

## PRESCOTT AREA WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE COMMISSION

### Q1 2016 Report

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



Last October PAWUIC approached Stuart Parker, CEO of USAA, requesting that Arizona be included among the states in which his company was offering discounts to residents of communities recognized under the Firewise Communities/U.S.A.® program. Effective February 15, 2016 USAA and the National Fire Protection Association (Firewise program administrator) announced that existing USAA policy holders would automatically receive a discount on the fire premium of their home insurance policy for properties within a recognized Firewise community upon renewal. New policies would include the discount after passing the normal underwriting process.

We are extremely proud to have been a part of the process that brought this discount to the Firewise Communities in Arizona. We are the fourth state to earn this discount behind California, Colorado and Texas.

#### **Firewise Communities Update**

At PAWUIC's February meeting Prescott Lakes was formally recognized as our 32<sup>nd</sup> Firewise Community by State Forester, Jeff Whitney and Northwest District Forester, Russ Shumate. The Prescott Lakes community represents some 1500 properties. That brings the total number of properties under the Firewise banner to just over 14,000. Many thanks to George Sheats and Paul Mazade along with their management company HOAMCO and all who were instrumental in organizing the community and writing the Firewise plan with the assistance of the Prescott Fire Department.

Yvonne Kimball, Town Manager of Dewey-Humboldt and Steven Brown, Humboldt Community Planner have begun talks with the Central Yavapai Fire and Medical Authority (formerly Central Yavapai Fire District) and PAWUIC to target several communities within their area to begin the process of becoming recognized Firewise Communities.

## **Marketing and Public Relations**

Look for yavapai**firewise**●org on the tee-shirts being sported by the hundreds of volunteers cleaning up Granite Creek on Saturday, April 23. It's the Prescott Creeks' annual cleanup in concert with Earth Day. We are showing our support for the 25 years of service that Prescott Creeks has provided to protect our watershed. We are looking forward to welcoming Prescott Creeks Executive Director, Michael Byrd, as our guest speaker at our May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting as he explains how our watersheds depend upon the wildfire mitigation efforts that PAWUIC supports.

Look for many of our PAWUIC community members and agencies at the 2016 Wildfire Expo occurring alongside the Open Space Alliance's Earth Day celebration at the Courthouse Square on Saturday, April 23 from 10am until 4pm. Smokey Bear and Truckee will be on hand for pictures. Our new friends from USAA will also be present next to the PAWUIC tents.

Our new PAWUIC brochures are re-designed and fresh off the press for this year's event. Don't forget to pick up your copy and we will have a limited supply of the "pets in the house" decals. The one thing that our fire departments look forward to is the finger prints of children all over their shiny fire trucks.

## **Finance**

### **Financial Recap**

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Beginning Bank Balance	\$24,059.05	\$23,846.41	\$22,032.18
Total Deposits	\$15,790.40	\$ 84.53	\$25,299.61
Subtotal	\$39,849.45	\$23,390.94	\$47,331.79
Debits/Expenses	\$16,003.04	\$ 1,898.76	\$ 3,380.99
Ending Bank Balance	\$23,846.41	\$22,032.18	\$22,032.18
Pending Balance	\$	\$	\$21,678.18
Month End Bank Balance	\$23,846.30	\$22,032.18	\$22,272.62
Title III Monies 2015	\$ 9,106.30	\$ 9,106.30	\$ 9,106.30
Title III Monies 2016	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 6,750.00
Actual Operational Monies	\$ 7,990.11	\$ 6,175.88	\$ 6,416.32

### **Fundraising**

Quail Hollow accepted the challenge laid down by The Foothills to support PAWUIC with a donation of \$5/lot within the subdivision. Our thanks goes out to the boards of those communities for recognizing the importance of PAWUIC's sustainability.

Plans to participate in the April 5 Arizona Gives Day will be deferred until 2017 lacking sufficient volunteers and advertising to successfully compete for funds. 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).

We have added a Donation Button to our website to facilitate the acceptance of credit card or PayPal donations.

PAWUIC submitted a grant application to the Arizona Community Foundation to obtain hand-thinning tools for volunteers from Chapter 5 Recovery to create defensible space on up to fifty homes in the Prescott area. The program is targeting the disabled and elderly who are either physically or financially challenged to mitigate vegetative fuels on their properties. Thanks to Peter Thomas and Ben Justiniano from Chapter 5 who are helping to make this community effort a reality. This is PAWUIC's first application to the Arizona Community Foundation. Decisions on applications are scheduled for June, 2016.

In order to expand our grant fundraising efforts PAWUIC became a member of the Alliance of Arizona NonProfits. Membership provides access to an Arizona database of granting agencies along with the details on what their interests are and how to apply for assistance.



If you have an idea on how to raise operating capital for PAWUIC, we would love to hear from you. Call Bob Betts at 847-309-4499.

## **Interagency Support**

### **Arizona State Forestry**

Treatment of vegetative fuels on 650 acres of state trust lands along the Williamson Valley corridor is underway following archaeological inspections. Work will continue through August subject to fire conditions and the availability of state crews.

Female pinyon needle scales are active and laying their eggs in many areas in the Prescott area. Areas include Prescott Country Club, Williamson Valley, Las Vegas Ranch, and others. The mild winter season and warmer weather has sped up the life cycle. There is hope that the upcoming cold snap could slow the cycle. For additional information and the full report, see the AZ State Forestry website. [www.azst.az.gov](http://www.azst.az.gov)

### **Arizona Wildfire and Incident Management Academy**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy kicked off March 5. It was the largest academy in its history with more than 749 students. A large majority of the students come from Arizona, but also as far away as New York, Montana and Florida. Tony Sciacca, Director of the Academy, hosted a press day on March 10 that was open to the public. It was a great opportunity to see these firefighters applying their trade without being in the middle of wildfire.

PAWUIC members provided support for the Incident Command classes playing different roles to help students learn how to handle difficult people in the midst of choreographed crisis management.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

The crew is completing a fuel break project and 45 acres of fuels mitigation in Yarnell. They are doing preliminary work in the Skull Valley area. The Veteran's crew will be activated in

March and will be available to work on private land, BLM and AZ State lands. There is also plans for a brush crush (mastication) project in Mayer.

### **Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority**

This is the new name for the authority born out of the consolidation of the Central Yavapai and Chino Valley Fire District combination. It will be effective July, 2016. Many thanks go to the efforts of Chief Scott Freitag, his command leaders and the new Authority Board Chairman, Steve Rutherford for their efforts to bring this new organization to life.

Fire Marshal, Rick Chase and Assistant Fire Marshal, Andie Smith have begun work with select several communities within the Dewey-Humboldt township to become the first Firewise Communities east of Prescott.

### **Firewise Communities**

Highland Pines and Manzanita Village received \$500 grants for projects associated with National Wildfire Preparedness Day on May 7, 2016. The awards were made possible through State Farm Insurance.

Please check our website [yavapaifirewise.org](http://yavapaifirewise.org) for a complete listing of the upcoming Firewise Days across the Prescott basin.

### **Jerome Volunteer Fire Department**

Assistant Chief, Ron Chilston, received a \$25,000 grant under the Secure Rural Schools Act, Title III for hazardous fuels mitigation in the Jerome. We are hoping to develop a community Firewise plan this year and move towards Jerome becoming a recognized Firewise Community.

### **Natural Resource Conservation Services**

Marquis Munis and his resources are collaborating on projects under the Joint Chiefs' Land Restoration Project in the Granite Oaks area. He is also seeking additional ranchers wanting to receive financial support for clearing hazardous fuels. The next application deadline is July 1, 2016. If you have a large acreage area and need some assistance in mitigating vegetative fuels while improving the refresh of our watersheds, call Marquis at 928-759-9301 x109.

### **Prescott Fire Department**

Despite the financial challenges facing Public Safety in Prescott, Chief Dennis Light continues to support PAWUIC in many ways. Chipping within the city limits will continue using grant monies, but only on Thursdays and by appointment. Crews are completing a fire break adjacent to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Proposition 124 should appear on the May ballot. The proposition amends the Arizona Constitution allowing for public safety pension reform. If passed, the state will be allowed to modify some benefits to relieve the underfunded benefits burden that the Public Safety Pension Retirement System (PSPRS) is carrying. Thanks to the efforts of our legislators State Senator, Steve Pierce and State Representatives Karen Fann and Noel Campbell.

## **Prescott National Forest**

Another 90 acres of a 180 acre Oak Knoll fuel break is being completed this quarter. 15 acres around the Highland Center for Natural History has been thinned and a riparian habitat restored. Please visit Dave Irvine and his team at the Highland Center where there is a great display of how thinning our forests makes them healthier.

Crews completed a 500 acre mastication project along Senator Highway. The great work that was completed along the west side of Walker Road with thinning to the curb will resume on the east side of road.

## **Yavapai County Board of Supervisors**

Significant roadside thinning has been completed and will continue along Williamson Valley Road and Iron Springs Road using the adult probation/community restitution crews. These crews are available for work throughout the county without charge. Check with your District Supervisor for contact information. Projects underway or in the planning stage include mastication near Hootenanny Holler and thinning in the Skull Valley and Kirkland areas.

Next month will begin the two months of free slash drop-off at all county transfer stations. April 11 through June 11 residents may bring vegetation to the transfer stations without charge. Commercial landscapers will be charged. This is just another of the many ways the the Board of Supervisors helps the constituents of Yavapai County prepare for the wildfire season.

In April the Board of Supervisors will approve the creation of the Yavapai County Unified Emergency Management Advisory Committee. PAWUIC members slated for appointment to the committee include: Bob Betts, PAWUIC Chairman; Rick Chase, Fire Marshal CYFD(CAFMA); and Denny Foulk, Emergency Management Director. The committee is formed as a result of Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness System under the FEMA umbrella.

## **Legislative Issues**

Read up on on Proposition 124 regarding modifications to the Public Service Pension Retirement System slated for appearance on the May ballot.

Federal government: no forward progress on any key bills.

## **Grant Activity**

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

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.

### **GRANT TOTALS TO DATE:**

Total Acres:	52.913	42.33%	72..087 acres left
Federal Funds Used for Mitigation	\$78,942.38	44.18%	

Federal Funds Used for Chipper Days	\$11,502.47		
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS USED	\$78,942.38	43.08%	\$99,742 left
In Kind Match	*		
Volunteer Hours	*		

\*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

**GRANT TOTALS TO DATE:**

Acres:	59.33	21.20%	107.67 acres left
Federal Funds Used Mitigation:	\$34,129.99	17.59%	
Federal Funds Used for Chipper Days	\$0	00.00%	
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS USED	\$34,129.99		
Hard Match	\$8,121.92	39.21%	
In Kind Match: 49.12 hrs.	\$884.16		

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**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, USAA Insurance 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.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jerry Borgelt, Past Chairman