



# BIGHORN BASIN FIRESMART



BIGHORN BASIN FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

## ISSUE #33 — FALL 2019

### TWO SERVICES PROVIDED BY WASHAKIE FIRESMART

*Washakie County Firesmart has active projects in that county, and, weather permitting, offers these two services at no cost to that county's home and cabin owners with approved Wildfire Mitigation Plans.*

**Tree Pruning:** Firesmart will prune the trees in your Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) *within 30 feet* of your home/cabin, as recommended in your WMP. Removing the cut limbs will be the responsibility of the cabin- or home-owner.

**Pile Burning:** If you have slash and debris piles resulting from your Firesmart activities, your county Firesmart coordinator is available to burn them.

Home and cabin owners with piles to burn need to be reminded that:

- Flame lengths may be 10 to 15 times the height and length of the pile size. Example: If a pile is five feet tall and five feet wide, the flames could extend in all directions 50 feet or more, depending on wind. With this in mind, piles should be far enough away to avoid scorching standing trees, structures or other improvements. Look at page 6 pile burning photos for flame lengths.
- After ignition, piles will need to be closely monitored periodically for the next few days, to ensure that fire does not spread away from the pile location.
- Debris piles should be, compacted with as little air space as possible.

If you are burning your own piles, contact the County Fire Warden to inform them of the time and day you will be burning. The Washakie County Fire Warden phone number is: **(307) 347-6379**. Other county fire warden numbers are on Page 2.

Home and cabin owners should consider spreading a seed mixture on burn pile locations the following spring with native grasses and forbs to help prevent introduction of noxious weeds

To obtain tree pruning or pile burning services, all you need to do is submit a request to Washakie County Firesmart at [firesmart@wytfs.com](mailto:firesmart@wytfs.com), **6628 W. Riverside Dr. Casper, Wyoming 82604**, or **(307) 333-1098 (office), (307) 272-9533 (mobile)**. Your request should include your name and the location/physical address of your home or cabin.

**Firesmart information and all newsletter issues are available at:**

**[www.bighornbasinfiresmart.com](http://www.bighornbasinfiresmart.com)**

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**Big Horn County:** The County Fire Warden is Brent Godfrey (307) 568-2324.

**Washakie County:** Chris Kocher, Fire Warden, [ckocher@worlandfire.org](mailto:ckocher@worlandfire.org), P.O. Box 504, Worland, Wyoming 82401, or (307) 347-6379. The Firesmart Coordinator is Chris Weydeveld, [cweydeveld@wyffs.com](mailto:cweydeveld@wyffs.com), Technical Forestry Services, LLC, 6628 W. Riverside Dr. Casper, Wyoming 82604, or (307) 333-1098 (office), (307) 272-9533 (mobile).

**Hot Springs County:** Contact Dion Robbins, County Fire Warden, at (307) 431-2767, or [hscdwarden@rtconnect.com](mailto:hscdwarden@rtconnect.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.**

The basin Firewise website : [parkcountyfirewise.com](http://parkcountyfirewise.com) When you get there, surf the MENU to see what articles, photos, and short video clips are there. Check it out.

If you have general or specific questions about Firewise, two good online sources for 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 [firesmart@wytfs.com](mailto:firesmart@wytfs.com), or by mail to G. Wynn, 824 Country Club, Casper, Wyoming 82609.

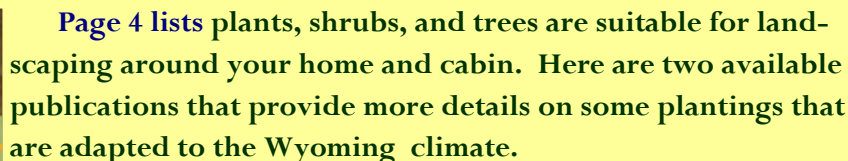
Thanks for providing this newsletter go to the Wyoming State Forestry Division, the Washakie County Fire Warden, and the U.S. Forest Service. They provide the funding.

This newsletter is provided as a service of your county's Firewise Coordinator. If you choose not to receive future issues, please respond to [firesmart@wytfs.com](mailto:firesmart@wytfs.com), or to Big Horn/Washakie Firewise (6628 W. Riverside Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604) by mail.

**Bighorn Basin Firesmart Wildland Fire Public Outreach and Education Website: [www.bighornfiresmart.com](http://www.bighornfiresmart.com)**

[www.bighornbasinfiresmart.com](http://www.bighornbasinfiresmart.com)

## WHAT TO PLANT AROUND YOUR WYOMING HOME AND CABIN



Some plants may not be the best for a Firewise application, so you should refer to Page 20 of the **PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE** guidebook at [www.firewisewyoming.com](http://www.firewisewyoming.com).

TREES FOR WYOMING is a good guide found at Wyoming State Forestry Division offices. “*Conservation Trees and Shrubs for Montana*” is available through your local NRCS office.



## New global wildfire analysis indicates humans need to coexist and adapt

Recent studies made by various research groups and colleges worldwide indicate that current responses to wildfires—aggressively fighting them—is not making society less vulnerable to such events. They suggest that we should treat fires like other natural hazards—including earthquakes, severe storms, and flooding—by learning to coexist, adapt, and identify vulnerabilities. We don't think that way about fire, but the reviews indicate that we should," Humans don't "fight" these other natural events, we anticipate them in the way we plan communities, build buildings, and prepare for emergencies.

In response to this, to mitigate wildfire losses to humans and communities, and the ecological consequences, we should adjust land-use to adapt to wildfire as an inevitable and natural process. To more successfully coexist with wildfire we need preventative tools, like residential land-use planning, zoning guidelines, fire-resistant building codes and fuels management on and around homes, for example.

One cause of the present "problem" is the continued rapid expansion of the wildland-urban interface (WUI) communities into locations prone to wildfires. Often these are adjacent to or surrounded by publicly-owned wildlands where we need more integrated solutions that cross the public-private land boundary to help us coexist with inevitable wildfire. Some studies indicate that government-sponsored and paid for firefighting and land management policies may actually encourage development on inherently hazardous WUI landscapes, leading to increased human losses to wildfire, and this is not considered a long-term acceptable practice.

Forest thinning and carefully planned and implemented prescribed burning can have positive effects on reducing potential for wildfire damage to WUI homes and communities, but are rarely effective under extreme burning conditions, and the severity of fire in adjacent forests and other wildland has little to do with whether a home burns.

In the western U.S., there has been a 60 percent expansion of homes and communities in the wildland-urban interface since 1970; primarily in forests, shrubland, and rangeland that have a history of moderate- to high-severity fires.

And, to complicate the future, climate change will inevitably increase the need for management strategies that do not depend solely on firefighting resources and money.

A summary of recommendations to create a more sustainable coexistence with wildfire:

- ⇒ Adjust land-use zoning to adapt to wildfire as an inevitable and natural process.
- ⇒ Update building codes in all areas with a history of wildland fires.
- ⇒ Implement vegetation management strategies in and adjacent to WUIs, by continuing forest thinning and prescribed burning, but recognize this is not the total solution.
- ⇒ Develop household and community plans for surviving fire situations.
- ⇒ Evaluate and improve evacuation and warning systems.
- ⇒ Develop or improve maps of fire hazards, ecosystems and climate change effects.
- ⇒ A more historic forest and rangeland fire regime **might** just fix some of this situation.

Suggested general sources for topics on this page can be found by searching:

[Social Sciences](#), [Natural Sciences](#), [Research](#), [Environment](#), [Institutes](#)



This page from the Montana State University lists the types of plantings that thrive in the Bighorn Basin, and are Firesmart alternatives to some of the highly-flammable plantings and native plants around homes and cabins.



## Fire-Resistant Plants for Montana Landscapes

### Groundcovers and Herbaceous Plants

#### Common Name

Alfalfa  
Bergenia  
Blanket Flower  
Bluegrass, Kentucky  
Buffalograss  
Candytuft, Evergreen  
Carpet bugle  
Cinquefoil, Spring  
Columbine  
Coral Bells  
Coreopsis  
Cotoneaster  
Cotoneaster, Rock  
Cotoneaster, Bearberry  
Daisy, Shasta  
Daylily  
Drosera  
Dusty Miller  
Fescue  
Fescue, Blue  
Fescue, Tall  
Fescue, Creeping Red  
Flax  
Fleabane  
Four O'clock  
Geranium, Hardy  
Geranium, Bloodred  
Geranium  
Ginger, Wild  
Hen and Chicks  
Iris  
Kinnickinnick  
Lamb's Ear  
Lavender  
Lupine  
Mahonia, Creeping

#### Genus and Species

*Medicago sativa*  
*Bergenia* spp.  
*Gaillardia x grandiflora*  
*Poa pratensis*  
*Buchloe dactyloides*  
*Iberis sempervirens*  
*Ajuga reptans*  
*Potentilla tabernaemontani*  
*Aquilegia* spp.  
*Heuchera sanguinea*  
*Coreopsis* spp.  
*Cotoneaster* spp.  
*Cotoneaster horizontalis*  
*Cotoneaster dammeri*  
*Leucanthemum x superbum*  
*Hemerocallis* spp.  
*Drosera* spp.  
*Artemisia stelleriana*  
*Festuca* spp.  
*Festuca cinerea*  
*Festuca arundinacea*  
*Festuca rubra*  
*Linum* spp.  
*Erigeron* hybrids  
*Mirabilis* spp.  
*Geranium cinereum*  
*Geranium sanguineum*  
*Geranium* spp.  
*Asarum caudatum*  
*Sempervivum tectorum*  
*Iris* spp.  
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*  
*Stachys byzantina*  
*Lavandula* spp.  
*Lupinus* spp.  
*Mahonia repens*



Geranium sanguineum



California Poppy



Hen and Chicks

#### Common Name

Mock Strawberry  
Mountain Spray  
Myrtle, Dwarf Periwinkle  
Orchardgrass  
Penstemon, Rocky Mtn.  
Pinks  
Poppy  
Poppy, California  
Potentilla  
Primrose, Mexican Eve.  
Primrose  
Pussytoes  
Red Hot Poker  
Ryegrass  
Sage  
Sedum, Goldmoss  
Silver Spreader  
Snow-in-Summer  
Stonecrop  
Stonecrop, Green  
Strawberry, Wild  
Sunrose  
Thrift, Common  
Thyme, Woolly  
Thyme, Creeping  
Valerian, Red  
Violet, Canadian  
Virginia Creeper  
Wheatgrass, Western  
Wheatgrass, Crested  
Winterfat  
Yarrow  
Yarrow, White  
Yarrow, Femleaf  
Yarrow, Woolly  
Yucca

#### Genus and Species

*Duchesnea indica*  
*Holodiscus* spp.  
*Vinca minor*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Penstemon strictus*  
*Dianthus plumarius*  
*Papaver* spp.  
*Eschscholzia californica*  
*Potentilla* spp.  
*Oenothera berlandieri*  
*Oenothera* spp.  
*Antennaria* spp.  
*Kniphofia uvaria*  
*Lolium* spp.  
*Salvia* spp.  
*Sedum acre*  
*Artemisia caucasica*  
*Cerastium tomentosum*  
*Sedum spathulifolium*  
*Sedum album*  
*Fragaria chiloensis*  
*Helianthus mummularium*  
*Armeria maritima*  
*Thymus pseudolanuginosus*  
*Thymus praecox articus*  
*Centranthus ruber*  
*Viola canadensis*  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*  
*Agropyron cristatum*  
*Agropyron cristatum*  
*Eurotia* spp.  
*Achillea* spp.  
*Achillea millefolium white*  
*Achillea filipendulina*  
*Achillea tomentosa*  
*Yucca filamentosa*

### Trees

#### Common Name

Alder, White  
Ash  
Ash, Green  
Aspen, Quaking  
Birch  
Cottonwood  
Hackberry  
Locust, Black  
Maple  
Maple, Big-toothed  
Maple, Boxelder  
Maple, Rocky Mountain  
Poplar  
Narrowleaf Cottonwood  
Prunus

#### Genus and Species

*Alnus rhombifolia*  
*Fraxinus* spp.  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*  
*Populus tremuloides*  
*Betula* spp.  
*Populus* spp.  
*Celtis occidentalis*  
*Robinia pseudoacacia*  
*Acer* spp.  
*Acer grandidentatum*  
*Acer negundo*  
*Acer glabrum*  
*Populus* spp.  
*Populus angustifolia*  
*Prunus* spp.



Green Ash



Box Elder



Quaking Aspen



Lilac

### Shrubs

#### Common Name

Antelope Brush  
Buffaloberry  
Buffaloberry, Russett  
Buffaloberry, Silver  
Cherry  
Cherry, Sand  
Cherry, Nanking  
Chokecherry  
Cinquefoil, Shrubby  
Deerbrush (Buckbrush)  
Dogwood, Red-osier  
Gooseberries and Currants  
Honeysuckle  
Lilac, Common  
Mahogany, Mountain  
Mockorange  
Plum, Native  
Pyracantha  
Raspberry  
Rose  
Saltbush  
Sumac, Skunkbush

#### Genus and Species

*Fendlera rupicola*  
*Shepherdia* spp.  
*Shepherdia canadensis*  
*Shepherdia angentea*  
*Prunus* spp.  
*Prunus besseyi*  
*Prunus tomentosa*  
*Prunus virginiana*  
*Potentilla fruticosa*  
*Ceanothus* spp.  
*Cornus sericea (C. stolonifera)*  
*Ribes* spp.  
*Lonicera* spp.  
*Syringa vulgaris*  
*Cercocarpus* spp.  
*Philadelphus* spp.  
*Prunus americana*  
*Pyracantha* spp.  
*Rubus* spp.  
*Rosaceae*  
*Atriplex* spp.  
*Rhus trilobata*

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## THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS VISIT A FIRESMART PROJECT

The Northern Wyoming Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) met onsite in late summer for a field trip led by Chris Weydeveld, Washakie County Firesmart Coordinator. The purpose of the visit was to look at a success story in wildland-urban fuels reduction in the Canyon Creek drainage in the southern Bighorn Mountains. For more than two decades, landowners have been working to reduce wildfire hazard in dense mature mixed-conifer forests within and adjacent to the Canyon Creek Country rural subdivision. This has involved the cooperation and participation of the Washakie County Fire Warden, Washakie County Firesmart, the Tolman Ranch, the Canyon Creek Country Cabin Owners Association, Wyoming State Forestry Division, the Bighorn National Forest, the Worland Field Office of Bureau of Land Management, and other private landowners in this area of mixed land ownership.

The SAF field trip participants are listed under the photo to the right. All were favorably impressed with the results of the treatment prescriptions, and credited part of the success to a working relationship and communication between SAF members.



Treatments in the project area have included small tree thinning, commercial timber harvest, and slash treatment that consisted of a mixture of piling and burning, removal, and tractor mastication. Commercial product extraction helped offset the costs of part of the treatment. Landowner comments have included "Look at that view now," and "Our forage production is up," plus favorable impressions about the reduced fire hazard.

**Pictured left to right are:** Trey Davis (Nature Conservancy), Jim Gates (BLM), Jacob McCarthy (Wyoming State Forestry Division), Brian Russell (Wyoming State Forestry Division), Carli Kierstead (Nature Conservancy), Paul Wright (Sustainable Forestry Consulting), Dick Terry (Wyoming State Forestry Division), Jonathon Sloan (Wyoming State Forestry Division). Field trip participants not pictured are Chris Weydeveld (Washakie County Firesmart), Jon Warder (USFS) and Traci Weaver (USFS).

Funding for the forest thinning and fuels treatment came from a mixture of state grants, federal funds, and private landowners; some of which was in-kind work.

Previous newsletters have included mentions and photos of the accomplishments, and more will be coming for this continuing project.

In addition to work funded by the above cooperators, Canyon Creek Country residents participating in their annual work day have done work on their community property for several years. Pictured is one Canyon Creek Country resident doing Firesmart thinning and slash removal on his own forested lot.





### ***WASHAKIE COUNTY FIRESMART BURNING THINNING SLASH PILES***

This is one part of the Firesmart work mentioned on the previous page, and is the final action to complete treatment of some of the project acres.



On October 9 this year the Washakie County Firesmart Coordinator burned approximately 40 slash piles within the Annie Tolman Fuels Reduction Project area as part of the Washakie County 2017 CAFA project funded through the efforts of Washakie County, Wyoming State Forestry Division and the U.S. Forest Service.



This October, the Firesmart Coordinator also burned slash piles around cabins within the Canyon Creek Country sub-division as part of the Washakie County 2017 Firesmart Grant from the Wyoming State Forestry Division and the US Forest Service.

Photos by Gibson Weydeveld

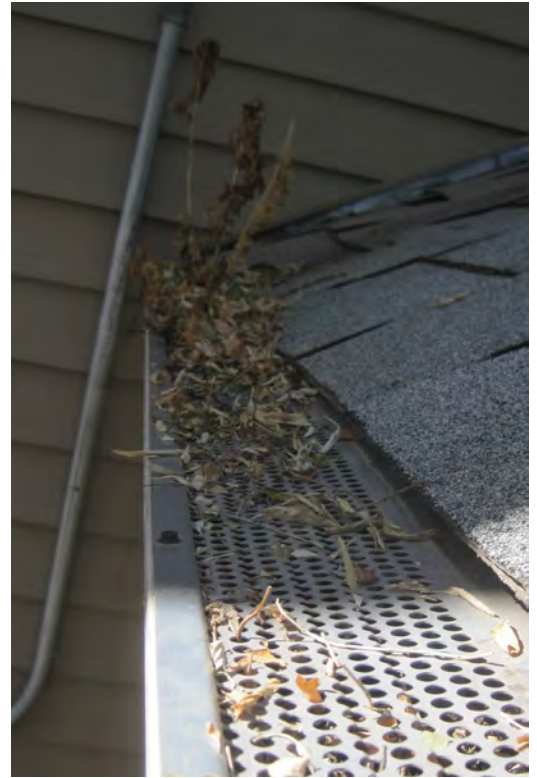


## EAVETROUGHS AND DOWNSPOUTS REVISITED

Eave troughs and Firesmart have been mentioned in other newsletters, but here are two problems not previously covered. **The pictured flattened downspout needs to be replaced, as it won't let water drain, and that will allow the trough to fill with flammable debris.** The other photos show a perforated eave trough cover that is advertised as preventing leaves and other items from entering the trough. In this case, dirt, small leaves, twig, and seeds have filled the unit, and plants have grown there and died! While removing (and reinstalling) the screens to clean these is a real pain, ignoring this ember trap could cause loss of your home or cabin.



**Crushed downspout drain tube**



**Full screened eave trough**

## MORE LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER—All should be removed to be Firesmart



**Shrubs and trees against the house wall**



**Dried vegetation within 3 feet of the wall**



**Grass and shrubbery under a bay window**



## MORE LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER



Dilapidated vine-covered and weathered lattice adjacent to a structure. An obvious ember trap that should be removed or replaced with something much less flammable.



Shrubs, trees, and vines growing under the eaves of a house. These fuel ladders need to be eliminated.



A rock and dirt "mulch" around a home. This one needs to be cleaned to removed the layer of conifer needles.



This wooden walkway might keep mud out of your cabin, but a fire could follow it right to your cabin.



If your address signage isn't clearly visible, firefighters might not be able to find your house!