

## STILL CONFUSED ABOUT *FIREWISE*?



For your home or cabin, the best overview source is a short online class by the national Firewise program.

Log on to [FIREWISE.org](http://FIREWISE.org)

Go to the **Learning Center** and click on **“Enroll in a Course Now”**

Click on **“Conduct a Community Assessment in the Wildland Urban Interface: Beginning the Firewise Process”** and register to take the course.

The first four lessons are appropriate for all home and cabin owners. The class starts very basic, but gets specific in the later chapters.

Lessons five through seven are aimed at program managers, and have little to offer home and cabin owners.

*If you do not have a computer with Internet access, community libraries typically have public-use computers, and can show you how to operate them.*

=====

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

Funding for this newsletter is provided by the Wyoming State Forestry Division, the Big Horn County Fire Warden, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

**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](mailto: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.**

In this issue:	Page	Special points of interest:
County Firewise Coordinator Information, Mountain Cabin Owner’s Summer Picnics	<b>2</b>	A message for Big Horn County landowners <b>Dates and locations of cabin owner picnics</b>
Burning Guidelines	<b>3-</b>	How to burn with a minimum of risk
2011 Wildfire Forecast & Fire Training	<b>4</b>	Some wildfire training in Wyoming
Defensible space	<b>5</b>	Six Steps to Effective Defensible Space
Thinning and fuels contractors	<b>6</b>	Contractor list for fuels mitigation.
Messages for mountain cabin owners	<b>7</b>	Slash disposal sites and other information.
Firewise at work photograph	<b>8</b>	Wildfire results with and without thinning

**THE BIG HORN BASIN FIREWISE COORDINATORS ARE:**

**Big Horn County:** The County Fire Warden is Brent Godfrey (307) 568-2324. The Firewise Coordinator is Chris Weydeveld, [cweydeveld@wytfs.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 Jay Duvall, Deputy County Fire Warden at (307) 921-1485, or [hscdwarden@gmail.com](mailto:hscdwarden@gmail.com)

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

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BIG HORN COUNTY FIREWISE COORDINATOR**

Myself and my deputy have completed a dozen Firewise evaluations on homes and cabins since last summer. Now that spring is here and summer is quickly approaching, we are gearing up for a busy summer. Funding is available for several more projects, so Big Horn County home and cabin owners are urged to get their requests in.

To make a request, contact my office by mail, telephone or E-mail. **Technical Forestry Services, LLC, 6628 W. Riverside Dr. Casper, Wyoming 82604, or (307) 333-1098 (office), (307) 272-9533 (mobile), [cweydeveld@wytfs.com](mailto:cweydeveld@wytfs.com).**

After receipt of a request, we will contact you to arrange an onsite evaluation. We prefer that home and cabin owners are present for the evaluation, but that is not a requirement.

Chris Weydeveld.



**ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION**

**MOUNTAIN CABIN OWNERS ON THE MEDICINE WHEEL/PAINTROCK & POWDER RIVER DISTRICTS OF THE BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST**

THE BIG HORN COUNTY FIREWISE COORDINATOR INVITES YOU TO A PICNIC TO LEARN ABOUT LOWERING THE CHANCE OF YOUR BIG HORN COUNTY MOUNTAIN CABIN BEING DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY WILDFIRE.

**MEDICINE WHEEL/PAINTROCK DISTRICT CABIN OWNERS: Saturday July 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Porcupine Campground ([Page 8 map](#)).**

**POWDER RIVER DISTRICT CABIN OWNERS IN BIG HORN COUNTY: Sunday July 17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Willow Park Campground ([Page 8 map](#)).**

All you need to bring is your appetite and questions.

*Please **RSVP** the Big Horn County Firewise Coordinator if you plan to attend, at , 6628 W. Riverside Dr., Casper, Wyo. 82604, [firewise@wytfs.com](mailto:firewise@wytfs.com), or (307) 333-1098.*

## WASHAKIE COUNTY BURNING GUIDELINES

These are just Guidelines they are not Regulations



- 1) TIME OF BURNING 8:00 AM TO 6:00 PM ONLY, NO FIRE SHALL BE BURNING PRIOR TO 8:00 AM OR AFTER 6:00 PM.
- 2) WIND SPEED AND DIRECTIONS. NO FIRE SHALL BE STARTED IF THE WIND IS OVER 20 MPH.
- 3) WIND SHOULD BE BLOWING AWAY FROM POPULATED AREAS WHEN BURN BEGINS.
- 4) NOTIFY THE DISPATCH CENTER BEFORE YOU START BURNING AT 347-2242.
- 5) SOMEONE SHALL WATCH THE FIRE AT ALL TIMES TO MAKE SURE IT IS UNDER CONTROL.
- 6) HAVE A VEHICLE WITH WATER AND SPRAYER CAPABILITY AT THE FIRE.
- 7) DISK AROUND DANGER AREAS WHERE FIRE MAY SPREAD SUCH AS FUEL TANKS, HAYSTACKS, ETC., PRIOR TO BURNING.

WASHAKIE COUNTY DISPATCH 307-347-2242

**THESE BURNING GUIDELINES WERE PROVIDED BY CHRIS KOCHER, WASHAKIE COUNTY FIRE WARDEN. THEY ARE APPROPRIATE FOR ANY BURNING IN THE BIGHORN BASIN. ANYONE CONSIDERING BURNING SHOULD NOTIFY THEIR INDIVIDUAL COUNTY FIRE WARDENS. PHONE NUMBERS ARE ON PAGE TWO FOR ALL FIRE WARDENS.**



**A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**—The NFPA recently released a report on local fire department responses to brush, grass, and forest fires, from 2004 through 2008. Local fire departments in the U.S. responded to an average of almost 1,000 such fires every day during that five-year period. These incidents accounted for nearly one quarter of all fires reported to local fire departments. NFPA has called for increased participation in community-wide wildfire education and planning efforts, such as its Firewise Communities program, to help property owners reduce their risk for wildfire damage.

While three-quarters of these fires burned less than an acre, local fire departments had to contend with an annual average of 4,800 buildings involved in brush, grass, or forest fires, during the five year study. The report found human activity was the main cause of such fires. The report emphasized that people **can** take steps to reduce the fuel load, and prevent a fire from spreading after it starts.

The Firewise Communities program helps residents minimize the risk of their home's ignition from brush, grass, and forest fires, by using simple inexpensive steps to modify and clean up their homes and landscapes. In partnership with local fire departments and state foresters, more than 600 hundred communities across the U.S. have engaged local leaders, emergency responders and individual homeowners to make significant advances in making the community safer from wildfire.

NFPA states that being Firewise — adhering to burn bans, knowing your community's risk for wildfire and reducing the available fuel around your home – provides the first steps to prevent losses from wild-fire. Information on how to protect your homes is available at [www.firewisewyoming.com](http://www.firewisewyoming.com), [www.livingwithfire.com](http://www.livingwithfire.com), [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org), or from your county's Firewise Coordinator

# National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook

## National Interagency Fire Center Predictive Services Issued: April 1, 2011

### Wildland Fire Outlook – April through July 2011



**Northern Rockies:** Prior to green-up in mid to late April, conditions are not expected to favor the brief, active shoulder seasons that sometimes develop across the grasslands of the Northern Rockies Area. Prolonged periods of warm, dry, and breezy conditions

are not expected to develop. With La Niña conditions continuing through at least the month's end, overall weather conditions are expected to be cooler and possibly wetter than normal. Therefore, a more typical shoulder season is expected for April with normal significant fire potential.

Lingering effects of a fading La Niña should translate to overall cooler than normal conditions across the Northern Rockies Area through early June. While climatology trend data points to a transition from normal to drier than normal conditions by July, the anticipated cooler pattern during the first half of this period should slow snow melt rates in the higher elevations, delaying the growth and curing of fuels by a few weeks in the higher terrain. With the anticipated drying trend in July, grasses should be able to cure out by month's end. Fuels in the mid elevations should become increasingly dry as well. However normal significant fire potential is expected in most areas until the end of July.

Another update will be included in the summer issue of this newsletter.



#### UPCOMING FIRE TRAINING:

##### **S-215 Fire Operations in the Urban Interface**

**Dates/Times:** Thursday, **June 2nd** 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Friday, **June 3rd** 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

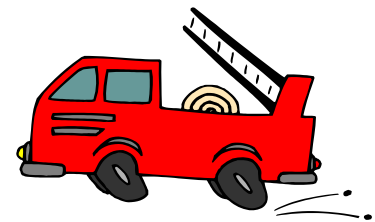
Saturday & Sunday, **June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>** 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Newcastle Fire Station, Newcastle, WY

**Instructor:** Mike Bournazian, Rural Fire Trainer

**Enrollment:** Contact **Mike Bournazian** for details at (307) 856-0027 or

[mbourn@wyo.gov](mailto:mbourn@wyo.gov)



**Notes:** No cost

##### **Basic Wildland Firefighter (S-130 & S-190)**

**REGISTER BY MAY 5.**

**Dates:** May 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Worland, Wyoming

**For more information, and to sign up:** Contact **Chris Kocher**, Worland District Fire Chief, Washakie County Fire Warden - 307-347-6379, 307-431-2675, or [ckocher@worlandfire.org](mailto:ckocher@worlandfire.org)

##### **Basic Wildland Firefighter (S-130 & S-190)**

**Dates:** April 29—May 1

**Location:** Cody, Wyoming

**For more information, and to sign up:** Contact the **Cody Volunteer Fire Department**, - 307-250-9149, or visit their website at [info@codywyomingfire.com](http://info@codywyomingfire.com). **Space is limited.**

# SIX STEPS TO EFFECTIVE DEFENSIBLE SPACE

## [ IN A NUTSHELL ]

1. **Determine the size** of an effective defensible space for your situation— typically 100 feet.

**Then within this zone:**



2. **Remove all dead vegetation.**

3. **Create a separation between trees and shrubs.** Thin dense pockets of trees. shoot for spacing of 10 feet between tree crowns.

4. **Reduce the ladder fuels.** Limb trees or remove ground plants to create separation between ground plants and tree limbs.

5. **Create a “Lean, Clean, Green” area** extending at least 30 feet from structures. Include a 3’-5’ wide noncombustible area around base of each structure; cut dried grasses to 4 inches or less; remove tree limbs and shrubs (sagebrush) that are within 10 ’ of structures. Store firewood outside this zone.

6. Then **Maintain** defensible space annually or as needed!! Repeat steps 2 through 5 every year and reevaluate the size of the defensible space—expand it if conditions warrant.

---

## ***BEFORE AND AFTER EXAMPLE FROM JOHNSON COUNTY\****

Homes in grass and sagebrush environments can be seriously threatened by wildfire. Fires spread quickly in grass and brush especially when influenced by wind and slope conditions. Recognizing the potential for such fire threats to their homes, several homeowners in the vicinity of Dull Knife Subdivision shared costs to have approximately 28 acres of sagebrush ground with a mechanical masticator.

The result was a significant reduction in hazardous fuels that threatened a concentration of recreation residences. The anticipated rate of fire spread and intensity has been considerably reduced on the treated areas. The County Fire Mitigation Grant program covered 65% of treatment costs.

[Applying the Six Steps for Creating Effective Defensible Space is still essential for assuring home protection.]

**Before**



**During**



**After**



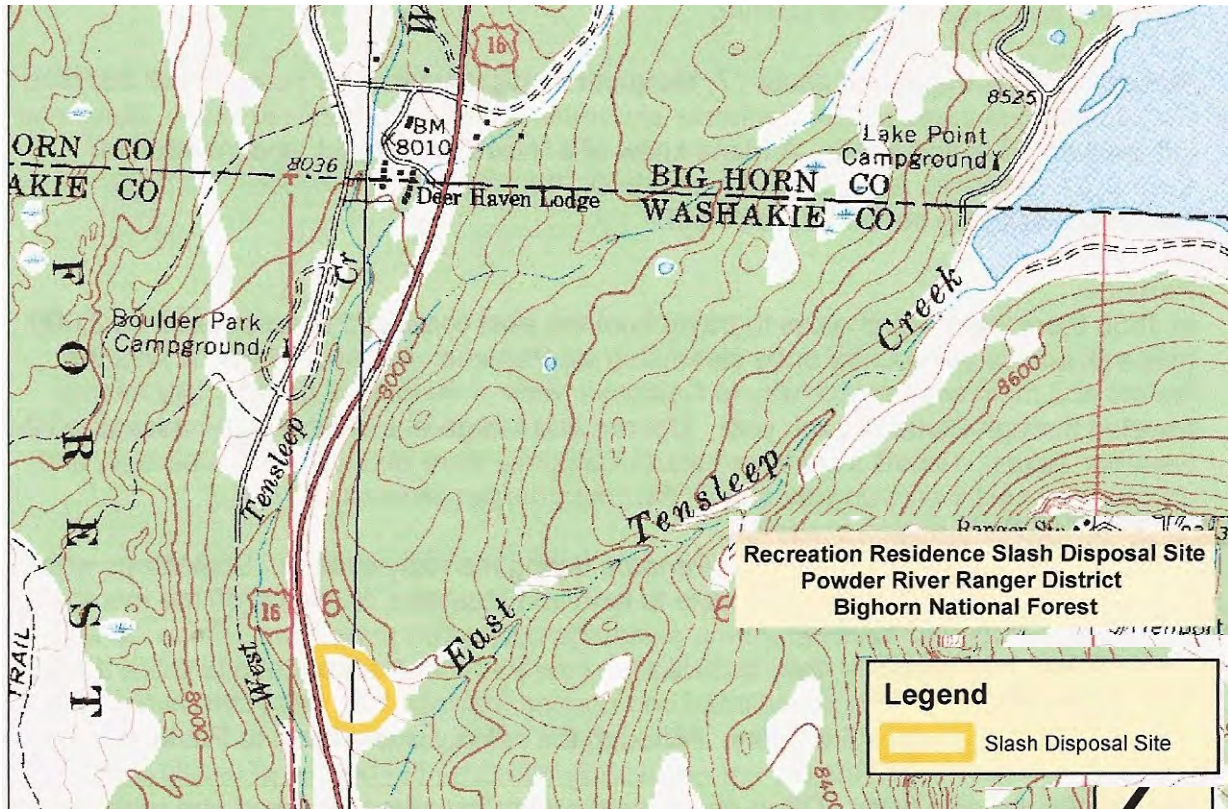
\*This page reprinted from Vol 4 Is. 1 of *Living With Fire*. Thanks to Jim Shell, Johnson County Firewise Coordinator.

Company	Ph#	Ph#2	Email & websites	Address	TSI	Fuel Treat
Camarena Lawn & Firewood Services	307-548-7854	307-254-1853	<a href="mailto:scooter@tctwest.net">scooter@tctwest.net</a>	851 Shoshoni Ave, Lovell, WY 82431	Yes	Yes
Cordell Anthony	307-258-1840			PO Box 51852, Casper, WY 82605	Yes	
Firewise Landscapes				PO Box 10586, Jackson, WY 83002	Yes	Yes
Grayback Forestry	406-720-5347			PO Box 16268, Missoula, MT 59808	Yes	Yes
Great Divide Forestry	307-388-1890		<a href="mailto:russl@tconnect.net">russl@tconnect.net</a>	1619 Cardinal St., Worland, WY 82401	Yes	Yes
Justin Peters	307-899-2288			974 Southfork Road, Cody, WY 82414	Yes	Yes
Laird & Sons	307-349-4511			31 Dance Hall Road, Lander WY 82520	Yes	Yes
SM Logging & Services				PO Box 153, Keystone, SD 57751	Yes	Yes
Two Guys Cutting, LLC	970-691-5753			309 Plowman Court, Ft. Collins, CO 80526	Yes	Yes
West Range Reclamation, LLC	970-921-5460		<a href="mailto:info@westrangereclamation.com">info@westrangereclamation.com</a>	PO Box 290 Crawford, CO 81415	Yes	Yes
			<a href="http://www.westrangereclamation.com">www.westrangereclamation.com</a>			
Western Slope Forestry, Inc	951-492-1513		<a href="mailto:westernslopeforestry@verizon.net">westernslopeforestry@verizon.net</a>	PO Box 414, Idyllwild, CA 92549		
Sweetwater Reclamation	307-469-2289		<a href="http://www.sweetwaterreclamation.com">http://www.sweetwaterreclamation.com</a>	Hyattville, WY		
Jerry Hopkin	307-272-3864					Yes
Jason Laird				Lander, WY		
Scott Garland						
Greybull Ditching and Excavating	307-765-9411	307-272-3797	<a href="mailto:tsrate@tctwest.net">tsrate@tctwest.net</a>	3200 Road 36, Greybull, WY 82426	Yes	Yes
Cameron Roady	307-347-6601	307-431-9896		1509 Grace Ave., Worland, WY 82401		
Clayton Cheeney	307-388-4370			297 Hwy 434, Tensleep, WY 82442		
S & T Excavating Inc.	307-864-3163	307-431-1835		1334 O'Dell, Thermopolis, WY 82443		
Monument Wood Products				300 Hwy 20 North Worland, WY 82401		
Firetrax	307-751-3473		<a href="http://firetrax.us/">http://firetrax.us/</a>	559 Beaver Creek Rd., Sheridan, WY 82801		Yes
Lee Gorham				PO Box 265 Ten Sleep, WY 82442		
Leonard Davis				PO Box 25 Meeteetse, WY 82433		
Leland Mascaro	307-366-2647			509 Road 47, Tensleep, WY 82442		
Byce Antley	307-568-2691	307-250-3674		P.O. Box 707, Basin, WY 82410		
Back Country Spraying, LLC	307-684-0919	307-620-9700	<a href="mailto:r_bayers@hotmail.com">r_bayers@hotmail.com</a>	15 Valley Dr., Buffalo, WY 82834		
Triple D Backhoe	307-347-3948	307-431-2353		5417 Road 34, Worland, WY 82401		
M&M Spraying, Inc	307-921-0240			395 Hwy 20 N, Thermopolis, WY 82443		
Z Woodcutters	307-272-3801			31 East 10th St, Lovell, WY 82431		
Fort Causeway	307-548-9986		<a href="mailto:kevin@icfinstall.com">kevin@icfinstall.com</a>	606 Hwy 14ae, Lovell, WY, 82431	Yes	Yes
(Cable and horse yarding)			<a href="http://www.fortcauseway.com">www.fortcauseway.com</a>			
Midway Construction and Dirtwork	307-272-8072	(Fax) 307-548-7521	<a href="mailto:bradbax@yahoo.com">bradbax@yahoo.com</a>	1785 Hwy 310, Lovell, WY 82431	Yes	
(Excavator w/ thumb)						
Kastiron Forestry Services	406-256-6591		<a href="mailto:kastironfs@msn.com">kastironfs@msn.com</a>	1435 Cascade Ave., Billings, MT, 59102	Yes	

Above are contractors who are interested in doing Firewise work in Big Horn and adjacent counties. If you know of others who are missing from the list, please have them share their information with Chris Weydeveld, the Big Horn County Firewise Coordinator.



**THE BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST HAS ESTABLISHED A NEW SLASH DISPOSAL SITE FOR CABIN AREAS ON THE POWDER RIVER DISTRICT**



Signs have been posted to designate the slash disposal area.

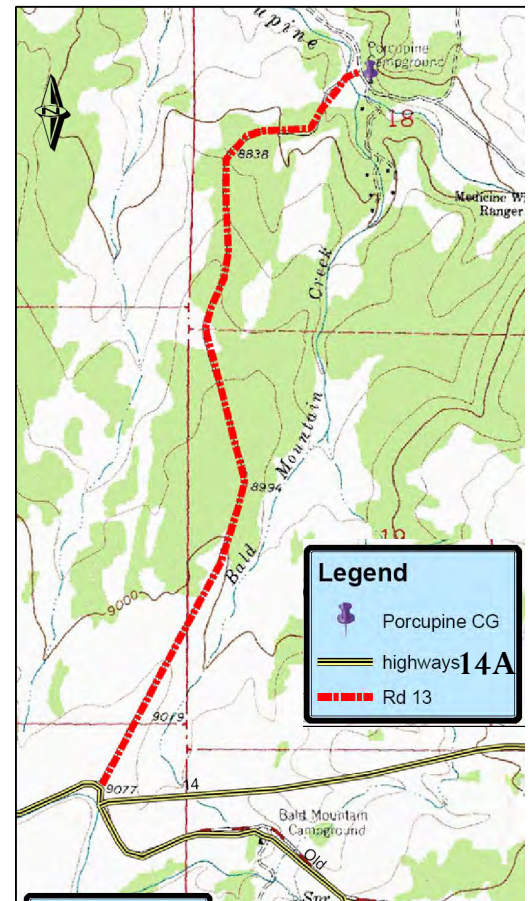
Reminder: This disposal site is only for woody debris from cleanup and Firewise work around cabins, and is not to be used for other garbage or trash.



The Medicine Wheel/Paintrock District has no designated disposal site for cleanup and Firewise woody debris. Those cabin owners need to contact Teri Coy at the Ranger Station in Lovell prior to limbing or cutting any trees around their cabins. Teri's business hour telephone number is (307) 548-6541.



The Big Horn County Firewise Coordinator would like to remind mountain cabin owners that they are entitled to a Firewise evaluation and Wildfire Mitigation Plan regardless of land ownership. The National Fire Plan provides this service at no charge to all cabin owners. To arrange for an onsite evaluation, or get more information, contact Chris Weydeveld at , [cweydeveld@wytfs.com](mailto:cweydeveld@wytfs.com), Technical Forestry Services, LLC, 6628 W. Riverside Dr. Casper, Wyoming 82604, or (307) 333-1098 (office), (307) 272-9533 (mobile).



**Maps for the July cabin-owner's picnics**

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

