

# From Risk to Resilience

Community-driven  
mitigation strategies



Smoke from fires above the Madison River during the 2016 Maple Fire that went on to burn over 45,000 acres in Yellowstone National Park.

## FAST FACTS

**2.5 MILLION**  
The number of  
times WRC risk  
data has been  
accessed

**RURAL  
COMMUNITIES**  
receive majority  
of CWDG funds  
(60%)

**5X DEMAND >  
SUPPLY**  
CWDG funding  
requests outpace  
available funding  
by a factor of five

Adjacent to Yellowstone National Park, 1.6-million-acre Park County, Montana, has a high wildfire risk and a growing population. A \$250,000 Community Wildfire Defense Grant is funding a locally driven effort to update the county's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and strengthen wildfire preparedness and response across this rural area.

### Wildfire Risk to Communities

Wildfire Risk to Communities (WRC) is often the first stop for local leaders. This free USDA Forest Service website translates complex wildfire science into clear maps, statistics, and plain-language insights. WRC helps communities identify vulnerabilities, prioritize projects, and prepare strong grant proposals in an efficient and technology-enabled process.

### LANDFIRE

Wildfire risk maps are powered by LANDFIRE, an interagency program that has been delivering consistent, current nationwide data on vegetation and fuels for over two decades. Managed by the USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, LANDFIRE provides publicly available, foundational data for fire planning across the country.

### Community Wildfire Defense Grant

The Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program closes the loop, turning risk-informed plans into commonsense projects. By funding fuel breaks, defensible space, evacuation improvements, and more, CWDG helps communities reduce wildfire risk, improve preparedness, and streamline their response based on the best available science.

# Updated CWPP plans need current data

# Rural Spotlight

Wildfire Risk to Communities, LANDFIRE and the CWDG Grant Program are streamlining community-driven land management that reduces wildfire risk and increases wildfire preparedness.

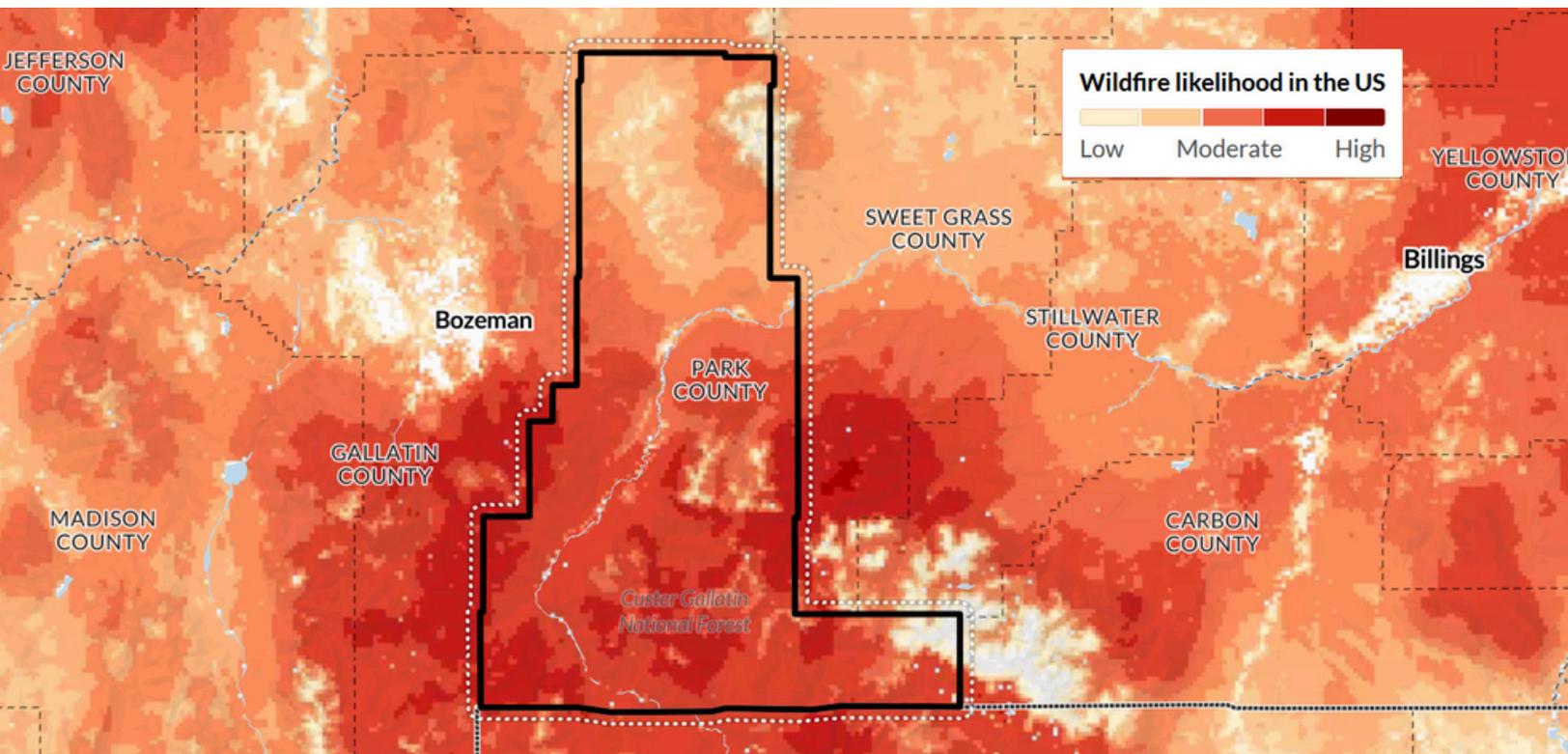
*"Having a current CWPP will allow our local community to identify risks and capabilities, focus on mitigation measures, and perhaps most importantly be in alignment with coordinating efforts among local fire departments and stakeholders. With the currently outdated CWPP, the county does not qualify for federal funding, but the update will restore our eligibility, particularly for fuels reduction projects."*



**Greg Coleman**  
Director, Office of  
Emergency Management,  
Park County, Montana

## From Data, to Decisions, to Action

Park County's CWPP update team is using tools such as the Wildfire Risk to Communities maps (below) and the LANDFIRE data that underpins this tool to ensure the plan is based on sound science and good data.



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