



Community-based Approaches to Knowledge Transfer

Overview: Beginning in 2005, a joint research team from several higher education institutions and two US Forest Service Research Stations began a three year inquiry (<http://jfsp.fortlewis.edu/investigators.asp>) into collaborative efforts to develop community wildfire protection plans (CWPP's) 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 five specific objectives of this project has been to transfer the practical knowledge gathered from approximately a dozen CWPP case studies to selected wildfire mitigation, community and professional practitioners, local government officials, and fire managers at all jurisdictional levels. The research focused on three areas:

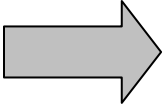
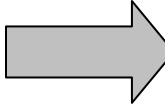
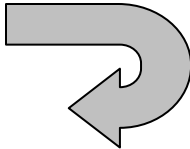
- The **community context** –addressing a range of community situations within which the CWPP's are developed.
- The **process steps and collaborative methods** being utilized by communities and managers to produce CWPP's;
- The **immediate and longer term outcomes** of the CWPP, focusing on the strengths and capacities resulting from the shared collaborative work. (See chart on page 2.)

Implementation: While the research team has shared its findings through traditional professional meetings and publications, a significant focus has been to establish a dialogue with diverse representatives working on wildfire mitigation and protection via a series of workshops. In developing these events, there has been a strong emphasis on relating the case study findings to local and regional interest and needs. Significant portions of the agenda have been allocated to small group discussion time. Presentations and dialogue topics have been chosen to best fit the CWPP development process and stages of the host states.

To date, community-based-CWPP workshops have been held in Eugene, Oregon for the Northwest region, in Colorado for networks in that state, and in Rhinelander, Wisconsin for the Great Lakes States. It is our intent to work closely with representatives of community and land management agencies to strengthen dialogue and networking within existing learning communities.

If you have any knowledge transfer suggestions, please contact Sam Burns at Burns_s@fortlewis.edu, or 970-247-7193, or any member of the research team.

KT Concept Mapping

Context 	Process 	Outcomes 
<p><u>Collaborative Capacities:</u> Community Problem-solving history</p> <p>Previous Involvement In Wildfire Issues</p> <p>Preparedness-working together-responsibility</p> <p>Capacity-networking</p> <p>Perceptions of Wildfire Threat-Framing</p> <p><u>Community Resource Base:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Background Capitals and assets</p>	<p>Initiation approaches</p> <p>Entrepreneurship/ Leadership/organizations/ intermediaries</p> <p>Participant Invitation approaches</p> <p>Representation/Key Partner Roles/ Contributions</p> <p>Decision-making process and criteria</p> <p>Process Design/use of CWPP template or not</p> <p>Information sharing/content and process/learning</p> <p>Wildfire Issue Framing</p>	<p>Shared Understanding of Wildfire risks, WUI, etc</p> <p>Increased Community Awareness</p> <p>Social Learning</p> <p>New/Improved relationships</p> <p>Community Capacity</p> <p>Ability to achieve NFP Goals</p> <p>Implementation potential</p> <p>Challenges experienced</p>
<p>Content elements such as maps, guidebooks, directives, plans, and fire assessment tools and models may occur across all three of these areas.</p> 