

Challenges that Communities Recovering from Wildfire are Facing Right Now



AFTER THE FIRE
2022
WILDFIRE
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT
RECOVER. REBUILD. REIMAGINE.

Workshop for Wildfire Community Leaders Hot Topics Along the Long Road to Recovery

A collaborative, participant-driven session focusing on the recovery milestones, challenges and opportunities for wildfire community leaders, facilitated by Pamela Van Halsema, Director of Community and Digital Programs, After the Fire USA



Wildfire Communities Included in the Following 'Challenges Right Now' Slides

*with links to learn
more about each
wildfire incident*

- [Marshall Fire](#): Boulder County, Colorado December 2021
- [Dixie Fire](#): Butte, Plumas, Shasta, Lassen and Tehama Counties, California July 2021
- [Glass Fire](#): Napa and Sonoma Counties, California September 2020
- [Beachie Creek Fire](#), Marion and Lyon Counties, Oregon September 2020
- [Holiday Farm Fire](#), Lane County, Oregon September 2020
- [Almeda Fire](#), Jackson County, Oregon September 2020
- [Mendocino Complex Fire](#), Mendocino, Lake, Colusa and Glenn Counties, July 2018
- [Camp Fire](#), Butte County, CA November 2018
- [Tubbs Fire](#), Sonoma and Napa Counties, CA October 2017
- [Nuns Fire](#), Sonoma and Napa Counties, CA October 2017
- [Valley Fire](#), Lake County, September 2015

Challenges
communities
are facing
right now,
in the
first year
of recovery
and
rebuilding

- Working with FEMA to receive funding for public assistance projects (Marshall Fire, Boulder County, CO)
- Need clear direction for housing rebuild workforce; community involvement and community communication (Dixie Fire, Greenville, CA)



Challenges communities are facing right now, in the **second year** of recovery and rebuilding



- Motivation for residents to take action (post fire) to help themselves and neighbors become better prepared for next wildfire. (Glass Fire, Napa/Sonoma County, CA)
- Undergrounding power lines. (Glass Fire, Napa/Sonoma County, CA)
- We still have ~360 households in disaster case management + we have no more \$ for unmet needs table. We have helped 119 households complete their recovery plans providing \$1.9M in financial support (Holiday Farm Fire, McKenzie, OR)
- Funding has not reached our most vulnerable community. That has created unstable housing for our fire survivors and has placed them in difficult financial and emotional situations (Alameda Fire, Southern OR)
- We need a playback/manual/framework on recovery. A pot of resources that is readily available as soon as disaster strikes (Holiday Farm Fire, McKenzie, OR)
- We're two years out and still don't have a concise, actionable, funded plan to restore rental housing (Holiday Farm Fire, McKenzie, OR)
- Solutions are coming down from the state but survivors don't know what help will be available. SO they are sometimes thinking they have only one option towards recovery. We still have our entire survivor population (who rented) still in transitional housing (Alameda Fire, Southern OR)
- Sustainability among the helpers (Glass Fire, Napa/Sonoma County, CA)

Challenges communities are facing right now, in the **third year** of recovery and rebuilding



- Sheer volume of fire fuels reduction needed particularly on private lands also the staff and contractor capacity to plan and accomplish the work ongoing (**Holiday Farm Fire, McKenzie, OR**)
- Community preparedness for the next disaster a collective plan and outreach to inform the (**Holiday Farm Fire, McKenzie, OR**)
- Affordable housing with defensible space (**Almeda Fire, Southern OR**)
- Homelessness (**Almeda Fire, Southern OR**)
- Funding home hardening (**Almeda Fire, Southern OR**)
- How do we maintain affordability in the region in the face of rising housing prices, profit driven development interests, and slow-moving rebuilding effort (**Almeda Fire, Southern OR**)
- How do we create healthy, resilient forests in Oregon that don't pose a threat to rural communities (**Beachie Creek Fire, Santiam Canyon, OR**)
- Lack of well and water and rebuilding resources not enough
- Need helpful info about rebuild Oregon - CDBG difficult to advise and advocate whether or not to use existing funds or wait (reimburse) (**Beachie Creek Fire, Santiam Canyon, OR**)

Challenges
communities
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right now,
in the
fourth year
of recovery
and
rebuilding



- Construction workforce lack at every level of construction labor and skilled tradespeople (Camp Fire, Butte County, CA)
- Mental health support and trauma recovery (Camp Fire, Butte County, CA)
- Insurance, rebuild costs, workforce, business recovery, changing the narrative (Camp Fire, Butte County, CA)
- Volunteer housing, organizational capacity, money, construction workforce, creative solutions (Camp Fire, Butte County, CA)
- Housing affordability (Camp Fire, Butte County, CA)

Challenges communities are facing right now, in the **fifth year** of recovery and rebuilding



- How can we continue funding for a more concurrent recovery program as fires still continue to come? (**Mendocino Complex Fire, Redwood Valley, CA**)
- Want to create a more collaborative community with similar geographical areas; shared resources (**Mendocino Complex Fire, Redwood Valley, CA**)
- How do we continue to maintain focus and update and revisit our policies and plans when we are so tired of thinking about disasters and fire (**Tubbs Fire, Santa Rosa, CA**)
- Revamping disaster recovery processes and building more resilient and flexible permitting for future disasters (**North Bay Fire, Sonoma/Napa, CA**)
- Community buy-in and education re. local and state laws that have been around prior to fires (**Nuns Fire, Glen Ellen, CA**)
- Teach communities about working with the nearby tribes to restore the environment (**Lake County, CA**)
- Marketing campaign to pull all the wildfire messages and actions together & scheduling whole neighborhoods for home risk assessments and active mitigation evacuation preparation and readiness (**Lake County, CA**)
- Building local grassroots capacity for sustained mitigation and stewardship of local fire shed and watershed (**Lake County, CA**)
- Finding mitigation and home hardening assistance for needy property owners often disabled or requiring caregivers to help them understand and take action (**Valley Fire, Lake County, CA**)

Challenges communities are facing right now, in the **sixth & seventh year** of recovery and rebuilding



- Helping communities organize to receive incoming funding and teach them how to work with nonprofits. There is no money so far for this type of capacity building need hyper local support (Valley Fire, Cobb, CA)
- Our community action agency is not set up to link wildfire survivors and other needy residents with mitigation services (Valley Fire, Cobb, CA)
- Employment for emergent community leaders too much dependence on volunteers difficult to coordinate (Valley Fire, Cobb, CA)
- Help hyper local communities develop their capacity to develop projects with local nonprofits so the nonprofit can advocate for and present these to grantors (Valley Fire, Cobb, CA)
- Teach communities about working with the nearby tribes to restore the environment (Valley Fire, Cobb, CA)
- Our COAD is 3 years old and hasn't made any progress in getting local first responders to trust and work together. the 501C 3's leadership might not realize what's happening (Valley Fire, Cobb, CA)
- Trying to figure out how to plan and manage grant budgets so our three nonprofit workers make a living wage & seeking a bookkeeper in a rural area who has grant tracking experience (Valley Fire, Lake County, CA)
- Need an experienced deputy planning director to mentor an inexperienced but promising team, so that our planning director can deliver enforcing building and hazardous vegetation codes and address CWPP implementation and start prepping the county for more fires and climate change (Valley Fire, Lake County, CA)