



NAPAFIREWISE

**Mt. George
Fire Safe Council
Community Wildfire
Protection Plan**



December 2, 2025

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Executive Summary

The Mt. George Fire Safe Council (MGFSC) has developed this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP); a CWPP is a community-based plan focused on identifying and addressing specific local hazards and risks from wildfire. It determines what is at risk and provides a road map of actions for a community to address the wildfire threat. It may also open up funding opportunities to implement the plan. CWPPs are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), passed by Congress in 2003.

The area included within the MGFSC has had an active fire history, which brings focus to this plan. It is understood that not all fires can be prevented, but appropriate vegetation management and other mitigation practices can minimize the impact and destruction of Wildfires.

Decision Makers

The following community representatives collaborated in the development of the CWPP:

- MGFSC
- The Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFE)
- CAL FIRE/Napa County Fire Department
- Napa County Board of Supervisors

Community Evaluation

A Community Evaluation was engaged by NCFE and the MGFSC and prepared by Carol Rice, Wildland Res Mgt, a wildland fire manager specializing in wildland fire risk issues, and includes input from the MGFSC community, including local government, non-profits and local fire authorities. The Evaluation serves as a foundation for recommendations for projects to minimize threat from wildfire to life safety and damage to homes and natural resources. It is based on a review of the terrain, weather, fuels, and fire history of the area, compared to the values at risk, and likely scenarios of fire ignition and spread.

A. Introduction

Fire hazard is a special concern in the Mt. George area in southeastern Napa County. The area is located in the interface between wildlands and developed areas where fires may spread from wildlands to homes, possibly damaging structures or even threatening lives. Wildlands are subject to increased ignition potential from elevated levels of human activities. Most fires in the coastal mountains are human caused.¹



Photo 1. Overlook of the Mt. George FSC.

This evaluation serves as a platform for recommendations for projects to minimize threat to life safety and damage from wildfire to homes and natural resources. It is based on a review of the terrain, weather, fuels, and fire history of the area, compared to the values at risk, and likely scenarios of fire ignition and spread.

The Mt. George community boundary covers 6,929 acres in southeastern Napa County and is fully within the organized Mt. George Fire Safe Council (FSC). The community is sandwiched between Napa Valley to the west, Wooden Valley to the east, the Coombsville Wildhorse FSC to

¹ <https://www.nps.gov/articles/wildfire-causes-and-evaluation.htm>

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the south, and the Atlas Peak, Capell Valley, and Circle Oaks FSCs to the north. The main residential areas are close to Napa Valley and the city of Napa, but the northern reaches of the FSC area are more remote.

Within this area, data records show approximately 702 parcels and 1,396 structures. Elevation ranges from 23 feet in the main residential neighborhood in the southwestern corner to over 2,000 feet on the sides of the peaks at the northern extreme of the FSC area. The area is best characterized as having steep and rugged terrain in the southeastern and northern portions, with moderate slopes in between and mostly flat terrain in the southwestern corner. It includes Mt. George and Milliken Reservoir, which are major geographical features in Napa County.



Photo 2. Example of the intersection of powerlines, dead end road, structures, and wildland area in Mt. George FSC.

There are many rural residents within the Mt. George community boundary. They are mostly concentrated in the southwestern portion of the area, just south of the Silverado Country Club and Vichy Springs. Outside the boundary, there are many homes in the city of Napa to the southwest as well as to the north of Vichy Springs. To the east, there are more dispersed homes stretching into Wooden Valley, along with a cluster of homes in the Circle Oaks neighborhood to the northeast.

More details on each will be presented in the following sections.

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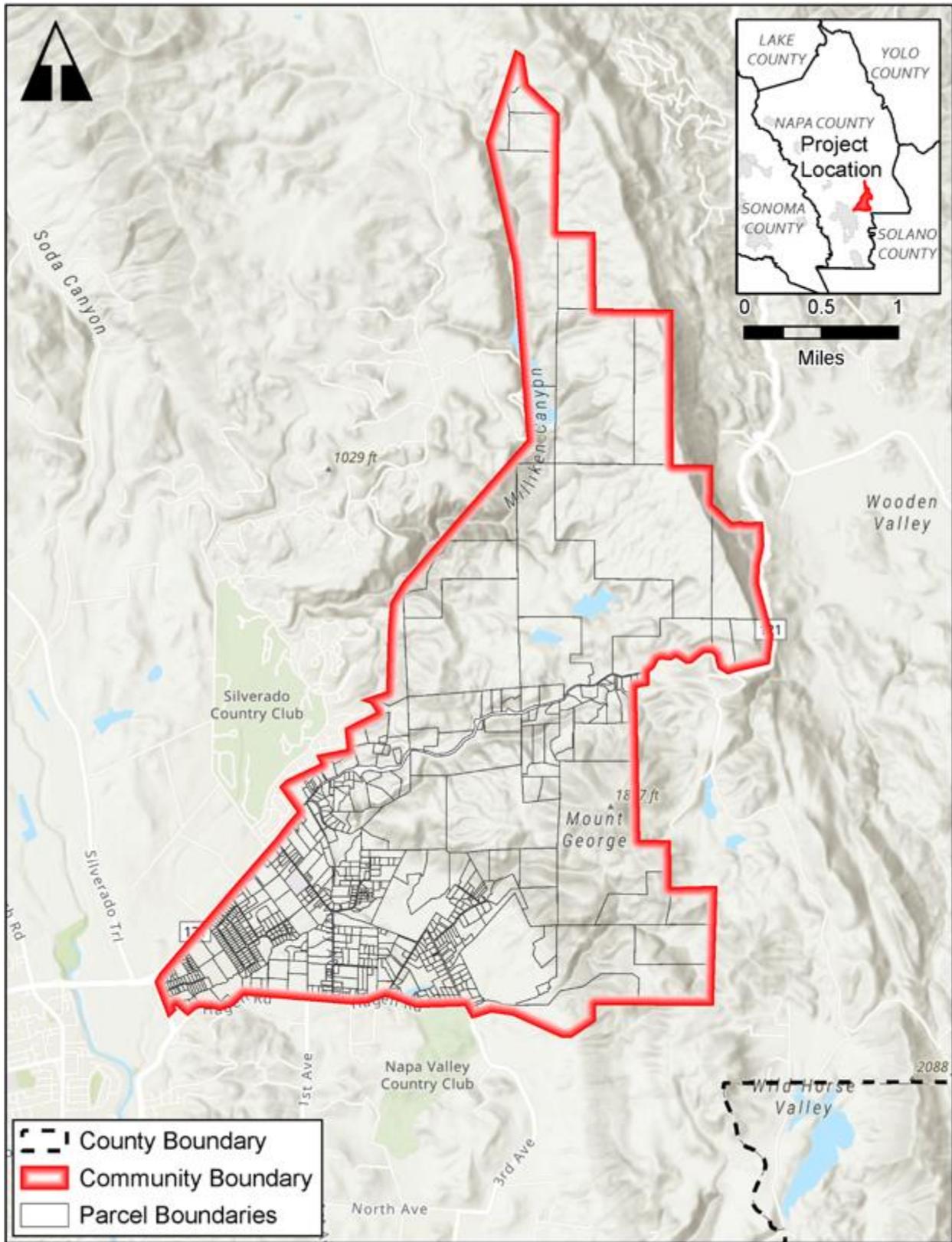


Figure 1. Area of Interest – Mt. George community boundary (shown in red).

B. Values at Risk, Land Use and Distribution

The most important values at risk are life safety, then improvements to property (residential structures and vineyards), then natural resources. Because all the evacuation routes are long and involve poor road conditions, the threat to human life is significant.

Homes in Mt. George are at risk from wildfire for a number of reasons. Structures are generally older, dating before the requirement for ignition resistant construction. Most roofs are less flammable, however, wood siding, decks, and unprotected vents that are part of most homes all make the buildings prone to ignition.

1. Homes

Residential structures are mostly made of wood because of their age. They have wood porches and decks, though wood fences are a rarity. The presence of ignition-resistant construction is closely related to the age of the structures; structures built after 1996 have features that prevent ignition such as non-flammable roofs, double-paned windows, and stucco siding. Many older structures have been remodeled, and a few property owners have installed personal fire suppression systems involving various water sprinkler strategies.

Structures are located primarily along the gentler slopes within the FSC boundary. Several short roads branch off from Monticello Rd, Hagen Rd, and Vichy Ave and connect to many of the structures in the area. Structures located in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) in the eastern half of the FSC area tend to have long narrow driveways, often with only one ingress/egress route.

2. Land Use Distribution and Neighborhoods

The Napa County parcel database shows that Mt. George is dominated by vacant lands. Vacant lands account for 41% of the lands within Mt. George and are spread throughout the area, especially around Mt. George and Milliken Reservoir. Almost all of these parcels are designated as vacant rural parcels.

Residential lands (approximately 20%) account for most of the other areas within the Mt. George area. These lands are adjacent to agricultural, vacant, and commercial lands. These are mostly clustered in the southwestern corner, south of Vichy Springs and the Silverado Country Club, but there are also several parcels near Snow Flat and in Milliken Canyon. These lands are critical for fire protection. Additionally, 0.4% of parcels are designated as commercial. These are either designated as improved or industrial land and are generally adjacent to residential and agricultural areas. Residential development on large lots is generally scattered following the winding road network. Vineyards are located among residences, and some are newly developed large lots on the edge of the community.

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38% of parcels fall into the agricultural category. Most of these are vineyards located in the south and center of the area, surrounding the base of Mt. George.

41% of the Mt. George area is comprised of parcels designated as “vacant” but provide critical habitat and ecosystem services through active management of this open space. The majority of these parcels are managed by the Napa County Land Trust, with special note of the Foote Preserve that are focused on conservation of natural areas.



Photo 3. Mixture of rocky outcrops, grass, and shrubs on a ridgeline of MGFSC.

Commercial parcels account for approximately 0.4% of the Mt. George area and are scattered throughout the main residential neighborhood in the southwestern corner.

Most vineyard and vacant parcels are large enough that the landowners can influence fire behavior to protect their structures; structures are rarely within 100 ft of the neighboring parcel.



Photo 4. View of sharp turn with gated driveway access and example of vineyards adjacent to slopes.

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Table 1. Number of parcels and county land use within the Mt. George area (Napa County GIS Open Data Portal)

Category	Parcel Count	Acres	Percent (%)
AGRICULTURAL	87	2470	38%
COMMERCIAL	10	28	0.4%
RESIDENTIAL	582	1307	20%
VACANT	85	2650	41%

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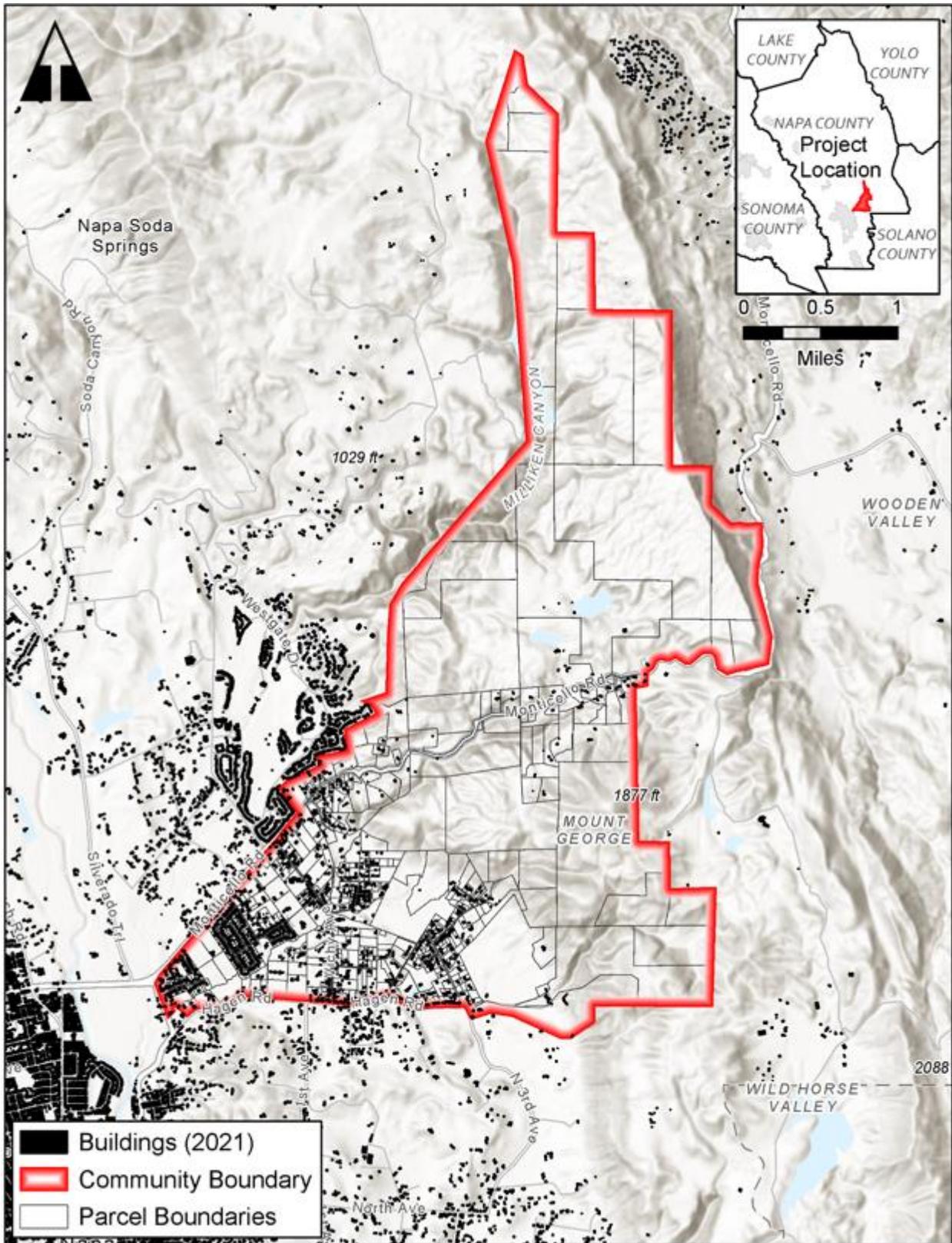


Figure 2. Structures (shown in black) within Mt. George community boundary.

C. Topography

Topographic features - such as slope and aspect (orientation with respect to sun and wind) and the overall form of the land - have a profound effect on fire behavior. Topography affects a wildfire's intensity, direction, and rate of spread. An area's topography also affects local winds, which are either "bent" or intensified by topographic features. Topographic features can also induce daily upslope and downslope winds. The speed, regularity, and direction of these winds (and other winds) directly influence the direction of wildfire spread and the shape of the flaming front.

For example, fires burning on flat or gently sloping areas tend to burn more slowly and to spread more horizontally than fires burning on steep slopes. This makes ridgetop positions more vulnerable than valleys.

The area encompasses a broad range of slopes and aspects, though the area is mostly rugged. Slopes range from 0% in the flat residential areas in the southwestern corner to over 150% on the steep sides of Milliken Canyon.

Along the northeastern border of the FSC area, a steep ridgeline runs in the northwest-southeast direction. This is an important control location for fires. The peak of Mt. George lies southwest of this ridgeline, along with a few other peaks. Milliken Reservoir, a major reservoir in Napa County, is in the northwest. Milliken Creek flows through Milliken Canyon along the western edge of the FSC area and into Milliken Reservoir.



Photo 6. View from ridgeline showing slopes and canyons.

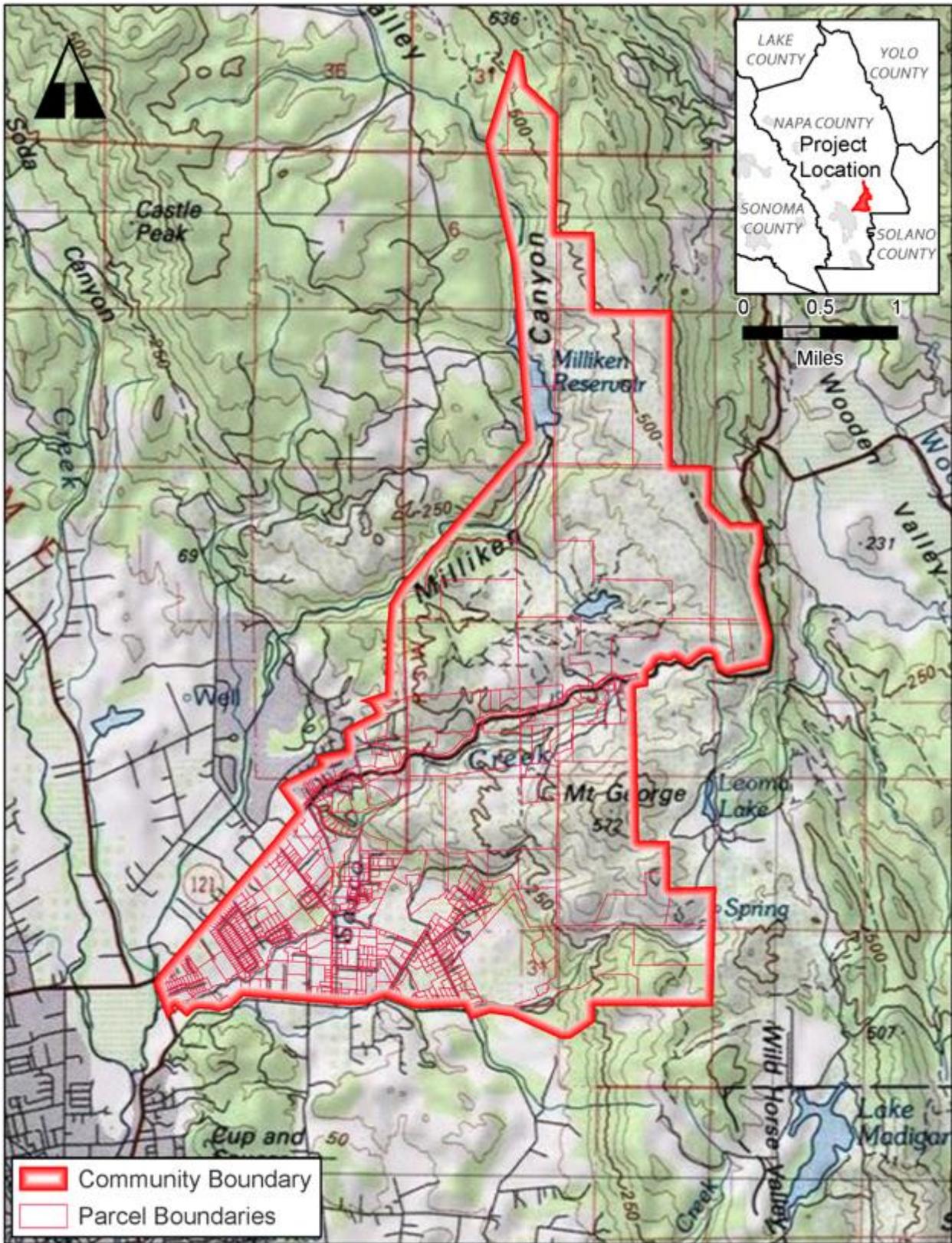


Figure 3. USGS Topographic map of the Mt. George area (boundary shown in red).

1. Orientation of the Canyons

- Milliken Canyon: This canyon dominates the western portion of the Mt. George FSC area. It stretches from Napa Valley to Foss Valley, running along the northern half of the western boundary of the area. Milliken Canyon’s southern half is aligned with the predominant winds from the southwest and the more concerning Diablo winds from the northeast.
- Sarco Creek Canyon: Sarco Creek runs through the center of this canyon, which parallels Monticello Rd and traces the base of Mt. George on its northwestern side. It is oriented in the northeast-southwest direction, aligning with the predominant wind direction.

The Mt. George area is mostly in the Milliken Reservoir Watershed but also contains portions of the Spencer Creek and mouth of Napa River watersheds. Multiple creeks exist in the area. They include Milliken Creek, Sarco Creek, and several seasonal creeks.

More details of the terrain follow in the discussion of weather.

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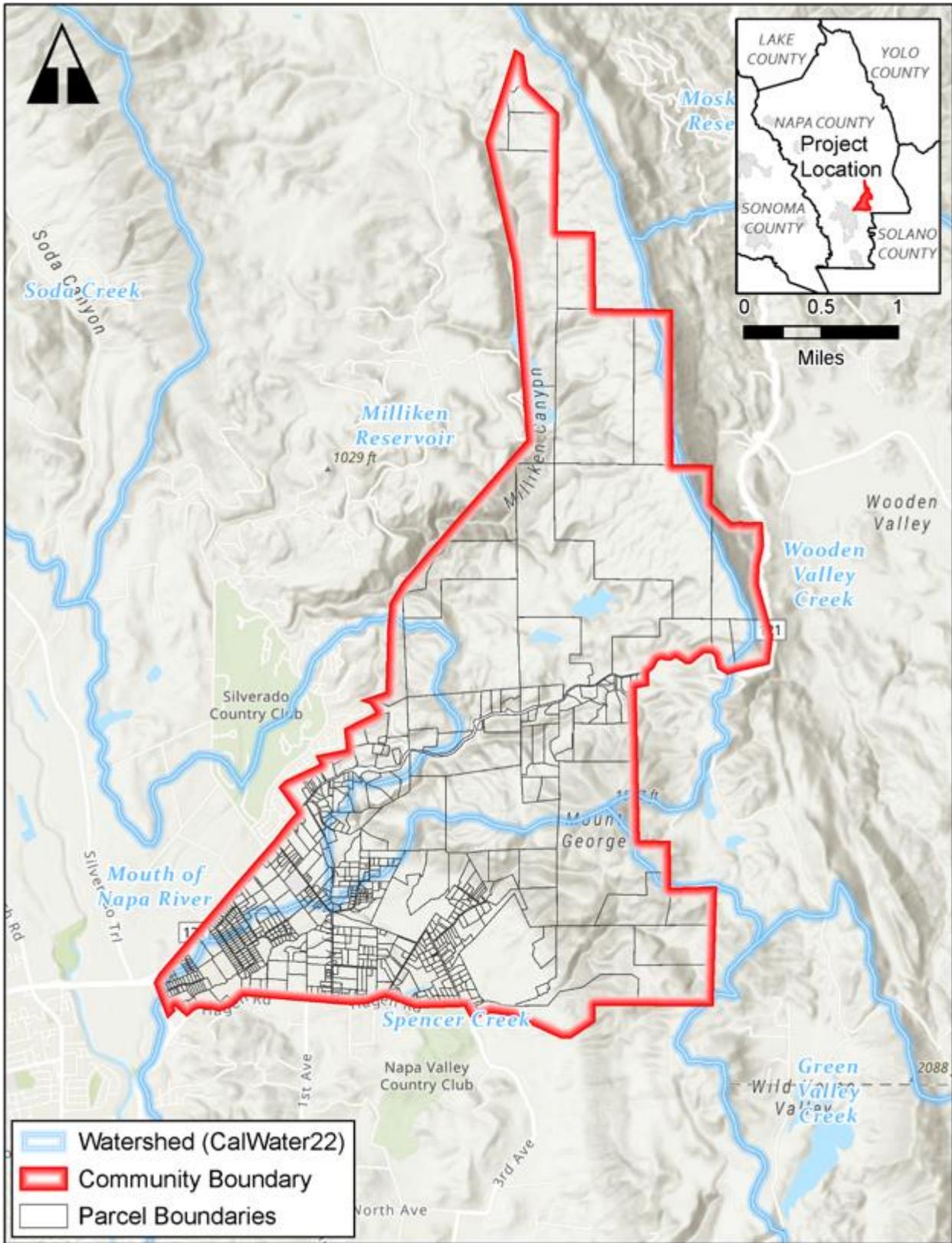


Figure 4. Watershed map of the Mt. George area (boundary shown in red).

D. Weather

Weather conditions significantly impact both the potential for ignition and the rate, intensity, and direction in which fires burn. The most important weather factors used to predict fire behavior are wind, temperature, and humidity.

1. Temperatures and Humidities

Summer days are usually warm but comfortable; temperatures normally range from lows in the 40's and to highs in the 90's, with an occasional high reaching a maximum of 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Humidity can drop to single digits in the summer and fall.

The Mt. George area of interest lies in a relatively protected area and would be subject to occasional episodes of several still, stagnant air formed by stationary highs during summer months. This overall weather pattern -- characterized by continuous high temperatures and low relative humidities -- enhances the possibilities of ignition, extreme fire behavior and extreme resistance to fire control.

2. Winds

The most important influence on fire behavior is wind. Wind can greatly affect the rate of fire's spread and the output of a fire. Wind increases the flammability of fuels both by removing moisture through evaporation and by angling the flames so that they preheat the fuels in the fire's path. The direction and velocity of winds can also control the direction and rate of the fire's spread. Winds can carry embers and firebrands downwind that can ignite spot fires ahead of the primary front. Gusty winds cause a fire to burn erratically and make it more difficult to contain.

Wind will tend to follow the pattern of least resistance and is therefore frequently deflected and divided by landforms. Canyon slopes produce pronounced daily up-canyon and down-slope winds caused by differential heating and cooling of air during the day. This occurs region-wide and on a local scale.

Much of the area is characterized by northwest-to-southeast aligned ridges with several peaks in the southern portion of the area. These ridges slow the regionally dominated southwesterly winds. However, strong winds from the northeast could produce strong up slope and erratic winds. The southern half has peaks and canyons that can align with the predominate wind direction (southwest-northeast), acting as funnels for strong afternoon winds or the less common Diablo winds from the northeast.

The winds that create the most severe fire danger typically blow from the north, usually in October. Winds from the east and north bring low humidity and elevated fire danger and can wreak havoc on the forested and chaparral covered areas, causing fire to spread to the south. These winds are the same ones that blew during the largest fires in Napa County; an unnamed

fire in 1939 follows the pattern of larger fires influenced by these northeasterly winds. Those larger fires include the C. HANLY fire in 1964 along with its companion fire in 1965, the P.G. & E. #10 fire. Again, in 1976 and 1982, two fires, the IDA CLAYTON fire and the SILVERADO fire also started under these conditions. More recently, the TUBBS and NUNS fire in 2017 and the GLASS fire in 2020 also followed this pattern and burned substantial parts of Napa County.

These northeasterly events generally last from 15 to 35 hours, but in 2000, 2003, 2005, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 these events in October and November lasted for 5 to 14 days. This type of wind could “push” a fire from the upper eastern slopes of Napa Valley down across into the vineyards on the valley floor to the higher slopes to the west and beyond into Sonoma County.

Any southwestern-facing aspect of the Mt. George area can exacerbate its risk from the Diablo winds. This is because these foehn or subsiding winds accelerate with decreasing elevation.

3. Climate Change

Wildfires are predicted to become more destructive and deadly because of the effects of climate change, fuel accumulation, and a history of fire suppression.² Climate change continues to drive hotter and drier conditions across California, precipitating earlier and prolonged fire seasons with more annual days of hot, dry heat conducive to wildfires. These patterns also increase likelihood of drought conditions that turn vegetative fuels into kindling. Indeed, Northern California has been even more subject to lengthened fire seasons than has Southern California, with even stronger trends toward earlier fire season onset as fuel moistures decline due to increased heat.³ Increased drought conditions provide greater opportunities for arson, which is another common source of wildfire.”⁴ Moreover, hotter temperatures increase lightning incidence, already the leading cause of wildfires throughout the state and the instigator of the 2020 LNU Lightning Complex fires that burned 363,220 acres across Napa, Sonoma, Solano, Lake, and Yolo Counties.

In addition to encouraging higher temperatures and lower humidities conducive to wildfires, climate change also produces more intense winds during fire season.

These increasingly dry, hot, and windy weather conditions have unsurprisingly produced higher incidence and intensity of wildfires in recent years, a trend that is likely to be exacerbated by continued warming. In recent years, the area burned by wildfire in California has dramatically increased and unprecedented fires are occurring in sensitive ecosystems like higher elevation and along the coast. In addition, many of California’s wildfires are burning hotter and more intensely than observed in recent history. Fires are concentrating in upper watersheds, further

² <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-46702-0>

³ <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adt2041>

⁴ City of Berkeley CWPP pg. 11.

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compounding crises like drought. Last, a long history of containing less-extreme wildfires ensures wildfires now burn under more extreme conditions and more severely, with burned areas increasing over time.⁵

In 2021, California experienced 4 of the 20 largest wildfires in our history, with 8,000 wildfires burning over 2.5 million acres across the state. The 2021 fire season also marks the first time that fire crossed the granite crest of the Sierra, California's largest natural fuel break. A model developed for California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment projected up to a 77 percent increase in average area burned and a 50 percent increase in the frequency of fires exceeding 25,000 acres by 2100.

⁵ <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-46702-0>

E. Vegetation

The 2016 Vegetation Map of Napa County⁶ (updated from the 2004 version) was used as reference for this evaluation. There are eight main vegetation categories within the Mt. George area along with three non-veg types (rock outcrop, developed, and streams and reservoirs). The major vegetation categories mapped are listed in Table 2.

Note: the tables and maps presented here reflect pre-2020 conditions.

Table 2. Vegetation acres by major vegetation categories within the Mt. George area (Vegetation Map of Napa County).

Vegetation Major Category	Acres	Percent (%)
Agriculture	773	12%
Coniferous Forest	29	0.4%
Developed	737	11%
Grassland	265	4%
Oak Woodland	1369	21%
Riparian Woodland	92	1%
Rock Outcrop	39	0.6%
Shrubland	2942	45%
Streams and Reservoirs	76	1%
Unclassified	13	0.2%
Unknown	198	3%

⁶ https://data-cdfw.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/b9855bea85c14190ab030da86441301c_0/explore



Photo 7. Grass and shrubs along trail in preserve area.

In addition, the landscaped environment surrounding buildings and homes includes vegetation not captured in the vegetation table.

Each vegetation type burns differently, based on the amount of biomass available to burn, the distribution of biomass in the vegetation, as well as the moisture and oil content of the foliage and dead material. A discussion on each major type follows the map on the next page.



Photo 8. Example of oak and small creek vegetation.

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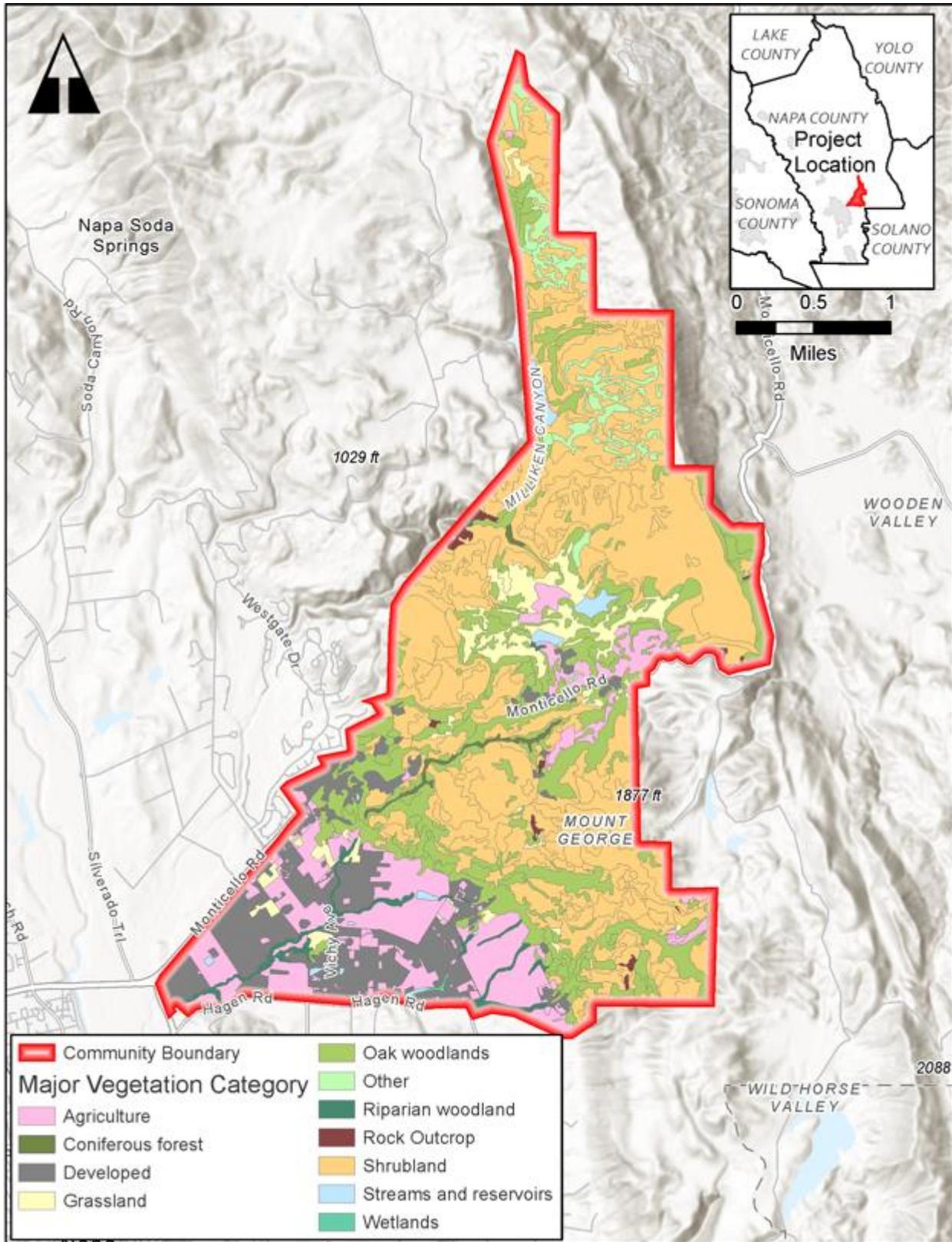


Figure 5a. Vegetation map – Mt. George area (boundary shown in red) (Napa Vegetation Map, 2016).

Oak Woodland

21% of the Mt. George area is mapped as Oak Woodland, which occurs on the flanks of hillsides and ridgetops throughout the area. In most areas, dense canopies, with little or no grass or shrubs under the canopies, typify these oak woodlands. The tree canopy in the lower reaches of the drainages is dominated by coast live oak, but also includes blue oak, valley oak, California bay, madrone, and canyon live oak. In addition, there are occasional pines, big leaf maples, and black oaks. In more exposed areas, where the canopy opens up, shrubs are dominant in the understory.

Fire intensity, flame lengths, and scorch heights are usually low in oak woodlands. Slow-burning surface fires (approximately two-feet per minute) are carried in the compact leaf litter layer. Low flame heights (less than one foot) are the rule. Only under severe weather conditions involving high temperatures, low humidities, and high winds do the fuels pose fire hazards in this vegetation type. Leisurely spread rates, combined with the relatively short flame lengths of the predicted fire behavior, produce a manageable, moderate fire hazard.

However, when shrubs are allowed to develop under the hardwoods, these fuels can pose fire hazards under severe weather conditions, e.g., those conditions involving high temperatures, low humidities, and high winds. If the shrubs develop under oaks, torching is likely to occur because of the ladder fuels that allow a fire to burn from the shrub to the tree crowns. Foliage of both bay and coast live oak can be very flammable when fire reaches the crowns.

Shrubland

Shrubland occupies 45% of the Mt. George area and can be found abundantly throughout all but the main residential areas in the southwestern portion. They are also interspersed with patches of oak woodlands throughout the center of Mt. George. While these distinct areas were mapped as shrubland, brush exists throughout and often contributes to other vegetation types described in this document. The specific mapped alliances include:

- Chamise Alliance
- Chamise - Wedgeleaf Ceanothus
- Mixed Manzanita - (Interior Live Oak -California Bay - Chamise) West County
- Sclerophyllous Shrubland
- Scrub Interior Live Oak - Scrub Oak - (California Bay - California Ash - Birch Leaf Mountain Mahogany - Toyon - California Buckeye) Mesic East County

Brush produces severe fire behavior, with flames longer than 20 feet in length. Intense, fast-spreading fires in chaparral burn the foliage as well as the live and dead fine woody material in the brush crowns. The foliage is highly flammable and dead woody material in the stands significantly contributes to increased fire intensity.

This fuel type constitutes the highest hazard. Direct attack is not possible, and containment efforts would need to rely on backfiring or suppression strategies other than line building because the perimeter of the fire is likely to grow faster than a line could be built. In addition, spotting is likely in chaparral which will present even more challenges to suppression efforts.

Agriculture (Cropland/Vineyards)

12% of the land in the Mt. George area is mapped as agriculture. This occurs mostly around the developed areas near Vichy Springs and Snow Flat. The majority of the agricultural areas are vineyards, although some are non-vineyard croplands.

Fires are usually benign in croplands or vineyards. In the case of vineyards, biomass is concentrated in live vines, with a mowed or bare soil surface. A fire can spread quickly through the vineyard where there is a ground cover. However, this situation is rare. Vineyards were instrumental in stopping the Howell Mountain fire in 1983, and formed the edges of fires in the Tubbs, Nuns, and Kincade Fires, but were part of the contagion in the Cavedale Fire in Napa in 1996. Vineyards often have access roads on the perimeter and within the interior, further aiding containment. With all that said, however, in the Glass fire of 2020, many vineyards were burned through.

Annual Grasslands (Herbaceous)

Accounting for 4% of the Mt. George area, annual grasslands were mapped throughout as scattered pockets in oak woodlands and shrublands. Grasses are flash fuels and fire spread can be rapid through herbaceous areas, but these fires can be easy to spot and contain.

Conifer Forest

These coniferous forests occur in a few small patches in the central portion of the Mt. George area, particularly in Milliken Canyon and along Sarco Creek. Together, they constitute only 0.4% of the area. The specific mapped conifer forest includes:

- Douglas fir
- Coast redwood

Conifer forests are often found on north-facing slopes and do not pose a significant fire hazard under normal conditions. However, when hot, dry weather occurs, these forests do offer a large fuel load to burn and can exhibit greater fire intensity. Of all the vegetation types in the Mt. George area, dense, coniferous forests are most likely to burn as a crown fire. When a fire reaches tree crowns, embers are distributed throughout adjacent areas (including vulnerable residential areas). Many conifer species have also been impacted by environmental factors including drought, disease and past wildfires. Dead material from dying conifers and naturally discarded dead material including limbs, needles, and cones increases fire intensity.

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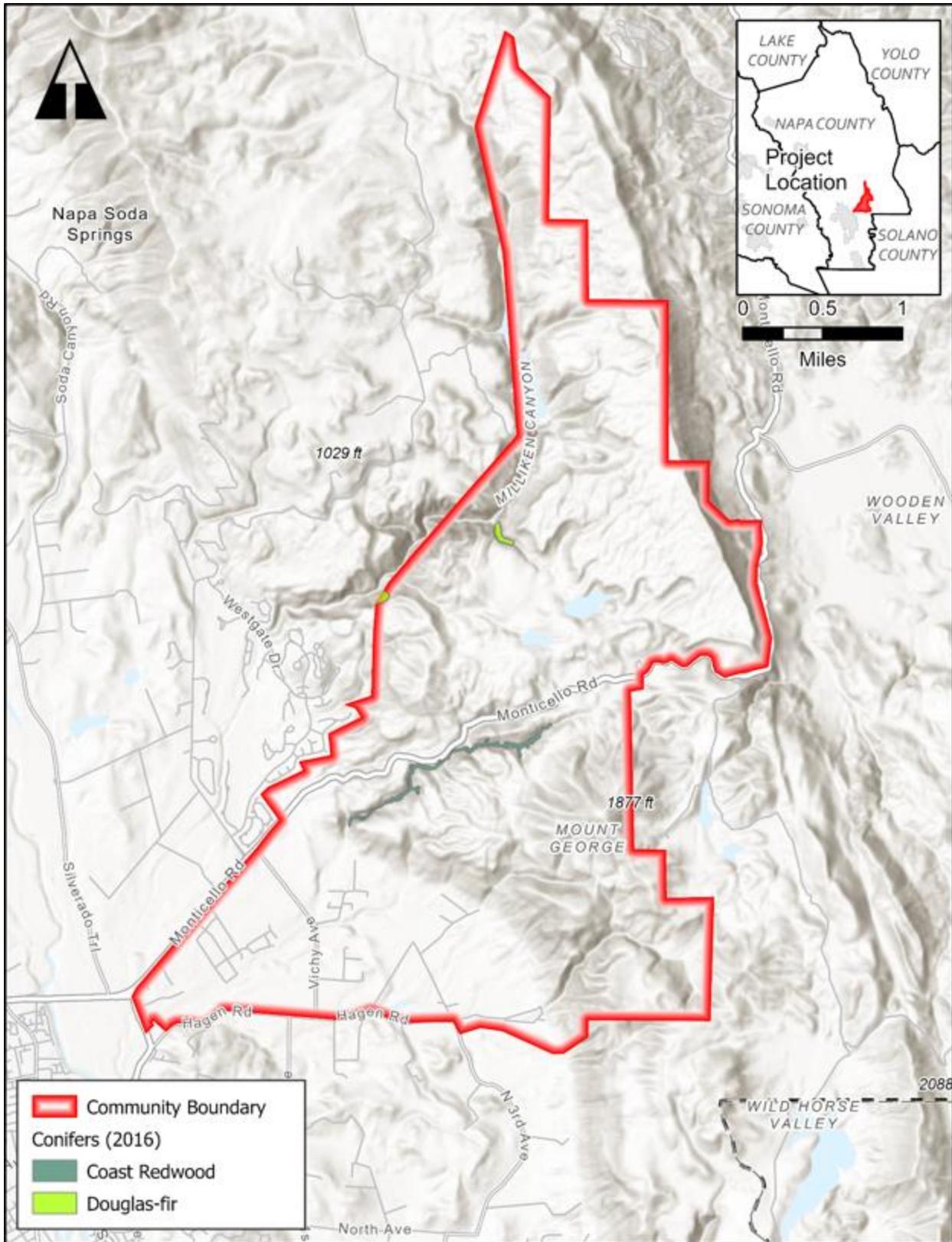


Figure 5b. Conifer map – Mt. George area (boundary shown in red) (Napa Vegetation Map, 2016).

Landscaping

Landscaped areas -- being closest to homes -- may make the greatest impact on survivability of a house during a fire arising in wildlands. Landscaped areas either (1) are moist, thus will not likely burn; (2) contain large amounts of fuel which will burn with great intensity; or (3) are landscaped with fire resistant plants, and only burn slowly with little heat release.

While research results regarding fire resistance of landscape plants are meager, several important generalities have surfaced. First, the overall volume of biomass as well as the spacing and design of the garden is more critical than the species selected. Horizontal spaces between planting masses and the house are important components of a fire safe landscape. Similarly, vertical spacing between tree branches, shrubs, ground cover and the structure (particularly windows) are also part of a well-designed garden.

Maintenance of landscaped areas is necessary to remove dead material and to maintain vertical and horizontal spaces. Neglect of landscape maintenance can lead to a significant worsening of the fire hazard closest to the structure.

Landscaping in the Mt. George FSC is generally consistent with fire safety principles. A few residences in each neighborhood have abundant vegetation that can endanger adjacent and nearby residents if they are within a few hundred feet of each other.

F. Predicted Fire Behavior

Due to the combination of heavy fuels, especially in the mixed forest and chaparral vegetation types in the Mt. George Fire Safe Council, much of this area has a high fire risk. Where a well-developed understory is present under the oak canopies, fires are also expected to burn with high intensity.

Fires can also be expected to burn fast when they are propelled by dry grass and chaparral. Vineyards can moderate both the fire intensity and fire spread but would only provide good suppression opportunities for safe evacuation where they are not small in comparison to the tracts of uninterrupted vegetation.

The distribution within an area of expected flame lengths can be predicted using public-domain software and data. FlamMap⁷ was used to model fire behavior using a county-wide dataset developed from the Napa County Vegetation Map⁸.

1. Predicted Flame Lengths

Long flame lengths can be expected in dense oak forests where understory is present. Vineyards and areas of well-maintained defensible space can be expected to burn with low intensity even under the most extreme conditions. Flame length most directly relates to the ability of a firefighter to safely attack a fire; flames longer than eight feet prevent safe, effective direct attack. Flame length is also most closely related to structural damage – the higher the flame length, the more likely a structure could be lost.

⁷ <https://www.firelab.org/document/flammap-software>

⁸ <https://ncff-cwpp-dms-usa.hub.arcgis.com/maps/b2de24b3562e4e27b0fba2921e2c9e4/explore>

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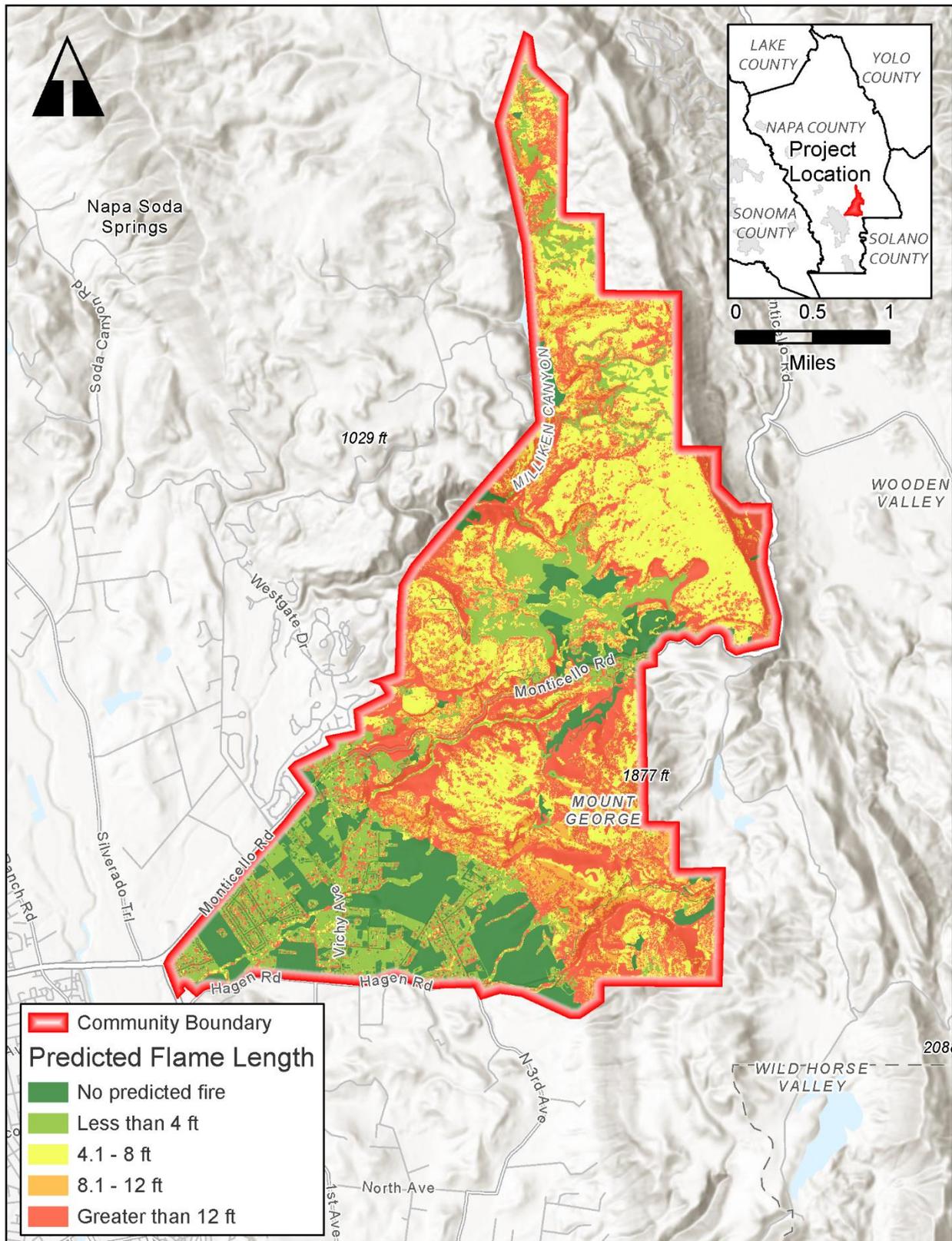


Figure 6. Predicted flame length (feet) map (based on Napa Veg Map-based landscape version 2-2021 with a Northeast wind at 15 mph with low fuel moistures). Mt. George area boundary (shown in red).

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40% of the area has a predicted flame length of over 8 feet when predicting for a northeasterly wind at 15 miles per hour. This leaves about 60% of the area predicted to have less than 8-foot flame lengths. Of those areas, 32% are predicted to have less than 4-foot flame lengths.

The higher flame lengths are concentrated in the shrublands throughout Mt. George and are especially abundant in the steep terrain of the southern half of the area. The lower flame lengths are distributed throughout the central and southwestern parts of the area, occurring mostly in grasslands, oak woodlands, and developed areas as well as locations with some shelter from winds.

Note that the no predicted fire category accounts for agriculture and developed areas (includes vegetation in residential parcels) that may indeed burn – as evidenced in many of the recent fires in Napa County. In particular, no-till vineyards provide more potential fuels than vineyards with bare earth.

Table 3. Predicted flame length by category and area (in acres) within the Mt. George area (based on Napa Veg Map-based landscape version 2-2021 with a Northeast wind at 15 mph with low fuel moistures).

Predicted Flame Length	Acres	Percent (%)
No predicted fire	994	15%
Less than 4 ft	1103	17%
4.1 – 8 ft	1840	28%
8.1 – 12 ft	557	9%
Greater than 12 ft	2039	31%

2. Predicted Crown Fire Activity

While both the coniferous and oak forests can torch, hardwoods are less likely to have fire reach to the tree crowns, unless vegetation is burning underneath. Crowning potential is crucial. When fires spread into crowns, thousands of embers are produced and lofted into ignitable fuels, often overwhelming fire suppression personnel.

For the Mt. George area, a relatively small area is predicted to have fire spread within the tree canopy (tree-to-tree or crown fire), which is rare in hardwoods. Areas with higher density of coniferous forests are most at risk of torching and crown fires. These areas are located in the central part of the area of interest and persist in canyons.

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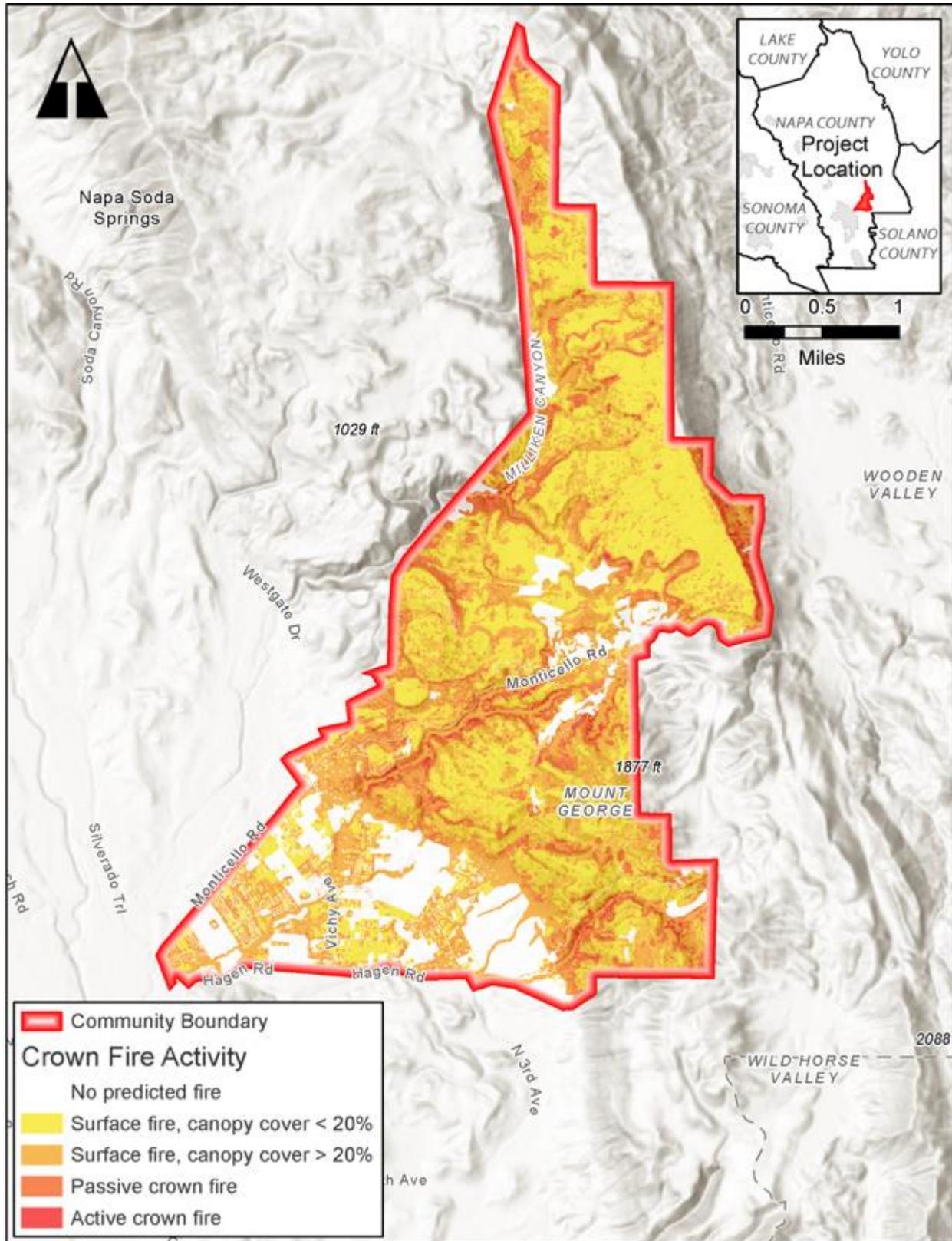


Figure 7. Predicted crown fire activity map (based on LANDFIRE landscape version 2.0 with a Northeast wind at 15 mph with low fuel moistures). Mt. George area boundary (shown in red).

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Table 4. Predicted crown fire activity (or fire type) by category and area (in acres) within the Mt. George area (based on Napa Veg Map-based landscape version 2-2021 with a Northeast wind at 15 mph with low fuel moistures).

Crown Fire Activity	Acres	Percent (%)
1. No predicted fire	984	15%
2. Surface fire canopy cover < 20%	2393	37%
3. Surface fire with canopy > 20%	2116	32%
4. Torching fire (passive crown fire)	934	14%
5. Crown fire	106	2%

A combination of no predicted fire (#1) and of lower surface fire canopy cover (#2) accounts for approximately 52% of the Mt. George area. These areas are concentrated in the agricultural parts of Mt. George as well as in rock outcrops.

Of the places predicted to have only a surface fire, there are some areas where there is enough canopy cover (over 20% #3) that under certain conditions, these areas could become torching fires (#4). These areas account for 32% (#3) and 14% (#4) respectively. These areas are predominantly on steep mid-slopes and places where the vegetation is not protected from strong winds. They occur throughout the Mt. George area and surround many of the agricultural and residential plots. And lastly 2% of the area is predicted to have active crown fire. While this is a relatively low number in comparison to other communities, field verification is still recommended. Active crown fire is predicted on the steepest north- and east-facing slopes throughout the area, particularly along the canyon walls.

G. Fire History

In the past decades, 19 fires have been recorded occurring near the Mt. George area. Most notable are the large and wide-ranging Hennessey fire of 2020, the Atlas fire of 2017, the Wild fire of 2008, and the Atlas Peak fire of 1981.

Large fires have directly impacted most of the area within the Mt. George neighborhood. The fire history map shows that the majority of the neighborhood was last visited by fire in 2017, suggesting a relatively lower fuel load than in other areas that have not experienced fire recently.

Table 5. List of recorded fires near the Mt. George area (CAL FIRE, 2020).

Year	Month	Date	Fire Name	Cause	Acres	Comments
1953	August	8/25/1953	B. HICKEY	Unknown/ Unidentified	671.4	
1953	October	10/5/1953	STATE HIGHWAY 37 #3	Unknown/ Unidentified	605.2	
1957	August	8/2/1957	STATE HWY 37 #1	Unknown/ Unidentified	248.9	
1958	September	9/26/1958	ROADSIDE #34	Unknown/ Unidentified	192.9	
1960	June	6/20/1960	NAPA SODA SPRINGS	Unknown/ Unidentified	2,244.8	
1960	October	10/15/1960	C. FOSBERG #2	Unknown/ Unidentified	3,797.0	
1961	September	9/3/1961	LEOMA LAKES	Unknown/ Unidentified	245.9	
1961	September	9/4/1961	ROADSIDE #32	Unknown/ Unidentified	568.9	
1961	July	7/8/1961	E. PROCTOR	Unknown/ Unidentified	876.7	
1964	July	7/11/1964	ROADSIDE #22	Unknown/ Unidentified	538.9	
1964	September	9/21/1964	ROADSIDE #42	Unknown/ Unidentified	8,956.8	
1981	June	6/22/1981	ATLAS PEAK	Arson	33,606.4	
2006	October	10/25/2006	ATLAS	Equipment Use	71.2	DURING NORTH WINDS
2007	July	7/11/2007	PEAK	Equipment Use	46.3	
2008	June	6/21/2008	WILD	Unknown/ Unidentified	4,102.0	
2017	October	10/8/2017	ATLAS	Unknown/ Unidentified	51,624.7	Southern Complex
2020	August	8/17/2020	HENNESSEY	Lightning	305,351.9	Part of the LNU LIGHTNING COMPLEX

Mt. George Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan

2020	August	8/30/2020	MONTICELLO	Unknown/ Unidentified	1.1	Jake White
2021	June	6/7/2021	KIWI	Equipment Use	1.8	

A recurring history of large fires (over 10,000 acres in size), which typically burn for several days, has been well established in Napa County. The typical period between such large fires is approximately 20-30 years. Like much of California, fires in Napa County are almost entirely caused by human-related accidental ignitions. With that said, in 2020, several lightning-strike fires burned in Napa County and west into Sonoma County.

In the past, fires did not involve large numbers of structures because of the historic rural nature of Napa County; however, structure damage is now a common concern whenever wildland fires of any size occur.

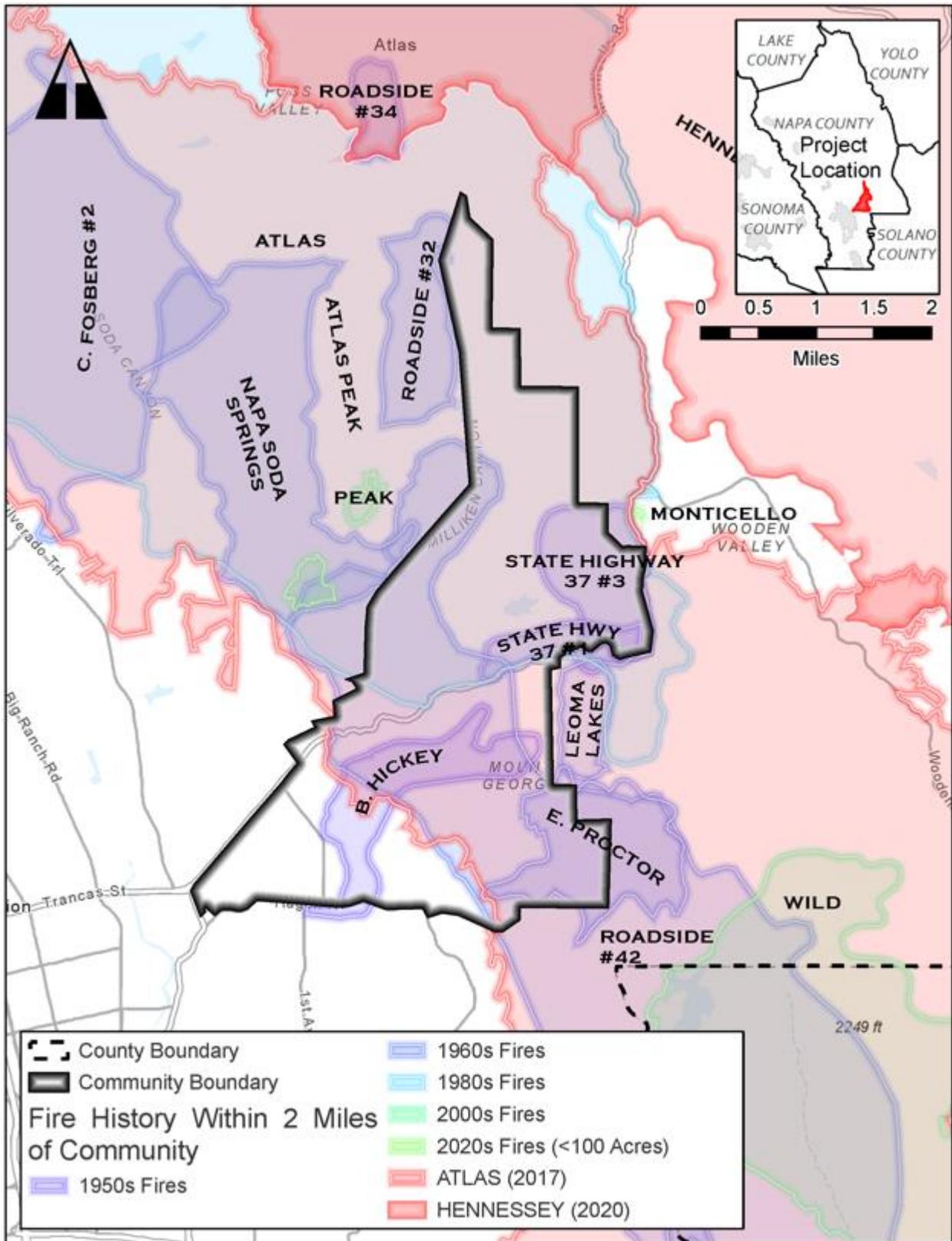


Figure 8. Fire perimeters/fire history map of Mt. George area (CAL FIRE FRAP, 2021).

H. Access

In general, access to the boundaries and interior of the Mt. George area is limited. Monticello Rd is the main ingress/egress road into the area, running along the southwestern boundary near Vichy Springs and then cutting across the FSC area in the northeast-southwest direction along Sarco Creek. It can be accessed from the Silverado Trail on the western side and from Wooden Valley Rd to the east of the FSC area. Hagen Rd also branches off from the Silverado Trail and provides access to the western half of the southern edge, with Vichy Ave connecting this road to Monticello Rd. There are several smaller local roads that lead to residences in the southwestern corner and allow for limited access. However, these roads are mostly dead ends. There are no other means of egress other than fire roads that may or may not be maintained.

Most roads are two lanes with no shoulders, although a few of the roads in the residential areas are a bit wider and have shoulders of moderate width. Pavement (road surface) is generally in good shape, with some areas showing signs of pavement deterioration. A few curves are simultaneously sharp and steep. Although many residences are easily accessible, some are served by long shared driveways behind locked gates. Locked gates are common and can further delay emergency response. Locked gates also discourage/prevent inspection by local fire authorities.

Regardless of the condition of the roadbed, access can be blocked by roadside vegetation. Trees can fall, blocking passage or vegetation can burn with such intensity that emergency response and evacuation cannot occur.

Many roadsides have abundant roadside vegetation. This vegetation could block the road while burning, and after, as trees fall (a common event during a fire). Roadside vegetation has not been maintained on many of the roads or driveways within the Mt. George area and could prove significant in the event of a fire.

See map on next page.

Mt. George Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan

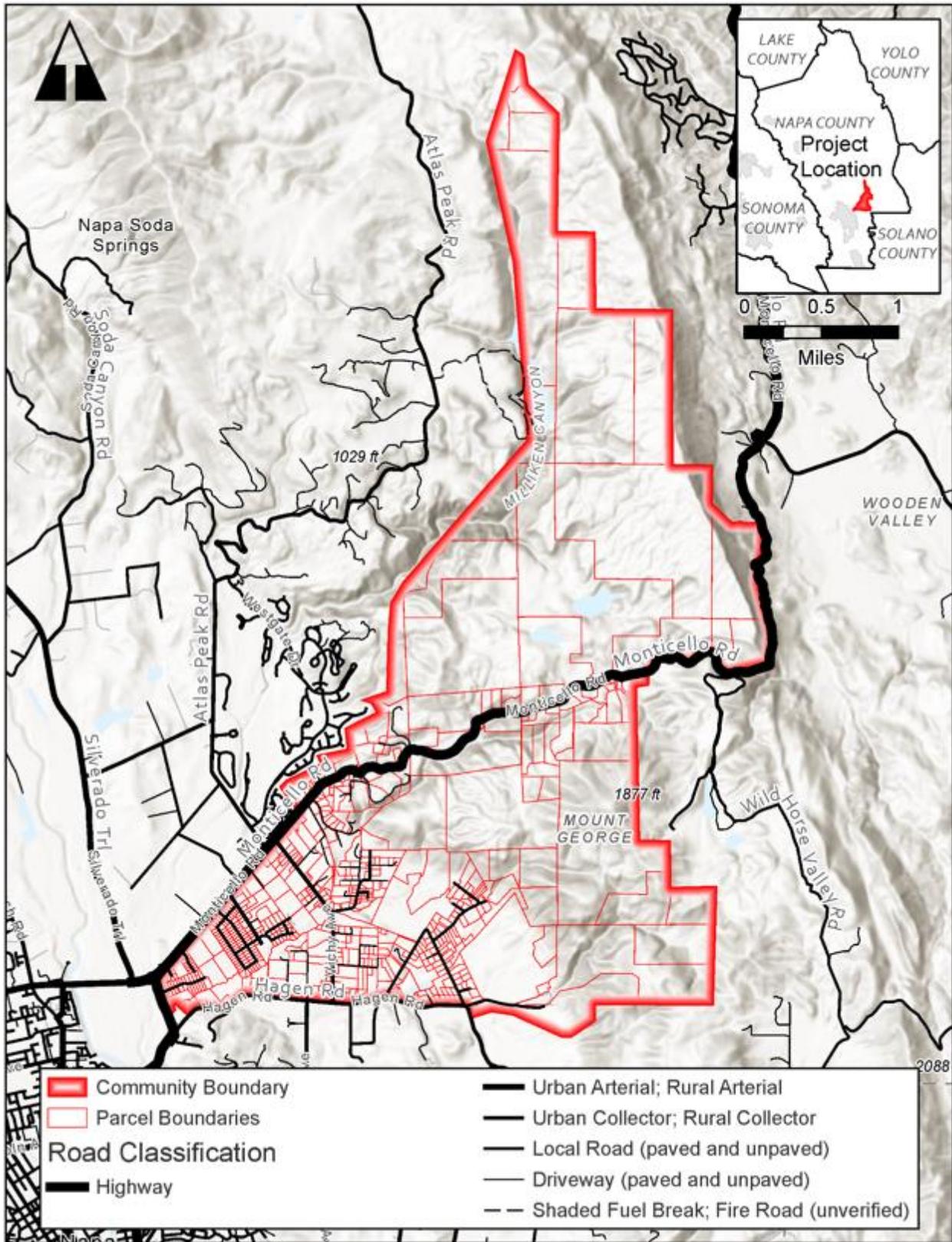


Figure 9. Access and street map of Mt. George area (shown with red outline).

I. Hazard Ranking

The majority of the Mt. George area is within CAL FIRE’s State Responsibility Area (SRA). 8% is not within the SRA. The area not within the SRA is all designated as a Local Responsibility Area (LRA).

For the SRA portions of the Mt. George area where CAL FIRE determined a fire hazard assessment, they show 65% of the area is categorized as a **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone**. A much smaller area was classified as High (3%), with the remainder categorized as Moderate (24%).

See map on next page.

Table 6. Fire hazard severity zone by area (acres) within Mt. George area boundary (CAL FIRE, 2023 – current version).

Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE)	Acres	Percent (%)
Moderate	325	5%
High	207	3%
Very High	5,450	83%
Low Hazard or Outside of SRA	555	8%

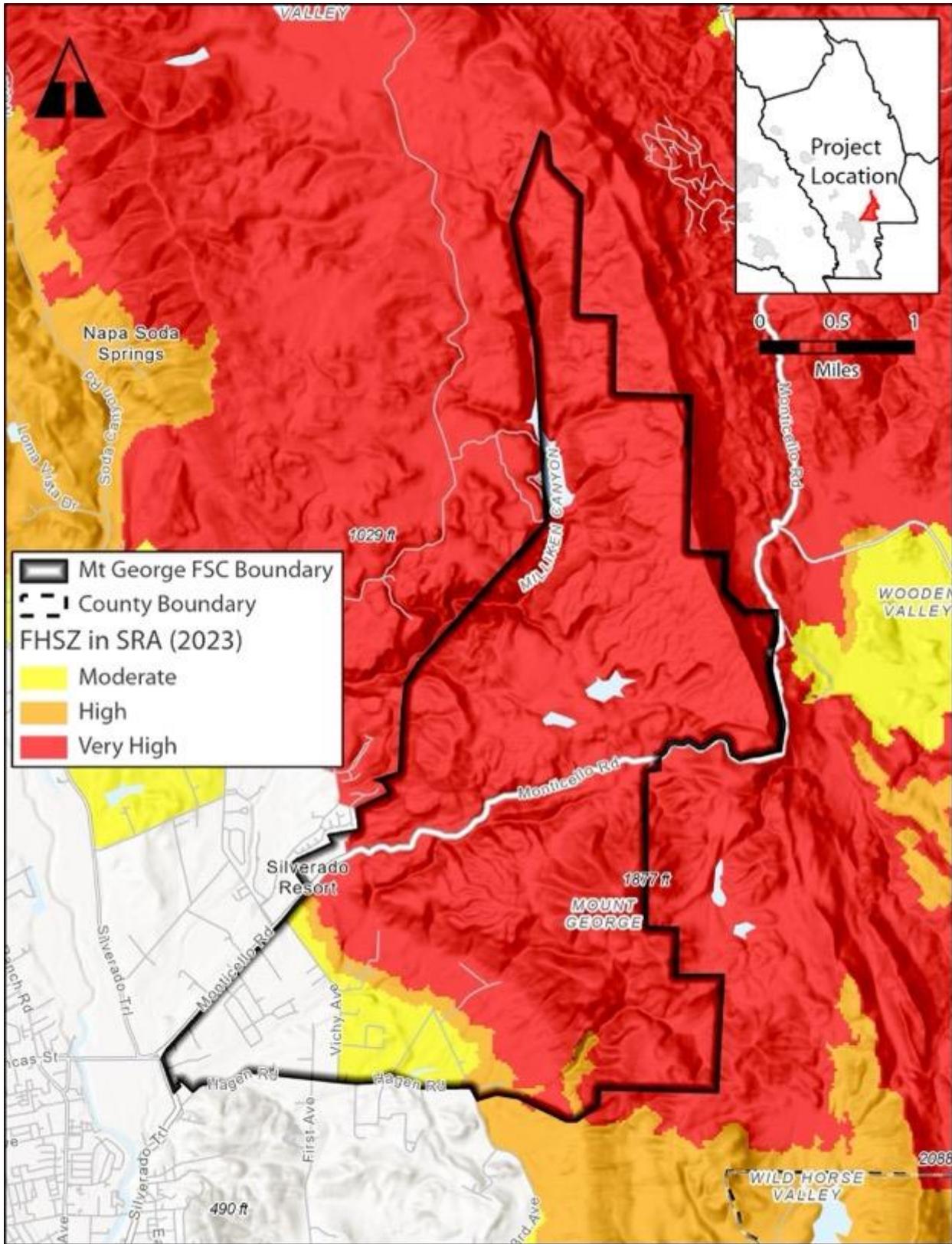


Figure 10. Distribution of Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CAL FIRE, 2023).

J. Wildfire Response and Suppression Capabilities

In support of this Plan, an assessment of the wildfire response and suppression capabilities within the Mt. George FSC was undertaken to evaluate whether the current resources, organization, and strategies are appropriate for the expected wildfire impingements, and if not, what requires improvement. The following was evaluated:

- Emergency social services support capabilities
- Post fire recovery support capabilities
- Other response support (utilities, public works, etc.)

From this evaluation the following has been determined that there are many key support systems for response, fire suppression, and post-fire recovery within the nearby and larger vicinity of the Mt. George FSC.

Key resources and support include:

- The South Division of the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit (or LNU) is defined by the boundaries of Napa County and is comprised of 3 field battalions. LNU has primary responsibility for more than 2 million acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area (DPA) lands. LNU has the third largest population living within CAL FIRE DPA, has the second largest amount of Fires by Cause in the state and ranks number 2 in total annual fires (Sonoma Lake-Napa (LNU) Unit's Strategic Fire Plan, 2021). There are 7 fire stations within Napa County, with the closest being Napa Station 25 that is within a few miles of the Mt. George FSC.
- Mt. George is surrounded on all sides by other Fire Safe Councils and the City of Napa, all of which have ongoing or complete CWPPs.
- Napa City Fire Department
- Work across agencies and partners for common emergency responder incident response planning and ingress projects from law enforcement, EMS, and Fireline responders to Incident Management Teams for situational and operational strategy and tactical awareness.
- The utility company of PGE is actively undertaking fire mitigation work including vegetation management to improve access and reduce fire ignitions and spread.

Due to past fire activity, this region has many local NGO's and agencies working towards fire mitigation, preparedness, and post-fire support response. Examples include:

- CERT-Community Emergency Response Team, Napa County
- CART-Napa Community Animal Response Team
- Napa County programs
- City of Napa programs (RCD, COAD, LE, etc.)
- Napa Firewise

K. The Plan

The elements of this plan have been arrived at through a collaborative process, with the understanding that some elements of this plan will require outside funding, that some elements will be easier to accomplish than others, and that all elements will take some time.

L. Projects

The following section will walk through completed projects, projects that are currently planned or in-progress, and finally a list of recommended projects that will need additional support to plan, fund, and implement. Some of these recommended projects are at the conceptual phase only while many are further along in their progress towards implementation. Once a project is implemented, many will shift into a maintenance phase, where continued work and follow-up will be needed in the years to come.

1. Completed Projects

Mt. George FSC applied for and received NFPA Firewise Recognition in 2025.

2. Completed Adjacent Projects

Currently, there is one project partially within the Mt. George FSC that has been completed by the Silverado Fire Safe Council that is now in the maintenance stage. This is a perimeter fuel break utilizing targeted herbivory for fuel reduction (goats and sheep). The Silverado FSC will continue to maintain and fund this project. Additionally, there is completed and ongoing work of both private individuals and adjacent Fire Safe Councils.

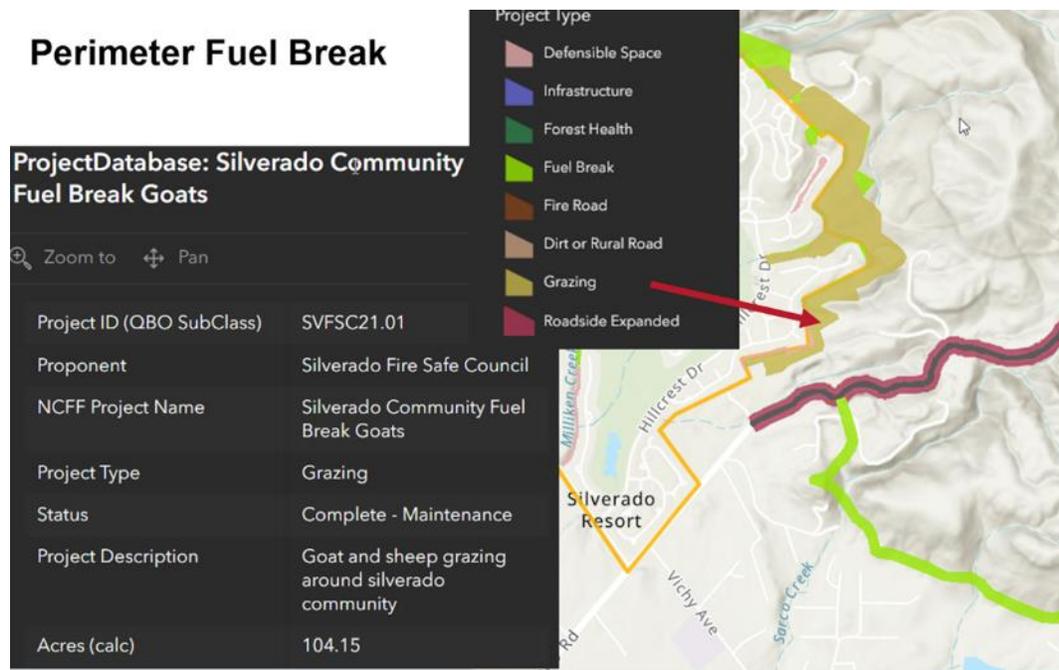


Figure 11. Map and information on the completed grazing project shared with the Silverado FSC (Napa Firewise Project Dashboard, 2025).

Mt. George is adjacent to other Fire Safe Councils where there is ongoing and planned beneficial work in surrounding areas, including additional fuel breaks, grazing, defensible space, and roadway projects. Please visit the Napa Firewise Fuels Reductions Project Dashboard at <https://napafirewise.org>.

3. Planned and In-Progress Projects

Owing to NCCF and other funding, a variety of fuel management projects are now planned or proposed for the Mt. George region, including expansion of roadside vegetation treatments and the creation of fuel breaks.

One example of an in-progress project is expanding the roadside treatments along Hwy 121 (Fig. 12). The initial roadside treatment was completed in prior years, and this project is the expansion of this roadside treatment zone.

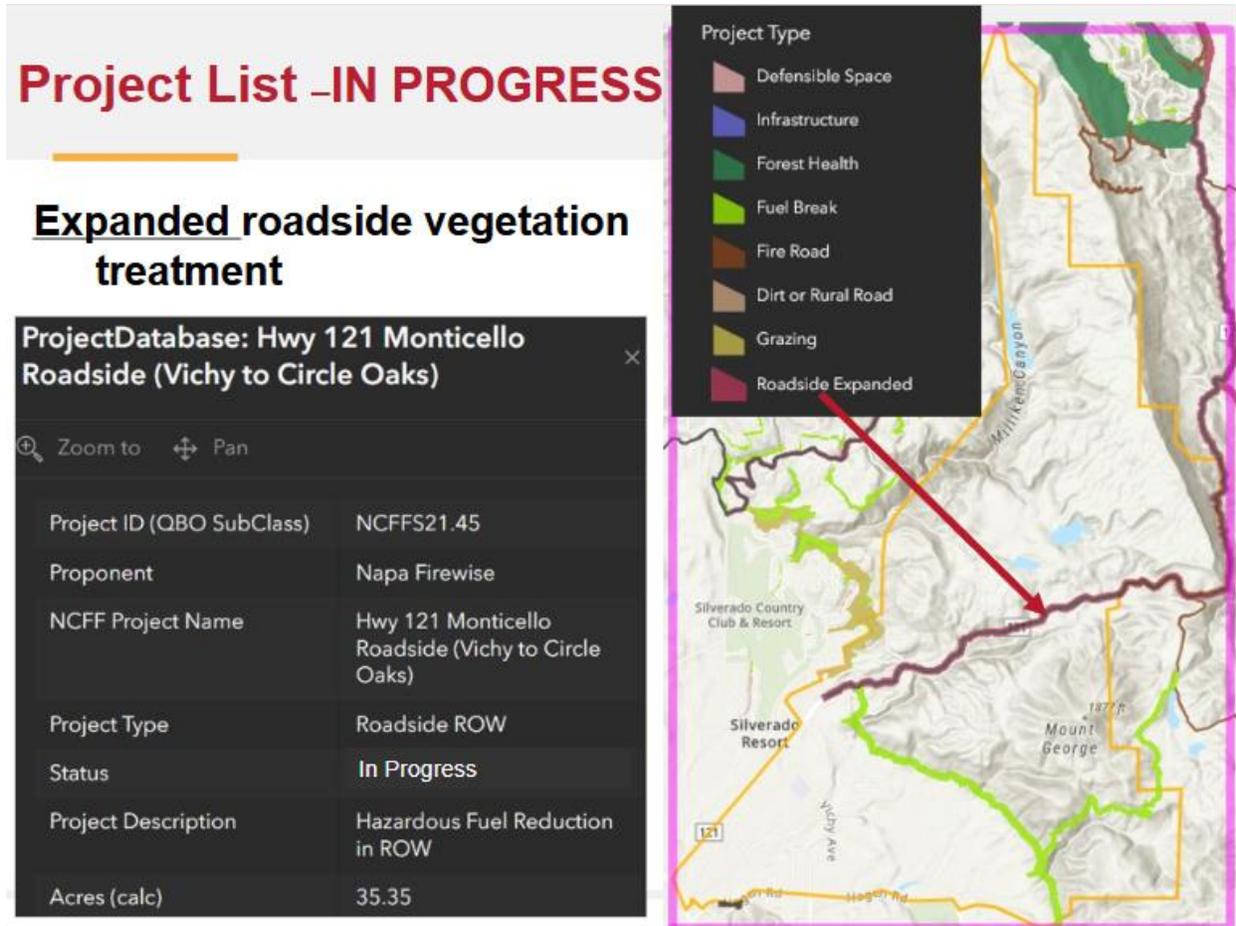


Figure 12. Expanding the roadside clearance along Hwy 121 is planned to increase access and defense in the event of a wildfire. (Napa Firewise Project Dashboard, 2025).

Monticello Rd (aka 2800 Monticello Road project) driveway improvements (Fig 13). Fuel reduction and access improvements work is in progress on a private driveway serving many homes along Monticello Road for first responder access and evacuation needs. Improvement actions range from underway to completed.



Figure 13. Driveway improvements for Monticello Rd 2800 project highlighted in turquoise. (Google Earth, 2025).

4. Recommended Projects

Even though the Mt. George neighborhoods are located on the outskirts of Napa City, the surrounding wildlands and remote/restricted access to houses create major risks from fires. Many of the projects rely on community education and participation and can be completed by working together as a local community (Fire Safe Council), neighbors, or individually. Others focus on roadways or fuel reduction actions focused on the intersection of natural areas and neighborhoods. The following list of projects includes proposed projects organized into three categories.

Public Education and Communication Projects

1. Increase education and awareness for reflective address signs for emergency responders:
 - Include information and access to better signs, resource stickers (including blue dots and others that can be added to an address sign).
 - Base/start of driveways are key places to improve signs; consider adding signs with more details about water resources, turnarounds, bridge limits, and other suppression assets.
2. Increase education about and adoption of Meter.me to share real time information about volume of available stored water.
 - Concerns for costs: discount option to explore for bulk ordering or bulk installations with proximity to each other.
3. Increase education about defensible space and the zones 0,1, and 2 for residents.
 - Investigate the capacity of the FSC to fund and implement a program to assist residents with limited means with their defensible space clearing.

4. Land Trust of Napa County (LTNC) partnership:
 - There is an opportunity to showcase how conservation efforts and fire risk mitigation efforts can be beneficial to both goals.
 - Increase knowledge of the values and benefits of land trust management.
 - Leverage the knowledge of land trust partners: Have an LTNC staff representative participating in any site visits looking at proposed projects on LTNC lands; consider impacts to rare plants and ecosystem needs.
5. Increase education on access options
 - Work with CAL FIRE to identify access to structures or locations; creating an educational opportunity on how to provide emergency access to responders.
6. Maintain NFPA Firewise USA Recognition
 - Renew Firewise USA Application to maintain “Good Standing” status.

Vegetation Management Projects

1. Milliken Canyon/Creek
 - Propose utilizing service road along creek as base for fuel break.
 - Work with adjacent plans (e.g., City of Napa CWPP) to consider fuel reduction projects. Work to create plan for the conifer forests in the canyon that may need specific treatment to reduce the high risk of an active crown fire.
2. Sarco Creek Canyon
 - The risk assessment highlights the fire risk of this area. Existing and ongoing fuel reduction programs will be combined with future projects and maintenance and will focus on connecting across private properties for a more continuous fuel break.
 - Sarco Canyon SE
 - Connect to fuel projects on La Grande Ave.
 - Treat vegetation along Monticello and Foote Preserve along Sarco Creek.
3. Skyline to Monticello shaded fuel break (Fig. 14)
 - Shaded fuel break from Wild Horse Valley Rd. to Monticello Rd.
 - This fuel break connects to larger areas through the Coombsville-Wild Horse Valley Fire Safe Council.
 - Includes portion of LTNC’s Foote Preserve.
 - Prioritize and focus on areas that do not abut vineyards.

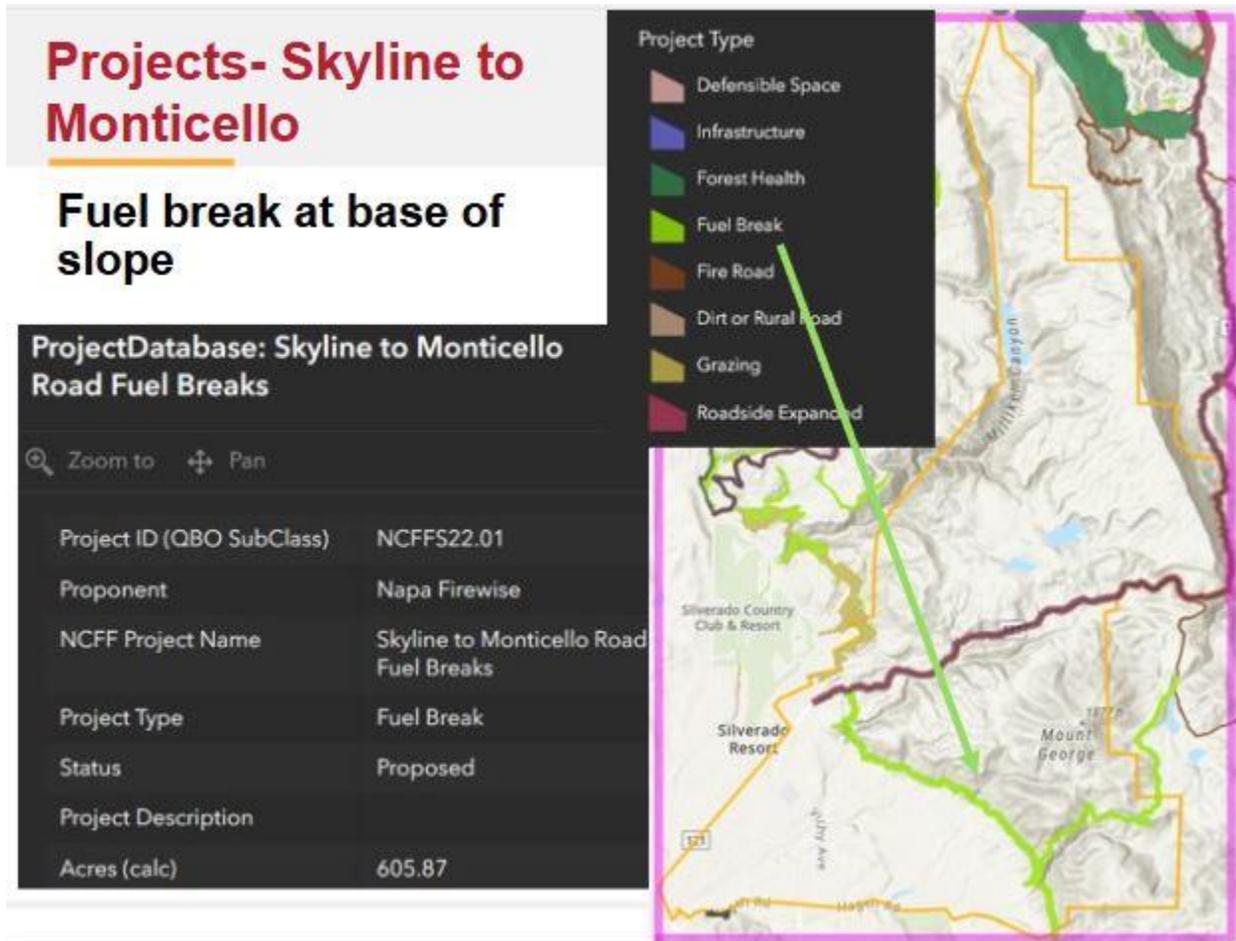


Figure 14. Green arrow pointing to proposed road fuel break connecting Skyline to Monticello. (Napa Firewise Project Dashboard, 2025).

4. Creek maintenance

- The creek along Mt. George Ave was a fire conduit for the 2017 fire. Annual crews or work parties to clear creeks of dead materials and weed control is recommended. This may include the treatment of creeks that flow along Mt. George Ave, Sarco Creek, and between vineyards.
- Address education needs for the importance of creek maintenance and potential support of work; this is being done on some private properties already, but there are barriers for some neighbors (ability, environmental restrictions and concerns, and resources).



Photo 9. Creek with multiple vegetation types and dead material

5. Shaded fuel breaks

- Investigate possible ridgetop shaded fuel break north of Monticello Rd. (Fig. 15)
 - Improve access and fuel condition; goal is to expand fire containment opportunities.
 - Work with landowners.
 - Reduce ignition risk.
- Investigate possible ridgetop fuel break connecting the Palmaz dirt road access in the MGFSC to the northernmost point of the fire road on the Castleview Ranch. (Fig. 16)



Figure 15. Green outline showing Ridgetop shaded fuel break north of Monticello Rd. (Google Earth, 2025).



Figure 16. Yellow polygon possible ridgetop fuel break connecting the Palmaz dirt road access in the MGFSC to the northernmost point of the fire road on the Castleview Ranch. (Google Earth, 2025).

Wildfire Response and Fire Suppression Projects

1. Identify, if any, additional roadways or long driveways similar to 2800 Monticello Rd that may need treatment to enhance access, reduce ignition risk, and provide greater evacuation support.
2. Restricted emergency only evacuation routes
 - o Establish hyper-local emergency evacuation routes, improve driveways and educate just those residents. Potential routes:
 - i. Mt. George Ave secondary evacuation route: This road is a dead end and if blocked, no current vehicle access in or out. Possible emergency evacuation routes through vineyard access that leads to Sparlin Road or that exits on Olive Hill Lane at the hairpin turn (note: Olive Hill at hairpin turn would connect to two directions out instead of one).
 - ii. From neighbors around 2213 Monticello through 2259 Monticello property to Monticello Rd.
3. Identify additional improvements to roadways including vegetation treatments and roadway improvements to improve evacuation routes.
4. Assist in maintaining the fire road between Palmaz and Kenzo wineries.
5. Identify potential staging areas in concert with landowner.
 - o Work with CAL FIRE to identify locations where emergency response teams could stage during an emergency.
 - o The landowners of the area would volunteer the space and agree to maintain.
6. Individual suppression systems.
 - o There are several types of spray on fire barrier foam available for home use, the effectiveness of which are hard to evaluate as a homeowner. This project would create a list of recommendations and would explore ways to decrease the cost of these systems (bulk buy discounts, use of expired products or resale of partially expired, recycle/reuse).

In addition, the Appendix contains Mt. George FSC's three-year plan for its NFPA Firewise USA Recognition, which contains additional smaller initiatives for the FSC.

M. Approval Signatures

The Mt. George Community Wildfire Protection Plan was developed collaboratively and in consultation with interested parties, including Napa Communities Firewise Foundation, Napa County Fire Department, CAL FIRE, and the residents of the Mt. George community.

The Plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends other types and methods of treatments that will protect the Mt. George Community.

The following entities acknowledge the receipt of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Acknowledged:  Date: 12/12/2025
Amber Manfree, Supervisor, Napa County District 4

Acknowledged:  Date: 12/15/2025
Matt Ryan, Unit Chief, CAL FIRE and Fire Chief, Napa County Fire Department

The following individuals agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Agreed:  Date: 12/15/2025
[Christopher Thompson \(Dec 15, 2025 09:18:24 PST\)](#)
Christopher Thompson, Chairman of the Board, Napa Communities Firewise Foundation

Agreed:  Date: 12/15/2025
[Craig Priess \(Dec 15, 2025 10:14:03 PST\)](#)
Craig Priess, Lead, Mt. George Fire Safe Council

Agreed:  Date: 12/22/2025
[Alyssa Samrick \(Dec 22, 2025 11:55:58 PST\)](#)
Alyssa Samrick, Lead, Mt. George Fire Safe Council

Agreed:  Date: 12/23/2025
[Elijah Fleishauer \(Dec 23, 2025 08:41:08 PST\)](#)
Eli Fleishauer, Lead, Mt. George Fire Safe Council

N. Appendix: NFPA Firewise 3-Year Action Plan

Year 1 – 2026

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Obtain and distribute educational information on defensible space, home hardening and preparation for fire emergencies.
2. Convene at least one community meeting and two board meetings to update on the latest fire-related programs and activities.
3. Publicize events in the greater Napa Community specific to vegetation management (such as fire-resistant planting and burn pile and prescribed burn training).
4. Promote any available Napa County Firewise Defensible Space Cost-Share Program.
5. Promote any available Napa County Chipping Program.
6. Invite residents to local Fire Resource Fairs and educational events to access home hardening information, materials, and resources, which are growing in size and becoming more robust in Napa County.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Obtain and post educational materials on webpage of best practices for structure retrofitting.
2. Disseminate information regarding any available County Cost-share Program for Home Hardening
3. Educate Residents about state and county suggested guidelines.
4. Work to improve weaknesses identified in the Risk Assessment, including reducing wooden attachments, increasing landscaping zones, and improved skirting.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Promote any available Napa County Firewise Defensible Space Cost-Share Programs.
2. Promote any available Napa County Chipping Program with link to sign-up for free chipping on our FSC webpage.
3. Assist in getting landowner agreements so that the fuel reduction projects can take place on private lands.
4. Work to remove/reduce hazardous vegetation along driveway off Hwy 121 Monticello Road; in the mountains northeast of Napa City.

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

- 1.** Educate residents on installing 911-compliant reflective address signage and add informational resource stickers for first responders, indicating swimming pools, tanks and hydrants.
- 2.** Identify and map any local emergency evacuation route alternatives to one way in/out access routes.
- 3.** Encourage residents to know their neighbors' special needs and create a notification plan in the event of an impending evacuation order.
- 4.** Improve the driveway off Hwy 121 that currently serves 10 homes with one way in/out access.

Year 2 - 2027

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Maintain the FSC webpage with informational and educational materials.
2. Continue to distribute educational information on defensible space, home hardening and preparation for fire emergencies.
3. Convene at least one community meeting and two board meetings to update on the latest fire-related programs and activities.
4. Identify roads with gate locks which hinder access by fire apparatus or evacuees.
5. Where roads have been cleared with grant monies, support landowners to continue to maintain clearing.
6. Continue the promotion of any available Defensible Space Cost-Share Program; encourage sign-ups.
7. Pursue funding for fuel reduction projects.
8. Where firebreaks have been cleared with grant monies, support landowners to maintain clearing
9. Continue to promote any available Napa County Chipping Program.
10. Continue to Invite residents to local Fire Resource Fairs and educational events to access home hardening information, materials, and resources, which are growing in size and becoming more robust in Napa County..

Home Hardening Goals

1. Provide residents information on how to participate in any available Napa County cost-share program for retrofitting structures and/or home hardening.
2. Encourage participation in County Cost-share Program for Home Hardening.
3. Continue to educate Residents about state and county suggested guidelines.
4. Continue to work to improve weaknesses identified in the Risk Assessment, including reducing wooden attachments, increasing landscaping zones, and improved skirting.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Continue the promotion of any available Napa County Firewise Defensible Space Cost-Share Program; encourage sign-ups.
2. Continue to promote any available Napa County Chipping Program.
3. Promote trimming trees & clearing brush within 10' of private roads & driveways.
4. Continue to pursue funding for fuel reduction projects.
5. Continue to assist in getting landowner agreements so that the fuel reduction projects can take place on private lands.
6. Provide education to landowners regarding roadside vegetation reduction on private roads along key access and evacuation routes.

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

1. Continue to educate residents on installing 911-compliant reflective address signage and add informational resource stickers for first responders, indicating swimming pools, tanks and hydrants.
2. Continue to identify and map any local emergency evacuation route alternatives to one way in/out access routes.
3. Establish Text-Em-All lists.
4. Continue to Encourage residents to know their neighbors' special needs and create a notification plan in the event of an impending evacuation order.

Year 3 - 2028

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Continue to distribute educational information on defensible space, home hardening and preparation for fire emergencies
2. Convene at least one community meeting and two board meetings to update on the latest fire-related programs and activities.
3. Continue to identify roads with gate locks which hinder access by fire apparatus or evacuees.
4. Where roads have been cleared with grant monies, support landowners to continue to maintain clearing.
5. Update Risk Assessment and Action Plan for renewal.
6. Continue and expand the promotion of any available Defensible Space Cost-Share Program; encourage sign-ups.
7. Continue to provide education to landowners regarding roadside vegetation reduction on private roads along key access and evacuation routes.
8. Maintain the FSC webpage with informational and educational materials.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Continue to provide residents information on how to participate in any available Napa County cost-share program for retrofitting structures.
2. Continue to educate Residents about state and county suggested guidelines.
3. Continue to encourage participation in any County Cost-share Program for Home Hardening
4. Continue to work to improve weaknesses identified in the Risk Assessment, including reducing wooden attachments, increasing landscaping zones, and improved skirting

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Continue and expand the promotion of any available Napa County Firewise Defensible Space Cost-Share Program; encourage sign-ups.
2. Continue to promote any available Napa County Chipping Program.
3. Continue to promote trimming trees & clearing brush within 10' of private roads & driveways.
4. Continue to pursue funding for fuel reduction projects.
5. Continue to assist in getting landowner agreements so that the fuel reduction projects can take place on private lands.

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

1. Continue to educate residents on installing 911-compliant reflective address signage and add informational resource stickers for first responders, indicating swimming pools, tanks and hydrants.
2. Continue to Encourage residents to know their neighbors' special needs and create a notification plan in the event of an impending evacuation order.
3. Continually update Text-Em-All lists.

Mt George FSC CWPP 20251205

Final Audit Report

2025-12-23

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By:	Sharon Gardner (shari@napafirewise.org)
Status:	Signed
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