

Executive Summary

In 2003, President Bush signed into law the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), the impetus for preparing and implementing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). In 2009, the Colorado General Assembly passed SB 09-001 requiring counties to complete a CWPP for identified fire hazard areas within the unincorporated areas of the county. The CWPP must meet the minimum standards set forth by the State Forester. CWPPs provide the opportunity to influence where and how federal money is spent on hazardous fuels reduction projects that protect at-risk communities or watersheds. The CWPP process is based on collaboration and inspires creativity and grass roots efforts amongst community members. The Douglas County CWPP is the result of a broad scale county-wide collaborative planning effort that identifies strategies for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in the Wildland Urban Interface. Douglas County would like to thank all of the participants for their commitment to this process. The Douglas County Core Team would like to give special recognition to the Douglas County GIS and Public Affairs staff for their timeless efforts and dedication.

Under the guidance of the core team the Douglas County CWPP was developed to be used as both a plan and a tool identifying mitigation, prevention, and preparedness strategies to benefit the citizens who live and work in Douglas County. The core team believes the way the document is presented will best assist the residents of Douglas County in their mitigation efforts and development of local-level CWPPs.

The plan uses sound science, analysis, and collaboration to identify obstacles associated with wildfire mitigation and provides solutions to help overcome those obstacles, resulting in reducing the hazards and risks. Ultimately efforts will reduce the potential for catastrophic loss, including loss of life and property in the event of a wildland fire in Douglas County. The plan identifies landscape scale hazardous fuels reduction treatments that promote collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries and ownerships. The plan identifies and promotes the concept of the core team transitioning to an implementation team to implement the recommendations in the CWPP.

The Douglas County CWPP is a living document and is meant to be reviewed annually by the core team and updated and amended as needed.