

Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Upper Olalla

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Location

Upper Olalla is a rural community in Douglas County. Upper Olalla is located on Olalla Road, Benedict Road, Ben Irving Road and Ireland Road, approximately 3 miles south of Tenmile on Benedict Road.

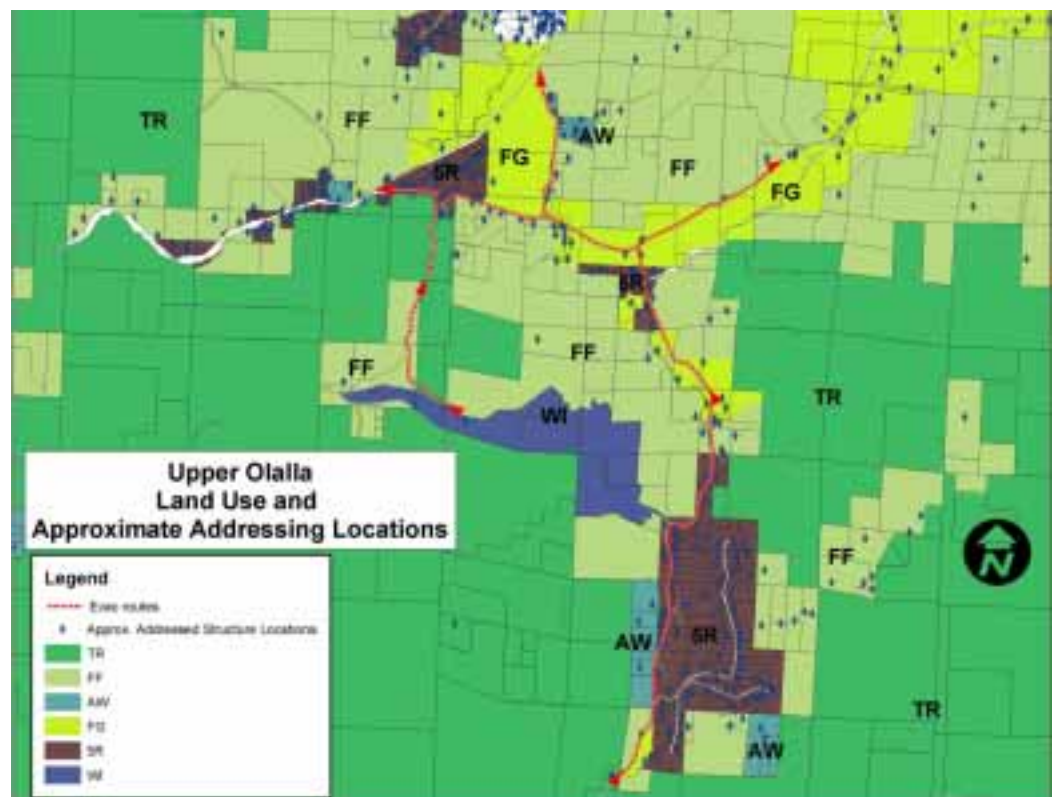
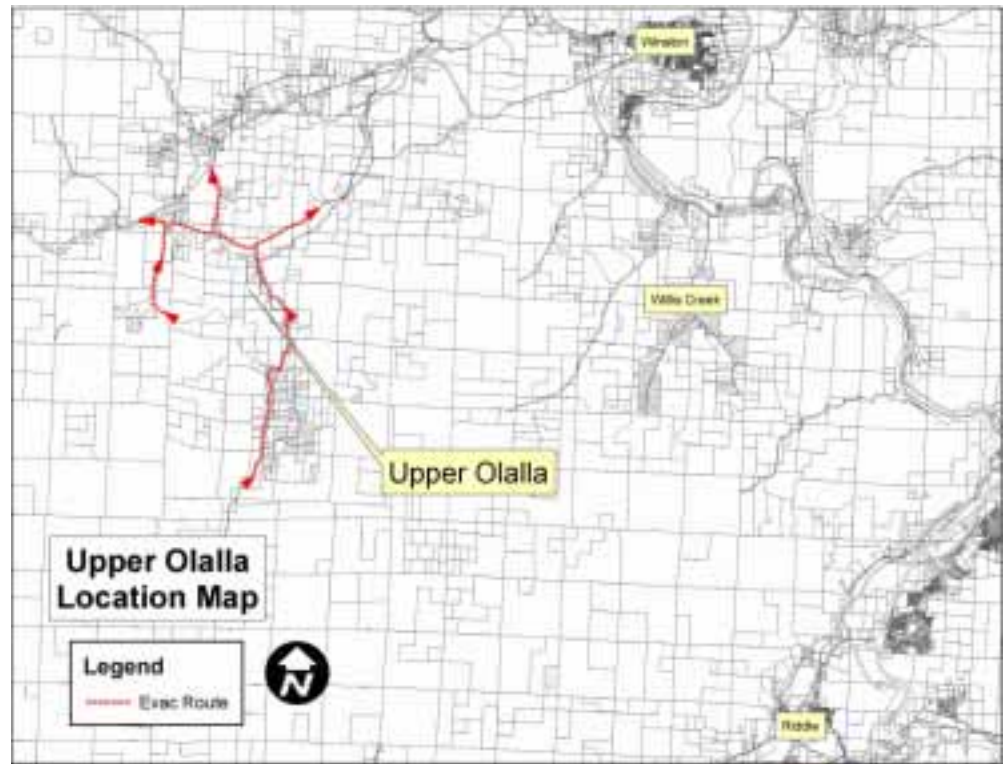
Population

The approximate population of Upper Olalla (Which includes portions of the population of areas to the north, south, east and west of the depicted evacuation routes depending on Census Block Location), according to the 2000 census, was approximately 602 people.

Housing/Land Use

Using the Douglas County Planning Department's addressing plats, there are approximately 334 addressed structures within the Upper Olalla Area (including structures on Ireland and Benedict Road

and to the north and south on Olalla Road, towards Byron Creek Estates (the most populous area in Upper Olalla). The majority of these are homes.



Upper Olalla has zoning designations of 5R (Rural Residential 5) along the lower parts of Olalla Road (Byron Creek Estates), and continuing up Olalla road to the intersection of Ireland Road and at the intersection of Benedict Road and Highway 42. Properties adjacent to the three roadways are zoned with resource designations of TR (Timberland Resource), AW (Agriculture and Woodlot), FG (Farm Grazing), and FF (Farm Forest). The Ben Irving Reservoir area is zoned WI (Water Impoundment).

Transportation

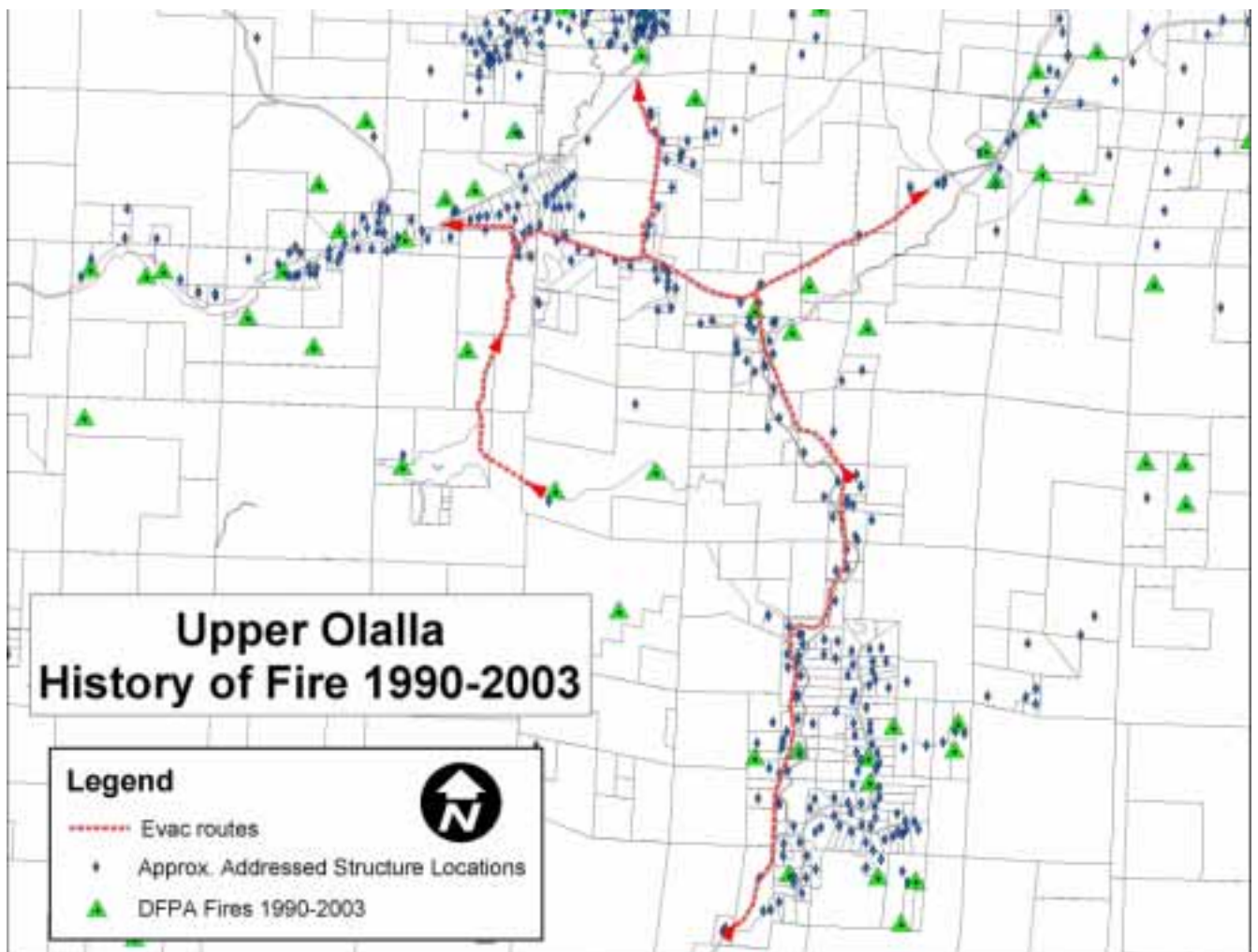
Roads: Transportation to and from Upper Olalla is handled via Highway 42 West from Winston to Ireland and Benedict Roads, and also on Olalla Road, which intersects Highway 42 closer to Winston.

Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure in Upper Olalla includes the following identified by the Douglas Planning Advisory Committee and the CWPP Core Team:

- Critical bridge locations on Olalla Road (3) which would carry the mass of evacuees in a wildfire event
- Fire Station located near Byron Creek Estates
- Areas along evacuation routes that could be used as effective “safe zones” on evacuation routes in the event of wildfire

WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT- History



Emergency Equipment and Staffing Inventory

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

- 23 firefighters
- 2 Type 2 Class A structural engines
- 2 Type 6 Wild land engines
- 2 Type 2 water tenders
- 1 Rescue vehicle

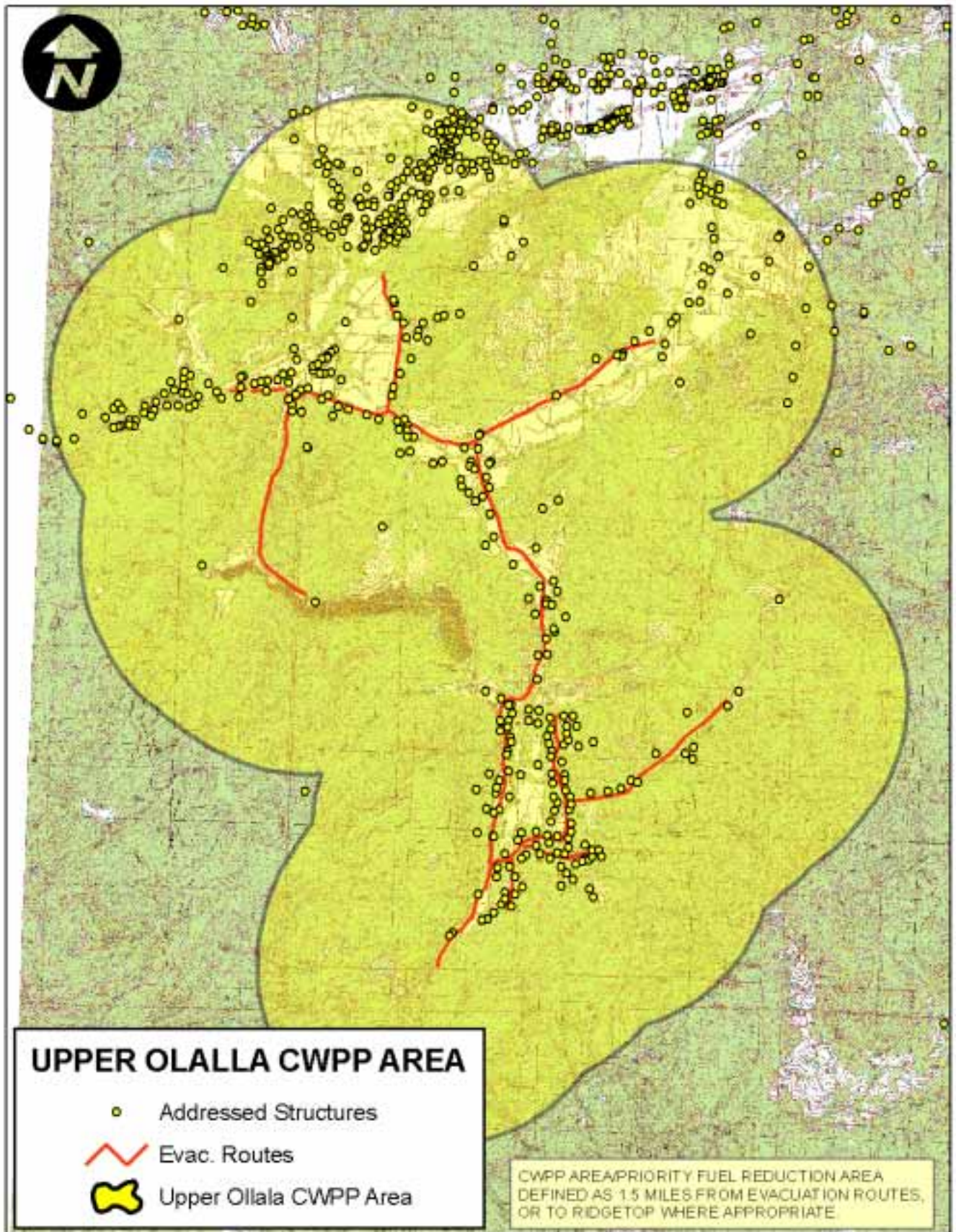
Escape Routes

In the event of a wildfire, the community would utilize the main evacuation routes of Olalla Road north either towards Winston, or to Ireland Road towards Tenmile. Evacuees near Ben Irving Road would evacuate north on Ben Irving Road and towards Ireland Road.

Priority Fuel Reduction Area Identification

The Douglas County Community Wildfire Protection Plans Core Team has identified priority fuel treatment areas for the Upper Olalla area. Using concentrations of homes, maintaining evacuation routes, and vegetation types as a guide, the following map was created, identifying priority treatment areas:

SEE CWPP AREA/PRIORITY FUEL REDUCTION 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 in the priority fuel reduction areas. 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: Maintain and enhance escape routes for homes to be thinned 300'. Develop cleared safe areas along escape routes

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 landscape-scale fire 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:



11-5-04

Mike Coffel
Chief, Tenmile Rural Fire Protection District

Date