

Firewise Community volunteers at the Hearts on Fire event Feb 13, 2026.

Wildfire-Ready Coalition of Nevada County

Annual Report
Feb 2025 – Mar 2026

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WILDFIRE-READY
COALITION OF NEVADA COUNTY

The Year That Changed the Conversation

Wildfire is no longer a distant threat in Nevada County. It is a defining reality of living in the forests and foothill communities of the Sierra Nevada.

For decades, most wildfire messaging focused on awareness: Learn the risks. Understand defensible space. Prepare if you can. But awareness alone has not been enough.

In 2025, a shift began to take hold across Nevada County. The Wildfire-Ready Coalition of Nevada County launched with a clear focus: helping residents and communities move from information to action. Working alongside Firewise leaders, local partners, and hundreds of residents, the Coalition began building something deeper than individual programs.

The goal is a cultural shift — one where wildfire readiness becomes a normal part of living in this landscape.

Nevada County is uniquely positioned for this transformation. With more than 125 Firewise Communities, the county already has one of the strongest grassroots wildfire preparedness networks in the country. In its first year, the Coalition focused on strengthening that network while introducing new programs that help translate wildfire science into practical steps residents can take at home and in their neighborhoods.

The result is early momentum toward a new expectation for life in Nevada County: that caring for this place means preparing for the fires that will inevitably come. The highlights that follow show the first steps of that work — and the beginning of a broader effort to build a wildfire-ready culture across the county.

Year One Highlights

Building a Wildfire-Ready Culture
Across Nevada County

Strengthened the Firewise Network: 16 Firewise Communities supported in formation or reinstatement; 20+ workshops; 24+ leadership mentoring sessions with Firewise leaders; 12+ presentations delivered at Firewise annual gatherings; quarterly Firewise leader meetings launched to share ideas and coordinate action countywide.

Launched Wildfire-Ready Programs: Introduced the Wildfire-Ready Home and Forest Health programs, helping residents understand how to prepare homes, landscapes, and neighborhoods for wildfire.

Educated and Mobilized Residents: Produced 100+ practical wildfire readiness messages through seasonal campaigns, social media, and community materials designed to translate fire science into everyday actions residents can take.

Brought the Community Together: From events and workshops to outreach and support, we are inspiring action across Nevada County.

> *"Thank you for all you do to keep us educated, inspired and motivated!"*
>
> Deepa Maria, FWC Leader

THE WILDFIRE-READY DECLARATION

Nevada County, California

It's not if but when.
It will burn.
The question is how it burns.

THE CHOICE WE FACE

Fire that is safe and intentional
fire that is catastrophic and merciless.

Our crisis is not wildfire. It's how we live with fire.

Fire is not a threat from outside.
It is the natural pulse of this land.

THE COMMITMENT

Nevada County will become wildfire-ready through:

READINESS BEFORE FIRE
SURVIVABILITY DURING FIRE
STEWARDSHIP AFTER FIRE

BEING WILDFIRE-READY REQUIRES

A fire-adapted future demands all of us.
Wildfire resilience is not a service. It is a duty.

Indigenous fire
is the original resilience.

OUR PROMISE

We will build a fire-adapted future
rooted in responsibility,
readiness, stewardship, and community.

We will not wait.
We will act now. Together.

WILDFIRE-READY

Our Mission & Why It Matters

Our mission is simple:

Reduce wildfire risk through education, community engagement, and direct support for Firewise Communities.

Nevada County is a fire-prone landscape where homes and neighborhoods are closely intermixed with forests, chaparral, and dry grasslands.

Wildfires are inevitable. What matters most is how they burn and how prepared we are when they do.

Wildfire preparedness works best when neighbors and communities act together. Individual actions matter, but collective action creates real protection. That belief drives everything we do.

> *"You cannot outrun a wildfire. But you can outplan it."*
>
> Wildfire-Ready Coalition of Nevada County

Firewise Community Formation & Support

Helped 16 communities form, renew, or reinstate recognition; assisted communities across Grass Valley, Nevada City, San Juan Ridge, and East County; helped expand boundaries and strengthen mitigation plans; provided ongoing leadership mentoring.

Workshops & Leader Training

Provided training on NFPA Firewise USA® requirements, including hazard risk assessments, 3-year action plans, annual reporting, volunteer engagement, and documenting annual wildfire risk-reduction investment to obtain and maintain Firewise recognition.

- Conducted 24+ mentoring sessions
- Delivered 20+ public workshops

> *"The Wildfire-Ready Coalition took the guesswork out of renewing our Firewise status and went above and beyond to help our community become more wildfire-ready."*

Richard C.



FIREWISE COMMUNITY LEADERS:

IS YOUR 3-YEAR ACTION PLAN DUE?

WE CAN HELP!

JOIN US!

YOUR PLAN = YOUR COMMUNITY'S WILDFIRE DEFENSE.

Need help with your Firewise 3-Year Action Plan? Come to our workshop and leave with a clear roadmap.

Saturday Sept. 13 8:30a-12:0p
Madelyn Helling Library

www.firesafecoalitionnc.org/events
www.nevadacity.gov/NevadaCityOES

Neighbor to Neighbor

FIRE SAFE

THE RISK IS REAL



Show Your Work: Report your wildfire preparedness efforts.

Recognized Firewise communities can get insurance discounts.

TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN A FIREWISE COMMUNITY

1. The Risk Is Real
2. What's in Their Yard Affects Yours
3. Home Hardening Costs Add Up
4. Clear Roads = Safe Escapes
5. Embers Cross Property Lines
6. Organize Now – Not During the Fire
7. Insurance Perks Are Real
8. Get Expert Advice
9. A Stronger Voice
10. It's About Community

Stronger Together

FWC REPORTING

DON'T JUST DO IT. DOCUMENT IT.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
5:30 – 7:30 PM
MADELYN HELLING LIBRARY

Tips and tools to make reporting easier. Explore methods for collecting volunteer hours and monetary contributions.

Firewise Communities On-going Support

Firewise Communities are one of the most effective ways neighbors reduce wildfire risk together. Yet, after NFPA recognition, Firewise leaders are left to navigate the process on their own.

The Wildfire-Ready Coalition is filling that gap with hands-on support to help communities organize, strengthen mitigation efforts, and sustain their recognition.


It's Firewise renewal time.
We can help!
FREE Workshop!
FIREWISE USA
FIRE HAZARD & RISK ASSESSMENTS
Keep Your Firewise Status Strong!
Your hazard assessment is the backbone of your Firewise Community.
Join us to learn how to complete a new one – or update your existing plan – with expert guidance, practical templates, and peer support.
Saturday, October 11
8:00a–12:00p | Madelyn Helling Library
www.firesafecoalitionnc.org/events
www.nevadacity.gov/NevadaCityOES
Register today!
Show up. Get it done.
Keep your community protected.
Neighbor to Neighbor
FIRE SAFE


Banner Mountain Firewise Community
NFPA
FIREWISE USA
Residents reducing wildfire risks
FREE
Green Waste Drop Off
iends of Banner Mountain www.bannermountain.org

Wildfire Preparedness Messaging

Turning Wildfire Science into Everyday Action

Public agencies such as CAL FIRE and Nevada County OES play a critical role in providing trusted wildfire information, alerts, and safety guidance to residents.

The Wildfire-Ready Coalition works alongside these agencies by extending that information into community life — translating wildfire science and preparedness guidance into practical actions residents can take throughout the year

Our season-by-season campaigns focus on practical actions residents can take throughout the year to reduce wildfire risk. By aligning preparedness with the rhythm of the seasons, people better understand what to do — and when to do it.

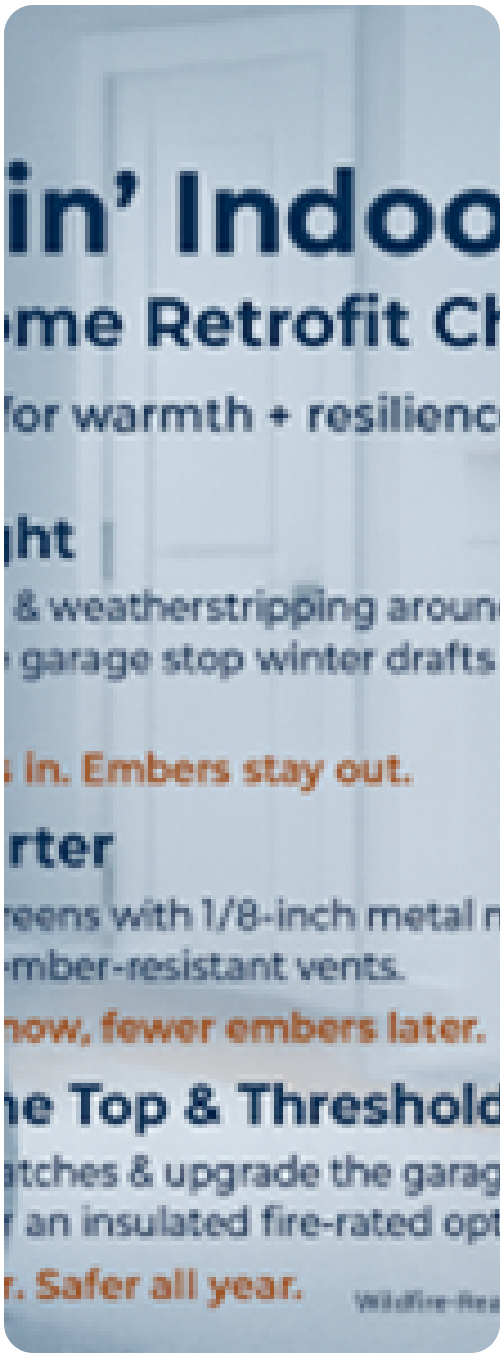
The goal is simple: move wildfire preparedness from awareness to action. The greatest opportunity to reduce loss happens before a fire starts.

As a nonprofit community organization, the Coalition can use storytelling, humor, and bold messaging to make wildfire preparedness part of everyday life.

These messages were shared through social media, Firewise meetings, press outreach, and the Coalition website, helping residents turn guidance into action.



WILDFIRE-READY
COALITION OF NEVADA COUNTY


in' Indoo
me Retrofit Ch
for warmth + resilienc
ght
& weatherstripping aroun
garage stop winter drafts
in. Embers stay out.
rter
reens with 1/8-inch metal
mber-resistant vents.
now, fewer embers later.
he Top & Threshold
atches & upgrade the garag
an insulated fire-rated opt
r. Safer all year.


Wildfire Season's Here.
be evacuation ready
pack go-bags
car gas full
clear around home


THE READINESS RESOLUTION.
HELP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GET FIRE-READY
1 MAKE YOUR TREES HAPPY
Healthier Forest = Safer Home.
2 BUILD FOR RESILIENCE
Slow the flames. Save the home.
3 ADOPT YOUR ROAD
Roads are our lifelines.
4 BE A FIREWISE NEIGHBOR
Many hands change outcomes.
5 MAINTAIN THE FIRST FIVE FEET
0-5 feet is your survival strip.
INDIVIDUAL ACTION. COLLECTIVE SURVIVAL.


Summer's Ov
Wildfire Season
be evacuation ready
VERY WINDY
monitor weather, especially WIND!
no SPARKS!
FIRE SAFE
NEVADA COUNTY COALITION


LEAVES KEEP
FALLING.
GUTTERS KEE
FILLING.
LEAN THEM OUT–
MBERS LOVE A LANDING P



Wildfire-Ready Homes Program

Preparing individual homes is one of the most important ways to improve community wildfire resilience. Research shows that home hardening and defensible space dramatically increase a home's chances of surviving a wildfire, yet many homeowners are unsure where to start or which actions matter most.

The Wildfire-Ready Homes Program helps bridge that gap by connecting residents with clear guidance, proven science, and practical steps they can take to reduce risk. Through workshops and advisory support, residents learned how to evaluate their homes, prioritize improvements, and take action to make their properties more wildfire-ready.

Many homeowners face insurance challenges. The Wildfire-Ready Home Program uses the insurance industry standard for discounts and maintaining affordable coverage. It combines the Insurance Institute of Building and Home Safety's (IBHS) Wildfire-Prepared Home Checklist with CAL FIRE Defensible Space requirements to help give homes a fighting chance during a wildfire and improve insurability.

Most homes are lost to embers, not flames. Simple steps around the home can dramatically reduce that risk.

Our Fire-Smart Landscaping and Wildfire-Ready Home workshops showed residents how basic defensible space and home-hardening steps can increase the likelihood of a home surviving a wildfire from about 27% to more than 50%.

Program Featured:

- Two Wildfire-Ready Home workshops
- 50+ residents trained on the insurance-industry-recognized IBHS Wildfire Prepared Home Checklist
- Fire-Smart Landscaping workshop

This program helps households take practical steps that build neighborhood resilience. By focusing on high-impact upgrades — ember-resistant vents, a five-foot ignition-free zone, and routine roof and gutter cleaning — residents learn how to prioritize improvements
and make steady progress toward a safer home ignition zone.

WILDFIRE-READY
COALITION OF NEVADA COUNTY



Forests, Fire & Fuels Program

Understanding how forests grow, compete, and burn is essential to reducing wildfire risk. Yet many residents lack clear information about forest health and what actions landowners can realistically take. The Coalition developed a series of programs to make forest stewardship practical and accessible for residents. Through workshops and field experiences, participants learn how forest conditions influence wildfire behavior and how thoughtful thinning and fuel reduction can improve forest resilience.

The **Strategies for Fuel Reduction** presentation provided practical advice on the best tools and strategies for fuel reduction in different landscapes, from grasslands to forests and shrublands. Safe Pile Burning workshops covering permitting, smoke management, and safe burning practices.

Tree's-Eye View webinar teaches residents how to "read" the forest — recognizing healthy and unhealthy trees, understanding overcrowding and drought stress, and seeing how forest conditions affect wildfire risk.

Forest Walks. Many Sierra forests look lush and healthy, but decades of fire suppression have left them overcrowded and stressed. Our Forest Walks program helps residents learn to "read" the forest by seeing real examples of healthy and unhealthy conditions alongside local forestry experts. These guided walks give people the knowledge and confidence to care for their land in ways that improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk.



WILDFIRE-READY
COALITION OF NEVADA COUNTY





Fuels Reduction Drives Reduced Risk

Real risk reduction starts with removal.

Reducing vegetation around homes and along evacuation routes is one of the most effective ways to lower wildfire intensity. But an important lesson residents are beginning to understand is that not all fuel treatments are equal.

The best solution is removing vegetation fuels entirely. Chipping and spreading material on the ground can still be useful, but it largely rearranges the fuel rather than removing it. The fuel remains on site and can still burn.

Throughout the year, Coalition workshops emphasized this distinction — helping residents understand when to remove fuels, when chipping may be appropriate, and how different landscapes require different approaches. Together, these programs helped residents better understand how thoughtful fuel reduction can lower fire intensity and make homes and neighborhoods more survivable during wildfire.

“

"You have great energy and knowledge and you present things clearly without talking down to folks ... you had a lot of expertise but you still made us feel like you were one of us. I think that nails it."

Josie Crawford, Leader - Wolf Creek FWC

Winter Walks in The Forest

On these guided walks, experts helped residents see the forest with new eyes — understanding what creates wildfire risk and the practical steps they can take on their own properties to improve forest health and resilience.

Seven guided forest walks were held across Nevada County, led by six experienced forestry and land-management experts.

Forest experts include:

Dario Davidson – Registered Professional Forester

Jeff Lauder, PhD – Director Sierra Streams Institute

Alex Geritz, Registered Professional Forester – Nevada County OES

Zeno Acton, Master Arboriculturist – Acton Arboriculture

Katherine Benedict - Registered Professional Forester

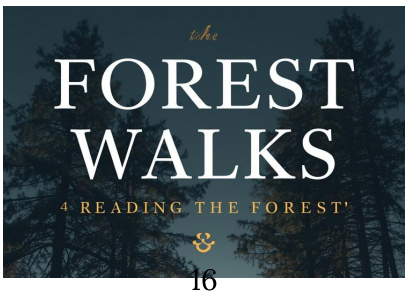
Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman, PhD – Retired Fire Scientist & Forest Ecologist

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> *"Wonderful, knowledgeable guide who blended important fire safety tips with overall forest health concepts easy for me to understand and now replicate on my own land!"*

Sarah G.







Community Events Turn Awareness Into Action

Preparedness grows when wildfire readiness becomes part of everyday community life. The Coalition designed events that lower barriers to participation, invite families, and use demonstration-based learning to make abstract guidance concrete.

> *"These events help people move from good intentions to meaningful action."*
>
> Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman

Ready or Not: Wildfire Season Is Here!

Community Event (June 2025 | Pioneer Park)

Each spring, communities across the country mark National Wildfire Preparedness Week by bringing residents together to learn how to reduce wildfire risk. In partnership with Nevada City OES, the Wildfire-Ready Coalition hosted a family-friendly "picnic in the park"-style event at Pioneer Park. The event combined hands-on demonstrations, educational booths, and interactive activities designed to make wildfire preparedness accessible and practical for residents.

- Live demonstrations and preparedness booths on go-bags, ember-resistant vents, defensible space, and affordable Zone 0 options
- Wildfire-Ready Bingo, a hands-on learning activity for families
- Home hardening displays showing practical ways to reduce risk
- A live mulch-burning demonstration showing how common landscaping materials can ignite near homes



Mulch-burning Demonstration



Show Your Love: Hearts on Fire

Community Event (February 13, 2026 | Miners Foundry)

Hearts on Fire served as the capstone event for the Coalition's winter "Show Your Love" wildfire readiness campaign, which began in January with the distribution of Love Notes — Valentine-style cards that reframed wildfire mitigation as an act of care for place, neighbors, and community.

The campaign used the language of love and stewardship to make wildfire preparedness more personal and approachable. Instead of focusing only on risk and danger, it encouraged residents to see mitigation work — from clearing vegetation to hardening homes — as a way of showing care for the land and the people who live here.

The *Hearts on Fire* event brought that idea to life. The Wildfire-Ready Coalition created a community arts event that used creativity and storytelling to engage residents in wildfire readiness in new ways. Art, music, and conversation helped open the door to deeper discussions about living responsibly in a fire-prone landscape.

- **Highlights**
  - 200+ community members attended
  - 50+ wildfire-inspired artworks displayed
  - 35+ volunteers from 12 Firewise Communities

The evening featured a wildfire-inspired art show alongside community conversations about stewardship and resilience. The theme — "*Show Your Love – Be Wildfire Ready*" — framed preparedness as a shared responsibility and a visible expression of care for this place. The result was a gathering that brought residents into the wildfire conversation in a way that traditional outreach rarely achieves.



Artist Hillary Hulteen & Daughter


YOU'RE
WILDFIRE-READY?
THAT'S MY TYPE.


This Valentine's Day,
send a
Love Note
beyond romance.
Share with Family,
Friends & Neighbors
Help Build a
Fire-Adapted Community.

Partnerships & Community Collaboration

Wildfire preparedness requires collaboration across communities, organizations, and public agencies. In our first year, the Coalition worked with local governments, nonprofits, Firewise leaders, and businesses to expand education efforts and strengthen wildfire readiness across Nevada County.

- **Nevada City Office of Emergency Services** partnership: Contracted to support the formation and engagement of Firewise Communities within Nevada City. Assisted in forming two new communities, with a third currently in progress. Developed an educational and communications campaign on the benefits of Firewise participation, created a BBQ toolkit to help neighborhoods host wildfire education gatherings, and partnered with the City to plan and implement the Hearts on Fire community event.
- **Nevada County Law Enforcement and Fire Protection Council**: Invited to participate in council meetings to share perspectives on community wildfire preparedness and Firewise initiatives.
- **Nevada County Wildfire Stakeholder Group:** Active member collaborating with fire departments, agencies, and community organizations to support implementation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and elevate the role of Firewise Communities.
- **Nevada County Office of Emergency Services**: Coordinated on wildfire education messaging and Firewise Community outreach efforts.
- **Community Partnerships:** Collaborated with fire departments, Firewise Communities, the Community Foundation of Nevada County, Eastside Regional Firewise Coalition, United Way, Sierra Streams Institute, Alta Sierra Neighborhood Association, Nevada County Prescribed Burn Association, HUŚWEJ – Cultural Burning & Land Stewardship, Master Gardeners and Nevada County Resource Conservation District.
- **Local Business Support:** Received sponsorship and in-kind support from Acton Arboriculture, California Wildfire Sprinklers, 4x4 Lab, Home Hardening Solutions, JR Fire Tools, JR Squared Construction, Ladris, MEC Builds, Mountain Enterprises, PG&E, Right Tree-Right Place, Powell Arbor Solutions, Prep Kitchen, Sun Sugar Glass, Trees Unlimited, Witzke Family Insurance.


TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN A FIREWISE COMMUNITY
1. The Risk Is Real
2. What's in Their Yard Affects Yours
3. Home Hardening Costs Add Up
4. Clear Roads = Safe Escapes
5. Embers Cross Property Lines
6. Organize Now – Not During the Fire
7. Insurance Perks Are Real
8. Get Expert Advice
9. A Stronger Voice
10. It's About Community
Stronger Together


Love that lasts prepares.
Emergency Preparedness Checklist
Go-Bag
Defensible Space
Evac Routes
Contacts
Even when no one's watching.


Break up with wood.
Your metal fence
makes my heart beat safer.
WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?

Nevada City
Office of Emergency Services

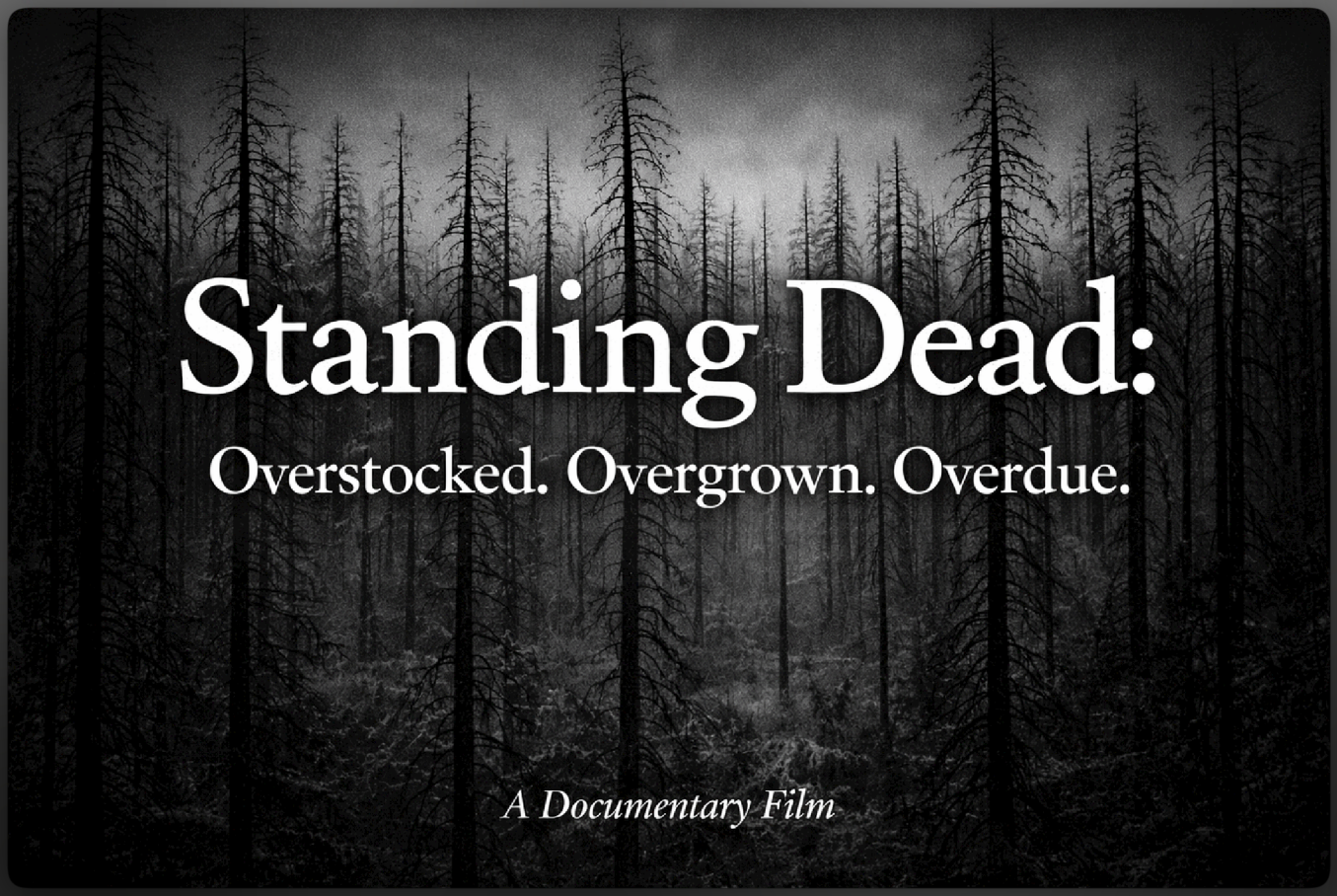
Through a contract with the City of Nevada City, the Wildfire-Ready Coalition helped expand wildfire preparedness across the community by strengthening Firewise leadership, engaging residents, and launching practical readiness programs. This work ran August 2025 - March 2026 and was supported in part by funding from the **Neighbor to Neighbor program**, which invests in projects that build stronger, more connected neighborhoods.

Key Deliverables

- Formed (2) New Firewise Communities
- Firewise Outreach + Top 10 Reasons to be Firewise
- Pioneer Park Event
- BBQ Toolkit for Community Engagement
- Show Your Love ~ Valentine Card "Love Notes"



WILDFIRE-READY COALITION OF NEVADA COUNTY


Standing Dead:
Overstocked. Overgrown. Overdue.
A Documentary Film

Overstocked. Overgrown. Overdue.

The Wildfire-Ready Coalition commissioned a documentary to bring home the reality and urgency of catastrophic wildfire risk in Nevada County.

The documentary focuses on the North Complex Fire that devastated Plumas and Butte counties and explores how and why a similar disaster could happen here. The fire ran 25 miles in 7 hours, burned more than 210,000 acres, killed 16 people, and destroyed the town of Berry Creek and much of Feather Falls.

On March 28, the Wildfire-Ready Coalition of Nevada County premiered *Standing Dead: Overstocked. Overgrown. Overdue.*

The event featured a panel of fire experts from Plumas and Butte counties, moderated by Pascale Fusshoeller of YubaNet, who shared firsthand experiences from multiple catastrophic fires and discussed what Nevada County residents can do now to change our wildfire future. Key themes included prescribed fire, forest thinning, and active land management

> *"Nevada and Sierra Counties are what I and others think of as a 'green island' of continuous, dense forest and heavy accumulated fuels. There have not been large wildfires here in a long, long time. We are like a ticking time bomb."*
>
> Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman



Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Coalition, responsible for determining its mission, priorities and direction. The board ensures that the Coalition has adequate resources and that it is managed with appropriate financial constraints.

- Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman, President Retired U.S. Forest Service Fire Scientist and Forest Ecologist. California Certified Prescribed Burn Boss.
- Marcia Salter, Vice President Retired Nevada County Auditor Controller
- Bob Long, Treasurer Retired Health Industry Executive. President of the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Board
- Terry Marie Hastings, Secretary Retired Non-Profit Communications Professional
- Monty East Nevada County Realtor
- Linda Ferguson Retired U.S. Forest Service Truckee Fuels Officer and Firefighter. Fire Behavior Analyst on Federal Interagency Management Team.
- Bill Greeno Truckee Business Owner. Truckee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Former U.S. Forest Service Firefighter
- Wanda Mertens (term ended March 2026) Insurance Broker
- Erin Tarr Executive Director, Bear Yuba Land Trust

Organizational Development

Our organization developed within a span of two months and took formal steps to be recognized as a nonprofit by the State of California and the IRS. We rapidly created a structure and operational plan to guide us. We developed a core team of volunteers to plan and implement educational and Firewise Programs within the first two months.

- Incorporated as a nonprofit organization
- Filed taxes and established financial policies
- Developed strategic and business plans
- Established a Board representing multiple regions of the county and diverse backgrounds
- Developed a dependable, core volunteer base



Prescribed fire workshop in the You Bet Firewise community.

Financial Summary Report For the Period Ending March 31, 2026

Our Mission: The Wildfire-Ready Coalition of Nevada County is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire through community education, Firewise support, and collaborative resilience projects.

Treasurer’s Statement

The Coalition remains financially stable and mission-focused. Growth in community support has enabled expanded programming while maintaining responsible cost management.

“

"We are scrappy - at this point every dollar matters."

Bob Long, Treasurer



Financial Position

(March 2025 - March 2026)

1. Financial Highlights

Total Gross Receipts	$73,256
Total Gross Expenditures	$32,415
Net Surplus (Deficit)	$40,841
Beginning Net Assets	$0.00
Ending Net Assets	$37,827

Summary: 2025 was a year of continued growth, allowing expansion of wildfire preparedness programs.

2. Revenue Sources

Grants	$26,988	37%
Donations	$29,934	41%
Fundraising Events	$11,834	16%
Other Cash	$4,500	6%
Total Receipts	**$73,256**	**100%**

3. Expenses by Function

Program Services	$25,505	79%
Fundraising	$3,248	10%
Administrative	$3,662	11%
Total Expenses	**$32,415**	**100%**

Financial Stewardship

- As a new volunteer-driven nonprofit, the Wildfire-Ready Coalition of Nevada County is committed to careful financial management, transparency, and maximizing community impact.
- During our first year, we focused on building a strong organizational foundation while directing resources toward wildfire preparedness, education, and support for Firewise Communities.

Commitment to Transparency

- The Coalition maintains formal financial controls, board oversight, and regular financial reporting practices. Financial summaries and annual reports are made available to interested community members upon request.
- We are committed to ensuring that community resources are managed responsibly and used effectively to advance wildfire resilience throughout Nevada County.

Building a Strong Foundation

- This first year focused on establishing the organizational infrastructure necessary for long-term success, including nonprofit compliance, insurance coverage, accounting systems, fundraising capability, program development, and community partnerships.
- These foundational efforts position the Coalition for sustainable growth and expanded wildfire-preparedness initiatives in the years ahead.



What We're Learning

Early Insights From the Field

Our first year confirmed several important lessons about wildfire preparedness in Nevada County.

1

Information alone does not drive action. Residents are surrounded by wildfire information, but much of it is fragmented, technical, or disconnected from the practical decisions people need to make at home.

2

Community networks matter. Firewise Communities provide one of the most effective pathways for neighbors to work together on wildfire risk reduction. When communities organize and support one another, preparedness accelerates.

3

People engage through culture, not just instruction. Programs like the *Show Your Love* campaign and the *Hearts on Fire* event demonstrated that storytelling, art, and shared experiences can reach residents who may not attend traditional preparedness workshops.

4

Forest health remains widely misunderstood. Many residents care deeply about the forests around them but have never been taught how to recognize healthy forest conditions or what practical stewardship actions they can take.

5

Wildfires are inevitable in Nevada County. The greatest opportunity to reduce damage lies in the work done before a fire starts — preparing homes, landscapes, and communities.

The real crisis is pre-fire preparation.

These lessons are shaping the Coalition's next phase of work as we expand programs and build the capacity needed to support a wildfire-ready culture across Nevada County.

Key Priorities

Strengthen the Organization

- Expand and strengthen the Board of Directors and leadership team.
- Secure sustainable funding to support core staffing and program delivery.
- Grow and coordinate a larger volunteer network.
- Deepen partnerships with local organizations, agencies, and community groups.
- Develop a stronger storytelling and communications platform to help shift public understanding of wildfire risk and normalize the culture of Fire-Adapted Living.

Expand Programs and Community Reach

- Support additional Firewise Communities through expanded peer mentoring and leadership training.
- Work with partners to make coordinated chipping services available to more residents.
- Expand the Wildfire-Ready Home Program to reach more residents.
- Launch the Fire-Adapted Youth Corps, introducing the next generation to stewardship and wildfire readiness.
- Grow seasonal readiness campaigns that deliver timely, practical actions residents can take throughout the year.
- Develop new programs that engage local businesses in wildfire preparedness and community resilience.

Together, these efforts will help advance a long-term goal: building a culture where wildfire readiness is a normal and visible part of life in Nevada County.

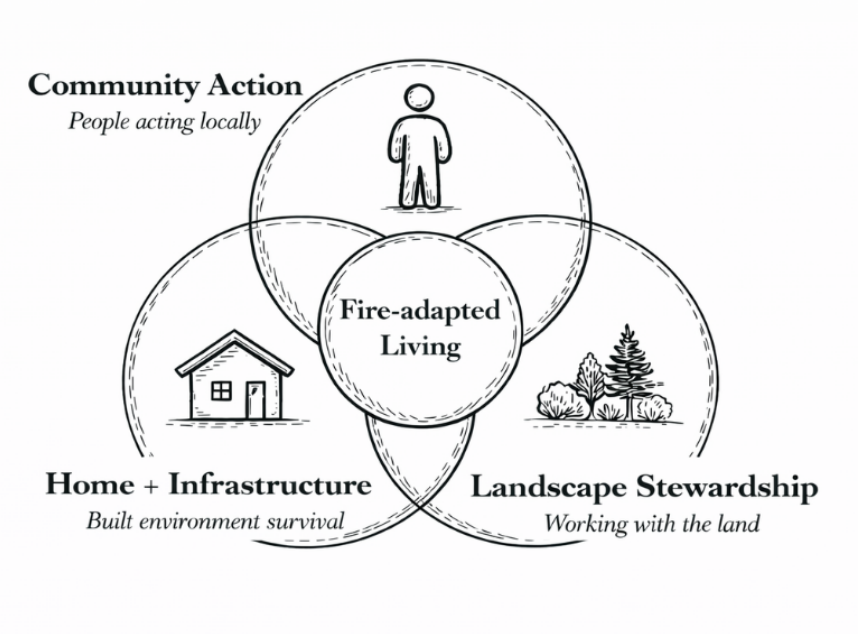


Looking Ahead

Building a Culture of Fire-Adapted Living

In its first year, the Wildfire-Ready Coalition demonstrated what is possible with a small group of committed leaders, volunteers, and partners. Working with limited resources, the Coalition launched new programs, strengthened the Firewise network, and began shifting the conversation about wildfire readiness across Nevada County.

The next phase of this work focuses on building the capacity needed to sustain and expand these efforts. At the center of this next chapter is a larger idea: **Fire-Adapted Living**. Preparing for wildfire cannot be treated as a one-time project or seasonal task. It must become part of how we live, build, care for our land, and support one another as neighbors in a fire-prone landscape.



In the coming year, the Coalition will continue developing programs that help residents translate wildfire science into everyday action, while also strengthening our ability to reach people through compelling storytelling, public campaigns, events and community engagement.


Wildfire resilience is a way of living.
Community safety is measured in surviviability.
We Believe That:
The future is fire-adapted.



Follow our journey as we work toward Fire-Adapted Living.

Visit the Wildfire-Ready Coalition website to stay connected and get involved.

→ Join Our Journey!