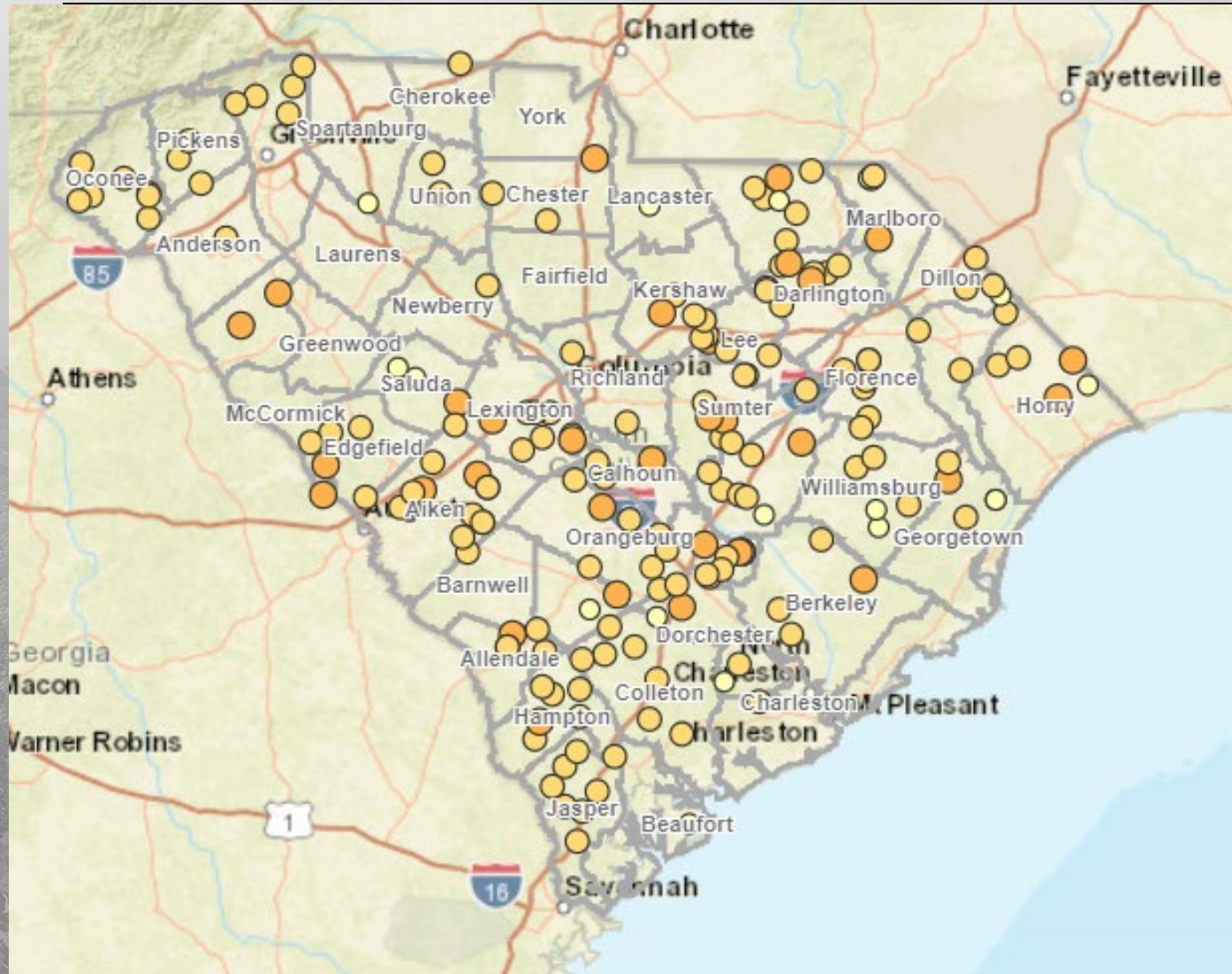


Living With Fire In South Carolina



Wildfires happen almost every day- across SC!



Wildfire in South Carolina



10 Year Average

1,420

Average acres per year

10,068

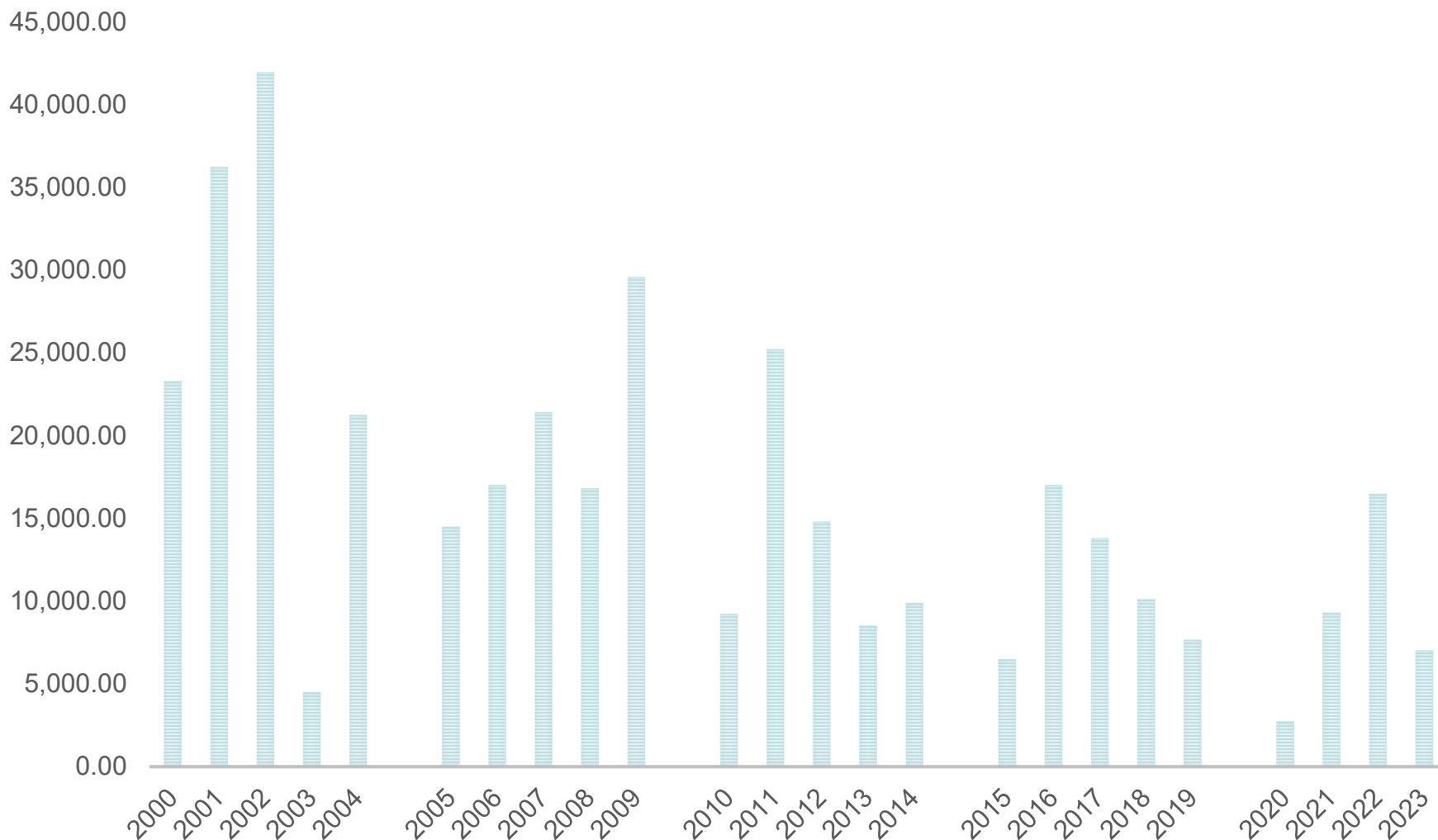
Average acres per fire

7

only includes SCFC response

20 Year Wildfire Occurrence

ACRES BURNED PER YEAR



Wildfires Happen:



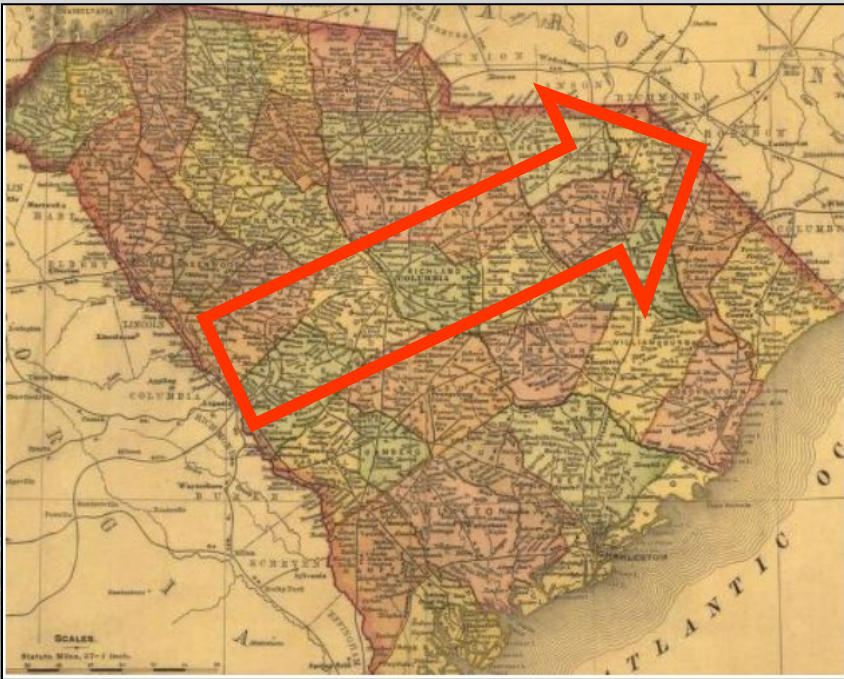
- Independent of drought
- Right after rain
- Day or night
- Most often due to human activity
- Any time of year

Large Fires

- Western Fires
- California
- Australia
- Canada



It has happened in the past: February, 1898



- 1898 wildfire burned from Aiken to Marlboro County, and kept going into NC (over 3 million acres)
- It's likely there were several fires at once
- 14 lives lost, 20 sawmills, numerous homes, livestock, forests
- In today's dollars, losses were approximately \$164 Million

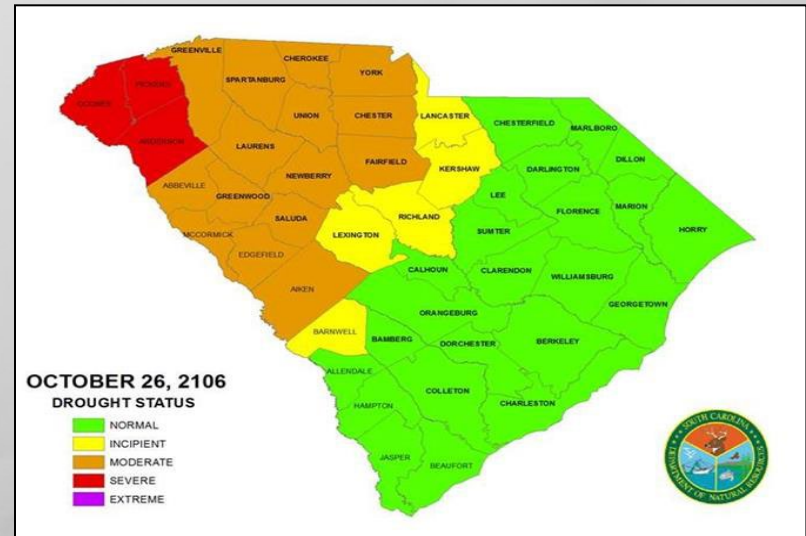
PINNACLE MOUNTAIN FIRE

LARGEST BLAZE IN UPSTATE HISTORY

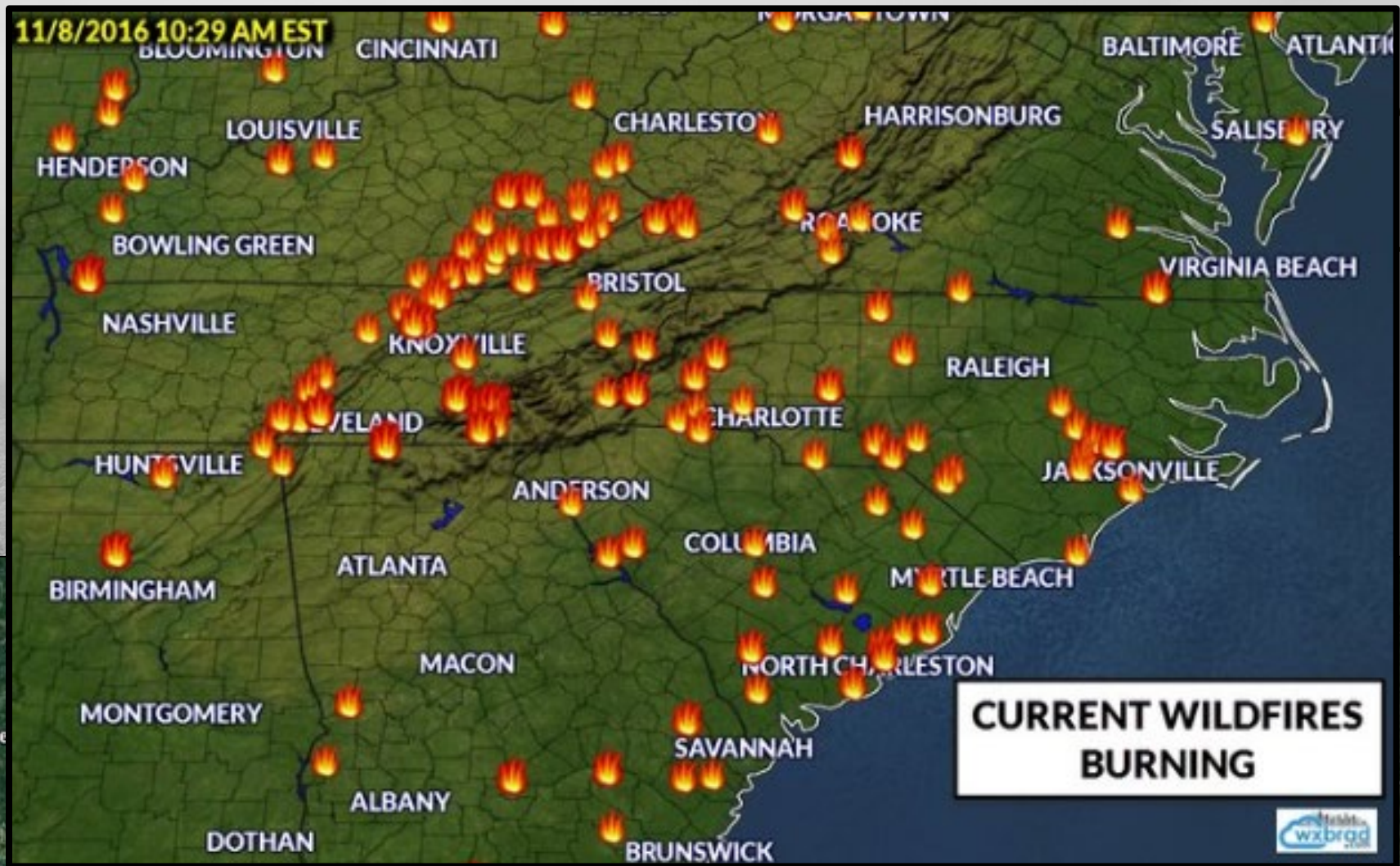


Drought Status Fall 2016

- SC Drought Response Committee placed Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson Counties in SEVERE Drought Status
- Keetch-Byram Drought Index was 701 (out of 800) in SC Mountains
- South Carolina Wildfire Occurrence Well Above 5-Year Average



Regional Wildfire Situation, November 8



Rough Ridge Fire

GEORGIA

SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville

Pinnacle Mtn. Fire

November 9, 2016

- Estimated size on arrival - 2 acres
- Burn Ban enacted
- Resources from local area and statewide were mobilized
- Initial response hampered by rough terrain and difficult access
- Rapid fire growth due to drought conditions



Pinnacle Mountain Fire Declared Controlled

December 16, 2016

- At its peak, more than 350 personnel were deployed daily
 - Firefighters
 - Aircraft (up to 9 per day)
 - Support
 - Command
- Fire costs estimate - greater than \$5 million
- First major SC Wildfire to require significant out-of-state resources
- Aircraft delivered more than 2 million gallons of water to the fire



Pinnacle Mountain Fire- A Success Story

- Over the 26 days when the fire was actively burning 10,623 acres...
 - no homes lost
 - no injuries
 - no loss of life
- Fire Perimeter was over 31 miles



Windsor Green Fire - March 2012

- 26 Condo's destroyed
- 109 Units
- \$15 Million
- Temp: 81
- RH: 28%
- W: 21 G: 29
- Fire = ~2hrs
- ~ 6 ac burned



HWY 31 Fire – April 22, 2009

Horry County

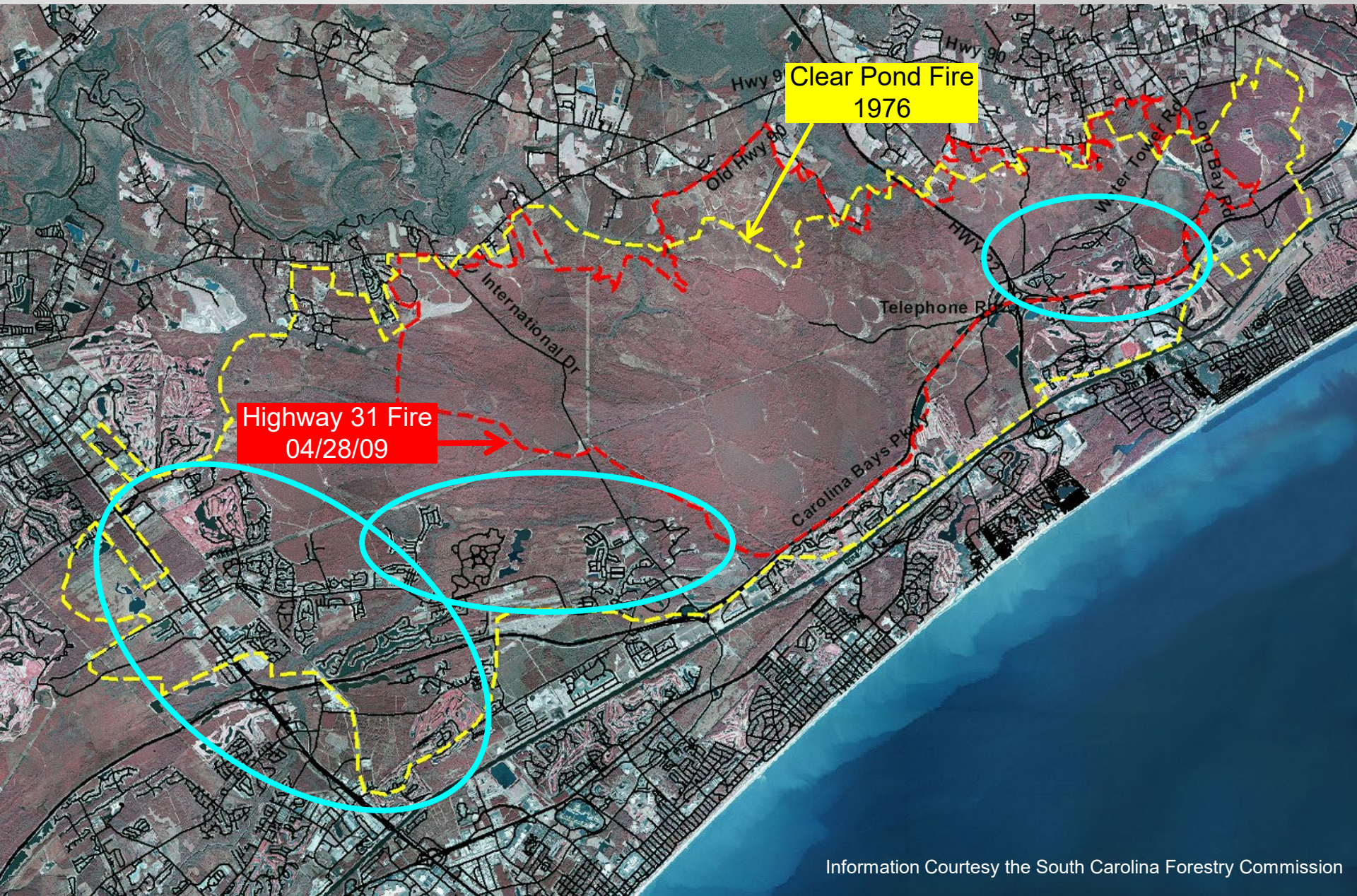
- Temperature: 71
- Humidity: 24%
- Winds: W at 17 mph with gusts to 30 mph
- Area in a rainfall deficit
- Major Fire Activity was less than 48hrs
- Over 19,000 ac burned



76 Homes Destroyed & 97 Damaged \$20.5 Million Property Value Lost



Two Fires, Two Dramatically Different Outcomes

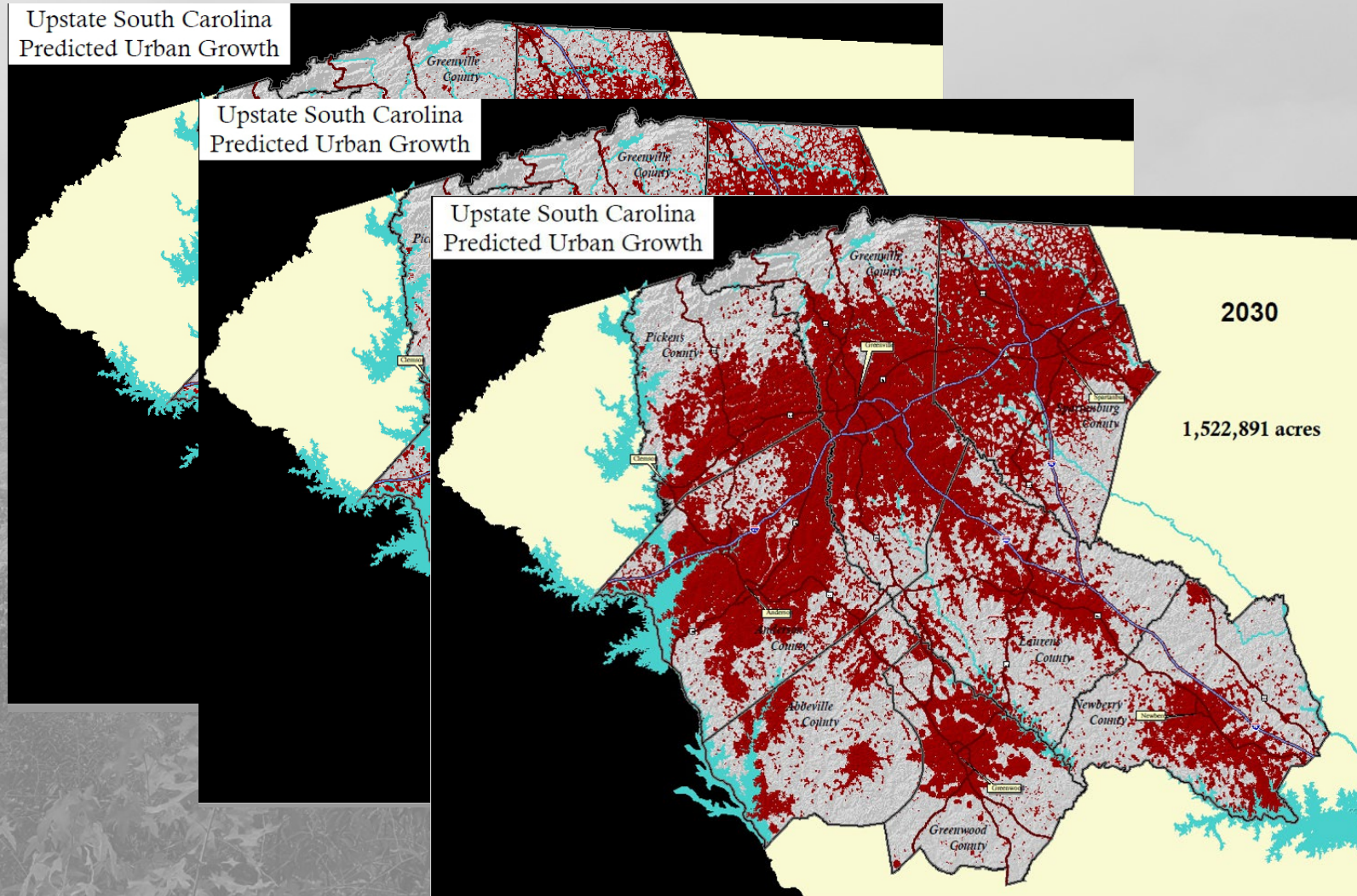


Wildland Urban Interface

- Where homes and wildland areas meet
- Adds complexity to wildfire response
- Places more people at risk
- Direct impacts (fire) and Indirect (smoke)



South Carolina's population is growing rapidly



How do we address this potential issue?

- Good partnerships
- Professionals with common goals
- Good ideas and plans
- Lots of local insight
- Multi-agency and stakeholder coordination

SCFC WUI TEAM



State Firewise & Prevention Coordinator

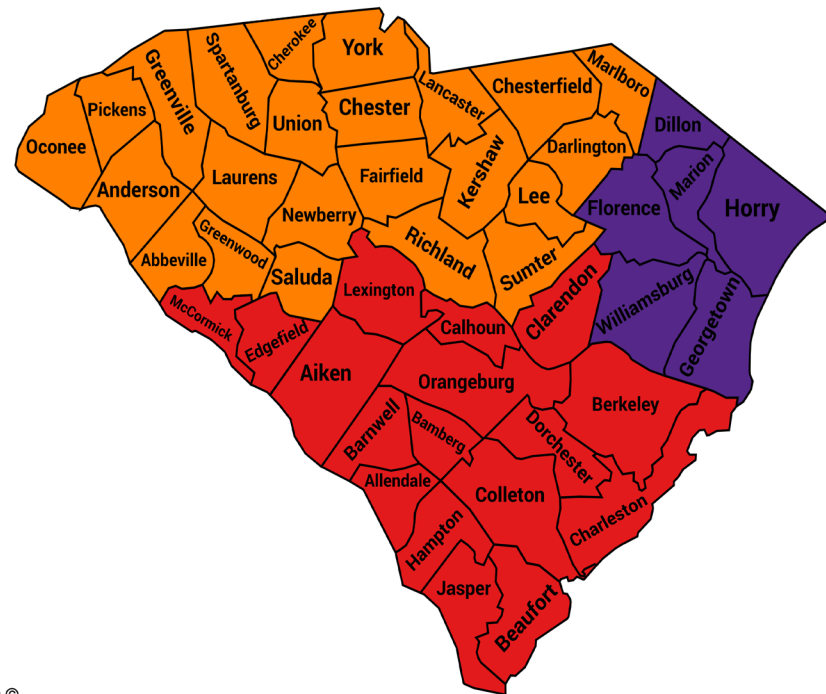
Drake Carroll 843-601-9121
dcarroll@scfc.gov
136 Airport Ct
Mullins, SC 29574

Upstate Firewise & Prevention Field Coordinator

Chris Revels 803-360-8264
crevels@scfc.gov
2790 Firetower Rd,
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Coastal Firewise & Prevention Field Coordinator

Andy Johnson 843-509-4611
ajohnson@scfc.gov
7695 Hwy 64 E
Barnwell, SC 29812



Created with mapchart.net ©

Overall Goal for SC WUI Program

- Transition into and create Fire Adapted Communities across the state



The National Wildfire Coordinating Group defines a fire adapted community as “A human community consisting of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively planning and taking action to safely coexist with wildland fire.”

<https://fireadapted.org/>

Pieces of the FAC Puzzle



Firewise USA™

- National program sponsored by National Fire Protection Association
- Focuses on public education and the prevention of destruction from wildfires.
- Sets standards and principals that can be used in all areas to minimize loss of life and property due to wildfire.



Why Do Homes Burn?

- Firewise USA™ utilizes data from research studies to answer this question
- Considers vulnerable areas and potential ignition sources around homes
- These principals can be applied to a community or individual structures to minimize the potential of damage from wildfire.



Firewise USA™

- National Program that recognizes communities for their Firewise efforts
- Based on assessments by the SCFC and local fire departments, development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and community involvement
- Currently 36 Firewise USA™ communities in SC



www.firewise.org

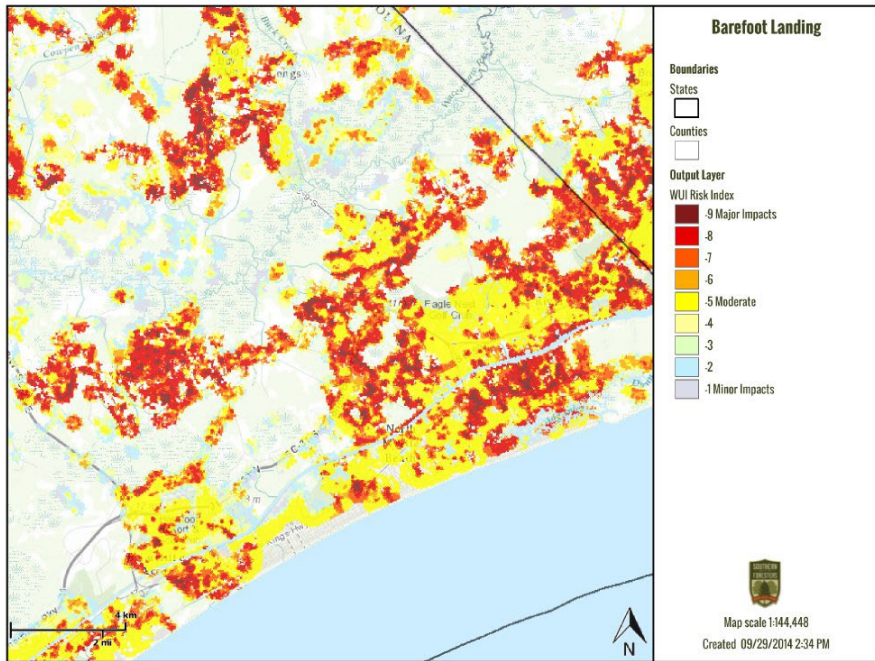
Working with planners and developers



SAFER FROM THE START

A Guide to Firewise-Friendly Developments

Southern Wildfire Risk Portal



- Free online tool
- Allows you to search by street address
- Pro viewer requires registration
- Allows you to visualize wildfire risk to communities, print reports, and define areas of interest

www.southernwildfirerisk.com

Community Assessor

Captain's Harbour

Myrtle Beach, Horry County, South Carolina

Community Will

Total Assessed Rating

50 - Low

Suppression Rating

Low Hazard

Surrounding Environment Rating

Low Hazard

Structures Rating

Moderate Hazard

Fire Protection District

Horry County Fire Rescue

Community Information

Latitude 33° 41' 39"

Longitude -78° 57' 22"

Dwelling Units 50

Size 1.62 acres

Residential Type Fixed

Assessed By: Drake Carroll

Assessment Date: 01-09-2020



Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal - Community A

Captain's Harbour

Myrtle Beach, Horry County, South Carolina

SUPPRESSION ASSESSMENT

Ingress and Egress

- 2 or more roads in and out
One road in and out (entrance and exit are the same)

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Keep community ingress/egress open and maintain
- ☐ Develop community plan for evacuation routes, sa
- ☐ If community is gated, develop evacuation plan an
- ☐ Ensure residents know their closest exit in case of

Road Width

- Road width is > 24 feet
Road width is > 20 feet and < 24 feet
Road width is < 20 feet

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Keep shoulders of road clear for emergency vehicle

Road Accessibility

- Surfaced road
Non-surfaced road, grade less than or equal to 5%
Non-surfaced road, grade greater than 5%
Non-maintained dirt road

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Ensure that road maintenance plan is in place

Undeveloped Lots with Restricted Access and/or Not Main

- Fewer than 10% of lots are undeveloped
10% to 50% of lots are undeveloped
51% to 75% of lots are undeveloped
Greater than 75% of lots are undeveloped

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Provide FIREWISE construction guidelines to devel
- ☐ Consider developing covenant restrictions, if appli

Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal - Community Asses

Captain's Harbour

Myrtle Beach, Horry County, South Carolina



Windows

- Not known
Multi-paned
Single-paned

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Use metal framing or aluminum coverings for wood or vinyl
- ☐ Use a fiberglass or metal screen
- ☐ Use drapes and shutters that are fire resistant to help reduce the likelihood of fire spread

Gas Utilities

- Underground/clearly marked or Not applicable
Above ground/clearly marked with a 30 foot cleared perimeter
Underground/not marked
Above ground/not marked

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Keep vegetation pruned to a minimal level near gas utilities
- ☐ When possible, place propane tanks 20' away from home and structures

Electric Utilities

- Underground/clearly marked
→ Overhead with a 20 foot wide maintained right of way
Underground/not marked
Overhead with right of way not maintained

Recommended Mitigation Strategies

- ☐ Keep vegetation pruned and mowed around electric cabinets
- ☐ Place non-flammable mulch (rock, stone) around base of electrical cabinets
- ☐ Plant less flammable bushes and shrubs around electrical cabinets

COMMENTS

This community being a condo unit structure lowers a lot of the typical wildfire risks associated with other communities in the area.

The main threat to this community will be from an outside fire casting embers onto the structure.

Where those embers may land is the main concern:

- Exposed openings that would allow embers access to interior flammable material
- The carpet on the breezeway where residents would potentially be evacuating
- Flammable material kept on the patios

Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal - Community Assessor

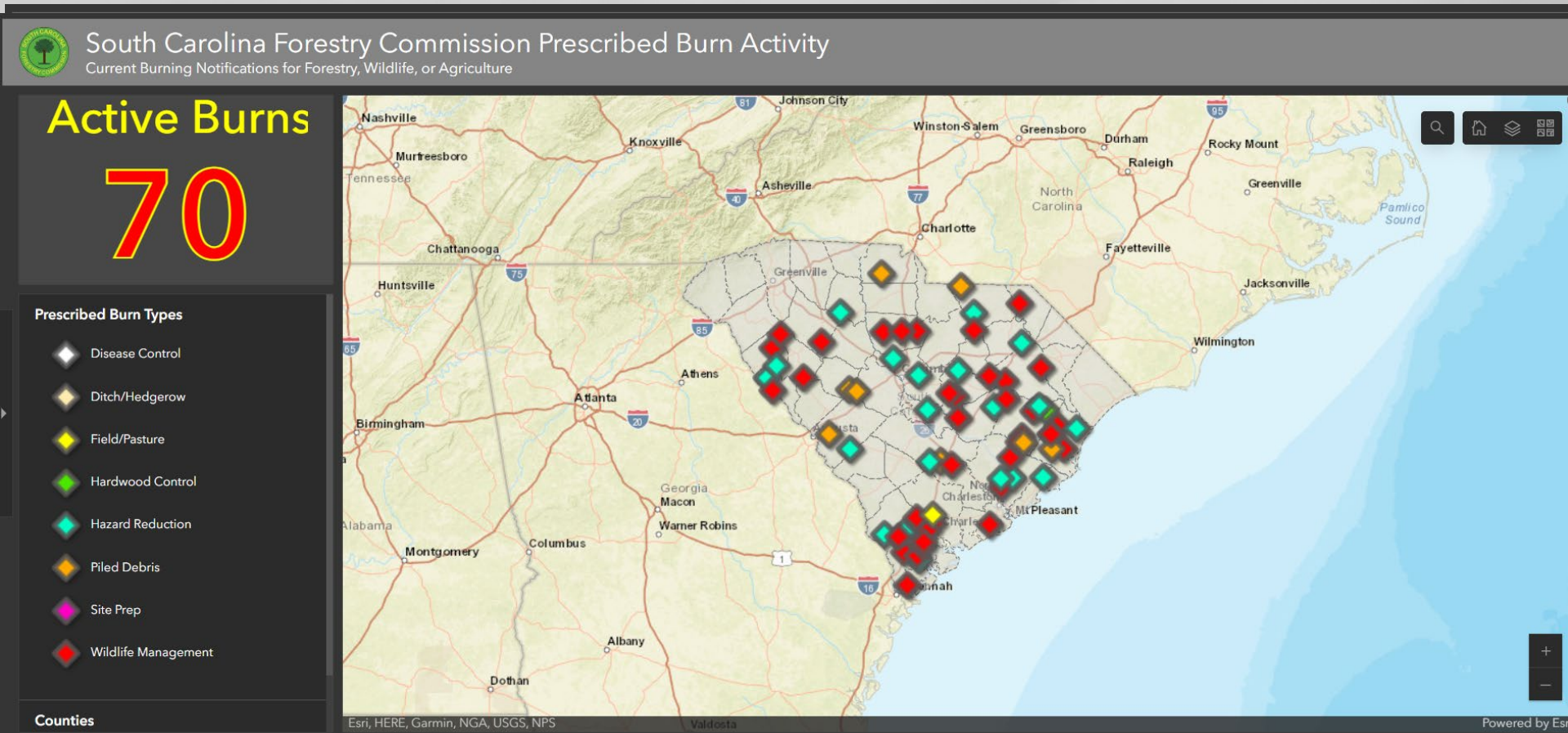
SCFC WUI Grant Program

- Offer grants to Firewise USA™ Communities
- Offer grants to landowners across the state for fuel mitigation projects



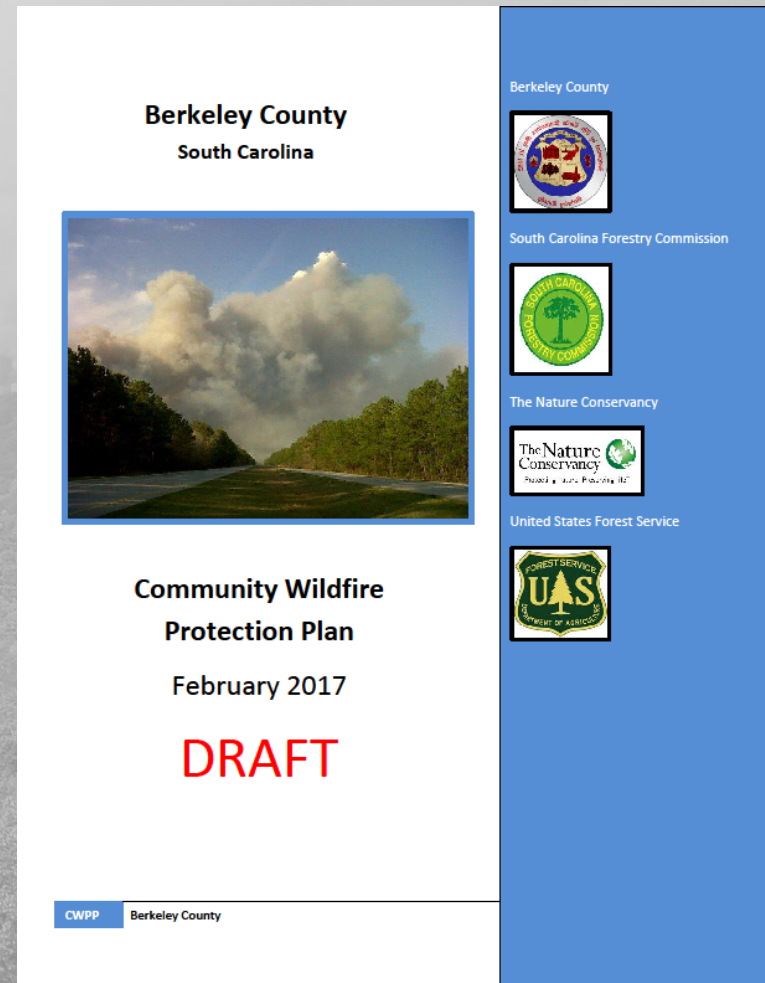
SCFC Website and App

- Social Media & Newsletter

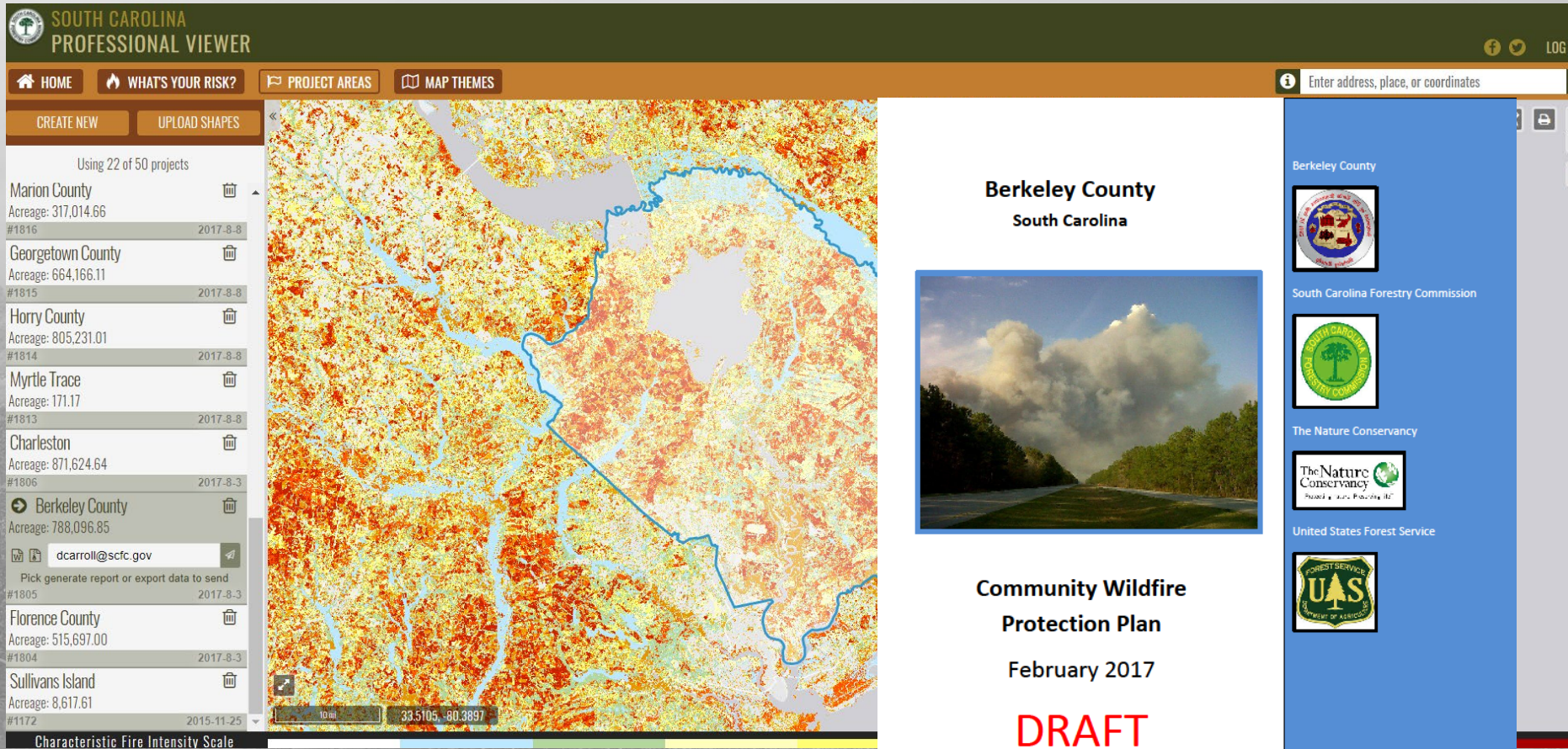


Landscape CWPPs

- Large scale plans that look at risk and mitigation strategies over a landscape area.
- Allows for a joint effort and collaboration in development and implementation of plan.
- Helps to tailor the plan to the location.
- Requires stakeholders and elected officials to acknowledge the risk and think about the solution.



Landscape CWPPs



Education & Outreach



SCFC WUI TEAM



State Firewise & Prevention Coordinator

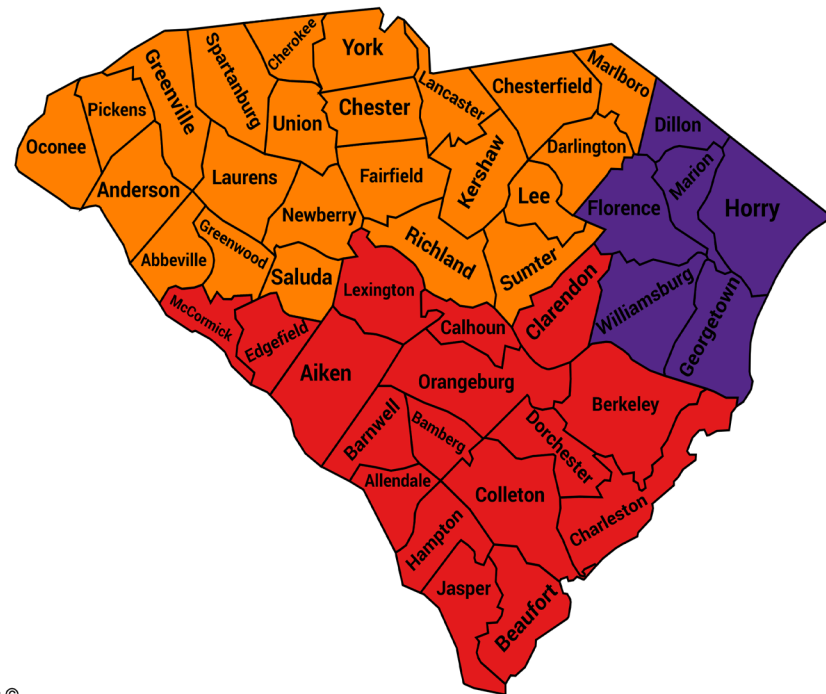
Drake Carroll 843-601-9121
dcarroll@scfc.gov
136 Airport Ct
Mullins, SC 29574

Upstate Firewise & Prevention Field Coordinator

Chris Revels 803-360-8264
crevels@scfc.gov
2790 Firetower Rd,
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Coastal Firewise & Prevention Field Coordinator

Andy Johnson 843-509-4611
ajohnson@scfc.gov
7695 Hwy 64 E
Barnwell, SC 29812



County Contacts

- Drake Carroll
- Chris Revels
- Andy Johnson

Created with mapchart.net ©

www.trees.sc.gov