

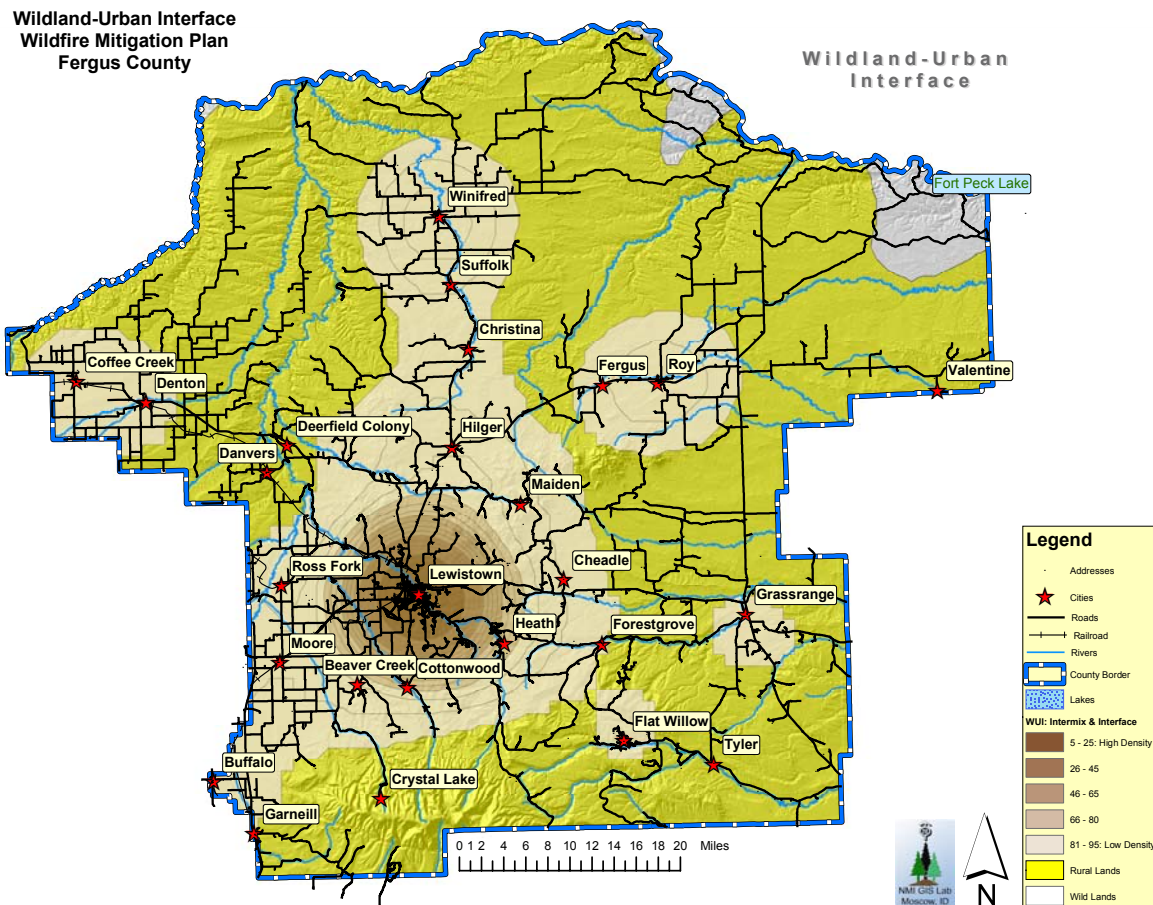
augmented with data collected on hand-held GPS receivers to record the location of structures, especially in areas where new housing developments were seen.

All addresses are represented by a “dot” on the map. The density of structures and their specific locations in this County are critical in defining where the potential exists for casualty loss in the event of a wildfire in the region.

By evaluating this structure density, we can define WUI areas on maps by using mathematical formulae and population density indexes to define the WUI based on where structures are located. The resulting population density indexes create concentric circles showing high density areas of Interface and Intermix WUI, as well as Rural WUI (as defined by Secretary Norton of the Department of Interior). This portion of the analysis allows us to “see” where the highest concentrations of structures are located in reference to high risk landscapes, limiting infrastructure, and other points of concern.

It is critical to understand that in the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems, this portion of the analysis only serves to identify structures and by some extension the people that inhabit them. It does not define the location of infrastructure and unique ecosystems. Other analysis tools will be used for those items. The WUI interface areas as defined here are presented in map form in Appendix I.

**Figure 3.4. Wildland-Urban Interface of Fergus County, Montana.**



*This map is presented for reference in this section of the plan. This map, and additional maps are detailed in Appendix I.*