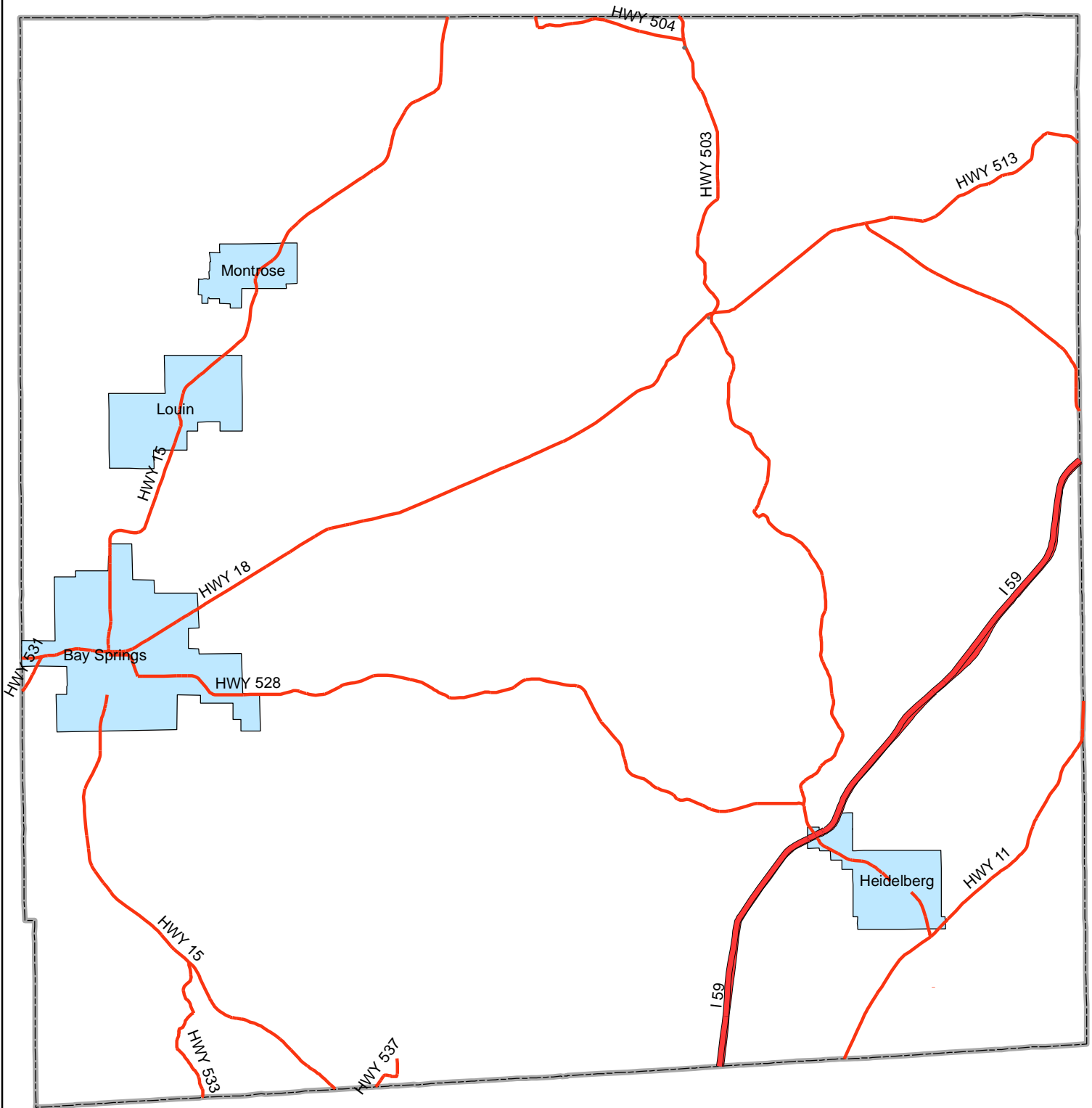


*Jasper County, Mississippi*

# County Wildfire Protection Plan



July 2008

Prepared By:

East Central Planning & Development District

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## **I. Introduction**

In 2007 the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), commissioned the preparation of a Wildfire Protection Plan for Jasper County. The plan follows the CWPP template outlined in the National Fire Plan Standards and provided by the MFC. Urban Interface and other wildfire hazards are identified, mapped and prioritized and mitigation and treatment options are identified.

The wild land-urban interface (WUI), where structures and other developments merge with undeveloped wild land or vegetative fuels, can create one of the most dangerous and complex situations for firefighters. The wildfire urban interface zone can pose a significant risk to communities in the event of a large-scale wildfire. A County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) can reduce the potential for loss in the event of a wildfire by identifying priorities for protection of life, property and critical infrastructure within the WUI.

The District staff began gathering geographical data, historical fire information and current fire data. Staff met with the county volunteer fire chiefs and the county Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) to review the information and obtain input on the strengths and weaknesses of the volunteer fire departments and their ability to fight wildfires. A steering committee was formed which included the fire departments representatives, state and federal agencies and other interested parties.

The plan includes geographic information systems produced maps, a county risk assessment, a mitigation project list, structure ignitability recommendations and an action plan and assessment strategy. It is the intent of the steering committee that this plan will be utilized to guide development and educate landowners as well as to address and then treat at risk wildfire areas within the county.

The plan was developed with an effort to be consistent with the Jasper County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

## II. Description Area

Jasper is located in east central Mississippi and consists of 676 square miles of land area. The county has four incorporated areas, Bay Springs, Heidelberg, Montrose and Louin. The total 2006 estimated population for Jasper County is 18,197, an estimated increase of 242 persons (1.82%) compared to the 2000 population of 17,955. Of the county's total population, Bay Springs (2097), Heidelberg (840), Montrose (127) and Louin (339), nineteen percent of the population is located in the incorporated areas of Jasper County. High concentrations of population are located in the communities of Beaver Meadows, Garlandville, Hero, Paulding, Rose Hill and Stringer. The county has one gated community, Lake Eddins, that consists of planned housing development around a large man-made lake.

Jasper County's major highway transportation system includes State Highways 15, 18, 528, 513, 503, 504 and Interstate 59. The minor arterial roads are County Roads maintained by local Board of Supervisors. According to county statistics seventy-five percent (75%) of all county roads are paved, representing approximately 526,304 miles of roads, while twenty-five percent (25%) are unpaved, representing approximately 73,061 miles of roads. With reference to rail services, the county has a freight rail line on the west side of the county that runs north and south. On the east side of the county, rail service that crosses the county are freight lines; and Amtrak passenger service that goes to and from New Orleans and New York. The rail services on the east and west passes through forestland areas. Kansas City Southern Railroad provides rail services to the industries in the Jasper County Industrial Park and other local industries along the route.

Jasper County is Mississippi's number one (1) producer of gas and oil; and leads the state in timber, cattle and poultry production. Wild game and fish are abundant and provide for major outdoor recreation. The county has a total of approximately 432,700 acres of land. Forestland represents 346,800 acres. It is estimated that 80.1% of the land in Jasper County is forestland. According to public records, the following represents forest ownership, forest acreage and type of ownership:

Forest Ownership*		
Owner	Acres (Thousands)	Percent
Public	14.8	4.2
Forest Industry	63.0	18.1
Private, Non-Industry	268.0	77.5

<b>Forest Acreage*</b>		
<b>Forest Type</b>	<b>Acres (Thousands)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Pine	108.0	31.1
Oak-Pine	85.9	24.8
Hardwood	153.0	44.1

<b>Private Non-Industrial Forest Owners*</b>	
Total Private Non-Industrial Forest Owners	5,915
Owners with more than 20 acres	2,895
Owners with more than 50 acres	1,245
Owners with more than 1,000 acres	603

\*Source: [www.co.jasper.ms.us/countyinfo.html](http://www.co.jasper.ms.us/countyinfo.html)

According to Forestry Commission data, approximately 30% of the timberland was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. The estimated loss of timer revenue was approximately \$112,500,000.

Jasper County has abundant and rich recreational resources. The county has an abundance of lakes, creeks and woodland that provides excellent fishing, deer and turkey hunting opportunities. Bienville National Forest has 17,157 acres of land providing hunting lands and camping. Marathon Lake offers swimming, camping and hiking. Greentree Reservoir, a 50-acre lake, is also nearby, off Highway 504.

The Tallahala Wildlife Management area is located at Montrose with 28,120 acres available for hunting and is managed by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Claude Bennet State Park is open year-round and provides boating, skiing, fishing, swimming and other water sports. Lake Eddins is a 700-acre fishing lake and is a private gated community with land available for residential development.

Winters are generally short with few days of intense cold. The mean temperature for January is 57.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Summers are hot with high humidity. The mean temperature during July is 92.9 degrees. Precipitation tends to be an average of approximately 62 inches of rain per year. The driest and hottest months are July and August, and the wettest month is March. Wind often increases during thunderstorms, which occur frequently and are sometimes accompanied by strong to severe winds, including tornados.

Wildfires have been identified as a hazard due to large areas of pine plantations across Jasper County. Pine trees cover many large tracks of land in the area and many local residents rely on the timber industry for their livelihoods.

In the five-year span covered by Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC)'s database, approximately 454 wildfires were reported in Jasper County. Most of these fires occurred during the summer and fall months and burned five acres or less. October was the month with the most wildfire activity. Burning debris caused most of the fires. The largest wildfire reported during this period occurred on January 14, 2006 and burned more than 210 acres.

While the National Park Service has primary responsibility for wildfires in Beinville National Forest, Jasper County's volunteer fire departments provide backup for this area, as needed. What makes this more difficult is that many areas in the national forest are only accessible by unpaved hunting and logging roads. Local fire departments have to train and plan on the best ways to access these areas and quickly extinguish fires.

Wildfires can occur any time of the year, but are more prevalent during the dry, hot summer months. The lack of rain, coupled with temperatures approaching 100 degrees during the middle of the day, turn these wooded areas into tinderboxes. One careless spark from a passing motorist's cigarette or from the lightening associated with strong summer thunderstorms, can cause a fire that damages hundreds of acres and threatens the lives and properties of the residents living in or near these areas. During times of extreme dry weather, local municipalities and the county had often issued "No Burn" orders to prevent local residents from causing a wildfire by letting a small fire get out of hand.

The county has 16 volunteer fire departments: Bay Springs, Beaver Meadow, Central, Fellowship, H.A. L., Heidelberg, Lake Eddins, Louin, Montrose, Mossville, Northeast Jasper, Oak Bowery, Paulding, Rose Hill, Stringer and Vossburg. Each of the VFD's have a corresponding response area and all have agreements to assist in responding to fires and emergencies within the county and the adjoining counties.

<b>Jasper County Volunteer Fire Status</b>				
<b>Fire Rating Area</b>	<b>Sq. Miles</b>	<b>VFD Station</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b># of Vol's</b>
Bay Springs	43.11	Bay Springs	Hwy. 528, Bay Springs, MS 39422	24
Beaver Meadow	9.18	Beaver Meadow	79 Beaver Meadow Rd., Heidelberg MS 39439	14
Central	46.61	Central	389 CR 29, Bay Springs MS 39422	20
Fellowship	14.92	Fellowship	226 CR 2422, Hickory, MS 39332	25
H.A.L.	39.51	H.A.L.	2413 CR 23, Bay Springs, MS 39422	15
Heidelberg	39.25	Heidelberg	Tulip Street, Heidelberg, MS 39439	0*
Lake Eddins	28.16	Lake Eddins	58 LE 1638, Pachuta, MS 39347	25
Louin	41.56	Louin	9 CR 16124 Louin, MS 39338	20
Montrose	84.30	Montrose	505 Hwy. 15, Louin, MS 39338	16
Mossville	32.65	Mossville	282 CR 21, Laurel, MS 39443	25
Northeast Jasper	49.88	Northeast Jasper	4032 Hwy. 503, Rose Hill, MS 39356	14
Oak Bowery	56.82	Oak Bowery	2808 Hwy. 528, Heidelberg, MS 39439	12
Paulding	46.68	Paulding	1174 Hwy. 503, Vossburg, MS 39366	13
Rose Hill	67.38	Rose Hill	CR 1531 Rose Hill, MS 39356	18
Stringer	61.75	Stringer	Hwy. 528, Bay Springs, MS 39422	24
Vossburg	10.36	Vossburg	CR 39, Vossburg, MS 39366	8

Heidelberg volunteers are included in Heidelberg Town.

There were approximately 11,000 structures within the county as of 2002 with a mean value of \$53,000 each. Of these structures approximately 50% are at risk from wildfires. The approximate value of these at risk structures is \$291,500,000.00.

### **III. Strategic Goals of the County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP):**

At the beginning of the planning process, the Jasper County Wildfire Protection Plan Steering Committee identified several goals. These goals were set to provide a common vision during the process and to identify specific results to be obtained upon completion of the final document.

- 1) Make recommendation to improve the resources of the Volunteer Fire Department.
  - a. Develop volunteer retention and recruitment programs
  - b. Develop training for volunteer fire department members provided by the Forestry Commission
- 2) Develop a communication network between the Volunteer Fire Departments and the Forestry Commission.
- 3) Seek funding for purchase of Rapid Response Brush Trucks.
- 4) Seek funding for equipment purchase to improve firefighting capacity for Volunteer fire Departments such as turnout gear, backpack, flaps, etc.
- 5) Improve the transportation system in the forest areas, where possible.
- 6) Seek funds to clear debris as a result of Hurricane Katrina.
- 7) Seek funding to identify location and methods of elimination of vegetation with high ignitability.

### **IV. Mapping**

#### **Map # 1, Fire Response Areas**

This map depicts the fire response areas, National Forest, VFD station locations and the incorporated communities within the county.

#### **Map # 2, Wildfires by Response Areas**

This map depicts the location of the wildfires for MFC FY's 2002-2007. Also shown on the map are the fire response areas, National Forest, VFD station locations and the incorporated communities within the county.



### **Map # 3, Arson Fires FY's 2002-2007**

This map depicts the locations of the arson fires for the FY 2002-2007 time period. Also shown on the map is the Wildland Urban Interface, National Forest, VFD station locations and the incorporated communities within the county.

### **Map # 4, Fire Data by MFC FY**

This map depicts the locations of the fires for the FY 2002-2007 time period, color-coded by FY. Also shown on the map is the Wildland Urban Interface, National Forest, VFD station locations, major oil and gas transmission lines, major electric transmission lines and the incorporated communities within the county.

### **Map # 5, High Occurrence Wildfire Areas**

This map depicts the locations of areas with a high occurrence of wildfires. Also shown on the map is the Wildland Urban Interface, National Forest, VFD station locations, major oil and gas transmission lines, major electric transmission lines and the incorporated communities within the county.

### **Map # 6, Risk Assessment Ratings**

This map depicts the location and color-coded risk assessment of utilities, community services, schools, railroads and communication facilities. Also shown on the map are the High Occurrence Wildfire Areas, Wildland Urban Interface, National Forest, major oil and gas transmission lines, major electric transmission lines and the incorporated communities within the county.

### **Map # 7, Base Map**

This map depicts the locations of facilities at risk from wildfires within the county. Included on this map is also the WUI, National Forest, Major roads, and incorporated communities within the county.

### **Map # 8, Oil and Gas Wells**

This map depicts the well site locations for oil and gas production within the county. Not all the well sites shown are in production. The areas with clusters of well sites have flow lines located at or near the surface connecting the well sites with tank and pump batteries.

### **Map # 9, Significant Lakes**

This map depicts the location of the major lakes within the county. Lake Claude Bennett is a public recreation area and Lake Eddins is a private gated residential community.

### **Map # 10, Population Density**

This map depicts the population density by census block area. Each dot on the map represents one person as reported by Census 2000 data.

## **IV. County Risk Assessment**

Through the County Risk Assessment fuel hazards, frequency of wildfire occurrence, vulnerability of development and infrastructure, and emergency preparedness were all considered in compiling the following list of county areas at risk from wildfires.

The Steering Committee attempted to identify large facilities that may be at risk due to their location, function or potential impact to the community if damaged or lost to wildfire. Once identified, these at-risk areas were prioritized to focus available financial and human resources on specific mitigation projects in the future.

For the purpose of this exercise, these areas were rated from low to high. Areas receiving the highest rating pose an increased risk due to their function, amount of nearby fuel load or their potential to cause significant community impact in the event of damage or loss due to wildfire. Removal or reduction in fuel load may be suggested for some areas, with public awareness campaign suggested for others.

Wildfires can occur anytime of the year but are more prevalent during the dry, hot summer months. The lack of rain, coupled with temperatures approaching 100 degrees during the middle of the day, turn these wooded areas into tinderboxes. One careless spark from a passing motorist's cigarette or from the lightning associated with strong summer thunderstorms, can cause a fire that damages hundreds of acres and threatens the lives and properties of the residents living in or near these areas. During times of extreme dry weather, local municipalities and the county have often issued "No Burn" orders to prevent local residents from causing a wildfire by letting a small fire get out of hand.

### **Rating Key**

■ Low

■ Medium

■ Medium High

■ High

## **Critical Infrastructure**

- **Volunteer Fire Department** - All Volunteer Fire Departments

The Volunteer Fire Departments are located throughout the county and are of critical importance, especially in the event of wildfires. The fire departments have little risk of fire or smoke. All stations are ranked as low except for Heidelberg Medium. (See Map # 1, VFD Response Areas.)

- **Emergency Communication Towers (Cellular Towers)**

At Stringer near County Road 157; at Highway 53 at Mossville; on Highway 528 near H.A.L. VFD; on County Road 23 near County Road 2343; on Highway 528 near County road 52816; at County Road 33 near U. S. Interstate 59 and at Lake Eddins near County Road 16. There is a good buffer at all of the emergency communication sites listed above. There is nominal smoke or “fire risk.” The towers are rated low. (See Map #6, Risk Assessment Ratings or # 7, Base Map.)

- **Power Substations**

Near Rose Hill at Highway 503 and Highway 18 East; at County Road 6 at Highway 11 South; at County Road 14 @ Highway 528; at County Road 10 and County Road 155; at County Road 5331 near County road 53315.

The power substations are located throughout the County and are rated low risk. The areas around the power substations are well maintained with good buffers. (See Map #6, Risk Assessment Ratings or # 7, Base Map.)

## **Areas of Community Importance:**

- **Community Services**

- **Nutrition Sites**

The Nutrition Center for elderly persons located at Rose Hill and the Nutrition Center for elderly located at Stringer are critical facilities and provides a source of recreation and a source of nutritious meals for persons 60 years and older. The areas are well buffered from wildfire and have little risk of fire or smoke. The Nutrition Center buildings are rated low. (See Map #6, Risk Assessment Ratings.)

- **Schools**

William Berry Elementary School

The school has a slight smoke risk but no fire risk. It is a low risk.

Jasper County Vocational Training Center

The school has a low risk.

### Stringer Attendance Center

The school has a slight smoke risk but not fire risk. The Stringer water system installed ample water supply sources around the school that can be used for fire protection. The school has a low risk.

#### ■ **Water Utility Sites**

Tallahala Well-Tank on County Road 156 at Highway 15 N; Tallahala Tank-Pump near Highway 15 near County Road 24; Tallahala Well-Tank on Highway 504 at Highway 503; Tallahala Well-Tank at County Road 24 near County Road 2420; Tallahala Well Tank on County Road 20 near County Road 2016; Tallahala Well-Tank at Highway 18 and Highway 508; Tallahala Well-Tank at County Road 1624 and County Road 1623; Tallahala Tank at County Road 2333 and County Road 23331; and Tallahala Well-Tank on County Road 2333 near County Road 2319. The water tanks and wells are considered low risk. All have been constructed with buffers around them. (See Map #6, Risk Assessment Ratings.)

Stringer Water Wells-Tanks on County Road 17 at County Road 172; at County Road 1717 and County Road 1731; Rose Hill Water Well at Highway 18; Paulding Water Well #1 and Paulding Water Well #2 at County Road 16 and Highway 503; Philadelphia Water Well-Tank at Claiborne and County Road 33; Philadelphia Well Tank #3/4 on County Road 31.

These water systems are located in areas that are rated high risk. The facilities have fire buffers around them and are rated low risk.

### **High Occurrence Wildfire Areas:**

#### ■ **Emergency Communication Towers**

Highway 503 at Highway 504; Off Interstate 59 at County Road 411; at Interstate 59 at the Vossburg Exit (#118); on County Road 39 at Vossburg; on County Road 141 off Highway 528; on County Road 820 off Highway 528; and on County Road 33 at County Road 337. There are buffers around the Emergency Communication Towers (cellular towers); however, those towers are located in a high-risk area for wildfires. The towers are considered to be medium risk.

#### ■ **Power Substation**

At Highway 18 at County Road 1840, the power substation is located in a forest area that is considered high risk. There are buffers around the substation, and the substation is considered to be medium risk.

- **Kansas City Southern Railroad (KCS) and Amtrak Rail Passenger Services**

The right-of-ways are cleared regularly along the KCS line. While the possibility of fire on the rail or in the rail is not probable, the potential for severe damage exists; for that reason, the Kansas City Southern railroad is a medium risk. (See Map # 6, Risk Assessment Ratings.)

- **Tallahala National Forest:**

The National Forest is well maintained. The underground is being removed, thus eliminating the fuel supply for fires. The National Forest is considered low risk. (See Map #9.)

- **Lake Claude Bennett:**

The State Forestry Commission maintains this water resort area. The forest area is rated high risk, thus making the area a high-risk area. (See Map #9, Significant Lakes.)

- **Lake Eddins Community:**

This area is a gated-community built around Lake Eddins. This resort community is located in a medium risk area. (See Map #9, Significant Lakes.)

## **Fuel Hazards:**

- **Oil Wells and Pumps**

Located in around the Town of Heidelberg and County Road 820 and County Road 357A and Claiborne Road are oil wells and pumps. The oil wells and pumps have good well-maintained buffers around them. The wells and pumps are located in areas with high risks of fires, but the wells and pumps are considered a medium risk. (See Map #8, Oil and Gas Wells.)

- Areas in the fire districts of Heidelberg, Rose Hill, Oak Bowery, Mossville and Stringer have high fire occurrences as a result of debris from Hurricane Katrina and Cogon grass. Highest amount of Katrina debris and Cogon grass is located along Highways 528,18 and 15 in Southeast Jasper County. These areas are rated high risk for fires.

## **VI. Emergency Preparedness**

Emergency Preparedness for each of the county volunteer departments is continually reviewed and assessed by the Jasper County Emergency Coordinator. The fire chiefs of each department meet on a regular basis to discuss and assess factors such as training, equipment inventory and manpower. Mutual aid agreements exist among all of the fire departments within the county, and many grants and loan programs have been utilized over the years to obtain needed equipment.

Fire Districts and municipalities in the State of Mississippi receive a public protection classification through the Mississippi State Rating Bureau (MSRB). This classification is the basis for determining the fire insurance rating for each district. All of the volunteer fire departments maintain a rating of Class 8. Each station is equipped and able to respond to the needs of the areas it serves. Steering Committee members did identify improvements that could be made to provide better services within the districts.

Oftentimes, it is necessary for Jasper County volunteer firefighters to work with the Mississippi Forestry Commission. In order to improve the firefighting efforts by both agencies, it is recommended meetings and training be held together. Communication by radio is a problem. It is recommended that the volunteer fire department and the Mississippi Forestry Commission share a radio communication channel.

New volunteers were a concern. Recruiting and retaining the volunteers is an issue. Lack of adequate equipment is an issue. The equipment is often worn out. Grants should be sought or fundraisers held to provide new gear as needed. Training is a major issue for new recruits and for retaining for current members. Funds and personnel to provide training at a central location in the Jasper County area are needed.

Equipment is an important factor in emergency Preparedness. A current inventory of equipment by location is provided below. Those areas with the highest risk of forest fires have the least amount of equipment.

Volunteer fire departments rated high risk are Rose Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Mossville, Oak Bowery, and Heidelberg have no brush trucks. H.A.L., Bay Springs and Northeast Volunteer Fire Department areas are rated medium high risk; however, only Bay Springs have a brush truck. Of the four volunteer fire departments rated medium risk, only one VFD does not have a brush truck; and of the fire departments rated low only Louin Volunteer Fire Department has a brush truck.

After a careful review of the other firefighting equipment, it is noted that the fire departments that are rated high risk have the least amount of equipment. When comparing the fire departments, approximately 37% have brush trucks; 14% of the volunteers have access to backpacks; 15% of the volunteers have access to flaps; 1.4% rakes per volunteer and in reality only one department has rakes; and each department as at least one truck. A current inventory of equipment by location is provided below:

## Jasper County VFD Inventory

VFD	Vols	Backpacks	Flaps	Rakes	Pumper	Tanker	Rescue	Brush Truck	Rating Class	BrushFires 02-07
Heidelberg	21	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	8	80
Rose Hill	25	4	12	0	2	2	1	0	8	75
Oak Bowery	12	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	8	68
Mossville	25	2	2	0	2	1	1	0	8	50
Stringer	33	4	4	0	3	1	1	1	8	100
H.A.L.	25	4	3	0	1	1	1	0	8	36
Bay Springs	24	4	2	0	2	0	1	1	8	39
Northeast Jasper	10	4	4	0	4	0	0	0	8	40
Lake Eddins	22	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	8	31
Paulding	10	4	2	0	1	1	1	0	8	25
Central	20	1	3	0	2	1	0	0	8	30
Vossburg	8	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	28
Louin	12	8	6	4	2	1	0	1	8	12
Montrose	13	2	2	0	2	1	1	0	8	15
Fellowship	20	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	8	15
Beaver Meadow	14	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	8	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>654</b>

### VII. Mitigation Projects and Structure (Ignitability Recommendations)

Through the Community Risk Assessment, several areas for improvement were identified. Mitigation projects for the at-risk areas may involve removal or reduction in fuel load for some, a public awareness campaign for others or a combination approach.

No specific treatment projects for Critical Infrastructure sites were identified or found to be necessary at this time. These sites were generally well maintained and have moderate to low ignitability potential.

The committee identified recommendations for specific fuel reduction. Projects include working with the USDA Soil Conservation Office to identify the vegetation, community outreach and education programs on wildfire protection and firewise practices.

#### County

- Develop a homeowner education program
- Encourage rural communities to become Firewise USA Communities (eg. Tradition)

- Be sure road signs are easy to read so that emergency responders can locate the address quickly.
- Implement a maintenance program to eradicate/control Cogon grass.

**Landowners:**

- Remove leaf clutter from roof and yard
- Provide a clearing of at least 30 feet around structure for firefighting equipment access
- Mow regularly
- Remove dead and overhanging branches
- Store firewood away from the house
- Remove “ladder fuels” that can link grasses to tree tops
- Make sure house numbers are clearly visible from the road so that emergency responders can locate the address quickly
- Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6' - 10' from the ground
- Don't keep combustible materials under decks or elevated porches
- Use construction materials that are fire resistant or non-combustible when possible



## VIII. Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

The action plan and assessment strategy portion of the County Wildfire Protection Plan serves to identify roles and responsibilities, determine funding needs, set timetables for carrying out identified activities and measures the plan's effectiveness.

1. Revise existing inventory of private ponds and other water sources that firefighters can use to fill pumpers. Dry hydrants needing maintenance can also be identified during this process.  
Responsibility: Jasper County Emergency Coordinator, East Central Planning and Development District  
Funding: County  
Timetable for Completion: Summer 2009  
Expected Outcome: More access to water to fight wildfires  
Assessment Timetable: Fall 2009; update list every 2-3 years
2. Establish biannual meetings between the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the Jasper County Volunteer Fire Departments.  
Responsibility: Jasper County Emergency Management Coordinator and the Mississippi Forestry Commission  
Funding: \$0  
Timetable for Completion: Implement immediately  
Expected Outcome: Improved communication and coordination in the areas of firefighting, training, safety and project management  
Assessment Timetable: 2-5 years
3. Develop a community outreach and education program using the newspaper, listing specific fire concerns in the area and steps that homeowners can take to reduce ignitability potential. Include responsibilities (liabilities) that private property owners incur by burning debris.  
Responsibility: Jasper County Emergency Management Coordinator in coordination with Mississippi Forestry Commission and local Volunteer Fire Departments  
Funding: Homeland Security Fire Safety Grant, possible coordination for inclusion in organizations newsletter or other mail-out  
Timetable for Completion: October 2009. Coordinate with Fire Prevention  
Expected Outcome: Implementation of Firewise safety measures by homeowners, including an increase in properly assigned and visible residential addressing as well as a decrease in non-compliant residential burns.  
Assessment Timetable: Winter 2010
4. Community outreach program to educate citizens, specifically young adults, about the volunteer firefighter program and its importance. This program could include a high school component where students are made aware of the program so that they might consider serving at some point in the future.  
Responsibility: Jasper County Emergency Management Coordinator  
Funding: Volunteer Fire Departments, grants, Mississippi Forestry Commission  
Timetable for Completion: 1-2 times per year in coordination with Fire Prevention Week

Expected Outcome: Increased community awareness of the need for volunteer firefighters and increase in volunteer recruitment

Assessment Timetable: Annual review of recruitment efforts and numbers

5. Maintain and update the grants/funding resource list included in CWPP document.  
Responsibility: Jasper County Emergency Management Coordinator, East Central Planning and Development District  
Funding: \$0  
Timetable for Completion: Yearly  
Expected Outcome: Additional grant applications resulting in an increase of grant funds  
Assessment Timetable: Review applications v. funding annually
6. Maintain, update and redistribute the CWPP maps to all county departments, volunteer fire departments and other organizations utilizing the document.  
Responsibility: Jasper County Emergency Coordinator and East Central Planning and Development District  
Funding: \$0  
Timetable for Completion: Yearly  
Expected Outcome: Increase awareness of fire activity leading to implementation of action plan in an effort toward reduction of fire incidents  
Assessment Timetable: Make any additions or changes to maps on an annual basis and interview other organizations to see if maps make their role in wildfire prevention or response more effective
7. Seek funding for the purchase of Rapid Response Brush Trucks.  
Responsibility: Jasper County Emergency Management Coordinator and Board of Supervisors  
Funding: Potential grant opportunities  
Timetable for Completion: Spring 2009/2010  
Expected Outcome: Improved firefighting capabilities, particularly in light of the MFC manpower shortage  
Assessment Timetable: Summer 2010

## IX. Potential Funding Sources:

1. Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program  
Website: [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com)  
Application Deadline: Spring 2009  
Program Description: Funding for training, equipment, vehicles, firefighter health and safety program and operations
  
2. Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant Program  
Website: [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com)  
Application Deadline: Fall 2009  
Program Description: Outreach to high risk target groups including children, seniors and firefighters. Monitor website for further information on eligible activities.
  
3. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program  
Website: [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com)  
Application Deadline: Summer 2009  
Program Description: Funding for the hiring of fire personnel and incentives for volunteer recruitment and retention
  
4. USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Program  
Website: [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)  
Application Deadline: Contact local USDA Representative  
Program Description: Funding for assistance in developing an essential community facility. Funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety and community and public services
  
5. Grants Office  
Website: [www.firegrants.info](http://www.firegrants.info) and [www.gransoffice.com](http://www.gransoffice.com)  
Program Description: Provides info. tools and tips to help fire departments be more successful at obtaining funds from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
  
6. Hazard Mitigation  
Website: [www.mitigationms.org](http://www.mitigationms.org)  
Application Deadline: Varies - contact Mississippi Emergency Management Agency  
Program Description: Provides grant funds for hazard mitigation projects, including emergency generators, warning sirens and mitigation planning

7. Grants Office: Mississippi Development Authority CAP Loan  
 Website: [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org)  
 Application Deadline: Ongoing  
 Program Description: Funding assistance for fire protection. Funds can be used to purchase fire trucks and brush trucks.
8. Grants Office: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (RCS) – Jasper County Soil Conservation Office  
 Website: [www.usda.gov/nrcs](http://www.usda.gov/nrcs)  
 Application Deadline: Ongoing  
 Program Description: Funding assistance to help residents eradicate cogon grass.

## **X. References:**

Data sources utilized in preparation of this plan, include:

Mississippi Forestry Commission

U. S. Bureau of the Census

Jasper County Hazard Mitigation Plan prepared by East Central Planning and Development District

East Central Planning and Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2007

Firewise

Around Your Home Brochure, [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

USDA Forest Service

Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, March 2004

Jasper County Flowing with Opportunity, [www.co.jasper.ms.us/industry.html](http://www.co.jasper.ms.us/industry.html)

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, “Bureau of Plant Industry”, [http://www.mdac.state.ms.us/n\\_library/departments/bpi/bpi\\_pesticide.html](http://www.mdac.state.ms.us/n_library/departments/bpi/bpi_pesticide.html)

## **XI. Project Contact Information:**

East Central Planning and Development District

Post Office Box 499

280 Commercial Drive

Newton, Mississippi 39345

601-683-2007

Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts

Post Office Box 4935

Jackson, Mississippi 39216

601-981-1511

National Forest Service  
Bienville National Forest  
Gary Bufkin  
Assistant Fire Management Officer  
Forest MS

Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks  
Paul Windham  
Wildlife Supervisor, District # 4  
Lauderdale County

Jasper County Emergency Management  
Mike Lucas, Director  
P.O. Box 1106  
Bay Springs, MS 39422  
601-764-3800

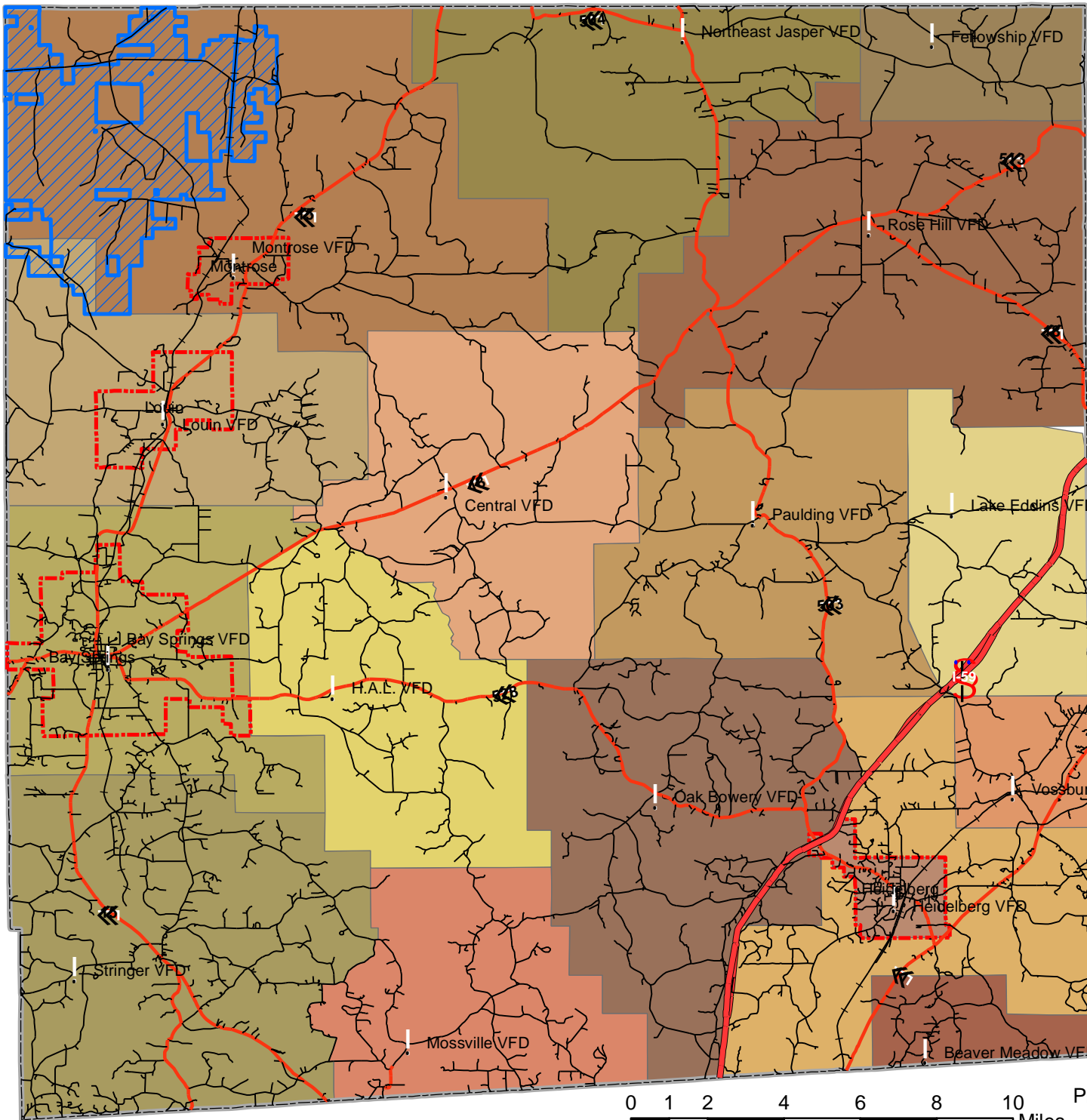
***Jasper County Volunteer Fire Chiefs***

Bay Springs VFD, Tommy Boyd, P.O. Box 307, Bay Springs MS 39422  
Beaver Meadow VFD, Ceasar Hales, 191 CR371-A, Heidelberg MS 39439  
Lake Eddins VFD, Terry Hinton, P.O. Box 356, Ellisville MS 39437  
Central VFD, Anthony Morrison, 398 CR29, Bay Springs MS 39422  
Northeast Jasper VFD, Randy Loper, P.O. Box 4032, Rose Hill MS 39356  
Oak Bowery VFD, Jack Darty, 2808 Hwy 528, Heidelberg MS 39439  
Heidelberg & Vossburg VFD's, Prentiss Henley Jr., P.O. Box 74, Heidelberg MS 39439  
Louin VFD, Walter Phillips, 9 CR16124, Louin MS 39338  
Montrose VFD, Clyde Gardner, 5095 Hwy 15, Louin MS 39338  
Mossville VFD, Chris Graham, 282 CR 21, Laurel MS 39443  
Paulding VFD, Mitchell Fowler, 1174 Hwy 503, Vossburg MS 39366  
Rose Hill VFD, James Lewis Jr., P.O. Box 54, Rose Hill MS 39356  
Stringer VFD, Darrell Satcher, P.O. Box 206, Stringer MS 39481  
Fellowship VFD, Jerry Hamrick, 226 CR 2422, Hickory MS 39332

**XII. Maps**  
See attached maps.

# Jasper County, MS County Wildfire Protection Plan

## Fire Response Areas



### Legend

- VFD Stations
- Railroad
- Road
- Highway
- Interstate
- Bienville National Forest
- Census Place
- County Boundary

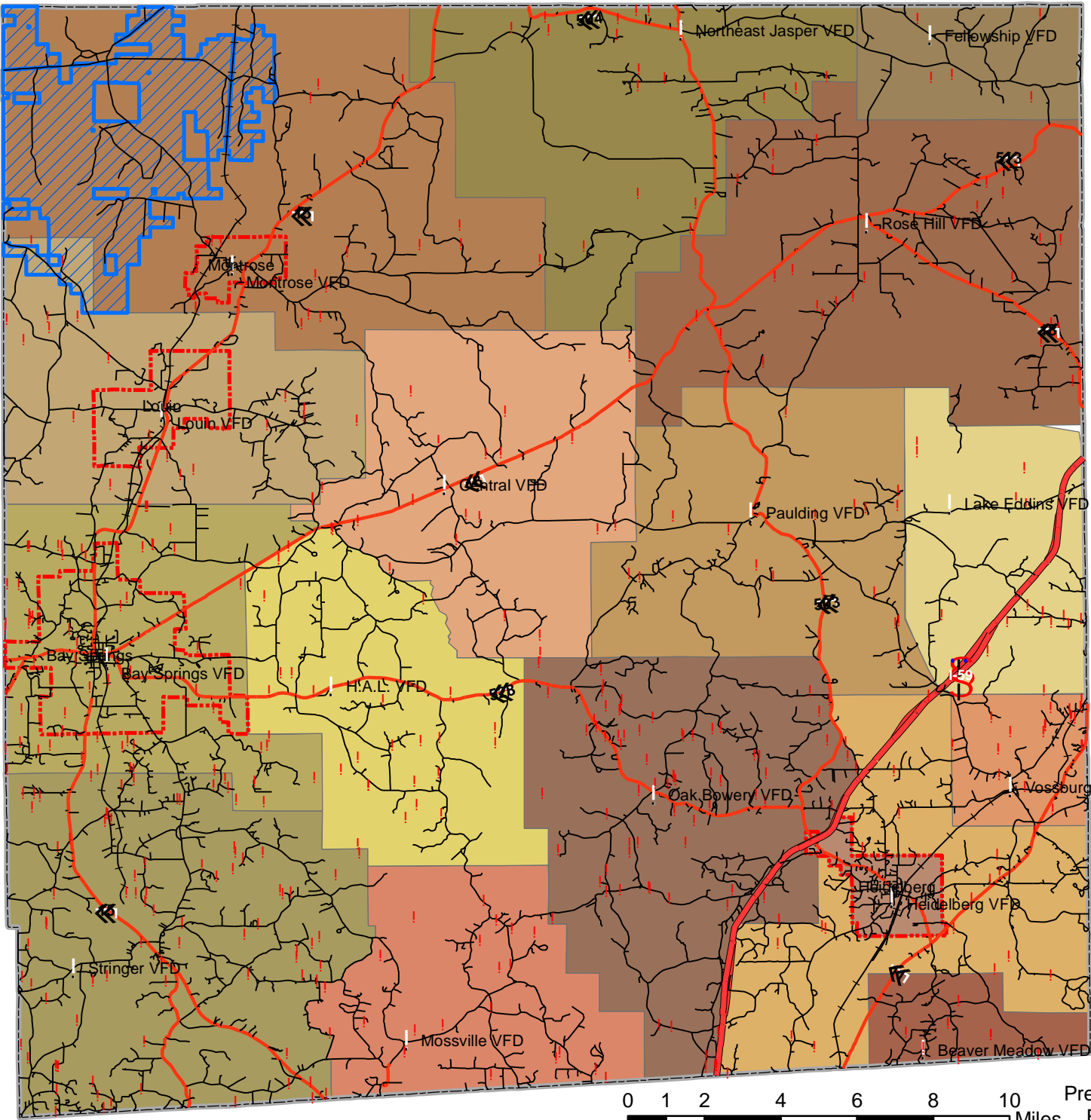
### Response Areas

- Bay Springs
- Beaver Meadow
- Central
- Fellowship
- H.A.L.
- Heidelberg
- Heidelberg (Town)
- Lake Eddins
- Louin
- Montrose
- Mossville
- North East Jasper
- Oak Bowery
- Paulding
- Rose Hill
- Stringer
- Vossburg



# Jasper County, MS County Wildfire Protection Plan

## Wildfires by Response Area



**Legend**

- Fires FY 2002-2007
- VFD Stations
- Railroad
- Road
- Highway
- Interstate
- Bienville National Forest
- Census Place
- County Boundary

**Response Areas**

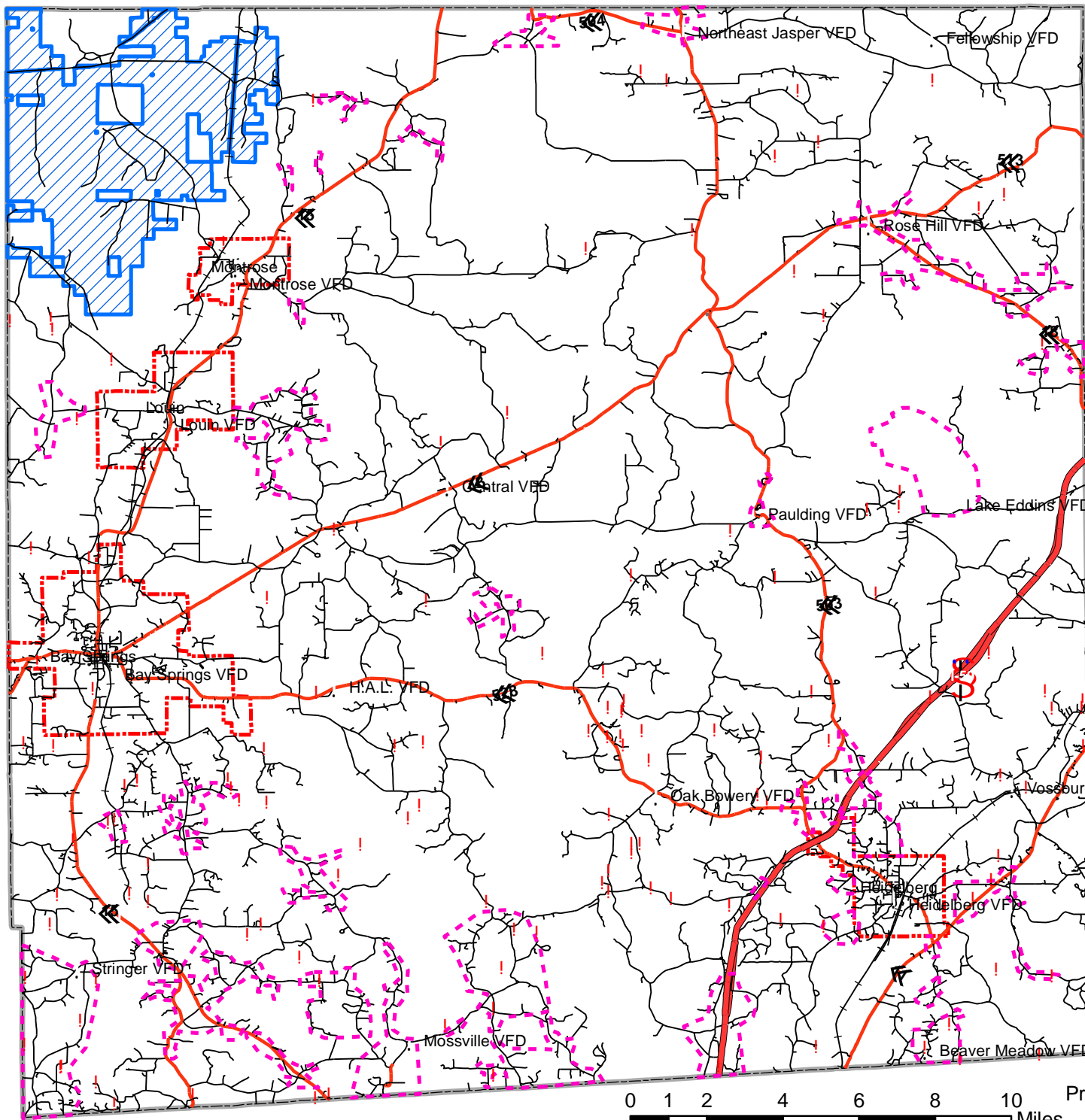
- Bay Springs
- Beaver Meadow
- Central
- Fellowship
- H.A.L.
- Heidelberg
- Heidelberg (Town)
- Lake Eddins
- Louin
- Montrose
- Mossville
- North East Jasper
- Oak Bowery
- Paulding
- Rose Hill
- Stringer
- Vossburg

0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles Prepared by ECPDD



# Jasper County, MS County Wildfire Protection Plan

*Arson Fires  
FY's 2002-2007*



**Legend**

- ! Arson Incident
- Wildland Urban Interface
- VFD Stations
- +— Railroad
- Road
- Highway
- Interstate
- ▨ Bienville National Forest
- ▭ Census Place
- ▭ County Boundary

0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles Prepared by ECPDD





















# Jasper County, MS County Wildfire Protection Plan

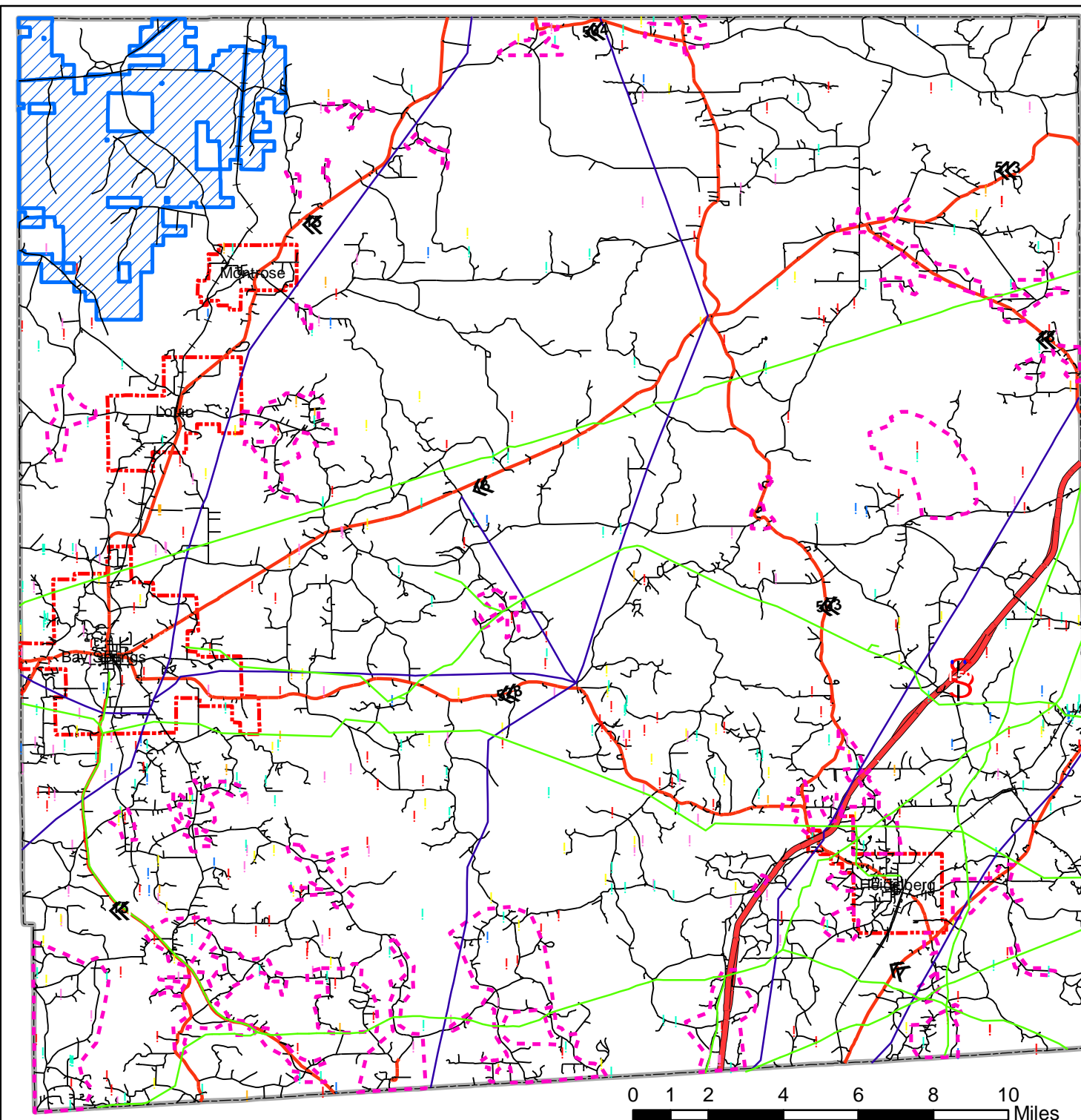
*Fire Data  
by MFC FY  
2002-2007*

Prepared by  
ECPDD

## Legend

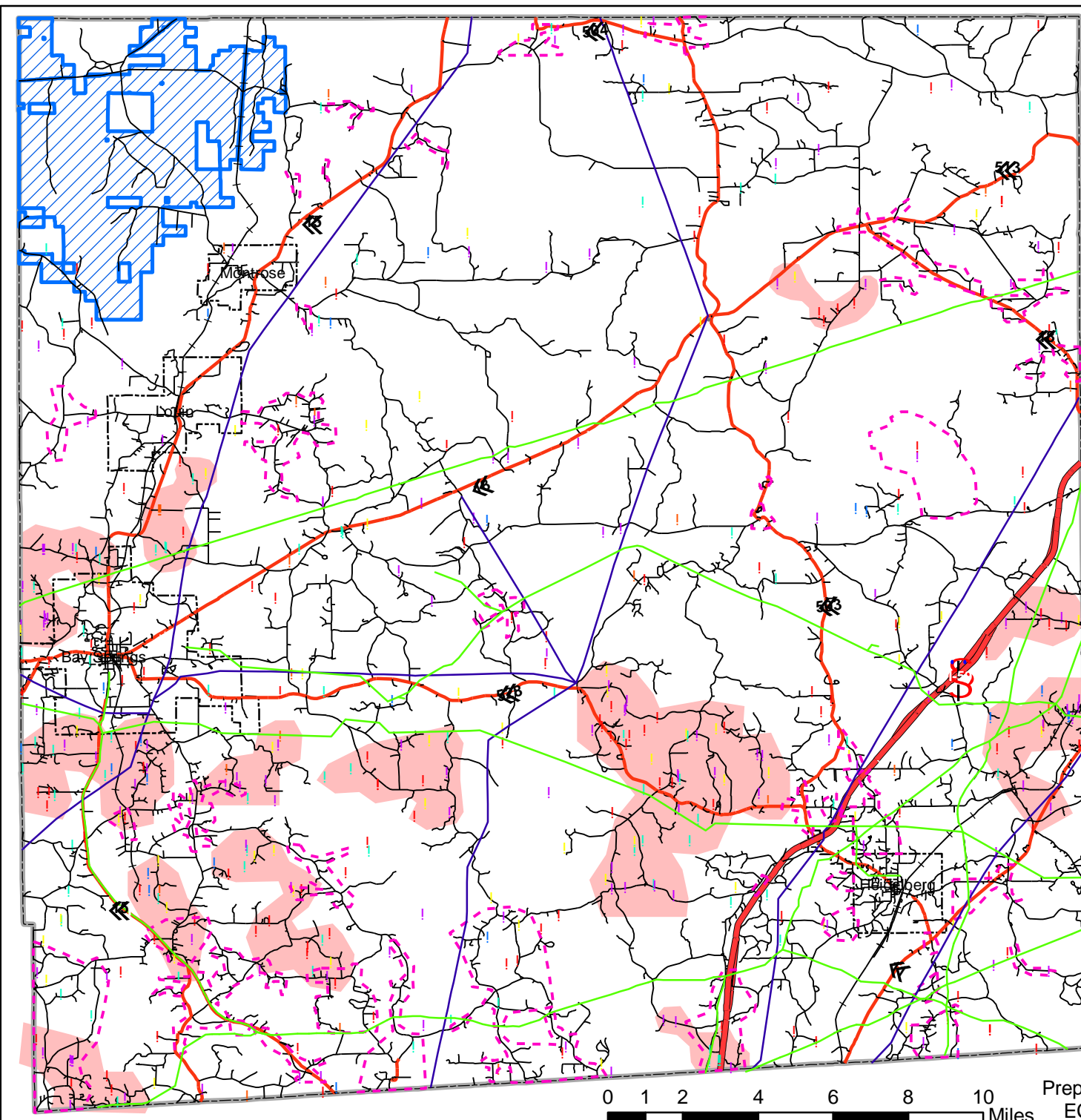
-  Oil or Gas Pipeline
-  Electric Transmission Lines
-  Wildland Urban Interface
- MFC\_FY Fires**
-  2002
-  2003
-  2004
-  2005
-  2006
-  2007
-  Railroad
-  Road
-  Highway
-  Interstate
-  Bienville National Forest
-  Census Place
-  County Boundary

0 1 2 4 6 8 10  
Miles



# Jasper County, MS County Wildfire Protection Plan

*High Occurrence  
Wildfire Areas*



## Legend

- Oil or Gas Pipeline
- Electric Transmission Lines
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Fire Incident**
  - 2002
  - 2003
  - 2004
  - 2005
  - 2006
  - 2007
- Road
- Highway
- Interstate
- Railroad
- Bienville National Forest
- Census Place
- County Boundary
- High Fire Occurrence

0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles

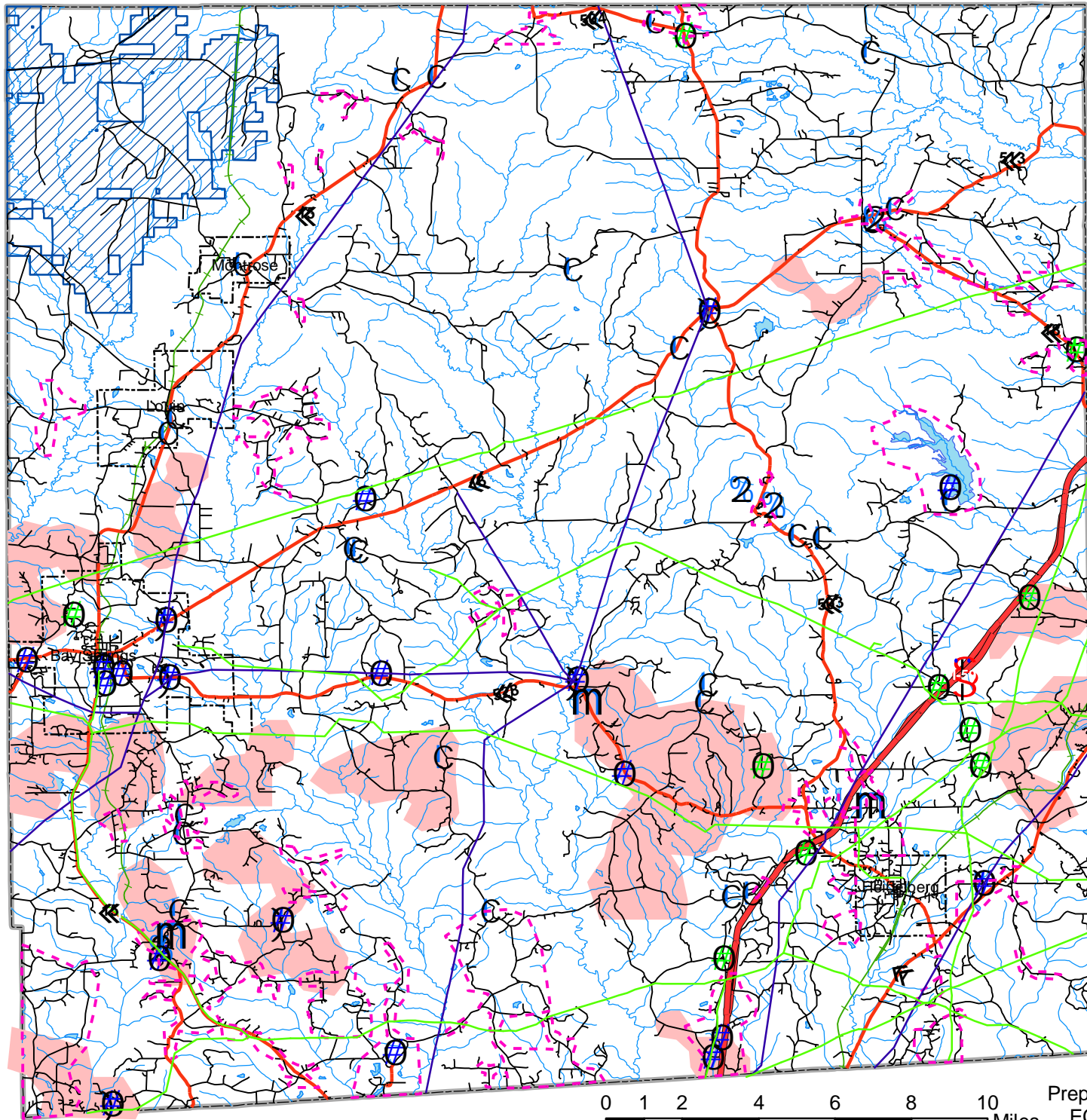
Prepared by  
ECPDD



# Jasper County, MS County Wildfire Protection Plan

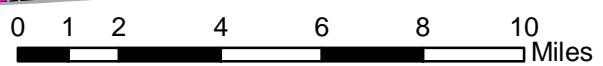
## Risk Assessment Ratings

Items are color coded as to risk level  
Blue= Low Risk, Green= Medium Risk  
Yellow= Medium High, Red= High Risk



### Legend

- Wildland Urban Interface
- Electric Transmission Lines
- Oil or Gas Pipeline
- Railroad
- Cellular Towers**
- Low
- Medium
- Community Services
- School
- Water Utilities
- Power Substations**
- Low
- Medium
- Road
- Highway
- Interstate
- Streams
- Bienville National Forest
- Census Place
- High Fire Occurrence
- Lakes
- County Boundary



Prepared by  
ECPDD




















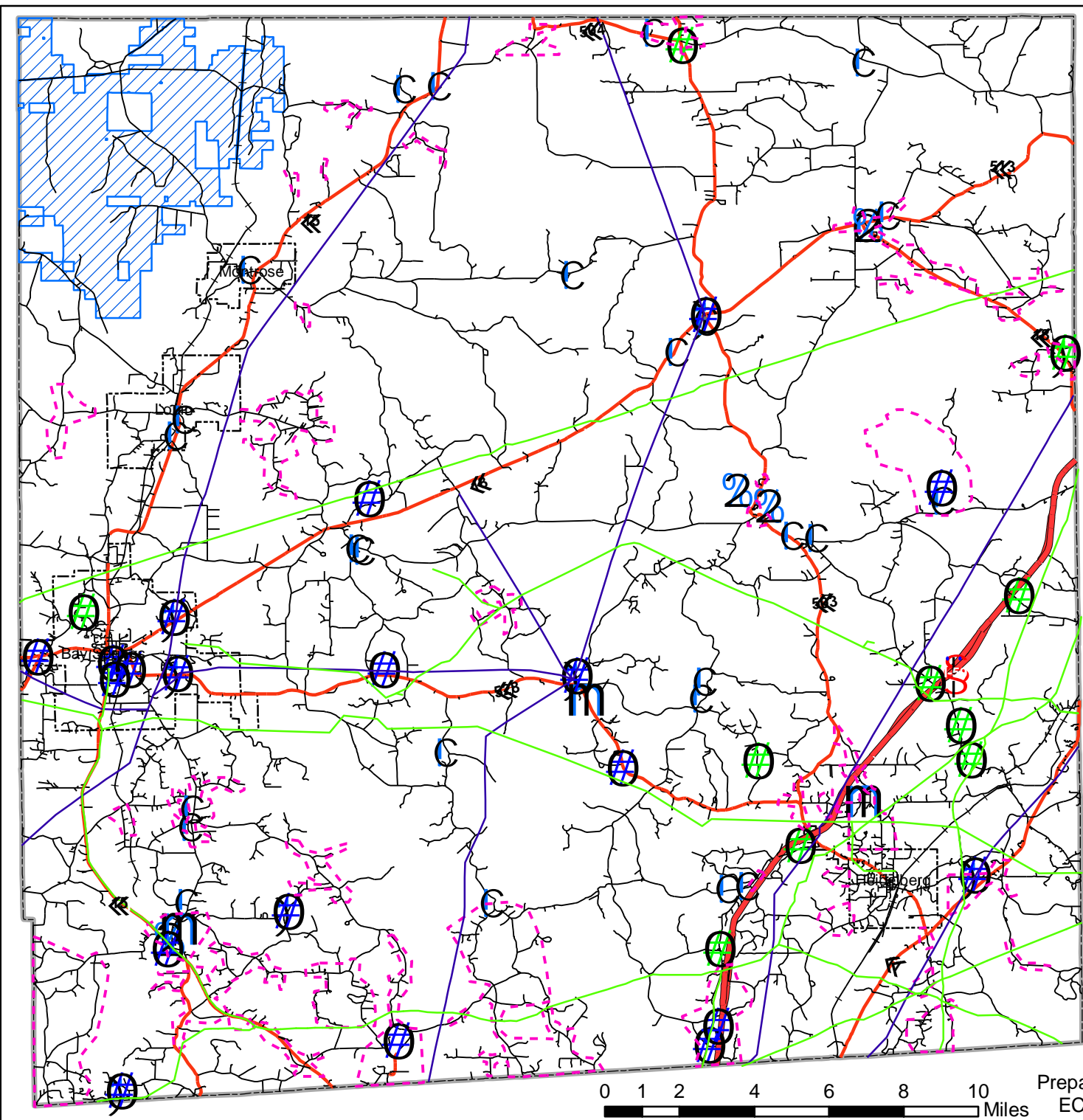
# Jasper County, MS County Wildfire Protection Plan

## Base Map

Items are color coded as to risk level  
Blue= Low Risk, Green= Medium Risk  
Yellow= Medium High, Red= High Risk

### Legend

-  Oil or Gas Pipeline
-  Electric Transmission Lines
-  Wildland Urban Interface
-  Road
-  Highway
-  Interstate
-  Railroad
-  Bienville National Forest
-  Census Place
-  County Boundary
-  Community Services
-  School
-  Water Utilities
- Cellular Towers**
-  Low
-  Medium
- Power Substations**
-  Low
-  Medium



0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles

Prepared by  
ECPDD















# Jasper County, MS County Wildfire Protection Plan

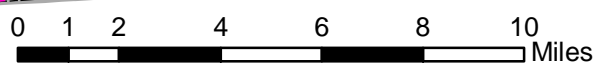
## Oil and Gas Wells

Note:  
Not all the well sites are in production.  
The areas with clusters of wells also  
have flow lines at or near the surface  
running to tank and pump batteries.

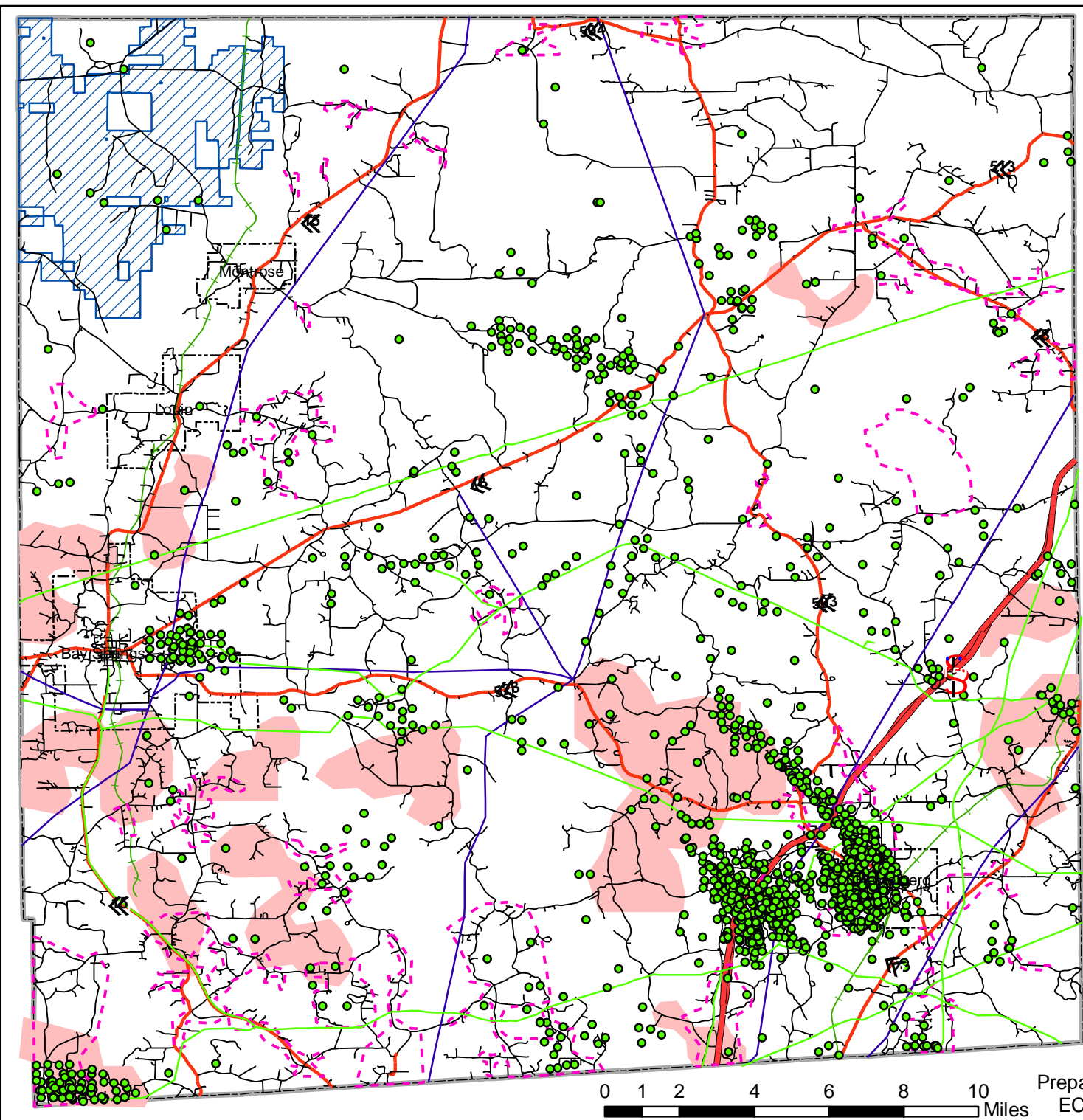
Items are color coded as to risk level  
Blue= Low Risk, Green= Medium Risk  
Yellow= Medium High, Red= High Risk

### Legend

-  Oil and Gas Well Sites
-  Wildland Urban Interface
-  Electric Transmission Lines
-  Oil or Gas Pipeline
-  Railroad
-  Road
-  Highway
-  Interstate
-  Bienville National Forest
-  Census Place
-  High Fire Occurrence
-  County Boundary



Prepared by  
ECPDD



# Jasper County, MS County Wildfire Protection Plan

## Significant Lakes

Lake Claude Bennett

Lake Eddins

Items are color coded as to risk level  
Blue= Low Risk, Green= Medium Risk  
Yellow= Medium High, Red= High Risk

### Legend

- Wildland Urban Interface
- Electric Transmission Lines
- Oil or Gas Pipeline
- Railroad
- Road
- Highway
- Interstate
- Bienville National Forest
- Census Place
- High Fire Occurrence
- County Boundary

0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles

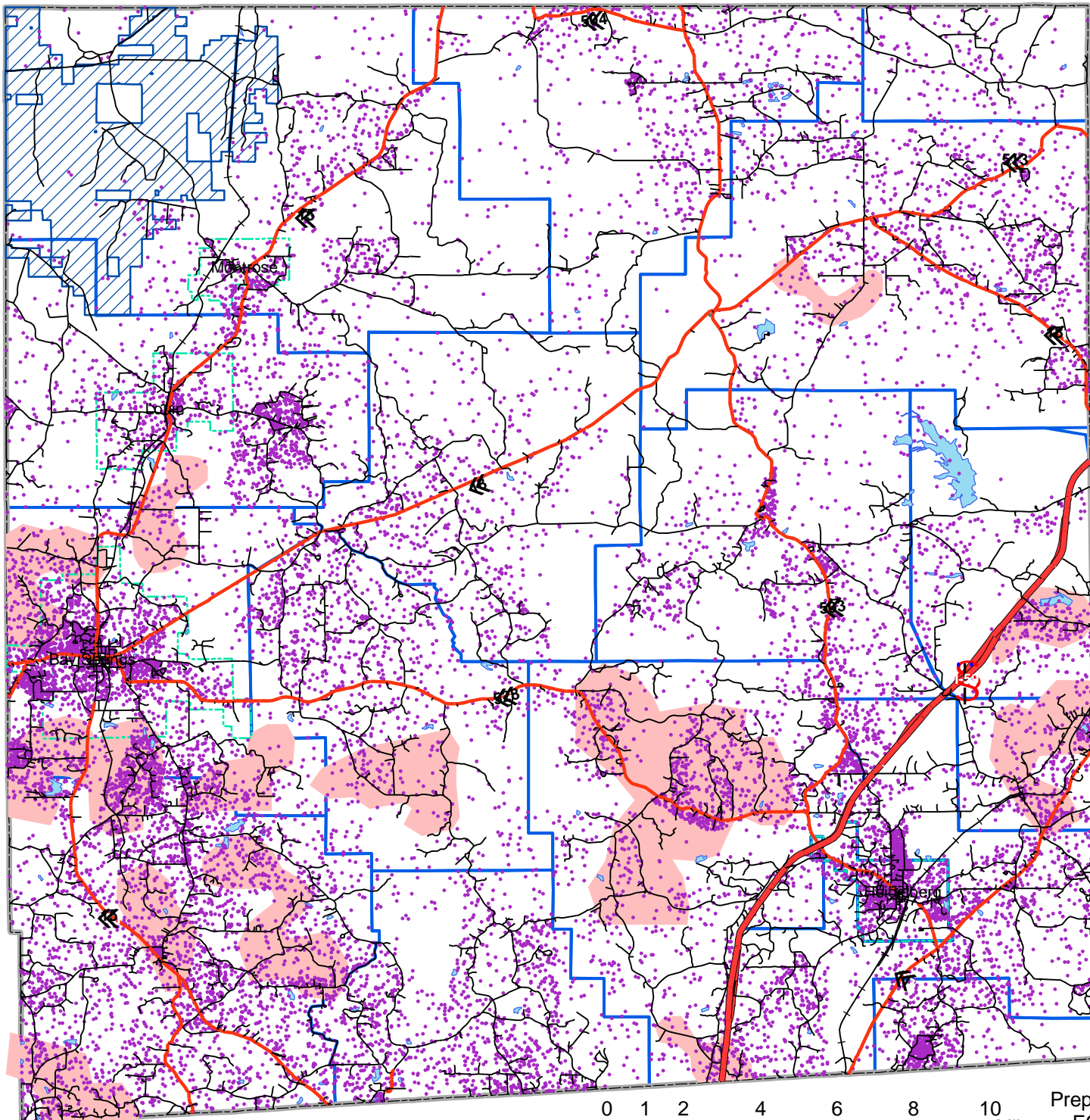
Prepared by  
ECPDD



# Jasper County, MS County Wildfire Protection Plan

## Population Density by Census Block

Each Dot = 1 person  
Data source: Census 2000



### Legend

- Railroad
- Road
- Highway
- Interstate
- Bienville National Forest
- Census Place
- High Fire Occurrence
- County Boundary
- Response Area
- Ponds & Lakes

Prepared by  
ECPDD

