

Across the country, Federal agencies, States, Tribes, local governments, NGOs, community groups, and citizens are coming together in an attempt to manage their forests and grasslands to reduce the risk of wildland fire. Some management efforts have been ongoing for a number of years; others have been spurred by the passage of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA). HFRA contains provisions to expedite fuels reduction and forest-restoration projects with the goal of restoring healthy forest and rangeland conditions and protecting communities from catastrophic wildland fire.

HFRA encourages the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) that identify and set priorities for fuels reduction projects on Federal and non-Federal lands, including where and how the project will be implemented. The Plans are initiated by the community with Federal agencies partnering in the process to the extent that the community desires. HFRA also requires monitoring of fuels management projects, and promotes multiparty monitoring that involves communities and other stakeholders.

Scientists from USDA Forest Service Research and the National Forest System and from universities across the country are studying communities that are developing CWPPs to develop tools or strategies that will (1) improve the ability of agencies, organizations, communities, and citizens to work together collaboratively to reduce the risks of wildland fire, and (2) enhance the long-term social capacity of communities to address wildfire risk by understanding how CWPP activities expand opportunities for planning and implementing fuel reduction projects.

Research will be conducted in 5 states: California, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, and Oregon. This study is intended to last 3 years, beginning in the spring of 2005.

### Project Objectives

The objectives of the project are to:

1. Assess ways to gauge the progress and outcomes of CWPPs by county in each state over 3 years.
2. Examine the local social context in which CWPPs have developed in 2 counties in each state, focusing on the factors that are important to enhancing collaboration and building and maintaining social capacity.
3. Develop a framework for monitoring CWPP processes and outcomes, and apply and evaluate the framework in the 5 study states.
4. Capture and share current local and programmatic "lessons learned" concerning CWPP processes and outcomes, and develop a system for continuously sharing new lessons as they emerge.
5. Develop and implement a technology and knowledge transfer program that provides important results, in a timely manner, throughout the life of the project.



Sandy Shaffer

This project is funded by the **Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP)** and the home institutions of the investigators. The **JFSP** is a partnership of six Federal wildland fire and research organizations, and was established in 1998 to provide scientific information and support for fuel and fire management programs.

For more information, visit the **JFSP** website at: <http://jfsp.nifc.gov/>

For project updates, visit our project website at: <http://jfsp.fortlewis.edu/>

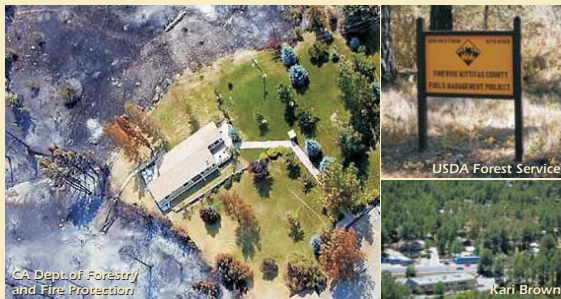


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