

10.5. Community at Risk: Estacada Rural Fire District #69

The Estacada Rural Fire District has been identified as a Community at Risk (CAR) by Oregon Department of Forestry. The District has participated in the Clackamas County CWPP planning process to evaluate capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to potential wildfire events.

Estacada Rural Fire District Description

The Estacada Rural Fire District is a special service district that provides fire, rescue, and prevention services to the City of Estacada and the surrounding unincorporated areas. The mission of the Estacada Rural Fire District is to serve the community by providing quality fire and life safety services.

The Estacada Rural Fire District protects 88 square miles from two fire stations. There are 12 career and 40 volunteer firefighters that respond to approximately 1,700 alarms annually. About 70% of the alarms are medical responses.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Estacada's Fire District is a rural area on the eastern edge of Clackamas County adjacent to large tracts of federal and private forests. The terrain is steep, causing access and communication limitations. The Clackamas River bisects the District and continues to the Mount Hood National Forest, attracting thousands of visitors every year. Campers, hikers, hunters and other visitors to this area can potentially start wildfires that could carry from public land to the residential communities.

The WUI area is characterized by rural residential homes surrounded by heavy fuels and steep slopes. In addition, many of the neighborhoods here have only one way in and one way out with narrow, steep driveways and poor address signage. Heavy and continuous fuels dominate this area, so fires that begin on public land or on smaller private residential lots can quickly threaten the communities and natural resources that thrive in the Fire District.

Oregon State Parks, the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service have a few heavily forested landholdings that are adjacent to homes in the Wildland Urban Interface. As Estacada Fire targets the residential communities for creating defensible space, there is an opportunity to engage state and federal partners in reducing fuels on this adjacent public land.

Estacada Rural Fire District Wildfire Hazards

The Clackamas County CWPP wildfire hazard assessment assisted the Fire District in identifying areas that may be at higher risk to potential wildfires. Map #4 illustrates the overall wildfire hazard risk in the Fire District and will be used to help target areas for wildfire prevention activities.

Structural Ignitability

Estacada Fire promotes the creation of defensible space, use of fire-resistant roofing and building materials, and community preparedness in the WUI. Estacada Fire works with the City of Estacada and Clackamas County to integrate these concepts at the regulatory level by providing input on access and water requirements for new development. The City of Estacada uses a consulting firm

for land use planning services. This presents some difficulties for the Fire District because the consulting firm does not always contact the District for input on fire flow and access. Even when the Fire District does provide input, the fire flow and access requirements are not always communicated to the Clackamas County Building Department. These issues have been identified in the Estacada CWPP Action Plan.

Emergency Response

A major wildland urban interface fire in Estacada would quickly exceed the resources and capabilities of the District. For this reason, Estacada Fire has mutual aid agreements in place which allows for the sharing of resources across the county in the event of a large scale disaster including wildfires.

In the event of a large wildland fire, evacuations may be necessary. This rural area presents some difficulties due to the large number of one way in and one way out roads. More coordination and outreach is needed to ensure that evacuation procedures are developed and understood. This has been included the Estacada CWPP Action Plan.

Burning of yard waste and debris is challenging in the Estacada Fire District because backyard burning is allowed in all areas. Estacada Fire tries to be consistent with neighboring jurisdictions' Backyard Burning programs but does not have staff or resources to regulate burning in Estacada. The need for a more structured Backyard Burning Program is indicated in the Estacada CWPP Action Plan.

Estacada Fire employs 10 career and 44 volunteer firefighters who receive regular wildland fire training to remain current on qualifications. Although the District is able to support the S-130 and S-190 training, lack of hands-on fire experience makes it difficult to retain wildland qualifications. Estacada Fire would like to work more directly with the USFS and ODF to have opportunities to participate in live fires.

Community Outreach & Education

Estacada Fire is dedicated to fire prevention, and uses a variety of forums to promote residential fire safety, defensible space, and safe burning practices. The District has programs designed to empower community members to take a more active role in being prepared for any emergency. These include the Map Your Neighborhood Program, Community Emergency Response Teams, Citizen Ride-Alongs, discounted address signs and station tours. Estacada Fire is also an active member of the Clackamas County Fire Prevention Cooperative which is a consortium of structural and wildland fire protection professionals that work together to deliver programs such as team teaching in the grade school fire safety programs, safety fairs with car seat inspections, community and school programs, and fire safety house displays. Estacada Fire would like to update its fire prevention program by taking advantage of cost effective social media outlets and engaging youth groups from Estacada High School and Timberlake Job Corps.

Local Communities at Risk (Strategic Planning Areas)

Estacada Fire also recognizes that there are smaller-scale Communities at Risk that have unique wildfire hazards to be addressed at the more local scale. Communities that have been identified as

being particularly vulnerable to wildfires are illustrated in Map#12 and listed in Table 10.5-1. Estacada Fire professionals considered the following factors to determine the local CARs including:

- Need for defensible space
- Access limitations (narrow driveways, lack of address signage, one way in/one way out)
- Steep slopes that can hinder access and accelerate the spread of wildfire
- Lack of water available for wildland fire fighting
- Heavy fuels on adjacent public lands
- Potential ignition sources from recreationists and transients
- Agricultural and backyard burning
- Lack of community outreach programs to promote wildfire awareness
- Communications difficulties

Fuels Reduction

Fuels reduction projects can and should be accomplished at the local scale, which is the creation of defensible space around homes, as well as the landscape scale to extend vegetation treatments onto adjacent forested land and natural areas. Estacada Fire will facilitate cooperation between public and private organizations to ensure that fuels reduction work occurs strategically and benefits homeowners as well as adjacent public and private lands.

To ensure that landscape-level treatments are paired with projects to create defensible space around vulnerable communities, priority fuels reduction projects have been overlaid with the Communities at Risk Identified by Estacada Fire (Map 12).

Fuels Reduction Priorities include:

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|------------------------|--------------------|
| Eagle Creek Youth Camp | Metzler park |
| Paradise Park | Ranger Woods |
| Redland Road Area | Silver Fox RV Park |
| McIver Park | |

Estacada Rural Fire District Action Plan

Estacada Fire has developed a list of actions to build capacity at the Department scale and has identified actions that can help to make the local CARS more resilient to potential wildfires. The action plan for Estacada Fire and the local CARs therein is provided in Table 10.5-2.

Table 10.5-1. Estacada Fire District Local Communities at Risk

Community At Risk	CAR Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Forest Lands	Private Forest Lands	Recreators/ Transients	Protection Capabilities	Burning	Preparedness	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
Estacada Fire Communities at Risk													
Garfield/Porter Community/Eagle Creek Youth Camp	High	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Access in this community is a big loop. There has been conflagrations in this area, which turns the loop into one way in and out. There are unique events that occur in this area including a nudist colony that holds events and there have also been music festivals here which bring many people. There is inadequate access and water for the number of people these events can bring in. It would be very beneficial to identify an alternate water source here because it is also adjacent to Federal and private forests. There are also many environmental activists here. Protection capabilities are compromised because it takes about 25 minutes, which can be even longer depending on the weather. Eagle Creek Youth Camp is an area of particular concern because of heavy vegetation, and you must access the camp through home driveways and private roads that likely cannot support apparatus. Water supply is improving because the camp is putting in hydrants in to get bldg permits. Access to the camp is one way in and out, and there are cabins throughout the woods. There is one open field that could be used for staging life flight area, safety zone. Camp is a Fuels Reduction priority.
Dodge- Hillock Burn Area	High	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Access in this community is particularly challenging on one way roads including: McQueen, Peterson, Horner and Benjamin. There is no water available here, so water would be brought in for fire fighting. The community is surrounded by BLM, USFS and private forest land. Recreates bring ATVs here despite the fact that there are there are gates. There are many old logging roads that attract recreators. There have also been law enforcement issues in this area. Also, response times would be longer because the Hwy 211 bridge is only access so if there is an issue there, the community could be inaccessible. Communications are limited for 800 MHz in area (50%) , but VHF is good.
George Community	High	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	This community has heavy fuels next to homes, steep slopes and poor access. There are many one way in and out roads and response professionals would likely enter from the Boring Fire District. There is a fire station up there but Estacada Fire has had difficulty recruiting and retaining volunteers in this area. There are also many back roads people take with can be potential ignition sources.
Paradise Park, Twin Island, Star Road	High	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	All three of these areas have neighborhood associations, so they would be great to target for community clean up events. Access here is one way in and out, there is heavy vegetation, steep slopes, and you cannot draft out of the river so water will be hauled in. There is a great deal of recreation on the river, which people access illegally through private property and on the little islands. Protection of this area is difficult because the road is susceptible to landslides and it is one way in and out. There is a secondary way in and out, but it cannot support emergency vehicles. Communications can be an issue because it is a canyon. Paradise Park is a fuels reduction priority.

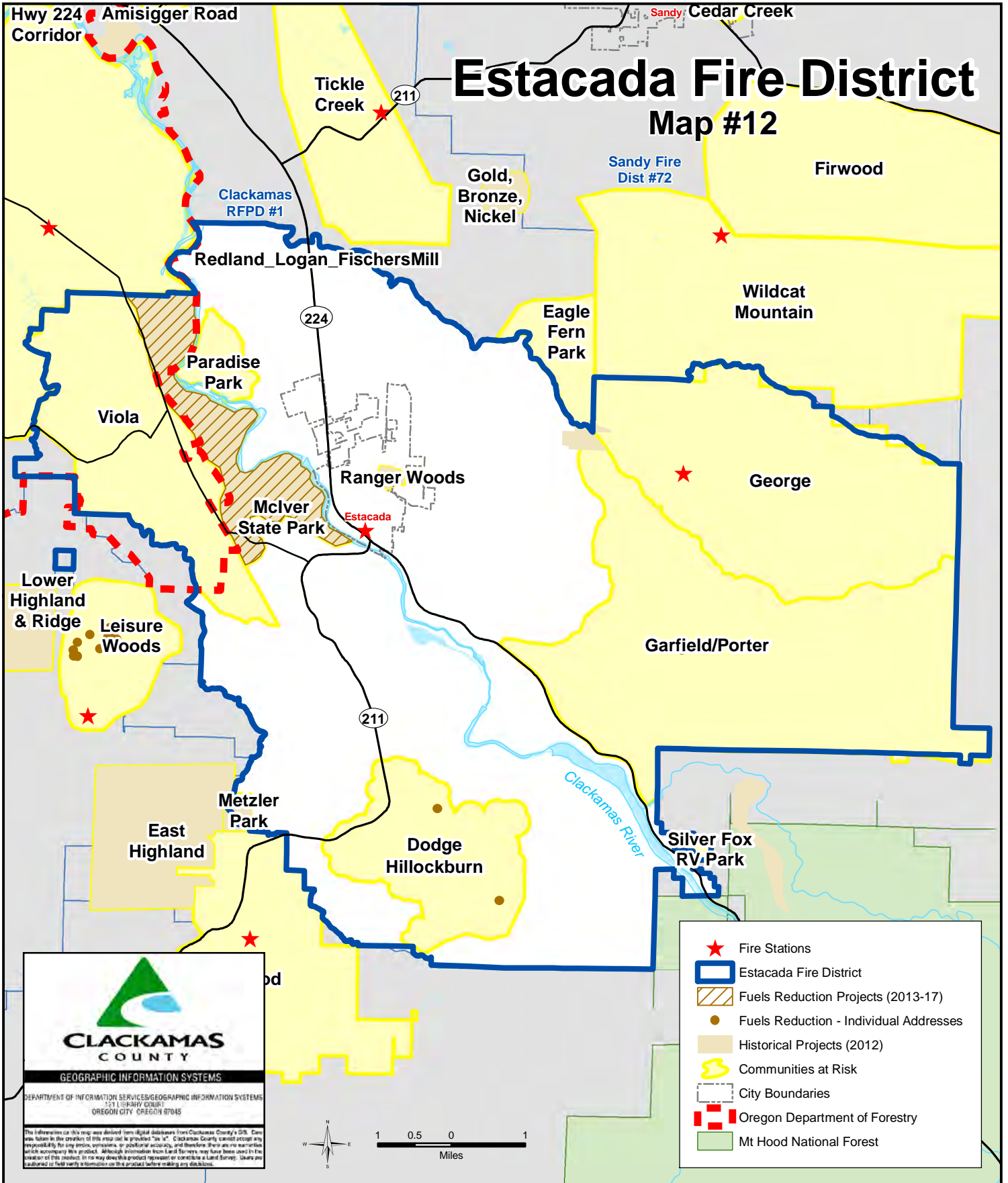

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Redland Rd Area- Viola Area, Fellows road	Medium	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	This interface community has heavy vegetation adjacent to homes which extends into adjacent forest land. Some adjacent forest land is BLM and some is private industrial. The access is fair, but there are a number of one way roads that could make response and evacuation challenging. There is a potential water supply up on the hill, but it hasn't been developed very well. CCFD#1 has a volunteer fire station in this area, so protection capabilities should be acceptable. Communications are at about 75% coverage in this area and cell coverage is even available in the canyon.
Mclver Park & Parkview & Riverlake Community	Medium	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	ODF used seasonal crews to reduce fuels in did some fuels reduction in Mclver State Park, and identified additional work to be done to make the park more fire resistant. There are two neighborhoods adjacent to the Park with heavy fuels leading directly to the homes. The river can be accessed for drafting. Access is one way in and out in all these areas, with very steep terrain which goes almost vertical near Feldheimer Road. Despite being able to draft from the river, some areas would require hauling water in to the site. There is river access for boat launching at the State Park and Feldheimer road also has a public boat launch. Transients are often sighted on Riverlake Road. This area is a priority for fuels reduction.
Metzler Park	Medium		X	X	X		X	X			X	X	This State Park is a good candidate for fuels reduction. It has one way in and out, and many recreators use this facility. Water is limited here. There is a creek which could serve as a potential water source, and this needs to be explored further.
Ranger Woods	Medium	X			X				X	X	X	X	Ranger Woods is owned by Estacada Schools and is adjacent to neighborhoods in northeast portion of town. Defensible space around the homes and the school is needed. This wooded area is particularly vulnerable because young adults coming from the school like to congregate here and sometimes light fires, smoke cigarettes, and engage in other activities that could serve as an ignition source. There is also a high concentration of invasive species here. This area is a high priority for fuels reduction.
Silver Fox RV Park- USFS	Low	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			This RV park gets extremely busy during the wildfire season. There is dense vegetation near the camping spots that the RVs and campfires could ignite easily. This is a priority for fuels reduction.

Table 10.5-2. Estacada Fire District Action Plan

Action Item	Timeframe	Partners	CAR
Estacada Fire Action Plan			
Identify and pursue opportunities to provide Incident Management Training for firefighters that will be Incident Commanders on larger scale emergencies.	Ongoing	FDB, CCEM, NAFT	Estacada Fire District
Work with the City Manager to ensure that the contracted land use planner for the City consults Estacada Fire for access and fire flow requirements. Improve coordination between the contracted planner and Clackamas County Building Department to ensure that all fire flow and access requirements are met.	6 Months	City of Estacada, Clackamas County	Estacada Fire District
Invigorate the District's Outreach and Education Program by partnering with ODF to incorporate wildfire prevention into the annual Open House and Safety Fair.	Ongoing	ODF	Estacada Fire District
Identify opportunities to engage young adults in community service and wildfire prevention projects.	2 years	Estacada High School, Timberlake Job Corps	Estacada Fire District
Build capacity and support for a more involved backyard burning program including staff to educate local residents and regulate the Backyard Burning Program.	Long-Term	ODF, DEQ, Fire Co-op	Estacada Fire District
Estacada Fire Local Communities at Risk Action Plan			
Conduct a Community Meeting to educate community on defensible space, and measures that can be taken to reduce structural ignitability. Solicit feedback on wildfire prevention projects the community would support.	2 Years	ODF	Garfield/Porter Community
Partner with the Fire Co-op to create and distribute outreach materials that promote responsible burning, defensible space and reduction of structural ignitability within the Home Ignition Zone.	2 Years	Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Promote legal, safe and responsible debris burning through public outreach and education.	2 Years	ODF, DEQ, Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Reduce hazardous fuels in the ROW of potential evacuation routes. Engage residents adjacent to primary evacuation routes to extend treatments onto private land.	Ongoing	ODOT, Clackamas County Roads	All CAR's
Obtain structural ignitability data by conducting structural triage assessment data collection (including GPS points) for homes in Communities at Risk.	2 Years	ODF	All CAR's
Promote the District's Map Your Neighborhood and CERT programs to generate community-driven pre-disaster plans including evacuation routes, telephone call down trees, and other strategies for strengthening community response.	Ongoing	Clackamas County Emergency Management	All CAR's
Implement road addressing (including length of driveways) and other signage for emergency response.	2 Years	ODF	All CAR's
Work with partner agencies such as ODF, SWCD and Ford Institute to procure funding and technical assistance for reduce fuels in and around priority CAR's.	2 years	ODF, SWCD, Grant Funders	All CAR's
Work with State Parks to reduce hazardous fuels in their parks and provide signage to educate recreators about wildfire prevention.	3 years	State Parks, ODF	McIver Park, Metzler Park
Work with USFS and BLM to reduce fuels on federal land adjacent to CAR's.	3 years	USFS, BLM, Silver Fox RV Park	Silver Fox RV Park, Redland Road
Conduct Community Clean Up Days to reduce hazardous fuels. Identify opportunities to recycle or compost vegetative material instead of burning.	2 Years	ODF	All CAR's

Estacada Fire District Map #12

CLACKAMAS COUNTY
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SERVICES/GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
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OREGON CITY, OREGON 97045

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-  Fire Stations
-  Estacada Fire District
-  Fuels Reduction Projects (2013-17)
-  Fuels Reduction - Individual Addresses
-  Historical Projects (2012)
-  Communities at Risk
-  City Boundaries
-  Oregon Department of Forestry
-  Mt Hood National Forest

