



CWPP 2.0: An Exploration of the Next Generation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Practitioners Convene

Communities across the country have used CWPPs to better plan for wildfire since their inception in 2003. As time has passed, communities have continued to work toward effective implementation, development of engagement strategies and more.

FAC Net convened more than 50 participants from across the country, representing a variety of agencies, scales, and organizations, in the CWPP 2.0 learning group. CWPP 2.0 was designed to connect practitioners, understand current research, and explore the next evolution of CWPPs. Over the eight-month learning experience, several themes rose to the surface.

What are CWPPs?

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaborative planning document that helps communities reduce wildfire risk. Outlined by the 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act, CWPPs are in use across the country and at a variety of scales. Signed by the local fire district, government and state forestry agency, CWPPs represent an opportunity for diverse community stakeholders to meaningfully engage in their local wildfire risk reduction actions .

Key Themes and Takeaways

CWPPs for Purpose

Practitioners and researchers have long recognized that CWPPs not only create valuable roadmaps for wildfire risk reduction but also serve as essential tools for learning and relationship-building. The concept of "CWPPs for Purpose" captures the desire among CWPP 2.0 participants for CWPPs to be living documents driven by the community's desired outcomes.

Key takeaways:

- Be clear on your purpose (relationship building, risk reduction, etc.) from the start.
- Document format, length, contents should support the purpose and intended audience. Consider creating different options (e.g. summary sheets, resource guides) for different audiences. Strategic formatting will help usability and implementation.
- Don't be afraid to boil the CWPPs down to the essential items. Documents in the future are likely to trend shorter.

Virtual Engagement

COVID-19 has impacted the way wildfire practitioners work in multiple ways. There is an increased demand for online material that is accessible, interactive, and that can leverage individual action. Key takeaways:

- There are a range of virtual formats, tools, and software that can be employed; effective online engagement requires more than shifting public meetings online.
- Virtual engagement can create opportunities for different stakeholders (and possibly more of them) to participate while simultaneously creating barriers for others.
- In some cases, individual outreach may be necessary to uncover the concerns and ideals of underrepresented stakeholders.
- Moving forward, a mixture of virtual and in-person engagement will be necessary to effectively engage communities.

Implementation

Throughout CWPP 2.0, practitioners were clear that implementation success is critical to the CWPP process. Key takeaways:

- Implementation plans should be tailored to the community. In some places, specific implementation plans (e.g., clear timelines, cost estimates) help move projects forward while in other places, a more general approach enables communities to complete projects with multiple partners and funding streams.
- The relationships built during the CWPP process are what carry plan implementation forward. Investing in those relationships during the process, as well as between plan updates, is critical.
- The purpose of the CWPP should drive implementation and updates.
- A plan update schedule helps to keep plans current and moving.

Long-Term Recovery Integration

Practitioners felt it was critical to begin addressing long-term recovery in the planning processes whether as a stand-alone planning process or within a CWPP.

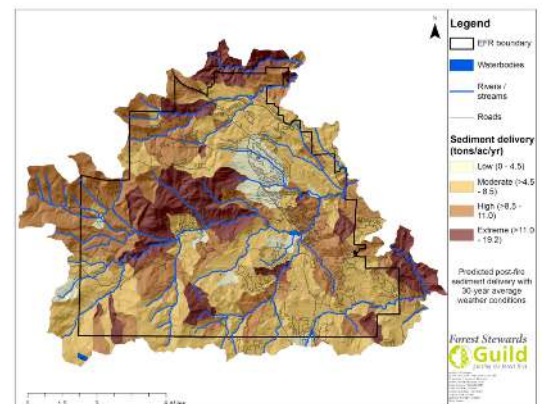
Key takeaways:

- Modeling of post-fire effects has advanced and can provide good insight into potential post-fire effects.
- Long-term recovery is an opportunity to engage a broad range of stakeholders including those from sectors such as infrastructure and public health.
- Inclusive engagement of all sectors and stakeholders is a critical component to successful recovery planning.

Below: Post-fire effects modeling completed by the Forest Stewards Guild in Colorado. Similar modeling can be integrated into CWPPs to give a more complete picture of risks to communities after wildfire. Image courtesy of the Forest Stewards Guild, 2020.

Output

- In Evergreen, 15% of watersheds with extreme sediment delivery
- With average precipitation, predicted sediment delivery rates in 12% of watersheds exceed maximum rates measured the first two years after the Hayman Fire (11.5 tons / acre)



Resources

Six CWPP-focused presentations are available on FAC Net's YouTube channel. Presentations focus on long-term recovery planning, the integration of post-fire flood and debris flow risks into CWPP documents, current research surrounding CWPPs, and implementation lessons.

<http://bit.ly/CWPPlearning>

CWPP resources, stories, and lessons are available on the FAC Net Blog!

<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/re-visiting-community-wildfire-protection-plans>