

# Wildland Urban Interface

## What is the WUI?

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is the zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. As population continues to grow, development in WUI zones will expand.

## What does the WUI code do?

The International Wildland-Urban Interface Code establishes a set of minimum standards to reduce the loss of property from wildfire. The purpose of these standards is to prevent wildfire spreading from vegetation to buildings.

If a home is determined to be located within the WUI zone, it must comply with one of three classes of ignition resistant construction.

Put simply, each class requires a certain level of fire retardant building materials to allow for a slower spread of fire.

Common aspects of a home affected include:

- Roof
- Siding
- Decks & ADUs
- Landscaping
- Doors & Windows
- Gutters & Downspouts

**Lowest cost estimates indicate this will increase the cost of a home by at least \$4,300.**

## CHALLENGES & CONFLICTS

### WUI Map

- 🔥 Lacks parcel-level detail for uniform enforcement across the state.
- 🔥 Mapping only relies on vegetation levels and proximity to other structures as the basis for establishing WUI zones.

The U.S. Fire Administration recommends considering all factors: type and distribution of vegetation; proximity to vegetation and other structures; climate and weather patterns; fire history; topography; access.

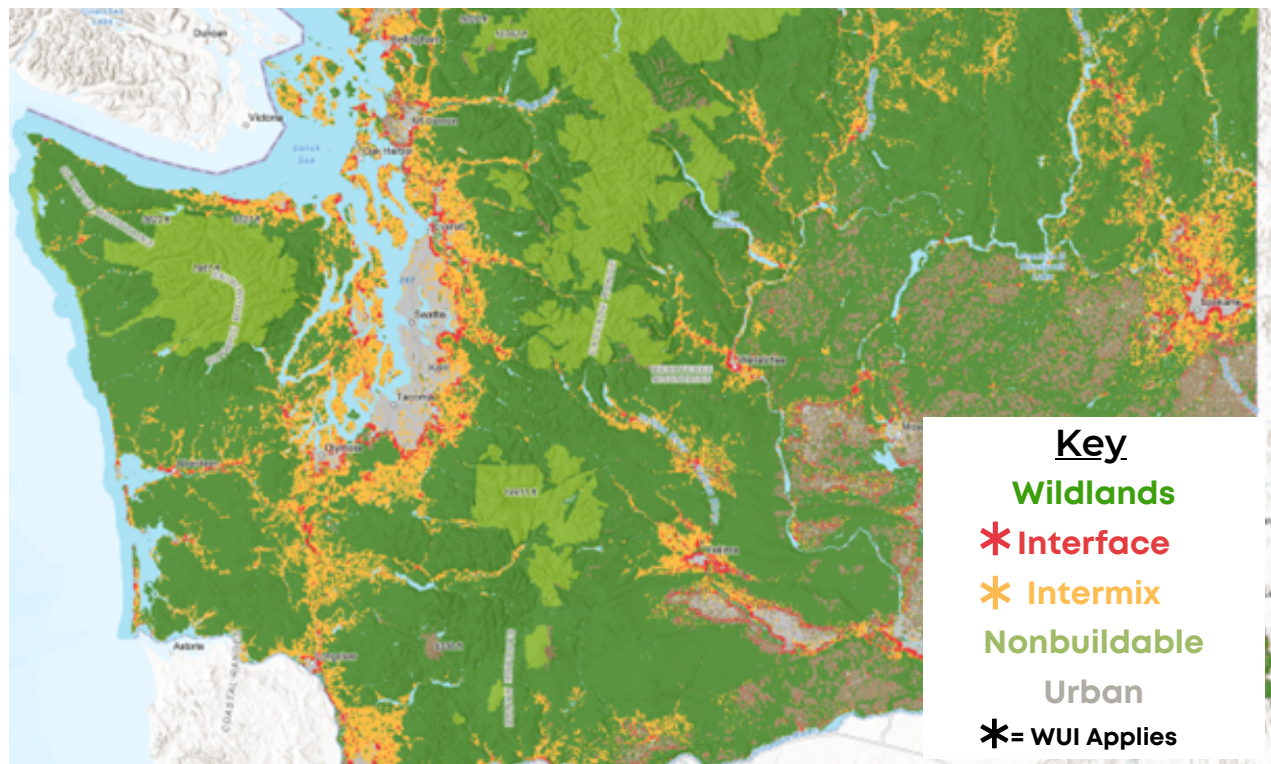
- 🔥 Definition of intermix is problematic as it classifies undeveloped and/or low-density pockets of urban areas as intermix. These areas would need to comply with the strictest ignition resistant construction requirements, even though it's in an urban or suburban setting.
- 🔥 Wildland areas (where growth is expected and is considered "future WUI zone") do not have to meet WUI code requirements even though these areas experience the most devastating effects from wildfires.

### Local Regulations

- 🔥 Illustrates the disconnect between land use planning and wildfire planning.
- 🔥 Jurisdictions already cannot enforce all aspects of the building codes due to staffing levels, workload, and other challenges.
- 🔥 Landscaping regulations: jurisdictions across the state regularly mandate a percentage of a development that must be designated for landscaping.
- 🔥 Tree retention: the WUI code views trees as fire fuel and thus requires varying levels of defensible space, meaning trees (and other forms of vegetation) near structures would need to be removed for compliance.

# WUI MAP VS. WILDFIRE RISK MAP

## WUI Map



## WILDFIRE RISK MAP

