Chapter 2. Regional and County Background

2.1 The Lands at Risk

This area was used by aboriginal Indian tribes for more than 10,000 years. It was traversed and mapped by early explorers, such as Father Escalante, in the seventeenth century. This area was populated by Mormon settlers beginning in the mid-nineteenth century. From alpine mountain area to sweeping desert expanses, this land is populated by a vast array of human cultural backgrounds along with a wide variety of wildlife.

The values at risk in the Southwest Region, also referred to as the Five County section of Utah are countless. Representing the convergence of the high plateaus of Utah, the Great Basin and Mojave Desert and bordered by Nevada and Arizona, southwest Utah is a major tourism and travel destination. Bordered on the east by the Colorado River and enjoying the attention from visitors from around the globe, the area is home to national and state parks, national monuments, national forests, and millions of acres of public and private land, with a host of historical, recreational, and cultural sites. The region includes two commercial passenger airports, an interstate freeway and federal highway, major state highways and a major Union Pacific Railroad thoroughfare. Educational opportunities are provided through Southern Utah University, Dixie State College and at applied technology centers in the region. There are also many communications, business, and manufacturing centers providing employment to this rapidly growing area. The total combined population of Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington counties was estimated at 195,817 persons in 2006 (source: Utah Population Estimates Committee).

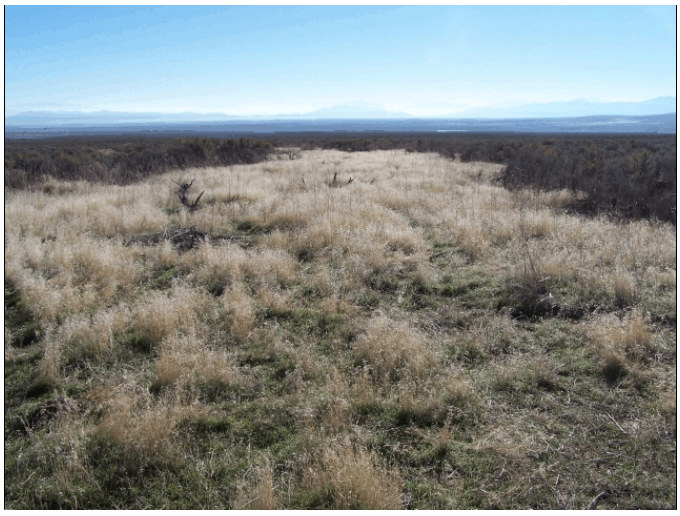
The region covers more than 17,000 square miles of valleys, mountains, and high desert terrain. With a wide variety of elevations and types of vegetation, much of the southwest Utah area includes Wildland/Urban Interface Communities at Risk (CARS). Whether occurring on grass, shrub, or forest lands, all the residents of the Five County area need to be prepared for wildfire, as fire has been and will continue to be a fact of life in southwestern Utah. This plan addresses ways to minimize wildfire risks and better prepare residents by creating defensible space in Southwest Utah.

Dispelling the old notion that all wildfires are bad, over the centuries wildfires have played a significant role in the management and the enhancement of our ecosystem environments. Occurring as you would expect in nature, wildfires occur in both forested areas and on rangeland. Permitting wildfires to simply take their course after decades of suppression and encroachment would likely be catastrophic and would allow little flexibility for communities. With high summer temperatures and relatively low humidity levels, wildfire has been a continuing challenge throughout southwest Utah's history. Weather and temperature conditions create an environment conducive to wildfire. Winters are typically wet and cold; summers are characterized by long drought periods often punctuated with lightning caused wildfires. Historically, summer lighting occurs from May to September and results in wildfires. Lightning strikes are frequent across most of the region during the summer and generally ignite numerous fires. Along with a serious bark beetle infestation

creating large areas of dead trees, the invasion of cheatgrass after multiple years of severe drought has made today's conditions much more dangerous.

Efficient fire suppression, environmental litigation with lawsuits from certain groups wanting a pristine and natural environment, and modern management practices have each contributed to a huge understory and abnormally large accumulation of hazardous fuels on both public and private lands. This large volume of fuel coupled with the rapid advance of housing developments and cabin construction within the WUI lands of southwest Utah, has created the potential for disaster. Dramatic wildfire losses to natural and cultural resources, real property, watersheds, wildlife, and endangerment to human life, may be eminent.

Over the years, the vistas of Southwest Utah were sculptured by fire. In 2005, the state of Utah identified almost 600 communities and their surrounding natural resources as “at risk” from wildland fire. In southwest Utah there are 109 wildfire-endangered communities listed on that list. The entire statewide list of CARs is presented in Appendix E. The idea for community-based woodland planning and a continued need for prioritizing risk through ongoing assessments by fire professionals is nothing new. The safety of the citizens of any community is a shared responsibility between the citizens, land owners, developers, and home owners’ associations along with the local, county, state and federal governments. The primary responsibility, however, of creating "defensible space" in and around these CARs remains at the citizen/owner and homeowner association level.



Invasive Cheatgrass shown moving into a disturbed sagebrush community. (Photo used with permission of Summer C. Olsen, SageSTEP.org).

A major concern in this region is the changing characteristics of the environment following a wildfire. In the past a cyclical repopulation of native vegetation occurred resulting in similar fire occurrences many years separated. Invasive non-native species, especially cheatgrass, now quickly becomes the dominant vegetation after a wildfire event or other ground disturbances, such as development, and is a fuel source of repetitious events almost on an annual basis. This has completely changed the fire regime in many locations resulting in annual fire occurrences, with little or no resulting vegetation diversity. A report on Cheatgrass and Green Stripping is presented in Appendix C.

2.2 Current Vegetation Types and Fire Ecology

In determining the likelihood of and type of wildfire in the Southwest Utah RWPP project area, an essential task was to identify general types and extent of vegetation coverage using Southwest Regional GAP (ReGAP) Analysis data. Maps produced by the Five County Association of Governments GIS provide an overview of the vegetation types found in the Southwest Utah region. In keeping with a broad, landscape-level presentation in this plan, some cover types treated as separate types under ReGAP have been grouped together for facilitating presentation.

2.3 Beaver County Land Cover/land use

Beaver County is almost exclusively covered in Forest and Shrub/Rangelands with 95% of the land area in that category (1,574,720 acres). Grass/Pasture/Haylands make up 3% of the County's land area (46,463 acres). Water/Wetlands (16,576 acres) and Urban/Developed (16,576 acres) each comprise about 1% of the County's land area. Most of the forest and rangeland in Beaver County is found on federal USFS and BLM lands. Grass/Pasture/Haylands areas in the County may include cheatgrass, fescue, sedges, yucca, wheatgrass and bluegrass. A portion of Beaver County is comprised of Farmland. Grass/Pasture/Haylands includes approximately 7,000 acres of Grass Pasture and/or grass hay in the Beaver City area. Shrub/Rangelands consist of oak savannas, juniper/pinion pine and other open areas.

Map 2.1 shows the generalized land cover of Beaver County. This map was produced by the Five County Association of Governments GIS.

2.4 Garfield County Land Cover

Garfield County is almost exclusively covered in Forest and Shrub/Rangelands. Shrub/Rangelands accounts for 65.7% of the land area (2,139,677 acres). Forest area accounts for 31.8% of the County (1,036,581 acres). Grass/Pasture/Haylands make up 0.6% of the County's land area (20,300 acres). Water/Wetlands (32,150 acres) comprises 1% of the County's land area while Urban/Developed (27,000 acres) comprises only 0.8% of the County's land area. Only 4% of Garfield County land area is in private ownership. 96% of Garfield County land area is non-private land.

Map 2.2 shows the generalized land cover of Garfield County and was produced by the Five County Association of Governments GIS.

2.5 Iron County Land Cover

Iron County is primarily covered in Forest and Shrub/Rangelands, accounting for 93% of the area. Shrub/rangelands accounts for 50% of the land area (1,064,773 acres). Forest area accounts for 43% of the County (907,610 acres). Grass/Pasture/Haylands/Croplands makes up 4% of the County's land area (75,000 acres). Urban/Developed (42,214 acres) comprises 2% of the County's land area. Water/Wetlands (21,107 acres) comprises 1% of

Iron County's land area. Shrub/Rangelands consist of oak savannahs and pinon/juniper areas. Grass/Pasture/Haylands includes approximately 71,900 acres of Hayland/Cropland. 3,100 acres of Hayland/Cropland.

Map 2.3 shows the generalized land cover of Iron County and was produced by the Five County Association of Governments GIS.

2.6 KANE COUNTY LAND COVER

Kane County is almost exclusively covered in Forest and Shrub/Rangelands accounting for 97% of the area. Shrub/rangelands accounts for 75% of the land area (1,890,058 acres). Forest area accounts for 22% of the County (548,016 acres). Water/Wetlands (32,049 acres) and Developed (22,510 acres) each comprise about 1% of the County's land area. Grass/Pasture/Haylands/Croplands make up less than 1% of the County's land area (11,817 acres). Shrub/Rangelands consists of oak savannahs and sagebrush flats. 85% of Kane County land area is federally owned and 10% is state owned. Only 5% of Kane County land area is privately owned.

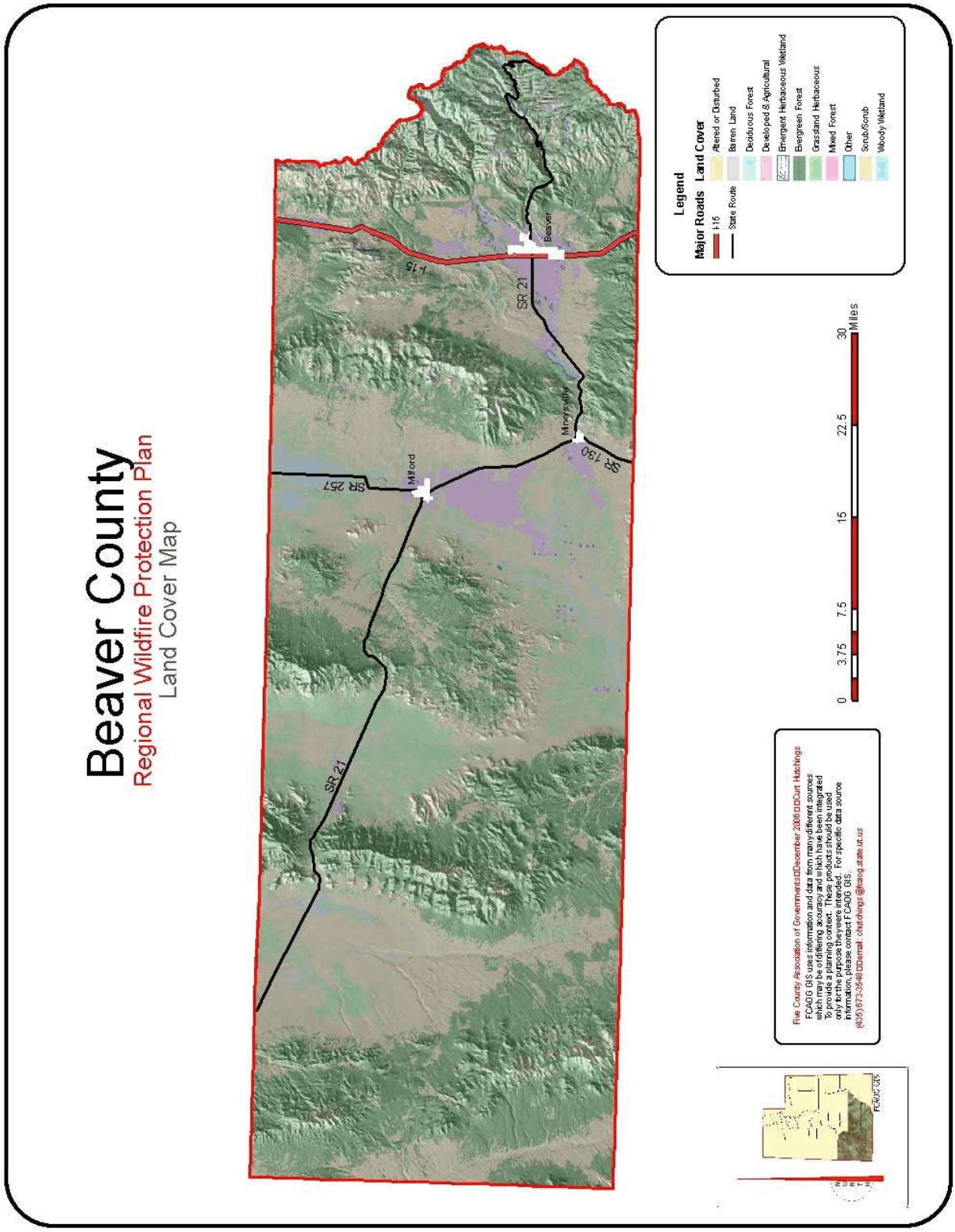
Map 2.4 shows the generalized land cover of Kane County and was produced by the Five County Association of Governments GIS.

2.7 WASHINGTON COUNTY LAND COVER

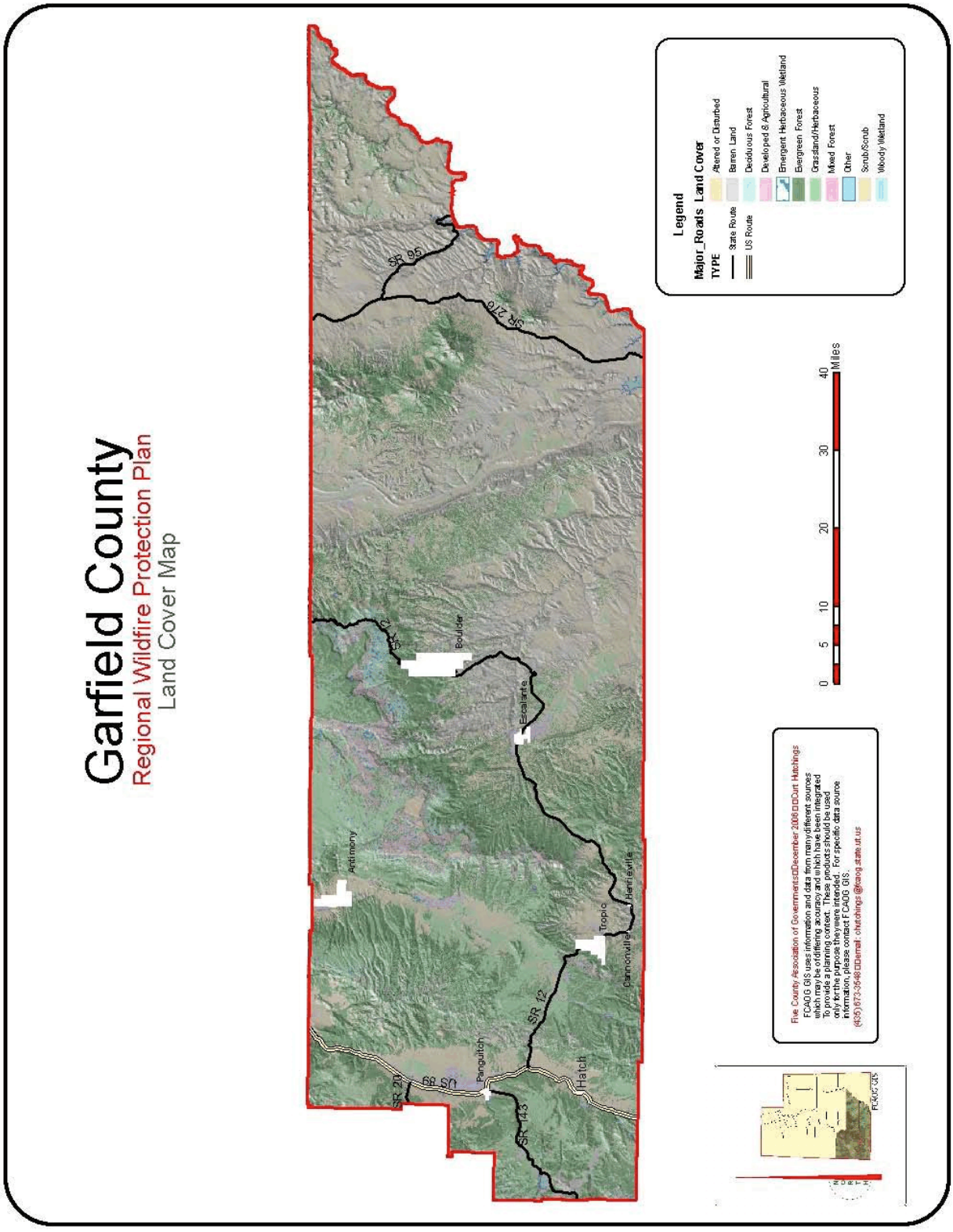
Washington County is primarily covered in Forest and Shrub/Rangelands, accounting for 84% of the area. Shrub/Rangelands accounts for 74% of the land area (1,149,428 acres). Forest area accounts for 10% of the County (155,328). Zion National Park accounts for 8.2% (126,720 acres) of the County. Urban/Developed (69,120 acres) comprises 4.5% of the County's land area. Grass/Pasture/Haylands makes up 2.3% of the County's land area (35,900 acres). Water/Wetlands (15,533 acres) comprises 1% of Washington County's land area. Shrub/rangelands consist primarily of oak savannahs and pinon/juniper, mesquite and blackbrush areas. Much of the county consists of federal National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management owned lands.

Map 2.5 shows the generalized land cover of Washington County and was produced by the Five County Association of Governments GIS.

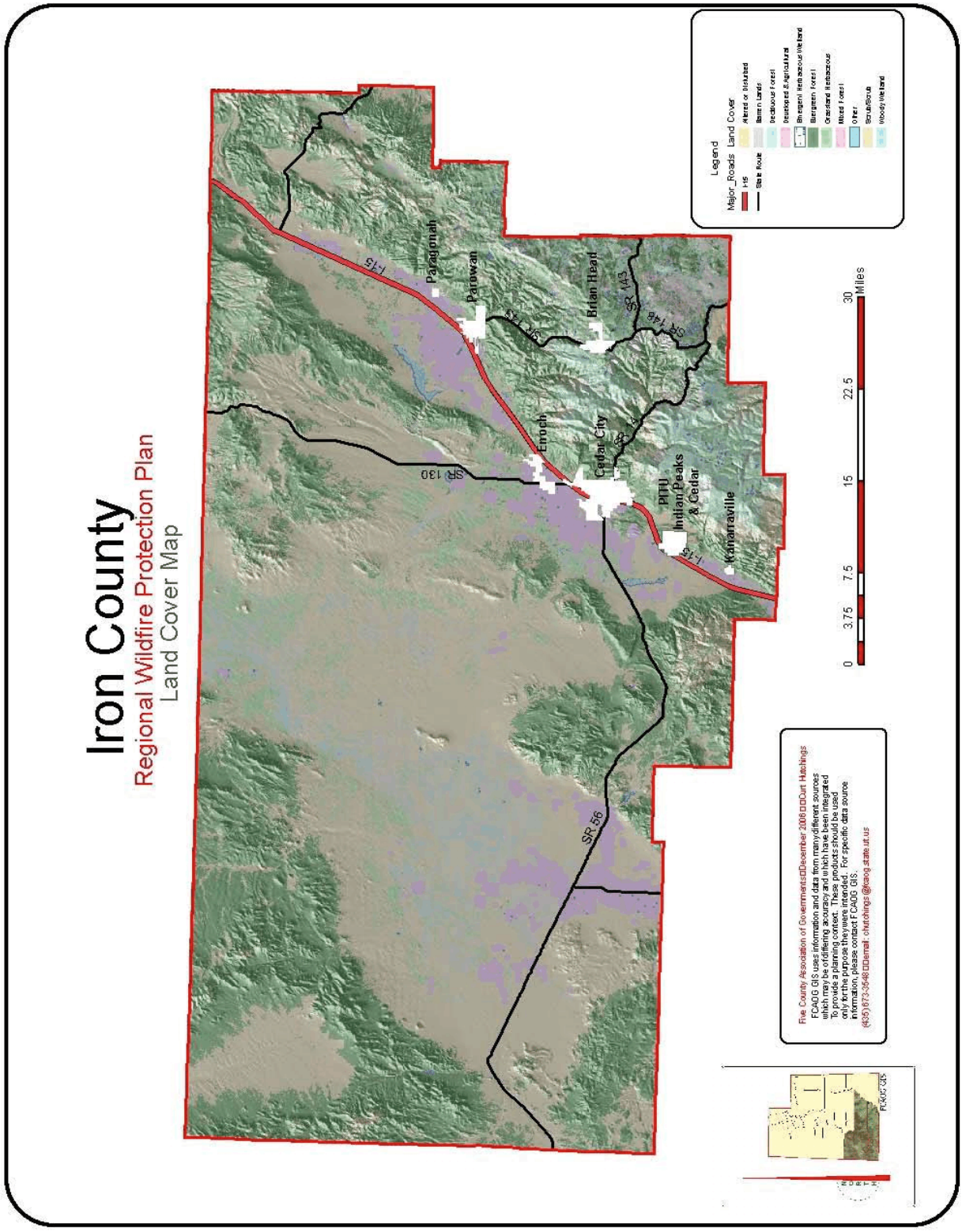
Map 2.1 - Beaver County Land Cover



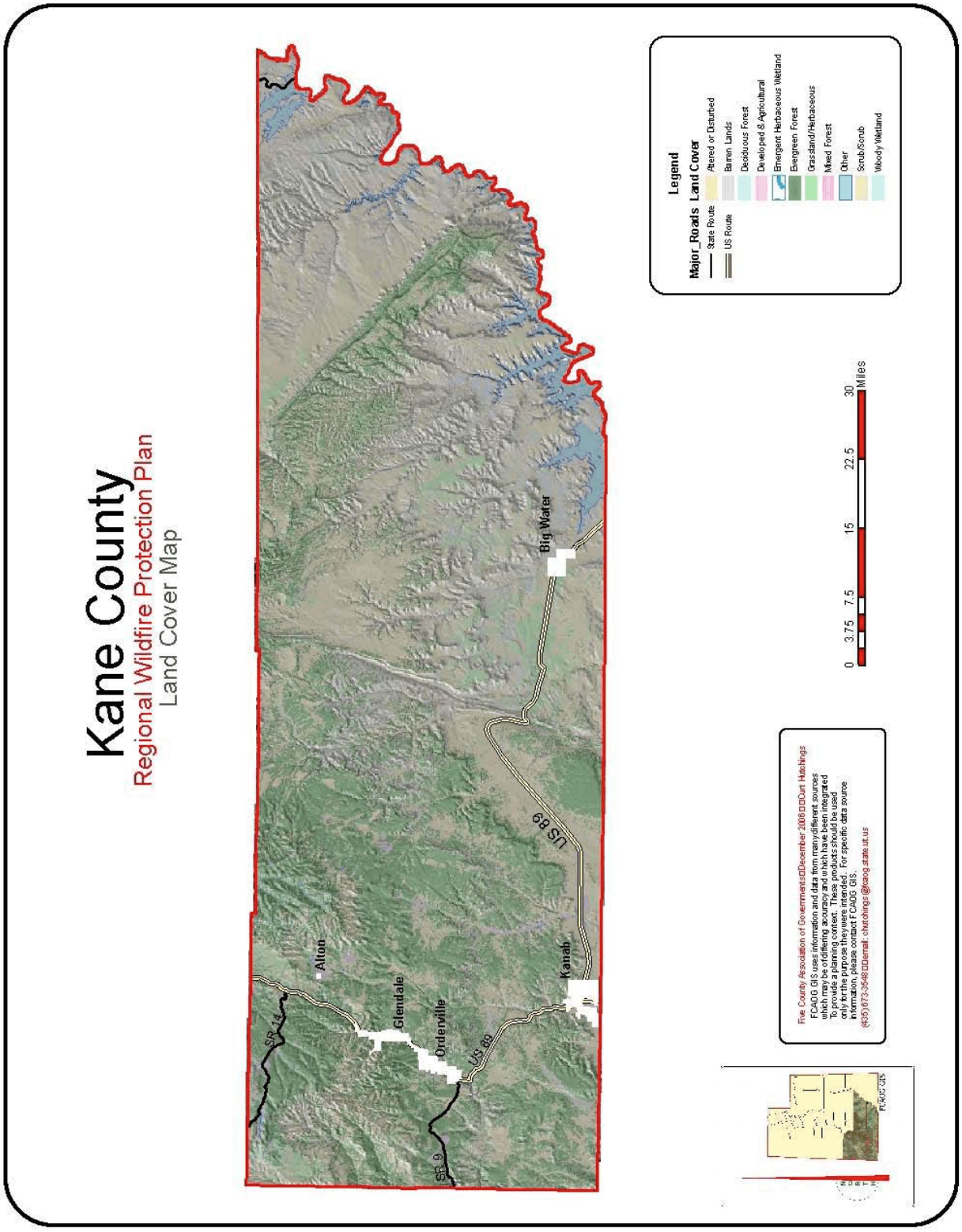
Map 2.2 - Garfield County Land Cover



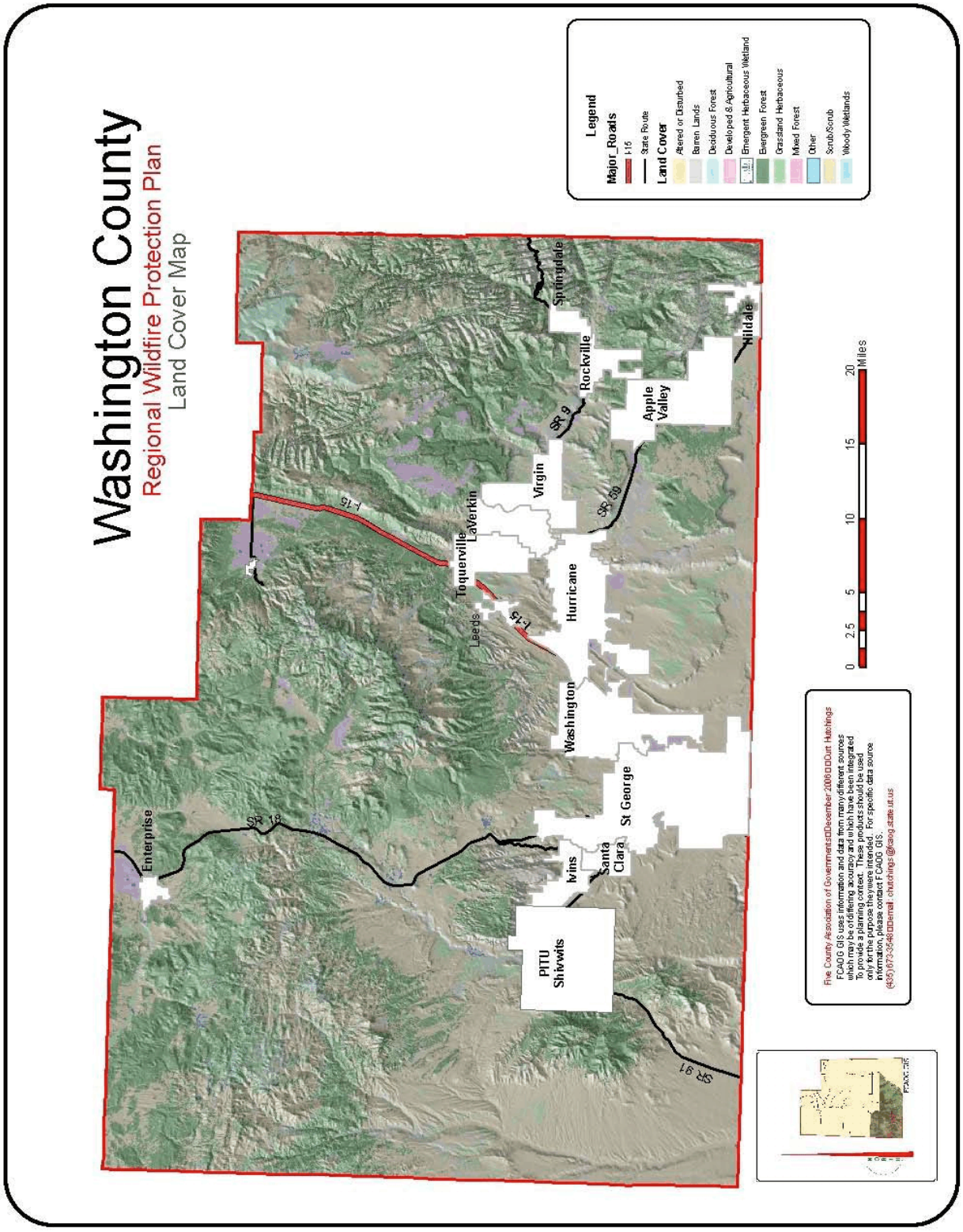
Map 2.3 - Iron County Land Cover



Map 2.4 - Kane County Land Cover



Map 2.5 - Washington County Land Cover



2.8 CHEATGRASS INVASION

Close-up photograph of invasive Cheatgrass. (Courtesy of Summer C. Olsen, SageSTEP.org).

A major concern in this region is the changing characteristics of the environment following a wildfire. In the past a cyclical regrowth of the same type of vegetation occurred resulting in similar fire occurrences many years separated. Invasive, non-native, cheatgrass is now quickly becoming the dominant vegetation after a wildfire event and the source of repetitious wildfire events almost on an annual basis.

Greenstripping is the practice of establishing or using patterns of fire resilient vegetation and/or material to reduce wildland fire occurrence and size. Greenstripping also breaks up monocultures such as cheatgrass areas, and creates some biodiversity.

For full details on Cheatgrass invasion and greenstripping, please see the report completed by Scott Tobler presented in Appendix C.

Remnant patch of sagebrush following landscape-scale conversion to cheatgrass and other non-native annual grasses. (Photo by M. Wisdom, Courtesy of Summer C. Olsen, SageSTEP.org).

2.9 Southwestern Utah Regional Profile

This Regional Wildfire Protection Plan was developed for southwestern Utah. This 17,481 square mile area is bordered by the neighboring states of Nevada on the west and Arizona on the south and encompasses five Utah counties - Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and

Washington. This area is also often referred to as the Five County District. The Five County District contains 37 incorporated cities and towns. Figure 1.4.1. and Figure 1.4.2 in Chapter 1 are maps identifying the physical location of the five counties of southwestern Utah and the respective county seats, as well as a map showing land ownership. Demographic, Housing and Socioeconomic profiles of each county are provided in Appendix D.

Many residential areas in the WUI areas in this region consist of disperse, small enclaves of houses, more or less defined villages and subdivisions, or remote single dwellings. The five county area covered by this Regional Wildfire Protection Plan is 17,481 square miles in size. Most of the land in these counties is owned and managed by the federal or state government. The ownership in each of the counties is shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1
County Land Ownership (in Square Miles of Land Area) and Percentage of Total Area

County	Federal Area	Federal Percent	State Area	State Percent	Private & Local Govern-ment Area	Private & Local Govern-ment Percent	Tribal Area	Tribal Percent	Water Covered Area	Water Covered Percent
Beaver	2,002	77.3%	264	10.2%	321	12.4%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%
Garfield	4,631	89.5%	248	4.8%	264	5.1%	0	0.0%	31	0.6%
Iron	1,887	57.2%	221	6.7%	1,187	36.0%	3	0.1%	0	0.0%
Kane	3,317	83.1%	160	4.0%	403	10.1%	0	0.0%	112	2.8%
Washington	1,813	74.7%	141	5.8%	427	17.6%	44	1.8%	2	0.1%
Region	13,650	78.1%	1,034	5.9%	2602	14.9%	47	0.3%	148	0.8%

Source: Utah County Fact Book 2002

2.10 GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

The geography and environment of a region play important roles in planning. As this region develops, the towns, cities, and counties must consider the "lay of the land" and many environmental issues that come with it. It is now more important than ever that we understand the land on which we develop and its accompanying limitations and potential problems. The Five County District is no exception and has many unique issues pertaining to its distinct geography and environment. Among these issues is the risk to human development by wildfire, especially in the WUI areas.

2.11 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Five County District is located at the southwest corner of Utah near the heart of the Intermountain west. The five counties are contained in two major physiographic provinces. Most of Beaver, Iron, and Washington Counties lay within the Basin and Range physiographic province, which generally consists of north-south trending mountain ranges separated by broad arid valleys with interior drainage and vegetated with sagebrush and

other plants of the Great Basin. Garfield and Kane counties are located in the Colorado Plateau physiographic province, which consists of uplifted sedimentary rock strata vegetated with desert sage scrub.

On a more localized scale, the area is also speckled with a variety of geologic features. Some of this area has experienced a great amount of volcanic activity which is evident in extinct volcanoes, mountains, great lava fields, and mesas. Geologic forces have uplifted huge portions of the land, and have created great rifts in others. Of particular notoriety are the erosional features of the area including the great canyons and cliffs carved by water and wind that make up the national and state parks such as Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, and Snow Canyon State Park.

The soil in this area consists mostly of aridisols, an iron-rich desert soil that can be quite productive if cultivated. Aridisols are used mainly for range, wildlife, and recreation. Because of the dry climate in which they are found, they are not used for agricultural production unless irrigation water is available. Native to the valleys throughout most the region is a variety of grasses, junipers, and pinion pines, while xerophytes and desert scrub are native to the lower elevations. Farming has produced a diversity of crops, including barley, alfalfa, hay, and cotton (which earned the southern region the name of "Dixie"). Much of the region has also been prime land for cattle and sheep ranching.

2.12 Transportation Corridors

There are two major federal highways in southwestern Utah. Interstate 15 traverses northeasterly as you enter the state from the southern border with Arizona. This highway, which begins in California and ends in Montana, generally traverses the center of Washington County and the eastern portions of Iron and Beaver counties. U.S. 89, a federal highway, is a major north-south corridor that is located in western Garfield and Kane counties. Numerous state highways and county roads are located in the five southwestern Utah counties.

2.13 Climate

Because of its general location, the Five County District is mostly semiarid. As moist air moves in from the Pacific Ocean, it is forced to rise over the Sierra Nevadas mountain range, which causes it to cool and drop its precipitation, leaving very little moisture for this region. This phenomenon is known as a “rainshadow effect” where the precipitation drops out as air masses rise. While all of the Intermountain West is generally dry due to this phenomenon, the aridity in the Five County District is accentuated by its lower latitude, which makes it warmer than most regions to the north. Much of this area is also characterized by a lower elevation, which also increases the mean annual temperature.

For example, the area near St. George City has a warm climate unique to the state of Utah

which can be attributed to the fact that it has the lowest elevation of any Utah city, with most of the city around 2,800 feet, and that it lies at the very southern end of the state. In fact, this area, also known as Utah's Dixie, has the highest mean annual temperatures in Utah, averaging, on an annual basis around 62 degrees Fahrenheit. It also boasts the highest maximum temperature ever recorded in Utah, 117 degrees Fahrenheit, measured on July 5, 1985.

Though scholars classify most of the region as "desert," only the areas with lower elevations are considered "hot" deserts, or regions where the winters average above 32 degrees Fahrenheit. This would include most of Washington County. This region usually does not have snow in the winter and has extremely warm summers. The rest of the region, which consists of higher elevations, is considered to be a "cool" desert, with snowy winters and warm summers. Some exceptions exist over the highest elevations and mountainous regions, such as Brian Head, which are classified as "undifferentiated highlands" since they experience cooler temperatures and higher humidity than the rest of the area. These regions generally have very cold, snowy winters and cool summers. Like the rest of the Intermountain West during the winter, most precipitation results from the passage of mid-latitude cyclones, while in the summer, convection from localized heating can trigger isolated thunderstorms. Without moderating effects of a nearby ocean with its associated cloud cover from water vapor in the air, this region experiences great daily and yearly fluctuations in temperature.

The nature of the climate in this region leaves it susceptible to a few hazardous weather recurrences. Although most of the country is subject to flash floods, they are particularly damaging in this region since the soil is dry, somewhat non vegetated, and easily eroded. Threats to human lives and damage to property are not only a result of rapidly rising waters, but of catastrophic mud slides as well. This area is also subject to tornadoes, although they are a rare occurrence. More common in the warmer regions are wind storms which can approach or reach hurricane strength at times and dust devils which are rarely severe enough to damage property. The higher elevations always have the potential for blizzards, dangerous low temperature conditions, and avalanches in the winter. This entire region is susceptible to wildfires resulting from either lightning caused or human actions.

2.14 Responsibility for Wildland Fire Suppression

Most wildland fires outside the city limits in Southwest Utah fall under the direction and coordination of the Color Country Interagency Fire organization, which consists of the state and federal agencies with the state representing the interests of the counties. The Color Country Interagency Fire Dispatch Center coordinates the firefighting resources and logistical support of the agencies. The center is located at 1750 West Kitty Hawk Drive in Cedar City. Telephone (435) 865-4600.

Under the concept of "closest forces" and using the Incident Command System (ICS) during the initial attack phase of a wildland fire, volunteer fire departments close at hand along with appropriate government fire agencies are initially called to respond. At the conclusion of the initial attack phase of the fire and during the mop-up stages, if not available beforehand, the agency having jurisdiction would then take charge. This may result in the replacement of the "Incident Commander" (the leader in charge with the responsibility of controlling the fire.) In more complex ongoing fire situations, a Type III, Type II or Type I "Incident Management Team" may be ordered and delegated authority to manage an incident while locally based firefighting resources focus on initial attack, keeping new fires small. The management team is given instructions by the local jurisdictions on the latitude they have to manage the fire. This could be in the form of cost containment, trying to keep the daily costs at a preset level, or resource management objectives, and/or the methods used in the suppression of the fire in certain areas.

Other reasons for the Incident Command System (ICS) are for personnel accountability for safety reasons, to ensure all responding agencies know their duties and responsibilities, and for the proper chain of command can be established much faster, eliminating the freelancing of fire resources. The ICS system is used by both the structural fire agencies and wildland agencies, as well as law enforcement. In the event of needing National Guard forces at the fire, a standardized command structure is in place to work with their command system. ICS will also integrate common terminology for all responders.

2.15 Fire Response Capabilities

In the past, the responsibilities and priorities of wildfire protection for both the communities and valued natural resources, watersheds and lands located within the wildland areas, appeared to belong to the local volunteer fire departments, the state, and the federal wildland firefighters. The responsibility of the individual citizens living in the wildland interface was merely to report wildfire ignitions to the dispatch center and in modern times to dial 9-1-1, and run for safety. This tradition continues on today. However, with increasing incidents of wildfires and the modern ecological tendency of huge buildups of fuel understory, the propensity for large, catastrophic fires is far more evident. With the introduction of new scientific designations and wildland firefighting definitions amd procedures, such as the WUI and the ICS across the United States, there is a new recognition and commitment that everyone must become involved in the protection of human lives, personal property, property values, wildlife, watersheds, and natural resources from wildfire. This new wildland management philosophy means there is a new role for property owners, homeowners' associations, land developers, community planners, public officials, insurance agents, firefighters, and everyone involved in the WUI area. The immense job of wildland fire protection should begin long before ignition occurs. This requires that planning and participation must be carried out by everyone who is potentially affected.

Below is listed all forty-one fire departments located throughout the Southwest Region of Utah. The fire departments are listed by county:

Beaver County

- Beaver County Fire District #1
- Beaver County Fire District #2

Garfield County

- Antimony
- Boulder Fire Department
- Cannonville
- Escalante
- Hatch Fire Department
- Henrieville
- Mammoth Creek Fire Department
- Panguitch Fire Department
- Panguitch Lake Fire Department
- Tropic Fire Department
- Ticaboo

Iron County

- Beryl Fire Department
- Brian Head Fire Department
- Cedar City Fire Department
- Hamblin Valley Fire Department
- Kanarraville Fire Department
- Modena Fire Department
- New Castle Fire Department
- Paragonah Fire Department
- Parowan Fire Department

Kane County

- Alton Fire Department
- Big Water Fire Department
- Cedar Mountain Fire Protection District Fire Department
- Church Wells Fire Department
- East Zion-Zion Ponderosa Fire Department
- Glendale Fire Department

- Kanab Fire Department
- Orderville Fire Department
- Quin View Fire Department

Washington County

- Central Fire Department
- Brookside Fire Department
- Dammeron Valley Fire Department
- Diamond Valley Fire Department
- Enterprise Fire Department
- Gunlock Fire Department
- Harmony Valley Fire District Fire Department
- Hilldale/Colorado City Fire Department
- Hurricane Fire Department
- Ivins Fire Department
- LaVerkin Fire Department
- Leeds Fire Department
- Pine Valley Fire Department
- Santa Clara Fire Department
- Smithsonian Fire Department/Apple Valley
- St. George Fire Department
- Springdale-Rockville Fire Department
- Veyo Fire Department
- Virgin Fire Department
- Washington County Fire Department
- Winchester Hills Fire Department

A comprehensive firefighting Capabilities Assessment was completed in August 2006 for each of these fire departments. The assessment was based upon either a telephone survey or personal contact by staff of the Five County Association of Governments. The Fire Department Capabilities Assessment is presented in Appendix C.

2.16 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

At-risk local communities are encouraged to form homeowner fire councils and write a Community Fire Plan. These plans are designed to educate the community on how they may protect life and property through community-based planning. The communities are educated on how to identify strategies to reduce the risks to homes, infrastructure and other facilities and businesses prior to a wildfire and how to implement individual and community-based fuel reduction projects to minimize the effects of a wildlfire. The mitigation of risks and hazards facing highly vulnerable Communities At Risk (CAR'S) is crucial to the short-term and long-term goals of the National Fire Plan.

Education and long-term involvement of residents in reducing wildfire risk around their homes and in their community is the goal of the Community Assistance Program. Educating citizens and providing tools and resources that enable people to prepare for wildfires can have a lasting effect building resilience to wildfires, increasing capacity for communities to work together toward common goals, and provide a means of developing their own localized versions of a community fire plan. Local plans and actions are valuable and necessary to effectively implement the goals of this RWPP.

It is realized that much of the Wildland-Urban Interface in Southwest Utah is at high wildfire risk. Citizens who live, work, or enjoy recreation in its environs, whether on grass, shrubs, or forested lands, must be prepared for wildfire.

This Community Assistance Program is intended to lend a hand to homeowners in creating defensible space and increasing their property's resistance to wildfires. The community fire plans offer ways to minimize risk and thereby reduce the undesirable effects of wildfire on lives, property, water supplies, economics, and aesthetics. In some cases, even the best planned defense will not be effective against a given wildfire. The intensity and pattern of a wildfire in a given area can, in most cases, be modeled as to what could likely happen under given set of conditions. It should be remembered that these are in fact just that, a model, and only after an major event where the "real world" lessons learned and unforseen variables have been analyzed can they be utilized to help improve the science of wildland fire modeling in the future.

A Utah Community Fire Plan must be collaboratively developed by a local community at risk with the guidance of state government's representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties. Community Fire Plans are written under the Community Assistance part of the National Fire Plan.

2.17 Contents of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Each Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) should include the following:

1. Plan must address the ways and means in which the community fire council plan to educate their local residents in reference to wildland fires.

2. With the help of fire professionals, the community will complete an Infrastructure Risk Assessment within the jurisdiction of the fire plan. A risk assessment will contain the following information:
   a. Risk: Potential and frequency for wildfire ignitions based on past history.
   b. Hazard: Condition that may contribute to wildfires (fuel, slope, etc.).
   c. Values: People, property, natural, and other potential wildfire losses.
   d. Protection Capability: Ability to prepare for, mitigate, and suppress fire.

e. Structural Vulnerability: Vulnerability of structures during a wildfire.

3. With help from the local Emergency Services Support Officer, the CWPP will contain an Emergency Management Response Plan (EMRP) with a Fire Evacuation Strategy. This plan will provide detailed information on issues related to communications, ingress and egress, construction of roads suitable for use of emergency equipment, the design of loop road systems that allow for emergency evacuation in areas of rural development, monitoring of evacuation with some variety of a call-down system, maps of evacuation routes and safe areas, fire services, law enforcement, shelter and mass care, and a wide range of other information prepared by the emergency management committee of the local community fire council.

4. The CWPP will contain a Prioritized Fuel Reduction Strategy for creating defensible space inside the at-risk community boundaries. The plan must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and, where possible, recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect the at-risk communities, including the essential infrastructure and, where necessary, the local watershed. Along with the possible recommendation of introducing fire-adaptive species into the ecosystem, the plan will include a wide variety of strategies for fuel reduction and sensible precautions against catastrophic wildfire.

5. Where necessary, the community will work with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Utah Forestry, Fire and State Land fire experts to develop and implement a perimeter fuel break plan, in and around their community. This process is used to safeguard the watershed, forest health, and prevent home losses.

6. The CWPP will include a local “Fire Equipment and Infrastructure Evaluation”. The firefighting facilities, water supply, and infrastructure of the at-risk community will be evaluated, maintained, and updated where possible.

7. The CWPP addresses Regulatory Issues. Communities located in the unincorporated areas of the counties are subject to WUI building ordinances adopted by the counties. This requires any homes constructed in the community after January 2007 meet the new WUI fire building codes for fire protection, Rule 652-122. The rule applies only to unincorporated areas of the counties, municipal areas are not included at this time. The Rule also addresses minimum training and equipment standards for the fire departments that respond to the unincorporated areas. Incorporated cities are encouraged, but not required to, adopt this code.

8. Evaluate, Update, and Maintain the CWPP. After the plan his been approved the

community fire council will continue to meet, at least on a quarterly basis, to evaluate the work accomplished and plan new projects and maintenance for the future.

2.18 Adopted Community Fire Plans in Southwest Utah

Listed below, by county, are the completed community fire plans in Southwestern Utah. Each community plan was submitted prior to November 1, 2005, and all were approved by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. Only a small review of each community fire plan his been listed here. Additional information on these adopted community fire plans can be obtained by contacting the Cedar City field office of Utah Forestry, Fires and State Lands. For information concerning how your community can participate in the community assistance program of the National Fire Plan, contact the UFFSL Cedar City office or visit the State of Utah website: www.utahfireinfo.gov

Beaver County

- Manderfield/Last Chance/Indian Creek
- Beaver Grove
- High-Low

Garfield County

- Panguitch Lake
- Boulder Town/Salt Gulch
- Mammoth Creek
- Ruby's Inn

Iron County

- Rainbow Meadows
- Brian Head
- Far West/Comstock
- Cedar Highlands
- Quichipa
- New Castle
- Old Irontown

Kane County

- Glendale
- Duck Creek
- Zion Ponderosa
- Zion View
- Bryce Woodlands

Washington County

- New Harmony
- Shivwits Band of Paiutes Indian Tribe Reservation
  (Note: not considered an active plan as this is a federal entity).
- Dammeron Valley
- Winchester Hills
- Leeds
- Gunlock
- Central, Brookside/Mountain Meadow
- Kolob Terrace
- Kolob M.I.A. Camp
- Pine Valley
- Diamond Valley
- Enterprise
- Veyo
- Apple Valley
- Hildale City