

Community Protection Zones

Description

Community Protection Zones (CPZ) represent those areas considered highest priority for mitigation planning activities. CPZs are based on an analysis of the Where People Live housing density data and surrounding fire behavior potential. Rate of Spread data is used to determine the areas of concern around populated areas that are within a 2-hour fire spread distance. This is referred to as the Secondary CPZ.

General consensus among fire planners is that for fuel mitigation treatments to be effective in reducing wildfire hazard, they must be conducted within a close distance of a community. In the South, the WUI housing density has been used to reflect populated areas in place of community boundaries (Primary CPZ). This ensures that CPZs reflect where people are living in the wildland, not jurisdictional boundaries.

Secondary CPZs represent a variable width buffer around populated areas that are within a 2-hour fire spread distance. Accordingly, CPZs will extend farther in areas where rates of spread are greater and less in areas where minimal rate of spread potential exists. Secondary CPZ boundaries inherently incorporate fire behavior conditions.

Primary CPZs reflect areas with a predefined housing density, such as greater than 1 house per 20 acres. Secondary CPZs are the areas around Primary CPZs within a 2 hour fire spread distance.

All areas in the South have the CPZs calculated consistently, which allows for comparison and ordination of areas across the entire region. Data is modeled at a 30-meter cell resolution, which is consistent with other SWRA layers.

Community Protection Zones - Acres

Class	Acres	Percent
Primary	37,369	45.5%
Secondary	44,814	54.5%
Total	82,182	100.0%