



9 May 2024

2024 Bear Jaw Community Cleanup

Bear Jaw, with the assistance of Coconino County Public Works, completed the collection and haul portion of the 2024 Bear Jaw Community Cleanup program as part of the NFPA Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. The intent is to remove flammable material from the home ignition zone to reduce the hazard to our citizens and first responders in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire. The dates are chosen to coincide with the time before the annual fire season when the Bear Jaw Crew is at full staffing but before they are assigned to wildfires throughout the region.

Starting on April 29th, 2024, and continuing through May 9th, 2024, 20 personnel from Bear Jaw collected bags of pine needles and slash piles to haul to Willard Springs Transfer Station. This coordinated effort included the use of 7 separate vehicles and 6 trailers. 800-man hours were put in over the duration of two-weeks with an additional 80 hours in planning. The use of GPS data allowed the acquisition of precise location and amount of material to improve the program in the future while keeping costs at an absolute minimum.

This program is designed to reduce hazard in the Wildland Urban Interface in the most difficult fuels to mitigate. Traditional costs for fuels reduction in these areas are above \$2,000 per acre and generally not available under federal and state grant opportunities. Due directly to the joint effort of our public and private partners we were able to create a safer community and reduce the risk to private property in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire in the Munds Park, Mountaineer and Kachina Village communities.

Many residents abided by the rules set out for the protection of our employees and to you, we thank you. There were those that abused the program by adding dog waste, household trash, and rocks along with exceeding the bag limit. This limits the effectiveness of the crew and puts the program at future risk. In addition to the Bear Jaw Community Cleanup program, Coconino County continues to accept green waste at Willard Springs free of charge on Fridays and Saturdays through October.

Over the two weeks, the crew collected the following from 1,192 parcels of private property.

Grand Totals:

- 19,177 - Individual Bags Removed
- 786 - Cubic Yards of Slash Removed
- 15,000 - Bags Distributed Free of Charge

Community specific totals:

Munds Park-Total Parcels collected from 862 making up 43.27%



- Bags collected-8,297 = 2,464 cubic yards of pine needles
- Cubic yards of slash- 340

Kachina- Total Parcels collected from 744 making up 37.35%

- Bags collected-7,162= 2,127 cubic yards of pine needles
- Cubic yards of slash- 293

Mountaineire- Total Parcels collected from 364 making up 18.27%

- Bags collected-3,503= 1,040 cubic yards of pine needles
- Cubic yards of slash- 293

Pine Del- Total Parcels collected from-20 making up 1%

- Bags collected-191= 56.74 cubic yards of pine needles
- Cubic yards of slash -7

This project would not be possible without the assistance of the following:

Arizona Public Service in the form of a \$3,500.00 Community Impact Grant. Coconino County opened and manned the Willard Springs green waste site, mailed fliers. Coconino Emergency management delivered and set up 3 digital sign boards. United Rentals donated two 12' dump trailers for the duration of the clean-up. Agee's Bar-B- Q, Kota's coffee house and the Pinewood Property Owners Association we want to thank you for your hard work and dedication in providing us with meals.

Our Special Thanks and Appreciation

Kevin Van Horn and staff – Coconino County Public Works

Janet Dean – Arizona Public Service

Mike Crosby – United Rentals, Flagstaff

Pinewood Property Owners Association

Staff of Agee's Barbecue Market

Staff of Kota's Coffee House

Thank you for making our communities a safer place for our residents and first responders.