



# BIGHORN BASIN FIRESMART

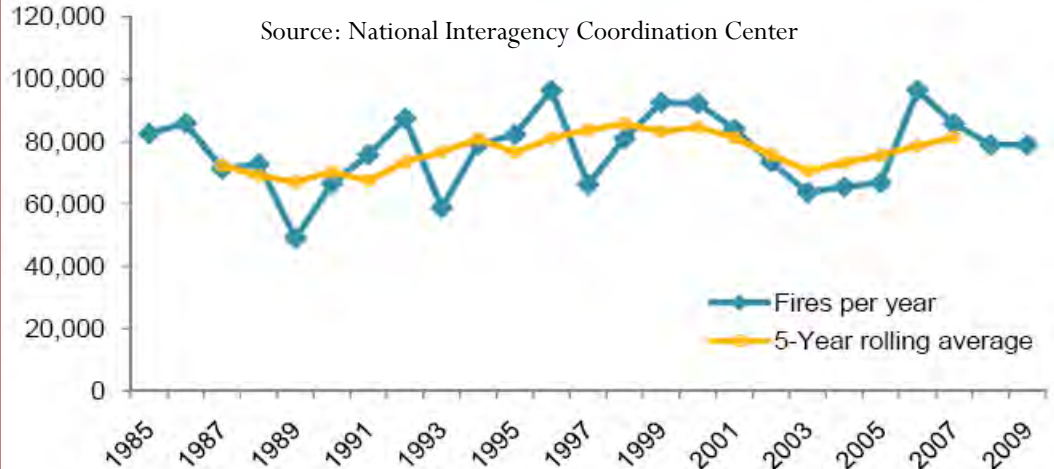
BIGHORN BASIN FIREWISE COMMUNITIES



## ISSUE #8—SUMMER 2012

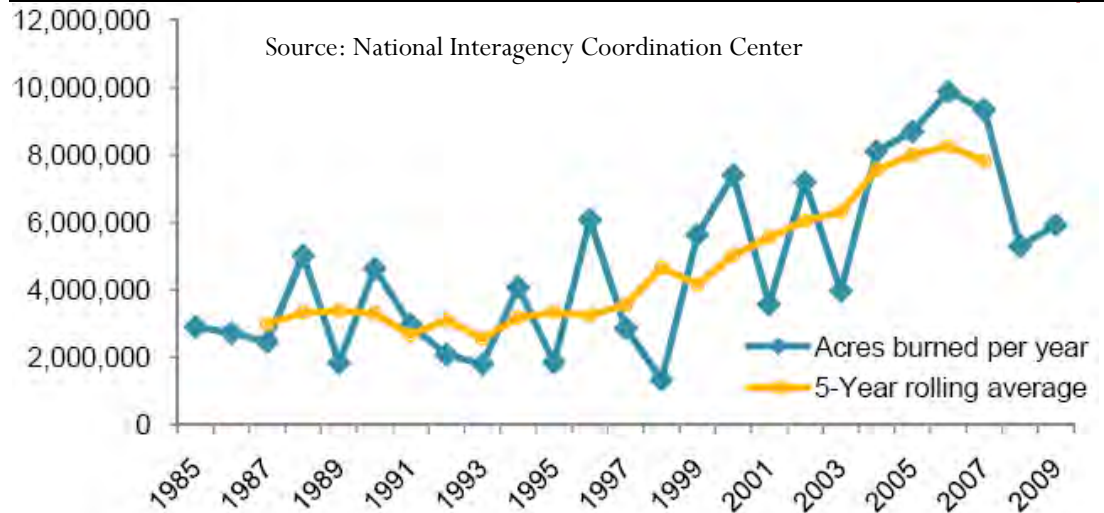
### SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT U.S. WILDFIRES

#### Wildland Fires Handled by Wildland Fire Agencies, by Year 1985-2009



The number of wildfires has remained constant for 25 years.  
The acres burned and average fire size, have roughly doubled.

#### Acres burned by Wildland Fires Handled by Wildland Fire Agencies By year, for 1985-2009



#### In this issue:

- Wildfire trend in the United States **1**
- Firewise Coordinators and Updates **2**
- Safe firewood storage **3-4**
- Wyoming Tree Owner's Handbook **4**
- Wildfire predictions: Short- & Long-Term **5**
- The new Bighorn Basin Firewise website **6**
- Fire danger is EXTREME in the basin **7**

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Trends over the last 25 years.
- \* The last 2012 cabin owners picnic
- \* What to do and not do
- \* How to get your copy
- \* For Wyoming and the nation
- \* How to access the website
- \* 9/27 Greybull Fuelbreak Work Day

**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, County Fire Warden, at (307) 921-1485, or [hscdwarden@gmail.com](mailto:hscdwarden@gmail.com)

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

**BIG HORN COUNTY FIREWISE ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED FOR 2012:**

**MOUNTAIN CABINOWNERS PICNICS & FIELD TRIPS** (See below)

**DEVELOPMENT OF A BIGHORN BASIN FIREWISE WEBSITE** (See Page Six)

**ANOTHER VISIT TO THE BIG HORN COUNTY FAIR TO ANSWER FIREWISE QUESTIONS.**

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**If you have general or specific questions about Firewise, two good online sources of answers are: [www.firewisewyoming.com](http://www.firewisewyoming.com) and [www.livingwithfire.com](http://www.livingwithfire.com).**

Do you have topics you would like included in future newsletters? Please submit your suggestions and comments to [gwynn@wytfs.com](mailto:gwynn@wytfs.com), [cweydeveld@wytfs.com](mailto:cweydeveld@wytfs.com), to Chris at any of the above phone numbers, or by mail to G. Wynn, 824 Country Club Road, Casper, Wyoming 82609.

Thanks for providing this newsletter go to the Wyoming State Forestry Division, the Big Horn County Fire Warden, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. They provide the funding.

**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 E-mail address that delivered it, or to G. Wynn by mail.**

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**There is still one Bighorn Mountain Cabin owners Picnic coming**

**July 28, 2012      11:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.      Porcupine Campground**

**BIG HORN COUNTY FIREWISE WILL PROVIDE LUNCH.**

**FOOD PREPARED BY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1.**

***RSVPs ARE REQUESTED.* THEY CAN BE SUBMITTED TO:**

**BIG HORN COUNTY FIREWISE, 6628 W. RIVERSIDE, CASPER, WYOMING 82604 - or**

**307-333-1098                                  or                                  [firewise@wytfs.com](mailto:firewise@wytfs.com)**

Page Six has a photo and short report on the June 16 picnic in the south end of the Bighorns.

## Firewood pile location



Firewood stacked next to a house (illustration 1) is a ready source of ignition and can become a source of intense, sustained heat if it should catch fire. This could ignite the house's siding or eaves, and cause the windows to break, allowing fire to enter the house.

To eliminate this problem, either move the firewood **30** feet from the house (2) during fire season, or build an enclosure around the firewood (3). \*



30 feet

2



**A bit more distance, please.**

**A flaming firewood pile that's too close to a home will catch the wood siding on fire and blow out windows—giving fire access to the home's interior. THIRTY FEET of open space between the firewood pile and the house will help the home outlive the firewood pile.**

The above illustration is based on one provided by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Their Firewise program has created several illustrations that are appropriate for the Firewise program in our area, and has given permission to use them for Bighorn Basin Firesmart.

## MORE FIREWOOD “SITUATIONS TO AVOID”



←A **double-trouble** firewood pile:

- ◇ It's under the tree crowns that will take the fire into the trees when embers ignite the pile.
- ◇ When the wood burns, it will cause the propane tank to heat up and blow flames from the pressure relief valve.

[Note: Propane tanks will be covered in the next issue of Bighorn Basin Firesmart]



**Are captions really necessary for these two?**

## WYOMING TREE OWNER'S MANUAL AVAILABLE



Do you have questions about trees and tree care but don't know where to look? Thanks to this newly released manual, there is no need to look any further.

The Wyoming Tree Owner's Manual is a comprehensive guide for tree care information and guidance and covers a wide range of topics including: selecting the proper tree, planting, pruning, how to hire an arborist and tree removal, to name a few.

The original guide was produced by the USDA Forest Service and became the standard guide for tree owners in the East and Midwest. With their permission, the Wyoming State Forestry Division made several minor revisions and additions to customize the manual to Wyoming.

The Wyoming Tree Owner's Manual is available online at: <http://lands.state.wy.us/forestry> in the links for Community Forestry.

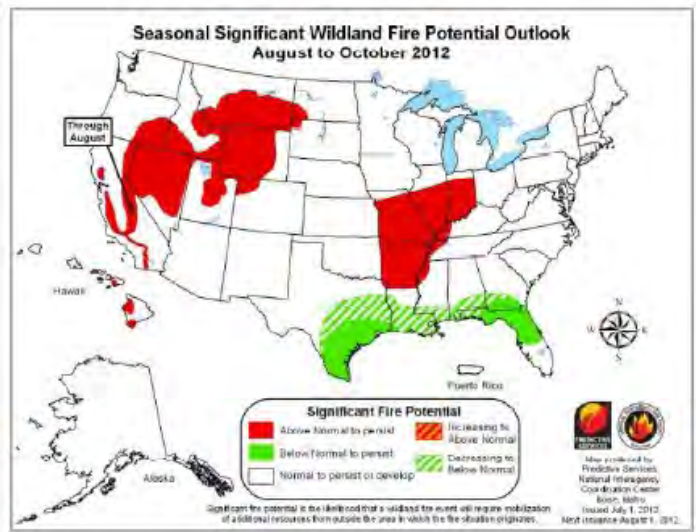
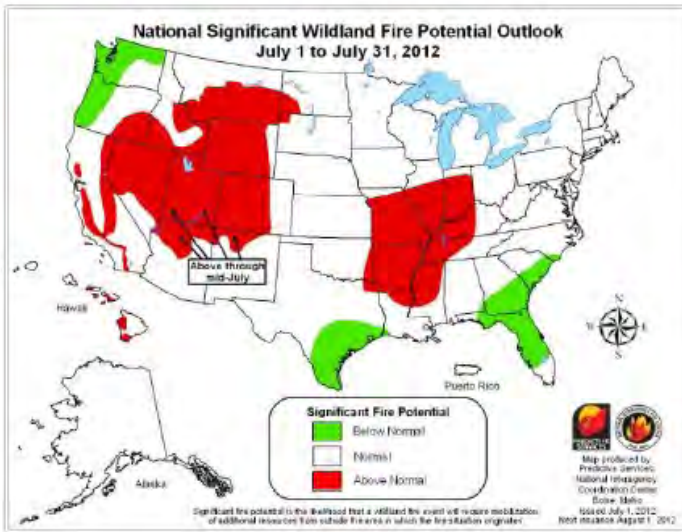
Hard copies can also be obtained free of charge by contacting Mark Ellison at (307) 777-3626.

The above is from the Wyoming State Forestry Division “Wyoming Tree News”—Spring 2012



## 2012 FIRE SEASON PREDICTED TO STAY “HOT” IN WYOMING

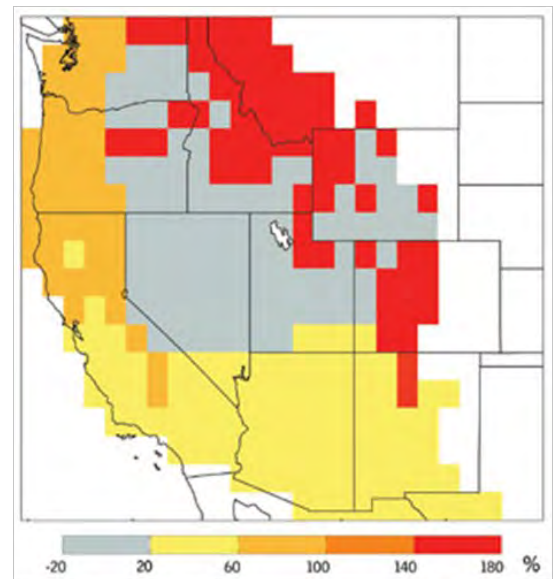
Below is the July to October prediction from the National Interagency Fire Center.



## Mapping the long-term future of wildfire

As part of their research on future wildfires and the impact of those fires on the air we breathe, a group of atmospheric scientists led by researchers at Harvard University predict that large parts of the western United States could see dramatic increases in the area burned by wildfire over the next several decades. The map above shows the predicted percentage increases in area burned between now and approximately 2055.

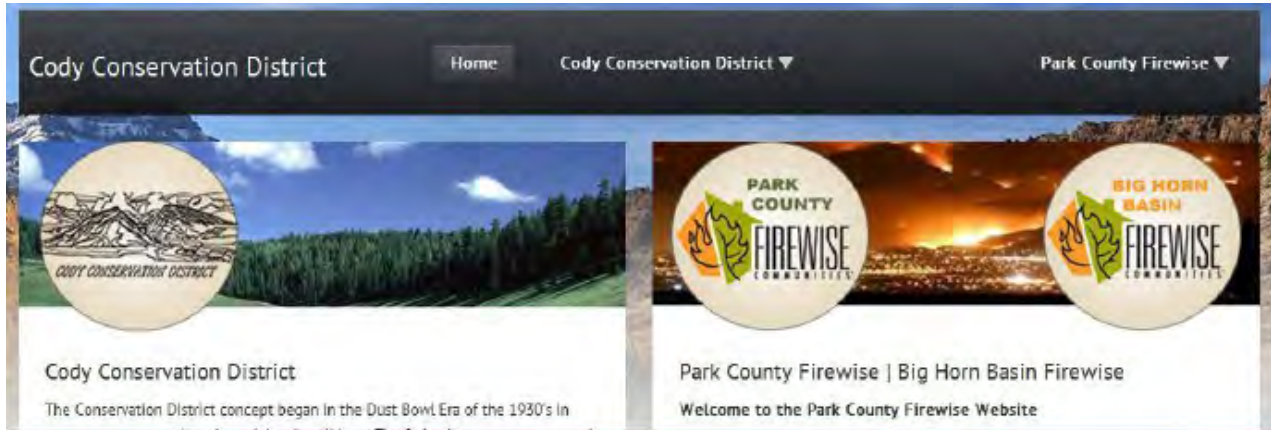
In a study published in 2009 in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, the scientists predict that the overall geographic area typically burned by wildfires in the western U.S. could increase by about 50 percent between now and the 2050s due mainly to rising temperatures, with some areas experiencing much higher rates. The greatest increases in area burned, ranging from roughly 75 percent to 180 percent, would occur in the forests of the Pacific Northwest and the Rocky Mountains, indicated on the map in orange and red, respectively. (While the large gray area in the center of the region includes pockets that may see a decline in wildfire area burned, the researchers say most of that area will experience at least a nominal increase in the area burned.) The team examined a 25-year record of observed meteorology and fire statistics to identify factors that could predict area burned for each ecosystem in the western U.S. To see how these factors would change in the future, they ran a global climate model out to 2055. This scenario, one of several devised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, describes a world with rapid economic growth and balanced energy generation from fossil and alternative fuels, which leads to a moderate warming of the earth’s average surface temperature, by about 3° F (1.6° C), by 2050.



## THE NEW BIGHORN BASIN FIREWISE WEBSITE

To get to the new Bighorn Basin Firewise website being built by Bernie Spanogle, go to

<http://codyconservationdistrict.com/firewise.php>



↑ This is the first screen that will pop up. ↑



← Clicking **Park County Firewise** will get this menu.

Go ahead and browse to find out what is in the website. **Most of the contents are generic to the Bighorn Basin**, even if they are under Park County.

Some of the links are real good ones.

## THE JUNE 16 WILLOW PARK CABIN OWNERS PICNIC WAS WELL ATTENDED



Some of the fifty-plus folks from the West Tensleep vicinity who ate lunch provided by the Big Horn County Firewise Program, listened to words of wisdom from the Forest Service and County Fire Wardens, and got an update on the **Wildfire Ready Program**, an emergency communication system that will serve to warn cabin owners of impending emergencies. **There will be more on this program in future newsletters.**

## Attention Bighorn Basin Residents



**ALL COUNTIES  
IN THE BASIN  
ARE FACING  
EXTREME  
FIRE DANGER**



If you live in or near the Shoshone or Bighorn National Forests, BLM, Park Service, or State lands, or in agricultural or riparian areas of the basin, fuel and weather conditions now exist that could put your property at risk from wildfire.

Can your property and buildings defend themselves from a wildfire if firefighting resources are not available? For more information on how to create a defensible space around your property, contact your county Firewise Coordinator (See page two), or go to the Firewise website shown on page 6.



### SEPTEMBER 27 GREYBULL WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROJECT WORK DAY

As a follow-up to the Greybull Wildfire Mitigation Project completed last fall (**Bighorn Basin Firesmart Issue #6 cover**) with the goal of reducing the hazardous fuels danger along the river, volunteers are needed for a Work-Day along the Bighorn River in Greybull, on **September 27, 2012; from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**. Work will consist of cutting Russian olive and tamarisk re-sprouts, and herbicide application to stumps. Other tasks may include the piling of brush, and other fuels mitigation tasks.

The Big Horn County Weed & Pest District will give a demonstration on the proper mixing and application of herbicide for the treatment of Russian olive and tamarisk.

**Lunch will be provided free by Big Horn County Firewise. Volunteers should meet at the Outdoor Classroom by the Highway 14 Bridge east of Lisa's Restaurant.**

## MORE LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER



Any rotating roof vent that draws air into a building, could also draw in flying embers.



Unscreened attic vent.  
{1/8 inch screens recommended}

Either of these could allow flying embers to get into your home.

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

