

FOR 3/8/17 PUBLICATION

Plumas County Fire Safe Council Meeting 3/9/17

If you are yet to get involved with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, the March meeting is a great opportunity for an introduction to the organization. The Council's mission "to reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise community programs and pre-fire activities" seeks to integrate input from organizations and individuals across the county. Four new members of the Board of Directors, who bring a wealth of experience and insight to governing body of the Council, highlight the diversity of interests the local Fire Safe Council addresses.

Dan Martynn, the District Conservationist for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), joins the Board with 27 years of experience working for the agency. Protecting communities within the Feather River watershed against the threat of catastrophic wildfire is a primary concern of his office. Mr. Martynn hopes that as a Board member of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council he will be able to assist in the efforts to accelerate the pace and scale of treatment on private and public lands within the Feather River watershed.

Ryan Bauer is a Fire Management Specialist with the U. S. Forest Service on the Plumas National Forest where he oversees the Fire Use and Fuels Management programs. He brings 22 years of wildland fire management experience to the Plumas County Fire Safe Council Board. Mr. Bauer has an interest in improving the ability of our mountain communities to live safely with wildland fire, as an important step in returning fire to our National Forests as a natural process that is critical to the health of our forests, watersheds, and economy.

Cary Curtis is the Co-chair of the Gold Mountain Firewise Committee. She has a 40 year background in financial services with a concentration in risk management and regulatory compliance. Although her professional background and urban experiences did not lend to prior knowledge about wildfire risk, Cary has found that there are many fire professionals, organizations and community members in Plumas County who are willing to share their knowledge and provide support on the subject. In joining the Plumas Fire Safe Council Board, it is Cary's goal to continue to learn, to support wildfire education and outreach activities and to assist with wildfire mitigation projects for the Council and the greater community.

Following a previous career as a market analyst, in 2013 Julie Ruiz earned a degree in Ecohydrology from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and spent the next 1.5 years working for the City of Reno in the Public Works Department focusing on stormwater issues. Now, as an employee at the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, she coordinates the Greater Portola Wood Stove Change-out Program, community outreach events, and distributes educational materials on efficient use of wood as a heating fuel. As an air pollution control specialist, Julie also operates air sampling monitors in various locations around Plumas County,

issues air pollution control permits for open burning, enforces burning rules and ordinances and assists with Title V source inspections and permitting.

These individuals join Board members: Mike Callaghan, Plumas County Fire Safe Council Chair and Gold Mountain Firewise Community member; Don Gasser, Vice Chair and Registered Professional Forester; Mike De Lasaux, Secretary/Treasurer and Natural Resource Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension; Chuck Bowman of the Graeagle Firewise Community; Jim Hamblin representing the Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association; and Shane Vargas, Fire Captain for CAL FIRE's Lassen-Modoc Unit.

Get to know the Board at the next meeting on Thursday, March 9th, 2017 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Plumas County Planning & Building Services office, 555 Main Street in Quincy. Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and are attended by citizens, business owners, and representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies, who share a common interest in preventing loss of life and minimizing loss of property from wildland fires.

For more information about the Fire Safe Council Board or the upcoming meeting, visit plumasfiresafe.org or contact Hannah at 283-3739.