



Firewise Committee Report
April 2023
Bobby Clevenger, Committee Chairman
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Charter: The Firewise Committee works in support of the community in helping to develop fire mitigation strategies for the community, as well as each individual homeowner in Big Elk Meadows.

Members: Bobby Clevenger – Chair, Collin Isenhardt, Cynthia Ray, Elaine Murphey and Jim Murphey

Firewise Committee Meeting

Several meetings were held in March working on reviewing bids for The COSWAP Program. There was also discussion on how homeowners on Hickory can prepare for participating in the program. There was an item that came up with the view that may be created by the firebreak to those on Hemlock. We need to speak with those homeowners as well.

COSWAP Program – We have selected a contractor, Patriot Tree, to be the professional crew to work on the project behind Hickory Drive. They are looking at starting their part of the project in June. They will block out a two-week period. To save on mobility costs, we have offered camping for their small crew in the Upper Meadows as we had planned for the SWIFT crew. Only this will be just two weeks and not ten. They want to start working on the area south of Sunset and go up the hill. They want to be able to pull a truck and chipper through that area for one week and then spend their second week working on homes behind Hickory Drive. The committee has already started contacting the homeowners on Hickory Drive to see what work, if any, they would like done behind their homes at that time. All de-limbed logs from downed trees are going to be set aside along the road for anyone in the community to take if wanted.

A meeting will be held the first week of April with the purchasing department of Larimer County Office of Emergency Management has awarded Big Elk Meadows. The meeting will review the equipment we listed on the cash award we won recently. We listed a large chipper, several battery-operated chainsaws that are environmentally friendly, a plethora of hand tools and much needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for our volunteers. This will allow us to continue work on our fire break in the Upper Meadows, as well as work on some of the homes along Hickory Drive. We are hopeful to have the equipment on our first workday.

There is a possibility of another large grant from the Feds on fire mitigation. The VFD has applied. If this award is granted to them, the intent would be to start working other areas behind the homes around the Meadows that have thick foliage and can benefit from professional help.

Home Mitigation Program – We are still planning on working on the East side of Hickory Drive this season and if anyone is interested, they should contact someone with Firewise or Bobby Clevenger.

Our first workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd at 9:00. Meeting at the firehouse to decide where we may want to work that day as it will be weather dependent.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 7th at the Firehouse and by Google Meets.