



## Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities Fourth Annual Conference



### Summary Report

March 30, 2018



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension

## Summary Report

On March 12, 2018 The Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities (i.e., The Network) held its Fourth Annual Conference in Reno. The Network was created in 2014 to assist members of Nevada communities as they work towards the goal of becoming fire adapted. It was part of the Living With Fire Program and was managed by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. During the conference, The Network transitioned to become a program of the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), under the direction of Michael Beaudoin, Network Coordinator.

Presented below are key results from the conference, information about the afternoon session, a summary of the participant responses to a post-conference evaluation, and photographs taken during the event. Funding for this event was provided by a Community Fire Assistance Agreement from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - Nevada State Office and a State Fire Assistance Grant from NDF) and U.S. Forest Service. Funding for continental breakfast, lunch and refreshments provided by a Good Neighbor Citizenship Grant from State Farm Insurance.



Mike Brown, Nevada Fire Chiefs Association, presented on “Engaging Your Local Fire Service and Community.”

## Key Results

- 106 participants, an increase of one over the 2017 conference.
- 9 of Nevada's 17 counties were represented: Carson City, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Eureka, Lyon, Nye, Storey, and Washoe.
- 3 states were represented: California, Idaho and Nevada.
- 34% of the participants were individuals or community representatives from 25 communities.
- 13% of the participants were fire department/district/volunteer representatives from 10 departments/districts and 2 volunteer or auxiliary departments.
- 27% of the participants were already members of The Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities (i.e., The Network).
- Program partners who hosted a table during the afternoon session, "Speed Dating for Information: Purposeful Networking between Community Members and Network Partners", included the Bureau of Land Management, City of Reno Fire Department, East Fork Fire Protection District, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada State Fire Marshal Division, U.S. Forest Service, and the community of ArrowCreek.
- 98% of participants who submitted an evaluation indicated that they have a better understanding of Fire Adapted Communities (FACs) as a result of participating in the conference.
- 96% of participants who submitted an evaluation indicated that they have a better understanding of the purpose and importance of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) as a result of participating in the conference.
- The most common actions participants who were residents of a wildfire prone areas plan to take toward creating or updating their CWPP (top 3 responses) were:
  - 1) CWPP (10)
  - 2) Education (10)
  - 3) Fuels Removal (6)
- 88% of participants indicated that as a result of Michael Beaudoin's presentation, they have a better understanding of the operation, organization and transition of The Network.
- Overall, on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 representing "no" as not worthwhile to attend and 5 being "yes" it was worthwhile to attend, the conference was rated 4.7.

## Participant Demographics

**Total Number of Participants:** 106

### **Participants by County or State of Residence:**

Carson City	18
Clark	4
Douglas	12
Elko	3
Eureka	6
Lyon	1
Nye	1
Storey	2
Washoe	56
California	2
Idaho	1

### **Participants by Type or Entity**

Advisor to The Network Advisory Board	1
Ball GIS	1
Bureau of Land Management - Nevada	6
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services	1
California Tahoe Conservancy	1
Community Representatives (from 25 communities)	37
Douglas County Community Emergency Response Team	3
Eureka County Commission	1
Eureka County Firewise Communities	5
Fire Department/District (from 10 districts/departments)	14
Fire Department Other (from 2 volunteer or auxiliary departments)	2
International Association of Fire Chiefs	1
Kelley Erosion Control, Inc.	2
Lake Ditch Irrigation Co.	1
Lake Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities	1
National Interagency Fire Center - BLM Representative	1
Nevada Association of Counties	2
Nevada Department of Public Safety - State Fire Marshal Division	1
Nevada Division of Forestry	5
Nevada Fire Chief's Association	1
Nevada Insurance Council	1
Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities	1
Office of the Attorney General	1
Silver Creek Condo Association	1
State Farm Insurance	1
Toscana Community Association	2
U.S. Forest Service	3
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension	4
Washoe County Community Emergency Response Team	3
Washoe County Parks & Open Space	2

## Speed Dating for Information: Purposeful Networking between Community Members and Network Partners

In the afternoon, participants could choose to attend the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities Advisory Board meeting or to interact with federal, state and local fire services, community leaders and others during “Speed Dating for Information: Purposeful Networking between Community Members and Network Partners.” One question that was addressed during the “Speed Dating” session: “How can community members and Network Partners work together more effectively in their Fire Adapted Community efforts”. The goal of this session was to allow for networking and for community members to take learned information back to their community to implement.

A total of eight agencies or organizations participated in the event. Those included: East Fork Fire Protection District, Reno Fire Department, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and the community of ArrowCreek.



Nevada Division of Forestry provided information on how they can assist communities with fuel reduction projects.

Community leaders from ArrowCreek shared their experiences with obtaining grants for their community projects.





Participants had the opportunity to visit with their local fire department or protection district representatives during the afternoon session.



## Responses to the Evaluation\*

**1) Which category best describes your role at this Conference? (Check one)  
(N=54)**

Community Partner (Landscape Industry, Builders Association, etc.)	2%
Community Representative or Individual living in a wildfire-prone area	52%
<b>If so, which community?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carson Valley</li> <li>• Crescent Valley</li> <li>• Lake Tahoe</li> <li>• Lakeview</li> <li>• Mark Twain Estates</li> <li>• Mt. Charleston</li> <li>• Not Determined</li> <li>• Red Rock</li> <li>• Reno</li> <li>• Sparks</li> <li>• Virginia Foothills</li> <li>• Washoe Valley</li> </ul>	
County Representative	2%
Federal, State or Local Agency Representative	17%
Local Fire Department/Fire Protection District Representative	11%
Volunteer Fire Department Representative	6%
Other: CERT, Eureka County Firewise, Other	13%

**2) Are you currently a member of The Network? (Check one) (n=52)**

Yes 37%   No 46%   Don't know 13%   In process 2%   Tahoe Network 2%

**3) How did you learn of the Conference? (Check all that apply) (n=66)**

Newspaper ad or article	0%
Living With Fire website	17%
The Network Pulse electronic newsletter	17%
Living With Fire staff	32%
Word of mouth	12%
Facebook	1%
Online calendar	0%

\*Note - Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding error.

Other: 23%

- Attended Before
- Mike Brown
- CERT
- Crescent Valley Firewise
- Cooperative Extension
- Mike Dondero
- HOA
- Jarbidge VFD
- Nevada Division of Forestry
- Radio

**4) As a result of participating in this Conference:**

**a. Do you have a better understanding of Fire Adapted Communities? (n=55)**

Yes 98%                  No 2%

**b. Do you have a better understanding the purpose and importance of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)? (n=53)**

Yes 96%                  No 4%

**c. If you are a resident of a wildfire prone area, do you plan to take some sort of action toward creating or updating your CWPP? (n=54)**

Yes 65%    No 0%    Not Applicable 31%    Maybe (4%)

**If “yes,” what sort of action?**

**CWPP (10)**

- Creating CWPP
- Goal to update CWPP
- CWPP (2)
- Update CWPP
- Create CWPP for our neighborhood
- Review area plan and determine age and if over 5 years, tackle update
- Use RCI hazard report as a template and update it
- Inform BOD of need to move in direction of developing a community plan
- Try to complete a plan for the community

**Education (10)**

- Ready, Set, Go!
- Learn more through the board
- Educating the public
- Hold fire awareness workshop
- Educating community
- Block party and create awareness

- Continue to contact with Skyland residents with education information
- More community involvement and education
- Education of membership
- Community preparedness

### **Fuels Removal (6)**

- Remove fuels
- Fuel reduction
- Fuel cleanup
- Clearing brush
- Same actions as in past with Nevada Fire Safe Council (fuel mitigation, etc.)
- Further fuels reduction/mitigation

### **Defensible Space (5)**

- Improve defensible space
- Defensible space evals
- Create fire resilient landscape
- Junipers are gone! (20'X60' in front of house)
- Fire resistant landscape

### **Collaboration (5)**

- Working with Firewise Board - Crescent Valley/Eureka County
- Working with our Firewise group - In Eureka County
- Working with government agencies and community members
- Outreach to my fire department in my neighborhood
- Neighbor involvement

### **Homeowners Association (HOA) (4)**

- Spring review of HOA property
- Speak to HOA
- Reach out to my HOA and waiting for response
- Reach out to HOA to gauge interest

### **Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities (i.e., The Network)(4)**

- Become Network member (2)
- Become an individual member
- Join Network

### **Fire Adapted Community (3)**

- Become Fire Adapted Community
- Start a Fire Adapted Community
- Continue to use my HOA to become a Fire Adapted Community

### **Other (2)**

- Stakeholder responsibility
- I live in an isolated area away from the community, but would get involved if there are others in Virginia Foothills interested

**d. If your professional responsibilities involve addressing wildland-urban interface issues, do you plan to apply some aspect of this conference to your job? (n=54)**

Yes 41%

No 2%

Not Applicable 57%

**If “yes,” what aspect?**

**Other (7)**

- Importance of statewide organization and structure to facilitate community action
- Continued use of the WUI codes
- Helping communities rehab their burnt property
- Great talks from Roper, Brown and Zagaris
- City and county participation
- Providing local community perspective to the advisory board
- Create local group addressing fire prevention and preparation

**Education (6)**

- Educate fire personnel on the info shared at conference and working with the stakeholders to develop CWPP
- Begin informing our directors of our district
- Educating community of fire protection defensible space
- Educate my neighborhood and help with becoming Fire Adapted Community
- Inform the community I live in what FAC can do for us
- Able to communicate with the public better about the program and what it can offer

**CWPPs (4)**

- Working with communities that have CWPP
- Continue to work with leaders in program CWPPs
- CWPP – Fuel management staff
- CWPP

**5) As a result of Michael Beaudoin’s presentation, do you have a better understanding of the operation, organization and transition of The Network? (Circle One) (n=52)**

Yes 88%

No 0%

Need more information 12%

Don’t know 0%

Comments regarding the presentation:

**Need Clarification (5)**

- Yes, but still confused about the apparent transition from UNCE to NDF for the multiple entities discussed such as “Network”, “Board” and “Chapter”
- Individual membership is hard to sell without prospect of financial resources and support on the immediate horizon
- Apparently, since we live in Tahoe area we are a separate community/network?

- More work to be done. Sounds like a ton of work to get your community to become a FAC
- Will individuals be sent information for membership?

#### **Other (5)**

- Moving forward is great, get the education out there
- Hold quarterly Board meetings in different regions of Network/State
- Please keep us informed
- Defensible space, etc.
- The development of the Network is exciting and beneficial and it needs to be communicated about with positivity and enthusiasm for the great things to come
- I'm still learning

#### **Good Presentation (4)**

- Good presentation
- It seemed pretty thorough and he spoke well
- Good description of the stages in the Network
- Michael did a nice job of explaining current status

### **6) What did you like most about the Conference?**

#### **Presentations (23)**

- Diverse speakers
- Presentations
- Good speaker mix
- Forest Schafer – good presentation
- Ability to learn from well-educated and experienced presenters
- Morning presentations (2)
- Hearing from different agencies
- Great and knowledgeable speakers
- I found the presentations by Forest Schaffer, Ryan Shane and Kim Zagaris to be the best part. Forest managed to make a very dry subject interesting. Ryan and Kim always entertain as they inform. Nobody just read from PowerPoint
- Information about recent fire problems and input about how we can avoid similar issues
- Presentations about specific actions that can be taken
- Info about template for plan development
- Presentations by speakers from areas of interest to me, especially the morning speakers
- Network talk (Michael B)
- Presentations – Visuals
- Great speakers!
- Michael B. presentation
- CA 2017 Fire season presentation
- Well prepared presentations
- Presentations about the most recent fires and seeing the numbers puts a lot in perspective

**Other (19)**

- Getting to see 3 national legends in wildfire education and mitigation – Ed, Elwood and Sonya
- Information overall
- All (2)
- Collaboration
- Varied crowd
- Gained lots of knowledge
- Good people
- CWPPs
- State participation
- Good ideas to implement in my community
- Local level participation
- Variety
- Professionals reinforcing the importance of FACs
- Lessons learned
- Possibilities for community fire safe projects
- Seeing friends each year at the conference
- Goodie bag – Awesome!
- Explanation and process of how the public goes about creating CWPPs

**Networking (16)**

- Networking (9)
- Meeting new people
- Connecting with agencies and individuals who can participate and assist in Washoe Valley
- Networking with fire professionals, agencies, and like-minded people
- Seeing fellow community members and comparing notes
- Meeting the people involved in the groups
- Sharing of ideas
- Seeing people I work with on this important program

**Resources (5)**

- List of resources
- Contact information
- Background information
- List of acronyms
- Current resources and programs

**Stayed on Time (4)**

- Kept on schedule
- Everything was kept on time
- Short (45 minutes) sessions
- On time

**Speed Dating (2)**

- Speed dating (2)

## 7) What did you dislike, and/or want to see changed at next year's Conference?

### **Presentations (6)**

- Speakers basically read their slides and made it a little dry
- PowerPoints being read
- If you have another guest speaker from out of state talking about last year's fire season, make sure to focus more on lessons learned and take aways for FACs and less on response numbers...263 dozers, 577 engines, blah, blah, blah
- 45 minute presentations are too long
- PowerPoint with main points only and larger print
- More community member presentations on successes, failures, challenges, etc.

### **Nothing (5)**

- Great, no changes
- Nothing (2)
- No real dislikes
- N/A

### **Better Promotion of Conference (4)**

- Much better communication to allow us to know more about it
- Please use many outlets to publicize radio, TV, newspaper, email, signage, billboards
- Pre-conference communications
- I heard from some who said they only learned about it a day ago
- More publicity

### **Speed Dating and Board Meeting (4)**

- Speed dating for information (2)
- Board meeting and speed dating at same time
- Having Board meeting at the same time as the "speed dating" we could have seen more people (potentially) and attended the Board meeting if it was at a separate time

### **Other (4)**

- More community involvement
- Michael B's presentation of the new version of LWF seems like a thinly veiled re-organization to shift the funding and responsibilities more heavily onto the locals with less direct assistance
- Less glad handing: why are existing Board members leaving before new members are available
- With box lunches 1 hr and 15 minutes too long

### **Living With Fire Team (2)**

- Hearing that Ed and Sonya are retiring
- Disliked news that Sonya was going

## 8) What topics would you want addressed at future Conferences?

### **Other (8)**

- This was a great conference!
- How landscape contractors can help neighborhoods
- Brush fires (more focus that they are wildfires too!)
- Tahoe Network
- Perhaps splitting up into regions for a short time would help address specific issues
- Lobbying for underground utilities in NV
- CWPP development workshop (the presentation today was a bit rushed)
- Legal framework for risk establishment

### **Funding and Resources (7)**

- More on how to get monetary and easier after Network setup is complete
- Resources, resources, resources
- Funding FAC engine
- More on resources
- Funding mechanisms
- How to understand the process of getting help for a community that is starting
- Grant funding opportunities

### **Fire Adapted Communities (FACs) (5)**

- A clear understanding of a Fire Adapted Community
- Clear org chart of Fire Adapted Community
- What comes first...Community demand for FAC support or a Fire Chief that leads charge?
- Details to start a FAC
- Tips for sustaining long-term action to create an FAC

### **Marketing (4)**

- Sell the Network...T-shirts, hats, light jackets, sweatshirts
- Creative marketing
- Compelling sales pitch for starting a chapter
- Ideas on how to recruit a neighborhood

### **Vegetation Management (4)**

- Practical ways to remove fuels
- Fire safe landscaping ideas, bring in a pro! Literature
- Mandatory clearance/enforcement
- Correlation of weeds to ignition

### **Agencies and Elected Officials (4)**

- How to get your local officials “on board” and support the mission
  - Local fire participation
  - County and city council participation
  - Federal perspective

### **Insurance (3)**

- Insurance rating of structures and neighborhoods

- Home insurance “trust” riders to motivate homeowners to create acceptable defensible space
- Mandatory “no fault” insurance

### **Rural Communities (3)**

- Info more geared to rural communities
- Rural communities
- Small communities in very rural Nevada

### **Success Stories (2)**

- Success stories for programs that work
- Success stories of programs implemented

### **Planning (2)**

- Planning a community project
- Future plans that can be implemented

### **Post Fire Rehabilitation (2)**

- Helping communities rehab after fires
- Rehab/post-fire issues to prevent additional burns

### **The Network (2)**

- More understanding of the role of the Nevada Network because it is not very clear as to their role and NDF
- Very specific information about how the reorganization would improve fire reduction where I live

## **9) Any additional feedback you want to pass on to the Conference organizers?**

### **Other (13)**

- Things get done because of great people like Ed, Elwood and Sonya – be sure to choose the next generation of wildfire mitigators in Nevada wisely – too much good work has been done to let it stagnate now
- Introduce community leaders so all in the room know which geographies are represented
- Consider nonprofessionals as speakers, for example: An HOA to talk about how they developed plan or conducted mitigation activities
- Great speakers
- We need more handouts of the material presented
- No
- Try to get more people/community to attend
- Remind speakers to use fewer acronyms
- Wish we could have gone to one speed dating table after we did our own table
- No PowerPoint reading
- Great work SO-FAR on trying to complete this organization, but! Complicated membership
- Inspired by an audience question to the State Farm Insurance Agent, Ms. Kautraud:

- What can be done to influence insurance companies to offer cost reductions for homes with defensible spaces? Money talks! This would be similar to shake shingle conversion to non-combustible or less combustible roofing materials
- Some companies even refuse to renew policies unless homeowners convert their roofs – or charge a very high premium
- Also it's my understanding that the retardant material added to shake roofs wears off after several years!
- The Living With Fire video needs an update and we need a video with the same thing but more scary! Our (California included) recent history with fire, via film needs to be boldly presented in an updated video

**Good Job (7)**

- Great job! (2)
- Excellent job as always
- It was a super job
- Keep up the good work
- Good job
- Well prepared and organized

**Thanks (6)**

- Thank you (3)
- Thanks for holding it every year
- Thanks for your work!
- Thanks for all your hard work!

**10) Overall, on a scale of one to five (with one being a definite “No” and five being an absolute “Yes”) was the Conference worth attending? (Circle one) (n=50)**

1	2	3	4	4.7	5
NO		Somewhat		★	YES