

Assessment Analysis Area

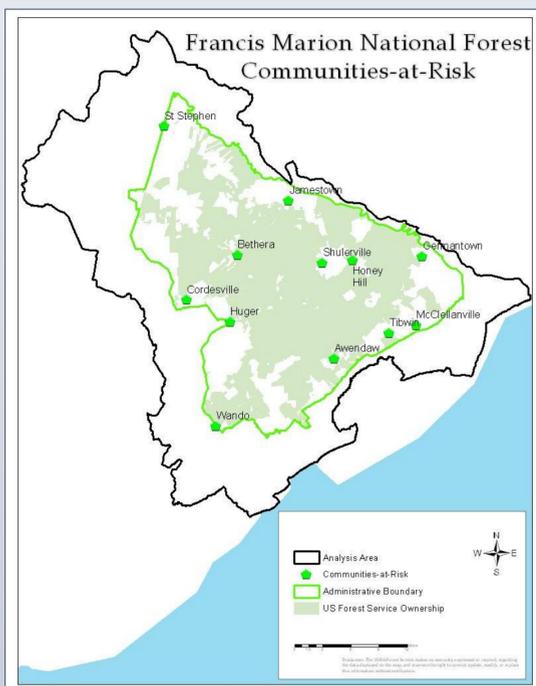
Francis Marion National Forest – Assessment Analysis Area

COMPONENTS OF WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

Wildland Fire and Fuels

Francis Marion NF Communities-at-Risk

With Congressional direction, an initial, nation-wide list of communities-at-risk from wildfires that are in the vicinity of federal lands was compiled by the States and listed in the January 4th, 2001 Federal Register 66:3. An updated and more expansive list of communities-at-risk was compiled in the August 17, 2001 Federal Register 66:160. Within this edition of the Federal Register, 60 communities were identified in the state of South Carolina, of which 12 communities fall within the proclamation boundary of the Francis Marion National Forest.



Community-at-Risk	Location (County)
Wando	Berkeley
Awendaw	Charleston
Huger	Berkeley
Tibwin	Charleston
Cordesville	Berkeley
McClellanville	Charleston
Bethera	Berkeley
Shulerville	Berkeley
Honey Hill	Charleston
Germantown	Charleston
Jamestown	Berkeley
St Stephen	Berkeley

Federal Register Designation of WUI

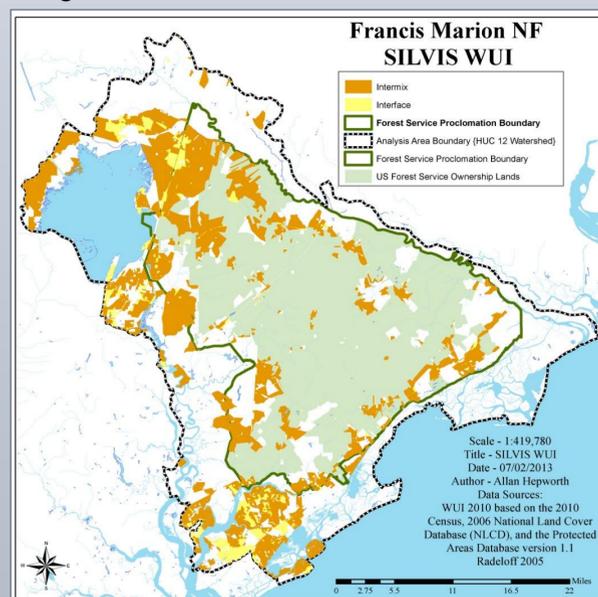
In addition to identifying those communities-at-risk from wildfire, the Federal Register 66:3 also provided a general definition of WUI: "The Wildland Urban Interface is the area where houses meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation". In addition to this rough definition, the Federal Register also categorized three types of WUI, identified with specific criteria relating to the location of structures to the wildland fuels, the number of structures per acre, and population densities. The three categories of WUI are listed below:

- Wildland Urban Interface
- Wildland Urban Intermix
- Occluded WUI

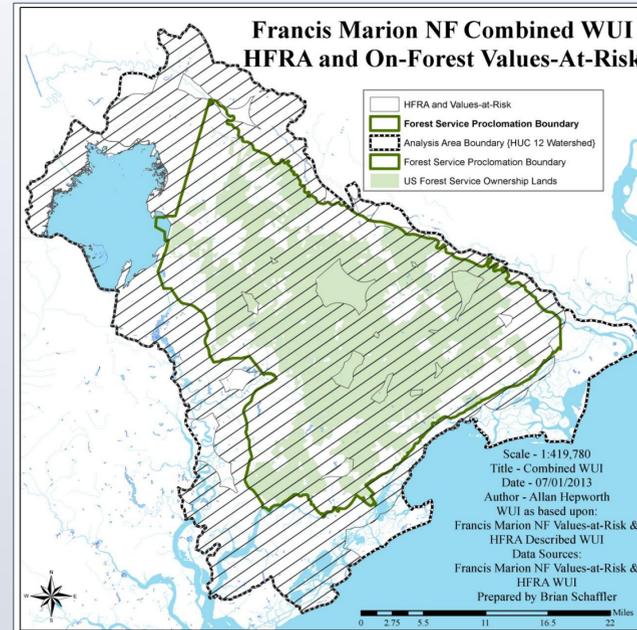
Mapping Federal Register Designated WUI

With federal financial support from the National Fire Plan, the University of Wisconsin, SILVIS Lab was commissioned to collect spatial data and map the WUI (Intermix and Interface only) across the entire United States.

Utilizing the SILVIS WUI data, a further assessment was applied to the Francis Marion NF analysis area. The assessment revealed that the majority of WUI identified was Intermix or just over 87% of the overall total WUI. 73% of WUI intermix was low density intermix type, where housing densities are fairly sparse, which would be expected for the broken ownership pattern of the Forest and its location to smaller but expanding communities.



Healthy Forests Restoration Act Designation of WUI



In December of 2003, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) was signed into law by President George Bush in 2003. Under this legislation, communities and local governments that are adjacent to federal lands are authorized to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and by doing so, can develop their own WUI designations and identify hazardous fuels treatments to be done within them. Without the absence of a CWPP, HFRA defines WUI and sets specific limits to its designation which is described below:

- An area within or adjacent to an at-risk community that is identified to the secretary in a community wildfire protection plan: or
- In the case of any area for which a community wildfire protection plan is not in effect-
 - An area extending ½-mile from the boundary of an at-risk community;
 - An area within 1 ½ miles of the boundary of an at-risk community, including any land that-
 - Has a sustained steep slope that creates the potential for wildfire behavior endangering the at-risk community;
 - Has a geographic feature that aids in creating an effective fire break, such as a road or ridge top; or
 - Is in condition 3, as documented by the Secretary in the project-specific environmental analysis; and
- An area that is adjacent to an evacuation route for an at-risk community that the Secretary determines, in cooperation with the at-risk community, requires hazardous fuels reduction to provide safe evacuation from the at-risk community.

Feature	Type	Vicinity Buffer Distance	Acres on FS Ownership	% of Acres of FS Ownership	Acres in Analysis Area	% of Acres in Analysis Area
SILVIS WUI	WUI Intermix/Interface	1.5 miles	201,767	78%	603,246	74%
Evacuation Routes	Class 4/5 Roads	1 mile	185,264	71%	456,824	56%
Combined Total with Overlap			227,255	88%	639,756	79%

On-Forest Values at Risk WUI

In addition to assessing both Federal Register and HFRA WUI within the analysis area, areas of public use and forest infrastructure and/or capital improvements were also analyzed as WUI utilizing a 1 mile buffer. The inclusion of On-Forest Values at Risk as WUI is based on the prioritization of protecting life and property during suppression efforts and to promote focus on more intensive fuels treatments where they will have the most impact for fire protection on Forest Lands.

Feature	Type	Vicinity Buffer Distance	Acres on FS Ownership	% of Acres of FS Ownership	Acres in Analysis Area	% of Acres in Analysis Area
On-Forest Constructed Features	Buildings, Bridges, Dam	1 mile	39,466	15%	49,244	6%
Recreation Sites	Campgrounds, Trailheads, Rifle Ranges, Wildlife Viewing Sites, Etc.	1 mile	33,437	13%	55,490	7%
Trails	Horse, Cycle, Hiking	1 mile	101,854	39%	143,292	18%
Combined Total with Overlap			118,356	46%	170,457	21%

