

## Progress Report for the Southeast Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan

In late 2019 the Nebraska Forest Service initiated preparation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for southeast Nebraska, including Butler, Cass, Gage, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Sarpy, Saunders, and Seward 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 southeast 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	10/18/2019
Organizational meeting, solicit stakeholder input; identify data needed	11/26/2019
Gather baseline data; develop maps and tables	3/10/2020
Identify critical infrastructure; conduct risk analysis	3/31/2020
Develop Action Plan and recommendations	4/2/2020
Prepare draft document	5/21/2020
Public review of draft CWPP	7/24/2020
Incorporate comments and finalize CWPP	7/24/2020
Adoption by local officials	In progress
Publication and distribution of final CWPP	

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## Stay Tuned!