

**PINE-STRAWBERRY FUEL REDUCTION COMMITTEE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 28, 2011**

The Arrowhead Canyon fuel reduction fundraiser has grown to \$28,299 in donations from 337 who have responded. You can still donate to this important cause. Make your check payable to Pine Strawberry Fuel Reduction, Inc and mail it to P.O. Box 67, Pine AZ, 85544. All donations are tax-deductible.

Jeremy Plain, of the U.S. Forest Service in Payson, was introduced and presented the good news that the Forest Service has received about \$1.1 million of which most will be used for maintenance of fuel breaks around Payson, Pine and Strawberry. Another portion of the money will be able to be used for new thinning and piling of about 40 acres in Arrowhead Canyon. Another 20 acres in that canyon will be able to be thinned by money donated to the FS from the Arrowhead Canyon fundraiser. This will go a long way in reducing the risk of wildfire moving from the canyon into Arrowhead Estates and a direct path to the center of Pine. Everyone at the meeting was extremely happy with this news.

The FRC 90-10 grant is working to thin large parcels in our communities. The Gould property will be thinned using two contractors for the work. The 200 acre Camp Lo Mia project has been verbally agreed to and the bid process is underway. Walt thanked all involved with getting these projects to this point.

The Board approved a proposal by Ernie Borgoyne to submit a grant application to "Bikes Belong Foundation" to study the economic impact on the communities from the Fire-on-the-Rim bike race. If accepted, the study will determine ways to increase the race each year, the impact of the improved trails as a destination for mountain bikers and ways to encourage businesses to be more involved with the race. The study will conclude in time to use the findings for the 2012 race.

Katie noted that next year's bike race will be held Friday and Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and possibly Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>. The old rodeo grounds have been reserved and additional events are planned including a bike race for children, a bike rodeo, bike clinics, a bike repair booth, raffles, silent auctions, and most importantly to all us non-racers...food vendors!!

Volunteers were solicited to bring their baked goods to the bake sale at the Oktoberfest held this past October 1<sup>st</sup>. Pat Burke and Mike Blaes stepped up to the plate when volunteers were needed to work for the FRC bake sale table. Also stepping up to the plate was the Rimside Grill. They donated their profits from the Oktoberfest to the FRC.

Mark Flint has completed what is now called Phase-1 of the Trails Project. This phase starts on the east side of the 87 at the Pine Trailhead and ends above Portal IV, about 15 miles of trail. The next step will be completion of the NEPA exclusion study by the Forest Service, which includes archeological and biological impact reports. To accelerate the process the services of an independent biologist are being sought. Mark has also laid out about 1 ¼ mile of bypass for next year's bike race to avoid private property.

An update on the Fire Board and FRC grants was presented which included information that the brush pick-up service seems to be on schedule to be approved in about two to three weeks if there are no changes. Also touched on was the plan to petition for an initiative to be placed on the November 2012 election asking Pine and Strawberry property owners to become independent of grants and begin paying for the brush pick-up service. Much more information will be forthcoming, but the need to get a committee starting to work on this effort was emphasized. Mike Brandt shared information from the Wallow fire that two thirds of the structures lost to that wildfire were from small creeping ground fires in which he then emphasized the importance of FireWising by individual property owners and the crucial role the brush pick-up service adds to this effort.

The next meeting of the PS Fuel Reduction Committee will be the last Wednesday of October, 11-26-2011, at 6:00 pm in the Pine Senior Center Dining Room.

**JUST IN:**

Since the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, Jeremy Plain of the Forest Service has been able to assess the Arrowhead Canyon fuel break. Instead of a partial thinning as planned, he said if the Fuel Reduction Committee could contribute \$29,156 we would be able to partner with the Forest Service to thin the entire project. The FRC now has \$28,299.50 in donations for this project and can use that plus \$856.50 from the Farm Dinner donations to make up the difference. The FRC Board voted unanimously to approve these expenditures so Jeremy can get started on the paperwork!!!!