



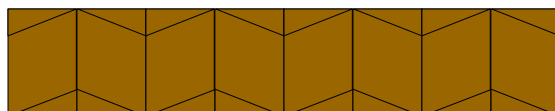
Quick-Guide #11: Potential Resources & Authorities Brought by Government Participants to the Collaborative Process

CWPPs provide the opportunity for **all levels of government to bring to bear their respective resources and regulatory responsibilities to collaboratively address the wildfire threat** both within the WUI and across the landscape. This is particularly important in the West where protection of communities from wildfire often depends on actions taken on neighboring federal lands. Comprehensive CWPP planning processes recognize the multiple roles of government and ensure that representatives participate in some way.

- ◇ Fire prevention, structure protection, and often wildland fire initial response are the domain of local fire departments (city, county or volunteer).
- ◇ Education and outreach to residents are conducted by city, county and/or state staff (e.g., fire or forestry departments, county planning departments).
- ◇ County and state governments deal with zoning, ordinances and planning.
- ◇ Small-diameter and other by-product utilization can be incorporated in local economic development planning (city, county or state).
- ◇ Forest restoration and mitigation goals are best accomplished by government agencies (federal and state, sometimes county) with the greatest mitigation resources and largest acreage, although all managers should be involved in order to work across ownership boundaries.
- ◇ Federal and state agencies ultimately command and staff large wildland fire suppression.

In our case studies, government agencies contributed the following resources to the CWPP **collaborative process**:

- ◇ Josephine County initiated the plan and provided leadership (county planner and contract intermediary), funding (Title 3 funds), GIS technical support, county emergency staff and strategic information, (e.g., evacuation routes).
- ◇ The City of Ashland provided leadership (Ashland Forest Lands Commission, Contract Forester, and Fire Chief), facilitation, city government liaisons to the FS (given perceived FACA constraints), technical assistance (GIS and evacuation planning), and staff (Forest Resource Specialist and Outreach Coordinator).
- ◇ The Hayfork District Ranger and staff attended Post Mountain community meetings to answer questions and allay doubts regarding fuel reduction in/near the subdivision.
- ◇ Lincoln County, Montana used Title 2 funds to contract with a retired FS employee to lead the CWPP process. He and an employee from the Montana Department of Resources and Conservation conducted outreach and secured state and federal funding for fuel reduction. The County RC&D administered these grants and contracted with foresters to work on private land.
- ◇ In two of the Colorado cases, the USFS contributed maps and GIS technology, as well as information regarding forest ecology, fire behavior, and wildland fire risk assessment. In addition, they expressed a willingness to design fuel treatments that complemented private land treatments planned in the CWPP.



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When certain governments were absent or did not participate actively in CWPPs, their particular piece of the wildfire puzzle was missing. **These are observed gaps or missed opportunities** which provide learning opportunities for others:

- ◇ Because Post Mountain has no local government, the leadership gap left by its departed VFD chief has threatened the sustainability of the CWPP effort.
- ◇ The perceived inability of the federal government to participate in the Ashland CWPP and citizen alternative created an adversarial situation which engendered mistrust and miscommunication.
- ◇ Because the Kootenai National Forest did not take ownership of what they saw as the County CWPP, some rangers actively resisted CWPP-recommended fuel reduction across private and public land in their districts.
- ◇ Because much of Josephine County is unincorporated, local governments lacked the capacity to assist in outreach efforts, and only one community CWPP has been nested within the integrated county CWPP.
- ◇ Because county officials and state forestry agencies were not involved in either the Ashland or Post Mountain CWPPs, potential jurisdictional authorities such as zoning, and access to state resources and networks were limited.

The following strategies were used to motivate federal agency participation:

- ◇ Include retired personnel in positions of leadership or as key players.
- ◇ Invite personnel interested in accessing new networks or gaining leadership opportunities.
- ◇ Reconcile various agency data sets so that analysis can be coordinated and applied at a landscape level.
- ◇ Frame the wildfire issue in ways that mesh with federal priorities:
 - Fire mitigation and enhanced forest health across ownership boundaries
 - Increased capacity for stewardship projects
 - Better access to federal land (for treatment or suppression) across private land in the WUI
 - Building relationships, trust and credibility

In some community contexts, particular levels of government may not find it useful to be involved:

- ◇ If the CWPP is exclusive to a subdivision which is not adjacent to public land
- ◇ If the community history of environmental conflict has eroded trust and there are no functional relationships or networks for state or federal government personnel
- ◇ If there is little wildland-urban interface.

In a variety of settings and across different jurisdictional scales and boundaries, the need for governments to play strong leadership roles in CWPP development and implementation is evident. Their lack of Participation often creates gaps that limit cross-boundary wildfire risk reduction, and can often lead to fragmented approaches with regard to community education, land use planning, statutory means of fire protection, and inter-agency cooperation.

