

## **Mogollon Ranch Firewise and Healthy Forest Program**

1. Visit your property. If you have not seen it in a while, you may be amazed at the need for creating a healthy lot.
2. Count your trees. You may be surprised how many hundreds of trees are on your property. Our climate may support 100 to 200 trees per acre (higher than the 50 per acre that were present before fire suppression became the "norm" in the forests). The number of healthy trees will be dependent on the level of moisture received each year.
3. Thinning trees is essential to help remaining trees survive. Many lots have "dog hair" thickets of small trees which should be removed so that larger trees near them will be healthy. Leaving space between tree tops helps prevent crown fires. It also allows rain to reach the ground, providing moisture for the trees and grasses, and permits sunlight to encourage growth.
4. Topography of property can increase your vulnerability to wildfire. If your lot is on a slope, especially a south or southwest facing slope, you are in greater danger from wildfire.
5. Raking of your lot removes dangerous fuel. Many lots have 6 to 12 inches of needles piled up. In a wildfire, 4 to 6 inches of receptive fuels, including pine needles, leaves, and grasses will produce a flame height up to 8 feet or more. It is important to rake around the structures of your property first and work out from there. Rake every spring. Allowing the one-year of needle-cast to remain on the ground through the winter provides insulation and nutrients during the cold weather.
6. Contrary to some widely-held opinions, large amounts of needles do NOT help the ground retain moisture. Instead, they allow rain to flow across the top, preventing water from reaching the tree roots, which are surface feeders.
7. Propane tanks should not be screened (per Coconino County).
8. Firewood, lumber, and other combustibles should not be stored under or on decks, but should be stored at least 30 feet from structures.
9. If you would like to see lots that meet these guidelines, feel free to drive by lots 9, 29, 55, 56-57, and 232. Also, feel free to call any member of the Firewise and Healthy Forest Committee for further information.

Committee members: Pat Palmer, Marge Williams, Jesse Schmid, Carl Deiner, and Jack Pollard