

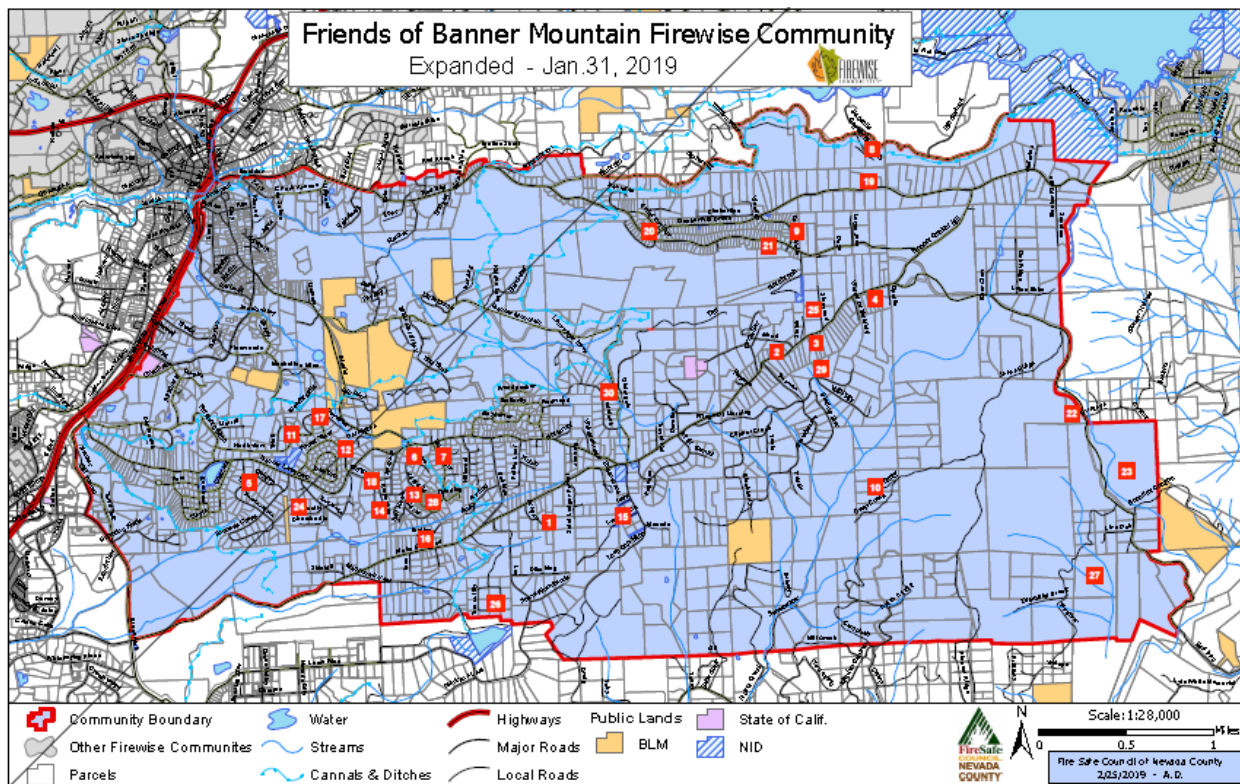
Friends of Banner Mountain
Firewise Community Committee Meeting Notes
April 19, 2019, 5:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
Madelyn Helling Library

Vacant Parcel Concerns

- Jeff provided an overview of the issue of noncompliant neighbors who have heavy fuel loads and options to deal with that.
- **Jeff will contact NRCS to arrange a speaker to discuss grants at our next meeting.**

Outreach Campaign

- Jeff displayed the map showing the FBM area with neighborhood volunteers identified



- Anne suggested that we find neighborhood coordinators to come to our next meeting, and a good source of those are people who have had Fire Safe Council defensible space training because they are converts. **Jeff will coordinate with Jamie to get a list of those people.**
- Rick suggested overlaying the map with a depiction of dues-paying FBM members.
- Marlene suggested neighborhood potlucks or other gathering as a starting point for outreach.
- We agreed we need a packet of information to leave behind on our neighborhood visits, and it needed branding (FMB and Firewise logos).

- At the Annual Meeting on May 22, 6 - 8, we will display this FBM Firewise Community map.
- We also need a cover letter explaining what this FBM's Firewise Community is all about. **Susan and Colleen will prepare a draft cover letter for review by the group.**
- Anne emphasized that we needed a soft touch in this outreach, avoiding the "big brother" enforcement approach.

Outreach Organizational Structure

- The group discussed how to divide up the mountain by neighborhood, but we all agreed that we would let this grow organically rather than try to create artificial boundaries at this early stage.
- David said we will eventually need "neighborhood captains" or something equivalent to coordinate efforts within the neighborhood. Barry suggested we just start with our neighbors and see where that leads, and report back at our next meeting.
- **Jeff will email the FBM Firewise Community map to the FBM list and ask for volunteers in unrepresented areas.**
- Alexis said that their Neighborhood Watch on Forest Knolls/North View neighborhood was how she got started on the Firewise connection.
- **Alexis will contact the Sheriff's Department to see if there is a list of Neighborhood Watch groups that we could use as a structure for our outreach efforts.**
- NextDoor is another useful connection. Jim has been posting on this to spread the word about Firewise - about 2700 people on this list
- Someone suggested inviting Joanne Harding from Cascade Shores to come talk about starting Firewise Communities.

Information Materials to Leave Behind

- Jeff went over some of the handouts that have been produced, in addition to the glossy fold out brochure from the Fire Safe Council. These include
 - Jim's Defensible Space Checklist for Existing Homes in Forested Areas
 - Bob's Defensible Space "Cliffnotes" showing a simple graphic

Evacuation Simulation Exercise

- Anne gave a lively presentation describing the successful simulation exercise she organized with Mark and Terry in her Northview Drive neighborhood. With an audio backdrop of sirens, wind, vehicle/helicopter noise, neighbors had to deal with various scenarios with a fire starting on Hwy 20 near Five-Mile House coming toward Banner Mt (i.e., the lights are out, you trip over your dog and sprain your ankle, you lock yourself out, etc.).
- It was very instructive and take home messages includes getting a list of cell phone numbers of neighbors, figuring out multiple ways off the mountain, and identifying evacuation buddies.

- Anne can help if others are interested in organizing a similar simulation exercise in their neighborhood.

"Big Picture" Perspective on Federal/State Programs and Grants

- Jeff showed the "Flame Mapper" exhibit that depicted the path of wildfires moving up Banner Mountain into our most populated neighborhoods. BLM lands are among the heavily overstocked areas that direct fire up to the top of Banner Mt.
- Ted and Dave described the overarching, long-term approach to work with federal and state agencies on large-scale fuel reduction projects and to secure funding through grants for this work.
- Dave, who works for the USFS, said that federal agencies can implement a Good Neighbor Agreement or Stewardship Agreement to manage lands where there is USFS and BLM lands in conjunction with Cal Fire which has a large amount of funding for projects such as ours.
- Dave has also been in touch with Steve Garcia from Cal Fire to discuss planning and possible implementation of fuel reduction projects on BLM lands on Banner Mt.
- Dave said there had been a change in leadership at BLM, and on Monday he has an appointment to talk with the BLM supervisor for the Mother Lode Field Office of the Central California District Office. BLM is spread very thin, with Monte being the only BLM forester for a huge area in the northern Sierra.
- Lots of state funding is available to help with fuel reduction projects - Calfire can award funds from cap & trade funds (Climate Investment Grant). The Ponderosa Way-Green Valley Project fuel break is an example, as is the Penn Valley \$1M grant for reducing costs of fuel reduction for individual landowners. These grants require strict financial oversight.

Message/Talking Points for Neighborhood Visits

Colleen provided a handout and explained the four big points to get across in neighborhood visits, with the most important points being made first.

1. Join Friends of Banner Mountain (email, facebook)
 - Stay informed
 - Get alerts
 - Neighborhood opportunities
2. What is a Firewise Community, what value does it bring?
 - Defensible space in a weekend
 - FBM - FWC
 - Technical resources
3. Neighborhood level projects
 - Larger, more costly tree removal strategies
 - Neighborhood road vegetation management
4. Looking to the Future
 - Neighborhood project grants
 - Partnerships

Upcoming Meetings

FBM Annual Meeting on 5/22. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. -

- Joint presentation with Nevada County Sheriff's Office, Cascade Shores HOA - "Evacuation - What to Expect"
- We can pass out information on FBM Firewise Community at that meeting, and will show the map of the Firewise Community boundaries

Children's Health & Wildfire Safety Carnival on 5/4 from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Next FBM Firewise Community Meeting on 6/5 at 5:30 p.m