CITY OF FLAGSTAFF
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Wildland Fire Management

Protecting Community Values-At-Risk

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Our Commitment
Adaptive Management
Cooperation
Action

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Background

The Flagstaff Wildland/Urban Interface encompasses several jurisdictions and ownerships. It extends for miles outside the City boundaries and includes substantial public land. Our goal is to protect all *Values-At-Risk.* We are accountable to our community, and we have a responsibility to act. We operate to reduce wildfire threat across jurisdictions and ownerships and at considerable distances from structures: anything less is to neglect our duty, thereby jeopardizing the health and sustainability of our neighborhoods and community.

Our program has five core-areas:

1) Prevention
2) Preparedness
3) Hazard Mitigation
4) Response
5) Recovery

Statement of Finding -- Wildfire

Wildfire is the #1 fire threat to the greater Flagstaff community. It has the potential to disrupt commerce, damage wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, watershed and scenic values, spiritual or emotional beliefs, ecosystem health, property, and other improvements, threaten public safety, and induce panic in the general population.

The greater Flagstaff area averages hundreds of ignitions per year, spilt fairly evenly between lightning and human-caused. Education and enforcement can affect the incidence of human-caused fires, but it is important to realize that ignitions will occur.

Three factors influence the spread of wildfire: fuel, weather, and topography. Of these, we can only manage the fuel.

Selected Program Highlights

Annual:

1996 - First demonstration project
1997 - Staff hired
1999 - *Be Prepared* Public Education campaign initiated
2002 - Volunteer Program begun
2004 - *Simple Steps to Protect Your Property from Wildfire* CD
Completion of *Community Wildfire Protection Plan*
2005 - *Needle* project with local Charter school and County Juvenile Court system established
Movie promotions at local theaters initiated
City-wide Neighborhood Risk Assessment completed
2006 - First *Firewise Community* designated
2007 - Recipient – National FireWise Leadership Award
Three additional *Firewise Communities* designated
2008 - Adopted the ICC Wildland Urban Interface Fire Code
Three additional Firewise Communities designated
2009 - One additional FireWise Community designated
Developed/implemented Vegetation Permit & Fee policy
2010 - Initiated slash recovery/utilization effort with City Public Works
2011 - Developed and launched a Social Media program
Initiated an *Auxiliary Staffing* program

Overall:

Community-wide paradigm shift = enthusiastic public support of effort
Assistance to other at-risk communities
Recognition that the City's program is a national model
Presentations at a variety of regional and national conferences
Testimony to US House of Representatives (National Fire Plan)
Professional foresters and arborists
Publication of professional papers:
- *Flagstaff Interface Treatment Prescription: Success in the Wildland/Urban Interface* (Fire Management Today),
- *Wildland/Urban Interface: What's Really At Risk* (Fire Management Today),
- *Community Protection & Well-Being* (American Planning Association),
- *Testing for Deck Material Flammability* (Fire Management Today), and
- *Interface Code Adoption* (Fire Chief Magazine)
- Annual *Community Protection & Forest Health White Paper* for legislative outreach efforts

FireWise Neighborhood initiative
On-going ad-hoc testing of various composite deck materials
Biennial regional Fuel Management/Forest Stewardship/Restoration symposiums
Host - US House of Representatives Committee Hearing on wildfire and Forest Health
National Academy of Public Administration workshop on wildfire issues

Founding member – Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP)
www.gffp.org
Greater Flagstaff Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan
http://www.gffp.org/media/pdf/CWPP_full%20_Report_2006.pdf
Guest instructor at Northern AZ University (NAU) *School of Forestry* and *Ecological Restoration Institute*
Leader/participant –
Governors Forest Health Council
Four Forests Restoration Initiative
NAU Centennial Forest
AZ FireWise Communities Committee
Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council
Forest treatment innovation: City Well-Field and Airport Project

Accomplishment - Acres or #

YEAR	PLANS	MARKED	THINNED	BURNED	CHIPPED (Biomass)	HAZARD TREES
1996/7	60	180	230	80	0	NA
1998	1000	200	100	110	0	NA
1999	800	400	620	330	0	NA
2000	1600	520	830	440	0	NA
2001	1950	470	1250	510	0	NA
2002	610	600	1130	540	0	NA
2003	1472	760	680	1020	0	70
2004	834	370	610	820	0	160
2005	1006	210	640	870	0	210
2006	585	850	1200	800	0	110
2007	400	500	1000	930	0	90
2008	NA	190	560	850	0	30
2009	NA	30	300	700	0	70
2010	NA	710	430	700	250	110
2011	NA	89	652	389	57	170

Research/Monitoring

In addition to supporting on-going efforts of the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership, we have hosted seven specific projects:

Insect and Bird Populations in a Treated Area – Flagstaff Unified School District
The Effects of Pile Burning on Forest Soil Ecology – N. AZ University
The Effects of Burning or Chipping on Herbaceous Plants – Arboretum at Flagstaff
Vegetative Response on Treated Sites – Ecological Restoration Institute
Recovery of Disturbed Sites Using Myco-Filtration Techniques – Practical Mycology
Distribution of Seeds by Rodents in Burned Areas – Ecological Restoration Institute
Squirrel Response to Thinning – AZ Game & Fish Dept

Our Success *is built on* <u>*Leadership*</u>

- Recognition of issue and solution
- Development of community consciousness
- Cultivation and promotion of relationships and partnerships
- Innovative approaches
- Focused goal
- Timely, professional, and sensitive practices

Partners

We seek-out and actively work with a variety of individuals, organizations, and agencies in the quest to protect the values we jointly cherish. Partners include:

Individual home and property owners
Northern AZ University: School of Forestry and Ecological Restoration Institute (NAU)
Private business
Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD)
State of AZ: State Forestry Division (ASF)
Dept of Transportation (ADOT)
Dept of Corrections (ADOC)
Division of Emergency Management (ADEM)
Coconino County: Rural Environment Corps
Parks Dept
Emergency Management
Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council (PFAC)
Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP)
Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI)
Federal: US Forest Service (USFS)
US Naval Observatory (NO)
Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP)

In addition, since 2001, we have benefited from over 16,000 hours of volunteer service from various groups.

Financial

In addition to the City's on-going budget commitment and reimbursable incidents, we have directly benefited from the following grants and contracts:

YEAR	TYPE	WHO	AMOUNT
1999	Forest Treatments	ASF	$50K
2000	Forest Treatments	USFS	$47K
	Fire Assistance Grant	ASF	$150K
	Program development	NAU	$182K
2001	Rural Community Assistance	USFS	$45K
	Urban Forestry	ASF	$23K
	Website Creation	State Farm Insurance	$2K
2002	Fire Assistance Grant	ASF	$ 151K
	Ecological Restoration Institute	NAU	$80K
2003	Fire Assistance Grant	ASF	$127K
	Forest Health	University of AZ	$61K
	Prescribed Fire	ADEM - Camp Navajo	$62K
	Public Education	WalMart	$1K
2004	Public Education	Allstate Foundation	$7K
	Fire Assistance Grant	ASF	$140K
	Treatment Contracts	ASF	$26K
	Landowner Cost-Share	GFFP	$55K
2005	Treatment Contracts	ASF	$25K
	Urban Forestry	ASF	$3K
	Prescribed Fire	NO	$7K
	Forest Treatments	GFFP	$99K
2006	Urban Forestry	ASF	$5K
	Fire Assistance Grant	ASF	$125K
2007	Equipment	FM Global Grant	$2K
	Public Education	ASF & GFFP	$17K
2008	Fire Assistance Grant	ASF & GFFP	$105K
	Bark Beetle Prevention	ASF & GFFP	$147K
	Prescribed Fire & Training	ADEM - Camp Navajo	$12K
2009	Hazardous Fuels	ASF & GFFP	$359K
	Hazardous Fuels	ASF	$359K
2010	Public Education	Cultural Partners, GFFP, & PFAC	$8K
	Prescribed Fire & Training	ADEM - Camp Navajo	$12K
	Prescribed Fire	NO	$4K
2011	Prescribed Fire	NO	$2K
	Hazardous Fuels	ASF	$107
	Hazardous Fuels	GFFP	$16