



WILDFIRE ADAPTED PARTNERSHIP

Wildfire Adapted Partnership inspires, motivates, educates and serves individuals, organizations and communities joining together to protect lives and property from wildfire.

ABOUT US

Wildfire Adapted Partnership began in 2003 as FireWise of Southwest Colorado after the Missionary Ridge Fire burned 70,000 acres north of Durango and Bayfield. While the name changed in 2018, we are the same organization, and our mission, programs, and partnerships remain aligned with our original goals.

Wildfire Adapted Partnership is a grassroots 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that inspires, motivates, educates and serves individuals, organizations and communities joining together to protect lives and property from wildfire. We have wildfire education and mitigation programs serving Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties. WAP also produces and distributes literature and hosts educational programs and events to help residents learn to live safely with wildfire.

OUR PARTNERS

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:**

- San Juan National Forest
 - Bureau of Land Management – Southwest District Office
 - Colorado State Forest Service
 - Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
 - Southern Ute Tribe
 - Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan Counties
 - Local Fire Protection Districts
 - Mountain Studies Institute
- San Juan Mountains Association
- Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative
- San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Collaborative
 - Montezuma Inspire Coalition
 - 2-3-2 Partnership
 - National Resources Conservation Service
 - City Governments
 - Community and Homeowner Associations

NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The **Neighborhood Ambassador Program** is the backbone of our organization. Volunteer ambassadors serve as catalysts within their communities, encouraging their neighborhoods to become aware, active, and prepared for wildfires. Ambassadors receive training, ongoing education, access to wildfire information experts, and support to plan and accomplish wildfire risk reduction projects. We foster close relationships with our ambassadors and work together to enhance our presence in the wider community through educational events and public service activities.

We are proud to have **140+ Volunteer Neighborhood Ambassadors** serving 95 communities in our region!



North Mancos POA



Vallecito



Wingspread

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

CHIPPER RENTAL REBATES

Created in 2013 as a response to a need for reducing slash piles from hazardous fuels reduction projects, residents or HOAs that perform mitigation on their property are eligible to receive a partial reimbursement of expenses for having slash ground into chips.



SITE VISITS AND DEFENSIBLE SPACE COST SHARE

A Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Specialist (Wildfire Adapted County Coordinator) performs a thorough assessment to identify home ignition zone risk factors, including structure ignition potential from embers and hazardous vegetation, and discuss solutions to mitigate these threats. Homeowners who choose to move forward with mitigation receive a full scope of work and resources to obtain bids from local contractors. Wildfire Adapted Partnership can reimburse homeowners up to 50% of these mitigation expenses.



BEFORE



AFTER

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS

Community Assessments were created as a way for communities that did not have the resources or need to complete a full Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to create a wildfire mitigation plan. Community Assessments can provide the background information for a more in-depth CWPP in the future, if necessary. To initiate an assessment, Wildfire Adapted Partnership, the local fire protection district, and our partners conduct a walk-through of the neighborhood. The community receives a written wildfire risk assessment report, complete with pictures, and recommendations to get the community started on their wildfire preparedness efforts.

AND...

- Bi-monthly Fire Council meetings with informative and expert presentations
- Kickstart grants for neighborhood projects led by new ambassadors and communities
- Informative and practical wildfire risk reduction workshops
- Support for obtaining Firewise USA® recognition
- Active engagement in watershed wildfire protection collaboratives



BENEFITS OF MITIGATION

In 2018, when the 416 Fire raged north of Durango, scorching tens of thousands of acres, the Falls Creek Ranch neighborhood was ready. The community knew it was located in the WUI (wildland-urban interface), and prepared for the worst through several years of fire mitigation efforts such as clearing brush and overly dense trees, led by a Neighborhood Ambassador and guided by a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. As a result of the neighborhood's hard work, firefighters could focus on getting hoses and sprinklers in place to combat the eventual arrival of the fire. No structures were lost; instead, the fire was diverted into wildlands, where it could burn without impacting built environments.

2018

BY THE NUMBERS

162

EDUCATIONAL
EVENTS ATTENDED
with over 3,000
engagements

246

WILDFIRE RISK
HOME
ASSESSMENTS

600+

ACRES TREATED
FOR FUELS
MITIGATION



87

Chipper Rental
Rebates, totaling
\$26,217.47



19,360+

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

93

COMMUNITIES
ASSISTED

\$324,028

Funds spent on
mitigation efforts
through all
programs

THANK YOU to our funding partners:

- Archuleta County
- Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network
- Forest Stewards Guild
- La Plata County
- Montezuma County
- Onward! A Legacy Foundation
- United States Forest Service



GET INVOLVED WITH WILDFIRE ADAPTED PARTNERSHIP TODAY!

Since 2003, with the wonderful work of our volunteers, we have made great strides in increasing wildfire awareness and keeping lives and properties from being damaged by wildfire.

As a local resident, Neighborhood Ambassador, homeowner association or partner we hope you have enjoyed the many benefits of your association with Wildfire Adapted Partnership. Now, as we watch grant funding that we have relied on for years decline, we are looking to you to help support our efforts to reach out to our friends and neighbors and help them better understand their wildfire risk and how we can mitigate that risk. Please consider becoming a Wildfire Adapted Partner and support us at any level that you can.

Wildfire Adapted Partnership is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and your donation to our organization is tax-deductible.

Please visit www.wildfireadapted.org/donate

We would love
to hear from
you!



**WILDFIRE
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PARTNERSHIP**

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