

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

Enhancing Collaboration & Building Community Capacity

Quick-Guide #16: Community Based Approaches to Knowledge Transfer

Beginning in 2005, a joint research team from several higher education institutions and two US Forest Service Research Stations (<http://jfsp.fortlewis.edu/investigators.asp>) began a three-year inquiry into collaborative efforts to develop community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs) authorized under the Health Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) 2003.

This project, entitled *Enhancing Collaboration and Building Community Capacity*, is funded by the Joint Fire Science Program, created by Congress in 1998 as an interagency research, development, and applications partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. <http://www.firescience.gov/JFSP>

One of the project's five objectives was to transfer the practical knowledge gathered from the CWPP case studies to participants and stakeholders in community wildfire protection planning. The research focused on three areas which provided a framework for knowledge transfer:

- > The **community context** –addressing a range of community situations within which the CWPPs are developed.
- > The **process steps and collaborative methods** communities and managers are utilizing to produce CWPPs.
- > The **immediate and longer-term outcomes** of the CWPP, focusing on the strengths and capacities resulting from the shared collaborative work. (See chart on next page.)



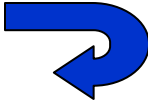
While the research team has shared its findings through traditional professional meetings and publications, a significant focus has been establishing a dialogue with diverse representatives involved in wildfire mitigation and protection via a series of workshops. These events strongly emphasized case study findings relevant to local and regional interest and needs. Significant portions of each workshop were allocated to small group discussion. Presentations and dialogue topics were chosen in cooperation with local representatives to best fit where workshop participants were in relation to the CWPP development process. (over)



Web Site: <http://JFSP.fortlewis.edu>

The community-based CWPP workshops were held September 14, 2007 in Eugene, Oregon, November 28, 2007 in Lakewood, Colorado, and March 18, 2008 in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. (See each workshop’s proceedings at <http://ifsp.fortlewis.edu/KTWorkshops.asp>.) Our intent has been to work closely with representatives of community and land management agencies to strengthen dialogue and networking within existing learning communities. At the time of the workshop, each region was working at a different place in the CWPP process or had different concerns. In Oregon, most communities had completed their first generation CWPPs, and the interests of workshop participants focused on CWPP implementation and second generation CWPPs. In Colorado, the state was driving the CWPP process, and the interest was in how to implement state goals and objectives at the local level. In the Lakes states very few CWPPs had been developed. Workshop participants were interested in how to initiate a CWPP process and “sell” the idea to potential stakeholders. Developing the content for these workshops was a significant challenge for the project team. In each case, research team members needed to go back to the case study data and analyses to find knowledge that would be most useful to workshop participants, given their particular stage in CWPP planning and implementation. The process forced the team to move beyond questions regarding how to move the science forward, to how to move communities forward. Workshop topics for each research area are listed in the figure below.

KT Concept Mapping

Context 	Process 	Outcomes 
<u>Collaborative Capacities:</u> Community problem-solving history	Initiation approaches	Shared understanding of wildfire risks, WUI, etc
Previous involvement in wildfire issues	Entrepreneurship/ leadership/organizations/ intermediaries	Increased community awareness
Preparedness - working together - responsibility	Participant invitation approaches	Social learning
Capacity - networking	Representation/key partner roles/contributions	New/improved relationships
Perceptions of wildfire threat-framing	Decision-making process and criteria	Community capacity
<u>Community Resource Base:</u> Background capital and assets	Process design/use of CWPP template or not	Ability to achieve NFP goals
	Information sharing/content and process/learning Wildfire issue framing	Implementation potential Challenges experienced

Content elements such as maps, guidebooks, directives, plans, and fire assessment tools and models may occur across all three of these areas.

