

Building Capacity for Forest Restoration: Case Studies from Collaborative CWPP Efforts

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COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

Enhancing Collaboration & Building Community Capacity

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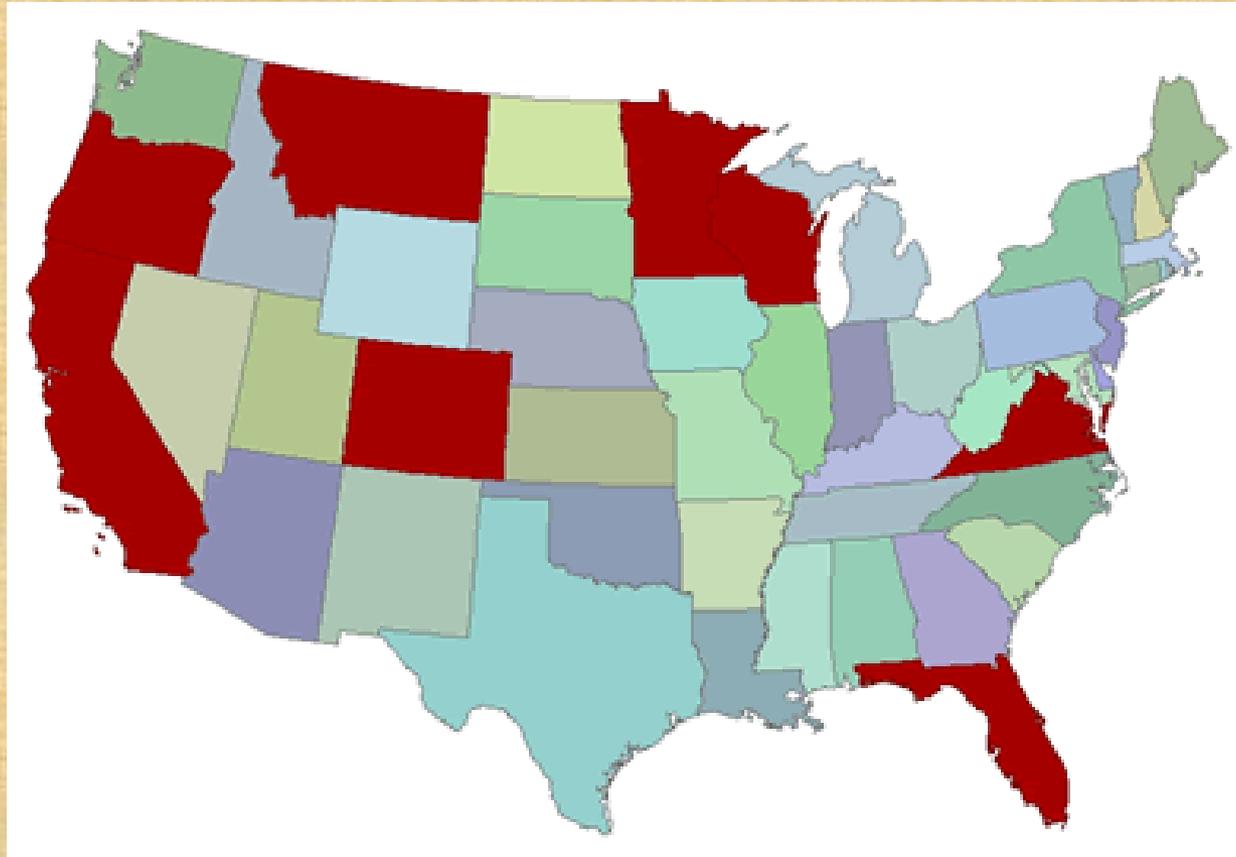
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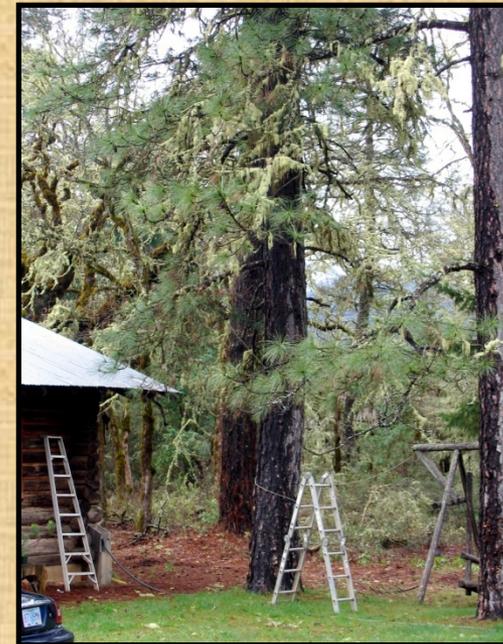
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JFSP Case Studies



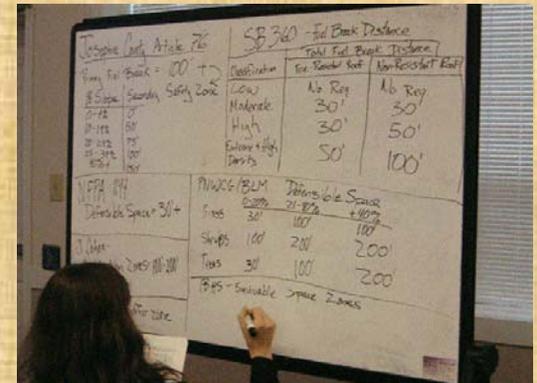
Collaborative CWPP processes increase community capacity through:

- Building skills and leadership
- Strengthening and creating relationships
- Providing access to networks
- Raising outside funds and leveraging local dollars
- Enhancing stewardship and community awareness
- Social learning and civic science
- Data bases, maps, etc.
- Demonstration projects
- Emergency planning
- Offering new sense of hope, trust and respect
- Shared responsibility
- Political will



Intermediaries and community based organizations help build capacity by:

- facilitating community meetings
- lending technical skills (eg GIS) and grant writing
- providing administrative assistance with communication, organizational structure, monitoring
- implementing fuel reduction projects
- bridging stakeholders, groups and agencies
- accessing networks and information
- coordination, integration and juggling



Collaborative CWPP processes increase community capacity for forest restoration through:

- Social learning
- Integrating fuels reduction and forest restoration goals
- Renewing trust between agencies, communities and environmental organizations
- Knitting various strands together (supply, capacity, funding and markets)



Case Studies

- Post Mountain CWPP
- Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan
- Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative



Post Mountain CWPP

- Integration of public concerns over safety and property (egress and defensible space) with forest health, wildlife and riparian areas
- Addressed lack of trust with ecological principles and monitoring
- Cooperation from USFS District – Ranger, FMO, wildlife biologist, archaeologist
- Stewardship contracting a catalyst
- Facilitated by Watershed Center
- Economic development opportunities
- Roadside fuel breaks on private land and federal “boots”
- Outreach and education



Post Mountain CWPP building capacity for forest restoration

- GIS maps , photo points and background NEPA work
- New working relationships and restored trust between community and Forest Service
- Community support for integrated goals of fuel reduction and restoration of fire adapted ecosystem
- Workforce training
- Allayed resistance from environmental groups
- All the pieces knit together (community, agencies, workforce, technology, markets, funding)
- Remaining concerns
 - Costs of restoration work
 - Leadership turnover
 - CWPP not completed



“The meeting process ... there was a lot of negotiating going on and I think the public felt like they were truly a part of the design. Which they were and are; I mean that’s the big thing about stewardship is you’ve got to have majority collaboration.” District FMO

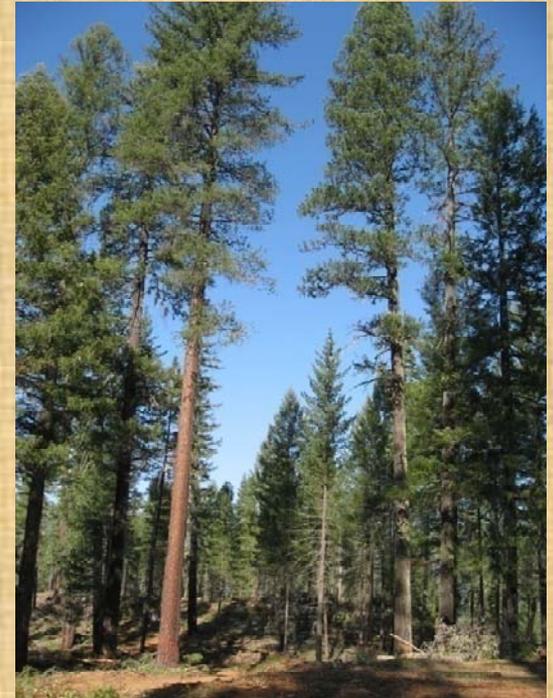
“We were doing fuels reduction on the private lots, encouraging people to do defensible space, and then we realized we had to work on the public forests – that they were a mess.” VFD Chief

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

“Because of what Ingrid had developed with Lynn, we thought we were another piece of that that hadn’t been tapped and it all fit.”

“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

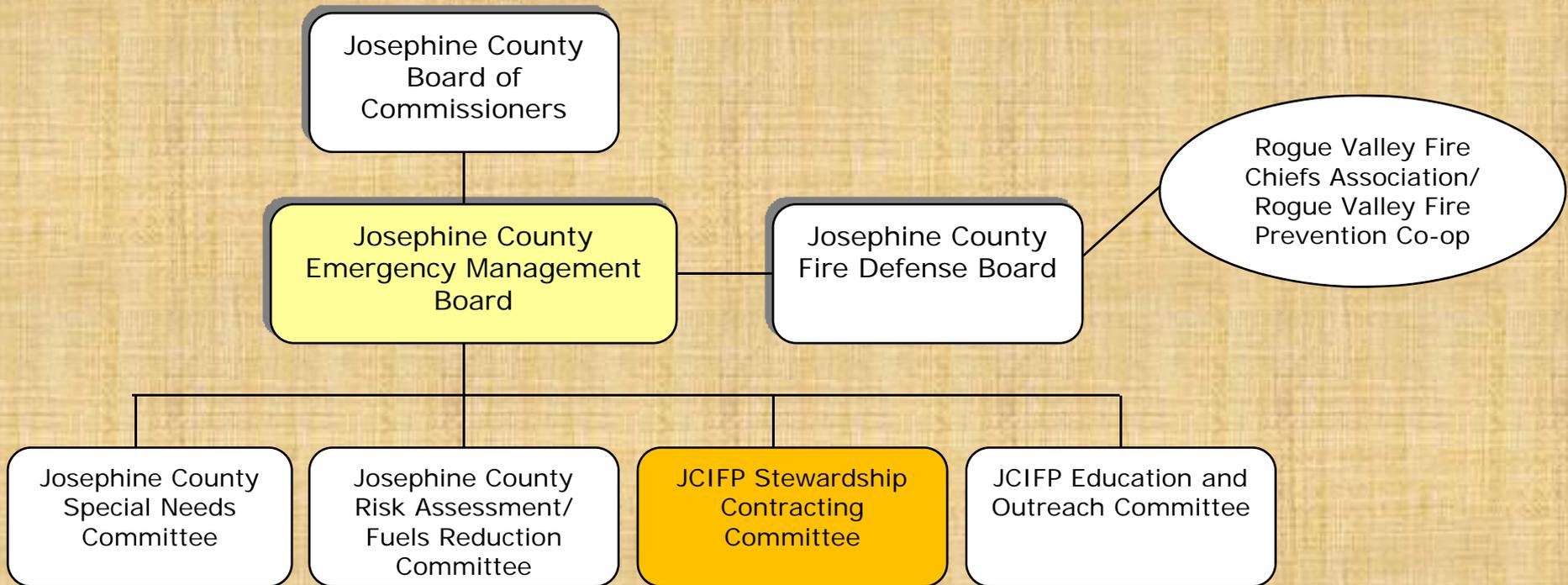
“The payoff is that I’m actually able to get fuels work done where I normally would not. And for me I think we’re actually building trust back into the community again.” FS FMO



Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan

- 2002, 500,00 acre Biscuit Fire a catalyst
- Initiated by County, sustained by Emergency Management Board
- Engaged participation from six fire departments, federal and state agencies, environmental groups
- Facilitated by intermediary organization, Resource Innovations
- Strategic, county-level plan – community plans nested within
- Special attention to special-needs and low-income communities

JCIFP Organizational Chart



Outcomes of JCIFP Collaboration

- Merged and stronger Emergency Board
- New working relationships among county, state and federal agencies
- Increased coordination broadened scope of responsibility and capacity
- Integrated approach to fire protection that includes public education, preparedness, and short and long-term risk reduction activities
- Services offered to underserved and special needs population
- Collaborative and in-depth risk assessment – provided priority areas for fuel reduction and restoration
- NFP and FEMA funding
- Fuel reduction on private land
- Monitoring and evaluation process



JCIFP building capacity for restoration

- Incorporation of CWPP goals into agency planning
- Fuel reduction prescriptions across ownership boundaries
- Long term commitment from federal and state agencies, county and local fire districts
- Increased awareness and support from residents for fuel reduction and forest restoration
- Partnership with Illinois Valley Community Development Organization
- Multi-layer GIS mapping – vegetation and fuel models, prioritized communities at risk and fuel hazards
- Local jobs and economic development objective for an integrated approach to fire protection and restoration.
- Stewardship Contracting Group

“I think the most important part of this plan is the collaboration that’s produced. At 10:00 we have a meeting where we’re all going to collaborate again, then at 12:30 we’re going to do it again. Last week I believe, we went to the stewardship meeting, which is trying to utilize that biomass. Working extremely hard on getting new stuff done, and we can’t do it alone. 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)

“All the players would sit in the meetings and hear the same words but interpret it and understand it from their discipline, history, stereotypes and we needed to have translators, needed to have people involved that understood what they were hearing How do we address what they heard, not what was said, to move this thing forward? “ (County Planner)

It was key for me to develop those relationships with ODF, BLM, FS, the city, the County, the Fire Districts. (SFI exec dir)

“I don’t think they thought of it in forest health at all, because most people don’t understand what that means.” (retired USFS FMO)

“Nothing breeds success like success ... now having someone document, share, and in fact promote, and I guess just feeling better about it and more willing to show up at the meetings and we all feel successful.” (County Planner)

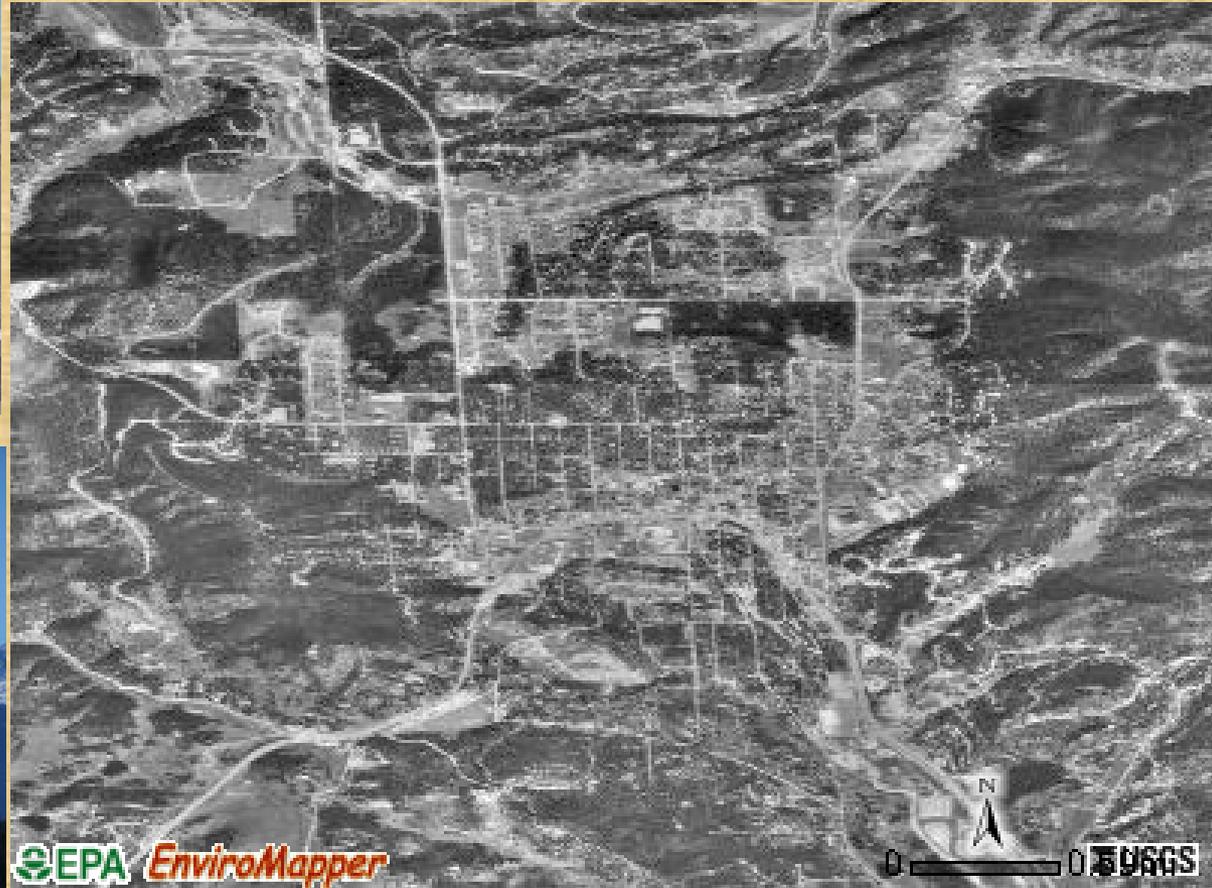
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Woodland Park Healthy Forests Initiative

Front Range Roundtable + Woodland Park CWPP





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- **Pre- and post-treatment monitoring**
- **Coordinate with Coalition for the Upper South Platte, interested citizens, and local schools**
- **Benefit-cost analysis of collaboration**
- **Social analysis with CUSP**

Questions remaining

- Coordination of community goals with agency management plans
 - How to keep federal agency priorities in line with CWPP and not shifting over time?
 - How to carry agency NEPA across projects and involve CWPP participants in project design and implementation?
- Economic development, labor force and contractor training
 - Projects and funding often run through community organizations such as RC&D and Community Development Organizations. Does this increase capacity of these organizations or tax them?
 - Are these the organizations that will help create economic opportunities for small diameter and biomass utilization? If not, who will?
- CWPP intermediaries and coordinators
 - How can they receive sustained support in order to assist in implementation and forest restoration projects?
 - Do new leaders need to be recruited for forest restoration?