

Community Wildfire Protection Planning: HFRA and Beyond



Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Not a new concept, but....

A new level of emphasis and attention!

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

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

Key Issues from HFRA

- 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 ½ to 1 ½ 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 community plan.



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 Minimum Requirements

- Collaboration
- Prioritized Fuel Reduction
- Treatment of Structural Ignitability

CWPP Handbook

A general, step-by-step guide to assist communities with addressing the requirements of HFRA as well as other key elements of wildfire protection planning.

CWPP Handbook

STEP ONE ~ Convene Decision Makers



- Local Government
- Local Fire Authority
- State Forestry
- Others as Appropriate

CWPP Handbook

STEP TWO ~ Involve Federal Agencies

- USFS + BLM
- Others as Appropriate
- Mapping
- Natural Resource Planning
- Knowledge of Federal
Land Projects

CWPP Handbook

STEP THREE ~ Engage Interested Parties



- City Council Members
- Homeowners' Assoc.
- Division of Wildlife
- Emergency Management
- Watershed Councils
- Recreation Organizations
- And Others.....

CWPP Handbook

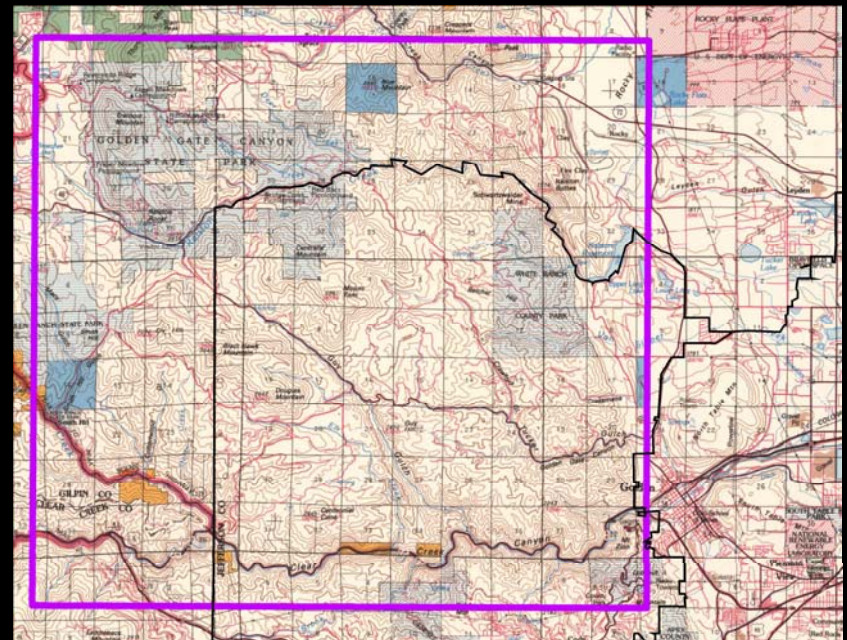
STEP FIVE ~ Develop a Risk Assessment

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

CWPP Handbook

STEP SIX ~ Establish Community Priorities and Recommendations

- Fuels Treatment on Federal and Non-federal Land
- Recommendations for Reducing Structural Ignitability



CWPP Handbook

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 Handbook

STEP EIGHT ~ Finalize Plan and Share with
Community and Partners

CSFS *Minimum Standards*

Participants

Plan Components

Level of Specificity

Adapting Existing Plans

CSFS Minimum Standards

Participants

- The core planning team must include local government, local fire authority, local CSFS representation and representatives from relevant federal land management agencies.
- Planning activities that involve assessing community risks and values, identifying community protection priorities, and/or establishing fuels treatment project areas and methods **MUST** involve diverse representation from interested non-governmental stakeholders.

CSFS Minimum Standards

Plan Components

- WUI Definition
- Community Preparedness
- Analysis of Hazards, Risks and Values.
- Identification of Fuels Treatment Priorities and Methods.
- Recommendations on Reducing Structural Ignitability.
- An Implementation Plan.

CSFS Minimum Standards

Level of Specificity

- A CWPP may be developed for any level of “community.”
- Information contained in a CWPP should be at a scale and level of specificity appropriate to the size of the community being addressed.
- County level plans can be used as an umbrella for plans in smaller communities, but should not be considered a substitute.

CSFS Minimum Standards

Adaptation of Existing Plans

- If an existing plan meets the majority of the CWPP criteria, it is preferable to work with the community to adapt that plan to meet the remaining criteria.
- Adaptations must be collaborative as described in the HFRA and include stakeholder representation.
- Communities are encouraged to combine CWPPs with related documents where appropriate.

Final Thoughts

- Gives states and local entities a key role in managing their surrounding forests and in identifying their own priorities for treatment and protection.
- Gives federal agencies the opportunity to implement land management projects developed with and supported by diverse local interests.
- Provides a vehicle for coordinating preparedness, suppression, mitigation and prevention in a landscape context.



