



COCO

Resilient ecosystems. Thriving communities.

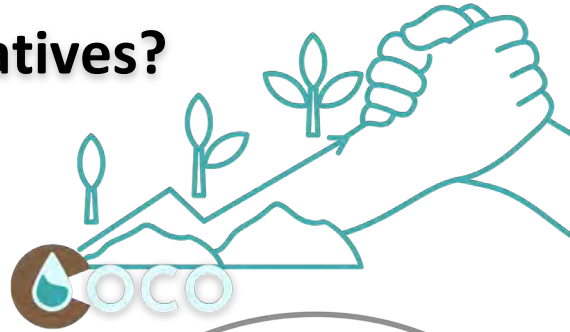
Coalitions & Collaboratives

NM Wildland Urban Fire Summit. October 2026. [Melissa May](#)

Guiding Principles for Community Wildfire Mitigation

Who is Coalitions & Collaboratives?

COCO is a 501(c)3 that offers capacity-building programs and resources to place-based natural resource groups across the United States.

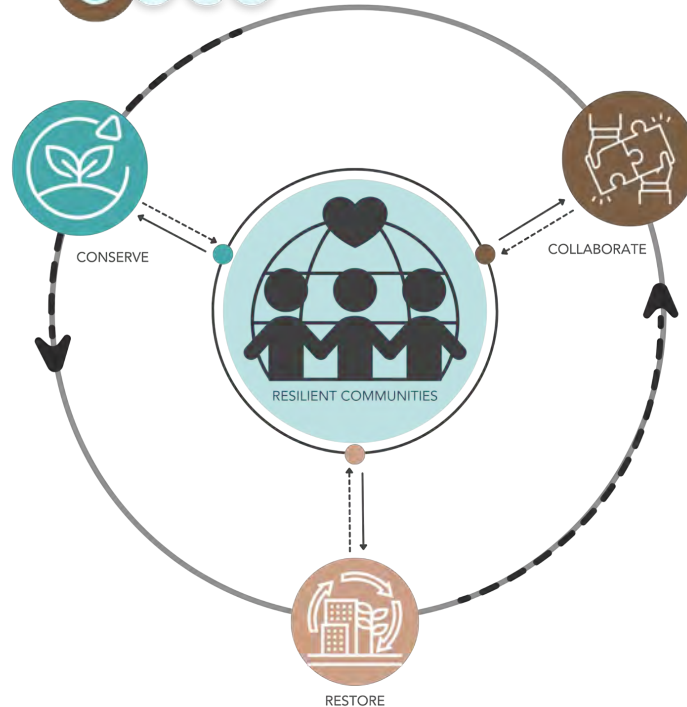


Mission

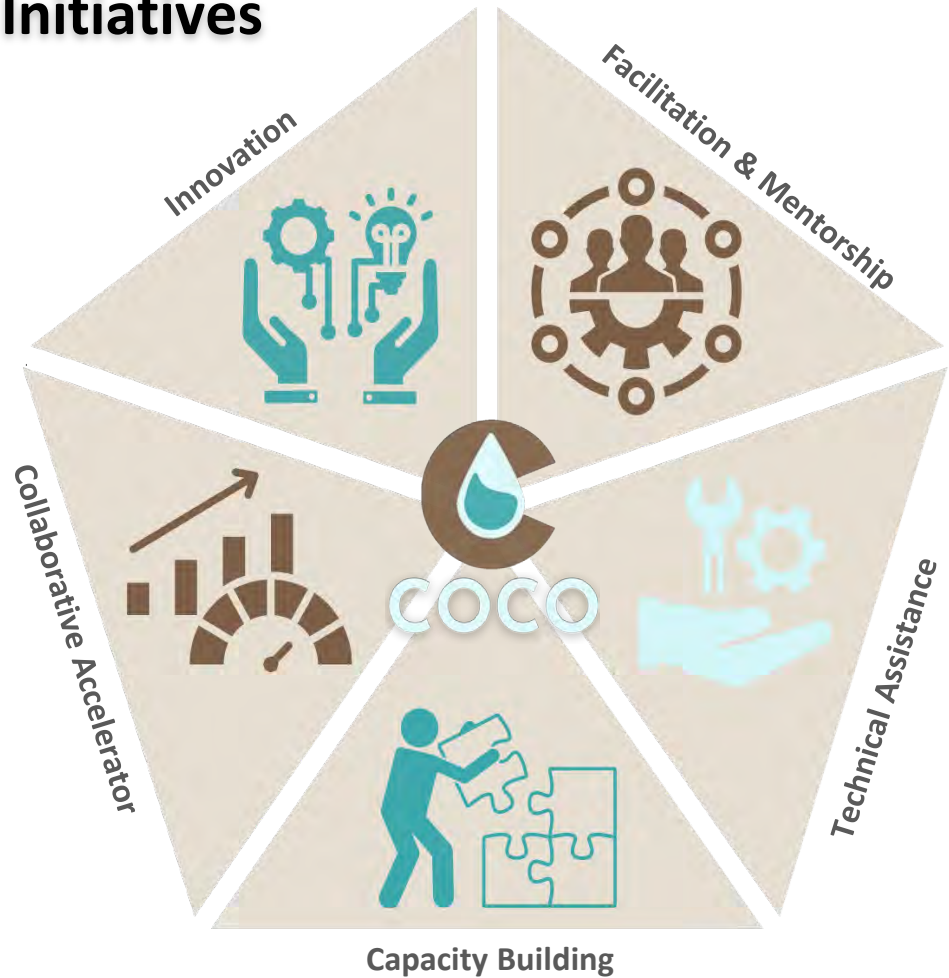
To advance healthy and resilient communities through collaborative conservation and restoration.

Vision

A future where ecosystems are resilient and communities thrive together.



Initiatives



After The Flames

Coldfire

Affiliate Collective



AIM Program Accomplishments

Progress and impact from community-led wildfire resilience efforts through AIM.



New Staff Supported

97



Volunteer Hours

82,387



HIZ Assessments

1,373



Homes with Defensible Space

1,735



Homes Hardened

2,672



Prescribed Acres Burned

30,908



Piles Burned

8,983



Mitigated Acres

9,003



Total Match

\$7.4 mil



AIM Grant Recipients

△ Past Awardees

▲ Current Awardees



Community Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices Training

DAY 1

- The National Mitigation Primer
- Fire Behavior and Response
- National Partners and Programs
- Policies & Strategies
- Taking Action - Landscapes & Communities
- Tools of the Trade
- The Mitigation Leader
- Guiding Principles
- Building Capacity

DAY 2

- Community Engagement
- Site Visits & Ignition Zone Assessments
- Mitigation Events & Working with Volunteers
- Partnerships

DAY 3

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
- Mitigation Funding
- Fuels Projects
- Tracking, measuring and celebrating
- Codes, Ordinances and Insurance
- Moving to Solutions

Mitigation Action Plan (MAP)

Virtual – 10 weeks online

- Jan-Mar
- Sep-Nov

- 60+ mitigation courses
- 1657 students (and counting!)
- Students from 46 states, three provinces, six countries

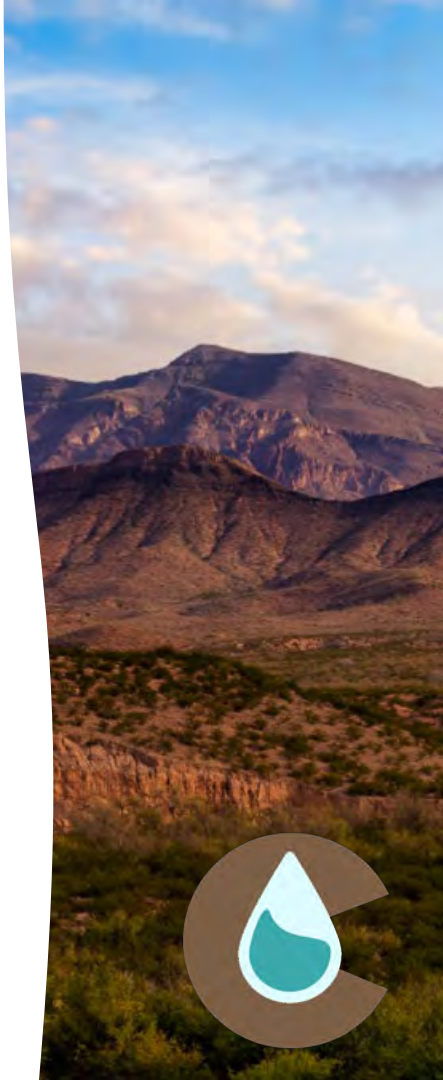


The Mitigation Continuum

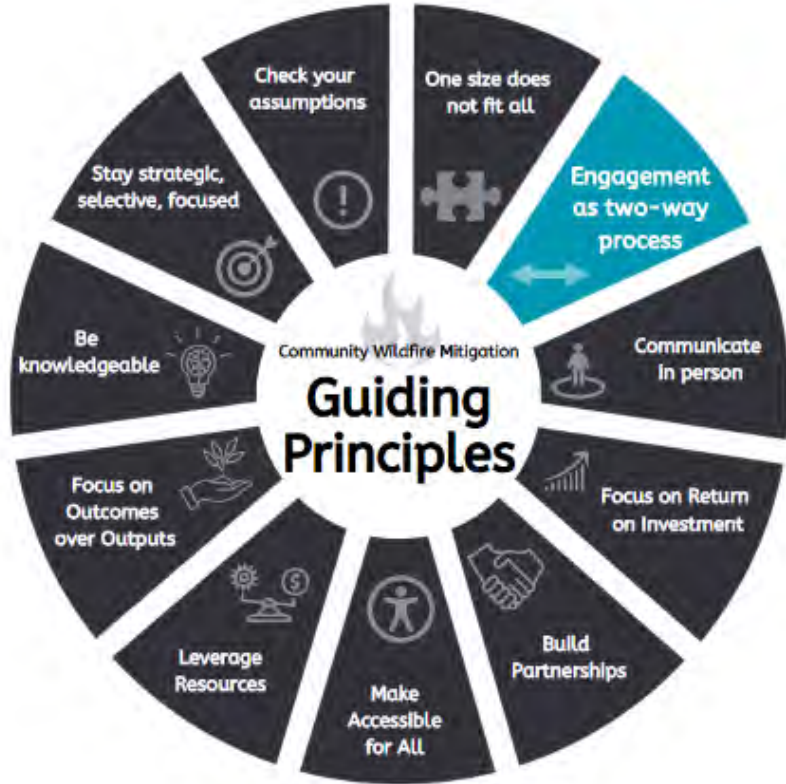


- Assess risks
- Prioritize actions
- Harden homes
- Create defensible space
- Treat fuels on the landscape
- Track and evaluate progress
- Celebrate success
- Repeat



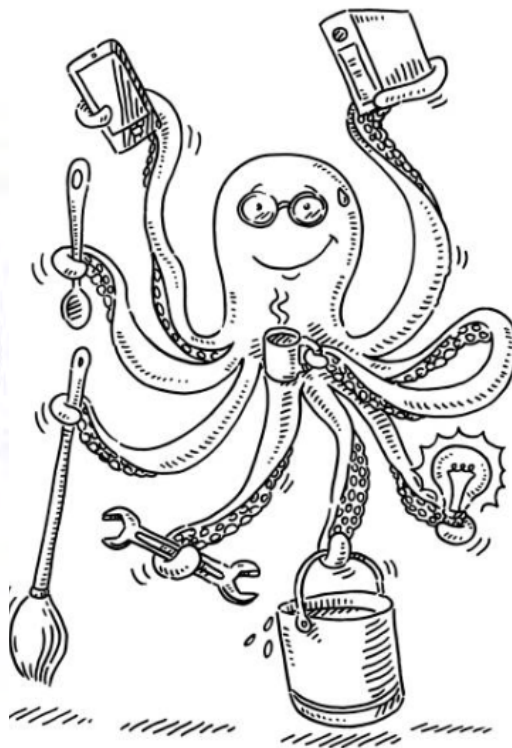
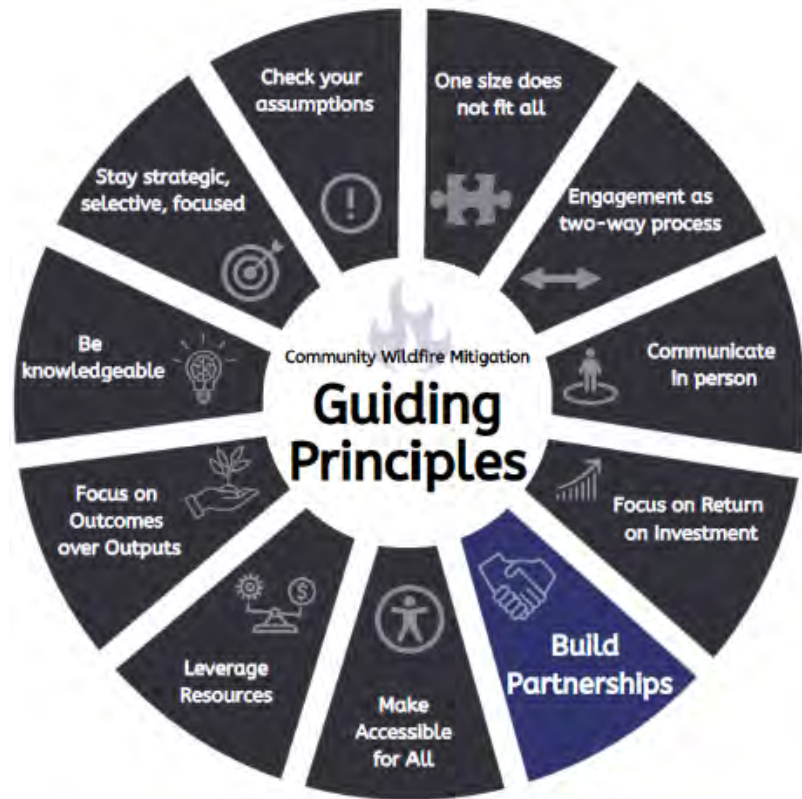


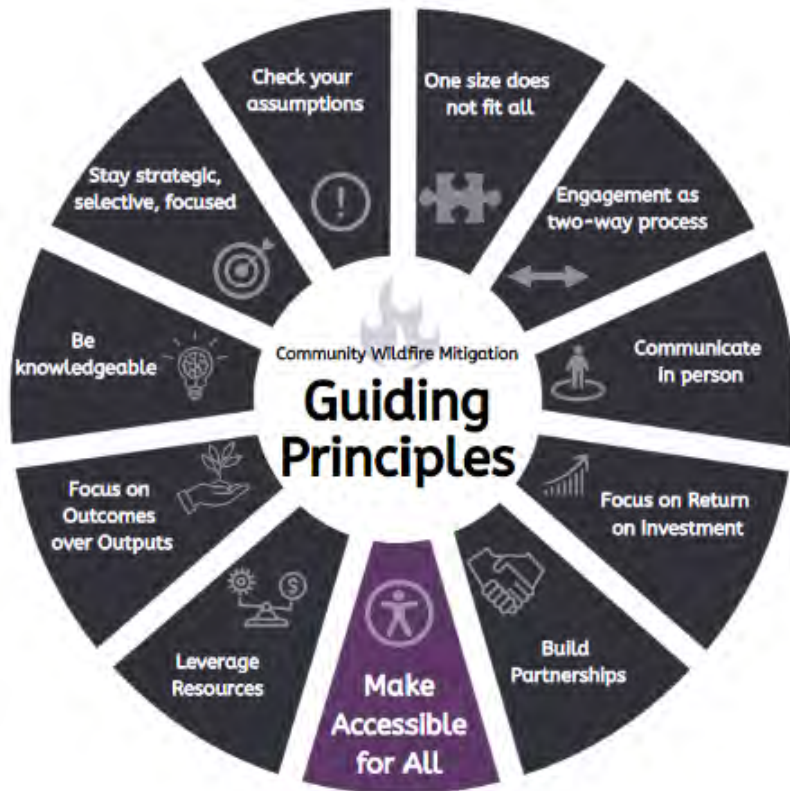




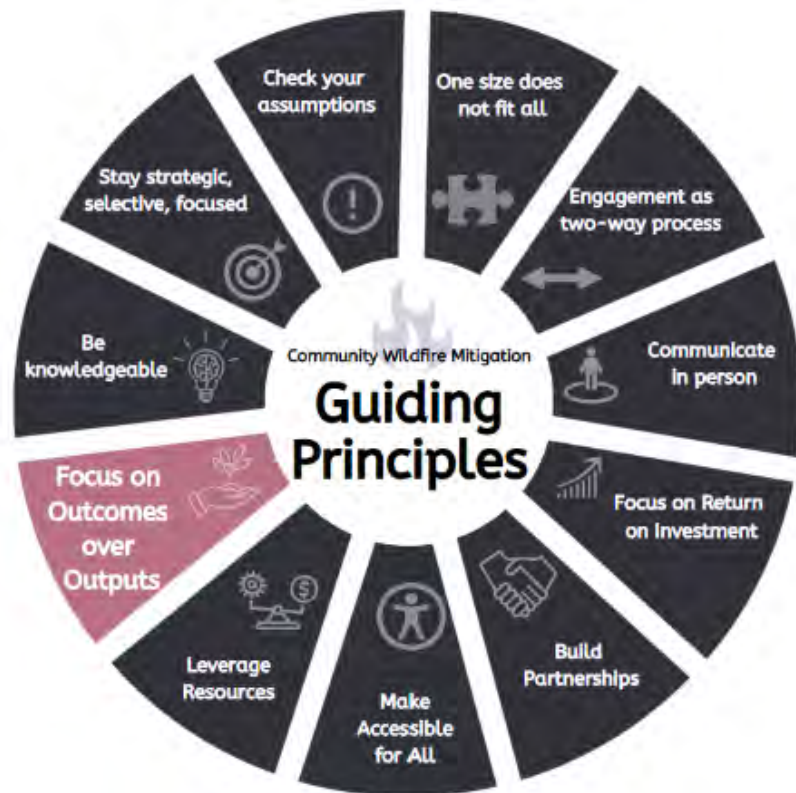


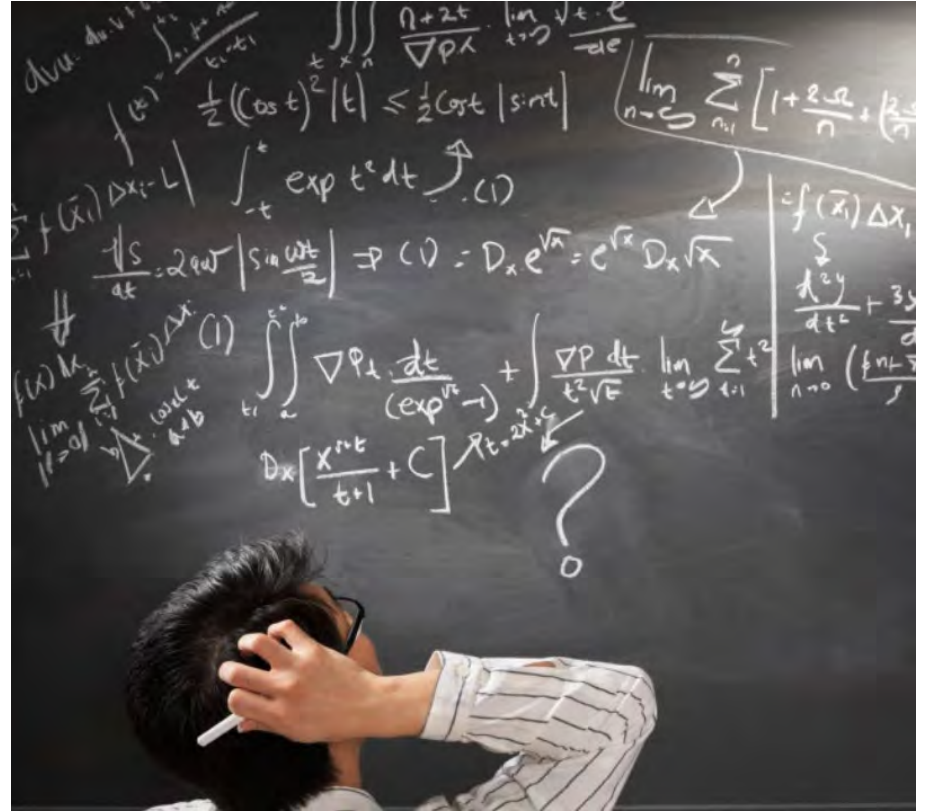


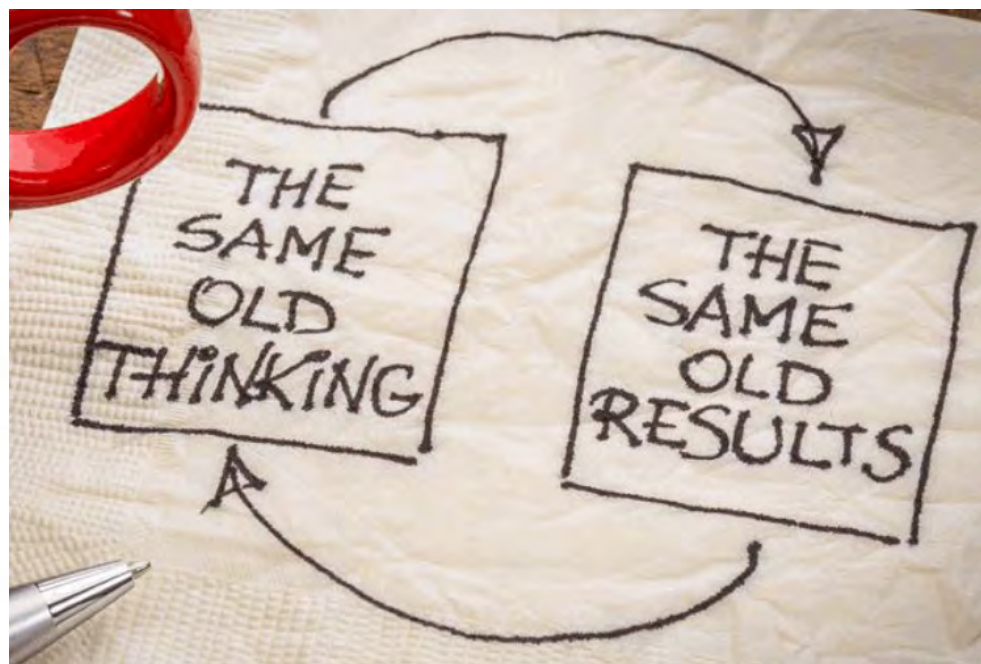


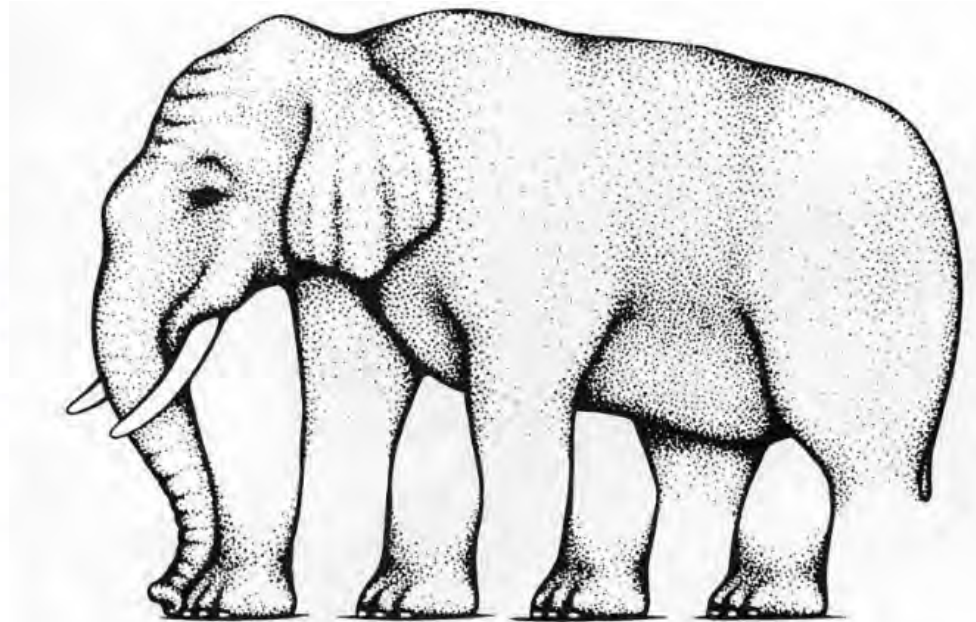


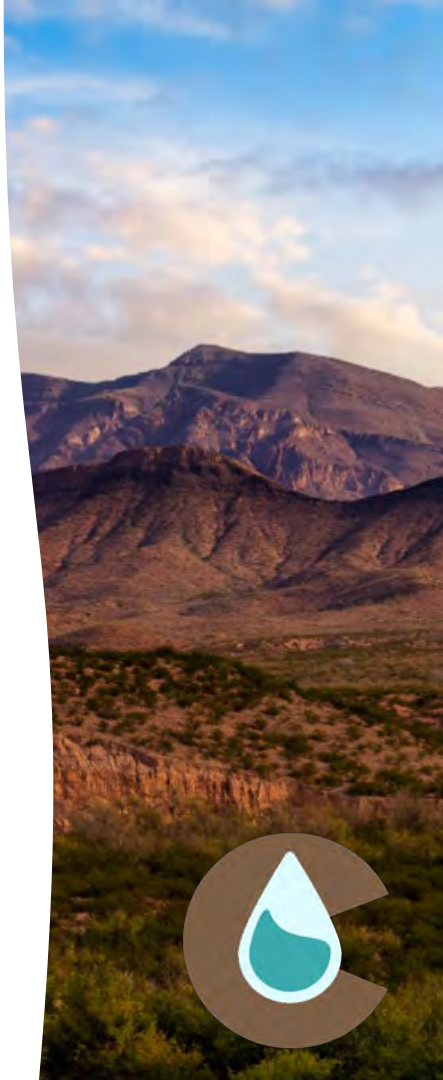














Fireville, USA

A vibrant, rural community with high risk and even higher potential.

Fireville needs your help!

Instructions

1. In your group, review your assigned guiding principle and discuss its meaning. (5 min)
2. Read through the Fireville scenario and highlight opportunities to apply your guiding principle in Fireville. (15 min)
3. Develop 3-4 recommendations for Fireville related to your guiding principle and write them down to share back with the larger group. (10 min)





Fireville is above the 90th percentile of wildfire risk to homes nationwide. The county was founded in the late 1800s after a large fire had burned much of the landscape and miners discovered gold. Despite the history for which the county got its name, the community is viewed as a lush oasis removed from the hustle and bustle of a large city, 3 hours downstream along the Firehole River.

Fireville is a fiercely independent and rural community with a diverse population made up of blue collar workers that commute to the larger city. Like many communities, there is about 45% elderly, and a Spanish speaking population that has lived in the area for many generations. Numerous groups and organizations exist in the town. Faith based groups are active and always helping those families in need. A business group in the area has over 90% local business participation and supports volunteer projects on trails, open space and area parks. Because of the tranquil beauty, this area is a destination for seasonal residents and vacationers, tripling population in the summertime.

The landscape surrounding Fireville hasn't seen a major fire since ten years ago, the Nugget Fire, and has grown back to a mature, overstocked forest. The fire caused the evacuation of several subdivisions and 15 homes were lost. The biggest long-term impact besides those landowners is the ongoing impact on the City of Fireville's secondary water intake. The City added a minor fee to their water services last year to help cover the costs of filtration and to try to mitigate fuel loads ahead of further impacts to their primary water outtake along the Firehole River. The county, fire districts, and residents to some degree, realize the Nugget Fire could have been a lot worse.

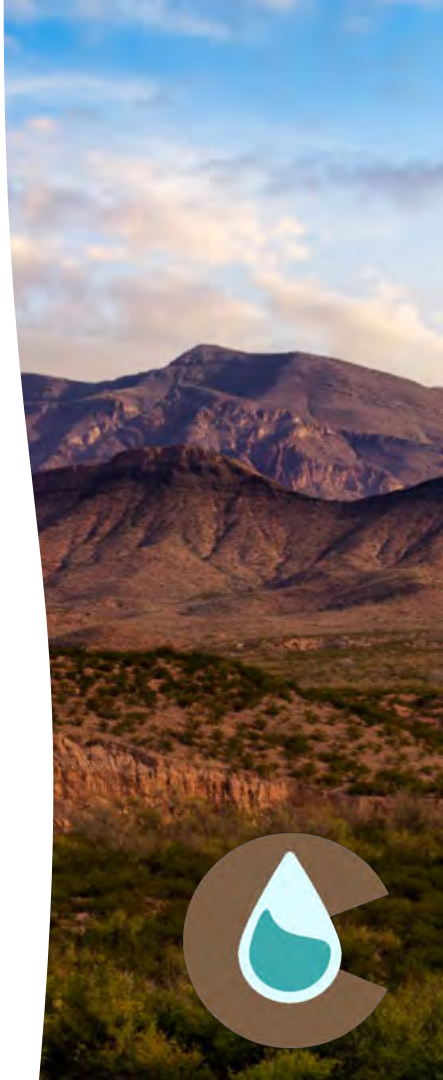


Following the fire, the county emergency management hired a consultant to work with the community to develop a CWPP. The consultant went around to many groups, including the Fireville Wildfire Council (FWC, an all-volunteer group of retired residents) and the Fire Chiefs Association, and hosted several community events with dozens of people showing up from the communities near the Nugget Fire area to give input on the plan. The CWPP has been completed with a response and outreach focus; however, maps have been hard to update and implementation projects have been limited. Several projects have occurred on properties considered lower risk. Several large properties (town parks, trails and open spaces) surround the community and are along the heavily loved and used Firehole river. The USFS has significant land area on the visible hillslopes above the town. BLM also manages a significant area of land on the lower elevation lands just as you exit town.

With only two paid staff, the Fire Department (FD) does not have time to meet with residents seeking information about risk reduction work on their properties and homes. The FD and the Wildfire Council primarily handle outreach by setting up a booth at the county fair and sharing handouts on fire risk to residents in the community.



When fall and winter arrives and FD call volumes slow, FD personnel leave fliers on mailboxes in subdivisions near their stations. The Fireville Wildfire Council is led by Jim Forest who is described as the "glue that holds it all together." The FWC completes 10 Home Assessment Site Visits per year, which are scheduled on an ongoing basis using an online form. The FWC holds community meetings at 9:00 am the first Monday of every month at fire station 4, which is 15 minutes out of town. At every meeting, they show a 10 year old video called "Fundamentals of Forest Fire Management" and then answer any questions that they know the answer to. They plan to increase meetings to three times a month, hoping to get more community members involved.





Let's connect!

Melissa May | melissa.may@co-co.org | 970-286-9750