



Arizona Dept. of Forestry and Fire Management CWPP Requirements

Introduction:

This guidance document is intended to help the homeowners, community leaders, and agency representatives develop a certified Community WildFire Protection Plan (CWPP) for an at-risk community. To use this guidance, your community must meet all of the applicability criteria of an at-risk community listed under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA 2003 - Subchapter 1 - Hazardous Fuel Reduction §6511. Definitions). This guidance provides every CWPP rule requirement necessary for a CWPP to be certified at the federal and state level.

*It is important to note that CWPP's will be shifting from a more informational document to one that has actionable and reportable goals. Whether a CWPP is certified or not will now be more heavily influenced by how well it follows the guidelines set forth in the Minimum Arizona State Requirements section.

Purpose:

The purpose of a CWPP is to identify the wildfire risks within and surrounding communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI) and to plan mitigation measures to reduce the risk of wildfires. The goal is to define the threat to human life, property, and critical infrastructure from wildfires in an identified area, identify measures necessary to mitigate those threats, and outline a plan of action to implement the measures.

Though the overall format of CWPPs in Arizona will be similar, each plan shall be unique to the needs of each individual community.

The minimum Federal requirements for a CWPP:

1. Collaboration: A CWPP must be developed within the context of the collaborative agreements and the guidance established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and agreed to by local government, local fire departments, and the State agency responsible for forest management, along with interested parties and Federal land management agencies managing land adjacent to the at-risk community;
2. Prioritized Fuel Reduction: A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
3. Treatment of Structural Ignitability: A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

The minimum Arizona State requirements listed below are in addition to the Federal requirements.



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Minimum Arizona state requirements:

1. Local Area Description: Defines CWPP area; provides a description of the community (or communities) within the CWPP; summarizes current/past community engagement or collaborations, and; identifies other plans within the CWPP area that provide valuable information to reduce threat of wildfires.
 - a. Brief description of fuel types in areas covered by the CWPP.
 - b. 10 year fire history for areas covered by the CWPP and describe how fires impacted the communities.
 - c. Completed fuel treatments post 2018.
2. List of communities at high risk for damage from wildfire:
 - a. Top 5 - 10 communities that are at a high or moderate risk of damage from a wildfire.
 - i. Brief overview of preparation activities already taken in these communities and where additional resources are needed.
 - ii. Include evacuation plans for at-risk communities where there are limited escape routes.
 - b. Description of values at risk for each community and the extent to which wildfire has the potential to impact these values.
3. Wildfire response resources that are already in place (high level overview of resources available to local governments in case of a wildfire).
 - a. List of equipment (size, age, capacity, etc.)
 - b. Personnel (training, experience, etc.)
 - c. Preventative measures in place that reduce the threat of wildfires.
4. Projects the community would like to accomplish within the next 5 years¹.
 - a. Fuel reduction projects within the WUI and values at risk.
 - i. What values/areas the project will be mitigating wildfire impact to.
 - ii. Description of project area with the focus on increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities (Mapping, fuel type, treatment levels, etc.)
 - b. Training and equipment
 - i. Community communication and education (education and outreach to local community prevention programs/groups)
 - ii. Fire wise implementation and education at a neighborhood level.

*A template for CWPPs is currently being developed and will be available in the near future.

¹ Qualified activities include hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety.