



Helping Communities Reduce Their Risk of Wildland Fire

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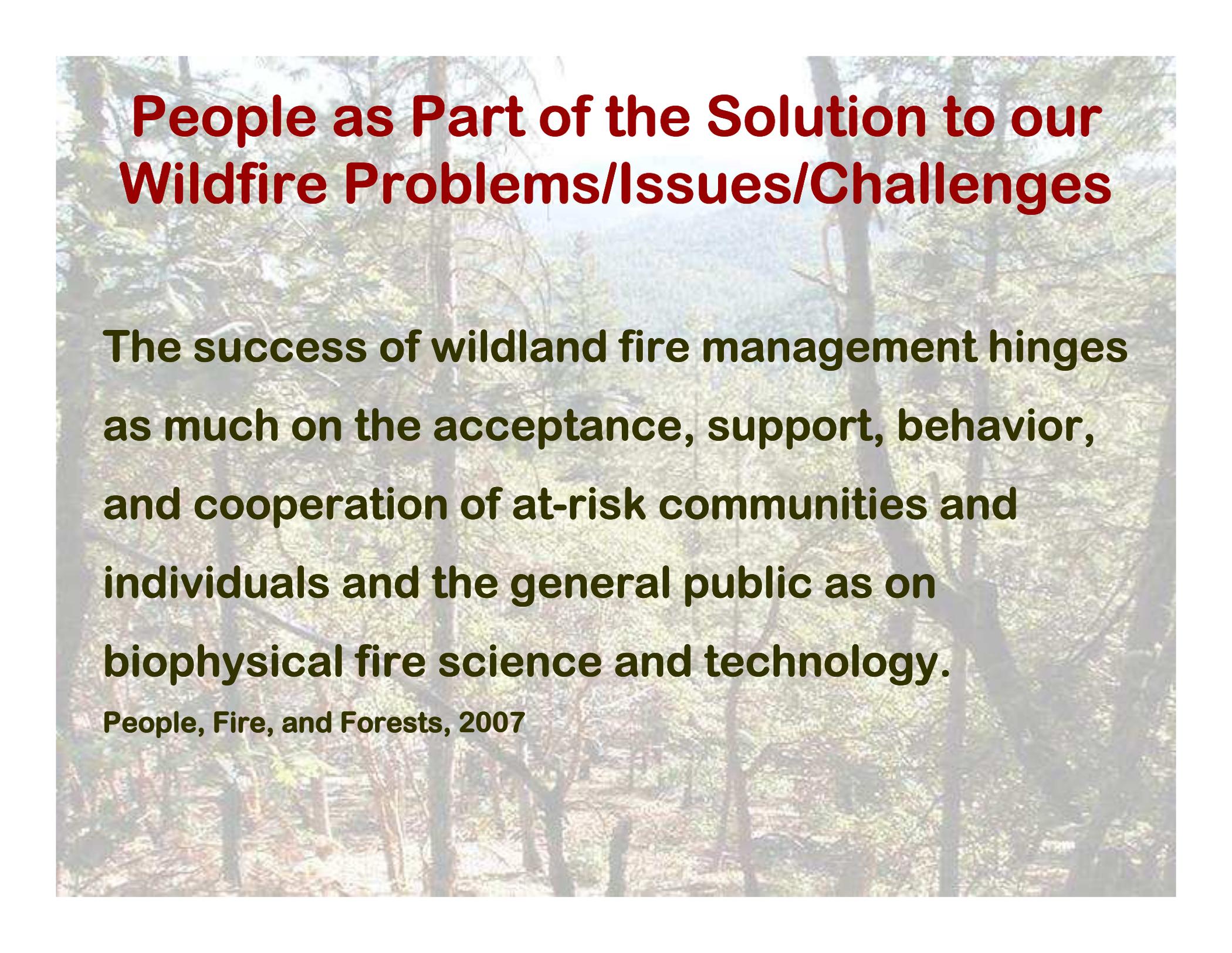
Challenges to Reducing Fuels

- **Scale**
- **Cost**
- **Lack of trust**
- **Loss of amenity values**
- **Not a societal priority**

Fatalities and Injuries from Natural Hazards

- All natural hazards = 500 fatalities/year
- Fatalities from:
 - ✓ Wildfire – 2000 = 3, 2001 = 5
 - ✓ Heat waves – avg. 160/year
 - ✓ Floods – avg. 80/year
- Injuries from:
 - ✓ Wildfire – 2002 = 138
 - ✓ Tornadoes – avg. 1,000/year





People as Part of the Solution to our Wildfire Problems/Issues/Challenges

The success of wildland fire management hinges as much on the acceptance, support, behavior, and cooperation of at-risk communities and individuals and the general public as on biophysical fire science and technology.

People, Fire, and Forests, 2007

Why Work With Communities?

Communities are more than places where people live, work, and raise their children. They are the relationships, partnerships, attitudes and values that bind people, businesses, organizations and agencies together and motivate them to achieve common goals.

Firewise Communities 2001 p.4

Wildfire as an Event

Before



During



After





Before



- **Mitigation**
- **Preparedness**



- **Reduction**
- **Readiness**



During



- **Response**



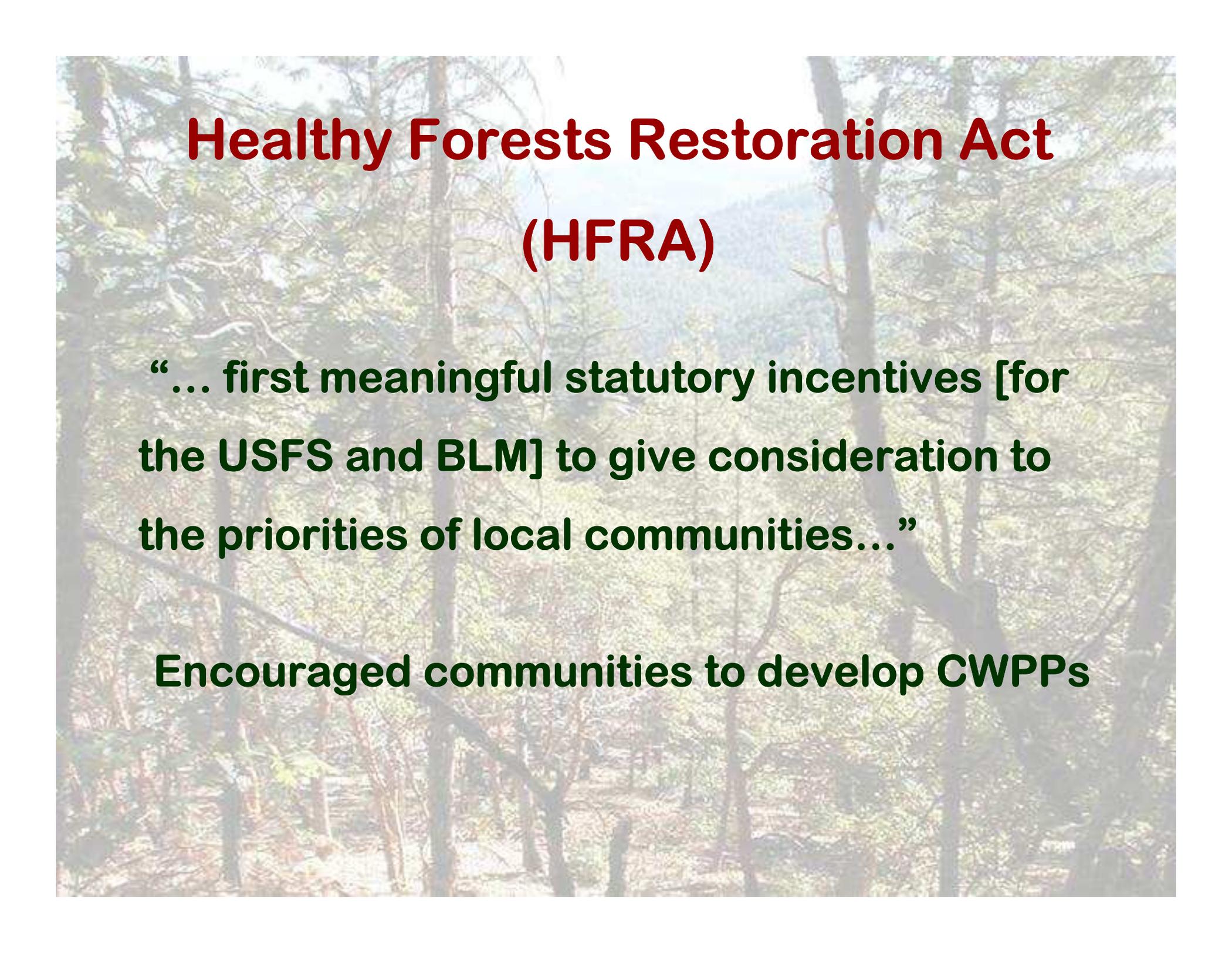


After



- Recovery





Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA)

“... first meaningful statutory incentives [for the USFS and BLM] to give consideration to the priorities of local communities...”

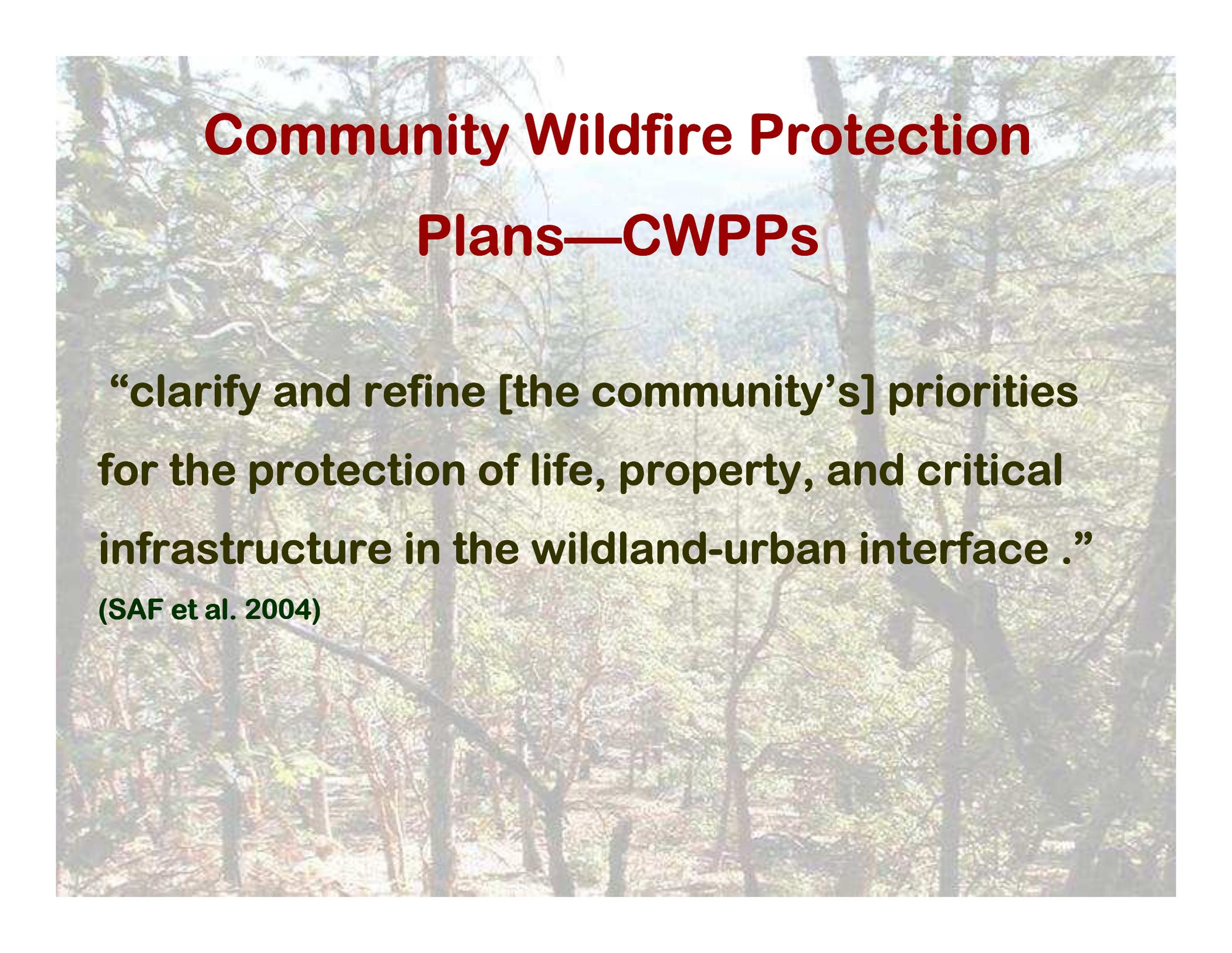
Encouraged communities to develop CWPPs



Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)

3 requirements:

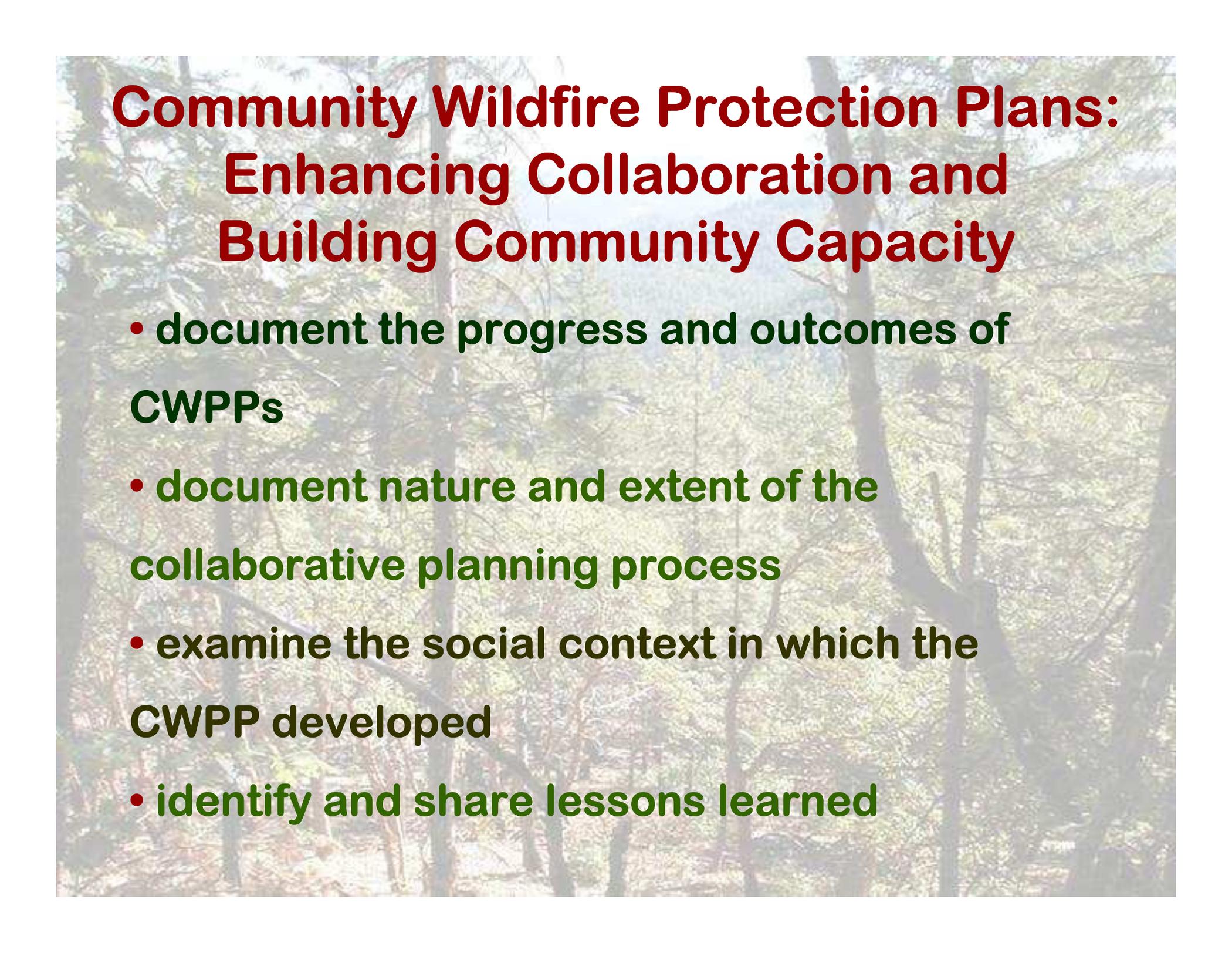
- **Collaboration**
- **Prioritize fuels reduction projects**
- **Reduce ignitability of structures**



Community Wildfire Protection Plans—CWPPs

**“clarify and refine [the community’s] priorities
for the protection of life, property, and critical
infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface .”**

(SAF et al. 2004)



Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Enhancing Collaboration and Building Community Capacity

- **document the progress and outcomes of CWPPs**
- **document nature and extent of the collaborative planning process**
- **examine the social context in which the CWPP developed**
- **identify and share lessons learned**



Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Enhancing Collaboration and Building Community Capacity

- **improve the ability of agencies, organizations, communities, and citizens to work together collaboratively, and**
- **enhance the long-term capacity of community to address wildfire risk**

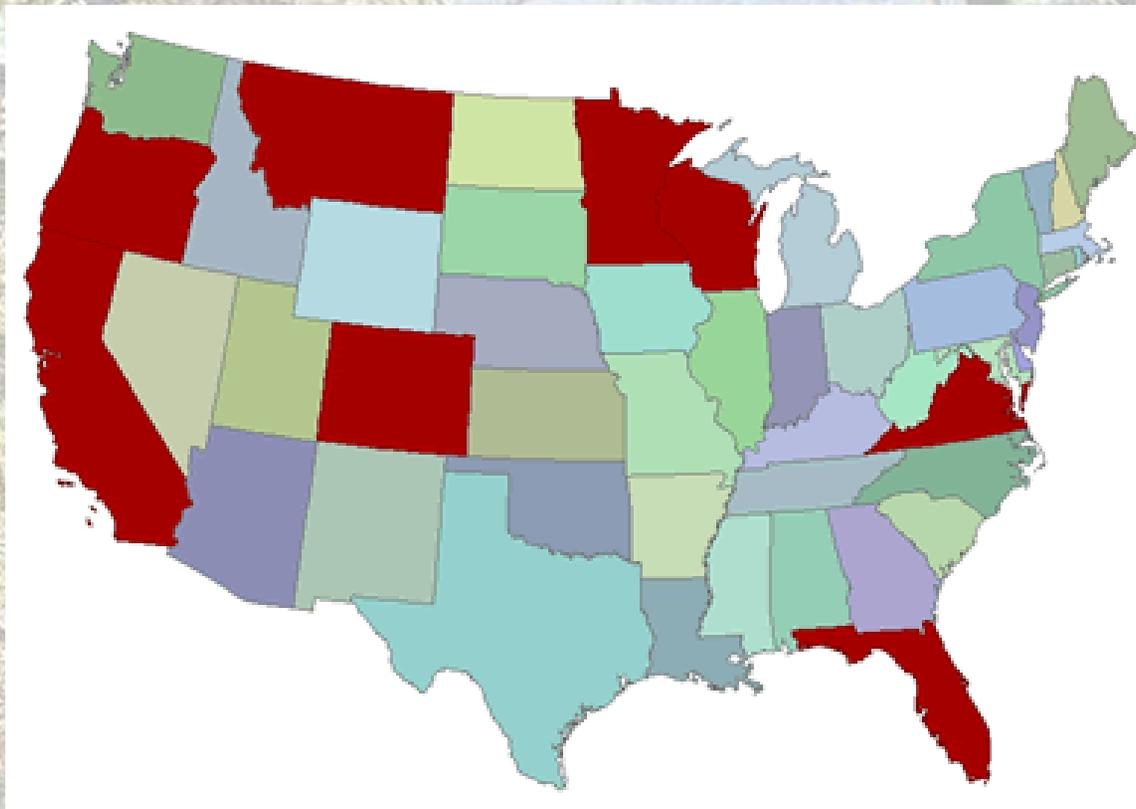
Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Enhancing Collaboration and Building Community Capacity



Research Advisory Team

- **Help identify relevant issues**
- **Help identify research questions important to managers and policy makers**
- **Assist in building awareness of the research project**
- **Provide guidance regarding science delivery**

Case Study States



Collaboration ...

seeks to achieve goals that could not be achieved independently by:

- pooling resources of 2 or more stakeholders,**
- in a way that is voluntary,**
- and involves face-to face interaction and interdependence**



Benefits of Collaboration

- **increases efficiency**
- **increases awareness of changing values**
- **builds trust**
- **facilitates landscape-level management and planning**

Benefits of Collaboration

- **motivates private landowners**
- **supports science**
- **builds community capacity**
- **builds agency capacity**

Elements Influencing Collaboration for CWPPs

- Community context
- Scale
- Framing

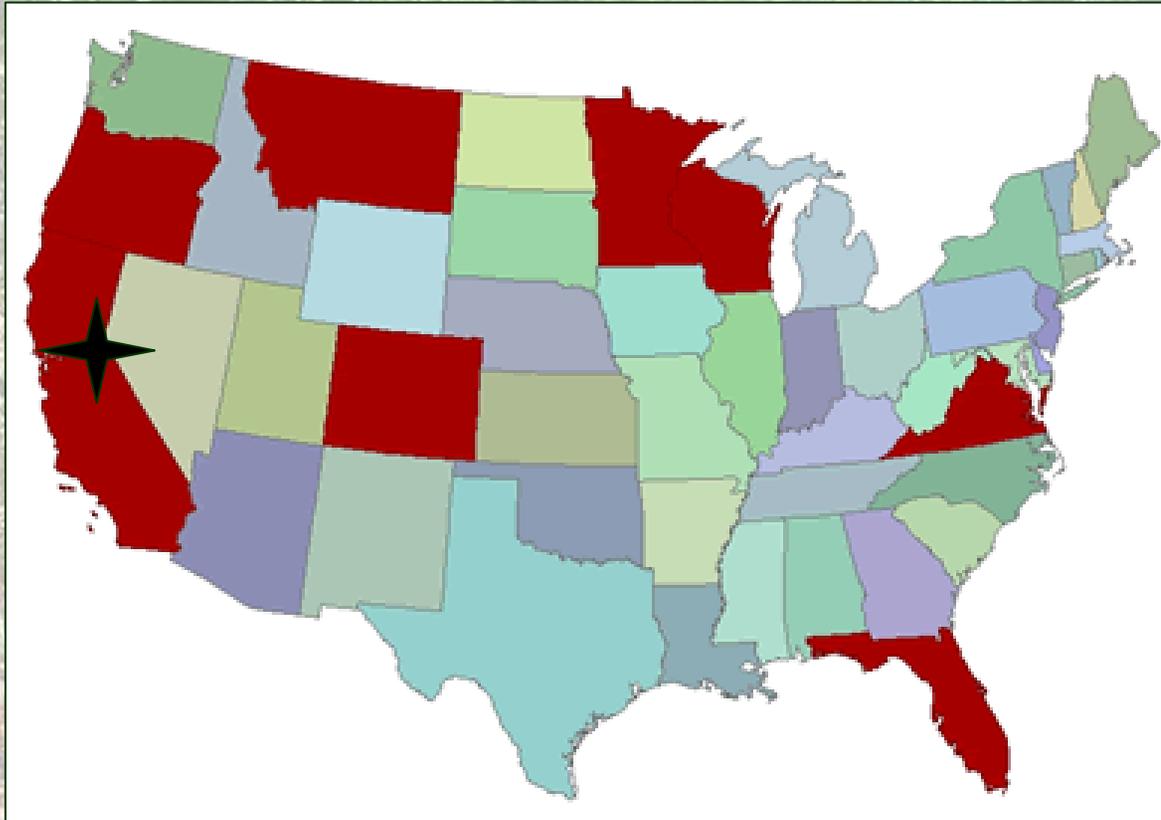


Collaboration

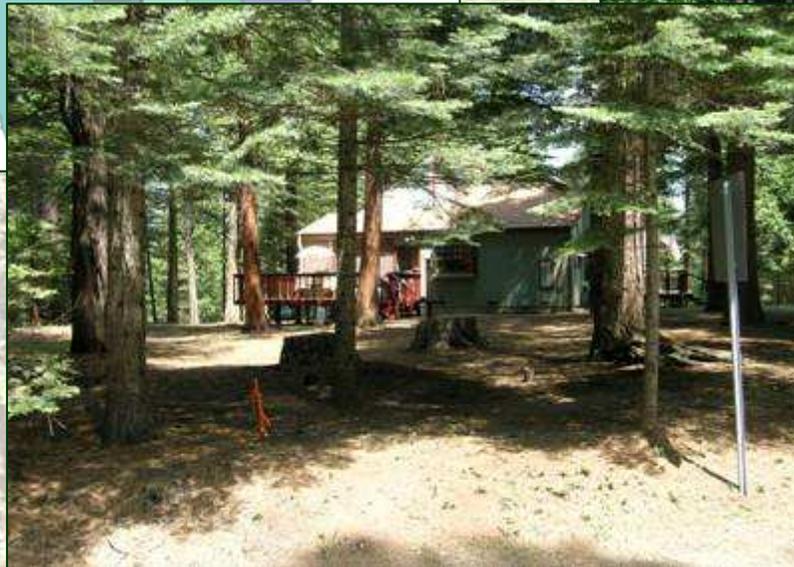
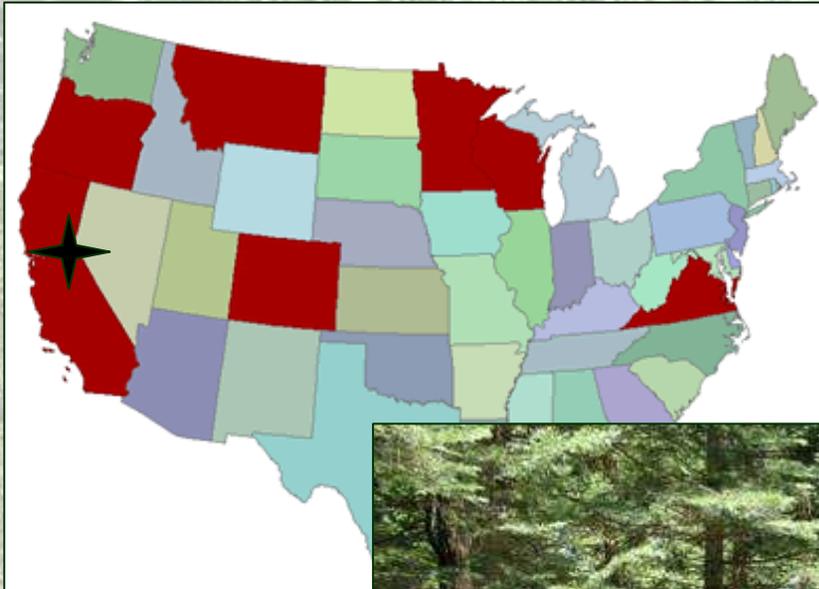
Grizzly Flats and Auburn Lake Trails

El Dorado County

California



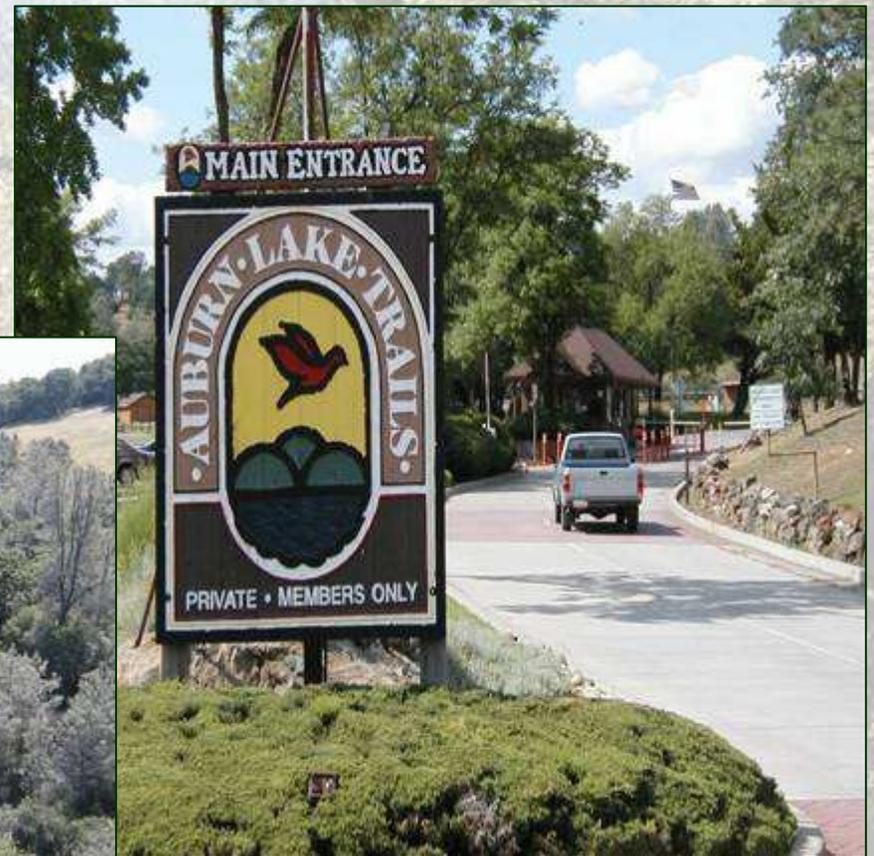
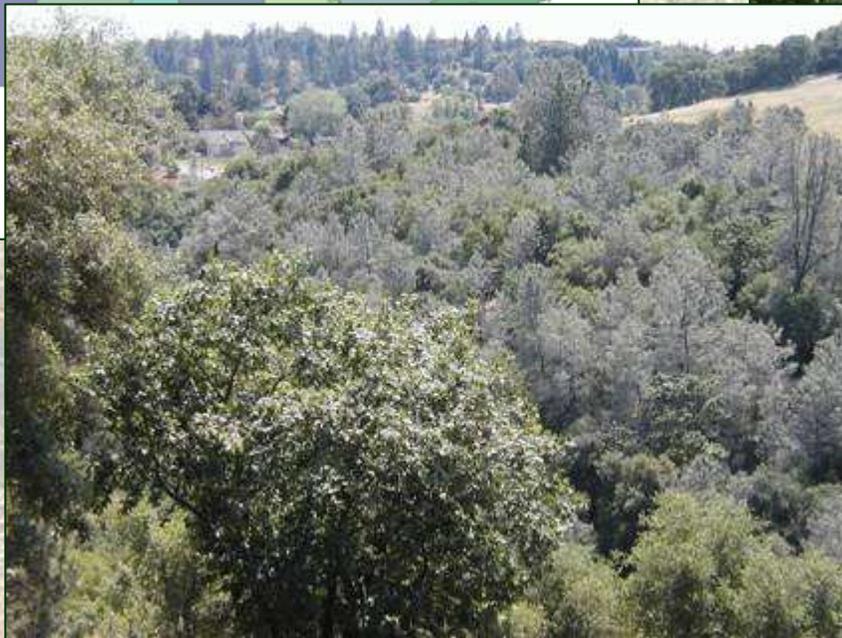
Grizzly Flats, El Dorado County, California



Grizzly Flats, El Dorado County, California

- no local unit of government
- reputation as outlaw community, but old concept
- contractor went in with open mind
- contractor supported and used what was being built by the community itself
- built collaborative capacity

Auburn Lake Trails, El Dorado County, California



Grizzly Flats, El Dorado County, California

- **gated community of professionals**
- **homeowners association and board**
- **contractor briefed but did not collaborate**
- **community accepted contractor as professional**
- **no collaborative capacity built**

Em Kayan, Lincoln County, Montana



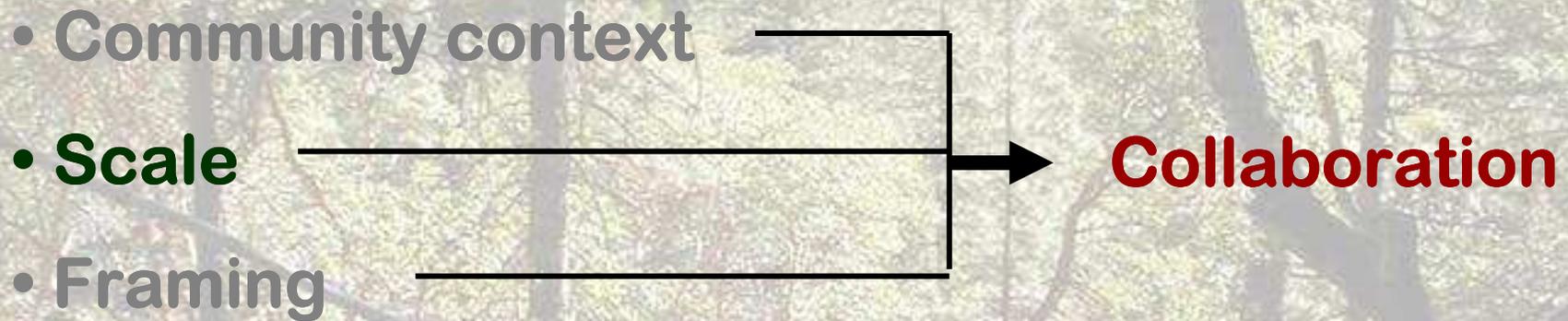
**Em Kayan
Firewise
Communities/
USA Plan**

**Lincoln County
CWPP**

**Lincoln County pre-
disaster mitigation
plan**

**State of Montana
multi-hazard
mitigation plan**

Elements Influencing Collaboration for CWPPs



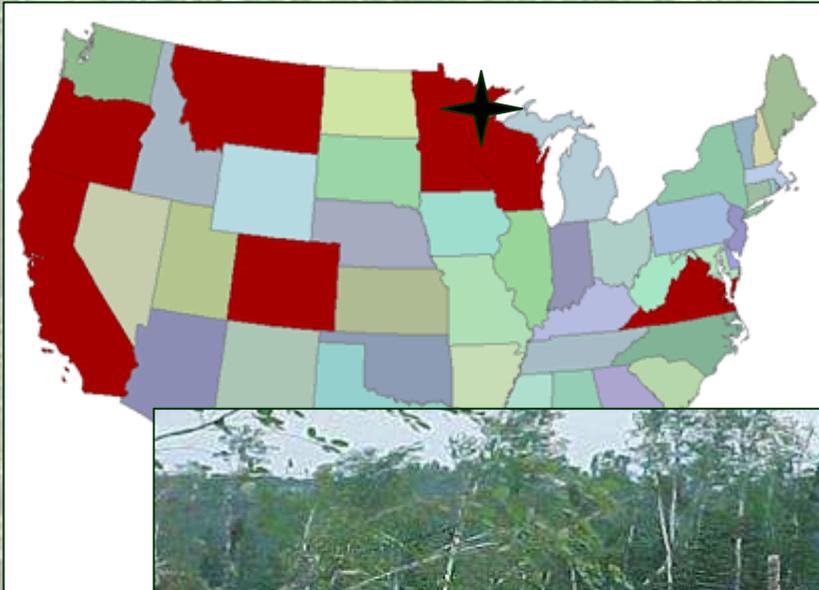
Elements Influencing Collaboration for CWPPs—Scale

- Goal = strategic, landscape-level planning



- Broader scale planning (multi-county, county, or multi-township)
- Agency involvement critical

Lake County, Minnesota



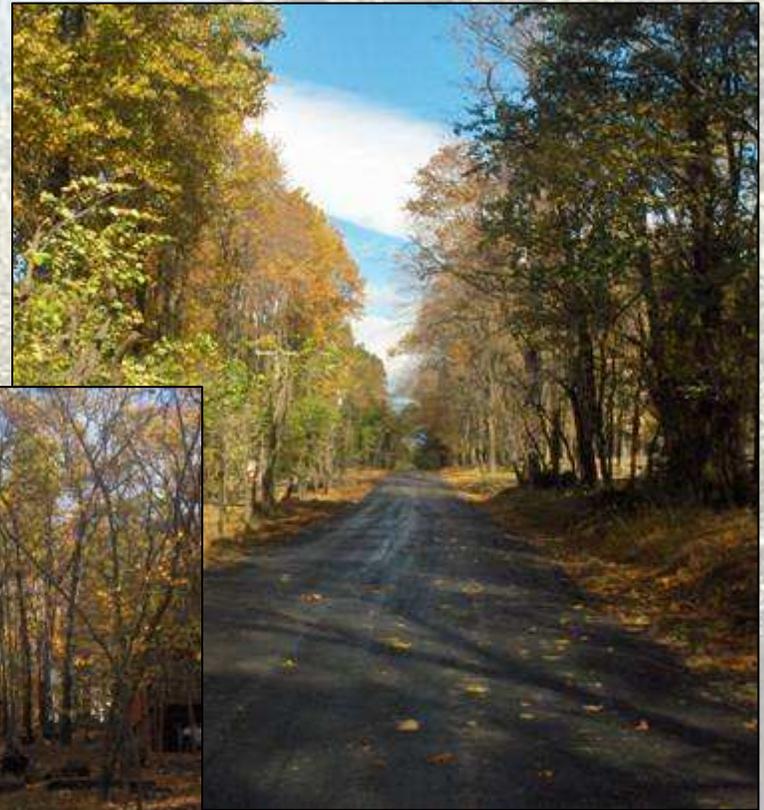
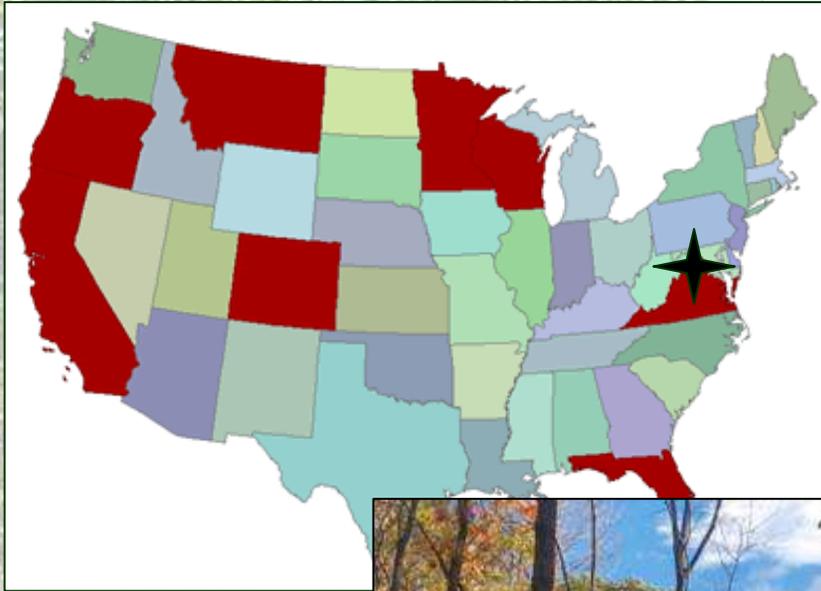
Elements Influencing Collaboration for CWPPs—Scale

- Goal = property owner-level planning



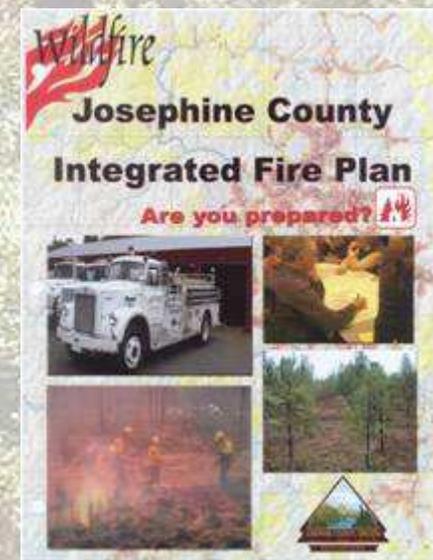
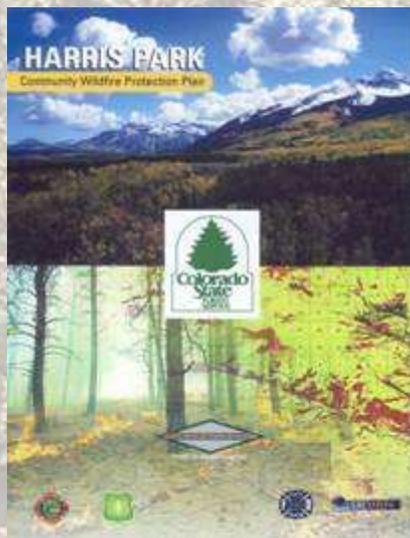
- Smaller scale planning (neighborhood, homeowners association, community)
- Homeowner involvement critical.

High Knob, Virginia



Elements Influencing Collaboration for CWPPs—Scale

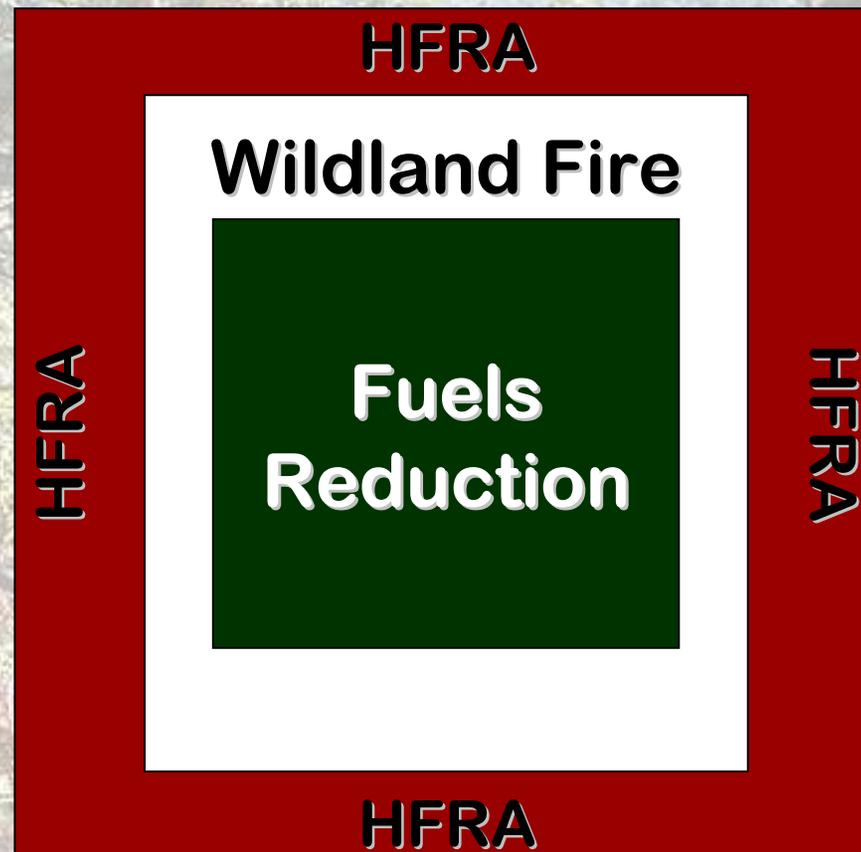
Select the scale where you can make
something happen!



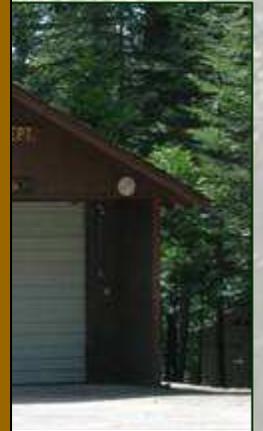
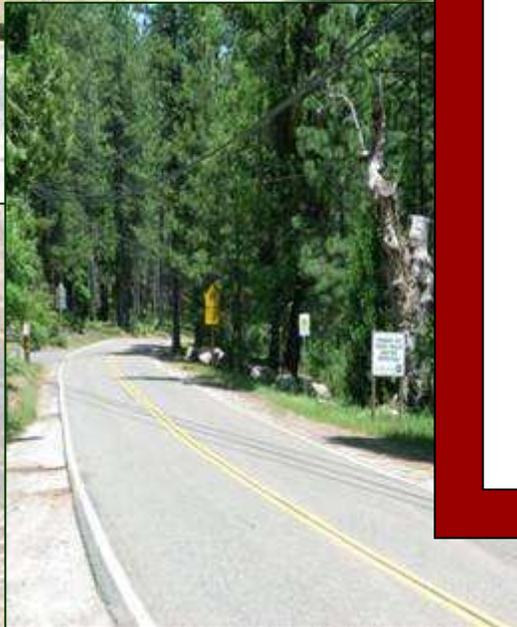
Elements Influencing Collaboration for CWPPs



Elements Influencing Collaboration for CWPPs—Framing



Framing the Problem in Grizzly Flats



Safety

**Fuels
Reduction**

Taylor, Florida



Safety

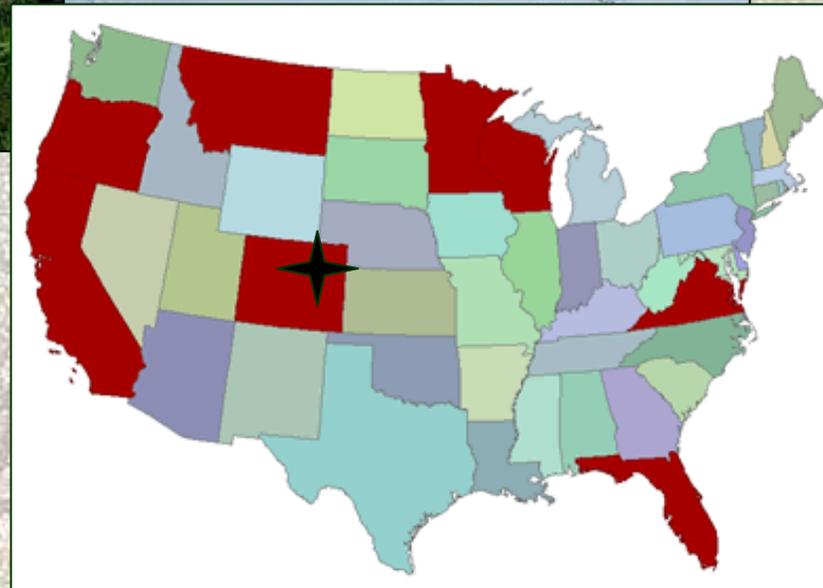
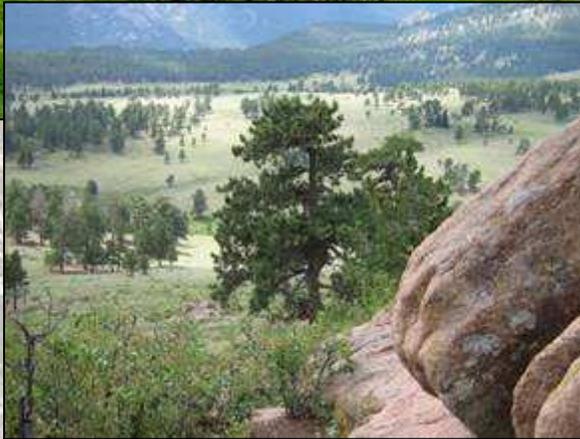


Elements Influencing Collaboration for CWPPs—Framing

Restoration



Harris Park & East Portal, Colorado



Multiple Frames for One Issue



Policy Questions Related to Collaboration

- How can the benefits of collaboration be made more visible and apparent?
- How do we measure or account for the impacts of collaboration?
- What incentives could be used to increase involvement by various potential partners in collaborative planning and decision-making?

This research was sponsored in part by the Joint Fire Science Program. For further information go to www.firescience.gov

