



**Rebuilding Stronger:**  
*A Guide for Integrating Recovery  
Preparedness into Community Wildfire  
Protection Plans*



WASHINGTON  
RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION &  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



**CWPP Post-Fire Recovery Planning Toolkit**



## Table of Contents

<b>1. Acknowledgments</b>	Pg. 3
<b>2. Wildfire Recovery Preparedness</b>	Pg. 3
<b>3. Community Recovery Frameworks</b>	Pg. 4-8
• Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network's Post-Fire Recovery Framework	Pg. 4-6
• FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework	Pg. 6-7
• Applying These Frameworks to Action Plans	Pg. 8
<b>4. From Risk to Readiness: A Guide for Community Stakeholders</b>	Pg. 8
<b>5. Stakeholders' Roles in Recovery Preparedness</b>	Pg. 9
<b>6. How to Integrate Recovery Preparedness</b>	Pg. 10-11



## Acknowledgments

This resource was developed with the support of the **Watershed Center**, whose funding and guidance made this project possible. Additionally, we recognize the **Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group** for their partnership and valuable insights, which contributed greatly to the creation of this document.

**Thanks to our amazing funders and partners!**



## Wildfire Recovery Preparedness

Wildfire recovery preparedness is a cornerstone of building resilient communities. By proactively integrating post-fire recovery preparedness considerations into Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs), and All-Hazard Mitigation Plans (AHMPs), communities can prepare for disaster before it strikes. This approach strengthens partnerships, secures essential resources, and clearly defines roles and responsibilities, leading to efficient and effective recovery efforts.

This guide is designed for community stakeholders and planning partners involved in CWPP development or updates. It provides a structured approach to integrating wildfire recovery strategies by identifying key elements, engaging relevant stakeholders, and outlining actionable steps.



## Recovery Frameworks

Wildfire recovery is a complex and multi-phase process that requires a structured approach to rebuilding communities, restoring landscapes, and strengthening resilience. Two widely recognized recovery frameworks help guide post-fire recovery planning:

1. **Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network's (FACNet's) Post-Fire Recovery Framework<sup>1</sup>**
2. **FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)<sup>2</sup>**

These frameworks provide guidance, coordination strategies, and best practices to help communities navigate post-fire recovery effectively. Integrating them into CWPPs and/or HMPs/AHMPs can improve recovery preparedness and long-term wildfire resilience.

### *Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network's (FACNet's) Post-Fire Recovery Framework*

FACNet's Post-Fire Recovery Framework provides a visual tool and structured guidance for communities navigating wildfire recovery. This framework emphasizes a holistic approach to post-fire recovery, integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations. It outlines eight key elements of post-fire recovery, each representing a critical area of action.



**Figure 1:** Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FACNET), Post-Fire Recovery Framework Wheel (2024), <https://fireadaptednetwork.org>.

<sup>1</sup> Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, Post-Fire Recovery Framework (2024), accessed March 2025, <https://fireadaptednetwork.org>.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), *National Disaster Recovery Framework* (2024), accessed January 2025, <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/recovery>.



## *Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network's (FACNet's) Post-Fire Recovery Framework Cont.*

FACNet's key elements of post-fire recovery include:

- 1. Emergency Management** - Immediate response efforts, coordination, and transition planning from emergency response to long-term recovery.
  - Ensure clear leadership, communication systems, and operational support are in place.
  - Potentially includes actions involving Incident Management Team (IMT) coordination, emergency operations planning, and transitioning responsibilities to recovery teams.
- 2. Risk Assessment** - The process of evaluating post-fire hazards such as flooding, debris flows, and soil instability.
  - Identify threats to infrastructure, drinking water, and public safety.
  - Potentially uses tools such as Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) assessments, geospatial mapping, and erosion models.
- 3. Life Safety** - Addressing public safety risks and implementing hazard mitigation measures.
  - Support emergency communications and public outreach.
  - Potentially includes actions involving hazard tree removal, flood prevention, and early warning systems for post-fire hazards, such as debris flows.
- 4. Infrastructure** - Rebuilding and restoring essential community systems damaged by wildfire.
  - Work with municipal agencies and utility providers to accelerate recovery.
  - Potentially includes actions involving road repairs, water system restoration, energy grid stabilization, and broadband infrastructure rebuilding.
- 5. Landscape** - Ecological restoration of burned landscapes, including forests, watersheds, and habitats.
  - Support natural recovery through science-driven post-fire land management practices.
  - Potentially includes actions involving erosion control, revegetation, habitat restoration, and invasive species management.
- 6. Community** - Addressing housing, economic stability, and public health needs.
  - Focus on community engagement, economic revitalization, and social well-being.
  - Potentially includes actions involving temporary housing, rebuilding assistance, mental health support, and local business recovery.



## *Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network's (FACNet's) Post-Fire Recovery Framework Cont.*

### **7. Agriculture** - Supporting post-fire recovery for farms, ranchers, and rural industries.

- Provide financial aid and disaster assistance programs for impacted agricultural producers.
- Includes livestock relocation, fencing replacement, irrigation restoration, and farmland rehabilitation.

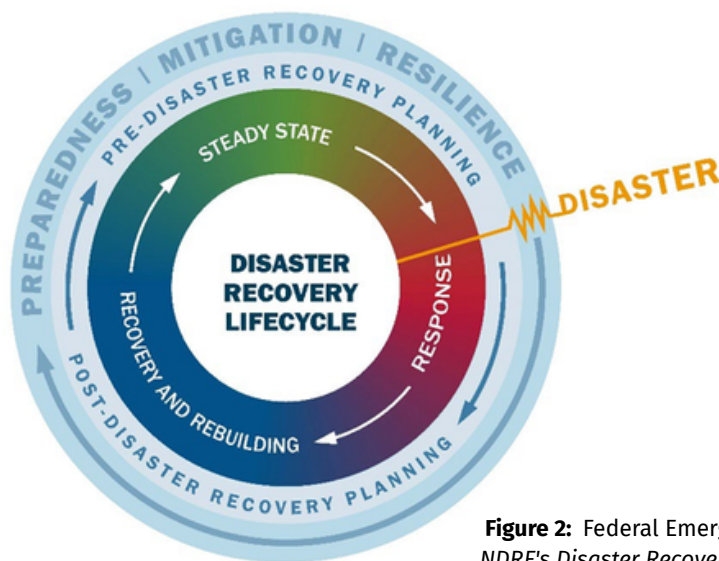
### **8. Monitoring & Evaluation** - Tracking recovery progress, assessing policy effectiveness, and adapting recovery plans over time.

- Help ensure that lessons learned improve future wildfire resilience.
- Potentially includes actions involving data collection, performance monitoring, and reporting on recovery outcomes.

## *FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework*

FEMA's NDRF provides structured guidance for disaster recovery, recognizing recovery as an overlapping, adaptive process. The NDRF is widely used by federal, state, and local agencies to coordinate recovery efforts after disasters. The framework aligns well with wildfire recovery by offering policy guidance, potential funding pathways, and best practices to support long-term resilience. It organizes resources and technical assistance through six Recovery Support Functions (RSFs). By leveraging the NDRF framework within CWPPs, communities can:

- Align post-fire recovery actions with broader wildfire mitigation planning.
- Improve access to state and federal funding opportunities for recovery and resilience projects.
- Strengthen coordination between emergency services and land managers to enhance preparedness.



**Figure 2:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), NDRF's Disaster Recovery Lifecycle, 2024, <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/recovery>.





## *FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework Cont.*

These Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) include:

- 1. Community Planning & Capacity Building (CPCB)** - Strengthening local leadership, planning, and governance for disaster recovery.
  - Supports cross-agency coordination to streamline recovery operations.
  - Help communities develop post-fire recovery plans, integrate mitigation efforts, and access federal funding.
- 2. Economic Recovery** - Assisting businesses, workers, and local economies in wildfire-affected areas.
  - Help communities create recovery-friendly economic policies and attract new investments.
  - Potentially provides financial aid, technical assistance, and business continuity resources.
- 3. Health & Social Services** - Supporting public health, social services, and mental health resources after a wildfire.
  - Develop a network of resources to support trauma recovery, substance abuse prevention, and vulnerable populations.
  - Potentially includes actions to provide and support emergency medical services, mental health counseling, and disaster case management.
- 4. Housing** - Providing temporary and long-term housing solutions for wildfire survivors.
  - Work with local governments to ensure equitable housing recovery.
  - Potentially includes actions to support disaster housing programs, rebuilding grants, and affordability assistance.
- 5. Infrastructure Systems** - Repairing and upgrading critical infrastructure damaged by wildfire.
  - Identify and support funding for resilient infrastructure improvements.
  - Potentially includes actions to support road reconstruction, power grid restoration, water supply repairs, and transportation network stabilization.
- 6. Natural & Cultural Resources** - Protecting and restoring wildfire-affected ecosystems, cultural sites, and historic landmarks.
  - Identify and support funding for conservation projects, erosion control, and habitat restoration.
  - With intent to ensure that historic and culturally significant areas are preserved and integrated into CWPP, HMP/AHMP, and recovery planning.



### *Applying These Frameworks to Action Plans*

By integrating elements from both FACNet's Post-Fire Recovery Framework and FEMA's NDRF, communities can ensure their CWPPs and other relevant plans can align recovery actions with wildfire mitigation, funding opportunities, and cross-sector collaboration, ultimately strengthening long-term resilience to wildfires. When updating or developing a CWPP and/or HMP/AHMP, communities should use these frameworks to assess gaps and assets, prioritize recovery actions, and establish coordination mechanisms to enhance post-fire recovery efforts. This guide utilizes both frameworks to inform the content of the recommendations, considerations, and potential partners to engage during the planning processes.

## **From Risk to Readiness: A Guide for CWPP Stakeholders**

Recovery planning involves assessing risks, evaluating community capacity, identifying gaps, and prioritizing actions to address immediate needs while building long-term resilience. Integrating recovery considerations into CWPPs and/or HMPs/AHMPs enables a proactive approach, enhancing eligibility for funding and resources.

This guide supports community stakeholders and planning partners in:

- Identifying wildfire risks and potential impacts.
- Incorporating cultural, social, economic, and environmental values at risk.
- Assessing capacity, funding, partnerships, and workforce needs.
- Enhancing understanding of community recovery needs.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Collaborate with partners to identify post-fire recovery actions.
- Integrate these actions into CWPP and/or HMP/AHMP plans.
- If separate, formally adopt the CWPP into the county plan to align efforts and improve access to funding.





## Stakeholder Roles in Recovery Preparedness

A well-coordinated recovery process depends on the engagement of diverse stakeholders, each playing a unique role in post-fire recovery preparedness. The NDRF's Community-Driven Recovery Model outlines a structured approach that identifies key stakeholders and their responsibilities across six RSFs. The Community Driven Recovery Model emphasizes the interconnected nature of recovery efforts, requiring alignment between governmental agencies, private entities, and local communities (See figure 3 below). This approach ensures that wildfire recovery efforts are inclusive, adaptive, and sustainable over time. Understanding these roles helps communities establish clear expectations and improve collaboration for an effective recovery process.

For example:

- **Local & Tribal Governments:** Lead community-driven recovery efforts by integrating wildfire recovery into land use planning, hazard mitigation strategies, and economic revitalization plans.
- **State & Federal Agencies:** Provide technical assistance, financial resources, and policy support through agencies such as FEMA, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- **Nonprofit & Volunteer Organizations:** Facilitate community outreach, coordinate donations, and provide direct aid to impacted individuals and businesses.
- **Private Sector & Utilities:** Restore critical infrastructure, support economic stabilization, and contribute expertise in rebuilding efforts.
- **Community Members & Civic Organizations:** Advocate for equitable recovery, participate in public meetings, and help shape long-term resilience strategies.



Figure 3: FEMA's NDRF Community-Driven Recovery Model (2024).



## How to Integrate Recovery Preparedness into Wildfire Planning:

Wildfire recovery is a critical—but often overlooked—component of community wildfire resilience. Proactively planning for post-fire recovery can reduce long-term harm, improve coordination, and help communities rebound more quickly and equitably after a wildfire event.

This section provides a step-by-step approach to integrating recovery preparedness into your Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) or other local hazard mitigation efforts. It outlines how to explore key recovery themes, assess your community's recovery readiness, identify relevant actions, and embed recovery into formal planning processes.



Use this guide in combination with the rest of the **CWPP Post-Fire Recovery Planning Toolkit** resources. Together these tools support a scalable and repeatable process for building lasting recovery capacity as part of your wildfire planning strategy.

- **Recommended Recovery Integration Actions & Considerations**
- **Post-Fire Recovery Partner List**
- **Community Recovery Assets & Gaps Assessment Template**



## Step 1. Understand Recovery Planning Themes

Begin by exploring the recovery topic areas in the national recovery frameworks presented in this guide - including Planning & Preparedness, Emergency Management, Infrastructure, Community Capacity Building, and more. These themes serve as the foundation for identifying your community's recovery needs and opportunities; use them to guide internal discussions and planning efforts.

**Tips:** Focus first on the themes most relevant to your local risk profile, community values, and planning context. Customize and adapt recommendations to reflect local needs, challenges, and strengths. Prioritize topics based on immediate community vulnerabilities, long-term recovery goals, and integration opportunities with existing CWPPs or HMPs.

## Step 2. Build Your Recovery Network

Collaborative planning is key to long-term capacity, it builds both pre-fire capacity and post-fire coordination. To ensure effective wildfire recovery planning, you must coordinate input and action across multiple sectors. You should engage a diverse array of community leaders, planners, and partners for each recovery function or element. Use the **Post-Fire Recovery Partner List** to identify and engage the agencies, organizations, and individuals who should be part of your recovery planning process. Use the partner network tracker within the **Recovery Assets & Gaps Assessment Template** to keep track of your post-fire recovery planning network as you coordinate efforts. This tracking should highlight agencies, organizations, and community partners who can contribute to recovery planning and implementation. Use these partnership lists to:

- Identify partners within your community who can provide expertise, funding, or logistical support.
- Facilitate cross-sector collaboration for more effective recovery planning.
- Strengthen existing networks and establish new partnerships for long-term resilience.

**Tips:** Early and sustained engagement leads to stronger, more representative plans and more effective recovery outcomes. Begin engagement early, track who is involved, and develop routine follow-up mechanisms post-implementation.



### **Step 3. Assess Community Recovery Capabilities**

Evaluate your community's current recovery capacity and identify areas that need improvement or support. By identifying areas of improvement, you can define action items to include in your community wildfire plans. Use the **Recovery Assets & Gaps Assessment Template** to evaluate your community's current recovery-related resources, relationships, and systems. This assessment helps you:

- Identify what systems and partnerships are already in place to support post-fire recovery.
- Uncover critical gaps that could slow or complicate recovery efforts.
- Understand where additional planning, coordination, or investment is needed.

**Tips:** Involve multiple stakeholders in the assessment process to build shared understanding and buy-in. Document and track recovery preparedness by using monitoring and evaluation tools to assess recovery gaps and update plans as needed.

### **Step 4. Identify Relevant Recovery Preparedness Actions**

Connect with partners to identify possible recovery preparedness actions that are relevant to your community needs and risks. Refer to the **List of Recommended Recovery Integration Actions & Considerations** to explore possible planning actions, policy updates, and implementation strategies under each recovery theme. This resource provides a menu of ideas that can be adapted to local conditions and informed by the results of your assessment. The considerations included in the list offer targeted action items to help communities:

- Understand existing wildfire preparedness and recovery capabilities.
- Identify critical gaps in resources, policies, or infrastructure.
- Develop strategies to address unmet recovery needs.

**Tip:** Use both the **Recommended Recovery Actions & Considerations** list and the **Recovery Assets & Gaps Assessment Template** together to prioritize actions that reflect your community's most pressing needs, risks, and capacity gaps.



### **Step 5. Integrate Recovery Actions into Your CWPP**

Once you've identified priority actions, collaborate with stakeholders to incorporate them into your CWPP. Translate selected recovery actions into clear goals, objectives, and strategies within your CWPP. Ensure alignment between wildfire mitigation, emergency response, and long-term recovery efforts to create a seamless and effective approach. Integration ensures that recovery is not an afterthought but a coordinated component of your community's wildfire resilience approach.

**Tip:** Consider linking recovery actions with existing mitigation efforts, emergency plans, and long-term resilience goals to maximize impact and funding opportunities.

### **Step 6. Revisit and Evolve Your Recovery Preparedness Planning**

Recovery planning, like all other planning efforts, is not a static process. Regularly revisit your assessments, partner networks, and integrated actions as your community's risks, resources, and recovery knowledge evolve. This iterative approach ensures your plans remain relevant, actionable, and community-driven over time.

**Tip:** Use this **CWPP Post-Fire Recovery Planning Toolkit** as a standing reference during CWPP updates, post-fire reviews, or when new planning opportunities arise.

By following this approach, communities can ensure their CWPPs include a comprehensive and proactive wildfire recovery strategy, strengthening resilience and preparedness for future wildfire events.