

Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Preliminary Findings

University of Minnesota Team

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Joint Fire Science Program Research

CWPPs and Healthy Forest Restoration Act



- 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans
 - Collaborative process for communities in the Wildland Urban Interface to address:
 - 1) Improving Wildfire Suppression Efforts
 - 2) Hazardous Fuels Mitigation
 - 3) Private Property Responsibility of Fuels Management
 - 4) Forest Restoration of fire-adapted ecosystem

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

- HRFA gives no required structure for planning
 - Fire chief signature
 - State Forester signature
 - Local official signature
- Happen at different scales
- Different planning focuses
- Planning led by different partners



Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Enhancing Collaboration and Building Social Capacity

Principal Investigators:

- Pamela Jakes, *USFS North Central Research Station*
- Dan Williams, *USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station*

Partner Investigators and Institutions:

- *Ft Lewis College, Dr. Sam Burns*
- *Colorado State University, Dr. Tony Cheng*
- *University of Minnesota, Dr. Kristen Nelson*
- *Southern Oregon University, Dr. Victoria Sturtevant*

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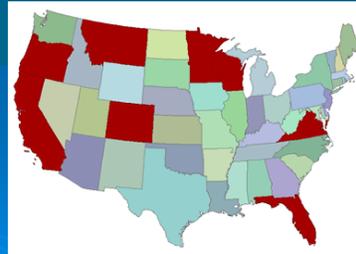


CWPP Study Goals

- Examine context, process and outcome of existing CWPPs
- Investigate if/how the CWPP process affects social capacity
- Take “Lessons Learned” to other wildfire-prone communities

JFSP Study Sites

- Minnesota, Wisconsin, Virginia, Florida, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, California



Our Goals Today

- Summary of our research focusing on Outcomes
- “Lessons Learned” from Lake County
- Feedback from you



Our Study Design

- Context
 - How much does it influence process and outcomes?
- Process
 - What is the relationship process and outcome?
- Outcomes
 - Our focus today
 - What do outcomes of a CWPP process look like?



Outcomes: Shared Understanding of the Wildfire Problem

- All agreed the group came to a shared understanding through the process
- Two Types
 - Understanding of social systems surrounding wildfire
 - Understanding the substance of wildfire, causes, consequences and management
- Some focused on learning occurring beyond CWPP group, into organizations / agencies.



Outcomes: Most mentioned shared understandings

- 1) There *is* a wildfire problem
- 2) Roles, limitations, and capabilities in wildfire
- 3) Type of action that needs to occur
- 4) Response needs to happen collaboratively
- 5) Hazardous fuels are a cause of wildfire
- 6) Communication systems are a problem in Lake County



Outcomes: Relationships

- Relationships among individuals and agencies improved through the process
 - Increased Communication
 - Greater understanding of agencies' roles
 - Creation of new relationships



Outcome: Community Capacity

- CWPP process has contributed to capacity.
 - Contacting other participants for help in the future
 - Working together on other wildfire projects
 - Collaboration on other forestry issues
 - Creation of a new county fire position



Outcomes: National Fire Plan Goals

- Projects solidly focused on
 - Wildfire suppression
 - Fuels reduction
- Secondly on
 - Private property responsibility of fuels management
- Thirdly
 - Forest Restoration
 - In the context of fuels reduction



Outcomes: Community Awareness

- Group was unsure if efforts affected the larger Lake County community's awareness
 - Public Involvement as a goal of implementation



Most Significant Outcomes

- Improved Relationships
- Understanding each other's roles
- Potential for public education
- Agreement on type of action
- Increased wildfire projects
- Future assistance
- Creation of a template
- Identifying WUI and priority areas



Possible Implementation Challenges



- Burnout from planning – follow through will be key
- Time and money requirements
- Continued collaboration under diverse agency mandate
- Lack of a common communication system
- Lack of public awareness is a challenge to buy-in and private property fuels management
- Keeping leaders active and present

Lessons Learned

- Pre-planning Phase
 - Bring all stakeholders to the table
 - Having facilitators whose job it is to facilitate
 - Having a facilitator with knowledge of the substance
 - Find a template, but be ready to modify it
 - Start where you have good relationships



Lessons Learned

- Managing the process
 - Come with necessary information
 - Keep minutes at the meeting
 - Meet at convenient times
 - Keep it short



Lessons Learned

- Stages of the Planning Process
 - Develop a goal-setting process
 - Get feedback on GIS mapping during the process
 - Keep plan general for large scale plans, get specific during implementation
 - Keep the public informed and involved



Lessons Learned

➤ Keys to Success

- Keep emphasis on agencies helping the local community and VFDs
- Participants need to set CWPP as a priority
- Recognize it will take time and money
- Everyone is important to the process
- VFDs are key for local contacts, knowledge, legitimacy
- Learn from experience, and adapt



Thank You

