



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

Meeting Agenda: Thursday – February 24, 2022 @ 0900

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82524014975?pwd=TmxCUeInckVENDYyQnEwSkIwYlc1UT09>

Meeting ID: 825 2401 4975

Passcode: 223225

Dial in: +1 669 900 6833

BOARD MEETING:

- 0900 - 0905:** Establish Quorum (P. Van Leer)
- 0905 – 0915:** Treasurer Update (K. Varga)
- 0915 – 0930:** RWMP Update – Introduce Evie Vermeer (A. Parkinson)
- Motion to approve hiring of Christina McGinnis (see job description)
- 0930 – 0945:** May Event Update – Introduce Paula Lopez (Planning Committee)
- Motion to approve event budget
- 0945 – 0955:** Gaviota Coast CWPP Update (S. Coffman)
- 0955 - 1010:** 2022 State Prevention Grant Applications (R. Hazard / S. Coffman)
- 1010 – 1020:** Alisal Fire Support Efforts (A. Powell / P. Van Leer)
- 1020 – 1030:** Electronic Messaging Signs (G. Sichi)
- 1030:** Round Table (All)

2022 Meeting Schedule Posted: <https://sbfiresafecouncil.org/meetings/>

Next Scheduled Meeting (Board/General Meeting): Thursday, March 24th at 0900

Guest Speaker: Sydney Chamberlain –

Quantifying Insurance Benefits of a Nature-based Approach to Reducing Risk



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Firesafe Council
Board of Directors' Meeting
February 24, 2022**

Directors Present: Paul Van Leer, John Ahlman, Nic Elmquist, Kevin Varga, Ted Adams, Ray Smith, Supv. Joan Hartmann, Phil Seymour, Victoria Cooper, Scott Coffman, Dan Fawcett, Max Moritz, Renee O'Neill

Directors Absent: Rob Hazard, Abe Powell

Meeting has a quorum as identified in Article IV. Section 9 of the [Bylaws](#)

Call to Order

09:00 AM- P. Van Leer calls the meeting to order and confirms quorum

Minutes

Previous minutes approved over email and are available on the website: [Meetings | Santa Barbara Firesafe Council \(sbfiresafecouncil.org\)](#)

Treasurers Report

- K. Varga reviews attached Treasure update
- Invoices from Cal Fire's work on the San Antonio Creek Project have been received and paid
- Compliments from the Board to K. Varga for his efforts organizing the FSC finances
- V. Cooper confirms with K. Varga about his workload, he feels comfortable currently and will notify the Board if/when more support is needed

Meeting Follows Agenda:

1. Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program (RWMP)
 - A. Parkinson reviews the attached RWMP update
 - Evie Vermeer has started in his role as Communication and Social Media Coordinator
 - They are starting coordination with the California FSC and are already starting to see increasing Social Media use
 - Explains the need for software to help facilitate Defensible Space Surveys and how the sub-committee approved the purchase of Fulcrum (see motion)
2. Wildfire Preparedness Exposition Event Update
 - Introduction of Paula Lopez Ochoa who was hired to assist as the Publicist
 - A. Parkinson reviews the proposed budget (attached) (see motion)
 - P. Seymour asks the Board to reach out with ideas for guest speakers, presenters, etc. to be included in the event
 - Supv. Hartmann suggests including an expert from the insurance agency to be included in the event. She offers to make the connection with California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara
3. Gaviota Coast Update

- S. Coffman reviews the attached update
 - Highlights the planned agency meeting which will have 30+ local agency participants and is planned for March 1 at 10:30, not 10:00
 - The Draft CWPP should be completed the first week of March and will be sent out to the project committee for comment
 - After the comments are incorporated, a second public workshop will be scheduled to present the draft to the community and ask for their comments
 - Hollister Ranch Firewise Application has been submitted
 - Meeting is scheduled with Hope Refuge to start the Firewise process
 - Planning on scheduling a meeting with the Dos Pueblos institute
4. 2022 Cal Fire Grant Applications
- Two grants were submitted – Santa Barbara South Coast Herbivory Grant and SBCFSC Community Chipping Program Grant were submitted for a total of approximately \$4 million over the three-year grant period
 - If received, these grants will provide approximately \$400,000 in unrestricted funds. Per the grant “The SBCFSC charges a baseline 12% Administrative Fee. These funds will be used for general organizational administration, any additional necessary costs, and for the overall growth and mission of the SBCFSC. Fire Safe Councils are an important piece of the overall CA wildfire resilience puzzle, and the SBCFSC wants to lead in that effort.”
 - Supv. Hartmann recommends setting up a financial strategy that includes a liquidity fund and identifies a process for the spending of discretionary funds (See Next Agenda Items)
5. Alisal Fire Update
- P. Van Leer updates the group on A. Powell’s work and coordination with the Bucket Brigade to support the cleanup efforts in and around Refugio Canyon
 - Paula Ochoa will become involved to assist the FSC in ensuring these efforts are recognized in local media outlets
6. Electronic Messaging Signs
- Gordon Sichi presents on the need for electronic messaging signs along entry points in and around the communities of the Camino Cielo
 - These signs could be used during extreme weather events and to provide other emergency messages
 - Mike Scott (LPF – Division Chief) confirms the approval of the Burn Ban.
 - The Ban went into place February 25th and will renew every 2-years.
 - The LPF is organizing a press conference for March 7th
 - R. Smith brings up the importance of enforcement and Mike acknowledges this as being important and explains the current deficiency of Law Enforcement Officers on the SBRD

Motions:

1. Director Seymour motions for A. Parkinson to purchase Fulcrum license to be used as a survey platform with a not to exceed cost of \$1300, approximately 3 licenses for 1.5 years. (Director Smith seconds, All in favor)
2. Director Coffman motions to approve May Event proposed budget as provided in spreadsheet by the planning committee. (Director Seymour seconds, All in favor)
3. Motion to approve an MOU with Michael Long (the artist) to create a fire safe home model to be used as an educational tool at a cost of \$4,300 (\$4,000 for the artist + Supplies and \$300 for future maintenance) – Email vote with 9 votes for yes, 0 votes for no, and 6 votes not cast (motion passes)

Action Items:

1. None noted outside of those identified in the motions

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

1. RWMP, Gaviota CWPP updates and financial documents will be provided with agenda
2. Sub-Committee Updates
3. Executive Committee Discussion
4. Finance Committee Discussion
5. Alternate General Meeting Time (after business hours)
6. Others?

Board Adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Future Meeting Schedule and Guest Speakers:

1. March 24th – Board and General Membership Meeting
 - o Guest Speaker – Sydney Chamberlain (The Nature Conservancy): “Quantifying Insurance Benefits of a Nature-based Approach to Reducing Risk?”
2. April 28th – Board Meeting
3. May 26th – Board and General Membership Meeting
4. June 23rd – Board Meeting
5. July 28th – Board and General Membership Meeting
6. August 25th – Board Meeting
7. September 22nd – Board and General Membership Meeting
8. October 27th – Board Meeting
9. November 17th – Board and General Membership Meeting
10. December 29th – Board Meeting

Minutes respectfully submitted: Nic Elmquist

Goal 1: Increase fire prevention awareness and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce loss of life, property damage and impacts to natural resources from wildland fires.

- Finalize Gaviota Coast CWPP
- Submit Cal Fire Fire Prevention Grants (Feb. 9, 2022) to initiate a Rx Herbivory program and a Neighborhood Chipping Program.
- Plan 2022 Spring and Fall events to coincide with National Wildfire Preparedness weeks; hire an events coordinator to support these efforts.
- Bi-annual (or more) newsletter, first one to follow the Spring Event.
- Continue to update website and promote guest speaker series.
- Increase Firewise certified communities in the county.

Goal 2: Encourage local and regional land use planning efforts that increase the protection of life, property, and natural resources from the risks of wildland fire.

- SBCFSC representation at the Los Padres Stakeholder meetings.
- Placeholder for FSC support of local planning efforts (i.e. SB 9, etc.)

Goal 3: Develop sufficient financial and administrative resources such as staff, volunteers and sustainable funding to carry out our Mission.

- Submit grant through California Coastal Conservancy for funding for an Executive Director and one additional staff position.
- Hire an Executive Director (ad-hoc committee to work on proposal to Board for approval)
- Establish an Executive Committee who drafts a 3-year Financial and Administrative Plan to be approved by the Board.
- Continue to outreach to membership through donor letter, postcards, etc.

Goal 4: Develop a Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program (RWMP) that will result in county-wide community, landscape, and built environment resilience.

- Continue to support and collaborate with the RWMP team.
- Develop a Communication Plan - Hire a part-time Communication Coordinator
- Hire a social equity coordinator (RWMP)
- Develop/pursue structure retrofit process/portal (RWMP Sub-committee)

Current Identified Subcommittees:

1. Gaviota CWPP – R. Hazard, J. Ahlman, N. Elmquist, P. Van Leer (S. Coffman as Project Manager)
2. Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program – M. Moritz, R. Hazard, K. Varga, P. Seymour, V. Cooper, N. Elmquist (A. Parkinson as Project Manager)
3. Membership Management – A. Powell, N. Elmquist, V. Cooper, A. Parkinson, Executive Director, Comm Coordinator
4. 2023 Cal Fire Grant – P. Van Leer, R. Hazard, S. Coffman, N. Elmquist
5. Event Planning Committee – A. Parkinson (Lead), V. Cooper, E. Turpin, P. Seymour, J. Ahlman
6. Newsletter – A. Parkinson, N. Elmquist, Comm Coordinator
7. LPF Stakeholder Meetings – S. Coffman, R. O’Neill, T. Adams
8. Ad-hoc Executive Director Committee – K. Varga, P. Seymour, S. Coffman, P. Van Leer, R. Hazard, N. Elmquist



Treasurer Report for February 24, 2022 Board meeting

Prepared by Kevin Varga; kvarga@ucsb.edu

Summary:

- End of year closeout and 990 tax preparation in progress
 - Being conducted by Crystal Martinez, Accountability Plus, and Gary Gray, CPA
- 1099 tax forms completed for Ethan Turpin and Scott Coffman for 2021
- \$168,000 advance for CAL FIRE RWMP grant prepared by Rob and submitted
 - Currently being processed by CAL FIRE
 - As soon as funds are on the way, we can begin paying invoices, i.e. Ethan Turpin
- San Antonia Creek HOA 2021 fuel reduction work invoices received from CAL FIRE
 - CAL FIRE invoices paid
 - San Antonio Creek HOA invoices sent
- Please see attached Quickbooks reports regarding our financial position and activity

Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council

Statement of Financial Position

As of February 20, 2022

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Checking SBB&T	105,325.87
Total Bank Accounts	\$105,325.87
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	27,057.66
Total Accounts Receivable	\$27,057.66
Total Current Assets	\$132,383.53
TOTAL ASSETS	\$132,383.53
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Other Current Liabilities	
Advance from Gaviota CWPP	0.00
Advance from NFWF	111,503.06
Payroll Liabilities	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$111,503.06
Total Current Liabilities	\$111,503.06
Total Liabilities	\$111,503.06
Equity	
Retained Earnings	23,852.74
Unrestricted Funds 2005-2016	0.00
Net Revenue	-2,972.27
Total Equity	\$20,880.47
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$132,383.53

Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council

Statement of Activity

January 1 - February 20, 2022

	TOTAL
Revenue	
Contributions and Grants	
Contract Income	8,646.37
Total Contributions and Grants	8,646.37
Earned Income	
Membership Dues	196.12
Total Earned Income	196.12
Total Revenue	\$8,842.49
GROSS PROFIT	\$8,842.49
Expenditures	
Operating Costs	
Dues & Subscriptions	14.99
Payroll Processing Fees	302.65
Total Operating Costs	317.64
Payroll Expenses	
Payroll Taxes	1,039.42
Wages	10,384.62
Workers Comp Insurance	73.08
Total Payroll Expenses	11,497.12
Total Expenditures	\$11,814.76
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -2,972.27
NET REVENUE	\$ -2,972.27

Santa Barbara FireSafe Council
Statement of Activity by Customer
January 1, 2020 - February 20, 2022

	Gaviota CWPP	Edison Internati	NFWF	PG&E	TOTAL
Revenue					
Contributions and Grants					
Contract Income	76,057.66		38,496.94		114,554.60
Grant Income		5,000.00		12,500.00	17,500.00
Total Contributions and Grants	\$ 76,057.66	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 38,496.94	\$ 12,500.00	132,054.60
Total Revenue	\$ 76,057.66	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 38,496.94	\$ 12,500.00	132,054.60
Gross Profit	\$ 76,057.66	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 38,496.94	\$ 12,500.00	132,054.60
Expenditures					
Contract Services					
Professional Personnel	67,527.16				67,527.16
Total Contract Services	\$ 67,527.16	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	67,527.16
Operating Costs					
Computer Software			100.00		100.00
Equipment & Supplies			2,811.06		2,811.06
Printing	381.46		48.32		429.78
WebSite Expenses		2,499.00			2,499.00
Total Operating Costs	\$ 381.46	\$ 2,499.00	\$ 2,959.38	\$ 0.00	5,839.84
Payroll Expenses					
Payroll Taxes			2,902.69		2,902.69
Wages			31,538.48		31,538.48
Workers Comp Insurance			326.70		326.70
Total Payroll Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 34,767.87	\$ 0.00	34,767.87
Program Expenses					
Education Outreach				10,000.00	10,000.00
Total Program Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000.00	10,000.00
Promotional Meals			176.20		176.20
Travel			245.96		245.96
Total Expenditures	\$ 67,908.62	\$ 2,499.00	\$ 38,149.41	\$ 10,000.00	118,557.03
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 8,149.04	\$ 2,501.00	\$ 347.53	\$ 2,500.00	13,497.57
Net Revenue	\$ 8,149.04	\$ 2,501.00	\$ 347.53	\$ 2,500.00	13,497.57

Sunday, Feb 20, 2022 12:11:30 PM GMT-8 - Accrual Basis



February Update: Gaviota Coast Community Wildfire Protection Plan

We are down the track on completion of this particularly important plan. Again, we have a Cal Fire grant for \$196,000.00 with the majority of the work with our contractor Dudek Consulting Group. We are completing paperwork on the first advance and a second check from Cal Fire.

We have had several field trips to date on the Gaviota Coast and completed all the mapping and history including the remapping for the area of the Alisal Fire (16,962 acres). We additionally, are looking for three Firewise Communities on the Gaviota Coast: Hollister Ranch, Hope Refuge at Refugio Road, and the Dos Pueblos Institute in Dos Pueblos Canyon. The Hollister Ranch application is near completion and the other two are just starting.

We have had the first of three public workshops that was a well-attended meeting on Zoom. We have also established a development team of stakeholders and Gaviota ranchers and homeowners.

Upcoming we have an agency meeting on Zoom coming up on March 1st at 10am till noon. Agencies include Cal Trans, State Parks, County P&D ect. After this the draft CWPP will be coming out for comments. We will have another development team meeting on comments before the next public workshop.

Respectfully Yours,

Scott Coffman

Project Manager



RWMP/CCI - Project Manager Job Description

The purpose of this document is to outline the goals and expectations between the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council (SBCFSC) and Christina McGinnis regarding her role as the Project Manager for the Cal Fire Climate Investment Grant for the Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program.

Background:

In 2020, the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to fund a novel wildfire resiliency program in southern Santa Barbara County called a Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program (RWMP). The RWMP is a multi-year initiative designed to assess hazard, exposure, and vulnerability and to reduce overall wildfire hazard across the Santa Barbara front country. The program goals are to decrease the risk of wildfire impacts to structures and infrastructure, promote wildfire resilient green space, working lands, and habitats, and develop community capacity to adapt and recover from the impacts of natural disasters through a program that can be replicated. To accomplish these goals, the program is divided into three primary domains: the Landscape Domain, the Built Domain, and the Community Domain. The program's webpage is <https://rwmpsantabarbara.org/>.

On September 1, 2020, the SBCFSC received a subaward of \$550,000 from the CFSC to manage the Community Domain portion of the RWMP through August 31, 2023. The SBCFSC used a portion of this funding to hire Annie-Marie Parkinson in a full-time position as the Community Resilience Domain Leader. The goal of the Community Resilience Domain is to prioritize equitable outcomes for vulnerable community members through education and training and assist communities with their emergency preparedness by leading them through the National Fire Protection Association's established Firewise USA certification program.

Most of the matching requirement of the NFWF Grant is being met through Santa Barbara County Fire's in-kind activities that are complementary to the RWMP. The remaining matching funds were received through a Cal Fire Climate Investment (CCI) Grant. Of the \$686,094 awarded, \$85,800 are identified as wages for a Project Manager. The project performance period ends March 15, 2024.

Although the CCI Grant is designed to support the larger RWMP efforts, the scope of work identifies three unique objectives which will be used to gauge project success:

1. Community barrier survey-based research (via outreach and assistance from groups who directly interface with vulnerable communities).
2. Educational/planning events and community involvement documentation
3. Web-based platform for structural retrofit program

Within the CCI Scope of Work, the Project Manager's role is described as to oversee each objective and hold the individuals assigned to complete each project accountable to the proposed deliverables. The manager will oversee hiring, purchasing materials, managing funds (with assistance from FSC), communicating with agencies, and reporting progress/deliverables. The goal is to be able to provide a

“roadmap” to make the RWMP replicable across the state. The proposed salary is based on 10-hours of work per week over the grant performance period.

Duties will include, but are not limited to:

- Become intimately familiar with the CCI Grant’s Scope of Work, Budget, and deliverables.
- Develop a system to track and depict project progress to ensure they are within the scheduled timeframes together with the Community Domain lead.
- Complete the quarterly reporting documents required for the CCI Grants.
- Collaborate with the Community Domain Leader to ensure the overall objectives of the RWMP project are being met (i.e. assist with community outreach and connect leaders in the community to help vulnerable communities integrate into the RWMP process).
- The one deliverable which hasn’t been given much attention thus far is the web-based platform for structural retrofits. Develop the framework and create the web-based platform for structural retrofits. Take the lead on this specific project and look for opportunities to leverage and/or incorporate existing programs to best meet this specific deliverable (i.e. LA and Ventura Counties www.defensiblespace.org). Work with a web designer and direct him/her on how to prepare a comprehensive bi-lingual website that will encourage participation from the community. There are several similar projects already in existence and state funding opportunities are becoming available.
- Participate in coordination meetings and provide support to the Event Planning Committee and RWMP Committee in their specific efforts.
- Assist the SBCFSC in growing the organization and developing strategies to integrate the RWMP, RPP, and SBCFSC into county-wide sustainable programs.
- Provide recommendations on positions to increase capacity and assist with the hiring process.
- Provide a brief description of monthly accomplishments, current efforts, and future goals which will be incorporated into the SBCFSC Board Meeting Agenda Package.

We are excited to have you join the SBCFSC team as you bring an expertise that will help meet the goals of both the RWMP and the SBCFSC. Although there are specific objectives outlined within the Scope of Work and provided under “Duties” above, the RWMP and the SBCFSC are continuously developing and evolving. We are confident your relationships and experience will help shape this development and will assist the organization to take full advantage of the opportunities available to increase wildfire resilience in Santa Barbara County.

Budget Category	Item Description	Quantity	Units	Cost/Unit	Total	Fund Source
Personnel (Sub-contractors)						
	Event Coordinator	60	Hours	\$ 40.00	\$ 2,400	NFWF
	Publicist	196	Hours	\$ 50	\$ 9,800	NFWF
	Ethan + subcontractors	--	--	--	\$ 24,500	CalFire - Ethan Funds
	3D Model	1	Each	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,800	NFWF
	Sub-Total					
Materials & Supplies						
	Table cloths w/ SBFSC logo	2	Each	TBD	\$ 200	SBFSC
	SBFSC board + staff gear: shirts w/ logo	30	Each	TBD	\$ 650	SBFSC
	SBFSC board + staff gear: hats w/ logo	30	Each	TBD	\$ 550	SBFSC
	Promotional item: Magnet w/ emergency numbers	TBD	Each	TBD	\$ 500	NFWF
	Promotional item: tote bags/reuseable grocery bags	TBD	Each	TBD	\$ 1,500	NFWF
	Signage	-	-	-	\$ 1,000	CalFire - Ethan Funds
	Sub-Total					
Advertising						
	News paper ads	-	-	-	\$ 4,000	NFWF
	Radio ads	-	-	-	\$ 1,880	NFWF
	Fliers/banners	-	-	-	\$ 500	CalFire - Ethan Funds
	Sub-Total					

Already Board Approved?	Notes	Category Totals
Yes	One time cost, future SBFSC staff can take on this role	
Yes	One time cost? Tbd	
Yes	On-going cost, but cost already accounted for in CalFire grant	
Yes	One time cost, future use	
No	One time cost, future use	
No	One time cost, future use	
No	One time cost, future use	
No		
No		
Yes		
No	On-going cost, but will spend less on future events	
No	On-going cost, but will spend less on future events	
Yes		

Total Cost	\$ 51,280
Total cost minus Ethan	\$ 25,280
notes	
Ethan was approved for a total of \$26,000 from the CalFire Event Contractor budget for his role in the event	
	indicates cost estimates



Santa Barbara County gets its first Firewise USA community

The San Marcos Trout Club is recognized for its fire prevention and preparedness plan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SANTA BARBARA, CA – The San Marcos Trout Club (SMTC), a neighborhood of 37 homes tucked into the Santa Barbara foothills, is the first community in Santa Barbara County to be approved as a Firewise USA participant by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

To earn this designation, residents of the SMTC completed a formal wildfire risk assessment, recorded volunteer time for fire safety activities, directed part of their homeowners' association dues to vegetation management, and, most critically, created a three-year action plan to reduce wildfire risk in their community.

While many residents are new to the small community near the junction of Highway 154 and San Marcos Road, at least a dozen current homeowners lived in the SMTC during the Painted Cave Fire of 1990. The SMTC Firewise Committee volunteers include both new and tenured residents with a shared commitment to the safety of its residents, the surrounding community, and the local habitat.

"We live in a very high-risk fire zone, and safety is a key factor in the decisions we make as a community," said Matt Thomas, the current SMTC board president. "Our action plan identifies ways to further improve our defenses and readiness for wildfire together. We're fortunate to call this beautiful part of Santa Barbara home, but it also requires a special vigilance."

The action plan includes increased fire education for residents, expanded vegetation management to reduce fuels, defensible space evaluations, improving water reliability in case of fire, a communitywide evacuation plan, and more.

The [Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council \(FSC\)](#) is a key partner in the initiative. Community Wildfire Resilience Domain Lead Anne-Marie Parkinson partnered with the SMTC in its wildfire risk assessment and application. "Many of the Trout Club residents are already incredibly wildfire savvy, and they have a lot of energy and ideas to make their community even safer," she said. "The biggest benefit of becoming a Firewise USA community is that residents have mapped out strategies to keep themselves and their homes safer. They may also benefit from reduced fire insurance costs and be better positioned to apply for grants to help fund some of their risk reduction programs."

For more information, contact San Marcos Trout Club Firewise Committee Chair Richard Siegel at (805) 452-1487.

About the Firewise USA program (from its website)

The national Firewise USA® recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. Any community that meets a set of voluntary criteria on an annual basis and retains an "In Good Standing Status" may identify itself as being a Firewise® Site.

The Firewise USA® program is administered by NFPA® and is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. While the NFPA® administers this program, individuals and communities participate on a voluntary basis.