PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

OCTOBER 2008

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Introduction

In late 2006, the Mississippi Forestry Commission and The Nature Conservancy commissioned the preparation of wildfire protection plans for a fifteen-county south Mississippi region. The plan is an effort to address changes to the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) brought about by Hurricane Katrina as well as from increased development in many parts of the region in recent years. While some downed timber was salvaged, an increased risk of future wildfire remains a threat because of residual debris.

The Wildland-Urban Interface, where structures and other developments merge with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels, can create one of the most dangerous and complex situations for firefighters. The WUI zone can pose a significant risk to communities in the event of a large-scale wildfire. In a proactive effort to address these increased risks and others, Perry County has agreed to create a County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). A CWPP can reduce the potential for loss in the event of a wildfire by identifying priorities for the protection of life, property and critical infrastructure within the WUI.

With 5 plans already completed by the end of 2007, SMPDD officials began gathering geographical data, historical fire information, etc. for Perry County in early 2008. Planners then met with the local county fire coordinator to review the information and obtain input on the strengths and weaknesses of the county fire departments and their ability to fight wildfires. Later, a Steering Committee was formed through cooperation of local, state and federal agencies, and other interested parties. The Steering Committee included a subcommittee of members from the Perry County Emergency Management Agency, the Mississippi Forestry Commission, and Volunteer Fire Departments.

Over the next several months the Steering Committee, with the opportunity for public input, produced a County Wildfire Protection Plan. The Plan includes several components: Geographic Information System produced maps, a County Risk Assessment, a Mitigation Projects List, Structure Ignitability Recommendations and an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy. It is the intent of the Steering Committee that this plan will guide development and educate landowners, as well as address and then treat at-risk wildfire areas within the County.

This plan was developed with an effort toward consistency with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan (currently under review by MEMA/FEMA) and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Area Description

Perry County is located in the central portion of the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District. It is rural in context, with the Town of Richton being the largest incorporated municipality. The county has two other incorporated entities: the Town of Beaumont and the Town of New Augusta.

Transportation routes in Perry County provide adequate access to urban centers in the region. U.S. Highway 98 runs East and West throughout the entire county, enabling a direct route to the City of Hattiesburg to the West and the City of Mobile, Alabama, to the southeast. State highways located within the county are 15, 29, and 42.

The population of Perry County in 2000 was 12,138 evidencing a 11.7% growth in residency since 1990; a growth rate slightly higher than the 10% reported for the 1980-1990 interval. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates a 2007 population of 12,205, a .5% increase since 2000. The Census Bureau projection for Perry County's population in 2010 is 14,118; this would be a 14% increase for the ten year period.

Perry County contains 615 square miles, with land largely held by private landowners. Approximately 84% of the county land area is contained within commercial forests. Perry County has a wide array of facilities that offer its residents access to several outdoor activities. There is access to sports parks with baseball fields, basketball and tennis courts. Access to natural resources that provide access for camping, hunting, fishing are also plentiful. DeSoto National Forest, the largest of Mississippi's six national protected woodlands, also runs into Perry County. The major water source in Perry County is the Leaf River. The Mahned Bridge and New Augusta Historic Site are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The climate of Perry County is mild with the mean annual temperature in the mid 60's. Average winter temperatures range from 35 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit with summer temperatures ranging from 69 to 92 degrees Fahrenheit. Rainfall averages approximately 60 inches annually with the majority of accumulation from November to July. Because of high annual precipitation amounts, Perry County is not typically prone to property damaging wildfires. Occasionally, however, drought-like conditions prompt fire service officials to issue bans against burning and encroachment of urban development into wildlands becomes more of a concern. County wind speeds are generally less than 10 miles per hour, but often increase during storms. Thunderstorms occur frequently and are sometimes accompanied by strong to severe winds, including tornadoes.

About 84 percent of the land in Perry County is use-classified as timber, open, or agriculture, creating an enhanced risk to the county of wildfires. Streams and drainage basins create natural barriers that help reduce this risk. Woodland fires are controlled by rural volunteer firefighting departments and/or forestry service personnel. Based on historical occurrences, wildfires can be expected annually in the less urbanized parts of the county. It is the threat of a spread of rural wildfires to the urban fringe that poses the greatest concern. Mitigation measures such as prescribed burns, training and

equipping firefighters, and public education on fire protection and Firewise strategies all help to control the risk to life and property.

While climate conditions and debris can cause ignitability, certain industrial operations and facilities can also raise the overall threat of fire. Major transportation arteries through Perry County such as U.S. Highway 98 and MS Highways 15, 29, and 42 are used daily to transport flammable, toxic, and/or explosive materials, thus exposing the county to potential transportation incidents involving hazardous and/or explosive materials. Several facilities located within Perry County use, store, or process flammable, toxic, and/or explosive materials. In addition, there are several wells and pipelines spanning the County which contain petroleum, natural gas, and other substances. Volunteer fire departments within the County serve as first responders if an accident involving hazardous materials occurs.

Perry County is divided into the following ten (7) rural fire response areas covering the entire county: Arlington, Beaumont, Hintonville, Janice, New Augusta, Richton, and Runnelstown. All fire response areas and station locations are listed below.

Fire Response Area	Fire Department	Station Location(s)	Total Number of Volunteers
Arlington	Arlington VFD	287 Arlington Road Beaumont, MS 39423	12
Beaumont	Beaumont VFD	1511 Beaumont BrooklynRoad Beaumont, MS 39423	12
Hintonville	Hintonville VFD	358 Hintonville Road Richton, MS 39476	11
Janice	Janice VFD	9911 Janice-Brooklyn Road Brooklyn, MS 39425	12
New Augusta	New Augusta VFD	304 Willow Street East New Augusta, MS 39462	12
Richton	Richton VFD	111 Walnut Street N Richton, MS 39476	15
Runnelstown	Runnelstown VFD Station 1	9285 Hwy 42 E Petal, MS 39465	30
Runnelstown	Runnelstown VFD Station 2	4 Phillips Nursery Road Richton, MS 39476	Same as 1

Strategic Goals of the County Wildfire Protection Plan

At the beginning of the planning process, the Perry County CWPP 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. Define the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) for Perry County.

2. Identify and prioritize high-risk areas within the WUI.

3. Identify treatment methods for prioritized high risk areas.

4. Make recommendations to reduce structure ignitability.

5. Purchase new equipment and gear including brush trucks, tankers and turnout gear.

6. Develop new volunteer recruitment program.

7. Identify strategies to encourage collaboration and increase communication between Perry County and the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

8. Improve house number markings, signage and access to locked gates at private residences. All slow response time to structures in the event of wildfire.

9. Look at the feasibility of boat ramps for access to water from the rivers in case of a major fire emergency.

10. Look at the feasibility of installing dry hydrants at bridges for quick connect access to water.

11. Research funding to replace underweight bridges.

12. Improve access to rural areas of county to increase ability to fight wood fires by improving the E-911 addressing and better signage.

Mapping

The Perry County Wildfire Protection Plan contains seven maps created by the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District (SMPDD) Geographic Information System Department. These maps were created for planning purposes to aid in the assessment of county wildfire occurrence and emergency preparedness. The maps include the Perry County Base Map, Perry County Risk Assessment Ratings, Perry County Fire Data 2001-2007, High Occurrence Wildfire Areas, Arson Fires 2001-2007, Perry County Fire Response Area, and Wildfires by Fire Response Area.

The county-wide base map provides a graphic baseline of infrastructure, roadways, inhabited areas, areas of community importance and a WUI designation. Initially, the WUI was set at ½-mile from existing municipal boundaries in accordance with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. The Steering Committee then edited this line to include area developments within the county but not adjacent to municipalities.   It was noted by the Steering Committee that the county has many areas where wildland meets development. For this reason, the Perry County WUI will identify areas where the highest amount of development occurs and aid in identifying specific risk factors and treatment projects that have the potential to reduce the risk to life, property and critical infrastructure.

In addition to the WUI, the Steering Committee identified several areas of critical infrastructure including roadways for evacuation, water towers, utilities and the communication towers. The Base Map has become a visual representation of the core elements of county protection as identified for the CWPP.

The Risk Assessment Map graphically reflects the results of the risk assessment portion of the county wildfire protection plan process. The risk assessment process is explained in detail below. The resulting map reflects the infrastructure, roadways, municipalities and areas of community importance found on the base map. The Steering Committee assigned a risk rating to each of these attributes by considering available fuel load, frequency of wildfire occurrence, vulnerability of development and infrastructure, and emergency preparedness. These ratings were then displayed in map form to better enable review and assessment of the entire county.

Several fire occurrence maps were created from data collected from the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC). The data reflect both wildfires and controlled burns, and several different causes of fires. Fire causes include lightning, campfire, smoking, debris burning, arson, and equipment use. Mississippi Forestry Commission data for Perry County shows a total of 13 fires in the year 2001, 45 fires in 2002, 23 fires in 2003, 26 fires in 2004, 60 fires in 2005, 90 fires in 2006, and 31 fires in 2007. The fire occurrence maps were utilized in the Risk Assessment portion of the CWPP and as a valuable reference during the process of formulating mitigation projects and action items.

Through the use of the SMPDD Geographic Information System, all fires and all causes, tracked for years 2001-2007 by the MFC, are reflected on the Perry County Wildfires

2001-2007 map. When these data are mapped, it becomes apparent that there are specific geographic areas where there is a high occurrence of wildfire.

The High Occurrence Wildfire Areas are based on a computer calculation used to determine density and distribution by comparing each fire occurrence to its surrounding neighbors. The resulting calculation was then separated into nine classes to isolate areas with higher density. The lowest six classes were eliminated, and the remaining three classes were converted to single polygons to represent the three regions displayed as high occurrence areas. The regions were then manually edited to exclude fringe incidents leading to distinct and cohesive boundaries. Area 1 is geographically located in the northeast portion of the county encompassing the city of Richton and the surrounding area. Area 2 is geographically located in the east-central area of the county just north of the city of Beaumont. Area 3 geographically located southeast of the city of Beaumont along the Highway 98 corridor.

A majority of the fires within Perry County, approximately 42%, are attributed to arson. According to Forestry Commission wildfire data, 121 out of 288 fires tracked from 2001-2007 were attributed to arson. The map of Arson Fires by Year reflects the geographic distribution of these fires throughout the county.

The Perry County Fire Response Area map reflects the county emergency service areas with respective boundaries, as well as each volunteer fire station location. Also included is a map reflecting all wildfires from 2001-2007 as well as emergency service area boundaries and the department locations. Wildfires 2001-2007 by Fire Response Area will aid in the assessment of numbers of fires and their general location within each district.

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 to compile the following list of county areas at risk from wildfire.

The Steering Committee attempted to identify large facilities that may be at risk from wildfire 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 may cause significant community impact in the event of damage or loss due to a wildfire. Mitigation projects for the at-risk areas include a wide array of activities. Removal or reduction in fuel load may be suggested for some areas, with a public awareness campaign suggested for others.

Rating Key

■ Low
■ Medium
■ High

Critical Infrastructure:

■ Janice Water Association (North Well)

This facility is regularly maintained within a 100 yard radius of the facility and is generally not at risk from wildfire.
This risk rating is low.

■ Janice Water Association (South Well)

This facility is regularly maintained within a 100 yard radius of the facility and is generally not at risk from wildfire.
This risk rating is low.

■ Janice Volunteer Fire Department

Though located in a heavily wooded area, this is little risk.
The risk rating is low.

■ Northeast Perry County Water Association Elevated Tower #1

This facility is regularly maintained within a 100 yard radius of the facility and is generally not at risk from wildfire.
This risk rating is low.

■ Northeast Perry County Water Association Elevated Tower #2

This facility is regularly maintained within a 100 yard radius of the facility and is generally not at risk from wildfire.
This risk rating is low.

■ Runnelstown Water Association Elevated Tower

This facility is regularly maintained within a 100 yard radius of the facility and is generally not at risk from wildfire.
This risk rating is low.

Vulnerable Facilities

There are currently no vulnerable facilities outside of the WUI that are at risk from a wildfire.

Areas of Community Importance

■ Runnelstown Elementary School

This school is the only Perry County School outside the WUI. There would be a significant loss but there is little risk.
The risk rating is low.

■ Mahned Bridge

The bridge has historical significance but little risk.
The risk rating is low.

Areas of Concern

■ Any areas in the county that continue to have a heavy fuel load, in the form of downed timber, especially since Hurricane Katrina.

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness for each of the county volunteer fire departments is continually reviewed and assessed by Perry County. This assessment involves factors such as equipment availability and age, public protection classification, and manpower.

There are informal mutual aid agreements outside of the county, but it is recommended that formal written agreements be established with the neighboring counties. It is important to note that any fire department can be dispatched to assist with fires in any part of the County.

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. The Fire Districts within Perry County are listed below, with the corresponding MSRB classification.

Mississippi State Rating Bureau Public Protection Classification List

District	Class
Arlington	10
Beaumont	8
Hintonville	10
Janice	9
New Augusta	9
Richton	8
Runnelstown	8

In general, the departments are well-equipped and able to respond to the needs of the areas they serve. However, Steering Committee members did identify improvements that could be made to provide better service within the districts.

Often times, the local firefighters work side-by-side with the Mississippi Forestry Commission. Generally, there is a good relationship between the two agencies. However, it is suggested that biannual meetings be established to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each agency. These meetings would allow any other inter-agency concerns to be addressed as well as to provide training opportunities and project coordination.

Perry County is generally rural and many residents commute to work in nearby cities. Some of the volunteer firefighters find work outside their fire district and have trouble leaving work to respond to a fire call. To help alleviate this problem, it is recommended that a larger volunteer force be recruited.

A community outreach and awareness program may help address some of the manpower issues. Several volunteer fire departments across the county are involved with the local Boy Scouts of America through the explorer program (www.scouting.org/). Many times, BSA can provide program direction, resources, and insurance to cover the

department which allows for much more involvement by an explorer scout than a typical youth under 18.

An apprentice firefighter program working with local youth is also an option. While not allowed to fight fires, these youth may be able to gain training through department exercises. The youth would support by providing drinks, supplies or other equipment that is needed on-site. Involvement in the program may then lead to a career as a volunteer firefighter.

Additionally, recruitment kits should be created and kept on-hand for prospective candidates. Recruitment messages can be posted in local newspaper inserts and by placing flyers at local restaurants and other businesses. Adding recruitment information to the county website and local cable service announcements may also be effective. Though retention is reported to be high in Perry County, it is important to always continue recruiting new volunteers.

In addition to the MSRB Rating and manpower issues, equipment status is tracked and assessed. A current listing of large equipment with description and location is provided below. Ideally, the county would like to have a GPS unit in each pumper truck. More equipment needs are expected to arise as the existing equipment ages.

Perry County Volunteer Fire Department
Equipment List

Department	Year	Make/Model	Type
Arlington VFD	1963	Ford	Fire Truck
	1979	Ford	Fire Truck
	1997	Ford F800	Tanker
	1979	GMC	Tanker
	1978	Ford	
	1988	Chevrolet Kodiak	Resuce Truck
	1987	Pierce	Fire Truck
	1993	Chevrolet Kodiak	Rescue Truck
Beaumont VFD	2005	Freightliner	Fire Truck
Hintonville VFD	1970	American M35A2	Brush Truck
	2003	Freightliner	Tanker
	1988	Chevrolet 3/4 ton	Rescue Truck
	1980	International	Tanker
Janice VFD	1975	Ford	Fire Truck
	1969	Ford	Fire Truck
	1997	Ford F800	Pumper
	1993	Chevrolet	Equipment Truck
	1985	Jeep Kaiser	Brush Truck
	1969	5 ton 6x6	Tanker
	2001	Chevrolet Astro	Equipment Truck
	2006	Freightliner	Fire Truck
Richton VFD	2001	International	Fire Truck
	1987	Ford	Tanker

Department	Year	Make/Model	Type
Runnelstown VFD			
	2000	International	Pumper
	1983	AM General	Fire Truck
	1983	AM General	Tanker
	1983	GM 5 Ton	Brush Truck
	2004	Freightliner	Rescue Truck

Access to water sources could be improved. The EMA would like to have quick connect dry hydrants installed at county bridges at the rivers and a boat ramp to access the water in case of a major fire emergency.

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 fuel treatment projects for Critical Infrastructure, Vulnerable Facilities or Areas of Community Importance were identified or found to be necessary at this time. These sites are generally well maintained and have moderate to low ignitability potential. Structure ignitability recommendations should be addressed by the county and distributed to homeowners. These recommendations, as condensed from information found at www.firewise.org, are steps that property owners can take to improve the protection and survivability of a structure in the event of a wildfire. It was also recommended by the Steering Committee that a minimum distance between structures should be designated and included in county construction ordinances.

Structure Ignitability Recommendations

County

1. Develop a homeowner education program

2. Home assessments to help residents identify ways to create defensible space

Homeowners

1. Provide a clearing of at least 30 feet around structures for firefighting equipment access

2. Provide a driveway at least 12 feet wide with 13 feet of vertical clearance

3. If home is gated, display a clearly visible address, provide a gate that swings inward and is at least 30 feet off of the main road.

4. Remove "ladder fuels" that can link grasses to tree tops

5. Maintain an irrigation system

6. Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6' - 10' from the ground

7. Remove leaf clutter from roof and yard

8. Mow regularly

9. Remove dead and overhanging branches

10. Store firewood away from the house

11. Don't keep combustible materials under decks or elevated porches

12. Make trellises of non-flammable metal

13. Prevent sparks from entering house by covering vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8"

14. Use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible when possible

15. Prevent collection of leaf clutter or other combustible materials beneath mobile homes by installing proper skirting

County Ordinance

1. Maintain minimum distance between structures as recommended by the National Fire Protection Association

2. Maintain a minimum radii of outside edge at dead-end turnaround circle of 45 feet to provide for emergency vehicles on both surface ditch and curb/gutter roadways

3. Maintain minimum width standards for subdivision roads and access roads to individual homes per pending subdivision regulations

   Min. width of surface ditch roadway with *local* designation: 28 ft.
   Min. width of surface ditch roadway with *collector* designation: 34 ft.
   Min. width of curb and gutter streets with *local* designation: 27 ft.
   Min. width of curb and gutter streets with *collector* designation: 33 ft.

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 measure the plan's effectiveness.

The Action Plan is an outline of the work to be completed. The Assessment Strategy portion of the CWPP will ensure that Mitigation Projects and Action Plan items are accomplished in a timely manner and monitored to measure the project's success.

1.   Staggered purchase of brush trucks that could be strategically placed at fire stations to better fight wildfires.

        Responsibility: Perry County Emergency Management Agency, Volunteer Fire Departments, Board of Supervisors

        Funding: $150,000 each, possibly through Homeland Security or other grant funds

        Timetable for Completion: Every 2 years or as grants become available

        Expected Outcome: Better access and firefighting capability

        Assessment Timetable: Review progress annually

2.   Establish biannual meetings between the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the Perry County Volunteer Fire Departments. Get information about prescribed burn areas from the Mississippi Forestry Commission, including maps of what areas have been burned and what areas are planned to be burned. Also relay information on grants through MFC.

        Responsibility: Perry County Emergency Management Agency 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. Create community outreach and education program including mail-out and county website, listing specific fire concerns in the area and steps that homeowners can take to reduce ignitability potential. Include steps that will improve response time such as proper house numbering, signage and access to locked gates at private residences.

   Responsibility: Perry County Emergency Management Agency in coordination with Mississippi Forestry Commission and local Volunteer Fire Departments

   Funding: Homeland Security Fire Safety Grant, possible coordination with local utility or county agency for inclusion in regular mail-out

   Timetable for Completion: October 2009, possibly coordinate with Fire Prevention Awareness Month

   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 2009

4. Community outreach program to educate citizens, specifically young adults (18 years of age and older), 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. Program also to include National Fire Protection Association public service announcements.

   Responsibility: Perry County Emergency Management Agency, Volunteer Fire Departments, Mississippi Forestry Commission

   Funding: Volunteer Fire Departments, grants, Mississippi Forestry Commission

   Timetable for Completion: 1-2 times per year, before peak fire seasons.

   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: Perry County Emergency Management Agency, Southern Mississippi 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: Perry County Emergency Management Agency and Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

   Funding: $0

   Timetable for Completion: Yearly

   Expected Outcome: Increased 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 the maps make their role in wildfire prevention more effective

7. Purchase more tankers for on-vehicle access to water.

   Responsibility: Perry County Emergency Management Agency

   Funding: Grant

   Timetable for Completion: Summer 2010

   Expected Outcome: More access to water to fight wildfires

   Assessment Timetable: Assess progress in Summer 2010

8. Encourage Mississippi Insurance Commissioner to consider rebate program to allow for home assessments and homeowner mitigation projects (creating defensible space).

    Responsibility: Perry County Emergency Management Agency, Board of Supervisors, Volunteer Fire Departments, Mississippi Forestry Commission

    Funding: $0

    Timetable for Completion: Spring 2009

    Expected Outcome: More homeowners participating in mitigation activities, lower insurance premiums for homeowners and additional funds for volunteer fire departments

    Assessment Timetable: Review progress in May 2009 after legislative session ends

9. Purchase new turnout gear for firefighters.

    Responsibility: Perry County Emergency Management Agency, Board of Supervisors, Volunteer Fire Departments

    Funding: Grants, as available

    Timetable for Completion: Purchase 2 each year

    Expected Outcome: Increased safety for volunteer firefighters

    Assessment Timetable: Review progress annually

10. Encourage replacement of all underweight bridges in the county. They hinder access to some woods fires.

    Responsibility: Perry County Emergency Management Agency, Board of Supervisors

    Funding: Unknown, possibly MS legislature or federal earmark

    Timetable for Completion: Address immediately

    Expected Outcome: Decrease fire risk and improve access

    Assessment Timetable: Every summer after state legislative session

11. Improve E-911 addressing and encourage residents to have better house number markings.

   Responsibility: Perry County Emergency Management Agency

   Funding: MEMA – hazard mitigation grant program

   Timetable for Completion: 2010

   Expected Outcome: Quicker response time

   Assessment Timetable: Annually after funding awards are announced

12. Encourage the County to consider constructing boat ramps for access to the river in case of a major fire emergency. Also encourage the county to install dry hydrants at bridges for quick connect access to water.

   Responsibility: Perry County EMA and Perry County Volunteer Fire Departments, Board of Supervisors

   Funding: $0, could find grants for construction

   Timetable for Completion: Summer 2010

   Expected Outcome: Better access to water for firefighting

   Assessment Timetable: One year after implementation

Potential Funding Sources

1.   Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
       Website: www.firegrantsupport.com
       Application Period: 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
       Application Period: Fall 2008
       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
       Application Period: 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
       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.   U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company Polaris Ranger Donation Program
       Website: www.ustinc.com
       Application Period: October 2009
       Program Description: Donation of Polaris Ranger 6X6 utility vehicles for
                                   firefighting, rescue, police, emergency medical
                                   service, and wildlife law enforcement organizations.

6.   Responder Knowledge Base Website
       Website: www.rkb.us/
       Program Description: Website contains information on currently available
                                   products, standards, training and grants

7.   Firegrantshelp.com Website
       Website: www.firegrantshelp.com
       Program Description: Website contains information on resources for Fire
                                   and EMS assistance

References

1. Perry County Hazard Mitigation Plan (under review)

2. Perry County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

3. Firewise
    Around Your Home brochure
     www.firewise.org

4. USDA Forest Service
    Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan
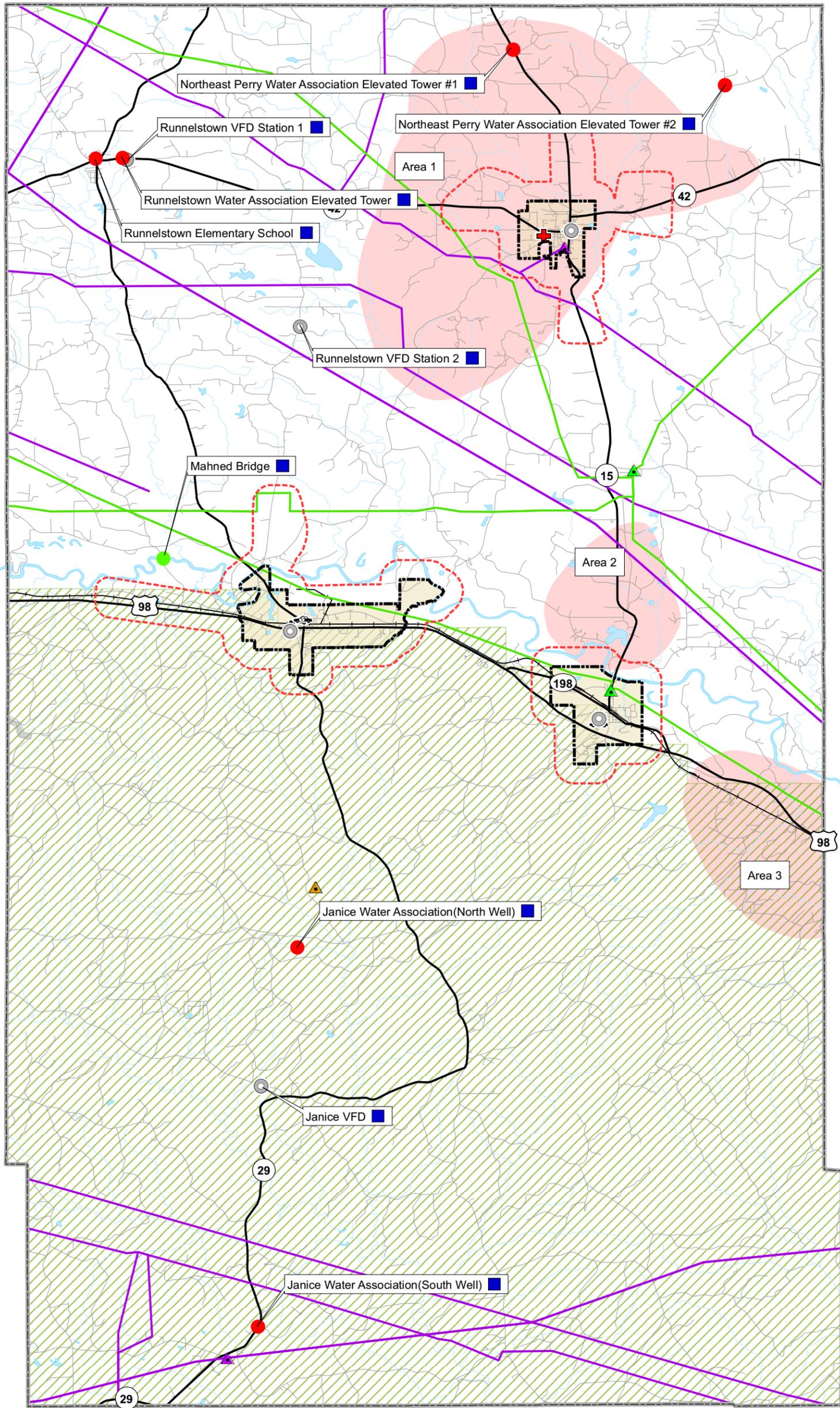   March 2004

Project Contact Information

1.   Perry County Emergency Management Agency
      P.O. Box 345
      New Augusta, MS 39462
      Phone: (601) 467-5063

2.   Mississippi Forestry Commission
      477 South Gate Road
      Hattiesburg, MS 39401
      Phone: (601) 583-4240
      Fax: (601) 583-2500
      www.mfc.state.ms.us

3.   Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District
      9229 Highway 49
      Gulfport, MS 39503
      Phone: (228) 868-2311
      Fax: (228) 868-7094
      www.smpdd.com
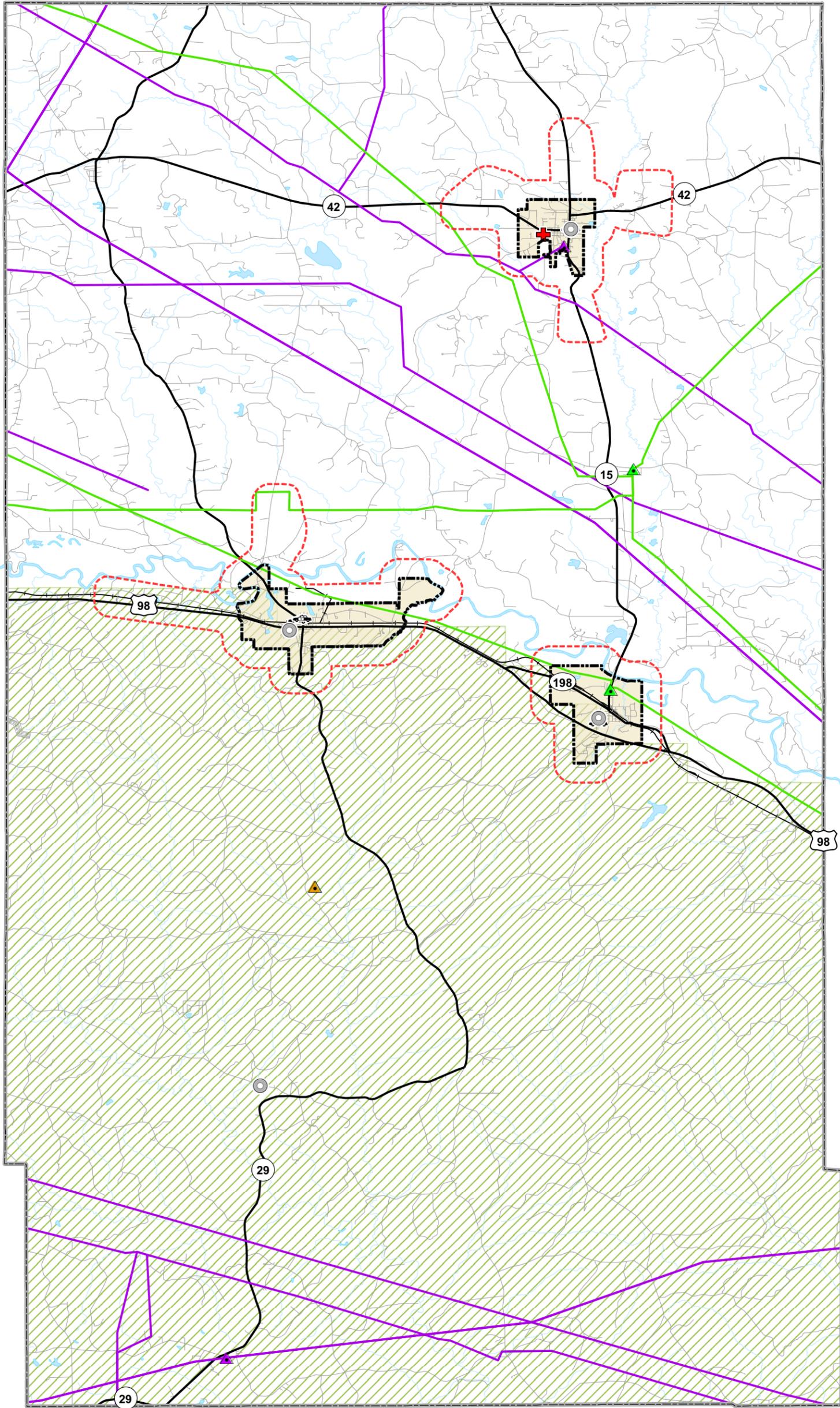
Legend

- ✚ Hospital
- ◎ Fire Station
- 🚓 Law Enforcement
- 🔺 Electric Power Plant
- 🔺 Electric Substation
- 🔺 Gas/Oil Facility
- — Transmission Line
- — Gas/Oil Pipeline
- — Highway
- — Road
- — Railroad
- — Named Stream
- ▪ Water Body
- ▨ National Forest
- ⬜ Wildland-Urban Interface
- ⬛ Incorporated City

Perry County, Mississippi

Wildfire Protection Plan
Base Map

Miles
0   2   4   8   12   16

Perry County, Mississippi

Wildfire Protection Plan
Risk Assessment Ratings

Northeast Perry Water Association Elevated Tower #1

Runnelstown VFD Station 1

Northeast Perry Water Association Elevated Tower #2

Area 1

Runnelstown Water Association Elevated Tower

Runnelstown Elementary School

Runnelstown VFD Station 2

Mahned Bridge

Area 2

Janice Water Association(North Well)

Area 3

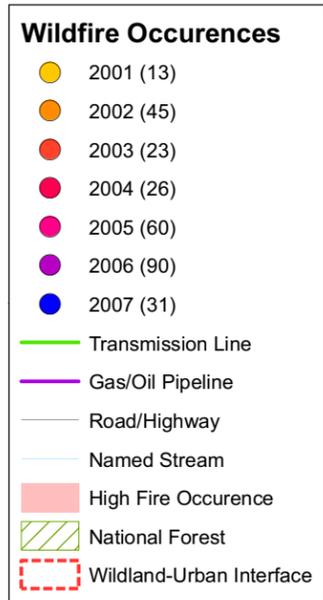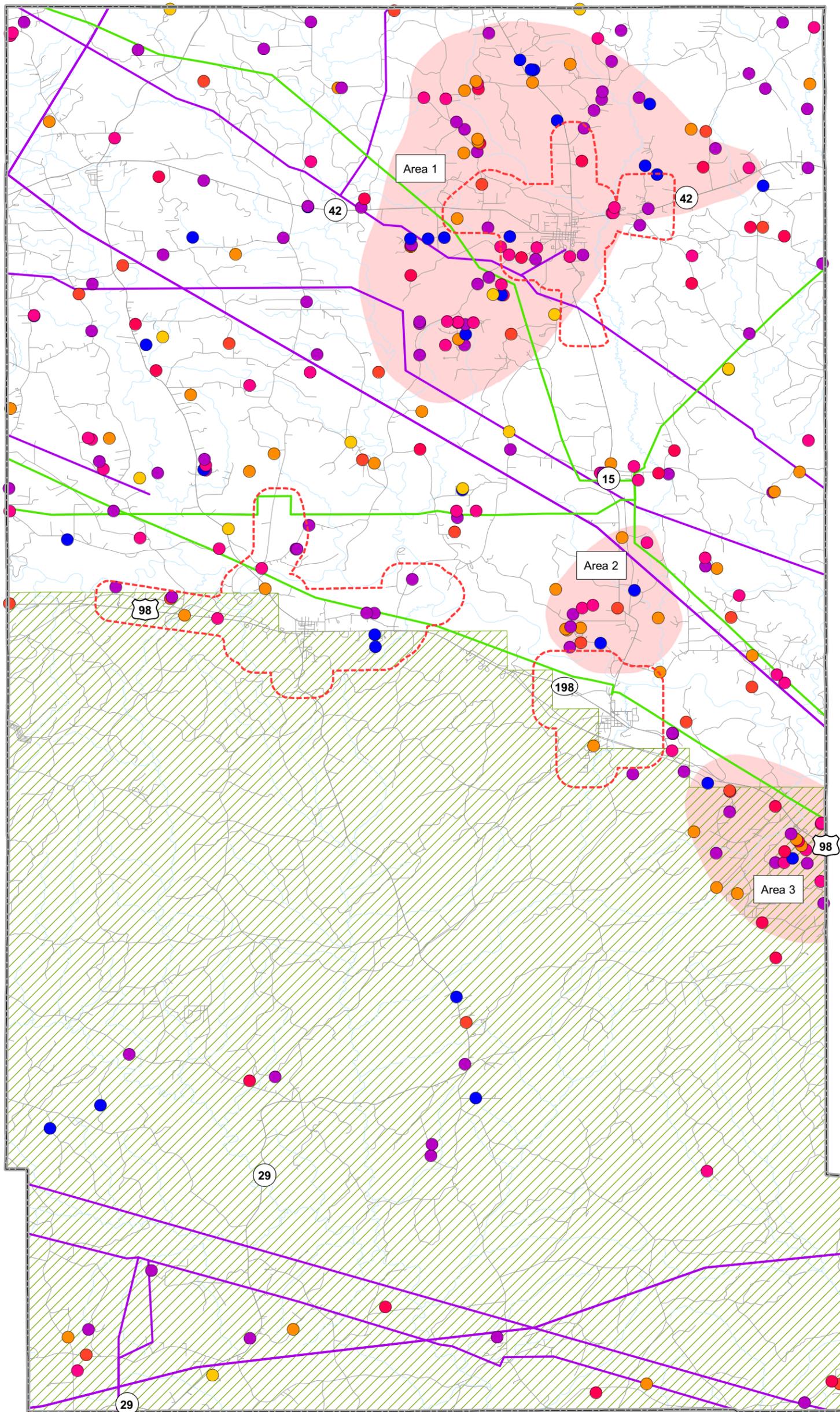Janice VFD

Janice Water Association(South Well)

At Risk Area
- Area of Community Importance
- Critical Infrastructure
- Hospital
- Fire Station
- Law Enforcement
- Electric Power Plant
- Electric Substation
- Gas/Oil Facility
- Transmission Line
- Gas/Oil Pipeline
- Highway
- Road
- Railroad
- Named Stream
- Water Body
- High Fire Occurence
- National Forest
- Wildland-Urban Interface
- Incorporated City

Risk Assessment Rating
- Low
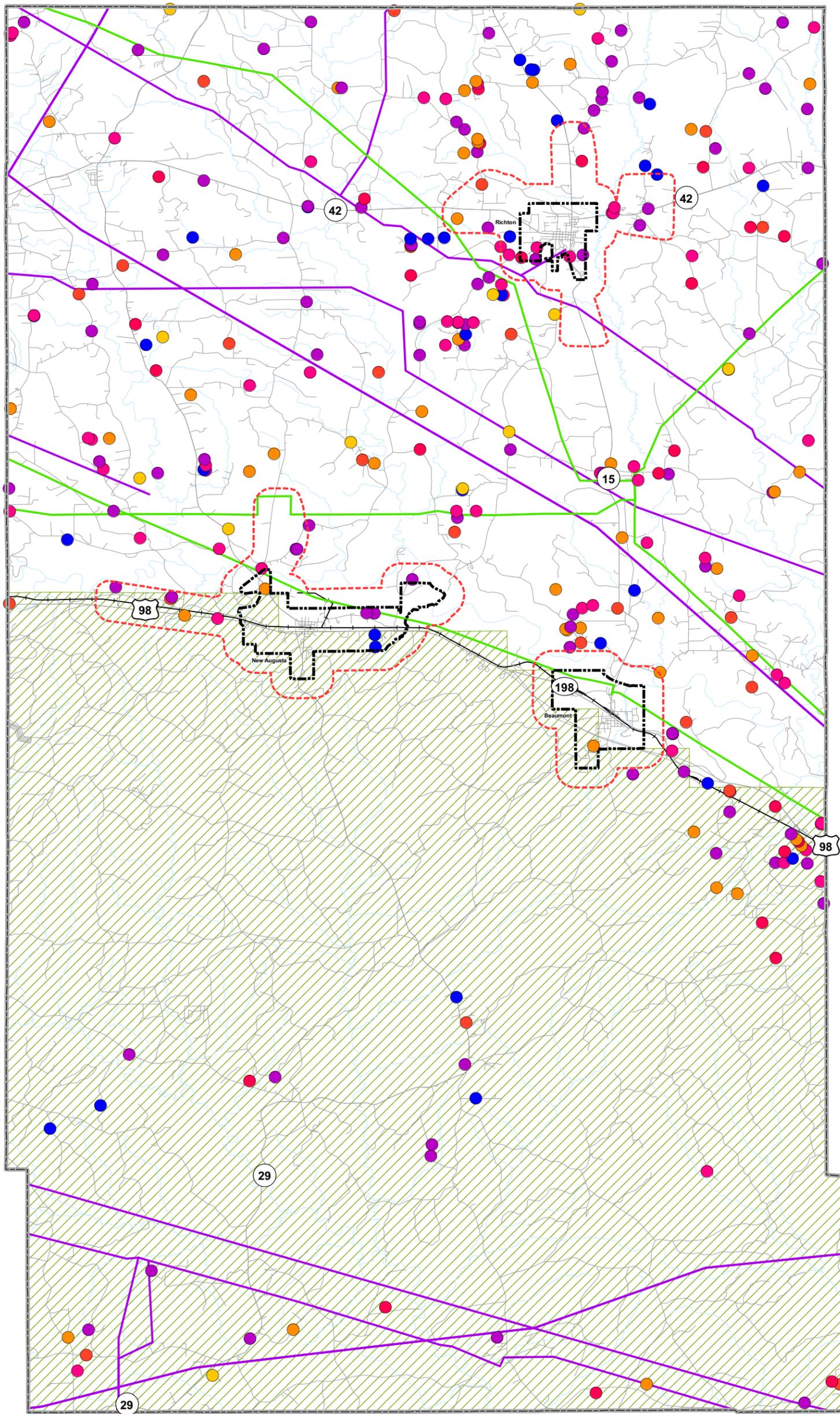- Medium
- Medium-High
- High

Areas of Heavy Fuel Load

the District
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
For Planning Use Only.

Miles
0   2   4   8   12   16

Wildfire Occurences

- 2001 (13)
- 2002 (45)
- 2003 (23)
- 2004 (26)
- 2005 (60)
- 2006 (90)
- 2007 (31)
- Transmission Line
- Gas/Oil Pipeline
- Road/Highway
- Named Stream
- High Fire Occurence
- National Forest
- Wildland-Urban Interface

Area 1

Area 2

Area 3

Perry County, Mississippi

Wildfire Protection Plan
High Occurrence Wildfire Areas

the District
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
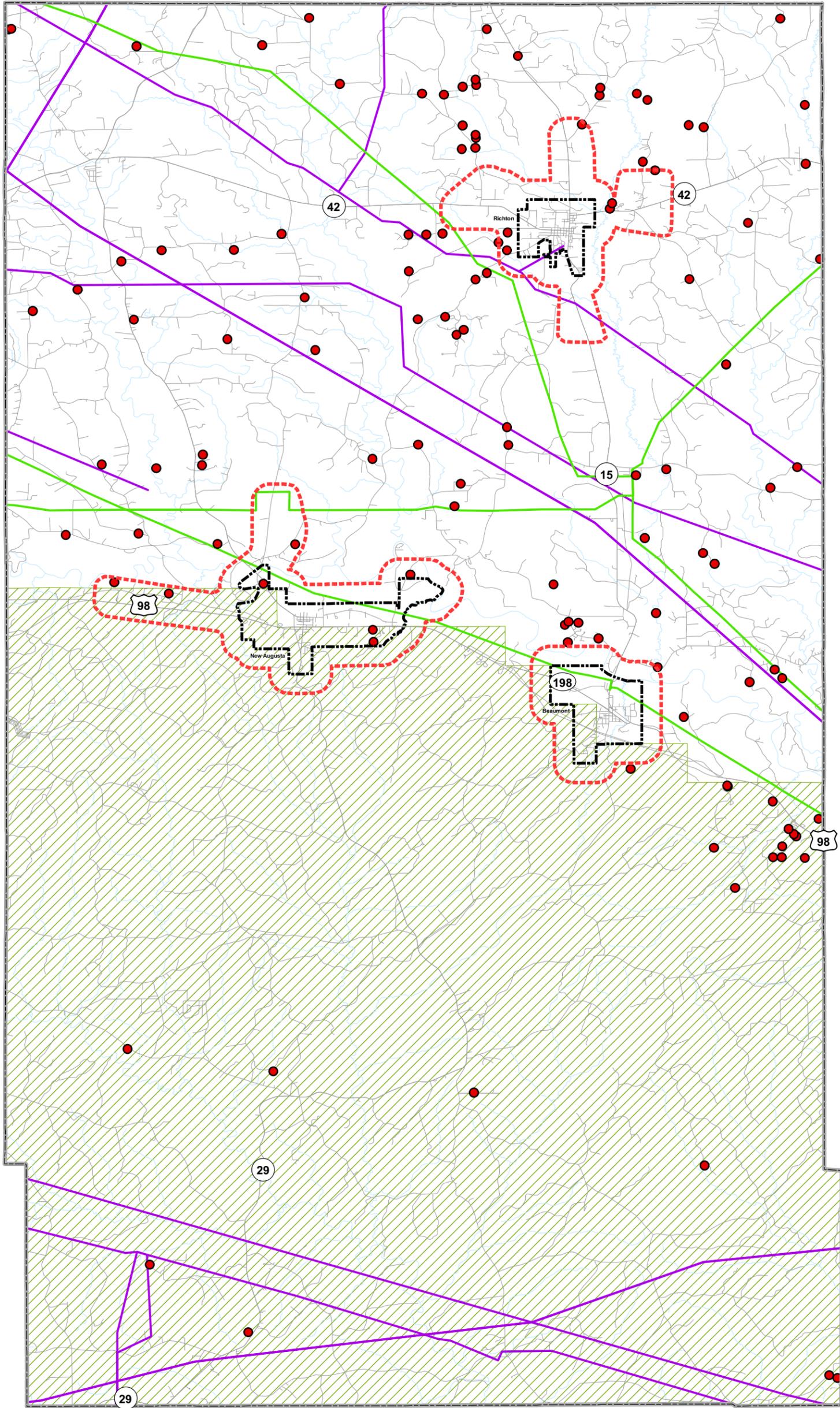**For Planning Use Only.**

Miles
0   2   4   8   12   16

Wildfire Occurences

- 2001 (13)
- 2002 (45)
- 2003 (23)
- 2004 (26)
- 2005 (60)
- 2006 (90)
- 2007 (31)
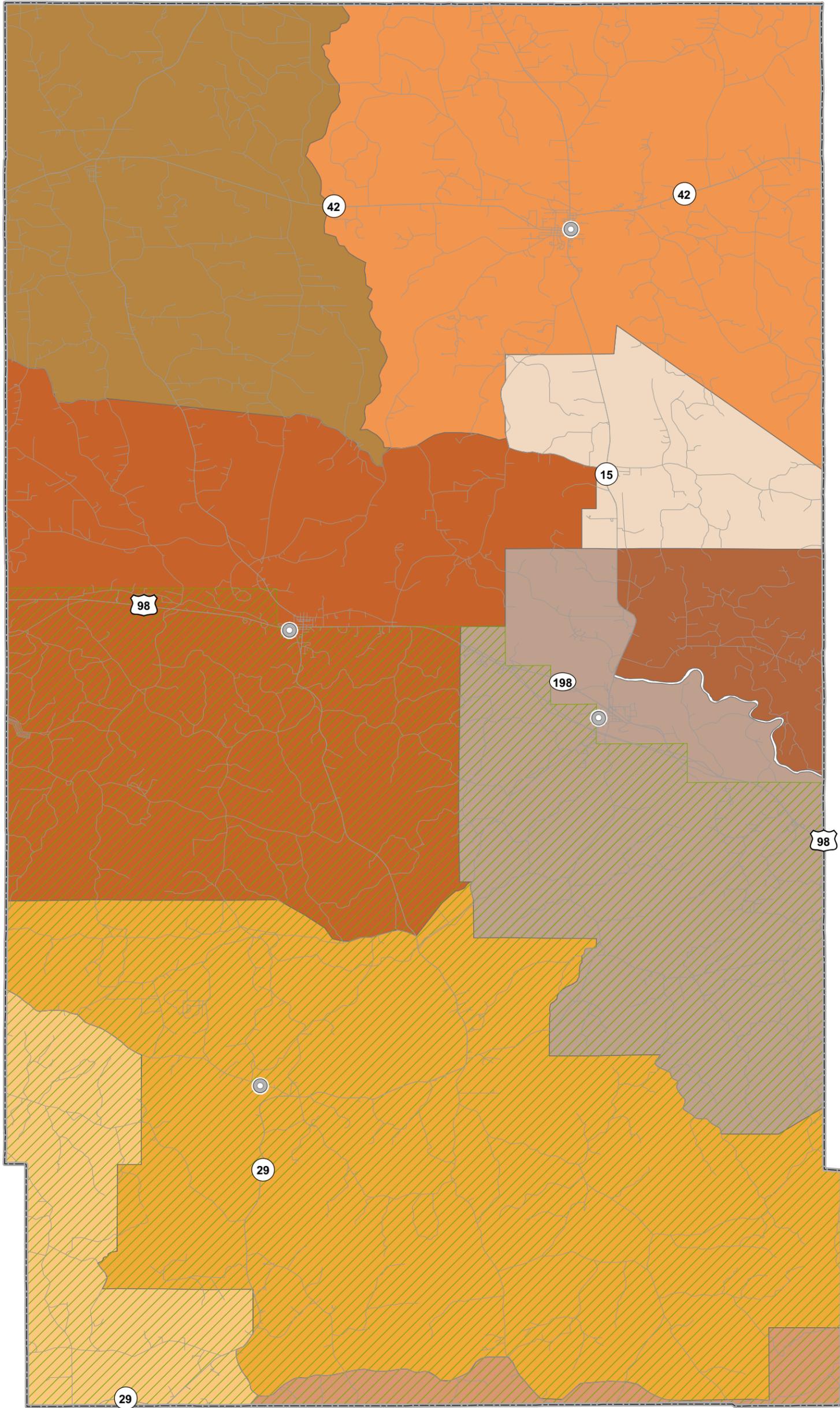- Transmission Line
- Gas/Oil Pipeline
- Road/Highway
- Railroad
- Named Stream
- National Forest
- Wildland-Urban Interface
- Incorporated City

Perry County, Mississippi

Wildfire Protection Plan
Fire Data 2001 - 2007

the District
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
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Miles
0   2   4   8   12   16

Perry County, Mississippi

Wildfire Protection Plan
Arson Fires 2001 - 2007

Legend:
- Arson Incident
- Transmission Line
- Gas/Oil Pipeline
- Road/Highway
- Named Stream
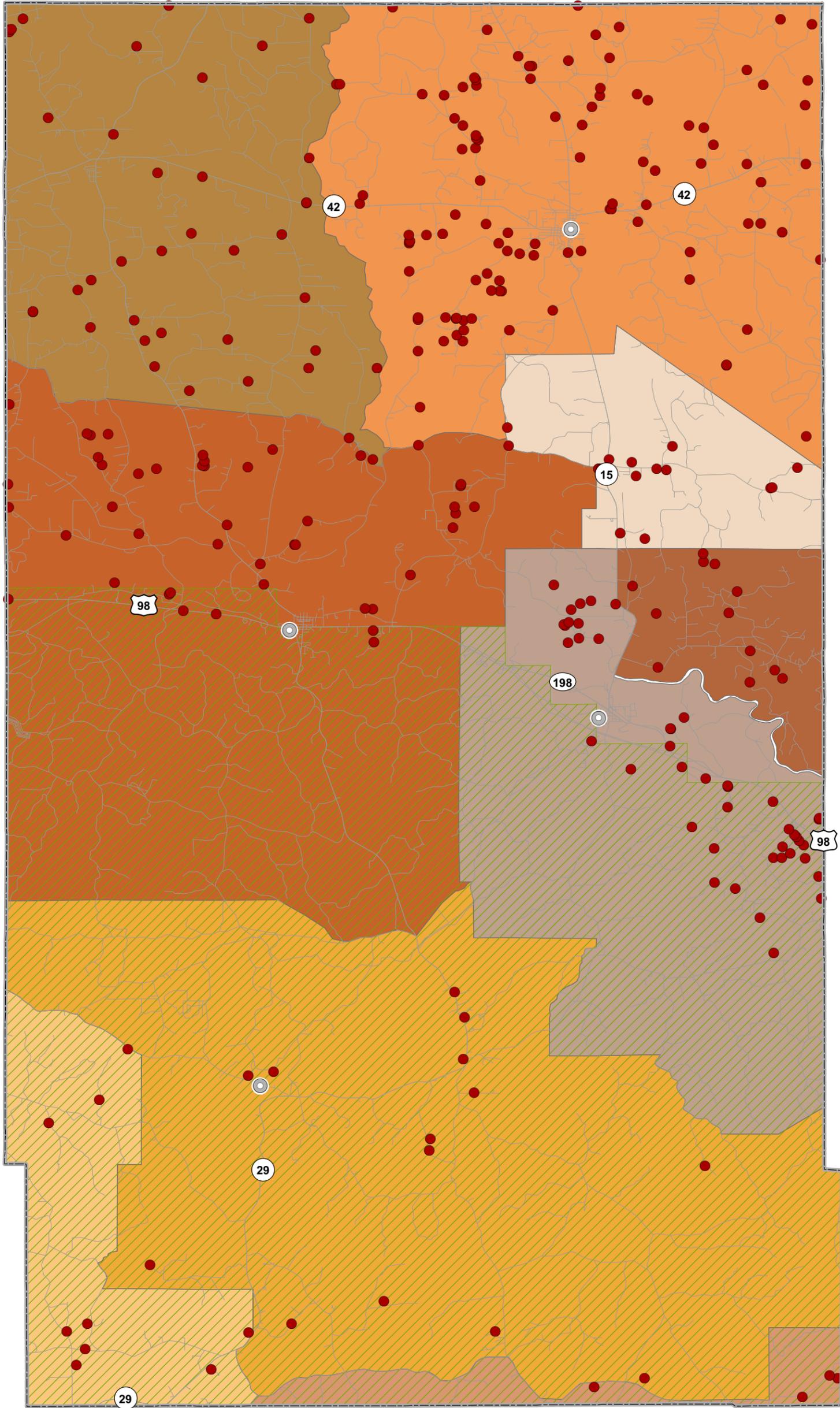- National Forest
- Wildland-Urban Interface
- Incorporated City

Miles
0   2   4   8   12   16

Fire District

- Arlington
- Beaumont
- Forrest
- Hintonville
- Janice
- New Augusta
- Richton
- Runnelstown
- Stone
- Fire Station
- Road/Highway
- National Forest

Perry County, Mississippi

Wildfire Protection Plan
Fire Rsponse Areas

the District
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
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Miles
0   2   4   8   12   16

Fire District

- Arlington
- Beaumont
- Forrest
- Hintonville
- Janice
- New Augusta
- Richton
- Runnelstown
- Stone
- All Fires 2001 - 2007
- Fire Station
- Road/Highway
- National Forest

Perry County, Mississippi

Wildfire Protection Plan
Fire Rsponse Areas

the District
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Miles
0   2   4   8   12   16