



BIGHORN BASIN FIRESMART



BIGHORN BASIN FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

ISSUE #45 — EARLY 2023

CALENDAR YEAR 2022 FIRESMART ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2018 WSWUI Grant: This is a United States Forest Service Western States WUI-NFP Grant awarded to Washakie County. Collaborative partners involved include: Washakie County; the cities of Worland and Ten Sleep, Wyoming; the USDI Bureau of Land Management; USDA Forest Service; and State and private entities. The grant period of performance is September 1, 2018 through March 30, 2023.

In 2022 a total of 56.5 acres of fuels treatment projects were made possible through this grant as part of a County-wide effort to treat fuels along the Bighorn River and reduce the chances of catastrophic wildfire threatening life and other values-at-risk.

Approximately 200 slash piles were burned in 2022. Local cabin owners in the Canyon Creek Country subdivision and Firewise Community volunteered to assist the Firesmart Coordinator with pile burning.

Three Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP) were prepared.

A local fuels reduction contractor in Washakie County continues utilizing wood products generated from Washakie County Firesmart project activities.

Planning was completed with cooperators for the WINCH2022 52 acre fuels project in the south end of Washakie County along the Bighorn River.

CALENDAR YEAR 2023 FIRESMART PLANS/GOALS

Advancement of grant goals are on track with several C/S projects either in progress or in preparation. The WINCH2022 52 acre fuels project will be completed in March 2023. No other projects are set for completion in this grant cycle.

In addition, 3 to 5 WMP are predicted to be prepared.

Firesmart information and all newsletter issues are available at:

www.bighornbasinfiresmart.com

<u><i>In this issue</i></u>	<u><i>Page</i></u>	<u><i>Special points of interest</i></u>
2022 Firesmart Accomplishments	1	* 2023 Firesmart goals
Firewise/Firesmart Coordinators	2	* Disasters and livestock protection
NOAH Weather Alert Radios	3	* What, where, and how
Wyoming State Forester Retires	4	* A Thank You to the Bighorn N.F.
Firesmart Land Use Planning	5	* Tips
LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN	6	* For your spring burning
Pesticide Training Offered	7	* By the University of Wyoming
Firesmart Project Before & After	8	* A Little Thing That Matters

NOAA Weather Alert All Hazard Public Alert Radio

Stay up to date on all the latest weather, hazard, and civil emergency information with the Public Alert Certified Midland WR-120EZ monitor. NOAA agency personnel have communicated to Bighorn Basin Firesmart personnel the importance of an All Hazard/Weather Alert Radio for those living in the Wildland Urban Interface in the Bighorn Basin counties in Wyoming.

In the event of a threatening wildfire, weather hazard, or civil emergency, this radio will activate a voice warning providing details of emergency preparedness or evacuation information.

Capable of receiving seven National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association (NOAA) /Environment Canada channels each of which receives and displays emergency advisories on wildfires, tornadoes, floods, severe thunderstorms, civil danger warnings, and more in three languages (English, Spanish, French), the WR-120EZ is a must for people who live in high-risk weather areas, such as the Southeast or Midwest. Plus, the seven NOAA channels offer coverage for roughly 93 percent of the U.S., so most people are well covered regardless of where they live. This unit has color coded Alert Indicators for over 60 types of alerts.

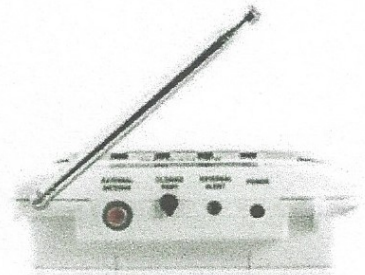


Weather-Alert radios are available from many on-line and store-front sources, for \$25 to \$100.

The unit described here is an example of a weather alert radio. Other brands and models are available. The Midland WR-120EZ has been used by Firesmart personnel and has been found to be reliable and accurate.

Rear controls/ports, left to right: external antenna, cleaning port, external alert, power button.

The WR-120EZ features Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) reception. SAME allows users to program the radio to sound an alert only when weather and other emergencies threaten a selected county or counties. The technology eliminates all alerts from other areas, so users won't have to perk up their ears each time the alert sounds only to find the emergency is actually 100 miles up the highway.



In addition, the WR-120EZ's memory system accepts up to 25 counties, so you can monitor a broad swatch of counties at once or restrict it to one. Should an alert occur, users have a choice of three warning systems: a 90 dB siren, a voice alert, or a flashing LED light. The siren is the best option for people with larger homes, or who aren't always near the monitor, while the latter two options work well for smaller homes.

Additional features include a clock with an alarm and a snooze button, an emergency power backup that keeps your radio working during power outages or outdoor use, and external antenna and alert jacks. The WR-120EZ, which works with three AA batteries (not included), is backed by a one-year warranty, and is the 2011 replacement for the popular WR-100.

Features:

- Alert Override automatically switches over to warn you of impending danger
- SAME Localized Reception
- Continuous Backlighting Option--keeps the LCD on
- 25 Programmable Counties
- Color coded Alert Indicators, and an Alarm Clock with Snooze



Bill Crapser has retired as Wyoming State Forester after 19 years with the Wyoming State Forestry Division.

Bill graduated from the University of Montana in 1980 with a B.S. degree in Forest Management. That same year he and Joni Rio were married. Bill worked for several logging and road construction outfits before becoming the resource manager for Darby Lumber in Darby, Montana. Bill then was with the American Pulpwood Association for several years in Eugene, Oregon. In 1993, Bill left APA, and became a Forest Resource Manager for Weyerhaeuser in Kalispell, Montana. Bill was then promoted to the position of Fiber Resource Manager, and Joni and he moved to Longview, WA. After several years in Washington, the call of the Rockies won



out, and in 2000 Bill accepted a position with Louisiana Pacific as the Resource Manager in Saratoga, Wyoming. In August 2003 the Wyoming State Board of Land Commissioners appointed Bill State Forester where he has served as the leader of the Wyoming State Forestry Division until his retirement at the end of 2022. Throughout his career Bill has served many association committees and boards including, President of the Montana Wood Products Association, Chairman of the Council of Western State Foresters, President of the National Association of State Forester (NASF), and chairman of the NASF Policy Team.

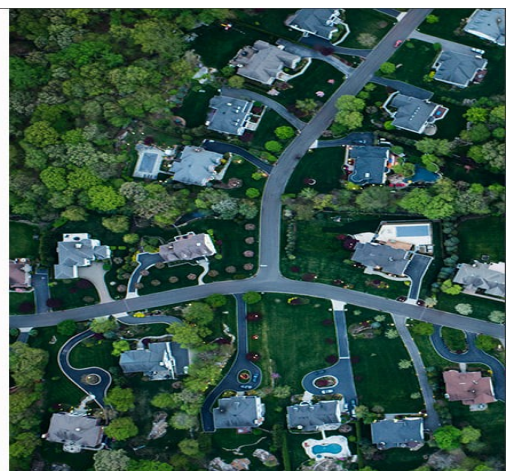
Joni and Bill live west of Cheyenne, and have three dogs, five horses, and three cats. Bill is passionate about hunting, and spends as much time as possible hiking, and exploring our beautiful State.

Governor Gordon has appointed Kelly Norris, Assistant State Forester, as the Interim Wyoming State Forester.

A big **THANK YOU** from the Washakie County Firesmart program to the Bighorn National Forest. Since the start of the new year, a group of Forest employees geared up and burned a backlog of 400 slash piles resulting from Firesmart treatments just outside that National Forest in the Bighorn Mountains. Yet another example of a cooperative effort in Wyoming.

KNOW TWO WAYS OUT

Plan two ways out of your neighborhood and designate a meeting place before a wildfire threatens your area.



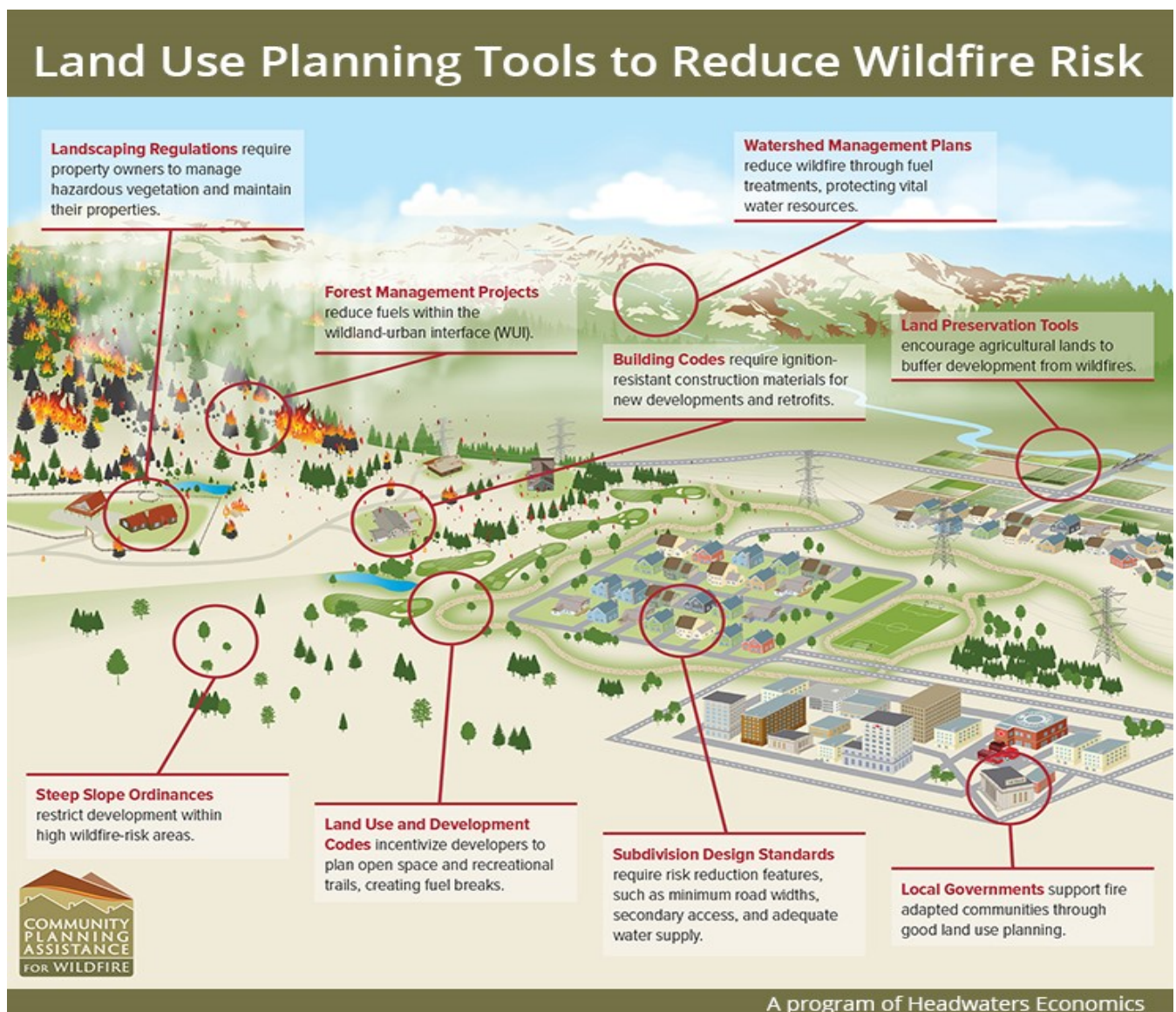
ABOUT LAND USE PLANNING AND BEING FIRESMART

Being Firesmart is more than just having your home and your neighbor's homes resistant to wildfire. Your entire community may determine the outcome.

Land use planning can reduce wildfire risk by helping communities grow and develop with wildfire in mind. Land use planning tools such as zoning, plans, regulations, and building codes can influence the design, layout, and placement of homes built in wildfire-prone areas.

Land use planning measures are diverse and can be customized to fit the needs of the neighborhood, community, or county. For example, land use planning regulations can require defensible space in the home ignition zone, adequate water supply, road widths and access, and home hardening materials for homes built in high wildfire hazard areas. Land use planning tools can also restrict development in areas of highest hazard.

Here is a diagram of an example community constructed with Firesmart in mind. These principles are some of those being applied to communities rebuilding after being destroyed or damaged by recent wildfires in Oregon and California.



WITH SPRING SURELY ON THE WAY, HERE IS A REMINDER

Learn Before You Burn!

Agricultural burning is a common practice in Wyoming. Every year disasters result when fires get out of control.

Don't become a statistic!

From grass fire to structure fire

"Everything was going fine until the wind came up."



Call the NWS for a
planning forecast before
you strike a match.

1-800-211-1448

Field Burning Tips

- *Call the NWS anytime for updated forecast
- *Calling your local authorities ensures burn is legal and not taxing resources
- *Ensure your neighbors are aware of your plans
- *Establish firebreaks
- *Ready water and equipment and plenty of help
- *Control the fire—stay with it until it is out cold
- *Call 9-1-1 if problems arise

University of Wyoming is offering private pesticide applicator training

Just in case some pesticide application will be part of your spring cleanup or summer plans, here is something that you may want to put on your calendar. The University of Wyoming Extension will be offering private pesticide applicator education programs across the state from late January through March.

These four-hour educational sessions provide an overview of certification requirements for private applicators, pertinent laws and regulations, pesticide safety and handling, groundwater contamination, pesticide disposal, and more.

Upon completion of an educational session, applications for private applicator licenses will be submitted to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for approval and issuance of licenses.

Private pesticide applicator licenses are required for anyone who applies or supervises the application of Restricted Use Pesticides, also known as RUPs.

Dates, locations within the Bighorn Basin and neighboring Johnson County, and contacts for 2023 education programs, are listed below. Further details are available at:

<https://uwyoextension.org/psep/private-applicators/licensing/>

Big Horn County, Jan. 31, 8 a.m. – noon, and Feb. 27, 1–5 p.m.

- ◆ Big Horn County Weed and Pest Building
- ◆ 4782, U.S. Highway 310, Greybull - Contact: Jeremiah Vardiman, (307) 754-8836

Park County - Contact: Jeremiah Vardiman, (307) 754-8836

- ◆ **Feb. 16, 1–5 p.m.**
- ◆ Park County Complex STE 2070
- ◆ 1501 Stampede Ave., Cody
- ◆ **March 1, 8 a.m. – noon**
- ◆ Homesteader Hall-Fairgrounds
- ◆ 655 E. 5th St., Powell



Washakie County

- ◆ **March 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**
- ◆ Washakie County Extension Office
- ◆ 1200 Culbertson Ave. #F, Worland - Contact: Caitlin Youngquist, (307) 347-3431
- ◆ **March 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**
- ◆ Washakie County Extension Office
- ◆ 1200 Culbertson Ave., Worland - Contact: Jeremiah Vardiman, (307) 754-8836

Johnson County - Contact: Micah Most, (307) 684-7522

- ◆ **Jan. 30, 1–5 p.m.**
- ◆ Fairgrounds Community Building
- ◆ 18 Fairgrounds Road, Buffalo
- ◆ **Jan. 31, 1–5 p.m.**
- ◆ Red Wall Community Center
- ◆ 201 Center St., Kaycee



BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS OF FIRESMART FUELS REDUCTION ALONG THE BIGHORN RIVER



Wildfire Mitigation Plans: If you would like a Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) for your Washakie County home or cabin, you can request one from the Washakie County Firesmart Coordinator mentioned on Page 2, or submit an application through:

<https://www.bighornbasinfiresmart.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Firesmart-WMP-application-fillable.pdf>

ONE MORE LITTLE THING THAT MATTERS

When you are thinking about your spring Firesmart preparation, here's one little item that possibly got added to over the winter. Flammable items under your wooden deck are common causes of wildfires igniting homes and cabins.

