



Cultivating Resilient Landscapes and Communities



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Wildfire Resilience Week

Empowering Communities to Take Preventative Action

The 2nd annual 'Wildfire Resilience Week' returns to the Eastern Sierra May 30 through June 8!

In partnership with Mono and Inyo counties, Whitebark Institute will be hosting a week-long series of events across the Eastern Sierra to help cultivate wildfire resilient communities using effective wildfire risk-reduction strategies.

Our goal is to equip residents with realistic and actionable steps to protect themselves and their homes from wildfires, while at the same time, fostering collective action within the community and region. Through this process, Eastern Sierra residents and guests can gain a deeper understanding of how our built and natural environments can thrive alongside wildfire. It is our responsibility to practice good stewardship of local landscapes, prevent accidental ignitions, and prepare our homes from the threat of wildfire.

The events during Wildfire Resilience Week offer a diverse range of opportunities for engagement and education, both in person and online. From informative discussions to hands-on demonstrations, there is something for everyone interested in learning the most effective and pragmatic ways to safeguard local communities against the threat of wildfires.

Residents, visitors, community members, and local leadership are encouraged to participate in as many events as possible to gain a comprehensive understanding of wildfire resilience strategies and to connect with fellow residents and experts in the field. For more details, visit WhitebarkInstitute.org/Events2024

ABOUT WHITEBARK INSTITUTE

Whitebark Institute is a nonprofit organization focused on improving the health of Eastern Sierra forests, surrounding landscapes and communities to ensure they can adapt and flourish in response to future wildfires and other impacts of our changing climate. Our expertise includes project development, partner coordination & collaboration, environmental planning, project implementation, community outreach, education, workforce development, and capacity planning. This breadth of work allows us to approach the wide range of opportunities and challenges for projects at both a local and landscape scale and to catalyze communities, partners, and local and federal agencies to get work done now in order to create a resilient future for Eastern Sierra communities and the landscapes that surround them.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 30, 8:30-9:30 am: Fire Resilience & Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project Updates
Location: Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Community Coffee online presentation
Join Whitebark Institute for an update on the latest developments about fire resilience efforts in our region.
<https://business.mammothlakeschamber.org/events/details/community-coffee-05-30-2024-1859>

May 30, 6:30-7:30 pm: Science on Tap Speaker Series with Marc Meyer, PhD
Location: Mountain Rambler Brewery, Bishop
Marc Meyer, Inyo National Forest's Southern Sierra Province Ecologist, will lead an engaging discussion about the facts and fiction of landscape treatments.

May 31, 5:30-7:30 pm: North Inyo County Firewise USA
Location: Mustang Mesa
Participate in community resource mapping with the Bureau of Land Management and a wildfire response demonstration with CalFire. Connect with new neighbors as Beth Burnam, the Eastern Sierra Regional Firewise Coordinator, explains how Firewise practices can make your community more resilient to wildfires.

June 4, 5:30-7:30 pm: South Inyo County Community Wildfire Preparedness
Location: Lone Pine
UCCE Advisor Yana Valachovic will explain wildfire preparedness strategies tailored to the unique challenges of South Inyo County and gain hands-on wildfire mitigation techniques at a demonstration home.

June 4, 6:30-8:30 pm: Embers & Ales Wildfire Trivia Night
Location: Mammoth Brewing Company Brewer's Hall
Grab your crew, have a brew and learn something new! Test your knowledge about wildfire resilience while enjoying a refreshing beverage and having an opportunity to win great prizes.

June 5, 5:30-7:30 pm: Wildfire Mitigation Demonstration Home
Location: Long Valley Fire Department
Join Beth Burnam, the Eastern Sierra Regional Firewise Coordinator, and get hands-on experience with wildfire mitigation techniques at a demonstration home in Crowley.

June 6, 5:30-7:30 pm: North Mono County Firewise USA
Location: Bridgeport Fire Department
Discover how Firewise practices can protect your community in North Mono County with the Eastern Sierra Regional Firewise Coordinator, Beth Burnam.

June 7, 12-1 pm: The Future of Wildfire Insurance
Online Lunch & Learn webinar and In-person at Mammoth Lakes Library
UCCE Advisor Yana Valachovic will lead a discussion to help residents gain insights into the evolving landscape of wildfire insurance and how it impacts homeowners.
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79188196836?pwd=mZgMTSnFDVGL6av0B91yapRw.1> Passcode: 8Q5dZn

June 8, 10am-1pm: Forest Health & Firewise E-Bike Tour
Location: Mammoth Lakes Library
Learn more about ecological forest health and Firewise practices on an e-bike tour to fuel reduction treatment sites and a demonstration home.
<https://www.highsierraenergy.org/mono-county-sustainability-series-2024>

WHAT IS FIREWISE USA?

“The national Firewise USA® recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. Any community that meets a set of voluntary criteria on an annual basis and retains an “In Good Standing Status” may identify itself as being a Firewise® Site ... The Firewise USA® program is administered by NFPA® and is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.”

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

GUEST SPEAKERS

Yana Valachovic is the County Director / Forest Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. She is a registered professional forester and forest scientist whose skills and interests cover a broad set of natural resource fields. She is currently the co-lead of the Northern California region of the California Fire Science Consortium and is a founding steering committee member of the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council. She is best known for her work in wildfire mitigation and resilience, however, her research has also covered the ecology of conifer and oak ecosystems, management of forest pathogens, the effects of forest management on redwood lumber durability, the water demands of forest densification, impacts of code changes on wildfire building performance, and the sociological aspects of cannabis production.

Beth Burnam is CalFire’s Regional Firewise Coordinator for Mono and Inyo counties in the Eastern Sierra and is considered a pioneer in organizing communities to be wildfire prepared. On a volunteer basis, she has founded, managed, and consulted with many wildfire nonprofit organizations, community groups, businesses, and residents. Additionally, she serves on the Board of Directors of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, TreePeople, and TreePeople Land Trust. Beth was a founding member and co-President of the North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council where she wrote and managed grants. She also lead Topanga residents through the process of becoming an extraordinarily large Firewise Community. She looks forward to using her experience to mentor communities in the Easter Sierra through the process of becoming wildfire prepared and obtaining their Firewise designation.

THANK YOU

These workshops are hosted by the Whitebark Institute in partnership with Inyo and Mono County. Funding for this project was provided in part by a grant from Edison International as well as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of the California Climate Investments Program, through the California Fire Safe Council. Special recognition is given to the workshops’ contributors representing UC Cooperative Extension, Firewise USA, CalFire, Inyo National Forest, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Bureau of Land Management, Mustang Mesa CSD, Swall Meadows Firewise, Wheeler Crest Fire Safe Council (FSC), Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Rambler Brewery, Mammoth Lakes Brewing Company, Long Valley Fire Department, Bridgeport Fire Department, High Sierra Energy Foundation, and Mono County Libraries.



'Community Wildfire Preparedness Project' and 'Wildfire Prevention in the Eastern Sierra: Visitor Education and Outreach' is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investment website at: www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov