



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rocky Mountain Research Station



WiRē at a glance

WiRē is a research-practitioner partnership that provides evidence based insights to support community wildfire adaptation

Wildfire resilience can be improved with community-specific social science that engages residents and supports important conversations. The Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS)-supported [Wildfire Research Center](#) (WiRē, pronounced “Wy-REE”) has been working side-by-side with community wildfire mitigation specialists to conduct parcel-level

wildfire risk assessments and administer social surveys to the individuals who live on those properties. Using a co-productive process that intertwines research and practice assures the data are useful and actionable. According to RMRS Research Economist and project lead Patty Champ, “We developed the systematic data collection approach by working closely with practitioners over many years. The research informs the practice and practice informs the research.” An underlying philosophy of the WiRē Approach is that wildfire practitioners will develop better programs if they are fully engaged in the data collection and interpretation processes.

letting residents know about the data collection efforts. Following the letter, the wildfire mitigation



Our research demonstrates that each community has its own unique relationship with wildfire. Our approach emphasizes collecting community-specific data to develop an understanding of each community’s unique characteristics and needs.

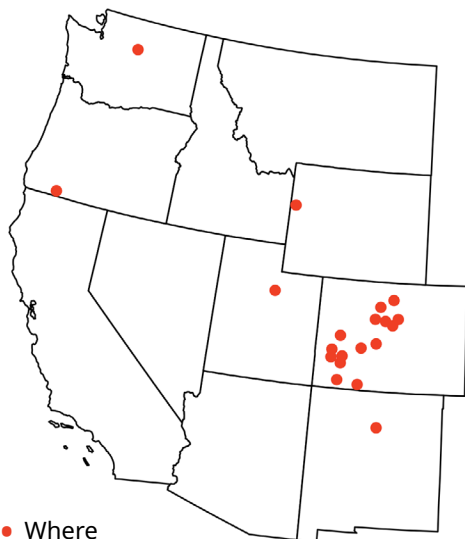
“The WiRē team brings invaluable resources to our rural community, helping us to create a more fire-resilient future together. We have benefited greatly from their knowledge, skills and resources—today in into the future.”

Cindy Williams,
Envision Chaffee County Co-Lead

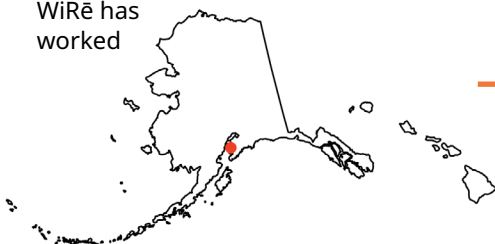
How does this process work?

The WiRē Center and community wildfire mitigation specialists define a study location and send a letter

The WiRē Center has worked in over 30 communities across the United States and is constantly expanding its reach through new partnerships (graphic by the WiRē Center).



• Where WiRē has worked



specialists conduct the rapid wildfire risk assessments and administer the household survey.

WiRē and the wildfire mitigation specialists examine the results, which are then used to develop outreach materials, apply for fire mitigation funding, and support community conversations about the path to wildfire resilience. Partnerships and collaborations are key to the success of this approach.

The WiRē Center has, so far, published 18 [community reports](#) including a recent one for Park County, Colorado, in collaboration with Platte Canyon Fire Protection District (PCFPD). The results indicated that the residents underestimated their wildfire risk, that they overestimated their defensible space, and that many needed better, reflective address postings for safe and effective fire response. These findings provide important, actionable information that the PCFPD can use to educate residents on how to better protect their lives and property.

The reports have been well-received by the WiRē Center’s community partners and are getting high marks for readability and usefulness.

[Learn more about WiRē.](#)



“INCREDIBLE!! I really enjoyed reading this report. Usually, when I open a document and see that it’s 49 pages, I prepare myself to gloss over the information, but not this time. It held my attention completely. Such great, USEFUL information for mitigation practitioners.”

Jennifer Hansen,
Fire Mitigation and
Education Specialist
Utah State Office of the BLM

••••• WiRē PROCESS & PRODUCTS •••••

The WiRē process is a collaboration between the WiRē team of researchers and community wildfire mitigation specialists who conduct parcel-level wildfire risk assessments and administer surveys to the individuals who live on those parcels. Using a co-productive process that intertwines research and practice assures the data are useful and actionable.



- **Rapid Assessment**
 1. Rapid Assessment training materials and data collection tool
 2. Rapid Assessment summary
 3. Parcel Level maps
 4. Scored Rapid Assessment dataset
 5. ArcGIS Online Rapid Assessment map
- **Household Survey**
 6. Household Survey and correspondence materials
 7. Household Survey summary
- **Paired Data**
 8. Rapid Assessment/Household Survey comparison
 9. Paired Rapid Assessment/Household Survey dataset
- **Data Synthesis**
 10. Tailored outreach
 11. Project Report (published report)
 12. Presentations