

Wrightwood Fire Safe Council
March 2013
Minutes

Angeles National Forest-Bob Blount: Blount explained that next winter, Angeles Forest will close Jackson Lake again. This year he closed the lake because of the thinness of the ice and visitors ignoring warning signs, thus there has been people falling through the ice into the cold water. The closure enables forestry personnel to halt the use of the parking lot and picnic area, as well as, the lake. Rangers divert visitors to other snow play areas and though most visitors comply, some have been cited with fines up to \$5 thousand. He also mentioned that they have been performing some pile burnings due to the light winter.

San Bernardino National Forest-Lauren Blake: Blake stated that current fuel moisture levels have been increasing even though local rainfall is 60% of normal. She explained that the increase in moisture is related to the sporadic rains not creating significant run-off and the chaparral has been able to absorb the water. She also mentioned that SBNF is considering contracting with a developer to establish a wind farm in the Cajon Valley.

San Bernardino County Fire-Dan Filter: After San Bernardino Fire Battalion Chief Dan Filter gave monthly statistics; he explained that if the Victor Valley Law Enforcement and Fire Service Joint Powers Authority becomes a reality, the county fire service will need to lay-off some of the firefighters servicing Victorville, Adelanto, Hesperia and Apple Valley. He also included in his statement that unincorporated areas such as Wrightwood and the Tri-Community would retain staffing and budgets. Though the winter has been mild, the county winter fire rescue training was performed as a joint training with Los Angeles County and held at Mountain High East on a few week days last month.

Forest Care-Julie Crick: Forest Care spokesperson Julie Crick stated that this program, which was scheduled to conclude at the end of June, has been extended until the end of the year. Their program educates property owners in fire suppression landscaping and also provides for tree removal thinning projects enabling property owners to be reimbursed up to 75% of the cost. 86 Wrightwood property owners have made use of the program and Crick said approximately \$750 thousand program funds remain.

WFSC-John Aziz: The Fire Safe Council has chosen May 5-11 as their Wildfire and Disaster Awareness Week, with May 6 designated as the kick-off date. The kick-off will be at Wrightwood Fire Station 14 at 10am. Wildfire Awareness Day will be May 11 between 10am-3pm enabling visitors to gain information from a wide range of local non-profits and federal, state and local government agencies. There will be a 'kid's fireman muster' giving children the opportunity to perform various firefighter activities.

The council will also hold their "Pine Needle and Green Waste" event during the week of June 1-8. This event enables Tri-Community residents to bring to the Wrightwood County Service Yard where volunteers will unload the covered loads of pine needles and tree trimmings into containers provided by CR&R.

CalFire stated they are preparing and training for the upcoming wildfire season. There was no update on the State Responsibility Area fees.

(Minutes submitted by Al Morrissette)