

### 5.3.3 Gresham Fire (including Rural Fire Protection District 10 and the Cities of Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village)



Gresham Fire is Multnomah County’s second largest urban fire district by population served, with service across east county cities and rural areas from the City of Gresham’s border with the City of Portland to the west bank of the Sandy River. In total, Gresham Fire’s seven stations responded to nearly 17,000 calls in 2019, with 435 of those being structural or outdoor fire responses.

Fire protection service for the Cities of Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village is provided through an Intergovernmental Agreement, and these cities receive the same wildfire protection and suppression services (among other services) as the City of Gresham. A Four City Fire Service Board meets quarterly to coordinate fire and emergency services.

Gresham also provides service to Rural Fire Protection District 10 through a separate Intergovernmental Agreement for service in the City of Maywood Park and a number of unincorporated locations surrounding Gresham’s city limits.

Mitigation actions, communities at risk, and priority fuel treatment areas are included as a single table for all of the locations that are served by Gresham Fire.

[Interactive Version of This Map](#)

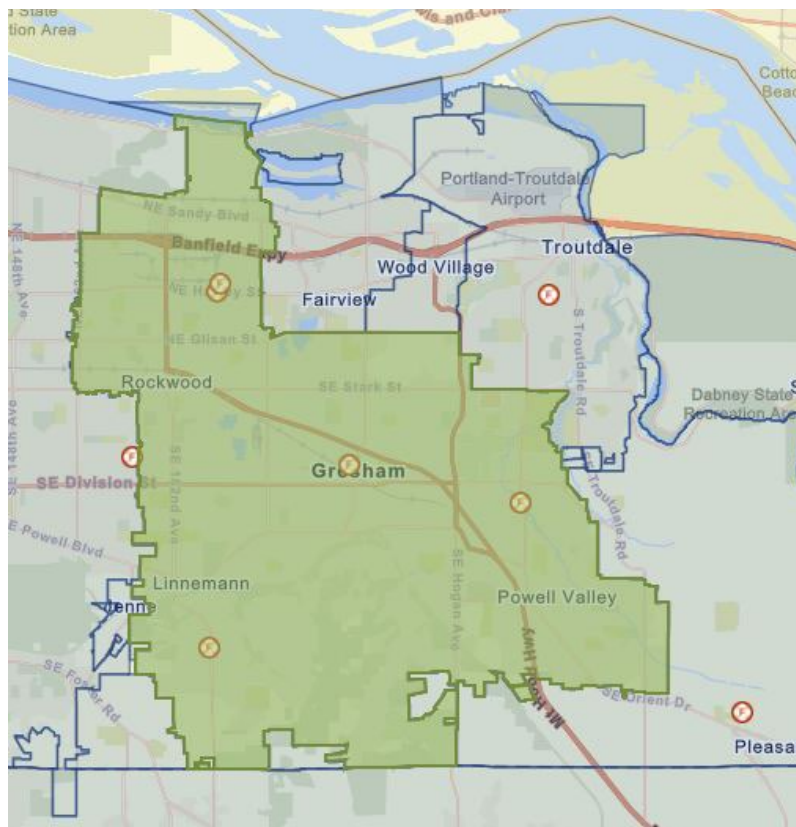


Figure 56 - Gresham Fire service area in the City of Gresham, with boundaries of Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village also shown. Map from Oregon State Fire Marshal’s office.

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Within the City of Gresham, the most notable wildfire risk area is at the East Buttes, a series of extinct volcanoes that now are part of a park and trail system, but also include neighborhoods in and adjacent to the buttes.

### *Rural Fire Protection District 10 (RFPD 10)*

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

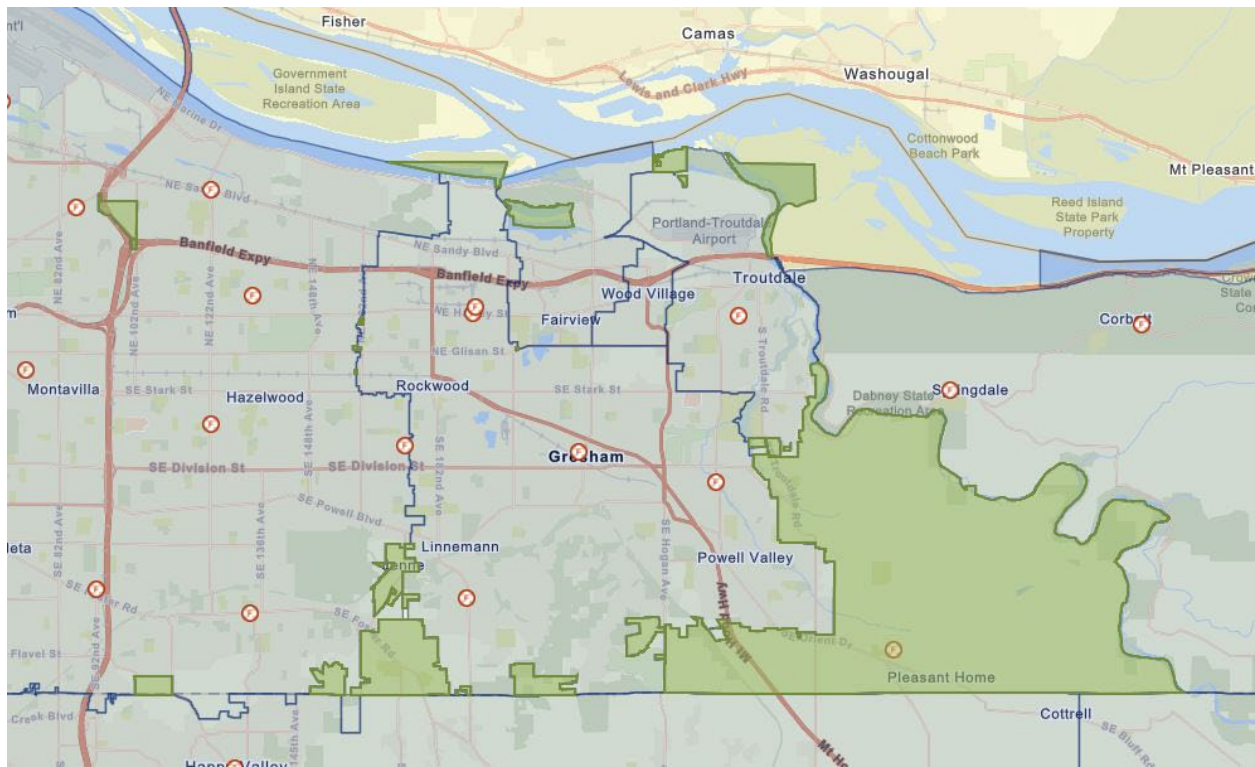


Figure 57 - Service area of Rural Fire Protection District 10, with widely located unincorporated areas and the City of Maywood Park in the top left. Map from Oregon State Fire Marshal.

RFPD 10 was founded in 1935 and provides two fire stations and a fire training center staffed by Gresham Fire. Gresham Fire's brush unit is located at RFPD 10's Station 76, built in 2015, which serves a 14-mile rural area west of the Sandy River with some of Gresham Fire's highest wildfire risk.

Notable areas included in RFPD 10's area include major risk areas at Oxbow Regional Park, the unincorporated community of Pleasant Valley, and unincorporated areas southeast of Powell Valley.

#### *City of Troutdale*

Of the three cities with fire services contracted to Gresham Fire, Troutdale has the highest risk from wildfire and the largest areas where fuel reduction and defensible space projects would be beneficial. Troutdale is located at the mouth of the Columbia River Gorge and has incorporated limits on both sides of the steep, forested banks of the Sandy River as well as a densely vegetated floodplain along Beaver Creek.

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Troutdale would likely be the first incorporated community to have an evacuation order and be the first to potentially receive embers from a large east wind driven fire in the Columbia River Gorge. Because of its proximity to risk areas, most of the City of Troutdale is considered to be a WUI area. Gresham Station 75, owned by RFPD 10, is located in Troutdale.

### *Cities of Fairview and Wood Village*

Fairview and Wood Village have identified wildfire risk as a low concern in their most recent Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Both cities are smaller enclaves between other incorporated cities and are therefore buffered from wildfires coming from rural areas. Both cities have parks and a small number of vegetated undeveloped lots that could be ignition sources of highly localized fires.

Despite this lower risk, the majority of both cities are still considered WUI areas because of their proximity to potential large wildfires, especially from the east. However, unlike Troutdale, since neither city has much potential wildfire ignition locations within city limits, they also have few potential wildfire impact areas as defined in the PNW-QWRA.

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

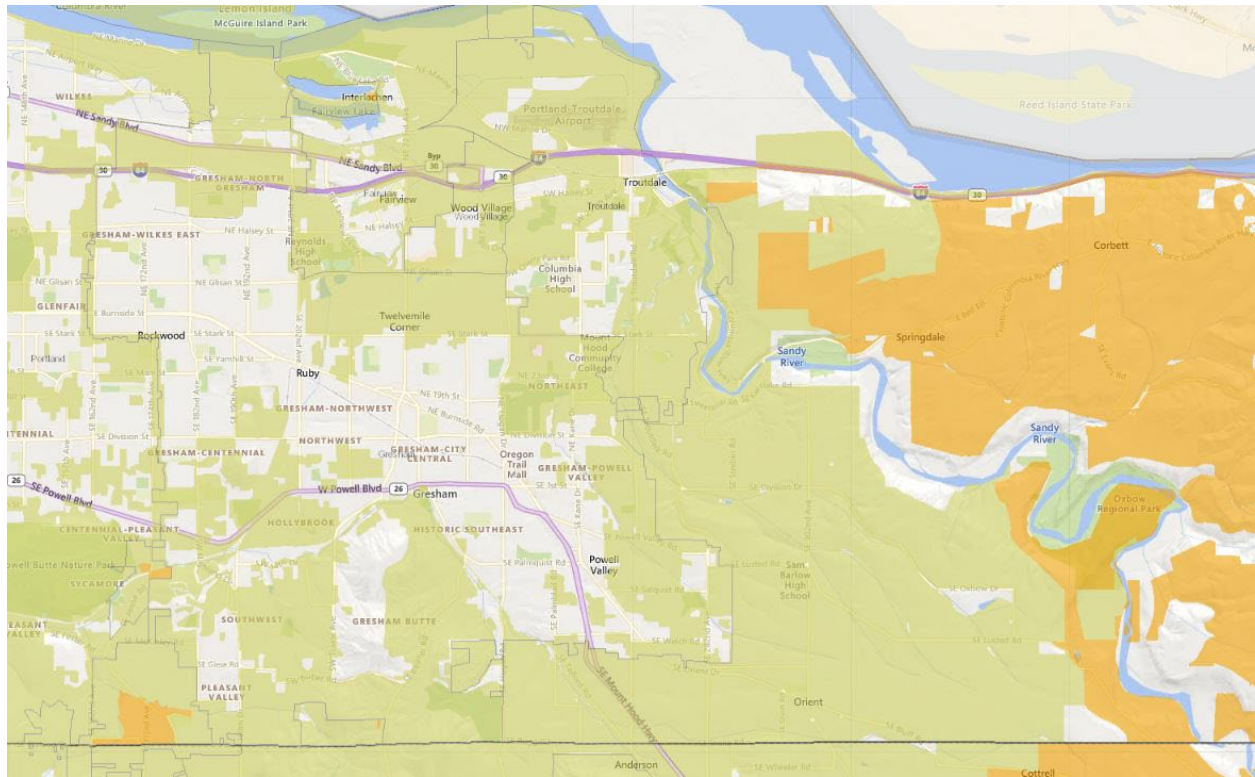


Figure 58 - Map showing WUI Hazard Areas in Gresham service areas, which are widespread. Orange areas have higher risk, identified around Oxbow Park and Pleasant Valley.

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

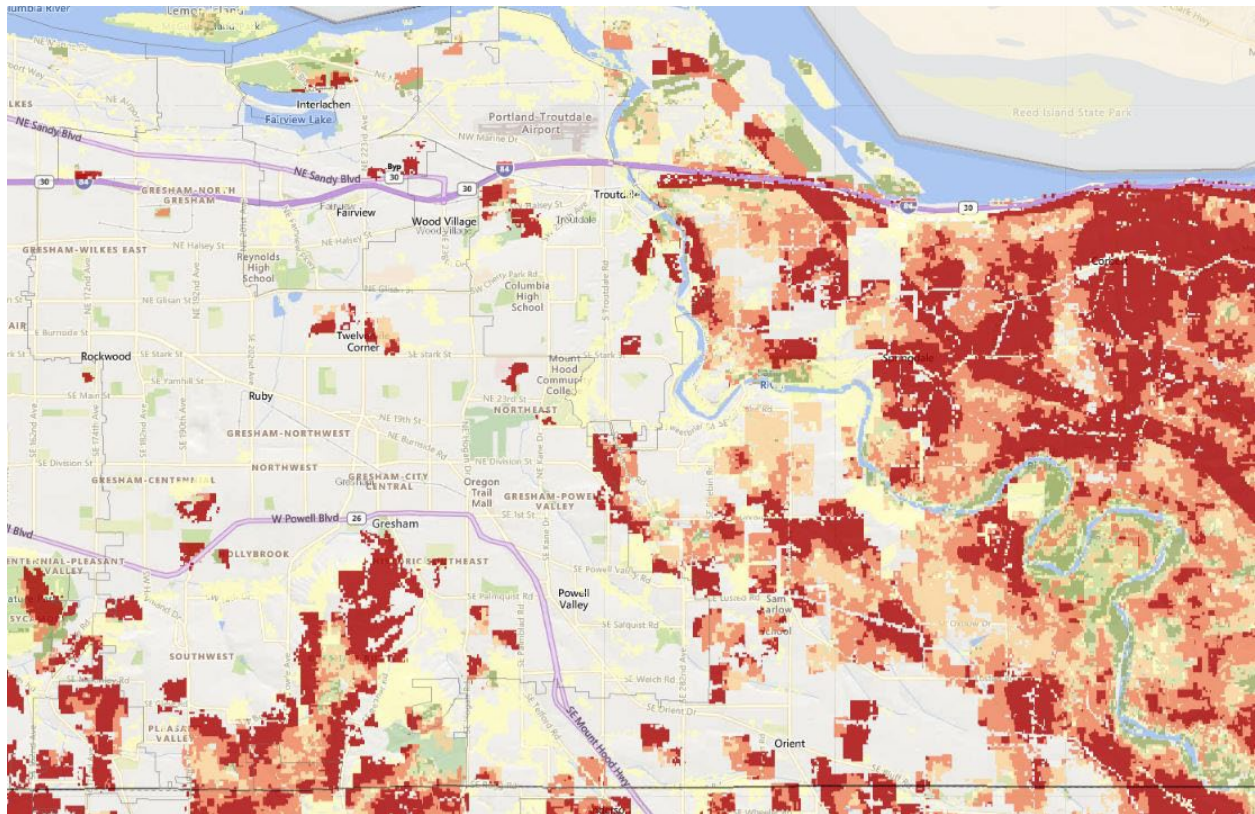


Figure 59 – PNW-QWRA map showing potential impact of wildfire in Gresham Fire service areas. Dark red areas face the highest impact. The East Buttes and RFPD 10 areas southeast of Gresham show the largest high impact areas. Portions of Troutdale also have notable risk.

A primary issue in Gresham is for staffing capacity for initiatives around community engagement and property level fuels reduction. Fuels reduction in parks and other large public tracts may also reduce risk to neighborhoods served by Gresham Fire. An ongoing process is the coordination of fire prevention policy with the other city governments served by Gresham Fire.

A number of locations in high-risk fire areas have emergency response access issues with one-way-in/one-way-out roads.

**Gresham Fire (including Rural Fire Protection District 10 and the Cities of Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village) Mitigation Strategies**

Action No.	Mitigation Type	Mitigation Action	Supporting Partners
1	Data and Risk Assessment	Develop a local vulnerability analysis to refine priorities for outreach and mitigation projects.	Gresham Emergency Management
2	Data and Risk Assessment	Develop structural and fuel loading assessments for the Oxbow Parkway area.	Metro Parks and Natural Areas
3	Community Engagement and Resilience Building	Develop strategies for adopting, funding, and implementing National Fire Protection Association Community Risk Reduction Standards within the Life Safety Division of Gresham Fire, to enhance education and prevention initiatives in Wildland Urban Interface areas.	Oregon State Fire Marshal
4	Community Engagement and Resilience Building	Conduct annual community meetings in high-risk areas, including the East Buttes and Springwater Corridor, to educate residents about defensible space and other measures to reduce structural ignitability. Use meetings to solicit feedback on wildfire risk-reduction projects that would have wide community support.	Gresham Emergency Management, Multnomah County Emergency Management
5	Community Engagement and Resilience Building	Assist in developing a community-driven pre-disaster plan and other strategies for strengthening community response outside of the City of Gresham limits, particularly in neighborhoods with one-in, one-out road access.	Multnomah County Emergency Management, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
6	Structural Ignitability	Develop planning code amendments in the City of Gresham to support wildfire mitigation strategies, including consideration of a wildfire overlay.	Gresham Urban Design and Planning, Gresham Natural Resources Program
7	Structural Ignitability	Obtain structural ignitability data through structural triage data assessment collection for homes in strategic planning areas.	
8	Structural Ignitability	Seek and support grant funding and cost-share programs to support fuels reduction projects and the creation of defensible space around homes.	Gresham Emergency Management, Gresham Natural Resources Program, City of Fairview, City of Troutdale, City of Wood Village, Multnomah County Emergency Management, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
9	Land and Vegetation Management	Partner with private and public land managers, including power utilities, to reduce hazardous fuel loading in forested lands, open space, and other vegetated corridors.	Portland General Electric, Bonneville Power Administration, Gresham Natural Resources, Metro Parks and Natural Areas, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Department of Forestry
10	Land and Vegetation Management	Identify continuing funding sources for fuels reduction processes, including contracts for felling, brush treatment, and on-call forestry service.	Gresham Emergency Management, Gresham Natural Resources Program, City of Troutdale

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Action No.	Mitigation Type	Mitigation Action	Supporting Partners
11	Wildfire Prevention	Determine interest in the City of Troutdale for adopting a backyard burn policy similar to existing policies in the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, and Wood Village.	City of Troutdale
12	Operational Capacity and Coordination	Seek a funding partner to support wildland fire training for Gresham Fire personnel, recognizing that city and county locations outside of ODF service boundaries may have more limited subsidized training options.	Oregon State Fire Marshal
13	Operational Capacity and Coordination	Increase Gresham Fire staffing to meet suppression and training goals.	Oregon State Fire Marshal
14	Operational Coordination and Capacity	Coordinate on any logging road or trail decommissioning to ensure emergency access or secondary egress is not reduced for one-in, one-out access neighborhoods.	Metro Parks and Natural Areas, Oregon State Parks, Forestry Tract Landowners
15	Operational Coordination and Capacity	Initiate an awareness campaign on the safety benefits of existing private properties upgrading their addressing signage to meet new development standards	Gresham Urban Design and Planning, Multnomah County Land Use, City of Troutdale
16	Operational Coordination and Capacity	Have information available through dispatch to first responders to assist unhoused residents, including assuring these residents receive emergency response information. Develop interagency partnerships to develop a communication plan and identify other coordinated risk reduction efforts.	Gresham Community Services, Gresham Emergency Management, Gresham Police, Multnomah County Emergency Management, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Joint Office of Homeless Services

**Communities at Risk**

Location	Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Lands	Camping Uses	Ag/Yard Burning	Community Outreach	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
Blue Lake	Low	●	●		●		●	●			Blue Lake is a recreational area that is managed by Metro. The residential area around Blue Lake is concentrated along Interlachen Road which provides only own way in and one way out. Many of the homes along Interlachen Road have cedar shake roofs. The residential area is adjacent to grassland that dries out significantly in summer months and provides ample fuel to start a wildfire. The dry grasslands coupled with exposure and potential ignition sources from residential development and the recreationists that use Blue Lake make it a Community at Risk.
Lower Sandy River Bend	High	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	This community is a heavily vegetated residential area adjacent to the Sandy River. It is characterized by steep slopes, heavy fuels, poor access and limited water supply. The area includes: Jackson Park Road, Sandy Dell and Wilson Road, which all provide only one way in and one way out for residents. Sandy Dell is a gravel road, presenting additional difficulties for emergency service vehicles and Wilson Road is extremely steep. Wildfire hazard awareness has increased since 2011 because of local events.
Oxbow Parkway	High	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	This area is a high priority area for prevention efforts because it is difficult to access, there are heavy fuels and steep slopes, and the homes are in a canyon that presents communications issues. In addition, it is a high use recreation area that increases potential wildfire ignition sources. In 2001, Gresham Fire completed a Structural Protection Plan that articulates water supply needs, response tactics and resources needed for each of the following neighborhoods: Homan Road, Oxbow Parkway, Hosner Terrace, Francis Street, Camp Collins and Oxbow Park. Structural triage was also completed for this area in 2001. The community has neighborhood associations that meet regularly and are well-organized.
Ritchie Road	Low						●				This is a unique community at risk, as it is characterized by agricultural lands with residential properties intermixed, The nurseries in the area have special provisions to burn large quantities of woody debris, and many homeowners are concerned about the potential of embers reach their homes, escaped fires, and smoke abatement.

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Location	Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Lands	Camping Uses	Ag/Yard Burning	Community Outreach	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
Walters Hill - Gresham Butte	High	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	The Walters Hill area extends from Telford Road southwest, crossing the Multnomah/Clackamas County border. This is a high priority area for wildfire prevention activities because it is characterized by heavy fuels and steep slopes that restrict access. Some roads are one way in-one way out. Development is intermixed throughout the area and there is limited water supply for fighting a potential wildfire. Ambleside Road is particularly at risk because there is a bridge here that cannot support emergency service vehicles, water supply is very limited, and it is adjacent to Metro's green space. The residents may not be aware of the high wildfire risk in their community. This level of hazard coupled with exposure makes this CAR an excellent place to target for community outreach and other prevention efforts.
Wistful Vista	Medium	●	●					●			This community is characterized by heavy fuels and restricted access. Wistful Vista Road is the only way in and out. Due to the adjacent urban areas, the homeowners may have a false sense of security regarding wildfire hazards.

Priority Fuel Mitigation Location	Project Details
Beaver Creek Greenway (Troutdale)	Defensible space projects and management of greenway landscape to promote a fire-resilient ecosystem
Blue Lake	Defensible space projects and grassland management
Lower Sandy River (Gresham, Troutdale, Unincorporated Multnomah County)	Defensible space projects, ladder fuels and invasive vegetation management in landscapes adjacent to development
Oxbow Park	Native landscape restoration areas near residences, defensible space projects
Walters Hill-Gresham Butte	Defensible space projects and management of adjacent landscapes
Wistful Vista	Defensible space projects