

Proposal for Compact FPET to NY

Prepared By: XXXXX XXXXX

Project Location:

Long Island Costal Pine Barrens Region. Central Long Island combines one of the state's most volatile wildland fuel types with a high degree of development in the WUI. In 1995 a wildfire burned approximately 15,000 acres in the Costal Pine Barrens fuel type located there, forcing traditional structural firefighting resources into unfamiliar roles. Since that time the vegetation in the areas that burned has grown back to levels seen prior to the wildfire, and development has increased the amount of residents in the WUI. Recently in April 2012 dry weather and wildfires in the same fuel type burned 1,000 acres and put several communities in harm's way, and damaged or destroyed several structures. Therefore the Costal Pine Barrens is considered one of the areas in highest need of public education and awareness campaign throughout NY.

Project Description:

Despite the threat that faces the communities and developments that are enveloped and surround by the costal Pine Barrens vegetation many residents remain unaware of the threat and the role that homeowners play in the protection of their homes and property. The FPET would be tasked with working with the local agencies having jurisdiction to develop an outreach strategy for communities at risk. Provide community assessments for the Ridge or Flanders Fire districts that have expressed an interest in the community, and outline a progressive approach to continue community awareness in the years to come.

Goals and Objectives:

- Presentation at Monthly Fire Advisory Board Meeting
- Develop Presentation specific to the region for local staff to use
- Meet with community leaders from 3 surrounding towns
- Do one Community assessment
- Develop artwork and graphics for use and distribution

Duration of Project:

5 Days - 12hr shift

Local Involvement and Participation:

The agency having jurisdiction in this region of NY is the Central Pine Barrens Commission. The Central Pine Barrens Commission is a quasi-governmental agency, which currently creates regulatory policy, monitors development and manages stewardship activities. The Pine Barrens Commission has been an engaged member of the NY Firewise Council since 2010, and has a Fire Plan for its study area that outlines the goal to provide public outreach to residents in the Wildland Urban Interface and proactively work with communities to identify wildfire risk. The Pine Barrens Commission would be the primary benefactors of the FPET deployment; however the Commission is an umbrella that encompasses town and county

government officials, fire department-districts, and other community organizations that sit on their board, and they will also benefit from the programs developed.

Anticipated Products:

- PowerPoint Presentation.
- Press Release with DEC Regional Public Affairs: Regarding the wildfire threat and the deployment of the FPET
- Artwork for Posters/Handouts/brochures
- Basic Community Risk Assessment
- Plan for Public Outreach transferred to the Pine Barrens Commission

Facilities and Supplies:

The Pine Barrens Commission has offices or can provide space for the FPET. Including Internet access, Printer Access, and meeting space. Any office supplies can be provided by the NY Firewise program.

Additional Comments:

The NY Firewise Council has identified the Long Island Pine Barrens as the area with the greatest wildfire risk to residents living in the WUI in the State. The need for additional resources to boost the local wildfire prevention outreach has been identified in three separate requests for funding. Each of those proposals asked for funding to contract a FPET team for a full deployment, as of yet that funding has not been awarded. However, the NY Firewise Council has been awarded funding to Create CWPP's in the Costal Pine Barrens Region, therefore the recommendations and products that the team developed will have funding to see them come to fruition rather than sitting idle.

The Pine Barrens Commission has been active with outreach by hosting community meetings, engaging the regional Firewise Advisor, and has shown a commitment to the program. I believe they will be able to take the projects and products developed and continue the wildfire prevention outreach message that the FPET would provide.