



Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities Third Annual Conference



Summary Report

April 30, 2017



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

Summary Report

On March 27, 2017 The Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities (i.e., The Network) held its third 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 is part of the Living With Fire Program and managed by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Presented below are key results of the conference, a summary of the participant responses to a post-conference evaluation and results from the small group exercise conducted during the conference. 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 the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Funding for the emergency to-go duffel bags provided by a Good Neighbor Citizenship Grant from State Farm Insurance. Lunch provided by the Fire Adapted Community Learning Network in cooperation with the Nevada Land Trust.



Participants were greeted by a video welcome from Governor Sandoval.

Key Results

- 105 participants, which represents an increase of 5 over the 2015 conference.
- 10 of Nevada's 17 counties were represented: Carson City, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Eureka, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing and Washoe.
- 2 states were represented: California and Nevada.
- 33% of the participants were individual or community representatives from 23 communities.
- 22% of the participants were fire department/district/volunteer representatives from 9 departments/districts and 6 volunteer or auxiliary departments.
- 60% of the participants were already members of The Network.
- Program partners who provided a table of information included American Red Cross, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members from Douglas and Washoe Counties, Nevada Division of Insurance, and Washoe County Regional Animal Services.
- 88% of participants who submitted an evaluation indicated that they planned to take to some sort of action that would better prepare them and their family for proper evacuation.
- Most common actions participants were going to take that would better prepare them and their family for proper evacuation (top 3 responses) were:
 - 1) Planning and Preparedness (17)
 - 2) Assemble a To-Go Bag (12)
 - 3) Home Inventory (9)
- 55% of participants indicated that as a result of the presentations and small group discussions, they had a better understanding of the proposal to transition the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities to a new organization within the Nevada Division of Forestry.
- The top 3 responses of what participants liked most about the conference were:
 - 1) Presentations in General (20)
 - 2) Well Organized (7)
 - 3) Mel Holland (private resident, West Washoe Valley) (6)
- The top 3 responses of what participants disliked, and/or want to see changed at future conferences were:
 - 1) Presentations (7)
 - 2) Lunch Presentations (6)
 - 3) Nothing (6)

- The top 3 responses of what topics participants would want addressed at future conferences included:
 - 1) Community Resources (8)
 - 2) Education (7)
 - 3) Rural Communities (3)
- 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 4.8.



Participants heard from a variety of presenters on wildfire evacuation preparation and concerns. They also had opportunities to network and share ideas.



Michelle Medly-Daniel gave a presentation during lunch about the National Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network.



Everyone received an emergency to-go bag, courtesy of State Farm Insurance.

Participant Demographics

Total Number of Participants: 105

Participants by County or State of Residence:

Carson City	16
Clark	1
Douglas	15
Elko	1
Eureka	7
Lyon	6
Mineral	2
Nye	3
Pershing	1
Washoe	48
California	5

Participants by Type or Entity

American Red Cross	5
Belfor Property Restoration	1
Bureau of Land Management - Nevada	1
Carson City CERT	1
Community Representatives (from 21 communities)	30
Douglas County CERT	3
Eureka County Commission	1
Eureka County Firewise Communities	5
FAC Learning Network	1
Fire Department/District (from 9 districts/departments)	16
Fire Department Other (from 6 volunteer or auxiliary departments)	7
Nevada Division of Emergency Management	3
Nevada Division of Forestry	3
Nevada Division of Insurance	1
Nevada Land Trust	2
Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities Advisory Board	8
State Farm Insurance	1
Tahoe Resource Conservation District	1
U.S. Forest Service	1
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension	5
Washoe County CERT	8
Washoe County Regional Animal Services	2



Elwood Miller, Coordinator of The Network, recognized our newest members, including Kathi Delegal and Janet Ouren from ArrowCreek, D. Marie Bresch from Lakeview, and Sue Markert from River Mount Park.



Ryan Shane, Community Protection Coordinator with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), presented the proposal to transition The Network to a new organization within NDF.

Responses to the Evaluation

1) Which category best describes your role at this Conference? (N=64)

Community Partner (Landscape Industry, Builders Association, etc.)	2%
Community Representative or Individual living in a wildfire-prone area	33%
County Representative	8%
Federal, State or Local Agency Representative	6%
Local Fire Department/Fire Protection District Representative	8%
Volunteer Fire Department Representative	9%
<i>Other: CERT, Crescent Valley Firewise, Red Cross, Other, Eureka Firewise, Network Board member, Emergency Management Services</i>	34%

2) Are you currently a member of The Network? (n=57)

Yes 60% No 28% Don't know 12%

3) How did you learn of the Conference? (Check all that apply) (n=72)

Newspaper ad or article	0%
Living With Fire website	17%
The Network Pulse electronic newsletter	22%
Living With Fire staff	24%
Word of mouth	13%
Facebook	1%
Online calendar	0%
Other: CERT	8%
Email	3%
Other: Misc.	9%

4) As a result of participating in this Conference:

a. Do you have a better understanding of how to properly prepare for evacuation ahead of time? (n=56)

Yes 98% No 2%

b. Do you have a better understanding of how to safely and effectively evacuate when asked? (n=56)

Yes 100% No 0%

c. If you are a resident of a wildfire prone area, do you plan to take some sort of action that would better prepare you and your family for proper evacuation? (n=58)

Yes 88%

No 12%

Not Applicable 0%

If "yes," what sort of action?

Planning and Preparedness (17)

- Share info with family.
- Planning for my area.
- Plan an evacuation info meeting in community.
- Empty boxes for packing stuff up.
- Have a plan in place.
- Family evacuation plan.
- Fill holes in current plan.
- Evacuation planning and preparedness.
- Initiate a better plan before the fire starts.
- Layout evacuation route plan.
- Set up meeting location.
- Document evacuation routes.
- Better personal planning immediately.
- Confirm how to reach other if separated.
- Been aware and prepared for 38 years in our area.
- Get a list in order and prepare.
- Make a list.

Assemble a To-Go Bag (12)

- To-Go bag. (3)
- Put together To-Go bags.
- Redo To-Go bag.
- Already have a To-Go bag and supplies packed.
- Purchase AM radio with extra batters.
- Time to put my own To-Go bag and boxes together.
- Pack emergency bag.
- Get To-Go bag together.
- Improve To-Go kit.
- Build To-Go bags.

Home Inventory (9)

- Home inventory. (2)
- Conduct home inventory.
- Photograph home inventory.
- Video and photograph home contents.
- Improve inventory.
- Document house contents better.
- Taking some more pictures of valuables.
- Home inventory video.

Communications (6)

- Set up communication network.
- Develop phone tree.
- Reverse 911.
- Build list of all residents' phone numbers – phone tree.
- Update phone tree.
- Make sure my ham radio is charged.

Store Information Offsite (5)

- Update documents/photos to the cloud.
- Getting safe deposit box.
- Backup to cloud.
- Move stuff to safe deposit box.
- Putting on a thumb drive.

Replace Vents (4)

- Ember resistant vents.
- Fix our vents.
- Replace roof/attic vents.
- Check our house vents.

Hold Community Meeting (3)

- Discussion at town and FD meetings.
- Meetings for interested residents.
- Fire safety meeting in May for community.

Defensible Space (3)

- Defensible space inspections.
- Re-evaluate/increase defensible space.
- Continue to work on defensible space and fuels management.

Conduct Evacuation Drill (3)

- Plan a community wide test evacuation.
- Organize drill.
- Consider community evacuation drill.

Training (2)

- Seminars.
- Complete CERT.

Insurance (2)

- Take a look at your insurance policy.
- Check my homeowners insurance.

Garage Door (2)

- Manual operation of garage door. (2)

Other (6)

- We only have 2 ways out.

Establishing our own FAC.
Update chimney caps.
Stay with Red Cross as a volunteer.
Active member of Eureka Firewise.
St. James-Galena Forest.

d. If your professional responsibilities involve evacuation of communities during wildfire, do you plan to apply some aspect of this conference to your job? (n=57)

Yes 39% No 2% Not Applicable (60%)

If "yes," what aspect?

Communication (7)

Information supplied on evacuation and what it entails. Provide this info to individuals in my area.

Have access to public address system to warn residents.

In prepare – share new ideas with fire safe council and other cohorts.

The importance of communicating with residents on who, what, how, and where of fire evacuation. I learned about other phone application to ALERT citizens.

Help to promote evacuation preparedness information to communities.

We only have two ways out. Discussions at town and fire department meetings.

Public meetings. Duplication and dissemination of checklists.

Education (4)

Assist in education.

Working with communities started ready set go program.

PRIDE.

For the community education.

Evacuation Drill (3)

Encourage more public to practice evac's.

I would like to organize a drill for an at risk community.

Planning for evacuation exercise.

Planning (2)

Improve evacuation plans for neighborhoods.

Planning/prep review of plans, workshops and/or community workshops to build relationships.

Checklist (2)

Share checklist with neighbors.

Checklist for evacuation.

Other (4)

American Red Cross are here to assist and care for all mankind locally,
nationally and international.

Not sure yet.

CERT team member.

Possibly as a board member.

5) As a result of the presentations and small group discussions, do you have a better understanding of the proposal to transition the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities to a new organization within the Nevada Division of Forestry? (n=29)

Yes 55% No 0% Need more information 35% Don't know 10%

Comments regarding the proposal:

Good Response (5)

Good start.

Seems like it needs to happen.

Good information!

Good process!

The presentation was great on a high level.

More Details (4)

Somewhat vague.

Need info/timeline for chapter involvement.

Needs more work.

Need more defined points and guidelines.

Communication (3)

Talk to my neighbors and community partners more. We are all in this together so why not work together.

Orchestrate better. Mix up between groups (cert, red cross, etc.) to encourage diverse perspective.

Please send out the information by way of an article in the Network Pulse electronic newsletter.

Other (2)

We are having trouble getting our Lyon County Fire Department on board, we really don't know how to get around this.

I support the proposal, I question the perception of the public and NDF's latest mishap.

6) What did you like most about the Conference?

Presentations in General (20)

Very informative at a level that makes it understandable at an individual and community level.

That the conference covered various aspects of pre and post event.

The variety of group perspective and their inspiring passion.

The concise time allocated to presenters.

Relevance of most talks.

Meeting together for the training we are given by each speaker.

Educational. (2)

Handouts and Power points.

While I enjoy attending the conference every year and learn so much from the speakers, the personal stories are so touching and make the point of being prepared.

Sourcing from varies backgrounds.

Benefit of personal experiences/perspectives shared by presenters, detail on available resources available to community residents.

Always the speakers.

The programs – speakers – Q & A. Lunch was great.

Specific, detailed information given. Checklists.

All the info.

The variety of info.

Education! And presentations from all the aspects of fire!

Education with good people and friends.

Good speakers – dynamic, knowledgeable.

Well Organized (7)

Well organized, stayed on time/on schedule.

All presenters kept to the time allowed.

Practical information. Stayed on schedule – presentations not overly long.

Very informational.

Location.

Well organized. Clear agenda. Mixed media slides...graphic transitions and photos with text brings topic to life. Real life experience shared.

Large screen. Literature, especially laminated check list. Outstanding food-delicious!

Good audio/visual presentations

Mel Holland (6)

Mel Holland – excellent!

It was great to have a resident that (unfortunately) discuss their personal story of their evacuation.

Mel's presentation was great and informative.

I like the Washoe Valley homeowner's presentation about his experience of NOT evacuating for the fire.

Evacuation story / Mel Holland.

Mel Holland presentation was something that was moving. Great personal experience that can be a real eye opener.

Animal Evacuation (5)

Robert Smith-great information.

Animal rescue information – cohab shelters, living in Washoe, lucky to have free microchipping.

The emergency go kit for your animals was very valuable.

The info from animal control was very helpful.

Good presentation on “animal evacuation”.

Evacuation (5)

How to drill info.

Evacuation lists.

The vast amount of information about organizing events, particularly an evacuation drill.

A lot of practical information about both emergency preparedness – and emergency evacuation.

Its information about evacuations and how they are setup.

Networking with Others (4)

Opportunity to meet and connect with professional and volunteers in the field of public safety.

Expand information with other groups or networks.

Opportunity to meet and interact with others involved with wildfire preparedness.

All the agencies/resources that are available.

Post Fire Restoration (3)

The information on restoration of items after a fire by Balfor.

Belfor info was new to me.

“After the fire”.

Lunch (3)

Breakout Session (2)

Other (9)

I also really liked Ann’s presentation – she is terrific!

Presentation on our new Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities (very excited about this).

The smell of burning wood.

Useful handouts to use for Fire Adapted Community Preparedness Day May 6th.

Always a good way to refresh your knowledge. Maybe we can ask the Emergency Manager/also who is County Manager, Jeff Page, will Lyon County come and speak. Maybe that would help to get Lyon Co on board. Also our Sheriff office. That’s who told us to evacuate – but had nothing set up for us – nothing for us or large animals. Very poor communication to citizens Before during or part.

The kick-in-the-butt to take action.

Nice To-Go bags.

Everything!

Very informative. Being invited as a partner in our community and knowing we are all working together.

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

Presentation (7)

Presentations put on website.

Some presentations were long winded and too many bullet points on the PowerPoint presentations.
Slides with only text that I had in print.
Cannot see screen – print too small-microphone need to be turned up for some speakers.
Contact info on screen for ALL speakers.
A bit too long – See #9 below for breaking up the time) Maybe start later – say 8:30 or 9 am (plan to end mid-afternoon say 3 instead of close to 5).
Not enough time, but really appreciate info presented.

Lunch Presentation (6)

No lecture during lunch.
However, having a lecture during was not great. Lunch should be a time to relax.
Think about no “live” presentation over lunch so conversation and networking can occur.
Having a lecture during lunch.
It would have been nice to have a presentation free lunch.
A little fewer speakers during lunch.

Nothing (6)

Nothing!
Everything was excellent!
None?????????????????
Everything was awesome.
No dislikes.
I liked it all.

Post Fire Restoration (5)

After the fire – Then what long, boring not of any help or use.
Belfor interesting but a little long but very educational.
Could have done w/o property restoration presentation – too technical.
Restoration talk not too relevant/too detailed.
Too much time by presenter Brian Foote.

More Time to Socialize/Network (3)

The lunch was great but needed time to socialize and meet people.
Add more networking.
Encourage more interaction and networking.

Duplication of Material (3)

Presenters covered the same material.
Some duplication (or repetitive) information – (but maybe I needed to hear the same thing in a different way by different people to get it to stick!)
There was a lot of time talking about the same things over and over by most of the speakers.

No Handouts (2)

More handout material to take back to our community. Could have done

w/o property restoration presentation – too technical.
Need more handouts.

More Agency Involvement (2)

I would like to see a few more agencies NDF, law enforcement, dispatchers, airport authority, military.
That our Central Lyon County Fire Department was not in attendance.
Our volunteers were here but I didn't see paid fire fighter staff.

Washoe County Emphasis (2)

See more representation from other areas then Washoe County area.
For us non-Washoe people, some of the info didn't apply.

Other (5)

Topics covered were directed toward communities more than firefighters.
Not enough vendor participation (would like to see more diversity).
It was again chilly in the room.
Lunch was great, as far as the buffet.
Question period after each talk, not bunched.

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

Community Resources (8)

Resources.
Resources (funding) available to individuals/communities.
Community outreach and involvement.
Community outreach for those communities with little funding (volunteers).
How to organize a FAC Chapter.
How best to educate local communities on all of this information.
Grants for related projects.
Organizations that may help older residents with maintaining defensible spaces.

Education (7)

Using volunteers effectively.
How to create a fire safe place in a home.
What materials are used in new home construction that makes those homes more fire safe than older home construction.
How to assist in promoting defensible space resolutions and enforcement.
How to promote community awareness and compliance with adoption.
FEMA's role and participation.
Technology updates (e.g., foam, vents, useful phone apps).

Rural Communities (3)

Small counties like Eureka & Lander Counties.
Wildland fire protection for those of us who live off-grid with cheat-grass and sage brush everywhere.
Look more at local communities.

Evacuation (2)

Maps – current evacuation map for local areas including Nevada and California if available.
Locations of bonafide shelters for people and large animals.

Don't Know (3)

Recent Incidents (2)

More specifics from recent fire events.
Discussing what went wrong with management of that incident and how it was corrected.

Other (8)

Planning.
Evaluations.
After a fire.
The difficulty in engaging all individuals in our community.
This conference was awesome.
Discussion on fire department property triage.
Please provide telephone numbers for presenters on the agenda.
Greater visibility.

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

Program (15)

You might want to cut back on the introductions. I don't think we need to know where the presenters went to school and everyone they know.
Terrific speakers and nice group of people.
Workshops, hands on, incorporate a "doing something" during all the talking. Great information but hard to sit most of the day.
Helpful to have a lot of all the presenters/vendors and their contact detail on one sheet.
More discussion in groups to keep energized throughout the day.
Good participation from attendees.
Better communication skills with the microphone speaking loudly, repeating questions (answers from un mic'd audience members).
The small group activity handled/organized poorly. Let each table explain their concerns.
No Q/A for Ryan Shane.
Don't have speakers during lunch. It's not conducive to us really absorbing what is being spoken.
No lectures during lunch. We need to...
Very well organized, informative, adhered well to schedule, and accommodations/food/beverages greatly appreciated.
Maybe have each speaker talk about one part of a topic.
Before guy – way too long.
Maybe alternate between whole group presentations – and breakout sessions in to smaller groups with some interaction among participants...??? Oh this happened after I wrote about it!

Good Job (10)

Other than #7 (after the fire-long and boring and not of any help or use)
this years conference was great!!
Very well organized and good assortment of speakers.
Great conference! Nice job.
Keep up the wonderful work you have provided every year!
Excellent conference! Timely, great subject “evacuation”.
Great presenters and topics – thank you for all your hard work, scheduling,
interesting speakers.
Great Job.
Great conference.
Great job-interesting still after many years of coming to these conferences.
Great job, again Thank you for having the opportunity to be invited.

Lunch (2)

A simple label or sign at each food served in the buffet that indicates
gluten free would be nice (but delish food) thank you!
Awesome food!

Other (1)

Maybe a raffle prize (donated prizes) in the late afternoon. Must be
present to win – to keep the attendees here! (seemed like ½ the people
or more left after lunch) and more trickled out through the afternoon.
Also I’m not sure how much the Washoe County School District spring
break affected conference attendance. Since I’m a teacher on break I
was able to attend – but I suspect a lot of other people who would have
been interested were not available.

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? (n=55)

1	2	3	4	4.8	5
NO		Somewhat		★	YES

Afternoon Small Group Exercise

The questions and/or concerns that were developed during the afternoon small group exercise have been summarized and grouped together as appropriate by Dr. Elwood Miller, The Network Coordinator, and Ryan Shane, Community Protection Coordinator with NDF.



Representatives from agency partners, communities, career and volunteer fire departments, and The Network Advisory Board worked side by side during the small group exercise.

Question and or Concern	Response
Who is the Nevada Fire Board?	The Network Advisory Board will be reporting to and acting on behalf of the existing Nevada Fire Board, which is a planning and coordination body comprised of representatives from all major wildland fire agencies in Nevada. Official representation on the Fire Board includes fire officials from BLM, USFS, NDF, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association. The Nevada Fire Board has accepted responsibility to oversee the implementation of the Nevada Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy, which was developed and adopted through a collaborative summit held in late 2015. The Nevada Cohesive Strategy has provided the guidance and direction for the transition of The Network from a program of the Cooperative Extension to a new organizational form within NDF.
The who, how, and when, for paid positions for The Network?	Four paid positions are currently proposed for The Network. They include an Executive Coordinator and three regional Community Liaisons. The Executive Coordinator and a single Community Liaison have been initially budgeted for two-year funding from BLM and USFS grants administered by NDF. The first Community Liaison employee will be assigned to NDF's Western Region to capitalize on the greatest amount of membership and Fire Adapted Community (FAC) activity occurring in the State. The Western Region does not include the Lake Tahoe Basin for this purpose.
Where is oversight for ongoing procedures?	Ongoing procedures, program development, and program operations are overseen by two entities. First, The Network Advisory Board is giving guidance and overseeing the setting of policy, procedure, and operations. They will be operating according to accepted policy established in The Network Operating Manual which is currently being developed. The Advisory Board's decisions, operation and support of staff, and execution of the program will also be overseen by the NDF to ensure compliance with grant funding rules and restrictions.
Advisory Board should only give advice and not set precedent.	In its original form, the Advisory Board provided advice and guidance to The Network as a program of Cooperative Extension. Decisions were made by the Living With Fire Program team. In the new organization being developed, the Board will take on a governance and decision-making role for The Network policy and actions, though they are officially considered recommendations to the Executive Coordinator so that there is a check and balance between the authority of NDF and the independent decisions of the Advisory Board. In general, NDF will be honoring all Board action provided it is compliant with legal requirements and state and federal policy.
Who is responsible to put the Advisory Board in action and who elects them?	The Advisory Board is currently in a developmental phase and guided by the Action Plan to create FACs statewide. When the Board's membership has been finalized, officers have been elected, and the operating procedures have been adopted, the

	<p>Board will be fully functional. The Advisory Board will take up action items that are posted in an agenda developed and noticed in accord with Nevada’s open meeting requirements. Requests for specific agenda items can originate from multiple points within and outside of the organization. The original marching orders are set by the FAC Action Plan as a part of the Nevada Cohesive Strategy being overseen by the Nevada Fire Board. The Advisory Board can field issues and take action on items in the form of developing internal operating policies as well as advising program and field operations brought to their attention from any source. Except for community representatives, members of the advisory board are appointed by their representative agencies, organizations or industry sectors. The three regional community representatives are elected by The Network membership in their region. The procedures for voting and elections are currently being written into The Network Operating Manual.</p>
<p>Is approval of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) necessary in order for a Chapter to qualify?</p>	<p>The requirements to achieve membership in The Network in its new form have not been finalized, although securing approval for an updated CWPP is being seriously considered. Local issues, concerns, and priorities are all identified in a CWPP. Officially, CWPP approval requires signatures from the local fire service, the state forestry agency, and local government. Details on CWPP development and approval can be found at: https://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2013/sp1314.pdf</p>
<p>Will there be “getting to know you” meetings?</p>	<p>Multiple methods will be utilized to familiarize citizens from high-fire hazard areas about the new organization and the benefits and obligations of becoming a member. Neighborhood gatherings will be one of ways to do this including both formal and informal meetings. While none are officially planned or set up at this time, a reservation procedure for meetings will be established to assist The Network staff in managing their workload and workflow.</p>
<p>Is there a sustainable source of funding?</p>	<p>No. Currently there are two years of jump start funding from BLM and USFS for the Executive Coordinator and one Community Liaison in NDF’s Western Region. Part of the strategy of the Advisory Board, Co-coordinators (Miller and Shane), and investing agencies is to apply for a Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) grant to fund additional community liaison staff and implement projects as described in approved CWPPs. Additionally, NDF is planning on requesting state funding from the legislature at the 2019 session to support the program staff and possibly project implementation.</p>
<p>Who decides who gets limited funds for fuels reduction activities in the future?</p>	<p>The priority projects identified in the updated and approved CWPPs will have a front and center role. At this juncture, there are only competitive grant awards given by federal programs. Additionally, NDF does not have money in an account from which to award grants. Rather, NDF passes the applications</p>

	<p>from local cooperators to a US Forest Service review committee where the applications compete for limited funds with those from the other 17 Western states. The grant funds are awarded based on specific projects identified in the grant proposals and their ranking when compared to hundreds of other grant requests from other states. To be competitive, our proposals must promise significant impacts, namely to large geographic areas. Consequently, submitting a proposal for a relatively small amount of funding to address one subdivision's wildfire threat reduction needs will not compete successfully. NDF is only allowed to submit approximately 12 applications per year to the Hazardous Fuels-Community Protection and Western State Fire Managers grant programs (http://forestry.nv.gov/grants/). Based on the practices and policies of the USFS grant review teams who determine grant recipients, the ideal situation is for several subdivisions in a geographic area to cooperatively develop a grant proposal that will meet their collective hazard reduction needs. Developing a geographically broader grant proposal will not only produce a stronger more competitive grant proposal, but will lead to higher levels of protection for the communities of Nevada. If a SNPLMA grant is received and/or the State legislature funds a request to support The Network, the Advisory Board will need to develop a transparent, objective way to evaluate funding requests that meet the statutory requirements and policies set by both the funding source and grant fund manager (i.e., NDF).</p>
<p>Are the previous Nevada Fire Safe Council Chapters grandfathered in? What if we want to realign our Chapter?</p>	<p>No. The Nevada Fire Safe Council (NFSC) no longer exists. Cooperative Extension's Living With Fire Program team created The Network to salvage as many of the benefits, processes and outcomes as possible so that some support could continue to be provided to communities. However, it was always understood that this was a temporary move and that at some point The Network would need to transition to a different organization. In its new form, many of the operating procedures and policies that allowed the NFSC to succeed will likely be adopted by The Network. Much of the energy and organization necessary at the community level will stay the same. Qualifications to join The Network in its current form as a Community Member can be found at: http://www.livingwithfire.info/the-network under the how to join tab.</p>
<p>What is timeline for "boots" on the ground, available funds for fuels reduction, etc.?</p>	<p>Communities with updated CWPPs can currently be listed for grant solicitations from NDF. Assuming the CWPP identifies a priority project, and the community in partnership with NDF and the Network, submits a well-written competitive application to the federal programs, funds could be awarded as early as July, 2018. The faster funding becomes available for more Community Liaisons, the faster those staff can assist</p>

	<p>communities to become members of The Network and eligible to compete for fuels reduction funding.</p>
<p>What is timeline and mechanism for individual and community involvement, individual membership and community membership?</p>	<p>The Board will be engaged in resolving these issues in the very near future. Current membership requirements, benefits, and obligations, can be found at http://www.livingwithfire.info/the-network under the how to join tab. Communities can get started now. Things may change in time as membership qualifications and requirements are detailed, but communities should be doing things even when there is not funding to do large scale fuel reduction projects. The more that communities can demonstrate cash or in-kind investments to implement local FAC efforts (e.g. education, defensible space assessments, defensible space implementation, etc.), the more likely the state or federal institutions are going to match those efforts with funding.</p>
<p>What level of activity compared to NFSC can be expected near term?</p>	<p>Limited start-up funds will restrict the initial activity to threatened communities in Northwest Nevada. There is also the need for a trial period to test operational procedures and build partnerships. As problems are solved and sustainable funds are secured, expansion into Southern and Eastern Nevada will follow. All organizations have a period of discovery (i.e., needs determination), planning, trial (i.e., proof of concept), growth (i.e., scaling to meet demand), and adjustment/maintenance. Currently, The Network is in the planning and trial phases much like the NFSC was in the first three years of its inception. Most people remember the last portion of the NFSC's decade long existence which was at the end of its growth period where the services being provided were at their maximum. A similar timeline may be expected for The Network to perform at that level. However, there are no guarantees when the ultimate source of support is financial investments made by political bodies such as Congress and the State Legislature. If sustainability becomes the standard by which all decisions are made by partners, the Advisory Board, and funding sources, The Network will likely grow, and have the long-term capability to provide more services than the NFSC.</p>
<p>Will The Network take on grant application and monitoring responsibilities?</p>	<p>Grant acquisition and management will be a service provided by NDF. The Network will not be managing grants. The Network field staff will help communities become aware of opportunities and develop applications to submit. Grants will be awarded to NDF for the specific projects that were applied for by The Network communities. Implementation will occur through NDF hand crews, State qualified contractors, or sub-grants to qualified entities (e.g. Homeowner Associations, local governments, etc.). Monitoring of the projects could be performed by any of The Network and/or NDF staff, or community partners. Officially, responsibility for administrative oversight rests with the official contracting agent at NDF.</p>

<p>What additional community resources are needed/required?</p>	<p>The benefits and obligations of local community chapters are still under discussion. However, strong local leadership, a sustainable local organization, matching funds or in-kind contributions to secure grant funding, and demonstrated commitment to preparing for wildfire are basic requirements for success.</p>
<p>Government control or perception?</p>	<p>In the Memorandum of Understanding that formally transfers The Network from its current status as a program of Cooperative Extension to a new organizational form, NDF has stated that the decision-making process will be vested in the Advisory Board to the greatest extent possible under current Nevada law. NDF will occupy one seat as a partner on the Board. The Board's functioning will be under leadership elected by Board members. The Network as proposed, is a public/private partnership. It is common for people in communities to desire the receipt of government funds with no strings attached, accountability, or monitoring by the funders. The reality is that there are legal requirements that come with all forms of support, so sideboards set by funding sources are going to control some of the procedures and requirements, decisions or even actions. That is the price tag of being able to receive financial and other forms of support from public entities. There is no agenda by the participating agencies to control people, members, community groups or actions on the ground other than to keep things legal and progressing toward the establishment of as many FACs in Nevada as possible. At times agency professionals experienced in the FAC arena will push for certain decisions to avoid mistakes that could harm or at the least inhibit communities and the organization reach its goals. The desire to be absolutely free of burdens/control set by funding or managing entities is the same approach that was translated into practices and operations that resulted in the failure of the NFSC. Everyone in the organization has a role to play to ensure the sustainability of the organization, including agencies and other partners. The responsibilities and viewpoints of all partners must be respected and not just arbitrarily dismissed for the benefit of expediency or convenience. If there is a desire to minimize control and maximize flexibility, then voluntary actions and local funding sponsorships are the way to go and are encouraged regardless of the availability of federal and state funding sources. Ultimately, The Network and the community members need to honor the partnership model which will require local community members to take responsibility for their decision to live in a fire-prone environment and complete some mitigation measures without the aid of the state or federal government.</p>

What other programs can coordinate with this effort?	Numerous organizations can coordinate and partner with this new effort. These would include all fire services, the insurance industry, county and municipal governments, non-profits, etc.
How will trust and confidence in NDF leadership be earned?	Trust is the glue that will bind the partners, including residents that are threatened by wildfire, and ensure that mutual benefits and obligations are honored. Trust and confidence are earned through records of accomplishment.
Are communities going to support it?	That remains to be seen. We know that the downfall of the NFSC left a huge void of needed support. The new organization is as close as we can get to the really positive attributes of the council.
Will there be local government representation?	Local government representation is proposed in several ways on the Advisory Board. Seats on the Board have been designated for Community Planning/Building Code professionals, the Nevada League of Cities, the Nevada Association of Counties, the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association and the Nevada Association of Firefighters. Additionally, approval of local government is required for the CWPPs which ensures their representation as well.
Can oversight of other organizations deter participation?	Organizational representation on the Board was determined after numerous discussions. Representatives from the organizations identified can provide valuable insight and perspective leading to Board decisions. No one organization, including NDF, will have oversight or dominance over the board.
Will rural communities buy-in?	Rural buy-in will be determined by performance and the employment of a Community Liaison that is known, trusted, and understands the idiosyncrasies of Nevada's rural population.
Not working on rural Nevada yet.	The policies and procedures under discussion will be fundamental to communities in all parts of the Nevada. Limited start-up funding will restrict some initial operational activities to Northwest Nevada partially because that is where the most active group of FACs exists at this time. The Executive Coordinator will be supporting the rest of the state to a limited degree.
How long before rural Nevada receives help?	That depends solely on how fast we learn to do it right and be effective, as well as the ability to increase financial support.
Will there be strings attached to funding?	There are always strings attached to funding. There may be accounting and reporting requirements, match requirements, sensitivity to habitat and watershed resources, etc. Taxpayers, political oversight organizations, special interest groups, and managing agencies all demand accountability of funding expenditures to ensure that the funds are being used according to the laws under which the funds were issued and that the purpose for which the funds were allocated is being pursued.
How would someone get in touch with The	At this point you can get in touch with Elwood Miller, Cooperative Extension. In the very near future the contact will

<p>Network to become involved? Who from community should contact at NDF?</p>	<p>be a newly hired Executive Coordinator working directly for The Network. Anyone who desires to organize a local action group focused on preparing themselves, their homes and the landscape where they live to survive wildfire can initiate the contact.</p>
<p>Is there a newly hired or already in place Executive Coordinator?</p>	<p>Two positions have been identified, one for an Executive Coordinator, and one for a regional Community Liaison. These will be employees of The Network under the direction of the Board. Both positions have been funded and are now clearing administrative requirements to initiate a search. NDF is on schedule to get The Network Executive Coordinator in place by July 2017. It will likely take some time to get that person oriented and productive in the role.</p>
<p>Is there chapter funding for start-up?</p>	<p>Currently, there is no funding available for chapter start up. At the point that funding can be acquired for such tasks, policy and procedures will be established by the Board for distribution.</p>
<p>Can sweat equity be used to match grant dollars?</p>	<p>Yes. Depends on the specifics in the grant. In-kind match is almost always allowed but places responsibility on the community to develop a defensible method of tracking and reporting.</p>
<p>What about resistance to government involvement?</p>	<p>While resistance to government involvement is understandable on one hand, government involvement does bring sustainability which dependability on grant funding does not. As a State agency NDF has gone as far as it can to distance itself and give the new organization and the Board autonomy. See above.</p>
<p>Is this the first of its kind? Are there existing models?</p>	<p>We believe this is the first of its kind. While our search has not been exhaustive, conversations with people in the know on a national level have not revealed anything similar. This is an amalgamation of a few similar models that are working in other states and has been selected by a consensus of the representatives of the Advisory Board, critical stakeholders, and funding agencies. There is confidence that this model represents the best of the NFSC model and fills the gaps that were exposed.</p>
<p>How do we educate ourselves about this process? Do we have access to committee meetings?</p>	<p>There will be articles in The Network Pulse newsletter and Board discussions are open. Advisory Board meetings will be public meetings in the future so communities and members of the public can stay informed by attending or reviewing posted minutes. Please contact Elwood Miller at millere@unce.unr.edu if you would like copies of Advisory Board Meeting minutes. The completion of The Network Operating Manual and the Community Member Manual along with the website and other sources should provide a clear picture of how all of the partners work synergistically to create as many FACs in Nevada as possible.</p>

<p>How will grant dollars get to communities that need it?</p>	<p>Grant funds are currently awarded to specific projects identified as priority projects in a CWPP. The funds are given to NDF from the USFS or BLM. NDF manages the implementation. Applications can include public education materials or other community support efforts which can be sub-granted to the community or expended by NDF to fill the needs identified by the communities (must be within grant authorities). There are some Preparedness Day or other grants available that could come directly from State Farm Insurance Company or others to the communities for community activities.</p>
<p>Is the span of control for the Northwest region too big?</p>	<p>Spans of control have yet to be determined by trial. Northwestern Nevada also has the largest concentration of partnering agency staff that can assist in the process. In addition, the Executive Coordinator will also be housed in Northwestern Nevada and can provide some assistance to that area.</p>