

## **Why Create a CWPIP (and How Does it Differ From a CWPP)?**

Did you know our region of Colorado is listed as one of the top 10 urban areas within the U.S. most in danger of a wildfire?

For CWPIP purposes, our area is called the North Turkey Creek CWPIP. The area includes about 64 houses on Starlight Dr., Starlight Road, North Turkey Creek Road (between High Drive and Hwy 285), Ridgeview Dr. and Northway Dr.

### **What is a CWPIP (Community Wildfire Protection Implementation Plan)?**

This North Turkey Creek Area Community Wildfire Protection Implementation Plan (CWPIP) is a plan for all of us as residents of the community. It is being developed by your neighbors with advice and assistance from the Inter-Canyon Fire Protection District (ICFPD).

It provides an assessment of wildfire risks and hazards and outlines specific mitigation treatment recommendations designed to make our community a safer place to live, work and play. It will enable us to live with fire as a natural part of the landscape ecosystem.

It informs and encourages all of us as home owners to create defensible space and achieve fire resistant structural integrity, and makes priority recommendations to the ICFPD regarding road corridor and fuels treatment mitigation actions.

Much of the land involved is private land. That is why communities nationwide do such plans. It is extremely important for land owners to create Defensible Space on their land. A land owner does not have to clear cut their property to achieve defensible space against wildfire. But without collaborative, neighborhood action the damage to homes or other buildings can be significant.

Having a CWPIP in place is essential for a neighborhood to receive fire prevention grant money. It is also viewed favorably by insurance companies when determining a house's fire risk, thereby potentially lowering insurance rates.

Once the CWPIP is finalized and adopted, it is the responsibility of the community...that's US, to move forward and implement the action items in collaboration with the ICFPD. It is a living document to be used on a continuing basis.

### **What is a CWPP? (Community Wildfire Protection Plan)**

Our CWPIP fits under the umbrella of CWPPs. From Inter-Canyon's CWPP webpage (<http://intercanyonfire.org/community-wildfire-protection-plan/>):

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is essentially a strategic plan that identifies wildland fire issues facing the community and outlines prioritized mitigation actions. Once the

CWPP is adopted, it is the community's responsibility to move forward and implement the action items. This may require further planning at the project level, acquisition of funds, or simply motivating one's self and one's neighbors.

From the Colorado Forest Service webpage (<https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/community-wildfire-protection-plans/#1447445534635-f9b2037e-38d6>):

CWPPs are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) passed by Congress on November 21, 2003, and signed into law by President Bush on December 3, 2003.

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act places renewed emphasis on community planning by extending a variety of benefits to communities with a wildfire protection plan in place. Critical among these benefits:

- The option of establishing a localized definition and boundary for the wildland-urban interface (WUI)
- The opportunity to help shape fuels treatment priorities for surrounding federal and non-federal lands
- Information contained in the plan should be at a level of specificity appropriate for the community.
- County level plans can be used as an umbrella for community plans but should not be considered a substitute. A county plan will not provide the detail needed for project-level planning.