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Forest Lakes is proud to be a Firewise recognized community

Forest Lakes

Firewise Program Update June 2026



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The Forest Lakes Firewise Program related information and forms can be found at the FLFD website

<https://flfdaz.com/firewise>



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Program Update

Firewise Needle Pick-up (June 1 & June 4) – 8 lots

DFFM looking for input on Insurance Issues

Revised 3-yr Plan and Application Approved by DFFM

And



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Program Update

**Forest Lakes is now a
Firewise Recognized Community**

*Thank you to everyone that participated
in the Firewise initiatives and programs.*

This is a major community achievement.





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Firewise Needle Pick-up

8 folks signed up

9 volunteers

FLOA picked up the GWS cost

Should we have another
pick-up day in August?





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Insurance Input to DFFM

The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (AZ DFFM) is working on a presentation for the Fire Insurance Review Task Force and looking to acquire information from Forest Lakes residents regarding policies that have been cancelled, or situations where insurance carriers are no longer choosing to underwrite policy due to high wildfire risk. At this time, DFFM does not have visibility into the specific metrics or methodologies insurance companies use to evaluate wildfire risk. However, they are observing policy non-renewals and difficulties obtaining new coverage in communities across Arizona. Since this is a statewide issue, it would be helpful to provide as much information as possible from all corners of the state to paint the true picture of the issues that Arizona residents are facing.

Mr. Chris Reed is DFFM's Central Zone Fire Prevention & Regional Firewise Coordinator. He would like to visit a few of our homes to conduct collaborative assessments with FLFD to compare findings with data from the insurance agencies. The intent is to use the data provided to continue to advocate for homeowners and push for insurance opportunities that are fair and reasonable.

Any Forest Lakes resident with relevant information to share should email that data along with their contact information to creed@dffm.az.gov with cc: to cerchie1@gmail.com and webmaster@flfdaz.com. All data provided should be fact-based and specific to your personal situation. Your questions can also be emailed to those same addresses.

Coming soon: DFFM is working on a Google form link for homeowners to input their insurance information directly, which will make the process even easier. We will notify our Forest Lakes homeowners as soon as it becomes available.

Thank you for your participation!



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Firewise Status

Forest Lakes has 976 lots so to be “in good standing” we need to show 976 volunteer hours towards Firewise efforts or \$33,955.04, where the conversion is \$34.79/hr.

There will be five sources for hours and costs to generate the community investments:

1. volunteer hours related to cleaning lots of downed needles and wood,
2. costs associated with home hardening efforts,
3. contractor costs to clear lots for owners,
4. owner cost associated with the Hazardous Fuel Reduction grant, and
5. hours of participation in Firewise related educational meetings and projects.

In **2025**, there were **2,920 loads** taken to the Green Waste Site (GWS) at a dumping cost of **\$27,653**.

This number of loads equates to roughly **18,000 cu yds** of green waste.

The loads also equate to roughly **8,760 hours** of raking, loading and delivery time, or an investment of **\$332,413**.

The owners' costs associated with the **Hazardous Fuel Grant** in 2025 were over **\$50,000**.

Combined, just these two resulted in nearly **10 times the required Firewise investment** for the community.



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Firewise Status

As of the **end of May 2026**, the community has had **687 loads** delivered to the Green Waste Site, equating to roughly **4,122 cu yds** of material and **4,536 hours**. This results in a January to May investment cost of **\$157,807** for just the volunteer hours in lot cleaning.

Home hardening costs has generated costs of **\$1,635** as of the end of May, along with delivery costs to the GWS of **\$6,399**.

Contractor costs has generated costs of **\$1,300**. The owners' related grant costs have been **\$7,750** for the receipts that have been turned in for reimbursement. The total dollar related investment is **\$17,084** to the end of May.

We also have generated **309 hours** associated with Firewise related educational and projects. The several meetings and presentations resulted in hours that added another **\$10,750** in investment costs.

Therefore, as of the **end of May**, Forest Lakes Firewise program has generated a total investment cost of **\$185,641**, or **over 5 times the requirement** to be in good standing.



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Education and Outreach Goals

Conduct monthly educational meetings (May – Sept) to cover the material in the recently created CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) for Forest Lakes. Create a Firewise newsletter that covers one or more wildfire safety facts about Firewise, where a new Firewise-related newsletter gets released in every community news blast email.

Create an orientation class for new and existing residents to ensure they know the fire related safety rules and objectives of the Firewise program.

In conjunction with the 0-to-5 ft hardening goal, do a presentation on being ember aware.

Home Hardening Goals

Focus this first year on the 0-to-5ft immediate fire zone. Start an incentives program to help residents achieve a safe immediate zone. This will include the home and all other buildings on the property.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

Continue the ongoing incentive program for residents to take raked pine needles and downed wood to the Green Waste Site.

Start an incentives program to rid lots of “dog-haired” pine trees that are less than 5 inches in diameter as a first step to tree thinning in the neighborhood.

Create a volunteer day to have residents volunteer to remove raked needle piles from community lots and take them to the Green Waste site for folks that can’t get them there.

Work with our District 3 County Supervisor on county level rules for minimum wildfire property maintenance requirements.

Communicating & coordinating fuels reduction projects with DFFM for opportunities to bring State Fire crews to further support Forest Lakes' efforts.

Work with DFFM to help identify and pursue grant opportunities.

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

Ensure that community residents are aware and can sign up for the emergency notices from Coconino County. Achieve a goal of at least 50% of the residents are signed up and participating.

Work to define a community-wide communications system for implementation in 2027.



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Neighborhood Communication System:

Begins June 27th!

Beginning Saturday June 27th, the Forest Lakes Community GMRS Net will begin meeting every Saturday morning at 9:00 AM on the Forest Lakes GMRS Repeater (Call Sign WRVM208).

The purpose of the net is to:

- Test and improve community radio communications
- Provide operating practice for GMRS users
- Share local news, events, and information
- Promote emergency preparedness
- Strengthen communication capabilities during wildfires, severe weather, power outages, and other emergencies



Whether you choose to listen or actively participate, we invite you to join us each Saturday morning beginning June 27th and help strengthen Forest Lakes' community communications network.



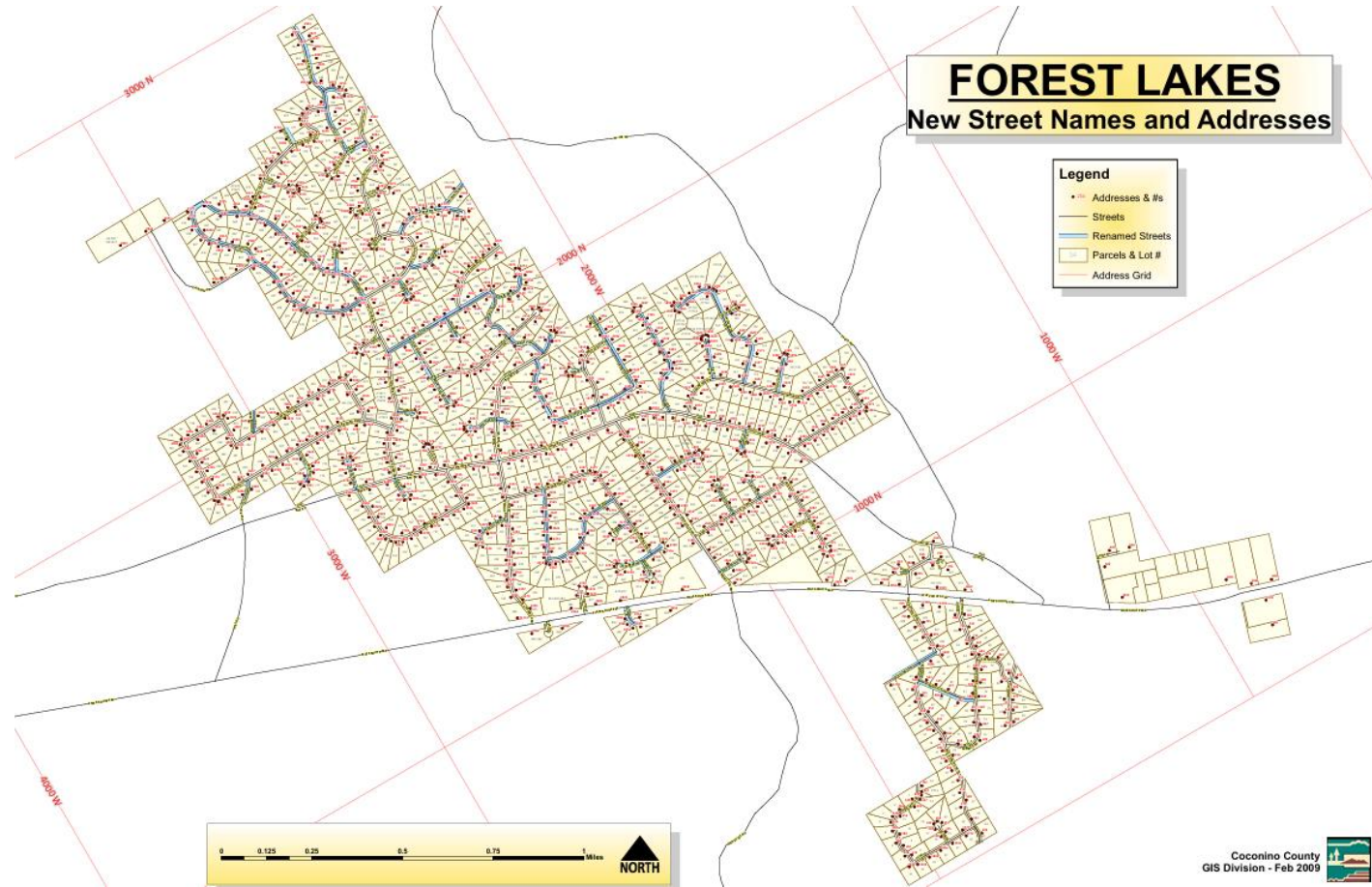
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Forest Lakes Firewise Board Discussing New Initiatives:



One of these initiatives:
This will be a multi-year cycle.

Starting from South to North (southside #1 priority) and West to East. Assess every lot and contact owners with assessment if there are issues.

Firewise considering the coordination (get bids, schedule) for lot cleaning if desired.

Owners may find that their lot would be determined to be indefensible for a forest fire triage assessment. Better to find out now when something can be done to correct it.

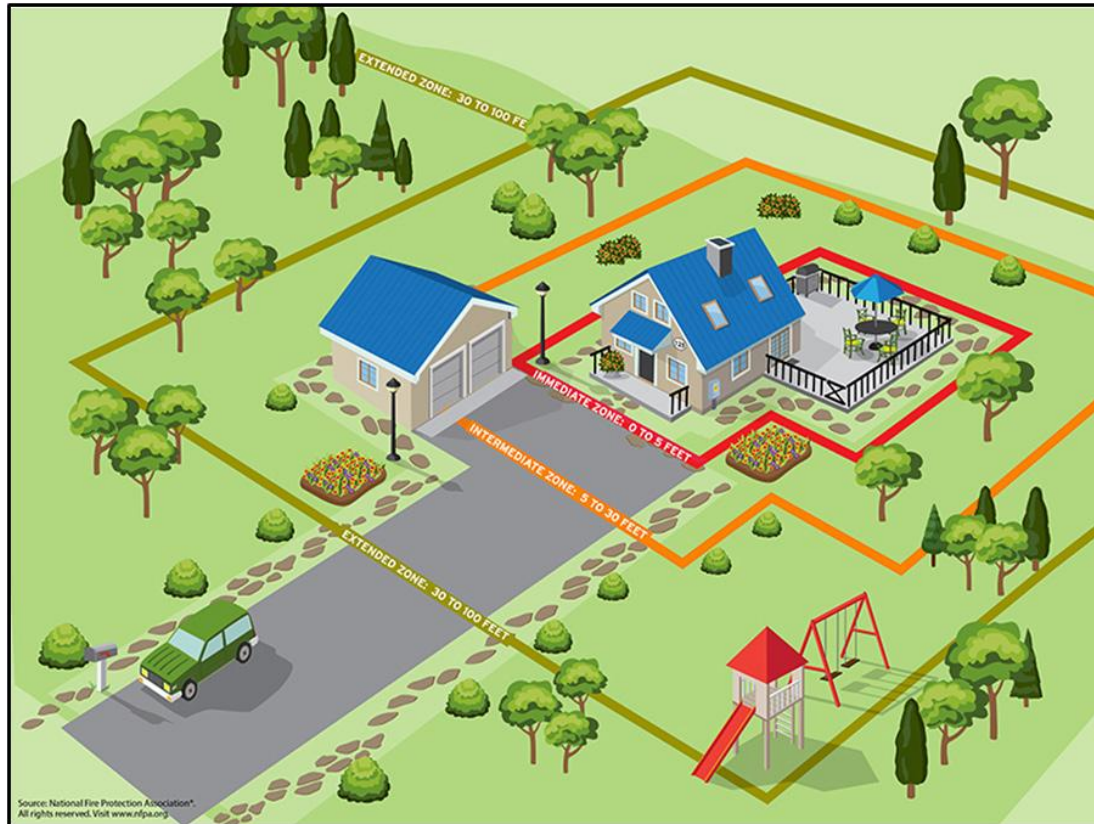


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Firewise Zones

0-5 ft Immediate Zone

5-30 ft Intermediate Zone

30-100 ft Extended Zone



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0-5 ft \$100 Gift Card Winners for June

(5 for this month & 4 Carryover from May)

Alan & Melody James

Steve & Cindy Schaider

Kim Krafft

Ginger Cioara

Joe & Karen Ruet

Scott Leffler



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5" Diameter or less Ponderosa Tree Removal Project

Estimating Ponderosa Pine Age from Diameter

You can estimate a **Ponderosa pine** (*Pinus ponderosa*)'s age from its **diameter at breast height (DBH)** using a **growth factor** and the formula:

Age (years) $\approx$ DBH (inches) $\times$ Growth Factor (~ 5.0)

Example:

- If DBH = 12 inches,
 $12 \times 5.0 = \mathbf{60 \text{ years}}$ (started growth in 1966 when Forest Lakes started selling lots)

Every tree on your property that is 12 inches or less in diameter was not here when Forest Lakes started. The 5" or less is removing trees that started to grow from the year 2000 to now.



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5" Diameter or less Ponderosa Tree Removal Project – Polesaw Raffle

Alan & Melody James

Steve & Cindy Schaider

Kim Krafft

Ginger Cioara

Joe & Karen Ruet

Scott Leffler

Ryan Kenan

Richard & Linda Curry



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Can your home survive a wildfire?

https://youtu.be/vL_syp1ZScM



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Firewise Forever Forest Lakes



Questions