Beyond Brochures
Planning techniques for wildfire risk reduction

Molly Mowery
Wildfire Planning International

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Source: National Interagency Fire Center Photo Library
What do you see?

Waldo Canyon Fire, Colorado Springs, CO 2012

Source: National Interagency Fire Center Photo Library
What do you see?
"The Scream" by Edvard Munch
Summit County, Colorado
Summit County, Colorado
Process

• Initial Pitch to Staff
• Blessing from BOCC & Wildfire Council
• Signed Memorandum of Understanding
• Field Tour
• Review of Key Documents
• Research and Recommendations
• Team Discussion
• Prioritization/ Next Steps
Key Documents Reviewed

• Countywide Comprehensive Plan
• Community Wildfire Protection Plan
• Land Use & Development Code
• Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
• Basin & Subbasin Master Plans
Opportunity

- Comprehensive Plan: Open Space Element
  - No reference to wildfire!
Waldo Canyon Fire, CO (2012)

Source: National Interagency Fire Center Photo Library/ Kari Greer
Recommendation

• In Open Space Element, ensure open space management is closely linked to wildfire/forest treatments
• Explore secondary benefits of open space management for wildfire suppression
Opportunity

• Wildfire mitigation efforts are at odds with design standards

Buildings should not break the view of ridgelines.

Place buildings below or behind ridge lines.
Recommendation

- Engage a wildfire professional in forest treatments, steep slope and other mitigation guidance
- Think creatively about visual screening
Opportunity

- Risk varies within the “wildland-urban interface”
Recommendation

- Clarify wildfire risk in the “WUI” as a set of conditions instead of a geographic location
Opportunity

• Land use planning is largely absent from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Recommendation

• Include Policy and Planning Actions in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan to guide future wildfire risk reduction efforts
Next Steps

• Share lessons learned
• Engage other communities in similar land use planning & wildfire risk reduction efforts
Thank You

Molly Mowery
Wildfire Planning International
molly@wildfireplanning.com
303-358-9589