

Progress Report for the South Central West Community Wildfire Protection Plan

In August, 2020 the Nebraska Forest Service initiated preparation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the western portion of south central Nebraska, including Franklin, Furnas, Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps 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 western south 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.

The whole process generally takes about a year or less. 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	9/14/2020
News release, solicit stakeholder input; identify data needed	9/29/2020
Gather baseline data; develop maps and tables	In progress
Identify critical infrastructure; conduct risk analysis	
Develop Action Plan and recommendations	
Prepare draft document	
Public review of draft CWPP	
Incorporate comments and finalize CWPP	
Adoption by local officials	
Publish and distribute final CWPP	

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Stay Tuned!