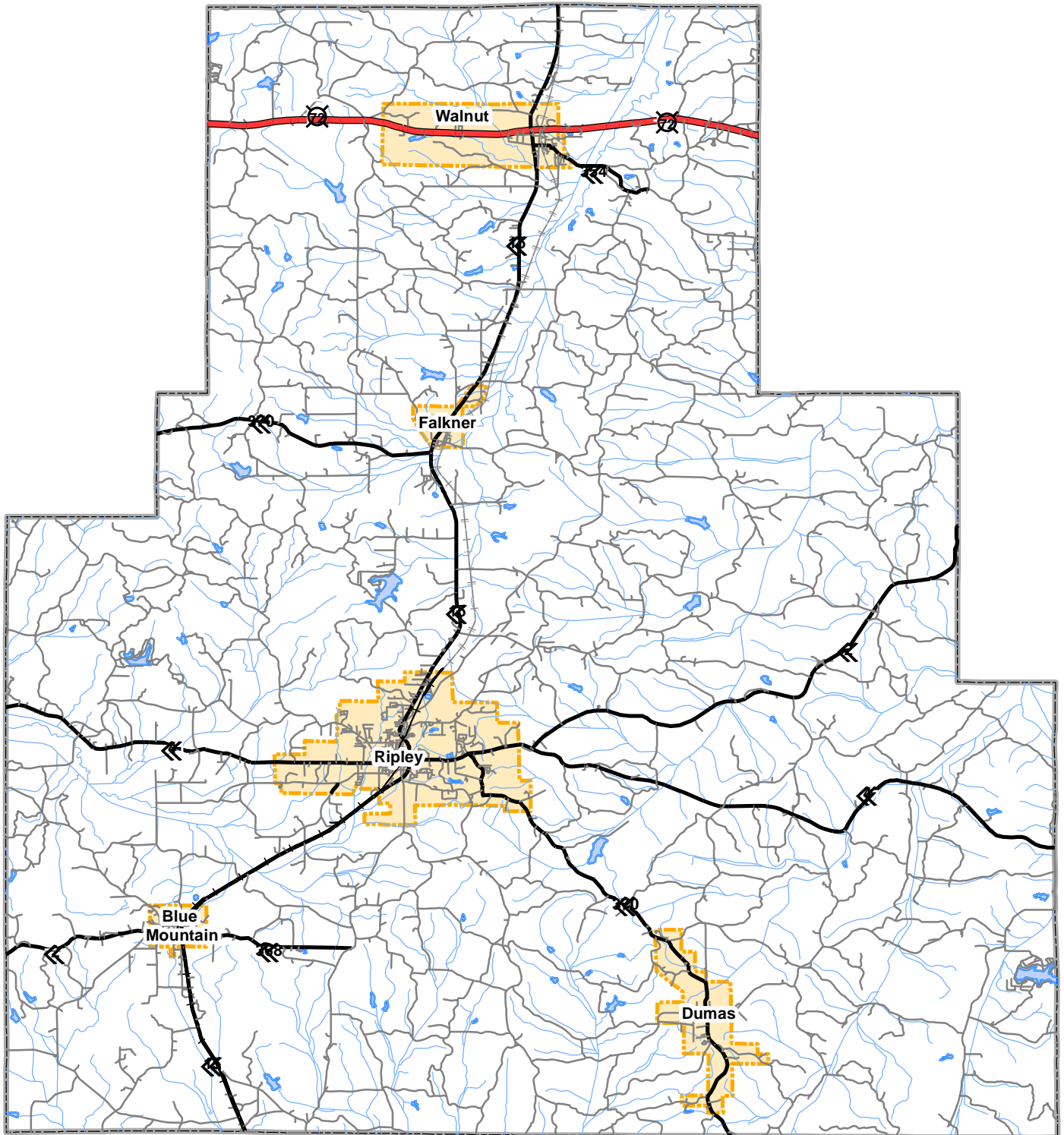


TIPPAH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI County Wildfire Protection Plan



September 2008

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

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Introduction

In December of 2007, the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts met to discuss the measures to be taken to complete a County Wildfire Protection Plan, beginning with twelve counties. The plan will address changes to the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) brought about by increased industrial and/or residential development in each County within the past several years.

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is described as the area where undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels blend with structures or other human development. This area poses a tremendous risk to communities, and can create a deadly and complicated situation for firefighters. In a positive effort to focus on this hazardous situation, Tippah County has agreed to create a County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). A CWPP can lessen the possibility for loss in the event of a wildfire by identifying the main concern for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure within the WUI.

In January 2008, NEMPDD staff began compiling census records, fire information, geographical data, etc. The next step was to meet with the Tippah County Fire Coordinator to obtain information about the Fire Departments throughout the County, and to gather input on the high and low points in their efforts to fight wildfires. Shortly after, a Steering Committee was formed with the cooperation of local, state, and federal agencies, and other interested parties. The Steering Committee included the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Tippah County Emergency Management Agency, and the Tippah County Fire Coordinator with cooperation from all Fire Departments. (Note: There are no paid firemen in Tippah County; all firefighters are volunteer, even in the townships.)

Public participation was encouraged by the Steering Committee to help produce a County Wildfire Protection Plan. The Plan includes several factors: Geographic Information System produced maps, a County Risk Assessment, a Mitigation Projects List, Structure Ignitability Recommendations, and an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy. The Steering Committee's goal is that this Plan be utilized in the future development of Tippah County, whether industrial or residential; and that all at-risk wildfire areas in the County be focused upon and treated.

This Plan was developed with an effort toward consistency with Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003, the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), and Tippah County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Area Description

Tippah County is located in the northern part of Mississippi, bordering the Mississippi-Tennessee State Line to the north, Benton County to the west, Union County to the south, and Prentiss and Alcorn Counties to the east. Ripley is the largest incorporated city in Tippah County, and serves as the County Seat. Ripley has the distinction of being home to the First Monday Trade Day, which was established on July 3, 1893. This tradition continues to draw thousands of vendors, shoppers, and visitors to an area covering over fifty acres. Other incorporated areas include Walnut, Dumas, Falkner, and Blue Mountain, which is home to a four-year liberal arts college.

Several areas of the County feature interesting places to visit for recreational and leisure pastimes. The 165-acre Tippah Lake, located about six miles north of Ripley, features primitive and developed campsites, as well as boating and picnic facilities. Over 9,000 acres of the Holly Springs National Forest cover the western side of Tippah County, offering excellent hunting seasons, as well as other activities.

While there is no interstate route through Tippah County, U.S. Highway 72 is an extremely high-traffic four-lane roadway and a major east-west artery, linking Huntsville, Alabama, and Memphis, Tennessee. State Highway 15 runs the north-south length of Tippah County. Other well-traveled highways are State Highways 2, 4, and 370. In fact, the intersection of Highways 4 and 15 in the City of Ripley has one of the highest daily traffic flows in the State.

The population of Tippah County in 2000 was 20,826, which was a 6.7% growth from 1990. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the population will show an increase of 2.0% for 2006. This percentage is somewhat below average for the other Counties in the State by only .3%. Several of the larger industries in the County have closed since this estimate was given, and may contribute to a decrease in population over the next two years.

Tippah County contains approximately 460 square miles, or about 292,000 acres. Woodland makes up 59% of the County, and grassland makes up over 16%. The remainder of the County is used for pastureland and other purposes.

Tippah County gets an average rainfall of 50 inches per year. The average rainfall in the U.S. is 37 inches. Snowfall is three inches per year. The number of days with any measurable precipitation is 105. The County's average annual temperature is 75 degrees, with January having an average of 40 degrees, and July having an average of 85 degrees. The comfort index, which is based on humidity during the hot months, is a 30 out of 100, where higher is more comfortable. The U.S. average on the comfort index is 44.

Tippah County is divided into ten fire response areas covering rural areas, as well as the incorporated areas. Each department's Primary Response Area is the municipality or community for which it is named. The average size of the response areas for each

VFD is approximately 45 square miles. Fringe and unincorporated areas receive fire protection based on available manpower, resources, and mutual aid at the time of the fire. **All of the fire departments, including those located in city or town limits, are manned by volunteers who receive no compensation for fire protection services.** Paid positions for municipal firefighters will not likely transpire, unless those towns expand their corporate limits.

The table below indicates the number of volunteer firefighters on record for each station, but the average VFD has only about 19 active members. Also, the number of volunteers who respond fluctuates due to work schedules. The Fire Response Areas within the County, including Station Location(s), and Number of Volunteers, are listed below.

Fire Response Area	Fire Department	Station Location(s)	Total Number of Volunteers
Blue Mountain	Blue Mtn VFD	105 W. Main Street Blue Mountain	18
Dry Creek	Dry Creek VFD	8301 CR 600 Ripley	10
Dumas	Dumas VFD	3340 Hwy. 370 S. Ripley	22
Falkner	Falkner VFD	10071 CR 200 Falkner	25
Gravestown	Gravestown VFD	970 Hwy. 4 West Ripley	11
Mitchell	Mitchell VFD	40 CR 614 Ripley	17
Ripley *	Ripley VFD	103 Hwy. 15 South Ripley	25
Spout Springs	Spout Springs VFD	2300 Hwy. 2 East Ripley	17
Three Forks	Three Forks VFD	1251 CR 101 Walnut	26
Walnut	Walnut VFD	28950 B Hwy. 15 N. Walnut	23

* County Seat, noted in all tables

Strategic Goals of the County Wildfire Protection Plan

At the beginning of the planning process, the Tippah County Fire Coordinator agreed to several goals for the CWPP. These goals were set to provide a vision for the overall process, and to identify specific results to be obtained upon completion of the final document.

1. Define the Wild-land Urban Interface (WUI) for Tippah 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. Identify needs of volunteer fire departments
 - a. Equipment (with emphasis on wildfires)
 - b. Volunteer firefighter recruitment
 - c. Volunteer firefighter retention
 - d. Fuel and insurance reimbursement for wildfire calls
6. Request education and outreach programs on wildfire prevention for young people
7. Identify strategies to encourage collaboration between Tippah County and the Mississippi Forestry Commission

Mapping

The Tippah County Wildfire Protection Plan contains seven maps created by the Northeast Mississippi Planning & Development District (NEMPDD) Geographic Information System (GIS) Department. These maps were generated for planning purposes to aid in the assessment of county wildfire occurrence and emergency preparedness. The maps include the Tippah County Base Map, Tippah County Risk Assessment Ratings, Tippah County Fire Data 2002-2007, the County's High Occurrence Wildfire Areas, Arson Fires 2002-2007, Tippah County Fire Response Area, and Wildfires by Fire Response Area.

The Tippah County **Base Map** shows a detailed baseline of roadways, inhabited areas, infrastructure, areas of community importance, and a WUI designation of one-half mile. The Committee discussed specific risk factors and treatment projects to reduce the risk of wildfire in newly developed areas that have been constructed near woodland and pastureland.

In addition to the WUI, the Steering Committee identified several areas of critical facilities, including communication towers, elevated water towers, and electric substations. The Base Map is the focal point of county protection as identified for the CWPP.

The **Risk Assessment Map** shows the results of how specific areas of concern in Tippah County were rated by the Steering Committee. Included in those areas are roadways, municipalities, utilities, and locales of community importance found on the Base Map. The ratings for each of the attributes reflect whether they are at risk due to their purpose, the nearby fuel load, or the potential to cause a considerable impact in the event of their damage or loss due to a wildfire. 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 reflects both wildfires and controlled burns, and several different causes of fires. Those causes include arson, campfire, debris burning, equipment use, lightning, and smoking. MFC data for Tippah County shows a total of 25 fires in 2002, 34 fires in 2003, 36 fires in 2004, 53 fires in 2005, 101 fires in 2006, and 68 fires in 2007.

The Tippah County **Fire Data 2002 – 2007 Map** shows all fires from all causes over a six-year span. When these data were mapped, specific geographic areas revealing a high occurrence of wildfire became apparent.

The **High Occurrence Wildfire Areas Map** shows areas based on a computer calculation used to determine density and distribution by comparing each fire occurrence to its surrounding neighbors. Area One is geographically located in the western central part of the County in the Holly Springs National Forest. Area Two is located in the eastern central part of the County. Area Three is located in the

southeastern part of the County in the Pine Grove and Dumas vicinity. Area Four is located in the south central part of the County.

The **Arson Fires by Year Map** for Tippah County exhibits the geographic distribution of these fires throughout the County. According to the Mississippi Forestry Commission wildfire data, there were a total of 228 arson fires between the years of 2002 – 2007. This would account for over 70% of the 317 wildfires reported during that period.

The Tippah County **Fire Response Area Map** displays the county fire station response areas with respective boundaries, as well as each volunteer fire station location. The boundaries are considered in the term of “shared”, indicating that any fire department within a reasonable distance of a fire will respond and assist the primary station.

The **Wildfires by Fire Response Areas Map** presents all the wildfires from 2002 – 2007, as well as the fire district boundaries and the location of the fire departments within those districts. This map 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 endeavored to identify large facilities that may be at risk from wildfires 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 enable available financial and human resources to be concentrated on specific mitigation projects in the future.

The objective of this task was to rate the areas from low to high. Areas receiving the highest rating pose an increased risk due to their purpose, amount of nearby fuel load, or the matter of causing significant community impact in the event of damage or loss due to a wildfire. Mitigation projects for the at-risk areas include a wide variety 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
	Medium-High
	High

Fuel Hazards:

 Dees Oil Company; Dowdle Butane Gas Co.

These facilities are located within the city limits. The areas are well-maintained, but the locations and functions merit a **Medium** rating.

 Dowdle Butane Storage Tank

The storage tank is located within the city limits, but is not far from the railroad tracks. The location and function require a **High** rating.

 Ripley Gas Maintenance Shop

The shop is located inside the city limits. There is a very small risk of ignitability, and the shop is rated **Low**.

High Wildfire Occurrence Areas:

 Pine Grove School

This school is well-maintained, but is surrounded by woodlands. It is located in a High Wildfire Occurrence Area. Even though the school itself has a low ignitability potential, the community would face a significant loss if it were damaged or destroyed. The rating for this facility is **High**.

 Dry Creek Elevated Water Tank; Mitchell Elevated Water Tank

The grounds surrounding these water towers are well-maintained, but the importance of the function and the location near and in a High Wildfire Occurrence Area (respectively) rate these elevated tanks as **High**.


Vulnerable Facilities:

 Illinois Central Railroad

Almost half of the railroad tracks have been removed in the County, particularly the northern half. However, the trains utilizing the tracks running from the County Seat of Ripley southward have the potential to cause wildfires, some within municipal boundaries. The rating is considered **High**.

 Holly Springs National Forest; Tippah Lake

These sources of out-door activities serve an important part in the recreational capacity of the County. A small portion of the National Forest is a High Fire Occurrence Area where there were several arson fires in 2005. Both areas have a high risk of fire and smoke damage. They are rated **High**.

 Tippah County Historical Museum

Located in the downtown area of Ripley, the Museum features several artifacts and documents revealing the historical side of the County. This is an important local landmark. The loss would be significant if damaged or destroyed. The facility is rated **High**.

 Tippah County Courthouse

This facility is hub of the downtown Ripley area and houses numerous records and county offices. Though it is well-maintained, there is a moderate risk of fire. The rating is **Medium**.


Critical Infrastructure:

-  Tippah County Hospital


The hospital is rated **High**. There is a moderate risk for fire, but a high smoke risk. Damage to the facility or loss of use would be significant to the community.

-  Two Communication Towers in same general area

These towers are located within the city limits of Ripley. Even though they are well-maintained and have a low ignitability potential, the County would experience significant loss if they were damaged or destroyed. The towers are rated **High**.


-  *Elevated Water Towers:* Chalybeate Elevated Water Tower; Falkner Elevated Water Tower; Ripley Elevated Water Tower; Three Forks Elevated Water Tower; Walnut Elevated Water Tower

-  *Electric Substations:* Falkner Electric Substation; Walnut Electric Substation; Ripley Electric Substations (north location and east location)

-  *Public Utility Offices:* Falkner Water Department; Ripley Gas & Water Office; Walnut Gas & Water Office

-  Ripley Airport

The areas surrounding these facilities are well-maintained, and have a low ignitability potential. Rated **Low** over-all.

-  *Elevated Water Towers:* Blue Mountain Elevated Water Tower; Shady Grove Elevated Water Tower; Spout Springs Elevated Water Tower; Walnut Industrial Park Elevated Water Tower

-  *Electric Substations:* Blue Mountain Electric Substation (north)


-  *Public Utility Offices:* Tippah County Electric Power Association

The areas surrounding these facilities are well-maintained, but there is a moderate risk of fire. They are rated **Medium**.

-  *Electric Substations:* Blue Mountain Electric Substation (south)

The area surrounding the substation is well-maintained, but is located in a rural, wooded environment. The rating is considered **Medium-High**.




Areas of Community Importance:

-  *Assisted Living Centers and Nursing Homes:* Beverly Health Care, Resthaven Nursing Home, Tippah County Nursing Home


These centers have more of a smoke risk than a fire risk. All are located near the downtown area of Ripley. Rated **Medium** over-all.

-  Blue Mountain College

Founded in 1873, the institution still utilizes many of the buildings that were constructed in the early 1900's. Though the campus is well-maintained, there is a moderate risk of fire. However, the loss would be significant to the community if the college were damaged or destroyed by fire. The rating is **Medium-High**.

-  *Medical Facilities:* Primary Care Clinic; Tippah County Health Department; Walnut Medical Center
-  *Schools:* Blue Mountain School; Falkner School; Ripley Kindergarten; Ripley Elementary School; Ripley Middle School; Ripley High School; Tippah County Vocational-Technical School; Walnut Elementary and High School
-  Ripley Industrial Park

While some risks exist at these medical, industrial, and educational facilities, fire stations are located nearby. The rating is **Low**.

-  *Medical Facilities:* Blue Mountain Family Medical Clinic, Cotton Plant Family Clinic, Ripley Family Medical Center, Family Nurse Clinic, Nurse Med, Inc.

These medical facilities have more of a smoke risk than a fire risk. Their location and function rate them as **Medium**.

-  Chalybeate Elementary School

The school is kept well-maintained, but being located in a rural community, there is a moderate risk of fire. The rating for this facility is **Medium**.

-  North Ripley Industrial Park; Walnut Industrial Park

Though the grounds are well-maintained at both sites, there is a moderate risk of fire and/ or smoke damage due to several wooded areas nearby. They are rated **Medium-High**.

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness for each of the county volunteer fire departments was reviewed as a part of this planning process. Based on information provided by the fire coordinator, this assessment involved factors such as equipment availability, public protection classification, and manpower.

Mutual aid agreements are in place with Alcorn, Benton, Prentiss, and Union Counties in Mississippi, as well as Hardeman County in Tennessee. The fire departments, trucks, and equipment are each owned by their local governing authorities.

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

Mississippi State Rating Bureau Public Protection Classification List

DISTRICT	CLASS
Blue Mountain	8
Dry Creek	8
Dumas	8
Falkner	8
Gravestown	10C
Mitchell	9
Ripley	7
Spout Springs	9
Three Forks	10C
Walnut	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, especially with the increase of new subdivisions in rural areas.

The working relationship between the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the Tippah County Volunteer Fire departments is unprecedented in mutual respect. The team effort is equally strong from both sides. Nevertheless, 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 provide training opportunities and project coordination.

A program of recruitment and retention for volunteer firefighters is badly needed. A community outreach and awareness program may help address some of the manpower issues. The Tippah County Fire Coordinator would like to start a youth education program for fire prevention and safety, or perhaps an apprentice firefighter program, with funding provided by the Mississippi Forestry Commission. While not allowed to fight fires, these youths 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 lead to a career as a volunteer firefighter. With an extremely limited budget for the VFD's, the Coordinator requested that this program or one similar be funded by the MFC.

The limited budget has also put a strain on fuel consumption for the firefighters who respond to wildfires without the aid of the MFC. The Fire Coordinator inquired about a reimbursement program for fuel, as well as some type of insurance for those volunteers who respond to wildfires, with funding being granted by the MFC.

Each Volunteer Fire Department has at least one piece of structural fire-fighting apparatus that is less than fifteen years old and is designed to suppress structure fires and remain on hard surfaces. Each one also has at least one piece of smaller fire-fighting apparatus that can be used to respond to small debris or trash fires located on firm level ground. A current listing of equipment and the location is provided below.

Tippah County Fire District Equipment List

VFD	Type
Blue Mountain	2 Pumpers 2 Brush Fire Trucks
Dry Creek	1 Engine 1 Pumper 1 Tanker 1 Brush Fire Truck
Dumas	2 Pumpers 1 Tanker
Falkner	2 Pumpers 1 Brush Fire Truck
Gravestown	2 Pumpers 1 Brush Fire Truck
Mitchell	2 Pumpers 2 Tankers
Ripley *	3 Pumpers 1 Brush Fire Truck 1 Rescue Truck
Spout Springs	2 Pumpers 2 Tankers
Three Forks	1 Pumper 2 Tankers 1 Brush Fire Truck
Walnut	2 Pumpers 1 Rescue Truck 2 Brush Fire Trucks

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 were identified or found to be necessary at this time. The facilities, infrastructure, and areas of community importance in Tippah County are generally well-maintained and have moderate to low ignitability potential.

Among the sites discussed as being vulnerable facilities are those involving the use or transport of natural gas or other hazardous materials. There is an increased potential for structure ignitability at or near these sites due to the natural characterizations of these operations. Education of citizens residing or working near these facilities appears to be the best defense. Developers should be aware of these facilities and plan accordingly when building new subdivisions or industries.

Mitigation projects for High Occurrence Wildfire Areas were limited to a community outreach and education program involving the identification and prosecution of arsonists. In 2007, the southern part of Tippah County was severely damaged by wildfires that were presumably set. A State Fire Investigator was sent to examine the scenes and the evidence. That same year, seven people were arrested and charged with arson. A substantial drop in wildfires was noted after that time.

Mitigation Projects

COUNTY

1. Develop a homeowner education program.
2. Encourage large developments to become Firewise USA Communities.
3. Utilize an apprentice firefighting program.

In addition to mitigation projects, structure ignitability recommendations can be formulated and then distributed to homeowners. These recommendations, as condensed from information given by the MFC, through handouts, brochures, and the Firewise video, are steps that property owners can take to improve the protection and survivability of a structure in the event of a wildfire.

1. Design road width, grade and curves to allow access for large emergency vehicles.
2. Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas wide enough for emergency vehicles. Construct turnouts along one-way roads.

3. Post clear road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads and weight and height limitations.

Structure Ignitability Recommendations

HOMEOWNERS

1. Leave a minimum of 30' around structure for firefighting equipment access.
2. Widely space and carefully situate the trees you plant.
3. Construct driveway at least 12 feet wide with 13 feet of vertical clearance.
4. If home is gated, display a clearly visible address; provide a gate that swings inward and is at least 30 feet from the main road.
5. Remove "ladder fuels" (vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops).
6. Keep trees and shrubs properly pruned. Lowest tree limbs should be 6' to 10' from the ground.
7. Remove leaf clutter from roof and yard.
8. Mow regularly.
9. Remove dead and over-hanging branches.
10. Keep firewood stacked away from the house.
11. Store and use flammable liquids properly.
12. Follow manufacturers' instructions when using fertilizers and pesticides.
13. Prevent collection of leaves and other combustible materials beneath home by installing proper skirting.
14. Cover vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8" to prevent sparks from entering house.
15. Use non-flammable materials to construct trellises.
16. Use fire resistant building materials and roofing materials.

Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

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

1. Fuel reimbursement and insurance for VFD's that extinguish wildfires without the aid of the MFC.

Responsibility: *Tippah County Fire Coordinator, Mississippi Forestry Commission*

Funding: *Grant funds from Mississippi Forestry Commission*

Timetable for Completion: *Implement as soon as possible*

Expected Outcome: *Improve limited resources of the volunteer fire departments*

Assessment Timetable: *Review annually*

2. Purchase of wildland turnout gear and filtered breathing apparatus to be used at wildfires.

Responsibility: *Tippah County Fire Coordinator*

Funding: *\$2,000 grant funding through MFC*

Timetable for Completion: *Five years, or as grants become available*

Expected Outcome: *Increased safety for volunteer and paid firefighters during the extinguishing of wildfires*

Assessment Timetable: *Review progress every two years*

3. Maintain, update, and redistribute the CWPP maps to all county departments, volunteer fire departments, and other organizations utilizing the documents.

Responsibility: *Tippah County Fire Coordinator, Northeast 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. Interview other organizations to see if the maps make their role in wildfire prevention more effective.*

4. Encourage Mississippi Insurance Commissioner to consider rebate programs to allow for home assessments and homeowner mitigation projects.

Responsibility: *Mississippi Forestry Commission*

Funding: *\$0*

Timetable for Completion: *Every 4-6 Years*

Expected Outcome: *More homeowners participating in mitigation activities; lower insurance premiums for homeowners; additional funds for volunteer fire departments.*

Assessment Timetable: *Review after legislative sessions ends*

5. Establish an apprentice firefighter program to encourage young people to take an interest in their community by volunteering to aid their local fire departments.

Responsibility: *Tippah County Fire Coordinator, along with local Fire Departments; MFC County Forester; Natural Resources Conservation Service; State Fire Marshall*

Funding: *Seek grant funding; Mississippi Forestry Commission; NRCS; National Fire Association*

Timetable for Completion: *Biannually, preferably May and October*

Expected Outcome: *Increased awareness of fire safety and prevention by young adults, as well as interest in protecting their communities by serving as firefighters at a future time*

Assessment Timetable: *Annual review of recruitment efforts and numbers*

6. Maintain and update the grants/funding resource list included in CWPP document.

Responsibility: *Tippah County Fire Coordinator*

Funding: *\$0*

Timetable for Completion: *Yearly*

Expected Outcome: *Additional grant applications resulting in an increase of grant funds*

Assessment Timetable: *Review applications / funding annually*

7. Establish bi-annual meetings between the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the Tippah County Volunteer Fire Departments.

Responsibility: *Tippah County Fire Coordinator and the Mississippi Forestry Commission*

Funding: *\$0*

Timetable for Completion: *Implement immediately*

Expected Outcome: *Improved communications and coordination in the areas of firefighting, training, safety and project management*

Assessment Timetable: *2 – 5 years*

Potential Funding Sources

- 1. Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program**
Website: www.firegrantsupport.com
Application Deadline: Spring, 2009
Program Description: Funding for training, equipment, vehicles, firefighter health and safety program, and operations
- 2. Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant Program**
Website: www.firegrantsupport.com
Application Deadline: Fall, 2009
Program Description: Outreach to high risk target groups including children, senior citizens, and firefighters.
- 3. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program**
Website: www.firegrantsupport.com
Application Deadline: Summer, 2009
Program Description: Funding for the hiring of fire personnel and incentives for volunteer recruitment and retention
- 4. USDA – Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Program**
Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov
Application Deadline: Applications taken year round
Program Description: Funding for assistance in constructing, enlarging, or improving community facilities for public safety
- 5. U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company Polaris Ranger Donation Program**
Website: www.ustinc.com
Application Deadline: December 28, 2008
Program Description: Donation of Polaris Ranger 6X6 utility vehicles for firefighting, rescue, police, emergency medical service, and wildlife law enforcement organizations
- 6. Mississippi Forestry Commission**
Website: mfc.state.ms.us
Application Deadline: Approximate date – Mid to Late October, 2008
Program Description: Wildland fire gear (Ready Kits), which consists of nomex coveralls, helmet, headlamp, neck shroud, gloves, and a bag for storage

7. First Responder Institute Website

Website: www.firstresponder.org

Program Description: Provide support to local U.S. fire departments and emergency service personnel

8. Responder Knowledge Base Website

Website: www.rkb.mipt.org

Program Description: Website contains information on currently available products, standards, training, and grants

9. Grants Office

Website: www.firegrants.info and www.grantsoffice.com

Program Description: Provides information, tools, and tips to help fire departments be more successful at obtaining funds from the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program

References

Tippah County
Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2004

Tippah County Soil and Water Conservation District
Resource Conservation Act
“Forestry in Tippah County”
“Tippah County Soils”

Sperling’s Best Places
Tippah County Climate
BestPlaces.com

Firewise
“Living with Fire” booklet
Courtesy of Robert Thornton, Coordinator, MFC
rthornton@mfc.state.ms.us

“Looking to the Future
Tippah County, Mississippi 2008
For Your Information Guide”
Tippah County Development Foundation
tcdf@dixie-net.com

FYI 2008
Southern Sentinel / TCDF

Tippah County Fire Services Development
mhender334@dixie-net.com

Mississippi Forestry Commission
Arson Fires
Fires by Cause

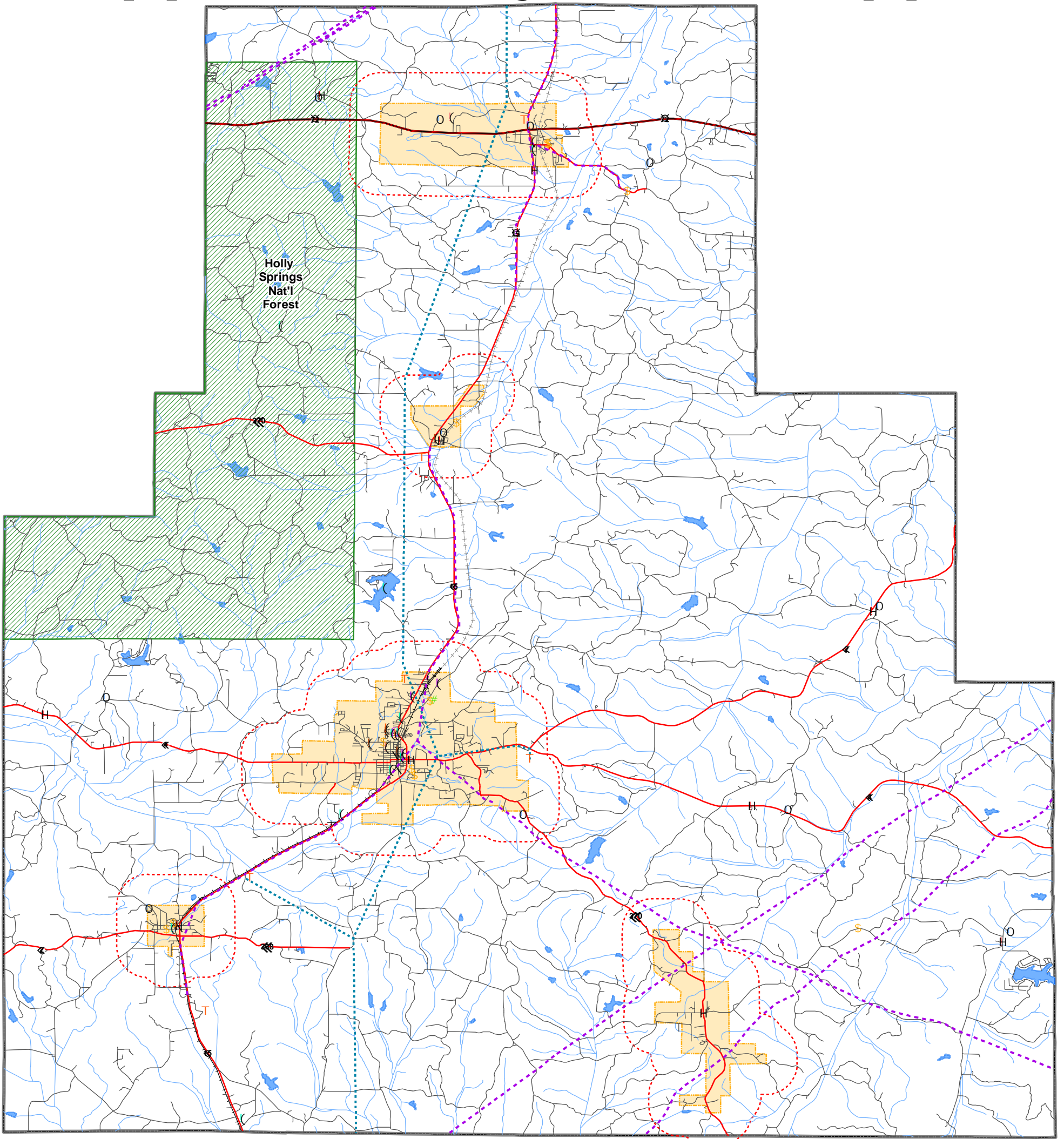
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Website: *www.mfc.state.ms.us*
4. Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Forest Service
Paul Lowery, District Conservationist
Section Line Street, Ripley, MS 38663
Phone: 662.837.4464
Paul.Lowery@ms.usda.gov
5. Tippah County Electric Power Association
Sam Buchanan, Manager
P. O. Box 206, Ripley, MS 38663
Phone: 662.837.8139
6. Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District
P. O. Box 600
619 East Parker Drive, Booneville, MS 38829
Phone: 662.728.6248
Fax: 662.728.2417
Website: *www.nempdd.com*

Count Wildfire Protection Plan Maps

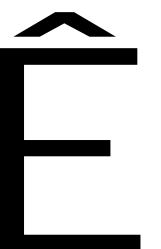
- Base Map**
- Risk Assessment Ratings Map**
- Fire Data 2002-2007 Map**
- High Occurrence Wildfire Areas Map**
- Arson Fires 2002-2007 Map**
- Fire Response Area Map**
- Wildfires by Fire Response Area**

Tippah County, Mississippi

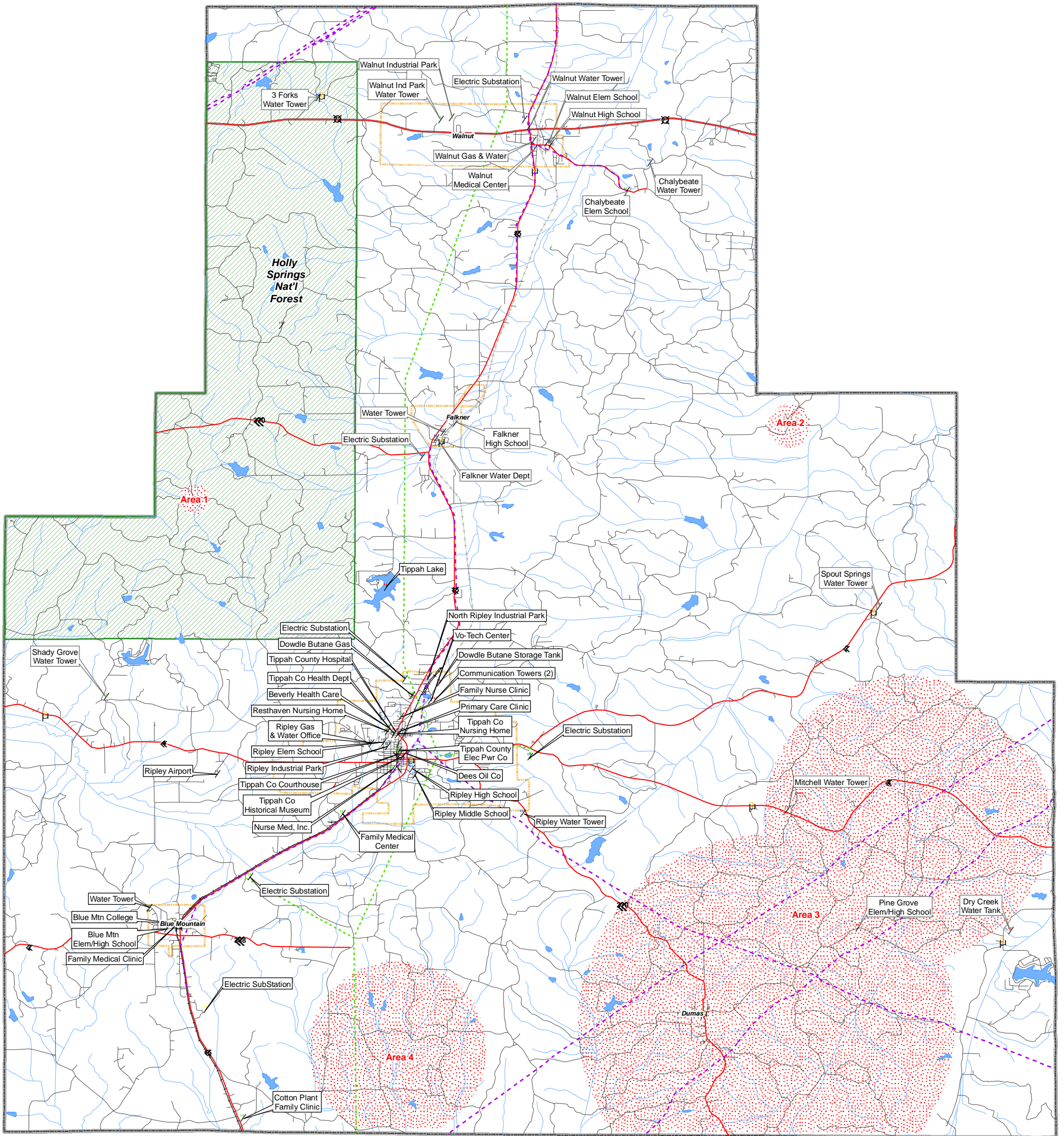


County Wildfire Protection Plan Base Map

(	Community Importance	○	Water Tanks-Elev	++++	Abandoned Railroad
(	Assisted Living / Nursing Home	⌋	Oil or Gas Facility	—+—	Active Railroad
(	Utility	---	Elec. Trans. Line	—	Rivers, Streams
(	Industry	—	Gas Lines	■	Lakes, Ponds
\$	Schools	—	Roads & Streets	⬡	WUI
⌋	Hospital	—	Hwy	▨	Holly Springs Natl Forest
H	FDs / VFDs	—	4-Lane Hwy	⬡	Cities, Towns
\	Law Enforcement				
T	Electric SubStations				
#	Communication Tower				



Tippah County, Mississippi



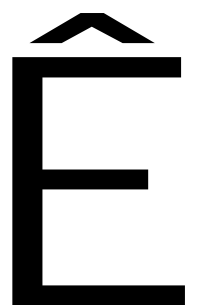
County Wildfire Protection Plan

Risk Assessment Ratings

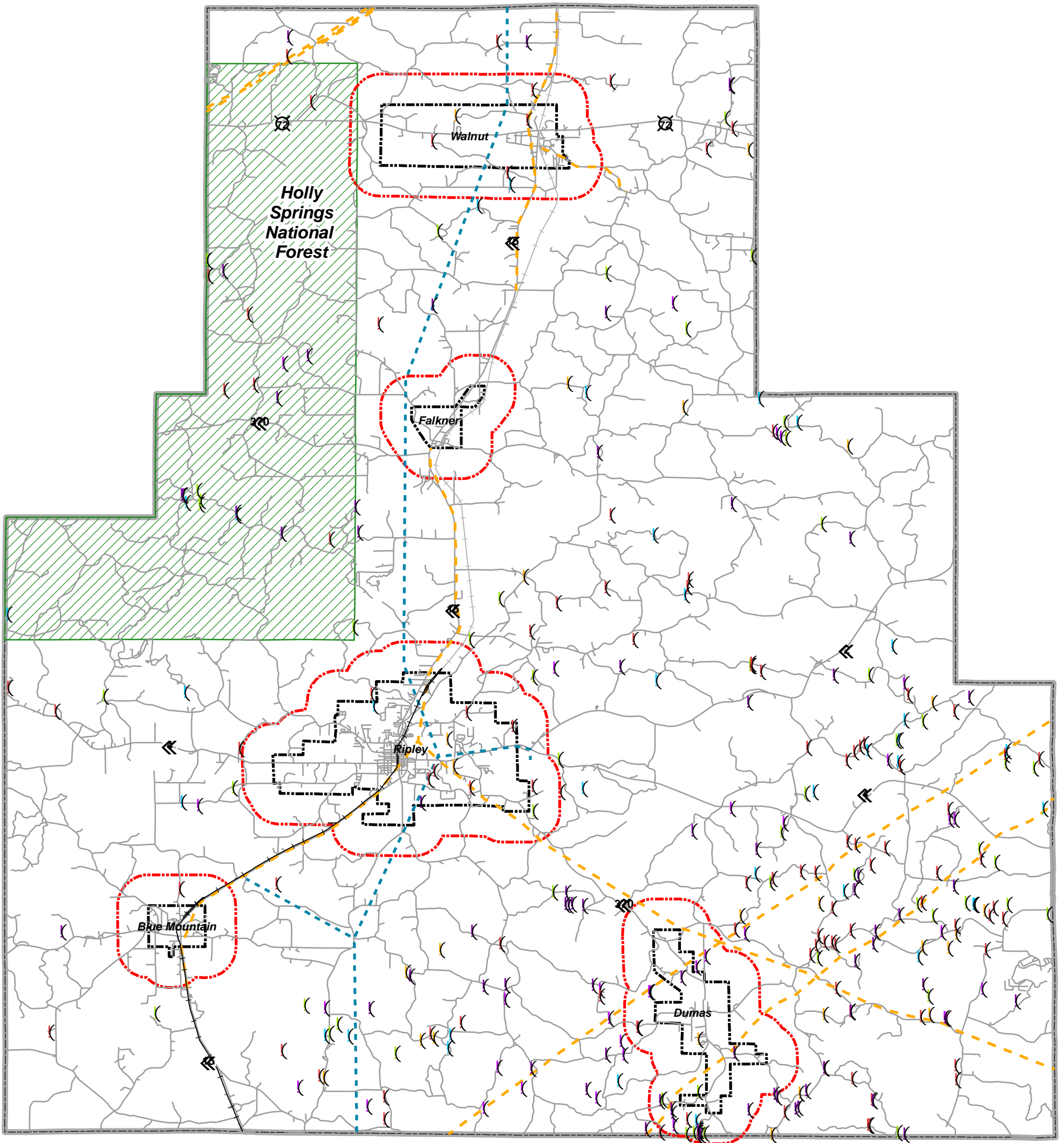
Critical Facilities Rating		Roads & Streets	
	Low		Roads & Streets
	Med		Hwy
	Med-High		Abandoned Railroad
	High		Active Railroad
	Electric Transmission Line		Rivers, Streams
	Oil or Gas Pipeline		Lakes, Ponds
	Law Enforcement		High Fire Occurrence
	FDs / VFDs		Holly Springs Nat'l Forest
			Cities, Towns

Risk Assessment Rating

- Low
- Medium
- Medium-High
- High

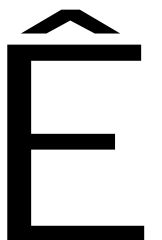
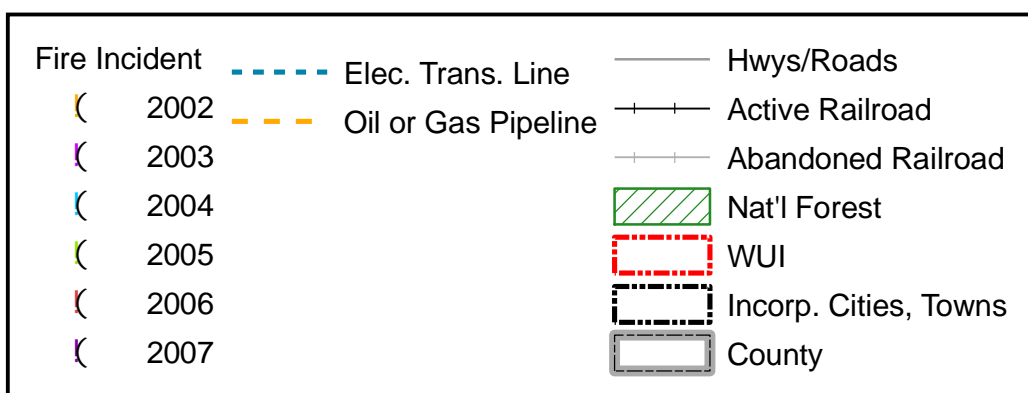


Tippah County, Mississippi

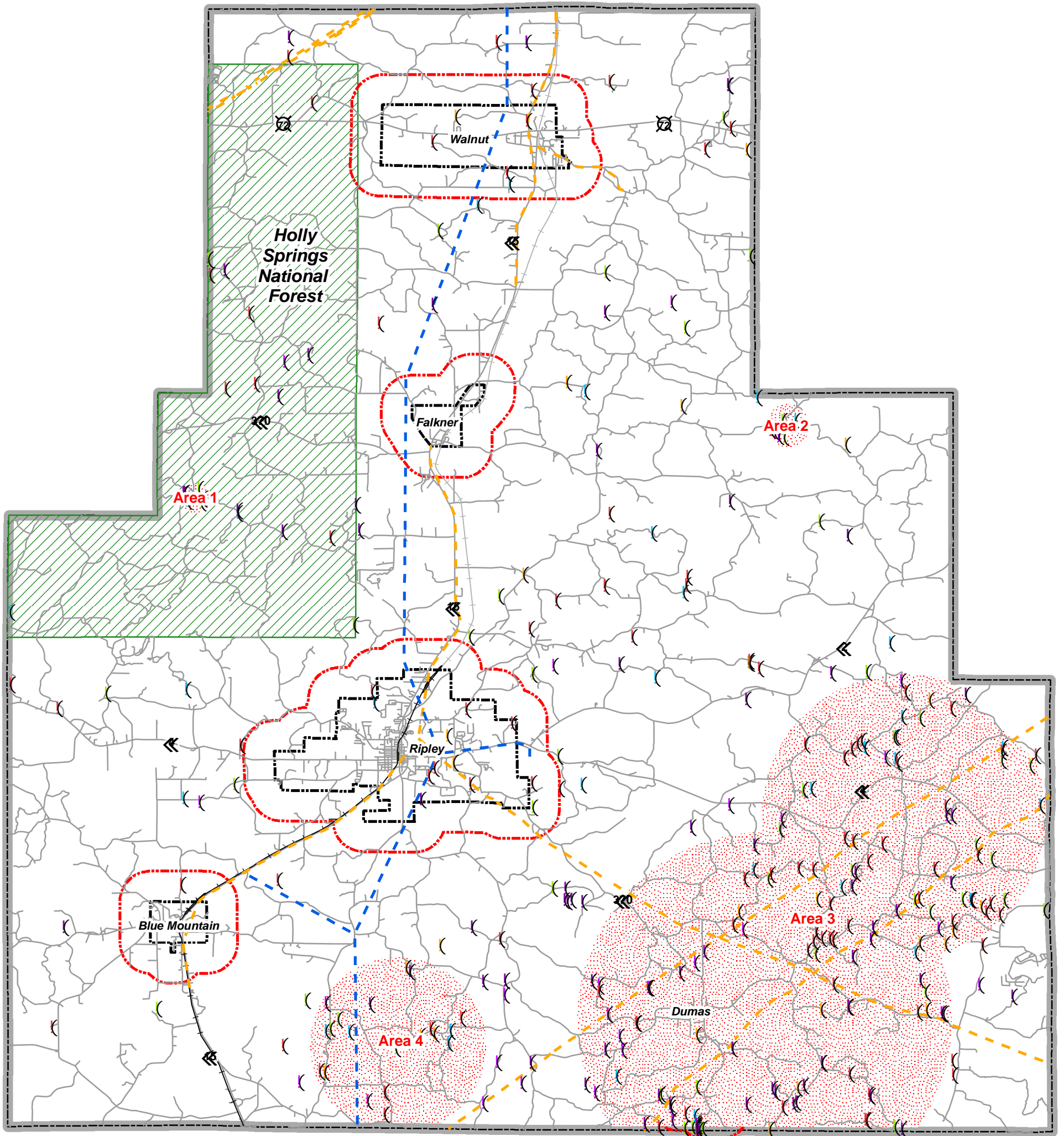


County Wildfire Protection Plan

Fire Data 2002 - 2007

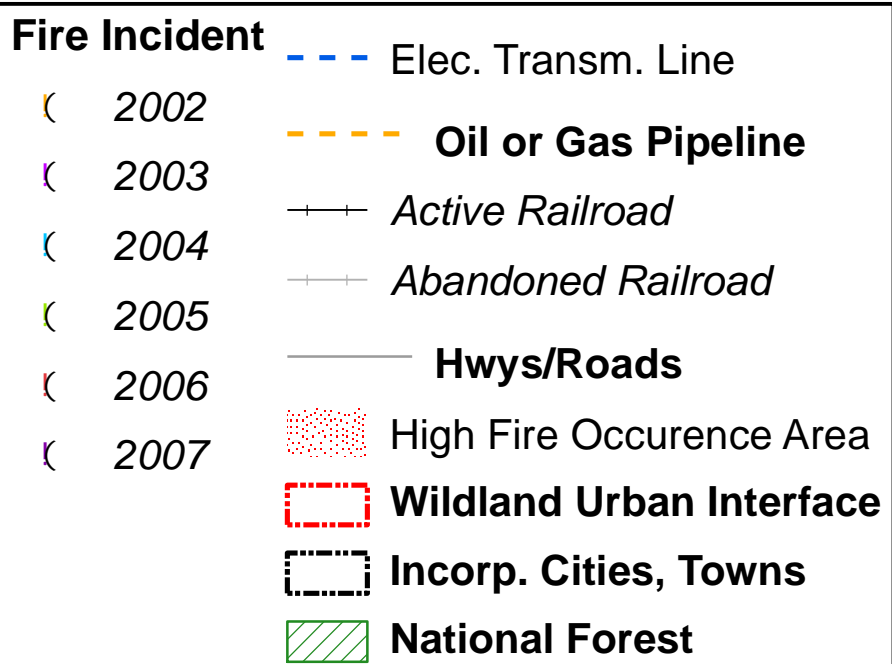


Tippah County, Mississippi

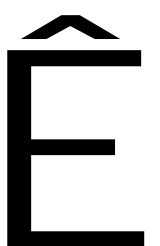
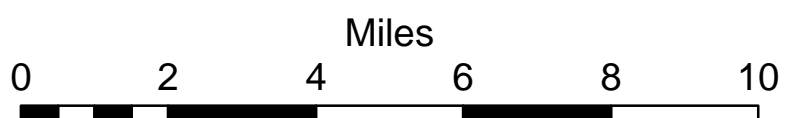


County Wildfire Protection Plan

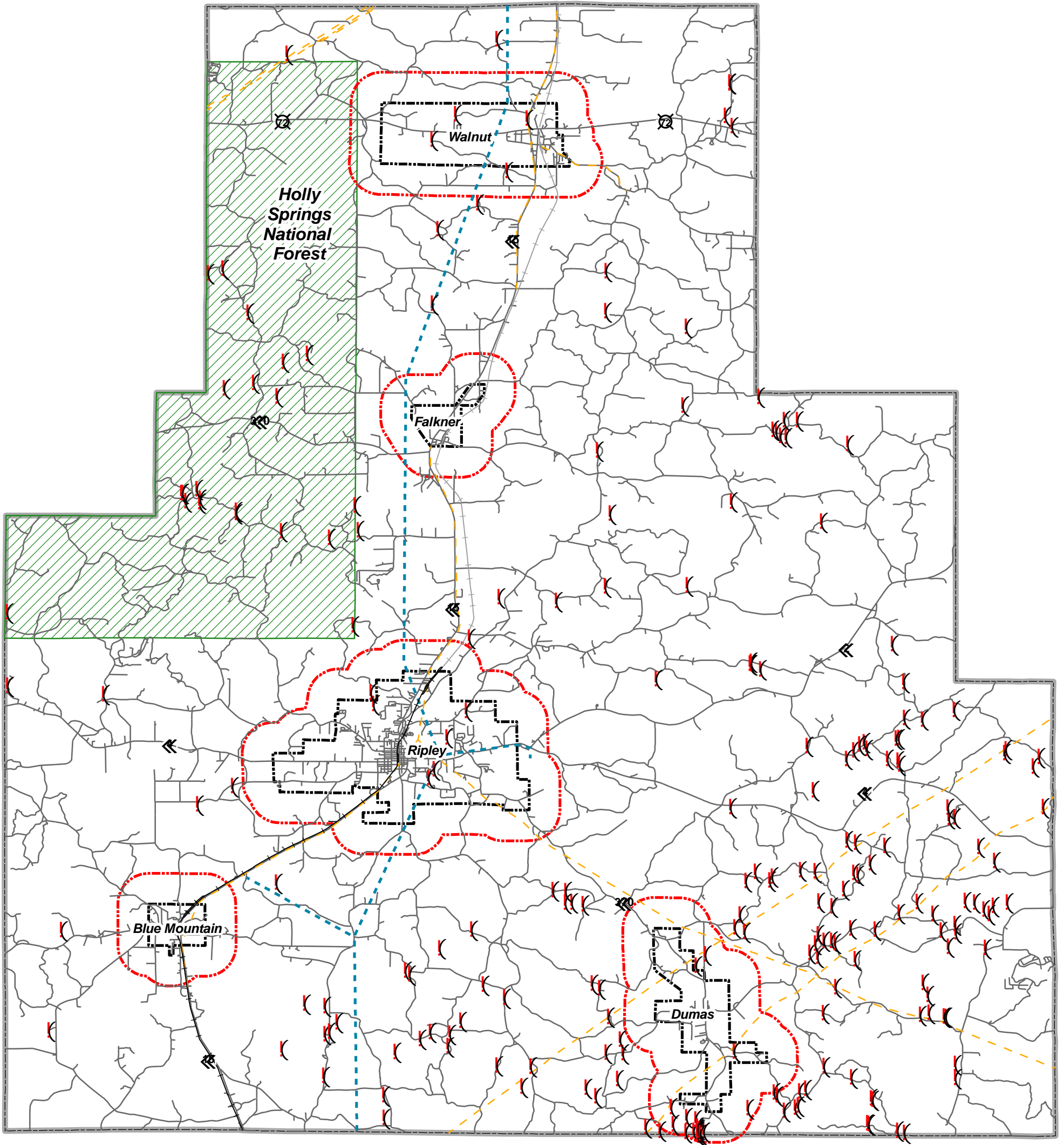
High Occurrence Wildfire Areas



Northeast Mississippi Planning & Development District
For planning use only.

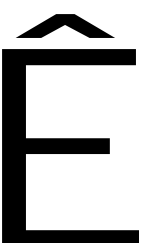
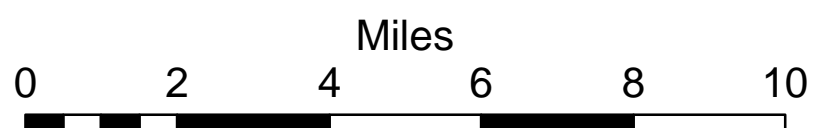
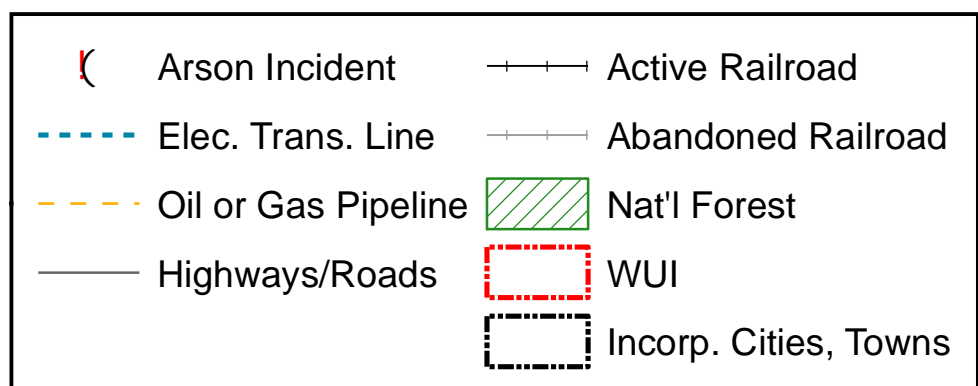


Tippah County, Mississippi

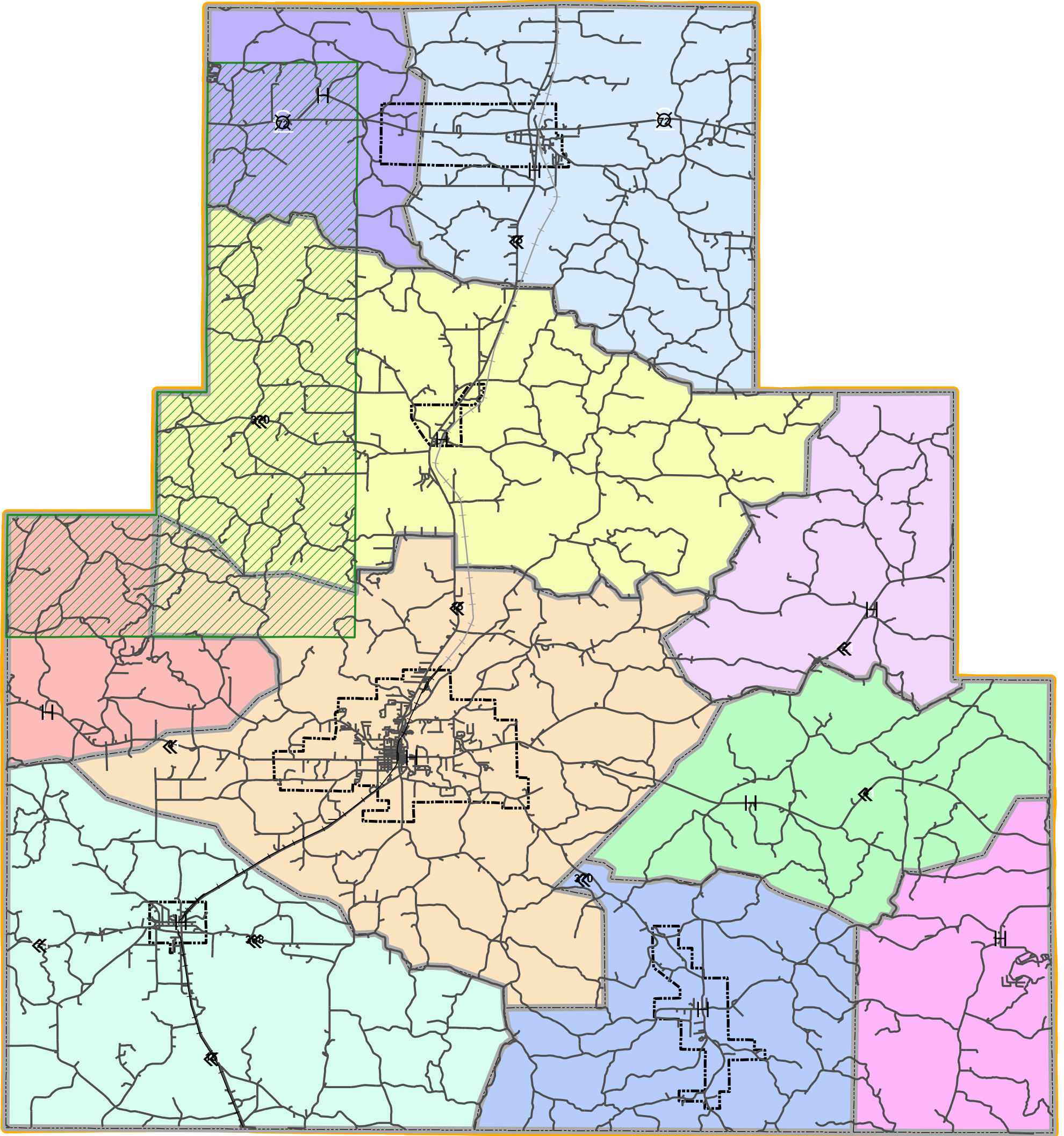


County Wildfire Protection Plan

Arson Fires 2002 - 2007

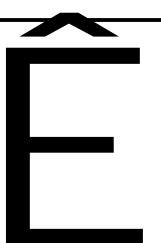
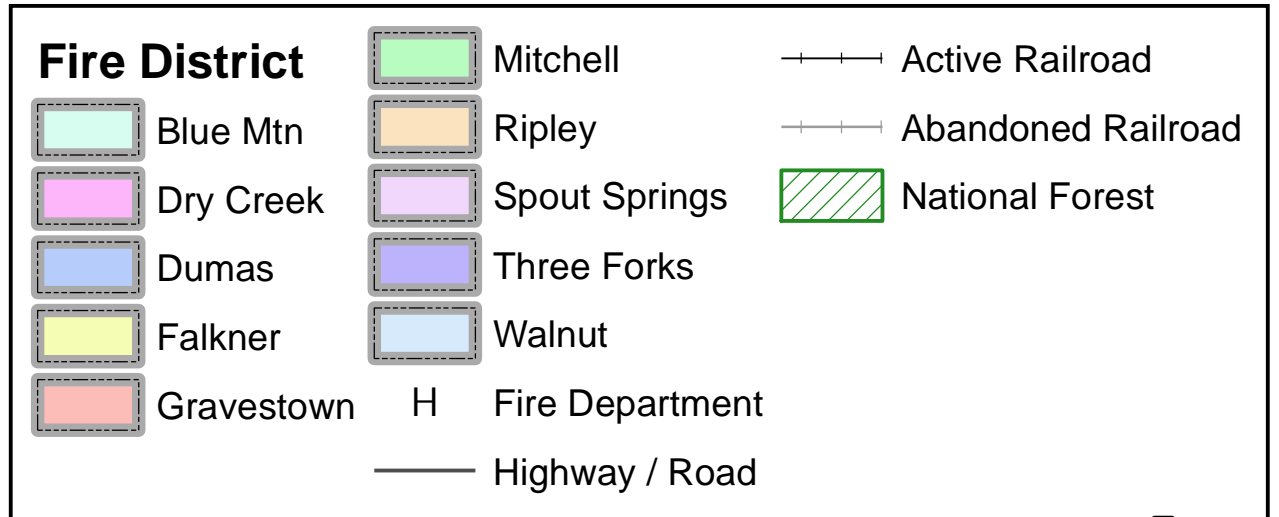


Tippah County, Mississippi

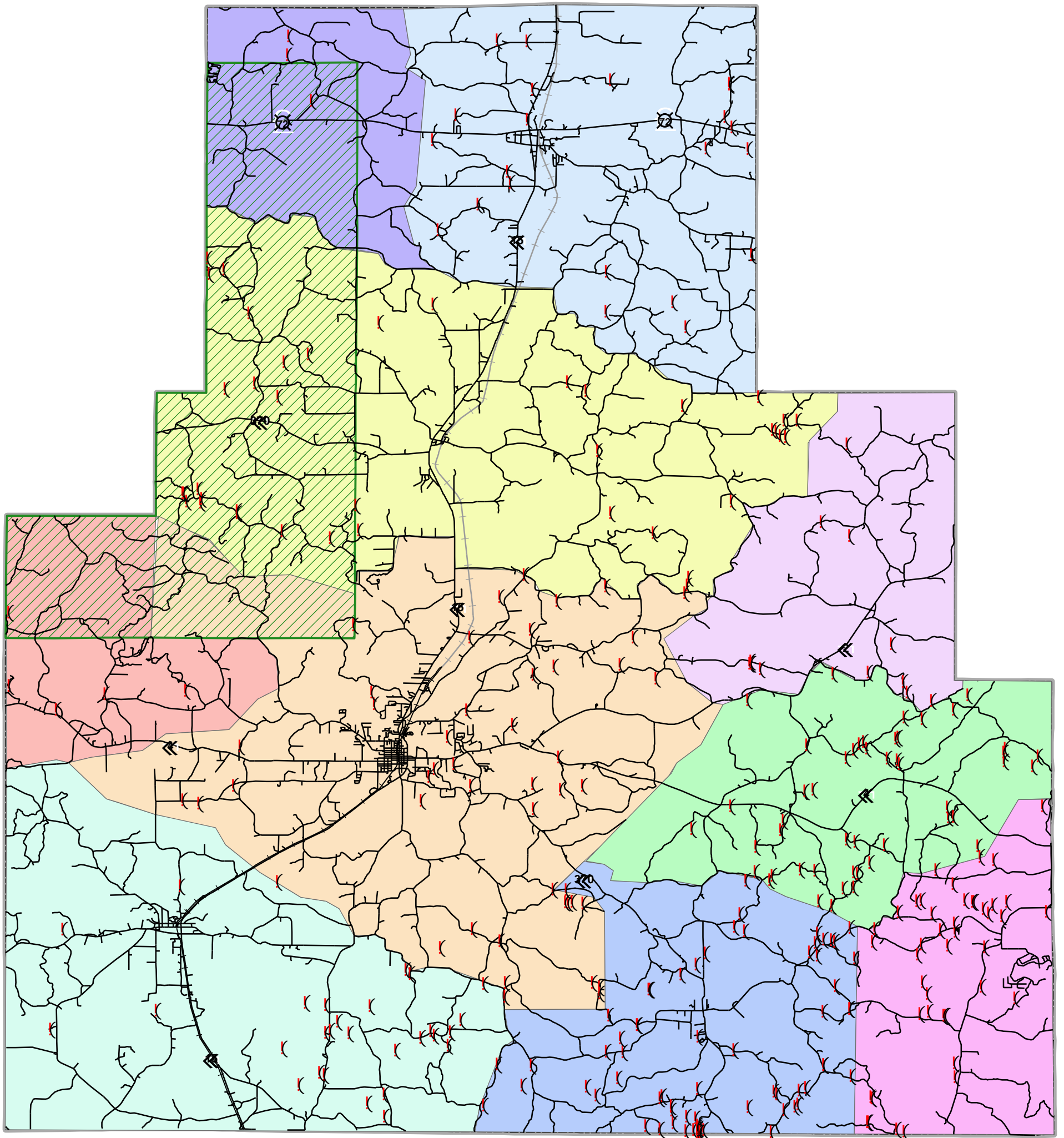


County Wildfire Protection Plan

Fire Response Areas



Tippah County, Mississippi



County Wildfire Protection Plan

Wildfires by Response Area

