WHEREAS, the Forest County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the first community wildfire protection plan for Forest County, was completed in September 2014; and

WHEREAS, the need for community wildfire risk assessments and prioritization of hazardous fuels funding was further highlighted in Section 503 of the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act of 2009, and

WHEREAS, the FLAME Act resulted in the development in March of 2011 of “A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy” that calls for engaging the public for community based wildfire planning and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the process to draft the community wildfire protection plan began in 2011, using a planning committee with representatives from Forest County Conservation District & Planning Department, DCNR PA Bureau of Forestry, and Allegheny National Forest, supplemented with additional participants including local fire agencies to provide direction and guidance throughout the draft process, and

WHEREAS, the CWPP is intended to reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildland urban interface (WUI) fire event in Forest County by providing guidance to first responders, local officials, state and federal agencies, residents and property owners on the Wildland fire hazard, mitigation strategies, and management priorities; and

WHEREAS, as a planning tool for the county, the CWPP may also assist in the development of future plans and regulations as they relate to growth in the wildland urban interface; and

WHEREAS, the CWPP may also aid economic development of forest products through fuel reduction and mitigation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Forest County Conservation District & Planning Department recommending adoption of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body for the County of Forest hereby adopts the Forest County 2014 Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

ADOPTED, this 16th day of October, 2014

Forest County COMMISSIONERS

By ____________________________
Basil D. Huffman, Chairman

By ____________________________
Norman J. Wimer

By ____________________________
Robert L. Snyder, Jr.

ATTEST:

______________________________
Lynette Greathouse, Chief Clerk