



Bear Jaw Interagency Fire & Fuels
3350 OLD MUNDS HWY FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86005
(928) 525-1717



May 6, 2021

2021 Bear Jaw Community Cleanup

The 2021 Community cleanup has completed the collection and haul of yard debris and was a great way to participate in the NFPA Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. The intent of the community cleanup is to remove as much material from the home ignition zone and reduce the hazard to our citizens and first responders alike in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire. The dates of the community cleanup 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 our important partnering agencies.

- Arizona Public Service (APS) for grants totaling \$3,300 for the purchase of 10,000 trash bags and four printed banners for advertising.
- Coconino County for allowing the communities green waste to be hauled to Willard Springs Transfer Station, supplied 10,000 trash bags, and mailed fliers.
- Pinewood Sanitary District for supplying mailed flyers for Munds Park.
- Both Highlands Fire District and Pinewood Fire District for supplying additional personnel to assist in receiving bags.

Starting on 26 April 2021 and continuing through May 6th, 2021. Twenty 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.

Over the course of two weeks the following was collected.

- 1,134 - Individual residence in Collection Area removed material
- 10,599 - Individual Bags Removed
- 554 - Cubic Yards of Slash Removed
- 290 - Material Equivalent in Roll-Off Dumpsters
- 12,000 - Bags Distributed Free of Charge

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 is above \$2,000 per acre and generally not available under federal or 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 Kachina Village, Mountainaire, Munds Park and Pine Del. We look to continue this program and keep improving the defensible space around structures within the two Fire Districts boundaries.

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 in the previous year's resulting in our program standing by to the 10- clear bag limit per residence. 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 9AM – 5PM

Our Special Thanks and Appreciation

Ron Hollaman – Coconino County Public Works

Janet Dean- Arizona Public Service

Lisa Frazier- Pinewood Sanitary District

Thank you.
