

## **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**

On 3 December 2003 President Bush signed into law the *Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA)*. Title I of HFRA authorizes and defines the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) as:

“...a plan for a community that—

- (A) is developed within the context of the collaborative agreements and the guidance established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and agreed to by the applicable local government, local fire department, and State agency responsible for forest management, in consultation with interested parties and the Federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the at-risk community;
- (B) identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on Federal and non-Federal land that will protect 1 or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure; and
- (C) recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability throughout the at-risk community.”

Title I describes an at risk community as one that has “...a group of homes and other structures with basic infrastructure and services ....within or adjacent to Federal land.” It also states that at risk communities are those “....in which conditions are conducive to a large-scale wildland fire...” that present a significant threat to human life and/or property as a result. Based on this definition, there are areas of the Loveland Rural Fire Protection District that are at risk communities. Examples are: Carter Lake, Storm Mountain, Namaqua Hills, areas adjacent to County Road 29, Waltonia, etc.

### Plan Development

The Loveland Fire Rescue Department is working with the Larimer County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services section and the Colorado State Forest Service in developing a CWPP. However, development of the CWPP is in the early stages. A community/subdivision risk assessment is in process that will aid in establishing priorities and making recommendations for mitigation efforts. The assessment is being conducted by on-duty members of the Department using a software system called *Red Zone*. Many items regarding a property are evaluated including access, water supply, fuel types (grass, brush, trees, etc.), topography, roof construction, etc.

Properties that lie within the wildland urban/interface receive a numerical value and are classified as red, yellow, or green. Red properties indicate that during a wildfire, the fire department will not be able to protect the structure. Yellow properties

signify that the fire department will be able to take some protective action prior to the arrival of the fire, but it is not safe for us to remain on site as the fire passes. The final category is green. These are properties where the homeowner has taken prior action to mitigate or lessen the threat of wildfire by removing dead and down trees/branches, clearing pine needles from gutters, moving firewood and other items away from the structure, etc. Properties that are categorized as 'green' indicate that the fire department has a greater chance of remaining on site of the house provided that access can be gained and adequate resources are available. However, it should be understood by all concerned parties that the Loveland Fire Rescue Department cannot guarantee that all structures and properties threatened by a wildfire can be protected or saved.

For further information on Community Wildfire Protection Plans and methods to protect your property from wildfire, please visit the [Links](#) page.