

## Mono Basin Fire Safe Council Minutes

Prepared by John Warneke

18 May 2022 (via Zoom)

Attendees: Glenda Bayless, Robbie Di Paolo, Gavin Delmas, Susan DesBaillets, Annamaria Echeverria, Santiago Escruceria, Bob Gardner, Duncan King, Joe Moore, Nathan Taylor, John Warneke

- Public comment
  - Use of water source at house donated to Mono Lake Committee, for fire fighting along Hwy 167? (Joe)
    - Will follow up with MLC regarding well output (Robbie)
  - What about setting up a station for the Hwy 167 community on the parcel? (Joe)
  - Fire prevention signs replacement (Joe; Glenda)
    - Will follow up with staff to replace; Volunteer help welcome (Annamaria)
  - Subsidized housing for professional firefighters in Mono County? (Glenda)
  - Will look into getting fire safety banner for Goat Ranch fence (Glenda; Joe)
- Forest Service & BLM season staffing update (Annamaria)
  - Critical staffing shortage in the Mono Lake district; 70% of staffing for whole forest, 30% for Mono
  - Fire prevention patrols, from Conway Summit to June Junction, and Lee Vining Canyon to June Lake
  - Fire stations at Mono Basin/Lundy Canyon (BLM engine; FS engine); Gull Lake (FS engine); Topaz (BLM engine)
    - Current: Personnel only for BLM engines; Unable to get leadership hires for FS engines
      - Can request engines for 14 day assignments; Harder to fill as season gets busier
      - Additional seasonal personnel available (July-Aug-Sept)
- Additional info (Annamaria)
  - Can call or text, 760-616-0009, with concerns regarding signs or anything
  - Funding available for brush dumpsters
    - Working on bin for June Lake
- Mono City fuelbreaks meeting, 7 June, with Annamaria (Robbie)
  - Will talk about what can be done, and when
- Eastside Iron Company in Bishop, eastsideironco.com (Gavin Delmas)
  - Wildland fire suppression company offering forest management and fuels reduction
    - See website for photos and reports of projects completed
    - Lease/rental of bulldozers, excavators, water tenders; Cal Fire-trained crews can build fire lines, protect structures & resources
    - Fuels reduction with construction of fuelbreaks, tree thinning & removal
    - Partnership with companies that do home hardening; Contact per need

- Banners
  - Arrived and ready to be put up
  - Able to put truck at storage lot between Chevron and RV Park in Lee Vining
  - Still need second location for northbound traffic
    - Looking at propane tank or SCE fence (Bob will follow up)
- Firewood fliers
  - English and Spanish
  - Last year, to business selling firewood bundles & put up in campgrounds
  - Will print up quantities as needed, laminate a few, and pass off to Tom (Robbie)
- Fire restrictions for season
  - No fires except in campgrounds likely in place by Memorial Day (Bob)
- Kirkwood ponds (update from Paul McFarland)
  - Securing dates to visit with Jeff Hunewill; Volunteer opportunity to follow
    - Discussion of installing infrastructure enabling trucks to fill from upper spring; Clear lower spring for helicopter dipping
- East road from Mono City
  - Road may have improved; Unclear where exactly work is needed (Robbie)
  - Grading not possible (Bob)
- Campfire ring breakdown stewardship
  - Start with volunteer day, showing protocol of how to break down & document
  - Idea for 'Adopt a fire ring site'
  - Maintain map of locations known & discovered
- Citizens' Wildfire Academy
  - Upcoming session via Zoom: 20 June, at 6pm, 'Current USFS, BLM, and Cal Fire 2022 Wildfire Management Plans and Policies'
  - Recordings available at [eswildfirealliance.org/academy](https://eswildfirealliance.org/academy)
- Mono City brush bin
  - Available now; Emptied and replaced as needed (Robbie; John)
- Next meeting to be held on 15 June 2022 at 5pm