

Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities

5th Annual Conference Report

April 22nd, 2019



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



Summary Report

On April 22nd, 2019 the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities (The Network) held its Fifth Annual Conference in Reno at the Atlantis Resort. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Living With Fire program organized and secured speakers for the morning session of the conference. Conference speakers and presentation titles were as follows:

- Introduction and Nevada Fire Facts- Kacey KC- Nevada State Forester/Fire Warden
- Camp Fire-Lessons Reinforced and Learned- Chief David Hawks-CAL FIRE Butte Unit Chief
- Home Survival in Wildfire-Prone Areas: Design and Maintenance Considerations- Yana Valachovic- Count Director and Forestry Advisor- UC Cooperative Extension Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.
- Obtaining Assistance for Your Community- Mike Vollmer- Cooperative Forestry and Fire Supervisor- Nevada Division of Forestry
- The Art of Being Fire Adapted- Chief Doug Cupp- Greater Eagle Fire Protection District
- Is Tahoe Paradise? Lessons Learned from a Bi-state Wildfire and Public Evacuation Drill- Chief Ryan Sommers-North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District and Chief- Mike Schwartz- North Tahoe Fire Protection District



Mike Vollmer-NDF- Provided Conference Participants Information on Community Assistance Grants

The Network organized the afternoon session of the conference which included a presentation from the Network Coordinator that provided an overview of the 2018 Network Year and program accomplishments. The afternoon session also included a recognition of new chapters and the FAC community of the year.

Presented below are key results from the conference and a summary of the participant responses to a post-conference evaluation. 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.

Key Results

- 109 Participants, an increase of three participants over the 2018 conference
- 8 of out Nevada's 17 counties were represented: Carson City, Douglas, Washoe, Storey, Lyon, Churchill, Elko, and Humboldt.
- 5 States were represented: Nevada, California, Colorado, Montana, and Idaho. Up from last year's 3.

- Most conference attendees were community representatives or WUI residents

- Most conference attendees were not a member of the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities but expressed interest in joining.

- Living with Fire, NDF staff, and the Network Pulse newsletter were very effective in promoting the conference

- As a result of the conference 96% of attendees have a better understanding of Fire Adapted Communities?

- As a result of the conference 98% of attendees have a better understanding of the purpose and importance of planning for an evacuation from their home and community.

- 77% of attendees plan to take some sort of action toward making their community more fire adapted as a result of the conference. Community actions include:
 - More involvement in the Nevada Network
 - Installing home hardening features suggested by Yana's Talk
 - Provide more community education

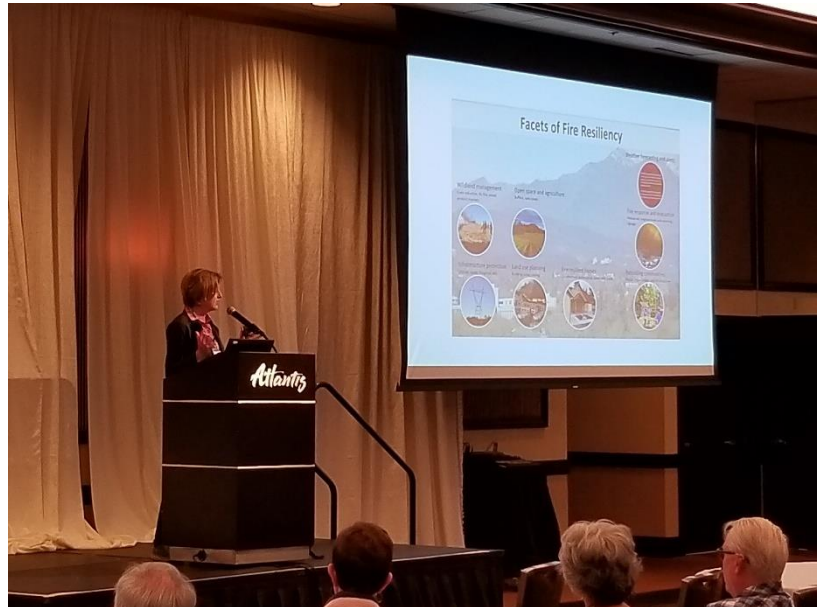
- Fire Service Professionals that attended plan to implement information learned at the conference. This information focuses on:

- Increased community education within jurisdiction
- Community evacuation planning
- Increased involvement in the Nevada Network

- 92% of conference attendees have a better understand of the Nevada Network and how to form a new chapter as a result of Michael Beaudoin's presentation.

- Participants provided great feedback on future presentation topics. Which include:

- CWPP planning and implementation
- Facilitating a time to allow attendees to network with other chapters, agencies, and professional



Yana Valachovic- UCCE- Del Norte and Humboldt County Director provided information on the home ignition zone

Participant Demographics

Total Number of Participants:	109
Participants by County/Area or State of Residence:	
Carson City:	28
Churchill:	2
Douglas:	11
Elko:	1
Humboldt:	1
Lyon:	8
Storey:	3
Tahoe Basin:	11
Washoe:	39
Out of State:	9 (5 incl. in Tahoe Basin)
Participants by State:	
Nevada:	100
California:	5
Colorado:	1
Idaho:	1
Montana:	2
Participants by Type or Entity:	
Alpine Wildfire:	2
Bureau of Land Management:	2
CAL FIRE:	2
Douglas County CERT:	2
Home Owners Association:	31
Local Fire Protection District or Department:	24
Nevada Association of Counties (NACO):	1
Nevada Division of Forestry:	4
Nevada Conservation Districts (DCNR):	1
Nevada Fire Chief's Association:	1
Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities Chapter:	18
Nevada Prescribed Fire Alliance:	1
Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities:	2
Tahoe Resource Conservation District:	1
University of California Cooperative Extension:	2
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension- Living With Fire:	2
U.S. Forest Service- Humboldt-Toiyabe:	5
Washoe County CERT:	6
Washoe/Storey Resource Conservation District:	2

Survey Responses

1. Which category best describes your role at this conference? (Check one) (N=56)

Community Partner (Insurance, Realtors, Landscapers)	10%
Community Representative or WUI Resident	33%
County Representative	5%
Federal, State, or Local Agency Representative	10%
Local Fire Protection District or Department	3%
Network Community Chapter Representative	23%
Volunteer Fire Department Representative	7%
Other (Conference Speakers, Adv. Board Members)	9%

2. Are you currently a member of the Network? (Check one) (N=54)

Yes 29% No 42% Don't Know 15% In Process 9%
Tahoe Network Member 5%

3. How did you learn about the conference? (Multiple Responses) (N=83)

Living With Fire Staff	12%
Living With Fire Website	10%
Network Pulse Newsletter	15%
Nevada Division of Forestry Staff	14%
Nevada Division of Forestry Website	5%
Newspaper Ad or Article	2%

Online Calendar	1%
Social Media (Facebook)	1%
Word of Mouth	19%
Other (CERT Meeting, Conference Speaker, Email)	21%

4. **As a result of participating in this Conference:** (Check one) (N=56)

a. Do you have a better understanding of Fire Adapted Communities?

Yes 96% No 4%

b. Do you have a better understanding of the purpose and importance of planning for an evacuation from your home and community?

Yes 98% No 2%

c. If you are a resident of a fire-prone area, do you plan to take some sort of action toward making your community more fire adapted as a result of this conference?

Yes 77% No 3% Not Applicable 16% Maybe 4%

If “Yes” what sort of action?

Defensible Space (5):

- Improve our Defensible Space Program (2)
- Build better defensible space
- Make my neighbors think more about defensible space
- Defensible Space Assessments for my community

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) (4):

- Update and implement our CWPP
- CWPP Implementation
- Update our CWPP
- I have some great ideas for our CWPP

Home Hardening (6):

- Home Structure Changes
- We know have a better understanding of how/what to install for home-hardening.
- Harden my Home!
- Improve our attic vent screening (2)
- Plan to offer products that harden homes from wildfire at my store

Forest Health Improvement Projects (1):

- Forest Thinning

Fuels Reduction Projects (4):

- Fuels Mastication
- Would like to write a grant for community chipping
- Clear areas of equestrian alleys and power easements
- I'd like to do a chipping program in our neighborhood

Community Education (11):

- Educate my neighbors about FAC (4)
- Join groups to talk to neighbors about fire problem
- Community education (4)
- Present WUI and fire safe principles to my community

Community Preparedness/ Evacuation (6):

- Better Homeowner preparedness (2)
- Update our evacuation plans (3)
- Start planning for a community-wide evacuation drill next year

Nevada Network of FAC Involvement (8):

- Present this information about FAC to my community HOA board
- Become a FAC Chapter (2)
- Work with 3 neighboring HOAS to submit a FAC chapter application
- Continue to work with communities and homeowners re fire adapted communities
- In the process of helping neighbors and ourselves become a FAC Chapter
- Continued participation in the Nevada Network
- Form a FAC Chapter

d. If your professional responsibilities involve addressing wildland-urban issues, do you plan to apply some aspect of this conference to your job?

Yes 36% No 4% Not Applicable 60%

If yes, what aspect?

Community Education (3):

- Use the information from the speakers to address some urgent issues and help better educate my district. (2)
- Provide workshops and articles to community

Home Hardening (1):

- Transition from defensible space to home ignition zone

Community/ Evacuation Planning (2):

- Update HOA plans
- Put together an evacuation plan for communities and inspect roads for safe routes from fire.

Nevada Network of FAC Involvement (3):

- Utilize Network opportunities
- Leverage partners from FAC Network
- Implement Network FAC concepts

Other (1):

- Apply all aspects from the conference

5. As a result of Michael Beaudoin’s presentation, do you have a better understanding of the current state of the Nevada Network and how to form community chapters (Check one) (N=56)?

Yes 92% No 1% Need more Info 4% Don’t Know 3%

Comments regarding Michael’s presentation:

Community and FAC Chapter Support (1):

- Our community started this process with a meeting in the Fall. Michael has been such a resource and support in forming our community chapter.

Community Wildfire Protection Planning (2):

- I've gotten some wonderful ideas to take back to our CWPP. I also have a much better understanding of the CWPP.

Need More Information (1):

- Not sure how FAC can help communities in our jurisdiction

Good Presentation (4):

- Very Good!
- One of the best annual presentations
- Yes helpful information
- The presentation was excellent today!

Other (1):

- Yes but he is hobbled by a lack of funding

6. What do you dislike, and/ or what to see changed at next year's conference?

Audio/ Visual Issues (3):

- Certainly need a tech person for A/V problems
- Unsuccessful A/V support of presentations
- Just the A/V issues

Presentations (5):

- Some of the presenters needed more time- all seemed rushed
- Such a great conference. I wish the speakers had more time to present
- Intros for the speakers were too long
- Use a Q&A timer for speakers
- Less historical fire history

Conference Materials/ Handouts (5):

- Could we get paper handouts of the power point slides to take with us?
- Please make websites cited in presentations available as a handout
- Need guidebooks for applying for financial assistance
- Not enough handouts for all attendees.
- Need printed material to take home to develop local handouts.

Networking (1):

- Social Networking/ Who is in the room?

Nothing (6):

- Liked Everything (2)
- Nothing (2)
- Just thank you and continue the great work
- I thought this was a great conference

Other (5):

- The Coffee
- Too much CA-based info! At least relate the info back to NV. (2)
- Start one hour later
- Have a full day conference, push the network advisory meeting back

7. What topics would you want addressed at future conferences?

Community Wildfire Protection Planning/ Community Planning (5):

- Workshop on writing a CWPP
- Land use portions of County Master Plans as related to the WUI (2)
- More Community Involvement
- How to get local governments to implement new WUI codes

Presentations (3):

- Need presentations specific to each county
- More community-based funding opportunities, Not just NDF (2)

Fuels Mitigation (3):

- What kind of fuels are the most dangerous (Juniper or bitterbrush)?
- Define WUI!
- Taylor presenting on Nevada Fuels and weather

Networking (7):

- Possible time slot to put folks together who are in the process and to share their experiences.
- Need to have meetings with other communities to make grants successful
- Regional specific discussion groups
- A update from a federal partner agency
- Would have been nice to have vendors involved with information, tables, handouts. Including Homeowner insurance companies (2).

Home Hardening (2):

- More info on protecting your home (2)

Other (5):

- I always appreciate hearing from those that survived wildfires.
- Aviation enhancement progress
- UNR Alert Tahoe Webcams
- How about something from rural Nevada?
- The current topics being brought up after the wildland season

8. Any additional feedback you want to pass onto the Conference organizers?

Presentations (11):

- Ability for wireless microphone to enable speakers to walk around the room during their presentations and a laser pointer to point to key elements in their presentation
- Provide copies of presentations/ power points electronically (3)
- Have a printed copy of the power point or grant resources that we can follow along with (3)
- Full agenda with more presentations
- Need more detailed information
- Fire Adapted Network Presentation was excellent

Nevada Network of FAC (1):

- Provide a short educational meeting just for community chapter leaders and reps.

Great conference (7):

- Excellent presenters, learned a great deal (3)
- Great speakers this year!
- Information was very timely and relevant
- Great Networking
- Good Job!

Other (7):

- None or N/A (4)
- Who is your audience?
- Define key terms- Keep in mind some attendees know little about the topics, ie CWPP and WUI
- Provide a healthy alternative for breakfast such as a fresh fruit platter

9. 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 (N=56)?

1 2 3 4 4.7 5
No Somewhat ★ Yes



Chief Cupp highlighted the steps to become a more fire adapted community