

Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Susan Creek

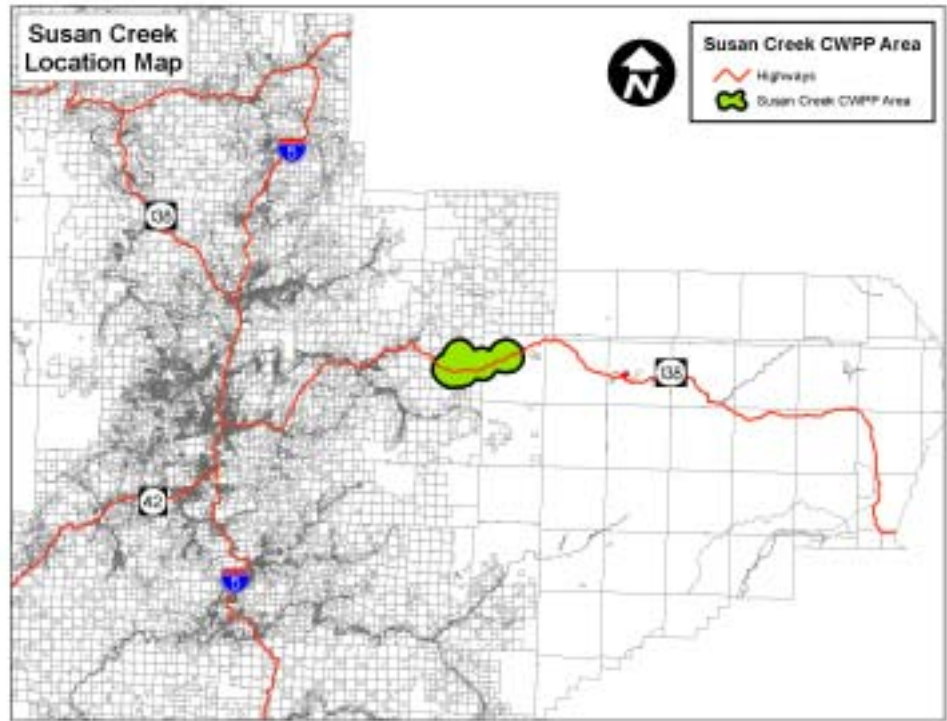
COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Location

Susan Creek is a rural community in eastern Douglas County. Susan Creek is located on Highway 138; approximately 30 Miles east from the intersection of Interstate 5 exit 124 in Roseburg.

Population

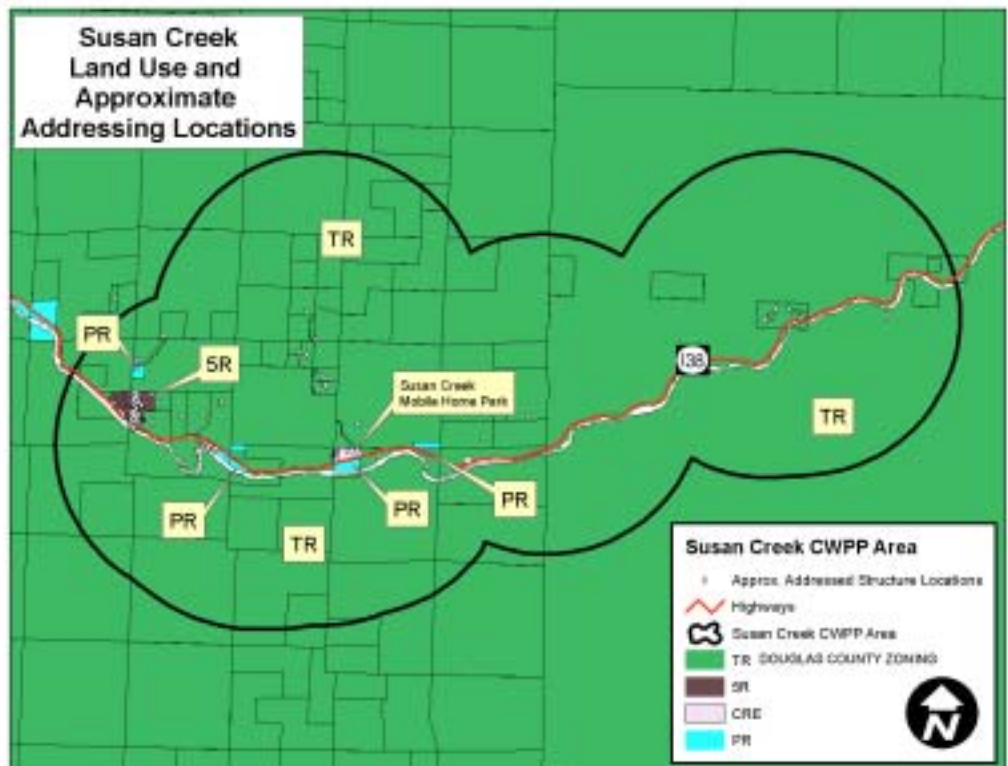
The approximate population of Susan Creek (Which includes portions of the population of areas to the east and west on Highway 138 depending on Census Block Location), according to the 2000 census, was approximately 88 people.



Housing/Land Use

Using the Douglas County Planning Department's addressing plats, there are approximately 27 addressed structures within the Susan Creek Area (including structures to the east and west on Highway 138 and homesites to the north. The majority of these are homes, but there are also commercial structures.

Within the Susan Creek Area, the majority of Susan Creek has the primary zoning designation of CRE (Rural Commercial), where the Susan Creek Mobile Home Park



is located. 5R Residential properties are located outside of the community boundary, westward on Highway 138. Properties surrounding the community primarily zoned with resource designations of TR (Timberland Resource), which contains homesites north of Highway 138 and some PR (Public Reserve) zoning on parks along the North Umpqua Corridor. The majority of land in the Susan Creek CWPP Area is managed by the Umpqua National Forest.

Transportation

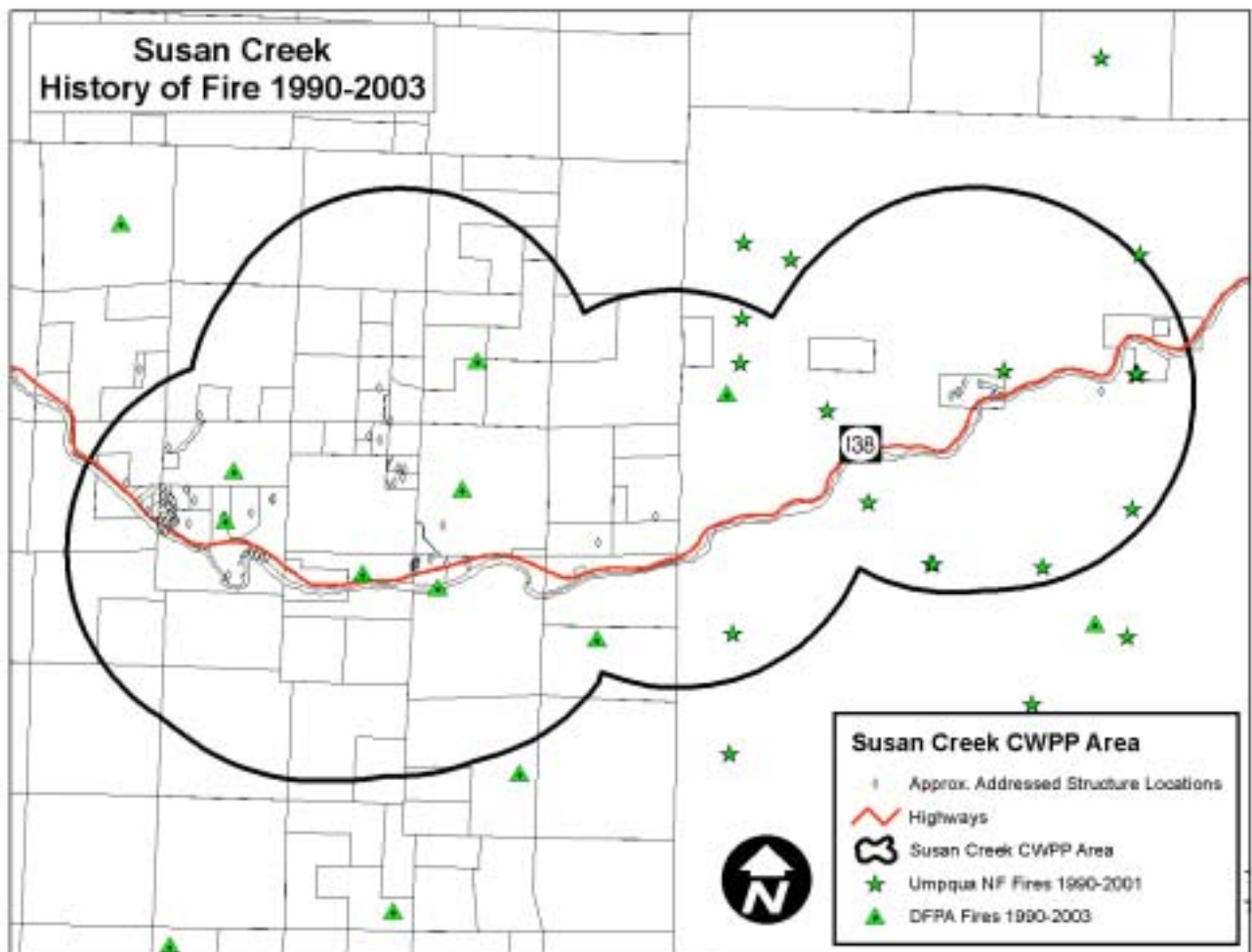
Roads: Transportation to and from Susan Creek is handled via Highway 138, which to the west intersects Interstate 5 west of the community at exit 124 in Roseburg and to the east heads towards Diamond Lake.

Critical Infrastructure

Powerlines run north on the community, which provide power to communities in the Umpqua Valley. Another critical infrastructure point is the southern escape route, which would carry residential evacuees from rural properties to the north in the event of a wildfire. Highway 138 was also identified as critical infrastructure because it is the only highway out of the area, as well as having high economic value for Douglas County.

WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

History



Emergency Equipment and Manpower Inventory

There is no Rural Fire District servicing the Susan Creek CWPP Area. Wildland Fire Protection is provided by the Umpqua National Forest and supported by the Douglas Forest Protective Associations by mutual aid.

The North Umpqua Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest provides fire protection in the Susan Creek CWPP Area, with the following inventory:

1	20-person hand crew	1	Type 6 Engines
2	Type 4 Engines	2	Type 3 Engines
1	Water Tender		

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.

Escape Routes

In the event of a wildfire, the community would utilize the main evacuation route of Highway 138 and then west towards Glide. Homes to the north of Highway 138 would utilize Susan Creek Road and Star Mountain Road to Highway 138.

Priority Fuel Reduction Area Identification

The Douglas County Community Wildfire Protection Plans Core Team has identified priority fuel treatment areas for the Susan Creek area based on the following criteria: using concentrations of homes, maintaining evacuation routes, and vegetation types.

For areas falling outside of the community boundary, 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 in the Umpqua National Forest was to Utilize Wildland Urban Interface Areas previously mapped by The USFS.

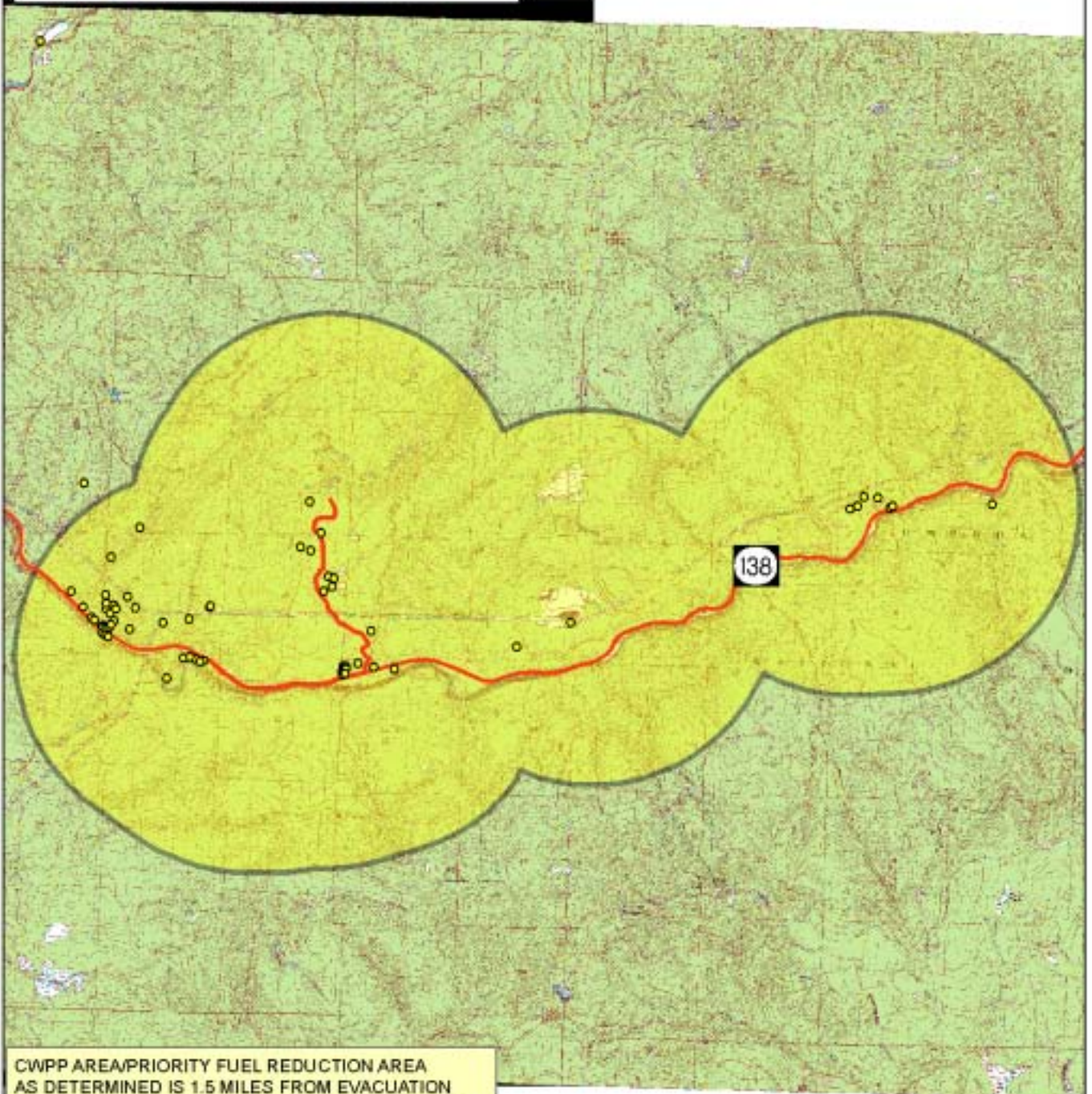
Guidance provided in the 10 year Comprehensive Strategy of the National Fire Plan, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and the Umpqua National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan, in addition to the designation of Communities at Risk in the Federal Register, directed the designation of the Wildland Urban Interface Areas included in this CWPP.

On occasion, based on topography, the Priority Fuel Reduction Area may be in excess of the CWPP fuel reduction area, this decision will be made based on fire suppression and resource management tactics and determined in the field, 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:

SEE PRIORITY FUEL REDUCTION/CWPP AREA MAP ON NEXT PAGE

SUSAN CREEK CWPP AREA

- Addressed Structures
- Evacuation Routes
- Susan Creek CWPP Area



CWPP AREA/PRIORITY FUEL REDUCTION AREA AS DETERMINED IS 1.5 MILES FROM EVACUATION ROUTES, OR TO RIDGETOP, WHERE APPROPRIATE. CWPP AREA FOLLOWS USFS WUI AREA ON WESTERN EDGE OF CWPP AREA

MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

Fuels Reduction

Identification and prioritization of treatment areas

Treatment Areas 1: Clearing 100' from homes and structures and critical infrastructure areas. 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. Maintain width and travel-ability of Susan Creek Road and Star Mountain Road

Treatment Areas 3: Thinning in 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 Douglas Forest Protective Association hereby agrees to the final contents of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Melvin Thornton *9/17/04*

Melvin Thornton Date
 District Manager
 Douglas Forest Protective Association

Through involvement and consultation in the development of the Douglas County Wildfire Protection Plans, the Umpqua National Forest hereby agrees to the final contents of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

James Caplan *1/17/06*

James Caplan Date
 Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest