

2026 APS Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Update

March 17, 2026





PSPS Task Force



Internal Partners

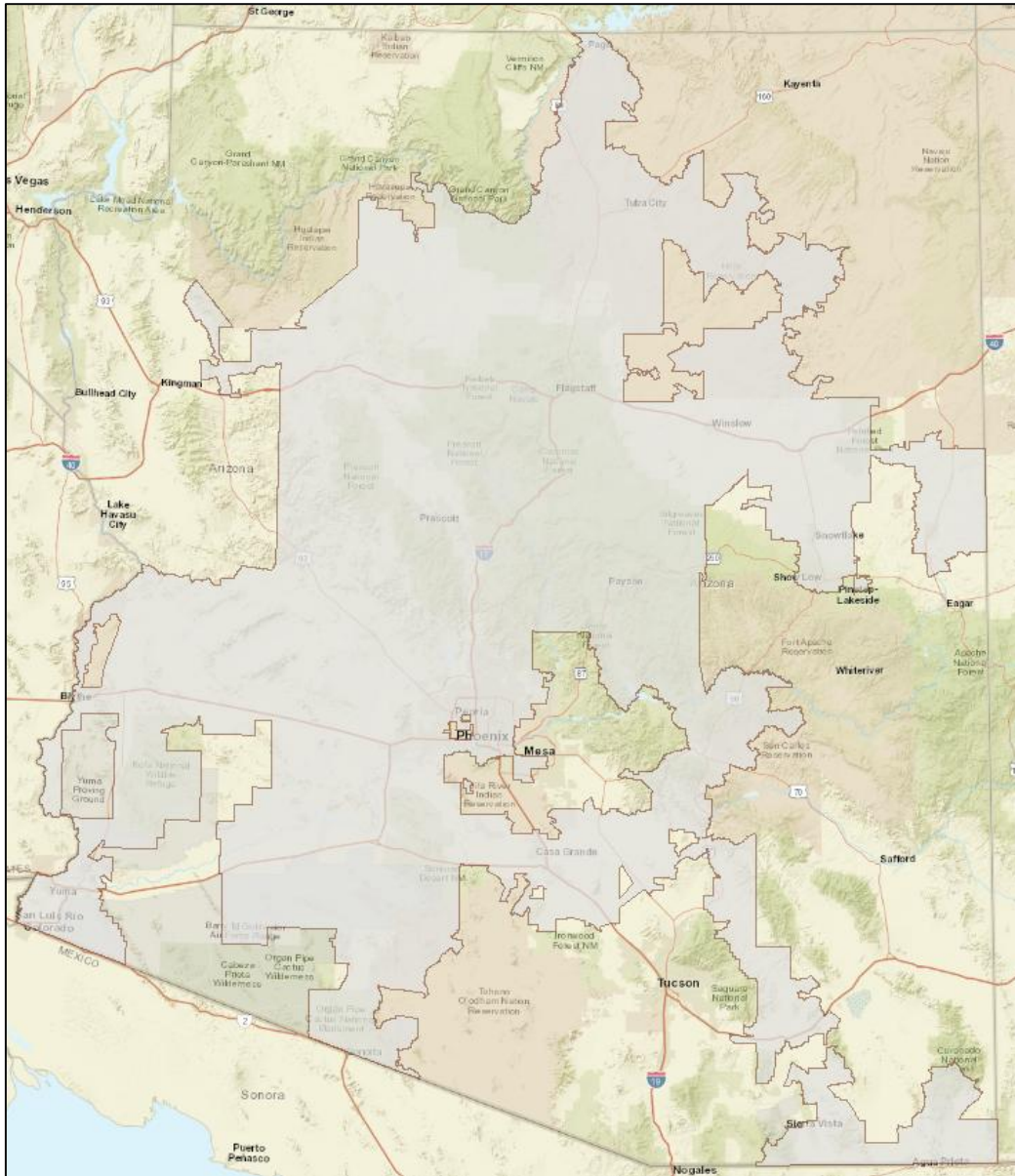
- City Emergency Management
- Water Services
- Fire
- PD
- Public Works
- PROSE
- IT
- Sustainability
- Economic Vitality
- Communication & Civic Engagement

External Partners

- APS
- County Emergency Management

Arizona Public Service Wildfire Mitigation





Arizona Public Service

- Largest electric utility in AZ
- 6,000 transmission miles
- 32,000 distribution miles
- 1,500 feeders
- 1.4 million meters
- 8,600 MW peak load

- **19% of system in high fire risk areas**

Our Current Practices Are Comprehensive and Multi-Faceted



Vegetation Management

- Comprehensive right-of-way clearance on maintained cycles
- Defensible space around poles (DSAP)
- Hazard tree program



Grid Hardening Investments

- Ongoing distribution system upgrades
- Mesh pole wrapping
- Expulsion limiting fuses
- Steel poles (if truck accessible)



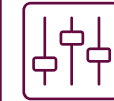
Asset Inspection

- Enhanced line patrols
- Technology deployments
 - Drone use
 - Infra-red scans



Monitoring and Awareness

- Dedicated team of meteorologists
- Advanced fire modeling software
- Cameras and weather stations
- Federal & state agency partnerships



Operational Mitigations

- Non-reclosing strategy
- Public outreach program
- Red Flag Warning protocols
- Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)



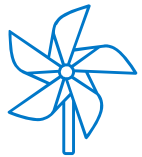
Internal: 18-person **fire mitigation department** engages across entire APS organization to plan and implement initiatives
External: Member of 19 **fire mitigation industry associations**



Independent **third-party reviews** of APS wildfire mitigation plan

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is another tool we have when the risk of wildfires is extremely high

Conditions that would lead to a power shutoff



Extreme wind conditions



Dry conditions, Low RH



Risk of rapid fire spread



Implications of a public safety power shutoff on our customers

- **Targeted de-energization** of our lines on days of extreme risk
- **Outages lasting up to ~20 hours** while risk is elevated and to enable line inspection before they are re-energized

We will communicate with local agencies and customers well in advance of a PSPS event so that they can prepare accordingly

Starting 4 days before outage

Daily communication with customers about potential outage and how to prepare

During outage

Communication with customers on **progress to restoration**

We'll communicate via multiple channels



Text messages



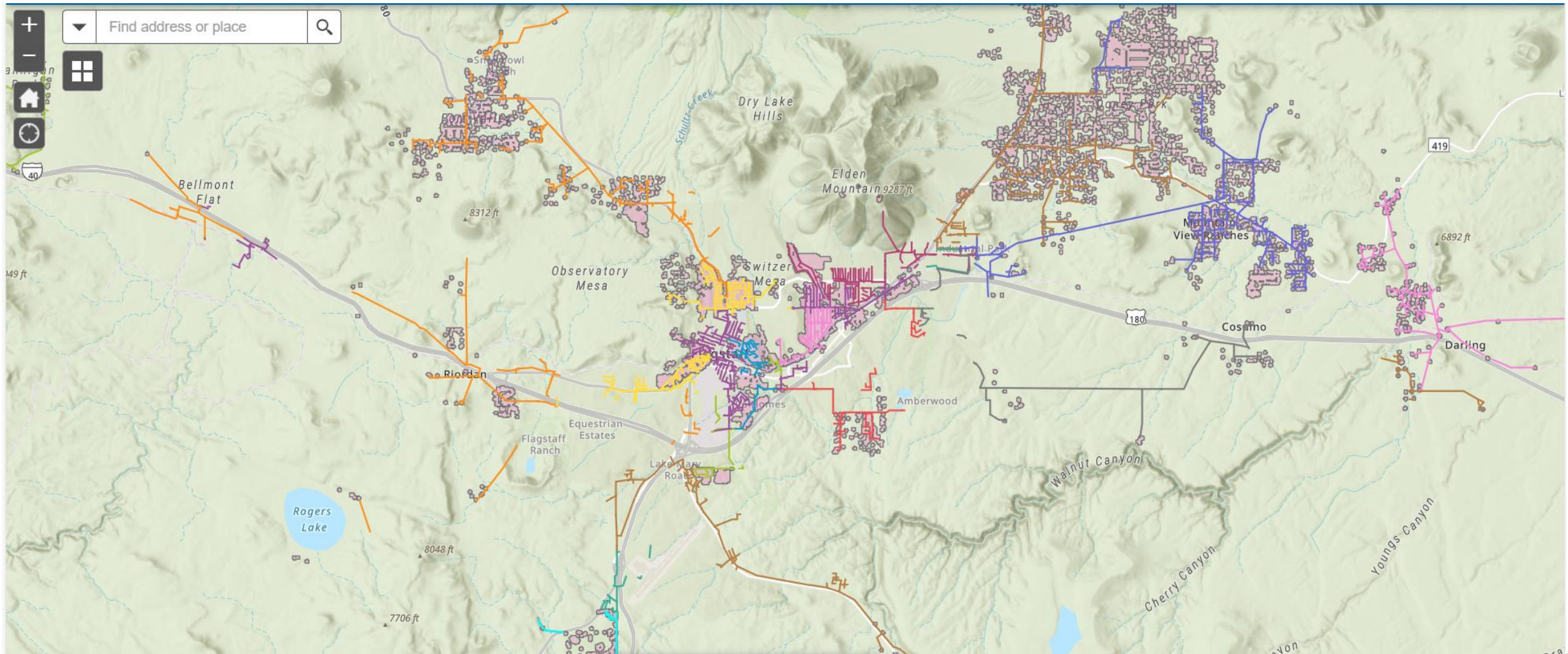
Email



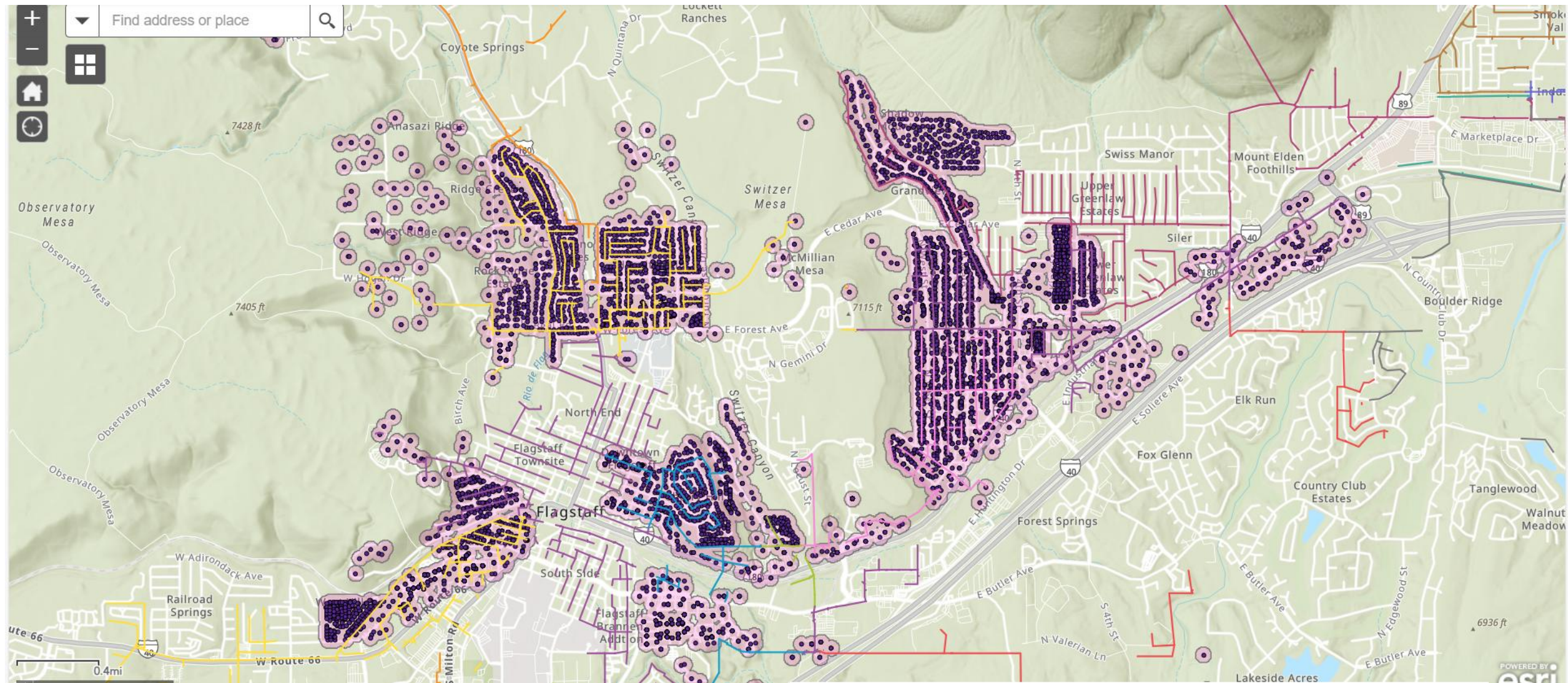
Phone calls

How do we determine which areas are impacted by PSPS?

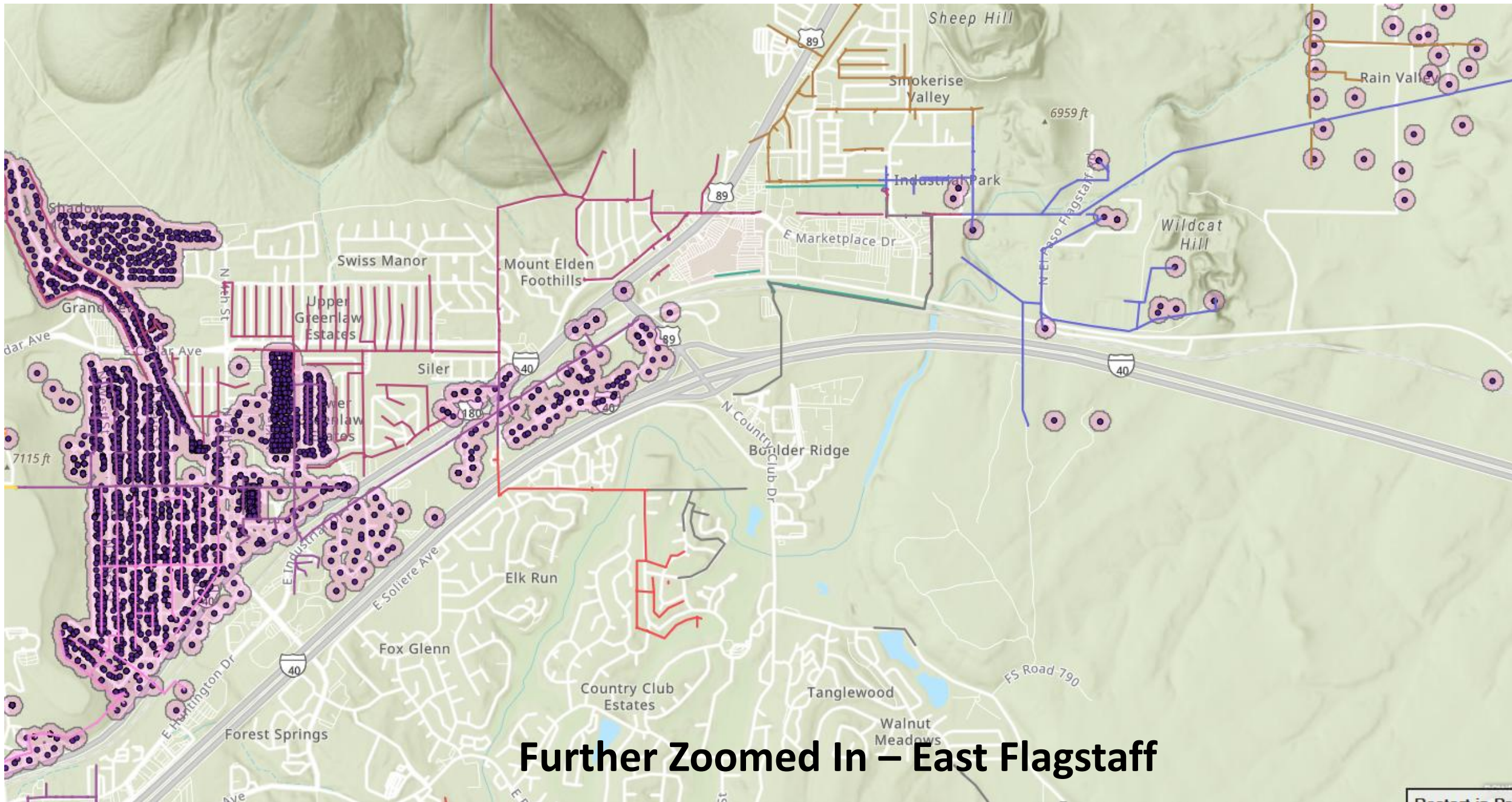
- Risk analysis to determine which feeders should be classified as PSPS. Multiple factors involving included Wildland Urban Interface, vegetation levels and more.
- Classification starts with entire feeder
- Determine where switches/devices can be installed to isolate (keep on) customers along the feeder if possible.
- Underground lines are often feed by overhead lines meaning they too can be impacted by PSPS.



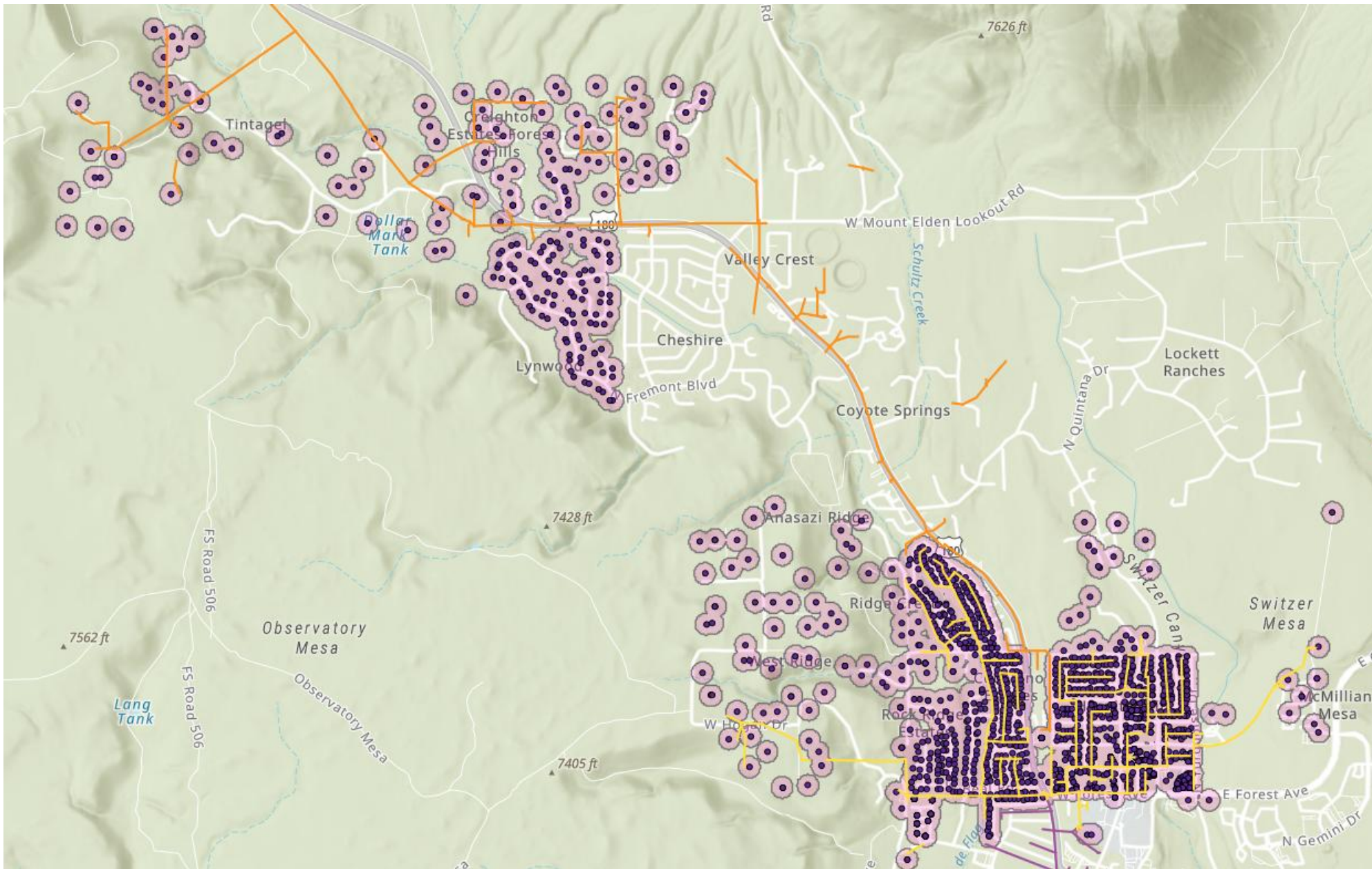
Zoomed Out – Greater Flagstaff Area



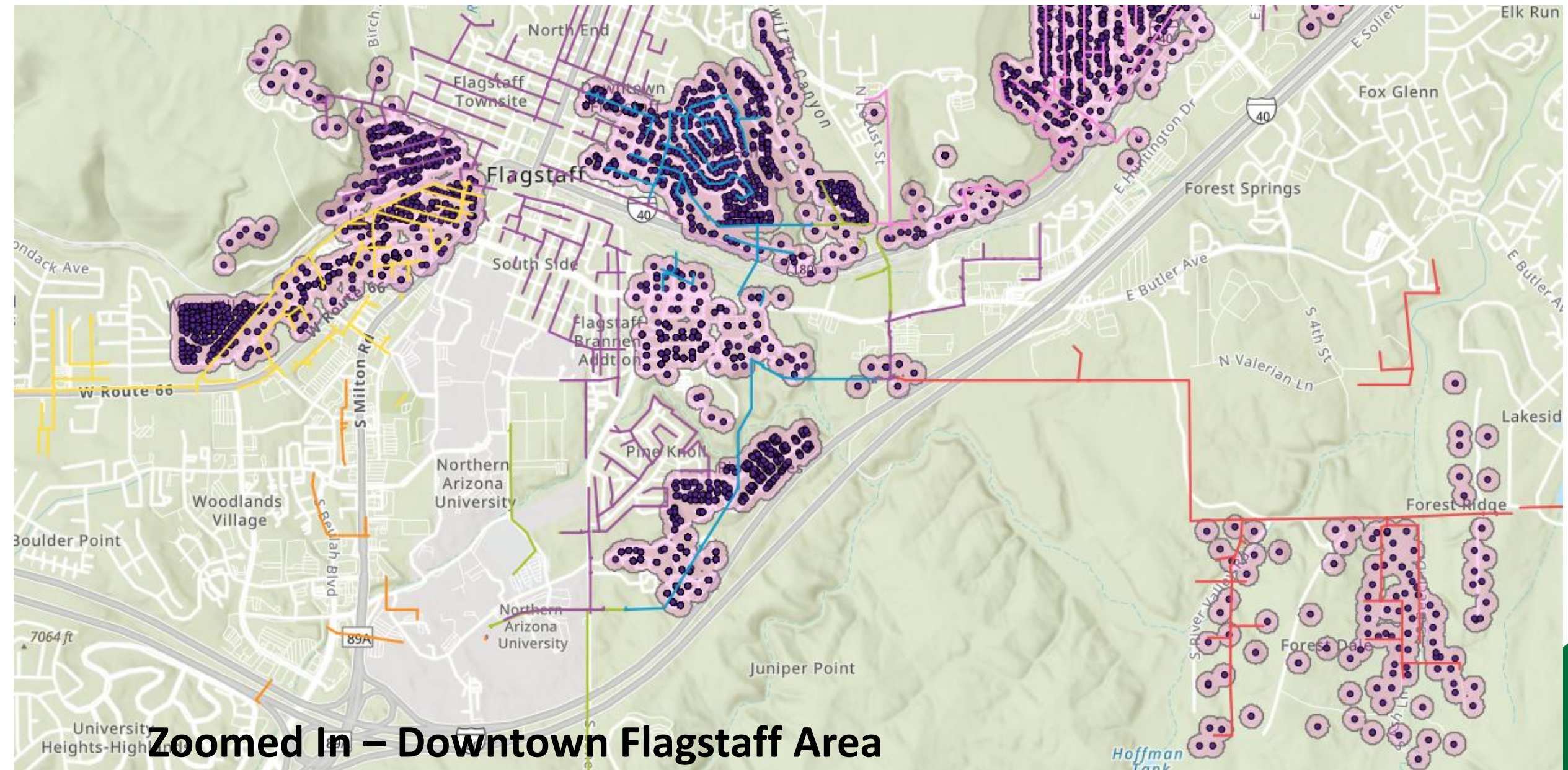
Zoomed In – Majority of the City of Flagstaff



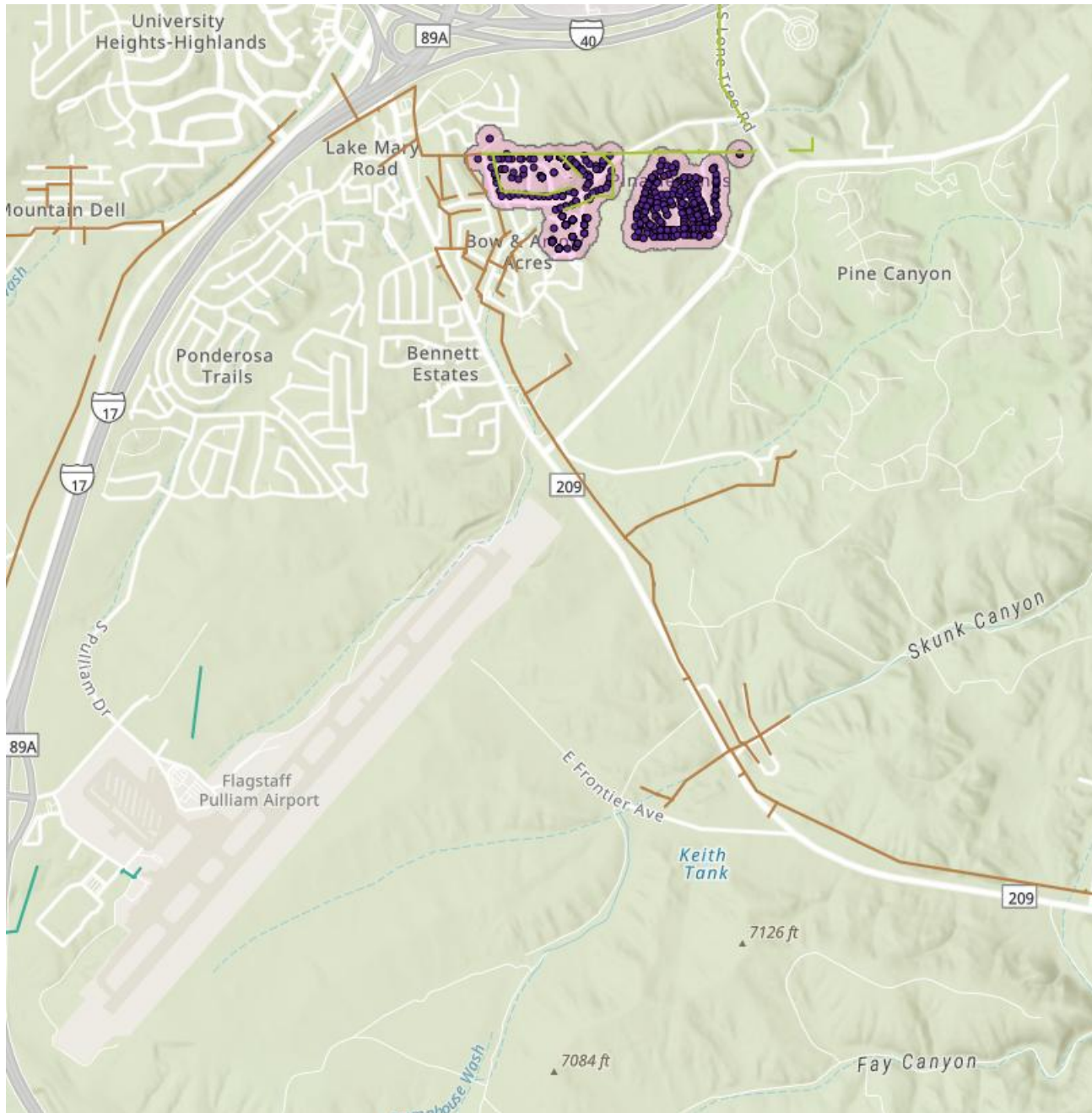
Further Zoomed In – East Flagstaff



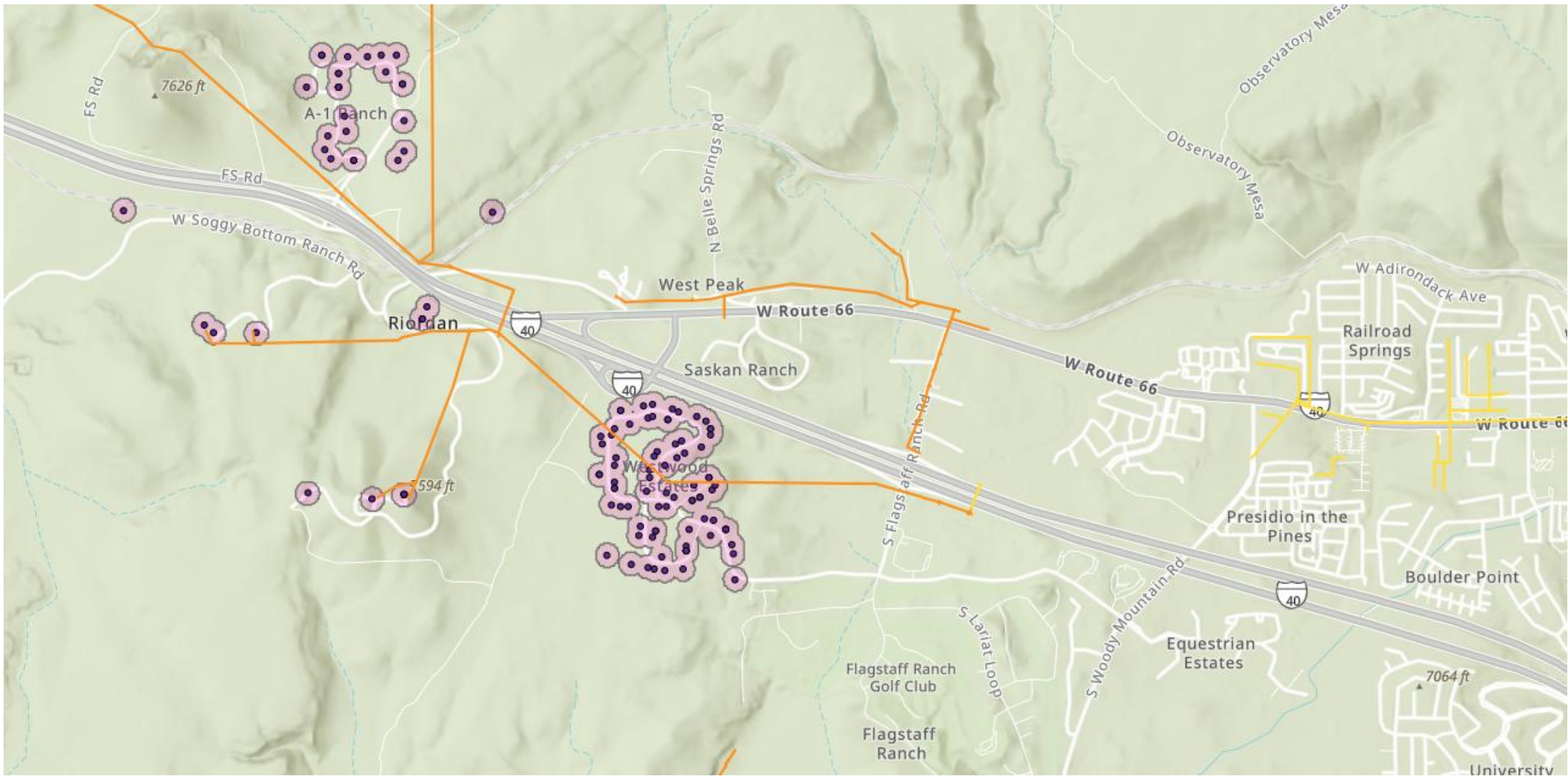
Zoomed In – Hospital Hill and US 180



Zoomed In – Downtown Flagstaff Area



Zoomed In – South on Lake Mary Road/Airport Area



Zoomed In – West on Old Route 66



Emergency Management

Preparedness & Mitigation

- Preparedness Campaign
 - Public information campaign in development - scheduled launch around May 1st
 - Backup power, safety, food, and water storage
- Task Force coordination (chaired by EM): analyzed impacts, coordinated interdepartmental response
- Mitigation actions: continuity plans, generator/fuel prioritization



Emergency Management

Response – PSPS Event

- **Notification flow:** APS -> City EM; EM pushes RAVE Alert to Task Force, CMO, Elected
- **EOC activation:** Partial activation, will elevate based on the level of impacts
- **Operational rhythm:** SitRep to CMO/Elected twice daily; unified messaging city and county; coordinated calls with APS, County EM/EOC, DEMA, NGO's



Emergency Management

Response – PSPS Event (cont.)

- **Lifeline tracking:** Water production & storage, traffic control, public safety comms, resilience hubs; resource requests with EOC



- **Community Messaging:** tandem messaging between Discover Flagstaff and Public Affairs; County EM will target impacted communities with a RAVE notification
- **Demobilization & AAR:** return to normal operations, and After-Action improvements within 30 days



Water Services



Overview

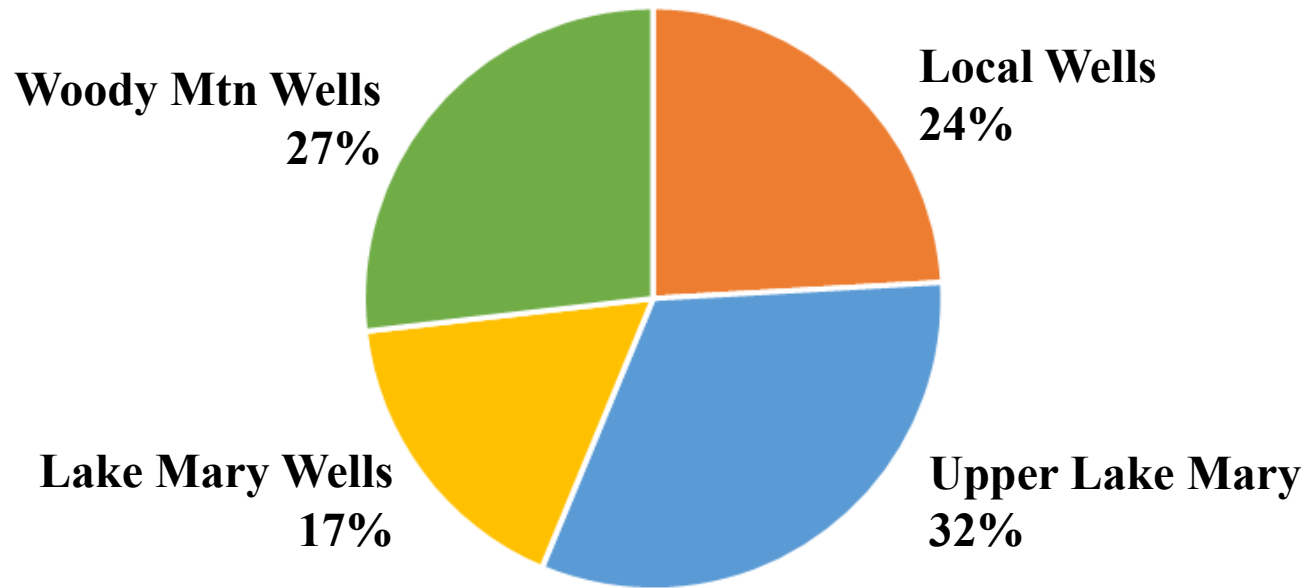
- 6,000+ gallons of fuel per day to keep system operational.
- We have sufficient storage and generator production capabilities to maintain system integrity for 48+ hours
- Beyond that we will be stretched thin
- Discussions on voluntary curtailment of potable and reclaimed water may be necessary



Water Services

A PSPS event will de-energize 70% of Flagstaff's potable water supplies.

Current Potable Water Sources



Some Local Wells will be affected by APS PSPS events



Water Services



Water Production

- Generators will be deployed to critical sources
 - Raw Water Pump Station (Upper Lake Mary, 1 generator)
 - Woody Mtn Well Field (half of wells, 3 generators)
 - Fort Tuthill Well (Developing plan to move generator from Shop Well)
- Crews will be notified to be on stand-by
 - Plant operations will go to 24-hour schedule
 - CDL drivers will haul fuel & shuttle generators



Water Services



Water Production

- Water storage will be maximized (1.8 days)
- Generators will have to be shuttled between pumpstations to fill Reservoirs/ Tanks
- With the more extensive outage this year WS will be reliant on water in the storage reservoirs to meet demand.



Water Services



Water Reclamation (Wildcat Hill & Rio de Flag)

- WCH has 24-hour fuel storage on-site (4,300 gallons)
- Carter/Rhinehart Oil available to bring single or tandem trucks up
 - 3,000 or 6,000 gallons
- Public Works is willing to help
- Rio de Flag Plant will likely be affected and does not have back up power
 - WS is working on a plan to provide enough power to keep the microbes at the plant alive.
 - If unsuccessful we could be looking at a 4-week outage in reclaimed water delivery



Fire



- Fire protection during APS initiated power outages
 - Fire flow to be unimpacted for fire hydrants and automatic sprinkler systems
 - Assuming water system production and distribution remains functional
 - Assuming an increase in daily consumption does not occur





PD



- Dispatch

- Ensure CAD, radio consoles, and phone systems are functioning on generator or UPS power
- Coordinate with City IT and Facilities for infrastructure support
- Provide consistent scripting to avoid panic-driven call escalation
- Participate in EOC communications if activated – relying on radio for communications
- Minimum staffing increase / ensure adequate cross training on radios for coverage

- Patrol

- Deter opportunistic crime
- Manage traffic and hazards
- Protect critical infrastructure
- Provide visible reassurance to the community
- Adjust minimum staffing thresholds / shift overlap for continuity



Public Works

Public Works Core Services

- Building 2 (Fleet Services) has one dedicated generator
 - Critical for fueling and maintaining emergency response vehicles
 - Fleet fuel access is the department's primary vulnerability
- Building 6 (Administration) has one dedicated generator
 - Supports administrative operations, communications and EOC coordination for event response
- Operational sustainability is estimated at 48-72 hours before generator fuel resupply is required
 - Events exceeding 72 hours will require coordinated fuel delivery



Public Works



Streets

- 46 Traffic Signals & 11 Ped Flashers (approx. 20 & 6 PSPS)
 - 43 of 46 have battery backup installed (5-8 hours runtime)
 - 12 of 46 have temporary generator input (1 tank = 5-8 hours runtime)
- 6 Current Generators Dispatched to Priority Intersections as Needed
- 30 Temporary Stop Signs (4-7 intersections)
- ADOT: 29 Traffic Signals & 1 Pedestrian Flasher in City Limits
 - All have battery backup installed (5-8 hours runtime)
- BNSF: 5 Crossings
 - All have battery backup installed (5-8 hours runtime)
 - All have temporary generator input, no dedicated generator for locations



PROSE



Parks, Recreation Centers and Special Events

- Parks athletic fields irrigation and Cemetery operations/scheduled services are manageable in a 24-hour event. Large impacts beyond 120 hours (5 days) with turf loss
- Recreation centers are warming/cooling and resilience centers without backup power
 - Ice rink will melt by hour 24 creating operational and financial impacts
 - Pool can be managed with chemicals by hand in a 24-hour event
 - Congregate meal service would not occur impacting vulnerable community
 - Gymnasiums are called upon for a resource by Red Cross in an event
- Special Events can be managed via generator or cancellation



Network Availability

- Internet Connectivity
 - City Hall & LEAF have primary internet connections
 - We are working to create live redundancy between these sites
- Network connectivity
 - The rest of the sites connect to the Internet via several core sites
 - Should these sites lose power, a significant number of City facilities would lose Internet access
- Verizon
 - Our public safety vehicles are reliant on the Verizon network



Sustainability

Community Resilience Hub Activation

- The Murdoch Center will plan to activate as a community resource.
 - The Murdoch Center does **not** have back-up power, and so would activate only if they retain power.
 - The Sustainability team continues to seek funding opportunities for back-up power systems for all resilience hubs.

Sustainability will:

- Coordinate with the Resilience Hubs.
- Coordinate volunteers, as needed and in conjunction with outside groups.
- Amplify messaging from Public Affairs.



Public Messaging and Outreach

Public Affairs

- The City will amplify messaging directly from APS on the purpose, scope, and duration of a PSPS
- Key City messages *may* include:
 - Water
 - Any impact to City water operations
 - Water conservation strategies as needed
 - Regional public messaging on water standpipes/ availability
 - Continued ability to fight fire
 - Availability of resilience hubs or other facilities
 - Amplifying visitor-focused messaging



Discover Flagstaff

Visitation and Economic Vitality

Communication has two tracks, both seek to understand leadership, community and business sentiment.

Track 1: We are Open.

- Messaging approach is educational, working in tandem with Public Affairs
- Audience includes in-market visitors, locals and businesses
- Platforms:
 - Owned media including website and organic social, communicating through our database with accommodations, restaurants/bars, and attractions
 - Earned media with local and regional print, digital and broadcast, influencers
 - Paid media could include local print, digital ads reaching non-local devices



Discover Flagstaff



Visitation and Economic Vitality

Communication has two tracks, both seek to understand leadership, community and business sentiment.

Track 2: We are open, but there is stress on the city

- Messaging is educational, working in tandem with Public Affairs, asks visitors to 'stay and play responsibly'
- Audience includes drive-market visitors(metro Phoenix), locals, businesses
- Platforms:
 - Owned media including website and organic social, communicating through our database with accommodations, restaurants/bars, and attractions
 - Earned media with local and regional print, digital and broadcast, influencers
 - Paid media could include digital ads in the drive-market



Questions

