11. Monitoring and Evaluation

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Adoption

The Garfield County CWPP is a strategic planning document that is developed and approved by the core planning team. An important component of the development process includes a CWPP implementation team that will move the plan forward, implement the mitigation recommendations, and maintain the plan as the characteristics of the WUI areas change through time and vegetation-fuel projects are completed. Organizing and maintaining the implementation team are often the most challenging components of the CWPP process. The implementation team is essential in the process of converting the CWPP proposed projects from a plan into action items. A recommendation is that the CWPP core planning team transition into the CWPP implementation team.

The implementation team would work closely with the FPDs, community organizations, private landowners, and public agencies to coordinate and implement the identified vegetation-fuels treatments and other recommended mitigation actions. Semi-annual meetings should occur to move the CWPP forward. Building partnerships among community organizations, FPDs, local governments, BLM, USFS, and private landowners is necessary in identifying and prioritizing measures to reduce wildfire risk. Maintaining this cooperation is a long-term effort that requires the commitment of all partners involved. The CWPP encourages communities and home-owner associations to take an active role in identifying needs, developing strategies, and implementing solutions to address wildfire hazards and risks by assisting with the development of local community wildfire plans and participating in fire prevention activities.

The Garfield County CWPP is a valuable resource that provides the foundation for understanding wildfire risks and hazards, and presents attainable milestones designed to reduce potential losses from wildfire. Communities, home-owner associations, and FPDs can take further action by developing their own area-specific CWPP, which would tier to the countywide CWPP.

Sustaining CWPP Momentum

The Garfield County CWPP serves as the foundation to develop safer WUIs through hazard assessments and strategic planning focusing on reducing the threat of wildfire to human welfare, and economic and ecological values. The mitigation strategies outlined in this plan will greatly reduce wildfire risk, but only if implemented. Converting strategy into action is the key to achieving this important goal.

Communities can be made safer by reducing the risks of wildfire loss, and this CWPP presents realistic measures to achieve this goal. The CWPP process encourages homeowners to take an active role as fuel treatment strategies are developed and prioritized around their communities. Ownership of CWPP implementation at the local level is the most effective means to achieving successful results and sustaining the effort from year to year. Communities and homeowners can seek support and guidance through a variety of local, state, and federal resources identified in this plan including FPDs, DFPC, CSFS, BLM, USFS, and conservation districts.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is a critical component of all natural resource management programs. Monitoring provides information on whether a program is meeting its goals and objectives. Adaptive management allows for program changes to occur if they are warranted. The purpose of this monitoring strategy is to track implementation of planned activities and evaluate how the goals of the CWPP are being met over time. The data gathered will help to determine if the objectives of the plan are being met, if updates need to be made, and if the plan is useful and being implemented as envisioned. This CWPP is a "living" document and must be continually monitored and updated as conditions and community values change. It is recommended that monitoring CWPP progress be maintained by the FPDs and provide updates to the Garfield County Office of Emergency Management and the DFPC on a regular basis.

The purpose of this monitoring strategy is to track implementation of activities and evaluate how well the goals of the CWPP are being met over time. The following are the components of effective monitoring:

- **Identify**: Did you identify what specifically needs to be done?
- **Plan**: Did you plan how the action would occur?
- **Implementation**: Was the project implemented according to plan?
- **Monitoring**: Did treatments meet the objectives?
- **Verification**: Did actions lead to the outcomes that were expected?
- **Adaptive Management:** What changes to the project implementation plan, if any, need to be made to facilitate the execution of the next similar project?

Each functional element of the CWPP provides monitoring tasks for recommended action items. The following table provides a summary of monitoring tasks for each of these functional areas. Evaluations are to be conducted on an annual basis.

Table 22: Monitoring Tasks per Objective in Garfield County

Objective	Tasks
Risk Assessment	- Update GIS for fire occurrence and fire perimeter. Compile BLM, USFS, and county data. - Update hazards and risk assessments as new data
Fuels Reduction	- Identify and prioritize fuels treatment projects. - Track total acres of treatment on public and private lands. - Track grants and other funding sources and make appropriate application. - Track defensible space projects on private lands. - Monitor project effectiveness and coordinate activities and strategies with UCRIFMU, NCIFMU, and DFPC.
FPD Capacity Improvements	- Maintain compliance with the county EOP and Wildland Fire Operating Plan processes. - Track progress on water supply improvements and mapping. - Track progress of resource improvements.

Objective	Tasks
	• Review mutual aid resources and agreements.
Public Outreach	• Review public outreach material and update as necessary. • Maintain web presence on county site. • Coordinate with communities for presentations. • Coordinate with DFPC for neighborhood Firewise seminars and include CWPP discussion. • Evaluate techniques used to motivate and educate private landowners.

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