

NEIGHBORHOOD WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN OUTLINE

For those neighborhoods or homeowners' associations that wish to put together their own community wildfire plan, the following will give you guidance along the way. If you have questions about the process, please contact the Office of Emergency Management at (719) 836-4372 or by email at lhodges@parkco.us.

Step 1 – Meet with local property owners interested in the project.

The benefits of community wildfire protection planning are multiplied when properties share boundaries. Include in the initial meeting representatives of the local fire department, Colorado State Forest Service, and, if necessary, adjacent federal land managers.

Step 2 - Establish Community Base Map that demonstrates:

Determine area to be covered by CWPP (not necessarily the subdivision boundary).

Inhabited area at potential risk areas of critical infrastructure

Preliminary designation of WUI zones

Areas of potential and practical mitigation (i.e. vegetation and terrain)

Your base map can be a simple topographic map with your area boundaries outlined and structures, roads, evacuation routes, and water sources identified.

Step 3 - Develop Community Risk Assessments

- Refer to the 2007 Park CWPP for data.

- Fuel hazards

- *Identify areas of dead and down fuels. Rate High Medium or Low.

- *Identify safety zones

- *Identify high crown fire potential.

- *Identify water sources *other than home wells*.

- Homes, Business and Infrastructure at Risk

- *Assess structure vulnerability, document concern (refer to Park County CWPP for fire department ratings.)

- *Identify human improvement (power lines, water tanks, antennas etc) that would be adversely affected by wildfire

- *Categorize identified areas as High Med Low value and concern.

- *Other Community Values at risk (Community opinion - use rating of high, medium and low.)

- Wildlife habitat

- Significant recreation & scenic areas

- Landscapes of historical, economic or cultural value

- *Meet with local Fire Department to discuss:

- Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability, and Access

- Assess emergency preparedness

- Evacuation planning

- Safety zones

- Fire assistance agreements

- Response capability

Incorporate into base map as appropriate.

Step 4 Establish Hazard Reduction Priorities & Recommendations to reduce structure ignitability.

Develop community prioritized fuel treatment projects. Indicate in report whether project protects community & infrastructure or is geared toward protecting other values. Recommend preferred treatment methods. Colorado State Forest Service and or public land managers will gladly provide assistance and expertise.

Step 5 Develop Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

Identify roles & responsibilities

Identify funding needs

Develop information and education strategy

Develop timetable

Develop plan to ensure document remains relevant & effective.

Step 6 Finalize CWPP

Core team mutually agrees:

- Fuels treatment priorities

- Preferred treatment method

- Location of wildland urban interface

- Structure ignitability recommendations

- Other information & actions in the final document

NOTE: IF AN ASSOCIATED ACTION PLAN HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED, THE CORE TEAM SHOULD IDENTIFY STRATEGY FOR COMMUNICATING RESULTS OF THE PLANNING PROCESS TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND KEY LAND MANAGERS IN A TIMELY MANNER.

Step 7 Submit signed plan including signature of responsible fire department chief and CSFS to the Park County Wildfire Mitigation Coalition for inclusion in the County Wildfire Protection Plan.

Minimum requirements of CWPP as described in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act:

- 1) Collaboration with local representatives and consulting with Federal and State land managers and other interested parties.
- 2) Prioritize fuel reduction projects and preferred treatment methods and types.
- 3) Address treatment of structure ignitability – Recommend measures for homeowners and communities to reduce ignitability of structures throughout area addressed by plan.

HFRA requires mutual agreement of final plan by:

- 1) Community CWPP Committee,
- 2) Local fire departments,
- 3) Colo. State Forest Service, and
- 4) Local government.