

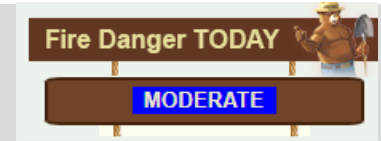


FireSafe Flathead Meeting Notes for June 23, via Zoom

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 28 9-11am. Venue to be determined, a hybrid option is likely.

Our Mission: We are individuals, neighborhoods, organizations, and agency wildfire professionals working to create and support Fire Adapted Communities and resilient landscapes by providing leadership, technical assistance, and resources.

VIDEOS, ARTICLES, and MORE:



FIRE DANGER moved to **MODERATE** this past week

NO debris burning during fire season - July 1 to September 30!

Living with Wildfire (45-minute film) - [New Wildfire — North 40 \(north40productions.com\)](http://north40productions.com)

[Dr. Stephen Quarles](#) will present at the North Fork Firewise day on July 13!

FEMA WUI Report - [Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) Issues and Resolutions Report \(fema.gov\)](http://fema.gov)

FireSafe MARIN - <https://firesafemarin.org/> - Just a reminder of another great site to go for information!

“It’s not always about what or how much you know, so much as it is about connecting the right people, at the right time, in the right place.” -Richard Parrish, Bureau of Land Management

Action items, short and long-term in gold:

- ❑ **Ali needs to follow up with Rick T re: fire history page on website**
- ❑ **Status of Burn Permit system – Dylan Kopitzke**
 - **The current system is failing, and we are exploring interagency-supported options for the future. Dylan has drafted a whitepaper addressing issues and will schedule to present to the County.**
- ❑ **Short-term rental information from Julia to share with the group (Richard, Ben, Monica, North Fork)**
 - **This project is being assisted by the Fire Adapted Montana Learning Network who is currently undergoing some changes in staffing so will be picked up again soon.**
- ❑ **How can we better communicate w/landowners what funding opportunities exist at this time/place?**
 - **Ali has added the NRCS webpage and map to the FireSafe Flathead resources list so we can direct people there and will spend more time on the web design. And she is finalizing a handout with all fire and forestry related programs/contacts.**

0900 – Welcome & Introductions: Ali Ulwelling, Allen Chrisman, Karli Becher, Anna Lang, Richard Hildner, Bill Mulholland, Holly McKenzie.

DNRC - Ali Ulwelling

Flathead National Forest – Bill Mulholland, District Ranger Tally Lake RD

- They have 5 projects ([Salish Good](#), [Stovepipe](#), [Taylor-Hellroaring](#), Round Star, Cyclone Bill) with the **Round Star Project** currently out for public comment. The Press Release may be found here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/flathead/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1035078>, the project may be found here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60892>, and comments may be sent to: comments-northern-flathead-tally-lake@usda.gov with “**Round Star Project**” in the subject line.
- Joint Chiefs and other fuels contracts are awarded, work has begun and is looking good. Projects include shaded fuel break, understory removal, pre-commercial thinning, fire line/fuel break.

Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) – Karli Becher

- Working on Targeted Implementation Plans (TIPs) for forest health in North Fork/Wedge Canyon area, Little Bitterroot, Ashley Lake, and Joint Chiefs funding area. There has been A LOT of interest in the area, and they are asking for additional funds to meet the level of interest. **October 2022 is the sign-up deadline for 2023 projects.**
- *They have a new intern on until August 19 and would like to provide her much on the ground forestry exposure and experience during her time.*
- Is the information on the FireSafe Flathead website? **Ali has posted the NRCS link to the FireSafe website which can be found here: <https://www.firesafeflathead.com/resources>**

North Fork Mitigation Committee – Allen Chrisman

- **June 15th** North Fork Fire Hazard Reduction Field Trip, 9:30am-3pm went really well with 27 people total attending.
- **July 13th** North Fork Firewise Day in the morning (Allen Chrisman, Sean Johnson, Andy Huntsberger, Lincoln Chute and others) followed by interlocal meeting in the afternoon.
 - Looking forward to getting more folks aware of and signed up for the Wedge Canyon TIP.
 - Contact Allen if there are any questions or you would like to attend! Normal attendance is 30-40 but looking to advertise and get more people there!
 - **[Dr. Stephen Quarles](#)** will be there to present and Todd Lando will be there as well. **Ali and Holly will help to get a postcard/flier out to residents to get more landowners there for this special event!**

Richard Hildner (Whitefish & North Fork Area Sparkplug, Smokejumper & Fire Behavior Analyst (ret.))

- **Living with Wildfire** event at the **O'Shaughnessy Cultural Arts Center in Whitefish June 28th** from 6:30-8:30. Event will be sponsored/hosted by FireSafe Flathead and Flathead Families for Responsible Growth. Richard will work with Ali to identify who is going to be present and/or on the panel. (Rick C., Tally Lake RD, Lincoln Chute, Richard, Ben Devall, Joe Page, Jeremy Pris, Ernie Nace..)

Anna Lang, Disaster & Resilience Engineer –

- Anna sits on FEMA's National Advisory Council (NAC) board and inspired a new approach to their annual meeting held in Boise June 7-9. The off-site meeting was hazard-specific and focused on wildfire mitigation. They hosted several panels on wildfire, toured NIFC to gain an understanding of wildfire coordination/response and had an opportunity to truly inform FEMA staff. They will be following up with recommendations. **Ali and Anna will reconnect with Sara Hartley of Montana DES re: FEMA grants available for the NW.**

Holly McKenzie – Kalispell Unit Service Forester

- Joined 10 educators up the North Fork as part of the Flathead Watershed through the Seasons professional development training for teachers. Recognized a need and interest in more wildfire related information, a desire to know more and where to go to find it.
- We should put more time and effort into messaging – commercials? Articles?
- **Also, let's follow up w Teresa re: materials for teachers to share with students.**

General Discussion

- Insurance companies are doing more home inspections in the area which may be increasing interest in home ignition zone and fuel reduction work.
- SafeCo Ins. does their own risk assessments and has their own mitigation crew – check on this.
- Need to continue to encourage folks to do both home ignition zone and property wide fuel reduction work to make a landscape scale reduction in fire behavior.

Events coming up:

~~March 22 – Preparing for Fire Season, FVCC AT139, 6-8pm~~

~~March 29 – Pile burning workshop, FVCC AT139, 6-8pm (Rick Trembath & Ernie Nace)~~

~~April 14 – Era of Megafires, Dome Theatre in Libby 6:30pm (Marcel Getz, FAC Coordinator)~~

~~April 16, 23, or 30 (TBD) – Living with Wildfire – Many Lakes (Randy, Rick C, Holly M, Ernie/Ali?)~~

~~April 22 – Pile Burning Workshop, [Swan Valley Connections](#), 9-1 Registration required~~

~~May 4 – Preparing for Wildfire in the Swan, 6pm Zoom with Swan Valley Connections (Ali, Jack, Mike M.)~~

~~May 7 – Family Forestry Expo (table?) and risk assessment training in Lincoln County (Marcel, Ali)~~

~~May 14 – Women in the Woods Workshop at Lone Pine State Park (Holly, Ali, Ashley, arborist, MCC)~~

~~May 24 – Forest Management, Holly McKenzie, FVCC 6-9pm~~

~~June 11 – Big Mountain Fire brush pick up day being planned~~

~~June 15 – North Fork Fire Hazard Reduction Field Trip, 9:30am – 3pm (Allen Chrisman)~~

June 15 – Living with Wildfire – Montana House, West Glacier (Ali, Harker, HHGV, Lincoln, ?) **POSTPONED**

~~June 26 – Whitefish Fire Service Area Board meeting and potluck~~

~~June 28 – Living with Wildfire Event in Whitefish (Richard Hildner, Ali, Rick Connell, Mike West, Ben, Joe Page?)~~

July 13 – North Fork Firewise Day (Allen Chrisman, Sean Johnson, Huntsberger, Lincoln..)

July 21 – Big Mountain Firewise Day! Details to come... (and get handouts to Ben)

July 14-15 & 22 – MSU Forest Stewardship Workshop, Kalispell (Register [HERE](#))

August 4-5 & 12 – MSU Forest Stewardship Workshop, Eureka

August TBD – Lion Mountain HOA meeting

Fall TBD – Fall burn & Fire Season Recap at FVCC – Rick Trembath and Co.

Don't forget, I have a lot of these here in my office so give a call if you'd like a stack:

[Be Ember Aware!](#) OUT but ordering more

[Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide](#) (home hardening)

[Wildfire Evacuation Checklist](#)

[Ready, Set, Go Montana](#)

[Fire-Resistant Landscaping Considerations for Montana's WUI](#)

[Protecting and Landscaping Homes in the Wildland Urban Interface](#)

Thanks for being here and we'll see you next month!

6/27/22 aau