



THE BIG THOMPSON WATERSHED HEALTH PARTNERSHIP: COMMUNITY READINESS WORKSHOPS SUMMARY

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COLORADO FOREST
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1. Background

The Big Thompson Watershed Health Partnership (BTWHP) is a place-based collaborative formed in 2022 among public and private, local, state, and federal partners focused on wildfire resilience. Facilitated by Peaks to People Water Fund, BTWHP is a leader in the northern Front Range of Colorado (and part of the [Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative](#)), often encouraging the development and use of new tools and strategies, such as the Potential Operational Delineations (PODs)-Based Treatment Planning Geospatial Tool ([PODs Dashboard](#)) and the Watershed Investment Tool ([WIT](#)). With this history, the BTWHP began thinking about the idea of “community readiness” (related to but distinct from “collaborative readiness”, see [Huayhuaca et al., 2023](#)) in relation to wildfire in the Big Thompson Watershed (Figure 1) in early 2024.

Partners in the BTWHP created an initial list of metrics that would be easy to capture and could tell them that a community was “ready” (Table 1). Early in the conversation, there were discussions of how to incorporate these initial metrics on the PODs Dashboard, though this effort has not yet progressed due to challenges associated with spatializing indicators of community readiness (see Section 3.2.2 for further discussion of these challenges).

In the summer of 2025, BTWHP asked collaborators at Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) to present on community capacity to do fuel treatment work in Colorado ([Courtney et al., 2025](#)) and to lead a discussion on community readiness. Afterwards, CFRI coordinated with Julie Dubin at Peaks to People Water Fund and Max Erickson at the Colorado State Forest Service to design and conduct two workshops on community readiness with the BTWHP. The goal of these workshops would be to unpack 1) what different practitioners and organizations meant by community readiness, i.e., community readiness for what, and 2) what the implications of knowing community readiness would be, i.e., how would partners change their actions knowing a community was or was not “ready.” Over the course of designing and conducting the workshops, we remained adaptive to the needs of BTWHP members. Ultimately the two workshops focused on community readiness for what, possible indicators of readiness, and possible sources for information on readiness indicators. This report summarizes the process and outcomes of the community readiness workshops, including what was done in these workshops and possible ways for the BTWHP to continue developing strategies to assess and respond to community readiness.

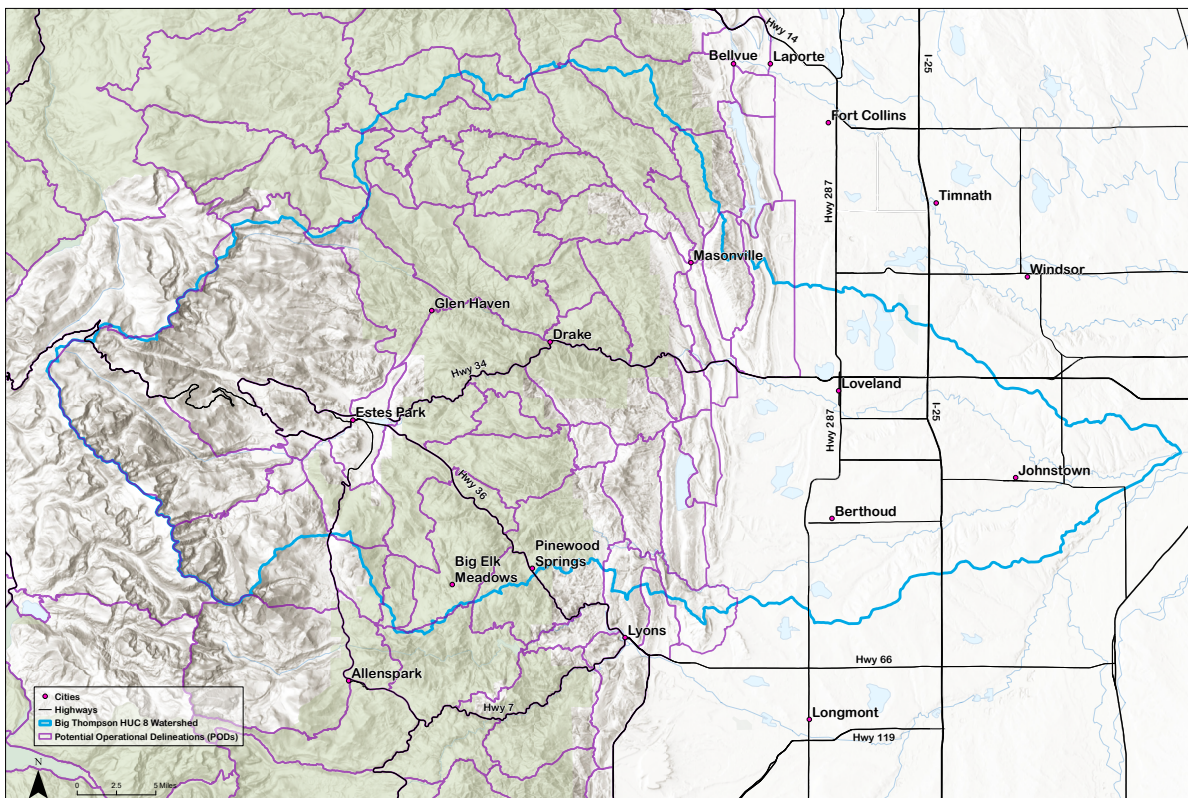


Figure 1. The Big Thompson Watershed (blue) and Potential Operational Delineation (POD) lines (purple).
Credit: Jackie Edinger, CFRI

Table 1. List of potential community readiness metrics originally identified by the Big Thompson Watershed Health Partnership in 2024.

Metric	Description
Community events with nexus to wildfire (#)	POD-specific goal; can use population numbers to help determine goal (e.g., x # of events per y # of people). Time frame is also relevant (e.g., # of events within 3 years)
Property owners signed up for LETA alerts (% of properties)	Need to differentiate residence vs structure. May be helpful to differentiate primary and secondary residences although there is value to having LETA signups for both; may have different goals for primary vs secondary. Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority, LETA
Larimer Connects Community Resilience Hub (#)	POD-specific goal - Larimer Connects Community Hubs
Community Mitigation Grant (#)	POD-specific goal; time frame is relevant (e.g., x # of grants within 3 years). Community Mitigation Grant Program
Community champions	POD-specific goal; a community (or neighborhood) champion is a self-identified advocate for wildfire mitigation and preparedness
Community organization	POD-specific goal; self-identified organized community group such as HOA, neighborhood association, etc., that is supportive of wildfire mitigation and preparedness
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (y/n)	Plan exists and is current (e.g., completed within x# of years)
Community designation (y/n)	POD-specific goal based on population/# of communities within POD; type of designation is decided by community (e.g., Firewise Communities)

1.1 What is Community Readiness?

There is no one definition of community readiness for wildfire; community readiness can mean different things to different people and groups based on organizational affiliation and social and ecological context. Community readiness is related to but distinct from “collaborative readiness” ([Huayhuaca et al., 2023](#)). Whereas collaborative readiness describes the preparedness of multiple organizations and entities to work together effectively to achieve shared goals and sustain collective action, community readiness pertains to the elements of a community that influence its ability and willingness to engage in behaviors of interest to the shared goals of collaboration (e.g., wildfire resilience). While a full review of community readiness is outside the scope of this report, we provide an example of how scholarship has conceptualized community readiness for wildfire through the language of community capacity and resilience.

Community capacity can be understood as the ability of a community to “get things done” either individually or in groups. For example, researchers have organized capacity in a fire context as 1) access to and ability to adapt scientific or technical knowledge, 2) place-based knowledge and wildfire experience, 3) demographic and structural characteristics, and 4) interactions

and relationships within the community ([Paveglio et al., 2015](#)). These categories have been extended to create a spectrum of community “archetypes” ([Paveglio et al., 2015](#)) based on the assets a community has and subsequent possible pathways to resilience. This framework informs the FACNet Pathways Tool ([Paveglio et al., 2024](#)), which helps communities identify their community strengths and assets, and match that with strategies towards wildfire resilience. For further examples on scholarly conceptualization of community readiness, see Appendix A.

Importantly, communities are neither inherently “ready” nor “unready.” Instead, communities can be at various stages of readiness to implement a variety of programs, strategies, or practices. Because there are many ways to conceptualize readiness (or capacity), we highlight that it is crucial to ask “readiness (or capacity) for what?” It is not specific enough to say, “to prepare for and receive wildfire.” There are many different specific community behaviors (e.g., evacuation during a wildfire event, community wildfire pre-planning, resident acceptance of fuel treatments on public lands) one could be interested in, and throughout these workshops we emphasized this and worked with participants to imagine and articulate community readiness as readiness to engage in specific behaviors.

2. Synthesis of Community Readiness Workshop 1

2.1 What we did

In a pre-workshop survey (see Appendix B), we asked participants how they interacted with the public and what behaviors they were interested in when they thought of community readiness, i.e., community readiness to do what. From that survey we synthesized the kinds of behaviors or actions that constitute the “for what” of community readiness into three categories: 1) acceptance of treatments on private land, 2) acceptance of treatments on public land, and 3) collective risk-reducing behaviors.

In the first workshop, participants broke into three groups based on which of these three behaviors was the most relevant to their work. To brainstorm possible indicators of readiness based on participants’ experiences, each group went through a participatory mapping exercise where they identified with colored dots 1) communities they had worked in previously (blue), 2) communities they perceived as “ready” (green), and 3) communities they perceived as “not ready” (red) for their behavior of interest (Figure 2). Throughout this exercise we asked participants what made them think these communities were or were not ready (positive and negative indicators) and recorded the answers. Discussing community readiness in this way helped to anchor participants in specific places and scenarios to provide the most detailed and relevant information and avoid vague generalizations or hypotheticals.

2.2 What we heard

2.2.1 How do partners in the BTWHP identify communities to work with?

We heard two general strategies for identifying communities or members of the public to work with.

1. The first strategy we heard is that partners work opportunistically with interested members of the public who approach them. For example, in the Private Lands breakout group, participants described that when working on parcels or in communities, curious neighbors would approach them, and this could lay the groundwork for future projects. Because this strategy is opportunistic and relies more on interested individuals making themselves known rather than identifying communities to target for outreach, it may be less important to know community readiness ahead of time and more important to keep track of and continue communication with interested individuals.
2. The second strategy we heard is that partners become aware of a community or individual who is

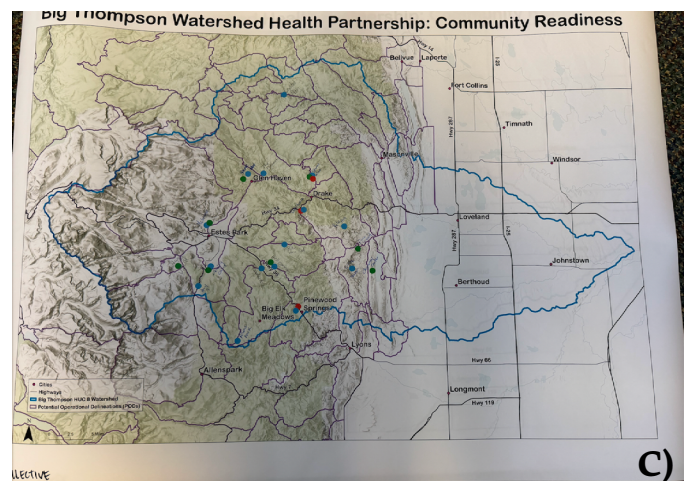
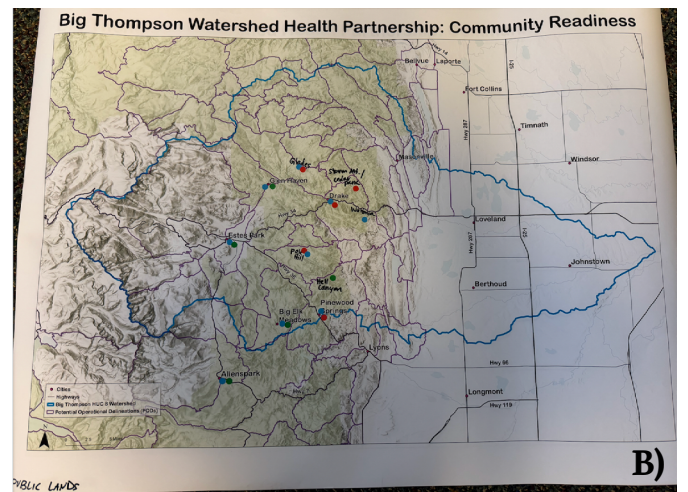
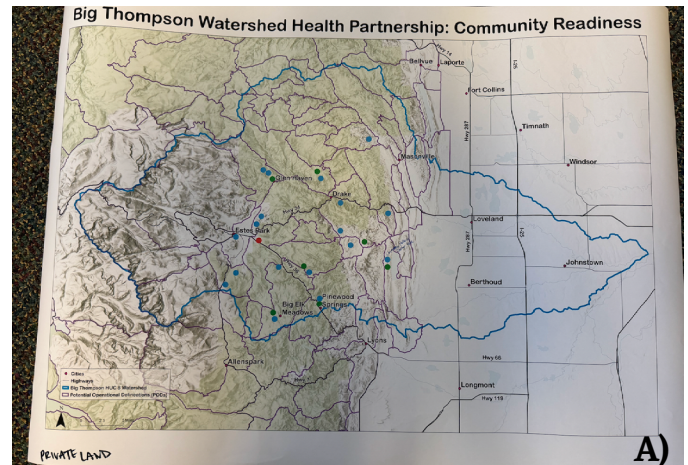


Figure 2. The final community readiness maps from the participatory mapping exercise where A) is private land behaviors, B) is public land behaviors, and C) is collective behaviors. Blue dots indicate places where individuals in the partnership have worked, red dots indicate communities they think are “not ready” and green dots indicate communities they think “are ready.”

“ready” and then they invest resources in developing a relationship and working with that community. For example, participants described that communities with Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), Wildfire Action Groups, Firewise Councils, or community ambassadors and/or champions were good areas to invest further energy in. In these cases, it may be helpful to know community readiness ahead of time to better prioritize time, energy, and resources.

2.2.2 What makes a community ready?

In each group, participants described a range of possible indicators, with considerable overlap across behaviors. Broadly, indicators could either be individual-level (e.g., number of years in the community, level of knowledge about fire risk and forest health, etc.) or community-level (e.g., presence of a CWPP, recent fire experience, favorable road conditions, etc.). Some indicators had a clear positive or negative relationship with readiness; for example, CWPPs were generally considered a strength while a high proportion of part-time or second-home owner status was generally considered a challenge. However, many indicators were context dependent. For example, participants noted Homeowner Associations (HOAs) could be helpful or a significant barrier to private land home ignition zone work, and while some long-term residents recognized how forest health had degraded over time, other long-term residents wanted to preserve conditions as they knew them, even if those conditions were unhealthy or posed substantial risk.

Respondents described many possible behavior indicators in each group. We list the following indicators, using as closely as possible the wording of participants in the workshop:

Acceptance of treatments on private land

- Number of years in the community
- Experience with fire
- Community champions
- Updated CWPP
- People who approach with interest
- Participation in pile burning workshops
- Wildfire Action Groups
- Funding
- Access to tools and equipment

Acceptance of treatments on public land

- Number of years in the community

- Community champions
- Primary homeowners
- More established communication
- More money in an area
- Good roadway/topographical conditions
- Buy-in and support
- Involved fire protection districts

Collective Behaviors

Behavior 1: Creating a CWPP

- Community champions
- Experience with fire
- Involved fire protection districts
- Community ambassadors/volunteers
- Funding

Behavior 2: Effective evacuation

- Signed up for LETA alerts
- Practice evacuation drills
- Good roadway/topographical conditions
- Primary homeowners
- Received home assessments
- Neighborhood ambassadors

Behavior 3: Going up for grants

- Updated CWPPs
- Buy-in and support
- Community champions with connections to collaborative networks

Behavior 4: Chipping or slash days

- Experience with fire
- Community ambassadors/volunteers
- Primary homeowners
- Funding
- Demonstration sites
- Access to tools/equipment

2.2.3 Indicators that may be easy to assess

We acknowledge when assessing community readiness, there are logistical and time constraints for gathering information and assessing its quality. Based on the discussions of potential indicators, we believe the following are relatively easy for partners in the BTWHP to access:

- Presence of community ambassador programs like Firewise or Wildfire Action Groups
- Recent experience with fire
- Experience receiving funding (e.g., recipient of a grant)
- Income level
- LETA alert sign-up status
- Updated CWPPs

2.2.4 Indicators that may be difficult to assess

In comparison, participants identified these indicators as important for assessing community or individual readiness, but information on these indicators is not as readily accessible or available for BTWHP partners or may be available to partners but not shared for a variety of reasons.

- Access to tools/equipment
- General community or individual buy-in and enthusiasm for wildfire risk reduction
- Presence of community champions, especially informal champions
- Demonstration sites
- Involvement and capacity of local fire protection districts
- Number of years in the community and primary homeownership
- Robust communication channels and technology
- Practice evacuation drills
- Home assessment recipients

3. Synthesis of Community Readiness Workshop 2

3.1 What we did

For the second Community Readiness Workshop, CFRI facilitated a large group discussion with the BTWHP



Photo credit: Sandi Good, Peaks to People Water Fund

(15-20 people). We provided a powerpoint summary of the indicators created from Workshop 1 and created space to explore potential ways to move forward.

3.2 What we heard

3.2.1 There are several ways to organize indicators of community readiness

Some indicators may only be important for one behavior. Some indicators may not be useful for predicting the full range of behaviors participants are interested in, but may be very helpful when looking to identify a very specific behavior, such as safe community evacuation during a wildfire. Some examples include:

- Access to tools and equipment
- Signed up for LETA alerts
- Practice evacuation drills

Some indicators may only be useful with additional context. Depending on the context, these indicators may be associated with either greater or lower community readiness. This information may be important to be aware of, but may not be useful on its own and may require extra effort to get the necessary context. Some examples include:

- HOAs
- Years since last fire experienced
- Number of years in the community

Some indicators are important across multiple

behaviors. These indicators are likely important to keep track of, as they may be useful for a variety of partners and behaviors of interest. Examples include:

- Community champions or ambassadors
- Updated CWPPs
- Primary homeownership
- Engaged fire protection districts

3.2.2 Quantification and measurability of indicators

Several questions emerged during our discussion related to the measurability, quantification and indexing of indicators of community readiness. While there was interest in creating a spatialized index of community readiness, we highlighted that many of the indicators participants mentioned cannot be meaningfully spatialized or quantified and that attempting to do so could confuse interpretation. Many of the indicators need to be evaluated qualitatively and/or should not be spatialized. For example, indicators like “years since last fire experienced” or “number of years in the community” cannot be realistically or meaningfully transformed into a spatial layer. Some indicators that can be spatialized may come with privacy concerns, such as the home address of community champions, ambassadors, or sparkplugs. Similarly, some indicators can be quantified but interpretation may still need to be qualitative. For example, while the absence of any community champions may be important for community readiness, it is not clear what having four versus five community champions means for readiness. Combining indicators

into an index also requires weighing the relative importance of indicators. At this time, there are not reliable estimates of relative importance for community readiness indicators. Finally, indicators may have different scales. For example, an up-to-date CWPP may refer to the readiness of a community as a whole, but number of years in the community or receipt of a home assessment speaks to the readiness of individual households.

3.2.3 Community members are critical brokers of community readiness knowledge

In the second workshop, significant discussion time focused on the topic of community members as critical brokers of knowledge on community readiness, and how to interface with them. Participants described examples of embedded community members who could be informal sources of information on and provide insight about readiness in their community. Simultaneously, participants acknowledged it would be important to be able to discern validated information from “gossip,” as they themselves are often embedded community members who communicate with local spark plugs. As one participant noted, “...it’s one thing to be a gossip, it’s another thing to be an ambassador,” as ambassadors have responsibilities and expectations. Regardless, a critical topic of discussion was how to keep track of community members, connect them with partners and resources in the BTWHP, and make them feel appreciated, all without overwhelming them or infringing on privacy.



Photo credit: Sandi Good, Peaks to People Water Fund

“Are community champions the holder of the information, or are they the information itself?”

- BTWHP member

Two kinds of community members emerged from this discussion: 1) curious community members who are interested in learning more but not seeking greater involvement in their community, and 2) community members interested in being community champions. These different kinds of community members likely need different approaches and serve different functions, and there may be different tiers of interest within each. In both cases, participants discussed how to keep track of community members and support their interests while still respecting privacy concerns. For example, a

private spreadsheet with information about interested community members may be difficult to keep up to date, but a publicly available list would not sufficiently protect community members' privacy.

Participants discussed the role of specific partners and timing when approaching different types of community members. For example, fire protection districts (FPDs) or other partners who conduct home assessments sometimes follow up those assessments with conversations about ambassadorship interest, and occasionally have homeowners follow up with them. Inquiries about community engagement interest may also be appropriate at some point during the CWPP process. One partner cautioned others to avoid formulating expectations until meeting individuals, and to tailor expectations based on their interests and needs. To minimize individuals "falling through the cracks," partners could provide opportunities for motivated members of the public to voice interests or concerns through periodic check-ins and/or connections to larger networks like Fire Adapted Colorado ([FACO](#)).

Possible next steps discussed include getting access to resources that already exist (e.g., FPDs that keep spreadsheets of people who approach, FACO Ambassadors Program, etc.), creating a standardized or formalized "ask" to cover privacy concerns and consent, and forming a working group focused on community readiness.



Photo credit: Sandi Good, Peaks to People Water Fund

4. Potential Ways Forward: Suggestions from Workshop Participants

We describe the potential ways forward brought up in the discussion, using as closely as possible the wording of participants in the workshop.

Keep track of community knowledge through community ambassadors

- Go to them rather than waiting for community members or champions to come to the BTWHP.
- Invite community ambassadors and champions to BTWHP meetings.
- Be willing to hear community concerns and needs as they arise, even if they do not fully align with the BTWHP objectives.
- Create a web-based database or customer relationship management platform to keep track of individuals and their knowledge; have one point of contact within BTWHP (or potentially at the level of the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative) that inputs all the information for quality control.
- Leverage and access existing information from organizations such as FPDs, Larimer Conservation District, FACO Community Ambassadors Program, and CWPPs. Important questions to ask include:

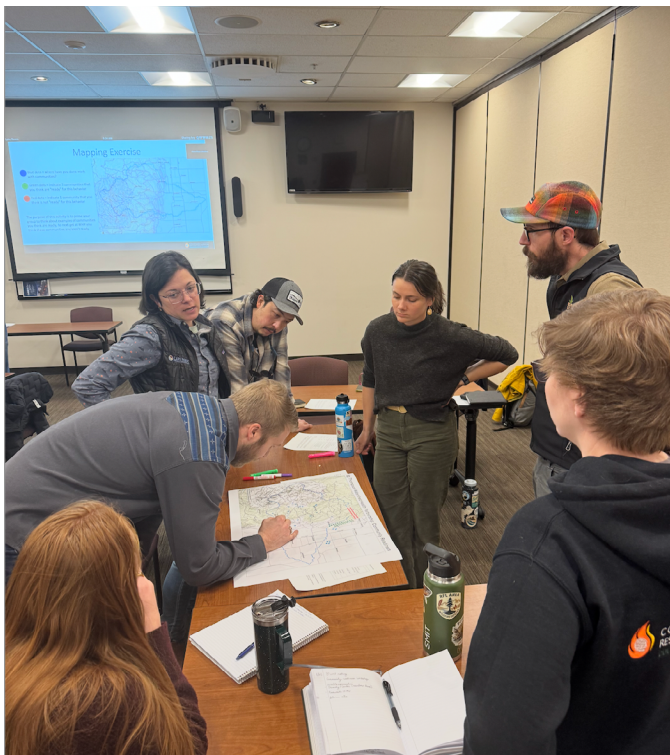


Photo credit: Sandi Good, Peaks to People Water Fund

- o Are champions agreeing to let us do a social event like a barbecue? Are champions agreeing to do a training?
- o How do partners support these people, i.e., how do we keep them moving down the line of greater engagement?
- BTWHP partners should discuss expectations about relationship management and who holds relationships or maintains them.

Balance privacy concerns

- Ensure any online database that is chosen has a secure login.
- Get community members' consent to be added to a list. They may be agreeing to:
 - o Contact information and name, and topics of interest shared with partners working in the Big Thompson Watershed.
 - o For regular community members, ask "can we touch base again?" or "Have you talked to your community ambassador?"

In summary, future actions for the BTWHP may include:

- Articulating what is the ask for community members and/or ambassadors.
- Deciding how to keep track of this information and how to share within the BTWHP.
- Establishing a working group to continue thinking through community readiness for the BTWHP.

5. Conclusion

Practitioners in Colorado (and in the larger wildfire context) are increasingly interested in the idea of "community readiness." Here, we explored "community readiness for what" in the context of a local wildfire and watershed collaborative (BTWHP) in the northern Front Range of Colorado. Through the facilitation of two workshops, we 1) identified the community behaviors that the BTWHP was most interested in, 2) identified a preliminary list of specific indicators related to each community behavior of interest, 3) synthesized and categorized the initial list of indicators by behavior, ease of access, and possible usefulness, 4) highlighted that community members are brokers of knowledge and information that the BTWHP seeks to know, and 5) identified a few next steps forward for the BTWHP.

How these conversations around community readiness unfold largely depends on the context, the set of partners seeking this information, their shared goals, and the community behaviors they are interested in. These workshops are replicable, but actions should be taken to ensure the specific context is considered. Social science partners can support this process by reviewing surveys and data collection strategies, or doing the "in-between" work of synthesizing workshop outputs. We encourage the use of this workshop template in other landscapes and recommend interested parties contact the authors.

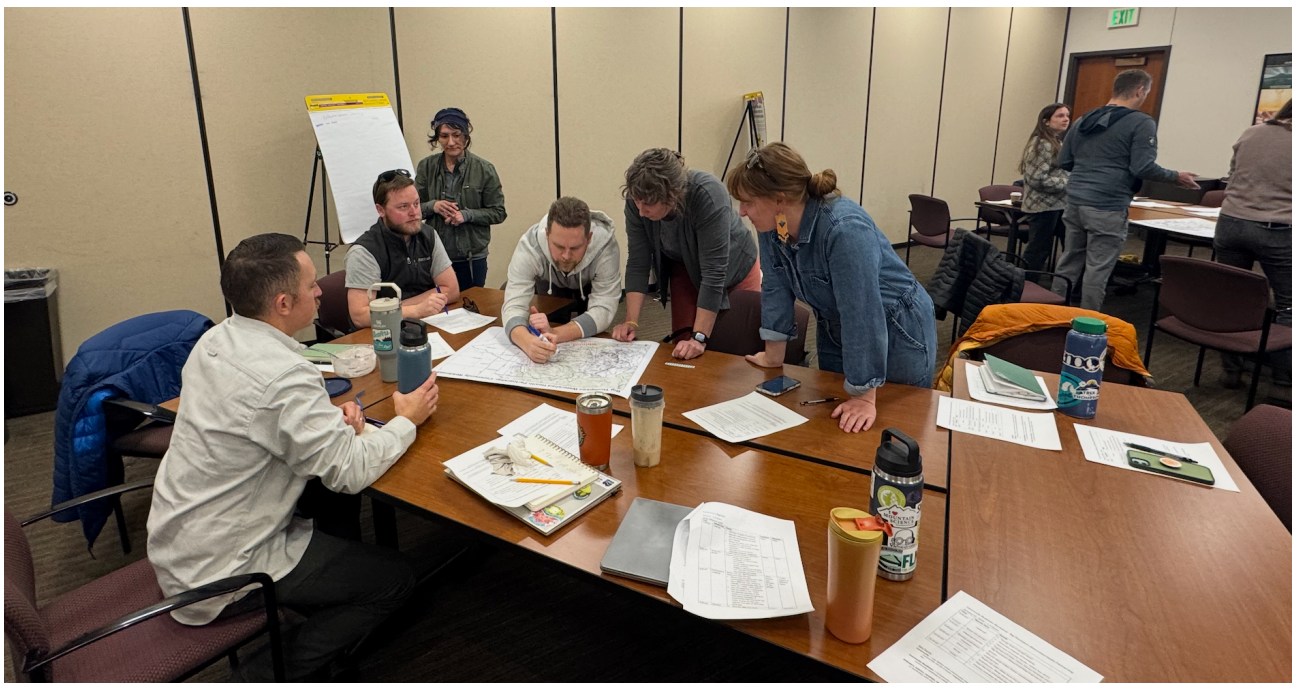


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Appendix A. Resources for Community Readiness

Community Readiness: Research to Practice – [Edwards et al., \(2002\)](#)

- The focus of this model is on the readiness of communities to broadly create, implement, and/or sustain a program as an informal group of community members.
- Useful for those interested in characterizing a community's placement along a spectrum.
- Very qualitative categorization, no specific “indicators” to help put communities into these categories but provides helpful strategies to improve readiness at each stage (Table A1).

Table A1. Stages of community readiness and strategies to improve readiness ([Edwards et al., 2002](#)).

Stage	Description	Strategies to Improve
No Awareness	The community does not recognize the issue as a problem.	• One-on-one visits or phone calls with community members • Visit existing groups to share information
Denial	Little or no recognition that the issue is a local problem or that something should be done about it, “it’s not our problem.”	• Discuss local examples related to the issue • Engage with local education on the topic
Vague Awareness	General feeling among the community that there is a local problem, but no motivation to do anything about it.	• Begin to host own events on the topic
Pre-Planning	Clear recognition that there is a local problem and something to be done about it. There may be leaders and/or a committee but lack of focus and details.	• Develop community leader support • Convene groups and discuss potential strategies
Preparation	Planning is occurring and focused on practical details.	• Use key community leaders to speak to specific groups • Develop strategies
Initiation	Enough information is available to justify efforts, and an action has been started but is still viewed as a new effort.	• Conduct trainings • Convene meetings to provide updates • Search for funding opportunities
Stabilization	One or more programs or activities are running and supported by decision-makers. Activities are viewed as stable and staff are trained and experienced.	• Plan community events to maintain support • Conduct trainings • Program evaluation
Confirmation/ Expansion	Standard efforts are in place and decision-makers support expanding efforts. Original efforts have been evaluated and modified and new efforts are being planned.	• Formalize with agreements • Conduct a community risk assessment
Professionalization	Detailed and sophisticated knowledge of prevalence, risk factors, and causes of the problem exists. Highly trained staff are running programs or activities, leaders are supportive, and there is high community involvement. Effective evaluation is being utilized.	• Diversify funding sources • Re-assess the issue and progress made • External evaluation and feedback • Track outcomes

Multiple Capacities, Multiple Outcomes: Delving Deeper Into the Meaning of Community Capacity – Beckley et al., [2008]

The authors of this framework discuss capacity in general and group assets required for capacity into human, social, economic, and natural capital assets.

- Human: e.g., knowledge, skills, education, income, gender
- Social: e.g., trust, relationships
- Economic: e.g., public organizational budgets, non-profit cash flow
- Natural: e.g., condition and productivity of land, air, water, recreation

Categorizing the Social Context of the Wildland Urban Interface: Adaptive Capacity for Wildfire and Community “Archetypes” – Paveglio et al., [2015]

- For communities that experience wildfire along a spectrum from urban to rural.
- Useful for identifying characteristics for communities to focus on to adapt to wildfire (Table A2).

Table A2. Adaptive capacity characteristics for each community archetype, adapted from [Paveglio et al., \(2015\)](#).

Example Adaptive Capacity Characteristic	Archetype: Formal suburban WUI communities	Archetype: High amenity, high resource WUI communities	Archetype: Rural lifestyle communities	Archetype: Working landscape/ resource dependent WUI communities
Local ability to reduce wildfire risk	Little to no local ability to reduce fuel loads	Less local ability to reduce fuel loads	Higher local ecological knowledge and ability to reduce fuels	Residents have higher local ecological knowledge/ability to reduce fuels
Communication networks	Mostly formal (e.g., programs, news, outreach)	Combination of formal and informal communication (e.g., social networks, friends)	Primarily informal with formal networks as a compliment	Predominantly informal, little to no formal networks
Personal responsibility for fire protection	Personal responsibility required through formal programs	Mixed opinions with leaders spearheading programs	Lack of professional capacity prompts grassroots efforts	Residents take primary responsibility due to lack of services
Collective action	Collective action centered on social issues (e.g., clubs, common areas); can include fire	Collective action centered around environmental management and fire	Collective action centered around rural challenges (e.g., road conditions, water use, fire)	Less collective action (mostly individual); agreement about resource use
Presence of local champions	Multiple champions representing professionals and locals	Multiple champions representing professionals and locals	Local resident Firewise “spark plugs” lead the charge	Local champions come primarily from nongovernmental organizations or agencies

Fire Adapted Communities Pathways Tool – [Schmidt et al., \[2022\]](#), [Paveglio et al., \[2024\]](#)

- This tool combines FACNet’s popular Fire Adapted Communities Framework (AKA the FAC Wheel) with the Community Archetypes framework of Paveglio et al., (2015).
- The audience for this tool is place-based groups or community organizations working on fire-related issues and is intended to help participants define what they mean by “community.”
- The tool provides information to adapt to wildfire by engaging combinations of practices appropriate to their community archetype.
- The tool provides a series of processes, choices, and engagement tactics designed to foster shared agreement about the best practices for wildfire adaptation across site-specific local conditions (Table A3).

Table A3. Strategies for wildfire adaptation based on community archetype, from the Fire Adapted Communities Pathways Tool ([Schmidt et al., 2022](#)).

Strategies for wildfire adaptation	Archetype: Formal suburban WUI communities	Archetype: High amenity, high resource WUI communities	Archetype: Rural lifestyle communities	Archetype: Working landscape/ resource dependent WUI communities
Prevention	Risk management workforce; Prevention education; Public safety power shutoffs	Prevention workforce; Remote wildfire sensing; Public safety power shutoffs	Ignition prevention; Support new residents; Public safety power shutoffs	Minimize equipment-related ignitions; Utility infrastructure support; Fire prevention planning
Regulations, Policy & Plans	Tiered protection plans; Codes, ordinances and land-use plans; Local-scale policy actions	Community Wildfire Protection Plans; Spatial fire planning; Codes and land use standards	Conservation easements; Community Wildfire Protection Plans; Spatial fire planning; Land use conversion	Conservation easements; Adapt Community Wildfire Protection Plans; Support working lands
Infrastructure & Business	Business continuity planning; Critical infrastructure hardening	Workforce housing; Wood utilization; Critical infrastructure protection	Business development; Resource utilization; Irrigation and utility protection	Workforce sustainability; Enhance self-sufficiency; Wood utilization and biomass options
Recovery	Short-term housing; Post-fire erosion and debris flow mitigation	Landscape rehabilitation; Long-term recovery planning	Long-term housing; Private land rehab and stabilization; Disaster case management	Support for agriculture and forestry; Long-term temporary housing; Suppression rehabilitation
Safety & Evacuation	Evacuation alert and warning system; Evacuation practice; Safety zones; Ingress/ egress	Evacuation communication planning; Ready, Set, Go!; Safety zones; Ingress/egress	Animal considerations; Alert and warning communications; Inform response options; Rehearse evacuation plans; Safety zones	Large animal considerations; Evacuation alternatives; Safety zones
Wildfire Response	Integrated structural and wildfire response; Local wildfire workforce; Mutual aid	Mutual aid; Catalog and prioritize values at risk	Develop local wildfire response capacity; Strategic fire use; Mutual aid	Rural fire protection associations; Volunteer fire departments; Mutual aid
Resident Mitigation	Structure hardening; Firewise USA; Chipping and debris disposal	Structure hardening; Firewise USA; Defensible space	Mitigation incentives; Structure hardening; Defensible space; Landowner skills	Mitigation incentives; Structure hardening; Landowner skills

Partnerships & Community Engagement	Interface with homeowner associations; Neighborhood ambassadors	Collaborative groups; Neighborhood ambassadors; Identify common ground	Community coordinators; Contribute to collaboratives; Foster community interactions	Be a good neighbor; Community-based partnerships
Landscape Treatments	Small-scale fuel reduction; Demonstration projects; Maintenance of neighborhood greenspace	Prescribed fire; Fuel breaks; Restoration	Workforce capacity; Community-based prescribed burning; Shared/cross-boundary treatment agreements	Cultural/traditional burning; Prescribed burn associations; Active land management
Public Health	Mental health services; Residential HEPA filters; Smoke communication	Social services; HEPA filtration programs; Smoke communication	Social vulnerability assessment; Diverse air filtration options; Smoke exposure education	Protection for outdoor workers; Smoke impacts to crops and livestock

Preparing Landscapes and Communities to Receive and Recover from Wildfire Through Collaborative Readiness – [Huayhuaca et al., \[2023\]](#)

The Stages of Collaborative Readiness framework is based on the idea that collaboratives create value in different ways as they develop, and the kinds and amounts of resources needed to sustain capacity change over time. The framework identifies developmentally appropriate benchmarks and outcomes of collaboration that can help multi-actor collaboratives (e.g., governance entities, coalitions, or networks) move within and between four nonlinear, iterative, and overlapping stages (Table A4).

Table A4. The Stages of Collaborative Readiness including helpful benchmarks ([Huayhuaca et al., 2023](#)).

Collaborative Readiness Stage	Critical Components	Benchmarks
Stage 1: Establish a community of partners around a shared vision	- Assess the situational context and identify key actors - Conduct outreach - Establish processes - Define the problem - Articulate zones of agreements - Forge shared intent and document commitment to work together	- Situation assessments, member lists, etc. - Indications that key partners have been identified - Critical paid positions filled - Written statements communicating shared understanding - Codes of conduct, process protocols - Written agreements (e.g., MOU, charter)
Stage 2: Translate vision into strategy	- Collaboratively utilize science-based risk assessment to formulate a strategy - Collaboratively develop outreach about the shared vision and goals - Co-develop best practices for cross-boundary treatment design and implementation - Co-develop a monitoring plan and adaptive management strategy	- Documented processes of collaborative assessment and planning - Collaboratively developed risk assessments - Collaboratively developed priority areas - Written communications plans - Collaboratively developed principles or standard operating procedures - Collaboratively developed monitoring and adaptive management plan - Considerations of policies such as NEPA

Stage 3: Translate strategy into action	• Coordinate implementation schedules • Build trust among partners • Share implementation resources through agreements • Secure and direct financial resources to support implementation and monitoring • Test out and refine monitoring and adaptive management plan	• Completed project(s) that are clearly connected to values and strategies • A fiscal agent or other mechanism to accept funds • Jointly developed and submitted funding applications • Agreements to share resources • Agreements for funding allocation • Monitoring reports
Stage 4: Scaling out and sustaining momentum	• Co-develop a 5+ year program of work with partners • Institutionalize expectations of collaborative practices • Diversify and leverage funding sources • Foster broader systemic readiness by working to address workforce, biomass utilization, etc. • Build support for collective work of the partners • Maintain accountability • Assess progress, learn, and adapt	• Portfolio of shovel-ready projects within the strategy • Collaboratively-developed NEPA • Agreed upon organizational model • Co-developed strategy and plans • Established budgeting process • Updated or revised recruitment strategies • Results or recommendations generated by collaborative performance evaluations • Collaboratively developed principles and strategies • Updated or revised governance or strategy documents • Documentation of ongoing co-learning processes • Sufficient staff or paid positions

Appendix B. Survey Questions

Goal: Develop a list of preliminary behaviors of interest, synthesize behaviors of interest before Workshop 1

1. Name
2. Organization
3. What specific behaviors of the public are you most interested in for the work that you do? (e.g., acceptance of fuel treatments on nearby land, fire response preparedness)
4. What communities do you work with the most in the Big Thompson Watershed? (work can include any type of work: education, outreach, CWPPs, fuel treatments, etc.).

Appendix C. Workshop Agendas

Workshop 1 (75 - 90 minutes): includes mapping exercise

Time	Agenda Item	Details
~ 20 minutes	Level set	• Overview of goals of workshop • Describe reasoning for process: why are we doing the activities we're doing? • Review key terms, e.g., what do we mean by "community readiness" in the context of these workshops • Overview of survey results, especially behavior categories
~ 5 minutes	Break into groups	3 main groups based on behavior they are most interested in - Accept and conduct treatment on their private land - Accept projects happening nearby - Engage in planning activities and collective behaviors to do risk reduction
~ 15 minutes	Participatory mapping	Sticker exercise: Big Thompson Watershed Map Exercise • Where have you done work with communities? (color blue) • Use a different color sticker to indicate 3 communities that you think are "ready" (color green) • Use red sticker for 1 community that you think is not "ready" • The desired outcome of this activity is to prime the group to think about examples of communities that they think are ready, to prep for the next segment that gets at WHY they think that.
~ 20 minutes	Develop preliminary indicators	• Describe why they think community is ready/not ready. What are the characteristics that make them ready or not? • Write reasons why and/or characteristics on flip charts
~ 15 minutes	Share out	• Share out main ideas from the small group brainstorm – what kind of characteristics are emerging as important?

Workshop 2 (60 minutes): includes discussion and handout

Time	Agenda Item	Details
~ 5 minutes	Recap of Workshop 1	• What shapes community readiness? • What indicators were discussed and kinds of behaviors?
~ 10 minutes	Synthesis recap	• How do partners at the BTWHP identify communities to work with? • Indicator synthesis: helpful for one behavior, for multiple behaviors, or require more context
~ 10 minutes	Feedback	• Does this synthesis resonate? • What are your thoughts thus far?
~ 5 minutes	Reflect	• Look through the handout and determine: ◦ Which indicators are most important to you? ◦ Which do you think are easiest to access? ◦ Which do YOU already have access to? ◦ Do the indicators feel accurate? ◦ Are there any indicators missing?
~ 30 minutes	Discussion	• Discuss the previous questions folks had time to think about on their own • Discuss the important role of community champions/ambassadors • Discuss next steps, ways forward, generate ideas



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