

Community Wildfire Protection Plans: **North Douglas (Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Valley Area)**

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Location

The Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Valley CWPP area is located along Interstate 5 from exit 142 in the south, north to the Lane County line. The CWPP area extends west along State Highways 38 past Drain and eastward to Elkhead along Elkhead Road. The CWPP Area overlaps portions of the Calapooya CWPP area to the south and the Elkton/Scottsburg/Kellogg CWPP area to the west. The extent of the CWPP area contains the District Boundary of the North Douglas Fire and EMS District, buffered one mile.

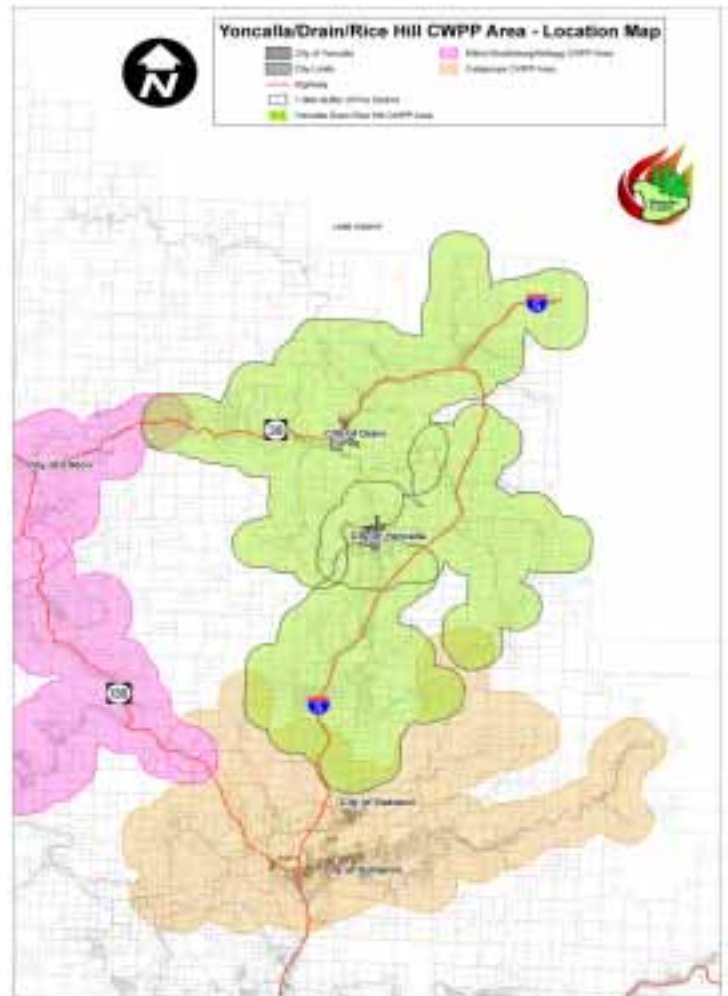
Population

The approximate population of the Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Valley CWPP area (Which includes portions of Census Blocks whose populations may or may not be in the CWPP Area), according to the 2000 census, was approximately 5500 people.

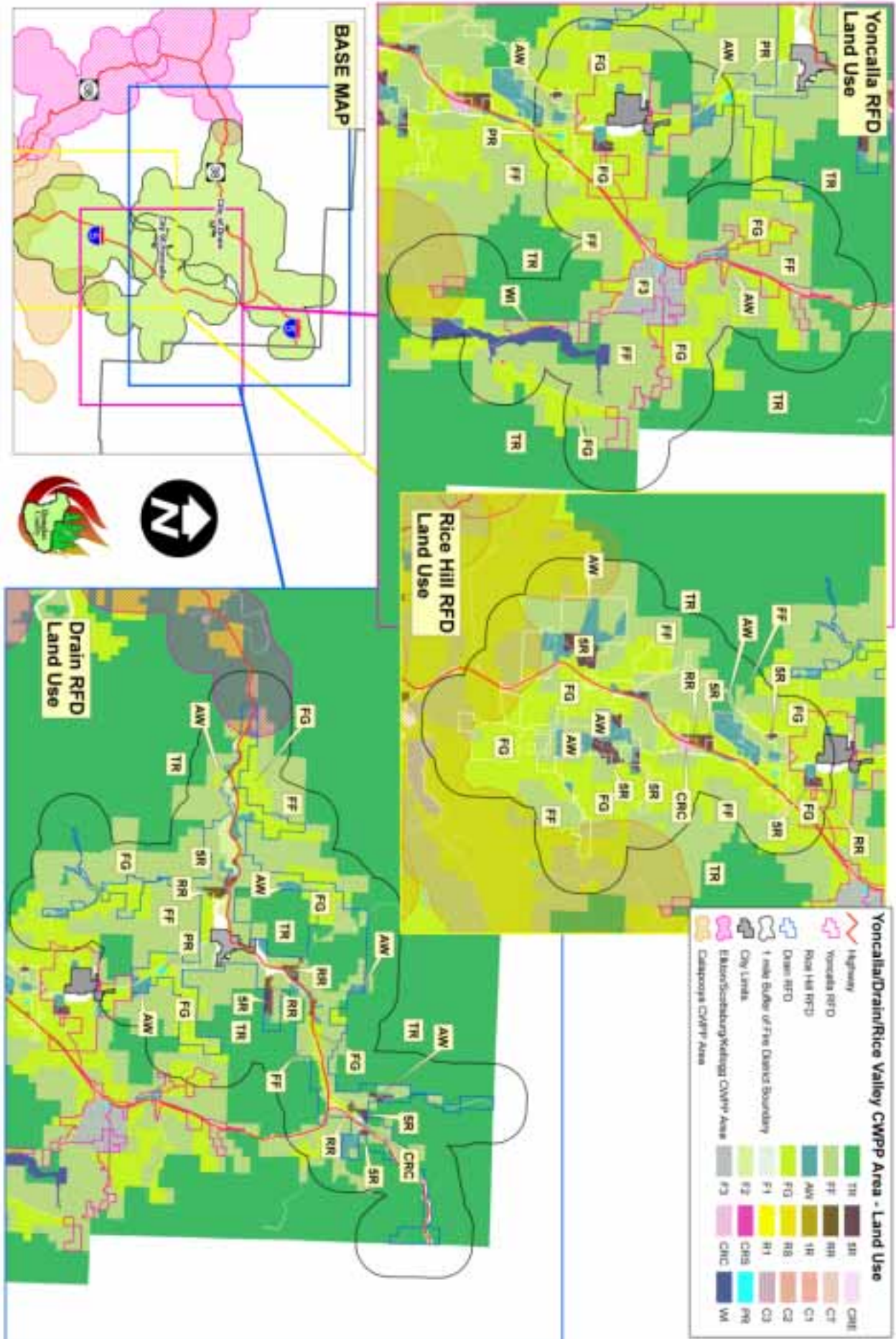
Housing/Land Use

Using the Douglas County Planning Department's addressing plats, there are approximately 2834 addressed structures within the Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Valley CWPP area. The majority of these are homes, but there are also commercial structures.

The Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Valley CWPP area has zoning designations of RR (Rural Residential 2) 5R (Rural Residential 5) and AW (Agriculture and Woodlot) along areas near Interstate and main roadways in all three Rural Fire District Boundaries; these areas contain the majority of addressed structures in the CWPP area (outside of Drain and Yoncalla City Limits. Surrounding the residential and AW properties, parcels are zoned with resource designations of TR (Timberland Resource) (located in the hillsides and outside of the agriculturally zoned areas). The majority of the CWPP area is zoned FG (Farm Grazing), F3 (Exclusive Farm Use Cropland) and FF (Farm Forest). There are also properties zoned PR (Public Reserve) throughout and CRC (Rural Community Commercial) in the Rice Hill and Curtain Rural Communities along Interstate 5. The Cities of Drain and Yoncalla City Limits falls within the North Douglas (Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Valley Area) Boundary, however the city zoning information was not included in this analysis. The majority of addressed structures are within the City Limits of both towns.



YONCALLA/DRAIN/RICE VALLEY CWPP AREA - LANDUSE AND STRUCTURE LOCATION MAP



Transportation

Roads: Transportation to and from the Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Valley CWPP area is handled via State Highway 38, which connects the community to Interstate 5 east of the CWPP Area at exit 162 near Curtin; also Eagle Valley Road, which goes through the City of Yoncalla and connects to Interstate 5 at exit 150 south of the City; to the west, Interstate Exits 146, 148, 150, 154, 159, and 162 connect the main roads along with feeder roads throughout the community.

Critical Infrastructure

Unique critical infrastructure to the Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Valley CWPP area includes:

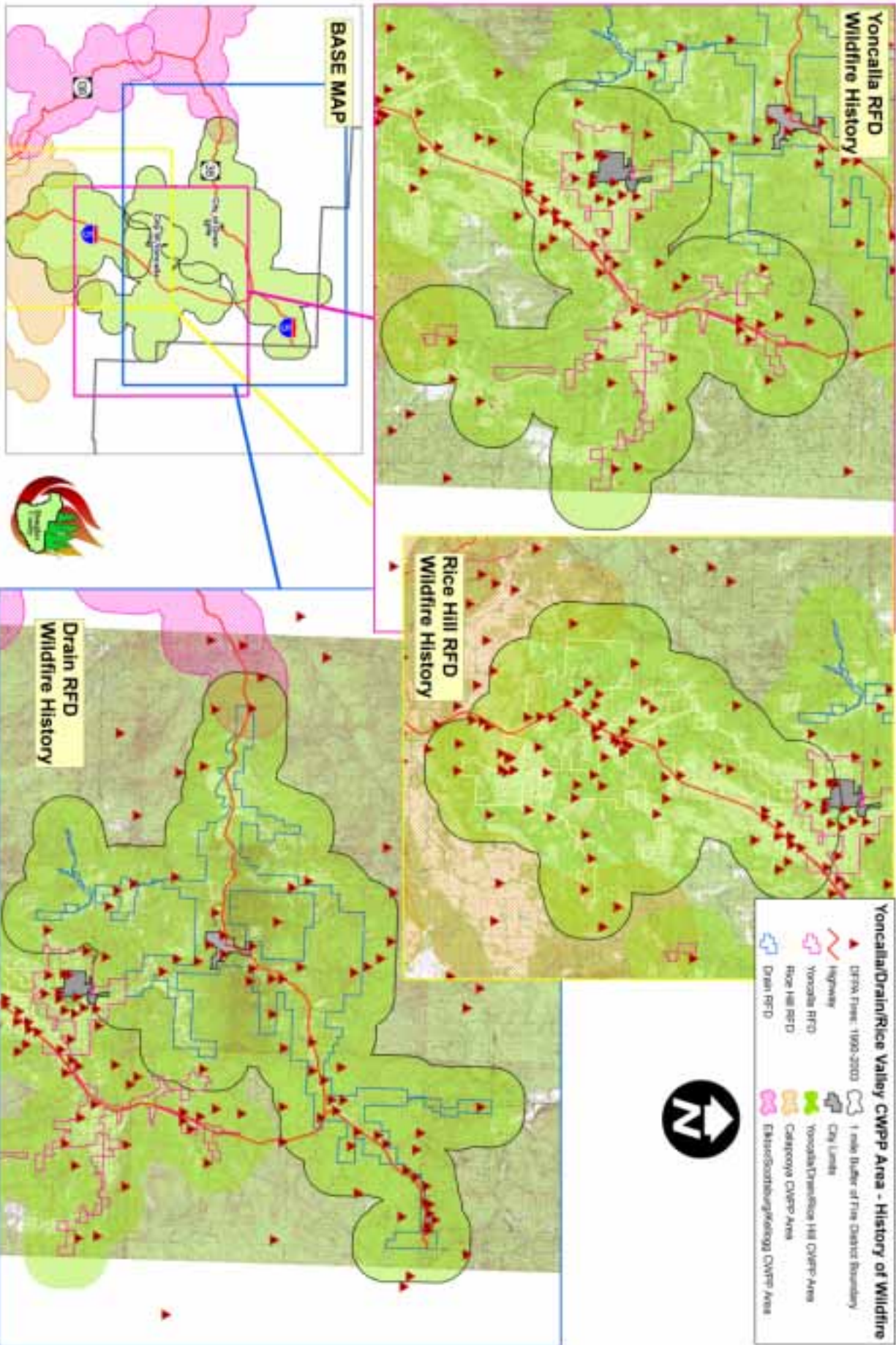
- Highway 38 tunnel west of Drain
- City of Drain - Bear Creek Municipal Watershed

Infrastructure listed as Critical, common to some or all CWPP areas in Douglas County includes:

- Fire, ambulance, and police stations and equipment
- Schools and community centers
- Hospitals
- Power lines
- Industrial sites
- Water treatment/reservoirs/well head areas/water pumping and supply areas
- Dams
- Railroads and railroad tunnels
- Emergency Communication towers
- Historical and cultural sites
- Commercial areas of economic value to the communities
- Gas and fuel pipelines
- Main highways for transit (Interstate 5, State Highways 38,42,138, Old Highway 99, US 101, any local road deemed critical as a economic route in or out of the communities)

WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT- History

Map on next page indicates fire history from 1990 through 2003 for the North Douglas (Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Valley Area) CWPP area taken from Douglas Forest Protective Association Data.



Emergency Equipment and Staffing Inventory

North Douglas Fire and EMS (encompassing the Drain, Yoncalla and Rice Hill Fire Districts) serve the North Douglas (Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Valley area) CWPP area. Equipment and staffing inventory for the district is as follows:

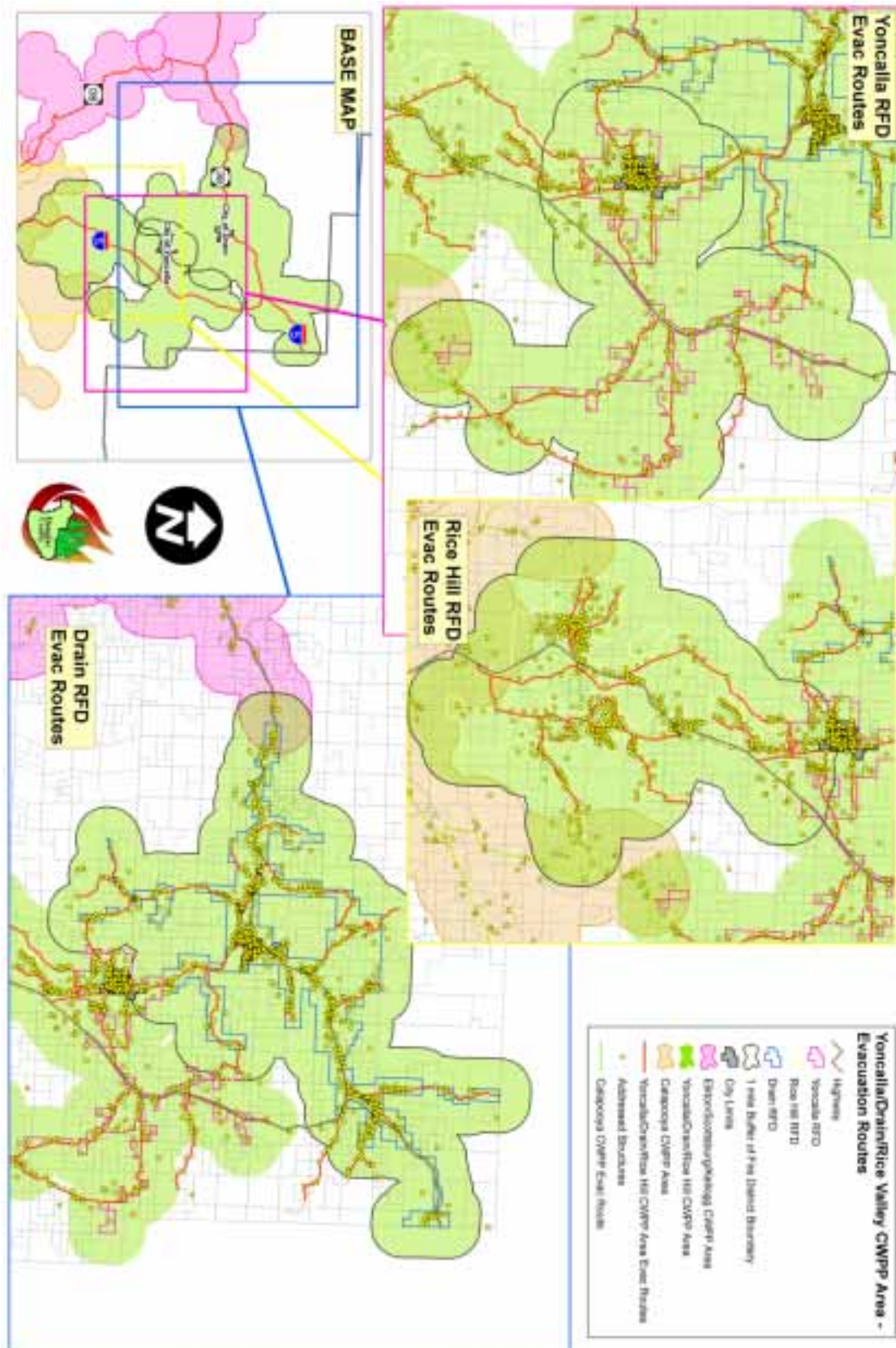
NORTH DOUGLAS FIRE AND EMS:

- 42 Firefighters
- 2 Type 1 Class A Structural engines
- 1 Type 2 Water tender
- 1 Rescue-Salvage unit
- 2 First Responder Vehicles
- 3 Service vehicles

Douglas Forest Protective Association serves the Douglas District of the Oregon Department of Forestry with 10 fire suppression crews, wildland fire engines ranging from 200 to 3,000 gallons, three bulldozers, and a fire suppression helicopter. Wildland Fire Protection is provided by Douglas and Coos Forest Protective Associations and supported by mutual aid agreements by neighboring fire districts, U.S. Forest Service, and Oregon Department of Forestry Districts.

Evacuation Routes

In the event of a wildfire, the community would utilize the main evacuation routes of State Highway 38 east towards Interstate 5, or west towards Elkton. Eagle Valley Road would also be an evacuation route, northward towards Drain, or Southward towards I-5. Secondary evacuation routes are all roads and streets leading from home sites to the primary evacuation routes.



Priority Fuel Reduction Area Identification

It was the Douglas County Community Wildfire Protection Plans Core Team's conclusion that the most efficient way to identify fuel reduction areas of concern near rural home sites in the communities identified was to utilize the Rural Fire District Boundaries, which already encompass the majority of home sites in the area.

In order to identify areas of concern, a decision was made by the Core Team to buffer the Fire District Boundaries by one mile. Further analysis of the one mile buffer showed that by using concentrations of homes, maintaining evacuation routes, and vegetation types as a guide, the Fire District Boundaries one mile buffer met the fuel reduction and public safety goals of the fire professionals on the Core Team.

While the Priority Fuel Reduction Area map contains farm, residential and some urban land, which would have small or no value in a fuel reduction program, it was decided that buffering the Fire District Boundaries would be the most efficient way of incorporating the areas/home sites of the highest danger, identify areas of the highest potential for a fuel mitigation program, and provide an easily recognizable and definable area to identify the Priority Fuel Reduction Area.

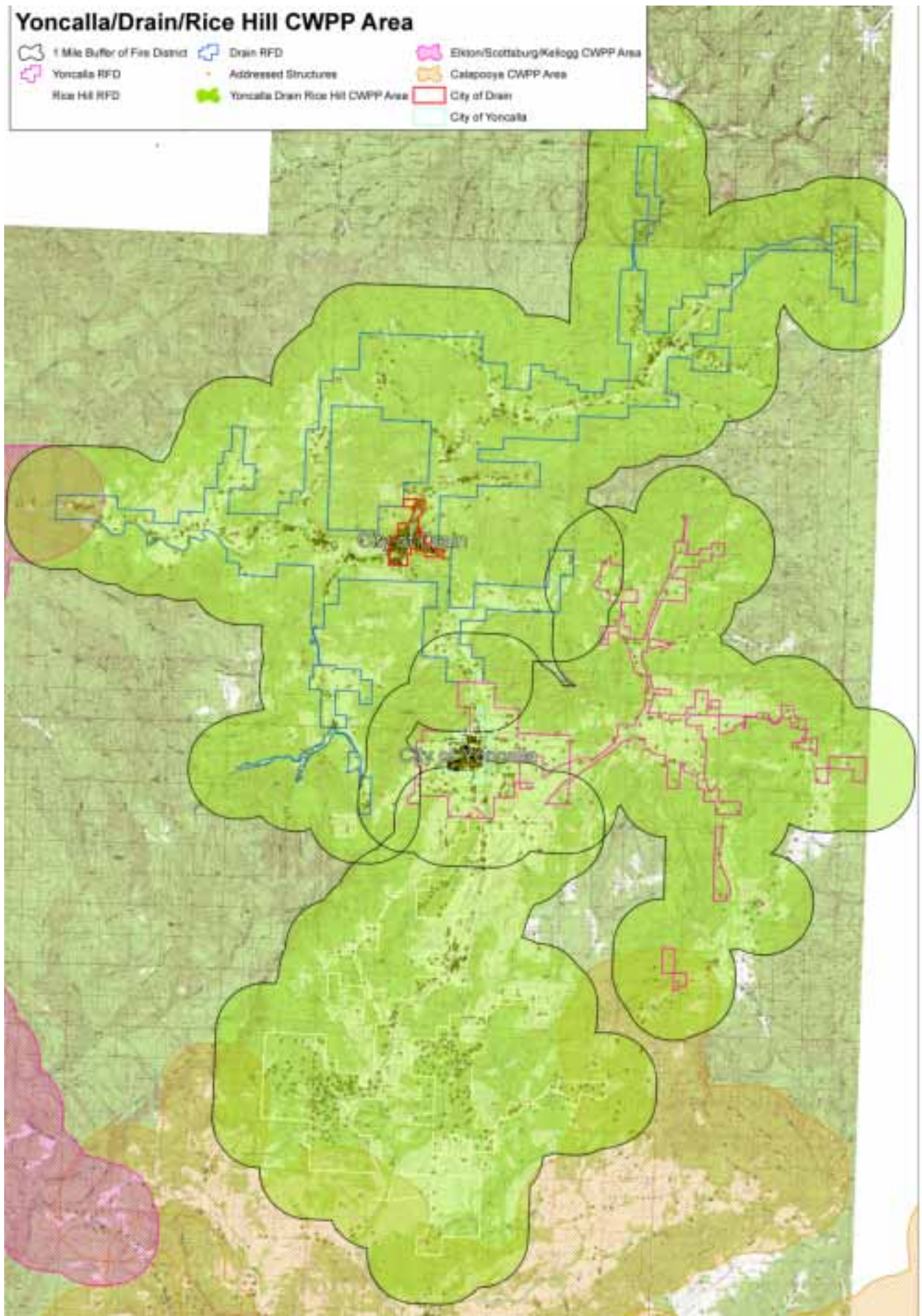
On occasion, based on topography, the Priority Fuel Reduction Area may be in excess, of one mile, as the Core Team identified that the area should be defined as "to ridgetop" for resource management and fire fighting.

The following map was created, identifying priority treatment areas:

PRIORITY FUEL REDUCTION AREA MAP IS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Yoncalla/Drain/Rice Hill CWPP Area

- 1 Mile Buffer of Fire District
- Drain RFD
- Elkton/Scottsburg/Kellogg CWPP Area
- Yoncalla RFD
- Addressed Structures
- Catapooysa CWPP Area
- Rice Hill RFD
- Yoncalla Drain Rice Hill CWPP Area
- City of Drain
- City of Yoncalla



MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

Fuels Reduction

Identification and prioritization of treatment areas

Treatment Areas 1: Clearing 100' from homes and structures and critical infrastructure areas- concentrated along the evacuation routes, and home sites located along State Highway 38, north and south along Eagle Valley Road, and along Secondary Evacuation Routes (roads to home sites leading to the priority evacuation routes.) Thinning 300' around structures and critical infrastructure. Maintain all roads for fire fighting access during initial and extended attack.

Treatment Areas 2: Clear and thin escape routes for homes identified in the priority fuel reduction area. Use of prescribed burning as a tool for fuels reduction.

Treatment Areas 3: Clear and thin areas identified in the priority fuel reduction area.

Type of fuel reduction treatment

Mechanical clearing and thinning in fuel reduction areas identified by the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Core Team, including harvesting, thinning, mowing, chipping, cutting and piling.

Chemical treatment is to be done where appropriate and consistent with State and Federal Regulations.

Prescribed burning where appropriate shall be pursued as a method of fuels reduction.

Biologic treatment of areas (Grazing, etc.) is to be encouraged where use would be a benefit to agriculture as well as fuel reduction projects.

Structural Ignitability

Structural ignitability, defined as the home and its immediate surroundings, separates the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) structure fire loss problem from other wildfire management issues.

Highly ignitable homes can be destroyed during lower-intensity wildfires, whereas homes with low home ignitability can survive high-intensity wildfires.

Structural ignitability, rather than wildland fuels, is the principal cause of structural losses during wildland/urban interface fires. Key items are flammable roofing materials (e.g. cedar shingles) and the presence of burnable vegetation (e.g. ornamental trees, shrubs, wood piles) immediately adjacent to homes, also referred to as "survivable space".



Image and Text Source: *Emerging Knowledge about Wildland-Urban Interface Home Ignition Potential*; Jack D. Cohen, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Rockv Mountain Research Station Fire Sciences Laboratory

Action Items:

- Education of homeowners regarding reducing structural ignitability, and promotion of reduced ignitability building products and development of survivable space adjacent to their homes
- Seek assistance (technical, financial) for homeowners to replace highly ignitable building materials and thinning of burnable vegetation adjacent to homes

Education

Promote existing education and outreach programs (an example would be the Firewise Program, www.firewise.org) and develop community specific education programs which enhance and implement information on community escape routes, wildfire mitigation activities and reducing the risk to citizens, property and community values.

Action Items:

- Use and maintain the Douglas County Community Wildfire Protection Plans website for wildfire status and evacuation plans (<http://healthyforest.info/cwpp/Oregon/Douglas/>)
- Identification, and public awareness of community wildfire escape routes
- Presentations and awareness campaigns to local schools
- Structural ignitability awareness and replacement of flammable building materials

Through involvement and consultation in the development of the Douglas County Wildfire Protection Plans, the Local Rural Fire Protection District(s) hereby agree to the final contents of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

NAME
Chief, North Douglas Fire and EMS

Date