



May 21, 2008

County Commission approves resolution for Nevada Wildland Fire Awareness Week

Staff Report

The Lyon County Board of Commissioners, at its May 15 meeting, approved a resolution declaring May 17-24 as Nevada Wildland Fire Awareness Week.

The motion was approved with no discussion. However, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) had a number of activities planned for that week.

"We all know that in Nevada, it's not a matter of if, but a matter of when wildfire will threaten our communities," said Ed Smith, natural resources specialist with UNCE who is helping to spearhead the effort. "As Nevadans, we all need to work together and be proactive to reduce the threat of wildfire to our homes and neighborhoods."

The theme for this year's awareness week is "Wildfire"» It only takes a spark!" Smith said that residents and visitors in Nevada need to take care when working and recreating in high-wildfire-hazard areas.

"Significantly destructive wildfires have been started in recent years by things such as discarded cigarettes, target shooting, illegal or improperly cared-for wildfires, embers from exhaust of recreational vehicles, and sparks from saw blades," he said.

Videos, DVDs, handouts and other materials are available to homeowners and groups wanting more information. Visit www.livingwithfire.info or call UNCE, (775) 784-4848, for more information on Nevada Wildland Fire Awareness Week activities and how to protect your home from the threat of wildfire.

Among the events planned by UNCE include Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Plan Announcement and Public Workshops May 21 and 22 in Carson City and Reno.

The Carson City workshop is from 6 -- 8 p.m., at the Nevada State Library, 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City. The Reno workshop is 6 -- 8 p.m., at the South Valley Library, 1650 W. Wedge Parkway, Reno. Learn how this plan will affect your community; and visit University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's "Living With Fire" booth and others for free information on how to make your home and community safer from wildfire.

The "Lyon County Resolution for Promotion of Nevada Wildland Fire Awareness Week May 17-24" reads:

for this week reads:

"Whereas, the trend in Nevada acres burned by wildfire has increased dramatically in recent decades; and

"Whereas, wildland fire has had significant impacts to Nevada's environmental, economic, and social well-being; and

"Whereas, sixty-eight Nevada communities have been rated as extreme or high wildfire hazards; and

"Whereas, many of Nevada's wildland fires are started accidentally by human causes; and

"Whereas, wildland fires started by and the impacts to Nevadans could be significantly avoided if individuals and organizations were more aware and proactive; and

"We therefore adopt this resolution as a means for education and action to reduce accidental fire starts and impacts to Nevada's wildlands."
