



## Bear Jaw Interagency Fire & Fuels

3350 OLD MUNDS HWY  
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86005  
(928) 525-1717



8 May 2020

### 2020 Bear Jaw Community Cleanup

Bear Jaw with the assistance of Coconino County Public Works completed the collection and haul portion of the 2020 Bear Jaw Community Cleanup program as part of the NFPA Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. This included the design and implementation of an Incident Action Plan and use of the Incident Command System (ICS). The intent was to remove as much material from the home ignition zone to reduce the hazard to our citizens and first responders alike in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire. The dates are designed to capture 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.

This project would not be possible without the assistance of State Farm Insurance Company in the form of a \$500 Wildfire Preparedness Day Grant. Coconino County made available the use free of charge for the Willard Springs Transfer Station, supplied and setup notification boards, and mailed fliers. Both Highlands Fire District and Pinewood Fire District supplied additional personnel to assist in receiving bags.

Starting on 27 April 2020 and continuing through 7 May 2020, 20 personnel from Bear Jaw collected bags of pine needles and cut slash piles to haul to Willard Springs Transfer Station. This coordinated effort included the use of 7 separate vehicles, 4 trailers, and 1 chipper. ***Chipping and collection of cut brush is still ongoing in Munds Park.***

Over the course of the two weeks the crew collected the following.

- 5,205 - Individual Parcels in Collection Area
- 2,514 - Total Acreage Area
- 22,766 - Individual Bags Removed
- 1,018 - Cubic Yards of Slash Removed
- 12,401 - Total Cubic Yards of Material Removed
- 310 - Material Equivalent in Roll-Off Dumpsters
- 11,000 - Bags Distributed Free of Charge

The use of GPS data allowed the acquisition of precise location and amount of material in order 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 is 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 Mountaineer and Kachina Village Subdivisions. We hope to continue this program in the future with biennial implementation.

This program recognized the need to remove as many bags on the street even though there was a 10 bag limit. The vast majority residents abided by the rules set out for the protection of our employees. However, there were those that abused the program by adding dog waste, household trash, and rocks. 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.

#### **Our Special Thanks and Appreciation**

Ron Hollaman – Coconino County Public Works

Ty Cordova – State Farm Insurance

*Thank you for making our communities safer for all our residents and first responders.*

