

Executive Summary

The County of Nevada (County) has developed this County-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP or Plan) for all incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County (Plan Area). This CWPP is an update to the County's existing 2016 CWPP. The Plan Area covers 623,213 acres and includes a diverse range of land uses, including residential, commercial, recreation, conservation, industrial, and agricultural land. Communities within the Plan Area are diverse and vary in size and character.

The Plan Area exhibits a complex wildfire environment that presents a significant risk to public and firefighter safety as well as the built and natural environment. The Plan Area is influenced by local wind and weather conditions, steep and varied terrain, and a complex mosaic of different vegetation types within proximity to developed areas and human activity. Given the significant variability in fire environment and community identity, the County was divided into four Forecast Zones for purposes of the analysis and planning in this CWPP (see Section 1.3). Analysis at the Forecast Zone level not only better captures fire weather influences and community characteristics but also better informs planning decisions related to wildfire management and community risk reduction.

This CWPP is a component of the County's Roadmap to Resilience, which includes the following three documents:

- A **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** that addresses all hazards County-wide, including wildfire.
- A **Land Management Plan (LMP)** that is specifically responsive to the CWPP recommendation that the CWPP put forward best-management practices. The LMP consists of a toolbox of regionally specific and technically vetted best practices for wildfire mitigation treatments that can be deployed at multiple scales. The document is both a component of the CWPP and a stand-alone plan.
- An **Evacuation Study** that identifies, assess, and tailors strategies for the five most evacuation-vulnerable areas in Nevada County, analyzes fire behavior and traffic dynamics for effective evacuation planning and provides recommendations for roadway improvements and wildfire mitigation projects to enhance evacuation route safety and capacity.

A **Wildfire Risk Assessment** was prepared concurrently to assess current conditions County-wide to set a baseline for wildfire risk and support the Roadmap to Resilience (Appendix B).

This CWPP identifies and prioritizes areas for wildfire risk reduction, addresses community preparedness and values, and recommends actions that individuals and communities can take to reduce structure ignitability. This CWPP incorporates the results of the Wildfire Risk Assessment, which included an assessment of wildfire hazard (burn probability and fire intensity) and wildfire risk (potential wildfire effects on highly valued resources) (see Section 3 and Appendix B).

The Nevada County CWPP development was approached with the primary beneficiary – the community – in mind. Outreach was an important component of the planning process to ensure that the community and interested parties were directly involved in the planning process. CWPP outreach included providing the public and interested parties with accurate and up-to-date information on CWPP development,

obtaining public involvement early in the CWPP development process through a survey and workshops, and by incorporating public and interested party input in the development of the CWPP. Multiple community meetings were held, and numerous tools were utilized to solicit community input during CWPP development (see Section 5 and Appendices C and D).

This CWPP includes Forecast Zone specific Action Plans that present recommended actions intended to reduce wildfire risk to communities in the Plan Area (see Sections 7-10). The Action Plans include recommendations for the development and implementation of specific wildfire risk reduction strategies. They also include numerous resources for the community to proactively reduce wildfire risk around their homes, on their properties, and in their communities. The Action Plans make recommendations focusing on the following wildfire risk reduction approaches:

- Structural Hardening
- Defensible Space
- Vegetation Management/Fuel Reduction
- Community Outreach and Education
- Evacuation
- Emergency Communication Alerts
- Post-Fire Recovery
- Funding Opportunities

The recommendations included in this CWPP are intended to achieve the stated goals of protecting lives, property, natural resources, and other community values threatened by wildfire while considering the diversity of communities in the Plan Area.

Acknowledgments

This publication is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, Cooperative Fire Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program, under the authority of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act. Nevada County is an equal opportunity provider.

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK