

Snapshots 2004

Highlighting BLM projects that support the National Fire Plan.



October 8

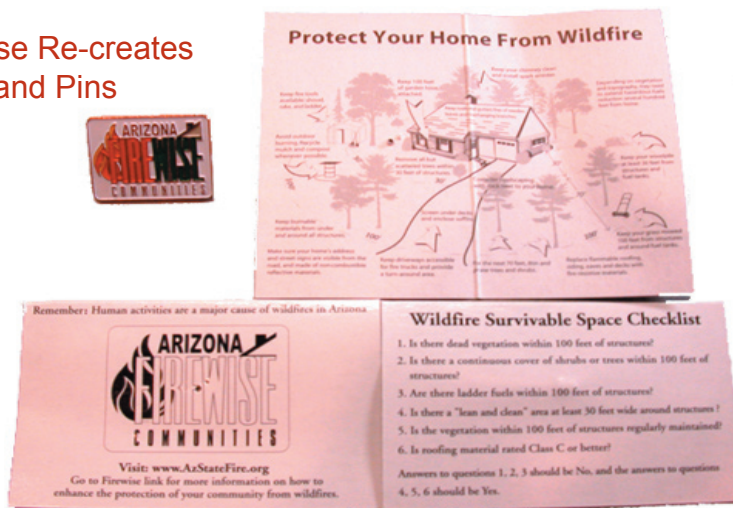
Arizona

Arizona Firewise Re-creates Pocket Cards and Pins

Arizona BLM recently received a second printing of Arizona Firewise Communities pins and pocket cards, which are distributed among several agencies involved in Firewise programs. In 2003, the BLM purchased and distributed 5,000 pocket cards and pins statewide. After receiving input from fire managers, the cards and pins redesigned with more Firewise information provided. The cards are designed to be folded and slipped into a wallet or pocket.

The cards are intended to be displayed on refrigerators or in public areas as an information tool to help communicate Firewise messages. Unfolded, the card lists 16 actions for protecting homes from wildfires. Folded, the card shares six key steps for creating wildfire survivable space, displaying the Arizona Firewise Communities logo and website for more fire information.

This year, BLM and the Forest Service jointly purchased another 5,000 pocket cards and pins. Arizona BLM offers an electronic version of the pocket card and pin for units interested in duplicating the project, which originated with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



The Arizona Firewise Communities and its associated informational pocket card of survivable space information are already into their second revised design and reissue.

Contact: David Peters, Safford-Tucson Fire Management Zone, Fire Mitigation Specialist, (520)258-7207

Arizona Firewise Communities Trailer Available

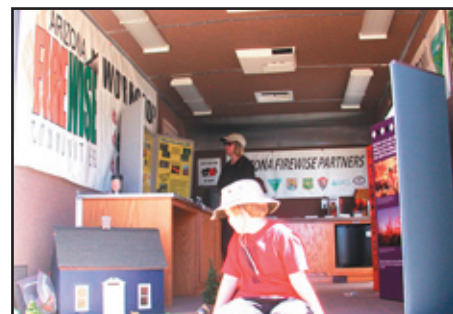
BLM's Safford-Tucson Fire Management Zone recently took delivery of a custom-made travel trailer to carry and display Firewise and fire prevention messages statewide. The trailer can be used by other wildland fire management organizations as availability allows. A website, www.AzStateFire.org, is maintained by the Arizona State Land Department, provides instructions and information.

Reservations for using the trailer are first-come, first-served. Stipulations include signing an agreement to take responsibility for its security and allowing only qualified BLM staff to transport it.

The trailer is equipped with propane and electric power for the air conditioning, refrigerator, electrical outlets and lights. Cabinet space is available for storing Firewise and other prevention and safety materials. In addition, the trailer contains displays and a television for showing instructional videos. The unit also comes equipped with eight chairs and two folding tables to set up in the shade of the retractable awning, allowing ready access to the facilities inside. Firewise and other messages can be displayed on the carpeted walls.

The trailer will rotate throughout Arizona and be housed at any of the seven BLM field offices, depending on where it is scheduled to be set up and shown off. Although it just arrived in September, news of its availability has quickly spread and the schedule for its use is rapidly filling up well into 2005.

Contact: David Peters, Safford-Tucson Fire Management Zone, Fire Mitigation Specialist, (520) 258-7207



Visiting the Arizona Firewise Communities trailer is a family affair. The unit's design encourages the public to roam through freely and interact with displays while learning about fire prevention and safety.

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Yuma Receives DOI Environmental Achievement Award

The Mittry Lake Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation project received the 2004 DOI Environmental Achievement Award in the Environmental Stewardship category. The recipients, BLM's Yuma Field Office, Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Regional Office and Yuma Office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, share land management responsibilities for the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area.

The riparian stabilization project is a result of the 1,300 acre Mittry Lake wildfire 20 miles northwest of Yuma, Arizona in March 2003 in cottonwood-willow, mesquite bosques, emergent marsh vegetation and saltcedar. Common resource goals among agencies involved included reducing fuel loads within a wildland urban interface area, increasing

diversity and providing priority wildlife habitat. The cooperative efforts brought agencies with differing objectives toward a common goal of environmental stewardship.

The project also fulfilled agency and department objectives for the National Fire Plan, recovery plan for the Southwestern willow flycatcher, Partners in Flight, Mittry Lake Wildlife Management Plan and Executive Order 13112 on invasive species.

Wildfire, a natural disturbance in southwest riparian areas, has greatly increased in frequency. The lower Colorado River has a fire return interval of three years with large fires every seven years. Invasive saltcedar, a hazardous fuel due to its density and resinous composition, is an integral part of fire management in the lower Colorado River area due to the wildland urban interface. Fire has been destroying the few remaining pockets of willow, cottonwood

and mesquite, the historic climax community of the Colorado River.

The burned area rehabilitation project included clearing and cutting roots on 283 acres of invasive saltcedar, seeding 190 acres with trees, shrubs and grass species, and applying herbicide to 490 acres. Trees were planted on 132 acres. Over 200 hours of volunteer student labor and 120 hours of collaboration and consultation with Mittry Lake Cooperative management unit partners went into the project.

Brush removal left coarse, woody debris to reduce soil erosion. A variety of plant species complemented the natural gradient of soil moisture. Species such as mesquite were planted in the driest regions of the planting area while cottonwood and willow were placed at the fringes, where they would benefit from the higher water table. "Pole planting" was employed to surround the lake with a gallery of cottonwood and willow, emulating the pre-fire conditions, and the newly-planted saplings were irrigated.

Contact: Lori Cook, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM Yuma Field Office, (928) 317-3243



As part of the Mittry Lake rehabilitation project, 283 acres of saltcedar were burned.

Wyoming

Cub Scouts Visit Casper Field Office

On July 10, Cub Scouts from Glenrock Pack 27 visited the Bureau of Land Management Casper Field to learn about fire and public lands.

Pack 27 began their visit with a flag ceremony outside the BLM building, then went to the dispatch center for a tour with Manager Trina Reid. Scouts were especially interested in the large

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land status map where dispatch keeps track of all the fires.

Fire Crew members Justin Spurrier, Shannon Ford, and Katherine Rummer took the scouts to see the fire cache, ready room, and garage. They observed different fire trucks and worked the flashing lights and honk the horns. BLM fire fighter packs and tools were displayed, and best of all for the youngsters was squirting fire hoses.

The group also visited Casper Fire Department Station Two to see a city fire engine and view a Type III helicopter stationed across from the fire department in Mike Cedar Park. Students learned that the helicopter is available statewide for fighting wildland fires.

Glenrock Pack 27 had a busy day of learning about fire from Casper's BLM staff. They learned about different kinds of fire, including prescribed fires and wildland fires as well as structure fires from the Casper Fire Department. They left with educational materials including their own Smokey Hat, and their very own official Casper BLM fire t-shirt.



Scouts pose in front of BLM



Justin Spurrier shows the scouts what he carries to a fire.



Cub scout trying out the fire hose with the help of BLM fire fighter Shannon Ford.

Pack 27 visits the Type III helicopter stationed in Casper.



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