



## **Crested Butte Fire Protection District's**

### **WILDFIRE RISK & MITIGATION GUIDE**

***-It's a Team Effort, Be Part of the Solution-***

**Attention:** Property Owners, Homeowners, Contractors and Builders,

The Crested Butte Fire Protection District, in cooperation with Gunnison Fire Protection District, Gunnison County, West Region Wildfire Council and Colorado State Forest Service is working together to properly plan for the mitigation & risk of wildfire. To achieve this goal we must reduce the risk of wildfire throughout our community with proper mitigation practices. A conceptual plan of wildfire management allows you to consider pathways for reducing wildfire risk to communities and properties. One of our most important goals is fuels reduction on public and private lands to minimize risk. The two principal risk objectives for fuel treatment are to reduce the wildfire intensity and severity within treated areas. Additionally, reducing the probability of fire occurrence beyond treated areas by limiting fire spread rates and/or enhancing suppression effectiveness.

The benefits of mitigating wildfire risks improves survivability for people and homes. The mitigation processes, within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), is the responsibility of everyone, to protect life safety, reduce the risk to emergency responders and lessen the risk of a catastrophic wildfire event.

The Crested Butte Fire Protection District Fire Prevention Division has assembled a Wildfire Risk & Mitigation Guide. This guide is our informational packet that will assist our community with WUI information in regards to designing a plan, resource information and cost sharing options.

Gunnison County Community & Economic Development will be reviewing all WUI plan submittals to ensure they are in accordance with their newly adopted Gunnison County Land Use Resolution amendments.

The Crested Butte Fire Protection District Fire Prevention Division is available to assist our community with any questions about wildfire hazards, water supply or code enforcement.

If you have any questions, please contact the Fire Prevention Division staff at 970-349-5333.

Joe Wonnacott, Fire Marshal  
Crested Butte Fire Protection District



## **Wildfire Risk & Mitigation Information & Resources**

Wildfires are a natural part of Colorado's varied ecosystems. Planning ahead and taking actions to reduce the risk of wildfires can increase the likelihood that your home survives when wildfires occur. As more people choose to live in wildfire-prone areas, additional homes and lives are potentially threatened every year. Firefighters always do their best to protect residents, but ultimately, it is your responsibility to protect your property and investments from wildfire.

### **Local Information & Resources:**

#### **Wildfire Planning & Mitigation:**

In 2019 Gunnison County, in cooperation with Community Planning Assistance for Wildfires (CPAW) did a report to identify appropriate land use and planning tools to result in more resilient Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities. The CPAW program helps communities make informed decisions about current and future development to better integrate wildfire-resilience into the planning process. CPAW was established by Headwaters Economics and Wildfire Planning International in 2015 and is funded by the USDA Forest Service and private foundations. Since its inception, CPAW has worked with communities of varying sizes, capacities, and geographical locations across the United States. Their report and mitigation difficulty crosswalk can be found on the links below,

<https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/12378/FINAL-CPAW-Gunnison-Report-December-17-2019?bidId=>

<https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/12379/Updated-Gunnison-County-CPAW-Mitigation-Difficulty-1WUIC-Hazard-Crosswalk-2020-Mar-11?bidId=>

The **Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**, updated and finalized in June 2025, serves as a strategic roadmap for mitigating wildfire risk across the county's diverse landscape. Developed through a partnership with the West Region Wildfire Council and the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, the plan utilizes a science-based "Risk Assessment and Decision Support" (RADS) framework to identify priority treatment areas. It focuses on three core goals: creating fire-resilient landscapes, fostering fire-adapted communities, and ensuring safe, effective emergency response. Notably, the 2025 update expanded its planning area to include crucial portions of the Upper Gunnison River Watershed in neighboring counties, reflecting a collaborative,

watershed-scale approach to protecting local water supplies and ecosystems from catastrophic fire. You can view the Gunnison County CWPP at:

<https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/1112/Community-Wildfire-Protection-Plan>

### **Gunnison County Adopted Wildfire Codes**

In a significant move toward disaster preparedness, the **Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners** formally adopted the **Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code (CWRC)** through Resolution 2026-9 in March 2026. This adoption aligns the county with new state mandates that require local jurisdictions within designated Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas to implement minimum wildfire-resistant construction standards. Gunnison County's adopted code can be viewed at:

<https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/9892>

### **Local Resource Contact List**

For additional information/questions, please contact the respective party:

Gunnison County Community and Economic Development

Crystal Lambert, Building & Environmental Health Official, Phone (970) 641-7688, Email [clambert@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:clambert@gunnisoncounty.org)

Crested Butte Fire Protection District Fire Prevention Division

Taylor Reeves, Wildland Coordinator, Phone (970) 713-4614, Email [treeves@cbfpd.org](mailto:treeves@cbfpd.org)

Colorado Forest Service:

Mike Tarantino, Supervisory Forester of Science & Data, Phone (970)-641-6852, Email [Mike.Tarantino@colostate.edu](mailto:Mike.Tarantino@colostate.edu)

West Region Wildfire Council:

Scott Morrill, Chief Operations Officer, Phone (970) 615-7300 x313, Email [scott.morrill@cowildfire.org](mailto:scott.morrill@cowildfire.org)

Eric Loy, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist- Gunnison, Phone (970) 615-7300 x312, Email [eric.loy@cowildfire.org](mailto:eric.loy@cowildfire.org)

### **Regional Resources:**

The West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC) promotes wildfire risk reduction, adaptation action, and wildfire preparedness throughout Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties.

WRWC's Vegetation Management Cost-Share Program (VMCSP) offers technical assistance and cost-share reimbursement funding to help reduce vegetative fuels (trees and shrubs) on a property.

WRWC uses grant funding to help offset the cost to landowners of completing wildfire mitigation. All participants will be responsible for providing matching funds (out-of-pocket cost) for their project. Landowners are required to pay for the full project cost.

Once the contractor has completed the work, then the landowner will then be reimbursed with partial funding by WRWC. This will occur once all final reimbursement paperwork has been received. More details can be found on the link below, <https://cowildfire.org/cost-share/>

### **State Resources:**

Colorado Legislature established the Forest Restoration & Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Grant Program in 2017. This program provides state support through competitive grant funds that encourage community-level actions across the state for some specific purposes:

- Reduce the risk of wildfire to people, property, and infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)
- Promote forest health and forest restoration projects
- Encourage the use of woody material for traditional forest products and biomass energy

For more information about the FRWRM grant, please visit: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/grants/forest-restoration-wildfire-risk-mitigation/>

### **Federal Resources:**

The Community Wildfire Defense Grants are intended to help at-risk local communities and Tribes plan and reduce the risk of wildfire. The Community Wildfire Defense Grant helps communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI) implement the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy):

- Restore and Maintain Landscapes
- Create Fire Adapted Communities
- Improve Wildfire Response

More details on federal funding can be found on the link below:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants>

The Wildfire Risk to Communities project team developed a nationally consistent risk dataset to support the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program. The dataset supports the goals of the program described in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and can be used to help:

- Identify eligible at-risk communities.
- Prioritize places that are/have:
  - Low income
  - Been impacted by a severe disaster
  - High or very high wildfire hazard potential
- Identify places that qualify as underserved and that can request a waiver of match.

The Risk Dataset is not intended to be the only source of information to prioritize communities, but it can help fill data gaps to support applicants. More details on eligibility and scoring priority can be found on the link below:

<https://wildfirerisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/CWDG-Dataset-Methods.pdf>