
Appendix E

City of Boulder Collaborative Effort

The Need for a CWPP

In response to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), and in an effort to create incentives, Congress directed interface communities to prepare a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Once completed, a CWPP provides statutory incentives for the US Forest Service (USFS) to consider the priorities of local communities as they develop and implement forest management and hazardous fuel reduction projects. In the case of the City of Boulder (BFD), the need for a community-based hazard and risk assessment (HRA) was born from an internal need, not a federal directive.

CWPPs can take a variety of forms, based on the needs of the people involved in their development. CWPPs may address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, structure protection, or all of the above.

The minimum requirements for a CWPP are:

- Collaboration between local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- Prioritized fuel reduction in identified areas, as well as recommendations for the type and methods of treatments
- Recommendations and treatment measures for homeowners and communities to reduce the ignitability of those structures in the project area.

Project Funding and Coordination

The City of Boulder used internal budgets in combination with a CSFS grant to complete a district-wide hazard and risk assessment and the resultant CWPP.

Future community education and private landowner assistance will be coordinated through the BFD. The BFD will continue to be instrumental in public education related to wildfire hazard reduction. The fire district will continue to identify funding for the implementation of mitigation projects. A BFD representative will coordinate all community-wide mitigation projects. Homeowner cooperation and permission for projects on private land is more likely if there is a fire district representative overseeing the details in partnership with CSFS and City/County representatives. This collaborative management structure allows for more effective implementation of cross-boundary projects.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

Roles and Responsibilities

To be successful, wildfire mitigation in the interface must be a community-based, collaborative effort. Stakeholders and, primarily, the BFD, will have the greatest responsibility for implementing the recommended mitigation projects. The CSFS and the City and County of Boulder will also be valuable participants in addressing cross-boundary projects throughout the district. Nearly all of the recommendations from this report affect private land or access roads to private land. As such, implementation of the recommendations will be largely dependent on the participation of landowners. The City of Boulder is committed to encouraging the participation of as many interested landowners as possible. There are also mitigation recommendations for individual structures which are the responsibility of the homeowner. Homeowners will, however, need a point of contact, most likely a member of the BFD, to help them implement these recommendations. The best defensible space will be created with oversight and expert advice from the fire district and or government forestry personnel. One-on-one dialog will continue to build the relationship with community members. This level of involvement will allow agencies to keep track of the progress and update this plan to reflect the latest modifications at the community level. The BFD web site is <http://www.bouldercolorado.gov>. This site has information for citizens, as well as a way to contact the district for more information or input regarding current and planned mitigation actions.

The Collaborative Process

“The initial step in developing a CWPP should be the formation of an operating group with representation from local government, local fire authorities, and the state agency responsible for forest management ... Once convened; members of the core team should engage local representatives ... to begin sharing perspectives, priorities, and other information relevant to the planning process.”¹”

Eight federal, State, local, and private agencies (stakeholders) participated in the City of Boulder CWPP. These stakeholders are:

- The City of Boulder
- The United States Forest Service
- The Colorado State Forest Service
- Anchor Point Group

The true collaborative process was initiated thru a number of stakeholder meetings held within Boulder County. The purpose of the meetings was to bring all past, current, and future efforts and needs to the table. The primary focus was on the identification and delineation of communities, areas of concern, and values at risk. Best practices and anticipated “roadblocks” were identified. Within the City of Boulder ten communities were delineated and analyzed for hazard and risk.

Three meetings were held, two BFD fire board meeting and a public meeting located at the BFD. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the findings of the CWPP and to begin the process of prioritizing future actions based on the recommendations in the CWPP. Options for homeowners and land managers to reduce structural ignitability and protect values in their communities were presented in the public meeting as well as landscape scale and cross-boundary mitigation project recommendations.

Funding CWPP Recommendations

There are many sources of funds available for implementing the recommendations within the CWPP. Some available grants and websites where more information can be found are provided below.

- Agency: Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness
 - Purpose: to assist local, state, regional, or national organizations in addressing fire prevention and safety. The emphasis for these grants is the prevention of fire-related injuries to children.
 - More information: <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/>

- Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - Purpose: to improve firefighting operations, purchase firefighting vehicles, equipment, and personal protective equipment, fund fire prevention programs, and establish wellness and fitness programs.
 - More information: <http://usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/grants.cfm>

- Agency: National Volunteer Fire Council
 - Purpose: to support volunteer fire departments
 - More information: <http://www.nvfc.org/federalfunding.html>

- Agency: Community Facilities Grant Program
 - Purpose: to help rural communities. Funding is provided for fire stations
 - More information: www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/

- Agency: Firehouse.com
 - Purpose: emergency services grants
 - More information: www.firehouse.com/funding/grants.html

- Agency: Cooperative Forestry Assistance
 - Purpose: to assist in the advancement of forest resources management, the control of insects and diseases affecting trees and forests, the improvement and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat, and the planning and conduct of urban and community forestry programs
 - More information: www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/cfda10664.html

- Agency: Forest Service, Economic Action Programs
 - Purpose: Economic Action Programs that work with local communities to identify, develop, and expand economic opportunities related to traditionally underutilized wood products and to expand the utilization of wood removed through hazardous fuel reduction treatments.
 - More information: www.fireplan.gov/community_assist.cfm

- Agency: FEMA
 - Purpose: Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
 - More information: www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/apply.cfm and www.nvfc.org/federalfunding.html