



# Wildland-Urban Interface Definitions & Analysis

Tim Holschbach  
Deputy Chief – Policy & Planning  
503-945-7434  
[tim.j.holschbach@oregon.gov](mailto:tim.j.holschbach@oregon.gov)



**US Forest Service:** The wildland-urban interface qualitatively as a place where "humans and their development meet or intermix with wildland fuel."

**International WUI Code:** That geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland vegetative fuels.

**National Fire Protection Association / Firewise:** An area where wildland fuels abut structures, with a clear line of demarcation between residential, business, and public structures and wildland fuels.

**National Wildfire Coordination Group:** The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetation fuels.

**Ready Set Go:** An area or zone where human development meets or mixes with natural vegetation.

**OR SB 360:** A geographic area of forestland inside a forest protection district where there exists a concentration of structures in an urban or suburban setting.

**Federal Register:** The area where houses meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation.



# IWUIC<sup>®</sup>

INTERNATIONAL  
WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE  
CODE<sup>®</sup>

A Member of the International Code Family<sup>®</sup>

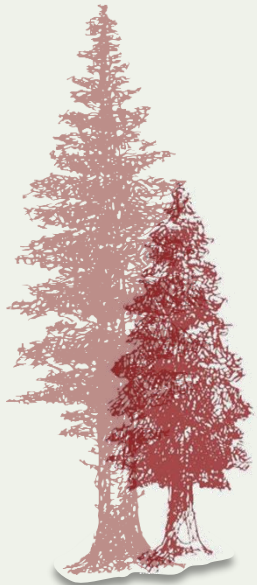
2021



Click to expand

# International WUI Code WUI Definition

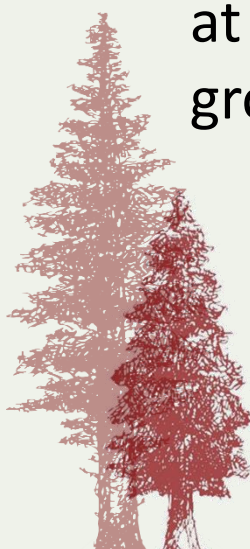
- That geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland vegetative fuels.



(2021 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) Chapter 2, Section 202, <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IWUIC2021P1/chapter-2-definitions>)

# International WUI Code

- Correspond to natural or man-made features and are based on housing units.
- Updated every 3 years .
- Developed algorithms to convert the decennial Census data at census block level into a consistent dataset on housing growth across the US.



Radeloff, V.C., D. P. Helmersa, H.A. Kramera, M.H. Mockrinb, P.M. Alexandria, A. Bar-Massadac, V. Butsicd, T.J. Hawbakere, S. Martinuzzia, A.D. Syphardf, and S.I. Stewart. "Rapid growth of the US wildland-urban interface raises wildfire risk." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. March 27, 2018. Vol. 115 No. 13. [https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2018/nrs\\_2018\\_radeloff\\_001.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2018/nrs_2018_radeloff_001.pdf).



# International WUI Code

- Combined with 1992, 2001, and 2011 National Land Cover Data on wildland vegetation: forest, shrubland, grasslands and woody wetlands.
- WUI change from 1990 to 2010 within 2010 census block
- Based on the WUI definitions in the Federal Register
- Housing growth for 1990–2010 within WUI burned areas identified in Landsat imagery between 1990 and 2015.

Radeloffa, V.C., D. P. Helmersa, H.A. Kramera, M.H. Mockrinb, P.M. Alexandrea, A. Bar-Massadac, V. Butsicd, T.J. Hawbakere, S. Martinuzzia, A.D. Syphardf, and S.I. Stewart. "Rapid growth of the US wildland-urban interface raises wildfire risk." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. March 27, 2018. Vol. 115 No. 13. [https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2018/nrs\\_2018\\_radeloff\\_001.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2018/nrs_2018_radeloff_001.pdf).



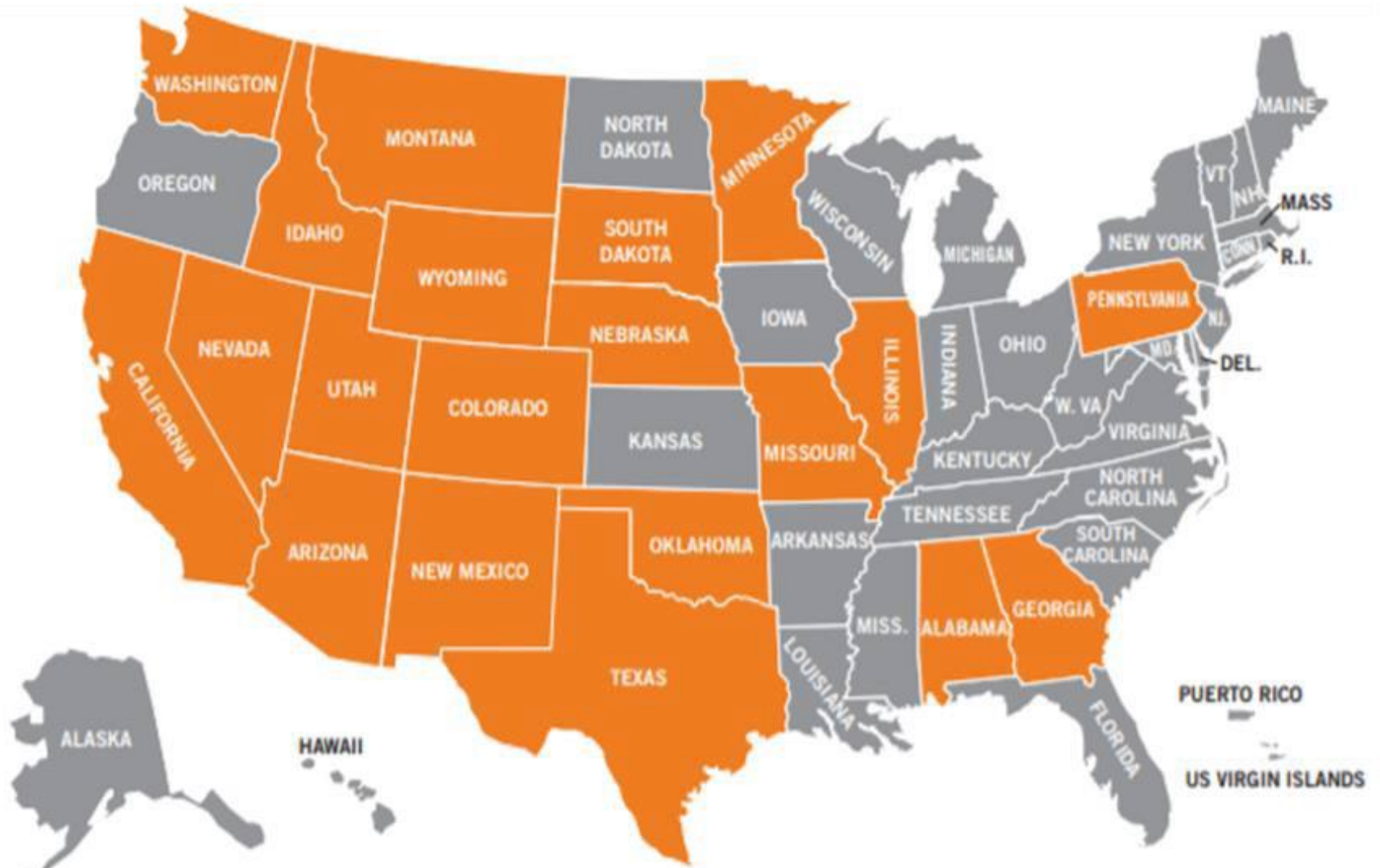
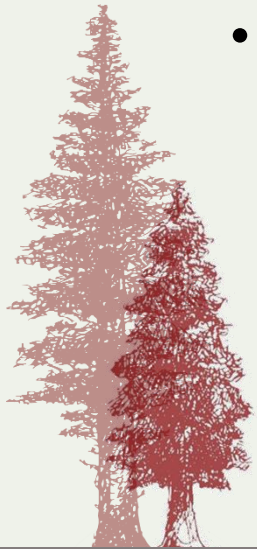


Figure 5. States with state-wide or local adoption of the IWUIC

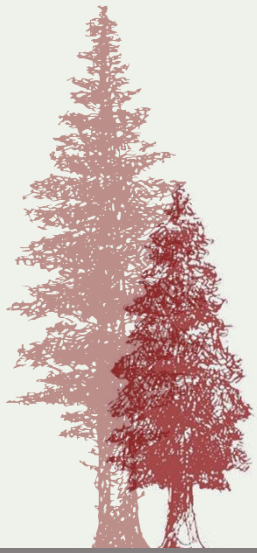
# International WUI Code application

- Provides a framework for regulations to safeguard life and property from the intrusion of wildland fire and to prevent structure fires from spreading to wildland fuels.
- Provides a framework for defensible space and ignition-resistant construction requirements.
- Fully compatible with all of ICC's International Codes
- Founded on data from tests and fire incidents, technical reports and mitigation strategies from around the world.





**Questions?**

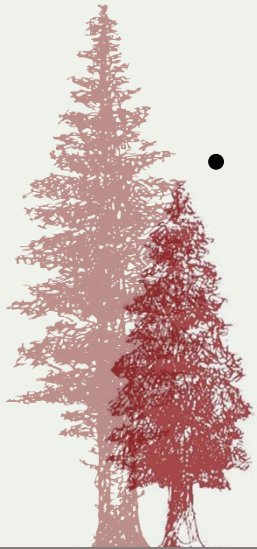




# Additional Rules Advisory Committee Responsibilities

- Statement of Need
- Statement of Fiscal Impact
  - Who could be economically affected by the rule?
    - State agencies
    - Local governments
    - Members of the public
  - Is there a cost of compliance?
- Fiscal Impact Statements need address only the impact of the proposed rule change from the current status quo, rather than the overall impact of the entire rule.\*

\*Department of Justice, Model Rules of Procedure



# Next Steps

- August 17
  - Present Staff Report on WUI Definition and Fiscal Impact Statement
  - Present initial workplan of terms to be defined and criteria concepts.
- September 7
  - Reconvene and begin criteria discussion.

