



# Community Wildfire Protection Plan

*An Action Plan for Wildfire Mitigation and Conservation of Natural Resources*

A Program of the Georgia Forestry Commission  
with support from the U.S. Forest Service

## Chattooga County

February 2020



The following report is a collaborative effort between various entities. The representatives listed below comprise the core decision-making team responsible for this report and mutually agree on the plan's contents.

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The following federal and other interested parties were consulted and involved in the preparation of this report.

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**PLAN CONTENTS**

I. Objectives and Goals .....5

II. County Background & Wildfire History.....6

III. Community Base Maps.....13

IV. Community Wildfire Risk Assessment.....16

V. Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment & Risk Hazard Map.....18

VI. Mitigation Recommendations.....25

VII. Action Plan.....27

VIII. Mitigation Assistance & Grant Information.....31

IX. Glossary.....32

X. Sources of Information.....34

## I. OBJECTIVES & GOALS

The mission of the following report is to set clear priorities for the implementation of wildfire mitigation in Chattooga County. The plan includes prioritized recommendations for the appropriate types and methods of fuel reduction and structure ignitability reduction that will protect this community and its essential infrastructure. It also includes a plan for wildfire suppression. Specifically, the plan includes community-centered actions that will:

- Educate citizens on wildfire, its risks, and ways to protect lives and properties,
- Support fire rescue and suppression entities,
- Focus on collaborative decision-making and citizen participation,
- Develop and implement effective mitigation strategies, and
- Develop and implement effective community ordinances and codes.

**This plan should become a working document that is shared by local, state, and federal agencies that will use it to accomplish common goals. It is intended to become part of the master hazard mitigation plan for the County. An agreed-upon schedule for meeting to review accomplishments, solve problems, and plan for the future should extend beyond the scope of this plan. Without this follow up this plan will have limited value.**



## II. COUNTY BACKGROUND AND WILDFIRE HISTORY

### Location

Chattooga County is located in Northwest Georgia and encompasses 200,800 acres. Of this area 155,200 acres (77%) is covered by forest. It is bordered on the west side by the state line with Alabama, on the south and east by Floyd County, and on the north by Walker County. It contains varied terrain and has two distinct physiographic regions, the Ridge and Valley, and the Cumberland Plateau. Major terrain features include Lookout Mountain, Taylor Ridge, Dirtseller Mountain, Bogan Mountain, Johns, and Little Sand Mountain. Some areas contain very rugged terrain. There is an extensive holding of the Federal Government (USFS) that generally follows the higher elevations of Taylor Ridge and the western slopes of Johns Mountain.

### Demographics

As of the 2010 census there were approximately 26,015 people living in the county. During the period 4/1/2000 to 7/1/2006 the county experienced a growth rate of 3.8%. The most prominent towns are Summerville (county seat), Lyerly, Menlo, and Trion. A large portion of the population resides in unincorporated areas. On the whole, Chattooga County has not experienced rapid growth as regards the wildland urban interface. This is not to say that interface problems do not exist. As with most interface problem areas, the ones that do exist are associated with major transportation corridors. The principal roads in the county include US highway 27 which runs generally north to south, highway 48 which runs west from Summerville to Menlo and Cloudland Community to the Alabama State Line, and highway 337 which runs from Menlo to the northeast into Walker County. Highways 100 and 114 run south from Summerville. There are numerous county and local roads which run generally in an orientation governed by the terrain (southwest to northeast).

### Fire History

Of the 200,800 acres in Chattooga County, 161,100 are designated as protected from wildland fire. Incendiary (Arson) and debris burning are the major cause of wildfire in Chattooga County. Many of the arson fires follow seasonal timelines. They are also found in particular geographical areas more often than not. However, they are not restricted to these areas. Over the last 10 years, 2009-2018, the County has averaged about 40 wildfires each year burning about 187 acres annually. These are wildfires that the Georgia Forestry Commission responded to and reported. Additional wildfire data for the 10 year period follows on pages 7-12.

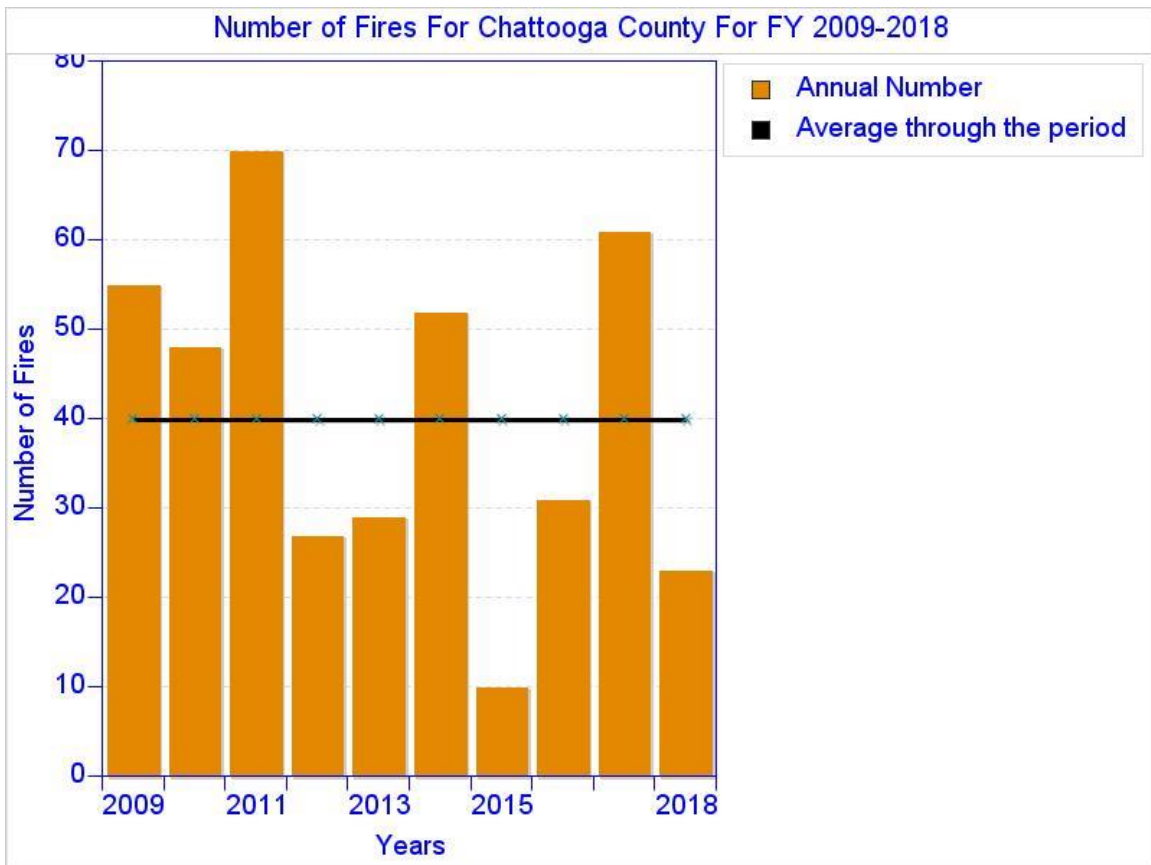
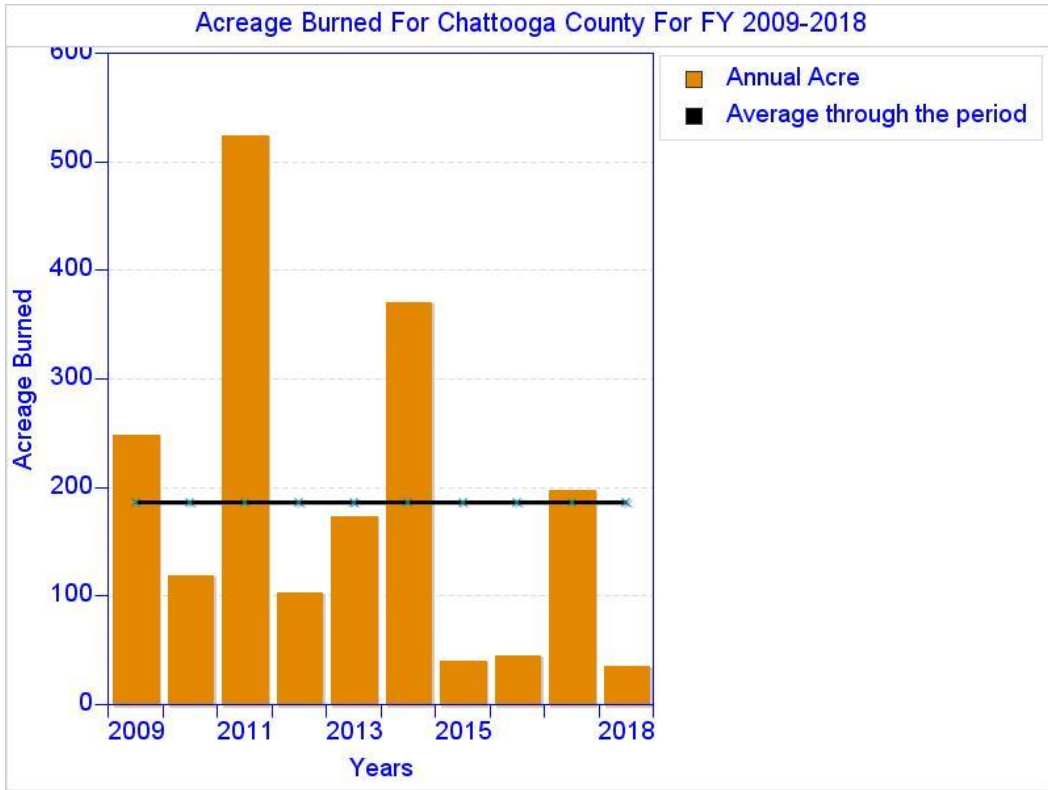
**Wildfire activity during the last complete fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.**

County = Chattooga	Cause	Fires		Acres	Fires 5 Yr Avg	Acres 5 Yr Avg
<a href="#">Campfire</a>	Campfire	1		0.11	1.00	8.09
<a href="#">Children</a>	Children	1		0.62	1.00	0.21
<a href="#">Debris: Ag Fields, Pastures, Orchards, Etc</a>	Debris: Ag Fields, Pastures, Orchards, Etc	2		1.11	0.40	0.22
<a href="#">Debris: Construction Land Clearing</a>	Debris: Construction Land Clearing	0		0.00	0.40	3.06
<a href="#">Debris: Escaped Prescribed Burn</a>	Debris: Escaped Prescribed Burn	0		0.00	0.80	2.00
<a href="#">Debris: Household Garbage</a>	Debris: Household Garbage	1		0.01	1.40	2.13
<a href="#">Debris: Other</a>	Debris: Other	0		0.00	0.40	0.03
<a href="#">Debris: Residential, Leafpiles, Yard, Etc</a>	Debris: Residential, Leafpiles, Yard, Etc	4		7.47	4.40	5.28
<a href="#">Debris: Site Prep - Forestry Related</a>	Debris: Site Prep - Forestry Related	0		0.00	0.60	0.79
<a href="#">Incendiary</a>	Incendiary	1		4.37	3.80	9.03
<a href="#">Lightning</a>	Lightning	0		0.00	0.20	0.00
<a href="#">Machine Use</a>	Machine Use	3		1.40	3.80	4.26
<a href="#">Miscellaneous: Fireworks/Explosives</a>	Miscellaneous: Fireworks/Explosives	0		0.00	0.80	1.49
<a href="#">Miscellaneous: Power lines/Electric fences</a>	Miscellaneous: Power lines/Electric fences	1		0.17	0.80	0.37
<a href="#">Miscellaneous: Structure/Vehicle Fires</a>	Miscellaneous: Structure/Vehicle Fires	0		0.00	0.60	0.11
<a href="#">Miscellaneous: Woodstove Ashes</a>	Miscellaneous: Woodstove Ashes	0		0.00	0.40	0.07
<a href="#">Undetermined</a>	Undetermined	1		0.10	7.20	30.44
<b>Totals for County: Chattooga Year: 2019</b>		15		15.36	28.00	67.57

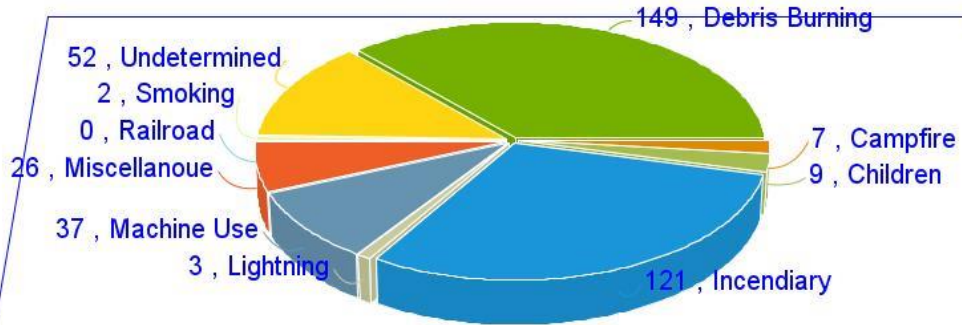
<b>Acres Burned /Number of Fires For Chattooga County For FY 2009-2018</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Acres Burned</b>	<b>Number of Fires</b>	<b>Average Size</b>	<b>Statewide Average Size</b>
2009	248.96	55	4.34	3.90
2010	119.72	48	7.66	3.93
2011	525.02	70	5.28	17.56
2012	103.64	27	4.93	5.08
2013	174.51	29	8.80	4.53
2014	371.71	52	3.53	5.02
2015	41.12	10	13.71	4.42
2016	46.38	31	5.41	6.29
2017	198.61	61	12.21	11.60
2018	36.39	23	10.79	5.25

<b>Acres Burned /Number of Fires by Fire Cause For Chattooga County For FY 2009-2018</b>		
<b>Fire Cause</b>	<b>Acres Burned</b>	<b>Number of Fires</b>
Campfire	45.78	7
Children	7.68	9
Debris Burning	439.48	149
Incendiary	955.93	121
Lightning	0.36	3
MachineUse	97.69	37
Miscellaneous	30.04	26
Railroad	0.00	0
Smoking	0.50	2
Undetermined	288.60	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,866.06</b>	<b>406</b>



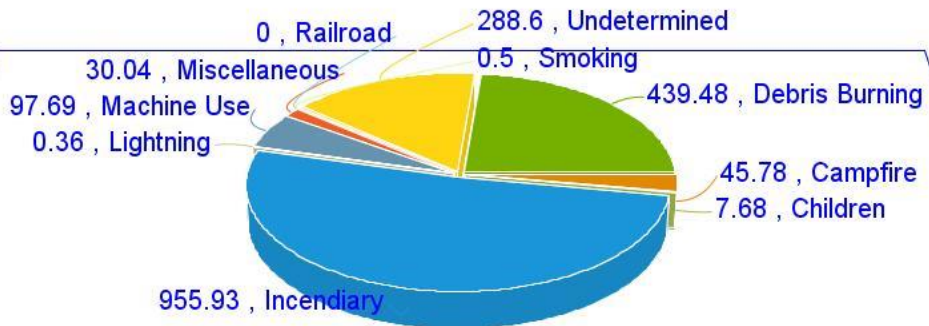


Cause of Fire For Chattooga County For FY 2009-2018

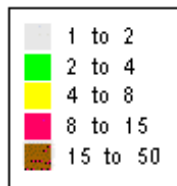
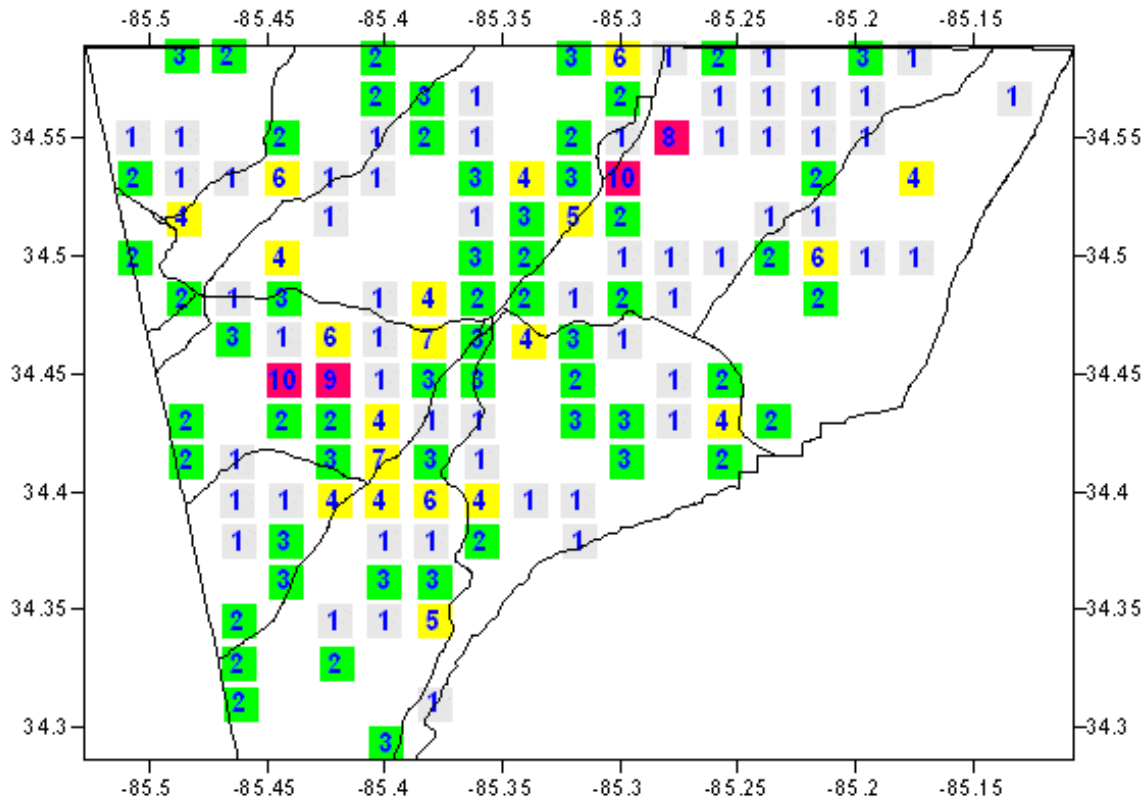


Fire Cause

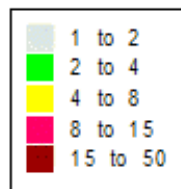
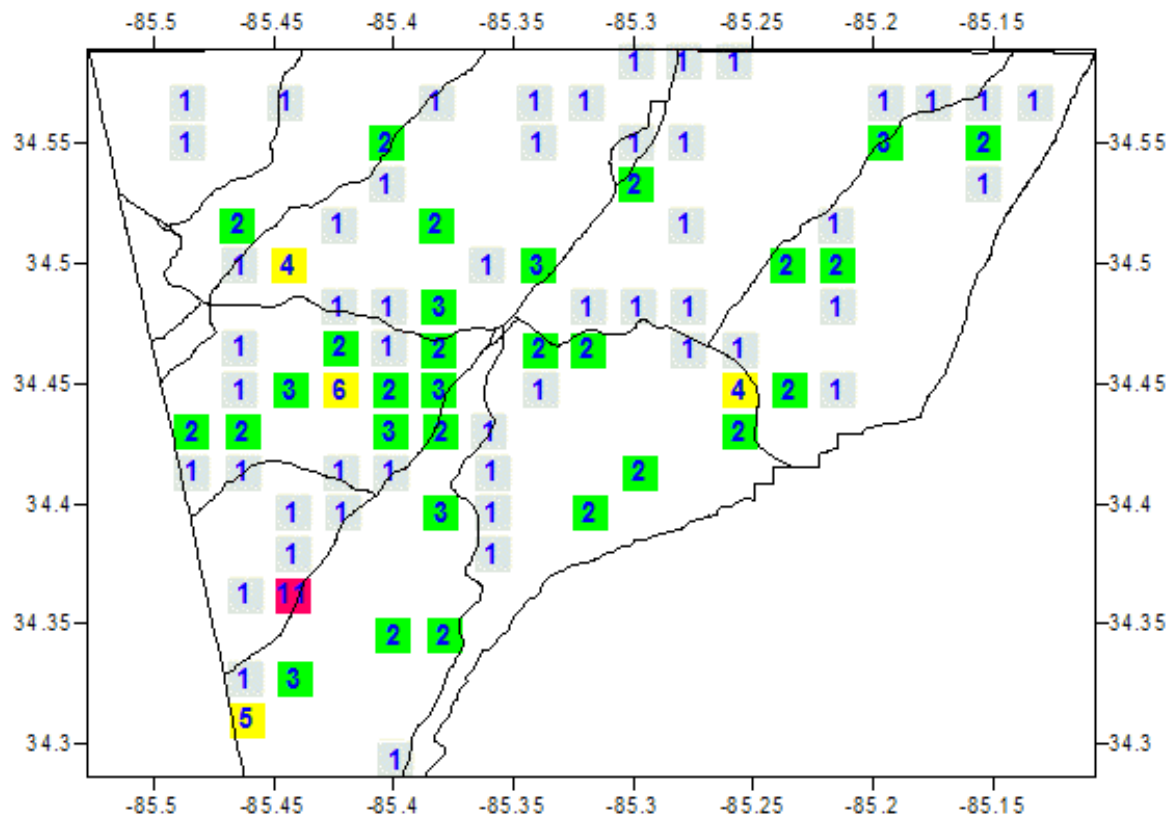
Acreage Burned by Cause of Fire For Chattooga County For FY 2009-2018



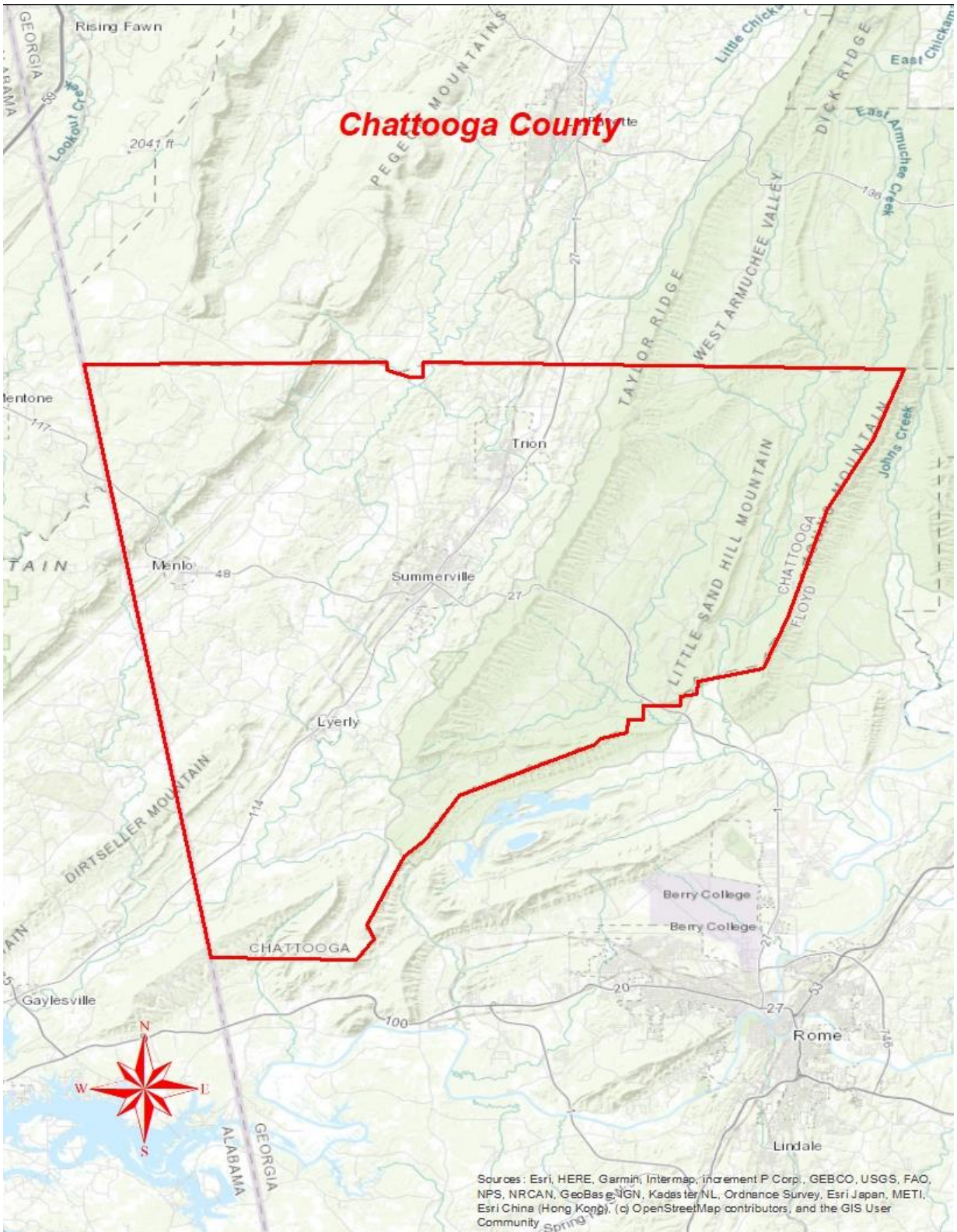
# Fire Occurrence Map for Chattooga County for Fiscal Year 2007-2011



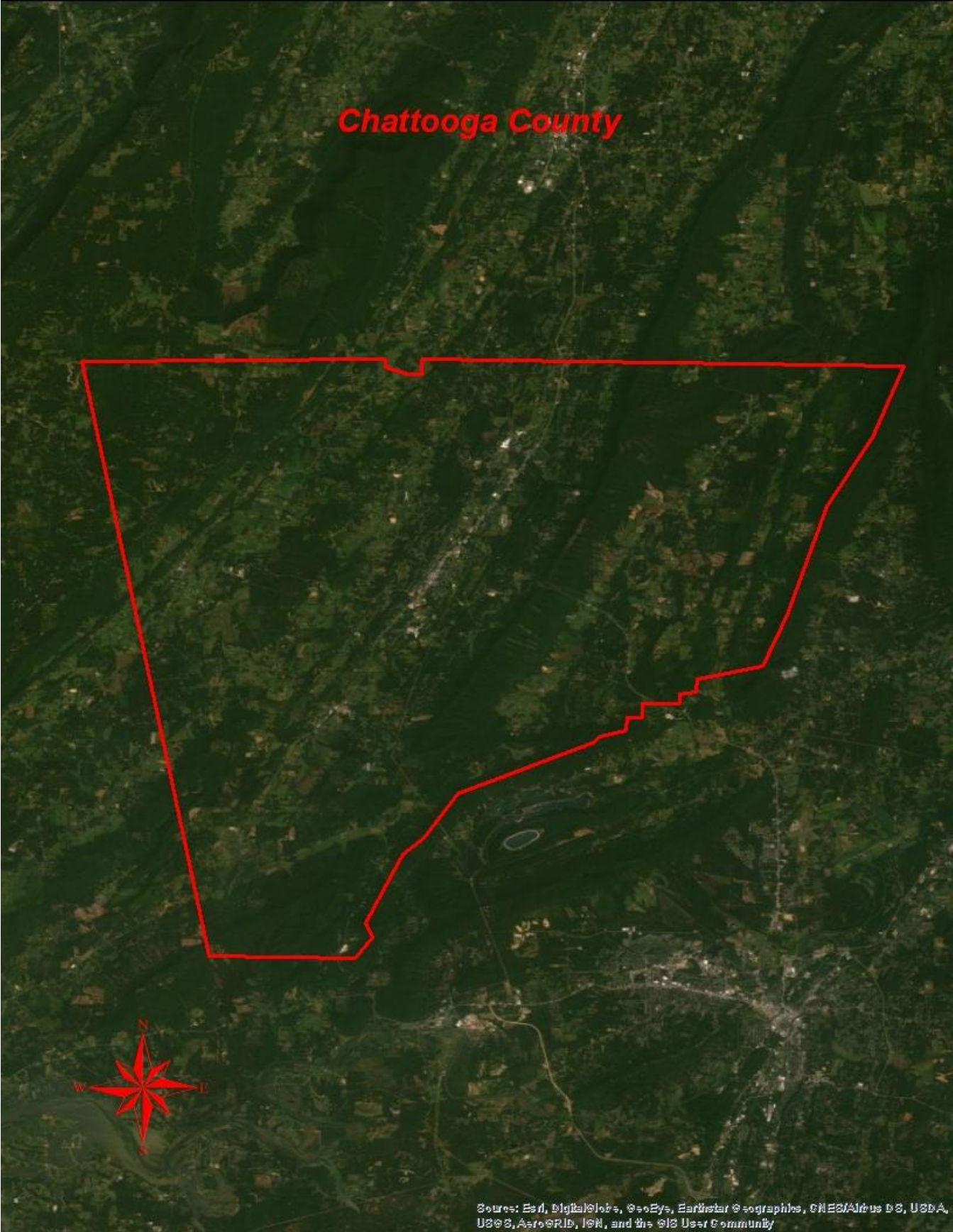
# Fire Occurrence Map for Chattooga County for Fiscal Year 2012-2016



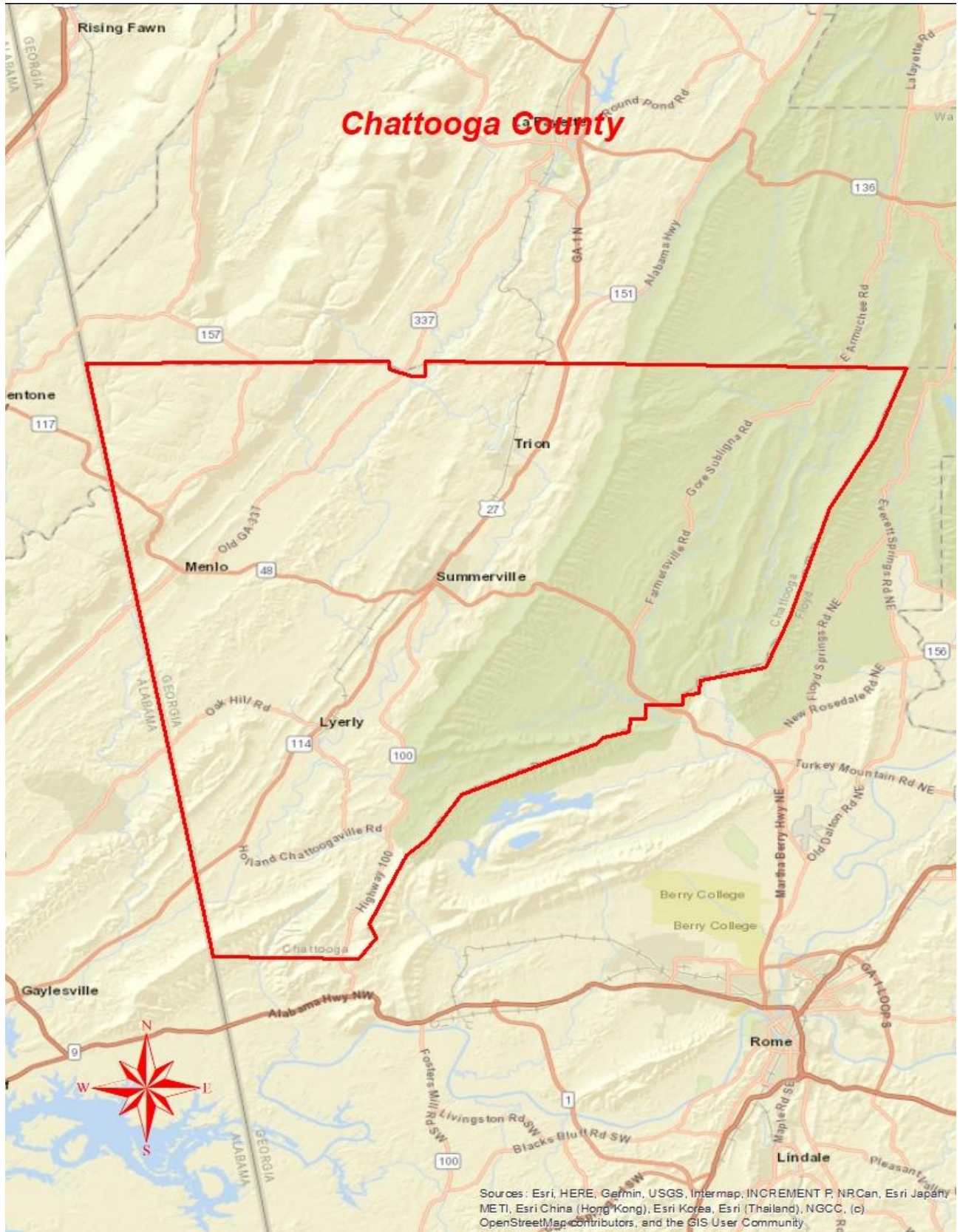
### III. COUNTY BASE MAPS



**Chattooga County**



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



## IV. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK SUMMARY

There are many definitions of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), however from a fire management perspective it is commonly defined as an area where structures and other human development meet or intermingles with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. As fire is dependent on a certain set of conditions, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group has defined the wildland-urban interface as a set of conditions that exists in or near areas of wildland fuels, regardless of ownership. This set of conditions includes type of vegetation, building construction, accessibility, lot size, topography and other factors such as weather and humidity. When these conditions are present in certain combinations, they make some communities more vulnerable to wildfire damage than others. This “set of conditions” method is perhaps the best way to define wildland-urban interface areas when planning for wildfire prevention, mitigation, and protection activities.

There are three major categories of wildland-urban interface. Depending on the set of conditions present, any of these areas may be at risk from wildfire. A wildfire risk assessment can determine the level of risk.

- 1. “Boundary” wildland-urban interface** is characterized by areas of development where homes, especially new subdivisions, press against public and private wildlands, such as private or commercial forest land or public forests or parks. This is the classic type of wildland-urban interface, with a clearly defined boundary between the suburban fringe and the rural countryside.
- 2. “Intermix” wildland-urban interface** areas are places where improved property and/or structures are scattered and interspersed in wildland areas. These may be isolated rural homes or an area that is just beginning to go through the transition from rural to urban land use.
- 3. “Island” wildland-urban interface**, also called occluded interface, are areas of wildland within predominately urban or suburban areas. As cities or subdivisions grow, islands of undeveloped land may remain, creating remnant forests. Sometimes these remnants exist as parks, or as land that cannot be developed due to site limitations, such as wetlands.



**Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is described as the area where structures and other human improvements meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.**



The following assessments were conducted by Tommy Hawkins, GFC Chief Ranger and Carl Melear, GFC Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, during the month of December in 2008. The Georgia Forestry Commission Community Assessment form was used. This document rates communities based on four criteria. The criteria are Subdivision design, Site hazard, Building Construction, and Additional factors. Ratings are based on a numerical scale in each criterion. Rating scales range from low to extreme. Incorporated areas were not assessed due to time and manpower availability. Since these assessments were initially conducted over 10 years ago it is recommended that each community should be reviewed and updated.

**What does the Wildfire Hazard Rating number mean:**

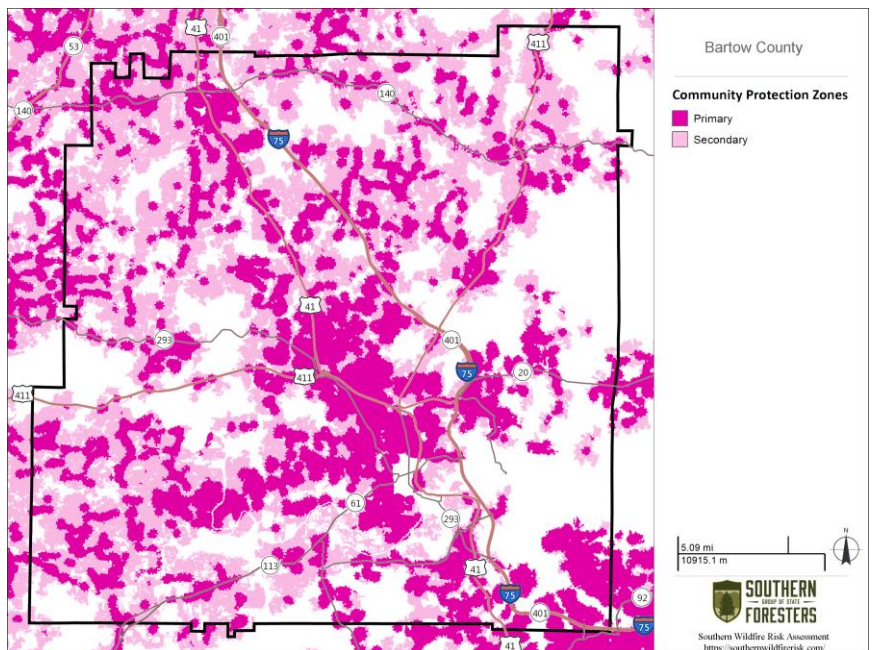
- Low Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 0 - 75 points** The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are GOOD. Little is needed to improve your situation. Keep up the good work!
- Moderate Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 76 - 130 points** The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are FAIR. Some Minor improvements will make your home more fire resistant. Check the areas on the form in which you scored poorly.
- High Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 130 points** The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are NOT GOOD. Improvements are necessary. Some improvements in structure and site are necessary.
- Extreme Risk:** **Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 140 points** Your home MAY NOT SURVIVE if a wildfire passes through the area. In fact, a fire could even start on your property. Take a serious look at your property and make improvements. If you don't, you may be facing disaster. You'll find that even small changes could make the difference between losing or saving your home.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Category</b>
Trion / Old 27 Hwy. / Airport Rd	136	High
South Brow	131	High
Lakeside Lane	131	High
Davis Rd / Williams Cemetary Rd	129	High
Welcome Hill / Elsie	116	Moderate
Chism Trail	114	Moderate
Cooper Pit Rd	109	Moderate
Harrisburg Rd and York Rd	109	Moderate
Bryant Rd and Redbird Lane	107	Moderate
D.C. Brown Rd.	104	Moderate
Spring Creek Rd	102	Moderate
Silver Hill	95	Moderate
Nugget Ridge	94	Moderate
Dupree Rd and Chelsea Ln.	90	Moderate
Back Berryton	90	Moderate
Frontier Circle	88	Moderate
Berryton	88	Moderate
Mahan Rd	86	Moderate
Lake Wanda Rita and Scoggins trail	84	Moderate
Hamp Brewer Circle	72	Low
Woodhaven	68	Low
Mitchell Circle	67	Low

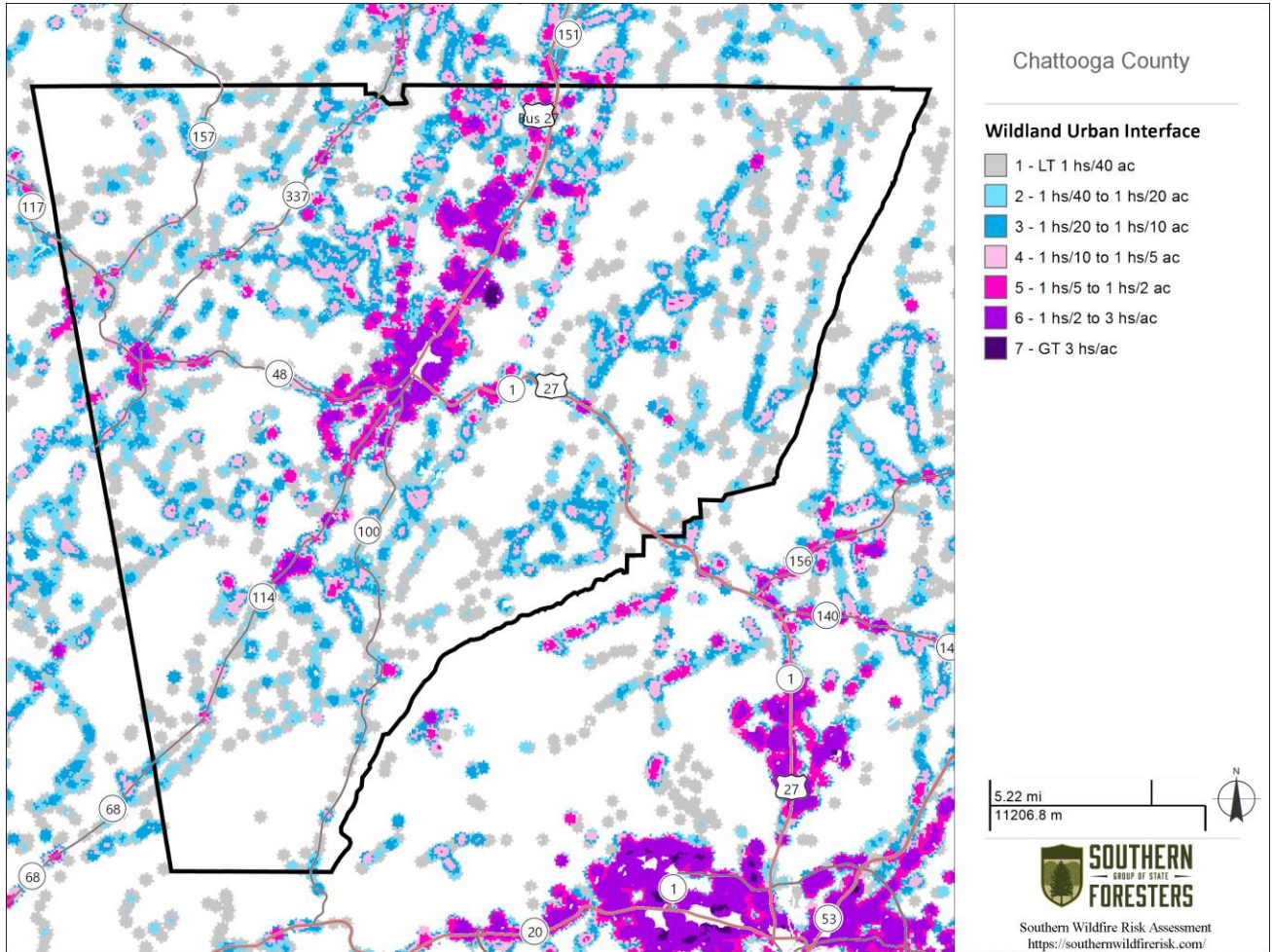
## V. SOUTHERN WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT & RISK HAZARD MAPS

The Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment tool, developed by the Southern Group of State Foresters, was released to the public in July 2014. This tool allows users of the Professional Viewer application of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment (SWRA) web Portal (SouthWRAP) to define a specific project area and summarize wildfire related information for this area. A detailed risk summary report is generated using a set of predefined map products developed by the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment project which have been summarized explicitly for the user defined project area. A risk assessment summary was generated for Chattooga County. The SouthWRAP (SWRA) products included in this report are designed to provide the information needed to support the following key priorities:

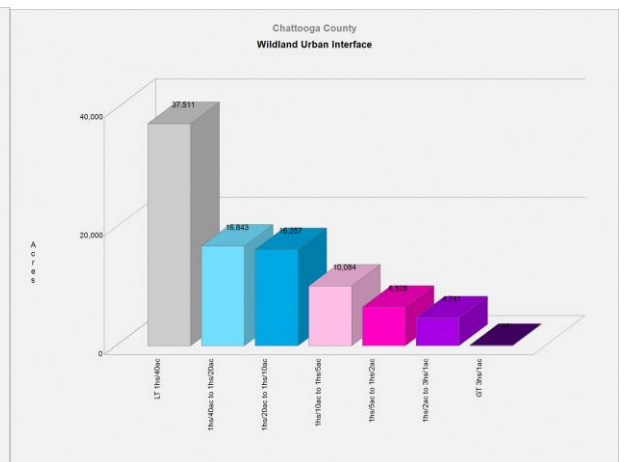
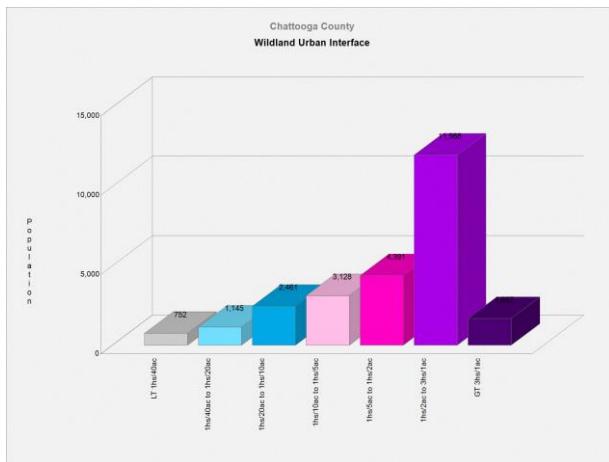
- Identify areas that are most prone to wildfire.
- Identify areas that may require additional tactical planning, specifically related to mitigation projects and Community Wildfire Protection Planning.
- Provide the information necessary to justify resource, budget and funding requests.
- Allow agencies to work together to better define priorities and improve emergency response, particularly across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Define wildland communities and identify the risk to those communities
- Increase communication and outreach with local residents and the public to create awareness and address community priorities and needs.
- Plan for response and suppression resource needs.
- Plan and prioritize hazardous fuel treatment programs.

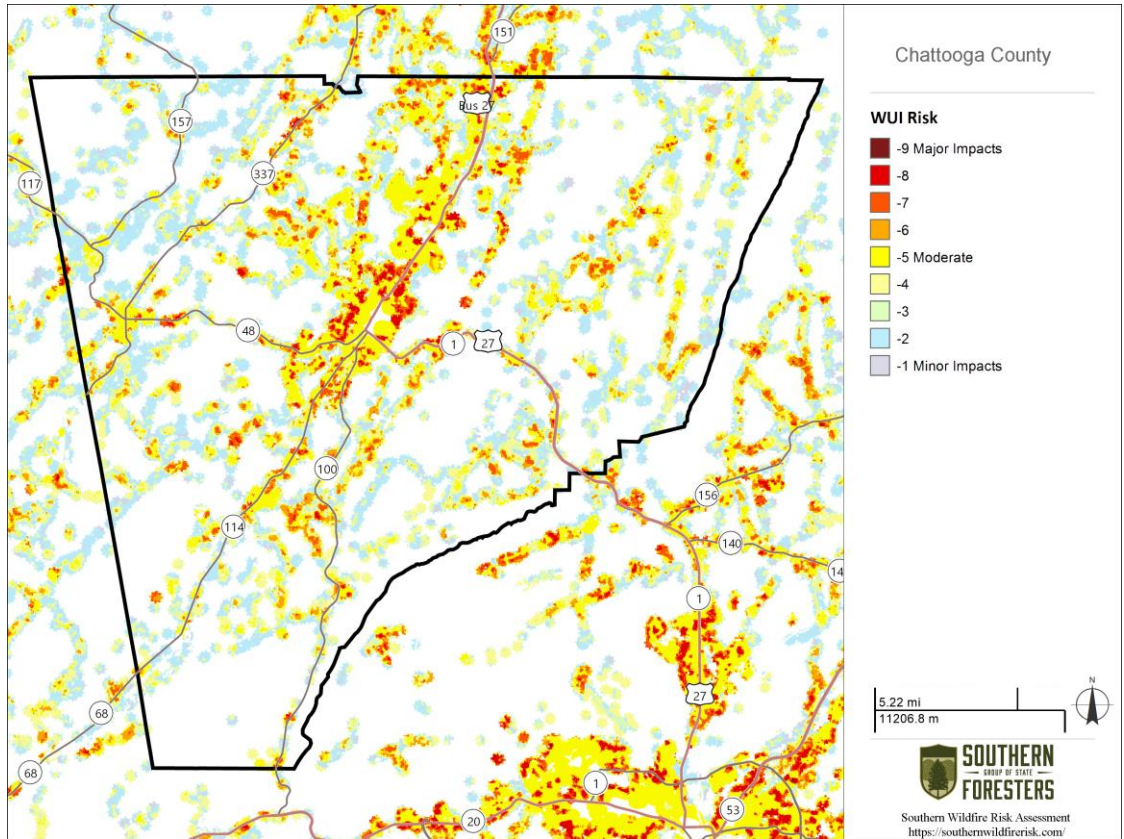


Community Protection map from the Chattooga County SWRA

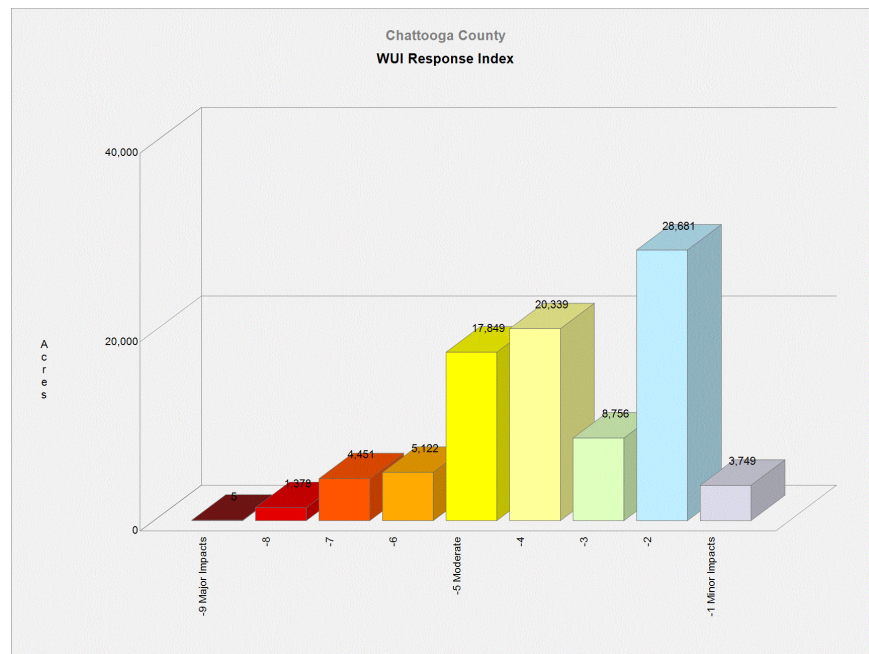


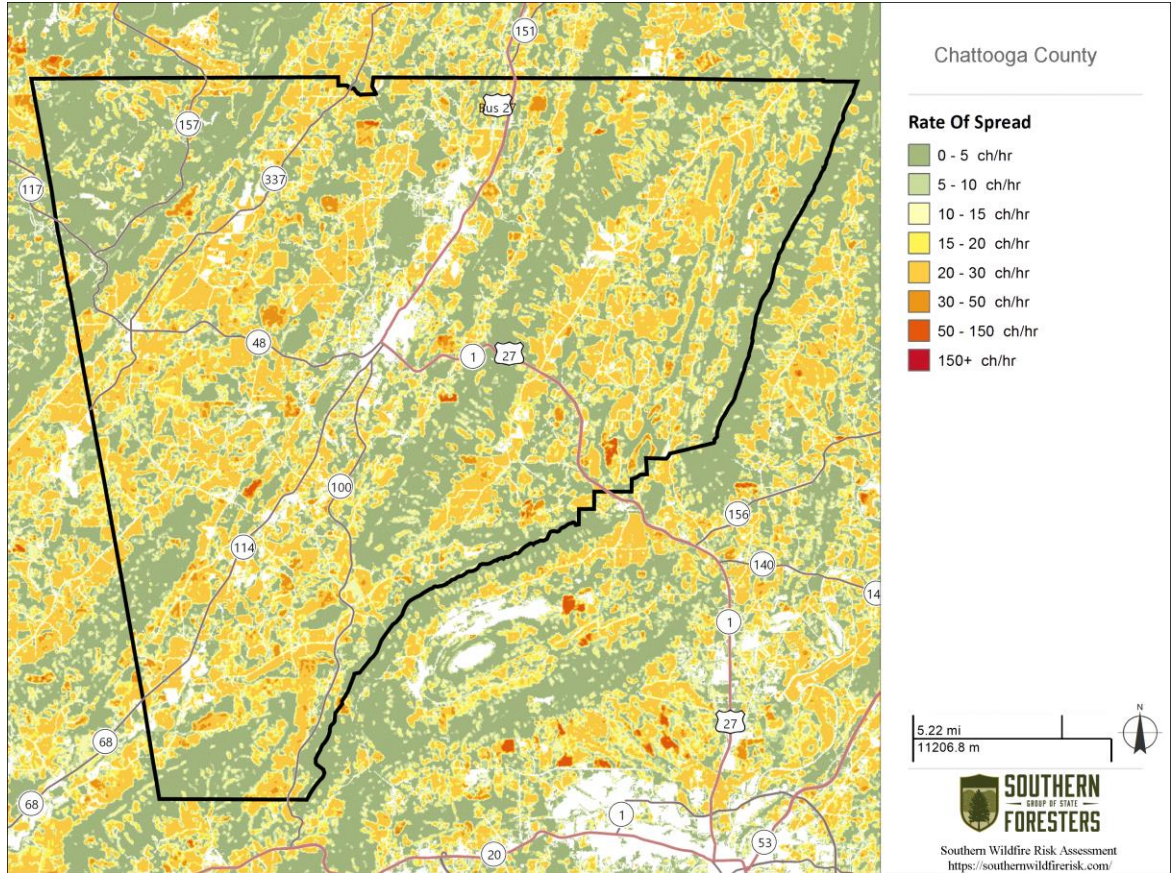
Above: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map      Below: WUI Population (left) WUI Acres (right)



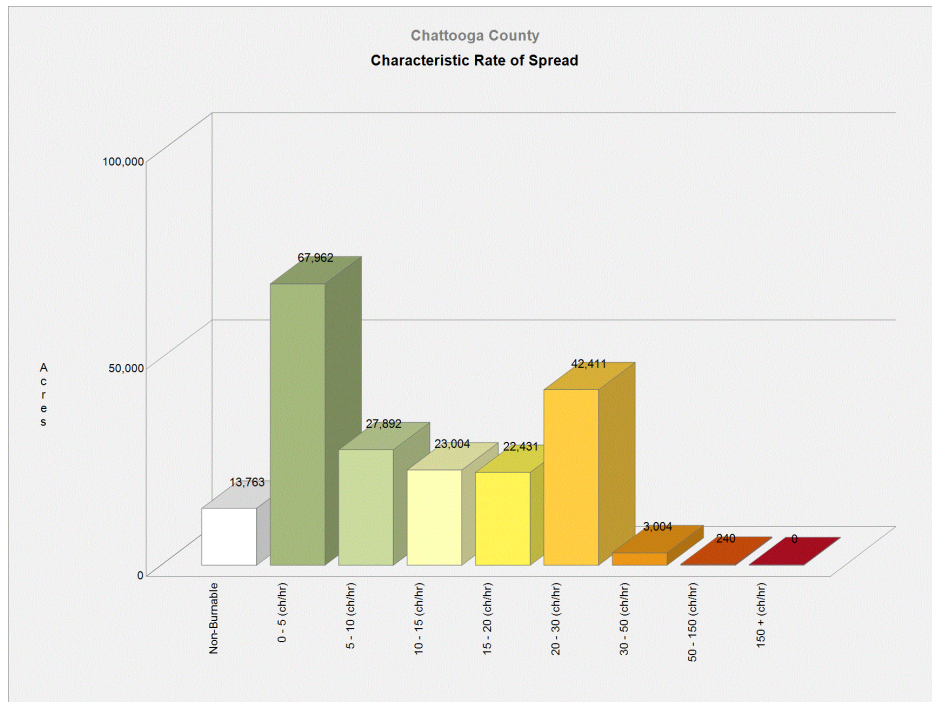


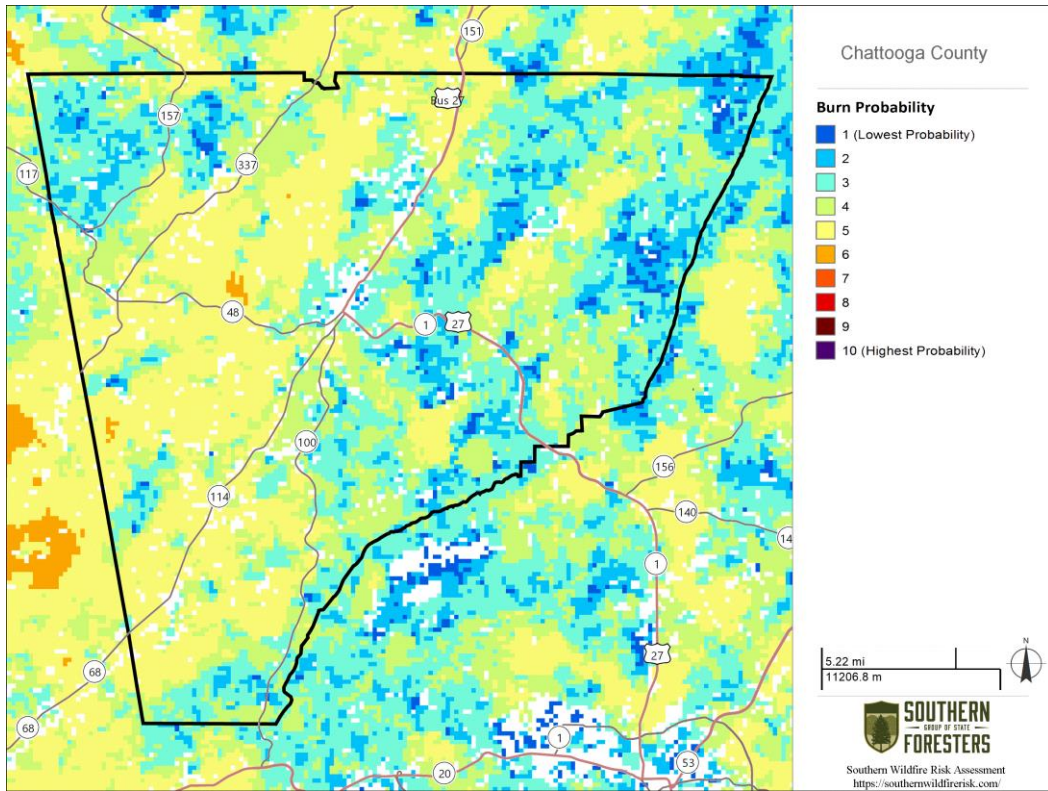
**Above: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk map      Below: WUI Risk Acres**



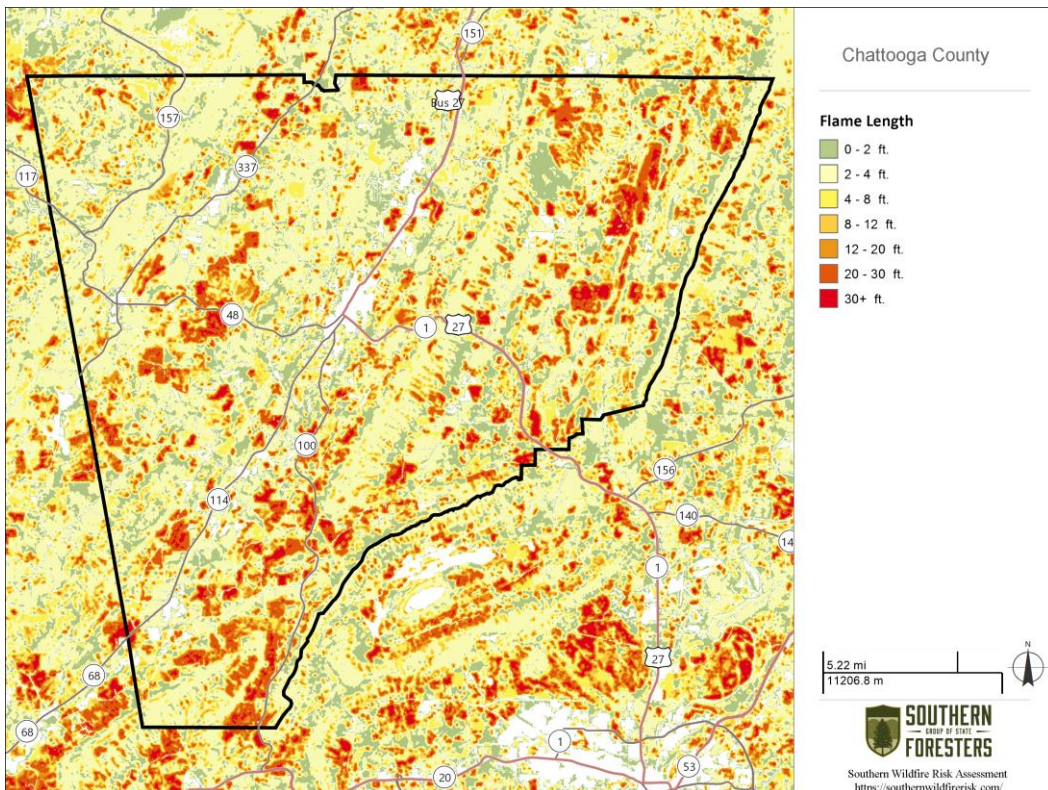


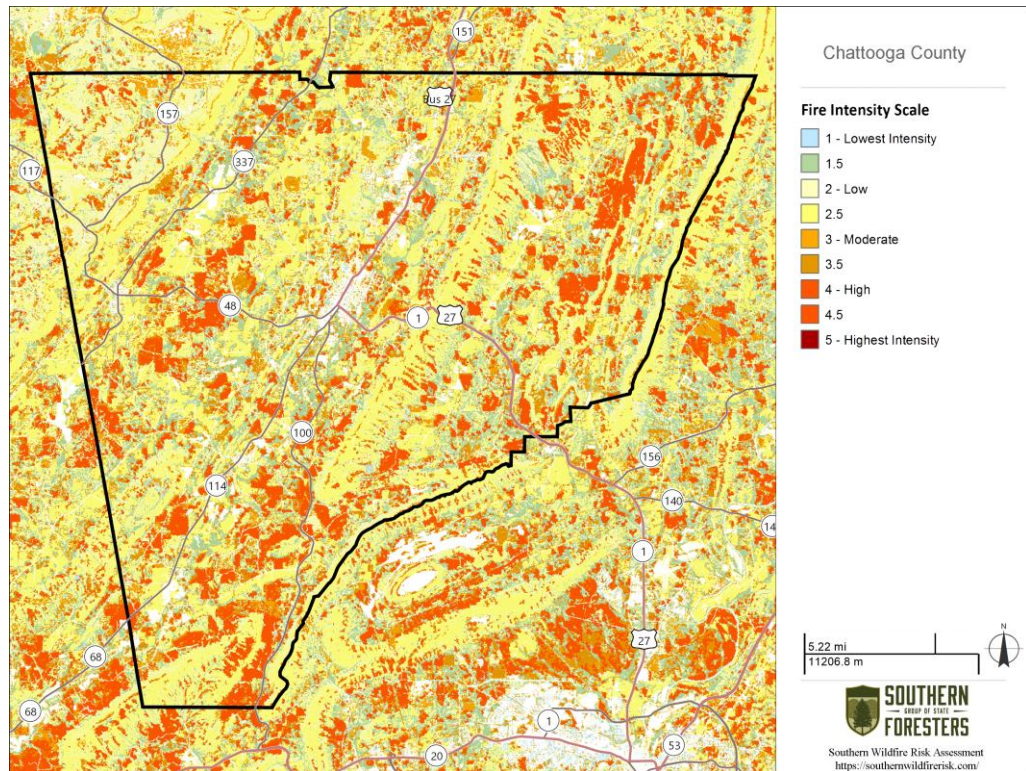
**Above: Rate of Spread map    Below: Rate of Spread acres**



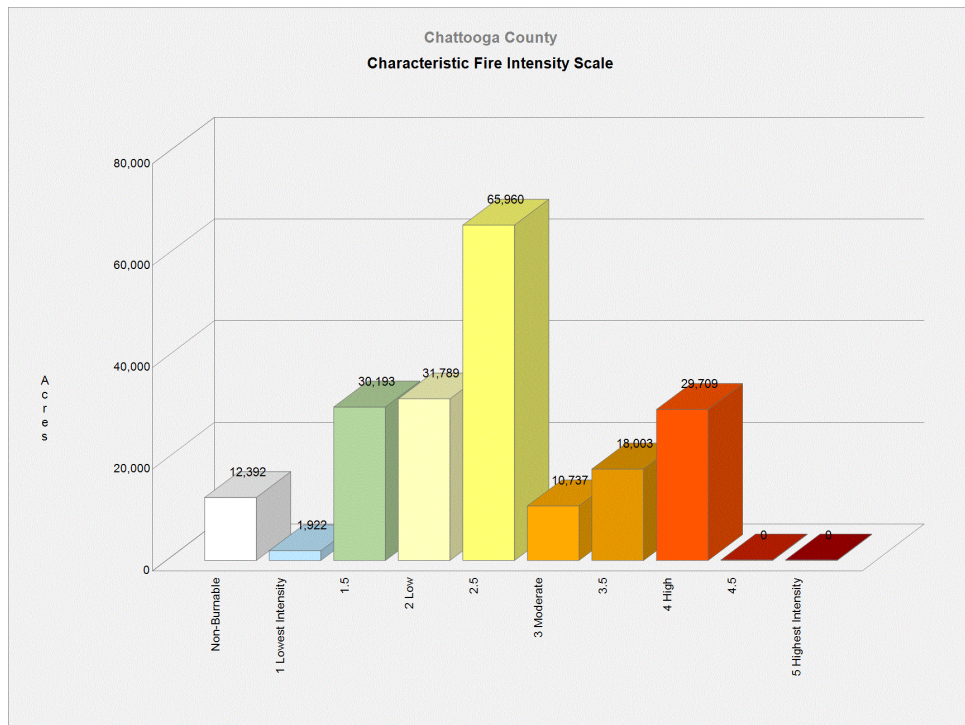


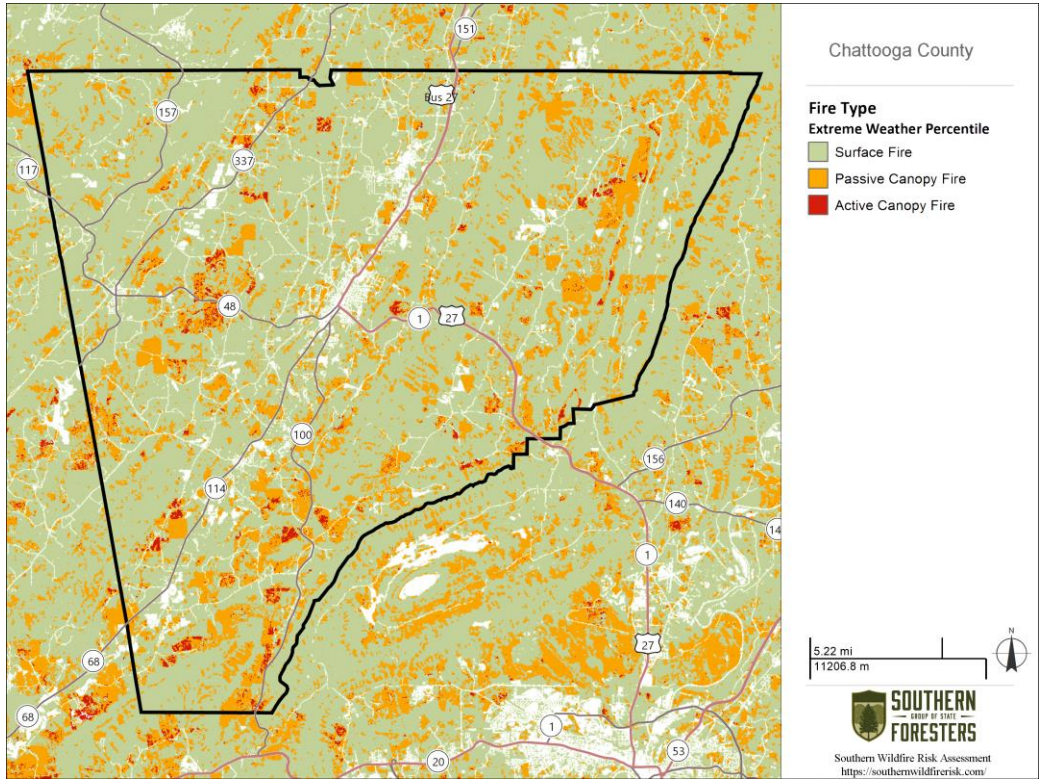
Above: Burn Probability map    Below: Flame Length map



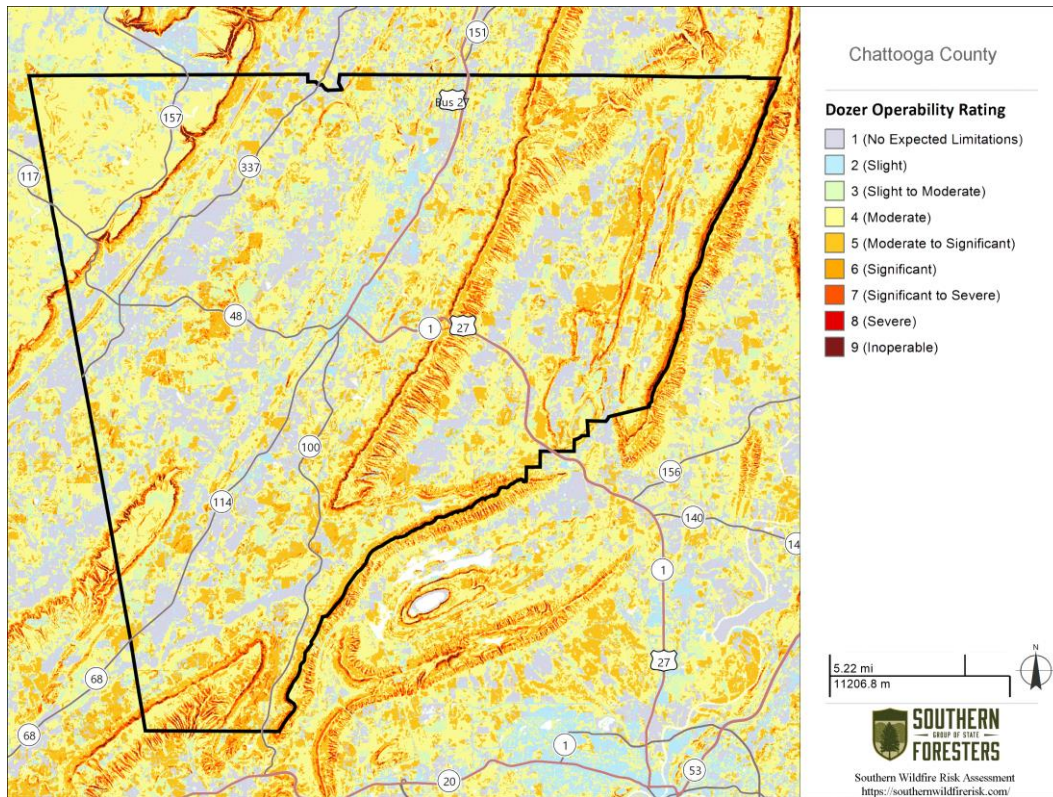


**Above: Fire Intensity Scale map    Below: Fire Intensity Scale Acres**





Above: Fire Type map    Below: Dozer Operability map





## VI. MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were developed during follow-up meetings with local, state, federal and community stakeholders held on December 11, 2008. A priority order was determined based on which mitigation projects would best reduce the hazard of wildland fire to communities and infrastructure.

### Proposed Community Hazard and Structural Ignitability Reduction Priorities:

Hazard	Mitigation	Method
Incendiarism	Standardized or improved law enforcement response	Improve coordination between County, State, and Federal investigators. Coordination across state lines should be considered. Investigate all suspected incendiary fires by jurisdiction involved. Agencies should provide assistance to each other when occurrence is high or becomes a problem in a particular area.
Fuel Hazard	Prescribed burning	Encourage prescribed burning throughout the county with special emphasis near communities at risk. Provide assistance to landowners using Community wildfire mitigation grant monies.
Fuel Hazard	Reduction of fuel and creation of defensible space around individual residences	Assist landowners by providing on site inspections aimed at increasing defensible space around structures.
Fuel Hazard	Reduce fuel levels in shared community spaces	Create a space in common ground where debris can be transported to and burned safely. Conduct a Community Clean up day. National Wildfire Preparedness Day is held annually on the 1st Saturday in May. Use a chipper to reduce fuels where burning is hazardous or undesired.

**Proposed Education and Outreach Priorities:**

The following recommendations were the result of collaboration with interested parties during the stakeholder meeting on December 11, 2008. There are doubtless other avenues by which the prevention, mitigation, and protection message can be related to the citizens of Chattooga County.

Educational Priority	Responsible party	Method
Increase public awareness concerning firewise principles and fire prevention through direct contact	County, State, and Federal agencies	Conduct firewise meetings by each fire response jurisdiction assisted by Georgia Forestry Commission (state) and USDA Forest Service (federal). Conduct a door to door campaign in hazardous communities
Increase public awareness concerning firewise principles and fire prevention through use of media	State and Federal agencies	Use PSA's in local newspapers and local radio stations. Utilize firewise displays in local post offices and banks. Seek use of local EMC newsletter for firewise message. Create poster sized notices for use in common public places (stores, post offices, etc. adjacent to high hazard areas advising residents about the hazard and how to protect themselves and their property. Distribute public notices concerning firewise at local sporting events and other public gatherings.

## VII. ACTION PLAN

### Steps to implement Community Hazard and Structural Ignitability Priorities

Hazard	Specific Action and Responsible Party
Lack of Defensible Space	Using the risk summaries referenced in section IV, each department should conduct inspections of communities at risk in their jurisdiction or area of response for lack of defensible space. Findings will be conveyed to residents and treatment methods will be recommended in accordance with Firewise principles. This would probably be best accomplished by approaching homeowner associations or organizations. Ultimately, the message should reach individual homeowners in each community. Should local organizations not exist, the builder or developer could be contacted. Such contacts would also influence future projects or developments
Access problems	Using individual Communities at Risk maps for each station, the Georgia Forestry Commission and Bartow County Fire officials should visit all identified communities at risk for the purpose of locating and resolving access difficulties. This inspection should extend into the wildland adjacent to the communities at risk looking for hindrances to suppression tactics
Structural Ignitability	Chattooga County Fire officials should examine structures for structural ignitability concerns at the time when the communities at risk are inspected for lack of defensible space. Using firewise guidelines for reducing structural ignitability, (a checklist could be formulated and used) structures should be assessed and findings conveyed to residents. This could be through use of media or by direct contact with residents or homeowner associations.
Codes and Ordinances  IWUIC International Wildland Urban Interface Code	Chattooga County and municipal Fire Marshalls should closely examine all codes and ordinances for gaps and oversights which could cause problems in the wildland fire arena. Examples include proximity of propane tanks to structures, accumulations of debris, lack of proper identification pertaining address or street names, set back distances from wildland fuels, road widths in new developments.

In regard to priority, the above steps should first extend to the higher numbers in the High/extreme category from the risk summary as these communities are at a higher degree of risk.

<b>Timetables</b>			
<b>Planned Action</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Action</b>
Prescribed Burning	Late Winter Early Spring	Georgia Forestry Commission and US Forest Service	Burn pine stands adjacent to Frontier Circle, Lakeside Lane, and Frontier Circle. Repeat every 3 years.
Reduce Incendiarism	Continuous	Chattooga County Law Enforcement, Georgia Forestry Commission and US Forest Service	Utilizing state and federal fire reports, investigations should be conducted on all fires determined to be arson caused in each jurisdiction. Fires occurring on the state line should involve coordination with Alabama State Forestry and other fire officials.
Improve accessibility for fire equipment	Continuous	Chattooga County Fire Departments, building permit office, Chattooga County Public Works, and developers	All fire stations should examine all communities in their jurisdiction for accessibility problems and report findings to affected parties. The development board and the permit office should anticipate problems and recommend corrections.
Install and maintain permanent firebreaks	Continuous	Georgia Forestry Commission, US Forest Service	Permanent breaks should be considered for Lakeside Lane, Frontier Circle, and Mitchell Circle.
Conduct Community Clean up days	Late Fall /Spring	Local Fire Departments and Georgia Forestry Commission	Fire depts. should identify communities at risk in their jurisdiction and conduct community clean up days where local residents can burn or chip hazardous Fuels. National Wildfire Preparedness Day is held on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in May.

## Education and Outreach Priorities

### 1. Conduct Firewise workshops for Chattooga County Residents

Set up and conduct Firewise workshops for residents in conjunction with recurrent fire department meetings. Workshops will feature displays and informational material for distribution about how to make homes and buildings safe from wildfire. Topics for discussion to include the concept of defensible space, landscaping, building construction, and other pertinent topics. The workshops will involve communities at risk identified in this document adjacent to each department. Workshops should be evening or weekend meetings when the majority of homeowners and landowners are available and advertised through local media.

### 2. Create and Distribute signage near communities at risk

Create and distribute laminated posters or signs advising residents that they live in areas with potential risk from wildfire. These posters would be strategically placed in local stores and other public places to target named adjacent communities at risk. These signs should not be alarmist but should advise residents about the dangers of living in the Wildland-Urban interface. Telephone numbers of local fire departments and the Georgia Forestry Commission should be included along with information about the "Firewise" website.

### 3. Conduct door to door campaign in high risk communities

A door to door campaign could be conducted in the Trion, Old Hwy 27, and Airport Road areas. The same effort should be conducted in the South Brow Community and the Lakeside Lane areas. Informational material would be provided to residents.

### 4. Improve public awareness utilizing local media

Using local newspaper and radio stations create PSA's informing the public about the dangers of living in the Rural –Urban Interface. These PSA's should be aired and printed on a regular basis in accordance with media policies. Increased broadcast or printings should be considered during elevated fire danger.

## **Assessment of Accomplishments:**

Assessment of the effectiveness of any law enforcement effort could be measured by the number of contacts made following any investigation. Any arrest or conviction regarding arson would be an obvious measure of success.

Effectiveness of door to door campaigns would be measured by the number of residences contacted and the number of calls received after the door to door effort and the posting of notices regarding wildland danger in public locations.

Acres of prescribed burning directly for the purpose of fuel reduction around values at risk would be an effective measure of this type effort.

Educational outreach to communities would be measured directly by the number of programs and the number of people who attend.

Direct assistance to communities such as chipper days would be measured by the number of events held, the number of people who attend, and an estimate of hazardous fuel treated.



**Prescribed burning is a best management practice to reduce hazardous fuel buildup. The Georgia Forestry Commission can assist by developing a prescribed burning plan, installation of firebreaks, and can provide equipment standby and burning assistance when personnel are available. Forestry consultants and contractors can also provide this service.**

**This type of mowing or mastication, pictured to the right, can be very effective in reducing wildfire risk by removing or reducing forest understory fuels. This type of management is most practical in developed areas where prescribed fire is not an option as a management practice. Private contractors can provide this service.**



## VIII. MITIGATION ASSISTANCE & GRANT FUNDING

Community Protection Grant: US Forest Service sponsored prescribed fire program. Communities with “at-risk” properties that lie within ten miles of a National Forest, National Park Service or Bureau of Land Management tracts may apply with the Georgia Forestry Commission to have their land prescribe burned free-of-charge. Forest mastication, where it is practical with Georgia Forestry Commission equipment, is also available under this grant program.

FEMA Mitigation Policy MRR-2-08-01: through GEMA – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM).

To provide technical and financial assistance to local governments to assist in the implementation of long term, cost effective hazard mitigation accomplishments.

This policy addresses wildfire mitigation for the purpose of reducing the threat to all-risk structures through creating defensible space, structural protection through the application of ignition resistant construction and limited hazardous fuel reduction to protect life and property.

With a completed registered plan (addendum to the State Plan) counties can apply for pre-mitigation funding. They will also be eligible for HMGP funding if the county is declared under a wildfire disaster.

Georgia Forestry Commission: Plowing and prescribed burning assistance, as well as forest mastication, can be obtained from the GFC as a low-cost option for mitigation efforts. Private contractors can also provide these services.

The Georgia Forestry Commission Firewise Community Mitigation Assistance Grants – Nationally recognized Firewise Communities can receive up to \$5000 grants to help address potential wildfire risk reduction projects. Grant submission can be made through local Georgia Forestry Commission offices or your Regional Wildfire Prevention Specialist.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and American International Group, Inc. (AIG) offer grants to assist local fire departments in establishing or enhancing their community fuels mitigation programs while educating members of the community about community wildfire readiness and encouraging personal action.

## IX. GLOSSARY

*Community-At-Risk – A group of two or more structures whose proximity to forested or wildland areas places homes and residents at some degree of risk.*

*Critical Facilities – Buildings, structures or other parts of the community infrastructure that require special protection from an approaching wildfire.*

*CWPP – The Community Wildfire Protection Plan.*

*Defensible Space – The immediate landscaped area around a structure (usually a minimum of 30 ft.) kept “lean, clean and green” to prevent an approaching wildfire from igniting the structure.*

*Dry Hydrant - A non-pressurized pipe system permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds and streams that provides a suction supply of water to a fire department tank truck.*

*FEMA – The Federal Emergency Management Agency whose mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.*

*Fire Adapted Community – A community fully prepared for its wildfire risk by taking actions to address safety, homes, neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure, forest, parks, open spaces, and other community assets.*

*Firewise Program – A national initiative with a purpose to reduce structural losses from wildland fires.*

*Firewise Community/USA – A national recognition program for communities that take action to protect themselves from wildland fire. To qualify a community must have a wildfire risk assessment by the Georgia Forestry Commission, develop a mitigation action plan, have an annual firewise mitigation/education event, have dedicated firewise leadership, and complete the certification application.*

*Fuels – All combustible materials within the wildland/urban interface or intermix including, but not limited to, vegetation and structures.*

*Fuel Modification – Any manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition or the resistance to fire control.*

*Hazard & Wildfire Risk Assessment – An evaluation to determine an area’s (community’s) potential to be impacted by an approaching wildland fire.*

*Healthy Forests Initiative – Launched in 2002 by Congress with the intent to reduce the risks severe wildfires pose to people, communities, and the environment.*



Home Ignition Zone (Structure Ignition Zone) - *Treatment area for wildfire protection. The “zone” includes the structure(s) and their immediate surroundings from 0-200 ft.*

Mitigation – *An action that moderates the severity of a fire hazard or risk.*

National Fire Plan – *National initiative, passed by Congress in the year 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while ensuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future.*

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - *An international nonprofit organization established in 1896, whose mission is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.*

National Wildfire Preparedness Day – *Started in 2014 by the National Fire Protection Association as a day for communities to work together to prepare for the approaching wildfire season. It is held annually on the first Saturday in May.*

Prescribed Burning (prescribed fire) – *The use of planned fire that is deliberately set under specific fuel and weather condition to accomplish a variety of management objectives and is under control until it burns out or is extinguished.*

Ready, Set, Go - *A program fire services use to help homeowners understand wildfire preparedness, awareness, and planning procedures for evacuation.*

Southern Group of State Foresters – *Organization whose members are the agency heads of the forestry agencies of the 13 southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.*

Stakeholders– *Individuals, groups, organizations, businesses or others who have an interest in wildland fire protection and may wish to review and/or contribute to the CWPP content.*

Wildfire or Wildland Fire – *An unplanned and uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels.*

Wildland/Urban Interface - *The presence of structures in locations in which the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) determines that topographical features, vegetation, fuel types, local weather conditions and prevailing winds result in the potential for ignition of the structures within the area from flames and firebrands from a wildland fire (NFPA 1144, 2008).*

## X. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Publications/Brochures/Websites:

- FIREWISE materials can be ordered at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)
- Georgia Forestry Commission [www.georgiafirewise.org](http://www.georgiafirewise.org)
- Examples of successful wildfire mitigation programs can be viewed at the website for National Database of State and Local wildfire Hazard Mitigation Programs sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the Southern Group of State Foresters [www.wildfireprograms.com](http://www.wildfireprograms.com)
- Information about a variety of interface issues (including wildfire) can be found at the USFS website for Interface South: [www.interfacesouth.org](http://www.interfacesouth.org)
- Information on codes and standards for emergency services including wildfire can be found at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)
- Information on FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) can be found at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com)
- Information on National Fire Plan grants can be found at <http://www.federalgrantswire.com/national-fire-plan--rural-fire-assistance.html>
- Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment website SouthWRAP\_ [www.SouthernWildfireRisk.com](http://www.SouthernWildfireRisk.com)
- Fire Adapted Communities [www.fireadapted.org](http://www.fireadapted.org)
- Ready, Set, Go [www.wildlandfirersg.org](http://www.wildlandfirersg.org)
- National Wildfire Preparedness Day [www.wildfireprepdlay.org](http://www.wildfireprepdlay.org)

### Appended Documents:

Chattooga County Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Summary Report (SWRA)  
Chattooga County Wildfire assessment scoresheets

All files that make up this plan are available in an electronic format from the Georgia Forestry Commission.



**Georgia Forestry Commission**

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*The Georgia Forestry Commission provides leadership, service, and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources.*

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