FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK

Notes from the Field

Webinar Summary: Community Wildfire Protection Plans

January 2015

The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network holds quarterly webinars at which members of the network share insights and discuss topics of widespread interest or concern. At the webinar held on January 30, 2015, they explored Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). The webinar featured presenters from six different communities and an assistant professor from Portland State University.

Characterizing Trends in CWPP Planning

Max Nielson, an assistant professor at Portland State University, provided an update on community wildfire planning research. His presentation covered a project exploring the need to better characterize the social factors that contribute to wildfire risk. Connections between adaptive capacity and planning was one question the project explored. A set of community archetypes that describe risks and assets at the community level was another aspect of the project webinar participants found interesting.

Links to the research are included in the resources section on the next page.

Process, Partnerships and Collaboration

Justice Jones of the Austin Fire Department, **George McKinley** of the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative and **Chris Chambers** of the City of Ashland gave presentations about their CWPP processes and the value of collaboration and partner buy-in. They discussed what it takes to initiate a CWPP process and enroll key partners. One lesson that each presenter had experienced was how important community involvement is if you want the final product to reflect community values. Letting partners define the CWPP activities and help guide the process can also ultimately lead to more successful implementation.

Significant Updates and Revisions

Annie Schmidt of the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition and **Alison Green** and **Ed Keith** of Project Wildfire gave presentations on initiating and completing CWPP revisions. Tailored meetings for different stakeholders was an important strategy in deeply engaging community groups. Questions about scale also factored into several of the presentations. Identifying actionable goals and a way to measure progress was cited as critical. Several resources for revising CWPPs were shared, including an Evaluation Guide (see resources section).

Ensuring Successful Implementation

Doc Bloodworth of the Florida Forest Service and **Jerry McAdams** of the Boise Fire Department offered ideas for ensuring successful implementation. They talked about how communities are effectively using CWPPs to implement FAC activities and how they fund these efforts. Coordinating CWPPs with other hazard mitigation plans was one technique they shared that can streamline implementation.

From the Chat Box: Participant Insights

"We're trying to create a more flexible model where [the CWPP] can be updated as things change and projects are completed."

"We are more effective at funding our community or HOA level CWPPs. Our county CWPP is funded at a much lower level."
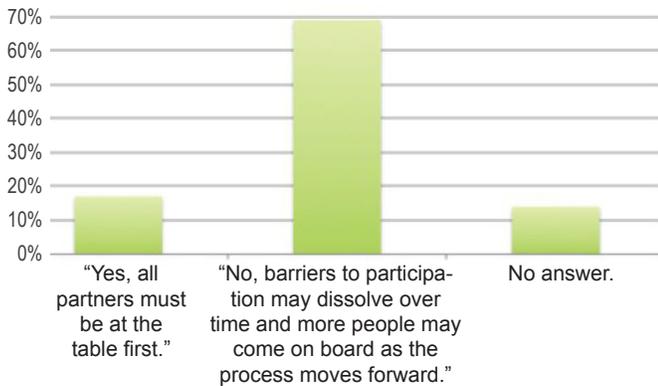
"When goals are accomplished, it is time to come up with new goals. Each plan should be put together with an expected time frame."

"In a collaborative process, remember: this might not be how I would do it, but it's how we could do it."
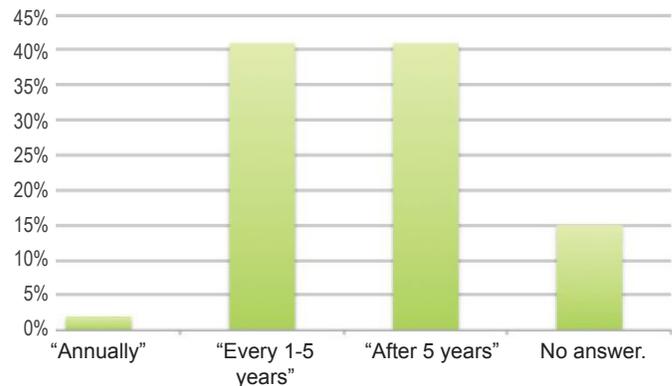
Time for a Poll!

Webinar participants shared their opinions in a set of polls. Discussions were sparked around the importance of timing and partnerships, and the frequency of plan revisions.

Q1: Do you believe it is important to have all your partners in place before you beging the CWPP process?

Bar chart with y-axis from 0% to 70%. Categories:
- "Yes, all partners must be at the table first." (~17%)
- "No, barriers to participation may dissolve over time and more people may come on board as the process moves forward." (~69%)
- No answer. (~14%)

Q2: How often should CWPPs be updated with major revisions?

Bar chart with y-axis from 0% to 45%. Categories:
- "Annually" (~2%)
- "Every 1-5 years" (~41%)
- "After 5 years" (~41%)
- No answer. (~15%)

The following RESOURCES were provided by participants and presenters in the webinar:

Local Tools

State of Florida Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex
http://www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation/State/documents/2013stateplan/Appendix%20E%20Wildfire%20Mitigation%20Annex%20FINAL.pdf

An evaluation of Fuel Reduction Projects in the Eastern Cibola National Forest: Mapping as Monitoring
http://www.forestguild.org/publications/research/2003/mapping_fuel_reduction.pdf

Research

Measuring Community Capacity for Protection from Wildfire
http://www.forestguild.org/publications/research/2007/community_capacity_wildfire.pdf

Ecosystem Workforce Program
http://ewp.uoregon.edu/wfresilience

Categorizing the Social Context of the WUI: Adaptive Capacity for Wildfire and Community Archetypes
http://www.researchgate.net/publication/266558958_Categorizing_the_Social_Context_of_the_Wildland_Urban_Interface_Adaptive_Capacity_for_Wildfire_and_Community_Archetypes

Best Practices

Best Management Practices for Creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan
http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs89.pdf

Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities
http://www.cafiresafecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/CWPP-Preparing-a-CWPP.pdf

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Evaluation Guide
http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/eval_9-8-08_web.pdf

Engaging Socially Vulnerable Populations in Community Wildfire Protection Plans
http://www.forestguild.org/publications/research/2008/socially_vulnerable_pop_in_CWPP.pdf

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