



CPAW Impact: 2024

Working with communities to reduce wildfire risks through improved land use planning, compelling communication, and applied research.

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Helping Create Fire-Adapted Communities

Since its inception in 2015, CPAW has reached more than 80 communities in 14 states, from large urban areas to rural counties. The CPAW program has supported communities in passing wildfire-resistant building codes, integrating wildfire standards into development and landscape regulations, and securing multi-million-dollar investments in wildfire mitigation solutions.

Forest Service WCS Landscapes



CPAW's customized support, training, and resources have aided wildfire adaptation in more than 30 locations in 12 of the Forest Service's Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscapes.



RECENT COMMUNITY EXAMPLES

1 TUOLUMNE BAND OF ME-WUK INDIANS, CALIFORNIA

CPAW is partnering with the Tuolumne Band to develop resources that include Indigenous values. For example, oak trees and their acorns are central to the culture and require special consideration in defensible space.
Forest Service Landscape: Stanislaus

2 LA PINE, OREGON

La Pine sought CPAW's help to develop model ordinances for wildfire risk reduction within the urban core that also retain the aesthetics of the town.
Forest Service Landscape: Central Oregon

3 ESTES PARK, COLORADO

CPAW is assisting Estes Park—the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park—with a complete update of its land use codes, from landscaping to building codes to road construction and utilities.
Forest Service Landscape: Colorado Front Range

4 ROUTT COUNTY, COLORADO

With help from CPAW, Routt County worked with diverse stakeholders to explore the development of a Wildland-Urban Interface Code. Regulations were adopted and apply to new construction starting in 2024.

5 MAUI COUNTY, HAWAII

To support rebuilding efforts after the catastrophic 2023 Lahaina Fire, CPAW is partnering with community organizations to provide customized research and training about the types, cost, and availability of wildfire-resilient building materials in Maui.

CPAW by the numbers:



80+ communities impacted in 14 states



12 Forest Service WCS Landscapes benefited from training and resources



26 communities adopted new land use codes and plans



12,000+ people reached through trainings, presentations, and events



A Leading Voice in Research & Policy



POLICY LEADERSHIP

The practical lessons from community partnerships give CPAW a unique lens on policy solutions for fire-adapted communities. CPAW's lead wildfire researcher and policy analyst, Dr. Kimiko Barrett:

- Was appointed to the [Federal Wildfire Mitigation and Management Commission](#) and co-chaired the Communities Workgroup.
- Testified in seven congressional briefings, including as a witness to the [House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands](#).



ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Original economic and policy research from the CPAW team is helping change the conversation around wildfire and the built environment.

Recent publications include:

- [The cost of retrofitting a home for wildfire resistance](#)
- [Redefining the urban wildfire problem in the West](#)
- [Missing the mark: Effectiveness and funding in community wildfire risk reduction](#)



TRAINING & OUTREACH

CPAW's resources and practical tools are used by hundreds of community leaders across the U.S. Recent examples include:

- The [Tribal Emergency Management Summit](#), co-hosted by CPAW, provided wildfire mitigation training to representatives from 18 tribes in five states.
- A 10-minute video, [Built for Wildfire: Austin, Texas](#), shares the story of one community's journey to adopt wildfire building codes and incorporate equity considerations.
- Presentations to faith leaders in Hispanic communities across the U.S., in partnership with Hispanic Access Foundation.

CPAW in 2024: August 2023 – July 2024



7 congressional briefings with CPAW team members



4,000 people engaged with the CPAW team in 25 presentations



135 media stories featured CPAW lessons and strategies



\$4.8 million in funding for local risk reduction secured with CPAW's help



4 custom tools and datasets to aid Forest Service grantmaking



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Looking Forward

In the coming year, CPAW will engage with new local partners, federal agencies, and leading organizations to strengthen and create fire-adapted communities. Among our planned projects:



RESEARCH & POLICY

- **Insurance:** Conducting a study on cutting-edge and innovative strategies that could help address wildfire's role in the insurance crisis.
- **State Policy:** Analyzing state-level WUI codes in the West with recommendations for state and local staff and elected officials.
- **Competitive Grant Programs:** Identifying opportunities that can lower the barriers faced by at-risk communities in accessing federal grant funding.



COMMUNICATION & DATA VISUALIZATIONS

- **Retrofits:** Creating an interactive tool to help homeowners identify the most effective wildfire-resilient actions and costs customized for their home and landscaping.
- **Equity Data:** Updating our Wildfire Risk Report available for every U.S. community to help identify equitable wildfire risk reduction strategies.
- **Indigenous Communities:** Customizing CPAW resources for Indigenous communities to better reflect the unique housing, land use, and wildfire risk challenges and solutions in Tribal areas.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Code Adoption:** Creating new partnerships with local governments to safeguard communities by integrating wildfire-resilient strategies into plans, codes, and ordinances.
- **Outreach Support:** Developing infographics, handouts, posters, and videos to help community leaders make the case for strategic wildfire risk reduction.
- **Building the Field:** Facilitating peer learning, professional mentoring, and cross-discipline collaboration with local government staff, state and federal agencies, academia, NGOs, and industry representatives to deepen the network of experts addressing wildfire risk to communities.



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