

# Land Use Planning & Wildfire Forum

## Event Outcomes

### Jan. 30, 2018

### Summary

Hosted by [Headwaters Economics](#), the *Land Use Planning and Wildfire Forum* brought together the communities of our [Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire \(CPAW\)](#) program, as well as academics, researchers, and Washington DC fire leadership on Jan. 24-25, 2018, in Boulder, CO.

This year, Forum objectives included:

- **Network Building:** Help establish a coalition of professionals who can learn from each other's expertise.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Provide the best available science and best practices for land use planning to reduce community wildfire risk.
- **Tools and Resources:** Provide land use planners and fire personnel with information they can use to reduce wildfire risk in their communities.

### Structure

The Forum occurred over two days and included presentations, panel discussions, and interactive exercises. Presentations addressed the CPAW process, including community recommendations, key challenges and opportunities, and next steps. CPAW partners and researchers also gave presentations on specific land use planning tools, such as wildfire risk assessments and the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code. A facilitated panel discussion followed each presentation.



*Land Use Planning and Wildfire Forum, 2018.*

In addition, Headwaters Economics and partners presented preliminary outcomes from two recent research projects. The first research project, in partnership with the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, identifies the costs to construct a wildfire-resistant home. The second project (in partnership with Park County, Montana) examines the full costs of a wildfire at the community level.

Interactive exercises were conducted throughout the Forum to allow participants to network and share opportunities, challenges, and success stories in reducing community wildfire risk through land use planning. Participants also began developing communication strategies through an interactive session.

### Key Takeaways

Successful implementation of land use planning tools to reduce community wildfire risks relies heavily on relationship-building and collaboration between fire and land use planning departments. Other elements to success and key takeaways include:

- Identify innovative and locally-driven solutions;
- Involve a broad stakeholder group, including reaching out to the potential opposition;
- Be persistent and patient;

- Establish long, trusting partnerships, including with homeowners, businesses, elected officials, and decision-makers;
- Be transparent and adaptable; and
- Identify funding opportunities and collaborate on grant applications.

## Future CPAW Wish List and General Comments

During the Forum, participants were asked to write ideas, suggestions, and general comments on an “idea mural” for future consideration. Feedback included:

- How does risk modeling incorporate ember cast?
- How can we reduce the legislative barriers to land use planning for wildfire?
- There is a need to create new partnerships (for example, landscapers and nurseries)
- Can you include long-term replacement/maintenance savings into the study on constructing a wildfire-resistant home? How about the costs for installing interior sprinkler systems?
- Invite insurance industry and developers to present on their perspectives.
- Equity and inclusiveness—are we engaging the whole community in this discussion? What stakeholders are still missing?
- The presentations need to be recorded, so a narrative accompanies the slides.

CPAW will be exploring these suggestions throughout 2018. If you have additional comments, please feel free to send them to us! We appreciate opportunities to improve the topics, presentations, and exercises in our annual Forum, as well as your feedback on CPAW research and services.

## CPAW Resources

- [Presentations from the Forum](#) can be viewed and downloaded from the CPAW website.
- CPAW [profiled best practices in five urban areas](#) to help other communities learn about innovative efforts to mitigate wildfire risk.
- View [CPAW Community Profiles](#) to learn more about what each community is doing to address wildfire risk.
- Explore this customized, interactive [tool for Santa Fe](#) comparing the geography of wildfire risk with vulnerable populations to facilitate prioritization of mitigation projects, targeted outreach and education, evacuation planning, and post-disaster recovery planning.
- [Review this report](#) on Montana’s opportunities and challenges for applying land use planning tools to reduce wildfire risk.

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*“I really appreciate hearing other communities’ success stories. A lot of great information from all the communities, presenters, and CPAW Team. Networking is always key and the knowledge gained beneficial... thank you!”*

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Participant Forum Survey

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Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire