

# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

Enhancing Collaboration & Building Community Capacity

<http://jfsp.fortlewis.edu>

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**Context**

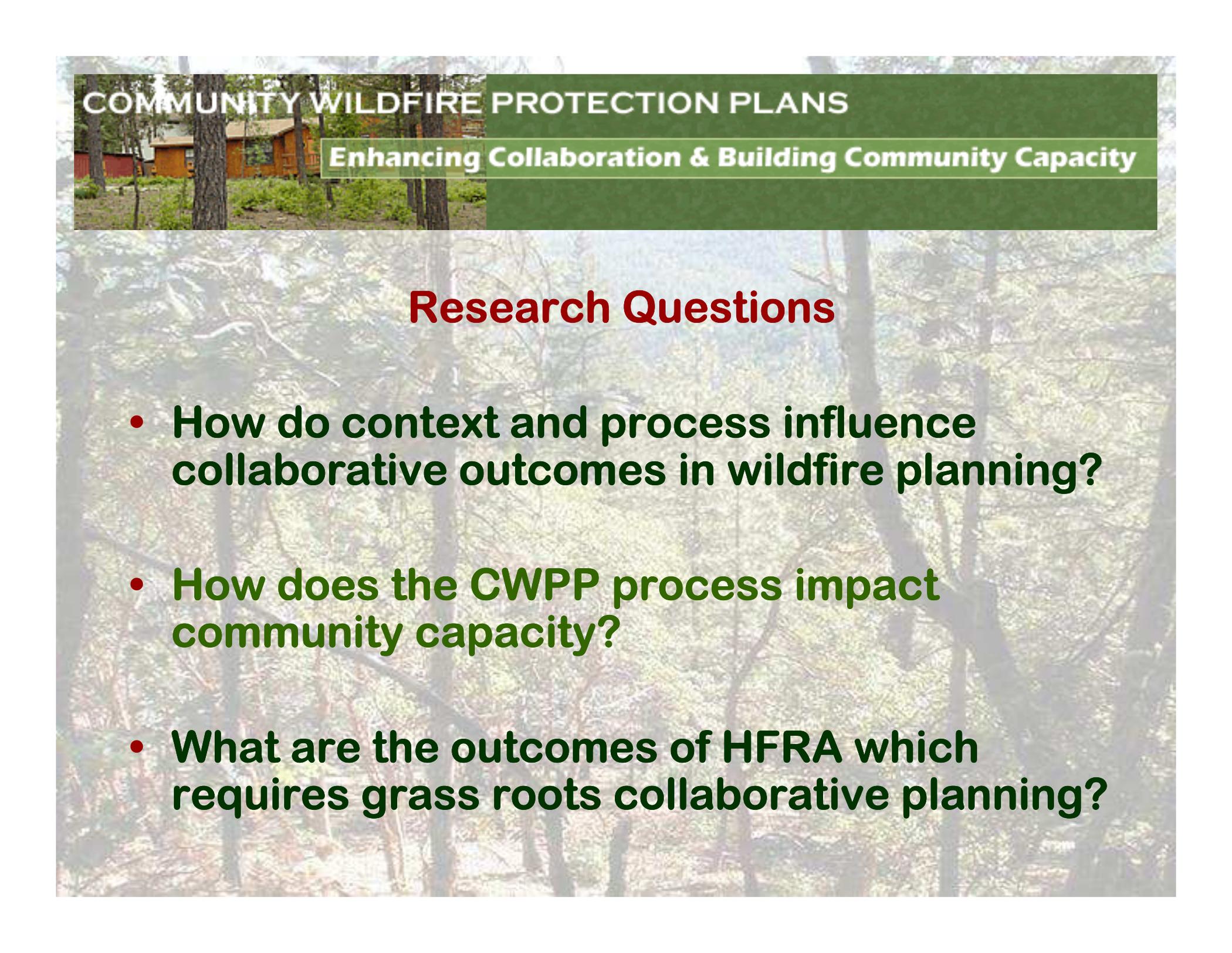


**Collaborative process**



**Outcomes =**

**Community capacity +**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees and a small wooden cabin or house partially visible in the distance. The image is slightly faded to allow text to be read.

# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

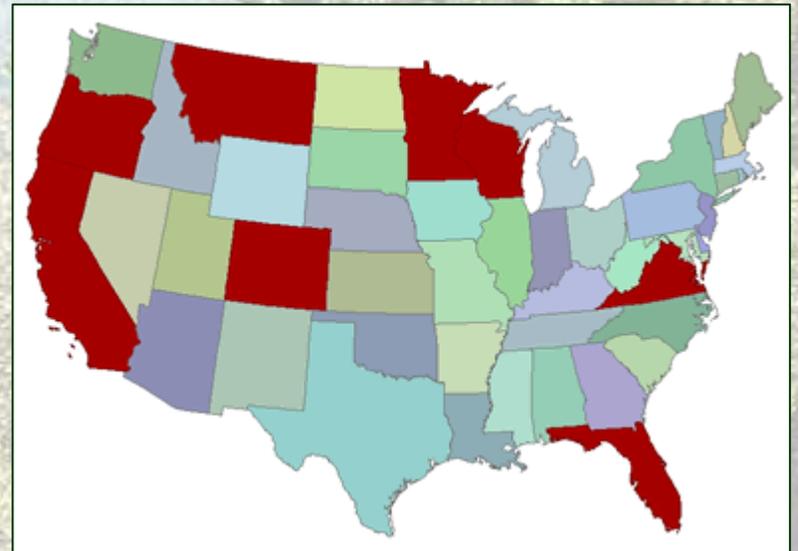
## Enhancing Collaboration & Building Community Capacity

### Research Questions

- How do context and process influence collaborative outcomes in wildfire planning?
- How does the CWPP process impact community capacity?
- What are the outcomes of HFRA which requires grass roots collaborative planning?

# Study Area / Cases

- 13 cases
- 162 interviews total
- Case level:
  - 4 county
  - 4 municipal
  - 5 homeowner association
- Range in community capacity



# Project Advisory Board

- Help identify relevant issues
- Provide feedback on CWPP insights
- Assist in building awareness of the lessons learned
- Provide guidance in knowledge transfer



# Knowledge Transfer Approach

- Make available “lessons learned” about the contexts, processes and outcomes
- Share in traditional professional meetings
- Dialogue with diverse folks via workshops.

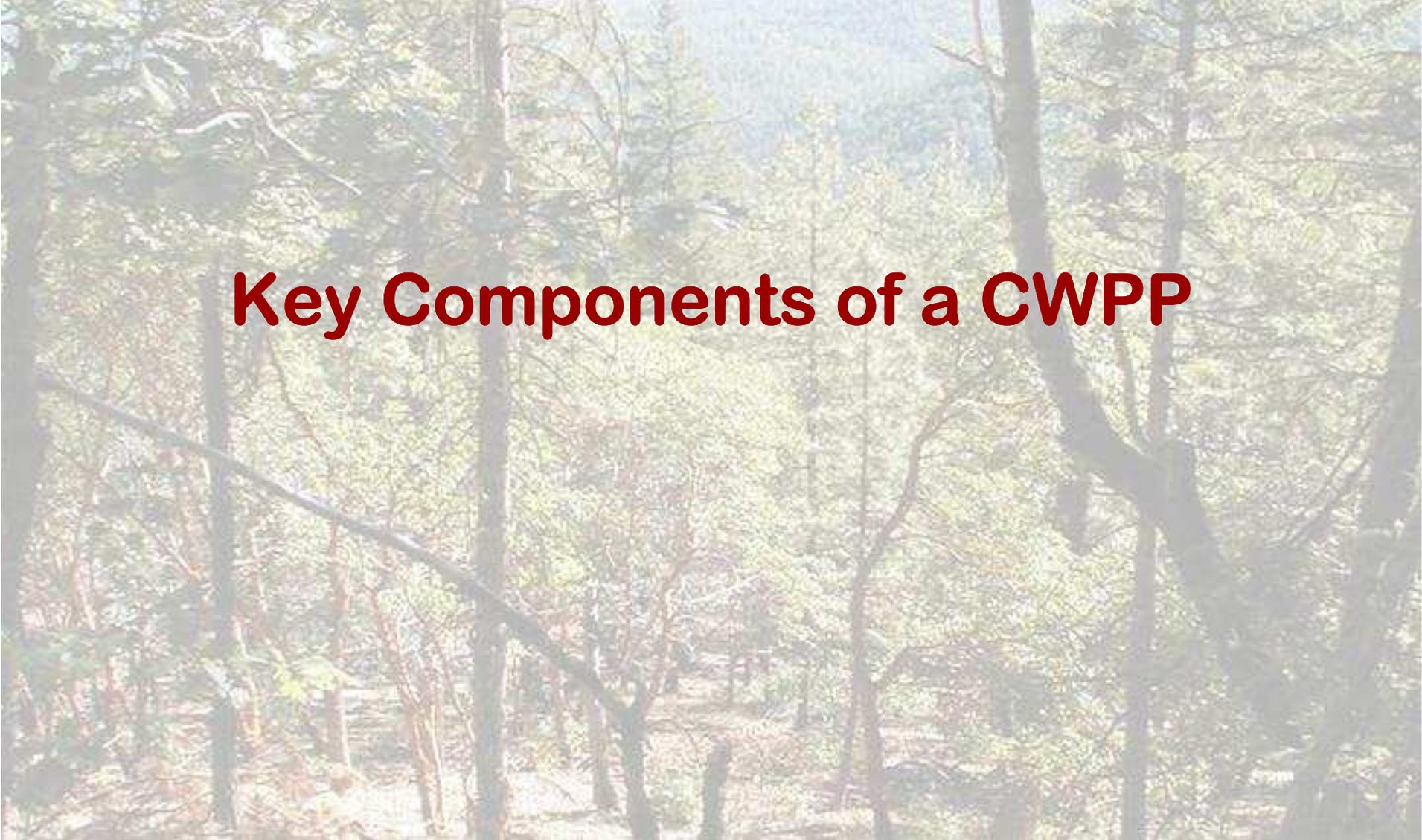
Workshop topics chosen to best fit the CWPP development process and stages of the host states.





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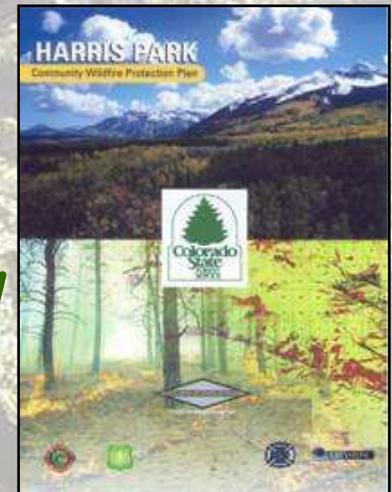
Enhancing Collaboration & Building Community Capacity



## Key Components of a CWPP

# Key Components of CWPP

- Introduction/local context/legal regulations and governance authorities
- Community and WUI descriptions
- Community assessments including risk/and response capacities
- Community mitigation strategies/ fuels/ structures/educations/ policies
- Action recommendations and implementation/timeframes/resources
- Monitoring plan
- Declaration of agreement and concurrence among the collaborative partners



# CWPP Component Contents (1 of 2)

## Introduction/Context/ Authorities

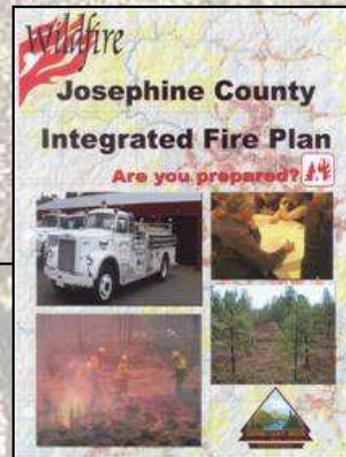
- Geographic area
- Descriptions and trends
- Relevant wildfire regulations
- Federal/state/local policies
- Need for the CWPP
- Planning /coordinating group

## Community/WUI Descriptions

- Community attributes
- Basic WUI description
- Map of the area
- Relationship to the larger context/county

## Community Assessments

- Fire regime and fuel types/ ignition risks
- Community values and attributes - e.g. housing, business, and public infrastructure
- Recreation areas/ watersheds/wildlife
- Historic/cultural



# CWPP Component Contents (2 of 2)

<b>Community Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategies</li><li>• Action plan and priorities</li><li>• Projects identified</li><li>• Treatment approaches</li><li>• Wildfire prevention/ education processes</li><li>• Defensible space actions to reduce structural ignitability</li><li>• Land use policies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What action will occur, where it will occur, how, how often, who is responsible, and costs if known</li><li>• Usually prepared in the form of a spreadsheet</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annually review of the action plan to determine progress/status on process and content</li><li>• Look at both the collaboration and the work accomplished</li></ul>

**Collaboratively gain support and approval from the state forest service, the fire department, and the local community jurisdiction.**

# Questions?





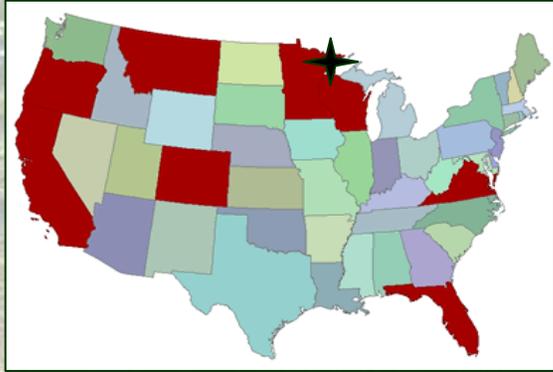
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

Enhancing Collaboration & Building Community Capacity



**What are the Benefits of Developing a  
Community Wildfire Protection Plan?**

# Lake County, Minnesota

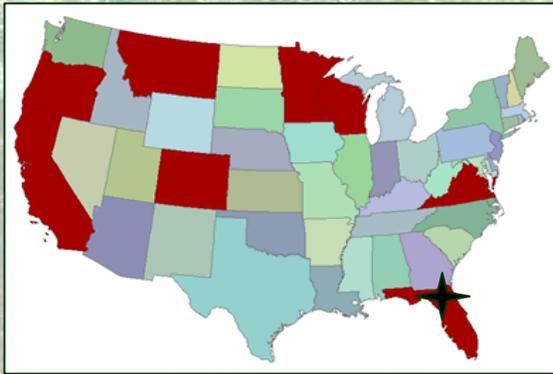


**Increased awareness  
of the wildfire issue**



*“...just getting everybody involved. The local fire departments and people to understand...”*

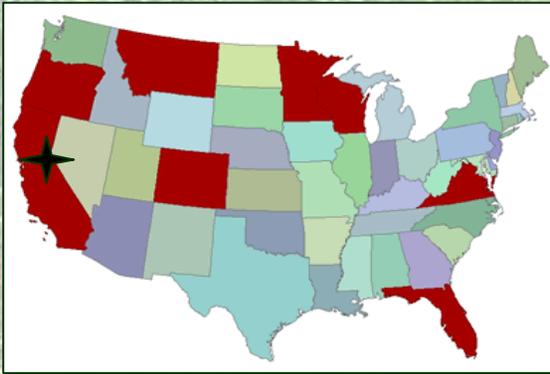
# Taylor, Florida



**Agreement on actions  
that need to be taken  
together**



# Auburn Lake Trails, California

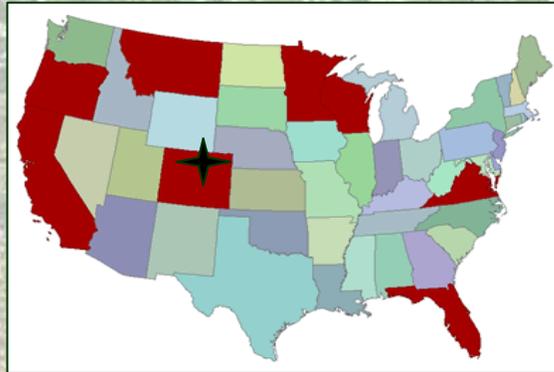


Progress on fuels management and infrastructure improvements

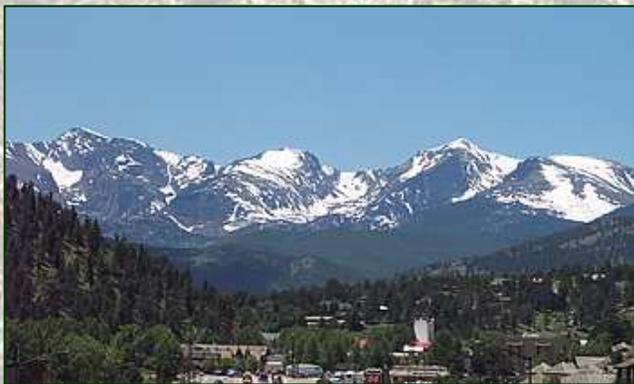


*“Something was actually getting done! [fuels management around homes and in commons, street/house signing, shaded fuels break]”*

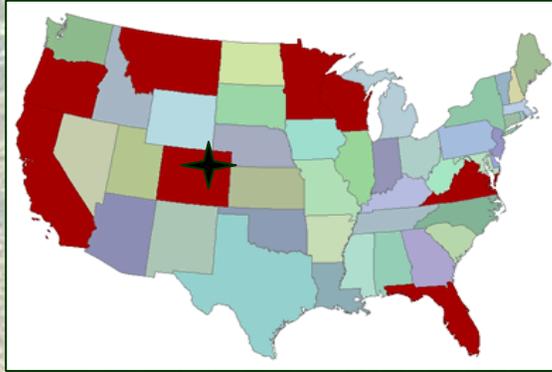
# East Portal, Colorado



**Community comes  
together around  
common goals and  
messages**



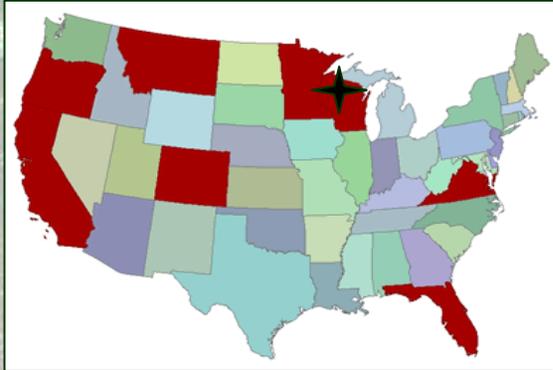
# Harris Park, Colorado



**Increased  
understanding of  
each other's interests**



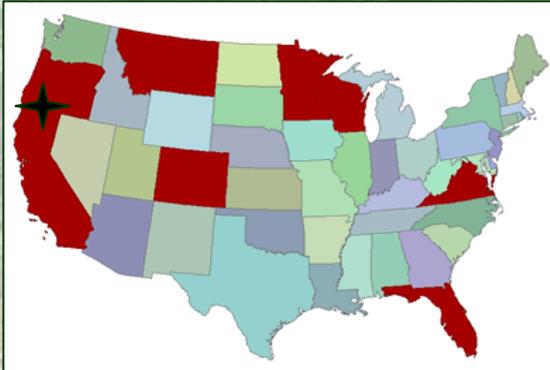
# Barnes & Drummond, Wisconsin



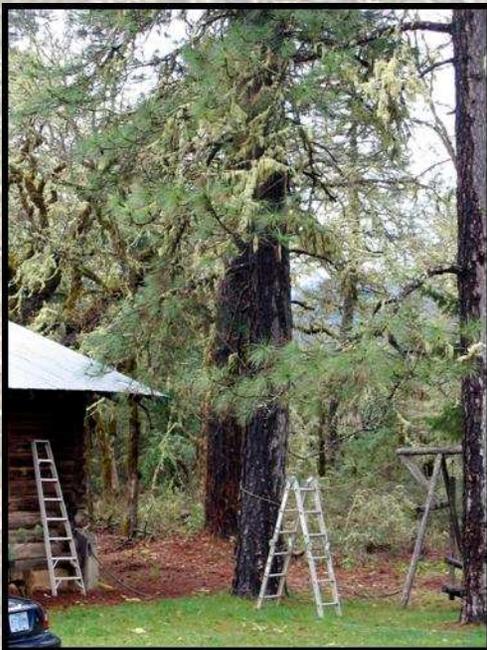
New and/or strengthened relationships

*“But just to show that it could be done, and we could communicate as a group, and you could take agencies that have different focuses, bring them together and everybody come through it OK.”*

# Josephine County, Oregon

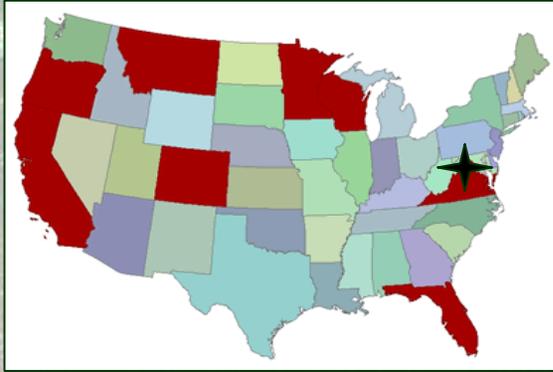


**Social learning,  
community capacity and  
outreach to special needs  
citizens**

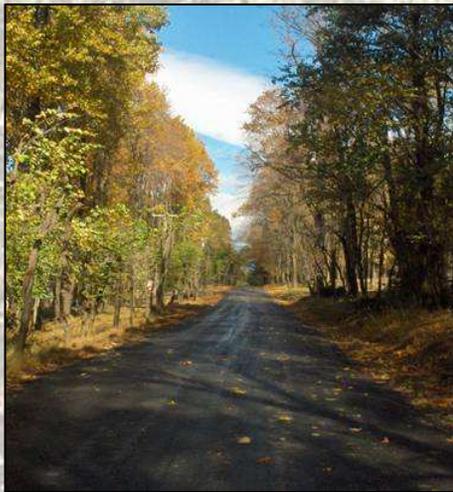


*“To change the culture  
about how people in  
Josephine County think  
about wildfire.”*

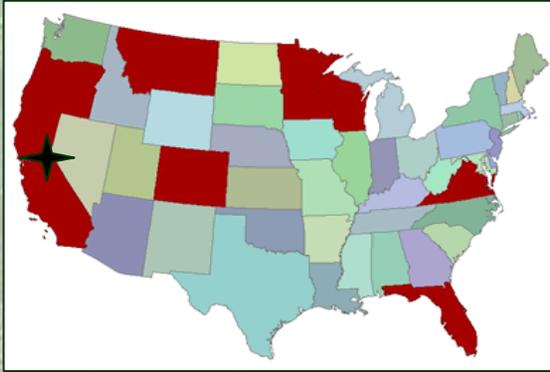
# High Knob, Virginia



**Fostering a sense of  
community**



# Grizzly Flat, California

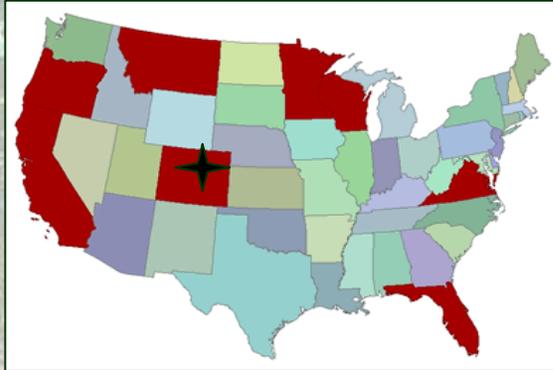


**Creates the potential to reach other community goals**

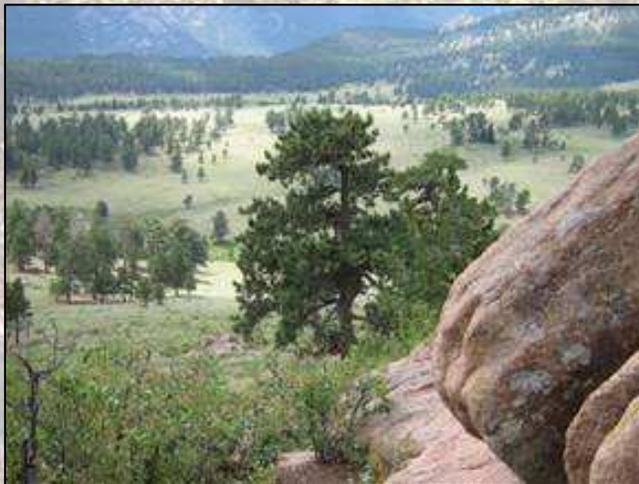


*“A principal benefit was how it helped reach the goal of creating a community center and fire station in Grizzly Flat.”*

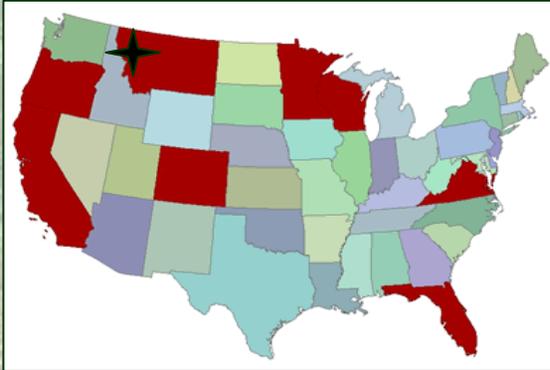
# Lake County, Colorado



**Knowledge spreads to  
other communities via  
relationships and  
networks**



# Em Kayan, Montana



Increase efficiency and relevance of CWPP by embedding or linking to other hazard planning efforts—  
Firewise Communities plan, pre-hazard mitigation plans

*“I think it definitely got the commissioners more in tune to what was going on in terms of a fire problem in their communities.”*

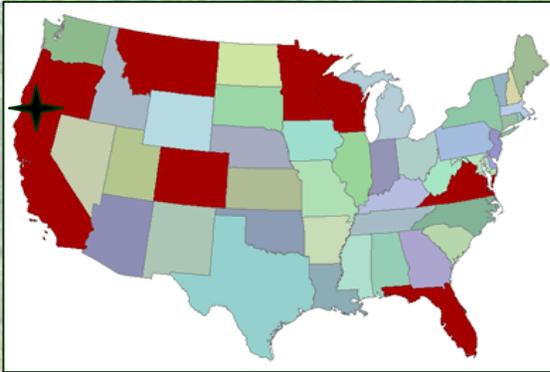
**Em Kayan  
Firewise  
Communities/  
USA Plan**

**Lincoln County  
CWPP**

**Lincoln County pre-  
disaster mitigation  
plan**

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

# Ashland, Oregon

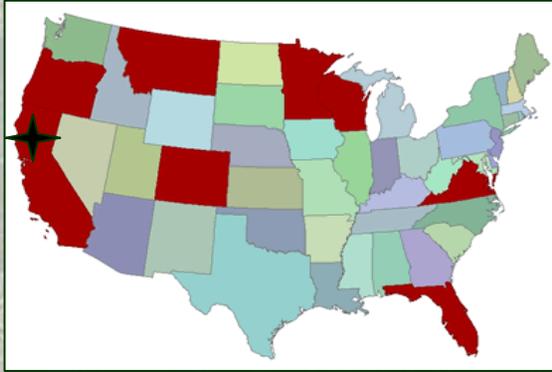


**Citizen alternative adopted by USFS provides opportunities for community monitoring**



*“This work represents a new chapter in the relationship between the USFS and City. ...a new story about how we can best work together and hold each other accountable in a solution-oriented partnership .”*

# Post Mountain, California



**New resources for  
uncontested projects**



*“It really helps us get  
some other resources and  
do some coordination  
across boundaries like  
this.”*

# CWPP Process Supports Capacity Building

- **Social**
  - New and/or strengthened relationships
  - Increased understanding of each others interests
  - Agreement on actions that need to be taken together
  - Common goal and common message
  - Social learning about each other
  - Creates potential to reach other community goals
- **Knowledge**
  - Awareness of the wildfire issue
  - Community capacity building - social, economic, political
  - Knowledge spreads to other communities
- **Natural system and Infrastructure**
  - Fuel management and infrastructural improvements
  - Improved protection and safety for the community
- **Financial**
  - New resources used for uncontested projects

# Questions

- Do these benefits resonate with your experiences?
- What additional benefits did you realize?
- How could your Firewise planning link with your CWPP ?
- What are some best ways to highlight these community benefits?



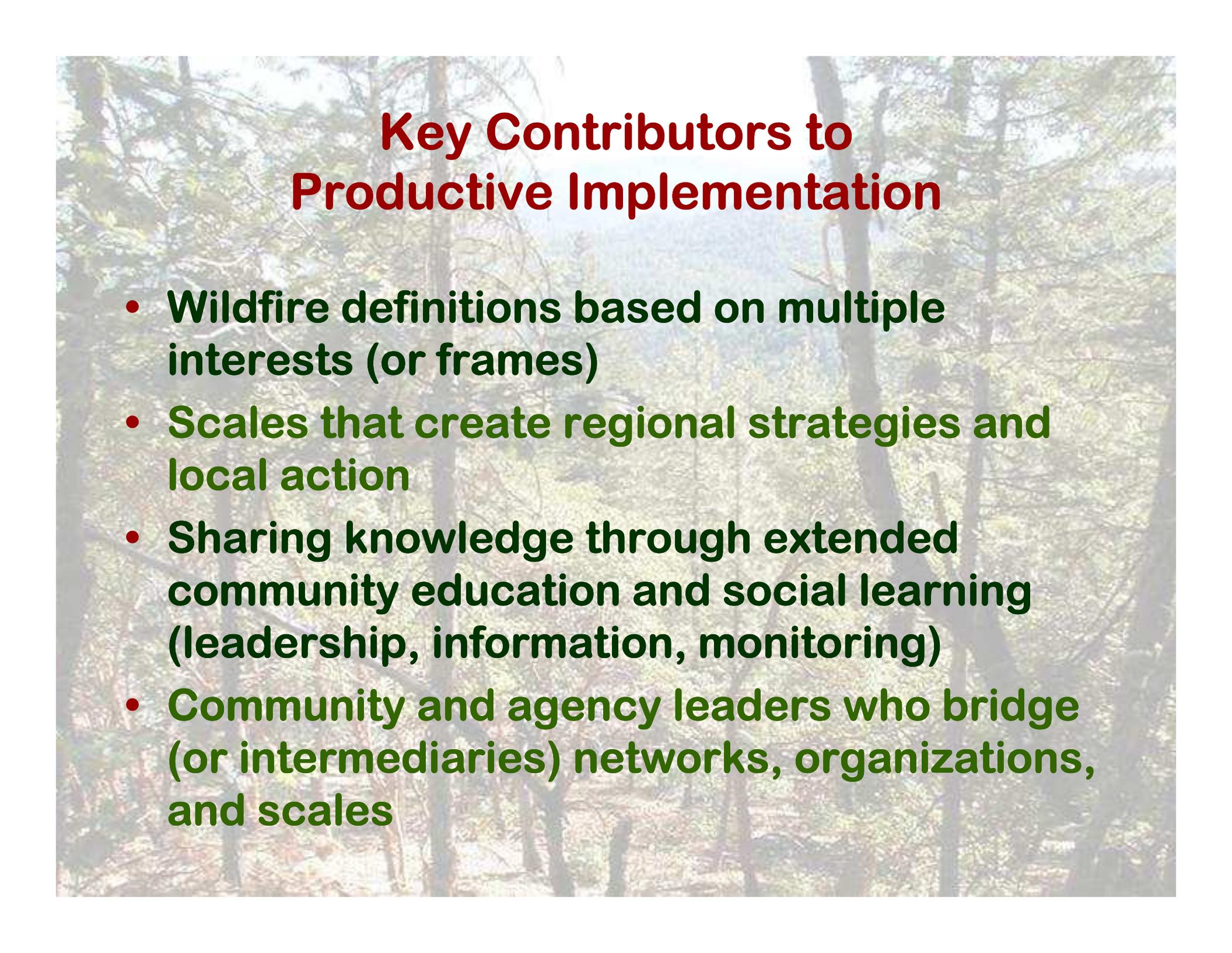


# Process Supports Implementation

# Implementation Challenges

- New and emerging players
- Shifting priorities of elected officials and managers
- Reevaluation of risk criteria to improve the prioritization process
- Maintaining fuel reduction project momentum





## **Key Contributors to Productive Implementation**

- **Wildfire definitions based on multiple interests (or frames)**
- **Scales that create regional strategies and local action**
- **Sharing knowledge through extended community education and social learning (leadership, information, monitoring)**
- **Community and agency leaders who bridge (or intermediaries) networks, organizations, and scales**



## **Multiple Concerns Broaden Community Participation**

- **A risk to lives, property and communities**
- **Addressing forest health-related ecological conditions**
- **Landscape changes due to urban development**
- **Biomass and small diameter utilization**
- **Others?**

# Scales for Strategy and Action

- **Regional or state scale networks focus on strategic landscape-level planning, coordinating treatment response, creating prevention education, and sharing lessons learned**
- **Community, neighborhood and county-scale networks stress on the ground mitigation and prevention actions**
- **Combining these approaches can produce a balanced and sustainable range of community protection projects**

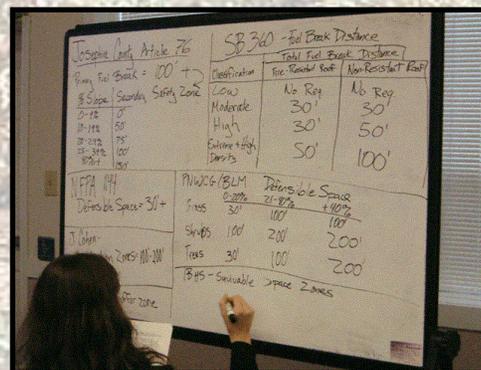


## **Communities that Learn Together Strengthen Implementation**

- **Participants may begin by mapping values-at-risk, and organizing a variety of resources**
- **Established shared understandings of the wildfire problem**
- **Heighten their knowledge of potential actions and available resources**
- **Create an expanded network of individuals and organizations**
- **“Knit” together various strands (e.g., supply, capacity, funding and markets)**

# Intermediary or Bridging Individuals or Organizations

- Have **key contacts** within communities and organizations
- Play strong **leadership** and bridging roles among multiple entities
- Mobilize **internal** and **external resources**
- Possess the time and skills to organize the knowledge/skills of participants to **achieve shared goals**



# **It makes all of our jobs easier.**

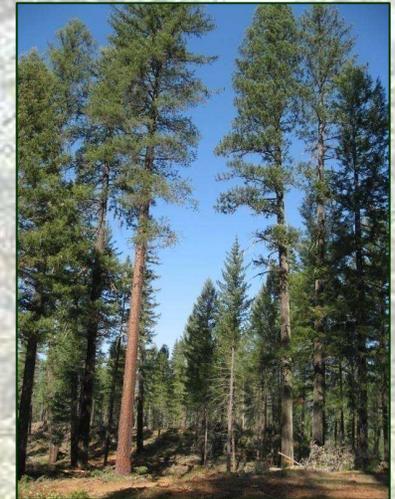
**“We were doing fuels reduction on the private lots, encouraging people to do defensible space, and then we realized we had to work on the public forests – that they were a mess.” VFD Chief**

**“Monitoring built the trust and ensured that there’d be accountability.” District Ranger**

**“The biggest difference was we had the Watershed Center in between us - it wasn’t as overwhelming to partner with the community. I personally recommend that we do that with everything that we can. It worked very well.” FS Contract Officer**

**We can’t do new stuff alone, we can just do that same tired stuff that got us into this predicament. So only by working with the community folks that live here, only by constantly meeting and talking and hashing it out and doing little stuff at a time can that be done.” BLM wildfire mitigation specialist**

**“The payoff is that I’m actually able to get fuels work done where I normally would not. And for me I think we’re actually building trust back into the community again.” FS FMO**



# Questions

- **How did the CWPP planning process provide capacity for implementation? How did you address and promote:**
  - multiple frames
  - different scales
  - learning
  - bridging to other organizations and intermediaries?
- **In implementation were there new and emerging players? New knowledge? New sources of support and resources?**
- **How have you maintained momentum through implementation?**





# **Monitoring and Evaluating CWPP Process and Sustainability**

# Why Evaluate CWPPs?

- Evaluate progress
- Document accomplishments
- Identify future directions
- Reflect on substantive learning
- Demonstrate to funders and policy makers actions and priorities



# Who and How?

- **All participants – outside evaluator only if necessary**
  - **Get a good cross-section of stakeholders, including non-participants**
  - **Monitor at various intervals**
- **Focus on the group's objectives**
- **Consider using a combination of questions and approaches**
  - **Phone or email interviews**
  - **Focus groups**
  - **Surveys at community events**
  - **Number of acres treated, community activities**

# Why assess context?

To understand the unique ecological setting and social dynamics of the community

Need to assess

- social composition, culture, and history
- constellation of assets necessary to achieve goals
- networks to outside resources and information
- ecological conditions and changes



# Why Evaluate CWPP Process?

- Improve accountability and inclusivity
- Build trust among participants and with stakeholders
- Find new participants and resources
- Note progress and successes
- Renew commitment to process



# How to Evaluate Process

- Check who is at the table, who is missing
- Are goals and expectations aligned
- Assess how data, models, and maps frame problems and what other options are available
- Evaluate
  - communication
  - decision making
  - incentives for participation
- Determine if scale is appropriate
  - across landscape and jurisdictions
  - community or neighborhood level
- How has process built foundation for implementation?
  - community organizations and residents
  - new ties and networks



# Assess Sustainability

**Why?** To evaluate the needed capacities and essential components for moving to the next steps

**How?** Ask:

- Has social capacity been created to implement the plan?
- Are community education and outreach effective and sustainable?
- Are agency and department decision-makers willing to implement projects?
- Is the CWPP comprehensive and multifaceted?
- Are there programs, organizations or plans to embed CWPP?



# Questions

- 1. What has been your experience with monitoring and evaluation?**
- 2. Have there been evaluation strategies that worked particularly well for you?**
- 3. How has the learning from assessment enhanced your sustainability?**



# Project Website: jfsp.fortlewis.edu

**COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS**  
*Enhancing Collaboration & Building Community Capacity*

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**Community Wildfire Protection Plans** (CWPP's) are one of the more important means of reducing risk to communities and ecosystems of catastrophic wildfires. *Enhancing collaboration and building community capacity* are viewed as a means insuring that these plans are responsive to the needs and objectives of communities located in the wildland-urban interface.

This site describes an applied research project that seeks to analyze the lessons learned about collaborative processes among approximately ten CWPP development processes in the United States.

Over the coming months it will also be a means of sharing the lessons discovered during the case studies.

**the project**  
**reports**  
**resources**  
**contact us**

 *Funded by the Joint Fire Science Program*