

Progress Report for the Southwest Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan

In mid-2018 the Nebraska Forest Service initiated preparation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for southwest Nebraska, including Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow Counties, plus the southern part of Frontier County and the western third 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 southwest 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 August, 2018
Organizational meeting, solicit stakeholder input; identify data needed	Completed September 2018
Gather baseline data; develop maps and tables	Completed November, 2018
Identify critical infrastructure; conduct risk analysis	Completed December, 2018
Develop Action Plan and recommendations	Completed January, 2019
Prepare draft document	In progress
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!