

Progress Report for the North Central Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

In February, 2020 the Nebraska Forest Service initiated the update of the 2015 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for North Central Nebraska, including Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, and Rock Counties. 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 north central 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.

Despite a several-month Covid-19 delay, the update is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. Here is a snapshot of what's been accomplished so far and what still needs to be completed:

Task	Status
Identify stakeholders and establish planning team	2/13/2020
Organizational meeting, solicit stakeholder input; identify data needed	2/19/2020
Gather baseline data	7/14/2020
Develop maps and tables	In progress
Identify critical infrastructure; conduct risk analysis	In progress
Develop Action Plan and recommendations	
Prepare draft document	
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!