



## PRESCOTT AREA WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE COMMISSION

### Q4 2015 Report

#### Organization Objectives

##### **2016 Officers Election**

At the December general meeting the following officers were elected unanimously: Bob Betts, Chairman; Jim Buchanan, Vice Chairman; Julia Bernal, Treasurer; and Jeanne Seely, Development Director.

##### **New Firewise © Communities**

Last quarter we recognized the certification of High Valley Ranch as a Firewise Community protecting some 44 properties. By year end Prescott Lakes had submitted their paperwork for recognition. With their 1550+ properties it brings the total number of new properties recognized under the NFPA Firewise Communities/USA® to near 1,600 on top of our existing 12,090 lots/properties in the Prescott Basin.

All Prescott Basin Firewise Communities and Crown King had submitted their annual re-certification applications to the NFPA .

##### **Marketing and Public Relations**

PAWUIC rolled out fire apparatus from Prescott Fire Department, Groom Creek Fire District, Central Yavapai Fire District, Prescott National Forest and Arizona State Forestry, Walker and Williamson Valley Fire Districts for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade.

Melanie DeMaria from Yavapai Hills along with five of her "gal pals" climbed aboard Prescott Fire Department Paramedic Engine Company's vehicle after winning the Ride-Along Raffle held by PAWUIC.

PAWUIC and our new yavapaifirewise.org banners were prominently displayed on the trucks along with the listing of all of our 35 Yavapai County Firewise communities. Chief Light requested our new static decals for all of his equipment to help us get the new logo in front of the Prescott community. Many thanks goes to the Prescott Fire Department and the City of Prescott for the many levels of support that they provide throughout the year.

Jane Orr and Steven Rogers who maintain the Senator Highway DriveIn billboard have been posting Firewise messages when they have available space. The income from messages on the billboard goes to support the Prescott High School Alumni Association. Let's support them and buy a personal greeting of your own for \$25/line, maximum of three lines. Send requests to [driveinsign@yahoo.com](mailto:driveinsign@yahoo.com)

#### Finance

##### **Financial Recap**

	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Beginning Bank Balance	\$17,771.34	\$17,866.43	\$19,272.12
Total Deposits	\$ 7,477.63	\$ 4,065.99	\$ 7,000.00
Subtotal	\$25,248.97	\$21,932.42	\$26,272.12

Debits/Expenses	\$ 7,382.54	\$ 2,660.30	\$ 2,213.07
Ending Bank Balance	\$17,866.43	\$19,272.12	\$24,059.05
Pending Balance	\$ 570.93	\$ 2,027.12	\$ 300.00
Checkbook Balance	\$17,295.50	\$17,494.94	\$23,759.05
Title III Monies 2015	\$ 9,106.30	\$ 9,106.30	\$ 9,106.30
Title III Monies 2016			\$ 6,750.00
Actual Operational Monies	\$ 8,189.20	\$ 8,388.64	\$ 7,902.75

### **Fundraising**

Proceeds from the Christmas Ride-Along Raffle reached nearly \$3,000 with the top three producers being the Firewise Communities of Hidden Valley Ranch, Quail Hollow and Prescott Summit, respectively.

Plans are being formulated to reach out to businesses for support in 2016 along with broadening our approach to charitable trusts and foundations.

Although this happened in Q1 2016 it bears recognition. The Foothills Property Owners Association authorized a contribution of \$5 per lot to further the mission of PAWUIC. Along with that contribution was the challenge to our other Firewise Communities to match that level of annual giving. Our many thanks to Dick Good, President and other members of The Foothills board of directors.

We will be making it easy for other communities to take up the challenge as PAWUIC will be participating in Arizona Gives Day on April 5, 2016 and PayPal will be available in Q1 on our website at [yavapaifirewise.org](http://yavapaifirewise.org)

#### ***What is Arizona Gives Day?***

Arizona Gives Day is a single statewide day of giving that has raised \$4.5 million for Arizona nonprofits since 2013. Participating nonprofits also receive training, marketing support, and a chance to win a portion of \$175,000 in prize money. Arizona Gives Day will take place on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (Arizona Time).

## **Interagency Support**

### **Arizona State Forestry Division**

ASFD completed the required studies necessary to begin work along the State Trust Land boundaries with Granite Oaks. Fuels reduction will begin in Q1 2016 as work continues along Williamson Valley Road with Yavapai County Probationers providing hand thinning in this same area.

Arizona State Forestry has expanded from three to five the number of district offices covering the state. Russ Shumate who has been acting Phoenix District Manager will become the Northwest District Manager moving his offices into space available from the Chino Valley Fire Department. The move will provide storage for an emergency apparatus on site.

### **Prescott Fire Department**

The Community Risk Reduction Division has received Title III funding to augment the cost of continuing to provide curbside chipping service to Prescott residents. Homeowners should make requests for chipping one month in advance.

### **Yavapai County**

Yavapai County was recognized during the December general meeting for their more than \$2.8M of Title III funds distributed to Firewise Communities and Fire Districts since 2002. The partnership between PAWUIC and Yavapai County is very deep and the financial and in-kind contributions to support hazardous fuels reduction will approach \$680,000 in 2016. We sincerely appreciate the ongoing support of Supervisors Craig Brown, 'Chip' Davis, Rowle Simmons, Jack Smith, and Tom Thurman.

The County is also offering assistance for fuels mitigation with hand thinning projects through the use of adult probationers. Contact Van Parson, Community Restitution Coordinator at 928-583-1172 or your district

Supervisor for more information.

Two spectacular roadside mitigation efforts lead by the County are out Williamson Valley and Iron Springs Road through Skull Valley to Yava. Hundred of acres of hazardous vegetation has been removed. Take a drive out to see that fuels mitigation can also be a beautification exercise.

Thanks to the County Board of Supervisors for their continuing efforts to make Yavapai County safe for all of us.

### **Prescott National Forest**

PNF completed 100 acres of thinning out to the curb along Walker Road and will continue that work on the east side of Walker Road in 2016. This work was a part of the multi-year Joint Chiefs' Restoration Partnership which also included the 250 acre Spruce Ridge Thinning Project.

In October the PNF completed a mastication project in the Lynx Lake/Walker corridor with remediation of 1,000 acres. More than 2,800 was treated and reported under the Joint Chiefs' program in November.

A RAC grants was awarded to the Highland Center for Natural History to allow for thinning and mastication of 25-30 acres around the center.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

Most of the work in the Yarnell area has been completed. They will begin mechanical treatments near Costco, off Rt 69 in the Mayer/Dewey area and are undertaking a joint project with Arizona State Foresry adjacent to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

## **Task Force**

### **Mitigation Behavior Study**

Eric Steffey, Ph.D. candidate is developing the protocol for the interview process to be conducted in the Prescott Basin. Specific communities have been targeted and final approval of the study methodology is expected in February. Past PAWUIC Chairman, Jerry Borgelt is co-chairing the study.

### **Watershed Management**

Based upon the experience of Flagstaff following the Schultz Fire in 2010 that imperiled the drinking water supply, in concert with the Prescott National Forest's Ben DeBlois we will engage with other groups like the Citizen's Water Advisory Group, Prescott Streams and the Verde River Basin Partnership group to study what additional steps should be taken to protect and potentially grow our watersheds. Natural Resources Conservation Service's Marques Munis will be actively involved in this pursuit.

## **Legislative Issues**

No changes from previously reported bills.

## **Grant Activity**

### **Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Grant Program 2014** (WFHF14-206)

This grant program administered through PAWUIC is from the USDA Forest Service and the Arizona State Forestry Division. This grant targets remediation and fuels mitigation in: Ponderosa Park; Prescott Summit; and Walker; with a reserve of acreage for new communities in the beginning stages of Firewise certification.

### **TOTALS THIS QUARTER:**

Total Acres:	46.123	36.90%	78.877 remaining
Federal Funds Used for Mitigation	\$56,672.34	39.28%	
Federal Funds Used for Chipper Days	\$11,502.47	58.37%	
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS USED	\$76,978.67	43.08%	
In Kind Match	*		

Volunteer Hours	*
Total Trees Removed:	482

\*In Kind Match and Volunteer Hours have exceeded the 150% maximum. Further reporting is unnecessary.

#### **Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Grant Program 2015** (WFHF15-208)

A formal grant agreement was signed for \$197,655 to provide fuels mitigation assistance for: Yavapai Hills; Iron Springs; Prescott Skyline; Lynx Mountain Estates; Dewey-Humboldt; Blue Hills; Williamson Valley Corridor; and Granite Oaks among others. This is a 90/10 grant; the overall project is worth \$217,000

#### **TOTALS THIS QUARTER:**

Acres:	35.41	21.20%
Federal Funds Used Mitigation:	\$22,340.00	15.19%
In Kind Match:	30.73 Hrs @ \$553.14	35.03%
Volunteer Hours:	64.15 Hrs. @ \$1,154.70	
Total Trees Removed:	422	

#### **Secure Rural Schools Act – Title III 2015-2016**

PAWUIC was awarded \$13,500 for fuels mitigation efforts within the Home Ignition Zones in communities actively pursuing status as a certified Firewise Community.

## **Upcoming Events**

#### **Open House at Arizona Wildfire and Incident Command Academy(AWICA)**

Open and free to the public. On Thursday, March 10 the Academy will let you watch more than 700 firefighters train in wildland fire procedures and incident command management exercises at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Open house is between 8am and 3pm. For more information go to [www.azwildfireacademy.org](http://www.azwildfireacademy.org) or call 928-442-3563.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Arizona Wildland-Urban Interface and Firewise Summit**

You are invited to the 2016 Arizona Wildland-Urban Interface and Firewise Summit to be held in Phoenix, AZ on April 1-2, 2016! Registration is open and is free to all!

According to the 2010 Census in Arizona, over 1.2 million homes have been built in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), defined as that area where wildland vegetation comes into contact with houses and structures. For fire managers, the challenges of fighting fire safely and effectively in the WUI are complex and ever increasing. But as homeowners, you have the power to not only increase the chance of your house surviving a wildland fire but also to take actions that will make it easier and safer for firefighters to combat fires in the WUI.

This 2-day summit will equip the homeowner as well as fire departments and firefighters with information and actions they can take to reduce loss and increase safety in their community. Topics include fire ecology, hazard fuel reduction grants, insurance issues, risk assessments, Fire Adapted Communities, Ready, Set, Go!, Firewise principles, emergency management, forest health, and various programs to help the homeowner and community prepare for wildland fire. Representatives from numerous private, city, county, state, and federal agencies will be present, including Arizona State Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Arizona Prescribed Fire Council, Southwest Fire Science Consortium, APS, SRP, Arizona Nursery Association, Arizona State Fire Marshal, and National Fire Protection Association, among others.

The Summit runs from 9:00am to 4:00pm on April 1 and from 8:00am to 3:00pm on April 2.

Travel scholarships are available for those who need assistance. For more information, go to: <http://swfireconsortium.org/events/travel-grant-application-form/>.

For more information and the latest updates, go to [www.azsf.gov/newsroom/current-events](http://www.azsf.gov/newsroom/current-events). Questions may be directed to Carrie Dennett at [carriedennett@azsf.gov](mailto:carriedennett@azsf.gov).

### **2016 Wildfire Expo**

Saturday, April 23 from 10am until 4pm PAWUIC will join with Prescott National Forest, Arizona State Forestry, Prescott Fire Department, Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority (CYFD), Animal Disaster Services and others to present our annual Expo on the Courthouse Square. The event is held in conjunction with the Open Space Alliance in celebration of Earth Day.

The fire departments will be bringing their engines for inspection and photo ops on the Cortez Street north of Goodwin. Smokey Bear, Truckee and Goofy will also be on hand to delight the children.

Come learn how you can protect your family and property from the ravages of wildfire by creating defensible space.

### **Being in the Know**

Please take time to visit both the NFPA Fire Break Blog at <http://nfpa.typepad.com/firewise/> and their main website for Firewise Communities USA® at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

And for both local and national information please visit PAWUIC at [yavapaifirewise.org](http://yavapaifirewise.org)

### **USAA Insurance Discounts for Firewise Communities**

This past year the Departments of Insurance in California, Colorado and Texas have approved filings by USAA to give homeowners insurance discounts to USAA members living in communities recognized by the Firewise Communities/USA® program. We sent a letter to USAA CEO, Stuart Parker to help us approach the Arizona Department of Insurance in order to offer similar discounts for the 60+ Firewise communities throughout Arizona (of which 33 are in the Prescott Basin and Crown King). It is our intent to expand this letter-writing campaign to other insurance companies whose consumers are not just US armed services related.

### **Expressed Appreciation**

We would like to thank Prescott Frontier Days for the use of the Freeman Building for our monthly meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Betts, Chairman  
Jim Buchanan, Vice Chairman  
Julia Bernal, Treasurer  
Jeanne Seely, Development Director  
Jerry Borgelt, Past Chairman