

BIGHORN BASIN FIRESMART

BIGHORN BASIN FIRESMART COMMITTEES

ISSUE #2—WINTER 2010-2011

Now that you have used the Issue #1 checklist to evaluate your home or cabin to determine whether your place is



THIS

or



THIS,

it's time to tell you how to obtain assistance in making your property Firewise.

Included in this issue of **Bighorn Basin Firesmart** are summaries of the actions that you can take in **Big Horn** and **Park** counties, and answers to questions that homeowners ask when talking to the Big Horn County Firewise Coordinator. The pink page at the back of the newsletter is a **Big Horn County** Firewise request form you can submit to the Firewise Coordinator if you wish to instigate making your property Firewise in Big Horn County.

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If you have topics you would like included in future newsletters, please submit your suggestions and comments to firewise@wytfs.com, or to the Big Horn County Firewise coordinator at the mail or telephone listings on Page 2.

This newsletter is provided as a service of your county's Firewise Coordinator. If you choose not to receive future issues, please respond to the address that delivered it, or to firewise@wytfs.com. If you would rather receive your copy electronically, please contact your county's Firewise Coordinator. Their names and contact information are on the next page.

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In this issue:	Page	Special points of interest:
County Firewise Coordinator Information,	2	A message for Park County landowners.
Firewise Questions & Answers	3-4	Firewise financial and procedure Q & A
Pile burning & Pesticide Use	5	Hints on pile burning and herbicide usage
Message for Big Horn County	6	How to get a Big Horn County WMP
Wyoming Fire Academy courses	6	
Big Horn County Home Firewise Request Form	7	To submit a request for a Firewise evaluation.
Firewise at work photograph	8	House saved in Ferry Canyon Fire

THE BIG HORN BASIN FIREWISE COORDINATORS ARE:

Big Horn County: The County Fire Warden is Brent Godfrey. The Firewise 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)

Washakie County: Chris Kocher, Fire Warden, ckocher@worlandfire.org, P.O. Box 504, Worland, Wyoming 82401, or (307) 347-6379

Hot Springs County: No Firewise Coordinator has yet been selected. Contact A.J. Helm, County Fire Warden at (307) 921 - 1955, or tfdwarden@yahoo.com

Park County : Russ Wenke, Fire Warden, rwenke@parkcounty.us 1131 11th Street, Cody, Wyoming 82414, or (307) 527-8551



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR PARK COUNTY PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

The Bureau of Land Management has provided funds through an Assistance Agreement so that Park County Fire Districts can assist private landowners with reducing fuels (trees & brush) to protect rural structures, and lessen the risk of catastrophic wildland fires. As County Fire Warden, I am administering those funds.

If you have a residence and associated structures that could be threatened by an approaching wildland fire, we can reimburse up to 90% of the costs associated with removing and/or thinning trees and brush on your property. We have established guidelines to assist us in determining how much we can reimburse. Following are some examples:

Create defensible space on 1.0 acre of land containing structures:

Expected total cost is \$2,900 and reimbursement amount is 90% of that total or \$2,610.

Treat fuels on adjacent acres (thin, remove dead tree, etc.):

Expected cost is \$500 per acre and reimbursement amount is \$450.00.

If you choose to participate, then I will visit the site with our local State Forester who will develop a land stewardship plan. The plan will outline the project and I will provide you with an analysis of the amount we can reimburse. We can reimburse you for payments made to a contractor or for you own labor and equipment.

If you have questions about the program or any other fire safety questions please contact our office at rwenke@parkcounty.us, 1131 11th Street, Cody, Wyoming 82414, or (307) 527-8551

.Russell Wenke, Park County Fire Warden, 527-8551



Page 6 has an outline of the procedure within Big Horn County.

SOME GENERAL FIREWISE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR ALL COUNTIES

Page 2 has some specific instructions for **Park County**, and Page 6 has similar information for **Big Horn County**. **Residents of Washakie and Hot Springs counties will need to contact their Firewise Coordinator if they want additional information.**

Q - WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE FIREWISE PROGRAM?

A - **TO MAKE RURAL HOMES AND CABINS “FIREWISE.”**

Q - WHAT IS FIREWISE?

A - **A PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES THAT WILL MAKE YOUR HOME/CABIN BETTER ABLE TO SURVIVE WILDFIRES. “DEFENSIBLE SPACE” RIGHT AROUND THE STRUCTURE IS A KEY.**

Q - WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE PROGRAM?

A - **“WILDLAND” HOMES AND CABINS, AND PROPERTY IN A WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI) IDENTIFIED IN YOUR COUNTY’S WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP).**

Q - WHAT ARE THE PARTS OF THE PROGRAM?

A - **THREE THINGS:**

- 1) **A MITIGATION PLAN PREPARED BY THE COUNTY FIREWISE COORDINATOR.**
- 2) **MITIGATION FUEL TREATMENTS AROUND YOUR HOME/CABIN AND ROAD ACCESS.**
- 3) **HOMEOWNER CORRECTION OF STRUCTURAL ISSUES THAT ARE NOT RELATED TO SURROUNDING FUELS.**

Q - WHO PAYS FOR THE MITIGATION PLAN?

A - **THE STATE OF WYOMING, WITH NATIONAL FIRE PLAN DOLLARS, REGARDLESS OF LAND OWNERSHIP.**

Q - WHO PAYS FOR THE FIREWISE FUEL TREATMENTS?

A - **GENERALLY, 35% IS THE HOMEOWNER SHARE, WITH A 65% STATE REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL FIRE PLAN. IN PARK COUNTY, AND SOME AREAS OF BIG HORN COUNTY, ONLY A 10% HOMEOWNER MATCH IS CURRENTLY REQUIRED.**

Q - DO ALL CABINS QUALIFY FOR FUELS TREATMENT REIMBURSEMENT?

A - **IN SOME COUNTIES, CABINS ON FEDERAL LAND LEASES DO NOT QUALIFY FOR FUELS TREATMENT FUNDING. ALL ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLANS.**

Q - IS THE COST-SHARE PROGRAM JUST FOR FUELS TREATMENTS?

A - **YES, INCLUDING SLASH TREATMENT FROM FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS.**

Q - HOW MANY ACRES OF FUEL TREATMENT IS COVERED FOR EACH HOME?

A - **ALL ACREAGE WITHIN 90 FEET OF ANY STRUCTURES. THE COUNTY FIREWISE COORDINATOR MAY INCREASE THAT IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Q - WHAT IF THERE ARE NO STRUCTURES ON MY PROPERTY?

A - **A PLAN CAN BE PREPARED FOR ANY WUI PROPERTY WITH A FUELS PROBLEM.**

- Q WHAT IF THE FUELS PROBLEM IS LARGER THAN AN ACRE?
 A **A SEPARATE PLAN CAN BE PREPARED, REQUESTING ADDITIONAL COST-SHARE FUNDS.**
- Q - WHAT IS COVERED UNDER THE DESCRIPTION OF “FUELS TREATMENT?”
 A **- TREE THINNING & PRUNING, BRUSH REMOVAL, SLASH PILING, AND SLASH DISPOSAL.**
- Q - WHAT IF FUELS TREATMENTS CREATE MARKETABLE PRODUCTS?
 A **- THE VALUE IS SUBTRACTED FROM THE REIMBURSED AMOUNT.**
- Q - WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SLASH AND BRUSH DEBRIS?
 A **- IT BELONGS TO THE OWNER, AND *TIMELY* DISPOSAL IS PART OF THE PROGRAM.**
- Q - HOW MUCH IS AUTHORIZED?
 A **- GENERALLY UP TO \$2,500 (INCLUDING MATCHING FUNDS) FOR EACH SITE. *See Page 2 for current Park County reimbursement rates.***
- Q - HOW IS THE PAYMENT MADE?
 A **- THE HOMEOWNER HIRES AND PAYS A CONTRACTOR, AND SUBMITS A DETAILED INVOICE (WITH RECEIPTS) TO THE COUNTY FIREWISE COORDINATOR, WHEN THE WORK IS FINISHED.**
- Q - WHAT IF THE HOMEOWNER CAN DO SOME OF THE WORK THEMSELVES?
 A **- IN-KIND WORK CAN BE DONE AS PART OF THE HOMEOWNER’S 35% (OR 10%) SHARE.**
- Q - CAN THE WHOLE JOB BE DONE BY THE HOMEOWNER, WITH REIMBURSEMENT?
 A **- YES, AS IN-KIND.**
- Q - HOW IS IN-KIND TALLIED BY THE HOMEOWNER?
 A **- RATES ARE SET BY THE FIREWISE PROGRAM, AND HOURS ARE REPORTED ON THE PROJECT INVOICE.**
- Q - WHO CAN DO THE CONTRACT WORK? ARE THERE SPECIFIC PERMITTED CONTRACTORS?
 A **- ANY CONTRACTOR WHO MEETS LOCAL REQUIREMENTS.**
- Q - HOW LONG WILL REIMBURSEMENT TAKE?
 A **- SIX WEEKS TO TWO MONTHS (AN ESTIMATE).**
- Q - WHO MAINTAINS AND PAYS FOR KEEPING THE FUELS FIREWISE ON MY LAND?
 A **-MAINTAINING FIREWISE CONDITIONS IS THE PROPERTY OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY.**
- Q - WHEN CAN MY EVALUATION AND PLAN DONE GET DONE?
 A **- NOT UNTIL SPRING. EVALUATORS NEED TO SEE THE GROUND AND VEGETATION.**

Piling and Burning

If woody material cannot be chipped and scattered on the ground, or removed altogether. Piling and burning is the next best alternative. Piling and burning is a quick way to eliminate a large amount of slash at a moderate cost. When burning piles follow these rules: Assume that flame lengths will be 10 to 15 times the height and length of the pile size. (ex. If a pile is five feet tall and five feet wide, the flames would extend in all directions 50 feet or more depending on wind). With this in mind, position piles so they are far enough away to avoid scorching standing trees, structures or other improvements. Wait to burn until a good snow fall occurs in the late fall; prior to burning, ensure that the temperatures will remain below freezing for at least 2-3 days; avoid burning on days with high winds predicted; after piles are ignited closely monitor for the first few hours, then periodically for the next few days to ensure fire does not spread away from pile location. Re-seed burn pile location the following spring with native grasses and forbs. Re-vegetating the area will help prevent introduction of noxious weeds. Contact the County Fire Warden or local sheriff dispatch office to inform them of the time and day of burning.



LOGGING SLASH PILE IN THE BIGHORN MOUNTAINS

PESTICIDE USE IN MAKING YOUR HOME OR CABIN FIREWISE

If herbicides are a part of your home or cabin Firewise project, here are three things to remember:

- 1) Contact your County Weed and Pest office for current herbicide recommendations for the **specific** job you are planning to do.
- 2) If you hire the work done, the contractor must have an appropriate applicator's license. Again, contact your County Weed and Pest office for exact requirements.
- 3) If you do the work yourself, read and follow herbicide label directions carefully, wear recommended protective clothing, and dispose of the empty containers and unused material properly.

FOR BIG HORN COUNTY LANDOWNERS AND CABINHOLDERS

Including the residents of the Globe Canal Wildland Urban Interface.

IF YOU WISH A WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN:

- 1. SUBMIT REQUEST TO THE COUNTY FIREWISE COORDINATOR, CHRIS WEYDEVELD. PAGE 7 IS A REQUEST FORM.**
- 2. EVALUATION VISIT BY THE FIREWISE COORDINATOR.**
- 3. PLAN PREPARATION BY THE FIREWISE COORDINATOR.**
- 4. PLAN REVIEW BY THE HOME OR CABIN OWNER.**
- 5. SIGNATURES, INCLUDING THE STATE FORESTER.**
- 6. FUELS TREATMENT.**
- 7. INVOICE AND REIMBURSEMENT.**

THE BIG HORN COUNTY FIREWISE COORDINATOR CAN BE REACHED AT

firewise@wytfs.com or the address and phone number on Pg. 2.



WYOMING FIRE ACADEMY

The Wyoming Fire Academy, in Riverton, offers wildfire classes throughout the year in their state of the art facilities. The Academy features a live fire multi-station training course & classroom facilities, and has accommodations for traveling trainees. Training this spring includes these Firewise-related classes.

S-215 Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface

Dates: 3/22/11 - 3/25/11

Time: 0800 - 1700 Daily

Instructor: TBA

Nominations Close: 2/25/2011

Notes: Acceptance letters will be sent **NLT 2/25/2011**

RX-341 Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation

Dates: 3/7/11 - 3/11/11

Time: 1300 Monday, 0800 - 1700 Daily **Instructor:** Marvin Matthiesen, WY-BHF / Carde

Nominations Close: 2/4/2011

For a complete listing of scheduled training, and more information on the Fire Academy, you can contact them at 2500 Academy Court, Riverton, WY 82501, phone 307-856-6776, or at their website - <http://wyofire.state.wy.us/wyfireacademy/index.html>



BIG HORN COUNTY FIREWISE MITIGATION PLAN APPLICATION

PROPERTY OWNER: _____

PROPERTY PHYSICAL LOCATION/ADDRESS: _____

PROPERTY OWNER MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PROPERTY OWNER TELEPHONE: _____

PROPERTY OWNER E-MAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): _____

PROPERTY PRIMARY USE – CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

YEAR-ROUND RESIDENCE/RENTAL

SEASONAL OCCUPANCY RESIDENCE

COMMERCIAL OR BUSINESS

AGRICULTURE

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 FIREWISE PROGRAM

OTHER: _____

COMMENTS: _____

If your property is included in the Firewise 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



*Big Horn County Firewise
6628 W. Riverside Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604*

