

# Town of Washington Community Wildfire Protection Plan Refresh



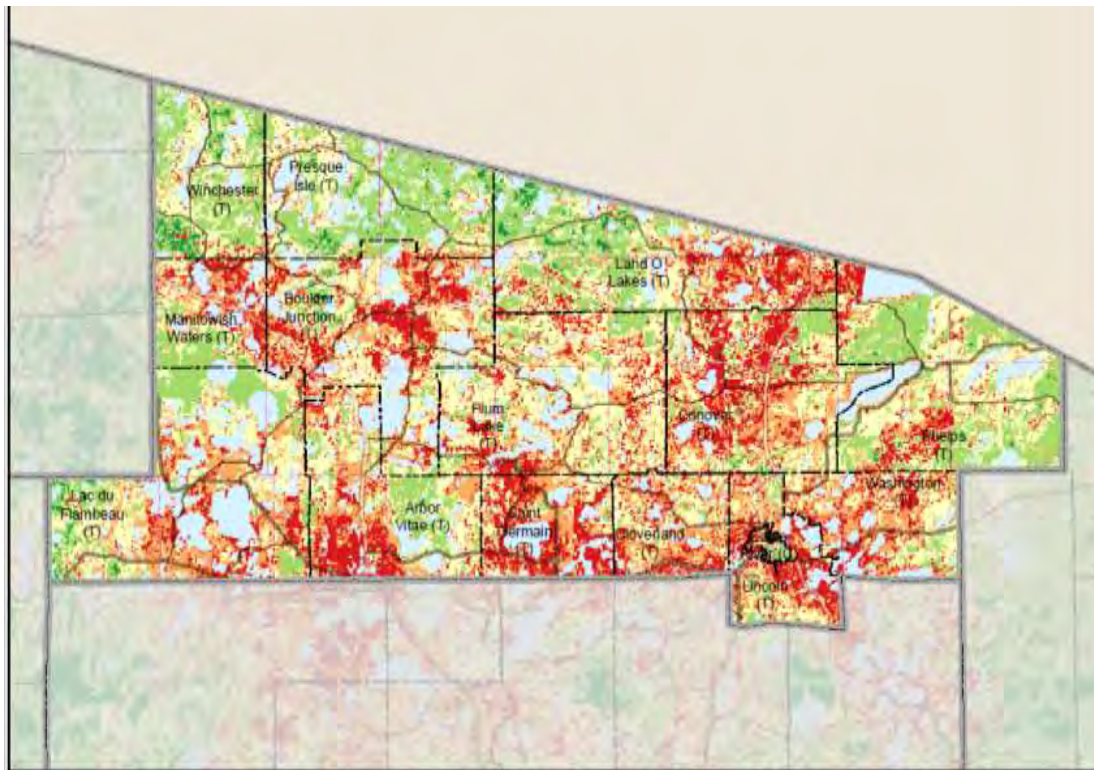
2023-2027

**Washington Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Work Group**

The following report is a collaborative effort between various entities. The representatives listed below comprise the core decision-making team responsible for this report and mutually agree on the Plan’s content.

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The Town of Washington is designated as a community at High Risk for wildfire because of the flammable vegetation of the area, the housing density, and the known historic fire occurrence. These factors combined means that there is a real risk of wildfire occurring in the town and it could result in significant damage and destruction of buildings, property, and natural resources. Public and firefighter safety are at risk as well when wildfires occur. To help mitigate the risks, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was created by the town in 2017. The purpose of the CWPP was to provide the town, local fire departments, Vilas County, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with information to help them reduce potential risks associated with wildfires. This information was used to create hazard mitigation strategies which described the activities that would be pursued to educate the public and reduce wildfire risks in the town.



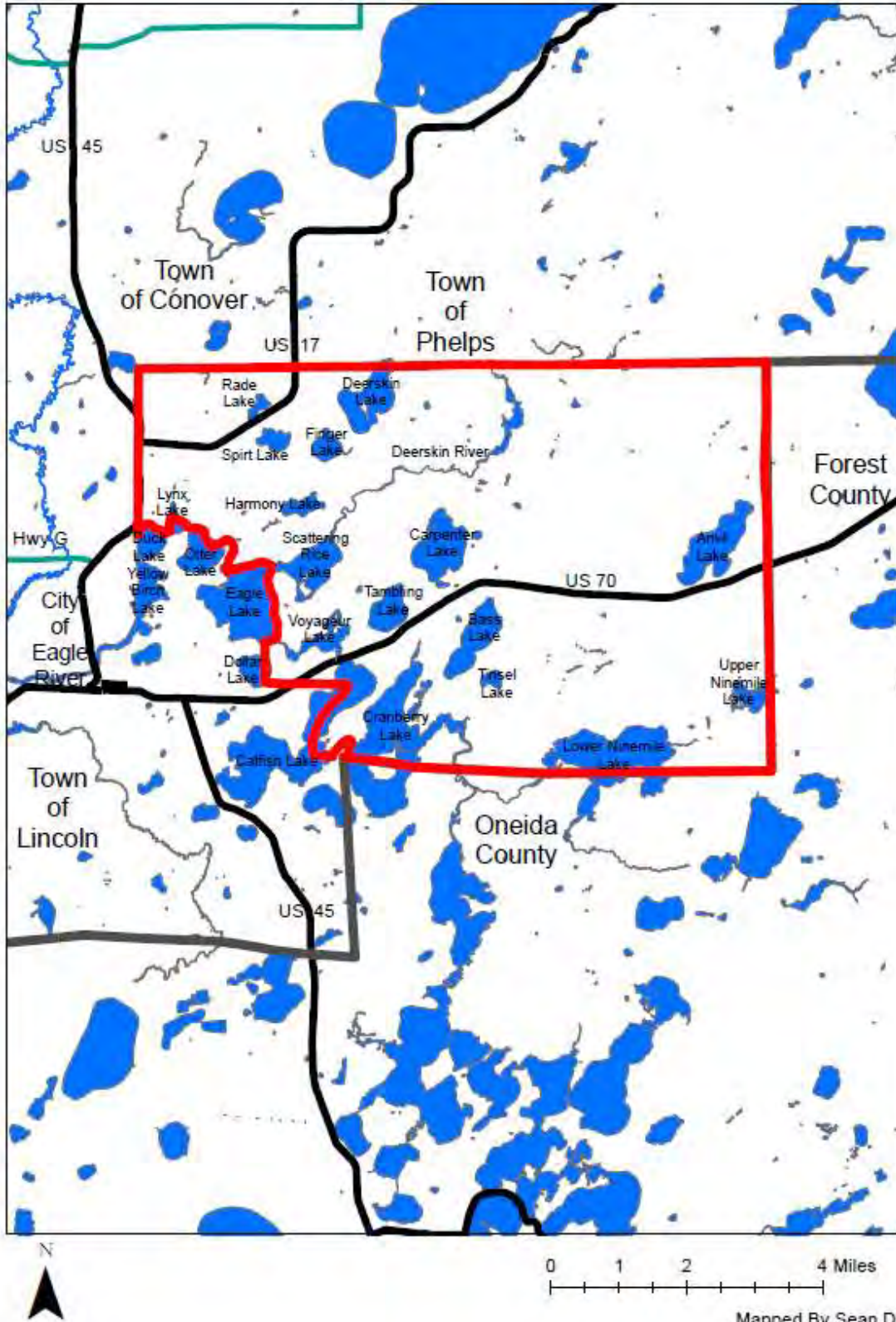
In 2022, a “CWPP refresh” process began again. The process included completing a new community risk assessment and creating hazard mitigation strategies. The results of the CWPP refresh process can be found in the remainder of this document.

## Plan Contents

Washington CWPP Work Group .....	page 2
CWPP overview .....	page 3
Plan Contents .....	page 4
Community Risk maps .....	page 5
Community Profile .....	page 6
Land Ownership .....	page 11
Wisconsin Wildfire Statistics .....	page 13
Wildland Urban Interface .....	page 18
Wildfire Risk Awareness .....	page 20
Community Risk Assessment .....	page 22
Hazard Mitigation Strategies .....	page 34



## Town of Washington Map



### Wildfire Risk

Fire Intensity and rate of spread depend on fuels, topography, and weather conditions. Weather conditions are dynamic so fire behavior can vary significantly, even during the course of the day. Forest cover types include pine, oak, and mixed hardwoods.

The Town of Washington falls within Fire Landscape 9. This is one of the highest wildfire risk landscapes in Wisconsin.

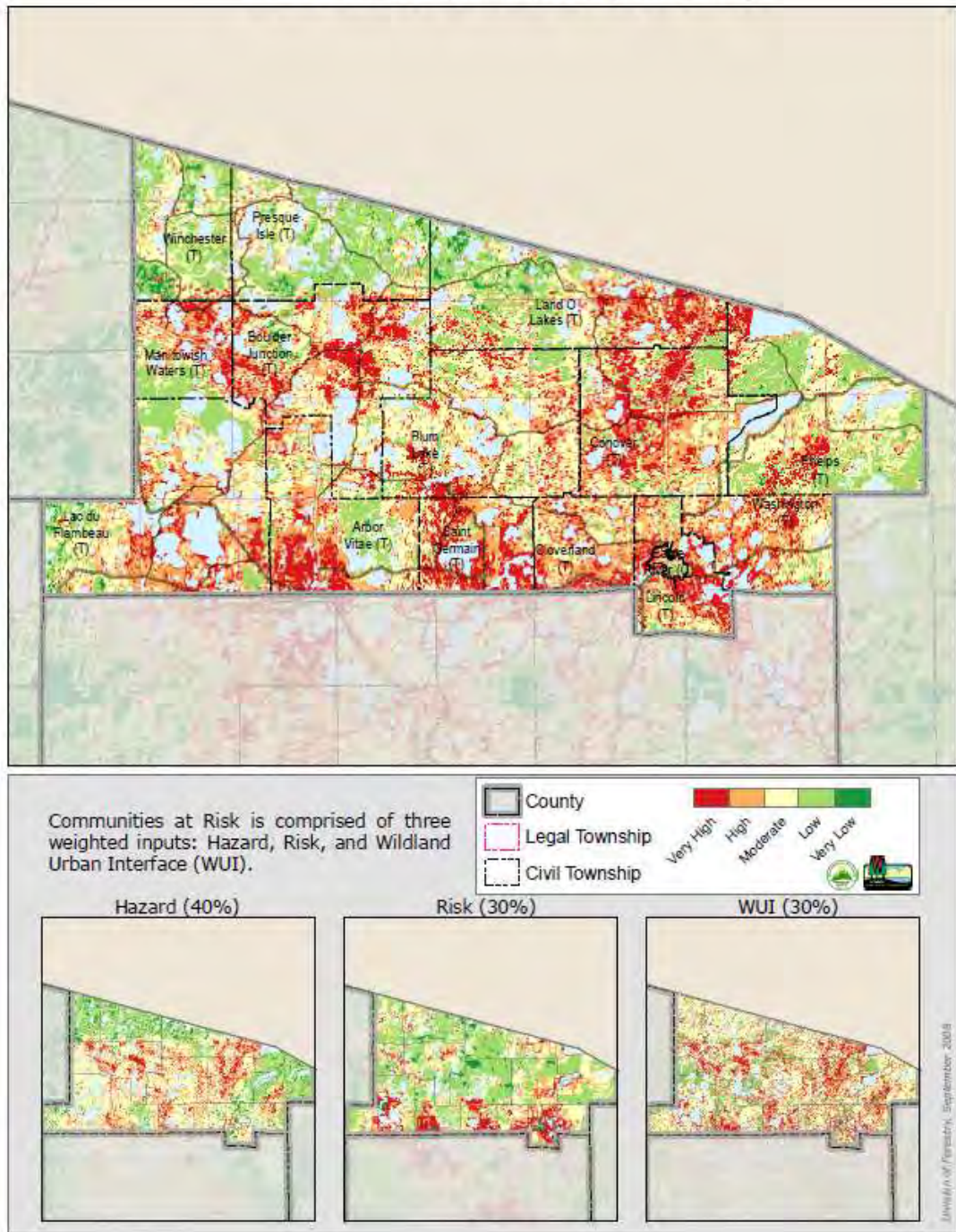


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## Vilas County Wildfire Risk Map

### Vilas County Communities-at-Risk Composite Map







## Community Profile

### People and Buildings

Census Data	2010	2020
People	1,451	1,587
Housing Units	2,031	1,989
Households	679	800

Other notable buildings include the Eagle River Area Fire Department Station 2, Town Hall, Town Shop, Weber Tower, other historic buildings, and tourist destinations (e.g., condominiums, resorts, campground, golf course, restaurants).

### Utilities

- Above-ground powerlines in outlying areas and secondary lines to homes
- Powerlines in several areas were buried
- Propane storage tank at Highway 17

### Brush collection

Brush collection site is heavily used during operation hours. Brush site is open Spring through Fall on the weekends. It is regulated with cameras that are checked weekly for violations.

### Land Use

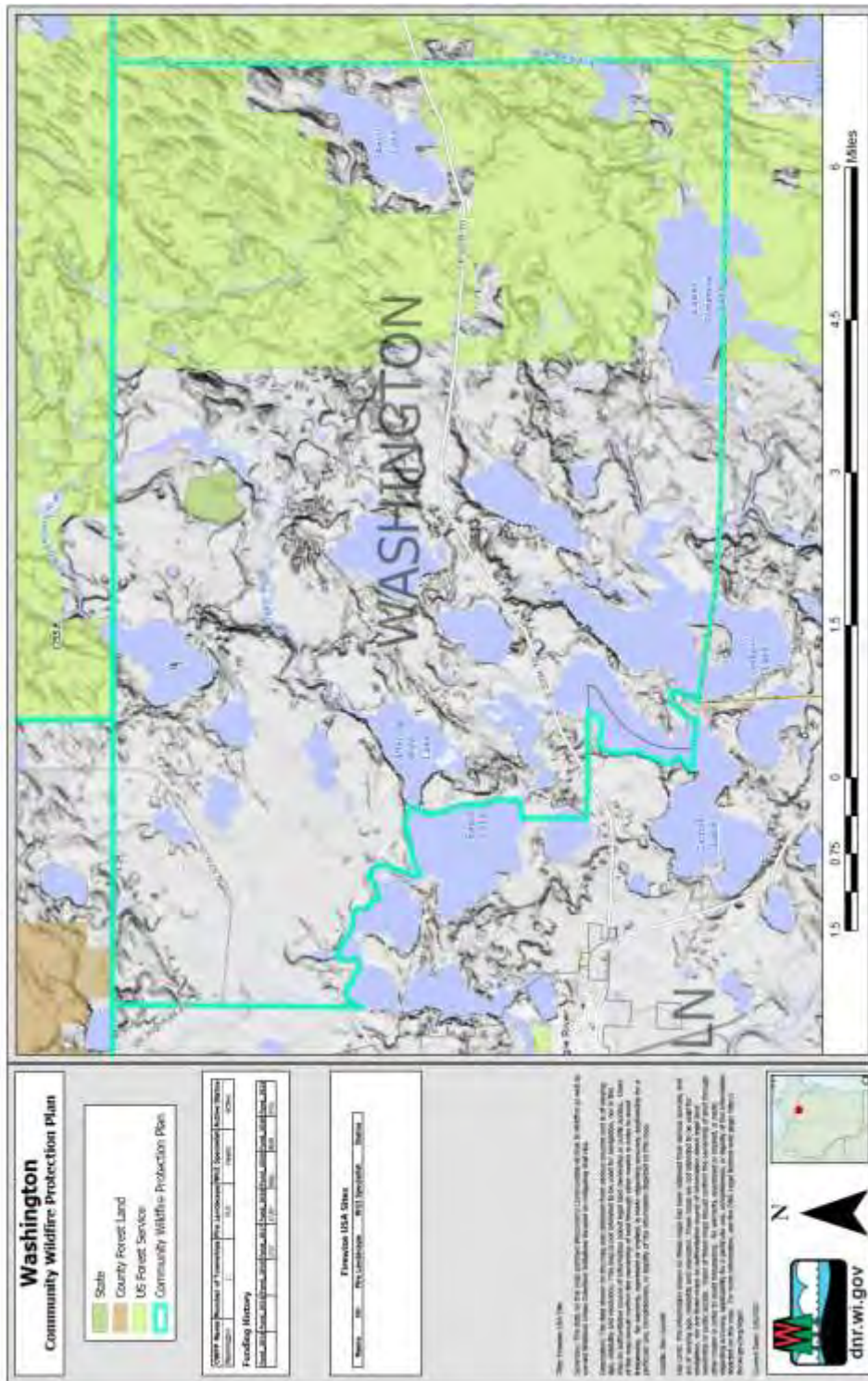
The town covers 30,581 total acres. Forest and open space account for 22,099 of these acres (72%). The primary land use is for tourism and timber production.

- Public total 10,921 acres (36%)
  - ◆ National Forest 9,395 acres (31%)
  - ◆ Town lands/forest 1,225 acres (4%) - utilized for timber production to reduce taxes
  - ◆ Vilas County lands/forest 22 acres (<1%)
- Private 13,987 acres (46%)
  - ◆ Private Industrial Forest 80 acres (<1%)
  - ◆ Private forest programs 1,268 acres (4%)
  - ◆ Conservation/educational organizations 165 acres (<1%)
- Surface water (includes islands and 16 named lakes) 4,168 acres (14%)

**Other hazards/risk factors**

- Future large scale storm damage
- Oak wilt becoming more prevalent in Vilas County
- Insect damage: Examples of potential insect problems include the spruce budworm, larch casebearer, jack pine budworm, 2-line chestnut borer (oak), bronze birch borer (birch) and bark beetles (pine)

Town of Washington – Land Ownership





## VEGETATION

The Town of Washington is approximately 48 square miles. Soils Composition in the town is variable. Some are sandy soils that can dry out quickly, but there are also areas with a silt and loam component that hold soil moisture longer. Dominant timber types include deciduous trees. There is a low composition of red and jack pine. There is a higher occurrence of white pine and balsam fir that can pose a wildfire risk, but the stands are mostly spread out and there is not a lot of potential for crown fires. This composition of soils and timber types have a lower risk for forest fires.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Washington is serviced by the Eagle River Fire Department. The Eagle River Fire Department is a volunteer fire department which responds to all fires in the town as well as mutual aid calls in surrounding towns. There are around 20 members on the Eagle River Fire Department.

The Eagle River Fire Department has a second station located on Rangeline Rd. in the Town of Washington. Currently, 2 trucks and 5 fire fighters respond from the second station.



## Wisconsin Wildfire Statistics

### 10 Year Wildfire Stats (2012-2021)

Taking a look at fire occurrence data in the area around Washington is important when making decisions regarding what to focus on in terms of education and outreach efforts. An analysis of wildfires that have occurred in Wisconsin between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2021, revealed 8,620 fires which burned 26,192 acres. 458 structures were lost during that same time period. Between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2021, Vilas County had 243 fires which burned over 157 acres. A total of 12 structures have been lost in Vilas County due to wildfires.

Spring is the most active time of the year for wildfires in Wisconsin. For the 2012-2021-time frame in Vilas County, 51% of wildfires occurred in May alone. 69% of the wildfires occurred in April and May. Statewide, 64% percent of wildfires occurred during March, April, and May during that 10-year period. Wildfires can occur every month of the year except during times when the ground is completely snow covered.

Figure 1: The monthly distribution of wildfires in WI DNR protection area over the past 10 years in Wisconsin.

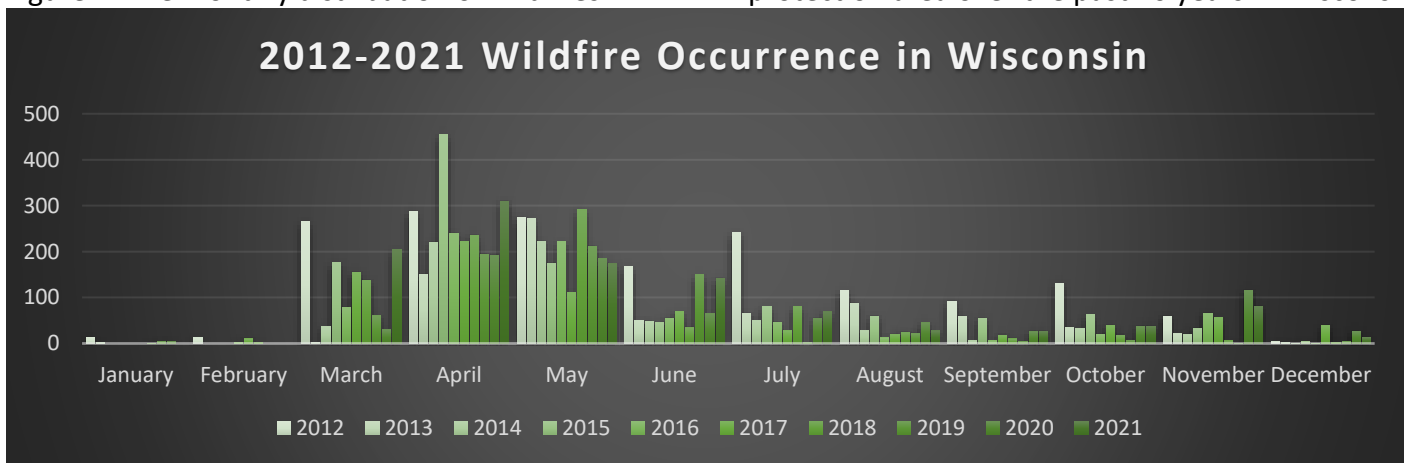
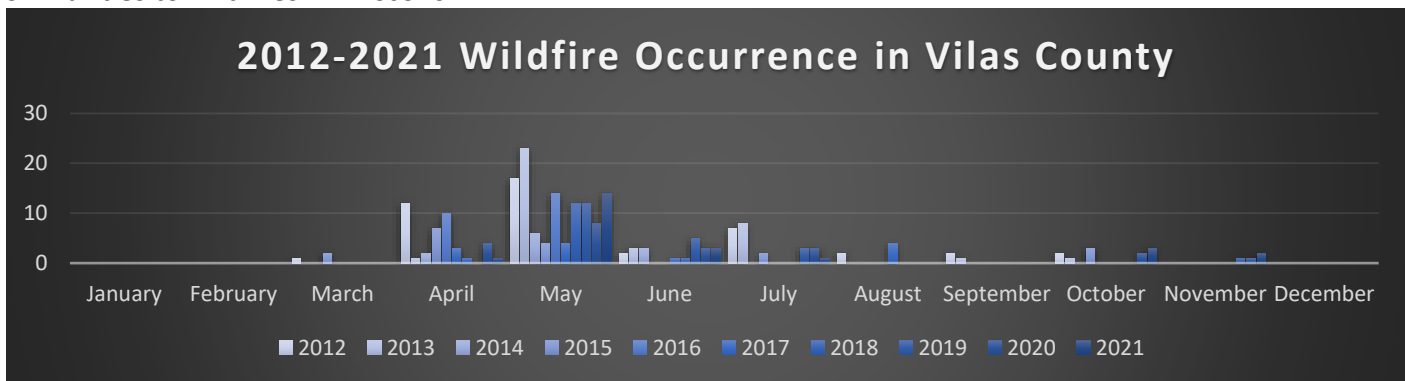


Figure 2: The monthly distribution of fires over the past 10 years in Vilas County. These totals show many similarities to wildfires in Wisconsin.



Statewide, the number 1 cause of wildfires is debris burning followed closely by equipment caused fires. 29 percent of wildfires in WI DNR protection areas are caused by debris burning. 25 percent of these wildfires are caused by equipment. Equipment fires are on the rise. The causes of wildfire in Vilas County are different than what we see on the statewide level. In Vilas County, 30 percent of wildfires in the last 10 years were the result of incendiary actions and 22 percent were caused by debris burning.

Figure 3 shows the different causes of wildfire in Wisconsin.

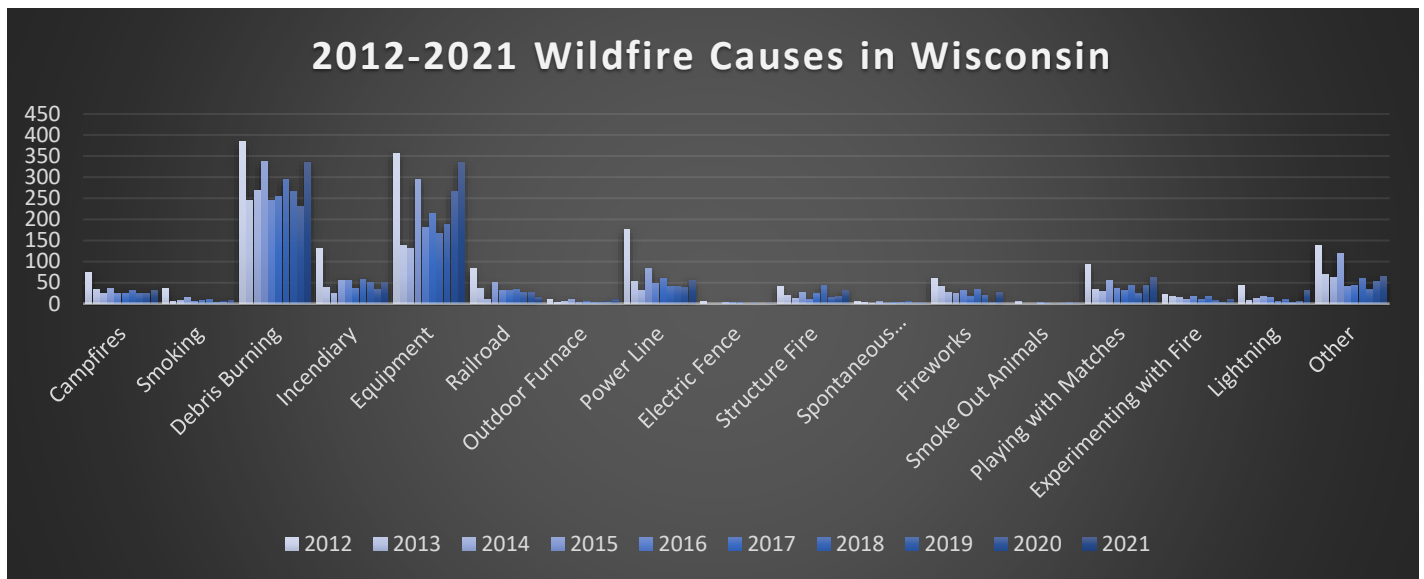
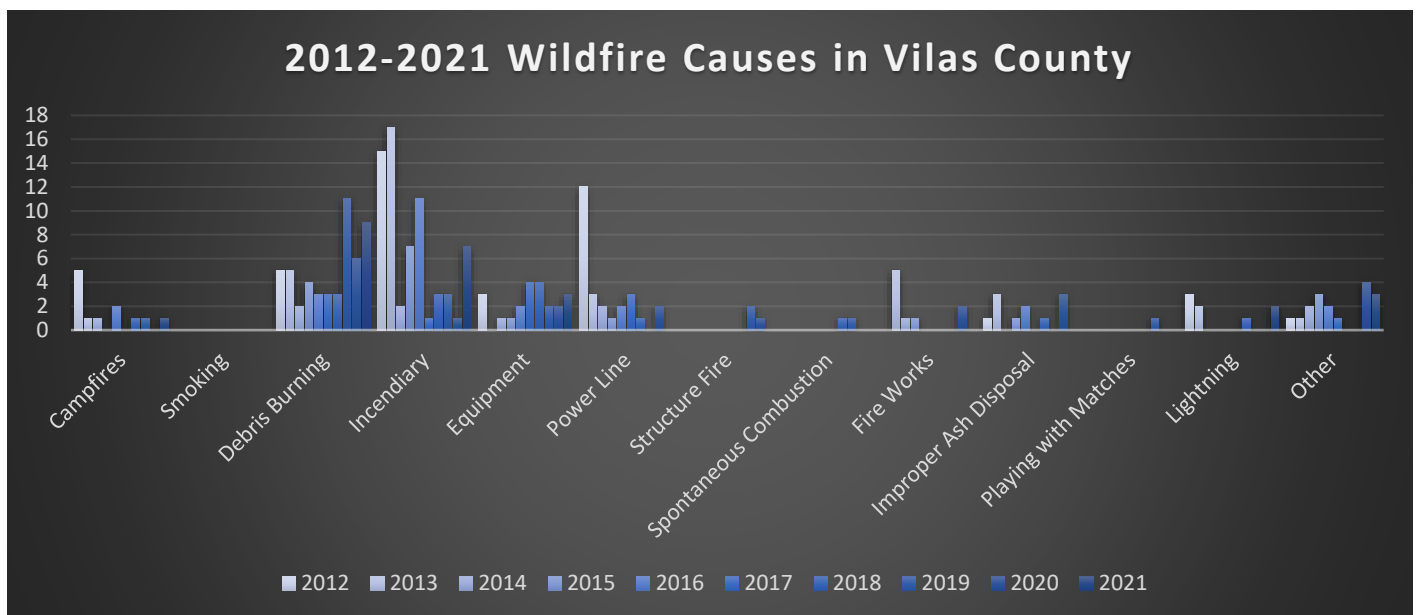
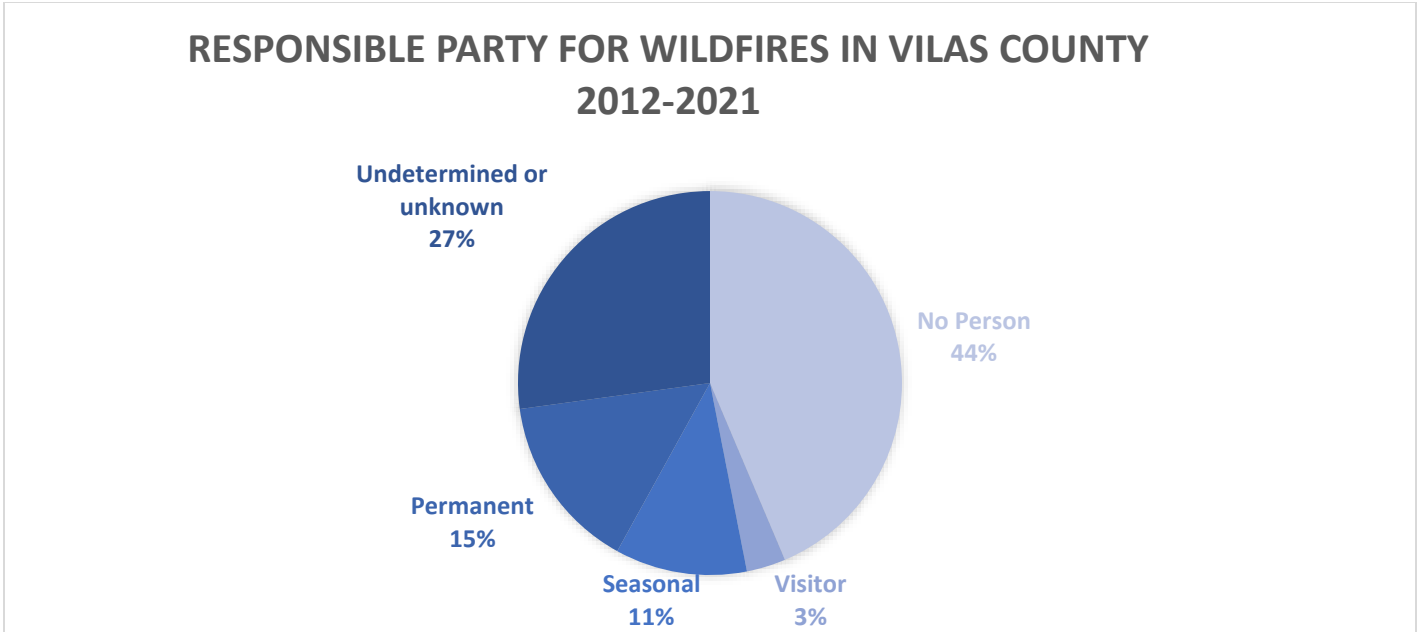


Figure 4 shows the different causes of wildfire in Vilas County.

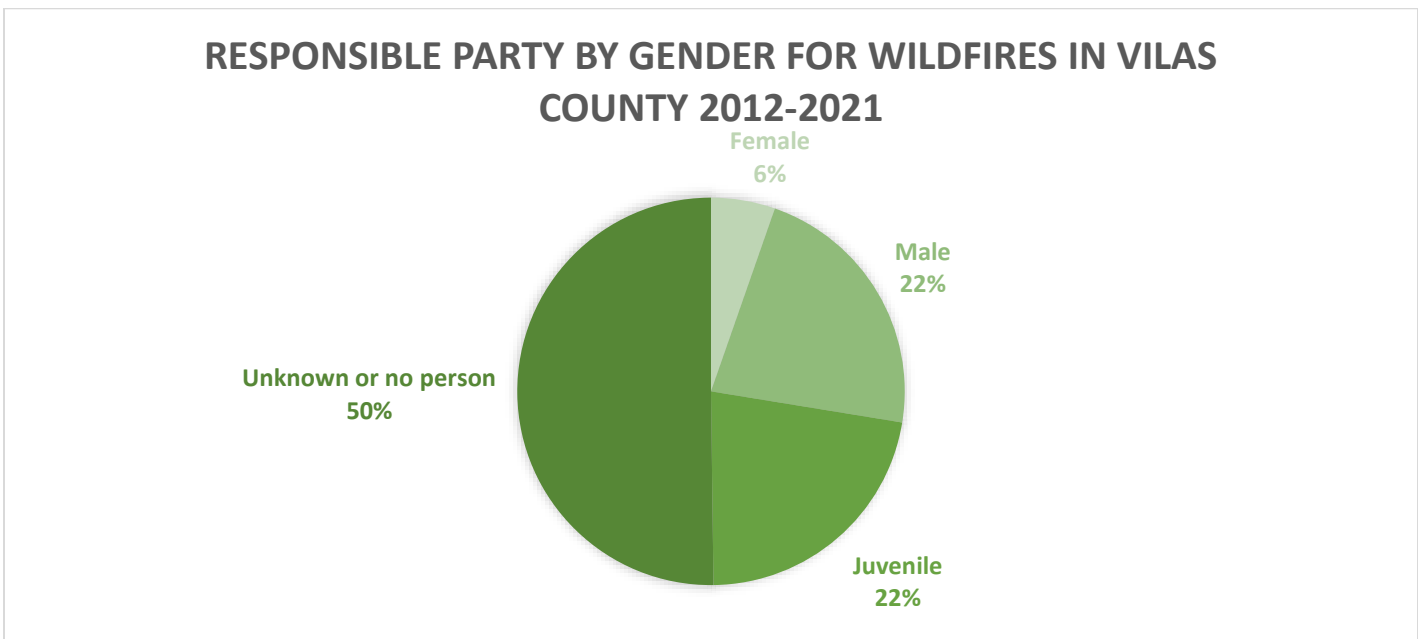




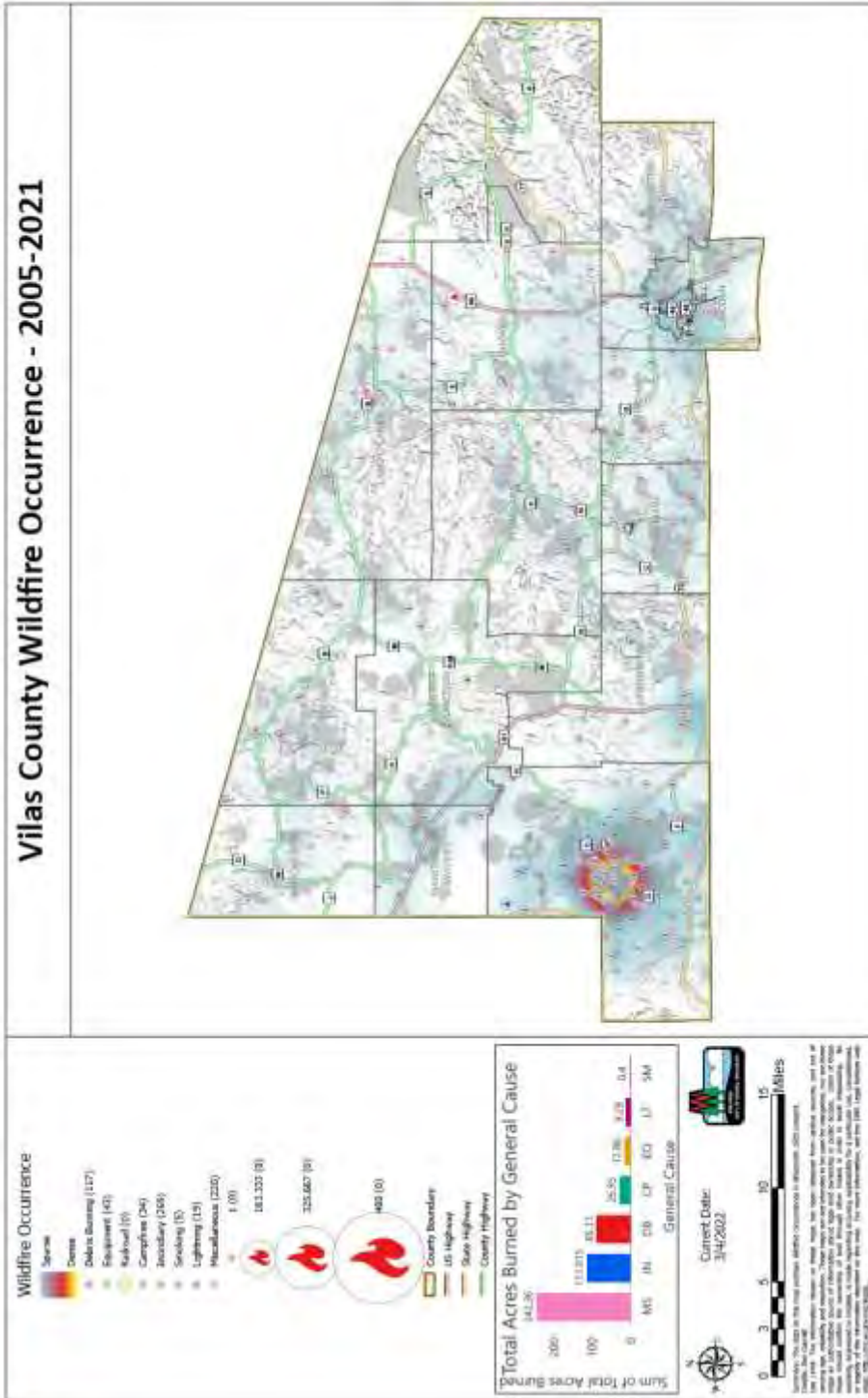
We can also look at who was responsible for starting the wildfires. The majority of fires in Vilas County had undetermined or unknown starts or were not started by a person.



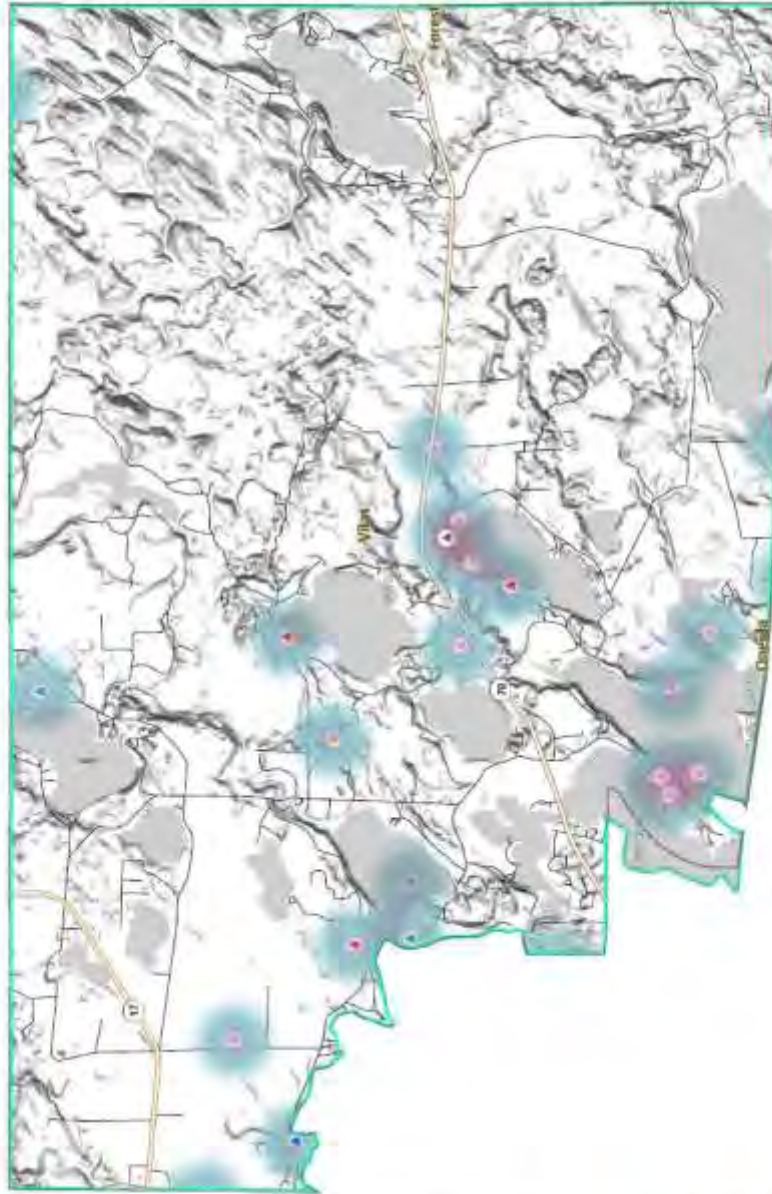
When looking at gender of the responsible party in Vilas County, we see that the majority of fires are started by males and juveniles, each at 22 percent. There are a large number of wildfires where no person was involved, or the responsible party is unknown.



Wildfire Occurrence



# Washington Wildfire Occurrence - 2005-2021



- Wildfire Occurrence**
- Debris Burning (2)
  - Equipment (1)
  - Railroad (0)
  - Campfires (3)
  - Involuntary (1)
  - Smoking (1)
  - Lightning (0)
  - Miscellaneous (10)
- 1, (0)  
34 (0)  
67 (0)  
100 (0)
- Source**
- Dense
  - County Boundary
  - Wisconsin WUI Initiatives
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plan
  - Municipal Boundary



Current Date: 3/4/2022

Source: The data on this map primarily reflects occurrences of incidence 2005-present. The information shown on this map has been obtained from various sources, and use of the data is subject to the accuracy of the source. There are no warranties, expressed or implied, made by the Town of Washington regarding the accuracy of the data shown on this map. The data is provided for informational purposes only and should not be used for any other purpose. For more information, please contact the Town of Washington at 715.756.1000.

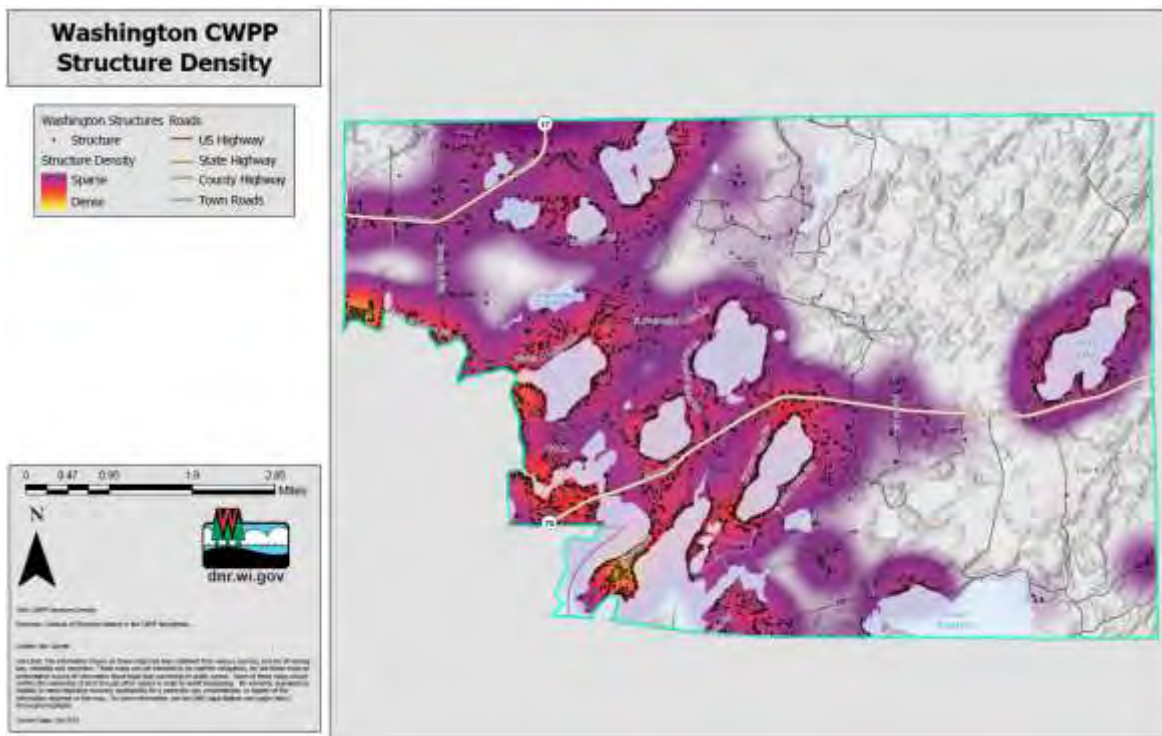


## WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)

The Wildland Urban Interface is a set of conditions where homes meet undeveloped wildland vegetation. People continue to move from urban and suburban areas to rural areas that offer recreational and aesthetic amenities, especially forested areas. In tourist destinations like the Town of Washington, this also includes vacation rentals and seasonal homes. This shift is expanding the wildland urban interface (WUI), an area where structures and other human development meet and intermix with undeveloped wildland. The WUI creates an environment that enables fire to move quickly between man-made and vegetative fuels. Its expansion increases the likelihood that wildfires will threaten structures and people. The Town of Washington is identified as a wildland urban interface area.

It is important then to consider where the structure density is the greatest within the Town of Washington and where these structures are in the WUI. When we look at the structure density in Town of Washington, most of the structures in the town are considered to be in the WUI. Most structures are located around lakes and water ways. There are a few areas in the town that are of particular concern related to structure ignitability, in part due the density of homes in a wooded area. In some cases, home ignition zones overlap, making an individual vulnerable to the choices of his/her neighbors. Education, open communication, and collaboration are helpful in these situations. The map below shows the largest concentrations of structures in the town.

### Washington's Structure Density



While it is not possible to eliminate wildfire from the landscape, a homeowner can reduce the intensity of an approaching wildfire by how they prepare their home ignition zone.

The home ignition zone is the home and its surroundings out to 100-200 feet. Research has shown that the characteristics of buildings and their immediate surroundings determine the risk of ignition during a wildfire. There are simple things property owners can do to protect their home or cabin from wildfire. See below for more information.



**THE HOME IGNITION ZONE** is your home and its surroundings out to 100-200 feet. Research has shown that the characteristics of buildings and their immediate surroundings determine the risk of ignition during a wildfire. Vegetation and personal property should be managed and maintained to reduce the risk of wildfire and improve the likelihood of your home surviving with little or no assistance from firefighters. There are simple things property owners can do to reduce wildfire risk on their property. **For more information, go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), search "firewise."**

0-5 feet from buildings	Up to 30 feet from buildings	30-100 feet from buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keep the area</b> around buildings free of anything that can burn, including plants and mulch</li> <li>• <b>Choose rock, brick or bare dirt</b> over mulch</li> <li>• <b>Remove pine needles</b> and leaves from your roof and gutters</li> <li>• <b>Remove branches</b> that overhang roof</li> <li>• <b>Select slow growing</b>, deciduous plants and shrubs</li> <li>• <b>Use fire-resistant</b> materials for roofs and gutters, windows, vents, eaves, and attachments like decks</li> <li>• <b>Keep decks</b> free of debris on, under, and 5 feet around</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rake leaves</b> and needles away from structures</li> <li>• <b>Keep lawn green</b>, short and mowed</li> <li>• <b>Remove debris</b> from under decks and around wooden fences</li> <li>• <b>Limit the number</b> of conifers (evergreens) trees and leave space between the crowns of trees</li> <li>• <b>Prune branches</b> up and away from the ground</li> <li>• <b>Move firewood</b> at least 30 feet away from buildings</li> <li>• <b>Keep propane tanks</b> 30 feet away from buildings and clear of vegetation and leaf and needle debris</li> <li>• <b>Remove dead trees</b>, shrubs and branches</li> <li>• <b>Thin shrubs</b> and trees to create separation between tree crowns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Favor deciduous trees</b> and shrubs over evergreens</li> <li>• <b>Remove dead trees</b>, shrubs and branches</li> <li>• <b>Thin trees</b> and shrubs to create separation between tree crowns</li> <li>• <b>Ensure</b> that your fire number signs are visible from both directions of travel</li> <li>• <b>Create driveway clearance</b> at least 12-20 feet wide and at least 13.5 feet of vertical space to provide access for emergency vehicles.</li> </ul>

## Wildfire Risk Awareness

Without a true understanding of the wildfire risk of our area, people may think that a wildfire is unlikely to affect them. When people don't understand the real potential that a large and costly wildfire could happen, they may not feel a sense of urgency to prepare for evacuation or be cautious with fire in the outdoors. The Town of Washington has sent out mailings and newsletters to reach out to property owners to educate them on their wildfire risk. The fire department has conducted home ignition zone assessments and distributed information at fire department events. While this is a great start, there should be a continued effort to keep the public aware of the wildfire risk moving forward.

## Fire Prevention

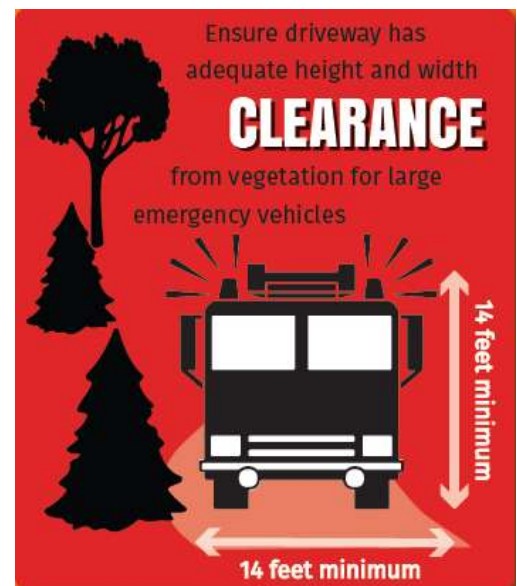
Hopefully increased awareness will encourage the public to be careful as they introduce fire into the outdoors by means of fireworks, campfires or debris burning. With the variety of recreational properties in the town, there is also some concern about ATVs and equipment as a source of wildfires.

## Emergency Response

If firefighters cannot safely drive a fire truck to a home, they will come up with an alternate plan to help. No matter what that plan is, such as parking a truck on the street and dragging hose down the driveway or sending in a smaller truck to scout out the situation, the alternative can cost precious time. As you can imagine, the faster a fire is extinguished, the lower the risk of damage.

In a wildfire situation, when many homes are threatened at the same time and resources are limited, poor accessibility could also mean that firefighters choose to pass over an inaccessible property in order to maximize efficiency (triage) and reduce the risk to firefighters and equipment.

In the Town of Washington, there are areas with long, narrow driveways where the home is not visible from the road. Some driveways do not have adequate clearance from vegetation to allow a fire truck or other emergency vehicle access to the property. Inadequate road and driveway access can result in slowed emergency response, unsafe working conditions for firefighters and dangerous conditions during evacuations.





In a wildfire situation, multiple fire departments as well as the DNR and U.S. Forest service could respond. There are many vehicles at the scene of the fire and around the fire. This causes traffic issues and could also limit access to some areas. The width of roads can be a major concern as the size of the wildfire increases and the number of firefighters and equipment increases. Roads may be closed trapping residents on one side of a dead-end road.



Hahn Fire in the Town of Minocqua 2019

## Community Risk Assessment

The CWPP work group gathered May 18, 2022, to complete the community risk assessment for the Town of Washington. Gathering and discussing key information at each prechosen area of concern provided the foundation for developing hazard mitigation strategies and project ideas that can be incorporated into the CWPP



The development of a community risk assessment will help the steering committee identify the areas at highest risk to wildfire and begin to develop and prioritize hazard mitigation strategies and activities.

A meaningful community risk assessment considers the risk factors identified below. These are the categories that the committee used to rank each of the identified areas of concern within the community.

### A. Fuel Hazards

Evaluate the vegetative fuels within or near the community. Identify specific areas where the condition of vegetative fuels is such that, if ignited, they would pose a significant threat to the community or essential community infrastructure. Consider how the local topography (such as slope, aspect, and elevation) may affect potential fire behavior.

- Amount and types of trees, grass, brush on private and public lands
- Areas where the condition of fuels pose a significant threat to the community (storm or insect damage)
- Local topography (slope, aspect, elevation) that may affect fire behavior

### B. Risk of Wildfire Occurrence

Determine the common causes and relative frequency of wildfires in the vicinity of the community. Consider the range of factors, including critical weather patterns that may contribute to the probability of fire ignitions and/or extreme fire behavior.

- Fire usage and/or other human-caused ignition sources
- Factors that may contribute to the probability of fire ignitions and extreme fire behavior
- Common causes, sizes, and relative frequency of past wildfires

### C. Public Structures or Areas, and Essential Infrastructure at Risk

Assess the vulnerability of critical public structures to ignition from firebrands, radiation, and convection and document areas of concern. Consider other areas of community importance, such as significant recreation and scenic areas; and landscapes of historical, economic, or cultural value that would benefit from treatment to reduce wildfire risks.

Identify specific human improvements within or adjacent to the community, such as businesses and essential infrastructure that would be adversely impacted by wildfire.

- Specific and significant improvements within or adjacent to the community
- Ingress, egress, and characteristics of primary and secondary roads
- Utilities or services at risk

### D. Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability

Assess the level of the community's emergency preparedness, including evacuation planning, safety zones and fire assistance agreements, as well as the response capability of community and cooperator fire protection forces.

- Level of emergency preparedness including safety zones and response capability of the fire protection agencies
- Water sources and availability and/or issues
- Fire awareness education efforts

### E. Population Density

Evaluate the number of dwellings within a development; the more homes in a given area, the greater the risk of loss in a wildfire. Structures also become a potential source of fuel when they are in the vicinity of a wildfire. Flames and radiant heat can also cause a structure to ignite from a burning building that is in close proximity.

- Consolidated areas of human development
  - Subdivisions or property associations
  - Camps and campgrounds
  - Resorts



### F. Vulnerability of Homes

Determine the survivability of homes within a neighborhood to withstand a wildfire. Often firefighters cannot protect every home during a wildfire, so homes need to be able to survive without their help. Firewise homes can do that and are constructed of fire-resistant materials and include enough “defensible space” around them that is well-maintained, and the amount of vegetation managed.

- Lawn is green, clean, and mowed
- Limited amounts of trees especially evergreens within a 30-foot diameter of the home
- Adjacency of structures to other structures or surrounding homes
- Driveway design and clearance can accommodate emergency vehicles

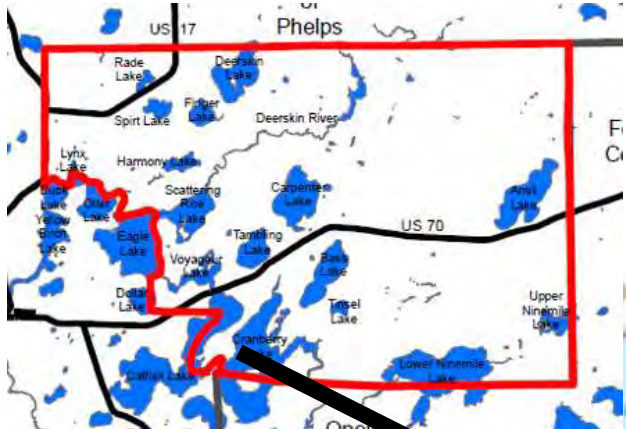


Hahn Fire in the Town of Minocqua 2019





## Area of Concern

### Area 1: Everett Rd and Wood Lane



<b>Fuel Hazards</b>	Pine and balsam are intermixed with a deciduous mix.
	There are large areas of woods sprinkled in with the homes
	Multiple wind and ice storms have hit this area leaving a large amount of dead and down debris

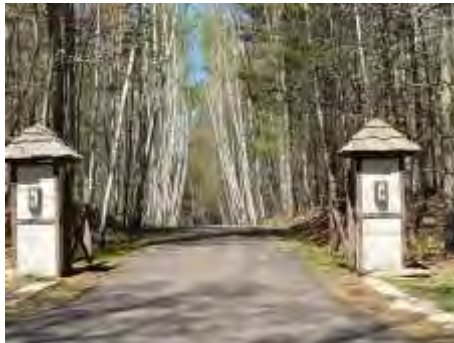
	<p>In some areas, there are large amounts of ladder fuels and a significant amount of pine growing in the understory.</p>	
<p><b>Risk of Wildfire Occurrence</b></p>	<p>The risk of wildfire is increased due to the population density, dead and down fuels, and recreational use</p> <p>Wildfire causes could include debris burning, campfires. ATV/equipment, lawnmowers, fireworks</p> <p>If a wildfire would occur, this area is narrow and located between two larger bodies of water. Wind could increase fire behavior. Lakeside wind and topography could affect fire spread.</p>	
<p><b>Essential Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>Multiple of dead-end roads</p>	
<p><b>Firefighter Capability</b></p>	<p>One way in and one way out leads to a possible dangerous situation for firefighters and a challenge with evacuation and access. The road is narrow and long.</p>	
<p><b>Population Density</b></p>	<p>There are a large number of homes on this road and the many roads that branch off it. Homes are located both on the lake and in the woods</p> <p>Homes are both seasonal and permanent</p> <p>There are a large number of short-term rentals in this area</p>	
<p><b>Emergency Vehicle Access</b></p>	<p>There are a large number of dead-end roads. Many of them are private roads which are long, narrow and have limited access with little to no turnaround at the end.</p>	

Many driveways are long and narrow making access difficult or impossible.



A few driveways have a very soft surface making access difficult

There are a large number of driveways that are gated or have pillars by the road. Most are wide enough but make turning into the driveway very difficult for a fire truck.



**Home Ignition Zones**

There are a large number of homes that cannot be seen from the road

Homes are nestled in the woods and often have vegetation growing right up to the house.





There are some properties that have a very clean home ignition zone while many others have leaves and pine needles on their roof, leaves around their homes, gutters full of leaves,



trees growing right up against the house, pine branches overhanging the house and more.

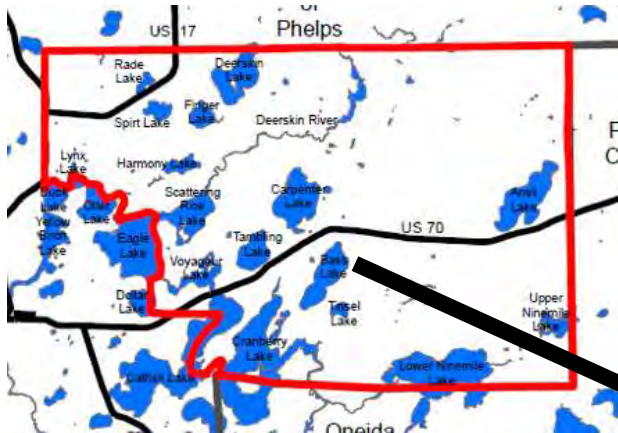
Other discussions at stop 1:


- There is an increasing number of short-term rentals in the Town of Washington. There is concern over lack of knowledge regarding wildfires and wildfire preparation as rental occupants do not receive the mailings or emails. How can we reach these residents?
- Other visitors to the area include campers at campgrounds. It would be advantageous to create a new handout to illustrate campers what a campfire is and what debris burning is and how to extinguish a fire.






## Area of Concern

- Area 2: East Bass Lake Rd**



<b>Fuel Hazards</b>	There is a mix of pine, balsam and hardwoods in this area with a lot of balsam and pine in the understory
	<p>This area has much dead and down debris from multiple wind storms and ice storms.</p> 
<b>Risk of Wildfire Occurrence</b>	With the large amount of dead and down debris, debris piles and coniferous trees in the understory, there is an increased risk of wildfire in this area
	Wildfire Causes could include: powerlines, ATVs, equipment, mechanical items in the woods or yards like lawnmowers, chainsaws, tractors, logging equipment, campfires, debris burning, fireworks
	Powerlines are in this area

<b>Essential Infrastructure</b>	The public road around the lake is access for a large number of homes
<b>Firefighter Capability</b>	<p>There are multiple dead end roads and private roads in the area. Some private roads look like narrow driveways but actually lead to multiple homes.</p> <p>Many homes cannot be seen from the road</p> <p>Fire numbers are confusing on some private roads</p>
<b>Population Density</b>	There are a large number of permanent, seasonal, and rental homes in this area. Most on the lake but some also in the woods on the other side of the road.
<b>Emergency Vehicle Access</b>	<p>A large number of driveways are very long and narrow.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>There are multiple driveways with gates or pillars obstructing the driveway</p>  <p>There are private roads with multiple homes that are very narrow and have little to no turn around.</p>
<b>Home Ignition Zones</b>	<p>Many homes cannot be seen from the road</p> <p>Some homes have defensible space but many have leaves, needles and other debris right up to the home</p> <p>Some homes have leaves and needles collecting on the roof and in the gutters</p>

## Area of Concern

### Area 3: Town of Washington Brush Site



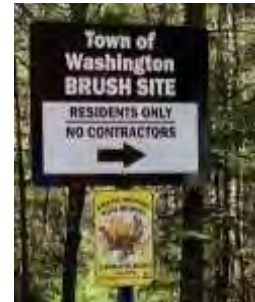
#### Brush site success:

- The brush site was created as part of the CWPP. Originally the site was located in a smaller area and the brush was pushed over a hill. The brush site was move to a much larger area and is currently being chipped by a contractor yearly.
- Usage increases every year
- A contractor is hired to chip the brush and remove the chips each year. There is a small pile of chips left behind for residents to take if they would like.



- The site is monitored by cameras and is open from Friday at 4 p.m. to Monday at 6 a.m. from Spring through the last weekend of October.

- Multiple signs were created to assist in the usage of the site



A Smokey Fire Danger Sign was erected at the entrance of the brush site and is updated by the Eagle River Fire Department.



### Brush site Future:

- The brush site has 3 compost bins made of concrete barriers for the collection of leaves and needles. One bin is for collecting new leaves and needles, one is to hold leaves and needles that are composting, and one is to hold the compost material after compost is complete for property owners to take and use on their property. These 3 bins are not keeping up with current demand and the town is needing to pile compost outside of the bins. Additional or larger concrete bins would be beneficial in helping the collecting and composing process.
- The site is currently closed to contractors. Many contractors do not have an outlet for the brush from jobs. Many pile it on their property or dispose of it at other sites.



- Equipment purchases would be helpful in maintaining the brush site and assisting with other projects such as fuel breaks or road widening. Sharing larger equipment with adjacent towns and collaborating on projects would be a possibility.
- The population age in the Town of Washington is increasing. The brush site is quite assessible as is but there may be some options to make things run a little smoother.
- The brush pile is currently pushed up against the woods which could be a problem if the pile started on fire and spread into that woods and into the adjacent subdivision. Putting a break between the woods and the brush pile and leaf pile would be simple to do and may prevent the spread of a fire.
- The brush site is quite large. Working with FEMA to pre-approve the brush site location so it can be used in the event of an emergency would greatly assist the town in a blow down, tornado or other such event.

## Eagle River Fire Department – Station 2

- Station 2 was built across the street from the brush site. It is now fully functional and multiple firefighters respond from this station.



**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ACTIVITIES**

The Washington CWPP steering committee identified and prioritized the following goal and objectives to be the foundation for the 2017-2021 Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

**GOAL:** Protect lives, property and resources from wildfire while educating and providing for public safety.

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Raise awareness among town residents and visitors of area wildfire risk and efforts to reduce associated hazards

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Improve wildfire planning efforts and increase emergency responders’ safety.

**OBJECTIVE 3:** Reduce hazardous fuels and mitigate fire danger on public and private lands.

**OBJECTIVE 4:** Support the town’s brush site

**OBJECTIVE 5:** Educate Property owners on the importance of reducing highly flammable vegetation around their properties and the importance of ensuring emergency vehicle access

**OBJECTIVE 6:** Develop and implement fire department access and emergency access plans

**OBJECTIVE 7:** Develop and enhance partnerships with other agencies and towns

The following is a list of proposed activities and supporting projects for the Washington community categorized by the objectives above. This list includes both short-term and long-term activities beginning in 2017 that have been identified by the group which address a number of issues related to wildfire. A CWPP is a living document that includes the flexibility for updates, revisions, and additions.

<b>OBJECTIVE 1: Raise awareness among town residents and visitors of area wildfire risk and efforts to reduce associated hazards</b>		
<b><i>Project</i></b>	<b><i>Timeframe</i></b>	<b><i>Completed</i></b>
Include CWPP and other wildfire information on town and partner’s websites and in social media; update regularly.	Ongoing	
Maintain the Smokey Bear fire danger and fire prevention signage in highest risk areas e.g., along roads and ATV trails, and at fire department, campgrounds, and resorts.	Ongoing	
Develop and disseminate communication materials regarding risk	Ongoing	

reduction and CWPP updates (e.g., semi-annual newsletter and/or postcard mailing, press releases).		
Build an email list for efficient and economical electronic communication regarding wildfire information, CWPP updates and emergency information. (650ish by 2022)	Ongoing	
Set up preparing for wildfire displays at local businesses and organizations, offer brochures (e.g., library).	Ongoing	
Develop and implement initiatives or promotions regarding creating defensible space (e.g., firewood location, driveway width, building materials).	Ongoing	
Investigate feasibility of an electronic version of Smokey Fire Danger sign		
Work with property owners to share wildfire prevention information with short term rental properties	2023	
Educate property owners on campfires vs debris burning and share burn permit information	2024	
Work with campgrounds to share wildfire prevention information especially regarding campfires	2025	
Educate property owners on the importance of logging and fuels reduction	Ongoing	
Put CWPP updates and critical fire posts on fire department’s Facebook page and other social media outlets	Ongoing	
Conduct public meetings to inform or update the community on the CWPP, hazard mitigation projects, home ignition zones and or Firewise USA	2023-2027	

**OBJECTIVE 2: Improve wildfire planning efforts and increase emergency responders’ safety.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	
Disseminate information on signing up for Code Red or reverse SMART 911	Ongoing	
Work with Fire Department and Law Enforcement on wildfire notification and planning considerations.	Ongoing	
Work with property owners and associations, camps and resorts on wildfire prevention, evacuation, and emergency access.	Ongoing	
Home Ignition Zone assessment training for Fire Department personnel.	When needed	
Partner with area fire departments on training scenarios.		
Investigate additional water supplies and access points (e.g., dry	2023-2027	

hydrants).		
Develop partnerships with lake associations or neighborhoods to provide dry hydrant maintenance in conjunction with fire department.	2023-2027	
Identify areas that need road improvements to accommodate emergency vehicle access.	2023-2027	
Work with U.S. Forest Service to provide fire protection equipment via the FEPP program (e.g., transfer of type 6 brush truck).	2023-2027	

**OBJECTIVE 3: Reduce hazardous fuels and mitigate fire danger on public and private lands**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Work with U.S. Forest Service to identify and implement projects that reduce the fire danger on federal lands (e.g., Buckhorn Road).	Ongoing	
Work with USFS to develop a plan to fund hazardous fuels work on non-federal lands adjacent to U.S. Forest Service lands. Widens/cross boundary	2023-2027	
Organize curbside chipping/brush collection days.	Ongoing	
Work with the U. S. Forest Service on mastication projects around WUI areas	2023-2027	
Investigate feasibility of fuel mitigation or fire/buffers in and around WUI areas	2023-2027	
Investigate conducting neighborhood timber sales or chipping to thin vegetation in areas with large concentration of balsam fir and pine.		
Incorporate removal of slash in timber sale/logging contracts.		
Work with FEMA to approve an emergency brush site location.	2023-2027	
Talk to private property owners about working with loggers or an arborist to conduct property walk throughs to identify hazardous fuels and strategies to mitigate wildfire risk.		
Purchase equipment such as chippers, mulching/mastication heads, and other equipment to do fuel mitigation projects, increase access and assist at the brush site.	2023-2027	
Conduct demonstration days on USFS equipment and other possible demonstrations	2023-2027	

**OBJECTIVE 4: Support the town’s brush site**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Chip the brush site annually or as needed	Ongoing	



Improve and maintain access to the brush site	Ongoing	
Monitor the brush site to ensure no violations	Ongoing	
Maintain areas around the brush pile for access by emergency vehicles	2023-2027	
Promote brush site usage in the annual newsletter and other appropriate media/venues	Ongoing	

**OBJECTIVE 5: Educate Property owners on the importance of reducing highly flammable vegetation around their properties and the importance of ensuring emergency vehicle access**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Work with and develop presentations for lake/homeowner associations	2023-2027	
Complete Home Ignition Zone assessments through Focus Area Projects to entire subdivisions or lake associations.	Ongoing	
Educate property owners on the importance of driveway access through presentations, mailings, and demonstrations	Ongoing	

**OBJECTIVE 6: Develop and implement fire department access and emergency access plans**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Develop and maintain maps for use by fire departments showing access and water points, special vehicle considerations, etc.	2023-2027	
Investigate directional signage for evacuation during an emergency situation, develop routes, look at access, create maps and consider turn arounds and road access.	Ongoing	

**OBJECTIVE 7: Develop and enhance partnerships with other agencies and towns**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Communicate with and discuss partnering possibilities with 1 <sup>st</sup> responders, dispatchers, Vilas County Emergency Management, Sheriff’s department, fire departments, Forest Service on wildfire risk, evacuation, and all hazards’ plans	2023-2027	
Work with the U.S. Forest Service on fuels mitigation projects	Ongoing	
Develop a partnership with Vilas County and U.S. Forest Service for possible resource sharing	Ongoing	

## Projects Complete 2017-2021:

**2017:** Grant monies spent - \$7,327.00

Brush Site Cameras and Signs

Fall Post Card

Webpage development

Brush site maintenance and chipping

**2018:** Grant monies spent - \$10,174.53 – match \$17,036.10

Safety Spotlight – newsletter

Brush site Chipping

Brush site concrete barriers

Brush site signs

Fall Post Card

Smokey Fire Danger Sign

**2019:** Grant monies spent - \$7,961.27 - match \$17,696.39

Safety Spotlight – newsletter

Brush site signs

Concrete bins

Kiosk posters

Fall post card

Brush site chipping

**2020:** Grant monies spent - \$6,689.72 – match \$9,475.30

Safety Spotlight – newsletter

Fall Post Card

Brush site sign

Brush site chipping

**2021:** Grant monies spent - \$10,843.19– match \$25,614.06

Focus area project

Roadside chipping

Chipping day letter

Brush site chipping

Safety Spotlight - newsletter

## Adopting of the Town of Washington Community Wildfire Protection Plan Resolution 2022-01/09

WHEREAS, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 was created in order to reduce the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington has been identified as being a community of concern in the Wisconsin Communities-at-Risk Assessment, and

WHEREAS, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan should be developed in any community that is listed as an at-risk community in a federal or state risk assessment, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington has worked cooperatively with other stakeholders to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and

WHEREAS, the intent of the plan is to help fire protection agencies, community leaders, natural resource professionals, and homeowners be better prepared for wildfire, and

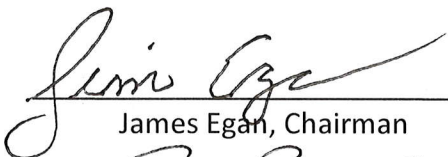
WHEREAS, adoption of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan will earn priority consideration for funding hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out under the auspices of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington Board of Supervisors has reviewed the draft of the Town of Washington Community Wildfire Protection Plan and concurs with the final plan content.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Washington Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the Town of Washington Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Resolution introduced and adoption moved by Art Granat  
Motion for adoption seconded by James Egan

Passed on the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of September 2022  
By the Town Board of the Town of Washington

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Egan, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Art Granat, Supervisor

  
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Nancy Sobralnski, Town Clerk