

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM

DATE: April 5, 2007
Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Fred Carpenter, Town

RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE # Resolution # 2262
TITLE: Forest Health

PURPOSE:

To help focus Federal and State of Arizona attention on forest health and wildland fire issues in the Southwest.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE:

Systemic changes are needed in the way we approach issues regarding forest health and wildland fire prevention. Changing the way national forests are managed is not within the Town of Payson's purview. Speaking out about the changes needed is one approach to help encourage change on the state and national level.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Adopt resolution.

BACKGROUND:

Improved forest health in the Payson area remains a concern that, although receiving some attention in the last few years, needs carefully planned, long-term solutions. The proposed resolution will be used to demonstrate the commitment Payson has to far-reaching action and as a sample for the League of Arizona Cities and Towns to adopt the State of Arizona as a whole. If adopted, Town officials will approach the executive committee of the League to adopt a similar resolution, which can then be used to demonstrate to State and Federal officials that Arizona municipalities as a whole recognize the benefits of improving forest health and are committed to seeking long-term improvement.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2262

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON, ARIZONA, RELATING TO FOREST HEALTH.

WHEREAS, each year our national forests, including the Tonto National Forest, are subject to devastating wildland fires throughout the western United States in which the Tonto National Forest is located; and

WHEREAS, wildfire danger is largely the result of many years of a benign neglect approach to management of the forest, exacerbated by continuing drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the body of scientific evidence suggests that proper thinning of the forests that would return them to the more natural conditions that existed before large-scale settlement of the West would greatly reduce the dangers of wildfire; and

WHEREAS, modern timber culture recognizes the value of proper grazing techniques in healthy forest management; and

WHEREAS, the private sector is willing and able to mechanically thin many areas of national forest to create economically viable industries that produce electricity and wood products for construction and heating; and

WHEREAS, under appropriate environmental regulations, the United States Forest Service could permit harvesting of renewable resources that will enable the return of healthy forests throughout the West,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON, ARIZONA, DO HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the federal government is urged to adopt regulations that will enable proper timber culture to assist in managing our forests to create a healthy condition.

Section 2. That the federal government is urged to facilitate viable economic uses of renewable resources in an environmentally sound manner.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON, ARIZONA, this _____ day of _____, 2007, by the following vote:

AYES _____ NOES _____ ABSTENTIONS _____ ABSENT _____

Prepared by Town of Payson Legal Department

SIS:drs March 27, 2007 (10:33AM)

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ATTEST:

Silvia Smith, Town Clerk

F. Robert Edwards, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Samuel I. Streichman, Town Attorney