

KEEPING THE NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMED!



Mr. Beaudoin stated that the Burn will not only provide for fuel abatement in a relatively hazardous area of our District, but will include a training class for wildland firefighters.

The entire parcel will not be burned, and what will be burned will be accomplished in designated blocks in one day. Mr. Beaudoin anticipates minimal smoke issues.

The plan is dependent upon final approval from the State Forestry's headquarters in Phoenix.

The Burn is tentatively scheduled for March 24th or 25th depending upon the weather and resource availability.

CONTROLLED BURN J-6 IN PIMA COUNTY

Plans for a controlled burn on approximately 130 acres of State Trust Land along the East end of Navajo are currently being developed. Mr. Eugene Beaudoin, District Forester from Arizona State Forestry's Tucson Office, shared the preliminary plan with the Mescal-J6 Fire District Board on Feb. 2, 2015.

Mr. Beaudoin remarked that the Burn will include the resources of four hand crews (80 people), six engines, two water tenders, a Burn Boss, Safety Officer and a Public Information Officer.

Chief John Moran reported, "Representatives from the Arizona State Forestry Division will be available to answer questions regarding the controlled burn at the March 2 Board Meeting held at 6:30 P.M. at 9 N. Oak Drive." Fire Chief Moran would like to remind everyone that all Governing Board Meetings are

open to the public. "Your attendance and participation are welcomed."

TRANSPORTATION:

RURAL TO BECOME MORE RURAL

"get the hands off the wheels and onto the keypad – where they belong"

Yes, you read it correctly. According to Cochise County Transportation Planner, Karen Lamberton, the younger generation is not excited about driving - it interferes with their ability to be constantly in touch with their friends via social media.

It is expected, therefore, that the population of urban areas with mass transit will increase while rural areas will become more rural.

Although Smart Roads, Driverless Vehicles, Drone Delivery, etc. are on the horizon for others, the Long Range Transportation Plan for Cochise County is finding

"it is inevitable that the County will need to take some, if not most, of our chip-sealed roads back to a lower standard."

"A key recommendation is that a standard be developed that is between our current improved chip-sealed surface to an improved native-surface: better than primitive but cheaper to maintain."

The average annual contribution per Cochise County vehicle through

Karen Lamberton, CDO,
01_29_15



The Long-Range Transportation Plan is incorporating the findings of the Northwest Area Plan, specifically the projects and the proposed timelines: (related to our area)

- > Widening of Mescal Road to 4 lanes
- > New Skyline Traffic Interchange - development driven, likely beyond 2035
- > Frontage Road - development and safety driven, likely 2035 or beyond

Additionally, the current draft of the Long-Range Transportation Plan has added the recommendation to widen J6 Ranch Road to 4 lanes. Future timing and funding are included in the current Design Concept Report that is studying the Interstate connection between I-19 and SR90.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS BEFORE MARCH 20TH:

What would be your key recommendations?
What would be your highest priority?

Gasoline Tax is approximately \$175.

The forecasted Revenue for 2015-20140 is \$491 million. The forecasted Costs for only a Basic Maintenance Program is \$490 million. An additional \$687.4 million is needed for Right of Way Acquisition and to cover the AACE 2008 estimate.

[Click link](#) for Powerpoint Presentation for other interesting facts on accidents, number of trips on J-6 Ranch Road, etc.

The Preliminary Draft of Working Papers, with an Executive Summary/Abstract, should be ready by early March for the Board of Supervisors review. The Final Draft is anticipated to be completed after Board input, by late April 2015. Direction by the Board will be given on what the next steps are for the Final Draft and what level of public outreach is desired and if the plan will be formally adopted or not.

What is needed to prepare for beyond 2040?

[Link to Electronic Survey](#)

[Link to Printable Survey](#)

[Link to Other Transportation F & Q](#)

Supervisor Richard Searle informed community members that they may contact his office directly at 520-432-9200 to let him know of more immediate roadway safety and maintenance issues.

OTHER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Supervisor Searle explained the County's position regarding the proposed Whetstone Wilderness area that can have impacts to the area. [Click link](#) to see BOS letter to Forest Service.

Chief Moran, Mescal-J6 Fire District, provided updates regarding increased staffing and training, new facility improvements, and a brief budget review.



Mescal-J6 Fire Considering Leasing Commercial Space on J-6 Communication Tower

The Governing Board of the Mescal-J6 Fire District is reviewing a proposal to lease out commercial space on it's

Mescal-J6 considering options to improve

radio and internal communication systems. Of the two communication goals, improving two-way radio communication is the most complex due to the height of the tower needed to achieve the optimum line-of-site advantage.

Although an interested internet provider has offered to assist in the necessary research for the above, the company can more quickly focus on providing a faster bandwidth, interstation network, and a cloud based solution for email and external access.

On Feb. 17th, the Board directed Attorney Lauri Owen to begin contract negotiations on behalf of MJFD. The Board is anticipating reviewing a working contract on Feb. 23rd. [Click here](#) to go to the Mescal-J6 Fire District website for the next meeting agenda.

radio tower located at 388 S. J-6 Ranch Road.

Bluespan CEO Scott Stace stated to the Governing Board that the equipment his company is proposing to add to the existing 70' tower is small and hardly noticeable. When invited by CDO to add more detail, Mr. Stace commented, "The equipment will be sectors and dishes similar to that of the other towers around town, but smaller in nature. Also they will be modified as much as possible to blend in with the tower itself."

Mr. Stace explained that the addition of equipment to the F.D. tower would also increase access opportunity to dedicated broadband services for local residents in visible range.

[Link to](#) Bluespan website.



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