



1/30/2023

Meg Halford Senior Forest Health Planner

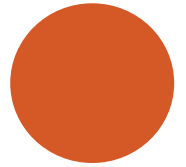
Boulder County Community Wildfire Protection Plan



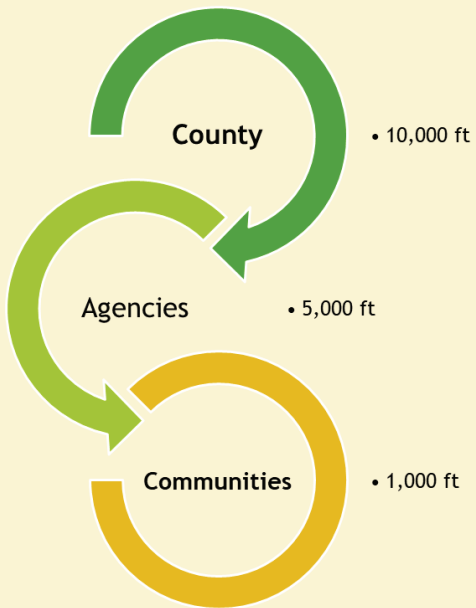
Updating BC 2011 CWPP

Outline of Steps:

- Review current CWPP to determine updates needed
- Form Core Team
- Public online survey and FAQ
- RFP for bids for consultant
- Hazard Risk Assessment and analysis completed
- Public meetings with community members and representatives
- CWPP draft reviews and edits while in development
- CWPP briefing with county commissioners
- CWPP approval and final signatures
- Copy sent to CSFS
- Project development and implementation
- Ongoing monitoring, tracking and updating CWPP to keep relevant



Purpose of a County-Level CWPP




- Purpose
 - The County CWPP will act as an “umbrella”.
 - Empower communities to organize, plan & take action.
 - Enhance levels of fire resistance & protection
 - Identify the risks of wildland/urban interface.
 - Identify strategies to reduce the risks to homes & businesses in the community during a wildfire.

Boulder County CWPP Development Process

- Incorporate a flexible and adaptive management process that accommodates a wide variety of county/community needs.
 - Forested WUI
 - Grassland WUI or GUI
- Collaborative process with key partners, targeting a cross-jurisdictional, regional approach to best leverage resources.





Step One: Convene Decision Makers/Form a Core Team

Form a Core Team of representatives from local government, local fire, USFS and state agency's responsible for forest and grassland management.

- ✓ Boulder County-CP&P Lead in the CWPP update
 - ✓ GIS
- ✓ Boulder County Parks and Open Space
- ✓ Colorado State Forest Service
- ✓ Boulder County Fire Districts
- ✓ USFS-ARNF
- ✓ Boulder County Sheriff's Office
- ✓ City of Boulder
- ✓ Watershed/s Group
- ✓ Municipalities:
 - Town of Superior
 - Louisville
 - Other?

Step Two: Engage Interested Parties through Public Outreach

Conduct

- Conduct a public online survey and FAQ

Host

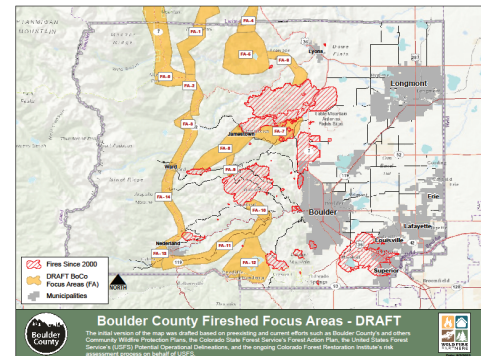
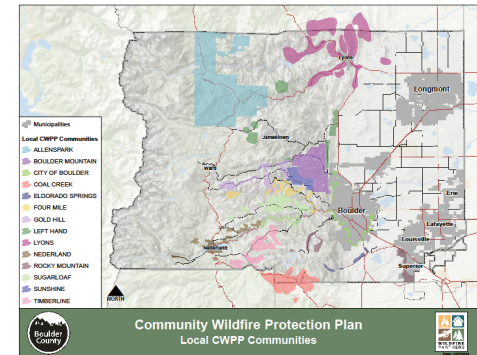
- Host Public Outreach meetings across the county that include a diverse range of stakeholders and partners.

Facilitate

- Public forums will be facilitated and will include interactive public comment and input sessions.

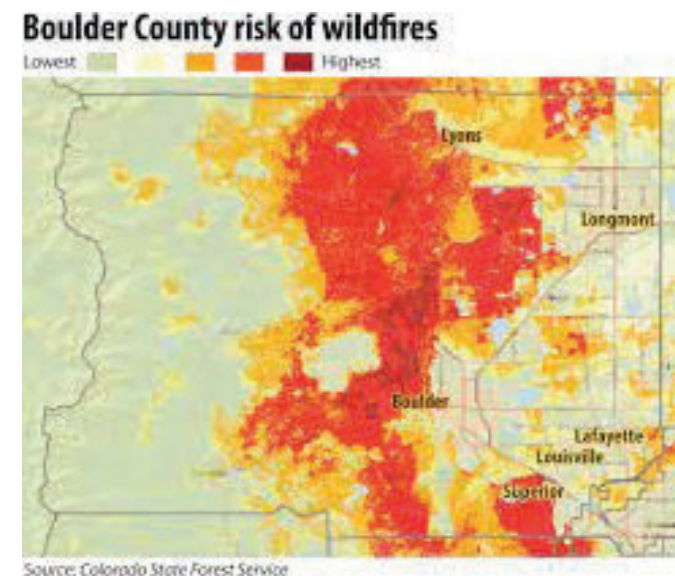
Step 3: Develop or update current County/ Community Base Map

- The county map will be used as a base map for overlaying other layers of information or as a stand-alone reference map.
 - Used for planning purposes, assessing risks, prioritization etc.
- Can integrate other maps and layers:
 - Boulder County Focus Area map
 - Boulder County Zone 1 and 2 map
 - Past fire layer
 - Past treatment layer
 - Community layer



Step 4: Complete a County Risk Assessment

- Fire Hazards/Risk Assessment (forest and grasslands):
 - Risk of wildfire potential
 - Risk of Ignition and Wildfire Occurrence
 - Burn Probability
 - Crown fire and surface fire potential
 - Flame Length
 - Fire Path
 - Ember zones (for the eastern WUI communities)
- Homes, communities and essential Infrastructure at Risk:
 - Common structure vulnerability characteristics
 - Other Community Values at Risk and to be protected (watershed infrastructure, recreation features, wildlife etc.)



Step 5: Establish County Priorities and Recommendations

- Establish a broad set of county goals and objectives.
 - **Examples-**
 - Save Lives
 - Protect property, critical infrastructure and watersheds
 - Reduce risk through implementation of projects and action items throughout the County.
 - Maintenance, monitoring and adaptive management
 - Collaboration and partnerships
- Link and incorporate local CWPP's and Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).
- County Priorities should address (at a minimum):
 - Collaboration
 - Prioritized fuel reduction
 - Recommended methods for reducing structural ignitability
- Develop a monitoring plan to keep plan relevant using an adaptive management approach.

Step Six: Project Identification and Prioritization

- Identification of wildfire risk reduction projects and activities.
 - Example projects:
 - Fuel reduction treatments
 - Community-wide projects (multiple landowners)
 - Grasslands and Forested communities
 - Education campaigns:
 - Firewise Communities/Fire Adapted Communities
 - Community champions, ambassadors and train the trainer
 - Wildfire Partners
- Identify, map and prioritize fuel treatment projects.



Step 7: Finalize Community Wildfire Protection Plan

- Review and edit CWPP plan as being developed.
- CWPP briefing with county commissioners.
- Present final draft to Board of County Commissioners for signature.
- Final signatures by CSFS, local fire departments, local government.
- Submit to CSFS.
- Project development and implementation!
- Form a CWPP monitoring team as a subcommittee of the BOCO Fireshed.



CWPP Minimum Standards & Guidelines

Ben Pfohl
Supervisory Forester
Boulder Field Office
Colorado State Forest Service



Community Wildfire Protection Planning: Healthy Forests Restoration Act and Beyond



Community Wildfire Protection Plans



- Recognize that community plans and priorities have an important role in shaping management on federal and non-federal lands
- Cross-boundary action
- Engage all branches of government at the local level

Requirements



- HFRA requirements
 - Collaboration
 - Prioritized fuel reduction
 - Structure ignitability

Key Issues from Healthy Forests Restoration Act



- Where is the Wildland-Urban Interface?
- How should federal agencies prioritize their \$\$\$ and projects for community protection?
- What is the role of individuals and communities in reducing their own risk?

HFRA Language

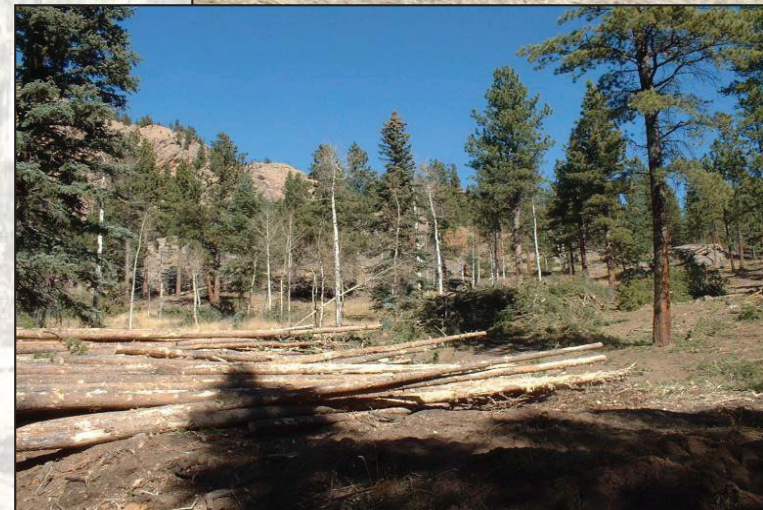


- *Wildland-Urban Interface*
 - The HFRA gives communities the opportunity to define their own WUI boundary rather than using the default definition of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1 \frac{1}{2}$ miles from the community

HFRA Language



- *Prioritization*
 - The HFRA directs the USFS and BLM to give special consideration to prioritized project areas and methods of treatment identified in a CWPP



HFRA Language



- *Individual Responsibility*
 - The HFRA states that communities that have a community plan or have “taken proactive measures...to reduce fire risk on private property” should be prioritized for funding



CWPP How To Guide



STEP ONE ~

Convene Decision Makers/Core Group

- Core Group (signature authorities)
 - Local fire authority, local government, CSFS
- Community Members
- Others as appropriate

CWPP How To Guide



STEP TWO ~ Involve Federal and State Agencies

- United States Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Counties
- Others as appropriate
- Make use of their technical assistance:
 - Mapping
 - Natural Resource Planning
 - Knowledge of Federal Land Projects

CWPP How To Guide



STEP THREE ~ Engage Interested Parties

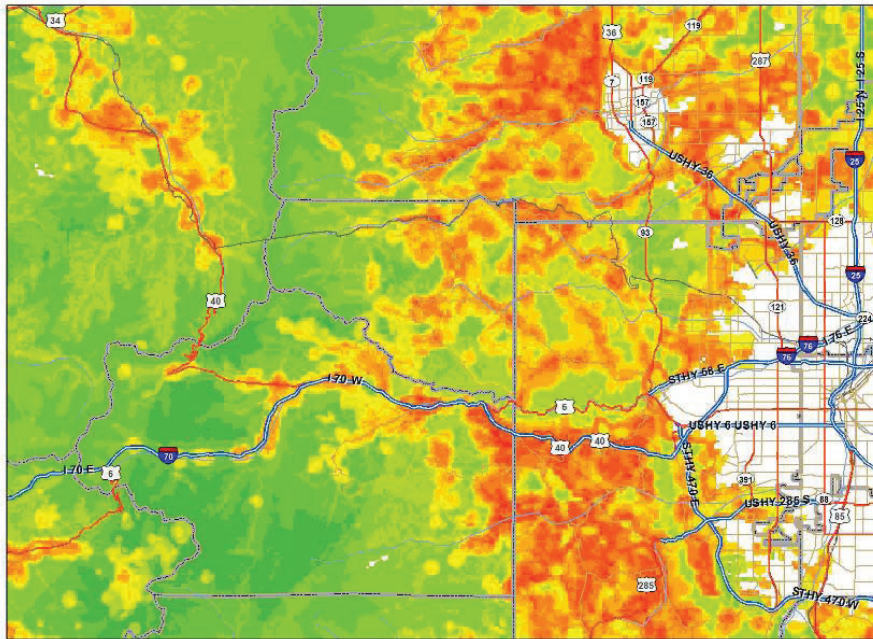


- City Council Members
- Homeowners' Assoc.
- Division of Wildlife
- Emergency Mgmt
- Watershed Councils
- Recreation Orgs
- And others.....

CWPP How To Guide



STEP FOUR ~ Establish a Community Base Map



- Areas of Potential Risk to Wildland Fire
- Areas Containing Critical Human Infrastructure
- Preliminary Designation of Community's WUI Zone
- Landownership

CWPP How To Guide



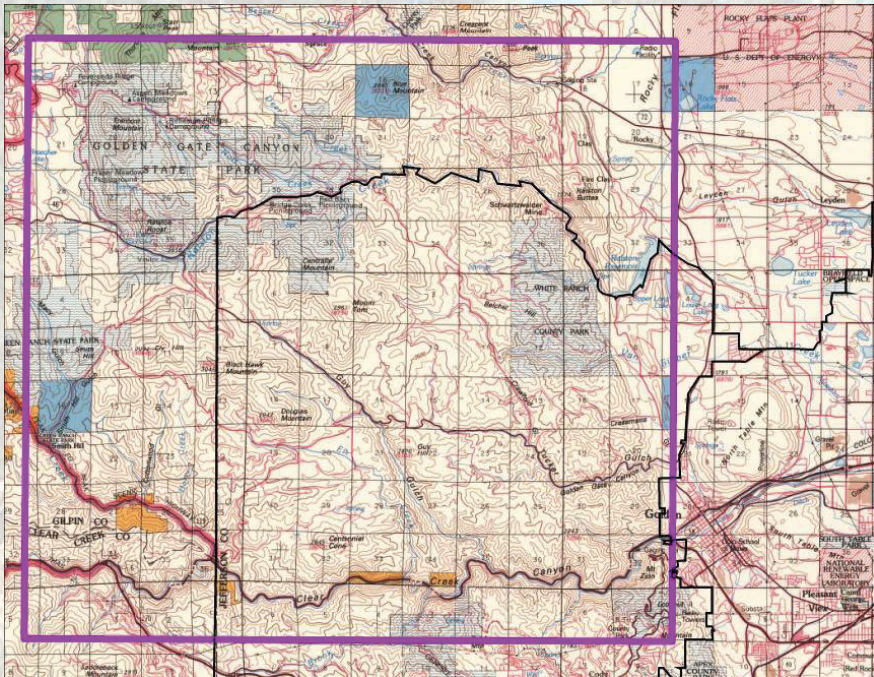
STEP FIVE ~ Develop a Risk Assessment

- Fuel Hazards
- Fire history
- Risk of Wildfire Occurrence
- Homes, Businesses and Essential Infrastructure at Risk
- Other Community Values at Risk
- ~~Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability~~

CWPP How To Guide



STEP SIX ~ Establish Community Priorities and Recommendations



- Identify Fuels Treatment Priorities on Federal and Non-federal Land
- Recommendations for Reducing Structural Ignitability
 - What homeowners can do

CWPP How To Guide



STEP SEVEN ~ Develop an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Funding Needs
- Timeline for Implementation of Key Projects
- Assessment Strategy to Ensure Continued Relevance and Effectiveness.

CWPP How To Guide



STEP EIGHT ~ Finalize Plan and Share with Community and Partners

2022 Update Changes



- Participant documentation (results, names, affiliation)
- Removed community *preparedness* to respond to wildfire (not an operational, pre-attack plan)
- Should/May include

Plan Components



- Must include:
 - Definition of selected planning area (mapped)
 - Delineate WUI
 - ID adjacent landowners
 - Wildfire risk analysis
 - Fuel hazards
 - Fire history
 - Risk of wildfire occurrence exclusion
 - *Common structure vulnerability characteristics inclusion
 - *Community values
 - Methods to reduce structural ignitability

Plan Components, cont.



- Must include:
 - Implementation Plan
 - Wildfire risk reduction projects (treatments, education, etc)
 - Treatment types & methods
 - Treatment maps
 - Relative priority – narrative & table

Plan Components, cont.



- Should include:
 - Locally appropriate emergency notification resources
 - Evacuation information
 - Socially vulnerable population considerations
 - Commitment for revision
- May include:
 - Post-fire considerations
 - Integrated FEMA HMP elements

Level of Specificity



- All scales allowed – driven by community need
 - Local, FPD, County
- Large plans must ID landscape-scale fuels treatment projects for *highest risk communities*
- Subset community plan recognition
 - ID & prioritize activities
 - Specific implementation plan
 - Appropriate specificity for community size
- “Adequate detail about project-level design, layout, and execution is provided to allow work to begin and the plan is supported...”

Lifetime & Updates



- 5 year recommended update
- 10+ outdated
 - “Will not be prioritized when considered for competitive funding opportunities”
- Preface to old or new document with updates integrated
- Updates must:
 - Describe progress & list accomplishments
 - Address demographic change
 - ID new risks
 - List & prioritize new projects



Questions?

