

**Prescott Area
Wildland Urban Interface Commission
Minutes
April 4, 2019**

Participants: Doug Taylor-Gebler, Meghan Taylor-Gebler, Bob Betts, Lois Hoskinson, Vicki Wendt, Cindy Mackie, David McAtee, Joe Pendergast, Tom DiCamillo, Julius Koenigsknecht, Ron Sauntman, Hugh Vallely, Dennis Shaw, Jim Zimmerman, Jim Campbell, Richard Poulton, Rick Moshier, Jerry Borgelt, Eleanor Sisson, Gary Wellborn, Wayne Sisson, Thomas Yssel, C Silveira, Marques Munis, Rick Martin, Steve Canter, George Sheets, Dawn Salcito, Patrick Engel, Kevin Osterman, Lyle Burns, Barb Ross, Richard Briskin, Cindi Miner, Al West, Jeff Phillips, Miles Graybill, Marty Zytowski, Alex Horton, Merle Meier, Rick Chase, Russ Lafayette, Scott Fulgham, John Mangimeli, Terry Kepler, Larry Gray, Ron Norfleet, Isaiah Keeme, Mary Ann Clark, Cory Carlson, Dale Deiter, KW Rhodes, Jenn Ashcraft, Shirley Howell, Andie Smith, Wm Hartley, Don Devendorf, Jeff Schalaus, Ted Yerris, Bill Swahlen

Recorder: Seleatha Mendibles

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting was called to order.

2. Chairman's Remarks- Bob Betts

The first order of business this morning is on a sad note acknowledging the passing of Jim Buchanan's brother "Buck" on Tuesday night. Let's take a moment of silence to recognize Buck Buchanan's service to Yavapai County and to keep in our thoughts those of his family that grieve his passing.

A screen grab of AZ DFFM's wildfire risk assessment tool was shared. The anchor was placed over the northeastern portion of Prescott. The white on the screen is basically Prescott proper and indicates a low threat of wildfire. Orange and deep red surround the basin and represents a high threat of wildfire with a low intensity due to the fuel load being mostly grass and weeds. This threat is not to be taken lightly as demonstrated by the Viewpoint fire last year.

On the weather front from NOAA, the Western snowpack was significant.

For now West TX and eastern NM are experiencing slowly increasing fire danger in March with less than 25% of the normal precipitation to date.

May and June the green-up dwindles and fire potential shifts west into AZ and the Great Basin. The grass crop will be significant this year due to the winter/spring moisture. Lower elevations will have increased fire potential in July as these grasses cure.

Wildfires by year:

2019: From January 1 to March 8, 2019 there were 2,411 wildfires compared to 7,828 wildfires in the same period in 2018, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

About 49,976 acres were burned in the 2019 period, compared with 204,631 in 2018.

2018: In 2018 there were 58,083 wildfires, compared to 71,499 wildfires in the same period in 2017, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. About 8.8 million acres were burned in the 2018 period, compared with 10 million in 2017.

Senator Mesnard passed HB 2359 (7-0-3) out of Finance Committee 3/28/19 moving it to the Rules Committee chaired by Karen Fann (KFANN@azleg.gov). HB 2359 will help mitigate the \$273 million annual impact of AZ taxpayers choosing the higher standard deduction and diminishing their need to give to charities to further offset taxes. Please write her and ask to put HB 2359 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on the Senate Finance Committee agenda.

IMPACT ON CHARITABLE DONATIONS Over 80% of charitable donations are annually reported as itemized deductions on federal tax forms; and Arizona law requires filers who itemize deductions on their state tax returns to primarily use federal deductions. Estimates of the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts on charitable giving are greatly influenced by the taxable income of a taxpayer, their rate of taxation, and the price elasticity of charitable donations. According to a recently released study by ASU Seidman Institute, the nonprofit sector in Arizona is estimated to lose \$273 million and cause us to lose 10,000 jobs - in one year. Seidman's estimated shortfall of \$273 million is based on a conservative -0.5 price elasticity of demand applied to tax data sourced from the IRS and the Arizona Department of Revenue. Whether you itemize or not, charitable deductions are allowed to be deducted from AZ tax return in 2019. Nationally, smaller donations of \$100 and lower are already dropping.

Phoenix, AZ (3/4/19) - The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management announced the release of a new mobile phone application that provides local fire and forestry information to the user. The application offers wildland fire information, fire restriction notifications and details, fire prevention tips, Office of the State Fire Marshal's plans and payment portal, and forest health related information. It also allows users to sign up for push alerts that will send notifications of any critical information, such as fires near their area, fire restrictions, even forest health concerns. Users can also connect to the agency's social media pages, get questions answered, and submit anonymous tips, photos, and other information.

"The Department of Forestry and Fire Management is excited to be able to use this technology to better serve our residents. The mobile application offers another outlet for pertinent, often times, urgent information and connects users to real-time information at their fingertips," said Public Affairs Officer Tiffany Davila.*

For those interested in learning more about fire. If you are not familiar with the Forest Service's Missoula research center, they produce webinars on a variety of topics. Sign on at www.Firelab.org.

<https://www.firelab.org/document/fire-lab-seminarschedule>
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 Series of monthly seminars at USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station.

K.C. "Bucky" Yowell is in Houston Texas as member of the USFS Honor Guard. He was called out from an assignment in Albuquerque to provide 24/7 honor guard duty with the remains of a fallen firefighter.

The honor guards will fly to Sacramento California for the burial service. Bucky was nominated for this position on the honor guard following an extensive interview process and weeks of training in Washington D.C.

We thank him for his service.

3. Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Initiative - Marques Munis, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist

The purpose of the program is to leverage resources across multiple ownerships to reduce the risk of wildfire, protect water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. The 2019-2021 Bradshaw Cross-boundary project is 1 of 13 projects awarded funding and projects can be extended annually for 3 years. NRCS was awarded \$817,500 and USFS \$700,833. Past funding data shows a significant increase in funding awarded and applications since 2014 with projected funding amounts of \$750,000 for 2010-2021. In the Prescott area, there are 110-120 parcels (landowners).

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

5. Financial Report- Treasurer's Report

Reports were not available today. There was a significant decrease in non-grant income (-4,000). Alarmingly, there was a corresponding increase in organizational expenses of PAWUIC by \$10,000. This is "going out of business" financial management. Fundraising assistance is needed. Arizona Gives Day was a couple of days ago, and PAWUIC was not represented but needs to be next year.

6. Agency and Community Activity Reports/Issues

AWIMA- Academy was well attended with over 1000 students, some coming from as far as Australia.

Bureau of Land Management- Brush crushing work in ongoing in Mayer.

Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority- Completed 5 firewise assessments. The 90/10 chipping grant was extended to the end of May and there are still funds available. The water tank in Upper Blue Hills should be ready to fill by May. Crews recently put out a one acre fire in the area. Crews are doing annual training to be ready for the wildfire season.

City of Prescott FD- A study related to emergency response times was released and should lead to the necessary actions to improve response times in the future as our population increase. Crews completed projects in the Oak Knoll/Sweet Acres area. The chipper is currently down, but had chipped about 30 tons prior to it going down.

Jerome FD- Just celebrated the addition of a new engine.

Office of Emergency Management- The annual Basin Ops drill is scheduled for 4/4-5. The Hazardous Fuels Mitigation workshop is also upcoming. Will be sending preparedness information to the community via mailers, radio and newspaper ads. A presentation regarding outreach efforts and defensible space is also planned.

Prescott National Forest- Will also be participating in the Basin Ops drill and smoke will be in the air near Granite Basin Lake. There are no spring prescribed burns scheduled. Predictive services are available on the southwest coordination center website. www.swcc.com

Sedona FD- Working on training and preparation for the wildfire season.

Communities:

Hidden Valley- Starting the community assessment and individual property inspections for 755 lots.

Manzanita Village- Firewise day is scheduled for 5/4. There will be a speaker and lunch. There were 5 communities who received \$500 NFPA/State Farm grants for projects on or around Wildfire Preparedness Day, May 4.

7. Old Business-

Grant Updates

WFHF-17-201, expires 11/31/19- amendment pending to reallocate unused acreage particularly at The Ranch.

SFA 17-101, expires 01/31/20 - possible amendment. Mobile learning center is on hold due to insufficient resources available to execute. Funds will be returned, but we will attempt to keep funds allotted to acreage for communities.

WFHF-18-201, expires 10/31/20-orientation meetings

8. New Business-

The DOC crews will be keeping their current project commitments, but will not be scheduling any additional projects until direction comes from the new AZ state forester.

2019 Firewise Expo- Thank you to those that have already signed up. Information sheets are available on the back table. Thomas Yssel is in charge of set up. There are 41 firewise communities represented which makes presentation space limited.

Home and Garden show- scheduled for 5/17-19. Volunteers needed. Lois will send details via email.

Assessment training is currently on hold with no information about when they can schedule available.

50/50 Raffle- Cindy Mackie won and donated the money back to PAWUIC.

Adjourned: 8:55 a.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd at 8:00 a.m.