

# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN



Colorado Springs Fire Department – CWPP  
Wildfire Risk Reduction Strategy

**March 23, 2026**

Colorado Springs Fire Department

# BACKGROUND



- (Local) Chapter 8, Article 7, Section 206. B requires the Fire Department to review and update the City's CWPP every 5 years
- (Federal) Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 authorizes communities to draft and implement a CWPP
- CWPPs are an eligibility requirement for state and federal funding opportunities for wildfire risk reduction programs (HMGP, FRWRM, FP&S, etc.)

# BACKGROUND CONTINUED...



- CWPP is a collaborative plan that identifies local wildfire risks and prioritizes wildfire mitigation projects.
- Originally written in 2011, updated in 2021 and working on 2<sup>nd</sup> update due August 2026.

# CWPP PURPOSE

- ✓ Local plan and overview of the community's wildfire assessment
- ✓ 5-year wildfire risk reduction strategy
- ✓ Helps to qualify for certain grant funding
- ✓ Identifies needs, challenges and priorities
- ✗ Not a response plan
- ✗ Not a project-level work plan
- ✗ Not a regulatory or enforcement document
- ✗ Not limited to fire department agencies

# PARTNERSHIPS



## Plan Contribution



## Plan Review and Approval



## Plan Reviewer Only



# UPDATE PROGRESS



## October-December

- Project plan approved
- Plan development
- Public wildfire survey (298 responses)

## January-February

- Public meeting on 2/24 (53 attendees)
- Plan distributed to SME partners

## February-April

- Open comment period
- All feedback due 4/30/26

## April-May

- Final draft
- Plan approval

## May-August

- Signatures
- Publish

# PUBLIC SURVEY RESPONSES



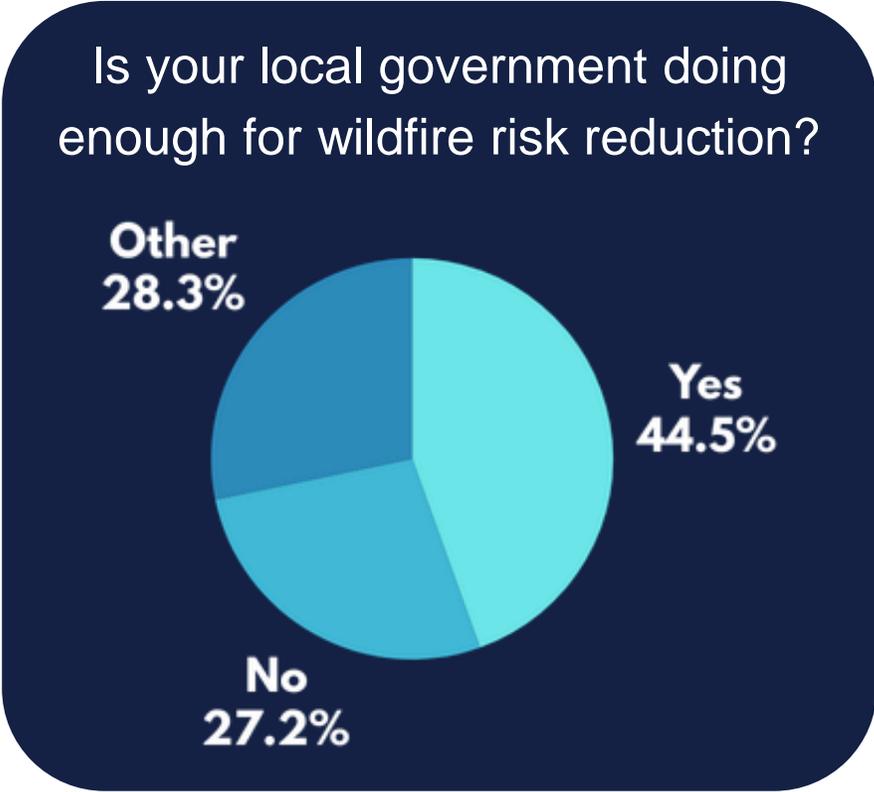
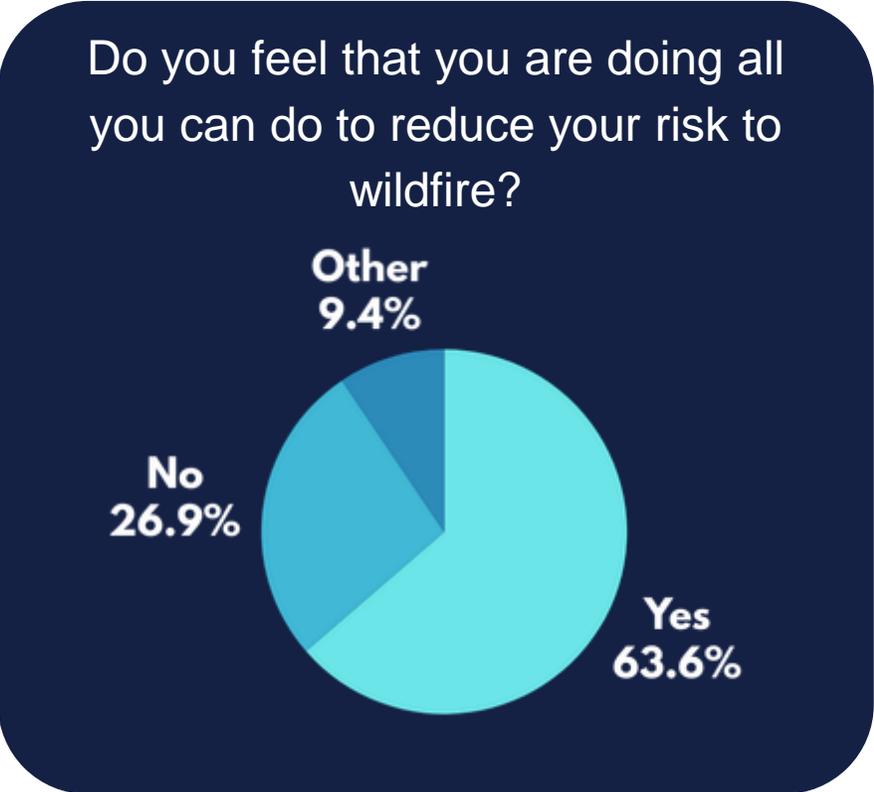
- 298 responses
- 99% of participants lived in a Wildland Urban Interface area
- 60% impacted by a fire
- 2% lost their homes to a wildfire

What mitigation strategies should be prioritized?





# PUBLIC SURVEY RESPONSES



# PLAN CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Jurisdiction Description
- Wildfire History
- Wildfire Risk Description
- Mitigation Strategies
- Implementation Plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation



# APPENDICES



- Wildland Urban Interface
- Community Education
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction
- Working Groups & Funding
- Fire Danger & Fuels
- Building Community Resilience (recovery planning)
- Smoke Ready Communities
- Tribal Consultations
- Neighborhood Champions (volunteers)

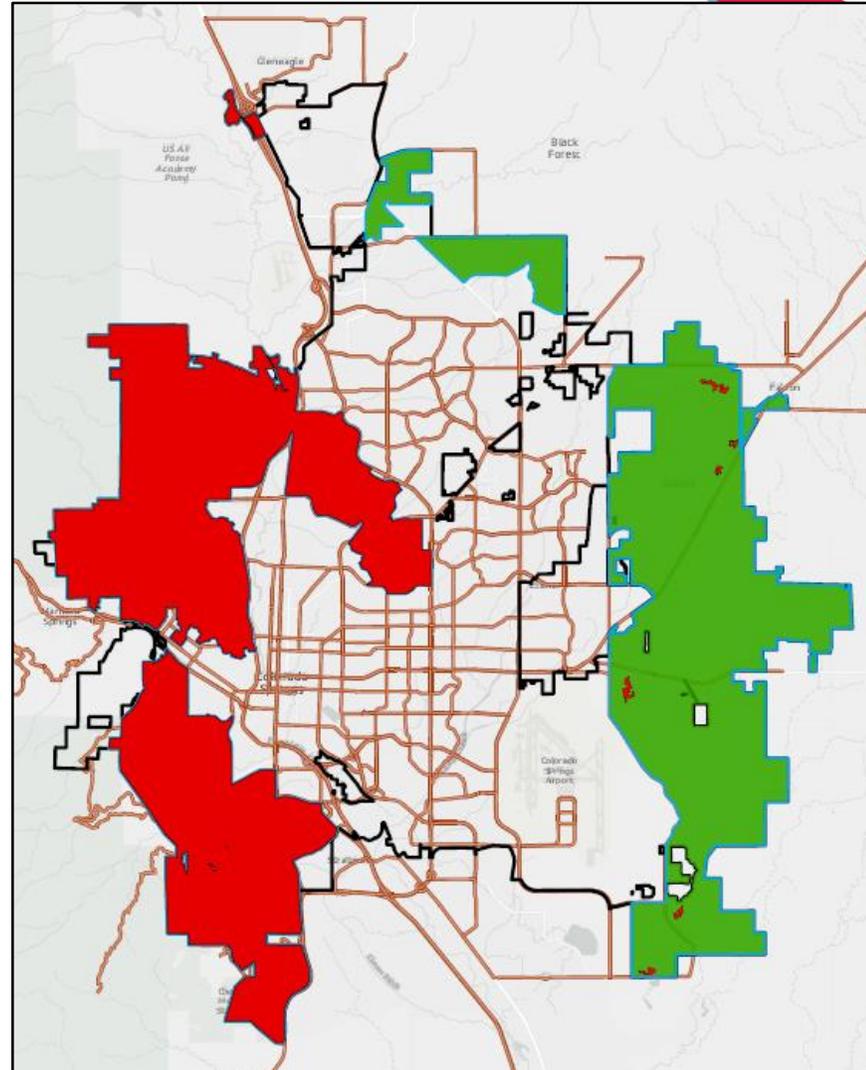
# WILDFIRE RISKS

## Maintain Existing WUI

- Moderate to High
- Class 2 (Red)

## Add East Side WUI

- Low Risk
- Class 1 (Green)



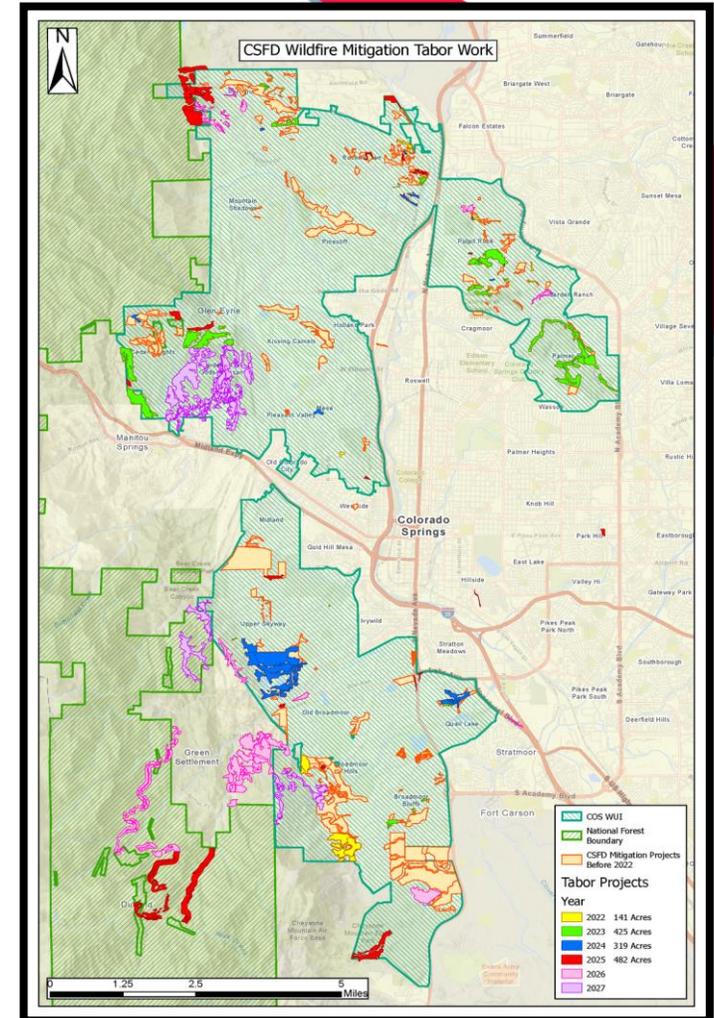
# WILDFIRE RISKS



# MITIGATION STRATEGIES

## Goal #1 Fire-Resilient Landscapes

- Identify areas for treatment
- Reduce hazardous fuels
- Monitor/maintain previously treated acres



# MITIGATION STRATEGIES



## Goal #2 Fire-Adapted Communities

- Increase education communities
- Establish the Eastern Wildland Urban Interface
- Conduct a comprehensive update of wildfire risk assessments
- Increase audio/visual education materials
- Conduct controlled burns
- Establish a process for ongoing tribal consultations

# MITIGATION STRATEGIES



## Goal #3 Wildfire Mitigation Program Expansion

- Increase program staffing
- Secure a dedicated facility
- Expand and strengthen partnerships
- Adopt, implement and continually update WUI codes
- Continue to pursue and leverage grant funding opportunities

# EVALUATION



## Annual Review

- Measure progress of all goals
- Address roadblocks
- Ensure all goals are being addressed

## Comprehensive Review 2030-2031

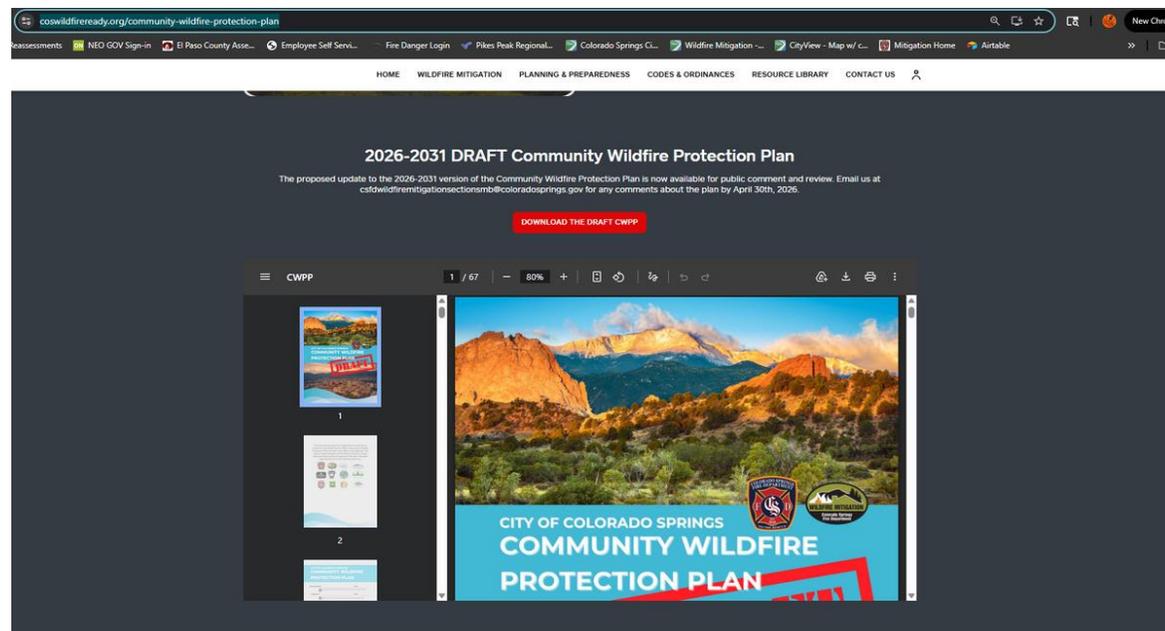
- What new topics need to be added to the 2032-2037 CWPP?
- How many acres were treated between 2026-2031?
- How many neighborhoods became Firewise between 2026-2031?
- How many fires have impacted the region?
- What fire code changes need to be addressed?

# PLAN REVIEW



Plan feedback due April 30, 2026

<https://www.coswildfireready.org/community-wildfire-protection-plan>



# QUESTIONS



Jessica McIntire  
Wildfire Mitigation Section  
Colorado Springs Fire Department  
(719) 385-7493  
[Jessica.McIntire@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Jessica.McIntire@coloradosprings.gov)

Ashley Whitworth  
Wildfire Mitigation Section  
Colorado Springs Fire Department  
(719) 385-7342  
[Ashley.Whitworth@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Ashley.Whitworth@coloradosprings.gov)