

Progress Report for the Central Sandhills Community Wildfire Protection Plan

In early 2018 the Nebraska Forest Service initiated preparation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Central Sandhills area, including Blaine, Garfield, Greeley, Logan, Loup, Thomas, Valley, and Wheeler Counties, plus most of Custer County and the northeast corner of Lincoln County. The purpose of the plan is to provide a tool for effectively managing fire and hazardous vegetative fuels and to bolster collaboration and communication between the various agencies and organizations who manage fire in the central Sandhills region of Nebraska.

Having a CWPP in place allows the Nebraska Forest Service to apply for federal grant dollars to cost-share forest fuels reduction treatments in at-risk areas within the boundaries of the CWPP. It also may increase opportunities for counties, municipalities, and rural fire districts to seek grant funding for activities related to fire protection.

The whole process generally takes about a year. Here is a snapshot of what's been accomplished so far and what still needs to be completed:

Task	Status
Identify stakeholders and establish steering committee	Completed May, 2018
Organizational meeting, solicit stakeholder input; identify data needed	Completed June, 2018
Gather baseline data; develop maps and tables	Completed October, 2018
Identify critical infrastructure; conduct risk analysis	Completed November, 2018
Develop Action Plan and recommendations	Completed December, 2018
Prepare draft document	Starts in January, 2019
Steering Committee and public review of draft CWPP	
Incorporate comments and finalize CWPP	
Adoption by local officials	
Publication and distribution of final CWPP	

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Stay Tuned!