

# PREPARING FOR WILDFIRES: MOVING FROM CRISIS TO OPPORTUNITY

March 10-12, 2015 – Tucson, Arizona

## SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

### TUESDAY, MARCH 10

**8:10 – 8:30** Why Are We Here? Part 1: An Experience of the Cedar Fire (San Diego, 2003)

**Colin Wilson** began volunteering with the Anderson Valley Fire Department in Northern California in 1982. In 2013 he retired from the Department after 16 years as its Fire Chief. During those years he was very proactive in wildfire preparedness projects, including developing water supplies for fire protection; he is author of the comprehensive pamphlet on that subject provided at this workshop. Chief Wilson, past president of the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs' Association, co-founded the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council in 2003, served as its founding president for four years, and continued supporting its work for several more years. In 2003 he served as an Engine Company Officer on a five-engine strike team during the Cedar Fire in Southern California.

**8:30 – 8:50** Why Are We Here? Part 2: The Faces Project: Victims of Southern California's 2003 Fire Siege

**Bob Mutch** is a consultant with Fire Management Applications in Missoula, Montana. He retired from a 38-year career in forest fire research and management with the Forest Service in 1994. His areas of interest include fuel management, fire ecology, fire behavior prediction, wildland fire training, public and firefighter safety, wildland fire suppression, prescribed fire in wilderness management, fire safe strategies for the Interface, and international assistance. Since 1994 he has been a fire management consultant for the United Nations and World Bank in Brazil, Bulgaria, Ethiopia, India, Italy, and Mongolia, as well as in the U.S. Bob earned an M.S.F. in fire science from the University of Montana and received an Honorary Doctorate from that university in 2007. He is a board member of FireSafe Montana and Painted Rocks Fire District, and chair of the Painted Rocks-West Fork FireSafe Council.

**8:50 – 9:20** History of Fire in the West

**Doug Cram**, Co-Chair of this workshop, is Assistant Professor and Extension Fire Specialist in the Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources Department at New Mexico State University, one of the major partners of this workshop. He holds a B.S. in wildlife science, an M.S. in forest resources, and a Ph.D. in range science. His research and Extension efforts focus on management of forests, rangelands, and riparian areas with a particular concentration on the interaction of fire within these systems. Doug is one of only two Extension specialists in the entire United States focusing solely on wildland fire. New Mexico residents may contact Doug to discuss a program to fit their needs, at [dcram@nmsu.edu](mailto:dcram@nmsu.edu) or (575) 646-8130.

**9:20 – 10:00** The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

**Katie Lighthall** is the Coordinator, Western Region, for the national Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. She joined the Cohesive Strategy effort in 2013. Prior to that she spent eight years as Program Director for Project Wildfire, a collaborative wildfire mitigation group in Deschutes County, Oregon. With extensive experience in Community Wildfire Protection Plans, fuels treatment program management, communications, and grant writing, Katie utilizes her skills to facilitate achievement and implementation under the Cohesive Strategy. Her previous work includes structural firefighting, fire investigation, prevention and education, and large loss and litigation claims.

**Craig Goodell** is the interagency Fire Ecologist for the BLM Oregon/Washington State Office and the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Regional Office. He holds a M.S. in Fire Ecology and is responsible for coordinating the integration of science into wildland fire and natural resource management for the BLM/USFS in the Pacific Northwest. Craig began his career in 1986 in southwestern Colorado as a firefighter and range technician on the San Juan National Forest, and for the past 29 years he has traveled extensively in the West responding to wildland fire incidents. Craig facilitates and provides leadership in education and implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy throughout the Western United States.

**10:30 – 12:00** How Cooperative Extension Educators Make a Difference

**Ed Smith** has been a Natural Resource Specialist with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension since 1988. In 1998, he conceived and initiated the Living With Fire program, an interagency effort coordinated by Cooperative Extension that teaches Nevadans how to live more safely in high fire hazard environments. Since then, he has produced educational materials, taught workshops, organized communities and conducted applied research aimed at reducing the wildfire threat to Nevada communities; and his work's impact has extended far beyond Nevada's borders. Ed has garnered national recognition for his efforts on several occasions, including the Excellence in Extension Award from the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges in 2006.

**Stephen Fitzgerald** is Extension Silviculture & Fire Specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service in Corvallis and has been with OSU for 31 years. Last year he was appointed as Director of the College of Forestry Research Forests, eight forests which encompass 15,000 acres. In his Extension appointment, Fitzgerald conducts extensive educational programming in forest management, wildland fire ecology, fuel reduction, forest restoration, and post-fire recovery. He conducts research in the dry forest types of central and eastern Oregon, and recently expanded his work to western Oregon. He currently holds the rank of Professor in the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources, and Management in the College of Forestry.

**Alan Long** is Professor Emeritus with the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida. His teaching, extension, and research activities included fire ecology and management, forest operations, private forest management, and continuing education for professionals. He served as statewide coordinator for forestry extension, and spent 10 years focusing both research and outreach on Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) fire hazard assessments and issues. Alan currently works with Tall Timbers Research Station as Administrative Director of the Southern Fire Exchange, a Joint Fire Science Program regional consortium for fire science technology transfer.

**1:00 – 1:20** Primer on Fire Behavior (**Stephen Fitzgerald**; see above)

**1:20 – 2:10** Buildings in Wildfire-Prone Areas

**Steve Quarles** joined the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety Research Center team in 2011. His research is focused on building performance when subjected to wildfire and moisture exposures. Prior to joining IBHS, he worked for the University of California as a Cooperative Extension advisor. During 2007 and 2008, Steve worked part-time with the California Office of the State Fire Marshal where he developed, coordinated, and served as an instructor for the educational program related to the Wildland Urban Interface (wildfire) Building Code and Standards (Chapter 7A in the California Building Code). Steve holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in wood science from the University of Minnesota and is author of numerous publications on fire and building construction and maintenance.

**2:10 – 2:30** Applying the Science: Preparing Your Home and Property for Wildfires (**Colin Wilson**; see above)

**2:30 – 3:00** Insurance Issues Before and After Fires

**Emily Cabral** is Program Coordinator for United Policyholders, a non-profit organization that serves as a voice and information resource for insurance consumers. Emily works closely with UP's Executive Director, staff, and volunteers to advance the mission of the organization through its three programs. She continues to educate homeowners and renters on the importance of insurance and financial preparedness as a key component of disaster preparedness. Emily currently serves as the President for NorCal Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD). She received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from UC Riverside and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from San Francisco State University.

**3:30 – 4:00** Applying a Network Approach to Growing Fire Adapted Communities

**Nick Goulette** is Executive Director of The Watershed Research and Training Center in Hayfork, California. He has worked in a wide range of capacities over the past 10 years, overseeing forestry, fire and fuels, watershed and fisheries, youth engagement, enterprise development, and policy and research programs. Nick directs the California Statewide Wood Energy Team and is Chair of the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council. He also serves as the Watershed Center's national project director for the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network. Nick holds a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Vermont with a concentration in Community-based Forestry.

**4:00 – 5:00** Interface Choices: Prepare / Go Early / Stay and Defend (**Bob Mutch**; see above)

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

### 8:00 – 8:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Jeffrey Silvertooth** is Associate Dean of the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Director, Extension & Economic Development; and Associate Director for the Arizona Experiment Station. He provides overall leadership to the U of A Cooperative Extension, including development of an effective Extension education program and all related translational and applied research programs dedicated to extending knowledge resources to the people of Arizona. Dr. Silvertooth's research interests include the development of crop production management strategies (primarily irrigated cotton, chiles, and cantaloupes) that optimize the soil-plant system agronomically and economically. The overall goal of his work is reducing inputs such as pesticides, fertilizers, and irrigation water; and maintaining profitability and sustainability in agricultural production systems in the desert Southwest.

**Jeff Whitney**, Arizona State Forester, possesses over 40 years of professional experience in forest and rangeland management combined with wildland fire management. He began his career in 1972 as a seasonal firefighter, serving six seasons with hotshot crews and three as a heavy engine captain, culminating as a National Type 1 Incident Commander and Area Commander. Jeff recently served as executive director for Fire Program Analysis for the U.S. Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service. Previously he served in the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in numerous resource management capacities and intergovernmental initiatives. Jeff earned a B.S. from Northern Arizona University and holds an M.S. in Environmental Resources from Arizona State University.

### 8:30 – 9:10 Sources of Science-based Information about Wildland Fires

**Glenn Nader** is the University of California Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor in Butte, Sutter, and Yuba Counties. Glenn, who has degrees in animal science and animal nutrition, focuses, among many other things, on the use of animal grazing to reduce wildfire fuels. After two fires in the late 90's which burned 100 homes, Glenn helped to found the Butte and Yuba Fire Safe Councils; he served as Butte Fire Safe Council Chair from 1998 to 2001. In the counties Glenn serves, pre-fire planning and projects totaling \$4 million in value have had a documented positive impact in three wildfires.

**Andrea (Andi) Thode** is Associate Professor of Fire Ecology and Fire Science in the School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University. She completed her B.S. and Ph.D. in fire ecology through the Ecology Graduate Group at the University of California, Davis. Andi's research focuses on fire effects at the local and landscape scale. She has been heavily involved in the Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) since its inception, as a founding board member and education committee chair, and through development of AFE conferences. Andi has been the principal investigator for the Southwest Fire Science Consortium, one of this workshop's major partners, since its inception in 2009.

### 9:10 – 10:00 Invasive Species as Wildfire Hazards

**Christopher Jones** is an Associate Extension Agent at the University of Arizona in Gila County, Arizona. His background includes a Bachelor's degree in Forestry from Northern Arizona University and a Master's degree in Renewable Natural Resources from the University of Arizona. Chris served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala and as Territorial Forester in American Samoa before becoming a Cooperative Extension Agent. He conducts programs in horticulture and natural resources, including Firewise, forest health, and watershed management.

**Lindy Brigham** joined the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center as its Executive Director in 2009 after retiring from the University of Arizona as a Plant Pathologist. In addition to her academic career, Lindy has 9 years of experience mitigating the invasive grass cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) in the Santa Catalina Mountains. As a long-time inhabitant of the Sonoran Desert, Lindy has been active in promoting the importance and joys of native habitat. At SABCC she uses her skills in translating scientific research into practice, coordinating public and private efforts for buffelgrass mapping and eradication, and securing funding for joint projects in research, mitigation, and education.

**Peter Warren** is the Urban Horticulture Agent for the Pima County Cooperative Extension at the University of Arizona. He works with homeowners, landscape professionals, and urban farmers to promote integrated pest management (IPM) and other best management practices for horticulture in the Sonoran Desert; his expertise is in entomology and environmental horticulture. He began his Extension career with Virginia Tech in 1998 as an Area IPM Agent, and later switched to Horticulture and Natural Resources in Charlottesville, Virginia. In 2011 he moved to Tucson to assume his current Urban Horticulture position in Pima County.

**10:30 – 11:30** Successful Community Action Models Before and During Wildfires (for **Colin Wilson**, see above)

**Julie Rogers**, Co-Chair of this workshop, is a specialist in helping communities prepare for wildfires and an organizer of science-based educational events on issues involving wildland fire. She was founding executive director (2003-2012) of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, a nonprofit serving a diverse rural population in northern California. Julie studies fire behavior, ecology, and policy, and has published numerous articles and pamphlets on these topics, with an emphasis on relaying science to the public in ways they can easily understand. She is a board member and education director of Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (fuse.org), provider of the WILDFIRE books at this workshop. Contact her at [julierogers@pacific.net](mailto:julierogers@pacific.net) or (520) 909-0534.

**Lauren Robertson** is a physical therapist and co-owner of ATrain Education, an online continuing education provider. She became interested in fire after witnessing the East Bay Hills fire in 1991 while living in Oakland, California. In 1993 she moved to rural Northern California and immediately became concerned about wildfire striking her neighborhood. In 2003 she founded the Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council and commenced programs to chip excess brush, map the area, and install road signs. In the process Lauren learned the importance of education, fire ecology, and prescribed burning, and the need to work with neighbors to ensure a good outcome when fire strikes.

**11:30 – 12:00** The United States of Disaster: Fire and American Policy

**Scott Knowles** is associate professor and program director for history at Drexel University in Philadelphia. His work focuses on risk and disaster, with particular interests in modern cities, technology, and public policy. His most recent book is *The Disaster Experts: Mastering Risk in Modern America* (UPenn Press, 2011), and he is series co-editor of "Critical Studies in Risk and Disaster" (UPenn Press). Scott's work has appeared in academic venues such as *Technology and Culture*, *Isis*, *History and Technology*, *Annals of Science*, the *Journal of American History*, and the *Journal of the American Planning Association*; he has also written for the *New York Times*, *The Hill*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He is currently writing another book, this one on U.S. disaster policy.

**1:00 – 1:30** The 2003 Aspen Fire: A Photo Presentation of the Need to Prepare

**Michael Stanley** has been an Arizona State Water System operator for the Mt. Lemmon Water District and lived in Summerhaven since 1981. During this time there were two major fires in the Santa Catalina Mountains: the Bullock and Aspen Fires (2002 & 2003), which our field trip will explore. Michael has a Grade 2 Operator certification in Treatment Plant and Distribution Systems, and has developed and significantly improved most of the District's and other acquired water systems. His work on the Bullock and Aspen Fires included providing water for tenders, land crews, and helicopters; later, he secured funding from state and federal agencies for infrastructure recovery efforts.

**1:30 – 2:10** Managing Landscapes After Fires

**Ann Youberg** is a Research Geologist at the Arizona Geological Survey where she has worked for the past 15 years. Her research focus is on Quaternary geologic mapping and geologic hazards, particularly post-wildfire debris flows and flooding. She received her B.S. in geology from Montana State University, and her M.S. in Watershed Management and Ph.D. in Hydrology and Water Resources from the University of Arizona. Her dissertation work included research on late Pleistocene to Holocene debris flows but centered on recent post-wildfire debris flows.

**Susie Kocher** is a forestry and natural resources advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension in the Central Sierra region. She conducts outreach, education, and applied research focusing on forest resilience and wildfire issues. Susie has done outreach with forest landowners on pre- and post-wildfire management techniques through in-person workshops, webinars, and media. She has coordinated public outreach for the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (<http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/>) for the past seven years and is a founding member of the California Fire Science Consortium. Susie is also a California Registered Professional Forester.

**2:10 – 2:30** Special Considerations in Ranch and Rural Settings (**Glenn Nader**; see above)

**4:40 – 5:00** The Community of Fire

**Janean Creighton** is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist at Oregon State University College of Forestry. She is currently the Administrative Director for the Northwest Fire Science Consortium, which is part of a national network of Consortia funded by the Joint Fire Science Program and is one of this workshop's funders. Janean focuses on increasing the information delivery and technology transfer capabilities of fuels and fire research to managers and practitioners in the field, and integrating wildfire and fuels management into Extension curricula and educational programs. Janean earned her Ph.D. in Environmental & Natural Resource Sciences from Washington State University.