

What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a strategic plan typically developed by local communities to guide wildfire mitigation and preparedness at all scales and land ownership. Routt County last prepared a CWPP in 2010.

The County is launching a process to develop a new CWPP and has developed the following objectives in collaboration with the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council:

1. Create an actionable and user-friendly plan document for a broad audience
2. Promote inclusive, countywide participation that results in a plan that reflects community needs and priorities
3. Provide a locally ground-truthed assessment of community values at risk, key vulnerabilities, and a wildland-urban interface map for Routt County.
4. Develop prioritized recommendations for specific actions to include the following types: forest management, fuels treatment projects, wildfire mitigation policies and standards, education and outreach activities, critical infrastructure protection, and strategic plans and partnerships.
5. Identify a strategy for implementing recommendations that includes key considerations, roles and responsibilities, and potential funding and technical assistance opportunities.
6. Improve public awareness of wildfire risk, knowledge of effective risk reduction measures, and willingness to take and to support mitigation actions.

As a preliminary step in identifying community needs and priorities, we are asking participants at the 2022 Routt Wildfire Mitigation Conference to share their thoughts on a few key questions relevant to the CWPP. Please visit the stations around the room to provide your ideas and feedback.

Community Values at Risk

As part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process, we will be seeking to understand what the public values and most hopes will be protected in advance of and during a wildfire.

Assets and values at risk are those things that are important to quality of life that can be threatened with destruction or loss from wildfire. These include a variety of items and conditions such as homes, businesses, critical infrastructure, cultural sites, wildlife habitat, natural resources, air quality, recreational facilities and areas, historical structures, and any other important attribute that individual communities rely on for their well-being.

When an area has a concentration of high-value assets in the presence of hazardous fuels and a high fire threat, it is considered an area more at risk of loss due to wildfire. Identifying these assets and values, combined with mapping wildfire risks helps set priorities for action in a CWPP. Please share your thoughts about values and assets of most importance to you in Routt County that might be considered at risk from wildfire.

We start with the assumption that everyone in the community values human lives and their homes as priorities. We are seeking input on other community values that you consider at risk.

Which community values are you most concerned with protecting from wildfire?

Place sticky dots on the top 3 values in your opinion. Add details on specific values on sticky notes.

Personal Property (other than your house, add details on notes)

Critical facilities, such as a hospital, schools, fire station, water treatment plant (add details on notes)

Watersheds and drinking water sources

Infrastructure (note specific roads, bridges, communications facilities)

Recreation areas and opportunities (add details on notes)

Wildlife Habitat (note any species of concern)

Scenic Views and Historical Sites

Other (please add notes)

Wildfire Mitigation

The effects of wildland fire on communities have become more, frequent, and far-reaching. Increased development in the wildland urban interface (WUI) means higher wildfire risk and more suppression needs. A comprehensive approach to preparedness and mitigation is an effective way to reduce risk to communities and address increasing suppression costs.

WHAT IS WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION?

Mitigation means action taken to reduce the long-term risk to human life, property, and the natural environment from wildfire. Mitigation actions are different than activities taken to prepare for or respond to a wildfire, such as purchasing fire response equipment or preparing evacuation to-go kits. The primary types of mitigation activities that reduce the vulnerability to wildfire include:

- Education and Outreach – Actions to inform and educate community members about the wildfire hazard and potential actions to reduce risk.
- Local Plans and Policies – Actions to create communities that are more resilient to wildfires through land use planning, development standards, and building codes that incorporate risk reduction concepts.
- Fuels Reduction Projects – Actions to reduce wildfire fuels on public or private land to reduce risk to property, infrastructure, and other community values at risk
- Natural Systems Protection – Actions to preserve and restore the function of natural systems, including forests, watersheds, and wetlands, to lessen the impacts of and enhance resiliency to future wildfires.

Mitigation can impact existing and future conditions and happens at all levels – local, state, and federal. Individuals, communities, and organizations working together to share and leverage resources and build partnerships are the keys to success. Undertaking wildfire mitigation in the wildland urban interface can reduce or eliminate the risk of damage caused by wildfire to the human environment (homes, neighborhoods, communities) and to the natural environment (wildlife, watersheds, ecosystems). These actions offer multiple benefits including: Contributing to firefighter and public safety; Creating communities that are more resilient; Allowing individuals and communities to minimize post disaster disruptions and recover more rapidly; Allowing individuals and communities to minimize post disaster disruptions; Enhancing other important values such as ecological benefits and aesthetics.

Mitigation is most effective when it is based on comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs. As part of the Routt County CWPP process, we will recommend priority actions for wildfire mitigation and preparedness. Please share your thoughts on potential priority mitigation projects on the adjacent board.

Which types of wildfire mitigation efforts do you think are most important?

Place up to three sticky dots next to the items you think are most important and add any additional details/comments on sticky notes.

Fuels Mitigation

Defensible space around individual homes and subdivisions

Treatments in areas critical for water supply

Natural Systems Protection

Policies and Plans

Stronger wildfire resilient building codes

Standards for improved access for firefighting/evacuation

Incentives/Funding for fire mitigation on private lands

Education and Outreach

Public education programs (talks, workshops)

Property and home assessments

Information about wildfire preparedness

Information & Resources


Visit ***RouttWildfire.org*** for access to more information and resources.

Please share any ideas or requests for additional information on the adjacent board.



Visit our
page!





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RESOURCES

Wildfire Mitigation Education

The Colorado State Forest Service helps individuals, landowners, community groups and others secure grants and assistance for projects that promote healthy forests in Colorado, whenever opportunities arise. [See current information here >](#)

[A list of Landowner Assistance programs in Colorado offered by State and Federal Agencies >](#)

For specific questions about your property or neighborhood, please contact your local fire district:

North Routt Fire Protection District – Chief Mike Swinsick mike.swinsick@northrouttfire.org 970 879-6726 <https://northrouttfire.colorado.gov/>

West Routt Fire protection District – Chief Trevor Guire tguire72@gmail.com 970 276-3511 <https://www.facebook.com/WestRouttFire/>

Oak Creek Fire Protection District – Chief Brady Glauthier brady.glauthier@oakcreekfire.org 970 761-8142 <https://www.oakcreekfire.org/>

Yampa Fire Protection District – Chief Ky Cox fire5four@hotmail.com 970 638-4227 <https://www.facebook.com/Yampa-Fire-Protection-District-216187838827/>

Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue – Chief Chuck Cerasoli ccerasoli@steamboatsprings.net 970 879-7170 <https://www.steamboatsprings.net/121/Fire-and-EMS-Services>



INFORMATION FOR HOMEOWNERS

Mitigation Starts With You

- **CSFS:** The Colorado State Forest Service's collection of resources and information about Wildfire Mitigation >
- **CSFS:** [A guide to preparing your home for wildfire and creating defensible space >](#)
- **Ready, Set, Go:** [How to be Wildfire Ready >](#)
- **Disaster Safety:** [When wildfire threatens, follow these last-minute steps to reduce damage to your home >](#)



INFORMATION FOR HOAS/NEIGHBORHOODS

Make Your Community Firewise

- **CSFS:** [Collection of Information for communities from Colorado State Forest Service >](#)
- **CSFS:** [Colorado wildfire risk viewer and risk reduction planner provides a comprehensive view of wildfire risk and local fire history >](#)
- **CSFS:** [Information about Community Wildfire Protection Plans >](#)
- **NFPA:** [How to Become a FIREWISE-USA Community >](#)



GET EDUCATED

Learn About Our Forests and Their Condition

- **CSFS:** [Colorado's annual forest health report >](#)
- **CSFS:** [Colorado's Forest Action Plan- a path forward for Colorado's Forests >](#)
- **Forest Health Study:** [Forest Health and Watershed Health in Colorado >](#)
- **USDA and USFS:** [Interactive overview of forest inventory information in Colorado >](#)



FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Background information on forest health and wildfire.

LEARN MORE



What additional information/capacity/resources would be most valuable to you?

Please note any types of information or resources on a sticky note and add to this board.