

PINE-STRAWBERRY FUEL REDUCTION COMMITTEE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS
OCTOBER 26, 2011

Pine-Strawberry Fuel Reduction Committee Donations:

At the recent Oktoberfest sponsored by the Rimside Grill, profits from Rimside totaling \$2,100 and a donation by the Gila County Mounted Posse of \$500 were accepted for the Fire-On-The-Rim account and to be earmarked for trails. Both groups are greatly appreciated for their support in the aim of reducing dangerous brush in our communities.

Telebration is coming again to Pine/Strawberry. This night of storytelling, sponsored by SCAF, will be held on November 19th at the Pine Cultural Center. 80% of the profits will be donated to FRC. Tickets are only \$5 for the show. However, for only \$25 you can have dinner before the show and reserved seating. And in either case, awesome cookies and cider will be served at intermission. ‘Fantastic’, ‘magical’, ‘very entertaining’ are just a few of the comments heard from those of who have attended previous Tealbrations here in Pine. Make plans to attend this wonderful night of storytelling.

Fuel Reduction Projects:

The 90/10 grant “Gould Property Project” is about 30% completed. All the most difficult hilly areas are now being worked on so that during inclement weather only the easier flatter sections will be left for the crews to clear.

The “Trails in the Fuel Break Project” has encountered a slight hitch as the Forest Service came back with a finding that in Phase-1, part of the trail was going over Goshawk nesting sites. The FS will be walking the area with FRC members to point out where the trail will need to be re-routed. On a more positive note, the FS has agreed to do the NEPA archaeological and biological study of the area. Since the Northern Gila County Development Commission had previously offered to pay for this study, they will now use that money to pay for more trail development relieving the FRC of that cost.

The “Arrowhead Estates Project” is now completed. Five of the eleven properties there participated in the FRC’s 90/10 thinning grant. Other properties there previously participated in a 50/50 thinning grant that now leaves only two properties in need of thinning. Mike Brandt stated that so much of the area has been thinned that it could now become a FireWise Community. This is great news for that canyon area.

Farther up the canyon, is the “Arrowhead Canyon Fuel Break Project” that is being jointly sponsored by the Forest Service and the FRC. All the paperwork has been submitted and thinning there is expected to start sometime in November. Mike Brandt is looking into having the FS crew cast seed so that while they are cutting and clearing they will be helping to get the seed into the soil.

The “Camp Lo Mia Thinning Project” is progressing with the paperwork having been submitted to the State. Bids for the thinning will go out as soon as funding has been approved.

FRC/FD Grant Applications: The Fire Board recently gave Chief Staub authority to post for applications for the Brush Pick-Up service. Contingent on the grant being accepted by the State, interviews will start as early as November 3rd. However, the State is taking longer than anticipated in reviewing the grants. So we wait.

2012 Referendum for Community Sponsorship of the Brush Pick-Up Service:

Grant money is becoming more and more difficult to attain for the Brush Pick-Up service. So plans are being made to change from this uncertain funding source to asking the communities property owners to

support brush pick-up when the recent grant ends. One of the first things in this process is finding a way to collect the money for this service. Board members and the public attending the meeting suggested several possibilities during a very productive discussion. A committee of interested public and FRC members will be formed to go from here.

Fuel Reduction Board Meetings:

With all of the projects FRC is currently involved with in our communities and the projects planned in the future, attending FRC Board meetings and giving your input is very helpful to planning and organizing. FRC meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month in the Pine Senior Center Dining Room starting at 6:00 PM. Hope to see you there at our next meeting, November 23, 2011.