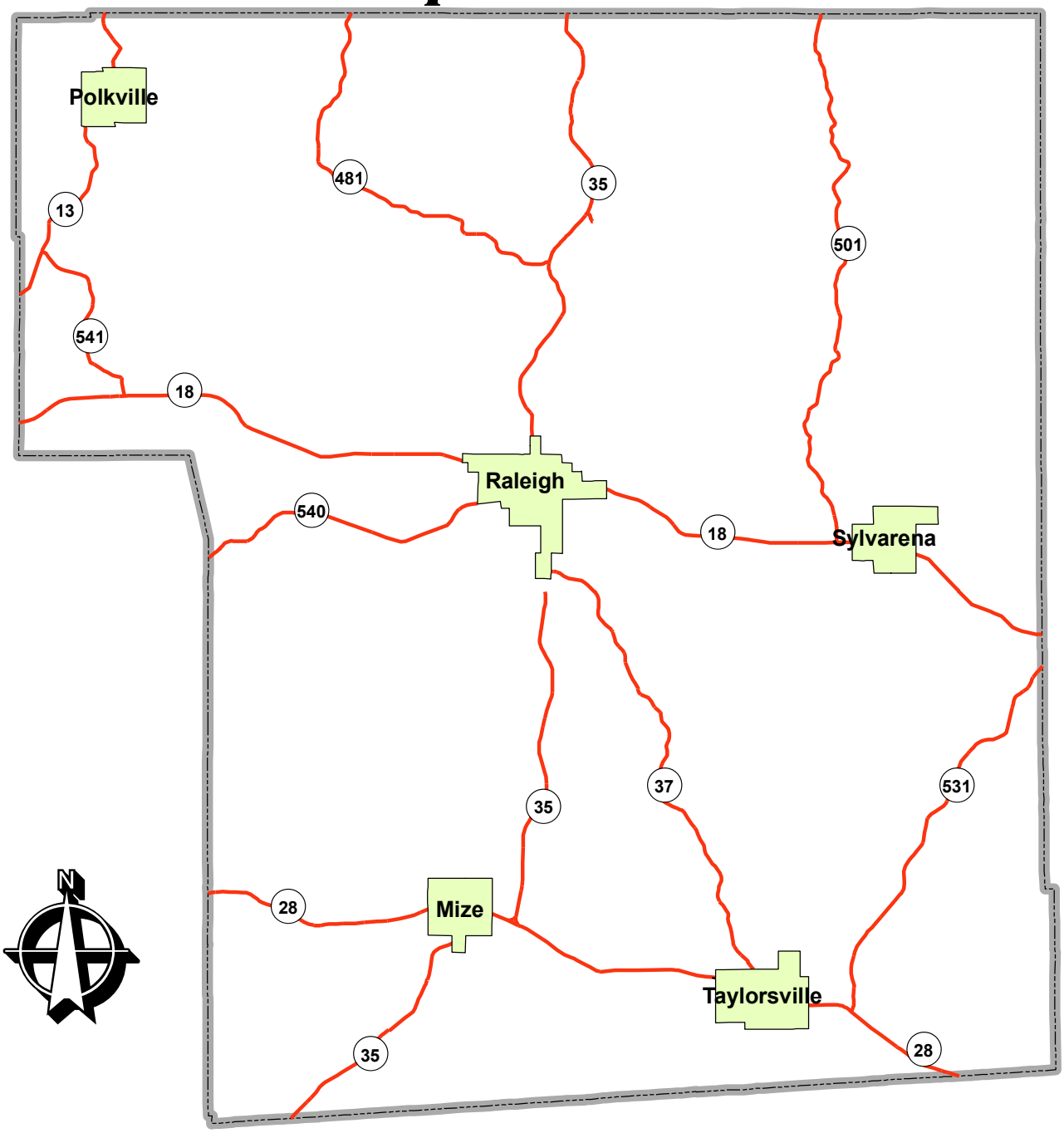
Smith County, Mississippi
County Wildfire Protection Plan
September 2009



Prepared by the
East Central Planning & Development District
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I. Introduction

In 2008 the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), commissioned the preparation of a Wildfire Protection Plan for Smith 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 geographic 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 Smith County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

II. Description Area

Smith is located in east central Mississippi and consists of 637 square miles of land area. The county has five incorporated areas, Raleigh, Taylorsville, Sylvarena, Mize and Polkville. The total 2007 estimated population for Smith County is 16,009, an estimated decrease of 173 persons (-1.1%) compared to the 2000 population of 16,182. Of the county's total population, Raleigh (1255), Taylorsville (1341), Sylvarena (120), Mize (285) and Polkville (132), 19% percent of the population is located in the incorporated areas of Smith County. High concentrations of population are located in the un-incorporated communities of Burns, Summerland and Shady Grove.

Smith County has approximately 1,267 miles of roads. Smith County's major highway transportation system includes State Highways 13, 18, 28, 35 and 37. The minor arterial roads are County Roads maintained by local Board of Supervisors. According to county statistics eighty four percent (84 %) of all county roads are paved, representing approximately 1064 miles of roads, while sixteen (16 %) are unpaved, representing approximately 206 miles of roads. With reference to rail services, the county has a freight rail line on the south side of the county that runs east and west. The rail services passes through forestland areas. Kansas City Southern Railroad provides rail services to the industries in the Smith County Industrial Park and other local industries along the route.

Smith County's main agricultural products are poultry followed by timber. The approximate value of the timber sold in 2008 was $24,510,000.00. Wild game and fish are abundant and provide for major outdoor recreation. The county has a total of approximately 407,717 acres of land. Forestland represents 336,356 acres. It is estimated that 82% of the land in Smith County is forestland.

According to public records, the following represents forest ownership and forest acreage by type:

Forest Ownership*		
Owner	**Acres (Thousands)**	**Percent**
Corporate	12.2	3
Federal	97.8	24
Forest Industry	65.2	16
Private, Non-Industry	232.4	57

Forest Acreage**		
Forest Type	**Acres**	**Percent**
Pine	194,300	59.9
Pine-Hardwood Mixed	36,200	11.2
Hardwood	87,900	27.1

*Source: USDA – Forest Service

**Source: Mississippi State University Extension Service

According to Forestry Commission data, approximately 30% of the timberland was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. The estimated loss of timer revenue was approximately $7,300,000.

Smith 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 75,000 acres of land in Smith County, providing hunting lands, fishing and camping.

The Tallahala Wildlife Management area is located in the northeast part of the county and is available for hunting and is managed by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. The part within Smith County is approximately 3,800 acres with the entire management

area containing 27,637 acres. Caney Creek Wildlife Management Area is located in the northwest part of the county, in the Bienville National Forest, with the portion located in Smith County consisting of approximately 5,400 acres.

Winters are generally short with few days of intense cold. The mean temperature for January is 47 degrees Fahrenheit. Summers are hot with high humidity. The mean temperature during July is 81 degrees. Precipitation tends to be an average of approximately 60 inches of rain per year. The hottest months are July and August, the driest is October (3.27 inches) and the wettest month is March (7.10 inches). 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 Smith 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 312 wildfires were reported in Smith County. Most of these fires occurred during the summer and fall months and burned five acres or less. March was the month with the most wildfire activity. Burning debris caused most of the fires. The largest wildfire reported during this period occurred on March 6, 2006 and burned more than 240 acres.

While the National Park Service has primary responsibility for wildfires in Bienville National Forest, Smith 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 6 volunteer fire departments: Raleigh, Taylorsville, Sylvarena, Polkville, Mize and Pineville. 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 adjourning counties.

Smith County Volunteer Fire Status

Fire Rating Area	Sq. Miles	VFD Station	Address	# of Vol's
Raleigh	137.5	Raleigh	302 Firehouse Drive Raleigh MS 39153	14
Taylorsville	87.78	Taylorsville	200 Eureka Street Taylorsville, MS 39168	19
Mize	111.06	Mize	115 Cedar Street Mize, MS 39116	27
Sylvarena	82.12	Sylvarena	46 Old School Drive Raleigh, MS 39153	19
Pineville	82.01	Pineville	9397 Hwy 13 Forest, MS 39074	11
Polkville	90.01	Polkville	6386 Hwy 13 Morton, MS 39117	19

Fire districts outside of Smith County cover two other areas of the county. In the northern part of the county, Homewood VFD in Scott County covers 39.3 sq. miles and in the southeast part of the county Stringer VFD in Jasper County covers 7.5 sq. miles.

There were approximately 7,000 housing structures within the county as of 2002 with a median value of $58,400 each. Of these structures approximately 50% are at risk from wildfires. The approximate value of these at risk structures is $204,400,000.00.

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

At the beginning of the planning process, the Smith 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) Seek funding for purchase of Rapid Response Brush Trucks
3) Develop a communication network between the Volunteer Fire Departments and the Forestry Commission.
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 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 location of arson fires reported for the FY 2002-2007 time period. Also shown on the map are 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 # 4, Debris Burning Fires FY's 2002-2007

This map depicts the location of debris burning fires reported for FY 2002-2007 time period. Also shown on the map are the Wildland Urban Interface, VFD stations and the incorporate communities within the county.

Map # 5, 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 are 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, High Occurrence Wildfire Areas

This map depicts the locations of areas with a high occurrence of wildfires. Also shown on the map are 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 # 7, Risk Assessment Ratings

This map depicts the location and color-coded risk assessment of utilities, schools, railroads and communication facilities not inside a municipality. Also shown on the map are the High Occurrence Wildfire Areas, 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 # 8, Base Map

This map depicts the location of facilities at risk from wildfires within the county. Included on this map are the WUI, National Forest, Major roads and incorporated communities. The facilities are color coded to reflect the risk from wildfires, Blue = Low Risk, Green = Medium Risk, Yellow = Medium High Risk, Red = High Risk. The facilities are rated based on the structure type and proximity to the wild land interface.

Map # 9, Oil & Gas Wells

This map depicts the location of oil and gas wells within the county, color coded to reflect the risk from wildfires, Blue = Low Risk, Green = Medium Risk, Yellow = Medium High Risk, Red = High Risk. All the facilities were rated Medium Risk due to the volatile nature of the product produced and the proximity to the wild land interface.

Map # 10, Significant Lakes (Recreation Areas)

This map depicts the location of the major public lakes (recreation areas) within the county. The facilities are color coded to reflect the risk from wildfires, Blue = Low Risk, Green = Medium Risk, Yellow = Medium High Risk, Red = High Risk. The facilities were rated by the type facility and proximity to the wild land interface. The lake areas were rated low. The majority of the lakes are located in the National Forest and benefit from the prescribed burning and frequent patrols by forest personnel.

Map # 11, Population Density

This map depicts the locations of concentrations of persons. Each dot on the map represents one (1) person within the census block. This data was used in determining the Wildland Urban Interface. The data is from the U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000.

Map # 12, Cogon Grass Locations

This map depicts the confirmed locations of Cogon Grass within the county. This grass is an invasive species, with a high fuel index, and is being sought out for eradication by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, (NRCS). The NRCS provided the data for inclusion in the plan.

Map # 13, Non-MFC Fires by VFD Response Area

This map depicts the VFD areas rated as to the average number of fires that they have responded to that the Forestry Commission did not. The data used is the approximate number of non-structure fires they respond to on an annual basis. This data was obtained from the VFD Chiefs for the county.

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, thee 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 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 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. (See Map # 6.)

Power Substations

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 # 7)

Community Services

Schools

There are two (2) schools located outside of incorporated areas and both good buffers and are rated a low risk. (See Map # 7)

- **Water Utility Sites**

  The water tanks and wells are considered low risk. All have been constructed with buffers around them and almost all the construction materials are non-flammable. The facilities have fire buffers around them and are rated low risk, they are not shown on the maps.

- **Emergency Communication Towers**

  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 low risk. (See Map # 7)

- **Power Substation**

  There are buffers around the substation, and the substation is considered to be low risk.

  (See Map # 7)

Kansas City Southern Railroad (KCS)

The right-of-ways are cleared regularly along the KCS line. While the possibility of fire along the rail line or in the rail line right-of-way is not probable, the potential for severe damage exists due to lack of access, for that reason; the Kansas City Southern railroad is a medium risk. (See Map # 7)

Recreation Areas

The significant lakes and the National Forest are considered low risk. (See Map # 10)

- **Oil/Gas Wells and Pumps**

  Located throughout the county, with heavier concentrations in the southern part of the county are oil/gas wells and pumps. The oil/gas wells and pumps have good well-maintained buffers around them. Some of the wells and pumps are located in areas with

high risks of fires, but the wells and pumps are considered a medium risk due to the volatile nature of the products. (See Map #11)

Propane Storage Tanks 

Propane is stored in several areas within the county for ease of distribution to the many customers, residential and commercial. Most of the tanks have good buffers, but due to the volatile nature of the product, the tanks in close proximity to the Wildland interface are rated a medium risk. (See Map # 7)

VI. Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness for each of the county volunteer departments is continually reviewed and assessed by the Smith 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 within the Corporate Limits and a rating of Class 10 in the rural areas. 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 Smith 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 Smith County area is needed.

Equipment is an important factor in emergency Preparedness. A current inventory of equipment by location is provided below. The Volunteer Fire Departments are color rated by the number of non-structure fires they responded to during the time period from 2002-2007.

Smith County VFD Inventory

VFD	Vols	Backpacks	Flaps	Rakes	Pumper	Tanker	Rescue	Brush Truck	Rating Class	BrushFires 02-07
Mize	27	0	12	12	1	1	0	1	8/10	300
Pineville	11	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	10	30
Polkville	19	2	2	0	2	0	0	1	8/10	50
Raleigh	14	0	11	10	2	0	0	1	8/10	150
Sylvarena	19	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	8/10	50
Taylorsville	19	0	4	0	2	2	0	0	8/10	100
Totals	109	2	31	24	11	5	0	4		

The fires are small brush or grass fires that the VFD's were able to contain or extinguish without the assistance of the MFC. Mize, Raleigh and Taylorsville are rated High (100-300 fires), Polkville and Sylvarena are rated Medium (50 fires) and Pineville is rated Low (30 fires). Of the three volunteer fire departments rated High, Raleigh and Mize have brush trucks but they are 32 years and 29 years old respectively and are in poor condition. Taylorsville does not currently have a brush truck. Polkville, rated Medium, has a brush truck, (32 years old) in poor condition and Sylvarena, rated Medium, does not have a brush truck. Pineville, rated Low, is in the process of building a new brush truck with an anticipated completion date of the fall of 2009.
After a careful review of the other firefighting equipment, only Polkville has backpacks, all have limited access to rakes and flaps, the brush trucks are in overall poor to fair condition, with most needing extensive repairs.

The county is in the process of testing with the State Fire Rating Bureau to improve the ratings for each of the Volunteer Fire Departments.

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.

Recommendations for specific fuel reduction were identified by the committee; Projects including 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: Smith County Emergency Coordinator, East Central Planning and Development District
   Funding: County
   Timetable for Completion: 2010
   Expected Outcome: More access to water to fight wildfires
   Assessment Timetable: 2010; update list every 2-3 years

2. Establish biannual meetings between the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the Smith County Volunteer Fire Departments.
   Responsibility: Smith 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: Smith 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: 2010. 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: 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: Smith 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: Smith 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: Smith 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: Smith County Emergency Management Coordinator and Board of Supervisors

Funding: Potential grant opportunities

Timetable for Completion: 2010/2011

Expected Outcome: Improved firefighting capabilities, particularly in light of the MFC manpower shortage

Assessment Timetable: 2010

IX. Potential Funding Sources:

1. Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
   Website: www.firegrantsupport.com
   Application Deadline: Spring 2010
   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 Deadline: Fall 2010
   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 Deadline: Summer 2010
   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. Grants Office
   Website: www.firegrants.info and 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
   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
   Application Deadline: Ongoing
   Program Description: Funding assistance for fire protection. Funds can be used to purchase fire trucks and brush trucks.

X. References:

Data sources utilized in preparation of this plan, include:
Mississippi Forestry Commission
U. S. Bureau of the Census
Mississippi State University Extension Service
Smith 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
USDA Forest Service

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

Smith County Emergency Management
Kevin Butler, Emergency Mgt. Director
P.O. Box 1107
Raleigh, MS 39153 Phone: 601-782-9151

Mize Volunteer Fire Department
Chief, John Mathis
115 Cedar Street
Mize, MS 39116 Phone: 601-733-2221

Pineville Volunteer Fire Department
Chief, James McIntosh
9397 Hwy 501
Forest, MS 39074 Phone: 601-789-5196

Contacts (continued)

Polkville Volunteer Fire Department
Chief, Billy Allen
6386 Hwy 13
Morton, MS 39117 Phone: 601-537-3460

Raleigh Volunteer Fire Department
Chief, Joseph Revette
302 Firehouse Drive
Raleigh, MS 39153 Phone: 601-782-4672

Sylvarena Volunteer Fire Department
Chief, Tommy Rogers
46 Old School Drive
Raleigh, MS 39153 Phone: 601-782-4271

Taylorsville Volunteer Fire Department
Chief, Don Chennault
200 Eureka Street
Taylorsville, MS 39168 Phone: 601-785-6622

Southeast Mississippi Resource Conservation & Development Council
113 Fairfield Drive, Suite 110
Hattiesburg, MS 39402 Phone: 601-296-1187

Beinville National Forest
100 West Capitol Street, Site 1141
Jackson, MS 39269 Phone: 601-965-4391

Beinville National Forest
Beinville Ranger Office
3473 Hwy 35 South
Forest, MS 39074 Phone: 601-469-3811

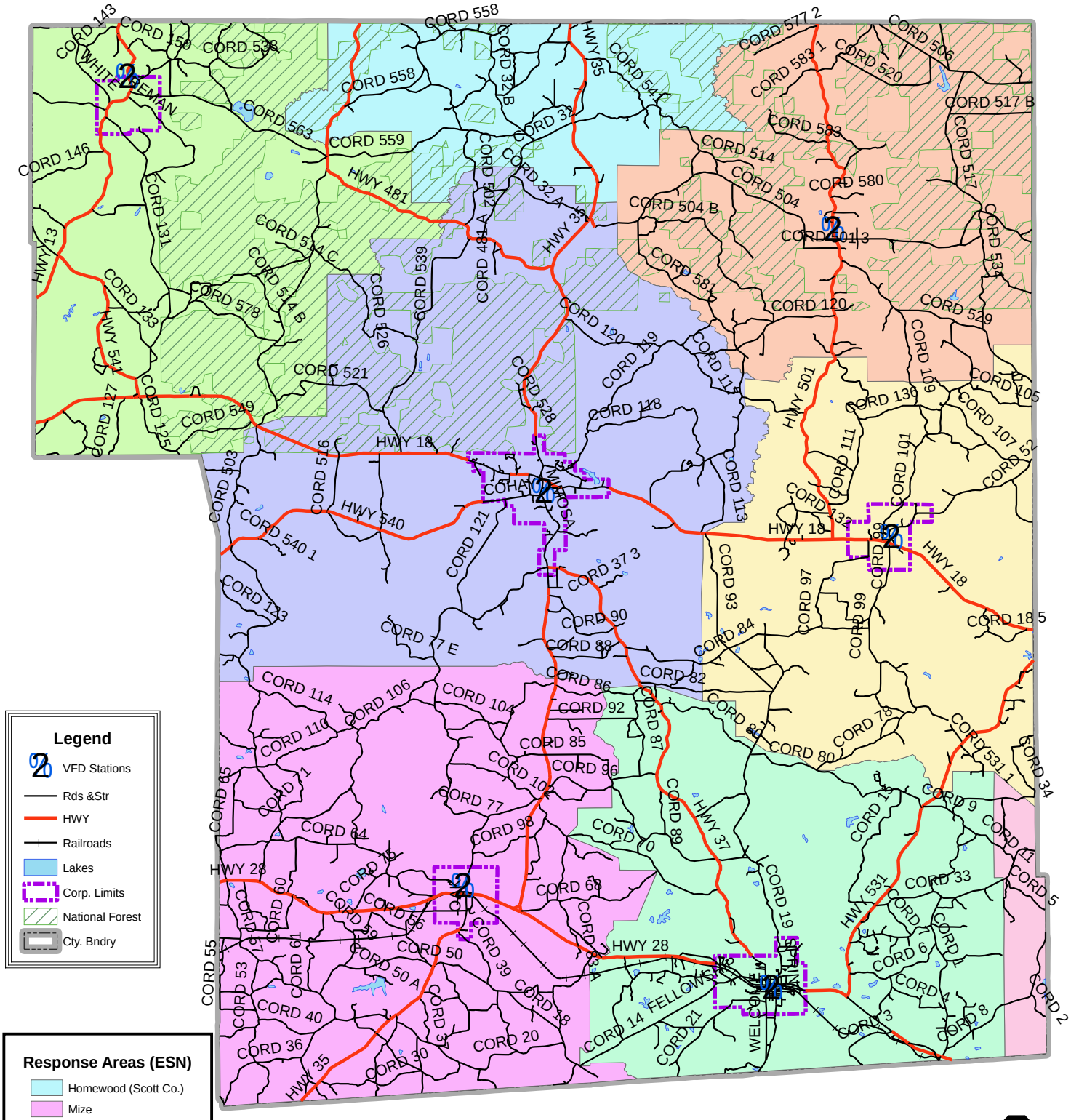
Mississippi Automated Resource Information System
(MARIS)
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211 Phone: 601-432-6128

XII. Maps

See Attached Maps

Smith County, Mississippi
VFD Stations & Response Areas

Map # 1



Legend

- VFD Stations
- Rds &Str
- HWY
- Railroads
- Lakes
- Corp. Limits
- National Forest
- Cty. Bndry

Response Areas (ESN)

- Homewood (Scott Co.)
- Mize
- Pineville
- Polkville
- Raleigh
- Stringer (Jasper Co.)
- Sylvarena
- Taylorsville

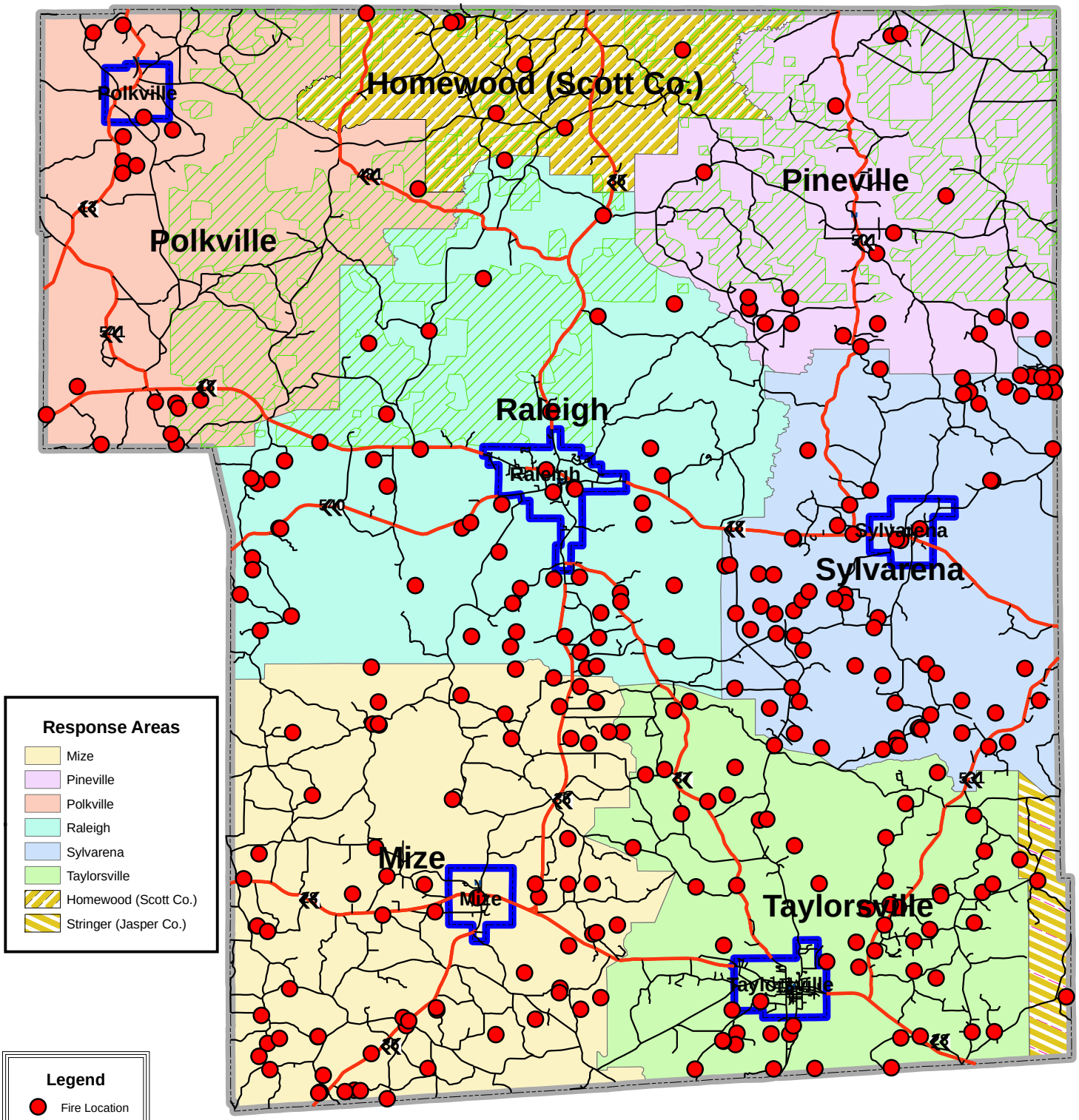
Data Source: Smith County Emergency Management

4 2 0 4 8 12 Miles

Smith County, Mississippi

Map # 2

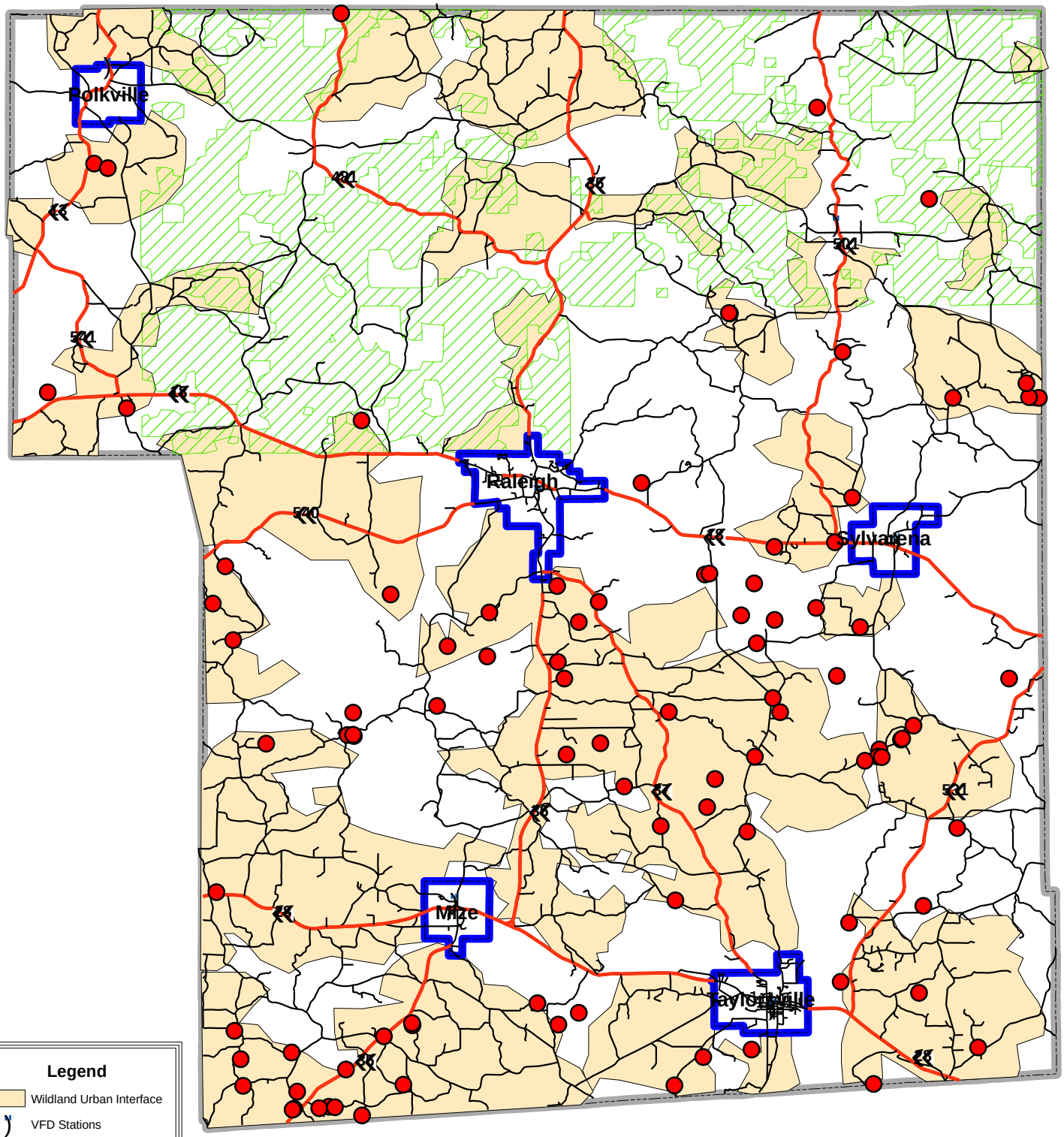
Wildfires by Response Area



Smith County, Mississippi

Map # 3

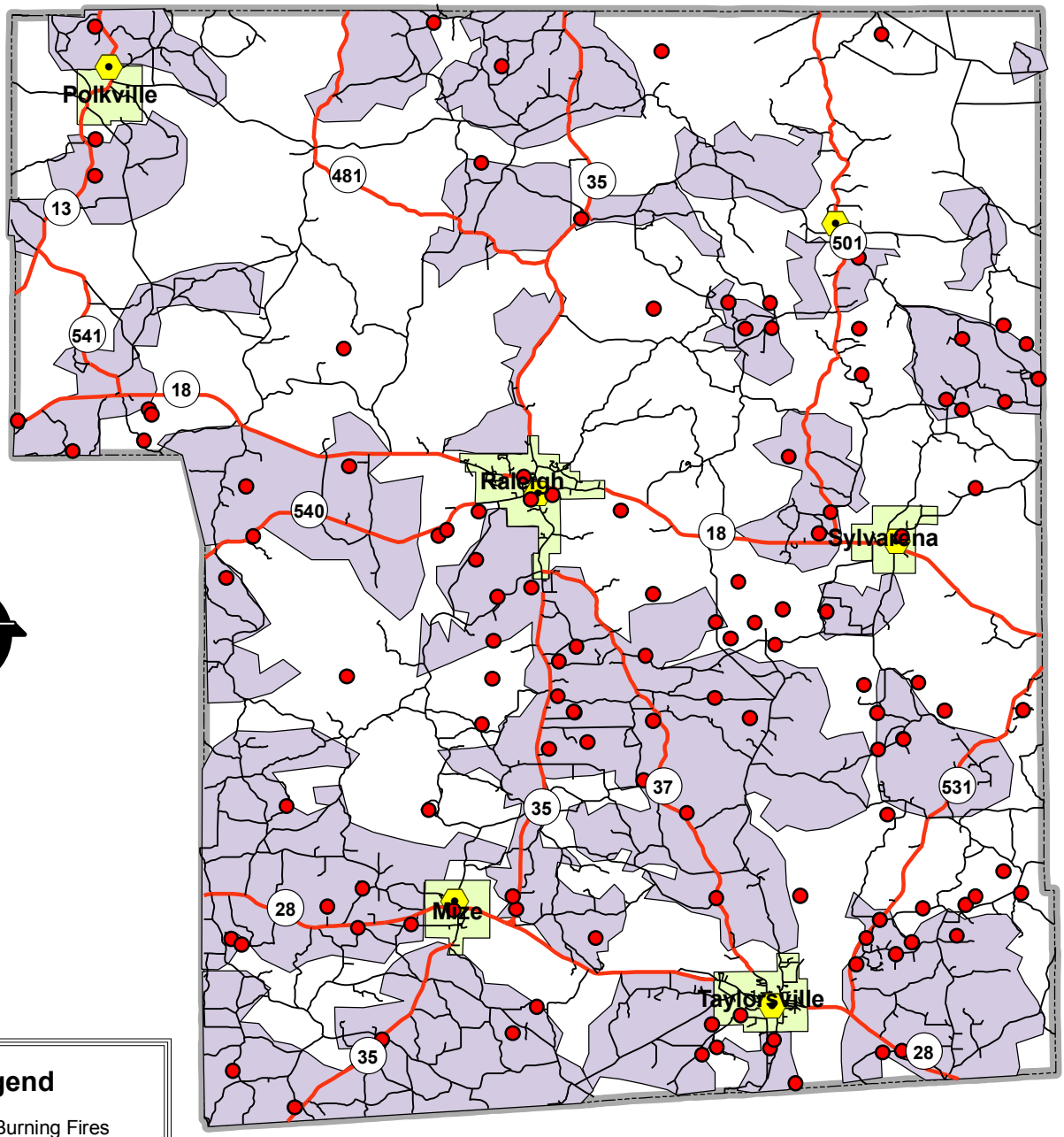
Wildfires Caused by Arson



Smith County, Mississippi

Map # 4

Debris Burning Fires FY 02-07



N

Legend

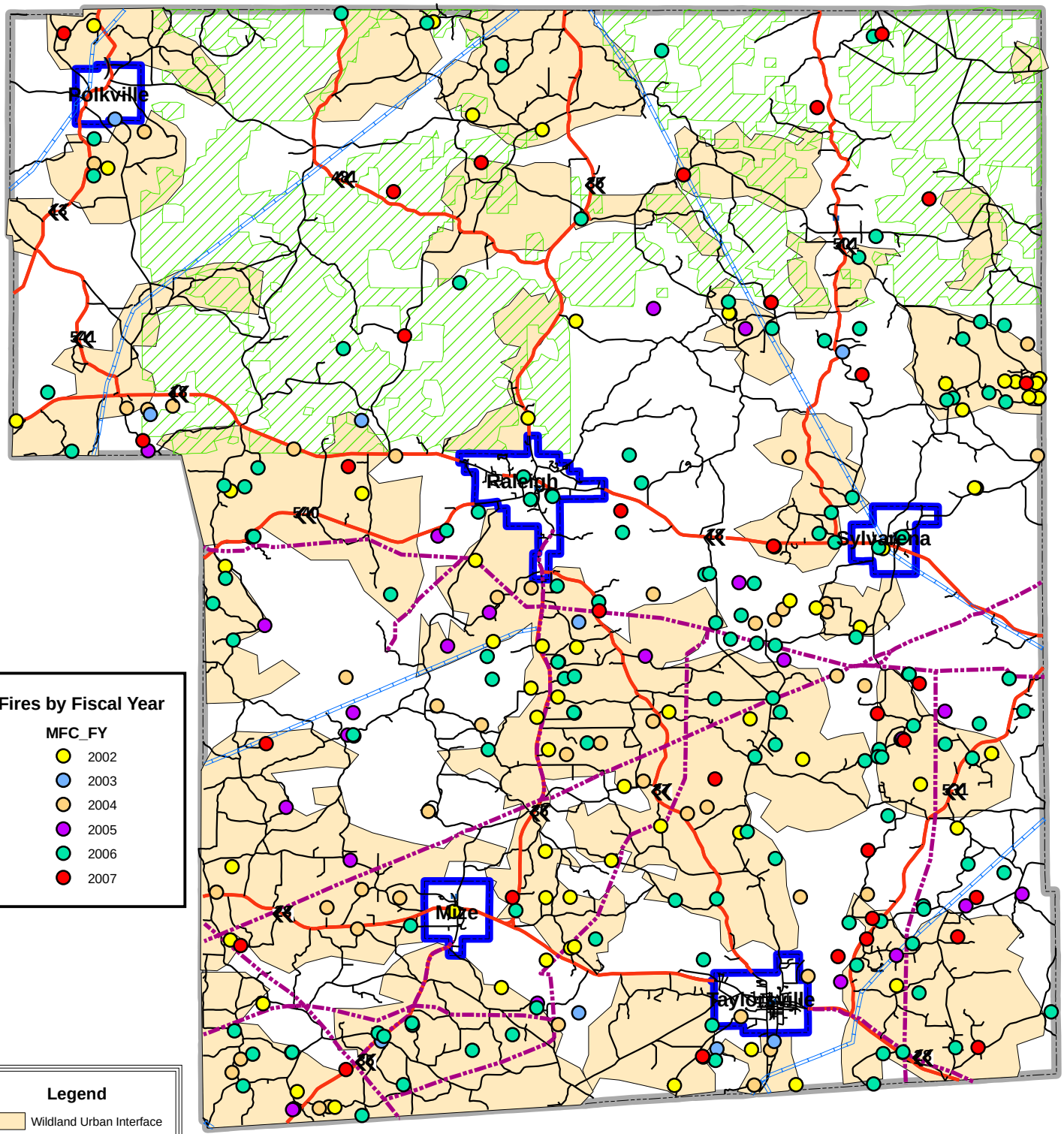
- Debris Burning Fires
- Wildland Urban Interface
- VFD Stations
- Rds &Str
- HWY
- Corp. Limits
- Cty. Bndry

4 2 0 4 8 12 16 Miles

Map # 5

Smith County, Mississippi

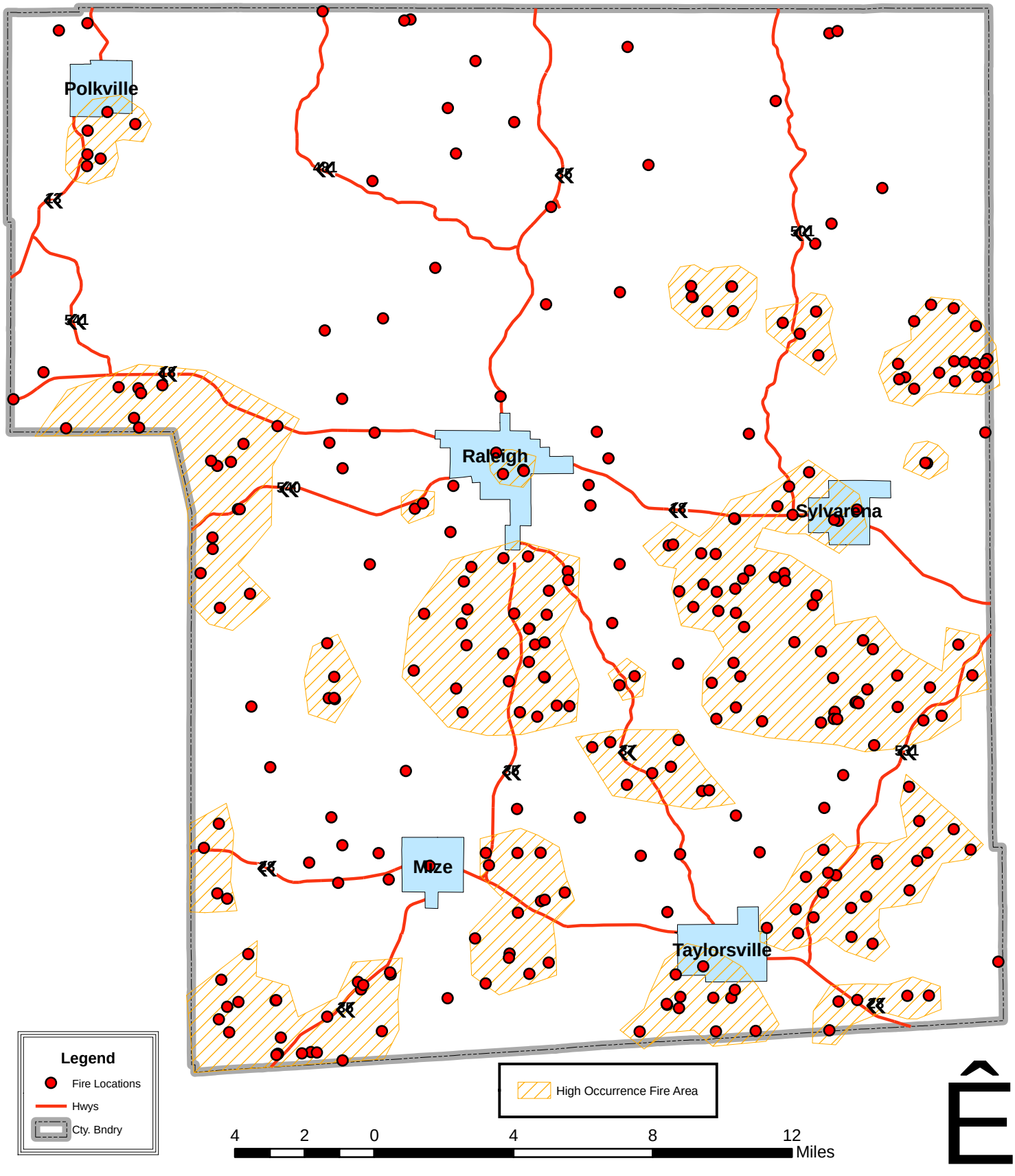
Fires by MFC Fiscal Year



Smith County, Mississippi

Map # 6

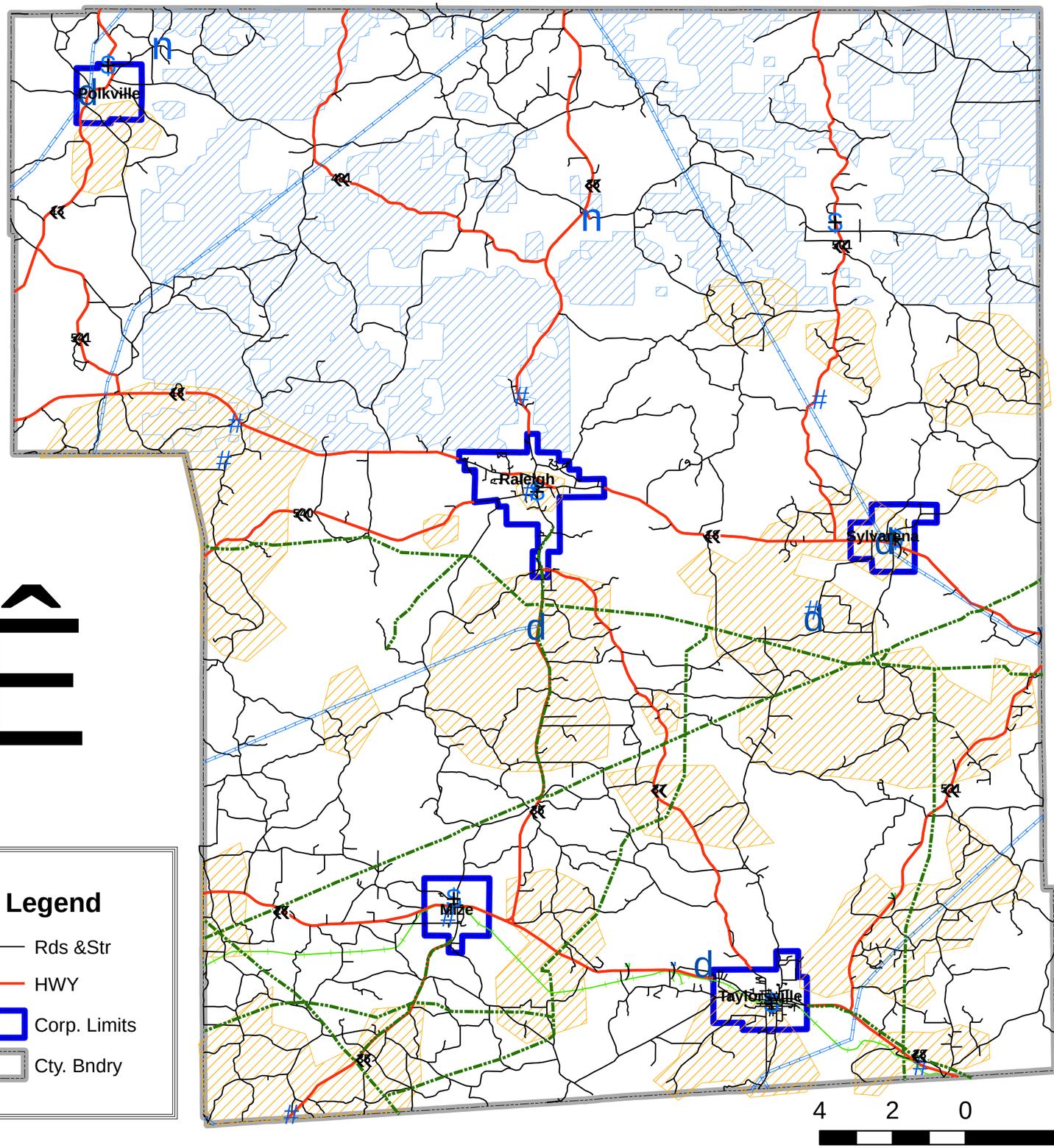
High Occurrence Wildfire Areas



Smith County Mississippi

Map # 7

County Risk Assessment



Risk Ratings Color Code

- Low Risk
- Medium High Risk
- Medium Risk
- High Risk

Rated Items

- Schools
- VFD Stations
- Communication Towers
- Electric Power Stations
- Major Oil & Gas Lines
- Major Electric Lines
- Railroads
- National Forest

Propane Storage Tanks

- Low Risk
- Medium Risk

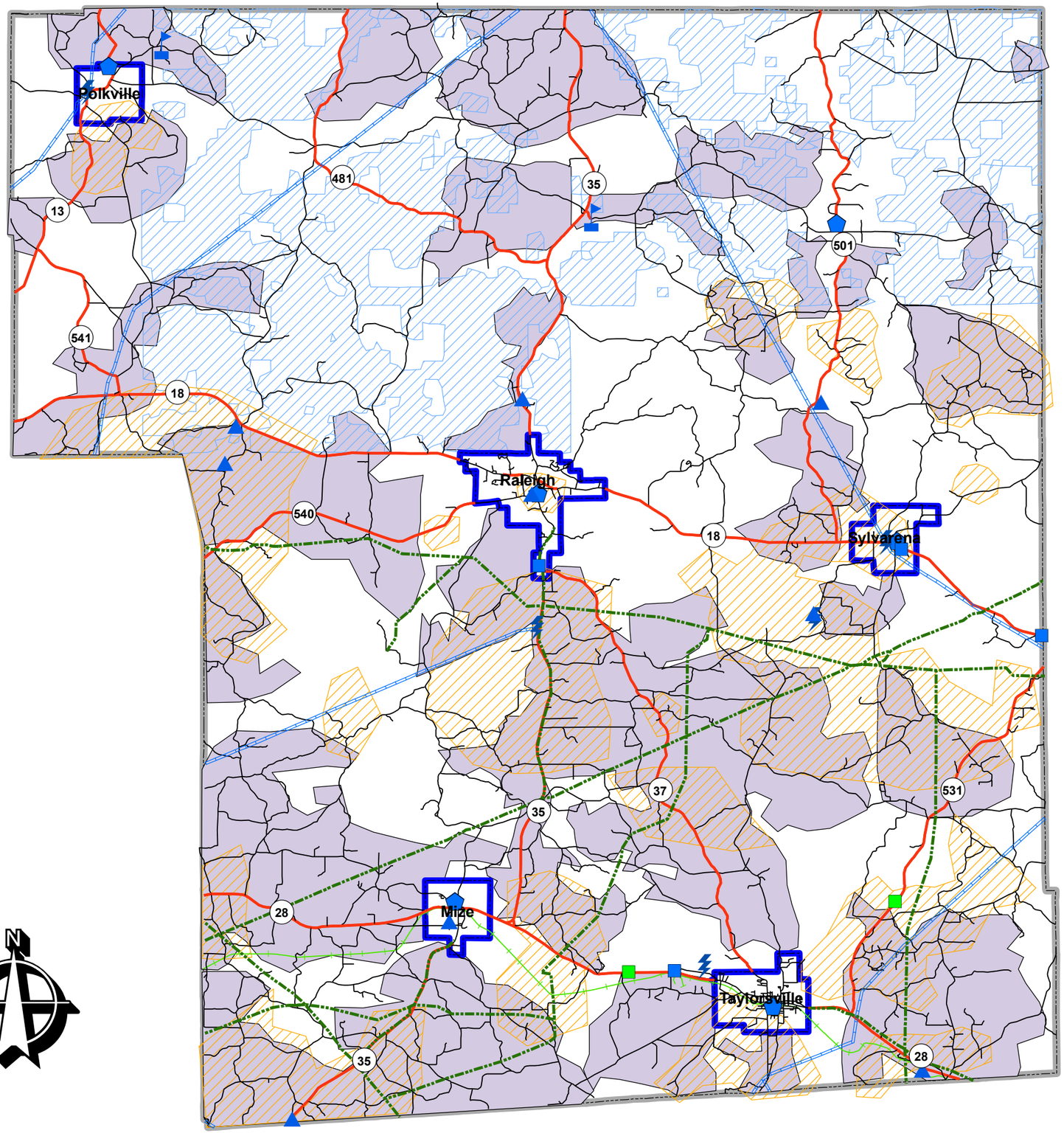
Legend

- Rds &Str
- HWY
- Corp. Limits
- Cty. Bndry

4 2 0 4 8 12 16 Miles

Smith County Mississippi

Map # 8



Risk Ratings Color Code

- Low Risk
- Medium High Risk
- Medium Risk
- High Risk

Rated Items

- Schools
- VFD Stations
- Communication Towers
- Electric Power Stations
- Major Oil & Gas Lines
- Major Electric Lines
- Railroads
- National Forest

Propane Storage Tanks

- Low Risk
- Medium Risk

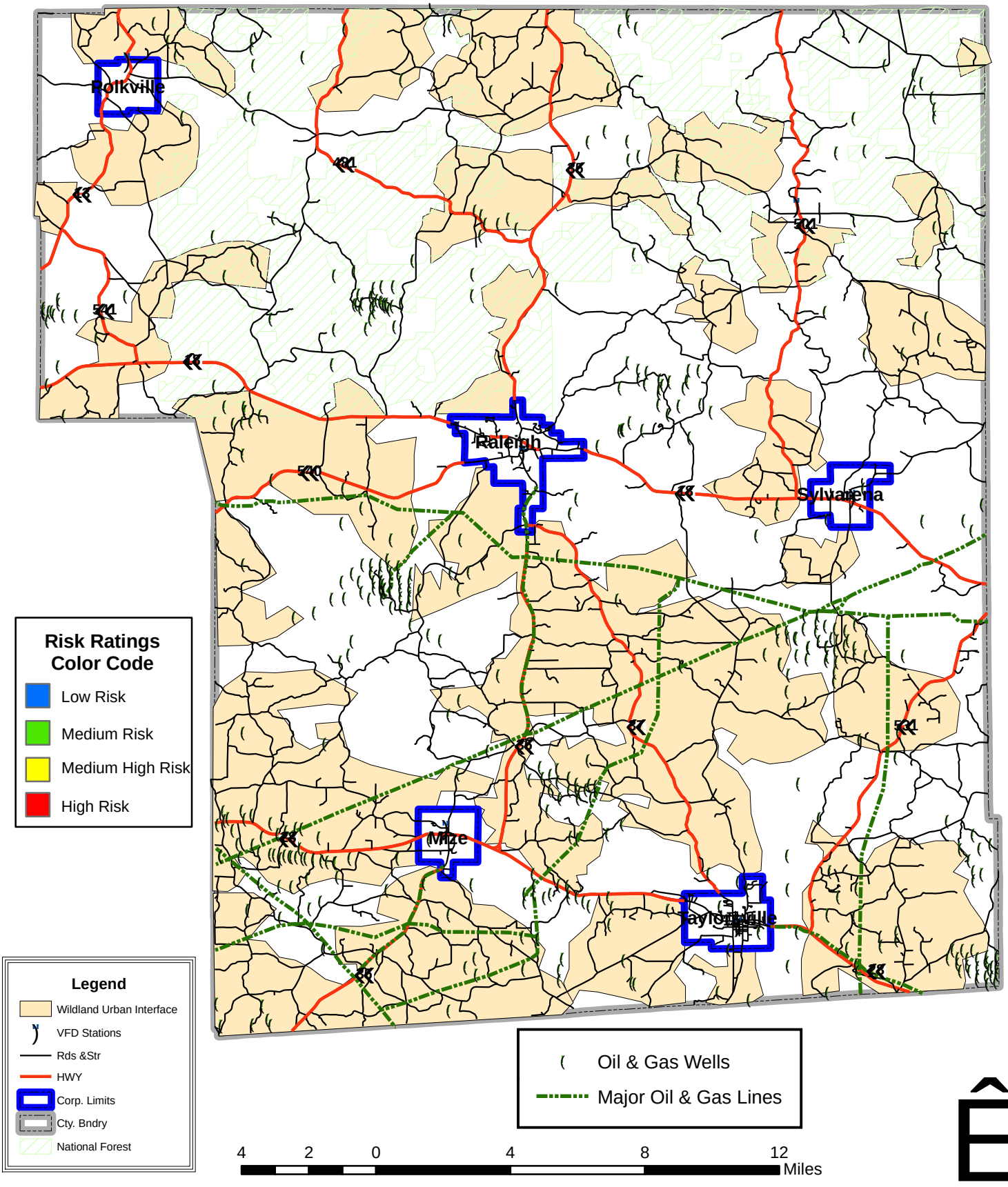
Legend

- High Occurrence Fire Area
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Rds &Str
- HWY
- Corp. Limits
- Cty. Bndry

Smith County, Mississippi

Map # 9

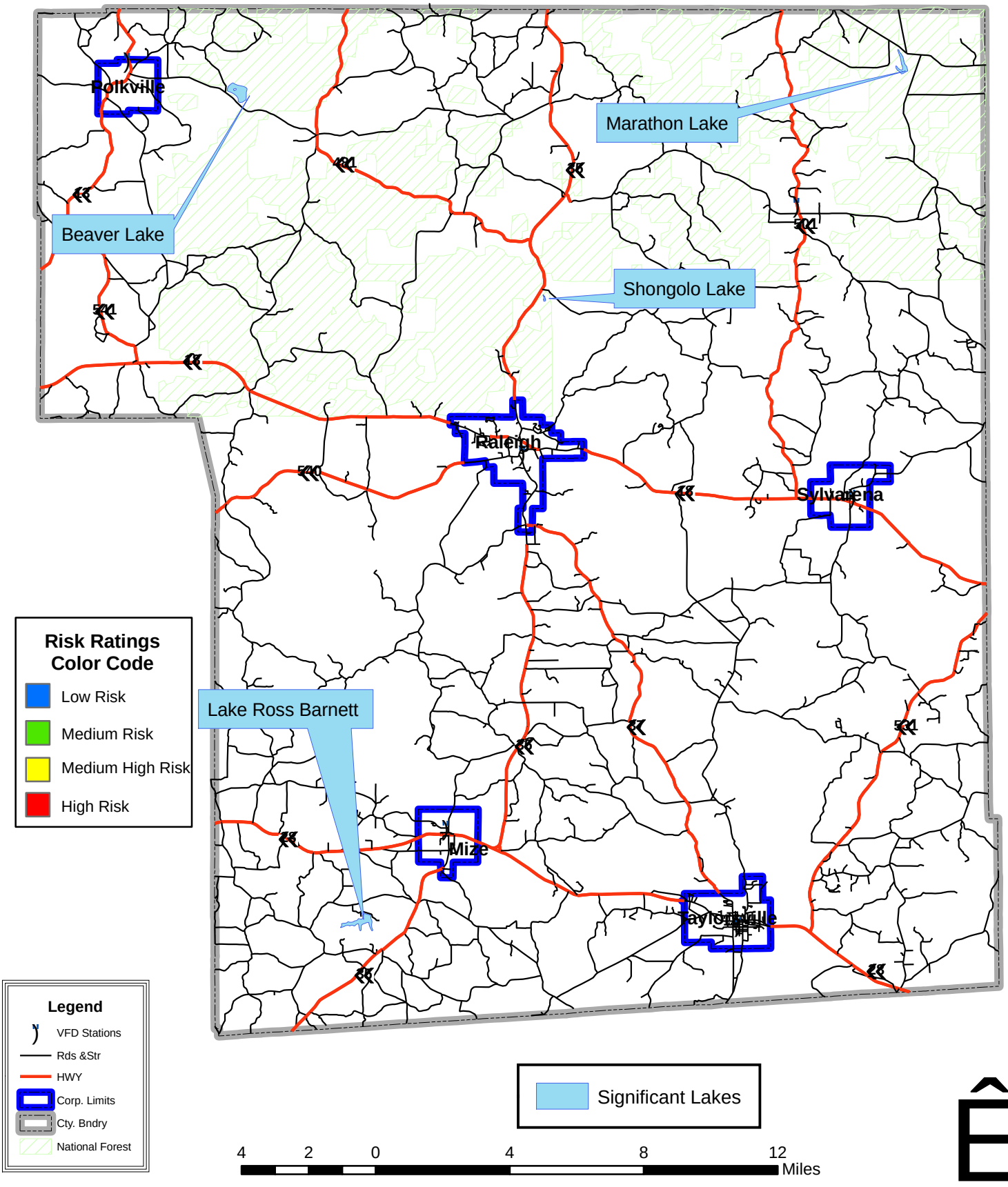
Oilfield Infrastructure



Smith County, Mississippi

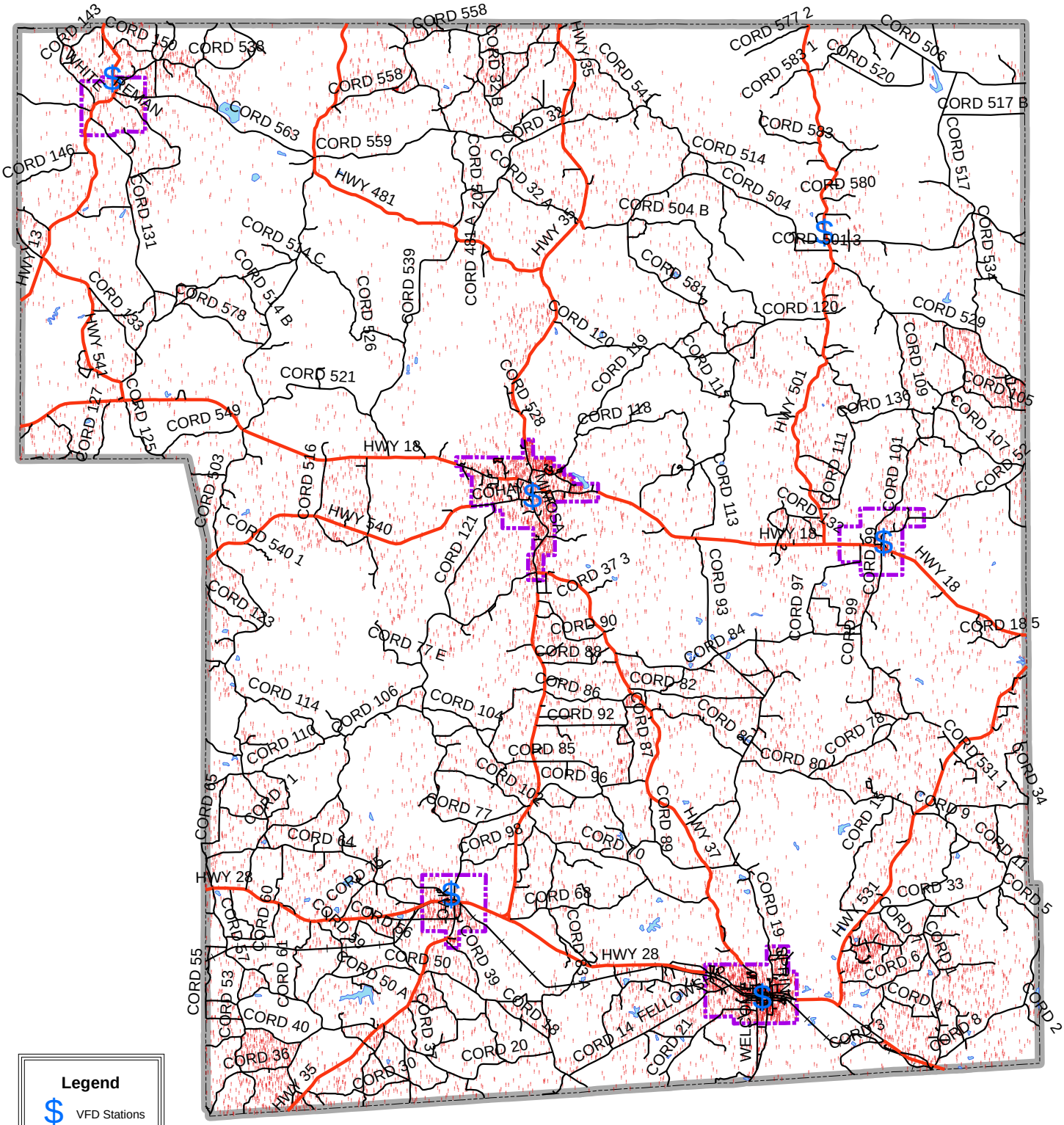
Map # 10

Significant Lakes



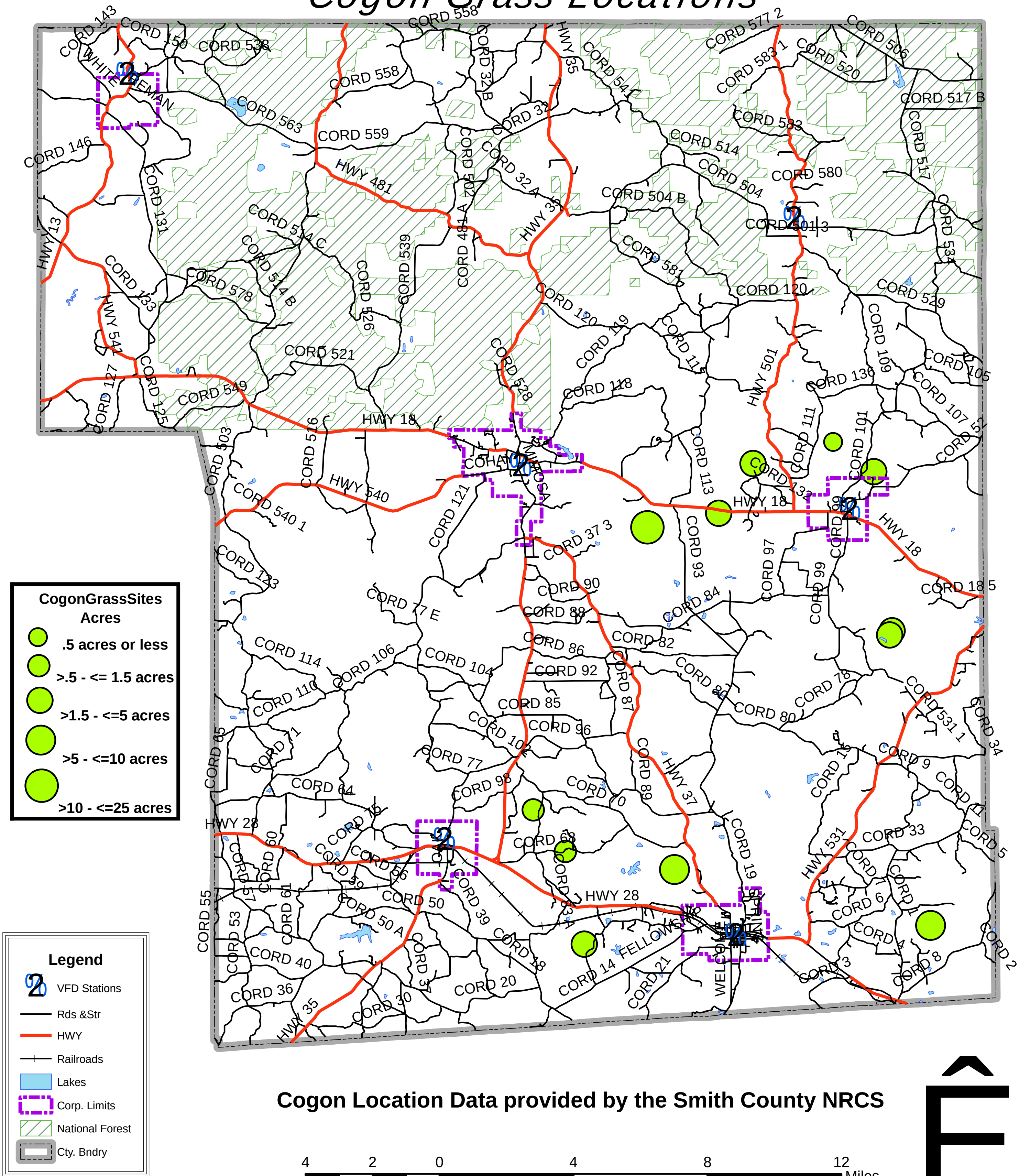
Smith County, Mississippi
Population Density

Map # 11



Smith County Mississippi Cogon Grass Locations

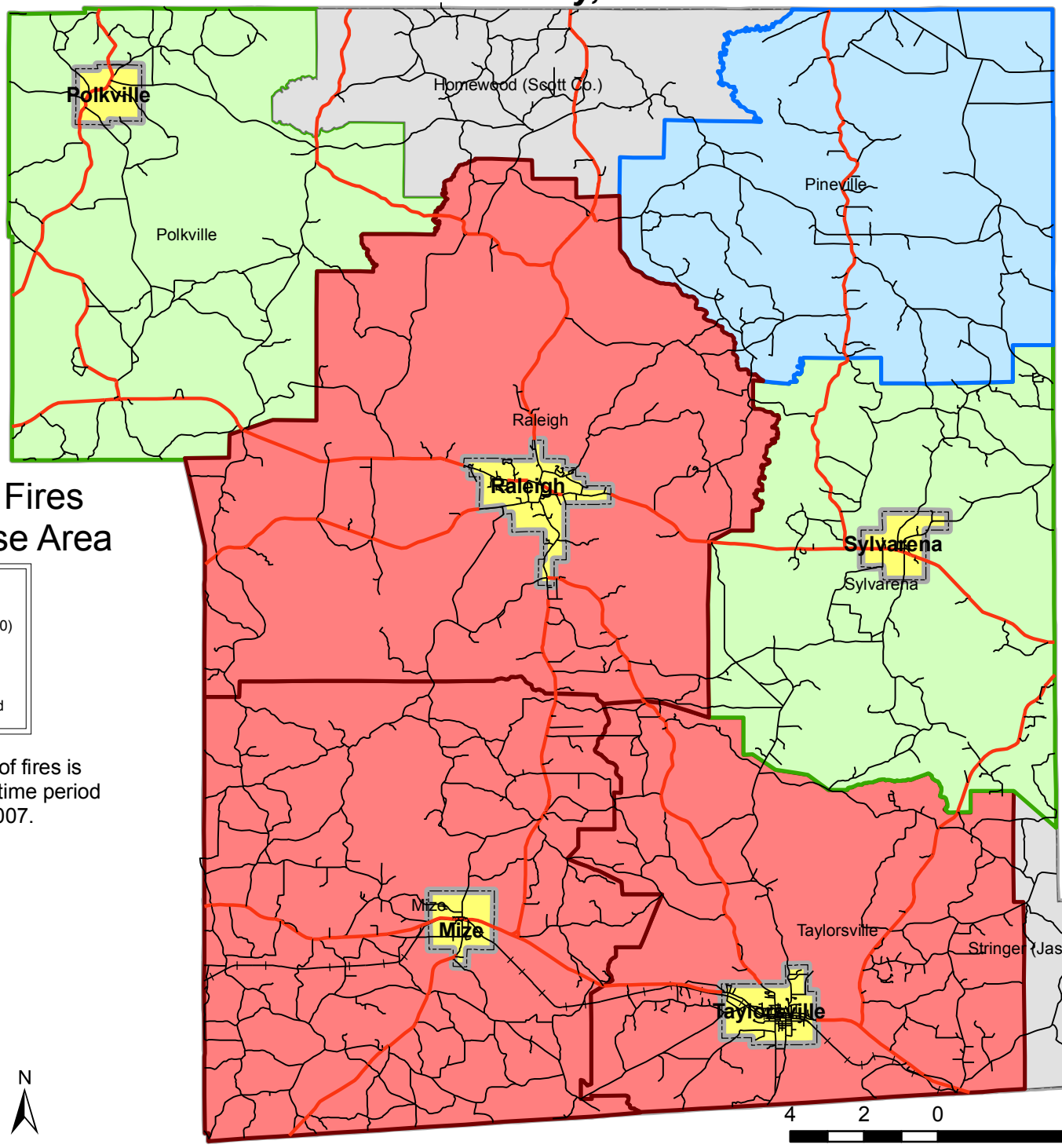
Map # 12



Cogon Location Data provided by the Smith County NRCS

Smith County, MS

Map # 13



Non-MFC Fires by Response Area

Legend

- High (100-300)
- Medium (50)
- Low (30)
- Not Assessed

Note: The number of fires is approximate for the time period of FY2002-2007.

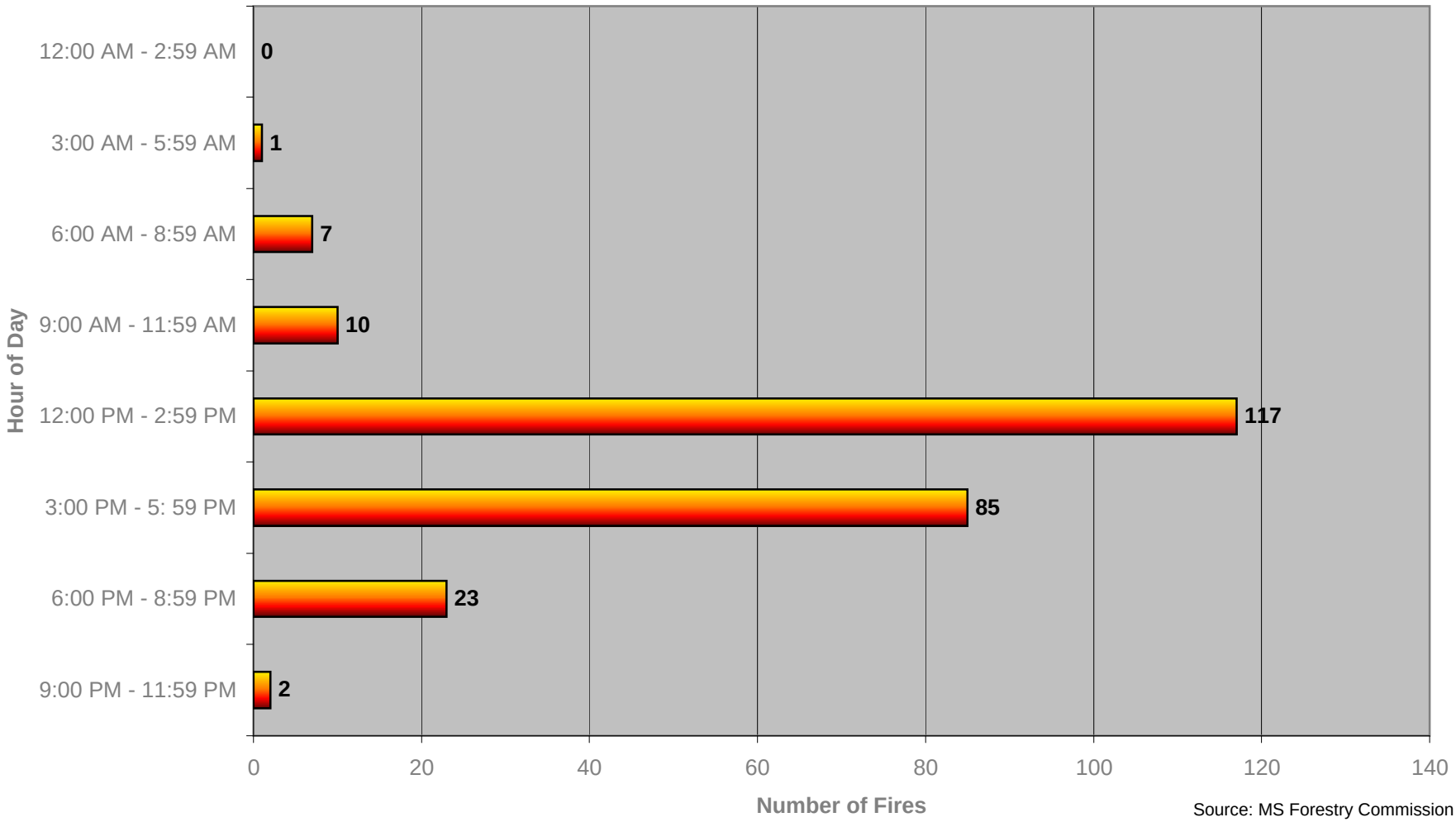
Legend

- Rds & Str
- HWY
- Railroad
- Corp Limits
- Cty. Bdry.

XIII. Charts

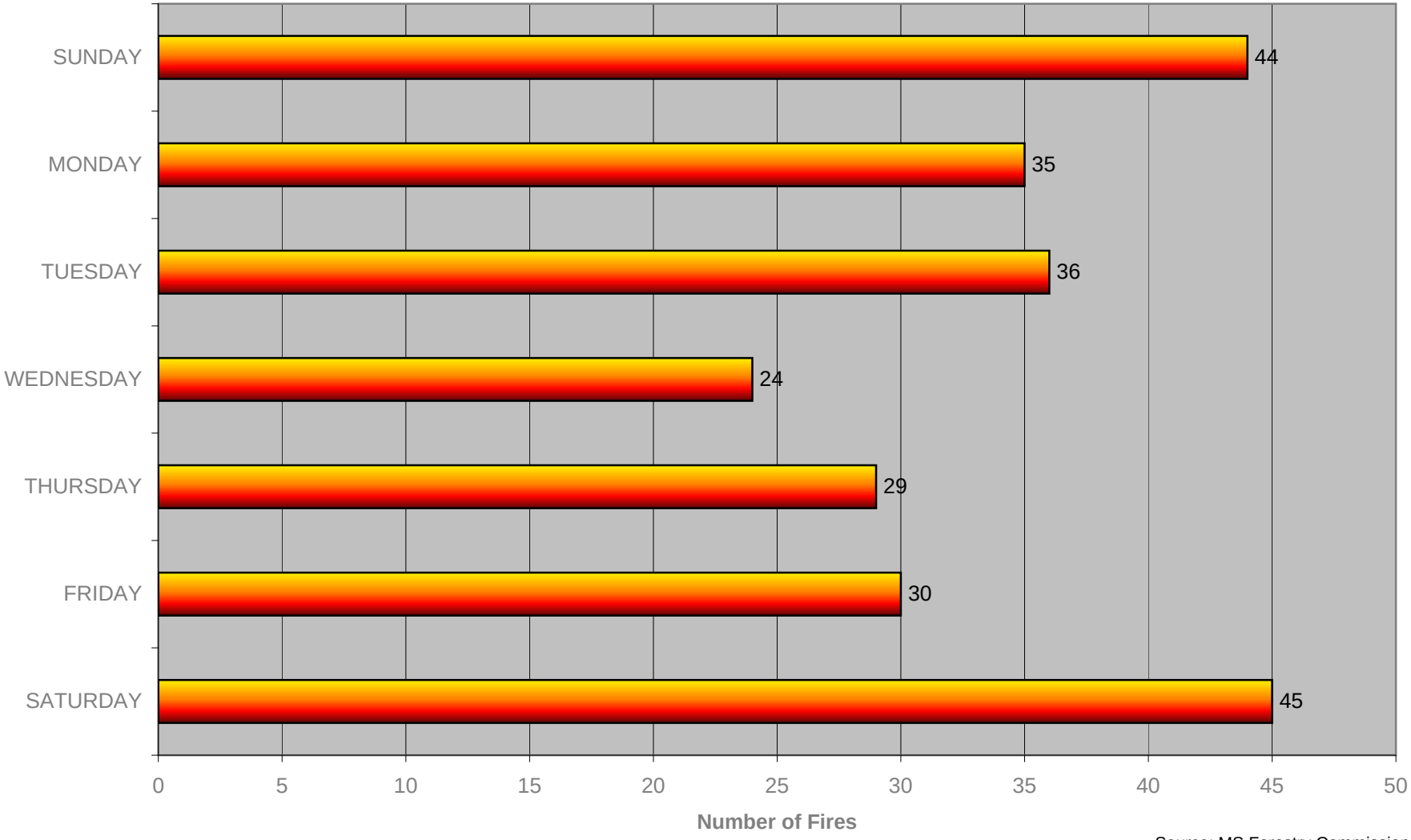
See Attached Charts

SMITH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Hour of Day
FY 2002 - FY 2007



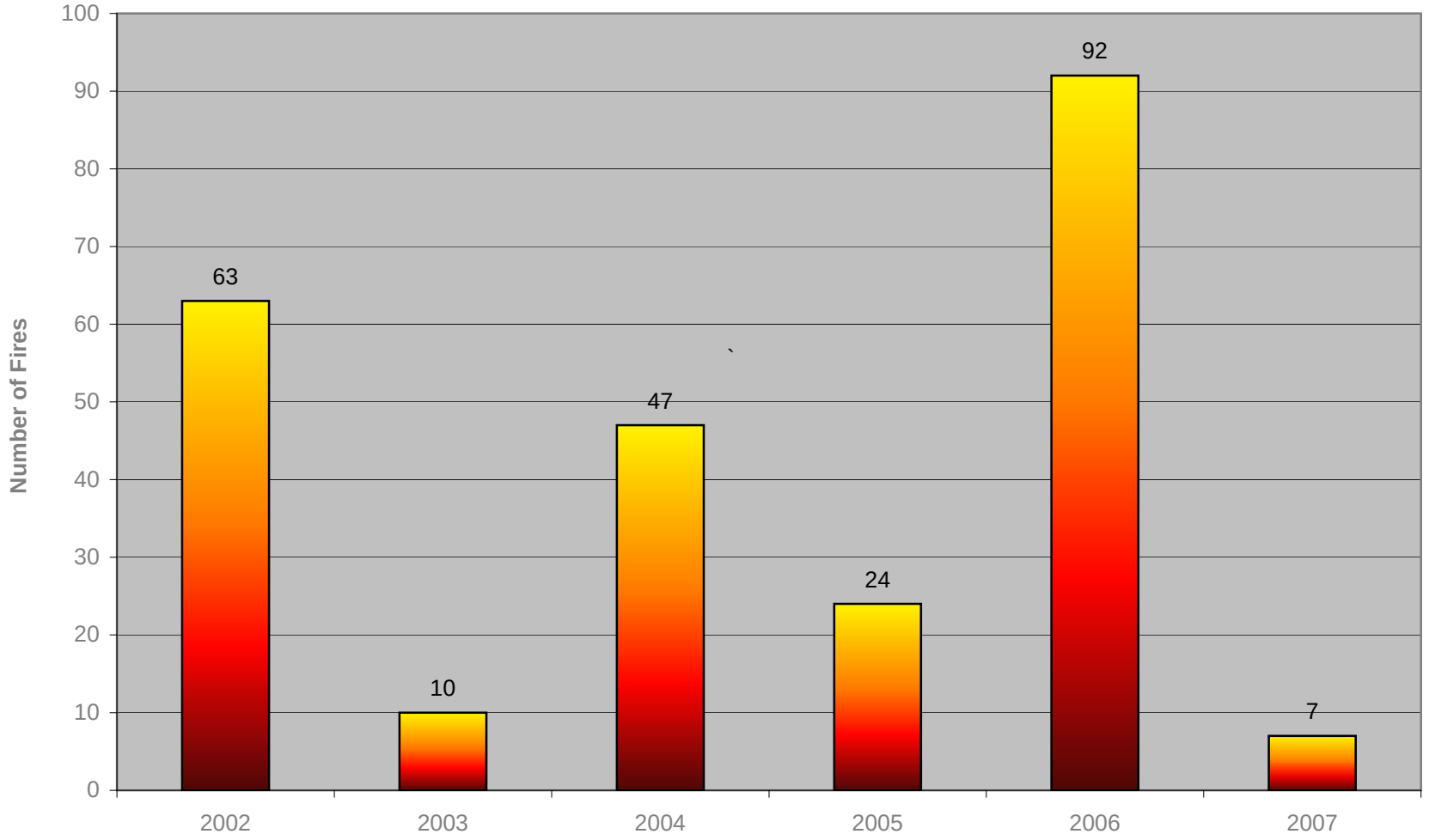
Source: MS Forestry Commission

SMITH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Day of Week
FY 2002 - FY 2007



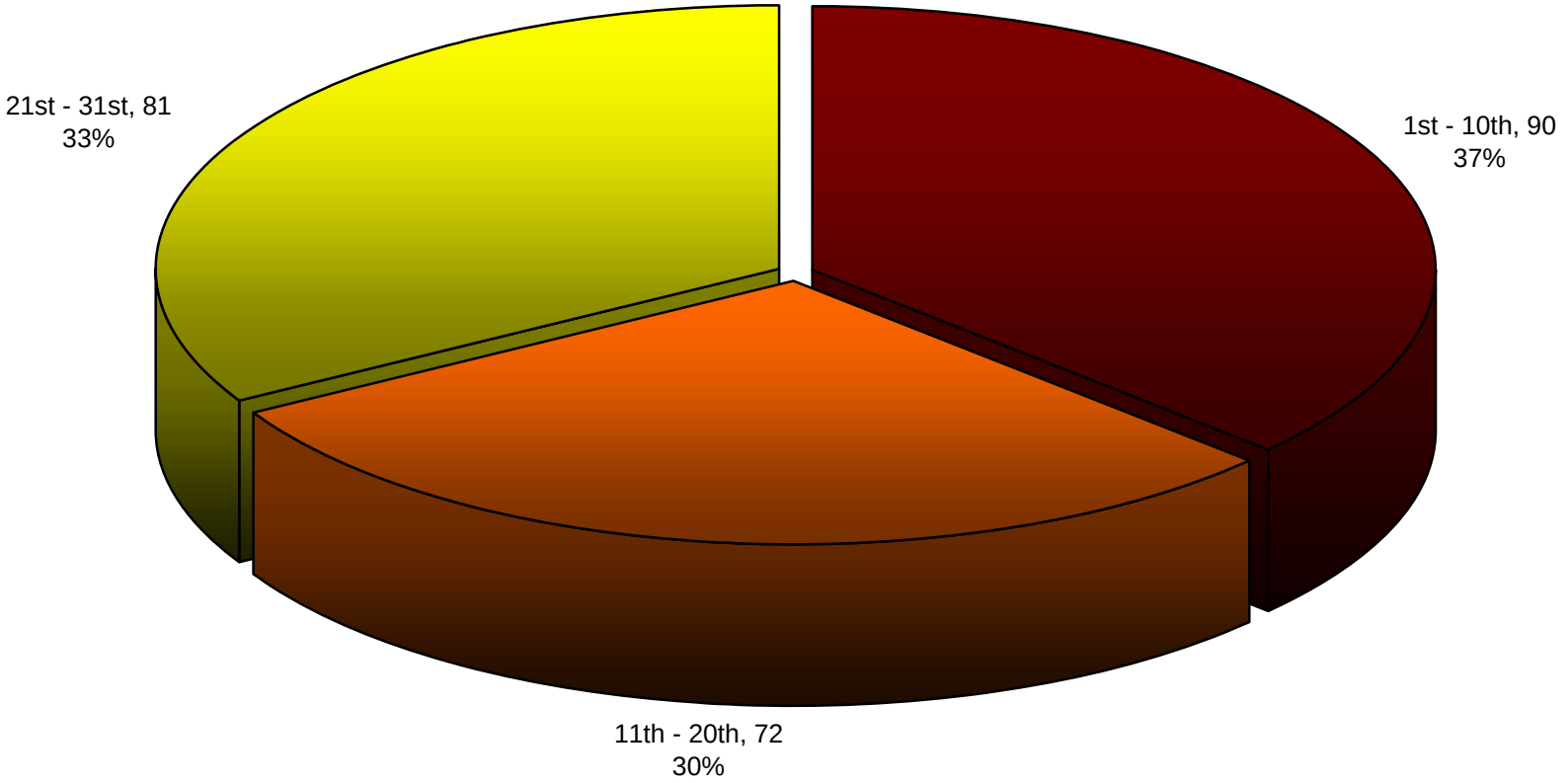
Source: MS Forestry Commission

SMITH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Fiscal Year
FY 2002 - FY 2007



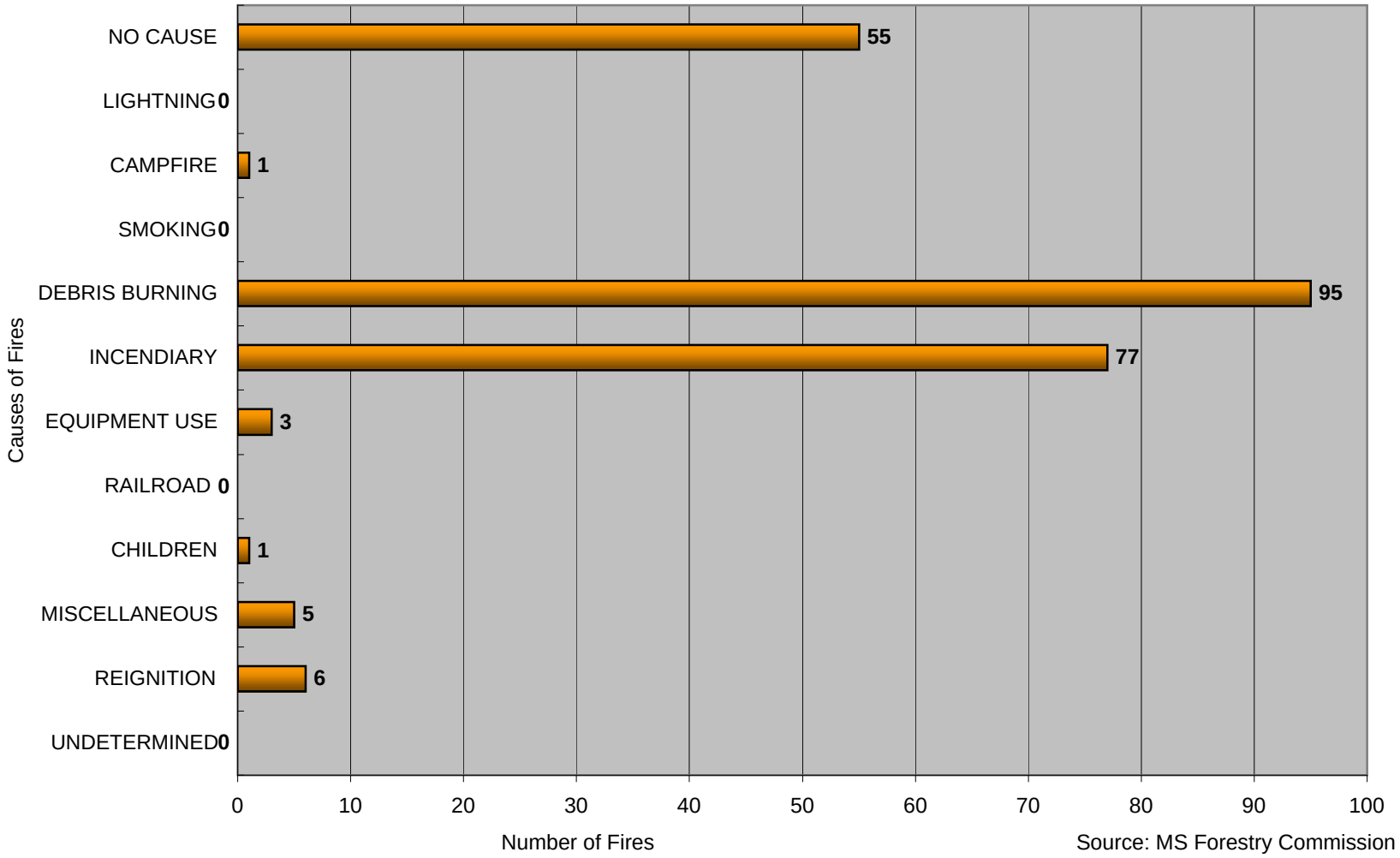
Source: MS Forestry Commission

SMITH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Day of Month
FY 2002 - FY 2007



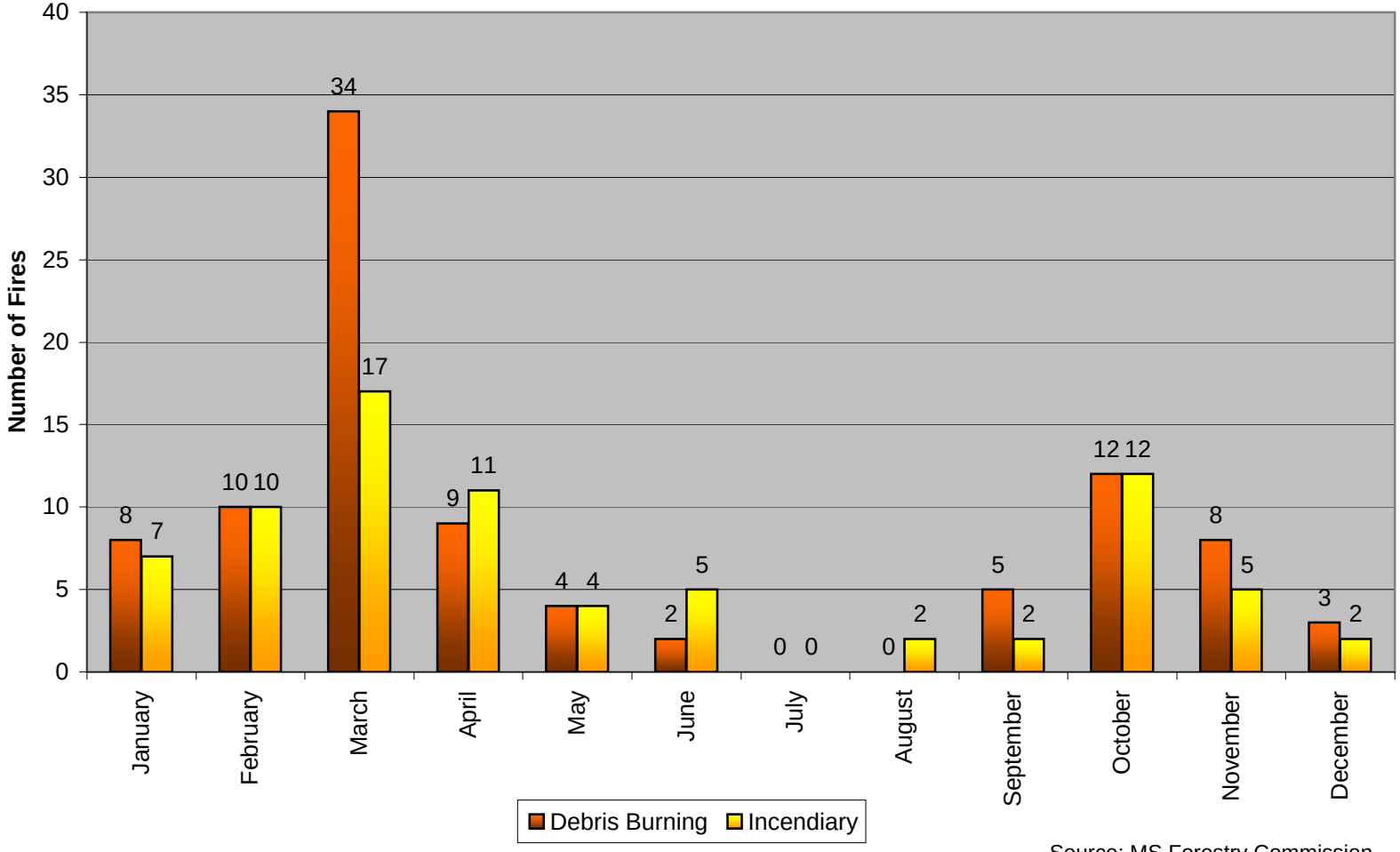
Source: MS Forestry Commission

SMITH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Cause FY 2002- FY 2007



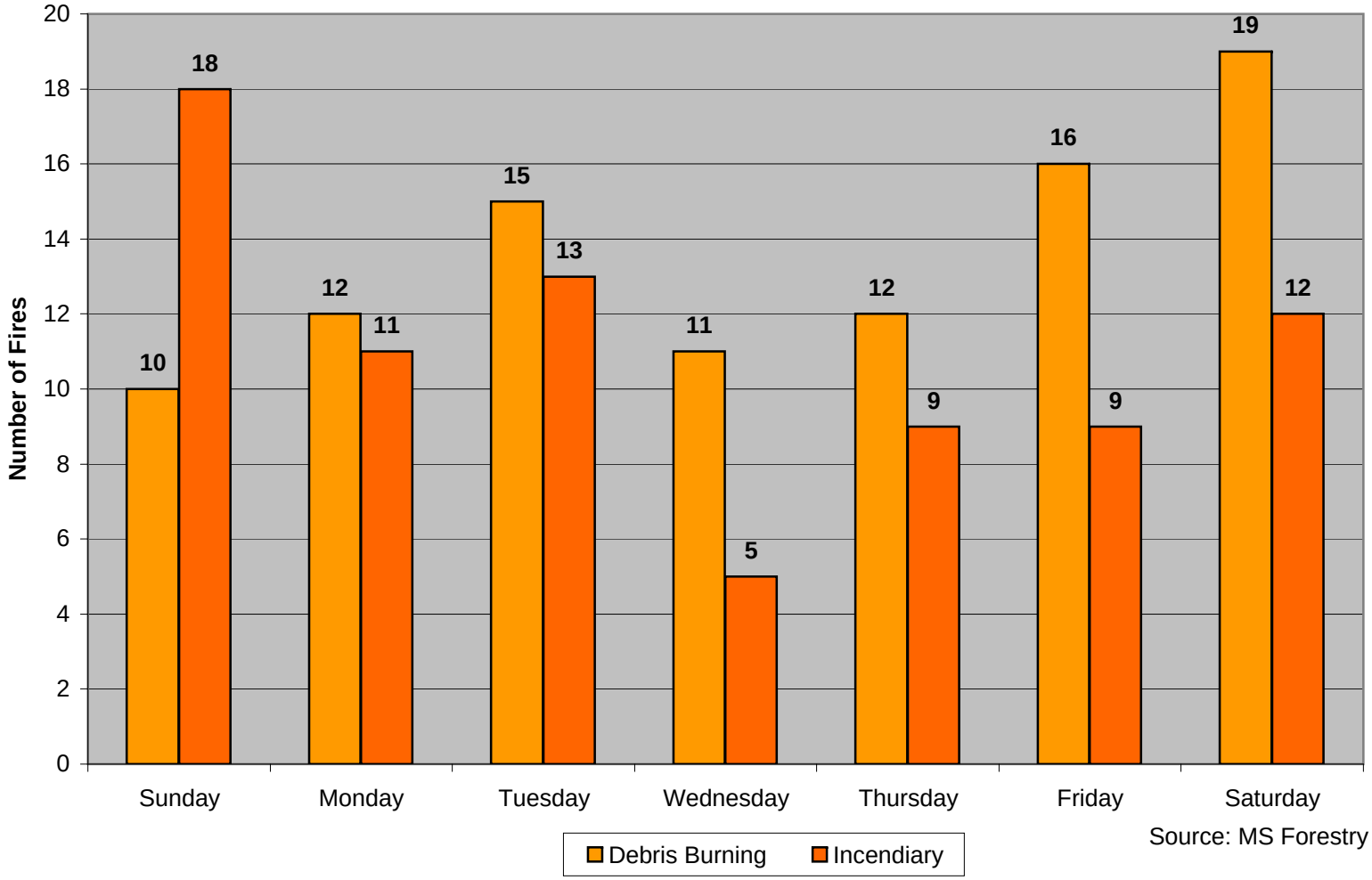
Source: MS Forestry Commission

SMITH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Debris Burning & Incendiary
By Month FY 2002- FY2007



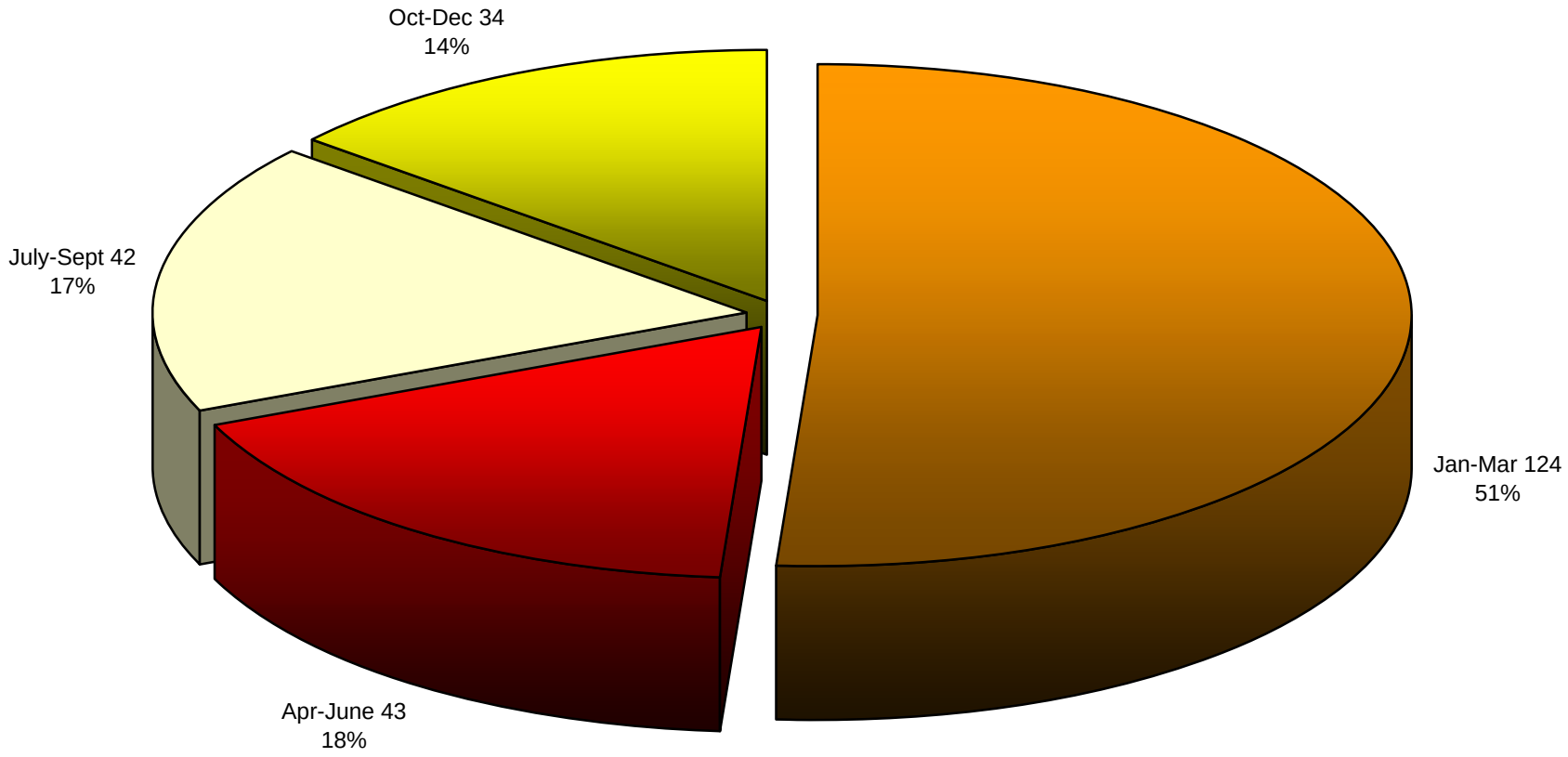
Source: MS Forestry Commission

SMITH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Debris Burning & Incendiary
By Day of Week
FY 2002- FY 2007



Source: MS Forestry Commission

SMITH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Fires by Months
FY 2002 - FY 2007



Source: MS Forestry Commission