

Vernal City
in collaboration with



Uintah Fire District

+



RURAL
COMMUNITY
CONSULTANTS

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

October 2018

developed with



**RURAL
COMMUNITY
CONSULTANTS**

a Jones & DeMille company

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Planning Overview

Preparing a CWPP is an involved process. Rural Community Consultants was hired by the Uintah Fire District to assist Vernal in the preparation of the plan. First, consultants gathered historical and current data to assess the current state of the community and its potential risk. This includes data like historical fires, ignitions sources, the location of utilities, emergency access, and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) data. Second, the City and consultants worked with the Fire District to identify various stakeholders to provide expert and professional input on the plan. These stakeholders include the Mayor, City staff, Fire District employees, and local fire department staff. And third, Consultants hosted a public outreach campaign to identify goals and objectives. This campaign included a public survey, social media ads, and a public open house.

After all this information was gathered the plan was drafted and will be presented to the Vernal City Council and the Fire Board for adoption. This will then be sent to the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands for final approval.

This process will help local leaders identify what needs to be done in Vernal now to prepare for future wildfires. The goals, policies, and suggested actions in this plan will help the City be prepared to mitigate the damage of future fires that are sure to come.

- 1 Gathering Historic Data
- 2 Working with Experts and Stakeholders
- 3 Public Outreach Campaign
- 4 Adoption and Approval

Partnerships and Collaboration

The City of Vernal would like to give special thanks to stakeholders and various organizations that helped develop this community wildfire preparedness plan. Specifically, the organizations that assisted in development were Uintah County, Uintah Fire Suppression SSD, Vernal Fire Department, and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands. Following is a list of endorsing signatures from members of public organizations involved in the process. These entities will be responsible for the carrying out of the goals and action steps listed in this plan.

NAME	AFFILIATION
SIGNATURE	DATE
NAME	AFFILIATION
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NAME	AFFILIATION
SIGNATURE	DATE
NAME	AFFILIATION
SIGNATURE	DATE

Part I COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION



Introduction

To adequately prepare for wildfires, the community must first be aware of its existing conditions - primarily the community's composition and level-of-risk. The community can be described with data like existing organizations, population numbers, infrastructure conditions, and utilities. This data can paint a picture of how well prepared a community is to handle a wildfire. The following information was provided by stakeholders and community leaders.

Wildland Urban Interface

The community of Vernal is adjacent to wildland that has the potential to burn. This area where the community or built environment intermixes with wildland fuels is called the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

In this plan the community basemap (on pages 6 and 7) shows the density of housing per acre of land, (the more dense the housing is, the higher the risk). Areas on the border of the City are the most at-risk. It is important to note that not just land within the City will be considered in this plan because lands near the City will impact the City if a wildfire occurs. Specific areas for mitigation efforts will be identified later in the plan.

Almost 34% of land within the WUI has been developed at 1 house per 2 acres to 1 house per 1 acre. Overall, relatively little land area in Vernal City is considered to be at risk. (For more information on wildfire risk and threat, see p.18).

Population and Demographics

Vernal has a population of approximately 10,588 people as of 2016. Determining the number of full-time residents can be difficult to the nature of the economy in the area. With oil and gas being the main industries in the area, fluctuation in demand heavily affects the population. But if a linear trend is assumed, Vernal can have a population of just about 12,000 in 2030. With that many lives potentially at risk of wildfire, having plans in place becomes a necessity.

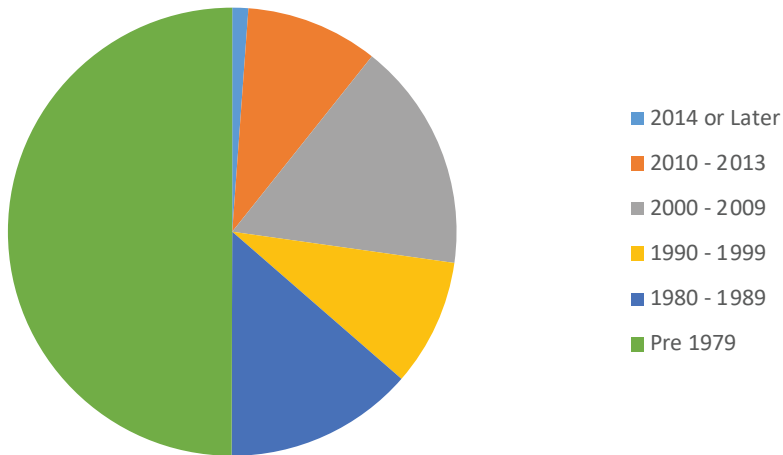
In order to determine the amount of property at risk and how homes may act as fuel for fires, housing data is needed in a community wildfire preparedness plan. Vernal has a total of 4,338 housing units as of 2016, 2,167 of which were constructed before 1979. Older homes often have been built to less strict fire codes and have more flammable materials as part of their construction.

The median home value is \$175,000 meaning that a potential of up to \$374,000,000 of owner-occupied property within the City that needs to be protected. The number of homes that are made of wood construction and the value of homes within the WUI will be discussed later in this section.

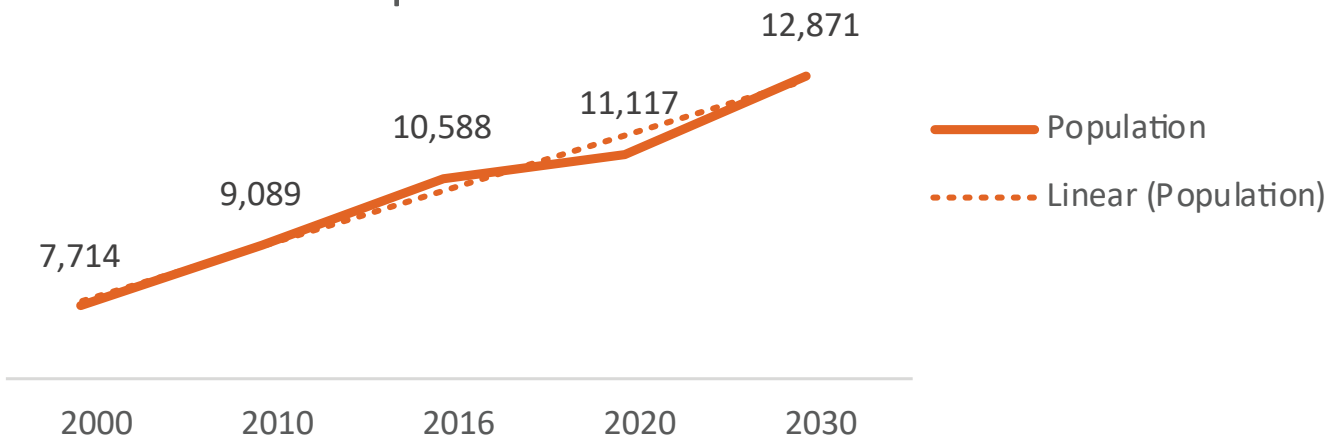
There are approximately 1,287 commercial entities in Vernal. This is important to ascertain the amount of value at risk. Surrounding areas are dependent upon the Vernal economy for support and if one of these entities were to be lost, it could greatly impact the region. Also, commercial properties often are more valuable than residential properties.

Overall, there are many assets to Vernal that need to be protected from wildfire. This CWPP is intended to identify which of these assets are most at risk and how to protect them.

Housing Stock Age



Population



1,287 Commercial Entities



\$175,800 Median Home Value

Stakeholder Survey

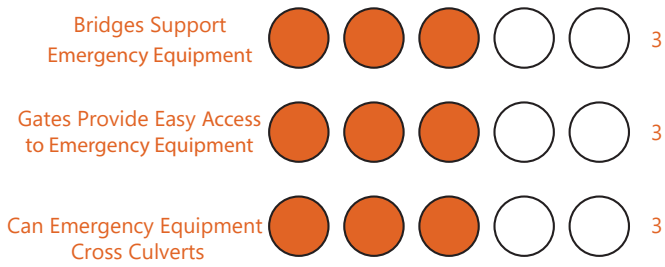
A survey was conducted of local stakeholders to determine existing conditions in the community at a general level. Questions range from topics like roads and emergency equipment to structure flammability and utility access. This information is essential to the plan and can help local officials identify weak spots in the City's line-of-defense against wildfires.

Some areas of weakness identified in the Survey for Vernal were:

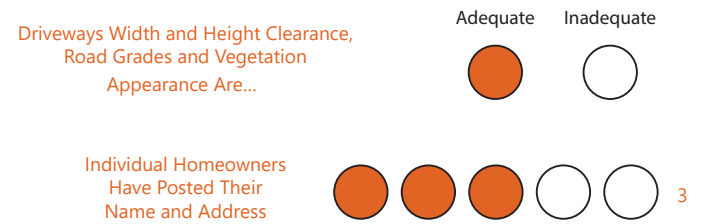
- Some roads in the community dead-end, leading to a lack of connectivity, which can impact emergency vehicle access in a state of emergency.
- Turnaround space for emergency equipment on some roads is limited and could pose a problem for emergency vehicles in a state of emergency.
- Not all homes have addresses posted to assist in emergency response and evacuation efforts.
- A large portion of structures are wood frame and flammable, which could catch fire and spread easily in the event of a wildfire, and considering that almost half of all development is in the WUI, this is a major risk factor for Vernal. Not all homes have wood roofs or porches.
- Bridges in the community could be inspected and improved to assist in the crossing of emergency equipment. If a bridge cannot support either the weight or width of emergency equipment, it could hamper mobility in an emergency.
- Gated communities or properties could pose a threat because they limit access in the event of an emergency, and Vernal may want to limit the amount allowed and the location of gates in the WUI
- Telephone and electrical service are both above ground and highly utilized by residents of Vernal. Above ground telephone and electric poles made of wood can pose a serious threat when crossing expanses of wildland. Downed power lines can either exacerbate or start wildfires.

These areas of weakness directly inform the goals and action steps of this plan. When updating and amending this plan in the future, these figures should be reviewed to determine new levels of risk.

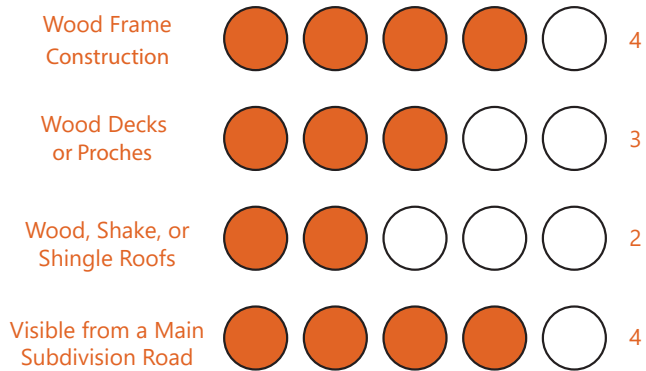
Bridges, Gates, and Culverts



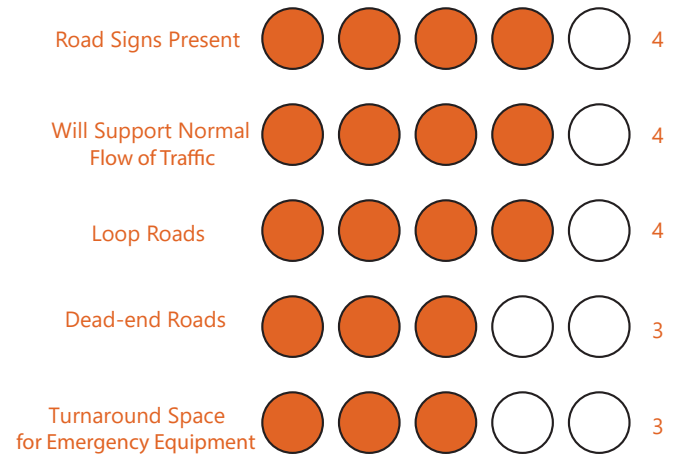
Driveways



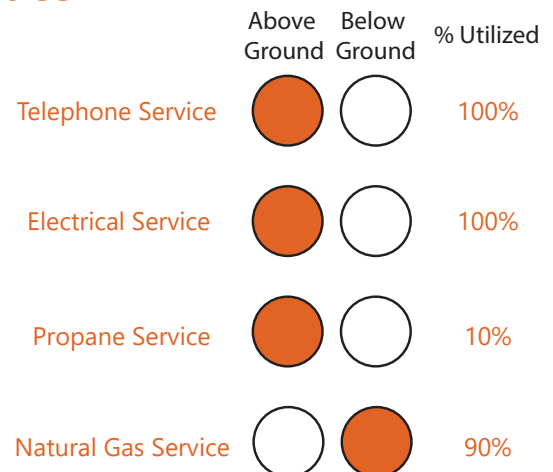
Structures

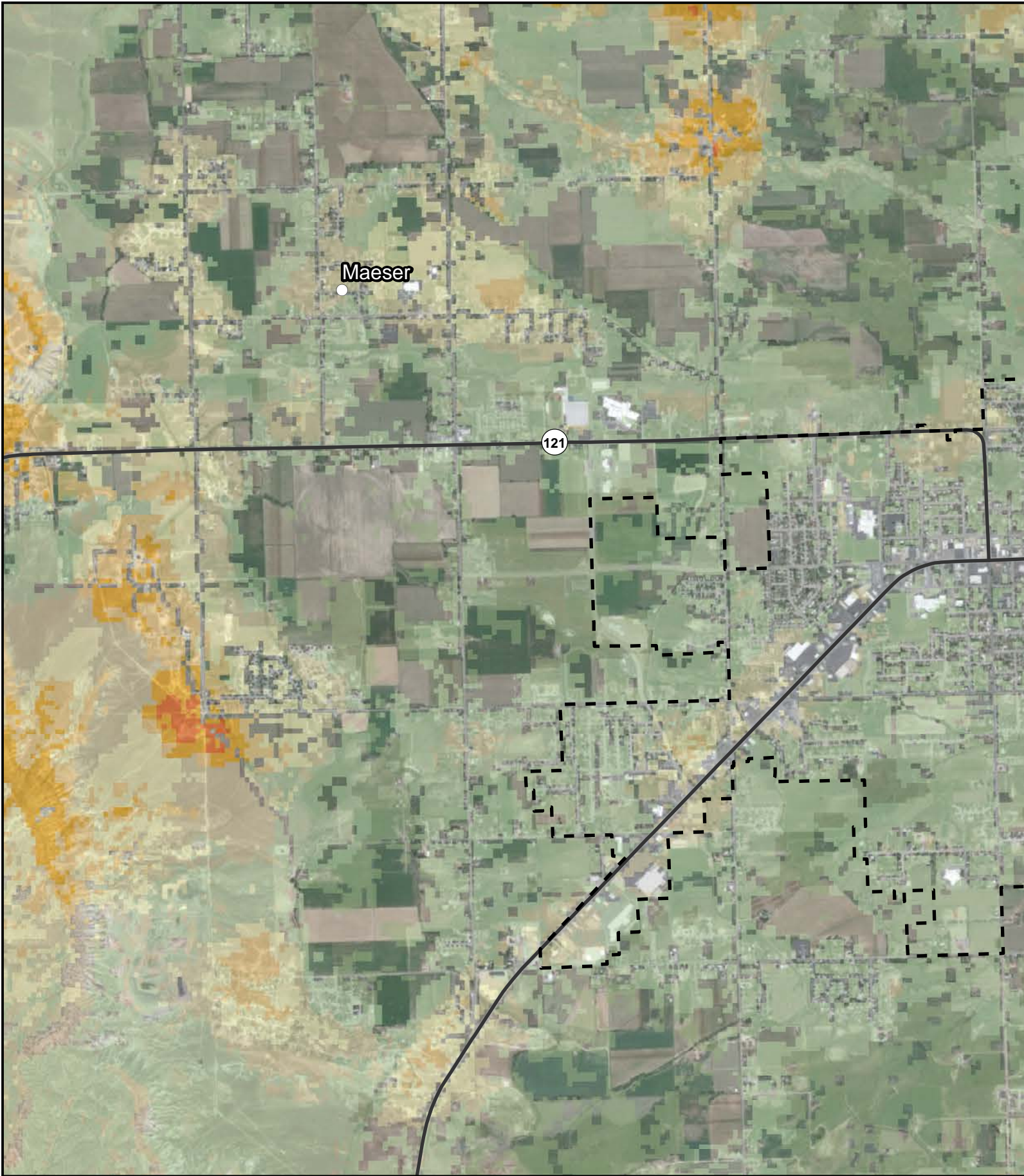


Roads



Utilities








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



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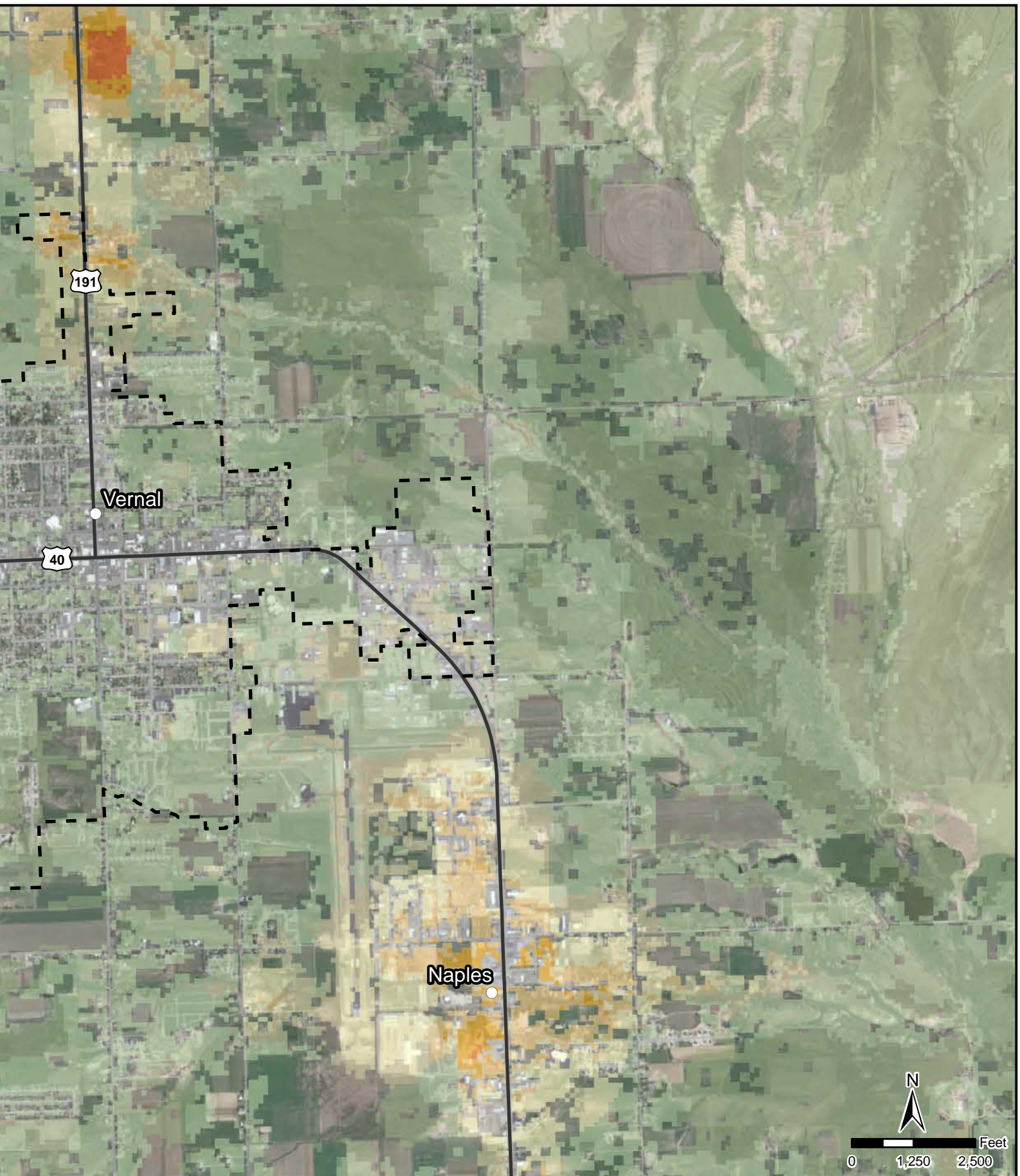
Community Boundary

Fire Risk Index

-  1 (Urban, Agriculture, Barren, or Water)
-  2 (Very, Very Low)
-  3 (Very Low)

-  4 (Low)
-  5 (Low-Moderate)
-  6 (Moderate)
-  7 (Moderate-High)

-  8 (High)
-  9 (Very High)
-  10 (Extreme)



Part 2 RISK ASSESSMENT



Introduction

This focus of this section is to evaluate data about how likely Vernal is to have a fire, and what is at risk if a fire occurs. In addition to community leader interview information, this also helps inform where mitigation efforts should be focused. The data for this section was provided by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands through the Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal.

Values at Risk

Values at risk in Vernal consist of structures and property within the WUI that would have adverse effects if burned in a wildfire. This includes, but is not limited to homes, commercial buildings, public buildings, and infrastructure (like roads). To calculate the risk to people and property WUI, fire, and emergency response data were combined. All three of these factors impact how at risk a property is and when combined give an idea of what areas of private property should receive the most attention within the City. In Vernal, 58% of the land would be considered at a risk of 5 or higher (with 9 being the highest score).

To assess the potential risk to key infrastructure assets (such as schools, airports, roads, and railroads) a buffer of 300 to 500 feet was created to show areas where fire and smoke would have an adverse effect on infrastructure. In particular, infrastructure assets that are within urban developed areas are sensitive to smoke. For example, airports and roads would be increasingly dangerous as visibility is reduced by smoke from a wildfire. The health of at-risk citizens, like those in a hospital or children, would also be sensitive to increased levels of smoke. Fire near these areas could also pose the most risk to the lives of residents. Approximately 65.3% of Vernal falls within this buffer.

How well emergency response units can reach and assist these assets is of critical importance to understanding what assets are most at risk. When the infrastructure buffer is combined with fire and emergency response data a better idea is obtained of what assets pose the most risk. In Vernal, a majority of infrastructure is considered to be at a low risk with emergency response and flame characteristics, but 21 acres in and around town were rated at a risk of 5 or higher (with 9 being the highest risk).

Natural Resources at Risk

Natural resources include things such as the watershed, forest products, wildlife, and recreation and tourism. Some riparian areas could be impacted in the event of a wildfire in Vernal. Riparian areas help protect water resources and if they are burned water quality can be compromised. 14 acres would have a low impact if burned (or 87.5% of riparian areas). 2 acres would be considered to have a high impact if burned (or 12.6% of riparian areas).

Vernal has 24 acres of forest assets. Of those assets, 66.7% are considered resilient or tree species that have characteristics that help the tree resist damage from fire and whose adult stages can survive low-intensity fires. 33.3% are considered adaptive or tree species adapted with the ability to regenerate following the fire by sprouting or serotinous cones.

When it comes to surface fuels, the type of vegetation surrounding Vernal a majority is short, sparse, dry grass or small shrubs. Specifically, there are 13 acres of sage shrub/steppe, 4 acres of pinyon-juniper, 8 acres of hardwood, and 633 acres of agricultural land with other scattered types not more than 1 acre in size. Since most vegetation is surface fuels, and most forest assets are resilient or adaptive, tree canopy fires are unlikely.

Vernal's watershed, which supplies drinking water for the City, is considered to be at a low risk and should not be a major issue in the event of a wildfire.

Risk Assessment + Insurance Rating

The following information is based on the Communities At Risk (CARs) list that was developed cooperatively at the local and state level to assist land management agencies and other stakeholders in determining the scope of the WUI challenge and to monitor progress in mitigating the hazards in these areas. This information is updated annually through the interagency fuel groups. Included in the CAR data are high-level ratings of fire occurrence, fuel hazards, values protected, and an insurance rating. These numbers are added together to get an overall score.

Fire occurrence was given a rating of 2, or high, with at least 2 to 14 fires in the area within the last 10 years. Fuel hazard was given a rating of 1, or moderate. Values protected was given a score of 3, or extreme, because Vernal is one of the largest cities with the most assets in the area. Fire protection capabilities was given a 1. The Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating for the community was a 5, or moderate. Overall, Vernal was given a rating of 7, meaning that Vernal is at a moderate risk to wildfires. More detailed information regarding these ratings will be covered in the next few paragraphs.

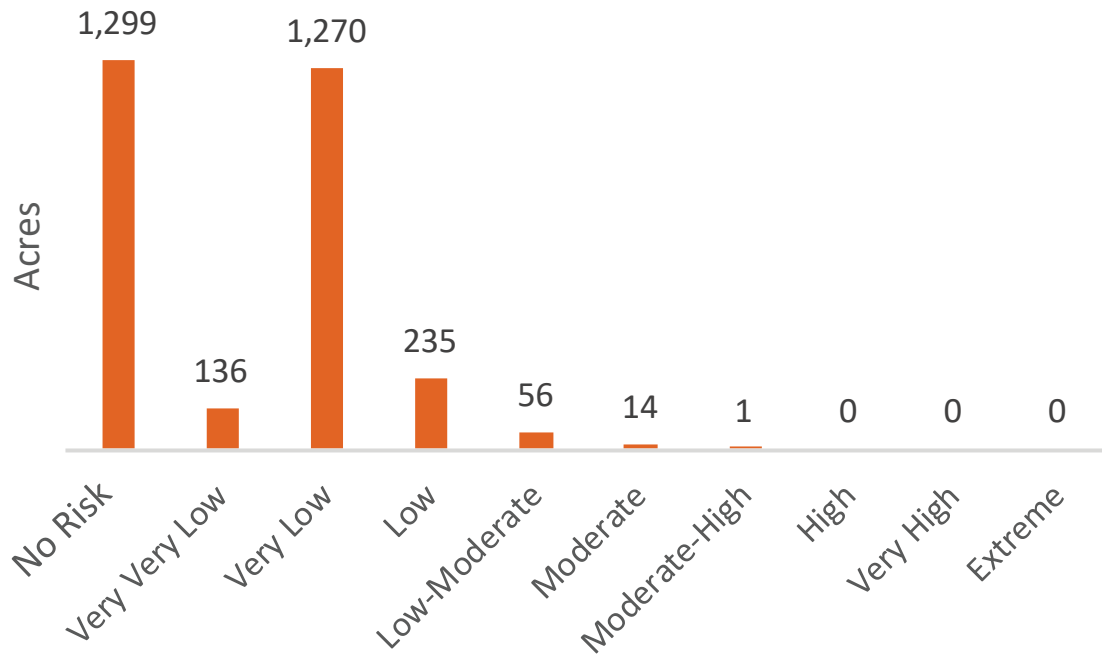
Fire Occurrence	Fuel Hazard	Values Protected	Fire Protection Capabilities	Overall Rating
2	1	3	1	7
Total: 4-7 Moderate, 8-11 High, 12 Extreme				Moderate

Values at risk and natural resources at risk are important when determining the impact of a fire, but less important to the risk of a wildfire actually happening. Data important to determine the threat of an acre of land burning is associated with fire behavior and historical fire occurrence. No wildfires have been reported within Vernal's city limits, but in nearby areas, there have been some wildfires. Most areas, according to the state historic fire occurrence density map, have a very low rating with any high rating being to either the northwest of the City or to the southeast close to Naples.

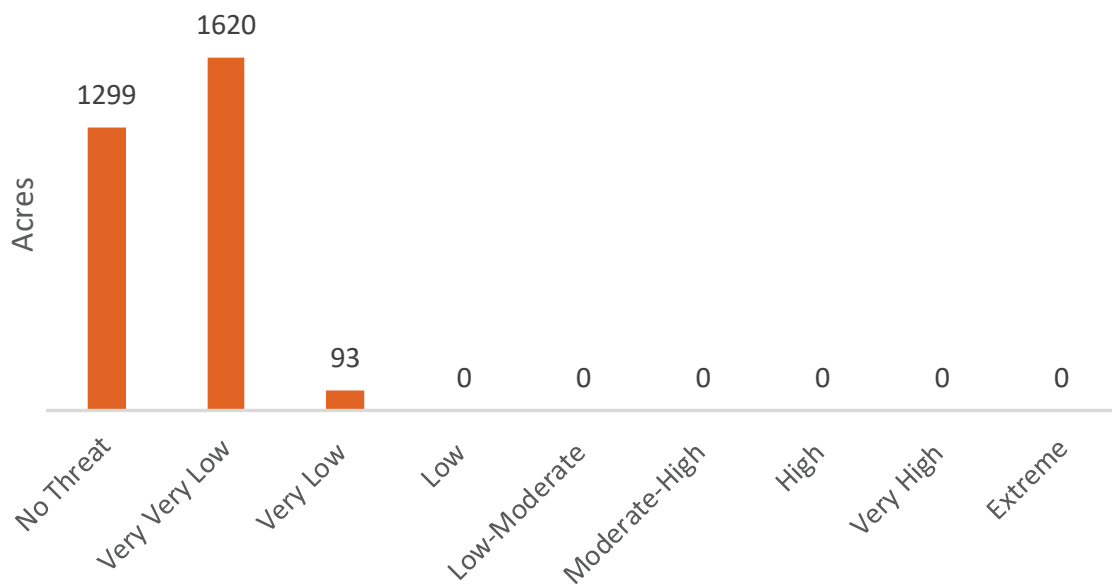
Fire behavior covers topics like suppression difficulty, the rate of spread, and flame length. Suppression is affected by slope and vegetation type and in most cases Vernal there is a fast rate of suppression due to low slope and fuel. The rate of spread is more a weighted average of fire speed based on the weather of the area. With Vernal's climate most land could expect to see a rate of spread of 16.49 ft/min or less. 31 acres, most along a strip of forest assets to the north of the City, can have an expected rate from 22 - 43.99 ft/min. Flame length is determined the same way as of spread, based on weather and weighted averages. Length is used to determine flame intensity and heat. 48.5% of Vernal's land would have flame lengths of less than 2 feet. Less than 10% of the land would have flame lengths greater than 2 feet with only 2 acres of land that would exceed 30 feet in height. The land most at risk is along a strip of forest asset to the north of the City.

Wildfire threat is determined by combining fire occurrence data and fire behavior data to determine the likelihood of an acre of land burning. All of Vernal's land is considered at a very low of less threat level. This data is then used and combined with values at risk and natural resources at risk to determine overall wildfire risk. Approximately 97.6% of land in Vernal is classified as being at a low-risk level or less. 71 Acres would be considered low-moderate to moderate-high risk, with most of that land being clustered in three main areas. One area is north of the City near the strand of forest assets, another is closer to Naples, and the third is to the southwest of the City.

Wildfire Risk



Wildfire Threat

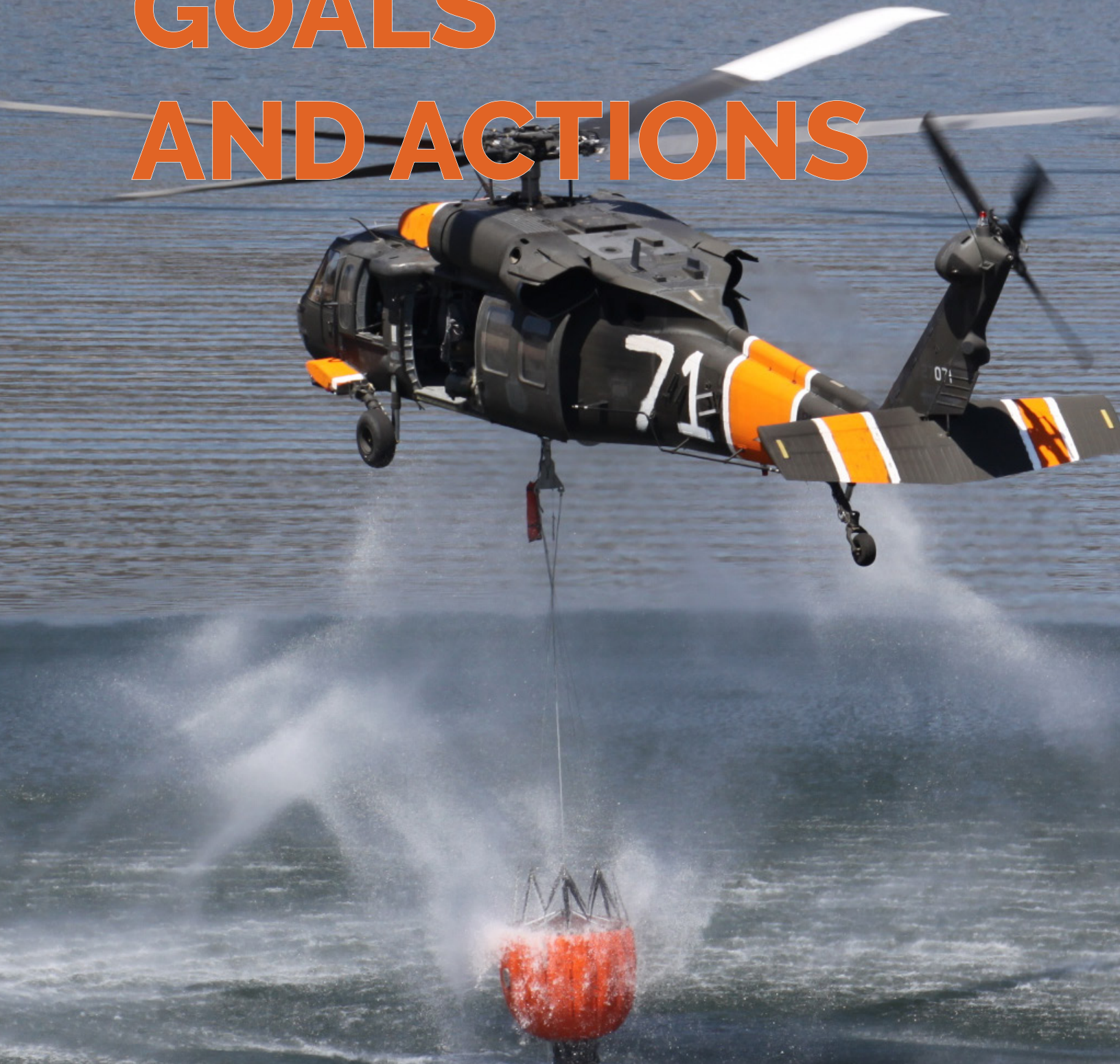


Part 3

RISK REDUCTION

GOALS

AND ACTIONS



Introduction

This section is based upon existing principles for wildfire mitigation. The data in previous sections were compiled and used to identify three main areas of Vernal City that are at the most risk of being affected by a wildfire. These basic principles, when applied to the goals in this section, can greatly reduce the risk of losing life and property in the event of a wildfire.

Defensible Space: One of the most basic principles in protecting development in the WUI is actually a responsibility of the City and property owner. To burn, a fire needs fuel, and often in the space between a home and wildland is a large amount of dry vegetation that can act as fuel in a wildfire. Increasing the space between development and wildland and clearing potential fuel in the space can help reduce risk and create a firebreak.

Firebreaks: A firebreak is a space of land that is difficult for a fire to cross because of the absence of fuels. meadows, roads, rivers, and canyons often act as fire breaks and can stop a wildfire. Creating more breaks, or removing vegetation near certain breaks, like roads, can help keep these areas functioning fire breaks even in intense fires.

Mitigation Projects: Most of the time mitigation projects take the form of fuel reduction. For example, under the canopy of trees debris can pile up over time. The longer the area goes without a fire the more fuel accumulates. So when the fire does happen it is more intense and harder to put out. So, controlled burns and cutting down and removal of vegetation in these areas can reduce risk by reducing fuel. Mitigation projects can also take the form of infrastructure improvements and public education

Emergency Equipment: The faster emergency personnel can respond to a fire the less likely it will be to damage property and spiral out of control. Some cities do not have adequate tools or a local fire department and do not have the funds to acquire them. Others have the trucks and employees, but lack roads wide enough or enough turn around space to navigate the area quickly. Gated properties and properties without addresses can also make their job of fighting fires more cumbersome. By investing money in improvements that speed up emergency response wildfire risk can be reduced.

Public Education: It is a sad fact that often times wildfires are human-caused. Wildfires are a natural part of wildland health, but only when they are controlled and occur under supervision or naturally. Homeowners or residents who do not understand weather patterns or the science of fire are a risk to the community. What they may think is harmless behavior may cause extreme loss. So, it is essential to educate the public regarding the WUI and how to best protect themselves and their homes from wildfires.

Location of Water Sources: Not many of the above-mentioned techniques would make a huge difference in fighting fires if there was no water available. The location and accessibility of water in the event of a wildfire is crucial. Local fire departments should have an in-depth knowledge of where fire hydrants are and what water they have a right to access and pull from. So, any effort to increase the amount of access emergency personnel have to water will ultimately help fight wildfires.

Structure Ignitability: Houses made with wood frame construction, have a wooden deck or porch, or have flammable roof tiles, could be in danger. Consider some improvements to homes that reduce the amount of flammable materials in the structure. Hardscaping instead of landscaping, non-flammable shingles, and fire resistant siding can all reduce the ignitability of structures. Only so much can be done on existing homes, but if new buildings are being planned, the County can ensure that fire safe construction materials are used.

How CWPP Participation Works

In order to receive financial assistance from the state, a certain level of participation must be maintained by the community. This participation is calculated by the cost of volunteer hours and the cost of investment in materials and mitigation efforts. This cost that the community provides is considered a match and is used to prove that the community has been implementing the plan. 50% of the cost match needs to be mitigation projects, specifically centered around fuel reduction. 25% of the cost match can be from other sources like education, training, planning, and other preventive measures like infrastructure improvements. The community should keep detailed records of hours and the cost of efforts to implement the action steps of this plan and update it regularly to ensure that a cost match is always maintained.

Firewise Communities

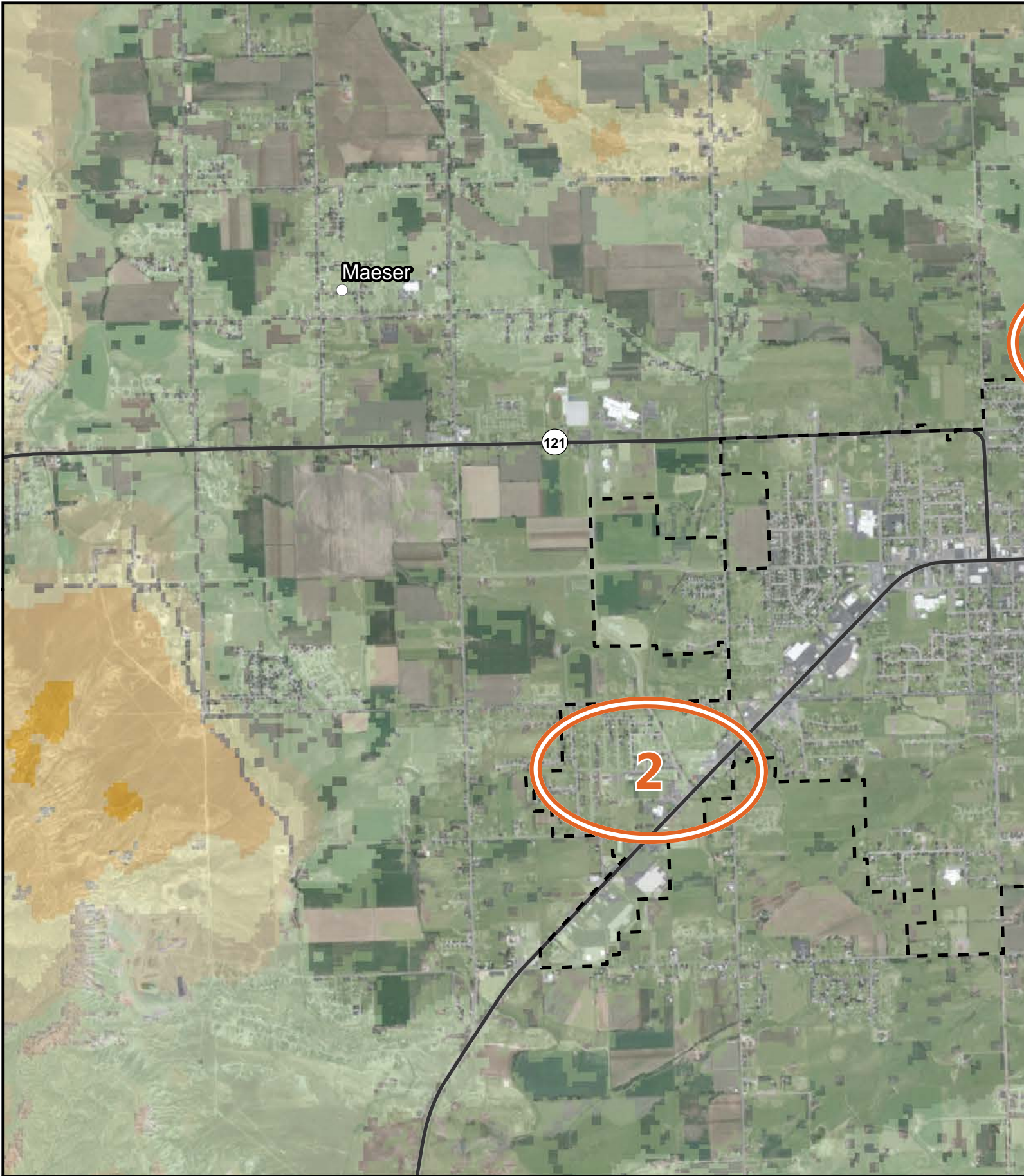
The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) developed the Firewise USA program to help recognize communities that have worked to reduce their wildfire risk levels. The program criteria is focused on empowering residents and giving them the ability to protect their own home. A City itself should not be a firewise community, but areas within the City are eligible. This plan is the first step in the process of helping communities become firewise. Communities that are within the WUI that is established by the City should volunteer and actively participate in the mitigation projects outlined in this plan. Citizens should also pay attention to educational materials provided by the City and take actions on their own property to reduce wildfire risk. As communities do this they can apply to be recognized as a firewise community. More information regarding the process and what individual property owners can do will be located in the appendix.

Goals and Mitigation Plans

The goals of this plan are separated into four areas, with yearly progression for each area that can be monitored and tracked by the City. Some goals repeat often because they should be recurring activities to be effective. These are list of recommended goals, but not all of them need to be completed to effectively mitigate the risk of wildfire. As resources become available the City should implement as many steps as possible. Every couple of years a meeting should be held with relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts to reevaluate and refine the objectives of this plan.

Areas of Interest

All of the data in this plan was used to identify two areas within the City that could benefit the most from mitigation efforts due to their levels of risk. Technically, all areas of the City are at risk, but to help prioritize actions in areas that would produce the most benefit in fire mitigation the areas of interest were limited to the ones shown. Following is a description of each area and why it has been prioritized for mitigation efforts. (Note that as conditions change, future areas will be identified).



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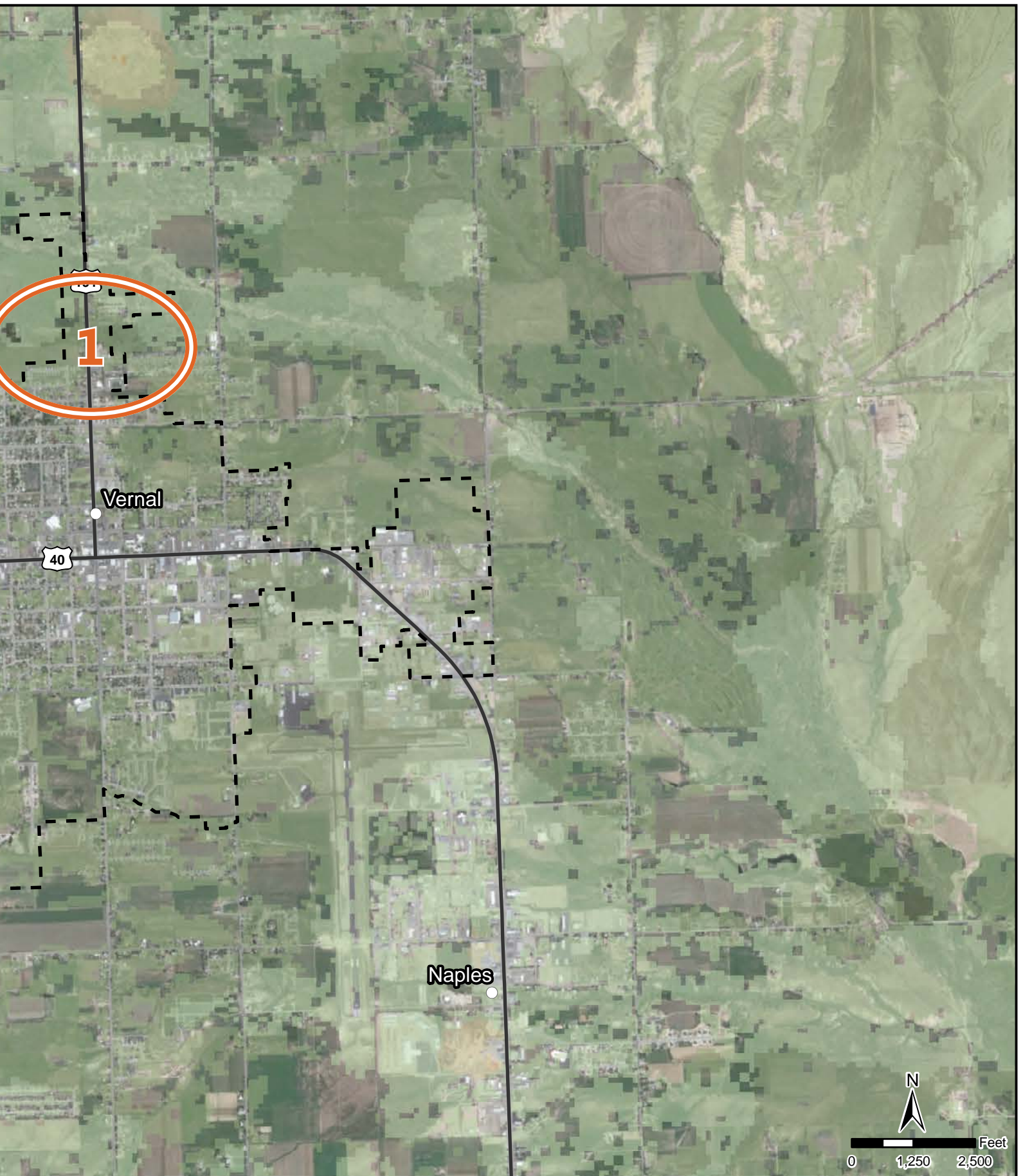
Community Boundary

Fire Threat Index

- 1 (Urban, Agriculture, Barren, or Water)
- 2 (Very Very Low)
- 3 (Very Low)

- 4 (Low)
- 5 (Low-Moderate)
- 6 (Moderate)
- 7 (Moderate-High)

- 8 (High)
- 9 (Very High)
- 10 (Extreme)



Area 1

North of Vernal near the Ashley Creek crossing

According to UWRAP data, the area north of Vernal near Ashley Creek is the area of the City at the highest risk. This is most likely because of high aggregate value impacts and intense modeled fire behavior. This area of the City has strands of forest and dry vegetation around it as well as housing densities of more than 3 units per acre. Cutting right through this is one of the main thoroughfares in and out of the City, North Vernal Avenue. Also, the most historic fire occurrence that has been close to the City was near the border of the City in this area.

The vegetation along the river has the possibility for high rates of spread and high flame lengths and a probability for canopy fire. If an intense fire occurred the riparian benefits of the river would be jeopardized. Also, North Vernal Avenue could be closed off in the event of an evacuation. The road itself could carry potential ignition sources as well.

2018 Existing Conditions



Year 0-2: Goals and Potential Action Steps	Responsibility
Host a community chipper day that businesses and residences in the area can use, even if they are not within the City boundaries. Consider jointly funding it with the County.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Establish a WUI overlay in the area consistent with the Firewise Community program.	Vernal City
Conduct an inspection of vegetation along Ashley Creek jointly with the County and determine specific areas for fuel reduction efforts.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Inspect properties within the established WUI and educate existing property owners to improve their own defensible space and structures to be fire resistant.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Year 2-5: Goals and Potential Action Steps	Responsibility
Determine the threat level of vegetation within existing City easements along Vernal Avenue and clear vegetation if it exists.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Utilize volunteers from the area to reduce fuels along Ashley Creek previously identified by inspections. Consider jointly funding with the county, with the City's commitment being proportional to the size of land covered by the project within the City.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD + Public
Inspect properties within the established WUI and educate existing property owners to improve their own defensible space and structures to be fire resistant. Exercise City nuisance ordinances to reduce excessive vegetation where appropriate.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Apply to be a recognized firewise community.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Survey the established WUI for emergency vehicle access capabilities and access to water sources like fire hydrants and determine whether changes need to be made.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Year 5-10: Goals and Potential Action Steps	Responsibility
Host a community chipper day that businesses and residences in the area can use, even if they are not within the City boundaries. Consider jointly funding it with the County.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Fund identified infrastructure improvements as resources become available.	Vernal City

Area 2

Commercial corridor along U.S. Highway 191 and along Aggie Boulevard

This area has a very low risk of wildfire actually occurring, but has a large amount of residential, commercial, and institutional uses at risk. This area has the corridor of U.S.Highway 191 going right through it with commercial uses near the border of the City. Along Aggie Boulevard in the same region is a small patch of open space with resilient trees that have moderate modeled flame behavior. At the end of that road is the Utah State University Campus.

Also in this area is the highest wildland development impact rating, meaning that the most homes at risk within the WUI in the City. Even though the probability of a fire occurring is low, mitigation efforts to protect the many assets in the area make it a priority.

2018 Existing Conditions



Year 0-2: Goals and Potential Action Steps	Responsibility
Maintain the cottonwood trees in the Esquire neighborhood. Make special efforts to educate residents on wildfire risk.	Vernal City
Establish a WUI overlay in the area consistent with the Firewise Community program.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Inspect properties within the established WUI and educate existing property owners to improve their own defensible space and structures to be fire resistant.	Vernal City
Focus specifically on undeveloped and vacant lots when considering incentives for fuel reduction on properties. Consider discussing with property owners and volunteers the potential of having volunteers remove fuel to reduce the property owners cost of mitigation. Pay special attention to the block bounded by Highway 191 and Aggie Boulevard. Exercise City nuisance ordinances to reduce excessive vegetation where appropriate.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Work with the County and property owners to identify fuel reduction projects on private property that borders Vernal.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Year 2-5: Goals and Potential Action Steps	Responsibility
Host a community chipper day that businesses and residences in the area can use, even if they are not within the City boundaries. Consider jointly funding it with the County.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Determine the threat level of vegetation within existing City easements along major roads and clear vegetation if it exists. If easements do not exist, work with property owners to clear vegetation near the roads.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD + Public
Utilize volunteers and various fire organization's staff to reduce fuels as previously identified.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Year 5-10: Goals and Potential Action Steps	Responsibility
Inspect properties within the established WUI and educate existing property owners to improve their own defensible space and structures to be fire resistant. Exercise City nuisance ordinances to reduce excessive vegetation where appropriate.	Vernal City + Uintah Fire SSD
Clear vegetation along roads as previously identified.	Vernal City

City-Wide Action Steps

Year 0-2: Goals and Potential Action Steps
Host a public and city staff training about the newly adopted CWPP.
Conduct a public education campaign, with particular attention paid to owners of vacant lots - particularly around firework seasons. Consider utilizing drones to capture before/after imagery of mitigation projects.
Adopt and implement a WUI code.
Partner with the County to conduct regular mowing and weed spraying along major roadways.
Seek out and apply for funding to pay for mitigation projects (see appendix).
Approach canal companies to coordinate maintenance efforts.
Create a nuisance ordinance to effectively reduce fuel for fires on unmaintained private property.
Designate a city employee as a direct specialist for CWPP follow-up efforts and track participation and accountability.
Seek out volunteers in the community that would be willing to assist in mitigation projects.
Host regular “free landfill day” events. Include firewise information in advertisements for it.
Year 2-5: Goals and Potential Action Steps
Conduct a public education campaign, with particular attention paid to owners of vacant lots.
Contract with local tree maintenance companies to do mitigation projects.
Provide training for firefighters, the public, and other mitigation project volunteers.
Hold a City Council and staff meeting to review the action steps of this plan. Make plans to either continue with implementation, or revise if needed.
Year 5-10: Goals and Potential Action Steps
Invest in more emergency response equipment for local fire personnel.
Conduct a public education campaign, with particular attention paid to owners of vacant lots.
Hold a City Council and staff meeting to review the action steps of this plan. Make plans to either continue with implementation or revise if needed.

MAPS

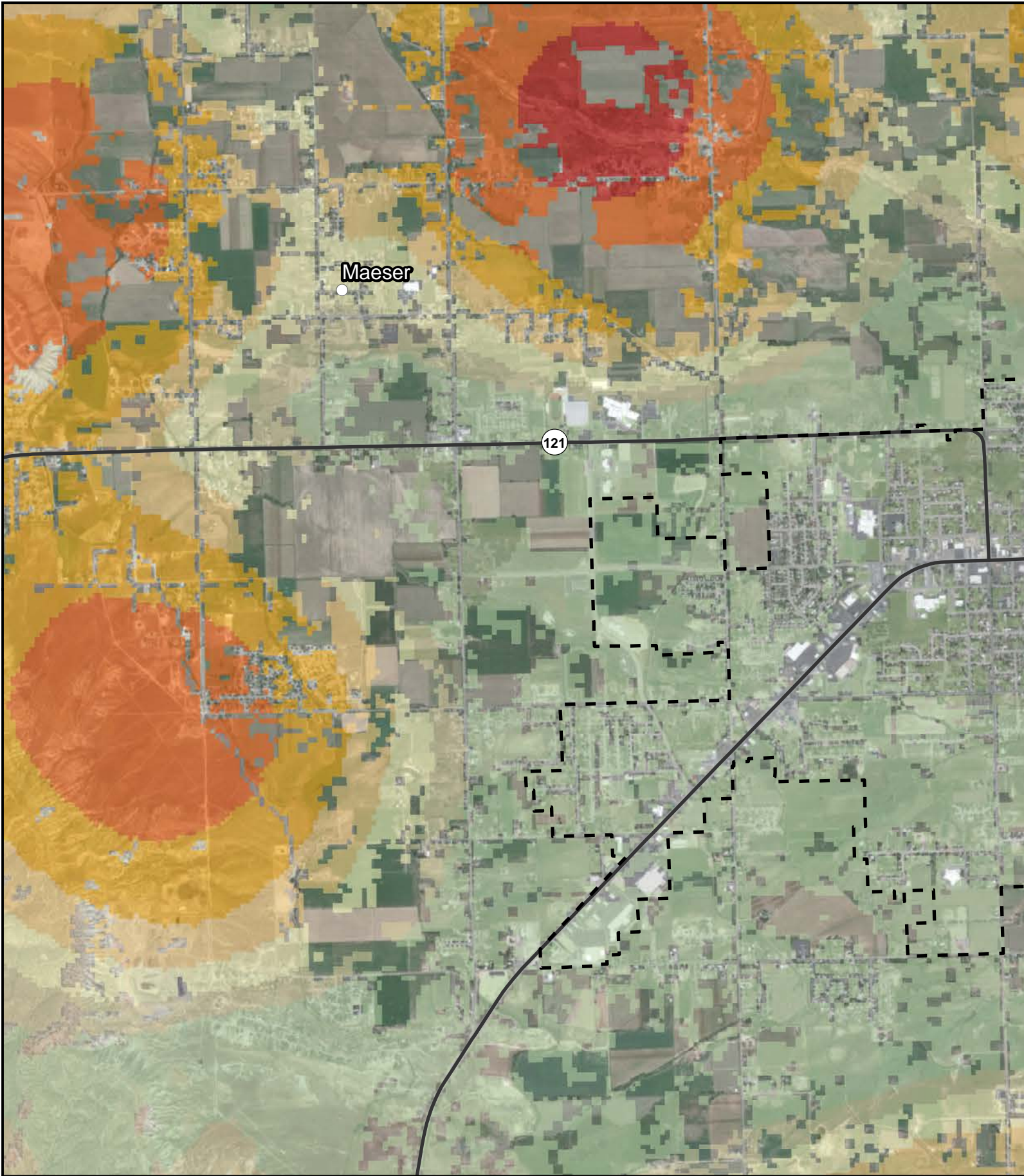


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The Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (UWRAP) has mapping resources for the following issues. These maps were used in the development of this plan, but are not included here.

- Flame Length
- Housing Density
- Infrastructure Assets
- Infrastructure Assets Impacts
- Rate of Spread
- Suppression Difficulty
- Surface Fuels
- Vegetation Conditions
- Vegetation Land Covers



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121

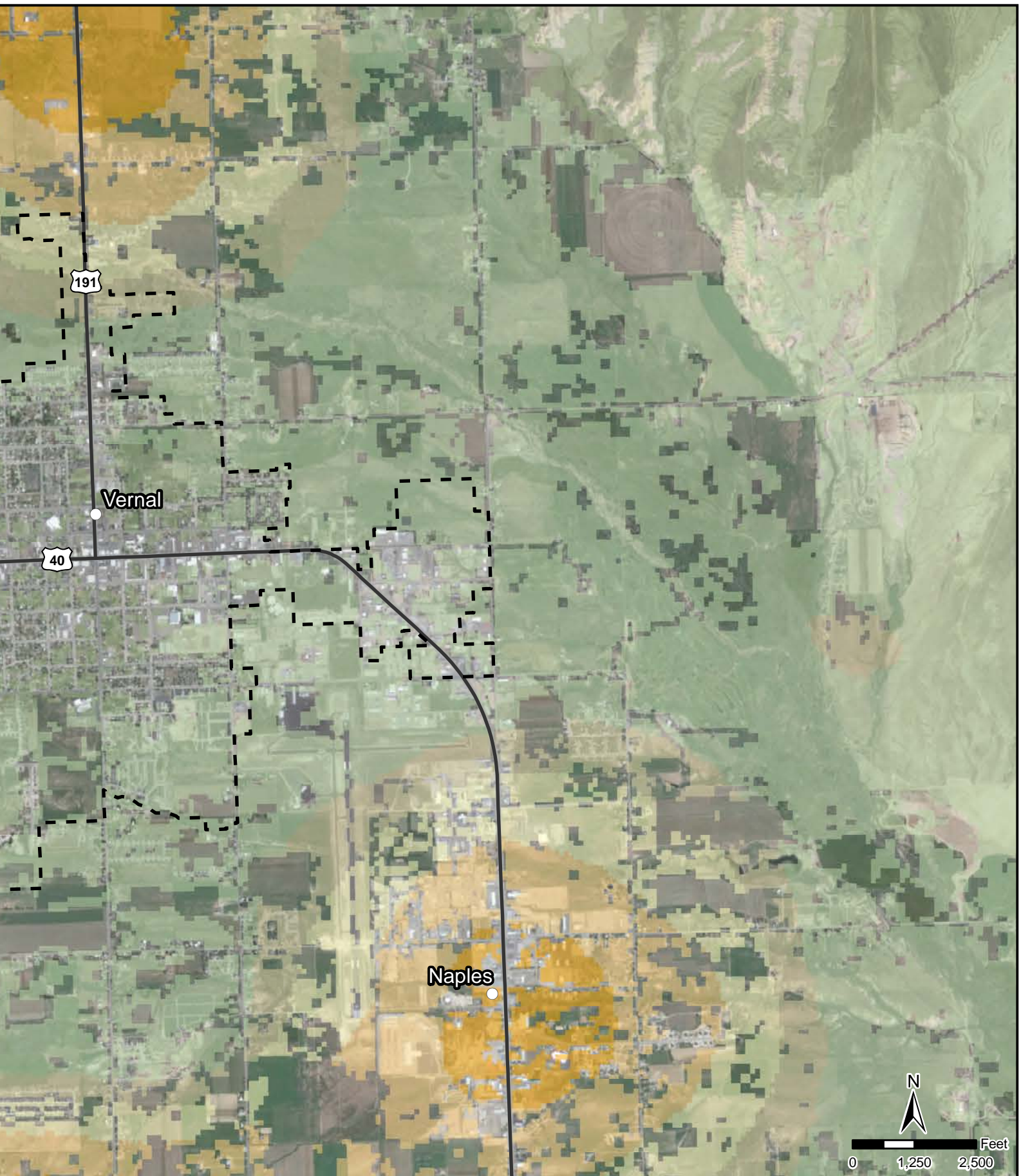
Community Boundary

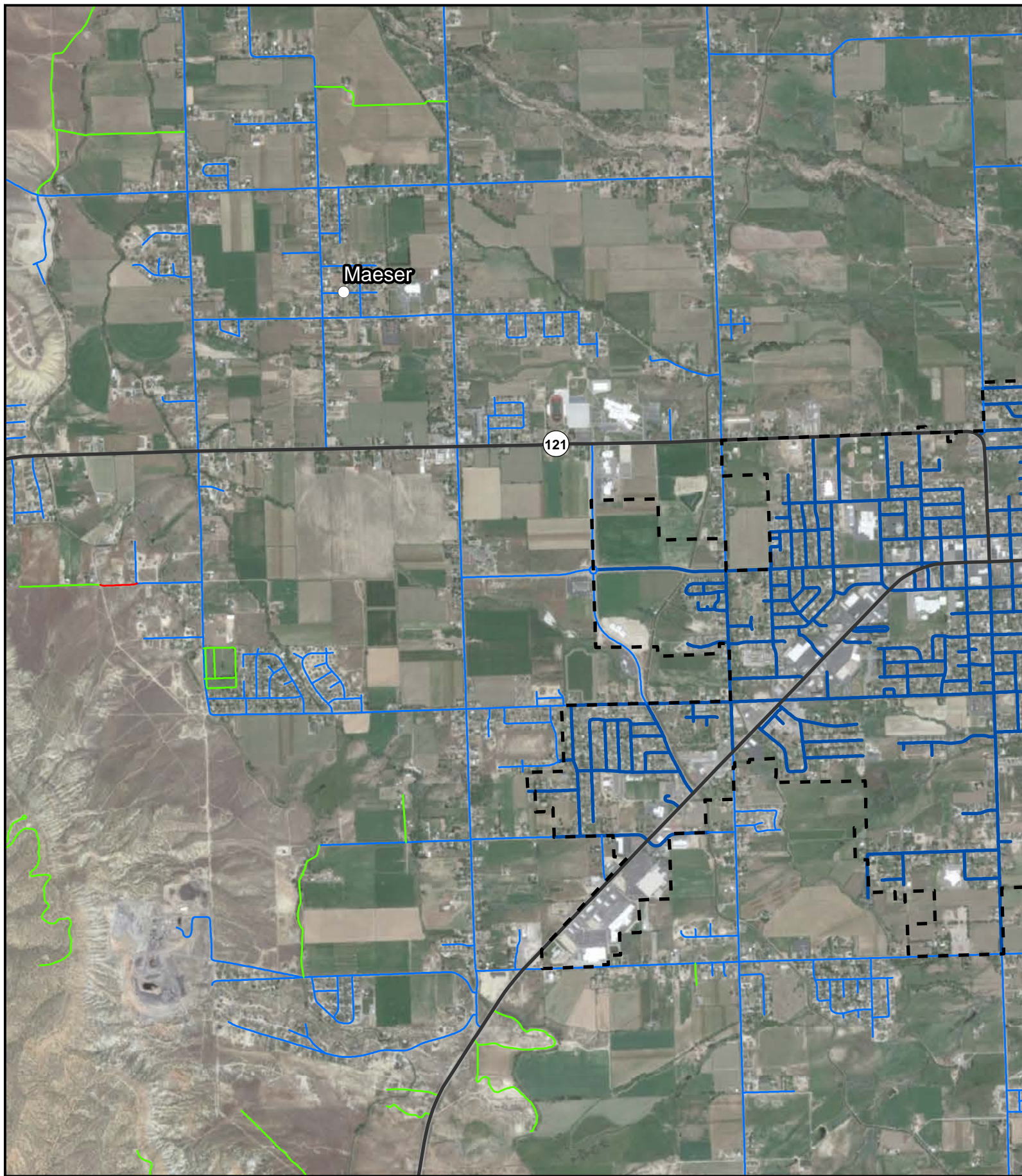
Fire Occurrence Density (FOA)
(Fires/1000 acres./yr.)

- 1 (Urban, Agriculture, Barren, or Water)
- 2. (Very Very Low)

- 3. (Very Low)
- 4. (Low)
- 5. (Low-Moderate)
- 6. (Moderate)

- 7. (Moderate-High)
- 8. (High)
- 9. (Very High)
- 10. (Extreme)






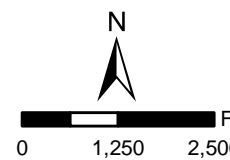
Class C (City) Roads

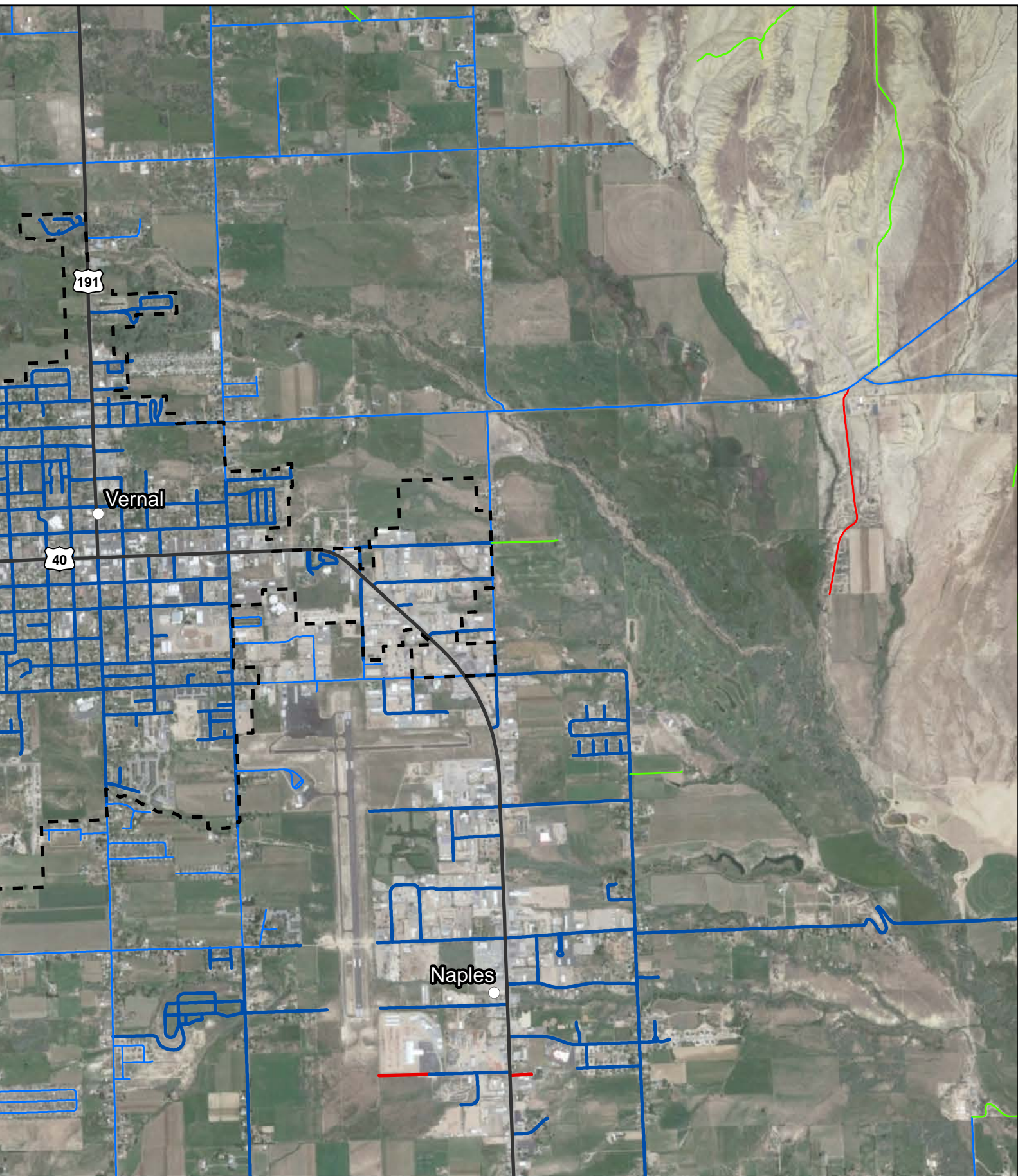
- Paved
- Gravel
- Unimproved

Uintah County Roads

- Class 1-B Paved
- Class 1-B Gravel
- Class 1-Unimproved
- Class D

 Community Boundary





feet
0



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800.748.5275 www.jonesanddemille.com

Uintah Fire Suppression Special Service District

**Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan
Vernal City - Roads Overview**

Map Name: H:\JD\Proj\RCC 1806-R06\Design\GIS\Maps\2_Vernal\CWPP_Vernal_City_Roads_Overview.mxd
Project Number: 1806-R06

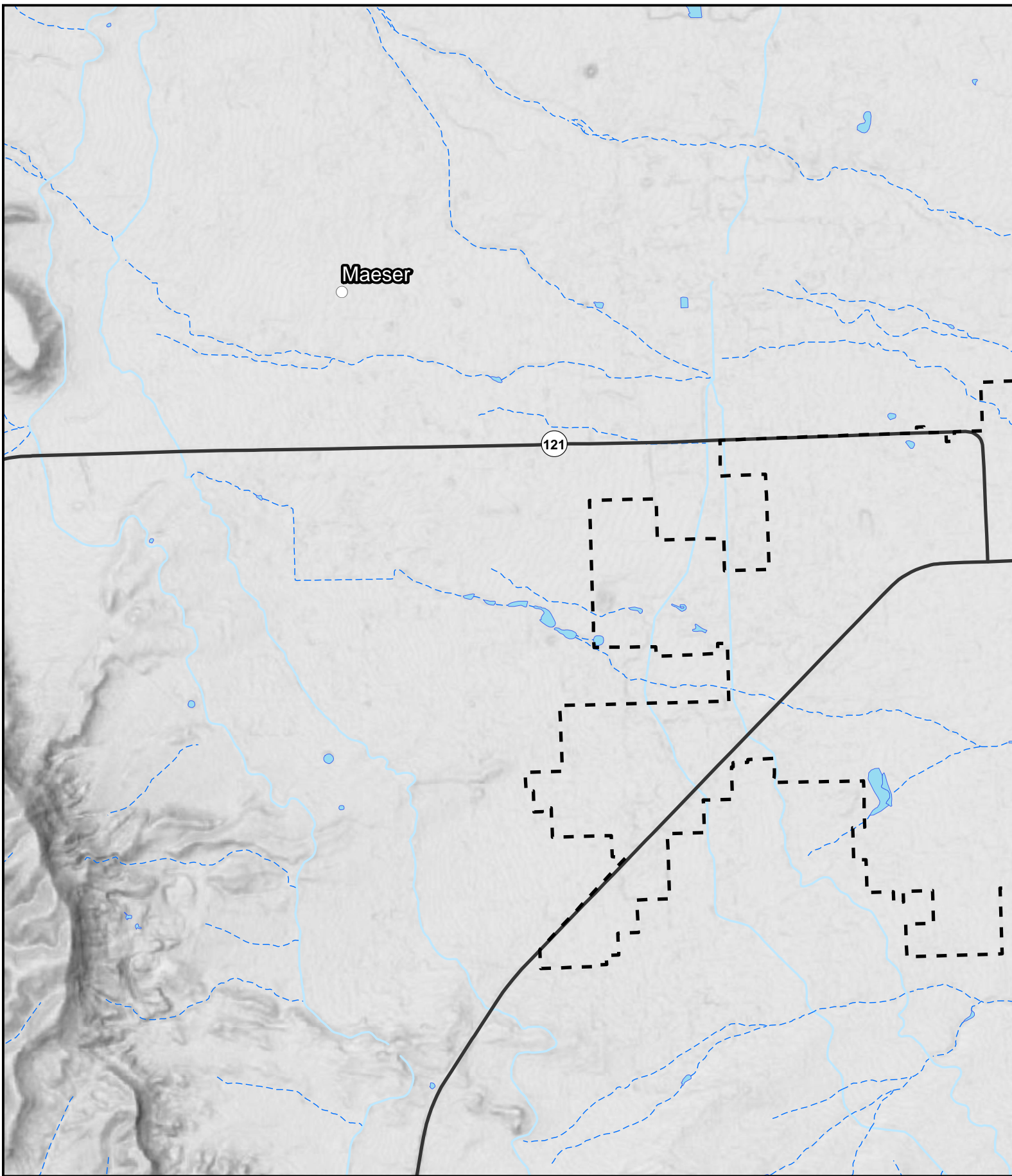
Drawn by: JEM 07-18


Last Edit: 07/13/2018

Uintah County


Scale: 1" = 2,500'

1



 Community Boundary

 Gaging Station


 Spring/Seep

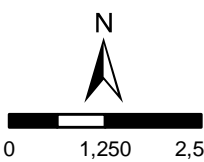
 Well

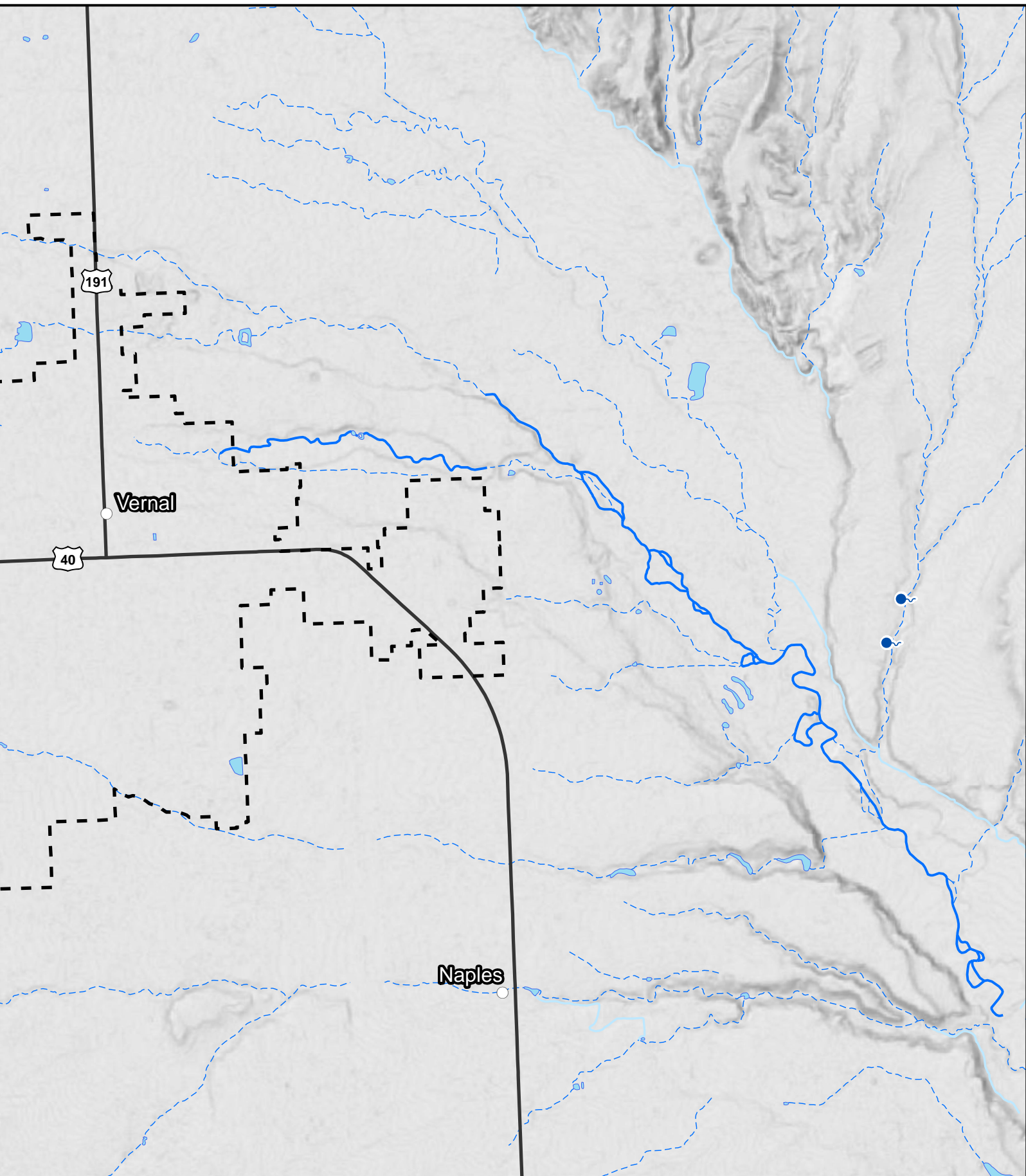
 Stream/River - Perennial

 Stream/River - Intermittent

 Canal

 Lake/Reservoir





Feet
00



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Uintah Fire Suppression Special Service District

**Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan
Vernal City - Water Resources (Hydrology)**

Map Name: H:\JD\Proj\RCC 1806-R06\Design\GIS\Maps\2_Vernal\CWPP_Vernal_City_Hydrology_Water_Resources.mxd

Project Number: 1806-R06

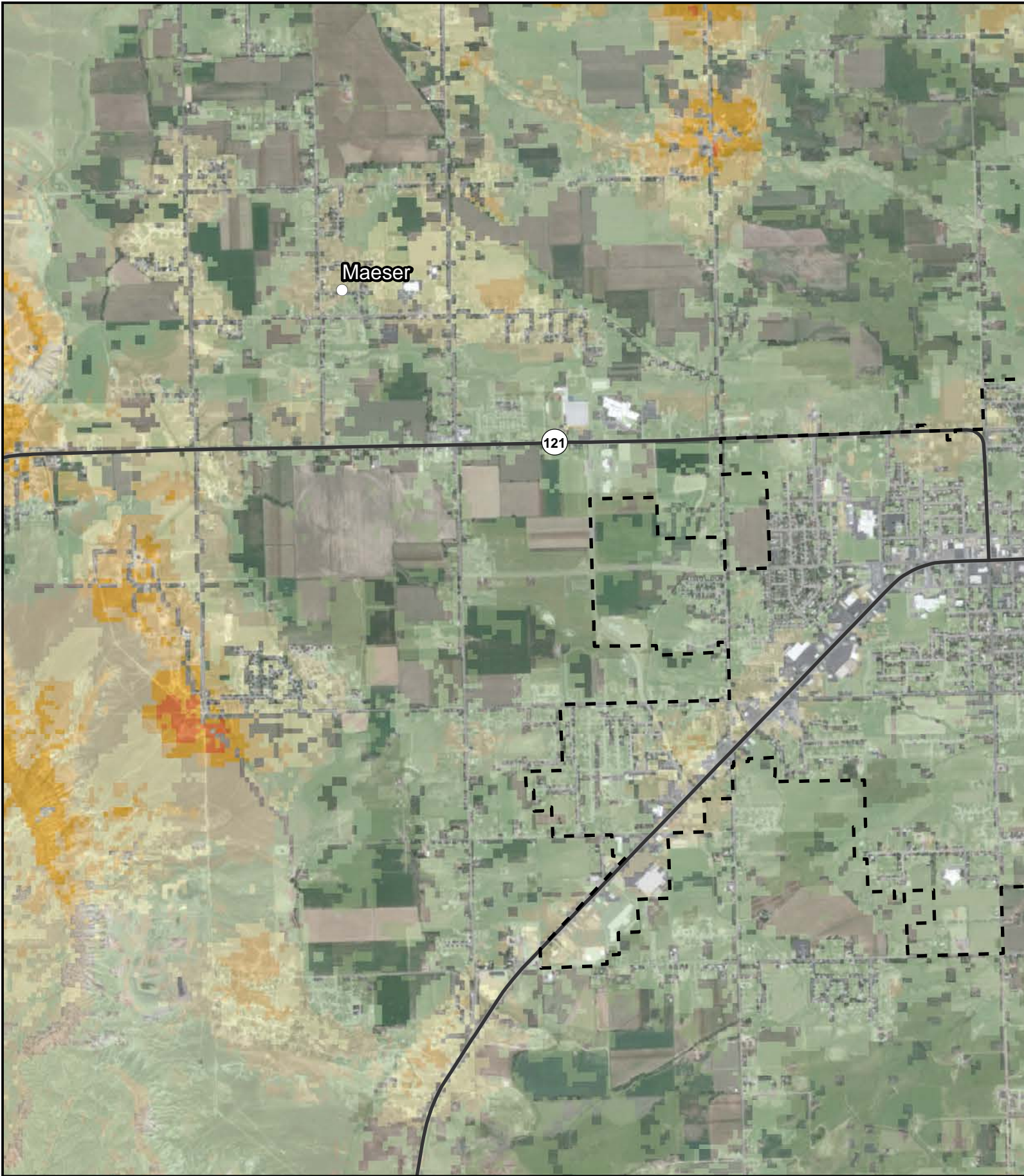
Drawn by: JEM 07-18

Last Edit: 08/08/2018

Uintah County

Scale: 1" = 2,500'

1






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



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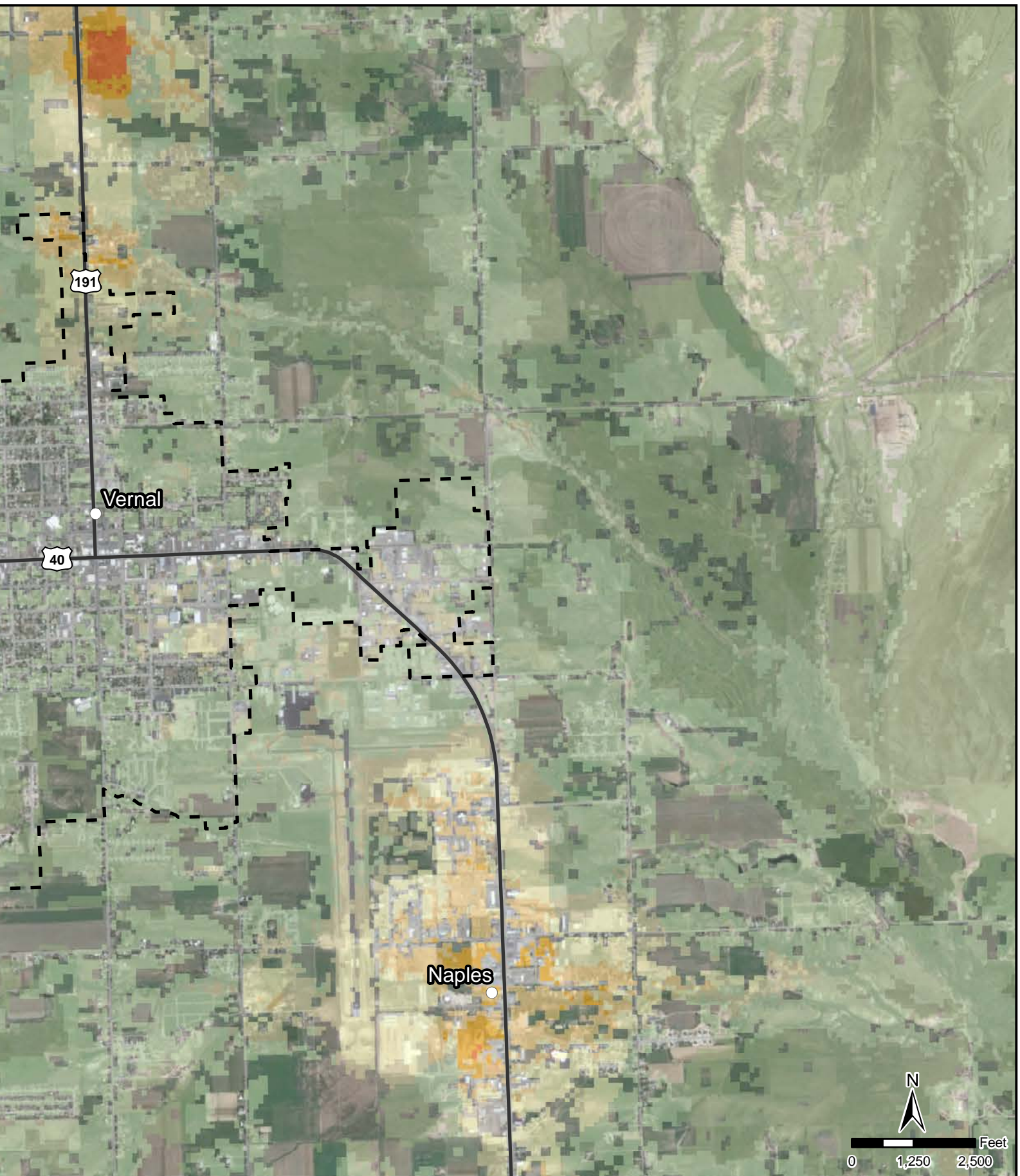
Community Boundary

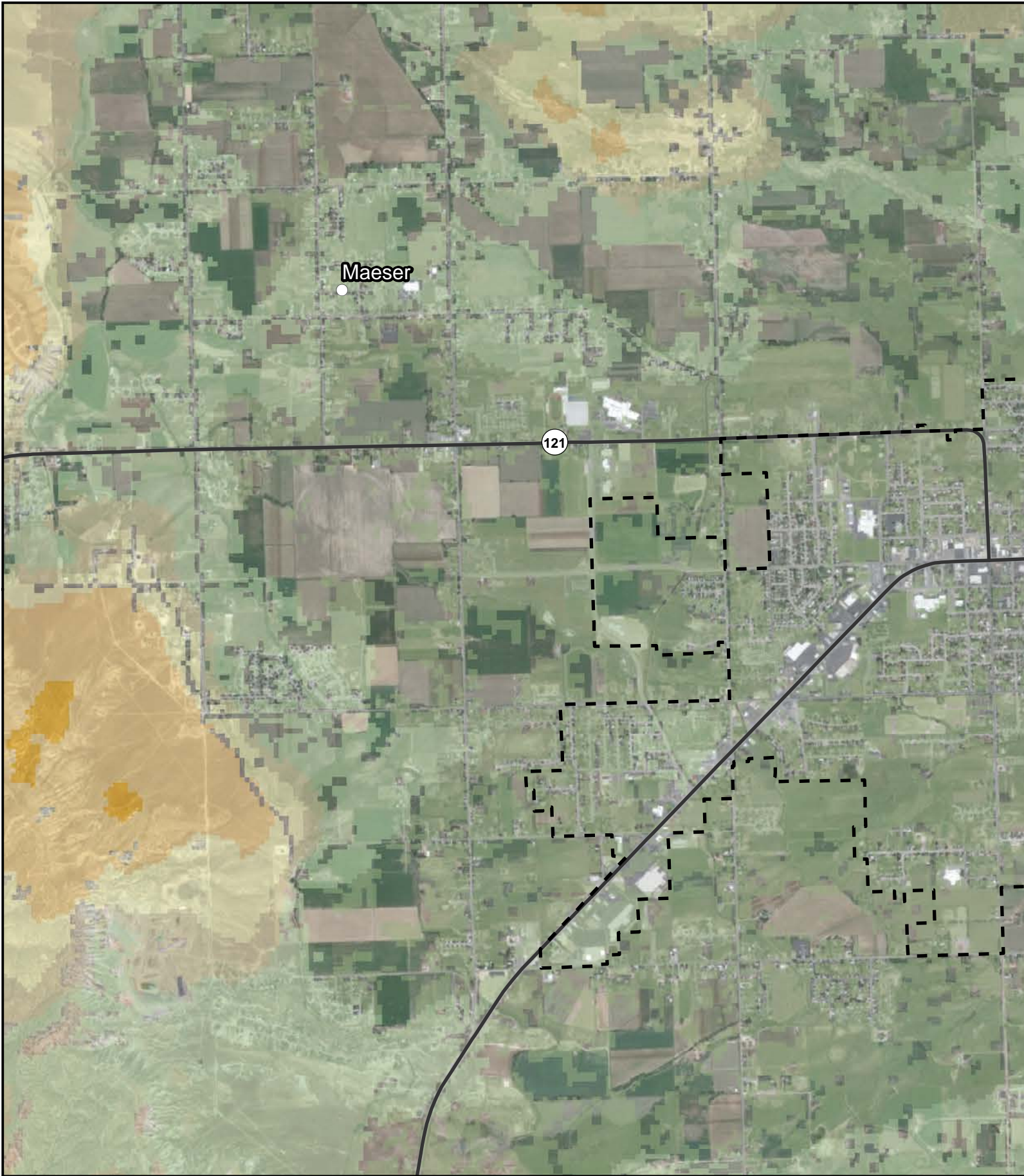
Fire Risk Index

-  1 (Urban, Agriculture, Barren, or Water)
-  2 (Very, Very Low)
-  3 (Very Low)

-  4 (Low)
-  5 (Low-Moderate)
-  6 (Moderate)
-  7 (Moderate-High)

-  8 (High)
-  9 (Very High)
-  10 (Extreme)





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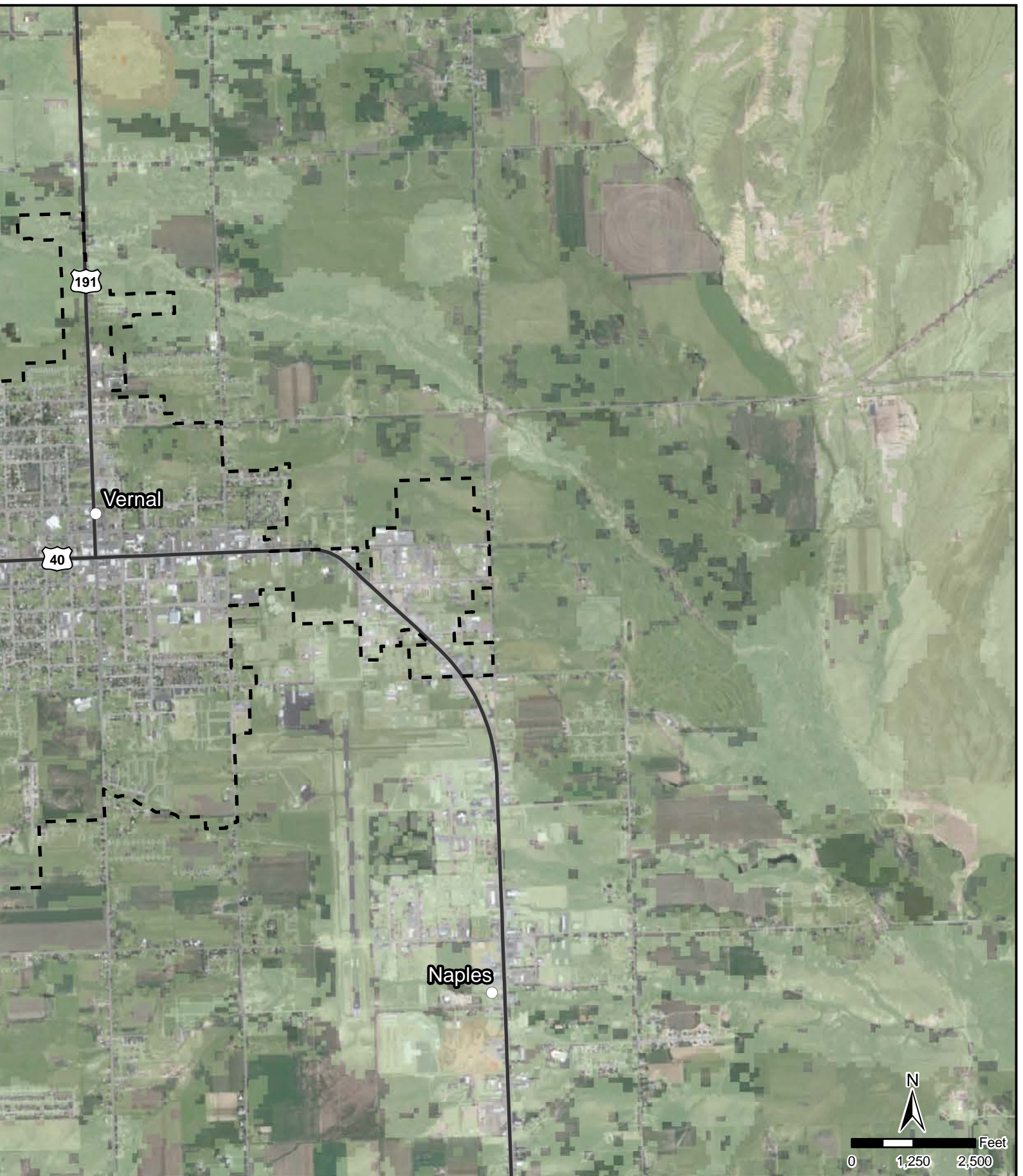
Community Boundary

Fire Threat Index

- 1 (Urban, Agriculture, Barren, or Water)
- 2 (Very Very Low)
- 3 (Very Low)

- 4 (Low)
- 5 (Low-Moderate)
- 6 (Moderate)
- 7 (Moderate-High)

- 8 (High)
- 9 (Very High)
- 10 (Extreme)



APPENDIX

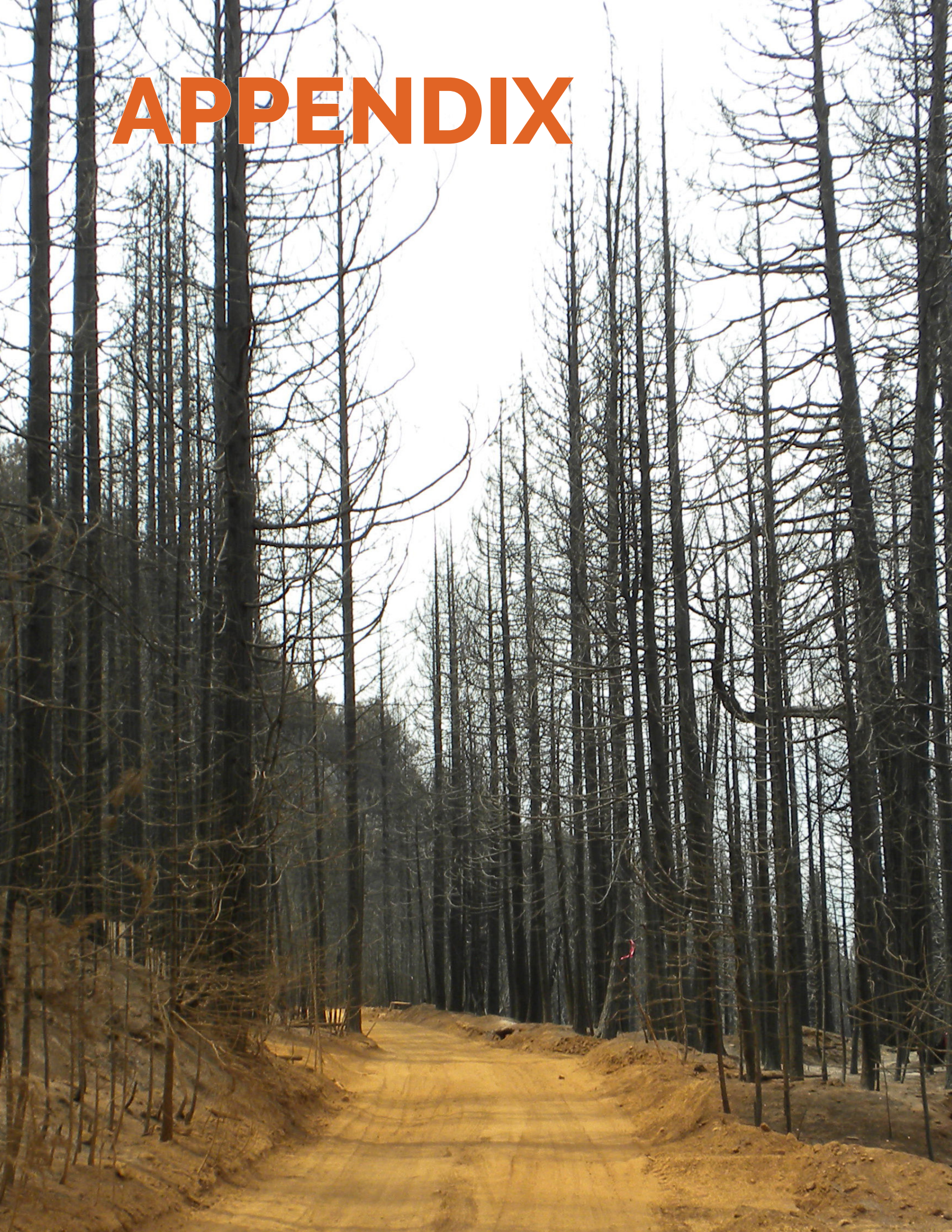


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Becoming a Nationally Recognized Firewise USA® Site

www.firewise.org

The Firewise USA® program provides a collaborative framework for neighbors to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. The national recognition program's annual criteria is designed to empower and engage residents living in wildfire prone areas with a plan and actions that can increase their home's chances of surviving a wildfire; while also making it safer for firefighters.

Steps to Achieving National Recognition:

Wildfire Risk Assessment

Completing a written wildfire risk assessment is the first step in becoming a nationally recognized Firewise USA® site. Contact your Firewise liaison for the state's requirements on developing a risk assessment.

Board/Committee

Form a board/committee comprised of residents and other applicable wildfire stakeholders. This group will collaborate on developing the site's risk reduction priorities and they will develop a multi-year action plan based on the assessment, along with overseeing the completion of the annual renewal requirements.

Action Plan

Action plans are a prioritized list of risk reduction projects developed by the participant's board/committee for their site. Plans include recommended home ignition zone projects, educational activities and other stakeholder outreach efforts that the site will strive to complete annually or over multiple years.

Educational Outreach

Each participating site is required to have a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event, or related activity annually.

Wildfire Risk Reduction Investment

At a minimum, each site is required to invest the equivalent value of one volunteer hour per dwelling unit in risk reduction actions annually. A wide range of qualifying actions and expenditures (contractor costs, rental equipment, resident activities, grants, etc.) comprise the overall investment totals.

Application

Applicants begin the overall process by creating a site profile at: Portal.firewise.org. The application is eligible for submission when the overall criteria is completed.

State liaisons approve applications with final processing completed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). **Please note:** Individual states may require additional application requirements beyond those of the national program.



FIREWISE USA®
Residents reducing wildfire risks

WUI Overlay Zone

Zoning Section

Purpose:

The purpose of this zone is to establish minimum regulations consistent with nationally recognized good practice for the safeguarding of life and property. Regulations in this zone are intended to mitigate the risk to life and structures from intrusion of fire from wildland fire exposures and fire exposures from adjacent structures and to mitigate structure fires from spreading to wildland fuels. The development and use of property in wildland-urban interface areas is a potential threat to life and property from fire and resulting erosion. Safeguards to prevent the occurrence of fires and to provide adequate fire-protection facilities to control the spread of fire in wildland-urban interface areas shall be in accordance with this zone.

General Regulations:

The supplementary regulations of this zone will be as outlined in the 2006 Wildland Urban Interface code as adopted in (the city's building code). The provisions of this zone shall apply to the construction, alteration, movement, repair, maintenance and use of any building, structure or premises within the Urban-Wildland Interface Overlay Zone.

Buildings or conditions in existence at the time of the adoption:

Buildings or conditions in existence at the time of the adoption of this zone are allowed to have their use or occupancy continued, if the condition, use or occupancy was legal at the time of the adoption of this zone, provided that continued uses do not constitute a distinct danger to life or property.

Location of Overlay:

This zone will only be overlaid and shown on existing zoning districts on the (city's official zoning map name). The requirements of this zone will be additional to the requirements of the base zone on which the overlay has been placed.

Conflict:

In cases where the standards of the base zone and the overlay zone conflict, the stricter of the two requirements will stand and be upheld.

Administration and Enforcement:

It will be the responsibility of the (insert whatever position does the building and fire inspections within your city) to ensure that the standards of this zone are met.

Building Code Section

Wildland Urban Interface Code:

(insert City name) now adopts by reference the 2006 Utah Wildland Urban Interface Code, published by the International Code Council, and it is made a part of this code as though fully printed in this section.

Administration and Enforcement:

It will be the responsibility of the (insert whatever position does the building and fire inspections within your city) to ensure that these standards are met.

Location of WUI:

The location of the WUI as mentioned in the 2006 Utah Wildland Urban Interface Code, will be interpreted and shown as an overlay zone on (the city's official zoning map name).

Amendments:

Here list any amendments that your building and fire officials feel should be made to the international code after reviewing. Uintah County has already made some amendments and reviewing the County's amendments would be a great place to start when considering changes.

Public Education

Public education and outreach to reduce the risk of wildfires can be cheap and effective. It can take many forms and can be difficult to know where to begin. This section includes some examples and principles to help the community get started with their public education efforts.

Types of Outreach:

The first step of a public education campaign, with particular attention paid to owners of vacant lots for wildfire awareness is deciding what topics will be covered and what the end goal is. After this though is another important step often overlooked, how the message is going to be carried to the audience. What platform or tool you use is almost as important as your message. As part of this project, the Uintah Fire SSD was provided with multiple educational materials that will be available to cities. Things such as videos about defensible space, brochures for homeowners, and more. Platforms like social media can be cheap and easy to use, fliers can be distributed in person, radio can reach people when they have time and are listening, and newspapers can spark local change.

Recently, social media has been used with increasing success to reach the public. If your city Facebook page doesn't reach enough people, buy an add. The return on investment is often less than a dollar per person who sees the add. Overall, whatever method is chosen for the campaign should be clear and concise and have a strategy for why that medium is being used.

Inspections:

A recurring goal in the CWPP is the need for local inspections of at-risk properties. However, the city decides to conduct these and what is required at the end of them is of less importance than the teaching opportunity. Use these inspections as an opportunity to hand out a flier and teach residents about how they can keep their

Use these inspections as an opportunity to hand out a flier and teach residents about how they can keep their property safe. This will often be motivation enough for a citizen to take action.

Recurring Events:

Regular events that raise wildfire awareness are essential to effective education. People will most likely need to hear the message a couple times before it sinks in and even a couple more times before they take action. A suggested event in the CWPP is a community chipper day, where residents can bring vegetation from their property and have it disposed of for free. Also, any social media or advertising campaign needs to be repeated frequently enough for the message to get across. This way residents will have a dependable source to look to when they have questions.

Area Specific:

Each area and city has their own problems. Historic ignition sources may differ from place to place, so the types of mitigation practices will change from place to place. Make sure that when the city produces a campaign that it address specific concerns of the area.

One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire

Some resources and initiatives have already been undertaken by the State of Utah. Becoming a firewise community and starting mitigation efforts does not have to be expensive or hard. The One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire campaign has many resources that cities can download and use. The files can be found at:

https://www.utahfireinfo.gov/prevention/campaign_info.html

Community Emergency Response Team

Creating a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a great way to get residents involved and ready for a disaster. CERT teams normally train for all sorts of disaster, but can have specific trainings for wildfire. Resources are available online for local officials to find and use for training citizens. There are videos, templates, and more. The resources can be found at:

<https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team>

Ready, Set, Go Program

The RSG! Program works in complimentary and collaborative fashion with Firewise and other existing wildland fire public education efforts. It amplifies their preparedness messages to individuals to better achieve the common goal we all share of fire-adapted communities. When firefighters encourage residents to take personal responsibility for preparing their property and family for WUI/wildland fire, residents become an active part of the solution to the problem of increasing fire losses. . There are videos, templates, and more. The resources can be found at:

<http://www.wildlandfirersg.org>

Materials

Many materials for public education already exist. Most of these materials are free of copy right restrictions and can be used by for free. As part of this project we created some videos that can be used as part of social media campaigns. Thumbnails of the videos and their titles are below. If you would like to use these videos, digital copies can be obtained from the County Fire Suppression SSD.

CWPP Education



Ready, Set, Go Program Education

Ready, Set, Go! A Wildfire Protection Strategy

Wildland Urban Interface Requirements

In 2006, Duchesne County adopted the WUI Code in accordance with the State of Utah's minimum standards relating to construction in Wildland Interface areas. All property located in Duchesne County's WUI Code is subject to the provisions of the County's Ordinance.

As part of the WUI Code, a compliance inspection is to be conducted determine specific needs that must be completed before a Building Permit can be issued.

The code provisions center around four primary areas; access, construction materials, water supply, and defensible space/fuel modification.

- ☐ **Address Marker:** All buildings shall have a permanently posted address. Which should be placed at each driveway entrance and be visible from both directions of travel along the road. Numbers or letters must be 4 inch reflective. (WUI Sec 403.6)
- ☐ **Driveways:** Driveways must be adequate to provide year -round access for emergency vehicles. Driveways shall provide a minimum unobstructed height of 13 feet 6 inches. Driveways in excess of 150 feet in length shall be provided with turnarounds. Driveways in excess of 200 feet in length and less than 20 feet in width shall be provided with turnouts in addition to turnarounds. (WUI Sec 403.2)
- ☐ **Defensible Space:** If one and a half times the defensible space distance is to be provided. It may decrease the class of ignition resistant construction material used for the building. Please provide a mitigation plan. (WUI Sec 603.2.)

Wildland fuels must be cleared from structure:

Required Defensible Space

_____ Moderate Hazard	30 Feet
_____ High Hazard	50 Feet
_____ Extreme Hazard	100 Feet

- ☐ **Water Supply:**

Water System? _____ Hydrant within 500 feet? _____

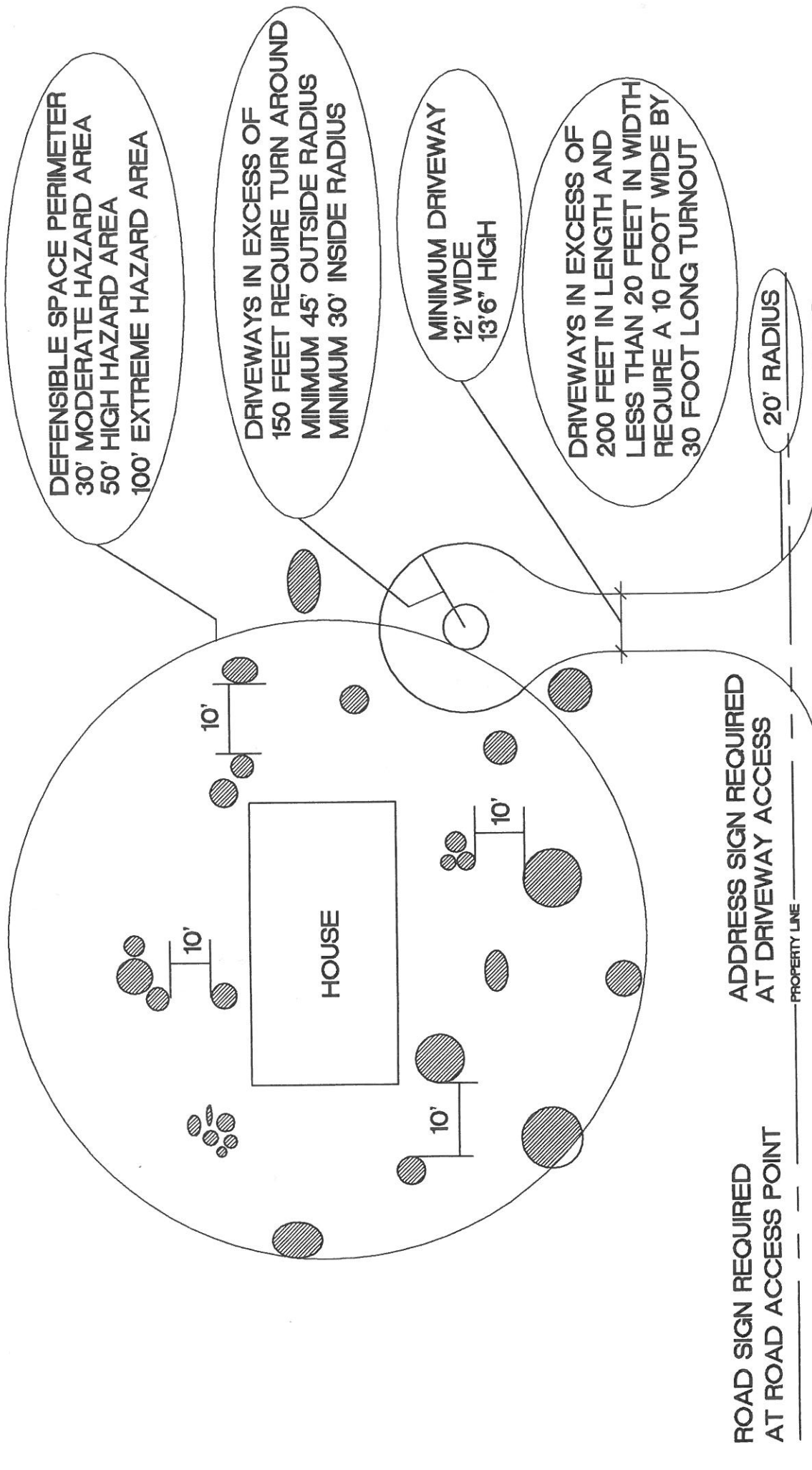
If no water system is available, Please consult with the Duchesne County Fire Marshal regarding an alternate method.

If no fire hydrant exists within 500 feet, you may be required to install one.

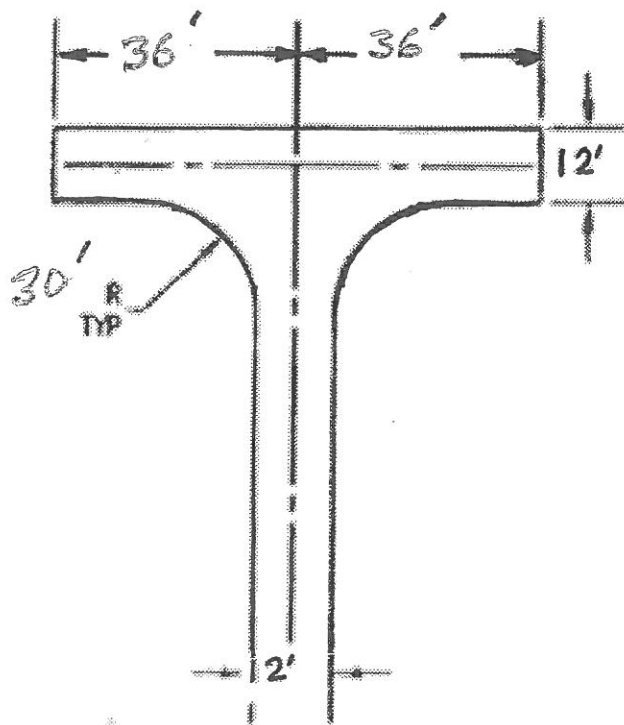
If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Duchesne County Fire Warden

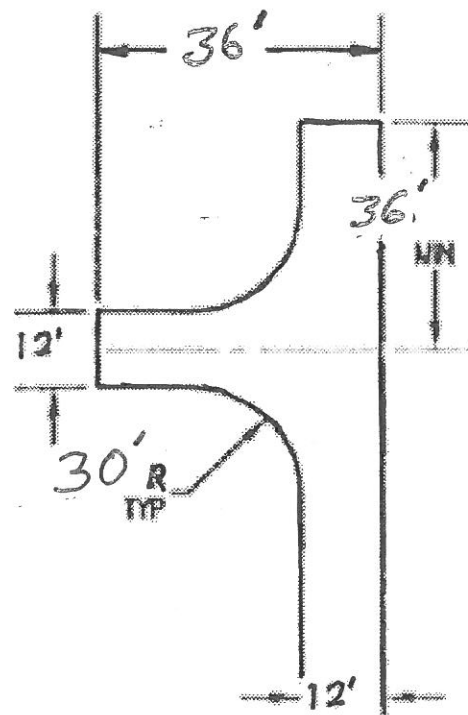
Nathan Robinson -Cell (435) 790-4741 or Office (435)738-1226



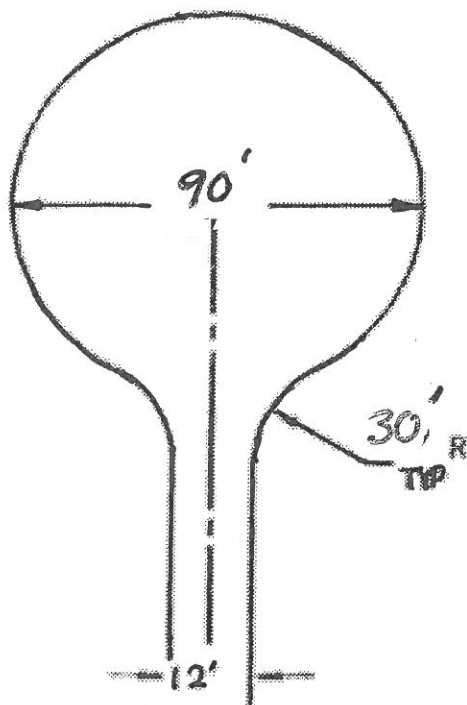
EXAMPLE OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE and ACCESS REQUIREMENTS
WILDLAND-URBAN-INTERFACE



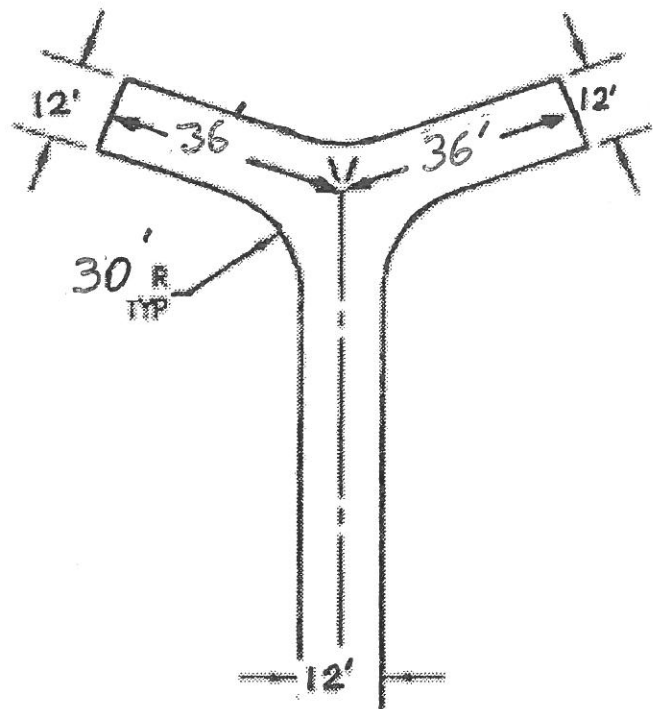
HAMMERHEAD



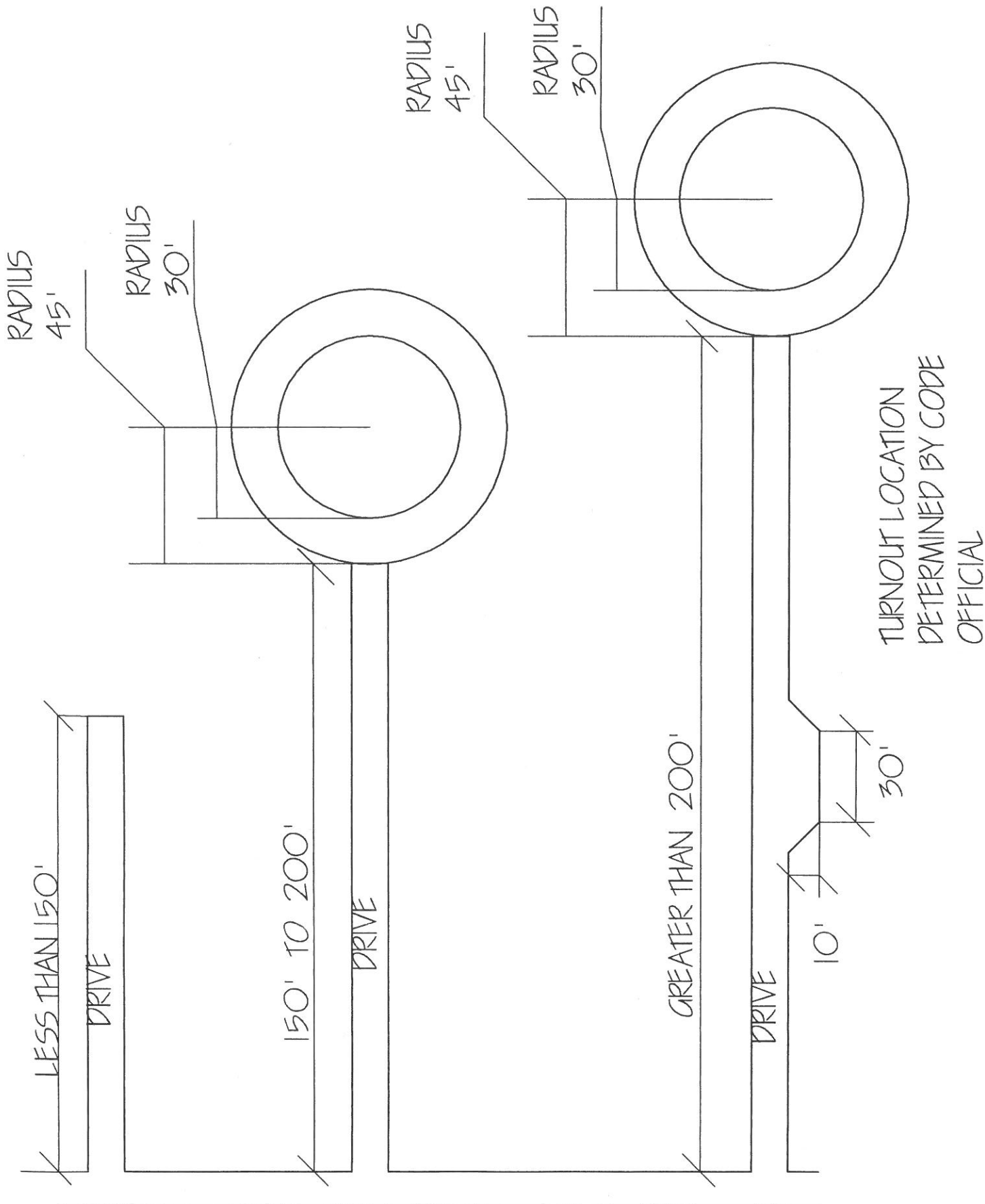
3-POINT SIDE



CUL-DE-SAC



3-POINT WYE



DRIVE TURNAROUND AND TURNOUT

Ready, Set, Go!

for the Seasonal Resident and
Property Owner



The Ready, Set, Go! Program seeks to share information with residents and property owners on how they can successfully become prepared in the event of a wildland fire. Speak with a local fire department personnel about your area's threat for wildland fire and learn more about the wildland urban interface (WUI), an area which is not only limited to forest vegetation. Fire season is an increasing threat and a year-round reality in many areas. As a seasonal resident or property owner, it's important to educate yourself and do your part to prepare. The RSG! Program gives you simple, easy to follow tips to increase the safety of you and your family.

Ready – Be ready.

Take personal responsibility to prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your property is ready to sustain the threat. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from structures. Use fire-

resistant landscaping and harden structures using fire-safe construction. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those staying on the property are aware of the plan of action.

Set – Be alert.

Put together a 'go kit.' Learn how to receive and stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, fire departments and public safety agencies. Prepare your personal wildland fire action plan.

Go! – Act early!

Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources during mitigation.

Defensible Space – Greatly increases your safety and reduces fire damage!



Defensible space is a buffer zone created by the removal of weeds, brush and other natural vegetation between structures and the wildland urban interface (WUI). Creating defensible space can decrease fire damage to structures and allow space for firefighting operations.

Landscaping plans that include non-combustible materials or fire-resistant plants and regular maintenance can contribute to the creation of defensible space.

Special consideration should be given to wind-driven embers which can travel up to a mile ahead of the flame front. Take care to regularly inspect or replace outside screens and ventilation points.



A fire-adapted community is a community located in a WUI that requires little assistance from firefighters during a wildland fire. Residents accept the responsibility for living in a high fire-hazard area. They possess the knowledge and skill to 1. Prepare their homes and property to survive wildland fire; and 2. Evacuate early, safely and efficiently.

My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Seasonal Resident's Safety Checklist

Use the guide to help educate yourself on ways to be fire-adapted. To best improve the safety of you and your family, please use the below guide to implement wildland fire safety tips today.

Ready (Before a fire occurs)

- Review the information package provided by the property owner.
- Become familiar with area roads, including all exit routes from your immediate area.
- Sign up with local agencies to receive emergency notifications. Reference the property owner's information package or contact the local fire department to learn what these systems may be.

Set (As the fire approaches)

- Complete and practice your personal wildland fire action plan.
*To obtain additional copies, contact your local fire department or visit www.wildlandfireRSG.org
- Assemble a 'go kit' and include items, such as:
 - Prescription medications
 - Emergency supplies
 - Maps/directions marking multiple exit routes
 - Important contact list with phone numbers
 - Contact information for area shelters
 - Chargers for electronic communication devices
- Stay alert and remain aware of the situation – monitor local radio or television stations for updates.
- If time allows, consider turning off electricity and natural gas/heating fuel at the shut-off point if fire threat is imminent.

Go! (Act early)

- Get your 'go kit' and leave well before the threat approaches, following an accessible exit route.
- Use your personal action plan for guidance.
- Cooperate with local authorities during evacuation & re-entry processes.

Ready, Set, Go!

www.wildlandfireRSG.org

My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Property Owner's Safety Checklist

Ready (Before a fire occurs)

Prepare your property:

- Ensure the property's address is clearly marked and visible from the street.
- Create defensible space around all structures.
- Create and follow a maintenance plan to keep property mowed and clean of vegetation debris and loose, combustible materials.
- Create an information package for seasonal guests that includes:
 - Emergency and non-emergency contact information (including your local fire department's information)
 - Your immediate contact information
 - Phone numbers or websites to sign up for local notification systems
 - A list of local news and radio stations
 - Property maintenance contacts
 - Locations of electrical and natural gas shut off's
 - A map/directions marking all neighborhood exits
 - Identify safety zones
- Reinforce the importance of preparing for and maintaining situational awareness of wildland fire threats for the safety of the visiting seasonal resident.
- Consider participating in fuel hazard mitigation programs in your area.



Assure the address is clearly noticeable from the street by removing vegetation and debris that may inhibit visibility.



Remember: During a wildland fire, responders may not be from the immediate area or have local knowledge. Clearly marked addresses and water supplies save valuable time.

Ready, Set, Go!

www.wildlandfireRSG.org

My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Write up your Wildland Fire Action Plan and post it in a location where every household member can see it. Practice multiple exit routes. During high-fire-danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry, and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildland fire.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS (Emergency and Non-emergency)

Name

Phone Number

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PROPERTY OWNER

_____	_____
-------	-------

LIST LOCAL NEWS AND RADIO STATIONS

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CONTACTS

LOCATION OF ELECTRICAL AND NATURAL GAS SHUT OFFS

DIRECTIONS NOTING ALL NEIGHBORHOOD EXITS

EXIT ROUTES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

MEETING LOCATION

AREA SHELTERS/SAFETY ZONES

Name

Address

Phone Number

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

NOTES

For more information, contact your local fire department and visit www.iafc.org/CWR



IAFC's Wildland Fire Programs are funded in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). To file a complaint alleging discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call toll free voice (866) 632-9992, TDD (800) 877-8339, or voice relay (866) 377-8642. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Funding Sources

A CWPP is only useful if its goals are implemented. Often times mitigation and fuel reduction projects can be costly and out of the question. Federal and State agencies know this and have provided some opportunities for receiving funds to implement the CWPP. This plan can often be used as part of the application. Make sure to explore these options every time the plan is updated or discussed to make sure that as much funding is obtained as possible. This information was taken from the last Uintah County Regional Wildfire Preparedness Plan.

PARTICIPATION COMMITMENT ACTIONS

For Local Governments

(Suggested actions, not a conclusive or final list. Other actions will be added as appropriate)



WILDFIRE PREVENTION

Activities directed at reducing the number of human-caused fires. **(Goal: Fire-Adapted Communities)**

- Costs of wildfire prevention campaigns
- Costs of wildfire mitigation educational materials (defensible space, firewise landscaping etc)
- Costs of implementing Ready, Set, GO! program
- Law enforcement patrols to enforce fire restrictions and/or burn permit violations
- Volunteer hours for meetings and events that promote, plan or implement CWPPs
- Costs of wildfire prevention media campaigns/ PSAs
- Costs of designing, producing and installing community awareness and/or wildfire prevention boards/displays

WILDFIRE MITIGATION (50% min)

Actions taken to reduce or eliminate risks to persons, property or natural resources. **(Goal: Resilient Landscapes)**

- Costs of equipment and labor (including volunteer hours) used to reduce hazardous fuels in accordance with CWPP (*i.e. fuel breaks, prescribed fire, timber harvests and certain activities that support grazing*)
- Costs or volunteer value of equipment and labor toward ongoing maintenance of existing CWPP fuel reduction projects
- Volunteer hours toward removing hazardous fuels from community common areas identified in CWPPs
- Volunteer hours toward improving ingress/egress in community common areas identified in CWPPs
- Costs associated with community fuel reduction events (*i.e. chipper days*)
- Costs of vegetation management equipment

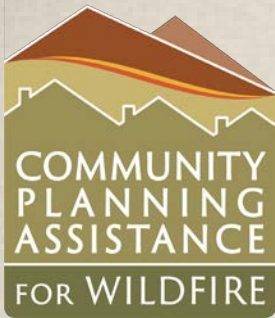
WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS (25% max.)

Activities that lead to a safe, efficient and capable wildfire suppression response **(Goal: Strong Initial Attack Capability)**

- Costs of improving wildland fire apparatus, communication or support
- Costs of improving or creating additional ingress/egress into Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas identified in CWPPs
- Costs of improving or increasing firefighter access to secondary water systems through hydrants, tanks or drafting sites
- Actual costs for providing wildfire suppression training to fire department and/or emergency management personnel
- Volunteer hours spent in training for wildland fire suppression
- Costs of wildland-specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Costs of producing and installing road signs and address markers (including evacuation routes) as part of a CWPP
- Costs of certifying bulldozer operators
- Costs associated with enforcement of WUI code
- Costs associated with installing/maintaining helicopter dip sites
- Costs of inspecting resident defensible space work to certify for individual tax incentives
- Costs of producing and/or updating city emergency response plans that address CWPPs
- Costs of land-use planning that support objectives of CWPPs
- Costs supporting the development of Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans (CWPPs)
- Costs associated with gaining "Firewise USA Community" recognition

Activities that DO NOT qualify:

- Any activity funded by other state or state-administered federal funds
- Any previously-matched prevention/preparedness/mitigation projects
- Costs of state or federally-provided trainings
- Costs of initial attack suppression of wildfires
- Costs of improving culinary water systems
- Costs to improve individual structures
- Costs of existing county employees or programs including weed departments



Apply Now!

Land Use Planning Assistance to Reduce Community Wildfire Risks



- Free professional assistance to better plan the wildland-urban interface (WUI).
- Trainings, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, and workshops.
- Site visits, resources, research, and consulting support.

The Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) program works with communities to reduce wildfire risk through improved land use planning. Assistance comes at no cost to the community and recommendations are adopted at the discretion of local jurisdictions. We are now accepting applications from qualified communities for 2019.

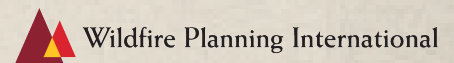
Application Details

- Eligible communities include U.S. cities, towns, or counties that have authority over local land use and zoning decisions.
- Applications must be submitted jointly by the community planning and fire departments.
- Communities should be willing to commit staff time and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding.
- Application due: October 5, 2018

Learn more and apply at: www.planningforwildfire.org

Questions?

Contact Molly Mowery, Wildfire Planning International
303-358-9589 | molly@wildfireplanning.com





FEMA

Fact Sheet

Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

FY 2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program

As appropriated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-31); the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program provides resources to assist states, tribal governments, territories and local communities in their efforts to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program, as authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5133).

The 2015 Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Unified Guidance applies to the FY 2018 PDM Grant Program application cycle.

Applicants are encouraged to review the Notice of Funding Opportunity announcement and the HMA Guidance for detailed information regarding eligibility and to contact their FEMA Regional Office for additional information.

In Fiscal Year 2018, \$235,200,000 is available to assist State, Tribal Territorial and local governments in reducing overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on federal funding from future disasters.

Funding

The total amount of funds that will be distributed under the FY 2018 PDM Grant Program will be \$235,200,000.

- All 50 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are eligible to receive an allocation of 1% of the appropriation, or \$575,000, in accordance with Section 203(f)(1) of the Stafford Act.
- \$15 million, will be set aside for Federally-recognized Native American Tribal applicants to receive an allocation of \$575,000 per tribe.
- The balance of PDM Grant Program funds will be distributed on a competitive basis to all eligible applicants.
- No applicant may receive more than 15 percent, or \$37,380,000, of the appropriated PDM funding per Section 203(f)(2) of the Stafford Act.

Eligibility

All 50 States, the District of Columbia, Federally-recognized Native American Tribal governments, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are eligible to apply for the FY 2018 PDM Grant Program as Applicants. Local governments including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and Native American tribal organizations are considered Sub-applicants and must apply to their state/territory.

Either the state Emergency Management Agency (EMA) or the office that has primary emergency management responsibility is eligible to apply directly to FEMA for PDM Grant Program funds as an Applicant; however, only one PDM grant application will be accepted from each state, tribe or territory.

Applicants and Subapplicants must have a FEMA approved mitigation plan as of the application deadline in order to apply for mitigation projects in accordance with Title 44 CFR Part 201.

Funding Guidelines

The maximum federal share for PDM sub-applications is as follows:

- \$4 million for mitigation projects;
- Up to \$200,000 per Applicant for Advance Assistance;
- \$10 million for Resilient Infrastructure projects;
- \$400,000 for new mitigation plans consistent with 44 CFR Part 201;
- \$300,000 for State/territorial and multi-jurisdictional local or tribal mitigation plan updates consistent with 44 CFR Part 201;
- \$150,000 for single jurisdiction local or tribal mitigation plan updates consistent with 44 CFR Part 201;
- 10 percent of plan and project subapplications for information dissemination activities, including public awareness and education (brochures, workshops, videos, etc.) related to a proposed planning or project activity;
- 5 percent of plan and project subapplication budget for subapplicant management costs for subapplicants to manage their plan or project activity (see the Management and Administration Costs subsection below); and
- 10 percent of the grant application budget for Applicant management costs for Applicants to administer and manage grant and subgrant activities (see the Management and Administration Costs subsection below).

As directed by the appropriations language, FEMA will use the majority of PDM grant funding for mitigation projects.

Federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of the eligible activity costs. Small, impoverished communities may be eligible for up to a 90 percent Federal cost share in accordance with the Stafford Act. The remaining eligible activity costs must be derived from non-Federal sources.

The period of performance for the PDM Grant Program begins with the opening of the application period and ends no later than 36 months from the date that FEMA announces the status of the FY 2018 sub-applications. The period of performance for Resilient Infrastructure projects begins with the opening of the application period and ends no later than 48 months from the date that FEMA announces the status of the FY 2018 sub-applications.

Key FY 2018 PDM Grant Program Changes

- FEMA increased the amount allotted for Tribal Set-Aside from \$10 million to \$15 million – up to \$575,000 Federal Share per Tribal Applicant
- FEMA has included a new Advance Assistance priority that will be used to fund development of mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop community mitigation projects for future funding.
- FEMA has included a new Resilient Infrastructure Competitive Funding project type with a Federal cost share capped at \$10 million. This priority will provides the opportunity to advance capital projects on a community level, ready for investment that will reduce risks, prevent loss of life and leads to significant savings by reducing damage from future disasters and lowering flood insurance premiums.
- FEMA revised the competitive priorities for funding: multi-state/tribal mitigation activities; competitive mitigation planning sub-applications from applicants with less than \$400,000 Hazard Mitigation Grant.
- FEMA combined all Project categories under a single priority.

Application Submission and Review Process

Applications and sub-applications for the PDM Grant Program must be submitted via the Mitigation eGrants system on the FEMA Grants Portal: <https://portal.fema.gov>. If a Sub-applicant does not use the eGrants system,

then the Applicant must enter the paper sub-application(s) into the eGrants system on the Sub-applicant's behalf.

Applicants must rank all of the subapplications included in their PDM grant application in the eGrants system, including their Management Costs subapplication for their proposed applicant management costs. To be eligible for the State/Territory allocation or Tribal set aside, the Applicant's highest ranked planning and/or project subgrant application must not exceed \$575,000 Federal share. If an Applicant's highest ranked planning or project sub-application exceeds \$575,000 Federal share, then the Applicant will not receive the allocation, and FEMA will consider all of the Applicant's sub-applications on a competitive basis only. In addition, if an Applicant submits competitive project sub-applications in excess of the maximum allowed, FEMA will only review the competitive projects up to the maximum allowed in order of the Applicant's ranking.

PDM Grant Program applications will undergo a complete eligibility review within their respective FEMA Region. FEMA will review planning and project sub-applications plus one management sub-application submitted by each applicant through the Mitigation eGrants system to ensure compliance with the HMA Guidance, including eligibility of the applicant and sub-applicant; eligibility of proposed activities and costs; completeness of the sub-application; cost effectiveness and engineering feasibility of projects; and eligibility and availability of non-Federal cost share.

Evaluation Criteria

FEMA will select eligible planning and project sub-applications in order of the agency's priorities for the FY 2018 PDM Grant Program:

A. Multi-State/tribal mitigation initiatives.

FEMA will select one eligible multi-State/tribal mitigation planning or project subapplication per Applicant.

B. Planning subapplications from Applicants that have less than \$400,000 HMGP planning funds available.

FEMA will select eligible planning subapplications from Applicants that have less than \$400,000 HMGP planning funds available.

C. Project subapplications from Applicants that have less than \$4 million HMGP regular project funds available.

FEMA will select eligible project subapplications from Applicants that have less than \$4 million HMGP regular project funds in the following order:

- i. Mitigation projects that reduce risk to any natural hazard (e.g., seismic, wildfire, landslide, wind, flood, drought)
- ii. Generators for critical facilities identified in a FEMA-approved mitigation plan

D. Planning subapplications from Applicants that have \$400,000 or more HMGP planning funds available.

FEMA will select eligible planning subapplications from Applicants that have \$400,000 or more HMGP planning funds available.

E. Project subapplications from Applicants that have \$4 million or more HMGP regular project funds available.

FEMA will select eligible project subapplications from Applicants that have \$4 million or more HMGP regular project funds available in the following order:

- i. Mitigation projects that reduce risk to any natural hazard (e.g., seismic, wildfire, landslide, wind, flood, drought)
- ii. Generators for critical facilities identified in a FEMA-approved mitigation plan

FEMA will further prioritize planning and project subapplications in priority categories 2 and 5 above, as needed, in the following order:

1. Subapplicant's small impoverished community status (see Cost Share or Match subsection under Section C of this NOFO);
2. Indication of public-private partnership (i.e., whether private-sector funding is included in the required non-Federal cost share);
3. Subapplicant's FEMA-validated residential or commercial Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) rating, as appropriate to the activity type, from a grade of 1 to 10;
4. FEMA-validated BCR for projects (see Benefit Cost Analysis for Mitigation Projects subsection under Section D of this NOFO); and
5. The Applicant's rank of subapplications (see Content and Form of Application Submission subsection under Section D of this NOFO).

For Additional Information

Please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity announcement posted on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and the HMA Guidance available on the FEMA Internet: <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance> for more detailed information regarding eligibility.

"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards."

Reporting Maintenance of Effort

The FFSL has asked local governments to report their “maintenance of effort” initiatives as they are completed. This information can be submitted at:

<https://tinyurl.com/MaintEffort>

Definitions

Suppression Difficulty reflects the difficulty or relative cost to suppress a fire given the terrain and vegetation conditions. It combines the slope steepness and the fuel type characterization to identify areas where it would be difficult or costly to suppress a fire due to the underlying terrain and vegetation.

Wildfire Risk represents the possibility of loss or harm occurring from a wildfire. It identifies areas with the greatest potential impacts from a wildfire considering the likelihood of an area burning and the impacts to values and assets aggregated together.

Wildfire Threat is a measure that has been calculated which is closely related to the likelihood of an area burning.

Wildfire Effects Index identifies those areas that have important values that could be adversely impacted by a wildfire and also might be in areas where fire suppression activities may be difficult.



Vernal City

in collaboration with



Uintah Fire District

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