



# Sunshine Fire Protection District

## Community Wildfire Protection Plan Accomplishments

The SFPD Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was intended to assess the community wildfire risk and to help establish a project-based approach to improving fire safety in our district. The CWPP committee holds public meetings and updates the community regarding planned projects via project-specific emails and articles in our community newsletters. CWPP Planning Meetings, open to all Sunshine residents, are held at the beginning of the year to discuss the past years accomplishments and plan projects for the coming year(s). The project list is then taken to the SFPD Board of Directors for spending approval. For larger projects, every effort is made to obtain grants to partially fund the projects.

In 2023 SFPD signed an IGA with Four Mile FPD, Gold Hill FPD and Sugar Loaf FPD to jointly create a CWPP document for the four districts. The IGA created the Boulder West Wildfire Authority and in 2023 the BWWA CWPP document was created.

The SFPD website has an information page about the district’s CWPP activities. The link to the CWPP page is <https://www.sunshinefpd.org/fireprotection/cwpp> . The link has the meeting notes and project list from the latest CWPP Planning Meeting. It also has a link to the BWWA CWPP document.

### Total for All Fire Mitigation Projects 2008 – 2025

**Project Spend - \$801,793**

**Grant Reimbursements - \$482,356**

Year	CWPP Accomplishments
2008	<p><b>2008 Community Wildfire Protection Plan</b></p> <p>The first CWPP document was written in 2008. This was a grass roots effort with very good community participation. The district was divided into neighborhoods, primarily by terrain and vegetation, in order to better understand the wildfire risk specific to that area. Neighborhood meetings were held, frequently at a person’s house that lived in that neighborhood. The process of developing the CWPP document worked to raise the whole community’s wildfire awareness and helped to set the stage for passing a mill levy to fund wildfire mitigation within the district.</p> <p><b>Ballot Initiative 5A – CWPP Funding</b></p> <p>A ballot initiative was put on the November election asking for a 3.56 mil levy to be added to the property taxes paid to the district in order to support wildfire mitigation activities. The initiative passed with 71% of the residents voting in favor. The district began getting revenue from this mill levy in 2009.</p>
2009	<p><b>Shaded Fuel Break, Ingram Neighborhood</b></p> <p>A project to perform forest thinning on approximately 25 acres of property along Sunshine Canyon Drive from 5657-7000. The prescription was for a Shaded Fuel Break (CWPP Recommendation 8.1), with trees being thinned to 150 feet on either side of the roadway. The project was funded by CWPP money (45%), a Federal matching grant (40%), and a Boulder County chipping grant (8%), as well as asking landowners to contribute \$150 per acre of their land that fell inside the project (7%). The total project cost was \$54,000.</p>
2010	<p><b>Fourmile Canyon Fire (NOT a CWPP Accomplishment)</b></p> <p>The Fourmile Canyon Fire was reported shortly after 10 a.m. on Sept. 6, 2010 and spread very</p>

	<p>rapidly, burning 93 percent of 6,181-acre fire within the first 10 hours. Although the fire started in an adjacent fire district, the majority of SFPD was burned through by the end of the first day. The fire burned 168 homes in total and SFPD lost 56 homes, nearly a third of the homes in the district. During the first day the firefighting resources were largely the volunteer crews of the local fire districts as additional resources had not yet been deployed. The air tankers which were brought in to assist in firefighting were grounded until 5:12 PM of the first day due to the wind conditions. Fire spotting of 0.5 to 1.0 miles was observed, making containment of the fire impossible. From that day forward, wildfire mitigation became a focus for many residents in the district.</p>
<b>2011</b>	<p><b>Shaded Fuel Break, Town Site Neighborhood</b></p> <p>In 2011 we thinned approximately 15 acres of forest along County Road 83. The prescription was for a Shaded Fuel Break (Recommendation 8.1), with trees being thinned to 140 feet on either side of the roadway. The project was funded by CWPP money (50%), a Federal matching grant (30%), and a Boulder County chipping grant (10%), as well as asking landowners to contribute \$150 per acre of their land that fell inside the project (10%).</p> <p><b>Community Chipping Project</b></p> <p>2011 also saw our first Community Chipping Project (Recommendation 8.1). In addition to clearing fuels from the ground, this type of project also serves to encourage homeowners to complete thinning/D-space projects by setting a deadline by which their slash needs to be ready to chip. Funded by a Boulder County chipping grant (40%) and CWPP money (60%), 22 homeowners signed up for a total of 35 hours (up to 2 hours per household) of free chipping, which was subcontracted to a local fire mitigation company. The total project cost was \$3,500.</p>
<b>2012</b>	<p><b>County Rd 83 Emergency Egress</b></p> <p>In 2012 the Sunshine Saddle/Mine Road egress route (CWPP Recommendation 8.2-E) was completed in a collaborative and jointly financed project between SFPD (25%), Boulder Mountain FPD (25%), and Boulder County (50%) for a total SFPD cost of \$4,160. This road had long been in existence but was not maintained to a standard that would allow its use by either fire trucks or personal vehicles. The road was re-graded and gated at both ends to prevent recreational use. . We also hope to see further road improvements in regards to drainage, with the possible addition of culverts to prevent the inevitable wash-outs that would return it to pre-2012 conditions over time. The CWPP committee has committed to a \$500/year contribution to the ongoing maintenance of this egress route. Maintenance has been performed on a yearly basis since 2012.</p> <p><b>Community Chipping Project</b></p> <p>The popular Community Chipping project was offered again in 2012. 36 homeowners throughout the district participated. 53.5 hours of chipping cleared 268 cubic yards of slash at a cost of \$5,350.</p> <p><b>Reflective Sign Project</b></p> <p>In 2012 we began a project to improve signage throughout the district (CWPP Recommendation 8.6). The CWPP committee created an address sign system throughout our district that is consistent with the county standard (see Appendix E p.101 for more extensive details), with the goal of improving response time in emergency situations, particularly if the responders are less familiar with the district than our local firefighters. Sign maintenance has been performed on a yearly basis since 2012.</p>
<b>2013</b>	<p><b>2013 Community Wildfire Protection Plan</b></p> <p>After 5 years, it was time to thoroughly revisit our CWPP document and determine how effective our projects have been and where to put our energies going forward. The updated document also reflects changes in the district caused by the Fourmile Canyon Fire and lessons learned from the fire. The revised document will help determine how best to spend mitigation funds and will serve as a tool to educate the community on current thinking in the field of fire prevention and mitigation.</p> <p><b>Reflective Sign Project</b></p>

	<p>In 2013 we continued to install the remaining reflective signs that didn't get in the ground in the fall of 2012. Some signs will need to be relocated as, despite our best efforts at proper siting, didn't survive the winter plowing.</p> <p><b>Community Chipping Project</b> The popular Community Chipping project (Recommendation 8.1) was offered again in 2013. There were 45 homeowners throughout the district who participated. There were 76 hours of chipping which cleared 379 cubic yards of slash at a cost of \$7591. The Community Chipping Project was free for the property owner and was paid for by SFPD (50%) and a matching grant from the <b>Wildfire Risk Reduction Fund (WRFF)</b> (50%).</p> <p><b>Home Defensible Space Project</b> The Defensible Space Project provided homeowners a Home/Property Inspection as well as mitigation work. The homeowner paid 50% of the mitigation cost, through a donation to SFPD and the other 50% was paid by a <b>WRFF</b> matching grant. The project performed D-Space mitigation on 22 properties. The total project cost for 2013/2014 was \$50,000.</p> <p><b>Sunshine Canyon Dr. Shaded Fuel Break Project</b> The Sunshine Canyon Shaded Fuel Break project provided a shaded fuel break on either side of Sunshine Canyon Dr. from County Road 83 to beyond the 4 mile marker. This work was paid for by SFPD (40%), property owner donations (10%) and a <b>WRFF</b> matching grant (50%). Total project cost for 2013/2014 will be \$56,200.</p> <p><b>Firewise Community Recognition</b> At the end of 2013 SFPD applied for and was recognized as a Firewise Community. Firewise is a program of the National Fire Protection Association in partnership with the USDA Forest Service. The Firewise Communities/USA program recognizes communities for working together to protect residents and property from fire in the wildland/urban interface. To be recognized as a Firewise Communities/USA site, local communities must create and implement a local plan with cooperative assistance from state forestry agencies and local fire staff. In addition, communities are required to continue regular maintenance and education to retain recognition status. As of 2022 SFPD has maintained its Firewise Community status.</p>
2014	<p><b>Community Chipping Project</b> In 2014 the decision was made to offer two Community Chipping projects, one in the spring and the other in the fall. In the spring event 42 residents participated with a total of 146 cubic yards of slash being chipped for a cost of \$7087. The spring event was paid for by a <b>Boulder County Chipping Grant</b> (50%) and a <b>WFRR</b> grant (50%). In the fall event 26 residents participated with a total of 92 cubic yards of slash being chipped for a cost of \$4612. The fall event was paid for by a <b>Boulder County Chipping Grant</b> (50%) and a <b>WFRR</b> grant (50%).</p> <p><b>Sunshine Canyon Drive Shaded Fuel Break Project</b> The Sunshine Canyon Drive Shaded Fuel Break project was continued by performing mitigation work along SCD between the bottom of the District (2.8 mile marker) and the 4 mile marker. Total project cost for 2014 work was \$37,574 which was paid for by a <b>Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant (WRRG)</b> (50%), SFPD (40%) and homeowner donations (10%).</p> <p><b>Whispering Pines Rd Shaded Fuel Break Project</b> A shaded fuel break project was performed on Whispering Pines Rd. The fuel break was approx. 150' on each side of the road. Project cost was \$26,042 and was paid for by a <b>WRRG</b> grant (50%), SFPD (40%) and home owner donations (10%). This work was completed in 2014 except for slash pile burning which extended into 2015.</p> <p><b>County Rd. 83 Shaded Fuel Break Maintenance Project</b> Shaded fuel break maintenance was performed on County Rd 83. This work included the areas between Sunshine Canyon Drive and County Rd 83 up to the Sunshine Cemetery. Considerable</p>

	<p>ground fuel had developed because of additional die offs caused by fire damage and wind. Project cost during 2014 was \$9,668 and was paid for by a <b>WRRG</b> (50%), SFPD (40%) and home owner donations (10%). Some of this work will continue into 2015.</p>
<b>2015</b>	<p><b>Community Chipping Project</b> The decision was made to continue with spring and fall events as there was good community participation in both events in 2014. Project cost was \$8,850, partially funded by a matching <b>Boulder County Chipping Grant</b>.</p> <p><b>Shaded Fuel Break on the Shared Driveway at 4300 Sunshine Canyon</b> The driveway is shared by six homes and abuts to one other resident's property. The driveway also goes through several parcels of state land (4111 SCD). The project included shaded fuel break work on approximately 30+ acres. Approximately 27 acres on state and private land is being done in partnership with CSFS using SFPD funds, state and federal grants and homeowner donations. Approximately 3 acres is being done in partnership with private landowner with funding coming from SFPD and the landowner's EQIP grant. Total project cost was \$53,168.</p>
<b>2016</b>	<p><b>Community Chipping Events</b> Spring and fall events were held. Project cost was \$7800, partially funded by matching grant from the <b>2015 WRRG Grant</b> and a <b>Boulder County Chipping Grant</b>.</p> <p><b>Slash Pile Burning</b> We contacted the community residents to create a full list of slash piles within the district. Many of these piles were left over from cutting right after the Fourmile Canyon Fire. Slash piles were burned during the 2016, 2017 and 2018 burning seasons. There were over 791 slash piles identified that needed to be burned or chipped. Matching funding for this work was provided by a <b>2015 WRRG Grant</b> and later by the <b>2017 Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Grant</b>.</p>
<b>2017</b>	<p><b>Community Chipping Events</b> Spring and fall events were held. Project cost was \$7150, partially funded with a <b>Boulder County Chipping Grant</b> of \$4000.</p> <p><b>Slash Pile Burning</b> 59 slash piles were burned with a project cost of \$2863.</p>
<b>2018</b>	<p><b>Community Chipping Events</b> Spring and fall events were held. Project cost was \$8,100, partially funded by a <b>Boulder County Chipping Grant</b>.</p> <p><b>Slash Pile Grinding Project</b> Part of the continuing project to deal with the slash piles left from tree removal after the Fourmile Canyon Fire as well as mitigation that went on after the fire. After poor snow cover in two previous winters prevented slash burning, it was decided to transport all the slash piles to a central site where they would be chipped using the Boulder County horizontal grinder. Boulder County provided the horizontal grinder and crew for no cost. We worked with Friar Farms who agreed to transport the chips to their farm in order to use as mulch. Project cost was driven by transporting the slash to the location of the horizontal grinder. This part of the overall slash removal project cost \$30,122 and was partially funded by a matching <b>2017 FRWRM Grant</b>.</p> <p><b>Fourmile Canyon Creek Shaded Fuel Break</b> Shaded fuel break across Fourmile Canyon Creek which tied into burn areas at 280 County Rd 83 and the burn area on the south side of Lee Hill. This fuel break helps protect the Sunshine townsite from east wind driven fires coming up the Four Mile Canyon Creek drainage. The fuel break is approx. 300' wide by 1600' and covers 11 acres. CSFS personnel marked projected boundaries and individual trees for removal. All slash was chipped. Total project cost was \$25,500 partially funded by a matching <b>2017 FRWRM Grant</b>.</p> <p><b>Wildfire Partners Matching Funds</b> The project provides financial incentives for Sunshine residents to work with Boulder County</p>

	<p>Wildfire Partners to have a wildfire assessment performed and then to follow up with wildfire mitigation work. The program was set up to provide a 50% reimbursement to residents for the assessment cost and a 25% reimbursement for the mitigation costs. The maximum amount of reimbursement is capped at \$1300 per homeowner. This program has been continued on a yearly basis since 2018.</p> <p><b>10,000 Cistern at 875 County Rd 83 Made Operational</b> The cistern at 875 County Rd 83 was in place but did not have an access hatch or fittings to allow drafting. Both were installed so the 10,000 gallon cistern is now operational. Project cost \$1,150.</p> <p><b>Wet Hydrant Installed on County Rd 83 from Station 1 10,000 Gallon Cistern</b> Piping and valves were installed to provide a wet hydrant on County Rd 83 from the Station 1 cistern. Piping had been in place but was installed to facilitate a top fill of a truck. New installation is as road level, allowing a low pressure fill into an engine. No drafting required. Project cost \$1,101.</p>
2019	<p><b>Community Chipping Events</b> Spring and fall events were held. Project cost was \$12,775.</p> <p><b>Fourmile Canyon Creek Shaded Fuel Break – completed</b></p> <p><b>Hazard Tree Removal</b> Ongoing project to remove hazard trees in the district. A hazard tree is a dead or dying tree that if were blown over would affect egress on a district road. Many parts of the district are subject to high winds and since the Fourmile Canyon Fire we have seen a number of trees blown over. Removed 3 hazard trees for a total cost of \$1710.</p>
2020	<p><b>Community Chipping Events</b> Spring and fall events were held. Project cost was \$16,000.</p> <p><b>Shaded Fuel Break Along Shared Driveway at 3701 Sunshine Canyon</b> Fuel break was 18 acres total and approx. 300 ‘ wide by 0.5 miles long. Purpose of the project was twofold. One was to provide safer egress for the properties on the driveway. The other was to tie into previous mitigation work done by SFPD along Sunshine Canyon with the goal of stopping a west wind driven wildfire from jumping Sunshine Canyon and climbing the west facing slope to Pine Brook Hills. Funding was provided by a matching <b>2018 Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant</b>. Grant was awarded in 2019 and project was performed in 2020/2021. Total project cost was \$45,888.</p>
2021	<p><b>Community Chipping Events</b> Spring and fall events were held. Project cost was \$15,400.</p> <p><b>Shaded Fuel Break Along Shared Driveway at 3701 Sunshine Canyon – completed</b></p> <p><b>Community Fire Cistern at 1462 County Rd 83</b> Installed a 20,000 gallon Community Fire Cistern at 1462 County Rd 83. Cistern is 10’ diameter, 37’ long fiberglass tank with connections for drafting and filling. Project cost was \$68,588 with \$30,000 coming from Cistern Fund donations.</p>
2022	<p><b>Community Chipping Events</b> Spring and fall community chipping events were held. Project cost was \$16,200.</p>
2023	<p><b>Community Chipping Events</b> Spring and fall community chipping events were held. Spring chipping event was \$11,700 and the fall event was covered by Boulder County.</p> <p><b>Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction</b> CSFS Incentives for Local Government Grant (ILG) was awarded for the Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction project. The award amount was \$124,600. Project does fuels reduction on 70 acres between marker 3.1 to 3.7 Sunshine Canyon. CSFS marked project boundaries and trees for removal and RFP was sent out to forestry contractors. Contractors were selected for the South and East Project Areas.</p>

	<p><b>Mine Lane Egress Route Maintenance</b>  Performed maintenance on the emergency egress road that goes from Sunshine Saddle to Mine Lane in Boulder Heights. \$490</p> <p><b>Boulder West Wildfire Authority (BWVA)</b>  SFPD signed an IGA with the surrounding fire districts of Four Mile FPD, Gold Hill FPD and Sugar Loaf FPD for the purpose of creating a CWPP document that covered all four districts. This will allow the four districts to jointly plan and implement wildfire risk mitigation projects. The Boulder West Advisory Committee (BWAC) was also created to jointly create the CWPP. BWAC consisted of two representatives from each of the four districts. Abby Silver and Alan Kirton are SFPD’s representatives on the committee.</p> <p><b>Boulder West Wildfire Authority CWPP Document</b>  The BWVA CWPP was completed in November, 2023. The document was approved by all stakeholders. The cost to the district was \$1706 to support administration and content creation.</p>
2024	<p><b>Community Chipping Events</b>  Spring and fall community chipping events were held. Funding for the events was provided by Boulder County.</p> <p><b>Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction</b>  SFPD was awarded the Boulder County Strategic Fuels Mitigation Grant (SFMG) for the Dry Gulch South project. The award amount was \$169,880. An RFP for the North Project Area was put out and a contractor was selected. Approximately 60% of the cutting and extraction was completed on this project. Project cost for 2024 was \$231,936 that was offset by \$129,365 in grant revenue.</p> <p><b>Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction</b>  SFPD was notified that its State Fire Assistance – Wildland Urban Interface grant application for the Dry Gulch North project was approved and sent to the federal level for final approval.</p> <p><b>Wildfire Partners Incentive Program</b>  SFPD paid \$670 to a resident to reimburse expenses related to getting Wildfire Partners certification.</p>
2025	<p><b>Community Chipping Events</b>  Spring and fall community chipping events were held. Funding for the events was provided by Boulder County.</p> <p><b>Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction</b>  The Dry Gulch South Fuels Reduction project was completed in 2025 and the work certified by CSFS. Project was funded by a CSFS Incentives for Local Government Grant (\$124,600), a Boulder County Strategic Fuels Mitigation Grant (\$169,880) and SFPD’s CWPP mill levy. Total project cost was \$410,000. Net cost to SFPD was \$115,520.</p> <p><b>Dry Gulch North Fuels Reduction</b>  SFPD applied for and was awarded a CSFS Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant (\$188,846) and a Boulder County Strategic Fuels Mitigation Grant (\$188,846). These grants are in addition to the federal SFA-WUI Grant (\$136,010) that was also awarded in 2025. The work to mark the project boundaries and the trees for removal has been completed. An RFP for the project was sent out to qualified contractors. The contract was awarded and the project work will start in the spring of 2026. The grants will cover 100% of the project cost for Dry Gulch North.</p> <p><b>Hazardous Tree Removal</b>  There were 9 hazardous trees removed that were close to district roads. This is part of an ongoing effort to remove dead or dying trees next to the roads that pose a hazard to the egress routes needed during an emergency.</p>