

Firewise Monthly Educational Community Meeting September 19th, 2026

Documents available at <https://flfdaz.com/firewise> to view the Forest Lakes Firewise Program related information and forms.

2026 Achievements

- FLOA, FLFD, & USFS created a Forest Lakes Firewise Program. John Nelson was instrumental in making this happen.
- Developed a 3-year Roadmap and executing to it.
- Began Tracking and Getting Credit for Community Efforts.
- Achieved Firewise Recognized Community Status and posted signs around the community.
- Improved Forest Lakes' standing with DFFM & USFS.

2027 Objectives

- Continue with 3-year Roadmap
 - Add kid's programs to the mix. Possibly a scavenger hunt in the forest to start some young stewards of the forest.
 - Expand Firewise 0-5 foot Program to the 5 to 30 foot range
 - Implement Neighborhood Comms System that Dave Gardner is working on. With a new phone app, this should get even better.
- Resolve GWS Operations – Novo Biopower (Snowflake).
 - Chipping operations are not reliable right now. Will look into other options for next season.
 - Heber decided to burn needles and did \$20K in damage and a week of crew time.
 - Dino asked a resource at SRP to see if they might consider helping with a grant for the chipper operation.
 - There is a plan to put cameras up to monitor use of the site.
- Begin Property Address Signage Program to get more visible signage for residences.
- Fire Analysis Program to Develop Mitigation Plans for our community (more below)
- Work in Collaboration with Garden Club on Next Steps
 - Once tree density is where it should be, what to plant to reduce erosion and promote biodiversity

XyloPlan Fire Mitigation Strategy Plan

- Forest Lakes fire rating was instantly bad due to the insurance procedures to determine fire risk.

- XyloPlan has a program to run an analysis and offer mitigation plans across the community prioritizing our focus. The model includes predicting, prioritizing, and protecting. This includes egress i.e. evacuation routes to ensure our safety during an emergency.
- This analysis shows us where fires are likely to enter the community and where embers would blow again to prioritize our focus.
- Forest Lakes may be a test case for Arizona as XyloPlan has mostly worked with California communities.
- FLOA has agreed to fund the initial \$10,000 cost of the program. There will be upcoming expenses to move forward with the program as our mitigation progress continues.

Forest Health - Energy Release Component (Fuel Model)

- The western section of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, which includes Forest Lakes, has stayed close to the 10 year average for forest health (moisture) most of the year and is now predicted to be below (safer) than the 10 year average due to the recent rains. This summer we've had close to 20 inches of rain where the average monsoon rainfall is about 9 inches. If winter shows a similar precipitation trend Forest Lakes could be in for 200 to 300 inches of snowfall.

0-5 ft \$100 Gift Card Winners this month

- Bruce & Linda Fabor

5" Diameter or less Ponderosa Tree Removal Project raffle entries:

- Dave Gardner