

Colorado State Forest Service
Minimum Standards for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)*

1. Participants

- Local government, local fire authority, and a representative of the Colorado State Forest Service must agree on the CWPP.
- In addition to the above, the core planning team should include relevant federal land management agency representatives and community members.
- Input from interested non-governmental stakeholders must be sought as community protection priorities are being set and treatment areas and methods are planned.

2. Plan Components

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans must include the following components:
 - A definition of the community's wildland-urban interface (WUI), preferably outlined on a map with an accompanying narrative.
 - A discussion of the community's *preparedness* to respond to wildland fire.
 - A community risk analysis that considers, at a minimum, fuel hazards, risk of wildfire occurrence and community values to be protected – both in the immediate vicinity and the surrounding zone where potential fire spread poses a realistic threat.
 - Identification of fuels treatment priorities, including locations on the grounds and preferred methods of treatment.
 - Recommendations regarding ways to reduce structural ignitability.
 - An implementation plan.

3. Level of Specificity

- A CWPP may be developed for any level of “community,” (e.g., homeowner's association, mountain town, county, metropolitan city, or fire protection district).
- Risks must be assessed, and treatment priorities implemented, that will protect the community.
- The plan must be diversely collaborative.
- County level plans can be used as an umbrella for plans in smaller communities, but should not be considered a substitute. A county plan must identify specific projects and implementation methods and must reflect collaborative input from a variety of stakeholders.

4. Adapting Existing Plans and Combining Related Plans

- If a community has an existing plan that already meets the majority of the CWPP criteria, it is preferable to work with the community to adapt that plan to meet the remainder of the criteria. However, plan adaptations must be collaborative as described in (1) above and include stakeholder representation. This is particularly important if the adaptation involves establishing fuels treatment priorities.
- Communities are encouraged to combine CWPPs with related documents such as FEMA All-Hazard Mitigation Plans where appropriate.

* Minimum standards are to be used in combination with the national publication titled, “Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: A Guide for Wildland Urban Interface Communities.” Maximum flexibility should be sought in meeting individual community needs.