

Community Wildfire Protection Plans are public planning processes that describe wildfire risk reduction priorities across boundaries. CWPPs are written for a specific geographic area such as a neighborhood or county. They have an action plan that identifies the most important projects for residents and professionals to accomplish to reduce wildfire risk.

CWPP COMPONENTS

Required

Healthy Forests Restoration Act requirements:

- Signed by local government, fire district(s), and state forester.
- Identify the highest priority locations for fuels treatments.
- Discuss ways to reduce structural ignitability.
- List communities-at-risk and their community hazard risk ratings.
- Include WUI (Wildland-Urban Interface) Delineation
- 1-2 year Action Plan with prioritized projects and timeline.
- Public Outreach and Education

Recommended

- Fire Hazard Analysis
- Evacuation Assessment
- Consideration of Socially Vulnerable Populations
- Commitment for Revision
- Community Input
- Post-fire planning

Optional

- Hazard Mitigation Plan Integration
- Local Capacity Assessment
- Fire Response Planning (Potential Operational Delineations)

ANTICIPATED COSTS

Lower Cost (\$20-70k)

- Small project area-HOA, town, or small/ medium fire district
- Minimal analysis
- Small-scale community engagement
- Written internally
- Fewer optional pieces
- 5-year update

Average Cost (\$70-150k)

- Large fire district or small county
- May have custom modelling
- Community engagement has multiple touchpoints
- Written internally or a contractor
- Some optional pieces

Higher Cost (\$150-250k)

- Large project area, or with densely populated areas
- Custom or complex modeling: evacuation & fire behavior modeling
- Significant community engagement
- Using a contractor (get multiple quotes if using a contractor)
- Multiple optional pieces
- GIS Mapping Specialists and Consultants will charge between \$60-125/hour on average.

SIZE

- Typically, CWPPs cover areas as small as a neighborhood and as large as county.
- Most CWPPs in New Mexico are completed at the county level.

CWPP TIMELINE

- **Medium size, average complexity:** 10-12 months
- **Large size:** 12-18 months, if it's concurrent with other planning processes, if there is extended community engagement, or if partners have little time to dedicate to meetings and project work.
- **Regular 5-year update:** 6-9 months

WHO NEEDS A CWPP?

Communities at risk to wildfire looking to assess relative risk, build and maintain partnerships, encourage community participation, and develop and action plan.

Communities may have vulnerabilities such as:

- numerous isolated neighborhoods
- limited emergency services
- limited evacuation routes
- communication "dead-zones"
- seasonal visitors
- part-time homeowners

Is CWDG right for my community?

The CWDG program (Community Wildfire Defense Grants) is intended to assist at-risk communities and Tribes plan for and reduce the risk of wildfire.

Priority given to:

- Area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential
- Benefit a low-income community
- Area impacted by severe disaster(s) that make wildfire more likely

What does CWDG fund?

The program provides funding for:

- Developing and revising Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).
- Implementing projects described in a CWPP that is less than 10 years old.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for CWDG is typically announced in late summer (www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants) with proposals due in early winter (November).

APPLYING FOR GRANTS

Organizations must have an active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) for all federal grant opportunities. Registration through SAM.gov may take several weeks.

Read the NOFO which describes the details of a grant and eligible entities. Review the eligibility criteria and fundable activities to determine if the grant is a good fit. The [CWDG Eligibility Tool](#) is a data dashboard to identify CWDG eligibility criteria.

WHERE TO FIND DATA

Note: These sources are intended as a starting point and may contain differing data from one to the next!

NIFC Interagency Fire Perimeter History:

<https://nifc.hub.arcgis.com/maps/nifc:interagency-fire-perimeter-history-all-years-1/about>

State or regional assessments:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forest-action-plan/>

Ignitions By County:

<https://wildfirerisk.org/>

NM Wildfire Risk Portal:

<https://nmwrap.org/>

US Forest Service Wildfire Risk to Communities risk-mapping tool:

<https://wildfirerisk.org/reduce-risk/>

USGS Data Portal and Topographic Maps:

<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/national-geospatial-program>

LANDFIRE databases, ecological models, and geo-spatial layers:

<https://www.landfire.gov/index.php>

USING A CONTRACTOR

What They Can Provide

- Project management
- Document writing
- Meeting facilitation
- Outreach planning
- Modeling and mapping
- Leading outreach

Pros

- Technical expertise
- Additional capacity
- Experience with process
- Facilitation experience
- Defined scope keeps the project on track

Cons

- May lack local context
- Can be more expensive
- Not place-based

TRAINING RESOURCES

Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System webinars:

https://iftdss.firenet.gov/landing_page/webinars.html

NM Forestry Division CWPP Resources and Guidelines:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/fire-prevention-programs/community-wildfire-protection-plans-cwpp/>

2020 New Mexico Forest Action Plan, Maps, and GIS:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forest-action-plan/>

Mapping the Wildland Urban Interface:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/64457>

Potential Operational Delineations introduction:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/rmrs/projects/pods#resources>

PODs workshop recordings:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8231822>

CWPP Examples & In-Depth Guides

FEMA CWPP Guide:

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/creating_a_cwpp.pdf

CWPP Portal and Data Library:

<https://fireadapted.org/cwpp-database/>

EMNRD 2021 CWPP Guidelines:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/State-Forestry-CWPP-Requirements-2021.pdf>

Request a Navigator to assist with your CWPP grant:
<https://www.thewatershedcenter.com/featured-projects-cnp>

NM Forestry Division CWPP Resources and Guidelines:
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/fire-prevention-programs/community-wildfire-protection-plans-cwpp/>