



COCONINO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Investing in Our Pre and Post-Wildfire Communities

The Coconino County Flood Control District (FCD) is charged with reducing the risk of flood loss; minimizing the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare and restoring and preserving the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. Ideally, the FCD accomplishes these goals through long-term, pre-emptive projects like forest restoration that help to mitigate the future threat of flooding. Over this coming year, the FCD is investing \$800,000 in forest restoration on Bill Williams Mountain, which was identified at very high risk for catastrophic wildfire and will result in severe post-wildfire flooding impacts to the City of Williams. The FCD is also investing in additional studies of other areas expected to be high risk with significant downstream impacts including Mormon Mountain, Munds Park and Oak Creek/Sedona.

In the wake of actual wildfire situations, however, the FCD's role shifts dramatically to emergency response to mitigate post-wildfire flooding. Such was the case with the Museum Fire, which broke out on July 21 in the Dry Lake Hills area above Flagstaff. The fire ultimately charred 1,961 acres, including a significant portion of the Spruce Avenue Watershed. Over 50% of the watershed was severely or moderately burned, which means that the soil is now "fried" and will act like glass and shed water rapidly, a condition known as "hydrophobic soils" like we saw after the Schultz Fire.

Within 24 hours of the fire's start, the FCD staff and consultants began analyzing the expected flood impacts using state-of-the-art technology and applying the lessons learned from both the Schultz Fire and Flood and Slide Fire and Flood experiences. Fortunately, an earlier FEMA-funded County study had evaluated the potential risk of post-wildfire flooding in the area that burned, and the scientific flood model was easily updated, the results of which then drove the flood mitigation plan. The model results showed that the Mt. Elden Estates, Lockett Ranches Estates, Paradise Road, Grandview and Sunnyside areas are now at high risk for severe post-wildfire flooding with flows 100 times greater than pre-fire flows. More than 600,000 sandbags and 6,600 linear feet of barriers were installed to help mitigate the effects of flooding for over 400 homes and over 35 businesses. This work was guided by the FCD's team of County, City and local engineering firms.

The FCD would like to thank its partners, including the City of Flagstaff, the Department of Forestry and Fire Management Wildland Fire crews, the American Conservation Experience and Arizona Conservation Corps crews for their incredible performance producing and installing sandbags in the neighborhoods and our contractors, most notably Tiffany Construction, for installation of the barriers. Transport of the sandbags and barriers and other needed activities were performed by the County's Public Works Road Maintenance Division crews under the management of the Flood Control District's Engineering team. Most importantly, though, we would like to thank everyone in the flood area communities for their support during this mitigation effort, without which it would not have been possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.COCONINO.AZ.GOV/MUSEUMFIRE/FLOODAREA



What happens to my property value when a flood occurs?

In the event of a flood, the Coconino County Assessor's Office will work alongside Coconino County's Emergency Management Damage Assessment Team and the call center to quickly identify all properties that have suffered damage due to flooding. If your property is affected by flooding, then please report this damage to the Call Center.



Properties affected will need to be inspected by the Assessor to determine the extent of the damage. Valuation reductions as allowed by Arizona law will be applied to the land and any primary improvements but may not include damage to fencing and some auxiliary structures. § ARS 42-15157 requires the Assessor to prorate any valuation reductions due to damage from the date of destruction for the current tax year. A copy of the damage inspection report will be made available by the Assessor to the property owner by request at no cost.

The Assessor will continue to monitor market conditions and trends and make future valuation adjustments to properties as necessary. For additional information please contact the Coconino County Assessor's Office.

Additional Information

Call Center
(928) 213-2990

Coconino County
Assessor Office
(928) 679-7962

County Website
www.coconino.az.gov

