



1 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: Bitterroot RC&D

Individual: Byron Bonney

Address: 1709 N. First

City, State, Zip: Hamilton, MT 59840

Phone Number: (406) 363-1444 ext. 5

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Montana DNRC

Individual: Angela Mallon

Address: 2705 Spurgin Rd

City, State, Zip: Missoula, MT 59801

Phone Number: (406) 618-9421

Project, Program or Activity

Byron Bonney has served as Bitterroot RC&D's lead community forester since 2001, coordinating grant-funded fuels reduction projects on thousands of acres of private land throughout Missoula, Mineral, and Ravalli Counties. His vast knowledge of fire behavior and fuels is evident in the projects he has implemented, which are characterized by an ideal combination between fire-smart principles, community-wide protection, and good forest management. In addition to project design and implementation, he has also spent countless hours aiding other organizations in establishing and improving their own fuel reduction programs.

Achievement

The fuel reduction projects completed by Bitterroot RC&D with Byron Bonney's oversight stand out as among the most comprehensive and effective treatments I have seen, not only in Montana but throughout the Western U.S. Because they succeed in achieving multiple objectives – providing for home protection, strategic suppression points, and overall forest health and restoration – I consider them to be exemplary in terms of cost effectiveness. Byron Bonney takes his role as an advocate for forest health and fire protection seriously, and his ability to connect with landowners on a personal level is evident in the high rate of participation in fuels reduction projects in Bitterroot Valley neighborhoods. Furthermore, Bonney makes every effort to strategically locate projects where fire risk is greatest, and where they can be enhanced by treatments on adjacent ownerships. Finally, he is the consummate advocate for effective fire management policies, speaking eloquently and objectively in multiple venues on the need to create fire resilient forests and fire-safe communities.

Impact/Benefits

Over the last decade, fire behavior in the Bitterroot Valley has served as a strong reminder of the need for fuels reduction and good forest management. Likewise, Bitterroot RC&D's fuels treatments have proven to be instructional on how such work can really be effective. To take just one example, treatments completed under Bonney's leadership were significant in aiding firefighters to control the 2007 Tin Cup Fire west of Darby. Many other projects have served as de facto demonstration sites successful in generating interest among homeowners who have the opportunity to witness what good fuels reduction or forest restoration looks like. Finally, Byron Bonney's commitment to making sure landowners understand the need for maintenance of fuels treatments over time increases the chance that fuels reduction projects will remain effective in the long term. In his characteristic humble way, Bonney is likely to give credit for these achievements to his organization and the staff he works with (who also deserve high praise); however, I believe that it is in no small part due to his knowledge, experience, commitment to service, and love for the forest that Bitterroot RC&D has established such an exemplary fuels program over the years.



2 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: Elkhorn Fire
Individual: Eric Morris
Address: 2440 Etta Place
City, State, Zip: Bozeman, MT 59718
Phone Number: 406 570-6208

Nominator:

Company or Organization: FireSafe MT Member
Individual: Erin Denton
Address: 53 Broken Wheel Rd
City, State, Zip: Livingston MT 59047
Phone Number: 310 528-7499

Project, Program or Activity

Our home was a mess and a potential fire disaster area. Eric did an amazing job on our property with thinning, limbing, and treating slash and dead and downed material.

Achievement

Our home now has a fighting chance against a fire. I feel more confident that if/when a fire approaches our home, firefighters will be able to work with what Eric has done to defend our property.

Impact/Benefits

The land surrounding our home was transformed from a fire disaster area to a defensible space. The aesthetic benefits were such a pleasant surprise – we're also able to use the limbs for firewood. I'm going to have Eric and his wife Jamie come back next spring to continue their work. I know they have also done other homes in our community, and the my neighbors are very pleased with his work as well – We live on the Wineglass in Livingston Montana, and it is literally a fire disaster waiting to happen. As more neighbors start to realize and witness the benefits of fire prevention, our community will perhaps have a better chance of surviving a devastating fire.



3 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Individual: Gordon Rothe gordonicus@yahoo.com
Street Address:
City, State, Zip:
Phone Number: 406-223-4570
Gordon recently returned to Florida for a few months

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Park County DES
Street Address: 414 E. Callender St.
City, State, Zip: Livingston, Mt. 59047
Phone Number: 222-4190

Project, Program or Activity

Gordon Rothe – Park County Assistant Fire Warden, wrote a county plan and created a user friendly webpage for citizen to use in preparing their property and how to get help when needed. Bob Fry can certainly elaborate on Gordon’s project since Gordon worked under Bob’s direction.

Achievement

Anytime you can teach people to do for themselves, in this case prepare themselves and their property for wildfires, an attitude develops and is subsequently shared with others.

Impact/Benefits

Once this independence and knowledge is developed it does not diminish, but rather increases and makes the person more aware of other possibilities.



4 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization:
Individual: Ed Levert
Address: 5220 Kootenai River Road
City, State, Zip: Libby, MT 59923
Phone Number:

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
Individual:
Address: 512 California Avenue
City, State, Zip: Libby, MT 59923
Phone Number: 406-293-7781, ext. 201

Project, Program or Activity

Mr. Levert has worked on numerous projects in our communities including identifying the Wildland Urban Interface, working with RC&D to obtain grants for funding for firewise treatment areas, helping the County with their land ownership doing firewise treatments, and working with various organizations including Natural Resources & Conservation, the USFS, Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), DNRC, and local fire departments in mitigation projects.

Achievement

substantial amount of acres in Lincoln County have been treated to reduce the impact of wildfire in our populated rural areas. County property has been treated to reduce the risk to adjoining properties. Work continues on WUI treatment. Mr. Levert is currently working and meeting with the City of Libby to make it a "Firewise Community" and made a presentation showing a possible scenario if a wild fire came toward the City, including property loss, evacuation problems, and possible loss or contamination of the City's water supply.

Impact/Benefits

Mr. Levert's commitment to reducing wildfire loss and educating our citizens has made our communities much safer. The public awareness of living in forested area has dramatically increased. Cooperation between the private sector, various federal agencies, and state agencies has substantially increased and has lead to several fire reduction projects jointly. He has also been heavily involved in the Kootenai Stakeholders Group, working with various organizations and agencies trying to improve the process and acceptance of timber sales on Forest Service property.



5 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee: Allison Kolbe

Company or Organization: US Forest Service, Seeley Lake Ranger District

Individual: Allison Kolbe

Address: 3583 Hwy 83

City, State, Zip: Seeley Lake Montana, 59868

Phone Number: 406-677-2233

Nominator:

Company or Organization: US Forest Service, Seeley Lake Ranger District

Individual: Phil Shelmerdine

Address: 3583 Hwy 83

City, State, Zip: Seeley Lake, Montana, 59868

Phone Number: 406-677-2233

Nominator:

Seeley Lake Fire Chief, Chair MCFPA , Chair BFPA

Frank Maradeo

PO Box 309

Seeley Lake, MT 59868

406-677-2400

Project, Program or Activity

Allison developed a fire prevention program for all the fire protection agencies in the Clearwater and middle Blackfoot drainages. She coordinates with the Blackfoot Fire Protection Association (BFPA), Missoula County Fire Protection Association (MCFPA), Seeley Lake Fuels Mitigation Task Force, and numerous home owner associations.

Achievement

Allison was at the forefront in helping the Double Arrow Land Owners Association gain recognition as a Fire Wise Community. She developed a "Wildflowers vs. Wildfires" campaign for the Blackfoot Fire Protection Association. Allison is leading the development of an interpretive trail that focuses attention to the effects of wildfire and the need for community protection.

Impact/Benefits

Allison is helping our communities become safer in regards to wildland fire education, prevention and awareness. Allison serves as a Zone Representative of NRCG Prevention and Education Committee.



6 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: USFS / Gallatin NF, Hebgen Lake RD

Individual: Anna Anderson

Address: 330 Gallatin Road – PO Box 520

City, State, Zip: West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Phone Number: 406-823-6961

Nominator:

Company or Organization: USFS / Gallatin NF

Individual: Frederick Jones, WZFMO

Address: 3710 Fallon St. – Suite C

City, State, Zip: Bozeman, MT 59718

Phone Number: 406-522-2520

Project, Program or Activity

Program: Anna is the Fuels Specialist on the West Zone, GNF.

Activity: Her hard work, dedication and passion for working with communities at risk in the wildland urban interface, generated two local hazardous fuel reduction projects in the West Yellowstone area.

Project(s): Hebgen Basin and Lonesome Wood Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

Achievement

Anna helped educate the local public about FIREWISE communities, Wildland Urban Interface concerns and how communities / property owners can utilize hazardous fuel reduction to create survivable space. She achieved this by one on one visits in the field and through public meetings with homeowners and cooperators. Anna also participated on local field trips in past burned areas to educate children 'kids in the woods program'.

Impact/Benefits

Impact / Benefit(s):

- Cooperation between agency, local government and homeowners has been established.
- Creation of survivable space around values at risk that will provide additional safety for the public and firefighters. (FireSafe mitigation grants)
- Public education of FireWise principles and a beginning towards a FireSafe community.

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7 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: Elkhorn HOA Whitefish

Individual: Mike Frost

Address:

City, State, Zip: Whitefish, MT 59937

Phone Number: 406-862-4112

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Lion Mountain OA FireWise Committee

Individual: Peter Stanley

Address: 1770 Cliffview Ln

City, State, Zip: Whitefish, MT 59937

Phone Number: 406-862-4112

Project, Program or Activity

- 1.0 Promoted, managed and implemented FireWising Elkhorn HOA development
- 2.0 Active in the WF Area Firesafe Council (WFAFC)
- 3.0 Chairman of Elkhorn Rick Management Committee
- 4.0 Continue to be active in fire safe community projects

Achievement

- 1.0 Elkhorn FireWise
 - 1.1 Wrote Plan, including evacuation details and one-way signage
 - 1.2 Prepared a map of development to include structures, handicap homes, propane tanks, etc for WFFD use
 - 1.3 Worked w/private homeowner to establish a firefighters safety zone, including a water pond and firefighting propane fueled(no electricity) pump/hoses,etc
 - 1.4 Organized an open house for the public so as to educate and inform
- 2.0 Building a fire lookout tower with webcam and warning sirens for the benefit of the Elkhorn HOA
- 3.0 Work for HOA in obtaining grants for fuel thinning
- 4.0 Working with WFAFC to implement a large firebreak to benefit the community

Impact/Benefits

See Achievements above

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8 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: Gallatin NF, West Zone Fire

Individual: Marianne Baumberger

Address: 3710 Fallon St, Suite C

City, State, Zip: Bozeman, MT 59718

Phone Number: 406-522-2549

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Gallatin NF, West Zone Fire

Individual: Tim Brickell

Address: 3710 Fallon St, Suite C

City, State, Zip: Bozeman, MT 59718

Phone Number: 406-522-2546

Project, Program or Activity

Marianne is in charge of the Fire Prevention and Conservation Education Program for the West Zone of the Gallatin National Forest which covers the Bozeman and Hebgen Lake Ranger Districts. The program deals a lot with educating the public not only on fire prevention, defensible space and fire safe issues, but Marianne also covers a wide range of natural resource conservation topic. She works with every kind of group imaginable from school kids at all grade levels, homeowners, recreationists in the forest, community groups and organizations as well as our cooperators such as Montana DNRC and county and local fire departments. Marianne supervises two Fire Prevention Technicians during the field season. They help with the posting and signing of prevention and fire restrictions messages; and conduct various education programs and talks including Smokey Bear appearances.

Achievement

Marianne is very energetic and proactive in managing her program. She is always involved with some sort of group or activity, doing talks and programs on a year round basis.

The result is having a more informed and educated community of all ages and interest groups in and around Gallatin county. Private landowners are doing more and more fuel treatments on their land that is adjacent to National Forest land.

Impact/Benefits

The bottom line is that less suppression dollars (taxpayer dollars), both from Montana state and federal Forest Service budgets, would be spent protecting private homes that are threatened by wildfire. This helps in the long term, to protect the safety of people, communities and firefighters from the inevitable threat of wildland fire.



9 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization:

Individual: John Ingebretson, Assistant Fire Management Officer (AFMO), USDA/Forest

Address: Swan Lake Ranger District, 200 Ranger Station Road

City, State, Zip: Bigfork, MT 59911

Phone Number: 406-837-7500

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Flathead Economic Policy Center

Individual: Carol Daly

Project, Program or Activity

John has been instrumental in enabling the Flathead National Forest successfully to accomplish a number of hazardous fuels reductions projects in wildland-urban interface areas from Hungry Horse to West Glacier in Flathead County, in the Swan Valley, and on the east shore of Flathead Lake (from Bear Dance to Yellow Bay). The projects all involved extensive collaboration with area residents and other concerned interests.. In each case, residents initially had significant concerns about post-treatment visual appearances, impacts on wildlife (including threatened or endangered species), and possible changes in recreational use of the area, and the planned use of prescribed fire as part of the management plans. In addition to commercial and pre-commercial thinning activities, most of the projects included additional activities such as road maintenance, wildlife habitat improvements, noxious weed treatments, and installation of culverts to improve fish passage. Multiparty monitoring of project accomplishments also involved community members, high school and/or university faculty and students, industry representatives, tribal representatives, non-governmental organizations, etc.

Achievement

Well over 1,000 acres of federal land were treated, with additional treatments occurring on private lands through cost-share programs administered by local non-profit groups or the Bigfork Fire Department. Numerous homes were protected. Local employment was provided through the contracts. Important viewsheds were protected. Fire was re-introduced in the treatment areas as a management tool, and community familiarity with and receptiveness to the concept of wildland fire use was enhanced. A key factor in the accomplishment of all of the projects was John's work with community members and other stakeholders. He participated in numerous community meetings and field tours. He made presentations to civic clubs, homeowners groups, business organizations, and others. Perhaps most importantly, he went door-to-door in the communities talking with individual landowners, walking with them through their lands and on adjacent Forest Service lands, learning their concerns, answering their questions, explaining what was being proposed and why it would be beneficial to both the forest and to the landowners. For many landowners, it was the first time they had interacted personally with a representative of the Forest Service, and their response was usually positive.

Impact/Benefits

The immediate on-the-ground impacts and benefits were described in the answer to the previous question. The long-term benefits and impacts of the Holland-Pierce projects (in the Swan Valley) are being assessed through a multiparty monitoring process facilitated by the Swan Ecosystem Center and Northwest Connections, two local organizations. With representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the University of Montana, the Flathead Economic Policy Center, and others, the monitoring project will be studying the long-term effectiveness of the fuels and forest health treatment, impacts on deer winter range, impacts on streams from the Best Management Practices used in road improvements, the effect of the project on the local economy, and the changes (if any) in off-highway vehicle use of the area as the result of the project. John's work with community members and others contributed to improved relationships and understanding between the U.S. Forest Service and the affected neighborhoods. It enhanced people's understanding of wildfire threats and the importance of taking proactive measures to prevent losses of life and property. John's one-on-one work with neighboring landowners no doubt was responsible for the Forest Service receiving the necessary permission to cross private lands to conduct work on the national forest, particularly on the Eastshore project, where the agency had

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little or no direct access of its own. I think John went well above and beyond the normal requirements of his job in order to better serve the agency, the public, and the environment.

10 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Individual: Carol Daly

City, State, Zip: Columbia Falls, MT

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Whitefish Area Fire Safe Council

City, State, Zip: Whitefish, MT 59937

Phone Number: 406-471-2082

Project, Program or Activity The Whitefish Area Fire Safe Council (WAFSC) would like to nominate Carol Daly for the Firesafe Montana Dedicated Individual Award. Carol's assistance and guidance were instrumental in the formation of WAFSC and the preparation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). On a cold and snowy evening in the middle of January 2009, Carol deftly facilitated our first meeting where approximately 50 people comprised of local fire experts, public agencies, fuels reduction contractors, and private landowners gathered at a local motel conference room in Whitefish to discuss the need for a more comprehensive and collaborative approach in addressing the community's wildfire risks. As a result of that meeting and over a period of about four months, Carol helped us form a steering committee that met regularly. She guided the committee in formulating information unique to Whitefish, establishing a boundary, and incorporated the community's values. She then took all this information and prepared a draft CWPP. I can say with confidence and concurrence from the WAFSC, we would not have a final CWPP today without the leadership and knowledge Carol provided. Few people exemplify the concept of community volunteerism, unselfishness, activism and effectiveness like Carol Daly. Carol demonstrated that she is capable of achieving consensus without prejudice in a respectful and sensitive manner. She brings all of these attributes to the cause of wildfire preparedness. Her ability to reach out to all parts of the community and her understanding of planning make her an incredibly valuable asset to wildfire preparedness.

Achievement As a result of the organization of WAFSC and the CWPP, the Whitefish community, in partnership with Northwest Regional Resource Conservation and Development (NW RC&D) has successfully applied for and received a \$250,000 federal grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to reduce fuel around homes. In less than one year, with Carol's leadership in planning, the community has been able to prepare a comprehensive plan, advertise a fuel reduction program, evaluate approximately 100 homes, prepare written agreements to reduce fuel in the wildland urban interface, and complete 25 projects. With Carol's help, the groundwork has been laid to complete over 1,000 acres of fuel reduction that will protect homes and other community values at risk.

Impact/Benefits Two very important benefits have been realized as a result of Carol's involvement with WAFSC. By bringing all firefighting agencies, including federal, state, county, and city together and not just talking, but effectively communicating and establishing relationships, the community has improved our collective preparedness for wildfire. These relationships are not only between agencies, but between individuals that create a valuable network. In addition to establishing a rapport with colleagues and counterparts, fuel reduction work is occurring in a thoughtful and effective manner. The preparation of the CWPP included prioritization of areas to be treated. The funding received for fuel reduction is being applied primarily to the highest priority locations that connect treatments, thereby forming fuelbreaks from high fuel loads and prevailing winds and topography. These fuelbreaks will also provide for firefighter safety and public safety when that inevitable wildfire starts.



11 - Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: East Glacier VFD/ Glacier County EMS
Individual: Darwin Feakes
Address: P.O. Box 222
City, State, Zip: East Glacier, MT 59434
Phone Number: 1-406-229-0869

Nominator:

Company or Organization: East Glacier VFD/ Glacier County EMS
Individual: Ben Steele
Address: P.O. Box 467
City, State, Zip: East Glacier, MT 59434
Phone Number: 1-406-226-4270

Project, Program or Activity

Darwin has served the VFD for the past 20 years as the chief and Asst chief and as one the EMTs for East Glacier. He is working with community to install Fire Safe in our rural setting.

Achievement

During the past three years Darwin's efforts can be seen through out the community, Mostly the houses surrounding the community have been numbered and entered into the departments GPS system. Mr.Feakes is the main person responsible for the department getting a new type 1 fire truck and gps system that we needed.

Impact/Benefits

Due to Mr.Feakes hard work the town now has EMS service a GPS system and community involvement that was barely in place. Mr Feakes gives up his weekends and evening to make sure that department has the equipment and tools needed for any emergency that may come up. He is very active in help the county out by attending meeting and setting up the community meetings as well. He also takes the time to go to the local schools to show the students how to be fire safe.

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Dedicated Individual Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: FireSafe Montana
Individual: Crystal Hagerman
Address: 201 W. Madison, Ste. 300
City, State, Zip: Belgrade, MT 59714
Phone Number: (406) 388 -3213

Nominator:

Company or Organization: NRMRC&D
Individual: Teresa Koper
Address: 502 S. 19th Ave. Ste. 105
City, State, Zip: Bozeman, MT 59718
Phone Number: (406) 582- 5700

**I would like this nomination
to be pulled and not
considered, maybe another
year.**

Project, Program or Activity

Crystal is the current Executive Director of the FireSafe Montana program. She has been a tremendously dedicated leader in the state, as well as regionally. She has headed up putting on several workshops and conferences, such as the 2010 Montana Communities and Wildfires Conference. Through her role as Executive Director she helps to maintain a membership to this non-profit; she manages this statewide association of FireSafe Montana local councils; she is the main point of contact statewide for the survivable space initiatives and the clearing house for pertinent and timely information; she is a very effective advocate for proactive approaches through fire preparedness; and she helps maintain a very informative FireSafe Montana website that covers timely events, policies, and grant deadlines, etc. She also is the coordinator for the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program in Gallatin, Park, and Meagher counties. She has worked closely with DNRC and other local, state, and federal partners such as RC&D, County Extension, Bozeman Watershed Group, Big Sky Resort Area District, and the U.S. Forest Service. This program assists landowners with creating survivable space around their homes to reduce the risk from wild-land fires. This program also addresses best management practices, forest health, and insect and disease issues. The program provides technical assistance for landowners to develop and implement a hazardous fuels mitigation plan. Through grant funding this program was able to provide 50% cost share to landowners who implement these plans. The cost share assists landowners with paying for fuels reduction work (clearing, thinning, or trimming vegetation) Crystal serves as the natural resource technician who provides direct technical assistance to guide landowners through this process.

Achievement Additionally to all of her successful work at the statewide level with FireSafe Montana, locally Crystal has written and received numerous grants for fire education and outreach in the SW Montana region for the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program. Her grant writing skills are impeccable. She seeks innovative approaches, such as working to make Biomass viable in this part of the county. Her reputation is excellent throughout the state. She is a pleasure to work with. The local landowners and consultants appreciate her pleasant personality and dependability greatly. Thanks to Crystal's hard work and dedication the Hazardous Fuels Reduction program received grants totaling \$400,000 in 2007-2009. This program has received applications from 211 landowners; 160 landowners were assisted financially; 503 total acres were treated; Cooke City had 30 projects; West Boulder had 7 projects; Livingston, 19 projects; 8 projects in Smith Creek; 40 projects in Big Sky; 48 projects took place in Bozeman; 22 projects in West Yellowstone; and White Sulphur Springs had 13 projects.

Impact/Benefits

Crystal's work with FireSafe Montana and locally in SW Montana will show lasting effects for a longtime to come. She has paved the way for the next FireSafe Montana Director by putting on excellent workshops and conferences and keeping everyone up to date on all the activities and events. She has strengthened the communication network throughout the state. The education and outreach grants that she wrote have kept 100's of homes safe in SW Montana. The education work she has continued in this area will hopefully spread like wildfire!



1 - Dedicated Business and/or Organization Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: Swan Ecosystem Center
Individual: Anne Dahl – Director and staff – Mike Palladini, Roger Marshall, Katherine Beers, Leanna Grubaugh, Paula Clarke.
Address: 6887 Mt Hwy 83, Condon, MT 59826
City, State, Zip:
Phone Number: 406-754-3137

Nominator: Allen Branine

Company or Organization: MT DNRC Swan Unit Fire Supervisor
Individual:
Address: 34925 MT Hwy 83, Swan Lake MT. 59911
City, State, Zip:
Phone Number: 406-754-2301

Project, Program or Activity

The Swan Ecosystem Center (SEC) now manages 5 cost share grants, including a State –wide Competitive Stewardship grant and an AARA stimulus addition to that grant.

Achievement

Describe the contributions or results in wildfire preparedness.
SEC has provided cost-share grants to 75 landowners, on over 1,100 acres of WUI and funded more than \$550,000 over the last 3 years.

Impact/Benefits

Describe the lasting benefits and/or impact of the nominee’s activities.
The efforts of SEC has greatly reduced the WUI fire risk in the Swan Valley as well as increase the health and vitality of the forest while taking into consideration the ecological values and importance of wildlife, T&E species, unique habitats (riparian and others) and water quality.

1 - Dedicated Business and/or Organization Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: Swan Ecosystem Center
Individual: Anne Dahl, President
Address: 6887 Highway 83
City, State, Zip: Condon, MT 59826
Phone Number: 406-754-3137

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Flathead Economic Policy Center
Individual: Carol Daly
Address: 919 Elk Park Road
City, State, Zip: Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Phone Number: 406-892-8155



Project, Program or Activity

(The following two paragraphs are drawn from an undated National Fire Plan report written by Betty Higgins, Incident Information Officer, Northwest Area Command, Kalispell, MT) Montana's 2000 wildfire season caught the attention of Swan Valley citizens, and the Swan Ecosystem Center (SEC) started discussions about how it could help the community understand fire's role in the Swan Valley's ecosystem. Through grants for implementation of the National Fire Plan, SEC developed *Firewise Forest* and *Ready for Fire* programs. It conducted Firewise workshops for community leaders, firefighters, and private citizens. SEC worked with the Forest Service to develop a Firewise Demonstration project at the Condon Work Center (which SEC manages for the Forest Service) so people could experience and understand what is meant by Firewise landscaping. Community members helped design the firewise landscaping plan and selected and marked trees to be cut for defensible space around the work center. Under a stewardship agreement, SEC thinned the area around the Condon Work Center and developed educational materials about Firewise practices and related displays in its visitor center. In conjunction with Montana Department of Natural Resources, Northwest Land Office, SEC completed a Fire Risk Assessment that mapped most of the homes in the Swan Valley and completed defensible space assessments on many of the homes. The information from the assessment was displayed in a GIS database used by several land management agencies. The assessment led to several fuel reduction proposals around Lindbergh Lake. A private landowner permitted SEC to manage an entire section for Firewise fuel reduction projects, and several other neighboring landowners worked with SEC to treat their property to reduce fuels. Collectively, these areas have become a demonstration area of Firewise defensible space and threat zone management and treatments that effectively reduce the risk of loss from wildland fire occurrence. SEC continues to work with landowners throughout the valley to improve management of their forested areas, showing them how to reduce the risk of wildfire while maintaining many of the natural amenities their properties provide. In addition, SEC has administered a fuels reduction cost-share program for a number of years. The Swan Valley has had two significant forest fires in recent years, the 2003 Crazy Horse Fire in the Mission Mountains and the 2006 Holland Peak Fire along the Swan Range. During such events SEC serves as a liaison between fire-fighting agencies and the community.

Achievement

In 2002, SEC received recognition for its contributions toward the National Firewise Communities Program, helping the local community to achieve Firewise status. In 2004, it received a Firewise Award from Keep Montana Green, and in 2006 it received a certificate of appreciation from the Lolo National Forest for fuels mitigation work. In the above-referenced National Fire Plan report, SEC was also cited for its community outreach and its holistic approach to forests and fuels. The report said there were two important "lessons learned" from the Swan Valley effort:

First, building and maintaining relationships through collaborative partnerships is one of the strongest tools a community can have to sustain and grow.

Second, in order to live in a fire-adapted ecosystem, it is important to understand and manage the ecosystem and homes within its boundaries. A fuel treatment strategy needs to be based on treating all 3 zones; defense, threat, and general forest. If any of these

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components is not fully implemented, the effectiveness of the overall strategy is compromised

Impact/Benefits

In addition to providing technical and financial assistance to landowners in treating numerous private properties, SEC has also worked closely with the Forest Service and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to facilitate fuels reduction and the restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems in the Swan Valley. With many new residents being drawn to the area because of its beauty and other amenity values, continuing outreach to and education of landowners inexperienced in living in a forested environment has been critical. SEC's constituency includes long-time residents and newcomers, full-time residents and part-timers. Therefore its outreach is carried out through a wide range of activities, including demonstration programs, hikes and field tours, public meetings, one-on-one conversations in residents' homes or businesses or at the SEC/FS visitor center, youth activities, regular newsletters, feature articles in the local newspaper, printed materials, a website, and the maintenance of a resource library for community-use. In this way most of its audiences are reached multiple times and from a variety of perspectives. SEC has made a significant and positive difference in a community that has had to face many challenges. Residents are now more firewise, and many have firewised their properties. New jobs have been created for local workers in fuels reduction and forest restoration. Relations between the community and the Forest Service have been improved. With SEC's help, the Swan Valley is well on its way toward becoming a fire-adapted community in a fire-adapted ecosystem.

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2 - Dedicated Business and/or Organization Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: Sourdough Fire Department

Individual:

Address: 10200 Cottonwood Drive

City, State, Zip: Bozeman, MT 59718

Phone Number: 580-9669

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Sourdough Fire Department

Individual: Kandy Rose

Address: 13 Indian Paintbrush Drive

City, State, Zip: 59718

Phone Number: 581-3292

Project, Program or Activity

- 1) Sourdough Fire Department Website - provides information on emergency preparedness, defensible space, suggestions for fire-wise plants, and "real time" updates to residents during a wildfire incident or other emergency.
- 2) Neighborhood Networks – an organization of neighborhoods within the district which allows the department to keep in touch with residents of the district during an emergency and residents of the district to keep in touch with the needs of their neighbors during a wildland fire or other emergency.
- 3) CERT – a Community Emergency Response Team located in Sourdough Fire District which acts as an example for neighborhoods re: wildfire prevention, defensible space and emergency preparedness. In addition, this team is the first line of support for volunteer firefighters during an emergency.
- 4) Family Fun and Safety Day – an annual event in June at the fire department when families come together to learn about defensible space, wildfire and emergency preparedness, fire wise plantings, 72 hour kits and emergency evacuation routes.
- 5) Quarterly Newsletter - Sourdough Fire Department publishes a quarterly newsletter which is mailed to residents of the District. Each newsletter contains information and suggestions for wildland and emergency preparedness.

Achievement

Sourdough Fire District, like Bozeman, sees about a 30% turnover of residents annually. Therefore, there is a continuing need to provide wildland fire and emergency preparedness information to new residents. These activities provide a venue for information to our new residents as well as those who have resided within the district for many years. In the 10 years these programs have been on-going we've seen a marked improvement in defensible space within the district. Some improvements have been as simple as not placing old Christmas trees under decks and moving wood piles away from structures. However, we are also seeing homeowners choosing metal roofs over shingles as well as developing a "safe zone" around their homes and fire breaks in fields.

Impact/Benefits

Our hope is for residents to be more informed about their need to take personal responsibility for wildfire preparedness as well as emergency preparedness.....and that these activities will aid them in the effort to take the necessary action to make that a reality

FireSafe Montana

PO Box 1960

Helena, MT 59624

www.firesafemt.org

Phone: 406-431-8718

Fax: 406-388-3243

E-mail: execdir@firesafemt.org



3 - Dedicated Business and/or Organization Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: Seeley-Swan Fuels Mitigation Task Force

Individual: 15+ Individual members.

Address: PO Box 309, 200 Firehouse Lane

City, State, Zip: Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Phone Number: 406-677-2400

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Private Consulting Forester

Individual: Roger Marshall

Address: PO Box 167

City, State, Zip: Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Phone Number: 406-677-2673

Project, Program or Activity

The Fuels Mitigation Task Force oversees and executes the Seeley-Swan Fire Plan, a community wildfire protection plan that focuses on the Clearwater River and upper Swan River watersheds in western Montana. Rolled out in March of 2004, this plan was one of the first in Montana. The complete plan can found at: <http://crcmt.org/fuelsmgmt/fuelstaskforce/2008fireplan.pdf>

Because the Seeley-Swan Fire Plan is a living document, the Fuels Mitigation Task Force is responsible to carry out the plans goals and objectives, maintain records of accomplishment, and assure the best and most current information is available for updates.

Achievement

The Seeley-Swan Fuels Mitigation Task Force was established in 2004 to implement the Seeley-Swan Fire Plan. The Task Force has acquired fuels mitigation funding for private landowners, and has hired a fuel mitigation coordinator through a cooperative arrangement with Bitter Root RC&D. Federal and state grant programs to assist fuel reduction actions on private lands give highest priority to projects within the high and moderate risk categories of the risk assessment in the plan. All landowners are encouraged to conduct fuel mitigation work around their homes and other structures. The Seeley Lake Fuels Mitigation Task Force is seeking funds on a continuing basis, and allocating these funds to landowners who meet the requirement for the grant source. Landowners only need to complete an application to be considered for fuel mitigation assistance from the Task Force. Applications are available from the Seeley Lake Rural Fire Department and Swan Ecosystem Center.

Impact/Benefits

In the first five years of its existence the fuel mitigation provided with the guidance of the task force targeted high and moderate risk rated properties on private lands. In that five year period, fuels reduction treatments were completed on 6248 acres of private land in the Seeley Lake and Swan Valley areas. Additionally, treatments on lower priority private lands and on National Forest and Montana State lands were completed that were supported by the Seeley-Swan Fire Plan and the Fuels Mitigation Task Force.

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E-mail: execdir@firesafemt.org



4 - Dedicated Business and/or Organization Nominee

Nominee:

DNRC – State of Montana

Janel Favero, John Grassy, Barb Powell, Amy Gannon

1625 11th Ave

Helena, MT 59601

406-444-2074

Nominator:

Rick Bush

IT Bureau Chief, DNRC

1625 11th Ave

Helena, MT 59601

406-444-6715

Project, Program or Activity

Development of the new website <http://beetles.mt.gov> and the Montana's Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreak Flash presentation. The website and the Flash presentation provide a central comprehensive source for homeowners to learn about the Mountain Pine Beetle.

Achievement

This website and the interactive presentation will help landowners learn about the beetle and steps diagnosing beetle infestations, removal of dead trees and thinning practices that help reduce the fuel load on forests and private lands.

Impact/Benefits

This cooperative website provides a central source of information for landowners. They can find what they need without searching through multiple governmental websites. The educational benefit is landowners who understand how to develop FireSafe communities and defensible spaces on their lands.

FireSafe Montana

PO Box 1960 Phone: 406-431-8718
Helena, MT 59624 Fax: 406-388-3243
www.firesafemt.org E-mail: execdir@firesafemt.org



1 - Dedicated Community Nominee

Nominee:

Company or Organization: City of Helena
City Commission (Mayor Jim Smith)
Parks & Recreation Dept. (Amy Teegarden and Brad Langsather)
City Fire Dept (Chief Steve Larson)
Water Treatment Dept. (Donald Clark)
Information & Technology Services/Mapping & GIS Center (Eric Spangenberg)
Community Development (Sharon Haugen)

Nominator:

Company or Organization: Tri-County FireSafe Working Group
Individual: Pat McKelvey for the tri-county group
Address: 221 Breckenridge
City, State, Zip: Helena, MT 59601
Phone Number: 406-447-8225

Project, Program or Activity

It is difficult to present an accurate description of all that the City has accomplished without including the above departments and recognizing how they each contributed to the City of Helena mitigation effort. At a minimum, the following separate activities have been or are ongoing in respect to wildland fuel hazard/forestland management:

Wildland fuel reduction planning, funding, and implementation on the forested acreage of the 2,200 acres of Open Space Lands owned and managed by the City.

Convener, of the Ten Mile Watershed Collaborative Process, to include financial support for payment of the professional facilitator.

Coordinator of the Helena Open Lands Management Advisory Committee (HOLMAC). This group was formed many years ago, prior to the fuel hazard reduction, mountain pine beetle issues now being dealt with. Partner in Tri-County FireSafe Working Group, Preparation, Promotion, and Adoption of the City of Helena as a Wildland Urban Interface Zone (first City to do so in Montana) which regulates roofing material within the city limits. You cannot now put on a wood shake roof.....and if over 50% damage you must replace the entire shake roof with fire rated materials.

Achievement

Describe the contributions or results in wildfire preparedness. Collaborative effort from the listed City departments is a real achievement.....plus the bringing together of numerous agencies and individuals to make the City better prepared to prevent, mitigate, and defend against a wildfire disaster. The process that the City have undertaken in order to have the public better informed about the City of Helena natural resources, have acceptance of an active management program, understand the wildfire threat to the City, seek funding sources to accomplish fuel hazard reduction, gear toward forest restoration, have proven to pay benefits for the City in the long run.

Impact/Benefits

Describe the lasting benefits and/or impact of the nominee's activities.

While there are communities that are struggling with how to identify and define the wildland/urban interface in their area, the City of Helena is moving forward with fuel hazard reduction, and beginning planning based on a forest restoration mode. The impact is immediate from the fuel hazard reduction projects in reducing the threat to this community on the "Communities at Risk" listing. The benefits will continue year after year in the active forest management plan, and continued active participation with the Tri-County FireSafe Working Group.