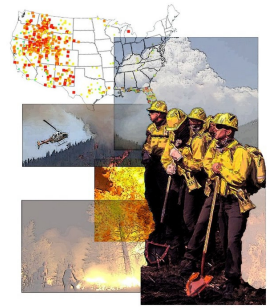


National Fire Plan

The Southern Center for Wildland/Urban Interface Research & Information Southern Region 2003



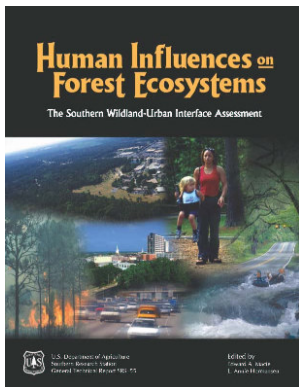
The 1998 Florida wildfires demonstrated the complexities of natural resource management within the wildland/urban interface. Shortly after these fires, then Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck conducted a review of the South that identified the wildland/urban interface as one of the main challenges for the Forest Service.

In response, the Southern Research Station and the Southern Region of the Forest Service, in



The wildland-urban interface is a key challenge in the South.

cooperation with the Southern Group of State Foresters, conducted an assessment to identify and better understand factors driving social and ecological changes within the wildland/urban interface, as well as the consequences of such changes.



Human Influences on Forest Ecosystems: The Southern Wildland - Urban Interface Assessment.

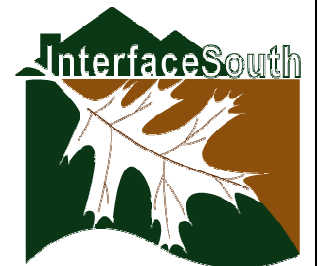
With help from the National Fire Plan, the Forest Service, in partnership with the Southern Group of State Foresters and the University of Florida's School of Forest

Resources and Conservation, established the Southern Center for

Wildland/Urban Interface Research and Information in Gainesville, Florida, in January 2002. The Center is an interdisciplinary research and technology exchange center dedicated to creating and disseminating information about expanding human influences on forest ecosystems. Activities of the Center present an immediate Forest Service response to critical findings of the [Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Assessment](#).

The mission of the Center is to develop and communicate guidelines, models, and tools needed by natural resource managers, policymakers, planners, and citizens to reduce risks to ecosystems and human communities in urban and urbanizing landscapes. The Center's website, [Interface South](#) and its electronic listserv, [SWUINET](#), provide information, facilitate the exchange of ideas and opportunities, and link people and projects dealing with interface issues. Several regional [fire research](#) projects are being conducted through a cooperative agreement with the University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation.

The Center's website, Interface South, provides information, facilitates the exchange of ideas



and opportunities, and link people and projects dealing with wildland-urban interface issues.

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