



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management Continues Former Bear Jaw Crew Community Cleanup Event to Protect Flagstaff Communities

Flagstaff, AZ (4/28/2026) – The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) has launched a weeklong cleanup effort to support multiple Flagstaff-area communities and the former Bear Jaw Interagency Fire and Fuels Crew with their annual Firewise Community Cleanup program.

Yesterday, DFFM wildland hand crews and operations staff began work in Kachina Village, Mountainaire, Pine Del, and Munds Park, assisting residents by collecting bags of tree trimmings, pine needles, and other vegetation cleared and bagged by homeowners as part of their wildfire risk reduction efforts.

Since 2017, the former Bear Jaw hand crew, made up of crewmembers from both the Highlands and Pinewood Fire Districts, supported and encouraged residents with their Firewise property mitigation efforts by spending days hauling away the debris removed from home ignition zones in neighborhoods during community cleanup events. The event has averaged removal of over 21,000 cubic yards, the equivalent of 545 roll off dumpsters annually.

While the crew has since dissolved, DFFM recognized the importance of continuing the event.

“The Bear Jaw hand crew was just as important to the Flagstaff community as they were to our agency. We relied on them during fire season, and the crew became family to many of us. To honor all they have done for Arizona, we chose to continue this year’s cleanup event, not only to support our communities, but to recognize the crew’s service and dedication,” said Department of Forestry and Fire Management Assistant Chief PJ Lingley. “DFFM’s mission is people first and this event reflects that collaborative commitment supporting the meaningful work residents are doing to protect their homes, properties, and livelihoods from wildfires.”

This week, starting at 7 a.m. daily, crews and trucks will be in Kachina Village, Mountainaire, Pine Del, and Munds Park areas collecting green waste bags and hauling away debris piles. The cleanup effort is expected to take a few days. All debris will be taken to the Willard Springs green waste facility in coordination with Coconino County where the Coconino National Forest will burn the piles at a date to be determined when safe to do so.

For more information contact Tiffany Davila at 602-540-1036 or by email at tdavila@dffm.az.gov

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