

WILDFIRE ~ ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

This element was developed July 17, 2001 by the Jackson Creek Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

Wildfire is complicated by combination of problems:

1. Decades of fire prevention and vegetative growth has allowed forest and fuel density to reach unprecedented high level.
2. Many homes have been built and continue to be built in the forest interface, complicating fire control and causing increased risk of ignitions.

Forest access roads are important for fighting wildfire:

3. Adequate access to homes in the forest interface is needed for fire fighting.

Intense wildfire will usually cause the following:

4. Loss of stream, riparian and upland habitat and other natural resources.
5. Increased water temperature.
6. Increased erosion.
7. Increased peak flows.
8. Loss of setback of landscape vegetation.

Fuel break construction and maintenance are necessary to reduce the intensity and spread of wildfire.

9. Fuel breaks may not be as important, in a longer term, in a forest that successfully incorporates fire resilience.

The watershed needs to be made more resilient to damage by wildfire.

10. Reducing the density of vegetation in forested areas, including ladder fuels.
11. Growing larger trees that are more fire resistant.
12. Converting brushfields to forested areas.

Water sources need to be developed and maintained for fire fighting.

Education in fire safety, prevention, spread and control of wildfires is needed for landowners in the watershed.

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