

### 5.3.2 Corbett Fire



Corbett Fire, previously known as Rural Fire Protection District #14,<sup>72</sup> provides service to areas including the unincorporated communities of Corbett, Springdale, Aims, Latourell and Bridal Veil, covering a 40-square-mile-area east of the Sandy River through much of the Columbia River Gorge and south all the way to the Clackamas County line. Approximately 4,000 people live within Corbett Fire’s service boundaries.

The district has three fire stations—the main station located in Corbett and stations in Springdale and Aims.

#### [Interactive Version of This Map](#)

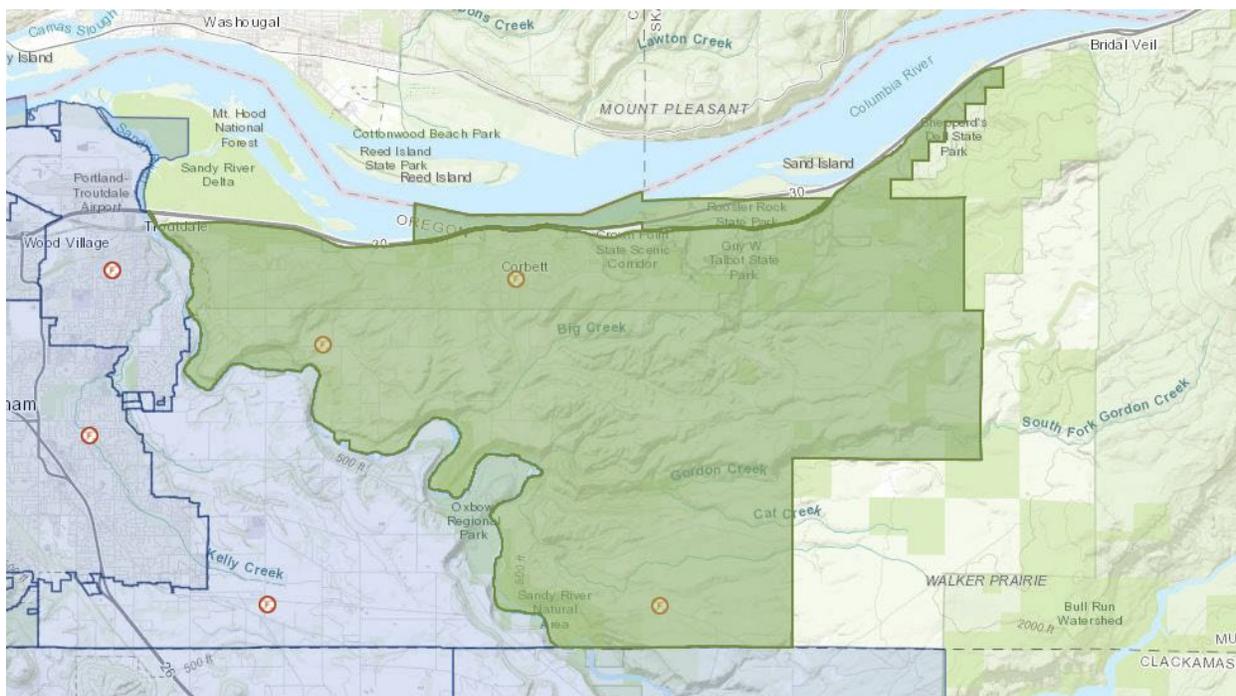


Figure 52 - Location of Corbett Fire’s service area, with the main station shown in the north center part of the area. Map from the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Corbett Fire’s service area has steep slopes and homes surrounded by heavy fuels adjacent to numerous state parks, large private timber tracts, and Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service holdings. Based on the statewide WUI hazard rating generated by ODF, Corbett Fire’s service area includes nearly all of the highest risk WUI areas in Multnomah County. The

<sup>72</sup> The name was officially changed in 2017 to better reflect the community served – Rural Fire Protection District #14 is still used for some business purposes and may still be used interchangeably in statewide or regional maps.

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region also includes heavily used recreational areas, significantly expanding the population served, especially during the summer.

[Interactive Version of this Map – \(Planning and Cadastral - Oregon WUI Hazard Rating\)](#)

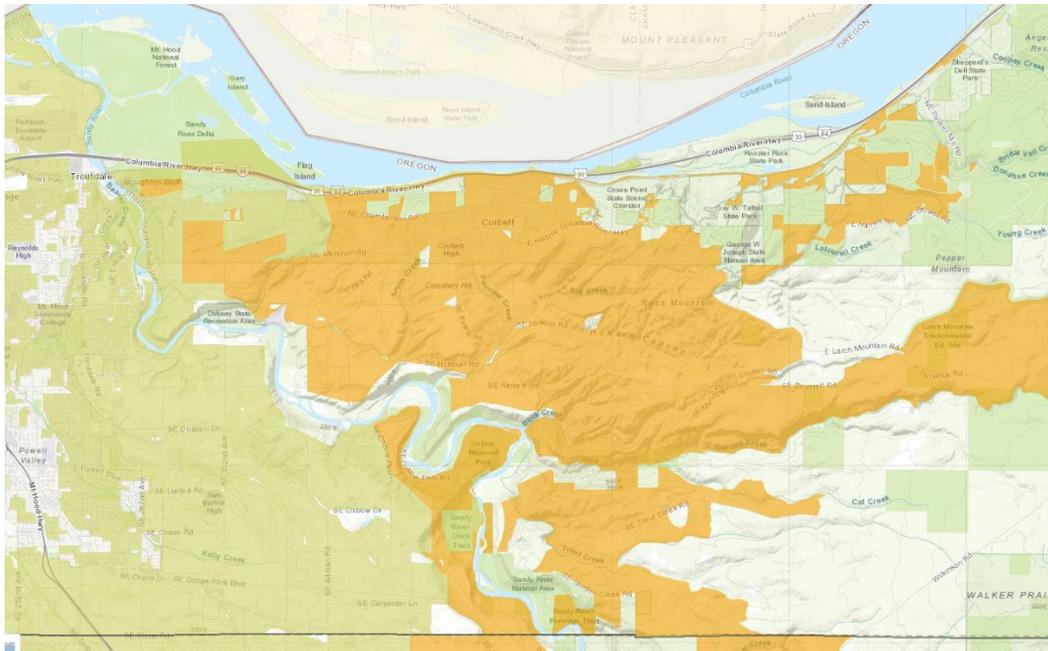


Figure 53 - Map showing WUI hazard ratings in areas served by Corbett Fire. Orange indicates moderate risk and green is lower risk, based on statewide ODF criteria. Map from ODF statewide WUI Hazard map.

[Interactive Version of this Map – \(Wildfire Potential Impacts - Overall Potential Impact\)](#)

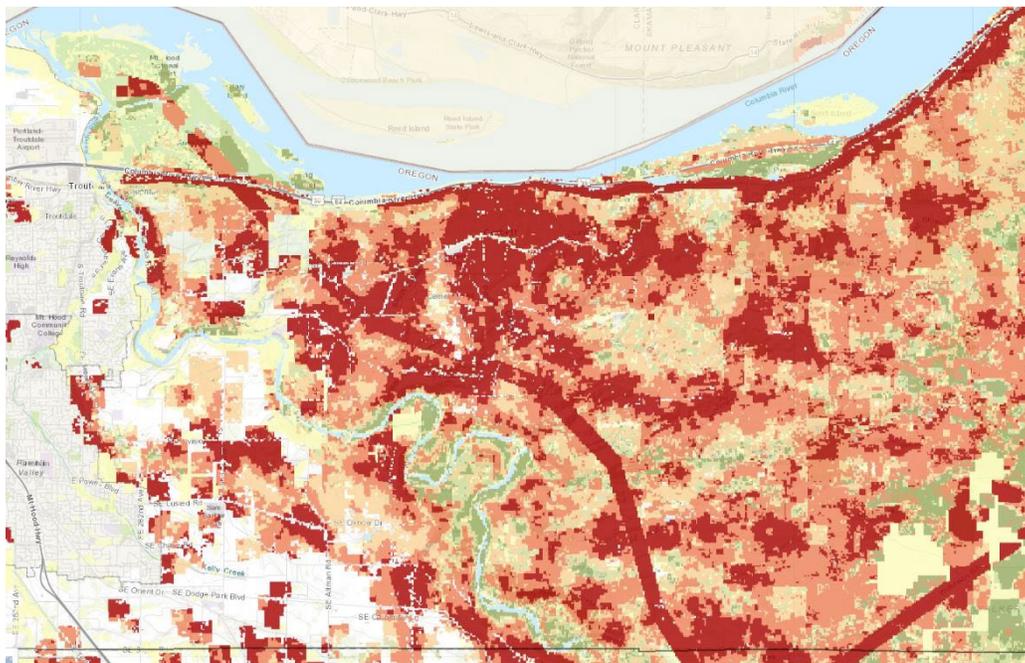


Figure 54 - Map showing overall potential wildfire impact, as determined by the PNW-QWRA. Areas in dark red have the highest potential impact from wildfire.



Figure 55 - Corbett Fire Engine 61 at Multnomah Falls. Photo Corbett Fire.

Corbett Fire has a staff of two part-time employees and 30 volunteers as of June 2023, creating a strong level of response capacity for the population served.

In response to the wildland fires of 2017 and 2020, Corbett Fire purchased three additional all-season rigs that can be used as brush rigs in summers.<sup>73</sup> This provides additional rapid response capacity for fire suppression and road clearance. During the Labor Day windstorm in 2020, Corbett Fire received eighteen assistance calls over three hours.

The Corbett community approved a Fire District Bond in November 2022 that will allow additional storage and training space and the development of strategic water resources.

Other Corbett Fire priorities have include developing a local Firewise community to promote community resilience and defensible space, and continuing to offer address signs to rural residents to improve identification of home sites during emergencies. A Firewise community has

<sup>73</sup> <https://flashalert.net/id/CorbettFire/144748?alert=1>

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now been established for the entire Corbett Fire service area, making it one of the largest such communities in Oregon.

Some risks noted during the planning process are from downed power lines and overgrown transportation right-of-ways. Much of the Corbett Fire area is within a PGE Public Safety Power Shutoff zone, for pre-emptive power de-energization when wildfire conditions become extreme.

The Corbett Water District serves about 3,000 residents in the Corbett area, and has infrastructure located in high-risk WUI areas. The Water District uses a gravity system to provide water to customers from Gordon Creek, making it the only large-scale provider in the county to use surface water (rather than from reservoirs or groundwater), creating an increased relative risk of low flow in the summer.

### **Corbett Fire Mitigation Actions**

<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Mitigation Type</b>	<b>Mitigation Action</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Supporting Partners</b>
1	Community Engagement and Resilience Building	Continue to work on community preparedness for evacuations, including planning for moving livestock and other evacuation barriers faced by rural residents.	Corbett Fire	Multnomah County Emergency Management, Multnomah County Animal Services, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Fire Marshal
2	Structural Ignitability	Continue to develop programs to improve defensible space around homes by supporting Firewise programs and assisting residents with financial or mobility limitations for managing their properties.	Corbett Fire	East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Multnomah County Emergency Management
3	Wildfire Prevention	Support fuel mitigation work under power lines and coordinate with Multnomah County Transportation to improve vegetation management along county road right-of-ways.	Corbett Fire	Multnomah County Transportation, PGE, Bonneville Power Administration, Cascade Locks Electric
4	Wildfire Prevention	Develop chipping program to reduce flammable debris, including completing grants to procure chipping equipment.	Corbett Fire	Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State Fire Marshal
5	Structural Ignitability	Implement defensible space projects around Corbett Water District critical infrastructure.	Corbett Water District	US Bureau of Land Management
6	Wildfire Prevention	Improve water storage and fire-season water availability by upgrading aging pressure reducing control valves and constructing an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) well.	Corbett Water District	

**Communities at Risk**

Location	Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Lands	Private Lands	Camping Uses	Protection Capability	Ag/Yard Burning	Community Outreach	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
Alder Meadows Road	Low	●	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	This is a community of about six homes that are in need of defensible space as well as continued fuels reduction on adjacent lands. Water would need to be transported here. Access is limited to one way in and out.
Bridal Veil	High		●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	This is a small community that has a large number of recreational users visiting throughout the year, so there is an opportunity for community outreach. There is no water available. There is good defensible space around the structures, but heavy timber surrounds the community. Access is limited to one way in and out.
Columbia Avenue	Medium	●	●			●		●		●		●	This is a community of about 6 homes that are in dire need of defensible space as well as continued fuels reduction on adjacent lands. There is a hydrant, so water supply is sufficient. Access is limited to one way in and out.
Deverell Road	Low	●	●	●		●		●		●		●	Deverell is a small community that has a number of long, steep, one-way driveways with no signage. There are a few homes with no defensible space and there is no water here.
Donahue Road	High	●	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	This area represents less than 5 homes, but is rich in community values, as it is the primary watershed providing drinking water to Corbett area residents. As such, important infrastructure is located here including a water reservoir and operation head works. There are heavy fuels in this area as well as commercial forest management activities (Longview Fiber and Frank Timber).
Haines / Thompson Mill Roads	Medium	●	●			●		●		●	●		This area has only about 6 homes, but also includes the Antec commercial laboratory, which may use hazardous materials. Access is limited to one way in one way out. The community would benefit from defensible space as well as fuels treatment in the surrounding forest lands.

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Howard Road	Low	●	●	●		●		●		●		●	This is a larger community of about 20 homes, which sits on a steep canyon. Access is extremely limited with one way in and out. There are steep, long driveways. Water would need to be transported here to fight fire. The homes are in need of defensible space and it would be beneficial to continue fuels reduction efforts onto adjacent forest lands.
Latourell / Alex Barr Roads	High	●	●	●		●		●		●		●	There are about 20 homes in this community. Alex Barr has a steep gravel road and both Latourell and Alex Barr are one way in and out. Water would need to be transported here to support firefighting efforts. Defensible space is needed around homes and continued fuels reduction is needed on the south side of Latourell.
Maffet Road	Low	●	●	●		●		●		●			This is a small community of about 5 homes. The access in this area is 1-way, but it isn't steep and can be accessed fairly easily. There are heavy fuels in the area and no water available for wildfire fighting.
Mannthey Road	Medium		●	●	●	●		●		●		●	Mannthey Road is a community of about 10 homes that have fairly good defensible space. Fuels reduction is needed around the community to really protect the structures from a fire spreading from forest lands. There is no water here, and access is poor with only one way in and one way out.
Red Elder, Fern Road, Hemlock Roads	High	●	●	●		●		●		●		●	This community has about 15 residences. Access is limited to steep one-way in and out roads.
Rickert to O'Regan Roads	Medium	●	●	●		●		●		●		●	This is a community of about 15 homes that are in need of defensible space. Heavy timber surrounding the community should also be treated to reduce the spread of fire. Access is very poor with steep, gravel one way roads and poor address signage. Water would need to be transported here.

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Location	Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Lands	Private Lands	Camping Uses	Protection Capability	Ag/Yard Burning	Community Outreach	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
Sandy River Delta	Medium		●	●	●		●	●	●				Thousand Acres is part of the US Forest Service, who contracts with Corbett Fire for fire suppression. This area has high fuels comprised of invasive species including Himalayan Blackberry and Scotch Broom. There are many potential ignition sources, as it is adjacent to Interstate 84 and Rail Road, has an off-leash dog park that has heavy recreational use. The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area is working on restoration of native vegetation and eradication of the Himalayan Blackberry.
Toll, Brower & Palmer Mill Roads	High	●	●	●		●		●		●		●	This is a community of about 20 homes. Although there is a draft site on Toll Road, water would need to be transported to Brower and Palmer Mill during a wildfire event. This area has very poor access, with one-way egress on steep, narrow gravel roads.
Trout Creek Road/ Aims Community	Medium	●	●	●		●		●		●			Trout Creek is home to over 50 residences. The community lies at the eastern edge of the Corbett RFPD with extended response times from the main station. The Aims Community is located along the southern Multnomah County/Clackamas County border. Any response here would likely be coordinated with Clackamas Fire District #1. It is surrounded by managed forestlands. Johannesen Road is one way in one way out, and there is a pond there for water. Groce Road is one way in and out, does not have sufficient water.

Priority Fuel Mitigation Location	Project Details
Entire Corbett Fire service area	Home defensible space projects identified through Firewise program, especially for residents with barriers to vegetation and structure management. Locations beneath power lines and county road right-of-ways.
Alder Meadows Road	Defensible space and projects on adjacent landscapes

<b>Priority Fuel Mitigation Location</b>	<b>Project Details</b>
<b>Columbia Avenue</b>	Defensible space and projects on adjacent landscapes
<b>Deverell Road</b>	Defensible space
<b>Donahue Road</b>	Defensible space and projects on adjacent landscapes
<b>Haines/Thompson Mills Roads</b>	Defensible space and projects on adjacent landscapes
<b>Howard Road</b>	Defensible space and projects on adjacent landscapes
<b>Latourell/Alex Barr Roads</b>	Defensible space and projects on adjacent landscapes
<b>Maffett Road</b>	Projects on adjacent landscapes
<b>Mannthey Road</b>	Projects on adjacent landscapes
<b>Red Elder, Fern Road, Hemlock Roads</b>	Defensible space
<b>Rickert to O'Regan Roads</b>	Defensible space and projects on adjacent landscapes
<b>Sandy River Delta</b>	Support native species restoration
<b>Toll, Brower &amp; Palmer Mill Roads</b>	Defensible space
<b>Trout Creek Road/ Aims Community</b>	Defensible space