



Dewey-Humboldt Firewise Community Action Plan

August 2025



FIREWISE USA™

Residents reducing wildfire risks

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Introduction

Community Name

Dewey-Humboldt Firewise Site

Brief History and Community Description

The unincorporated communities of Dewey and Humboldt, AZ were joined together in December of 2004. However, each town has a distinct and rich history, that together, has formed a strong alliance of community and support. With roots deep in agriculture, ranching, and mining, Dewey-Humboldt is a community of wonder. The Dewey-Humboldt community is comprised of an eclectic mix of homes to include mobile, manufactured, site-built, palatial site-built, Quonset, log cabin, log cabin kit, and off the grid. Dewey-Humboldt also boasts the Mortimer Farms at the South-East corner of State Highways 69 & 169, and multiple ranches of various use. The Dewey-Humboldt community has commercial use buildings to include construction types of timber, brick, mortar, and steel. Lath and plaster construction can still be found in the more historical buildings along main street. The predominantly rural town is mostly zoned residential with parcels needing to be 1.6 acres or larger, and it includes only one HOA with 33 parcels. Within the town's limits, 2,164 acres (18.0%) of land is publicly owned by either the state or federal government and an additional 5,449 acres of public land border the town. This does not include Prescott National Forest (1,250,000 acres), which shares a 2.45 mi boundary with the town. According to the USDA Forest Service's most recent Wildfire Risk to Communities, "Dewey-Humboldt has a very high risk of wildfire—higher than 96% of communities within the US".

The Dewey-Humboldt Firewise Site is comprised of the entire Town of Dewey-Humboldt. The town is bisected by AZ State Highway 69 and the area to the west is referred to as *The Blue Hills* and the area to the east *The Foothills*.

Population: 4,326 (2020 United States Census)
Elevation: 4,556 feet
Zip Codes: 86327 (Dewey) 86329 (Humboldt)
Location: Central Arizona, Yavapai County
Area: 18.79 square miles/12,026 acres
Founded: 1898
Incorporated: 2004

Goals/Objectives of Firewise Plan:

The Dewey-Humboldt Firewise Organization was created to empower the community to "Be Your Own Hero". Through this initiative, the Dewey-Humboldt Firewise Board and Volunteers there within, have created community programs, essential agency relationships, and continue to seek innovative processes to provide tools and resources to the community and town to support Firewise efforts.

Objective 1) Implement a community triage and assessment with Arizona State Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Arizona State Land Department, and Prescott National Forest to create a strategic plan of prioritization for community outreach of "Survivable Space" grants and education.

Objective 2) Bridge a respectful and vital working relationship with the Town of Dewey-Humboldt through education of council members and town leadership through verifiable data, residential field-walks, informative presentations, and external agency backing while supporting ordinances set forth by the Town of Dewey-Humboldt.

Objective 3) Create a database of historical wildfire incidents for future prevention that includes but is not limited to contributing factors, local fuels, environmental factors, human influence, available funding (increase

or decrease increments and effect), fire behavior patterns, system forecasting, and external agency data and recommendations.

Objective 4) Develop community outreach programs through meetings, events, educational seminars/webinars, community interviews, external agency involvement, and surveys in conjunction with targeted demographics, which are children, financially challenged, functional needs, unaware, and isolated individuals.

Objective 5) Produce accurate and verifiable reporting of egress options and contact landowners, agencies, and local authorities to evaluate loss verses cost. For loss of life prevention, work in concert with residents to take concerns to the town council and create a strategic plan to obtain grants and other funding to allow for each population block at least two points of emergency egress.

Objective 6) Generate a mapping system in multiple mediums for residents that allow for real-time egress options for evacuation and emergencies.

Firewise Committee Representative:

Vivien Winneke

Vivienwinneke.firewise@gmail.com

(928)-273-8690

Community Location

The Town of Dewey-Humboldt (34.5057° N, 112.2428° W) can be accessed from Arizona State Highways 69 & 169. Located within Central Arizona's Lonesome Valley, which is between the Juniper Mountains and Black Hills to the east and the Bradshaw and Santa Maria Mountains to the west, it is the smallest of the Quad-Cities, with the others being Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley.

The Blue Hills is in the western half of Dewey-Humboldt. It slopes up from Arizona State Highway 69 and is comprised of multiple ridges, gorges, and bluffs with nearly its entirety being residential properties on 1-to-40-acre parcels. Housing is a varied mix of single and multi-wide manufactured homes to impressive stick-built estates. Private dirt roads are at least half the existing roads and property rights are highly defended. Household water is primarily from private wells but a significant portion of the population have water delivered to an onsite water tank or residents tote water from an area water source. There is no municipal or private water supply. A significant concern in this area is that nearly 600 parcels have only a single, viable egress.

The Foothills Community is east of Arizona State Highway 69. The majority of this area is on level ground with the exception being the eastern edge which has properties climbing up the base of the Black Hills. There are some manufactured homes in this area but nearly all of the homes are stick-built. The center of town is in this area and there the homes are predominantly old mining homes and businesses from the early to mid-20th century. At the north-center of this area is the 300+ acre Mortimer Farms, which still operates as a regional farm. The Agua Fria River travels from north to south roughly through the middle of this section, but except during heavy winter rains or summer monsoons, it is typically a minor creek. A private water district provides water to roughly 150 parcels, but its infrastructure has difficulty supporting fire hydrants. The vast majority of the remainder of the properties have private wells.

Ownership

Number of Parcels:	3,372
Number of Structures:	1,861
Number of Residents:	4,326
Private Property:	9,862 acres / 82.0%

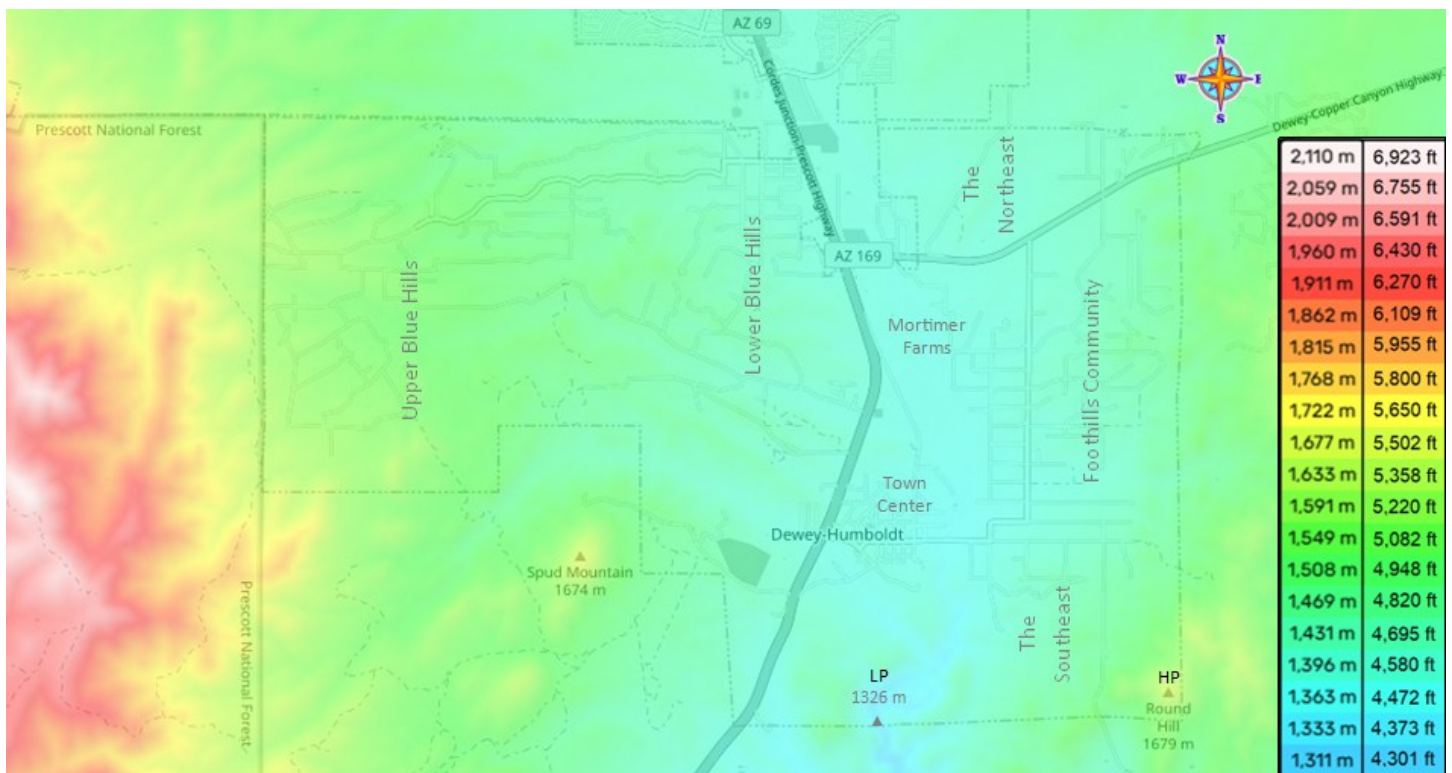
Public Property: 2,164 Acres / 18.0 %
 Ownership of Adjacent land: Yavapai County, Prescott Valley, Prescott National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Arizona (Arizona State Land Department).

Topography

Nestled at the southern extreme of Lonesome Valley, Arizona, the median elevation of the Town of Dewey-Humboldt is 4,800 feet. The Low Point, at 4,350 feet, is at the Town's southern border where the Agua Fria River leaves the town and the High Point, at 5,537 feet, is Round Hill, just 1.9 miles east of the low point. From the banks of the Agua Fria River, from the Town's northern to the southern borders and east of Arizona State Highway 69, to both the west and east for roughly a mile, the land is relatively flat with a gentle rise and occasional low hills. On the eastern edge, for the last half of a mile, the land raises significantly from roughly 4,600 to 5,000 feet. To the west of Arizona State Highway 69, the elevations climb consistently with east/west ridges and seemingly random hills, some reaching nearly 5,500 feet. Between the ridges, seasonal streams flow east to the Agua Fria River. Many of the slopes' grades can exceed 40%.

Further to the east and west and beyond its borders, the elevation continues to climb, reaching nearly 5,700 feet east of the Town border and over 6,900 feet to the west. Just south of the Town's western section's southern border, and marking the southern end of Lonesome Valley, is Spud Mountain, a volcano-shaped hill reaching 5,542 feet.

The three-sided bowl-shape created by hills around the Town causes swirling winds and temperature differences between the high and low points of up to 15 degrees. As for where a wildfire may come from or travel to, the south, east, and west are all good possibilities, with wind, hills, and canyon chimneys directing the fire's path in most any direction.



Dewey-Humboldt Topography Map

Within the Town, there are seven distinct areas with their own characteristics. They are:

1. Town Center
 - a. 50–100-year-old housing and business structures that were the living and shopping area for local miners.
 - b. Small 1/8-to-1-acre parcels with limited trees and shrubbery except for those adjacent to the Agua Fria River which mostly have large trees.
 - c. Narrow roads and sparse landscaping
2. Mortimer Farms
 - a. 301+ acres of mostly flat farmland with greenhouses, outbuildings, and a store
 - b. The Agua Fria River on the eastern edge has large, dense Arizona sycamores and often large snags of trees and branches deposited during high water events
3. Upper Blue Hills
 - a. Undulating hills and ravines leading up to the base of the Bradshaw Mountains
 - b. A mix of manufactured and stick-built housing structures with multiple out buildings on parcels 1-to 40 acres in size, with 2-1/2 to 5 acres being the norm
 - c. The preponderance of vegetation is tall, shrub oak based chaparral interspersed with grasses and occasional junipers, with the densest growth being on north-facing hillsides. Stream washes support occasional large trees.
 - d. Roads are predominantly dirt and privately owned
4. Lower Blue Hills
 - a. Mostly flat land with some hills that lead to the Upper Blue Hills
 - b. A mix of manufactured and stick-built housing structures predominantly built in the 1970's on 1-to-3-acre parcels in a suburban environment
 - c. Vegetation is suburban-landscape minus the grass
5. The Foothills Community
 - a. Flat lands that lead to the base and slightly up the slope of the Black Hills
 - b. Typically, 2-acre+ parcels with stick-built homes built in the 1980's or later
 - c. The natural vegetation is often removed and replace with fields or suburban landscaping with spotty exceptions where shrub oak based chaparral is still prevalent
6. The Northeast
 - a. Mostly level lands with some property dropping off to the north
 - b. Larger lots, up to 40 acres, where cattle still roam
 - c. Small ranchette properties, often with pastures; however, suburban-like parcels are filtering in
 - d. A mix of large grass fields along with suburban landscaping
7. The Southeast
 - a. A hilly-area connected through twisty and mostly private dirt roads
 - b. Some 20-acre parcels but most are in the 2–3-acre range
 - c. Some manufactured homes but predominantly larger, stick-built residences with outbuildings
 - d. Masses of shrub oak based chaparral with occasional pinion pines

Vegetation

An array of landscape vegetation creates a significant wildfire fuel load for the Dewey-Humboldt community, thus increasing the danger and compromising egress. Due to the extensive drought, wind conditions from the surrounding mountains, and the invasive behavior of the vegetation, from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, the fire risk and fuel load combine to be an extreme fire danger area. Due to the density and amount of fuel, the environment has high potential for a catastrophic event that would include loss of life and property. Lessons were learned from the 2017 Goodwin fire which was on its way to our town until there was a sudden wind shift. However, this data would be a baseline for future forecasting of vegetation dangers. There is an imperative need for residents to create “Survivable Space” and for Dewey-Humboldt Firewise to continue our education efforts with the authorities on multiple levels.

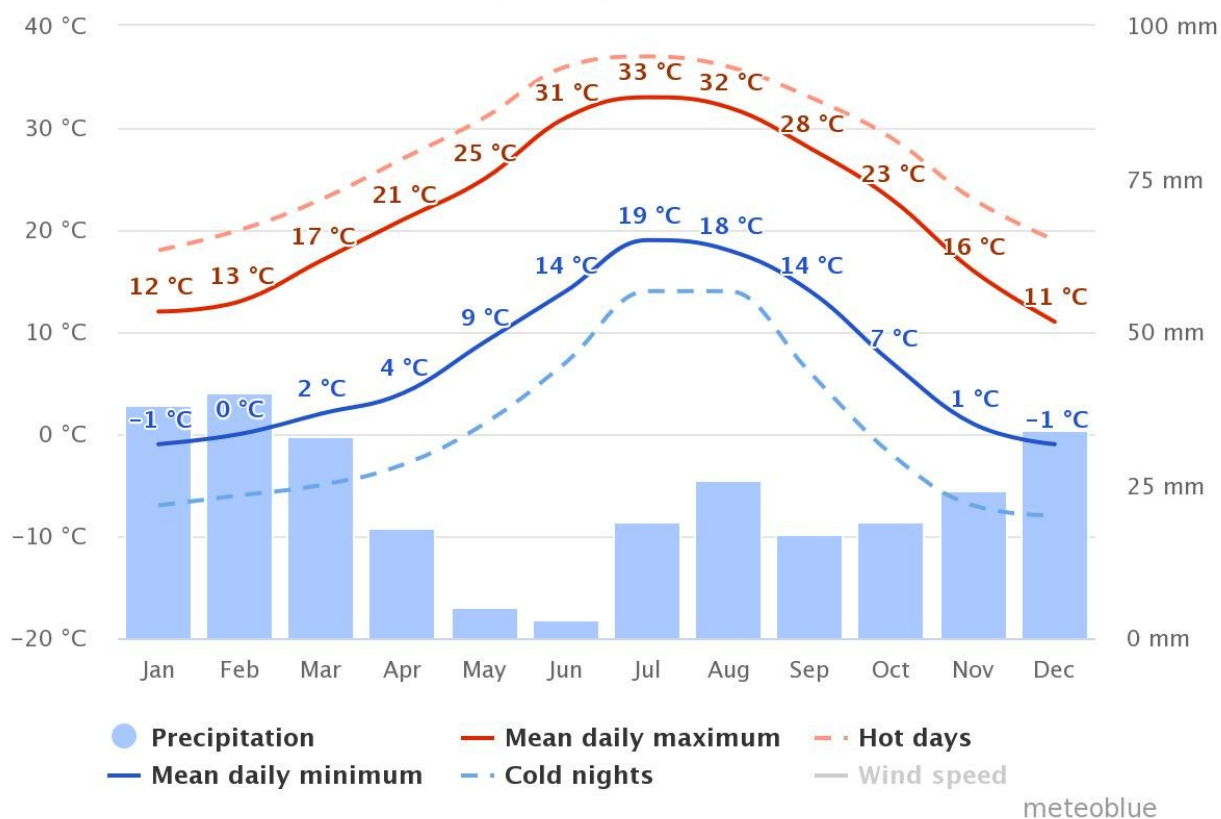
Along washes, gulches, and the Agua Fria River, large, water thirsty Arizona sycamores tend to line the banks with the rest of the vacant lands being populated with shrub oak-based chaparral, with the densest being on north-facing slopes and southern facing slopes having thinner densities of shrubs interspersed with indigenous grasses. Randomly, Arizona cypresses and pinion pines tend to dot the landscape along with occasional patches of mesquite, manzanita, creosote, and catclaw acacia. Within populated properties, most every vegetation type suitable to the altitude and climate can be found.

Climate

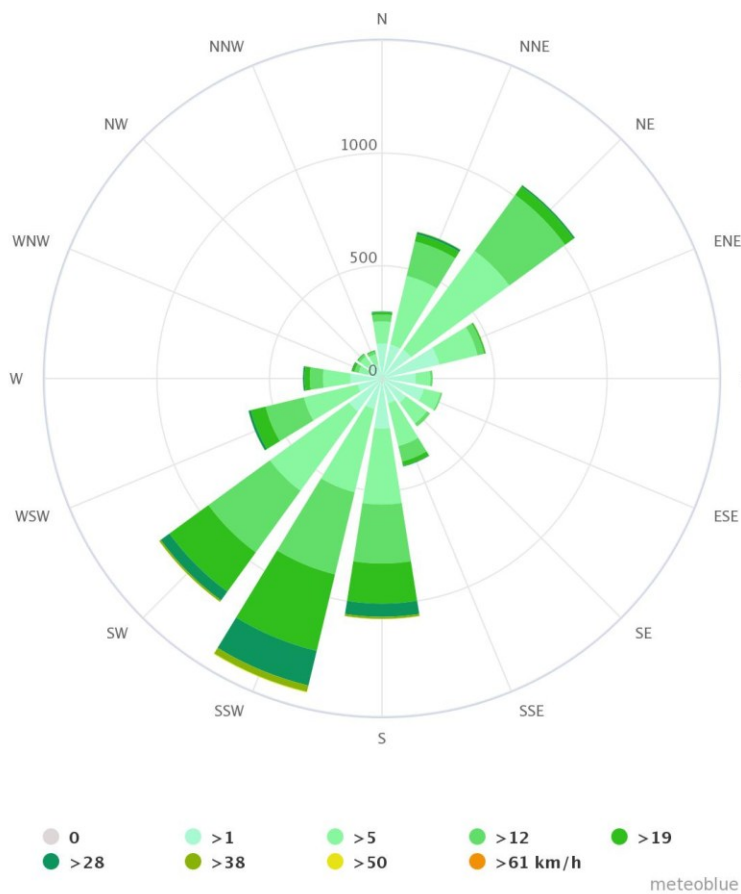
The following data is a 30-year average (days):

Sunny: 212.2
 Partly Cloudy: 122.2
 Overcast: 30.7
 Precipitation: 15.9 inches over 62.2

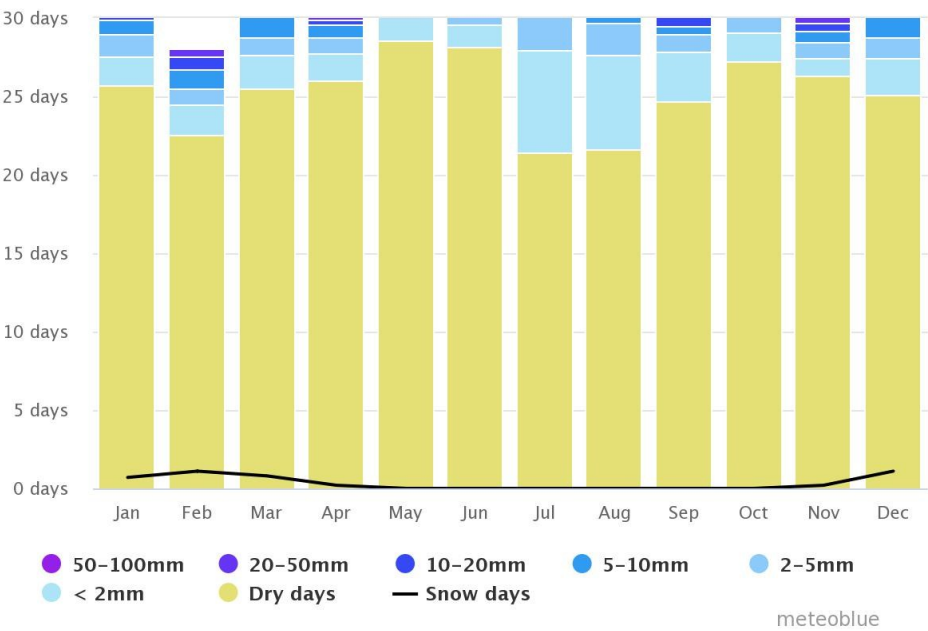
Precipitation and Temperature Yearly Averages



Windspeed and Direction Yearly Averages



Rain and Snow Yearly Averages



Wildlife

- Javelina
- Deer
- Rabbits
- Quail
- Lizards
- Snakes
- Coyotes
- Mountain Lions
- Bobcats
- Skunks
- Rodents (mice, rats, squirrels)
- Hawks
- Falcons
- Vultures
- Ravens
- Bald Eagles
- Various Small Birds
- Various Insects

Fire Regime and History

The preponderance of the Town of Dewey-Humboldt is administered by the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority District (CAFMA). They are typically the first responders for every local fire and medical response. However, due to the abundance of local public lands, fire incidents also bring in services from the Prescott National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management, and Arizona's Department of Forestry and Fire Management crews. Additionally, mutual aid agreements can result in support coming from all other neighboring fire districts.

There is a lack of data for the Dewey-Humboldt area as to the historical wildfire experiences. Legend has it that native tribes regularly allowed and encouraged lands to burn, and early settlers continued that tradition, but government entities put a hold on that tradition when their first attempt to show the locals how it should be done flared out of control. Other than a small but dangerous fire that erupted among Arizona sycamores in 2021, seemingly no resident has a memory of the last wildfire within what is now the border of Dewey-Humboldt. That said, every wildland firefighter that has toured our area gets a little nervous as they note the type and quantity of vegetative fuel, understanding that it is primed and ready to go. There have been multiple near-misses, to include the following:

Goodwin Fire 06/24/2017 – 28,516 acres

Orme Wildfire 07/05/2019 – 1,200 acres

<No Name>; central Dewey-Humboldt on the Agua Fria River 05/27/2021 – 16 acres

Crooks Wildfire 4/18/2022 – 9,402 acres

Jack Wildfire 3/13/2023 – 1,226 acres

Grapevine Wildfire 7/21/2023 – 1,049 acres

Racetrack Wildfire 7/23/2023 – 405 acres

Brady Wildfire 02/10/2025 – 363 acres

Community Infrastructure

Average street width and cul-de-sac width

The town code requires all roads to be at least 28 feet wide; however, many town-owned roads and the preponderance of private-roads (over half of all roads) do not meet that standard. There are very few cul-de-sacs as most roads either terminate at an intersection or within a property-owner's driveway.

Number of hydrants or nearby water sources

There are three fire hydrants within the town, all within the elementary school grounds which are fed by an on-site water tank. Additionally, there is not a town code that requires water storage for use in firefighting. The fire agencies are aware of this limitation and therefore respond to all fires with multiple fire engines plus water tenders. Dewey-Humboldt Firewise did convince the fire district to install four 8,000-gallon water tanks at the

upper level of our Blue Hills community, but so far, they have been reluctant to embrace additional water tanks on private property.

First responding fire departments; paid/unpaid and public/private

Nearly all of Dewey-Humboldt is within the CAFMA fire district. There are ninety parcels within the town outside of CAFMA's district; however, the owners may apply for a yearly fire protection contract. Additionally, due to the town's proximity to state and federal properties, the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and the US Forest Service agencies respond to fires that have potential to progress beyond a dwelling. There are also mutual aid agreements with neighboring districts.

From the line above, capabilities such as engines, pumpers, wildland, and rescues

CAFMA maintains 10 active (one of which is within Dewey-Humboldt) and 2 reserve stations which cover 365 square miles of Yavapai County. Each station typically has a Type 1 pumper, a 4-5,000-gallon water tender, and type 6 patrols. Additionally, they maintain off-district capabilities made up of one Type 1 Engine, one Type 3 Engine, three Type 6 Engines, two Type 1 Tactical Water Tenders, two Type 2 Water Tenders and four Command vehicles. Mutual aid agreements with neighboring districts often results in multiple agency responses.

Dewey-Humboldt Main

Basic services that are normally found in towns such as local fire stations, fire hydrants, and consistent water supply are not currently provided. Dewey-Humboldt is supported by Central Arizona Fire and Medical Station 54 and there are only the fire hydrants on the elementary school property. Water sources used to fight any fire are from apparatus, wells, and portable water tanks. There is no known data currently about the use of residential pools that are in ground or above ground.

Foothills & The Blue Hills

There is a lack of basic firefighting infrastructure for both the East Foothills and The Blue Hills. Homes are either on a private well or the residents must either haul their water from a local, commercial well or pay for water delivery service. The Blue Hills is extremely volatile due to poor and infrequently maintained roads, blind drives, narrow dirt roads, roads through running washes, eroded streets, blocked egress from overgrown vegetation, and the hindrance for fire personnel to respond including lack of space to turn an engine around safely.

In 2019, due to a lack of suitable water sources in the western edge of town, 4-8,000-gallon water tanks were placed on donated property to support fire activity. They are tested and maintained by CAFMA. Dewey-Humboldt Firewise led the initiative to facilitate this capability.



Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Please see:

Yavapai County July 2023 Ver 1.2 Community Wildfire Protection Plan

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d61c338d49e447ca8487609a7ab18138>

Yavapai County 2023 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

(<https://www.yavapaiaz.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/resident-services/environmental-safety/documents/2023-yavapai-county-hazard-mitigation-plan.pdf>)

Yavapai County Emergency Operations Plan 2025

(https://www.yavapaready.gov/files/sharedassets/ycoem/v/1/yceop_1.pdf)

Community Accomplishments from 2021-2025

Survivable Space Grants

Total: **\$244,571.35 / 92 acres**

911-Address Signs (Reflective Address Signs)

Completed: **905**

In Process: **35**

Street Signs (for Private Road Intersections)

Completed: **8**

In Process: **208**

Community Outreach

2021- Dewey-Humboldt First Annual Wildfire Safety Event & Calendar Contest

Community Monthly Firewise Meetings

Door-To-Door Education & Materials

Agua Fria Festival & Parade for outreach and education,

Assistance during Town Clean Up Days (X2)

Dewey-Humboldt Town Safe Trick or Treat Event-Firewise education

Prescott Holiday Parade

2022 - Dewey-Humboldt Firewise Second Annual Wildfire Safety Event

Yavapai Firewise and Earth Day participation

Community Monthly Firewise Meetings

Door-To-Door Education & Materials

Agua Fria Festival & Parade

Assistance during Town Clean Up Days (X2)

Dewey-Humboldt Town Safe Trick or Treat Event-Pending at time of report

Prescott Holiday Parade

2023 - Dewey-Humboldt Firewise Third Annual Wildfire Safety Event

Yavapai Firewise and Earth Day participation

Agua Fria Festival & Parade for outreach and education,

Yavapai County Home Show participation

Assistance during Town Clean Up Days (X2)

Dewey-Humboldt Town Safe Trick or Treat Event

Prescott Holiday Parade

2024 - Dewey-Humboldt Firewise Fourth Annual Wildfire Safety Event

Yavapai Firewise and Earth Day participation

Yavapai County Home Show participation

Dewey-Humboldt Days community outreach

Agua Fria Festival & Parade for outreach and education,

Assistance during Town Clean Up Days (X2)

Dewey-Humboldt Town Safe Trick or Treat Event
 2025 - Dewey-Humboldt Firewise Fifth Annual Wildfire Safety Event
 Yavapai Firewise and Earth Day participation
 Yavapai County Home Show participation
 Dewey-Humboldt community outreach meeting (quarterly)
 Dewey-Humboldt Days community outreach
 Agua Fria Festival & Parade for outreach and education - Pending at time of report
 Assistance during Town Clean Up Days - 1 plus 1 pending at time of report
 Dewey-Humboldt Town Safe Trick or Treat Event-Pending at time of report

Community Meetings with local agencies and resources:

Monthly attendance of **Yavapai Firewise** meetings which includes all agencies involved in county fire prevention and response

Local Community Meetings to date of report submission

2021-2025 Monthly or Quarterly - Approx. number of attendees: **512**

Miscellaneous

Title III Grants: **\$10,500** Used for Mitigation support for low-income residents and education.

Social Media Outreach and Engagement

DHFW FaceBook

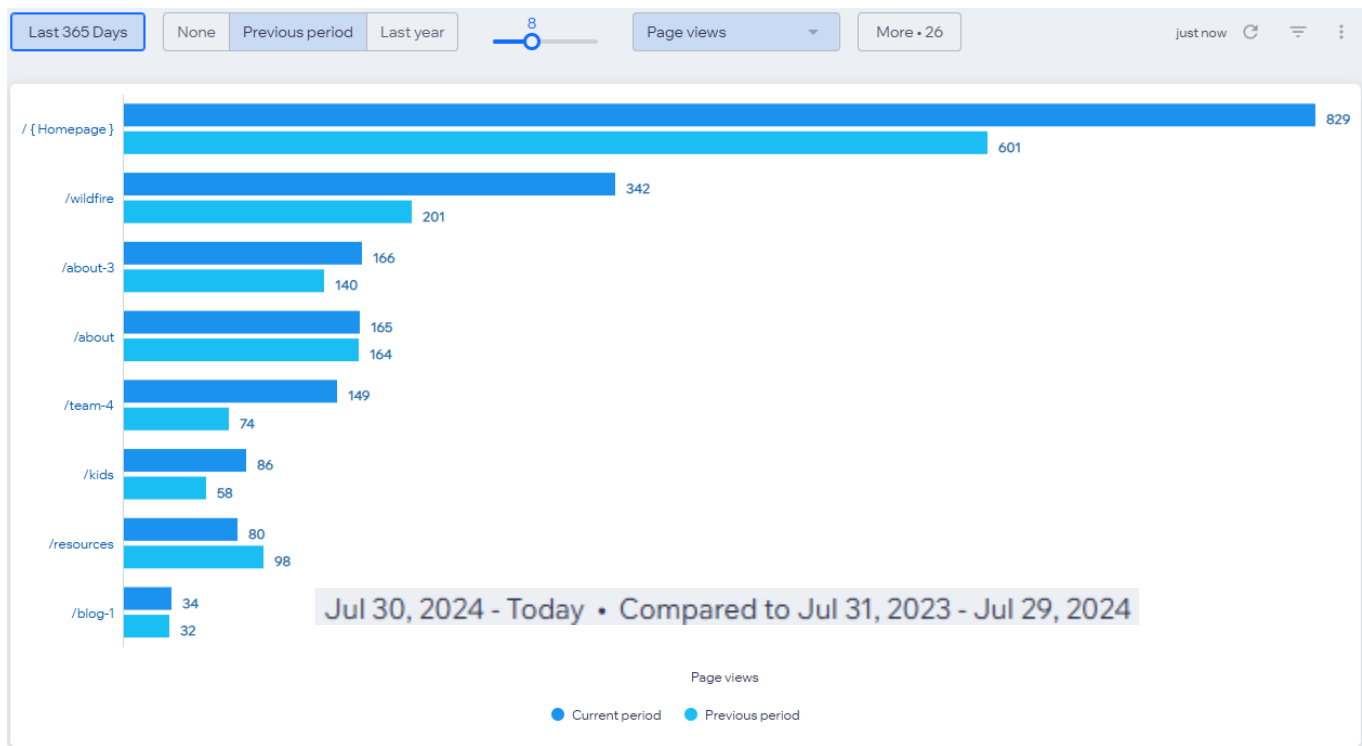
March 1st, 2021, thru October 1st, 2025

Likes-503+ Follows-547+ Reach: 13,800+

90 days from report date

Views: 5,502 Follows-1,100 Engagements (Comments): 413 (+200%)

D-HFW.com Website



Community Project Goals

Along with the 6 objectives outlined above, Dewey-Humboldt Firewise has the following goals:

Pursue all options to educate and serve the community such as:

- Community Meetings
- Community Events
- Community Resources for Clean-Up of Property
- Local and State Collaboration for Outreach and Education
- Local and State Events such as parades, fairs, and markets
- School Outreach
- Address Signs
- Street Signs
- Grants for Survivable Space
- Newsletters
- Social Media
- Innovative Technology
- Volunteer Collaboration
- Board Networking

Community Investment Since 2021 to Date of Report Submission

Number of residents X \$2: **\$4,203.00**

Donations: **\$29,794.24**

Grants: **\$189,400.00**

Town of Dewey-Humboldt: **Clean-Up Days (Labor Hours 555 / Labor Costs \$6,115)**

Title III: **\$30,500.00**

Address Signs: **\$12,500.00**

Time in Hours: **13,439.15**

Community Firewise Day (most recent)

May of 2025, Dewey-Humboldt Firewise put on the “Dewey-Humboldt Firewise 5th Annual Wildfire Safety Event”. This yearly community event was held at Mortimer Farms with over 20 local, state, and federal agencies and sponsors in attendance with educational booths, fire and abatement equipment, Smokey the Bear, and more. Our local schools participated with 459 artwork entries for a calendar contest. County teachers had previously been provided a home and wildfire safety lesson plan to support their artwork. The winners and their teachers each received \$100 cash and a calendar with their artwork. The three-hour event brought in well over 700 interested residents. We are already in the current planning stages for the Sixth Annual Wildfire Safety Event in 2026. Additionally, throughout the year we participate in public events, parades, and fairs to get the Firewise word out to local residents. And quarterly, we host community meetings where we invite local experts to discuss what they know to community residents.

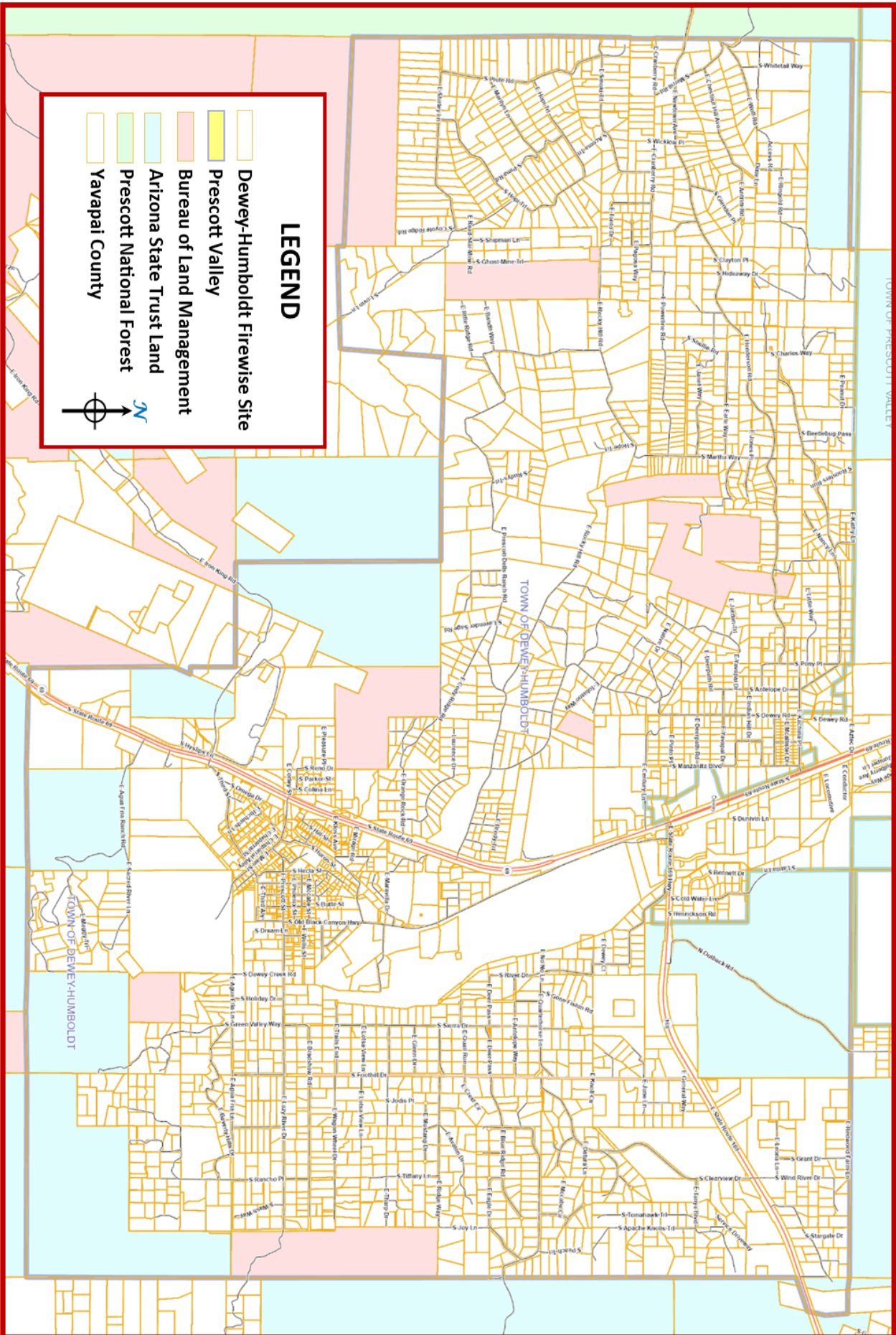
Dewey-Humboldt Firewise will continue to create events that serve the community and allow for opportunities such as education, training, and awareness. We are proud to serve our community and to develop professional and respectful relationships with our neighbors and agencies.

We look forward to the years ahead and have many exciting ideas and changes that will foster our community to “Be Your Own Hero”.

Maps and Community Photos

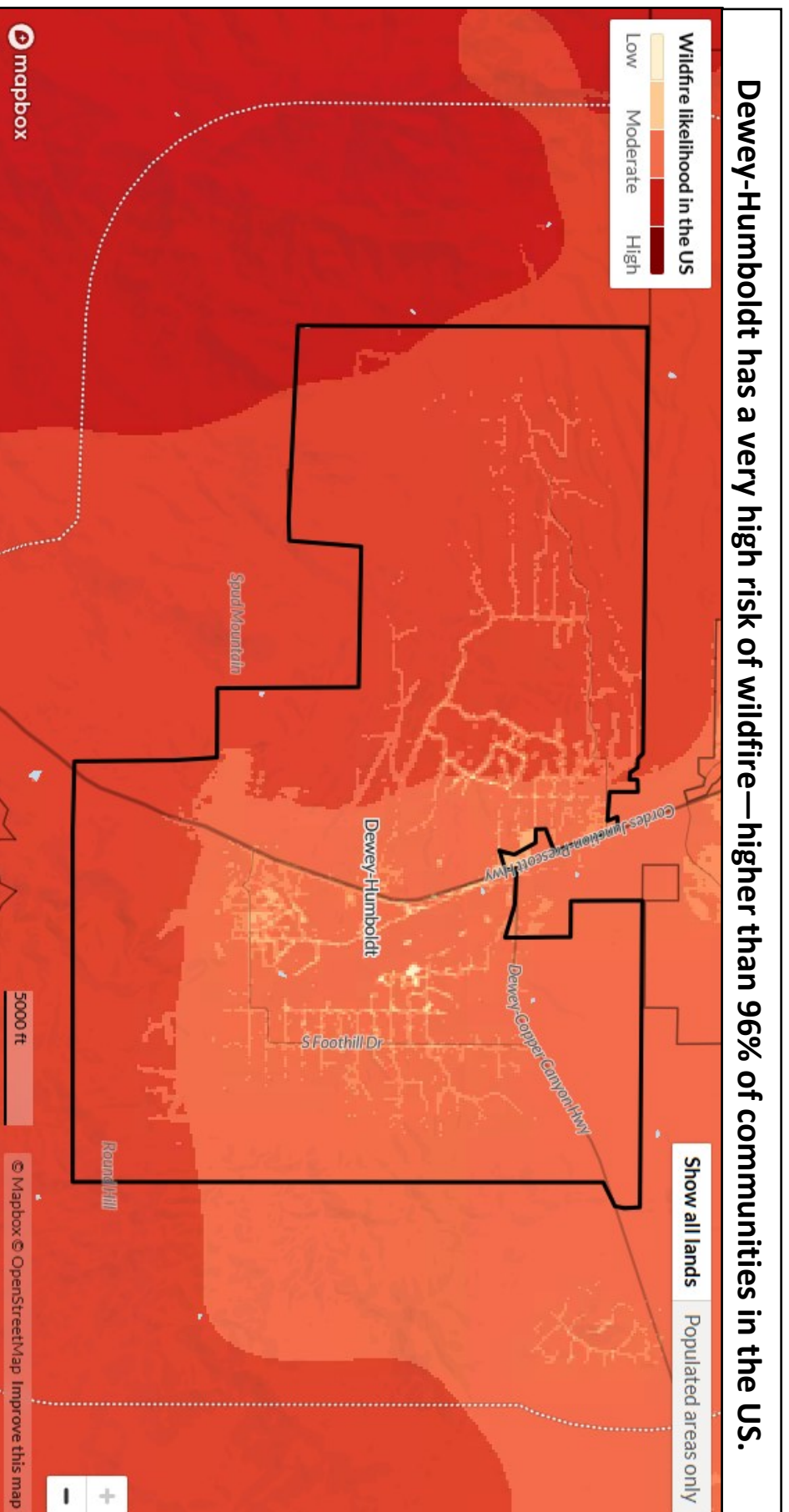
See following pages.

DEWEY-HUMBOLDT FIREWISE SITE AND ADJACENT PROPERTIES




WILDFIRE RISK TO COMMUNITIES


Dewey-Humboldt has a very high risk of wildfire—higher than 96% of communities in the US.





The Town of Dewey-Humboldt

Vacant Parcels: 

Town Border: 

June 2025

