



ERATH COUNTY

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Working Group Meeting No. 1

July 21, 2026

Meeting purpose:

Provide a shared starting point for discussing wildfire risk, local priorities, implementation funding opportunities, and the role of the Working Group as the Erath County CWPP is developed.

What this packet supports:

- Confirm Working Group expectations and representation
- Ground discussion in the CWPP process and current meeting action items
- Identify local risk concerns, fire response needs, and public outreach priorities
- Begin shaping potential mitigation projects that could support a multi-county CWDG application

Key Idea:

A CWPP is most useful when it reflects local knowledge, practical constraints, and the wildfire preparedness needs of the community it serves.

Meeting Focus & Action Items

Why we are here

American Conservation Foundation (ACF), is a Texas-based non-profit **committed** to the conservation, sustainable management, and protection of natural and community resources. ACF has **entered into a Memorandum of Agreement** with Erath County to develop a CWPP and prepare for the next CWDG implementation funding cycle. The first Working Group meeting should clarify local priorities, needed data, project ideas, and outreach steps.

Primary discussion points

1 Public Engagement

How to reach residents, landowners, municipalities, and rural communities

2 Fire Response Capabilities

What resources, gaps, response constraints, and coordination needs exist.

3 Risk Assessments

What local data and lived experience should inform risk mapping and priorities.

4 Mitigation Action Plan

Which projects are practical, fundable, and locally supported.

5 CWDG FY26 Application

How the CWPP can support implementation funding requests.

Meeting action items

- Identify fire response capabilities and gaps
- Brainstorm possible implementation projects
- Finalize Working Group meeting dates
- Confirm public outreach approach and public meeting needs

What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?

A shared foundation for local wildfire preparedness.

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a locally driven planning document that helps a county or community identify wildfire risk, set mitigation priorities, and guide practical actions before a wildfire occurs. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 encourages communities to develop CWPPs to reduce wildland fire risk and support healthier ecosystems.

For Erath County, the CWPP will also help position local partners for implementation funding by defining projects that are clearly linked to risk, community values, and locally supported mitigation needs.



Understand Risk

Identify wildfire hazards, vulnerable areas, and values at risk.



Set Priorities

Focus attention on the locations and actions with the greatest local benefit.



Support Action

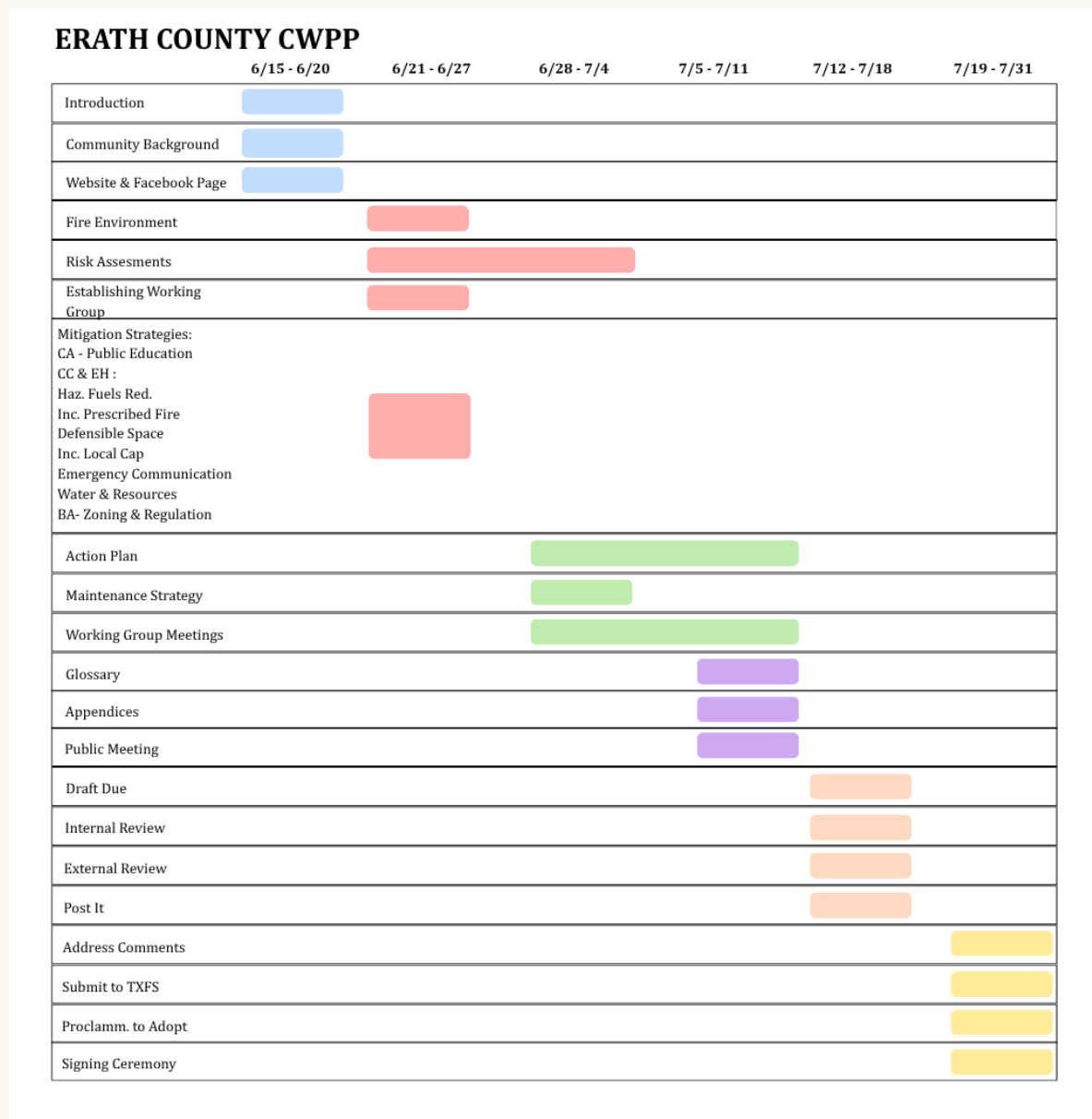
Create a practical roadmap for projects, outreach, coordination, and funding.

Why this matters in Erath County

- Rural communities, ranches, agricultural lands, grasslands, oak woodlands, brushy areas, and wooded drainages can influence wildfire behavior.
- Rapid residential growth is expanding the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), increasing wildfire risk to homes and communities
- Scattered homes, barns, fences, equipment, roads, gates, and water sources can affect evacuation, response, and recovery.
- The CWPP is still in development; Working Group input will help make it locally relevant and actionable.

CWPP Development Roadmap

Clear milestones from kickoff to final consideration.



Working Group Role & Representation

Local knowledge is the backbone of the CWPP.

The Working Group brings together local leaders, emergency responders, landowners, and planning partners to guide plan development, share local knowledge, identify wildfire concerns, and support community-based recommendations.

Who should be represented?

County & city officials

Policy, local priorities, public communication

Volunteer fire departments

Response capabilities, access issues, local fire history

Emergency management

Preparedness, evacuation, communications

Texas A&M Forest Service

Technical guidance and CWPP review expectations

Landowners & ag producers

Ranch roads, gates, livestock, fuels, values at risk

Other partners

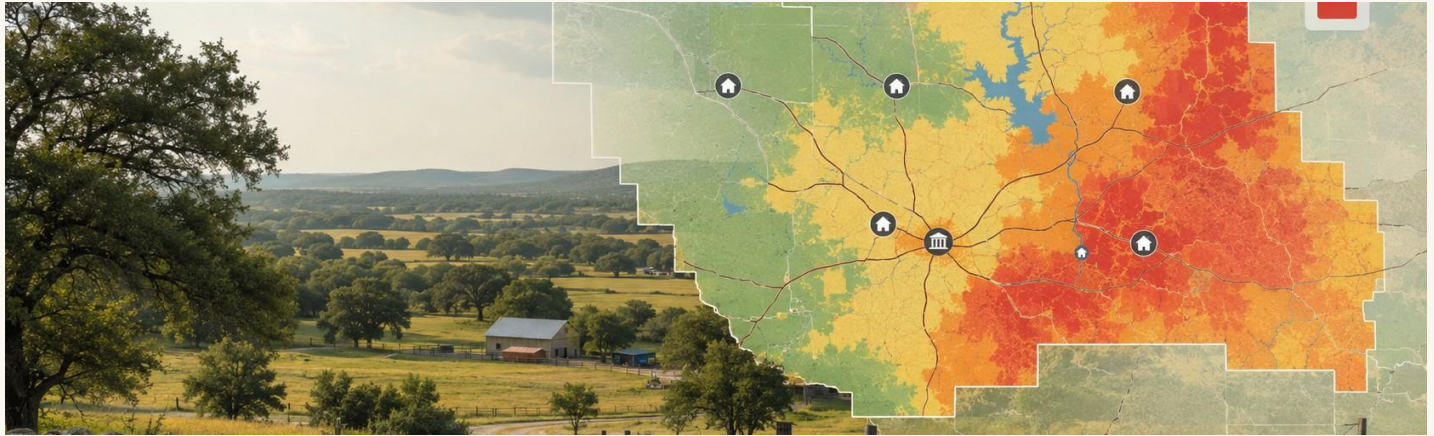
Utilities, schools, water providers, regional planning

What we need from the Working Group

Confirm who is missing, what local knowledge should be added, and which project ideas should be explored for the action plan and future funding application.

Risk Assessment: What Information Do We Need?

Connecting mapped hazards with local experience.



Wildfire risk assessment blends data + local knowledge.



Hazards & fuels

- Vegetation/fuel types
- Slope and exposure
- Fire history and ignition patterns
- Drought and weather context



Values at risk

- Homes and subdivisions
- Ranches, barns, livestock areas
- Critical facilities and water sources
- Natural and cultural resources



Response considerations

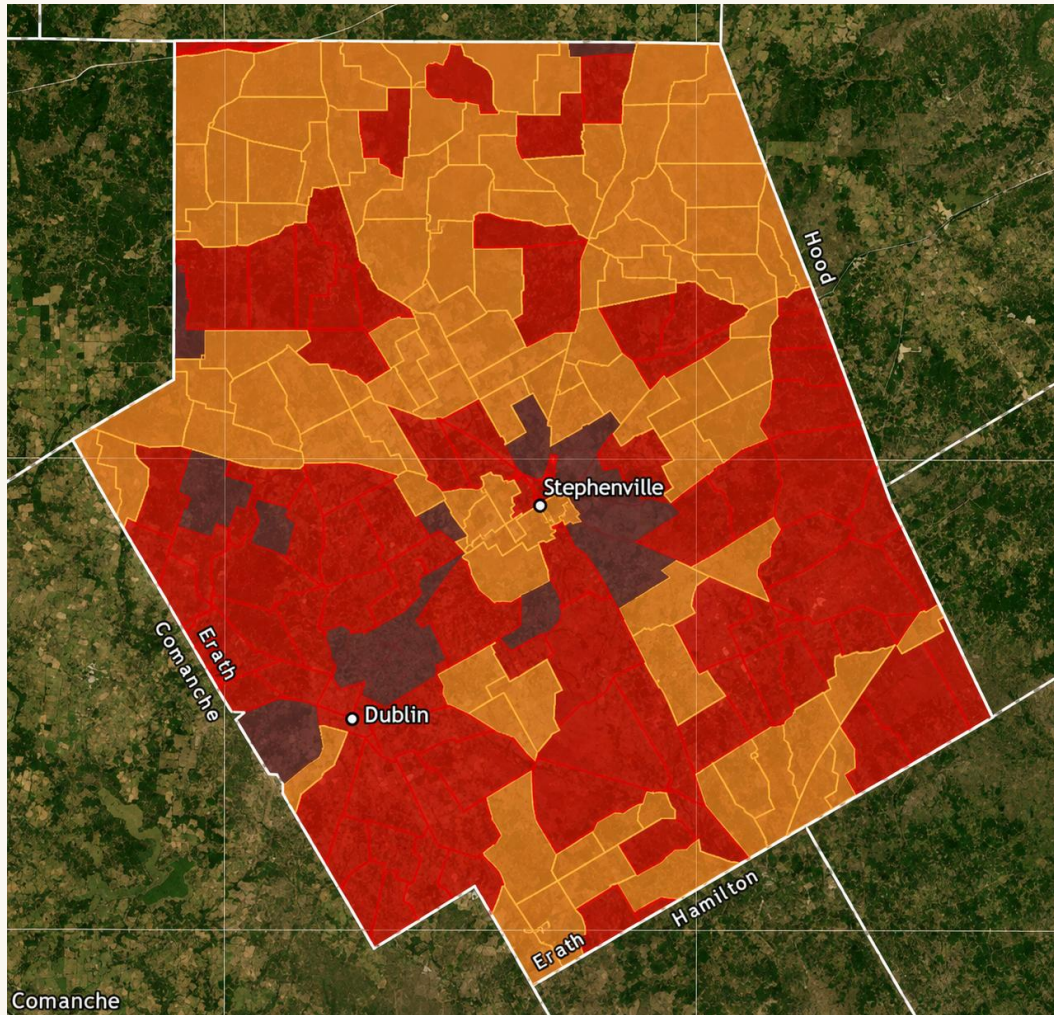
- Roads and gates
- Evacuation constraints
- Water supply and access
- Department coverage and mutual aid

Working Group prompts

- Where have recent fires, near misses, or repeated ignition concerns occurred?
- Which roads, gates, bridges, or long driveways could slow response or evacuation?
- What community assets should be prioritized in the risk assessment?

Erath County Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are conducted in the TXWRAP Portal to identify risks and inform wildlife mitigation planning.



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
|  High
Total Hazard Rating Score |  Low
Suppression Rating Score |
|  High
Surrounding Environment Rating Score |  Moderate
Structures Rating Score |



All assessments are completed within the TXWRAP Portal.

Data-driven insights help communities prioritize mitigation strategies and improve overall resilience.



Location
Lat/Long & Community



Community Size
63.22 acres



Homes
20



Structure Type
Fixed



Fire Protection District
Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department



Assessment Date
05/27/2026



Assessed By
Casey Childers

Assessment Details Include:

Hazardous Fuels & Mitigation Project Menu

Examples to discuss and refine for Erath County.

*The Working Group does not need to finalize projects today. The goal is to identify promising ideas that are realistic, locally supported, and suitable for future CWPP implementation funding.



Defensible space

Reduce fuels around homes, barns, businesses, and community facilities.



Fuel breaks & fire breaks

Create or maintain strategic breaks around communities and priority assets.



Road ROW fuel reduction

Reduce roadside fuels along evacuation routes and responder access corridors.



Chipping, cutting & mulching

Remove standing woody vegetation through cutting, piling, chipping, or mulching.



Prescribed fire & training

Use prescribed fire and training where appropriate and supported



Water access improvements

Evaluate dry hydrants, cisterns, and water supply needs for response.

Eligible project categories to consider

- Vegetation management
- Fuel breaks
- Prescribed fire training
- Equipment such as chippers, brush mowers, hand tools, chainsaws, and portable fire hoses designed for fighting forest and brush fires
- Planning support
- Wildfire prevention and education
- Property inspections/assessments
- WUI hazard mitigation methods

CWDG Implementation Funding Opportunity

Why project identification matters early in the CWPP process.

Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)

CWDG supports at-risk communities with CWPP development/revision and implementation projects described in an adopted CWPP less than 10 years old. The program prioritizes communities with high or very high wildfire hazard potential, low-income communities, and communities impacted by a severe disaster.



**Up to
\$10M**

Implementation projects described in a qualifying application.



**Priority
scoring**

High/very high hazard, low-income, disaster-impacted communities.



**Cost share
waiver**

May be available for qualifying underserved/low-income communities.



**FY26 / final
round focus**

Meeting materials identify FY26 as the target funding cycle with a 90-day application window.

What the packet adds for the Working Group

- A place to identify implementation projects before the action plan is drafted
- A framework for distinguishing local projects from landscape-level regional priorities
- A reminder that CWDG implementation projects must be connected to the CWPP

Sources: USDA Forest Service CWDG Program; Texas A&M Forest Service CWDG page; Meeting 1 kickoff deck.

Meeting Worksheet & Next Steps

Capture decisions, gaps, and project ideas from Meeting No. 1.

Fire response capabilities

What resources, gaps, constraints, water access issues, or mutual-aid needs should the CWPP document?

Possible projects

Which mitigation, outreach, fuels reduction, infrastructure, or equipment projects should be explored?

Public outreach

Who needs to be reached, and what channels will work best for residents, landowners, and rural communities?

Meeting schedule

What dates and milestones should guide the next Working Group meetings and public meeting?



Scan QR Code to learn more
about the Erath County CWPP