

# WILDFIRE ADAPTED PARTNERSHIP



## 2022

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS





# OUR PROGRAMS



Wildfire Adapted Partnership (WAP) inspires, educates, and enables individuals and communities to protect lives and property from wildfire. WAP works with our neighbors and agency partners to create fire adapted communities. We assist local residents in creating defensible space, planning wildfire evacuations, creating and updating CWPP's, and preparing for wildfire on a neighborhood level through education and grant opportunities offered through Wildfire Adapted programs. WAP participates in regional collaboratives such as the Southwest Colorado Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI), two Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Programs (Southwest Colorado and the Rio Chama), as well as local collaboratives across the San Juan National Forest: Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative (DWRF), 4 Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative, San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership, and the 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership.

In 2022, WAP County Coordinator Alex Graf created a StoryMap which details WAP's history and role in the communities we serve. The StoryMap explores the fire history in Southwest Colorado and how WAP assists homeowners to become more fire adapted. View the StoryMap at [wildfireadapted.org/mission-story](https://wildfireadapted.org/mission-story).

## Education and Outreach

Wildfire education and outreach efforts inform the public of what it means to live in a fire adapted ecosystem. WAP offers free home site assessments. Our Neighborhood Ambassadors are educated and empowered to act as spark plugs in their communities through mitigation events and educating their neighborhoods. WAP also host bi-monthly Fire Council meetings and Ambassador meetings.



## Mitigation Incentives

Grant funding for communities and individuals helps offset the expense of mitigation making it more accessible. Our mitigation programs include Defensible Space Cost Share, Chipper Rebate, and Community Kickstart Grants.

## Planning and Support

WAP helps create and update Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), Community Wildfire Risk Assessments, and fuels reduction projects in Ambassador communities.



# NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT



## Los Ranchitos Estates: La Plata County

Los Ranchitos Estates utilized WAP's Chipper Rebate Program and mitigated 35 properties in just a day and a half! Every property prepared their slash ahead of time and volunteers helped those who were unable to do it themselves. Falls Creek Ranch generously provided and staffed the chipper. By gathering volunteers and organizing a chipping day, each property was able to use the chipper for 30 minutes. Having volunteers at every turn and in shifts enabled Los Ranchitos to mitigate 35 out of 47 properties in their community in a day and a half. WAP is proud to have assisted you through our Ambassador and chipper programs. We are impressed with how everyone came together to organize volunteers and reduced the risk of wildfire in your community.



## Kelly Ridge: Montezuma County

The community of Kelly Ridge is united in their efforts to make their community more fire prepared. The residents have completed extensive mitigation on their properties, but realized that the community's private drive and cul-du-sac remained a point of vulnerability. They sought to clear vegetation 30 feet from the center of the road to improve ingress and egress. Kelly Ridge submitted an application for WAP's Kickstart program, were approved, and went to work. All neighbors helped with what they could from cutting brush and trees with chainsaws to loading pickups, hauling, and burning. They now have a 30 foot clearing on both sides of the community road which will help emergency responders and evacuation. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped mitigate their community!



## Pagosa Lakes POA: Archuleta County

After many years of negotiations, PLPOA acquired 620 acres of greenspace that has seen little to no maintenance or fire mitigation. WAP helped private homeowners complete defensible space work around their homes within the community, so the greenbelts were the last piece needed to complete true landscape scale change in their community. Many of these greenbelts could act as shaded fuel breaks for homes, and some even fall within 100 feet or less of structures and are therefore part of the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ). Two sections of greenbelt are in critical areas, 12 acres in Twin Creek Village and 5 acres in Pagosa Highlands Estates. Both sections were completed this year. After many years of neglect, the PLPOA greenbelts are finally getting the treatment that they need and deserve.

# BY THE NUMBERS



## Education and Outreach

- 15 Fire Council/Ambassador Meetings
- 146 Neighborhood Ambassadors
- 2 Ambassador orientations
- 144 education events
- 46,726 public engagements
- 19,732 volunteer hours
- 2,477 fire education engagements

**19,732**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

**591**

ACRES TREATED

**\$123K**

REIMBURSED TO  
HOMEOWNERS

## Incentive Programs

- 69 chipper rebates processed
- \$17,062 chipper rebate reimbursements
- 55 cost share projects
- \$75,147 cost share reimbursements
- 6 Community Kickstart projects
- \$18,902 reimbursed for Kickstart Projects
- \$154,728 homeowner cash match
- \$265,839 in total project costs completed by local fire mitigation contractors
- WAP reimbursed 42% of total project costs
- 591.7 Acres Treated

**30**

NEW AMBASSADORS

**141**

SITE VISITS

## Planning and Support

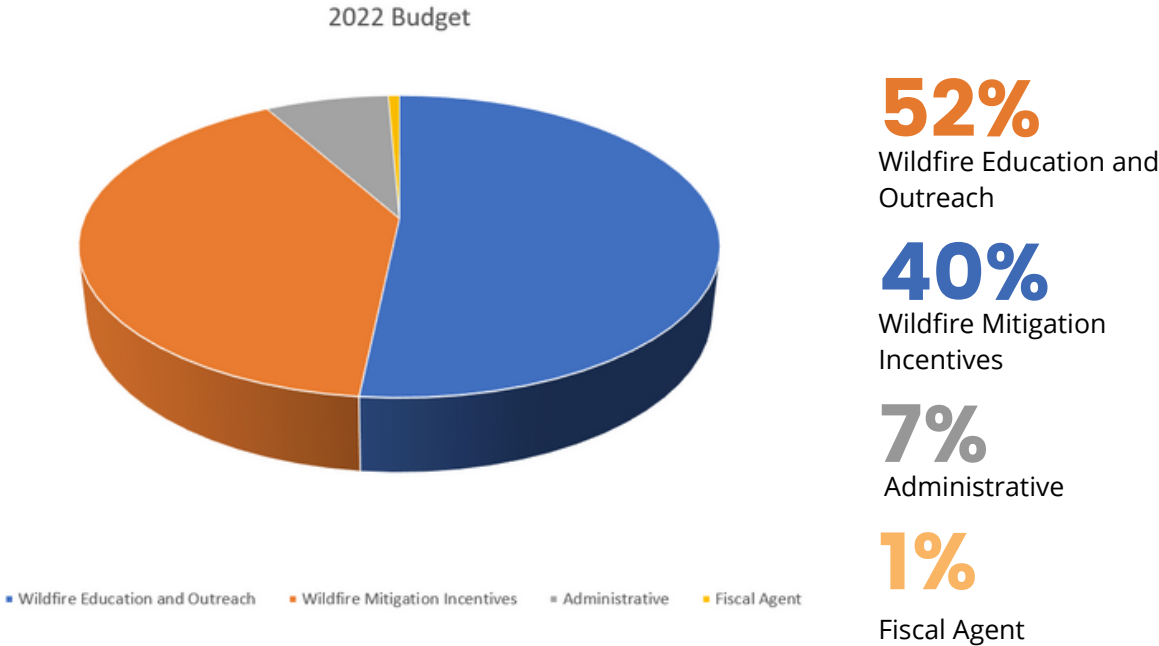
- 141 Home Risk Site Visits
- 30 New Neighborhood Ambassadors
- 106 Communities Assisted
- 4 Counties Assisted

**REIMBURSED 42% OF  
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS**

Wildfire Adapted Partnership is a 501(c) 3 not for profit organization. As a nonprofit organization, WAP receives most funding through government entities and individual and community donations. We understand that all funding comes with accountability, so WAP strives for financial transparency and responsible spending.



## 2022 Budget Breakdown



- **Wildfire Education and Outreach** - \$193,471.88
- **Wildfire Mitigation Incentives**- \$150,602.79
- **Administrative** - \$27,859.98
- **Fiscal Agent**- \$2,532.00
- **Total Spending** - \$374,466.65

**92%**

Spent on wildfire education, outreach, and mitigation incentives.



# THANK YOU

**WAP relies on our strong relationships with partners at the federal, state, and local levels to provide the best wildfire preparedness support to the communities we serve. Partners include:**

- Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan counties
- Bureau of Land Management - Southwest District Office
- City Governments
- Coalitions and Collaboratives - Action Implementation and Mitigation Program
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Community and Homeowners Associations
- Fire Adapted Colorado
- Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network
- Local Fire Protection Districts
- Mancos Conservation District
- San Juan National Forest



## CSFS Partner of the Year

WAP Executive Director Ashley Downing was awarded the Colorado State Forest Service Partner of the Year Special Recognition. They honored Ashley for:



**"Stepping up her already outstanding commitment to collaborative forestry work across three counties and in partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service and support in growing initiatives and grant programs including the Southwest Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and the Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program."**

Ashley always goes above and beyond to create fire adapted communities in Southwest Colorado and she shows her dedication to WAP, partners, and residents with her time, energy, and leadership. Congratulations, Ashley!

*Our work would not be possible without our network of Neighborhood Ambassadors and their communities.*



### Wildfire Adapted Partnership

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