



2011 Nevada  
Wildland-Urban Interface Fire  
Summit Impact Report

## Summit Impact Report

In 2001, a list of over 250 Nevada communities that were vulnerable to wildfire and located near federal lands was published in the Federal Register (66 FR 160). The Nevada Fire Safe Council, with funding from the Nevada State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), retained the services of Resource Concepts, Inc. to conduct an assessment of the wildfire threat to these communities. As a result of this effort, 173 communities were rated as “extreme”, “high” and “moderate” wildfire hazard.

Assisted by grant funds from BLM, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension coordinated two summits to promote actions that would reduce the wildfire hazard ratings to the 68 communities rated extreme and high fire hazard. In 2009, 105 communities rated “moderate” were added to the list of high and extreme hazard communities to be addressed by the third summit held in October. For 2010, the fourth summit was held without the Lake Tahoe Basin communities. They held their own event in July and were not involved in the 2010 Nevada Wildland-Urban Interface Summit. The fifth summit was held in 2011, again with Lake Tahoe communities holding their own event. For the first time, the Nevada Fire Safe Council held their annual membership meeting in conjunction with the fifth summit. Organizations involved in the planning of the fifth summit included:

- Bureau of Land Management
- City of Reno Fire Department
- Nevada Association of Counties
- Nevada Division of Forestry
- Nevada Division of Emergency Management
- Nevada Fire Safe Council
- Nevada State Fire Marshal Division
- Sierra Fire Protection District
- USDA Forest Service
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- Washoe County

This effort, entitled the “2011 Nevada Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Summit”, was conducted on September 19 & 20 at the University of Nevada, Reno. The purpose of the summit was to invite representatives from the extreme, high and moderate wildfire hazard communities, fire service personnel responsible for those communities, county managers, and others to discuss how the wildfire hazard ratings could be reduced and to promote action at the local level. The 2011 summit was made possible with grant funds from the Bureau of Land Management , the Nevada Division of Forestry in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, the Nevada Fire Safe Council, and Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators.

This report summarizes the results of the 2011 Nevada Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Summit.

## **Summit Planning Committee**

*Elizabeth Ashby*, Nevada Division of Emergency Management  
*Larry Burton*, Nevada Fire Safe Council  
*Jennifer Diamond*, USDA Forest Service  
*Greg Emerson*, USDA Forest Service  
*Ruta Glinski*, Bureau of Land Management  
*Ann Grant*, Nevada Fire Safe Council  
*Walt Howell*, Nevada Fire Safe Council  
*Wes Henderson*, Nevada Association of Counties  
*Kacey KC*, Nevada Division of Forestry  
*Michael Klug*, Nevada Division of Forestry  
*Candace Lowery*, Nevada Fire Safe Council  
*Mike McCarty*, Nevada Fire Safe Council  
*Patrick Mooneyhan*, City of Reno Fire Department  
*Pat Murphy*, Nevada Fire Safe Council  
*Grant Nejedlo*, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
*Maureen O'Brien*, Washoe County  
*Kim Otero*, Nevada Fire Safe Council  
*Joan Presley*, City of Reno Fire Department  
*John Schuler*, formerly with Sierra Fire Protection District  
*Sonya Sistare*, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
*Ed Smith*, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
*Terry Sumner*, Nevada Fire Safe Council  
*Don Wilkins*, Nevada State Fire Marshal Division

## **Summit Breakout Group Facilitators**

*Ruta Glinski*, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office  
*Sandra Gregory*, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office  
*JoAnne Skelly*, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
*John Schuler*, Nevada Division of Forestry

## Key Results

- 111 people attended
- 13 of Nevada's 17 counties were represented
- 35% of the participants were community representatives
- 32% of the participants were attending for the first time
- 33 different entities were represented
- 30 of the 172 "extreme", "high" or "moderate" hazard communities were represented, plus 3 Lake Tahoe Basin communities
- 97% of the community representatives who submitted an evaluation indicated as a result of the Summit they had a better understanding of the wildfire threat to their community and were more aware of the people and resources that can assist them in reducing the wildfire threat. One hundred percent of the respondents plan to take some form of action when they return home
- Most common actions participants were going to take when returning home were: 1) Communicate with neighbors including absentee owners, 2) Educate and inform community members, 3) Get more involved with NFSC chapter and use them to reach more people, 4) Create defensible space, and 5) Get more community involvement
- Top five things that participants liked about the summit were: 1) Chris Heftel, 2) Ed's talks - Facts, Reasons Why, All of them, Def Space, 3) Rajat Jain and insurance presentation, 4) Networking aspect - Fire Safe Councils, Fire Agencies, and community presenters and 5) Great information and resources and variety of information
- Top things that participants did not like were: 1) Too cold, 2) Nothing, 3) Break up first day presentations with breakouts or interactive activities, and 4, 5 & 6 tied) Steve Quarles should streamline his talk, too much information and too advanced; Redundant with past Summits - PRIDE, Planting; Presenters need to be given a template to follow for better presentations, less words!
- Top topics requested for the next summit included: 1) Fuels management for homeowners; 2, 3 & 4 tied) Proper plant choices; How to acquire grants; How to begin and build a successful NFSC chapter, and 5) Homeowner's insurance policy needs
- Overall, on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being "no" and 5 being "yes", the conference was rated 4.8 in terms of being worth attending

## Quotes Regarding the Summit

“Thanks for putting together another wonderful conference.”

Community representative

“Just wanted to say I had an awesome time at the Fire Summit Conference and I'm glad I attended. Looking forward to next year!!”

Fire service representative

“Thanks to my participation in the 2011 WUI Summit, I now have the knowledge, tools and motivation to help myself, my family, my neighbors and my community prepare for the threat of wildfire.”

Nevada Fire Safe Council Chapter Leader

“The Summit has shown how critical it is for consistency and uniformity from all agencies in defensible space education, the application of inspections, and that the benefits greatly outweigh any costs.”

Community representative

“My only suggestion is that the evaluation sheets be passed out after the Summit and not prior to any business left. I filled out mine with flying kudos before going to the "breakout session" AKA "venting cell". *We* (names removed to maintain anonymity) were unable to talk about *our communities* (community names removed to maintain anonymity) due to individuals in the room that felt this was their sole opportunity to berate the DFS. We both got up and exited when we realized we were not allowed any discussions about our communities. My eval sheet would have read much differently had it been filled out afterward instead of before. Knowing the potential for contention, a facilitator should be present at these meetings to insure participation by all. In closing, I still believe my eval was mostly correct in that the Summit provided me with info about both my communities which I have already begun to utilize. The speakers in the main room were some of the most knowledgeable and compassionate I have ever heard.”

Community representative

“Some of the power points were hard to read and contained a lot of information thus smaller font due to the content of the slide. Just a reminder to the presenters to use more brevity and better colors or pictures in the slide to liven up their presentation and make the slides more readable. Maybe they can provide a one page handout with more information if needed and take the information out of the power point slide. I had to squint, either due to the slide colors or font size... I actually listened and stayed in the room the entire time a speaker was making their presentation. Maybe this should be one of the 'general rules' to the audience for professional courtesy to the presenters.”

Fire service representative

“I really liked: All of the group staying together in the big room for the trainings and presentations, the food, the homeowners'/chapter leaders' panels, the sponsors in the same room. I heard good comments regarding the break-out of groups. The room temperature was definitely cold! Everyone agreed and I am glad you warned them to bring sweaters....The gal sitting next to me was new and she was ready to return next year.”

Agency representative

## Summary of Summit Participant Demographics

**Total Number of Summit Participants: 111**

### Summit Participants by County

Carson City	16
Churchill	1
Clark	16
Douglas	10
Elko	10
Eureka	2
Humboldt	1
Lincoln	1
Lyon	4
Nye	2
Storey	3
Washoe	33
White Pine	2
Out-of-state	10

### Summit Representatives

American Eagle Fire	1
Arizona State Senate	1
Bureau of Land Management - Nevada	9
Churchill County	1
Community Representative	39
Eureka County Dept. of Natural Resources	1
Fire District/Department (14 represented)	18
Guest	1
Gutter Glove Gutterguard	1
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety	1
NFPA - Firewise	1
Nevada Division of Forestry	9
Nevada Division of Emergency Management	1
Nevada Division of Insurance	1
Nevada Fire Safe Council	9
Nye County Emergency Management	1
Ponderosa Land & Livestock	1
River Bluff Developments	1
USDA Forest Service	5
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension	8
Wildfire Community Resources Inc.	1

## **Extreme, High and Moderate Fire Hazard Communities Represented at the Summit (shown in bold): 30\***

Carson City  
Ash Canyon – Western NV College  
C-Hill  
Carson Colony-Voltaire Canyon  
Clear Creek  
Edmonds-Prison Hill  
**Kings Canyon – Upper**  
**Lakeview**  
Mexican Dam  
North Carson  
Pinion Hills  
Stewart-South Carson  
Timberline

Churchill County  
Cold Springs  
Eastgate  
Middlegate

Clark County  
Cactus Springs  
**Cold Creek**  
Goodsprings  
**Kyle Canyon**  
**Lee Canyon**  
**Moapa**  
Mountain Springs  
Nelson  
**Sandy Valley**  
Searchlight  
Torino Ranch  
**Trout Canyon**

Douglas County  
Alpine View  
Bodie Flats  
China Springs  
Dresslerville  
Fish Springs  
**Genoa**  
Holbrook Junction  
**Jack's Valley**  
**Job's Peak Ranch**  
Johnson Lane  
North Foothill Road Corridor  
**Pine Nut Creek**

Douglas County (continued)  
Ruhnstroth  
**Sheridan Acres/Foothills**  
Spring Valley/Double Springs  
Topaz Lake  
**Topaz Ranch Estates**

Elko County  
Adobe Heights  
Adobe Ranchos  
Carlin  
Contact  
Currie  
**Deeth/Starr Valley**  
Elburz  
**Elko**  
Gold Creek  
Hidden Valley/Coal Mine  
Humboldt Ranchettes  
Jarbidge  
Jiggs/Smith Creek  
Lamoille  
**Lee/South Fork Indian Reservation**  
Lucky Nugget I & II  
**Midas**  
Mountain City  
North Fork  
Oasis  
Osino  
Owyhee  
Pilot Valley  
**Ruby Lake Estates**  
Ruby Valley Indian Allotments  
Ruby Lake Nat'l Refuge & Hatchery  
Ryndon  
Spring Creek  
Ten Mile  
Tuscarora  
Wild Horse Estates

Esmeralda County  
Goldfield  
Gold Point  
Lida  
Silver Peak

Eureka County

**Beowawe/Crescent Valley**

Diamond Valley

**Eureka**

Palisade

Pioneer Pass

Humboldt County

Denio

Fort McDermitt

Golconda

Grass Valley

Paradise Ranchos

Paradise Valley

Valmy

Winnemucca

Lander County

Austin

Gilman Springs

Kingston

Lincoln County

Caliente

Eagle Valley/Ursine

Mt. Wilson

Panaca

Pioche/Caselton Heights

Rachel

Lyon County

Dayton

Ft. Churchill-Weeks

Mark Twain

Mason Valley

**Mound House**

Silver City

**Smith Valley**

Wabuska

Weed Heights

Mineral County

Luning

Marietta

Mina

Schurz

Walker Lake

Nye County

Amargosa Valley

Beatty

Belmont

Carvers

Gabbs

Ione

**Manhattan**

Pershing County

Grass Valley

Humboldt

Imlay

Lovelock

Mill City

Oreana

Rye Patch

Unionville

Storey County

Gold Hill

Lockwood

**Mark Twain**

**Six Mile**

Virginia City

Virginia Highlands

Washoe County

Anderson Acres

Antelope Valley

Cold Springs

**Galena**

Gerlach

**Golden Valley**

Hungry Valley

Lemmon Valley

Mogul (I-80 Corridor West)

Mount Rose Corridor

Nixon

Palomino Valley

Pleasant Valley

Rancho Haven

**Red Rock**

**Reno - Northwest**

Reno – Southeast

Silver Knolls

Spanish Springs

Washoe County (continued)

Steamboat  
Sun Valley  
Sutcliffe  
Verdi  
Warm Springs Valley  
Washoe Valley West

White Pine County

Baker  
Blue Diamond  
Cherry Creek  
Cold Creek  
Ely  
Goshute  
Lackawanna  
Lund  
McGill  
Pleasant Valley  
Preston  
Ruth

**\*Plus 3 Lake Tahoe Basin communities**

## Summary of Responses to the Summit Evaluation Form

Total number of responses: 51

**Which category best describes your role in this Summit?** (51 responses)

- |                                                                 |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Resident of an Extreme/High/Moderate Fire Hazard Community   | 48% |
| b. Fire Service for Extreme/High/Moderate Fire Hazard Community | 26% |
| c. County Manager, County Emergency Manager or designee         | 3%  |
| d. Summit presenter                                             | 5%  |
| e. Guest of a participant                                       | 2 % |
| f. Other                                                        | 18% |

**How many Nevada WUI Fire Summits have you attended?** (50 responses)

- |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| a. This was my first        | 36% |
| b. Two                      | 16% |
| c. Three                    | 20% |
| d. Four                     | 26% |
| e. Five, including this one | 2%  |

**Residents of Extreme/High/Moderate Fire Hazard Communities responded to the following questions:**

**As a result of attending this Summit, do you have a better understanding of the wildfire threat to your community?** (36 responses)

Yes 97% No 3%

**As a result of this Summit, are you more aware of the people and resources that can assist your community in reducing the wildfire threat?** (36 responses)

Yes 97% No 3%

**When you return home, do you plan to take some sort of action to address the wildfire threat to your community?** (36 responses)

Yes 100% No 0%

**If yes, what sort of action?** (36 responses)

### **Nevada Fire Safe Councils**

- NFSC Chapters can help distribute information
- Get more involved with NFSC Chapter
- Mobilize community to participate in NFSC Chapter and fuels reduction
- Good ideas to keep our NFSC chapter going
- Hope to get several Smith Valley Chapters going
- Continue to try to get community involvement in NSFC activities

### **Communication and Networking**

- Redouble the effort to reach out to neighbors and community

- Talk to neighbors
- Mail info to absentee landowners (defensible space)
- Start with planners or supervisors
- Try again with my apathetic neighbors
- Take my notes to my BC & FMO and discuss ideas from the Summit
- Take information back to Property Owners Association and discuss what can be done to reduce danger
- Contact Forest Service
- Contact Forest Service
- Contact Public Works regarding accessibility issues
- Communication
- Discuss issues with neighbors
- Create our own call tree and designate captains
- Networking
- Town Hall meetings
- Contact each resident with flyers and meeting times
- Community communications

#### **Education and Information**

- Provide a program at next community meeting
- Provide new information
- Keeping neighbors informed/updated
- Continue to educate community
- Passing on most of this information
- Continue to educate and reeducate, especially 2 weeks after local, national fire
- Share the information

#### **Create Defensible Space**

- Work with fire district to conduct DS inspections
- Remove dead trees and branches
- Defensible Space – Prefire activity
- Complete mitigation on my own property
- Need to work on DS around my house
- Recheck summer growth for DS
- Done brush removal, need maintenance now

#### **Involvement**

- Get more people involved
- Try to work with my community to be proactive
- Continue being involved
- Participation
- Community involvement

#### **Grants**

- Apply for grants
- Grants to purchase haul/dump trailer
- Acquire a dump trailer via a grant for our community

## **Other**

- Use vendor information to purchase supplies
- Be part of the solution
- Increase home numbering
- Debris cleanup on abandoned property
- Get correct addresses on all home in the area
- Ask for volunteers
- Change date and time of our meetings
- Continue to promote Firewise communities
- Develop a community plan with assistance from websites
- Enact “map your neighborhood program”
- Plan to keep going and keep doing

## **All parties responded to the following questions:**

### **What did you like most about the Summit? (50 responses)**

#### **Presentations and Activities**

- Chris Heftel (11)
- Ed’s talks - FACs, Reasons Why, All of them, Def Space (9)
- Rajat Jain and insurance presentation (8)
- Great information and resources and variety of information (6)
- Fire services presentations (5)
- Marlene Rebori and community involvement presentation (4)
- Steve Quarles and building materials (4)
- Gail Griffin and Arizona update (4)
- Mike Brown (3)
- Community stories (3)
- Mike Johnson and access(2)
- Mark Regan and Evacuation presentation
- Creating fire adaptive communities presentations
- Breakout group
- Informative speakers

#### **Networking**

- Networking aspect - Fire Safe Councils, Fire Agencies, and community representatives (8)
- Interaction with people from my local area

#### **Nevada Fire Safe Council**

- Panel of the FSC leaders and their stores were good
- What procedures work for FSC chapter

#### **Promotes Community Involvement**

- Builds and keeps community involvement (2)

#### **Assigned Seating**

- Assigned Seating: inter-community setting to brainstorm with neighbors and local NFSC members (2)

### **Lunch**

- Lunch was outstanding, food (2)

### **Event Well Organized**

- Whole event ran smoothly, good organization, keeping on schedule (4)
- Arrangements
- Order of format kept building on the information

### **Availability of Resources**

- How to acquire resources
- Awareness of what's out there and money to help

### **Other**

- Good audience participation
- Latest fire research
- Vendors in room with participants
- Free parking, great street signs
- Seeing participants again from last year
- Diverse group of fire personnel
- Map your neighborhood idea
- Bringing all the stakeholders together to address the fire issues
- Techniques for getting information to public
- New, fresh information
- Location - UNR
- Refocus on need for action
- People seem to care about making their communities fire safe
- Being asked to participate

## **What did you dislike and/or want to see changed if there's another Summit? (40 responses)**

### **Room Temperature**

- Cold room (7)

### **Nothing**

- Nothing (6)

### **Presenters and Activities**

- Steve Quarles should streamline his talk, too much information and too advanced (3)
- More opportunity to know other participants (homeowners and agencies)(2)
- Too long, condense to one day (2)
- More animated presentations - Ed, Mark and Mike were animated
- Soft info: Atta boys - Kudos, human psychology - motivation, intro remarks, closing remarks, recap
- Community involvement presentation - too generic
- No breakout session - Clark County
- Ed Smith is great, but 4 times on program?
- Speakers need to stay on point and not ramble and put people to sleep
- More opportunity for questions
- Break up day 1 presentations with breakouts or interactive activities (4)

- Who can help lower your hazard ratings - only these speakers were great: KC, Andrew, Ed, Dale

#### **Redundant**

- Redundant with past Summits - Pride, Planting (3)
- Information too important to be lost saying the same thing in same speech
- Too repetitive

#### **Presentations**

- Presenters need to be given template to follow for better presentations, less words! (3)
- PowerPoint overload
- Unable to read PowerPoint internet addresses

#### **Poor Audio**

- Better audio for audience member questions
- Tell speakers to use their mics - several were hard to hear

#### **Food**

- Better balance of food - Protein for breakfast
- Include water in beverages

#### **Inappropriate Remarks**

- Inappropriate language, sexual remarks, and anti government rhetoric from community representative (2)

#### **Other**

- Lack of involvement by Douglas County fire fighting community
- Timing not coordinated with local traffic
- More vendors
- More information on products and materials available
- Summit seems to have shrunk, should be growing
- Disliked assigned seating

### **What topics would you like addressed at future Summits? (36 responses)**

#### **Presenters**

- More non-agency presenter types – roofers, builders, landscapers, Heftel, etc. (2)
- Community planning/planners

#### **Presentations**

- Proper plant choices (4)
- Homeowners insurance policy needs (3)
- Process of how to get coordination with departments, community members, and government agencies (2)
- Even more community involvement ideas (2)
- Have attendees send in “What I want to learn at the Summit” beforehand
- Report from each fire chief on what they are doing to help communities and how they work with NFSC
- Demo’s or trainings on the use of “fire preparedness resources and products”
- I like the smaller concurrent sessions better – more Q & A and you get to move around

- Building inspections
- Field trips
- Tour mitigation project
- New fire prevention technology
- Analysis of second homeowners
- More time for community breakout sessions – this year's was good
- Fire resistant building materials
- How to develop community plans
- Bring back the bug lady
- How to engage and motivate VFD
- How to improve access roads
- How communities can help with the legislative issues
- Maintenance plans and finding samples of plans
- How communities can develop their own water storage systems for fire protection

#### **Raffle and Prizes**

- Thanks for the raffle gifts
- I liked the tickets this year, more chances to win!

#### **Fuels Management**

- How much brush to remove
- Cause of fuel buildup
- Fuels reduction for homeowners
- Cheatgrass invasion, especially masticated areas
- What are the different fuel management techniques available
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, entry goals, evaluations, responsibility
- Biomass collection
- How can we effect the laws of defensible space
- What else can be done - different ways to create defensible space

#### **Federal Agency Efforts**

- Forest Service land management issues - Defensible space on federal land
- BLM land management
- Public lands managed for multiple use
- Forest service lands managed for economies and water and fuel reduction on federal lands

#### **Grants**

- Hints on grant writing, proper terminology (2)
- How communities can acquire grant funds
- Funding resources
- Grants requests need to be measurable - fuel load before and after, change in flame length, etc.
- What do we do when the grants dry up?
- What will incentivize people without grant carrot?

#### **Nevada Fire Safe Council**

- How to expand FSC to other areas

- Meetings (NFSC) sparklers, interest perkers, etc.
- Sample letters and documents - agendas, mailings - for Chapter leaders
- How to begin - forming a chapter, what to do first, involving VFD

#### **Other**

- Invite political leaders (2)
- Presence of more fire services (2)
- Firewise communities program
- Evacuation of elderly and disabled
- Neighbor helping neighbor
- Summary of Texas Fires and if they have any proactive Fire Safe Council type organizations
- More vendors - Nevada Firefighters Association, Nevada Fire Chiefs Association
- Establishing a lending library - who has what and where for communities to use

#### **Any additional feedback you want to pass on to the Summit organizers? (34 responses)**

##### **Great Job**

- Great, well organized (3)
- Sonya (and Grant too) do a great job organizing a difficult task (2)
- As always a very good job indeed
- Excellent
- Awesome Summit!
- Great!
- To all involved keep up the good work!
- Conference was exceptionally well organized
- Good conference
- This was my 2nd Summit. Both were extremely organized. My thanks to those who put this on.
- Great job as usual!
- Most events with over 20 people are like herding mice. You managed to make everything move along efficiently and there was no boredom. Excitement level – A 10!

##### **Thank you**

- Thank you for putting the Summit together and that it takes cooperation from all entities to keep our communities safe. This goes a long way to get the information out
- Thank you! Very inspiring!
- Thank you for inviting me. It was an honor and pleasure meeting you all. Keep up the excellent work!
- Thank you for your time and assistance

##### **Program**

- Covered lots of information
- Avoid repetition!
- More specifics on grant funds

- Structured seating was great
- Signs for locations of parking and summit appreciated
- It is a refresher course, but always learn new things
- Basic session on fuels and fire behavior modeling so fire safe councils have an idea of what tools are available to them - land fire, heave, etc.
- Jim Linardos as a speaker next year
- Small local events for rural areas would be beneficial
- What about moving the location to Las Vegas, Elko, etc...might get more folks from these communities?
- Development has slowed, but sill good to hear from planners
- Missed the workshops - concurrent sessions. Breakout sessions get people moving around more with more interaction

**Vendors**

- Vendors go to front of the audience at first break, but limit them to sales pitch and length of time
- Would like to see a fire resistant roofing vendor and cement siding vendor

**Nevada Fire Safe Council**

- NFSC should have a table of items to purchase or order
- NFSC should have more shirts, styles available for purchase or order

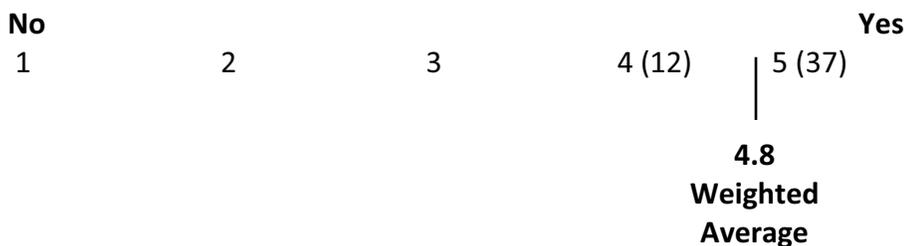
**Presenters and Facilitators**

- Handsome young man from Elko had an excellent breakout session
- All speakers stayed on track time wise
- Good to have speakers from southern Nevada
- Continue targeting up-beat type personality for speakers
- Reduce length of presentations
- Encourage presenters to be interactive with the audience
- Guest speakers have summation of key topics from their presentations
- Microphone for people asking questions

**Audience**

- Admonish attendees to ask questions that would be of interest to everyone
- Prohibit foul language and inappropriate behavior (2)
- Summit should not be a forum for anti government rhetoric

**Overall, on a scale of one to five (with one being a definite “NO” and five being an absolute “Yes”) was the Summit worth attending? (49 responses)**



# Community Breakout Group Results

## What prevents your community from reducing the wildfire threat and what can be done about it?

**Region:** Carson City, Douglas County, Lyon County, Storey County

**Facilitator:** JoAnne Skelly

### Obstacles

- Absent & vacant homeowners (10)
- Physical disability/elderly (9)
- Apathy (7)
- Lack of Education/No fires (6)
- Live as is, no change (5)
- We did it, it's done (4)
- Aesthetic problems (4)
- Lack of time or money (4)
- Lack of good disposal (4)
- Invasion of space (4)
- No social mix, no community (3)
- Information fatigue (1)
- Lack of fire education
- Litigious
- Ignorant
- Obstinate
- Resent authority
- Overwhelming
- Unaware, new people

### Response: Absent & Vacant Home Owners

- Call county to identify absent/vacant home owners or GID, homeowner's association, assessor's office – then communicate by registered letter to homeowner.
- Coordinate w/fire department if property poses danger to community – try to have F.D. mitigate danger
- Community outreach
- Contact property managers/realtors to have them clear those properties they manage
- After permission is granted to enter property, organize groups to clear property.

### Response: Physical Disability/Elderly

- Door to door education

- Offer assistance
- Gain their trust
- Simplify the process
- Showcase home – demonstration property for show and tell
- Advertise program (defensible space) on sign board at entrance
- Signs on properties that have been treated

**Response:** Apathy

- Community programs to help dispose of materials
- Neighbors helping neighbors
- One on ones with government agency reps – fire chiefs, NDF, etc.
- Set good examples – visual reminders
- Enforcement?
- Communication – some people don't/can't get the info they need

**Response:** Lack of education/no fires – How to remove barriers (Jacks Valley, Job's Peak, Mark Twain, Virginia Highlands)

- Have more fires? Not
- Use fires as educational experience. Reach people within 2 weeks of fire and Living With Fire handouts – read it/hand holding
- Disguise information by holding parties
  - knit night
  - drinking parties
  - potluck
  - themes – cooking instructions
- One-on-one consultation
- Make use of existing resources
  - church phone tree
  - CERT
  - Use intermediates when required
  - Build trust within community
  - Be persistent

**Region:** Washoe County

**Facilitator:** John Schuler

**Obstacles:**

- Cost/time (11)
- Perception vs. Reality (10)
- My property is “OK” (6)
- Don't care (5)
- Not doing it because others haven't (5)

- Assumption of protection (3)
- Appearance (3)
- Absentee homeowners (2)
- Knowledge
- CC&R issues, legal
- Ignorance of danger
- Tree huggers

**Response:** Cost/Time

- Education of incentive – Danger of not clearing. Do it yourself vs. professionals

**Response:** Perception vs. Reality

- Education, education, education
- Uniform message from all agencies

**Response:** My property is “OK”

- Educate
- Example
- Consistent message

**Region:** Rural Counties

**Facilitator:** Sandy Gregory

**Obstacles:**

- Apathy (11)
- Land ownership (7)
- Lack of ownership (6)
- Individualism (6)
- Physical capability (5)
- Lack of knowledge (4)
- Long term commitment (4)
- Where does the stuff go? (3)
- Coordination (2)
- Equipment (2)
- Frustration on follow-up (1)
- Can't happen to me (1)
- Process difficulty and timeline (1)
- Matching funding/record keeping (1)
- Polarized
- Overwhelming
- \$

- Dissemination of information

**Response: Apathy**

- Second home
- Time line
- Process
- Unmotivated
- Individualization
- Wait till they see flames

**Response: Land ownership**

- Not invested in property
- Checker board
- Change in ownership/land owner
- Not vested in community

**Response: Individualization**

- Land owner cooperation
- Work with non-traditional partners/corporations
- Showing benefit and good will
- Develop share holders/buy in/educate how can each shareholder help
- Using media to have educational outreach
- Simulations
- Showcase community project success before and after
- Demonstration of project
- Bring everyone into the project at the beginning
- Project planning over the lifetime of the project area, public and private
- Identify each agency what they can do to help and with community

## Summit Photographs



Participants learn who can help them in their efforts to reduce the fire threat in their community and what funding sources are available.



Chris Heftel, owner of Red Bluff Developments, explains the important role of developers when building in the wildland-urban interface.



“Mark Twain” entertains everyone with tales of wildfire in Nevada and the first prescribed burn he accidentally started many years ago.

Participants visit with vendors and learn about new products and services to help them in their wildfire threat reduction efforts.



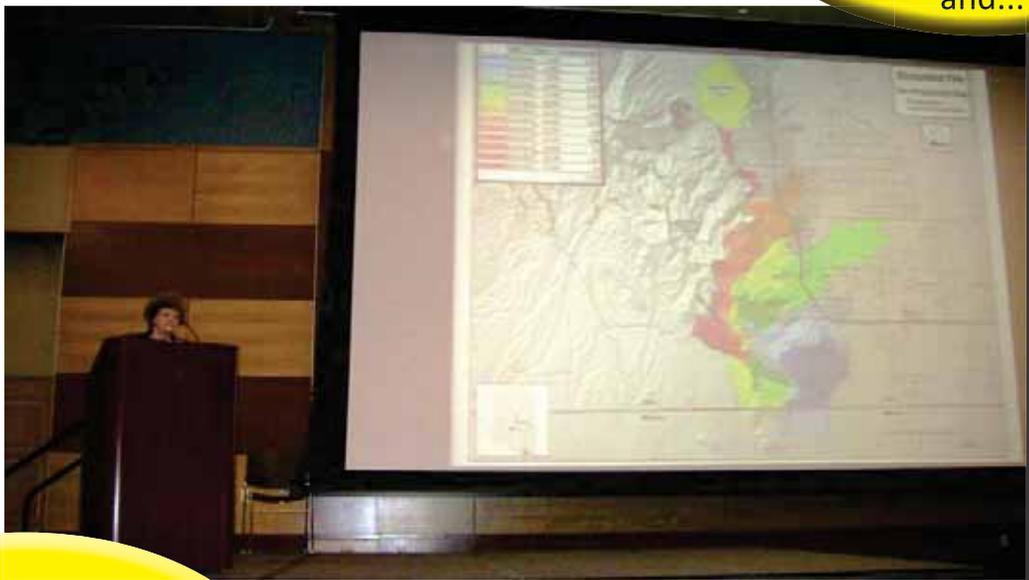


During the community breakout sessions, participants work together to find solutions to the wildfire threat in their community.





Engaging presentation on Fire Adapted Communities, ...an evacuation testimonial from Arizona State Senator Griffin on the Monument Fire, and...



great information about the importance of good access, both in communities and at individual homes and properties.





Moderator Michael Brown, Chief with North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, introduces a panel of community and fire service representatives.

Participants gather for a group photo as the 2-day event comes to a close.



Summit Agenda



**&  
NEVADA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2011  
JOE CROWLEY STUDENT UNION  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO**

# AGENDA

Monday, September 19

- 8:00-8:30** **Registration** - Reception Area, 4th Floor  
**Continental Breakfast and Vendor Show** - Ballroom
- 8:30-8:45** **Summit Welcome and Opening Remarks** - Ballroom  
*Mike Brown*, Chief  
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- 8:45-9:00** **Summit Background and Statewide Hazard Results** - Ballroom  
*Ed Smith*, Natural Resource Specialist  
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- 9:00-10:00** **Who Can Help You Lower Your Hazard Rating** - Ballroom  
*Rex McKnight*, Bureau of Land Management  
*Greg Emerson*, USDA Forest Service  
*Kacey KC*, Nevada Division of Forestry  
*Elizabeth Ashby*, Nevada Division of Emergency Management  
*Michael Johnson*, Clark County Fire Department  
*Andrew List*, Nevada Fire Safe Council  
*Ed Smith*, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
*Dale Hildebrandt*, Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- 10:00-10:15** **Break & Vendor Show** - Ballroom  
Please visit with our vendors, located in the back of the room. Receive a raffle ticket at each of the booths. Deposit ticket stubs in the basket in front of each of the raffle prizes that you wish to win. The drawings will be held on Tuesday during the lunch break. You must be present to win.
- 10:15-11:00** **Developing in the Interface** - Ballroom  
*Chris Heftel*, Owner  
River Bluff Developments, Spokane, Washington
- 11:00-11:30** **How to Build and Keep Community Involvement** - Ballroom  
*Marlene Rebori*, Community and Organizational Development Specialist  
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- 11:30-12:30** **Lunch** - Ballroom  
Special Entertainment
- 12:00-1:00** **Vendor Show** - Ballroom C

## **AGENDA**

Monday, September 20 (continued)

- 1:00-1:50**    **Creating Fire Adapted Communities: Defensible Space** - Ballroom  
*Ed Smith*, Natural Resource Specialist  
University of Nevada Cooperative
- 1:50-2:40**    **Creating Fire Adapted Communities: Built Environment** - Ballroom  
*Stephen Quarles*, Senior Scientist  
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
- 2:40-3:00**    **Break and Vendor Show** - Ballroom  
Last chance to visit with vendors and receive raffle tickets.
- 3:00-3:50**    **Creating Fire Adapted Communities: Community Safety and Access** - Ballroom  
*John Copeland*, Resource Management Officer  
Nevada Division of Forestry  
and  
*Michael Johnson*, Assistant Fire Chief  
Clark County Fire Department
- 3:50-4:40**    **Creating Fire Adapted Communities: Evacuation** - Ballroom  
*Mark Regan*, Captain  
Sierra Fire Protection District  
and  
*Gail Griffin*, State Senator  
District 25, Arizona
- 4:40-4:50**    **Recap of Day**  
*Mike Brown*, Chief  
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- 5:00-6:30**    **No-host reception** - Little Waldorf Saloon

**Please show your appreciation to our generous sponsors by visiting their booths during breaks and the vendor show in the back of the Ballroom. Learn more about them on pages 6 & 7.**

# AGENDA

Tuesday, September 20

- 7:30-8:00 Coffee & Continental Breakfast** - Ballroom
- 8:00-8:05 Introductory Remarks** - Ballroom  
*Mike Brown*, Chief  
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- 8:05-8:45 Community Stories** - Ballroom  
*Ann Grant*, Skyland, Lake Tahoe  
*Liz Claggett*, Kyle Canyon, Mt. Charleston  
*DebbieLynn Smith*, Topaz Ranch Estates  
*John Schuler*, Elko and Washoe Counties  
*Janice Scandrett*, Upper Colony, Smith Valley
- 8:45-9:30 When Disasters Occur: How Will Your Insurance Policy Respond in Your Time of Need?** - Ballroom  
*Rajat Jain*, Analyst/Reviewer  
and  
*Marie Holt*, Property and Casualty Section Chief  
Nevada Division of Insurance
- 9:30-10:15 Why People Don't Take Action** - Ballroom  
*Ed Smith*, Natural Resource Specialist  
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- 10:15-10:30 Coffee Break & Travel to Community Group Session** - Ballroom
- 10:30-11:30 Community Group Sessions:**  
Carson City, Douglas, Lyon & Storey Counties - Room 402  
*JoAnne Skelly*, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- Clark and Lincoln Counties - Room 422  
*Ruta Glinski*, Bureau of Land Management
- Churchill, Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Nye and White Pine Counties - Room 423  
*Sandra Gregory*, Bureau of Land Management
- Washoe County - Great Room  
*John Schuler*, Nevada Division of Forestry
- 11:30-12:00 Community Group Reports** - Ballroom  
*Mike Brown*, Chief  
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- 12:00-1:00 Closing Remarks, Lunch & Special Raffle** - Ballroom
- 1:00-3:00 Nevada Fire Safe Council Membership Meeting** - Ballroom

This Summit was made possible in part with funding from the Nevada Division of Forestry and the US Forest Service and from a Community Assistance Grant from the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office in cooperation with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension...



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension



...with additional support from:



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Organizations involved in the planning of the Summit include:

Bureau of Land Management ~ City of Reno Fire Department  
Nevada Association of Counties ~ Nevada Division of Forestry  
Nevada Division of Emergency Management ~ Nevada Division of Insurance  
Nevada Fire Safe Council ~ Nevada State Fire Marshal Division  
Sierra Fire Protection District ~ US Forest Service  
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
Washoe County Fire Services

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A special thank you to the following contributors of raffle prizes:

**ASUN Bookstore, University of Nevada Reno** - \$50.00 Gift Card

**Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office** - Smokey Bear Items

**Casino Fandango, Carson City** - \$50.00 dining certificate

**Home Depot, S. Virginia** - Gas BBQ Grill with Accessories

**Moana Nursery, Reno** - One #15 Moana-grown tree (retail value up to \$115.00)

**Nevada Division of Forestry** - \$20.00 Southern NV Nursery Gift Certificate, \$20.00

Northern NV Nursery Gift Certificate, and a Fuels Reduction Work Crew for 1 day

(\$1,500 value, some restrictions apply)

**Nevada Fire Safe Council** - Logo T-shirts and hats

**Silver Legacy** - 2 nights deluxe suite with breakfast at Flavors Buffet for two

**US Forest Service** - Smokey Bear Backpacks

***SPECIAL RAFFLE DRAWING - Everyone who wears their "I Have A Role" t-shirt on Tuesday, September 20 will be entered into a drawing for a special prize.***

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## Vendor Booths

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### **American Eagle Fire Protection Service Corp.**

Is a full service fire protection company that offers aggressive solutions to your home fire protection needs, specializing in helping homeowners located in the wildland-urban interface. Learn more about us by visiting our booth. Additional information is available by contacting Ron Sparks at **775-250-4901**.

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The **Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF)** is a state agency that provides crucial firefighting resources throughout Nevada. NDF is also an important manager of Nevada's natural resources located on private and state lands. For information about NDF, visit our booth today or our website: **[www.forestry.nv.gov](http://www.forestry.nv.gov)**



The **Nevada Fire Safe Council** is an organization that serves as a bridge between fire services, public agencies, and communities threatened by wildfire. It's mission is to preserve natural and manmade resources throughout Nevada and the

Lake Tahoe Basin by mobilizing all citizens to make their homes, neighborhoods and communities fire safe. Contact our office at 775-884-4455 or visit our website: **[www.nvfsc.org](http://www.nvfsc.org)**

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## **Ponderosa Land and Livestock Company**

Ponderosa Land and Livestock Company provides clearing of hazardous brush and tree removal on residential and commercial properties. They also produce custom built fire suppression equipment, distribute foam and gel fire suppression products, provide potable water transportation and storage, and are an approved vendor for state and federal agencies. Learn more by visiting their booth today, or contact Sandy Weise at **775-721-1200**.

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**Join us in thanking our vendors and sponsors for supporting this event!**

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## Vendor Booths & Sponsors

The **USDA Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest** is responsible for wildfire suppression and hazardous fuels reduction on the 6 million acres of National Forest system lands throughout Nevada and parts of California. See “Before” and “After” photos of recent fuels reduction project in Nevada at their book. For more information, visit our website: [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension

**University of Nevada Cooperative Extension** is a federal, state and county partnership that develops educational programs in response to Nevada’s important issues. They are responsible for managing the Living With Fire Program, Nevada Radon program and others. For information about other Cooperative Extension programs, visit their website at

[www.unce.unr.edu](http://www.unce.unr.edu)

The **Living With Fire Program** is a comprehensive, multi-agency program aimed at teaching homeowners how to live more safely in high wildfire-hazard environments thru workshops, publications, awareness events, social media, a website and others. Learn more at their booth or by visiting their website at [www.livingwithfire.info](http://www.livingwithfire.info)

The **Nevada Radon Education Program** is a partnership with the Nevada State Health Division to educate Nevadans about the health risk posed by elevated levels of radon in the home. They offer literature, educational programs and radon test kits for a nominal fee in many county Extension offices. Visit their booth today to receive a FREE test kit! More information about radon is available on their website:

[www.RadonNV.com](http://www.RadonNV.com)

### **It is NOT a question of “IF Fire is Coming, but WHEN?”**

*Wildfires can happen anytime without warning and spread incredibly fast. They are called WILD for a reason and are often uncontrollable. What is controllable is the PREPARATION & ACTION we undertake to protect our homes from damage and loss.*

*Our Fire Preparation Resources include...*

- Emergency Supplies
- Portable High Pressure Pumps
- Fire Blocking Foams & Gels
- Rainwater Harvesting Systems
- Water Storage Systems
- Sprinkler Systems
- Flame Resistant Clothing
- Personal Protection Equipment
- Fire Retardant Tarps
- Ember Protection Systems
- Reflective & Lighted Address Systems
- Mobile Fire Suppression Equipment



**WILDFIRE  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES** LLC

*Awareness & Preparation for Landowners and Homeowners to be “READY WHEN FIRE COMES”™*

(888) 880-4927

Learn more at...

[WildfireCommunityResources.com](http://WildfireCommunityResources.com)

Please join us in thanking the University of Nevada,  
Reno for the use of the Joe Crowley Student Union.



University of Nevada, Reno

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