



Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Community Meeting Series Offered in Santa Monica Mountains for Development of Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Public invited to attend and identify priority projects to prepare their homes, neighborhoods, and communities for wildfire.

(Santa Monica Mountains, CA) Many communities in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area will soon be getting a little more wildfire safety help. A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is being developed for approximately 100,000 acres of the Santa Monica Mountains. A series of public meetings will be held from October 20 to November 10, and again in January 2010 for local residents to identify actions to prepare their homes and neighborhoods for wildfire as part of the CWPP.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or "CWPPs" as they are more commonly known, are a federal vehicle for communities to identify priority actions for wildfire prevention and overall fire safety on both private and public lands. They provide an opportunity to identify community needs with regards to prevention, preparedness, and wildfire response. The CWPP process involves extensive collaboration between organized groups of homeowners, and local, state, and federal agencies. *(For more information on CWPPs, see the California Fire Alliance: www.cafirealliance.org/cwpp/ and the Society for American Foresters: www.safnet.org/lp/cwppfaq.cfm websites.)*

"The intent of this plan is to allow government agencies and area stakeholders to create a more efficient fire protection system focused on meaningful solutions for identified problem areas, and to give citizens an opportunity to identify public and private assets to design and carry out projects to protect those assets. They will also be able to identify where cost-effective pre-fire management investments can be made to reduce taxpayer cost and citizen losses from wildfire, while encouraging an integrated approach to reducing cost and losses," commented J. Lopez, Deputy Forester with the Forestry Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.

Over the next few weeks, thirteen meetings will be held in different communities throughout the Santa Monica Mountains (SMMs) in the first series of public meetings. At each meeting, local residents will work with fire fighters and agency partners to identify projects to help prepare their homes, neighborhoods, and communities for wildfire. Each meeting will focus on the specific community where it is being held. Local residents are encouraged to attend the meeting scheduled for their community. (If they are not able to attend their own meeting, residents may attend a different meeting to learn about fire safety and the CWPP. However, community priorities for specific areas will only be identified at the meeting noticed for that area.)

Kathryn Kirkpatrick, Fire Management Officer for the National Park Service stated, "The Parks are eager to work with communities to provide input to best management practices that will provide sustainable defensible space and protect the natural habitat of the Santa Monica Mountains."

The focus of the meetings and one of the main objectives of the CWPP process is to engage in meaningful discussions at the community level to determine priorities and strategies to address the threat of wildfire to an individual community. Communities that organize themselves into Fire Safe Councils and

participate in the CWPP process are then better able to apply for federal funding through the California Fire Safe Council. (*For more information on Fire Safe Councils, see www.firesafecouncil.org.*)

ForEverGreen Forestry (www.forevergreenforestry.com) of Eureka, CA is coordinating the CWPP. They were selected because of their proven track record in engaging communities in development of CWPPs and their ability to balance fire protection, fire safety, and conservation issues to develop realistic action plans. Tracy Katelman, a Registered Professional Forester with ForEverGreen Forestry stated, "We're looking forward to working with local residents to identify specific actions that meet their needs, while protecting and/or restoring the precious habitat of the Santa Monica Mountains."

For more information on the program, and to find out about the upcoming meetings, the public is encouraged to visit: <http://www.forevergreenforestry.com/SantaMonicaMountainsCWPP.html>, email: SantaMonicaMountainsCWPP@gmail.com, or call LA County Fire at 818-890-5783.

Fall 2009 Community Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Oct. 20th, 6:30 pm RAMBLA VISTA / STUNT ROAD / TUNA CANYON
Including Upper Las Flores Canyon, Piuma Road, Las Flores Heights, and Tuna Canyon (Malibu side)
Los Angeles County Fire Department Camp 8, 1900 South Rambla Pacifico St.

Thursday, Oct. 22nd, 6:30 pm CITY OF MALIBU: LA COSTA / PEÑA CANYON
Including Big Rock Mesa, La Costa, Pena Canyon
Malibu City Council Chambers, 23815 Stuart Ranch Road

Friday, Oct. 23rd, 6:30 pm TOPANGA CANYON
Topanga Christian Fellowship Church, 269 Old Topanga Canyon Road

Sunday, Oct. 25th, 2:30 pm CITY OF MALIBU: WEST MALIBU
Including Trancas Canyon, Malibu West, Malibu Park, Horizon Hills, and Zuma Canyon
Malibu City Council Chambers, 23815 Stuart Ranch Road

Monday, Oct. 26th, 6:30 pm LAS VIRGENES CANYON CORRIDOR
Including Stokes Canyon, Dry Creek, Cold Creek, upper Saddle Peak, Las Virgenes Canyon, and Monte Nido
Diamond X Ranch, 26412 Mulholland Highway

Tuesday, Oct. 27th, 6:30 pm CITY OF MALIBU: CROSS CREEK / CARBON CANYON
Including Serra Retreat and Sweetwater Canyon
Malibu City Council Chambers, 23815 Stuart Ranch Road

Monday, Nov. 2nd, 6:30 pm CITY OF MALIBU: CIVIC CENTER
Including Malibu Knolls and Malibu Country Estates
Malibu City Council Chambers, 23815 Stuart Ranch Road

Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, 6:30 pm VENTURA COUNTY
Including Deer Creek Canyon, Deals Flat, Yerba Buena, and County Line
Camp Hess Kramer-Gildred Hall, 11495 Pacific Coast Highway

First week of November/Date TBA CORRAL CANYON / PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY
Including El Nido, Malibu Bowl, and Pepperdine

Friday, Nov. 6th, 6:30 pm CITY OF MALIBU: ZUMIREZ CANYON / PUERCO CANYON
Including Ramirez Canyon, Winding Way Knolls, Sycamore Park, Escondido Canyon, and lower Latigo Canyon
Malibu City Council Chambers, 23815 Stuart Ranch Road

Sunday, Nov. 8th, 2:30 pm CORNELL

Including Lobo Canyon, Triunfo Canyon, Seminole Hot Springs, Malibu Lakeside, Malibou Lake Mountain Club, Wagon Road, and Malibu Junction

Paramount Ranch-Western Town Pavilion, 2903 Cornell Road

Monday, Nov. 9th, 6:30 pm SYCAMORE CANYON / UPPER LATIGO CANYON

Including Little Sycamore Canyon Corridor, Kanan & Latigo Canyon Corridors, Newton Canyon, and Malibu Vista

Calamigos Ranch - 327 Latigo Canyon Road (actually on Vera Canyon Road)

Tuesday, Nov. 10th, 6:30 pm CITY OF MALIBU: DECKER CANYON / ENCINAL CANYON

Including Encinal Bluffs and Steep Hill Canyon

Malibu City Council Chambers, 23815 Stuart Ranch Road

January 2010 meetings will be held for the following communities:

Broad Beach, Encinal Beach, Point Dume, Point Dume Club, Paradise Cove, Tivoli Cove, Malibu Cove Colony, Escondido, Latigo, Puerco, Malibu Beaches, Malibu Colony, Bayshore, Malibu Road, Carbon, La Costa, Las Flores, Big Rock, Las Tunas Beaches, Liberty Canyon, Lost Hills, Malibu Junction, and Calabasas south of US 101 from Valley Circle Drive to Las Virgenes Rd East.

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