



What is? **WUI**

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is the area where human development and the natural world meet or intermingle.

Designation of the WUI is more dependent on a set of conditions than a specific area. For example, according to the National Fire Protection Association, conditions include the amount, type, and distribution of vegetation; the flammability of the structures in the area and their proximity to fire-prone vegetation; weather patterns and general climate conditions, topography, etc. As human development continues to expand into natural areas, managing wildfire risk in WUI communities is more important than ever.

The WUI encompasses a variety of landscapes from formalized suburban areas, to recreation amenity dependent areas, to rural lifestyle areas, to resource dependent working landscape communities. Regardless of these differences, communities can work together to manage wildfire risk by becoming knowledgeable about and engaged in actions to plan and protect their homes and neighborhoods from wildfire. Communities such as these that are better prepared to accept the risk of wildfire as part of their surrounding landscape are referred to as “[Fire-Adapted Communities](#).”

WUI communities can utilize resources such as community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs) and the Firewise Program to reduce their risk of losing life and/or property from wildfire. CWPPs allow communities to proactively manage their wildfire risk through working with local emergency management and land management agencies by mapping values at risk and by reducing fuels.

The Firewise Program provides tips for reducing wildfire risk based on the landscape's proximity to the home, also known as the areas of the Home Ignition Zone. Typically, closer to the home, effort should be made to maintain your landscape with well irrigated lawns and fire resistant plantings, while further out homeowners are advised to prune and selectively thin native species.

If you are not sure whether you live in a WUI area, contact your

**FIRE
FACTS**

local fire department or land management agency. They can help make a determination based on the specific conditions around your home. Living in fire prone areas comes with great responsibility. Be proactive at reducing your wildfire risk while living in the wildland urban interface.



Photo Credit: Carrie Berger, Oregon State University

For more information:

USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station. May/June 2016. Living with fire: How social scientists are helping wildland-urban interface communities reduce wildfire risk. Science you can use bulletin. Issue 19.

National Fire Protection Association, <http://www.nfpa.org/>

Fire Adapted Communities, <http://www.fireadapted.org/>

Firewise, <http://www.firewise.org/>

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email / nw.fireconsortium@oregonstate.edu | **online** / www.nwfirescience.org



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