

## Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) Minnesota DNR, Division of Forestry

### The Challenge

Housing growth in the forested areas of Minnesota continues at an exponential rate. The dense jack pine stands characteristic of the lake states have burned furiously in the past with devastating killing hundreds of people and destroying homes. The development of new communities in these areas made up of often uninformed residents necessitates the need to improve fire protection through improved planning. Steps taken by residents can make a significant difference in the outcomes.

### The Solution

The Minnesota DNR is undertaking an initiative to assist communities in the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). These plans address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, fuel reduction, community preparedness, and structure protection. The FIREWISE Minnesota project objective is to have the local wildfire protection planning based on the needs of the people involved to assure plan implementation will continue indefinitely.

### Resulting Benefits

A statewide campaign is being launched to encourage community participation. New CWPPs will result that will assure:

- Collaboration: A CWPP will be collaboratively developed by local fire departments, local government representatives and DNR Forestry representatives in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.

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- Prioritized Fuel Reduction: A CWPP will identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend treatment methods that will protect one or more at-risk communities.
- Treatment of structural Ignitability: A CWPP will recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures.

### Sharing Success

- Innovations in planning and community protection developed in Minnesota will be shared with other partners to improve similar programs.
- Analyses conducted to determine any improvements from fire loss and reduced fire suppression costs will be shared nationally to support similar program development.
- Improvements to ecosystems for trees, plants and wildlife resulting from plan implementation will be highlighted to gain public support for CWPP implementation.



USDA Forest Service  
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