



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

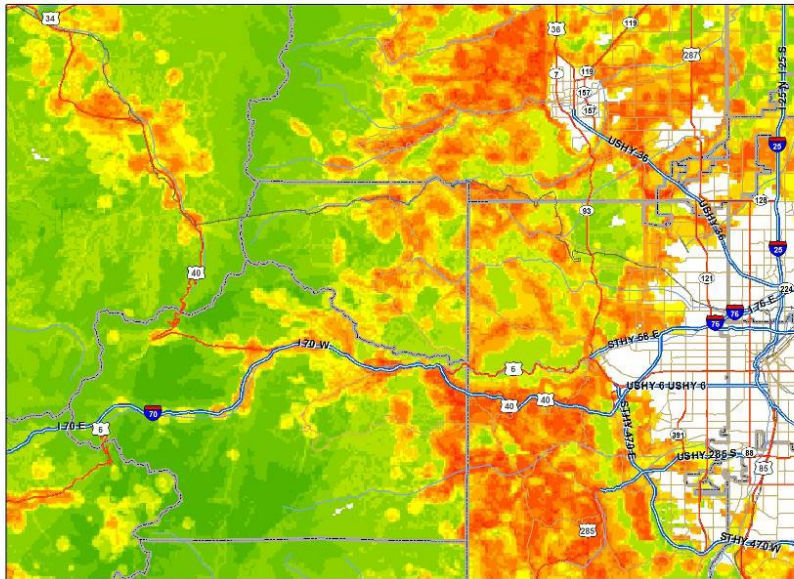


- City Council Members
- Homeowners' Assoc.
- Division of Wildlife
- Emergency Mgmt
- Watershed Councils
- Recreation Orgs
- And others.....

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

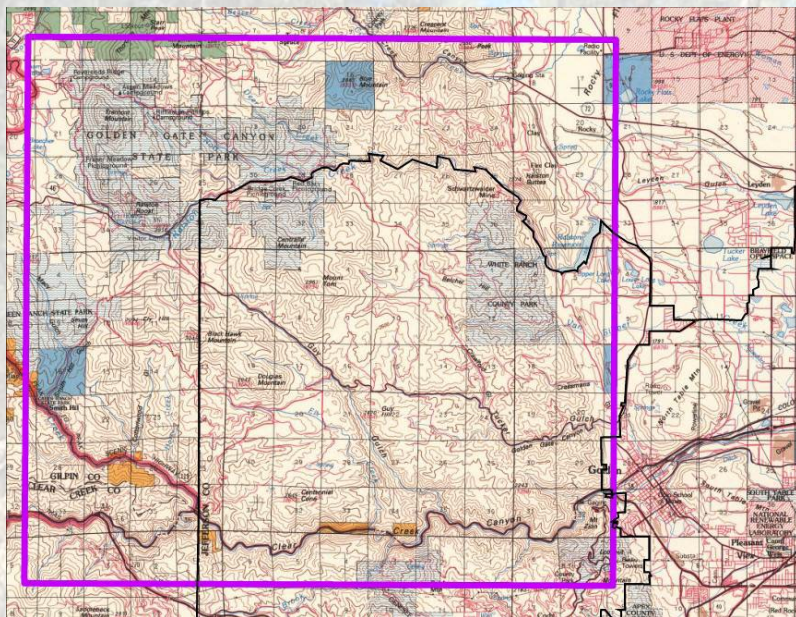
- Fuel Hazards
- Fire history
- Risk of Wildfire Occurrence
- Homes, Businesses and Essential Infrastructure at Risk
- Other Community Values at Risk
- ~~Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability~~

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?

