

# FLOA 2025 Lot Clean-up Programs

**The Forest Lakes Owners Association (FLOA) will be promoting and supporting 4 different lot cleaning programs this year.**



**More  
helpful tips  
on the  
back side!**



## **The 4 lot cleaning programs are:**

1. FLFD Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant 2025-2026
2. Roadhouse Gift Certificate Raffle
3. Community Lot Cleaning Volunteer Days
4. FLOA Sponsored Helping Hands

Here is a brief description of each of the programs:

### **FLFD Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant 2025-2026**

This is the tree removal grant program run by the Forest Lake Fire Department (FLFD). This federal grant program will reimburse 80% of the tree removal cost by one of the approved contractors. This is not focused on needle and ground fuels, but on tree density reduction on your lot. Visit the FLFD website to verify the requirements. [flfdaz.com/firewise](http://flfdaz.com/firewise)

### **Roadhouse Gift Certificate Raffle**

This is a FLOA sponsored program to encourage needle and ground fuel removal from your property. During a forest fire, 90% of forest fire area growth is due to blowing embers that catch fire after landing on flammable material in the downwind direction. Clearing lots of needles and ground fuels will help reduce this fire growth. Each green waste site receipt of needles and brush from your lot can be submitted to FLOA for an entry into the raffle, with up to 10 entries per lot. A valid receipt is either one the lot owner obtained themselves when they took a load to the dump site or the receipt from your lot that the lawn company received when taking your needles and brush to the green waste site. You can turn your receipt in to any of the FLOA board members. Each month at the FLOA meetings (May through August) 10 different winners will be chosen and given a \$100 gift certificate to the Roadhouse. Non-winning entries will stay in the pool until the lot is chosen, so enter early and often. Each lot can only win once per year so 40 different winners will enjoy dinner compliments of FLOA for your hard work to keep the neighborhood safer.

### **Community Lot Cleaning Volunteer Days**

This will be a FLOA organized event. Once a month, volunteers will work to clear a Forest Lakes neighbor's lot. It will be a chance to meet folks in the community while doing something that will benefit the entire community. For this event, bribery, in the form of food and refreshments provided to the volunteers, is definitely encouraged to secure a spot as one of the chosen lots. There will be a sign-up for volunteers, and also for the folks who would like to host the party and have their lot cleaned (along with the food, drinks and entertainment that will be offered to the volunteers). If you want to be put on either list, drop a note on [info@flood.club](mailto:info@flood.club). Lot winners and dates will be coordinated by FLOA. Consider this effort as a moving neighborhood party with the result of several cleaned lots.

### **FLOA Sponsored Helping Hands**

Sometimes a neighbor needs a helping hand. Lots in need of clearing have been put off for years and some of our older residents can't afford the cost or do the physical work needed to make their property healthy again. FLOA will be putting up \$10,000 to help coordinate and complete the lot clean-up for those who really need some help. Submit your name and the corresponding lot to FLOA to be considered to [info@flood.club](mailto:info@flood.club). Lots will be chosen after an interview with the lot owners and a review of the lot.

***\*All FLOA board members are ineligible for the lot cleaning gift certificates and the helping hands programs.***

## Things to Consider Related to Your Lot Health

While a few folks in the neighborhood have “that neighbor” whose lot needs a lot of clearing, we hope that folks will focus on getting their own property as fire-safe and healthy as possible. Also, if you look at the satellite imagery of Forest Lakes in google maps you will notice that the tree density (trees per acre) is much greater within Forest Lakes than outside in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The Forest Service has done, and will continue to do, a great job of managing the forest around us and keeping us all as safe as possible. Now is the time for us to focus on our own lots because it is up to each of us to keep the community safe.

As we all know, this winter has been much milder and drier than usual. To date, it has delivered less than 50% of the average snowfall. This is a significant reduction in the much-needed water quantity to support healthy trees within the forest in and around Forest Lakes.

The Firewise recommended tree density is a maximum of 70 trees per acre, during a good year. Mature Ponderosas, like the orange-barked majestic Ponderosas near Long Tom Pond should only have 12 to 20 trees per acre. Each Ponderosa pulls up to 100 gallons of water a year out of the soil. So each tree removed results in more water for the remaining trees to be healthier.

If your lot has 70 trees or more, then your neighbor should not be your concern. As a guideline, some forestry folks will say that they remove any tree that is less than 10 inches in diameter at chest height when thinning the forest. Also, with the reduced water from winter even 70 remaining trees will be stressed to get what each requires. The two negative outcomes of this are that the trees will become very dry and susceptible to catching and maintaining a fire, and worse, trees need water to produce sap to keep bark beetles in check. Ponderosas killed by bark beetles are always on the rise during dry years, and this year is shaping up to be one of those years. Folks may want to ignore what is required to keep your lot healthy and decide to keep all their existing trees, but unfortunately these same folks may end up cutting many of their trees down next year due to bark beetles. Everyone would rather decide which trees stay or go on their property. You don't want Mother Nature and the bark beetle deciding for you.

The FLOA sponsored projects are new this year and if they turn out to be successful, they will become regular yearly events to help keep our beautiful trees within Forest Lakes healthy.



As always, you can visit our website at:  
**[www.floa.club](http://www.floa.club)**  
to access this information and many other helpful tips to keep our community safe!

