

Wildfire Strategy and Program Update



OFFICE OF WILDFIRE
PREPAREDNESS AND
RESILIENCE

AUGUST 29, 2023



Wildfire Strategy

Creating a fire adapted and resilient El Dorado County through collaboration and coordination

El Dorado County Strategic Plan – Healthy Communities

Theme: Lead and facilitate the creation and maintenance of fire-adapted communities

Task: Prepare countywide Wildfire Protection Strategy

A comprehensive wildfire prevention and preparedness strategy for El Dorado County that fosters the creation, coordination and maintenance of fire adapted communities and is in alignment with federal, state, and local policies, plans and initiatives.



Wildfire Strategy

Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience Coordination Group

- El Dorado County – Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience
- CAL FIRE Amador El Dorado Unit
- Eldorado National Forest
- El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association
- El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
- El Dorado County Fire Prevention Officers Association
- El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team
- El Dorado County Office of Emergency Services



Wildfire Strategy

Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR)

- Activities guided by annual work plan
- Liaison between Coordination Group, CAO, Board of Supervisors and Stakeholders/Interested Parties
- Facilitates information exchange between internal and external county partners
- Participates in regional and statewide efforts related to wildfire preparedness
- Manage County Defensible Space Program



Wildfire Strategy

Engagement with Stakeholders and Interested Parties

Stakeholders

- Responsible for or provide resources (fiscal, technical or workforce) and/or expertise related to a specific project or activity.
- Ability to influence decision makers through direct participation in the planning process

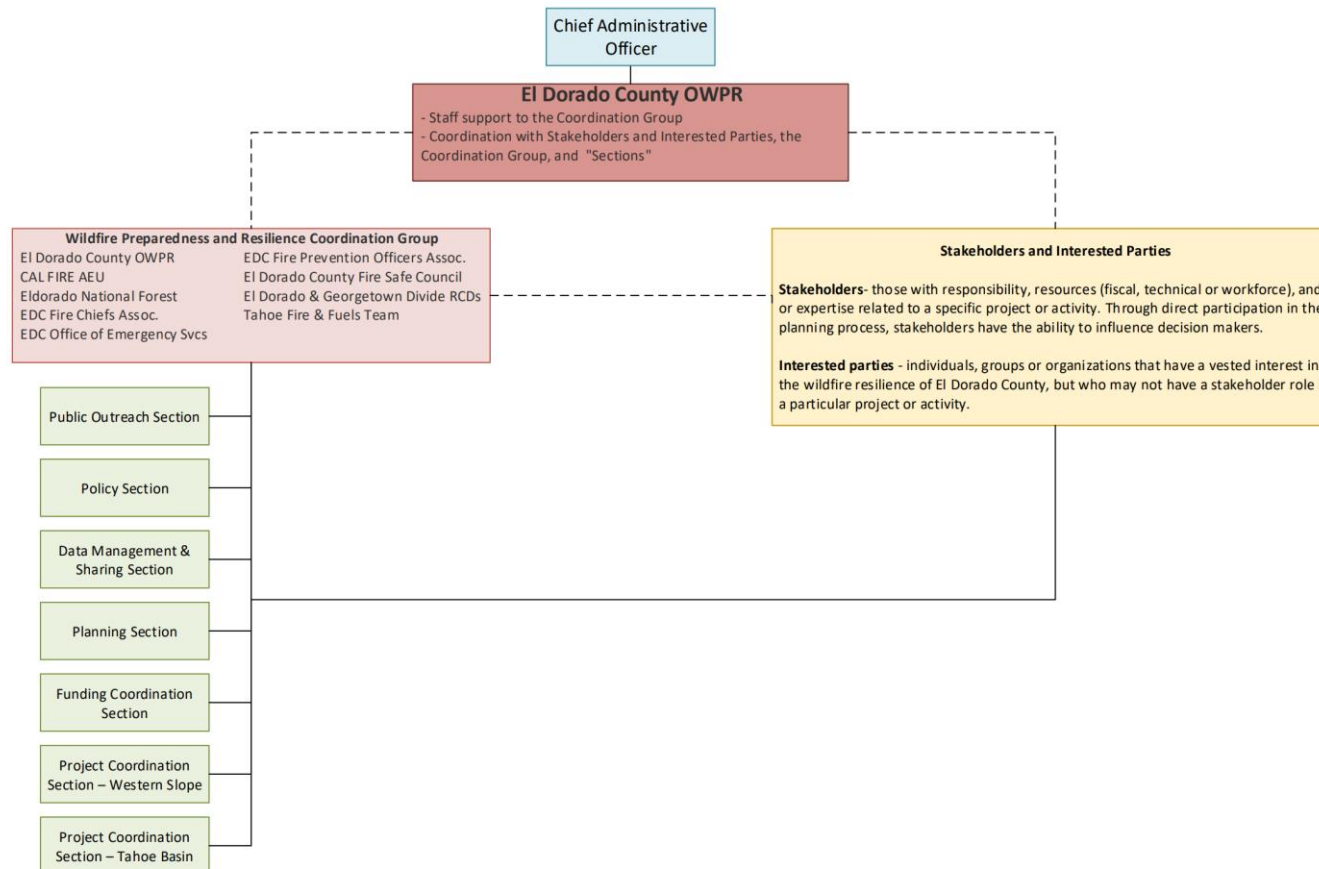
Interested parties

- Individuals, groups or organizations that have a vested interest in the wildfire resilience of El Dorado County but who may not have a stakeholder role in a particular project or activity



Wildfire Strategy

Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience Coordination Group Organizational Chart





Wildfire Strategy

Strategic Elements

Specific ongoing and guiding elements identified for the successful implementation include:

- Public Outreach
- Policy
- Data Management and Sharing
- Planning
- Funding Coordination
- Project Coordination-Western Slope
- Project Coordination-Tahoe Basin

Guide the development of the OWPR Annual Work Plan as specific tasks/projects and associated timelines are identified



Wildfire Strategy

Strategic Elements

Public Outreach

- Working Group led by CAL FIRE
- Shared webpage hosted by OWPR to provide information and resources
- County Fair and other events

Policy

- Evaluate and provide feedback on federal, state and local legislation and policy
- Defensible Space Working Group led by Fire Prevention Officers
- County Defensible Space Ordinance Update



Wildfire Strategy

Strategic Elements

Data Management and Sharing

- Centralized GIS and project data management
- GIS Resources from Surveyor's Office
- Public facing dashboard and online mapping tool hosted by OWPR

Planning

- Wildfire Strategy, Hazard and Risk Assessment, Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Planning Coordination Working Group led by OWPR



Wildfire Strategy

Strategic Elements

Funding Coordination

- Various federal, state, and local funding opportunities
- Facilitating opportunities to coordinate funding and alignment across multiple organizations
- Reduce duplication of efforts and conflict
- Identifying the best entity to apply for grants based on capacity, mission, project readiness, etc.



Wildfire Strategy

Strategic Elements

Project Coordination – Western Slope

- Recognizes that activities are shared across mixed ownerships and jurisdictions
- Identifies opportunities for best use of vegetation - saw logs and biomass
- Process for tracking and reporting accomplishments

Project Coordination – Tahoe Basin

- Learn from and build upon projects and activities already established within Tahoe Basin
- Ongoing communication and coordination with Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team
- Consistent implementation of D-Space between Basin and West Slope



OWPR Annual Work Plan

Guided by the Wildfire Strategy elements, the 2023 Annual Work Plan includes:

Activity	Status/Timeline
Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update and Risk Assessment	Estimated Completion in Summer 2024
Coordination of Planning Efforts	Ongoing
GIS Data Hub/Mapping Tool	Phase 1 Completed Aug. 2023
Information Outreach	Ongoing
Defensible Space Program	Ongoing
California Wildfire Mitigation Grant Program	Awarded June 2023, 3 Year Term
Fire Safe Coordinator Grant	New Grant Anticipated in 2024
Firewise Communities	Ongoing



OWPR Work Plan Activities

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update – Western County

- Initiating RFP to select consultant
- Estimated completion date – Summer 2024
- To be prepared consistent with Tahoe Basin CWPP update

GIS Data Hub/Mapping Tool

- Serving as liaison for GIS program requests
- Partnering with County GIS and El Dorado County Water Agency
- Release of Online Mapping Tool
- Developing data governance and standards



OWPR Work Plan Activities

Defensible Space Program

- Hired County Sr. Defensible Space Inspector
- Ongoing coordination efforts to address Defensible Space across the County
 - Education and outreach, inspections, complaint investigations, and enforcement
- Identified five County Emphasis Areas for 2023
 - Upper Apache, Stewart Mine, Bassi Road, Texas Hill, Outingdale
- Defensible space informational public workshops:

◦ Garden Valley	August 8, 2023	Garden Valley FPD
◦ South Lake Tahoe	August 23, 2023	Lake Valley FPD
◦ Lotus	September 6, 2023	El Dorado County FPD
◦ Placerville	December 7, 2023	Placerville Town Hall
◦ Somerset	March 5, 2024	Pioneer Park Community Center



OWPR Work Plan Activities

Defensible Space Program

- Drafted update to County Defensible Space Ordinance
- Participated in Defensible Space Assessment Training Program – 70 Evaluators Trained
- Engaged the Fire Safe Council Assistance Programs
 - Chipping – 426 jobs completed and \$179,856 spent year to date
 - Defensible Space – 121 jobs completed and \$119,358 spent year to date
 - Funding partners – AQMD, USFS, CAL FIRE, SMUD, PG&E, BLM, ED Community Foundation, Friends of Seniors, Women’s Fund
 - County Title III funds from multiple years used for defensible space, green waste disposal, and public education



OWPR Work Plan Activities

Information Outreach

- Providing staff and website support to Public Outreach Working Group
- Maintaining OWPR website to provide current information and resources
- Coordinating and participating in County Fair
- Hosting stakeholder meetings



OWPR Work Plan Activities

Planning Coordination

- Facilitating coordination of multiple planning efforts
 - Western and Tahoe Basin CWPP's
 - Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - General Plan Safety Element
 - CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plan
- County Department of Transportation (DOT)
 - Coordination and planning for roadside vegetation management projects
- Transportation Commission
- SOFAR Steering Committee



OWPR Work Plan Activities

Hazard Mitigation Grant – Weber Creek Pilot Project

Demonstration project focusing on defensible space, home hardening, and hazardous vegetation removal

- Phase 1: Environmental clearance, public outreach, and home assessments
 - Awarded on June 28, 2023 – Approximately \$1.4 million
 - Estimated duration – 20 months
 - Initiating contract process to select environmental consultant
- Phase 2: Implementation of defensible space clearing and home hardening work
 - To be awarded upon completion/approval of Phase 1 – Anticipated in Spring 2025
 - Approximately \$23.5 million
 - Estimated duration – 13 months

Total project provides \$25 million for defensible space and home hardening for 525 homes



QUESTIONS?