

## Fire Wise Committee Monthly Meeting

### SC Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew Input - Jan 24, 2018



#### 1. Clearing Update:

23 Jan 18 - We're still in N54, work area by 118 Coletto Creek Lane area this time. We had a cold but sunny start this morning for our 9 volunteers (3- N54 and 6 Crew members). It's amazing how many piles of brush we can pile up for Jon to get mulched. We were able to get quite a few of the bigger Junipers "limbed up" and smaller one's cut down completely. Jon was able to get 3 trailer loads before our time was up. Work will continue on our next workday. No incidents or injuries reported.

16 Jan 18- Cancelled due to inclement weather. Try again next week.

9 Jan 18- Work starts in N54, by 104 Coletto Creek Lane. Work (and the fun) went fast with 15 volunteers (6 N54 & 9 Crew members) on hand. This green space only has one narrow entrance. N54 Rep, Rick, coordinated with his neighbors for additional access helping reduce the "long distance" hauling. (Cutting and trimming had to be hauled to the trailer, so it could be mulched elsewhere.) We took care to pick up and clean the access area of the neighbor who was so kind to allow us to use their yards. No incidents or injuries reported.

2. Completed Work locations: None yet for the New Year.

3. Residents Request for neighborhood area clearing: 4

**203 Old Blue Mountain.** Per Jon, our CA Rep, Area is at a Level 3. The CA Ground Maintenance Crew had mowed the ditch between resident area and Level 3. Junipers are minimal. Resident informed.

**403 Old Blue Mountain.** Area clear up to Level 3 and 4. Jon had notified.

**214 Capote Peak.** Area mainly clear up to the level 3&4 areas. Drainage area has Willow Baccharis. Will need to be cleared.

**102 Barlett Peak.** Fairly clear from property line out to level 3. Huge Issue is the Willow Baccharis in the narrow drainage ditch along SC community property and other community behind. This needs to be cleared to allow proper drainage and reduce potential flooding issues. This will need to co-ordinated with the Ground Maintenance folks.

#### Areas reviewed and put on work list:

**313 Goose Island and 224 Mustang Island** green space area. Area needs vines and small juniper cleared. A resident had started clearing most of the vegetation as well as cutting oak trees in a portion

of this area. Jon addressed this with resident. Also explained if oak is cut, it needs to be sprayed with punning spray within 30mins. Only CA has responsibility for maintaining green spaces.

**315 San Saba.** Vines and small juniper. Drainage ditch has been filled with a resident's yard waste and 3 trash bags. Jon addressed this with his supervisor to be handled. Area will need to be cleared prior to working in this area.

**Green space across from 315 San Saba.** Drainage ditch has Willow Baccharis . Area has juniper that needs to be removed as well.

**Corner of San Saba and Rio Grande Loop.** Willow Baccharis in drainage ditch. Juniper needs to be removed as well.

**3. Volunteer Crew List Total** (as of 24 Jan 18):

44 volunteers / Weekly Emails: 25

New Volunteer (s) 2018: 1

**4. Additional Data:**

**“A Case of Mistaken Responsibilities”**- An email was sent in Dec 17, by a resident who “disagree(d) with the way Firewise is park cutting all the green belts...I personally think Firewise is taking away wildlife habitat...”

Unfortunately this individual did not understand the difference between CA Ground Maintenance responsibilities versus the Firewise Committee responsibilities (and that of the Clearing Crew's).

Ken Lloyd and Jon provided responses to the individual informing him that FW is not responsible for the mowing of Level 3 areas. Also, Jon pointed out that this reduces snakes and rodents out of resident's lots. Mowing controls drainage and chigger issues as well. Both wildlife and vegetation have benefited by this maintenance. (Thank you to them both for their prompt response and clearing up this misunderstanding.)

**Illegal Dumping of Yard Clippings.** During review of possible work areas, Jon our CA Rep came across a drainage ditch full of limbs, brush and trash from a residential property. This was reported and the CA will handle this situation.

It is important that residents do not put their yard clipping and/or debris into green spaces or drainage ditches. Many of the vegetation they put there is not native and may bring in pest that can impact the environment. Most importantly it adds fuel for potential fires. When debris is placed in drainage ditches it can cause possible back up which aids in flooding- which can effect residents properties.

So remember to bag your yard waste and put it out for the City Recycle pick up. Thank you.

**Submitted by Petra Garren, FW Clearing Crew Leader**