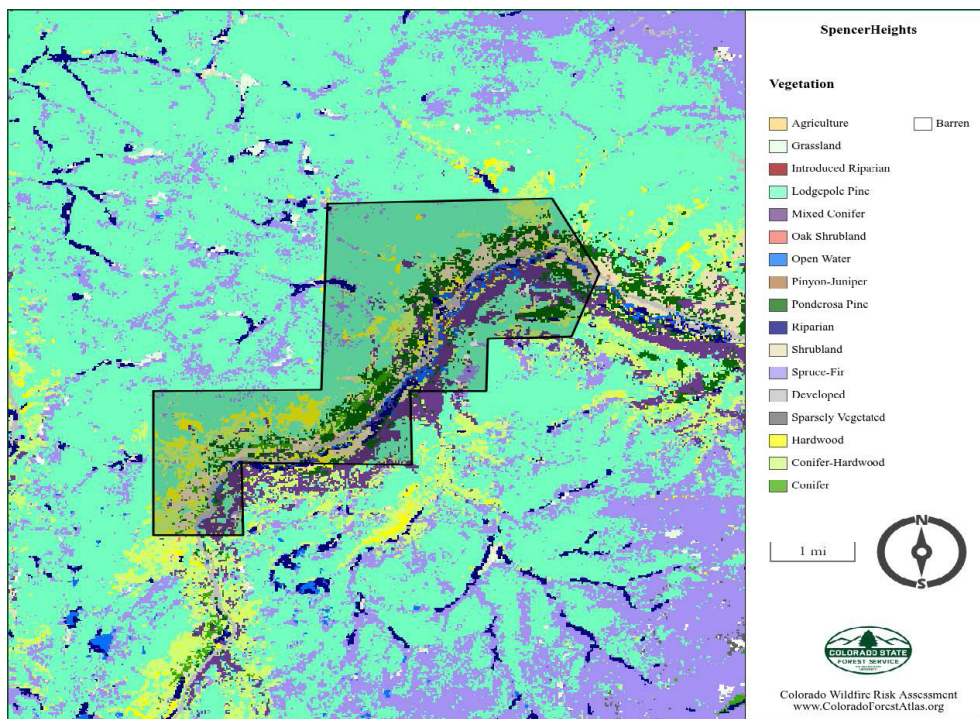


Figure 2.a.7 Vegetation in Spencer Heights treatment area is lodgepole pine, with some ponderosa pine and mixed conifer. (Source: Colorado State Forest Service: Colorado Forest Atlas)

Vegetation Type

The elevation in the Spencer Heights WUI ranges between 7,200 and 8,300 feet. This elevation consists mostly of ponderosa pine in the lower elevations and lodgepole pines in the higher elevations. Interspersed amongst the pine are fire-flashy Rocky Mountain juniper trees. Other trees in the area consist of blue spruce, Engelmann spruce, fir, and aspen. The river's edge is predominately populated with cottonwood and willows. At this elevation there is still a fair amount of highly combustible sagebrush, chokecherry, and currant bushes. On the east end of the WUI, vegetation varies between the north and south-facing slopes. The south aspect is predominantly sagebrush and grasses. The north aspect consists of a much denser tree population, most of which is ponderosa or lodgepole pine. Tall prairie grasses reside along most of the roadways. During dry seasons of the year, this material would ignite quickly, carrying wildfire throughout the community. As the elevation rises and

the Poudre River turns South near MM 74, the vegetation is more consistent on both sides of Highway 14. The forest is much denser with a mixture of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce being the dominate tree species along with some subalpine fir.

Businesses in area:

- Trading Post
- Sportsman's Lodge

Homes

- Shetland/Sheridan Street - MM 82
- Williams Gulch - MM 80.5
- Houses along highway 14

There are six residences on Big Bend Road, seven residences accessed from Highway 14 between MM 82.7 and MM 81, four residences in Shady Rest Lane, and 16 residences from MM 81 to Sleeping Elephant Mountain or MM 79.

Trailheads in area:

- Roaring Creek Trailhead – hiking
- Boston Peak – hiking

Evacuation Routes

Highway 14 East
Highway 14 west

To see the entire [Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment for Spencer Heights, click here.](#)

PCFPD's Station 3 in Spencer Heights.

