

# Santa Cruz County Firewise Communities

Investing In  
Readiness:  
2025 Stats  
as of Jan 2026

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**FIREWISE USA™**

Residents reducing wildfire risks



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Residents reducing wildfire risks

Thank  
you!

- We thank our county's Firewise leaders and their community members for all the great work done in 2025!
- Our 2025 Statistics show strong growth in this program with your help



# 2025 Firewise Community Achievements

#2 in the Nation



116 Firewise  
Recognized  
Communities



Over 27,000 acres  
wildfire engaged



\$19,959,437  
Invested in  
mitigation



8,402 homes  
Participating



160,703 cubic yards  
of hazardous  
vegetation removed



359,052 hours spent  
mitigating



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Residents reducing wildfire risks

# What is Firewise USA?



- Firewise USA - NFPA program
- Volunteer framework, neighbors collaborate to reduce wildfire risk
- Non-profit FireSafe Councils promote through education, coaching
- Firewise USA Recognized communities:
  - lower risk for fire fighters
  - increase defensible space
  - focus on saving lives, hardening homes



# Santa Cruz County

## Everyone Doing Their Part



### Investments for 2024:

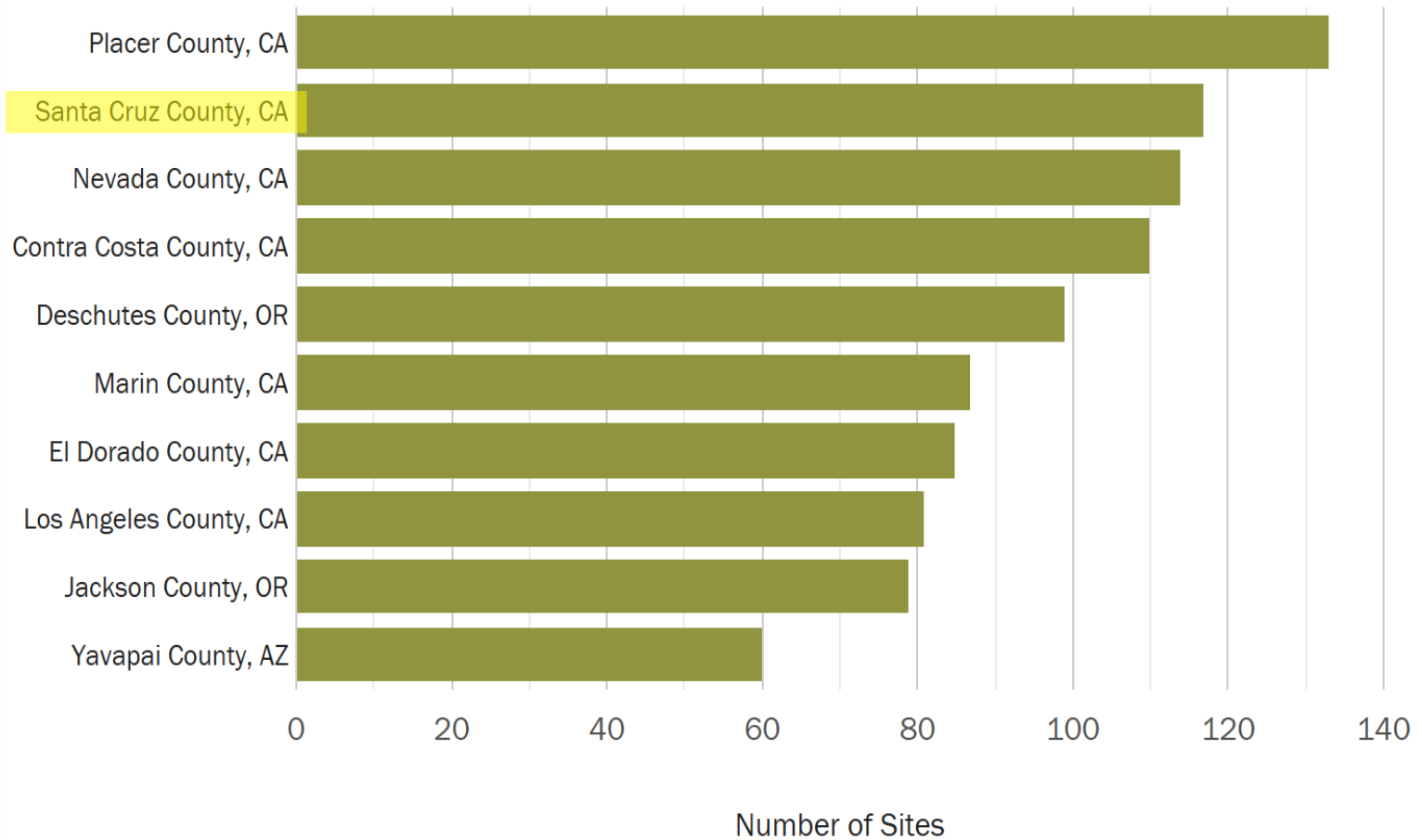
- 81 communities, 6549 homes
- \$18.4 Million personal money
- 183K volunteer hours

### Investments in 2025:

- 116 communities, 8402 homes
- \$19 Million personal investment
- 359K volunteer hours
- 160K cubic yds Vegetation removed



## Top 10 ranking of Firewise USA® sites by county

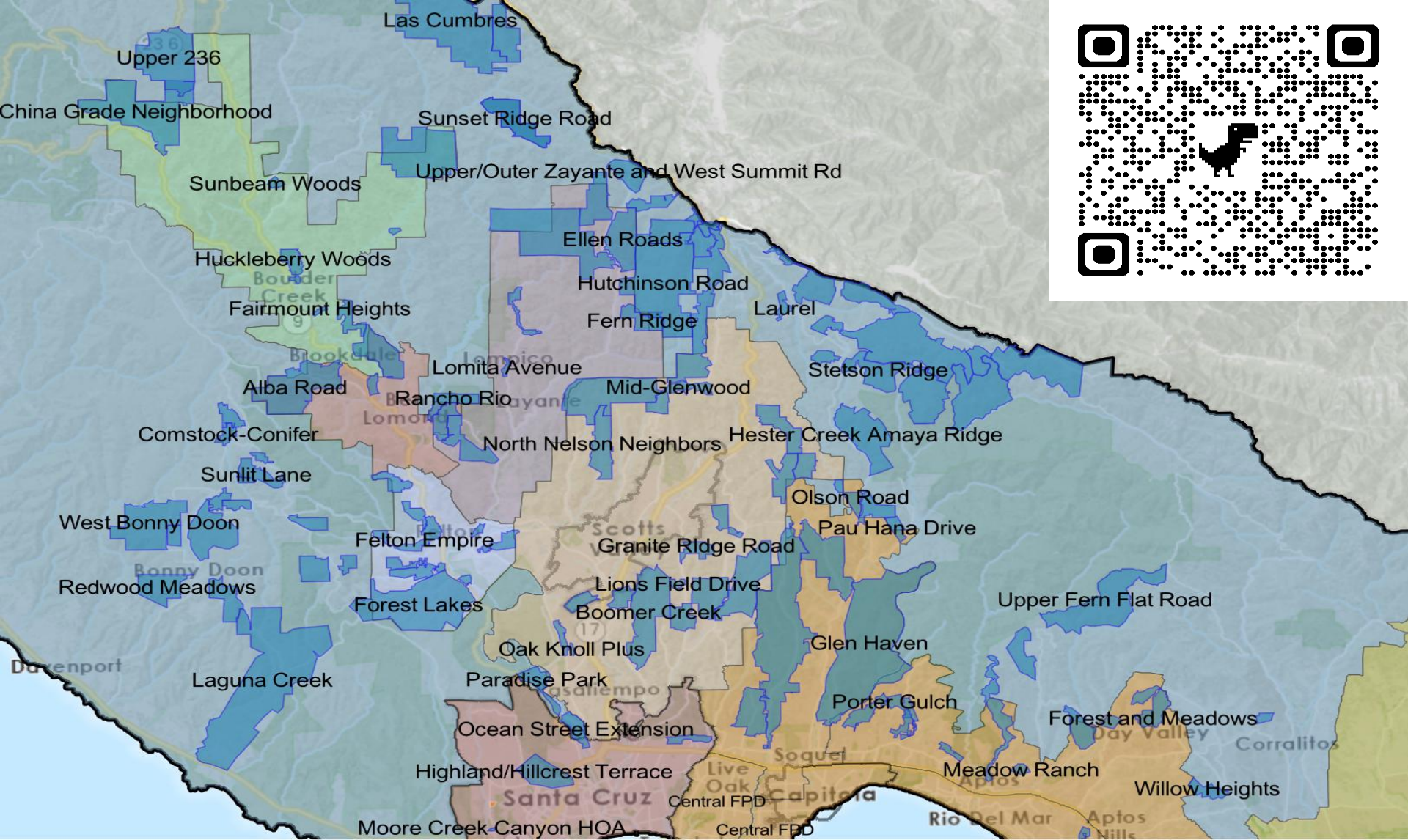


**We are #2 nationally for number of Firewise communities**



# Firewise Communities in Action





QR code to Firewise communities map viewer. To see Fire Protection district overlays, select "Fire Service Areas" from ">>" menu on far right, then zoom in.



**Thank YOU for  
all your Support!**

**How can you  
continue to help?**

**Encourage local communities to become  
Firewise USA recognized.** FireSafe  
Councils can help coach these communities

**Engage with existing Firewise Leaders  
and their communities.** They want to hear  
your guidance for wildfire readiness

**Help advocate for vegetation  
management programs** e.g. Free chipping  
services, free brush disposal days at local  
dumps

**Local Fire: Help with Firewise Community  
Assessment Walk throughs for new  
communities**

*Our 2025 investments*

116 communities, 8402 homes

**\$19 Million personal money**

359 K volunteer hours

160 K cu yds veg. removed





# Backup SlidesB





# FSCSCC Firewise Stats Summary

- Jan 2021:
  - 9 Firewise communities, 1200 homes
- April 2022:
  - 26 Firewise USA recognized communities, 3027 homes
- December 2022:
  - 43 Firewise USA recognized communities, 3871 homes
- December 2023:
  - 55 Firewise USA recognized communities, 4532 homes
  - Another 10-12 communities in progress
- December 2024:
  - 81 Firewise USA recognized communities, 6549 homes
  - Another 15+ communities in progress