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www.eugene-or.gov

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA - AMENDED

June 10, 2026

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Wednesday work sessions are held in hybrid format using in person and virtual meeting technology. Information about online or other options for access and participation will be available at https://www.eugene-or.gov/3360/Webcasts-and-Meeting-Materials

This agenda has been amended to update the AIS for Item 3

Meeting of June 10, 2026;
Her Honor Mayor Kaarin Knudson Presiding

Councilors

Lyndsie Leech, President	Eliza Kashinsky, Vice President
Jennifer Yeh	Alan Zelenka
Mike Clark	Greg Evans
Randy Groves	Matt Keating

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i)(Review and Evaluate Employment-Related Performance)**

2. **WORK SESSION: Municipal Judge Evaluation Process**

3. **WORK SESSION: Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update**

The Eugene City Council welcomes your interest in these agenda items. This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

El consejo de la Ciudad de Eugene agradece su interés en estos asuntos de la agenda. El lugar de la reunión tiene acceso para sillas de ruedas. Se puede proveer a un intérprete para las personas con discapacidad auditiva si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. También se puede proveer interpretación para español si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. Para reservar estos servicios llame al 541-682-5010. Las reuniones del consejo de la ciudad se transmiten en vivo por Metro Television, Canal 21 de Comcast y son retransmitidas durante la semana.

For more information, contact the Council Coordinator at 541-682-5010,
or visit us online at www.eugene-or.gov.

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Work Session: Municipal Judge Evaluation Process

Meeting Date: June 10, 2026
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 2
Staff Contact: Becky DeWitt
Phone: 541-682-5659

ISSUE STATEMENT

Greg Gill was hired as the Municipal Presiding Judge on August 30, 2019. This agenda item is an opportunity for Council to discuss information provided to Council as part of the informal self-evaluation process for Presiding Judge Greg Gill consistent with Eugene Code 2.011(2). This review includes a two-part format with an executive session followed by a public session. During these sessions Councilors will share their overall performance feedback and discuss future goals.

BACKGROUND

The presiding Municipal Court judge performs and oversees all judicial functions of the Eugene Municipal Court. In accordance with Eugene Code 2.011(2), the City Council will review and evaluate the Judge's performance and salary annually. The City Code has specific requirements around the evaluation process:

(2) The performance of the presiding municipal judge shall be evaluated:

(a) Through an informal self-evaluation submitted to the council annually;

(b) Through an informal evaluation submitted to the council every two years; and

(c) Through a formal evaluation, conducted every four years by an evaluation committee.

In alignment with EC 2.011(2)(c), a formal evaluation process was completed by a committee and presented to Council in 2025, therefore this year's process calls for an informal self-evaluation submitted by Judge Gill for Council's review and consideration.

On April 26, 2023, Council established the salary range for the Municipal Judge within the non-represented employee compensation structure, setting the Municipal Judge position at pay grade 12, which has a 10-step pay range starting at $142,126 for step 1 and ending at $191,817 for step 10. Following a two-step increase in 2025, Judge Gill is currently at the top of grade 12 pay scale (step 10) with a current annual salary of $191,817. The City's non-represented employee compensation structure does not provide for increases beyond the top of the range; however, Judge Gill's employment agreement provides for Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) increases at the same time and at the same amount as the non-represented employee group.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

The City Council conducts an annual performance review of the Municipal Court Judge, aligned with City Code and their desire to offer formal feedback.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

The Council may discuss the evaluation, provide feedback and direct staff accordingly. The Council has the sole authority to determine compensation for the Presiding Municipal Court Judge. The Council has a wide variety of options available to them including, but not limited to the following:

1. Recognize Judge Gill's contribution to the City, but because he is currently at the top of the pay grade, provide no merit increase. Per the contract Judge Gill would be provided with a Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) increase at the same time and at the same amount as the non-represented employee group.

OR

2. Award Judge Gill a merit increase in a specific dollar amount or percentage, moving his compensation above Step 10 (top step) of the established pay range for the Municipal Judge position and removing the Municipal Judge position from the non-represented employer compensation schedule.

OR

3. An alternative option as determined by Council.

POSSIBLE MOTIONS

1. Move to recognize Judge Gill's positive contribution to the City.

OR

2. Move to award Judge Gill a merit increase of ____ and remove the Municipal Judge position from the non-represented employee compensation schedule.

OR

3. [Alternative motion or direction provided by Council]

ATTACHMENTS

A. 2026 Judicial Self-Evaluation (to be sent under separate cover)

B. Current employment agreement between the City and Judge Gill

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Becky DeWitt, Employee Resource Center Assistant Director

Phone: 541-682-5659

Staff E-Mail: bdewitt@eugene-or.gov

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

BETWEEN: City of Eugene (City)

AND: Gregory E. Gill (Gill)

RECITALS:

A. The Charter of the City of Eugene provides that the City Council shall appoint one or more municipal judges. Eugene Code 2.011(1) provides that the City Council shall appoint the Presiding Municipal Judge.

B. The City wishes to employ Gill as Presiding Municipal Judge, and Gill wishes to accept the position on the following terms.

AGREEMENTS:

1. **Duties**. City agrees to employ Gill as Presiding Municipal Judge beginning on August 30, 2019, on the terms and conditions described below. Gill agrees to accept the position of Presiding Municipal Judge effective August 30, 2019. Gill agrees to devote his full time and attention to duties of Presiding Municipal Judge and to perform the functions and duties of this position in accordance with the City Charter, City Code, and Council direction. The City and Gill understand that Gill is in the process of transitioning his private law practice to other attorneys, that the transition will be completed no later than March 1, 2020, and that the time Gill spends winding down his private law practice and/or transitioning his current clients to other attorneys will occur when Gill is not functioning as the Presiding Municipal Judge (either after work hours or during vacation leave). Gill shall comply with all policies, rules, and regulations in effect or made or modified by the City during the term of this Agreement, except as otherwise provided in this Agreement. In his hiring and supervision of contracted judges, Gill will implement and adhere to all behavioral policies in the Administrative Policy Manual, including the Respectful Work Environment policy.

2. **Term and Termination.** This Agreement shall remain in effect for an indefinite term and is an at will agreement. Gill understands and agrees that he serves at the pleasure of the City Council and may be removed from his position without cause and without notice. Gill may resign at any time with sixty (60) days' prior written notice. The period of such prior notice may be shortened by the Council due to exigent circumstances, such permission not to be unreasonably withheld.

3. **Severance Pay.** In consideration of Gill's promise in paragraph 1 above, if Gill's employment with the City is terminated by the City Council, City agrees to pay Gill a lump sum cash severance payment equal to two months of his base salary; provided, however,

that Gill will not be entitled to any severance payment if he does not meet the conditions of employment described in section 4, or his employment is ended due to gross misconduct. Gross misconduct is defined as:

3.1. Conduct evincing willful or wanton disregard of an employer's interest as is found in deliberate violation or disregard of standards or behavior which the City has the right to expect of its employees;

3.2. Careless or negligence of such a degree or recurrence as to manifest equal culpability, wrongful intent or evil design; or

3.3. Conduct that shows an intentional and substantial disregard of the City's interest or the employee's duties and obligations to the City.

4. **Conditions of Employment.** Gill shall obtain and maintain Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) clearance, remain an active member in good standing with the Oregon State Bar, maintain compliance with ORS 221.142 (qualifications for municipal judges), and possess and maintain a valid Oregon driver's license with a driving record at a level that meets City standards.

5. **Salary and Benefits.** City agrees to compensate Gill for his services rendered pursuant to this Agreement the following salary and benefits:

5.1. A base salary of $137,009.60/annually beginning on August 30, 2019. Market adjustment pay increases (MAPs) will be given Gill at the same time each year and at the same percentage as those given to the non-represented employee group.

5.2. A transportation allowance of $300 per month and a smartphone allowance of $65 per month. The allowance amount will be updated periodically to align with the non-represented stipend amount when it is adjusted.

5.3. A contribution to a deferred compensation program equivalent to three percent (3%) of his salary, provided that Gill contributes a minimum contribution of one percent (1%) of his salary to the program.

5.4. Participation in the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP) generally available to City's other exempt, managerial employees when Gill becomes eligible for such participation.

5.5. Insurance benefits, including medical, dental, vision, life and long term disability insurance, and the City's employee assistance program, generally available to City's other exempt managerial employees when and as Gill becomes eligible for them.

5.6. Vacation, sick leave, and holiday leave benefits in accordance with City's policies and practices with respect to City's other exempt, managerial employees. Gill must be employed a minimum of six months to be eligible to use the vacation he has accrued, other than the vacation described in paragraph 5.9, or to receive payment for any vacation accrual upon his termination.

5.7. Payment of Oregon State Bar dues and reimbursement for tuition and reasonable expenses related to continue legal education or other professional conferences or trainings.

5.8. City reserves the right to modify or discontinue any and all of the above benefit and compensation plans, policies, and practices at anytime without notice to or recourse by Gill, as long as such action is taken generally with respect to exempt, managerial employees and does not single out Gill.

5.9. In addition to the foregoing, and on a one-time basis only, Gill will be credited with 120 hours of vacation and 40 hours of sick leave upon his hire date and will be eligible to use this accrual immediately.

6. **Performance Evaluations and Salary Adjustments**. The City Council will review and evaluate Gill's performance and salary annually (in October) and in accordance with Eugene Code 2.001(2). The City Council may conduct additional reviews of Gill's performance at any other time it deems appropriate. Adjustment to salary (other than MAPs governed by section 5.1) shall occur as provided in Exhibit A attached to this Amendment.

7. **Indemnification.** The City shall defend and indemnify Gill against any tort, professional liability claim or demand, or other legal action arising out of an alleged act or omission occurring in the performance of Gill's duties as Presiding Municipal Judge, unless prohibited by law. The duties of the Presiding Municipal Judge do not include the commission of any criminal act or intentional tort. This indemnification shall include the cost of defense, provided that the City shall choose or approve legal representation for Gill and will retain control over the defense of the claim, including the sole power to compromise and settle any claim or action and pay the amount of the settlement or judgment.

8. **Notices.** Notices pursuant to this Agreement shall be given by deposit in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

City: President of City Council
City of Eugene
125 East 8th Avenue, 2nd Floor
Eugene, OR 97401

Employee: Gregory E. Gill
Eugene Municipal Court
1102 Lincoln St.
Eugene, OR 97401

Alternately, notices required by this Agreement may be personally served. Notice shall be deemed given as of the date of personal service or as of the date of deposit of such written notice in the United States Mail.

9. **Review by Independent Counsel.** Gill acknowledges that the City has advised him to have this Agreement reviewed by an attorney of his choice.

10. **Effective Date.** The Agreement shall become effective when signed by all parties.

11. **Voluntary Agreement.** Gill acknowledges that he understands the terms of this Agreement and that he has entered into it voluntarily.

12. **Integration**. The terms of the parties' agreement are set forth completely in this written document. This Agreement supersedes all prior or contemporaneous oral and written agreements, understandings, and commitments. Gill acknowledges that he has not relied on any other representation or promises by the City, its agents, employees or representatives, except those contained in this Agreement.

13. **Severability of Provisions**. Any provision, or portion of any provision in this Agreement that is held unenforceable, void, or unconstitutional shall not affect the remainder of the terms of this Agreement or any portion thereof which shall be deemed severable and shall remain in full force and effect. In the event that a provision is held unenforceable, void, or unconstitutional, the City Council and Gill shall discuss what changes, if any, should be made in response.

14. **Construction.** It is the intent of the parties that this Agreement and the appointment of Gill as the Municipal Presiding Judge comply, in all aspects, with the provisions of the Charter and City Code. If any provision of this Agreement is capable of two constructions, only one of which complies with the Charter and City Code, the construction that complies with the Charter and City Code shall control. If any provision of the Agreement conflicts with the Charter or City Code, the Charter or City Code shall control and the conflicting provision of this Agreement shall be of no effect. All other provisions not in conflict with the Charter or City Code shall remain in full force and effect. Without limiting the foregoing, this Agreement will be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Oregon.

15. **Modification.** This Agreement may not be modified in any respect, except by a written agreement executed by the City and Gill.

CITY OF EUGENE, OREGON

By: Betty Taylor
Betty Taylor
President of the City Council

Date: 8/21/19

Gregory E. Gill

Date: 8/20/19

Exhibit A

Presiding Municipal Judge Gregory Gill
Performance Review Compensation Adjustment

Pursuant to Section 6 of the Employment Agreement, Gill's salary shall be adjusted as provided below unless the Council determines that the City's budget situation is sufficiently ominous that no merit increase should be made. Any adjustment pursuant to section 6 and this Exhibit shall be in addition to any market adjustment pay (MAP) provided by section 5.1 of the Employment Agreement.

Calculation of value of ratings:

- Number of raters X value of each rating category added together = overall value.
    - Values: Successful = 1, Good = 2 and Excellent = 3
- Overall value divided by number of raters = weighted average.
- Mayor's rating is excluded from the overall value calculation and the weight average calculation.
- Weighted overall performance rating average will be rounded to the nearest tenth.

Weighted Average Range	Percentage Increase
1 – 1.5	0%
1.6 – 2.5	3.5%
2.6 – 3	5%

FIRST AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

BETWEEN: City of Eugene (City)

AND: Gregory E. Gill (Gill)

RECITALS:

A. The Charter of the City of Eugene provides that the City Council shall appoint one or more municipal judges. Eugene Code 2.011(1) provides that the City Council shall appoint the Presiding Municipal Judge.

B. On August 21, 2019, the City and Gill executed an employment agreement to employ Gill as Presiding Municipal Judge ("Agreement").

C. On January 19, 2022, the Eugene City Council unanimously passed the following motion: "Move to give Greg Gill a 3.2 percent merit increase to his annual salary and authorize the Council President to negotiate and execute an amendment to his employment contract allowing for discretionary salary adjustments for the years that he is not formally evaluated by the Council and deleting the reference to an October evaluation date."

D. The City and Gill wish to amend the Agreement in accordance with the City Council's January 19, 2022, motion.

AGREEMENTS:

The City and Gill agree to amend the Agreement as set forth below:

1. Paragraph 5.1 is amended to read as follows:

5.1 A base salary of $147,992/annually beginning on January 20, 2022. Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) increases will be given Gill at the same time each year and at the same percentage as given to the non-represented employee group.

2. Paragraph 6 is amended to read as follows:

6. **Performance Evaluations and Salary Adjustments**. The City Council will review and evaluate Gill's performance and salary annually and in accordance with Eugene Code 2.011(2). The City Council may conduct additional reviews of Gill's performance at any other time it deems appropriate. When there is a formal performance evaluation held in accordance with EC 2.011(2)(c), the City Council shall make a salary adjustment in the manner provided in Exhibit A attached to the

Agreement. For all other years, the City Council shall consider awarding Gill a merit salary increase at the same time that the City Council discusses Gill's self-evaluation (per EC 2.011(2)(a)) or informal evaluation (per EC 2.011(2)(b)).

3. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.

CITY OF EUGENE, OREGON

By: _____
Randy Groves
President of the City Council

Date: 1/20/2023

_____
Gregory E. Gill

Date: 1/17/23

SECOND AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

BETWEEN: City of Eugene (City)

AND: Gregory E. Gill (Gill)

RECITALS:

A. The Charter of the City of Eugene provides that the City Council shall appoint one or more municipal judges. Eugene Code 2.011(1) provides that the City Council shall appoint the Presiding Municipal Judge.

B. On August 21, 2019, the City and Gill executed an employment agreement to employ Gill as Presiding Municipal Judge ("Agreement"). The Agreement was amended on January 20, 2023 ("First Amendment").

C. On April 26, 2023, the Eugene City Council unanimously passed the following motion: "Move to authorize the Council President to execute an amendment to Judge Greg Gill's employment contract that: 1) establishes a Presiding Judge salary of $131,331.20 to $177,278.40, with a range adjusting consistent with COLA adjustments for non-represented staff; and 2) awards Judge Gill a merit increase of $8,112, which is approximately a 5.3% pay increase, placing him at grade 12, step 7 of the established salary range."

D. The City and Gill wish to amend the Agreement to be consistent with the City Council's April 26, 2023, motion.

AGREEMENTS:

The City and Gill agree to amend the Agreement as set forth below:

1. Paragraph 5.1 is amended to read as follows:

5.1 An annual base salary of $162,032, equivalent to Grade 12, Step 7, of the Non-Represented Pay Scales. Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) increases will be given Gill at the same time each year and at the same percentage as given to the non-represented employee group.

2. A new Paragraph 5.10 is added to read as follows:

5.10 The position of the Presiding Municipal Judge has a ten-step salary range of $131,331.20 to $177,278.40, equivalent to Grade 12 of the Non-Represented Pay

Scales. This salary range shall be adjusted each year consistent with the Cost-of-Living-Allowance (COLA) increases made to the salary range of the non-represented staff.

3. Paragraph 6 is amended to delete the reference to Exhibit A and to read as follows:

6. **Performance Evaluations and Salary Adjustments**. The City Council will review and evaluate Gill's performance and salary annually and in accordance with Eugene Code 2.011(2). The City Council may conduct additional reviews of Gill's performance at any other time it deems appropriate. The City Council shall consider increasing Gill's compensation at the same time of Gill's annual performance evaluation.

3. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.

CITY OF EUGENE, OREGON

By: _____
Randy Groves
President of the City Council

Date: 6-27-2023

_____
Gregory E. Gill

Date: 6.26.23

THIRD AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

BETWEEN: City of Eugene (City)

AND: Gregory E. Gill (Gill)

RECITALS:

A. The Charter of the City of Eugene provides that the City Council shall appoint one or more municipal judges. Eugene Code 2.011(1) provides that the City Council shall appoint the Presiding Municipal Judge.

B. On August 21, 2019, the City and Gill executed an employment agreement to employ Gill as Presiding Municipal Judge ("Agreement"). The Agreement was amended on January 20, 2023 ("First Amendment") and on June 27, 2023 ("Second Amendment").

C. On July 16, 2025, the Eugene City Council unanimously passed the following motion: "Move to award Judge Gill a merit salary increase of 2 steps which is equivalent to Step 10 (Grade 12), $191,817.60/Annually ($92.22/Hourly), and to authorize the Council President to execute an amendment to Gill's employment contract with the awarded salary increase."

D. The City and Gill wish to amend the Agreement to be consistent with the City Council's July 16, 2025, motion.

AGREEMENTS:

The City and Gill agree to amend the Agreement as set forth below:

1. Paragraph 5.1 is amended to read as follows:

5.1 An annual base salary of $191,817.60, equivalent to Grade 12, Step 10, of the Non-Represented Pay Scales. Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) increases will be given Gill at the same time each year and at the same percentage as given to the non-represented employee group.

2. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.

CITY OF EUGENE, OREGON

By: Greg Evans
Greg Evans
President of the City Council

Date: 8/13/2025

Gregory E. Gill

Date: 8/12/25

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Work Session: Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

Meeting Date: June 10, 2026
Department: Eugene Springfield Fire
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 3
Staff Contact: Hannah Shafer
Phone: 541-799-5942

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update will provide an overview of the purpose and function of the Eugene-Springfield CWPP, including how it supports community wildfire preparedness, mitigation planning, and eligibility for grant funding while remaining non-regulatory in nature. Staff are seeking Council feedback prior to plan adoption.

BACKGROUND

The proposed Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is the first CWPP developed specifically for the Cities of Eugene and Springfield and is intended to function as an annex to Lane County's CWPP. The CWPP is a non-regulatory planning document that identifies wildfire risk reduction priorities, supports interagency coordination, and improves eligibility for state and federal wildfire mitigation grant funding. Development of the plan has been coordinated with regional partners, including Lane County and the Oregon Department of Forestry, to align with broader community wildfire preparedness and resilience efforts.

No prior City Council action has been taken specific to adoption of a City of Eugene CWPP. The plan does not create new regulatory requirements or amend Eugene City Code, but is intended to support existing emergency preparedness, hazard mitigation, and community resilience efforts. Staff are seeking final City Manager approval and adoption of the plan prior to the declaration of the 2026 fire season to support seasonal preparedness and implementation activities.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

The proposed CWPP aligns with CAP 2.0 resilience actions focused on improving preparedness for natural disasters and extreme weather events, including wildfire and smoke impacts (Actions R2-R10 and R17-R23). The CWPP also complements the existing Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and related wildfire action items.

The CWPP supports the City of Eugene 2023-2026 Strategic Plan under the key focus area of "Urgent Community Needs" specifically the strategic goal to "Advance climate action and community resilience to natural and human-caused disasters." The Strategic Plan identifies wildfire preparedness, fuels reduction, and implementation of resilience planning efforts as priority actions supporting long-term community safety and climate adaptation.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

September 11, 2024 Work Session

Information regarding the start-up of the Wildfire Planning and Fuels Management program was presented to Council with the goal of helping our community protect against wildfire and mitigate the risks.

September 17, 2025 Work Session

An update regarding regional wildfire preparedness and response was provided to Council. Council discussion supported continued advancement of wildfire resilience planning and interagency coordination efforts.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

Informational only. No action is required at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

None.

POSSIBLE MOTIONS

None.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Draft Eugene-Springfield 2026 Community Wildfire Protection Plan
B. Draft Eugene-Springfield 2026 Community Wildfire Protection Plan Appendices

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact:	Hannah Shafer, Wildfire Planning & Fuels Management Manager
Phone:	541-799-5942
Staff E-Mail:	hshafer@eugene-or.gov

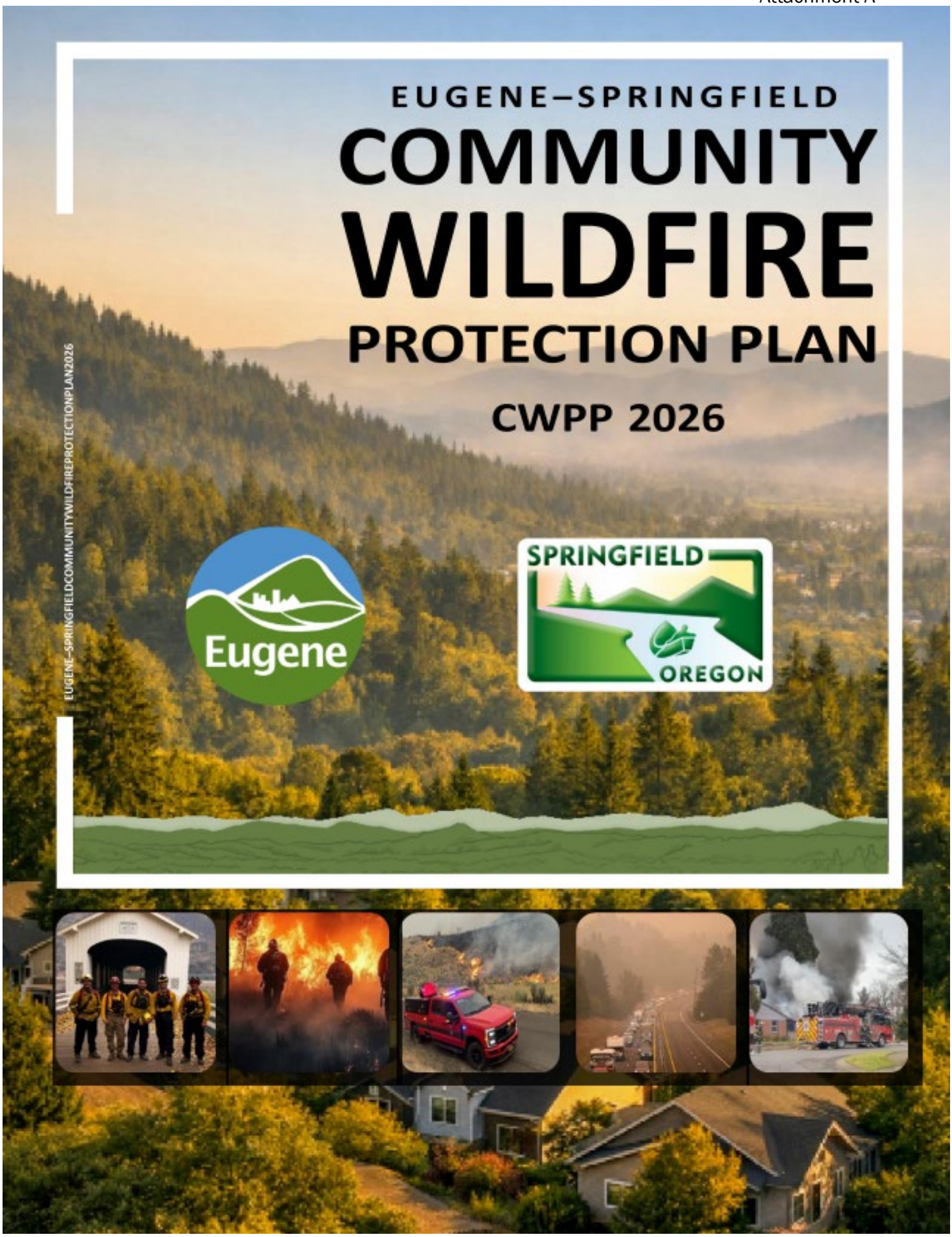

EUGENE–SPRINGFIELD
COMMUNITY
WILDFIRE
PROTECTION PLAN
CWPP 2026
EUGENE–SPRINGFIELDCOMMUNITYWILDFIREPROTECTIONPLAN2026
Eugene
SPRINGFIELD
OREGON

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SIGNATURE PAGE ..... **iii**
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ..... **iv**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... **v**
1. INTRODUCTION **1**
1.1 Plan Purpose and Development 1
1.2 Importance of Developing a CWPP 1
1.3 Policy and Planning Context 1
1.4 Relationship to Existing Plans 2
1.5 Wildfire Protection and Planning Framework 2
1.6 CWPP Planning Process 2
2: STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION **3**
2.1 Regional Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement, and Collaborative Stewardship 3
2.2 Stakeholder and Community Engagement and Collaboration 4
2.3 Community Engagement and Collaboration 4
3: PLANNING AREA OVERVIEW **5**
3.1 Wildfire Urban Interface 6
3.2 Fire Agency Capabilities and Preparedness 10
3.4 Population and Housing 11
3.6 Natural Resources 13
3.7 Environmental Considerations 13
3.8 Post-Fire Recovery Planning 14
3.9 Community Vulnerabilities 14
4: FIRE ENVIRONMENT **15**
4.1 Weather 15
4.2 Drought 17
4.3 Fire Season 18
4.3 Vegetation and Fuels Characteristics 20
4.5 Topography 22
4.6 Wildfire History 23
4.7 Ignition History 24
4.8 Climate Variability 27
5: VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS **28**
5.1 Introduction 28
5.1.1 Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System 30
5.1.2 Source of CWiRRZ Data (Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Zones) 31
5.2 Assessment Areas and Approach 32
5.3 Overall Wildfire Risk Assessment 33
5.4 Risk Area Discussion 34
6: ACTION PLAN **57**
8.1 Goals and Objectives 57
8.2 Action Items and Implementation 62
7: PLAN IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE **64**
9.1 Eugene Springfield Fire and Advisory Committee 64
9.3 Roles and Responsibilities 64
9.4 Monitoring and Reporting 65
Glossary of Acronyms ..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

SIGNATURE PAGE

The Eugene-Springfield Metro Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is an initiative led by Eugene Springfield Fire to understand the risk of wildfire, prepare for it, and avoid preventable impacts.

This CWPP has been approved by Eugene Springfield Fire, The Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Cities of Eugene and Springfield. The Plan meets Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) requirements and is intended to provide actionable items to foster resilience in the Eugene-Springfield Metro Area. The plan refers to rules and regulations that may be legally binding; however, this plan is not legally binding, as it does not create or place mandates or requirements on individual jurisdictions. It is intended to share information and serve as a planning tool for fire personnel, land managers, and community members to better understand and mitigate risk associated with wildfire.

_____

Chief Caven, Fire Chief — Date
Eugene Springfield Fire

_____

Chris Cline, District Forester — Date
Eastern Lane ODF

_____

Ole Buch, District Forester — Date
Western Lane ODF

_____

Nancy Newton, City Manager — Date
City of Springfield

_____

Jenny Haruyama, City Manager — Date
City of Eugene

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the spirit of collaboration, the following agencies and their staff are acknowledged for their participation and commitment resulting in the 2026 Eugene-Springfield Metro CWPP.

Table 1. Acknowledgements

Agency
Eugene Springfield Fire
City of Springfield
City of Eugene
Willamalane Park and Recreation District
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon State Fire Marshal
Bureau of Land Management
Eugene Water and Electric Board
Springfield Utility Board
Rainbow Water District
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency
Lane County Emergency Management
Lane County Search and Rescue

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Eugene-Springfield Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies wildfire risk reduction strategies and implementation priorities to enhance public safety, safeguard critical infrastructure, and improve landscape resilience throughout the Eugene-Springfield Metro Area. This CWPP is designed to support collaboration across local, state, and federal agencies, property owners, utility providers, and community organizations to promote effective wildfire mitigation, preparedness, and long-term recovery. The CWPP identifies six primary goals:

Goal 1: Protect Lives, Property, and Critical Infrastructure.

Goal 2: Enhance Wildfire Resilience Through Community Engagement and Education

Goal 3: Reduce Hazardous Fuels and Maintain Resilient Landscapes

Goal 4: Improve Emergency Response and Recovery Capabilities

Goal 5: Strengthen Collaboration Across Jurisdictions

Goal 6: Support Policy Alignment and Regulatory Integration

This plan prioritizes actions that address each goal, in areas most vulnerable to wildfire impacts. Key focus includes areas at risk from east wind-driven fire events and direct exposure zones (flame and ember-prone Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas) and indirect impact areas (infrastructure corridors and occluded urban green spaces), as identified through integrated spatial risk analysis. This analysis draws on wildfire modeling and risk analysis from Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Zones (CWiRRZ) which provides the analytical foundation for this approach to guide mitigation activities and resource allocation.

The Eugene-Springfield CWPP is a non-regulatory document and does not impose mandates on local jurisdictions. Instead, it serves as a planning tool to inform wildfire-related decisions, encourage cross-boundary coordination, and align efforts with state and federal policies, including Oregon Senate Bill 762, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.

The CWPP includes the following core components:

- **Risk Assessment**: Analyzes wildfire hazards, exposure potential, community vulnerability, and critical infrastructure across the Eugene-Springfield Metro Area using high-resolution data.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration:** Engages local governments, fire agencies, emergency management, utilities, land managers, and community members to ensure shared understanding of risk, alignment of priorities, and coordinated mitigation strategies.

- **Community Outreach and Collaboration**: Highlights public involvement and interagency coordination as central to building a fire-adapted community.
- **Action Plan**: Identifies specific goals, objectives, and prioritized action items focused on defensible space, fuel reduction, structural hardening, public education, and emergency preparedness.
- **Plan Implementation and Maintenance**: Outlines responsibilities, monitoring protocols, and a schedule for annual reviews and five-year updates to ensure continued relevance and adaptability.

The goals of this CWPP reflect shared focus areas and commitment to proactively address wildfire risk and strengthen resilience across ecological, social, and economic systems. The CWPP will address each goal through action items, and guide implementation efforts over the next five years.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Plan Purpose and Development

The Eugene–Springfield Metro Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) establishes a locally driven framework to reduce wildfire risk, protect lives and property, and strengthen community resilience across the Eugene–Springfield area. Developed collaboratively with local, state, federal, and community partners, the CWPP identifies wildfire hazards, prioritizes areas of concern within the Wildland–Urban Interface (WUI), and outlines coordinated strategies to reduce exposure and improve preparedness.

The CWPP serves as a non-regulatory, action-oriented guide that supports defensible space, homes hardening, fuels reduction, emergency preparedness, and public education. It is intended to inform decision-making, support implementation of mitigation projects, and align local priorities with state and federal wildfire planning efforts. As a living document, the CWPP is designed to be reviewed regularly and updated to reflect changing conditions, emerging risks, and evolving community needs.

This plan was developed with support from a grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office which allowed for the hire of a consultant to prepare the initial draft of this CWPP. Final amendments and updates were done by City of Eugene, and Eugene Springfield Fire staff to ensure consistency with local perspectives and incorporate public testimony.

1.2 Importance of Developing a CWPP

Wildfire is an inherent component of Oregon's landscapes and poses an increasing risk to communities as climate conditions, vegetation patterns, and development pressures evolve. Although the Eugene–Springfield area has historically experienced less frequent wildfire than other parts of the state, recent fire seasons have demonstrated that large, fast-moving wildfires can threaten western Oregon communities, critical infrastructure, and evacuation routes with little warning.

The CWPP provides a proactive mechanism for addressing this risk by identifying high-priority areas for mitigation, supporting coordinated planning across jurisdictions, and guiding investments toward actions that reduce the likelihood and consequences of wildfire. By integrating scientific analysis, local knowledge, and stakeholder input, the CWPP enables the Eugene–Springfield region to move from reactive response toward long-term wildfire resilience.

1.3 Policy and Planning Context

The Eugene–Springfield CWPP is developed in alignment with federal and state wildfire planning frameworks that emphasize collaboration, risk-based mitigation, and community preparedness. These frameworks provide the foundation for Community Wildfire Protection Plans nationwide and support coordination among agencies, eligibility for funding, and implementation of fuels reduction and defensible space

measures. A detailed discussion of applicable federal, state, and local policies, including CWPP requirements, wildfire mitigation programs, and related planning efforts, is provided in APPENDIX F: Policy and Regulatory Framework.

1.4 Relationship to Existing Plans

The CWPP complements and supports existing emergency management, land use, natural hazards, and wildfire mitigation plans at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. Alignment with these plans ensures consistency across planning efforts, avoids duplication, and strengthens the effectiveness of wildfire risk reduction actions. A comprehensive crosswalk of related plans and policies is included in APPENDIX G: Existing Plans and Policy Crosswalk.

1.5 Wildfire Protection and Planning Framework

Wildfire protection and mitigation in the Eugene–Springfield area relies on a coordinated, multi-jurisdictional approach involving fire agencies, emergency management, land managers, utilities, and community partners. The CWPP builds on this framework by clarifying roles, identifying shared priorities, and supporting collaborative implementation. An overview of agency roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms is provided in APPENDIX H: Fire Protection and Response Framework.

1.6 CWPP Planning Process

The CWPP was developed through a structured, collaborative planning process that included risk assessment, stakeholder engagement, community input, technical analysis, and iterative review. This process ensured that the plan reflects both scientific understanding and local experience. Detailed documentation of the planning process, stakeholder participation, and engagement timeline is provided in APPENDIX A: CWPP Planning Process and Engagement Summary

2: STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Meaningful and ongoing stakeholder and community engagement is a core component of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The Eugene–Springfield CWPP serves as a mechanism for incorporating local knowledge, identifying priority risk areas, and developing a practical, implementable set of strategies to reduce wildfire hazards and strengthen community resilience across the metro area.

Throughout development of the 2026 Eugene–Springfield CWPP, the planning team emphasized a collaborative approach that incorporated input from local, regional, and state partners. Focus on direct engagement with stakeholders, site visits with local experts, and community survey results were used to add local context to data analysis.

2.1 Regional Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement, and Collaborative Stewardship

Wildfire resilience in the Eugene–Springfield metropolitan area is supported by a broad, collaborative network of public agencies, utilities, nonprofit organizations, and community partners working together to reduce risk through coordinated planning, fuels mitigation, and community engagement. While the region does not have a standalone wildfire prevention authority, this multi-jurisdictional partnership structure provides the foundation for effective wildfire preparedness, mitigation, and response across the metro area and surrounding area.

Development of the 2026 Eugene–Springfield CWPP relied on active participation from fire agencies, emergency management, land managers, utilities, planners, and community-serving organizations. These partners contributed operational insight, local knowledge, and technical expertise that informed identification of high-risk areas, mitigation priorities, and implementation strategies. Their engagement ensured that CWPP recommendations reflect real-world response constraints, interagency dependencies, and opportunities for coordinated action.

Wildfire mitigation in the Eugene–Springfield area also intersects closely with environmental protection and climate adaptation goals. The CWPP emphasizes ecologically sound practices that balance fuels reduction with stewardship of sensitive habitats, watershed protection, invasive species prevention, and carbon-conscious biomass management. Collaboration among fire agencies, natural resource managers, and environmental organizations supports mitigation approaches that enhance landscape resilience while maintaining ecological integrity.

Detailed lists of participating stakeholder organizations, fire agencies, and land management partners, along with summaries of stakeholder-identified priority areas and findings, are provided in APPENDIX B: Stakeholders. Collectively, these partnerships form the collaborative backbone of the Eugene–Springfield CWPP and are essential to maintaining plan relevance and effectiveness as wildfire risks evolve.

2.2 Stakeholder and Community Engagement and Collaboration

Stakeholder engagement conducted during development of the 2026 Eugene–Springfield CWPP provided critical insights into wildfire risk, operational challenges, and mitigation priorities across jurisdictions and disciplines. Input from fire and emergency services, utilities, land managers, planners, and community-serving organizations identified consistent, cross-cutting concerns related to life safety, evacuation feasibility, protection of critical infrastructure, fuel accumulation in high-risk areas, and the need for coordinated, scalable mitigation strategies. Detailed meeting notes are provided in APPENDIX C: Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Notes.

2.3 Community Engagement and Collaboration

Public input was gathered through a community wildfire preparedness survey (APPENDIX D: Public Survey Results) distributed across the Eugene–Springfield metropolitan area, capturing responses related to wildfire experience, perceived risk, evacuation readiness, mitigation actions, and preferred communication methods.

Community concerns consistently reflected the growing awareness of wildfire risk in the Eugene–Springfield Metro and surrounding WUI zones. Survey results indicated that while a majority of respondents had not yet been directly impacted by wildfire, more than 60 percent reported feeling unprepared for a wildfire event. Areas most frequently identified as facing the greatest wildfire risk included the South and Southwest Hills of Eugene, the Thurston Hills area, and the Laurel Hill Valley. When asked to rank wildfire-related concerns, evacuation safety and property damage emerged as the highest priorities, followed by smoke impacts and community recovery. Respondents also identified fuel accumulation, limited evacuation routes, and the need for clearer evacuation planning as key challenges, underscoring the importance of coordinated mitigation and preparedness efforts.

In response to these priorities, the CWPP emphasizes actions that directly address community-identified needs, including hazardous fuels reduction in high-risk WUI areas, evacuation route planning and evaluation, public education on defensible space and home hardening, and improved access to information on wildfire risk reduction programs. Survey findings also highlighted strong interest in vegetation management assistance, fuels reduction crews, and disposal programs, as well as the need for financial and technical support for home retrofits such as fire-resistant roofing, siding, and vents. These insights were used to inform mitigation strategies, prioritize action items, and align outreach efforts with preferred communication methods, including local government websites, printed materials, and in-person workshops.

As Eugene and Springfield continue to grow, ongoing community involvement will be critical to maintaining and improving wildfire resilience. The CWPP provides a framework to support this engagement through coordinated public education, neighborhood partnerships, and shared risk reduction goals, ensuring that community input remains central to wildfire planning, implementation, and long-term adaptation.

3: PLANNING AREA OVERVIEW

The planning area for the Eugene-Springfield CWPP encompasses the cities of Eugene and Springfield, both located in Lane County, Oregon (Figure 1), in the western part of the state. This region is distinguished by its ecological diversity, urban density, and growing vulnerability to wildfire. Together, the two cities form a connected metro area that faces unique challenges and opportunities in wildfire risk reduction and resilience planning.

Eugene, with a population exceeding 170,000 residents, is the larger of the two cities and serves as a regional center for culture, higher education, and commerce. Springfield, located directly to the east of Eugene, is home to approximately 60,000 residents and shares many of Eugene's urban and suburban features, while maintaining its own distinct identity (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023). Both cities are experiencing steady population growth and ongoing residential development, particularly near more densely forested areas.

The landscape in and around the Eugene-Springfield metro area is a mosaic of dense coniferous forests, oak savanna, grasslands, riparian corridors, and residential neighborhoods. The Willamette River and one of its major tributaries, the McKenzie River, flow through the metro area, playing a central role in the region's hydrology and ecology. Surrounding hills, including the Coburg Hills to the north and the South Hills to the south, form natural corridors that can accelerate wildfire spread potential, particularly during periods of prolonged drought or east wind events (Oregon Department of Forestry, 2024).

The area experiences a Mediterranean climate, marked by hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters, conditions that contribute to seasonal fire risk. As climate change intensifies, wildfire seasons are growing longer and more unpredictable, increasing pressure on local fire suppression resources and emergency management systems (Abatzoglou and Williams, 2016). In recent years, expansion of housing into forested hilly areas has heightened exposure to wildfire, while also complicating evacuation planning and fuels management.

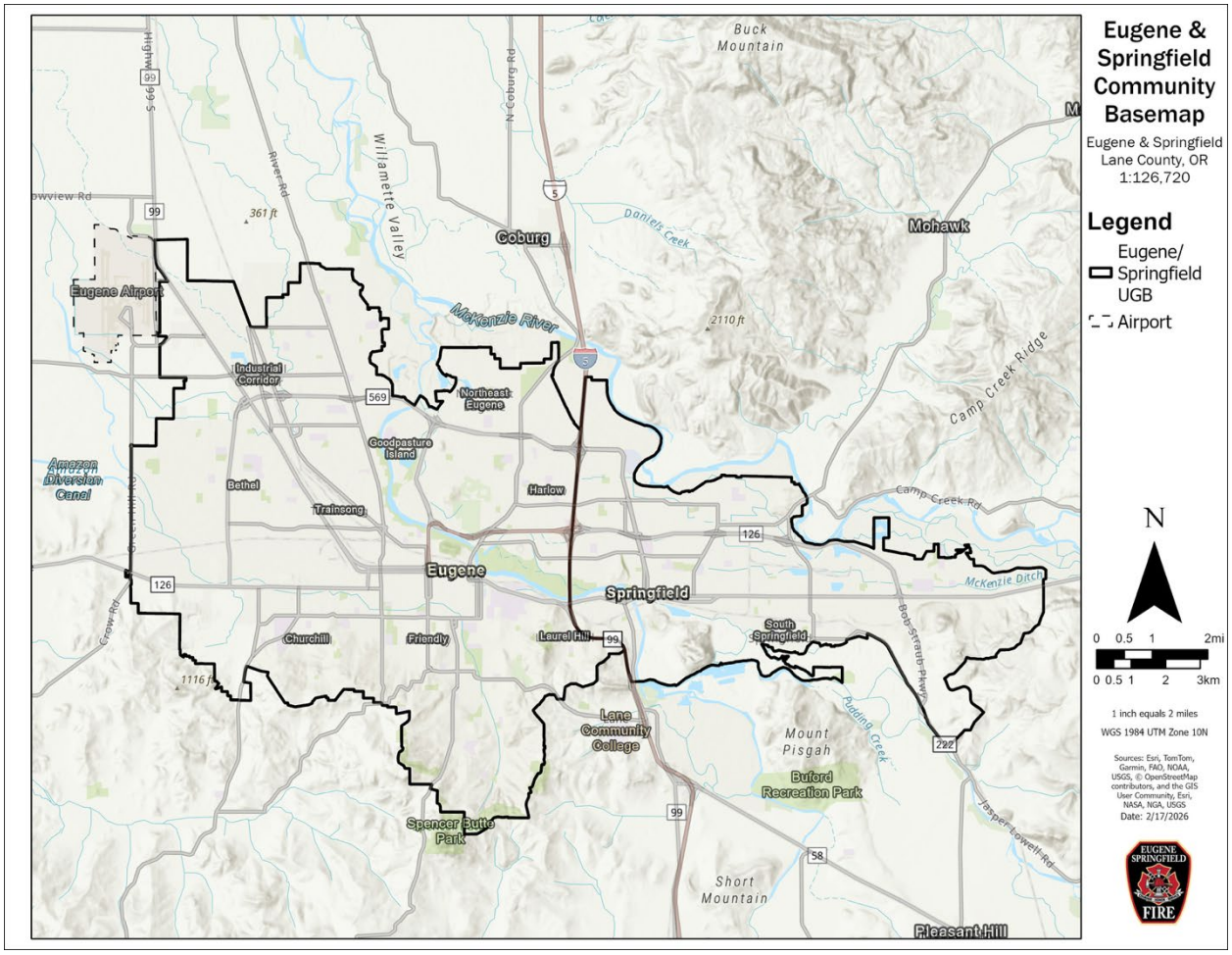


Figure 1. Eugene-Springfield Community Basemap.

3.1 Wildfire Urban Interface

The WUI is the area where houses meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation. This CWPP considers the WUI to be any area within a half-mile buffer of Eugene-Springfield municipal boundaries where conditions affect the combustibility of both wildland and built fuels allow for the ignition and spread of wildfire.

Below is an Integrated U.S. Census and United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Land Cover Data map (Figure 2), to display the Federal Register definition of WUI (Federal Register 66:751, 2001).

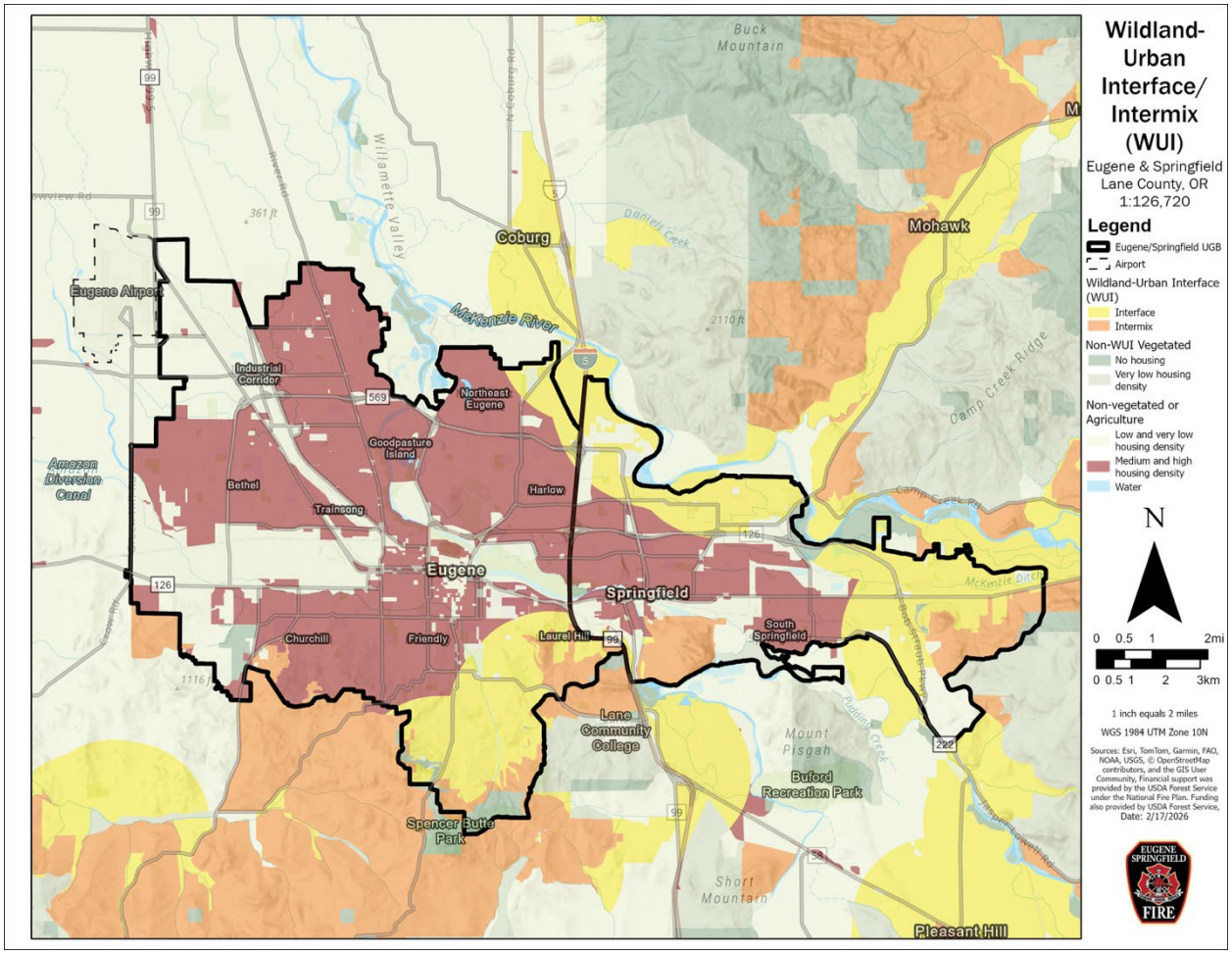


Figure 2. WUI Interface Eugene/Springfield OR

WUI communities can be classified as Interface, Intermixed, or Occluded. Generally, state and federal agencies will focus on communities that are classified as interface or intermixed. Municipalities may contain all WUI classifications but are generally the only level of government working in occluded communities. Explanation of each classification is below:

- **Intermix Community**: The Intermix Community exists where structures are scattered throughout a wildland area. There is no clear line of demarcation; wildland fuels are continuous outside of and within the developed area. The development density in the intermix ranges from structures very close together to one structure per 40 acres. Fire protection districts funded by various taxing authorities normally provide life and property fire protection and may also have wildland fire protection responsibilities. An alternative definition of intermix community emphasizes a population density of between 28-250 people per square mile.
- **Interface Community**: The Interface Community exists where structures directly abut wildland fuels. There is a clear line of demarcation between residential, business, and public structures and wildland fuels. Wildland fuels do not generally continue into the developed area. The development density for an interface

community is 3 or more structures per acre, with shared municipal services. Fire protection is generally provided by a local government fire department with the responsibility to protect structures from both an interior fire and an advancing wildland fire. An alternative definition of the interface community emphasizes a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.

- **Occluded Community**: The Occluded Community generally exists in a situation, often within a city, where structures surround an island of wildland fuels (e.g., park or open space). There is a clear line of demarcation between structures and wildland fuels. The development density for an occluded community is typically similar to those found in the interface community, but the occluded area is usually less than 1,000 acres in size. Fire protection is normally provided by local government fire departments.

A recent assessment combining Lane County parcel data with spatial analysis using CWiRRZ Risk Reduction Zone datasets indicates that approximately 65,000 residential structures, representing over $50 billion in assessed value, are located within designated WUI risk zones across the Eugene–Springfield area and surrounding rural communities (Oregon Department of Forestry, 2021). The assessment shows that the majority of these structures fall within indirect and wildfire transmission exposure zones, where homes are vulnerable to ember intrusion, home-to-home ignition, and fire spread through continuous vegetative fuels. These zones represent areas where mitigation and coordinated suppression efforts are most effective, reflecting a significant concentration of at-risk housing and infrastructure where natural vegetation intermixes with human development.

The complexity of wildfire management in the WUI stems from the interaction of structural density, fuel loads, topography, and limited ingress and egress routes. In the Eugene–Springfield Metro Area, prominent WUI and high-exposure zones (Figure 3) include the Southwest Eugene Hills, Southeast Eugene Hills, Hendricks Park/Laurel Hill Valley, Willamette Heights/Dorris Ranch, and Mount Pisgah, as well as the Coburg Hills and surrounding urban fringe areas. Additional areas of concern include the Airport Area, Bob Straub Parkway/Thurston Hills Area, Gateway Commercial Area, and linear risk corridors such as the I-5 corridor extending south toward Cottage Grove and utility infrastructure along the McKenzie River corridor. Many of these areas are characterized by steep or complex terrain, dense or continuous vegetation, and constrained or highly trafficked road networks. Together, these conditions increase the potential for rapid fire spread, elevate exposure to homes and critical infrastructure, and complicate evacuation, access, and emergency response during wildfire events.

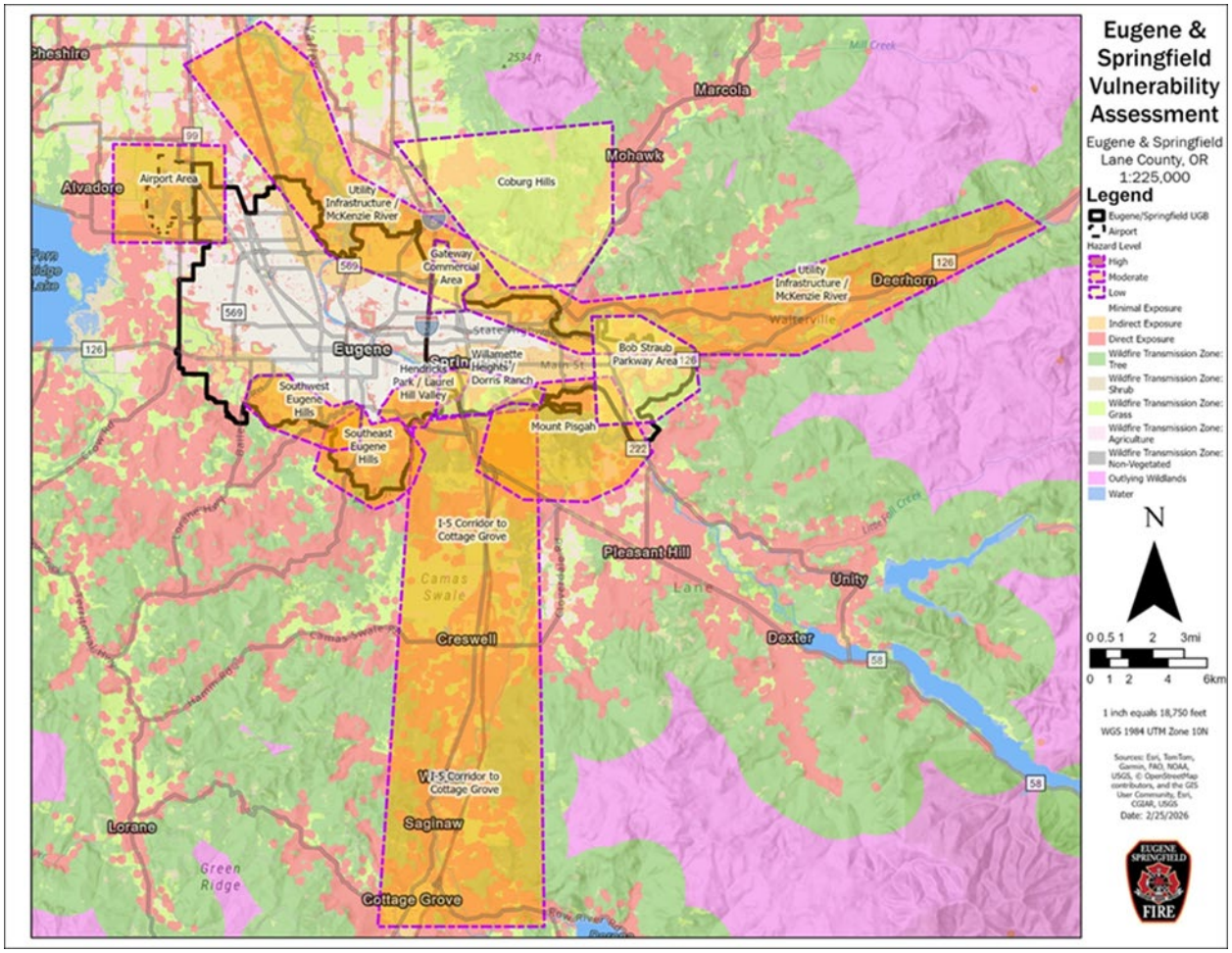


Figure 3. Eugene & Springfield Vulnerability Assessment

Surrounding rural communities face complex challenges including older homes surrounded by unmanaged fuels and narrow, winding road systems that hinder fire engine access and challenges to coordinated evacuation during high fire risk events. These vulnerabilities were illustrated during the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, which spread rapidly westward through the McKenzie River Valley, prompting mass evacuations, damaging critical infrastructure, and severely affecting the Eugene–Springfield metropolitan area through prolonged smoke impacts, emergency sheltering of displaced residents, and disruptions to utilities and transportation systems.

This CWPP does not directly adopt a specific WUI area or provide regulations for the WUI area. However, Oregon Senate Bill 83 which was signed into law in July of 2025, provided direction to the Oregon State Fire Marshal to develop and make available a model defensible space code that local governments could choose to adopt. As wildfire risk changes, and optional risk reduction strategies can be further evaluated for efficacy future adoption of a WUI and code may become necessary in the Eugene Springfield Metro Area to mitigate wildfire risk.

3.2 Fire Agency Capabilities and Preparedness

Eugene Springfield Fire provides primary structural and wildland fire protection within the metro area, supported by mutual aid agreements with regional fire districts and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Eugene Springfield Fire also provides support to surrounding areas, including response into rural areas, and regular participation in conflagrations each year. Recent efforts to increase wildfire response capabilities have included an initiative to start a dedicated wildland unit. While in its early stages, this unit will increase capacity to response to wildfire in the Eugene Springfield Area.

Mapping of fire stations is included in Figure 4, while Table 4 shows regular daily staffing of firefighting resources. Medical units, reserve units, and specialty units are not accounted for in Table 4 as they either do not directly have a role in suppressing wildfire, or require additional time while staff are called back to operate them or switch over to them. During high-risk days for wildfire, wildland apparatus and water tenders at Stations 2, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, and 16 can be chosen by personnel instead of the fire apparatus they typical staff if a call dictates the need that resource. While the department has a strong foundation, certain areas face longer response times due to access constraints, topography, or development located further from stations.

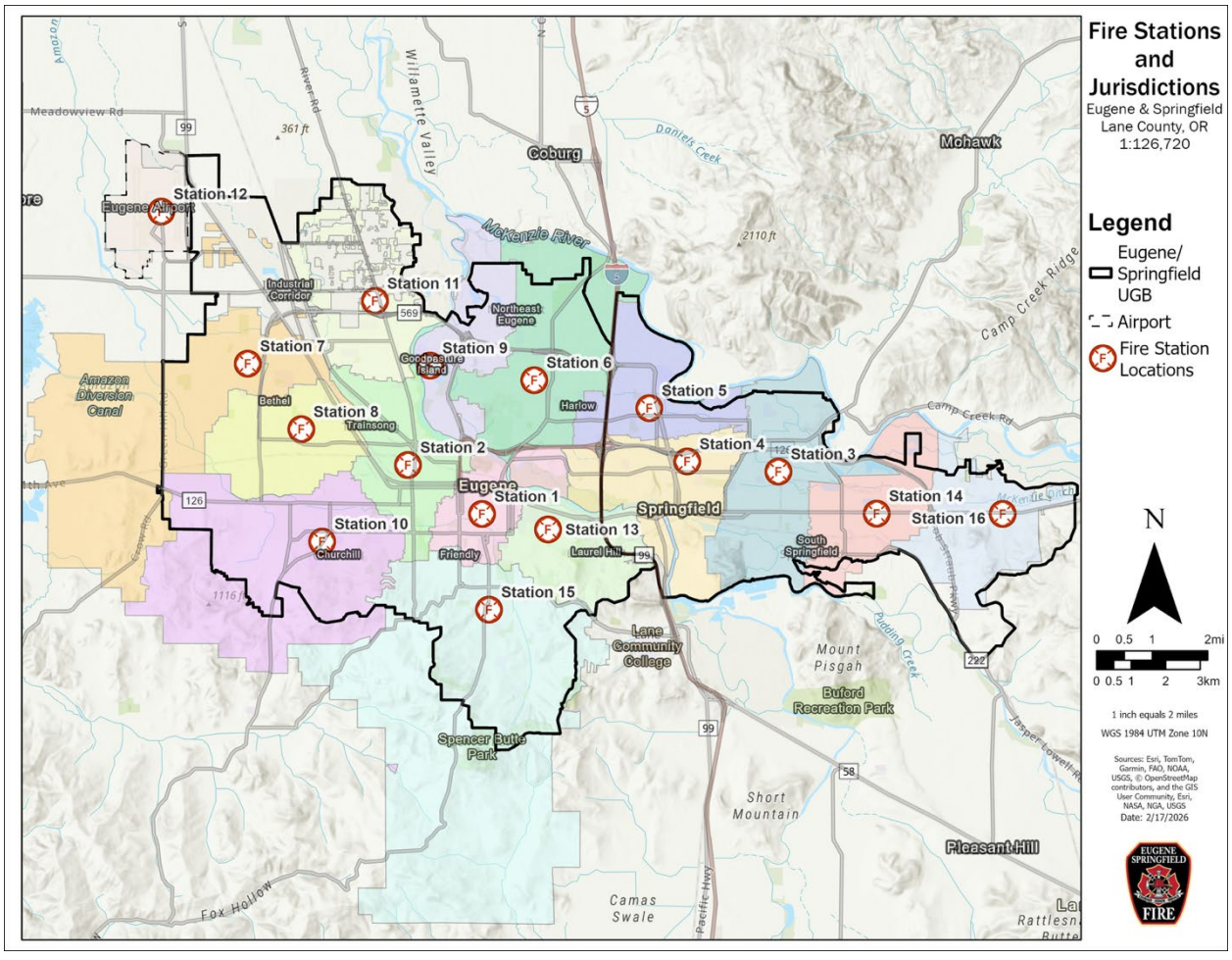


Figure 4. Fire Stations

Table 2. Eugene Springfield Fire Apparatus by Station

Fire Station	Personnel	Apparatus	Wildland Apparatus or Water Tender
Station 1	6	Engine 1, Truck 1	
Station 2	6	Engine 2, Truck 2	Water Tender 2
Station 3	3	Tower 3	
Station 4	3	Engine 4	
Station 5	3	Engine 5	
Station 6	3	Ladder 6	
Station 7	3	Engine 7	
Station 8	3	Engine 8	Brush 8, Water Tender 8
Station 9	3	Engine 9	
Station 10	3	Engine 10	Brush 10
Station 11	3	Ladder 11	
Station 12	3	Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting 1	
Station 13	3	Engine 13	Brush 13
Station 14	3	Engine 14	Water Tender 14
Station 15	3	Engine 15	Brush 15
Station 16	3	Engine 16	Brush 16

3.4 Population and Housing

According to the most recent population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Portland State University Population Research Center (2024), the population of Lane County is approximately 392,000. The Eugene-Springfield Metro Area is home to more than half of the county's total population, with the remainder spread across smaller cities and rural unincorporated communities. Table 5 shows the population distribution by city or community within Lane County.

Table 3. Population Distribution by City or Community – Lane County (2024)

City / Community	Population	% of County Total
Eugene	179,887	46%
Springfield	62,417	16%
Cottage Grove	10,323	3%
Florence	9,293	2%

City / Community	Population	% of County Total
Junction City	6,697	2%
Creswell	5,850	1.5%
Veneta	5,297	1.4%
Lowell	1,230	0.3%
Oakridge	3,097	0.8%
Coburg	1,384	0.35%
Westfir	277	0.07%
Rural / Unincorporated Lane Co.	106,248	27%
Total	**392,000**	**100%**

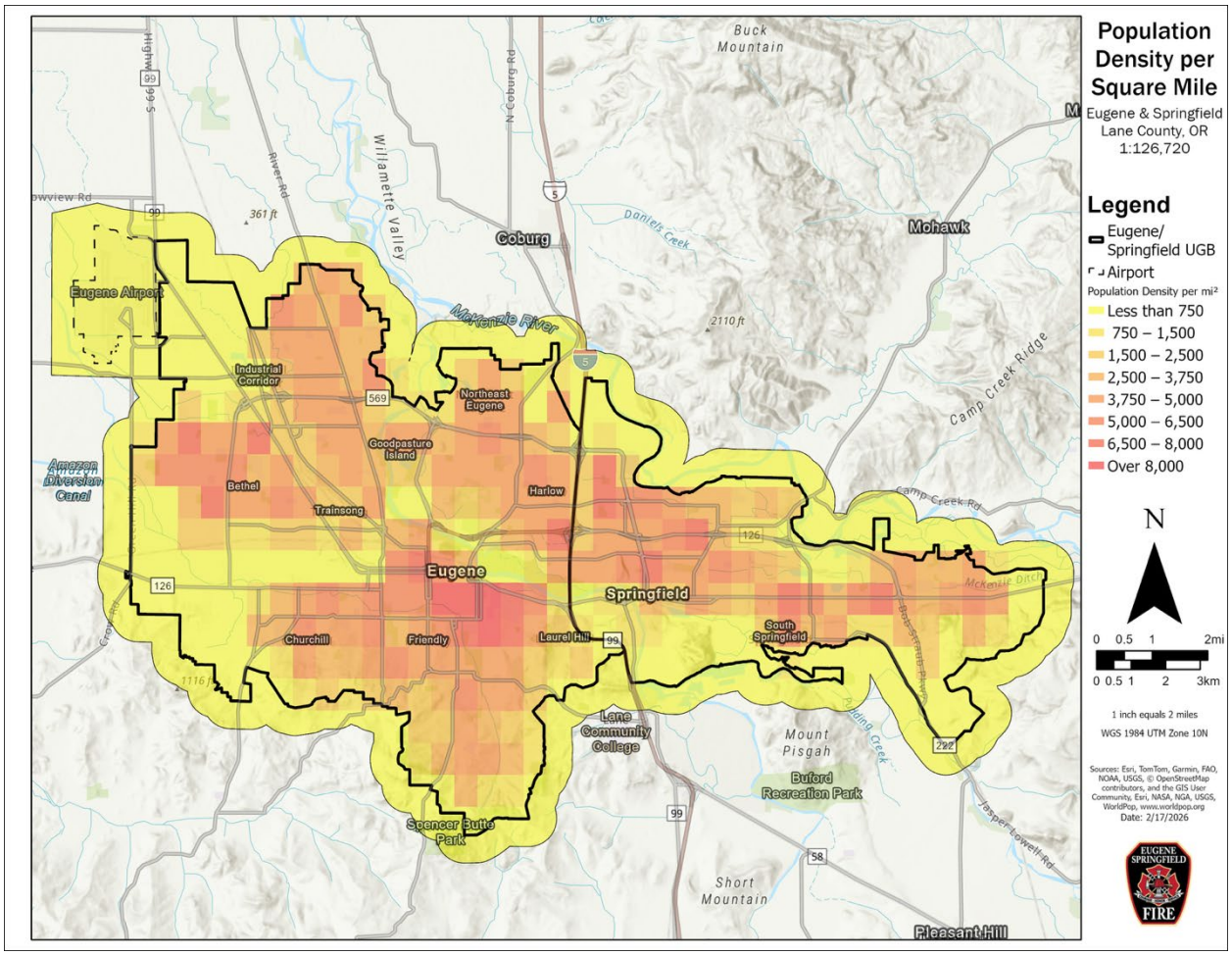


Figure 5. Population Map

The Eugene-Springfield Metro Area is the most densely populated region in Lane County and includes the highest concentration of homes located in WUI zones (Figure 5). While most new developments are occurring within city boundaries, several rural and fringe areas including Coburg Hills, Pleasant Hill, and McKenzie River corridor communities are experiencing gradual growth in WUI-adjacent zones. These population dynamics are important for emergency planning, evacuation modeling, and wildfire mitigation outreach, as population density, building age, and development pressure vary widely between urban neighborhoods and rural fire-prone zones.

3.6 Natural Resources

The Eugene-Springfield area, located within the Pacific Northwest temperate forest biome, is renowned for its exceptional ecological diversity and global significance. As part of the broader Cascadia Bioregion, the region encompasses a mosaic of ecosystems, including mixed conifer forests, oak savannas, riparian corridors, wetlands, and native prairie remnants. These habitats support a range of threatened and sensitive species, such as the northern spotted owl, western pond turtle, and the federally endangered Fender's blue butterfly, all of which depend on increasingly rare or fragmented ecosystems. The Willamette Valley, which includes the Eugene-Springfield Metro, has been identified as a high-priority conservation region by The Nature Conservancy and multiple federal agencies due to the dramatic loss of native habitat. Notably, oak woodlands and native prairie ecosystems, once dominant in the valley, have been reduced to less than 2% of their original extent (ODFW, 2021). These ecosystems face mounting pressure from habitat loss, invasive species, and changing wildfire frequency and intensity, underscoring the urgent need to align wildfire mitigation strategies with biodiversity and ecological restoration goals.

3.7 Environmental Considerations

Fire agencies and natural resource organizations recognize the importance of vegetation management, often referred to as fuel treatments or fuel reduction, as a tool for reducing fire hazards and restoring ecosystems. Likewise, native vegetation provides essential habitat for many species of wildlife. Native vegetation can be affected both by fuels management and wildfire. Fuel reduction projects can adversely affect native plant communities, wildlife habitats, and water quality. Therefore, environmentally and ecologically sound practices should be incorporated into fuel reduction projects to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts. Strategies for protecting the natural environment while also reducing the fire hazard and risk to adjacent communities can be mutually beneficial. Prior to any vegetation management project that may result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment, the potential impacts to the environment should be considered. Environmental considerations include (but are not limited to):

- Cutting or removal of trees, brush, and/or limbs.
- Use of mechanized equipment that may cause damage to sensitive plants or habitats.
- Creating dust, smoke, or noise.
- Exposing mineral soil.

- Disturbing species or reducing habitats, including plants, birds, bees, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and/or special status species.
- Changing the aesthetics or ecological integrity of the natural environment.

All agencies developing vegetation management projects should consider resource protection, monitoring, mitigation, and adaptive management measures and compliance in project planning. Additional time and budget are generally required to ensure that sensitive natural and cultural resources are protected.

3.8 Post-Fire Recovery Planning

Significant damage can occur after a major fire including loss of homes, businesses, infrastructure, natural resources, damage to watersheds, and soil erosion, to name a few. Pre-determining strategies for post-fire recovery can be difficult because there is no single planning approach that fits all scenarios and post-fire recovery actions largely depend on land ownership, land ownership policies, and funding sources. Given the extent of the metro area and significant population density, investment in strategies to speed recovery or anticipate impacts from fires in adjacent more rural areas may be worthwhile investments.

3.9 Community Vulnerabilities

Certain populations and neighborhoods within the planning area are more vulnerable to wildfire impacts due to factors such as limited evacuation routes, housing density, and demographic characteristics. Areas with a high concentration of elderly residents or mobile homes, for example, may face greater evacuation challenges and recovery times because residents may have reduced mobility, require additional assistance or medical support during evacuations, and may live in structures that are more susceptible to ember intrusion, rapid fire spread, or displacement if damaged. Occluding WUI zones, where wildland fuels are embedded within developed urban areas, present unique challenges for suppression and require targeted outreach and mitigation because fires in these areas can transition quickly from vegetation to structures, creating complex incidents that demand both wildland and structural firefighting resources while increasing life-safety risks and evacuation complexity. The assessment highlights areas with elevated structural ignitability due to building materials, vegetation proximity, and lack of defensible space. These insights are crucial for prioritizing community outreach and structural hardening efforts.

4: FIRE ENVIRONMENT

Eugene's climate strongly influences seasonal wildfire risk. Winter and spring are generally cool and wet, resulting in lower fire potential. In contrast, late spring through early fall brings warmer and drier conditions that increase wildfire risk. Fire danger typically rises during the summer months when prolonged dry periods, elevated temperatures, and low humidity reduce fuel moisture. While fall generally trends cooler and wetter, this season can also include periods of dry, windy weather that elevate fire danger before sustained rainfall returns. Of particular concern are dry east wind events originating from the Cascades. Though less frequent, these winds can create critical fire weather conditions by producing hot, dry, and gusty conditions capable of rapid-fire spread.

4.1 Weather

Temperature, precipitation, humidity, and wind patterns all contribute to seasonal wildfire risk and fire behavior. Fire weather forecasts provide important short-term information for response planning, while long-term climate trends help inform hazard mitigation and preparedness strategies.

Eugene experiences distinct seasonal temperature patterns that influence wildfire potential. The primary fire season aligns with the warmest months, generally late June through mid-September, when temperatures are highest and fuels are driest. August is typically the warmest month (Figure 8). Cooler temperatures from late fall through winter reduce fire potential due to higher fuel moisture and more frequent precipitation.

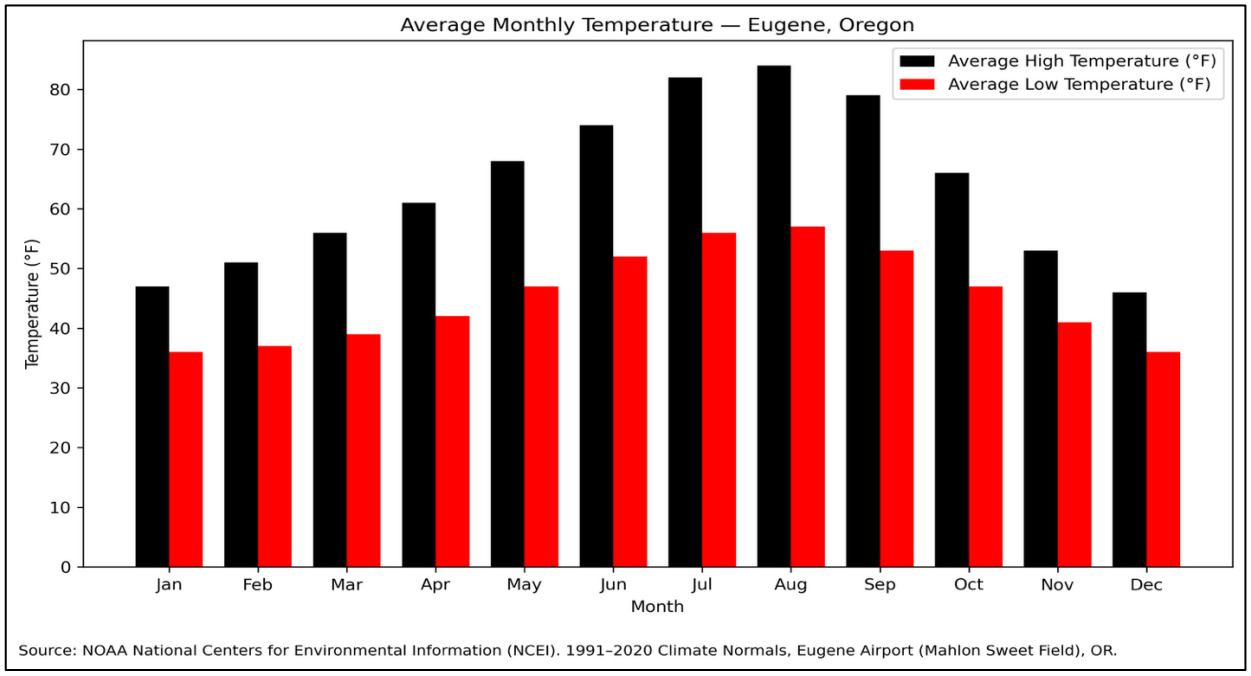


Figure 6. Average High and Low Temperatures

Precipitation patterns (Figure 9) play a critical role in determining fuel moisture and wildfire risk. The wet season typically extends from mid-October through early May, with frequent rainfall that limits wildfire potential. The dry season spans late spring through early fall, with minimal rainfall during peak summer months. August is typically the driest month. Extended dry periods during summer significantly increase wildfire vulnerability.

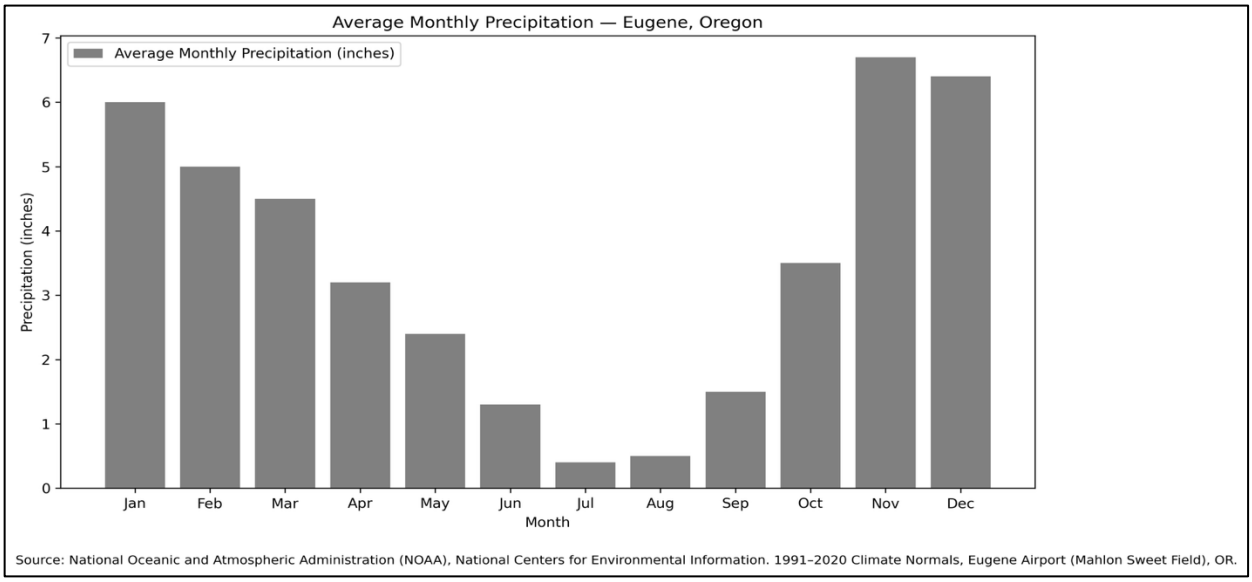


Figure 7. Average Seasonal Rainfall Trends

In addition, wind speed and direction influence wildfire risk, including the fire ignition potential, rate of spread, and smoke movement. Seasonal wind patterns in Eugene are generally moderate; however, specific wind events can significantly increase wildfire risk. Winds shift direction throughout the year, with prevailing west and north winds during warmer months and more southerly flow during cooler months. Of greatest concern are episodic east wind events. These dry, gusty winds can occur during transitional seasons and are capable of rapidly increasing fire intensity and spread. Although less frequent than in other regions of the western United States, east wind events in the Eugene area represent a key driver of extreme fire behavior and should be considered in planning and response efforts. Long-term data indicates most moderate to strong wind events have a dominant north–south wind alignment (Figure 10). While typical wind speeds are light to moderate, episodic stronger winds can significantly increase fire spread potential. Seasonally, southerly winds are more common during winter and spring, while northerly winds dominate during summer, coinciding with peak fire season. Although average summer wind speeds are generally lower than winter peaks, persistent directional flow during dry conditions can strongly influence fire growth and ember transport. Overall, prevailing north–south wind patterns and periodic high-wind events are central considerations in wildfire risk assessment, evacuation planning, and emergency response preparedness.

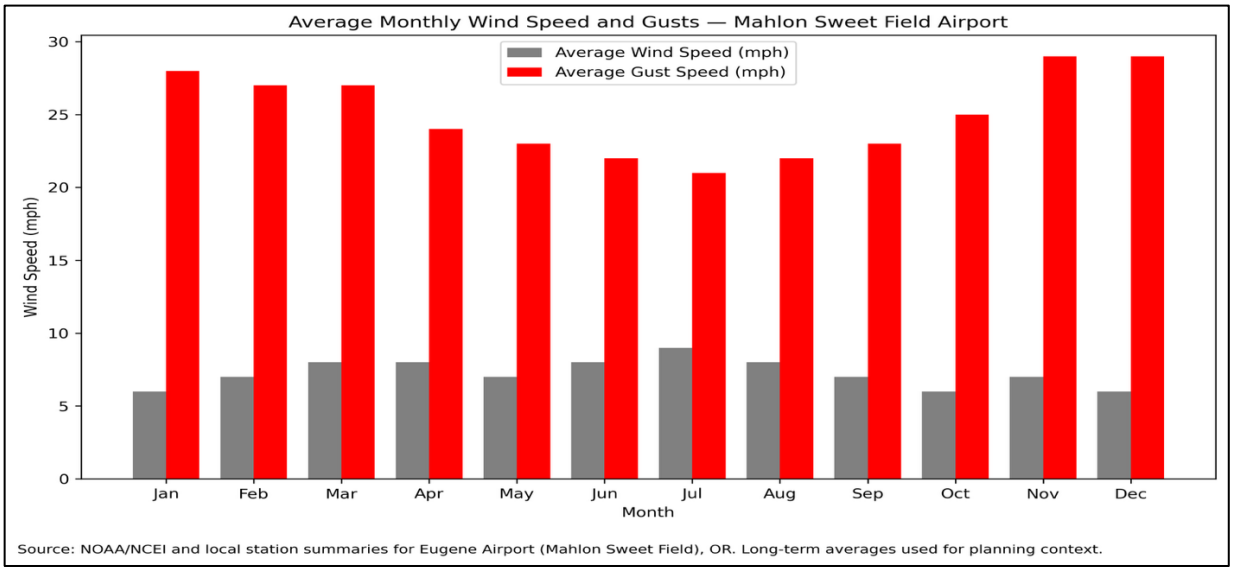


Figure 8. Monthly Wind Statistics

4.2 Drought

Drought also significantly influences wildfire risk by reducing fuel moisture in grasses, shrubs, and trees, making them more flammable and more receptive to ignition. Dry conditions increase the likelihood of fire starts and can accelerate fire spread, Particularly when combined with periods of warm temperatures, low humidity, and wind. Temperature, soil moisture, humidity, and vegetation conditions interact to shape fire behavior, especially during extended dry periods when fuels remain critically dry for weeks or months. The relationship between drought and wildfire is dynamic: short-term drying following a wet spring can produce abundant fine fuels that cure quickly and support rapid fire growth, while prolonged drought can stress and dry heavier vegetation, increasing the potential for higher-intensity fire in forested areas even if overall growth is reduced. Figure 11 illustrates U.S. Drought Monitor conditions for Lane County over the past 25 years, showing recurring cycles of moderate to severe drought, with particularly sustained drought conditions from approximately 2015 through 2022 and additional periodic dry spells thereafter. These patterns demonstrate that drought in the region is episodic but recurrent, contributing to cumulative vegetation stress and repeated windows of elevated wildfire vulnerability. While occasional wetter periods provide temporary relief, historical trends indicate that drought remains a persistent driver of fire risk and should continue to be incorporated into long-term wildfire preparedness, fuels management, and community resilience planning.

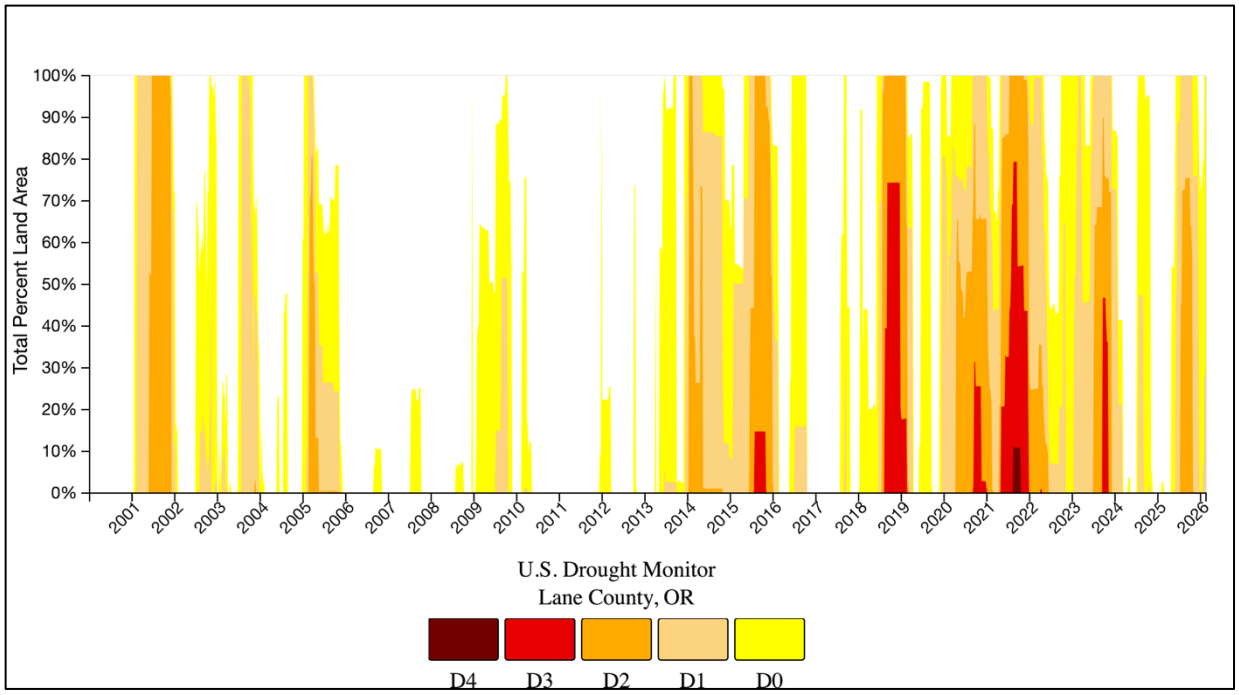


Figure 9. Drought Monitor

4.3 Fire Season

The peak wildfire season in the Northwest Region (Figure 12) extends from June through October. This period aligns with the region's hottest and driest months, when vegetation becomes more flammable and the risk of ignition and fire spread increases. Understanding this seasonal pattern is essential for planning wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response efforts in the Eugene area. Fire activity in the Eugene-Springfield area peaks during the summer months, when warm, dry conditions reduce fuel moisture and increase ignition potential. Lightning and wind associated with dry frontal passages can further elevate the risk of rapid fire spread during this period. As the region transitions into fall, fire activity generally declines rapidly due to the return of moisture from the Pacific, which helps dampen fuels and suppress fire potential. However, fall can still bring brief windows of elevated risk due to dry offshore wind events and occasional dry cold front passages. From late fall through spring, fire activity is minimal to nonexistent, as cooler temperatures, higher humidity, and frequent precipitation dominate the seasonal climate.

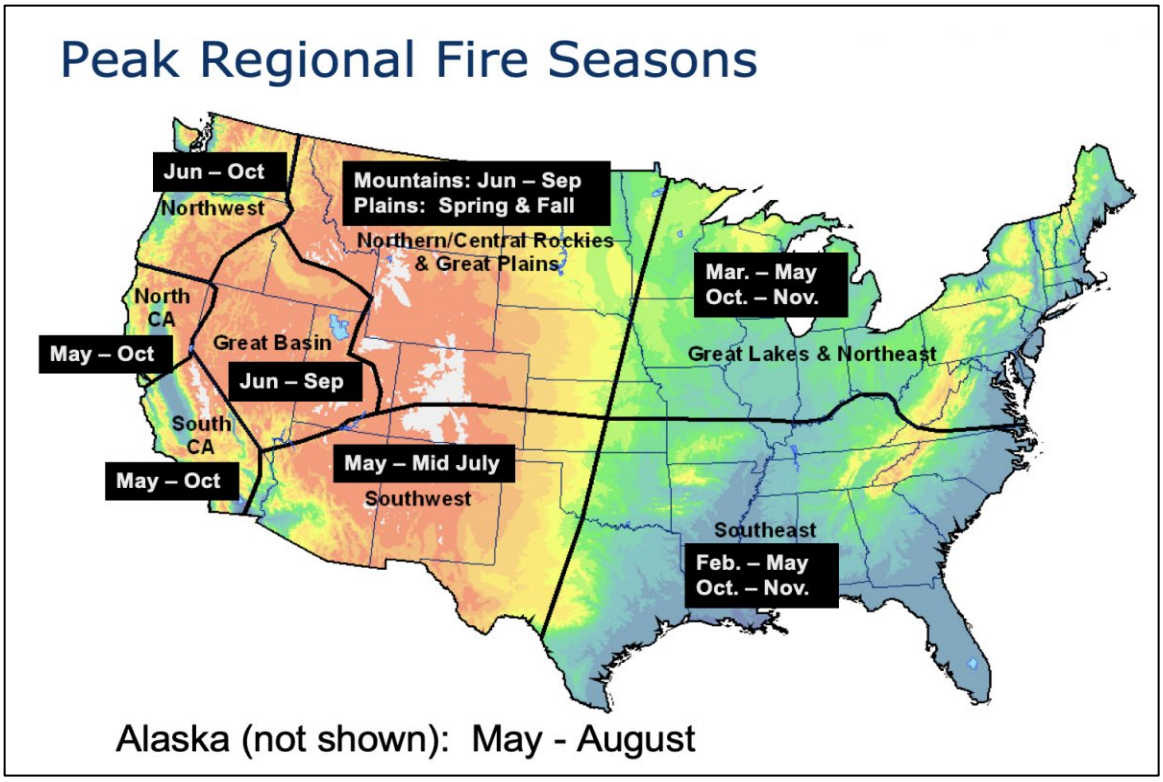


Figure 10. US Peak Regional Fire Season Map

Figure 13 presents documented average daily wildfire occurrences in the Northwest Region from 1992 through 2025, representing 33 years of recorded fire activity (solid black line). The data reflects actual wildfire ignitions during this period and demonstrates a consistent seasonal pattern. Historically, wildfire starts increase in late May, rise significantly in June, and peak during July and August, with elevated activity continuing through September before declining in October. The blue dotted line represents the 5-day moving average of the 33-year historical average (1992–2025), while the black dotted line shows the 5-day moving average of 2025 wildfire activity, helping to illustrate overall trends. A 5-day moving average takes the average number of fires over five consecutive days to smooth out daily ups and downs and show the overall trend more clearly. The 2025 data (orange bars) follow this same long-term seasonal pattern, remaining consistent with the established 33-year trend of higher fire occurrence during the summer and early fall months, when conditions are typically warmer and drier.

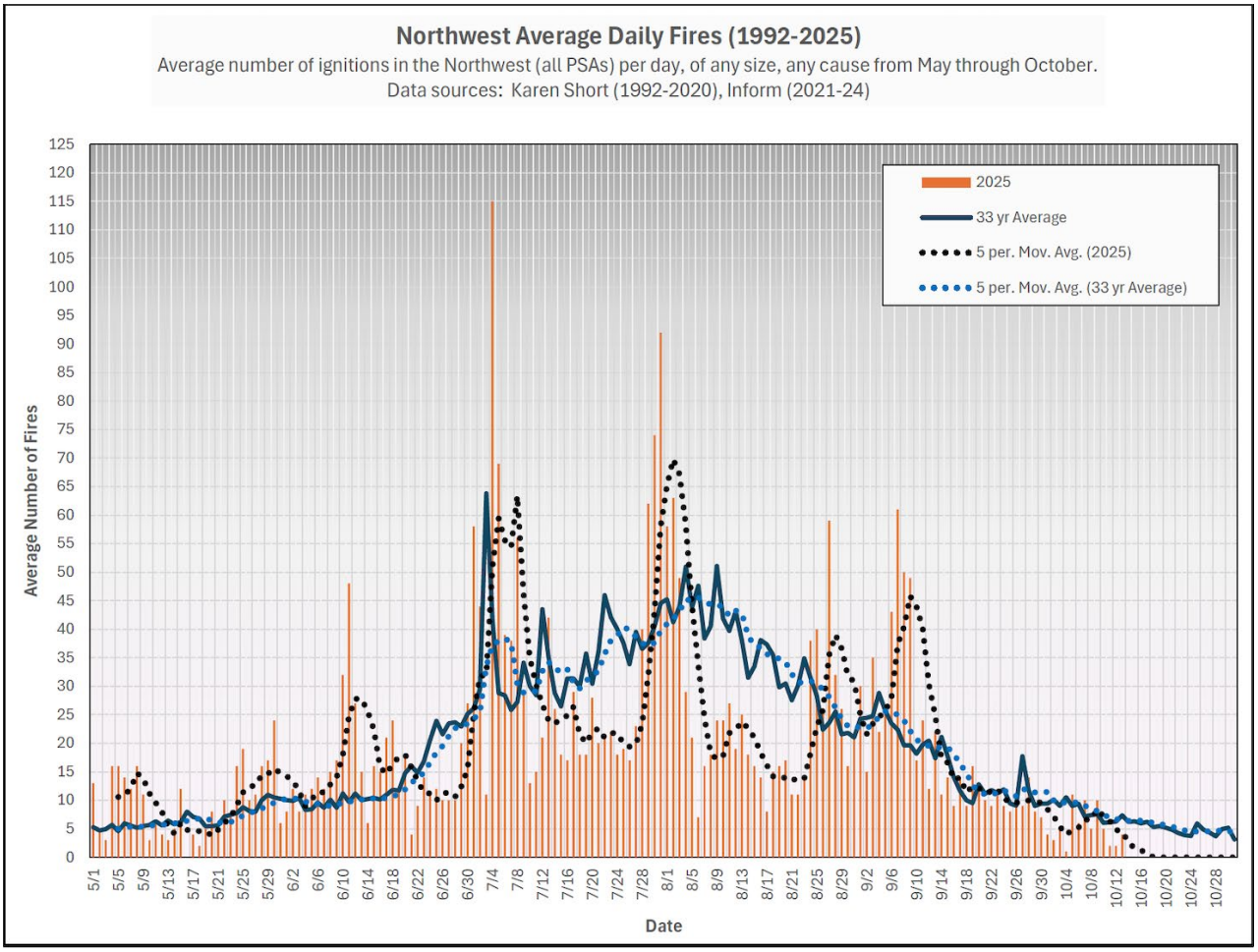


Figure 11. Northwest Fire Occurrence (1992-2025)

4.3 Vegetation and Fuels Characteristics

Vegetation is the primary fuel source for wildfires. Although wildfire is a natural and regular occurrence in most ecosystems, wildfire becomes a hazard when it occurs near the population, property, critical infrastructure and natural resources that a community depends upon.

The Eugene–Springfield Metro Area has been significantly influenced by urban development and agriculture; however, extensive native vegetation remains along ridgelines, foothills, and river corridors (Figure 14). These landscapes contribute directly to wildfire hazard by providing continuous fuels adjacent to developed areas. Coniferous forests in the surrounding mountains and foothills, dominated by Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), western hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla), and western redcedar (Thuja plicata) can extend toward the valley floor in the absence of fire. These forest types are capable of producing higher flame lengths and sustained fire intensity. Riparian areas along the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers contain a mix of coniferous and deciduous species, including bigleaf maple (Acer macrophyllum), red alder (Alnus rubra), and black cottonwood (Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa). While often

associated with higher moisture levels, these corridors can still carry fire under prolonged dry conditions. Historically, oak savannas covered large portions of the Willamette Valley. These ecosystems, characterized by Oregon white oak (Quercus garryana), scattered ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa var. ponderosa), and native prairie grasses, were maintained by frequent, low-intensity fire. Although they now occupy a small fraction of their original extent, their vegetation structure can support grass-driven fire spread during dry periods. Collectively, these vegetation types shape fuel continuity, fire behavior potential, and the overall wildfire risk profile of the Eugene–Springfield area.

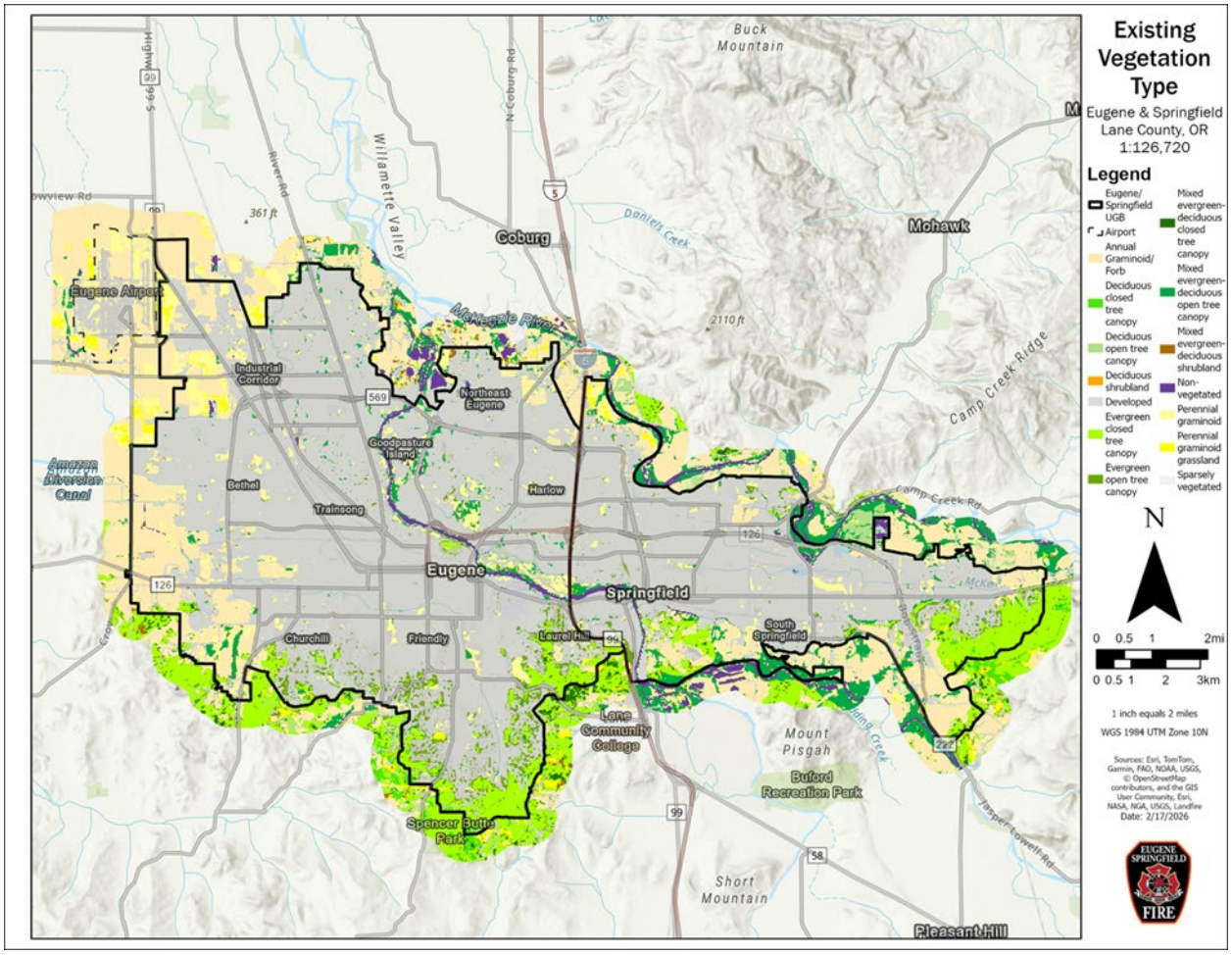


Figure 12. Existing Vegetation Type

Vegetation in the Eugene-Springfield area is grouped into fuel types with similar fire behavior characteristics to support the wildfire risk assessment, see Appendix E for full descriptions of groupings. For example, grass fuels typically produce shorter flame lengths but can spread rapidly, while timber fuels generally spread more slowly but generate higher flame lengths and greater intensity. Identifying fuel types provides two primary benefits:

- Fuels can be reduced proactively to mitigate potential fire hazards.

- Fire response personnel can better anticipate fire behavior and plan suppression strategies.

Approximately 80 percent of the area is classified as non-burnable, while the remaining 20 percent consists of varied burnable vegetation types shown Figure 15. These fuel models are used to estimate rate of spread, flame length (fire intensity), and overall fire behavior. Although much of the area is categorized as non-burnable, this designation does not eliminate wildfire risk. Urban and suburban environments can still experience structure-to-structure ignition, ember intrusion, and fire spread through ornamental vegetation, landscaping, fencing, and other combustible materials. As a result, wildfire hazard remains present even within developed areas.

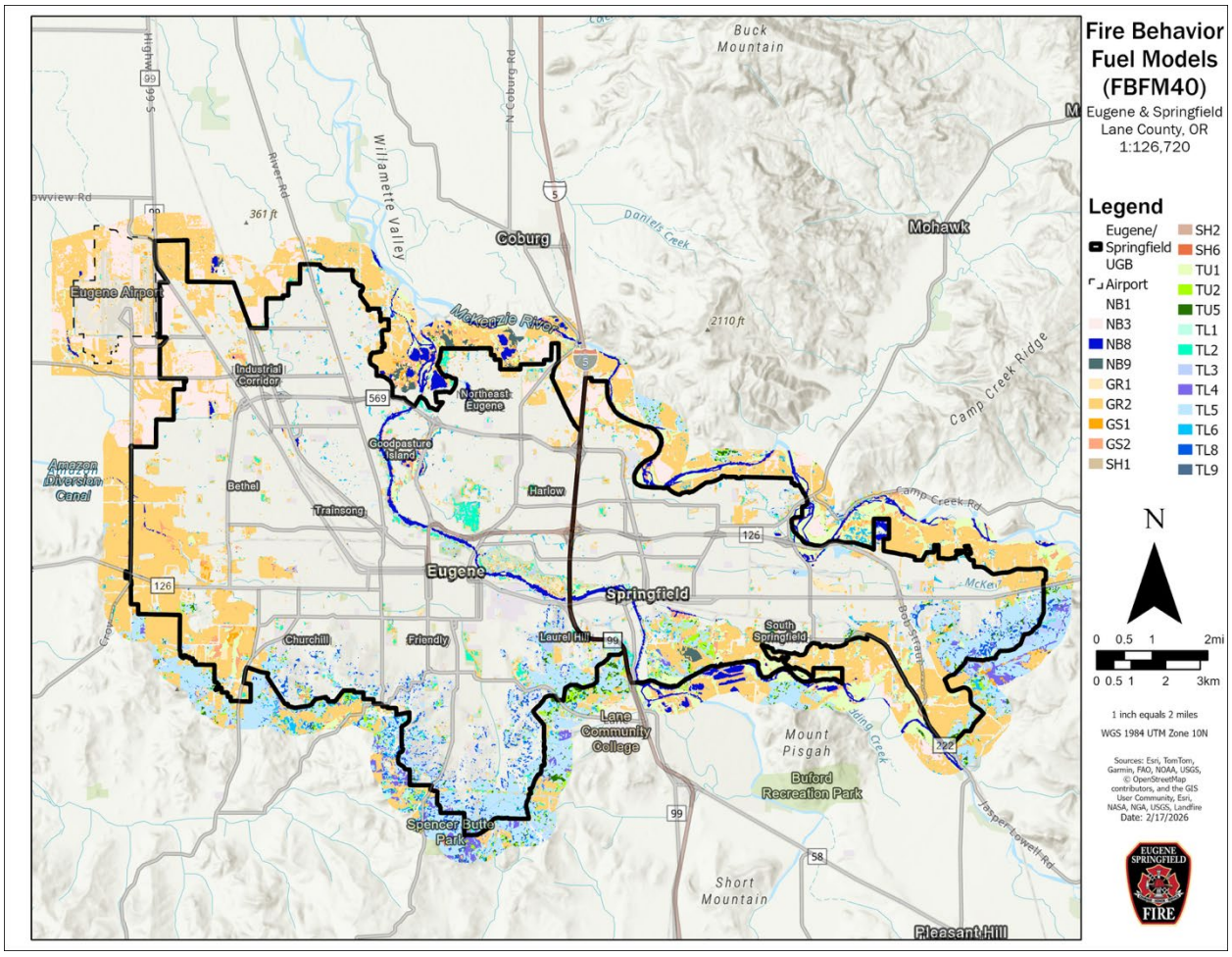


Figure 13. Fire Behavior Fuel Model

4.5 Topography

The Eugene-Springfield metro area is characterized by a diverse topographic landscape that significantly influences wildfire behavior, suppression strategies, and evacuation planning. The region sits in the southern Willamette Valley, bordered by the Coast Fork Willamette River and the McKenzie River, with surrounding terrain that ranges from

relatively flat valley floors to steep foothills and ridgelines. Notable topographic features include the Southwest Eugene Hills, Coburg Hills to the north, and the South Hills that rise sharply from urban neighborhoods into vegetated slopes. Elevation across the planning area varies from under 400 feet in downtown Eugene to over 1,000 feet in the nearby hills, creating microclimates and variable fuel loads that increase fire complexity. These topographical variations can act as natural corridors for wind-driven fire spread, particularly during east wind events, and may also limit accessibility for emergency responders. Steep slopes in the wildland-urban interface exacerbate fire intensity and speed, making terrain an essential consideration in fuel treatment planning, defensible space design, and evacuation modeling. Strategic wildfire mitigation efforts in the Eugene-Springfield CWPP emphasize the integration of topographic data to better anticipate fire behavior and protect high-risk areas.

Even when not directly impacted by fire, the Willamette Valley's position between the Coast and Cascade Ranges can trap smoke from fires in neighboring areas. Eugene-Springfield experienced the worst air quality ever recorded during the Holiday Farm Fire of 2020 when unusually strong east winds carried smoke and ash from the Cascades into the Willamette Valley basin. The situation was exacerbated by thermal inversions which prevent air at the earth's surface from mixing with layers higher in the atmosphere. Thermal inversions are most commonly observed as layers of fog that don't dissipate after sunrise in the Willamette Valley.

4.6 Wildfire History

The Eugene-Springfield Metro Area, while not historically experiencing large wildfires within city limits, has nonetheless faced significant wildfire threats this decade, particularly from east wind-driven fire events. These events have demonstrated the region's vulnerability to fast-moving, high-intensity fires originating in nearby wildlands, which can rapidly approach or impact urban infrastructure, public health, and emergency systems.

Two of the most significant fires of the last century occurred at the height of fire season and were driven by east wind events. The Oxbow Ridge Fire began in August of 1966, twenty (20) miles southwest of Eugene when construction equipment sparked what would ultimately burn 42,274 acres. Fire behavior specialists estimate that up to 2,000 acres per hour were consumed. The high rate of spread resulted from "extreme" fire weather and the area's steep drainages which created the "chimney effect" allowing the fire to quickly advance upslope aided by east winds. It was the 5th largest wildfire in Oregon history at the time, consuming commercial forest and acreage managed by the BLM acreage (Oregon Department of Forestry, 2024).

The Holiday Farm Fire is one of several megafires collectively known as the 2020 Labor Day fires. It began near Rainbow, Oregon along the McKenzie River and quickly spread westward down the McKenzie River Valley toward Eugene-Springfield, driven by unusually strong easterly winds. The fire ultimately burned approximately 173,000 acres (approximately 270 square miles) in the Willamette National Forest and surrounding areas.

Although the fire stopped short of municipal boundaries, Eugene-Springfield experienced hazardous air quality conditions for almost 2 weeks post fire with Air Quality Index (AQI) readings exceeding maximum values of the measurement scale. Thousands of residents of McKenzie River communities evacuated to Eugene-Springfield, placing increased demand on local resources and emergency services. The EWEB hydroelectric facilities along the McKenzie River sustained damage and several power transmission lines were destroyed. The McKenzie River is the primary source of drinking water for Eugene and the reserve source for Springfield. The Holiday Farm Fire burned significant portions of the watershed, raising concerns about the impacts to water quality from increased erosion and debris flow into the McKenzie River and its tributaries. The Holiday Farm Fire highlighted the array of environmental and economic impacts that can be inflicted even without direct exposure to flames (EWEB, 2021).

These two major wildfires, Oxbow Ridge and Holiday Farm, highlight the region's exposure to low-frequency but high-impact wildfire events, particularly those influenced by east wind patterns. Even in the absence of direct fire line impacts, Eugene-Springfield remains highly susceptible to the secondary effects of regional megafires: degraded air quality, damaged infrastructure, displaced populations, and strained resources.

Much smaller wildfires have occurred within the urban Growth Boundary (UGB) this decade and are summarized in Table 8.

Table 4. Recent Wildfires within the Eugene-Springfield Urban Growth Boundary

Fire	Acres Burned	Year
Moon Mountain	34.38	2023
Greenhill Prairie	18.00	2023
18th Ave. and Willow Ck.	14.98	2021

4.7 Ignition History

In order to describe ignition risk within the urban center and surrounding WUI, the Oregon State Fire Marshall (OSFM) compiles fire start data. Eugene Springfield Fire responded to a total of 3,802 fire calls from 2019-2023 as shown in Table 9 (OSFM, 2024). The table displays the total number of fire incidents categorized by fire type, offering a clear view of the types of fire events occurring in the reporting area. The largest share of incidents falls under Natural Vegetation Fires, which account for 1,163 incidents (31%), indicating a significant concern for wildland or grassland fires.

Table 5. Eugene Springfield Fire Responses (2019-2023)

Fire Category	Number of Incidents	Percent (%)
Natural Vegetation	1,163	31
Cultivated vegetation (crops)	5	0
Outside rubbish	1,055	28
Special outside	102	3
Vehicle	348	9
Other	1	0
Structure	1,083	29
Mobile property used as fixed	45	1
Total	**3802**	**Table May Total More than 100% Due to Percentage Rounding**

Structure fires follow closely with 1,083 incidents (29%), highlighting a major risk to buildings and homes. Outside rubbish fires are nearly as prevalent, with 1,055 incidents (28%), which may include dumpster, trash piles, or unauthorized outdoor burning. Vehicle fires make up 9% of incidents with 346 cases, while special outside fires, which can include fires involving outdoor equipment or recreational fires, account for 102 incidents (3%). Categories like cultivated vegetation/crop fires (5 incidents) and “other” (1 incident) are negligible in comparison, each making up less than 1% of total incidents.

Figure 16 shows the distribution that natural vegetation and structural fires are the most common and impactful fire categories, collectively making up over 60% of all incidents, underlining the need for targeted mitigation strategies across both urban and WUI environments.

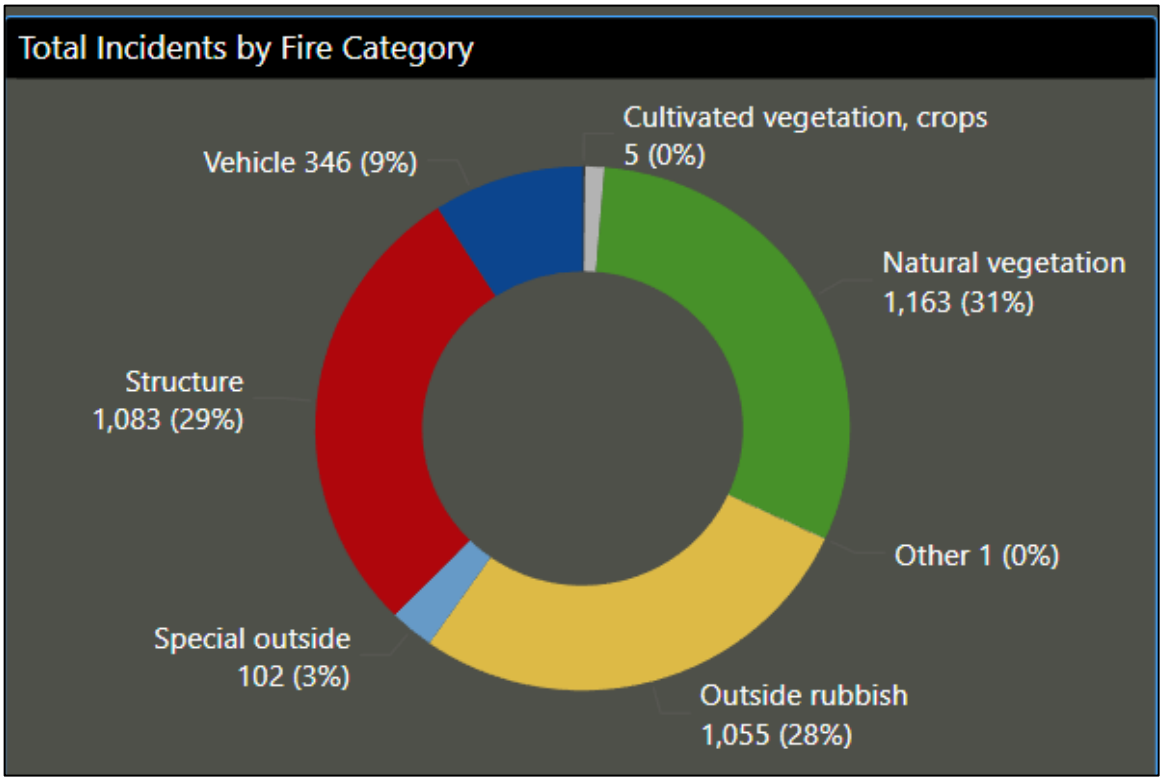


Figure 14. Total Incidents by Fire Category

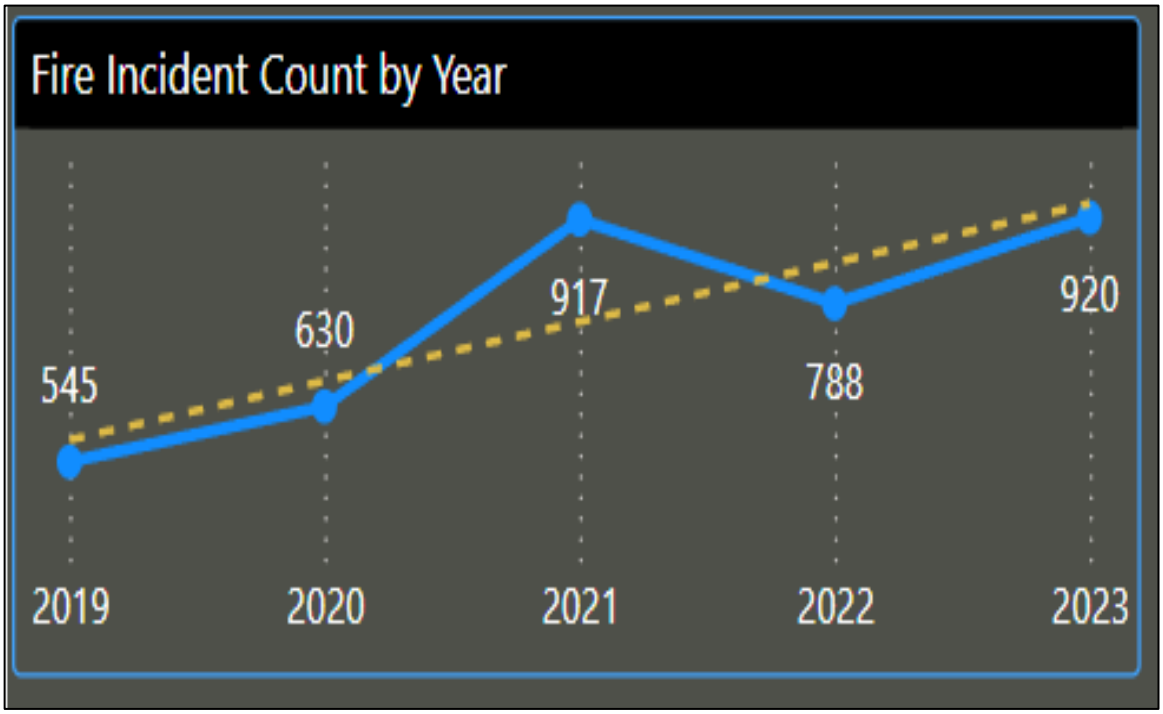


Figure 15. Fire Incidents by Year

Figure 17 illustrates the annual number of fire incidents from 2019 to 2023 which documents an overall upward trend despite some year-to-year fluctuation. Incidents increased from 2019 through 2021, dipped slightly in 2022, and rose again in 2023, continuing the general rise indicated by the trend line. This pattern suggests that fire occurrence is becoming more frequent over time, reinforcing the need for sustained mitigation, preparedness, and public education efforts, as well as continued investment in fuels reduction and response capacity to address a growing wildfire risk in the Eugene–Springfield area.

4.8 Climate Variability

Figure 18 below illustrates the monthly distribution of wildfires in the Eugene-Springfield area based on National Fire Incident Reporting System NFIRS data from 2019 to 2023. The data clearly shows a strong seasonal trend, with wildfire incidents peaking in the summer months. The highest number of wildfires occurred in July (620 incidents) and August (598 incidents), followed by June (423) and September (391). These four months alone account for most of the wildfire activity, aligning closely with the region's peak fire season when hot, dry conditions prevail. Fire activity is significantly lower in the winter and early spring months, with January (181) and February (191) reporting the fewest incidents. Fire occurrences begin to rise in March (226) and gradually increase through May (274), before sharply escalating in the summer. This seasonal pattern reinforces the importance of focusing prevention, mitigation, and response efforts during the June to September window, when wildfire risk is highest in the Eugene-Springfield area.

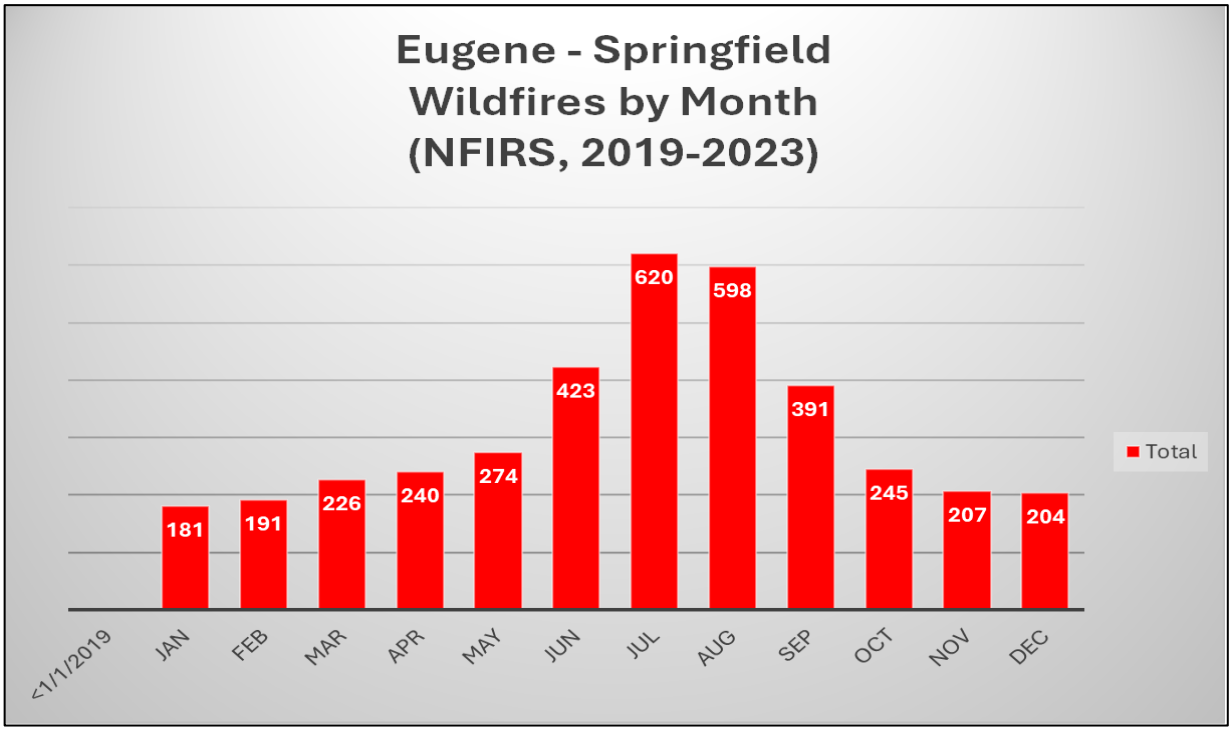


Figure 66. Fires by Month (2019-2023)

5: VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

A primary component of the Eugene-Springfield CWPP is the Wildfire Vulnerability Assessment, which evaluates the potential loss of life, property, and essential infrastructure in the event of a wildfire. This assessment offers a localized understanding of wildfire hazards and broadly identifies neighborhoods, corridors, and assets across the Eugene-Springfield Metro Area that are at risk. It is coupled with recommendations for fuels treatments, and strategies to reduce identified risks. It is designed to support local planning efforts and decision-making and should be used alongside regional and statewide assessments to guide comprehensive wildfire mitigation strategies.

Purpose: The purpose of the Wildfire Risk Assessment is to establish a data-informed foundation for understanding and addressing wildfire hazards in the Eugene-Springfield Metro Area. This includes:

- Incorporating the most current wildfire risk data into the CWPP to evaluate wildfire exposure and vulnerability in the region.
- Establishing community-wide maps and geospatial datasets that highlight overall wildfire risk and key wildland-urban interface zones.
- Identifying areas of elevated risk for targeted mitigation planning, defensible space work, and fuels treatments.
- Supporting public education efforts and future community or neighborhood-level risk assessments.
- Guiding strategic investments and resource deployment in alignment with the CWPP Action Plan.

The risk assessment will guide decision-making for fuel reduction, defensible space implementation, public education, and emergency planning. It is intended to be a dynamic tool, updated as new data and community input become available, and is central to prioritizing mitigation strategies identified in the CWPP Action Plan.

Exposure Analysis: To understand which areas are most at risk, the assessment evaluated both direct and indirect exposure to wildfire. Direct exposure zones include areas with high burn probability and intense fire behavior, while indirect zones account for ember transport and radiant heat effects on structures. The CWiRRZ model integrates burn probability with structure proximity to delineate zones where mitigation would be most effective. This analysis revealed several high-consequence areas, including neighborhoods adjacent to natural areas and steep terrain. Exposure mapping also considered key assets such as water infrastructure, power lines, and transportation corridors, many of which fall within identified exposure zones.

Methodology: The wildfire risk assessment was developed using a combination of quantitative geospatial analysis, qualitative practitioner data sources and analytical tools to characterize wildfire hazard, exposure, and vulnerability at a scale appropriate for local planning. The wildfire risk analysis for the Eugene–Springfield area integrating high-resolution spatial modeling with practitioner knowledge from fire, emergency management, utilities, and land management partners. In addition to technical datasets, the analysis reflects insights from a wide range of stakeholders across Oregon. This collaborative and evidence-based approach ensures that wildfire risk is evaluated in a manner that accurately identifies areas of concern and supports informed decision-making and prioritization of mitigation efforts.

Wildfire risk and exposure analyses were centered on Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Zones (CWiRRZs), developed using the USDA Forest Service (2024) framework and derived from 30-meter raster modeling. CWiRRZs integrate burn probability, modeled fire intensity, housing density, and proximity to structures to identify areas where mitigation activities are most likely to reduce structure loss. These higher-resolution datasets provide a locally meaningful assessment than broader statewide datasets and allow the CWPP to focus on high-consequence, though less frequent, wildfire scenarios that pose the greatest risk to life, property, and critical infrastructure. The Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS) was used to model potential fire behavior and spread under a range of weather and fuel conditions, while local fire incident data from Eugene Springfield Fire (2019–2023) grounded the analysis in recent, site-specific fire history.

Because statewide datasets alone do not adequately capture risk within Eugene–Springfield's occluded WUI, where natural and semi-natural lands are embedded within the urban fabric, additional nationally recognized datasets were incorporated to ensure consistency and reproducibility. WUI areas were delineated as locations where residential development meets or intermingles with undeveloped wildland vegetation, consistent with the Federal Register WUI definition (66 FR 751, 2001). Housing density was derived from U.S. Census Bureau 2020 data, and vegetation cover was sourced from the U.S. Geological Survey National Land Cover Database (NLCD) 2019. These datasets were integrated with the USDA Forest Service WUI Tile Layer (2020, updated October 2023) to identify both interface and intermix WUI zones across the planning area. Population density within WUI and intermix zones was further evaluated to assess community vulnerability using WorldPop 2020 population data, converted to people per square mile and spatially intersected with WUI boundaries.

Vegetation and fuel characteristics influencing fire behavior were mapped using LANDFIRE Existing Vegetation Type (EVT v2.2.0) and generalized Fire Behavior Fuel Model 40 (FBFM40) classifications to support interpretable fire behavior analysis. Transparent wildfire exposure layers were overlaid on topographic and satellite basemaps to visualize how fuels, terrain, and development patterns interact across the landscape.

In addition to these largely static datasets, the CWPP incorporates dynamic fire-danger indicators used operationally during fire season to interpret how conditions may elevate

risk over time. Metrics such as Energy Release Component (ERC), 100-hour fuel moisture, satellite-derived vegetation condition (NDVI and Relative Greenness), recent precipitation anomalies from National Weather Service Quantitative Precipitation Estimates, and drought severity from the U.S. Drought Monitor provide context for understanding seasonal variability in fuel receptiveness and fire behavior potential. These indicators are not mapped as standalone risk layers; rather, they inform interpretation of modeled hazard, validation of treatment priorities, and understanding of when identified risk areas are most susceptible to ignition and rapid spread.

Together, the integration of high-resolution CWiRRZ modeling, nationally consistent datasets, local incident information, and seasonal fire-danger indicators creates a comprehensive GIS-based risk framework. This layered approach enables the CWPP to identify where mitigation will be most effective, align treatment strategies with both long-term hazard patterns and seasonal fire potential, and support informed decision-making to reduce wildfire risk across the Eugene–Springfield WUI.

Risk analysis focused on high consequence (but low probability) events by mapping CWiRRZs. CWiRRZs are the areas where mitigation activities will be most effective at protecting homes and other structures from wildfire. CWiRRZs incorporate burn probability, fire intensity, and proximity to homes and structures with 30-meter raster data, a much higher resolution than available through the OWRE. These data layers are publicly available through the Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS).

5.1.1 Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System

IFTDSS is a web-based application developed and maintained by the Wildland Fire Management Research, Development, and Application Program (WFMRD&A), an initiative of the U.S. Forest Service. It is designed to assist land and fire managers in evaluating, planning, and documenting fuel treatments and fire behavior. IFTDSS provides a user-friendly interface to access a wide array of fire science models and geospatial data layers for risk assessment, treatment effectiveness analysis, and landscape-level fire planning.

Key features of IFTDSS include:

- Fire behavior modeling (e.g., flame length, rate of spread)
- Landscape and fuel treatment planning tools
- Risk analysis and values-at-risk mapping
- Integration with national datasets for fuels, topography, and historical fire occurrences

IFTDSS supports collaborative planning across agencies by offering a centralized, science-based decision-support tool that streamlines the complex processes involved in wildland fire and fuel treatment planning.

5.1.2 Source of CWiRRZ Data (Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Zones)

CWiRRZ data is derived from a combination of national and regional geospatial datasets processed through wildfire risk modeling platforms, such as IFTDSS and the Wildfire Risk to Communities project. The underlying data sources typically include:

- LANDFIRE vegetation and fuels datasets
- Fire occurrence and behavior modeling outputs
- Community asset and structure density information
- Topography, climate, and historical fire data
- Inputs from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and state wildfire agencies

The data used to generate CWiRRZ maps are based on the Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment, developed collaboratively by federal, state, and local partners. This ensures that the zones reflect both fire likelihood and potential consequences to people, property, and resources. These zones are used for prioritizing risk reduction efforts, supporting CWPPs, and guiding mitigation investments.

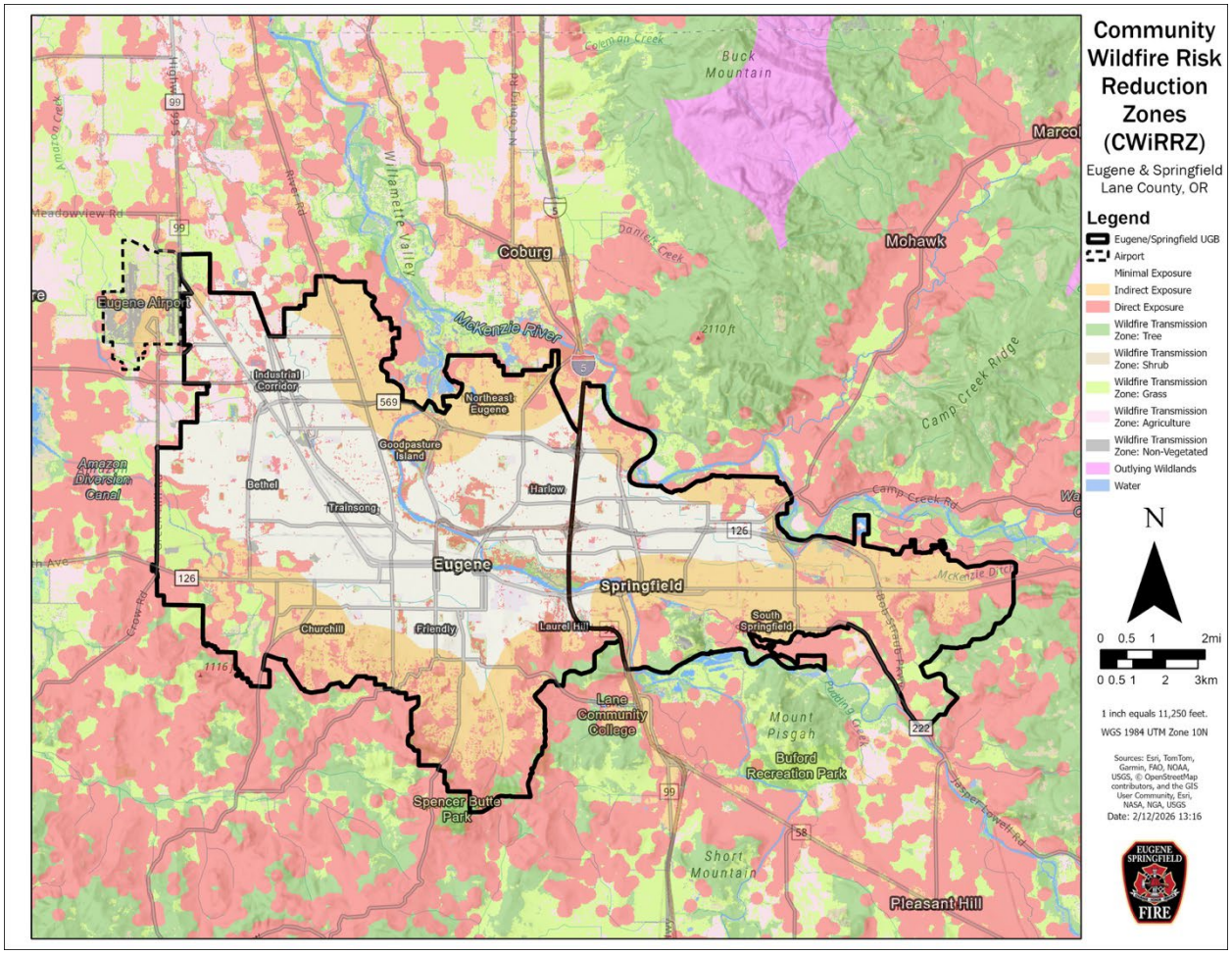


Figure 17. Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Zones

This integrated approach ensures that the wildfire risk assessment reflects both advanced scientific modeling and lived local experience, supporting effective prioritization of mitigation actions and long-term wildfire resilience planning.

5.2 Assessment Areas and Approach

The assessment encompasses the Eugene-Springfield Metro Area, which includes both incorporated city boundaries and adjacent Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) zones. The primary focus areas are locations where urban development meets or intermixes with natural vegetation. The region's elevation ranges from 400 to over 2,000 feet, with varying vegetation types and fuel loads across this topographic gradient. The planning area was mapped using GIS and includes a half-mile buffer from municipal boundaries to fully account for interface and intermix wildfire threats.

In addition to metro-focused analysis, this assessment incorporates key surrounding areas essential to Eugene-Springfield's wildfire readiness and operational capacity. These include the Coburg Hills, Mount Pisgah Area, Utility Infrastructure Corridors, and Transportation Corridors. Located outside of city limits and Eugene Springfield Fire response jurisdiction, these areas are vital transportation routes, evacuation pathways, and wildfire-prone landscapes that directly influence planning and resource deployment in the metro region.

The Eugene-Springfield Overall Wildfire Risk Map presents modified wildfire risk data derived from IFTDSS developed by the U.S. Forest Service. This dataset combines the likelihood and consequences of wildfire for all Highly Valued Mapped Resource and Assets (HVRAs) within the metro area, including:

- Critical infrastructure (e.g., power lines, substations, water treatment facilities)
- Developed recreational areas and public parks
- Housing unit density in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) zones
- Municipal watersheds and drinking water sources (e.g., McKenzie River corridor)
- Vegetation condition and forest structure
- Terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat
- Historic structures and designated cultural sites

It is important to note that site-specific conditions can vary significantly due to slope, vegetation type, and especially localized wind events, such as east wind-driven fire behavior, which is a notable risk factor in this region. Under dry, windy, and drought conditions, fire behavior is expected to intensify, with increased flame lengths, ember cast, and suppression difficulty.

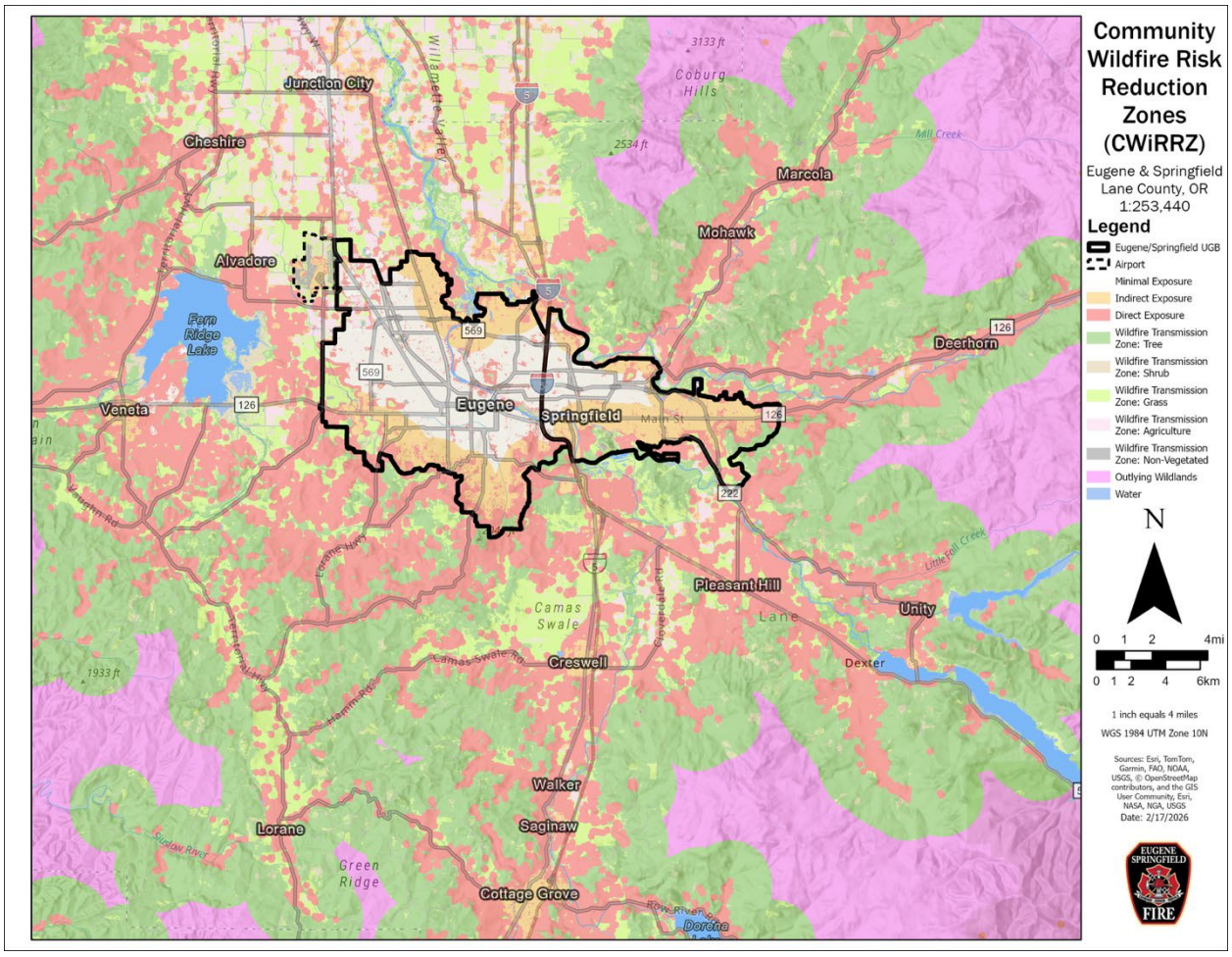


Figure 18. Overall Wildfire Risk Map

The overall wildfire risk assessment for the Eugene-Springfield area indicates that the region experiences moderate to high wildfire risk, with the greatest vulnerabilities concentrated in the surrounding the WUI, where forested slopes and dense vegetation border residential development. While portions of the urban core are categorized as low risk due to limited fuel availability and infrastructure density, adjacent hillside neighborhoods, riparian corridors, and forested outskirts face medium to high-risk conditions driven by fuel loads, topography, and seasonal weather patterns. The accompanying figure illustrates this distribution of risk, showing low-risk areas within the city center transitioning to higher-risk zones along the periphery. This assessment highlights the need for focused mitigation strategies, particularly in high-risk areas where wildfire potential overlaps with population centers and critical infrastructure.

Specific areas of risk were identified for more detailed analysis, and the map below shows the areas and associated risk rating in the context of the entire metro area. The areas identified were informed by fire personnel, local planning staff, land owners and managers, emergency managers, and community feedback.

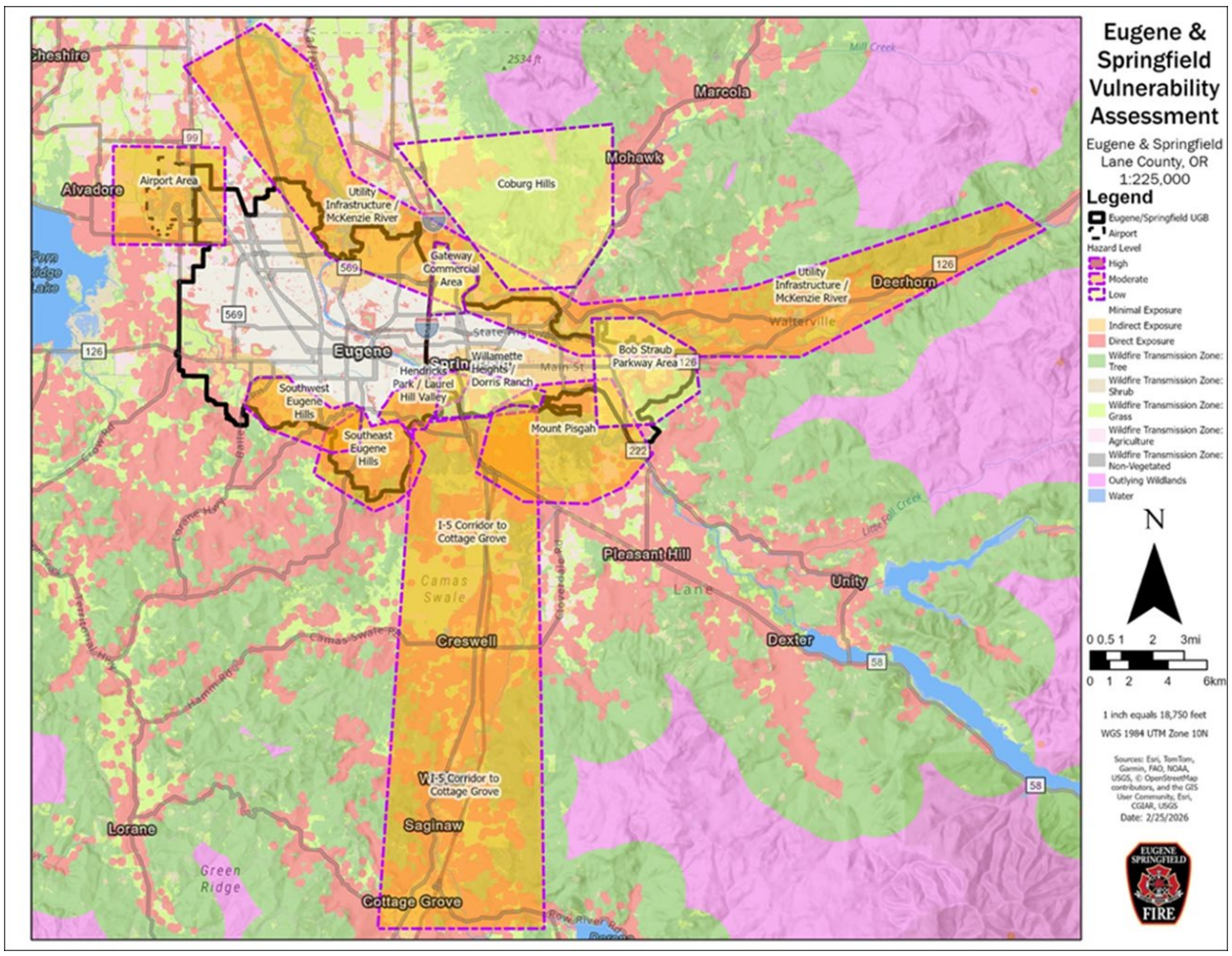


Figure 19. Risk Areas

5.4 Risk Area Discussion

To better understand the risk areas and opportunities for risk mitigation, discussion of each area is provided to supplement the mapping and table above. The discussion of each area couples feedback from stakeholders, site visit observations, and insights from mapping to inform the discussion of risk and mitigation recommendations. The mapping of areas is not intended to be parcel specific, and is not intended to limit cross-ownership mitigation efforts. Additionally, the mapped areas are intended to help focus in on specific risk areas, but do not limit efforts where other community risk is identified even when not included in a risk area.

Coburg Hills Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

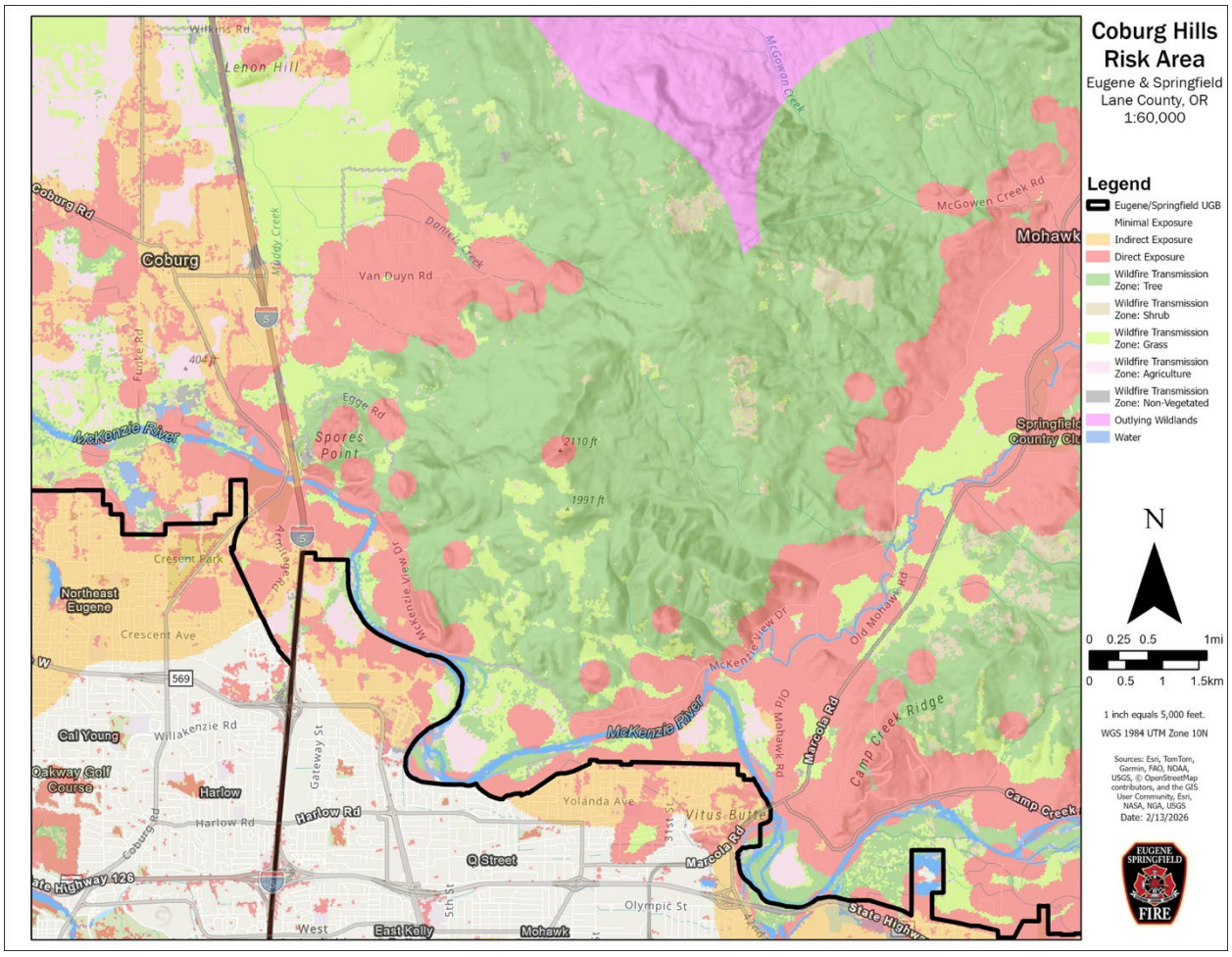


Figure 20. Coburg Hills Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

The Coburg Hills area was identified due to its location at the interface between urban development and forested hillsides in the northern portion of the planning area. Portions of the area are within the jurisdiction of Eugene-Springfield Fire while some portions of the area are under surrounding protection agencies. Given the risk to the metro area, consideration of this area is highlighted to prompt collaboration to mitigate risks.

The area evaluated stretches from the northeast edge of the Eugene Springfield Area toward the City of Coburg, this area includes a patchwork of residential parcels, agricultural lands, and dense natural vegetation, forming a transitional zone where wildfire risk is significantly elevated. The topography of the Coburg Hills features steep slopes and wooded ridgelines that can channel and intensify fire behavior, particularly during wind events. Many homes in this fringe zone are surrounded by unmanaged fuels or have limited defensible space, and access may be restricted to narrow, private roads or dead-end driveway conditions that complicate both fire suppression and

evacuation. As urban development continues to move northward, more structures are being introduced into these hazardous landscapes, increasing exposure and strain on emergency response resources. Additionally, this area supports vital transportation and utility infrastructure and serves as a northern gateway into the metro area, meaning that fire in this region could have cascading effects on regional mobility and public safety.

Mitigation

Fuels Treatments

Fuels treatments in this area are recommended for the creation of fuel breaks that span multi-property ownership along roadways and around areas with structures. Treatment of larger areas is recommended where projects can increase firefighting access or create fuel breaks along strategic areas that could be used in the event of a fire in this area. Development of treatment plans for such areas should be done with the fire departments responsible for response in this area. Methods recommended include mechanical thinning of ladder fuels, selective removal of small-diameter trees, and prescribed fire where feasible and ecologically appropriate

Ingress and Egress

Reducing fuels loads along roadways in this area is recommended to help maintain use of roadways for response and evacuation. At the time of development, or as retro active funding becomes available improvements of roadways for increased ingress and egress should occur in this area.

Defensible Space/ Structure Hardening

Near homes, focus on creating defensible space out to 100 feet where feasible and encouraging home hardening is recommended given limited access and water resources for firefighting in this area.

Response Capacity/Capabilities

Continued collaboration between Eugene Springfield Fire and adjacent fire agencies is key in this area given the risk it poses. As development occurs, ongoing discussion around response capacity and capabilities should continue to ensure that unmitigated risk is not added to the area. Additionally, considering the need for mutual aid or sheltering resources if a large fire occurred in this area remain areas where multi-jurisdictional conversations are recommended.

Airport Area Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

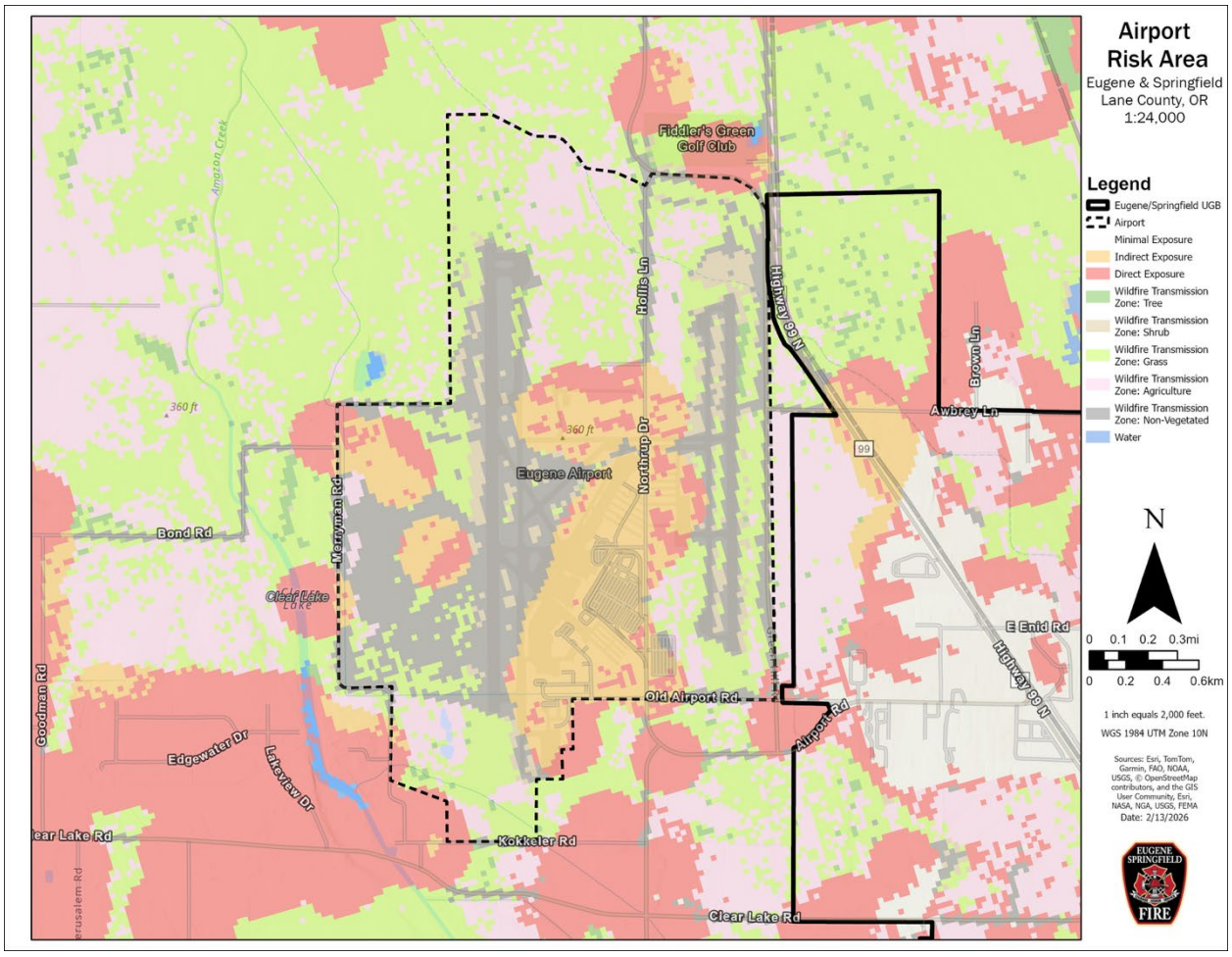


Figure 21. Airport Area Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

The Airport Area is a moderate concern in the Eugene–Springfield CWPP due to its exposure to open grasslands, transportation corridors, and high levels of human activity. While the Eugene Airport itself is a critical regional asset with limited structural vulnerability, the surrounding landscape includes unmanaged vegetation, vacant fields, and roadways that could serve as ignition sources, particularly during the dry season. The combination of dry grass, aircraft operations, and frequent vehicular traffic increases the likelihood of accidental ignitions. In addition, the airport area is adjacent to utility corridors and rural residential zones that could be impacted by a fast-moving grass or brush fire. Mitigation actions should focus on regular vegetation management near runways and transportation routes, maintenance of fire breaks, coordination with airport fire services, and ensuring emergency access routes are clearly established and maintained.

Mitigation

Fuels Treatments

With the fuel type around the airport being grasses, mowing or prescribed fire pre-fire season present the best options for mitigation given the need for annual maintenance. Establishing and maintaining a 30-100 foot area around airport infrastructure and key transportation routes is recommended to reduce ignition potential and provide improved access for fire response. Additional treatments to remove vegetation along utility rights-of-way, and undeveloped parcels boarding residential and commercial zones is also recommended where vegetation is dense or near structures or utilities.

Ingress and Egress

Roadways in this area do not present any direct challenges for evacuation or suppression response. It is noted that Highway 99 N is a transportation corridor and efforts to ensure it remains open and available should be taken.

Defensible Space/ Structure Hardening

Defensible space and structural hardening are most relevant to residential structures near this area. With respect to airport structures, management of flashy fuels and vegetation near structures should be ongoing with the goal of keeping areas near vulnerable portions of the buildings clear of such fuels.

Response Capacity/Capabilities

Continued collaboration between Eugene Springfield Fire and adjacent fire agencies is key in this area given the potential for multi-agency response. With the Airport serving as a transportation hub, ongoing training for responders stationed at the Airport should be prioritized to ensure readiness to respond to unique hazards or support operations if a major regional wildfire occurred and the Airport was in use for air asset support.

Bob Straub Parkway/Thurston Hills Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

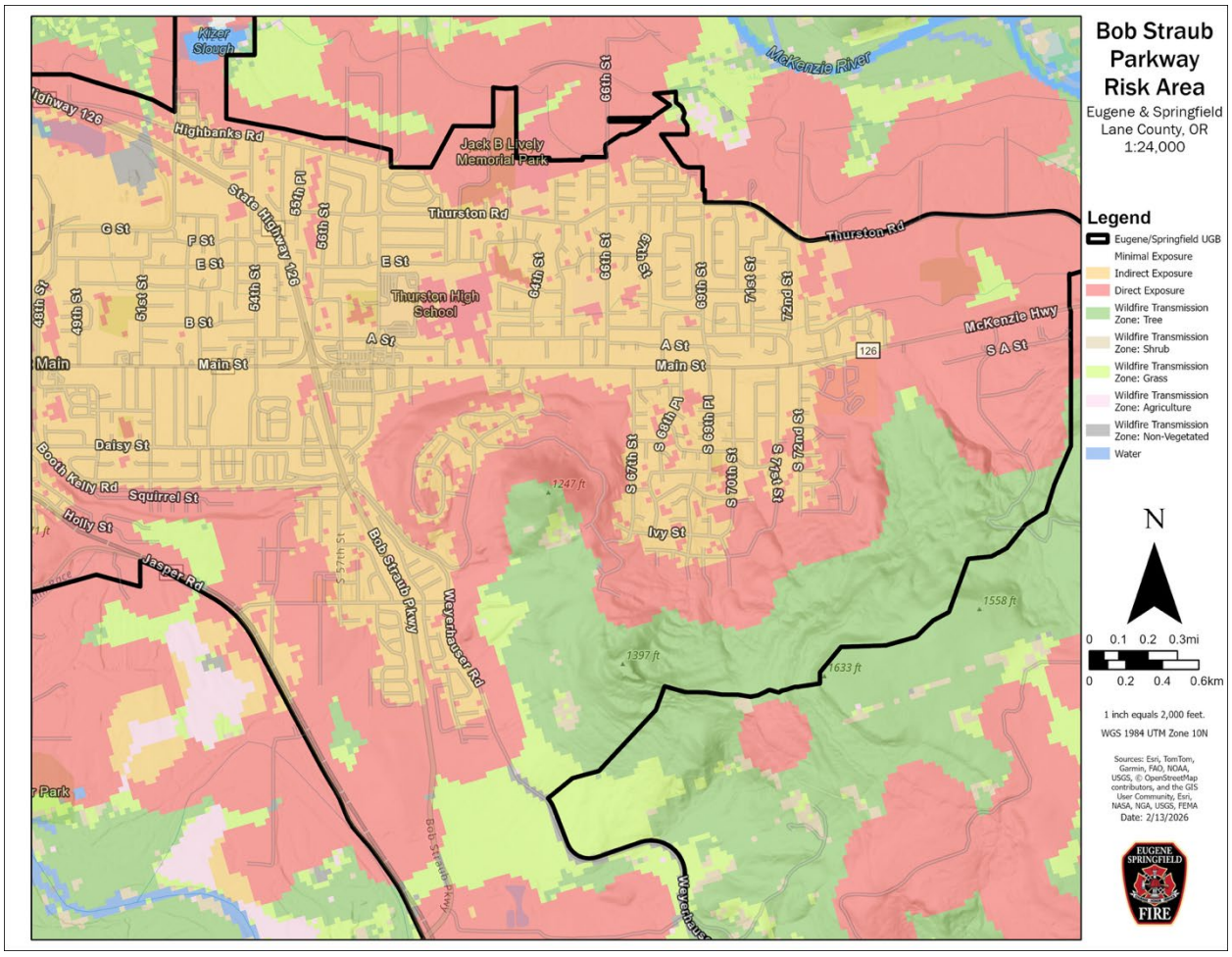


Figure 22. Bob Straub Parkway/Thurston Hills Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

The Bob Straub Parkway Area is an area of concern in the Eugene–Springfield CWPP due to its location along the urban edge and proximity to forested foothills in southeast Springfield. This interface zone includes residential neighborhoods adjacent to undeveloped, vegetated areas that can act as fuel during wildfire events. While the community is relatively new and features more modern infrastructure, the proximity of homes to unmanaged vegetation, combined with limited buffer zones, creates a heightened risk of wildfire spread into developed areas. Additionally, prevailing winds from the east can accelerate fire movement toward residential zones during extreme weather conditions. Mitigation priorities for this area should include establishing and maintaining defensible space around homes, creating fuel breaks between developments and natural areas, and promoting homeowner awareness and preparedness through targeted outreach and community programs.

Mitigation

Fuels Treatments

Large areas of undeveloped land, and land in public ownership are adjacent to residential areas. Focus on fuel treatments that span multiple property ownership and those that create strategic fuel breaks that could be used for firefighting are recommended. Methods recommended include mechanical thinning of ladder fuels, selective removal of small-diameter trees, and prescribed fire where feasible and ecologically appropriate. Given the steep nature of some of this area, hand crews may also provide a feasible option for some strategic fuel treatments where smaller areas may be beneficial for risk reduction.

Ingress and Egress

As development continues in this area, efforts to ensure street connectivity for evacuation and firefighting response should be prioritized. Likewise, if development continues into steeper areas, assessment of street grade to ensure access for responders should also be prioritized.

Defensible Space/ Structure Hardening

Given the amount of residential development, this area should have significant focus on defensible space and hardening of structures. Annual cleanup days, dumpster or chipper programs, and grants to fund work around residences should all be focuses. Additionally, education on evacuation, go-bags, and other preparedness efforts should be undertaken to ensure readiness of community members. Materials on home hardening and defensible space should also be provided at the time of development to allow for proactive measures in this area, even if not required by codes.

Response Capacity/Capabilities

Continued collaboration between Eugene Springfield Fire and adjacent fire agencies is key in this area given the risk it poses. As development occurs, ongoing discussion around response capacity and capabilities should continue to ensure that unmitigated risk is not added to the area. Additionally, as the area grows assessment of water supply for firefighting should be included in expansion and infrastructure to support access and water supply should be built.

Gateway Commercial Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

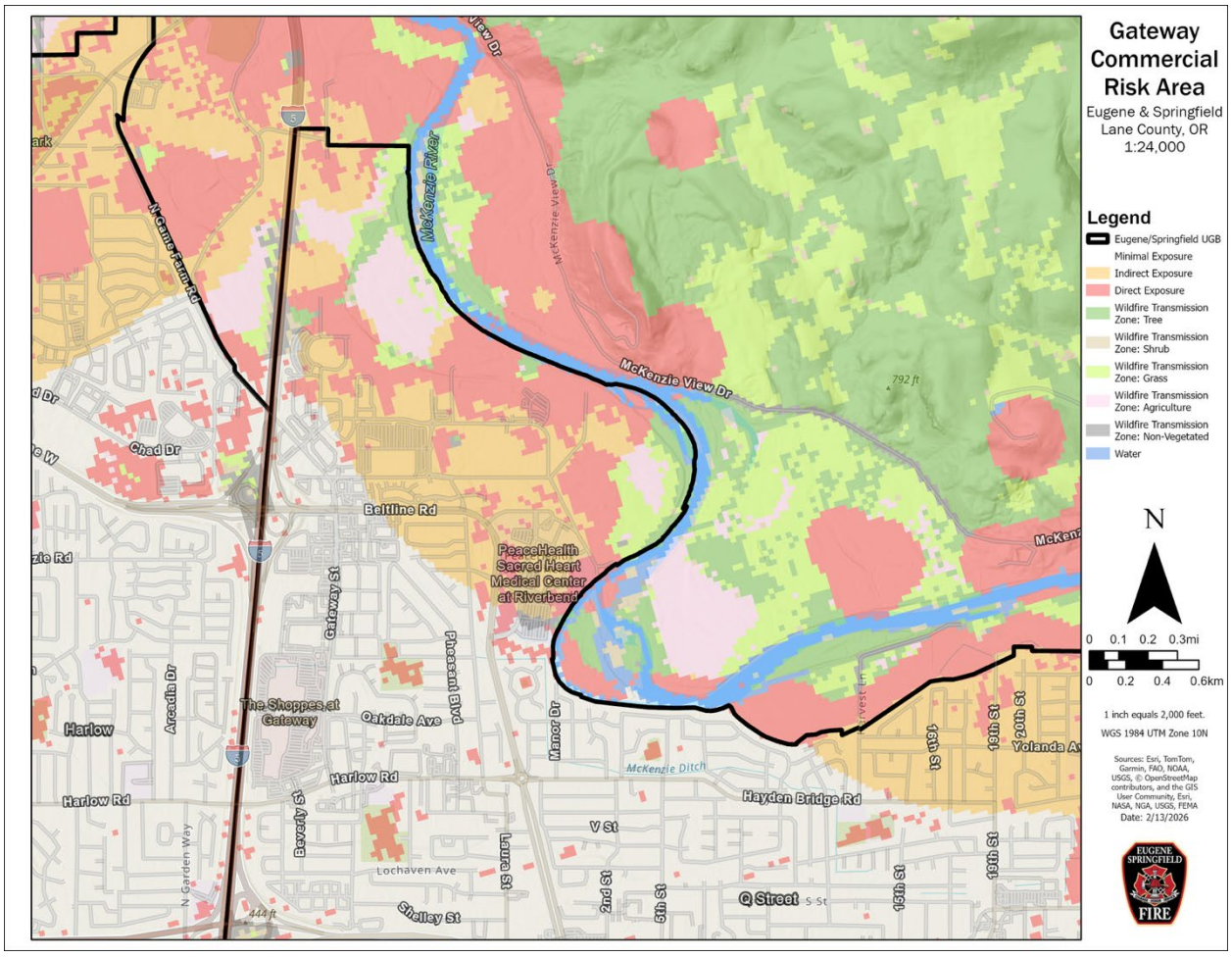


Figure 23. Gateway Commercial Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

The Gateway Commercial Area in north Springfield is included in the Eugene-Springfield CWPP due to its strategic infrastructure, proximity to WUI zones, and critical role in regional emergency response and economic continuity. While not as heavily vegetated as other high-risk areas, Gateway's importance lies in its location at a major transportation and utility hub, bordering I-5, the Beltline, and key commercial corridors. It is adjacent to more fire-prone residential neighborhoods and natural areas such as the McKenzie River corridor and northern Springfield uplands. The area contains critical infrastructure, including industrial facilities, power substations, major employers, and distribution centers, all of which require protection and operational continuity during wildfire emergencies. In a wildfire scenario, Gateway could serve as a staging area, evacuation support zone, or emergency sheltering node, depending on the fire's location and severity. Additionally, smoke and ember exposure from adjacent vegetated areas could affect worker safety, facility operations, and evacuation logistics. Given its role as a regional economic driver and lifeline for services and goods, the Gateway

Commercial Area is prioritized in the CWPP for continuity planning, evacuation coordination, and risk communication strategies, ensuring it remains functional and protected during wildfire events that impact the greater Eugene-Springfield region.

Mitigation

Fuels Treatments

The fuel treatment proposal for this area focuses on aggressive vegetation management across vacant lots, utility easements, and along rail and road corridors. This includes mowing grass, removing invasive brushes, and trimming or removing trees in proximity to buildings and infrastructure.

Ingress and Egress

Given large transportation routes in this area, access for firefighting and route options for evacuation exist. Consideration should be given to preplanning routing for evacuation in this area if a large wildfire were to occur.

Defensible Space/ Structure Hardening

This area has a mix of commercial and residential development. For residential development efforts to increase defensible space and harden structures should focus on the neighborhoods to the north abutting vegetation. For commercial areas, focus on plantings that are non-flammable should be emphasized. Additionally, ensuring that plantings do not obscure fire hydrants or fire department connections should be monitored with regular fire inspections.

Response Capacity/Capabilities

This area is relatively well served from a response perspective. However, due to the large size of many buildings, hospital facilities, and critical utilities in this area focus should be on pre-planning and continued area familiarization for firefighting resources.

Utility Infrastructure / McKenzie River Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

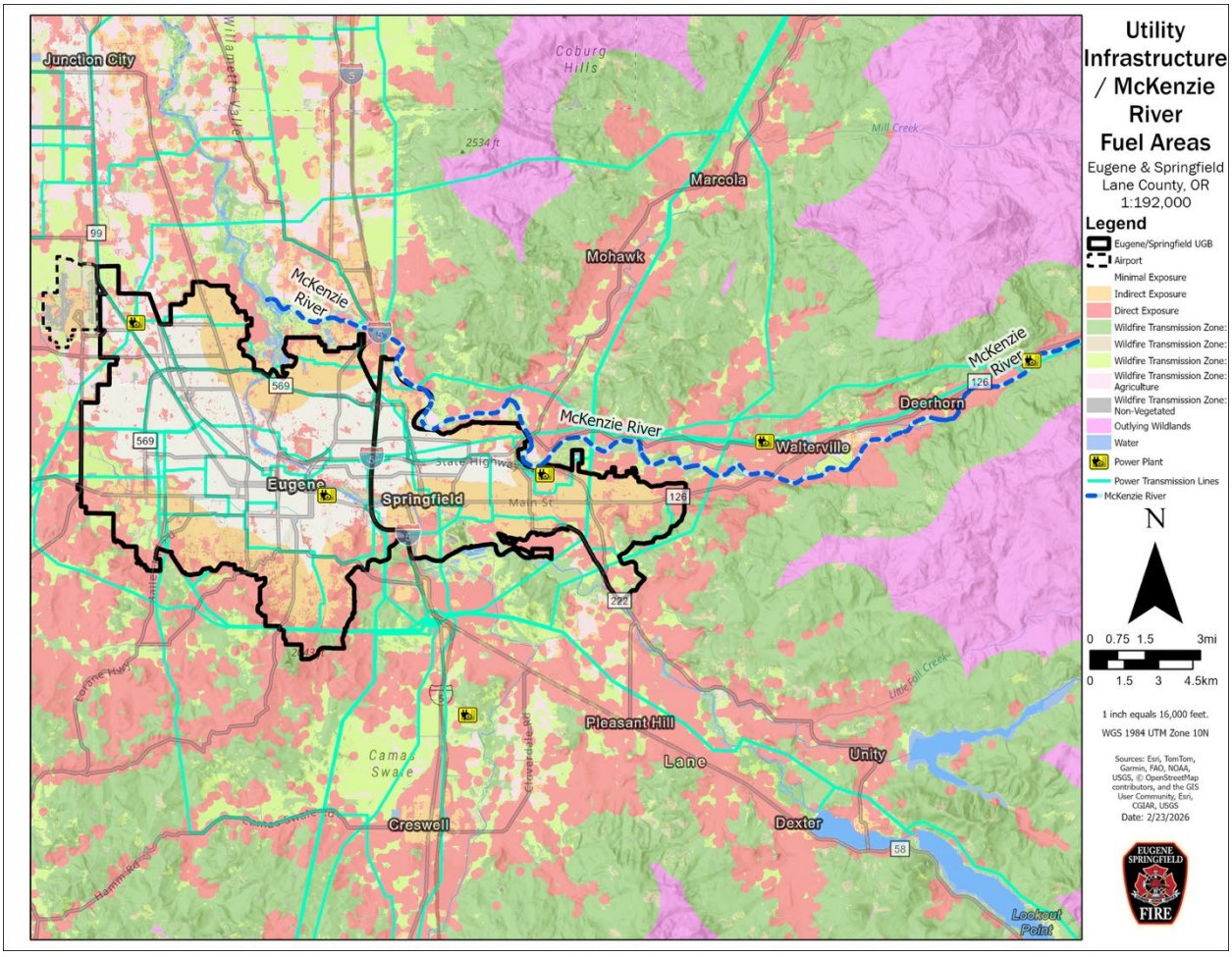


Figure 24. Utility Infrastructure/ Mckenzie River Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

The McKenzie River Corridor is a critical area of concern in the Eugene-Springfield CWPP due to its extensive WUI, history of catastrophic wildfire, and vital role as a transportation, utility, and water supply corridor for the region. This stretch of forested landscape extends east of Springfield and includes a mix of rural communities, recreation areas, public lands, and private properties, many of which are directly adjacent to dense vegetation and steep, fire-prone terrain. The area was profoundly impacted by the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, which burned over 170,000 acres and caused widespread damage to homes, infrastructure, and natural resources. The corridor's geography and alignment with prevailing wind patterns make it highly susceptible to fast-moving wildfires that can threaten downstream communities, including the eastern edge of Springfield. The McKenzie River Corridor also contains essential infrastructure such as EWEB facilities, power transmission lines, and drinking water sources, all of which require protection and continuity planning. Given its ecological significance, vulnerability, and connectivity to the Eugene-Springfield metro area, the corridor

remains a high-priority focus for fuel reduction, evacuation route planning, post-fire restoration, and community preparedness efforts.

Mitigation

The risk area identified sits outside of jurisdictional authority for this CWPP. However, it is identified as a risk given the potential impacts to the metro area. Collaboration with County partners offers an opportunity to plan for mutual aid, sheltering needs, and smoke incursion in the metro area. Where land ownership extends from the metro area into this corridor, efforts to encourage landscape scale treatments should be undertaken.

I-5 Corridor to Cottage Grove Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

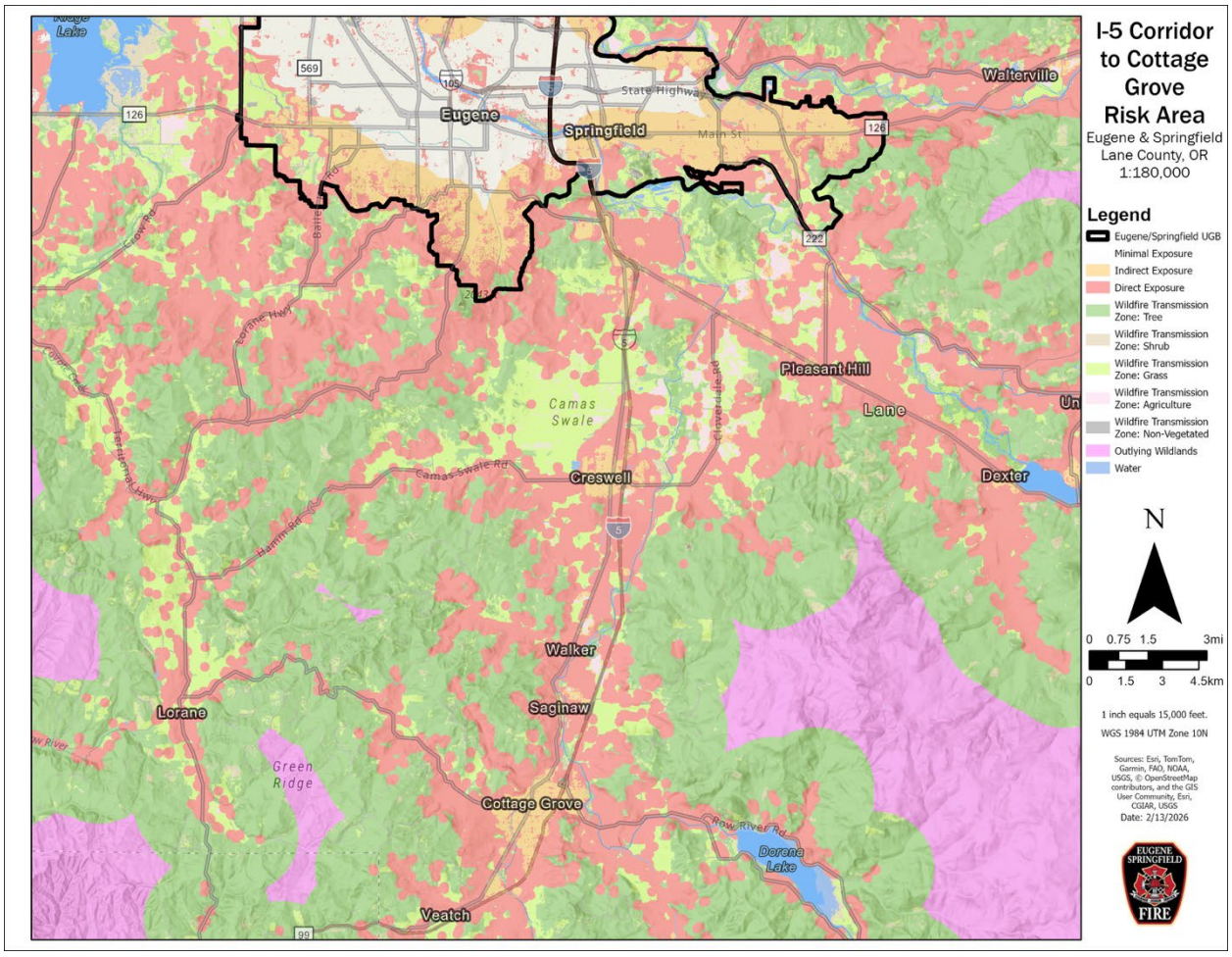


Figure 25. I-5 Corridor to Cottage Grove Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

Interstate 5 to Cottage Grove, is included in the Eugene-Springfield CWPP due to its strategic role in regional wildfire evacuation, transportation continuity, and emergency access. While outside the Eugene-Springfield urban boundary, this corridor functions as a critical southern gateway into Lane County and the broader metro area. It provides a vital link for the movement of people, emergency responders, and resources, particularly during wildfire events that may require large-scale evacuation or rerouting of traffic from impacted areas. The corridor is bordered by forested hills and rural development, placing it within a high-risk WUI zone. Fires in this area could quickly affect the I-5 corridor, limit north-south travel and compromising evacuation capacity for southern Lane County and beyond. Additionally, the surrounding landscape has limited redundancy in east-west travel routes, making Milepost 98 a choke point in both fire response and public evacuation scenarios. Given its importance as a transportation corridor, wildfire exposure zone, and support access point for Eugene-Springfield operations, the Milepost 98 area is prioritized for evacuation coordination, fuel break

planning, and interagency emergency preparedness efforts within the CWPP framework.

Mitigation

The risk area identified sits outside of jurisdictional authority for this CWPP. However, it is identified as a risk given the potential impacts to the metro area. Collaboration with County partners offers an opportunity to plan for mutual aid, sheltering needs, and smoke incursion in the metro area. Where land ownership extends from the metro area into this corridor, efforts to encourage landscape scale treatments should be undertaken.

This area also serves as a key transportation route, and planning for prompt reopening or route identification around an impacted area should be undertaken to minimize impacts if a fire were to occur along this corridor.

Willamette Heights / Dorris Ranch Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

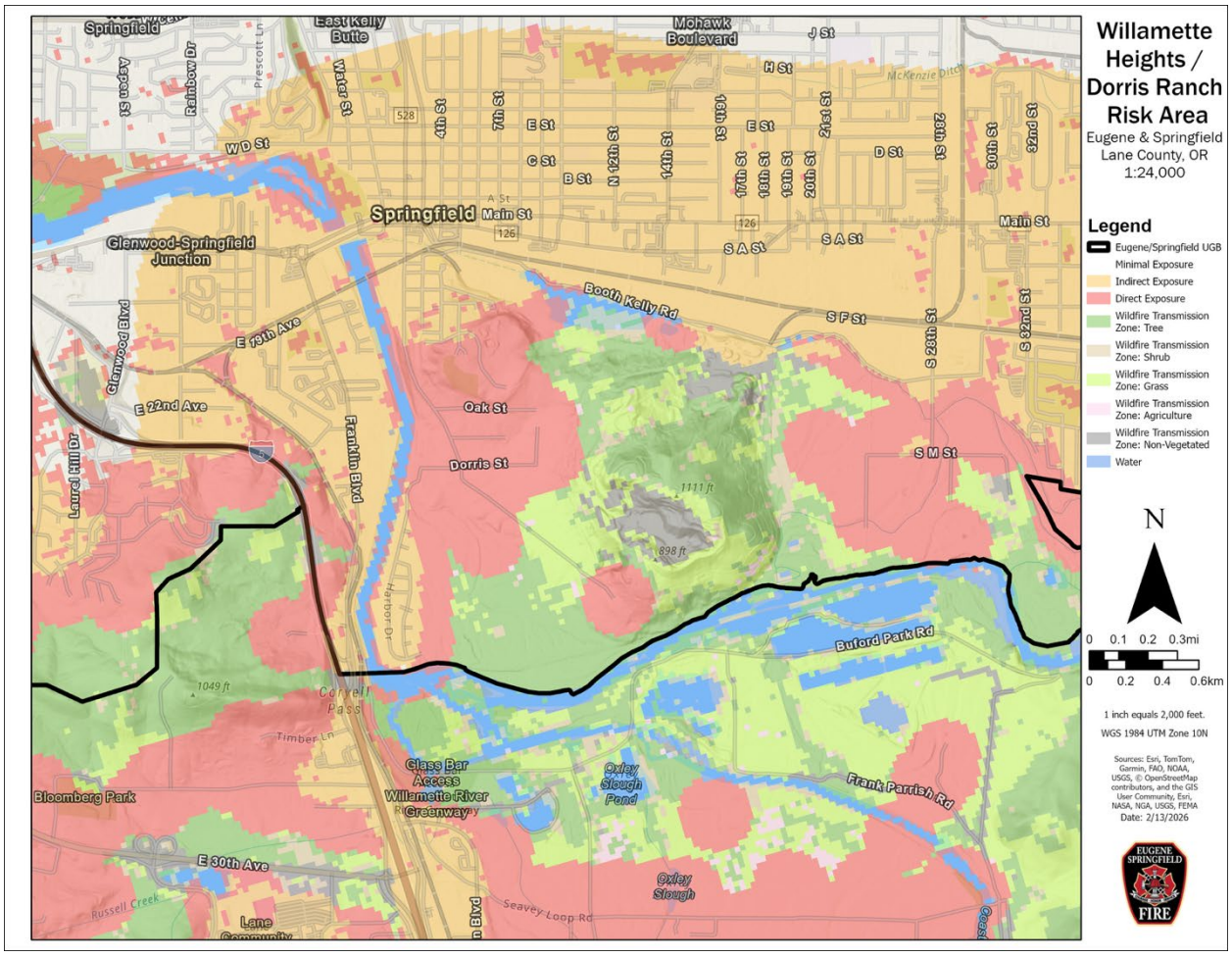


Figure 26. Willamette Heights/ Dorris Ranch Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

The Willamette Heights / Dorris Ranch area is a significant WUI zone within the Eugene city limits and is included in the CWPP due to its elevated wildfire risk, dense vegetation, and proximity to urban residential neighborhoods. Located just southeast of downtown Eugene, this area is characterized by mature forests, narrow roadways, and steep slopes, particularly around Hendricks Park, Eugene's oldest city park and a heavily wooded public space. Homes in Willamette Heights are often built adjacent to or directly within wooded areas, where fire-prone vegetation and limited defensible space present serious challenges for fire suppression and evacuation. The steep terrain can accelerate fire spread, while access routes such as Summit Avenue, Birch Lane, and portions of Fairmount Boulevard may become congested or impassable during a wildfire event. Additionally, the area's proximity to the University of Oregon campus and core urban infrastructure adds to the urgency of wildfire preparedness. Willamette Heights / Dorris Ranch are prioritized in the CWPP for fuel reduction treatments, community

education, and coordinated evacuation planning to ensure the safety of residents and protection of both built and natural assets.

Mitigation

Fuels Treatments

The fuel treatment proposal for this area includes strategic thinning of ladder fuels and removal of invasive vegetation (e.g., Himalayan blackberry) throughout the residential edges and within Dorris Ranch parklands. Shaded fuel breaks should be developed along key roadways, property lines, and around the Ranch's historic buildings. Mechanical treatments and hand thinning can reduce fuel continuity while preserving the natural and cultural integrity of the landscape. Targeted prescribed burning may also be considered in coordination with fire agencies and ecological experts to manage understory growth.

Ingress and Egress

As development continues in this area, efforts to ensure street connectivity for evacuation and firefighting response should be prioritized. Alternative access routes, multipurpose trails, or existing gravel and dirt roads should be explored for firefighting access in this area given locations with dead ends, and narrow winding streets.

Defensible Space/ Structure Hardening

Given the amount of residential development, this area should have significant focus on defensible space and hardening of structures. Annual cleanup days, dumpster or chipper programs, and grants to fund work around residences should all be focuses. Additionally, education on evacuation, go-bags, and other preparedness efforts should be undertaken to ensure readiness of community members. Materials on home hardening and defensible space should also be provided at the time of development to allow for proactive measures in this area, even if not required by codes.

Response Capacity/Capabilities

This area poses a response challenge given limited water supply to portions of this area. Ongoing training to ensure responders are aware of the need to request water tenders/support for water should occur. Additionally, efforts to obtain funding for capital improvement projects or require extension of water supply for firefighting as development occurs are worthwhile investments.

Southwest Eugene Hills Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

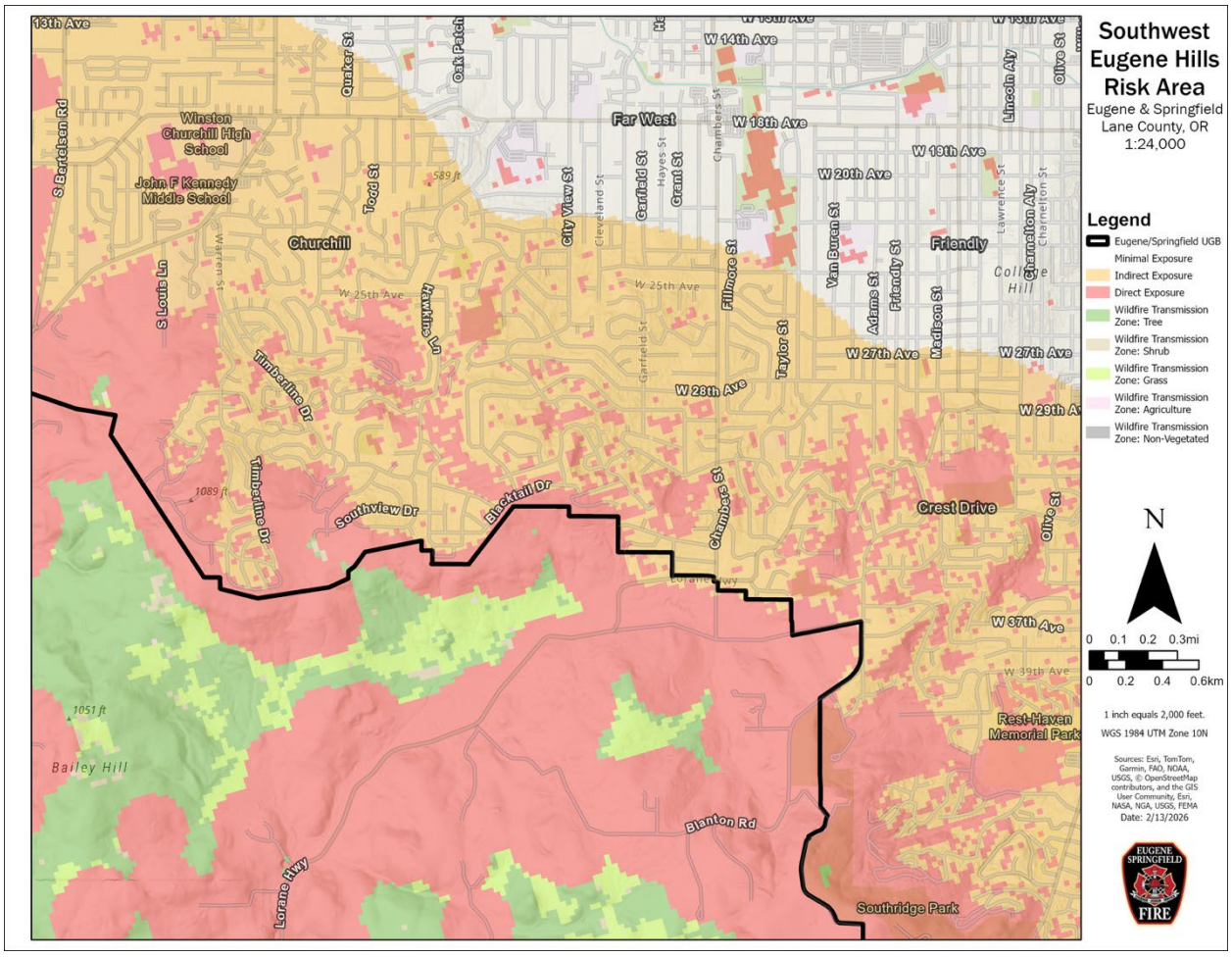


Figure 27. Southwest Eugene Hills Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

The Southwest Eugene Hills are a prominent WUI area identified in the Eugene-Springfield CWPP due to their high wildfire risk, dense vegetation, and complex terrain. This area includes residential neighborhoods such as Fox Hollow, Dillard Road, and portions of South Willamette Street, where homes are built into steep, wooded hillsides that are difficult to access and highly susceptible to wildfire spread. The topography of the Southwest Hills promotes rapid uphill fire movement, especially during wind-driven events, while the abundance of conifer and mixed hardwood fuels adds to the area's hazard level. Many properties in this region have limited defensible space and constrained evacuation routes, making early warning and preparedness essential. The area also contains ecologically significant natural areas and trail systems, including portions of the Ridgeline Trail network, which, while valuable for recreation and biodiversity, also present fuel continuity concerns. The combination of population density, access limitations, and fire-prone landscape makes the Southwest Eugene Hills

a priority for targeted fuel mitigation, community outreach, and evacuation planning within the CWPP framework.

Mitigation

Fuels Treatments

The proposed fuel treatment strategy includes the development of shaded fuel breaks along key ridgelines, access roads, and the perimeter of residential neighborhoods. Mechanical thinning and hand removal of ladder fuels should be used to reduce vegetation density, especially in areas adjacent to homes and evacuation routes. With portions of this area outside of the jurisdictional control of this CWPP, efforts to encourage and incentives cross-property and multi-jurisdictional fuel reduction should occur.

Ingress and Egress

Winding streets, dead ends, and steep grades create response and evacuation challenges for this area. Providing information on evacuation, and signage from dead end areas towards large streets is recommended. Additionally, evaluation of street connectivity should be prioritized as additional development is added.

Defensible Space/ Structure Hardening

Given the amount of residential development, this area should have significant focus on defensible space and hardening of structures. Annual cleanup days, dumpster or chipper programs, and grants to fund work around residences should all be focuses. Additionally, education on evacuation, go-bags, and other preparedness efforts should be undertaken to ensure readiness of community members. Materials on home hardening and defensible space should also be provided at the time of development to allow for proactive measures in this area.

Response Capacity/Capabilities

Continued training in this area for familiarization should be encouraged to ensure that responders are aware of street systems, and potential apparatus access limitations. Hydrants in this area are also a priority to be kept clear of vegetation and in good working condition, and routine visual inspection should occur to ensure dense vegetation does not reduce the usability of hydrants. Finally, support for use of smaller wildland type fire fighting engines should be considered in this area and training on when to deploy such engines should be ongoing.

Hendricks Park / Laurel Hill Valley Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

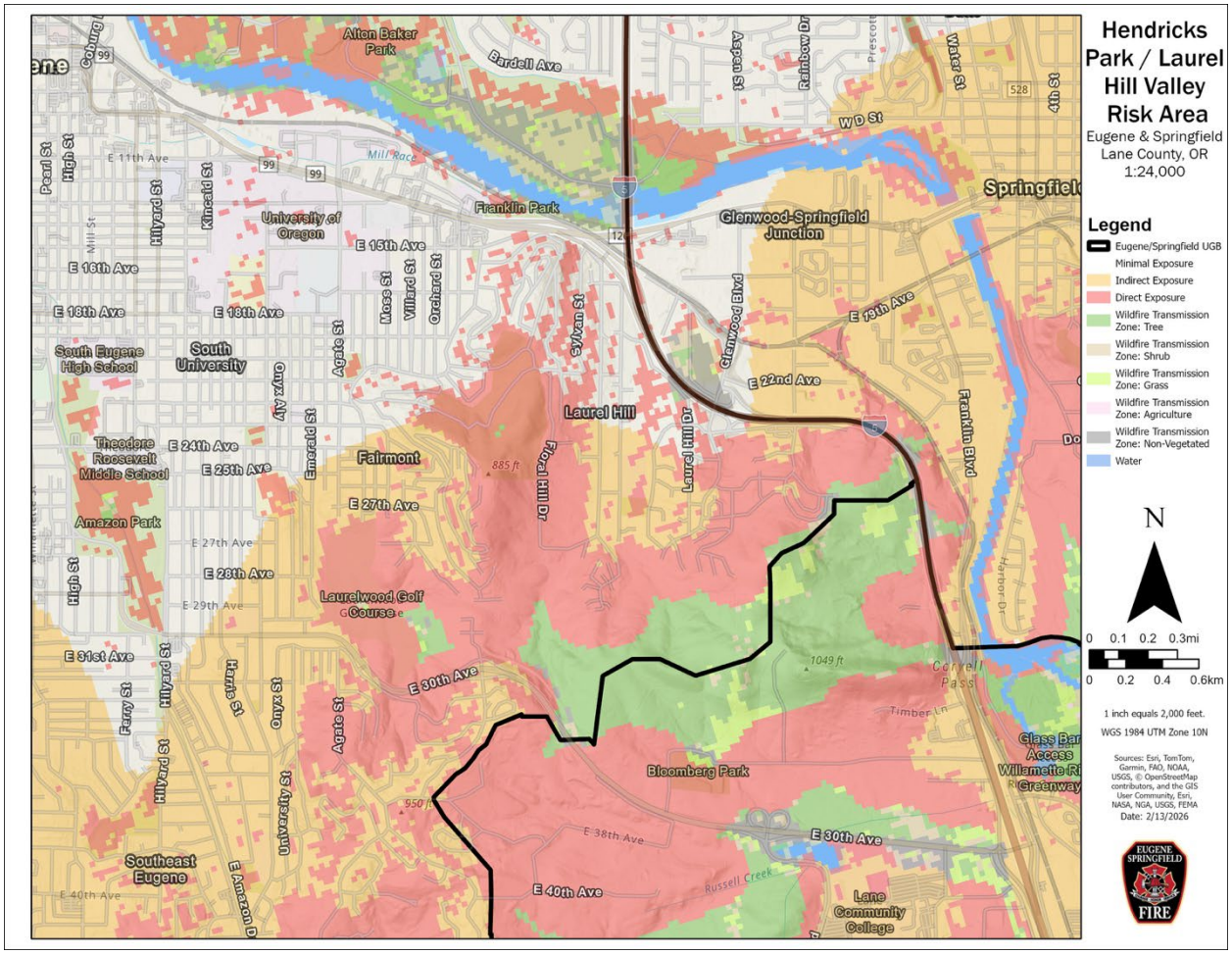


Figure 28. Hendricks Park/ Laurel Hill Valley Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

The Hendricks Park and Laurel Hill Valley area is a priority concern in the Eugene–Springfield CWPP due to its dense tree canopy, steep slopes, and proximity of residential structures to heavy fuels. As one of the city's oldest parks, Hendricks Park contains mature forest vegetation that, while ecologically valuable, presents a significant wildfire hazard, especially during prolonged dry periods. The adjacent Laurel Hill Valley neighborhood is characterized by hillside homes, many with limited defensible space and tree cover that extends directly over structures and narrow access roads. This combination of dense vegetation and difficult terrain poses serious challenges for firefighting efforts and safe evacuation. Additionally, older homes in the area may not be built to current fire-resistant standards, increasing structural vulnerability. Effective mitigation in this area should focus on targeted fuel reduction within the park and

residential zones, removal of hazard trees, home hardening retrofits, and neighborhood education on wildfire preparedness and evacuation planning.

Mitigation

Fuels Treatments

The proposed fuel treatment plan includes selective thinning of ladder fuels, brush removal, and the establishment of shaded fuel breaks along the park's perimeter and within key residential access corridors. Hazard trees near homes and roads should be assessed and removed where necessary, while maintaining the ecological integrity and recreational value of the park.

Ingress and Egress

Winding streets, dead ends, and steep grades create response and evacuation challenges for this area. Providing information on evacuation, and signage from dead end areas towards large streets is recommended. Additionally, evaluation of street connectivity should be prioritized as additional development is added.

Defensible Space/ Structure Hardening

Give the amount of residential development, this area should have significant focus on defensible space and hardening of structures. Annual cleanup days, dumpster or chipper programs, and grants to fund work around residences should all be focuses. Additionally, education on evacuation, go-bags, and other preparedness efforts should be undertaken to ensure readiness of community members. Materials on home hardening and defensible space should also be provided at the time of development to allow for proactive measures in this area.

Response Capacity/Capabilities

Continued training in this area for familiarization should be encouraged to ensure that responders are aware of street systems and potential apparatus access limitations. Hydrants in this area are also a priority to be kept clear of vegetation and in good working condition, and routine visual inspection should occur to ensure dense vegetation does not reduce the usability of hydrants. Finally, support for use of smaller wildland type fire fighting engines should be considered in this area and training on when to deploy such engines should be ongoing.

Southeast Eugene Hills Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

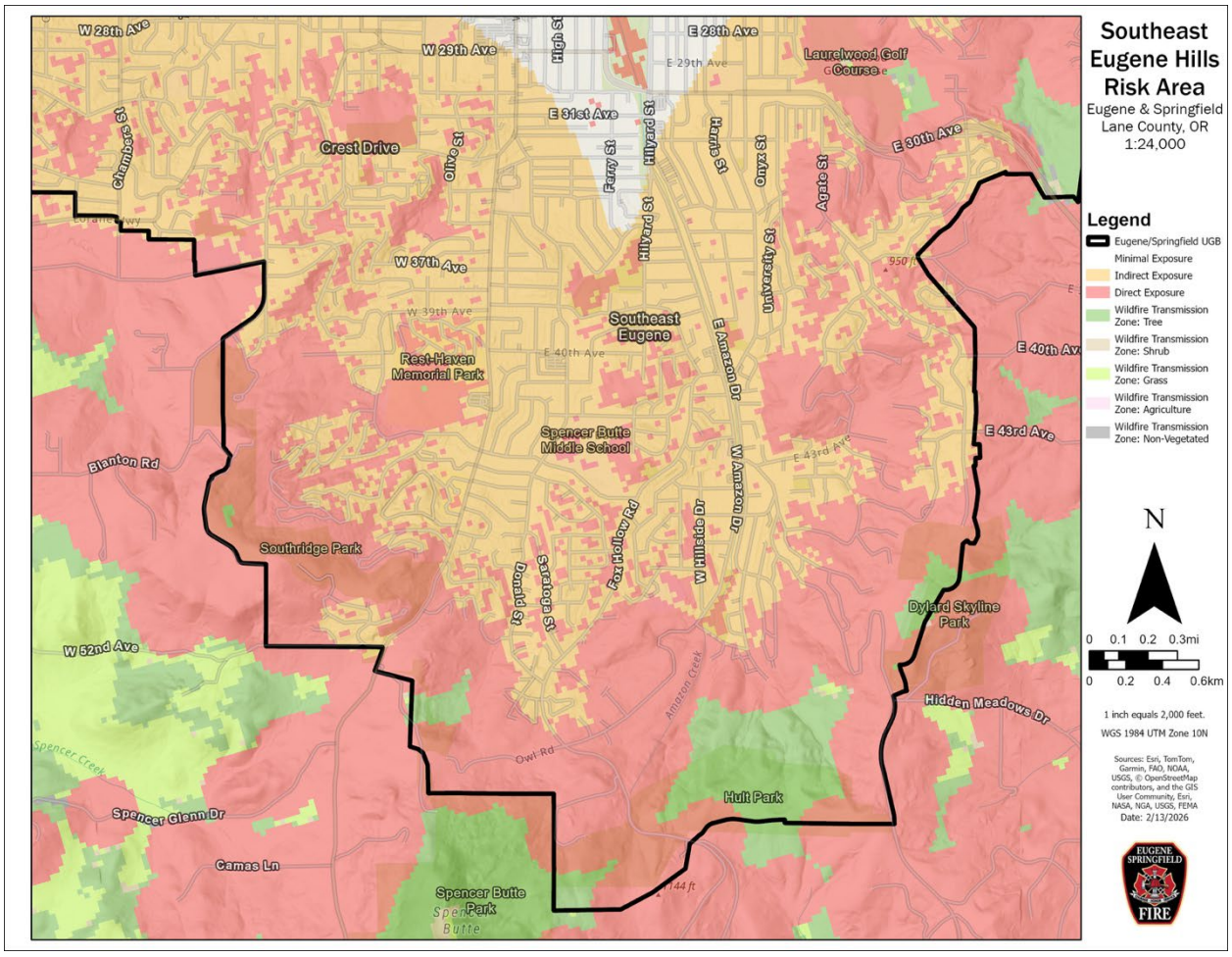


Figure 29. Southeast Eugene Hills Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

The Southeast Eugene Hills area presents a high wildfire risk within the Eugene–Springfield CWPP due to its steep terrain, dense vegetation, and concentration of homes along the wildland–urban interface. This residential zone is heavily forested, with mature trees and thick understory fuels near structures, often with minimal defensible space. Many homes are located along narrow, winding roads that limit access for emergency vehicles and complicate evacuation efforts during a wildfire event. The area's topography can accelerate fire spread, especially under dry, windy conditions. Additionally, some homes are older and may not meet modern fire-resistant building standards, increasing vulnerability. Given the combination of fuel load, structural exposure, and limited access, the Southeast Eugene Hills area requires prioritized mitigation actions such as strategic fuel breaks, home hardening programs, improved evacuation planning, and community wildfire preparedness efforts.

Mitigation

Fuels Treatments

The proposed fuel treatment plan focuses on creating strategic shaded fuel breaks along key ridgelines, public land boundaries, access routes, and residential areas to disrupt fire behavior potential and provide safer evacuation corridors. Given that land ownership in this area does not align with jurisdictional boundaries, emphasis on multi-owner and cross-jurisdictional projects will be necessary to treat meaningful areas. Mechanical thinning and hand removal of ladder fuels should be prioritized around homes and along evacuation routes to reduce fire intensity and ember exposure.

Ingress and Egress

As development continues in this area, efforts to ensure street connectivity for evacuation and firefighting response should be prioritized. Some areas have narrow, winding dead end streets, and evaluation of opportunities for capital improvements to provide connections or evacuation only routes should be considered. Signage may also present another opportunity to identify routes leading out to larger streets, especially in areas with multiple dead ends.

Defensible Space/ Structure Hardening

Given the amount of residential development, this area should have significant focus on defensible space and hardening of structures. Annual cleanup days, dumpster or chipper programs, and grants to fund work around residences should all be focuses. Additionally, education on evacuation, go-bags, and other preparedness efforts should be undertaken to ensure readiness of community members. Materials on home hardening and defensible space should also be provided at the time of development to allow for proactive measures in this area.

Response Capacity/Capabilities

Continued collaboration between Eugene Springfield Fire and adjacent fire agencies is key in this area given the risk it poses, and the abutment of wildland fuel types with urban development. As development occurs, ongoing discussion around response capacity and capabilities should continue to ensure that unmitigated risk is not added to the area. Additionally, considering the need for mutual aid or sheltering resources if a large fire occurred in this area is recommended for ongoing planning.

Mount Pisgah Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

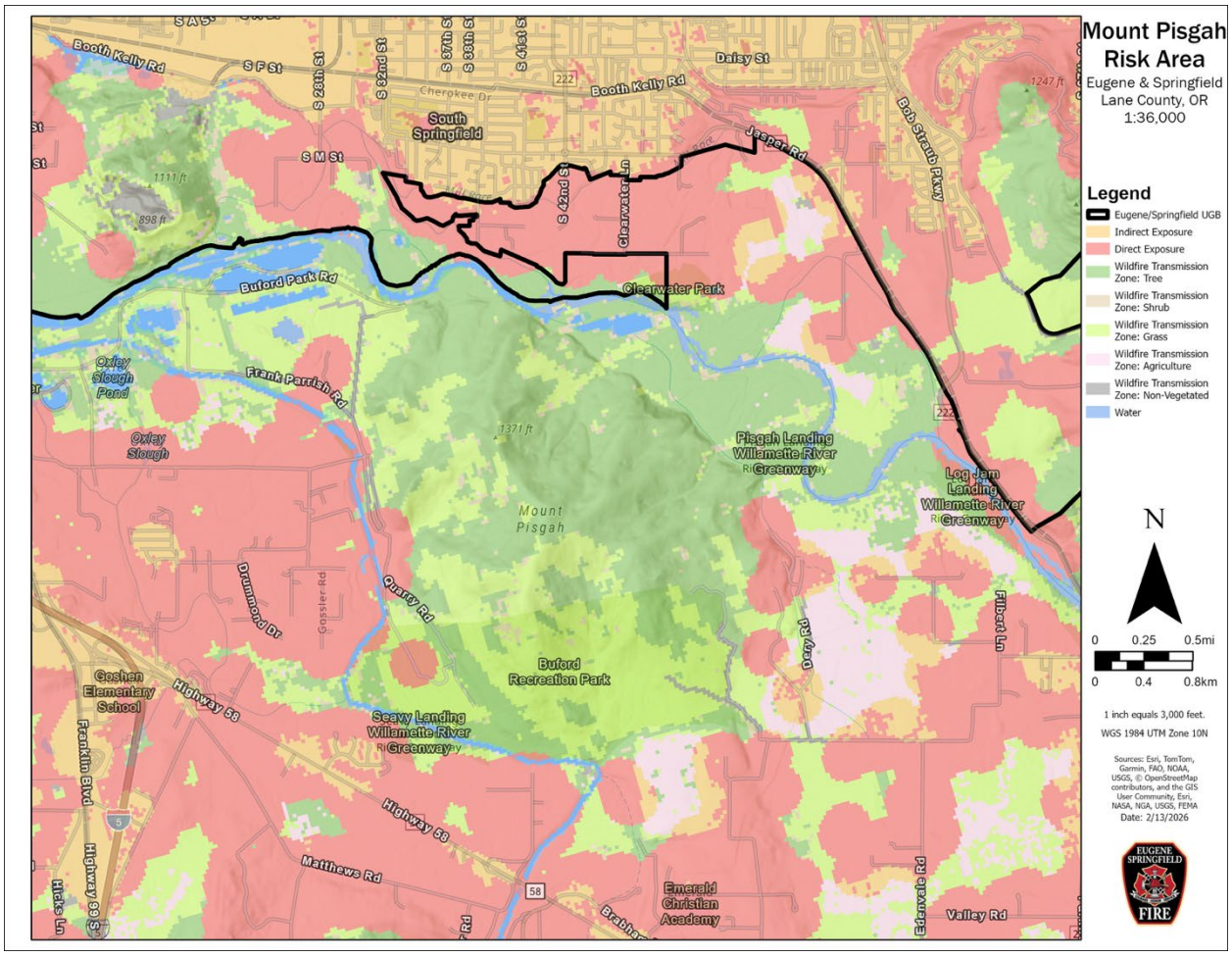


Figure 30. Mount Pisgah Risk Area and Mitigation Recommendations

Risk

Mount Pisgah is a significant area of concern in the Eugene–Springfield Community CWPP due to its location within the wildland–urban interface, the presence of dispersed rural housing, and high levels of public recreational use. The landscape consists of dry grasses, oak savannas, and forested areas that are increasingly susceptible to wildfire under hotter, drier climate conditions. Residential properties in the surrounding area often lack adequate defensible space, and narrow or limited-access roads pose challenges for emergency response and evacuation. The Mount Pisgah Arboretum and trail systems attract large numbers of visitors year-round, increasing the potential for human-caused ignitions. Taken together, these factors create a complex risk profile that requires focused mitigation, including vegetation management, public education, and improved access planning to reduce wildfire risk and enhance community safety.

Mitigation

The risk area identified sits outside of jurisdictional authority for this CWPP. However, it is identified as a risk given the potential impacts to the metro area. Unlike the corridor areas considered for impacts by this CWPP, this area sits in a centralized location with the potential to spread smoke, embers, or even fire directly into the metro area. This location and risk highlights the need to engage in discussion around fire suppression responsibility and preplanning for this area.

6: ACTION PLAN

Building on the risk discussion and mitigation strategies outlined in Section 5, this Action Plan translates those concepts into a practical roadmap for implementation. It identifies specific actions that align with the CWPP's goals and objectives, targets priority areas and vulnerabilities identified in the risk assessment, and supports coordination across agencies, jurisdictions, and property ownership. Each action item is designed to address a particular risk factor whether through fuel reduction, structural resilience, education, emergency response, or policy change while ensuring resources are directed where they will have the greatest impact. The Action Plan serves as the operational backbone of the Eugene-Springfield CWPP, guiding investments, tracking progress, and maintaining momentum toward a more wildfire-resilient community.

8.1 Goals and Objectives

The following table lists goals of this CWPP, and actions items associated with each goal. Agencies that will need to collaborate are also listed, and a priority rating of High, Medium, or Low is also provided based on the anticipated impact on wildfire risk reduction, urgency, and feasibility of a given action item. It is acknowledged that efforts will be made to start with items ranked as a High priority but reprioritization based on funding or other constraints may be necessary.

Table 6. Goals and Action Items

Number	Action Item	Lead Agency/Partner(s)	Priority
Goal 1: Protect Lives, Property, and Critical Infrastructure			
1.1	Integrate CWiRRZ data into local GIS platforms and provide education to create a shared understanding of risk reduction zones.	Eugene Springfield Fire, Partner Agency GIS Teams	High
1.2	Complete risk assessments for 100% of critical infrastructure corridors.	Eugene Springfield Fire, Utility Providers, City of Eugene, City of Springfield	High
1.3	Develop and launch a defensible space assistance program for homeowners by end of 2027.	Eugene Springfield Fire	High
1.4	Complete at least 1,000 defensible space and home hardening assessments by end of 2028.	Eugene Springfield Fire	Medium
1.5	Launch a community wildfire risk dashboard with public-facing maps and quarterly project updates.	Eugene Springfield Fire, Partner agencies with risk reduction projects,	Medium

Number	Action Item	Lead Agency/Partner(s)	Priority
		including restoration, and prescribed fire.	
1.6	Develop a process to share wildfire incidents, near misses and community risk metrics across agencies.	Eugene Springfield Fire, Oregon Department of Forestry, Adjacent Fire Departments/Fire Defense Board	Medium
1.7	Implement mitigation measures for critical infrastructure corridors.	Eugene Springfield Fire, Utility Providers, City of Eugene, City of Springfield	Medium
Goal 2: Enhance Wildfire Resilience Through Community Engagement and Education			
2.1	Conduct biannual seasonal (spring/fall) public outreach campaigns on wildfire preparedness.	Eugene Springfield Fire, City Communications Teams, Mitigation Project Partners	High
2.2	By end of 2028, offer wildfire preparedness outreach materials in Spanish.	Eugene Springfield Fire, City Communications Teams	High
2.3	By end of 2026, develop and distribute a standardized set of wildfire preparedness handouts for ESF personnel to provide during applicable service calls.	Eugene Springfield Fire	High
2.4	Establish a Neighborhood Wildfire Steward Program and train Wildfire Stewards to lead their local community wildfire preparedness efforts by end of 2028.	Eugene Springfield Fire	Medium
2.5	Develop and implement wildfire preparedness curriculum in local K–12 schools by end of 2028.	Eugene Springfield Fire, Local School Districts, City of Eugene and Springfield Emergency Management Programs	Low
2.6	Host Firewise certification workshops for HOAs and neighborhood groups, as requested.	Eugene Springfield Fire, Firewise USA®, Oregon Department of Forestry	Low
Goal 3: Reduce Hazardous Fuels and Maintain Resilient Landscapes			

Number	Action Item	Lead Agency/Partner(s)	Priority
3.1	Use CWiRRZ data and risk areas identified by this CWPP to inform prioritization of treatment areas and methods for fuel reduction projects.	Eugene Springfield Fire, Public and Private Land Owners and Managers	High
3.2	Coordinate and implement cross-jurisdictional fuel reduction projects, prioritizing areas adjacent to occupied structures and critical infrastructure in direct exposure areas.	Eugene Springfield Fire, City of Eugene Parks, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, and Private Land Owners	High
3.3	Implement fuel reduction projects on properties with over .5 acres of Grass/Shrub, Timber Understory, and Timber Litter within 50 feet of occupied structures or critical infrastructure.	Eugene Springfield Fire, City of Eugene Parks, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, and Private Land Owners	High
3.4	Implement follow up treatments for areas treated prior to development of this CWPP on properties treated for risk reduction or landscape restoration.	City of Eugene Parks, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, Eugene Springfield Fire, Public and Private Land Owners and Managers	High
3.5	Treat invasive, fire-prone vegetation (i.e. blackberry, scotch broom) within mapped risk areas, with follow-up treatment within 3 years or as recommended based on vegetation type to prevent regrowth.	City of Eugene Parks, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, Eugene Springfield Fire, Private Land Owners	High
3.6	Reduce fuels along park roads and primary trail corridors for emergency access by end of 2028.	City of Eugene Parks, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, Eugene Springfield Fire	High
3.7	Fund the development of a regional fire-adapted ecosystem strategy for the Eugene Springfield Area, coordinating with the County for areas adjacent to City limits but under County policy control.	City of Eugene Parks, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, Public Land Owners and Managers, Eugene Springfield Fire	Medium
3.8	Prioritize roadside vegetation management to create a 10-foot buffer, along Arterial and Collector Streets in areas identified as having a risk of direct exposure. Mowing of	City of Eugene Public Works, City of Springfield Public Works, Eugene Springfield Fire	Medium

Number	Action Item	Lead Agency/Partner(s)	Priority
	grass should be coupled with removal of invasive or flammable vegetation.		
3.9	Prioritize the use of fire as a treatment option to restore ecological health and reduce fuel loads.	Eugene Springfield Fire, City of Eugene Parks and Open Space, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, Private land Owners	Medium
3.10	Create a standardized permitting process, guidance documents, and interagency coordination protocols for broadcast, pile, and understory burning, as well as air curtain incineration.	Eugene Springfield Fire, Lane Regional Air Protection Agency, other regulating bodies included by existing rules and regulations.	Medium
Goal 4: Improve Emergency Response and Recovery Capabilities			
4.1	By end of 2028 designate responsibility for fire protection or create a coordination strategy for areas in, and near the Eugene Springfield Area that do not have a responsible fire agency today.	Fire Defense Board, City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Lane County, Oregon Department of Forestry	High
4.2	Create and publicize updated evacuation route maps and signage for WUI areas.	Eugene Springfield Fire, City of Eugene and Springfield Emergency Management, Public Works Departments	High
4.3	Pre-designate and equip temporary evacuation centers with defensible space and backup power.	Red Cross, Lane County Emergency Management, City of Eugene Emergency Management, City of Springfield Emergency Management, Community Partners	High
4.4	Implement a targeted regional alert and warning campaign to increase Lane Alert enrollment no later than end of 2027.	City of Eugene and Springfield Emergency Management, Eugene Springfield Fire	High
4.5	By end of 2029, establish a decision making process that incorporates weather, fuel conditions,	Eugene Springfield Fire	High

Number	Action Item	Lead Agency/Partner(s)	Priority
	ingress/egress constraints, historical fire data, and other identified factors to guide firefighting resource pre-positioning during wildfire season. If available, consider implementing software programs to aid with this.		
4.6	Build a local post-fire recovery task force and adopt a recovery framework.	Eugene and Springfield Emergency Management programs, Lane County Emergency Management, Eugene Springfield Fire	Medium
Goal 5: Strengthen Collaboration Across Jurisdictions			
5.1	Establish regular inter-agency CWPP coordination meetings and workshops with document outcomes starting by end of 2026.	Eugene Springfield Fire	High
5.2	Adopt CWPP with updates every 5 years.	Eugene Springfield Fire, City of Eugene, City of Springfield, and Oregon Department of Forestry	High
5.3	Pursue CWDG, CWRR, FEMA, OSFM, and other grant programs for mitigation projects identified by in this CWPP, the Lane County MJNHMP, or that align with one or more of the goals of this CWPP.	Eugene Springfield Fire, City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Public and Private Land Owners, Utility Providers, Oregon Department of Forestry, Fire Defense Board Member Agencies	High
5.4	Publish an annual CWPP implementation scorecard beginning at the end of 2026.	Eugene Springfield Fire, and CWPP Advisory Committee	High
5.5	Develop cross-jurisdictional data availability and sharing to improve mitigation and preparation coordination between fire agencies and land management agencies.	Eugene Springfield Fire, Oregon Department of Forestry, City of Eugene Parks and Open Space, Willamalane Parks and Recreation District	Medium
Goal 6: Support Policy Alignment and Regulatory Integration			
6.1	Include consideration of CWPP action items, and components when updating hazard mitigation plans,	City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Eugene Springfield Fire	High

Number	Action Item	Lead Agency/Partner(s)	Priority
	comprehensive plans, and other plans where action items can support policy direction.		
6.2	By end of 2029, conduct a formal evaluation of OSFM model code and other wildfire resilience standards, engage local stakeholders through a documented outreach process, and develop jurisdiction-specific recommendations and an implementation strategy for potential incorporation into local development codes.	Eugene Springfield Fire	High
6.3	By end of 2027, implement a standardized process to distribute defensible space and home hardening guidance to all applicable residential permit applicants.	Eugene Springfield Fire	High
6.4	By end of 2027, create a pamphlet and digital content explaining recommended wildfire mitigation upgrades, and available incentives.	Eugene Springfield Fire	High
6.5	By end of 2029, develop and present code, policy, or program options for integrating defensible space and home hardening measures into new construction in identified high-risk areas, including defined implementation pathways and stakeholder input.	Eugene Springfield Fire	Medium

8.2 Action Items and Implementation

The Action Items are intended to help the Eugene-Springfield area move towards the goals established by this CWPP. The items are intended to be living, and as new data, partner agencies, and other factors arise, flexibility in specifics on action items should be applied. Tracking of progress on action items should occur regularly (Action item 5.5), and adjustments to work towards CWPP goals should be prioritized. This work will be most successful with collaboration, and ongoing stakeholder engagement will be necessary to achieve measurable outcomes.

7: PLAN IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE

This CWPP is intended to be a living document, maintaining relevance as new data and stakeholders emerge. This section creates a framework for oversight, and review of this plan to ensure relevant and ongoing efforts while also preparing for the 5 year update.

9.1 Eugene Springfield Fire and Advisory Committee

Action Item 5.5 assigns responsibility to Eugene Springfield Fire and the Advisory Committee for publishing a scorecard on this CWPP. Eugene Springfield Fire will serve as the lead agency for maintaining and coordinating efforts related to the CWPP, and will convene an Advisory Committee made up of key stakeholders. Members may be appointed by participating agencies, selected based on subject-matter expertise, or invited to represent affected communities and partner organizations.

The Advisory Committee will be responsible for the following:

- Evaluating progress on current Action Items toward plan goals
- Providing a venue for collaboration on multi-agency or multi-party grant applications
- Identifying and assessing new or treated risks
- Evaluating and tracking progress toward goals
- Identifying needed map updates
- Adopting new or revised priorities
- Identifying community outreach or fuel-treatment projects
- Discussing grant opportunities and determining project eligibility

9.3 Roles and Responsibilities

Effective implementation of the Eugene-Springfield CWPP relies on strong partnerships and clearly defines responsibilities among local, state, federal, and community stakeholders. This table outlines the lead agencies and supporting organizations responsible for advancing key elements of the plan. Each entity plays a critical role in wildfire mitigation, response planning, public education, infrastructure protection, and long-term resilience building. By delineating roles and fostering collaboration, the CWPP promotes a coordinated, region-wide approach to reducing wildfire risk and protecting the people, property, and natural resources of the Eugene-Springfield Metro area.

Table 7. CWPP Roles and Responsibilities Table

Partner / Agency	Primary Roles and Responsibilities
Eugene Springfield Fire Department	• Lead for management of the CWPP and convener of Advisory Committee • Integrate CWPP priorities into response planning • Support structural vulnerability assessments

Partner / Agency	Primary Roles and Responsibilities
ODF	• Coordinate fuel reduction projects • Provide technical expertise for risk analysis and landscape resilience
BLM	• Collaborate on fuels treatment on federally managed lands • Share geospatial data and wildfire modeling support
OSFM	• Provide State level support to local fire departments, and technical expertise on wildfire risk reduction
Lane County Emergency Management	• Consider annex in context of Countywide CWPP • Coordinate with City Emergency Management Programs on evacuation, sheltering, and other efforts to mitigate impacts from wildfire
City Planning & Building Departments	• Consider CWPP findings when updating comprehensive plans and development codes • Promote wildfire-resilient building practices
Utility Providers (e.g., EWEB, SUB, Rainbow)	• Protect energy and water infrastructure in high-risk areas • Support hazard mitigation planning for critical facilities
Parks & Open Space Departments/Districts	• Implement vegetation management and fuels reduction in urban green spaces • Coordinate wildfire risk mitigation in public parks
CWPP Advisory Committee	• Oversee plan implementation and updates • Track progress of action items and reporting • Facilitate cross-jurisdictional collaboration
City Emergency Management Programs	• Amplify/share messaging around preparedness and prevention • Plan for evacuation, sheltering, and mitigation of impacts from wildfire

9.4 Monitoring and Reporting

Progress on the Eugene-Springfield CWPP will be evaluated through a structured monitoring and reporting process tied directly to measurable performance indicators. These indicators—such as acres treated, homes assessed, outreach events held, and funding secured—are aligned with each major action area in the plan. The CWPP Advisory Committee will be responsible for compiling and publishing an Annual Implementation Report, which will include:

- A summary of complete actions and measurable outcomes,
- Identification of barriers to implementation and proposed solutions,

- Updates to wildfire risk assessments or priority areas based on new data or wildfire events, and
- Recommended actions for the following year.

This approach ensures that the CWPP remains a dynamic, actionable document that evolves with changing conditions and continues to guide community-wide wildfire resilience efforts.

Glossary of Acronyms

Title	Definition
AVHRR	Advanced Very High-Resolution Radiometer
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
BRIC	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch
CWDG	Community Wildfire Defense Grant
CWiRRZ	Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Zones
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
DA	Data Acquisition
ERC	Energy Release Component
EWEB	Eugene Water and Electric Board
EMPG	Emergency Management Performance Grant
FBFM40	40 Scott and Burgan Fire Behavior Fuel Model
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FLAME	Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act
FMAG	Fire Management Assistance Grants
FP&S	Fire Prevention and Safety
FRI	Fire Return Interval
GIS	Geographic Information System
HFI	Healthy Forests Initiative
HFRA	Healthy Forests Restoration Act
HIZ	Home Ignition Zone
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
HMGP-PF	Post Fire Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
HOAs	Homeowner Associations
HVRA	High Value Mapped Resource Assets
IFTDSS	Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System
LRAPA	Lane Regional Air Protection Agency
LTD	Lane Transit District
NDVI	Normalized Different Vegetation Index
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act

Title	Definition
NFIRS	National Fire Incident Reporting System
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWSQPE	National Weather Service Quantitative Precipitation Estimates
ODF	Oregon Department of Forestry
OSU	Oregon State University
OSFM	Oregon State Fire Marshal
OWRE	Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer
RG	Relative Greenness
SB	Senate Bill
UGB	Urban Growth Boundary
USACE	United States Army Corp of Engineers
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WFMRD&A	Wildland Fire Management Research, Development, and Application Program
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface

APPENDIX A: CWPP Planning Process and Engagement Summary

Below are the eleven (11) steps that are outlined to help guide Eugene-Springfield through the planning process:

- **Step One: Form a Collaborative Planning Team.** Identifying key stakeholders, such as local agencies, fire departments, emergency services, community leaders, and residents. It is essential to establish clear roles and responsibilities for each participant to ensure effective communication and collaboration throughout the planning process. This will help create a unified effort to address wildfire risks and enhance community preparedness.
- **Step Two: Define the Planning Area and Scope.** Determine the specific geographic boundaries for the CWPP. Assess the community's assets, including residential areas, critical infrastructure, and natural features, to identify potential risks and vulnerabilities. This ensures that the plan addresses the unique needs of the community and provides a comprehensive approach to wildfire risk reduction.
- **Step Three: Assess Wildfire Risk and Hazardous Areas.** Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment that considers factors such as vegetation, weather patterns, topography, and historical fire data. Evaluate the community's vulnerabilities, including critical infrastructure and at-risk populations, while also assessing potential risks to utilities, transportation routes, water supplies, and emergency services.
- **Step Four: Develop Mitigation Strategies.** Identify areas for fuel reduction, such as forest thinning and vegetation management, to reduce fire intensity and spread. Review and recommend changes to building practices and land-use planning, including the use of fire-resistant materials and defensible space standards. Educate residents on creating and maintaining defensible space around homes and plan strategic firebreaks and buffer zones to protect vulnerable areas.
- **Step Five: Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration.** Engage a broad range of stakeholders throughout the planning process, including local governments, fire and emergency service providers, utilities, land management agencies, tribal representatives, community organizations, and residents. Stakeholder engagement supports shared understanding of wildfire risk, helps identify local priorities and constraints, and ensures that mitigation strategies are realistic, coordinated, and implementable. Ongoing collaboration across jurisdictions and disciplines strengthens alignment of wildfire mitigation, emergency response, and land management efforts, and builds long-term capacity for collective action.
- **Step Six: Develop Community Education and Outreach Programs.** Launch public awareness campaigns through workshops, community meetings, and media outreach to inform residents about wildfire prevention and preparedness. Partner with local schools, organizations, and businesses to expand fire safety education. Provide training opportunities focused on evacuation readiness, home hardening, and defensible space to ensure residents are prepared for wildfire events.

- **Step Seven: Create an Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan.** Identify and clearly communicate evacuation routes and procedures to ensure residents can safely exit affected areas during a wildfire. Designate and prepare shelter locations to accommodate evacuees, and establish coordination protocols for emergency services, communications, and interagency response to support an organized and effective emergency operation.
- **Step Eight: Develop a Monitoring and Implementation Strategy.** Establish an actionable timeline with defined responsibilities and milestones for implementing CWPP actions. Create a system to track progress, evaluate effectiveness, and adapt strategies as conditions change. Regular monitoring helps ensure the plan remains relevant and responsive to emerging wildfire risks.
- **Step Nine: Public Review and Input.** Present the draft CWPP to the community for review and feedback. Collect input from residents, stakeholders, and partner agencies, and incorporate comments and concerns to ensure the plan reflects community priorities and fosters broad support for implementation.
- **Step Ten: Finalize and Adopt the CWPP.** Submit the CWPP for review and approval by local authorities, including governing bodies and fire agencies. Once approved, formally adopt the plan and integrate it into local planning, emergency management, and wildfire mitigation efforts.
- **Step Eleven: Ongoing Maintenance and Updates.** Maintain the CWPP as a living document by updating it regularly to reflect changes in wildfire risk, land use, infrastructure, and community conditions. Following wildfire events, evaluate plan effectiveness and incorporate lessons learned to strengthen future preparedness, mitigation, and response efforts.

Timeline of Planning Activities

Date	Activity Type	Description
June 27, 2024	Planning Meeting	Project Kick-Off (Step 1: Form a Collaborative Planning Team)
July 30, 2024	Planning Meeting	Geographic Information System (GIS) data requirements for CWPP (Steps 2–3: Define Planning Area; Assess Wildfire Risk)
December 2, 2024	Steering Committee Meeting	Mapping Analysis, Data Sources, Initial Analysis, Risk Areas, Site visits to key areas in the planning area (Steps 3–4: Risk Assessment; Mitigation Strategy Development)
February 11, 2025	Planning / Coordination Meeting	GIS Interface discussion and alignment (Steps 3–4: Risk Assessment; Mitigation Strategy Development)

DRAFT Eugene-Springfield Community Wildfire Protection Plan Appendices

Date	Activity Type	Description
April 1, 2025	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 1–4)
May 6, 2025	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 1–4)
July 15, 2025	Stakeholder Engagement Meeting	CWPP development and process and integration, Stakeholder roundtable discussions and out briefs (Steps 5–6: Stakeholder Engagement; Community Outreach)
August 21, 2025	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 5–6)
September 12, 2025	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 5–6)
October 1, 2025	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 5–6)
October 30, 2025	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 5–7)
November 3-5, 2026	Evacuation Plan/ Site Visit	Eugene-Springfield Stakeholder Interviews and Area Site Visit (IPRS – Steps 1–4)
November 25, 2025	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 7–8)
December 11, 2025	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 7–8)
January 8, 2026	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 8–9)

DRAFT Eugene-Springfield Community Wildfire Protection Plan Appendices

Date	Activity Type	Description
January 22, 2026	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 8–9)
February 5, 2026	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 8–9)
February 6, 2026	Technical Working Meeting	Eugene–Springfield Mapping Meeting (Steps 3, 4, and 8)
February 11, 2026	Planning Meeting	CWPP Draft Update (Steps 9–10: Public Review; Finalization)
February 19, 2026	Planning / Coordination Meeting	Eugene–Springfield In-Progress Review (IPRS – Steps 10–11)

APPENDIX B: Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Notes

Integrated Stakeholder Engagement Meeting #2 – Key Concerns and Priority Issues

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting #2 identified a consistent set of wildfire risk concerns across the Eugene–Springfield metropolitan area, with particular emphasis on life safety, evacuation feasibility, infrastructure protection, fuels reduction, and the challenges of managing wildfire risk in complex urban–wildland interface environments. Participants represented fire and emergency services, utilities, land managers, planners, and community-serving organizations.

- Evacuation, Access, and Life Safety: Evacuation constraints were identified as the most critical risk factor across multiple neighborhoods and corridors. Stakeholders emphasized limited ingress and egress, narrow road networks, jurisdictional overlaps, and the presence of residents evacuating on foot. High-risk areas included the Southwest Eugene Hills, Southeast Eugene Hills, Coburg Hills, Thurston Hills, Willamette Heights, Dorris Ranch, McKenzie View Drive, and developing areas in southeast Springfield. Participants highlighted the need for improved evacuation route planning, signage, phased evacuation strategies, and protection of emergency access routes. Apparatus access for first responders was repeatedly cited as a concern in steep, densely vegetated neighborhoods.
- Fuels Reduction and Home Hardening: Fuels reduction was identified as a top priority across both wildland and urban settings, particularly where unmanaged vegetation, parks, and open space interface directly with residential areas and infrastructure. Stakeholders emphasized pairing fuels reduction with home hardening and defensible space to reduce structure ignitability. Recommended actions included expanded leaf collection, chipping and debris disposal programs in partnership with nonprofits, vegetation management assistance for residents, and increased prescribed fire and fuels treatment capacity where appropriate.
- Community Outreach, Education, and Communication: Participants stressed the importance of targeted community outreach in high-risk areas, noting challenges related to residents' awareness of wildfire risk, evacuation procedures, and defensible space requirements. Communication capacity, including cell tower coverage and redundancy, was identified as critical, particularly in the Southeast Eugene Hills and along major evacuation corridors. Stakeholders recommended consistent messaging across agencies, outreach to landscaping and yard care companies, and education focused on fire season preparedness, vegetation management responsibilities, and building codes.
- Infrastructure and Critical Assets: Stakeholders identified widespread concern for critical infrastructure exposed to wildfire, including:
  - Power transmission and distribution lines adjacent to open space and unmanaged lands

- Water infrastructure such as reservoirs, wellheads, aboveground tanks, and new EWEB water towers south and west of Eugene
- Transportation corridors, bridges, and rail infrastructure that could delay evacuation or response
- Communications infrastructure, including cell towers requiring defensible space
- Industrial and chemical manufacturing facilities in Coburg, the Gateway area, Southwest Springfield, and along the I-5 corridor

Participants emphasized that damage to these systems could produce cascading impacts affecting evacuation, emergency response, water supply, and public health.

Parks, Natural Areas, and Unmanaged Lands: Wildfire risk within parks, greenways, and natural areas embedded in the urban fabric was a recurring concern. Stakeholders noted that unmanaged or overgrown vegetation in parks and open space can function as fire spread corridors into neighborhoods. Priority areas included the Ridgeline Park system, Skinner Butte, Morse Family Farm, Mount Pisgah, Moon Mountain Nature Preserve, and parklands outside the Urban Growth Boundary. Participants recommended mapping all parks and natural areas by ownership and evaluating entire park systems when any portion falls within the CWPP planning area.

Land Use, Policy Alignment, and Coordination: Stakeholders identified challenges associated with competing priorities and regulatory frameworks across fire agencies, planning departments, land managers, and urban forestry programs. These conflicts complicate fuels mitigation and vegetation management efforts. Participants emphasized the need for improved interagency coordination, refined local-scale fire behavior mapping, and alignment of land-use codes, vegetation policies, and wildfire mitigation objectives to support consistent implementation.

Health, Mass Care, and Social Vulnerability: Health impacts from wildfire, including smoke exposure and disease exacerbation, were identified as growing concerns. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of local mass care planning, shelter capacity assessment, and respite planning—particularly within Lane County and facilities such as Lane Community College—rather than reliance on federal disaster assistance. Evacuation planning for vulnerable populations, including residents of mobile home parks and access-limited communities, was highlighted as a priority.

Capacity, Funding, and Long-Term Implementation: Limited staffing, funding, and maintenance capacity were identified as barriers to sustained fuels reduction and infrastructure protection. Stakeholders recommended:

- Increased funding for utility vegetation management, including tree trimming and selective undergrounding
- Engagement with insurance providers to align incentives with risk reduction
- Formalizing a regional fuels and prescribed fire working group across Eugene, Springfield, Lane County, ESF, parks agencies, ODF, and BLM

- Establishing a dedicated fuels reduction or prescribed fire coordinator role
- Securing long-term funding for maintenance, not just one-time treatments

Location-Specific Areas of Concern: Stakeholders identified the following areas as requiring focused attention due to compounded wildfire risk factors:

- Coburg Hills: Limited access, Riverbend impacts, ember exposure, personnel constraints
- Airport Area: Highway 99 and Fern Ridge access constraints, industrial exposure, airspace considerations
- Bob Straub Parkway: Severe evacuation limitations, reservoir and water treatment vulnerability, communications infrastructure
- Gateway Commercial Area: Traffic congestion, hotel overflow during refuge events, staffing demands
- Utility Infrastructure / McKenzie River Corridor: Defensible space for cell towers, water and communications assets
- McKenzie View Drive: Evacuation challenges, livestock concerns, shelter coordination and MOUs
- I-5 Corridor to Cottage Grove: Industrial exposure and transportation continuity
- Willamette Heights / Dorris Ranch: Jurisdictional transitions, mobile home parks, rail coordination
- Southwest Eugene Hills: Highest evacuation concern, limited route capacity, need for phased evacuation planning
- Hendricks Park / Laurel Hill Valley: Vegetation management, proximity to refuse transfer facilities
- Southeast Eugene Hills: Communications infrastructure protection, utility hardening

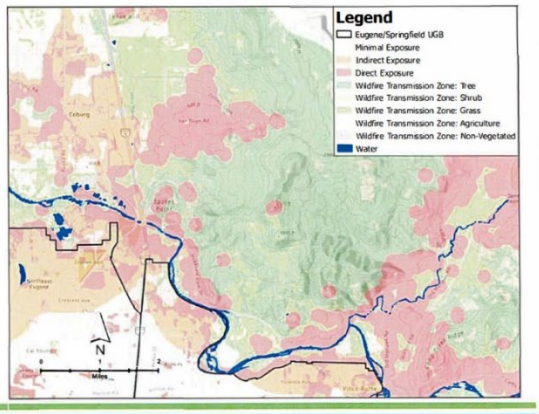
Priority Risk Reduction Actions Identified: Stakeholders identified the following actions as offering the greatest benefit:

- Targeted fuels reduction and prescribed fire where appropriate
- Protection and maintenance of evacuation routes and emergency access
- Infrastructure hardening and defensible space around critical assets
- Improved local-scale fire behavior and exposure mapping
- Continued community education and engagement in high-risk neighborhoods

Coburg Hills

- WUI on steep, forested hillsides
- Mixed residential, agricultural, and dense vegetation zones
- Slopes and ridgelines intensify fire
- Limited defensible space
- Restricted access, narrow private roads and dead-end driveways
- Critical transportation and utility corridors at northern gateway

Prioritized for targeted fuel treatment, development policy review, public education, and emergency preparedness.



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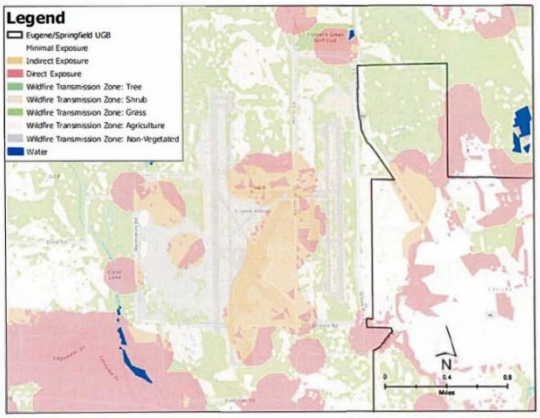
Coburg hills as it Applies to Impact to Riverbend. ingress, egress. limitations with personnel, manpower concerns Home evac. Ember Cast.

Airport Area

- Indirect Exposure
- Tree/Shrub Transmission Zones
- Industrial Sites face wildfire spread from vegetated ditches and perimeter zones.
- Highway 99 Corridor exposed commercial/transport hubs w/minimal defensible space.

Prioritized for targeted fuel clearance near airport and roads, coordination with rural/ag landowners and hardening critical logistics and industrial sites



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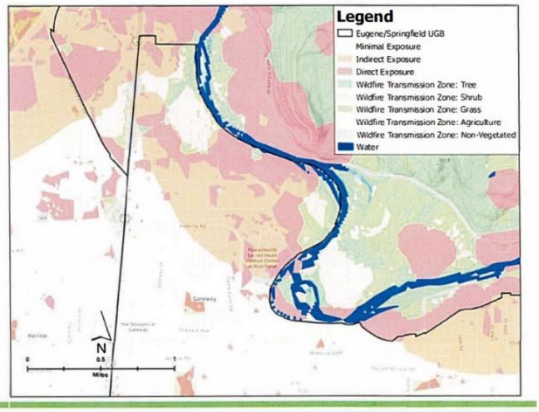
ingress, egress, 99, Fernridge, green Hill, Clearing airspace. Surrounding Industrial,

Gateway Commercial Area

- Major transportation and utility hub
- Critical infrastructure, industrial facilities, power substations
- Staging area, evacuation support zone, or emergency sheltering node
- Smoke and ember exposure

Prioritized for continuity planning, evacuation coordination, and risk communication strategies to remain functional and protected.



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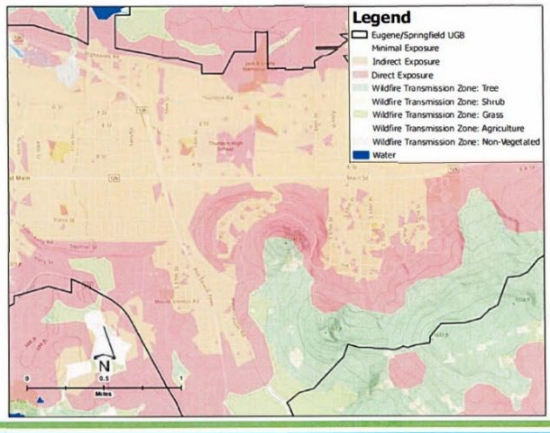
River Bend. / Traffic Control Congestion. Gateway Hotels overflow during refugee influx — More Resources needed.

Bob Straub Parkway Area

- Rapidly developing Wildland-Urban Interface Steep, forested hillsides
- Surrounded by dense vegetation
- Topographic features accelerate fire spread
- Limited access and egress routes
- Proximity to historical fire corridors

High-priority zone for fuel reduction treatments, evacuation readiness, and long-term wildfire resilience planning.



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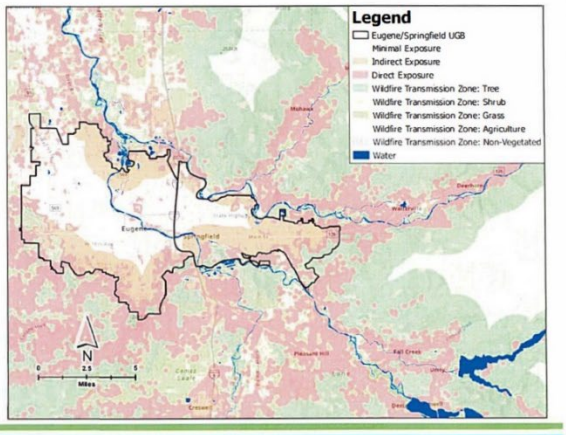
Evacuation is a nightmare, Alternate route planning. respoir. Cell tower infrastructure! Question SUB for impact to drinking water. if filter pumps. effected.

Utility Infrastructure/ McKenzie River

- Essential for drinking water & electricity
- 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, threatened infrastructure and temporary water quality and power service impacts
- Ecologically vital, steep slopes, continuous fuel beds, and remote terrain that can accelerate wildfire spread

Prioritized for vegetation management, defensible space treatments around facilities, and interagency coordination



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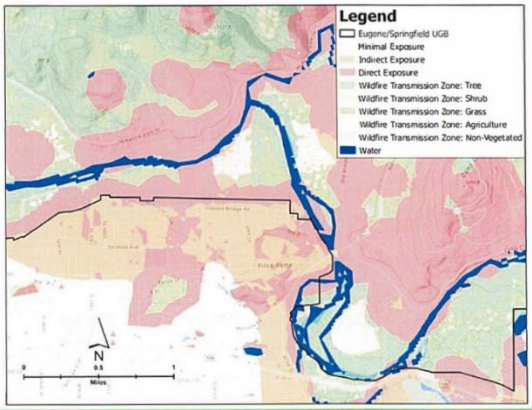
ensure Cell tower. D-Space.

McKenzie View Drive

- Extensive Wildland-Urban Interface
- History of catastrophic wildfire
- Transportation, utility, and water supply
- Impacted by 2020 Holiday Farm Fire
- Highly susceptible to fast-moving wildfires
- Essential infrastructure, transportation corridor (126).

Prioritized for fuel reduction, evacuation route planning, post-fire restoration, and community preparedness efforts.



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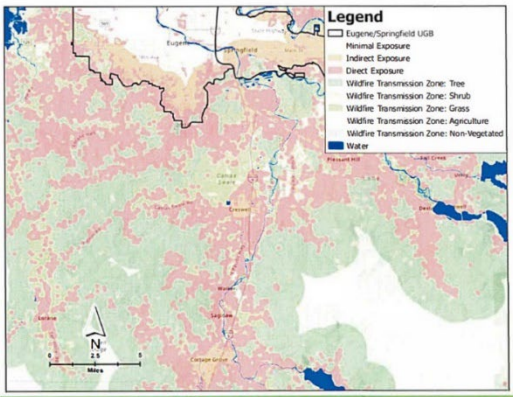
ingress, egress, evacuations, Agriculture/livestock concerns. – Capacity of personnel to coordinate. Refugee placement – Housing. MOU's with School's.

I-5 Corridor to Cottage Grove

- Wildfire evacuation, transportation and emergency access
- Vital link for movement
- Forested hills and rural development
- Limited redundancy for travel

Prioritized for evacuation coordination, fuel break planning, and interagency emergency preparedness.



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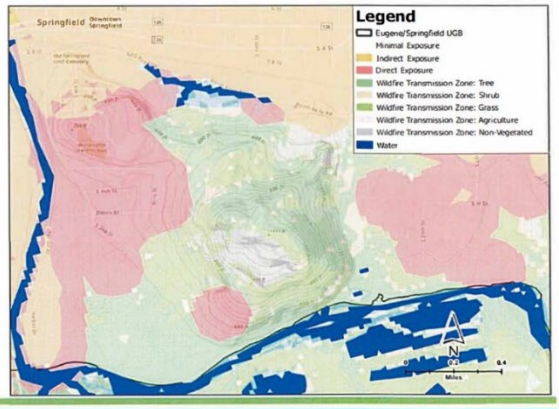
Industrial impact. in the corridor.

Willamette Heights/ Dorris Ranch

- High Direct Exposure across Dorris Ranch, Willamette Heights, and Oak/Pine/S Ash
- Tree-dominated Wildfire Transmission
- Residential, industrial, agriculture, all exposed to fire transmission pathways.
- Limited defensible space & constrained evacuation routes.

Prioritized for area-wide fuels reduction, neighborhood-level evacuation planning & coordination with industrial managers.



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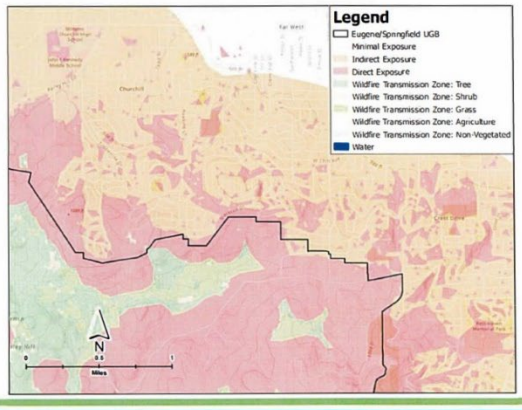
South 2nd, top of hill transitions from Cos to LC. Mobile home parks on county side. jurisdiction overlapp. delay in resources. Coordinate with Rail traffic to not delay evacuation

Southwest Eugene Hills

- Dense vegetation and complex terrain
- Residential homes difficult to access
- Built into steep, wooded hillsides
- Topography -rapid uphill fire movement
- Abundance of conifer /hardwood fuels
- Limited defensible space
- Constrained evacuation routes,
- Ecologically significant natural areas

Priority for targeted fuel mitigation, community outreach, and evacuation planning.



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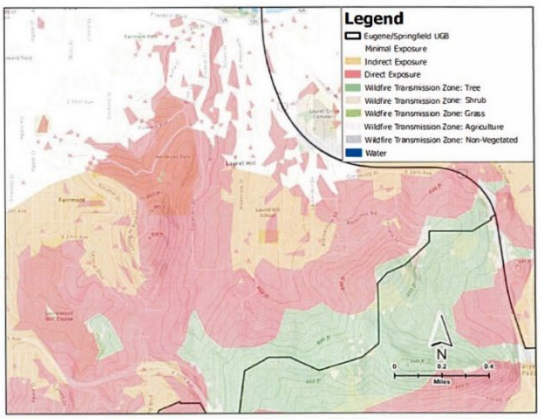
Evacuation routes. Capacity to facilitate. Is limited. Maps and Phased process necessary.

Hendricks Park /Laurel Hill Valley

- High Direct Exposure
- Tree-dense Wildfire Transmission Zones
- Indirect Exposure encroaches into residential streets
- Critical Community Assets at Risk
- Steep ridgelines funnel fire spread upslope into neighborhoods.
- Narrow roads, limited egress, and older street grids

Prioritized for defensible corridors, vegetation management and coordinated evacuation signage & planning.



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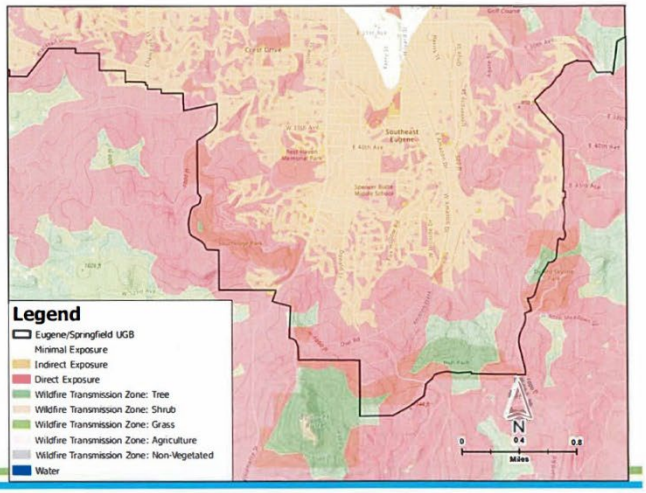
Moon Mountain Nature Preserve management. Glenwood refuse transition center.

South Eugene Hills

Widespread Direct Exposure
Tree-Dominated Transmission Zones
Key Community Assets at Risk
Challenging Evacuation Routes
Limited Buffers between homes and wildlands

Prioritized for fuel breaks along southern corridors, evacuation planning for hillside roads, home hardening and defensible space outreach



12

Communication Cell tower ~~de~~ Space
Utilities- being priority and protect infrastructure.

Breakout Activity

Topic Area: Parkland / Natural Areas

Purpose: Enable agencies/ organizations with similar functions to discuss program areas, wildfire risks, and identify draft action items.
Time: 30–45 minutes
Directions: As a group work through the question prompts below, taking notes to capture themes of discussion and answer questions. Notes will be collected at the end of the breakout session, and Chloeta will use the notes to refine identified risks and generate draft action items. Please work through the sheets in order (don't look ahead).

Participant names (list all at your table):

Emily Steel
Paul Gorsor
Jesse Cary-Hobbs
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Question Prompts

1. What wildfire risk is your SME group most concerned about? This question is about your agency/organization perspective, not as an individual. List the top three to five that come up for your group.

1. Transmission lines, interface w/ open space
2. Natural Areas + unmanaged lands. There should be a map showing all parks and natural areas overlain on the exposure map (+ other relevant maps)
3. Competing values, codes, allowed uses among governmental departments + regulatory agencies, e.g. fire departments, planning dept., land managers / urban forestry leads to challenges ⇒ points to need for more centralized coordination
4. Need for more refined mapping of fire risk/behavior at the very local level to inform fuels mitigation prioritiz
5. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, INLETS, WELL HEADS, ABOVE GROUND TANKS

1/5

6) OVERGROWN VEGETATION, LACK OF CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT + THE CORRESPONDING BUDGET

7) Forest health: impacts of drought + disease

INCLUDE PRESCRIBED FIRE + FUELS REDUCTION CAPACITY AS VIABLE RISK ABATEMENT STRATEGY IN CWPP. (RIDGES)

2. Which areas of risk identified by Chloeta pose the highest potential for impact for your SME group? which parks/areas impacted the most by fire?

- If the area is shown by maps from Chloeta note the top two areas in each City here, adding any additional risks not identified by Chloeta for the area:

Eugene

1. Ridgeline Parks System including all parkland outside the UGB + forested Natural areas in the urban setting including Skinner Butte + Morse Family Farm.

2. Things not identified: Get park ownership & shapefiles & include all parkland in the study area. If study area only includes part of a park, add whole park.

Springfield

1. NORTH & SOUTH SPRINGFIELD CITY LIMIT BOUNDARIES ARE OF HIGHEST CONCERN [ALREADY IDENTIFIED BY CHLOETA]

2.

- If the area is not shown by the maps from Chloeta, circle the area(s) on the map provided at your table. Provide any description of risks on the map, or in the space below for added areas.

CHECK MAPS, EMERGENCY ACCESS ROUTE

2/5

3. What are three to five actions your SME group could take to reduce wildfire risks identified in questions 1 or 2?

1. Increase prescribed fire capacity
   - identify key areas w/ most benefit from ongoing fuel reduction
   - fund a prescribed fire manager position

2. CWPP should have an item "formalizing" a "regional" working group at the scale of this plan that coordinates agencies across both cities + metro region and ESF, Parks agencies, ODF, BLM (land managers) for the purpose of bringing targeted, increased + longer-term funding to fuels mitigation + maintenance

3. Education for neighbors / community, esp. adjacent to densely vegetated areas on defensible space + managing their own properties / fire season awareness

4. Create specific fuel load/fire risk maps for each of the high priority assessment areas.

5.

3/5

4. What mitigation actions are already being taken by your agency/organization?

- Discuss current and past programs that could reduce wildfire risk, even if the program was not originally intended to. List examples below and note if the item is funded and staffed. If it is, does the funding have an end date?

Description of Action	Funded Until?	Staffed Until?
VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT + FUELS REDUCTION - CHIPPING - MASTICATION - BRUSHING - THINNING - PRESCRIBED FIRE - PILE BURNS	WPRD (2026) Eugene (external 2028)	ONGOING ongoing permanent (contractors dependnt on funding
OUTREACH + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - INCLUDING FIRE AUTHORITIES - PRINT, WEB BASED - DIRECT CONVERSATIONS WITH HOAS - FIREWISE	WPRD (NONE) Eugene (some external) 2028	ONGOING ongoing base budget some extended funding
COORDINATION WITH FIRE AUTHORITIES + REGULATORS [LRAPA] - NEED TO INCLUDE RURAL FIRE DEPTS. + ODF	WPRD ~~(ONGOING)~~ BLM AGREEMENT LAPSED + ODF Eugene (ongoing) (2028 external)	ONGOING ongoing some limited externally funded

APPENDIX C: Public Survey Results

1. Do you feel prepared for wildfire?
    a. Yes – 39.51%
    b. No – 60.49%

2. Have you been impacted by wildfire?
    a. Yes – 28.40%
    b. No – 71.60%

3. Which areas of Eugene and Springfield do you believe face the greatest wildfire risk (select the top 3)?
    a. Downtown Areas – 0%
    b. Gateway Area – 0%
    c. North Eugene – 2.06%
    d. North Springfield – 4.12%
    e. River Road/Santa Clara – 3.61%
    f. South/Southwest Hills of Eugene – 32.47%
    g. Thurston Hills – 24.23%
    h. Thurston (not hills) – 3.61%
    i. University/Fairmount Areas – 7.73%
    j. Laurel Hill Valley – 13.40%
    k. Eugene and Springfield do not have a wildfire risk – 0.52%
    l. Other/Area not identified by options – 8.25%

4. Please rank your top wildfire concerns below. Rank in order of highest to lowest.

	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Property Damage/Loss	38.46%	41.03%	11.54%	5.13%	3.85%	4.05
Evacuation Safety	48.72%	34.62%	11.54%	3.85%	1.28%	4.26
Smoke Impacts	11.54%	16.67%	38.46%	21.79%	11.54%	2.95
Community Recovery	1.28%	7.69%	34.62%	50.00%	6.41%	2.47
Impacts to Recreation Access	0.00%	0.00%	3.85%	19.23%	76.92%	1.27

5. Rank the options below in order that you think is most helpful to reduce wildfire risk. Rank in order of most to least important.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Fuels crews/contractor programs to manage vegetation	41.25%	28.75%	17.50%	3.75%	8.75%	0.00%	4.90
Vegetation disposal programs	16.25%	23.75%	17.50%	16.25%	15.00%	11.25%	3.76
Assistance for updates and retrofits for siding, roofs, and vents	7.50%	7.50%	21.25%	30.00%	25.00%	8.75%	3.16
More information about how to reduce wildfire risk	10.00%	15.00%	10.00%	21.25%	22.50%	21.25%	3.05
Increased community standards: Building codes, vegetation codes, etc.	7.50%	7.50%	13.75%	12.50%	20.00%	38.75%	2.54
Increase staffing for wildfire suppression	17.50%	17.50%	20.00%	16.25%	8.75%	20.00%	3.59

6. If you had to evacuate, do you have more than one route away from your home?
    a. Yes – 64.43%
    b. No – 25.93%
    c. Unsure – 8.64%

7. Would you need assistance to evacuate?
    a. Yes – 7.59%
    b. No – 92.41%

8. What type of evacuation assistance do you require?
    a. Transportation – 5.80%
    b. Assistance moving or access to specialized medical equipment – 0%
    c. Assistance moving large animals/livestock – 0%
    d. No assistance needed – 89.86%
    e. Other – 4.35%

9. Do you have a go bag/72-hour kit for evacuation?
    a. Yes – 53.75%
    b. No – 45%
    c. I don't know what this is – 1.25%

10. Have you signed up for Lane Alerts?
    a. Yes – 74.68%
    b. No – 25.32%

11. Which wildfire risk reduction steps do you take at your home during summer months? (Select all that apply)
    a. Keep grass mowed to 4 inches or less – 50.36%
    b. Keep roof and gutters clear of leaves and debris – 49.64%

12. Which wildfire risk reduction steps have you taken at your home? (Select all that apply)
    a. Cleared vegetation within 0-5 feet of the home – 23.35%
    b. Reduced vegetation within 5-30 feet of the home – 23.25%
    c. Removed/have not used flammable bark mulch around the home – 22.16%
    d. Upgraded siding with fire-resistant materials – 10.18%
    e. Installed a fire-resistant roof – 10.78%
    f. Installed ember-resistant vents or retro fit existing vents with 1/8-inch wire mesh – 10.18%

13. Do you have firewood within 30 feet of your home?
    a. Yes – 19.75%
    b. No – 80.25%

14. Select the option that best describes your ability to reduce wildfire risk by managing vegetation around your home:
    a. I am already taking steps to manage vegetation – 51.90%
    b. I would like to manage vegetation, but I need tools or assistance disposing of vegetation – 13.92%
    c. I would like to manage vegetation, but I need information on where to start – 5.06%
    d. I do not have the ability to manage vegetation (time, funding, physical ability, etc.) – 8.86%
    e. I have not considered vegetation management around my home – 7.59%
    f. I rent or otherwise do not have control over vegetation choices around my home – 10.13%
    g. I am not interested in managing vegetation around my home for wildfire risk reduction – 2.53%

15. Select the option that best describes your ability to reduce wildfire risk by making upgrades to your home:
    a. I have plans to replace roofing, siding, or venting within the next two years and have selected options that are fire resistant – 19.72%
    b. I would like to make upgrades to roofing, siding, and venting but they are too expensive – 39.44%
    c. I have not considered these upgrades – 26.76%

d. I am not interested in selecting fire-resistant materials when making updates to my home – 1.41%
e. I rent or otherwise do not have control over choices about my home construction – 12.68%

16. Where do you currently get information about wildfire?
    a. Social media – 16.74%
    b. Local government or State websites – 29.86%
    c. Federal websites – 8.14%
    d. Radio – 12.67%
    e. Television – 9.05%
    f. Paper – 3.17%
    g. Phone applications – 14.03%
    h. I do not currently get information about wildfire – 1.36%
    i. Other – 4.98%

17. What are your preferred ways to learn about wildfire preparedness?
    a. In-person workshops/events – 13.33%
    b. Mailers – 12.82%
    c. Webinars – 6.15%
    d. Social media – 13.33%
    e. Websites – 30.26%
    f. Publications (brochures, guides, etc.) – 20.51%
    g. None of the options above fit my learning style – 0.51%
    h. Other – 3.08%

18. Do you live in Eugene?
    a. Yes – 73.75%
    b. No – 26.25%

19. Where in Eugene do you live?
    a. Amazon/Friendly/College Hill – 4.17%
    b. Downtown/Whiteaker – 4.17%
    c. North Eugene/Cal Young/Harlow – 8.33%
    d. River Road/Santa Clara – 2.78%
    e. South Eugene (not in hills) – 2.78%
    f. South Eugene Hills/Southwest Eugene Hills – 37.50%
    g. University/Fairmount/Laurel Hill – 4.17%
    h. West Eugene/Bethel – 9.72%
    i. Highway 99 Corridor – 1.39%
    j. I do not reside in Eugene – 15.28%
    k. Other – 9.72%

20. Do you live in Springfield?
    a. Yes – 19.75%
    b. No – 80.25%

21. Where in Springfield do you live?
    a. Downtown/Kelly Butte – 0%
    b. Gateway Area – 0%
    c. Thurston (not hills) – 1.82%
    d. Thuston Hills – 9.09%
    e. North Springfield – 9.09%
    f. West Springfield – 5.45%
    g. I do not reside in Springfield – 69.09%
    h. Other – 5.45%

APPENDIX D: Fuel Model Category Description Identification

Fuel Model Category Description Identification

Surface Fuel		Description	Acres	Percent
Non-burnable Fuel Type Models (insufficient wildland fuel to carry a wildland fire under any condition)				
	NB1	Urban or suburban development; insufficient wildland fuel to carry wildland fire. Includes roads.	31,216	80 %
	NB3	Agricultural field, maintained in nonburn able condition.	79	0 %
	NB8	Open water	337	1 %
	NB9	Bare ground	6	0 %
Grass Fuels Type Models (pure grass and/or forb type)				
	GR1	The grass is short, patchy, and heavily grazed. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.	363	1 %
	GR2	Moderately coarse continuous grass, average depth about 1 foot. Spread rate high; flame length moderate.	2,892	7 %
Grass-Shrub Fuels Type Models (mixture of grass and shrub, up to 50 percent shrub coverage)				
	GS1	Shrubs are about 1-foot high, with a low grass load. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.	215	1 %
	GS2	Shrubs are 1 to 3 feet high, moderate grass load. Spread rate high; flame length moderate.	242	1 %
Shrub Fuel Type Models (Shrubs cover at least 50 percent of the site, grass sparse to nonexistent)				
	SH1	Low load dry climate shrubs, woody shrubs and shrub litter, fuelbed depth about 1 foot, may be some grass, spread rate and flame low	1	0%

Surface Fuel		Description	Acres	Percent
	SH2	Moderate fuel load (higher than SH01), depth about 1 foot, no grass fuel present. Spread rate low, flame length low.	1	0%
Timber-Understory Fuel Type Models (Grass or shrubs mixed with litter from forest canopy)				
	TU1	Fuelbed is low load of grass and/or shrub with litter. Spread rate low, flame length low.	307	1 %
	TU2	Fuelbed is moderate litter load with shrub component. Spread rate moderate, flame length low.	79	0 %
	TU5	Fuelbed is a high load conifer litter with shrub understory. Spread rate moderate; flame length moderate.	53	0 %
Timber Litter Fuel Type Models (dead and down woody fuel litter beneath a forest canopy)				
	TL1	Light to moderate load, fuels 1 to 2 inches deep. The spread rate is very low; flame length very low.	3	0 %
	TL2	Low load, compact. Spread rate is very low; flame length is very low.	410	1 %
	TL3	Moderate load conifer litter. The speed rate is very low; the flame length is low.	651	2 %
	TL4	Moderate load includes small diameter downed logs. Spread rate low; flame length low.	27	0 %
	TL5	High load conifer litter; light slash or mortality fuel. Spread rate low; flame length low.	1,338	3 %
	TL6	Moderate load, less compact. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.	289	1 %
	TL8	Moderate load and compactness may include a small amount of herbaceous load. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.	342	1 %

Surface Fuel		Description	Acres	Percent
	TL9	Very high load broadleaf litter; heavy needle-drape in otherwise sparse shrub layer. Spread rate moderate; flame length moderate.	26	0 %

APPENDIX E: Policy and Regulatory Framework

The Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) was launched in 2002 to streamline environmental review processes and increase the pace of forest treatments aimed at reducing the risk of high-intensity wildfires. The HFI emphasized administrative reforms to allow forest management agencies to make more timely and effective decisions, particularly for hazardous fuels reduction on public lands (U.S. Forest Service, 2003). Building on that momentum, Congress passed the HFRA in 2003 that established a framework for collaborative community wildfire planning. The HFRA encourages local communities, in coordination with state and federal agencies, to develop CWPPs that identify and prioritize areas in need of hazardous fuel treatments. Importantly, the HFRA allows for streamlined National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes for qualifying fuel reduction projects on federal lands and mandates that at least 50% of federal fuels reduction funds be directed toward projects in the WUI. These provisions also empower local governments and community groups to access federal grants for fuels reduction, particularly in areas where CWPPs are adopted and implemented (U.S. Congress, 2003).

In 2009, Congress passed the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement (FLAME) Act, which called for a national framework to address the growing complexity of wildland fire management across jurisdictions. In response, federal agencies, states, and tribal partners collaborated to develop the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy), finalized in 2014 and updated in 2023. The Cohesive Strategy outlines a vision for wildfire response and resilience:

"***To safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and collectively, learn to live with wildland fire." (U.S. Department of the Interior et al., 2023***)

Together, these federal policies form the legal and strategic foundation for community wildfire planning efforts for the Eugene-Springfield CWPP. They enable proactive risk reduction in high-hazard areas, especially the WUI, and foster interagency coordination to achieve long-term ecological, economic, and public safety goals.

Oregon Senate Bill 762 (SB 762), passed in 2021, is a comprehensive wildfire preparedness and mitigation bill that addresses wildfire risk reduction across the state. It mandated the development of defensible space requirements and fire-hardened building codes. The legislation also created a grant program to help communities, especially those with limited resources, implement wildfire mitigation projects identified in their CWPPs including fuel reduction treatments and training for local fire departments to enhance emergency response capacity. SB 762 emphasizes the importance of cross-jurisdictional coordination between state agencies, local governments, and communities.

DRAFT Eugene-Springfield Community Wildfire Protection Plan Appendices

Oregon Senate Bill 80 (SB 80), passed in 2023, simplified the risk classifications and identifies areas where defensible space and building code regulations are to be implemented.

The Eugene-Springfield Metro CWPP focuses on achieving the three minimum requirements described by the HFRA:

- Collaboration: A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- Prioritized Fuel Reduction: A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
- Treatment of Structural Ignitability: A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

APPENDIX F: Existing Plans and Policy Crosswalk

The Eugene-Springfield CWPP complements and supports a broad framework of federal, state, and local plans, policies, and programs related to wildfire risk mitigation and emergency planning. These connections ensure that wildfire resilience efforts align with regulatory requirements and funding eligibility while leveraging regional priorities and community values. More detailed cross-references to these policies and plans are outlined in the table below.

Existing Plan and Policy Crosswalk

Policy	Eugene-Springfield CWPP Addresses Policy
Federal Policy Requirements	
HFRA	Supports federal fuel reduction efforts by focusing action in high-priority WUI zones. The CWPP was collaboratively developed by local, state, and federal stakeholders, prioritizes fuel reduction projects in and around Eugene-Springfield, and recommends strategies for reducing structural ignitability.
National Fire Plan – 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy	Provides a collaborative framework for implementing wildfire risk reduction, aligning with the plan's goals of firefighting capacity, rehabilitation, fuels treatment, community assistance, and accountability. The CWPP Advisory Committee serves as the local coordination body for related projects.
Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000	The Eugene-Springfield CWPP serves as a wildfire annex to the Lane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, enabling access to federal hazard mitigation funding.
FLAME Act (2009) – Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy	Supports a multi-agency, stakeholder-driven approach to restoring landscapes, building fire-adapted communities, and improving wildfire response capacity across the Eugene-Springfield area.
State Policy Requirements	
Oregon Statewide Land Use Goal 7: Natural Hazards	Includes a detailed wildfire risk assessment that can inform updates to hazard inventories and land use planning in both the Eugene and Springfield Comprehensive Plans.
ORS 215.730 – Forestland Dwelling Requirements	Supports existing land use and development code compliance by recommending defensible space, water access, and construction best practices for homes built in forest or mixed-use zones in the Eugene-Springfield WUI.

Policy	Eugene-Springfield CWPP Addresses Policy
Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (Defensible Space Law)	Identifies and designates local WUI areas; the CWPP's advisory group may assist in developing classification criteria and promoting landowner wildfire mitigation actions.
Oregon Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (2020)	Incorporates wildfire risk data that aligns with statewide hazard vulnerability and mitigation priorities.
Oregon's Action Plan (2020) (Forest Assessment and Resource Strategy)	Prioritizes local communities at risk within the Eugene-Springfield region and outlines strategies for fuels reduction and forest restoration. The CWPP provides local actions and identifies funding opportunities.
Local and Regional Plans	
Lane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (2018)	Serves as the wildfire annex, supplying wildfire risk data and strategies to reduce vulnerability across the Eugene-Springfield area.
Lane County Rural Comprehensive Plan	The CWPP's wildfire risk assessment can support updates to the Natural Hazards Inventory and guide future land use regulations in rural and fringe areas surrounding Eugene and Springfield.
Lane County Emergency Operations Plan	Enhance pre-incident planning and coordination by aligning wildfire response roles and responsibilities outlined in the Emergency Operations Plan with CWPP action strategies.
Lane County Parks and Open Space Plan (2018)	Identifies wildfire risks in or near parks and open spaces and informs future fuel reduction and vegetation management priorities for publicly owned recreational land in the Eugene-Springfield area.

As development continues to expand into vegetated foothills, ridgelines, and rural edges surrounding the City of Eugene and the City of Springfield, wildfire risks in the WUI grow increasingly complex. The diversity of landscapes, population density, and land ownership patterns in the region present challenges to coordinated mitigation. The Eugene-Springfield CWPP seeks to bridge these efforts by aligning federal and state policies with local planning priorities. It identifies risk, builds a collaborative foundation for response, and promotes targeted action to reduce fire hazards while enhancing the resilience of both urban and rural communities.

APPENDIX G: Fire Protection and Response Framework

Fire protection responsibilities within the City of Eugene area are shared among several agencies, each playing a distinct role in wildfire response and prevention. These roles are further detailed in the Lane County Emergency Operations Plan, but an overview specific to Eugene is provided below:

- Eugene Springfield Fire serves as the primary provider of emergency fire and EMS services for the most densely populated areas in the region, including both the cities of Eugene and Springfield. The department operates multiple stations throughout the metro area and coordinates with nearby districts to cover high-risk WUI zones, particularly in the South Hills and outer residential fringes.
- Rural fire protection in the surrounding areas including Bailey-Spencer, Eugene #1, Willakenzie, and Zumwalt Rural Fire Protection Districts is delivered by member agencies of the Lane County Fire Defense Board. These agencies are essential in protecting the rural communities and WUI neighborhoods that surround Eugene's urban boundary.
- The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is responsible for wildfire protection on state-managed forestlands, private rural lands, and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In the Eugene area, ODF plays a key role in planning and executing wildfire mitigation projects, often in coordination with local partners.
- The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) maintains responsibility for fire management and fuels reduction on national forest lands, including portions of the Willamette National Forest to the east of Eugene.
- ODF also administers hazardous fuels mitigation grants through programs such as the Western States Fire Managers and Community Assistance grants under the National Fire Plan.
- At the local level, Lane County and partner agencies support wildfire preparedness through the Firewise Communities program, funded in part by Title III of the Secure Rural Schools Act. This program provides homeowners and communities with tools to reduce wildfire risk through defensible space strategies, ignition-resistant construction, and community-scale planning in the WUI.
- Federal agencies utilize additional grant programs and interagency coordination to prioritize and implement fuels treatment projects on federally managed lands. These projects are designed to reduce wildfire severity and spread, as well as to protect nearby structures and communities.

This collaborative, multi-jurisdictional approach ensures that fire protection and wildfire mitigation efforts in the City of Eugene and the City of Springfield areas are comprehensive and adapted to the region's mix of urban, suburban, and wildland environments.