



# Community Wildfire Protection Plan Chouteau County, Montana

wildland or vegetative fuels.<sup>11</sup> Similar terms are wildland/residential interface and wildland-urban intermix. For the purposes of this CWPP, “the wildland-urban interface is defined as a group of homes and other structures with basic infrastructure and services within or adjacent to Federal land; in which conditions are conducive to a large scale wildfire event; and for which a significant threat to human life or property exists as a result of a wildland fire disturbance event.”<sup>12</sup>

From a fire fighter’s perspective there are nine Wildland-Urban Interface “Watchout” Situations that are significant to the safety of wildland fire fighters:

- Wooden construction and wood shake roofs
- Poor access and narrow congested one-way roads
- Inadequate water supply
- Natural fuels closer than 30 feet to structures
- Extreme fire behavior
- Strong winds
- Need to evacuate the public
- Structures located in chimneys, box or narrow canyons, or on steep slopes in flashy fuels
- Inadequate bridge load limits

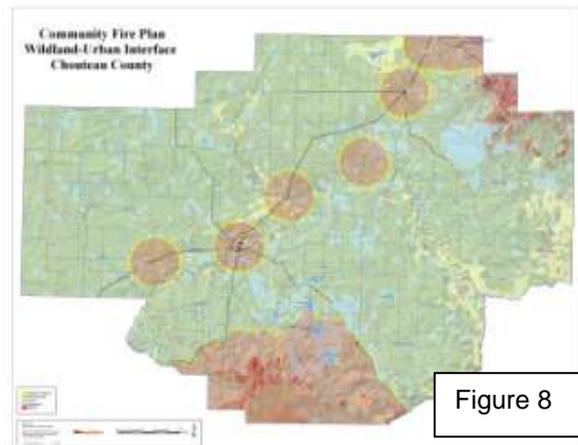
Chouteau County communities that are listed in the Federal Register as “Communities at Risk” from wildland fire include:

- Geraldine
- Square Butte
- Duck Creek Drainage
- Boxelder Creek

There are several additional areas of wildland-urban interface within the county, which have been identified during this planning process (See Figure 8 and Wildland-Urban Interface Area Map in Map Section 10.5).

Additional areas of wildland-urban interface in Chouteau County include:

- Highwood, the Highwood Mountains and associated areas
- Carter\*
- Fort Benton\*
- Loma\*
- Big Sandy\*



\*At risk from a rangeland or CRP fire.

The potential development of portions of southwest Chouteau County into residential lots of varying sizes will contribute to the wildland-urban interface fire problem for the fire protection agencies in the county. This leads to several complex problems, which need to be addressed in the CWPP:

- Access
- Asset Protection Zones
- Water Supply
- Building Construction Requirements
- Fuel Reduction On All Ownerships

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Healthy Forest Restoration Act