



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Executive Committee Meeting
December 13, 2023**

Executive Committee Directors Present: Victoria Cooper, Rob Hazard, Nic Elmquist

Executive Committee Directors Absent: Kevin Varga, Paul Van Leer

Others Present: A. Parkinson, P. Seymour, J. Tobin

1. Grazing Update

- Golden State Goats (GSG) will end grazing for the year on December 21 because their livestock are not staying healthy with the current quality of the feed.
- GSG will be giving us a 50% discount because they were not happy with the quality of their work due to the difficult topography of the site.
- We may end up doing grazing for 2 years instead of 3 years given the increased cost of grazing will cause us to run through our budget faster.
 - We definitely want to make sure there is sufficient funds to graze the San Marcos Foothills for 3 years since that is the highest priority site given the fire history of the area and housing density around the preserve.
 - By cutting the grazing grant short we will need to supplement half of Jessie's salary from another grant(s). Alternatively, we plan for 25% of Jessies salary in 2025 to come from the new CalFire grant we are applying for, so we could reduce her salary time on the grazing grant and put it into contractual to increase the number of acres we can graze.
- Obtained right of way agreements with the County to grazing County-owned parcels next year. Waiting on the agreement from Goleta and LPNF.
- Jessie will coordinate with Paula on a press release to announce the success of the grazing program this year. They will also coordinate about a press strategy next year with Charles once he starts.

2. CalFire Wildfire Prevention Grant application

- Lompoc CWPP/Dspace program manager job description will be posted asap with rolling applications until a suitable candidate is selected, but a full considerate date for early January will be selected.
- Both positions will be posted on more fire focused newsletters to target personnel with a fire background.



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- Education position will be posted as a project coordinator or project manager to give us more leeway in selecting the pay scale appropriate for the candidate's skills.
 - This position will also be posted for a 2 year contract since to get the program off the ground, the skillset most needed is curriculum and program development and the latter years the main skillset will be teaching.
- Leaning towards the Education hire to report to Kate.

3. CalFire Grant

- LPNF is putting in for approx. \$500-750k in the CalFire grant. They are putting in for a grant that will include acres treated. So if we put in for a CWPP grant, then it will likely be the first on the chopping block since CalFire has an internal directive to focus on grants that will get acres treated.
 - CA Coastal Conservancy has rolling grant applications for wildfire projects, so we can further explore that as a funding source to get needed planning funds.
- Rob will ask if Fred will reduce their grant ask to \$2.25m instead of \$2.5m and we can also aim to keep our grant to \$2.25m

Motions:

None

General Notes:

None

Minutes submitted respectfully: Anne-Marie Parkinson