

Forest Lakes Fire District

Healthy Forest Initiative Grant Program

NFHF 22-201

Final Report



The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management approved Grant Agreement NFHF 22-201 with the Forest Lakes Fire District (FLFD) on November 30, 2022. The period of performance for this Cooperative Forestry Assistance Program extended through December 31, 2024. FLFD received grant funds of \$123,000 for a plan to treat 40 1-acre residential parcels in accordance with Firewise tree thinning standards. FLFD and the community successfully treated a total of 41 parcels for a total of 42.4 acres.

This hazardous fuels reduction project lies within the boundaries of the Forest Lakes Estates Subdivision in Coconino County, which is served by the Forest Lakes Fire District (FLFD). The community is surrounded by the Sitgreaves National Forest. Vegetation in the project area is predominantly ponderosa pine forest, at an elevation of approximately 7,500 feet. Wildland fire is a major ongoing risk – both for spread from the forest into the community, and for a fire within the community to spread into the National Forest. Every property treated under this grant program served to reduce those risks in an observable way.

The project continued to mitigate extreme fire behavior potential in the community by thinning trees, removing diseased and dead trees, removing ladder fuels, and removing or chipping those trees and other ground fuels. The treated properties are shown in the map below. This project tied into and enhanced previous fuels reduction project accomplishments, increasing the size and effectiveness of the fuels reduction program. Residential properties in Forest Lakes are each generally one acre in size. The individual property owners that participated in this grant program each stepped forward voluntarily in response to FLFD announcements of the grant opportunity.

The fire district chief and the grant administrator facilitated the work by providing planning, conducting Firewise pre- and post-assessments, assuring compliance with standards, facilitating payments, tracking progress and providing required reporting. The actual fuels reduction work was performed by contractors hired by the property owners. Each contractor coordinated with both the owners and FLFD to ensure that treatment results were effective, esthetically pleasing, and compliant with Firewise standards. The participating contractors were all based in the Arizona rim country, including the Forest Lakes community, so all the grant funding that went to these contractors helped to contribute to the local economy.

The hazardous fuels reduction plan for each property was focused on developing defensible space around homes and structures (Firewise Zone 1), reducing fuels beyond the defensible space (Zones 2 and 3), removing ladder fuels, and removing dead or diseased trees. Plans and associated costs included disposal of slash at the community's approved Green Waste Transfer Site (GWTS), which is provided jointly by the US Forest Service and FLFD. FLFD holds the permit with the Forest Service and also provides operations management, including site access control, site maintenance and preparation for chipping operations. One frequent user of the chipped

material is the Novo Bio Power Plant in Snowflake where it is used as biofuel to make electricity.

When the work on each property was completed, the owner arranged for re-assessment and final approval, then submitted the actual invoice cost for the work. Upon FLFD approval, the owner received a 80% reimbursement from FLFD, up to a total of \$2800 per acre (80% of \$3500 maximum reimbursable cost per acre). Then FLFD requested the corresponding reimbursement payment from NFHF grant funding. The average contractor cost for treating one acre was about \$5800, so there was significant cash over-match from the grant participants. This degree of overmatch is a powerful indication of the strong community support for treating the hazardous fuels on their properties.

Community interest in the grant program continues to be very strong. We had a waiting list of potential participants throughout the grant period. A significant number of property owners on the waiting list were not able to participate in this grant and look forward to a similar opportunity in the future.

Forest Lakes Fire District will continue to provide public outreach and education for ongoing hazardous fuels reduction and the ongoing maintenance of those properties which have been treated in past years. Information will be shared through the Forest Lakes email newsletter, social media content, flyers posted in public places, and personal contacts. Our web page at <https://flfdaz.com/firewise> will also continue to provide up-to-date information. Shared messaging with the various homeowner insurance companies will also be a goal for the future.

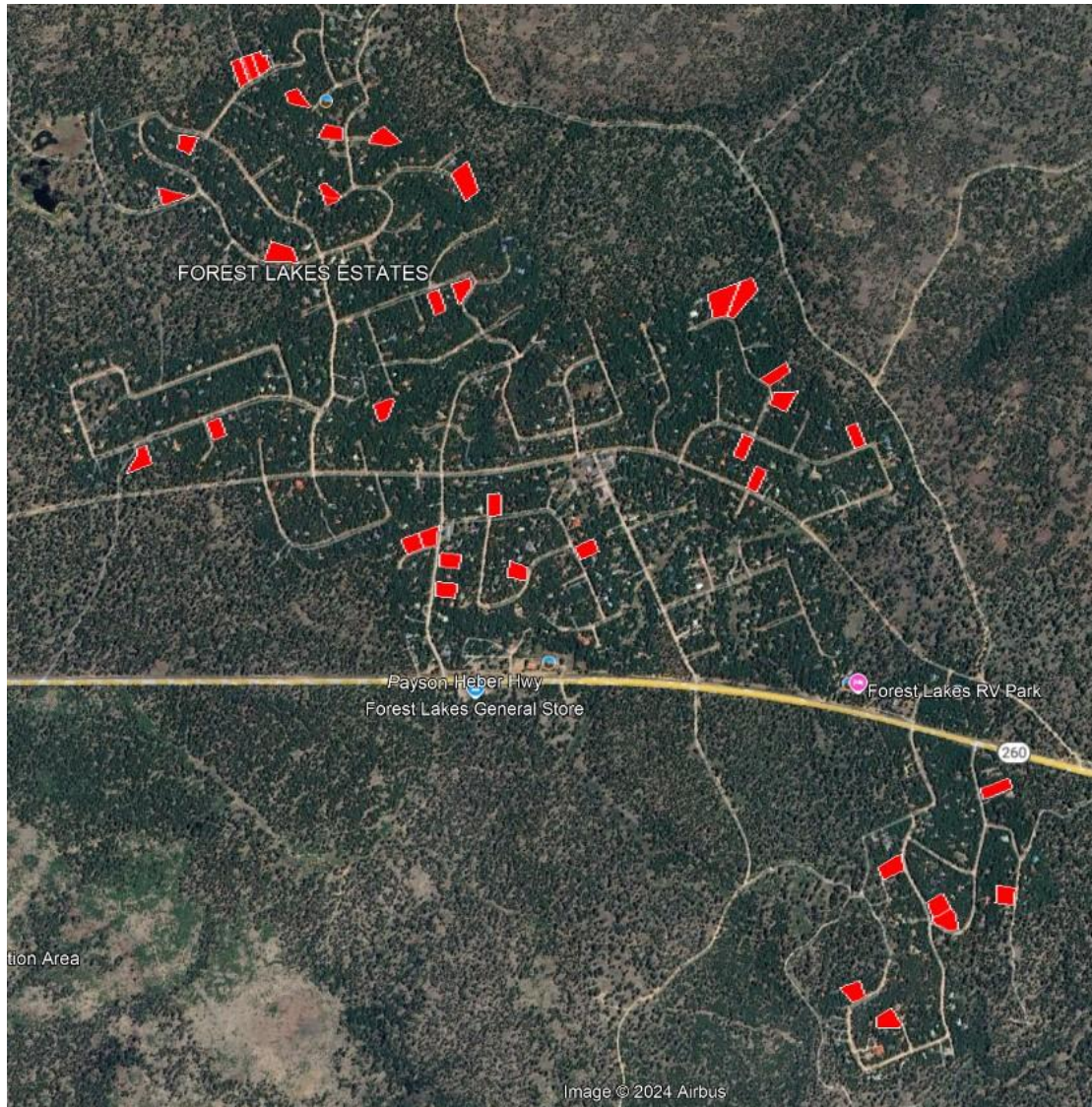
Table 1 – List of Treated Properties

Acres	Name	Address	Parcel ID	Lot
1.03	Anderson, Brad	162 Deer Trail	40337013	18
1.21	Ballard, Marc	500 Mule Springs Trail	40335030	42
1.16	Blum, Jeanne	1885 Stellar Way	40366003B	785
1.02	Burns, Julie	2730 Wildcat Road	40358046	588
1.00	Cheek, Jonathon	2371 Bunny Habit Circle	40358053	595
1.04	Chimonas, Anna & Athanasios (Thanos)	2573 Ryan Ranch Loop	40360041	675
1.00	Engel, Shirley	1415 Sheep Springs Road	40350008	329
1.15	Gillis, John	1609 Wolverine Trail	40339002	118
1.34	Guendelsberger, Bob	1571 Wolverine Trail	40342062	116
1.05	Hubele, Faye & Don	2545 Ryan Ranch Loop	40360042	676
1.11	Jahnke, Dan & Heather	711 Trout Springs Road	40335043	56
0.99	Jensen, Brent	2273 Daisy Trail	40350057B	384

1.00	Johnson, Margie	1361 Little Pine Trail	40350049	370
1.02	Johnson, Rebecca Kendall, Autumn	2479 Wildflower Lane	40351002	312
1.00	Kendall, Autumn	2447 Wildflower Lane	40351001	311
0.99	Killian, Jeff & Kathi	2247 Old Rim Road	40342028	178
1.00	Knickerbocker, Diane and Mike	1481 Sheep Springs Road	40350010	331
1.02	Krsul, Kevin	2418 Bailey Drive	40356068	495
0.98	Kulak, Susan	1882 Mineral Drive	40342066	157
1.01	Lebigot, Joan	2644 Summer Loop	40360032	666
1.04	Lemus, Daniela	383 Mule Springs Trail	40335022	78
1.00	Lish, Theresa and Mackie	2499 Canyon Drive	40360006	632
2.01	Oldham, Arthur and Juanice	2121 Pepper Trail	40358025A	521 522
1.03	Oldham, Arthur and Juanice	2698 Albers Drive	40360043C	677
1.01	Payne, Dan	1609 Mineral	40342049	102
0.82	Prosnier, Claude	2270 Lottie Loop	40358039B	535
2.16	Roberts, Lisa	1815 Wolverine Trail	40339010B 40339010C	126 A&B
0.94	Robins, Cheryn	366 Trout Springs	40335021	77
2.04	Rodriquez, Dave	3328 Summer Loop 3282 Summer Loop	40361026 40361025	654 653
1.04	Ruet, Joe	1850 Flicker Drive	40356013	440
1.00	Schaider, Steve	336 Pinto Road	40335012	67
1.00	Sorensen, Chris & Tiffini	1925 Quilt Country Drive	40363023	781
1.06	Stocker, Gary	2365 Campbell Circle	40357039	580
1.05	Sullivan, Bob	1599 Little Pine Trail	40352008	394
2.03	Swanson, Julie	1791 Wolverine Trail	40339009D	125
1.04	Swanson, Keith and Laurie	2486 Bailey Drive	40356066	493
1.01	Ulinger, Eric	264 Hillcrest Trail	40337002	2
42.40	TOTAL ACRES			

Acre measurements are from Coconino County ACRGIS Parcel Viewer

Map of Treated Properties



2644 Summer Loop Before Treatment



2644 Summer Loop During Treatment



2644 Summer Loop After Treatment



2371 Bunny Habit Trail, Forest Lakes



Before treatment



After treatment