

2026 Wayne County Community Wildfire Preparedness* Plan

082526 Version



* Activities that lead to a state of response readiness to contain the effects of wildfire, to minimize loss of life, injury, and damage to property.

In developing the State’s new Cooperative Wildfire System in 2017, Utah adjusted the title from Community Wildfire **Protection** Plan to Community Wildfire **Preparedness** Plan to fit its shift in approach to wildland fire policy from reactive to proactive. Utah uses “preparedness plan” to emphasize proactive, community-driven action and realistic risk management, rather than solely wildfire protection. Every Participating Entity must create a Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan within two years of opting in to the system and keep their plan updated into the future. The plan will help a participating entity prioritize the risk reduction projects for its jurisdiction and communities.

The entities listed below reviewed the CWPP document and are in support of the Wayne County Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan’s formal approval and adoption:

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Acronyms

<u>Agencies Acronyms</u>		<u>Other Acronyms</u>	
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	CARs	Communities at Risk
CRNP	Capitol Reef National Park	CWC	Community Wildfire Council
FFSL	Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands	CWPP	Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan
ISO	Insurance Services Organization	CWS	Cooperative Wildfire System
STIL	State Trust & Institutional Lands	HFRA	Healthy Forests Restoration Act
SWCA	A project consultant to FFSL	HIZ	Home Ignition Zone
USFS	United States Forest Service	RWPP	Central Utah Regional Wildfire Protection Plan
US WFS	United States Wildland Fire Service	WC CWPP	Wayne County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
WCFD	Wayne County Fire District	WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

1 Introduction

1.1 Wayne County

Located within the Colorado Plateau in south central Utah, Wayne County is small, rural, supported largely by agriculture and tourism, and known for its vast, undeveloped areas and popular natural attractions.

The land area is roughly 2,500 square miles, and the population is roughly 2,500 people – that’s *about* 1 person per square mile – one of the lowest in the state and the continental United States. Of the total 1,559,040 acres of land in Wayne County, only 55,903.15 acres are private land (much of which is not developable due to lack of water and county zoning ordinances). That’s a whopping 96.4% of the county that is publicly owned – the highest percentage in Utah and the third highest in the continental United States. For Wayne County, extensive federal lands and increasingly restrictive management of these lands have resulted in

- a lack of private land available for economic activity,
- a lack of economic uses on federal lands, and
- a small property tax base.

Additionally, the county is challenged by an aging population, older housing resources, a significant lack of young families, a shortage of services and infrastructure, and razor thin budgeting margins.

1.2 Wildfire

Throughout the west, wildfire has always been a natural part of the ecosystem, predominantly low intensity surface fires that thinned fuel accumulation. That is, until the last century when fire suppression (to protect human interests) encouraged the formation of larger, denser reservoirs of fuel that threaten high-intensity wildfires, and which pose an even more significant threat when drought is a factor as it is here in the arid southwest.

More communities are developing in areas adjacent to these fire-prone lands increasing wildfire risk and the threat to people and their property. A wildland fire in these areas could have many consequences, including:

- Damage to property, as well as infrastructure, including roads, and electrical systems;
- Business disruptions, leading to lost jobs and revenue;
- Industries like tourism, agriculture, and power are especially vulnerable to wildfires;
- Reduced personal income tax revenue when people lose wages;
- Damage to homes and reduced property values, making housing less affordable and reducing the tax base even lower;
- Increased insurance premiums or refused coverage; and,
- Health risks from smoke, watershed pollution, and post-fire erosion.

In addition to protecting residents from wildfire, the county has the added challenge of informing and protecting seasonal visitors that reach well over a million annually.

Recently, communities across the United States are seeing the most destructive wildfire seasons in history; statistics demonstrate that wildfires are becoming larger and harder to control. As wildfire severity and extent increases, communities need a plan to help prepare for, reduce the risk of, and adapt to wildland fire events. Community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs) help accomplish these goals.

2 Background

Over two decades of federal, national, state, and regional planning efforts led to this plan, including:

Federal

2.1 The Healthy Forest Restoration Act

In 2003, the U.S. Congress recognized widespread declining forest health by passing the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). The HFRA was revised in 2009 to address changes to funding and provide a renewed focus on wildfire mitigation (H.R. 4233 - Healthy Forest Restoration Amendments Act of 2009). The HFRA expedites the development and implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects on federal land and emphasizes the need for federal agencies to work collaboratively with communities. A key component of the HFRA is the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), which facilitate the collaboration between federal agencies and communities in order to develop hazardous fuels reduction projects and place priority on treatment areas identified by communities in a CWPP. A CWPP also allows communities to establish their own definition of the wildland urban interface (WUI), which is used to delineate priority areas for treatment. It is also a required prerequisite for receiving hazardous fuels reduction funding under the HFRA. Priority is placed upon municipal watersheds, critical wildlife habitat, and areas impacted by wind throw, insects, and disease. Communities with an established CWPP are given priority for funding of hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out in accordance with the HFRA.

National

2.2 National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

In 2009, Congress passed the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act which directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior to develop a national cohesive wildland fire management strategy to comprehensively address wildland fire management across all lands in the United States.

The primary national goals identified are:

1. **Restore and maintain landscapes** – landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.
2. **Fire-adapted communities** – human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.
3. **Wildfire response** – all jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

State

2.3 Utah Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy

Tasked with reducing the size, intensity and frequency of catastrophic wildland fires in Utah, this effort divided the state into six wildfire planning and protection regions to deal with the unique complexities that are inherent to a state as

geographically large and diverse as Utah. Each region is directed to assist its counties, communities, and government agencies in reducing the risk of catastrophic wildland fire.

2.4 Wildfire Management in Utah

Commissioned by the Governor’s Executive Order 2025-03, this informative report assesses current practices, identifies challenges, and proposes actionable solutions across prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and response.

Regional

2.5 Central Utah Regional Wildfire Protection Plan

The Central Utah Regional Wildfire Protection Plan (RWPP) is a regional effort to identify high-risk areas across the Central Utah region (covering Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne Counties) and set broad priorities for recommendations and actions to reduce the risk to human life and property due to catastrophic wildland fire in the wildland urban interface of the state-identified communities at risk (CARs). Counties and communities in the region are provided with a landscape-level overview of factors to consider in wildfire planning, and to identify local communities where additional community fire planning may be needed.

County

2.6 Wayne County Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan

The Wayne County Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (WC CWPP) is the document presented here. The WC CWPP aims to assist in protecting human life and reducing property loss due to wildfire throughout the county. Compiled by non-professional volunteers from reports, documents, data, as well as CWC team, expert and public input. This plan relies on the relevant science and literature cited in the reference documents.

Reference documents can be found in [Appendix A](#).

One goal of the WC CWPP is to enable local communities to improve their wildfire mitigation capacity, while working with government agencies to identify high fire risk areas and prioritize areas for mitigation, fire suppression, and emergency preparedness.

An additional goal is to enhance public awareness by helping residents better understand the natural and human-caused risk of wildland fires that threaten lives, safety, and the local economy.

To attain those goals, the intent of the WC CWPP is to:

- provide a countywide scale of wildfire risk and protection needs,
- bring together all responsible wildfire management and suppression entities in Wayne County to address the identified needs,
- support these entities in planning and implementing the necessary mitigation measures, and
- provide information to inform future land use planning, building codes, and wildfire mitigation and prevention related ordinances.

Note that Wayne County participates in the **Cooperative Wildfire System** (CWS) which is a partnership between the state of Utah’s Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) and local governments that are responsible for wildfire

suppression. The CWS reflects a philosophical shift for FFSL from a reactive, suppression-focused system to a proactive wildfire risk-reduction system. The state pays the costs of catastrophic fires in exchange for local governments providing initial attack on wildfires and taking action to reduce their wildfire risk. Among the required actions to reduce risk is the development of an active CWPP, as well as implementing measurable prevention, preparedness and mitigation actions to reduce fire risk locally.

3 Planning Process

The guide entitled *Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities* (SAF 2004) provides communities with a clear process in developing a CWPP. The guide outlines eight steps for developing a CWPP, the first 3 establish a meaningful collaboration among the many stakeholders:

- Step One: Convene Decision-makers.** Form a Core Team made up of representatives from the appropriate local governments, local fire authorities, and state agencies responsible for forest management.
- Step Two: Involve Federal Agencies.** Identify and engage local federal representatives and contact and involve other land management agencies as appropriate.
- Step Three: Engage Interested Parties.** Contact and encourage active involvement in plan development from a broad range of interested organizations and stakeholders.
- Step Four: Establish a Community Base Map.** Work with partners to establish a base map(s) defining the community’s WUI and showing inhabited areas at risk, wildland areas that contain critical human infrastructure, and wildland areas at risk for large-scale fire disturbance.
- Step Five: Develop a Community Risk-Hazard Assessment.** Work with partners to develop a community Risk-Hazard Assessment that considers fuel hazards; risk of wildfire occurrence; homes, businesses, and essential infrastructure at risk; other values at risk (VARs); and local preparedness capability. Rate the level of risk for each factor and incorporate this information into the base map as appropriate.
- Step Six: Establish Community Priorities and Recommendations.** Use the base map and Community Risk-Hazard Assessment to facilitate a collaborative community discussion that leads to the identification of local priorities for treating fuels, reducing structural ignitability and other issues of interest, such as improving fire response capability. Clearly indicate whether priority projects are directly related to the protection of communities and essential infrastructure or to reducing wildfire risks to other community values.
- Step Seven: Develop an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy.** Consider developing a detailed implementation strategy to accompany the CWPP as well as a monitoring plan that will ensure its long-term success.
- Step Eight: Finalize Community Wildfire Protection Plan.** Finalize the CWPP and communicate the results to community and key partners.

3.1 Structure of WUI Mitigation in Utah

The organization of Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) mitigation in Utah is a collaborative, tiered structure involving state, local, and federal entities:

State Level (Policy & Coordination)

- Utah Governor’s Office: Oversees overall wildfire management policy and strategic direction.
- Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Oversees the entire framework.
- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (FFSL): The lead agency responsible for:
 - Creating and maintaining the high-risk WUI map (effective Jan 1, 2026).
 - Developing administrative rules for WUI.
 - Managing the UWRAP (Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal) database.
 - Conducting, or overseeing, individual lot assessments.
 - Managing the Wildland-Urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation (WUIPPM) grant funding.
- State Fire Marshal: Acts as the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for WUI code enforcement on state lands and areas without local fire ordinances.

Local Level (Implementation & Enforcement)

- Local Fire Officers/Fire Chiefs/Marshals: Act as the AHJ on private unincorporated or incorporated land.
- Local Municipalities/Counties:
 - Adopt and enforce WUI codes and ordinances (e.g., building materials, defensible space).
 - Integrate WUI mapping into local planning and zoning overlays.
 - Utilize county wildfire preparedness funds, which will be supported by new WUI fees starting in 2028.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP): Local plans submitted to and concurred by FFSL Area Managers.

Tactical/Operational Level

- Fire Departments (Local/Unified): Responsible for initial attack, building inspection, and enforcing defensible space.
- Interagency Partners: Collaboration between state (FFSL) and federal agencies (US Forest Service, U.S. Wildland Fire Service*) for fuel mitigation and fire suppression.
- Private Landowners/HOAs: Responsible for maintaining defensible space on their property.

Specialized Tools & Programs

- UWRAP (Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal): The primary tool for assessing risk, used by planners, fire managers, and the public.
- High-Risk WUI Map: Defines areas for mandatory, fee-based, and risk-based assessment.
- WUIPPM Funding: Competitive grants for WUI mitigation projects.

*Established in January 2026, the **U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS)** is a new, unified agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior (.gov) that modernizes federal fire management by consolidating programs from the BLM, BIA, NPS, FWS, and the Office of Wildland Fire.

3.2 Community Wildfire Councils and Public Involvement

The FFSL manages, sustains, and strengthens Utah’s forests, rangelands, sovereign lands, and watersheds for its citizens and visitors. In Wayne County, they are responsible for achieving wildland fire suppression on state and private lands and associated wildfire education, as well as forest health goals and objectives with a fuels-reduction focus. Their Fire program partners with our volunteer fire departments to aid in responding to wildland fire. Their fire wardens provide communication, training and support to our volunteer fire departments. Their WUI program obtains grants to provide financial assistance to private landowners who want to address hazardous fuels on their private lands.

The FFSL has been mandated by Governor Cox to develop rules and regulations in support of Utah HB 48 and implement the mitigation strategies; this is their project. They have contracted SWCA (an environmental consulting firm) to facilitate establishment of Community Wildfire Councils (CWC) across the state. Our local CWC has been meeting most months since 2024. The CWC team is made up of WUI residents, our district fire chief, deputy chief, and volunteers, as well as representatives from FFSL, SWCA, USFS, US WFS, CRNP, Wayne County, and other entities. If you would like to participate in the CWC, email centralutahfire@swca.com.

The following three entities are the decision-makers regarding this CWPP:

1. The local government in the planning area, Wayne County,
2. The local fire district, Wayne County Fire District, and
3. Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

Stakeholder involvement is critical in producing a meaningful document that includes all collaborators’ diverse perspectives. Feedback, comments, and suggestions received from community members during outreach events are synthesized and utilized to craft project recommendations for the CWPP to address the concerns and priorities of the community.

Thank you for sending your comments to WC.CWPP.2026@gmail.com.

Plan participants can be found in [Appendix B](#).

3.3 Plan Evaluation

CWPPs are intended to reduce the risk from wildfire for a community and surrounding environment. However, over time, communities change and expand, vegetation grows back, and forests and wildlands evolve. As such, the risk of wildfire to communities is constantly changing. The plans and methods to reduce risk must be dynamic to keep pace with the changing environment. An evaluation of the CWPP will gather information and identify whether the plans and strategies are on course to meet the desired outcomes or if modifications are needed to meet expectations.

Four general steps can be used to evaluate the CWPP:

1. Identify objectives: What are the goals identified in the plan? How are they reached? Is the plan performing as intended?
 - a. Structural ignitability
 - b. Fuel treatments (landscape and home ignition zone)
 - c. Public education and outreach
 - d. Multi-agency collaboration
 - e. Emergency notifications/response
2. Assess the changing environment: How have population characteristics and the wildfire environment changed?
 - a. Population change
 - i. Increase or decrease
 - ii. Visitor levels
 - iii. Demographics
 - b. Population settlement patterns
 - i. Distribution
 - ii. Expansion into the WUI
 - c. Vegetation
 - i. Fuel quantity and type
 - ii. Drought and disease impacts
3. Review action items: Are actions consistent with the plan’s objectives?
 - a. Check for status, i.e., completed/started/not started
 - b. Identify completed work and accomplishments
 - c. Identify lessons learned, challenges, and best practices
 - d. Identify next steps
4. Assess results: What are the outcomes of the action items?
 - a. Multi-agency collaboration
 - i. Who was involved in the development of the CWPP?
 - ii. Have partners involved in the development process remained involved in the implementation?
 - iii. How has the planning process promoted implementation of the CWPP?
 - iv. Have CWPP partnerships and collaboration had a beneficial impact to the community?
 - b. Risk-hazard assessment
 - i. How is the risk-hazard assessment utilized to make decisions about fuel treatment priorities?
 - ii. Have there been new wildfire-related regulations?
 - iii. Are at-risk communities involved in mitigating wildfire risk?
 - c. Hazardous fuels
 - i. How many acres have been treated?
 - ii. How many projects are cross-boundary?
 - iii. How many residents have participated in creating defensible space?
 - d. Structural ignitability
 - i. Have there been updates to fire codes and ordinances?
 - ii. How many structures have been lost to wildfire?
 - iii. Has the CWPP increased public implementation of structural ignitability and hazard reduction strategies?

3.4 Plan Updates

The WC CWPP should be treated as a living document to be continually revised to reflect changes, modifications, or new information such as projects completed and lessons learned from public education and project implementation.

It should also ensure that the CWPP relates to, strengthens, and enhances other plans within the community (such as all-hazard plans, comprehensive plans, fire management plans, building codes, evacuation plans, and other community development frameworks).

The CWC team members are encouraged to meet on an annual basis to

- review the project list,
- discuss project successes,
- strategize regarding project implementation funding, and
- determine whether a plan revision is needed to address
 - extensive wildfire or another disaster event,
 - changes to the local planning outlook, and
 - local adoption of the international WUI code.

It is also suggested that a formal revision be made on the fifth anniversary of signing and every 5 years following.

4 Assessments

A variety of assessments provide foundational information about wildfire risks and hazards across all land ownerships within the county; this is crucial for protecting lives and property by informing proactive measures to reduce wildfire impacts.

4.1 Risk-Hazard Assessments

The Risk-Hazard Assessments are tools for mitigation and pre-fire planning, from which land use managers, fire officials, planners, and others can prepare strategies and methods for reducing the threat of wildfire, as well as work with community members to educate them about methods for reducing the damaging consequences of fire. Findings from these Wayne County assessments include:

- FFSL has ranked several inhabited areas as being close to extreme risk.
- The EPA found nine watersheds that would be affected by wildfire.
- Extreme and High Hazard Wildfire Areas make up approximately 1,588 square miles.
- A main industry is tourism and would be affected by wildfire.
- 12 state facilities in high or extreme wildfire risk areas; the loss of these facilities would be \$1,301 per capita.

4.2 Community Values at Risk

Community Values at Risk are community values that would be threatened by wildfire.

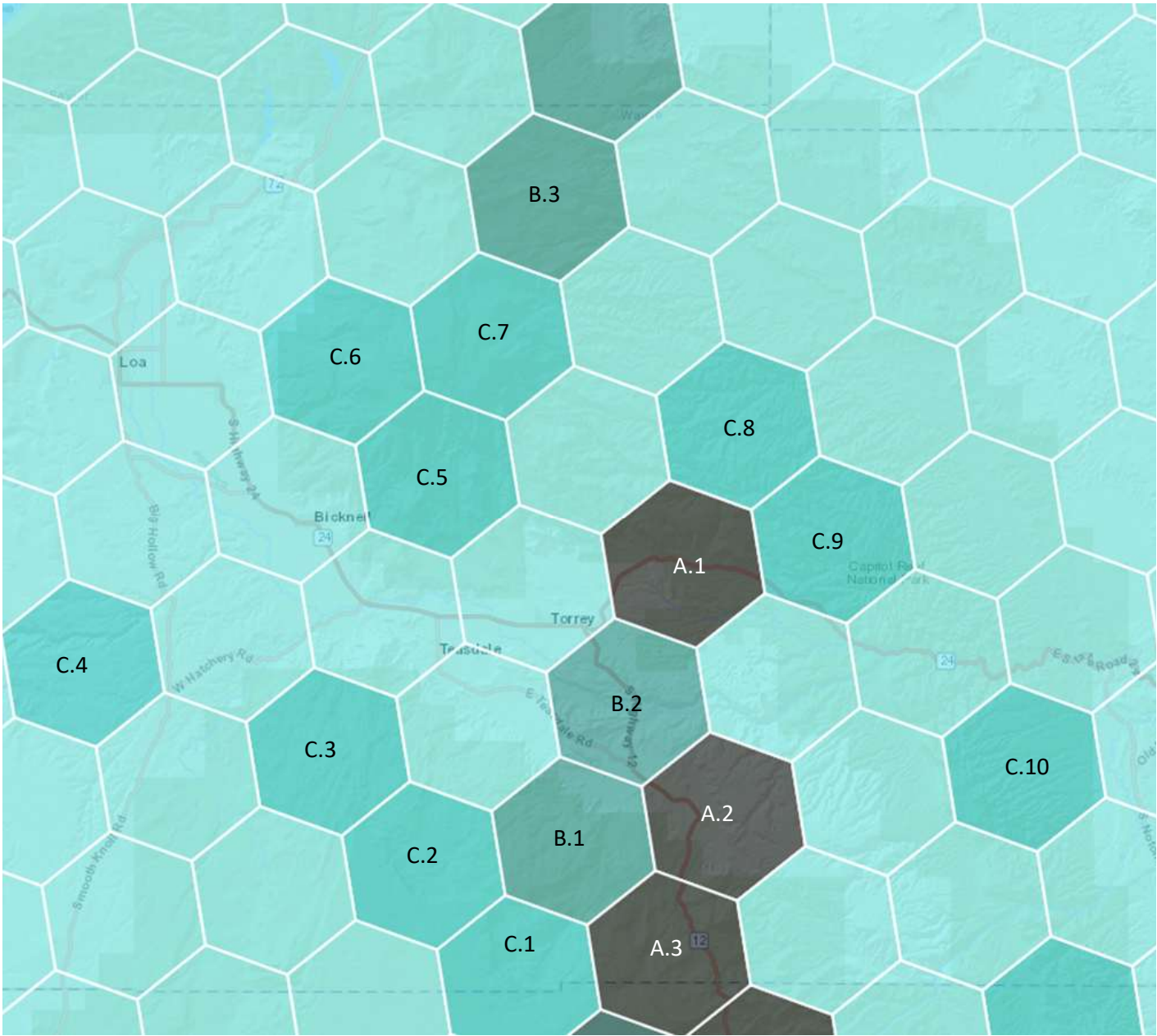
Wildlife – the lower elevations of neighboring National Forest land contain critical winter range for deer, elk, and turkeys. The higher elevations are critical summer range for the same wildlife. There is a sage grouse management area and other areas of critical habitat.

Watershed – areas above the communities are of concern because of the potential for flooding, debris flow and degradation of culinary and irrigation watershed water quality following a wildland fire.

Cultural Resources – the area contains one of the most concentrated areas of identifiable Fremont Indian remains anywhere, as well as a few prehistoric lithic scatters and historic camps.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities – the area provides a wide opportunity for outdoor recreation and supports a growing tourist industry.

Viewsheds – important because of the increasing importance of tourism to the Wayne County economy.



A Utah Division of Natural Resources planning tool made to aid in prioritizing hazard fuel reduction and wildfire mitigation projects shows the density and distribution of highly valued resources and assets. This is the assessment of the west end of Wayne County. See the table on the next page for specifics.
From <https://cpp.utah-ffsl.wildfiresuite.com/#/explorer/hvra> (from <https://utahwildfirerisk.com/>)

This table shows the density and distribution of highly valued resources and assets within the labeled hexagons of the map of the western portion of Wayne County on the previous page.

Hexagon	A.1	A.2	A.3	B.1	B.2	B.3	B.4	C.1	C.2	C.3	C.4	C.5	C.6	C.7	C.8	C.9	C.10
Housing Unit Density <i>housing units/acre</i>	0.09	0.33		0.10	0.94								0.01				

INFRASTRUCTURE	A.1	A.2	A.3	B.1	B.2	B.3	B.4	C.1	C.2	C.3	C.4	C.5	C.6	C.7	C.8	C.9	C.10
Electric Transmission Lines <i>miles</i>	4.57																
Substations	2																
Communications Towers										1							

DRINKING WATER	A.1	A.2	A.3	B.1	B.2	B.3	B.4	C.1	C.2	C.3	C.4	C.5	C.6	C.7	C.8	C.9	C.10
Lakes/Ponds <i>acres</i>	2.71	2.34			0.08	2.42	3.07	115.35	61.25	7.78				19.94			
Points of Diversion	2	56	6	22	36	45	14	12	14	4	15	31	34				
Streams <i>miles</i>	5.56	10.77	23.23	11.99	11.26	9.24	5.19	6.38	5.61	5.36		4.63	2.12	3.05			
Surface Water Zone Area <i>acres</i>		435.03						64.93									
Safe Drinking Water Facilities			2		1					1		2	8	2			

WILDLIFE	A.1	A.2	A.3	B.1	B.2	B.3	B.4	C.1	C.2	C.3	C.4	C.5	C.6	C.7	C.8	C.9	C.10
Sage Grouse Management Area <i>acres</i>											9833.48						
Critical Habitat <i>acres</i>															9418.17	9835.57	9433.09

4.3 Community Hazard Assessments

Community Hazard Assessments for Wayne County were conducted in 2013 by FFSL. Four categories were scored from 1 (least) to 3 (most) and the resulting total score ranges from 0 (no risk) to 12 (extreme risk):

Communities at Risk (CARs)	Fire Occurrence	Fuels Hazard	Values Protected	Fire Protection Capability	Overall Score	Notes
Bicknell	2	3	3	3	11	Watershed at risk
Black Ridge Interface	2	3	3	3	11	Communications Infrastructure at risk
Fremont	2	3	3	3	11	Watershed at risk
Grover	2	3	3	3	11	Watershed at risk
Happy Valley	2	3	3	3	11	
Loa	2	3	3	3	11	Watershed at risk
Lyman	2	3	3	3	11	Watershed at risk
Lyman/Horse Valley	2	3	2	3	10	
Notom	2	3	3	3	11	
Teasdale	2	3	3	3	11	Watershed at risk
Torrey	2	3	3	3	11	Watershed at risk

The purpose of the Community Hazard Assessments and subsequent ratings is to identify fire hazards and risks and to prioritize areas in the County requiring mitigation and more detailed planning. The Community Hazard Assessment supports the recommendations for mitigation of structural ignitability, community preparedness, and public education. The assessment also helps to prioritize areas for fuels treatment based on the hazard rating. Each area was rated based on conditions within the community and immediately surrounding structures, including access, adjacent vegetation (fuels), defensible space, adjacent topography, roof and building characteristics, available fire protection, and placement of utilities.

4.4 Utah Wildfire Risk Explorer

The [Utah Wildfire Risk Explorer](#) is the primary mechanism for FFSL to deploy wildfire risk information and create awareness about wildfire issues across the state. This application is tailored to support specific workflow and information requirements for the public, local community groups, private landowners, government officials, hazard-mitigation planners, and wildland fire managers. The application also provides the baseline information needed to support mitigation and prevention efforts across the state.

A Wildfire Risk Assessment was conducted in 2015 by FFSL identifying and ranking Wayne County’s high risk wildfire areas:

Community	Watershed	WUI	Fuels	Treatment Area	Total	Rank
Loa					0	9
Torrey	X	X		X	3	3
Teasdale	X	X	X	X	4	2
Lyman	X				1	4
Bicknell	X				1	5
Grover	X	X	X	X	3	2
Fremont	X				1	8
Hanksville	X				1	6
Fishlake Basin					0	7
Thousand Lake	X	X	X	X	4	1

Community assets at risk also include the single radial feed that distributes electric power into Wayne County located along SR 24. Power interruptions to Wayne County affects emergency communications and can result in an inability to dispatch or communicate with firefighters. Only three of the Wayne County fire stations have emergency power.

4.5 Lot Assessments

It is recommended that additional neighborhood, subdivision, and/or parcel-level assessments be completed to develop localized action plans. There are multiple types of assessments that private landowners may encounter. For most projects lead by WCFD, assessments are focused on the defensible space Zones 1, 2, and 3, and egress. For assessment by US WFS or USFS, the focus would be on the landscape level. For assessments relating to the new Utah HB 48 legislation that was passed recently, those are focused on defensible space and egress.

Under H.B. 48, there is to be a fee imposed on privately-owned properties in the WUI determined to be at high-risk. The goal is to ensure that residents in high-risk areas contribute proportionally to wildfire-related costs. Fees go into the Utah Wildfire Fund to cover property assessment costs and support mitigation efforts. The fees have yet to be defined, but during 2027 there will be a flat fee based on square footage for all properties and from 2028 on, the fee will be based on the triage assessment and square footage of structures. Assessments are not legally required, but without them parcels will be assumed to be at the highest risk and will be charged the highest fee. These fees will not contribute to District revenue.

Owners can sign up to have their lot surveyed for H.B. 48 by FFSL certified assessors, by signing up at:

<https://ffsl.utah.gov/wildland-fire/prevention-preparedness/community-preparedness/>

4.6 Insurance Rating

The Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating for a community serves as an overall indicator of its fire protection capabilities. A moderate rating is 6 or lower; high is 7-9; and extreme is 10. Wayne county currently has an ISO rating of 5 – 5x.

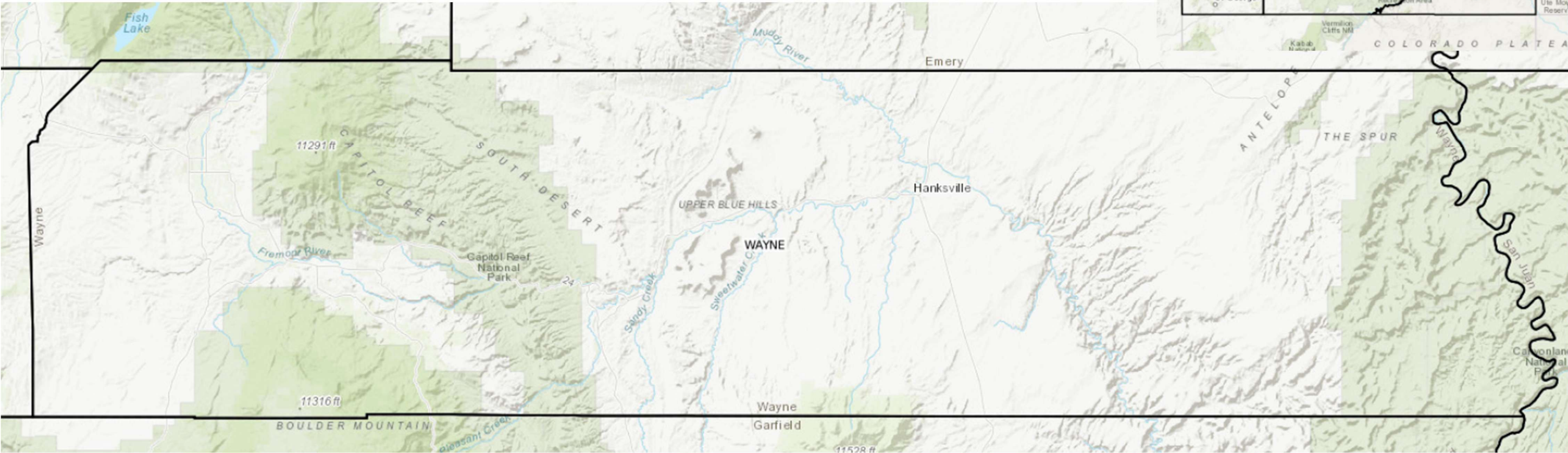
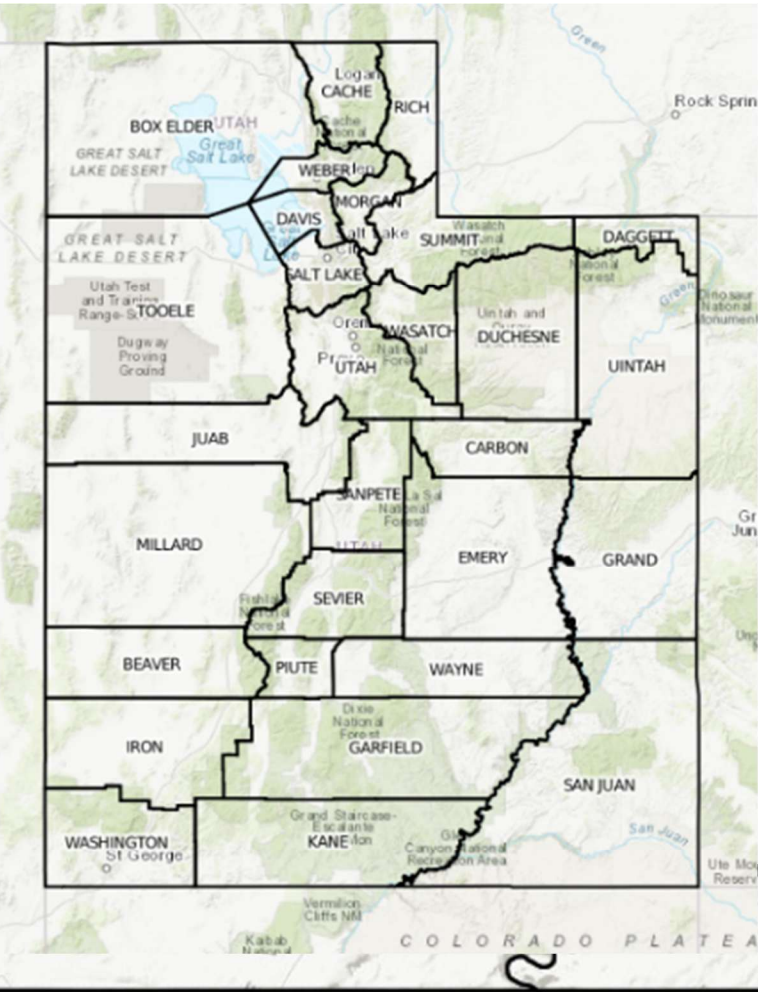
4.7 Key Issues

Wayne County has environmental and social factors that result in extensive- and high-wildfire danger, including:

- fire danger is incredibly high due to very dry fuels and this is likely to continue, and perhaps worsen, under the influence of anthropogenic climate change;
- neighboring BLM and NF lands contain heavy fuels and overstocked forest;
- high number of second homes and short-term rentals that generally do not receive proper wildfire mitigation measures;
- education regarding risk management techniques for second homeowners, tourists, short-term rentals, and community members is inadequate;
- aging population;
- Insurance companies are increasingly raising rates or dropping coverage for homes in areas with high wildfire risk.

5 Planning Area

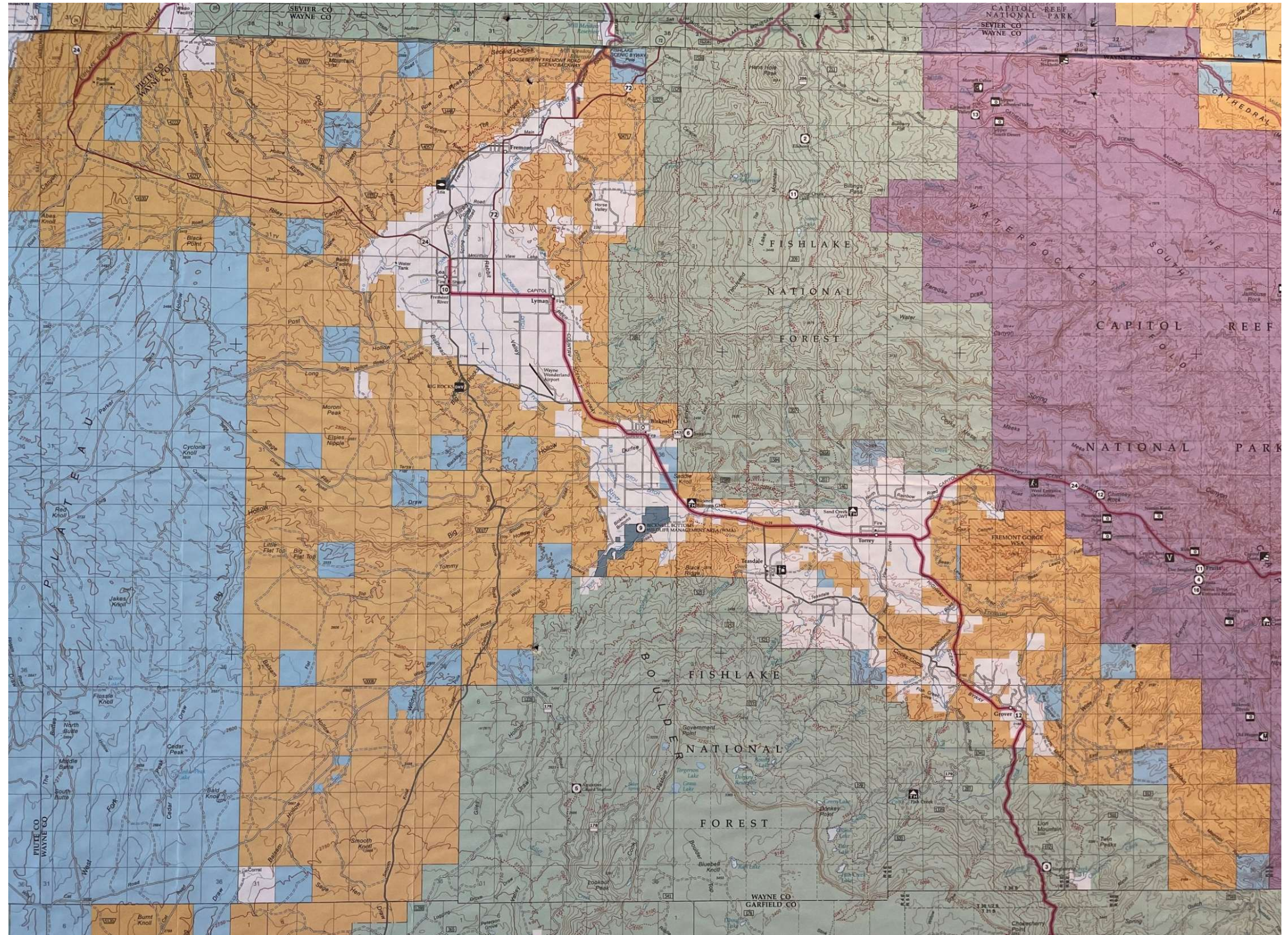
The **planning area** for the WC CWPP includes Wayne County as delineated by its geographic and political boundaries.

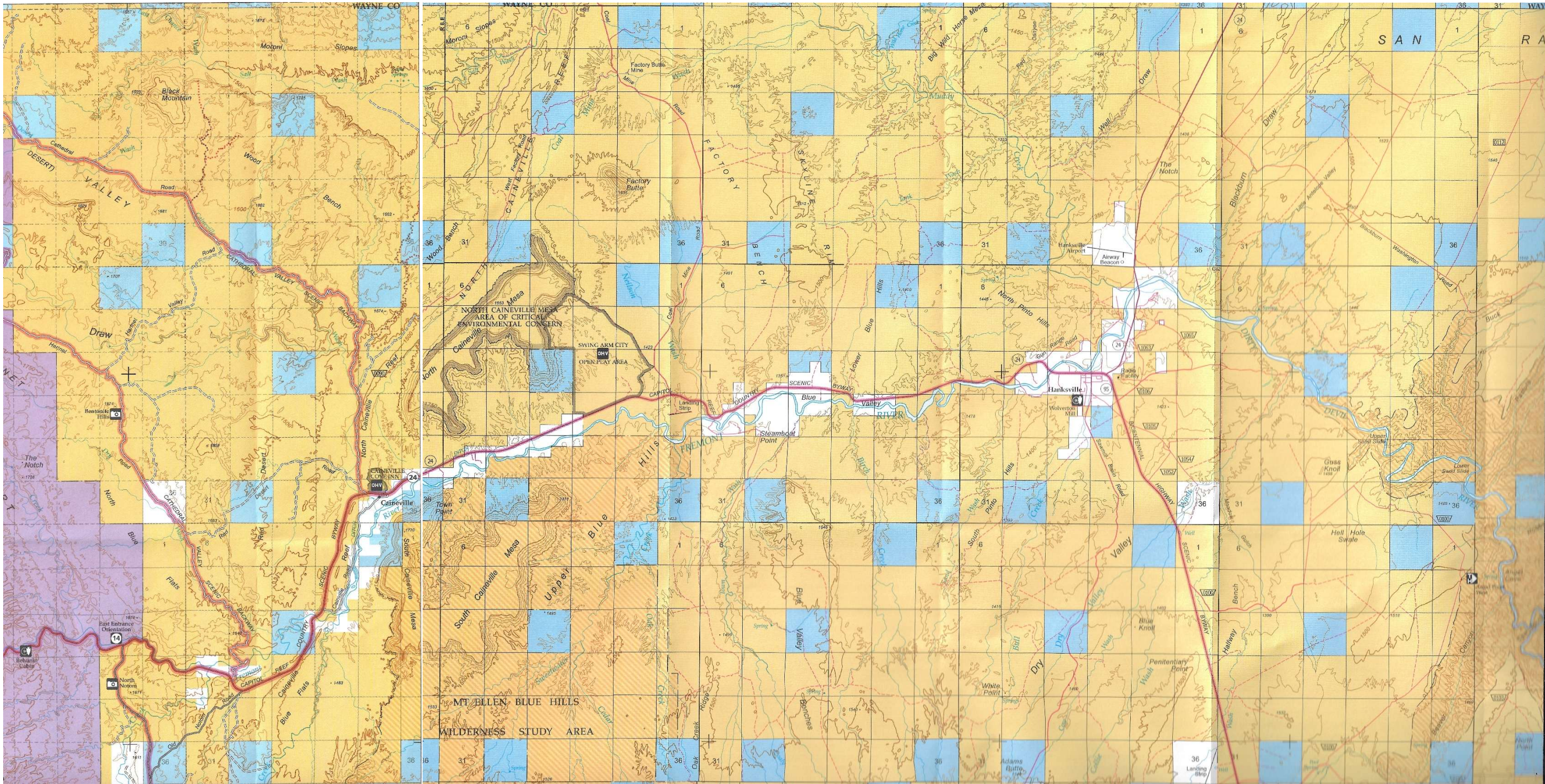


5.1 Land Ownership

Within the Project Areas, land ownership includes:

- National forest lands are administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. **Green**
- Public lands are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), who is charged with protecting natural, historical and cultural resources for future generations. BLM Utah also provides opportunities for responsible mineral and energy development and grazing. **Orange**
- Capitol Reef National Park is managed by the National Park Service and includes the historic town of Fruita. **Violet**
- State Lands are managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, SITLA. Unlike public lands, trust lands are not held in the public trust, rather, they are held in trust for 12 beneficiaries, defined and designated by Congress at statehood (higher and special education and other public institutions). **Blue**
- Privately-owned land is managed by individuals, trusts, associations, business entities, etc. **White**





This map shows ownership of the east side of the county to Hanksville.

5.2 The Wildland Urban Interface Areas

The Planning Area is further delineated by the WUI. These are the lines, areas or zones where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels where inhabited areas are at risk of catastrophic wildland fire. It is expected the WUI will continue to expand; an anticipated amenity-seeking migration of retiring baby-boomers to smaller communities with lower costs of living close to scenic and recreational natural resources will contribute to WUI growth. Common situations make things worse, including:

- our desire to live in a secluded area surrounded by natural vegetation without defensible space,
- homes that are built of flammable materials (wood siding, shakes and patios),
- fire equipment that is hampered from protecting an area because of long, narrow, winding, or steep driveways,
- distance from fire departments,
- one ingress and egress road in subdivisions and some communities,
- the misperception that fire protection in rural areas is equal to urban fire protection services,
- inadequate water supply,
- poor signage and access to residences,
- no hazard planning for evacuation and no early warning systems, and
- utility service lines and propane tanks.

In Wayne County, the WUI is present along

- the base of Boulder Mountain including all lands located from Highway 24 to the rim of the Aquarius Plateau and between Government Creek drainage and Capitol Reef National Park including the communities commonly referred to as Donkey Flats, Fish Creek Cove, Happy Valley, Grover, and East Teasdale;
- the Caineville/Blue Valley riparian corridor along the Fremont River;
- a bit of the Fish Lake community just inside Wayne County;
- portions of the Fremont area;
- the Notom area; and
- the north and south edges of Torrey.

Often these WUI areas are neighbored by BLM and national forest lands containing heavy fuels and overstocked forests. There is increasing human activity in these recreational areas surrounding the WUI and substantially more pinyon mortality from drought and insects, both of which increase ignition potential. Homes in the WUI are in unincorporated areas and are largely wooden structures with little signage and poor access. Few access routes exist or they are confusing; some bridges are inadequate for emergency equipment making firefighting especially dangerous. Watershed areas above communities are of concern because of flooding, debris flow, and degradation of culinary and irrigation watershed water quality following a wildland fire.

5.3 WUI Community Areas

Inhabited areas at-risk in the WUI include specific sections of these unincorporated communities:

- Bicknell Bottoms towards Torrey along SR 24
 - T29S, R3E, portions of Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, and 22
 - T29S, R4E, portions of Sections 7 and 8
- Caineville/Blue Valley riparian corridor along the Fremont River
 - T28S, R8E, portions of Sections 25, 35, and 36
 - T28S, R9E, portions of Sections 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31
 - T28S, R10E, portions of Sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23
 - T29S, R8E, portions of Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 20, and 30
- Donkey Flats including Boulder Heights/Three Creeks subdivisions
 - T29S, R4E, Sections 25, 26, 27, and a portion of 36
- East Teasdale
 - T29S, R4E, Sections 15, 16, 21, 22, and portions of 23 and 24
- Fish Creek Cove
 - T29S, R5E, Sections 29 and 32, and a portion of 31
 - T30S, R5E, portions of Sections 5 and 6
- Fish Lake
 - T26S, R1E, portions of Section 2
- Fremont & Horse Valley
 - T27S, R3E, Section 16, and portions of 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 21, and 22
 - T27S, R3E, portions of Sections 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, and 35
- Happy Valley
 - T30S, R6E, portions of Section 31.
- Grover
 - T29S, R5E, portions of Sections 26, 33 and 34
 - T30S, R5E, portions of Sections 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11.
- Notom
 - T29S, R7E, portion of Section 35
 - T30S, R7E, portions of Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12
- Torrey, north and south edges
 - T28S, R4E, portion Section 36
 - T28S, R5E, portion Section 31
 - T29S, R4E, Section 1
 - T29S, R4E, portions of Section 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 south of the 24
 - T29S, R5E, Section 6, and portions of Sections 3, 5, 10, and 11
 - T29S, R5E, portions of Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32, 33, and 34

Township (T)
Range (R)

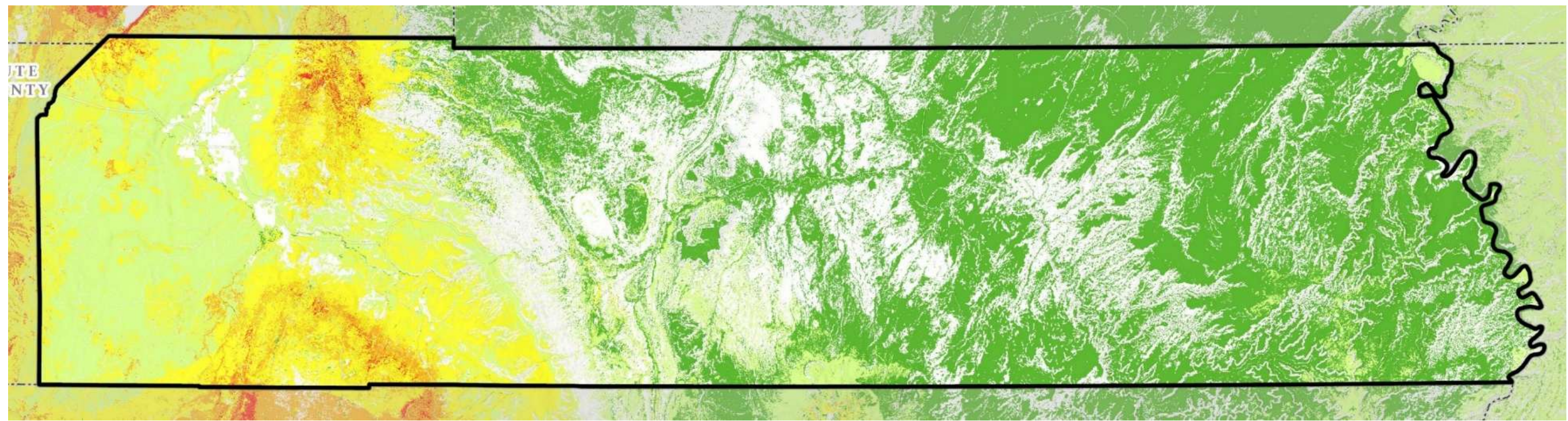
Community legal structures can be found in [Appendix C](#)

5.4 Fire History

This table lists multi-agency response fires of recent history.

Date	Name	Cause and Size
5/13/2026	Grover	Human-caused, 15 acres
5/6/2022	Carcass Creek	Human-caused, 9 acres
7/27/2018	Pole Canyon	213 acres
8/27/2015	Wide Hollow	Lightning, 0.1 acres
8/1/2015	Dump Road	Lightning, 0.1 acres
7/17/2015	Elkhorn	Lightning, 0.1 acres
8/1/2014	Donkey Flats	Lightning, 0.1 acres
7/23/2014	Bell Rock	Lightning, 33 acres
7/13/2014	Lost Donkey	Lightning, 0.1 acres
3/21/2014	Long Hollow	Miscellaneous, 0.1 acres
8/22/2012	Cow Hollow	Natural, 208 acres
6/3/2012	Lost Lake	Arson, 2,170 acres
4/14/2007	Bicknell Bottoms	Debris Burning, 19 acres
4/20/2004	Upheaval B	Campfire, 27 acres
5/30/2003	Lonesome Beaver	Natural, 4,547 acres
7/26/1996	Hens Peak	Lightning, 630 acres

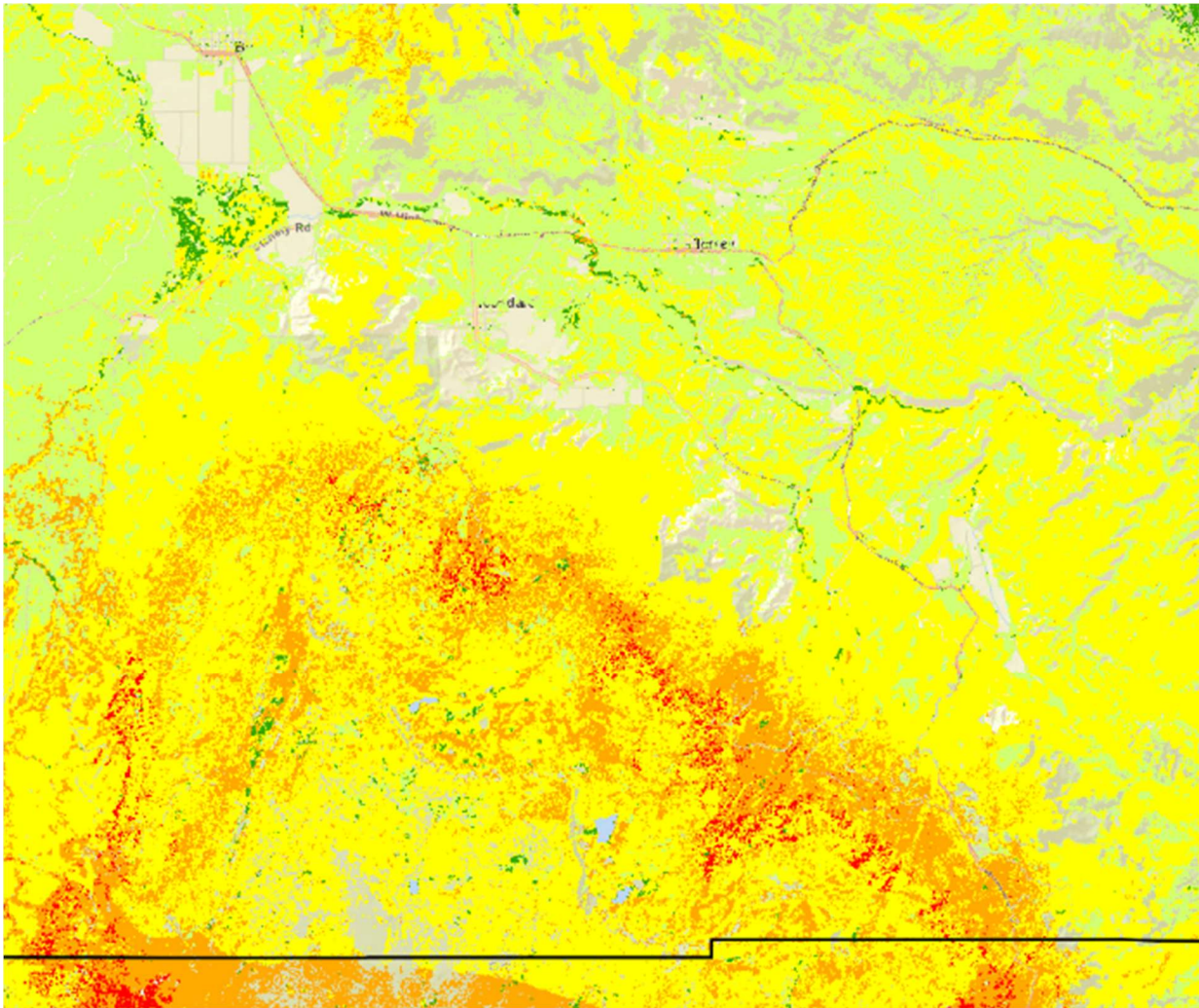
The county has an overall moderate risk to wildfires. On average, the county will have about 5 wildfires per year, most of which will be naturally occurring and around 0.1 acres in size. In addition, the county has a 5% chance annually that a wildfire will be 500 acres or larger. Therefore, the probability of occurrence is high. Future development, especially in the Teasdale area and western side of the Thousand Lake Mountains would be impacted by a wildfire.



This image shows the highest Wildfire Hazard Potential is concentrated in the western third of the county. The large upper area of intense color is Thousand Lake Mountain where there are no residential houses or permanent private developments. The entire mountain is part of the [Fishlake National Forest](#) (managed by the U.S. Forest Service) and is strictly protected public land. Permanent homes and towns like Fremont, Loa, and Lyman are located miles away down in the broad Rabbit Valley flatlands west of the mountain, well below the forested slopes. The west end of the northern Wayne County border has one subdivision with some risk. The lower half of the western third of the county has as significant WUI area and is of concern.

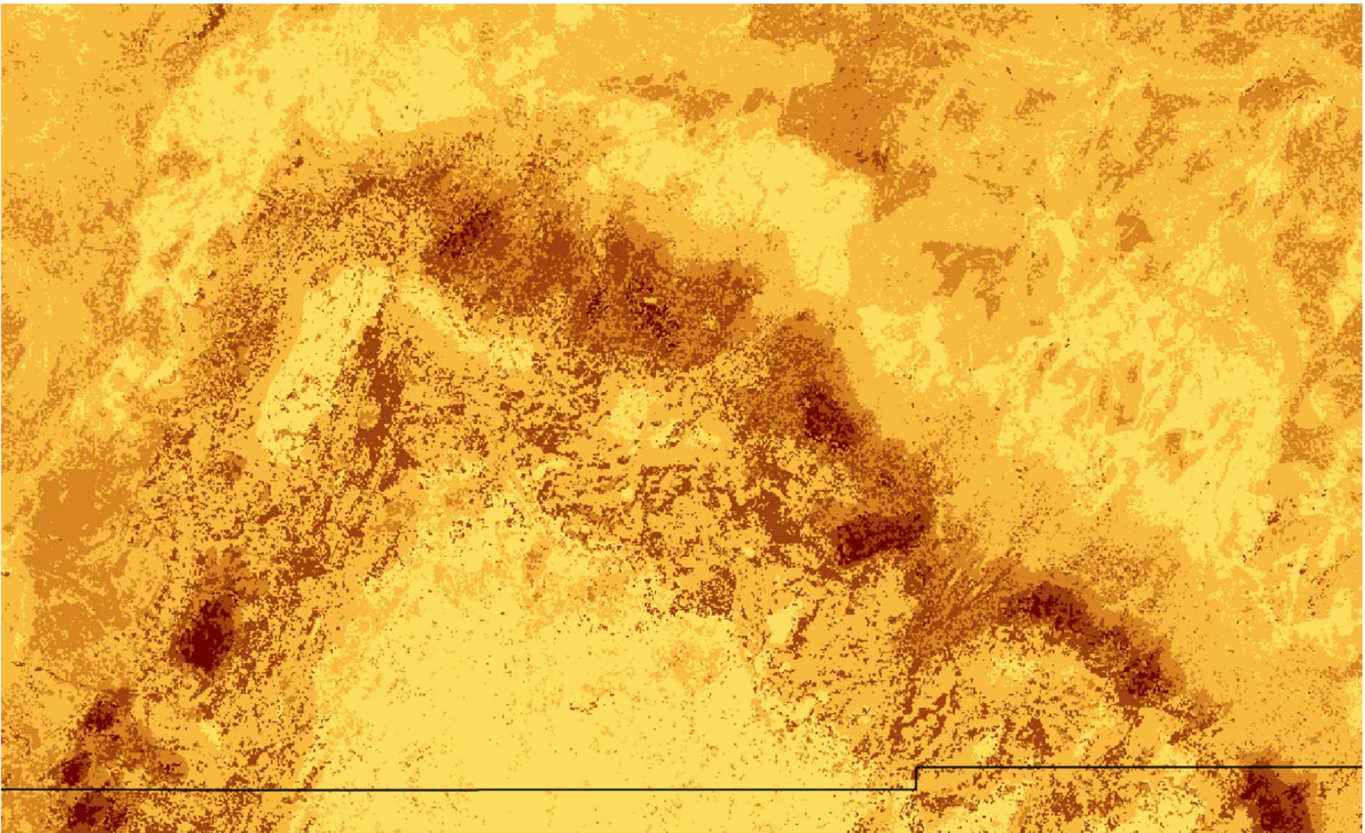
5.5 The Teasdale Front

Historical fire records dating from 1970 through 2001 indicate the Dixie National Forest land has consistent fire activity with an average of 4.1 fires per year. Most of them are lightning caused, occur along the rim of the Aquarius Plateau and have the potential to grow very large. With most of the fires occurring annually adjacent to the largest WUI area in Wayne County, the unincorporated communities of Donkey Flats, Fish Creek Cove, Grover, and Happy Valley are areas of concern. This area, in the lower half of the western third of the county, is referred to as the “Teasdale Front”.



This image illustrates the Wildfire Hazard Potential along the WUI area of the Teasdale Front.

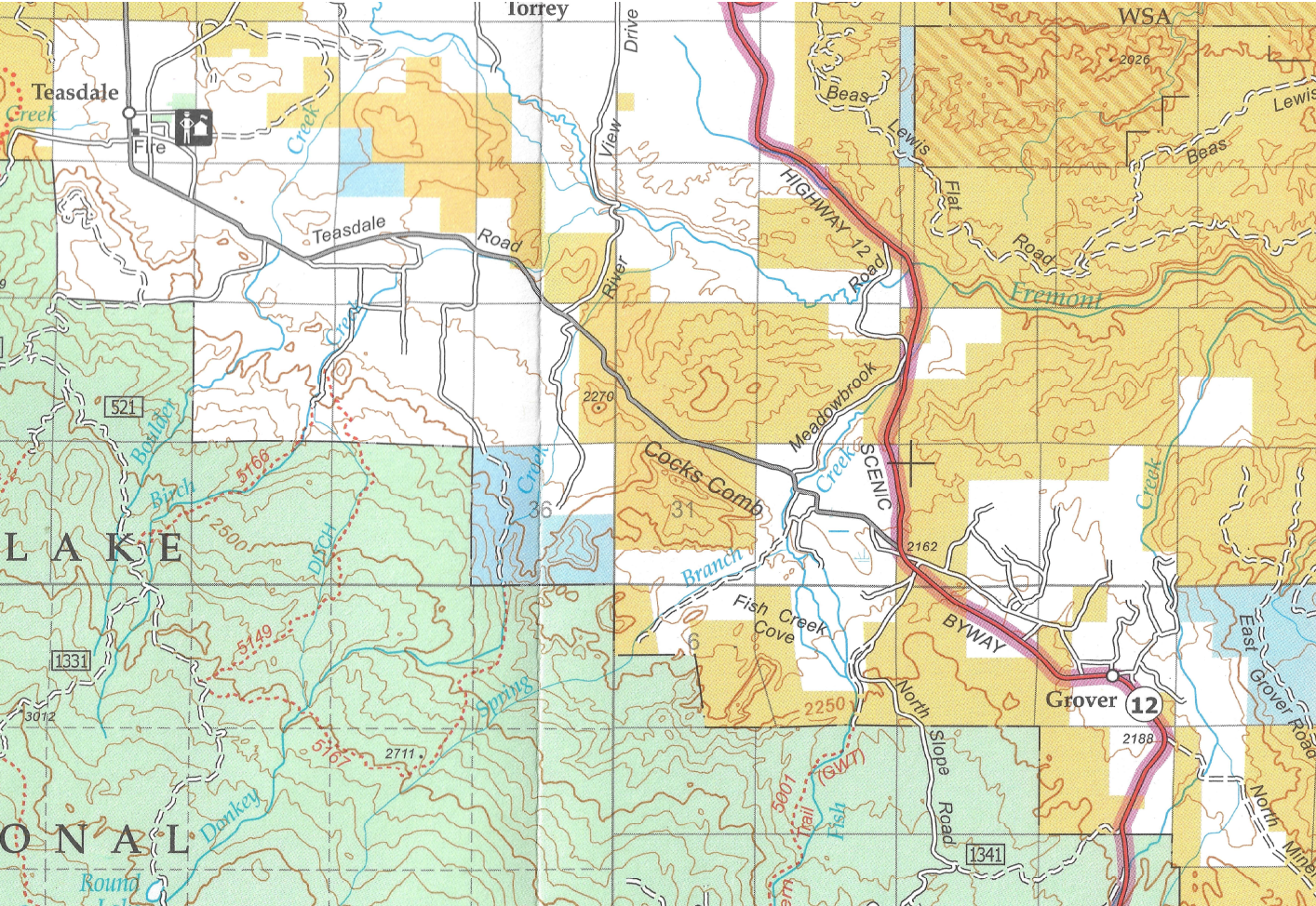
- White - Minimal Direct Wildfire Impacts
- Dark Green - Very Low
- Light Green - Low
- Yellow - Moderate
- Orange - High
- Red - Very High



This image shows the Damage Potential along the WUI area of the Teasdale Front.
– darker colors represent higher potential.

	Unincorporated Communities of the Teasdale Front WUI			
Types of Projects Needed:	Donkey Flats w/Three Creeks	Fish Creek Cove	Happy Valley	Grover
Defensible Space	XX	XX	XXX Complete	XXX
Road Access	XX	XXX	X Needs Turnouts	TBD
Safe Zone		XXX	XXX Complete	
Thinning	XX	X	XX	XXX

	Teasdale Front Communities				
Approximate Number of:	Donkey Flats	Fish Creek Cove	Happy Valley	Grover	Totals
Acres	2116	1496	76	1671	5359
Total Lots	132	74	23	114	343
Lots with Structures	56	37	15	65	173
Unimproved Lots	76	37	8	49	170
Primary Residences	17	16	1	19	53
Short-term Rentals	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	



6 Other Considerations

6.1 Regulatory Landscape

The responsibility for WUI fire prevention and protection lies with property owners, state, county, and town governments. Existing regulations include the 2006 Utah Wildland-urban Interface Code and the 15A-5-203 Amendments and additions to IFC related to fire safety, building and site requirements.

Utah passed additional significant legislation - Utah House Bill 48 (H.B. 48): Wildland Urban Interface Modifications. This bill addresses efforts to oversee wildfire risks associated with wildland urban interface property and became law January 1, 2026. Utah’s new law shows a growing commitment to managing wildfire risk. In addition, the combination of mapping, funding, insurance regulation, and building codes offers a proactive path forward. Recently, Utah House Bill 41 (H.B. 41), enacted in March 2026, focuses on modifying the state's construction and fire codes regarding wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas. The bill updates the state's adoption of the 2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code and delays the implementation of the high-risk WUI property fees.

State officials have created a wildfire risk assessment mapping tool. This tool helps identify high-risk properties across Utah’s WUI. Properties will be evaluated and classified by wildfire coordinators using a new triage system. But, with the legislation comes implications for those who are classified with the worst risk. Counties must perform annual assessments on these high-risk areas. If a property falls into the highest risk category, the owner will be charged an annual mitigation fee. The money will go to a new fund supporting fire prevention and preparedness programs. Counties may also keep part of the fees to cover administrative costs.

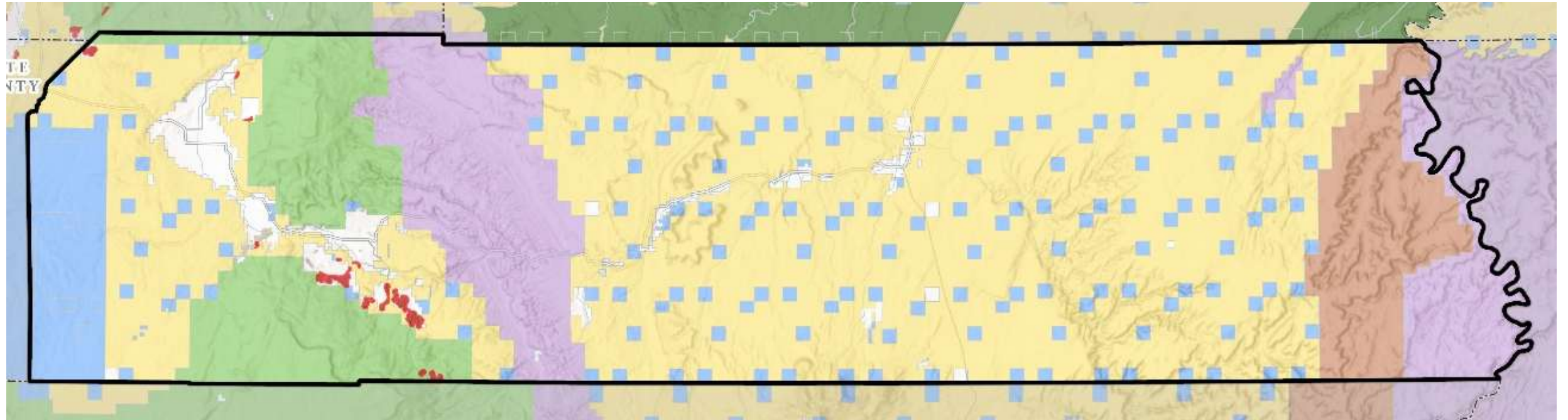
Insurers must now use Utah’s wildfire risk mapping tool when setting rates or deciding coverage. They also need to explain cancellations, non-renewals, or premium increases above 20%. The Department of Insurance can require third-party reviews of insurer rate filings tied to wildfire risk.

In addition, counties and cities must adopt the Utah Wildland Urban Interface Code. This includes stricter building and safety standards for homes in wildfire-prone areas. If a county or town refuses to comply, the state may limit its fire cost coverage.

Wayne County adheres to the Utah State Construction and Fire Codes, which are based on the International Code Council's 2021 editions, and all jurisdictions within the county enforce those codes. Specific amendments and additions to these codes, including those related to fire safety and building requirements, are outlined in Utah Code Title 15A, Chapter 5.

To ensure that residents in high-risk areas contribute proportionally to wildfire-related costs, HB 48 also brings fees on WUI property owners. During 2026 through 2027 there will be a flat fee based on square footage of structures for all properties deemed high-risk. Then from 2028 onward, the fee will be based on triage assessment and square footage of structure size. Assessments are not legally required, however homeowners opting out of the assessment will be charged the highest fee and considered to be at the highest risk. Fees go into the Utah Wildfire Fund to cover property assessment costs and support mitigation efforts.

This image illustrates that, in Wayne County, the HB48 High Risk WUI Properties (in red), are concentrated in the lower, western third of the county along the Teasdale Front.



6.2 Vegetation and Land Cover

The elevations of the WUI between 4700 and 8600 feet are pinyon-juniper woodland characterized by trees less than 33 feet tall and comprise a closed or an open woodland and where there is commonly a significant shrub component.

Historically, pre-Euro-American settlement pinyon-juniper ecosystems had significantly lower tree densities than today, trees were present in scattered, open-canopy arrangements, and perennial grasses and shrubs dominated the understory and ecological processes. Pre-settlement densities were, on average, about one-fourth to one-tenth or less of the density present at the beginning of the twenty-first century. The increase in tree density since the mid-1800s is attributed to factors like fire exclusion and historic overgrazing, which reduced the fine fuels needed for frequent, low-intensity surface fires that historically maintained the more open structure.

With the absence of modern recurring stand regulating fires, pinyon-juniper cover has increased ten-fold over the past 130 years. These overly dense pinyon stands lead to reduced individual tree vigor and subsequently increased susceptibility to piñon ips, see below.

Above 8,000 are the mixed conifer forests with stands of Aspen of the Colorado Plateau, where fire suppression has also shifted from a fire regime of frequent, surface fires to one of stand-replacing, high-intensity fires.

6.3 Drought and the Pinyon Engraver Beetle

The [National Integrated Drought Information System](#) shows nearly all of Wayne County in “Severe Drought” to an “Exceptional Drought” area (D4) in late 2025.

Conditions & Impacts:

- **Extreme Dryness:** Wayne County experienced near-zero precipitation in late 2025, with conditions drier than 98-100% of past records for the 1979-present period.
- **Emergency Status:** Governor Cox declared a drought emergency for Wayne and other Utah counties, unlocking aid and emphasizing conservation.
- **Agricultural Impact:** Significant crop and pasture losses are occurring due to drought as irrigation sources have dried up.
- **Wildfire Risk:** Drier fuels increase fire danger, requiring extreme caution with campfires, fireworks, and target shooting.

In healthy pinyon forests, low levels of pinyon engraver beetle, in association with diseases, serve to remove weakened and stressed trees, thus thinning the forest and reducing competition for light, water, and nutrients. Drought has been considered a predisposing agent for engraver beetle outbreaks for many years. Moisture stress may increase tree susceptibility in two ways. The first way is by reducing the production of sap. Vigorous trees can produce enough sap to push or ‘pitch’ attacking beetles out of entrance holes. Beetles become trapped in the sap, and they die. The second way is by increasing the nutritional quality of the tree for the beetles. Moisture stress has been found to increase soluble nitrogenous compounds and sugars in living cells of trees. Both of these substances are important for the development of beetles.

If an active infestation is discovered in a tree and the tree will die, the tree should be removed immediately and treated to prevent further development and flight of beetles. A common mistake is to cut down an infested tree and then stack infested logs under a nearby host tree. Removing a tree does not kill the beetles and they can still develop under the bark and emerge to attack more trees. This is especially critical from March to October during the beetle’s most active period.

Thinning offers the best long-term management strategy for the pinyon engraver beetle. Thinning reduces competition and lowers the likelihood of bark beetle outbreaks. Delay thinning until late Fall to reduce the potential for population build-ups, and since beetles will also infest fresh green material, including pruned branches and recently broken, uprooted, or downed trees, promptly burn or dispose of any logging slash. Material removed in the winter months should be treated or disposed of by the end of March, before the next beetle flight.

When thinning trees on a property, consider creating a mosaic pattern that is a mixture of individuals and clumps of three to five trees. The size of each clump will depend on the size, health and location of the trees. The minimum spacing between the crowns of individual trees is 10 feet, increasing for larger trees, clumps and stands on steeper slopes, so it is difficult for a fire to move from one tree clump to the next.

Trees should only be pruned to remove branches that are dead or are touching the ground. Live branches can be pruned up to 3 feet above the ground, or a third the height of the tree, whichever is less. Pruning live branches or removing and processing these trees is not recommended between April and October, when the piñon bark beetle is active. Thinning activity that stimulates sap flow in summer months can attract beetles to healthy trees. It is acceptable to remove dead trees and dead branches during the summer. Removing shrubs growing beneath piñon and juniper canopies is also recommended.

6.4 Fire Response

Wayne County is served by a single, under-funded, under-staffed fire district, the Wayne County Fire District (WCFD), with 6 stations, 70 volunteers, a part-time paid fire chief and deputy chief, and a part-time fire marshal in addition to a fire warden shared with Sevier and Piute counties.

Our district has seen an increase in number and variety of calls. As first responders, we have to train and equip our fire departments for various situations that may arise, such as vehicle extrication, various types of hazardous materials, and many other types of responses. Each added type of response increases the need for equipment and the time our volunteers need to spend in training. With the recent decrease in population in our district, volunteer retention and recruitment are concerns.

Certain conditions in the WUI make firefighting especially dangerous, including:

- homes that are largely wooden structures;
- little signage and poor access;
- few access routes exist or they are confusing or have only one outlet;
- bridges are inadequate for emergency equipment;
- limited defensible space surrounding communities; and
- limited communication to rural, seasonal populations.

Some of the WUI communities require 4-wheel drive vehicles to access, currently WCFD does not have this type of vehicle for structures and thus, has a limited ability to respond in those areas.

When fire exceeds the capability of local and area resources, additional regional and federal resources are ordered through the Richfield Interagency Fire Center, except for the far eastern portion of the county which is served by the Moab Fire Center.

Wayne County Fire District coordinates with various agencies. Locally these agencies include Wayne County Emergency Management, Wayne County Sheriff’s Department, local Public Works, and local Emergency Medical Services. Non-local agencies include the Utah State Fire Marshal and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Dixie National Forest, Fishlake National Forest, National Park Service, the BLM, US WFS, and FFSL. Wayne County Fire District has mutual aid agreements through FFSL for assistance throughout the state.

6.5 Treatment Accomplishments

Prevention – Activities directed at reducing unplanned, human-caused fire ignitions, including public education, law enforcement, personal contact.

- Distributed nearly 200 fire extinguishers to WUI property owners at community educational events where WCFD, local government, and FFSL participated.
- Specified mitigation equipment for WCFD to participate in mitigation activities.
- Specified mitigation equipment to enable homeowners in their efforts to build defensible space around their homes.
- Conducted a series of workshops and other educational events with FFSL, and other stakeholders, for private landowners to become Firewise.
- A local non-profit distributed chainsaws and other small mitigation equipment to WUI property owners.

Preparedness – Activities that lead to a state of response readiness to contain the effects of wildfire to minimize loss of life, injury, and damage to property. Including access to home/community, combustibility of homes/structures (home hardening), and creating survivable space.

- Created access for fire safety in Happy Valley where a narrow dirt road snakes down a steep slope to a subdivision bordered on all side with National Forest. If a fire were to occur and people tried to escape, the road would only support one-way traffic for all the steep sections. Escaping vehicles would block incoming fire units. Homeowners, with help from the Forest Service, installed culverts and some pullouts. Within the subdivision there are few areas that would be safe from serious wildfire. For this project, the FFSL and WCFD cleared an area of brush to establish a safe-area and helicopter landing zone. Residents can assemble there while fire forces attack fire and evacuate in a coordinated way that will not hinder operations.
- Developing the use of signage at firehouses and other locales to display fire prevention information, safety messages, and fire danger ratings linked to safety actions.
- Designated short-term, temporary housing for those displaced during a catastrophic wildfire event at the new Torrey fire station.
- Replaced the Torrey Fire Station with a new larger station that will serve present and future needs and serve as a shelter during community disasters.

- <<WHO?>>Improved the access road with turnouts and gravel in Happy Valley to improve access and flow of traffic in and around Happy Valley. Timeframe: 2010-2022; Funding Sources: Landowners, Wayne County, Cat Fire; Estimated Cost: \$75,000; Responsible Entity: Happy Valley HOA; Resources: USFS, Wayne County, FFSL

Mitigation – Actions that are implemented to reduce or eliminate risks to persons, property or natural resources including fuel treatments and reduction.

Maintenance – The process of preserving actions that have occurred including fuel treatments and reduction.

- <<WHO?>>WCFD worked with FFSL and DWR to reduce wildfire risk in the Bicknell Bottoms by cooperating on a planned, controlled burn.
- WCFD works with numerous property owners to safely maintain overgrown pastures by supervising permitted burns.
- WCFD coordinates with Torrey Town to maintain overgrown irrigation ditches along State Route 24 that are surrounded by the town’s iconic cottonwood trees.

6.5.1 Teasdale Front Range Fuels Reduction Project

Located on the Dixie National Forest along the north slope of the Boulder Mountain, the Teasdale Front Fuels Reduction Treatment removed ladder fuel and reduced pinyon and juniper in 1,027 acres of Ponderosa Pine using a lop and scatter prescription and was completed in 2022. The project improved current health of the ponderosa pine plant community in the project area and managed it for fire resilience, sustainability and long-term health. It capitalized on previously treated adjacent or overlapping National Forest System lands on Boulder Mountain's North Slope and further reduced the risk of unwanted fire behavior near the communities of Teasdale, Happy Valley, Grover, Black Ridge, Fish Creek Cove, Donkey Flats, Government Creek, East Teasdale and Pine Creek.

Project area is critical mule deer winter range and substantial winter range for elk on the north slope of Boulder Mountain. There are currently depredation issues on nearby private lands. There is a need to reduce encroaching conifers to allow the understory to persist with grasses, forbs and shrubs useful for wildlife winter range. This treatment along with the surrounding future Fishlake EA pinyon/juniper and Boulder Mountain Improvement project treatments will improve vital winter range vegetation components. Additionally, one goal of these treatments is to help alleviate big-game ungulate use and pressure off of the private lands that surround Hwy 12. Ponderosa pine is a important habitat component for roosting and foraging wild turkeys and grouse. Improving these stands will help create optimal foraging opportunities as ruffed and blue grouse forage on insects, buds, seeds, twigs and leaves among the grass and shrubs while using the pines for roosting and cover. The project area provides nesting and foraging opportunities for accipiter's and hawks. Reducing high stand densities and improving small game habitat from project treatments will improve foraging opportunities for raptors and maintain adequate trees/snags for nesting. The project area is in-between two perennial streams (Fish Creek and Carcass Creek) which harbor non-native trout. There is a need to reduce fuel loading for fire resilience in the area. This will help protect these tributaries from larger high severity wildfires that can have detrimental impacts to these crucial water sources and fisheries.

Objectives:

1. Reduce contiguous high fuel loading within watersheds adjacent to Teasdale through expanding adjacent treated areas.
2. Secure existing landscape-scale forest health of ponderosa pine forest type.
3. Reduce crown fire and high intensity wildfire potential by decreasing pinyon, juniper, and regenerating high density ponderosa pine post treatment.
4. Increase available moisture for grass, forb, and shrub plant species by removing competition from trees in excess of historical density range.
5. Provide increased forage for big game, turkeys and forest grouse.



7 Mitigation Strategies

Following the goals of the Cohesive Strategy, the WC CWPP has been structured around and makes recommendations for

- prioritized hazardous fuels-reduction projects,
- methods with which to carry out public education and measures to reduce structural ignitability, and
- recommendations for safe and effective wildfire response.

Many of the recommendations listed can be implemented at the homeowner or community level.

7.1 Cohesive Strategy Goal 1: Restore and Maintain Landscapes

Goal 1 of the Cohesive Strategy and the Western Regional Action Plan is to restore and maintain landscapes. Fuels management of public and private land in the WUI is key to the survival of homes during a wildfire event. The areas of concern are areas where land managers should consider employing mitigation measures to protect life, property, and other values.

Fuels-reduction treatments can be implemented on both private and public land. Community members have the opportunity to actively apply the treatments on their properties, as well as recommend treatments on public land that they use or care about.

Treatment plans will be developed to execute mitigation measures in areas of concern. The emphasis of each treatment type is unique. Proximate to structures, the recommendations focus on reducing fire intensity consistent with Firewise and International Fire Code standards. Further into open space areas, treatments tend to emphasize forest health and increasing resiliency to catastrophic wildfire and other disturbances.

Fuel treatment methodologies should be applied to

- first protect structures (defensible space, aka hazard ignition zone),
- then near community boundaries (fuel breaks, cleanup of adjacent open spaces), and
- finally in the wildlands beyond community boundaries (larger-scale forest health and restoration treatments).

The recommendations for fuels reduction projects are general in nature. Site-specific planning that addresses location, access, land ownership, topography, soils, and fuels would need to be employed upon implementation.

[Recommendations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction can be found in here.](#)

7.2 Cohesive Strategy Goal 2: Fire-Adapted Communities

Goal 2 of the Cohesive Strategy/Western Regional Action Plan is “Fire-Adapted Communities” where human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property. In this CWPP, recommendations for fire-adapted communities include public education and outreach actions and actions to reduce structural ignitability. If owners have failed to harden their homes and structures and provide mitigation efforts on their own land, the risk of home ignition remains high, and firefighter lives are put at risk when they are forced to carry out structural defense.

Reduction of structural ignitability depends largely on public education that provides homeowners the information they need to take responsibility for protecting their own properties. Recommendations for public outreach/education and structural ignitability include the following:

- Developing and promoting wildfire education
- Interagency and local government collaboration
- Defensible space development and maintenance
- Structural hardening improvements and codes
- Prioritizing the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged families
- Hosting community awareness events
- Evacuation routes, mitigation, and maintenance

The most important method of improving public education is improving communication between homeowners and local land management agencies to improve and build trust, particularly since the implementation of fuel treatments and better maintenance of existing treatments needs to occur in the interface between public and private land. Public education should also include significant involvement from town and local officials and civic groups. Other methods to improve public education could include:

- increasing awareness about home hardening;
- providing workshops at demonstration sites showing Firewise building and landscaping techniques or fuels treatment projects;
- organizing community cleanups to remove fuels; and,
- publicizing availability of government funds for treatments on private land.

The Wayne County Community Wildfire Council carries out educational activities in the County, such as public engagement at farmers markets and open houses, workshops, barbeques, and youth events. The FFSL also maintains website pages containing useful information and contacts regarding wildfire mitigation and wildfire prevention.

[Recommendations for Public Education and Structural Ignitability can be found in here.](#)

Reducing structural ignitability and creating defensible space are key for minimizing potential loss and damage.

- Preparing for wildland fire by creating defensible space around the home is an effective strategy for reducing structural ignitability.
- Hardening the home to ignition from embers, including maintaining vent coverings and other openings, is also strongly advised to protect a home from structural ignitability.
- Managing the landscape around a structure by removing weeds and debris within a 30-foot radius and keeping the roof and gutters of a home clean are two maintenance measures proven to limit combustible materials that could provide an ember bed and ignite the structure.

7.3 Cohesive Strategy Goal 3: Wildfire Response

Goal 3 of the Cohesive Strategy/Western Regional Action Plan is Wildfire Response: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions. Recommendations for improving fire response capabilities include the following:

- Subdivision/HOA specific hazard assessments and action plans
- Water supply improvements
- Emergency notification improvements
- Evacuation route identification
- Interagency collaboration

Consideration should also be given to the many aspects of post-fire response recovery, including but not limited to:

- Coordinating and mobilizing a group of teams in the community to respond to emergencies,
- Returning home and checking for hazards,
- Prioritizing the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged communities during response and disaster recovery efforts,
- Rebuilding communities and assessing economic needs—securing the financial resources necessary for communities to rebuild homes, business, and infrastructure,
- Restoring the damaged landscape—restoration of watersheds, soil stabilization, and tree planting,
- Evaluating and updating disaster recovery plans every 5 years to respond to changing needs and characteristics of the community, and
- Coordinating with planning, housing, health, and human services, and other local, regional, or state agencies to develop contingency plans for meeting short-term, temporary housing needs of those displaced during a catastrophic wildfire event.

Recommendations for Public Education and Structural Ignitability can be found in [here](#).

7.4 Implementation

The CWPP does not require implementation of any of the recommendations, but the greatest fire mitigation could be achieved through the joint actions of individual homeowners, tribes, and town, county, state, and federal governments.

Implementation of the recommendations in the WC CWPP planning area will require developing an action plan and an assessment strategy that identifies roles and responsibilities, funding needs, and timetables for completing highest-priority projects.

The responsibility for implementing wildfire mitigation treatments on private land lies at the discretion of the landowner.

7.5 Funding

The Wildfire Management in Utah report notes that Utah’s heavy reliance on federal funding for prevention resources, hazardous fuels reduction, WUI mitigation, and local fire department support creates uncertainty. Potential federal budget cuts, particularly to the USFS programs, jeopardize critical efforts and personnel. While the Utah legislature has been supportive and strategic in providing funds for these types of projects, the funding falls short in supporting large-scale projects, and the WUI program within FFSL is reliant on federal funding to support staff positions and projects. The funding of staff with federal dollars limits the availability of staff planning and the flexibility of staff.

7.6 Monitoring

It is important that project outcomes are monitored and evaluated as a regular practice. Furthermore, as the CWPP evolves over time, there may be a need to track changes in policy, requirements, stakeholder changes, and levels of preparedness. These can be significant for any future revisions and/or addendums to the CWPP.

There are many resources for designing and implementing community-based, multi-party monitoring that could support and further inform a basic monitoring program for the CWPP dependent on available funds and personnel to implement them.

Recommended monitoring strategies include:

- A Mitigation Tracking Form is available for homeowners at <https://utah-hmm-utahdnrhub.hub.arcgis.com/pages/landowner-mitigation?preview=true>. This form allows homeowners to document the actions taken on their property and track their progress in reducing wildfire risks enhancing the ability of agencies to secure additional support through in-kind grant matches. Number and acres of home ignition zones/defensible space treated to reduce fuels. When conducting any of the following activities, homeowners should complete the tracking form.
 - Vegetation Removal/Defensible Space Improvement
 - FFSL Community Chipping Event Day
 - Community Education or Meeting
 - Wildfire Prevention
 - Wildfire Mitigation
 - Prescribed Burn
- A CWC Team member will lead the effort to implement other monitoring strategies:
 - Photographic record (documents pre- and post-fuels reduction work, evacuation routes, workshops, classes, field trips, changes in open space, treatment type, etc.). Establish field GPS location; photo points of cardinal directions; keep photos protected in archival location. Moderate cost, repeatable over time; used for programs and tracking objectives.
 - Number of acres treated (by fuel type, treatment method). GPS/GIS/fire behavior prediction system – this can be monitored within the Project Tracking System. Evaluating costs, potential fire behavior.
 - Number and cost of home treatments to reduce ignitability. GPS – This can be monitored within the Project Tracking System. Fuels reduction and structure protection.
 - Number of residents/citizens participating in any CWPP projects and events. Meetings, media interviews, articles. Evaluate culture change objective, Annual lessons learned review encouraged among stakeholders.
 - Number of homeowner contacts (brochures, flyers, posters, etc.), Visits, phone. Evaluate objective. Annual lessons learned review encouraged among stakeholders.
 - Number of jobs created, contracts, grants. Project Tracking System. Evaluate local job growth.
 - Education outreach: number, kinds of involvement. Workshops, classes, field trips, signage; Project Tracking System. Evaluate objectives. Annual lessons learned review encouraged among stakeholders.

The monitoring of each fuels-reduction project would be site-specific, and decisions regarding the timeline for monitoring and the type of monitoring to be used would be determined by project. Monitoring schedules will be developed utilizing knowledge of past projects that employed best practices to achieve similar goals.

8 Recommendations for Goal 1: Hazardous Fuels Reduction

The WC CWPP recommendations to restore and maintain landscapes focus on vegetation management and hazardous fuel reduction. The treatment list is by no means exhaustive and should be considered purely a sample of required projects for the future management of the planning area. Many projects may be eligible for grant funds available from federal and/or state sources.

8.1 Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Private Land

Description: Mitigate wildfire hazards on private land.

Location: Highest risk communities identified in the assessments, prioritized for areas of concern and along egress routes.

Timeline: 0-5 years

Approach: Strategic placement of fuel breaks on private lands will help to limit the spread of wildland fire and increase access to difficult areas. Fuel break prescriptions should be site specific depending on the fuel type, topography, soils, adjacent land management practices and environmental regulations.

- Provide incentives for private landowners to engage in fuel reduction projects.
- Collaborate with local, state, and federal land management agencies, communities, and private landowners to link fuel treatments to increase effectiveness on a landscape scale.
- Reduce fuel continuity where appropriate.
- Break down plans into high-risk communities.
- Utilize mechanical and manual methods.
- Aim for 300-foot shaded fuel breaks around communities.
- Implement and maintain shaded fuel breaks and reduce ladder fuels.
- Utilize the Good Neighbor Authority, as appropriate, to facilitate cross-boundary actions.
- Target vacant lots with accumulating vegetation.

Serves to: Create resilient landscapes and address potential for extreme wildfire behavior in and around the WUI.

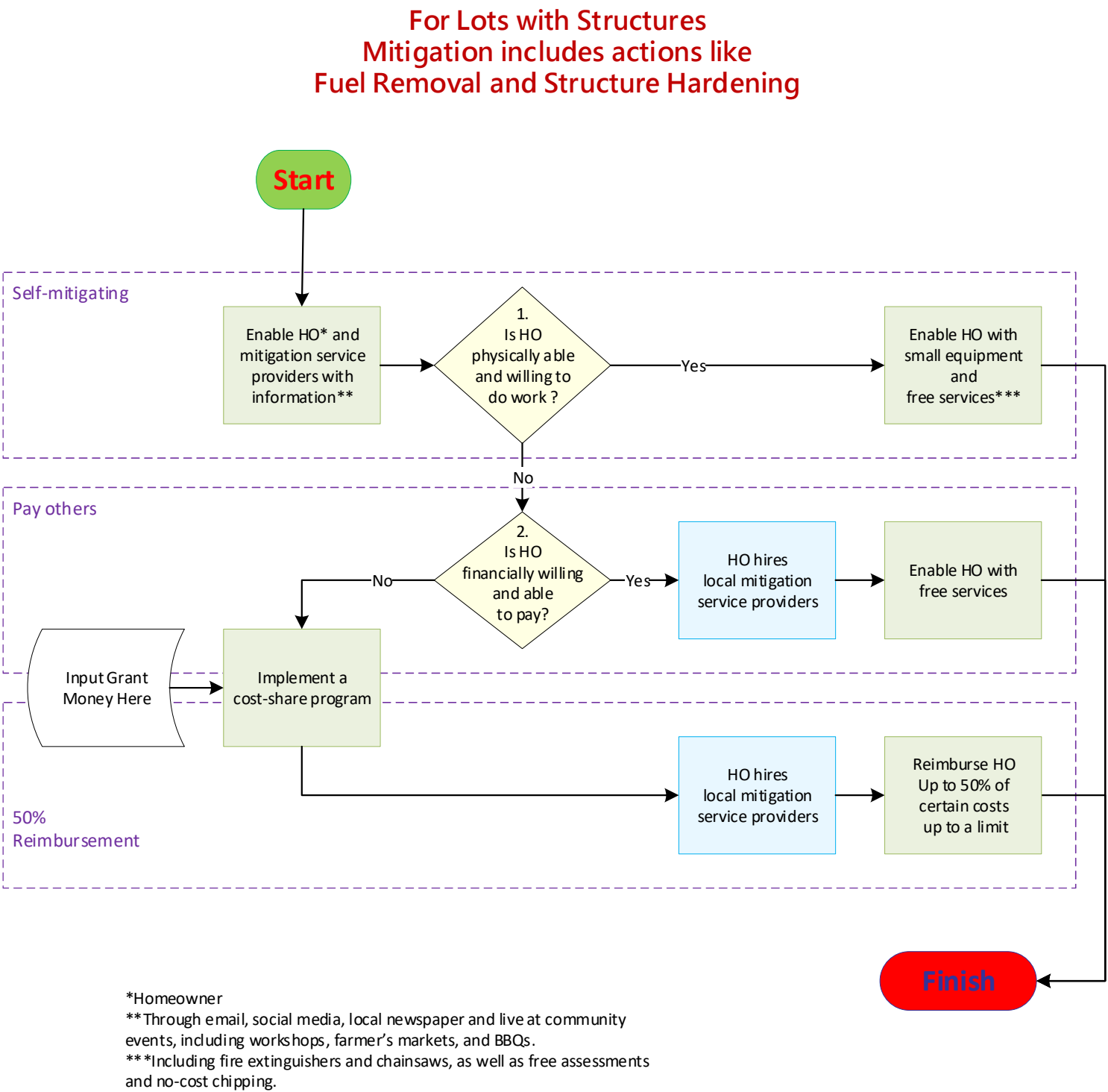
Monitoring guidelines:

- Frequent communication, collaboration, and cooperation with landowners.
- Regular maintenance to ensure the fuel breaks remain clear of vegetation.
- Follow up with post-treatment stabilization practices.
- Monitor for invasive species, and treat as needed.
- Continued management of fire breaks maintained by grazing, brush breaking, controlled burns.

Building defensible space around existing homes and improving egress to those homes

- Prioritize the Teasdale Front
- Prioritize primary residences.

Mitigating the Hazard Ignition Zone on privately-owned lots in the Wayne County WUI calls for more than one approach. For lots with structures, current activities follow this roadmap:



Current priority efforts include:

8.1.1 Fuel Reduction Along the Teasdale Front (In Progress)

Developed in partnership with Federal, State, and regional partners, Coalition and Collaborative's Action, Implementation, and Mitigation (AIM) Program increases local capacity and supports wildfire risk reduction activities in high-risk communities and is funding this kick-starter project that WCFD is conducting.

The scope of work includes:

- Procuring necessary materials and equipment for mitigation.
- Conducting training sessions for volunteer firefighters and private homeowners.
- Helping at least 10 homeowners along the Teasdale Front develop individual wildfire mitigation plans and train them to carry out the necessary tasks themselves or with the help of volunteer firefighters or local contractors.
- Helping the same homeowners with the execution of the mitigation plan developed for the establishment of defensible space around their homes.

8.1.2 The Teasdale Front Defensible Space Initiative – (Planning)

The Teasdale Front Defensible Space Initiative is a community-driven WUI mitigation project focusing on creating and enhancing defensible space on private properties within the High-Risk WUI zone in Wayne County. By reducing volatile fuel loads, the initiative establishes a critical buffer zone. This buffer protects residential structures, improves life safety for residents, and provides safe tactical anchoring points for suppression crews during a wildfire.

Living along the beautiful north slope of Boulder Mountain comes with incredible views, but it also places our neighborhood on the frontline of southern Utah’s wildfire country. The communities of Donkey Flats, Fish Creek Cove, Grover, and Happy Valley, collectively The Teasdale Front, sit along the slopes of Boulder Mountain and are flanked by steep terrain and heavy fuel loads. The ecosystem is dominated by highly flammable pinyon-juniper woodlands, sagebrush, and decadent mountain brush. Decades of fire suppression, paired with recent drought and beetle-kill cycles, have left the area vulnerable to catastrophic crown fires.

To protect our homes, families, and shared landscapes, Endeavors Elevated, a local nonprofit, will partner with FFSL and the WCFD to launch the Teasdale Front Defensible Space Initiative. We will pursue a 90/10 cost-share program to bring professional fire-mitigation resources directly to private property through a federal Community Wildfire Defense Grant.

Under this scenario, grant funds pay for 90% of the cost for specialized contractors to thin hazardous ladder fuels, prune high-risk timber, and masticate heavy brush within 100 feet of your structures. Homeowners could fulfill their 10% local match entirely through "sweat equity" - their own volunteer time spent prepping their yard, clearing light brush, or stacking branches for chipping as their payment. Additionally, under Utah’s wildland-urban interface laws (HB 48/41), homes in high-risk zones face mandatory compliance standards and state mitigation fees starting in 2027. Participating in this program gives homeowners a certified lot-level assessment, lowering or completely waiving their upcoming state fees.

Education is central to the project's long-term success. Wayne County, in partnership with local fire officials, will host community workshops on building materials, ember awareness, and routine vegetation maintenance. Landowners

participating in the cost-share program will sign maintenance agreements, committing to keep their properties cleared in subsequent years to sustain the project's defensive benefits.

*Detailed information regarding defensible space practices can be found in [Appendix D](#).
A list of actions for homeowners to reducing structural ignitability can be found in [Appendix E](#).
Homeowner Resources can be found in [Appendix F](#).*

8.2 Landscape-level Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Landscape-level fuel treatments include thinning, prescribed burning, pruning, and mechanical treatments such as mastication or mowing. Mitigation Specialists carefully select treatments to help reduce and rearrange the amount and continuity of fuel within a forest stand and across the landscape. Treatments in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) should cross jurisdictional boundaries to reduce overall wildfire risk and strengthen local partnerships.

Description: Collaborate between private, state, and federal partners (especially the US WFS, USFS and the NPS) to plan and conduct landscape-level fuel treatments. A focus should be to treat areas along egress routes.

Location: County (private and local) and adjacent state and federally managed lands (i.e., public and private lands). This should be prioritized in areas of concern.

Timeline: 0-5+ years

Approach:

- Locate parcels on private and public lands where targeted fuel treatments can be performed that will connect pre-existing treatments.
- Collaboratively identify vegetation and fuels management needs based on the risk/hazard assessment and input from local officials and land managers.
- Develop equipment needs to accomplish work (including maintenance) and seek funding for purchase.
- Create an educational tool/handout for land/property owners focused on various methods, techniques, and cost for various fuel treatments.
- Cultivate and support partnerships with NGOs and volunteer groups to support implementation of projects.
- Buffer roads, natural fuel breaks (rivers, creeks, and ridgelines), and designated ROWs to increase fuel break effectiveness.
- Consider fuel breaks around the boundaries of federally owned land.
- Create and maintain buffers around critical infrastructure.
- Develop long-term maintenance plans with each project, including funding sources.

Serves to: Create resilient landscapes and address potential for extreme wildfire behavior in and around the WUI.

Monitoring guidelines:

- Arrange a standing multi-agency meeting each year to review accomplishments and address future needs.
- Consider the use of timber sales.
- Survey for regeneration annually.
- Perform defensible space inspections.
- Monitor and treat for invasive species annually.

Current priority efforts include:

8.2.1 Donkey Flats / Boulder Mountain Cross-Boundary Shaded Fuel Break – In Planning

The Donkey Flats and Boulder Mountain corridor is populated with single-family residential structures situated in an ecosystem suffering from severe pinyon-juniper encroachment and heavy understory brush accumulation. A wildfire originating on these steep slopes would experience rapid, uphill canopy runs, directly threatening homes and critical water infrastructure. Left untreated, the private land down in Donkey Flats represents a dangerous gap in the regional fuel-break system. This project eliminates that gap. By extending the fuel reduction across property lines down into the flats, we create a seamless, multi-jurisdictional landscape buffer. This continuous treatment area may help prevent a fast-moving ground fire on non-federal land from transitioning into a destructive canopy fire on federal land, and vice versa.

To build this continuous firebreak herds of goats will be deployed to clear dense continuous stands of Gambel oak brush, dry mountain grasses, and heavy sagebrush fuel loading. Goats easily navigate the steep, rocky terrain where heavy mechanical mowers and tractors cannot safely operate, creating an eco-friendly and efficient defensive buffer line. The grazing contractor provides fully self-contained, portable, solar-powered electric fencing to secure the herd within the active daily treatment footprint. Trained livestock guardian dogs stay on-site with the herd 24/7 to deter predators. They are focused on herd safety and will ignore neighborhood activities if left undisturbed.

The Cross-Boundary Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Grant, formerly known as the Stevens Grant, is a program that funds wildfire risk reduction activities on non-federal lands adjacent to national forests. If a forest is cleared on federal land, this grant helps clear the private land right next to it. Donkey Flats / Boulder Mountain Cross-Boundary Shaded Fuel Break specifically leverages the cross-boundary criteria near the boundary of Dixie National Forest and private property in Donkey Flats.

This initiative is being organized to qualify for the Cross-Boundary Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Grant and will be administered by FFSL.

- **1:1 Match Requirement:** The grant covers 100% of contractor operational costs via a 1:1 match structure. Our community can fulfill our 50% match entirely through non-federal in-kind contributions.
- **No Cash Required:** Homeowners do not need to pay out-of-pocket cash. Logged volunteer hours (planning, boundary prep) and donated exterior water spigot access supply the complete required match value.
- **Strength in Numbers:** This grant prioritizes large-scale cross-boundary treatments. A unified, continuous strip of properties presents a much stronger application to the state than individual yards.

8.2.2 Fuel Reduction Work on the NF Lands Surrounding Happy Valley

A fuel reduction project to be conducted by the USDA Forest Service focusing on mechanical thinning, Pinyon-Juniper removal, and thereby creating defensible space within this remote area of the WUI managed by the Fishlake National Forest. The project objectives would include reducing high stand densities of pinyon, juniper, and high-density conifer growth to protect the local community from high-severity crown fires and to improve overall forest health, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

8.2.3 Black Ridge

Reduce fire risks around the Black Ridge Communication Infrastructure by adding fuel breaks in vegetation and buffers along roadway. Provide defensible space around translators.

- **Funding Sources:**

- Estimated Cost: Low
- Responsible Entity: US WFS, **USFS (complete?)**, FFSL

8.2.4 The Aspens Subdivision Thinning

The Aspens Subdivision (at Fishlake): Reduce fire hazards by thinning the vegetation using a lop and scatter method to prevent unnecessary disturbance.

- Priority and Justification: Medium
- Timeframe: 2028
- Funding Source: FFSL
- Estimated Cost: Low
- Responsible Entity: FFSL
- Resources:

Other projects include:

8.2.5 The Ledges Fuel Break

Due to growth of fuels within the Fremont River watershed downstream from Mill Meadow Reservoir there is a concern for impacts to the watershed in the event of wildfire. Reduce the fire risk to watershed by using a combination of mechanical and lop and scatter methods to create a fuel break along The Ledges from Mill Meadow Reservoir to unincorporated Fremont. 2023

– **TBD Jim Lamb indicated this may have been completed**

What about the High-Risk WUI area near Fremont?

8.2.6 Horse Valley Fuel Breaks

Overgrowth of vegetation along roads and housing. Reduce wildfire risk in Horse Valley by adding fuel breaks in vegetation and buffers along roadways and escape routes. Provide defensible space around scattered developments. 2022

8.2.7 County Road North of Torrey

- TBD

Reduce fire risks by adding fuel breaks in vegetation and buffers along County Road north of Torrey. Provide defensible space around scattered developments. Improve access roads to improve efficiency of escape routes and ensure resources can respond effectively. **What about South of Torrey?**

- Priority and Justification: Medium, Overgrowth of vegetation along roads and housing in dispersed residential area north of Torrey.
- Timeframe: 2022
- Funding Source: FFSL

- Estimated Cost: Low
- Responsible Entity: FFSL
- Resources: Town of Torrey

8.2.8 Cocks Comb to Birch Creek

– above Donkey Flats, some piles burned others are now habitat: **complete?**

Improve existing fuel breaks between Cocks Comb and Birch Creek southeast of unincorporated Teasdale by constructed and creating additional breaks along the existing fuel break in appropriate locations using a combination of mechanical and lop and scatter methods.

- Priority and Justification: Medium
- Timeframe: 2022
- Funding Source: FFSL
- Estimated Cost: Medium
- Responsible Entity: FFSL
- Resources:

8.2.9 Lower Fremont River Corridor

Create a fuel break and reduce invasive species along U.S. Route 24 from Notom Bullfrog Road to U.S. Route 95, and along U.S. Route 95 from Hanksville to Garfield County line by providing a chipper and prescribed burns.

- Priority and Justification: Medium, Vegetation along U.S. Route 24 and 95 are high risk for ignition.
- Timeframe: 2022
- Funding Source: FFSL
- Estimated Cost: Medium
- Responsible Entity: FFSL
- Resources:

8.2.10 Hanksville Airport

Reduce fire risks around Hanksville Airport by adding fuel breaks in vegetation and buffers along roadways and escape routes. Provide defensible space around infrastructure.

- Funding Sources: BLM, USDA
- Estimated Cost: Low
- Responsible Entity: FFSL

8.3 Fuels Reduction to Open Canopies

Description: Create more open canopies in forests and utilize prescriptions and treatments to clear out downed timber.

Location: Private and federal lands. This should be prioritized in areas of concern.

Timeline: 0–10 years

Approach:

- Utilize mechanical treatments and prescribed fires
- Treatments should have dual purpose (e.g., they can be used to widen ingress/egress for all non-county roads)
- Look at mapped Potential Operational Delineations (PODs) and map out areas with needed prescription burns.

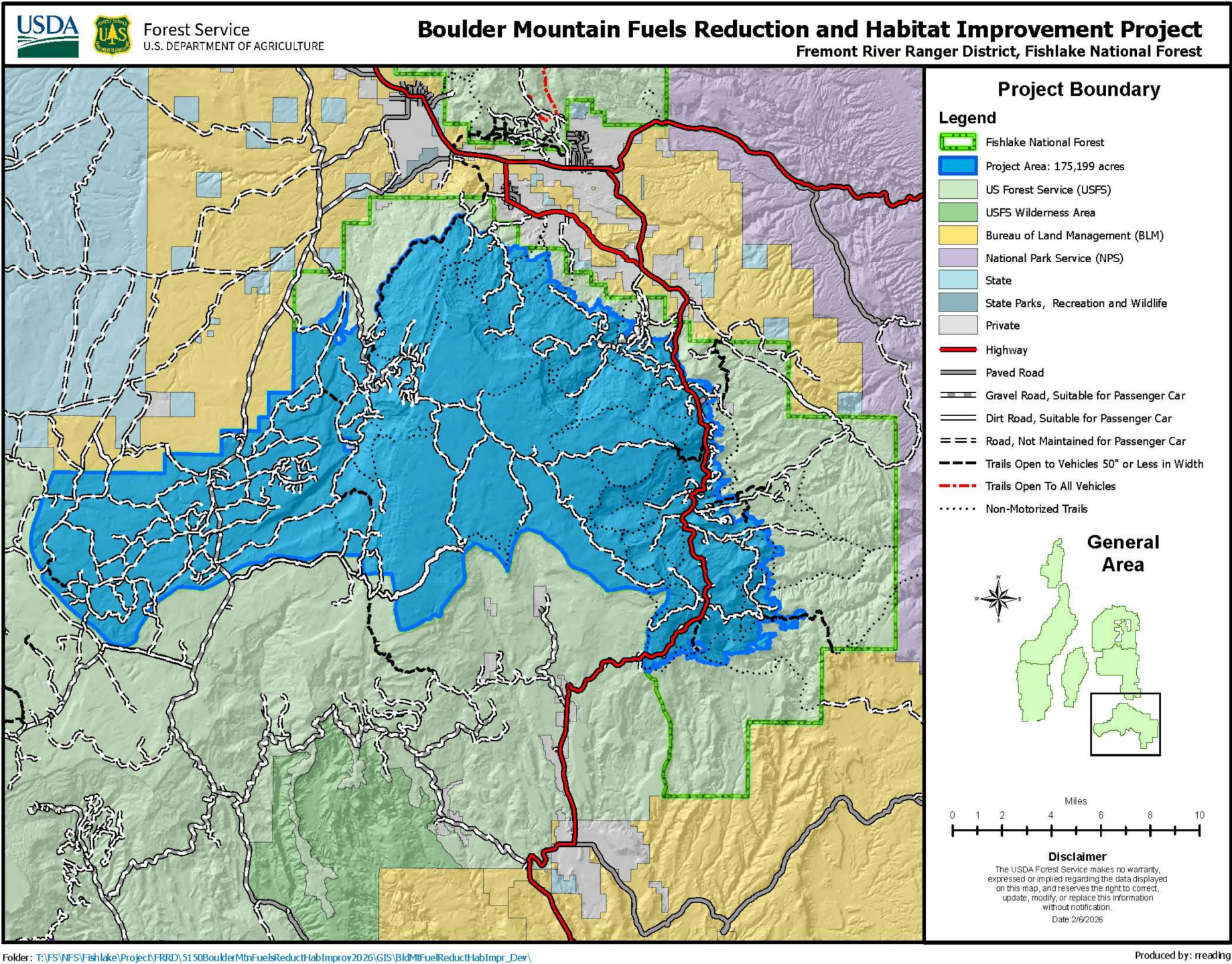
Serves to: Create resilient landscapes, maintain/restore forest and rangeland health, and address potential for extreme wildfire behavior. Decrease wildfire risk to communities

Monitoring guidelines: Set up a standing multi-agency meeting every fall to review accomplishments and address future needs.

Current priority projects

8.3.1 Boulder Mountain Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement
The purpose of this USFS project is to increase the application of prescribed fire across Boulder Mountain to reduce the risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfire and other disturbances and subsequently improve wildlife habitat conditions. Reducing hazardous fuels by removing and/or modifying vegetation may lower the risk of wildfires, protect communities and ecological values, and support resilience of vegetative communities. Additionally, prescribed fire can enhance wildlife habitat by opening canopies and allowing new vegetation growth, which increases availability of forbs and grasses.

The project is needed because the current conditions, as represented by conifer density and structural characteristics across vegetation types, are not meeting the desired conditions. Higher tree densities have led to increased insect and disease infestations, greater fuel loads, and depleted ecological systems to support wildlife. Watersheds and associated aquatic species and habitats are at a heightened risk of catastrophic wildfire under current conditions on Boulder Mountain. There is a need for active management to reduce tree densities and fuel buildup and improve ecological systems to support wildlife, aquatic and riparian habitat, and other natural processes.



This project has been developed on a landscape scale due to the large area needing treatment. The TNC report and Region 4 Forest Health Protection insect/disease surveys (Ott 2024) point to the need for treatment over a vast amount of the mountain. Managing at a landscape scale provides the opportunity to consider all elements of the ecosystem to increase resilience to disturbance and continue to provide ecosystem functions across the project area.

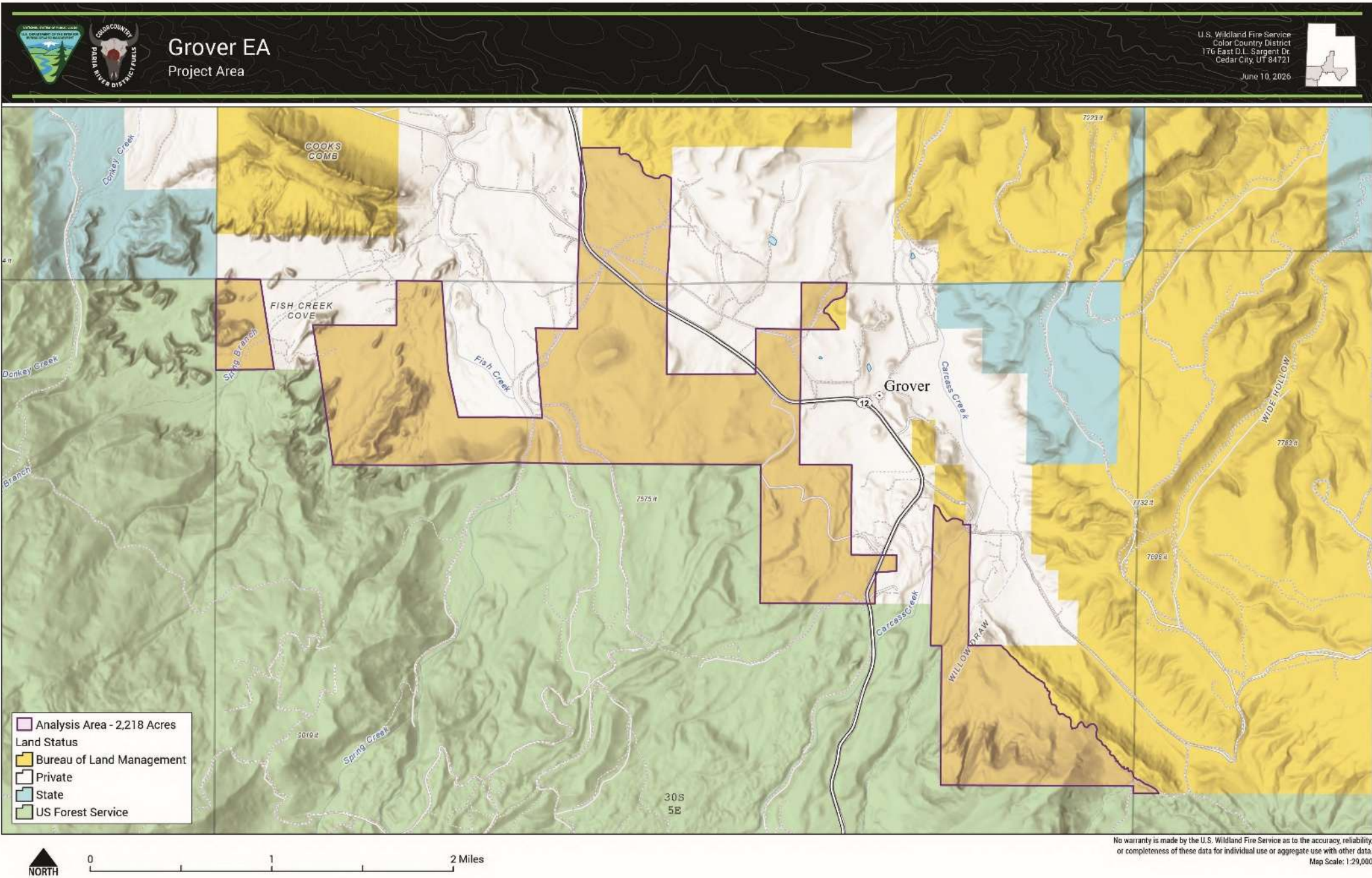
8.3.2 Grover WUI Hazardous Fuels Reduction

The U.S. WFS is currently planning the hazardous fuels reduction project on BLM-managed public lands around the **Grover and Fish Creek Cove** areas. They are also collaborating with adjacent private property owners and developing a plan to carry out mastication simultaneously with the BLM-managed public land work. Work should begin in Fall 2027.

Prior to treatment, a native seed mix is aerially applied, then followed by the bull hogging treatment. The entire boundary will NOT be treated as a mosaic and natural look is desired, likely leaving between 25-35% untreated. This helps to maintain species diversity and a healthy amount of sagebrush. They will target the mature, decadent brush which poses the highest wildfire risk.

8.3.3 Teasdale Front Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Reduction of high-density fuels from WUI lands further away from the home ignition zone, including damage from recent heavy snow and engraver beetles. **UTL**



8.4 Fire District Driven Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Description: WCFD to design, implement, and prioritize local fuel reduction projects within the WUI.

Location: County-wide. This should be prioritized in areas of concern.

Timeline: 0–5 years

Approach:

- Implement prescribed fire program.
- Utilize either fuel pile burning or broadcast prescribed burns – implementation and methods should consider fire regimes, fuels, hazards, and community concerns.
- Design “hybrid projects” that remove fuel from critical areas and prescribed burns to clean out interior fuels. Implement mechanical fuel reduction projects.
- Utilize woodchippers, saw crews, selective timber harvests, and timber stand improvement projects to obtain goals.
- Utilize mechanical and chemical means (e.g., mowing and/or herbicide) to control problematic invasive species, which contribute to hazardous fine fuel loading.

Serves to: Reduce wildfire risk in WUI. Provide local input in fuel treatments.

Monitoring guidelines: Yearly maintenance and monitoring of post-treatment conditions

8.4.1 Create fuel breaks along the Fremont River corridor downstream from Notom
<<Description - Steve>>

This table provides an overview of the current Teasdale Front Hazardous Fuels Reduction program.

Effort	Fuel Reduction Along the Teasdale Front	Grover WUI Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Boulder Mountain Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement	Donkey Flats/Boulder Mountain Cross-Boundary Shaded Fuel Break	The Teasdale Front Defensible Space Initiative
Project area	10 Teasdale Front Privately-owned Properties	800-1000 acres of BLM-managed land near Grover and Fish Creek Cove and interested bordering privately-owned lots	North slopes of Boulder Mountain	Privately-owned properties in the Donkey Flats area bordering Dixie National Forest, 700 acres	Privately-owned properties along the Teasdale Front and other High-Risk areas
Project purpose	Defensible Space+	Hazardous fuel reduction	Hazardous fuel reduction	Hazardous fuel reduction	Defensible space and egress
Who’s in charge?	WCFD	US WFS	USFS	FFSL w/USFS	Endeavors Elevated w/FFSL
Who does the Assessment?	WCFD	US WFS	USFS	FFSL	FFSL – HB48 certified
Main funding source	AIM Grant+	EQIP	WRI	Cross-Boundary Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Grant (PKA Stevens Grant)	CWDG
Who’s doing the work?	WCFD Volunteers	US WFS-selected Contractor	USFS	Goatherd contractor	Service Providers List
Who’s doing the Admin?	Wayne County Treasurer	US WFS	USFS	FFSL	Endeavors Elevated
When could work begin?	Ongoing	Fall 2027	Ongoing	Fall 2028; 3-5 years	Fall 2027

9. Recommendations for Goal 2: Public Education and Structural Ignitability

Public Education and Structural Ignitability are supported by efforts focused on:

- Public Awareness
- Recreational Ignitions
- Code Updates
- Real Estate Transactions
- Wildfire Council
- Defensible Space
- Evacuation Routes
- Enforcement
- Ignition Reduction
- Staffing & Funding
- Firewise (USA)
- Community Lifelines
- Signage

9.1 Public Awareness

Description: Public education for exurban communities in fire prone environments

Location: any other community located in high to extreme risk areas

Timeline: 0-10 years

Approach: Increase public awareness of the fire environment:

- Increase education and assistance for homeowners on home hardening, defensible space, and hazardous fuel treatments.
- Communicate the inherent risk to homes/property situated on steep slopes in fire prone landscapes.
- Communicate the fast rates of spread that can occur in grass-shrub and shrub fuels.
- Communicate that tall flame lengths can occur in timber-understory and timber-litter and fuels (i.e., forested areas).
- Develop and encourage adoption of model HOA covenants and architectural guidelines that support WUI risk reduction.
- Enact and enforce a Wildland-Urban Interface Code for development in high-risk landscapes as noted in the risk-hazard assessment.
- Enact a county-wide requirement for a real estate transfer WUI disclosure, inspection checklist, and local WCFD contacts.
- Create opportunities for landowners/mangers to address wildfire risk reduction.
- Increase awareness that many residents live within an environment that historically experienced regular wildfire.
- Create mailers and flyers with simple fire safety practices and resources to distribute to visitors and short-term rental properties.

- Issue press releases in the spring and fall to local papers including fire-safe information for the public and Firewise resources.
- Develop a Wayne County consumer recommendation for homeowner insurance.

Serves to: Create and maintain accountability with local landowners and real estate developers. Improve public knowledge about wildfire risk for the environment they live in.

Monitoring guidelines: Regular public outreach and communications with HOAs, landowners, real estate agents, developers and architects.

9.2 Educational Events for WUI Residents

Educate private landowners on the overall situation in the Wayne County WUI, as well as the current effects of drought, the ips pinyon beetle, and the forthcoming effects of HB 48. Encourage establishment of defensible space in and around the Teasdale Front, and other areas, by training residents in Firewise practices. Spring 2026 and ongoing.

9.2.1 Fuel Reduction Along the Teasdale Front – Ongoing

In addition to the fuel reduction activities, this project has an education component where the WCFD will:

- Conduct workshops and field trips to help homeowners along the WUI better understand and appreciate the risks of wildland fire and its impact on their properties.
- Provide necessary handouts pertaining to wildfire mitigation and preparedness.
- Procure mitigation materials and equipment and conduct equipment training sessions.



Wayne County Community Wildfire Council Presents
2026 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Workshop Series



3/28
4/25
5/16

Wayne County Homeowners Are Invited

to enjoy brunch at a series of Saturday morning workshops with experts helping us understand and manage our unique situation as WUI land owners. These are casual events that offer the opportunity to ask questions and get a better understanding of fire risks, as well as the resources that are available to help us take action to protect our homes and neighborhoods. The **March 28** session includes an overview of the Wayne County WUI, the **April 25** session includes experts on HB 48 and insurance, and the **May 16** session includes experts on forest health.

Where:

Torrey Fire Station Training Room, 120 E. 200 N., Torrey

When:

March 28, April 25 & May 16, 2026

10:00 - Brunch | 10:30(ish) - Presentation & Discussion



Attendees should please:

- › RSVP with who's coming to: Endeavors.Elevated@gmail.com
- › RSVP by March 9 to reserve their **FREE** fire extinguisher!
- › RSVP by March 9 to reserve their **FREE** chainsaw!



Presented by: Wayne County Community Wildfire Council
Brunch catered by: Teasdale Daughters of Utah Pioneers

9.2.2 Ready-Set-Go

Institute Ready-Set-Go program

- Priority and Justification: High. Life Safety in rural Wayne County Subdivisions is hampered by the lack of ability to communicate with rural, largely seasonal populations in the interface. Access is limited and communications poor. There are no local radio or TV stations and limited cell data or voice communications.
- Timeframe: 2020
- Funding Sources: WCFD, FFSL
- Estimated Cost: \$1,000
- Responsible Entity: WCFD
- Resources: Insider Newspaper, social media, FFSL

9.2.3 EVERBRIDGE

EVERBRIDGE is an emergency notification service by which public safety can notify residents and businesses by telephone or cellular phone about emergency situations. The system is capable of sending messages only to specific neighborhoods or the entire community.

[Sign Up for EVERBRIDGE Alerts](#)

9.2.4 County GIS Maps

Field check and correct County GIS maps and provide to dispatch and responders. (*Preparedness Action*)

- Priority and Justification: High. Online map application, such as Google Maps, Apple Maps, MapQuest, etc. are very inaccurate in the Wayne County area. This could lead to delayed response if either reporting parties or responders. Lack of back road and street signs, and single access areas complicate the issue. Temporary residents and visitors likely don't know the way out of rural subdivisions and could become lost if evacuating.
- Timeframe: 2021
- Funding Source: Cat Fire
- Estimated Cost: \$8,000
- Responsible Entities: WCFD, Wayne County Emergency Management (WCEM)
- Resources: FEMA, Cat Fire

9.3 Recreational Ignitions

Description: Reduce potential for human caused wildfire ignitions along recreational trails.

Location: County-wide

Timeline:

Approach:

- Consider targeted restrictions (e.g., use of gates) on recreational trails use during periods of heightened wildfire risk, especially on backcountry trails with high fuel loads.
- Communicate heightened wildfire ignition risk when motorized vehicles travel off trail, especially during dry periods of the year (e.g., utilize flyers at trailheads).
- Communicate safe parking practices to reduce wildfire ignition risk (e.g., don't park in tall, dry grass or use a ground tarp when parking).
- Communicate and enforce campfire restrictions.
- Utilize temporary and/or permanent trail closures in high-to extreme- fire risk areas.
- Implement geofenced messaging for areas with high tourist densities.

Serves to: Reduce recreation caused wildfire ignitions. Encourage responsible recreation.

Monitoring guidelines: Regular monitoring of recreational trail conditions. Regular public outreach.

9.4 Code Updates

Description: Update current fire and building codes. Develop, enact, and enforce WUI codes. Focus on land use plans, existing building codes, and subdivision codes.

Location: County and local municipalities

Timeline:

Approach:

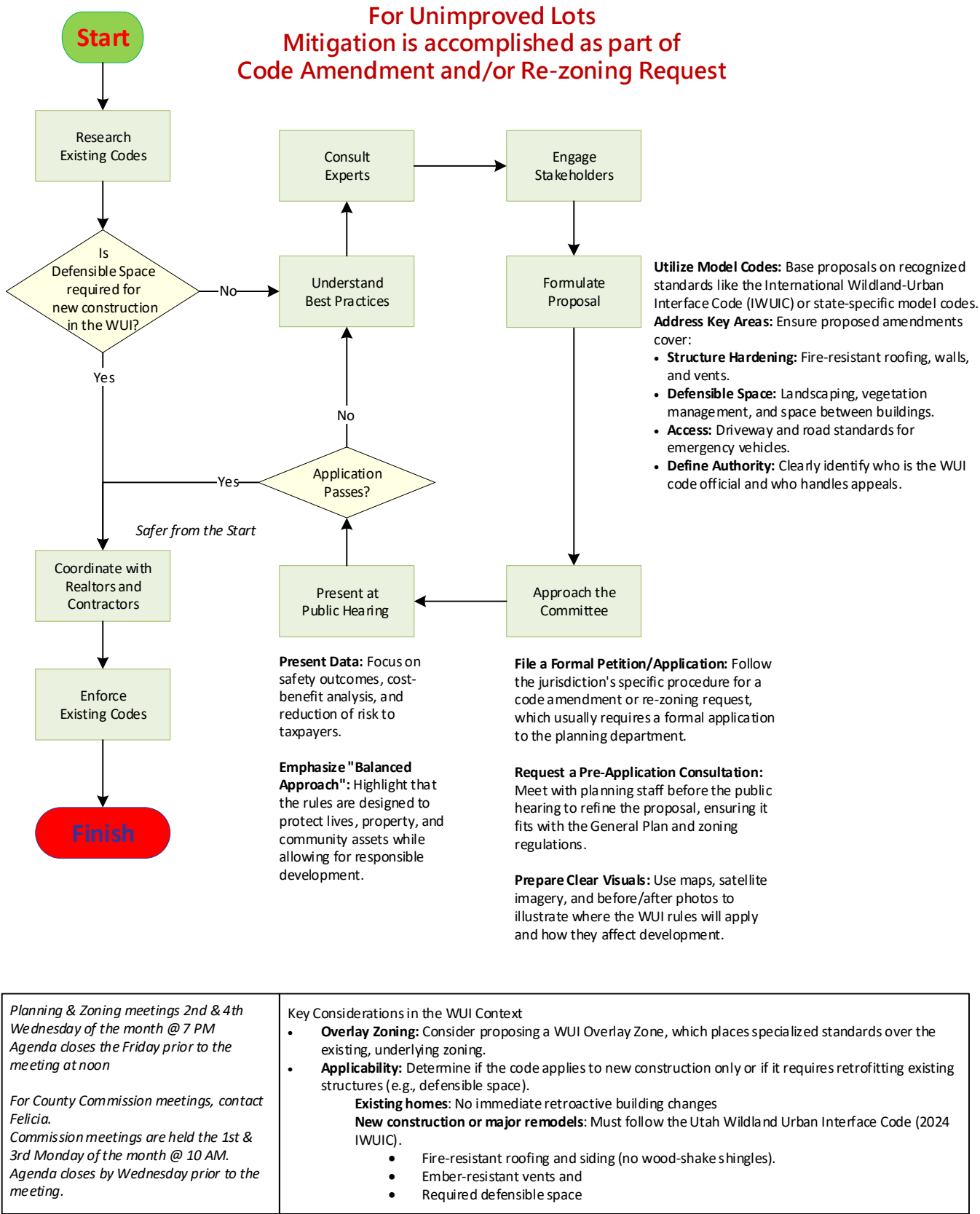
- Strengthen municipal and county codes for home and structures located within the WUI
- Provide list, examples, and costs of acceptable building materials.
- Continue to develop and adopt the latest building standards and codes.
- Clearly define the WUI in the county code.
- Consider county-wide adoption of International WUI code.
- Provide HOA model covenants and architectural guidelines
- Public (esp. builders, agency staff, architects, realtors) education.

Serves to: Reduce wildfire risk and loss of structures through effective regulation

Monitoring guidelines: Annual updates to codes as necessary. Perform regular inspections to ensure codes are being adhered to.

9.4.1 Wayne County WUI Overlay Zone

An overlay zone is an extra layer of land-use rules placed on top of a standard base zoning district, requiring properties to meet both sets of guidelines. Creating an overlay district involves three basic steps: defining the purpose of the district, identifying the areas the district will contain, and developing the rules that will apply to the district.



9.5 Real Estate Transactions

- Engage additional groups with vested interest in wildfire risk reduction, e.g., builders, suppliers, realtors, insurance agents.
 - Have wildfire risk and WUI delineation for listed properties included as an element of the Master Listing Service (MLS) – the master listings for sale utilized by the real estate industry.
 - Include Firewise assessments and recommendations to potential buyers
 - Provide link to county CWPP on real estate websites
 - Provide link to assessment program page on real-estate websites.
 - Encourage realtor associations to include wildfire risk areas and WUI in maps.
 -
- Continue to develop and distribute information regarding how topography, slope, and vegetation all impact a home’s risk level and defensible space needs.

9.6 Defensible Space

Description: Monitor and enforce defensible space standards. Encourage home hardening. Improve homeowner mitigation efforts and opportunities.

Location: WUI, county-wide, high-risk areas as identified in the risk assessment.

Timeline:

Approach: Strongly promote defensible space:

- Consider adhering to recommended defensible space standards (e.g., enforce 100 feet of defensible space).
- Clean and maintain fuel buffers in ingress/egress routes.
- Ensure there are two ways out of a community.
- Consider landscaping methods across multiple properties that reduces fire potential (e.g., connect fuel treatments across different properties).
- Develop staffing plan to support enforcement and seek funding to implement the plan.
- Provide tax incentives for defensible space actions.
- Work with insurance commission and companies to determine the potential to provide incentives for defensible space associated with reduced insurance premiums.
- Consider fuels pickup/disposal options.
- Require notice in real transfer of home location in WUI, assessment checklist, and FPD contacts.
- Promote education of the reduction of structural ignitability and enact WUI codes.
- Educate homeowners on methods and resources to reduce their home’s risk through defensible space improvements and structure hardening.
- Train home repair contractors to assess and harden homes to build local capacity and capability.

Serves to: Reduce loss of life and structures through defensible space and home hardening.

- Annual program evaluation and updates, as necessary.
- Update the building code.

9.7 Evacuation Routes

Description: Improve evacuation zone and route education and outreach to the public.

Location: County-wide

Timeline: 0–5 years

Approach:

- Work with communities to establish evacuation routes within neighborhoods. Ensure that there are primary and secondary ingress and egress options.
- Publish primary and secondary evacuation route maps.
- Include evacuation zone and route info in required info packages.
- Understand the demographics of the population in the community to include those with vulnerabilities (elderly, access and functional needs, etc.) and those with pets/animals for which additional plans may need to be considered.
- Develop, promote, and exercise clear plans for alerting and communicating with communities that might face an evacuation due to wildfire. Beyond the initial alert, ongoing public information will be crucial to keep the community informed.
- Convey information regarding shelter location for those who are evacuated, including considerations for animals.

Serves to: Ensure public and first responder safety in the event of a wildfire or other emergency.

Monitoring guidelines:

- Develop and distribute a survey to understand and adapt best practices for communication and teaching.
- Assess and adapt methodologies and current information annually to ensure information is up to date.

9.8 Enforcement

Description: Public education and law enforcement of local ordinances and regulations that reduce the occurrence of human-caused wildfire

Location: County-wide

Timeline: 0–5 years

Approach: Inform and educate public about ordinances concerning wildfire and structure fire.

- Enact and education recreators on ordinance changes regarding campfire structure design.

- Communicate campfire regulations to common recreationists (e.g., distribute flyers at shops/agencies that sell hunting and fishing licenses or areas that give out backcountry/camping permits).
- Continue effective communication of fire bans and restrictions.
- Communicate regulations concerning county burn permits. Include pile burning, agricultural burning, ditch burning, and garbage burning.
- Enforce dispersed campfire regulations, especially on BLM and USFS lands.

If federal law enforcement is understaffed/unavailable, consider an agreement with Sheriff’s department and local law enforcement.

- Implement geofenced messaging.

Serves to: Reduce risk of human-caused wildfire ignitions. Educate citizens about wildfire hazards. Empower local communities and visitors.

Monitoring guidelines:

- Conduct regular review of County ordinances and update outreach materials and efforts as needed.
- Maintain working relationship with local businesses and land management/wildlife agencies so materials can be disseminated to the public.

9.9 Ignition Reduction

Description: Public outreach and education aimed at reducing human-caused wildfire

Location: County-wide

Timeline:

Approach: Inform and educate the public about methods to reduce human-caused wildfire ignitions.

- Educate around sources of human-caused wildfire ignitions (e.g., target practice, driving through or parking in tall, dry vegetation; discarded cigarette butts; fireworks; campfires, etc.).
- Communicate hazardous conditions surrounding homes/structures (e.g., exposed propane tanks, electrical hazards, hazard trees, limited defensible place, etc.)
- Provide materials with resources for the public to understand how and with what funding they can take action to reduce risks.
- Integrate with tourism and STR advertising.
- Utilize Appendix J of the CWPP: Homeowner Resources

Serves to: Reduce risk of human-caused wildfire ignitions. Educate citizens about wildfire hazards. Empower local communities and visitors.

Monitoring guidelines:

- Track successes and learnings from outreach campaigns and enact changes with each wildfire season.
- Assess and utilize current popular information sources such as Nextdoor, social media, news outlets, and more.

9.10 Staffing and Funding

Description: Dedicate staff, funding, and other resources to administer projects.

Location: County-wide

Timeline:

Approach: Inform and educate partners, agencies, and the public on the progress being made to reduce wildfire risk and hazards in the County.

Ensure mitigation efforts and the associated metrics and data are tracked collaboratively and often.

Serves to:

- Educate citizens about wildfire hazards and mitigation.
- Empower local communities and visitors.
- Ensure collaboration towards goals by all agencies in the County.

Monitoring guidelines: Review and update data on project progress biannually.

9.11 Community Wildfire Council

Description: Expand the capacity of the Wayne County Community Wildfire Council

Location: County-wide

Timeline: Ongoing

Approach:

- Develop local, sustainable funding sources
- Continue efforts bolstering Firewise programs, education, and training; grant writing capabilities; improved public outreach; and community chipping days.
- Continue to build collaboration with state and federal agencies – focus on joint fuel reduction projects.
- Provide more opportunities for community chipping days (i.e., chipping hazardous fuels).
- Continue and expand property wildfire assessment program.
- Identify funding sources for underserved homeowners and vulnerable populations
 - Identify vulnerable populations (elderly, disabled, low income) and underserved homeowners who may need additional help to mitigate home hazards and to evacuate during a wildfire.
 - Seek grant opportunities to support assistance for relevant populations.
 - Consider a cost-sharing approach.
- Fund and implement cost share programs for homeowners, focusing on HIZ areas and vulnerable households.
- Coordinate with non-profit efforts ongoing in Wayne County.

Serves to: Improve local government and community ownership of reducing wildfire risk. Strengthen ties between federal and private landowners. Reduce wildfire risk throughout the County.

Monitoring guidelines:

- Assess capacity needs and acquire funding to support.
- Review/tracking of goals and projects.
- Assess wildfire council advancements in wildfire risk reduction.

9.12 Firewire (USA)

Description: Increase Firewise (USA) support to communities throughout the County

Location: County-wide

Timeline:

Approach: Improve education and knowledge of Firewise practices

- Continue current Firewise practices.
- Include Firewise information in short-term rental contracts.
- Conduct Firewise/Ready, Set, GO! Workshops. Offer hands-on workshops to highlight individual home vulnerabilities and how-to techniques to reduce ignitability of common structural elements.
- Conduct more public meetings to educate citizens about Firewise.
- Provide free neighborhood and property assessments and mitigation planning; website sign-ups.
- Provide wildfire assessor training.
- Provide home hardening resource lists/examples/cost estimates.
- Provide links to Firewise websites, downloadable forms, and other resources on any relevant materials distributed (flyers, emails, and/or texts) at meetings or workshops.
- Consider direct mailers.
- Distribute Firewise information to school children during Fire Prevention Week.
- Establish a Firewise coordinator in the county.

Serves to: Reduce wildfire risk through greater adoption of Firewise and structure hardening measures.

Monitoring guidelines:

- Annual review of number of events implemented.
- Conduct regular surveys to assess effectiveness.

Firewise:

- number of recognized communities, percentage of subdivisions in Wayne County
- number of Firewise homes,
- percentage of homes in Wayne County
- Total cost and hours spent by Firewise communities

9.12.1 Firewise Programming and Education

Provide Firewise programming and education, countywide, first targeting areas that have experienced fires and those with highest risk. Use existing public events as platforms for information. Provide Biannual chipping sessions.

- Priority and Justification: High. Areas east of Capitol Reef National Park, especially interface areas with riparian components have large areas of inversive species such as Tamarisk, Russian thistle, etc. that ignite easily from agricultural burns and threaten structures, farming infrastructure, etc. Areas near Fremont, Grover, Teasdale and others have similar conditions, though fuels differ that must be addressed.
- Timeframe: 2020 and ongoing
- Funding Source: WCFD
- Estimated Cost: \$3,500 yearly
- Responsible Entities: WCFD, FFSL, CWC Team
- Resources: WCFD, FFSL, volunteer community members

9.13 Signage

Description: Utilize and improve existing wildfire risk signage; Install 911-reflective address signage in WUI areas.

Location: County-wide

Timeline:

Approach:

- Continue to spread seasonally adjusted fire prevention messages along highways and in public open space areas to reduce human ignitions and promote defensible space.
- Customize fire prevention messages according to audience, i.e. private landowners, recreational visitors.
- Establish and continue the use of signage at firehouses and other locales to display fire prevention information, safety messages, and fire danger ratings linked to safety actions.
- Install reflective 911 address signs throughout WUI areas

Serves to:

- Reduce wildfire risk through public education and outreach.
- Reduce threats to life and property.

Monitoring guidelines:

- Assess current situation and determine where signage can be improved (e.g., increasingly popular recreation areas). <<install signage in the new camping area being developed in CRNP>>
- Provide information on pertinent county webpages and webpages of local businesses.
- Assess and utilize current popular information sources

9.13.1 Spring 2026 Signage Effort - Ongoing

Develop signage for county-wide use and addressing specific audiences to reduce wildfire risk.

(Tame the Flame or take the blame, etc.)



9.14 Community Lifelines

Description: Mitigate risk to Community Lifelines through contingency planning and consideration of the risk-hazard assessment.

Location: County-wide, local municipalities, state, and federal agencies

Timeline:

Approach:

- Consider adopting recommend strategies to protect community lifelines
- Wayne County emergency planners should consider contingency response solutions should lifelines become threatened during a wildfire event.
- Primary lifelines are **communication**, food, water, shelter, **health, medical, energy**, community, transportation, and safety and security.

Serves to: Protect essential infrastructure, resources, and emergency services during a large and extreme wildfire.

Monitoring guidelines: Assess and improve contingency planning and the current wildfire risk to community lifelines.

10. Recommendations for Goal 3: Safe and Effective Wildfire Response

Projects supporting recommendations for Safe and Effective Wildfire Response focus on:

- Improving Local Response
- Increasing Wildfire Personnel
- Evacuation Routes
- Roadway Access

10.1 Improving Local Response

Description: Improve local wildfire response capabilities

Location: Local, state, and federal lands

Timeline: Ongoing

Approach:

- Increase number of persons on seasonal severity crew; increase number of local firefighters.
- Obtain more equipment for wildfire mitigation (e.g., water tenders and woodchippers)
- Leverage grants/funding opportunities to increase seasonal firefighting capacity (e.g., hire more seasonal employees and provide red card opportunities for volunteers)
- Provide more NWCG based training/qualification/certification opportunities for county firefighters and county staff (e.g., provide year-round training, hire/retain training officers and instructors, obtain more NWCG task books)
- Collaborate with FFSL to identify opportunities for funding and hiring
- Apply for and obtain funding to increase number of water resources for suppression in more rural areas of the County.
- Increase airport and helipad capacity for air assets during wildfire.
- Utilize mapped dead and downed fuel to focus fuel treatments to improve response time.

Serves to: Enhance public and firefighter safety and mitigate wildfire risk within the county; improve local ability and self-reliance of County to address its own wildfire concerns.

Monitoring guidelines:

- Convene annually to assess and document status of county-specific firefighting capabilities.
- Maintain list of trained personnel and volunteers that can be utilized across all field and incident command positions.
- Regularly update the Incident Qualification Plan (IQP).
- Track career advancement of wildland firefighting personnel.

10.1.1 Replace Torrey and Bicknell Tenders

Replace Torrey and Bicknell tenders

- Priority and Justification: High. Limited water supplies for firefighting in dry subdivisions. Torrey and Bicknell water tenders are first in on many critical areas. Tenders in both stations are not up to safety standards or hold the volume that is needed. Torrey station will not hold a tender big enough (4,000 gal) to provide needed fireflow to interface structures.
- Timeframe: 2022-2023
- Funding Sources: USDA, FFSL, WCFD, CBDG
- Estimated Cost: \$100,000
- Responsible Entities: WCFD
- Resources: USDA, FFSL, WCFD, Six County AOG

10.1.2 Replace Teasdale Brush Truck

Replace Teasdale brush truck with new or used 1-ton brush truck. (Preparedness Action)

- Priority and Justification: High. Teasdale is the closest station to some of the most at risk areas of interface development and yet it has a 1982 half- ton brush truck that is underpowered and overloaded.
- Timeframe: 2020
- Funding Sources: USDA, FFSL
- Estimated Cost: \$45,000-\$85,000
- Responsible Entities: WCFD
- Resources: USDA, FFSL

10.1.3 Equipment Funding - Ongoing

Seek funding outside of the district for additional equipment that will improve the effectiveness of our responses as well as increase the margin of safety for our volunteers.

- Priority and Justification: High. Some of the WUI communities require 4-wheel drive vehicles to access, currently WCFD does not have this type of vehicle and thus has a limited ability to respond in those areas.
- Timeframe: 2026
- Funding Sources: Coalitions & Collaborations, BLM Rural Fire Readiness
- Estimated Cost: \$
- Responsible Entity: WCFD
- Resources: FFSL

10.1.4 Riser Maps

<<Bob Emmerich>>

10.2 Increasing Wildfire Personnel

Description: Increase direct and ancillary wildfire personnel. Provide in-house and online personnel training.

Location: Local FPD, state fire responders, and federal agencies

Timeline:

Approach:

- Increase number of firefighting jobs available and associated funding for these salaries.
- Increase volunteer firefighting opportunities and associated necessary funding.
- Improve collaboration/cooperation capabilities between firefighting agencies.
- Train physically capable workers from other departments to fight fire on fire lines (e.g., roads, train workers from vegetation, wildlife, and weed crews)
- Achieve funding through fundraising/grant applications (e.g., federal, state, local, and independent grants and private donations).

Serves to: Enhance public safety, improve wildfire response, and limit size of wildfires Increase capacity to address growth of new residential areas in the WUI.

Monitoring guidelines:

- Provide annual red card training/refresher/pack test events before start of fire season.
- Provide annual online wildfire training classes/refresher courses.
- Annual assessment of personnel and equipment capacity.

10.2.1 New Firefighters

Wayne County Fire District lacks sufficient certified firefighters to cover local risks and to share resources via mutual aid. Recruit and train new firefighters to Firefighter I certification in Wayne County. *(Preparedness Action)*

10.3 Evacuation Routes

Description: Pre-evacuation planning and evacuation planning

Location: County-wide

Timeline:

Approach:

- Identify evacuation routes. Fuel treatments adjacent to roads can reduce fire behavior along important travel routes used for ingress by emergency vehicles and egress by residents.
- Identify parcel-owners along primary evacuation routes.
- Seek grant opportunities to support priority project implementation.
- Evacuation Planning
- Have emergency responders/planners practice IPAWS, the Emergency Alert System (EAS), and CodeRED (e.g., drills and test notifications)
- Provide handouts to visitors, STRs, and residents on preparing “Go Bags” – an emergency supply bag that can be accessed in cases of evacuation
- Construct a livestock and pet evacuation and sheltering plan
- Consider a comprehensive evacuation plan for the county that includes a road risk analysis, traffic control, re-routing, and risk mitigation.
- Consider adopting evacuation modeling and planning into the County Emergency Operations Plan or other hazard mitigation planning documents.
- Define emergency evacuation center and medical treatment support options.
- Identify vulnerable individuals and processes for their evacuation support.

Serves to: Protect life by reducing high-risk fire behavior along important roads. Protect public and first responder life and safety.

Monitoring guidelines: Annual maintenance; yearly updates to materials

10.3.1 Mapping and Signs

Online map application, such as Google Maps, Apple Maps, MapQuest, etc. are very inaccurate in the Wayne County area. This could lead to delayed response if either reporting parties or responders. Lack of back road and street signs, and single access areas complicate the issue. Temporary residents and visitors likely don’t know the way out of rural subdivisions and could become lost if evacuating.

10.3.2 Correct County GIS Maps

Field check and correct County GIS Maps and provide to dispatch and responders. (*Preparedness Action*)

- Priority and Justification: Medium. Potential for delayed response for incident due to accuracy of mapping services.
- Timeframe: 2020
- Funding Sources: FFSL, Wayne County
- Estimated Cost: \$1,000
- Responsible Entities: WCFD, WCEM, Wayne County GIS
- Resources FEMA, FFSL

10.3.3 Coordinate Use of Corrected County GIS Maps

Request electronic map providers use corrected County GIS maps. (*Preparedness Action*)

- Priority and Justification: Low. Potential for delayed response for incident due to accuracy of mapping services.
- Timeframe: 2021
- Funding Source: WCFD
- Estimated Cost: Unknown
- Responsible Entities: WCEM, Wayne County Search and Rescue, WCFD, map providers
- Resources: Map providers

10.4 Roadway Access

Description: Identify and improve roadway access to WUI areas. Reduce risk in areas identified as high risk or high likelihood of road entrapment in roads and evacuation analysis.

Location: County-wide. Primary transportation corridors, bypass routes, and community specific egress routes. This should be prioritized in areas of concern.

Timeline:

Approach: Roadway improvements:

- While increasing roadway width may not be feasible in many locations, creation of passing areas where possible should be prioritized
- Consider roadway improvements that increase ingress/egress in popular recreation areas in case of emergency
- Grade and maintain roads to reduce hazards to emergency apparatus (potholes and poor surfacing)
- Install proper signage and turn around points where appropriate.
 - Install 911 reflective address numbers
- Perform roadside fuels treatments to reduce wildfire behavior along major ingress and egress routes.

Serves to:

- Provides for safe and effective wildfire response capabilities
- Provides safe and effective means of evacuation in case of emergencies

Monitoring guidelines: Regular monitoring and maintenance to ensure roads are drivable for emergency response vehicles.

10.4.1 Happy Valley Road Turnouts

Improve ingress and egress along Happy Valley Road by creating turnouts and placing gravel in appropriate areas.

10.4.2 Fish Creek Cove Road Access

Improve access road along Fish Creek Road from Teasdale Road to end of Fish Creek Road. Create turnouts and place gravel in appropriate areas.

- Priority and Justification: High. Improve ingress and egress to Fish Creek Cove because the current road is narrow and overgrown with vegetation.
- Timeframe: 2021-2022
- Funding Source(s): Landowners, Wayne County, Cat Fire
- Estimated Cost: \$75,000
- Responsible Entity: Fish Creek Cove HOA
- Resources: USFS, Wayne County, FFSL

10.4.3 Fish Creek Cove Refuge Area

With landowner cooperation, clear and establish a refuge area/landing zone where residents could safely assemble while fire forces arrive, make fire attack, and arrange safe evacuation.

- Priority and Justification: High. Fish Creek Cove has a single, narrow access road with heavy brush on both sides. Some stretches of road within the subdivision are deep sand, which has caused the ambulance service to refuse to enter and instead to arrange to transport victims out to the highway to a waiting ambulance. If a fire were to occur and people tried to escape the narrow road only supports on-way traffic on most sections. Escaping residents could block access to incoming fire units.
- Timeframe: 2026-8
- Funding Source: Cat Fire
- Estimated Cost: \$10,000
- Responsible Entities: WCFD, FFSL
- Resources: Local, FFSL

10.4.4 Three Creeks Road Access

Improve access road to Three Creeks subdivisions. Create turnouts and place gravel in appropriate areas.

- Priority and Justification: High. Improve ingress and egress to Three Creeks subdivisions.
- Timeframe: 2026-8
- Funding Source(s): Landowners, Wayne County, Cat Fire
- Estimated Cost: \$xx,000
- Responsible Entity: Three Creeks HOAs
- Resources: Wayne County

10.4.5 Donkey Flats Road Access

Improve access road to Donkey Flats. Create turnouts and place gravel in appropriate areas.

- Priority and Justification: High. Improve ingress and egress to certain areas of Donkey Flats, approximately 1/2 mile from the intersection of Pinyon Jay Road.
- Timeframe: 2026-8
- Funding Source(s): Landowners, Wayne County, Cat Fire
- Estimated Cost: \$xx,000
- Responsible Entity:
- Resources: Wayne County

10.4.6 Grover Road Access Study

Conduct a study of the road access needs of Grover

Appendix A. References

[Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.](#)

[National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, 2014.](#)

[Western Regional Action Plan, 2013](#)

[USDA Forest Service. 2013. Western Regional Action Plan. National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management](#)

[Strategy: Phase III.](#)

[Utah Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy](#)

[Utah Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2024](#)

[Wildfire Management in Utah, 2025](#)

[HB 437 Study Report](#)

[Central Utah Regional Wildfire Protection Plan, 2007](#)

[Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, Six County Association of Governments](#)

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Wayne County, Utah (not online)

[Garkane Energy Cooperative 2024 Wildland Fire Protection Plan](#)

[Grand County Colorado Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#)

[Wayne County Utah General Plan](#)

[A Profile of Wildfire Risk, Wayne County, UT, Economic Profile System \(EPS\), 2025](#)

[Wayne County Economic Development Plan, 2019](#)

[Six County Region Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, 2020 Update](#)

[USDA Forest Service. 2014. The National Strategy. The Final Phase of the Development of the National Cohesive](#)

[Strategy on Wildland Fire Management.](#)

[Utah Division of Emergency Management. 2019. 2019 Utah State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Chapter 11, Wildfire.](#)

[Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. 2013. Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy: Protecting the health and welfare of Utahns and our lands.](#)

Appendix B. List of Participants

Name	Organization	Notes	Contact
Kent Chappell	USFS	Fields Program Manager	kent.chappell@usda.gov
Trevor Johnson		Fuels Technician	trevor.johnson@usda.gov
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Stephanie Graham	SWCA	Principle Ecologist and Facilitator	Stephanie.Graham@swca.com 801-322-1272
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Kerry Cook		Commissioner	kerry@wayne.utah.gov
Michael Winn		County Attorney	michael@wayne.utah.gov 801-319-9017
Teresa Brian		Emergency Management Director	tbrian@wayne.utah.gov 435-836-1348
Colleen Allen		Recorder	colleen@wayne.utah.gov 435-836-1303
Tiffany Martineau		Emergency Medical Services, Supervisor	tiffany@wayne.utah.gov 435-351-9464
Eric Torgerson		Building Inspector	torgerson95@hotmail.com 435-979-1279
Steve Lutz	Wayne County Fire District	Chief WCFD Board Chair	dobrosteve90@gmail.com 801-376-2027
Duane Dasse		Deputy Fire Chief	wcf0601@gmail.com 307-699-7376
Don Adams		County Fire Marshall	waynefiremarshall@gmail.com 435-691-2845
James Austin		Volunteer Battalion Chief, Torrey	aero10099@yahoo.com 435-491-0877
Carson Grundy		Volunteer Battalion Chief, Loa	carson.grundy@yahoo.com 435-558-5403
John Lee		Volunteer	thudhead@gmail.com
Sushiel Keswani		Volunteer WUI Homeowner	sushielkeswani@gmail.com 435-491-0494
Tom Berggren Linda Berggren	WUI Homeowners	Donkey Flats	tberggrenslc@protonmail.com 801-860-3203
Paul Allen Lou Ann Barton		Grover	paulallen57@hotmail.com 801-803-1953 louann.barton@gmail.com
Fred Swanson		Grover	Fbswan32@msn.com
J Buschman		Donkey Flats	jbuschman77@gmail.com
Toni Thiriot Judy Hopkins		Grover	watanikatt@gmail.com judehop019@gmail.com
Jim Haisley		Happy Valley	haisleyjim@gmail.com

Appendix C. Community Legal Structures

These are the entities associated with the Wayne County community – county, special service district, towns, unincorporated communities, others.



County

- Wayne is a county in the U.S. state of Utah. As of the 2020 United States census, the population was 2,486, making it the fourth-least populous county in Utah. It is governed by a Board of Commissioners:
 - Commission Chair – Dennis Blackburn, dennis@wayne.utah.gov
 - Commissioner – Roger Brian, roger@wayne.utah.gov
 - Commissioner – Kerry Cook, kerry@wayne.utah.gov

18 S Main, PO Box 189, Loa, Utah 84747
435-836-2765

Special Service District #3

- Wayne County Fire District
 - Wayne County Fire District is governed by a board appointed by the Wayne County commissioners:
 - Board Chair – Steve Lutz, dobrosteve90@gmail.com
 - Board Member – Dennis Blackburn, dennis@wayne.utah.gov
 - Board Member – Josh Brown, wolfy1133@yahoo.com

PO Box 189, Loa, UT 84747

Wayne County Fire District has fire stations operating in Loa, Lyman, Bicknell, Teasdale, Torrey, and Hanksville.

Towns

- Bicknell is a town along State Route 24 in Wayne County. As of the 2023, the town population was 328. Governed by the Bicknell Town Council. Contact Kelsey Brinkerhoff, kelseybicknellutah@gmail.com, 435-425-2215, 64 West 100 North, Bicknell, UT 84715.
- Hanksville is a small town in Wayne County, at the junction of State Routes 24 and 95. The population was 170 at the 2023 census. The mayor, along with the Town Council members, act on its behalf. Town Mayor is Jeffren T. Pei, jeffren@hanksvilleutah.gov, PO Box 127, 30 South Hwy. 95, Hanksville, UT 84734.
- Loa is a town in, and the county seat of, Wayne County, along State Route 24. The town was incorporated in 1919 and today has a population of 514. Although relatively small, Loa is the county’s banking, shopping and education center.
- Lyman is a town along State Route 24 in Wayne County. The population was 214 in 2023. Lyman was originally known as East Loa; it became a distinct place from Loa in 1893. Lyman is governed by a Town Council and led by a mayor. The current Mayor is Jed Bartholomew?
- Torrey is a town located on State Route 24 in Wayne County, 8 miles from Capitol Reef National Park. As of the 2023 census, the town had a population of 257. The mayor is Mickey Wright; Town Hall (435) 425-3600; P.O. Box 750027, 75 East 100 North, Torrey, Utah 84775

Unincorporated communities

- Fremont is a census-designated place in northwestern Wayne County. It lies along State Route 72 just northeast of the town of Loa, the county seat of Wayne County. To the north is Fishlake National Forest. Fremont's elevation is 7,218 feet. The population was 145 at the 2010 census.
- Teasdale is a census-designated place in south central Wayne County, between the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests and near Capitol Reef National Park. The population was 191 at the 2010 census. At 7,146 feet elevation, Teasdale Utah lies at the foothills of the northern slope of Boulder Mountain, overlooking the colorful ridges of Capitol Reef National Park.
- Caineville is a community in central Wayne County located east of Capitol Reef National Park and west of Hanksville, along the Fremont River and Utah State Route 24. Population 24.
- Fruita is the best-known settlement in Capitol Reef National Park. It is located at the confluence of Fremont River and Sulphur Creek. Despite its status as ghost town, it is the location of the National Park Service's employee residences.
- Grover is a community in south central Wayne County. Originally known as Carcass Creek, it lies some 7 miles southeast of Torrey, on State Route 12 just outside Dixie National Forest on the northeastern flank of Boulder Mountain.
- Notom is a hamlet 4 miles south of Highway 24, just outside of Capitol Reef National Park).

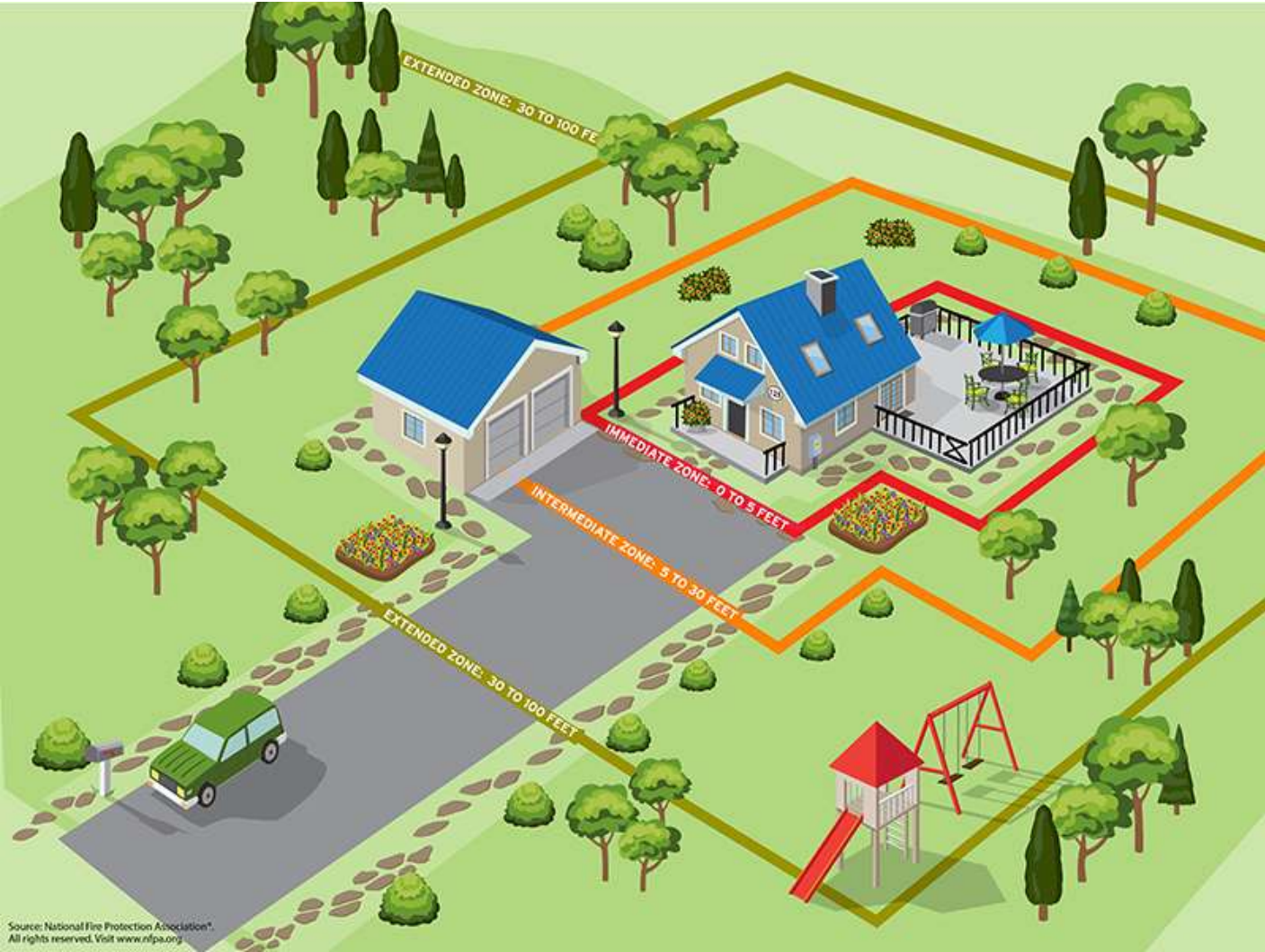
Happy Valley is a small hamlet off State Route 12 near the Garfield County line on Boulder Mountain.

Appendix D. Preparing Homes for Wildfire

Research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires point to embers and small flames as the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris and other objects.

There are methods for homeowners to prepare their homes to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or any attachments. Experiments, models and post-fire studies have shown homes ignite due to the condition of the home and everything around it, up to 200’ from the foundation. This is called the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ).

The concept of the home ignition zone was developed by retired USDA Forest Service fire scientist Jack Cohen in the late 1990s, following some breakthrough experimental research into how homes ignite due to the effects of radiant heat. The HIZ is divided into three zones.



Immediate zone

The home and the area 0-5’ from the furthest attached exterior point of the home; defined as a non-combustible area. Science tells us this is the most important zone to take immediate action on as it is the most vulnerable to embers. START WITH THE HOUSE ITSELF then move into the landscaping section of the Immediate Zone.

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8-inch metal mesh screening.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8-inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows. Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

Intermediate zone

5-30’ from the furthest exterior point of the home. Landscaping/hardscaping- employing careful landscaping or creating breaks that can help influence and decrease fire behavior:

- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.
- Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches.
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to six to ten feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- Space trees to have a minimum of eighteen feet between crowns with the distance increasing with the percentage of slope.
- Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than ten feet to the edge of the structure.
- Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.

Extended zone

30-100 feet, out to 200 feet. Landscaping – the goal here is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt fire’s path and keep flames smaller and on the ground.

- Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.
- Remove dead plant and tree material.
- Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.
- Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.
- Trees 30 to 60 feet from the home should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops. *
- Trees 60 to 100 feet from the home should have at least 6 feet between the canopy tops. *

**The distances listed for crown spacing are suggested based on NFPA 1144. However, the crown spacing needed to reduce/prevent crown fire potential could be significantly greater due to slope, the species of trees involved and other site-specific conditions. Check with your local forestry professional to get advice on what is appropriate for your property.*

Appendix E. Actions for Homeowners to Reduce Structural Ignitability and other Best Practices

Home hardening is the process of retrofitting or building a home using fire-resistant materials and construction techniques to help it withstand flying embers, radiant heat, and direct flame contact. It works alongside defensible space to protect properties from wildfire destruction. The most vulnerable parts of a house require targeted hardening upgrades to significantly reduce ignition risks:

Roof and Gutters

- Roofing: The roof is your home's most vulnerable feature. Replace wood shake or shingle roofs with Class A fire-rated materials like asphalt/fiberglass composite shingles, clay or cement tiles, or metal.
- Gutters: Install non-combustible gutter systems (such as metal) and fit them with metal gutter covers to prevent dry leaves and pine needles from accumulating and igniting.

Vents and Openings

- Mesh Screens: Cover all attic, foundation, and crawl space vents with non-combustible, corrosion-resistant metal mesh. Use 1/16-inch to 1/8-inch openings; standard 1/4-inch mesh allows embers to pass through.
- Ember-Resistant Vents: Upgrade to California State Fire Marshal-approved, flame- and ember-resistant baffle vents. Never use plastic or fiberglass mesh, which can melt.

Windows and Doors

- Glass: Replace single-pane, non-tempered glass with double-pane or tempered glass. This prevents windows from cracking and shattering from radiant heat, which allows embers to blow directly into the home.
- Garage Doors: Ensure garage doors fit tightly and seal well to block embers from entering and igniting flammable items stored inside.

Siding and Eaves

- Siding: Upgrade exterior walls with ignition-resistant materials like stucco, fiber-cement (e.g., Hardie board), or metal. Avoid untreated wood or vinyl siding, which can melt or catch fire easily.
- Eaves & Soffits: Enclose eaves and soffits with non-combustible or fire-rated materials (like fiber-cement) to stop embers from getting trapped in the hollow spaces underneath the roofline.

Decks and Fencing

- Decking: Replace the walking surface of combustible wood decks with fire-resistant materials, or keep the area directly adjacent to the house clear of all flammable materials.
- Fencing: Replace wood fencing where it directly attaches to your house with non-combustible metal fencing (such as wrought iron) to stop fire from carrying a flame front right to your walls

Limited Investment (<\$250)

- Regularly check fire extinguishers and have a 100-foot hose available to wet perimeter of home.
- Maintain defensible space within 30ft around home. Collaborate with neighbors to provide adequate fuels mitigation in the event of overlapping property boundaries.
- Ensure that reflective 4-inch house numbers are easily readable from the street.
- Keep wooden fence perimeters free of combustible materials. If possible, 5 feet of non-combustible material should link the house and fence.
- Store combustible materials (liquid fuels, propane, grills, firewood) away from the house.
- Remove flammable material from around propane tanks.
- Clear out materials from under decks and near structures.
- Stack firewood at least 30ft away from the house.
- Reduce your workload by considering local weather conditions. First, mitigate hazards on the side of your property that faces the prevailing wind direction. Then work around to cover the whole property.
- Keep gutters free of combustible material. Gutters can act as collection points for embers.
Maintain roofs by flashing, fixing holes, replacing shingles, and closing gaps.

Purchase or use a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather alert radio to hear fire weather announcements.

Moderate Investment (<\$1,500)

- When landscaping in the home ignition zone (HIZ) (approximately 30 feet around the property), select non-combustible plants, decks, lawn furniture, and landscaping material. Combustible plant material like ornamental conifers should be pruned and kept away from siding. If possible, trees should be planted in groups and no closer than 10 feet to the house. Tree crowns should have a spacing of at least 18 feet when within the HIZ. Vegetation at the greatest distance from the structure and closest to wildland fuels should be carefully trimmed and pruned to reduce ladder fuels, and density should be reduced with approximately 6-foot spacing between trees and crowns.
- Work on mitigating hazards on adjoining structures. Sheds, garages, barns, etc. These can act as ignition points to your home.
- Clear and thin vegetation along driveways and access roads so they can act as a safe evacuation route and allow emergency responders access to the home to at least 14 ft clear width and 14 ft height clearance
- Construct a gravel turnaround in your driveway to improve access and mobilization of fire responders. (e.g., 100-foot-diameter cul-de-sac or T-shape with 28-foot radius)
- Install a roof irrigation system.

High Investment (\$1,500+)

- Install an environmentally friendly and fire-resistant xeriscape yard. \$5 - \$20 sq ft.
- Install screen vents with non-combustible meshing. Mesh openings should not exceed nominal 1/8 - 1/16-inch size. \$2.50 sq ft. Average cost per home approximately \$5,000.
- Enclose open space
- underneath decks or permanently located manufactured homes using noncombustible skirting and ember resistant skirting vents.
- Install fire resistant Soffits and under eave vents to protect your home from heat and embers that can be trapped beneath roof overhangs.
- Replace exterior windows and skylights with tempered glass or multilayered glazed panels.
- Update your roof to a non-combustible construction. Look for materials that have been treated and given a fire-resistant roof classification of Class A.
- Upgrade exterior walls with fire resistant siding materials.
- Relocate propane tanks underground.

Other Homeowner Best Practices

- Document all efforts and track time – the county gets credit on grant applications for every hour (and \$?) of our efforts. A mitigation Tracking Form is available for homeowners at <https://utah-hmm-utahdnrhub.hub.arcgis.com/pages/landowner-mitigation?preview=true>. This form allows landowners to document the actions taken on their property and track their progress in reducing wildfire risks enhancing the ability of agencies to secure addition support through in-kind grant matches.
- When conducting any of the following activities, landowners should complete the tracking form:
 - Vegetation Removal/Defensible Space Improvement
 - FFSL Community Chipping Event Day
 - Community Education or Meeting
 - Wildfire Prevention
 - Wildfire Mitigation
 - Prescribed Burm
- Request a courtesy site risk assessment – Wayne County Fire District will conduct home risk assessments to facilitate a ‘personal mitigation plan’ focusing on mitigation work within the home ignition zone to improve structure survivability. Receive detailed individual reports identifying recommended actions.
- Collaborate with Wayne County Wildfire Council to develop evacuate plans in your community with clearly marked routes and designated assembly points.

Appendix F. Homeowner Resources

Courtesy Lot Assessments

WUI property owners can sign up to have their lot surveyed by FFSL at:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/b794136fa153445b8f2368bd67053d6c>

Alternatively, to have WCFD conduct your lot survey, send an email to:

wcf0601@gmail.com

Include your address and simple directions to your property, as well as permission for WCFD to come onto your property to conduct the assessment.

Courtesy Wood Chipping

WUI property owners can sign up to have their slash piles chipped by FFSL at NO COST. To have your pile chipped, contact Chance Christianson by email at:

chancechristensen@utah.gov:

Or, send an email to:

wcf0601@gmail.com

Include your address and simple directions to your property, expect to sign a permission to enter form for either entity to come onto your property to conduct the chipping.

Courtesy Fire Extinguishers

WUI property owners receive free fire extinguishers (5#, ABC) for attending educational events.

Courtesy Reflective Address Signs

<<under consideration>>

WUI property owners can sign up for free reflective address signs....

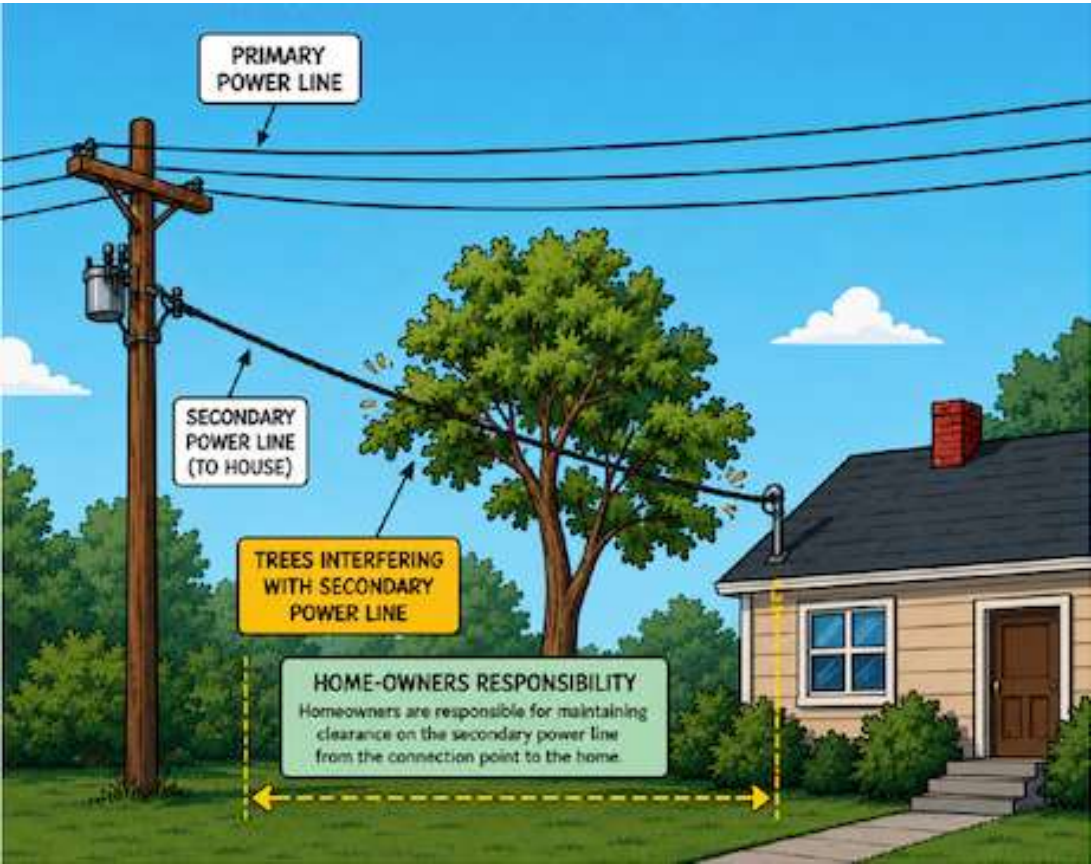
List of Local Service Providers

WUI property owners may want to engage a local service provider to conduct their mitigation efforts. Wayne County Fire District compiles this list for the convenience of homeowners and in support of the local economy. The list is posted on the district website, waynecountyfire.org.

Garkane’s Courtesy Trim Safely Service

The secondary wires running from Garkane utility poles to your home must have three feet of clearance on all sides from trees, limbs, and other vegetation. Keeping this area clear helps prevent outages, reduces fire risk, and keeps your family safer. Trimming trees and vegetation near these lines is the homeowner’s responsibility. If overgrown limbs cause damage that requires Garkane crews to repair or replace equipment, the cost of that work may be billed to the member.

Working near an energized wire is dangerous — don’t risk it. If you need to trim branches near your secondary line, just give Garkane a call at **800-747-5403** to schedule. They will send a crew out to safely drop the line so you or your tree service can trim, then they will come back to reconnect it – all at no cost to you.



Thinking about going under-ground? Garkane is happy to partner with members who’d like to convert their service from overhead to underground. If that’s something you’re considering, reach out and they will walk you through what it takes to make it happen.