



Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

P.O. Box 3100
Wrightwood, CA 92397
(760) 249-3249

www.wrightwoodfsc.com

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: The general meeting for the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC) was called to order by Ben Smith on July 15, 2025 at 1803 hours local time. This meeting was held at the Wrightwood Community Building. Audio of this meeting is available here: <https://www.wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.7.15.25.mp3>

Roll call: The following WFSC Board of Directors were present: John Aziz, Robert Comperini, Jim Emery, Tom Foley, Hank Hallmark, Ben Smith. Absent was: Tim Heinrich.

The following agency representatives were present: See attached attendance log.

Flag salute: The flag salute was led by Ben Smith.

Public Comments:

A resident of Wrightwood reported Edison pole caught fire in Wrightwood early this morning. The fire was limited to the base of the pole in question. Station 14 responded and extinguished the fire. SCE also responded to repair the damaged equipment.

Approval of minutes: Minutes from the 6/17/2025 meeting were accepted as written. Motion to approve made by John Aziz. Motion seconded by Hank Hallmark. Motion approved 4/0. Jim Emery and Tom Foley abstained as they were not at the June meeting.

Cooperative partner & agency updates:

Angeles National Forest: (Ron White/Matthew Bokach): No major fires in the past month in the ANF. Staffing levels were discussed. Some air assets departed Lancaster (Fox Field) today to support a fire in the Lake Isabella area. Fuels reduction project in the Blue Ridge area will likely begin in the September-October timeframe. Mastication efforts along some of the forest roads will take place this summer. There may soon be a contract in place to allow a private company to remove trees to be used as lumber in the Blue Ridge area. Trees to be removed under that agreement are trees that would not qualify to be removed as part of the fuels reduction project.

Matthew Bokach discussed an upcoming SCE project to relocate overhead powerlines to underground service, in the Forest area along Big Pines Highway. This project is expected to begin in 2026 Because of the upcoming SCE work being planned. Other fuel reduction projects will be postponed until after their project is done (most likely 2027).

The ANF and SCE have come to an agreement regarding the Bobcat fire. SCE will pay ANF in excess of 60 million dollars for compensation for the fire. The money must be spent in the area directly affected by that fire.

Matthew announced that because he is taking on a new position, that he will no longer be attending the Wrightwood FSC meetings.

San Bernardino National Forest: No representative. See attached email from District Ranger Mike Nobles,

CCC: No representative. Ben Smith spoke to CCC representative Mike Smith who indicated that next Monday, the CCC will be in area working on trails and other areas near Grassy Hollow.

CAL FIRE (Drew Smith): Drew discussed recent fires in the state. CAL FIRE fuel reduction projects continue in the local area. Areas include the Desert Front Road areas. CAL FIRE inspections of properties in the local area have completed. In response to a question from Hank Hallmark, Drew discussed the "Fire Wise" designation for a community. A discussion followed, regarding that, and the differing inspections performed by CAL-FIRE vs inspection by the County. CAL-FIRE will hold a green waste/wood chipping event at the CAL FIRE phelan station (located at 9600 Centolo Rd., Phelan, CA 92371). The event will take place the weekends of July 18, 19, 20, and again on August 10, 11, 12 from 8:00am to 2:00pm. For more information, contact CAL FIRE at (760) 868-3555.

Caltrans: No representative, no report.

IERCD: See the attached emails from Kayla Thompson and Julie Clark.

LA County AG: No representative, no report.

LA County Fire (Kelsie Warren): Fire season starting a little later this year, compared to last year. Kelsie discussed some recent fires in the area, including one just west of Largo Vista Road. Although still under investigation, it appears that a meth lab may have been in the area.

SB County Fire (Cruz): There were 54 calls for service this past month. 85% of those were medical aid. Captain Cruz briefly discussed staffing.

Peter Brierty then spoke. Peter spoke about his task with SB County Fire, concerning forest management. He would like to build a "forestry division" within SB County Fire. His goal is to work with other agencies, such as CAL FIRE and IERCD, to streamline and speed up the process of securing grant funding to get fuel reductions projects started faster. Identifying areas to be treated is another priority. There are grants available from CAL FIRE. Lands eligible can include Federal, State, and State Responsibility Area lands.

SB County Code Enforcement: No representative, no report.

Wrightwood CSD: No report.

New/continued business:

Fire Hydrant mapping/adoption: No report. Hank reported that he was unable to set up a FSC table during the recent Mountaineer Days event.

The Fire Safe Council board members will hold a meeting soon, to discuss adding a member to the board.

CWPP Update: No updates.

Treasurer's report: No treasurer's report.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1910 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held on August 19, 2025.

Minutes submitted by:



Robert Comperini, Secretary
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

Wrightwood Fire Safe Council
Attendance Sign In Sheet

Meeting Date:

7/15/2025

Subject: 07/15 WFS Draft Agenda
From: Julie D Clark <jdclarkdeblasio@ucanr.edu>
Date: 7/14/2025, 3:04 PM
To: John <john@wrightwoodcalif.com>
CC: Jim Emery <jimandmo@att.net>, Ben Smith <ben_smith@mthigh.com>

Happy Summertime!

We have just one item, which is likely more appropriate for your local CAL FIRE team (David Haas or Ian McBride) to announce. A new CAL FIRE regional forester has been hired. He will work throughout SoCal and is available to research, inspect, and help with all tree matters. You met **Adrian Poloni** over two years ago, when he attended a couple of WFSC meetings as a representative of the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, ahead of Kayla and Jocelyn's employ. Adrian is based out of San Bernardino. I and your local CAL FIRE partners have his contact information. He will try to make it to your monthly meetings. He is currently attending a training in Sacramento.

Be well and of high spirit,

Julie Clark
Community Education Specialist III
University of California Cooperative Extension
Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources
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Camarillo CA 93010
805.645.1461

UC  **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**
Agriculture and Natural Resources  UC Cooperative Extension

Subject: Re: Wrightwood Fire Safe Council Jul 2025 Meeting
From: Kayla Thompson <kthompson@iercd.org>
Date: 7/15/2025, 2:20 PM
To: John <John@wrightwoodcalif.com>, staff@wrightwoodfsc.com, Julie D Clark De Blasio <jdclarkdeblasio@ucanr.edu>

Hi Wrightwood FSC,

IERCD updates are short and as follows:

We are continuing to survey new properties in Wrightwood and are working with connecting multiple property owners to MRFSC's Hazardous Tree Removal Program to remove their highly infested Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) trees. We have been working with Steve, from the Mountaineer Progress Newspaper to include a piece about GSOB to further advertise our surveys. Keep an eye out in your local newspaper for it! It should be released this week. Any landowner with oaks on their property can reach out to us at forestry@iercd.org to schedule a free assessment.

Thanks!

On Sat, Jul 12, 2025 at 7:45 AM John <John@wrightwoodcalif.com> wrote:

Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC)



REQUEST - If you are receiving these meeting notifications and are no longer in the area or interested, please respond to us to delete you from the notification list.

The Wrightwood Fire Safe Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at **6pm** will be held in-person at the Wrightwood Community Building. The public is encouraged to attend.

Location: Wrightwood Community Building, 1275 Hwy 2, Wrightwood

Date: July 15, 2025

Time: 6pm PST

Agenda

- BOD roll call
- Introductions
- Public Comments
- Approval of minutes

Cooperative Partner & Agency updates

Subject: RE: [External Email] Wrightwood Fire Safe Council Jul 2025 Meeting
From: "Nobles, Mike - FS, CA" <Michael.Nobles@usda.gov>
Date: 7/15/2025, 7:14 AM
To: John <John@WrightwoodCalif.com>

Good morning, Jon.

I will be unable to make this evening meeting.

San Bernardino N.F Update.

- Mechanical Treatment on the Lone Pine unit and Lower Lytle Creek Divide of the Lytle Creek Hazardous Fuels project has been completed and will be scheduled for prescribed burning in the Spring of FY26
- Southern California Ignition Reduction Project is still in the planning phase.
- Staffing this week 12 engines, 1 crew, 14 Fire prevention technicians , 2 lookouts, 8 Chief Officers.
- Resources Committed to Incidents 4 Hot Shot Crews, Helicopter 534, and 535, Dozer 3 , 7 engines
- Forest NON-Fire staff has been reduced by 10% due to early retirements and resignations in response to the Administrations efforts to reduce the size of the Federal government.

Thank you
Michael

Michael Nobles
District Ranger
Forest Service
San Bernardino National Forest
Front Country Ranger District
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w: 909-382-2860
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