

## How Do We Define the WUI?

**Interface** WUI - "where houses meet"



**Intermix** WUI - "where houses mingle"



Interface communities are areas with housing in the vicinity of contiguous vegetation. Vicinity is defined as all areas within 1.5 mi of wildland vegetation. 1.5 miles is roughly the distance that firebrands/embers can be carried from a wildland fire to the roof of a house. It captures the idea that even those homes not sited within the forest are at risk of being burned in a wildland fire. We adopt this buffer distance to identify interface areas. With minimum housing densities, vegetation types, and interface buffer distances determined, the operational definition of the WUI is complete.

Every year in Florida, an average of 2800 wildfires burn nearly 96,000 acres; with residential and commercial structures either damaged or threatened 80% of the time. This makes **WUI CPZs** focal areas for human-environment conflicts, such as wildland fires. For Bradford County, it is estimated 22,588 people, or 80% of the population, live within in the WUI.

**Understanding WUI CPZs and the potential impact and consequences of wildland fire on people and their structures is the foundation for quantifying risks and prioritizing wildfire hazard mitigation, community risk reduction, and fire protection actions.**

### The Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (SouthWRAP)

The Assessment Portal can be used to illustrate, determine and display the susceptibility of communities to wildfires or the amount of WUI acreage in the areas of concern. In the application of SouthWRAP, planners are able to express the exposure risks not only of property owners, but of wildland firefighters as well. In the WUI those interests should not compete. The creation of winnable situations for wildland firefighters is a must.

### The Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report for Bradford County