

10.3. Community at Risk: Canby Rural Fire Protection District # 62

The Canby 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.

Canby Fire District Description

The Canby Fire District is a special service district that provides fire, rescue, and prevention services to the Cities of Canby and Barlow as well as the rural areas around those cities. Canby Fire is also the ambulance service provider for the service area, providing emergency advanced life support transport to its citizens. Over 30,000 people live within the 54 square miles that the District serves. Currently the Fire District has 50 members who consist of 18 career, 30 volunteer, and 2 administrative personnel.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Some areas in the Canby Fire District are excellent examples of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). These areas are characterized by 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. Canby has a heavy agricultural influence, so there is a great deal of controlled field burning, but there is not a significant history of large wildfires.

Canby Fire District Wildfire Hazards

The Clackamas County CWPP wildfire hazard assessment assisted Canby Fire in identifying areas that may be at higher risk to potential wildfires. Map # 10 illustrates the overall wildfire hazard risk in the Canby Fire District and will be used to help target areas for wildfire prevention activities.

Structural Ignitability

Canby Fire promotes adequate access and water supply, the creation of defensible space, use of fire-resistant roofing and building materials, and community preparedness in the WUI. Although the City of Canby has a Planning Department, it now contracts with Clackamas County for land use planning and building permit services. Canby Fire has an excellent working relationship with Clackamas County and integrates fire-safety concepts at the regulatory level by participating in land use reviews for new development to provide input on access and water supply.

Emergency Response

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

Burning of yard waste and debris is challenging in the Canby Fire District, as the majority of wildfire ignitions are the result of escaped debris burns from agricultural lands. Agricultural burning is regulated by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, and fire districts may only ban burning if certain humidity, temperature and wind conditions are met. Agricultural operations may burn all year, which makes enforcement of the backyard burning program difficult because local area residents do not understand why they cannot burn while others can. The majority of Canby is within the DEQ boundary, so there is a burning season, but response from DEQ for violations is inconsistent.

Radio communications is good throughout Canby, although there are some gaps in coverage across the District. Canby Fire recently received an AFG large grant to address communication issues in these areas. Canby Fire would rely on two primary water supplies for wildfire response: one on Dryland Road; and one on Elisha Road. The Canby Ferry also has a fire pump that could be utilized in an emergency. Canby Fire would like to continue developing rural water supply sources for the rural areas to in order to be recognized water supply by ISO.

The District employs 18 career and 30 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 live fire experience makes it difficult to retain wildland qualifications. Canby Fire is working with NAFT and WFTA to conduct a live fire exercise (potentially in Molalla area) to address fire component of wildland task books. Canby Fire recently received grant for purchasing wildland PPE, and received a Fire Act FEMA grant for structural and wildland PPE five years ago, but likely will need additional wildland gear (turnouts and footwear) due to volunteer turnover.

Community Outreach & Education

Canby Fire is dedicated to fire prevention, and uses a variety of forums to promote residential fire safety, defensible space, and safe burning practices. The community is very supportive of the Fire District and participates in activities throughout the year, some of which include in-classroom school programs, public presentations, fire station tours, media events, and safety fairs. Canby Fire is also a 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, and fire safety house displays.

Local Communities at Risk (Strategic Planning Areas)

Canby Fire also recognizes that there are smaller-scale Communities at Risk that have unique wildfire hazards to be addressed at the more local scale. These areas were referred to as Strategic Planning Areas in the 2005 iteration of the CWPP, but will now be referenced as local Communities at Risk to be consistent with state and federal language. Communities that have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to wildfires are illustrated in Map #17 and listed in Table 10-3.1. Canby 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. Canby Fire will assist in facilitating 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 Boring Fire (Map #17).

Fuels Reduction Priorities include:

- Sundowner
- Molalla River State Park

Canby Fire District Action Plan

Canby Fire has developed a list of actions to build capacity at the District scale and has identified actions that can help to make the local CARS more resilient to potential wildfires. The action plan for Canby Fire and the local CARs therein is provided in Table 10.3-2.

Table 10.3-1. Canby Fire District Local Communities at Risk

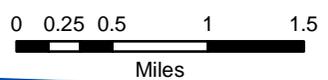
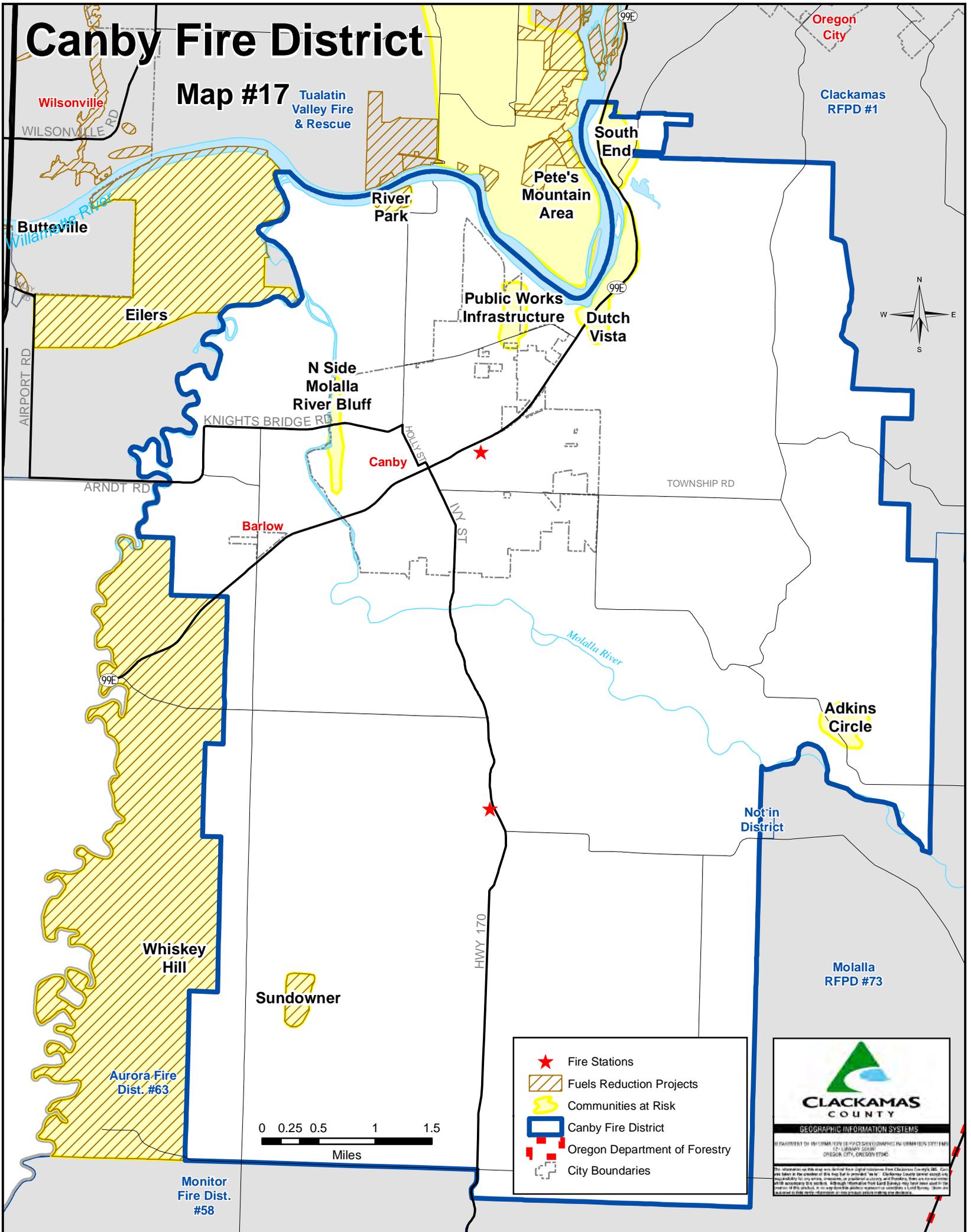
Community At Risk	CAR Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Forest Lands	Private Forest Lands	Recreators/ Transients	Protection Capabilities	Burning	Preparedness	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
Canby Fire Communities at Risk													
Adkins Circle	High	X	X	X		X			X	X		X	Adkins Circle is a community of about 11 homes that have a single access bridge which is one way in and out . The community is adjacent to managed private timberlands. The area has steep slopes and residents regularly burn yard debris.
Sundowner	High	X	X	X				X	X	X			The Sundowner community is very rural and it would take over 10 minutes to respond, making it very important for landowners to be prepared for potential emergencies such as wildfires. There is only one way in and out. The homes here are relatively new and have heavy vegetation leading up to the homes. Residents regularly burn yard debris in this community.
Dutch Vista / Madrona	High	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	The Dutch Vista One has limited access with a steep, one way in and out road. The homes are on the bluff of the river, which is accessed by recreators and fishermen who could serve as ignition sources. There is also a railroad here, which is a potential ignition source. Water supply is very limited.
Public Works Infrastructure	High	X	X	X	X								The City of Canby Public Works buildings and other infrastructure are adjacent to city owned forest that would benefit from fuels reduction. Access is limited to one way in and out.
North Side Molalla River Bluff	Medium	X		X					X	X		X	The homes on the North Side of the Willamette River Bluff are at the top of a heavily vegetated slope. There are good potential evacuation routes in this area because there many points of entry, However, this increased access to the area also increases the number of recreators and fishermen that could serve as ignition sources.
South End	Medium	X		X			X	X		X		X	South End Road has adequate access, but a limited water supply. CCFD#1 has a few hydrants here. Vegetation and steep slopes are the primary concerns here. Fire response would have to be staged off the main hwy, so there would be disruption, and traffic management to consider. The railroad runs through here, which increases ignition potential. Anglers, transients, and recreators frequent the area and are potential ignitions sources.
Molalla River State Park	Medium	X	X		X					X		X	The Molalla River State Park draws many recreators, and anglers to the area. The primary risk here is the heavy fuels loading throughout the park.

Table 10.3-2. Canby Fire Action Plan

Action Item	Timeframe	Partners	CAR
Canby Fire Action Plan			
Pursue grant funding to purchase Wildland PPE to replace outdated PPE.	2 Years	FDB, ODF	Canby Fire District
Develop rural water supply sources to a standard that will be recognized by ISO.	Long-Term	ODF, FDB	Canby Fire District
Work with the ODA to educate local area residents about the differences in agricultural burning in and backyard burning. .	Long-Term	ODF, DEQ, Fire Co-op	Canby Fire District
Work with the DEQ to achieve consistent responses for burning violations.	Long-Term	DEQ	Canby Fire District
Identify and pursue opportunities to participate in prescribed burns and live fire training to update and maintain wildfire certifications.	Ongoing	FDB, NAFT, WFTA	Canby Fire District
Continue to foster partnerships with natural resources managers to assess and implement potential fuels reduction projects in natural areas adjacent to Communities at Risk.	Ongoing	BLM,ODF, Parks	Canby Fire District
Partner with the Clackamas County Fire Defense Board to participate in a WUI conflagration exercise.	2 Years	Clackamas Fire Defense Board	Canby Fire District
Canby 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.	2 Years	ODF	Adkins Circle
Improve address signage for emergency response.	Ongoing	Fire Co-op	All CAR's
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.	Ongoing	Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Promote legal, safe and responsible debris burning through public outreach and education.	Ongoing	ODF, DEQ,ODA, Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Encourage communities to develop a community-driven pre-disaster plan including evacuation routes, telephone call down trees, and other strategies for strengthening community response.	Ongoing	Clackamas County Emergency Management	All CAR's

Canby Fire District

Map #17 Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue



- ★ Fire Stations
- ▨ Fuels Reduction Projects
- ⬡ Communities at Risk
- ▭ Canby Fire District
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- ⬢ City Boundaries

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