DATIL (WUI # 69) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN A Supplement to the

CATRON COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN



A Continuing Effort by and for the Citizens of Catron County, New Mexico

Ed Wehrheim, Chairman, Catron County Commission
Don Weaver, Coordinator, Catron County CWPP Core Group
in partnership with the New Mexico State Forestry Dept. and Catron County Rural Fire Departments

Assisted by the San Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District, the U.S. Forest Service, the US Bureau of Land Management, Southwest Center for Resource Analysis at Western New Mexico University, University of New Mexico, and Northern Arizona University School of Forestry.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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SIGNATURES

DECLARATION OF AGREEMENT AND CONCURRENCE

The following partners in the development of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan have reviewed and do mutually agree or concur with its contents:

Ed Wehrheim, Chairman, Catron County Commission	Date
Doug Boykin, Forester, NM EMNRD, Forestry Division (NM State Forestry)	Date
Bob Bassett, Chief, Datil Volunteer Fire Department	Date
D. IW. G. G. WILLER D. C. G. F.	D :
Donal Weaver, Catron County Wildfire Prevention Coordinator	Date
Concurrence	
Dennis Aldridge, District Ranger, Magdalena	Date
John Merino, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Socorro Field	Date
Office	

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Datil Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a supplement to the Catron County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The County CWPP completed in October, 2005 assesses the wildfire threat and hazardous fuels treatment priorities on a landscape scale. The Datil CWPP uses the data and findings of the County CWPP to assess the wildfire threat and treatment priorities specific to the Datil Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) (#69). Mitigation which will reduce the threat of wildfire damage to property, life and the land are proposed. Project scale data from the County CWPP and other sources is presented to aid in planning and design of the proposed projects.

Introduction

Overview:

The Datil WUI #69 is located in and around the community of Datil at the intersection of US Highway 60 and State Highway 12. Private, BLM, National Forest and State lands are in the WUI. Homes, some businesses, a school and a campground are located within the WUI. The vegetation is mostly pinyon/juniper with the fire threat generally moderate. These characteristics placed the Datil WUI area 34th in treatment priority in the County CWPP.

The County CWPP contains a thorough presentation of how determinations of values at risk, risk of occurrence and fire threat were used to locate the areas and values most at risk from catastrophic wildfire in the County and to prioritize treatment needs. Please refer to the County CWPP for more information. It is not the intent of this plan to duplicate the County CWPP. The general outline of the County CWPP is followed in this CWPP, except where there is no supplement necessary to the County CWPP.

Goals And Objectives

As a supplement to the County CWPP, the main objective of the Datil CWPP is to propose work needed to reduce and mitigate fire threat. To accomplish this objective this supplement continues the collaboration started in the County CWPP, coordinating the needed work with past efforts, the various land owners and other interest.

Future Desired Condition and Relevant Fire Authorities

As stated in the County CWPP: "The desired condition for WUI areas is a fire safe environment around protected improvements that will provide "defensible space" for firefighters in the event of a wildfire in the surrounding area". The desired condition should not be too difficult to obtain with some well placed mechanical and fire treatments.

Relevant Authorities

No supplement to the County CWPP necessary.

Planning Area Boundaries

No modifications of the WUI boundary were necessary.

PLANNING PROCESS

History

The early days of Datil were associated with cattle drives as it was on the cattle driveway from points west to the rail head at Magdalena. Past timber and wood cutting, cattle grazing and fire exclusion has influenced the species composition and structure of vegetation in the area. Datil has the only traffic light (blinking caution light) in the entire County. Several subdivisions of private land in recent years has changed the demographics of the area considerably.

An overhead water supply tank was erected at the Datil Fire Station several years ago and a new larger water tank installation in Datil is in the planning and advertisement stages. Water availability for fire fighting out in the subdivisions is generally not very good.

Except for the steeper inaccessible areas, all ponderosa pine areas on the National Forest in and surrounding the Datil WUI has been commercially harvested several times. There have been numerous non-commercial treatments also such as pre-commercial thinning and prescribed burns. Fire wood cutting has greatly altered the age class and species composition in accessible to wood cutter areas.

Collaboration

Besides the meetings held around the County and one meeting at Datil Fire Dept. for the County Wildfire Protection Plan, a public meeting was held for this specific CWPP on May 17, 2006 at the Datil Fire Station. Comments from all these meetings and contacts were incorporated in a rough draft. Comments on the rough draft were incorporated in a

draft which was sent out for a last review by the involved agencies before the final was signed.

Methodology

Most of the data used for this CWPP is from the County CWPP and was scaled to fit this WUI, Although the County CWPP was a landscape scale analysis, much of the data originated at a scale that fits the purpose of this CWPP (30x30 meter satellite imagery for example). In addition collaborative input from the various cooperators and interested parties was obtained through group meetings and individual contacts.

Public Involvement

See above Collaboration section.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

cover Types.

Glenwood

WUI Description

The Datil WUI area totaling 12,603 acres includes the community of Datil and 7 subdivisions. US Highway 60 and State Highway 32 intersect in the WUI. Other access is via gravel roads. About 40% of the WUI is in each of private and National Forest ownership with the remainder being BLM and State. The Cibola NF land is on the Magdalena Ranger District with office located at Magdalena. BLM and State lands are administered from offices in Socorro. The vegetative cover is mostly pinyon/juniper (74%). As can be seen in the table below 11% of the area is in a "closed" canopy condition with most of the area in an "open" canopy or grassland condition. See maps for Forest Type, Structural Stage and Regap

Quemado Pie Town

Dan

Reserve

Datil WUI #69 Vicinity Map

•

Datil WUI (#69) Machine Accessibility by Ownership, Cover Type and Density

			Acres by	y Cover Ty	pe and Den	sity			
				Mixed	Mixed	Pinyon	Pinyon	Grass/	
Machine		Ponderosa	Ponderosa	Conifer	Conifer	Juniper	Juniper	Shrub	
Accessible	Owner	Pine Open	Pine Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Other	Total
No	BLM	0	0	0	0	584	40	40	663
No	NF	161	156	3	10	320	49	27	727
No	Pvt	1	6	0	0	55	6	8	76
Yes	BLM	0	0	0	0	76	24	33	133
Yes	NF	359	243	4	22	4269	332	234	5,463
Yes	Pvt	45	31	0	0	3,072	469	1,398	5,015
Yes	State	0	0	0	0	392	56	79	526
	Totals	567	435	8	33	8,376	919	1,739	12,603

Closed Density Summary

Machine Accessible	Closed
no	267
yes	1,176
Total	1,443

Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) within the WUI boundary is 80% class 1 and the remainder in class 2. This indicates a generally low need for treatment for reasons of vegetation health. However there are areas around improvements where the fire threat situation could be improved. More information on FRCC can be found in the County CWPP. Briefly, fire regime condition class is a classification of the amount of departure from the natural regime. The three classes for FRCC are:

- 1. Low, class 1, <=33% departure
- 2. Moderate, class 2, >33% to 66% departure
- 3. High, class 3, >66% departure

FRCC mapping of the abundance classes shows that most (77%) of the Datil WUI area is rated similar. Abundance class is a slightly different view of FRCC and is the amount of a vegetation-fuel class compared to the reference condition amount, classified into rare, similar, moderate and high. The management implications are recruit for rare, maintain for similar and reduce for moderate and high.

- 1. Rare, < -25% difference
- 2. Similar, > -25% and < +25% difference
- 3. Moderate, $\geq +25\%$ and $\leq +75\%$ difference
- 4. High, > +75% difference

FRCC mapping of the risk classes shows that most (77%) of the Datil WUI area is rated low and most of the remainder in moderate. The risk of a vegetative condition not being sustainable is shown by risk class which is an index based on the difference of vegetation-fuel class amount from the reference amount. Classified into low, moderate and high, it indicates the level of key ecosystem component risk of sustainability from unplanned disturbances, such as wildfire.

- 1. High, < -75% or > +75% difference
- 2. Moderate, -25% to -75% or +25% to +75% difference
- 3. Low, -25% to +25% difference

Datil WUI #69
Fire Regime Condition Class Mapping Summary

	Class	Acres	% of Total	Total Check
FRCC	0(null)	47	0	
	1	10,054	80	
	2	2,479	20	
	3	5	0	12,585
			100	
Risk	Null	47	0	
	Low	9,641	77	
	Moderate	2,461	20	
	High	436	3	12,585
			100	
Abundance	Null	47	0	
	Rare	1,342	11	
	Similar	9,641	77	
	Moderate	1,121	9	
	High	434	3	12,585
	_		100	

In the County CWPP, slope steepness was mapped in 4 classes. The area of each slope class in this WUI is as shown in the following table. Also see map Slope % Classes.

Datil WUI Slope Classes

Slope%	Acres
0-10	6817
11-20	3028
21-35	1961
35+	798

Fire threat was modeled and mapped in the County CWPP to rate the fire threat within each WUI area as compared to the fire threat in other WUI areas. The Datil WUI is mostly rated as moderate fire threat with some high fire threat in the southwest most portion and some low fire threat in the drainage bottoms. See map for Fire Threat.

Past occurrence of lighting and man-caused fires was mapped and considered in determining treatment priorities in the County CWPP. This WUI is mostly rated moderate with some high for the combined lightning and high man-caused occurrence risks. See Map 6, "Risk of Human and Lightning Caused Wildfire" in the County CWPP.

Treatment priority was modeled and mapped in the County CWPP to rate the fire threat within each WUI area as compared to the treatment priorities in other WUI areas and also to show a weighted average of the fire threat ratings for each WUI. The weighted average fire threat places the Datil WUI as 34th in need for treatment out of 196 WUI areas in the County. The Datil WUI is mostly moderate treatment priority with some high priority in the southwest corner. See map Treatment Priorities. There is other

consideration on determining treatment priorities not considered at the County CWPP landscape scale.

One of these considerations is proximity to endangered structures. There is a need for some balance between treatment priorities as determined in the County CWPP and other concerns about priority such as proximity. In determining the priority of proposed projects in this plan, the priority generally decreases with increased distance from the value at risk.

There are no Threatened and Endangered species in this WUI, at least not as inventoried in the County CWPP. Threatened and Endangered species was considered as part of the other values at risk in the modeling of treatment priorities. The NEPA process will have to deal with the restrictions, guidelines and protection of those species. It is not within the scope of this plan to resolve the conflict between the actions needed to return the vegetation to a more natural condition and the restrictions meant to protect species by preserving the existing condition.

Recreational use is above average as compared to the rest of the County. Most of the use is either hunting or by the local residents. Recreational use was rated over the County in the County CWPP. See map Recreational Use for the ratings in this area as compared to the remainder of the County.

There are 7 subdivisions with a total of 267 lots as filed in the County Clerk office. There are presently 153 addresses recorded in the County E911 address GIS records. Generally, safe evacuation would not be a problem except possibly in the event of a fast moving wildfire burning under high or extreme fire danger. There are some dead-end roads in the southwest portion of the WUI. It will be possible with some improvements in the situation to have defensible space under even the worst situation. See appendix table "Community Subdivision Ratings of Various Attributes by Fire Dept."

Fire protection services are supplied by the Datil Volunteer Fire Department, the BLM, the Cibola NF (Magdalena Ranger District and State Forestry Department. Distances from the fire station to the various subdivisions is good throughout the WUI. An evacuation plan has been completed for Datil and the immediate area but not for the other subdivisions. Structure vulnerability surveys have not been done. Water sources are a problem. Datil VFD is working on improvement of water supply by installing a large water tank at the junction of highways 60 and 12. See appendix table "Community Subdivision Ratings of Various Attributes by Fire Dept.". Also see appendix table "Fire Dept. Inventory"

There are no State 303d listed water bodies.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Recap Of Objectives

The objectives of the Catron County Community Wildfire Protection Plan were:

- Create a county-wide, landscape level plan
- Locate the highest areas at risk from catastrophic wildfire in the County
- Prioritize these areas based on the values of the citizens of the County
- Suggest mitigation actions for the protection of life, property, critical infrastructure and wildlands in the County, based on
 - o Optimum treatment efficiency
 - Lowest treatment cost
 - Highest benefit to local economy
- Follow-through to on-the-ground level by developing local Wildfire Protection Plans for implementation of objectives of this County-wide Plan

The objective of the Datil Community Wildfire Protection Plan is to propose work needed to reduce and mitigate fire threat.

Implementation/Mitigation

Several mitigations are proposed to reduce and mitigate fire threat within the Datil WUI and are summarized in the following 2 tables. Mitigation needs are listed by priority in the first table and are as shown on Map 13: Proposed Mitigation Priorities in Appendix Volume 3. Proposed mitigation projects are listed in the second table.

	Mitigation Ne	eds b	y Priority for the Datil WUI (# 69)								
			Last update: 10/4/06 DRW								
	MITIGATION PRIORITIES										
No.	Mitigation Name	Owner	Description of Needs								
	Fuel Hazard Reduction										
1	Crosby Spring	PVT	thin, pile/burn, chip,noone living on property, metal roofs on structures, ponds present, some clean-up of fuels done								
2	The Homestead	PVT	thin, pile/burn, chip, ROW clearing done								
3	East Sugarloaf	NF	thin, pile/burn, chip in fuel breaks around pvt. land								
4	Southeast Corner	BLM	none								
		PVT	none								
5	Datil Well Camp	BLM	thin, pile/burn, chip, prescribed fire in spots where fuels heaviest, fuels reduction done around edges								
6	66	State	thin, pile/burn, chip in some locations								
7	White House Canyon	PVT	none								
8	Main Canyon	PVT	none								
9	Indian Peak	NF	none								
	Fire Suppression/Prevention										
1	Pvt. Owner Education		CWPP, firewise, demonstration project								
2	Fire Department		improve water supply, wildland fire training								

	Mitigation Projects for the Datil WUI (# 69) Last update: 10/4/06 DRW												
		PROJECTS											
Mitigation Priorities Included	Name or Description	Status and Remarks	Acres	Estimated Cost/ac.	Total Estimated Cost								
	Fuel Hazard Reduction												
1	Crosby Thinning	Planned by State	161										
1	Crosby Prescribed Burn	Possibility but would needs permission and coordination	161										
2	Pvt Land Assessment	Survey by State and Land Owners of all parcels to determine needs. Results distributed to owners.	632										
3	Homestead Fuel Breaks												
3	Highway 60 Fuel Breaks	Fuel Break to west of private land along Highway 60. In early planning stages by USFS											
5	Datil Well Camp Thinning	Spot thinning and fuels disposal planned											
5	Datil Well Camp Prescribed Fire	Rx fire planned in swales to remove PJ and return to a more natural condition											
6	66 Spot Fuels Treatment	Planned by State to treat fuels around boundaries and next to pvt. land	36										
	Fire Suppression/ Prevention			l	L								
all	Pvt. Owner Education	CWPP, Firewise, demonstration projects, field trips, mailings	NA										
2	Homestead Tank	Fire water supply feasibility study by County, VFD and Owners Assoc.	NA										
all	Datil VFD Tank	Water supply tank located at main intersection in progress.	NA										

The above tables are subject to change for numerous reasons such as funding limitations, funding source, fire use and wildfire. The above tables will be updated as needed to reflect current priorities, proposals and status. The proposed mitigation may be implemented in stages, split up, or combined to form projects either entirely or partly within the WUI.

Funding for the above proposed mitigation will be coordinated between the BLM, County and State Forestry.

DATIL COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

APPENDIX VOLUME 2

Data

Supplement to the CATRON COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Table: Vegetation Types

Datil WUI Crosswalk with CWPP Vegetation Typing

Reference Condition Composition per Cover Type

	C	Cover Typ						_	nt Comp	7 .	
Regap class	CWPP class	PNVG	Cover Type	0-24 Value	Base 3 Value	PNV/GIS Code		Early	Open	Closed	Acres
22	MC	MCAN	S023	18	2.2500	340	1	10	80	10	4
24	MC	MCAN	S025	20	2.5000	340	1	10	80	10	22
28	MC	SPFI7	S030	16	2.0000	360	1	25	30	45	1
30	MC	MCAN	S032	22	2.7500	340	1	10	80	10	1
32	MC	MCAN	S034	21	2.6250	340		10	80	10	12
Mixed	Conifer	Totals and	d Weigl	nted Ave	erage=			10.25	79.17	10.58	40
36	PJ	PLME2	S039	13	1.6250	322		2	67	31	9738
95	PJ	MAME	S115	10	1.2500	120		5	75	20	4
Pinyon	/Juniper	Totals an	d Weig	erage=			2.00	67.00	31.00	9,742	
33	PP	MAME	S035	24	3.0000	310		5	75	20	1
34	PP	PPIN7	S036	23	2.8750	330		15	80	5	1,001
Ponder	osa Pine	Totals and	d Weigh	ted Ave	rage=			14.99	79.99	5.02	1,002
58	G/S	DSHB1	S065	3	0.3750	100					5
67	G/S	PLME2	S079	5	0.6250	322					1,196
76	G/S	PLME2	S090	3	0.3750	322					569
77	G/S	RWSH	S091	7	0.8750	402					1
85	G/S	MARSH	S100	0	0.0000	400					10
5	Other	ROCK	S006	0	0.0000	902					6
15	Other	ROCK	S016	0	0.0000	902					30
Other T	otal and	Weighted	Average	e=							1,818

12,603

The above table summarizes information about the Regap cover types, relative fire threat and structural stage reference conditions. The column CWPP class shows the grouping of the regap classes into the groups: Ponderosa pine, Mixed Conifer, Pinyon/Juniper, Grass/Shrub and Other. Potential natural vegetation group (PNVG), Cover Type and GIS Code are designators used in various reference information. The 0-24 Value is a relative fire threat value assigned in the County CWPP analysis, i.e. the higher the value the higher the fire threat. The Base 3 Value is the 0-24 Value divided by 8. The reference condition is shown in the Percent Composition columns. Weighted average percent compositions are shown for each Cover Type group (except for the Other group). The weighted average is useful since there is most often an intermingled mix of regap classes. The "reference" condition is just that. It is one of the sources of reference information about the condition necessary for reduction of fire threat and sustainable ecological health.

Table: Community/Subdivision Ratings of Various Attributes by Fire Dept.

			Ra	ite fo	r Cor	Rate Both		or Fire Only				
			Protection Need									
			None									
	Data Entry Units=		Low					miles				
	(See Attribute		Mod					to				
				0-	0-	0-						
	Definitions)		High	10	10	10	Sum	nearest	Yes/No	1-10	year	gallons
			Evac.	l .				Fire	Evac.	l		Water
	Community or	WUI	Routes Safety		Vuine 	ulnerability		Station	Plan/ Struct.	Applicable	Vehicle	on
Fire Dept.	Subdivision	ID	Zones	R	С	D	Sum	Distance	Eval.	ISO rating	Avg. Age	Wheels
Datil	Big Sky	2s10w10	Low	3	9	3	15	1.6	N/N	9	1.90	11110010
Datil	Crosby Canyon Ranch	2s10w10	Low	3	9	7	19	1.8	Y/N	9		
Datil	Datil	2s10w10	Low	3	10	3	16	0.5	Y/N	9		
Datil	Datil Ranch Estates	2s10w10	Low	3	10	9	22	1.7	Y/N	9		
Datil	Datil West Estates	2s10w10	Low	3	10	9	22	0.5	Y/N	9		
Datil	Elk Run	2s10w10	Low	3	10	7	20	1.8	N/N	9		
Datil	Francis Martin Addition	2s10w10	Low	3	9	2	14	0.2	Y/N	9		
Datil	The Homestead	2s10w10	Mod	3	10	6	19	3.6	N/N	9		
Datil	Wildwood	2s11w35	Mod	3	9	5	17	7.3	N/N	10		
Datil	Wildwood Highlands	2s11w35	Mod	3	10	6	19	8.2	N/N	10		
Datil										9	1992	3000

Table: Datil Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Inventory

										Feet c	f Hos	e Carr	ied			
Year	Make/ Model	Туре	Tank	F(foam)GPM	Purpose	Drive	Reel	1	1.5+	2.5	3	4	5	Hard Suction	Soft Suction	Porta Tank
1985	Chev	Pumper	1000	750	Struc/Wild	6x4	200	0	250	300	0	0	0	20	0	0
1993	Ford	Pumper	250	F250	Struc/Wild	4x4	200	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1997	GMC	Tender	2000	250	Struc/Wild	6x4	0	0	150	50	0	0	0	30	0	2000

Subject List from Table Contents for Catron County CWPP

Signatures

DECLARATION OF AGREEMENT AND CONCURRENCE

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Monitoring

Rough Draft Monitoring and Assessment Plan (7/8/04 INA team

meeting)

Final Plan – letters of approval

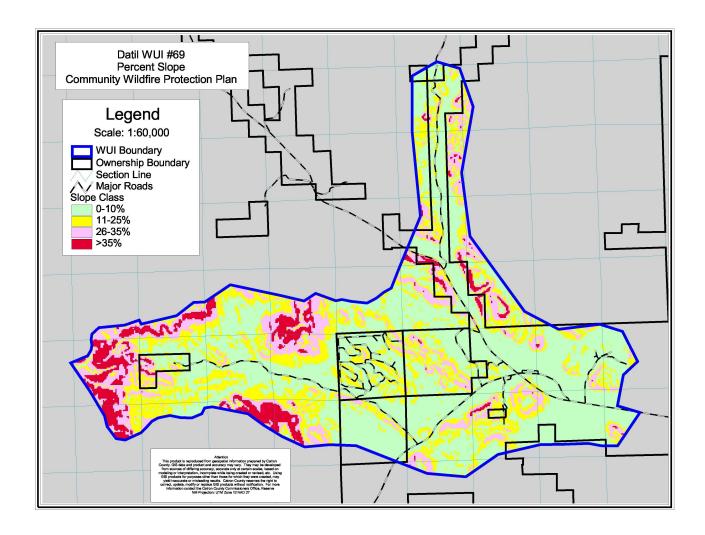
Acronym List Glossary

Bibliography/References

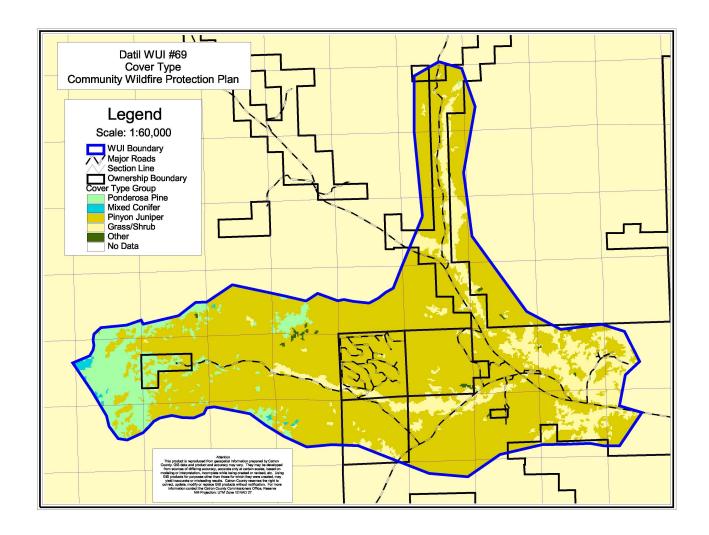
DATIL COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

APPENDIX VOLUME 3

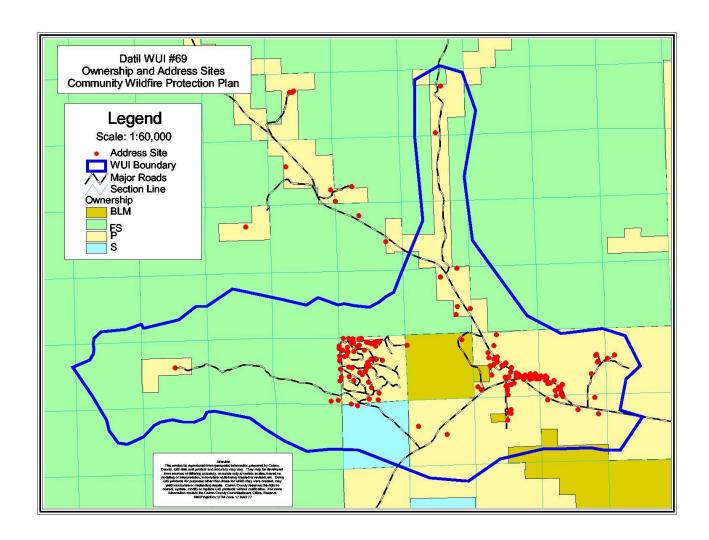
Maps



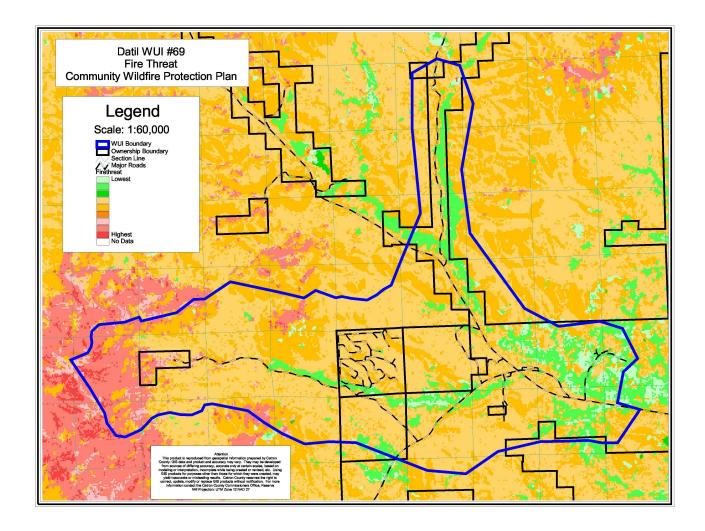
Map 1: Steepness of Slopes



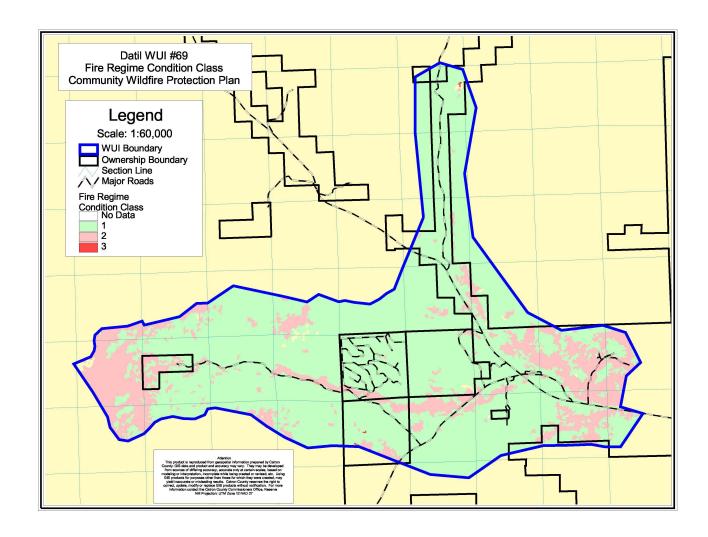
Map 2: Vegetative Type Groups



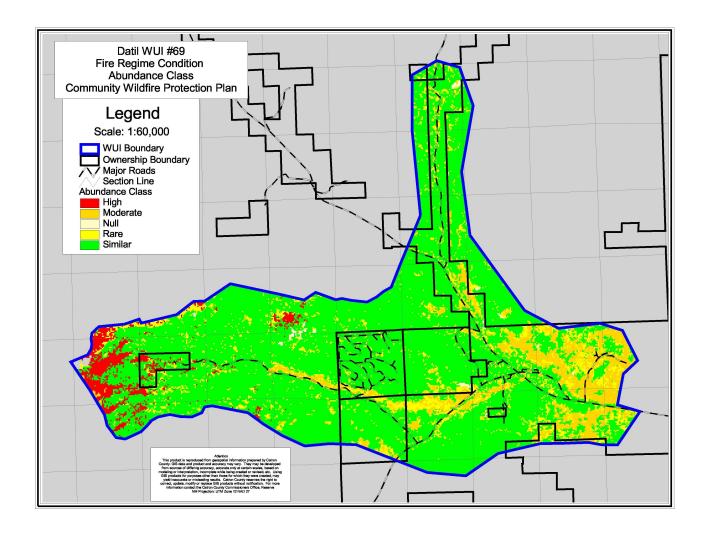
Map 3: Land Ownership



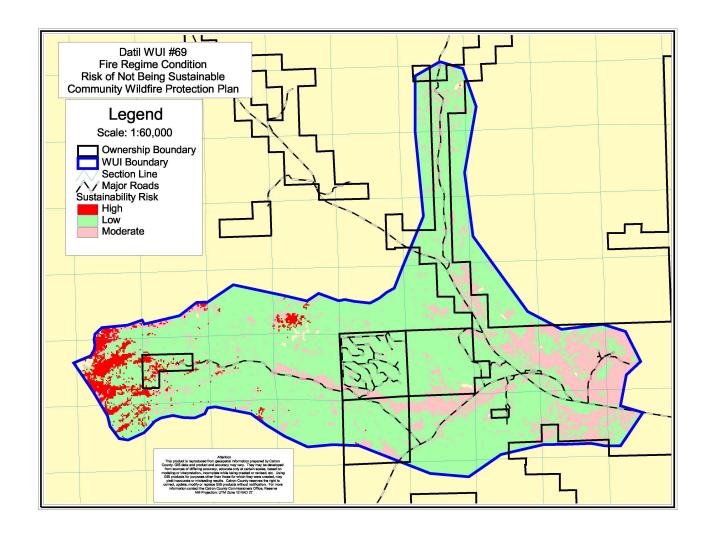
Map 4: FireThreat



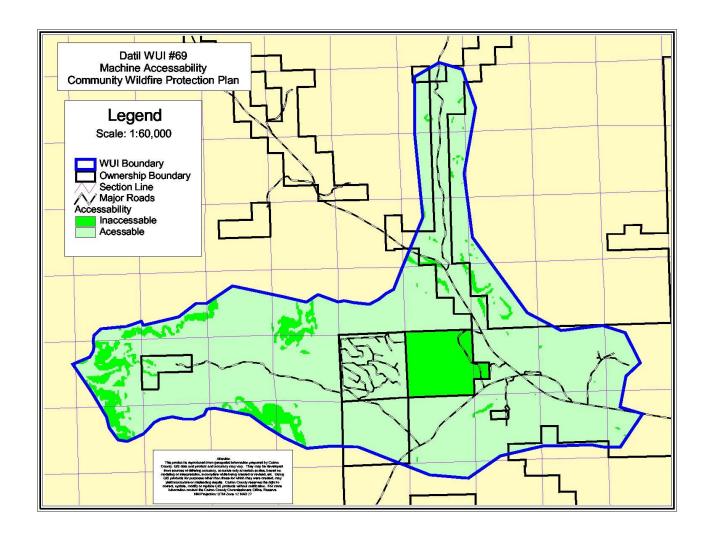
Map 5: Fire Regime Condition Class



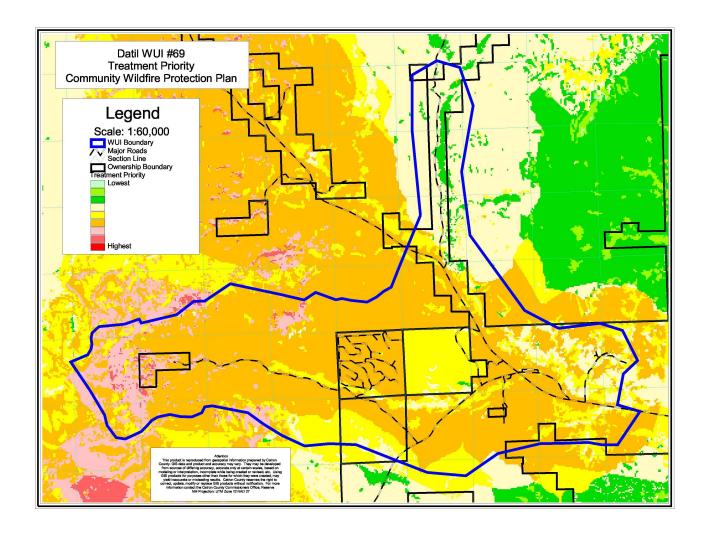
Map 6: FRCC Abundance Class



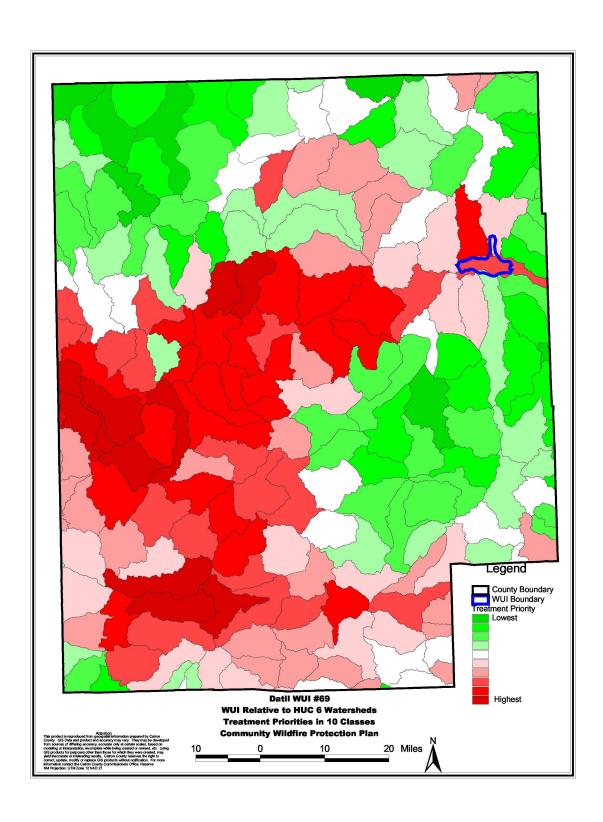
Map 7: FRCC Risk of Vegetative Condition Not Being Sustainable



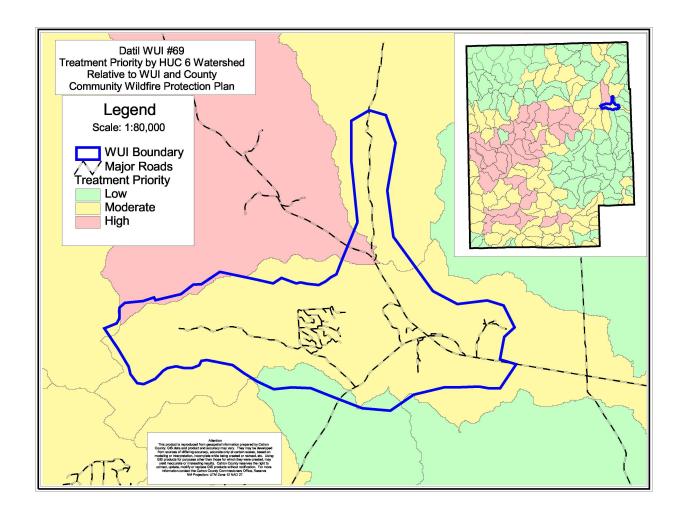
Map 8: Machine Accessible Areas



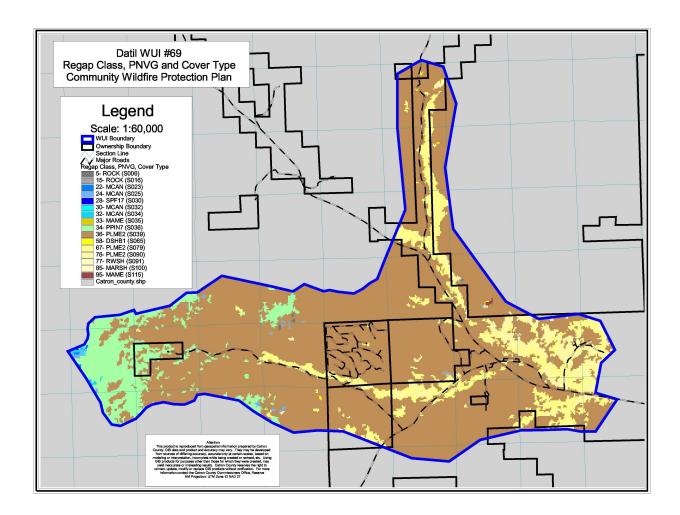
Map 9: Final Treatment Priorities



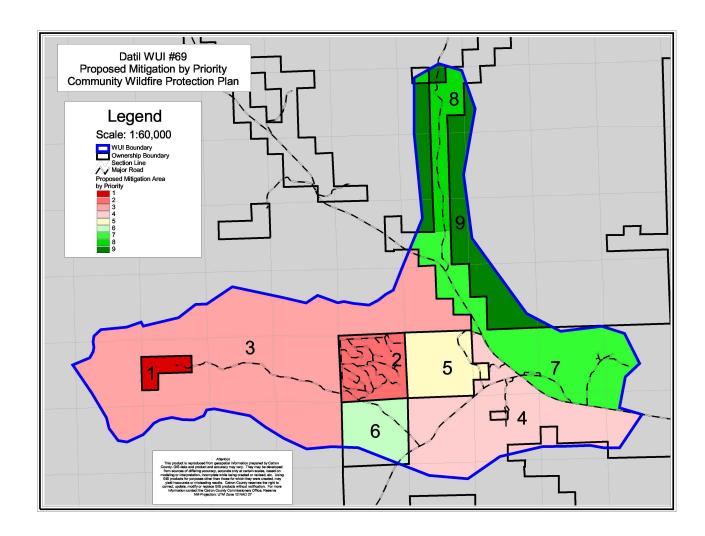
Map 10: WUI Relative to HUC 6 Watersheds



Map 11: Treatment Priority by HUC 6
Watershed



Map 12: Regap Vegetation Types



Map 13: Proposed Mitigation Priorities