



Next Generation Community Wildfire Protection Plan

2021 Annual
Community Report



Inspiring A Wildfire-Ready Future

Community Wildfire Protection Plans are designed to accomplish two main objectives: Identify the right areas to reduce wildfire threat, and encourage the collaboration required to get that work done. The first objective to prioritize forest treatments in Chaffee County was accomplished when the county updated its plan in early 2020. The exercise used computer modeling technology to visually describe risk and identify action areas to decrease it.

Accomplishing the second objective to improve collaboration began with the formation of the Envision Forest Health Council — a group of leaders working together to inspire the community to implement the plan. Inspiration looks like \$19 million in funding raised, 1,637 community members taking action and 21,000 acres in the treatment pipeline. This report is the second annual update summarizing progress toward improved community wildfire resiliency.

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)'s main goal is to treat 30,000 acres of priority forested areas by 2030, to halve the risk fire poses to the community's most important assets in a decade. The work helps to protect not only homes but also water resources, wildlife habitat and infrastructure such as power lines, and it improves firefighter safety in the event of a fire.

Progress in Year 2 shows excellent momentum as many goals are on-track or ahead of schedule. Two-thirds of the targeted number of acres are in the planning pipeline for treatment that will reduce risk, and more than a third of the funding required to implement the plan is in place. Two large fuelbreaks, one south of Salida and another north of Buena Vista, are underway. Fuelbreaks reduce fuel loads by thinning trees in a strategic area to act as a barrier to stop or slow down fire spread. They help firefighters gain access to fight fires and can improve evacuation route safety.

Additional, smaller fuelbreaks in Chaffee County Treatment Priority Areas were identified in 2021 and funding was secured to create them. Effective fuelbreaks typically cross lands owned by multiple different entities. While most think wildfire is a federal public lands issue, one-third of Chaffee County's mapped Treatment Priority Areas are

By The Numbers through the Envision Forest Health Council:

3,136

acres of public and private
forest land treated

44

partners on the
Forest Health Council

21,000

acres in the planning pipeline

1,637

private landowners taking action
to improve community
wildfire resiliency

\$19 million

for forest planning and
treatment projects raised

5

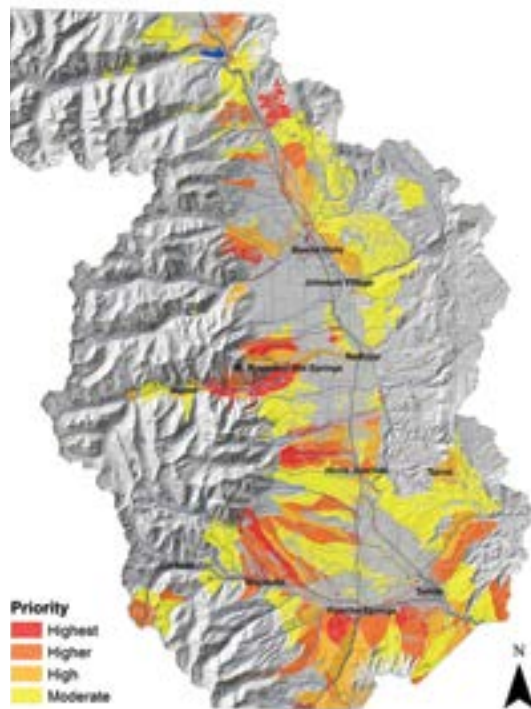
Firewise USA Sites in Chaffee County

privately owned. To organize and support work on these 10,000 acres, Forest Health Council partners created the Chaffee Treats Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Program, or Chaffee Treats.

[Chaffee Treats](#) to-date has engaged the owners of 4,000 priority acres. A driving program goal is to achieve cross-boundary thinning by connecting agreements among individuals for large and effective results. Landowners are provided help with professional forester consultations and management plans as well as financial assistance. With the Upper Arkansas Forest Fund (see story page 2), the county has secured millions in grant funding to execute a targeted 5,000 acres of private land treatments in top priority areas by 2026.

The 10-year wildfire plan is like a big heavy flywheel that, at Year 2, is starting to turn because the community is putting its collective shoulder to the wheel. Chaffee County is ready to treat nearly 8,000 more acres than a year ago, because program partners and forest owners are staying engaged as momentum builds to truly accomplish the community's wildfire protection goals.

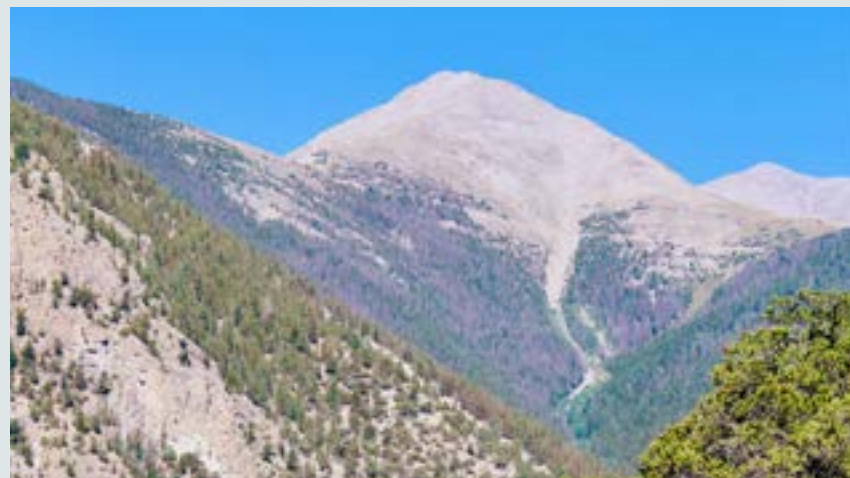
There are challenges to face in the coming years. While an encouraging level of planning and funding are in place, there is still much to do as we build the forester and contractor capacity to secure property-specific plans and execute them. The Forest Health Council is committed to doing this work as quickly as possible but recognizes it may take time. For example, as communities across all of Colorado and much of the West ramp up their forest mitigation work, there could be statewide capacity bottlenecks in professional personnel and equipment required to get the work done.



Even once it is fully implemented, the 10-year CWPP reduces risk to community assets by just half. It is imperative that individuals continue to create defensible space around their homes, no matter what type of risk has been identified on their land, and that they and their family members are and remain fully prepared to evacuate.



How A Forest Treatment Fund Works



The Upper Arkansas Forest Fund was created in 2021 by the National Forest Foundation to accelerate forest treatments under the Envision Forest Health Council as outlined in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The Fund was seeded with a 5-year, \$1.64 million commitment from the county sales tax measure (Chaffee Common Ground), and leveraged by 350% to secure \$5.7 million from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) — a federal grant awarded in September 2021.

The National Forest Foundation has worked in Colorado for 20 years. It chose the Upper Arkansas River Basin because of strong community support for reducing wildfire risk and public funding of forest restoration projects. “The Common Ground tax proves a local commitment to this work,” said Marcus Selig, vice president of field programs for the NFF.

The NFF pools funds from federal, state and other government programs, private companies and foundations to accomplish the work as envisioned in the community wildfire plan. The organization is the Congressionally chartered partner of the U.S. Forest Service, allowing it to manage projects on national forest lands, including forest thinning and prescribed low-intensity burning. The NFF’s projects incorporate private and additional non-federal land treatments as necessary to holistically address wildfire risk across landscapes. One-third of Chaffee County’s identified Treatment Priority Areas are privately owned.

Taking Action

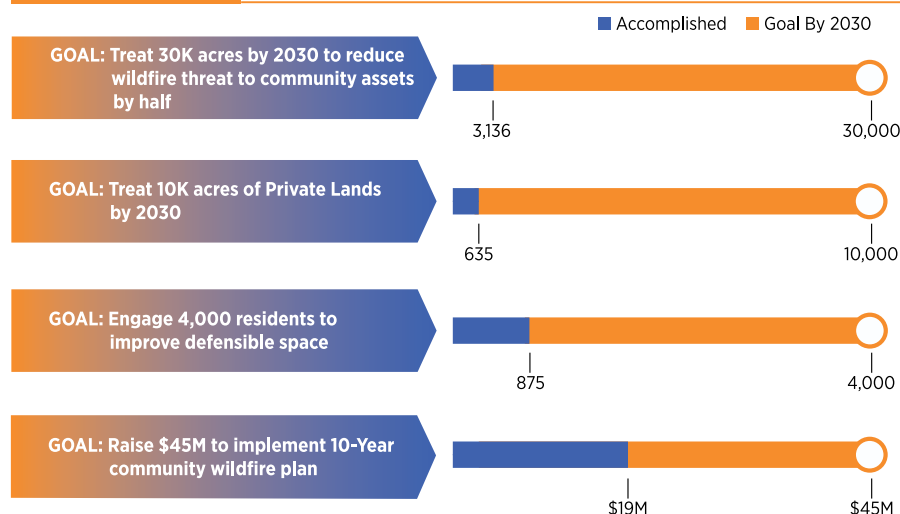
Forest Health Council partners in 2021 started working on two large community fuel breaks and began planning a group of smaller projects also located in Treatment Priority Areas. The U.S. Forest Service treated 1,331 acres, a significant percentage of the more than 2,000 acres treated during the year. Many additional specific actions by leaders and 1,637 community members helped move the needle toward attaining CWPP goals. Programs described below support multi-jurisdictional work while advancing private landowner participation that is necessary to fully implement the plan.

Shavano Front

The U.S. Forest Service successfully completed a prescribed burn on 430 acres northwest of Poncha Springs in the fall of 2021. This burn in a Treatment Priority Area on the Shavano Front was successful, but a second project in the Trout Creek Pass area was deferred due to weather conditions.



Chaffee County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Goal Tracker



The agency plans to increase controlled burning when conditions allow to reduce wildfire risk in much larger areas more quickly and effectively, compared to hand or machine forest thinning. Salida District Ranger Perry Edwards noted community concern about smoke during the low-intensity burn on the Shavano Front in the fall of 2021: “Smoke is a natural byproduct of fire and some amounts are unavoidable; however, fire managers and prescribed fire specialists look carefully at the proximity of communities and determine the least amount of smoke impact to the public during prescribed burning.”

Edwards, a member of the Forest Health Council, also notes that it is much more beneficial to conduct prescription burns in the fall when conditions are right for control, rather than fight wildfires in the summer when conditions are not good to control them.

Focused fuelbreaks

In 2021, the Colorado State Forest Service started planning and secured funding for fuel breaks in five new Treatment Priority Areas. Roadside

thinning will take place near the Three Elk, Broadview, Mesa Antero and Lost Creek Ranch subdivisions as well as on Poncha Pass. The work will occur in stages and is slated for completion in 2024. Funding was secured through the Chaffee Common Ground and CSFS State Fire Assistance grant programs.

Railroad Bridge

[The Railroad Bridge forest treatment project](#) improves critical wildlife habitat and protects area residents and infrastructure from wildfire. The project also protects the Arkansas River from post-fire flooding, debris flows and erosion caused when intense fires sterilize the soil and prevent rain absorption and vegetation regrowth for years afterward.

Work is taking place three miles north of Buena Vista on the east side of the river in the piñon-juniper forest above The Numbers and Narrows boating sections. Forest treatments in the steep, rugged terrain help protect the town and surrounding community from a wildfire in the Buffalo Peaks, where fire suppression could prove difficult in the 40,000-acre Wilderness Area.

Hand and machine thinning began in the fall of 2021, under the supervision of the National Forest Foundation. The 3,000-acre project area encompasses prime wildlife habitat, especially for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep but also mule deer, elk and other animals. It is an important migration corridor tying into the Fourmile Recreation Area, where animals spend the winter then disperse north and south to summer ranges as far away as Breckenridge and Westcliffe. Thinning piñon-juniper trees allows new vegetation to grow and, for bighorn sheep, opens the forest so they can use their keen eyesight to detect and avoid predators from up to a mile away, escaping to cliffy terrain.

The NFF, a member of the Forest Health Council, won \$454,000 in funding in a competitive RESTORE Colorado grant process to treat 380 acres in the project area by 2022. The Town of Buena Vista contributed \$10,000 in matching funds.

Methodist Front

Dozens of landowners in the foothills of Methodist Mountain agreed in 2021 to forest treatments that are necessary to create the Methodist

Front community fuel break, designed to protect Salida and Poncha Springs.

[Work started in February 2021](#) on the Hutchinson Ranch and continued on large tracts of nearby land that included town of Poncha Springs and City of Salida property. Nearly all of the homeowners who were asked in The Canyons and Piñon Ridge Estates subdivisions agreed to thinning that will contribute to the fuel break, to keep it linear and effective across the landscape.

The Colorado State Forest Service, managing private property treatments, worked with the Bureau of Land Management to extend treatments from private to public lands along the foothills of the mountain, especially in the County Road 110 area. Treatment was by mastication, a patch-clearing method used in the piñon-juniper forest.

The Forest Service completed tree thinning work in 2021 near Ohaver Lake, Silver and Poncha creeks and the Shirley Recreation Site in an area known as the Poncha Loop. The work reduces forest fuels and protects major power lines that transfer electricity to the San Luis Valley. The agency also employed a seasonal crew to work on the fuel break on Cleveland Mountain, where trees will continue to be thinned in 2022. The BLM hosted a timber sale in 2021 on Poncha Pass at the county line to thin trees that are dead and dying from a spruce



budworm infestation. Methodist Front encompasses an 8,200-acre area and significantly addresses the Forest Health Council's goal of treating 30,000 acres by 2030.

Chaffee Chips

[Chaffee Chips](#) helps community members create defensible space around their homes by coordinating neighborhood slash removal and chipping services. In two years since the program started, 330 landowners have spent 4,300 hours building nearly 1,000 slash piles that were removed from wildland-urban interface neighborhoods. Four service areas were identified in 2021 and the events successfully held. The community of Game Trail was particularly active, with more than 60 homeowners spending a combined 862 hours building 185 slash piles that were hauled away.

Chaffee Chips service locations are chosen by the Forest Health Council, based on Fuel Treatment Priority areas outlined in the CWPP. The ongoing service aligns with large fire mitigation projects being planned, funded and executed. Funding for Chaffee Chips is provided by CSFS Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Reduction and Chaffee Common Ground grants. The program is greatly supported by Chaffee County Fire Rescue and Colorado State Forest Service staff time and expertise. Five new events are set to take place in 2022.

Chaffee Treats

The Chaffee Treats program organizes and supports treatments on 10,000 acres of private property, work that is necessary to fully implement the community wildfire plan. The goal is to achieve cross-boundary thinning by connecting action among individuals in connected landscapes.

The American Forest Foundation continued to support Chaffee Treats in 2021, supplying funding and expertise to the program. Three professional foresters were hired in 2021 to provide private property owners consultations and forest management plans necessary to execute treatments. The program clusters homeowner commitments to wildfire mitigation, so that resulting actions are completed across the landscape and are therefore more effective in slowing fire spread, creating more favorable conditions to fight a fire, and protecting

community assets such as water and infrastructure. Program partners include CSFS and Colorado Firecamp, whose professional staff have engaged the owners of 4,000 acres in the program to-date.

Monarch Pass

A project managed by the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative continued in 2021 on Monarch Pass, where a spruce beetle infestation killed nearly all of the trees. Timber harvests with specialized equipment removed standing dead trees from steep slopes — a technique that is less expensive than helicopter logging. The U.S. Forest Service is a project partner and primary funder. In 2021, 283 acres were treated from the Madonna Mine to the old Monarch Pass area and the ski area property, to protect local communities and the watershed that flows into the Arkansas River.

Upper Chalk Creek

A key decision by USFS Salida District Ranger Perry Edwards opened the door to a collaborative event in late 2021 that removed hazard trees from County Road 162 near Alpine and St. Elmo in the Upper



Chalk Creek drainage. Chalk Creek has some of the highest wildfire danger in the county, according to the CWPP. During the two-day event, motivated homeowners worked with Forest Health Council partners to remove trees that could fall across the road — the only route in and out of the drainage by passenger vehicle. Neighbors helped buck up tree trunks and load slash and firewood, which was given to residents in need by a local church for winter heating.

The event ties into work completed in the summer of 2021 by Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, as a contracted crew cleared the power line along 10 miles of the drainage.

Firewise USA

The Game Trail subdivision northwest of Buena Vista received official designation as a Firewise USA site in 2021. The homeowners' association gained recognition in partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and Chaffee County Fire Protection District. Firewise USA recognition reduces wildfire risk in a large area such as a subdivision, protecting homes and their natural surroundings. The designation benefits homeowners seeking property insurance coverage and can help determine who gets competitive federal and state grant funding.

The Game Trail HOA also updated its neighborhood-specific Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2021, and it partnered with Adventure Unlimited to create a fuel break on the western end of the neighborhood. Game Trail becomes the 5th Firewise USA Site in Chaffee County. Others are Maysville, Alpine, St. Elmo and Piñon Ridge Estates.

Power Providers Step Up Safety Protocols

Electric service providers are working to reduce wildfire threats in their Chaffee County service areas. In addition to removing hazard trees that can fall on electric lines and equipment, they are strengthening power systems by replacing poles, upgrading transmission lines and switching to spark-free fuses in high risk areas. Some of the inspections are done with drones.

Power lines can exacerbate wildfire threat. Wind can blow nearby trees and their branches into lines, sparking fires. High winds can snap wooden distribution poles and the lines are susceptible to damage from naturally caused wildfires that spread into transmission line rights-of-way. The utilities have accelerated inspections in high risk zones to identify and address these potential safety concerns.

In 2021, Xcel Energy inspected more than 2,800 miles of transmission lines, performed infrared, drone and laser-based 3-D mapping inspections, and replaced more than 4,200 distribution poles, 22 miles of transmission line, and 25 miles of distribution conductor. A portion of this work was completed in or near Chaffee County, including replacing poles and rebuilding a portion of the 69kV line near Mears Junction as part of a larger line rebuild between Villa Grove and Poncha Springs.

The majority of the county is serviced by Sangre de Cristo Electric Association (SDCEA), which spent \$747,000 in 2021 on wildfire mitigation in Chaffee County. The utility replaced the entire power line, which is not included in that cost, and mitigated the right-of-way in the Chalk Creek drainage west of Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort.

Vegetation management also was completed by SDCEA in 2021 along US Hwy 24 from Buena Vista to Twin Lakes, as part of a project that included rebuilding the main power line between two substations.

In Chalk Creek, difficult terrain required mitigation, so line crews used climbing equipment in many cliffside locations. More than 50 new electric poles were set by helicopter in areas where a truck could not access the sites. "What we are doing is essential to ensure protection of human life, natural resources, watershed, wildlife and property values," SDCEA CEO Paul Erickson said. "It complements and ties into other mitigation efforts in Chaffee County."

SDCEA enacted a monthly rate rider in 2021 to increase funding for wildfire mitigation. Projects are key to fund forest mitigation on SDCEA's 750 miles of overhead line in its five-county system. SDCEA's vegetation management also includes sites in Lake, Fremont, Custer and Saguache counties.



Community Wildfire Preparation

In addition to programs and projects that accelerate forest treatments, the CWPP outlines goals related to community wildfire preparation, such as safe and effective wildfire response and preparedness for evacuation events and post-fire recovery from floods. In particular, it is important that residents and homeowners be personally prepared. The best home protection is achieved by created defensible space around structures. Driveways should be clearly marked with reflective address signs, and families should have evacuation plans in place.

Hazard mitigation planning

The Chaffee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) continued to update the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2021, completing a draft that was reviewed by the state in September of 2021. The document outlines pre-disaster planning on multiple natural hazard topics and incident types that include wildfires and floods. Hazard mitigation helps reduce or eliminate long-term risks by planning before a disaster strikes. The updated plan, which ultimately requires approval by FEMA, also ensures that the community remains eligible for federal and state grant funding. Plan completion and approval is expected in the spring of 2022.

Evacuation planning

The Office of Emergency Management continues to work toward identifying evacuation zones and areas of refuge in each zone. More work needs to be accomplished to update and implement the county's existing evacuation plan, according to OEM Director Richard Atkins.

Of particular importance is knowing safe evacuation routes in the event of a wildfire. For example, more than 40% of Chalk Creek homeowners surveyed said they thought there were multiple evacuation routes from their homes, yet in reality there is only one road in and out. The same survey found that homeowners grossly underestimated their wildfire risk as compared to professional assessments. While more than 90% of homeowners surveyed have very high to extreme risk, they rated themselves at only moderate to high risk. The survey conducted by the Wildfire Research Center at Colorado State University concluded that



closing the gap could further align community wildfire program goals and resident perspectives.

Also related to evacuation planning is community participation in Chaffee County Emergency Alerts or reverse-911. Through the Envision Healthy Landscapes communications program established by the CWPP and additional outreach efforts, residents are encouraged to [sign up for Everbridge](#) to receive emergency information through email and text messaging.

The county continues to use FEMA's Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS), which went online in 2020 to enable authorities to send emergency alerts to mobile phones connected to local cell towers. There is no requirement to sign up for IPAWS but it is not the recommended method to receive emergency notifications, especially in areas that do not have complete cell coverage. Countywide participation in the Everbridge service increased in 2021 by 3.7%, as 337 additional residents signed up.

Flood recovery

Since the 2019 Decker Fire, the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) and Colorado Firecamp have assisted landowners dealing with post-wildfire effects. ARWC partnered with Chaffee County and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to

implement an Emergency Watershed Protection Project that identified and mitigated post-fire flooding risk to susceptible homes and infrastructure using engineered solutions. ARWC also received funding from Colorado Department of Public Health to reduce sediment inputs into the Arkansas River, which were used to repair a failing dam and use the pond to capture ash and sediment in Bear Creek drainage, and repair and harden culverts near Loggie Gulch.

These efforts were tested during the impressive rain events in June 2021, when flooding with ash and debris came down from the burn scar. ARWC monitored project installations, provided additional landowner outreach and assistance to affected landowners, donated sand and trap bags to protect homes, and coordinated with the National Weather Service to provide on-the-ground updates to calibrate weather alerts and flood advisories.

Colorado Firecamp students have worked on four private land parcels in the Bear Creek drainage on Methodist Mountain, the site of the Decker Fire. The non-profit arranged 10 field exercises through firefighter and sawyer classes to aid in the removal of slash, debris and hazard trees.

The Decker Fire Recovery Team headed by the Office of Emergency Management studied responses to the fire and identified a need to address the county's shelter plan and volunteer/donation management but these needs have not yet been addressed.

Land Use Code Changes

[The 2019 Chaffee Wildfire Survey](#), which gained input from 1,035 respondents and informed the wildfire plan, demonstrates strong opportunity to update building and land use codes to address risk: 90% of respondents support building codes that encourage safe access for firefighters, and more than 80% support additional codes that make new development more fire resistant; for example, three-quarters support fire-resistant roofs for new builds.

Due in-part to this community input, as well as in-depth leadership discussions about the need for changes to improve safe and effective wildfire response, one of the CWPP's top objectives is to update the regulatory environment. Leadership further prioritized a list of

proposed code changes that begin with two early wins: (1) Update driveway/road widths and steepness for improved firefighter access, and (2) Require reflective and non-combustable road and address signage in wildland-urban interface (WUI) neighborhoods.

The Chaffee County Planning Commission updated the 20-year-old Chaffee County Comprehensive Plan in 2020. The plan incorporates CWPP implementation as a countywide planning goal and further recommends a complete update to the Land Use Code. The CWPP's prioritization of new regulations that support community fire resilience are expected to be addressed during the code update, which is scheduled to begin in 2022.



Our Community Partners

The Forest Health Council is comprised of 44 leaders working on many fronts to implement the community wildfire protection plan and connect that work regionally, for example in Lake County, which is upstream and upwind of our community. The following local, state and national entities are a great help and greatly appreciated:

Chaffee Common Ground

Forest health and wildfire resilience is supported in Chaffee County by a quarter-percent sales tax approved by voters in 2018, generating nearly \$4 million to-date for the Chaffee Common Ground Fund. The grant program in 2021 invested \$2,015,600 in forest health programs and projects. A major investment was a five-year commitment of \$1.64 million to seed the Upper Arkansas Forest Fund, which was matched by a \$5.7 million federal grant in September of 2021.

RESTORE Colorado

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-led [RESTORE Colorado](#) program has invested \$820,000 in Chaffee County in two years for projects that improve wildlife habitat, forest health and community wildfire resiliency. The partnership includes Great Outdoors Colorado, the Gates Family Foundation, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

RMRI

The Upper Arkansas River Basin is a Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative priority landscape because of the community-driven wildfire protection plan and direct financial support by residents and visitors through the Chaffee Common Ground tax measure. RMRI's mission is to increase the resilience of forests, wildlife habitats, communities, recreation opportunities, and water resources across all lands in the Rocky Mountains.

Co-convened by the National Wild Turkey Federation and the U.S. Forest Service, RMRI helps Chaffee County successfully connect with



funding opportunities and partner with our neighbors in Lake County to achieve similar work.

Lake County

The Lake County community has begun the process of updating its CWPP, mirroring Chaffee County efforts by incorporating resident priorities and developing a map that shows where to treat lands for the highest cost efficiency and community benefit. The NFF's Upper Arkansas Forest Fund will eventually support Lake County's plan implementation, once the community's wildfire plan update is complete in 2022.

In 2021, the Lake County community was invited to participate in a map walk similar to events held here in 2019. The maps inform the final plan by helping to identify community assets and treatment priorities. "Thanks to all participants of the Chaffee process because you've built something that can be replicated in another area, and that's exactly what we're doing," USFS Leadville District Ranger Pat Mercer said.

Collaboration Leads To A Brighter Future

Since 2107, Envision Chaffee County has engaged citizens to sustain and improve quality of life and create the future citizens want as the county grows and changes. The threat of wildfire was identified by the Envision process as a top community concern. Its Community Action Plan with 40 program and project ideas range from short-term wins to game-changers that ensure a better future for Chaffee County.

Among those are the Envision Healthy Landscapes Program, which promised to create greater collaboration among local, state and regional organizations to foster better forest health and wildfire resiliency. The program promised to prioritize landscape treatments and develop new funding sources and resources. It promised to leverage new technologies such as computer modeling tools, and to foster transparent, community-involved processes to maintain and increase support for forest treatments. It promised to double the rate of forest treatments that improve wildfire resiliency, water quality and wildlife habitat to reduce risk by half. The program is ramping up to accomplish these big goals, as described above.

Nearly 5 years later, Envision's virtuous cycle of community learning, planning, acting and monitoring has demonstrated the power to change our future. Nowhere has this been more evident than in forest health planning and wildfire preparation.

"As a community and with our council partners, we are ramping up to treat the forest and reduce risk," said Envision Co-lead Cindy Williams, who facilitates the council's meetings and collaborative planning efforts. "We are on track and even setting an example for the state, including by taxing ourselves to get urgent work done. But treating across all lands at double the pace is a big deal, and we will need to continue to innovate and engage as a community for success."

Envision and the Forest Health Council thank Chaffee County for caring so much about this special place that you stepped up, are completing thousands of hours of work, and are moving the needle toward a future with healthy forests, waters and wildlife.



2021 Envision Forest Health Council Members

- Arkansas River Conservation Cooperative Secretary/Treasurer Travis Hochard
- Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative Executive Director Jonathan Paklaian and Lead Forester Andy Lerch
- BLM-Rocky Mountain District: District Manager Cathy Cook, Field Manager Keith Berger, Fire Management Officer John Markalunas, Natural Resource Specialist Glenda Torres
- Chaffee County Commissioners Greg Felt and Keith Baker
- Chaffee County Office of Emergency Management Director Richard Atkins
- Chaffee County Fire Protection District Chief Robert Bertram and Battalion Chief Kent Maxwell
- Colorado Firecamp Forester Kellie Eldridge
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife Area Wildlife Manager Sean Shepherd
- Colorado Springs Utilities: Watershed Planning Supervisor Mark Shea and Forest Program Managers Eric Howell and Jeremy Taylor
- Colorado State Forest Service: Southwest Area Manager Damon Lange, Supervisory Forester Adam Moore, and Forester J.T. Shaver
- Envision Chaffee County Co-Lead Cindy Williams (facilitator)
- Lake County Commissioner Sarah Mudge
- Leadville Fire Protection District Fire Chief Daniel Dailey and Captains John Ortiz and Dave McCann
- National Forest Foundation Vice President Marcus Selig
- Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationists Joni Burr and Greg Langer
- Mesa Antero Water Association President Rick Hum
- Salida Fire Department Chief Doug Bess and Captain Chris Bainbridge
- Sangre de Cristo Electric Association: Chief Executive Officer Paul Erickson, Chief Operating Officer Butch Crawford
- USFS: Salida District Ranger Perry Edwards, Leadville District Ranger Patrick Mercer, Fire Management Officer Chris Naccarato, Mountain Zone Fuels Specialist Andrew White
- Xcel Energy: Community and Local Gov't. Affairs Manager Ashley Valdez
- Tri-State Generation & Transmission Assoc.: Planning Manager Karl Meyers, Transmission Maintenance Manager Doug Dean



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