Community Mobilization for Fire Resiliency:
A Starter Kit

Developed through the FireSmart Lake Sonoma Project: A Resilient Community Pilot Project funded by a PG&E Resilient Communities Better Together grant and Sonoma Water

Our intent
Ag Innovations offers two decades of experience guiding hundreds of groups to find creative approaches to the most pressing environmental challenges of our times.

Here we share general guidance on mobilizing communities to build fire resilience.¹ This builds on our success generating community collaboration and action through the FireSmart Lake Sonoma project, and aims to support others to replicate and scale up that model.

Our goal is to support neighbors to design their own approach to collaborate on strengthening fire resilience in their communities.

Fire presents a massive risk to forested landscapes. Individual actions can make a difference to reduce risks. But fire knows no bounds, and a community-wide approach to fire and forest management exponentially increases community resilience in the face of fire. This is especially true in communities where towns are small, parcels are large, and fire risk is high.

We hope this guidance offers a great start, and we invite you to adapt this approach to the unique features of your community.

¹ A note about facilitation: In this document we discuss designing a community engagement process specific to the topic of fire resilience in rural communities. While we do not go into detail here about facilitation principles, we do recommend that skilled facilitators design and lead these activities. Skilled facilitation creates the supportive and focused experience to residents at the center of the discussion, create an enabling environment to strengthen relationships, and connect the dots in discussions to demonstrate how individual action, neighborhood cooperation, and regional-scale impact influence one another..

There are many resources about general principles of facilitation. Examples include:

- Theory U (approach and book)
- Art of Hosting (method, network, trainings; website includes list of additional resources)
Guiding principles
Following are some basic principles that we used in our discussions on mobilizing community residents in the Lake Sonoma watershed includes:

Keep neighborhoods at the center of discussions
We encourage community mobilization processes to seek out residents’ perspectives and concerns continuously. This keeps the discussions practical, and improves the chances of launching conversations that will continue beyond the span of the workshops.

To do this, we encourage you to bring the discussion to the community with listening sessions and site visits.

Hosting ‘listening sessions’ with residents at locations convenient to the community fosters meaningful exchanges of the expertise of residents, technical assistance professionals, and agency representatives. This creates opportunities to bridge perspectives and take conversations to a deeper level.

We encourage combining these sessions with practical site visits on rural residents’ land. Exploring a site together grounds the discussions in the real-life challenges of a land manager, which keeps the conversation practical. It also creates space for informal discussions to take place among residents, agency representatives, and technical assistance professionals. This space for building social connections can be some of the most valuable components of the activities.

Find local champions
Local leaders can give advice on good ways to spread the word in the community. Establishing strong connections with residents who can ‘champion’ their neighborhood and other contacts to come to the workshops will also position an event well for successful turnout. Partnering with interested organizations and highlighting collaboration with them supports community confidence in the activities.

Include these local leaders in some or all of your planning meetings to gain maximum input and buy-in.

Get the word out
The goal of these workshops is to build relationships across whole neighborhoods. To do that, we need to achieve a strong turnout. Most people need to see something many times before they remember it, so we suggest using a wide variety of approaches to really get the word out.

It is important to adapt outreach methods to reach the participants you aim to attract to the event. Think beyond websites and emails lists, and focus on the communication channels that are in strong use in the community. In rural neighborhoods, natural gathering places such as where residents shop, eat, and collect mail can be effective locations to distribute information. Focusing on those places can ensure better attention.

Options for outreach could include:

- mailer to all addresses in the area (see Example 5).
● sandwich boards at specific road intersections that are used as communication centers in the community
● fliers on bulletin boards at local businesses, post offices, etc
● listings and articles in local newsletters
● announcements at local community meetings
● participating in local social events and sharing information informally

Get to know the landscape

We suggest that activity leaders develop a robust understanding of the physical and community landscape before organizing workshops. This tailors the activities to match the community’s needs and interests, which positions the events well for effective long-term impact.

Connect with at least 10 key leaders in the community with a mix of connections to residential and community organizations, as well as technical, regulatory and policy experts. This will be a key time to learn about the fire history and emerging risks for the landscapes, what neighbors have tried, where there frustrations are, and how to frame an event and site visit that will be as useful as possible for them (see Example 6).

● Identify local leaders who can provide the “inside scoop” on opportunities and challenges in the region, who can get the word out about events and get people to show up, bring different groups to the table, and help keep the momentum going after workshops).

● Connect with local and regional technical and policy experts for information on fire history, emerging opportunities and challenges. Invite a few to speak at the listening sessions and site visits, emphasizing that the intent is to deepen neighborhood conversations rather than to give one-way presentations.

● Learn the local organizational landscape: Getting to know the existing networks that thrive in the community will support outreach efforts and provide a foundation for a future long-term next phase of fire resilience discussions and actions.

Identify options for next steps before you begin your workshops

Workshops launch discussions, build relationships, and can shift perspectives. But they need to be framed as just the beginning of a process that would result in long-term success.

Throughout the planning, workshop, and follow-up process, consider how to integrate these activities into a process that leads to practical next steps that the community can take and sustain.
Options for next steps that a workshop could work towards could include compiling a ‘menu of options’ for the community to act on next, collaborating with existing neighborhood organizations act on what the workshop participants recommend, or aiming to launch a FireSafe Council at the conclusion of the workshop.

Identifying champions who will be willing to take leadership roles on solutions that the group identifies can be helpful. Making plans with conveners at the conclusion of workshops to plan follow-up sessions can continue the momentum.

Set the conditions for strong conversations and practical next steps
Prepare consolidated information that position residents to have meaningful conversation. This could include maps that demonstrate fire history and how it relates to specific neighborhoods, parcel sizes and roadsheds.

Design the workshops’ seating arrangement, discussion questions, and interactive activities to ensure that participants were invited to participate fully in discussions. Invite speakers were to share brief presentations with enough information to prompt an informed discussion, and to allow plenty of time for collective brainstorming.

Resource lists such as agency and private sector contacts that can support resident actions will also support success. Examples may include, who to contact for which kind of permit, what vegetation management options are available in the region, options to support vegetation management costs, and who to contact about developing a forest management plan.

Hold space for emotionally challenging topics
These activities will take place in communities that have experienced trauma from fires. Create a container that is sensitive to the personal challenges that these conversations may raise. Hold an awareness of the sensitivity of the topic in how you speak and frame discussions, and provide spaces for people to step away from the group and take a break if needed.

Create interactive, practical and engaging activities
We recommend a day-long combination of a listening session and site visit. This approach combines the opportunity to exchange general concerns and ideas at a listening session, and to apply the issues to a practical landscape.

For the listening session: we suggest a combination of presentations, group discussions, and small group interactions. In our experience it was valuable for the listening sessions to be continuously focused on residents’ perspectives, even with agency participants there and presenting.

A pre-workshop survey is a useful tool to gauge participants’ interests, knowledge levels and specific concerns (see Example 7). This can help you adapt presentations and activities to be as relevant to the participants as possible.

For the site visits: We recommend that the site visit be a large property including a home and surrounding forested land. This type of site enables hands-on explorations of...
home hardening, defensible space, and landscape-scale management options. We suggest inviting participants to examine the site from the perspective of a firefighter.

The field experience creates a comfortable environment for the group to strengthen relationships. Our experience showed that there was never enough time for the informal discussions and relationship-building that emerged.

See sample facilitators’ agenda for examples suggestions of workshop activities (Example 1).

**Make this your own**

We hope that this information support your community’s resilience-building efforts, and that your activities will be the start of a long-term commitment from the community to take continuous action. We will be happy to hear how you build on them to support your own community.

**Resources**

We share here a range of example documents to serve as a practical start for organizing community mobilization workshops around fire resiliency.

- **Example 1**: Facilitator Agenda
- **Example 2**: Meeting Ground Rules
- **Example 3**: Workshop Preparation Tips
- **Example 4**: Participant Agenda
- **Example 5**: Mailer to All Addresses in Neighborhood
- **Example 6**: Stakeholder Interview Questions
- **Example 7**: Pre-Workshop Participant Online RSVP Form and Survey
- **Example 8**: Workshop Sign-in Sheet
- **Example 9**: Shared Definitions and Resources for Action
- **Example 10**: Map with Fire History, Roads and Parcels
- **Example 11**: Post-Workshop Participant Worksheet
- **Example 12**: Meeting Results
Example 1: Facilitator Agenda

FireSmart Workshop: Lake Sonoma Watershed. Facilitator Agenda

Important Links: (add here links to share with participants, or links for facilitators’ preparation and reference. Examples could include the facilitation team’s internal rolling notes and contact information for local organizers)

Meeting Overview

| Date/Time       | Sunday June 2, 2019  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:45am coffee, 8 am start</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Meeting Location: Name and location of meeting space for first half of day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site Visit #1: 1st residence: <em>include name, address</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site Visit #2: 2nd residence: <em>include name, address</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Include additional details below in "logistical information"*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th><strong>Purpose</strong>: Build a fire resilient Hopland, with communities that work together to be fire resilient in their homes, neighborhoods, and on their natural and working lands.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Priority Objectives:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Galvanize community to organize and work together on action that will prepare them for the upcoming fire season, around their home, their neighborhoods, and on their land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Share critical information about home defense, vegetation management and explore neighborhood action on those topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. If enough interest, recruit leadership and build momentum to start a FireSafe Council out of the workshop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mendocino Fire Hazard Map  
http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_mendocino

Additional Objectives:

| 4. Begin a cross-sector discussion (including water, fire, forestry, and community leaders) about what is deeply needed in build fire resiliency at the pace and scale needed. |
| 5. Identify impacts of catastrophic wildfire on source drinking water in your watershed or county. |
| 6. Collectively vision on this questions: what does the future of working together on fire resiliency in this region/watershed/county look like? |
| 7. What actions and organizing are most needed for the Hopland community to meet their fire resiliency needs as neighborhoods/areas and collectively as a |
town? Identify next initiatives/actions needed and ask for leadership to take initiatives forward.

| Roles          | Facilitator - *add name*  
|               | Co-Facilitator - *add name*  
|               | Meeting recorder - *add name*  
|               | Timekeeper - *add name*  
|               | Speakers - *add name(s)*  
|               | Local champion - - *add name(s)*  
| **Message to Attendees in advance** | Please wear hats, closed toed walking shoes, long pants. Do bring your coffee mugs, and breakfast goodies to share with your neighbors. You may wish to have a notebook and pen. Please bring your camp chairs.  
|               | We will send you the address when you RSVP. Please rsvp to: **add rsvp contact information here**  
| **Pre-work**   | **Participant survey**  
| **Follow-Up**  | **Participant worksheet**. Distribute **meeting results** to all attendees; coordinate with meeting conveners about follow-up session  

**Logistics Overview**

| **Participant Count** | 50 people RSVP’d as of 5/25/19  
|                       | Note: need to identify mode of invitation (for example did they receive a mailer, see a poster, etc)  
| **Attendees** |  
| **Room Setup** | Chevron style chairs  
|               | Tables around perimeter  
|               | One table at front for facilitator supplies  
|               | At Fire Station: Whiteboard, Projector, screen  
|               | One table at entry for registration/handouts  
|               | Sign in sheet, ask for best way to contact  
| **Special Needs** |  
| **Food & Bev** | **Identify lunch logistics here**  
| **Maps** | BIG map of watershed  
|           | Map with access roads that is relevant to each of the watersheds  
|           | Mendocino Fire Hazard Map  
|           | [http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_mendocino](http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_mendocino)  
|           | - Map that got everyone’s attention: map with orange, red, vulnerability and roads  


Posters and/or Handouts
- Firesafe Worksheet (55)
- *Shared Definitions Handout* (55)
- Facilitator agenda (4)
- *Sign In sheet* (1)
- Map Handouts
- Directions to Site Visit
- For flip chart: *meeting ground rules*

Talking Points

**Fire sensitivity note**
- Whether you faced direct loss or not, we were all impacted by the fires of 2017.
- Take Care of yourself. There is a small conference room if anyone needs a moment.

Speakers and Experts Available: *(list here the invited speakers who will present, as well as other experts who will be at the event and available as resources when specific questions come up)*

Short agenda:
9:30 Welcome & Introductions
   - Stories from Hopland - what’s our history with fire?
10:00
10:25 Group Activity: What are we doing now, and what do we wish to do in the future?
10:45 Break
11:00 Expert Presentations & Q&A
   - 1) Living with Fire: Tricia Austin, CalFire
   - 2) Stewarding your lands: Mary Mayeda, Mendocino RCD
12:00 Group Discussion: Sustaining the Momentum
12:30 Lunch
1:15 Travel to Site Visit
1:30 Site Visit
3:00 Adjourn

**Detailed Agenda**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>What/Objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Setup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30/15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Convener’s Welcome:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Why fire resiliency is important in Hopland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Hannah Bird</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Terri McCartney</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Imil Ferrara</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Mitch Franklin</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45/10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introductions: Ag Innovations &amp; Sonoma Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Why we are here, what our roles are, why Lake Sonoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- What we did in Lake Sonoma (some results: why, acres, who we learned from, initial next steps.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Guidelines for a good day
  - Including, sensitivity about working with fire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10:00/15 | **Group Introductions:**  
- **Introductions:** Quick round of names and affiliations  
Story telling - Hands raised:  
- You've been here for more than a decade  
- More than three decades  
- If you own your land  
- If you've grazed your land  
- If you've done prescribed burning on your land  
  - When was that? What happened?  
- If you do pile burning  
- If you remember burns from when you were younger  
  - When was that? What happened?  
- How comfortable do you feel with working with fire.  
- How did we get here? Where are we going?  
Rancher with multiple generations | Drawing out the story of Hopland |
| 10:25/20 | **Group Reflection:** (write on 2 post-its)  
- One thing you are doing now  
- One thing you wish you could do OR a key question for today.  
- One concern about wildfire coming to Hopland?  
- Lightning round description (Ask one person to share their postit, others to snap and add theirs if it is similar.)  
- Synthesize themes. |  
| 10:45/15 | Break |  
| 11:00/5-7 | What's it like to fight fire in Hopland? Chief Mitch Franklin  
What will help us help them? | Map of Hopland Area? |
| 11:07/20 | **Presentation:** Cal Fire (15 minutes) (5 min Q&A)  
- Fire Hazard locally  
- What you can do to live effectively with fire here > defensible space | List additional experts available in the room |
| 11:30/35 | **Presentation:** Tools for Forest management, Mendocino RCD (15 min pres, 10 min Q&A)  
10 min - Firesafe Council: What it is, how it could help them, why its important, what does it take to start to one up | Forestry Advisor |
| 12:05 (5) | **Talk to two people sitting near you** (5 minutes):  
- What is one thing you and your neighbors could do together around fire resiliency?  
- What is deeply needed in the Hopland community to build fire resiliency at the pace and scale needed? |  
| 12:10 (15) | **Wrap Up: How do we sustain the momentum?**  
Note - this will be an interactive session designed to help the group move forward on its own outcomes |  

**Is there anyone willing to lead a Fire Safe Council for your neighborhood or “roadshed”?**

*Fill out Worksheet
List of upcoming events > Hopland Prescribed Burning Workshop, will check with others. Talk to Mitch about volunteer firefighting.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15</td>
<td>Travel to Site:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Invite people to introduce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>themselves to someone new</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>while walking.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Invite people to group up by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>neighborhood or roadshed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20</td>
<td><strong>SITE VISIT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site visit and discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purpose: To point out 6 priorities of home defense. <strong>Lay out 6 priorities (Roofs, Vents, 0-5 foot non combustible zone, windows, decks, siding.)</strong> <strong>Discuss what is working and could be improved about each home.</strong> <strong>Tips:</strong> 1) Ask the group what they see that is working, what they see that needs improvement. 2) Walk the group through the 6 priorities, be specific. 3) Take about 20 minutes, then answer questions. 4) Invite other experts there to add what they see. (may split into smaller groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Travel to second site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:05</td>
<td>Second Site Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Closing circle:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Ask group to circle up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Talk to your neighbor: what's</td>
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<td></td>
<td>one thing that you are going to</td>
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<td></td>
<td>do as a result of what you have</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>learned today?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- One word to “sum it all up”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Thank the speakers!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
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</table>
Example 2: Meeting Ground Rules

We recommend beginning each session with a review of the day’s objectives, and a set of ground rules to establish a foundation for how the group interacts. These can be shared verbally, during an introductory presentation, and/or in writing.

We encourage you to design ground rules that will be supportive to your group and the objectives of the workshop.

As a starting point, we share here the set of meeting ground rules that we used to begin the day in the FireSmart project neighborhood workshops:

- We are all in this together
- Suspend certainty
- Be prepared for nuance
- Listen openly
- Share the floor generously
- Take care of yourself
Example 3: Workshop Preparation Tips

Here is a beginning of logistical preparations to consider when organizing a community mobilization workshop for fire resiliency.

Facilitator’s agenda
We highly recommend that workshops be guided by a facilitator, and that facilitators prepare their own version of the agenda as a tool for their use during the meeting. A facilitators’ agenda reflects the content of the participants’ agenda, and includes additional details to support the facilitator’s work during the meeting. For example, it is a useful place to consolidate logistical information, including which handouts to provide, how many copies to bring, and any audio-visual or other technological details that need to be arranged. It also guides the facilitator to keep track of time, frame introductions of speakers, give context for the purpose of each agenda item, have possible questions on-hand to moderate discussions, and have contingency plans of different activities prepared to adapt the activities to the group dynamics. (See Example 1 for a sample facilitator’s agenda.)

Speaker preparation
The facilitator should prepare speakers to match participants’ needs.

For example, speakers should be coached on creating an experience that is casual and emphasizes opportunities for discussions. The workshops are meant to be an exchange of ideas in a group where everyone has useful perspectives to share, not an educational session with a separation between expert/audience.

Speakers should emphasize linkages between individual actions and regional-scale fire resiliency impact, with the facilitator taking a role to clarify the connections between these levels. Invite speakers to share brief presentations with enough information to prompt an informed discussion on fire resiliency, but without going into the detail that approaches being a lecture. Clarify that the purpose of speakers is to set the foundation for meaningful conversations, and experts in the room will be available to provide technical information as needed during discussions. Speakers can be encouraged to convey a personal approach to support residents in their own decision-making, and clarify how residents can be in touch with them.

Speakers may include: Land management and fire experts, and agency representatives that residents would interact with such as Resource Conservation District technical staff, CAL FIRE representatives and permitting officials.

Seating and design
Design the workshops’ seating arrangement, discussion questions, and interactive activities to ensure that participants are invited to participate fully in discussions. Treat participants as experts on equal standing with presenters, and to allow plenty of time for discussion and brainstorming. Make every effort to avoid a speaker-audience dynamic. Cultivate as many local citizen and ‘champion’ chances to lead the discussions as possible. A combination of small group and full-group discussions can be a valuable way to engage everyone in the group, build social connections, and share what we have learned together.
Location
We suggest to host listening session events in a neighborhood at a natural gathering space that the community uses. Holding a series of workshops in localized neighborhoods makes it easier for residents to attend, and emphasizes the community-oriented nature of the activity.

The site visit should take place in a rural location with practical examples of the issues being explored at the listening session - for example, a home on a large forested property.

Timing
Preferences between weekdays, weekends, and time of day varies widely by region and even by neighborhood. Your local leaders and champions are a great resource to help identify a good time for community participation, as it is important to work within the timing that will be convenient for your target participants.

Food
Providing food is a tried and true way to incentivize attendance. It also has great power to make conversations happen during meal and snack breaks, which is a key component of a workshop that aims to strengthen relationships. Potlucks can be a practical and rewarding approach.

Documentation:
- **Handouts/presentations**: Give careful thought to the resources shared to participants at the workshop. It is important to provide substantial information to promote meaningful conversations, but this should be done in a strategic and organized way to prevent information overload. Options of resources to include may be maps of the area that delineate relevant information such as vegetation types, fire history, parcel sizes, and roads; contact information for participants to connect with for next steps of action; post-workshop surveys to gather information and continue to tailor the next steps to what the community needs.
- **Notes**:
  - Assistants to the lead facilitator should take active notes on a board or flip chart to capture in-the-moment key thoughts and comments from participants.
  - Detailed notes should be taken during the event, which will be refined into meeting results. This should be done by someone who is involved in leading the workshop, but is not actively facilitating the activities (it is important to give both facilitators and notetakers the focused concentration needed for those roles). It can be useful keep a set of “rolling notes” for internal use: here you can continuously add new notes to a document that includes all other notes on the same series. This could be a series of internal meetings in which you prepare for an event, as well as a series of events. This practice of consolidating information into a single resource makes it easier to track the many different discussions on the same topic that take place over time. One option is to keep a link to “rolling notes” of all meetings in a series at the beginning of the facilitators’ agenda, so that facilitators have easy access to all past discussions of the event series.
- **Meeting results**: Facilitators should partner with a note-taker to synthesize the event and share the written results with all participants. This will be valuable for the participants to see the results of their input, and also useful for the facilitators to learn from the
discussions when preparing for a related event. Meeting results should include the agenda, the event’s objectives, main points of discussion, any agreed actions or next steps, and the contact information for speakers. Depending on the circumstances, it may also be relevant to share the results publicly or with other stakeholders. Take care to remove sensitive information if this is the case, and share only the presentations that speakers have agreed to be made public.

- **Photos**: Designate one or two people to make a focused effort to take photos during the event, and to compile them into an accessible place such as a shared online folder. It can be especially valuable to take photos that demonstrate something in action, like looking at details of a site or map together, or working collaboratively to solve a challenge. The photos will be useful for including in the meeting results, as well as future communication materials.

- **Calendars**: It can be valuable to use recurring calendar invitations to keep in touch as a team and with collaborators. Having a regular designated time to coordinate is useful for maintaining group momentum.
AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 6, 2018
(include meeting and site visit locations)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Team Welcome &amp; Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Living with Fire in the Lake Sonoma Watershed</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Getting the Local Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Discussion: History of Fire in the area <em>Chief Avila and other fire experts</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:25</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40</td>
<td>Presentation: Tools for Managing Healthy Forests, Healthy Lands <em>Mary Mayeda, Mendocino RCD</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50</td>
<td>Presentation: Defensible Space <em>CAL FIRE</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:05</td>
<td>Q&amp;A Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What would you like to do around fire resiliency?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:25</td>
<td>Group activity: Reflect, Discuss, Capture - Wish List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50</td>
<td>Next Steps in Yorkville and in the Lake Sonoma Watershed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Lunch and prep for Site Visit (address and travel logistics reviewed at meeting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:50</td>
<td>Travel to Site</td>
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Example 5: Mailer to All Addresses in Neighborhood

Dear Neighbor of Lake Sonoma,

Like you, our perspective on fire was forever changed last October. In partnership with you and your neighbors, Ag Innovations and Sonoma Water are organizing a series of workshops about living with fire in the Lake Sonoma Watershed. The workshops - first conceived in Spring 2017 - are being convened with support from the Better Together Resilient Communities Grant from PG&E.

As you are likely aware, your property resides within the Lake Sonoma Watershed. Like much of California, the area is vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. If a fire were to occur here, it could lead to contamination of the region’s drinking water supply, affecting over 600,000 residents. We are committed to working with you on solutions to better protect your home and our primary regional water source.

Have you ever wanted to sit down over a cup of coffee with fire experts? We invite you to do just that over a two-part workshop this summer.

**Yorkville Community Workshop**
*From 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 6 at the Yorkville Community Center (25400 CA-128),* the Anderson Valley Fire Department, Mendocino Resource Conservation District (RCD), Cal Fire and Sonoma Water invite you to share your perspective on the state of fire resilience in the community. What would it take to prepare the Yorkville community to live in a fire-adapted landscape? At noon, we will caravan to a neighbor’s house for **lunch and a site walk led by experts** from the Mendocino RCD and the Fire Department. Please wear sturdy shoes. If you are unable to attend the Yorkville meeting, we encourage you to join neighbors in Geyserville or South/West Lake Sonoma on August 17 or August 28, respectively. **RSVP** for all events to ensure we order you a lunch: (707) 123-1234 or rsvp@youraddresshere.com

**Neighbors Summit**
*From 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18 at Oriental Hall (1000 Highway 128, Geyserville),* we will again bring together the Yorkville community, as well as the landowners and managers of east, south and west Lake Sonoma, and experts from Cal Fire, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ag + Open Space District for a Neighbors Summit. **Working across the watershed**, we will begin to design solutions as a community. Our goal is for all participants to leave with a better understanding of the unique stewardship role they play in keeping our community safe.

Workshops are planned in a two-part series, so we request your participation at both the Community Workshop and the Neighbors Summit.

**Prescribed Burning on Private Lands Workshop**
In addition to our workshops, our friends at the University of California Cooperative Extension are hosting a workshop for landowners and managers on **Prescribed Burning on Private Lands** from 8:00 am - 2:30 pm on Wednesday, August 1 at the Cloverdale Veterans Memorial Building (205 W. 1st Street). To register, visit: [http://ucanr.edu/prescribed burn](http://ucanr.edu/prescribed burn).

As we know, our homes are only as fire smart as the home next door, so please help spread the word to neighbors.

Sincerely,

James Gore, 4th District Supervisor and Sonoma County Water Agency Director, and Genevieve Taylor, Co-Executive Director, Ag Innovations
Example 6: Stakeholder Interview Questions

We recommend reaching out to local leaders among residents and key professionals such as professionals in water management, foresters, the Resource Conservation District, fire officials, and local community organizations such as homeowners’ associations and local groups that are organized along shared roads. Here are some examples of questions to ask to learn more about the community.

Purpose: A courtesy “interview” to inform key community leaders of project, get their input, find out if they have any connections with Lake Sonoma Watershed stakeholders, and frame up expectations for how they stay informed.

Process:
Give them an overview of the project.
Let them know you will be sharing the results of the call with the project team.

Interview Questions for organizations:
1. After hearing about this project, What would be your hopes for this project? Any concerns?
2. Is there anything about working in the Lake Sonoma watershed that you think would be helpful for us to understand?
3. What work, if any, are you currently doing in the Lake Sonoma Watershed that would be relevant?
4. Are there resources in fire, healthy watersheds, or other work that you think would be useful to us?
5. Do you have any connections to the people who live or work in Lake Sonoma Watershed who you think would be open to having an interview with us, and possibly participate in the Innovation Labs?
6. Are there possibilities for collaboration or amplification we should be aware of?
7. Would you like to receive periodic email updates from us on this effort? What’s the best email for that?

DRAFT EMAIL:
Dear Friends,

We are in the pre-planning stages of a project tentatively called “FireSmart Lake Sonoma.” Ag Innovations is partnering with the Sonoma County Water Agency, as the result of a 2017 grant from the Resilient Communities Better Together PG&E program.

We would like to take a little time to talk with you about this project and the people you would suggest be involved. See our one pager attached. Thanks in advance for your time.
Talking Points

WHO
This effort is targeted towards the people who live and work in the Lake Sonoma watershed. This includes public agencies, private landowners, tribes, scientists, and technologists.

WHAT
Our goal is to develop strategic recommendations and collaborative tactical solutions to reduce future catastrophic wildfire risk in the Lake Sonoma watershed through climate resilient forest management practices.

Not only will this effort identify recommendations, it will also produce a collaborative methodology that can be replicated throughout the region and scaled in other geographies.

Our biggest hope is that the group will develop relationships that will serve them in the case of a fire disaster; a commitment to change that will carry the effort forward, and set of recommendations that truly reflects what they think is necessary in the watershed.

WHERE + WHEN
Stakeholders will participate in four progressive innovation labs in the Lake Sonoma area between April-October 2018.

HOW
Innovation labs are dialogue based workshops helping a group create a picture of what they know through uncovering what’s needed in terms of relationships, individual stakes, and codifying future needs on a specific focal issue. Following in early 2019 will be three additional “jump start” mini-labs in high fire risk communities along the Russian River, to jump-start their conversation.

Who we are coordinating with:
1. We are coordinating with the Board of Supervisors, and the Watershed Collaborative, the Office of Recovery and Resilience. (get the name of the standing group Jay mentioned...)
2. We hope to update the Forestry Working group through local participation
3. We will be distributing periodic updates; happy to put you on our distribution list.

Interview questions for individuals:
1. How long have you been in the Lake Sonoma Watershed?
2. What is the significance of the Lake Sonoma watershed, to you? Do you know of its significance to Sonoma and Marin as the supply of drinking water?
3. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important do you think fire is in the landscape from an ecological perspective?
4. What have you already been doing to prepare for fire in this area, if anything? Where are the gaps, or risks, from your perspective, in either preparing or responding to a fire? What are your concerns, if any? Have you been:
   i. A few ideas from FireSafe
   ii. A few ideas about landscape management
5. Where do you think the higher risk areas are? What do you observe about fire risks?
6. How did the firestorm of 2017 impact your thinking about your own fire strategy?
   a. What would you do in the case of a fire? Would you stay? Would you leave? What would you do if you stayed?
7. On a scale of 1 to 10, (not at all = 1, 10 = extremely) how prepared do you feel for a fire on your property in 2018? Is that satisfactory - ie, good enough?
8. On a scale of 1 to 10, (not at all = 1, 10 = extremely) What would you hope that your neighbors would be doing to manage their lands around fire?
9. How interested are you in learning about various forms of landscape management, from traditional native ecological knowledge to CalFire’s?
10. What do you think it would take for this community to be fire resilient? What questions would need to be asked and answered? (NEED DEFINITION)
11. What are the opportunities and potential barriers to collaboration around fire resilience in the Lake Sonoma Watershed?
12. What would you hope to learn or accomplish during the FireSmart workshops?
13. What specific contribution, resource, or area of expertise could we tap into for this effort? Is there info needed to support fire resilience in Lake Sonoma from your perspective: ie, maps, data, socio-cultural info about the area, local collaborators, etc.?
14. Anything else to know about working in this Watershed?
15. What are times of the day and week that are preferable for you to meet for 4-6 hours?
16. How do you best like to be in touch: phone, email? Do you use Facebook to keep in touch? Google drive?
Example 7: Pre-Workshop Participant Online RSVP Form and Survey

This is an example of an online survey to collect RSVP’s for the workshops, as well as background information from the participants. The participants’ replies help shape the content of the workshop, including preparation of the speakers to adapt their presentations to the participants’ backgrounds and interests. Collecting participant contact information in advance also eases the process of creating a participant list for the event, and provides information on the number of attendees to plan for.

RSVP - FireSmart Lake Sonoma Watershed Community Workshops and Neighbors Summit
Thank you for RSVP’ing to join us at one or more of the upcoming workshops where we hope to create a shared understanding and strategy for fire management in the Lake Sonoma Watershed. This is a joint effort from Ag Innovations and the Sonoma County Water Agency, through a grant applied for in May 2017 to the Better Together Resilient Communities program, of PG&E. We hope that you will be able to join one or more of the community workshops, as well as the neighbors summit on September 18.

Please email yourname@yournamehere.org or call (707) 123-1234 with any questions.

1. Your Name *
   Your Email
   What is the name of your affiliation or organization (if applicable)?
   Mailing Address *
   Phone Number
   Are you a support organization, an advisor, or do you live or work within the Lake Sonoma watershed? * Please check all that apply.

   ○ I live within the Lake Sonoma watershed region
   ○ I work within the Lake Sonoma watershed region
   ○ Support organization
   ○ Advisor
   ○ Other:
2. In the interest of making it more possible for your community to self organize, may we include your contact information in a group list of workshop participants? 
Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

RSVP - Which workshop or summit will you be attending?
Workshops will be in a two part series. The first workshop will be specific to geographic community and is for those who live and/or work in the particular area: the Yorkville area, Cloverdale area or South/West Lake Sonoma. Together, we will spend the morning exploring the current state of land management. Next, we will head out to a neighbor’s property for lunch and a site walk, guided by fire experts. We will provide lunch.

Our second workshop will take the form of a Neighbors’ Summit, open to all those across the entire watershed. Working across the watershed, we will begin to create solutions as a community. Our goal is for you to leave with a better understanding of the unique stewardship role you play in keeping the community safe.

Community Workshops and Neighbors’ Summit: *
Please select which of the following workshops and/or neighbors summit you will be attending. Please note that the community workshops are specifically for people who live and/or work in the Lake Sonoma watershed. Please choose the workshop that is closest to the region where you live and/or work. The Neighbors Summit is open to all.
Check all that apply.

- East Lake Sonoma Community Workshop: Friday, August 17. 9AM - 3PM | Geyserville Fire Station, 20975 Geyserville Ave, Geyserville
- South/West Lake Sonoma Community Workshop: Tuesday, August 28. 9AM - 3PM | Lake Sonoma Visitors Center, 3288 Skaggs Springs Rd, Geyserville
- Yorkville Community Workshop: Thursday, September 6. 9AM - 3PM | Yorkville Community Center, 25400 CA-128, Yorkville
- Neighbors Summit - all of the Watershed Invited: Tuesday, September 18. 9AM - 1PM | Oriental Hall, 1000 Highway 128, Geyserville
Will you be attending the lunch and site visit? *
Each community workshop includes two parts: a morning workshop/discussion (9am-12pm) and an afternoon lunch (provided) and site visit (12-3pm). Note: the Neighbors Summit (9am-1pm) does not include lunch or a site visit.
Mark only one oval.

○ Yes, please include me for the lunch and site visit.
○ No, I will only be attending the morning workshop.
○ No, I will only be attending the Neighbors Summit.

If you will be staying for lunch, please list any dietary restrictions.

If you are part of a support organization, we ask that you bring one primary representative and that others come as space is available. Please tell us who your primary rep is, and who you’d like to accompany you. All are welcome to the neighbors summit.

Anything else you would like us to know about your attendance?

Living with fire in the Lake Sonoma Watershed
Below are several questions that will help us gather further information on key concerns, questions and ideas for living with fire in the Lake Sonoma Watershed.

What’s one way that the firestorm of 2017 impacted your thinking about your own fire strategy?

**On a scale of 1 to 10, how prepared do you feel for a fire on your property in 2018?

Is that preparedness satisfactory - ie, good enough? Mark only one oval.

○ Yes, it’s good enough.
○ No, it’s not good enough.
○ I am not sure.

What are the opportunities for collaboration around fire resilience in the Lake Sonoma Watershed?
What are potential barriers to collaboration around fire resilience in the Lake Sonoma Watershed?

Knowing that a discussion on the local impacts of wildfire has the possibility of bringing up sensitive topics and strong emotions, is there anything we can do that would support you in engaging in the topics of the workshops?

Are you open to having a short interview about fire in the Lake Sonoma Watershed? We'd like to talk to a few people in preparation for our workshops. (Applies only to those who live or work in the Lake Sonoma Watershed.) Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- N/A
- Other:
Example 8: Workshop Sign-in Sheet

A hard-copy sign-in sheet supplements the online RSVP form. It does not provide the background information that an online form does, but is a quick and easy way to continue to keep track of the number of participants attending the workshop and retaining their contact information. Having a compilation of all participants’ contact information is important for future activities to continue the group’s momentum.

Hopland Fire Resiliency Community Workshop

SIGN IN - Please print legibly

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<th>NAME &amp; Affiliation (if relevant)</th>
<th>Email (no need to fill this out if you have signed up online)</th>
<th>Phone number</th>
<th>Do you live in or near Hopland? (Yes/No)</th>
<th>May we include your contact information in a group list of workshop participants? (Yes/No)</th>
<th>Would you like to join or lead a FireSafe Council near you? (Join/Lead)</th>
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Example 9: Shared Definitions and Resources for Action

Sample of a workshop handout to:
- Create a common understanding of terms that will be used during discussions, and
- Provide specific list of resources and contact information that participants can use to take action after the workshop.

Lake Sonoma Watershed FireSmart Community Workshop

Key Terms:

- **Fire Dependent**: a plant or ecosystem type that requires fire to persist
- **Fire Adapted**: a plant or ecosystem that has evolved to survive fire
- **Fire Intensity**: the amount of energy/heat released per unit of fireline
- **Fire Severity**: the degree of environmental change caused by a fire
  - *High/Low Intensity does not necessarily equal High/Low Severity*
- **Fire Regime**: historical fire patterns characteristic of an ecosystem. Generalized descriptions of the role of fire in an ecosystem.
- **Fuel**: materials capable of ignition or sustaining combustion (i.e. gasoline, vegetation or duff, paper or other wood products)
- **Wildland–Urban Interface (WUI)**: The zone where structures and other human development meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

What determines historical fire patterns in an ecosystem?
- Climate/weather patterns
- Ignition sources
- Vegetation (fuel)
- Landscape characteristics
- Humans

What is a fire-adapted community?

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group defines a fire adapted community as “a human community consisting of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively planning and taking action to safely coexist with wildland fire.” More fully, a fire adapted community is a knowledgeable, engaged community where actions of residents and agencies in relation to infrastructure, buildings, landscaping and the surrounding ecosystem lessen the need for extensive protection actions and enable the community to safely accept fire as part of the surrounding landscape. Because every community is unique, the steps and strategies they take to improve their wildfire resilience will vary from place to place.
Because all stakeholders share wildfire risk, a fire adapted community strategy stresses that everyone shares responsibility. This includes residents, businesses, policy-makers, land managers and emergency responders, as well as local, state, tribal and federal governments.²

**What are some ways landowners can manage for fire resiliency?**

1. Reduce overgrown trees or brush by mechanical removal or managed grazing (thinning)
2. Prescribed burns (also known as controlled)
3. Improving home survivability (see FireSafe’s Wildfire Adapted Home & Landscape)
   - Priorities for Fire Resistive Construction 1) Roof, 2) vents, 3) five-foot non-combustible zone from house walls, 4) 100 feet of defensible space of modified vegetation zone, 5) windows, 6) decks.
   - Clearly marked address and driveable road so firefighters can find your house
   - The more water you can store, the better for firefighters. Mark water supplies for firefighters
   - Investigate county and agency chipping programs - some are free!
4. Working with NRCS and RCD to create a conservation plan for your woodlands based on the land owner’s objectives for their land, proposing improvements that can be voluntarily implemented on the landscape - contact your local NRCS and RCD offices

**Examples of Working Together to Promote Fire Resiliency**

1. **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**
2. **Prescribed Burn Association (PBA)**

**Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA - 2014) provided communities with a tremendous opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal lands. A **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is developed collaboratively by government representatives with local interested parties; it prioritizes hazardous fuel reduction; and recommends measures communities can take to reduce structure ignitability.**

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan is the most effective way to take advantage of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Additionally, communities with Community Wildfire Protection Plans in place will be given priority for funding of hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out under the auspices of the HFRA. Local wildfire protection plans can take a variety of forms, based on the needs of those involved in their development. They can be as simple or complex as a community desires.

The minimum requirements for a CWPP as described in the HFRA are:

(A) **Collaboration:** A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.

(B) Prioritized Fuel Reduction: A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.

(C) Treatment of Structural Ignitability: A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

**Prescribed Burn Association (PBA)**

*A Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) is a group of local landowners and other concerned citizens that form a partnership to conduct prescribed burns.* PBAs have successfully increased prescribed fire use by landowners and land managers, mainly by making it easier and safer to use prescribed fire. The goal of a PBA is to promote the safe and responsible use of fire in the region through increasing landowner access to education, training, technical support, funding, equipment for burning, and hands-on experience to achieve multiple management objectives. Each PBA is a community-driven organization, operated by private landowners and other local volunteers. Examples of PBA-led activities can include conducting training and workshop events, working to improve prescribed burn laws, tracking prescribed burn activity in the region, and purchasing burn equipment for use by PBA members. Landowners in a PBA are often required to participate in other prescribed burns before the PBA will conduct a burn on their own property.  

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**Ten Basic Rules - Preparing for Winter Following Fire**

1. Keep it undercover. Protect existing plant cover and establish vegetative cover on all bare or disturbed soil and slopes around your home and other property improvements before the winter rains
2. Do not disturb slopes during the rainy season
3. Drainage, drainage, drainage
4. Monitor and maintain all existing and planned runoff, erosion, and sediment control measures before and throughout the rainy season
5. Use emergency/temporary practices such as sandbags, brush & slash, plastic sheeting, and hand dug drainage ditches etc. with extreme caution, professional guidance, or not at all
6. Prune or remove high hazard fire damaged trees capable of falling onto living structures or roads before winter storms
7. There is an increased threat of rock fall in some areas because of damage to vegetation and shallow rocky soils and slopes in affected watersheds
8. Get professional help with design and installation of any temporary or permanent practices to control runoff and/or prevent and erosion problem

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4 “After the Fire”. Sonoma County 2017. Natural Resources Conservation Service - USDA
9. Work with neighboring property owners when determining permanent solutions for drainage and runoff issues - which normally extends beyond property lines
10. Be prepared and don’t stay in your home when it becomes unsafe

**What are practices for resiliency on your property after a fire?**

1. Improve hillside home drainage: consider new flow patterns, attend to gutters and downspouts, direct roof runoff, create curbs and berms on sensitive slopes, lined ditches for road and driveway runoff, proper grading
2. Hydromulching and hydroseeding on areas with 20-60% slopes to prevent erosion and foster revegetation
3. Log erosion and sandbag barriers - also known as contour log felling, log terraces, or terracettes
4. Seeding severely burned sites to reduce erosion, and discourage weed invasion
5. Hand raking or light scarification for areas not efficient or available to machine work, on burned slopes with hydrophobic soil properties that will also be mulched
6. Concrete barrier wall to divert debris flows
7. Contour sandbags on burned slopes with less than 30% original ground cover remaining
8. Runoff diversion, channels and/or dikes to prevent overtopping from storm frequency in burned areas
9. Erosion control mats as protective mulch barrier or soil stabilization
10. Hazardous tree removal
11. Investigate NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service - part of the UCDA) EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) Catastrophic Wildfire Recovery Program - helping with brush management, fencing, conservation cover, woody residue, clearing and snagging, and mulching practice within 18 months of a fire’s occurrence

**Land Management Resources for Landowners**

**Do you want to learn about home preparedness and defensible space?**
Home hardening, defensible space, and fire resistant landscaping:

**Do you want to pile burn?**
Pile Burning is a way for landowners to manage surplus biomass resulting from vegetation management through top-down pile burns. Experts are available to help landowners determine how to conduct pile burns to reduce smoke and create a valuable soil amendment, char.

All pile burns should be coordinated through local fire districts and air districts.

To pile burn in northern Sonoma County:
Consult your local fire district, such as:

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5 “After the Fire”. Sonoma County 2017. Natural Resources Conservation Service - USDA
To pile burn in southern Mendocino County:

- Consult with your local fire district, such as the Anderson Valley Fire District [https://www.andersonvalleyfire.org/services/burn-permits-summer/](https://www.andersonvalleyfire.org/services/burn-permits-summer/)
- Coordinate with the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District [http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd/burning-information.html](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd/burning-information.html)

Additional experts can train landowners on how to conduct pile burns, including:

- Audubon Canyon Ranch’s (ACR) Fire Forward Initiative [https://www.egret.org/fire-forward](https://www.egret.org/fire-forward)
- Sonoma Ecology Center [https://sonomaecologycenter.org](https://sonomaecologycenter.org)

**Do you want to explore doing a prescribed burn?**

_Audubon Canyon Ranch’s (ACR) Fire Forward Initiative_ is working closely with UC Cooperative Extension to bring controlled burns to the landscape in order to reduce catastrophic fire. Ecosystems in this region evolved with fire and have suffered from a century of fire suppression resulting in extreme fuel loading and dense forests of water-stressed trees. This group is working to bring “good” fire back to the landscape in order to restore the landscape and reduce the likelihood of catastrophic fire. Landowners can participate in work parties to manage vegetation and/or prescribed burns under the supervision of a burn boss, fire ecologist, and local fire departments. More information can be found here: [https://www.egret.org/fire-forward](https://www.egret.org/fire-forward)

**Do you want to collaborate with you neighbors around conservation plans or forest management plans?**

_Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)_ such as the Sonoma RCD in Sonoma County and the Mendocino RCD in the northern portion of the watershed can help draft Forest Management Plans (FMPs) for individual landowners or clusters of landowners who work together. While forest management plans are available to individual landowners, FMPs are an excellent tool for facilitating neighborhood collaboration on forest management. Landowners provide input on goals for their properties and work with a registered professional forester to determine management priorities and seek funding for vegetation management on their properties.

**Cost share options**

Landowners can partner with state (CAL FIRE’s California Forest Improvement Program) and federal (USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives)
Program/EQIP) to develop forest management plans and manage vegetation. These cost-share agreements can support mechanical vegetation management practices and prescribed burning to reduce fuel loading. The State of California has ramped up funding for this program to support landowners to get this work done.

Your local Resource Conservation District is a good resource to identify cost-share options for your circumstances.
- In northern Sonoma County, contact the Sonoma RCD here https://sonomarcd.org/
- In Mendocino County, contact the Mendocino RCD here http://mrcrd.org/.

Do you want to graze your lands to help with vegetation management?
UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) can help landowners create grazing management plans for their properties. Landowners provide input on management goals and UCCE staff will visit properties and draft a plan to meet those goals. Groups of landowners may work with UCCE together to plan ways to work together to reduce costs associated with contract grazing operations, fencing, water for livestock, etc. More information is available here: https://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/northern-california-uc-cooperative-extension-advisors-serve-stakeholders/

Local networks to support fire preparedness:
Creating COPE (Communities Organizing to Prepare for Emergencies) groups, Fire Safe Councils, networks to vegetation management equipment, and area phone trees to alert neighbors of fires can support community fire preparedness.
- Resources for COPE: https://srcity.org/461/Citizens-Organized-to-Prepare-for-Emergen
ces.

Helpful Contacts for Creating Fire Resilient Communities in the Lake Sonoma Watershed
1. Jason Wells: Registered Professional Forester, Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD) - jwells@sonomarcd.org; 707-569-1448
2. Caerleon Safford: Executive Coordinator, FireSafe Sonoma - csafford@mcn.org; 707-206-5467
3. Chief Ben Nichols: CAL FIRE Division Chief for the Napa/Sonoma Unit, leads the Vegetation Management Program - ben.nicholls@fire.ca.gov; 707-967-1408
4. Chief Marshall Turbeville: Geyserville Fire Department. Offer to do home defense visits in Sonoma County residences as well as connect people to COPE groups - mturbeville@geyservillefire.com; 707-292-3754
5. Margie Hanselman: started Geyserville COPE group. Contact to to get involved with a local group or start your own - margiehanselman@aol.com; 415-601-8551
Resources for Fire-Adapted Communities

- ReadyforWildfire.org - CAL FIRE’s source
- FireSafe Sonoma County: [http://www.firesafesonoma.org/main/](http://www.firesafesonoma.org/main/)
- FireWise U.S.A.: [https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA](https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA)
- [7 Steps to Starting a COPE Team](https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA) (Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) by Geyserville COPE Team
- Other COPE resources: More resources on COPE and starting your own group are also available on the [Santa Rosa Fire department COPE page](https://www.santarosafire.org/cope).
- "Living in a Fire Adapted Landscape, Priorities for Resilience" [http://www.sonomaoopenspace.org/watershed-collaborative/](http://www.sonomaoopenspace.org/watershed-collaborative/)
- Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network: [https://fireadaptednetwork.org/](https://fireadaptednetwork.org/)
- "Fire Ecology's Lessons for a More Resilient Future,” KQED Article, Bay Area Bites, January 6, 2018
- "After the Fire” - Sonoma County 2017. Natural Resources Conservation Service - USDA
- “8 Lessons for Building Resiliency After the California Wildfires,” Richard Heinberg, City Lab Article, November 1, 2017
Example 10: Map with Fire History, Roads and Parcels

Maps provide a valuable source of learning and discussion in community-mobilization workshops around fire resilience. Many participants appreciate having copies of maps that they used for making notes, and a very large printout of a map can be useful for group discussions. This map demonstrates that there is significant fire history in the area, are many parcels (and many different owners) in the watershed, in particular alongside the roads. This demonstrates that cooperation between neighbors who share roads will be an important component of landscape-scale cooperation in the watershed.

80% of the watershed’s 83,000 acres are privately owned across around 900 parcels and 150 landowners. The high risk of fire distributed on so many parcels with shared roads means cooperation between neighbors is key to the landscape level management that community fire resilience requires.
Example 11: Post-Workshop Participant Worksheet

A post-workshop questionnaire encourages participants to reflect on what they have learned, and supports the workshop organizers to adapt future activities to what the community needs. The results of the worksheet can be organized thematically and shared anonymously in the meeting results so that participants can learn from the group’s learning and reflections.

Thank you for your participation today. We cannot move forward without you. We appreciate your input.

Note: Any information shared will be collected and themed anonymously as part of the results.

WISH LIST
1. Given what you are learning, what is your wish list to do around your property or with your neighbors?

RESOURCES
2. What would you need in terms of resources - whether its extra hands, tools, funding, a plan - in order to make those things happen?

“NO GO’s”
3. Are there any ideas you have heard today that are absolutely a no-go for you? Refer to the handout for reference.

COLLABORATIONS
4. We are exploring interest in collaboration between residents or between residents and public partners. Are you interested in (please circle all that apply):

   1) Prescribed Burn Association (PBA)
   2) Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
   3) Organize by neighborhood, road
      a) This could be through a Fire Safe Council - is that appealing?
4) Organize by community
   a) This could be through a Fire Safe Council - is that appealing?
5) vegetation management/chipping organized/funded by neighborhood
6) drainage and runoff management and erosion control funded by a group
7) collaboration around more grazing in the area
8) talking with RCD or other Forester about setting up a forest management plan
9) response AFTER a fire

5. What other ideas for community collaboration are you interested in exploring?

6. What worked about the workshop today? We are doing other watershed workshops - What would you recommend changing?

Thanks! If you are interested in discussing options for collaboration, please leave your name and email below.

(Optional) Name _________________________________

Email _________________________________
Example 12: Meeting Results
This is an example of meeting documentation to share with neighborhood workshop participants. In our case with shared these by email using the contact information from the online RSVP and the in-person sign-up sheet.

The intent of this ‘meeting results’ document is to summarize the main points of information and discussion, not to provide a word-for-word account of the day.

This example includes a summary of the participants’ responses from the post-workshop worksheet so that the group can learn from the overall themes that emerged in the group from the day’s experience.

The workshop results are a good place to summarize resources to support neighbors’ next steps for action, and any proposed or agreed follow-up activities.

FireSmart Community Workshop Results
Yorkville Community
September 6, 2018 | 9am-3pm | Yorkville Community Center
This workshop was funded by PG&E’s Resilient Community Better Together Grant and by Sonoma Water. A big thank you to the Yorkville Community Benefit Association for hosting!

Meeting Purpose: To understand what the residents of the Lake Sonoma watershed want to do, and don’t want to do, in order to inform collective action on fire resiliency. A worksheet distributed with further resources can be found here.
Meeting Highlights

1. We discussed fire as part of the California ecosystem. The California landscape evolved over a long history of frequent burnings. The native peoples have worked with fire as a tool for land management for centuries. Fewer fires in the area over the last century, significantly less forest thinning and fuels management, along with increased population and climate change, means the future will likely bring bigger and more frequent fires.

2. We learned key considerations in creating an evacuation plan and preparing on red flag days. We learned what healthy forests and landscapes look like; gained strategies for making our homes defensible and managing vegetation on our property. In the afternoon we visited two home sites with fire experts who shared their top recommendations for home defense and forest management.

3. Key takeaways included: Make your own property standalone. Do a little to prepare each year. There was a clear difference between what public agencies could do to protect homes (during a disaster) and what homeowners and landowners should and need to do routinely and proactively. Personal responsibility and pre-planning are key. Vegetation management needs continuous maintenance. We need to work together as neighbors to do land management.

4. Major challenges were: Streamlining permitting processes to expedite action on the ground; evacuation routes on narrow country roads; managing invasive species; better outreach and communication during emergencies.

Objectives

1. Understand what residents and land managers are currently doing and thinking with regards to fire, fire emergency, vegetation management and home defense in the Lake Sonoma Watershed.

2. Help residents understand how fire resilience can protect their homes and their watershed.

3. Develop a shared understanding of the opportunities and barriers to collaboration and living in a fire-adapted watershed.

4. Offer relevant tools and practical suggestions for vegetation management and home defense through a hands-on site visit, while gaining a better understanding of how fire works in the watershed.

Agenda

1. Team Welcome & Introductions: Ag Innovations and Sonoma Water

2. Living with Fire in the Lake Sonoma Watershed
   a. Discussion: Getting the Local Perspective - Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
   b. Discussion: History of Fire in the area - Chief Avila and other fire experts
   c. Presentation: Tools for Managing Healthy Forests, Healthy Lands - Mary Mayeda, Mendocino RCD
   d. Presentation: Defensible Space - Patricia Austin, CAL FIRE

3. Break

4. Closing discussion

5. Lunch and Site Visits
Introductions

Genevieve Taylor, Ag Innovations, began by asking everyone present to share with the group what their hopes and concerns are for the workshop and fire preparedness in their community.

Participant Hopes and Concerns

- Emergency communication: How can emergency services coordinate better for faster outreach and communication?
- Would like to know what to do when you smell smoke
- Old downed wood management
- Managing encroaching or problematic species: poison oak (toxic when aflame), scotch broom
- Organizing homeowner community - organizing by roads
- Coordinating across property lines: risk assessment, fire breaks, open evacuation routes, group funding for management and supplies like community water tank
- Evacuation in emergencies - on one way roads in the country are hazardous
- Streamline prescribed burn process
- Grazing - why isn’t it happening more?
  - Too many predators attacking livestock - Sheep were historic vegetation management but but ranchers are limited in how they can control predators (ie coyote)
  - Sheep: profitability has decreased dramatically
  - Horses: selective about what they eat, not good on hilly landscape, grazing leaves land bare
- Parcel level fire risk assessment and where fire might come from
  - Assume a wildfire would come up Hwy 128
- Simple, practical list of recommended materials (fire-proof tarps, paints etc)
- Expedite state and local changes in regulations to match expediting action and on the ground needs - burning, evacuation routes, tree removal, road grading, encroachment permits
- Strictness of “No burn days” inhibits prescribed burns on amiable burn days
- Shared resources amongst neighbors - pre-planning as a firewise community means better chance of getting a grant
  - MCRCD has funds for shared resources like water tanks
  - YCBA worked with grant opportunities to install water catchment at Community Center
  - Blue Meadow farms worked with MCRCD to install water catchment

Genevieve Taylor - Ag Innovations Executive Director and Senior Facilitator

Presented here are key highlights from Genevieve’s introduction:

- Ag Innovations facilitates collaboration around challenging issues at the intersection of agriculture and natural resources.
- A resilient watershed and healthy forest adapts to fire; a resilient community is also adapted to fire. We are partnering with Sonoma Water in order to support both people and land to work together to become resilient and fire adapted.
- Today’s workshop is designed to gather information to inform future planning.
● A desired outcome from all 4 of the Lake Sonoma workshops is to summarize recommendations for county level regulatory shifts and to direct funding for actions with willing landowners.

● Our hope is that we can set a good foundation for collective action with our partners: SCWA, FireSafe Sonoma, CAL FIRE, RCDs and local fire departments.

Anne Crealock - Sonoma Water (SCWA) Senior Environmental Specialist
What follows is a summary of the highlights of Sonoma Water’s presentation. Please see the full slide presentation from Anne here.

Sonoma Water (Sonoma County Water Agency - SCWA) is committed to working together to protect our water supplies and help make our watersheds more resilient to wildfire.

● Sonoma Water supplies water to over 600,000 people. Most of the water we rely upon is stored in Lake Sonoma.

● The Lake Sonoma Watershed includes 83,000 acres, most of which are privately owned.

● With changing climate events, the probability of the Lake Sonoma region experiencing a catastrophic wildfire is two or more times higher than in previous decades.
  ○ A catastrophic wildfire within the watershed region could result in a range of negative consequences including: more runoff, potential for landslides, impacts to water quality, impacts to habitat downstream of the dam, impacts to reservoir operations and impacts to water supply.

● As a water provider we need to think outside the box and be open to exploring options outside our traditional roles.

● Sonoma Water is now engaged in a number of initiatives and partnerships to create a more fire resilient Lake Sonoma Watershed and beyond.
  ○ FireSmart Lake Sonoma is one initiative centered on supporting residents and land managers in the watershed.

Dialogue Guidelines
Genevieve presented the following guidelines as the group entered into the discussions and presentations for the day.

1. We are all in this together
2. Suspend certainty
3. Be prepared for nuance
4. Listen openly
5. Share the floor generously
6. Take care of yourself
Living with Fire in the Lake Sonoma Watershed

Discussion: CA’s Native Fire History - Nina Hapner, Director of Environmental Planning for Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria

What follows are highlights from the discussion with Nina Hapner.

- Kashia Band tribal lands run from Salmon Creek to Bodega and Gualala
- We live in a fire evolved ecosystem where many plants have evolved with fire - ie Chamise chaparral (Adenostoma fasciculatum) evolved to burn every 5-10 years.
- Fire is a tool used historically for centuries by native peoples.
- When settlers came to California they stopped tribal burning.
- Selective burning by the indigenous peoples provided nutrient cycles for food and fiber plants (such as Oaks, Hazelnuts etc)
- Benefits of selective burning of undergrowth:
  - allows other grasses and game to move through
  - improves health of food/fiber plants
  - Controls pests
- Today many native plants that are adapted for fire are suppressed because other plants have entered the ecosystem.
- Today there is lots of fuel loading on tribal lands that we’re trying to manage.
- Burns today: Tribe is required to have a BIA fire boss onsite and a burn plan onsite for any burn we do.
- Timber Harvest Plans are expensive - Trying to do it collectively with multiple landowners
- Biggest obstacle for tribe: learning how to work through bureaucratic roadblocks. Tribe must follow federal rules but they don’t always talk to state authorities.
- Tribe received rain catchment tanks under Prop 1 funds in Gualala River watershed. Kathleen Morgan is our Prop 1 contact in the Gualala River watershed.

Discussion: History of Fire in the Area and CAL FIRE and Anderson Valley Fire Department’s Role - Chief Andres Avila, Anderson Valley Fire Department; Captain Anthony Massuco, CAL FIRE; Colin Wilson, former Anderson Valley Fire Chief and Co-founder of the FireSafe Council

What follows are highlights from the discussion.

CAL FIRE (formally CDF) has jurisdiction of wildfire and the responsibility of public resources in state areas. CAL FIRE works closely with local fire agencies. It is primarily a fire department that suppresses wildfire.

Fire History

- 1997: Cooley Ranch fire
- 2008: Area fires grew so big because it was the last to order and receive resources
  - Only 2 structures lost - testament to the management of resources received
- Many things have changed
  - CAL Fire has expanded greatly
  - Air resources (via planes) for suppression greatly expanded
  - Better roads
  - More people means more starts but also earlier recognition of ignition starts
  - Climate change: probability of bigger, faster, hotter fires much greater
- Relatively gentle fire history experienced in past. Future will bring bigger and possibly more frequent fires

**Do not depend on any kind of bureaucratic processes for preparedness:** federal, state or county
- Ends up being much more expensive
- Look to your own property and make it standalone
  - Do a little to prepare each year

**Local fire capabilities cannot be relied upon alone:** If a local fire grew big, local CAL FIRE and fire department does not have enough engines to meet the needs of every home - air resources would be the biggest suppression resource.

**Ignition Starts**
- Fire severity maps show one perspective but daily weather conditions will change what will actually happen on the ground
- Fire travels the path of least resistance
- Always need to look at local evolving conditions - what the season, weather and wind patterns
- Creek drainages (fire department calls drainages “chimneys”) mean more brush and higher wind funneling into channels
- Prescribed Burn Season: Fall (depending on conditions) until April 30
- 2017 causes of ignition statistics during burn season:
  - lightning - 3%
  - Cigarettes - 1%
  - Debris burning - 21%
- Most Ignitions are around communities, highway and human ignitions
  - Controlled burning - debris burning
  - Car and structure fires
- Community notification on “Burn days” - about air quality conditions NOT about safe prescribed burn conditions. Often “burn days” may be ok for air quality but are actually high wind days and not ideal for prescribed burns - these notifications not issued by CAL FIRE

**Evacuation routes**
- Pre-plan multiple options for ingress (entrance) and egress (exit)
- Look at your specific location and think about nuances.
- Consider the landscape and topographical hazards when deciding on a route.
- Safe areas for shelter if evacuation is not possible: Find area with low fuel - tilled area, pond, area large enough for everyone, terrain (lower, not on mid-slope where fire could easily travel)
• Ham radio operators - communication when cell service and electricity aren’t working

What are some things we can do to prepare while under fire advisory or red flag days?
• Get a battery powered radio
• Remove flammable material from around the house - no plastic or wood
• Remove light drapery around single paned windows
• Trim shrubs so embers can’t reach roof
• Clear debris from roof and gutters

What is the effect of PCB toxicity in our water supply after a wildfire?
Barbara A. Lee, Director of California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and Yorkville member, was present at the workshop and spoke to this topic:
• Department of Toxic Substances Control does much of the hazmat removal after fires.
• Much of the toxicity is from household hazardous waste (cleaning supplies, plastics, paints etc).
• PCBs are found industrially in manufacturing but also occur naturally.
• Fires leave PCBs behind after burning even in wildfire. The amount left behind varies.
• The intensity of the fire means more PCBs entering soil.
• Repeated fires in same area can mean PCB build-up which will affect water quality.

Presentation: Tools for Managing Healthy Forests, Healthy Lands - Mary Mayeda, Registered Professional Forest, Forest Program Manager Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD)
What follows are highlights from Mary’s presentation. You can view the full slide presentation from Mary Mayeda here.

RCDs: are non-regulatory, special districts. Provide assistance to communities to manage lands. Rely on partnerships with landowners, tribes, conservation organizations, other RCDs and local, state and federal agencies.

Fire is a natural and essential part of the California ecosystem
• Low intensity fires burned millions of acres per year historically

What is a “healthy landscape”?
• Diverse landscape to better withstand disturbance
  ○ grasslands/range
  ○ chaparral
  ○ forests

Healthy Forests
● Healthy Forests = fire resilient
● We’ve allowed too many trees to grow as well as too much smaller low growth for fires to burn
  ○ Dense growth of mid-sized trees become ladder fuels for fire to reach crown. Thinning drops fire to the ground.
  ○ Historic oak woodlands becoming overcrowded with brush and conifers which grow taller and bigger
● Forest Management Practices - "Let the forest breathe"
  ○ Shaded Fuel Breaks: thinning in strategic areas along roads, bridges, game trails to shift fire behavior as it approaches fuel break. At least 200 feet wide - the bigger the break the better
  ○ Stand improvement thinning: taking out suppressed small trees, leave biggest trees with healthy crowns - move from many small stands to fewer large stems widely spaced
  ○ Oak woodland restoration: Oak woodlands are biodiversity hotspots. Remove conifers while still until 4” in diameter to allow deciduous oaks to expand.
    ■ Nina Hapner: Tanoak, called Chikale, “Beautiful tree,” by the Pomo, has been a very important food staple in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties for the native peoples. When cut back they will resprout with many bushy stems. Management might look like keeping the tall Tanoaks but removing the brushy Tanoaks so as to maintain the population without creating lots of overgrowth.
    ○ Consider creating a Forest Management Plan or a Non-industrial Timber Harvest Plan

Rangeland and Chaparral
● Require fire, otherwise chaparral can become invasive with a buildup of fuel.
● Best management practice is prescribed burns
● Broom (scotch and french) is very flammable - high oils. Not controlled by fire as seeds are fire activated. Remove manually before it releases its seeds.
● Grazing is another management practice. Different animals have different effects - ie goats are good for management of brush.

Vegetation management is continuous: Maintenance is key! "This is not a one and done."

Call to Action: Tools to Help You Get it Done
Cost Share Programs:
● EQIP - Feds - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS) - aimed at covering 50% of the cost of a project. Flat dollar rate per acre for the type of work you are implementing.
  ○ See this EQIP brochure for general information about range of services they fund
  ○ See this EQIP Forestland fact sheet for more information on the forestland management program in Mendocino County
● CFIP - California Forest Improvement Program (CAL FIRE) - for forest management - RPF required
  ○ See this CFIP fact sheet for more information
● Both require a management plan, which your local RCD can prepare for your property or for a group of properties.
● These cost share programs will reimburse you for a portion of the cost of land management projects such as thinning or chipping. They’ll come and check that you did the work to their specifications and send a check.

Rx Burn Help - all need air quality management permits (smoke management permits):
● VMP - Vegetation Management Program (CAL FIRE) - for multiple properties
  ○ See this VMP fact sheet for more information
● PBA - Prescribed Burn Association - great approach to fire management through collaboration with 20-30 of your neighbors.
  ○ See this article on the value of forming a PBA for further information
  ○ Cooperative led by Lenya Quinn Davidson from Humboldt County is doing a pilot and there is real interest in creating PBAs elsewhere in California.
● Organize with your neighbors and look at the landscape level when thinking about prescribed burning and land management.

Technical Assistance:
● Consulting Registered Professional Foresters (RPF)
  ○ Foresters have a multi-disciplinary education - fire ecology and systems - manage the landscapes for public and habitat objectives; we identify objectives and manage lands to meet them.
  ○ See CAL FIRE’s website for a list of Registered Professional Foresters and Certified Rangeland Managers
● Resource Conservation District (RCD)
  ○ Resource Conservation Districts are liaisons between landowners and best management practices - are up to date with soil quality and health for rangelands and vineyards. RCDs help landowners meet their land management goals.
● Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)- USDA NRCS provides technical advice and assistance and cost-share programs for land management practices. Through cooperative agreement with NRCS, your local RCD provides technical advice and assistance directly to landowners and can direct you to NRCS services and other funding opportunities.
● These entities have a foundational mission of providing free advice and technical assistance. They can all help you create a Forest Management Plan, which will help you manage your property based on your goals in a range of areas including managing for fire.
Creating defensible space is essential for saving your home AND providing a place for CAL FIRE to make a stand during fire. **A home can be fuel for the fire, or where you make a stand!**

**Creating defensible space**
- Display address: minimum 4” reflective
  - See [this handout on signage from Mendocino County FireSafe Council](#)
- Bare minimal soil within 5ft of structures
- Managed or irrigated landscape 100 feet around home or to property line
- Trees trimmed 6-8 ft up and sparsely spread
- Keep flammable materials out from under decks and away from structures
- 10ft of bare mineral soil around liquid propane tank and another 10ft of no burnable vegetation
- Remove leaves, needles or vegetation from roofs and gutters. Screen gutters to keep debris out.
- Woodpiles stored away from structures

**Home Hardening**
- Home hardening construction: [UC Extension Home Hardening Publication](#)
- See also [CAL FIRE’s home preparedness website](#)

**Local Resources and Beyond**
- Building water tender to be housed at YCBA - still raising funds for this
- Former Chief Colin Wilson (707-894-4329; colinhwilson@outlook.com) offers consulting on fire adapted homes and properties to groups - does group home visits

**Emergency Communications**
- **Sign up for the online notification system**: go to [Mendocino County Citizens Alert Notification System](#)
- Nixle was text only notification system. Everbridge is a new broader notification system.
- **Broadcastify** - to receive local fire and public safety notification frequencies

**FireSafe Councils - Mendocino County**
- Create local FireSafe councils - identify priority topics and pick one to address per meeting
Online Resources
- ReadyForWildfire.org - CAL FIRE’s 3 part guide: Ready, Set, Go
- Fire.ca.gov - CAL FIRE’s website, which includes factsheets on a range of topics from debris pile burning to evacuation route planning

Site Visits
Site Visit #1 - (rural property near Yorkville)
Property is 40 acres. Kay Jablonski and her husband have owned it since 1983.

Goals of homeowners
- Create water storage and clearly label: installed catchment system that drains from gutters to cement tank and then pumped to 5 storage tanks fitted for fire hoses.
- Self sufficiency in case of a fire: installed a 7,000 Kilowatt generator in case of power loss in the event of a fire. Generator is stored in a fire safe home equipped with roof sprinklers.

Home recommendations from the fire experts
- Provide a clear house address - with reflection and large print
- Label, mark all water sources, pressure
- Clear any vegetation overhanging the roof
- Create better fire breaks along driveway
- Provide fire hose fittings on water tanks: National hose thread - 1.5-2.5"

Site Visit #2 - (rural property near Yorkville)
26-acre property. Kathy Borst and her husband have owned the property for 26 years.

Goals of homeowners
- Create a beautiful living space
- Provide water (in-ground pool) both for recreation and in case of fire
- Grow much of their own food

Home recommendations from the fire experts
- Remove wood chip mulch from anywhere around house
- Clearly mark water sources, like sprinklers for firefighters - ideal signage is blue with reflection. Simple “H2O” or “FIRE WATER” marking the path to the water source is very helpful.
- Clear debris from roof and gutters on a regular basis
- Homeowners have already provided screens over their gutters which is great.
- Understory vegetation thinning - Tan Oaks, which resprout. There are two options to working with plants that resprout:
  - Herbicide: applied in large enough quantities that you would need to hire a professional. One or two time application.
  - Continuous manual thinning
Can apply for an EQIP or CFIP cost share grant to help with either

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**Individual Reflection: Worksheets**

*Participants took some time to reflect on what they had learned, and what they would recommend, and what they were interested in participating in.*

**NUMBER OF WORKSHEETS TALLIED: 18 + 1 comment card**

**WISH LIST**

1. Given what you are learning, what is your wish list to do around your property with your neighbors?
   - Increase my defensible space even further
   - Cut more along roads for fuel breaks and fire personnel access
   - Limb lower tree branches higher
   - We need a list of “fire hydrants” on Hulburt Ranch of tanks on other properties
   - Fire evacuation plans - 11
   - List of neighbor resources (water trucks, fire hoses, tractors, animal trailers)
   - List of frequencies for CalFire and local fire departments (they said they can’t give this out)
   - PBAs
   - Firesafe- HOA
   - Develop buying program for shared equipment - hoses, pumps, fittings, etc.
   - Another road out of Hulbert Ranch. Who could build a firebreak that could be an escape break?
   - Help getting the trees of the side of Hulbert Road. Can we get help with funding?
   - Shaded fire breaks with neighbors
   - Defensible space, thin dead trees and firs
   - Meet with neighbors (a few miles away) about fire prevention we can do together.
   - Form informal Elkhorn Road Association
   - DIYFD- Do it yourself fire department
   - Organize road associations specifically for fire safe assets
   - Shared water Tank(s)
   - Specific evaluation of my home by CAL FIRE
   - Can we put up a fire camera in our area?
   - Scotch Broom and other brush removal
   - Help with prescribed burns (training, permitting, etc.)
   - Form a road association for working with fire safety issues
   - Vegetation management
   - Defensible space
   - Neighborhood planning
   - Organize the road association to create shade breaks along the shared road (10 miles!)
   - Fuel breaks
• fire roads
• water storage
• Reduced fuel load
• Communication system
• Develop a multi-prong strategy for both prevention and fevense - around key structures and ag resources (vineyards/olives)
• Identify and implement fuel reduction alternatives
• Coordinate with neighbors for safety and resilience
• We need to remove old Monterey Pines (planted in 1970) along our property line fronting on 128. At least 6-8 large dying trees
• Home hardening strategies
• Basic maintenance advised by your materials
• Create stronger network around area - Pomo Tierra
• Network through whole watershed for communication
• Open range grazing with predator control for steep lands - goat or sheep
  1.) ON our own:
    ○ Eradicate long-accumulated Scotch Broom
    ○ Thin/eradicate small/medium firs that are choking old trees
    ○ Remove dead/downed trees
  2.) With our neighbors (ideally):
    ○ Develop a coordinated multi-property fire break(s)

RESOURCES

2. What would you need in terms of resources - whether its extra hands, tools, funding, a plan - in order to make those things happen?
• Buy-in
• Shared cost
• Agency help with removing large pines
• Extra hands and strong workers - 11
• Funding- 11111
  ○ All work related to eradicating Scotch Broom and firs is labor intensive and machinery rentals
  ○ Fencing for grazing
  ○ For thinning
  ○ For labor
  ○ What to do with thinned area debris?
• A plan
• Tools
• Cooperation/equipment
• More education
• Cooperate with neighbors to clear Scotch Broom
• Inspection by CAL FIRE/local FD
• Advice on water resources
• Relieve regulation issues
● Help ($ & hands) to reduce fuel loads on steep hillsides whether by removal or prescribed burn
● Information and guidance on plan development and prioritization of strategies
● Grant support for higher cost strategies (or other cost mitigation)
● Guidance/support for coordinated strategies
● More practical hands on info about burns and removing cut brush
● Better emergency communication
● Investigate local radio, ham radios, and electric suppliers to give us critical info when a fire starts

“NO GO’s”

3. Are there any ideas you have heard today that are absolutely a no-go for you? Refer to the handout for reference.
   ● Prescribed burn - 111 (but open to professional input) - worried about this
   ● Prescribed burn without fire personnel
   ● Round-up used by who and when?
   ● We have to do them but 21% of local fires are started by these pile burns (added: in Yorkville) - why do we do them without an expert being there and information going out to local populations. Very scary to see burns last fall. We need to inform the populations

COLLABORATIONS

4. We are exploring interest in collaboration between residents or between residents and public partners. Are you interested in (please circle all that apply):

   1. **Prescribed Burn Association (PBA)** --9
   2. **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** --8
   3. **Organize by neighborhood, road** --10
      a. This could be through a FireSafe Council - appealing? -3 marked specifically (YES, best to allow close collaboration)
   4. **Organize by community** - 9
      a. This could be through a FireSafe Council - appealing? -2 marked specifically
   5. **Vegetation management/chipping organized/funded by neighborhood** - 10 (1 said chipping especially)
   6. Drainage and runoff management and erosion control funded by a group-4
   7. Collaboration around more grazing in the area-3
   8. **Talking with RCD of other Forester about setting up a forest management plan** - 8
   9. Response AFTER a fire -6

5. What other ideas for community collaboration are you interested in exploring?
• The need for communication during an emergency
• Coordinated with multi-property fire breaks
  ○ Risk Assessment: where is fire most likely to come from
  ○ Resources: how to coordinate and/or fund required work to create fire breaks
• Get info from UC cooperative extension fire advisor
• Cooperative grazing
• Yorkville Community Benefit Association is willing to host/organize a community fire-safe organization
• Communication planning
• Regular local fire safety meetings
• Encouragement to get involved in climate change on a bigger scale/local and government