

2017 Annual Report

Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission

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Chairman's Welcome

Since accepting the chairmanship in November, I have seen firsthand how generous and hardworking our Firewise communities, agencies and volunteers can be.

An example of generosity is the year over year rise in donations by over 410 percent. For commitment, there was Timber Ridge's receipt of the fifteen year Firewise USA award. Over the last ten years alone the Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission (PAWUIC) has brought more than \$7,000,000 in federal grants to our region to assist in fuels reduction projects. However, competition for grants is increasing, while the availability of funds is shrinking. We are serving more communities each year with fewer dollars as we spread our message across the county.

We continue to seek more operational funds that are distinctly different than grant funding. Grants are almost without exception project based. PAWUIC is recognized nationally as a model for the Firewise USA® program. An organization of this importance to the long term goals of Prescott and Yavapai County deserves to have a sound financial foundation.

Verde Lakes, Jerome, Pinon Oaks, Willow Cove and Old Senator Hwy/Juniper Heights became recognized Firewise USA sites in 2017. In other words this organization has helped to create defensible space on over 17,000 properties across Yavapai County. Two years ago our new website was unveiled with an easy to remember name, YavapaiFirewise.Org to reflect on our expanding service area.

Our mission since PAWUIC's formation in 1990 is "to help maintain the quality of the environment and of living in the Prescott area by providing leadership and continuity in the management of wildland/urban interface issues." One dollar of prevention can save twenty-two or more dollars in wildfire suppression. Three words summarize our commitment to the people of Yavapai County: prepare; protect; preserve. *Michael Orr*

2017 Highlights



Wildfire Mitigation Award

Teresa Chase, former Forest Supervisor from the Prescott National Forest nominated Bob Betts for the Wildfire Mitigation Award. This award is the highest national commendation for innovation and leadership displayed by individuals committed to wildfire mitigation and is sponsored by the National Association of State Foresters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Protection Association and the USDA Forest Service.

Changes in Policies and Procedures

In August 2015, the new position of Chairman Emeritus was added to the Policies and Procedures. This position is filled by Bob Betts and Jerry Borgelt. The quarterly report was changed to an annual report.

Christmas Parade

The Annual Prescott Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade was held Saturday, December 1, 2017. The theme was A Cowboy Christmas. PAWUIC won third place float award thanks to the Prescott Fire Department Fuels Crew entry.



Firewise Communities Updates

Three new communities became recognized Firewise USA® in 2017 including Jerome, Old Senator Highway-Juniper Heights & Pinon Oaks.

Firewise Community /USA

Firewise community/USA program was renamed Firewise USA®



Goodwin Fire

The Goodwin Fire that started June 24th consumed 28,500 acres at a cost of \$14.5 million. Over 1,000 fire personnel were involved. Every agency on the fire did a fantastic job! Structures were lost in Breezy Pines, but we are so fortunate that the firefighting efforts prevented the fire from advancing into Walker, Mayer, and Dewey Humboldt. Subsequent rains did lead to mudslides in Mayer, which damaged some houses and forced over 50 students to relocate from the region thereby affecting the schools system's state subsidy.

BE FIREWISE

CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE



INFO: 777-1700

SPONSORED BY
PAWUIC

News Update Cont.

New Treasurer

Linda Wisker was elected Treasurer at the August Meeting.

Fire Adapted Network Nation (FAC)

PAWUIC was named as a hub in the nationwide fire adapted communities learning network. <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/>

Proposition 443

August 29th, 2017 Proposition 443 was passed by the voters of the city of Prescott. This proposition adds \$.0075 to the city sales tax for a maximum of ten years to resolve the problem with the \$81 million unfunded Public Safety Personnel Retirement System liability.

Many volunteers spent hours delivering the message, carrying signs, and encouraging others to vote YES! for the proposition. Did you know that over 60% of the sales tax Prescott receives each year comes from out-of-town visitors?

Education

2017 Wildfire Expo

21 agencies and organizations participated in the 2017 Wildfire Expo. The Expo was held completely on the street due to the ever increasing rules and regulation of the PDP. In spite of the changes the Expo was a great success. Space was tight, but everyone worked together to make it work. The vast amount of knowledge and education in wildfire preparedness shared with the public is the number one reason for holding the Expo every year. As always, Open Space Alliance was a fantastic partner. Sharing the responsibilities and cost with them makes it feasible to continue to offer this celebration/educational event.



Firewise Assessor's Training

November 4th and 5th at the Jeep Posse House, a two day Assessor's Course was held courtesy of Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management to provide initial training in the assessment and evaluation of properties from a wildland fire and Firewise perspective. Jake Guadiana and Lee Ann Berry from the AZ DFFM presented the course to 30 individuals. These volunteers were either taking the course for the first time or updating their skills as required every five years.



Residents living in a recognized Firewise site:

1,536,365



The number of states with recognized Firewise sites:

42

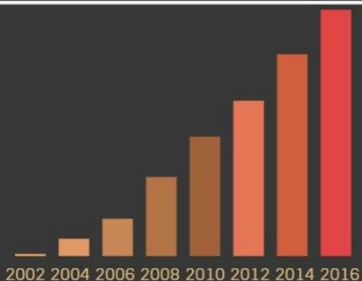
Firewise

FIREWISE USA 2016

15
years old
(piloted in 2002)

The 7 states with the 9 Firewise sites that have reached the 15-year milestone:

1 2 1 1 1 2 1
AZ CO FL ID NM UT WA



Number of communities:

The program has grown from 12 communities in 2002, to

1,402 communities, as of February 1, 2017.



Wildfires destroyed an average of 3,875 structures annually from 2011-2013. (Source: NIFC)



Firewise communities range from small rural clusters to large developments

In 2016, 5,509,995 acres burned from wildfire. (Source: NIFC)



2003: \$1,577,478



2016: \$40,374,881



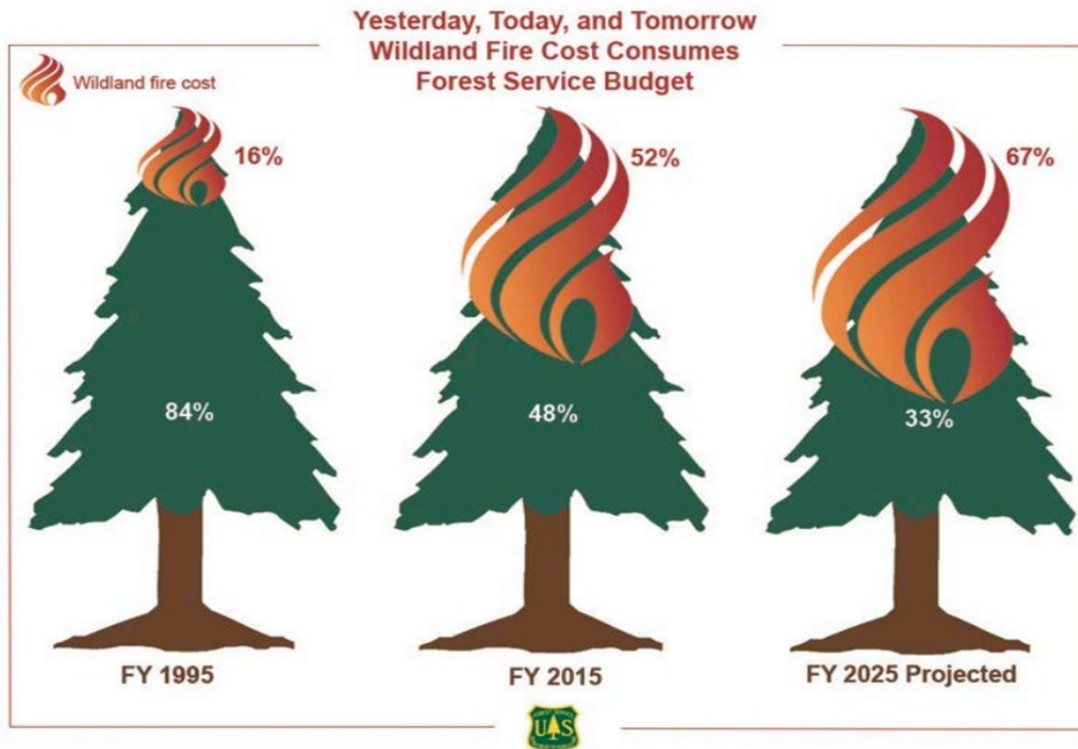
In 2016, there were 67,743 wildfires. (Source: NIFC) Firewise principles help reduce the wildfire risk to your property.

\$1,975,545,000 was spent on wildfire suppression in 2016. (Source: NIFC)



Wildfire Disaster Funding Act-HR2862

Secretary Sonny Perdue urged State Foresters to call on congress to fix fire funding problems. Firefighting costs are over \$2 Billion as of September 2017.



Financial Highlights

Non-Grant Income

Total Donations	\$18,816.44
Total Operating Exp.	<u>\$ 5,246.50</u>
Net Income	\$13,569.94

Total fundraising receipts from all sources for the year were \$18,816.44. Year over year increase of more than **410%**. Thank you to those communities and individuals that have contributed, those who contributed for the Everett Warnock Memorial, Raffle, Coffee fund, Amazon Smile & Fry's Community Rewards program.

Grant Income and Use

Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Grant Program 2015 (WFHF 15-208)

This grant program administered through PAWUIC is from the USDA Forest Service and the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. This grant targeted remediation and fuels mitigation in Iron Springs, Prescott Skyline, Yavapai Hills, CAFAMA (Lynx Mtn Estates, Dewey-Humboldt, Williamson Valley Corridor), The Foothills, Rancho Vista Hills, Vista del Cerro and Pinon Oaks. This was a 90/10 grant; the overall project excluding match was worth \$197,655.30.

FINAL GRANT TOTALS

Acres:	202.61	119.90%
Federal Funds Used	\$191,119.06	96.69%
Hard Match	\$77,306.82	373.21%
In Kind Match	\$2,687.09	215.31%

Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Grant Program 2016 (WFHF16-204)

This grant program administered through PAWUIC is from the USDA Forest Service and the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. This grant targets remediation and fuels mitigation in Walker, Yavapai Hills, White Horse, Upper Blue Hills, Northeast Foothills, Orme Road, Sundown Acres, & The Ranch at Prescott. This is a 90/10 grant. The overall project excluding match is worth \$160,000.00.

Recognition for Jobs Well Done



15-Years Firewise—Timber Ridge



Juniper Heights/Old Senator



County Proclaims May as Wildfire Preparedness Month



Pinon Oaks

WFHF 16-204

GRANT TOTALS TO DATE

Acres:	94.628	75.70%
Federal Funds Used	\$111,081.51	69.52%
Hard Match	\$ 52,329.55	294.35%
In Kind Match	\$ 1,118.03	84.32%

Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Grant Program 2017 (WFHF 17-201)

This grant program administered through PAWUIC is from the USDA Forest Service and the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. This grant targets remediation and fuels mitigation in Walker, Prescott Lakes, Yavapai Hills, Upper Blue Hills, Northeast Foothills, The Foothills, Manzanita Village, and The Ranch at Prescott. This is a 90/10 grant; the overall project excluding match is worth \$200,000.00.

GRANT TOTALS TO DATE

Acres:	9.03	6.45%
Federal Funds Used	\$11,295.00	5.65%
Hard Match	\$ 4,335.00	19.90%
In Kind Match	\$.00	0%

State Fuels Assistance Grant Program 2017 (SFA17-101)

This grant program administered through PAWUIC is from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. This grant targets fuels mitigation and creating a Firewise Caravan Education Program that will travel throughout Yavapai County. This is a 50/50 grant. The overall project excluding match is worth \$105,050.00. The program will kick-off in the Fall of 2018.

GRANT TOTALS TO DATE

Acres:	0	0%
Federal Funds Used	\$.00	0%
Hard Match	\$.00	0%
In Kind Match	\$.00	0%

PAWUIC Projects

Pinon Oaks Fuels Break

The Pinon Oaks Fuels Break was completed November 16th 2017. This was a cooperative endeavor between PAWUIC, Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management, the AZ Department Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) and the Pinon Oaks Community. PAWUIC was able to write an amendment to the WFHF15-208 to subsidize this joint partnership project on state and private lands.

Project Andrew

Project Andrew was started in March 2017 as a Forest Stewardship Project with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, PAWUIC, and NRCS. Memorandum of Understandings were signed by seven homeowners within the area designated as Project Andrew. This allowed PAWUIC to enter into an agreement with the NRCS and the landowners to jointly implement, operate and maintain forest management and other conservation practices necessary to create a healthy forest with adjacent private properties and adjacent Prescott National Forest lands. The project was managed by Rich Van Demark, AZ DFFM's forest stewardship leader and Marquis Munis, NRCS's District Conservationist.

Oro Flame Mine Project

After twenty-five years of asking for help, Bill Fields came to PAWUIC. We proceeded to combine the funds and physical resources of Department of Corrections Lewis Crew, Arrow Fire Support Services, NRCS and AZ DFFM. A seventeen acres fuel break was created connecting two existing fuel breaks on the Prescott National Forest. Oro Flame Mine is located to the south of Prescott; thus the importance of this project to further protect our community.

Interagency Support

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM)

The second annual Wildland Urban Interface conference was held in Flagstaff on March 29th and 30th. The Department of Corrections Lewis crew worked on multiple Firewise communities including Prescott Skyline, Walker, Pinon Oaks, Crown King, Yavapai Hills to name just a few. They also worked on Big Bug Creek and Orme Road along with fighting several fires statewide including the Goodwin Fire and were also deployed out of state. Teams were also deployed to Texas to assist with Hurricane Harvey response efforts.

How Defensible Space Can Save Lives and Your House



AZ Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (AWIMA)

The Academy had its 15th year and has trained over 9,000 firefighters. Academy was held the week of 3-11-17.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Crews worked near Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) on a 70 acre fuel break. This complemented the work already completed by PFD and State Lands. BLM also completed a 150-acre fuel break in Mayer off Copper Loop Road and burned 24 acres of slash piles near Aqua Fria Monument.

Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority (CAFMA)

CAFMA assessed countless properties for defensible space though out the entire their jurisdiction. Also completed with the WFHF15-208 grant were projects in the Dewey/Humboldt, Lynx Creek, and the Williamson Valley Corridor.

City of Prescott Fire Department (PFD)

The PFD Fuels Crew completed the Willow Lake and Prescott Lakes hand thinning. Crews moved on to Groom Creek and then to Gold-water lake. The Fuels Crew continued to spend one day a week chipping slash throughout the city of Prescott.

Jerome Fire Department (JFD)

Completed 12 acres of mitigation within Deception Gulch using JFD personnel and the funding from the WFHF15-208 grant. They also use multiple volunteers and Probation crews to help with mitigation and up-keep.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Received 30-40 applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program. NRCS had about \$350,000 for funding fuels mitigation projects. Completed the joint Chiefs project in November. In progress now is Project Andrew.

Office of Emergency Management (YCOEM)

Annual Basin Ops drill occurred April 13th and 14th with all the local agencies (PFD, CAFMA, USFA, AZ DFFM, etc.) The YCOEM team managed evacuations and re-entry during the Goodwin Fire, and aided with the subsequent flooding.

Prescott National Forest (PNF)

Completed 695 acre School House timber sale south of Hidden Valley from Senator Highway to White Spar. In March 2017, Teresa Chase retired. PNF held the Amulet timber sale. Also held semiannual fuels mitigation workshops to coordinate all agencies work in fuels mitigation through 2018 and beyond. Planning Hassayampa Landscape Restoration Project. High Valley Project is in Phase II.

University of AZ Cooperative Extension

In May introduced Peter Warren, new forest health coordinator with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management-replaced Bob Celaya who served in that capacity of a number of years.

Yavapai County Board of Supervisors

Presented PAWUIC with a proclamation recognizing May as National Wildfire Prevention month. Arranged for several free slash drop-off programs at the Yavapai County transfer stations valued at more than \$100,000. Awarded \$19,000 to Arizona Wildfire Academy.



Worked with PAWUIC, AZ DFFM DOC crews and Pinon Oaks to fund the completion of the Pinon Oaks fuel break on adjacent state land. The County also distributed the second half of the \$350,000 Title III-2016 funds to communities for further Firewise education and mitigation. County probationers also provided labor to mitigate fuel loads along county right of ways; most noticeable was the clearing along Williamson Valley Road.

yavapai**firewise**●org

prepare●protect●preserve

Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission

Officers

Dr. Michael Orr, Chairman
Jim Buchanan, Vice Chairman
Linda Wisker, Treasurer
Steve Lombardo, Community Liaison Officer/Director at Large
Belinda Taylor, Grants Development Officer
Shirley Howell, Director at Large
Bob Betts, Chairman Emeritus
Jerry Borgelt, Chairman Emeritus

Agency Executive Board Members

Don Devendorf, Prescott Fire Department
Denny Foulk, Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management
Russ Shumate, AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management
Sarah Tomskey, Prescott National Forest

Departmental Coordinators

Lois Hoskinson, PAWUIC Administrator
Dr. Mary Ann Clark, Social Media
Seleatha Mendibles, Recording Secretary from PNF

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RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS