Seven Basins Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Developed by: Seven Basins Neighborhood Fire Planning Project Steering Committee
January 2006

Jackson County, Oregon

Signature Page

Jackson County

Oregon Department of Forestry

Jackson County Fire District #3

Jackson County Fire District #6

Jackson County Fire District #1

Seven Basins Watershed Council

Seven Basins Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Revised Version 1-3-06

Developed by:

Max Bennett, OSU Extension Service, Central Point, OR

Gail Perrotti, OSU Extension Service, Central Point, OR

Leanne Mruzik, Bureau of Land Management, Medford, OR

Travis Ryan, Oregon Department of Forestry, Medford, OR

Teresa Vonn, Oregon Department of Forestry, Medford, OR

Bill Collins, Seven Basins Watershed Council, Gold Hill, OR

Acknowledgments

Invaluable assistance in developing this plan was provided by the following agencies and organizations:
Oregon Department of Forestry
Bureau of Land Management
Fire District #1 (Rogue River)
Fire District #6 (Evans Valley Rural)
Fire District #3 (White City)
SW Oregon Resource Conservation & Development Council
Battle Mountain Neighborhood Fire group
Foots Creek Fire Plan

Funding provided by:
Title III, Jackson County
National Fire Plan

Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document describes a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Seven Basins, a 250,000-acre watershed in northwestern Jackson County, Oregon (figure 1). As described by the Society of American Foresters (SAF 2004), the chief purpose of a CWPP is to help communities identify and refine priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface. The Seven Basins CWPP consists of:

1. A wildfire risk assessment.
2. A description of fuels reduction activities on federal and private lands in the watershed.
3. Recommendations for measures homeowners and communities can take to reduce structural ignitability.
4. A mitigation plan that outlines priorities for hazard reduction at the sub-watershed and neighborhood level.

Setting

The Seven Basins watershed is part of the Rogue Basin and contains (despite its name), fourteen 6th-field sub-watersheds (figure 2). Vegetation includes dense mixed conifer forests, brush fields, grasslands, and small amounts of agricultural and urban land.

Most of the uplands are zoned for forestry, while valley bottoms are zoned primarily for rural residential and exclusive farm use. There are two small municipalities, Rogue River (population 1,856), and Gold Hill (population 1,073).

Ownership is a checkerboard of BLM and private land (figure 3). The typical ownership pattern is non-industrial private on the valley bottoms and lower hill slopes, with BLM and industrial timber company land on higher slopes and ridge tops.

Since 1970, the Seven Basins has experienced more than 1,400 wildfires, with four exceeding 5,000 acres in size. Fire hazard is moderate to extreme throughout the watershed. Much of the private land has been classified as high or extreme risk under Oregon Senate Bill 360.

Three fire districts provide structural protection. About 8% of watershed residences are outside fire district boundaries. The Oregon Department of Forestry provides wildland fire protection for both private and BLM lands in the watershed.

Wildland-Urban Interface Designation and Definitions of Communities-At-Risk

This plan focuses on fuels treatments within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). The WUI is an area "where homes and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland[1]." Designation of the WUI in a CWPP is important because, among other reasons, the National Fire Plan and Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) prioritize fuels treatments in WUI areas.

1 Federal Register (66:751, 2001) report on WUI communities at risk from fire (USDA & USDI, 2001)

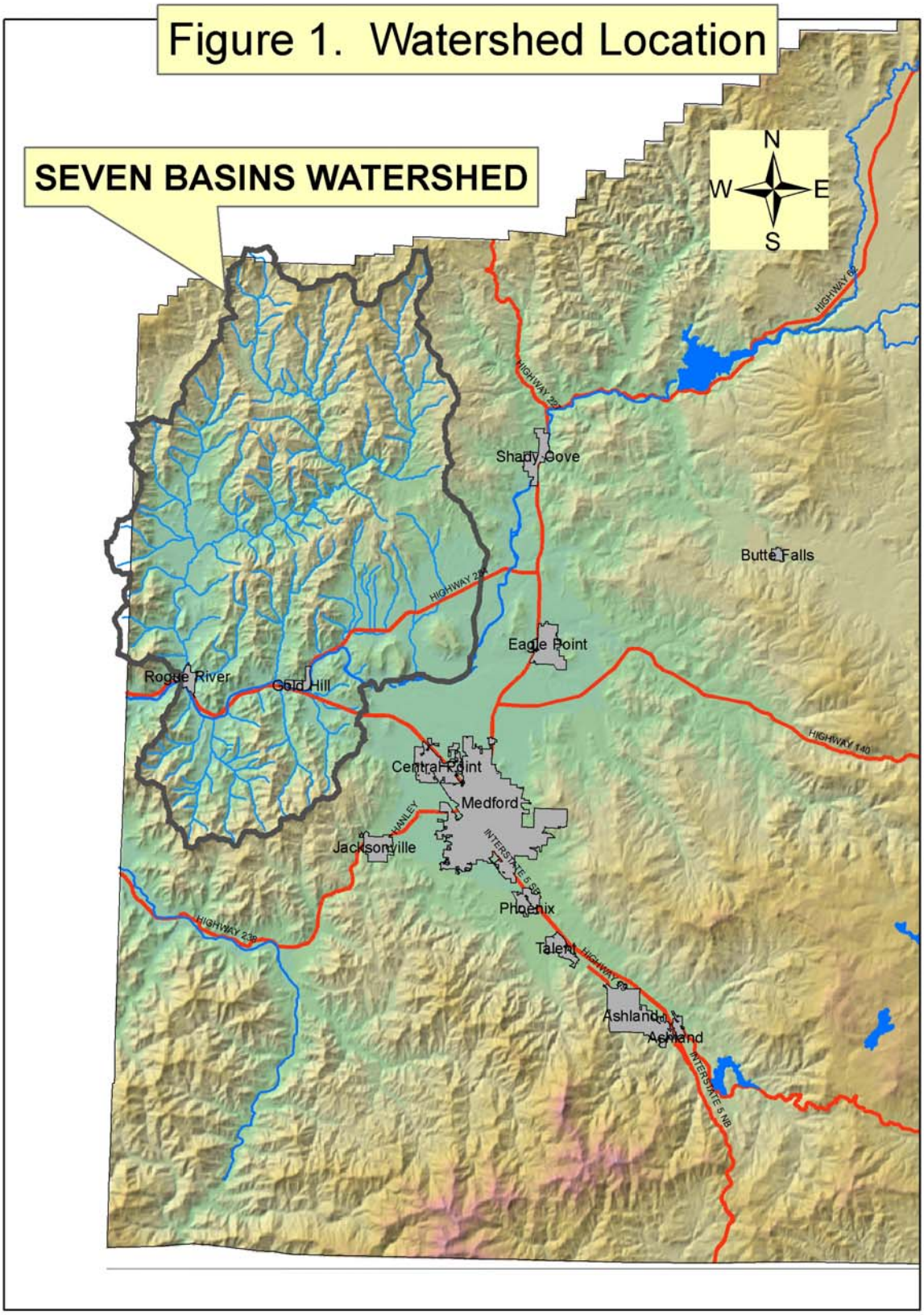


Figure 1. Watershed Location
SEVEN BASINS WATERSHED
N
W
E
S
HIGHWAY 62
HIGHWAY 227
Shady Cove
Butte Falls
HIGHWAY 234
Eagle Point
Rogue River
Gold Hill
HIGHWAY 140
Central Point
Medford
HANLEY
Jacksonville
INTERSTATE 5 SB
Phoenix
HIGHWAY 238
Talent
HIGHWAY 99
Ashland
Ashland
INTERSTATE 5 NB
0 2 4 8 12 16
Miles

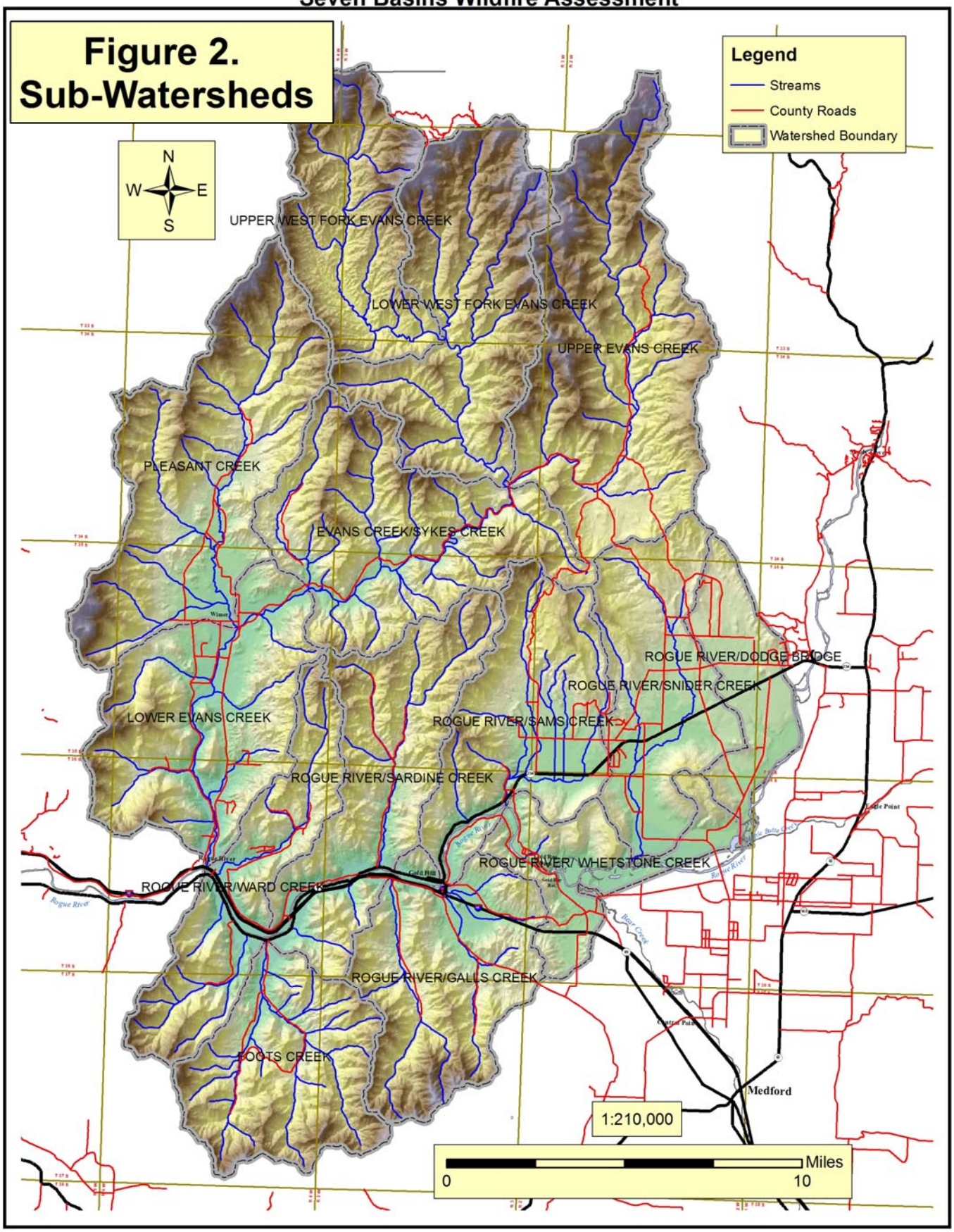


Figure 2.
Sub-Watersheds
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Watershed Boundary
N
W
E
S
UPPER WEST FORK EVANS CREEK
LOWER WEST FORK EVANS CREEK
UPPER EVANS CREEK
PLEASANT CREEK
EVANS CREEK/SYKES CREEK
ROGUE RIVER/DODGE BRIDGE
ROGUE RIVER/SNIDER CREEK
LOWER EVANS CREEK
ROGUE RIVER/SAMS CREEK
ROGUE RIVER/SARDINE CREEK
ROGUE RIVER/ WHETSTONE CREEK
ROGUE RIVER/WARD CREEK
ROGUE RIVER/GALLS CREEK
FOOTS CREEK
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

For purposes of this CWPP, we defined the WUI as a zone encompassing SB 360 designated lands (see section 2.4) and adjacent areas of wildland vegetation, bounded by major ridgelines (figure 4). In most cases, these ridgelines correspond to 6th field watershed boundaries. Where the WUI boundary does not follow ridgelines, it is defined as 1.5 miles from SB 360 lands, the approximate distance a firebrand can travel from a wildland fire to ignite the roof of a house. The WUI encompasses much of the watershed (figure 3.5) except for remote, uninhabited areas in the north. This is an interim definition; we recommend using the Jackson County Fire Plan's WUI when it is adopted.

Another important federal designation is that of "Communities-At-Risk (CAR's) from Wildfire." There are four such CAR's in the Seven Basins watershed: Gold Hill, Rogue River, Wimer, and Sams Valley.

Why Develop a CWPP?

With four CAR's, a history of frequent wildfire, multiple fire protection agencies, and intermingled federal and private lands, there is a compelling need to develop a CWPP in the Seven Basins. A CWPP provides a blueprint for prioritization and coordination of hazardous fuels reduction activities. Potential benefits include improved coordination and collaboration, and accelerated fuels reduction. Increasingly, communities must have a CWPP in order to secure grant funds for fuels reduction. In addition, under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003, federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have incentives to consider local community priorities, as reflected in a CWPP, "…as they develop and implement forest management and hazardous fuels reduction projects" (SAF 2004).

How the CWPP was developed

The CWPP was developed under the auspices of the *Seven Basins Neighborhood Fire Planning Project* (SBNFPP). This collaborative project is guided by a steering committee consisting of representatives from the Oregon State University Extension Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Seven Basins Watershed Council (SBWC). A half-time OSU Extension employee funded under Title III coordinates the project. Additional funding comes from the National Fire Plan. Though the three local fire districts (Districts 1, 3, and 6) have not had a representative on the steering committee, they have been consulted throughout the fire planning process and their input and priorities are reflected in the mitigation plan described in this document.

The goals of the project are to (1) improve community awareness of wildfire issues, (2) reduce fire and safety risks to individuals, communities, and wildland firefighters through strategic hazardous fuels reduction, (3) promote and maintain active community involvement, and (4) continue collaborative efforts with federal, state, and local agencies and communities.

Section 3.4 describes the neighborhood planning process in more detail. Appendix B describes the project's major activities and accomplishments.

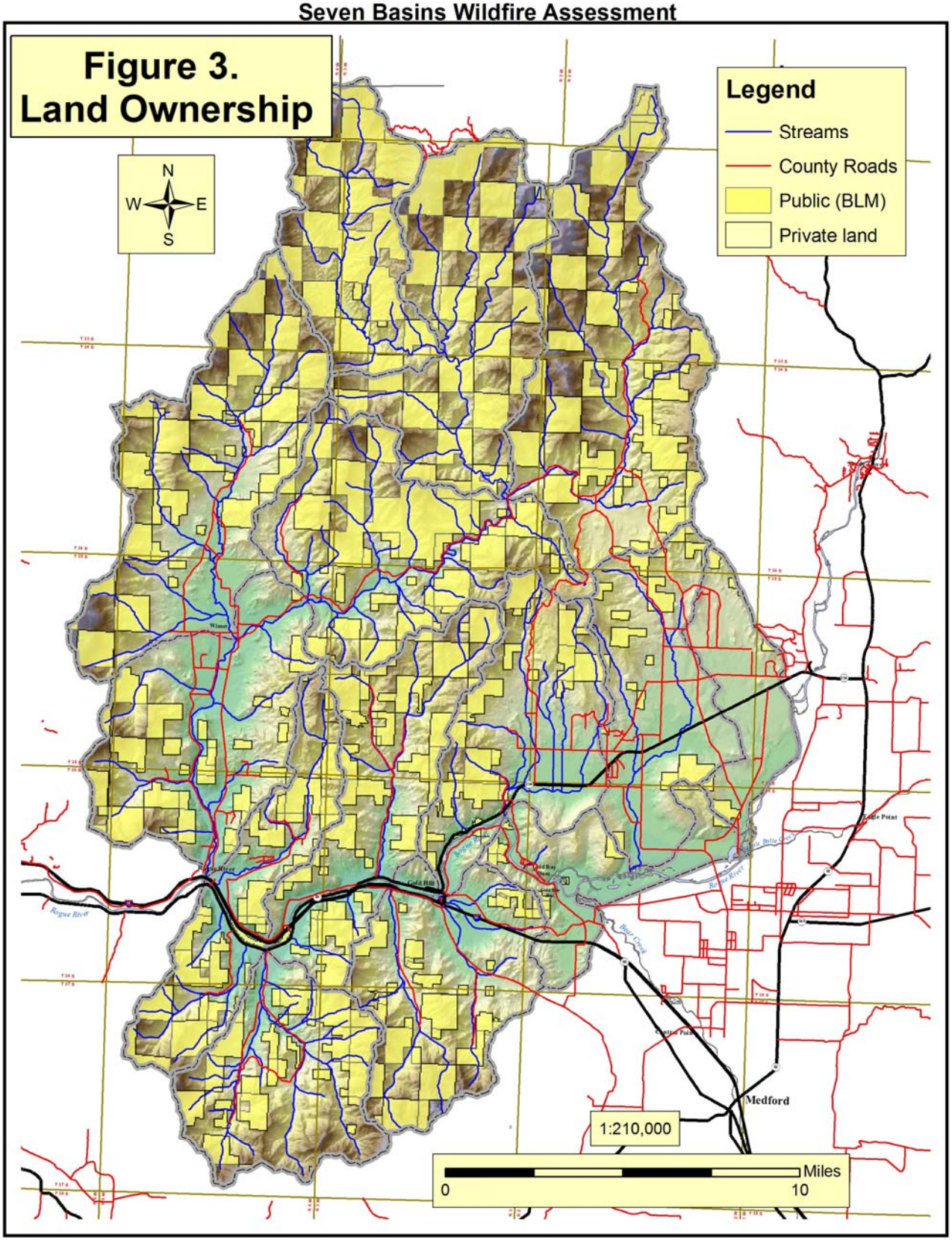


Figure 3.
Land Ownership
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

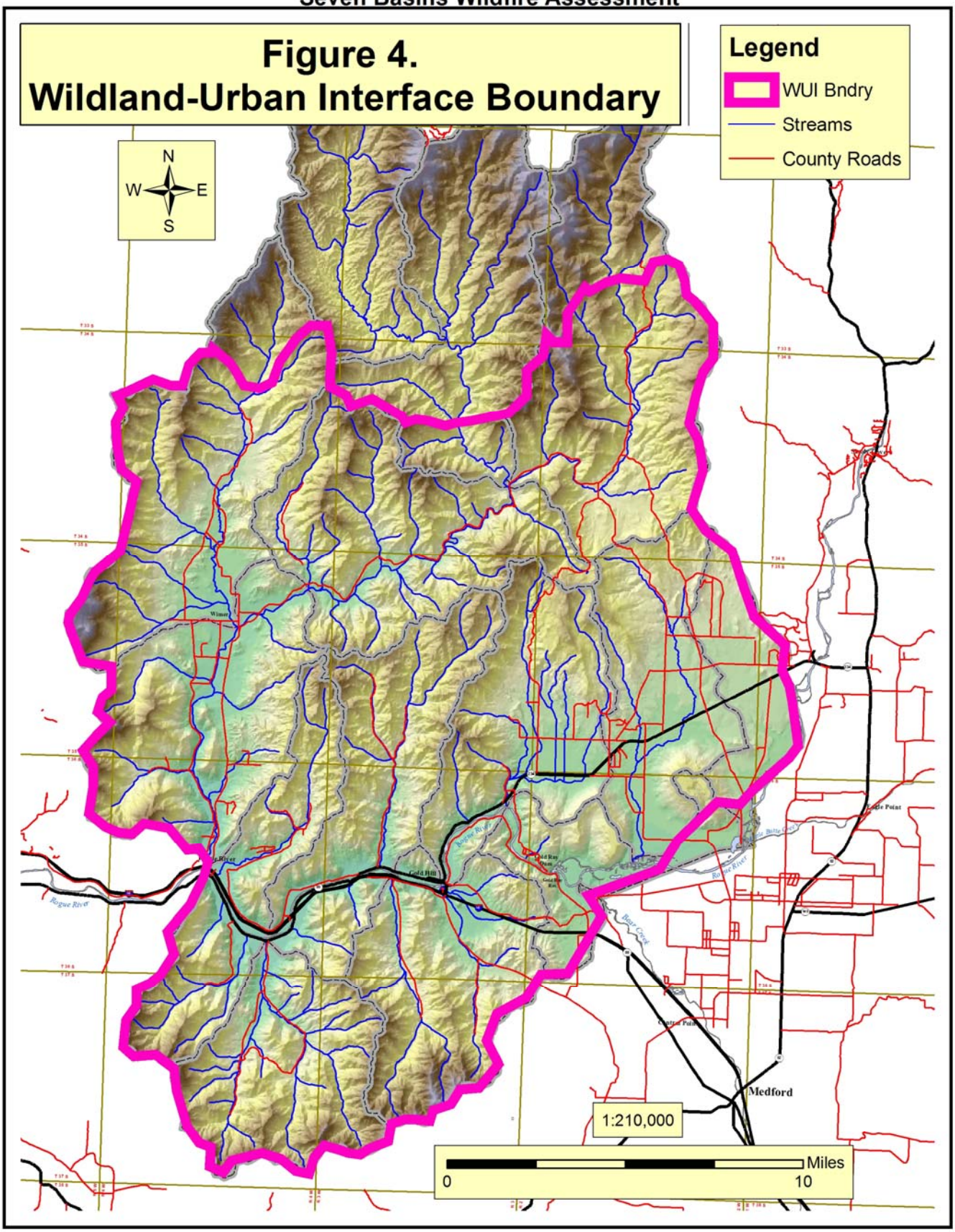


Figure 4.
Wildland-Urban Interface Boundary
Legend
WUI Bndry
Streams
County Roads
N
W
E
S
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

Coordination with the Jackson County Integrated Fire Plan
Jackson County is developing an interagency, integrated fire plan for the entire county. When completed in June 2006, this plan will serve as an umbrella for the Seven Basins CWPP and other local CWPPs. Data from the Seven Basins CWPP's risk assessment has been made available for the Jackson County plan; when completed, the Jackson County plan will provide additional and updated data for the Seven Basins CWPP. Coordination is also facilitated by having a representative from the steering committee of the Seven Basins project serving on the executive committee and several subcommittees for the Jackson County plan.

The Seven Basins project partners focused initially on neighborhood-level outreach and planning, without first creating an over-arching fire plan. Their intent was to promote strong community involvement, support, and ownership for fire planning and fuels reduction in the watershed. They recognized the need for such a plan in order to (1) facilitate a more strategic approach to fuels reduction in the watershed, (2) improve interagency coordination and collaboration with private organizations and individuals, and (3) increase proficiency in securing fuels reduction grants through the National Fire Plan and other sources.

The CWPP was written by the Seven Basins steering committee, incorporating data and expertise of the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Bureau of Land Management. All three fire districts gave important input both through meetings to study risk assessment data and through field surveys. Residents' concerns and information were gathered at 83 neighborhood fire planning meetings. Additional input was gathered through reviews from a variety of agency personnel, the Seven Basins Watershed Council, and community members.

Plan Adoption
To be recognized as the official Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Seven Basins watershed, this plan needs to be accepted by the Jackson County Commissioners, the cities of Gold Hill and Rogue River, The Rogue River Fire District, Evans Valley Fire District, Jackson County Fire District #3, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Bureau of Land Management. The plan was accepted and adopted as the Seven Basins Community Wildfire Protection Plan on December 1, 2005.

Plan Implementation
The Seven Basins project steering committee will guide implementation of the CWPP. As Title III funding is ending, this project is going through a transition to an all-volunteer structure that can be sustained regardless of funding. Our intent is to broaden the steering committee to include formal fire district participation as well as greater participation by community members. The chief functions of the steering committee will be to:

- set priorities for the use of fuels reduction grant funds, based on the CWPP;
- apply for additional funding for fuels reduction and related projects;
- facilitate coordination between BLM, ODF, fire districts and residents;
- promote, support, and coordinate neighborhood and other local fire planning activities;
- monitor fuels reduction activities in the watershed.

As of this writing, one Title II fuels reduction grant ($130,000) has been secured and a $250,000 National Fire Plan (NFP) fuels reduction grant is pending.

2.0 WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this risk assessment is to identify areas within the watershed where resources can be most effectively focused to reduce the threat and potential damage of wildfire.

Risk Factors Considered
The following factors were considered in assessing the relative severity of fire risk:

1. Fire hazard: Fire hazard corresponds to the relative *severity* of a fire, regardless of the risk of ignition. It is based on fuels data (derived from remotely-sensed vegetation data), slope, and aspect.
2. Risk of wildfire occurrence: Fire risk relates to the relative risk of a fire occurring, regardless of its severity. Specifically, it is the density of ignitions per unit area, from lightning and human sources, based on historical fire ignition data.
3. Residential density: Based on the number of dwellings/tax lots per unit area. This is one measure of values-at-risk from wildfire.
4. SB 360 classification: As "extreme" or "high risk". SB 360 classification is based primarily on fuels.
5. Overall risk: A composite value based on fire hazard, risk of occurrence, and residential density.

These measures provide a landscape assessment of risk to communities, as opposed to site specific.

Also considered were:

6. Homesite status: To determine if a home could be successfully defended in a wildfire based on the size and condition of the defensible space.
7. Access: Focusing on private roads accessing multiple dwellings.
8. Fire protection capabilities: including fire district protection boundaries, neighborhood emergency response capabilities, and locations of out-of-district residences.

Information on sources of data used and procedures used in the risk assessment can be found in Appendix A.

2.1 Fire Hazard

The potential of a wildfire to burn depends on a complex combination of environmental factors including vegetation, slope, aspect, weather, and elevation. The hazard rating (low, moderate, high and extreme) refers to the potential for damage from a wildfire, and is dependent on the combined effect of these environmental factors and how they affect fire behavior.

Vegetation Factors
Vegetation data were derived from satellite imagery produced by the Interagency Vegetation Mapping Project (IVMP). IVMP contains data for: conifer percent cover, broadleaf percent cover, percent non-vegetation cover, total vegetation cover and modeled mean tree diameter values. Risk values were assigned to the vegetation types based on surface fuel and crown fire potential, as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Initial Hazard Rating Values for Surface Fuels and Crown Fire Potential. Values were assigned based on canopy closure, and vegetation type.

Hazard Rating Values (values in cells are points)						
	Surface Fuel Fire			**Crown Fire Potential**		
	Canopy Closure			**Canopy Closure**		
Vegetation Type	**0-30%**	**30-60%**	**60-100%**	**0-30%**	**30-60%**	**60-100%**
Early Seral Conifer 0-5 inch DBH	15	25	20	5	10	25
Mid Seral Conifer 5-20 inch DBH	15	25	20	5	15	25
Late Seral Conifer 20 inch plus DBH	10	20	15	5	20	25
Shrub/Hardwoods	5	15	25	0	0	0
Grass/Agriculture	5	5	5	0	0	0

Landscape Factors

Slope, aspect, and elevation grids where derived from a digital elevation model. Each factor was then broken down in classes and assigned a value based on how fire behavior could be affected. For example, slope has four classes ranging from flat or 0 percent to greater than 45 percent slope. As the slope increases, the point value assigned to the slope increases, which corresponds to how slope affects fire spread. The following table summarizes the number of classes and values (hazard rating) assigned to each factor.

Table 2. Landscape Hazard Ratings. Classes and values assigned to slope, aspect and elevation.

Landscape Hazard Rating (values in cells are points)						
Slope		**Aspect**		**Elevation**	
Class	**Value**	**Class**	**Value**	**Class**	**Value**
Flat	0	Flat	0	Above 5000 ft	0
0-20%	5	N, NE, NW	5	Under 5000 ft	10
21-45%	10	W, E	10		
> 45%	15	S, SE, SW	25		

The fire hazard rating includes the combined values for vegetation and landscape factors[1] (figure 5). Ratings range from 5 to 105. Fire hazard was classified as follows:

EXTREME = 90+ points
HIGH = 60-90 points
MEDIUM = 30-60 points
LOW = 15-30 points

[1] In computing point values for various vegetation and landscape factors, extreme weather conditions during fire season were assumed.

Table 3. Fire Hazard Rating, by Sub-watershed. Sub-watersheds are listed from highest to lowest fire hazard, based on the percentage of acres in the high and extreme classes.

Sub-watershed	Final Fire Hazard Rating			
	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Foots Creek	7 %	30 %	56 %	6 %
	1194 acres	5013 acres	9,315 acres	971 acres
Pleasant Creek	8 %	38 %	48 %	6 %
	2100 acres	10,491 acres	13,106 acres	1,724 acres
Sykes Creek	5 %	44 %	46 %	4 %
	1,212 acres	10,584 acres	10,967 acres	1,061 acres
Upper Evans Creek	8 %	42 %	45 %	4 %
	2,576 acres	13,145 acres	13,972 acres	1,354 acres
Galls Creek	20 %	35 %	41 %	3 %
	3,778 acres	6,540 acres	7,705 acres	540 acres
Lower Evans Creek	16 %	42 %	36 %	6 %
	3,471 acres	9,092 acres	7,934 acres	1,251 acres
Sardine Creek	13 %	46 %	38 %	3 %
	2,409 acres	8,772 acres	7,306 acres	613 acres
Ward Creek	15 %	47 %	35 %	3 %
	2,201 acres	6,892 acres	5,029 acres	421 acres
Sams Creek	27 %	45 %	26 %	2 %
	4,819 acres	8,123 acres	4,774 acres	361 acres
Snider Creek	49 %	43 %	8 %	0 %
	8,011 acres	7,40 acres	1,278 acres	0 acres
Whetstone Creek	48 %	45 %	7 %	0 %
	4,659 acres	4,295 acres	669 acres	0 acres
Dodge Bridge	74 %	24 %	2%	0 %
	6,157 acres	1,957 acres	151 acres	0 acres

Limitations

These data have significant limitations and should be used with caution. Fire behavior is affected by the amount and distribution of surface fuels and the height to the base of the live crown. These parameters were not possible to assess with remotely-sensed vegetation data. Also, data on areas that had received recent fuels reduction treatments was not included in the fire hazard assessment. As a result, the fire hazard mapping should be viewed as a general representation of the *potential* fire hazard in a given area, based on vegetation, slope, aspect, and elevation. More refined and accurate hazard mapping could be developed with additional data.

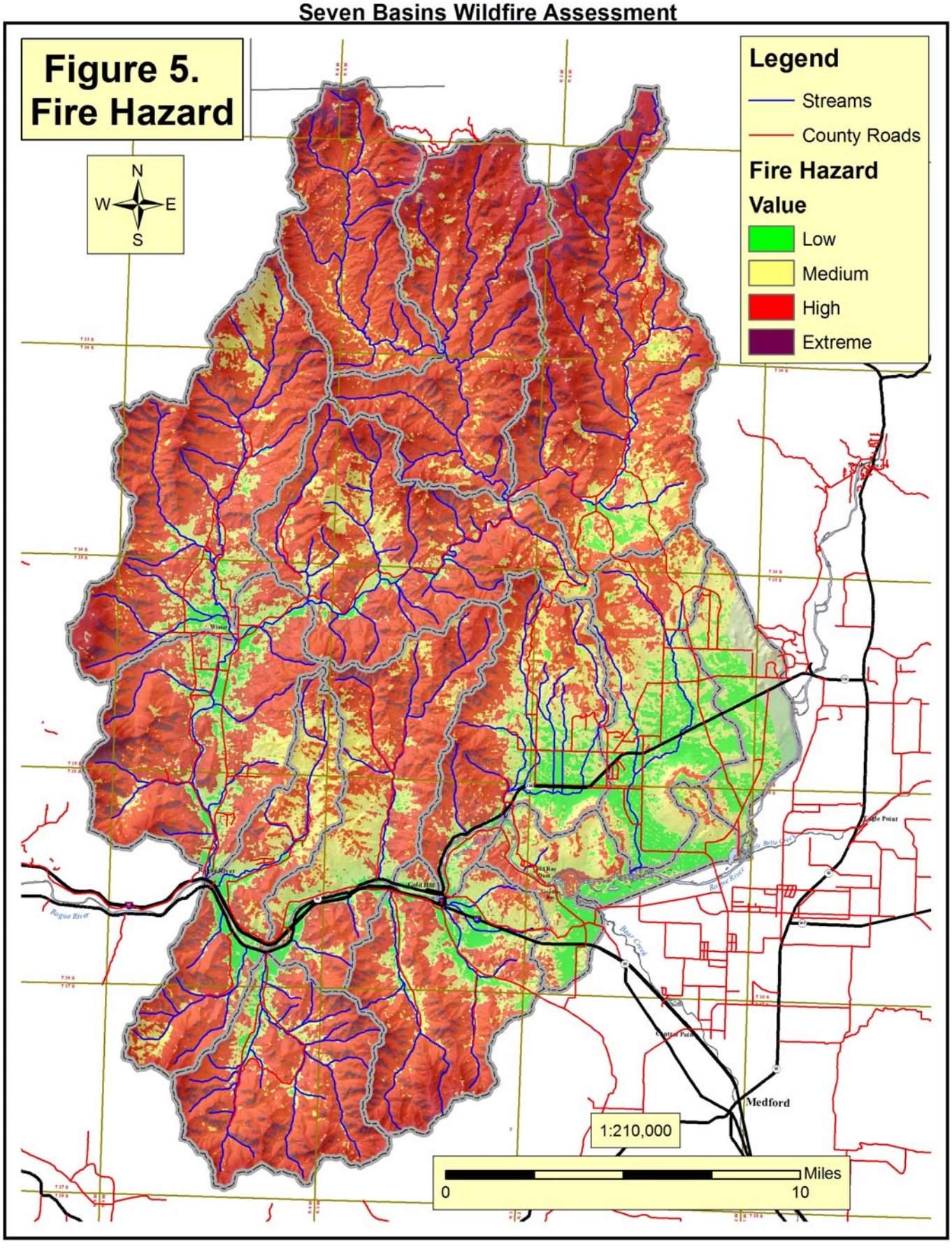


Figure 5.
Fire Hazard
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Fire Hazard
Value
Low
Medium
High
Extreme
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

2.2 Wildfire Risk

The Seven Basins watershed is a fire dependent ecosystem. The fire history record only goes back to 1872 but shows that there have been at least 16 major fires in that time ranging from 600 to 10,000 acres in size.

Since 1968, there have been more than 1,400 fires in the watershed. Of these, lightning caused 290. The others were human-caused. Most fires were quickly extinguished and remained smaller than an acre. A few became large fires. Notable large fires during the period were Sykes Creek (1987) 10,000 acres, East Evans Creek (1992) 10,000 acres, and Hull Mountain (1994) 8,000 acres (figure 6).

Wildfire *risk* refers to the potential for, or likelihood of, a wildfire ignition, regardless of its severity. Lightning strikes are somewhat random but are most common on ridge tops or other elevated topographic positions. The likelihood of human-caused fires increases with residential density and in proximity to heavily traveled roadways. Since most fires in the Seven Basins are human-caused, the overall risk of fire increases in more heavily populated areas. The areas within the watershed with the highest risk of fire (20+ fire incidents per 1,000 acres) are along the I-5 corridor, Hwy 234 immediately east of Gold Hill, selected spots in Sams Valley, and the Wimer area. Areas with lower relative risk (< 5 incidents per 1,000 acres) are generally found in wildland areas with low population density.

It should be noted that fire starts in more remote areas, while less common, may also be more difficult to control because of limited access and other factors, and therefore may be more likely to grow into large fires.

Two risk maps were created: one based on all ignitions, regardless of size, and one including only fires that reached 5 or more acres in size. The first map (figure 7) closely parallels the dwelling density map; that is, where people are found, so are fires. The second map (figure 8) in effect, shifts the areas of highest fire ignition density outward. For example, on the first map (all fires), the mid-Evans Valley/Wimer area is shown as having high ignition risk. But, when considering only fires 5 acres and larger, much of this area shifts to low risk, while some outlying areas shift from low to moderate, or high risk. This is not surprising given the response times factor. Response time to a remote area is longer, thus fires have more time to grow larger. The 5-acre break point was arbitrary, but our data suggests that fire size is important when evaluating ignition risk. We believe that from the standpoint of prioritizing fuels reduction treatments on a neighborhood scale, it is more relevant to look at the ignition risk for larger-sized fires.

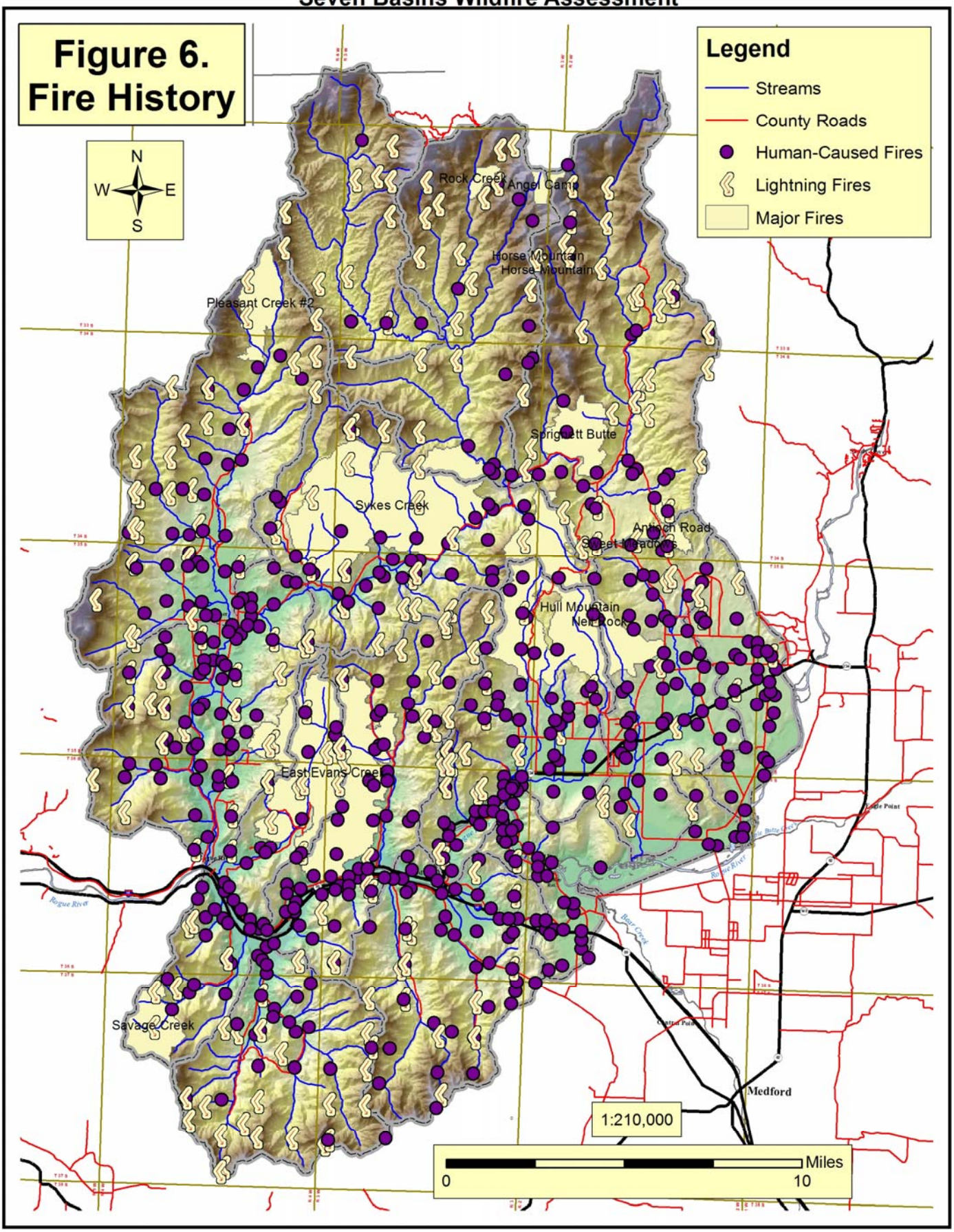


Figure 6.
Fire History
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Human-Caused Fires
Lightning Fires
Major Fires
Rock Creek
Angel Camp
Horse Mountain
Horse Mountain
Pleasant Creek #2
Spriggett Butte
Sykes Creek
Antioch Road
Hull Mountain
East Evans Creek
Savage Creek
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

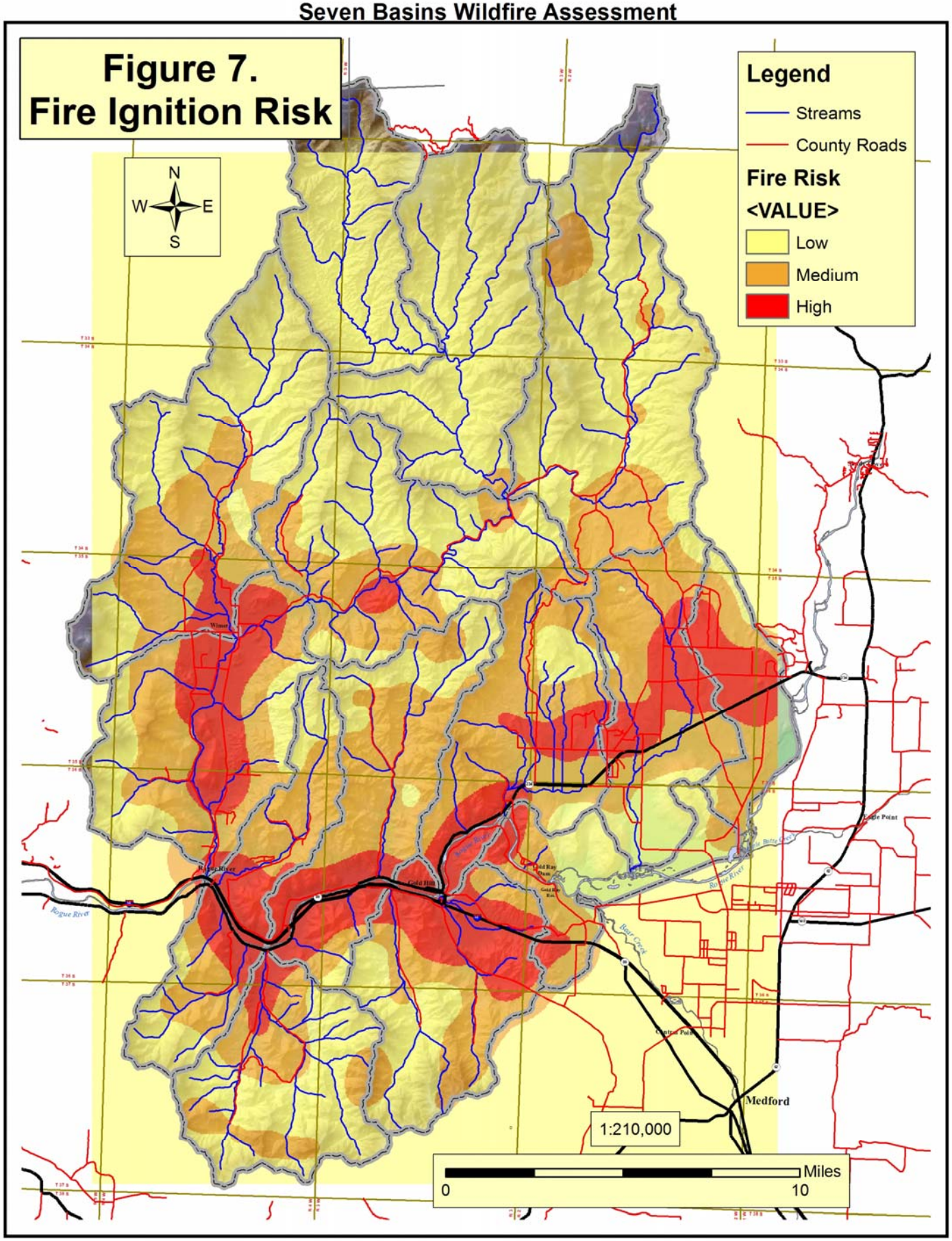


Figure 7.
Fire Ignition Risk
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Fire Risk
<VALUE>
Low
Medium
High
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

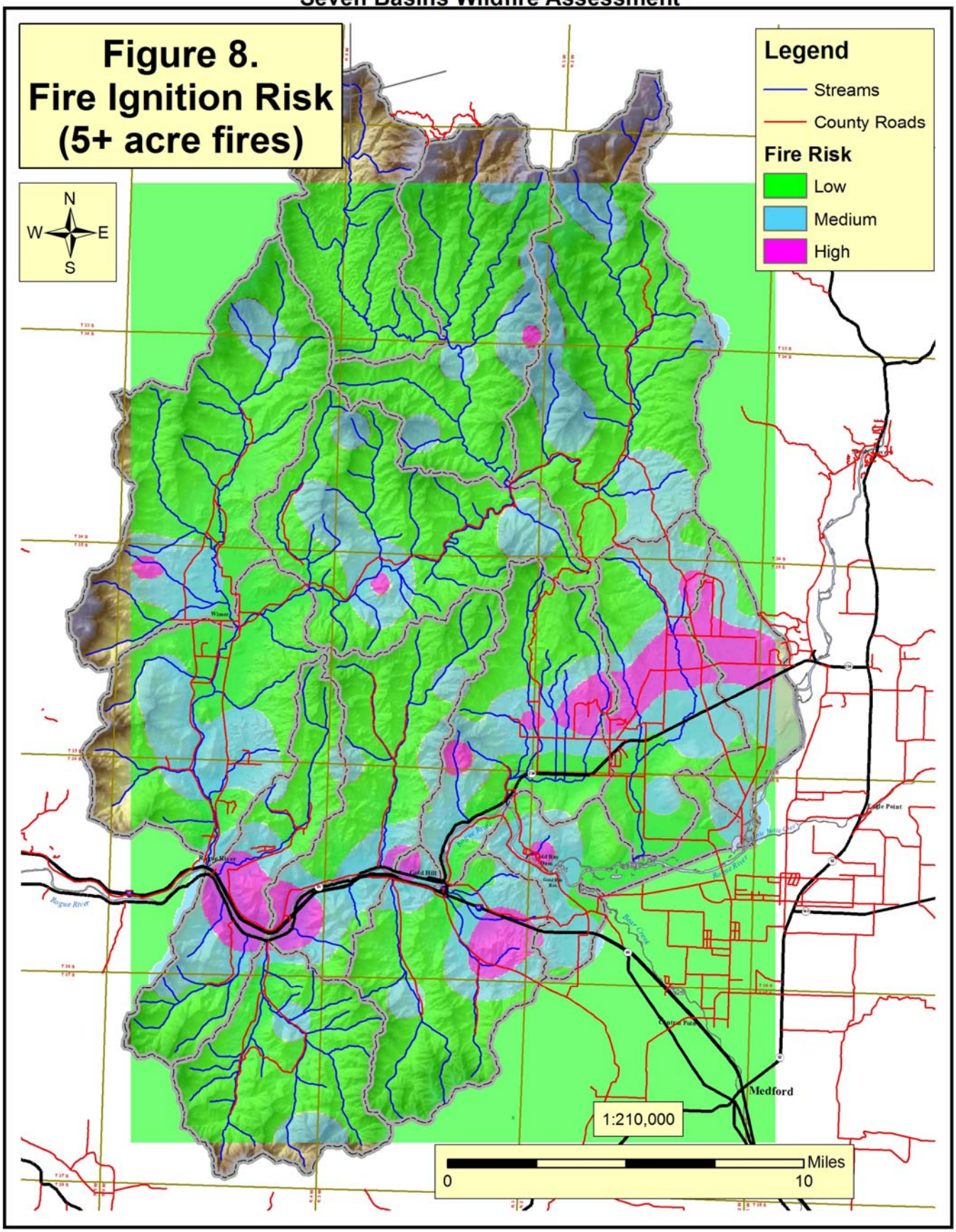


Figure 8.
Fire Ignition Risk
(5+ acre fires)
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Fire Risk
Low
Medium
High
Medford
Eagle Point
Rogue River
Gold Hill
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

2.3 Residential Density

Residential density is one measure of values-at-risk from wildfire. The rationale is simple: The more homes in a given area, the greater the risk of loss in a wildfire. For the study, a map layer was created depicting residential density throughout the watershed (figure 9). The measure of density used is the number of buildings per 10 acres. Values ranged from less than one to more than twenty-five buildings per 10 acres. We assigned the following classifications and point values:

HIGH (40 points) = > 5 buildings per 10 acres
MEDIUM (25 points) = 1-5 building per 10 acres
LOW (10 points) = < 1 building per 10 acres

2.4 Senate Bill 360 Designated Lands

Under Senate Bill 360, the wildland-urban interface has been classified in Jackson County using the following criteria:

- Lands that are urban or suburban, or are "included rural lands"
- Lands that have structures in a density of at least four structures per 40 acres
- Lands classified as forestland
- Lands within an ODF protection boundary

Lands so classified were designated as either high or extreme risk based on vegetative characteristics and other factors. About 43,000 acres of private land in the Seven Basins watershed are classified under SB 360 (figure 10), encompassing nearly 4,800 dwellings (table 4). This includes much of the private, non-industrial land outside of urban and agricultural areas. Of the SB 360 acreage in the watershed, the vast majority is in the "extreme" risk category. (Note that our definition of the Wildland-Urban Interface includes all SB 360-designated land in the watershed as well as adjacent wildlands)

Table 4. SB 360 acre, # of dwellings, & out of district dwellings, by sub-watershed

	Acreage			SB360				# out-of-fire
Sub-watershed Name	Total	% BLM	% Private	Acres	% Ext.[1]	Dwellings[2]	Density[3]	District[4]
Upper Evans	31112	38	62	2771	100	140	19.8	133
Pleasant Creek	27437	38	62	6280	100	527	11.9	26
Sykes Creek	23823	48	52	2845	100	163	17.5	18
Dodge Bridge	8268	6	94	1726	21	196	8.8	1
Snider Creek	16336	14	86	3849	72	428	9.0	47
Sams Creek	18076	26	74	3865	94	310	12.5	67
Lower Evans	21750	25	75	7994	100	1052	7.6	8
Wards Creek	14547	43	57	3120	100	475	6.6	0
Whetstone Creek	9641	7	93	776	0	193	4.0	1
Galls Creek	18572	28	72	3780	76	755	5.0	33
Foots Creek	16497	36	64	3329	100	316	10.5	4
Sardine Creek	19100	43	57	2737	100	210	13.0	9
Total	225159			43072		4765		347

[1] % of SB 360 acres in sub-watershed that are in Extreme category
[2] Estimated # of dwellings in SB360 mapped areas, including residences, mobile homes, unknowns, & SPR class
[3] # of SB360 acres divided by # of dwellings
[4] Only includes SB 360 residences

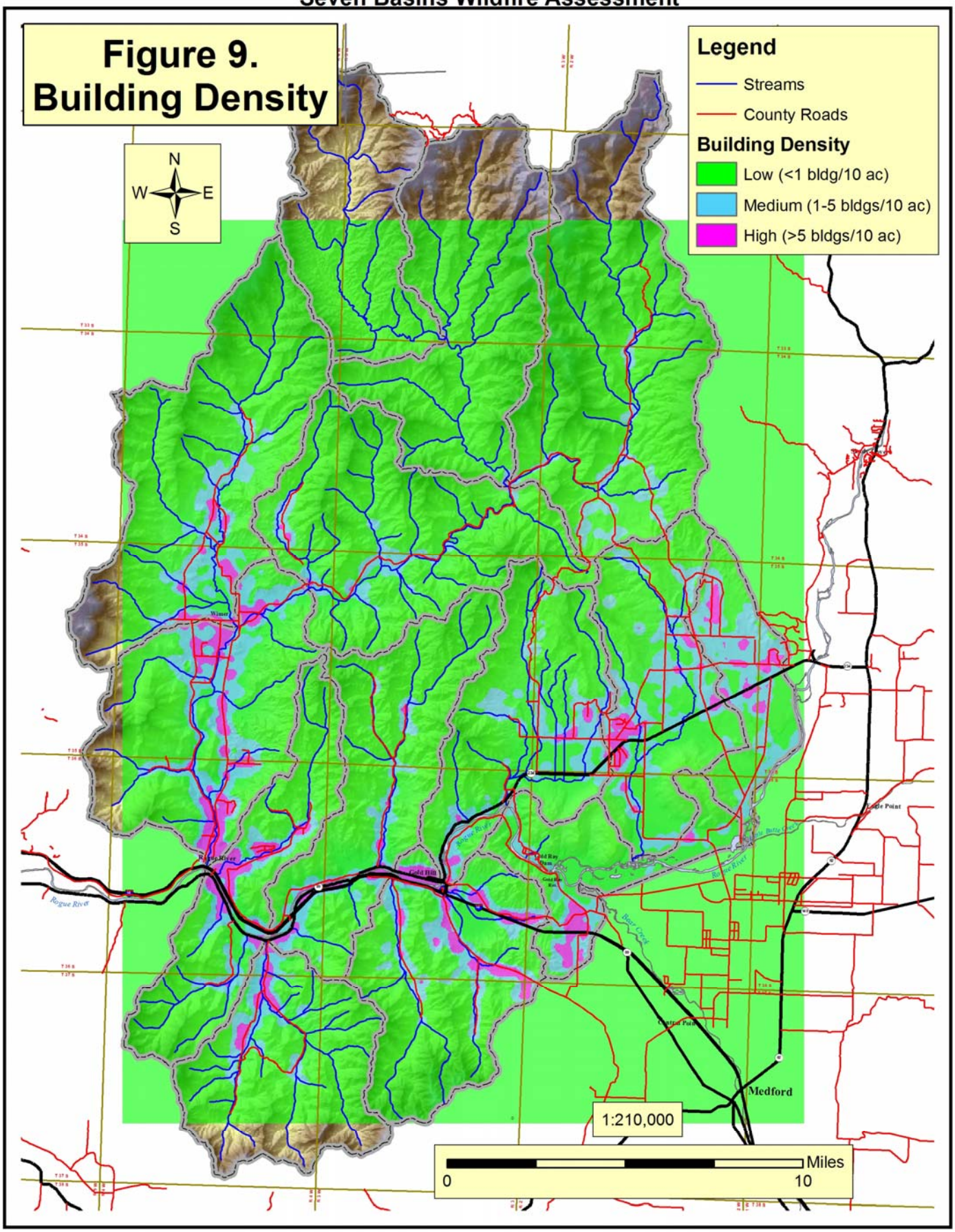


Figure 9.
Building Density
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Building Density
Low (<1 bldg/10 ac)
Medium (1-5 bldgs/10 ac)
High (>5 bldgs/10 ac)
Rogue River
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

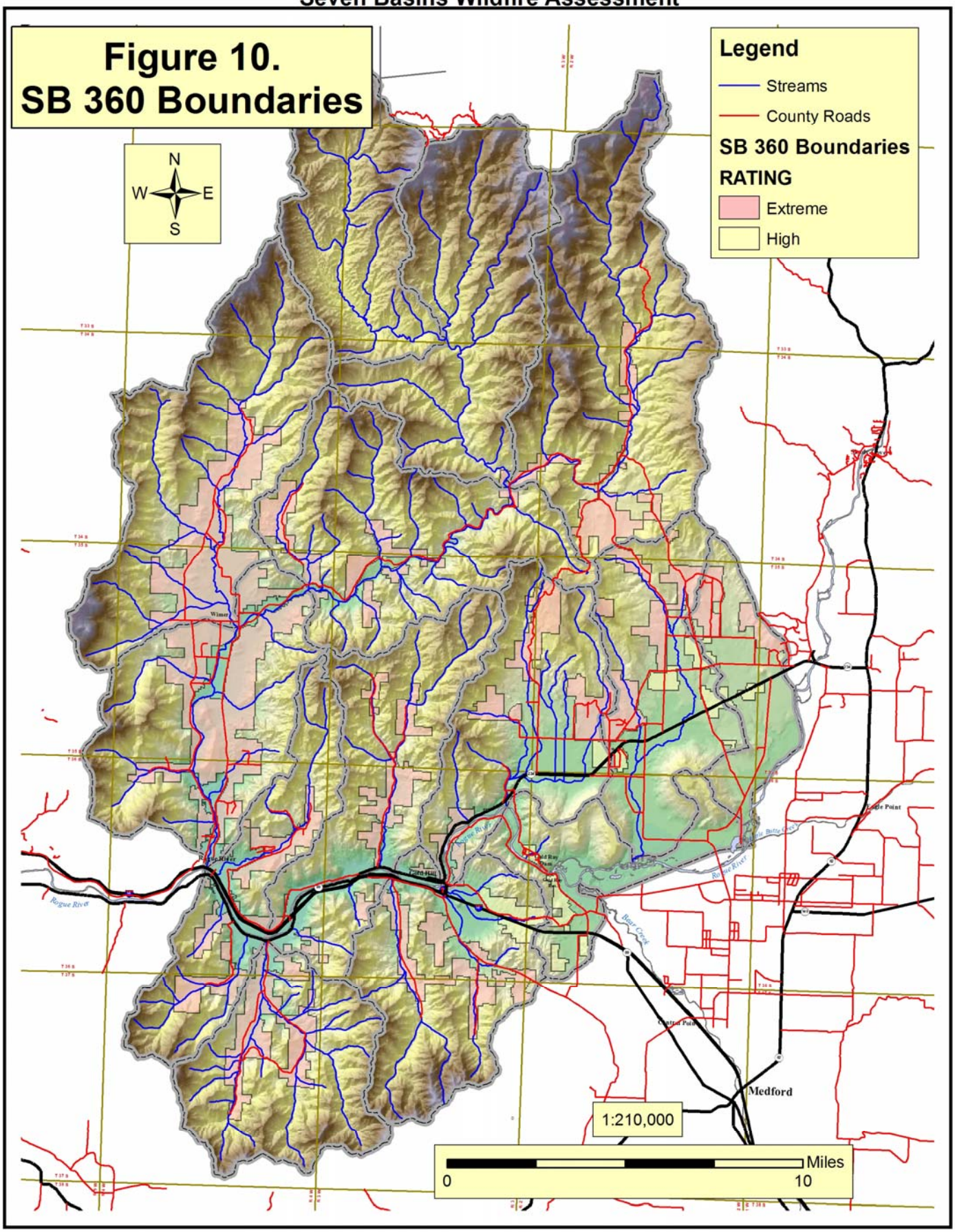


Figure 10.
SB 360 Boundaries
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
SB 360 Boundaries
RATING
Extreme
High
Medford
1:210,000
0
10
Miles

2.5 Overall Risk

The risk layers for fire hazard, fire ignition risk (5+ acre fires), and residential density were combined to develop a composite risk rating. The factors were weighted as follows:

- Fuel hazard (0-95 points)
- Ignition risk (0-40 points)
- Density (0-40 points)

Total points possible 0-175.

The following break points were used:
HIGH = 95+ points
MODERATE = 65-94 points
LOW = < 65 points
The composite risk rating is one tool for evaluating treatment priorities at the neighborhood scale (figure 11).

2.6 Homesite Status

Defensible Space

Research indicates that the main factors influencing home survival in a wildfire are the roof type and other characteristics of the home, as well as the quality and extent of the defensible space. Defensible space is defined as treating vegetation around the home and driveway in such a way that it can be successfully defended in a wildfire. Based on records from homesite rebates and recent "windshield surveys[1]" of selected neighborhoods, it can be estimated that 91% of homesites in the Seven Basins watershed outside of urban areas are "green"; that is, defensible in a wildfire (Table 5, Figure 12). The percentage of "green" homesite varies among neighborhoods, with some approaching 100% "green" and others with less than 70% "green."

Table 5. Homesite % green, by neighborhood

Neighborhood	Sub-watershed(s)	# green	# red	% green
Fire planning neighborhoods:				
Sykes Creek	Sykes Creek	50	13	79
Queen's Branch	Pleasant/Lower Evans	94	1	99
Foots	Foots Creek	116	1	99
Galls	Galls Creek	53	6	90
Manzanita	Lower Evans	44	0	100
R. Fk. Sardine	Sardine Creek	32	1	97
Holcomb Springs	Sams Creek	22	4	85
Profetta Lane	Sardine Creek	5	0	100
	Subtotal	416	26	94
Non-fire planning neighborhoods:				
Pleasant Creek	Pleasant Creek	108	4	96
E Evans	Lower Evans	32	3	91
Erhart	Lower Evans	36	0	100
Fielder	Lower Evans	19	8	70
Birdsye	Wards Creek	26	12	68
Ramsey Canyon	Sams Creek/Upper Evans	38	8	83
Antioch	Snider Creek/Upper Evans	18	5	78
	Subtotal	277	40	87
	Subtotal Totals	693	66	91

[1] Homesite "windshield surveys" were based on a quick visual assessment of homesites with respect to SB 360 standards by an experienced fire professional. A "green" homesite would meet the standard; a "red" homesite would not. We regard the fuelbreak standards in SB 360 as a minimum for home defensibility.

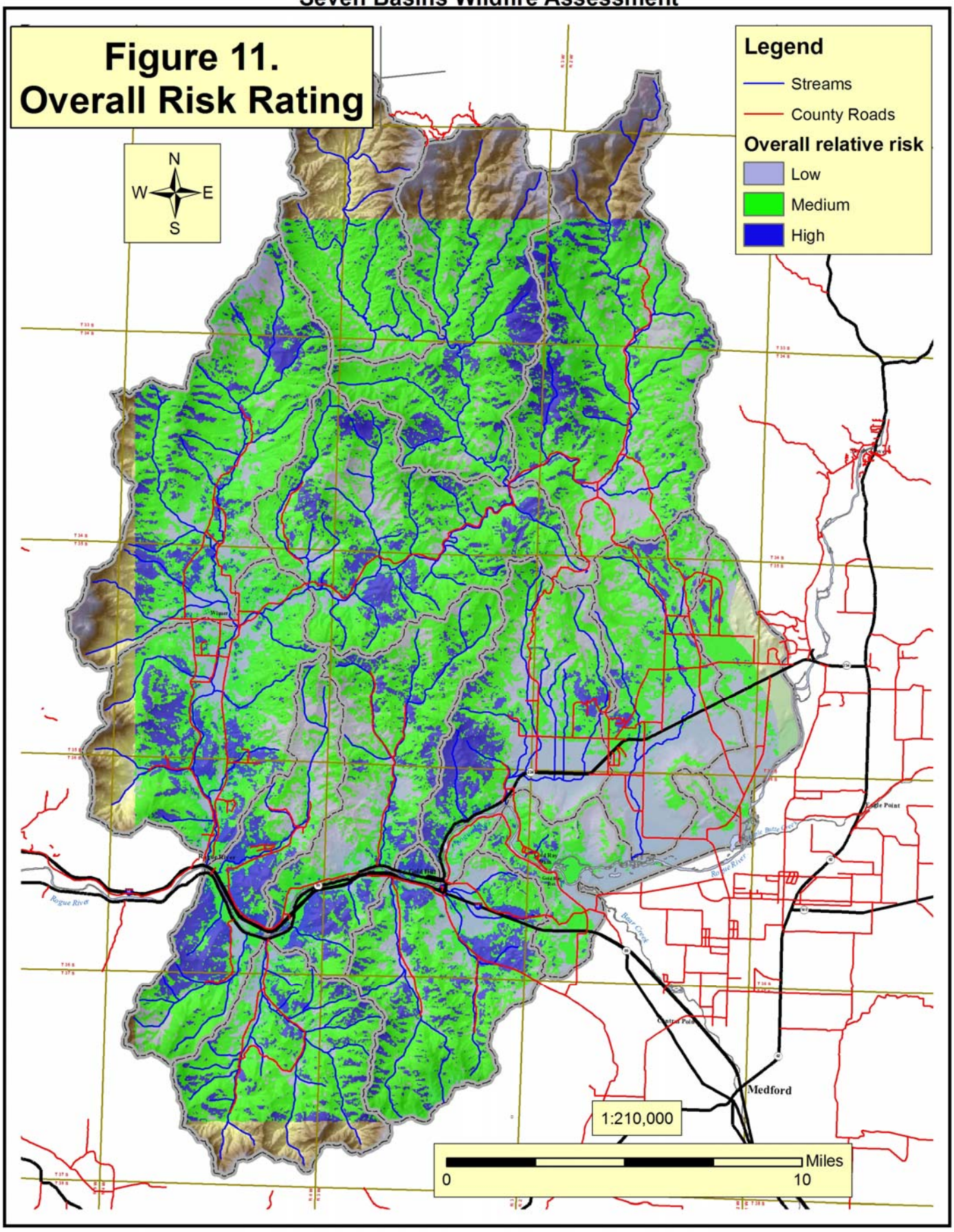


Figure 11.
Overall Risk Rating
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Overall relative risk
Low
Medium
High
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

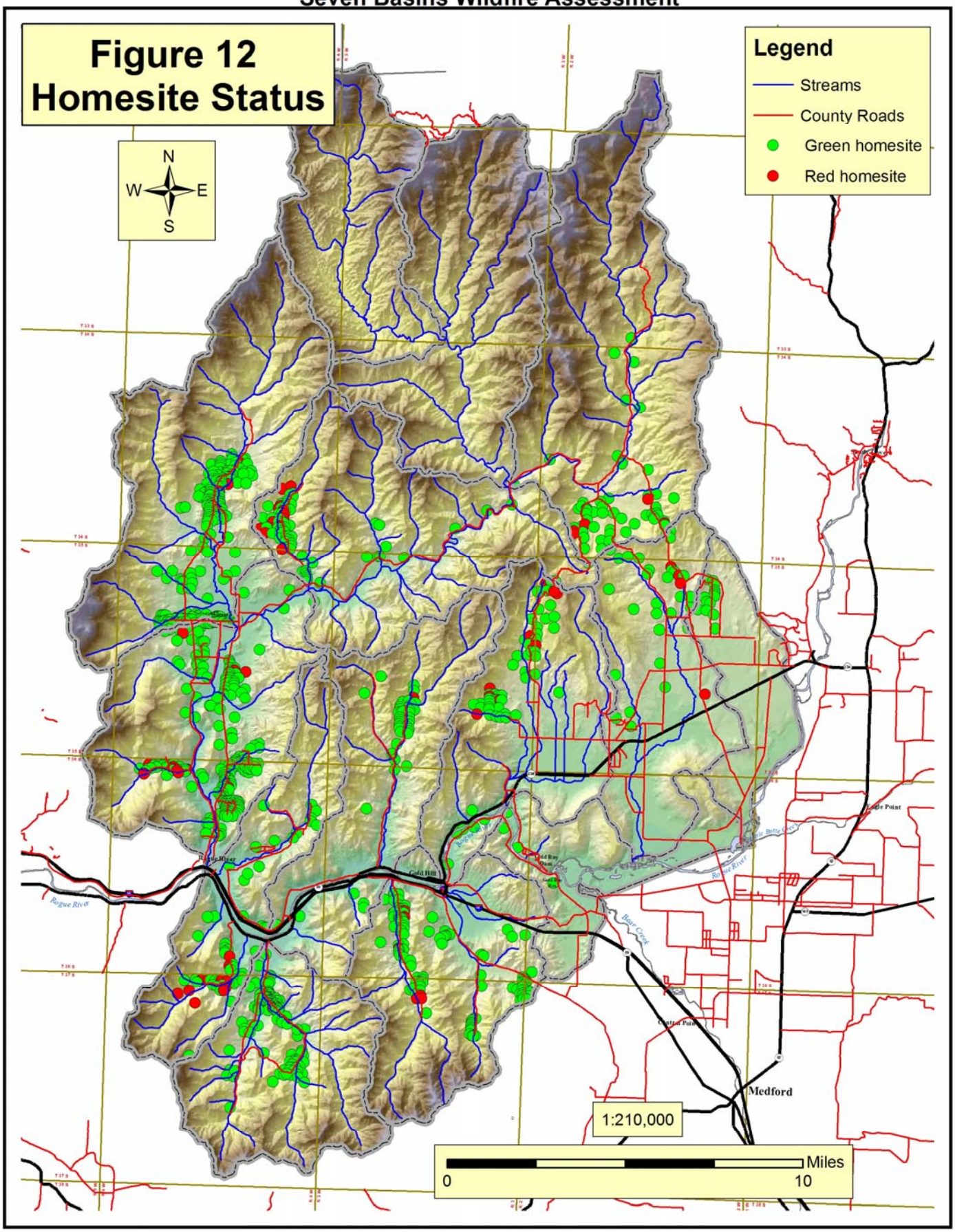


Figure 12
Homesite Status
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Green homesite
Red homesite
Rogue River
Gold Hill
Medford
1:210,000
0
10
Miles

Roof type & other home characteristics

No data was available on roof type, but a general impression is that relatively few homes in the WUI have shake roofs. There also was no data about home materials and design in relation to the potential for structural ignitability. However, since 1994, Jackson County has required all new construction to meet standards for fire safe building materials, home design, road and driveway access, and a homesite fuel break.

2.7 Roads & Access Issues

Safe ingress and egress in the event of a wildfire is a significant issue throughout the watershed. There are a number of steep-sided canyons, essentially with one way in and out. Examples include Galls Creek, Wards Creek, Fielder Creek, Sardine Creek, and Sykes Creek. In many cases these are two-lane, county-owned roads. With respect to fuels in the right-of-way and just beyond, most county roads are in good shape, but there are some problem areas. Members of the Fire Planning project steering committee met with County Roads personnel to discuss these issues in 2003. One result was more aggressive clearing of hazardous fuels in the right-of-way, for example, along Sardine Creek.

Hazardous fuels along driveways and private roads, which access multiple dwellings, especially on dead-end roads, are a major concern. This includes county road segments that are privately maintained. Driveways and private access roads are part of a homesite's defensible space. Steep, narrow roads with overhanging vegetation present an unsafe "tunnel" for firefighters. Regardless of what lies beyond, they may turn around rather than risk firefighter lives and equipment.

Individual driveways are assessed during ODF's homesite consultations. If work is needed, it is typically included as part of the defensible space treatment plan. As the plan was developed, selected areas of the watershed were visited by ODF personnel to evaluate access road issues. Several problem roads were identified and are noted in the mitigation plan sub-watershed summaries below. However, no systematic effort was made to identify and map dead end roads.

As part of the Seven Basins Neighborhood Fire Planning project, Job Council crews completed fuels treatment on five private access road segments (figure 13).

Figure 13: Job Council crew treated private access road.

2.8 Fire Protection Capabilities

Structural Fire Protection

Structural fire protection in the watershed is provided by District #3 (Sams Valley), District #1 (Rogue River) and District #6 (Upper Evans Valley) (figure 13). District #3 is a large district with multiple sub-stations. District #1 has 11 employees plus volunteers. District #6 has two paid staff, plus volunteers.

Out-of-District residences

Dwellings outside fire district boundaries lack structural fire protection. There are at least 359 such residences in the watershed (about 1,200 structures total) (figure 14, table 4). The majority of these are in the Sams Creek (Ramsey Road) and Upper Evans sub-watersheds, although small pockets are found in other sub-watersheds.

Out-of-District residences are likely to be at higher risk of fire. Because of this, they may pose additional risks for adjacent wildlands (e.g., a structure fire in an out-of-district area may spread more easily to surrounding wildlands because of the lack of structural fire protection). This is believed to be an important factor in identifying priorities for fuels reduction projects.

Wildland Fire Protection

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides fire protection on forest and grazing lands in Jackson and Josephine Counties. These include private lands as well as lands managed by the county, state, and Bureau of Land Management. ODF's services include fire prevention, detection, and suppression. ODF works collaboratively with landowners and other fire agencies.

During fire season, ODF has fire engines staffed throughout the watershed including Rogue River, Wimer, and Gold Hill/Sams Valley. During extreme fire situations ODF has access to additional fire engines, dozers, hand crews and aircraft, including helicopters, retardant planes and recon aircraft. ODF's priorities are life, resources and property. ODF is not authorized, trained, funded or equipped to fight structure fires.

Neighborhood Emergency Response Capabilities

Neighborhoods vary in their level of preparation for wildfire emergencies. Some have informal networks that allow for rapid sharing of information. Others have formal phone trees and evacuation plans. Through the Seven Basins project, 21 neighborhoods to date have participated in neighborhood planning and 19 completed neighborhood plans. These plans included phone trees, with designated dispatchers, inventories of neighborhood fire-related resources, and in many cases, identification of water sources and safe zones. In most cases, neighborhoods elected to provide their phone list to ODF and the local fire district. Resource lists were kept within neighborhoods due to privacy concerns. Of the 19 neighborhoods that completed plans, at least 14 are still actively maintaining their phone lists (figure 15). These neighborhoods are better prepared for wildfires and thus at lower risk.

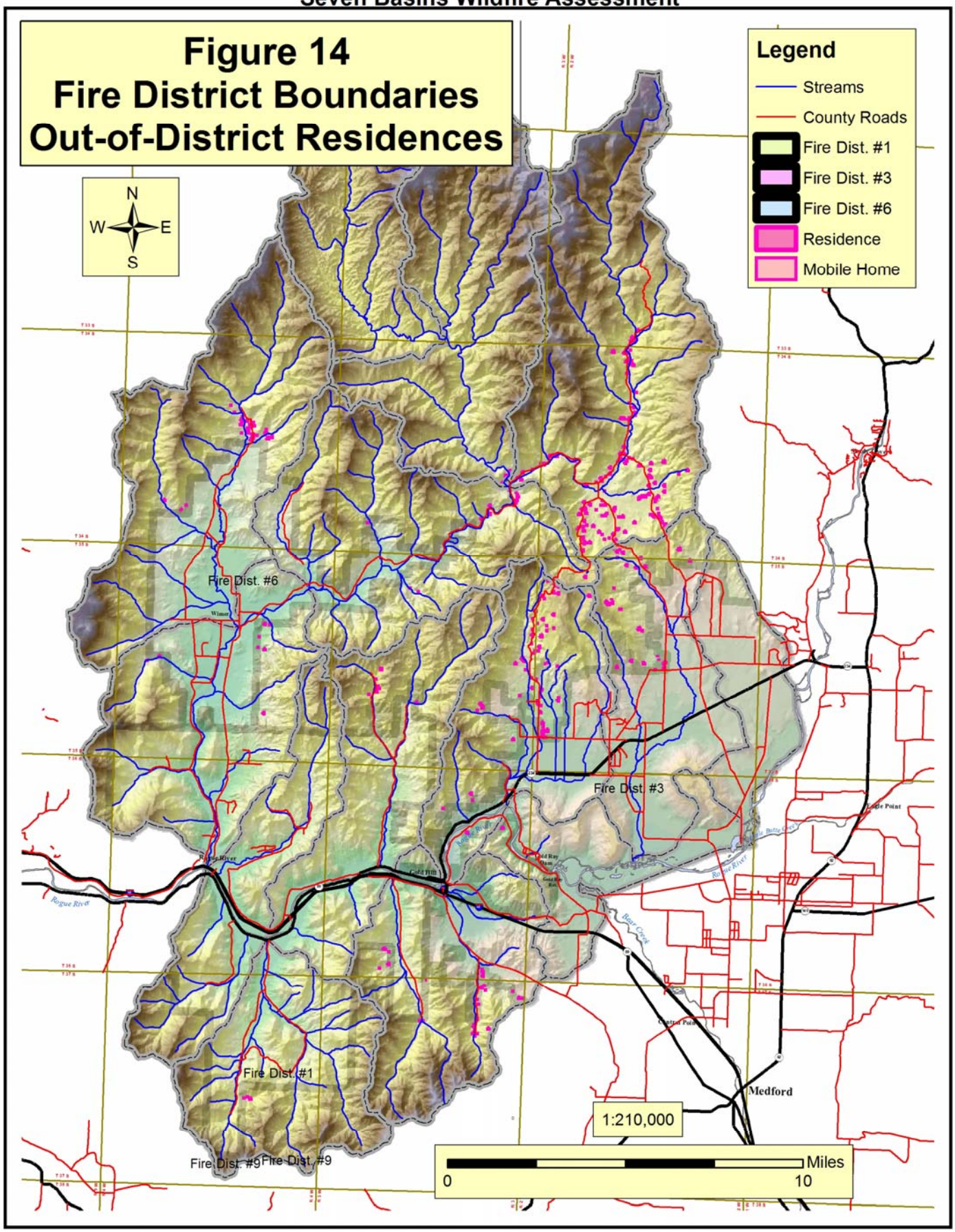


Figure 14
Fire District Boundaries
Out-of-District Residences
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Fire Dist. #1
Fire Dist. #3
Fire Dist. #6
Residence
Mobile Home
Fire Dist. #6
Fire Dist. #3
Fire Dist. #1
Fire Dist. #9
Fire Dist. #9
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

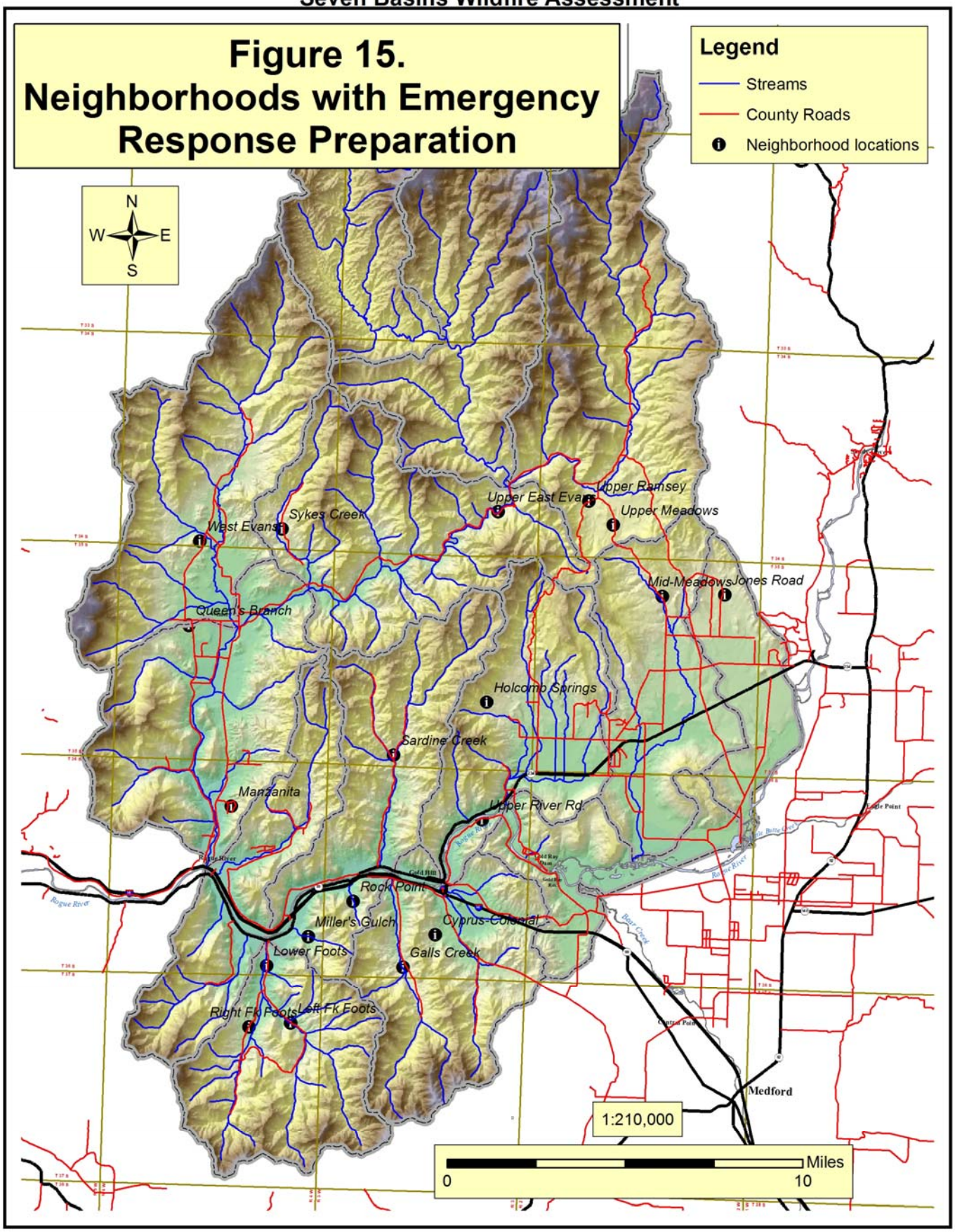
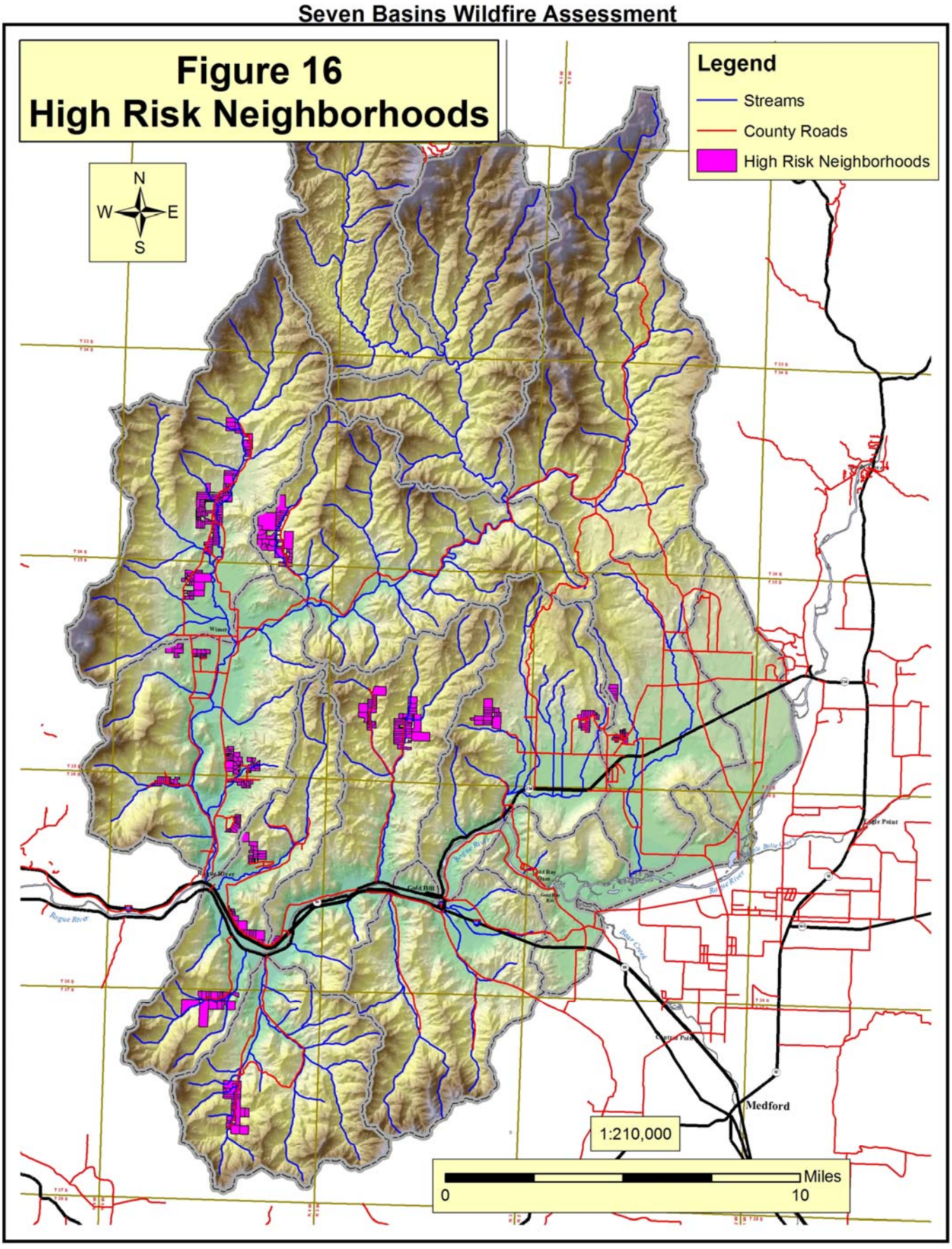


Figure 15.
Neighborhoods with Emergency Response Preparation
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Neighborhood locations
N
W
E
S
Upper Ramsey
Upper East Evans
Upper Meadows
Sykes Creek
West Evans
Mid-Meadows
Jones Road
Queen's Branch
Holcomb Springs
Sardine Creek
Manzanita
Upper River Rd.
Rogue River
Rock Point
Miller's Gulch
Cyprus-Colonial
Lower Foots
Galls Creek
Right Fk Foots
Left Fk Foots
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

2.9 Risk Assessment Summary

Using the risk assessment maps, “high risk neighborhoods” were identified (figure 16). High risk neighborhoods were defined as those where at least 10 dwellings were located in a



3.0 FUELS REDUCTION & FIRE PLANNING IN THE SEVEN BASINS WATERSHED

This section of the CWPP describes recent fuels reduction activities in the watershed on BLM and private lands.

3.1 BLM Fuels Reduction

There are two BLM Resource Areas in the watershed, Ashland (south of the Rogue River) and Butte Falls (north of the river). In the Ashland Resource area, 969 acres of fuels treatments have been completed in the Galls Creek sub-watershed. An additional 2851 acres are planned and the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) work is completed. Approximately 320 acres will be completed using a slashbuster machine. 2,531 acres are to be completed by hand crews who will manually slash, hand pile, and hand pile burn.

Since 2001, the Butte Falls Resource Area has completed 594 acres of hazardous fuels reduction work. A large portion of the work has been completed within the Lower Evans sub-watershed. Approximately 2,170 additional acres have the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) work completed. The outdoor work is planned to start in November, 2005 (see Table 6).

All manual (hand) work consists of thinning the under-story vegetation, hand piling and hand pile burning. Vegetation proposed to be removed includes noncommercial (less than 7 inches diameter at breast height) conifer trees, hardwoods and shrubs. The fuels management strategy is to reduce hazardous fuels which contribute to initiation of higher wildfire intensities and limit the capabilities of fire suppression resources. A combination of manual (with chainsaws) and prescribed fire treatments would be applied. The cut vegetation is hand piled and allowed to cure before being burned (figure 17). Hand piles could be burned 6 to 12 months following the initial hand piling. Maintenance thinning and burning may be done within three to five years of the initial completed fuels treatments to sustain the objectives and the desired conditions of hazardous fuels reduction. Mechanical or slash-buster work would slash vegetation less than ten (10) inches DBH (diameter at breast height) unless access is not available; then, only 8 to 10 inch vegetation would be treated.

Figure 17: Crew hand piling on BLM land.

All current fuels work completed, or planned to be completed, on BLM-administered lands (figure 18) has been identified through a collaborative effort. This work tactically correlates with fuels reduction work to be completed or planned on private lands.

T**able 7. Ashland and Butte Falls Resource Areas Project Status.** Planned or completed hazardous fuels reduction treatments projects, on BLM-administered lands, within the wildland-

urban interface. All projects shown have had NEPA-required plant surveys and studies completed.

Project Status					
Sub-watershed	**Project Name**	**Planned Acres**	**Acres Completed**	**Projected/ Start Date**	**Projected/ Completion Date**
Dodge Bridge		**None at present**			
Foots Creek	**Fuels Hazard Reduction in the WIldland Urban Interface, *CE – Foots Creek project**	**2,417**	**0**	**Spring 2006**	**Fall 2006**
Galls Creek	**Fuels Hazard Reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface, CE – Slashbuster 5 Project**	**1,289**	**969**	**Fall 2004**	**Fall 2007**
Lower Evans	**Fuels Hazard Reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface, CE- Fielder Creek**	**221**	**183**	**Spring 2005**	**Spring 2006**
	Fuels Hazard Reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface, CE - Manzanita Drive	**160**	**0**	**Fall 2005**	**Fall 2006**
	***EA for the Home Run Timber Sale[1] - Left Fielder**	**102**	**102**	**Winter 1999**	**Spring 2000**
	EA for the Home Run Timber Sale [1]- Home Run	**176**	**176**	**Winter 1999**	**Spring 2000**
	EA for the Home Run Timber Sale[1] - Fielder Mountain	**38**	**38**	**Spring 2002**	**Spring 2002**
Pleasant Creek	**Fuels Hazard Reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface, CE - Battle Mountain**	**906**	**0**	**Winter 2005**	**Fall 2009**
Sams Creek	**Fuels Hazard Reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface, CE- Holcomb Springs**	**225**	**95**	**Spring 2005**	**Fall 2006**
Sardine Creek		**None at present**			
Snider Creek	**Fuels Hazard Reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface, CE- Upper Meadows**	**658**	**0**	**Spring 2005**	**Fall 2008**
Sykes/May		**None at present**			
Upper Evans		**None at present**			
Wards/ Birdseye	**Fuels Hazard Reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface, CE – Rogue Units**	**114**		**Fall 2005**	**Spring 2005**
Whetstone Creek		**None at present**			

**CE – Categorical Exclusion, EA – Environmental Assessment*

[1] Additional fuels treatments were completed following timber harvest.

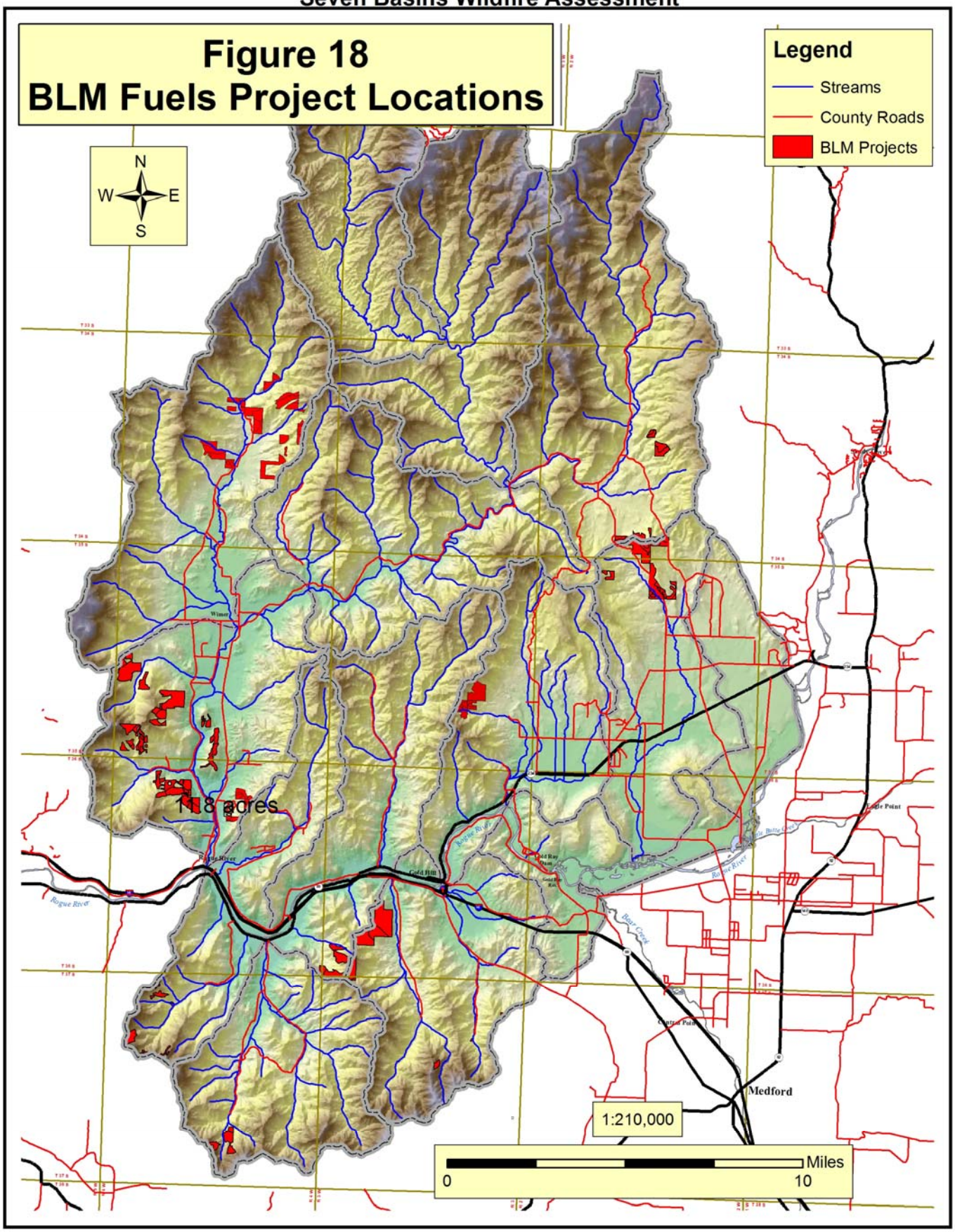


Figure 18
BLM Fuels Project Locations
Legend
Streams
County Roads
BLM Projects
N
W
E
S
1:210,000
Miles
0
10
Medford
Gold Hill
Rogue River
Bear Creek

3.2 Fuels Reduction on Private Land

Defensible Space

As noted above, data suggest that about 90% of homesites in the Seven Basins watershed, outside of urban areas, are "green"; that is, they are capable of being successfully defended in a wildfire (Table 4, Figure 13). The percentage of "green" homesites varies among neighborhoods, with some approaching 100% "green", and others with less than 70% green. Much of this work has occurred through the ODF-administered cost-share program (under which residents completing fuels treatments around the homesite can receive a $330 per acre "rebate"). To date, 217 cost-share defensible space projects totaling 418 acres have been completed in the Seven Basins watershed (figure 19). In addition, a substantial, but unknown, amount of defensible space work has been completed by residents outside of the cost-share program.

Fuels Reduction Beyond the Defensible Space

The cost-share program has also funded fuel hazard reduction and "forest improvement" outside the defensible space. Since 2002, 45 such projects have been completed in Seven Basins, totaling 217 acres (figure 19). As with defensible space, many acres have been treated outside the cost-share program, but the amounts and locations of these treatments are not known. Owners may contract out the work, or complete it on their own.

Treatments have focused primarily on reduction of ladder fuels. Slash is typically piled and burned or chipped. Some areas, primarily brushfields, have been treated mechanically with "Brushbusters" or other implements.

Large Acreage Projects

The Holcomb Springs project includes 14 properties a total of 75 acres and ties in with 225 acres of recently work on adjacent BLM land. The project is being funded under the National Fire Plan with administration through ODF. Two additional neighborhood-scale fuels projects are planned for the Upper Meadows neighborhood and Manzanita Road neighborhood. Both will tie in with planned work on adjacent BLM land. A $130,000 Title II grant will fund more neighborhood-scale fuels projects adjacent to BLM land in the Lower Evans, Pleasant Creek, and Mays-Sykes sub-watersheds.

Relationship to Neighborhood Fire Planning

One of the approaches used to facilitate fuels reduction work on private property is neighborhood fire planning. Neighborhood meetings have focused on emergency communications and fuels reduction. At each meeting, neighborhood fire and fuels concerns are identified. Sign ups are taken for ODF homesite consultations, which often result in cost-share projects. When needed, outside assistance has been sought to solve fuels reduction and fire safety concerns. Some neighborhoods have gone even further and have developed coordinated fuels reduction projects. For more information on neighborhood fire planning see 3.4, Collaborative Fire Planning in the Seven Basins Watershed.

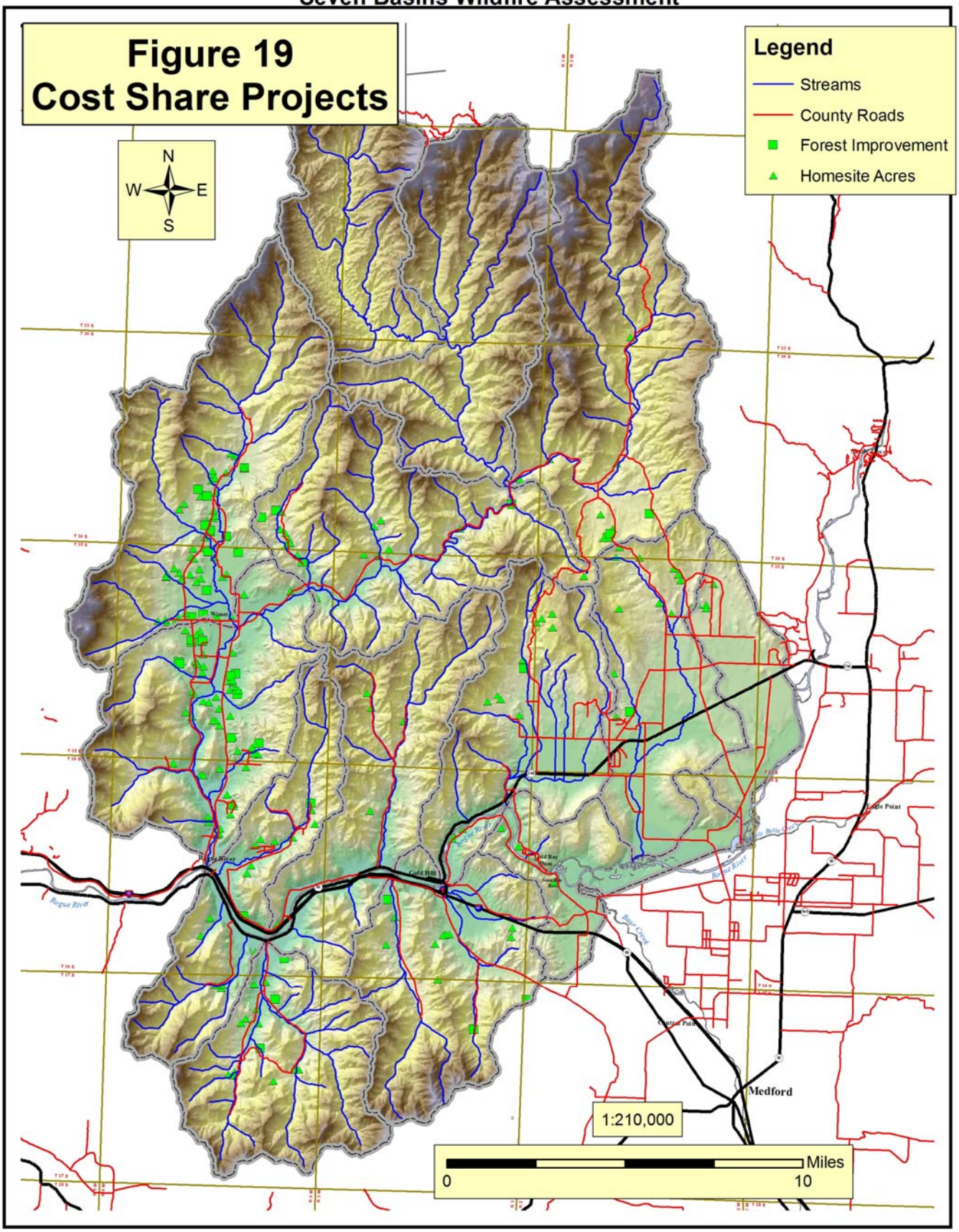


Figure 19
Cost Share Projects
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Forest Improvement
Homesite Acres
N
W
E
S
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

3.3 Maintenance of Fuels Treatments

Fuels reduction is an on-going process. The effects of thinning and other fuels treatments are temporary. New trees and brush grow in the understory and develop into ladder fuels. When cut, many brush and hardwood tree species re-sprout vigorously from root crowns and rhizomes. Other species, such as manzanita, have seeds that remain viable in the soil for many years, even decades, and germinate readily when soils are disturbed. As a result, while fuels treatments reduce hazardous fuels, in most cases this effect is temporary. Follow-up treatments will be needed to achieve the desired effects. Specific maintenance needs and "re-entry" intervals will vary by the type of treatment, the characteristics of the vegetation, and other factors. Fuels treatments can be designed to reduce future maintenance needs, e.g., by maintaining enough canopy closure to inhibit rapid re-growth of understory vegetation.

While the need for maintenance is well understood in the fire and forestry communities, it is probably less apparent to the homeowner. This is an important educational need to be addressed in the future.

3.4 Collaborative Fire Planning in the Seven Basins

In the Seven Basins watershed, local neighborhood fire planning has been an important catalyst for the implementation of fuels reduction work on private property.
At least three neighborhood, or community level, fire planning efforts are currently underway in the Seven Basins watershed: The Seven Basins Neighborhood Fire Planning project; the Foots Creek Fire & Emergency Plan, and the Old Battle Mountain Road Neighborhood group. Each of these efforts has focused on emergency preparedness and fuels reduction.

Seven Basins Neighborhood Fire Planning Project

This project began in November 2002 with formation of a steering committee involving OSU Extension, ODF, BLM, and the Seven Basins Watershed Council. It was funded under title III grants from Jackson County. The first in a series of four 8-page newspapers on wildfire-related topics was published in February 2003 as a lead-in to three community meetings that introduced the project. Volunteers recruited at the community meetings, as well as from the tabloid, served as points of contact for many of the subsequent neighborhood fire planning meetings.

Neighborhood fire planning meetings began in March 2003, and have continued to the present. At each series of neighborhood meetings, a facilitator helped neighborhood residents identify values at risk and hazardous fuels concerns. Emergency preparedness and fuels reduction implementation were the primary focus of these meetings.

Generally, three to four meetings were held in each neighborhood. Neighborhood phone trees were created, neighborhood resource inventories were taken and hazardous fuels conditions were identified. Other wildfire related issues were addressed. Solutions were found whenever possible, such as, the evacuation of a wolf reserve, concerns about the spread of wildfire from campfires on BLM waterfront property, and forgotten burn piles in a railroad right of way.

Sign ups for homesite fire safety consultations were taken at each session and passed on to ODF. These consultations resulted in both educational opportunities for local residents and ODF cost-share grants for treatment of defensible space and extended acreage fuels reduction. Neighborhoods ranged in size from about 20 households to small sub-watersheds. Participation

averaged about 25% in each neighborhood. In total, 85 neighborhood meetings have been held to date, involving more than 390 watershed residents with a total ownership of greater than 6,000 acres.

Neighborhood Phone Trees & Emergency Communications

To date, 19 neighborhood phone trees have been created. Phone trees are organized sequentially by address and have lead volunteers called "dispatchers" to provide leadership. Each neighborhood phone tree is associated with a neighborhood resource inventory. The inventories identify those resources like skills and equipment, or resources that residents are willing to share with each other in an emergency, as well as listing any specific needs individual residents may have. These are held only by dispatchers in order to maintain privacy, a major concern for many residents. In several neighborhoods, safe zones and water storage projects (e.g., water storage tanks, ponds) were also identified. The local fire district chief designated or approved all safe zones. In several neighborhoods, dispatchers are continuing to build their phone lists, improve planning, and promote fuels reduction.

Fuels Reduction

- *Homesite Consultations*. Neighborhood meetings generated signups for more than 150 homesite consultations. Conducted by ODF, these consultations help residents understand how to create and maintain defensible space, and in many cases result in cost-shared homesite defensible space projects.
- *Cost-share Grants*. Since the project was initiated, 278 cost-shared homesite grants have been awarded and are either in progress or completed. Many of these originated from the homesite consultations listed above, while others learned about the availability of cost-share fund through the Project's tabloid newspaper, described below.
- *Homesite Status*. Field surveys of sample neighborhoods have revealed that an average of 91% of homesites are "green," i.e., in compliance with SB360 standards. The percentage of green homesites within individual neighborhoods ranges from 68% to 100%.
- *Projects Initiated*. As a result of the project, a 75-acre fuels reduction project involving 14 properties in the Holcomb Springs neighborhood has been planned and implemented. This project ties into a 320-acre fuels reduction project on adjacent BLM lands. Two more extended acreage projects involving multiple property owners in the Upper Meadows Road area and Manzanita Road are in the planning stages.
- *Funding*. National Fire Plan funding for fuels reduction projects in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is increasingly tied to community fire planning efforts. The fact that a community fire planning project is active in the Seven Basins watershed has made it easier to secure cost-share funding. For example, ODF's 2004 National Fire Plan grant requests for defensible space work were approved for the Seven Basins and Applegate watersheds, both areas where fire planning is on-going; but not approved for other areas of Jackson County where organized fire planning activities are lacking.
- *Awareness*. A less tangible but important benefit of the project has been to help WUI residents think about wildfire hazards not only on their own properties, but also across property boundaries on a neighborhood scale.

Interagency Cooperation

The project has fostered interagency coordination and better agency communication with local residents. Prior to the start of the project, ODF was actively promoting defensible space work in the watershed, but not on a strategic basis or in concert with planned fuels reduction on adjacent BLM lands. BLM's fuels treatment activities were planned largely independently of fuels treatments on private lands. This project has helped link these efforts and bring community members together.

Local fire districts are also expanding their role in neighborhood fire planning and fuels reduction work in their districts. They are creating new relationships with ODF for outreach to their residents. The use of methods that utilize National Fire Plan (NFP) funding to further expand fire district involvement in fuels reduction projects is currently being explored.

Old Battle Mountain Road Group

The Old Battle Mountain Fire Road Group was formed in 2003 with a core of 11 landowners along Pleasant Creek Road. This group came together with 4 professional partners to seek funding in order to continue fuels reduction treatments, which they had already begun on their own properties. With "treatments across boundaries" as a guide, designs were made to remove blocks and strips of heavily overstocked brush and crowded small trees, looking at the land as a whole, rather than just a single property at a time. As a part of this process, a neighborhood phone list and inventory were also created. A grant was applied for the National Fire Plan. While this grant proposal was not successful, owners have completed a substantial amount of fuels reduction on their own.

Foots Creek Fire & Emergency Plan

The Foots Creek Fire & Emergency Planning Committee has been working on their fire and emergency preparedness plan since Spring 2003 and is gearing up for the 2005 fire season. They have their phone tree organized, comprehensive lists of neighborhood assets, skilled neighbors (EMT's, Tree Fallers etc.) and identified water sources within their neighborhood. The Rogue River fire chief has access to this information to coordinate with the Community during an emergency.

The Foots Creek Committee has created a web site (footscreek.org) where their residents can sign up online to join their Neighborhood Fire Plan, obtain Fire Bulletins, Fuel Reduction information, Safety Tips and more. Their goal is to be prepared by neighbor helping neighbor, to work together in an organized way to deal with serious emergencies, to coordinate with related entities (Fire Dept & ODF) and to minimize potential risks to people, animals and homes. The project has also provided assistance to some residents who are unable to do the defensible space work necessary on their own properties.

Upper Meadows Project

This project is an outgrowth of the Seven Basins project. Using National Fire Plan grant funds, an experienced forestry/wildfire management consultant was contracted to identify management opportunities and priorities for treating vegetation in the Upper Meadows neighborhood to reduce the fire hazard and improve forest health. This information was then used to strategically plan the use of the Oregon Department of Forestry cost share funds available to the neighborhood ($33,000). Residents are being enlisted to complete treatments in priority areas. Appendix C details management recommendations and priorities for the Upper Meadows Planning Area.

4.0 MITIGATION PLAN & PRIORITIES FOR FUELS REDUCTION

This plan outlines priorities for fuels reduction in the Seven Basins watershed. Treatment needs are identified at three spatial scales – the home ignition zone, the neighborhood, and the landscape. Table 8 below describes the key characteristics of treatments at each scale.

Scale & category	Primary objective	Prioritization	Predominant land ownership type
Home ignition zone (home and surrounding acre). Defensible space.	Reduce structural ignitability	1st priority treatment, but no geographic priorities; all areas of watershed equally important.	Private (rural residential, suburban, farm/forest)
Neighborhood (10s to 100s of acres) Tactical.	Reduce structural ignitability, reduce damage to private property, and reduce the spread and/or size of wildfires	2nd highest priority treatment type; geographic prioritization is essential given limited resources; use defined criteria to prioritize neighborhoods for treatment.	Private and adjacent BLM lands within WUI
Landscape (100s to 1000s of acres). Strategic.	Limit the spread and size of severe, stand replacing wildfires; coordinate with neighborhood-scale treatments to reduce home ignitions potential.	3rd priority; geographic prioritization is essential given limited resources; no priorities determined in this plan but a crucial future planning need	BLM, large private owners (mostly timber companies)

4.1 Recommended Measures to Reduce Structural Ignitability (Home Ignition Zone)

According to fire research scientist Jack Cohen, "a home's characteristics, its exterior materials and design, in relation to the immediate area around a home within 100 feet principally determine the home ignition potential[3]." Cohen terms the home, and its immediate surroundings, the home ignition zone. He notes that "…the large flames of high intensity fires do not ignite a home's wood exterior at distances greater than 100 feet. This is consistent with our understanding that local wildland fuel reduction can result in significant local fire intensity reduction. The research suggests that if the big flames are not igniting the destroyed homes then relatively low intensity fires contacting or in near contact with a home's flammable materials and/or direct firebrand ignitions must be the ignition sources." Thus, reducing home loss from wildfire is first and foremost an issue of reducing structural ignitability within the home ignition zone. Homeowners can take specific measures that will substantially reduce the potential for ignition. Several of these are listed below. For more complete information, consult the suggested reference material.

Home construction, retrofitting, and building materials

- Install tile, metal or composition roofing (Class A or B). Shake roofs are easily ignited by firebrands.
- Enclose the underside of decks or post-and–pier foundations with solid building materials, or screening.
- Screen all vents in attics with ¼ inch screen or hardware cloth. Enclose eaves, fascia, and soffits with screens.
- Screen on all chimneys.
- Use double-pane or safety glass on all large windows. Trim vegetation away 2'-3'.
- Locate firewood piles at least 30' from structures.
- Locate site flammables such as propane tanks at least 30 feet away from home. Clear vegetation within 10' radius from tank.

More information is available from local structural fire protection districts, the Jackson County Planning Dept., the Oregon Department of Forestry and in the Firewise publication, "Is Your Home Protected from Wildfire Disaster? A Homeowner's Guide to Wildfire Retrofit".

Read it at: http://www.firewise.org/pubs/isyourhome/WILDFR2.PDF

Annual Maintenance Tasks

Before fire season:

- clear gutters and roofs of any debris.
- move woodpiles at least 30 feet away from house.
- rake accumulated leaves and other debris away from house.

[3.] Thoughts on the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Problem. June 2003. Available at: http://www.nps.gov/fire/download/pub_pub_wildurbaninterface.pdf

Landscaping and defensible space

- Follow SB360 standards for creating a defensible space. A detailed information guide is available from the Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Landscape with fire-safe plants that have the following characteristics: leaves are moist and supple; the plant does not tend to accumulate dry, dead material; the sap is water-like and does not have a strong odor. Many deciduous shrubs and trees, both native and non-native, are fire-resistant. For more information, see: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/FireResPlants.pdf

Recommendations

Continue to promote defensible space work and other measures to reduce home ignitability. To a large extent, this is a homeowner's responsibility. There are no geographic priorities for this work. All areas of the watershed are equally important.

As noted above, about 90% of watershed residences have adequate defensible space. However, the remaining 10% constitute several hundred residences, so this remains a significant problem.

To address this problem, the following measures are recommended:

- Continue ODF homesite consultations. These are well received and an important avenue for one-on-one education.
- Promote defensible space work through newspaper articles, the Seven Basins wildfire tabloid, and any other available publications. Timely reminders (winter and spring) will encourage needed annual maintenance. Continue promoting the message that defensible space treatments need to be maintained over time.
- Emphasize the importance of driveway and access road treatments.
- Continue to allocate a portion of cost-share funds for defensible space treatments.
- Develop cost-share and other financial assistance programs to assist low income, elderly, and other residents not realistically capable of doing the work on their own.
- Recognize that some residents will choose not to create defensible space. There will likely never be a point when 100% of watershed residences are defensible.

4.2 Neighborhood-scale Treatments

Neighborhood-scale treatments reduce the potential for home ignitions, create fuel breaks that may help reduce the spread and/or size of wildfires, and provide tactical opportunities for wildfire suppression. For example, a neighborhood-scale fuels treatment such as a shaded fuel break may prevent a fire from advancing into a neighborhood from an adjacent wildland. It may also prevent a fire that originates in the neighborhood from spreading *to* the adjacent wildland. Ideally, neighborhood-scale treatment should encompass adjacent public lands as well as private lands within neighborhood itself. Neighborhood treatments coordinated among multiple landowners are likely to be more effective than scattered treatments of individual properties, known as "random acts of kindness."

Neighborhood projects typically include multiple owners (10 or more) on contiguous, or nearby properties, adjacent to or in close proximity to a BLM WUI treatment. Treatments focus on reduction of ladder fuels that contribute to the initiation of higher wildfire intensities. Brush such as manzanita, wedge-leaf ceanothus and hardwood tree species are treated manually (hand crews with chainsaws) or mechanically. In addition, non-native, flammable vegetation, such as Scotch broom, is removed. Slash disposal is done by chipping, hand pile burning, and/or lop-and-scatter. There are many thousands of acres in the watershed that could benefit from treatment. However, since funds are limited, prioritization is critical.

Identification of High Priority Neighborhoods

Future planning efforts should focus on developing neighborhood-wide treatments in high priority neighborhoods. Cost-share and other grant funding should be allocated accordingly.

We identified priority neighborhoods using the following process and criteria:
Process: Each 6th field sub-watershed[1] was divided into a number of smaller "neighborhoods" consisting of 10 or more dwellings. Typically, a neighborhood corresponded to a 7th field watershed, although in some cases, a single 7th field watershed contained several neighborhoods. Each neighborhood (there are 99 in the Seven Basins as a whole) was evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Risk status. Neighborhoods were defined as "high risk" when at least 10 dwellings were located in contiguous areas of high to extreme fire hazard (see section 2.9). (High risk = 3 points; otherwise= 0 points). While most neighborhoods have some areas of high fire hazard, and /or high composite risk, this criterion identified neighborhoods where the risk was greatest and/or most contiguous.
- Fire District prioritization. Fire district priorities were determined in meetings with each district and in their review comments on this plan. (Fire district priority = 2 points; otherwise= 0 points). This criterion was important since fire district personnel have a keen "on-the-ground" sense of neighborhoods, fuels, weather patterns, and so forth. Thus, their sense of priorities is critical.
- Potential for ties to BLM fuels treatments. Also considered was whether a current or planned BLM fuels treatment project was located within ½ mile of the neighborhood. (BLM tie – current or planned project within ½ mile = 2 points; otherwise= 0 points). Ties to BLM projects are mandated in some grants. Cooperative projects on public and private land help extend the benefits of both, "the sum is greater than the parts." Note that we recommend consideration of treatment of BLM lands adjacent to high priority neighborhoods, whether or not such treatment plans exist currently.
- Number of out-of-district dwellings. Out-of-district areas were considered to be at higher risk since they lack structural fire protection. (Out of district = 2 points; otherwise= 0 points).
- Accessibility. One-way in, and out, neighborhoods were considered to be at higher risk. (Yes = 1 points; No= 0 points).

[1] A 6th field watershed is a major drainage area such as Pleasant Creek, Sykes Creek, etc. See the map on page ___. Each 6th field watershed is comprised of several 7th field watersheds.

Table 9 is a matrix with the ratings for each neighborhood, according to each of the criteria listed above. "High Priority" neighborhoods are those with a score of 4 or greater (Table 9, figure 20). Note that some neighborhoods classified as "high risk" (Table 6), based on fire hazard or overall risk, did not receive points under the other criteria, while some non-high risk neighborhoods did. Note also that this is a *prioritization* process; just because a neighborhood did not receive a high score does not mean it is not in need of treatment. In fact, most neighborhoods rated "0" still have significant fuels reduction needs. This is regarded as a preliminary designation; Additional information and ground-truthing may result in resetting the priorities or identifying other priority neighborhoods. As a check, our list of "high priority" neighborhoods was compared with SB 360 risk classifications. All of our "high priority" neighborhoods fell into the SB 360 "extreme risk" classification.

Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Project Plans

Plans have been developed for neighborhood treatments in the Holcomb Springs, Upper Meadows, Manzanita, and Sykes Creek neighborhoods. The Holcomb Springs project is completed; the projects in the other neighborhoods are underway. Planning is has also been initiated on Sardine Creek. Project plan maps for each of these areas can be found in the sub-watershed summaries (section 5 below). As neighborhood project plans are developed and revised, they will be included in the sub-watershed summaries in this CWPP. The plans can be used as the basis for future grant proposals.

Recommendations:

- Focus on developing tactical, neighborhood-wide treatments in high priority neighborhoods.
- Ground-truth and refine the prioritization matrix as better information becomes available.
- Focus first on neighborhoods with existing planning efforts, since projects will probably be easier to put together when neighbors are more used to working together.
- Continue neighborhood fire planning; where feasible focus on recruitment of leaders in high priority neighborhoods.
- Irrespective of neighborhood risk status, identify and treat access roads with fuels issues. Some of these are listed in the prioritization matrix.
- Work with fire districts to develop pass-through agreements to build their capacity to treat fuels in high risk neighborhoods.
- Evaluate opportunities for fuels reduction treatments on BLM lands adjacent to, or near (within approximately 1.5 miles) high priority neighborhoods.

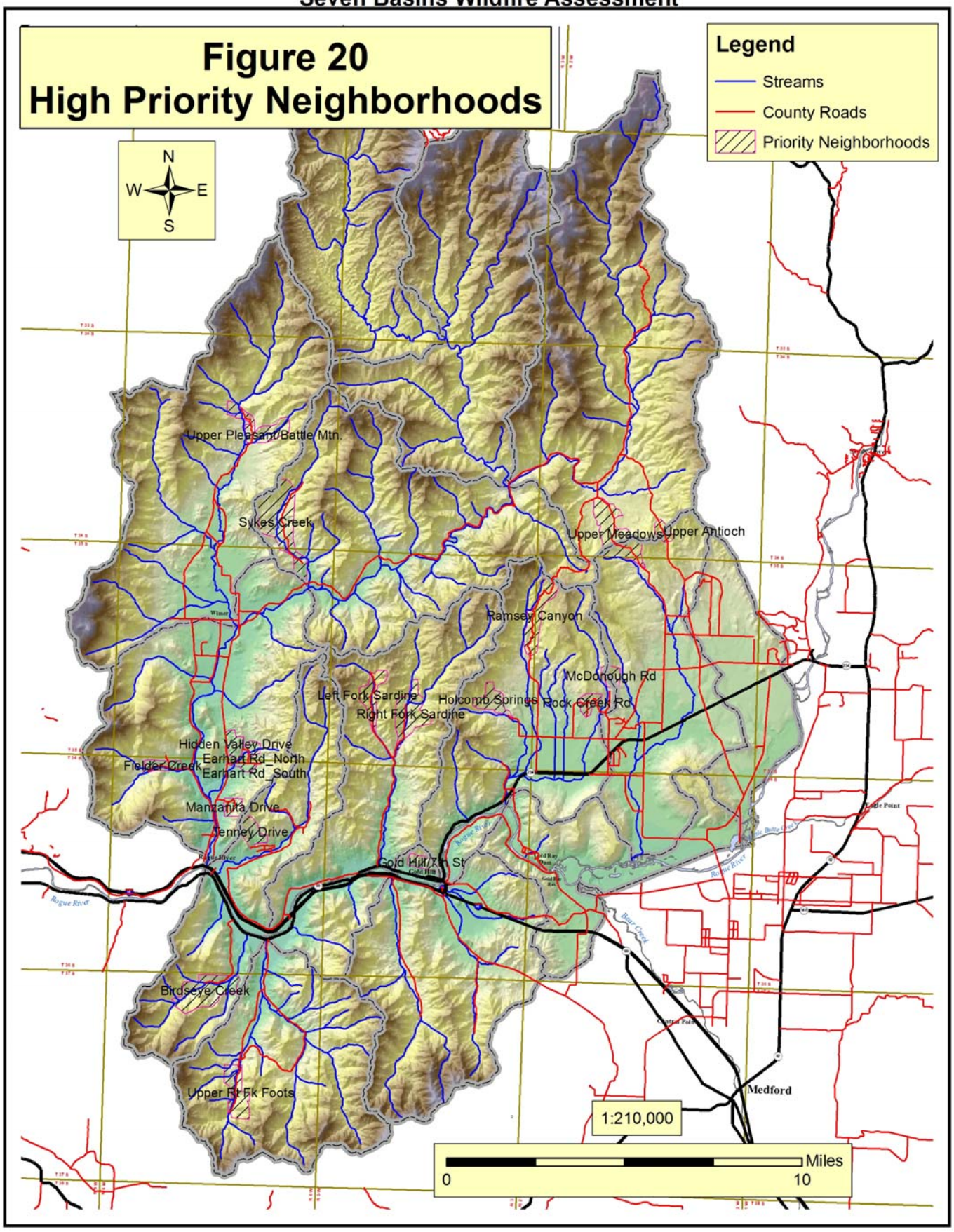


Figure 20
High Priority Neighborhoods
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Priority Neighborhoods
N
W
E
S
Upper Pleasant/Battle Mtn.
Sykes Creek
Upper Meadows
Upper Antioch
Ramsey Canyon
McDonough Rd
Left Fork Sardine
Right Fork Sardine
Holcomb Springs
Rock Creek Rd
Hidden Valley Drive
Earhart Rd_North
Fielder Creek
Earhart Rd_South
Manzanita Drive
Tenney Drive
Gold Hill/7th St
Rogue River
Birdseye Creek
Upper Rt Fk Foots
Eagle Point
Medford
1:210,000
Miles
0
10

Table 9. High priority neighborhoods, by sub-watershed
(Point values in parentheses)

Sub-watershed	High Priority Neighborhoods	Status
Dodge Bridge	none	
Foots	Lower Left Fork (4)	
	Upper Right Fork (6)	
Galls	City of Gold Hill (7th St.) (5)	
Lower Evans	Fielder (8)	
	Manzanita (8)	Planning in progress
	Earhart (6)	
	Hidden Valley Drive (6)	
Sykes – May	Sykes Creek (6)	Planning in progress
Pleasant Creek	Pleasant Creek-Battle Mtn. (6)	
Sams	Ramsey Canyon (4)	
	Rock Creek – Duggan (4)	
	McDonough (4)	
	Holcomb Springs (6)	Completed
Sardine	Upper Right Fork – Middle Fork – Lower Right Fork (6)	
	Left Fork (6)	
Snider	Upper Meadows (4)	Planning in progress
Upper Evans	Upper Meadows (4)	
	Upper Antioch (4)	
Wards	Tenney Drive (6)	
	Birdseye Creek (6)	
Whetstone	none	

4.3 Landscape-level Fuels Treatments

Large, high intensity wildfires frequently cause severe damage to watersheds, destroy wildlife habitat, and damage timber values. Focusing fuels treatments only on areas relatively close to structures may reduce structural ignitability but is unlikely to reduce the spread, or extent of, these large-scale events. Specific objectives of landscape-level fuels treatments may include:

1) Minimizing the number of acres burned in high intensity wildfires;
2) "Compartmentalizing" fires, i.e., preventing their spread beyond sub-watershed boundaries; and
3) Providing additional protection to neighborhoods by reducing the size and spread of large-scale, high intensity wildfires.

To effectively address landscape-scale wildfire issues, large and small private owners, and BLM, all need to be involved. Treatments may include area-wide thinning, defensible fuel profile zones, shaded fuel breaks, and the like.

Designing landscape-level fuel treatments is a complex process. It is the next logical step for community wildfire protection planning in the Seven Basins.

Recommendation:

- Initiate a pilot project in one sub-watershed to design, model, and implement landscape level fuels treatments to address the potential for large, high intensity wildfire.

Table 8. Priorities for Fuels Reduction, by Neighborhood

			Prioritization Criteria							
HUC 6th / SPA	HUC 7th	Neighborhood	High Hazard/ Risk?	Fire District Priority?	BLM tie?	Out of district?	One way in/out	Rating	Neighbor-hood Planning?	Notes
DODGE BRIDGE	716	Jones-Shiloh	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES	Most defensible space complete per Gail Perrotti. ~50-acre non-cost share mechanical fuels project complete spring '05 on ridge btw Jones & Antioch
DODGE BRIDGE	798	Dodge Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
DODGE BRIDGE	863	Modoc Rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
FOOTS	1015	Lwr Lft Fk Foots	0	2	0	0	0	2	YES	Fire district expressed concern about up-canyon winds and heavy fuels On south-west slopes adjacent to valley bottom – also HUC 1003
FOOTS	1003	Below Fk Foots	0	2	0	0	0	2	YES	Fire district expressed concern about up-canyon winds and heavy fuels On south-west slopes adjacent to valley bottom – also HUC 1015
FOOTS	1024	Upper Rt Fk Foots	3	0?	2	0	1	6	YES	
FOOTS	1024	Lwr Rt Fk Foots – Schoolhouse Gulch	0	0	2	0	0	2	YES	
FOOTS	1049	Middle Fk Foots	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES?	
FOOTS	1046	Upper Lft Fk Foots	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	Only one dwelling
GALLS	927	City of Gold Hill	3	2	0	0	0	5	NO	High composite risk – steep south slope with brush right next to town – FD #3 concern above 7th St.
GALLS	933	Blackwell Rd	3	0	0	0	0	3	NO	High composite risk Large grassland component possibly skews ignition rating
GALLS	951	Galls Creek	0	0	2	0	1	3	YES	Residents have completed much homesite work. One cooperative access road project completed.
GALLS	962	Cyprus Drive	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES	One cooperative access road project completed.
GALLS	962	Old Stage Rd	3	0	0	0	0	0	NO	High composite risk Large grassland component possibly skews ignition rating
GALLS	962	Glen Echo Dr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	FD #3 has completed homesite work in this neighborhood.
GALLS	962	Kane Crk Rd.	0	0	0	A few on upper part	0	0	NO	FD #3 has completed homesite work in this neighborhood & has evaluated neighborhood condition as good.
LOWER EVANS	794	W Evans Rd - Carlos	3	0	0	0	0	3	NO	South of Carlos, north of Redthorne
LOWER EVANS	794	Minthorne-Redthorne Rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
LOWER EVANS	794	Pine Grove Rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
LOWER EVANS	794	W. Evans	3	0	0	0	0	3	YES	Access rd 7163 to 7321 W. Evans also needs work; also access rd. 1631 Queens Branch

HUC 6th / SPA	HUC 7th	Neighborhood	High Hazard/ Risk?	Fire District Priority?	BLM tie?	Out of district?	One way in/out	Rating	Neighbor-hood Planning?	Notes
LOWER EVANS	794	Queens Branch	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES	Access rd 843 Queens Brach needs work
LOWER EVANS	743	E Evans - Covered Bridge	0	2	0	0	0	2	NO	Fire District concerned about fuels along upper part of Covered Bridge Rd.
LOWER EVANS	809	Bear Branch	0	0	0	0	1	1	NO	Steep, narrow road. Recent power line tmts have improved condition; needs more work
LOWER EVANS	826	W Evans Rd	0	0	2	0	0	2	NO	
LOWER EVANS	826	Camelback	0	0	2	0	0	2	NO	
LOWER EVANS	826	E Evans - Trimble Crk	3	0	0	0	0	3	NO	Access roads opposite 4955 and 5373 need work. High risk area is 4050 to 4980.
LOWER EVANS	860	Fielder Crk	3	2	2	0	1	8	NO	
LOWER EVANS	861	Manzanita Dr.	3	2	2	0	1	8	YES	
LOWER EVANS	861	Earhart Rd	3	2	0	0	1	6	NO	
LOWER EVANS	861	Hidden Valley Dr.	3	2	0	0	1	6	NO	
LOWER EVANS	861	W. Evans Rd.	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
MAY-SYKES	619	Sykes Crk	3	2	0?	0	1	6	YES	
MAY-SYKES	636	May Crk	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
MAY-SYKES	677	E Evans Rd-Maple Crk Mission Bell	0	0	0	2	0	2	YES	A lot of extended acreage work done
MAY-SYKES	685	E Evans-Upper W Evans Jct Mission Bell Central	0	0	0	2	0	2	YES	
MAY-SYKES	693	Ramsey Canyon Rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	No Dwellings
MAY-SYKES	725	E Evans Rd-McConville Gulch	0	0	0	2	1	3	NO	
MAY-SYKES	729	E Evans Rd-Murphy Gulch	0	0	0	0	1	1	NO	
PLEASANT	479	Upper Pleasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	Wildland – no dwellings
PLEASANT	560	Rt Fk Pleasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	One dwelling
PLEASANT	587	Pleasant Crk Rd	3	0	0	2	1	6	YES	
PLEASANT	622	Ditch Crk Rd	0	0	0	0	1?	1	NO	
PLEASANT	628	Battle Mtn Rd	0	0	2	2	1	5	YES	Battle Mtn group designed landscape project – not funded under NFP

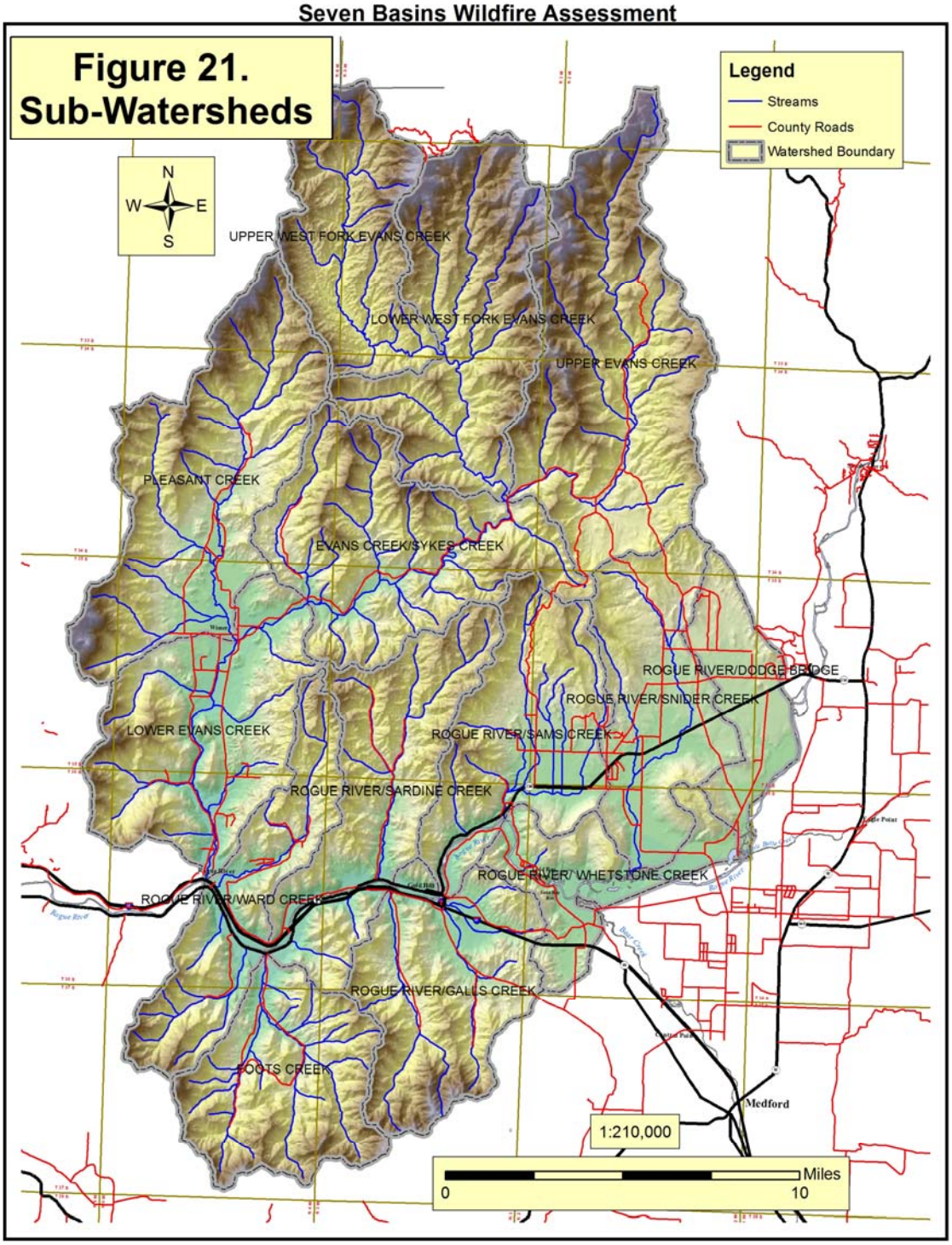
HUC 6th / SPA	HUC 7th	Neighborhood	High Hazard/ Risk?	Fire District Priority?	BLM tie?	Out of district?	One way in/out	Rating	Neighbor-hood Planning?	Notes
PLEASANT	654	Pleasant Crk Rd – Lwr Ditch Creek Rd – Upper Ford Rd.	3	0	0	0	0	3	NO	Note: ODF (Travis Ryan) field checked extended acreage treatment needs in much of this area – while overstocked, ladder fuels treated or not excessive. Access rd. opposite 4620 Pleasant Crk Rd needs work.
PLEASANT	722	W Evans Rd	3	0	0	0	0	3	YES	3280 to Ditch Crk Jct, east side of road between road & creek
PLEASANT	654	Ford Rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
PLEASANT	722	Pleasant Crk Rd Flats	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
PLEASANT	736	Pleasant – Dixie Gulch Rd	0	0	0	0	1	1	NO	
PLEASANT	748	Queens Branch	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES	
PLEASANT	775	Wimer	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES	
SAMS	735	Ramsey Canyon	0	2	0	2	0	4	NO	
SAMS	772	Rock Crk-Duggan Rd	3	0	0	0	1	4	NO	
SAMS	772	McDonough Rd	3	0	0	0	1	4	NO	
SAMS	828	Holcomb Springs Rd	3	0	2	0	1	6	YES	Cooperative project nearing completion
SAMS	828	Sams Crk Rd	0	2	0	0	1	3	NO	Possible access road work per FD #3
SAMS	859	Water Gulch	0	0	0	0	1	1	NO	High composite risk; high fuel hazard; few dwellings
SAMS	879	Gold Nugget	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
SAMS	891	Upper River Rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES	
SARDINE	759	Upper Rt Fk	3	0	2	0	1	6	YES	3 dwellings part of Lwr Rt Fk/3 Out of District
SARDINE	790	Middle Fk	3	0	2	0	1	6	YES	5 dwellings part of Lwr Rt Fk
SARDINE	813	Left Fk	3	0	0	2	1	6	YES	
SARDINE	835	Lwr Rt Fk	3	0	2	0	1	6	YES	
SARDINE	866	Lwr Sardine	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
SARDINE	903	N River Rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
SARDINE	939	W Gold Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	

HUC 6th / SPA	HUC 7th	Neighborhood	High Hazard/ Risk?	Fire District Priority?	BLM tie?	Out of district?	One way in/out	Rating	Neighbor-hood Planning?	Notes
SARDINE	987	Valley of Rogue	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
SARDINE	988	Millers Gulch	0	0	2	0	1	3	YES	Possible BLM access road treatments
SARDINE	903	Profetta Ln.-Rock Pt	0	0	2	0	1	3	YES	Completed access road project
SNIDER	702	Upper Meadows Rd	0	0	2	2	0	4	YES	Part of neighborhood in Upper Evans SPA
SNIDER	702	Antioch Rd	0	0	2	0	0	2	NO	Part of neighborhood in Upper Evans SPA
SNIDER	702	Mid Meadows	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES	
SNIDER	765	Valley Vista	3	CHECK	0	0	0	3	NO	
SNIDER	765	Perry Rd/234	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
UPPER EVANS	323	Upper Evans	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	No dwelling/wildland
UPPER EVANS	391	Upper Evans-Wolf Cr	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	No dwelling/wildland
UPPER EVANS	435	Upper Evans-Coal Cr	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	No dwelling/wildland
UPPER EVANS	439	Upper Evans-Upper	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	No dwelling/wildland
UPPER EVANS	449	Upper Evans-Morrison Cr	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
UPPER EVANS	492	Upper Evans-Chapman Cr	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
UPPER EVANS	513	Upper Evans-Middle	0	0	0	2	0	2	NO	
UPPER EVANS	546	Upper Evans-Lwr	0	0	0	2	0	2	NO	
UPPER EVANS	553	Upper Evans-Canon Cr	0	0	0	2	0	2	NO	
UPPER EVANS	569	Upper Evans-Sprignette	0	0	0	2	0	2	NO	
UPPER EVANS	614	Upper Evans-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	No Dwellings
UPPER EVANS	632	Upper Evans-Mystery Cr	0	0	2	2	0	4	NO	
UPPER EVANS	640	Upper Evans-Hull Mountain	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
UPPER EVANS	666	Upper Evans-ice house	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
UPPER EVANS	690	Upper Meadows	0	0	2	2	0	4	YES	Extended acreage project

HUC 6th / SPA	HUC 7th	Neighborhood	High Hazard/ Risk?	Fire District Priority?	BLM tie?	Out of district?	One way in/out	Rating	Neighbor-hood Planning?	Notes
UPPER EVANS	690	Upper Antioch	0	0	2	2	0	4	NO	
UPPER EVANS	670	Upper Ramsey	0	0	0	2	0	2	YES	
WARDS	819	Tenney Dr	3	2	0	0	1	6	NO	
WARDS	819	Wards Cr	0	0	0	0	1	1	NO	
WARDS	948	City of Rogue River	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
WARDS	958	Shefflin Gulch	0	0	2	0	1	3	NO	
WARDS	958	N River Rd	3	0	0	0	0	3	NO	Arson/composite risk
WARDS	977	Valley of the Rogue #1	3	0	0	0	0	3	NO	High composite/Continuation of N. River Road
WARDS	1001	Birdseye Crk	3	0	2	0	1	6	NO	Upper portion high risk/High proportion of red homes
WHETSTONE	878	Tablerock	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	
WHETSTONE	893	Gold Ray	0	0	0	0	1	1	NO	Fire district working closely with homeowners association
WHETSTONE	896	Tolo Rd-Gold Rey Dam	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	Needs to be looked at

5.0 SUB-WATERSHED SUMMARIES

The following section summarizes pertinent information for each of the 12 sub-watersheds (6th field) in the Seven Basins that we evaluated (figure 21). Two sub-watersheds, Upper West Fork Evans Creek and Lower West Fork Evans Creek, were not evaluated, since they lie largely outside the WUI.



5.1 Birdseye-Wards Creek Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 14,547 acre sub-watershed lies just to the south and east of Rogue River. Land use is primarily forest and rural residential, with some agricultural use near the Rogue River.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Vegetation includes mixed conifer and mixed evergreen (hardwood dominated) forests. Fuels are moderate to heavy throughout much of the area, although there are pasture and open fields in some areas along the valley bottom. Topography along the valley bottom is gentle, with steep slopes arising on either side.

Ownership: Ownership is 43% BLM and 57% private.

SB 360: 3,120 acres (all in extreme risk category) and 475 dwellings (6.6 acres average lot size).

Structural Fire Protection: Fire District #1. There are no out-of-district residences in this sub-watershed.

Fuels Reduction:

BLM: Fuels reduction work is completed and more is planned on Birdseye Creek.

Private: 23 cost-share projects. (16 homesites, 3 homesites + and 4 fuels reduction)

Defensible space: 38 homesites surveyed (8% of the total in this sub-watershed) 26 "green"(68%), and 12 "red".

Sample Neighborhood Summaries

Neighborhood	Birdseye
Neighborhood planning	None
Neighborhood concerns	
Defensible space	26G, 12R (68%)
Ingress/egress	One way in and out canyon
Safety zones/water/bridges/etc.	None
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Needed
Landscape fuels treatment needs	Needed
Notes/other	

Recommendations:

1. Defensible space: Promote defensible space work.
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. Neighborhoods with high risk ratings are Tenney Dr., North River Rd., Valley of the Rogue #1 and Birdseye Creek. Priority Neighborhoods: Tenney Dr. (6) and Birdseye Creek (6).
3. Landscape: None

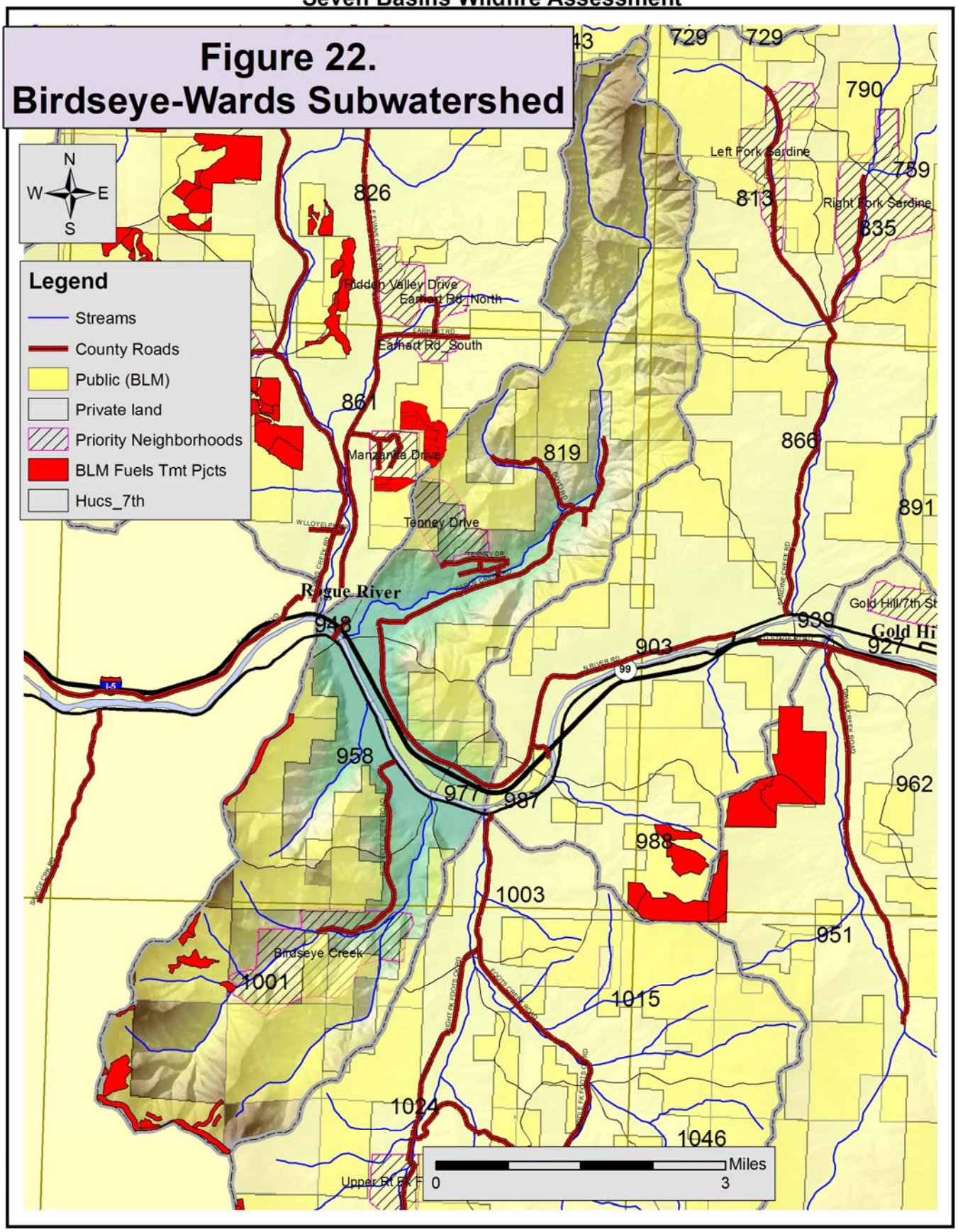


Figure 22.
Birdseye-Wards Subwatershed
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
BLM Fuels Tmt Pjcts
Hucs_7th
729
729
790
Left Fork Sardine
759
813
Right Fork Sardine
835
826
Hidden Valley Drive
Earhart Rd_North
Earhart Rd_South
861
819
866
Manzanita Drive
891
Tenney Drive
Rogue River
948
939
903
927
Gold Hill/7th St
99
I-5
958
977
987
962
988
1003
951
Birdseye Creek
1001
1015
1024
1046
Miles
0
3

5.2 Dodge Bridge Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 8,268 acre sub-watershed is one of the smaller in the watershed. Located on the northeastern edge of Sams Valley, land use in the sub-watershed is primarily rural residential.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Vegetation in the lower reaches includes pastureland and open areas, with oak woodland on lower slopes and mixed conifer-hardwood forests on the ridge on the west-side of the area, as well as on hill slopes to the north. Topography is gentle.

Ownership: Ownership is 6% BLM and 94 % private.

SB 360: 1,726 acres (1366 extreme risk category, 360 high risk category) and 196 dwellings (8.8 acre average lot size).

Structural Fire Protection: Fire District #3. There is 1 out-of-district residence in this sub-watershed.

Fuels Treatments: BLM has no fuels treatment projects in this sub-watershed.

Private: A private 42 acre fuels reduction project has been completed in the sub-watershed. No neighborhood Neighborhood projects are planned at this time. 8 cost-share projects (7 homesites, 1 fuels reduction).

Defensible Space: No surveys have been completed. Anecdotal information suggestions that most residents in SB 360 High or Extreme Risk zones have completed defensible space work.

Sample Neighborhood Summaries

Neighborhood	Jones Rd.
Neighborhood planning	Completed; Active
Neighborhood concerns	Ridge to west of neighborhood (treated spring 2005)
Defensible space	
Ingress/egress	Multiple way in and out neighborhood
Safety zones/water/bridges/other	2 water sources identified
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Low
Landscape fuels treatment needs	Low
Notes/other	

Recommendations:

1. Defensible space: Promote defensible space work.
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. High priority neighborhoods: none
3. Landscape: none

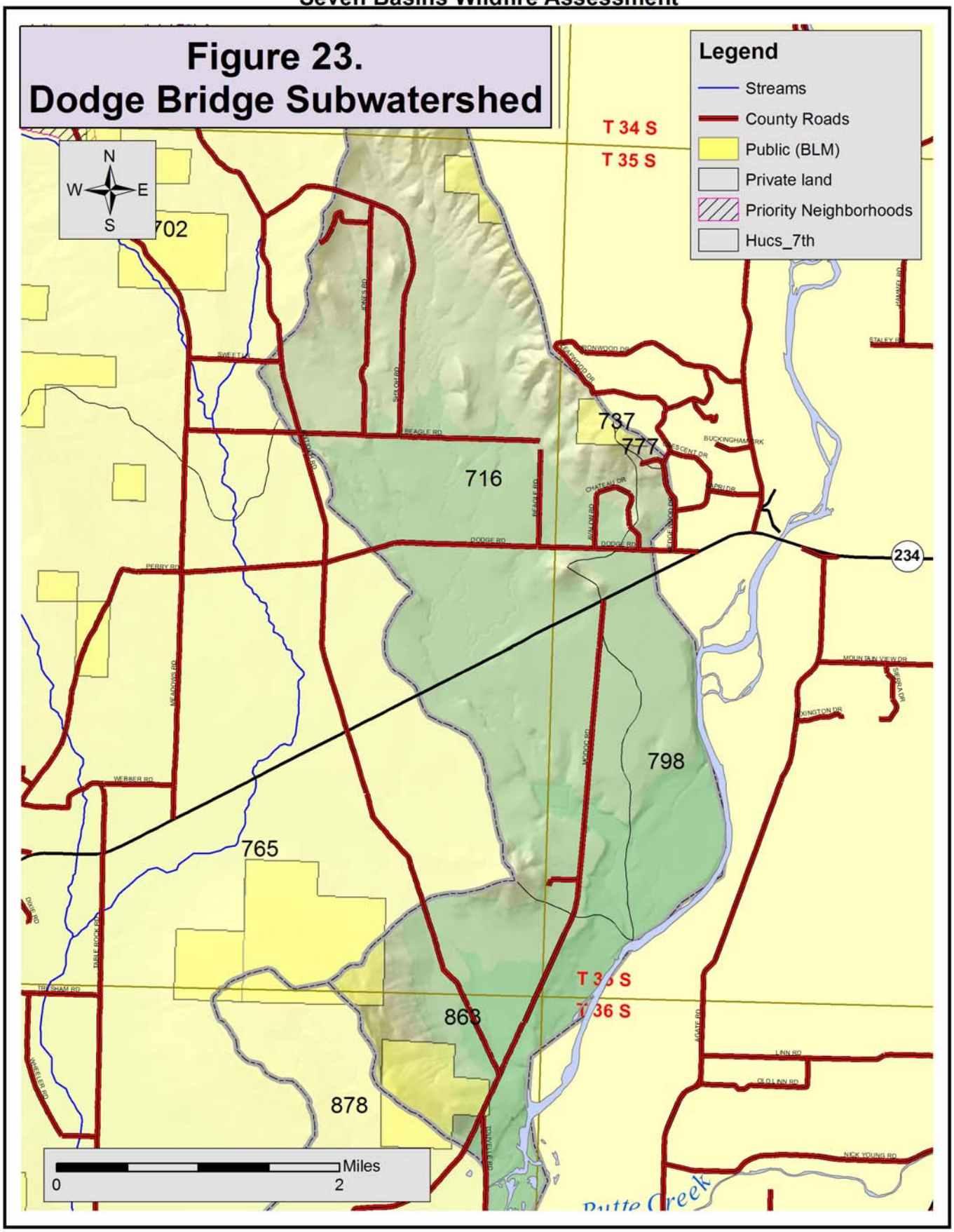


Figure 23.
Dodge Bridge Subwatershed
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
Hucs_7th
N
W
E
S
T 34 S
T 35 S
T 36 S
702
716
737
777
798
765
863
878
234
DODGE RD
BEAGLE RD
PERRY RD
WEBBER RD
Miles
0
2
Butte Creek

5.3 Foots Creek Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 16,497 acre sub-watershed lies to the south of the Rogue River. Land use is rural residential and small-scale agriculture on the valley bottom, with mixed forest/rural residential on lower slopes and forest use on upper slopes.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Vegetation includes mixed conifer forests, mixed evergreen forests, and brush fields, with pastureland and open fields on the valley bottoms. Topography varies from gentle to very steep. Fuel loads are moderate to heavy.

Ownership: The general land ownership pattern is non-industrial private land on the valley bottom and lower slopes with intermingled BLM and private forest industry lands on the hill slopes and ridge tops. Ownership is 36% BLM and 64% private.

SB 360: 3,329 acres (all extreme risk), 316 dwellings (10.5 acre average lot size).

Structural Fire Protection Fire District #1. There are 4 out-of-district residences.

Fuels Treatments:
BLM has 2,417 acres of fuels reduction treatment planned for this sub-watershed.

Private: 30 cost share projects (21 homesite, 9 fuels reduction).

Defensible Space: 117 homesites surveyed (37% of total in sub-watershed) 116 "green" 1 "red" (99% green).

Sample Neighborhood Summaries

Neighborhood	Left Fork Foots Creek
Neighborhood Planning	Fire Plan completed
Neighborhood concerns	Fuels, evacuation, road blocks
Defensible space	116G, 1R (99%)
Ingress/egress	One way in and out canyon.
Safety zones/water/bridges	Safety zone established by fire district
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Low, but some work needed
Landscape fuels treatment needs	Section of lower east side of left fork is high priority for fire district.
Notes/other	

Recommendations:
1. Defensible space: Promote defensible space work.
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. The neighborhood with a high risk rating is Upper Right Fork Foots Creek. High priority neighborhoods: Upper Right Fork Foots Creek (6).
3. Landscape: BLM projects address some landscape-level fuels management concerns.

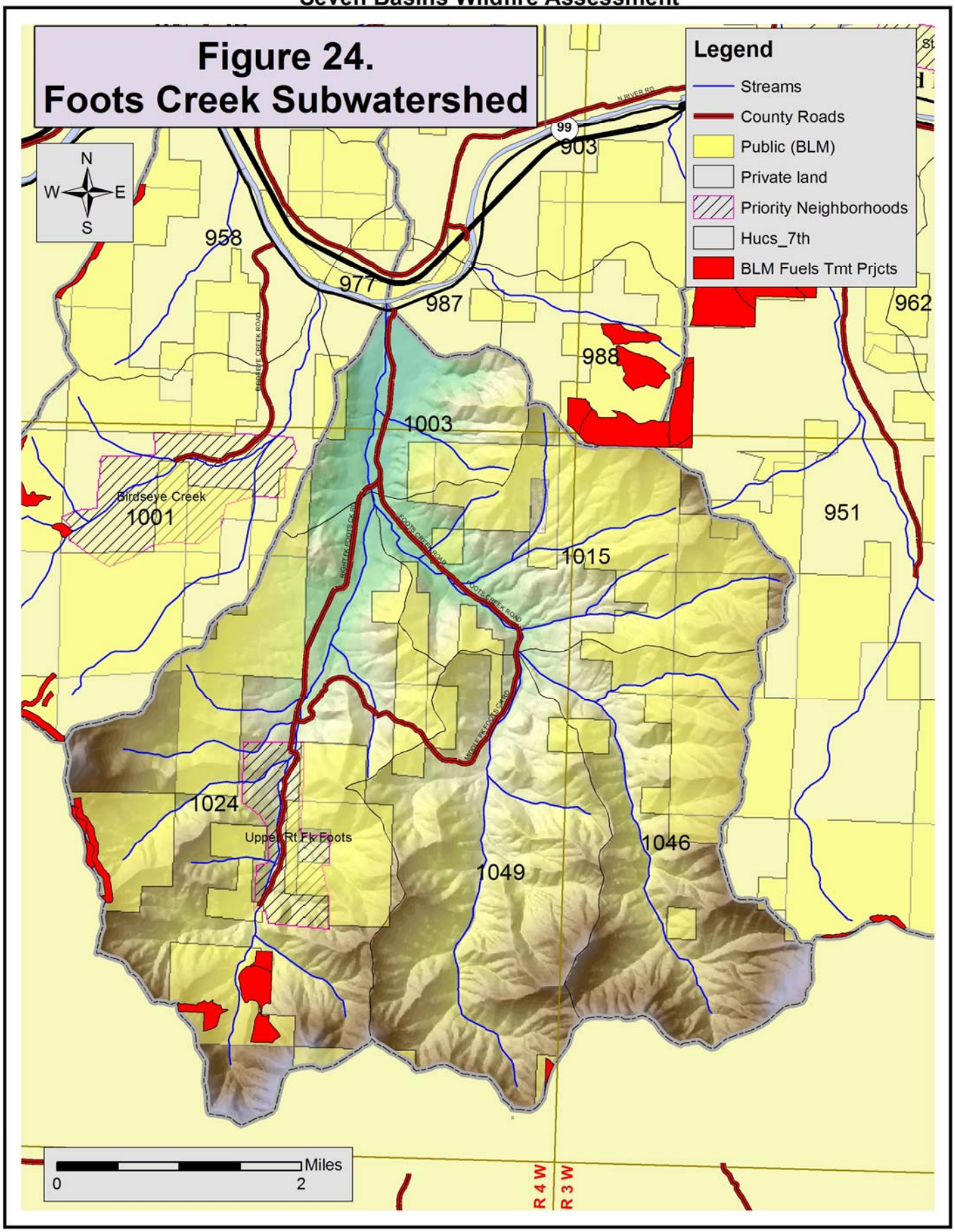


Figure 24.
Foots Creek Subwatershed
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
Hucs_7th
BLM Fuels Tmt Prjcts
N
W
E
S
99
903
958
977
987
962
988
1003
951
Birdseye Creek
1001
1015
1024
Upper Rt Fk Foots
1046
1049
Miles
0
2
R 4 W
R 3 W

5.4 Galls Creek Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 18,572 acre sub-watershed includes the Galls and Kane Creek watersheds and a small area north of the Rogue River. Land use is rural residential and small-scale agriculture on the valley bottom, with mixed forest/rural residential on lower slopes and forest use on upper slopes.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Vegetation in the lower reaches includes pastureland and open areas, with dense, hardwood-dominated forests on many lower slopes and mixed conifer forests (Douglas-fir dominated) at higher reaches. There has been considerable mortality of lower elevation Douglas-fir in recent years.

Ownership: Ownership is 28% BLM and 72% private.

SB 360: 3,780 acres (2,872 acres extreme risk category, 908 acres moderate to high risk category) and 755 dwellings (five dwellings per acre, among the most densely populated areas in the watershed).

Structural Fire Protection: Fire District #1 (Galls Creek), Fire District #3 (Kane Creek). There are 33 out-of-district residences.

Fuels Treatments:
BLM has completed 969 acres of fuels reduction treatments and has another 1,289 acres planned in this sub-watershed.

Private: 19 cost-share projects (13 homesite, 1 homesite+, 5 fuels reduction).

Defensible Space: Of 59 homesites surveyed along Galls Creek (8% of the total in the sub-watershed), 53 were "green", and 6 were "red"(90% green). Fire District 3 has done extensive defensible space work in the Kane Creek and Glen Echo neighborhoods.

Sample Neighborhood Summaries

Neighborhood	Galls Creek
Neighborhood planning	Completed
Neighborhood concerns	Evacuation, fuels
Defensible space	53G, 8R (90%)
Ingress/egress	One way in and out canyon
Safety zone	None needed per fire district
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Low
Landscape fuels treatment needs	BLM project will address these needs

Recommendations:
1. Defensible space: Promote defensible space work.
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. The neighborhoods with high risk ratings are City of Gold Hill (7th Street), Blackwell Road and Old Stage Road. High priority neighborhoods: City of Gold Hill- 7th Street (5).
3. Landscape: BLM project will address landscape-level concerns.

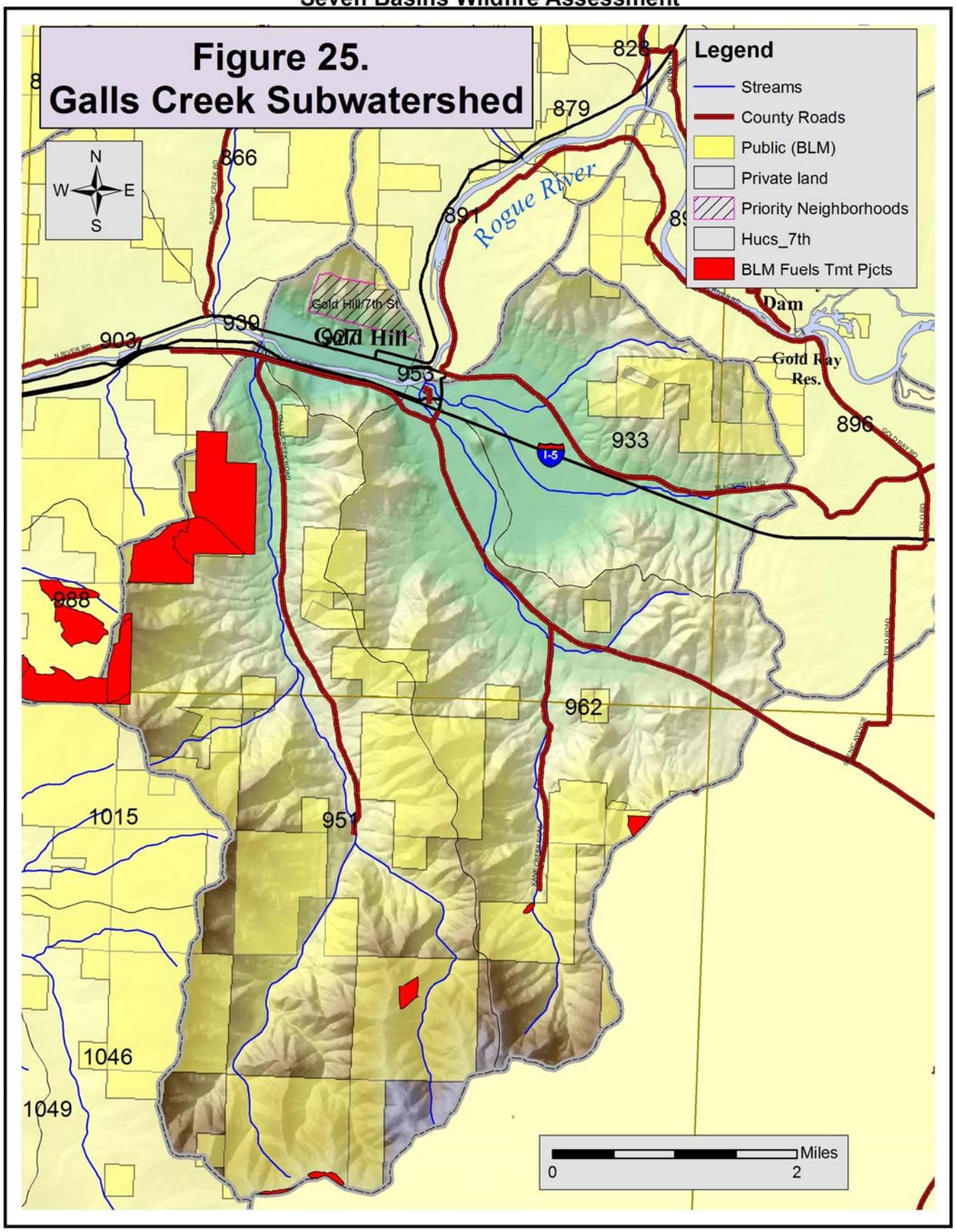


Figure 25.
Galls Creek Subwatershed
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
Hucs_7th
BLM Fuels Tmt Pjcts
N
W
E
S
Rogue River
Gold Hill
Gold Hill7th St
Dam
Gold Ray Res.
I-5
828
879
866
891
903
939
953
933
896
888
962
1015
951
1046
1049
Miles
0
2

5.5 Lower Evans Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 21,750 acre sub-watershed includes the lower half of Evans Valley and the town of Rogue River. Land use is primarily forest and rural residential, with small amounts of urban and agriculture.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Vegetation includes mixed conifer and mixed evergreen (hardwood dominated) forests. Portions of the east side of the watershed burned in the East Evans Creek fire 1992. Fuels are moderate to heavy throughout much of the area, although there are pasture and open fields in some areas along the valley bottom. Topography along the valley bottom is gentle, with steep slopes arising on either side.

Ownership. The general land ownership pattern is non-industrial private on the valley bottom with intermingled BLM and private forest industry lands on the hill slopes. Ownership is 25% BLM and 75% private.

SB 360: 7,994 acres (all extreme risk category) and 1,052 dwellings (7.6 acres average lot size).

Structural Fire Protection: Lower half of sub-watershed is Fire District #1; upper half is Fire District #6. There are 8 out-of-district residences in the sub-watershed.

Fuels Treatments:
BLM: 697 acres of fuels reduction treatments are completed in the sub-watershed. Another 160 acres are planned near the Manzanita neighborhood.

Private: 45 acre Manzanita Neighborhood project is tentatively planned for fall 2005. 57 cost-share projects are completed (44 homesites, 2 homesites with Neighborhood, 11 fuels reduction).

Defensible Space:
142 homesites were surveyed (13% of the total in the sub-watershed), 131 "green," 11 "red" (92% green). Surveyed neighborhoods ranged from 68% "green" to 100% "green."

Neighborhood Summaries

Neighborhood	East Evans Creek Rd.
Neighborhood planning	None
Neighborhood concerns	None identified to date
Defensible space	32G, 3R (91%)
Ingress/egress	Multiple ways in and out. Several private roads on East side need work.
Safety zones/waters/bridges/other	None Identified
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Some areas need work.
Landscape fuels treatment needs	Low
Notes/other	3rd tier priority for fire district

Neighborhood	Earhart
Neighborhood planning	None
Neighborhood concerns	None identified yet
Defensible space	36G, 0R (100%)
Ingress/egress	Multiple ways in and out.
Safety zones/water/bridges/other	None identified
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Draw South of rd. needs work
Landscape fuels treatment needs	Low
Notes/other	

Neighborhood	Fielder
Neighborhood planning	None
Neighborhood concerns	None identified to date
Defensible space	19G, 8R (70%)
Ingress/egress	One way in and out canyon. Needs roadside work and many driveways need treatment.
Safety zones/water/bridges/other	None identified
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Needs work in/near riparian zone. Often very dense fuels beyond limited area treated near homesites.
Landscape fuels treatment needs	High to extreme fire hazard areas upslope on BLM/industry.
Notes/other	2nd tier priority for fire district

Neighborhood	Manzanita
Neighborhood planning	In progress
Neighborhood concerns	Evacuation safety and heavy fuels at the Neighborhood and landscape level.
Defensible space	44G, 0R (100%)
Ingress/egress	One way in and one way out steep hillside.
Safety zones/water/bridges/other	None identified
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Heavy fuels beyond defensible space, work needed.
Landscape fuels treatment needs	BLM fuels reduction project to begin fall 2005 above neighborhood.
Notes/other	1st tier priority for fire district Project underway on private land –see figure 26-1 for project map

Neighborhood	Queens Branch
Neighborhood Fire Planning	Completed
Neighborhood concerns	Evacuation safety, shared driveways
Defensible space	94G, 1R (99%)
Ingress/egress	Multiple way in and out
Saftety zones/water/bridges/other	None
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Some areas of heavy flash fuels beyond defensible space, some work needed.
Landscape fuels treatment needs	Low
Notes/other	

Recommendations:

1. Defensible Space. Continue promoting defensible space work, including maintenance. More than 90% of homesites overall are "green," although this varies by neighborhood.
2. Neighborhood. Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. The neighborhoods with high risk ratings are Fielder and Manzanita. High priority neighborhoods: Fielder (8), Manzanita (8), Earhart (6) and Hidden Valley Dr. (6). Access issues: Lower portions of Forest Hills Drive and the next major private access road to the north (east side of road) need treatment.
3. Landscape: Develop strategies to address large fires through landscape-scale fuels reduction treatments and identification of tactical opportunities.

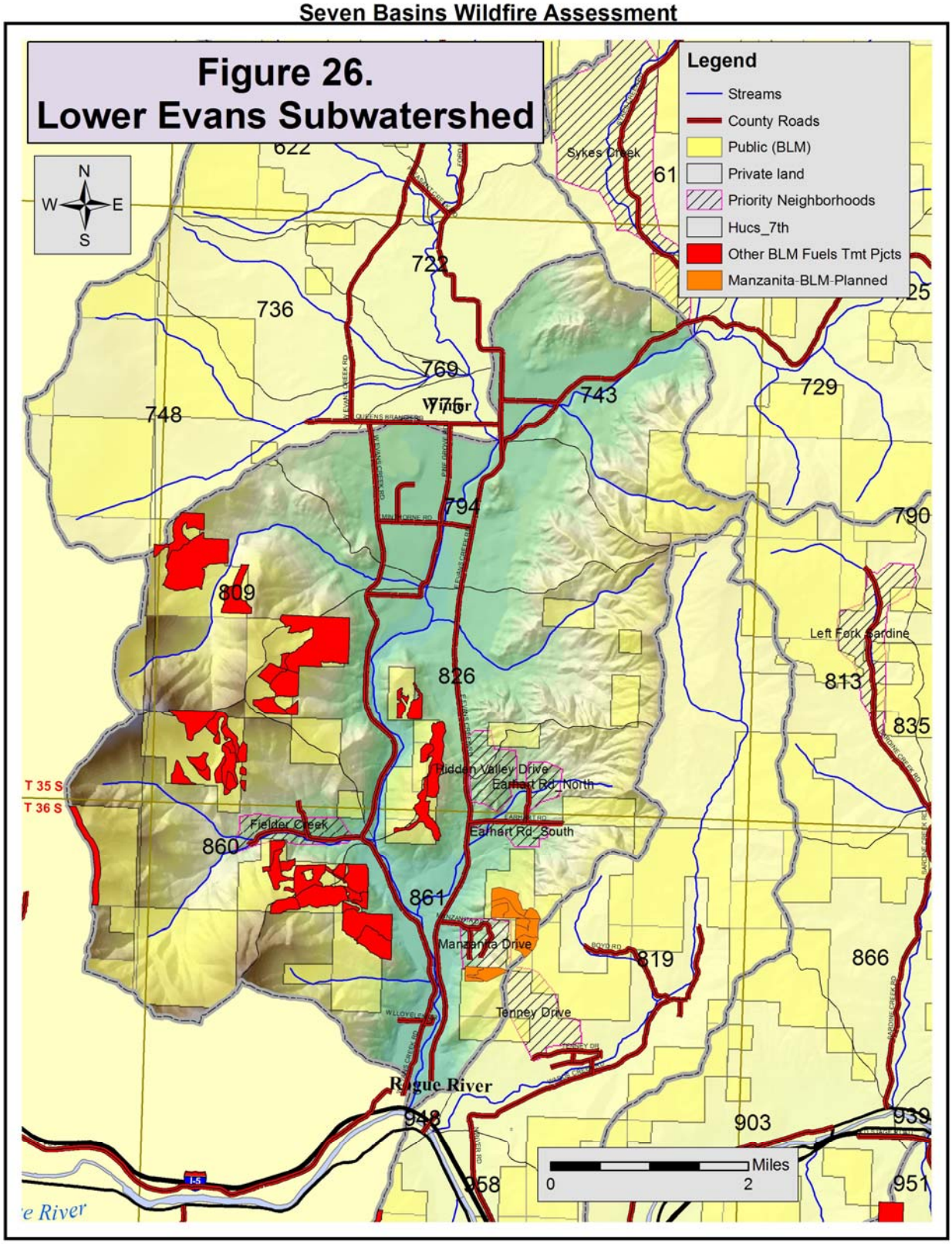
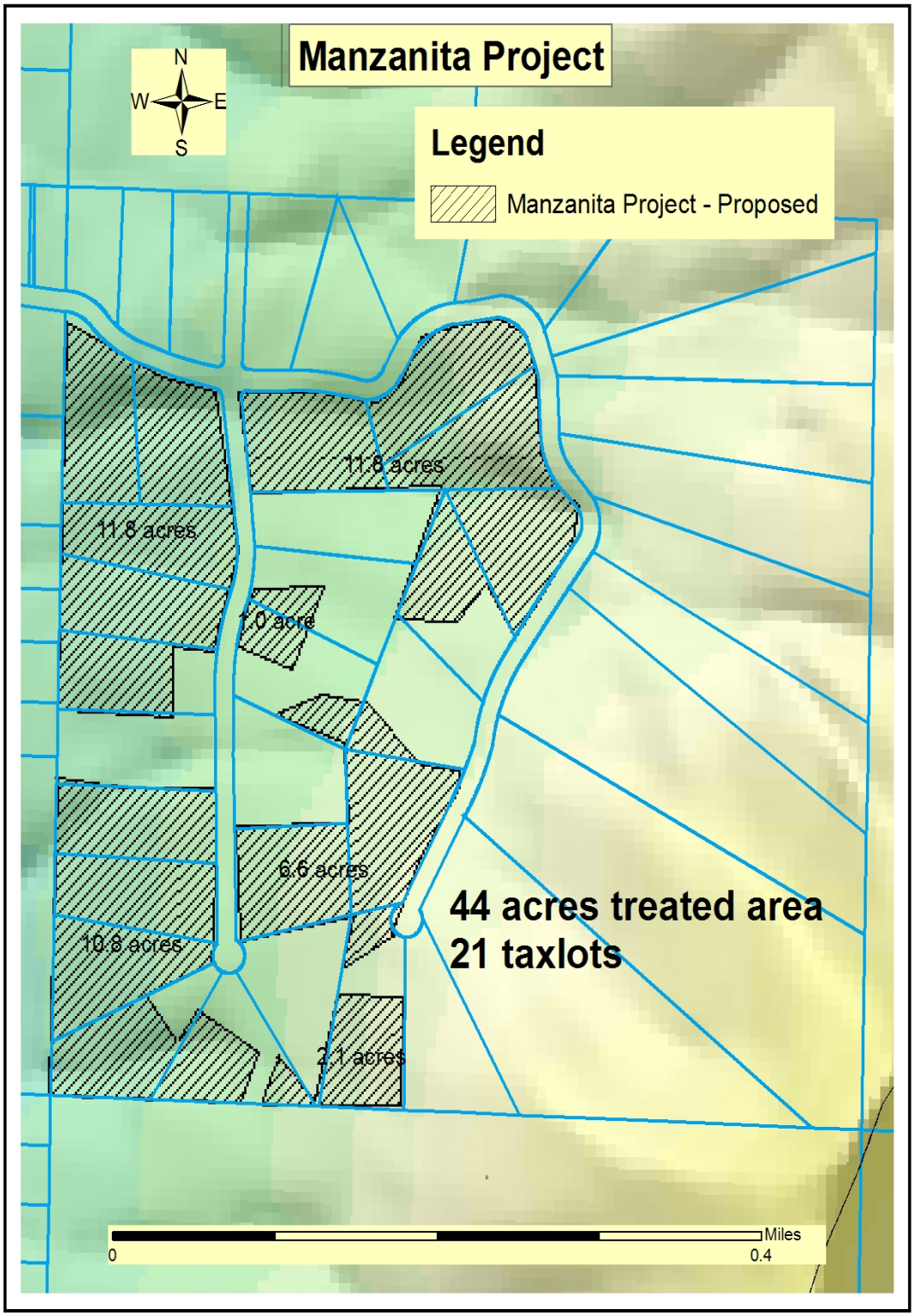


Figure 26.
Lower Evans Subwatershed
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
Hucs_7th
Other BLM Fuels Tmt Pjcts
Manzanita-BLM-Planned
N
W
E
S
622
722
736
769
775
748
743
729
794
790
809
826
813
835
860
861
819
866
903
939
948
958
951
Sykes Creek
Left Fork Sardine
Hidden Valley Drive
Earhart Rd. North
Earhart Rd. South
Fielder Creek
Manzanita Drive
Tenney Drive
Rogue River
T 35 S
T 36 S
I-5
Miles
0
2

Seven Basins Wildfire Assessment



5.6 May - Sykes Creek Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 23,823 acre sub-watershed is mostly in forest and rural residential use.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Vegetation includes mixed conifer and mixed evergreen (hardwood dominated) forests. Fuels are moderate to heavy throughout much of the area, although there are pasture and open fields in some areas along the valley bottom. Topography along the valley bottom is gentle, with steep slopes arising on either side. A significant portion of the watershed was burned in the 1988 Sykes Creek fire; that area is now dominated by brush and hardwoods.

Ownership: Ownership is 48% BLM and 52% private.

SB 360: 2,845 acres (all extreme risk category) and 163 dwellings (17.5 acres average lot size).

Structural Fire Protection: Fire District # 6. There are18 out-of-district residences in this sub-watershed.

Fuels Treatments:
BLM has no fuels reduction projects planned for this sub-watershed.

Private: 8 cost-share projects (7 homesites, 1 fuels reduction; Job Council access road project completed on Sykes Creek.

Defensible Space: 63 homesites surveyed (39% of total in sub-watershed) 50 "green", 13 "red" (79% green)

Sample Neighborhood Summaries

Neighborhood	Sykes Creek
Neighborhood planning	Completed
Neighborhood concerns	Evacuation, landscape
Defensible space	50G, 13R (79%)
Ingress/egress	One way in and out canyon Job council access road project
Safety zones/water/bridges/etc.	None
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	High
Landscape fuels treatment needs	High
Notes/other	1st tier priority for fire district Neighborhood project underway winter 2006 – see figure 27-1 for project map

Recommendations:
1. Defensible space: Promote defensible space work
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. The neighborhood with a high risk rating is Sykes Creek. High priority neighborhoods: Sykes Creek
3. Landscape: None.

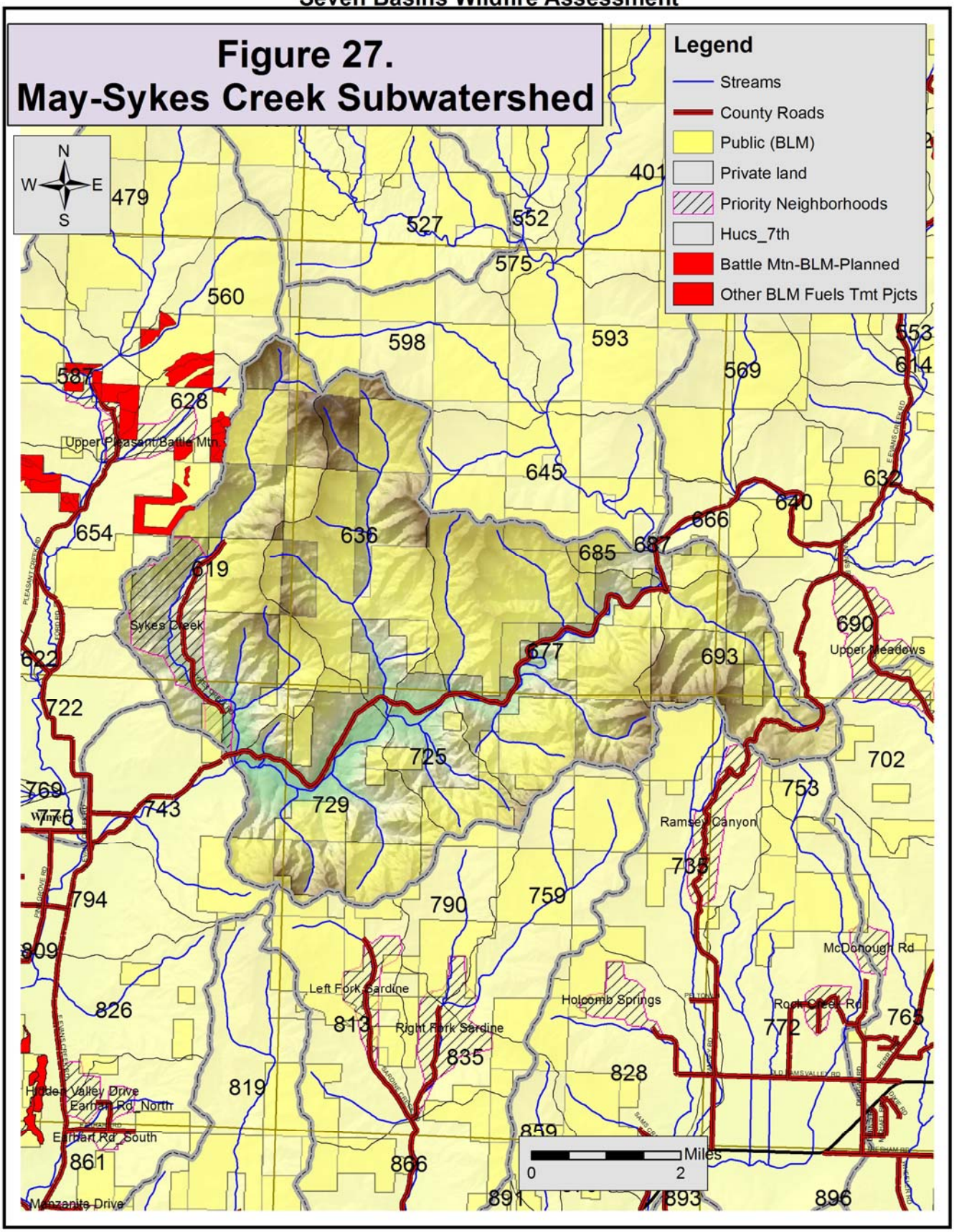


Figure 27.
May-Sykes Creek Subwatershed
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
Hucs_7th
Battle Mtn-BLM-Planned
Other BLM Fuels Tmt Pjcts
N
W
E
S
Upper Pleasant/Battle Mtn
Sykes Creek
Upper Meadows
Ramsey Canyon
Left Fork Sardine
Right Fork Sardine
Holcomb Springs
McDonough Rd
Rock Creek Rd
Hidden Valley Drive
Earhart Rd North
Earhart Rd South
Manzanite Drive
Miles
0
2

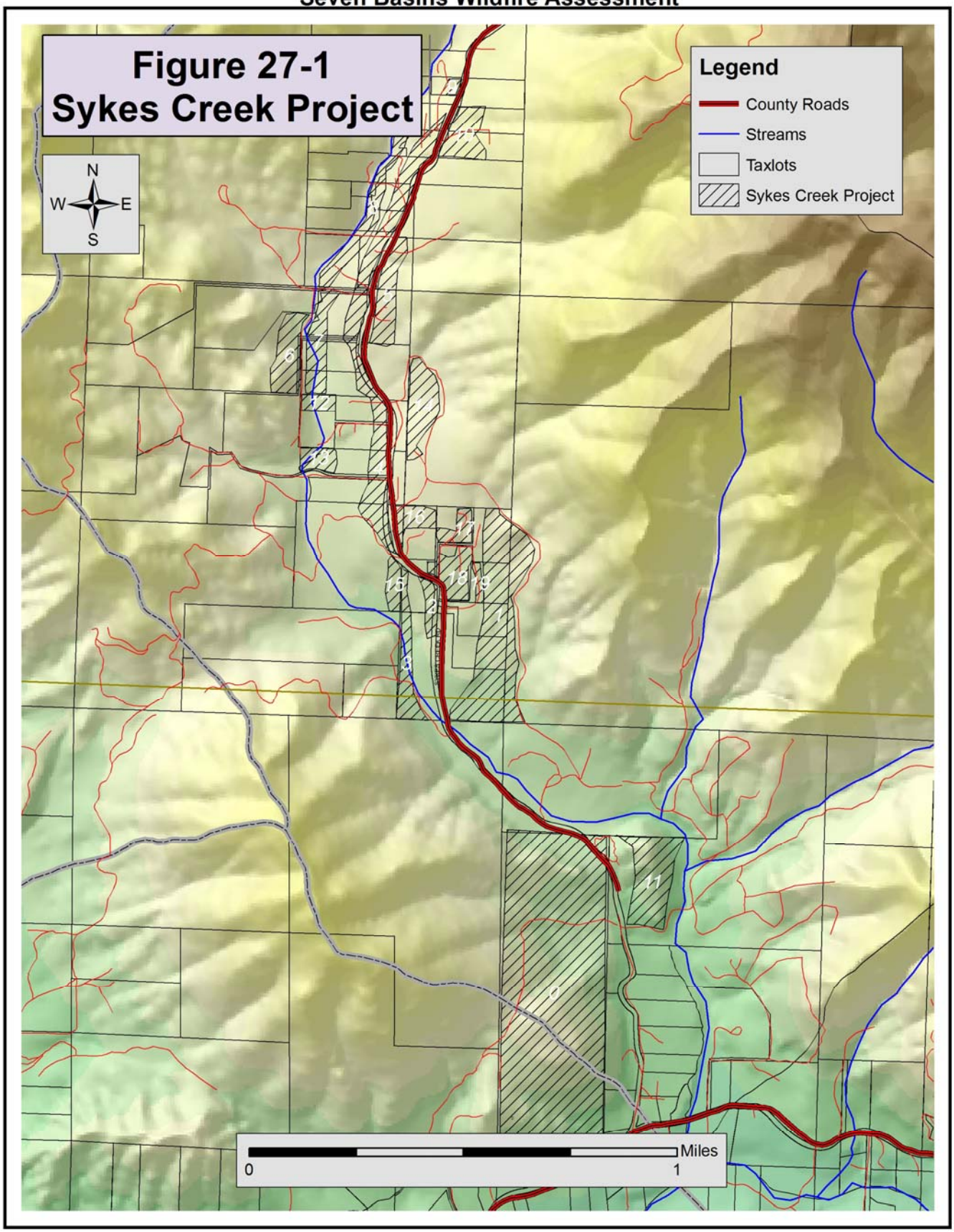


Figure 27-1
Sykes Creek Project
N
W
E
S
Legend
County Roads
Streams
Taxlots
Sykes Creek Project
Miles
0
1

5.7 Pleasant Creek Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 27,437 acre sub-watershed includes much of the rural residential area around Wimer and Pleasant Creek. Land use is primarily forest and rural residential, with small amounts of agriculture.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Vegetation includes mixed conifer and mixed evergreen (hardwood dominated) forests. Fuels are moderate to heavy throughout much of the area, although there are pasture and open fields in some areas along the valley bottom. Topography along the valley bottom is gentle, with steep slopes arising on either side.

Ownership: The general land ownership pattern is non-industrial private on the valley bottom with intermingled BLM and private forest industry lands on the hill slopes.
Ownership is 38% BLM and 62% private.

SB 360: 6,280 acres (all extreme risk category) and 527 dwellings (11.9 acres average lot size).

Structural Fire Protection: Fire District #6. There are 26 out-of-district residences.

Fuels Treatments:
BLM has planned 906 acres of fuels reduction treatments near the Battle Mountain neighborhood.

Private: 60 cost share projects (43 homesites, 10 homesite +, 7 fuels reduction).

Defensible space: 108 homesites surveyed (20%), 108 "green, 4 "red" (96% green).

Sample Neighborhood Summaries

Neighborhood	Pleasant Creek
Neighborhood planning	None
Neighborhood concerns	None identified to date
Defensible space	108G, 4R (96%)
Ingress/egress	A few driveways need treatment.
Safety zones/water/bridges/other	None identified
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Needs work
Landscape fuels treatment needs	BLM has a large fuels reduction project in the early planning stages.
Notes/other	Dixie Gulch one way in and out.

Recommendations:
1. Defensible Space: Promote defensible space work.
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. The neighborhoods with high risk ratings are Pleasant Creek Rd., Pleasant Creek Rd.- Lower Ditch Creek Rd.- Upper Ford Rd., and West Evans Creek Rd. High priority neighborhoods: Pleasant Creek Rd. (6) and Battle Mountain Rd. (5).
3. Landscape: Landscape concerns will be addressed in BLM's Pleasant-Fry project.

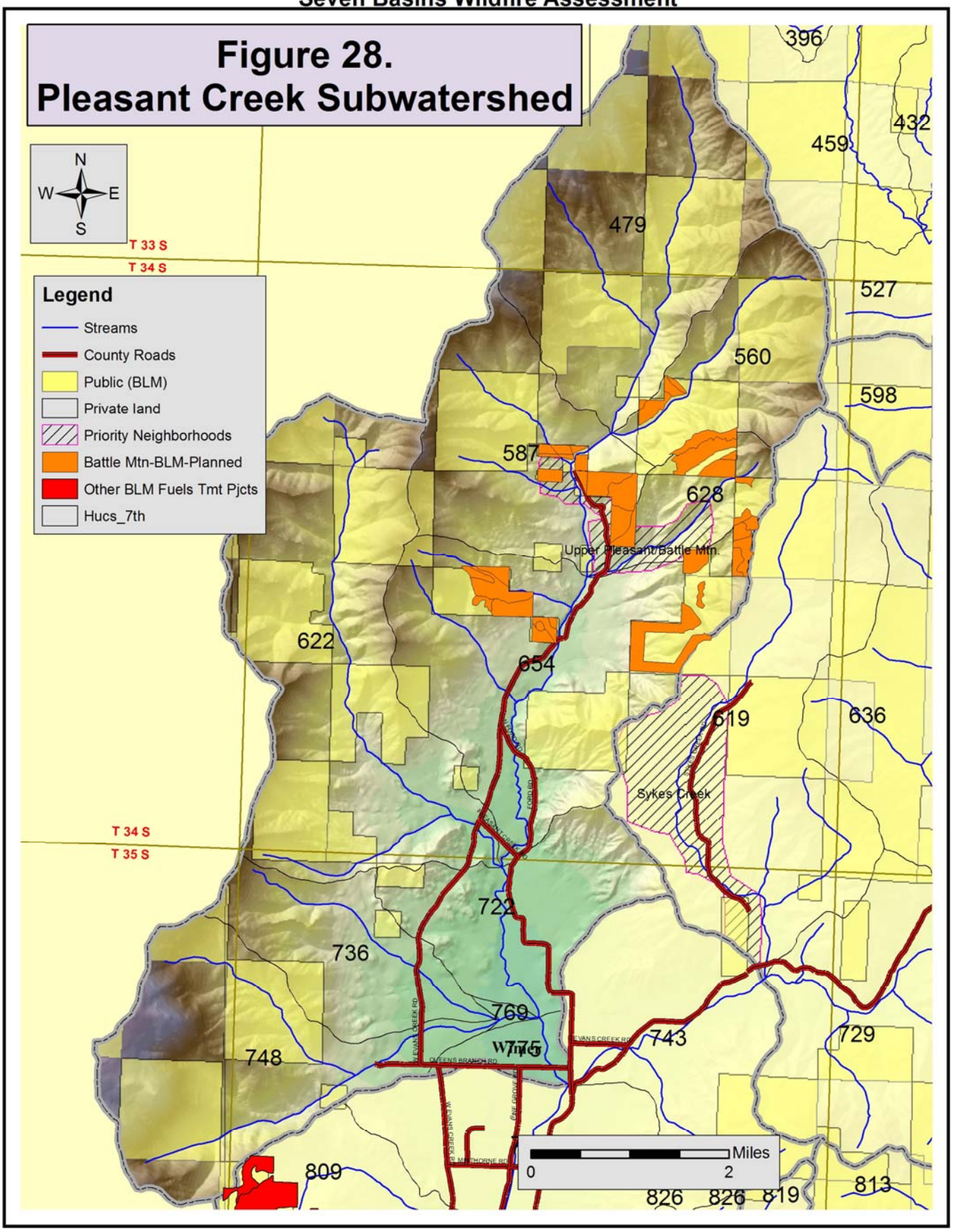


Figure 28.
Pleasant Creek Subwatershed
N
W
E
S
T 33 S
T 34 S
T 34 S
T 35 S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
Battle Mtn-BLM-Planned
Other BLM Fuels Tmt Pjcts
Hucs_7th
Upper Pleasant/Battle Mtn.
Sykes Creek
396
432
459
479
527
560
598
587
628
622
654
619
636
722
736
769
775
748
743
729
809
813
826
826
819
Miles
0
2

5.8 Sams Creek Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 18,076 acre sub-watershed is located in the western part of Sams Valley. Land use is primarily forest and rural residential, with small amounts agriculture.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Vegetation includes mixed conifer and mixed evergreen (hardwood dominated) forests. Fuels are moderate to heavy throughout much of the area, although there are pasture and open fields in some areas along the valley bottom. Topography along the valley bottom is gentle, with steep slopes arising on either side.

Ownership: Ownership is 26% BLM and 74% private.

SB 360: 3,865 acres (3,633 extreme risk category, 232 moderate to high risk category) and 310 dwellings (12.5 acres average lot size).

Structural Fire Protection: Fire District #3. There are 67 out-of-district residences.

Fuels Treatments:
BLM has a 225 acre fuels reduction project underway in the Holcomb Springs neighborhood.

Private: 6 cost-share projects (3 homesite, 2 homesite +, 1 fuels reduction). 75 acres SBNFPP project in the Holcomb Springs neighborhood.

Defensible space: 72 homesites surveyed (23% of total sub-watershed) 60 "green", 12 "red" (84% green)

Neighborhood	Holcomb Springs
Neighborhood planning	Completed
Neighborhood concerns	Landscape level hazardous fuels
Defensible space	22G, 4R (85%)
Ingress/egress	One way in and out canyon
Safety zones/water/bridges	Water source identified by fire district
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	SBNFPP project addresses many of these concerns
Landscape fuel treatment needs	BLM project addresses some concerns
Notes/other	See project figure 29-1 for project map

Recommendations:
1. Defensible space: Promote defensible space work.
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels tretments on private property. The neighborhoods with high risk ratings are Rock Creek-Duggan Rd., McDonough Rd. and Holcomb Springs Rd. 75 acres of fuels reduction was completed in 2005 in Holcomb Springs. High priority neighborhoods: Holcomb Springs Rd. (6), Ramsey Canyon (4), Rock Creek-Duggan Rd. (4), McDonough Rd. (4)
3. Landscape: 225 acres BLM treated in 2005 adjacent to Holcomb Springs

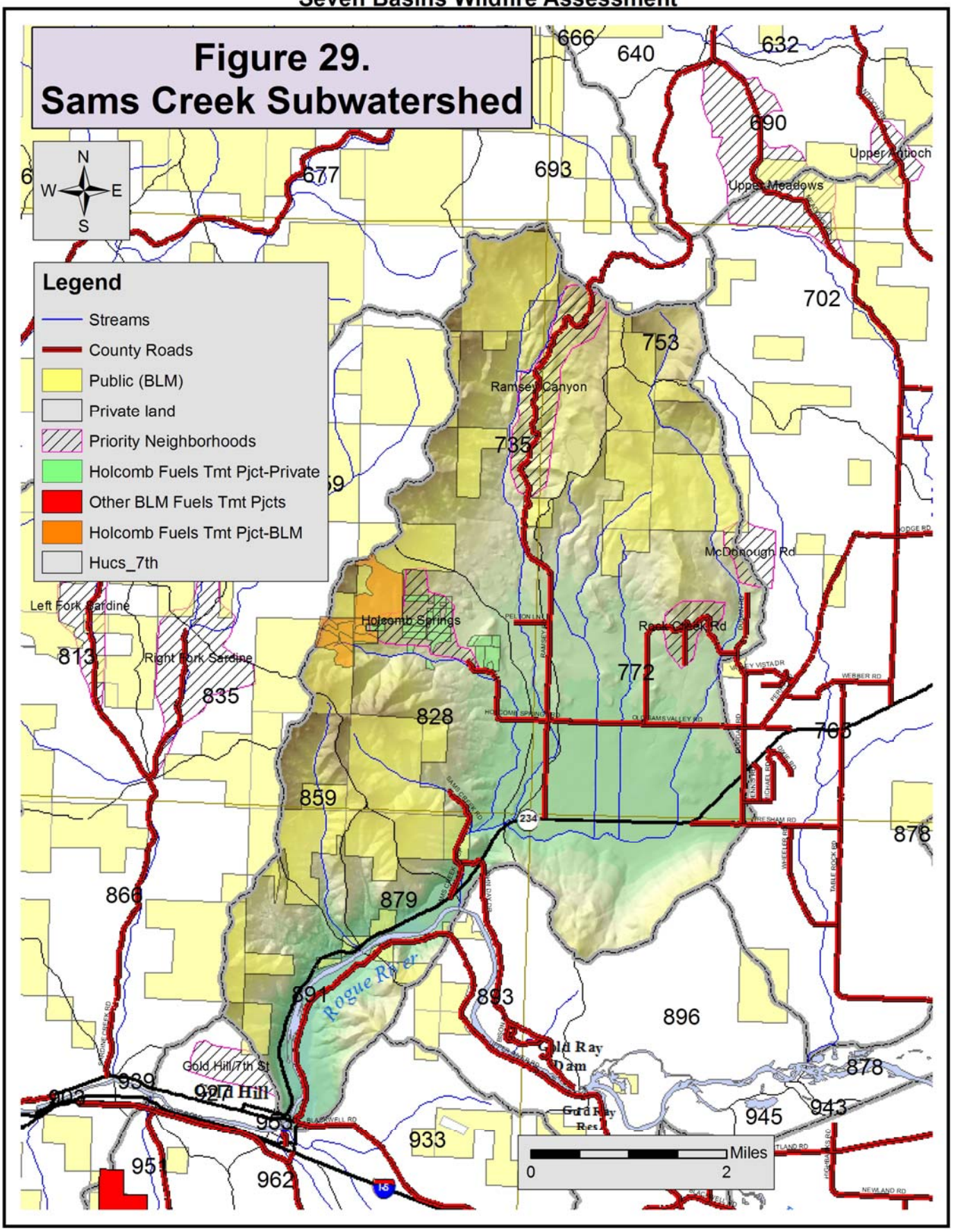


Figure 29.
Sams Creek Subwatershed
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
Holcomb Fuels Tmt Pjct-Private
Other BLM Fuels Tmt Pjcts
Holcomb Fuels Tmt Pjct-BLM
Hucs_7th
Ramsey Canyon
McDonough Rd
Holcomb Springs
Rock Creek Rd
Left Fork Sardine
Right Fork Sardine
Rogue River
Gold Ray Dam
Gold Ray Res
Gold Hill/7th St
Gold Hill
Upper Meadows
Miles
0
2

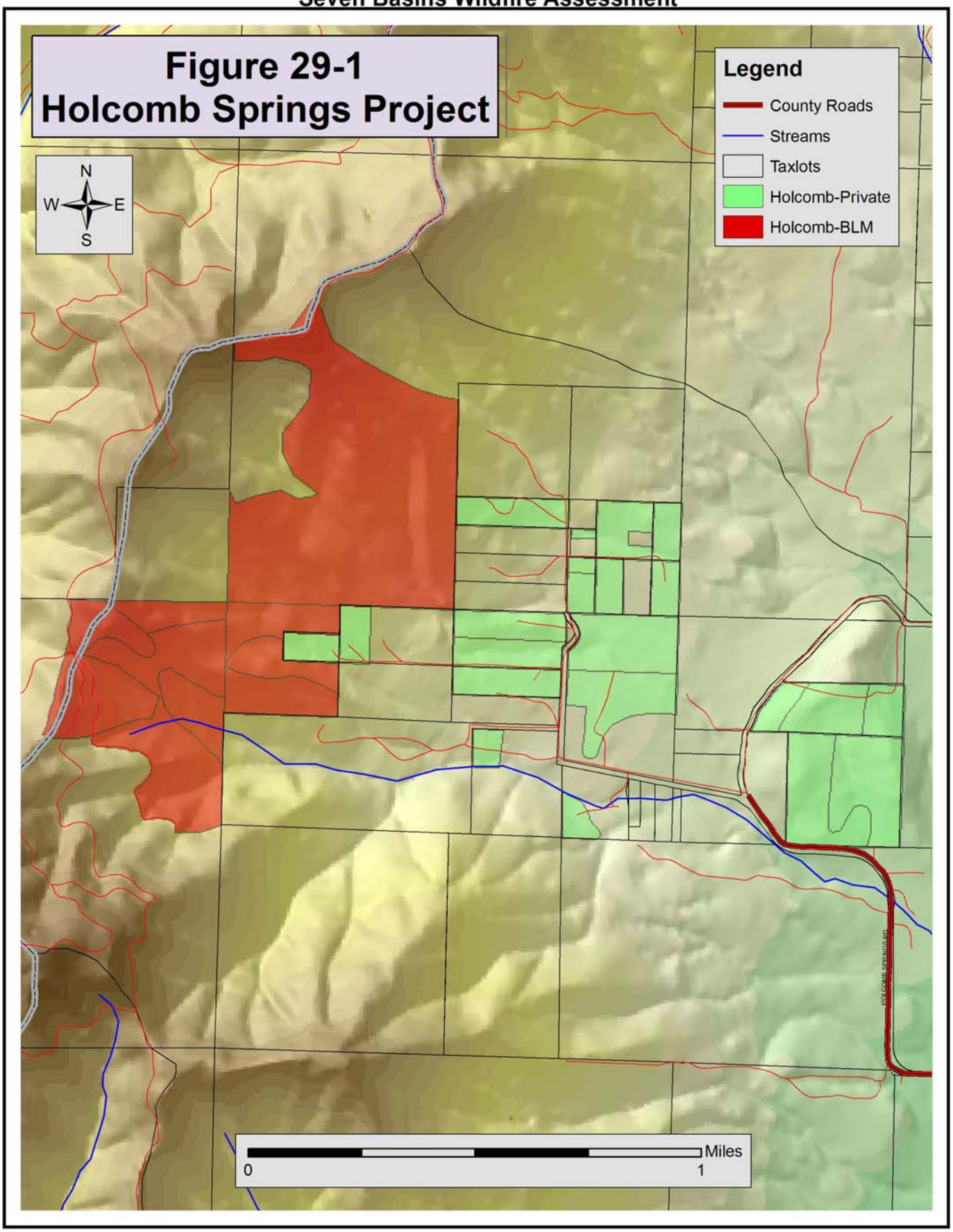


Figure 29-1
Holcomb Springs Project
N
W
E
S
Legend
County Roads
Streams
Taxlots
Holcomb-Private
Holcomb-BLM
Miles
0
1

5.9 Sardine Creek Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 19,100 acre sub-watershed includes the Sardine Creek watershed north of Gold Hill as well as a small area south of the Rogue River. Land use is primarily forest and rural residential, with small amounts of urban and agriculture.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: The lower one-fourth of the watershed is bisected by the Rogue River. Much of the watershed is steep and hilly. Brush fields, some originating from past fires, and hardwood-dominated forests predominate on southerly slopes, while Douglas-fir dominated mixed conifer forests clothe northerly slopes. There has been substantial stress-related mortality in the conifer component in recent years.

Ownership: The general land ownership pattern: Ownership is 43% BLM and 57% private.

SB 360: 2,737 acres (all extreme risk category) and 210 dwellings (13 acre average lot size).

Structural Fire Protection: Rogue River Fire District #1. There are 9 out-of-district residences in this sub-watershed

Fuels Treatments:
BLM has a fuels reduction project that is being developed for this sub-watershed.

Private: 7 cost-share projects (4 homesites, 1 homesite+, 2 fuels reduction).

Defensible Space: 33 homesites surveyed (18% of total in sub-watershed) 32 “green”, 1 “red” (97% green) Surveyed neighborhoods ranged from 97% “green” to 100% “green”.

Sample Neighborhood Summaries

Neighborhood	Profetta Lane
Neighborhood planning	Completed
Neighborhood concerns	Evacuation, fuels, BLM land
Defensible space	5G 0R (100%)
Ingress/egress	One way in and out canyon
Safety zones/water/bridges/other	Safety zone per fire district
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Some fuels reduction work needed
Landscape fuels treatment needs	BLM treatments will address primary issues
Notes/other	

Neighborhood	Right Fork Sardine Creek
Neighborhood planning	Completed
Neighborhood concerns	Fuels, importance of maintaining country feeling to road
Defensible space	32G, 1R (97%)
Ingress/egress	One way in and out canyon
Safety zones/water/bridges/other	Water source developed by fire district
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Neighborhood project on Rt Fk initiated winter 2005-06
Landscape fuels treatment needs	BLM project will address some concerns
Notes/other	Very independent neighborhood See neighborhood project map

Recommendations:

1. Defensible space: Promote defensible space work.
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. The neighborhoods with high risk ratings are Upper Right Fork Sardine Creek, Middle Fork Sardine Creek, Left fork Sardine Creek, Lower Right Fork Sardine Creek.
3. Landscape:
4. High priority neighborhoods: Upper Right Fork Sardine Creek (6), Middle Fork Sardine Creek (6), Left Fork Sardine Creek (6), Lower Right Fork Sardine Creek (6).

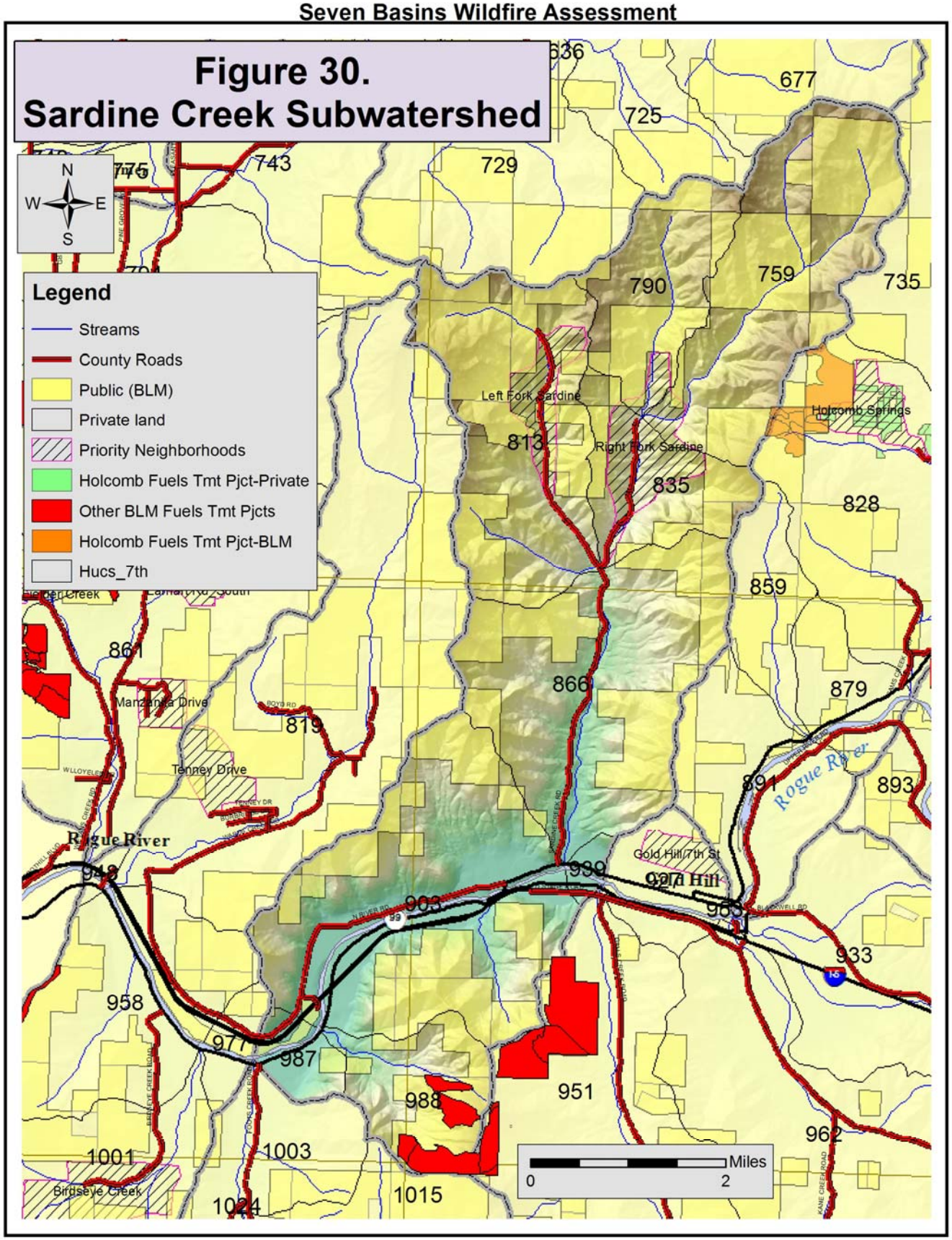


Figure 30.
Sardine Creek Subwatershed
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
Holcomb Fuels Tmt Pjct-Private
Other BLM Fuels Tmt Pjcts
Holcomb Fuels Tmt Pjct-BLM
Hucs_7th
636
677
725
743
729
790
759
735
Left Fork Sardine
Holcomb Springs
813
Right Fork Sardine
835
828
859
861
866
879
Manzanita Drive
819
Tenney Drive
891
893
Rogue River
Rogue River
Gold Hill/7th St
939
Gold Hill
903
933
958
977
987
951
988
962
1001
1003
Birdseye Creek
1024
1015
Miles
0
2

5.10 Snider Creek Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 16,336 acre sub-watershed is located in the middle of Sams Valley. Land use is primarily forest and rural residential, with small amounts of agriculture.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Vegetation in the lower reaches includes pastureland and open areas, with oak woodland on lower slopes and mixed conifer-hardwood forests on the ridge on the west side of the area as well as on hill slopes to the north. Topography is gentle.

Ownership: Ownership is 14% BLM and 86% private.

SB 360: 3,849 acres (72% in extreme risk category) and 428 dwellings (9 acres average lot size)

Structural Fire Protection: Fire District #3. There are 47 out-of-district residences in this sub-watershed.

Fuels Treatments:
BLM has a 658 acre fuels reduction project planned for this sub-watershed.

Private: 13 cost-share projects (7 homesite, 2 homesite+ and 4 fuels reduction.)

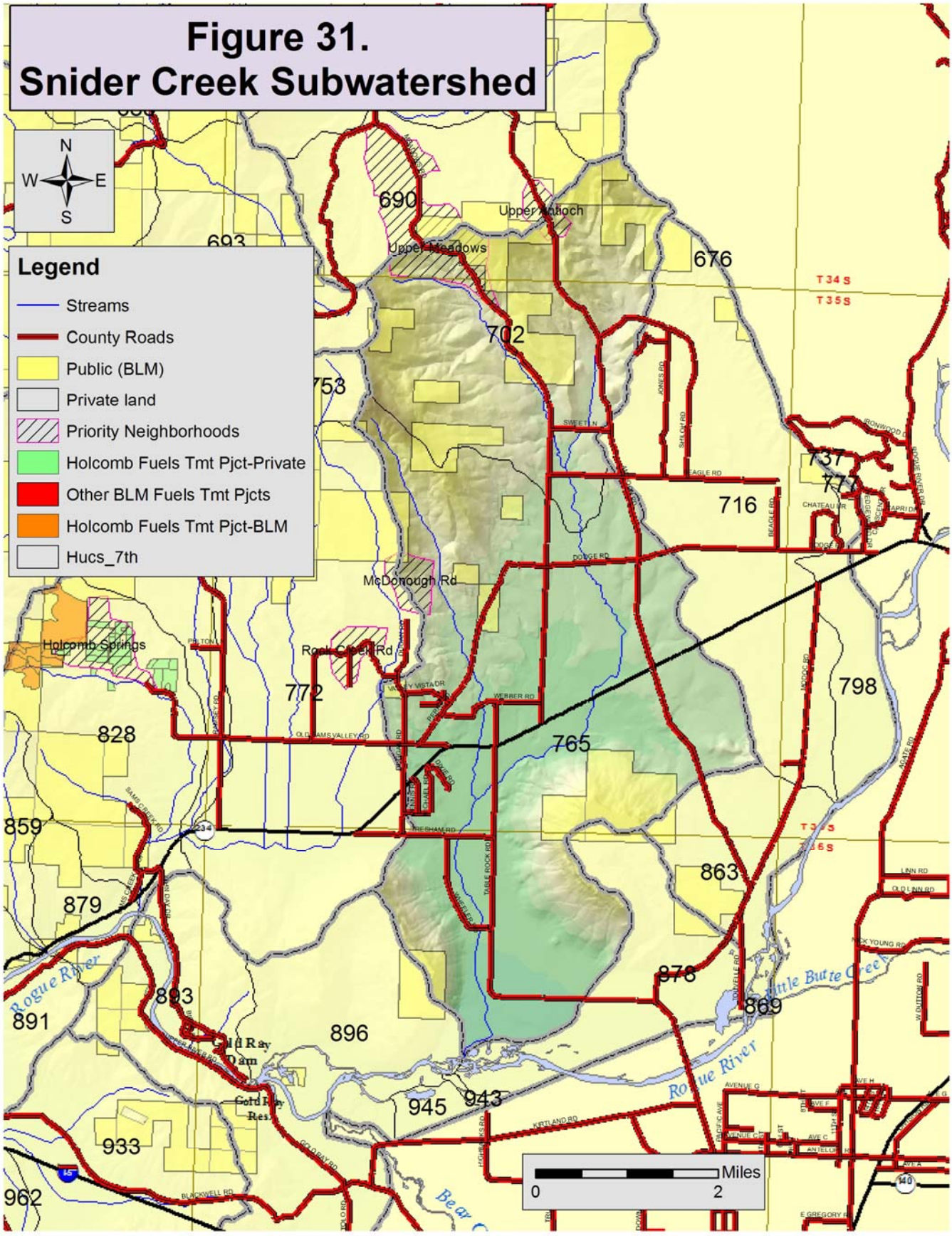
Defensible space: No surveys have been completed.

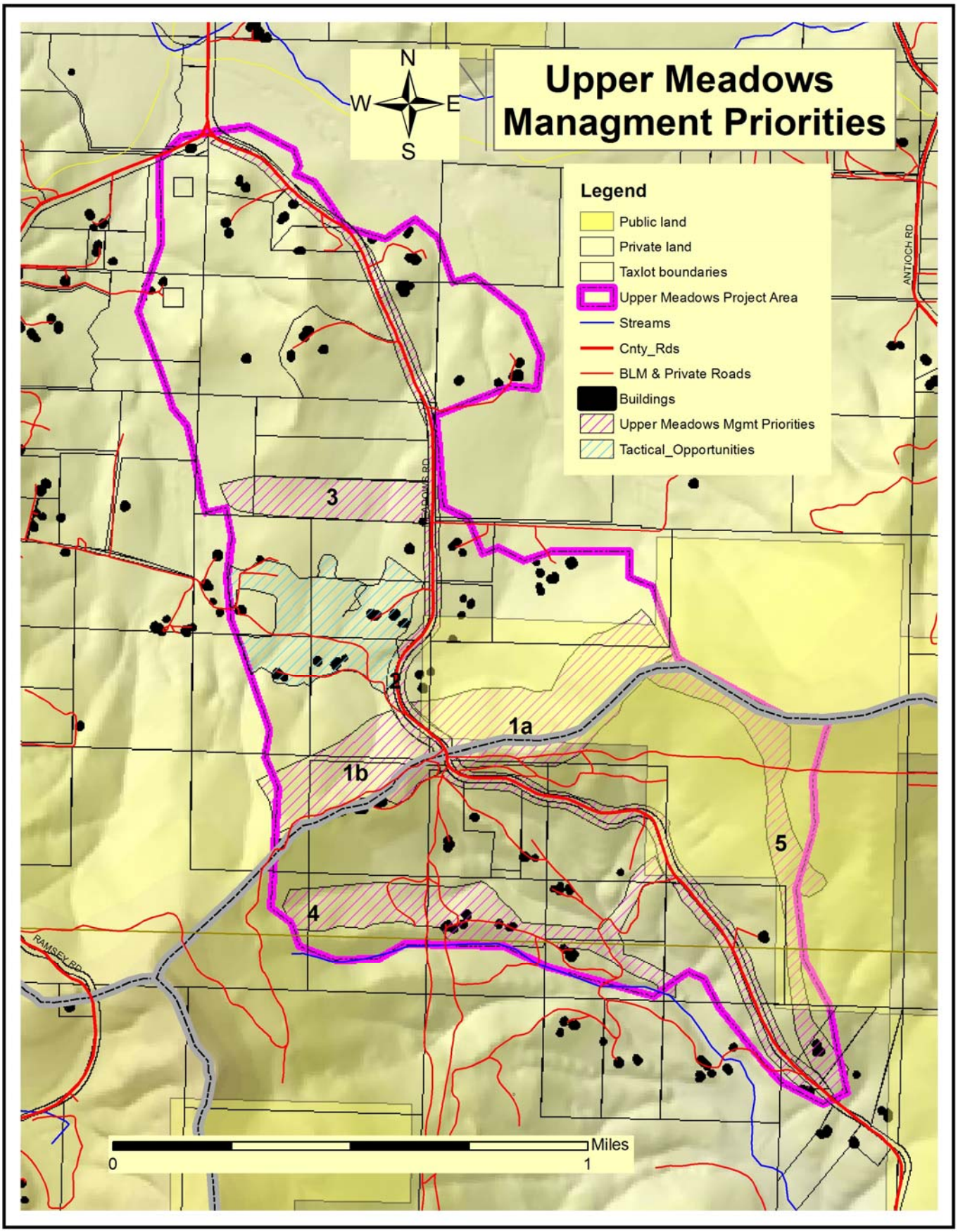
Sample Neighborhood Summaries

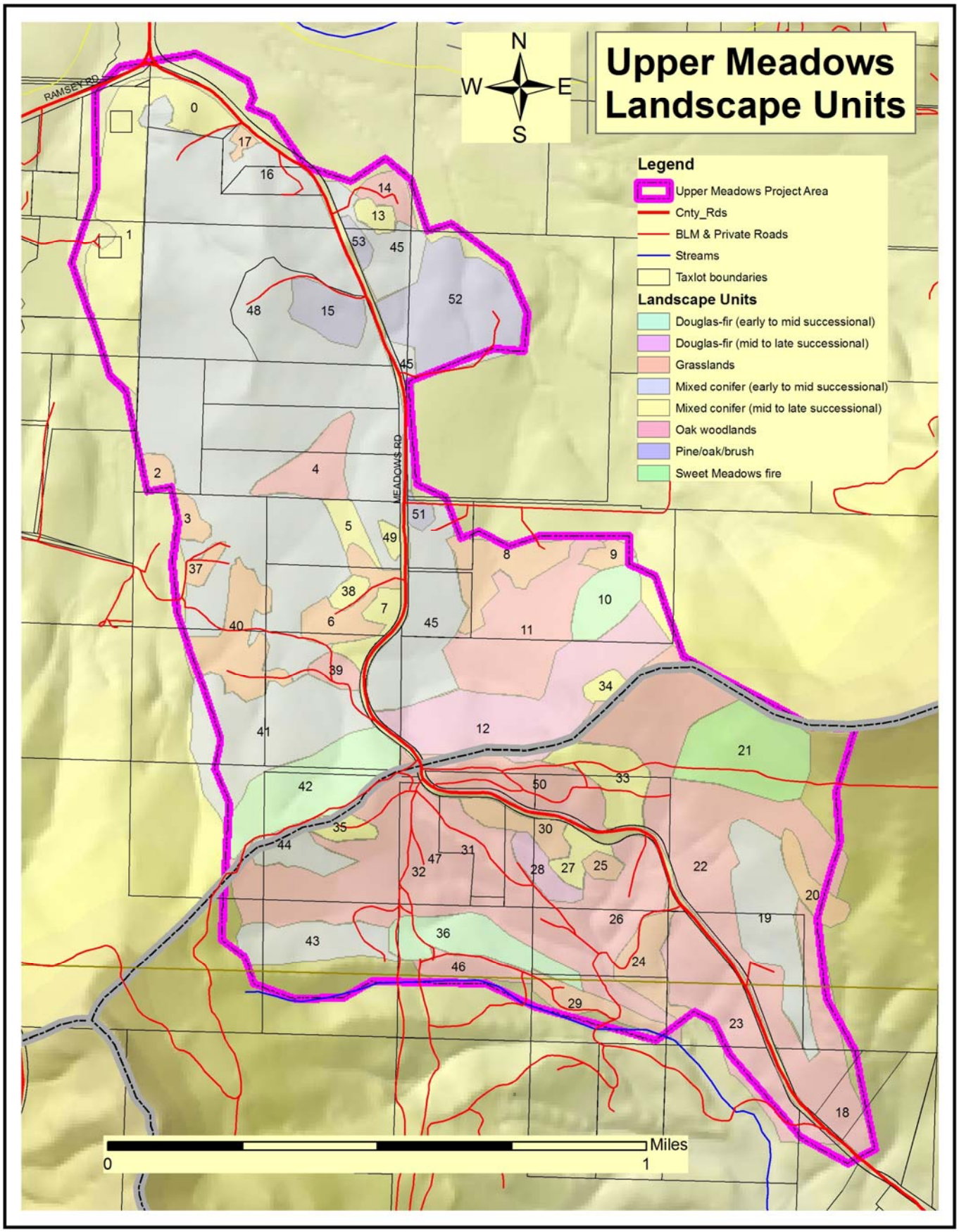
Neighborhood	Upper Meadows (note: also part of Upper Evans subwatershed)
Neighborhood planning	Completed
Neighborhood concerns	Fuels
Defensible space	
Ingress/egress	Meadows Rd. – need roadside work, also some driveways to Antioch and Ramsey Rds.
Safety zones/water/bridges/other	None
Neighborhood fuels treatment needs	Yes – Project plan has been developed by consulting forester – See Appendix C and figures 31-1 & 31-2 for project maps
Landscape fuels treatment needs	Yes – See Appendix C and figures 31-1 & 31-2 for project maps
Notes/other	Neighborhood project underway winter 2005-06

Recommendations:
1. Defensible space: Promote defensible space work.
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. No high risk neighborhoods. High priority neighborhoods: Upper Meadows Rd. (4).
3. Landscape: BLM lands in HUC 712; project planned

Figure 31.
Snider Creek Subwatershed




Upper Meadows
Managment Priorities
N
W
E
S
Legend
Public land
Private land
Taxlot boundaries
Upper Meadows Project Area
Streams
Cnty_Rds
BLM & Private Roads
Buildings
Upper Meadows Mgmt Priorities
Tactical_Opportunities
ANTIOCH RD
MEADOWS RD
RAMSEY RD
3
2
1a
1b
5
4
Miles
0
1


Upper Meadows
Landscape Units
N
W
E
S
Legend
Upper Meadows Project Area
Cnty_Rds
BLM & Private Roads
Streams
Taxlot boundaries
Landscape Units
Douglas-fir (early to mid successional)
Douglas-fir (mid to late successional)
Grasslands
Mixed conifer (early to mid successional)
Mixed conifer (mid to late successional)
Oak woodlands
Pine/oak/brush
Sweet Meadows fire
RAMSEY RD
MEADOWS RD
Miles
0
1

5.11 Upper Evans Creek Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 31,112 acre sub-watershed is primarily in forest use, with areas of agricultural and rural residential use in the southern third of the sub-watershed.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Vegetation includes mixed conifer and mixed evergreen (hardwood dominated) forests. Fuels are moderate to heavy throughout much of the area, although there are pasture and open fields in some areas along the valley bottom. Topography along the valley bottom is gentle, with steep slopes arising on either side.

Ownership: Ownership is 38% BLM 62% private.

SB 360: 2,771 acres (all in extreme risk category) and 140 dwellings (19.8 acres average lots size).

Structural Fire Protection: Fire District #6. There are 133 out-of-district residences in this sub-watershed.

Fuels Treatments:
BLM has no fuels reduction treatment projects planned for this sub-watershed.

Private: 13 cost share projects (7 homesite, 1 homesite+,5 fuels reduction)

Defensible Space: 23 homesites surveyed (16%) 18G, 5R (78%)

Sample Neighborhood Summaries

Neighborhood	Antioch Rd.
Neighborhood planning	Unsuccessful
Neighborhood concerns	General, difficulty in getting information during an event.
Defensible space	18G, 5R (78%)
Ingress/egress	Multiple ways in and out
Safety zones/water/bridges/etc.	None
Neighborhood needs	High need
Landscape	
Notes/other	

Recommendations:
1. Defensible space: Promote extended work.
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. Upper Meadows project initiated (see Snider Creek Subwatershed summary and maps 31-1 and 31-2). Priority neighborhoods: Upper Meadows (4), Upper Antioch (4).
3. Landscape: None identified.

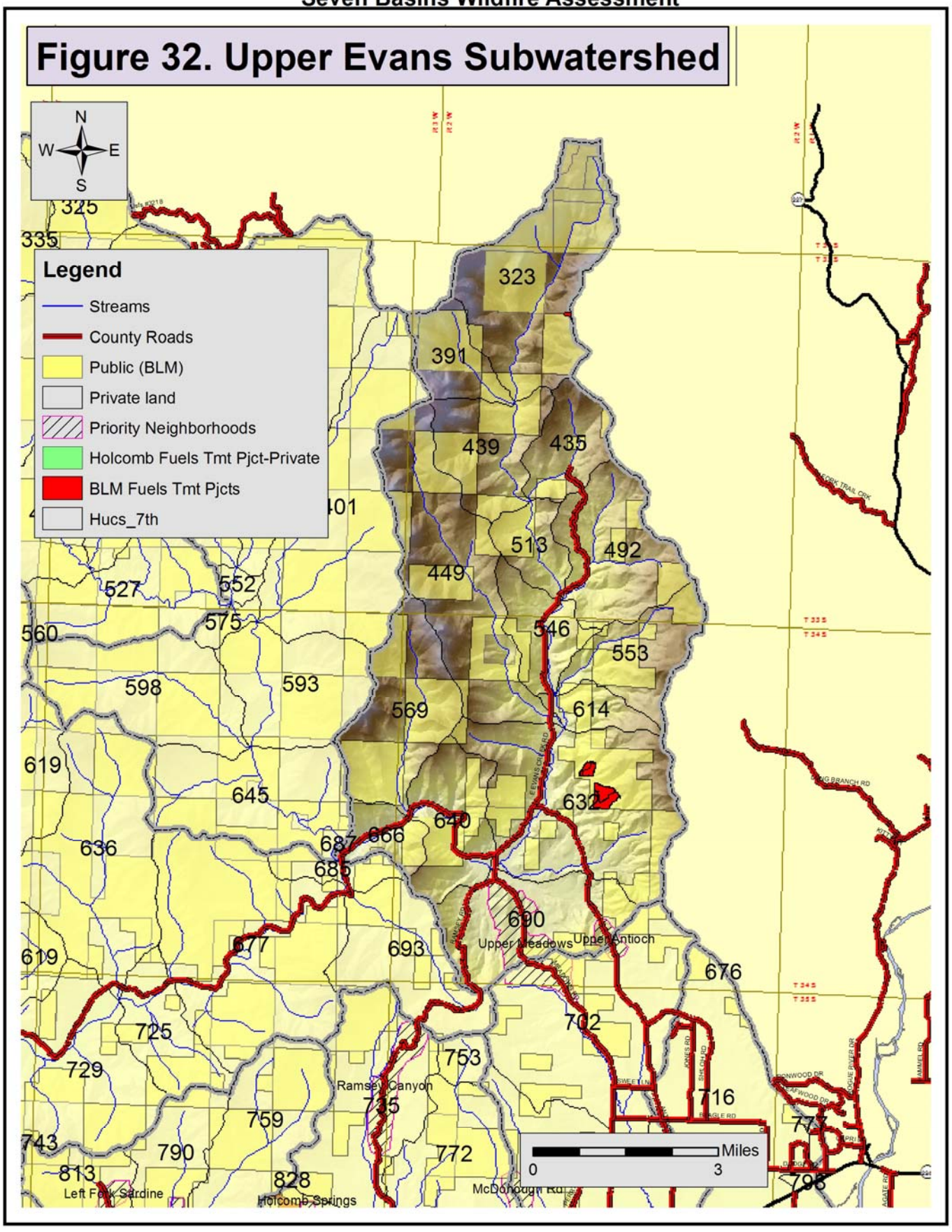


Figure 32. Upper Evans Subwatershed
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
Holcomb Fuels Tmt Pjct-Private
BLM Fuels Tmt Pjcts
Hucs_7th
325
335
323
391
439
435
513
492
449
527
552
575
560
546
553
598
593
569
614
619
645
632
636
687
666
685
690
Upper Meadows
Upper Antioch
677
693
619
676
702
725
729
753
Ramsey Canyon
735
716
759
743
790
772
813
828
Left Fork Sardine
Holcomb Springs
McDonough Rd
Miles
0
3

5.12 Whetstone Creek Sub-Watershed Summary

General: This 9,641 acre sub-watershed borders the Rogue River east of Gold Hill. Land use if primarily rural residential and agriculture.

Vegetation/Fuels/Landforms: Hardwood forests, brush, and pasture dominate the vegetation of this sub-watershed.

Ownership: Ownership is 7% BLM and 93% private.

SB 360: 776 acres (all moderate to high categories) and 193 dwellings (4 acres average lot size)

Structural Fire Protection: Fire District #3. There is 1 out-of-district residence in this sub-watershed.

Fuels Reduction:
BLM has no fuels reduction projects planned for this sub-watershed.

Private: 4 cost-share projects (2 homesite, 1 homesite+, 1 fuels reduction) no homesites have been surveyed in this neighborhood.

Defensible Space:

Sample Neighborhood Summaries
None

Recommendations:
1. Defensible space: Promote defensible space work.
2. Neighborhood: Promote fuels treatments on private property and adjacent BLM land. There are no neighborhoods with a high risk rating. High priority neighborhoods: None
3. Landscape: None

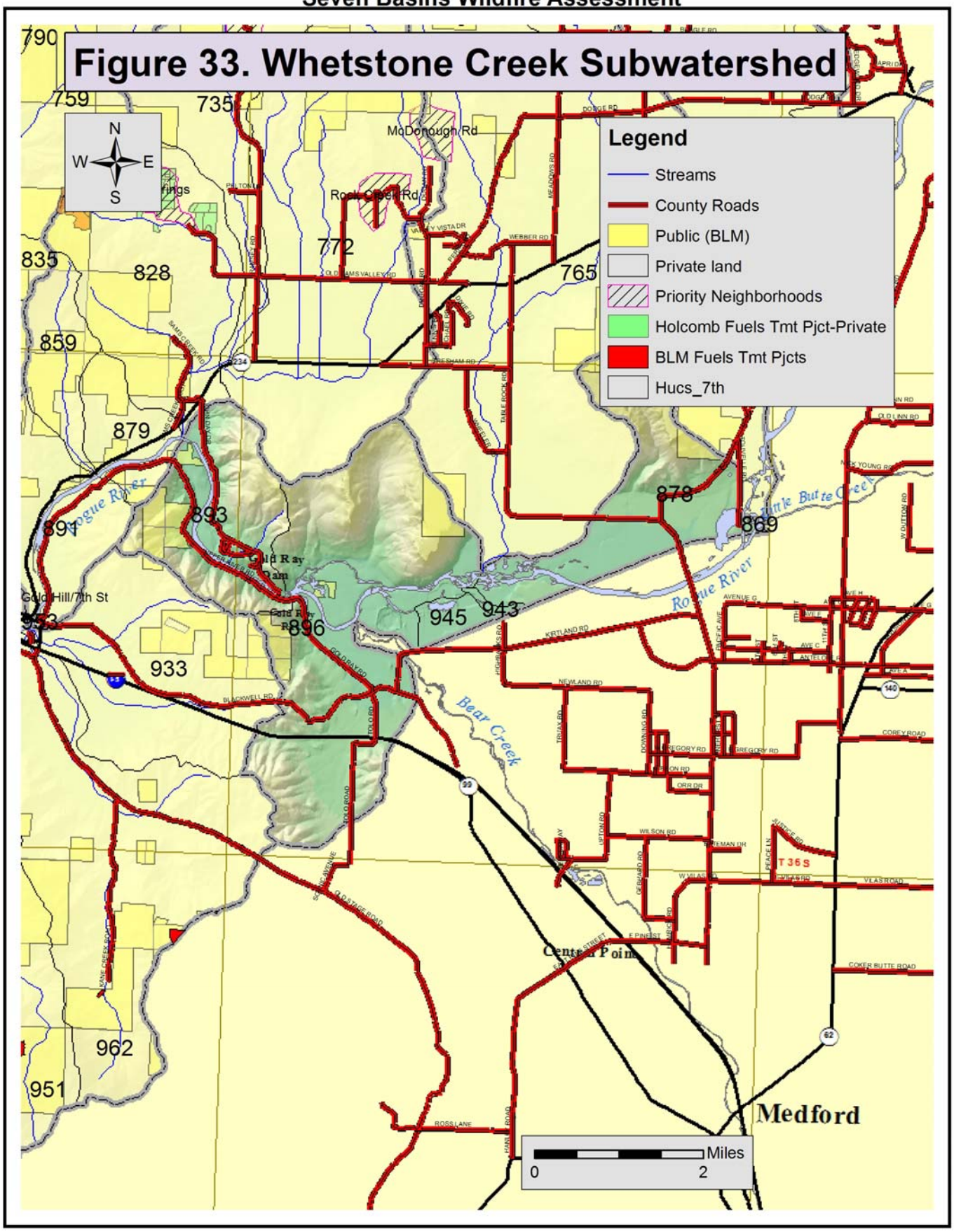


Figure 33. Whetstone Creek Subwatershed
N
W
E
S
Legend
Streams
County Roads
Public (BLM)
Private land
Priority Neighborhoods
Holcomb Fuels Tmt Pjct-Private
BLM Fuels Tmt Pjcts
Hucs_7th
790
759
735
772
765
835
828
859
879
878
869
891
893
945
943
896
933
962
951
McDonough Rd
Rock Creek Rd
Gold Hill/7th St
Rogue River
Bear Creek
Medford
Miles
0
2

SEVEN BASINS COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN
STRATEGIC FUELS TREATMENTS (1/26/09)

Note: This addendum updates the January 2006 CWPP with respect to strategic fuels treatments.

Background

To date implementation of the Seven Basins CWPP has focused on promoting measures to reduce home ignitability and fuels reduction projects in priority neighborhoods. Since 2002 more than 1,500 acres of grant-funded fuels treatments have occurred on private lands in the watershed, and an unknown, but potentially large number of acres have been treated outside of the grant program. The bulk of these treatments, both grant funded and otherwise, have been 1-5 acres projects around homesites, but some projects have covered larger acreages. At the same time, the Bureau of Land Management has completed several thousand acres of fuels treatments within the watershed, mostly in close proximity to WUI neighborhoods. In total, these treatments provide substantial protection to homes and other values at risk.

In the next phase of CWPP implementation, the Seven Basins Community Wildfire Project will broaden its focus to "strategic" fuels treatments that address the threat of large, high intensity wildfires. Such fires can cause severe damage to watersheds, destroy wildlife habitat, and damage timber values. Focusing fuels treatments only on areas relatively close to structures (i.e., "tactical fuels reduction") may reduce structural ignitability but is unlikely to reduce the spread, or extent of, these large-scale events.

Specific objectives of the strategic fuels treatments include:

Minimizing the number of acres burned in high intensity wildfires to reduce damage to watersheds, habitat, and other resource values, including timber;
"Compartmentalizing" fires, i.e., preventing their spread beyond sub-watershed boundaries; and
Providing additional protection to neighborhoods by reducing the size and spread of large-scale, high intensity wildfires.

The Bureau of Land Management has completed more than 4,000 acres of fuels reduction treatments in the Evans Creek watershed to date and plants to treat substantial additional acres during the 2009-2012 period, many in strategic locations such as ridgelines. BLM's plans provide an opportunity to implement complementary strategic treatments on private lands adjacent to, or near the BLM treatments.

Identification and prioritization of strategic treatments

We evaluated opportunities for strategic fuels treatments in the Lower Evans, Pleasant Creek, and Evans-Sykes subwatersheds using the following process:

Map the pathways that a large-scale fire would be likely to take through the subwatersheds, based prevailing winds during periods of highest fire danger. This was accomplished using the FLAM-MAP software, which among other outputs provides predictions of major fire pathways from a given ignition location based on fuels, topography, aspect, windspeed and wind direction. RAWS weather data from a nearby station showed that for the hours 1300-1800, from July 1 through August 31, and during periods when the ERC (a measure of fire danger) was greater than 50, there was a consistent pattern of northwesterly to northerly (315-360 degrees) winds. Accordingly, FLAM-MAP was used to model major fire pathways using these wind patterns, and assuming a 15 mph wind speed. Three scenarios were modeled: 1) A fire initiating just west of the major westerly divide of the Seven Basins watershed, pushed by northwesterly winds; 2) a fire initiating in the northern part of the Pleasant Creek and Evans-Sykes subwatersheds, pushed by northerly winds, and 3) a fire initiating in these same two subwatersheds, but beginning from a point further south, also pushed by northerly winds. These scenarios produced the fire pathways shown in Figure 1 below. The modeled pathways included effects of completed BLM fuels treatments but not the proposed treatments.

Identify locations with a high density of major pathways, or at "nodes" where multiple pathways diverge, where fuels could potentially be treated to reduce fire spread.

Identify locations from the above step where there appears to be road access. Map these as locations for potential strategic fuels treatments. Strategic fuels treatments may include area-wide thinning, defensible fuel profile zones, shaded fuel breaks, roadside treatments, and the like. Generally, potential treatments were mapped on strategic locations such as ridges, but did not try to create a continuous ridgetop fuelbreak.

We noted locations that appeared to be well-suited for shaded fuelbreaks or other area treatments, as well as locations for roadside treatments, based on professional judgement. Total acreage of proposed shaded fuelbreaks was 777. Total acreage of proposed roadside treatments was 531, based on a 150' width on each side of the road. Road treatments could be wider or narrower depending on slope, fuels, available funding and labor, other logistical concerns, etc.

We noted locations for treatments on both BLM and private lands. Much of the private land is managed by industrial forest companies or other large land holding companies; a few treatment locations may include small acreage owners.

The potential locations for treatments have not been ground-truthed. The next step in developing a strategic project would be to field check and adjust treatment locations, and to contact potential landowner cooperators.

Figure 1. Major fire pathways for three scenarios generated by FLAM-MAP

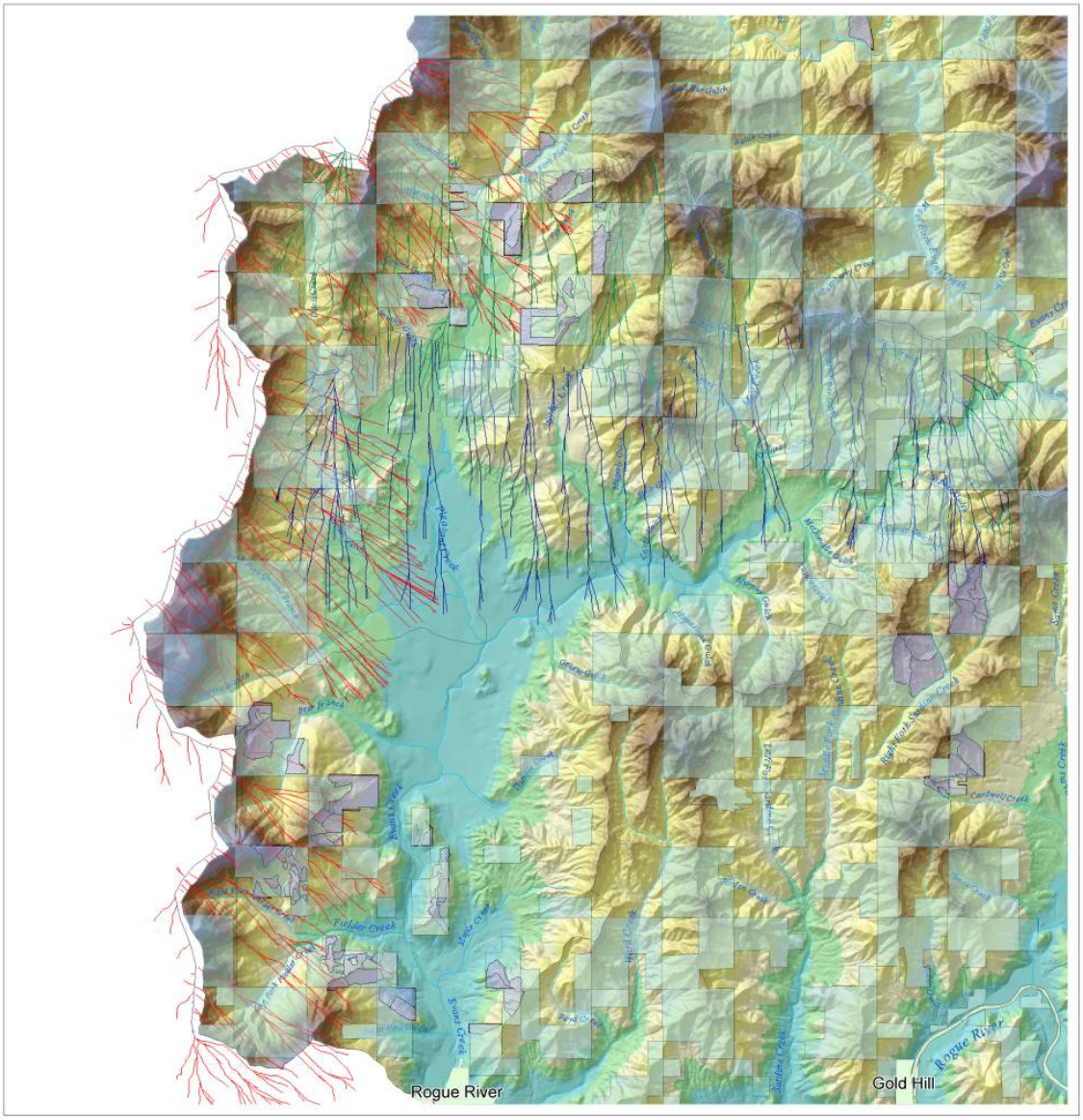


Figure 2. Proposed and Completed Fuels Treatments