

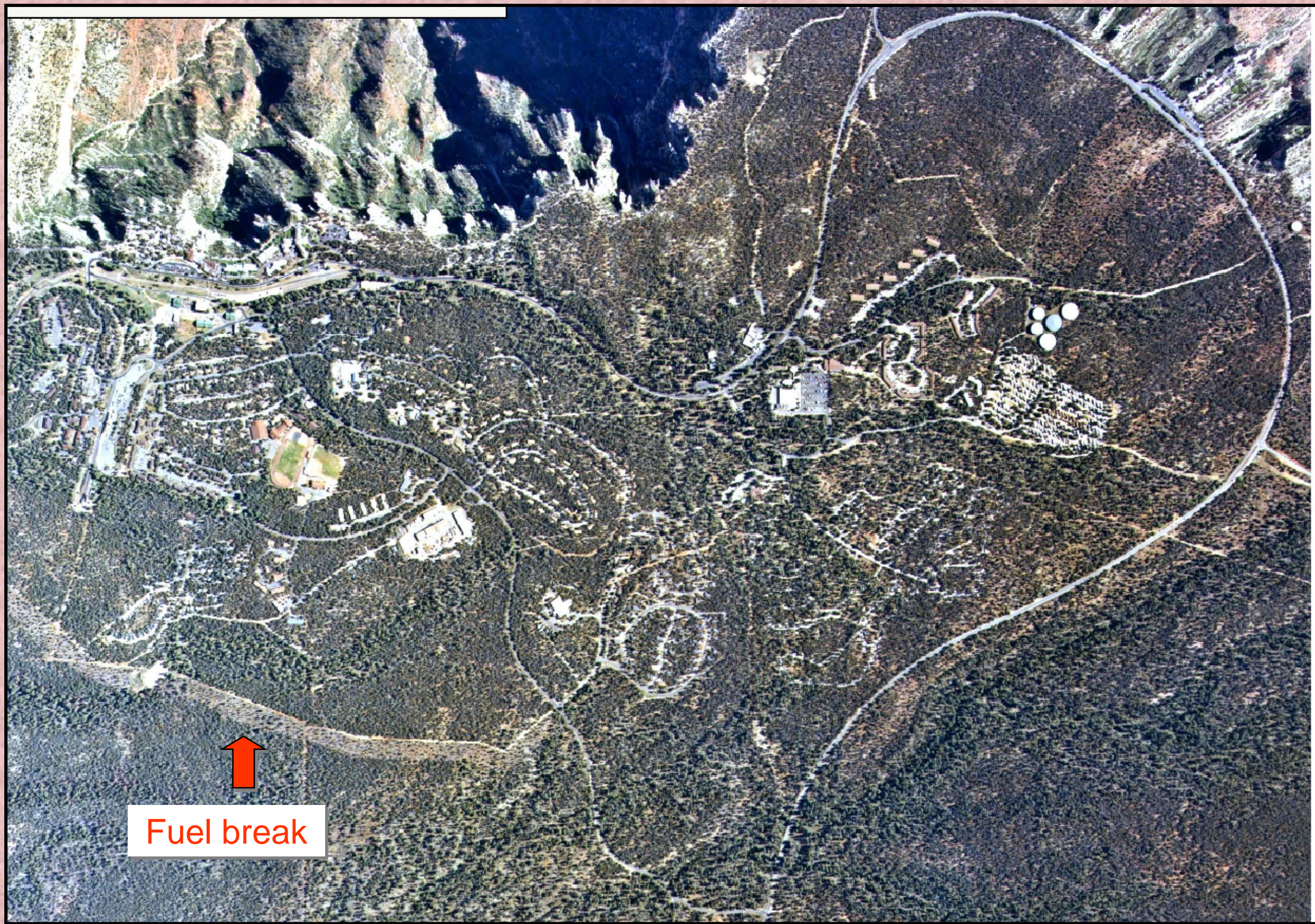


Fire Management Plan Wildland/Urban Interface



What is Wildland/Urban Interface?

The term Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) is used to describe any area where potentially dangerous combustible wildland fuels are found adjacent to combustible homes, other structures, or transportation corridors.

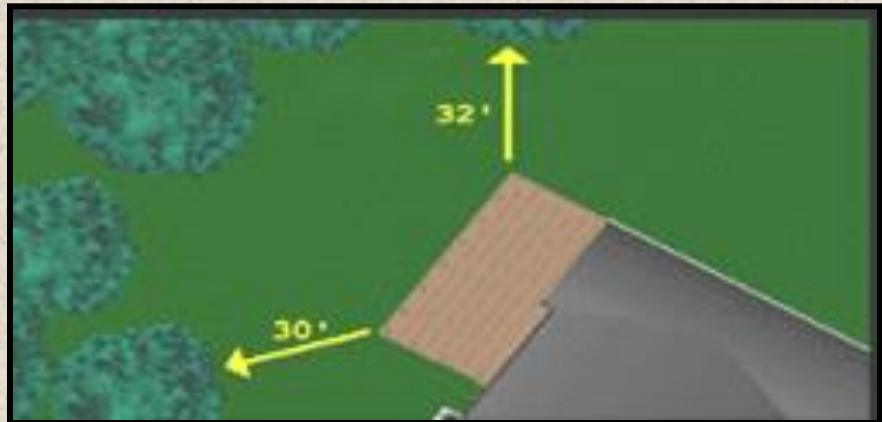


Aerial view of the South Rim of the Grand Canyon showing wildland fuels adjacent to developed areas. A fuel break created by fire crews to protect the community can be seen in the lower left area of the photo.

Reducing Fire Threats to WUIs What is Defensible Space?

Defensible space refers to the area between a house and the surrounding forest, where vegetation has been modified to reduce a fire's threat. Defensible space also provides an area for firefighters to defend the house.

Defensible space can be created by....



Clearing trees and brush 30' or more from the structure



Thinning trees and other wildland fuels



Removing lower limbs and brush that can serve as ladders to carry fire into treetops



Establishing breaks in continuous fuels

Illustrations from www.firewise.org

Grand Canyon Communities at Risk

The Park's South Rim Village, North Rim developed area, and Desert View communities are all identified as at risk from the threat of wildland fires in the Federal Register, Volume 66, #160, dated August 17, 2001.



Several projects are planned to mitigate the potential wildland fire hazard in these areas.

At Grand Canyon National Park, several methods are approved under the current Fire Management Plan for reducing threats to the wildland/urban interface from wildland fire. These include thinning trees around developed areas, creating breaks in the wildland fuels adjacent to structures, prescribed burning, or a combination of these strategies.



A low-intensity prescribed fire on the South Rim helps to reduce fuels, thereby lessening the threat of unwanted wildland fire in the developed area.



Brush piles in the North Rim developed area from the on-going Bright Angel thinning project. Excess fuels are removed from developed areas, piled, and burned when conditions are favorable.



Fall 2002 burning of brush piles created during the Bright Angel thinning project.

As communities and urban developments continue to expand around Grand Canyon National Park, fire and fuels management within the wildland/urban interface is becoming a critical component of the fire management plan.

Are YOU Firewise?

Firewise is a program sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Members of the NWCG, including the Department of Interior, are responsible for wildland fire management in the United States. NWCG's Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team directs the Firewise program.



Firewise (www.firewise.org) offers educational information for people who live or vacation in fire prone areas of the United States.

Here you can find tips on making your home safer from wildland fire, newsletters, and information on educational workshops.

Arizona Firewise (<http://cals.arizona.edu/firewise/>) offers Arizona-specific Firewise information. The above photograph is from this website and illustrates a home considered Firewise.