



May 6, 2025

TO: Chief Anthony Allred

FROM: Judi Short, Vice Chair and Land Use Chair
Sugar House Community Council

RE: Salt Lake Wildland Urban Interface Code PLNPCM 2025-00554

This letter is written to express support of adopting the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code proposed by Salt Lake City Fire Department.

At the September 3, 2025 Sugar House Community Council meeting and the September 15 Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting, Fire Marshal Tony Allred spoke at length about the proposed ordinance and about likely follow-up actions to assure city-wide compliance. His presentation was thorough, informative, and professional. He patiently fielded questions about hypothetical situations from homeowners whose property may be affected.

We understand the WUI code does not represent overreaching regulation, but the bare minimum standard for life and fire safety. We understand there is still uncertainty about exactly how and when affected properties will be identified and evaluated. And we understand there is uncertainty about when and how hazard mitigation plans will be required. However, in the face of these uncertainties, our trust and confidence in Salt Lake City Fire Department permits us to support adoption of the WUI code.

One concern we have is that there are a lot of city-owned properties in the city, in and around our properties. An example is the alley behind my house, and other alleys all over the city. We are concerned that the city isn't doing much to maintain these properties, and we understand that is expensive. However, if the city buys two lawnmowers and two weed eaters for this purpose, they could make a map and cover the areas all through the growing season. And if you have to raise our taxes, do it.

Land Use and Zoning CommentsView post

First Name: Thea+B2:B33

Last Name: Brannon

Email: dorotheabrannon1@gmail.com

1: The proposal as presented seems perfectly reasonable and clearly needed in this time of drought, with
1768 E Wilson Ave

Trash

List of Proposals: Wildlife Urban Interface WUI

First Name: Larry

Last Name: Wright

Email: larry1756@hotmail.com

Your Comments for the Planning Commission: 1.)At the SHCC LUZ meeting (9/15/25) Firechief Allred stated that all properties on the WUI map would be evaluated to assess fire risk. He emphasized that any property can be taken off the map. Already, the following properties have been removed from the original map: all of Jordan River Pkwy, half of Red Butte, 2/3s of Emigration, all of Parleys. The only reason my property is on the map is because the city-managed Blaine Nature Preserve is across the street (Blaine Avenue) which is 30 feet wide. All of the houses on Blaine Avenue have setbacks of 60-80 feet. This is more defensible space than you will find in many of the areas mentioned above which were taken off the WUI map.

2.)In the 25 years we have lived here, the city has neglected Blaine Nature Preserve, failing to remove dead trees/low hanging branches, letting undergrowth attain more than six inches in height. Ten years ago the neighborhood cleaned up the area and planted 250 native plants. We are willing to do more, but this is city property, and the city needs to take responsibility for it.

3.)No one mentioned that House Bill 48 introduces lot-triggered assessments and risk-based fees. This information does not appear in your Public Input and Hearing Notice, and was not presented at any of the meetings. It appears in the FAQ section of the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands website. It is bad policy to fail to notify your constituents that there is a fee or tax embedded in your bill. 4.)WUI will change the city code for my property to indicate a greater fire risk (thereby generating fees). It will make my house more difficult to insure. HB48 specifies that in 2026-2027 there will be a flat fee based on square footage of structure for "all" properties ("all" properties targeted on WUI fire map or "all" properties in the city?). From 2028 onward there will be fees based on triage assessment and square footage of structure size.

5.)The greatest fire risk to my property is mainly a fire starting in my home, or a fire starting in my neighbor's home. Not Blaine Nature Preserve.

6.)It is unfair that a targeted few take the hit financially for the whole city.

Your Street Address: 1554 EAST BLAINE AVENUE

List of Proposals: Wildlife Urban Interface WUI

First Name: Rebecca

Last Name: Davis

Email: rdavis2655@gmail.com

Your Comments for the Planning Commission: I understand the need for Salt Lake City to adopt the Utah Wildland Urban Interface Fire Code since the Utah Legislature passed HB48 - Wildfire Amendments - during the 2025 legislative session. However, I am frustrated that the zone includes my property which is south of Blaine Preserve at 1564 E Blaine Avenue in Salt Lake City. My house is separated from the Preserve by Blaine Ave. which is an asphalt road. And my home is almost 28 yards south of the edge of the Preserve.

My neighbors and I are frustrated that the Salt Lake City Open Lands department doesn't do a better job of keeping the weeds that grow in the Preserve cut down or removed each year. Earlier this summer I was taking pictures of the signs and plants in the Preserve to share with the Sugarhouse Community Council for a celebration highlighting the many things the Council has been involved in for many years. While taking the pictures, I saw that some SLC workers were looking at the Preserve. I approached them and told them that the neighbors are frustrated that the City isn't taking care of cutting down or removing the weeds in the Preserve. One of the men told me that it wasn't on their list of projects for 2025. This is very frustrating to me and my neighbors. The weeds and fallen tree branches and trash that's occasionally dumped there should be cut back/removed annually. Two of my neighbors took it upon themselves to cut down the weeds growing along the edge of the Preserve, close to Blaine Ave. So, it seems to me that the City needs to perform better maintenance on the plants in the Preserve rather than adding the houses on the south side of Blaine to the SLC Wildlife Urban Interface Map.

Your Street Address: 1564 E BLAINE AVE

List of Proposals: Wildlife Urban Interface WUI

First Name: Yvonne

Last Name: Martinez

Email: ymart626@gmail.com

Your Comments for the Planning Commission: I understand this is now a state requirement and after hearing from Fire Marshall Allred about how the City is determining the processes and the steps they are taking to ensure our safety, I support this zoning update. Thank you.

Your Street Address: 1983 S View Street

Lynn Schwarz

Thu, Sep 18, 5:37 PM (19 hours ago)

to me

Sending this to you as I never know if I will be under the number of words.

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This Fire Code is being implemented to put Salt Lake City in compliance with new Utah State laws and the International Fire Code. There are many positive aspects to the proposal which incorporates best practices in new construction and replacement building materials and landscaping provisions to create defensible spaces between landscaping and structures.

However, many properties listed as subject to the WUI Code are adjacent to or nearby City properties, which have not been maintained in any meaningful manner. Before requiring property owners adjacent to City properties to undertake expensive mitigation measures at their own cost, City properties must be brought into the highest degree of compliance and continue to be maintained at that level so that adjacent property owners can:

1. Possibly be removed from the Interface Parcel List or
2. Be required to do less than would be necessary if there were no mitigation to adjacent City property.

Salt Lake City should also set up a Mitigation Fund so that property owners (investors not eligible) could be at least partially reimbursed for required expenses caused by new Codes.