

Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Tiller

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Location

Tiller is an unincorporated community designated, as a Rural Community by the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan. Tiller is located on Tiller Trail Highway, approximately 25 miles east from the intersection of Tiller Trail Highway in Canyonville.

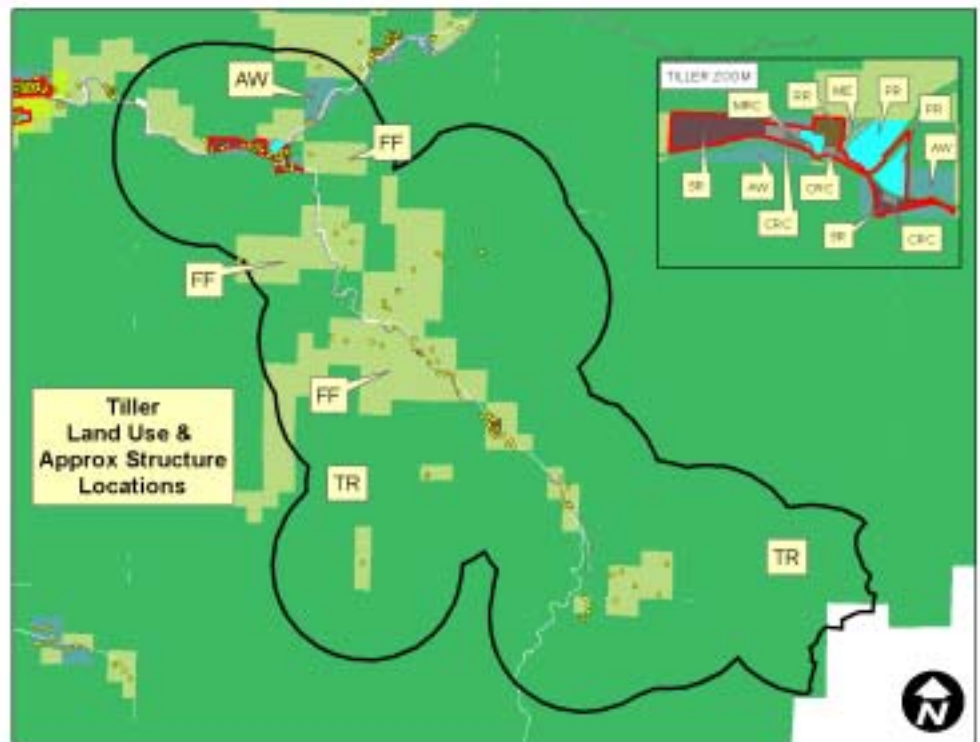
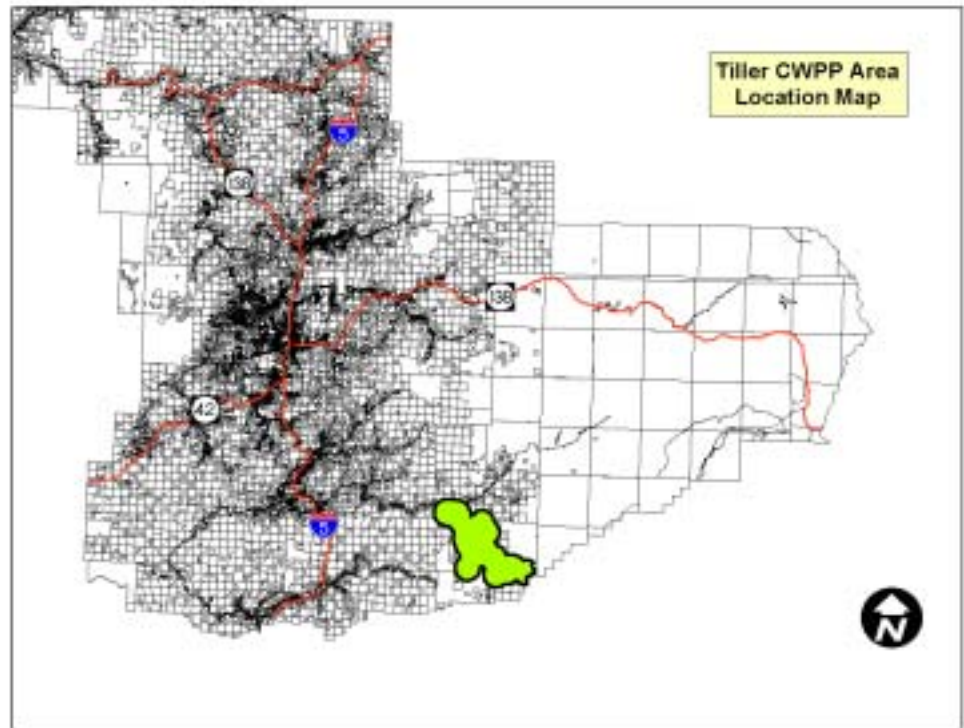
Population

The approximate population of Tiller (Which includes portions of the population of areas to the east and west on Tiller Trail Highway depending on Census Block Location), according to the 2000 census, was approximately 57 people.

Housing/Land Use

Using the Douglas County Planning Department's addressing plats, there are approximately 52 addressed structures within the Tiller Area (including structures to the west and northeast of the Rural Community boundary. The majority of these are homes, but there are also commercial and US Forest Service structures.

Within the Rural Community Boundary, the majority of Tiller has zoning designations of 5R (Rural Residential 5) on the north side of Tiller Trail Highway, and to the southeast on Tiller Trail Highway as you cross the South Umpqua River. There is CRC (Rural



Community Commercial) zoned property in the north and southeast areas of the community. MRC (Rural Community Industrial) zoned properties are located north of Tiller Trail Highway in the Rural Community. There are areas zoned PR (Public Reserve) which contain the US Forest Service Ranger Station in the community also. Properties surrounding the community and to the west are RR (Rural Residential 2), and are zoned with resource designations of TR (Timberland Resource), AW (Agriculture and Woodlot), FG (Farm Grazing), and FF (Farm Forest). Much of the area surrounding Tiller to the northeast and southeast is Umpqua National Forest managed property.

Transportation

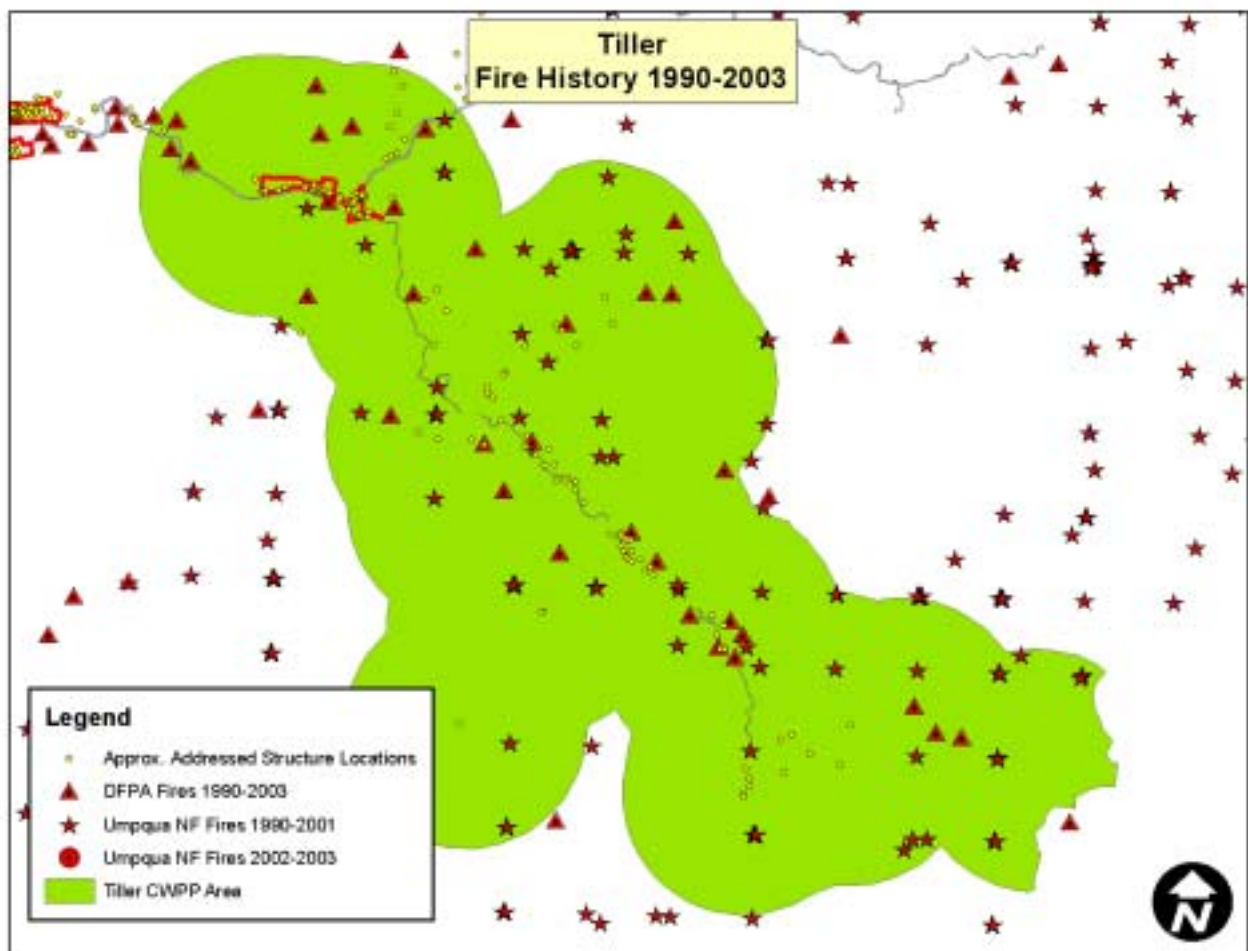
Roads: Transportation to and from Tiller is handled via Tiller Trail Highway, which intersects The City of Canyonville of the community approximately 25 miles west of Tiller. South Umpqua Road bears to the northeast and goes to the Rural Community of Jackson Creek a short distance away.

Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure in Tiller includes the following:

- Tiller Rural Fire District Station
- Tiller Ranger District and other USFS Buildings
- Water Tower
- Bridge crossing South Umpqua River to the Ranger District and homes to the southeast
- Douglas County Repeater site located to the southeast of the Rural Community

WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT- History



Emergency Equipment and Staffing Inventory

The Tiller Rural Fire District services the community of Tiller. Below is the current equipment inventory as of this writing:

- 10 firefighters
- 3 Type 2 Class A structural engines
- 1 Type 6 Wild land engine
- 1 Type 2 water tenders
- 1 Type 3 water tenders

Wildland Fire Protection outside of the fire district boundary is provided by the Umpqua National Forest and supported by the Douglas Forest Protective Associations by mutual aid.

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

1	20-person hand crew	1	Type 6 Engines
4	Type 4 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 Tiller Trail Highway westward towards Canyonville, or secondarily use Tiller Trail Highway southeast towards Jackson County.

Priority Fuel Reduction Area Identification

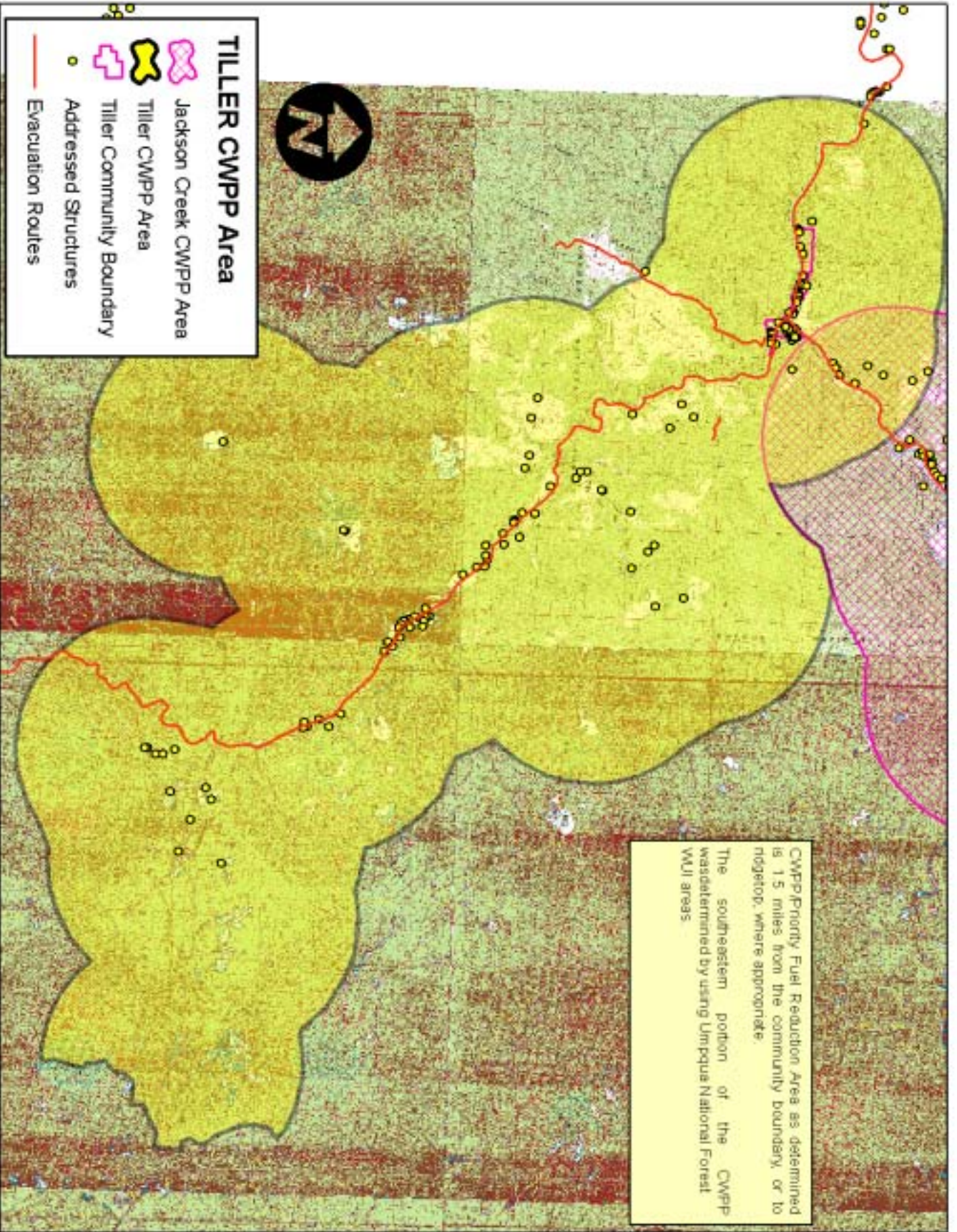
The Douglas County Community Wildfire Protection Plans Core Team has identified priority fuel treatment areas for the Tiller area based on the following criteria: using concentrations of homes, maintaining evacuation routes, and vegetation types.

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



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 on north side of river and south of Tiller Trail Highway over the bridge, where majority of homes and structures are located. Narrow escape routes to be cleaned and widened where needed. Thinning for structures to 300'. Maintain all roads for fire fighting access during initial and extended attack.

Treatment Areas 2: Escape routes for homes located south of Tiller Ranger District south of Tiller Trail Highway over the bridge to be thinned 300'.

Treatment Areas 3: Areas located beyond the Rural Community Boundary to be thinned towards the powerline to the north.

Type of fuel reduction treatment

Mechanical clearing and thinning in fuel reduction areas identified by the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Core, 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, Rocky 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 hereby agrees to the final contents of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Kevin Kehoe

11-5-04

Kevin Kehoe
Chief of the Tiller Rural Fire Protection District

Date

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
Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest

Date