

Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Fortune Branch

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Location

Fortune Branch is an unincorporated community designated, as a Rural Service Center by the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan. Fortune Branch is located on Azalea-Glen Road, approximately 7 miles Northeast from the City of Glendale on Azalea-Glen Road.



Population

The population of Fortune Branch (Which may also figure into portions of the population of areas to the northeast and southwest on Azalea-Glen Road depending on Census Block Location), according to the 2000 census, was approximately 235 people.

Housing/Land Use

Using the Douglas County Planning Department's addressing plats, there are approximately 109 addressed structures within the Fortune Branch Area (including structures to the immediate northeast and southwest of the Rural Service Center boundary. The majority of these are homes, but there are also commercial structures.



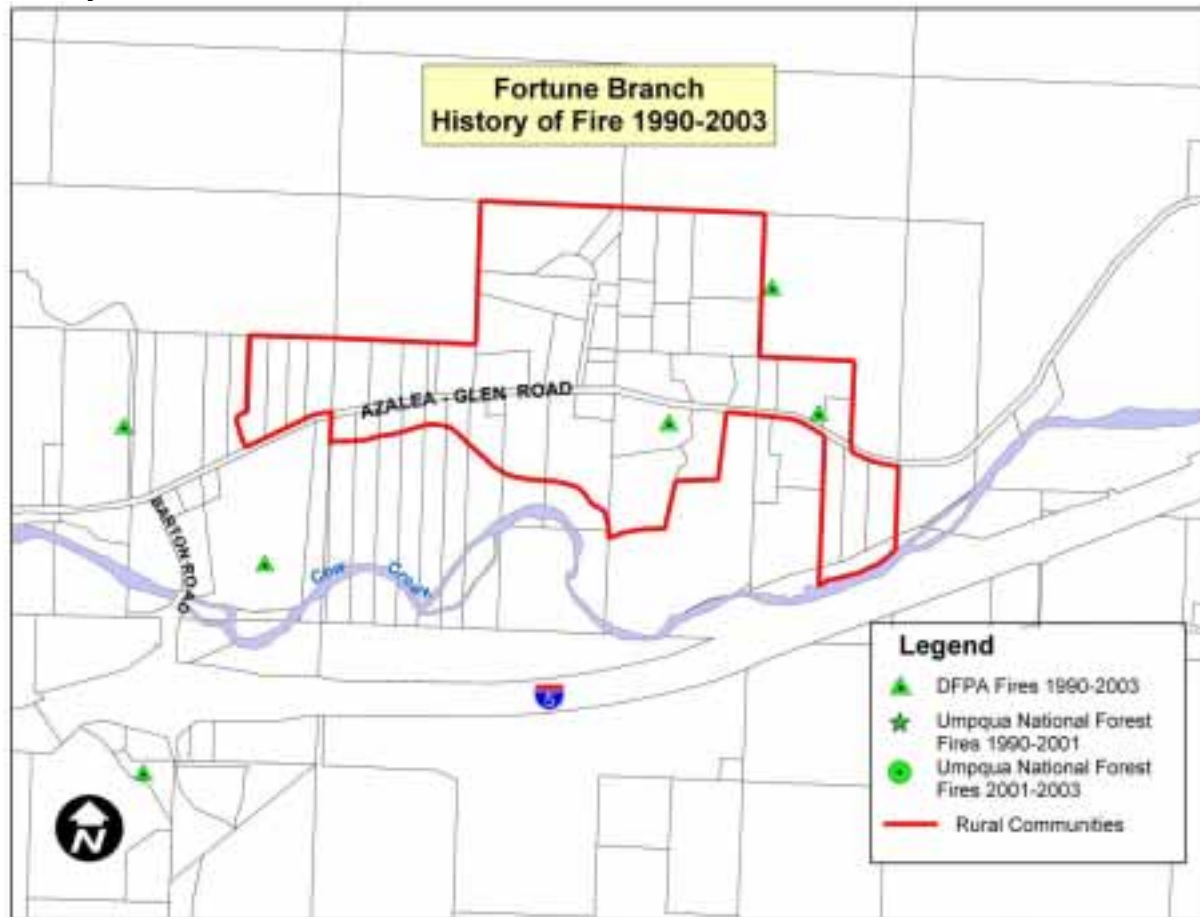
Within the Rural Service Center Boundary, Fortune Branch has zoning designations of 5R (Rural Residential 5) on the south side of Azalea-Glen Road. There is CRS (Rural Service Center Commercial) zoned property in the center of the community boundary. Properties to the north of Azalea-Glen Road are zoned RR (Rural Residential -2). The lands surrounding Fortune Branch are zoned with resource designations of TR (Timberland Resource), FG (Farm Grazing), and FF (Farm Forest).

Transportation

Roads: Transportation to and from Fortune Branch is handled via Azalea-Glen Road, which intersects Interstate 5 Southwest of the community at exit 83.

WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

History



Emergency Equipment and Staffing Inventory

The Azalea Rural Fire District services Fortune Branch. Below is the current equipment inventory as of this writing:

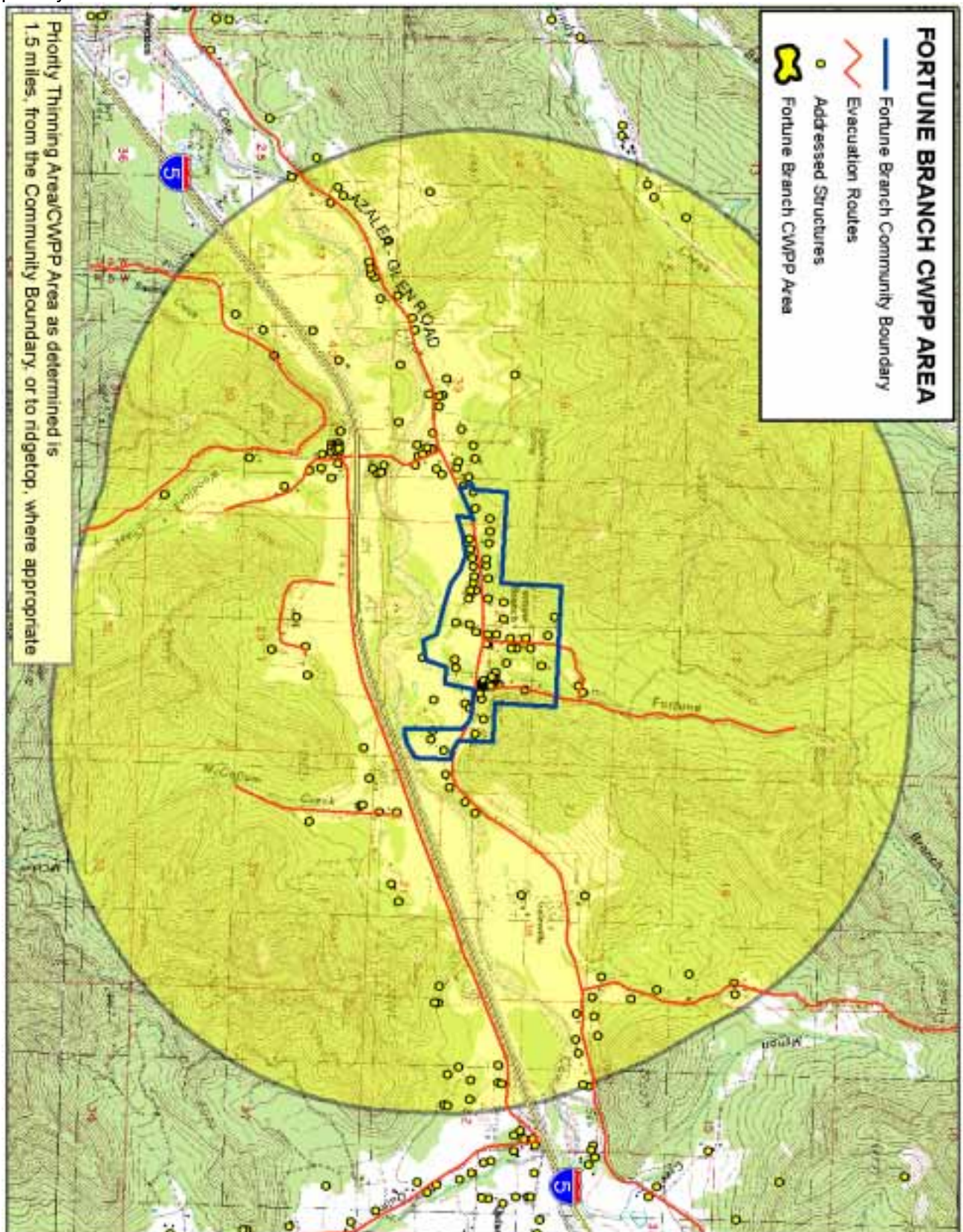
- 11 firefighters
- 1 Type 1 Class A structural engine
- 1 Type 2 Class A structural engine
- 1 Type 6 Wild land engine
- 2 Type 2 water tenders

Escape Routes

In the event of a wildfire, the community would utilize the main evacuation route of Azalea-Glen Road either Southwest towards Glendale, or Northeast towards Azalea.

Priority Fuel Reduction Area Identification

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



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 rural community and areas adjacent to the east and west, narrow escape routes to be cleaned and widened. Maintain all roads for fire fighting access during initial and extended attack.

Treatment Areas 2: Areas located beyond the Rural Community Boundary are to be thinned.

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:



2-3-05

Fred Merino
Chief, Azalea Rural Fire Protection District

Date