

RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTITLED: "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATIFIED SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE USDA FOREST SERVICE FOR A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175,000.**

**FOR THE PURPOSE OF:** Requested funds would be used to update existing CWPP plan and incorporate all fire jurisdictions into a countywide community wildfire protection plan.

WITNESSETH

**WHEREAS,** the Governing Body of Laramie County desires to participate in the USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program by sponsoring this grant application to assist in financing this project; and

**WHEREAS,** the Governing Body of Laramie County has been provided with preliminary cost estimates and information on this project; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY** that a grant application in the amount of \$175,000 be submitted to the USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Program for consideration of assistance in funding the Laramie County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and that the County will provide a match of \$17,554 towards the project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** to appoint Sandra Newland, or her successor in the position of Laramie County Grants Manager, as agent of the Laramie County Board of Commissioners to execute and submit certifications and reports, which may be necessary for this grant agreement(s).

To appoint Matthew Butler, or his successor, in the position of Laramie County Fire Warden, as an agent of the Laramie County Board of Commissioner to implement the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

**PRESENTED, READ AND ADOPTED THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2022.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troy Thompson, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laramie County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Received And Approved As To Form Only By:

Ul. Wiese  
Laramie County Attorney's Office

10.7.22  
Date

Proposal :: WY / Laramie County CWPP  
Ready to Submit

[Actions](#)

FY 2022  
USDA Forest Service  
Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application

File Name

State:

WY

Keyword:

Laramie County C

Region:

Priority:

Id:

Administration Information

Funds Requested:

\$175,000

Match:

\$17,554

Score:

Ranking:

Project Funding:

\$192,554

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Proposal Cooperator [WY]

Cooperator Organization:

Laramie County

Contact Person:

Matthew Butler

Address:

309 W. 20th Stre

City:

Cheyenne

State:

WY

ZIP Code:

82001

Phone:

307-633-4335

Email:

matthew.butler@l

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**Applicant Information [WY]**

**Applicant:**

Wyoming State F

**Contact Person:**

Nick Zaczek

**Address:**

5500 Bishop Blvd

**City:**

Cheyenne

**State:**

WY

**ZIP Code:**

82002

**Phone (work/cell):**

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**Fax:**

N/A

**Email:**

nick.zaczek@wy

**Federal Tax ID:**

83-0208667

**DUNS#:**

137462940000

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**Project Information**

**Name of the Project:**

Laramie County, WY Update and Expansion for Community Wildfire Protection Plan

**Community Name(s):**

Laramie County

**Counties:**

Laramie County

**Congressional District:**

At Large

# GIS Coordinates

Curt Gowdy

41.181200, -105.:

Curt Gowdy State park, referenc

Pine Bluffs WY

41.178950, -104.1

Pine Bluffs WY, reference point

CWPP Plan Area

41.656440, -105.278060; 41.6E

Lats/ Longs represent the "come

Ref. Point Name:

Lat/Long:

Description:

Ref. Point Name:

Lat/Long:

Description:

Ref. Point Name:

Lat/Long:

Description:

Area Name:

Boundary Lat/Longs:

Description:

Area Name:

CWPP Plan Area

Boundary Lat/Longs:

41.564960, -104.653110; 41.56

Description:

Lats/ Longs represent the "com

Area Name:

Boundary Lat/Longs:

Description:

**Brief Project Overview and Purpose**

Laramie County is seeking CWDG funding to update and expand the current CWPP by way of hiring a professional contractor. Currently, Laramie County has a CWPP that was formally adopted in 2016 for the western third of Laramie County, which includes Laramie County Fire District #10 response area and a portion of Laramie County Fire Authority (formally Laramie County Fire District #2 and #8) response areas. An administrative update was done in 2022 to reflect the consolidation of Laramie County Fire District #2 and #8. It is the desire of Laramie County to 1) Update the original project area to reflect the accomplishments and to capture the recommendations for any new residential areas formed since the original CWPP was created and 2) Expand the CWPP to encompass the entire County. An updated and expanded CWPP is a means of bringing local solutions to wildland fire management thus empowering local communities to have stake in the mitigation process, protecting their land and property from potentially devastating wildland fire occurrences. The goal of this project is to provide these local communities and easy to follow, attainable and practical guide to protecting themselves, as a community.

**Grant Component Type**

- 1.) Creating or Updating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that is more than five (5) years old.

**Is your community considered "at-risk"**

Yes. According to the Wyoming Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (WYWRAP) a large area surrounding the state capital, Cheyenne, is designated as "Highest" risk of Wildfire Threat/Risk. Most of the southwest

quarter of Laramie county is designated as "High" or Highest" risk of Wildfire Threat/Risk, as well as other areas scattered across the county.

<https://wywrap.wyo.gov/app.html>

Found within Laramie County are the communities of Harriman, Pine Bluffs, Pine Grove Estates, Remount Ranch, and Curt Gowdy State Park all of which can be found in the Federal Register notice entitled "Wildland Urban Interface Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildland Fire". This notice was issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with title IV of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat.1009)(66 Fed. Reg. 753, January 4, 2001)

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2001/01/04/01-52/urban-wildland-interface-communities-within-the-vicinity-of-federal-lands-that-are-at-high-risk-from>

**Roofing Code/Ordinance**

No

**Grant Waiver**

No

**Project Description**

Currently the Laramie County CWPP outlines 299,327 acres on the western edge of Laramie County with 1,420,673 acres outside of the current CWPP project area that we want to incorporate within this project. The Laramie County Fire Warden Office, Laramie County Firewise Coordinator and the CWPP planning team (mimicked from the previous team: Emergency Management, Sherriff's Department, Local Fire Chiefs, Laramie County Planning and Development Office, Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities, Wyoming State Forestry and Local Community HOAs) plan to build upon the previous efforts in public education and prevention for mitigation to protect against wildland fires. The newly proposed CWPP project area will identify larger landscape mitigation projects that potentially lend itself to cross-governmental collaboration. Within the current CWPP specific hazards have been identified with recommendations per subdivision in mitigation efforts, the desire for the revised CWPP will be to take more of a geographic approach rather than per subdivision as much of Laramie Counties landscape is similar between subdivisions. The goal is to recognize the needs for each geographic area and to then recommend the corrective mitigation actions necessary to protect Laramie County from wildland fires. The most effective means of initiating local action is through community education, public outreach, and obtainable mitigation projects. Public activities have taken place in varying levels across Laramie County and most local residents are aware of the inherent fire risk in the area. However, as more people move to the area, it is necessary to maintain and improve the community knowledge of the basic principles behind wildland fire, actions they can implement to increase their personal safety and that of their home as well as potential funding opportunities. Through education, public outreach, and obtainable mitigation projects homeowners are empowered to take action on their own properties, and coordinate efforts with their neighbors to maximize the efficiency of individual projects. The current Laramie County CWPP has specific action items concerning Firewise activities which we hope to broadcast across the entire county. While some of the action items have begun to take place and are implemented there

are still many that through this updated and expanded plan we have the opportunity to complete. Over the course of recent years a new program design has been created to allow for a community wide approach in wildfire mitigation awareness and discussions around forming a Firewise working group amongst the local county fire chiefs has taken place. This approach allows more stakeholder involvement within the program. In coordination with the Forest Action Plan and the CWPP, we will work to identify goals and objectives outlined within each plan to educate and guide property owners and stakeholders on the importance of fire mitigation. By promoting prevention, awareness and mitigation against wildland fires, it is the goal of Laramie County to make the whole community more prepared for a wildland fire. By accomplishing these action items we will be able to better equip the at-risk communities as well as any other areas of concern throughout the CWPP project area.

The revision of the Laramie County CWPP will address the goals and objectives of the 2020 Wyoming Forest Action Plan (FAP) and the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (NCWFMS). By incorporating the remaining portion of Laramie County (an additional 1,420,673 acres) not included in the original CWPP the new document will be able to address the conditions on the landscape at a county wide level and needed actions for areas at risk, future management/mitigation efforts, fire suppression activities/tactics, and emergency response to capture the entire area, instead of only a portion of the county as before. Under the NCWFMS the revised CWPP will help achieve Resilient Landscapes by quantifying and mapping areas with high fuel concentrations, as well as other areas of concern while providing recommended actions to mitigate them and restore a safer, fire resilient landscape. It will also identify areas where cross boundary project work can take place to tie mitigation efforts together among adjacent communities and on private, state, county, and federal lands/projects. Mapping areas with poor access or poor ingress/egress, dangerous fuels, or other hazards will help provide a safer and more efficient and effective wildfire response for all agencies within Laramie County. The Wyoming FAP highlights Laramie County as an area that experiences higher wildfire occurrence density per square mile than other portions of the state (p.41-42, map p.45). The FAP also highlights Laramie County as "an area developed or likely to develop risk" (p.26, map p.27) stating that significant housing development is expected over the next 30 years. Work in areas of risk in advance of the probable development will be important to help reduce wildfire risk of those areas in the future. The revision of the CWPP will help provide the framework necessary to begin reducing these risks and help achieve the desired outcome of the FAP. Fuels mitigation project areas identified in the CWPP revision will work to restore the landscape to a healthier and more resilient state which is also a goal of the FAP. By incorporating the considerations discussed above into the revision of the CWPP the document will become a living document that will help facilitate the goals and objectives of both the FAP and NCWFMS while adapting to changing conditions in the future.

### **Applicant Budget**

Grant \$175,000

Match \$17,554

Total Project Cost \$192,554

### **Project Budget Explanation**

Wyoming State Forestry Division (WSFD) is not requesting any funds for administrative costs associated with this project. The entire requested amount of \$175,000 will be passed through to Laramie County and budget details are described below. Since WSFD is not requesting any funds and the entire request is pass through, there are no associated Indirect Costs.

Contractual - \$175,000 is being requested for a professional contractor to prepare and write an updated and expanded CWPP for Laramie County, WY.

Travel - Estimated Mileage Breakdown: Laramie County is planning on three meetings for each of the populated areas of the county, 1) Kick Off Meeting 2) Planning Meeting 3) Final Meeting/Presentation. Mileage will be calculated based off the Federally approved rate as of 7/1/22 of 62.5c/mile.

Cheyenne to Albin - 100 miles round trip, 3 trips = 300 total miles

Cheyenne to Pine Bluffs - 84 miles round trip, 3 trips = 252 total miles

Cheyenne to Burns - 58.2 miles round trip, 3 trips = 174.6 total miles

Cheyenne to Hillsdale - 46.8 miles roundtrip, 3 trips = 140.4 total miles

Cheyenne to Carpenter - 68.6 miles round trip, 3 trips = 205.8 total miles

Cheyenne to Horsecreek - 66.4 miles round trip, 3 trips = 199.2 total miles

Cheyenne to Curt Gowdy - 47.6 miles round trip, 3 trips = 142.8 total miles

Cheyenne To Harriman - 57 miles round trip, 3 trips = 171 total miles

Cheyenne Area( Local Fire stations) - Estimating 100 total miles

Total Miles: 1685.8 x .625 = 1053.625

Supplies - Office supplies will be matching funds due to printing costs and binders for the planning team and the local jurisdictions

Other - Fire Warden Budget \$5,000 - Cash Match

EMA/Laramie County Fire Chiefs 5th Penny Funds/General Funds \$10,000 - Cash Match

RFP advertisements for the contract \$1,000 - Cash Match

### **Accomplishments**

Utilizing the schedule formulated from the original CWPP accomplishments can be measured by setting objectives based on key steps/components of creating and updating the newly proposed CWPP.

Example timeline as follows:

1. Convene Decision Makers Within the first month of award
2. Convene Federal Agencies Within first month of award
3. Engage Interested Parties Month 2 through Completion
4. Establishment of Community Base map(s) Within first 3 weeks of award



5. Development of Community Risk Assessment Within first 1.5 month of award
6. Establishment of Community Priorities and Recommendations month 2-3 of award
7. Development of Action Plan and Assessment Strategy Month 2-3 of award
8. Review of CWPP Draft Month 4-5 of award
9. Reconvene planning team for additional comments or concerns Month 4-6 of award
10. Finalize CWPP Month 6 of award
11. Local Adoption Month 7 of award
  - To expand on this timeline certain deliverables can be expected to include, but not limited to:
  - The consultant shall meet with the Planning Team on a biweekly basis for the first two months of the project and on a monthly basis thereafter.
  - The consultant shall deliver a plan that is consistent with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003.
  - Create a Risk Hazards Value (RHV) map of the planned area.
  - Identify and define any limitations, risk, threats, hazards or obstructions for the infrastructure for both an evacuation and emergency response perspective.
  - Identify and map fire suppression water supply capabilities. Specify if identified water source is year round usage, its volume, and the calculated distance from the subdivision.
  - Provide a community-level CWPP threat template worksheet, (something like (Fire Wise Check List)) with a recommended process for developing local, community-level CWPPs for use by the subdivisions, neighborhoods, emergency services / fire districts.
  - Recommend alternative practices and specifications for wildland fuel mitigation, home ignition zone threat mitigation, and defensible space protection for the subdivisions.
  - Recommend priorities for neighborhood level CWPPs based on analyses of the risk areas and wildfire threats.
  - Identify the specific number of structures in each subdivision exceeding 3,500 square feet. Conduct a structure fire risk assessment.
  - Identify and analyze structure ignitability and recommend specific threat treatments.
  - Make an analysis of local jurisdictions codes, ordinances and restrictions with recommended alternatives to improve wildfire readiness.
  - Make an analysis of existing inter-jurisdictional collaborations with recommendations for changes to improve wildfire readiness.
  - Develop an outreach plan to help market and implement the county-specified CWPP for the specified areas.

**Collaboration**

Laramie County has a strong collaborative and networking community. The Laramie County Fire Warden will strive to mimic the previous planning team and expand when necessary. The previous planning team included individual from:

- Laramie County Fire Warden - Leads the CWPP revision planning committee. Assists in the process to hire a consultant.
- Emergency Management -Subject matter expert for Laramie County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Planning Team Committee member, assists with the process to hire a consultant.
- Sherriff's Department - Assists with planning team as well as SME on evacuation procedures.
- Local Fire Chiefs - Participates in planning with planning team process.
- Laramie County Planning and Development Office - Assists with incorporating Codes and Regulations Laramie County has in place.
- Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities - SME on water sources and affects of wildland fire on those sources.
- Wyoming State Forestry - Participation in planning process, grant oversight and administration, final approval of document.
- Private Landowners and Stakeholders(EX. HOA's) - Participates in CWPP revision planning committee and serves as liaisons for their communities.
- GIS departments with the City of Cheyenne and Laramie County governments - Provides technical support to consultant.

Federal Landowners(i.e. BLM) - participation in planning process.

Expanding on this collaborative effort it is the goal of the Laramie County Fire Warden to include the critical infrastructure partners as appropriate, Laramie County School District 1 and 2, Dyno Nobel, Microsoft, Holly Energy Partners, Energy Farms (Solar and Wind) and any others that may have valuable input. All of the above-mentioned groups provide intimate knowledge of their properties and area that will be able to aid in the formation of the CWPP. This will also allow for better collaboration from the whole community when CWPP actions or projects are being implemented.

### **Landscape Impacts**

The Current CWPP area is bounded on the south by the Colorado and Wyoming border, on the west by the Albany and Laramie County line, on the east by State Highway 222 and County Road 120 (Roundtop Road and Telephone Road), and on the north by a line from the intersection of County Roads 120 and 228 west to the Laramie County Fire Authority fire station at Horse Creek and then west to the County line (CWPP Area Map, Appendix A). The existing plan area includes all of Laramie County Fire District #10 and the western most portion of Laramie County Fire Authority, totaling 299,327 acres. There are thirty-four recognized subdivisions, a school, several churches, a church retreat, an agricultural research station, a business park, a county landfill, a wind generator farm, Curt Gowdy State Park with three municipal water reservoirs, and numerous individual residences and privately owned ranches in the current plan area. Two major railroad lines cross the area, one parallel to Interstate 80 from east to west across the southern portion of the area and the other running from the southeast corner to the northwest corner roughly parallel to State Highway 211. The vegetation in the plan area ranges from short-grass prairie dominated by blue gramma, buffalo grass, and western wheatgrass with riparian willow and cottonwood on the east through mountain shrub/grass communities to ponderosa pine forestland on the western portions. Aspen, narrowleaf cottonwoods, and willows are present in the riparian areas at the higher elevations. Topography rises from rolling prairie at an elevation of 6420 feet on the east through rocky bluffs and foothills to low mountains at elevations of 7750 feet on the west. To expand this current plan to encompass the entire county the boundaries would be the Laramie

County, county lines. To the north Laramie County borders both Goshen County and Platte County in Wyoming, to the east Laramie County borders Kimball County and Banner County of Nebraska, to the south Laramie County borders Larimer County and Weld County of Colorado and to the west Laramie County borders Albany County of Wyoming. This newly proposed study area encompasses the most populated areas of Laramie County: Albin, Burns, Carpenter, Cheyenne, Hillsdale and Pine Bluffs, as well as numerous subdivisions and many critical infrastructure facilities. All of the mentioned communities would be specifically addressed in the expanded CWPP. While Laramie County borders multiple different counties from different states it is important to note that relationships with these bordering counties has been established and maintained for many years now. The county fire districts that border these other counties have built rapport with the neighboring fire entities and these relationships can help promote the CWPP findings across jurisdictional lines without major disruption.

### **Project Sustainability**

**Environmental:** Through this updated and revised CWPP fuels will be mitigated by identifying and teaching landowners/public about defensible spaces around properties. As landowners and the public learn the basics of wildfire prevention and mitigation, wildfire occurrences should decrease.

**Education:** The Laramie County Fire Warden and Firewise Coordinator will participate in workshops, seminars, and community meetings to help landowners/public develop the necessary knowledge to adapt their properties to be Firewise, through defensible space and other action items described within Laramie Counties CWPP.

**Commitment:** The Laramie County Fire Warden and Firewise Coordinator commit to maintaining an educational aspect to Laramie Countys Firewise program.

**Monitoring:** After completion of the CWPP, quarterly monitoring will take place to make sure that communities are being visited and educated by way of the Firewise Working group mentioned earlier in the application. With numerous subdivisions, population centers, and major critical infrastructure facilities identified in Laramie Counties CWPP it will be imperative that the Laramie County Fire Warden, Laramie County Firewise Coordinator and the Firewise working group maintain an activity log ensuring that all reasonable efforts are made to reach and connect with the communities identified and any new communities that have been developed or will be developed through the grant award period.

**Sustainability of the CWPP:** The goal to sustain the plan itself is of major significance. Coordinating with the core planning team on an annual basis will be of top priority. By doing so, it ensures that updates to the plan are captured as progress is made in incorporating the CWPP recommendations. These meetings will also serve as a review period for the CWPP. In subsequent years this plan will be formally updated every 5 years, the annual meetings will allow for the updating to come a relative low cost to the County.

**Does this project benefit a low-income community?**

No

**Has this community been impacted by a severe disaster?**

No

**Does the project location have wildfire hazard potential?**

Yes

Laramie County has many pockets of "Highest" risk associated more towards the populated areas of the county to include our towns of Burns, Pine Bluffs, Albin and Cheyenne as well as our unincorporated towns of Carpenter and Hillsdale. Laramie County also has pockets of "Highest" risk along Interstate 80. The Southwest quarter of Laramie County has also has a mixture of "Medium", "High" and "Highest" risk.

<https://wywrap.wyo.gov/app.html>

Submitted Electronically on 10/6/22 by Matt Butler, Fire Warden.