

Grant II – 2009 Firewise Grant Accomplishments:

1. Continue Firewise in the Classroom - Conduct Level 1 Risk Assessments of other Communities in West Virginia

New capabilities were added to the GIS software that allowed the ability to complete Level 1 assessments of other communities in West Virginia.

Five Communities in West Virginia have been assessed.

There is a great need for Firewise assessments of other communities in West Virginia. The curriculum developed in the West Virginia Firewise Grant is easy-to-use and can be taught by other schools. HHS and EPCF are willing to assist other schools in conducting a Firewise Project. The teacher DVD has all the material and resources necessary. In addition, the GIS software used to conduct the level 1 assessment and GIS analysis area are available free.

As of the spring of 2010, students have completed almost 3000 Level 1 Wildfire Risk Assessments in five communities of West Virginia. These include: The Woods, Sleepy Hollow in Berkeley / Morgan Counties, The Crossing at Great Cacapon in Morgan County, River Ridge in Hampshire County and Timberline in Tucker County. Copies of the community reports will be posted on a new West Virginia Firewise Web site.

Grant II – 2009 Firewise Grant:

2. Complete Level 2 Assessments of Three Other Sections in The Woods

There are seven major sections of The Woods. Sections 1 and 2 were assessed in Grant I. As part of the Grant II, Section 3 and Walden Woods were assessed in 2010. Woods II east of Mountain Lake Rd. was assessed in the Spring of 2011. Over 700 plus homes were assessed over a four year period.

Results of Field Trip to Section 3 – Spring 2010

In April, 2010, students assessed **121** homes. The Average Hazard Rating was 74 – High Risk. **30** were low to moderate risk, **64** were high risk and **27** were Very High Risk. Again, the 2005 Hazard Assessment Reports under rated the number of homes in the very high or extreme risk rating.

Results of Field Trip to Walden Woods – Fall, 2010

In September, 2010, members of WHOA Firewise Committee assessed **146** homes in Walden Woods. The Average Hazard Rating was **69** – High Risk. **43** were low to moderate risk, **86** were high, **16** were Very High Risk and **1** was Extreme. The original 2005 Hazard Reports using a 10% sample of homes in Walden Woods was representative of the average but did not catch the Extreme rated home.

Woods II Assessments, Includes East Winter Camp Trl. and Club House Ridge – Spring, 2011

In April, 2011, students made a final field trip to The Woods and assessed **117** homes. The Average Hazard Rating was **66** – High Risk. **39** were low to moderate risk, **66** were high risk and **11** were Very High Risk and **1** was Extreme Risk. In the 2005 Hazard Report the average score was **60** – Moderate Risk.

Woods II Assessments for Homes on Nemocolin Trail – Spring, 2011

In April, 2011, students made a final field trip to The Woods and assessed **15** homes. The Average Hazard Rating was **66** – High Risk. **8** were moderate risk, **7** were high risk.

Woods II Assessments for Homes on Rising Sun Rd. – Spring, 2011

In April, 2011, students made a final field trip to The Woods and assessed **11** homes. The Average Hazard Rating was **66** – High Risk. **2** were moderate risk, **9** were high risk.

Overview of Completed Level 2 Assessments at The Woods

Over **700** Hazard Assessments were completed in the five sections of the Woods. **73%** of the assessments rated homes a High – Extreme Risk. **24%** were rated Moderate Risk and only **3%** received a Low Rating.

Database L2 evaluation data available to Homeowners

John Anderson, from the WVDOP, has been entering all of the data from each individual L2 form (Wildfire Hazard Assessment Form) and entering it into a data base. The WHOA office will then make this data available to each homeowner when requested by the homeowner.

Home owners will be able find out their total Assessment rating but also see each individual rating score for Site, Structure, and Hazard Reduction Factors for their home. Knowing what factors made up their score they can seek out resources on the WHOA Firewise Web-site to find out what they can do to lower the score. Homeowners will then have access to education videos and literature to help them make their home Firewise.

Wildfire Hazard Assessments for Other Sections

Most of the remaining sections of The Woods do not need to be assessed. They have an average score in the Moderate range. Most of the homes are in the newer sections do not have the wildfire hazards that are present in many of the original sections developed in The Woods. We have approximately 60 to 70 homes / home sites in the newer sections that will be assessed in the future. Most of these properties backup (border) to the Sleepy Creek Wildlife Preserve.

Grant II – 2009 Firewise Grant:

3. Develop a Firewise Web-site to Educate Homeowners

- **Firewise and Firewise Principles**
- **Mitigation of their Properties**

Contributors to the Development of a WHOA Firewise Web Site

- GIS 4 Schools – Ken Pekarek
- EPCF – Terry Mallett
- HHS Web Design Class
- Professional Design Consultant – LMW Design
- WVDOF
- Volunteers from The Woods Firewise Committee

Access and Availability to Web-Site

- Access to Web-site
 - Individual Homeowners
 - Other communities both in State and out of State
- Web-site Availability
 - Goal is to be available by early in 2012

Overview of Web-site Content

Public Domain

The Firewise content used for the WHOA Firewise Web-site was gathered from information currently in the public domain and was modified to fit the overall goal of the Web-site. Ken Pekarek from GIS 4 Schools then produced several draft versions which were used for the modeling of the WHOA Firewise Web Site.

Original Content Developed Locally

Original Firewise educational materials (How To Series) developed by volunteers at The Woods.

Web-site Banner and Sections

- Web-site Banner
- Web-site Sections (7)
 - Home Page
 - WVDOF
 - Education
 - Homeowners / Community
 - Additional Firewise Links
 - Credits / Grants
 - Current Firewise News

Overview of Web-site Individual Sections

Home Page

The Home Page gives an overview of the WHOA Firewise Web Site. It also includes a PDF file and graphic regarding the 1942 Wildfire that came through our area and destroyed 68,000 acres.

WVDOF

This section includes Contact Information for the WVDOF and other Firewise links to the WVDOF Web Site.

Education

This section includes all materials and lessons for the WV Firewise in the Classroom curriculum. It also documents all other Firewise Activities by Hedgesville High School students regarding their activities from Grant I 2007 and Grant II 2009 which includes L1's and L2's.

Homeowners / Community

This section addresses Fire Safety at the Wildland / Urban Interface. It provides a link to Francis J. Reilly Jr. publication Smart Yard Care, a How To Series developed and produced locally for use by homeowners, The Woods Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Firewise Landscaping.

Additional Firewise Links

This section provides a pathway to other Firewise Links and materials that are in the public domain.

Credits / Grants

This section credits all partners who have been instrumental in the development and production of the WHOA Firewise Web Site.

Current Firewise News

This section is the place where homeowners can refer to for current Firewise News from the WHOA Firewise Committee.

Grant II – 2009 Firewise Grant:

4. Conduct Mitigation Projects to Reduce the Risk of Wildfire at The Woods

- **Included Installation of Smokey Bear Signage**
- **Mitigation of Properties**
 - **Chipping Days**
 - **General Mitigation of Individual Properties**

Installation of Smokey Bear Signage

- **Smokey Bear Signs** – Smokey Bear Signs have been strategically located and benefit homeowners in The Woods as well as others in the area on the danger of fire.

Mitigation of Properties

- **Chipping Days** – The WHOA Firewise Committee has been promoting two Chipping days a year. One is in the spring and the other is in early fall.
- **Homeowner Mitigation** – The WHOA Firewise Committee is currently working with homeowners in the community in educating them in two ways. Providing a DVD “How To Series” to homeowners as well as working with individual homeowners one on one in educating and showing them how to create defensible space and the general clean up of their individual properties.

Overview of How To Series

Below is a listing of our locally developed How To Series. This series is available to Woods Homeowners on a DVD distributed by the WHOA Firewise committee:

Getting Started – Printing of a PDF File of the WVDOP Woodland and Home Wildfire and Hazard Assessment Form.

How to Assess Your Property

Access and Address Visibility

General Clean-up to Create a 30 Foot Defensible Space

Trimming and Removing Trees

Biggest Bang for Your Buck

Solutions for Large Accumulations of Fuels Beyond the 30 Foot Defensible Space

Need and Cost Variables of Hiring Tree Professionals

Building and Installing Screened Lattice Panels

Preparing for Chipping Day

Smokey Bear Program

Homeowner Forms – Printing of two PDF worksheet files. Each worksheet for can be helpful to the Homeowner in both organizing and planning their mitigation activities for their properties.