



STATE OF ALASKA
DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

Alaska Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide



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Overview

This is not an all-inclusive document but a guide to assist you in creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Remember, the more agency representatives and resident leaders you include in helping you create the document, the better the plan you will have. Please note that items included as suggestions in the template are by no means inclusive of all components your community needs to work on. You will need to identify your own unique risks and create your own solutions.

Do not forget to contact state and local entities who may also be able to provide you with additional guidance about local risks and code requirements. Please refer to the reference materials added to the end of this document for additional guidance.

Executive Summary

Provide a well-researched summary of the community in question. Based on historical findings and past fire return intervals, is this community considered a fire-dependent ecosystem? In many communities across Alaska, fires are a natural part of the ecosystem and can help restore nutrients to the soil, diversify vegetation, and increase wildlife habitat. However, these same fires have potential to destroy communities and homes, cause injury and potentially loss of life. The community of INSERT NAME HERE has been identified as priority community at risk from wildfire.

Conduct a hazardous fuels assessment to determine if the fuel accumulation and threat of danger from wildfire is the community is low/moderate/high/very high. This rating is largely due to the community's location in a dense, continuous stand of black spruce. Other contributors to the high risk include the lack of natural barriers, Firewise landscaping and construction, and limited wildfire response capabilities.

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan exists to identify risks and address community concerns related to potential impacts from wildland fire. The action plan, prioritized mitigation recommendations and monitoring plan include recommendations for the community to reduce those risks identified in the CWPP.

Background

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan, as defined by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group: A plan developed in the collaborative framework established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and agreed to by state, tribal, and local government, local fire department, other stakeholders and federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the planning area.

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on Federal and non-Federal land that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure and recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability throughout the at-risk community.

A CWPP may address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, or structure protection - or all the above. CWPP, codified in the 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), established minimum standards (see sidebar) and set the State Forester as the party responsible for oversight in local jurisdictions within each state. It also required local and tribal governments, local fire departments and the state entity responsible for forest management (Alaska State Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection) to agree and 'sign off' on the contents of a completed CWPP. ¹

¹ WA-DNR. Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guidance, 2023.



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The minimum requirements for a CWPP as described in the HFRA are:

- 1. Collaboration: A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.*
- 2. Prioritized Fuel Reduction: A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.*
- 3. Treatment of Structural Ignitability: A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.*²

Introduction

In this section, describe the unique qualities of the community including its residents, history, natural environment, and relevant socio-economic factors.

Identification and Description of the Community

List community name, location (miles from closest 'hub' latitude/longitude), land management, fire protection resources, fire management option, description of the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Boundary and accompanying map images, population, structures, infrastructure, transportation, industry, natural resources, fire equipment, areas to be protected, and community priorities.

Engaging Community Stakeholders

In this section, include all individuals who live/work in the community, Tribe(s), entities that manage infrastructure (cell towers, utilities, schools and other public facilities), those who provide emergency response (fire/police, etc.), land managers (federal, such as U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and state and local representatives, etc.), granges, 4-H groups, faith-based groups, resource conservation districts and everyone who is interested in participating in creating the CWPP.

Some communities also indicate whether a representative was contacted and declined to participate. This is not an all-inclusive list. You can add or subtract contacts as needed. The individuals participating should reflect the demographics of your community. The more participants that you include, the better the plan you will have by getting a real understanding about the needs and strengths in your jurisdiction, creating a whole community planning approach that includes all members of your community.

For example, you should include individuals who have disabilities, pet and livestock owners, families, and seniors, and as much as possible, get an accurate representation of the people who live and work in the area to ensure that all their needs and strengths are included in your assessment.

² H.R.1904 - Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. (2003, December 3). CONGRESS.GOV. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/1904>



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FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Agency	Participant/Name	Address	Email
U.S. Forest Service			
Bureau of Indian Affairs			
Fish and Wildlife Service			
Bureau of Land Management			
National Park Service			
U.S. Geological Service			

LOCAL TRIBES

Name of Tribe	Representative	Address	Email

Fostering Collaboration with Diverse Partners

The first step in developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan involves the formation of a planning team composed of key stakeholders and decision makers that will steer the process. This early step is the first opportunity for members of the planning team to consider the needs of low-capacity communities and vulnerable populations that may exist within the planning area.

CWPPs are diverse in scope and scale; whereas some CWPPs encompass large areas that include many diverse communities, others are specific to individual communities that may be relatively homogenous. The planning team should assess whether its membership represents the breadth of the diverse population in the planning area.

The planning team should consider including representatives from agencies or organizations that work with low-capacity communities and vulnerable populations in the area. If direct participation on the steering committee isn't feasible, there are many other ways to engage these key informants in the planning process, such as interviews, focus groups, or the development of a vulnerable populations committee. A vulnerable populations committee can serve as a forum for local citizens and representatives of social service and public health agencies and community organizations to discuss issues facing the most vulnerable members of their community. If no such committee exists, the CWPP team could create a subcommittee to help in the planning process and possibly continue meeting as part of an ongoing monitoring and evaluation effort.³

³ Engaging Socially Vulnerable Populations in Community Wildfire Protection Plans, 2008.



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Developing Targeted Goals and Objectives

Goals help to establish the priorities of the planning team and guide the development of the CWPP. Early in the process, a set of broad goals helps to frame the issues that the CWPP will address and organize the effort to gather information and create more specific objectives within each goal. As the planning team conducts research, receives community input, and deliberates the critical wildfire issues, it should include goals and objectives that address the needs of low-capacity and vulnerable populations.

Identifying Vulnerable Populations & Underserved Communities

Wildfire can pose disproportionate hazards to vulnerable populations. Policies and programs to increase resilience to wildfires may not reach or benefit everyone equally, and access to resources to prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfire events can also be uneven. As wildfire activity increases, understanding these dynamics is critical. New knowledge, ideas and efforts must focus on integrating equity and environmental justice into the management wildfire hazard, response, and recovery on the ground.

All communities risk tremendous losses in the face of wildfires, but some communities risk losing more of their assets when renters are displaced and have no means to recover their valuables; and elderly and disabled residents confront additional threats when responding to events and caring for themselves and their families. Catastrophic wildfire can result in the loss of livelihood for residents and communities, including loss of jobs, natural resource and tourism industries, and other economic opportunities in the community.

Some communities, however, lack the human capital and social capacity to successfully develop and implement these plans on their own. Rural, low-income, and underserved communities may lack financial resources, staff, or even volunteers to work hand-in-hand with public agencies to identify high risk areas and recommend strategies for fire protection. Technical assistance and direct education and outreach can make a great difference in assisting these communities. Furthermore, many CWPP processes are multi-jurisdictional. Counties and municipalities engaged in CWPP development and implementation have an opportunity to consider how their plans can best meet the needs of low-capacity communities.⁴

Alaska Native Tribes

Alaska Native Tribes have a unique relationship with the U.S. federal and state governments where Tribes have political status and are recognized as sovereign governments. This government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations sets Tribal members apart from other communities of color. As part of a state government entity, it is the responsibility to establish, partner and consult with Alaska Native Tribes. In an effort to foster equity, states must respect, uphold and protect Tribal sovereignty to honor the government-to-government relationship.⁵

In Tribal engagement, one the best ways to begin is to establish yourself as a helper – providing hands-on resources and support and knowing when to step aside. Engaging with Tribes is not a transactional relationship; in our work, we should be flexible and open to how they want to connect and be served.

⁴ Engaging Socially Vulnerable Populations in Community Wildfire Protection Plans, 2008.

⁵ [Alaska Region | Indian Affairs](#)



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Guiding Values/Principles

When engaging with Tribal Nations and communities, there are unwritten rules, norms and values that usually govern the behavior of the Tribal community. Below are a few guiding values to help understand Tribal culture and assist in better connecting with American Indian/Alaska Native Tribes and families.

- **Relationship** – In Tribal culture, relationships with each other and the natural world are incredibly valuable. How we relate to each other matters as it requires energy, attention and balance.
- **Reciprocity** – Life is about what we give back. In a healthy relationship, actions are not one sided but balanced through equal distribution of giving back.
- **Interconnectedness** – whether we are aware or not, everything in the universe is connected. Each decision, action or inaction impacts our relationship with all things. **Strengths-based** – Tribal perspective often emphasizes a “cup half full” mentality where abundance is valued over deficiencies and optimism is valued over pessimism. ⁶

Partnerships with Tribal Nations

Within Alaska are a dynamic and diverse mix of Tribes, Tribal organizations and natural features. The entire state of Alaska falls under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Region, with the small exception of the Annette Island Reserve, which falls under the Northwest Region. More than 180,000 Tribal members make up the 229 Federally Recognized Tribes under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Regional Office - from Ketchikan in the Southeast Panhandle to Barrow on the Arctic Ocean and from Eagle on the Yukon Territory border to Atka in the Aleutian Chain. These Tribes are sovereign nations with their own separate governments and territories. The Tribes have the power to protect the health and safety of their members and govern their land. Each Tribe has its own distinct culture and history. Talking with one Tribe does not mean you have engaged with all Tribes, or that their opinions and beliefs represent any other Tribe. ⁷

Importance of Engaging with Tribes

The Department of Natural Resources is participating in an executive branch effort to improve the relationship between the state and Alaska's 229 federally recognized tribes. In 2016, tribal liaison duties were established in DNR and other state agencies as part of this effort. The DNR tribal liaison works with department staff, the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council, and other state agencies to address issues of interest to tribes, tribal consortia, and ANCSA corporations and their affiliates. ⁸ Additional duties of the tribal liaison are described in [Administrator Order 300](#). ⁹ However, engaging with Tribal Nations is not only a legal requirement – engagement is equally important for establishing partnerships with the Tribal community and informing ODHS policy, programing, implementation, and evaluation. Tribes and Tribal members have cultural knowledge and wisdom that U.S. state and federal systems have neither traditionally nor intentionally sought, valued or incorporated into human service efforts. Because of this, many of our services are not built to support Tribal members. When we build relationships with the Tribes, we can strengthen our supports for all the people we serve.

What is Tribal engagement?

At minimum, Tribal engagement means intentionally reaching out and making a connection with a Tribal Nation and/or family. A connection means you have established communication, and both parties understand the purpose of the interaction. Sending a single email, leaving a voice message or communicating through a third party is not considered effective engagement. Consultation is an enhanced form of communication that emphasizes trust, respect and shared responsibility. It is an open

⁶ [tribal-toolkit.pdf](#)

⁷ [Alaska Region | Indian Affairs](#)

⁸ [Alaska Department of Natural Resources](#)

⁹ [Administrative Order No. 300 - Mike Dunleavy](#)



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and free exchange of information and opinion among parties, which leads to mutual understanding and comprehension.

Biases and stereotypes intentionally and unintentionally affect our relationships.

Stereotypes about Native people are everywhere – in movies, television, music, politics and more. It is important to have awareness of these stereotypes and how they might affect your **implicit biases** when interacting with Tribal members.

Checking your bias

- Avoid basing your decision-making on what you've heard, learned in school, seen in media or even on norms in your community. Even if a certain belief or approach is considered normal or okay in the dominant culture it might still be hurtful.
- Don't allow preconceived notions about Tribal people and culture to affect your perspective.
- Consider that your demeanor, subtle behaviors and insinuations could become **microaggressions** (or overt aggression) to the people we are meant to support and serve.
- Words have power. When you seek to use someone's preferred terminology you can minimize harm. If you use language that is called out or identified as hurtful, own up to the mistake and learn from it.

You probably know there are stereotypes about government workers too. You may have felt distrust from community members simply because they know you are part of "the system." While you may not have directly contributed to the negative experience that confirmed their bias, your thoughtful, active and humble approach to interactions with Tribal members can avoid perpetuating stereotypes and build relationships.

We need to be mindful of power dynamics between state government and the Tribes.

The relationship between state and federal government has been *paternalistic* toward Tribes and Tribal members, with authoritative power being leveraged against Tribes. This has created a power imbalance in favor of state and federal government. Paternalism has restricted freedom and Tribal voice reminiscent of a ward/prisoner relationship, where surveillance rather than collaboration is used. Gestures like asking permission to enter someone's home or asking permission to take notes during a conversation are two ways we can demonstrate respect and acknowledge agency.

Partnership with Tribal Nations and families requires early engagement

Meaning you're not contacting the Tribe only when there's a fire, storm or conflict. Good partnerships are not forged as an afterthought but are intentional. Consistent, ongoing engagement with Tribal families will help maintain a good relationship and ensure we provide the best supports to those receiving services.

Partnership could look like...

- A rapport or a relationship between Tribes and the state
- Shared understanding of issues and values
- Established working relationships that guide how you'll work together
- Deciding together what the partnership will look like

Commit to cultural humility

Cultural humility is a humble and respectful attitude toward people of other cultures that requires the individual to go on a lifelong journey of self-reflection, personal critique and acknowledgement of implicit biases. Cultural humility involves working to better understand ourselves, why we think in certain ways and believe certain facts. In the process, we are better equipped to recognize power dynamics and



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imbalances, fix those imbalances, and develop stronger partnerships. With cultural humility, we become learners, rather than experts.

Be mindful of how you show up

Being intentional about the number of ODHS staff present in an interaction, coming to the conversation with a small and respectful gift when appropriate, and approaching the interaction with a genuine and sincere attitude can help convey mindfulness and positive intent in your effort to connect. This is not a situation where you can “fake it until you make it.”

Practice inclusivity

If a Tribal member or family wants to include extended family or community members, we should honor this request. While the dominant culture in the U.S. considers the nuclear family (two parents and a child or children) to be the most important, many Tribal communities place a higher value on extended family involvement and community connection. Extended family could also mean non-blood kin/relatives.

Have transparent conversations

Explain why you are meeting and what role ODHS is there for. Be honest and upfront about potential outcomes or difficult news so no one feels surprised or misled. Remember to continue establishing yourself as a helper as families might have other ideas about why you’re there.

Avoid making promises that can’t be followed through on

Historically, Tribes have been promised so much by the government and unfortunately many of those promises have gone unfulfilled. This has contributed to past and ongoing mistrust of government. Instead of making promises, set realistic goals and timelines.

Be flexible in your arrangements

Whenever possible, we need to be working with the Tribal member or family’s timeline and availability, not prioritizing what works best for staff or creating our own timelines. In Tribal culture there is a belief that things will happen or unfold when they are ready to. This might mean change or decisions may not align with ODHS timelines.

Practice reciprocity

Reciprocity is a Tribal practice where exchanging things with others benefits the relationship or community. While ODHS’ mission is to serve people living in Alaska, this is not a one-way street. There are many ways our services and staff benefit from engagement with Tribes and Tribal members. Have a conversation to identify where we can be helpful for families and Tribal partners such as technical assistance or connecting them to additional services. Make room to hear their voice and acknowledge the value of their involvement.

Get comfortable with being uncomfortable

Engaging with Tribal members in this way may be a new experience for many staff, or at least a new approach. It can also take time to build relationships, so connecting may feel awkward or uncomfortable at first. Mistakes will likely be made, and that is okay if you make a meaningful attempt to repair any harm caused. What matters is you’re putting yourself out there to better engage with Tribal families.

Face-to-face interaction

As good as technology has gotten, face-to-face interaction is still the most effective and valuable way to connect with Tribal members/partners. While virtual meetings provide access, your physical presence will



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be noticed by Tribes. Try to prioritize in-person invitations—the time you take to travel demonstrates your commitment and is appreciated.

Giving and receiving gifts

Small tokens, food and offers to attend a meal or event are very valuable gestures and should be accepted when possible. In Tribal culture, gifting items that are handmade is a sign of respect and appreciation.¹⁰

Wildland Fire History (including maps)

This is where you document research completed before your community meeting that you have made available to everyone participating. This information helps everyone better understand the strengths and needs of the community and provides facts to speak to during your meeting. Be sure to include maps with your plan.

Check out the USFS's brand-new risk-mapping tool for assistance with mapping and identifying community risk.

1. Fire history: The USGS provides some information. You can also work with your state forester or USFS, U.S. Park Service or DOI representatives to give you guidance if they are available. You can also draw your own design on a local map. It is important to understand fire history because sometimes wildfires will burn periodically in the same area. It is also important to understand what areas have burned in the past because wildfire may burn more intensely in an area that has not burned for many years. Additional fire history information can also be found on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's "All Lands Wildfire Risk Portal." This webpage also has information that can help you in the process of crafting creative wildfire safety project solutions.
2. Use a topographic map with assets at risk identified. Use USGS maps. These maps can be downloaded free of charge.
3. Use vegetation fuels class maps. Check with Landfire and/or a local forester.
4. Use research about the demographics of the local population to identify capabilities and better understand how to work with and for the community. For example, is there a large number of residents who would need assistance in the event of an evacuation due to an aging population or residents without cars? Will educational/outreach materials need to be produced in more than one language or use infographics? Check out City-Data.
5. Additional research tools that can help with data to assist communities located in much more rural areas are provided by Headwater's Economics.
6. You may want to include a map identifying where fire and other emergency services buildings and resources are located, including fire stations and hydrant/water source locations.¹¹

¹⁰ [Ethics Information for Public Employees \(AS 39.52\) - Alaska Department of Law](#)

¹¹ [Creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, FEMA.](#)



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Risk Assessment

Assets at Risk

It is here where you define the conditions of the infrastructure/homes at a broad scale. It is highly encouraged that you consult a local, federal or state entity and/or a wildfire mitigation specialist to assist you.

You want to take a comprehensive look at conditions that are common to homes in the area; remember, you are not individually assessing each home but rather are looking at the community as a whole. If the community you are assessing is large, you may want to create sections for the various neighborhoods and homeowners associations (HOAs), identifying home components that lend themselves to home ignition from embers in each neighborhood depending on the type of home construction found there.

Research has shown that most homes/structures ignite and burn during a wildfire because of construction components that lend themselves to easily ignite and because of poor landscape maintenance around the home. As you identify common characteristics of homes typically found in the area and define areas of home/infrastructure construction that could contribute to structure ignition, you can identify actions that can reduce your risk of loss. Some of these design features could include things such as wood shake shingle roofs; stucco roofs without bird stops; gutters that are full of material because of overhanging trees; open eaves; decks with material stored underneath; dry, dead vegetation and trash (human treasures) immediately next to homes and outbuildings; and others, focusing on the first 5 feet.

For assistance, refer to the U.S. Fire Administration flyer, the Institute for Business and Home Safety, the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Self-Assessment Tool and the National Fire Protection Association.¹²

¹² Creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, FEMA.



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Example

Below is an example table to help you. This is not all inclusive; please add your own identified potential ignition sources.

Home structure component	Potential ignition source	Home maintenance suggestion
Decks	Material stored underneath.	Remove and place in closed shed, replace, or treat with ignition-resistant materials.
Gutters	Leaves and pine needles in gutters.	Clean frequently, especially before fire season.
Eaves	Large gaps around.	Caulk or fill and paint over.
Vents	Open unscreened.	Screen with metal screen of about 1/8 inch or replace with baffled or other fire-resistant vents.
Roofs	Poorly maintained, made of wood shakes or other combustible material.	Replace roofs with ignition-resistant designs (e.g., Class A, metal).
Home siding	Poorly maintained, made of wood shakes or other combustible material.	Replace home siding with ignition-resistant designs (e.g., stucco).
Windows and doors	Single-pane windows, gaps around doors.	Replace windows with double-pane, tempered glass. Replace doors with fire-code rated ones. Seal gaps around windows and doors to keep embers out.
Landscape around homes	Overgrown with weeds; dry, dead vegetative matter; large flammable bushes under windows.	Pay special attention to make sure the area within the first 5 feet of the home is lean and green; remove open trash receptacles, building materials and trash from next to the home.
Stucco roof	No bird stops at the ends.	Clean debris such as nests from openings and cement ends or add bird stops.
Fencing	Flammable construction attached to the home.	Replace at least 5 feet of the flammable fence that attaches to the home.



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Example

Below is an example table to help you. This is not all inclusive; please add your own identified potential ignition sources.

Outbuildings/ infrastructure	Potential ignition source	Maintenance suggestion
Sheds	Gas cans outside.	Store inside locked shed, preferably inside a locker.
Chicken coops	No door; hay and flammable material inside.	Install door.
Pump house	Dead vegetation around outside.	Remove all flammable material from around the building focusing on the first 5 feet and improving landscaping within 100 feet.

Address the condition of community buildings such as schools and churches. Also examine the condition of the vegetation along the roads to improve evacuation needs. Are there at least two separate ways out of the community?

Identify updates needed to critical infrastructure such as public utilities. For example, if power to the area went out due to wildfire, would the local water facility still be able to supply water? Perhaps there is a need for an alternatively powered generator. Is there an area cleared around power poles? (This is something community members could work on in conjunction with the local utility company.)

Example

Below is an example table to help you. This is not all inclusive; please add your own identified potential ignition sources.

Critical infrastructure	Potential hazard	Maintenance suggestion
Roads	Roads are not properly marked with signs.	Install metal reflective signs that will make it easier for emergency responders in smoky conditions.
Fire station	Vents are not screened on the bottom of the building and doors are not properly sealed.	Install 1/8-inch screen, and seal around doors to prevent embers from entering the building.
Power poles	Dead vegetation growing around and tree limbs hanging over.	Work with the local utility company to remove all flammable material from around the power pole, especially within the first 5 feet, removing tree limbs hanging over power lines.

It is important to include road departments and public works departments to address other infrastructure conditions. Another consideration is if bridges are load-tested to ensure that fire trucks can use them safely. Are roads adequately identified with metal reflective signage that would not burn during a wildfire?



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YOUR COMMUNITY/FIRE JURISDICTION

Assets at Risk

Home structure Component	Potential ignition source	Home maintenance suggestion



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Measuring and Incorporating Community Capacity in Risk Assessments

Step 1. Collaborate!

Include social service agencies and other organizations representing low-capacity communities and vulnerable populations on the CWPP planning team and throughout the public involvement process.

A rigorous outreach effort should be made to include representatives from all communities and ensure that the concerns of low-capacity communities are addressed. Social service providers and other organizations that work with low-capacity communities can bring valuable insights to the planning process about the populations they serve. Participants should serve as liaisons between the collaborative group and the interests they represent and, when appropriate, advocate within their constituencies for the CWPP action plan. Partnerships developed in the planning phase aid in the implementation of the CWPP.

Identify goals and objectives related to low-capacity communities.

The core CWPP planning team is responsible for identifying the goals and objectives that will guide the development of the CWPP. Making certain that these decision makers represent and consider the variety of communities and capacities within the planning area is an important step in ensuring that the needs of low-capacity communities will be addressed.

Seek partnerships to accomplish shared goals.

Some goals in a CWPP may complement other community objectives, including natural resource education, public safety, and economic development. Seek opportunities to leverage resources to achieve common goals, such as partnering with a local scout troop to do defensible space work for elderly residents.

Step 2. Incorporate Community Capacity Indicators in Risk Assessment

Incorporate existing data about vulnerable populations.

The planning team can utilize many existing data sources to identify and evaluate potentially vulnerable populations and low-capacity communities within the planning area. Data from the US Census and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are frequently used to assess disaster vulnerability associated with socioeconomic condition.

Develop a list of local indicators to identify low-capacity communities.

A variety of socioeconomic measures may be used as indicators of capacity and vulnerability. Examples include poverty, employment, and education level. When developing a wildfire risk assessment, involve community and social services institutions to identify which indicators are most useful for understanding the particular issues that relate to managing wildfire risk. Representatives from low-capacity communities may have valuable information to provide to a wildfire risk assessment, but may be difficult to reach via traditional efforts, e.g., mailings, TV announcements, newspaper. To contact these community representatives, consider using local religious institutions, civic organizations, or landowner associations.¹³

Develop a map to identify low-capacity communities in high-risk areas.

Community risk assessments are used in CWPPs to identify areas with the greatest risk to wildfire. Including a map that illustrates the location of low-capacity communities can highlight locations where social vulnerability and biophysical risk creates the potential for a wildfire disaster.¹⁴

¹³ [NASF briefing 6-1-06.indd](#)

¹⁴ [NASF briefing 6-1-06.indd](#)



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Step 3. Plan for Vulnerable Populations

Engage social service providers in the assessment of issues and opportunities that are relevant to vulnerable populations.

Once the planning team has identified vulnerable populations, the next step is to understand which strategies will be effective in addressing their needs. Social service providers can bring useful insights to the planning process from their experience working with these populations.

Capitalize on opportunities to improve emergency response capacity.

Building emergency response capacity for wildfire disasters can improve the overall capacity to respond and recover from other types of natural and technological disasters. The identification of opportunities for synergy increases the potential to access local, state, and federal resources that aren't directly related to wildfire. For example, FEMA grants for evacuation or mapping could be used to address wildfire and other natural hazards.

Provide technical assistance, grant resources, and other support to high risk, low-capacity communities.

Low-capacity communities may lack the resources or ability to engage in projects to reduce structural vulnerability. Special funding or technical assistance may be needed to help low-capacity communities create defensible space around their homes, improve accessibility for emergency responders, and install fire resistant building materials.

Monitor and evaluate efforts

Monitoring and evaluation are critical to helping communities identify challenges, celebrate successes, and strengthen future efforts. The *2008 Community Wildfire Protection Plan Evaluation Guide*¹⁵ describes the importance of monitoring at local, regional, and national levels and includes indicators that measure specific efforts to reduce risk in low-capacity communities. These measures are included in the *2008 Community Guide to Developing and Implementing Community Wildfire Protection Plans*.¹⁵

¹⁵ *Community Guide to Developing and Implementing Community Wildfire Protection Plans*. Resource Innovations. June 2008. <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/communities/index.shtml>.



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Forest Health/Fire Fuels Class

Using Landfire or other data and experienced foresters and/or wildfire mitigation specialists, examine the conditions of vegetation within and surrounding the community starting with landscaping surrounding the homes. Identify the general health of the natural area. Are there problems with invasive plants? Were there large storms in the area, and is there a lot of deadfall? Is there a need for prescribed fire, mechanical or chemical treatments to reduce fuel load?

Be sure that you refer to experienced, credentialed specialists. A certified arborist can help with landscaping questions surrounding homes, and a certified forester (agency representative or paid professional) may be someone to whom you refer to help you better understand what projects you can work on surrounding the community that can improve forest health.

Below is a sample. Your list will identify local forest health issues within and surrounding the community.

This list is just a sample. You will have your own unique insect and disease issues that you will need to identify with the help of credentialed specialists for guidance. The guidance to restore a resilient landscape may require mechanical work, prescribed fire or other methods implemented by qualified professionals. Again, if you are completing a CWPP for a large area, you may want to break up these forest/landscape health issues identified by neighborhood or HOA.¹⁶

¹⁶ Creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, FEMA.



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Health issue identified	Professional guidance	Action to improve forest/ landscape health
Insect issue example: oak mortality due to goldspotted oak borer	If located around homes, arborist/forester for landscape along roads and surrounding community.	
Invasive plant issue example: cheatgrass	If located around homes, arborist/forester range specialist for landscape along roads and surrounding community.	
Flammable vegetation issue example: deadfall due to windstorms	Depending on location: if surrounding homes, community effort; if located in natural area, consult forester or land manager.	
Health issue identified	Professional guidance	Action to improve forest/ landscape health
Invasive plant issue example: overgrowth of invasive bamboo	If located around homes, arborist/forester range specialist for landscape along roads and surrounding community.	
Invasive plant issue example: invasive broom	Depending on location: if surrounding homes, community effort; if located in natural area, consult forester or land manager.	Example: Two important ways to manage brooms are mechanical removal and treatment with herbicides. Broom spreads through seed dispersal, so maintaining a healthy natural vegetation and reducing soil disturbance will minimize the spread of broom.
Unhealthy landscape issue example: overgrown woodlots between homes	Depending on location: if surrounding homes, community effort; if located in natural area, consult forester or land manager.	



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Forest/landscape health issues

Health issue identified	Professional guidance	Action to improve forest/landscape health



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Fuels Assessment Inside Community

Below is an example table to help you. This is not all inclusive; please input community specific data.

Table 1: Risk/Hazard Analysis (Inside and within 1 mile of the community)

FUEL Types (predicted fire behavior based on historic summertime weather with hot, dry conditions)	Wildland Fire Hazard	Percent of Area
Black Spruce Boreal Forest (CFFDRS=C2) rate of spread: high / intensity: high / spotting potential: high	High	40%
Black Spruce Lichen Woodland (CFFDRS=C1) rate of spread: moderate /intensity: moderate / spotting potential: high	High	10%
Grass (cured tall standing or matted; CFFDRS = O1a/O1b) rate of spread: high / intensity: moderate / spotting potential: low	Moderate	5%
Mixed Boreal Forest (white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch; CFFDRS=M1) rate of spread: moderate / intensity: moderate / spotting potential: moderate	Moderate	40%
Hardwood Forest (includes aspen & birch; CFFDRS use D1 or M1, M2) rate of spread: low / intensity: low / spotting potential: low	Low	2%
Deciduous Brush (includes willow & alder) rate of spread: low / intensity: low / spotting potential: low	Low	3%
Total Hazard Inside and Within 1 Mile of the Community	High	

Inside the Community: Based on potential ignition sources and surrounding fuel types, the risk of fire spreading from within the community is **high**. Fire starts within the community are mostly likely to be human caused. The areas of highest concern for accidental ignitions are residential burn barrels and the landfill. Accidental ignitions could likely be extinguished by locals if they had the necessary equipment. The most prevalent fuel type within the community is black spruce, which has the potential for moderate to extreme fire behavior. In 2008, a fire that started at the landfill burned over 500 acres before being suppressed by AFS initial attack resources. Luckily, the dominant winds from the Southwest pushed the fire away from the town and toward Venetie lake. If they had been reversed, it could have been catastrophic for the community.

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¹⁷ Venetie CWPP, 2022



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Fuels Assessment Outside Community

Below is an example table to help you. This is not all inclusive; please input community specific data.

Table 2: Risk/Hazard Analysis (1-10 miles outside the community)

FUEL Types (predicted fire behavior based on historic summertime weather with hot, dry conditions)	Wildland Fire Hazard	Percent of Area
Black Spruce Boreal Forest (CFFDRS=C2) rate of spread: high / intensity: high / spotting potential: high	High	45%
Black Spruce Lichen Woodland (CFFDRS=C1) rate of spread: moderate /intensity: moderate / spotting potential: high	High	5%
Grass (cured tall standing or matted; CFFDRS = O1a/O1b) rate of spread: high / intensity: moderate / spotting potential: low	Moderate	5%
Mixed Boreal Forest (white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch; CFFDRS=M1) rate of spread: moderate / intensity: moderate / spotting potential: moderate	Moderate	35%
Hardwood Forest (includes aspen & birch; CFFDRS use D1 or M1, M2) rate of spread: low / intensity: low / spotting potential: low	Low	5%
Deciduous Brush (includes willow & alder) rate of spread: low / intensity: low / spotting potential: low	Low	5%
Total Hazard 1-10 miles Outside the Community	High	

Outside Community: Within 10 miles of Venetie, the potential for large fires to impact the community is **high**. The Teedriinjik river and the 2019 Chandalar river fire scar offer some protection to fire approaching from the south. However, much of the community is surrounded by black spruce. It is especially exposed to the north of the Teedriinjik river and west of Venetie lake, where continuous black spruce extends for miles from the village. To the east of Venetie lake, smaller continuous spruce stands are interspersed with a spruce-deciduous mix, resulting in a moderate to high risk in that direction. Local wildfire response resources have minimal capabilities for any fire start located one mile or more off the road system. If a wildland fire exceeds the capabilities of the local wildfire response resources, AFS initial attack resources are available from Ft. Wainwright with a deployment time of at least an hour.

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¹⁸ Venetie CWPP, 2022



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Barriers Assessment

Below is an example table to help you. This is not all inclusive; please input community specific data.

Table 3: Barrier Rating Chart

Barrier Type	*Rating
Water (may include lakes, rivers, streams and sloughs)	Moderate
Natural features (may include barren landscape, rock, topographic features)	Moderate
Human-made features (may include airstrips or other clearings)	Moderate
Overall Barrier Rating	Moderate

***Barrier Rating Chart Key:**

Low Fire Danger: The community has a barrier(s) that provides thorough protection from fuels less than one mile away in at least three cardinal directions. An example of this would be a small community sandwiched between a major river and a runway or a community on an island.

Moderate Fire Danger: The community has a barrier(s) that provides thorough protection from fuels less than one mile away in at least two cardinal directions. Communities may have multiple barriers affecting a rating. Examples are airstrips separating a community from significant outside fuels, communities set amidst certain vegetation types or some communities situated on major rivers.

High Fire Danger: Any barriers that exist provide protection from fuels less than one mile away in fewer than two cardinal directions. Examples of insignificant barriers are small streams or sloughs with narrow riparian zones situated amid highly flammable fuel types.

Natural: The braided channels of the Teedriinjik River run northwest to southeast directly to the south of Venetie. In combination with the 2019 Chandalar River fire scar, the river provides good protection from fire approaching from the south. Venetie Lake is a large body of water and offers some protection northeast of the village.

Constructed: Fuel breaks encompassing the community were constructed in 2021 by the Alaska Fire Service's North Star Fire Crew. These fuel breaks could be used in the event of a fire approaching the village from the north side of the Teedriinjik. The existing fuel breaks will need maintenance to maintain their effectiveness over time.

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¹⁹ Venetie CWPP, 2022



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Fire Protection Resources

Below is an example table to help you. This is not all inclusive; please input community specific data.

Table 4: Fire Protection Resources Response Chart

Response Time	Type of Resource (Initial and Extended Attack)	Risk	Overall Risk
Initial attack resources are more than 75 minutes away and adequate extended attack resources are more than 12 hours away.	Hand Crews, Engines, Incident Command Teams, and Air resources.	High	High
Adequate initial attack resources are 30-75 minutes away and adequate extended attack can be in place in 8-12 hours.	Smoke Jumpers, Air Tankers, Air Attack.	Moderate	
Adequate initial attack resources are less than 30 minutes away and adequate extended attack can be in place in less than 8 hours.	Local Volunteer Fire Department Engines, Personnel, Water Tenders and Dozers.	Low	

The community rates **high** based on limited wildland fire capabilities, including trained personnel and equipment available. Wildland fire response is the responsibility of the BLM Alaska Fire Service’s Upper Yukon Zone, based out of Fairbanks. Venetie is located approximately 150 miles north of Fairbanks and 45 miles north of Ft. Yukon. Depending on the type of aircraft, the response time from Fairbanks is 1 to 1.5 hours and is 15 to 20 minutes from Fort Yukon. Fort Yukon is only staffed during times of high fire danger or to support fires that are staffed in the region. The initial attack resources responding from Fairbanks can include smokejumpers, helicopters, air attack, and airtankers. There are some trained firefighters who reside in Venetie. However, there is no local organized fire response or large-scale firefighting equipment (engines or pumps). To staff a fire in Venetie, equipment and personnel would need to be flown from Fairbanks or Fort Yukon. Extended attack resources are more than 12 hours away.

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²⁰ Venetie CWPP, 2022



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Community Firewise Assessment

**Table 5: Community Firewise Rating for Defensible Space Assessment
(Overall Community Assessment, Not Individual Structures)**

*Alaska Firewise Standards	Low Over 65% of homesites and community buildings meet standard	Moderate 35-65% of homesites and community buildings meet standard	High 35% or less of homesites and community buildings meet standard
Landscaping			High
Construction			High
Water Supply		Moderate	
Access		Moderate	
Clear of Flammables/ Refuse/Debris (flammables stored properly & area cleared)			High
Overall Rating			High

***Alaska Firewise Standards**

Landscaping: Clearing of flammable vegetation at least 30 feet around the home for firefighting equipment; coniferous brush and dead/overhanging branches are removed; trees are pruned 6-10 feet above the ground; lawn is mowed and watered regularly, and ladder fuels are removed from the yard; remaining trees are spaced at least 30 feet apart at crowns; garden equipment (hoses and hand tools) are kept on the property.

Construction Guidelines: Home is made of fire-resistant or non-combustible construction materials (especially important for roofing); vents are covered with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch; at least two ground-level doors exist; at least two means of escape exist in each room.

Water Supply Guidelines: Home has a reliable water source, 3 to 4 sprinklers and enough hose to circle the home.

Access Guidelines: Access roads are at least two lanes wide and clearly marked; ample turnaround space exists for vehicles/fire equipment.

Clear of Flammables/Refuse/Debris Guidelines: Combustible materials are not located in the yard or under decks or porches; firewood is stored away (at least 30 feet) from the house; all debris or refuse is picked up regularly.

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²¹ Venetie CWPP, 2022

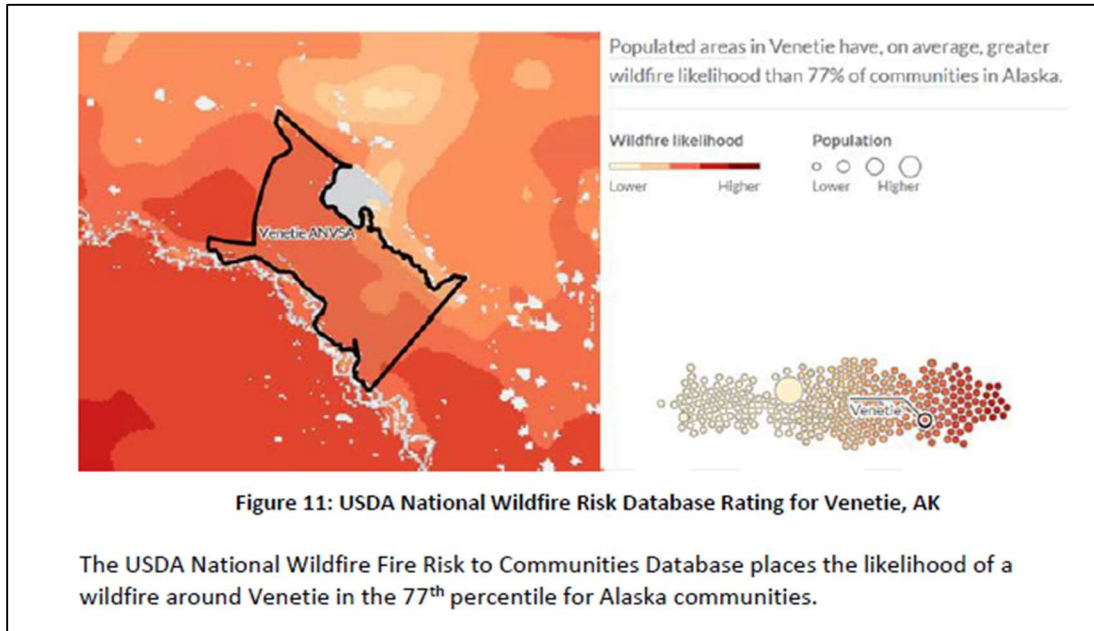


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National Wildfire Risk Database

Below is an example to help you. This is not all inclusive; please input community specific data.



Overall Rating

Below is an example table to help you. This is not all inclusive; please input community specific data.

Table 6: Overall Rating

Category	Rating
Fuels Risk/Hazard inside community	High
Fuels Risk/Hazard outside community	High
Barriers	Moderate
Fire Protection	High
Community Firewise Rating	High
NFRC Database-Wildfire Likelihood	High (77 th percentile)
Final Rating:	High

The overall Risk Assessment rating for Venetie is **High**, based on the fuels hazards, barriers, fire protection resources, community firewise rating, and NFRC wildfire likelihood rating.

²² Venetie CWPP, 2022



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Action Plan & Prioritized Mitigation Recommendations

Monitoring Plan

A community develops and implements a fire plan to reduce its risk from wildfire. Given the time, effort, and money dedicated to a CWPP, it is critical to monitor and evaluate the outcome of the plan. Over time, communities grow and change, as do the forests around them. The risk of wildfire to communities will change as they change; the plans and strategies to reduce risk must also change. An effort to monitor and evaluate CWPPs will provide insights to a community and identify whether the plan is on the right track or if there are changes that should be made to the implementation process. The evaluation should closely examine collaborative relationships, fire-related policies, and the plan's ability to achieve intended goals and objectives.

A critical outcome of Community Wildfire Protection Plans concerns the change in fire behavior that occurs because of the number and types of fuels treatments that are priorities identified within the CWPP. Community Wildfire Protection Plan leaders, land management agencies, or a team of project partners can collect data that will help policy makers measure the effectiveness of programs and evaluate whether goals and objectives within HFRA and NFP are being met. The goal of effective monitoring and evaluation will be to learn from successes and failures and target resources and efforts strategically to maximize risk reduction and forest restoration. Local-level monitoring and evaluation efforts are the keys to improving processes at each scale, from local efforts to the national level.

Establishing a clear schedule for monitoring accomplishments and evaluating outcomes will ensure a dynamic plan that responds to the needs of the community. Creating an annual progress report is one way to ensure that accomplishments and challenges are captured throughout the implementation process. A full evaluation may be conducted on a more periodic basis. One consideration is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency requires updates of Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans every five years. Because a CWPP often plays a role in a natural hazard mitigation plan, coordinating the evaluation and updates of the two plans could be beneficial and an efficient use of resources for the community.

The goal of effective monitoring and evaluation will be to learn from successes and failures and target resources and efforts strategically to maximize risk reduction and forest restoration. Local-level monitoring and evaluation efforts are the keys to improving processes at each scale, from local efforts to the national level.²³

Ecological Monitoring

A critical outcome of Community Wildfire Protection Plans concerns the change in fire behavior that occurs because of the number and types of fuels treatments that are priorities identified within the CWPP. Monitoring also builds trust and lets residents learn about fire-adapted ecology. Other methods for conducting ecological monitoring for hazardous fuels projects may include photo points, modeling changes in fire behavior, and measuring changes in fire regime and condition class. There are many approaches to ecological monitoring; community organizations and citizens also have many available monitoring options, and simple methods, such as comparing photo points and conducting vegetation surveys, are valuable, important and essential to the long-term sustainability of the CWPP.²⁴

²³ [CWPP Eval Guide.pdf](#), 2008.

²⁴ [CWPP Eval Guide.pdf](#), 2008.



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Framework for Monitoring and Evaluating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan

CWPP Goal	Monitoring and Evaluation Questions	National Measures*
Partnerships and Collaboration	Who has been involved with CWPP development and implementation?	
	How did the fire-planning process influence CWPP implementation?	
	How has the collaborative process assisted in implementing the CWPP and building capacity for the community to reduce wildfire risk?	HFRA
	Have social service agencies (or groups that might assist low-income and vulnerable populations) been partners in CWPP efforts? If so, how?	
	Have partners involved in the planning process remained engaged in the plan's implementation?	
Risk Assessment	Has CWPP collaboration made a difference or had a positive impact on local organizations, neighborhoods, and/or actions?	
	How has the community changed over time (demographics, residential and commercial development, etc.)?	
	If this is a multi-jurisdictional plan, what is the number and percent of communities at risk with a CWPP in the area?	10-YIP
	Are there new or updated data sources that may change the risk assessment and influence fuels priorities?	
	How is the risk assessment being used to make decisions about fuels priorities or the designation of the wildfire/urban interface boundary?	
	Has the community enacted a wildfire-related ordinance? If so, is it a county, state, or local ordinance?	10-YIP
Reducing Hazardous Fuels	What percent of communities at risk also have low-income, vulnerable populations? Are these communities engaged in reducing wildfire risk?	
	How many acres have been treated for hazardous fuels reduction on public and private land that had been identified as high priority projects in the CWPP?	10-YIP and HFRA
	How many fuels reduction projects have spanned ownership boundaries to include public and private land?	
	What is the number and percent of residents who have participated in projects and completed defensible space on their land?	
	Has economic development resulted from fuels reduction?	10-YIP
	How many local jobs have resulted because of fuels reduction or restoration activities?	
Reducing Structural Ignitability	How many hazardous fuels reduction projects (or acres treated) have been implemented in connection with a forest restoration project (including a stewardship contract?)	
	What kind of resource losses have occurred from wildfires in the year being reported on?	
	Are the current codes and regulations for wildfire hazard adequate?	10-YIP
	Has the public knowledge and understanding about structural ignitability been increased by strategies adopted in the CWPP?	
Education and Outreach	How many Firewise Communities have been recognized?	10-YIP
	How has the availability and capacity of local fire agencies to respond to wildland and structural fires improved or changed since the CWPP was developed?	10-YIP
	What kind of public involvement has the CWPP fostered?	
Emergency Management	What kind of change in public awareness about wildfire has resulted from the plan?	
	What kinds of activities have citizens taken to reduce wildfire risk?	
	Is the CWPP integrated into the county or municipal Emergency Operations Plan?	
	Does the CWPP include an evacuation plan? If yes, has it been tested or implemented since the adoption of the CWPP?	
Emergency Management	Is the CWPP aligned with other hazard mitigation plans or efforts?	

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²⁵ [CWPP Eval Guide.pdf](#)



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Additional information

Additional information can include firefighting capabilities, memorandums of agreement between other entities, and future development plans for the community.

Note that this document is a living document, which means that it needs to be revisited and updated as project work is completed, maintenance items are identified, or the community expands and includes new partners. Make sure that you make the document available for everyone to look at and approve before implementing.

Alaska Wildfire Management Guidance

The INSERT COMMUNITY NAME HERE Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaborative effort created in response to the 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) which directs communities at risk for wildland fire to develop a risk assessment and mitigation plan.²⁶ The HFRA includes the following guidance:

The minimum requirements for a CWPP as described in the HFRA are: (1) Collaboration: A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties. (2) Prioritized Fuel Reduction: A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure. (3) Treatment of Structural Ignitability: A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.²⁷

Additionally, the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, of which the State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection is a signatory, recognizes that each of the land-managing Federal and State agencies and ANCSA corporations in Alaska have their own missions, goals, and objectives related to their lands and that to effectively prioritize and manage Alaska wildland fires there is a need to consider the full spectrum of initial responses to wildland fire; from suppression actions designed to contain and control wildland fire growth, to periodic surveillance of wildland fires that are allowed to spread naturally across the landscape. To accomplish this, jurisdictional organizations and protecting agencies have collaboratively assigned one of four wildland fire management options (Critical, Full, Modified, and Limited) to nearly all lands in Alaska. Pre-identified Wildland Fire Management Options allow fire managers to:

- *Quickly prioritize areas for protection actions and the allocation of available initial attack firefighting resources to achieve protection objectives.*
- *Optimize the ability to achieve land use and resource management objectives and integrate fire management, mission objectives, land use, and natural resource goals.*
- *Reinforce the premise that the cost of suppression efforts should be commensurate with the economic, social, and resource values identified for protection.*²⁸

²⁶ WADNR. (2023, April 25). Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guidance CWPP ...Wildfire Preparedness.

https://www.dnr.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/rp_cwpp_guidance_04102023.pdf

²⁷ H.R.1904 - Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. (2003, December 3). CONGRESS.GOV. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/1904>

²⁸ ALASKA INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN. (2024). Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from [https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/Alaska%20Statewide%20Master%20Agreement/3.%20Alaska%20Interagency%20Wildland%20Fire%20Management%20Plan%20\(AIWFMP\)/Alaska%20Interagency%20Wildland%20Fire%20Management%20Plan.pdf](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/Alaska%20Statewide%20Master%20Agreement/3.%20Alaska%20Interagency%20Wildland%20Fire%20Management%20Plan%20(AIWFMP)/Alaska%20Interagency%20Wildland%20Fire%20Management%20Plan.pdf)



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Wildland fire management in Alaska is a joint effort among federal, state, local, and tribal governments, native organizations, local fire departments, communities, and landowners. The land management agencies, also known as jurisdictional agencies, have the overall land and resource management responsibilities as provided by federal, state, or local law. The Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement improves Alaskan fire management agencies' efficiency in responding to wildland fire by facilitating the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and funds while sustaining activities such as prevention, preparedness, communication and education, fuels treatment and hazard mitigation, fire planning, response strategies, tactics and alternatives, suppression, and post-fire rehabilitation and restoration.²⁹

Acknowledging increased complexity in fire management practices, the State of Alaska State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) notes that future conditions for wildland fire hazards, including climate change, highlight an intensified pattern of wildland fire that is emerging in Alaska as rapidly increasing temperatures and longer growing seasons alter the state's environment. Both tundra and boreal forest regions are seeing larger and more frequent wildland fires. The impacts of these fires are felt across the state. In response to changing wildland fire patterns, Alaska's fire management agencies are adapting quickly. The use of remote sensing tools, such as data from satellites, and science-based decision making have been a critical component in responding to intensified wildland fire seasons.³⁰

Additionally, the Statewide Operating Plan (SOP) is applicable to all signatory parties to the Alaska Master Agreement (AMA). Its purpose is to address statewide issues affecting cooperation, interagency working relationships and protocols, financial arrangements, sharing of resources, and joint activities/projects.³¹

Jurisdictional agencies (as identified in the Alaska Master Agreement) are responsible for all planning documents (e.g., land use plans, resource management plans, fire management plans, and decision support documents) for a unit's wildland fire and fuels management program.³²

Protecting agencies (as identified in the Alaska Master Agreement) are responsible for implementing the actions documented and directed by the appropriate planning and decision support documents for initial and extended attack on wildland fire incidents. They provide supervision and support including operational oversight, direction, and logistical support to incident management teams (IMTs).³³

²⁹ ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT: 2024 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN. (2020, August 6). Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/Alaska%20Statewide%20Master%20Agreement/2.%20Alaska%20Statewide%20Operating%20Plan/Alaska%20Statewide%20Operating%20Plan.pdf>

³⁰ SOA. (2023). State of Alaska State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Section. [https://ready.alaska.gov/Documents/Mitigation/SHMP/2023 State of Alaska Hazard Mitigation Plan.pdf](https://ready.alaska.gov/Documents/Mitigation/SHMP/2023%20State%20of%20Alaska%20Hazard%20Mitigation%20Plan.pdf)

³¹ AMCWFM

³² ***

³³ ***



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The State of Alaska Forest Action Plan (FAP) seeks to prioritize areas where forests matter most to Alaska’s people—forest lands and wildland urban interface areas that have been identified through the robust Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan as having resources requiring fire protection; private forest lands including Alaska Native corporation lands; and state forests and state land classified for forestry. This plan also highlights the following key goals relevant to fire management on State of Alaska lands:

1. *Cultivate fire adapted communities*
2. *Manage fuels to reduce risk to communities & to benefit forest ecosystems.* ³⁴

Similarly, the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Addendum Update (Addendum Update) identifies new drivers impacting the wildland fire management system. As Federal agencies, states, tribes, and the private sector all ramp up work together to meet the challenge of the wildland fire crisis, stakeholders are challenged to reach beyond individual, organizational, and historical silos to collectively define and understand their risk; set landscape-level and community-wide priorities; share and co-manage risk across boundaries and jurisdictions; accept some short-term risk for long-term benefit; and collectively invest in outcome-based approaches and activities, rather than outputs. The Addendum Update elevates critical issues like climate change and environmental justice and defines key challenges that are not limited to one agency or organization, provides new guidance for stakeholders addressing today’s wildland fire challenges and aims to “safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage natural resources; and collectively, learn to live with wildland fire.” The updated National Cohesive Strategy goals include:

1. *Resilient Landscapes – Landscapes, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries are resilient to fire, insect, disease, invasive species and climate change disturbances, in accordance with management objectives.*
2. *Fire Adapted Communities – Human populations and infrastructure are as prepared as possible to receive, respond to, and recover from wildland fire.*
3. *Safe, Effective, Risk-based Wildland fire Response – All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildland fire management decisions.* ³⁵

Ultimately, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process aligns with the goals outlined by the National Cohesive Strategy and the State of Alaska Forest Action Plan, and offers prescriptive recommendations based on feedback gathered at the community level, while also referencing Fire Management Response Guidance from the AIWFMP, the Stafford Act and the SHMP. This collaborative planning process assists communities in developing an appropriate and desired wildland fire protection plan to guide future mitigation efforts. Completion of this CWPP involved the following steps:

1. *Identify stakeholders, land management agencies, and interested parties.*
2. *Establish a community planning area.*
3. *Develop a community risk assessment.*
4. *Ongoing opportunities for community input through surveys, public meetings, and the creation of a dedicated website.*
5. *Address priorities through stakeholder meetings and public input.*
6. *Development of an action plan and task-matrix.*
7. *Finalization of the plan with a total of three public community meetings throughout the process.*

³⁴ 2020 Forest Action Plan. (2020, December 31). Alaska Natural Resources Division of Forestry & Fire Protection. <https://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/forestactionplan/FINAL2020AlaskaForestActionPlan.pdf>

³⁵ Wildland Fire Leadership Council. (2023). National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Addendum Update. <https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/documents/strategy/natl-cohesive-wildland-fire-mgmt-strategy-addendum-update-2023.pdf>



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Signature Page

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act requires three signatures from applicable city or county, (tribal) government, local fire department(s), and the state entity responsible for forestry. Additional signatories can be added but are not required.

It is not required, but if you wish, you could include representatives from all groups that participated.

YOUR COMMUNITY/FIRE JURISDICTION

SIGNATORIES

Title	Name	Signature	Date



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Reference Materials

ALASKA INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN. (2024). Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from [https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/Alaska%20Statewide%20Master%20Agreement/3.%20Alaska%20Interagency%20Wildland%20Fire%20Management%20Plan%20\(AIWFMP\)/Alaska%20Interagency%20Wildland%20Fire%20Management%20Plan.pdf](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/Alaska%20Statewide%20Master%20Agreement/3.%20Alaska%20Interagency%20Wildland%20Fire%20Management%20Plan%20(AIWFMP)/Alaska%20Interagency%20Wildland%20Fire%20Management%20Plan.pdf)

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Resources

Funding Opportunities (subject to change as new information becomes available)

- [Community Wildfire Defense Grant | WA - DNR](#)
- [America the Beautiful Challenge | NFWF](#)
- [Title III FAQs | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
- [Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Grant](#)
- [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant](#)
- [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#)
- [Assistance to Firefighters Grants \(AFG\) + Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response \(SAFER\)](#)

Creating CWPPs

- Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan Handbook
<https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/documents/resources/communities/cwpphandbook.pdf>
- IAFC CWPP Leaders Guide - <https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/resources/resource/community-wildfire-protection-plan-leaders-guide>
- FEMA-Creating a CWPP
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/creating_a_cwpp.pdf
- Fire Department Guide to Preparing a CWPP
<https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/resources/resource/community-wildfire-protection-plan-leaders-guide>
- WA EMD Integrating a CWPP into an HMP
<https://mil.wa.gov/asset/5ba4211239e1e>

Tools for Identifying Risk and Prioritizing Mitigation Strategies

- Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network FAC Pathways Tool
FAC Pathways Tool | Fire Adapted Communities (fireadaptednetwork.org)
- Wildfire Risk to Communities Portal
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/wildfirerisk>



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Research and Learning on CWPPs

- Webinar on CWPPs in Colorado
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAa1JD7F7ZQ&list=PLouV2TmaJ7o8mHqYr8lmiTGXIMfdT2Q10>
- Database of CWPPs from around the country
<https://fireadapted.org/cwpp-database/>
- Engaging socially vulnerable populations in CWPPs
https://foreststewardsguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/socially_vulnerable_pop_in_CWPP.pdf
- Tips & Tools for Reaching Limited English Proficient Communities in Emergency Preparedness, Response, Recovery
<https://www.justice.gov/crt/file/885391/download>
- Emergency Preparedness & Individuals with Disabilities
<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/re-visiting-community-wildfire-protection-plans/>
- Missoula County Montana CWPP
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=29b21eb849db408c8b36960fff3cb3e6>
- Santa Fe New Mexico CWPP
<https://swcagis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=905f8d03aa2b4438bb631bc6f30c33b8>
- Lessons learned from Incorporating a CWPP into an NHMP
<https://www.nacdnet.org/2020/08/13/conservation-districts-helping-to-update-cwpps/>

Evaluating CWPPs

- Evaluating a CWPP (Oregon)
<https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/Fire/CWPPEvalGuide.pdf>