



The 2024 fire season was an exceptional year for the crew, providing many opportunities for learning and growth from the ground up. Following our mandatory 80-hour critical training and satisfactory readiness review by AZDFFM personnel, Bear Jaw flowed right into the 2024 Community Clean-Up. In the weeks preceding the clean-up, the crew distributed 15,000 bags provided by our partnership with APS. This year 1,192 households participated in the clean-up. 5 trucks, 5 trailers and 1,280 hours of labor are provided annually in order to accomplish objectives with the annual community cleanup.

Grand totals for the year:

- **19,177** bags (**6,500 cubic yards of pine needles**)
- **786** cubic yards of slash
- **15,000** bags distributed free of charge

Outside of the Clean-Up, crewmembers also continued to provide property assessments and fuels mitigation work to our districts; 57 acres were successfully thinned this year. There were 2-3 times more assessment requests due to homeowners losing insurance from wildfire risk. We are tracking these assessments better so our concerns with Insurance coverage can be addressed in the future. 45 Insurance assessments were provided to district residents.

The 2024 season did not show itself to be particularly slow by any measure. Bear Jaw responded to nine incidents in Arizona, six in New Mexico, two in California, one in Idaho and one in Utah for a total of nineteen incidents. We were assigned to fires for 100 days across the nation. The season provided its challenges, especially given that the crew had a handful of positions filled with new faces.

This winter provided ideal conditions to introduce some much-needed fire back into the environment, making for a busy fall/winter in northern Arizona. Bear Jaw assisted in prescribed fire implementation in cooperation with the Coconino National Forest, AZ DFFM and Flagstaff Fire Department. Bear Jaw assisted local agencies with over 900 acres of prescribed fire. Due to the lack of precipitation, the crew's overhead remained available for Initial Attack and assisted with I.A.'s within the GFR.

Bear Jaw's firewood program provided 36 crates of wood to be readily available to our residents, of the 36 we delivered 6 crates to residents on fixed incomes and in need of warmth.

Bear Jaw assumed lead instructor for 5- NWCG classes in 2024. Numerous position Task books were opened, worked on and completed including the Initiation of 2 SRB PTB, 4 initiated FAL2, 2 completed SRB PTB, 1 completed FAL2, 3 initiated FFT1/ICT5, 2 completed FFT1/ ICT5. Works in progress: 1- OSC2, 1-DIV, 3- SRB, 4- FAL1, 4- FAL2, 4- FFT1/ICT5.