

What is the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)?

WUI is an area within or adjacent to an “at-risk community” (see below for the definition of an “at risk community”) that is identified in recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture in a *Community Wildfire Protection Plan*, or

A WUI is **any area** for which a *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* is not in effect, but is within ½ mile of the boundary of an “at risk community”.

A WUI is also any area that is within 1 ½ miles of an “at risk community” **AND** has sustained steep slopes that may affect wildfire behavior, **or** has a geographic feature that aids in creating an effective fuel break, **or** is in fuel condition class 3. (An area classified as fuel condition class 3 implies that the current condition of the vegetation within the area would not be sustainable due to the absence of two or more natural fire cycles. In other words, an excess of vegetation and fuels has occurred due to the exclusion of fire which naturally reduces the level of forest fuels.)

An area adjacent to evacuation routes for an “at risk community” is another example of a WUI.

What is an “At Risk Community”?

An “at risk community” is defined as a community within the wildland urban interface listed in the Federal Register notice, “*Wildland Urban Interface Communities within the Vicinity of Federal Lands that are at High Risk from Wildfire*”. OR

A group of home and other structures with basic infrastructure and services within or adjacent to federal land is defined as an “at risk community”.

“At risk communities” are areas where conditions are conducive to a large scale wildland fire disturbance event, thereby posing a significant threat to human life or property.