

# Wildland Urban Interface

## Description

The South is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation, with an estimated population growth of 1.5 million people per year. The South also consistently has the highest number of wildfires per year. Population growth is pushing housing developments further into natural and forested areas where most of these wildfires occur. This situation puts many lives and communities at risk each year.



In particular, the expansion of residential development from urban centers out into rural landscapes, increases the potential for wildland fire threat to public safety and the potential for damage to forest resources and dependent industries. This increase in population across the region will impact counties and communities that are located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The

WUI is described as the area where structures and other human improvements meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Population growth within the WUI substantially increases the risk from wildfire.

For the **Bradford County, FL** project area, it is estimated that **26,916** people or **91 percent** of the total project area population (29,701) live within the WUI.



**The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) layer reflects housing density depicting where humans and their structures meet or intermix with wildland fuels.**