

## **Update on the Grand Haven Florida Division of Forestry Wildfire Mitigation Project**

The Florida Division of Forestry is pleased to announce that funding has been authorized for the completion of the Grand Haven Wildfire Mitigation Project.

The underbrush mowing efforts, however, have been suspended until the first week of January 2010.

The Grand Haven Firewise Communities USA Board has requested this temporary halt in the project to allow all residents to better enjoy family activities during the holiday season.

As of 12/22/09 approximately two thirds of the designated areas have been treated.

Permission for the underbrush mowing has been granted to the Florida Division of Forestry in an effort to lower the wildfire threat to life and property by reducing the height of vegetation to approximately six inches at a distance of up to forty feet from the back of vertical structures.

The permit does not allow for the reduced vegetation to be removed offsite. The Division of Forestry has explained that the mulched material will act as a mat to help suppress the regrowth of saw palmettos, etc.

The Grand Haven Firewise Communities USA Board, is comprised of representatives of the Grand Haven CDD, Master Association, CERT, Neighborhood Watch, and Village Forum.

Early next year, the Firewise Board, in cooperation with the Division of Forestry, will conduct a community wide workshop to fully present the results of the Wildfire Mitigation Project and discuss continuing steps residents can take to make their homes more resistant to destruction by wildfire.

Questions regarding the Wildfire Mitigation Project can be directed to: Timber Weller, FDOF Wildfire Mitigation Specialist at 386-447-1533 or [wellert@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:wellert@doacs.state.fl.us).