

4.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS AND RESOURCES

This section focuses on wildland fire issues and how they impact current conditions in Gooding County. Existing conditions and resources were determined by: (1) interviews with all local fire chiefs, as well as local, state, federal employees, and county residents. (2) surveying and photographing subdivisions within a WUI that were identified by fire chiefs as areas of concern, (3) documenting and photographing fuel loads within these subdivisions and along subdivision access roads, (4) recording all information on specific forms (see Field Assessment Forms and Ratings - Tables 11, 12, and 13) and in accordance with a Assessment Ignition Model (Cohen, 1995) and, (5) locating potential fire fighting water sources such as hydrants, ponds, live streams, and irrigation mainline access points (Figures 5, 7, 9, 12, and 13).

Risk of Fires and Fire Frequency

Wildfire risk within and around Gooding County is generally moderate due to the proximity of large areas of agricultural land. Areas adjacent to the Snake River Canyon are high risk due to fuel loads, lack of survivable space around structures, and higher population density during the fire season. Areas of Gooding County are not included in a designated Fire District but are included in mutual aid agreements with BLM and Buhl Fire District. Figure 3 shows fuel loads and historical fire perimeters. Table 6 shows a number corresponding to the location of a particular fire seen on Figure 3; fire years; individual fires; and, acres burned (10 or more) for years 1994 to 2001. These data represent only wildland mutual aid fires on BLM and do not include grass and brush fires, structural or other fires. However, fire records are available by contacting district fire chiefs. Overall, the highest fire frequency is shown in the northern portion of the county in sagebrush-grassland vegetation types. It is likely this trend will continue in these vegetation types due to the accumulation of flammable fuels over the past decade.

Table 6. Gooding County fire history for years 1994 to 2001*

Number*	Year	Fire**	Acres
1	1994	Bliss 1W	22
2	1995	Bliss Canyon	717
3	1995	Indiana Lot	3,482
4	1995	Swiss Valley	25
5	1996	North Wendell	3,308
6	1996	Malad GSP1	53
7	1996	Gooding SE	31
8	1996	Main Canal	15
9	1996	Ticeska East	95
10	1996	Pioneer	910
11	1996	Avonmore	137
12	1996	Dead Horse	436
13	1996	Turkey	22
14	1996	Calf Creek	485
15	1996	Dempsey Creek	12
16	1996	Davis Mountain	15,617
17	1996	Calderon 1	176
18	1996	Bray	1,775
19	1997	Calf Creek	1,023
20	1997	Wendell IST	88
21	1997	Wood Tick	2,601
22	1998	Ticeska	21
23	1998	UPRRMP 355	18
24	1999	Rattlesnake	12
25	1999	2 S Bliss	15
26	1999	Bell Mare	3,950
27	2000	Dry Creek	297
28	2000	Ostler Pond	576
29	2000	Bliss Rim	33
30	2001	Canal	11
31	2001	West Bliss	231
32	2001	Poor Man	43
33	2001	McKinney	25
34	2001	Rural Assist #11	58
35	2001	Rural Assist #6	64
		Total	36,364

*See Figure 3, page 10

**BLM mutual aid fires only

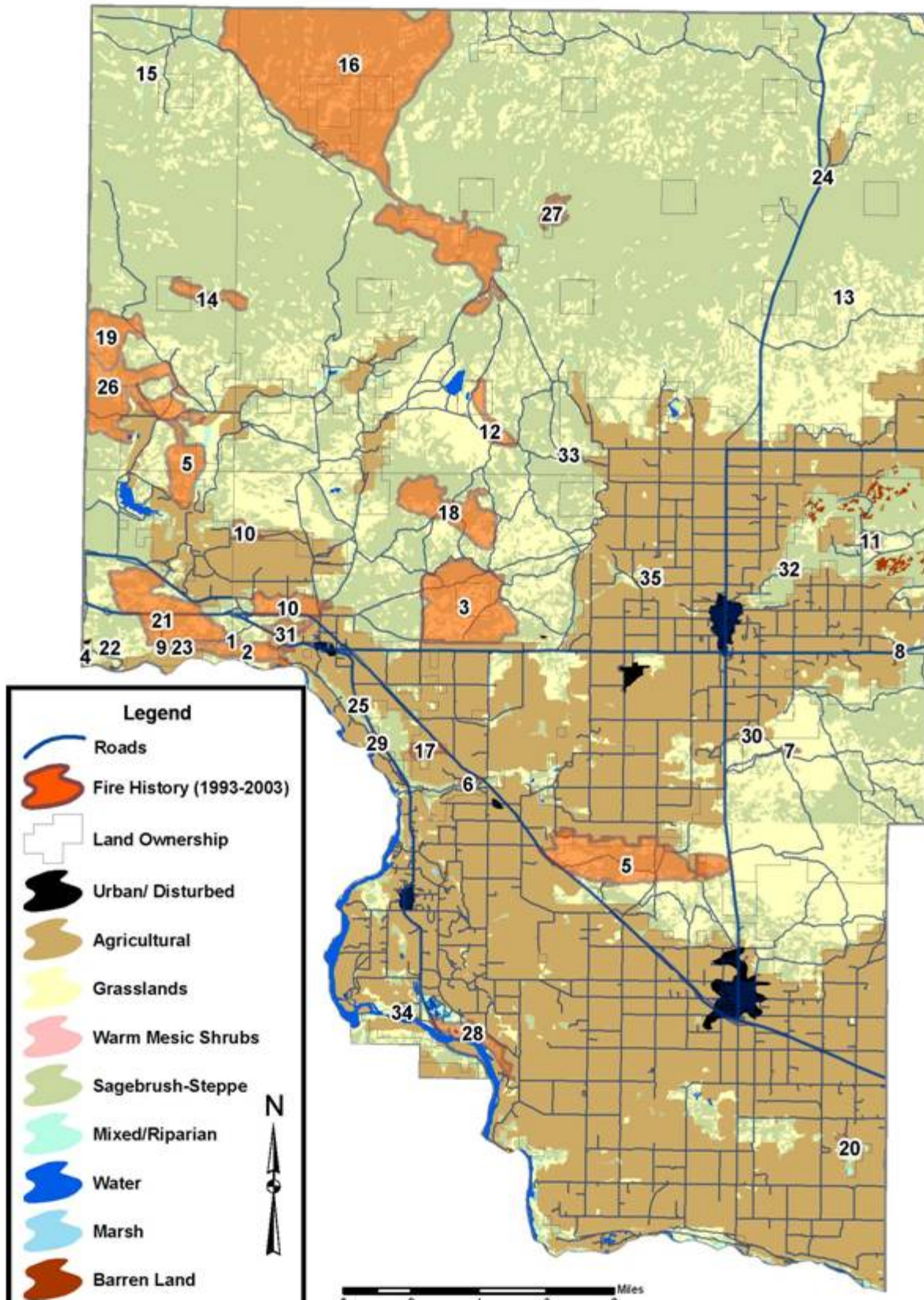


Figure 3. Fuel loads and historical fire perimeters within Gooding County.

Slope Risk Model

Figure 4 shows the Slope Risk Model for Gooding County. Steep slopes cause fires to spread rapidly because of convection and radiant heat and the fact that the flames are closer to the fuels. With the exception of the Snake River corridor within the Hagerman Fire District the steepest slopes are located in the northern portion of the county. There is a correlation between the historical fire perimeters (Figure 3) and the agricultural lands seen in slope risk model (Figure 4). Most of the wildland fires have burned up to the agriculture land or the ignition point was at the agriculture land. There is also a correlation in the north end of the county (BLM land) between total acres burned (Figure 3) and the steepness of slopes (Figure 4). This would suggest a longer response time to the fires and a greater effort to suppress these fires.

Mutual Aid Agreements

Mutual aid agreements exist among the four FPDs and Jerome County Fire Protection District (signed January 23, 1976). This allows for temporary equipment and personnel assignments to other districts on an as needed basis. Hagerman FPD has mutual aid agreements with Shoshone and Buhl fire (signed October 7, 1996) districts and training requirements consistent with these fire departments. The Magic Valley Emergency Response Team Mutual Aid Agreement exists within the Gooding County Fire Districts. This agreement includes Fire Districts and fire agencies from surrounding counties and is overseen by the Operations Committee of the Region IV Local Emergency Planning Committee. The Districts also have mutual aid agreements with the Buhl FPD, U.S. Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Parcels vs. Subdivisions

The County and State subdivision regulations cover dividing of lands within the county, but there are many pieces of land, or parcels that have homes on them that in some cases predate existing regulations. These parcels are not part of a legal subdivision and may have different regulations covering their future development. The corner lands not covered by center pivot irrigation systems will most likely be developed for single homes under the regulations covering parcels.

Description of Assessment Areas

Gooding County assessment area includes four Fire Districts that encompass 291,718 acres of 469,997 acres in the entire county. The remaining 178,279 acres are BLM lands. Gooding County Fire Districts are Gooding, Wendell, Hagerman, and Bliss. The major population centers within the county are the cities of Gooding, Wendell, Hagerman, and Bliss, ID. Figure 1 illustrates the boundaries of the Fire Districts within Gooding County.

Table 7. Landownership in acres for Gooding County Fire Protection Districts

	BLM	USFWS	NPS	State	Private	Water	Total
Gooding	28,491		224	1,874	66,495		97,084
Wendell	1,168			5,158	76,947	692	83,965
Hagerman	974	84		817	19,032	845	20,107
Bliss	58,835			1,348	28,268	466	88,917
Total	89,468	84	224	9,197	190,742	2,003	291,718
Non-District (Open Areas)	162,993			10,481	4605	424	178,279
Total	252,461	0		19,678	195,347	2,427	469,997

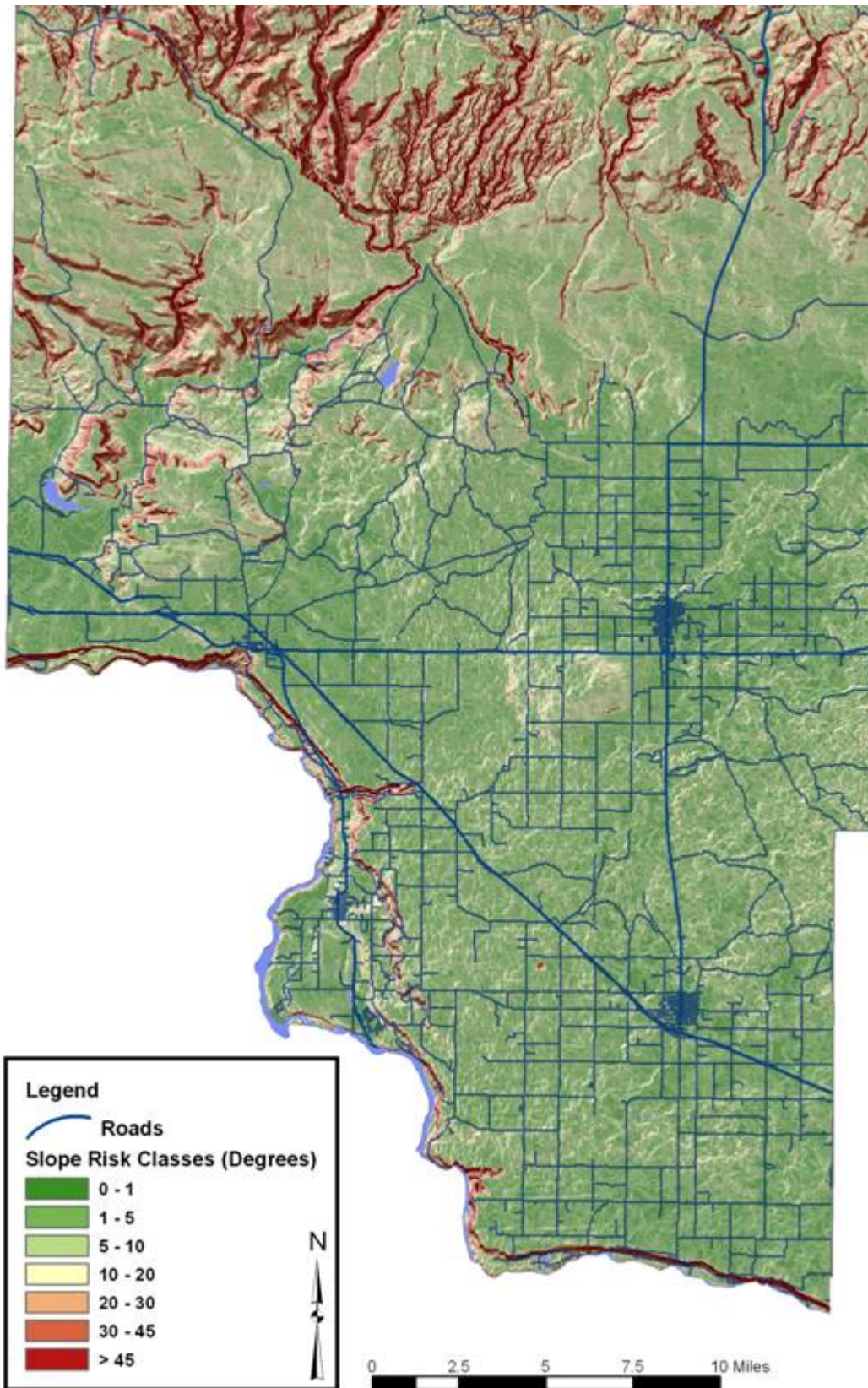


Figure 4. Slope risk model for Gooding County.

Fire District Current Resources and Assets

Standardized forms were created to assess current Fire District resources and assets. These forms provide accuracy and consistency in the evaluation process and will be updated as new information becomes available.

Gooding Fire District

Table 8. Summary of the Gooding Fire District Assessment.

Gooding Fire District Assessment Overview – Resources and Assets	
Facilities	The main fire station, located in Gooding, ID is the only permanent fire facility in this Fire District. It houses all district and city fire fighting apparatus, offices and training facilities.
Response Area	Gooding Fire District includes the northeast quarter of Gooding County. It is comprised of agricultural land with areas of sagebrush/grasslands interspersed with residential developments. The north end of the Fire District is BLM land with mutual aid agreements in place with that agency.
Budget and Funding	The primary portion of the Fire District funding comes from taxes.
Grants	This Fire District has received grants from AFF and DHS sources.
Records Management	This Fire District has a computerized RMS program, personnel training records database, and inventory data base program in place.
Hazardous Materials Program	This district does not have a Hazmat team. MVERT mutual aid agreement and ISP provide Hazmat response teams to this Fire District.
EMS Program	First responder training has been completed and is in use.
Training and Certification	Training records for fire personnel are available at the Gooding Fire District. The records include: Names and training history (hours, courses, refresher courses, and certification) of all volunteer employees back to at least 2000.
Communications (see Table 37)	All emergency fire-fighting vehicles have radio communications. Handheld radios are available when needed. Dispatch duties are handled through Southern Idaho Regional Communication Center (SIRCOM).
Prevention and Inspection	Authorized Fire District personnel perform fire code enforcement and fire inspections.
Public Education	Fire personnel provide programs in structural, wildland, and home fire safety. Fire personnel conduct annual visits to grade schools to promote fire prevention and home fire safety programs.

Wendell Fire District

Table 9. Summary of the Wendell Fire District Assessment.

Wendell Fire District Assessment Overview – Resources and Assets	
Facilities	The main fire station, located in Wendell, ID is the only permanent fire facility in this Fire District. It houses all district and city fire fighting apparatus, offices and training facilities.
Response Area	Wendell Fire District is located in the southeast corner of Gooding County. It is comprised of agricultural lands interspersed with sagebrush/grasslands. The main agricultural activities are potato, hay and dairy farming. The southern boundary of Wendell Fire District lies along the Snake River, with the eastern boundary being shared with Jerome County, the western boundary is Hagerman Fire District, and the northwest boundary is shared with Bliss Fire District the northern

	boundary is shared with Gooding Fire District and an area of BLM and state land. There are 17 miles of Interstate 84 within this Fire District.
Budget and Funding	Funding for this Fire District is derived from 76% taxes, 23% grants and 1% donation.
Grants	This Fire District has received grants from FEMA, Idaho State Department of Health and Welfare, Southern Idaho Fire Co-op and The Office of Highway Safety Assistance Programs.
Records Management	This Fire District has a computerized personnel training records database, emergency call volume, fire fighting agreements and equipment maintenance.
Hazardous Materials Program	This district does not have a Hazmat team. MVERT mutual aid agreement and ISP provide Hazmat response teams to this Fire District.
EMS Program	EMS services are separate from Fire District activities and are managed by a separate board of directors.
Training and Certification	Training records for fire personnel are available at the Wendell Fire District. The records include: Names and training history (hours, courses, refresher courses, and certification) of all volunteer employees back to at least 2000.
Communications (see Table 37)	All emergency firefighting vehicles have radio communications. Handheld radios are available when needed. Dispatch duties are handled through Southern Idaho Regional Communication Center (SIRCOM).
Prevention and Inspection	Trained fire personnel enforce fire codes in accordance with the International Fire Code. The Fire District is in the process of training additional inspectors for enforcement and education activities.
Public Education	Fire personnel conduct annual visits to the fire station for grade school children to promote fire prevention and home fire safety programs. Fire personnel conduct public awareness programs about WUI environments annually.

Hagerman Fire District

Table 10. Summary of the Hagerman Fire District Assessment.

Hagerman Fire District Assessment Overview – Resources and Assets	
Facilities	The main fire station, located in Hagerman, ID is the only permanent fire facility in this Fire District. It houses all district and city fire fighting apparatus, offices and training facilities.
Response Area	Hagerman Fire District is located in the southwest corner of Gooding County. The shared boundaries are Twin Falls County to the south and west, Bliss Fire District to the north, and Wendell Fire District to the east. The west side of this district is private lands interspersed with homes and recreational properties. Hagerman Fire District has a large seasonal recreational population that occupies homes and cabins along the Snake River. The east side above the Snake River Canyon is agricultural properties with potato and dairy farms comprising most of the properties. There are small vineyards along the Snake River to the north of the town of Hagerman, ID where the fire department is located.
Budget and Funding	The primary portion of the Fire District funding comes from taxes.
Grants	This Fire District has received grants from FEMA, Idaho State Department of Commerce, BLM Rural Assistance and Nation Fish and Wildlife Rural Assistance Programs.
Records Management	This Fire District has a computerized personnel training records database, emergency call volume, fire fighting agreements and equipment maintenance.

Hazardous Materials Program	This district does not have a Hazmat team. MVERT mutual aid agreement and ISP provide Hazmat response teams to this Fire District.
EMS Program	EMS services are separate from Fire District activities. Funding is provided through the Fire District for these services.
Training and Certification	Training records for fire personnel are available at the Hagerman Fire District. The records include: Names and training history (hours, courses, refresher courses and certification) of all volunteer employees back to at least 2000.
Communications (see Table 37)	All emergency firefighting vehicles have radio communications. Handheld radios are available when needed. Dispatch duties are handled through Southern Idaho Regional Communication Center (SIRCOM).
Prevention and Inspection	Three state certified Fire District personnel perform fire code enforcement and fire inspections.
Public Education	Fire personnel conduct annual visits to grade schools to promote fire prevention and home fire safety programs.

Bliss Fire District

Table 11. Summary of the Bliss Fire District Assessment.

Bliss Fire District Assessment Overview – Resources and Assets	
Facilities	The main fire station, located in Bliss, ID is the only permanent fire facility in this Fire District. It houses all district and city fire fighting apparatus, offices and training facilities.
Response Area	Bliss Fire District is located in the northwest corner of Gooding County. This Fire District shares boundaries with Elmore County on the west BLM lands on the north and east, Gooding Fire District on the southeast, Wendell Fire District on the south, and Hagerman Fire District to the south. This Fire District is comprised mostly of agriculture and BLM lands with areas of recreational properties along the Snake River Canyon. Bliss Fire District has several residential areas that are associated with agricultural activities such as dairy, potato farming, and ranching. Interstate 84 and Union Pacific Railroad lines traverse this district along the southern edge from east to west.
Budget and Funding	The primary portion of the Fire District funding comes from taxes.
Grants	This Fire District has received grants from FEMA, Homeland Security, and BLM Rural Assistance.
Records Management	This Fire District has a computerized personnel training records database, emergency call volume, fire fighting agreements and equipment maintenance.
Hazardous Materials Program	This district does not have a Hazmat team. MVERT mutual aid agreement and ISP provide Hazmat response teams to this Fire District.
EMS Program	EMS services are separate from Fire District activities and are managed by a separate board of directors.
Training and Certification	Training records for fire personnel are available at the Bliss Fire District. The records include: Names and training history (hours, courses, refresher courses, and certification) of all volunteer employees back to at least 2000.
Communications (see Table 37)	All emergency firefighting vehicles have radio communications. Handheld radios are available when needed. Dispatch duties are handled through Southern Idaho Regional Communication Center (SIRCOM).
Prevention and Inspection	Four state certified Fire District personnel perform fire code enforcement and fire inspections.
Public Education	At this time this Fire District has no formal public education program in place.

Fire Fighting Apparatus

The following equipment lists are by Fire District and includes only serviceable, fully equipped apparatus. The four Fire Districts have fire fighting equipment required for structure and wildland fires. Hagerman, Wendell, and Gooding Fire Districts also have equipment for extrication rescue operations. All active fire/emergency personnel have pager and/or radio communication to respond to an emergency call. VHF radios are in wildland fire vehicles to communicate with BLM and other government emergency responders.

Gooding Fire District Equipment

1986 Chevrolet Heavy Wildland Fire Engine
1990 Ford Light Wildland Fire Engine
1978 Ford 2000gal Tanker
1988 International 3800gal Water-tender
1982 Welch/GMC Type 1 Structure Engine 1000gpm
1988 Ford Type 1 Structure Engine 1000gpm (county/city co-owned)

Hagerman Fire District Equipment

1996 Saber class A Pump truck 750gal tank, 1500gpm,
2002 International Tanker 2000gal, 250gpm
1978 Chevrolet Tanker 1500gal, 250gpm
1976 Dodge Tanker 1000gal, 250gpm
1986 Chevrolet 4x4 Heavy Brush Truck 860gal, 250gpm
1981 GMC 4x4 Light Brush Truck 250gal, 150gpm
1989 Dodge Power Ram 100 4x4 Command Truck

Wendell Fire District Equipment

2001 Dodge Dakota Pickup Command/Support Vehicle
1976 Ford L-900 2000gal. Type 3 Wildland Engine
2003 F-450 Rescue Truck
1964 Chevrolet 1200gal. Type 3 Wildland Engine
1981 Ford F-700 1500gal. Type 3 Wildland Engine (co-owned)
1989 Freightliner 3000gal. Water-tender
1998 International Structure Engine (co-owned)
1994 Chevrolet Type 6 Wildland Engine 200gal
1973 International 1510 Wildland Engine 220gal. . Class A foam (co-owned)
1992 Ford Basic Life Support Ambulance

Bliss Fire District Equipment

1986 Chevy Type 4 Wildland Engine
1967 Ford Type 1 Structure Engine
1952 GMC Type 4 Wildland Engine
1973 White Water Tender 3000 gal
1976 Ford Type 1 Structure Engine w/metered foam
1992 Ford Command Pickup
1989 International Type 4 Wildland Engine
1982 Ford Command Van

Field Assessment Forms and Ratings

Standardized Field Assessment Forms were used to assess subdivisions within each Fire District. The assessment (Tables 12, 13, and 14) show the rating elements (Classes A-C) for each area of concern. Tables 15 and 16 show areas of concern, the corresponding rating element, and the overall assessment value (1-3) assigned to each subdivision. Table 17 shows the overall results for all subdivisions. In conclusion, the lower the value the lower the fire risk to that particular subdivision. The higher the overall assessment value, the higher the fire risk for that subdivision. In addition, Table 15 shows an overall risk value assigned to each subdivision. These values were derived by soliciting the fire chiefs and county commissioners during a public meeting. The higher the value, the higher the fire risk for that subdivision. **Note:** Fire Chiefs from Hagerman and Gooding participated in this exercise. Wendell and Bliss Fire Chiefs were absent.

Table 12. Fire Hazard Assessment Description

FIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTION FORM			
Rating Element	Class A*	Class B**	Class C***
Vegetation Type	S/G= Sagebrush/Grassland, L/P/G= Locust/Pine/Grassland, R/J/G= Russian Olive/Juniper/Grassland		
Slope	Flat to little slope (< 10%)	Moderate slopes (10-30%)	Steep Slopes (> 30%)
Aspect	North (N, NW, NE)	East or level	South and West (SE,S,SW,W)
Elevation	>5500 feet	3500-5500 feet	<3500 feet
Fuel Type	Small, light fuels (grass, weeds, shrubs)	Medium Fuels. (brush, medium shrubs, small trees)	Heavy Fuels. (timber, woodland, large brush or heavy planting of ornamentals)
Fuel Density	Non-continuous fuel bed. Grass and /or sparse fuels adjacent to federal land (<30% cover)	Broken Moderate fuels adjacent to federal land (31 to 60% cover)	Continuous fuel bed. Composition conducive to crown fires or high intensity surface fires (> 60% cover)
Fuel Bed Depth	Low (average < 1 foot)	Moderate (average 1-3 feet)	High (average > 3 feet)

*Class A (1) low fire risk

**Class B (2) = medium fire risk

***Class C (3) = high fire risk

Table 13. Structure Hazard Assessment Description

STRUCTURE HAZARD ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTION FORM			
Rating Element	Class A*	Class B**	Class C**
Structure Density	At least one structure per 0-5 acres	One structure per 5-10 acres	Less than one structure per 10 acres
Proximity of flammable fuels to structures	>100 feet	40-100 feet	Less than 40 feet
Predominant Building Materials/ Flammability of structures	Majority of homes have fire resistant roofs and/or siding	10-50% of homes have fire resistant roofs and/or siding	Less than 10% of homes have fire resistant roofs and/or siding
Survivable Space Actions on Private Property	Majority of homes have improved survivable space around property (> 50%)	10-50% of homes have improved survivable space around property	Less than 10% of homes have improved survivable space around property.
Roads	Wide loop Roads that are maintained, paved or solid surface with shoulders.	Roads maintained. Some narrow two lane roads with no shoulders	Narrow and or single lane, minimally maintained, no shoulders
Response Time	Prompt response time to interface areas (20 min or less)	Moderate response time to interface areas (20-40 minutes)	Lengthy response to interface areas 40+ minutes
Access	Multiple entrances and exits that is well equipped for fire trucks with turnarounds.	Limited access routes. 2 ways in and 2 ways out. Moderate grades.	Narrow, dead end roads or 1 way in, 1 way out. Steep grades

*Class A (1) low fire risk

**Class B (2) = medium fire risk

***Class C (3) = high fire risk

Table 14. Community Assessment Description

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTION FORM			
Rating Element	Class A*	Class B**	Class C***
Community Description	There is a clear line where residential business and public structures meet wildland fuels. Wildland fuels do not generally continue into the developed area.	There is no clear line of demarcation wildland fuels are continuous outside of and within the developed area.	The community generally exists where homes, ranches, and other structures are scattered by adjacent to wildland vegetation.
Response Time	Prompt response time to interface areas (20 min or less).	Moderate response time to interface area (20-40 minutes).	Lengthy response time to interface area (40+ minutes).
Firefighting Capability	Adequate structural fire department. Sufficient personnel, equipment, and wildland firefighting capability and experience.	Some wildland firefighting	Fire department non-existent or untrained and/or equipped to fight wildland fire.
Water Supply	Adequate supply of fire hydrants and pressure, and/or open water sources (pools, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, etc.).	Inadequate supply of fire hydrants, or limited pressure. Limited water supply.	No pressure water system available near interface. No surface water available.
Local Emergency Operations Group (EOG)	Active EOG. Evacuation plan in place.	Limited participation in EOG. Have some form of evacuation process.	No EOG. No evacuation plan in place.
Structure Density	At least one structure per 0-5 acres.	On structure per 5-10 acres.	Less than one structure per 10 acres.
Community Planning Practices	County/local laws and zoning ordinances require use of fire safe residential design and adequate ingress/egress of fire suppression resources. Fire Department actively participates in planning process.	Local officials have an understanding of appropriate community planning practices for wildfire loss mitigation. Fire department has limited input to fire safe development and planning efforts.	Community standards for fire safe development and protection are marginal or non-existent. Little or no effort has been made in assessing and applying measures to reduce wildfire impact.
Fire Mitigation Ordinances, Laws, or Regulations in Place	Have adopted local ordinances or codes requiring fire safe landscaping, building and planning. Fire Department actively participates in planning process.	Have voluntary ordinances or codes requiring fire safe landscaping and building practices. Fire Department practices in planning process.	No local codes, laws or ordinances requiring fire safe building landscaping or planning processes.
Fire Department Equipment	Good supply of structure and wildland fire apparatus and miscellaneous specialty equipment.	Smaller supply of fire apparatus in fairly good repair with some specialty equipment.	Minimum amount of fire apparatus, which is old and in need of repair. None or little specialty equipment.
Fire Department Training and Experience	Large, fully paid fire department with personnel that meet NFPA or NWCG training requirements, are experienced in wildland fire, and have adequate equipment.	Mixed fire department. Some paid and some volunteer personnel. Limited experience, training and equipment to fight wildland fire.	Small, all volunteer fire department. Limited training, experience and budget with regular turnover of personnel. Do not meet NFPA or NWCG standards.

Community Fire Safe Efforts and programs already in place	Organized and active groups (Fire Dept.) providing educational materials and programs for their community.	Limited interest and participation in educational programs. Fire Department does some prevention and public education.	No interest of participation in educational programs. No prevention/education efforts by fire department.
Community support and attitudes	Actively supports urban interface plans and actions.	Some participation in urban interface plans and actions.	Opposes urban interface plans and efforts.

*Class A (1) low fire risk

**Class B (2) = medium fire risk

***Class C (3) = high fire risk

Table 15. Summary Table of Fire and Structural Hazard Assessment Forms

Subdivisions/ Additions/ Fire District	Bell Rapids Addition Hagerman	Sportsman's Lodge Hagerman	Nat. Fish Hatchery Hagerman	Norwood SD Hagerman	Malad SD Hagerman	Spring Acres SD Hagerman	Sand Creek SD Hagerman	Paulin Addition Gooding	Riverview SD Gooding	Sandhill SD Gooding	Hilltop SD Wendell
Vegetation Type	S/G	S/G	L/P/G	L/P/G	S/G	R/J/G	S/G	S/G	S/G	S/G	S/G
Slope	B	A	A	C	B	A	A	A	A	A	A
Aspect	B	A	A	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	B
Elevation	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	B	B	B	C
Fuel Type	B	B	C	C	B	B	A	A	B	B	B
Fuel Density	B	B	C	C	B	B	A	A	B	B	B
Fuel Bed Depth	B	B	C	C	B	C	B	B	B	B	B
Structure Density	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A
Proximity of Fuels	A	B	A	C	C	A	B	B	B	B	A
Building Materials	B	B	A	C	C	C	B	B	B	B	B
Survivable Space	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	A	B	A	A
Roads	A	C	B	B	C	C	A	A	A	B	A
Response Time	A	B	B	B	B	B	A	A	B	B	A
Access	A	C	B	C	C	C	A	A	A	B	A
Overall Assessment Value	22	26	26	35	34	30	21	20	24	25	22
Overall Risk Value*	8	10	7	9	6	5	4	9	8	10	10

* Numbers derived from fire and emergency personnel

Table 16. Summary Table of Community Assessment Forms

Subdivision s/ Additions/ Fire District	Bell Rapids Addition Hagerman	Sportsmans Lodge Hagerman	Nat. Fish Hatchery Hagerman	Norwood SD Hagerman	Malad SD Hagerman	Spring Acres SD Hagerman	Sand Creek SD Hagerman	Paulin Addition Gooding	Riverview SD Gooding	Sandhill SD Gooding	Hilltop SD Wendell
Community Description	B	B	B	C	C	C	A	C	B	B	A
Firefighting Capability	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Water Supply	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	C	B	B	B
LEOG*	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	B
Community Planning Practices	B	B	B	B	B	C	B	C	B	B	B
Fire Mitigation Ordinances	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	B	B
Fire Department Equipment	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A
Fire Department Training/ Experience	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C
Community Fire Safe Programs	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Community Support	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Overall Assessment Value	19	19	18	20	19	20	16	22	19	19	18

*LEOG=Local Emergency Operations Groups

Table 17. Overall values for Fire/Structure and Community Assessments

Subdivisions/ Additions/ Fire District	Bell Rapids Addition Hagerman	Sportsman's Lodge Hagerman	Nat. Fish Hatchery Hagerman	Norwood SD Hagerman	Malad SD Hagerman	Spring Acres SD Hagerman	Sand Creek SD Hagerman	Paulin Addition Gooding	Riverview SD Gooding	Sandhill SD Gooding	Hilltop SD Wendell
Fire/Structure Hazard Assessment											
Overall Value	22	26	26	35	34	30	21	20	24	25	22
Community Assessment											
Overall Value	19	19	18	20	19	20	16	22	19	19	18
Results from Fire and Emergency Personnel											
Overall Risk Value	8	10	7	9	6	5	4	9	8	10	10

Fire/Structure Hazard Assessment Summary

Fire Rating Scale	
Low	13-19
Low/medium	20-26
Medium	27-31
Medium/High	32-38
High	39 or greater

The overall values for Fire/Structure Assessment (Table 17) show subdivisions ranging from 20 to 35. The subdivision overall value is assigned a fire risk by comparing the value to the Fire Rating Scale.

Community Assessment Summary

Fire Rating Scale	
Low	10-14
Low/medium	15-19
Medium	20-24
Medium/High	25-29
High	30 or greater

The overall values for Community Assessment (Table 17) show subdivisions ranging from 16 to 22. The subdivision overall value is assigned a fire risk by comparing the value to the Fire Rating Scale.

Overall Risk Value Summary

A fairly strong correlation exists between the fire/structure assessment overall values and the overall risk values for five subdivisions (Sportman's Lodge, National Fish Hatchery, Norwood SD, Malad and Spring Acres) considered medium to high fire risk (Table 17).

5.0 MITIGATION

This section discusses fuels mitigation and needs and associated costs for each Fire District. The environmental effects and public education programs are included under one section and apply to all Fire Districts within Gooding County. See Table 39 (page 46) for a Mitigation Summary for Gooding County Fire Districts. **Note:** The Hagerman and Gooding Priority Rating shown in Table 39 was generated by soliciting Fire Chiefs from these two fire districts during a public meeting. Wendell and Bliss Fire Chiefs were absent from this meeting; therefore, the recommended mitigations for their fire districts were not rated.

Fuels Mitigation – Hazardous fuel buildup resulting in wildland fires represent the primary risk to homeowners, businesses, and state and federal facilities located outside of city limits. Fuel break locations are identified in this section based on recommendations provided by each fire chief, input from county commissioners and BLM, assessments of subdivisions and additions determined to be of importance and, review of other Wildland Fire Hazard Mitigations Plans for Gooding County. The size of fuel breaks required and associated costs to construct these fuel breaks will vary, depending on hazardous fuels present, distance to transport construction equipment, and actual dimensions of fuel break. As an example, a 100-foot wide fuel break was created around the 160-acre Carson City Nevada campus by using a machine that mowed up sage brush creating mulch that helped save the campus from the Waterfall Fire that forced an evacuation (Reno Gazette Journal, July 16, 2004).

Needs and Associated Costs – Tables of Fire District needs and associated costs obtained from each fire chief.

Environmental Effect – Environmental effects (weed establishment, soil and surface water disturbance) resulting from fuel break construction and other land surface disturbances and the installation of dry hydrants.

Fire Prevention Programs - Public Education – Introduces Gooding County residents to the FIREWISE public education program, offers homeowners a checklist to avoid wildfire damage and, presents relevant public education web sites.

Ordinances and Codes - Subdivision Ordinance No. 80 was adopted and passed by the county commissioners on March 8, 2004. Building permits are required for new residents within subdivisions and, if a new driveway is needed accessing the highway, the highway district or state highway department must approve plans for said driveway before construction begins. In addition, an uninterrupted year round adequate fire protection water source is required in accordance with the appropriate fire district standards. The 2000 International Fire Code,