



ASSESSING THE RISK

1. Evaluate the fuel types near the community or planning area.
2. Look at the area's past fire history: which locations pose the greatest risk?
3. Evaluate homes, businesses, infrastructure and other areas of concern.
4. Remember to include communication facilities, roads, water resources, and other critical infrastructure.
5. Take note of sites with historic, scenic, wildlife, economic, and cultural value.
6. Review the community's preparedness plan: include capacity, safety zones, mutual-aid agreements, etc.
7. When in doubt, make notes and contact the NFS. We are here to assist your community in prevention and preparation efforts.

CWPP BENEFITS

- Communities determine the area(s) of interest.
- Communities determine the priority area(s) for treatment.
- Bringing stakeholders together strengthens response and coordination during emergencies.
- Cost-share grants for treatments within the priority planning area are available!



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 Photo credit: Duane Witte

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**NEBRASKA
 FOREST SERVICE**



Community Wildfire Protection Plans

*Planning Today for the
 Emergencies of the Future*

WHAT IS A CWPP?

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) gathers together your communities resources to enhance wildfire mitigation and preparedness.

Every CWPP has three key steps:

1. It reviews the types of forest fuels found in and around the community;
2. It examines the level of wildfire preparedness;
3. And, it assesses mitigation activities completed for the area.

Developing a CWPP is not a difficult process, but it does require collaboration between community leaders, county officials, and area fire departments. However, once a plan is in place, your community will be safer and better equipped to protect life and property in the event of a wildfire.



The Big Rock Fire in 2006 burned into the community of Valentine. Numerous homes and outbuildings were destroyed in the process.



Firefighters look over a scenario created with newly acquired wildfire simulation technology.

AN OVERVIEW

1. Form a committee that includes area fire departments, local government, and the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS).
2. Consult with local federal agencies such as Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, or the Bureau of Land Management.
3. Identify priority areas that need fuels reduction treatments. These areas must include land within or adjacent to a community OR these areas aim to protect critical infrastructure.
4. The plan needs to provide communities and homeowners with specific options to reduce threats to structures in the event of a wildfire.
5. The NFS will assist your committee in the technical development of the CWPP. Specifics of the plan will determine its cost, however; the NFS can award financial assistance to your CWPP.

STEP BY STEP

1. Bring together the core stakeholders. This includes representatives from communities, counties, and fire departments in the proposed planning area.
2. Invite the participation of federal and state partners that can provide technical expertise and other resources such as mapping, natural resource planning, etc.
3. Branch out even further! Invite utility coops, Natural Resource Districts, NE Game & Parks, NE Emergency Management Agency Fire Marshals Office, etc.
4. Establish a base map that includes primary area(s) of interest for the plan.
5. Identify areas of greatest risk in the planning areas (a.k.a. Wildland Urban Interface). Rate them using a high to low scale.
6. Identify the hazard reduction priorities for each community—remember to include important infrastructures and homes at risk.
7. Develop an action plan with cost estimates.
8. Finalize the plan with all committee members.



CWPPs are most successful when various stakeholders play an active role in its development.