



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bear Jaw Interagency Fire and Fuels Crew Unavailable This Season

March 5, 2026

The **Highlands Fire District** would like to inform our community that the **Bear Jaw Interagency Fire and Fuels Crew will not be available for the upcoming season**. The **annual Green Waste Clean-Up** will continue as it has the last several years, but this year with the help of Fire Crews from the Arizona Department of Fire and Forestry Management.

Due to a combination of funding limitations and staffing shortages, we are unable to support the Bear Jaw Fuels Crew program safely and effectively.

This will be the last year we will be supporting the Green Waste Clean-up. These efforts have played an important role in reducing wildfire risk and supporting community preparedness. We recognize the value of these programs for wildfire mitigation and community safety and continue to explore opportunities for future funding and staffing solutions. Highlands Fire District will provide updates to our community should circumstances change or alternative options become available.

The timeline for the Green Waste Clean-up will be similar to previous years with bag distribution coming soon, and the pick-up of the bags scheduled for the week of April 27th through May 1st, 2026.

We appreciate our community's understanding and ongoing support. Highlands Fire District will be conducting a **Community Meeting** to address any questions or concerns on **March 25, 2026 at Highlands Fire District station 23 at 6 p.m.**

We encourage everyone to attend the community meeting listed above, for immediate questions or additional information, please contact us at: info@highlandsfire.org

Todd Miller

Fire Chief

Highlands Fire District