# **A black background with blue text  AI-generated content may be incorrect.Community Post-Fire Recovery Assets & Gaps Assessment Template**

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# **National Recovery Frameworks: *Understanding Wildfire Recovery***

# Recovery from wildfire is a complex and evolving process that requires coordinated community efforts, strategic planning, and a clear understanding of community capacity. Effective recovery frameworks help communities navigate this process by emphasizing inclusivity, collaboration, and long-term resilience. **The Community Wildfire Recovery Integration Guide** offers structured approaches to addressing recovery needs, emphasizing inclusivity, collaboration, and long-term resilience. By framing recovery within social, economic, infrastructure, environmental, and organizational domains, these frameworks emphasize the importance of collaborative efforts, resource identification, and addressing gaps to build long-term resilience. This Assets & Gaps Assessment Template is meant to help planning teams and partners:

* Identify specific recovery actions for your plans
* Prioritize actions in collaboration with stakeholders
* Develop inclusive, equitable, and comprehensive post-fire recovery action plan and strategies

This template aligns with two key recovery frameworks:

1. **Fire Adapted Communities Network’s Post-Fire Recovery Framework**
2. **FEMA’s National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)**

The Community Wildfire Recovery Assets and Gaps Assessment Template applies these frameworks to systematically evaluate community strengths and areas for improvement in wildfire recovery planning. It helps stakeholders identify and prioritize recovery actions that align with community values and challenges while integrating them into broader planning efforts, such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) or All Hazard Mitigation Plans (AHMP/HMPs). Some of the resources or assets that you may identify in this assessment might be dependent on receiving a Disaster Declaration status to receive support services. Your community leaders and planners must understand the pathways necessary to receive a disaster declaration and leverage disaster assistance. Additionally, community leaders, planners, and partners should develop backup plans to access and receive resources for recovery needs if a disaster declaration is not achievable.

How to Use This Template:

This template offers a structured approach to community wildfire recovery planning, helping you systematically assess, facilitate conversations, and prioritize actions to establish critical recovery needs. Here are a few suggestions and tips on how this template can be used to help facilitate conversations in your community and inform your CWPP or AHMP/HMP action plans.

* + 1. **Select a Recovery Topic**: Review the recovery topics provided. Choose areas most relevant to your community’s immediate needs and long-term goals.
* Utilize the [Community Wildfire Recovery Integration Guide](https://washingtonrcd.org/community-wildfire-protection-planning-cwpp/#Tools) to explore these Recovery Support Functions more.
* You should focus on urgent priorities first or those with the greatest potential for long-term community benefit.
	+ 1. **Engage Partners by Topic:** Build a network of stakeholders for each topic. Use the [Potential Partner List](https://washingtonrcd.org/community-wildfire-protection-planning-cwpp/#Tools) to begin and start a foundation. As you build this network use the Recovery Planning and Preparedness Partners Template included in this document to keep track of all parts of the planning team.

**Considerations:** Not all suggested partners may be present in your community locally. Your community may have additional potential partners not listed.

* + 1. **Conduct an Assessment:** For each element, there is a list of recommended considerations to help you determine the assets (existing accessible capabilities) and gaps (areas needing development and unmet needs) needed to support recovery efforts in your community. Use this template to document your findings. This is intended to be used to inform pre-fire recovery actions to integrate into your community plans like CWPPs and AHMPs/HMPs.
			- * **Assets.** Collaborate with partners to:

(1) Identify current actions and resources in your community.

(2) Determine what is needed to sustain existing recovery activities.

(3) Assess what is needed to strengthen current recovery functions.

(4) Note strengths and successful approaches.

(5) Identify which recommended actions into the CWPP or AHMP/HMP.

* + - * + **Gaps.** Collaborate with partners to:

(1) Determine missing actions or activities.

(2) Assess the need for new initiatives, resource requirements, and capacity building strategies.

(3) Evaluate the potential impact and priority of addressing each gap.

* + 1. **Integrate Recovery Actions or Activities into the CWPP or AHMP/HMP.** Work with partners and use the information in the asset and gaps assessment to inform which to incorporate into the CWPP or All Hazard Mitigation Plan.

# TIPS for Effective Use

* **Develop a plan and strategy for working through this assessment** without feeling pressured to finish all sections simultaneously. The CWPP planning team may prioritize specific recovery topics during the planning process. Consider focusing on the most critical recovery issues for your community or establishing subcommittees to address different sections, with a review by a broader CWPP stakeholder group.
* **Collaborate Early.** Initiate stakeholder involvement early to build consensus and gain diverse insights.
* **Capture Insights** from stakeholder discussions, key data findings, and local expertise. This information can help in developing targeted funding requests, creating strategic outreach and engagement approaches, informing local and state policy decisions (including resource allocations), and identifying and coordinating partnership opportunities.
* **Customize for Community Needs.** Adapt recommendations and priorities to reflect your communities’ unique strengths, challenges, and strategic goals.
* **Integrate Mitigation Strategies.** Align recovery efforts with pre-fire mitigation interventions to reduce future wildfire risks.

**Example Use of Assets & Gaps Template:**

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| **Example Community: Recovery Assets & Gaps Assessment** |
| **Desired Future State** | **Recovery Assets** | **Recovery Gaps** | **Actions Needed for Increased Recovery Capacity** | **Priority Level** | **Resources Needed**  | **Notes for Incorporating Recovery Actions into Wildfire Plans** |
| **Recovery Support Function: *Health & Social Services Recovery Functions*** |
| **Example Consideration:** Social and Mental Health Services |
| *Community Members have access to counseling services, support groups, and resources to address wildfire-related trauma and support their individual recovery.* | *Social and mental health services, such as \_\_\_\_\_, are available in X, Y, and Z towns.* | *- Partnerships do not exist with social and mental health service organizations.**- A centralized summary of organizations and services does not exist.**- Many community members do not have access to or know about social and mental health service organizations.* | *- Identify partners who can provide social and mental health services.**- Determine the types of services available and develop a resource guide.**- Develop an outreach strategy and process for ensuring community members have access to services.* | *High priority for vulnerable populations, emergency responders, those supporting recovery, and non-English speakers.* | *- Funding: to conduct partner outreach, develop and translate resource guide, and work with partners to develop and implement an outreach strategy**- Technical assistance: translation; design, formatting, and layout of guide; update the website with guide**- Consultant: Develop outreach materials* | *- Incorporate action items into the County All Hazard Mitigation Plan**- Reference in local CWPPs.* |

**Example use of Communities Recovery Planning and Preparedness Partners Template:**

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| **Example Community: Recovery Planning and Preparedness Partners** |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Organization** | **Contact** | **Area of interest** |
| John Doe | County Emergency Manager | County EM Department | JDoe@cc.em.gov(206)399-6573 | Emergency Management Functions |
| Jessie Deer | Wildfire and Resilience Coordinator | County Conservation District | DeerJess@ccd.org(360)780-9900 | Natural & Cultural Resource Recovery Functions |
| Barbie Ken | Disaster Case Lead and Recovery Expert | Local Long-Term Recovery Group | Ken.Barb@sltrg.org(264)654-2378 | Community Planning & Capacity Building Functions |

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| **(Your Community/County Name): Recovery Planning and Preparedness Partners** |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Organization** | **Contact** | **Area of interest** |
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| **(Your Community/County Name): Recovery Assets & Gaps Assessment** |
| **Desired Future State** | **Recovery Assets** | **Recovery Gaps** | **Actions Needed for Increased Recovery Capacity** | **Priority Level** | **Resources Needed to Accomplish Actions** | **Notes for Incorporating Recovery Actions into Wildfire Plans** |
| **Community Planning & Capacity Building Functions** |
| **Recommended Considerations:** Strengthen local leadership, planning, and governance for disaster recovery to help communities develop post-fire recovery plans, integrate mitigation efforts, and access federal funding. Ensure and support cross-agency coordination to streamline recovery operations. |
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| **Desired Future State** | **Recovery Assets** | **Recovery Gaps** | **Actions Needed**  | **Priority Level** | **Resources Needed**  | **Notes for Incorporation** |
| **Economic Recovery Functions** |
| **Recommended Considerations:** Establish protocols and networks to assist businesses, workers, and local economies in wildfire-affected areas by providing financial aid, technical assistance, and business continuity resources; Help communities create recovery-friendly economic policies and attract new investments. |
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| **Desired Future State** | **Recovery Assets** | **Recovery Gaps** | **Actions Needed**  | **Priority Level** | **Resources Needed**  | **Notes for Incorporation** |
| **Health & Social Services Functions** |
| **Recommended Considerations:** Develop networks and protocols to support public health, social services, and mental health resources after a wildfire. This includes emergency medical services, supplies, mental health counseling, and disaster case management. Establish networks and plans to provide resources for trauma recovery, substance abuse prevention, and vulnerable populations. |
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| **Housing Functions** |
| **Recommended Considerations:** Develop networks and plans to provide temporary and long-term housing solutions for wildfire survivors by supporting disaster housing programs, rebuilding grants, and providing affordability assistance. Work with local governments to ensure equitable housing recovery. |
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| **Infrastructure Systems Functions** |
| **Recommended Considerations:** Establish protocols and networks to repair and upgrade critical infrastructure damaged by wildfire. This includes road reconstruction, power grid restoration, water supply repairs, and transportation network stabilization, along with identifying and supporting funding for resilient infrastructure improvements. |
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| **Desired Future State** | **Recovery Assets** | **Recovery Gaps** | **Actions Needed**  | **Priority Level** | **Resources Needed**  | **Notes for Incorporation** |
| **Natural & Cultural Resource Functions** |
| **Recommended Considerations:** Establish protocols to protect and restore wildfire-affected ecosystems, cultural sites, and historic landmarks. Provide funding for conservation projects, erosion control, and habitat restoration. Ensure historic and culturally significant areas are preserved and integrated into recovery planning. |
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| **Agriculture Functions** |
| **Recommended Considerations:** Support post-fire recovery for farms, ranchers, and rural industries. This includes livestock relocation, fencing replacement, irrigation restoration, stock feeding supply for animals, and farmland rehabilitation. Identify and ensure financial aid and disaster assistance programs are available for impacted agricultural producers. |
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| **Desired Future State** | **Recovery Assets** | **Recovery Gaps** | **Actions Needed**  | **Priority Level** | **Resources Needed**  | **Notes for Incorporation** |
| **Landscape Functions** |
| **Recommended Considerations:** Establish protocols for ecological restoration of burned landscapes, including forests, watersheds, and habitats. This includes erosion control, revegetation, habitat restoration, and invasive species management.  |
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