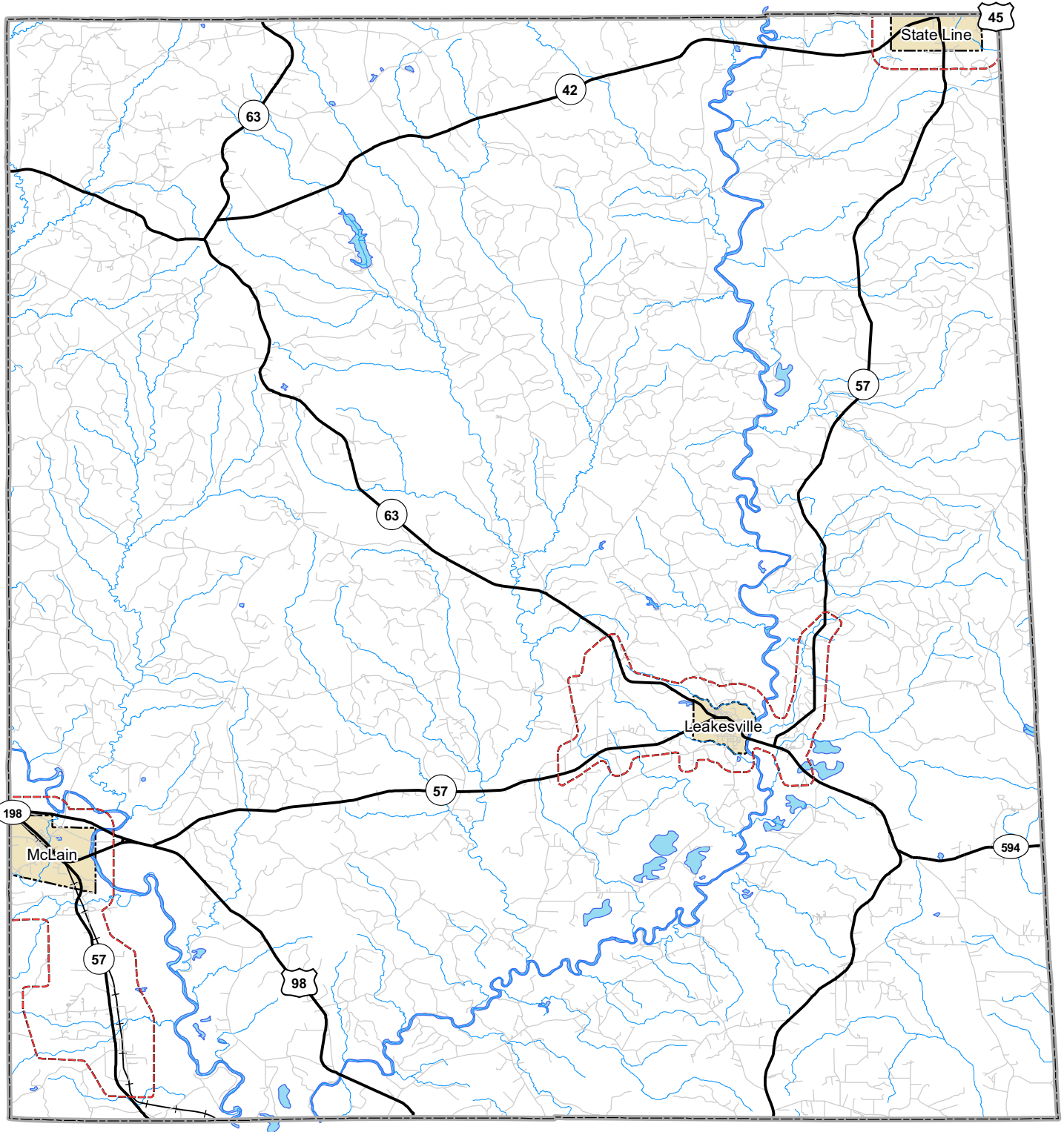


GREENE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN



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PREPARED BY SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
WITH FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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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, Greene 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 Greene 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 Greene 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

Greene County is on the Alabama line in the southeast corner of MS. It is rural in context, with the City of Leakesville being the largest municipality. Other communities in the County are McLain on the southwest border and State Line in the northeast corner.

The county utilizes state highways 63 and 57 to provide access to the North and South. State Highway 42 travels East through Greene County and terminates at State Line. U.S. Highway 98, which runs through the southwest portion of the county, provides direct access to Mobile, Alabama and the City of Hattiesburg. Highway 63 provides access to the urban center of Pascagoula/Moss Point on the Gulf Coast. It is also in a central location 45 minutes from Mobile, Alabama, 50 minutes from Hattiesburg, MS and 55 minutes from the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The population of Greene County in 2000 was 13,299, evidencing a 30.1% growth in residency since 1990; a growth rate sharply higher than the 3.9% reported for the 1980-1990 interval. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates a 2007 population of 13137, a 1.2% decrease since 2000. The Census Bureau projection for Greene County's population in 2010 is 16906; this would be a 21.3% increase for the ten year period.

Greene County contains 483 square miles, with land largely held by private landowners. Approximately 83% of the county land area is contained within commercial forests. Greene 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 Greene County. The two major water sources in Greene County are the Leaf River and the Chickasawhay River. The Leaf River Bridge and Vernal Presbyterian Church are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The climate of Greene County is mild with the mean annual temperature in the mid 60's. Average winter temperatures range from 38 to 61 degrees Fahrenheit with summer temperatures ranging from 60 to 93 degrees Fahrenheit. Rainfall averages approximately 66 inches annually with the majority of accumulation from November to July. Because of high annual precipitation amounts, Greene 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 83 percent of the land in Greene 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 Greene County such as U.S. Highway 98 and MS Highways 42, 57, and 63 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 Greene 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.

Greene County is divided into the following ten (10) rural fire response areas covering the entire county: Mt. Pisgah, Beat 4, Knobbtown, Leakesville, McLain, Sandhill, Stateline, Neely, Jonathan, and South MS Correctional Institute. All fire response areas and station locations are listed below

Fire Response Area	Fire Department	Station Location(s)	Total Number of Volunteers
Mt. Pisgah	Mt. Pisgah VFD	585 Hwy. 594, Leakesville, MS 39451	20
Beat 4	Beat 4 VFD	550 George Brown Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452	20
Knobbtown	Knobbtown VFD	132 K-Town Rd. Stateline, MS 39362	20
Leakesville	Leakesville VFD	808 Main St. Leakesville, MS 39451	20
McLain	McLain VFD	102 Main St. McLain, MS 39456	20
Sandhill	Sandhill VFD	39655 Hwy. 63 Richton, MS 39476	20
Stateline	Stateline VFD	233 Main St. Stateline, MS 39362	20
Neely	Neely VFD	7789 Old Hwy. 24 Neely, MS 39461	20
Jonathan	Jonathan VFD	3135 Jonathan Rd. Leakesville, MS 39451	20
South MS Correctional Institute	South MS Correctional Institute VFD	22689 Hwy. 63 N Leakesville, MS 39451	20

Strategic Goals of the County Wildfire Protection Plan

At the beginning of the planning process, the Greene 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 Greene 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. Develop new volunteer firefighter recruitment program.
6. Identify strategies to encourage collaboration and increase communication between Greene County and the Mississippi Forestry Commission.
7. Research and apply for grants to purchase equipment and turnout gear and also grants to provide for volunteer firefighter training.

Mapping

The Greene 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 Greene County Base Map, Greene County Risk Assessment Ratings, Greene County Fire Data 2001-2007, High Occurrence Wildfire Areas, Arson Fires 2001-2007, Greene 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 Greene 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 Greene County shows a total of 12 fires in the year 2001, 59 fires in 2002, 31 fires in 2003, 47 fires in 2004, 82 fires in 2005, 94 fires in 2006, and 49 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 Greene 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 two 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 west-central portion of the county with Highway 63 running inside its east boundary. Area 2 is geographically located in the southwest area of the county encompassing the city of McLain and the surrounding area.

A majority of the fires within Greene County, approximately 40%, are attributed to arson. According to Forestry Commission wildfire data, 150 out of 374 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 Greene 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:

- Communications Tower at 39276 Hwy 63 N

The effect on the communications of emergency personnel would be substantial if the communications tower was damaged.
This risk rating is medium.

- Cellular South Communications Tower at 199 Chapsmith Lane

This tower has an emergency service repeater on it and would greatly effect communications if damages.
The risk rating is medium.

- Communications Tower at 3535 Old Hwy 24

The effect on the communication of emergency personnel would be substantial if the communications tower was damaged.
The risk rating is medium.

- Jonathan Volunteer Fire Department at 3135 Jonathan Rd.

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is substantial.
This risk rating is medium.

- Sandhill Volunteer Fire Department at 39655 Hwy 63 N

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is substantial.
This risk rating is medium.

- Sandhill Volunteer Fire Department #2 at 39394 Hwy 63 N

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is substantial.

- Neely Volunteer Fire Department at 7789 Old Hwy 24

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is substantial.
This risk rating is medium.

- Knobtown Volunteer Fire Department at 132 K-Town Rd.

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is substantial.
This risk rating is medium.

- Mt. Pisgah Volunteer Fire Department at 585 Hwy 594

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is substantial. This building has a wooden frame and wooden exterior.
This risk rating is high.

- Beat 4 Volunteer Fire Department at 550 George Brown Rd

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is substantial.
This risk rating is medium.

- Mississippi Power Transmission Station at 24803 Hwy 63 N

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is substantial.
This risk rating is medium.

- Singing River EPA Substation at 679 Pumping Station Rd

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

- Singing River EPA Substation at 1180 Dickerson Sawmill Rd.

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

- Singing River Substation at 39199 Hwy 63 N

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is substantial.
The risk is medium.

- TDS Sub Station at 38900 Hwy 63 N

The substation is important to telephone communications.
The risk rating is medium.

- Beat 3 County Barn at 39655 Hwy 63 N

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

- Beat 4 County Barn at 559 George Brown Rd

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

- Greene County Beat 3 Water System at 39560 Hwy 63 N

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

- Southeast Greene County Water Authority at 8175 Hwy 63 N

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

- Southeast Greene County Water Well at 91 Pee Wee Rd.

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
The risk rating is low.

- Water Tanks with Chlorinators at 542 Ranch Rd.

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

- Water Pump at 23273 Hwy 63 N

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

- Water Tank at 6474 Union Rd.

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

- Water Tank and Building at 7789 Old Hwy 24

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

- Water Tower and Building at 1406 George Brown Rd.

The effect on the local community if this facility was damaged is low.
This risk rating is low.

Vulnerable Facilities

- Pipeline Header – Southeast Pipeline – Hazardous Materials
- Pipeline – Southeast Pipeline – Hazardous Materials
- Pipeline Pumping Station - Destin Pipeline Company – Hazardous Materials
- Rail Road through McLain – Illinois Central Gulf Rail Road – Hazardous Materials
- FAA Vortac – Federal Site – Some Stored Hazardous Materials

All of the above facilities pose some risk due to function and impact to the community and beyond if damaged or destroyed. It is noted that the companies that operate the facilities take adequate fire precautions. Due to their individual function and location the risk rating vary by each facility.

Areas of Community Importance

- Greene County High School
- Leakesville Junior High School
- McLain Junior High School
- Sandhill Junior High School
- State Line Community Center
- Brookwood Manor Retirement Home
- Leaf River Bridge, National Register of Historic Places
- Vernal Presbyterian Church, National Register of Historic Places

The facilities listed above are important to the quality of life of the residents of Greene County, and these facilities serve as shelters in case of an emergency. All of schools and center are ranked medium due to their function and locations. Brookwood Manor is

ranked high because the building is surrounded by high grass and because of smoke risk to the residents inside.

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 Greene 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.

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 Greene County are listed below, with the corresponding MSRB classification.

Mississippi State Rating Bureau Public Protection Classification List

District	Class
1 (southeastern portion)	8
2 (southwestern portion)	10
3 (northwestern portion)	9
Leakesville	8
McLain	9
State Line	9

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. The county would like to purchase brush trucks and strategically place them throughout the county for use by multiple stations. Ideally, all stations would eventually have their own brush truck.

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.

Greene County is generally rural and many residents commute to work in nearby cities in and out of state. 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.

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. More equipment needs are expected to arise as the existing equipment ages.

Greene County Volunteer Fire Department Equipment List

Department	Year	Make/Model	Type
Beat 4	2001	Freightliner	Pumper (1000 gallon)
	2004	Freightliner	Tanker (3500 gallon)
	1995	Chevrolet	Brush Truck (250 gallon)
Knobbtown	1973	6x6 Military	Tanker (5000 gallon)
	1976	Mac Custom Cab	Pumper (1000 gallon)
	2002	E-1	Pumper (1000 gallon)
Leakesville	1956	Chevrolet	Parade Truck (500 gallon)
	1972	Chevrolet	Pumper (500 gallon) not in use
	2006	Freightliner	Pumper (1500 gallon)
	1990	Ford	Pumper (1000 gallon)
	1980	Van	Ambulance
McLain	2000	Ford	Pumper (1000 gallon)
	1978	Ford	Pumper (700 gallon)
	1978	Ford	Tanker (2500 gallon)
	1958	Chevrolet	Parade Truck (500 gallon)
		Dodge 4x4	Brush Truck

Department	Year	Make/Model	Type
Mt. Pisgah	1999	International	Pumper (1200 gallon)
	1992	GMC	Tanker (3500 gallon)
	1974	Jeep J20	Brush Truck
	1986	International	Tanker (1000 gallon)
Neely	1976	6x6 Military	Tanker (5000 gallon)
	1995	Chevrolet 3500	Brush Truck (250 gallon)
	1985	Dodge 2500	Brush Truck (250 gallon)
	2002	E-1	Pumper (1000 gallon)
	2005	E-1	Pumper (3500 gallon)
Sandhill	1984	Army	Tanker (5000 gallon)
	2001	Freightliner	Pumper/Tanker (2500 gallon)
	1984	Mac	Pumper (1000 gallon)
	1979	Ford	Pumper (1000 gallon)
	1976		Pumper (1000 gallon)
Stateline	1976	6x6 Military	Tanker (1000 gallon)
	1992	GMC Topkick	Pumper (1000 gallon)
	2006	E-1	Vacuum Tanker (3500 gallon)
	1995	Ford F-350	Rescue Truck

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: Greene 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 Greene 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: Greene 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: Greene 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: Greene 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: Greene 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: Greene 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. Work with Rural Water Associations to construct new water towers and place new pumps and hydrants in newly developed parts of the County.

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

Funding: Various grant opportunities

Timetable for Completion: Summer 2009

Expected Outcome: More access to water to fight wildfires

Assessment Timetable: Summer 2009 – update every 2 years

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

Responsibility: Greene 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. Draft and execute formal mutual aid agreements between Greene County and its neighboring counties to include equipment use and manpower.

Responsibility: Greene County Emergency Management Agency, Board of Supervisors

Funding: \$0

Timetable for Completion: Fall 2009

Expected Outcome: Increased ability to fight fires.

Assessment Timetable: Review progress in January 2010

10. Develop Subdivision Regulations and/or Building Codes for presentation to County Board of Supervisors.

Responsibility: Greene County Emergency Management Agency and Wayne County Volunteer Fire Departments

Funding: \$0

Timetable for Completion: Present in 2009

Expected Outcome: Will help with accessibility by increasing the width of roads and driveways and increasing the distance between structures.

Assessment Timetable: Review progress toward adoption annually

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 2008
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. Greene County Hazard Mitigation Plan (under review)
2. Greene 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

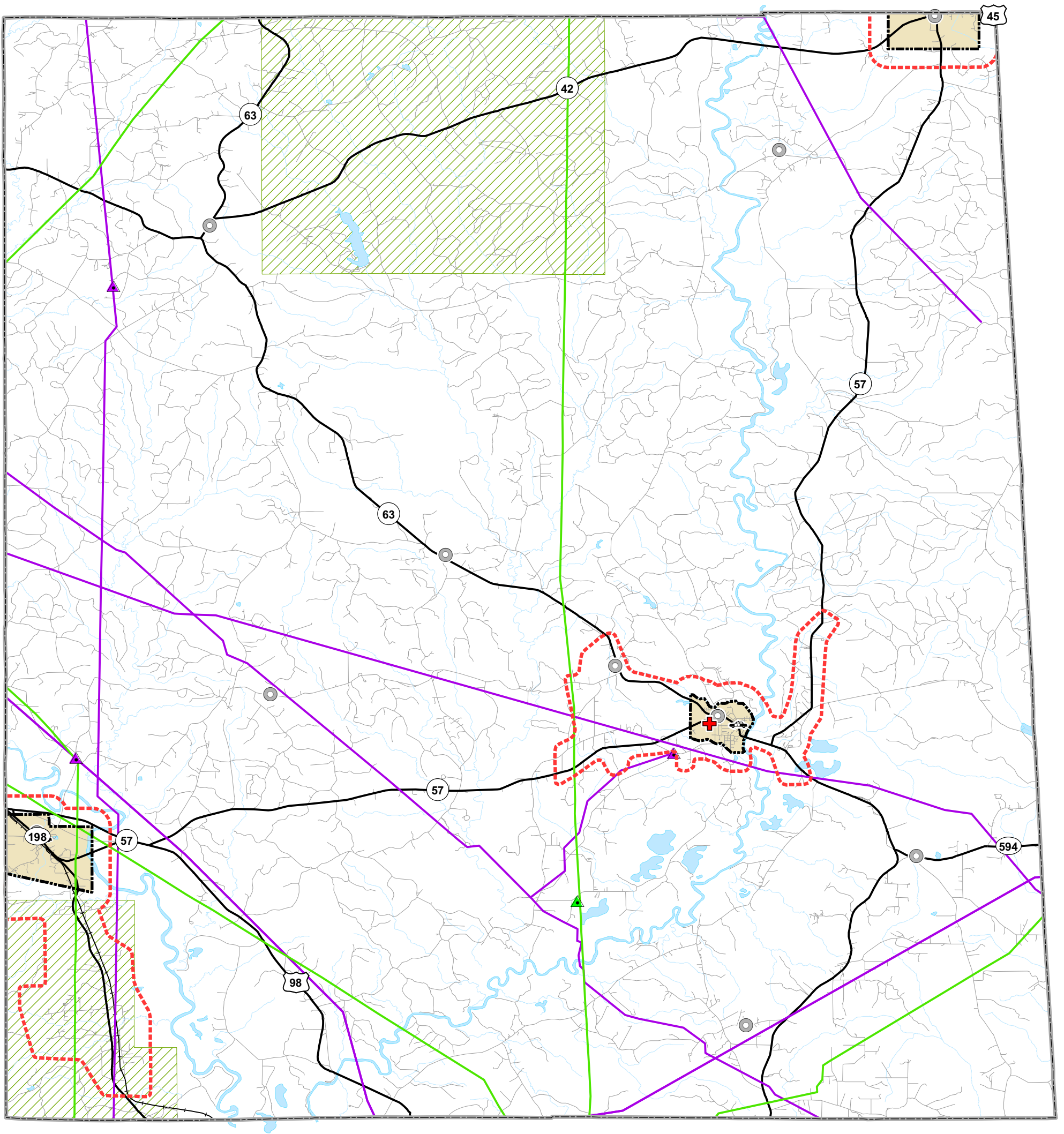
1. Greene County Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 816
Leakesville, MS 39451
Phone: (601) 394-5627

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

Greene County, Mississippi

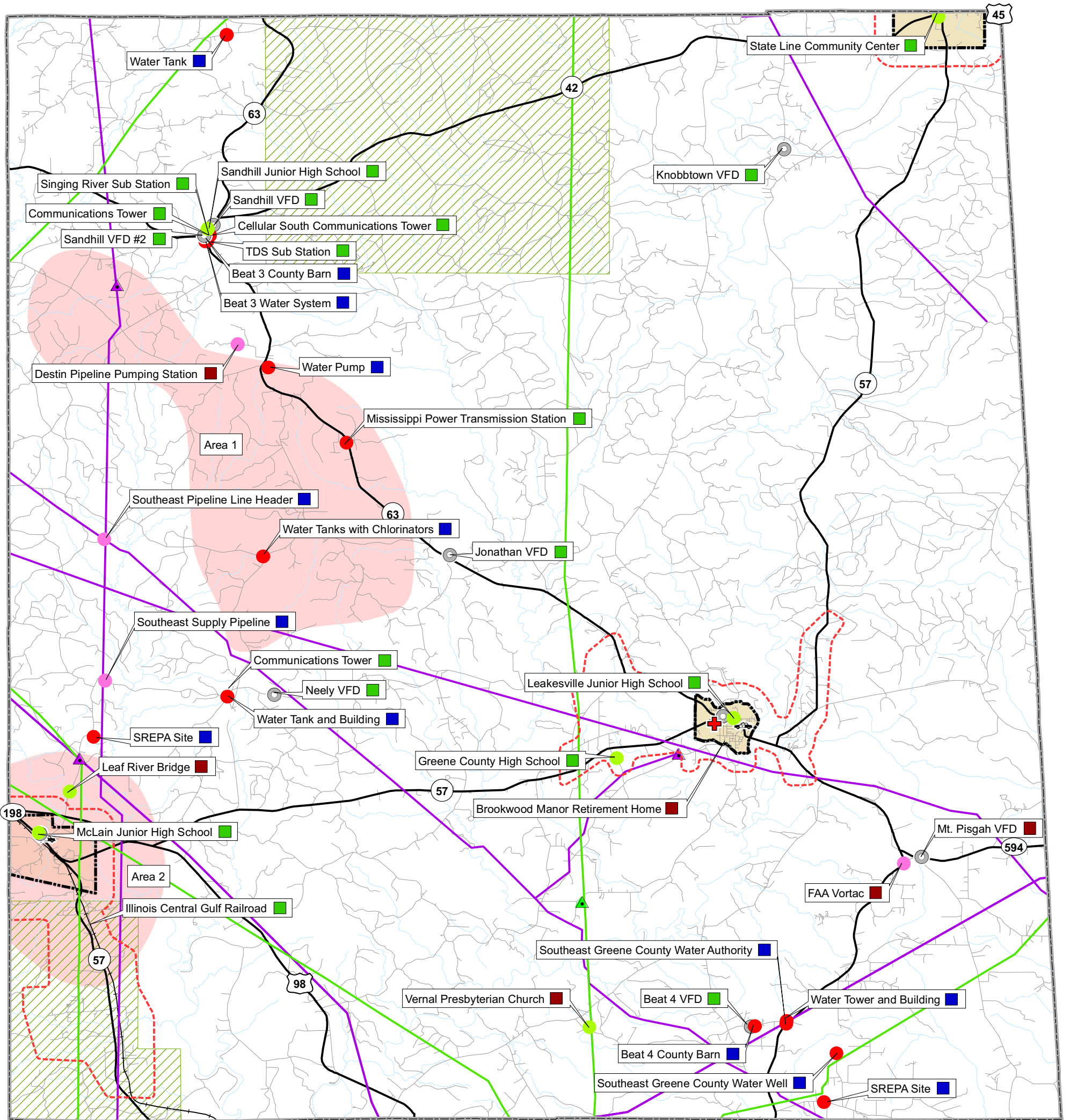
Wildfire Protection Plan Base Map



	Hospital		Road
	Fire Station		Railroad
	Law Enforcement		Named Stream
	Electric Substation		Water Body
	Gas/Oil Facility		National Forest
	Transmission Line		Wildland-Urban Interface
	Gas/Oil Pipeline		Incorporated City
	Highway		

Greene County, Mississippi

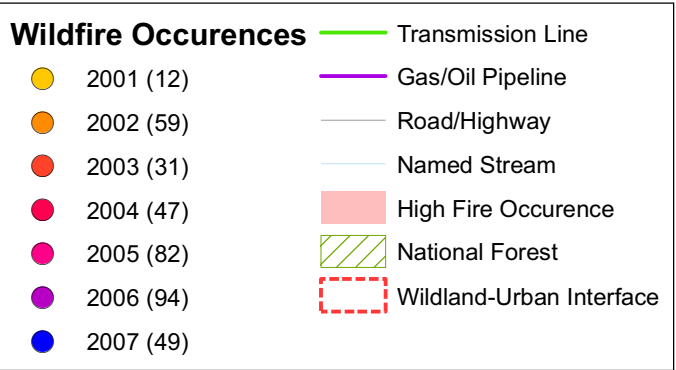
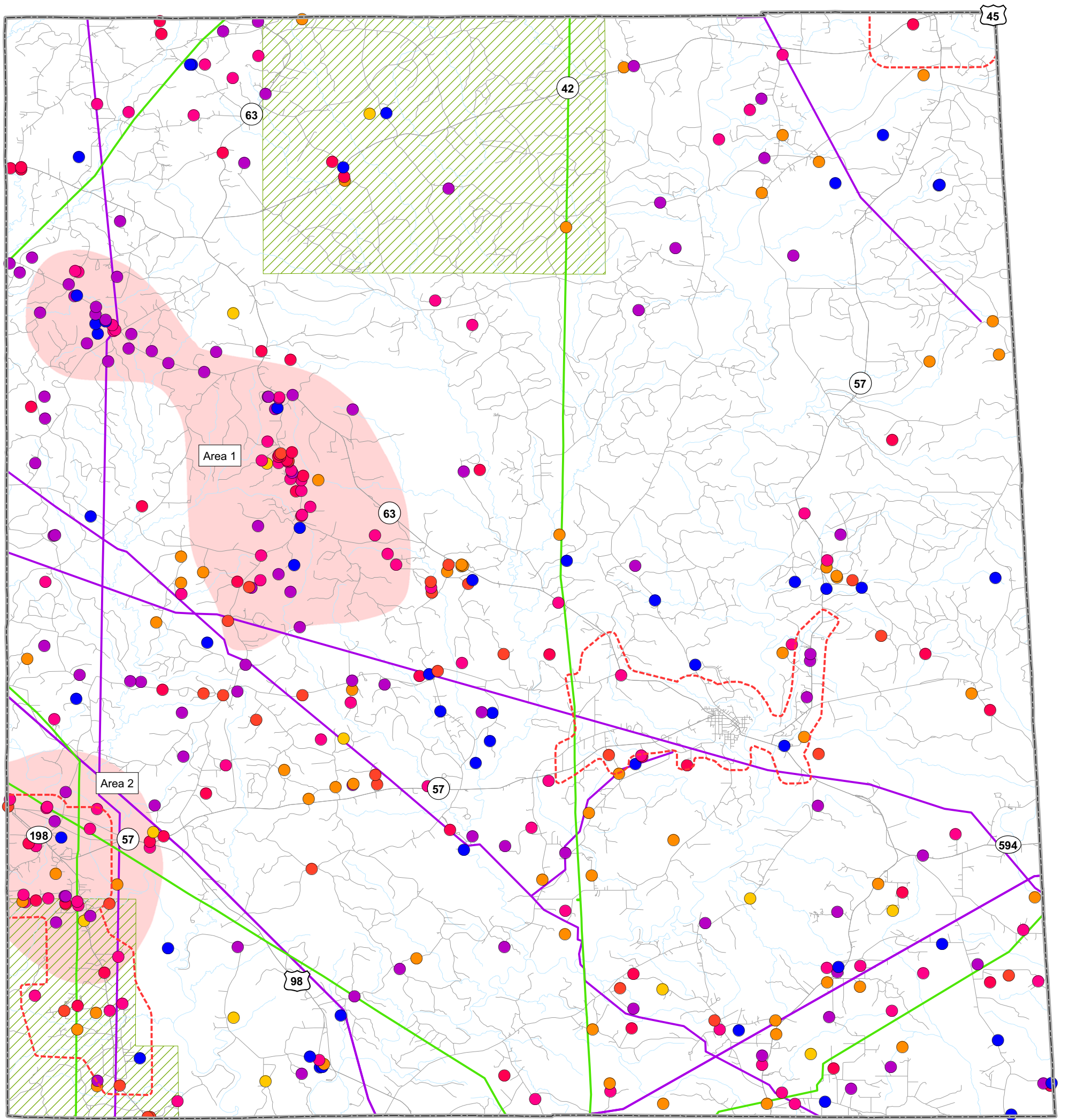
Wildfire Protection Plan Risk Assessment Ratings



At Risk Area		Risk Assessment Rating	
●	Area of Community Importance	■	Low
●	Critical Infrastructure	■	Medium
●	Fire Station	■	Medium-High
●	Vulnerable Facility	■	High
+	Hospital		
●	Law Enforcement		
▲	Electric Substation		
▲	Gas/Oil Facility		
—	Transmission Line		
—	Gas/Oil Pipeline		
—	Highway		
—	Road		
—+—	Railroad		
—	Named Stream		
■	High Fire Occurrence		
■	National Forest		
■	Wildland-Urban Interface		
■	Incorporated City		

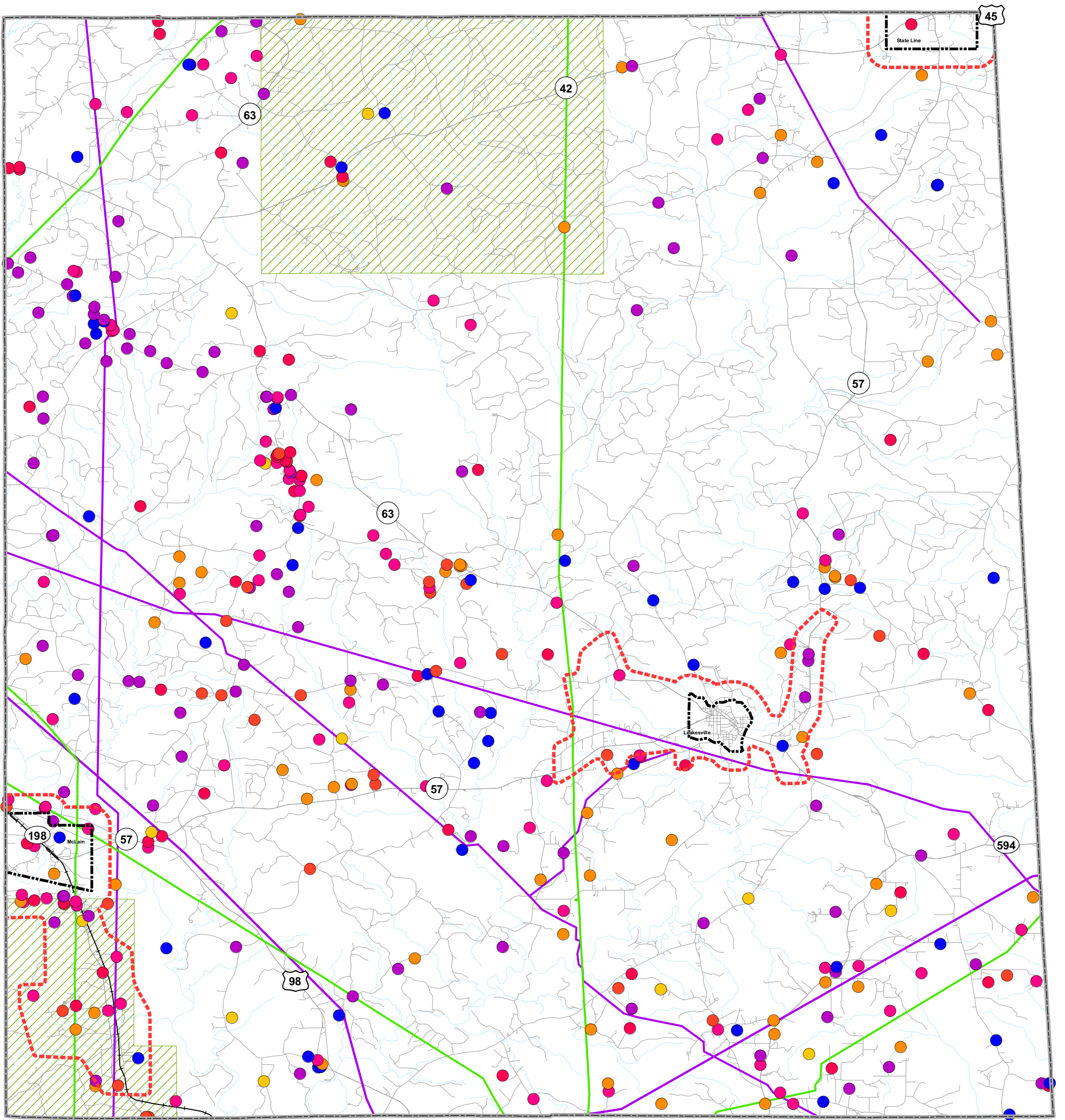
Greene County, Mississippi

Wildfire Protection Plan High Occurrence Wildfire Areas



Greene County, Mississippi

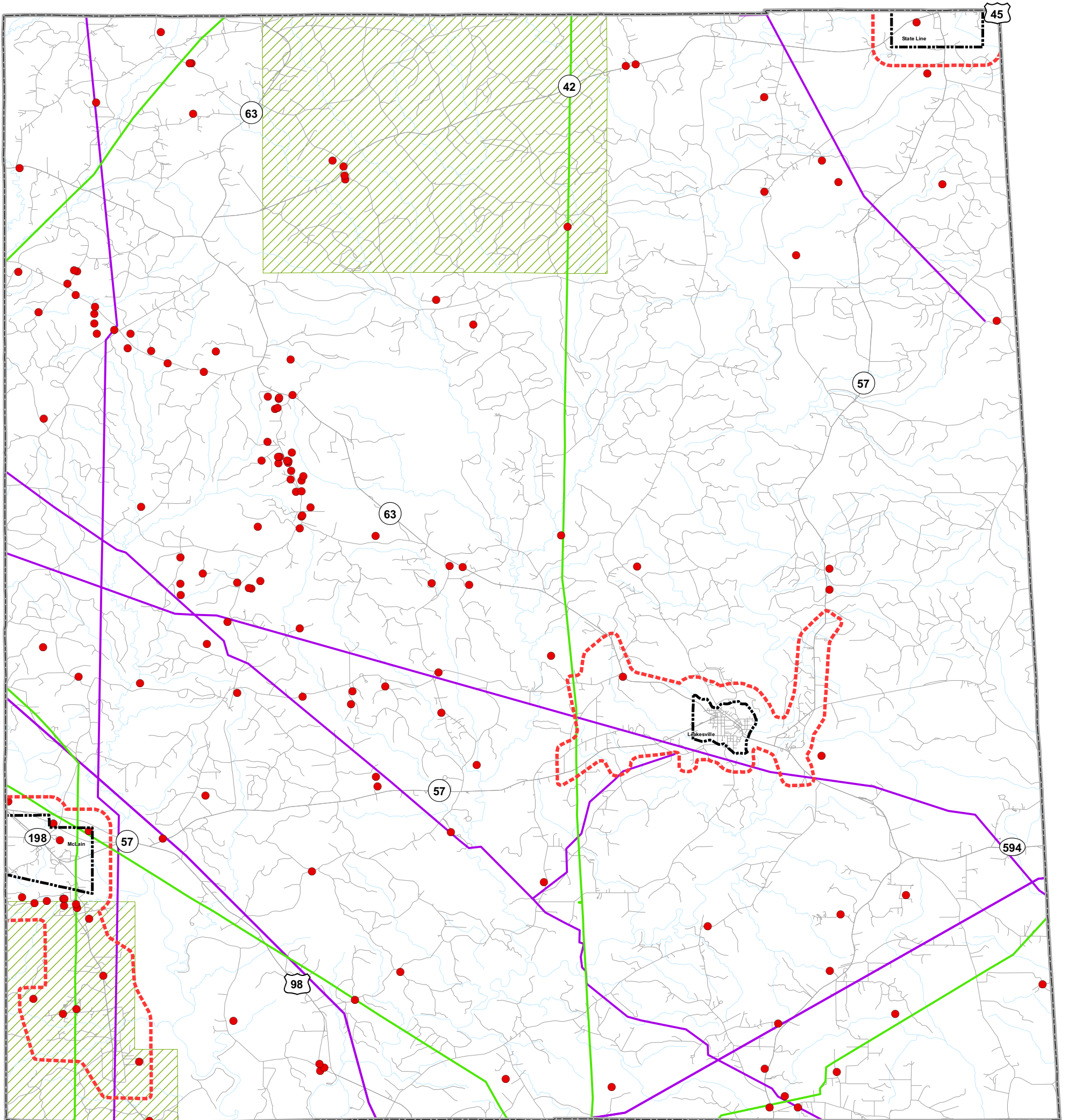
Wildfire Protection Plan Fire Data 2001 - 2007



Wildfire Occurrences	
● 2001 (12)	— Transmission Line
● 2002 (59)	— Gas/Oil Pipeline
● 2003 (31)	— Road/Highway
● 2004 (47)	— Railroad
● 2005 (82)	— Named Stream
● 2006 (94)	▨ National Forest
● 2007 (49)	⋯ Wildland-Urban Interface
	⊞ Incorporated City

Greene County, Mississippi

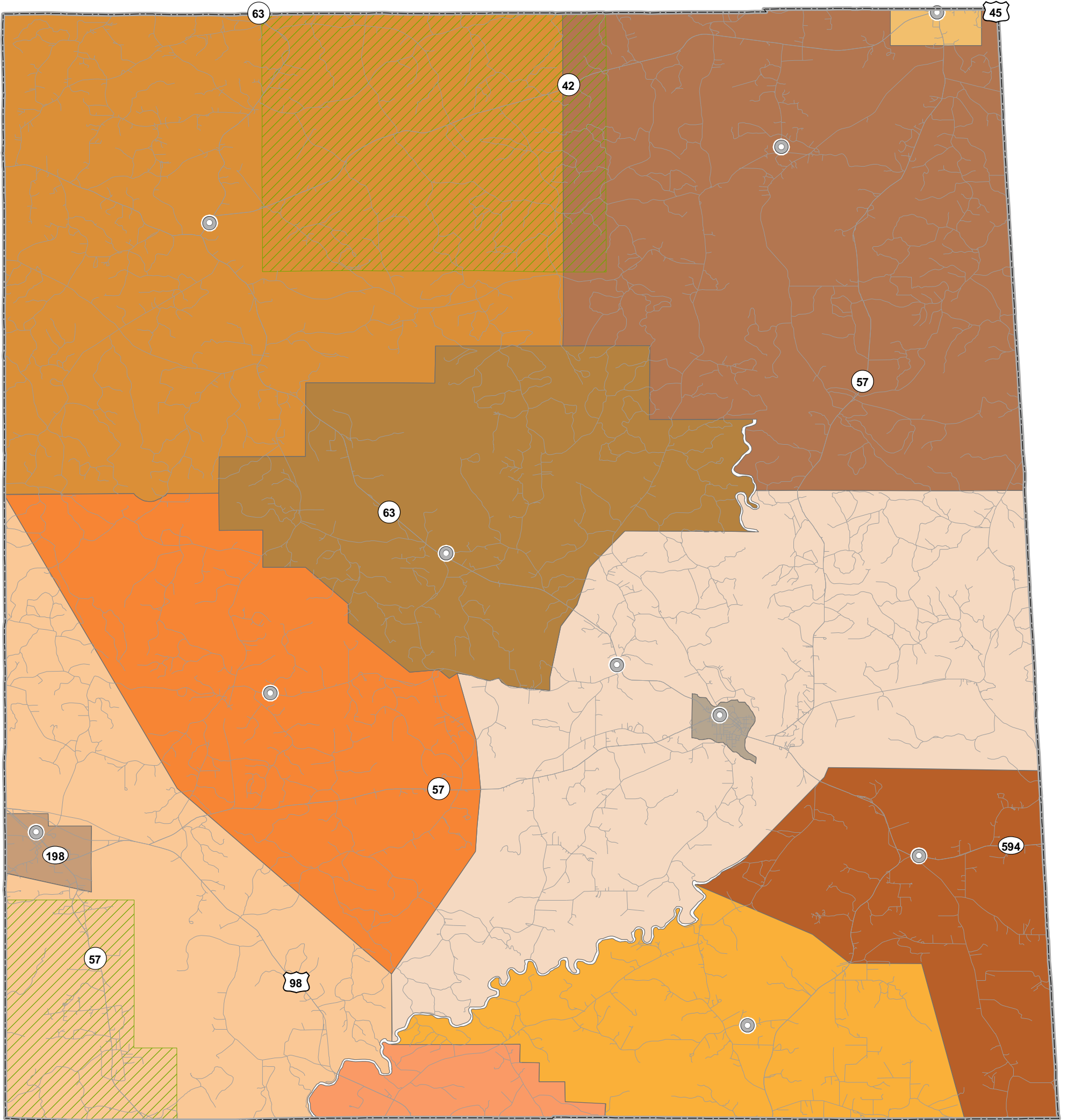
Wildfire Protection Plan Arson Fires 2001 - 2007



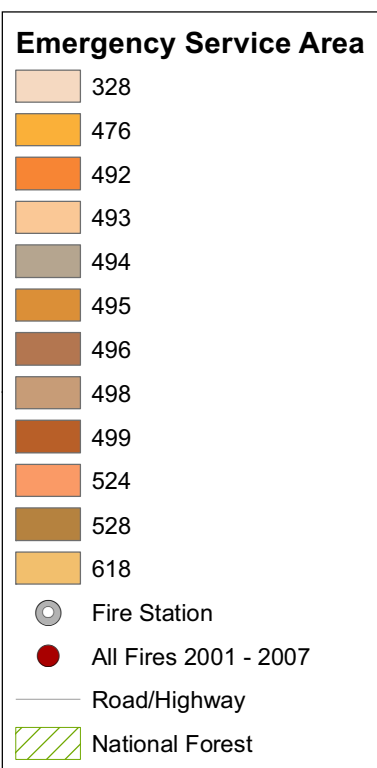
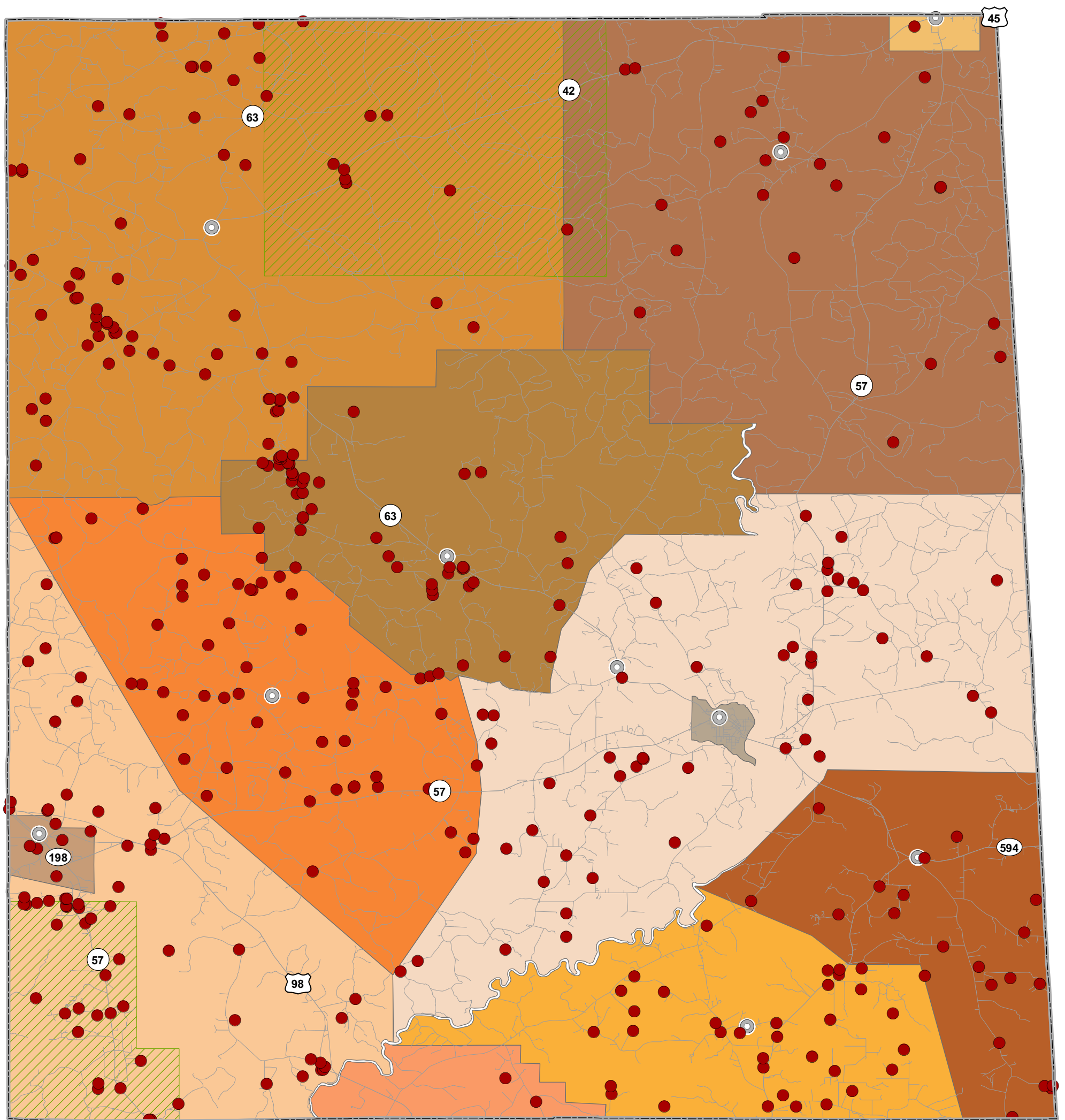
- Arson Incident
- Transmission Line
- Gas/Oil Pipeline
- Road/Highway
- Named Stream
- ▨ National Forest
- - - Wildland-Urban Interface
- ▭ Incorporated City

Greene County, Mississippi

Wildfire Protection Plan Fire Response Areas



Emergency Service Area	
	328
	476
	492
	493
	494
	495
	496
	498
	499
	524
	528
	618
	Fire Station
	Road/Highway
	National Forest



Greene County, Mississippi
 Wildfire Protection Plan
 Wildfires by Response Area