2005 JFSP Progress Report

Project Title: "Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Enhancing Collaboration and Building Social Capacity"
JFSP Project No.: 04-5-01
Project Location: USDA Forest Service; Rocky Mountain Research Station, Ft. Collins, CO; North Central Research Station, St. Paul, MN
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Brief Description of Project: In this project we intend to study community wildfire protection plans (CWPP) efforts in order to identify those factors and processes that consistently lead to effective collaborative fire and fuels management as defined by Healthy Forest Restoration Act, and enhance local social capacity to sustain wildfire protection activities into the future.

Status Report: In the first year of the project we have:

1. Established RJVA's:
   a. Case studies for Objectives 2 & 3: Dr. Antony Cheng, Colorado State University; Dr. Victoria Sturtevant, Southern Oregon University; and Dr. Kristen Nelson, University of Minnesota
   b. Coarse scale monitoring for Objective 1: Dr. Antony Cheng, Colorado State University
   c. Web design and other knowledge transfer for Objective 4: Dr. Sam Burns, Fort Lewis College
2. Created Stakeholder Advisory Committee (Appendix B)
3. Developed preliminary hypotheses, research questions, and methodology to use in case study pilots (Objectives 2 & 3)
4. Conducted 3 case study pilots (themes from pilots, discussed during Advisory Committee Meeting, found in Appendix C): Larimer County, Colorado; Cook County, Minnesota; and Ashland, Oregon.
5. Conducted a pilot study for CWPPs coarse-scale monitoring:
   a. Coarse scale monitoring of development and implementation of CWPPs in Colorado (monitoring survey form in Appendix D)
   b. Analysis of secondary data available to identify where to focus CWPP efforts within a state.
6. Developed Knowledge Transfer Plan (Appendix E)
7. Convened Advisory Committee; October 12-13, 2005; Estes Park, Colorado (agenda in Appendix F) to:
   a. Discuss 3, 4, 5, & 6 above
   b. Collect and share experiences in the development and implementation of CWPPs (see items 9b, 9c, & 9d, below)
   c. Build relationships to facilitate dissemination of project knowledge and products
8. Created project website (http://jfsp.fortlewis.edu/)
9. Produced 4 paper products:
   a. One-pager introducing the study, "Study Focuses on the Development of CWPPs" (available on the web and in Appendix G)
   b. Potential issues in the development and implementation of CWPPs—insights

from early adopters (1st of 3 products developed during the Advisory Committee meeting, available December 31, 2005)

c. Potential challenges in the development of CWPPs—insights of early adopters (2nd of 3 products developed during the Advisory Committee meeting, available December 31, 2005)
d. Lessons learned in the development of CWPPs—insights from early adopters (3rd or 3 products developed during the Advisory Committee meeting, available December 31, 2005)

10. Selected first set of case study locations (see below)
11. Created an Objective 1 Work Team (Tony Cheng and Advisory Committee members Lisa Dale and Kathy Lynn) to investigate how our Objective 1 goals overlap with ongoing efforts by Western Forestry Leadership Coalition, Western Governors Association, National Association of State Foresters, and American Forests.

Issues/Concerns; changes in research objectives, methods, or products:

- We have found that a number of associations/groups are developing frameworks for tracking CWPP progress—part of our charge in Objective 1. We will evaluate these efforts and develop a plan for how we can best tie into on-going projects so that we are not duplicating efforts (see item #11 above).

- Our original plan was to do 2 case studies in each of 5 states: California, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, and Oregon. A major factor in choosing case study communities is that we are looking for communities that represent the gradient from low capacity communities to high capacity communities. We have found that in the East, CWPP activity is somewhat scattered. In addition, our advisory group stated that they would like to see case studies that represent the diversity of experience rather than trying to replicate conditions. For this reason, in the East we may do 4 case studies in 4 states, rather than 4 case studies in 2 states. The following case study locations have been identified:
  California: Post Mountain Fire District (Trinity County) + a second to be identified
  Colorado: Larimer County + a second to be identified
  Florida: Panhandle region
  Minnesota: Lake County or St. Louis County
  Oregon: Ashland (Jackson County) and Wolf Creek (Josephine County)

  Other eastern states being considered include Wisconsin, Maine, and Texas.