



BIGHORN BASIN FIRESMART



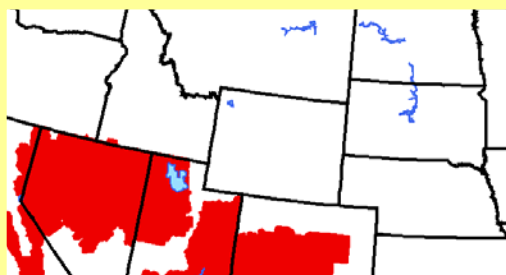
BIGHORN BASIN FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

ISSUE #27 — SPRING 2018

To all readers:

By the time you get this, spring cleanup should be well underway around your home or cabin to keep the place Firesmart for the coming fire season. **Page 7** is the usual checklist to remind you of the final checks. **Page 5** is about the Wildfire Evacuation Plan that each rural home and mountain cabin should have completed, posted, and periodically reviewed by residents and visitors during the fire season. You may consider doing both of these to be distractions to your busy lives, but each could save your family members and property from harm.

National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) WILDFIRE PREDICTION for summer 2018:



The prediction is that all of Wyoming can expect “normal” fire occurrence and fire behavior at least through July. The **red** is where fire activity will be above normal. Portions of Oregon and Montana are anticipated to be **red** by late summer.

An indication of the general reliability of NIFC predictions, is their February prediction that for April, Texas and Oklahoma would be busy with wildfires, and they were.

If your Washakie County cabin, or Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) rural home needs a WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN (WMP), contact your County Firesmart Coordinator, at Firesmart@wytfs.com, or call (307) 272-9533. Landowners in the Page 4 North Bighorn River Reduction project area are encouraged to submit an application for a WMP evaluation and Firesmart assessments. Funding is available for these WMP. Requests for WMP at other locations will be kept on file if funding as not available in 2018.

This and all future Bighorn Basin Firesmart issues will go only to E-mail recipients. All issues will also be available on Facebook, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/bighornbasin.firesmart>

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THE BIG HORN BASIN FIREWISE COORDINATORS ARE:

Big Horn County: The County Fire Warden is Brent Godfrey (307) 568-2324.

Washakie County: Chris Kocher, Fire Warden, ckocher@worlandfire.org, P.O. Box 504, Worland, Wyoming 82401, or (307) 347-6379. The Firesmart Coordinator is Chris Weydeveld, cweydeveld@wytfs.com, Technical Forestry Services, LLC, 6628 W. Riverside Dr. Casper, Wyoming 82604, or (307) 333-1098 (office), (307) 272-9533 (mobile).

Hot Springs County: Contact Dion Robbins, County Fire Warden, at (307) 431-2767, or hscwarden@rtconnect.com.

Park County : Bernie Spanogle, Firewise Coordinator, can be reached at pcfirerwise@gmail.com. or at 307-250-9387. The County Fire Warden is Russ Wenke, rwenke@parkcounty.us, 1131 11th Street, Cody, Wyoming 82414, or (307) 527-8551.

The Basin Firewise website : parkcountyfirewise.com When you get there, surf the MENU to see what articles, photos, and short video clips are there. Check it out.



If you have general or specific questions about Firewise, two good online sources of answers are: www.firewisewyoming.com and www.livingwithfire.com.

Do you have topics you would like included in future newsletters? Please submit your suggestions and comments to firesmart@wytfs.com, or by mail to G. Wynn, 824 Country Club, Casper, Wyo. 82609.

Thanks for providing this newsletter go to the Wyoming State Forestry Division, the Washakie County Fire Warden, and the U.S. Forest Service. They provide the funding.


This newsletter is provided as a service of your county’s Firesmart Coordinator. If you choose not to receive future issues, please respond to firesmart@wytfs.com, or to Big Horn/Washakie Firesmart (6628 W. Riverside Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604) by mail.

Updates for the Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) for both Washakie and Big Horn counties have been completed, and can be viewed at <https://sites.google.com/a/wyo.gov/forestry/fire-management/fire-grants-assistance/fuels-mitigation/county-wildfire-protection-plans> . Each is full of information on the process used to identify high priority communities in each county, and planned treatments to reduce the risk of wildfire damage within those communities.


Washakie County

Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2017 Update

December 15, 2017



Washakie County, Wyoming




This plan developed by the Washakie County CWPP Operating Group in cooperation with:
Technical Forestry Services, LLC
6628 W. Riverside Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604
www.wyotfs.com


Big Horn County

Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2017 Update

February 28, 2018



Big Horn County, Wyoming



This plan developed by the Big Horn County CWPP Operating Group in cooperation with:
Technical Forestry Services, LLC
6628 W. Riverside Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604
www.wyotfs.com

You can now keep up on daily news and events with Bighorn Basin Firewise. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/BighornBasinFiresmart/>

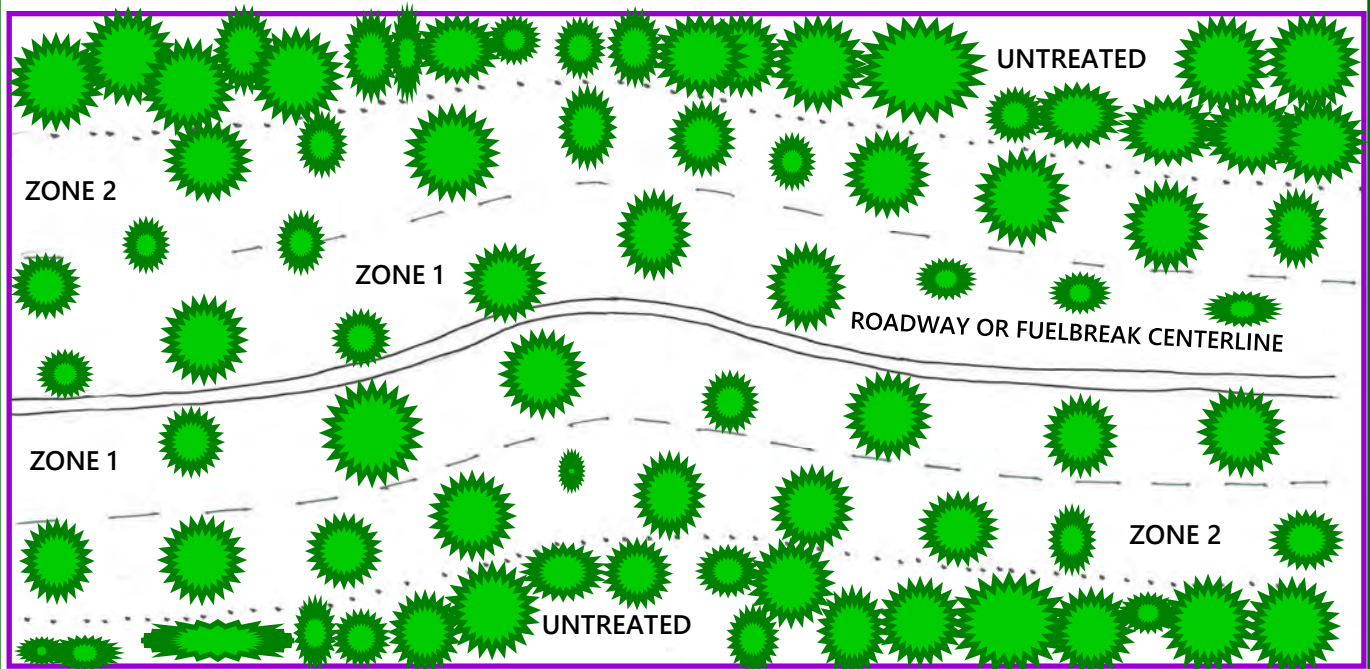


FUELBREAKS

As a general definition, Fuelbreaks are forested areas where trees have been thinned, undergrowth shrubbery has been reduced, dead trees have been cut, and woody debris have been treated or removed, with the intent of modifying wildfire behavior to slow fire spread, reduce fire intensity, and serve as a location where firefighting forces can safely have success stopping a fire.

Ideally, fuelbreaks should be located along a road or ridgetop with good access for firefighting equipment, and tied at both ends to other fuelbreaks or natural low fuel areas. The width of the treated area is dependent on topography and the forest type it is located in. Steeper areas require wider fuelbreaks to be effective or safe.

Here's a rough diagram of an example 200-foot fuelbreak:



ZONE 1: Thin trees to **two crown width** spacing, and remove limbs within 12 feet of the ground, to 50 feet from centerline.

ZONE 2: Thin trees to **one crown width** spacing, and remove limbs within 12 feet of the ground, an additional 50 feet from centerline.



A constructed fuelbreak is not a permanent solution. Periodic maintenance is needed to remove ingrowth of vegetation, and buildup of dead and down woody fuels.

A SUCCESSFUL FUELBREAK. BEFORE THE FIRE, TREES WERE THINNED, AND CUT TREES WERE PILED AND BURNED. ALMOST ALL THE TREES SURVIVED THE FIRE, AND THIS IS WHERE FIREFIGHTERS STOPPED THE FIRE SPREAD OF A MULTI-THOUSAND ACRE FIRE.

NORTH BIGHORN RIVER FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

This wildfire risk reduction project is intended to assist property owners in reducing the risk of wildfire damage to their property in Washakie County along the Bighorn River north of the Highway 16/20 bridge.

This area has been identified as high risk and a high priority for fuels treatment in the 2017 Washakie County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update.

A similar project of tree thinning, invasive tree and shrub species removal, and woody fuels reduction, was recently completed along the river through Greybull, as shown below in **before** and **after** photos.

Funding for this project has come through a 2017 Western States Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Landowners inside the mapped **red** project boundary line who would like to have their property assessed for consideration, at no cost to them, can request an assessment by a Washakie County Firesmart forester, by filling out the Firesmart Mitigation Plan Application that is Page 8 of this newsletter. A map of ownerships is available on the website at:

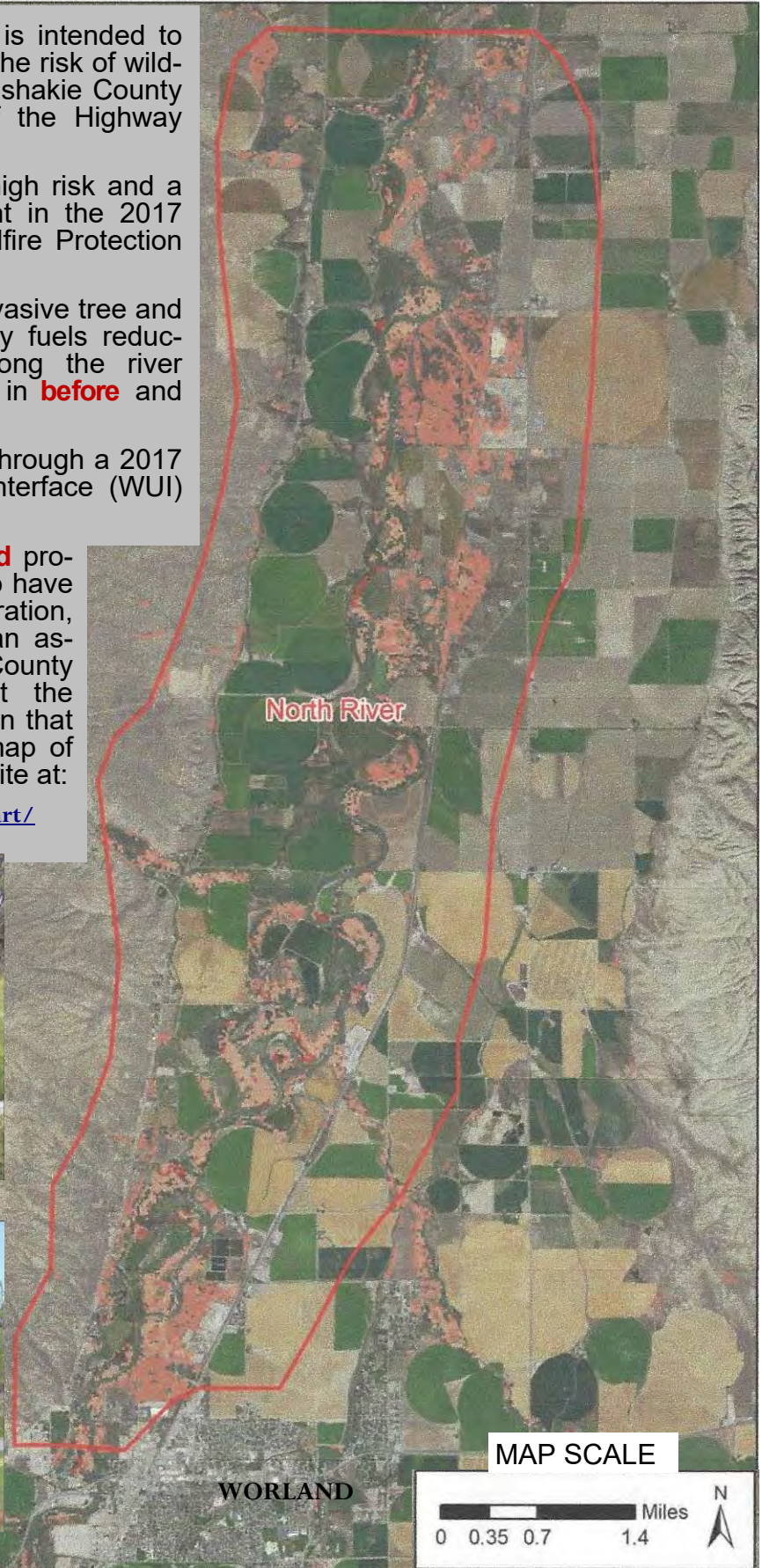
<http://wytfs.com/bighorn-basin-firesmart/>



GREYBULL FUEL REDUCTION—BEFORE



GREYBULL FUEL REDUCTION—AFTER



WILDFIRE EVACUATION PLAN

This is a written plan for safely leaving your home or wildland cabin in the event of an approaching wildfire. It also applies to flooding or other emergencies that may call for evacuation. Examples of each item are shown in **bold green**.

- Designate a primary exit route, with alternatives to be used if the primary route is threatened or closed by fire.

Exit route: Road 23 West to Hwy 155, then south to Big Tree State Park. Alternate: Road 14 East to Hwy 16, then south to Waycross and Big Tree State Park.

- Determine a specific locations for family members to meet after an evacuation. That includes those who might be absent during an evacuation. It should be outside your community, miles away from the home or cabin, and known to all family members. A secondary meeting site is also recommended. ***Consider including a map of the planned evacuation routes.***

Meeting spot: Big Tree State Park.

- Know the location of important documents and items that you would want to take with you during any evacuation. Keeping them stored together in an easily accessible location is recommended.

Important documents & items: The important family documents in the fireproof lockbox in the front hall closet, and the family history and photo albums in the office bookcase.

- Have a “Disaster Kit” prepared or listed just in case you can’t return to your home or cabin within several days. This should include such things as clothing, toiletries, and prescription medications you would usually take on any weekend trip, plus cell phones and chargers, and family finance provisions, as well as items related to any pets you would be evacuating with you.

Disaster Kit: One set of all-weather clothing, tooth brushes, razors, and prescription medications for each member family member, plus check book, debit & credit cards, \$200 cash, and three days of food for Rocket the dog.

- Emergency contact information for members of the family, both in and outside the group being evacuated.

Contact Information: Uncle Joe @ 555-555-5555, Grandma Lucy @ 555-555-5575, Cousin Suzy email—suzyq88@pmail.net, etc.

- Keep your potential escape vehicles serviced and fueled during fire season.
- Keep your evacuation plan handy, and share it with any folks staying with you during fire season.
- Have a posted list of what needs to be done when a wildfire may require an evacuation. That will be in item in the next Bighorn Basin Firesmart.

Bighorn Basin Firesmart Picnic

June 16, 2018 at the Willow Park Group Area



Research shows properly designed and implemented defensible space treatments around cabins reduces ignitability during wildfire.

What: Annual Bighorn Basin Firesmart Picnic

Date: June 16, 2018

Time: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm—(see agenda below)

Place: Willow Park Group Area, Bighorn National Forest

Agenda:

11:00—12:00 am—West Tensleep Cabin Owner's Association Meeting (Contact Tom Schultz for more information (307) 587-6122)

12:00 noon to 1:00 pm—BBQ Lunch (Prepared by Chubby Cheeks BBQ and provided by the West Tensleep Cabin Owner's Association and Bighorn Basin Firesmart)

1:00 to 2:00 pm – Discussions with Agency Personnel and Firesmart Coordinator regarding wildfire preparedness and living with fire in the Bighorn Mountains and lowlands.

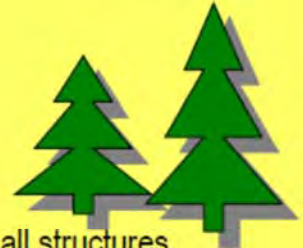
For more information contact the Bighorn Basin Firesmart Coordinator at: (307) 272-9533 or (307) 333-2887 Email: Firewise@wytfs.com

ANNUAL PRE-FIRE-SEASON FIREWISE WALK-AROUND CHECKLIST

Once a home or cabin has been made Firewise, the owner can't sit back and enjoy it. Vegetation will continue to grow, and human activities will change the situation on an irregular basis.

BEFORE FIRE SEASON:

- Remove leaves and forest litter from gutters, roofs, and within 3 feet of all structures
- Clean chimney screens
- Cut new small trees and shrubs within the 100-foot zone
- Remove dead trees within the 100-foot zone
- Check your address placard or sign for clear visibility
- Move your conveniently-placed winter woodpile to more than 30 feet from all structures
- Check/replace the batteries in your emergency alert radio
- Inspect your powerline for branches within four feet in all directions
- Check window screens for a tight fit, and patch any holes
- Remove leaf and needles between the boards of decks, and under any decks and porches.
- Check walls and foundation for fresh bird and animal holes, and patch appropriately
- Pick up winter-broken limbs within the 100-foot zone
- Remove flammable materials from decks and porches, except when actually in use
- Review your evacuation plan, and share it with the family and guests
- If you are interested in keeping current on wildfire activity in Wyoming or the country, check out the websites mentioned below, and move them to your computer's "Favorites" list.



BEFORE GRASS CURES IN MID-SUMMER:

- Mow grassy areas around all structures
- Mow grass within and adjacent to driveways

EVERYTHING ON THIS PAGE IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE REPEATED EVERY YEAR.

WEBSITES FOR TRACKING WILDFIRE ACTIVITY

FOR FIRES IN WYOMING:

<http://lands.state.wy.us>

**Then click on - Forestry : Wildland Fire Management
and then Fire Information**

FIRE ACTIVITY FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY:

www.inciweb.org

FIRESMART MITIGATION PLAN APPLICATION

PROPERTY OWNER: _____

PROPERTY PHYSICAL LOCATION/ADDRESS: _____

PROPERTY OWNER MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PROPERTY OWNER TELEPHONE: _____

PROPERTY OWNER E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PROPERTY PRIMARY USE – CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

Year-round residence/rental

Seasonal occupancy residence

Commercial or business

Agriculture, field, or open space

NUMBER AND KIND OF STRUCTURES ON THE PROPERTY: _____

CHECK THOSE WHICH APPLY:

PLEASE CONTACT ME TO ARRANGE A MITIGATION PLAN FOR MY PROPERTY

I WANT MORE INFORMATION ON THE FIRESMART PROGRAM

OTHER: _____

COMMENTS: _____

If your property is included in the Firesmart program, would you allow Technical Forestry Services to use photos of it in future Bighorn Basin Firesmart, and promotional programs? Photos would not be identified with addresses or homeowner’s names. Please check the one that applies.

YES. You may use photos of my property **NO.** Do not use photos of my property

Landowner signature: _____

Landowner printed name: _____

Date: _____

Submit directly to Technical Forestry Services, LLC, 6628 W. Riverside Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604

Email address: firewise@wytfs.com

Find out more information at: <http://wytfs.com/bighorn-basin-firesmart/>

Find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/BighornBasinFiresmart/>