

Forest Lakes Firewise 3-Year Action Plan

The Forest Lakes is an Arizona community that has 976 1-acre lots with 908 existing dwellings. The Firewise size is based on the 976 number of lots because sometimes the empty lots are a larger fire concern. Forest Lakes is surrounded by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in the southeastern corner of Coconino County on the Mogollon Rim at approximately 7,500 feet in elevation. The community is surrounded by the largest ponderosa pine forest in the world.

This proposed Firewise Community Wildfire Action Plan is consistent with the current risk assessment. The goal of the this plan is to develop a strategy to incrementally educate and implement efforts to make our neighborhood and the surrounding area more fire resilient.

Year 1 – FY 2026

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Conduct monthly educational meetings (May – Sept) to cover the material in the recently created CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) for Forest Lakes.
2. 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.
3. Create an orientation class for new and existing residents to ensure they know the fire related safety rules and objectives of the Firewise program.
4. In conjunction with the 0-to-5 ft hardening goal, do a presentation on being ember aware.

Home Hardening Goals

1. 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

1. Continue the ongoing incentive program for residents to take raked pine needles and downed wood to the Green Waste Site.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Work with our District 3 County Supervisor on county level rules for minimum wildfire property maintenance requirements.
5. Communicating & coordinating fuels reduction projects with DFFM for opportunities to bring State Fire crews to further support Forest Lakes' efforts.
6. Work with DFFM to help identify and pursue grant opportunities.

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

1. 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.
2. Work to define a community-wide communications system for implementation in 2027.

Year 2 - FY 2027

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Continue the monthly educational meetings (May – Sept) to Firewise related material.
2. Continue a Firewise newsletter that covers one or more wildfire safety facts about Firewise, where a new newsletter gets released in every community news blast email.
3. Continue an orientation class for new and existing residents to ensure they know the fire safety rules.
4. Create a Firewise-related education program focused for kids.
5. In conjunction with the continuing 0-to-5 ft hardening goal, do a presentation on being ember aware.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Continue the 0-to-5ft immediate fire zone focus. Continue the incentives program to help residents achieve a safe immediate zone. This will include the home and all other buildings on the property.
2. Introduce a 5-to-30ft intermediate fire zone incentives program to help residents achieve a safe intermediate zone.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Continue the ongoing incentive program for residents to take raked pine needles and downed wood to the Green Waste Site.
2. Continue the incentives program to rid lots of “dog-haired” pine trees that are less than 5 inches in diameter.
3. Introduce an aid program for elderly or disabled residents for lot cleaning and meeting the Firewise lot objectives.
4. Communicating & coordinating fuels reduction projects with DFFM for opportunities to bring State Fire crews to further support Forest Lakes' efforts.
5. Work with DFFM to help identify and pursue grant opportunities.

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

1. Ensure that community residents are aware and can sign up for the emergency notices from Coconino County. Achieve a goal of at least 65% of the residents are signed up and participating.
2. Implement a community-wide communications system. The system will allow residents to get answers during emergencies when police and fire are occupied. It will also allow for neighbors to help neighbors, for those who need a hand, during emergencies if needed.

Year 3 - FY 2028

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Continue the monthly educational meetings (May – Sept) on Firewise related material.
2. Continue a Firewise newsletter that covers one or more wildfire safety facts about Firewise, where a new newsletter gets released in every community news blast email.
3. Continue an orientation class for new and existing residents to ensure they know the fire safety rules.
4. Continue and build on the Firewise-related education program focused for kids.
5. In conjunction with the continuing 0-to-5 ft hardening goal, do a presentation on being ember aware.

Home Hardening Goals

3. Continue the 0-to-5ft immediate fire zone focus. Continue the incentives program to help residents achieve a safe immediate zone. This will include the home and all other buildings on the property.
4. Continue the 5-to-30ft intermediate fire zone incentives program to help residents achieve a safe intermediate zone.
5. Introduce a 30-to-100ft extended zone incentives program to help residents achieve a safe extended zone.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Continue the ongoing incentive program for residents to take raked pine needles and downed wood to the Green Waste Site.
2. Continue the incentives program to rid lots of “dog-haired” pine trees that are less than 5 inches in diameter.
3. Continue the aid program for elderly or disabled residents for lot cleaning and meeting the Firewise lot objectives.
4. Look for alternative funding sources to augment the hazardous fuel grant funding in an effort to accelerate tree density reduction within the neighborhood.
5. Communicating & coordinating fuels reduction projects with DFFM for opportunities to bring State Fire crews to further support Forest Lakes' efforts.
6. Work with DFFM to help identify and pursue grant opportunities.

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

1. Ensure that community residents are aware and can sign up for the emergency notices from Coconino County. Achieve a goal of least 80% of the residents are signed up and participating.
2. Implement a community-wide communications system. The system will allow residents to get answers during emergencies when police and fire are occupied. It will also allow for neighbors to help neighbors, for those who need a hand, during emergencies if needed.