



# Larimer County Fire Plan

## A Community Wildfire Protection Plan

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**Mission Statement**

*To provide a cooperative framework under which fire management programs are developed and implemented to protect human and natural resource values in an effective and efficient manner.*

## **Introduction**

In 2000, the Colorado Legislature passed legislation clarifying responsibilities for wildland fire management in the State. House Bill 1283 redefined the responsibilities of County Sheriffs, the State Board of Agriculture, and the State Forester from preventing and controlling wildland fires to managing them. The Bill authorized Boards of County Commissioners to cooperate in managing as well as preventing and suppressing forest fires.

The legislation authorized counties to prepare and implement a County Fire Plan. The Larimer County Fire Plan is intended to aid in the implementation of a seamless, coordinated effort between all relevant agencies in determining appropriate combinations of wildland fire management actions and programs in the county.

The Larimer County Fire Plan outlines six interagency management objectives that are necessary to achieve and implement effective wildland fire management programs: prevention, preparedness, mitigation, suppression, reclamation /rehabilitation and fiscal. This plan identifies the roles and responsibilities of Larimer County, the United States Forest Service—Arapaho–Roosevelt National Forest, Canyon Lakes Ranger District (ARNF), Colorado State Forest Service-Fort Collins District (CSFS) and Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), specifies contacts for each agency, and lists interagency agreements to meet these objectives.

Additionally, this Fire Plan is intended to assist landowners/managers in identifying and mitigating wildland fire hazard areas on public and private land and to work cooperatively in developing mitigation options to reduce the impact of a wildland fire.

The Larimer County Fire Plan is a dynamic document, it has been drafted with the purpose that sections can be added or deleted without affecting the overall mission statement.

## Authority

The Larimer County Fire Plan is being prepared and implemented between various governmental authorities under a Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement establishes a mutual commitment to the mission and objectives outlined in the Larimer County Fire Plan to facilitate interagency collaboration in the implementation of a wildland fire program in Larimer County. *See Appendix II.*

## Larimer County Characteristics

### Geography

Larimer County is located in north central Colorado. It is the seventh largest county in Colorado based on population and ninth largest in area. According to 2000 census data, 251,226 people reside in Larimer County, with 68,819 residing in unincorporated areas. The county extends to the eastern edge of the Continental Divide, and includes several mountain communities and Rocky Mountain National Park. The county encompasses 2,640 square miles, about 60 miles long by 50 miles wide. Over 50% of Larimer County is publicly owned, most of which is land within the Arapaho - Roosevelt National Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park. In addition to these federal lands, Colorado State Parks and Recreation Areas, Larimer County Parks and local parks within urban areas combine to provide a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors. The elevation ranges from a low of 4,800 feet on the plains, to 13,562 feet on the high mountain peaks. [See Map--Larimer County Location.](#)

The county is quite diverse topographically. The terrain includes low river valleys, flat plains, rolling hills, scenic ranch lands, forests, and rugged mountains. The irrigated land—some of the finest irrigated farmland in Colorado -- lies in a narrow belt in the eastern portion of the county adjacent to streams. The dry cropland lies along the foothills and on the high ridges between river valleys. On the plains, the average annual rainfall is 14.4 inches, with an average annual snowfall of 45 inches. The average frost-free period is from 100 to 140 days.

### Land Ownership

Larimer County consists of 1,689,600 acres, of which 870,775 acres are privately owned 645,400 acres are managed by the USFS, 143,100 acres are managed by RMNP, and 27,600 acres are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and 2725 acres are managed by CSFS.

[See map--Larimer County Land Status.](#)

Over 11,000 platted parcels exist within the designated Larimer County Wildfire Hazard Area and are therefore exposed to potential wildland fire hazards. [See Map--Larimer County Residential Improvement](#). Structures are present on about half of these parcels. Additionally, there are an estimated 172,700 acres of private land intermixed within the forest boundary. Fire protection within the county is provided by 18 professional and volunteer fire departments, the Larimer County Sheriff's Department, USFS, CSFS and RMNP. [See Map--Larimer County Fire Protection Districts](#).

### Fire History

Wildland fire occurrence in Larimer County is tracked by three agencies. The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest records fire data from national forest lands. Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) keeps records of fires on state and private lands Rocky Mountain National Park collects fire information within the Park Boundary. CSFS statistics only reflect those wildland fires reported by local fire departments. Unfortunately, not all fire departments submit incident reports to the Colorado State Forest Service (Farmer 1998).

As with most natural events, wildland fire appears to be cyclical. Statistics indicate the annual number of wildland fires peaks every six to eight years. An average of 161 wildfires occur annually in Larimer County. Although these fires burn an estimated 2209 acres each year, most of the losses occur in one-or two-year periods every eight to nine years (Farmer 1998).

Records provided by the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest show that 55% of all wildland fires are human-caused. The remaining 45% are lightning-ignited. Historically, on state and private lands in Colorado, 49% of all wildland fires are human-caused and 11% are started by lightning. Though the cause of the remaining 40% is unknown, most of these are probably human-caused. It is interesting to note that 1% of the fires account for 90% of the total acres burned (Farmer 1998)

## **Larimer County Wildland Fire Hazard Identification**

### Wildland Fire Hazard Area

In 1998, Larimer County identified a wildland fire hazard area that coincided with a roofing ordinance adopted in 1990. [See Map--Larimer County Wildfire Hazard Area](#). Generally, this area is from west of Range 69 to the continental divide.

Within the Wildland Fire Hazard Area, all new building construction and new land development must meet wildland fire mitigation codes and regulations. These building codes and land use regulations are posted on the wildfire safety program's web site at [www.larimer.org/wildfire](http://www.larimer.org/wildfire).

#### Wildland Fire Hazard Maps

Larimer County, United States Forest Service, National Park Service and Colorado State Forest Service worked together to create a unified, cross-boundary vegetation map for the Wildland Fire Hazard Area. This vegetation map was utilized to determine the wildland fire hazards throughout the County. [See Map--Larimer County Wildfire Hazard.](#)

Wildland Fire Hazard was determined by combining vegetation cover type, habitat structural stage, percent crown cover, slope and aspect.

# Larimer County Fuels Assessment

The overall purpose of the Larimer County Fuels Assessment is to identify and prioritize management opportunities and actions within a landscape in a timely, integrated manner.

In 2002, the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) was developed jointly by the Pike and San Isabel National Forests (PSINF), the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests (ARNF), the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), Rocky Mountain National Park and the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS). The goal of the partnership strategy was to identify, prioritize and rapidly implement hazardous fuels treatment projects in the Front Range of Colorado. The strategy is long-term and allows agencies to move forward successfully over a ten-year period. The FRFTP implements the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan for Goal 2 (reduce hazardous fuels) and Goal 4 (community assistance) thereby increasing agencies' ability to reduce risks to:

- Public and firefighter safety,
- Housing in the wildland urban interface,
- Ecosystem function
- Threatened and endangered species.

In order to achieve the goal of the partnership and facilitate local collaboration, a community-based coordinating group was established. The primary role of the coordinating group, named Larimer County Coordinating Group (LCCG), is to provide leadership and coordination for all fuels management activities in Larimer County. Members of the coordinating group include USDA Forest Service (Canyon Lakes Ranger District), Colorado State Forest Service (Fort Collins District), Larimer County Wildfire Safety Coordinator, and USDI National Park Service (Rocky Mountain National Park).

Two of the key roles of the LCCG are to:

- Ensure the completion and routine maintenance of a comprehensive landscape-level (county-wide) fuels assessment utilizing the best available scientific tools that will evaluate hazards, values, and risks
- Utilize the fuels assessment findings to prioritize, design, and locate effective fuel treatments in a cohesive strategy; invest in projects that seek to protect communities and watershed values

This document summarizes the interdisciplinary process used to identify management recommendations for the Larimer County Fuels Assessment Area. The Forest Plan and its supporting documentation and the Larimer County Fire Plan are incorporated by reference.

Policy direction was taken into consideration for this assessment. The Healthy Forest Initiative was put forward by the Office of the President of the United States on August 22, 2002 (*Healthy Forests, An Initiative for Wildfire Prevention and Stronger Communities*). The initiative focuses land management agencies on reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfires that threaten communities, watersheds, and wildlife habitat. It also addresses the need to reduce insect and disease impacts to improve forest health.

Landscape assessment is a procedure used to characterize the human, aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial features; and conditions, processes, and interactions within a geographic area. It provides a way to organize and prioritize management recommendations. In so doing, landscape assessment enhances our ability to estimate direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of our past management activities and guide the general type, location, and sequence of appropriate future management activities within a geographic area.

As one of the principle assessments for implementing the Forest Plan, this document provides the geographic context for desired future conditions. The understanding gained through landscape assessment is important to sustaining the health and productivity of natural resources. Healthy ecological functions are essential to maintain and create current and future social and economic opportunities. [See map-- Fuels Assessment Map](#)

## Interagency Cooperation

Since Larimer County encompasses a mosaic of land ownership and jurisdictional boundaries, interagency cooperation is essential not only for wildland fire suppression but also for prevention, preparedness, mitigation, reclamation / rehabilitation and fiscal issues to provide efficient and effective wildland fire programs. Currently, all fire agencies within Larimer County are working aggressively to provide a consistent and a unified approach to most fire programs regardless of ownership. However, differences do exist between agencies due to internal policies and procedures as well as land base and jurisdictional boundaries.

### Larimer County Coordinating Group

Larimer County Coordinating Group (LCCG) seeks to provide a community-based approach to hazardous fuels management through collaborative processes, using scientific expertise and local knowledge. The overall goal of the partnership is to enhance community sustainability and restore fire-adapted ecosystems through identification, prioritization, and implementation of treatment projects in the Front Range of Colorado.

In order to achieve the goal of the partnership and facilitate local collaboration, an **agency based** coordinating group has been established the Larimer County Coordinating Group. This is an interagency group consisting of but not limited to Larimer County, US Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, and Rocky Mountain National Park. The primary role of the coordinating group is to provide leadership and coordination for all fuels management activities in Larimer County.

#### Role of Coordinating Group

- Ensure the completion and routine maintenance of a comprehensive landscape-level fuels assessment utilizing the best available scientific tools that will evaluate hazards, values, and risks
- Utilize the fuels assessment findings to prioritize, design, and locate effective fuel treatments in a cohesive strategy; invest in projects that seek to protect communities and watershed values
- Coordinate and support Community Wildfire Protection Planning, Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plans and *FireWise* efforts with local communities
- Coordinate and support on-going NEPA efforts by federal agencies; and support work on lands other than federal lands

- To the greatest extent possible, support on-the-ground efforts by sharing resources and expertise; overcome financial barriers to collaborative efforts
- Encourage private enterprise participation in treatment implementation
- Seek financial and political support from federal, state, county, and municipal governments and their leadership
- Given the proportionally high amount of congressionally designated wilderness and National Park land in the county, work to facilitate the operational feasibility for managing wildland fire for resource benefit, including such benefits as protection of watersheds
- Provide a communication link with the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership Steering Committee and Leadership Team for upward reporting of accomplishments and close coordination of planning and implementation of projects

# Planning Area Prioritization Process

The entire Larimer County Fuels Assessment Area was divided into Project Planning Areas. The basis used for creating planning areas was a combination of three primary factors:

- Previous planning area
- Communities at risk
- 6<sup>th</sup> Code Watershed boundary

Project planning areas were analyzed and prioritized using the Planning Area Priorities Criteria listed below. Acres used to analyze criteria (i.e. fuel hazard acres, fire regime/condition class acres, treatable acres) were generated using Geographic Information System) layers.

Each criterion was analyzed for each planning area and given a relative score. The score was multiplied by the weighted value of the criterion to show the weighted score. Weighted scores were added to show a total score for each planning area. Table 1 displays the total score or “rating” for each Planning Area and determines its overall priority. Also included in the table is the relative priority assigned to each planning area based on its rating (High, Medium, and Low).

## Planning Area Priorities Criteria

This discussion centered on the development of criteria that will be used by the Larimer County Coordinating Group to prioritize planning areas for analysis and implementation. The following criteria were established:

1. **Threat from wildland fire to values at risk** - private land acres or specific values at risk
2. **Fuel Hazard** - Acres and percent of planning area with Very High and High Fuel Hazard Ratings
3. **Community willingness** - Community Wildfire Protection Plan or community active in forest management or defensible space
4. **Fire Regime / Condition Class** - Acres and percent of planning area in Fire Regime II and III and Condition Class 2 and 3
5. **Feasibility (Treatable Acres)** – Acres and percent of planning area that are considered treatable (<40% slope that are not excluded from treatment due to Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines)
6. **Feasibility (Access)** - Access (Easements) / accessibility from existing or planned roads
7. **Feasibility (Limitations)** - Treatable acres (see above definition) with limitations (i.e. Roadless Areas, Wild and Scenic River, Wilderness) - % of planning are that has these limitations

8. **Cumulative Effects / Effectiveness** – Amount of previous treatment and the effectiveness of treatment to protect values at risk

Some criteria are not as important as others and deserve higher consideration than others. The Interdisciplinary Team analyzed the importance of each criteria as compared to each other and developed the following weighted values on a scale from 10 (most important) to 1 (least important) to be utilized in prioritizing project planning areas: [See map of Planning Area Priorities.](#)

<b>Planning Area Priority Criteria</b>	<b>Weighted Value</b>
Threat from wildland fire to values at risk	10
Fuel Hazard	9
Community Willingness	8
<b>Planning Area Priority Criteria (cont.)</b>	<b>Weighted Value</b>
Fire Regime / Condition Class	7
Feasibility – Treatable Acres	6
Feasibility – Access	5
Feasibility – Limitations	4
Cumulative Effects / Effectiveness	3

# Larimer County Planning Areas Prioritization.

**Table 1 Planning Area Ratings**

<b>High Priority</b>		<b>Medium Priority</b>		<b>Low Priority</b>	
<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Thompson River	445	Cherokee Park	349	Green Ridge	248
Horsetooth	439	Masonville	341	Pingree	245
Estes Park	437	Red Mountain	330	Sand Creek	234
Red Feather	432	Sheep Creek 1	326	Bonner Peak	229
Dowdy Lake 1	426	Crown Point	324	Comanche Peak	224
Dowdy Lake 2	426	Cedar Park	322	Bull Mountain	214
Estes Valley	416	Elkhorn	321	North Rawah	203
Carter Lake	411	Cache La Poudre	314	Meeker	200
Crystal Lakes	407	Buckhorn	312	South Rawah	173
Manhattan	403	Deadman 1	305		
Young Gulch	403	Rabbit Creek	303		
Lonetree	401	Phantom Canyon	295		
Magic Sky	396	Buck Ridge	294		
Glen Haven	394	Sheep Creek 2	277		
Pingree Hill	382	Big South Fork	259		
Stringtown West	375	Roaring Creek	257		
Lone Pine	373	Cameron Pass	256		
Poudre Canyon	372	Roach	256		
Stringtown	370	Deadman 2	255		
		Crystal Mountain	254		

[See map of Planning Area Priorities.](#)

## Agency Responsibilities and Contacts

The County Fire Plan identifies six management objectives essential to achieve this plan's mission statement. These management objectives include -- Prevention, Preparedness, Mitigation, Suppression, Reclamation / Rehabilitation and Fiscal. For each of the management objectives, contact positions and phone numbers are listed for each agency.

### Prevention

**Objective:** Reduce human caused wildfire ignitions through information, education and enforcement.

**Agency Contacts:**

<b>USFS</b>	<b>Canyon Lakes Ranger District Fire Management Officer</b>	<b>970.295.6780</b>
<b>RMNP</b>	<b>Fire Education, Fire Management Officer</b>	<b>970.586.1264</b>
<b>CSFS</b>	<b>Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District</b>	<b>970.491.8660</b>
<b>Larimer County</b>	<b>LCES</b>	<b>970.498.5303</b>

With the exception of enforcement, wildland fire prevention is a shared responsibility of all agencies. Education and information associated with wildland fire is not jurisdictional and relates to all land ownership. Education and awareness materials are available through all partnering agencies.

The USFS and RMNP responsibility for enforcement of wildland fire prevention is tied to primary National Forest lands and National Park land respectively. Larimer County enforces wildland fire prevention on state and private lands.

All agencies cooperate to establish restrictions and closures when wildland fire conditions meet pre-established criteria outlined in the Larimer County Annual Operating Plan (AOP).

## **Preparedness**

**Objective** Plan the most effective level of resources to protect human and natural values.  
Actively participate in preparedness and all hazard planning.

### **Agency Contacts:**

<b>USFS</b>	<b>Canyon Lakes Ranger District Fire Management Officer</b>	<b>970.295.6780</b>
<b>RMNP</b>	<b>Fire Management Officer</b>	<b>970.586.1287</b>
<b>CSFS</b>	<b>Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District</b>	<b>970.491.8660</b>
<b>Larimer County</b>	<b>Emergency Services</b>	<b>970.498.5300</b>

USFS and RMNP responsibility is primarily tied to National Forest lands and National Parks lands respectively. The CSFS and Larimer County assist all agencies, communities and associations with fire planning, readiness and wildland fire hazard identification. All agencies share responsibility to coordinate and cooperate in FireWise planning, Pre-attack planning and communication with the public and the news media.

## **Mitigation**

**Objective:** Plan and implement action to reduce potential negative impacts on human and natural values from wildland fire.

**Agency Contacts:**

<b>USFS</b>	<b>Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader</b>	<b>970.295.6760</b>
<b>RMNP</b>	<b>Fire Management Officer</b>	<b>970.586.1287</b>
<b>CSFS</b>	<b>Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District</b>	<b>970.491.8660</b>
<b>Larimer County</b>	<b>LCSO</b>	<b>970.498.5303</b>

USFS and RMNP fuels reduction implementation is tied primarily to National Forest lands and National Park lands. The CSFS has coordinated and assisted on fuel reduction projects on state and private lands. Recent agreements allow for cross-jurisdictional fuel reduction project planning and implementation.

Larimer County's wildland fire safety program was established in 1998 to help citizens meet adopted building and land use codes, to provide individual wildland fire hazard site inspections and assessments, to provide slash disposal options and to promote education and awareness of wildland fire and what citizens can do to prepare themselves.

A wildland fire fuels crew has been established through the Larimer County Sheriff Office Emergency Services section. The fuels crew is comprised of firefighters and the primary focus of the crew is to implement fuels reduction projects and forest health projects on County Open Space, non-profits and community open space. Additionally, the Fuels crew allows Larimer County to have an initial attack force available throughout the year. This group is primarily funded through grants that the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources and Emergency Services have applied for and have been awarded.

## **Suppression--Wildland Fire**

**Objective:** Use appropriate strategies and tactics for safe and cost effective protection of human and natural resource values from wildland fire.

**Agency Contacts:**

<b>USFS</b>	<b>Canyon Lakes Ranger District Fire Management Officer</b>	<b>970.295.6780</b>
<b>RMNP</b>	<b>Fire Management Officer</b>	<b>970.586.1287</b>
<b>CSFS</b>	<b>Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District</b>	<b>970.491.8660</b>
<b>Larimer County</b>	<b>Emergency Services</b>	<b>970.498.5300</b>

Larimer County Sheriff

The Larimer County Sheriff is responsible for all wildland fire suppression activities on private and state lands within Larimer County. Initial control actions are normally taken by fire departments, fire protection districts or Larimer County firefighters dispatched by the Larimer County Sheriff's Office (LCISO) Communications Center, or Ft. Collins (FTC) Dispatch Center (Annual Operating Plan (AOP)).

Colorado State Forest Service

The Colorado State Forest Service will, upon request, assist all agencies on wildland fires within Larimer County. The CSFS will assume duties as specified under provisions of the Emergency Fire Fund when a forest fire exceeds the county's resources, upon agreement of the Larimer County Sheriff or designated representative and the State Forester or designated representative (AOP).

United States Forest Service

The United States Forest Service is responsible for all fire management activities on National Forest lands. Due to the complex intermix of private land within the forest boundary, Larimer County Sheriff's Office (LCISO) Communications Center will notify Ft. Collins Dispatch Center (FTC) per attached dispatch procedures in Section XIV for all forest fires reported within the National Forest or areas of said intermixed ownership (AOP).

### Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for fire suppression activities on BLM lands. In Larimer County, through cooperative agreement with the BLM, the USFS has initial attack responsibilities for these lands (AOP).

### Rocky Mountain National Park

The National Park Service is responsible for all fire suppression activities on Rocky Mountain National Park lands. RMNP will normally dispatch and make initial attack, or manage wildland fires for resource benefit on fires reported on National Park lands, and will also notify LCSO Communications Center or Fort Collins Dispatch Center of any fires reported to RMNP outside the park boundary (AOP).

## **Reclamation/Rehabilitation**

**Objective**                      Assess impact of wildland fire on human and natural values. Identify the roles and responsibilities of appropriate agencies and funding sources.

**Agency Contacts:**

<b>USFS</b>	<b>Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest Staff Hydrologist</b>	<b>970.295.6633</b>
<b>RMNP</b>	<b>Fire Effects Specialist</b>	<b>970.586.1434</b>
<b>CSFS</b>	<b>Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District</b>	<b>970.491.8660</b>
<b>Larimer County</b>	<b>Emergency Management</b>	<b>970.498.5548</b>

The US Forest Service and National Park Service are responsible for burn area emergency rehabilitation (BAER) primarily on affected National Forest lands and National Park lands. Close coordination and cooperation with other agencies is necessary to determine values at risk that may be affected by adjacent land owners. CSFS provides technical assistance to property owners, with support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Larimer County coordinates with other county departments, state and federal agencies to assist private landowners affected by wildland fire occurrence.

## **Fiscal**

**Objective**                      Establish funding priorities and budget strategies for management objectives.

**Agency Contacts:**

<b>USFS</b>	<b>Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest Fire Management Officer</b>	<b>970.295.6631</b>
<b>RMNP</b>	<b>Fire Management Officer</b>	<b>970.586.1287</b>
<b>CSFS</b>	<b>Colorado State Forest Service Fort Collins District</b>	<b>970.491.8660</b>
<b>Larimer County</b>	<b>Emergency Services</b>	<b>970.498.5300</b>

Funding for prevention, preparedness, mitigation and burn area rehabilitation by Forest Service personnel is tied to National Forest lands. The Colorado State Forester administers the Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) for those Colorado counties that contribute to the fund. Larimer County contributes annually to this fund. At the Larimer County Sheriff's request, the CSFS District may request EFF designation from the State Forester. If approved, EFF will reimburse county suppression costs according to the current Annual Operating Plan (AOP), the master EFF agreement, and as agreed to for the specific incident. The CSFS will request Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement for qualified suppression costs according to the most current agreements. CSFS administers various grants to assist local fire departments and property owners as funds are available for suppression, training and other projects.

## Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forest restoration Act (HFRA) passed by congress on November 21, 2003 and signed into Law by President Bush on December 3, 2003. The Healthy Forest Restoration Act places renewed emphasis on the community planning by extending a variety of benefits to communities with a wildfire protection plan in place. Critical among these benefits is the option of establishing a localized definition and boundary of the wildland-urban interface and the opportunity to help shape fuels treatment priorities for surrounding federal and non-federal lands.

The CWPP, as described in the Act, brings together diverse local interests to discuss their mutual concerns for public safety, community sustainability and natural resources. It offers a positive, solution-orientated environment in which to address challenges such as: local firefighting capability, the needs for defensible space around homes and subdivisions, and where and how to prioritize land management – on both federal and non-federal land.

The Larimer County Fire Plan may serve as an umbrella plan for smaller communities, until communities identify more site specific detail needed for project specific planning. Therefore communities that are applying for grants, can state that they are in progress of developing a CWPP. Larimer County proactive approach with wildfire mitigation has completed some of the base steps required for a CWPP or the steps are incorporated into other County agreements.

The Larimer County Coordinating Group (USFS, CSFS, RMNP, and Larimer County) have developed talking points, a template for communities and accepted the Colorado State Forest Service minimum standards for a CWPP. See below and are available at [www.larimer.org/wildfire](http://www.larimer.org/wildfire).

## **Key Messages:**

- Is a tool used to engage federal, state, and local partners in building relationships while working toward the common goal of community wildfire protection.
- Provides the opportunity for the community to identify hazards and values at risk and to develop treatment options on private and public lands within the designated wildland urban interface zone.
- Enhances the ability to compete for potential funding and receive agency assistance to implement community established priority projects.
- Originates from the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 which directs the USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management give specific consideration to the community established priority projects on these federal lands.
- Tiers directly off of the Larimer County Fire Plan and several other associated documents, to assist communities and ease the completion process.
- A CWPP when completed is a way to evaluate hazard mitigation progress within the community.

# Template

# Community Wildfire Protection Plan

[Insert community name]  
Larimer County, Colorado

[Insert date]

## Introduction

This *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* (CWPP) was developed by [insert community name] with guidance and support from [list agencies and individuals]. This CWPP supplements several Larimer County documents referenced in Appendix A. Information in this plan will be provided at a level of specificity determined by the community and appropriate agencies.

The process of developing a CWPP can help a community clarify and refine its priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface. It can also lead community members through valuable discussions regarding management options and implications for the surrounding watershed.

## Community / Agencies / Interested Parties Involved

Representatives involved in the development of the [Insert community name] CWPP are included in the following table. Their name, organization, and roles and responsibilities are indicated below:

### **CWPP Development Team**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Roles / Responsibilities</b>
	[Insert community name] Homeowners Association and/or Community Representatives	Primary development of CWPP and decision making – community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods
	[Insert community name] Fire Department	Primary development of CWPP and decision making – community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods
	Colorado State Forest Service	Facilitation of planning process and approval of CWPP process and minimum standards. Provides input and expertise on forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.
	Larimer County Wildfire Safety Program	Provides input and expertise on hazard assessment, defensible space, and FireWise concepts.
	Relevant federal land management agencies (USFS, BLM, etc.)	Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.
	Other organizations designated by the core team (Environmental groups, utilities, recreational groups, etc.)	Provides input and expertise. This could include community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods.

### Identification of Values at Risk

Using technology and local expertise, [insert community name here] has developed a base map and narrative of the community and adjacent landscapes of interest. This map will act as a visual aid from which community members can assess and make recommendations. The base map includes, at a minimum, the following:

- Inhabited areas and values at potential risk to wildland fire
- Areas containing critical human infrastructure—such as evacuation routes, municipal water supply structures, and major power or communication lines—that are at risk from wildfire
- A preliminary designation of the community’s Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone.

### Community Risk Assessment

The purpose of the community risk assessment is to help to prioritize areas for treatment and identify the highest priority uses for available financial and human resources. This section is divided into five areas of concern:

- Fuel Hazards – An evaluation of vegetation conditions within the community and on adjacent lands. Products included are:
  - Larimer County Wildfire Safety Program – Subdivision Wildfire Hazard Review
  - Larimer County Fuel Hazard Map
- Risk of Wildfire Occurrence – An evaluation of the probability of fire ignition within the community and surrounding lands.
- Risk to homes, businesses, and essential infrastructure – An evaluation of the vulnerability of structures within the community to ignition from firebrands, radiation, and convection. Also includes an evaluation of risks to essential infrastructure such as evacuation routes, water supply structures, and power and communication lines. Products may include:
  - Structure Assessment (construction materials, structure access, defensible space, etc.)
  - Infrastructure Assessment (utilities, water, community roads, power lines, etc.)
- Risk to Other Community Values – An evaluation of risk to other community values such as wildlife habitat, recreation and scenic areas, water supplies, and landscapes of historical, economic or cultural value.
- Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability
  - Initial response to all fire, medical and associated emergencies is the responsibility of [insert local fire department name]. Wildland fire responsibilities of Larimer County, Colorado State Forest Service, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service are described in the current *Larimer County Annual Operating Plan*. All mutual aid agreements, training, equipment, and response are the responsibility of the local fire department and the agencies listed above.

### Hazard Reduction Priorities

[Attach a prioritized list of community needs regarding fuel reduction treatments within the WUI zone.

- Fuel reduction needs (Attach map identifying treatment types and ways to reduce structural ignitability.)
- Fire response needs

Action Plan

[Insert community name here] has developed and attached an action plan which identifies roles and responsibilities, funding needs and timetables listed in Hazard Reduction Priorities. The core team will meet annually to evaluate progress and mutually agree on treatment priorities.

In cooperation with the Larimer County Fire Education Group, the Larimer Fire Council, and the [insert local fire department and other supporters] the [insert community name] supports and promotes Firewise activities as outlined in the Larimer County Fire Plan. [insert community name] supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitibility through meeting Larimer County Building Code Requirements and utilizing Colorado State Forest Service FireWise Construction Fact Sheets.

The following community representatives / agencies have reviewed and support this *Community Wildfire Protection Plan*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Insert community organization name]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Insert local fire department]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fort Collins District  
Colorado State Forest Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Insert other organization or agency]

**Appendix A**

Larimer County Fire Plan a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Larimer County 2004)

Larimer County Wildfire Mitigation Plan (CSFS 1998)

Recommendations for Improving Wildfire Safety in Larimer County (CSFS 1997)

Larimer County Subdivision Wildfire Hazard Review (Larimer County/CSFS 2002)

Larimer County Annual Operating Plan (updated annually)

FEMA—Northern Colorado Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2004)

# Minimum Standards

## Colorado State Forest Service Minimum Standards for Community Wildfire Protection Plans

### 1. Participants

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

### 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,” from a homeowner’s association or mountain town to a county or metropolitan city.
- Information contained in the plan should be at a level of specificity appropriate to the size of the community being addressed. For example, data used to develop a community risk analysis or identify fuels treatment priorities for a small town would need to be at a finer scale than that use for a county.

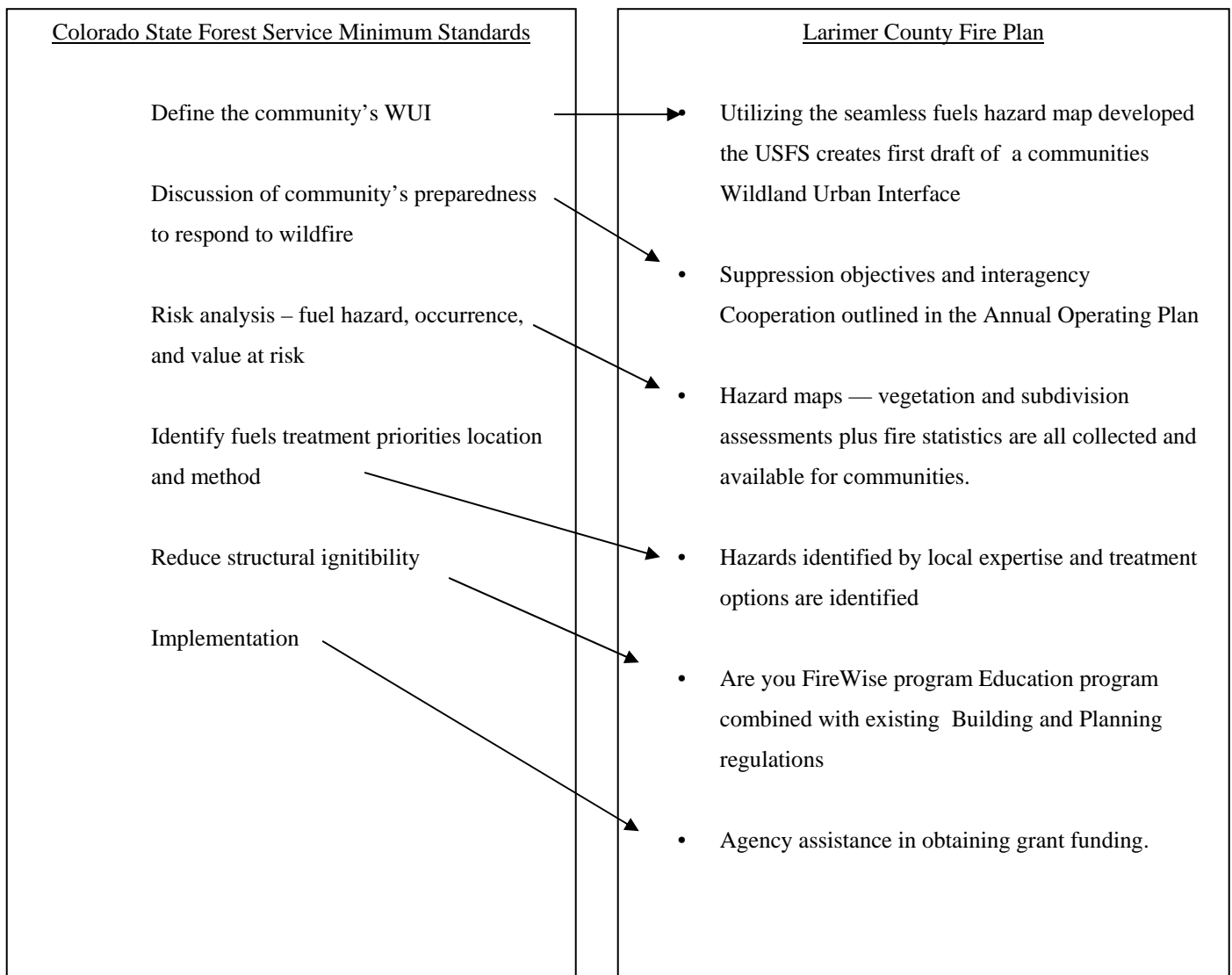
- County level plans can be used as an umbrella for plans in smaller communities, but should not be considered a substitute. A county plan will not provide the detail needed for project level planning.

**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.

## How Larimer County Fire Plan Benefits a Community

The diagram below illustrates the relationships between the Colorado State Forest Service minimum standards for a CWPP and the steps that the Larimer County Fire Plan incorporates. The intent is that communities can utilize the County Fire Plan as an umbrella document to address many of the minimum standards. However, communities are required to identify the specific community values at risk, and prioritize these values. Additionally, the community will identify areas within their community WUI that treatments are needed and prioritize those areas. Finally, communities are required to develop an action plan, that develops an implementation strategy that incorporates these prioritized values and treatment areas.



## Community Wildfire Protection Plans Completed as of 12/2008

Larimer County	Larimer	Completed (2003)	Implementing
Buckskin Heights	Larimer	Completed (2006)	In progress/ Active
East Portal Coalition	Larimer	Completed (2006)	In progress
Little Valley HOA	Larimer	Completed (2005)	In progress
Poudre Fire Authority	Larimer	Revised & Completed (2006)	In progress
Crystal Lakes	Larimer	Completed (2004)	In progress
Hermit Park Open Space	Larimer	Completed (2008)	In progress
Red Feather Lakes	Larimer	Completed (2007)	Current fuel reduction treatments
Berthoud FPD	Larimer	Completed (2007)	Current fuel reduction treatments
Poudre Canyon, Rustic	Larimer	Completed (2007)	Current fuel reduction treatments
Poudre Canyon, Manhattan Creek	Larimer	Completed (2007)	Current fuel reduction treatments
Glen Haven Area VFD	Larimer	Completed (2007)	Current fuel reduction treatments
Big Elk Meadows	Larimer	Completed (2007)	Fuels reduction projects - Current fuel reduction treatments
Poudre Canyon, Spencer Heights	Larimer	Completed (2008)	Current fuel reduction treatments
Poudre Canyon, Poudre Park	Larimer	Completed (2008)	On going
Magic Sky	Larimer	Completed (2007)	reduction treatments @ 80%
Pinewood Reservoir	Larimer	Completed (2008)	On phase 4 of treatment
Livemore FPD - Cherokee Meadows	Larimer	Completed for Cherokee Meadows	Formulating treatments

**Community Wildfire Protection Plans *in Progress* 12/08**

Loveland Fire District	Larimer	In progress	Implementing
Cedar Park/Cedar Springs	Larimer	In progress	Implementing
Estes Park	Larimer	In Progress	Implementing
Pingree Park	Larimer	In progress	
Glacier View	Larimer	Started	Implementing
Phantom Canyon / TNC	Larimer	Concept	
Red Mountain	Larimer	Concept	

*See map--Community Wildfire Protection Plans Wildland Urban Interface Zones*

## Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plans (CWP)<sup>2</sup>

Severe wildfires can significantly impact watershed function due to loss of tree and vegetative cover and soil heating that creates water-repellent slopes, which exhibit rapid runoff, severe soil erosion, and sediment movement, and organic debris flows in post-fire storms. Water infrastructures such as ditches, pipelines, and reservoirs also are directly threatened by fire, and even more so by post-fire flood events. The probability of severe wildfires is growing. The average annual number of Colorado wildfires has risen from 457 in the 1960s to more than 2,700 today, and the average cumulative acres burned has risen from 8,170 to more than 97,400.

Colorado's population is also increasing, growing by 31 percent in the 1990s—the third fastest in the United States. The current population now numbers 4.7 million and is projected to reach 8 million by 2050. More than 80 percent of the state's population resides in Colorado's 10 contiguous Front Range counties.

The seven major Front Range water providers (Aurora, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver Water, Fort Collins, Northern Colorado, and Westminster) draw their water supplies from 10 source watersheds in the mountains, which collectively provide more than two-thirds of Colorado's population with drinking water. Many cities, towns, and villages in the mountains also depend on the 10 source watersheds.

In July 2007, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation released an assessment report titled *Protecting Front Range Forest Watersheds from High-Severity Wildfires*. The report noted that the number, size, and severity of forest fires have steadily increased as the population of Colorado continues to explode and place higher demands on clean water supplies derived from source watersheds in the forest headwaters. The study concluded that climate factors and forest conditions place Front Range source watersheds at high risk from severe wildfires that threaten water supplies and the integrity of reservoirs with erosion and flood damage. The report urged land management agencies to consider working with communities—including cities along the Front Range that depend on water from the Front Range watersheds—to develop and implement critical watershed-wildfire protection plans to reduce these hazards.

The Pinchot Institute assessed risks and potential impacts of severe wildfires to source watersheds in Boulder, Clear Creek, Douglas, El Paso, Gilpin, Grand, Jefferson, Larimer, Park, and Teller counties. They found that a buildup of forest fuels, combined with increasingly flammable forest conditions caused by drought, aging trees, and beetle kill, have created unprecedented hazards to Front Range water supplies in terms of severe wildfire hazard. The analysis focused on:

- Forest wildfire hazards
- Fire regimes of the various forest types
- Land ownership patterns
- Soil erodibility and erosion hazards

- Water infrastructure in source watersheds

Substantial portions of each source watershed within the study area exhibited high to extreme wildfire hazards and high to extreme soil erodibility. Many reservoirs, pipelines, and ditches are located in zones of high to extreme forest wildfire hazards.

If watersheds are not protected through forest treatments, excessive sediment and debris loads can severely impair or destroy reservoirs as a functional part of the water-supply system. Climate change may further increase wildfire severity in the future. The only alternative to pre-fire forest treatments is to install costly post-fire structures, such as sediment basins, that require heavy annual maintenance to keep sediment and debris out of reservoirs.

Water providers can leverage public policy to reduce the impacts of severe wildfires to Front Range water supplies. One way to exercise this leverage is through coordinated development and implementation of Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plans (CWP)<sup>2</sup> for each vital source watershed. Modeled after Community Wildfire Protection Plans, these watershed plans require the support of key stakeholders and can be readily implemented. Elements of successful (CWP)<sup>2</sup>s include:

- Engagement of federal, state, and local government agencies
- Open participation of all interested parties
- Preparation of base maps showing key terrain, vegetation, and infrastructure features
- Assessment of forest fuels, wildfire hazards, and potential impacts on water supply factors
- Specifically identified treatment locations and methods of treatment
- A prioritized action plan including roles, timelines, and funding needs to reduce fuel hazards

In August 2007, the Colorado State Forest Service and U.S. Forest Service hosted a meeting with Front Range water providers to discuss the report's findings and explore ideas for joint action. All parties made a commitment to develop a strategic action plan for Front Range watersheds. In September 2007, the agencies and water providers met again and crafted the structural outlines of a partnership effort to protect Front Range source watersheds from severe wildfires.

The organizational structure of the partnership effort took shape through a series of meetings in the winter of 2007. An oversight group, the Front Range Watershed Wildfire Protection Working Group, is composed of members from 21 participating organizations and works cooperatively with the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership Roundtable. Participating organizations include:

- **Agencies:** Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Division of Emergency Management, Colorado Division of Public Health and Environment, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Douglas County Public Works, U.S. Forest Service (Rocky Mountain

Region, Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, Pike-San Isabel National Forest), U.S. Geological Survey

- **Water Providers:** Aurora Water, Boulder Public Works, Colorado Springs Utilities, Denver Water, Fort Collins Utilities, Loveland Water & Power, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Pueblo Water, Westminster Utilities, Farmers Reservoir & Irrigation Company
- **Others:** American Water Works Association, Colorado Watershed Network, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society

The Front Range Watershed Wildfire Protection Working Group has focused its efforts on developing a strategic action plan for Front Range watersheds that includes the following major actions:

1. Improving watershed data for GIS analysis and creating a model for conducting watershed assessments that identify and prioritize 6<sup>th</sup>-level watersheds for potential treatment.
2. Developing guidelines for Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plans to promote prompt and effective forest treatments that reduce wildfire hazards in critical source watersheds.
3. Developing a strategy for public education that will help build broad support and promote investments in actions that fortify forests against severe wildfires in source watersheds.

## Fire Planning Categories

### A/B/C/D Polygons

In developing the Larimer County Fire Plan, the United States Forest Service, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado State Forest Service and Larimer County identified fire categories that define the desirability of wildland fire in specific geographic areas with an emphasis on the wildland-urban interface. Each agency-identified-polygon utilized the A/B/C/D classification provided by Colorado State Forest Service Quick Plan. Polygons were drawn with careful consideration for landscape features and conditions that influence fire behavior, threat to values, and difficulty of control. This information was transferred to a geographical information systems map created by Larimer County. [See Map--Larimer County Fire Plan Strategies.](#)

- **A-polygons** are areas where wildland fire is highly undesirable. Fire has the potential to create great losses and result in high suppression costs. Within the A-polygons, fire suppression and prevention and education actions will be aggressive to keep ignitions to a minimum and restrict fires that do start to a small size. A-polygons are often wildland-urban interface or intermix communities or neighborhoods. Concentrated FireWise and related preparedness education and hazard mitigation efforts will be directed to those areas.
- **B-polygons** are areas where wildland fire is undesirable under current conditions. Fuel accumulations have created conditions under which wildland fires are likely to burn with unacceptable intensity and duration. Rapid fire spread may present serious threats to public safety or fire containment. Fire prevention and suppression efforts will be aggressive in these areas. Although under current conditions the potential for catastrophic fire is significant, appropriate fuels management programs may permit restoration of fire-adapted landscapes in which wildland fire is acceptable or desirable. Prescribed fire (and other hazard mitigation) should concentrated in the B-polygons. Over time, B-polygons might be converted to C-polygons.
- **C-polygons** are areas where wildland fire is acceptable and often desirable. These are restored fire-adapted landscapes where fire can play a constructive role without creating significant negative side effects. Prescribed fire may be used regularly in C-polygons to maintain fire-adapted conditions and achieve management objectives. Suppression of unplanned fires will be more measured with careful consideration of costs and benefits.

Prevention efforts may target certain identified high-risk activities and times of greater risk of ignition.

**D-polygons** are areas where wildland fire is acceptable or desirable and where the potential for damage is insignificant. Prevention and fuels treatment will be relatively uncommon in these areas. Fires that start may be managed to enhance natural resource or ecological values. Suppression will be limited to times where continued burning might pose some special risk to values outside the polygon.

### **Current county policy with regard to state and private lands**

Currently, on all private lands that fall within any of the A/B/C/D categories, the Larimer County Sheriff's department, with assistance of local fire departments, maintains a full suppression policy. Management of wildland fire suppression efforts is based on life safety, values at risk, tactical planning and resource availability.

## **How does a landowner/manager change categories**

Changes can be in any direction. Vegetation can increase or change in ways that control of fire becomes more difficult, or values at risk have increased. The opposite situation is also possible. Examples could include development, in growth of trees or brush, changes of management, identification of unique habitat, reduction of fuel loads. The plan will be reviewed and all factors assessed as needed. Following identification of changes, plan will be adjusted accordingly.

Land managers and property owners that desire to change the status of their property prior to planned review / revision, need to document what has changed, impacts on fire control, values at risk, relationship to adjacent polygons. Agency partners will evaluate the request and make changes if appropriate.

## **Wildland Fire Use—Agency Roles and Responsibilities**

Definition: The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined areas outlined in approved land management plans or fire management plans. Operational management is described in the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) for each fire.

A Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) for wildland fire use-- is required by the United States Forest Service and National Park Service. This plan considers resource benefits and includes:

- Objectives
- Factors affecting decision criteria for wildland fire use
- Preplanned implementation procedures
- Impacts of implementation
- Required personnel
- Critical records (approved plan, monitoring plan, periodic fire assessment, funding codes, fire history, and other records – i.e. photo points)
- Cost Tracking

### Unites States Forest Service

US Forest Service objectives are: to use fire from natural ignitions in a safe, carefully planned, and cost-effective manner to benefit, protect, maintain, and enhance natural resources; to reduce future fire suppression costs; and, to the extent possible, to restore natural ecological processes and achieve management objectives adopted in approved forest land and resource management plans.

Wildland fire use refers to the planning and implementation of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific, pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas as defined in the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and outlined in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest's Fire Management Plan.

### Rocky Mountain National Park

The National Park Service, in accordance with policies established by the Department of the Interior, utilizes the full range of strategic options to manage wildland fire, provided that selected options do not compromise firefighter and public safety, cost effectiveness, benefits, and values to be protected. Suppression of unwanted, potentially environmentally damaging wildland fires is guided by directives

provided in the RMNP Fire Management Plan. That plan also outlines the authority to manage naturally ignited wildland fires for resource benefits within areas designated for that management option. Wildland fire use is a desirable method to maintain fire-dependent ecosystems. All wildland fires, regardless of location, that do not meet wildland fire use prescriptive criteria or that are determined to be unwanted wildland fires are defined in the decision criteria checklist will receive a suppression response.

#### Colorado State Forest Service

CSFS's role is to assist citizens of Colorado with wildland fire management on private and public lands. CSFS will assist agencies and other government entities with use of naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific, pre-stated resource management objectives. Costs of projects are determined according to current CSFS policy.

#### Larimer County

At this time there is no policy in Larimer County allowing wildland fire use on private lands. Policies are being developed in conjunction with the Colorado State Forest Service. Policy and procedures are currently being developed by Larimer County and the Colorado State Forest Service. A landowners' kit is being developed that identifies a step by step process that needs to be followed to conduct a prescribed fire on private land.

## **Prescribed Fire—Agency Roles and Responsibilities**

Definition: Any fire ignited by management actions under certain predetermined conditions to meet specific resource management objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and agency requirements must be met prior to ignition.

### United States Forest Service

USFS objectives are: to use fire from management ignitions in a safe, carefully planned, and cost effective manner to benefit, protect, maintain, and enhance natural resources resources; to reduce future fire suppression costs; and, to the extent possible, to restore natural ecological processes. Prescribed fire refers to the planning and implementation of management-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific, pre-stated resource management objectives as defined in the environmental analysis and accomplished through the interdisciplinary team process. At least once a year, district staff meets with local cooperators to discuss future and current fuels projects. Typically, the meetings include the County’s fuels hazard mitigation staff and local representatives of the Colorado State Forest Service. Discussions have most often revolved around where to initiate new projects in the urban-wildland intermix.

Prior to implementation, the following requirements are fulfilled:

- Prepare and approve burn plan
- Obtain smoke permit
- Prepare communications plan
- Prepare monitoring plan
- Provide advance notification to State smoke regulators and (through the Dispatch Center) to area cooperators
- Provide advance notification to news media, elected officials and neighbors as described in the communications plan
- Complete a project file including the components required in the burn plan

### Rocky Mountain National Park

The National Park Service is responsible for planning, implementing, and monitoring fuel treatments to protect communities, municipal watersheds, park infrastructure, and resource values from negative impacts of wildland fire. A variety of fuel treatment options are utilized in Rocky Mountain National Park including, but not limited to, thinning, piling, mechanical fuel treatments, and prescribed fire.

### Colorado State Forest Service

CSFS will assist agencies and individuals with the planning and implementation of prescribed fire to accomplish specific resource management objectives. Costs to individuals and agencies of projects are determined according to current CSFS policy.

#### Larimer County

Larimer County policy only allows slash pile burning through a permit process in conjunction with the County Health Department. Policies regarding prescribed wildland fire on private lands are being drafted.

### **Colorado Prescribed Fire Council**

The Colorado Prescribed fire Council was initiated in the fall of 2007. The council is a voluntary group of prescribed fire practitioners working together to increase the appropriate use of prescribed fire in Colorado. The Council was organized based on recommendation of the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership Roundtable's initial report. The council is also participating with the national association of prescribed fire councils.

The groups mission is to identify barriers and work on removing them. Specifically the mission and objectives are;

#### **Mission**

Promote, educate and increase the appropriate, safe and legal use of prescribed fire.

#### **Objectives**

- (1) Analyze barriers of prescribed fire in Colorado, explore and promote strategies and options that will ultimately increase total number of acres treated throughout the state.
- (2) Disseminate technical information to prescribed fire practitioners.
- (3) Provide a centralized forum for prescribed fire practitioners and other concerned parties to resolve issues and communicate recommendations
- (4) Demonstrate results by measuring and communicating prescribed fire accomplishment and issues resolved on an annual basis through the *Annual Colorado State Forest Service Forest Health Report*.

The council has invited members from NGO's, State, Private practitioners and land owners, County fire managers, Federal agencies, Fire Chiefs Association Representative, and Research/University Representative. The council is currently working to ensure representation from all these organizations.

Four workgroups have been organized around barriers and needs identified by the Council members. The workgroups are:

- 1) Smoke Management, evaluating regulatory requirements of EPA rules and state implementation of regulations addressing smoke production resulting from prescribed fires.
- 2) Legislation, reviewing current state statutes and comparing with other states to determine if there are legislative issues that are barriers, evaluating other state processes to manage prescribed fire
- 3) Education, developing educational opportunities for prescribed fire practitioners, public, agency decision makers and government officials
- 4) Capacity and Staffing, evaluating opportunities to share resources across agencies, to develop additional capacity for burns on private lands.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requires air quality permits for burns conducted by NPS, USFS and CSFS. Other agencies should verify that predicted smoke production of the proposed burn does not require a CDPHE smoke permit.

## **Review/Updates**

An interagency group will review the County Fire Plan, management objectives and activities listed to ensure that objectives are being accomplished.. The County Fire Plan will be reviewed on a as needed basis. The Larimer County Emergency Services will serve as the lead agency and coordinate updates and annual reviews

# Appendix I

## Agreements

### Prevention

#### CSFS

- Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement Among United State Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado; National Park Service, Intermountain Region; Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Region; Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain Prairie Region; United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region; The State of Colorado, State Board of Agriculture, Colorado State Forest Service.
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection In Larimer County
- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Watershed Protection Agreement NEED TITLE

#### USFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- North Zone Fire Management Action Plan
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)

#### NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)

## **Preparedness**

### CSFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- North Zone 2002 Fire Management Action Plan – Fire Management Analysis Zones (FMAZ)
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)

### USFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forests Fire Management Plan
- North Zone Fire Management Action Plan – Fire Management Analysis Zones (FMAZ)
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)

### NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)

## **Mitigation**

### CSFS

- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan
- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- MOU – Good Neighbor Agreement (Colorado State)
- MOU – Development of a Collaborative Fuels Treatment Program (USFS, BLM, NPS, FWS, National Assn. of State Foresters, National Assn. of Counties)

### USFS

- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan
- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- MOU – Good Neighbor Agreement (Colorado State)
- MOU – Development of a Collaborative Fuels Treatment Program (USFS, BLM, NPS, FWS, National Assn. of State Foresters, National Assn. of Counties)

## NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan

## **Reclamation/Rehabilitation**

### CSFS

- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan
- MOU – State Conservation Districts (in progress)

### USFS

- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan
- MOU – State Conservation Districts (in progress)

## NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- National Fire Plan – Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan

## **Suppression**

### CSFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Annual Operating Plan
  - Mutual Aid Agreement
  - MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
  - MAC – Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Plan
- FTC - Fort Collins Dispatch Center Mobilization Guide
- Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forests Fire Management Plan
- North Zone 2002 Fire Management Action Plan

## USFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Annual Operating Plan
  - Mutual Aid Agreement
  - MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
  - MAC – Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Plan
- FTC - Fort Collins Dispatch Center Mobilization Guide
- Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forests Fire Management Plan
- North Zone 2002 Fire Management Action Plan

## NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Annual Operating Plan
  - Mutual Aid Agreement
  - MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
  - MAC – Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Plan
- FTC - Fort Collins Dispatch Center Mobilization Guide

## **Fiscal**

### CSFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Granger-Thye Act, as Amended (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1584.12)
- The Reciprocal Fire Act (FSM 1580.14 and FSM 1582.01)
- The Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of 12/12/75 (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1587.11)
- The Cooperative Funds Act of 6/30/14 (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1584.11)

### USFS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Granger-Thye Act, as Amended (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1584.12)
- The Reciprocal Fire Act (FSM 1580.14 and FSM 1582.01)
- The Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of 12/12/75 (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1587.11)
- The Cooperative Funds Act of 6/30/14 (FSM 1580.12 and FSM 1584.11)

NPS

- Colorado Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- MOU – Northern Front Range Wildland Fire Cooperators (State and Local)
- Fire Cost Share Agreement for CSFS, BLM, USFS, and NPS

## **Appendix II**

### [Memorandum Of Understanding](#)