

Buckhorn Ranch

Topography

The Buckhorn Ranch area consists of 12 dispersed homes. The area we conducted a risk Assessment sits on the West side of State Route 89, the topography is 10-20% throughout the community posing a threat for containment or control during a wildfire. Predominate building construction is wood siding with a non-combustible roof.

Vegetation

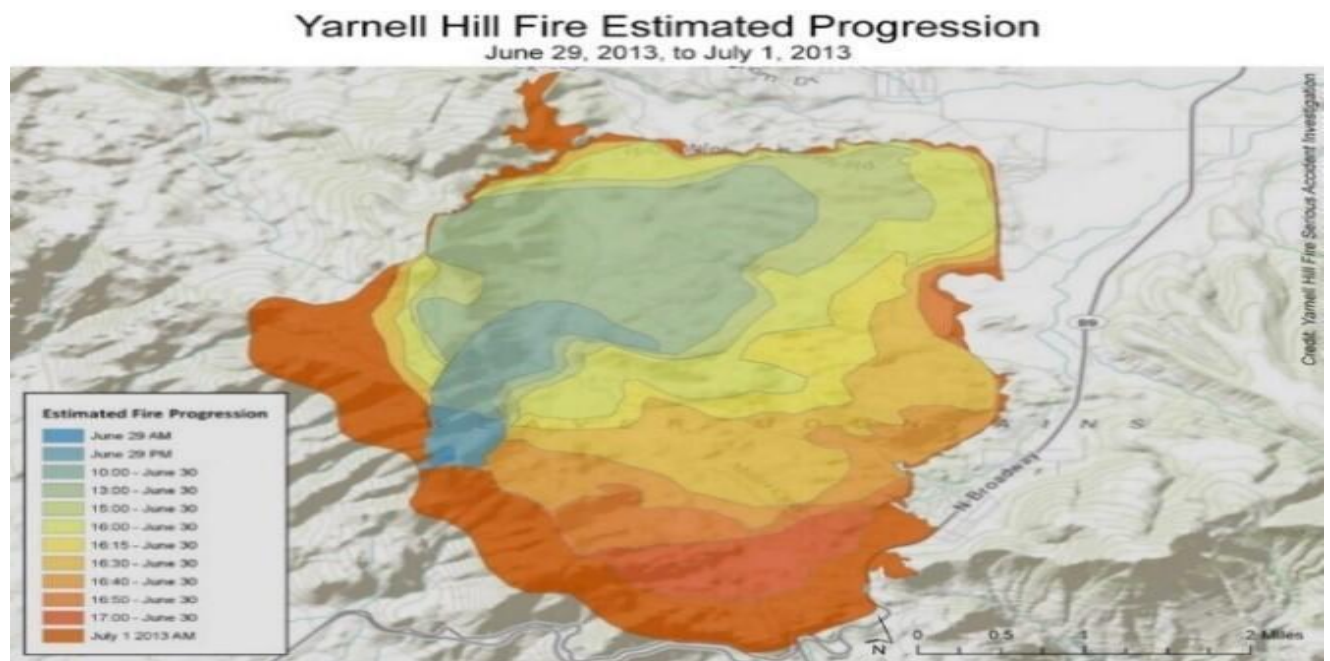
The Buckhorn Ranch area consists of a mixture of Pinon, Juniper, an abundance gamble oak, scrub oak, and manzanita on the ridges. In the drainages and washes cottonwoods and sycamores are present. There is a heavy grass load continuous throughout the area intermixed with high desert cacti with a mixture of Forbes and subshrubs. These factors make for unpredictable fire weather behavior given the area and topography more aggressive thinning efforts around homes need to be implemented. The surrounding area of Forest service and private adjacent to the Community is continuous vegetation (fuel loading) which is why the emphasis should be on the 3 HIZ zones.

Weather

The Buckhorn Ranch area is located in Central Arizona in Peebles Valley Arizona west of State Route 89. During the months of October-March climate can drop to freezing or below with variable snowfall amounts. April –September temps during the peak summer months can reach into the mid-90s and in a normal monsoonal pattern gusty erratic winds and the sudden onset of heavy rainfall. Flash flooding is present and more frequent in this particular area with a drainage running through the area.

Fire History

Yavapai County has experienced numerous wildfires going back 20 plus years. Most notable for this area was the Yarnell Hill Fire ignited On June 29, 2013 and burned 8,400 acres.





Vegetation in the Intermediate zone. Keep separation of Trees/ Bushes around 5' along with keeping grass trimmed.



Vegetation leading up to the structure recommend 5' separation between bushes/trees as well as keeping grasses trimmed.



Vegetation in the Intermediate zone. Recommend keeping trees limbed up 5' also break up continuous fuels

Recommendations

1) Continue to improve or create defensible space

To increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire, choose fire-resistant building materials and limit the amount of flammable vegetation in the three home ignition zones. The zones include the immediate Zone: (0 to 5 feet around the house), the Intermediate Zone (5 to 30 feet), and the Extended Zone (30 to 100 feet).

Immediate zone

The home and the area 0-5' from the furthest attached exterior point of the home; defined as a non-combustible area. Science tells us this is the most important zone to take immediate action on as it is the most vulnerable to embers. START WITH THE HOUSE ITSELF then move into the landscaping section of the Immediate Zone.

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

Intermediate zone

5-30' from the furthest exterior point of the home. Landscaping/hardscaping- employing careful landscaping or creating breaks that can help influence and decrease fire behavior

- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.
- Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches.
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to six to ten feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- Space trees to have a minimum of eighteen feet between crowns with the distance increasing with the percentage of slope.
- Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than ten feet to the edge of the structure.
- Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.

Extended zone

30-100 feet, out to 200 feet. Landscaping – the goal here is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt fire's path and keep flames smaller and on the ground.

- Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.
- Remove dead plant and tree material.
- Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.
- Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.
- Trees 30 to 60 feet from the home should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops.*
- Trees 60 to 100 feet from the home should have at least 6 feet between the canopy tops.*

TREE SPACING

