

PINE/STRAWBERRY FUEL REDUCTION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS
JANUARY 25, 2012

Fire on the Rim Mountain Bike Race

This year's bike race will be held Saturday, September 15 and there will be some changes in the trail. More specific info on that as we approach the race date. The Friday night before the race, there will be a spaghetti dinner, live band and beer garden that will be held in the arena south of town. New Belgium Beer Co. will be the sponsor for this year's race. After the race Saturday, there will be a little kids race, awards ceremony, bike clinic and another beer garden and band. Sunday an easier cabin loop ride and a bike parade for little kids will finish up the festivities.

PSFR, Inc. Projects

Trails in the Fuel Break project received a \$5,000 donation from the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona. Flyers noting the goals and objectives of this project can be obtained at local businesses and the library. Also, a map of the area trails will be available for purchase at local businesses. The map is waterproof and tear-proof.

Only three lots are left to clear in Arrowhead Canyon Estates while the 77-acre fuel break in the canyon has been completed. This project has not only benefited the surrounding community, but is a buffer to the Pine/Strawberry communities. The project has also laid the foundation for further thinning of Arrowhead Canyon, which the Forest Service now has the desire to continue.

The Camp Lo Mia project is about to begin. Yes!!! After submission of five bids to thin the 200 acres of Camp Lo Mia, RCO Reforesting, Inc. was chosen by the LDS Church to do the work. Church administration is currently looking over the contract and if all is Ok work is anticipated to begin the first of February. RCO expects their 20-man crew to complete the work in about 40 days. The latest grant PSFR received is being used to support much of the cost of this project.

PSFR was invited to participate in the 18th Annual Arizona Trail Association Festival that this year celebrates the completion of the 800-mile Arizona Trail. Activities will be held Saturday, February 4th in Tempe. PSFR will have a table that Rick Heffernon and Bev Malmberg have volunteered to staff. They will have handouts about the Bike Race, Trails in the Fuel Break and will field questions about PSFR, Inc. to those attending.

Brush Pick Up News

The grant that funds the brush pick-up has two components important to Pine/Strawberry residents. First is the funding of the brush truck. Getting it operational was the number one priority of the PSFD. It has recently completed all of Pine and has begun serving Strawberry with only two delays for snowstorms. The second component of the grant is property treatment and assessments. The PSFD is in the process of using the grant's funds that are earmarked for property assessment training to train the entire staff. Training will take place here at the end of February, after which residents, with less than around 2 acres, can apply for help in reducing the cost of thinning their property. After assessment and approval, residents will get bids to thin their property. The grant will reimburse 50% of the thinning costs up to a cap of \$1200/acre. April-May will be the best times to start contacting the PSFD for information about becoming part of this grant.

PSFD & PSFR Joint Meeting

The State was clear this year that grant funds for brush pick-up will not be available in the future. So on February 1, 2012 the PSFR Board joined a special Fire Board meeting to discuss each other's findings on how to continue the brush pick-up program after the current grant funds run out for this purpose in February, 2013.

At the meeting PSFR President Walt Smith reported that after exhaustive research his Board has not been able to discover a realistic plan for a private organization like PSFR to be able to collect, distribute and be held accountable for the public money it will take to continue the program.

Chief Staub reported that with this years grant, the brush pick-up costs have been able to be greatly reduced to around \$60,000/year which is approximately half of what it cost in past years. The Chief presented a suggestion of how the PSFD may be able to support the continuation of the brush pick-up after February 2013. Much discussion and good questions by the Fire Board followed. It was decided that at the next two regular Fire Board meetings, public discussion will be allowed regarding ways to continue funding the brush pick-up with public funds.

Many Thanks

Katie & Walt thanked Gail Reese for all the work she does in getting the financials ready for each Board meeting and especially this month for all it took to get the end of the year report ready for audit.

Bev Malmberg and Rick Heffernon wrote a letter thanking PSFR, Inc. and in particular Mike Brandt for their efforts in helping to complete the Arrowhead Canyon fuel reduction project.

Willene Smith thanked Katie and Janet for all the work they have done and are doing for the bike race.

Al Christianer noted that years ago there was concern that thinning in the 200 acres of Camp Lo Mia would not be possible. He thanked President Walt Smith, Mike and Janet Brandt and Chief Staub for seeing this project through.

Highlight Editors Note: Being the new kid on the block I don't know all of those previous Pine/Strawberry Fuel Reduction Board members that have contributed to the Camp Lo Mia project. But to all, a huge THANKS!

Next PSFR Inc. Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the Pine Senior Center Dining Room.

Along with updates on the progress of current projects and the Bike Race, discussion of another fund raising letter will be included.

Also, you can bet there will be discussion of the public remarks that will take place at the next two Fire Board meetings regarding public funding to continue the brush pick-up.

Join us on March 28th and bring a friend (or two).