

Colorado State Forest Service

SB09-001 — Community Wildfire Protection Plans



Summary

SB09-001, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, was recommended by the Interim Committee on Wildfire Issues in the wildland-urban interface. It requires the state forester, in collaboration with local governments, fire districts, and law enforcement bodies, to establish guidelines for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) by November 15, 2009.

The state forester, in collaboration with local governments, fire districts, and law enforcement bodies, must establish guidelines and criteria that counties are required to consider when developing their own CWPPs. Counties, with the assistance of the state forester, are required to identify fire hazard areas in unincorporated areas by January 1, 2011. Fire hazard areas are defined as areas that face a substantial and recurring risk of exposure to severe wildfire hazards. Within 180 days of identification, counties must develop a CWPP that considers the guidelines for each fire hazard area.

Talking Points

- CWPPs identify fire hazards and mitigation treatments that are developed with input from state, local, and federal governments, and other interested parties.
- A CWPP can help a local community clarify and refine priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in its wildland-urban interface area.
- CWPPs identify and help attach priority to projects that provide for the protection of values at-risk in communities, the watersheds that sustain the community, and the implementation of recommendations in the CWPP.
- CWPPs help local communities influence where and how funding is received and distributed for projects that reduce risk to communities.
- Counties will need to consider these guidelines when developing their own CWPPs.

- Counties, with the assistance of the state forester, are required to identify fire hazard areas in unincorporated areas by January 1, 2011. Fire hazard areas are defined as areas that face a substantial and recurring risk of exposure to severe fire hazards. Within 180 days of identification, counties must develop a CWPP that considers the guidelines for each fire hazard area. Counties are directed to consider the following guidelines:
 - determine if fire hazard areas fall within county boundaries;
 - ensure that Community Wildfire Protection Plans exist for fire hazard areas, and
 - create new or update existing wildfire protection plans that are in alignment with the guidelines released by the state forester.

- This legislation did not appropriate any state funds for implementation. CWPP development is at various stages within individual counties. Many tools exist and are available for counties to use in the development of CWPPs.

Legislation takes effect on August 4, 2009.