



Strengthening the Implementation of CWPP's

Implementing the action plan of a CWPP is a long-term, multi-year endeavor. Therefore, sustaining community interests and participation needs to be a primary objective throughout the protection plan development process.

Implementation: After the CWPP is approved, numerous situations and activities often occur, such as these challenges and needs:

- ◆ New and emerging players;
- ◆ Shifting priorities of community and agency representatives;
- ◆ Reevaluating risk criteria to improve the prioritization process;
- ◆ Maintaining fuel reduction project momentum;
- ◆ Applying objectives at a larger scale;
- ◆ Developing biomass uses;
- ◆ Establishing a system to record fuel treatments;
- ◆ How to effectively monitor projects?

How can we sustain community and agency relationships and abilities through collaboration to address these and other objectives during long-term CWPP implementation?

Diverse Interests: Since community wildfire mitigation needs to be based on community interests, involving a wide variety of interests will pool and integrate needed resources, skills, and capacities. Among these interests are the following:

- ◆ Suppression and public safety
- ◆ Fuel reduction and fire risk
- ◆ Forest health
- ◆ Prevention education/Defensible space
- ◆ High priority community values
- ◆ Biomass utilization

Key Contributors to Productive Outcomes: There are a number of collaborative factors that can significantly improve the overall level of interest and participation needed for long term CWPP implementation: Wildfire definitions based on multiple interests/concerns; Planning scales that create regional strategies and local action; Sharing knowledge through educational awareness processes; and community and agency leaders who bridge networks, organizations, and scales.

Issue definitions: Including a range of community's concerns and definitions about wildfire will determine what a CWPP will emphasize, who gets involved, and the extent to which it is "owned" by the community and agencies. An inclusive range of wildfire definitions (*sometimes called frames*) draw together various interests, networks of partners, and many types of resources. Multiple definitions or lens can broaden opportunities for improving safety for lives, property and communities, addressing forest health; land use patterns due to urban development; and biomass uses.

Scales for Strategy and Action:

Regional or state scale networks tend to focus on landscape-level planning and projects, coordinating treatment responses, prevention education, and shared learning.

Community, neighborhood, and county-scale networks tend to be action-oriented, stressing on the ground mitigation. Combining these approaches can produce a more balanced, productive, and sustainable range of mitigation projects.

Continued learning strengthens long-term implementation

Participants may begin by mapping values-at-risk, and proceed to organize technical resources; they also establish shared understandings of the wildfire problem, and heightened their knowledge of potential actions and available resources. Through these activities they create an expanded network of more capable and committed individuals and organizations. *(Sometimes called learning communities)*

Community leaders and organizations: (Sometimes called intermediaries)

Key or intermediary individuals and organizations have contacts with many other communities, agencies, and jurisdictions; they play strong leadership and bridging roles, bringing in new ideas and resources. Most importantly, they possess the time and skills to organize the knowledge of participants and to push action towards on the ground projects.

Some Specific Suggestions to Maintain Implementation

- ◆ Establishing implementation and monitoring committees;
- ◆ Set short-term, achievable goals;
- ◆ Hire or appoint a CWPP Coordinator;
- ◆ Continue to support the community participants through information sharing between agencies and communities.
- ◆ Embed into larger county level CWPPs to gain guidance for landscape scale projects;
- ◆ Link to a county-level hazard mitigation plan to increase resource integration;
- ◆ Tie the CWPP to Community Firewise Plans to incorporate neighborhood prevention, education, and mitigation activities;
- ◆ Integrate the CWPP with federal or state wildfire resource management and fuel reduction plans to maximize WUI protection;
- ◆ Build bio-mass use to expand restoration options.

Key Lessons Learned

- ◆ Successful Wildfire mitigation occurs through long-term implementation;
- ◆ Collaboration builds multiple skills and abilities for community action;
- ◆ Maximize implementation via multiple wildfire issue definitions where appropriate, integration across neighborhood and landscape scales, including key community and agency participants among various social networks, and on-going shared learning and educational awareness;
- ◆ Keep participant's informed and engaged by strengthening continual accountability through monitoring;
- ◆ Sustaining implementation of CWPP's is the ultimate measure of the successes that can result from building and integrating collaborative abilities, relationships, and resources.

Web-link: <http://jfsp.fortlewis.edu/>

