



Boulder Junction Community Wildfire Protection Plan

5-year plan 2016-2021



public safety

Provide for public safety from wildfires

critical infrastructure

while protecting critical infrastructure and

economy of the town

reducing impacts to the economy of the town.

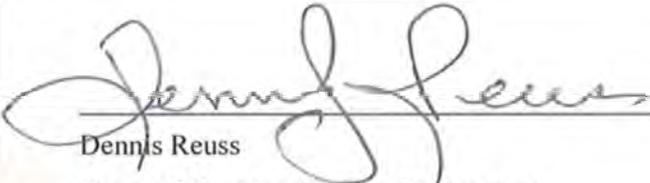
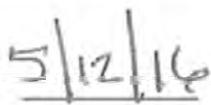
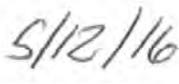
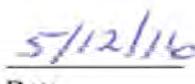
CWPP DEVELOPMENT & ADOPTION

The Boulder Junction Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA).

This CWPP:

1. Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties in the Town of Boulder Junction have been involved in this CWPP.
2. Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuels reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment to reduce the wildfire threat to values at risk in the town.
3. Recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the Town of Boulder Junction.

The following representatives of the entities required for CWPP approval mutually agree with and approve the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

 _____ Dennis Reuss Town of Boulder Junction Chairperson	 _____ Date
 _____ Matthew Reuss Town of Boulder Junction Fire Chief	 _____ Date
 _____ Paul Stearns Forester/Ranger, Wisconsin DNR	 _____ Date

Adopted by the Town of Boulder Junction on: April 26, 2016

Prepared for the Town of Boulder Junction CWPP Steering Committee by:

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CWPP PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS

The following individuals collaborated on the Boulder Junction CWPP:

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Denny McGann, Town Supervisor, Town of Boulder Junction

Matthew Reuss, Fire Chief, Boulder Junction Fire Department

Eric Johnson, Fire Department Member & Publisher FYI Northwoods, Town of Boulder Junction

Paul Newberg, Fire Department Member and EMT, Town of Boulder Junction

Jim Fragassi, Past Fire Chief, Town of Boulder Junction

Dennis Westphal, Past Fire Chief, Town of Boulder Junction

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Paul Stearns, Forester/Ranger, Wisconsin DNR

Mark Conkey, Forestry Tech, Wisconsin DNR

Diane Anderson, Wildland Urban Interface Specialist, Wisconsin DNR

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

Jim Galloway, Vilas County Emergency Management

Tim Sheehan, Camp Manito-wish YMCA

Jerry Geiger, Dairymens

CWPP PURPOSE AND INTENT

The Town of Boulder Junction is designated as a community at high risk for wildfire due to the flammable vegetation of the area, housing density and risk of wildfire occurrence. In 2015, the town chose to participate in the creation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), a comprehensive 5-year plan for fire-prone communities created at the township level that identifies how they will reduce their risk from wildland fires. A primary component of the plan is a list of hazard mitigation activities that can be implemented with support from a 50% cost-share reimbursement grant program. The community defines and chooses the projects that they want to implement and determines the priority and timeline.

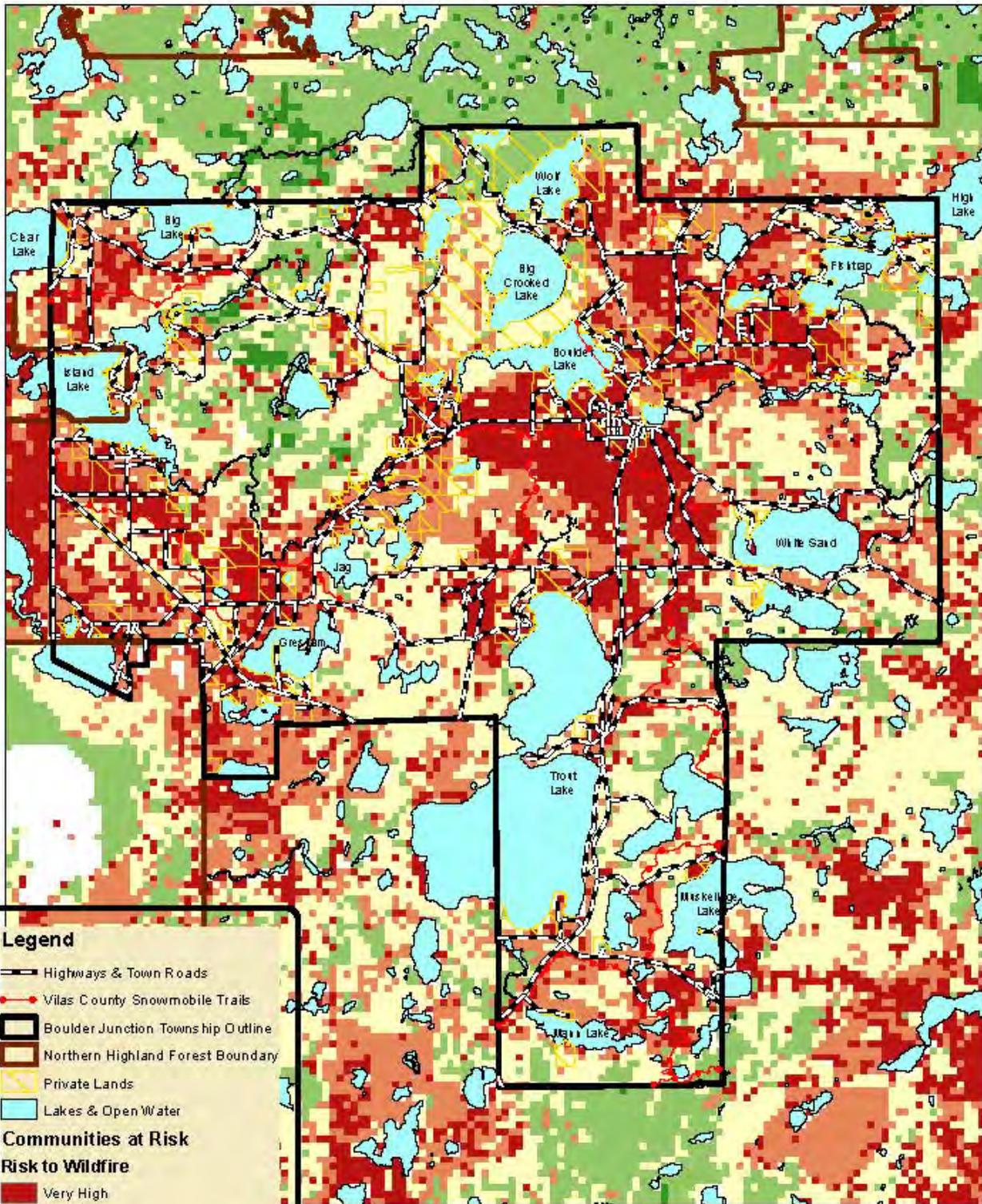
This CWPP was collaboratively developed by a core team of local, county and state representatives and community stakeholders. It addresses issues such as wildfire response, hazardous fuels reduction, community preparedness and structure protection. Cost for the CWPP development was funded 100% by a hazard mitigation grant.

The intent of this plan is to help fire protection agencies, community leaders, natural resource professionals and property owners to be better prepared to protect lives, property and natural resources against the negative impacts of wildfire.

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FIRE HAZARD MAP



Legend

- Highways & Town Roads
- Vilas County Snowmobile Trails
- Boulder Junction Township Outline
- Northern Highland Forest Boundary
- Private Lands
- Lakes & Open Water

Communities at Risk

Risk to Wildfire

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Scale: 1" = 2 miles



Mapped by:
Paul Stearns
12/17/15

CWPP PLANNING PROCESS

The steps in the development of the Boulder Junction Community Wildfire Protection Plan process were as follows:

- 1. Convene Decision Makers and Involve Local and State Agencies and Interested Stakeholders**
 - a. On June 18, 2015 information on the purpose and process for a CWPP was presented by the DNR to representatives from the town of Boulder Junction, fire department and Vilas County Emergency Management staff. The town board approved the “Resolution to Participate” in the CWPP creation process on June 23rd.
 - b. Plans for assembling a CWPP steering committee began and a team of core decision makers and community stakeholders was finalized by the town on July 17, 2015.
 - c. The first CWPP steering committee meeting was held on August 21, 2015, with subsequent meetings on September 10, October 8, October 29, January 7, 2016, and January 28. After the town officially adopts the CWPP, the committee plans to meet every 3-4 months to review the progress of CWPP projects and update the plan as necessary.
- 2. Establish a Community Base Map(s)**
 - a. The committee developed base maps of each of the areas of concern that displayed fire risk and areas that contain critical resources or infrastructure.
 - b. A base map of the entire community was established that included segmenting the township into 5 planning units and identifying areas of concern and land ownership.
- 3. Develop a Community Risk Assessment and Survey**
 - a. Members of the steering committee participated in driving tours on September 10, 2015 and January 7, 2016 to build shared understanding of town issues. Seven specific risk factors were evaluated for each area and every participant submitted a risk ranking worksheet based on fuel/vegetation hazards, local wildfire preparedness, critical infrastructure and buildings, likelihood of wildfire occurrence and other community values at risk.
 - b. To obtain public input, a 4-page community survey was mailed to all 1,232 property owners in the Town of Boulder Junction in late October. Feedback will influence projects carried out in the town over the next five years.
- 4. Establish Community Hazard Reduction Priorities and Recommendations**
 - a. Based on steering committee discussions, the town established an overarching goal to “provide for public safety from wildfires.” The committee then established prioritized objectives to achieve that goal. Objectives focused on reducing hazardous fuel, involving the public to help reduce risk on their property and improving access and evacuation mechanisms.
- 5. Develop an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy**
 - a. Hazard mitigation strategies were developed by the steering committee to help meet the established CWPP objectives. The mitigation plan details specific activities the committee plans to undertake.
- 6. Finalize the Community Wildfire Protection Plan**
 - a. The plan is finalized after mutual agreement from the planning committee is achieved. Adoption of the CWPP by the Town of Boulder Junction completes the plan.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans can take a variety of forms based on the needs of those involved in the development process. They can be as simple or complex as a community desires.

CWPP PURPOSE AND GOALS

The Boulder Junction CWPP steering committee identified and prioritized the following goal and objectives to be the foundation for the 2016-2021 Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

GOAL: Provide for public safety from wildfires while protecting critical infrastructure and reducing negative impacts to the economy of the town.

The objectives of the Boulder Junction CWPP are to:

- ◆ Reduce hazardous fuels on public and private lands
- ◆ Raise awareness among Boulder Junction residents and visitors about area wildfire risk and efforts to mitigate the hazards associated with it
- ◆ Involve the public in assessing and reducing wildfire hazards in a safe and effective manner
- ◆ Improve the community's wildfire planning efforts and firefighter and public safety through better access for emergency vehicles and evacuation methods



COMMON TERMS

A **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** is a *document* that results from a collaborative process among many stakeholders. Key components are identifying local wildfire risks and developing strategies to address those risks based on what makes the most sense locally. CWPPs are developed at the town, city, or municipal level.

Firewise is a *term* to describe homes that are constructed and maintained in such a way that they are able to survive a wildfire, even without help from firefighters.

A **Firewise Community** refers to a *subdivision* that has earned recognition through the National Fire Prevention Association's (NFPA) Firewise Community/USA program. A **Firewise Education Site** gives recognition to a specific location, like one particular *building* or *display*.

Hazard Mitigation is any *action* taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards. Actions can be done by individuals, neighborhoods and municipalities.

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) is the *home itself and everything around it up to 100 – 200 feet*. Simple modifications to the home and the rest of the home ignition zone can have a dramatic and desirable effect on wildfire behavior enabling the home to survive a wildfire often without intervention.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is any *area* where “humans and their development meet or intermix with wildland fuel.” The WUI is a focal area for human-caused conflicts such as wildland fires that threaten life, property, infrastructure and natural resources.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

This section looks at the community profile and characteristics that may make Boulder Junction more vulnerable to wildfire.

LOCATION

The Town of Boulder Junction consists of approximately 52,500 acres (82 square miles) and is located in northern Vilas County in north-central Wisconsin. The towns of Manitowish Waters, Plum Lake, Arbor Vitae, Presque Isle, Land O' Lakes and Lac Du Flambeau border Boulder Junction. All of these towns, with the exception of Presque Isle, are considered to have high fire risk.

LAND OWNERSHIP & USE

Public land ownership accounts for approximately 33,000 acres or 63 percent of Boulder Junction's total area with private land ownership at 7,800 acres or 14 percent (see map on page 9). The rest is public waterways. Since a large amount of land in the town is publicly held, a government agency manages a significant area of the land in the town. Public land use is primarily tourism/recreation and timber.

VEGETATION

The topography throughout most of the town is level, sandy outwash plains. Because the sandy soil retains little moisture, the native tree species are highly flammable with a mix of red, white and jack pine, and scrub and red oak. This combination creates dry conditions that contribute to the high wildfire risk in Boulder Junction. There is a trend of oak wilt migrating to the area which can affect mortality of oak trees and create more dying and dead vegetation.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)

People continue to move from urban and suburban areas to rural areas that offer recreational and aesthetic amenities, especially forested areas. In tourist destinations like Boulder Junction this also includes vacation rentals or seasonal homes. This shift is expanding the wildland urban interface (WUI), an area where structures and other human development meet and intermix with undeveloped wildland. The WUI creates an environment that enables fire to move quickly between man-made and vegetative fuels. Its expansion increases the likelihood that wildfires will threaten structures and people. Boulder Junction is identified as a wildland urban interface area.

DEMOGRAPHICS

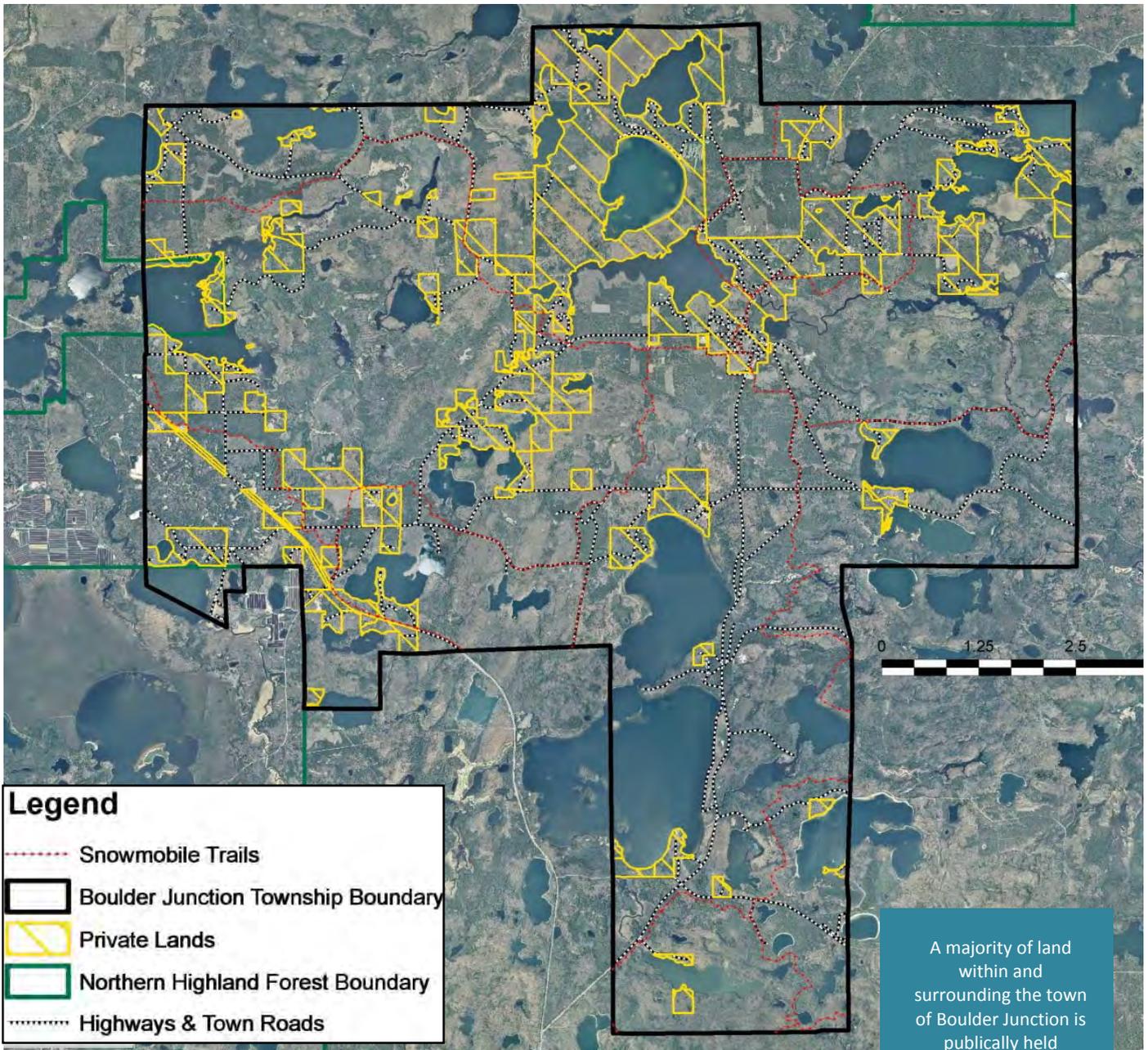
The 2010-2014 Census Bureau population estimate for Boulder Junction is 938 with a total of 1,363 housing units. The town is primarily a seasonal community with 65% of property owners being part-time. The ratio of male to female residents is 47% to 53% and the median age of the community is 60 years. Being a tourist destination, the town can experience a significant influx of visitors between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The population and housing is expected to remain stable during the next five years.

ACCESS

The more densely populated areas in the town, such as the Fishtrap subdivision and Camp Manitowish YMCA, have limited access for firefighters. Limitations include one way in and out of the area, limited or no turnarounds and/or inadequate horizontal and vertical clearance for emergency vehicles. It can be difficult and potentially unsafe for large emergency vehicles to navigate through areas with

numerous and narrow dead-end roads. Properties in the outlying areas often have narrow, long and winding driveways and houses cannot be seen from the road, posing additional safety risks for firefighters. There are also many remote forested areas, specifically in the Boulder Flats, that have limited or no access at all.

LAND OWNERSHIP MAP – BOULDER JUNCTION TOWNSHIP



COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessment is a primary component of the CWPP. It identifies areas of the community at most risk from wildfire, enabling decision makers to focus efforts on these areas and prioritize resource allocation and mitigation activities. The Town of Boulder Junction was evaluated to determine the areas in the town that are the most at-risk for wildfire based on five categories:

- ◆ **Vegetation/Fuel Hazards** - Specific areas within or near the community where the condition of vegetative fuels is such that, if ignited, they would pose a significant threat to the community or essential infrastructure. Local topography (such as slope, aspect, and elevation) were also evaluated that may also affect potential fire behavior.
- ◆ **Risk of Wildfire Occurrence** - Common causes and relative frequency of wildfires in the vicinity of the community. Consideration was also given to the range of factors, including critical weather patterns, which may contribute to the probability of fire ignitions and/or extreme fire behavior.
- ◆ **Homes, Businesses, and Essential Infrastructure at Risk** - Human improvements within or adjacent to the community, such as homes, businesses, and essential infrastructure that are vulnerable to ignition and would be adversely impacted by wildfire.
- ◆ **Other Community Values at Risk** - Other areas of community importance, such as significant recreation and scenic areas; and landscapes of historical, economic, or cultural value that would benefit from treatment to reduce wildfire risks.
- ◆ **Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability** - The level of the community's emergency preparedness, including evacuation planning, safety zones, and fire assistance agreements, as well as the response capability of community and cooperating fire protection forces.

WILDFIRE STATISTICS 2005-2015

While the number-one cause of wildfires statewide is debris burning, powerline-caused wildfires is the primary cause in the Town of Boulder Junction over a ten-year period and ranks higher as a cause county-wide. The largest wildfire in the town was 6.77 acres caused by lightning. The majority of fires occurred on private land. Boulder Junction accounts for approximately 5% of the Vilas County wildfire activity. Wisconsin Public Service is working through a five-year plan (2014-2018) that includes burying 800 miles of line in Boulder Junction by 2016 so we may see a decline in powerline-related fires in the future.

Town of Boulder Junction 2005-2015 (within township boundary)

- 29 wildfires burned 11 acres, 2 structures saved and 0 destroyed
 - Causes: powerline (10), equipment (8), debris burning (3), lightning (3), fireworks (2), campfire (1) and improper ash disposal (1)
 - Land ownership where fire started: 16 on private, 7 on state and 6 on highway
 - Permanent residents were involved in 10% of the fires, seasonal in 3%, undetermined in 31% and no person identified in 55%.

Vilas County 2005-2015

- 593 wildfires burned 436 acres, 103 structures threatened and 9 destroyed
 - Causes: incendiary (42% - concentrated on BIA land), power line (18%), debris burning (13%), campfire (5%)
 - Land ownership where fire started: 50% BIA, 40% private, 4% each state and highway, 2% other
 - 97% fires were human-caused; 14% by permanent residents, 8% by seasonal or visitors and 78% were undetermined or no person identified

Statewide 2005-2015

- 12,543 wildfires burned 37,396 acres, 5,418 structures threatened and 693 destroyed
 - The 10-year average is 1,200 wildfires; 3,700 acres burned
 - Main causes of fires: debris burning (28%); 2nd leading cause was equipment (20%); other causes include power lines (9%), improper ash disposal (5%), incendiary (5%), fireworks (5%)

AREAS OF CONCERN

Seven areas were identified within the community that were the largest areas of concern in the event of a wildfire. Five of these sites were visited on the September 10th driving tour; the other two on January 11th. Wildfire Risk Ranking Worksheets were completed by all meeting attendees. Each location visited was rated in 8 risk categories from 1 (very low) to 5 (very high). The cumulative score of the 8 categories identified the level of perceived wildfire risk for that location, the highest score being at the highest risk and so on.

The vegetation/fuel hazards and significant structures categories consistently ranked high, often within the top 3 for over half of the locations. The population density rating validates the significant structure one. This could be a contributing factor to the high rating of the wildfire occurrence/likelihood category and concern about fire protection capability.

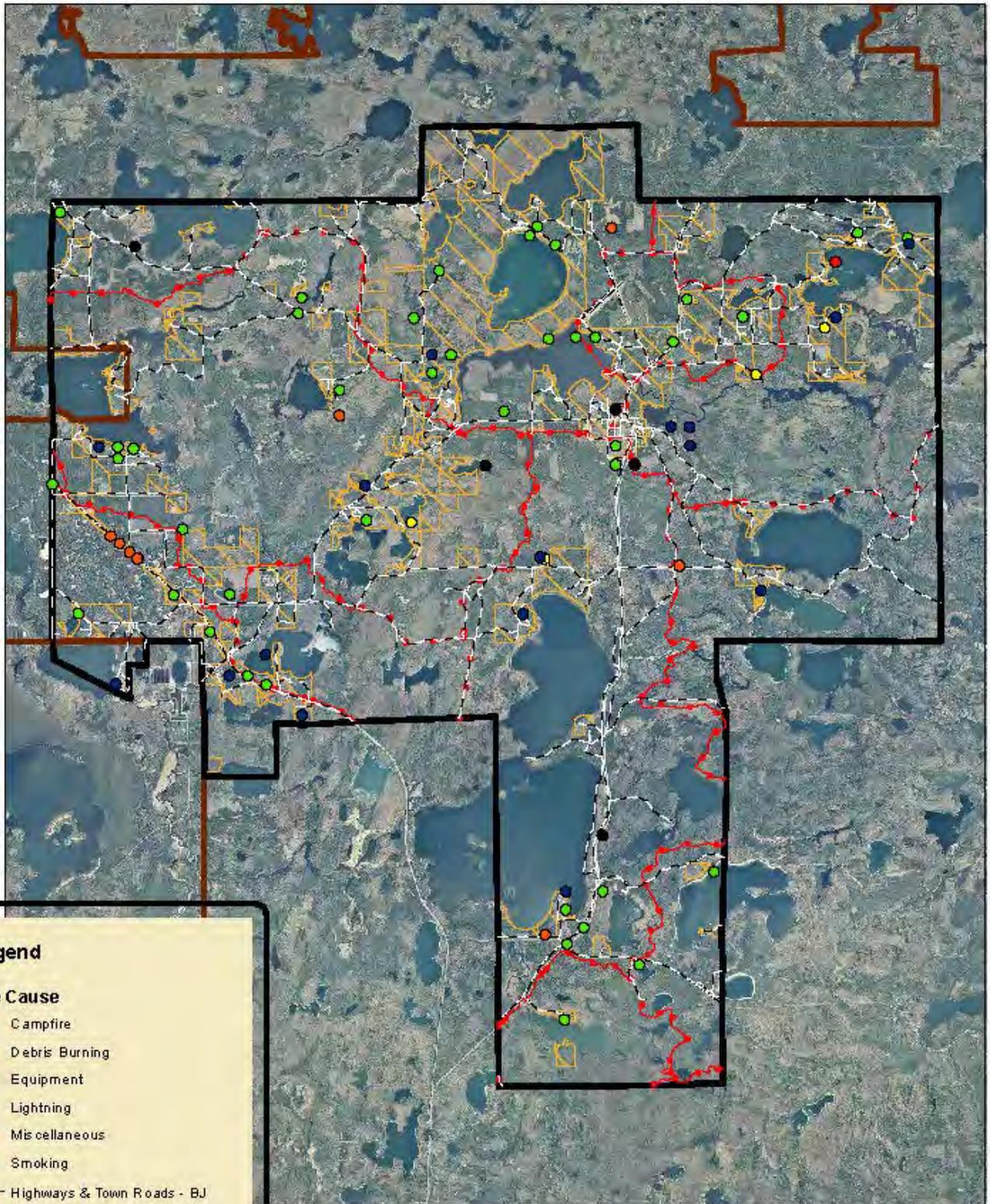
Risk Rating Results (Highest to Lowest Risk)

■ = #1 Category ■ = #2 Category ■ = #3 Category

	Areas of Concern						
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7
	Camp Manito-Wish YMCA	Fishtrap Lake/Oswego Subdivision	Island Lake Subdivision	Dairymens	Boulder Flats	Boulder Fire Break	Transfer Station
Vegetation/Fuel Hazards	38	39	26	22	45	35	33
Emergency Vehicle Access	39	35	34	29	26	15	21
Wildfire Occurrence/Likelihood	32	38	26	20	39	32	28
Significant Structures	48	44	32	36	14	15	15
Critical Infrastructure	40	27	22	23	14	22	17
Population Density	45*	42	28	30*	11	19	11
Fire Protection Capability	34	33	29	24	34	28	27
Firewise Characteristics	24	28	27	22	19	20	17
Total Score	300	286	224	206	202	186	169

*Seasonal considerations

FIRE CAUSES AND LOCATIONS 1982 - 2014



Legend

Fire Cause

- Campfire
- Debris Burning
- Equipment
- Lightning
- Miscellaneous
- Smoking

--- Highways & Town Roads - BJ

--- Vilas County Snowmobile Trails

▭ Boulder Junction Township Outline

▭ Northern Highland Forest Boundary

▭ Private Lands



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CWPP PLANNING UNITS & AREAS OF CONCERN

To aid the risk assessment, the Town of Boulder Junction was divided into 5 smaller, more manageable planning units based upon commonalities within each planning unit, including distribution of developed areas and structures. (See map on page 15 for planning unit boundaries.)

- ◆ Boulder Flats Planning Unit
- ◆ Island Lake Planning Unit
- ◆ Fishtrap Lake Area Planning Unit
- ◆ Boulder Lake Planning Unit
- ◆ Big Crooked Lake Planning Unit

BOULDER FLATS PLANNING UNIT

Specific areas of concern: Boulder firebreak and surrounding state land

The largest of the 4 planning units at 21,178 acres, the key risk characteristic in this area is the continuous high-hazard fuel type located just southwest of the Boulder Junction business district. This poses a large threat of wildfire to this tourist destination, with negative impacts to critical infrastructure, businesses and the area's economy in general, making this planning unit the highest priority. The Boulder Flats planning unit is comprised primarily of state forestland with sparse residential areas concentrated on the north and south ends of Trout Lake and some clustered development at the intersection of highways K & M.

FISHTRAP LAKE AREA PLANNING UNIT

Specific areas of concern: Oswego/Fishtrap/High Lakes Area, transfer station/brush collection site

Located in the eastern part of the town, this 8,220-acre planning unit is defined by clustered areas of development primarily around Oswego Lake, Fishtrap Lake and High Lake with forested state land in between. These areas as well as the Oswego Subdivision have very limited ingress/egress, often one way in/out with narrow dead-end roads and no turn-around for large emergency vehicles. The flammable fuel type surrounding a large density of homes makes this area especially vulnerable to damage from wildfire. The risk changes to low/moderate outside of the areas in the southern portion of the planning unit.

ISLAND LAKE PLANNING UNIT

Specific area of concern: Island Lake subdivision

The second largest of the planning unit with 13,633 acres, the highest wildfire risk is concentrated around the northern and southern ends of Island Lake on the west side. These areas share similar characteristics to the Oswego subdivision but are less densely clustered. Historically most fire ignitions have been along the Highway 51 corridor running through the southwest part of the planning unit.

BOULDER LAKE PLANNING UNIT

Specific area of concern: Camp Manito-Wish YMCA

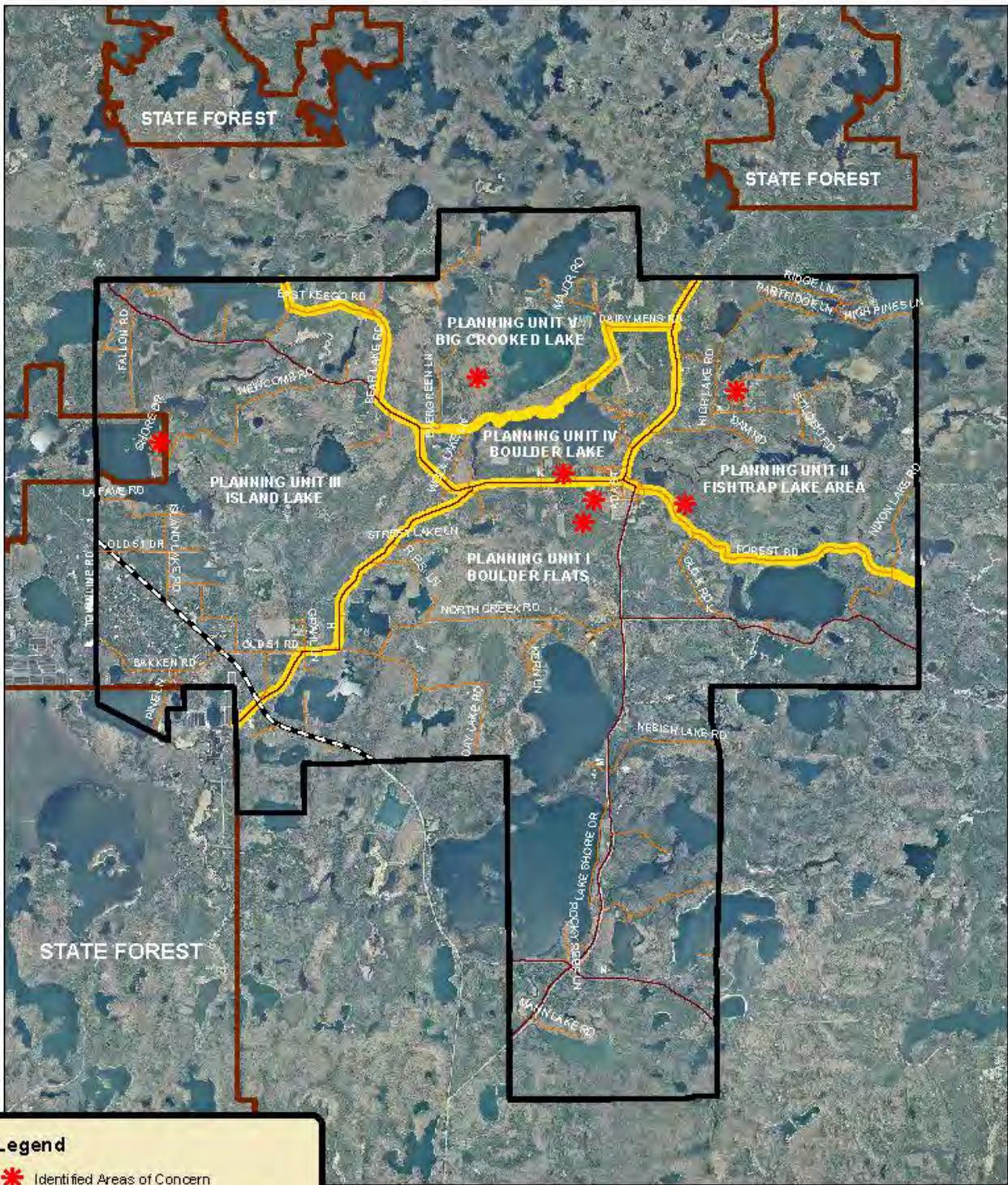
The wildfire risk changes from high/very high to low/moderate in the northeast portion of this 2,863-acre planning unit. This unit has the highest percentage of private to public ratio with approximately 75% privately owned and 25% state land. There is a 300-acre historic camp with over 50 structures surrounded by woodland that expands capacity significantly during the summer.

BIG CROOKED LAKE PLANNING UNIT

Specific area of concern: Dairymens

This 6,925-acre planning unit ranges from high- very high risk for wildfire. Dairymens, an exclusive, long-standing country club, is the primary landowner in this unit and contains multiple structures with many occupied by guests and staff year round. The northern section of the Boulder Junction business district is also located in the southeast corner.

PLANNING UNITS AND AREAS OF CONCERN



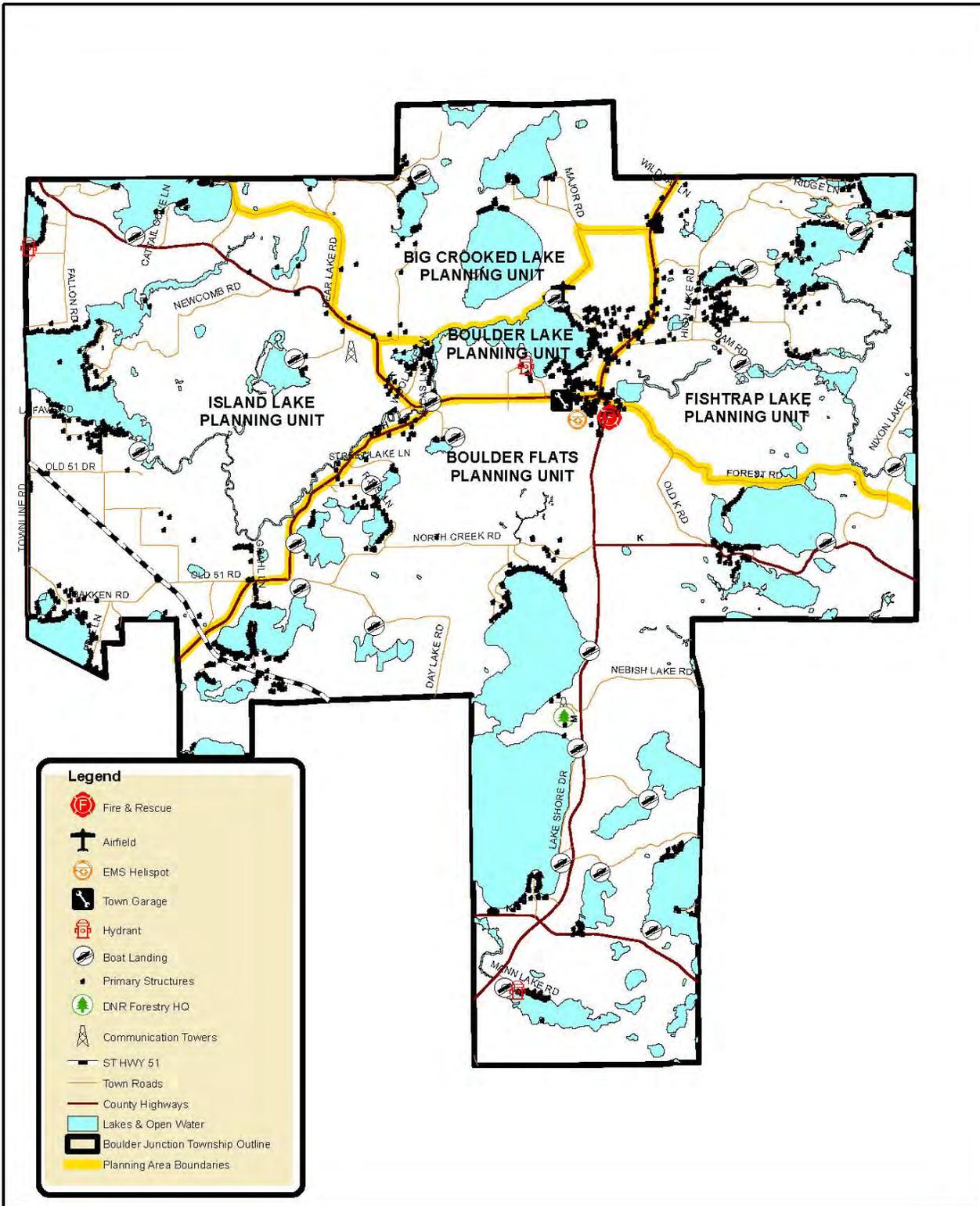
Legend

- Identified Areas of Concern
- Boulder Junction Township Outline
- Northern Highland State Forest Boundary
- County Highways
- Town Roads
- ST HWY 51
- Planning Areas



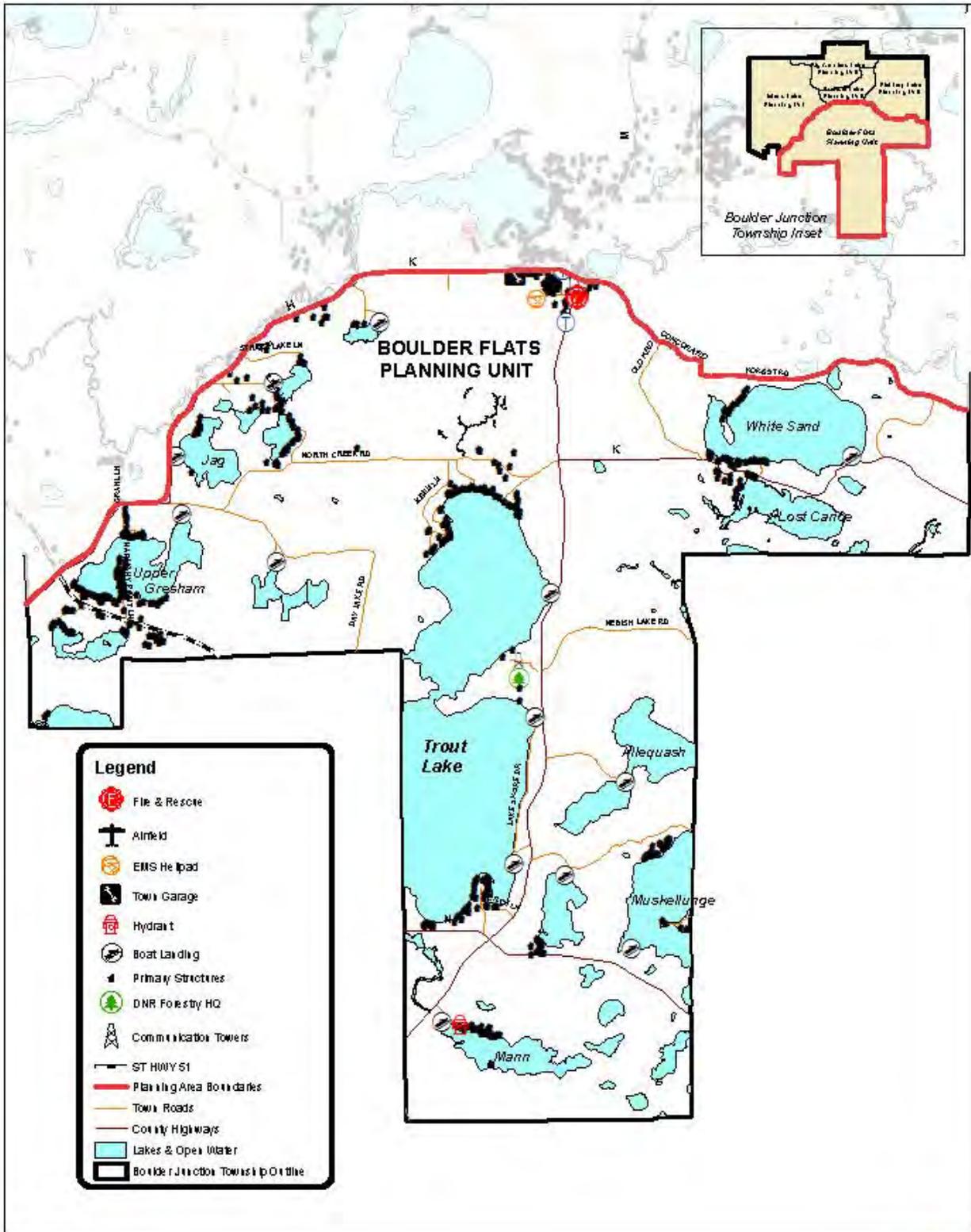
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SIGNIFICANT FACILITIES WITH PROTECTION CAPABILITY



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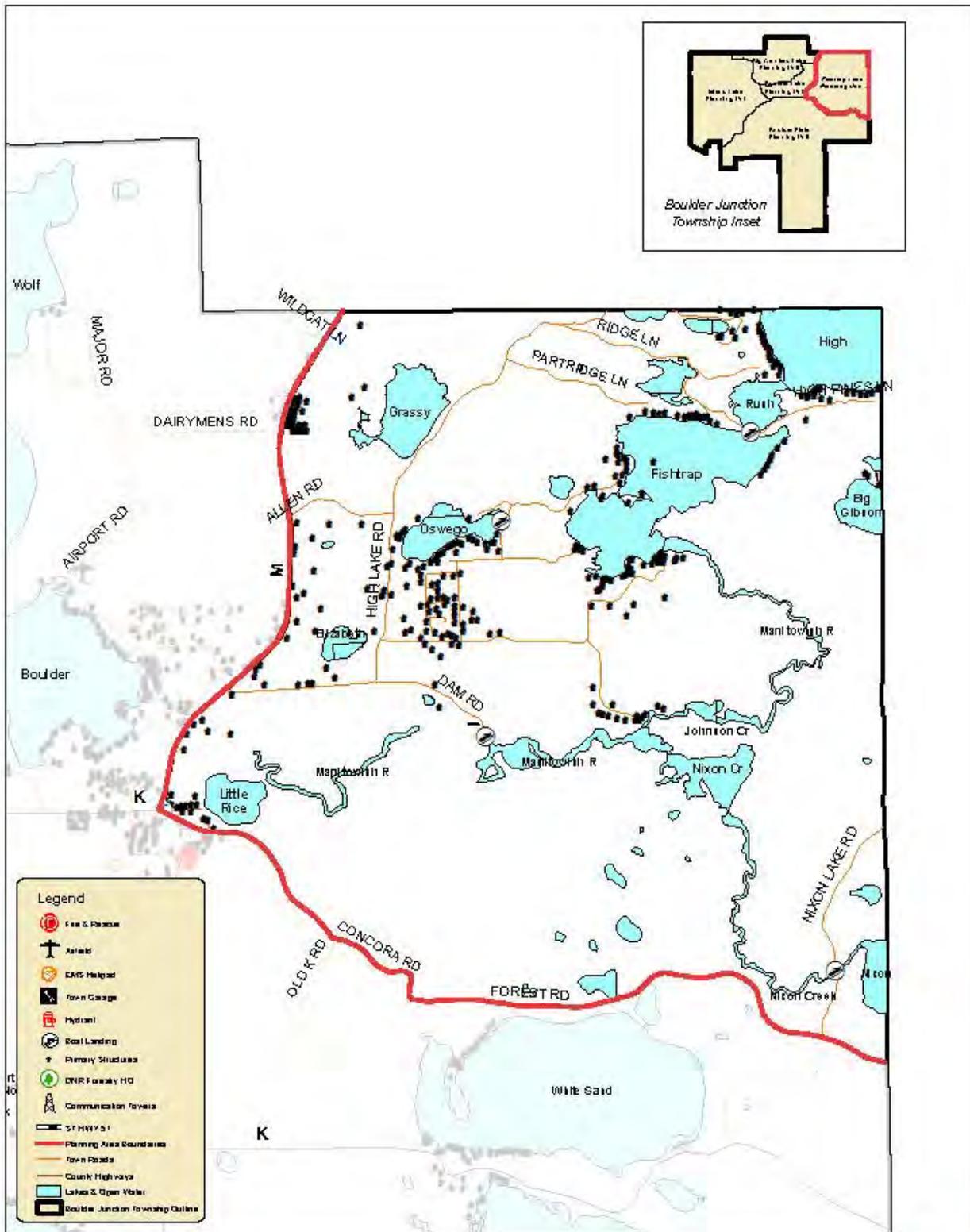
BOULDER FLATS PLANNING UNIT



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FISHTRAP LAKE AREA PLANNING UNIT

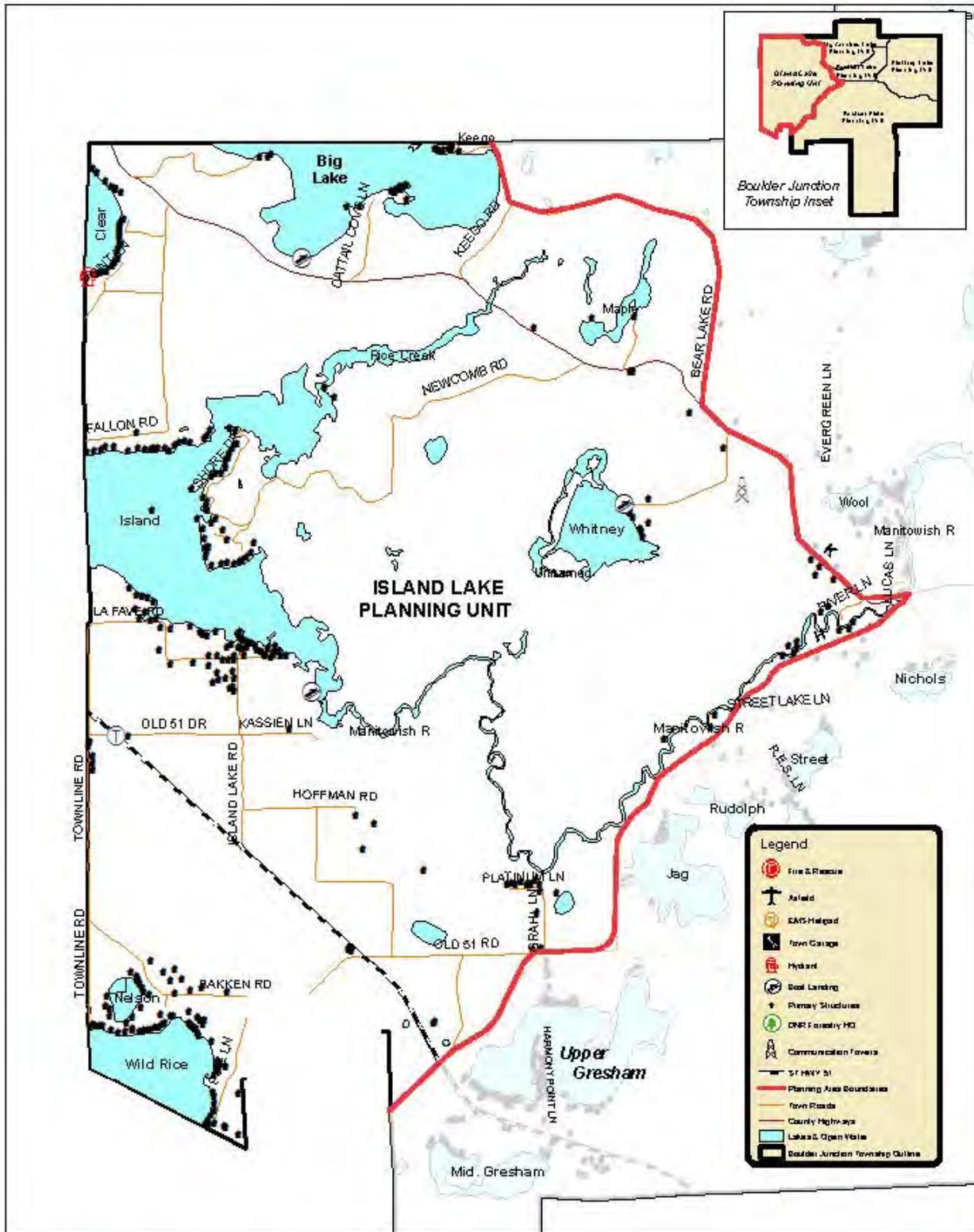


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1 in = 1 miles



ISLAND LAKE PLANNING UNIT

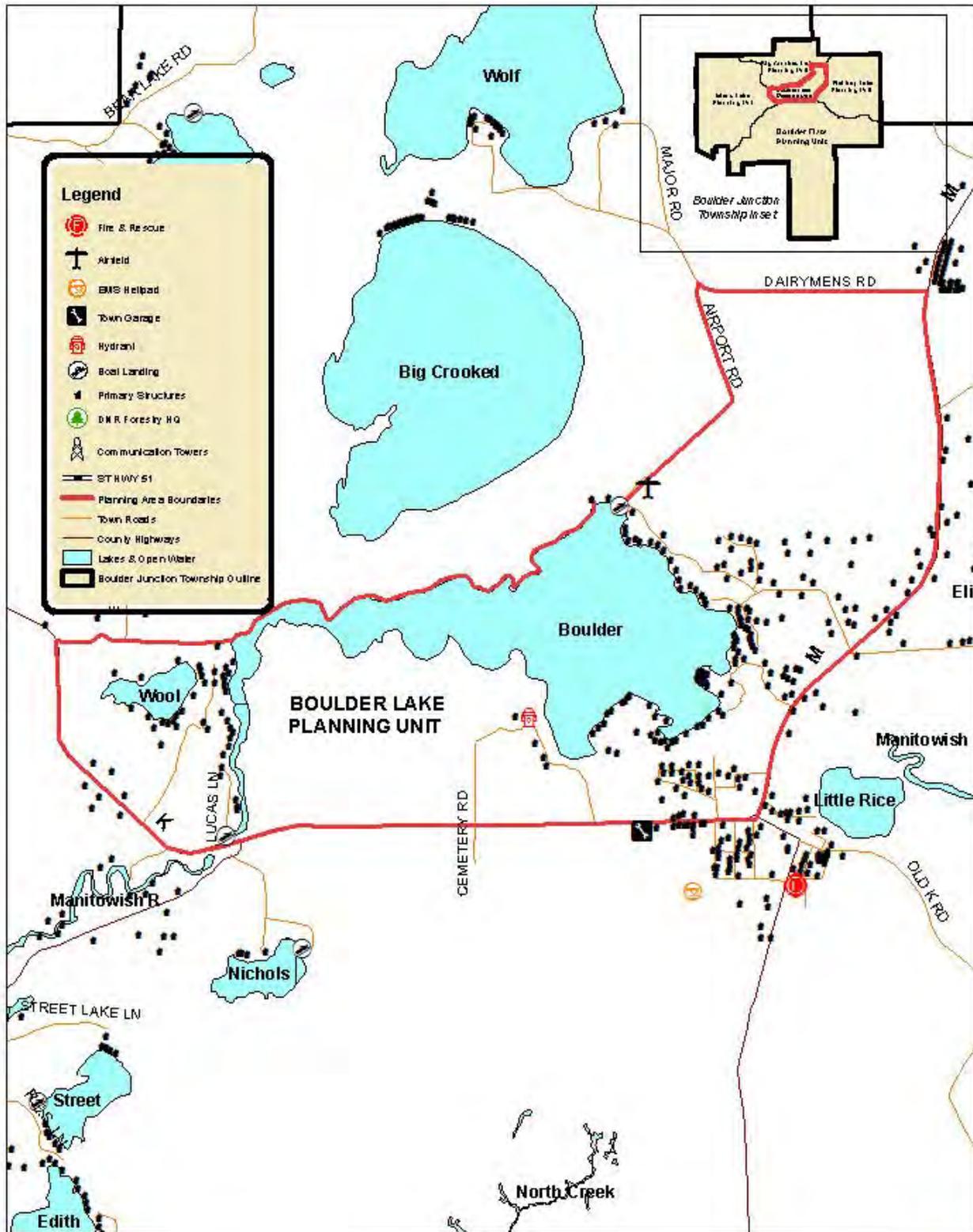


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1 in = 1 miles



BOULDER LAKE PLANNING UNIT



Legend

- Fire Station
- Airfield
- EMS Helipad
- Town Garage
- Hydrant
- Boat Landing
- Primary Structures
- DNR Forest by HQ
- Communication Towers
- ST HWY 51
- Planning Area Boundaries
- Town Roads
- County Highways
- Lakes & Open Water
- Boulder Junction Township Outline

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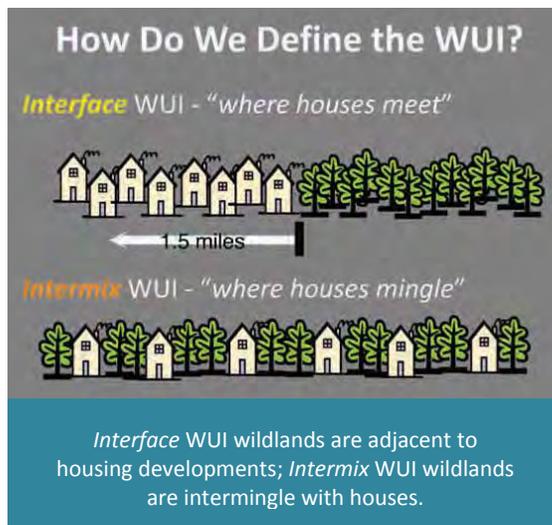
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

Many homes and other buildings in the Town of Boulder Junction are located in areas of highly flammable vegetation such as lake communities surrounded by oak and pine forests, and housing developments on the edge of pine plantations. Having undeveloped woodlands or grasslands in and around a neighborhood significantly elevates its risk of wildfire and creates a condition called the wildland urban interface.

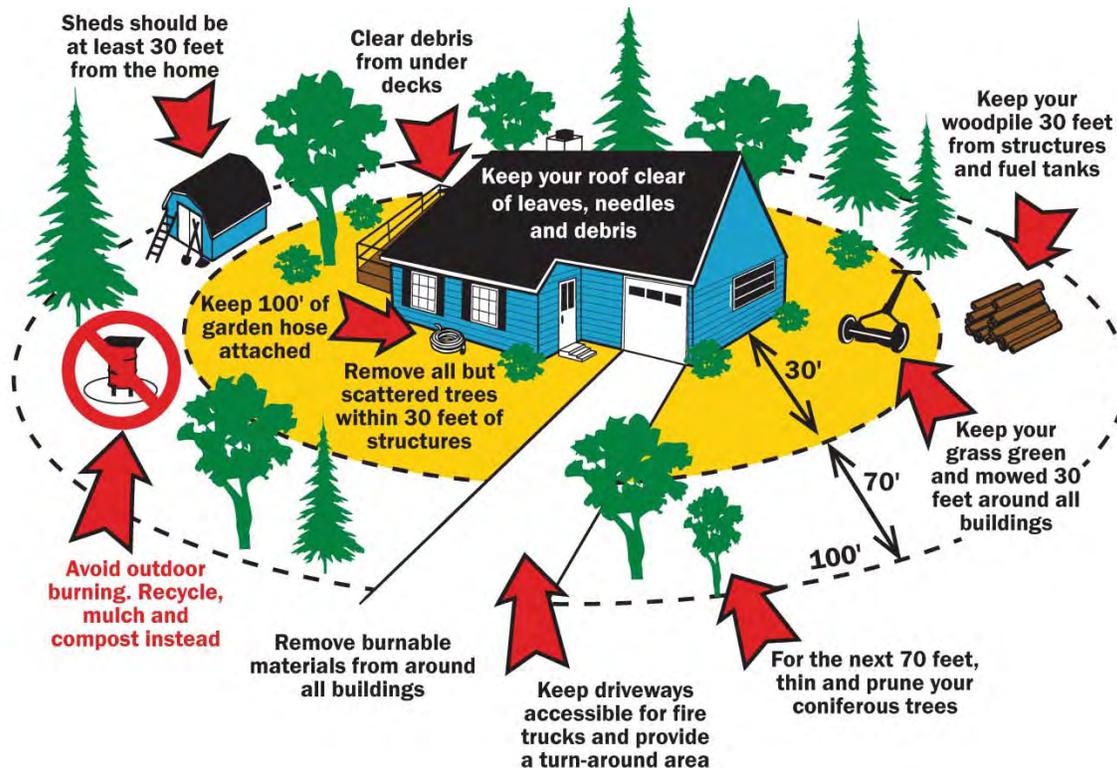
The majority of buildings destroyed by wildfire in Wisconsin occur during fires that burn less than five acres, not the raging wall of flames like seen in the movies.

Though people assume that a dedicated fire engine will defend their home during a wildfire, this is often not the case. Dangerous fire conditions, the size of the fire and availability of firefighting resources means that the homeowner needs to play a key role in increasing their home's chance of surviving a wildfire. This role involves doing simple pre-fire maintenance around the home so that it could survive a wildfire even without help from professional firefighters.



HOME IGNITION ZONE (HIZ)

The home ignition zone is the home and its surroundings, out to 100-200 feet. In this area, vegetation and personal property should be managed and maintained to decrease the possibility of ignition in the first place, or reduce fire intensity and duration and slow down fire spread if a wildfire is approaching.



Emergency vehicle access is also an important consideration within the HIZ. Private driveways that are long, narrow, winding or uneven, or lack the clearance for a fire engine prohibit firefighters from being able to reach a home and their safety can be at risk if they can't turn their vehicle around. Lack of visible fire numbers and address signs can also cause a delay in response. These issues can also be present on secondary roads that lead into a neighborhood. In some subdivisions, there is only one way in and out, leaving no alternate evacuation route should one become congested or impassable.

Working one-on-one with homeowners through home ignition zone and/or driveway assessments as well as providing educational and outreach opportunities are key Boulder Junction CWPP objectives and have proven successful in reducing structure ignitability.

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES USA

Firewise Communities USA is a national recognition program which provides a framework for fire-prone neighborhoods to work together with local fire and land management officials to develop and implement a wildfire action plan. This program is targeted to home or Lake Owner associations and camp-style organizations and focuses efforts on helping property owners create defensible space and reduce the threat of wildfire to both individual homes and commonly-held property.

Incorporated into the Boulder Junction CWPP are strategies to identify local associations and camps that are good candidates and to work with them to become Firewise Communities.

CWPP INPUT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Boulder Junction CWPP is a set of wildfire risk reduction recommendations and is intended to be a living, dynamic document. Public input, environmental changes, progress analysis, etc. may influence project priority, resources, priority and status. The CWPP will be monitored and revised on a regular basis. The planning group intends to meet every 3-4 months to evaluate the CWPP and update as necessary. Meetings are scheduled 1-3 months in advance and an agenda is posted one week prior. The public is welcome and encouraged to add agenda items and attend the meetings or join the CWPP committee at any time.

CWPP Resources

- Boulder Junction CWPP information – townofboulderjunction.org
- Fire prevention, burning permits – dnr.wi.gov search 'Fire'
- Firewise Communities USA – firewise.org/usa
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans – forestsandrangelands.gov search "CWPP"
- Fire adapted communities – fireadapted.org

Limited vehicle clearance and access in the Fishtrap Lake Area



Adequate access means that driveway height and width clearance needs to accommodate a fire engine

Recommended minimum: 14' height



Recommended minimum: 18' width



CWPP PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

A comprehensive approach is recommended for implementing strategies to mitigate against wildfire. The objectives and activities described here were identified by the Boulder Junction CWPP planning committee to provide both immediate and long-term actions that address a number of issues related to wildfire including:

- Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects
- Treatment of Structural Ignitability
- Public Education and Outreach
- Emergency Access and Evacuation

RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ACTIVITIES*

The Boulder Junction CWPP steering committee identified and prioritized the following goal and objectives to be the foundation for the 2016-2021 Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Goal: Provide for public safety from wildfires while protecting critical infrastructure and reducing negative impacts to the economy of the town.

- Objective 1:** Reduce hazardous fuels on public and private lands.
- Objective 2:** Raise awareness among Boulder Junction residents and visitors about area wildfire risk and efforts to mitigate the hazards associated it.
- Objective 3:** Involve the public in assessing and reducing wildfire hazards in a safe and effective manner.
- Objective 4:** Improve the community’s wildfire planning efforts and firefighter safety through better access for emergency vehicles and evacuation mechanisms.

The following is a list of proposed activities and supporting projects for the Boulder Junction community categorized by the objectives above. These include both short-term and long-term activities beginning in 2016 that have been identified by the group that address a number of issues related to wildfire. A CWPP is a living document that includes the flexibility for updates, revisions and additions.

**Project list will be reviewed on an annual basis and may change.*

Objective 1: Reduce hazardous fuels on public and private lands.

1.1 Expand and support maintenance of the firebreak south of Boulder Junction.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
1.1.1 Make a permanent landing zone helispot in widened fire break area.	High	2016	FD/DNR
1.1.2 Widen existing break along Marsh Road by reducing vegetation, etc.	Medium	2017	DNR/Town
1.1.3 Remove ladder fuels and widen existing forest road located east of the existing firebreak and across Highway M.	Medium	2016/2017	DNR
1.1.4 Clear area around power and gas lines.	Medium	2017	DNR/Power Co.
Other:			

1.2 Support the town's brush collection site located at the transfer station.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
1.2.1 Promote brush collection site in annual newsletter and other applicable media/venues.	High	2016	Fire Dept./Town
1.2.2 Expand and maintain areas around brush pile for access by emergency vehicles.	High	2016	Town
1.2.3 Work with other towns in a joint effort to secure a contractor to cooperatively chip and remove brush annually.	Medium	2016	Town
1.2.4 Create a brush collection site management plan e.g., standards/protocols on acceptable materials, gravel area around pile.	Medium	2016	Fire Dept./Town
1.2.3 Create and maintain emergency vehicle access/staging area atop adjacent hill (may include access road and regular maintenance)	Low/Medium	2016/2017	Town
Other:			

1.3 Partner with State Forest personnel for support and assistance with implementation of fuel reduction projects on state land.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
1.3.1 Fire prevention signage near high traffic areas (e.g., campgrounds, boat landings, etc.).	High	2016	Town/DNR
1.3.2 Integrate CWPP resolution and fuel reduction projects into state forest management plan(s).	Medium	2017	DNR
1.3.3 Removal and/or reduction of slash from logging operations along highly traveled roadways where applicable.	Medium	2018	DNR
Other:			

1.4 Organize curbside brush pick up/chipping day in targeted areas (e.g., housing developments).

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
1.4.1 Oswego/Fishtrap/High Lakes Area	High/ Medium	2016	Town
1.4.2 Island Lake Subdivision.	Medium/ Low	2017	Town
Other:			

1.5 Educate property owners on the importance of reducing highly flammable vegetation around their properties and improving emergency vehicle access.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
1.5.1 Develop presentation for area lake/home owner associations	High	2016	DNR

1.5.2 Perform Home Ignition Zone and driveway assessments	Medium	2016	Fire Dept.
1.5.3 Gain support from property owners to add additional access point(s).	Medium	2017	Town

Other:

1.6 Other/miscellaneous fuel reduction projects

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
1.6.1 Identify hazard trees for removal during WPS's mid-cycle hazard tree program.	Medium	2017	FD/Town/DNR

Other:

Objective 2: Raise awareness among Boulder Junction residents and visitors about area wildfire risk and efforts to mitigate the hazards associated it.

2.2 Include CWPP and other wildfire information on website and in social media.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
2.2.1 Links from town's home page to dedicated CWPP/fire prevention web page.	High	2016	Town
2.2.2 CWPP updates and critical fire posts on town's Facebook page and other social media outlets.	Medium	2016	Fire Dep./Town
2.2.3 Work with partners and community supporters to post CWPP and Firewise info on their websites (e.g., Chamber of Commerce).	Medium	2017	Fire Dep./Town
2.2.4 Work with businesses and organizations to include Firewise and/or fire prevention materials in their information packets (e.g., lodging accommodations in guest books in each room, realtors)	Medium	2017	Town

Other:

2.3 Develop articles and media releases for spring fire season and other times of acute fire danger.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
2.3.1 Identify supplemental programs during spring and other critical fire periods for local media (e.g., newspaper ads in FYI Northwoods). Note: DNR will include area TV, radio and newspapers in their annual statewide wildfire prevention campaign (end of March through early May).	High	2016-2021	DNR

Other:

2.4 Informational kiosks, banners or billboards, and/or Firewise demo sites positioned at highly visible locations.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
2.4.1 Way-finding kiosk locations at the beginning of the fire break, key intersections and at trailheads	High	2016/7	DNR
2.4.2 Identify other locations (e.g., sports complex, Chamber of Commerce, fire department)	Medium	2017	Fire Dept./DNR
2.4.3 Location at snowmobile intersections along the fire break.	Low	2017	DNR/Other
Other:			

2.5 Implement hands-on “Firewise” educational programs for youth.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
2.5.1. Activity at Fire department events e.g. interactive Ember House	Medium	2016-21	Fire Dept.
2.5.2 Public schools.	Medium	2017-21	Other
2.5.3 Camp Manito-wish YMCA for summer attendees.	Medium	2017-21	Camp Manito-wish YMCA
Other:			

2.6 Create wildfire prevention and preparedness informational mailings to be sent to property owners.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
2.6.1 Quarterly, bi-annual or annual newsletter.	High	2016-21	Town/DNR
2.6.2 Inserts.	Medium	2017	DNR
2.6.3 Direct mailings.	Medium	2017	DNR
2.6.4 Develop email list, schedule and programs.	Medium	2017	Town
Other:			

2.7 Include wildfire prevention and preparedness publications, displays, handouts, presentations, etc. at local events.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est Start	Responsibility
2.7.1 Considerations include homeowner/lake association meetings, fire department events, town hall meetings, community special events, etc. DNR will provide materials.	Medium	2016	DNR
2.7.2 Partner with WPS to include articles/tips about powerline fires and hazard trees in newsletter, social media posts and on town website	Medium	2016	Town/DNR
2.7.2 Public meeting to inform or update community on CWPP, hazard mitigation projects and/or Firewise Communities USA	Medium	2017	Town
Other:			

2.8 Develop and implement a strategic approach to public communications to raise awareness of, and garner support for, the CWPP and its projects

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
2.8.1 Create talking points about the advantages of the CWPP	High	2016	Town/DNR
2.8.2 Develop and distribute CWPP summary to the public	High	2016	Town/DNR
2.8.3 Develop target list of local business and organizations officers, presidents and managers to help communicate CWPP information and fire prevention messages	High	2016	Town/DNR
2.8.4 Public meeting to inform or update community on CWPP, hazard mitigation projects and/or Firewise Communities USA	Medium	2017	Town
Other:			

Objective 3: Involve the public in assessing and reducing wildfire hazards in a safe and effective manner.

3.1 Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) and/or driveway assessments mandated for each home within a targeted area.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
3.1.1 HIZ assessment training for fire department and other interested personnel.	High	2016	DNR
3.1.2. Target Oswego/Fishtrap/High Lakes area for HIZ evaluations	High	2017	Fire Dept/Town
3.1.3 Develop HIZ assessment process (e.g., leave behind materials, etc.)	Med/High	2017	DNR
3.1.4 Investigate Island Lake.	Medium	2018	DNR
Other:			

3.2 Encourage area associations/camps to become part of the Firewise Communities USA (FWC) recognition program across all planning units.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
3.2.1 Produce and present Firewise Communities, USA education to lake/home owner associations, camps, etc. to establish several recognized Firewise Communities	Medium	2017	DNR
3.2.2 Encourage associations/camps to attend a CWPP and/or Firewise meeting or become a committee member.	Medium	2017	
3.2.3 Develop FWC plan with Dairymens.	Medium	2017	FD/Town/DNR
3.2.4 Approach Oswego Lake Owner Association.	Medium	2017	WDNR
3.2.5 Encourage property owners to create an action plan for their home/seasonal property in the event of an evacuation (e.g., "Ready, Set, Go!" program)	Medium	2017	FD
3.2.6 Promote a public meeting and/or Firewise Day	Medium	2017	Town

3.2.7 Identify candidates for becoming an, or expanding their, association (e.g., Oswego LOA expanding to include property off the lake).	Medium	2017/2018	Town
3.2.8 Develop FWC plan with Camp Manito-Wish YMCA	Medium	2018	FD/Town/DNR
Other:			

3.3 Identify and provide demonstration properties for people to model their property after.

Activity - Projects High	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
3.3.1 Look into this possibility with fire department personnel or a homeowner in a high risk area.	Medium	2017-18	DNR
3.3.2 Put photos of the Firewise property in the annual newsletter.	Medium	2017	Town
Other:			

Objective 4: Improve the community's wildfire planning efforts and firefighter safety through better access for emergency vehicles and evacuation mechanisms

4.1 Improve emergency vehicle access/create additional fuel breaks.

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
4.1.1 Helispot signage for no parking zone and to educate the public about the purpose of the area	High	2016/2017	Town
4.1.2 Identify specific forest roads within the Boulder Flats area to widen and maintain prioritize based on partnering with timber sales/DNR work for cost-saving	High	2017	DNR
4.1.3 Evacuation signage in Oswego/Fishtrap/High Lakes area.	High	2017	Town
4.1.4 Brushing and mowing program for Oswego/Fishtrap/High Lakes area	Medium	2017	Town
4.1.5 Widen selected ski trails on Camp Manito-Wish property.	Medium	2017	Prop. Owner
4.1.6 Create site specific map(s) of forest roads in the Boulder Flats	Medium	2017	DNR
4.1.7 Investigate creating an extension of Red Fox Road to Fishtrap or other ideas as additional or secondary access points	Medium	2017	Town
4.1.8 Identify ski trails on other state forest land to widen	Low/Med	2018	DNR
4.1.9 Incorporate clearing and maintenance of fuel breaks into the Boulder Junction town road plan.	Medium	2017/2018	Town
4.1.10 Create wider right-of-ways in congested areas.	Medium	2019	Town
Other:			

4.2 Improve community access to emergency information

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
4.2.1 Disseminate information about signing up for the Code Red notification system.	High	2016	Town
4.2.2 Recommend that property owners check with their insurance company regarding construction or access requirements (e.g. driveway access) at the time building permits are obtained.	High	2016	Town
4.2.3 Work with law enforcement and county Emergency Management on evacuation plan/ideas for areas of concern.	Medium	2017	FD/Em. Mgmt.
4.2.4 Kiosk with map/info posted at entrances to concentrated developed communities; priorities: Oswego/Fishtrap/High Lakes area, Camp Manito-Wish YMCA.	Medium	2017	DNR
4.2.5 Work to incorporate creating additional access points in priority planning units into Boulder Junction Town Road Plan	Medium	2017	Town
Other:			

4.3 Develop and implement fire department access and evacuation plans

Activity - Projects	Priority	Est. Start	Responsibility
4.3.1 Incorporate CWPP information and fire prevention messages into the town's way-finding plan	High	2016	Town
4.3.2 Develop and maintain maps for use by fire department showing access and water points, special vehicle considerations, etc.	Medium	2016	FD/DNR
4.3.3 Create designated water point signage	Medium	2016/2017	FD/DNR
4.3.4 Distribute the Ready, Set, Go! Program guide to all property owners e.g. as HIZ assessment follow-up, link on website	Low	2016	FD
4.3.5 Investigate directional signage for congested areas and implement if appropriate with way-finding project	Low	2018	Town/DNR
Other:			

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION GRANT

Forest Fire Protection (FFP) grants are available to Wisconsin fire departments and county/area fire associations. Grant funding is intended to expand the use of local fire departments to augment and strengthen the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) overall initial-attack fire suppression capabilities on forest fires. By May 1st each year, Wisconsin fire departments and county/area fire associations statewide are notified the FFP application cycle is open. The FFP program is a 50 percent cost-share reimbursement grant program.

Annual timeline

May 1st	Application period begins
July 1st	Applications due to DNR
October 1st	Awards announced and grant projects begin
October 15th	Signed grant agreements due
April 15th	Grant projects end and reimbursement requests due

Eligibility

Wisconsin fire departments must have a signed and executed DNR Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Mutual Aid and Fire Suppression Services (Form 4300-061 R 12/11 or newer). If a fire department does not have an MOU on file, it may still be eligible if an MOU is signed and executed on or before the application deadline date of July 1st. Eligible fire departments can receive a maximum grant award of \$10,000.

County/area fire associations must have a majority of the fire department members serving organized forest fire control areas designated by the DNR. Eligible county fire associations can receive a maximum grant award of \$25,000.

A complete listing of eligible items and reference and application materials can be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/ForestFireProtection.html>

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

Wildfire Risk Reduction Program grants aim to decrease the probability of a catastrophic wildfire affecting a high risk communities in Wisconsin. Through the National Fire Plan Program, states are able to compete for grants to fund projects that meet the goals of the program. The DNR Division of Forestry manages these funds through their Wildfire Risk Reduction Program. Projects fall under a few general categories: readiness, prevention, fuel breaks and vegetation management. Communities with CWPPs are eligible to apply for these funds to conduct projects such as fuels reduction, access improvement, prescribed burning and education. Smaller associations within the community (e.g. lake associations and camps) are eligible to apply for funds to carry out projects such as chipping days, neighborhood cleanup, education and property assessments through the Firewise Wisconsin Program. Both are 50 percent cost-share reimbursement grant programs.

APPENDIX – COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

A survey was conducted in the town of Boulder Junction for input from the community about their property characteristics, wildfire preparedness and what future CWPP projects would be most supported. Every property owner (1,232) in the town was sent a survey and the response was 68%.

Results	Why it's important
Homeowners are mostly seasonal (55%), with year-round residents owning only 36 percent of the homes in the towns.	Absentee homeowners can face the challenge of time to do the necessary routine maintenance around their property to make it Firewise. They may also not be at their property during wildfire season.
47 percent of property owners feel that their property is at moderate to very high risk from wildfire. The most common concerns were related to vegetation – either in the general area, on their property or their neighbor's.	This is a very realistic concern since the abundance of pine and oak in the area contributes heavily to the reason why the Boulder Junction area is considered to have a very high fire risk .
When asked <i>when</i> most wildfires in Wisconsin occur, 40% responded in spring (March-May), 39% in summer (June-August) and 21% in fall. Property owners estimated that an average of 302 wildfires occur in Wisconsin each year.	Spring is our peak season for wildfires, with most fires occurring mid-March to the end of May. Each year an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 wildfires burn an average of 6,000 acres in Wisconsin. The vast majority of fires in our state are put out before they reach 5 acres in size, which is why most people aren't aware of the extent of our fire occurrence.
Close to half the respondents (43%) correctly identified debris burning as the most common cause of wildfires; 34% had conducted open burning (leaves, brush, trash) during the last five years; 43 percent said that they had used a brush collection site.	Debris burning (the burning of leaves, brush and grass on the ground, and the use of burn barrels) is the No. 1 cause of wildfires in Wisconsin. Due to the high usage of the brush collection site available to residents as an alternative to debris burning, Boulder Junction does well with this.
71 percent of property owners have a driveway base of at least 14"; 18% have gated driveways; 37% of respondents have driveways that are longer than 500 feet and 48% of homes can be seen from the road all year.	Long, narrow and sometimes gated driveways will inhibit emergency vehicle access. In order for firefighters to reach a home safely there needs to be enough height and width clearance for Boulder Junction's largest fire engine.
48% of survey takers were familiar with the term "Firewise" meaning preparing and maintaining homes and properties for the possibility of a wildfire. 65 percent indicated that there was a garage, shed or neighbor's home within 30 feet of their home/cabin.	Homes or cabins can improve their home survival chance even without help from professional firefighters...and all it takes is some preventative measures to make it Firewise . The national program Firewise recommends a minimum distance of 30 feet between the home and anything flammable including other structures, woodpiles, etc.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-R-05

A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Boulder Junction recognizes the importance enhancing its ability to mitigate the potentially devastating impacts of wildfire as well as the importance of reducing the human suffering, property damage, interruption of public services and economic losses caused by wildfire; and

WHEREAS, wildfire poses a particular, significant, and ongoing threat to the Town of Boulder Junction; and

WHEREAS, community resiliency to wildfire depends on the preparedness levels of all stakeholders in the community – individuals, families, homeowner associations, community organizations, non-profits, businesses, and government; and

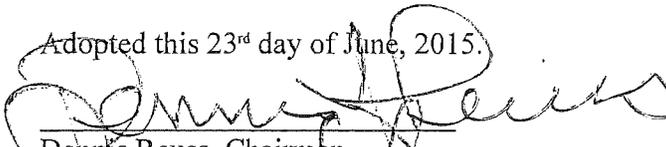
WHEREAS, by participating in the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the Town of Boulder Junction has an opportunity to influence where and how monies are spent on hazardous fuels reduction and can compete competitively for public funding to implement hazardous fuels reduction projects within the Town of Boulder Junction.

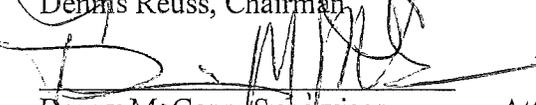
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Town of Boulder Junction hereby approves participating in the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and agrees to designate at least one community representative to serve on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Steering Committee

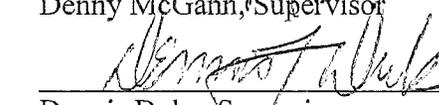
Roll Call Vote: 3 YES 0 NO (2/3 required)

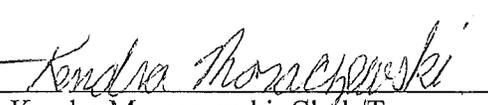
Adopted this 23rd day of June, 2015.


Dennis Reuss, Chairman


Denny McGann, Supervisor

Attest:


Dennis Duke, Supervisor


Kendra Moraczewski, Clerk/Treasurer

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-R-03

ADOPTION OF THE
TOWN OF BOULDER JUNCTION COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 was created in order to reduce the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes, and

WHEREAS, The Town of Boulder Junction has been identified as being at very high risk in the Wisconsin Communities-at-Risk Assessment, and

WHEREAS, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan should be developed in any community that is listed as an at risk community in a federal or state risk assessment, and

WHEREAS, The Town of Boulder Junction has worked cooperatively with other stakeholders to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and

WHEREAS, the intent of the plan is to help fire protection agencies, community leaders, natural resource professionals, and homeowners be better prepared for wildfire, and

WHEREAS, adoption of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan will earn priority consideration for funding hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out under the auspices of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, and

WHEREAS, the Boulder Junction Board of Supervisors has reviewed the draft of the *Town of Boulder Junction Community Wildfire Protection Plan* and concurs with the final plan content.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Boulder Junction Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the *Town of Boulder Junction Community Wildfire Protection Plan*.

Resolution introduced and adoption moved by Denny McGann

Motion for adoption seconded by Dennis Reuss

Passed on the 26th day of April, 2016
By the Town Board of the Town of Boulder Junction

Roll Call Vote: 3 YES 0 NO (2/3 required)


Dennis Reuss, Chairman


Denny McGann, Supervisor

Attest:


Dennis Duke, Supervisor


Kendra Moraczewski, Clerk/Treasurer