

5 December 2017

Russ Shumate, Northwest District Forester

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management

1133 West Road 3 North

Chino Valley, AZ 86363

Mr. Shumate,

This letter is to recognize the fine work done by the Department of Corrections (DOC) Fire Crew, under the direction of Mr. James Robbins, Crew Coordinator. During the month of November, 2017, Mr. Robbins' crew cleared a 150-ft wide, one mile long strip of heavily wooded chaparral that had grown up dangerously close to the northern edge of Pinon Oaks development. This development, consisting of over 640 homes, is a northern suburb of Prescott, AZ.

Prior to the actual clearing work, Mr. Robbins worked with the Pinon Oaks Folks (POF) Board, the elected group that represents the Pinon Oaks development, to lay out the clearing area, establish the clearing schedule, and create the budget required to feed the work crews. At the request of the POF Board, Mr. Robbins then performed on-site surveys of the area to be cleared. To this end, he met with affected residents and answered their questions regarding the planned clearing work. His initial efforts established a solid working relationship between the AZ Department of Forestry and the neighborhood.

During the three week clearing period, Mr. Robbins was readily available to the POF Board to give work status and address site-specific issues that greatly aided in their quick resolution. Considering the size of the area cleared and the number of homes affected, this was no small task, but Mr. Robbin's attention to detail got this work done on time and budget.

In conclusion, the work performed by Mr. Robbin's DOC team was both efficient and professionally done. Our residents requested the clearing team to work to preserve as many trees as possible and preserve the natural wildlife, while establishing the required FIREWISE defensible space. This was completely accomplished, leaving this area looking like a scenic park but with a cleared safety zone.

For his efforts and those of his fire team to keep our homes safe from wild fires we are deeply grateful.

Jim Zimmerman

Chair, Pinon Oaks Board

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