



# **CWPP Micro-Rural Community Template: Expanded to Federal/State Standards**



# ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

## CWPP Micro-Rural Hub Community Template

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### 1. SIGNATURE PAGE

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been prepared for the *Planning Area* of Alaska in accordance with the following principles:

- It was developed through a collaborative and inclusive process.
- It identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction and recommends mitigation strategies to enhance the wildfire resilience of people, property, and the environment in the *Planning Area*.
- It provides recommendations to reduce the ignitability of structures across the area addressed by the plan.

Local Government: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

State Forestry (DFFP): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## 2. INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE, & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

What is a CWPP?

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaboratively developed plan that identifies wildfire risks and prioritizes actions to reduce those risks.

- Developed by: local, tribal, state, and federal partners
- Purpose: reduce hazardous fuels, improve preparedness, and protect communities.
- Applicable to:
  - Micro-Rural communities (<300 population)
  - Low-capacity, remote communities or clusters of similar community types
  - Areas with shared infrastructure, geography, or resources

CWPPs identify the following:

- Wildfire risks and values at risk
- Prioritizes mitigation projects
- Improves evacuation and response planning
- Supports funding eligibility

Existing plans (e.g., HMP, SCERPS) can be used as a foundation.

### *Complete all sections below:*

*Describe the planning area, purpose of the CWPP, and alignment with DFFP and FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning requirements.*

**Planning Area Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Communities Included:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Plan Type:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Elements of a Complete CWPP



Wildfire Hazard & Risk Analysis



Prioritizing Mitigation Work



Community Engagement



Preparedness Planning



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**Purpose Statement:** Describe the intent of the CWPP, including wildfire risk reduction, community protection, and alignment with federal/state priorities.

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**Plan Status:**  New  Update (Year of Previous Plan: \_\_\_\_\_)

In 2024, the Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DFFP) received a USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG), established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to (*create or update*) [list planning area here] Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Through a contract with DFFP, the *planning area* Community Wildfire Protection Plan was developed by [insert contractor here] and its sub-contracted partners, with valuable guidance and ongoing input from local community members. The planning process adhered to the guidelines outlined in “*Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan — A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities*,” as published on the State of Alaska’s website. In support of transparency and public engagement, an interactive website was also established to provide open access to resources and updates throughout all phases of the project’s development *\*if applicable\**

### Land Acknowledgement

The [Planning Area] Community Wildfire Protection Plan respectfully acknowledges that the planning area for this Community Wildfire Protection Plan is located on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the [insert Tribe, Clan, and/or regional corporation here] and their descendants. This plan honors the [Tribe or Clan name]; who offer a rich cultural heritage and reflects the tribe’s deep cultural ties and connection to the natural environment and who continue to be stewards of [Tribal or Clan name] air, lands, and waters from time immemorial; and to the Elders who lived here before, and the [Tribal or Clan name] of today and future generations.



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### 3. AUTHORITIES & CWPP REQUIREMENTS

This CWPP is developed in accordance with: - Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA, 2003) - Applicable State Forestry & Fire Protection policies.

#### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

*What does a CWPP have to include?*

Minimum requirements:

- 1. Collaboration**  
Multi-agency and community involvement (local, tribal, state, federal).
- 2. Prioritized Fuel Reduction**  
Identify and rank areas for hazardous fuel treatment.
- 3. Structural Ignitability Reduction**  
Recommend actions to reduce structure vulnerability.

#### Approval Required:

Local/tribal government, fire department(s), and state forestry agency (DFFP)

*Complete all sections below:*

#### Minimum Requirements

##### 3.1 Collaboration

Describe how local, tribal, state, and federal agencies and stakeholders participated.

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##### 3.2 Prioritized Fuel Reduction

Explain the process for identifying and prioritizing hazardous fuels treatments.

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##### 3.3 Structural Ignitability

Describe strategies to reduce structure vulnerability (defensible space, materials, etc.).

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## 4. PLANNING AREA & COMMUNITY PROFILE

### 4.1 Geographic Overview

Location, boundaries, terrain, and access.

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### 4.2 Community Description

Population, demographics, housing, and economic characteristics.

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### 4.3 Infrastructure & Critical Facilities

- Utilities
- Transportation (roads, airstrips)
- Schools/Clinics
- Industrial Facilities

Details:

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### 4.4 Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)

Describe the extent and characteristics of WUI.

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### 5. CWPP PLANNING PROCESS

#### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

Establish a **core planning team** to guide the process.

#### Who to Include

- Local leadership and emergency managers
- Tribal governments and Native Corporations
- DFFP and fire service personnel
- Federal land managers (USFS, DOI, etc.)
- Infrastructure/industry partners (utilities, transportation, military)
- Community representatives (including elders and vulnerable populations)

#### Planning Structure

- Consider **workgroups** (e.g., fuels, evacuation, outreach)
- For multi-community plans:
  - Identify a **hub community**
  - Ensure all satellite communities are represented

#### Special Considerations

- Include critical infrastructure operators
- Ensure tribal coordination and engagement
- Provide multiple ways for community participation (meetings, surveys, interviews)



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*Complete all sections below:*

### 5.1 Planning Team & Stakeholders

Organization	Name	Role	Contact
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### 5.2 Timeline & Milestones

#### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

Develop a **minimum 1-year timeline** that includes:

- Regular planning team meetings
- At least **2 community meetings**
- Time for outreach, surveys, and draft review

#### Consider:

- Seasonal subsistence activities
- Time needed to reach remote residents
- Mailing/printing needs for limited connectivity

*Complete all sections below:*

- Project Start: \_\_\_\_\_
- Draft Completion: \_\_\_\_\_
- Final Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_



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### 5.3 Outreach & Public Involvement

#### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

Develop a strategy to **reach all residents across the planning area.**

#### Key Components

- Public meetings (in-person and/or virtual)
- Community surveys (multiple formats)
- Direct outreach to:
  - Remote households
  - Elders and vulnerable populations
  - Non-English speakers

#### Goals

- Ensure broad participation
- Gather input on risks and priorities
- Provide access to maps and draft plans

#### Key Considerations

- Communication limitations (internet/cell gaps)
- Evacuation challenges
- Subsistence and cultural values

#### *Complete all sections below:*

Methods used:  Public Meetings (dates: \_\_\_\_\_)  Surveys  Interviews

Mail/Remote Outreach

Summary of input:

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## 6. EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES & DATA SOURCES

### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

Include Plan Alignment (*see supplemental appendices*)

*Complete all sections below:*

List and summarize relevant plans: - Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) - SCERPS - Land management or operational plans

Data Sources: - Fire history - Vegetation/fuels data - GIS mapping

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## 7. WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENT & HISTORY

### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

#### Collect and map:

- Past wildfire locations
- Burn frequency and patterns
- Vegetation conditions

#### Use sources such as:

- State forestry agencies
- Federal partners (USGS, USFS, DOI)

#### Include in maps:

- Fire history
- Topography
- Water sources
- Response assets

*Complete all sections below:*

### 7.1 Climate & Weather

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### 7.2 Vegetation & Fuels

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### 7.3 Fire Regime & History

Describe past wildfire occurrences and patterns.

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## 8. VALUES AT RISK (ASSETS & POPULATIONS)

### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

Conduct **risk assessment and mapping** across the planning area.

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### Identify Regions with Maps (use GIS when available)

Define regions based on:

- Geography (rivers, terrain)
- Infrastructure (roads, utilities, corridors)
- Land ownership or management

### Map Key Features

- Communities and structures
- Vegetation and fuel types
- Water sources
- Natural barriers (roads, rivers, burn scars)
- Critical infrastructure

Complete all sections below:

### 8.1 Physical Assets

- Homes
- Infrastructure
- Utilities

### 8.2 Social & Cultural Values

- Subsistence areas
- Cultural sites



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### 8.3 Vulnerable Populations

- Elderly
- Disabled
- Remote households

Description:

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## 9. RISK ASSESSMENT & HAZARD ANALYSIS

### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

*Work with DFFP and fire professionals to assess wildfire risk.*

### Risk Factors

- Vegetation (e.g., black spruce, beetle-kill)
- Weather (wind, lightning)
- Structural conditions
- Available response resources

### Risk Levels

- Low, Moderate, High, Very High

### Additional Considerations

- Fire response capacity
- Access (roads, airstrips, waterways)
- Existing plans and data

Complete all sections below:

### 9.1 Methodology

Describe the approach used (field assessments, expert input, modeling).

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### 9.2 Risk Factors

- Vegetation/fuels
- Weather conditions
- Structural characteristics
- Response capability



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### 9.3 Risk Ratings

Region	Risk Level	Key Issues
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### 9.4 Findings Summary

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## 10. MITIGATION STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

Gather input through **surveys and community meetings** (*see supplemental appendices*)

#### Identify

- Values at risk (homes, infrastructure, subsistence areas)
- Community concerns and priorities

#### Develop Goals and Actions

Translate input into:

- Community goals
- Specific projects/actions

#### Common Goals

- Fire-adapted communities
- Fire-resilient landscapes
- Improved response capacity

#### Example Actions

- Fuel breaks
- Defensible space programs
- Evacuation route clearing
- Clean air shelters

#### Planning Requirement

Initiate process with a **formal resolution/proclamation** from local leadership (*see supplemental appendices*)

Resolution checklist:

- Risk statement: Why the community needs a CWPP.
- Legal/grant context: Reference HFRA 2003, grant eligibility.



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- Stakeholders: first required participants (govt, fire, state/federal, residents).
- Council directives: Officially authorize the process/committee, public meetings, and draft timeline.
- Next steps: Submit draft back to Council/Board for adoption.

*Complete all sections below:*

## 10.1 Fuel Reduction Priorities

Describe priority areas and treatment methods.

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## 10.2 Structural Ignitability Reduction

- Defensible space
- Fire-resistant construction

## 10.3 Preparedness, Response & Evacuation

- Evacuation routes
- Emergency response capacity

## 10.4 Public Education & Outreach

- Firewise programs
- Community training

## 10.5 Prioritized Action Plan

Project	Location	Lead	Timeline	Cost	Priority
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## 11. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### PROCESS GUIDANCE:

#### Maps

Develop GIS maps showing:

- Wildland-Urban Interface
- Values at risk
- Evacuation routes
- Water sources and response assets

#### Purpose:

- Guide mitigation work
- Support wildfire response

#### Action Plan

*Create a prioritized list of mitigation projects.*

Each project should include:

- Objective
- Lead entity
- Timeline
- Funding needs
- Success measures

#### Project Types

- Fuel reduction treatments
- Outreach and education
- Structural ignitability improvements

#### Prioritization Criteria

- Highest risk areas



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- Greatest impact potential
- Community capacity

### **Structural Ignitability & Education**

*Include recommendations such as:*

- Defensible space creation
- Fire-resistant building materials
- Safe burning practices
- Firewise education

### **Implementation**

- Start with low-cost, high-impact projects
- Engage volunteers, youth, and local organizations
- Identify funding sources and partners

### **Key Takeaways**

- Follow the 3-step process: Team → Risk → Plan
- Ensure broad collaboration and outreach
- Use maps and risk data to guide decisions
- Prioritize practical, community-driven projects
- Maintain CWPP as a living document

### **Complete all sections below:**

Describe roles, responsibilities, and coordination.

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### 12. MONITORING, MAINTENANCE & UPDATE PROCESS

*FEMA requires a maintenance plan including monitoring and update procedures.*

- Plan review frequency: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Responsible entity: \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- 

### 13. FUNDING & GRANT ALIGNMENT

GRANT-SCORING ALIGNED LANGUAGE (INSERT INTO SECTIONS 1, 8, 9, 10)

Use this language verbatim where appropriate:

Purpose / Outcomes (Section 1)

This CWPP is designed to achieve measurable risk reduction outcomes by reducing wildfire exposure to life, property, and critical infrastructure. The plan prioritizes cost-effective mitigation actions that enhance community resilience, align with state and federal hazard mitigation priorities, and position the community for competitive grant funding (FEMA BRIC, HMGP, USFS).

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Risk Assessment Framing (Section 8)

The risk assessment integrates best available science, local knowledge, and DFFP data to identify areas of highest wildfire likelihood and consequence. Risk is evaluated based on:

- Probability of wildfire occurrence
- Potential impacts to structures, infrastructure, and subsistence resources
- Response limitations (access, staffing, detection time)

This approach supports quantifiable risk reduction and benefit-cost analysis required for FEMA funding.

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Mitigation Strategy Language (Section 9)

Mitigation actions were selected based on:

- Risk reduction effectiveness
- Cost feasibility and implementation readiness
- Protection of vulnerable populations and critical infrastructure
- Alignment with Firewise, Ready-Set-Go, and DFFP priorities



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Projects emphasize:

- Nature-based solutions (fuel treatments)
- Structural hardening
- Evacuation and life safety improvements

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Implementation + Funding (Section 10 & 12)

This plan prioritizes shovel-ready, high-impact projects that are:

- Scalable and phased
- Supported by community and agency partners
- Competitive for BRIC, HMGP, and USFS Community Wildfire Defense Grants

Each project includes:

- Defined outcomes
- Estimated cost
- Implementation timeline
- Potential funding sources

*Identify FEMA, USFS, BIA, and the State of Alaska funding opportunities.*

Funding Sources & Alignment: \_\_\_\_\_

## 14. KEY TAKEAWAYS

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## 15. REFERENCES

List sources, guidance documents, and data used.

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## 16. APPENDICES

A. Community Survey

B. Risk Assessment Tools

C. Fire History Maps

D. Resolution/Proclamation

E. Wildfire Management Plan Alignment (see Urban GUIDE example and Delta 2025 plan)

F. Air Quality

G. Ready, Set, Go!

H. Resident Handbook

I. Additional Resources, Webpages, and Toolkits

- Community Profile Mapping Tool
- DFFP Webpage
- DFFP Toolkit
- FAC Website
- HFRA Enabling Legislation
- Forest Health Guidance & Webpage