Using Landscape Regulations to Reduce Wildfire Risk

Acknowledgments

The Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) program works with communities to reduce wildfire risks through improved land use planning. CPAW is a program of Headwaters Economics, an independent, nonprofit research group whose mission is to improve community development and land management decisions. CPAW is funded by grants from the USDA Forest Service and private foundations. This report was done in partnership with GroundPrint, LLC.

Author Information

Susan Riggs, AICP, Principal, GroundPrint, LLC | 406-579-5844 | sriggs@groundprint.com
280 West Kagy Blvd, Suite D, #236 | Bozeman, MT 59715 | www.groundprint.com

Doug Green, CPAW Program Manager | 541-749-0620 | doug@headwaterseconomics.org
P.O. Box 7059 | Bozeman, MT 59771 | https://headwaterseconomics.org

HEADWATERS ECONOMICS

P.O. Box 7059 | Bozeman, MT 59771
https://headwaterseconomics.org

groundprint planning | urban design

280 W. Kagy Blvd, Suite D #236 | Bozeman, MT 59715
www.groundprint.com

CPAW
Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire

Overview

This technical guide was compiled by Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) to help community planners and municipalities incorporate wildfire-related landscape regulations into their codes and practices. Ten communities in the western U.S. were interviewed to gain practical information and examples for this guide.

The regulatory landscape of wildland urban interface codes is rapidly changing, and since interviews for this guide were conducted in 2024, several communities and states have updated their codes or put new ones in place. Colorado and California updated their state wildland urban interface codes in 2025; as such, some of the community specific regulations mentioned here may have been pre-empted by newer state codes.

How to Use This Guide

Landscaping regulations are one of the many tools planners can use to reduce wildfire risk in their communities. This guide provides planners with model language and recommendations, in addition to examples of these types of initiatives from communities around the West.

If a community has the capacity and public appetite for change, amending land use regulations can make a big impact. Some communities will want to adopt a specific section or ordinance dedicated to mitigating the impacts of wildfire on the built environment, while others will take a more widespread approach. The key in either scenario is to avoid contradictions between different sections and requirements. Wildfire-conscious landscape design should be the standard for new development. Changing existing properties often requires more effort.

Each community must decide how to create or amend regulations to strike an appropriate balance of locally defined goals. While most land use codes have a specific section related to landscaping, other regulations (e.g., design standards, setbacks, fencing, screening, accessory structures, access) also should be considered to decrease the potential impacts of a wildfire to the built environment.

WUI

According to the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC), the Wildland-Urban Interface is defined as that geographical area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with wildland or vegetative fuels.

codes.iccsafe.org

Understanding that landscape design encompasses significantly more than simply species selection and placement is essential to the conversation. Viewing landscape design from a broader perspective of creating and maintaining green infrastructure can result in code language that can address a number of issues, including urban heat, wildfire risk, and water use.

CPAW Background

Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) provides land use planning solutions, communications assistance, and customized research to better understand and manage wildfire-prone areas and reduce risks. CPAW envisions fire-adapted communities that live with the inevitability of wildfires by integrating wildfire risk-reduction measures into design and development to minimize costs, protect structures, and save lives. All services and assistance are provided at no direct cost to the communities served by CPAW. Participation is voluntary and implementation of CPAW recommendations is at the discretion of the local jurisdiction that has authority over land use decisions.

CPAW is a program of Headwaters Economics, an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization. Established in 2015, CPAW is funded by the U.S. Forest Service and private foundations.

Recommendations

For zoning as well as subdivision regulations, **definitions** will need to be added and/or amended to include wildfire-specific terminology to correspond with terms used in the code and code amendments. There are good examples of definitions from NFPA 1140, IWUIC, other professional resources, and other jurisdictions that have defined similar terms. Local jurisdictions should coordinate definitions with state-wide regulations,where they exist.

▶ Establish a wildland-urban interface overlay zone

Overlay zones are typically tied to specific parts of a city using current and accepted wildfire risk mapping. Properties in these high-hazard zones are required to increase mitigation measures and are subject to additional regulations intended to help with wildfire resilience.

Overlay zoning is not typically a tool intended to blanket an entire community; however, based on certain political situations or code structures, overlay zoning may prove to be a path of lesser resistance.

Urban conflagration can occur very quickly from flying embers, which are responsible for up to 90% of home destruction during a wildfire.[1] Some communities may want to consider establishing wildfire-conscious landscaping regulations in the base code applicable to the entire jurisdictional area instead of only in high-hazard areas.

Community Example:
Ashland, Oregon, has a "Physical and Environmental Constraints Overlay" with specific development standards that cover nearly the entire city limits and urban growth boundary. This decision was driven by a combination of the need for flexibility and adaptability, legal and administrative efficiency, consistency with other regulations, and better integration with state and federal standards.

Wildfire Risk Mapping

There are many different options for tethering wildfire landscaping regulations, incentives, and/or guidelines to geographic boundaries including combinations of the following:

1) creating area-specific regulations tied to high risk areas,
2) requiring compliance with specific individual property assessments,
3) establishing overlay zoning, and
4) applying standards that coincide with broader existing zones, city limits or county lines.

▶ Include fire resiliency in purpose and intent statements of relevant sections to set the stage for dimensional standards and other requirements.

A clear intent to reduce fire risk in all plans can serve as a reminder to local staff and officials to avoid conflicting regulations. These intents can also ensure that residents become aware of the risk their communities face.

Community Example:
The Development Standards section related to landscaping in Vail, CO, includes language that could serve as an example to other communities: "The major objective of the landscaping is to help reduce the scale of new structures, to assist in the screening of structures, to reduce the risk to life and structures from the intrusion of fire from wildland fire exposure and fire exposures from adjacent structures, and to mitigate structure fires from spreading to wildland fuels."

Wildfire Risk to Communities

"Wildfire Risk to Communities" is a free, easy-to-use website with interactive maps, charts, and resources to help communities understand, explore, and reduce wildfire risk. It was created by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with Headwaters Economics and Pyrologix.

wildfirerisk.org

▶ Establish defensible space for new landscaping according to the Zone 1-3 structure:

a. Zone 1: 0-5 feet – noncombustible materials only such as rock, gravel, cement, stone/concrete pavers (no vegetation, no wood mulch, no pine straw, no wood fences); ignition-resistant fencing and decks only. Many codes require foundation plantings which are contrary to best practices for wildfire resiliency.

b. Zone 2: 5-30 feet – appropriately spaced mix of mowed grasses, appropriate species of maintained shrubs, trees; horizontal spacing depends on slope and vegetation height; using hydrozones, or groupings of plants with similar water needs, is recommended.

c. Zone 3: 30-100 feet – (not applicable to small lots) appropriately selected and spaced mix of maintained plantings and trimmed mature trees can be clustered with fire breaks between; plant density can increase farther from structure.

These types of standards can also be applied to existing structures retroactively or tied to a defined threshold of further development such as an addition or a change in use. They can also be recommended on a voluntary basis or through an incentives program.

Community Example:
Vail, CO, has a "Fire Free Five Landscaping Guide" that focuses on the five feet surrounding a building as the most critical part of landscaping to reduce wildfire risk. The code language (Section 14-10-8.L) refers to these guidelines: "Defensible space shall be created and maintained in an area extending from the perimeter or projection of the building or structure to a radius of 100 feet or the lot lines, whichever is less. Defensible space and landscaping shall comply with Vail Fire and Emergency Services Fire-Resistant Landscaping guidelines."

Woodside, CA, refers to the first five feet around a structure as "Zone Zero: Ember Resistant," "Zone 1, Lean, Clean & Green," and "Zone 2: Fuel Reduction." This clever double meaning for "Zone 0" has the potential to work well for promotional purposes.

▶ Regulate existing landscaping to minimize fire risk.

Regulations can be augmented for established landscaping. Examples include requiring that landscapes be well maintained – i.e., appropriately irrigated and with all dead vegetation removed; requiring that mature trees be trimmed or pruned to reduce ladder fuels; and controlling gprograms controlling or removing invasive plants or noxious weeds. When landscaping on a lot is replaced, communities can consider implementing new defensible space standards that require, for instance, more spacing between plantings and buildings.

Community Examples:
Ashland, OR, (Municipal Code, Section 9.04) requires landowners or occupants to cut grass and weeds by June 15th each year and maintain that height throughout the fire season.[2] The city's website (https://ashlandoregon.gov/263/Weed-Abatement) explains: "Cutting grass and weeds, controlling noxious weeds like Himalayan blackberry, Scotch Broom and thistle, and not planting flammable plants in proximity to structures reduces the ability for fires to start or spread as quickly, thus substantially decreasing the fire risks throughout our community."

The Woodside Fire Protection District WFPD similarly adopted an ordinance (No. 23-02 Public Nuisance for Fire Hazard Abatement (FHA): "The primary function of the Fire Hazard Abatement Program is to reduce the risk of fires within communities by pro-actively establishing defensible space and reduction/removal of flammable materials on properties. The Fire Hazard Abatement Program conducts property surveys to identify fire hazards throughout the year. The Fire Hazard Abatement Program responds to

complaints year-round. The Hazard Abatement and Inspection program exists to address enforcement and safety issues and is not provided as a service."[3]

▶ Provide guidance on plant species and consider prohibiting some types of plant materials.

While lists of approved plant lists can be easier for plan reviewers, builders and landscapers to follow, inspections and ensuring continued compliance can be a burden for fire and planning departments. Often, plant lists do not account for specific conditions such as toils, light and slope. Many plants that are drought tolerant are also fire resistant, but not all local nurseries will have an adequate and affordable supply.

Overall, remember that spacing and placement of plants should outweigh species selection and that all plants, when poorly maintained, can be a fire hazard.

Community Examples:

The City of Ashland, OR, prohibits certain flammable plants in the city limits as part of their Municipal Code (AMC9.04.022). This applies to both new construction and throughout the city within 30 feet of any structure, including structures on adjacent lots.[4] *The list includes species such as juniper, lavender, cypress, Douglas fir, spruce and hemlock.*

▶ Encourage wood chipping programs, but keep mulch away from buildings.

Prohibit flammable ground cover like wood mulch or pine straw from being put in the noncombustible zone (0-5 feet from a structure). This is arguably one of the easiest, most effective, and economical regulations to administer and enforce.

Community Examples:

In Colorado, Boulder County's Land Use Code has detailed language about the use of mulch: "R327 .4 .13 .1 Weed barrier and gravel or crushed rock. A weed barrier and gravel or crushed rock not less than ¾-inch in diameter applied at least 2 inches thick must be installed beneath decks, unenclosed floors, and around the perimeter of the building to extend at least 3 feet beyond the exterior walls and at least 2 feet beyond the driplines of decks, bay windows and other eaves and overhangs. Exception: Noncombustible surfaces, such as poured concrete or asphalt, or other approved noncombustible materials, such as a weed barrier and brick, concrete, or stone pavers, may satisfy this requirement" (Page 19-24).

▶ Use noncombustible materials for screens, fences, or walls within five feet of a building.

Where fencing is attached to a building or deck, consider requiring the fencing to be made of noncombustible materials within five feet of the connection to the structure. Other places have reconsidered the need for buffering and/or reduced the number of trees and shrubs, increased spacing requirements, or allowed the use of berms or noncombustible fencing in lieu of dense vegetation. This topic warrants additional discussion on a community specific level as it may not need to apply equally to all situations.

Community Examples:

Ashland, OR, requires fencing attached to a building or deck within the Wildfire Lands Overlay to be made of noncombustible material within five feet of the connection.[5]

Example from Boulder County Land Use Code: "R327 .4 .4 Fences, retaining walls and similar appurtenances. Fences, retaining walls or other appurtenances that connect to buildings must be constructed of noncombustible materials or ignition-resistant materials for a distance of 3 feet beyond the exterior walls" (Page 19-22). Note that other places recommend a minimum of five or even feet.

▶ Require wood piles, outdoor storage, and fire pits to be moved at least 30 feet away from structures.

Regulations combined with community education can promote safe storage and wood pile practices. Consider prohibiting the use of outdoor wood-burning devices, specifically outdoor fire pits for vacation rentals. Short-term renters may not always understand wildfire risks to a community.

Community Examples:

Summit County, CO, (Land Use and Development Code, Section 3815.02: "Residential Outdoor Storage") has example language: "Firewood shall not be stored in unenclosed spaces beneath buildings or structures, or on decks or under eaves, canopies, or other projections or overhangs from May 1st until November 1st of each year without being covered by a certified flame-retardant covering. Unenclosed/uncovered storage of firewood shall be located a minimum of 30-feet from any structure between May 1st and November 1st of each year unless waived by the Review Authority when the specific conditions and individual circumstances (i.e., slope, aspect, vegetation types, availability of firefighting infrastructure, and other relevant factors as identified in the CWPP), of a given project do not warrant imposition of this requirement."

Estes Park, CO, unanimously passed an emergency ordinance (10-22) in 2022 banning outdoor fires at vacation rentals. The ordinance states that: "... the Estes Valley Fire Protection District reports that approximately sixty percent of residential fires in the Estes Valley involve short term rentals."[6]

Other considerations

Some communities may find that separate sections of their code, such as those that regulate subdivisions or mobile/manufactured home parks, also address landscaping and could benefit from wildfire resistant measures. Approaches to regulating these types of land uses might include:

- Ensuring that mobile home and manufactured home parks have fire-resilient landscaping plans and regulations.
- Campground regulations can benefit from additional requirements to limit the likelihood of human-caused wildfires. Consider requiring that site plans show fire department access and safer fire pit placement.
- Extending landscaping regulations to subdivisions, and planners should make sure that other regulations – such as limitations on the numbers of trees that can be removed – don't conflict with wildfire mitigation.
- Designing parks and open spaces to act as fire breaks or demonstrate principles of fire mitigation.
- Require wildfire mitigation in subdivisions for boulevard trees, parks, and open spaces. In addition to these elements, trails and roads can act as fire breaks.

▶ Incentives & Voluntary Programs

Another option for some communities might be creation of a voluntary program that could, if desired by the community, eventually transition into a mandatory program. This approach offers time for a community to get used to a new program while also allowing the department administering the program to fine-tune the details before a larger-scale implementation.

In addition, incentives can be offered for incorporating fire-safe practices into site designs and development plans. Potential incentives include:

- Density bonus
- Cluster development
- Decreased review time
- Tax breaks (check state regulations)
- Grants
- Subsidies for disadvantaged households/neighborhoods

▶ Enforcement & Inspections

Enforcement is another key component of implementation. Enforcement requires staff and program capacity. Most regulations require administrative capacity at the application stage as well as enforcement at the time of occupancy and in some cases monitoring to ensure continued compliance. If enforcement capacity is limited, focusing on simpler but still effective administrative measures should be emphasized.

A community might consider:

a. Can one staffer enforce these regulations or is a multi-departmental approach needed?
b. Is there capacity to do several incremental inspections?
c. Will fees be charged for inspections?
d. What will be the penalties for noncompliance?

Fire department staff are often more effective messengers than planners in the promotion of wildfire regulations as well as enforcement. Each community will need to decide for itself how enforcement and inspection will occur.

If enforcement capacity is adequate, communities could require compliance within a certain time period to complete detailed, site-specific assessments.

Community Examples:
In the Woodside, CA, Fire Protection District, 2,000 site assessments are conducted annually. Compliance is required within one year and progress is verified with reasonable checkpoints along the way.

In Austin, TX, job descriptions consistently use the term "officer" which can help to affirm a person holding a position of command and authority. Some examples include: Zoning Officer, Wildfire Mitigation Officer, Emergency Plans Officer, Chief Sustainability Officer, Chief Resilience Officer. [7]

Eagle County, CO, inspections are quite robust: the level and type of wildfire hazard mitigation is determined by Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation staff at the time of building permit plan check. During construction, there are two initial site inspections prior to the issuance of a building permit: "Prior to the initial inspection being scheduled, the footprint of the proposed structure must be staked out on the ground. The first inspection shall establish the Defensible Space, identify trees and shrubs to be removed or pruned and list other mitigation measures to be performed within the Defensible Space. The second inspection shall be made to verify that Defensible Space actions identified during the first inspection have been completed." A Final Site Inspection is also required to "verify that all required mitigation actions have been completed or property utilized shall be conducted prior to the issuance of a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) for the structure."[8]

▶ Assessing Community Capacity & Appetite

Determining a community's capacity and appetite for change is a logical first step in understanding what types of code changes and programs can be best supported. Often, the best place to start (for landscaping regulations) is with the Planning Department and the Fire Department together. If staff capacity or the public's appetite for change or even political will are inadequate, communities can still look at voluntary or incentives-based standards that can be utilized until additional education and engagement are possible.

A community should consider several key questions when evaluating its overall capacity and appetite for increasing wildfire resiliency. The first question is tied to government structure – is the planning office, building department, and/or fire department equipped to administer and enforce additional regulations? Can other organizations such as advisory boards or nonprofits play a role? The most successful programs are collaborative.

The Austin (TX) Fire Department, for example, has a Wildfire Division that, in addition to responding to fires, also leads education and assistance for neighborhoods becoming "fire-adapted communities." While this work is extremely valuable, in recent years the division has also been focusing on decentralizing this effort and collaborating more with other departments by getting involved earlier in the development review process by reviewing subdivision and site design.[9]

Another important question is related to public interest and appetite for changes to the existing regulations. In Boulder County, CO, public appetite for change was clear in 2022 when 72% of Boulder County voters approved a new sales and use tax to increase wildfire mitigation efforts and additional resources to help county residents.[10] A recent local fire event is often the strongest catalyst for change. Austin, TX, noticed a significant turning point in 2011: "Central Texas was placed on the worldwide map as a wildfire-prone area with the advent of the 2011 Labor Day fires. In the wake of those devastating fires, which resulted in the loss of many homes, neighbors put in the work to prepare for future threats. Recently, that home-hardening effort was tested when the Rolling Pines

fire burned 800 acres in nearly the same Bastrop area ravaged by wildfire 10 years before. First responders took note of the difference in outcome – zero homes were lost." [11]

The insurance industry is playing an increasing role in public favor of wildfire-resilient landscaping. In some areas, insurance companies are not renewing policies because the risk has been deemed too high. Some insurance industry researchers indicate that a "part of the solution could come from homeowners taking steps to make their properties more fire-resistant." [12]

Community Example:
The Wildfire Partners Program in Boulder County (CO) offers a platform where insurance providers actively engage with homeowners to retain coverage on mitigated homes: "The certificate can be sent to your insurance agent to show proof of adequate wildfire mitigation. Many mountain homeowners are getting non-renewal letters out of the blue, threatening to cancel their insurance within 30 days. Depending on the insurance company, a Wildfire Partners certificate will be accepted as proof of adequate wildfire mitigation. So this would prevent them from non-renewing you for that reason. Getting certified signifies your proactive commitment to fire mitigation for your insurance company."[13]

A community with capacity and appetite is well equipped to update its land use code with more robust wildfire resiliency measures. If capacity is questionable, a good first step is to assemble elected officials, staff, the public, and other potential partners to discuss opportunities for restructuring or making connections to help fill the gaps. Departmental partnerships can help with administration and enforcement. If there is a lack of public interest or acceptance, then education and outreach are essential. If there is neither capacity nor appetite, there are still ways to move the needle. In addition to education, a community may want to consider starting with voluntary or advisory language that can potentially be retooled into an incentives-based program or actual regulations when the timing is more favorable.

Community Examples:
CO, Eagle Valley Wildland (EVW) is a partnership of Eagle County (CO) and Greater Eagle Fire, Gypsum Fire, and Eagle River Fire protection districts to coordinate and collaborate on wildfire mitigation efforts. "As a result of this partnership, EVW tripled the number of acres of fuel reduction treatments in the county. EVW worked with community members to reduce wildfire risk on private land through property assessments and home-hardening projects. Over the past two years, more than 100 individual property owners and 25 HOAs have implemented risk reduction work."[14]

The table below provides examples and tips for navigating challenging situations and/or groups that may ostensibly appear to represent barriers.

Table 1: Troubleshooting Typical Barriers to Fire Resilient Landscaping

Potential Concern	Who	How	Examples
Some code requirements to maintain or replace existing landscaping at a 1:1 ratio and potentially in the same location may contradict landscape best practices for wildfire resiliency.	Watershed councils, environmental groups, wildlife advocates, homeowners	Talk early with other agencies or groups to understand concerns. Allow exceptions and simplify permitting for tree removal when part of an approved fire mitigation plan. Agree to maintain some existing vegetation that also serves other purposes such as prime habitat. Agree to timing restrictions to support wildlife needs.	The Eagle County CWPP includes seven specific actions to "Design and implement wildfire mitigation strategies with minimal impact to wildlife populations." [15] To help protect nesting birds in Vail, CO, tree removal is limited between May 15 and August 1 unless the tree poses an imminent threat to public safety.[16]
Some codes have stringent screening or buffering requirements for different densities or uses; some neighbors desire screening for privacy.	Neighbors and/or Home or Property Owners' Associations	Reconsider the need for requiring screening. Allow berms or noncombustible fencing to satisfy required screening or to provide privacy. Require that screening consider defensible spaces for structures on the property as well as for neighboring structures or planned building envelopes.	None available
Perception that water savings measures are at odds with fire resiliency measures	Water conservation boards	Note that many drought-tolerant plants have deep roots and heavy leaves which are also characteristics of fire-resistive vegetation.[17]	Use a government-owned property to showcase fire-resilient and drought-tolerant landscaping as a pilot project with interpretive signage.
Views about personal freedom and over-regulation	Property rights advocates	Use the fire department as the primary messenger. Stress personal responsibility in education campaigns Use the example of floodplain or wetlands regulations as a precedent for fire hazard mitigation measures.,	Austin, TX, has a document called "My Personal Wildfire Action Guide" set up within a "Ready, Set, Go" framework which emphasizes personal responsibility.[18] Eagle Valley, CO, has a program that uses 15 volunteer Neighborhood Ambassadors working with staff to implement programs and educational events within their respective communities. [19]

Examples of Regulations

Communities can incorporate wildfire mitigation regulations into their codes in many different ways; each community will need to decide where new regulations fit best. The table below summarizes where wildfire-related regulations exist within the larger regulatory framework in 10 sample communities. Some communities have chosen to adopt a locally amended code while others have created their own set of land use ordinances.

Regardless of the structure, there are several key takeaways:

- Clearly tie wildfire mitigation regulations to public health and safety.
- Always include clear purpose statements and definitions.
- It is important to note that some states, such as California, establish minimum requirements for defensible space in designated areas.[20] Local ordinances should either match or exceed these requirements.
- A comprehensive approach is best. Having a separate section related to wildfire resilience is often helpful; however, coordination with the rest of the regulations is essential to limit conflicts. The following section outlines some of these key areas to consider in typical subdivision and zoning regulations.

Ten western communities (a mix of small towns, cities, and counties) were interviewed and/or researched by the CPAW team for this guide:

Table 2: Primary Location of Wildfire Regulations within Codes

Community	Primary Location of Wildfire Regulations within Codes
Ashland, OR	Land Use Ordinance | Special Districts & Overlay Zones | Physical and Environmental Constraints Overlay | Development Standards for Hillside Lands & Development Standards for Wildfire Lands (*Note nearly the entire town is in overlay district*) Also addressed in fences, weed abatement Also adopted Oregon Fire Code
Austin, TX	Municipal Code | Land Development | Technical Codes | Wildland Urban Interface Code (2015 code with local amendments) Also addressed in Fire Protection Rules, Transportation, Park Use Rules, Subdivision Access Streets
Boulder County, CO	Land Use Code | Development Standards | Fire Protection & Wildfire Impacts Also addressed in Special Provisions, Site Plan Review Standards, Subdivision Exemptions, Appeals, Submittal Requirements, Procedures Following Disasters, Appendix A: Restrictions in Wildfire Zone No. 2
Eagle County, CO	Land Use Regulations | Site Development Standards | Natural Resource Protection Standards | Development in Areas Subject to Wildfire Hazards (applies to new construction, exterior remodels, SUPs, subdivisions, PUDs) Uses Wildfire Hazard Rating (topography, fuel, water availability) incorporated into a Wildfire Hazard Map Land Use Regulations | Building Resolutions | General Building Permit Restrictions | Wildfire Regulations Also addressed comprehensively throughout code
Estes Park, CO	Development Code | General Development Standards | Geologic and Wildfire Hazard Areas and Grading and Site Disturbance Standards Also addressed in Subdivision Design, Vacation Homes

Flagstaff, AZ	City Code	Fire Prevention Code	Adopted the IWUIC including appendices such as vegetation management plan City Code	Zoning Code	Supplemental to Zones	Resource Protection Standards (regulates areas designated as Resource Protection Overlay (RPO) zones and refers to Appendix 5 which discusses Fire Department Firewise Process and refers to UWUIC)
Routt County, CO	Routt County Zoning Regulations	General Standards and Mitigation Techniques for Land Use Approvals	Mitigation Techniques for Development within a Natural Hazard Area	Wildfire Hazard Areas
Summit County, CO	Land Use and Development Code	Subdivision Requirements	Required Fire Protection Improvements and Design Criteria Land Use and Development Code	Zoning	Landscaping Requirements Land Use and Development Code	Wildfire Mitigation (noted in Land Use Matrix as allowed in all districts) Also addressed comprehensively throughout code; CWPP also referenced throughout
Vail, CO	Town Code of Ordinances	Public Health & Safety	Reduction of Wildfire Risks Town Code of Ordinances	Zoning Regulations	Hazard Regulations	Restrictions in Wildfire Hazard Areas Town Code of Ordinances	Development Standards	Design Review	Development Standards & Guidelines Also addressed in Diseased Tree and Wildfire Fuels
Woodside, CA	Municipal Code	Land Usage	Building Regulations	Adoption of Standard Codes	Materials and construction methods for exterior wildfire exposure
Woodside Fire Protection District	No. 23-02 Public Nuisance for Fire Hazard Abatement No. 24-01 Fuel Mitigation Ordinance (Guidelines for Defensible Space document works as "Interpretation" of Ordinance 24-01)

Endnotes

1 Kimiko Barrett, Ph.D. “Land Use Planning Can Reduce Wildfire Risk to Homes and Communities.” Headwaters Economics, CPAW, headwaterseconomics.org/natural-hazards/land-use-planning-wildfire/. Accessed 30 June 2024.

2 https://ashland.municipal.codes/AMC/9.04

3 https://www.woodsidefire.org/our-district/vegetation-management-defensible-space/home-assessments/annual-abatement-requirements

4 https://ashlandoregon.gov/323/Prohibited-Flammable-Plants

5 Ashland Land Use Ordinance, 18.4.4.060.8

6 https://dms.estes.org/WebLink/0/edoc/199877/ORDINANCE%2010-22.pdf

7 https://services.austintexas.gov/hr/jobdesc/job_title_pay.cfm?title=S.

8 Eagle County Land Use Regulations, Chapter III: Building Resolutions, Section 3.12.1 “Wildfire Regulations.”

9 Jones, Justice. Personal interview by author, 2/20/2024.

10 McCatty, Kyle. Personal interview by author, 2/28/2024.

11 City of Austin and Travis County, My Personal Wildfire Action Guide: Ready, Set, Go, 10th Edition, Page 2: https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Fire/Wildfire/Ready%2CSet%2CGo!%20Austin-Travis%20Co.%20Wildfire%20Coalition_10th%20Edition.pdf

12 https://apnews.com/article/wildfire-maui-insurance-risk-burn-homes-e401a28b4c57e0ea03c59c4197d6b432

13 https://wildfirepartners.org/2023/08/03/whats-keeping-you-from-getting-certified/

14 Eagle County Recognized with National Wildfire Mitigation Awards, February 28, 2023, Eagle County, https://www.eaglecounty.us/news_detail_T24_R212.php.

15 https://csfs.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Community_Wildfire_Protection_Plan-ECFinal.pdf Page 40

16 https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/vailco/latest/vail_co/0-0-0-15193 5-11-5

17 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC), Appendix F: Characteristics of Fire-Resistive Vegetation.

18 https://www.austintexas.gov/news/city-austin-launches-ready-set-go-wildfire-evacuation-education-program-0

19 Lovgren, Eric. Personal interview by author, 2/28/2024.

20 California Pub. Resources Code § 4291 (1)(A)