Saddle Ridge

Walland TN

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

An Action Plan for Wildfire Mitigation

September 26, 2017

Reviewed and Updated

June 2021

Saddle Ridge Community Wildfire Protection Plan

An Action Plan for Wildfire Mitigation – Updated

June 2021

The Tennessee Department of Forestry has adopted the model shown below to guide the development of a Fire Adapted Communities Network and a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

> A fire adapted community accepts fire as part of the natural landscape. The community understands its fire risk, and takes action before, during, and after a wildfire to minimize harm to residents, homes, businesses, parks, utilities, and other community assets. These collective actions empower all residents to be safer in the environment. The graphic below shows current elements of the concept. . . . A community pursuing the concept may not have to address all elements shown in the graphic; however, it is important for a community to consider how important all elements are to the community . . . a checklist for the community to consider.

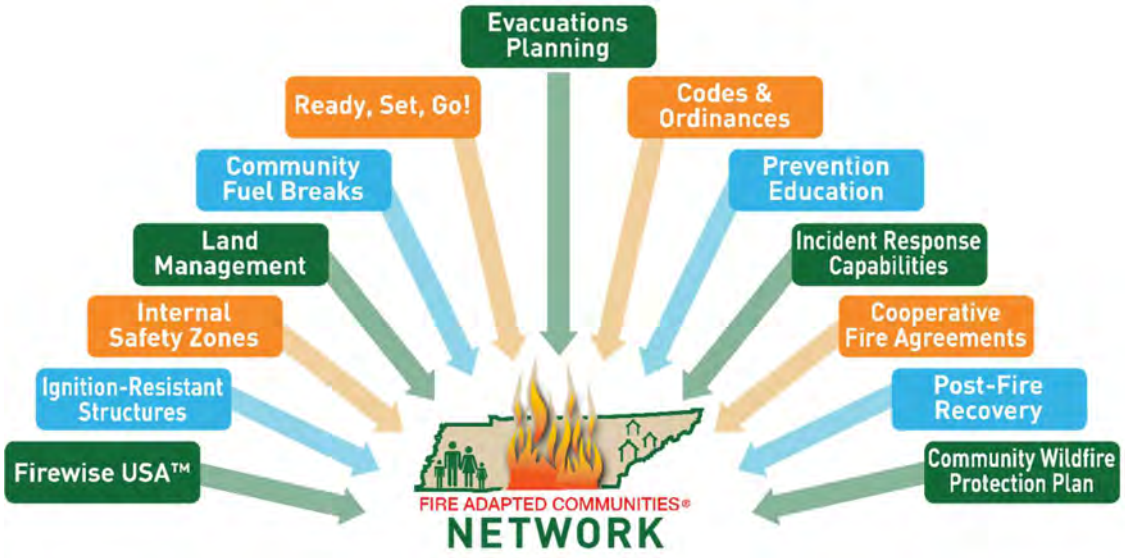

Figure 1. Fire Adapted Communities Network. https://www.tn.gov/tnwildlandfire/prevention/tennessee-fire-adapted-communities, May 22, 2021)

The Saddle Ridge Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a cooperative effort between various entities participating in the Fire Adapted Communities Network. The 2021 CWPP builds on the 2017 Action Plan to describe the current Saddle Ridge environment and identify risks that need to be addressed over the next 3-4 years.

This report also serves to record the history of the Firewise program in Saddle Ridge. Volunteers have worked the equivalent of $202,057 or almost 7,500 in volunteer hours since the program was adopted in 2017—and, that is with less than 10% of owners reporting their fire-mitigation activities. The $33,300 in Firewise grants have been used to purchase equipment and pay for vegetation removal.

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List of Abbreviations

2021AP	2021 Action Plan
2021CA	2021 Community Accomplishments
BC	Blount County
BCFPD	Blount County Fire Protection District
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWRA	Community Wildfire Risk Assessment
EO	Education/Outreach
FWC	Firewise Committee (subcommittee of SRPOA Environmental Committee)
GSMNP	Great Smoky Mountains National Park
HR	Hazard Reduction
RC	Road Committee
SR	Saddle Ridge
SRPOA	Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association
SWRA	Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report
SI	Structural Ignitability
TDF	Tennessee Department of Forestry (East Tennessee District)
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

1. Community Background and Existing Situation

Saddle Ridge (SR) is located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in East Tennessee just off East Millers Cove Road (EMC) in Walland. The community is approximately 12 miles southeast of Maryville and 23 miles southeast of Knoxville. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park borders on the south with the Foothills Parkway running along the south boundary of the community.

Saddle Ridge is a gated community of about 1,175 acres, divided into 235 platted lots (averaging about 5 acres each) and 7 other unplatted areas of about 132 acres. There are 74 homes, with the majority occupied year-round. A kiosk at the entrance is the delivery point for newspapers, mail, and packages. An old barn, 2 small service barns, and a gazebo stand in the community common area. A wetland area and pond provide fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities (Figures 2 and 3). There are approximately 20 miles of private gravel roads. (Attachment A – Map of Saddle Ridge.)

Figure 2 Pond (Chilhowee Loop)

Figure 3 Wetlands (Chilhowee Loop)

The Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association (SRPOA) Board of Directors manages the community as the developer. The covenants and restrictions and SRPOA bylaws provide guidelines for the Board (Attachment B – *Land Use Restrictions, Protective Covenants and Building Standards for Saddleridge*). Board members chair committees composed of volunteers from the community. The 6 committees are Architectural, Communications, Environment, Equipment, Events/Hospitality, and Road.

The 2016 fires in Saddle Ridge on Waters End, on Chilhowee Mountain—Walland (Figure 4), and the Gatlinburg fire increased the community's awareness of its vulnerability to fires. The blizzard of 1993, a breach of the dam, recent derechos, and flooding at the gate (Figure 5), along Saddle Ridge Road, and East Millers Cove Road in Spring 2021 also illustrate the need to be prepared for emergencies.

Updating the 2017 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) will increase awareness of fire mitigation activities and also assist with other emergency plans. The 2017 Action Plan was reviewed and is now the 2021 Community Accomplishments (2021CA, Attachment C). Components of the 2021 Action Plan (2021AP) are discussed throughout this report. The complete 2021AP is found in Attachment D.

Saddle Ridge is accessed by East Millers Cove Road (EMC) from Walland with Saddle Ridge Road connecting the community to EMC. Saddle Ridge Road ends at the gate where the private road begins. This is the only entrance/exit to Saddle Ridge. EMC and Saddle Ridge Road are county-maintained roads. The SRPOA maintains the gravel roads in Saddle Ridge which are typical mountain roads, steep in areas and often winding with heavy vegetation and dense forest alongside the roads.

Figure 4 Walland Fire on Chilhowee Mountain, November 2016

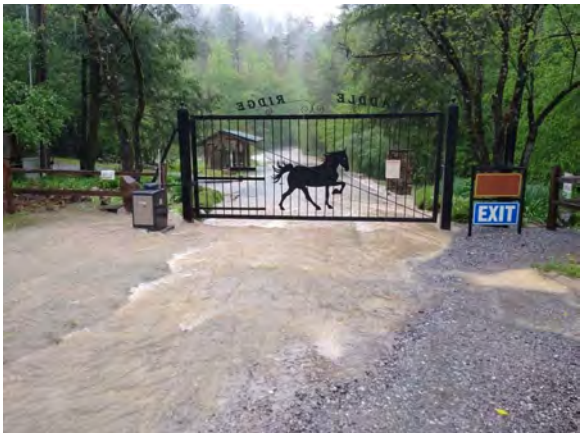

Figure 5 Flooding at Saddle Ridge gate, May 2021

Barns and a gazebo are located in the common area of the community. The original barn protects the community's tractor and other large equipment. It is a wooden barn with a metal roof on the largest section and an asphalt roof on the overhang above the tractor. The trash barn and equipment barn are smaller, metal buildings. The gazebo is wooden with an asphalt roof. The common area is located at the southwest end of the pond and about .5 miles from the gate. The kiosk is wooden with a metal roof. (Figures 6 and 7)

On the drive-around April 15, 2021, the Tennessee Department of Forestry (TDF) and Great Smoky Mountain National Park (GSMNP) representatives noted that the common area would be a good staging area if there is an emergency. The gate area at the entrance is another good, flat area for staging in an emergency. Each event and situation will determine the need and location of a staging area. (Figures 8 and 9)

Figure 6 Kiosk

Figure 7 Barns and Gazebo

Figure 8 Barn, Possible Staging Area

Figure 9 Gate, Possible Staging Area

Community Description:

County:	Blount
Latitude/Longitude:	35 43 47 N / -83 45 41 W – 1130’ elevation - at the entrance to Saddle Ridge
Frontage Road:	Saddle Ridge Road
Nearest Intersection:	Saddle Ridge Road and East Millers Cove Road (EMC)
Nearest Fire Dept:	Blount County Fire Protection District (BCFPD), Station 5, Walland TN 37886
Interface Areas:	Wildland Urban
Year Established:	1977
Tax Map #:	062 and 073

Community Size:

Number of Lots:	235 platted lots (223 parcels platted in Saddle Ridge; 12 additional platted Saddle Ridge-Burchfield7); additional 7 unplatted areas
Number of Structures:	75 = 74 homes + 1 barn; 2 small, metal service barns for trash and equipment; 1 gazebo
Estimated Acres:	1,320 (1,195 acres platted – approx. 5-acre lots + 125 acres associated with SR)
Development Status:	active sales of homes and properties

Community Infrastructure:

Home Owners Assoc.:	Yes – Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association
	Attachment B – *Land Use Restrictions, Protective Covenants and Building Standards for Saddleridge*

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Resident Population:

76% Full-time (56 homes) 24% Part-time (18 homes)

Wildfire Hazard Rating:

Risk Rating: High Hazard (score 182)

Date Evaluated: April 15, 2021

2. Community Risk Assessment

Four documents provide the information for this section of the report:

- 2021 Community Accomplishments (2021CA – Attachment C)
- Community Wildfire Risk Assessment (CWRA – Attachment E)
- 2021 Action Plan (2021AP – Attachment D)
- Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report (SWRA – Attachment F)

First, members of the SR Firewise Committee (FWC) reviewed the actions identified in the 2017 Action Plan—now referred to as the 2021 Community Accomplishments (2021CA). The FWC is pleased to report that all actions were completed with the exception of one: a fire break along the SR boundary with the GSMNP (Action # 17).

Members of the Firewise Committee and representatives from the Tennessee Division of Forestry and Great Smoky Mountain National Park met on April 15, 2021, and completed the Community Wildfire Risk Assessment (CWRA) after a drive-around. The CWRA focused on Suppression Assessment (the ingress/egress, the roads, and local resources), Surrounding Environment Assessment (vegetation, defensible space, and topography), and Structure Assessment (building materials and utilities).

The 2021 Action Plan (2021AP) identifies 16 actions planned for the next 3-4 years. Each of these is cross-referenced in the CWRA in red in Attachment E.

The CWRA sections—Suppression, Surrounding Environment, and Structure Assessment—provide the outline for the discussion below. The description includes improvements that have been made since becoming a Firewise community in 2017 and identifies the 2021 Action Plan items.

Suppression:

Saddle Ridge roads are cut through forest that has dense stands of hardwoods, pines, laurel, and rhododendron. The hardwood forest has grown back after heavy lumbering in the 1900s. Vegetation is described as *Heavy* – "dense stands of brush like laurel and rhododendron, young pine stands 3'-20' tall" (2006 *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*).

Many of the homes have less than 30' of defensible space. Homeowners are reminded through articles in *The Ridge Rambler* (Attachment G), the Saddle Ridge website (www.saddleridgepoa.com, Attachment H), via email, and annual meetings of the importance of the 30' of defensible space (2021AP # 6).

Better management of the stands of laurel, rhododendron, and pines along roads or near houses will reduce the fuel for fires (Figures 10 and 11). The Road Committee work on vegetation removal year-around. Community members focus on vegetation removal particularly during the bi-annual community clean-up days and home assessments (2021AP # 8).

Figure 10 Vegetation (Eagle Pass)

Figure 11 Vegetation – Steep Roads

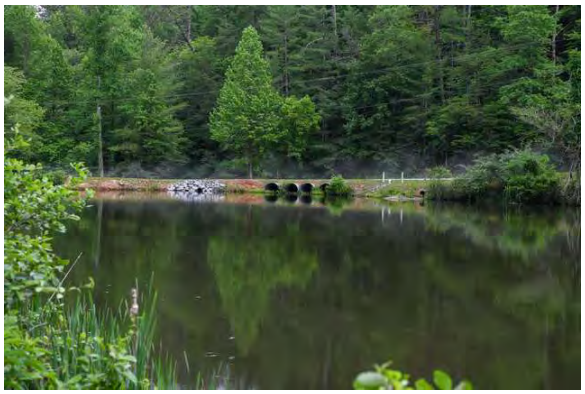


Figure 12 Pond at entrance to Saddle Ridge

Figure 13 Dry Hydrant

The pond provides a water source for the community. The pond is 20 minutes or less roundtrip from any structure in Saddle Ridge. The BCFPD maintains the dry hydrant. (Figures 12 and 13). The BCFPD tested the hydrant August 25, 2017. The Saddle Ridge pond is also a designated Dip Site for Blount County (Table 5).

Surrounding Environment:

Saddle Ridge Road off of East Miller's Cove Road is the only paved, two-lane road leading to the community's gated entrance. Saddle Ridge Road is more than 20' wide, but it is curvy with less than a 5% grade. It is the only ingress/egress for the community. Smith Branch of Reed Creek runs alongside Saddle Ridge Road.

The community is laid out with 3 loops of roads with dead-end roads greater than 200' in length off each of the loops. The houses are scattered throughout the community with few instances of homes close together. The Road Committee monitors and maintains the roads as needed using equipment purchased with Firewise funds (Table 7). When needed, an outside contractor grades the roads and adds gravel and culverts. Emergency equipment access is considered each time there is major road work. (Attachment A – Map of Saddle Ridge)

Within Saddle Ridge, the roads are gravel roads with the typical curves and hills of a mountain community. Most of the primary roads within the community are 20' wide with road grades more than 5%. Roads move up the Saddle Ridge section of Miller Cove Mountain from the gate and pond area. Many of the roads and driveways are steep (greater than 30% grade). (Figures 14 and 15)

Figure 14 Steep Roads – House Numbers

Figure 15 Steep Roads – Cul-de-sac (Waters End)

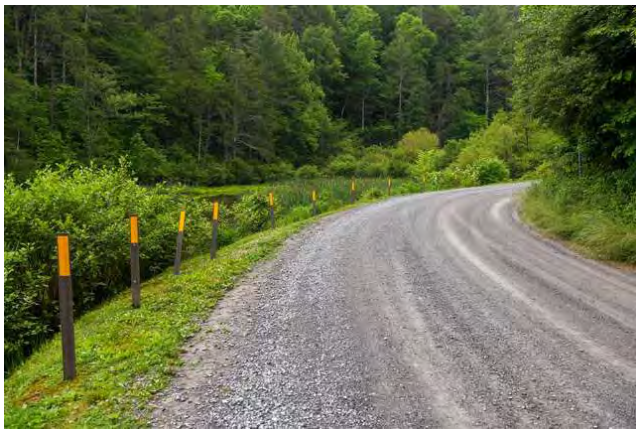


Figure 16 Reflective Guides (Chilhowee Loop)

Figure 17 Choke-point Chilhowee Loop

Several choke-points were noted during the 2017 assessment that have been resolved. Figure 17 is the chokepoint on Chilhowee Loop that has been widened. Additionally, reflectors were installed along sections of Chilhowee Loop.

The wooden road signs (Figure 18) were replaced in 2018 with metal signs (Figure 19). Firewise funds were used. Most of the homes have clearly visible, reflective signs with house numbers. Owners are reminded with articles in *The Ridge Rambler* of the importance of visible house numbers (2021AP # 6).

Figure 18 Original Wooden Road signs

Figure 19 Metal Road Signs

2021AP # 13 calls for a review of road signs. For example, additional signs may be needed to mark roads that come to a T with the house numbers for each direction. On the drive-around with TDF representatives, several of the dead-ends and cul-de-sacs were evaluated for ease of turning emergency equipment around. *No turn-around* signs may need to be added. (Figures 20 and 21)

Figure 20 Dead End (Eagle Pass)

Figure 21 Cul-de-sac (Fox Trail)

Structure Assessment:

The majority of the homes have noncombustible siding and a combustible deck. Building materials include vinyl siding, cedar siding, brick, and logs. The homes and barn have either asphalt or metal roofs Frame houses and log cabins range in size from approximately 1,500 sq. ft. to over 3,000 sq. ft. Mobile homes are not allowed. The houses are not clustered enough to pose a risk of fire between structures. Several homes have small outbuildings that pose some risk to the home.

All but 3 short sections of power lines (noted in red on Figure 22) are above ground. Power outages are not uncommon with most caused by trees falling across a line. Alcoa Electric responds quickly. And, Alcoa Electric comes through every 2-3 years to trim back trees.

Propane tanks are prevalent. Some are buried, but most are above ground. During the recent drive-around, TDF representatives encouraged clearly marking underground propane and septic tanks. If a bulldozer is brought in to fight a fire, it helps prevent more damaged if the tanks are marked (2021AP # 6, 8).

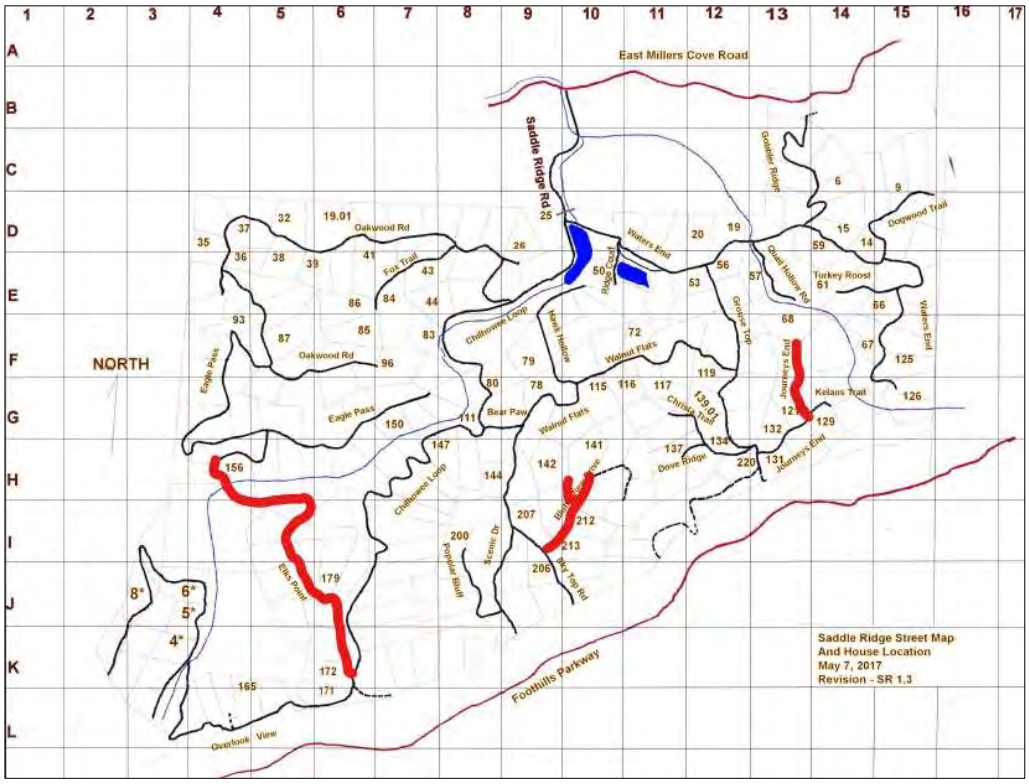


Figure 22 Buried Utility Lines (red)

Community Wildfire History:

The BCFPD, TDF, and the GSMNP provided the information for this section.

Relative Frequency:

Table 1 Fires Reported in Saddle Ridge by Blount County Fire Protection District, 2005-2016)

Cause	Count	Acres
Powerlines	2	2
Lightening	2	9
Residential	1	0
Undetermined	1	3
	6	14

Table 2 Fires Reported by Tennessee Department of Forestry, 2007-2016 (map, Figure 23)

Cause	Acres
Agricultural	4.0
Building	5.0
Campfire	2.5
Debris	60.9
Fireworks	4.1
Lightening	70.0
Misc. Other	53.5
Powerlines	189.6
Undetermined	1,517.8
	1,907.4

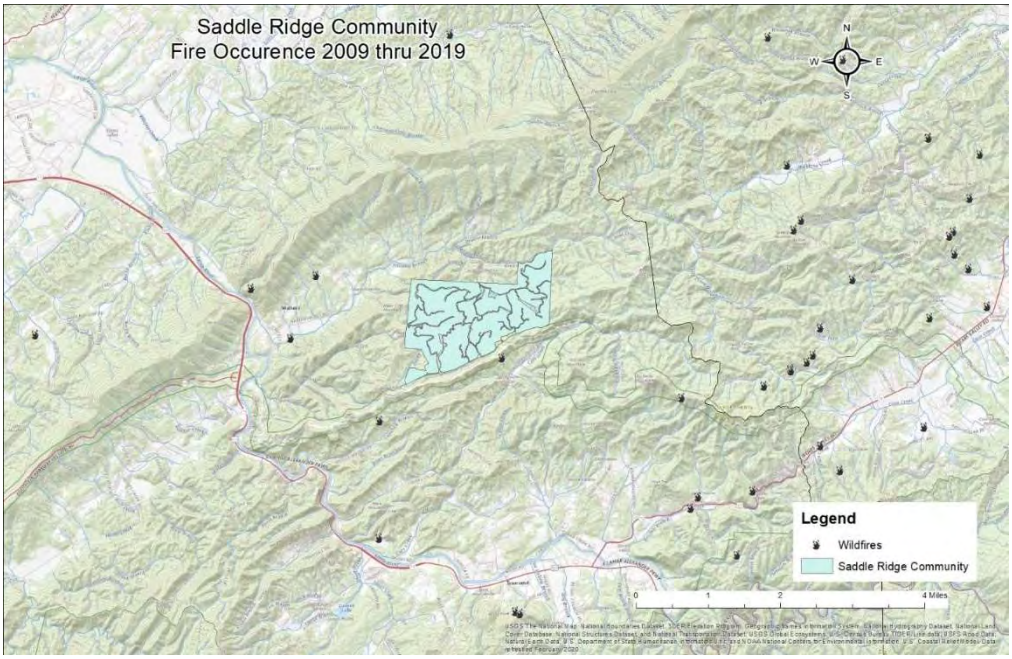


Figure 23 Wildfires Reported to Tennessee Department of Forestry, 2009 - 2019

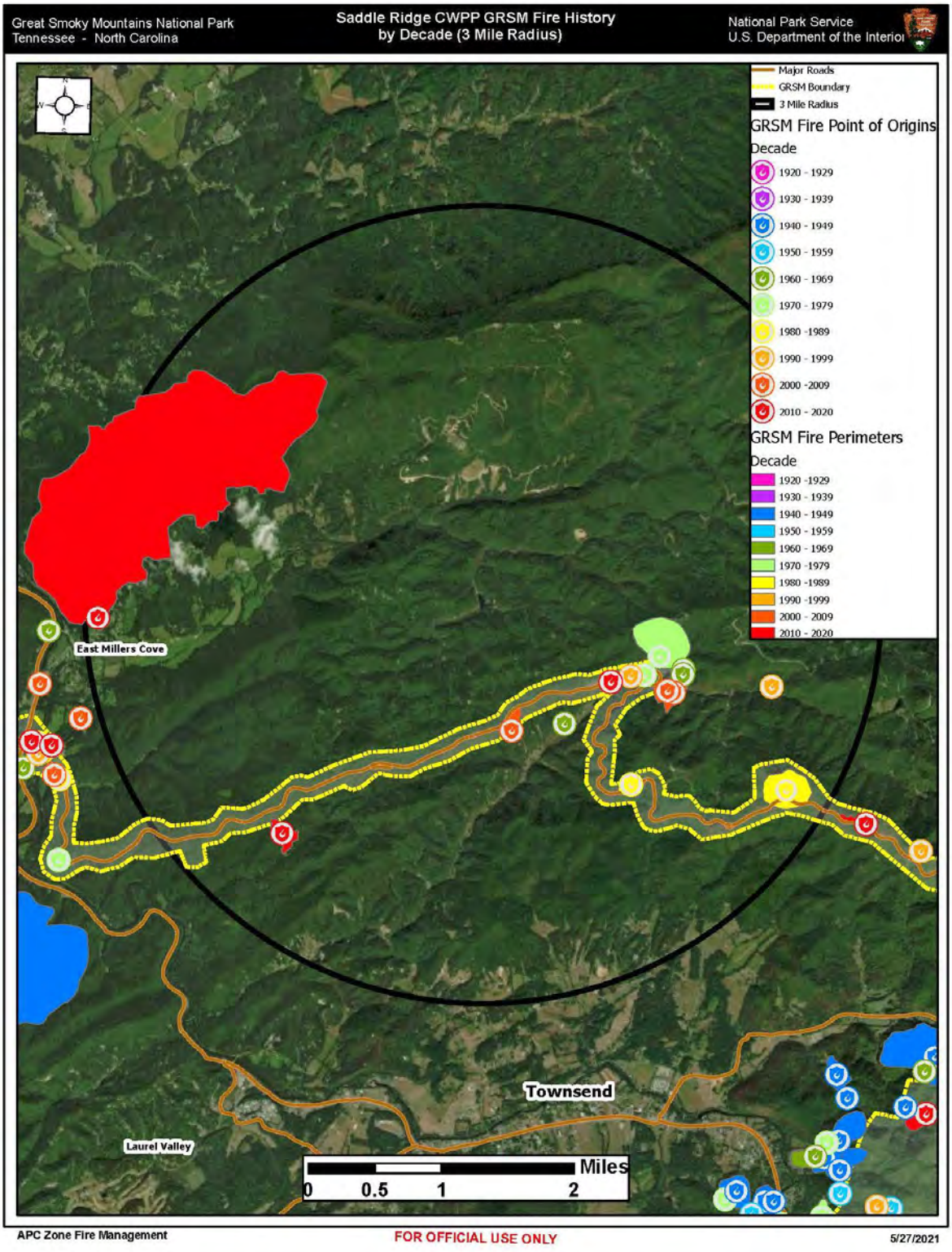


Figure 24 GSMNP Response to fires near Saddle Ridge, 1960s - 2010s

The November 2016 Chilhowee Mountain fire and a construction-related fire along the Foothills Parkway are the recent fires that GSMNP responded to in the area.

Common Causes: brush fires, lighting strikes, wind knocking trees into power lines

Areas of Future Concern: continue to monitor trees overhanging power lines along roads

Additional Comments:

Residents are on alert when the power goes out. They immediately report the outage to Alcoa Electric and post the outage on Facebook to let neighbors know. They also check in their area for fires. Community volunteers remove downed trees from roads after storms have passed.

The November 2016 Chilhowee Mountain and the Gatlinburg fires were fueled by extremely dry conditions and high winds. The BCFPD reported that Chilhowee fire was a canopy fire, not the usual brush fire they normally fight. A fire in Saddle Ridge at the same time was sparked by lightning hitting a tree. Fortunately, a light rain dampened the area enough to help the crew from BCFPD extinguish the fire.

The Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report (SWRA) (Attachment F) provides a number of visuals that give an overview of the risk of fire for Saddle Ridge. The report was created on May 12, 2021, following a drive-around April 15, 2021.

The Wildland Urban Interface Risk Index indicates that Saddle Ridge risk is in the minor impact to moderate range (Figure 23 below from Attachment F, page 11). The Foothills Parkway is the southern boundary of Saddle Ridge.

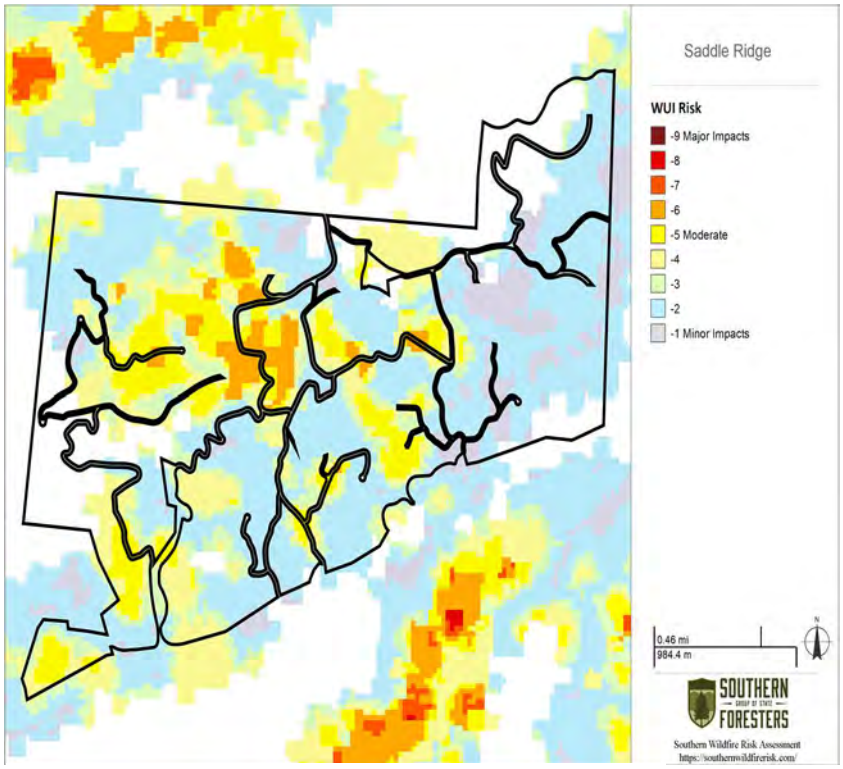


Figure 25 Wildfire Urban Interface Risk for Saddle Ridge

3. 2021 Action Plan: Goals, Objectives, Fire Mitigation Recommendations

The 2017 and 2021 goals are the same: fuel reduction and structure ignitability reduction to protect Saddle Ridge and its essential infrastructure. The objectives are

- Identify hazardous fuel concerns.
- Identify structural ignitability concerns.
- Promote home and property owner awareness of fire mitigation activities.

The 2021 CWPP identifies actions the SRPOA and homeowners will take to reduce hazardous fuel, reduce structure ignitability, and provide homeowner education and outreach. The plan also documents the activities of property owners and offers justification for the SRPOA to apply for TDF Hazard Mitigation Grants.

The following recommendations were developed in 2017 by the SR Firewise Committee, the SRPOA, the TDF, the BCFPD, and the GSMNP, with additional community resources consulted. The members of the FWC and SRPOA Board and representatives from the TDF, BCFPD, and GSMNP collaborated on the 2021 update of Community Wildfire Risk Assessment (Attachment E).

Below, the 2021 priority list responds to the 2017 priority list and identifies the action planned for 2021 and going forward. The complete 2021 Action Plan is found in Attachment D.

Proposed Community Hazard Reduction Priorities:

- 2017: Document the highest priorities areas of Saddle Ridge to remove fuel alongside the roads, around phone poles, in the community areas (the barn area, kiosk, and pond), and particularly hazardous tracts of private property that significantly impact other structures.

  2021: The SRPOA Road Committee and community members monitor the roads and the vegetation. Homeowners post problem areas on the SRPOA Facebook or report the problem to a SRPOA Board member. Spring and Fall clean-up days focus on vegetation removal. 2021AP # 10, 11, 15

- 2017: Hold community clean-up day(s) to promote clearing around individual homes and the barn area. Because steep slopes are common, promote fuel removal and thinning within 30’ as a guideline.

  2021: Spring and Fall clean-up days focus on vegetation removal. 2021AP # 9, 10, 11, 15

- 2017: Publicize the county’s locations for disposal of solid, non-hazardous waste disposal. Alert residents to county-wide disposal options for hazardous waste.

  2021: Posts to the SR Facebook page alert community members of Blount County resources. Neighbors frequently combine trips to the BC landfill. 2021AP # 6

- 2017: Coordinate boundary fuel reduction projects that are carried out within the GSMNP for fire break areas.

  2021: Shane Paxton, Acting Fire Management GSMNP, walked two areas of the SR boundary with the GSMNP—Sky Top and Park Spur. No fire break projects are planned for this area in the foreseeable future. 2021AP #12

Proposed Structural Ignitability Reduction Priorities:

- 2017: Work with home and property owners on the individual TDF Home Assessment. 14 home assessments were completed 2017-2019.

  2021: Home assessments are resuming now that it is safe to meet with neighbors. The homeowners will be reminded of the importance of the 30' of defensible space. They will be encouraged to mark underground propane and septic tanks. 2021AP # 8, 9, 14

- 2017: Identify roads and driveways that need better access for emergency vehicles.

  2021: Community representatives, including the chair of the Road Committee, met with the TDF. Each dead-end and cul-de-sac will be reviewed for access and signage. A meeting with the BCFPD is planned. 2021AP # 2, 5

- 2017: Improve gate access for the emergency vehicles.

  2021: When SRPOA representatives meet with the BCFPD gate access will be reviewed. The BCFPD has an assigned a gate code. 2021AP # 5

- 2017: Improve road and house signage to ensure that it meets Firewise standards.

  2021: Review signage. 2021AP # 6, 8, 13

Proposed Education and Outreach Priorities:

- 2017: Provide all residents with *Firewise* and *Ready, Set, Go!* materials. Make sure new residents receive the materials shortly after they purchase property.

  2021: Each new owner is emailed a packet of information and the SR website (www.saddleridgepoa.com) has SR covenants and restriction, architectural review guidelines, Firewise information, and more. 2021AP # 6

- 2017 / 2021: Continue articles in *The Ridge Rambler*, the Saddle Ridge quarterly newsletter. 2021AP # 6

- 2017 / 2021: Continue to make Firewise presentations at the annual SRPOA meeting in July. 2021AP # 6

- 2017: Train several homeowners to become the Firewise Home Assessors for Saddle Ridge (starting with the Firewise committee members). Plan to evaluate 20 homes per year.

  2021: Two residents lead the Home Assessments, Barbara Clinansmith and Karen Richardson. Now that it is safe, they are resuming home assessments. 2021AP # 8

- 2017: Continue to hold community-wide Firewise training to give owners a basic understanding of Firewise principles and program.

  2021: Develop training held outside of the annual meeting and clean-up days. 2021AP # 6

- 2017 / 2021: Continue to post alerts about power outages and trees down across roads on the Saddle Ridge Facebook page. 2021AP # 6

- 2017: Develop a phone tree to alert residents of the need to evacuate.

  2021: Blount County Emergency Management uses Reverse 911 calling for landlines and works with FEMA to ping/send an alert message to any cell phone in the area. The phone tree has been discontinued. A map with evacuation routes is posted at the kiosk and on the SR website. 2021AP # 7

4. Wildfire Pre-Suppression Plan

Wildfire Protection Responsibility

Structural Protection	Blount County Fire Protection District
Wildland Protection	Tennessee Division of Forestry

Incident Command Post / Incident Staging Area / Medical Unit Staging Area Location

Depending on the location of the fire, the gate or barn area could serve as a staging area. The gate is the only entrance/exit to SR. The barn is located about .5 miles from the gate.

Alarm Response

Table 3 Blount County Fire Protection District Response

Alarm	Responder	Travel Distance	Response Time
1st	BCFPD – Walland – Station 5	4.5 miles	10-12 minutes
2nd*	Townsend	15-20 miles	15-20 minutes

*The call goes out for more trucks if needed. Townsend or other stations will respond depending on the situation.

The initial equipment response for structure and brush fires is shown below—with adjustments made as needed for the fire.

Table 4 Responding Equipment (BCFPD)

Type of Fire	Equipment	Water and other resources
Structure Fire	Engine	1,000 gallons
	2 Tanker Trucks	3,000 gallons, each
	Support truck	Extra equipment: saws, air pumps, etc.
	Engine	Dry Hydrant
Brush Fire	Brush Truck	250 gallons
	2 Tanker Trucks	3,000 gallons, each
	1 engine truck	1,000 gallons

Air Support

Helicopter and air tanker availability varies greatly during the year. Aerial suppression resources should not be assumed available. Local TDF personnel must be involved in the decision to use aerial suppression resources. The TDF Fire Chief and Army National Guard determine if the mission request is fulfilled. Federal Air Tanker requests must be made from TDF personnel on the fire through the TDF Fire Chief.

Two 600-gallon capacity Bambi buckets are stationed year-round at ANG located at McGhee Tyson Airport, and use is subject to availability. Water fill sites are available at the Little River in Walland, and at Douglas & Loudon reservoirs.

The nearest fill site for Air Tankers is at the National Park Service Air Tanker Base located at the Chattanooga Airport.

Base Name: CHATTANOOGA-CHA
Type of Retardant: Phos-Chek D75-R
Geographic Area: SOUTHERN AREA-R8
Address: Cherokee National Forest
1022 Jubilee Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 3742

Table 5: Blount County Dip Sites 2019

Community	Address	Longitude Latitude	Approved by/Date
Maryville	6983 Holiday Drive Tallassee	N35*38.300 W083*55.596	Top of the World Homeowners Association 2019
Maryville	5644 Flats Rd Tallassee	N35*39.464 W83*54.399	Top of the World Homeowners Association 2019
Walland	1723 Chilhowee Loop Rd	N35*44.088 W83*45.590	Saddle Ridge Properties Owners Association 2019
Walland	350 Martin Valley Rd	N35*43.708 W083*48.349	Larry and Hilda Chesney 2019
Townsend	379 Laurel Valley Rd	N35*40.375 W083*47.789	Laurel Valley Homeowners Association-Jim Rose 2019
Townsend	1260 Little Round Top Way	N35*41,466 W083*41.076	Little Round Top Homeowners Association 2019

Water Availability

Saddle Ridge has a dry hydrant located at the north end of the pond across from the gate to the community. The BCFPD services the dry hydrant with annual maintenance checks. The most recent was completed August 25, 2017.

Table 4 identifies the types of responding equipment. The tanker trucks each carry 3,000 gallons of water. In addition to the pond in Saddle Ridge accessed through the dry hydrant, the BCFPD has back-up water supplies through hydrants at Walland Elementary School and Fire Station 5 (Walland).

Communications

The BCFPD is part of the Blount County emergency dispatch system—a digital system. Once on scene, the BCFPD uses their local, analog frequency for tactical operations.

Evacuation

A map with evacuation routes is posted at community kiosk and on the SR website. (Attachment I)

5. Additional Comments

The 2021 CWPP sets clear priorities for continued implementation of wildfire mitigation in the Saddle Ridge community. This plan includes prioritized recommendations for the community as a whole and for individual homeowners. The plan promotes the *Fire Adapted Community* strategy with *Firewise* and *Ready, Set, Go!* programs (Figure 1).

The SRPOA, SRPOA Board of Directors, SR Firewise Committee, and homeowners are working together with the BCFPD, TDF, GSMNP, Alcoa Electric, and other community resources to continue the plan established in 2017.

The 2021 CWPP emphasizes collaboration among Saddle Ridge volunteers and community resources. A significant part of the plan focuses on reducing the risk of structure ignitability. Volunteers work with individual residents on the TDF Home Assessment to help alleviate problem areas. The SRPOA works on community-wide projects to reduce fuel sources.

For 2021, volunteer hours x $27.20 (Firewise-assigned dollar value) = value of volunteer hours

Residents are sent via email a bi-monthly survey (Attachment J) to report their Firewise activities. For example, one homeowner reported through the bi-monthly survey that her household had worked 163 hours to "cut down dead trees/leaning trees and processed wood and chipped debris, mulched leaves for flower beds, removed leaves from trails to create fire breaks":

163 hours [2 volunteers] x $27.20 = $4,433.60

Saddle Ridge has a clean-up day in the Fall and Spring. 10-15 volunteers work on vegetation removal projects and picking up trash on EMC. They work for about 2 hours, a community total of 20-30 hours. The value of the hours is $544 – $816. The community held virtual clean-ups in Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021. Volunteers signed up for a project, completed it on their own, and reported it in a Google spreadsheet.

Saddle Ridge has had no problem meeting the required annual volunteer investment and that is with less than 10% of the residents reporting their activities (Table 6).

Table 6. Annual Community Investment (Volunteer Hours)

	$$ Investment	$$ Required
November 2017	$ 325.89	$ 144.00
November 2018	53,622.48	1,762.22
November 2019	28,348.53	1,907.25
November 2020	75,378.69	1,907.25
As of May 23, 2021	$ 44,381.00	$ 2,012.80

The Firewise grants (Table 7) have provided funds to improve signage and purchase equipment to help homeowners with vegetation removal.

Table 7. Firewise Grants Awarded

Grant	Award	Expenditures
March 2018 – June 2019 Start-up grant	$ 20,000	road signs, flail ditch mower, trimmers, pruners, safety equipment. Chokepoint widening. Vegetation removal.
Spring 2019	5,000	wood chipper
2019-2020	3,300	tractor tires and counterweights, come-a-long, fire danger sign
2020-21	5,000	brush cutter, backpack blower, chipper blade/belts, safety equipment. Vegetation removal.
	$ 33,300	

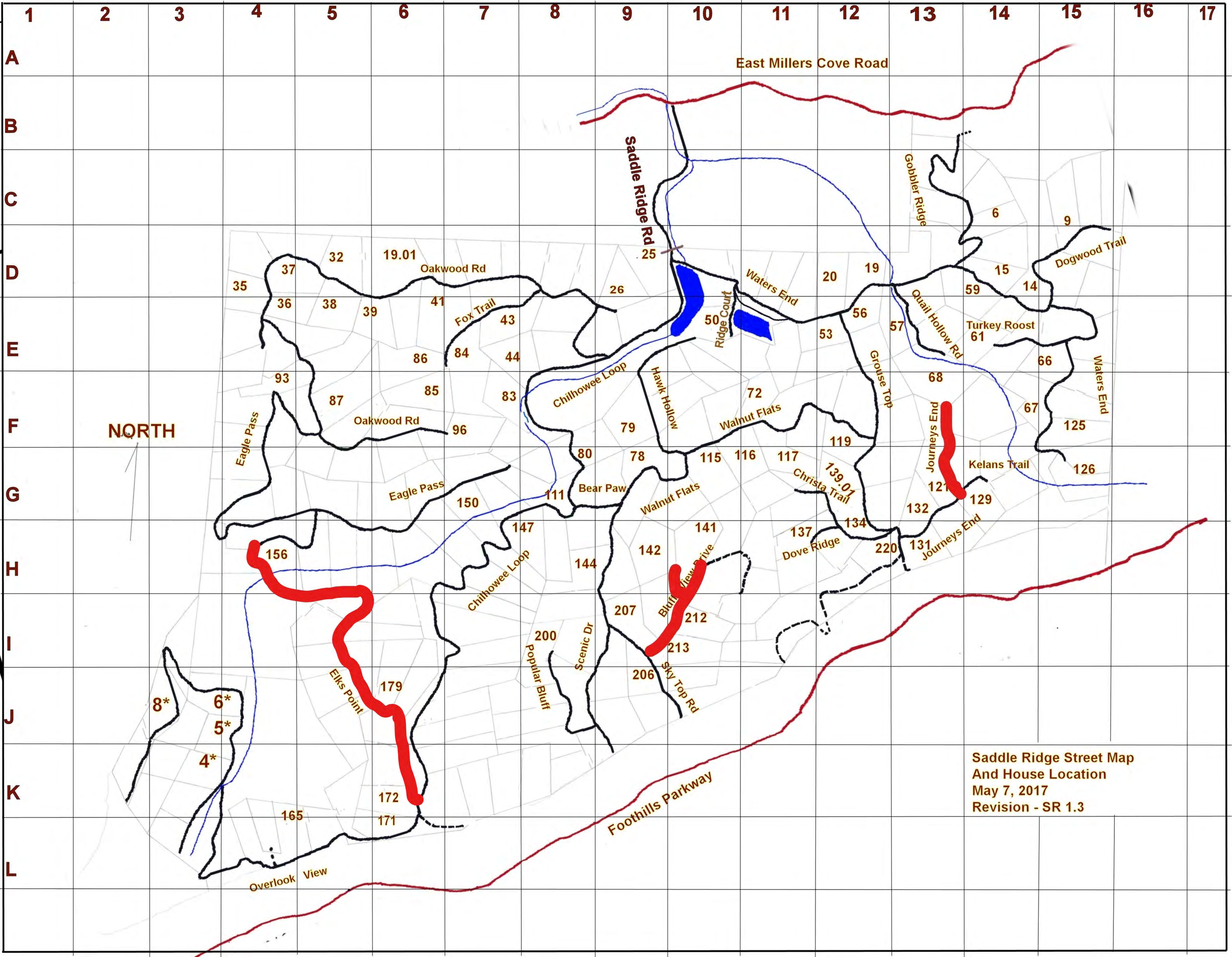
Saddle Ridge residents for years have held spring and fall clean-up days. Not only do members of the community remove trash and debris in Saddle Ridge, but they also walk East Millers Cove Road and pick trash. The clean-up days often coincide with Keep Blount County Beautiful days and are easily incorporated into the Firewise days.

The community relies on volunteers to remove trees that fall across roads and other debris that blocks roads. Residents post problems on Facebook and within a couple of hours volunteers respond. Derechos and other wind events often fell trees on the roads and on private property. Trees on the roads are removed first—but neighbors help neighbors remove trees across houses, driveways, and yards. Recent severe weather caused flooding at the gate and on Saddle Ridge Road and Walnut Flats.

Saddle Ridge depends on neighbors helping neighbors. This volunteer spirit complements the Firewise program goal of community involvement. The community can check-off the network items in Figure 1. Residents “understand the fire risk”—and their actions, documented in this CWPP, show their efforts to “minimize harm” to the residents and the community.

Attachment A

Map of Saddle Ridge



Saddle Ridge Street Map
And House Location
May 7, 2017
Revision - SR 1.3

Attachment B

Land Use Restrictions, Protective Covenants and Building Standards for Saddleridge

LAND USE RESTRICTIONS, PROTECTIVE COVENANTS AND BUILDING STANDARDS FOR

SADDLERIDGE

47

766

Whereas, Mountain States Development Corporation, a Tennessee Corporation, hereinafter called the developer is now the owner of all the land shown on the plat of Saddleridge, according to the plat thereof recorded by the Register of Deeds, Blount County, Tennessee.

Recorded_____ Map Book_____ Page_____

Whereas, said Developer is developing said subdivison known as Saddleridge, and the developer is desirous of placing certain covenants and restrictions upon the use of all the land shown on said plat and is desirous that said covenants and restrictions shall run with the title to the land hereby restricted.

Therefore, for and in consideration of the premises and for other good and valuable considerations, Mountain States Development Corporation does hereby restrict the use of all the land included in said plat of Saddleridge, all of the land included in said plat being hereinafter sometimes referred to as "said land" and the developer hereby places upon said land the following covenants and restrictions, to run with the title to said land, and the grantee of any deed conveying any tract, parcels, or tracts shown on said plat or any parts or portions thereof shall be deemed by the acceptance of such deed to have agreed to all such covenanted to observe, comply with and be bound by all covenants and restrictions, as follows. These restrictions are for all land owned and being developed by Mountain States Development Corporation in the 18th district of Blount County, Tennessee.

SECTION A:

1. The term "tracts" as used herein shall refer to the numbered tracts in the numbered blocks on said plat. These tracts shown on said plat shall be used for residential purposes only. Except as herein otherwise specifically provided, no structure shall be erected or permitted to remain on any tract or building plot on said land other than one single family residence. The developer shall have the authority to designate certain areas on the map or plat as commercial or recreation areas. In such areas, construction other than single family residence will be permitted. No trade or commercial activity shall be carried on upon any residential tracts.

2. Without prior approval of the Developer, the height of the main residence on each building plat shall be not more than two full stories above the normal surface of the ground.

3. No building, fence, sidewalk, wall or structure, driveway or roadway or exterior television or radio antenna of any kind shall be built, constructed, placed, enlarged or altered on any tract unless and until the detailed plans and specifications and the proposed type of construction and the proposed location of such building or structures, driveways, and automobile parking areas upon the said tract shall have been submitted to the developer at their offices and approved of by it in writing. The developer shall within thirty (30) days of receipt of such plans, return said plans to the Purchaser indicating thereon its approval or disapproval.

4. No temporary building of any kind including tent, trailer, barn or treehouse shall be built or placed on any tract at any time.

For Declaration see Misc 22298 155

5. No boats, motorcycles, motor bikes, or trailers shall be permitted entry to the development, nor be kept on any lot at any time whatsoever.

6. No tract shall be used as a dumping ground for rubbish, trash, garbage, or other waste matter. Garbage or other waste shall be kept in sanitary containers. All equipment for the storage or disposal of such material shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition. No incinerator or any outdoor burning shall be permitted. The type of sanitary containers and location of same shall have the approval of the developer. All dwellings shall be equipped with a garbage compactor approved by the developer.

7. No tract or group of tracts in the said subdivision as delineated on the plat shall be divided or subdivided into smaller tracts.

8. No one will be allowed to strip top soil away from any tract, or to remove trees or otherwise waste away the natural beauty of the tract. This, of course, does not disallow necessary construction or any other activities calculated to increase the beauty of the tract or increase its value.

9. No sign of any character shall be displayed or placed upon any building plot or structure including "For Sale" or "For Rent" signs without the prior approval of the developer.

10. Nothing contained in these covenants and restrictions shall prevent the developer or any person designated by the Developer from erecting or maintaining such commercial and display signs and such temporary dwellings, model houses, and other structures as the Developer may deem advisable for development purposes.

11. No noxious or offensive trade or activity shall be carried on upon any tract, nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or become any annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood.

12. No animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred, or kept on any tract except that dogs, cats, and other domestic pets may be kept provided they are not kept, bred, or maintained for any commercial purposes.

13. Every residence shall have a septic tank which shall be installed in such manner as to comply with all laws and health regulations.

14. Nothing shall be done on any tract whereby the natural flow of surface water shall be increased or altered in such manner as to cause a nuisance to any adjoining or neighboring property.

15. Each tract owner shall provide space for parking two automobiles off the street prior to the occupancy of any dwelling constructed on said tract in accordance with reasonable standards established by the Developer.

16. Exterior of all homes must be completed within one year after the construction of same shall have commenced, except where such completion is impossible or would result in great hardship to the owner or builder due to strikes, fires, national emergencies or natural calamities.

17. Easements for installation and maintenance of utilities and drainage facilities are reserved as shown on the recorded plat and a five foot easement is reserved along all tract lines for said purposes.

18. No minimum square footage is provided by these restrictions, however, the Developer shall have the right to approve or disapprove the square footage of any plans submitted if in its opinion the size of the proposed residence is not in keeping with other surrounding residences.

19. All roads within the subdivision are private and shall remain private until such time the Developer desires to dedicate said roads to all property owners within subdivision.

SECTION B:

Each tract owner shall be required to pay to the Developer a fee of Seventy-five ($75.00) Dollars per year for each unimproved tract, and One Hundred Fifty ($150.00) Dollars per year for each improved lot owned. Said fee to be used by the Developer for the maintenance of roadways, the over-all security of the development and the maintenance of the various amenities in the development. The first years fee will be payable by lot owners upon receipt of their Warranty Deed and annually thereafter for so long as the Developer maintains for the benefit of the various tract owners, the various amenities, roadways and services. The amount of this fee shall be subject to change at five (5) year intervals from March 1, 1976, based upon any percentage increase or decrease in the United States Cost of Living Index as published by the proper agency of the United States Government.

The roads and streets of the development as shown on the maps of record in the Register's Office of Blount County, Tennessee, are not to be dedicated to the public but are to remain private roadways. The Developer may maintain at appropriate entrances to the development, gates and security personnel for the protection of the residence and the property of the development. The owner of the various lots or their successors in title are granted a perpetual easement over said roadways and streets, as long as the particular owner pays the annual maintenance fee. The Developer shall have the right to regulate and enforce motor vehicle traffic and parking in the development.

These covenants are to take effect immediately and shall be binding on all parties and all persons claiming under them, forever.

If the parties hereto or any of them or their heirs or assigns shall violate or attempt to violate any of the covenants herein, it shall be lawful for the Developer or any other person or persons owning any real estate situated in said development or subdivision to prosecute any proceedings at law or in equity against the person or persons violating or attempting to violate any such covenants, and either to prevent him or them from so doing or to recover damages or other dues for such violation.

Invalidation of any one of these covenants by judgment of Court order shall not in any way affect any of the other provisions which shall remain in full force and effect.

Mountain States Development Corporation

C. C. Pack, President

Attest: _____
Secretary

STATE OF TENNESSEE
BLOUNT COUNTY

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State and County, personally appeared C. C. Pack with whom I am personally acquainted, and who, upon oath, acknowledged himself to be the President of Mountain States Development Corporation, the within named bargainor, a corporation and that he as such President being authorized so to do, executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained, by signing the name of the corporation by himself as President.

Witness my hand and seal, this 6 day of April, 19 77.

My commission expires: 8-31-78

William Waters
NOTARY PUBLIC

Received for record the 6 day of April 19 77 at 10:45 o'clock A.M.

Howard P. Lindsay
REGISTER OF DEEDS

OF BLOUNT COUNTY TENNESSEE

769

Attachment C

2021 Community Accomplishments (2021CA)

2021 Saddle Ridge Community Accomplishments

Saddle Ridge community members accomplished all the actions we identified in 2017. Our Spring and Fall clean-ups help to focus our efforts on specific areas—even during Covid. We hope you will skim this list to see what our community has done in almost four years. (Abbreviations are listed at the end.)

The Firewise Committee and the Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association Board thank community members for their hard work.

2017 Action Plan – Saddle Ridge

Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
1	*Project*: Meeting with Blount County Fire Protection District (EO) *Action*: Met with Chief McClanahan and Captain Johnny Leatherwood of the BCFPD *Assess*: Briefed committee members (Sue DuBois, Debra James, Margaret Saunders, Betsy Smith, and Robert Smith) on the role of the BCFPD	0	FWC, BCFPD	n/a	4/26/2017	4/26/2017
2	*Project*: Firewise Conference (EO) *Action*: Smitty and Betsy Smith attended Firewise Conferences *Assess*: Informative overview of the Firewise and *Ready, Set, Go!* programs and how the TDF works with communities.	0	FWC	n/a	5/23/2017	5/23/2017 2018 2019 2020 -- Covid-19

2021 Action Plan – Saddle Ridge

Saddle Ridge community members are notified of all Firewise activities through email (saddleridgepoa@gmail.com), Facebook postings on the private Saddle Ridge page, the Saddle Ridge website (www.saddleridgepoa.com), and in the quarterly newsletter (*The Ridge Rambler*). In addition, the SRPOA Board is updated on activities through the Environment Committee. In 2021, the Environment Committee chair is Judy Pearson. The current chair of the Firewise Committee is Betsy Smith; current committee members are Margaret Akers, Barbara Clinansmith, Karen Richardson, Tom Sardella, and Robert Smith.

Abbreviations

BCFPD	Blount County Fire Protection District	HR	Hazard Reduction
EO	Education/Outreach	SI	Structural Ignitability
FWC	Firewise Committee (subcommittee of SRPOA Environmental Committee)	TDF	Tennessee Department of Forestry (East Tennessee District)
GSMNP	Great Smoky Mountains National Park		

Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
1	*Project*: Review 2017 Action Plan to prepare for 2021 Community Wildfire Preparation Plan. (EO) *Action*: Firewise committee members Betsy Smith, Robert Smith, Barbara Clinansmith, and Margaret Akers reviewed each action item. *Assess*: At the suggestion of Eric Miller, TN Forestry, renamed the 2017 Action Plan the 2021 Saddle Ridge Community Accomplishments. All actions were completed.	0	FWC	n/a	2/18/2021	4/10/2021

Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
2	*Project*: Meet with Tennessee Department of Forestry Eric Miller, Area Forester, and Doug Lynn, Forestry Technician. (EO, HR, SI) *Action*: Drive-around with representatives of TN Forestry: Eric Miller, Doug Lynn, Doug Phillips, and Clayton Lawrence. Saddle Ridge representatives: Betsy Smith, Sue DuBois, and Judy Pearson. Discussed points on Community Assessor Worksheet. *Assess*: Drove Chilhowee Loop to Elks Point out Eagle Pass and back via Oakwood Road. Stopped at different points. Noted Eagle Pass is not wide enough to be a turnaround for fire equipment. Completed all but GSMNP section of Community Wildfire Risk Assessment.	0	TDF FWC	n/a	4/15/2021	4/15/2021
3	*Project*: Meet with Tennessee Forestry Eric Miller, Area Forester, and Shane Paxton, Great Smoky Mountains National Park Service. (EO, HR, SI) *Action*: Drive-around with Eric Miller, TN Forestry, and Shane Paxton, GSMNPS; Betsy Smith, Sally Whelan, and Keith Kennedy, Saddle Ridge representatives. *Assess*: Drove Chilhowee Loop – Walnut Flats – Bear Paw – Sky Top and walked to Foothills Parkway. Drove to Park Spur and Popular Bluff. Drove to Park Spur and Overlook View and walked in along Saddle Ridge / GSMNP boundary. Drove to end of Overlook View then back via Elks Point, Eagle Pass, and Oakwood to Chilhowee Loop. Completed the Community Wildfire Risk Assessment. Final Report received**.** (Attachment E)	0	TDF FWC	n/a	4/22/2021	4/22/2021 5/12/2021

Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
4	*Project*: Tennessee Fire Adapted Communities – Firewise – Annual Conference. (EO) *Action*: Community representative(s) attend Firewise Conference *Assess*: Updated Firewise communities on best practices and grant opportunities. Reviewed the Fire Adapted Communities Network model. Betsy Smith participated in Zoom meeting.	0	TDF		5/20/2021	5/20/2021
5	*Project*: Meet with Blount County Fire Protection District Chief McClanahan and Captain Johnny Leatherwood. (EO, HR, SI) *Action*: Drive-around to evaluate Saddle Ridge fire-readiness. Confirm have access to gated community. Check dry hydrant. *Assess*:	0	BCFPD FWC	n/a	9/30/2021	
6	*Project*: Information to Residents (EO) *Action*: Articles in *The Ridge Rambler*, on website, via email, at annual meeting. Distribute packets of information to new property owners. Develop education/training sessions apart from annual meeting and clean-up days. Apply for TDF $500 education grant. *Assess*:	0	FWC	TDF	quarterly	

Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
7	*Project:* Evacuation Plan (EO) *Action*: Post evacuation routes on the bulletin board at the kiosk and on SRPOA website. Distribute maps at annual meetings. *Assess*:	0	FWC SRPOA	n/a	7/17/21	
8	*Project*: Home Assessment (EO) *Action*: Conduct Home Assessments when requested. Promote through *The Ridge Rambler*, website, email, and annual meeting. Encourage homeowners to mark underground propane and septic tanks. *Assess*:	0	FWC	n/a	ongoing	
9	*Project:* Reduce Fuel Around Homes (HR, SI) *Action*: Have equipment available for homeowners to maintain 30' of defensible space. Leaf blowers, weed trimmers, pruners, ear protectors, gloves, and more. Residents report their activities through the bi-monthly online survey. *Assess*:	$500	SRPOA	TDF	ongoing	

Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
10	*Project*: Spring / Fall Clean-up Days (HR, SI, EO) *Action*: Residents choose a task and report back when it is completed. Resume Saturday morning clean-ups. *Assess*:	$500	SRPOA	TDF SRPOA	ongoing	
11	*Project*: Vegetation Removal (HR) *Action*: Reduce fuel by removing debris and vegetation from roadsides and culverts. Thin out rhododendrons, laurels, and pine stands. *Assess*:	$4,000	SRPOA	TDF	ongoing	
12	*Project*: Fire Breaks (HR) *Action*: Coordinate with GSMNP boundary fuel reduction projects that are carried out within the GSMNP *Assess*:	0	GSMNP	GSMNP	TBD	
13	*Project*: Road signs (EO) *Action*: Review road signs, for example • roads come to a T that splits right and left. May need arrows with addresses for each direction (ex. Walnut Flats) • dead-end roads vs cul-de-sacs. No Turn-around signs *Assess*:	$500	SRPOA BCFPD	TDF	9/1/2021	

Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
14	*Project*: Homeowner's Insurance (EO) *Action*: Encourage homeowners to check with their insurance company. Determine what documentation the insurance companies need. *Assess*:	0	SRPOA	n/a	9/1/2021	
15	*Project*: Leaf Removal *Action*: Research leaf vacuum and purchase if research shows it is appropriate for SR roads. Will it attach to tractor? What happens to the collected leaves? *Assess*:	$5,000	SRPOA	TDF	11/1/2021	
16	*Project*: Annual Review of 2021 Action Plan *Action*: Review Action Plan annually in June. Report progress at the Saddle Ridge annual meeting the third Saturday in July. *Assess*:	0	SRPOA	n/a	June annually	

Attachment D

2021 Action Plan (2021AP)

2021 Action Plan – Saddle Ridge

Saddle Ridge community members are notified of all Firewise activities through email (saddleridgepoa@gmail.com), Facebook postings on the private Saddle Ridge page, the Saddle Ridge website (www.saddleridgepoa.com), and in the quarterly newsletter (*The Ridge Rambler*). In addition, the SRPOA Board is updated on activities through the Environment Committee. In 2021, the Environment Committee chair is Judy Pearson. The current chair of the Firewise Committee is Betsy Smith; current committee members are Margaret Akers, Barbara Clinansmith, Karen Richardson, Tom Sardella, and Robert Smith.

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GSMNP	Great Smoky Mountains National Park		

Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
1	*Project*: Review 2017 Action Plan to prepare for 2021 Community Wildfire Preparation Plan. (EO) *Action*: Firewise committee members Betsy Smith, Robert Smith, Barbara Clinansmith, and Margaret Akers reviewed each action item. *Assess*: At the suggestion of Eric Miller, TN Forestry, renamed the 2017 Action Plan the 2021 Saddle Ridge Community Accomplishments. All actions were completed.	0	FWC	n/a	2/18/2021	4/10/2021

Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
2	*Project*: Meet with Tennessee Department of Forestry Eric Miller, Area Forester, and Doug Lynn, Forestry Technician. (EO, HR, SI) *Action*: Drive-around with representatives of TN Forestry: Eric Miller, Doug Lynn, Doug Phillips, and Clayton Lawrence. Saddle Ridge representatives: Betsy Smith, Sue DuBois, and Judy Pearson. Discussed points on Community Assessor Worksheet. *Assess*: Drove Chilhowee Loop to Elks Point out Eagle Pass and back via Oakwood Road. Stopped at different points. Noted Eagle Pass is not wide enough to be a turnaround for fire equipment. Completed all but GSMNP section of Community Wildfire Risk Assessment.	0	TDF FWC	n/a	4/15/2021	4/15/2021
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Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
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9	*Project:* Reduce Fuel Around Homes (HR, SI) *Action*: Have equipment available for homeowners to maintain 30' of defensible space. Leaf blowers, weed trimmers, pruners, ear protectors, gloves, and more. Residents report their activities through the bi-monthly online survey. *Assess*:	$500	SRPOA	TDF	ongoing	

Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
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11	*Project*: Vegetation Removal (HR) *Action*: Reduce fuel by removing debris and vegetation from roadsides and culverts. Thin out rhododendrons, laurels, and pine stands. *Assess*:	$4,000	SRPOA	TDF	ongoing	
12	*Project*: Fire Breaks (HR) *Action*: Coordinate with GSMNP boundary fuel reduction projects that are carried out within the GSMNP *Assess*:	0	GSMNP	GSMNP	TBD	
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Priority	Project, Action, Assessment	Cost	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Target Start Date	Date Completed
14	*Project*: Homeowner's Insurance (EO) *Action*: Encourage homeowners to check with their insurance company. Determine what documentation the insurance companies need. *Assess*:	0	SRPOA	n/a	9/1/2021	
15	*Project*: Leaf Removal *Action*: Research leaf vacuum and purchase if research shows it is appropriate for SR roads. Will it attach to tractor? What happens to the collected leaves? *Assess*:	$5,000	SRPOA	TDF	11/1/2021	
16	*Project*: Annual Review of 2021 Action Plan *Action*: Review Action Plan annually in June. Report progress at the Saddle Ridge annual meeting the third Saturday in July. *Assess*:	0	SRPOA	n/a	June annually	

Attachment E

Community Wildfire Risk Assessment (CWRA)

April 15, 2021

Notes

Comments are made in red throughout the report.

The comments link the Recommended Mitigation Strategies with the Saddle Ridge 2021 Action Plan (2021AP).

Saddle Ridge

Blount County, Tennessee

Community Wildfire Risk Assessment

Total Assessed Rating

182 - High

Suppression Rating

High Hazard

Surrounding Environment Rating

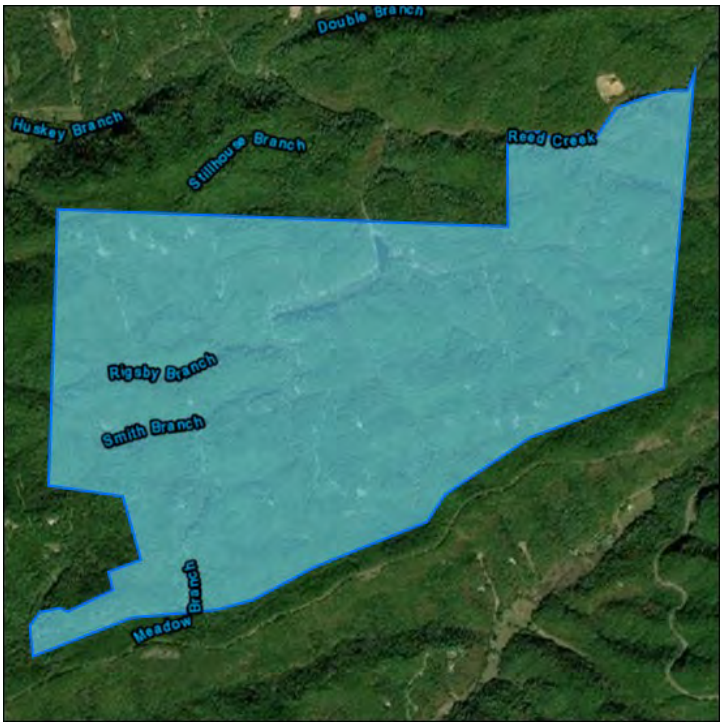
Extreme Hazard

Structures Rating

High Hazard

Fire Protection District

Blount County Fire Protection District



Community Information

Latitude	35° 43' 47"
Longitude	-83° 45' 41"
Dwelling Units	74
Size	1,320.83 acres
Residential Type	Fixed

Assessed By: Eric Miller

Assessment Date: 04-15-2021

Saddle Ridge

Blount County, Tennessee

SUPPRESSION ASSESSMENT

Ingress and Egress

2 or more roads in and out

→ **One road in and out (entrance and exit are the same)**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Keep community ingress/egress open and maintained (cleared of vegetation) Ongoing. Mowing service and community members maintain the entrance. Action #10, 11, 15
- ☐ Develop community plan for evacuation routes, safe zones, staging areas. Plans posted at community kiosk and on the SR website (updated May 2021). Action #7
- ☐ If community is gated, develop evacuation plan and ensure emergency responder access. Emergency responders have a gate code. Action #5
- ☐ Ensure residents know their closest exit in case of emergency. Residents are encouraged to know their options for evacuating in case of an emergency (updated May 2021). Will publish reminders periodically. Action #6
- ☐ Evaluate adding a secondary ingress / egress route for use in emergencies. Road not possible.

Road Width

Road width is > 24 feet

→ **Road width is > 20 feet and < 24 feet**

Road width is < 20 feet

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Keep shoulders of road clear for emergency vehicle use whenever possible Routine mowing and vegetation removal ongoing. Action #10, 11, 15
- ☐ Consider providing pull-offs every 100 yards. Terrain and vegetation do not make this feasible.

Road Accessibility

Surfaced road

Non-surfaced road, grade less than or equal to 5%

→ **Non-surfaced road, grade greater than 5%**

Non-maintained dirt road

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Consider road improvements to reduce the risk of getting stuck in sand or mud, driving in extreme grades, tight corners, and road intersections Work SR Road Committee. Action #2 and 3
- ☐ Coordinate with fire department to test access with emergency response vehicles. Action #5

Saddle Ridge

Blount County, Tennessee

Secondary Road Terminus
Road ends in a cul-de-sac, diameter > 100 feet
Road ends in a cul-de-sac, diameter < 100 feet
→ **Dead end road <200 feet long**
Dead end road >200 feet long
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Ensure emergency responder are aware of dead-end roads Action #5, 13

Street Signs
→ **Present, lettering 4 inches high, non-flammable and reflective**
Present but wooden, non-reflective, or lettering less than 4"
Not present
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Keep street signs visible and clear of vegetation and fine fuels Action #10, 11

Driveways
→ **Average driveway allows access to homes**
Average driveway restricts access to homes
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Maintain driveway access and clearance Action #9, 10, 11

Water Supply
Has pressurized hydrants
Dry Hydrant(s) / Draft available within the community
→ **Other accessible sources within community (pond, lake, etc.)**
Water sources located within 4 miles of community (incl heli dip sites)
No water sources in or within 4 miles of the community
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Coordinate with fire department and land owners to train/test use of local water sources (e.g. ponds, lakes) Action #5

Saddle Ridge

Blount County, Tennessee

Hazardous Features
No notable hazardous features present to hinder fire suppression
→ **Fire suppression hindered by hazardous features**
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Be aware of local hazardous features and plan appropriately in the event of a wildfire approaching your area Action #6, 8
☐ Ensure emergency responders are aware of local hazardous features that can hinder fire suppression efforts Action #5

Local Response Resources
→ **5 miles or less from fire department**
More than 5 miles from fire department
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ N/A

Homeowners Association
→ **HOA has organizational structure for sustained fire prevention and mitigation**
HOA lacks organizational structure for sustained fire prevention and mitigation
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Host a Community Education Event at least once a year Action #6, 8
☐ Complete a Community Risk Mitigation Project Action #10

Saddle Ridge

Blount County, Tennessee

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT

Predominant Vegetation

Light

Medium

→ **Heavy**

Extreme / Slash

Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #10, 11

- ☐ Consider removal of ladder fuels that allow fire to climb from lower to higher vegetation
- ☐ Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 10' from structures and other trees
- ☐ Leave 30 feet between clusters of two to three trees, or 20 feet between individual trees
- ☐ Prune trees 6'10 feet from the ground

Defensible Space

> 100 ft. of vegetation treatment from structure(s)

71 to 100 ft. of vegetation treatment from structure(s)

30 to 70 ft. of vegetation treatment from structure(s)

→ **< 30 ft. of vegetation treatment from structure(s)**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8, 9 information directly to homeowners about issues listed below

- ☐ Be aware of the risks from falling embers in relation to nearby fuels and defensible space
- ☐ Mow lawns regularly
- ☐ Water grass, plants, trees and mulch regularly
- ☐ Create a spacing of 30 feet between tree crowns
- ☐ Create a 'fire-free' area within 5 feet of your home, using non-flammable landscaping materials
- ☐ Remove dead vegetation from under the deck and within 10 feet of the house
- ☐ Consider xeriscaping if you are affected by water restrictions
- ☐ Plant a mixture of deciduous trees (e.g. oak and maple) and coniferous trees (e.g. pine)
- ☐ Create fuel breaks like driveways and gravel walkways
- ☐ Remove smaller conifers that are growing between taller trees
- ☐ Remove heavy accumulations of woody debris
- ☐ Reduce the density of tall trees so canopies do not touch

Structure to Structure Ignition

→ **No Possible Structure to Structure Ignition**

Possible Structure to Structure Ignition

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ N/A

Saddle Ridge

Blount County, Tennessee

Slope
Slope 0% - 5%
Slope 6 % - 10%
Slope 11% - 30%
→ **Slope > 30%**
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Increase defensible space in areas with steeper slopes Action #6, 8

History of Wildfire
No recent History of High Fire Occurrence
→ **Area with History of High Fire Occurrence**
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Develop awareness about local fire occurrence history and include education of community residents in a wildfire prevention plan Action #6

Topographical Features
No topographical features that adversely affect wildland fire behavior
→ **Topographical features that adversely affect wildland fire behavior**
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Maintain situational awareness of fire danger in your area, as local topographical features can adversely affect wildland behavior Action #6, 8

Adjacency to Wildlands
Not adjacent to wildlands with accumulated fuels and no program for fuel management
→ **Adjacent to wildlands with accumulated fuels and no program for fuel management**
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ When possible, install firebreaks and reduce fuel loads around community boundary to reduce risk from adjacent wildlands Action #12

Severe Wind Exposure
Not in an area with regular exposure to severe winds
→ **Regularly exposed to severe winds that adversely affect fire behavior**
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Maintain situational awareness of fire danger in your area, as local severe wind exposure can adversely affect wildland behavior Action #6, 8

Undeveloped Lots with Restricted Access and/or Not Maintained
Fewer than 10% of lots are undeveloped
10% to 50% of lots are undeveloped
→ **51% to 75% of lots are undeveloped**
Greater than 75% of lots are undeveloped
Recommended Mitigation Strategies
☐ Provide FIREWISE construction guidelines to developers / owners Action #6
☐ Consider developing covenant restrictions, if applicable Restrictions in place

Saddle Ridge

Blount County, Tennessee

STRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

Roofing Materials

→ **> 75% of homes have metal, tile or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles**

50 to 75% of homes have metal, tile or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles

< 50% of homes have metal, tile or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles

Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8

- ☐ Use fire-resistant roofing material such as metal, tile or Class A shingles
- ☐ Inspect for and address gaps in roofing that can expose roof decking or supports
- ☐ Place angle flashing over openings between the roof decking and fascia board

Debris on Roof

→ **No**

Yes

Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #9, 10

- ☐ Clear branch, leaf-litter and other debris from roof regularly
- ☐ Prune tree limbs away from roof

Ventilation and Soffits

> 75% of homes have non-combustible ventilation soffits with mesh or screening

→ **50-74% of homes have non-combustible ventilation soffits with mesh or screening**

< 50% of homes have non-combustible ventilation soffits with mesh or screening

Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8, 9, 10

- ☐ Clean vents to keep them free of debris, allowing them to keep embers out while allowing air flow for ventilation
- ☐ Enclose or box-in eaves with non-combustible materials such as metal, cement board or stucco
- ☐ Install a 1/8 inch metal screen behind roof vents

Siding

> 75% of homes have non-combustible siding

→ **50-74% of homes have non-combustible siding**

< 50% of homes have non-combustible siding

Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8, 9, 10

- ☐ Keep landscaping materials and vegetation away from combustible siding
- ☐ Increase defensible space from combustible siding
- ☐ Replace with noncombustible siding when possible

Underskirting

> 75% of homes have skirting underneath raised floors/decks

→ **50-74% of homes have skirting underneath**

< 50% of homes have skirting underneath

Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8, 9, 10

- ☐ Remove combustible vegetation and leaf litter
- ☐ Spread gravel or other non-combustible material under the deck
- ☐ Screen in the bottom of the deck with metal 1/8-inch screening
- ☐ Separate wooden fences from the house with a stone or metal barrier

Wooden Attachments

> 75% of homes have NO Wooden Attachments

50-74% of homes have NO Wooden Attachments

→ **< 50% of homes have NO Wooden Attachments**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8, 9, 10

- ☐ Maintain debris-free decks (e.g. remove ignitable furniture, planters and covering propane grills, especially during high fire danger periods)
- ☐ Consider disconnecting fences from structures, or replacing materials directly attached to structures with fire resistant materials
- ☐ Be aware that wooden attachments can act as a fuse to the structure

Gutters

→ **Noncombustible**

Combustible with leaf litter present

Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8, 9, 10

- ☐ Keep gutters clear of fine fuels and debris

Building Setback

Not applicable

Greater than or equal to 30 feet from slope

→ **Less than 30 feet from slope**

Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8, 9, 10

- ☐ Review suggested defensible space and vegetation management as pertains to building setback

Windows
Not known
→ **Multi-paned**
Single-paned
Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8, 9, 10
☐ Use metal framing or aluminum coverings for wood or vinyl
☐ Use a fiberglass or metal screen
☐ Use drapes and shutters that are fire resistant to help reduce the likelihood of fire spread

Gas Utilities
Underground/clearly marked or Not applicable
Above ground/clearly marked with a 30 foot cleared perimeter
→ **Underground/not marked**
Above ground/not marked
Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8, 9, 10
☐ Keep vegetation pruned to a minimal level near gas utilities
☐ Place non-flammable mulch (rock, stone) around base of propane tanks
☐ Keep fine fuel accumulation cleared away from propane tanks
☐ When possible, place propane tanks 20' away from home and structures

Electric Utilities
Underground/clearly marked
→ **Overhead with a 20 foot wide maintained right of way**
Underground/not marked
Overhead with right of way not maintained
Recommended Mitigation Strategies Action #6, 8, 9, 10
☐ Keep vegetation pruned and mowed around electric cabinets
☐ Place non-flammable mulch (rock, stone) around base of electrical cabinets
☐ Plant less flammable bushes and shrubs around electrical cabinets

COMMENTS
Regarding the Adjacency to Wildlands section, further collaboration with GSMNP will continue for the shared boundary on the southern reach of the community.

Attachment F

Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report (SWRA)

Notes

WUI Wildland Urban Interface

1. Page 8

"For Saddle Ridge project, it is estimated that 74 people or 100.0% percent of the total project area population (74) live with the WUI."

This statement is incorrect. There are 74 homes in Saddle Ridge. 76% are fulltime residents; 24% parttime. A better estimate of people is 125—but this is only an estimate given the parttime/fulltime factor. The number is not significant enough to change the conclusions.

2. The map of Saddle Ridge does not show the Burchfield-7 extension and it does not connect Oakwood Road to Chilhowee Loop.

3. The following maps provide the most useful information:

Page 12 WUI

Page 15 WUI Risk

Page 22 Burn Probability (the white areas are not explained)

Page 27 Rate of Spread

Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report

Saddle Ridge

Report was generated using
www.southernwildfirerisk.com

Report version: 4.0

Report generated: 5/12/2021

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Hold Control and Click to navigate to the section of your interest.

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Introduction
Wildland Urban Interface
WUI Risk Index
Community Protection Zones
Burn Probability
Fire Behavior
- Characteristic Rate of Spread
- Characteristic Flame Length
- Characteristic Fire Intensity Scale
- Fire Type - Extreme

Surface Fuels
Dozer Operability Rating
References

Disclaimer

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Users should also note that property boundaries included in any product do not represent an on-the-ground survey suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. They represent only the approximate relative locations.

Introduction

Welcome to the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report.

This tool allows users of the Professional Viewer application of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment (SWRA) web Portal (SouthWRAP) to define a specific project area and summarize wildfire related information for this area. A detailed risk summary report is generated using a set of predefined map products developed by the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment project which have been summarized explicitly for the user defined project area. The report is generated in MS WORD format.

The report has been designed so that information from the report can easily be copied and pasted into other specific plans, reports, or documents depending on user needs. Examples include, but are not limited to, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Local Fire Plans, Fuels Mitigation Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, Homeowner Association Risk Assessments, and Forest Management or Stewardship Plans. Formats and standards for these types of reports vary from state to state across the South, and accordingly SouthWRAP provides the SWRA information in a generic risk report format to facilitate use in any type of external document. The SouthWRAP Risk Summary Report also stands alone as a viable depiction of current wildfire risk conditions for the user defined project area.

SouthWRAP provides a consistent, comparable set of scientific results to be used as a foundation for wildfire mitigation and prevention planning in the South.

Results of the assessment can be used to help prioritize areas in the state where mitigation treatments, community interaction and education, or tactical analyses might be necessary to reduce risk from wildfires.

The SouthWRAP products included in this report are designed to provide the information needed to support the following key priorities:

- Identify areas that are most prone to wildfire
- Identify areas that may require additional tactical planning, specifically related to mitigation projects and Community Wildfire Protection Planning
- Provide the information necessary to justify resource, budget and funding requests
- Allow agencies to work together to better define priorities and improve emergency response, particularly across jurisdictional boundaries
- Define wildland communities and identify the risk to those communities
- Increase communication and outreach with local residents and the public to create awareness and address community priorities and needs
- Plan for response and suppression resource needs
- Plan and prioritize hazardous fuel treatment programs

To learn more about the SWRA project or to create a custom summary report, go to www.southernwildfirerisk.com.

Products

Each product in this report is accompanied by a general description, table, chart and/or map. A list of available SouthWRAP products in this report is provided in the following table.

SouthWRAP Product	Description
Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Depicts where humans and their structures meet or intermix with wildland fuel
WUI Risk Index	Represents a rating of the potential impact of a wildfire on people and their homes
Community Protection Zones	Represents those areas designated as primary and secondary priorities for community protection planning
Burn Probability	Probability of an area burning given current landscape conditions, percentile weather, historical ignition patterns and historical fire prevention and suppression efforts
Characteristic Rate of Spread	Represents the speed with which a fire moves in a horizontal direction across the landscape
Characteristic Flame Length	Represents the distance between the tip and base of the flame
Characteristic Fire Intensity Scale	Quantifies the potential fire intensity for an area by orders of magnitude
Fire Type - Extreme	Represents the potential fire type (surface or canopy) under extreme percentile weather conditions
Surface Fuels	Contains the parameters needed to compute surface fire behavior characteristics
Dozer Operability Rating	Level of difficulty to operate a dozer in an area based on limitations associated with slope and vegetation type

Wildland Urban Interface

Description

The South is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation, with an estimated population growth of 1.5 million people per year. The South also consistently has the highest number of wildfires per year. Population growth is pushing housing developments further into natural and forested areas where most of these wildfires occur. This situation puts many lives and communities at risk each year.

In particular, the expansion of residential development from urban centers out into rural landscapes, increases the potential for wildland fire threat to public safety and the potential for damage to forest resources and dependent industries. This increase in population across the region will impact counties and communities that are located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

The WUI is described as the area where structures and other human improvements meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Population growth within the WUI substantially increases the risk from wildfire.

For the **Saddle Ridge** project area, it is estimated that **74** people or **100.0 % percent** of the total project area population (**74)** live within the WUI.

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) layer reflects housing density depicting where humans and their structures meet or intermix with wildland fuels.

WUI housing density is categorized based on the standard Federal Register and U.S. Forest Service SILVIS data set categories, long considered a de facto standard for depicting WUI. However, in the SWRA WUI data the number of housing density categories is extended to provide a better gradation of housing distribution to meet specific requirements for fire protection planning activities. While units of the actual data set are in *houses per sq. km*., the data is presented as the *number of houses per acre* to aid with interpretation and use by fire planners in the South.

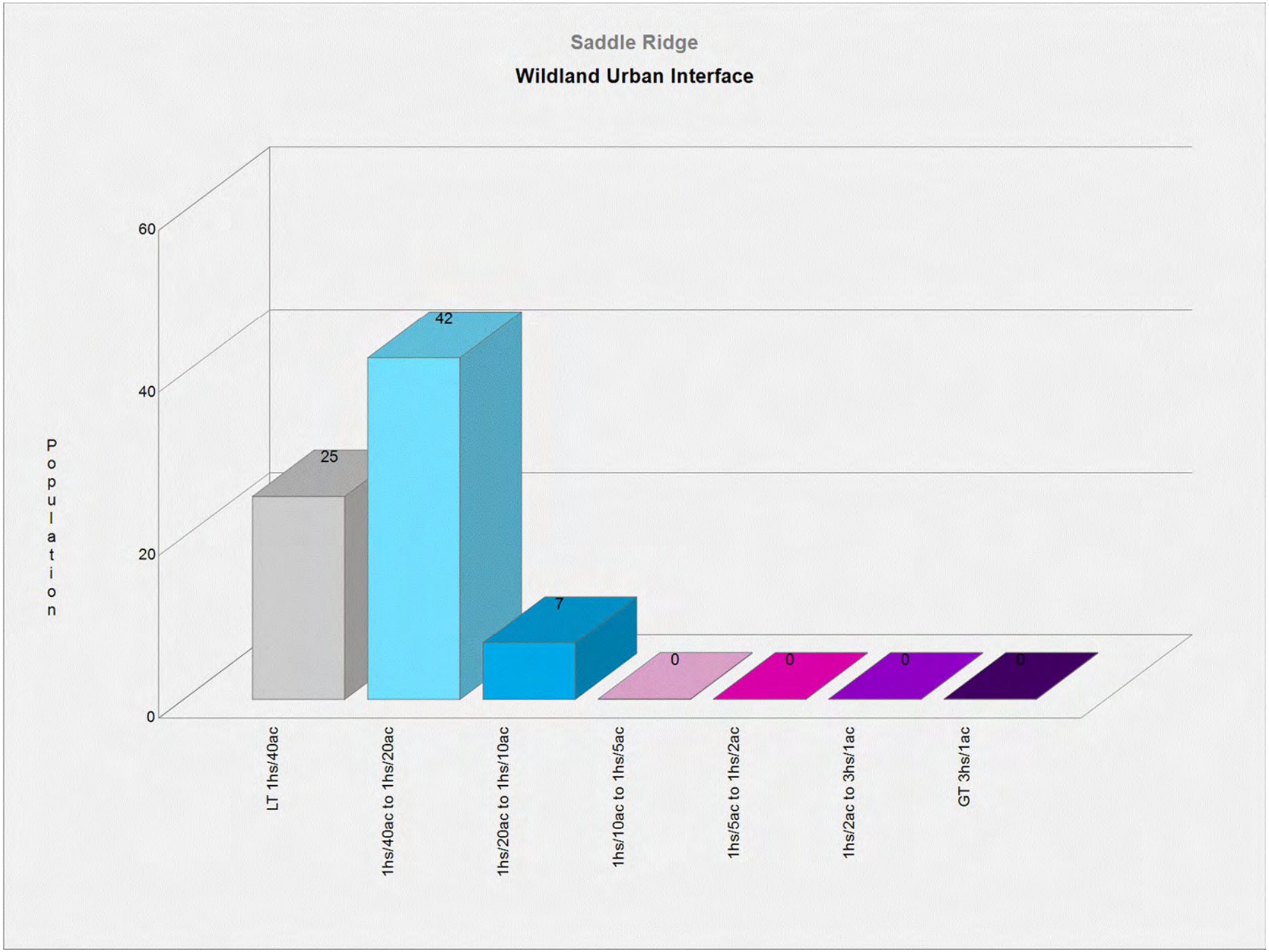
In the past, conventional wildland urban interface data sets, such as USFS SILVIS, have been used to reflect these concerns. However, USFS SILVIS and other existing data sources do not provide the level of detail for defining population living in the wildland as needed by Southern state WUI specialists and local fire protection agencies.

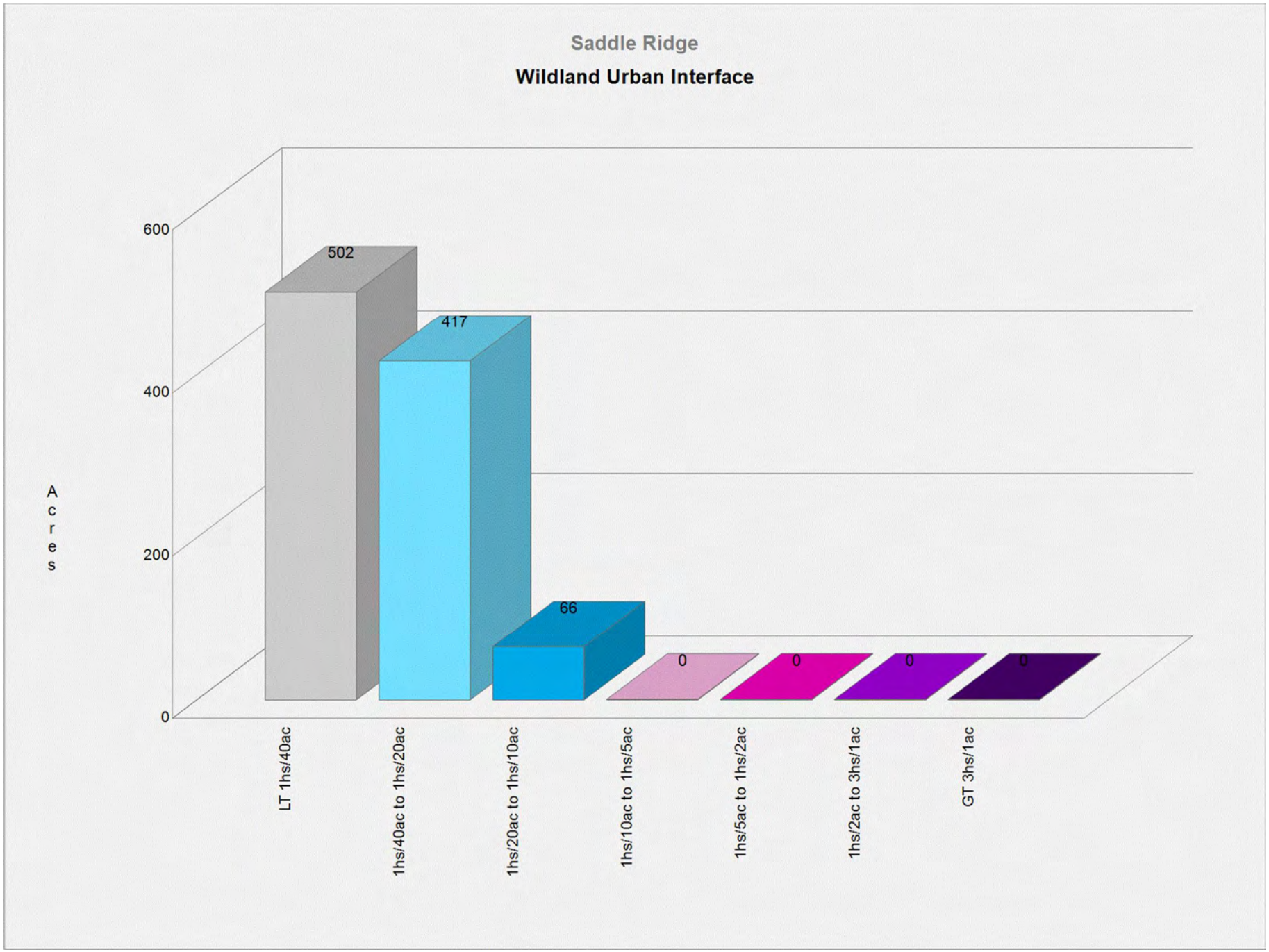
The new SWRA WUI 2012 dataset is derived using advanced modeling techniques based on the SWRA Where People Live (housing density) dataset and 2012 LandScan population count data available from the Department of Homeland Security, HSIP Freedom Data Set. WUI is simply a subset of the Where People Live dataset. The primary difference between the WPL and WUI is that populated areas surrounded by sufficient non-burnable areas (i.e. interior urban areas) are removed from the Where People Live data set, as these areas are not expected to be directly impacted by a wildfire. Simply put, the SWRA WUI is the SWRA WPL data with the urban core areas removed.

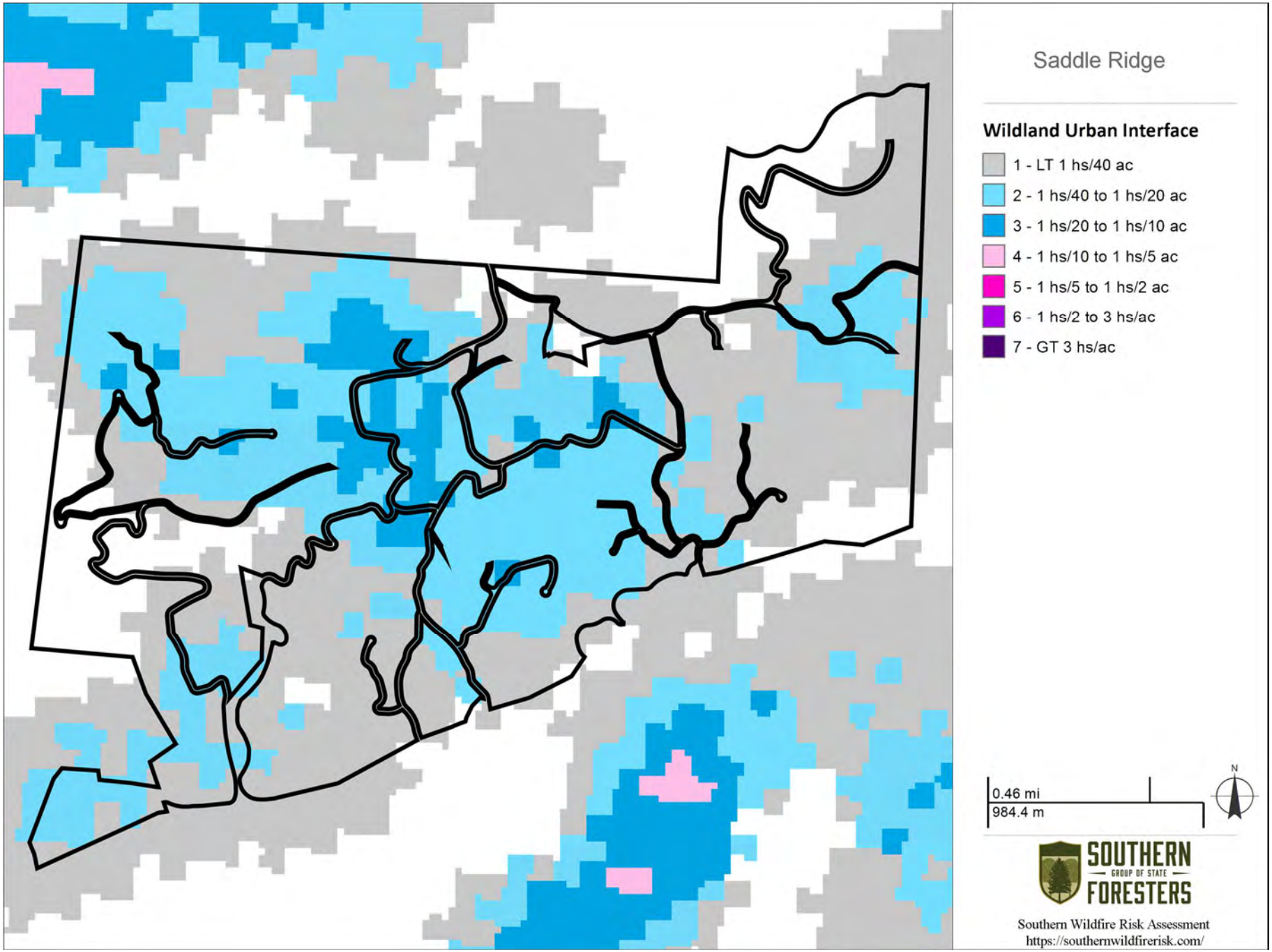
Data is modeled at a 30-meter cell resolution, which is consistent with other SWRA layers. The following table shows the total population for each WUI area within the project area.

WUI – Population and Acres

Housing Density	WUI Population	Percent of WUI Population	WUI Acres	Percent of WUI Acres
LT 1hs/40ac	25	33.8 %	502	51.0 %
1hs/40ac to 1hs/20ac	42	56.8 %	417	42.3 %
1hs/20ac to 1hs/10ac	7	9.5 %	66	6.7 %
1hs/10ac to 1hs/5ac	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
1hs/5ac to 1hs/2ac	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
1hs/2ac to 3hs/1ac	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
GT 3hs/1ac	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Total	**74**	**100.0 %**	985	100.0 %


Saddle Ridge
Wildland Urban Interface
Population
60
40
20
0
25
42
7
0
0
0
0
LT 1hs/40ac
1hs/40ac to 1hs/20ac
1hs/20ac to 1hs/10ac
1hs/10ac to 1hs/5ac
1hs/5ac to 1hs/2ac
1hs/2ac to 3hs/1ac
GT 3hs/1ac


Saddle Ridge
Wildland Urban Interface
Acres
600
400
200
0
502
417
66
0
0
0
0
LT 1hs/40ac
1hs/40ac to 1hs/20ac
1hs/20ac to 1hs/10ac
1hs/10ac to 1hs/5ac
1hs/5ac to 1hs/2ac
1hs/2ac to 3hs/1ac
GT 3hs/1ac


Saddle Ridge
Wildland Urban Interface
1 - LT 1 hs/40 ac
2 - 1 hs/40 to 1 hs/20 ac
3 - 1 hs/20 to 1 hs/10 ac
4 - 1 hs/10 to 1 hs/5 ac
5 - 1 hs/5 to 1 hs/2 ac
6 - 1 hs/2 to 3 hs/ac
7 - GT 3 hs/ac
0.46 mi
984.4 m
N
SOUTHERN GROUP OF STATE FORESTERS
Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment
https://southernwildfirerisk.com/

WUI Risk Index

Description

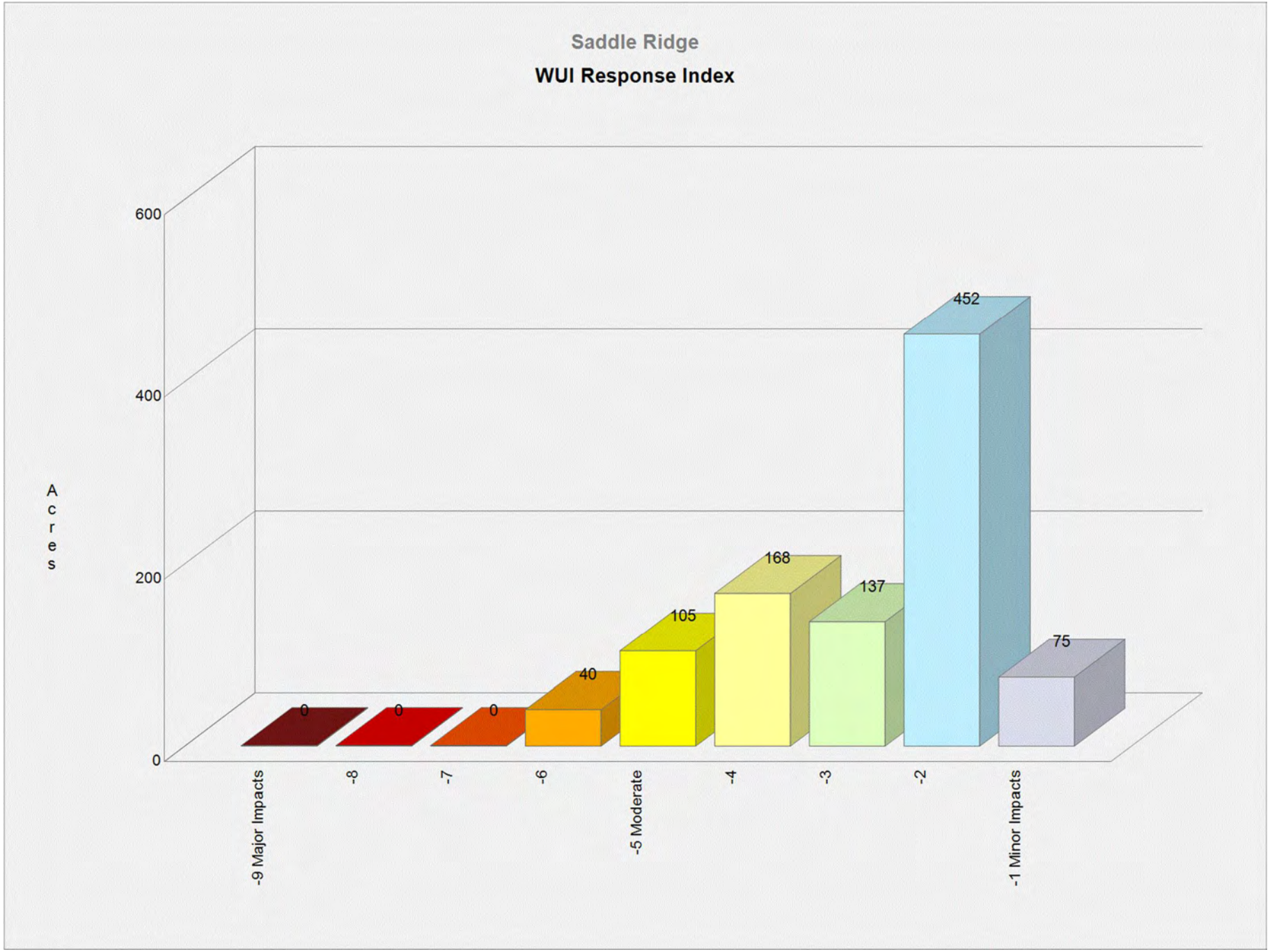
The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Index layer is a rating of the potential impact of a wildfire on people and their homes. The key input, WUI, reflects housing density (houses per acre) consistent with Federal Register National standards. The location of people living in the Wildland Urban Interface and rural areas is key information for defining potential wildfire impacts to people and homes.

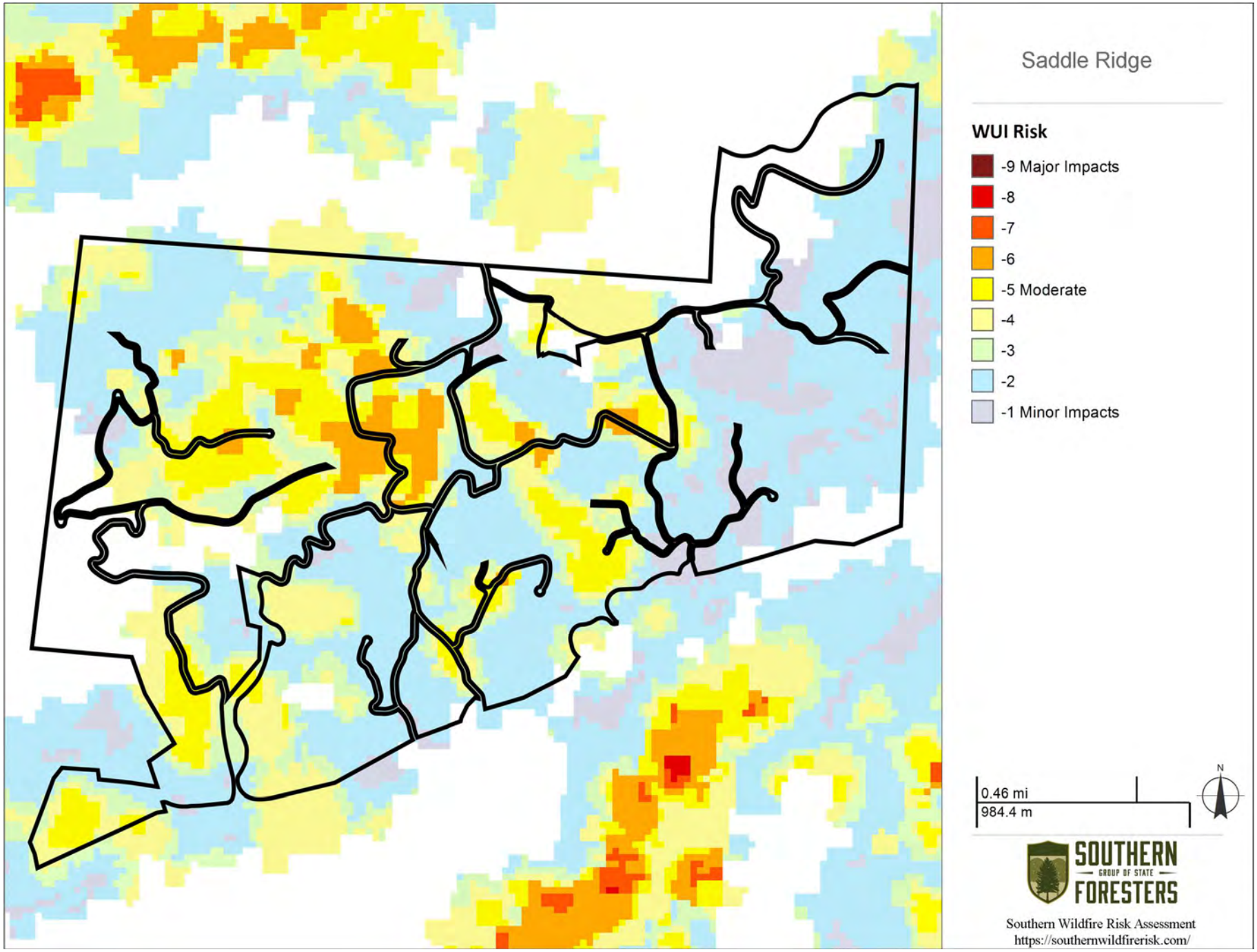
The WUI Risk Rating is derived using a Response Function modeling approach. Response functions are a method of assigning a net change in the value to a *resource* or *asset* based on susceptibility to fire at different intensity levels, such as flame length. The range of values is from -1 to -9, with -1 representing the least negative impact and -9 representing the most negative impact. For example, areas with high housing density and high flame lengths are rated -9 while areas with low housing density and low flame lengths are rated -1.

To calculate the WUI Risk Rating, the WUI housing density data was combined with Flame Length data and response functions were defined to represent potential impacts. The response functions were defined by a team of experts based on values defined by the SWRA Update Project technical team. By combining flame length with the WUI housing density data, you can determine where the greatest potential impact to homes and people is likely to occur.

Fire intensity data is modeled to incorporate penetration into urban fringe areas so that outputs better reflect real world conditions for fire spread and impact in fringe urban interface areas. With this enhancement, houses in urban areas adjacent to wildland fuels are incorporated into the WUI risk modeling. All areas in the South have the WUI Risk Index calculated consistently, which allows for comparison and ordination of areas across the entire region. Data is modeled at a 30-meter cell resolution, which is consistent with other SWRA layers.

Class	Acres	Percent
-9 Major Impacts	0	0.0 %
-8	0	0.0 %
-7	0	0.0 %
-6	40	4.1 %
-5 Moderate	105	10.7 %
-4	168	17.2 %
-3	137	14.0 %
-2	452	46.3 %
-1 Minor Impacts	75	7.7 %
Total	**977**	**100.0 %**


Saddle Ridge
WUI Response Index
Acres
600
400
200
0
0
0
0
40
105
168
137
452
75
-9 Major Impacts
-8
-7
-6
-5 Moderate
-4
-3
-2
-1 Minor Impacts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WUI Risk
-9 Major Impacts
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-2
-1 Minor Impacts
0.46 mi
984.4 m
N
SOUTHERN
GROUP OF STATE
FORESTERS
Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment
https://southernwildfirerisk.com/

Community Protection Zones

Description

Community Protection Zones (CPZ) represent those areas considered highest priority for mitigation planning activities. CPZs are based on an analysis of the Where People Live housing density data and surrounding fire behavior potential. Rate of Spread data is used to determine the areas of concern around populated areas that are within a 2-hour fire spread distance. This is referred to as the Secondary CPZ.

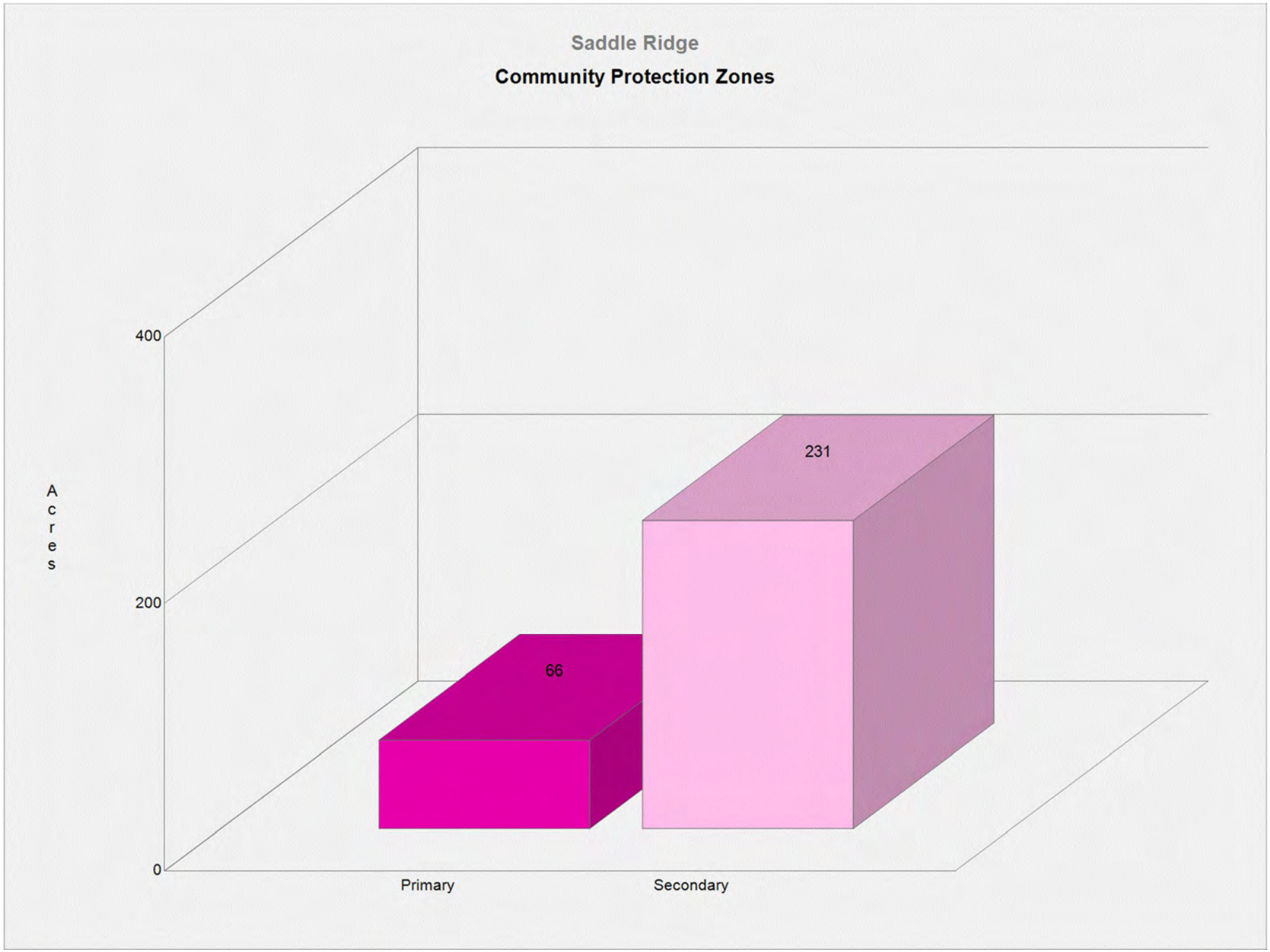
General consensus among fire planners is that for fuel mitigation treatments to be effective in reducing wildfire hazard, they must be conducted within a close distance of a community. In the South, the WUI housing density has been used to reflect populated areas in place of community boundaries (Primary CPZ). This ensures that CPZs reflect where people are living in the wildland, not jurisdictional boundaries.

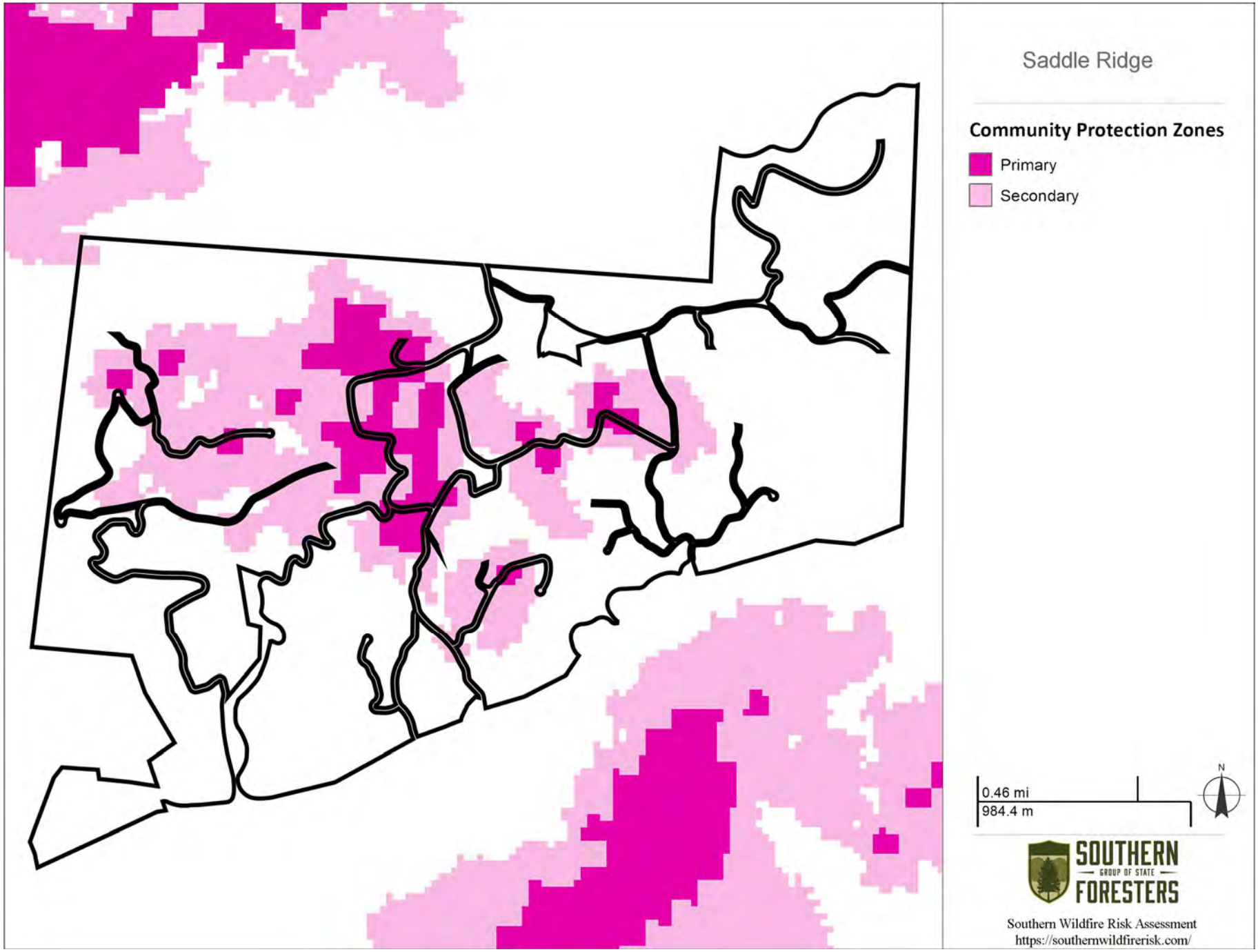
Secondary CPZs represent a variable width buffer around populated areas that are within a 2-hour fire spread distance. Accordingly, CPZs will extend farther in areas where rates of spread are greater and less in areas where minimal rate of spread potential exists. Secondary CPZ boundaries inherently incorporate fire behavior conditions.

Primary CPZs reflect areas with a predefined housing density, such as greater than 1 house per 20 acres. Secondary CPZs are the areas around Primary CPZs within a 2 hour fire spread distance.

All areas in the South have the CPZs calculated consistently, which allows for comparison and ordination of areas across the entire region. Data is modeled at a 30-meter cell resolution, which is consistent with other SWRA layers.

Class	Acres	Percent
Primary	66	22.2 %
Secondary	231	77.8 %
Total	**297**	**100.0 %**


Saddle Ridge
Community Protection Zones
Acres
400
200
0
231
66
Primary
Secondary


Saddle Ridge
Community Protection Zones
Primary
Secondary
0.46 mi
984.4 m
N
SOUTHERN
GROUP OF STATE
FORESTERS
Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment
https://southernwildfirerisk.com/

Burn Probability

Description

The Burn Probability (BP) layer depicts the probability of an area burning given current landscape conditions, percentile weather, historical ignition patterns and historical fire prevention and suppression efforts.

Describe in more detail, it is the tendency of any given pixel to burn, given the static landscape conditions depicted by the LANDFIRE Refresh 2008 dataset (as resampled by FPA), contemporary weather and ignition patterns, as well as contemporary fire management policies (entailing considerable fire prevention and suppression efforts).

The BP data does not, and is not intended to, depict fire-return intervals of any vintage, nor do they indicate likely fire footprints or routes of travel. Nothing about the expected shape or size of any actual fire incident can be interpreted from the burn probabilities. Instead, the BP data, in conjunction with the Fire Program Analysts FIL layers, are intended to support an actuarial approach to quantitative wildfire risk analysis (e.g., see Thompson et al. 2011).

Values in the Burn Probability (BP) data layer indicate, for each pixel, the number of times that cell was burned by an FSim-modeled fire, divided by the total number of annual weather scenarios simulated. Burn probability raster data was generated using the large fire simulator - FSim - developed for use in the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) project. FSim uses historical weather data and current landcover data for discrete geographical areas (Fire Planning Units - FPUs) and simulates fires in these FPUs. Using these simulated fires, an overall burn probability and marginal burn probabilities at four fire intensities (flame lengths) are returned by FSim for each 270m pixel in the FPU.

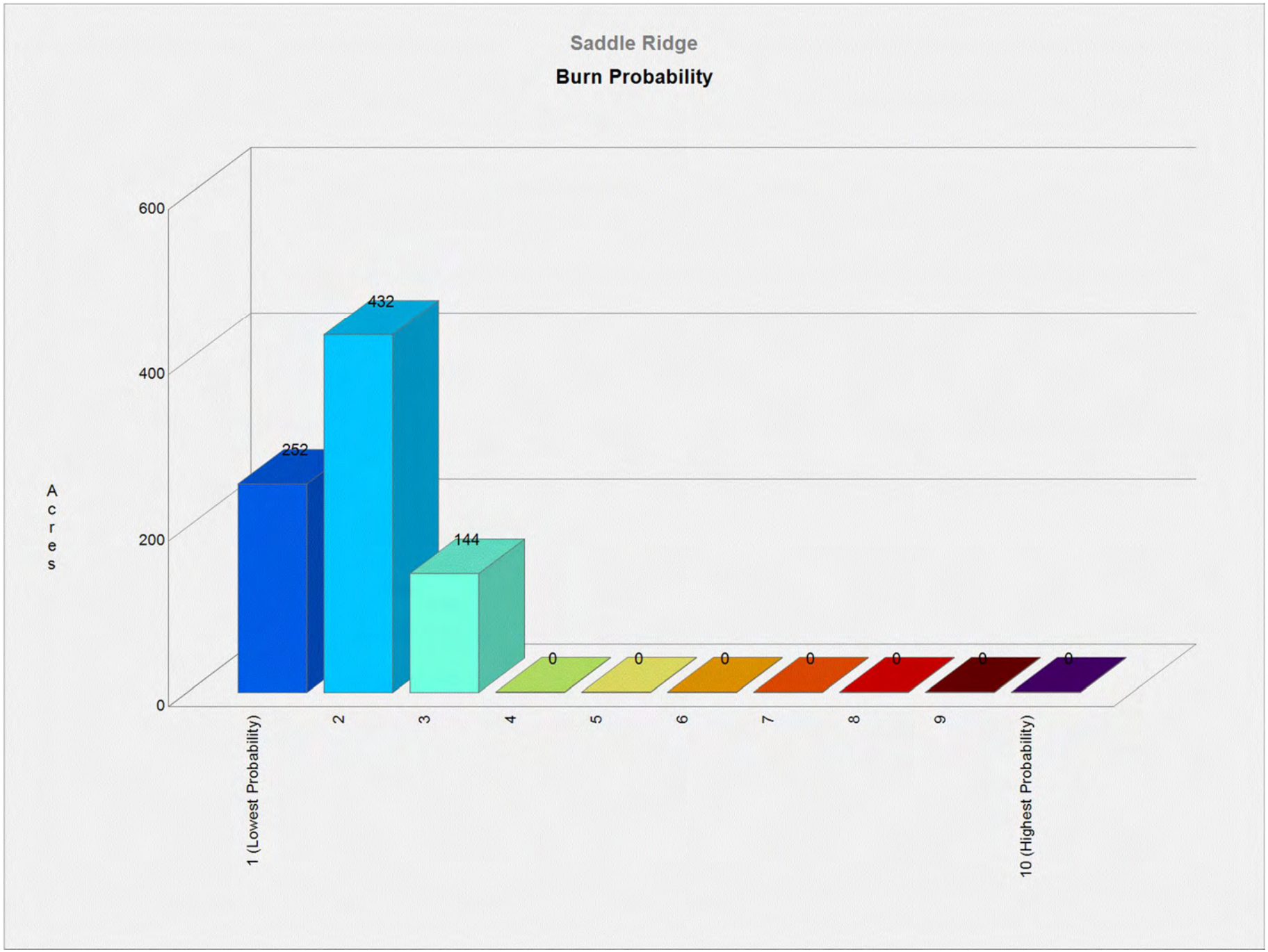
The fire growth simulations, when run repeatedly with different ignition locations and weather streams, generate burn probabilities and fire behavior distributions at each landscape location (i.e., cell or pixel). Results are objectively evaluated through comparison with historical fire patterns and statistics, including the mean annual burn probability and fire size distribution, for each FPU. This evaluation is part of the FSim calibration process for each FPU, whereby simulation inputs are adjusted until the slopes of the historical and modeled fire size distributions are similar and the modeled average burn probability falls within an acceptable range of the historical reference value (i.e., the 95% confidence interval for the mean).

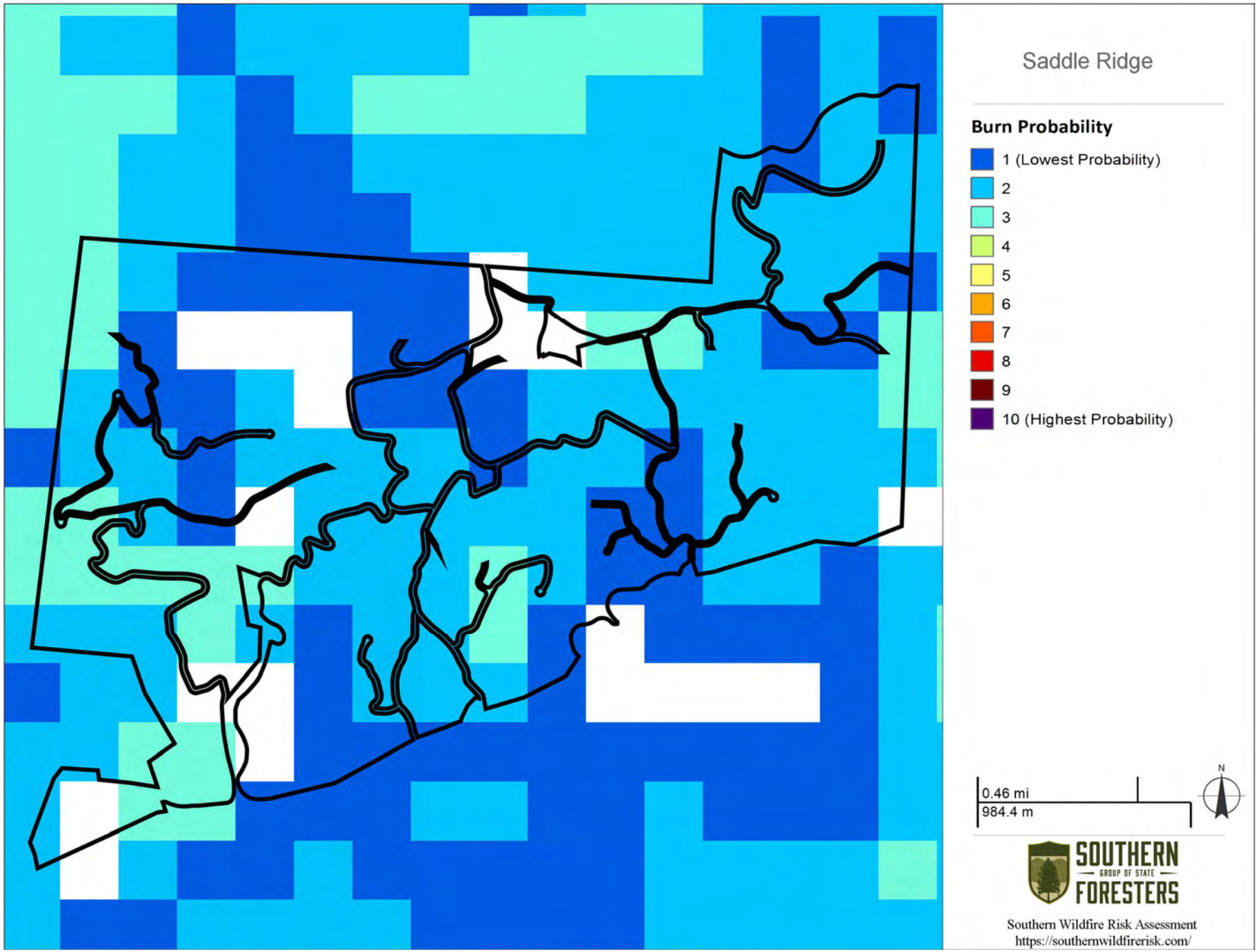
Please refer to the metadata available for this dataset for a detailed description of the data processing methods, assumptions and references that pertain to the development of this data. This information is available from the USFS Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory.

Please refer to the web site link in the report References to obtain more detailed descriptions of FPA and the related data products such as Burn Probability.

Burn Probability replaces the Wildland Fire Susceptibility Index (WFSI) layer developed in the original SWRA project completed in 2005.

Class	Acres	Percent
1	252	30.4 %
2	432	52.2 %
3	144	17.4 %
4	0	0.0 %
5	0	0.0 %
6	0	0.0 %
7	0	0.0 %
8	0	0.0 %
9	0	0.0 %
10	0	0.0 %
Total	**828**	**100.0 %**


Saddle Ridge
Burn Probability
600
400
200
0
Acres
252
432
144
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
1 (Lowest Probability)
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10 (Highest Probability)


Saddle Ridge
Burn Probability
1 (Lowest Probability)
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10 (Highest Probability)
0.46 mi
984.4 m
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Fire Behavior

Description

Fire behavior is the manner in which a fire reacts to the following environmental influences:

1. **Fuels**
2. **Weather**
3. **Topography**

Fire behavior characteristics are attributes of wildland fire that pertain to its spread, intensity, and growth. Fire behavior characteristics utilized in the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment (SWRA) include fire type, rate of spread, flame length and fire intensity scale. These metrics are used to determine the potential fire behavior under different weather scenarios. Areas that exhibit moderate to high fire behavior potential can be identified for mitigation treatments, especially if these areas are in close proximity to homes, business, or other assets.

Fuels

The SWRA includes composition and characteristics for both surface fuels and canopy fuels. Significant increases in fire behavior will be captured if the fire has the potential to transition from a surface fire to a canopy fire.

Fuel datasets required to compute both surface and canopy fire potential include:

- **Surface Fuels**, generally referred to as fire behavior fuel models, provide the input parameters needed to compute surface fire behavior.
- **Canopy Cover** is the horizontal percentage of the ground surface that is covered by tree crowns. It is used to compute wind reduction factors and shading.
- **Canopy Ceiling Height/Stand Height** is the height above the ground of the highest canopy layer where the density of the crown mass within the layer is high enough to support vertical movement of a fire. A good estimate of canopy ceiling height would be the average height of the dominant and co-dominant trees in a stand. It is used for computing wind reduction to midflame height and spotting distances from torching trees (Fire Program Solutions, L.L.C, 2005).
- **Canopy Base Height** is the lowest height above the ground above which here is sufficient canopy fuel to propagate fire vertically (Scott & Reinhardt, 2001). Canopy base height is a property of a plot, stand, or group of trees, not of an individual tree. For fire modeling, canopy base height is an effective value that incorporates ladder fuel, such as tall shrubs and small trees. Canopy base height is used to determine if a surface fire will transition to a canopy fire.
- **Canopy Bulk Density** is the mass of available canopy fuel per unit canopy volume (Scott & Reinhardt, 2001). Canopy bulk density is a bulk property of a stand, plot, or group of trees, not of an individual tree. Canopy bulk density is used to predict whether an active crown fire is possible.

Weather

Environmental weather parameters needed to compute fire behavior characteristics include 1-hour, 10-hour, and 100-hour timelag fuel moistures, herbaceous fuel moisture, woody fuel moisture, and the 20-foot 10 minute average wind speed. To collect this information, weather influence zones were established across the region. A weather influence zone is an area where for analysis purposes the weather on any given day is considered uniform. Within each weather influence zone, historical daily weather is gathered to compile a weather dataset from which four percentile weather categories are created. The percentile weather categories are intended to represent low, moderate, high, and extreme fire weather days. Fire behavior outputs are computed for each percentile weather category to determine fire potential under different weather scenarios.

The four percentile weather categories include:

- Low Weather Percentile (0 – 15%)
- Moderate Weather Percentile (16 – 90%)
- High Weather Percentile (91 – 97%)
- Extreme Weather Percentile (98 – 100%)

Topography

Topography datasets required to compute fire behavior characteristics are elevation, slope and aspect.

FIRE BEHAVIOR CHARACTERISTICS

Fire behavior characteristics provided in this report include:

- **Characteristic Rate of Spread**
- **Characteristic Flame Length**
- **Characteristic Fire Intensity Scale**
- **Fire Type - Extreme**

Characteristic Rate of Spread

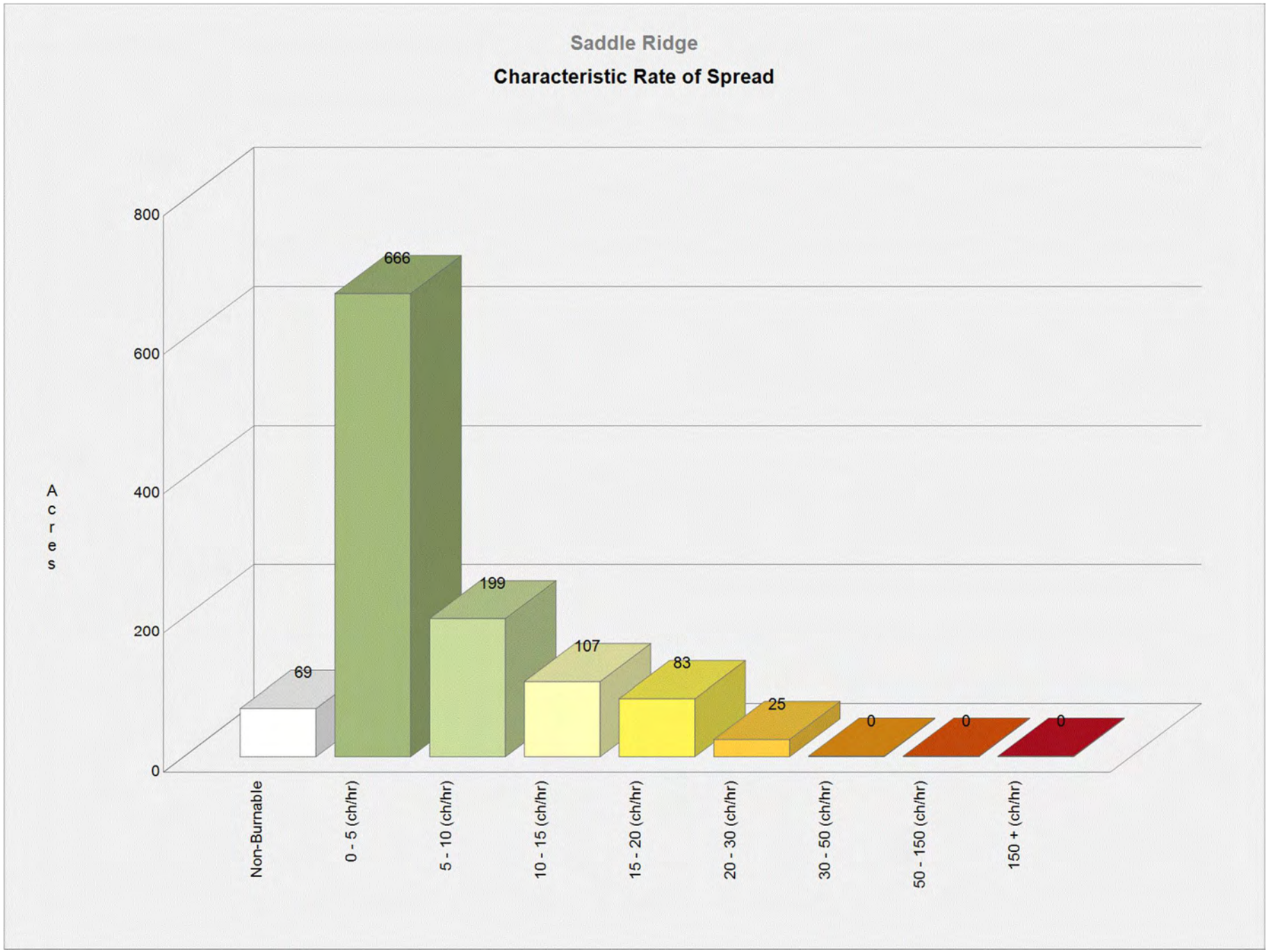
Description

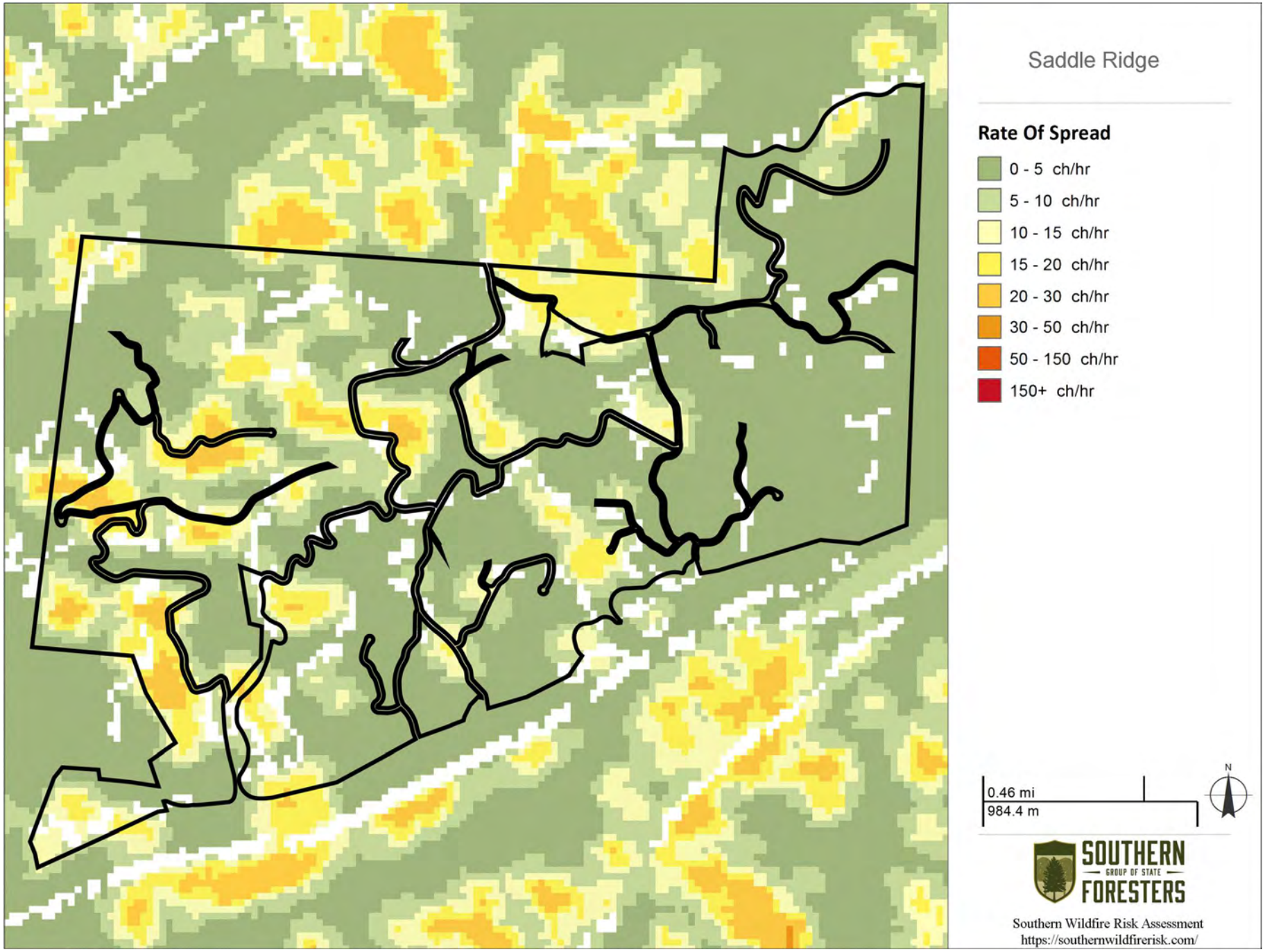
Characteristic Rate of Spread is the typical or representative rate of spread of a potential fire based on a weighted average of four percentile weather categories. Rate of spread is the speed with which a fire moves in a horizontal direction across the landscape, usually expressed in chains per hour (ch/hr) or feet per minute (ft/min). For purposes of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment, this measurement represents the maximum rate of spread of the fire front. Rate of Spread is the metric used to derive the Community Protection Zones.

Rate of spread is a fire behavior output, which is influenced by three environmental factors - fuels, weather, and topography. Weather is by far the most dynamic variable as it changes frequently. To account for this variability, four percentile weather categories were created from historical weather observations to represent low, moderate, high, and extreme weather days for each weather influence zone in the South. A weather influence zone is an area where, for analysis purposes, the weather on any given day is considered uniform.

For all Southern states, except Florida and Texas, this dataset was derived from updated fuels and canopy data as part of the 2010 SWRA Update Project recently completed in May 2014. For Texas, the 2010 Texas risk update data is portrayed. For Florida, the 2010 Florida risk assessment update data is shown.

Rate of Spread	Acres	Percent
Non-Burnable	69	6.0 %
0 - 5 (ch/hr)	666	58.0 %
5 - 10 (ch/hr)	199	17.3 %
10 – 15 (ch/hr)	107	9.3 %
15 - 20 (ch/hr)	83	7.2 %
20 - 30 (ch/hr)	25	2.2 %
30 - 50 (ch/hr)	0	0.0 %
50 - 150 (ch/hr)	0	0.0 %
150 + (ch/hr)	0	0.0 %
Total	**1,149**	**100.0 %**


Saddle Ridge
Characteristic Rate of Spread
Acres
800
600
400
200
0
69
666
199
107
83
25
0
0
0
Non-Burnable
0 - 5 (ch/hr)
5 - 10 (ch/hr)
10 - 15 (ch/hr)
15 - 20 (ch/hr)
20 - 30 (ch/hr)
30 - 50 (ch/hr)
50 - 150 (ch/hr)
150 + (ch/hr)


Saddle Ridge
Rate Of Spread
0 - 5 ch/hr
5 - 10 ch/hr
10 - 15 ch/hr
15 - 20 ch/hr
20 - 30 ch/hr
30 - 50 ch/hr
50 - 150 ch/hr
150+ ch/hr
0.46 mi
984.4 m
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Characteristic Flame Length

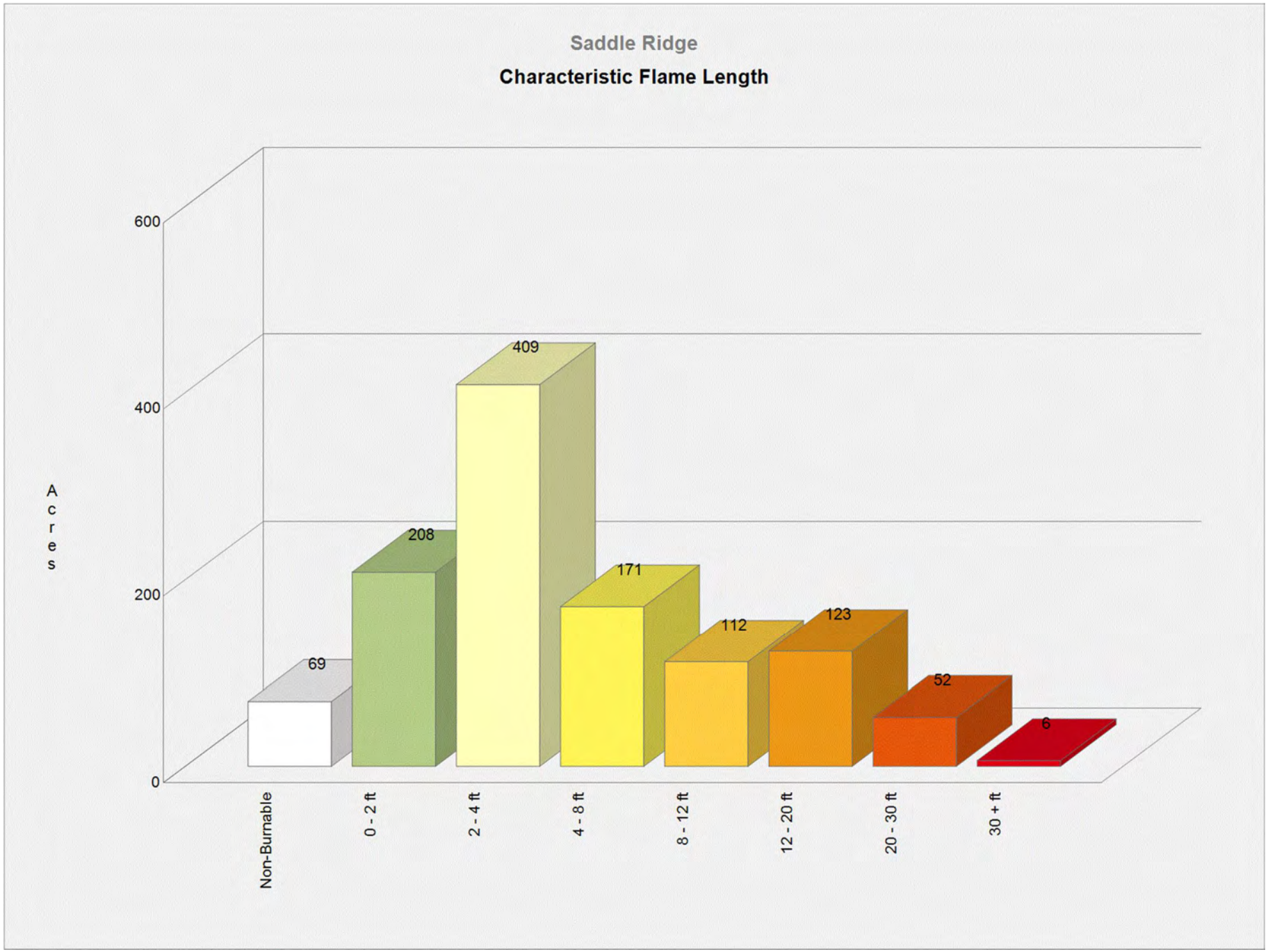
Description

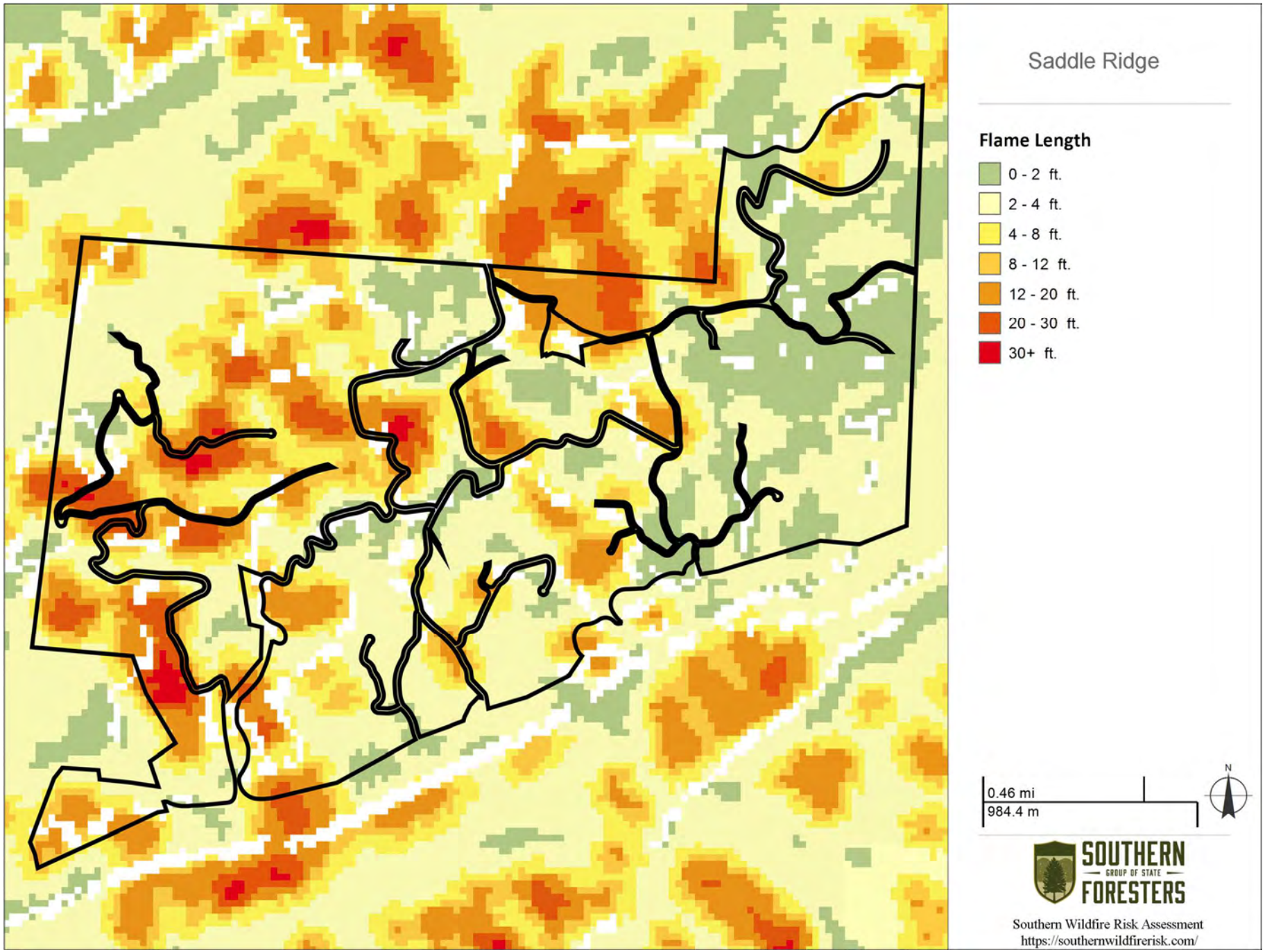
Characteristic Flame Length is the typical or representative flame length of a potential fire based on a weighted average of four percentile weather categories. Flame Length is defined as the distance between the flame tip and the midpoint of the flame depth at the base of the flame, which is generally the ground surface. It is an indicator of fire intensity and is often used to estimate how much heat the fire is generating. Flame length is typically measured in feet (ft). Flame length is the measure of fire intensity used to generate the response index outputs for the SWRA.

Flame length is a fire behavior output, which is influenced by three environmental factors - fuels, weather, and topography. Weather is by far the most dynamic variable as it changes frequently. To account for this variability, four percentile weather categories were created from historical weather observations to represent low, moderate, high, and extreme weather days for each weather influence zone in the South. A weather influence zone is an area where, for analysis purposes, the weather on any given day is considered uniform.

For all Southern states, except Florida and Texas, this dataset was derived from updated fuels and canopy data as part of the 2010 SWRA Update Project recently completed in May 2014. For Texas, the 2010 Texas risk update data is portrayed. For Florida, the 2010 Florida risk assessment update data is shown.

Flame Length	Acres	Percent
Non-Burnable	69	6.0 %
0 - 2 ft	208	18.1 %
2 - 4 ft	409	35.6 %
4 - 8 ft	171	14.9 %
8 - 12 ft	112	9.7 %
12 - 20 ft	123	10.7 %
20 - 30 ft	52	4.5 %
30 + ft	6	0.5 %
Total	**1,150**	**100.0 %**


Saddle Ridge
Characteristic Flame Length
Acres
600
400
200
0
69
208
409
171
112
123
52
6
Non-Burnable
0 - 2 ft
2 - 4 ft
4 - 8 ft
8 - 12 ft
12 - 20 ft
20 - 30 ft
30 + ft


Saddle Ridge
Flame Length
0 - 2 ft.
2 - 4 ft.
4 - 8 ft.
8 - 12 ft.
12 - 20 ft.
20 - 30 ft.
30+ ft.
0.46 mi
984.4 m
N
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Characteristic Fire Intensity Scale

Description

Characteristic Fire Intensity Scale (FIS) specifically identifies areas where significant fuel hazards and associated dangerous fire behavior potential exist based on a weighted average of four percentile weather categories. Similar to the Richter scale for earthquakes, FIS provides a standard scale to measure potential wildfire intensity. FIS consist of 5 classes where the order of magnitude between classes is ten-fold. The minimum class, Class 1, represents very low wildfire intensities and the maximum class, Class 5, represents very high wildfire intensities. Refer to descriptions below.

- **Class 1, Very Low:**
  Very small, discontinuous flames, usually less than 1 foot in length; very low rate of spread; no spotting. Fires are typically easy to suppress by firefighters with basic training and non-specialized equipment.

- **Class 2, Low:**
  Small flames, usually less than two feet long; small amount of very short range spotting possible. Fires are easy to suppress by trained firefighters with protective equipment and specialized tools.

- **Class 3, Moderate:**
  Flames up to 8 feet in length; short-range spotting is possible. Trained firefighters will find these fires difficult to suppress without support from aircraft or engines, but dozer and plows are generally effective. Increasing potential for harm or damage to life and property.

- **Class 4, High:**
  Large Flames, up to 30 feet in length; short-range spotting common; medium range spotting possible. Direct attack by trained firefighters, engines, and dozers is generally ineffective, indirect attack may be effective. Significant potential for harm or damage to life and property.

- **Class 5, Very High:**
  Very large flames up to 150 feet in length; profuse short-range spotting, frequent long-range spotting; strong fire-induced winds. Indirect attack marginally effective at the head of the fire. Great potential for harm or damage to life and property.

For all Southern states, except Texas, this dataset was derived from updated fuels and canopy data as part of the 2010 SWRA Update Project recently completed in May 2014. For Texas, the 2010 Texas risk update data is portrayed.

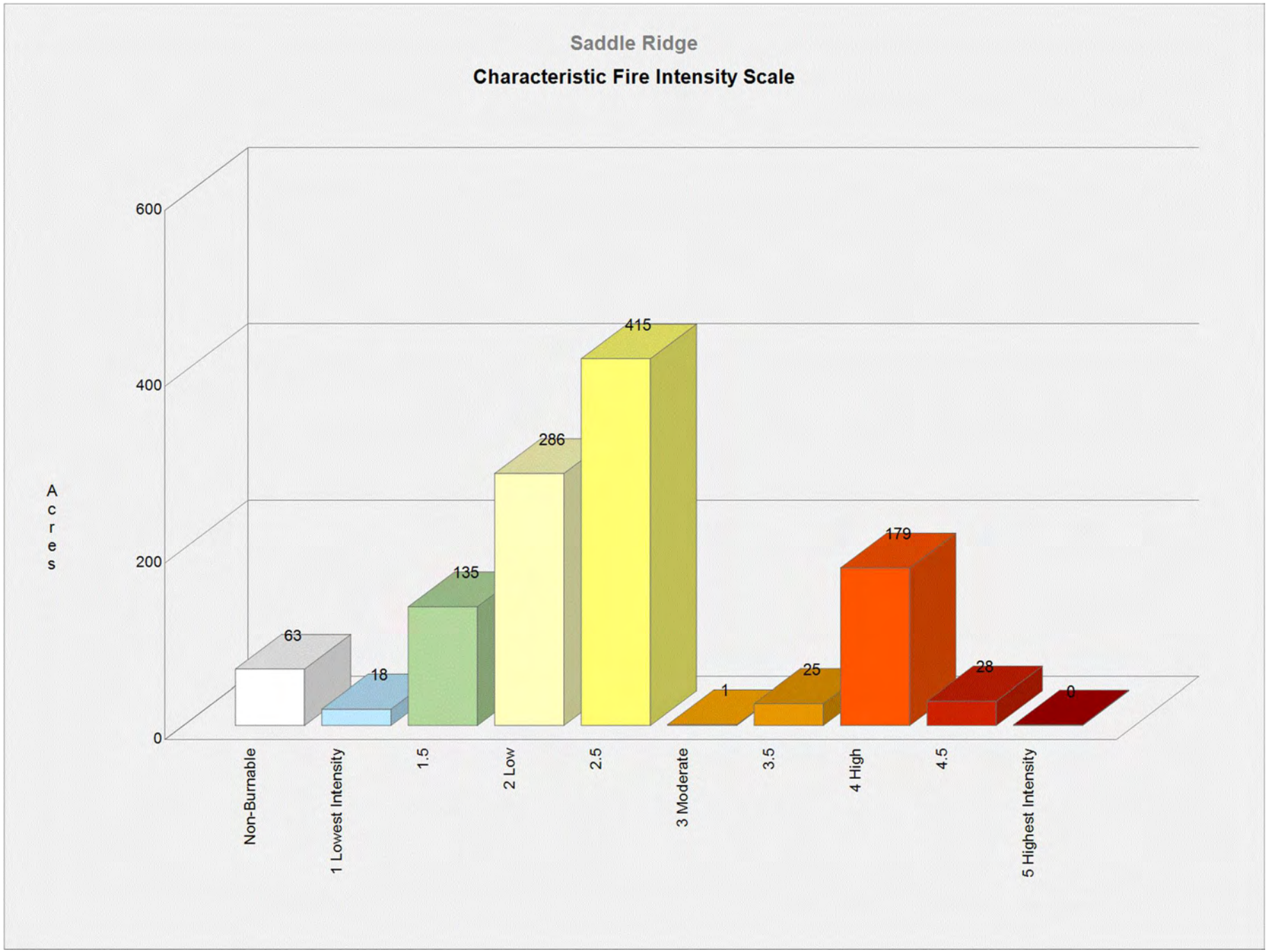
To aid in viewing on the map, FIS is presented in 1/2 class increments. Please consult the SouthWRAP User Manual for a more detailed description of the FIS class descriptions.

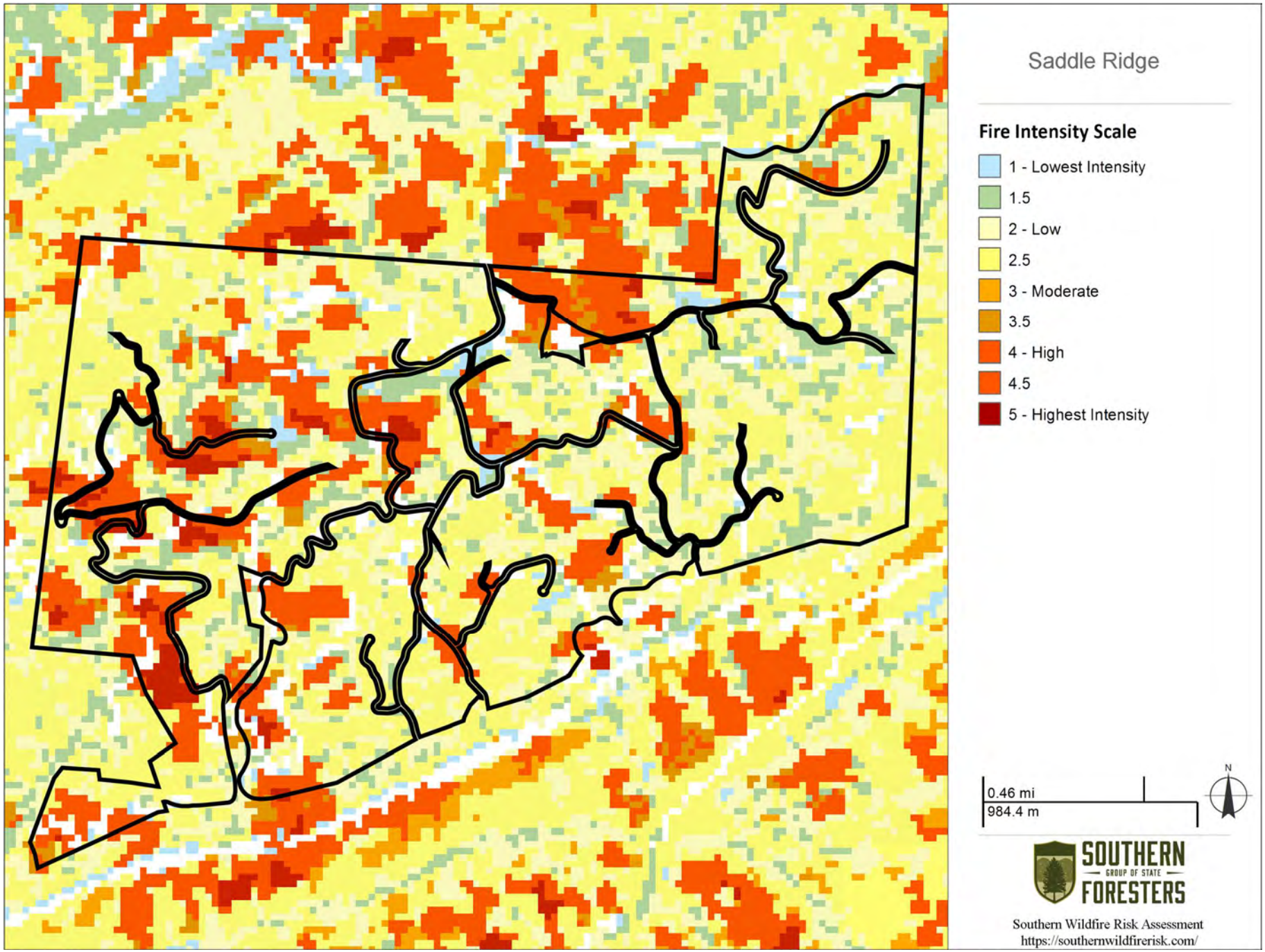
Since all areas in the South have fire intensity scale calculated consistently, it allows for comparison and ordination of areas across the entire region.

Fire intensity scale is a fire behavior output, which is influenced by three environmental factors - fuels, weather, and topography. Weather is by far the most dynamic variable as it changes frequently. To account for this variability, four percentile weather categories were created from historical weather observations to represent low, moderate, high, and extreme weather days for each weather influence zone in the South. A weather influence zone is an area where, for analysis purposes, the weather on any given day is considered uniform.

The fire intensity scale map is derived at a 30-meter resolution. This scale of data was chosen to be consistent with the accuracy of the primary surface fuels dataset used in the assessment. While not appropriate for site specific analysis, it is appropriate for regional, county or local planning efforts.

Class	Acres	Percent
Non-Burnable	63	5.5 %
1 Lowest Intensity	18	1.6 %
1.5	135	11.7 %
2 Low	286	24.9 %
2.5	415	36.1 %
3 Moderate	1	0.1 %
3.5	25	2.2 %
4 High	179	15.6 %
4.5	28	2.4 %
5 Highest Intensity	0	0.0 %
Total	**1,150**	**100.0 %**


Saddle Ridge
Characteristic Fire Intensity Scale
Acres
600
400
200
0
63
18
135
286
415
1
25
179
28
0
Non-Burnable
1 Lowest Intensity
1.5
2 Low
2.5
3 Moderate
3.5
4 High
4.5
5 Highest Intensity


Saddle Ridge
Fire Intensity Scale
1 - Lowest Intensity
1.5
2 - Low
2.5
3 - Moderate
3.5
4 - High
4.5
5 - Highest Intensity
0.46 mi
984.4 m
N
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Fire Type – Extreme

Description

There are two primary fire types – surface fire and canopy fire. Canopy fire can be further subdivided into passive canopy fire and active canopy fire. A short description of each of these is provided below.

Surface Fire
A fire that spreads through surface fuel without consuming any overlying canopy fuel. Surface fuels include grass, timber litter, shrub/brush, slash and other dead or live vegetation within about 6 feet of the ground.

Passive Canopy Fire
A type of crown fire in which the crowns of individual trees or small groups of trees burn, but solid flaming in the canopy cannot be maintained except for short periods (Scott & Reinhardt, 2001).

Active Canopy Fire
A crown fire in which the entire fuel complex (canopy) is involved in flame, but the crowning phase remains dependent on heat released from surface fuel for continued spread (Scott & Reinhardt, 2001).

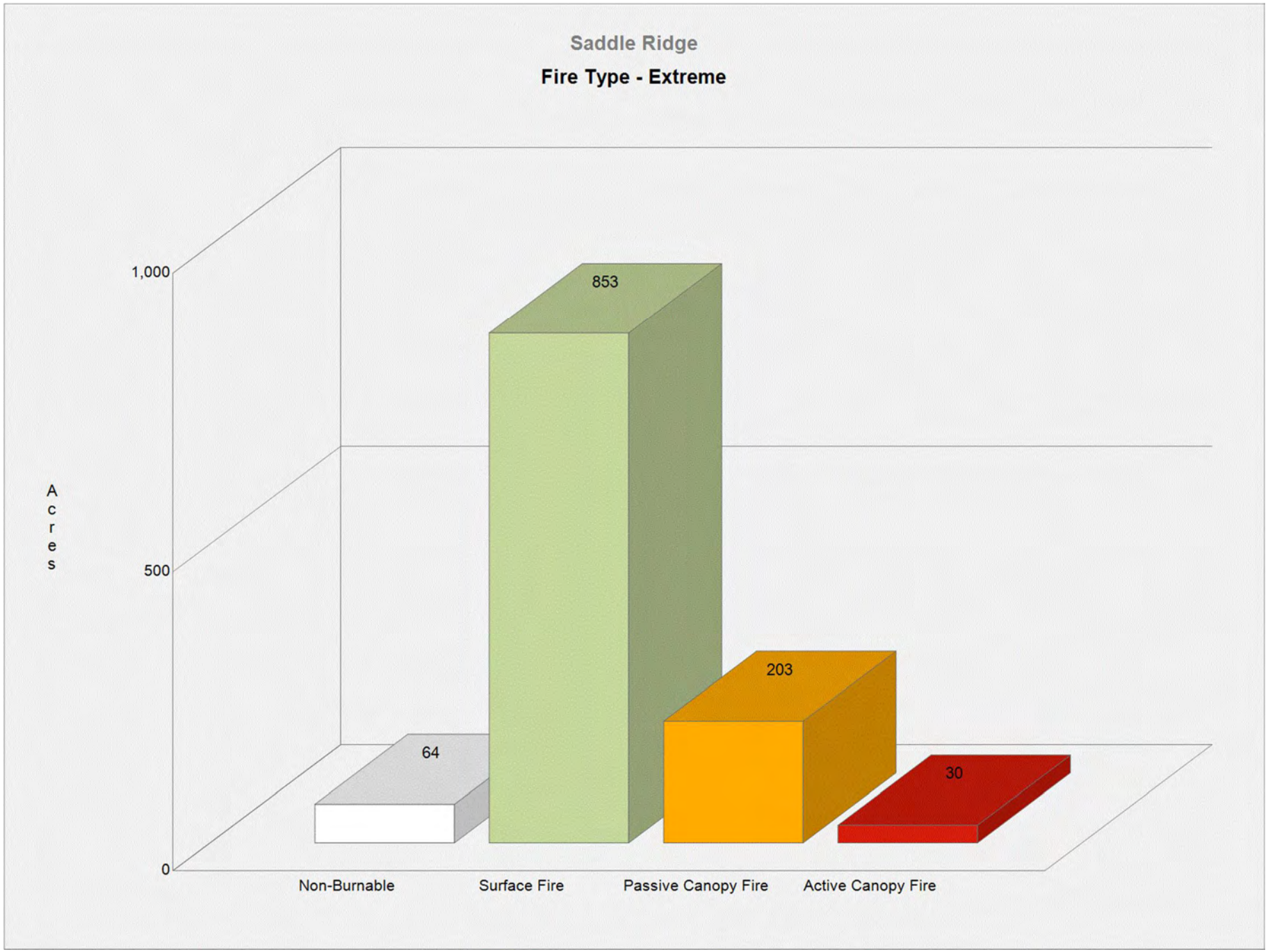
Fire Type – Extreme represents the potential fire type under the extreme percentile weather category. The extreme percentile weather category represents the average weather based on the top three percent fire weather days in the analysis period. It is not intended to represent a worst case scenario weather event. Accordingly, the potential fire type is based on fuel conditions, extreme percentile weather, and topography.

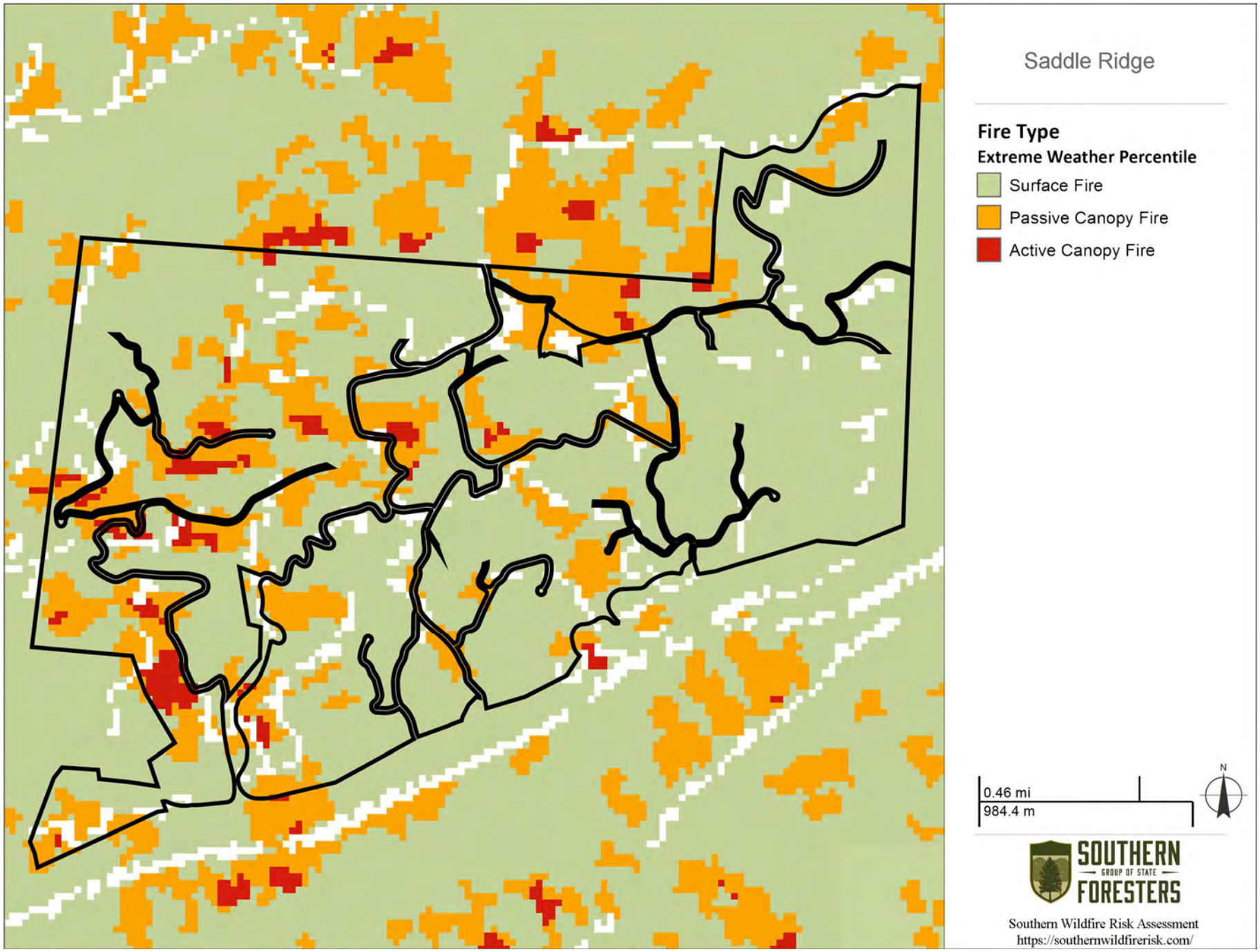
Canopy fires are very dangerous, destructive and difficult to control due to their increased fire intensity. From a planning perspective, it is important to identify where these conditions are likely to occur on the landscape so that special preparedness measure can be taken if necessary. The Fire Type – Extreme layer shows the footprint of where these areas are most likely to occur. However, it is important to note that canopy fires are not restricted to these areas. Under the right conditions, it can occur in other canopied areas.

For all Southern states, except Florida and Texas, this dataset was derived from updated fuels and canopy data as part of the 2010 SWRA Update Project recently completed in May 2014. For Texas, the 2010 Texas risk update data is portrayed. For Florida, the 2010 Florida risk assessment update data is shown.

The fire type - extreme map is derived at a 30-meter resolution. This scale of data was chosen to be consistent with the accuracy of the primary surface fuels dataset used in the assessment. While not appropriate for site specific analysis, it is appropriate for regional, county or local planning efforts.

Fire Type	Acres	Percent
Non-Burnable	64	5.6 %
Surface Fire	853	74.2 %
Passive Canopy	203	17.7 %
Active Canopy	30	2.6 %
Total	**1,150**	**100.0 %**


Saddle Ridge
Fire Type - Extreme
Acres
1,000
500
0
853
64
203
30
Non-Burnable
Surface Fire
Passive Canopy Fire
Active Canopy Fire


Saddle Ridge
Fire Type
Extreme Weather Percentile
Surface Fire
Passive Canopy Fire
Active Canopy Fire
0.46 mi
984.4 m
N
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Surface Fuels

Description

Surface fuels, or fire behavior fuel models as they are technically referred to, contain the parameters needed by the Rothermel (1972) surface fire spread model to compute surface fire behavior characteristics, such as rate of spread, flame length, fireline intensity, and other fire behavior metrics. As the name might suggest, surface fuels only account for the surface fire potential. Canopy fire potential is computed through a separate but linked process. The Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment accounts for both surface and canopy fire potential in the fire behavior outputs.

Surface fuels are typically categorized into one of four primary fuel types based on the primary carrier of the surface fire: 1) grass, 2) shrub/brush, 3) timber litter and 4) slash. There are two standard fire behavior fuel model sets published for use. The Fire Behavior Prediction System 1982 Fuel Model Set (Anderson, 1982) contains 13 fuel models and the Fire Behavior Prediction System 2005 Fuel Model Set (Scott & Burgan 2005) contains 40 fuel models.

The SWRA Surface Fuels have been updated to use the FBPS 2005 40 fuel model set from the LANDFIRE 2010 products, supplemented with additional enhancements obtained through calibration workshops with the Southern states. Florida uses FBPS 1982 fuel models derived based on spectral classification of Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) satellite imagery derived as part of the Florida Forest Service fuels mapping and risk assessment projects. Texas fuels represent 2010 updates conducted as part of a statewide fuels and canopy mapping effort.

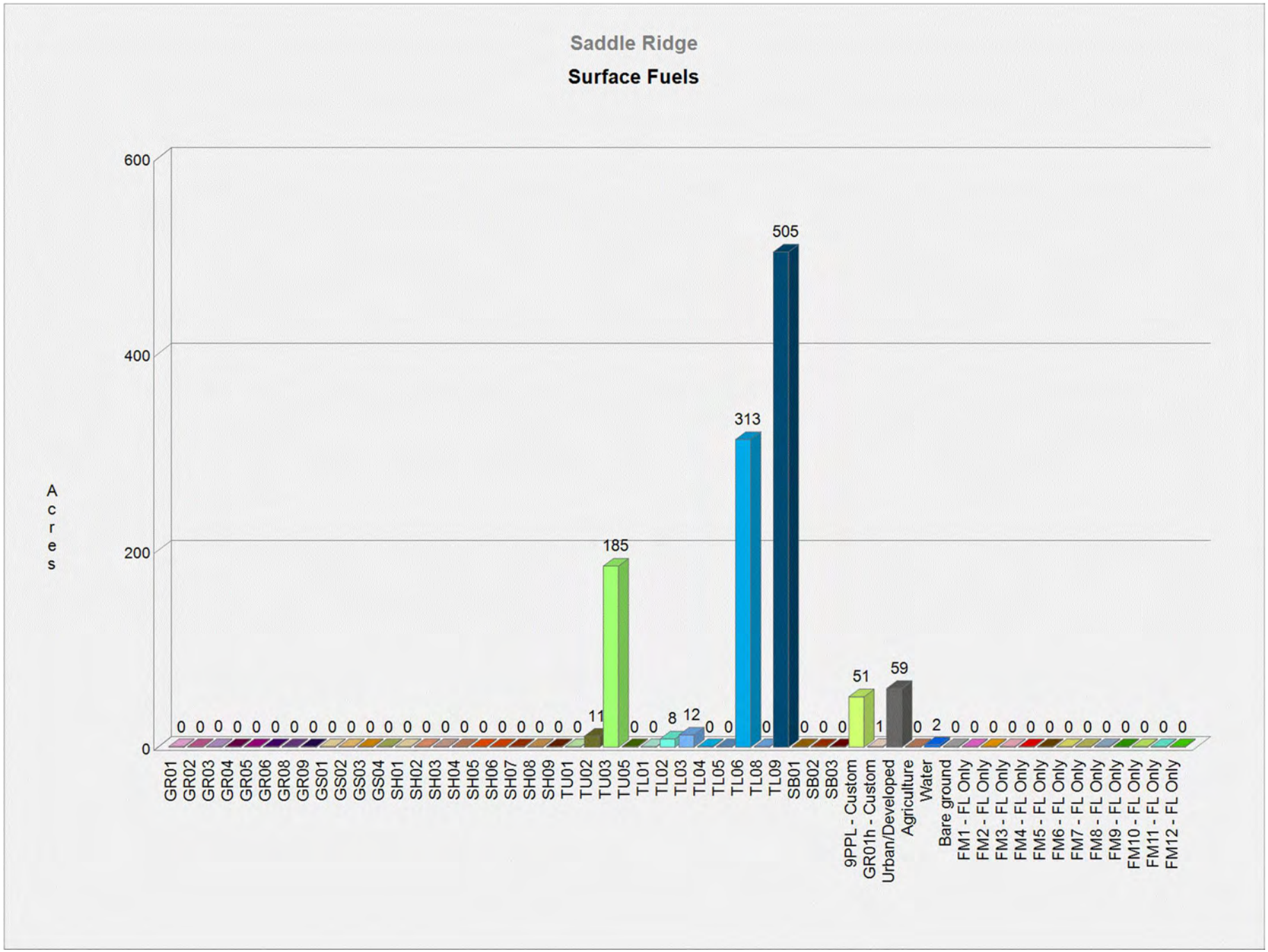
For the remaining 11 Southern states, the recently completed SWRA Update project produced a new surface fuels dataset based on 2010 LANDFIRE products. A detailed fuels calibration process was undertaken that involved collaboration with Southern state fuels and fire behavior specialists supported by federal partner involvement. Workshops were held to review the LANDFIRE fuels product and calibrate the data by modifying specific fuels classes to better reflect local knowledge and input. A key component of this calibration task involved using image processing techniques to better delineate conifer areas, and in particular pine areas (plantations and natural stands). The fuels layer represents 2010 conditions.

Surface Fuel	FBPS Fuel Model Set	Description	Acres	Percent
Grass Fuels Type Models (nearly pure grass and/or forb type)				
GR01	2005	Grass is short, patchy, and possibly heavily grazed. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.	0	0.0 %
GR02	2005	Moderately coarse continuous grass, average depth about 1 foot. Spread rate high; flame length moderate.	0	0.0 %
GR03	2005	Very coarse grass, average depth about 2 feet. Spread rate high; flame length moderate.	0	0.0 %
GR04	2005	Moderately coarse continuous grass, average depth about 2 feet. Spread rate very high; flame length high.	0	0.0 %
GR05	2005	Dense, coarse grass, average depth about 1 to 2 feet. Spread rate very high; flame length high.	0	0.0 %
GR06	2005	Dryland grass about 1 to 2 feet tall. Spread rate very high; flame length very high.	0	0.0 %
GR08	2005	Heavy, coarse, continuous grass 3 to 5 feet tall. Spread rate very high; flame length very high.	0	0.0 %
GR09	2005	Very heavy, coarse, continuous grass 5 to 8 feet tall. Spread rate extreme; flame length extreme.	0	0.0 %
Grass-Shrub Fuels Type Models (mixture of grass and shrub, up to 50 percent shrub coverage)				
GS01	2005	Shrubs are about 1 foot high, low grass load. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.	0	0.0 %
GS02	2005	Shrubs are 1 to 3 feet high, moderate grass load. Spread rate high; flame length moderate.	0	0.0 %
GS03	2005	Moderate grass/shrub load, average grass/shrub depth less than 2 feet. Spread rate high; flame length moderate.	0	0.0 %
GS04	2005	Heavy grass/shrub load, depth greater than 2 feet. Spread rate high; flame length very high.	0	0.0 %
Shrub Fuel Type Models (Shrubs cover at least 50 percent of the site, grass sparse to nonexistent)				
SH01	2005	Low shrub fuel load, fuelbed depth about 1 foot; some grass may be present. Spread rate very low; flame length very low.	0	0.0 %
SH02	2005	Moderate fuel load (higher than SH01), depth about 1 foot, no grass fuel present. Spread rate low; flame length low.	0	0.0 %
SH03	2005	Moderate shrub load, possibly with pine overstory or herbaceous fuel, fuel bed depth 2 to 3 feet. Spread rate low; flame length low.	0	0.0 %
SH04	2005	Low to moderate shrub and litter load, possibly with pine overstory, fuel bed depth about 3 feet. Spread rate high; flame length moderate.	0	0.0 %

Surface Fuel	FBPS Fuel Model Set	Description	Acres	Percent
SH05	2005	Heavy shrub load, depth 4 to 6 feet. Spread rate very high; flame length very high.	0	0.0 %
SH06	2005	Dense shrubs, little or no herb fuel, depth about 2 feet. Spread rate high; flame length high.	0	0.0 %
SH07	2005	Very heavy shrub load, depth 4 to 6 feet. Spread rate lower than SH05, but flame length similar. Spread rate high; flame length very high.	0	0.0 %
SH08	2005	Dense shrubs, little or no herb fuel, depth about 3 feet. Spread rates high; flame length high.	0	0.0 %
SH09	2005	Dense, finely branched shrubs with significant fine dead fuel, about 4 to 6 feet tall; some herbaceous fuel may be present. Spread rate high, flame length very high.	0	0.0 %
Timber-Understory Fuel Type Models (Grass or shrubs mixed with litter from forest canopy)				
TU01	2005	Fuelbed is low load of grass and/or shrub with litter. Spread rate low; flame length low.	0	0.0 %
TU02	2005	Fuelbed is moderate litter load with shrub component. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.	11	1.0 %
TU03	2005	Fuelbed is moderate litter load with grass and shrub components. Spread rate high; flame length moderate.	185	16.1 %
TU05	2005	Fuelbed is high load conifer litter with shrub understory. Spread rate moderate; flame length moderate.	0	0.0 %
Timber Litter Fuel Type Models (dead and down woody fuel litter beneath a forest canopy)				
TL01	2005	Light to moderate load, fuels 1 to 2 inches deep. Spread rate very low; flame length very low.	0	0.0 %
TL02	2005	Low load, compact. Spread rate very low; flame length very low.	8	0.7 %
TL03	2005	Moderate load conifer litter. Spread rate very low; flame length low.	12	1.0 %
TL04	2005	Moderate load, includes small diameter downed logs. Spread rate low; flame length low.	0	0.0 %
TL05	2005	High load conifer litter; light slash or mortality fuel. Spread rate low; flame length low.	0	0.0 %
TL06	2005	Moderate load, less compact. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.	313	27.3 %
TL08	2005	Moderate load and compactness may include small amount of herbaceous load. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.	0	0.0 %

Surface Fuel	FBPS Fuel Model Set	Description	Acres	Percent
TL09	2005	Very high load broadleaf litter; heavy needle-drape in otherwise sparse shrub layer. Spread rate moderate; flame length moderate.	505	44.0 %
Slash-Blowdown Fuel Type Models (activity fuel/slash or debris from wind damage)				
SB01	2005	Low load activity fuel. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.	0	0.0 %
SB02	2005	Moderate load activity or low load blowdown. Spread rate moderate; flame length moderate.	0	0.0 %
SB03	2005	High load activity fuel or moderate load blowdown. Spread rate high; flame length high.	0	0.0 %
Custom Fuel Type Models (all states except Florida)				
9PPL	Custom	Long-needle (pine litter, plantations) with a high load	51	4.4 %
GR01h	Custom	Pasture and hayland	1	0.1 %
Non-burnable Fuel Type Models (insufficient wildland fuel to carry a wildland fire under any condition)				
NB01	2005	Urban or suburban development; insufficient wildland fuel to carry wildland fire. Includes roads.	59	5.1 %
NB03	2005	Agricultural field, maintained in nonburnable condition.	0	0.0 %
NB08	2005	Open water	2	0.2 %
NB09	2005	Bare ground	0	0.0 %
1982 Fire Behavior Prediction System – ONLY USED FOR FLORIDA ASSESSMENT				
FM 1	1982	Short grass	0	0.0 %
FM 2	1982	Timber grass and understory	0	0.0 %
FM 3	1982	Tall grass	0	0.0 %
FM 4	1982	Chaparral	0	0.0 %

Surface Fuel	FBPS Fuel Model Set	Description	Acres	Percent
FM 5	1982	Brush	0	0.0 %
FM 6	1982	Dormant brush	0	0.0 %
FM 7	1982	Southern rough	0	0.0 %
FM 8	1982	Compact timber litter	0	0.0 %
FM 9	1982	Hardwood litter	0	0.0 %
FM 10	1982	Timber (understory)	0	0.0 %
FM 11	1982	Light logging slash	0	0.0 %
FM 12	1982	Medium logging slash	0	0.0 %
			1,147	**100.0 %**


Saddle Ridge
Surface Fuels
Acres
600
400
200
0
GR01 GR02 GR03 GR04 GR05 GR06 GR08 GR09 GS01 GS02 GS03 GS04 SH01 SH02 SH03 SH04 SH05 SH06 SH07 SH08 SH09 TU01 TU02 TU03 TU05 TL01 TL02 TL03 TL04 TL05 TL06 TL08 TL09 SB01 SB02 SB03 9PPL - Custom GR01h - Custom Urban/Developed Agriculture Water Bare ground FM1 - FL Only FM2 - FL Only FM3 - FL Only FM4 - FL Only FM5 - FL Only FM6 - FL Only FM7 - FL Only FM8 - FL Only FM9 - FL Only FM10 - FL Only FM11 - FL Only FM12 - FL Only
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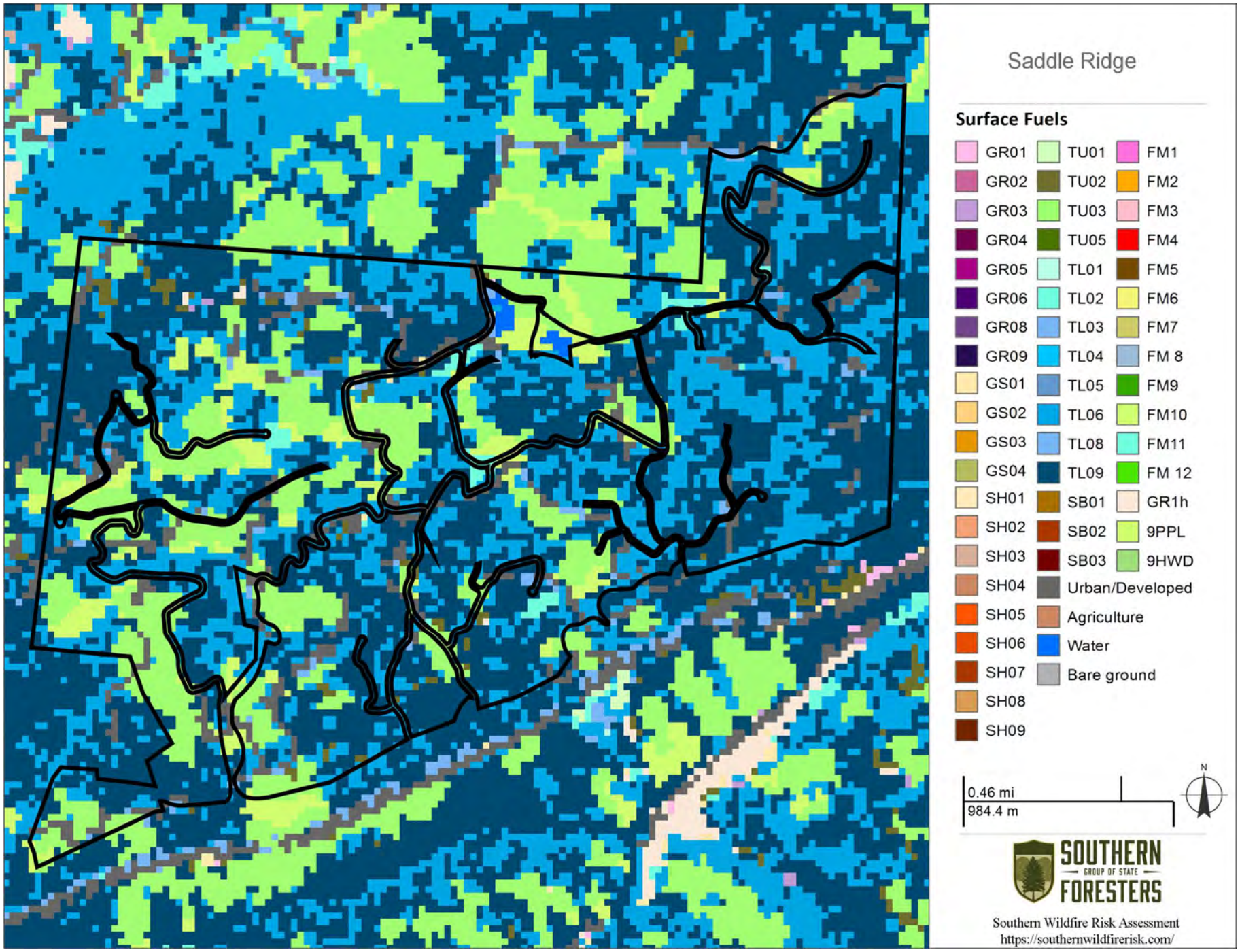
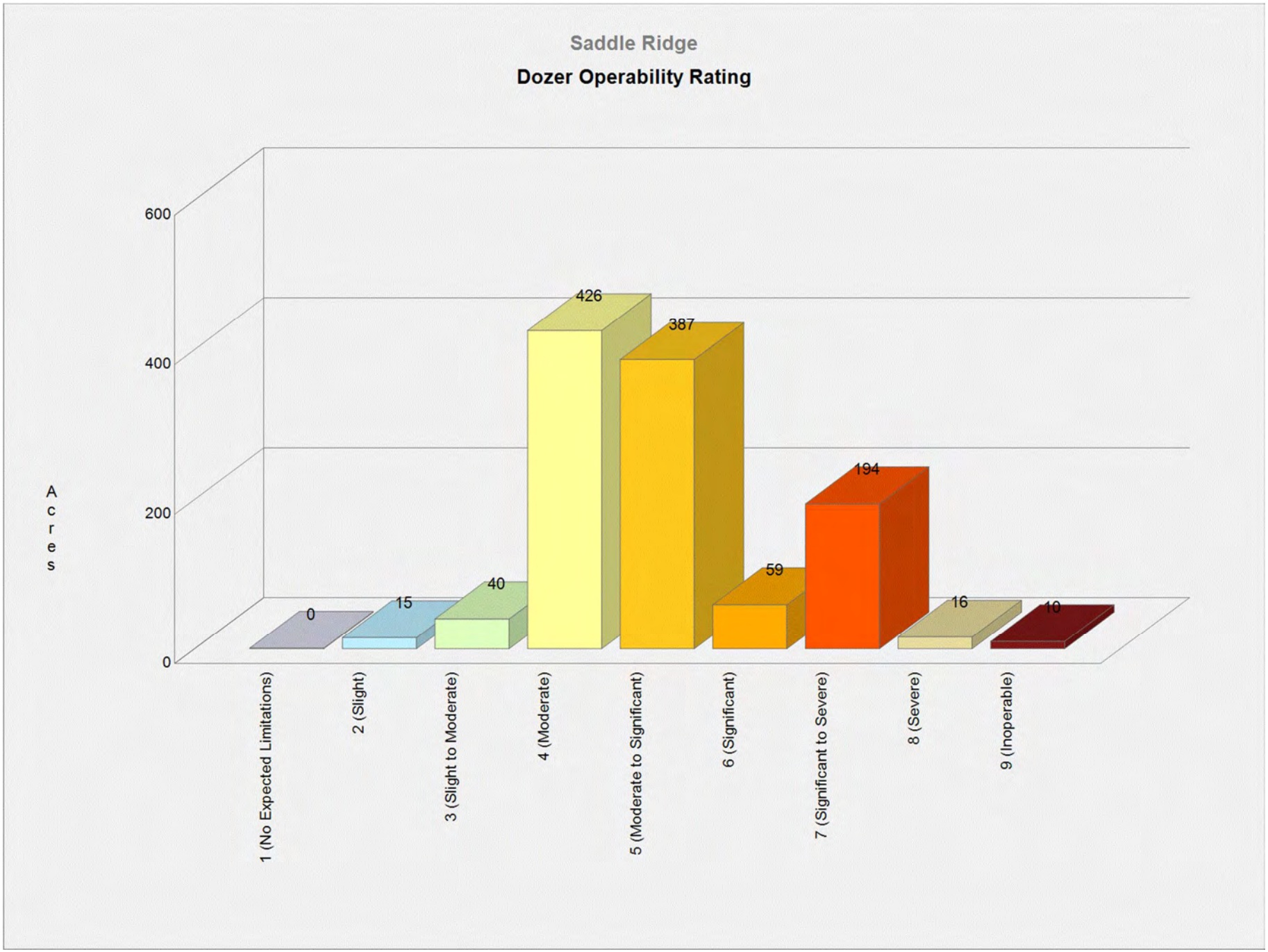

Saddle Ridge
Surface Fuels
GR01
GR02
GR03
GR04
GR05
GR06
GR08
GR09
GS01
GS02
GS03
GS04
SH01
SH02
SH03
SH04
SH05
SH06
SH07
SH08
SH09
TU01
TU02
TU03
TU05
TL01
TL02
TL03
TL04
TL05
TL06
TL08
TL09
SB01
SB02
SB03
Urban/Developed
Agriculture
Water
Bare ground
FM1
FM2
FM3
FM4
FM5
FM6
FM7
FM 8
FM9
FM10
FM11
FM 12
GR1h
9PPL
9HWD
0.46 mi
984.4 m
N
SOUTHERN GROUP OF STATE FORESTERS
Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment
https://southernwildfirerisk.com/

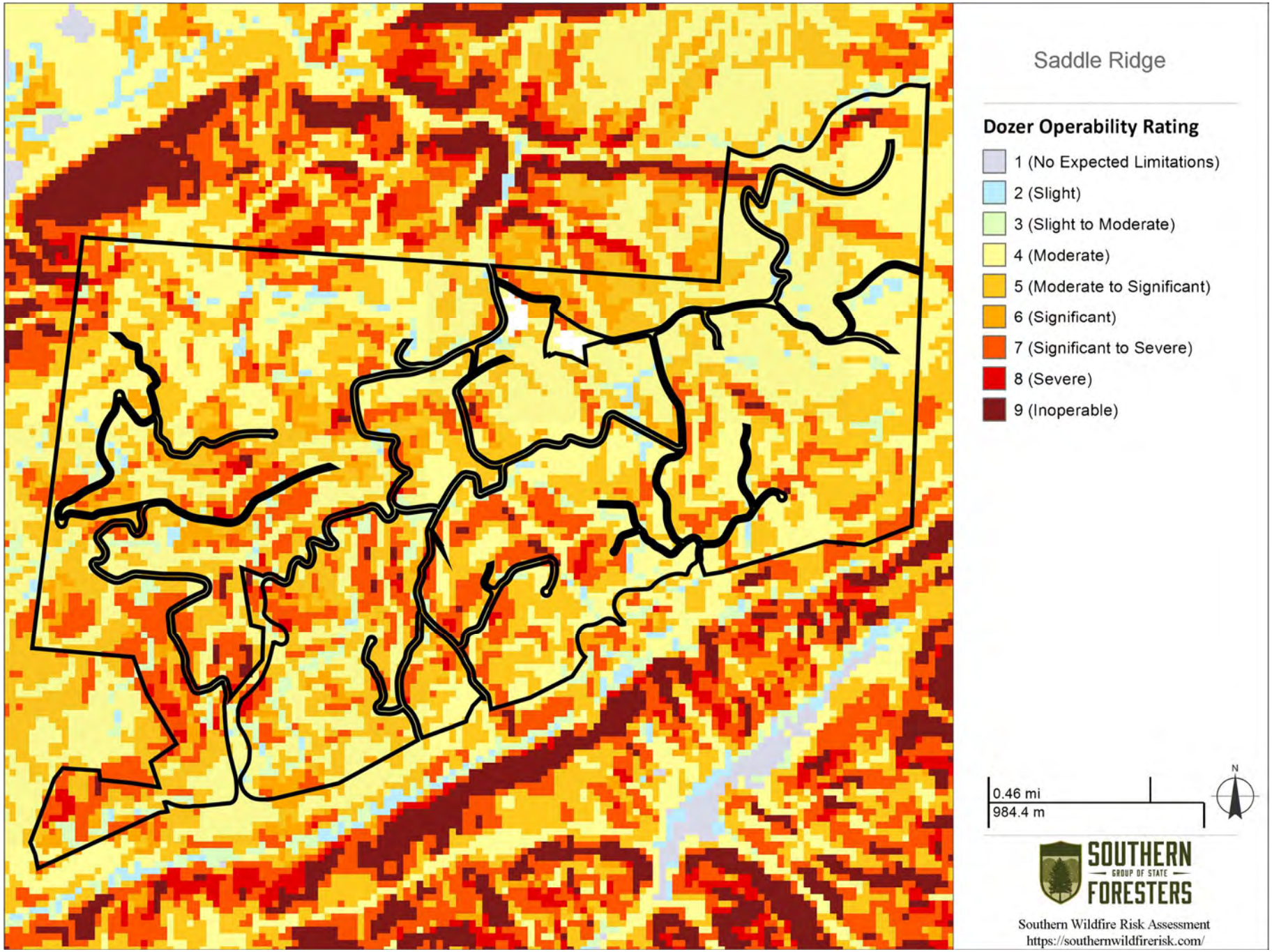
Dozer Operability Rating

Description

The Dozer Operability Rating (DOR) expresses how difficult it is to operate a dozer in an area based on limitations associated with slope and vegetation/fuel type. Using the fireline production rates published in the NWCG Fireline Handbook 3 (PMS 410-1) as a guide, operability values were assigned to a matrix based on 6 slope classes and 10 vegetation/fuels classes. The possible values range from 1 to 9, with 1 representing no limitations and 9 being inoperable.

Class	Acres	Percent
1 (No Expected Limitations)	0	0.0 %
2 (Slight)	15	1.3 %
3 (Slight to Moderate)	40	3.5 %
4 (Moderate)	426	37.1 %
5 (Moderate to Significant)	387	33.7 %
6 (Significant)	59	5.1 %
7 (Significant to Severe)	194	16.9 %
8 (Severe)	16	1.4 %
9 (Inoperable)	10	0.9 %
Total	**1,147**	**100.0 %**


Saddle Ridge
Dozer Operability Rating
Acres
600
400
200
0
0
15
40
426
387
59
194
16
10
1 (No Expected Limitations)
2 (Slight)
3 (Slight to Moderate)
4 (Moderate)
5 (Moderate to Significant)
6 (Significant)
7 (Significant to Severe)
8 (Severe)
9 (Inoperable)


Saddle Ridge
Dozer Operability Rating
1 (No Expected Limitations)
2 (Slight)
3 (Slight to Moderate)
4 (Moderate)
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0.46 mi
984.4 m
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SOUTHERN GROUP OF STATE FORESTERS
Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment
https://southernwildfirerisk.com/

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Thompson, M. P., D. E. Calkin, M. A. Finney, A. A. Ager, and J. W. Gilbertson-Day. 2011. Integrated National-Scale Assessment of Wildfire Risk to Human and Ecological Values. Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment 25:761-780.

More information about the Fire Program Analysis project is available from http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/WFIT/applications/FPA/index.shtml

More information about the Oak Ridge National Laboratory LandScan data is available from http://web.ornl.gov/sci/landscan/landscan_documentation.shtml

More information about the U.S. Forest Service SILVIS data is available from http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/maps/wui_main

SOUTHERN GROUP OF STATE FORESTERS
WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT PORTAL

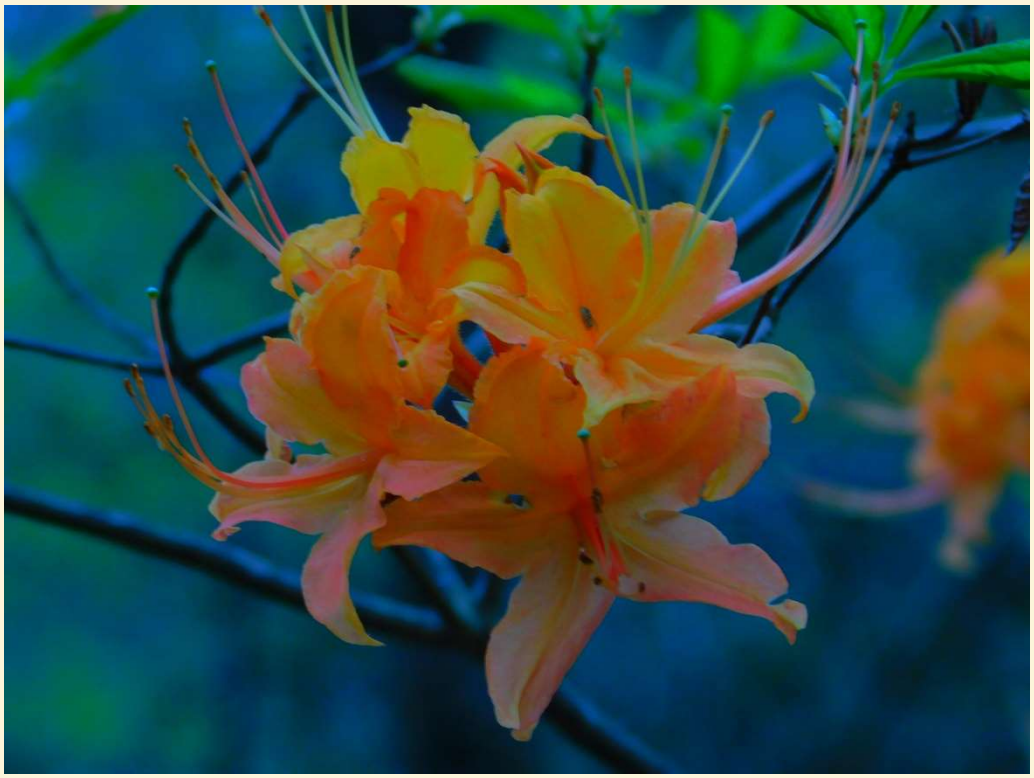
Attachment G

The Ridge Rambler

2021 Spring Ridge Rambler • Saddle Ridge Property Owner's Association Newsletter • Volume 27, Issue 1

View this email in your browser

The Ridge Rambler



President's Message

I’m writing this sitting inside because it is too cold today to be outside. What?!? This is April! But I guess this is one of our many named winters (Blackberry? Redbud? Locust?) — I’m going with Dogwood! As we always hear — if you’re tired of the weather, stick around; it will change. This is definitely true in Tennessee and Saddle Ridge!

It's been a very busy time here. You’ve probably noticed all the lots and houses that have been for sale and that have quickly been snapped up. That’s good, and I’m sure we’re all looking forward to meeting new neighbors and new property owners near us. But it does make it a busy time for your board as we answer questions from realtors and potential buyers about our covenants and restrictions. If you haven’t looked at those lately, you can find links to them on our Saddle Ridge website. They are important and protect all of us and our property so that SR can remain the peaceful oasis that we all moved here to enjoy. Some of those restrictions include: no overnight rentals, no motorcycles, no trailers or boats, no nuisances or annoyances to neighbors. As board members, we work hard to educate realtors about these restrictions, so that no one looking at property here is unaware of the rules before they buy. That prevents both problems and disappointments with new potential owners.

We will look forward to meeting our new neighbors at the annual meeting, which will be held as always on the third Saturday in July, which is July 17 this year. This is not 100% yet, but it will probably be here in SR around the barn like it was last year. We heard from a lot of you that you preferred it being here “at home” last year, and considering how tightly we were packed into our

room at the Walland Methodist Church, we feel that being outside again is probably our best choice. But of course, there will be many notices between now and then, so keep watch to know for sure exactly where and when it will be. We hope to see everyone there!

So for now, I'll be looking forward to the warmth coming back. Nothing is better than sitting on the porch enjoying the beauty and quiet of Saddle Ridge! Even on a cool rainy day like today, it's beautiful and special. Everyone be careful and safe out there, remember our speed limits, and let's be kind to each other. Life in Saddle Ridge is definitely good!

-Janet Kolarik, President

Treasurer's Update

As of the end of March (9 months in) SRPOA has collected 100% of the projected annual assessments and paid out 66% of the projected annual operating expenses. Additional roadwork before the end of the fiscal year will, no doubt, bring the operating expenses up to 100% of projected outflows

-Sally Whelan, Treasurer

Environment Committee

With one week left in April and the month of May to go for our virtual cleanup schedule this spring, I would sure like to hear from Saddle Ridge residents who are planning to cover an area of Saddle Ridge and/or a portion of East Miller Cove Road. There are 3 sections of EMC yet to be covered and each one is only 8/10 of a mile long. We are only covering EMC from the Forestry station to the Blount County line. We need some volunteers to clean and repaint the Saddle Ridge gate.

We also really need people to sign up for a section of a road in Saddle Ridge to help get ready for grading. Common areas and roadsides need to be cleared of fallen branches, logs, rocks, and brush. This keeps the cost of mower repairs and fire danger down.

Each homeowner is requested to keep all debris (brush, logs, rocks) cleared from their road frontage so that the road crew can keep that area trimmed. If you have a culvert on your road frontage, would you please make sure it is clear of leaves and open for water flow.

Betsy Smith, our Firewise Chair, and Eric Miller, Area Forester, toured SR for fire assessment. As Environmental Chair, I went along so that I can be aware of what is needed to support the Firewise and Road committees. Remember removal of dead material at least 30

feet back from our homes helps reduce fire danger. For all our new residents, we have had 4 small fires that our fire department had to address. Three started when dead trees hit power lines. All the more reason to keep after all the dead materials around our homes.

Several residents including our new ones have signed up to clean up a road or a section of the road they live on as well as another area in SR or EMC. So if anyone has questions regarding where, what, how, etc. about spring cleanup, please call 982 5729 or email me at jrpearson1942@att.net.

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who is helping to keep SR a wonderful place in which to live.

-Judy Pearson, Environment Committee Chair

Architectural

There are Three Types of Jobs
1) Cheap 2) Quick 3) Good
You can have any two
A) A Good Quick Job (Won't be Cheap)
B) A Cheap Good Job (Won't be Quick)
C) A Quick Job Cheap (Won't be Good)

No matter which type of job you pick be sure to submit your plans to the Architecture Committee before building new structures or adding on. You can email Beth Koella at BethKoella@gmail.com. You can also read Before You Build on our website.

Firewise

The 2017 Firewise Action Plan is now the 2021 Community Accomplishments. Please take a few minutes to look at what Saddle Ridge residents have done in the past 4 years to improve our fire-readiness. We met all of our goals.

This year we are updating our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) which includes an Action Plan for the next 3 years and a Risk Assessment. The Risk Assessment was completed

Thursday, April 15. Eric Miller, Area Forester, and his team met with Sue DuBois, Judy Pearson, and Betsy Smith and drove around Saddle Ridge. We live in a high-risk area.

The team emphasized two points:

- Have 30' of defensible space around homes. That is, make sure leaves, underbrush, and other debris are clear of the house. The Firewise Fact Sheet How to Prepare Your Home for Wildfires is helpful.
- Mark or flag septic tanks and underground propane tanks so they can be located quickly.

Firewise – Evacuation Plan

An Evacuation Plan is now posted at the kiosk, on the Saddle Ridge website, and linked here. The plan shows the options from the gate and East Millers Cove Road. Every property owner should know your options if your road is blocked by fire, flooding, trees, or other barriers.

-Betsy Smith, Firewise Chair

Road Report

We're under budget on the road maintenance but catching up this Spring with more grading and the addition of rock. Brush removal continued with the SR virtual cleanup along the roadsides. Gravel was added in spots for safety during the icy weather. In February and March, all the major roads, Chilhowee Loop, Waters End, Overlook, Walnut Flats, Oakwood, were graded and gravel added.

The Wyss's worked on clearing brush off Walnut Flats, Chilhowee, Eagle Pass, and Elks Point, chipped the pile behind the barn and trimmed back hillsides on the curves along Chilhowee for visibility. We also hired a crew to clear leaves and debris out of all the culverts in Saddle Ridge. They're about halfway through at this point. In addition, the board got estimates for several road projects: Chilhowee- widen a curve, Chilhowee - rocky areas, add tiles, ditch and grade Elks Point, and replace tile and grade section of Park Spur off Overlook.

-Sue DuBois, Road Committee Chair

SADDLE RIDGE BOARD

We will have 2 board members going off the board this July. Please consider being on the Saddle Ridge Board. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and learn more about our neighborhood. If you are considering running, feel free to talk to any board member for more information.

LIVING WITH BEARS

Living with Bears in Saddle Ridge Bears are an important part of this beautiful place we call home. They are always here in the woods, living their bear lives and keeping their distance, so we rarely see them. During the months of July through September sightings of bears are reported more frequently because they are very actively out and about looking for food. If they find easy food around homes, they quickly lose their natural fear of humans. Once they start associating humans with food, it is difficult to get bears back to their natural instinct to avoid humans. Contacting TWRA (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) is the last resort for handling nuisance bears. Sadly, a fed bear is a dead bear. Every resident can help the community and the bears get through these periods of high bear activity. DON'T ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET CLOSE We can all help by making sure that there is no easy food for them: • Do not feed the bears • Remove bird feeders (including hummingbird feeders) • Make sure there is no garbage food, pet food or composting food anywhere around your house • Keep your BBQ grill clean and free from grease or store it inside • Don't leave food in your car. DISCOURAGE THEM IF THEY DO GET CLOSE Get an air-horn or noise-making device so that if you see a bear around your house, you can scare it off and help retrain it to not approach humans in their habitat. BE AWARE Attacks by bears are very rare, but nuisance bears are thinking of one thing – find food and/or protect cubs, and you don't want to be the main thing keeping them from either. • Look and listen if you are outside, carry an air horn while out hiking

• If you see a bear, don't approach it • Don't run - that will only trigger the bear to chase you. • Back away slowly, make noise, blast air horns, shout, wave your arms, look as big and unfriendly as possible. If you do have a bear encounter, report it to the SRPOA Board at saddleridgepoa@gmail.com or contact a Board Member.
Saddle Ridge POA

Saddle Ridge Trash Barn Rules

Allowed

Only household trash that is bagged and tied. Please place in the back of the trash barn where the floor is painted gray.

Not Allowed in Trash

- Construction waste
- Yard waste
- Large batteries bigger than size D
- Wet paint (even if contained)
- Motor oil
- Household oil-based liquids
- Large electronics or TVs
- Medical waste
- Tires

Recycling:

GLASS IS NO LONGER ALLOWED in recycling

Please place bagged recycling in trash bins at the front of the shed. Plastics, aluminum, cardboard, paper, and tin are all accepted. Make sure all cardboard is collapsed.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE TRASH BARN IS CLOSED UNTIL 1PM ON MONDAYS FOR CLEANING

New Owners

Brenda & Ronald Muzyngo
Tom & Bellarobin Sardella

Lucy & Robert Conley
Janet & Trent McTyre
Tom & Dee Dee Clark
Rick & Kelly Butler
Karen & David Dunn

SR Facebook Group

The Saddle Ridge members Facebook group page continues to be a great source for information within our community. We regularly post messages, alerts, concerns, and needs to this page. Living in this rural community, we don't often see each other, so the Facebook page is a way to communicate timely news such as power outages, fire alerts, wildlife sightings, events coming up, lost pets, or even suspicious traffic.

Contact Mary Glarner at Mglarner@gmail.com, to be added to the group. Please remember, this page is strictly for people who own property in Saddle Ridge.

Contact your SRPOA Board

Email: saddleridgepoa@gmail.com

Board members and committee chairs are listed below and also on the Saddle Ridge website - www.saddleridgepoa.com

President: Janet Kolarik | 865-805-0348
Vice President: Sue DuBois | 865-307-2532 Roads Committee
Treasurer: Sally Whelan | 508-847-9140
Secretary: Joan Jackson | 803-257-2649

Board Members:
Judy Pearson | 865-982-5729 Environmental Committee
Connie Evans | 865-304-2267 Events/Hospitality Committee
Mary Glarner | 865-982-3432 Communications Committee
Beth Koella | 865-705-0455 Architectural Committee
Keith Kennedy | 512-716-5059 Equipment Committee

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Attachment H

Saddle Ridge Firewise Web Page

Saddle Ridge POA

Saddle Ridge Home

Saddle Ridge POA

The Ridge Rambler

Welcome Residents

Announcements

Gallery

Wildlife Documentation

Calendar

Contact Us

Local Links

Firewise Community

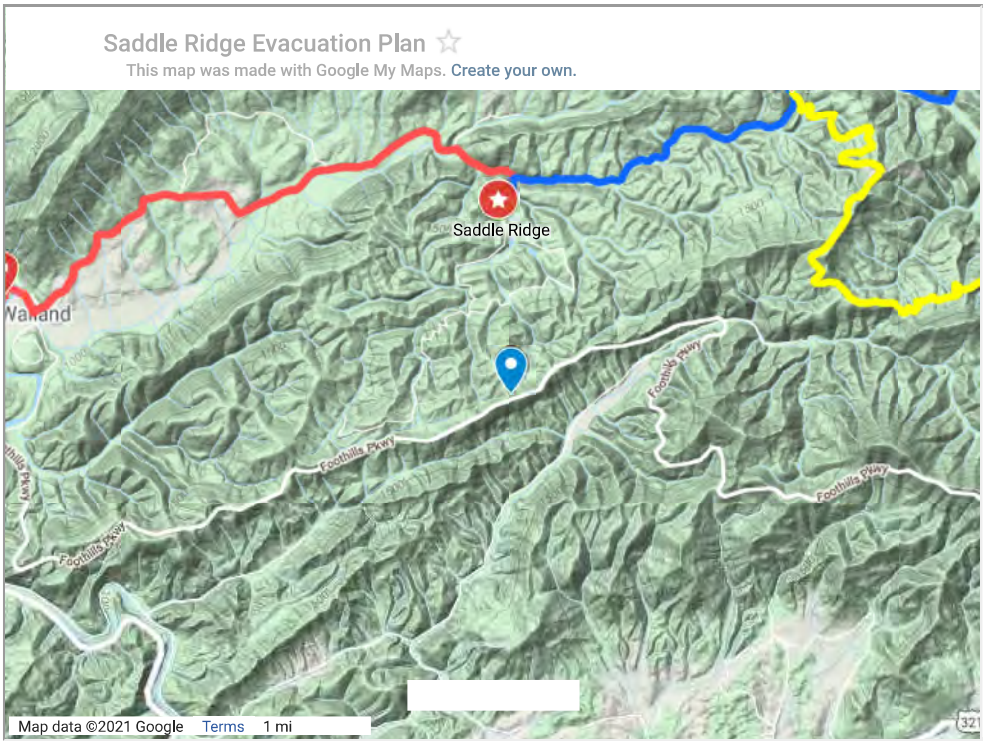
Saddle Ridge became a Firewise community in Fall 2017. The 2017 Firewise Action Plan is now the **2021 Community Accomplishments**. Please take a few minutes to look at what the Saddle Ridge residents have done in the past 4 years to improve the community. We met all of our goals.

The Firewise program's emphasis on community participation builds on a history of volunteering within the Saddle Ridge community. We have Spring and Fall clean-up days. To maintain our designation as a Firewise community, we must invest annually the equivalent of one volunteer hour in fire mitigation activities. We earned our certificate each year since 2017.

Firewise grant money has helped Saddle Ridge purchase metal road signs, a chipper, a ditch mower, brushcutter, trimmers, leaf blowers, long pole tree trimmer, and more. More importantly, the Firewise program and our Forestry agents help us improve our fire mitigation activities.

Property Owner Actions

- Establish an Evacuation Plan for your location in Saddle Ridge.
  - Evacuation map - see below
  - **Evacuation Instructions**
- Review **The Wildfire Preparedness Tips**
- Respond to the **bi-monthly survey.** The survey gives owners the opportunity to report the time and money spent on Firewise activities.
- Post blue house number signs to identify your property. The signs are $15 from the **Blount County Fire Department.**
- Have the Saddle Ridge Firewise team conduct a home assessment. The team walks around the outside of your home and offers suggestions for increasing the defensible space. You keep the assessment notes.
- Attend Saddle Ridge Firewise clean-up days and the annual meeting
- Get to know your neighbors



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Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association
PO Box 353
Walland, TN 37886
saddleridgepoa@gmail.com

Attachment I

Saddle Ridge Evacuation Plan

Saddle Ridge

Evacuation Plans

Evacuate through the gate at the entrance to Saddle Ridge.

At East Millers Cove Road, follow the directions of the Blount County Emergency Responders

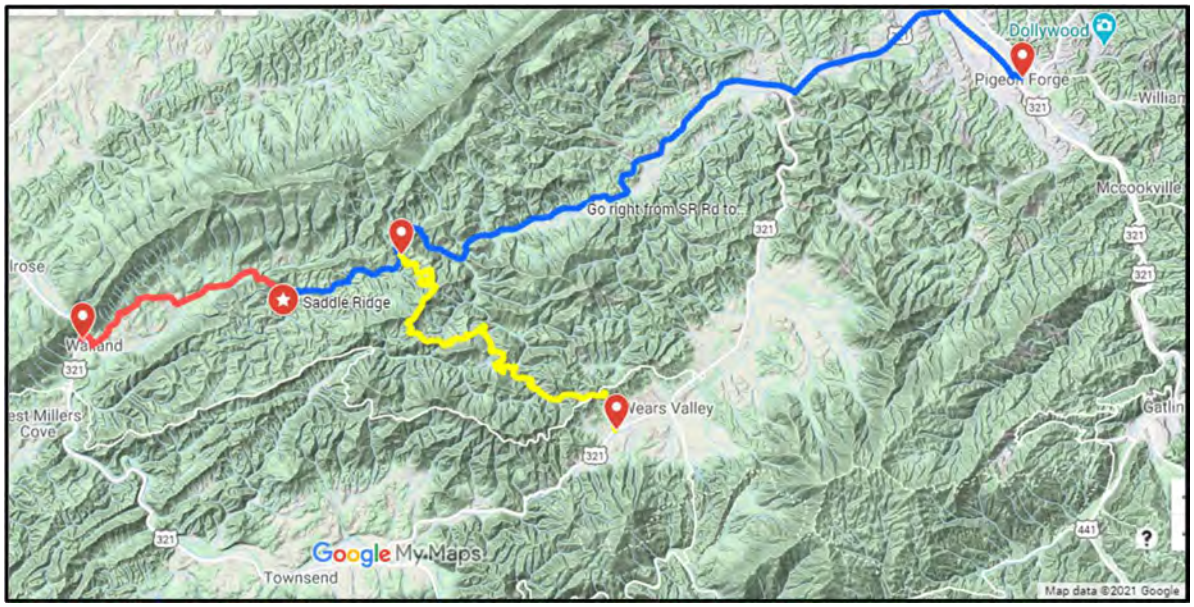
Left to Walland Center and Hwy 321

Right to Pigeon Forge

or

Right to Wears Valley via Long Rifle Road (turn into Homestead)

The barn area is the designated staging area, if needed.



Preparation

- Learn your way around Saddle Ridge. If your road is blocked by fire, flooding, trees, or other barriers, **know your options**.
- Have 30’ of defensible space around your house. Make sure leaves, underbrush, and other debris are clear of your house.
- Download the map from the Saddle Ridge website: saddleridgepoa.com/firewise

April 2021

Attachment J

Survey – Firewise Activities

Saddle Ridge Firewise Activities

Last Name

Your answer

Date of Activity

Date

mm/dd/yyyy

Total Number of Hours Worked By Everyone

Your answer

Total Expenses

Your answer

Location

- [ ] House (roof to foundation). Cleaned debris from roof, gutters, vents, chimney spark arresters, eaves, soffits, decks, porches.
- [ ] Immediate Zone (0-5' from foundation). Installed hardscape; replaced combustible mulch; removed trees; removed leaves, pine needles; trimmed overhanging trees; moved firewood to Extended Zone
- [ ] Intermediate Zone (5-30'). Maintained lawn, native plants; clustered trees, shrubs; trimmed trees to reduce crown fire potential.
- [ ] Extended Zone (30-100'). Removed pine needles, leaves; trimmed trees.
- [ ] Common Areas in Saddle Ridge. Trimmed, removed trees; removed brush; and more.
- [ ] Other:

Brief Description

Your answer

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Google Forms