

# Front Range Grassland Fire Workshop

May 29, 2024

Dickens Opera House

302 Main Street

Longmont, CO 80501

## Tentative agenda

**8:00**            **Registration**

### WELCOME

**8:30**            **Welcome and overviews**

Gloria Edwards | *Coordinator, Southern Rockies Fire Science Network*

Matt Bitters | *Ecologist, The Watershed Center*

**8:40**            **Marshall Fire overview**

Ashley Stolzmann | *Boulder County Commissioner, District 3*

### WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

Moderator: Paul Orbuch

**8:55**            **Grassland fire ecology: The big picture**

Sam Fuhlendorf | *Regents Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Oklahoma State University*

**9:40**            **Shortgrass/semi-arid fire ecology**

David Augustine | *Landscape Ecologist, USDA Agricultural Research Service*

**10:10**           **Q&A**

**10:25**           **Break**

**10:40**           **Fire behavior and predictive services challenges**

Chad Julian | *Wildfire Mitigation Program Specialist, Colorado State Forest Service*

Bruno Rodriguez | *Incident Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Boulder WFO*

**11:00**            **When the WUI meets the built environment**  
Mike Chard | *Director, Boulder County Office of Disaster Management*

**11:15**            **Q&A**

## WHAT WE NEED TO DO

**11:25**            **Moving from theory to action**  
John Weir | *Associate Extension Specialist, Oklahoma State University*

**12:00**            **Community wildfire protection**  
Bob Watson | *Retired Fire Chief and Incident Commander, Borger Fire Department, Texas*

**12:20**            **Q&A**

**12:30**            **LUNCH**

**1:30**            **Integrating prescribed fire into urban areas (virtual)**  
John McCabe | *Director of Resource Management, Forest Preserves of Cook County*

**2:00**            **Q&A (virtual)**

## WHAT WE'RE TRYING

**2:15**            **Evaluating risk and adjusting firebreak width**  
Chad Julian | *Wildfire Mitigation Program Specialist, Colorado State Forest Service*

**2:30**            **Weeds and fuel control in parks and open spaces**  
Joe Swanson | *Senior Resource Manager, Boulder County Parks and Open Space*

**2:45**            **Marshall Fire grassland responses in Superior**  
Leslie Clark | *Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Space, Town of Superior*  
Allison James | *Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Manager, Town of Superior*

**3:00**            **Marshall Fire grassland responses in Louisville**  
Nate Goeckner | *Natural Resources Supervisor, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, City of Louisville, Colorado*

**3:15**            **Break**

## CONVERGENCE

**3:30**            **Fireside chat with local experts**

Chad Julian | *Wildfire Mitigation Program Specialist, Colorado State Forest Service*

Joe Swanson | *Senior Resource Manager Supervisor, Boulder County Parks and Open Space*

Leslie Clark | *Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Space, Town of Superior*

Allison James | *Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Manager, Town of Superior*

Nate Goeckner | *Natural Resources Supervisor, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, City of Louisville, Colorado*

**4:10**            **Fireside chat with out-of-state experts: Best management practices, prescribed fire, obstacles & opportunities**

Sam Fuhlendorf | *Regents Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Oklahoma State University*

David Augustine | *Landscape Ecologist, USDA Agricultural Research Service*

John Weir | *Associate Extension Specialist, Oklahoma State University*

Bob Watson | *Retired Fire Chief and Incident Commander, Borger Fire Department, Texas*

**4:50**            **Wrap up, next steps, future workshop suggestions, evaluation, appreciations**

Gloria Edwards | *Coordinator, Southern Rockies Fire Science Network*

Matt Bitters | *Ecologist, The Watershed Center*

**5:00**            **Adjourn**



## Speaker Profiles

May 29, 2024

### Marshall Fire Overview



#### ***Ashley Stolzmann, Boulder County Commissioner, District 3,***

Before her role as a Boulder County Commissioner, Ashley was a member of the Louisville City Council, serving as both council member and mayor. In her current capacity, she is dedicated to serving the Boulder County community by prioritizing environmental protection and fostering equitable opportunities for all residents. Ashley underscores the urgency of climate action, emphasizing its pivotal role in shaping the future

trajectory of Boulder County and beyond.

### Grassland Fire Ecology: The Big Picture



#### ***Sam Fuhlendorf, Regents Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Oklahoma State University***

Sam obtained his B.S. in Agriculture from Angelo State University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Sam's research focuses on disturbance-driven changes in the structure and function of grasslands. He also explores integrating landscape perspectives into rangeland and wildlife conservation, fire ecology, wildlife preservation, and

understanding animal behavior.

### Shortgrass/Semi-Arid Fire Ecology



#### ***David Augustine, Landscape Ecologist, USDA Agricultural Research Service***

Following the completion of his PhD in Biology at Syracuse University, David relocated to Colorado to research the National Grasslands in collaboration with the US Forest Service. Presently, he serves as a landscape ecologist at the USDA Agricultural Research Service, focusing on cattle production challenges in the shortgrass prairie. His research

focuses on plant-herbivore dynamics, ecology and stewardship of semi-arid grasslands, and conservation biology. His ongoing studies delve into the interplay between cattle, prescribed fire, and prairie dogs in shortgrass steppe ecosystems, and their impacts on vegetation diversity and native grassland avifauna.

### **Fire Behavior and Predictive Services**



***Chad Julian, Wildfire Mitigation Program Specialist, Colorado State Forest Service***

Chad brings over 27 years of extensive experience in forest and fire management through positions with the USFS, Boulder County, the CSU Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship, the Little Thompson Watershed Coalition, the Boulder Valley Conservation District, and private consulting. Chad develops and administers programs, publications, grants, the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment, and provides technical advice to field staff and partners in fire mitigation for the Colorado State Forest Service.



***Bruno Rodriguez, Incident Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Boulder WFO***

Bruno initiated his career at the San Diego forecast office, overseeing both the Fire Weather and Social Media programs. He obtained a certification as an IMET in 2021 and subsequently transitioned to NWS Boulder, where he currently serves as the Fire Weather Program Lead. Additionally, he fulfills the role of Project Coordinator for the two national NWS Spanish translations and the development of Spanish-language services and materials.

### **When the WUI Meets the Built Environment**



***Mike Chard, Director, Boulder County Office of Disaster Management***

Mike is an experienced Emergency Management Director with a demonstrated history of working in emergency services for 41 years. Mike is skilled in Crisis Management, Disaster Management, Fire Services, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Training Facilitation. Mike holds a Master's in Management Sciences and Organizational Leadership from Regis University, and is a Colorado Certified Emergency Management Professional.

### **Moving From Theory to Action**



***John Weir, Associate Extension Specialist, Oklahoma State University***

John has been pivotal in establishing and promoting burn associations, providing training to new fire ecologists and agency personnel on prescribed fire utilization. Recently honored with the Henry Wright lifetime achievement award by the Association for Fire Ecology, John has played an instrumental role in forming and advocating for burn associations and training in the use of prescribed fire. His interests lie in

prescribed burn associations and strategies for increasing controlled burns, particularly on private lands.

### **Community Wildfire Protection**



#### ***Bob Watson, Retired Fire Chief and Incident Commander, Borger Fire Department***

Bob Watson has been a catalyst in making the Borger Fire Department one of the most respected and skilled departments in the country. Bob was with the City of Borger for over 40 years, working his way up to Fire Chief. His dedication and leadership have contributed to countless training hours, awards, and most importantly the safety of the Borger community through careful application of prescribed fire in combination with other mitigation measures. These efforts were proven successful in creating fuelbreaks that saved the city of Borger from the recent Windy Deuce fire in February 2024.

### **Integrating Prescribed Fire into Urban Areas**



#### ***John McCabe, Director of Resource Management, Forest Preserves of Cook County***

John is Director of the Department of Resource Management at the Forest Preserves of Cook County, managing 70,000 acres of public open space within the Chicago area. John has a degree in Forestry from Michigan Technological University and serves as President of the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council. John is the lead instructor at the Morton Arboretum for the Chicago Wilderness Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member training program, coordinating countless immersive "Alternative Spring Break" experiences for students to learn how to apply fire in an urban environment. John enjoys the challenge of implementing prescribed fire in the second-most populated county in the US and working with the fantastic team that has made Cook County's fire program a nationally recognized leader in urban fire.

### **Weeds and Fuel Control in Parks and Open Spaces**



#### ***Joe Swanson, Senior Resource Manager, Boulder County Parks and Open Space***

Joe is the Supervising Weed Specialist/County Weed Coordinator for Boulder County Parks & Open Space. Joe has served 11 years with Boulder County overseeing invasive plant and noxious weed management on over 50,000 acres of open space property and approximately 700 miles of county roadway. With 17 years of experience in rangeland and natural areas management, Joe has been instrumental in Boulder County's efforts to restore ecological balance through invasive weed management programs. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Kansas State University and completed graduate coursework in Weed Science at CSU. Joe's contributions have been recognized with awards such as the Western Society of Weed Science's Weed Manager of the Year Award in 2024 and the Colorado Open Space Alliance's Blue Grama Award for Outstanding Achievement in Ecosystem Resilience in 2023.

## **Marshall Fire Grassland Responses in Superior, Colorado**



***Leslie Clark, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space, Town of Superior***

Leslie received her Bachelor's degree in Outdoor Recreation Administration from CSU and her Master's degree in Recreation Administration from Indiana University. A strong advocate for public parks and recreation, Leslie is an active member of the National Recreation and Park Association and Colorado Park and Recreation Association. Previously, Leslie was the Recreation Administrator for the City of Mesa, AZ, General Manager for South Suburban Parks and Recreation District in Colorado, Recreation Manager for Scottsdale Parks and Recreation in Arizona, Administrator for Indy Parks and Recreation in Indiana, and the Cultural and Outdoor Recreation Director in Bloomington Indiana.



***Allison James, Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Manager, Town of Superior***

Allison's expertise covers a wide range of areas including construction, land management, public service in underserved communities, community engagement and development. Allison has a BAS from Northwest Florida State College in Project Management and Acquisitions and an MSA from the University of West Florida in Acquisitions and Contract Administration. When the Marshall Fire destroyed almost 1,100 homes, Allison was promoted to Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Manager within days. She is deeply committed to disaster recovery and public assistance initiatives, where she has dedicated almost a decade of service.

## **Marshall Fire Grassland Responses in Louisville, Colorado**



***Nate Goeckner, Natural Resource Supervisor, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, City of Louisville***

Nathaniel gathered expertise in wildfire management and mitigation from time spent prescribed burning in the Midwest and Southeast, wildland firefighting in the Mountain West, and coordinating community wildfire mitigation and preparedness in Colorado's Front Range mountains. Nathaniel earned a BS in Natural Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a Masters of the Environment in Sustainable Planning and Policy from the University of Colorado Boulder. Currently, with the city of Louisville, Nathaniel manages the natural resource program, which includes wildfire mitigation, prescribed grazing, grassland restoration, and forest management.

# FRONT RANGE GRASSLAND FIRE WORKSHOP

Hotel Reservation Group Rate



\$139/  
night



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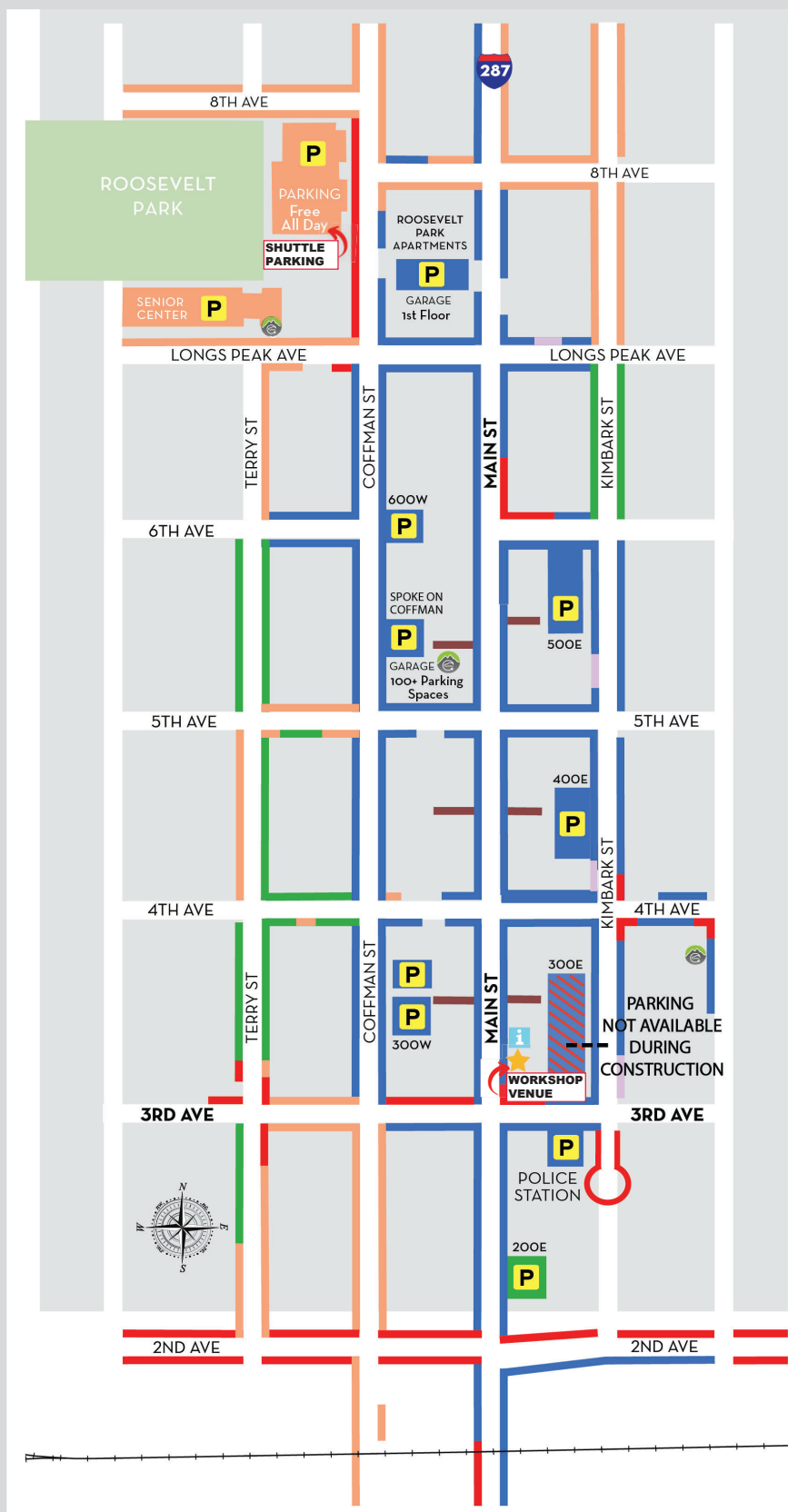
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Located in the heart of Longmont, Colorado, guests enjoy a close proximity to Longmont's downtown area, including shops and restaurants.



# Downtown Parking During Construction

Thank You for supporting local business! 




## DOWNTOWN PARKING MAP

### STREET PARKING TIME LIMITS

-  ALL DAY
-  3 HOUR
-  2 HOUR
-  1 HOUR
-  1/2 HOUR
-  NO PARKING
-  BREEZEWAY

 PUBLIC PARKING LOT

 ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION

 HANDICAP PARKING  
Handicap parking is available in parking lots and on street. Vehicles with a handicap placard are exempt from time limits.

 DAY PERMITS  
Public Parking Lot Day Permits can be purchased for \$5/day at 320 Main St, M-F, 9-4 pm  
OR

Visit [www.downtownlongmont.com](http://www.downtownlongmont.com) for parking updates or call 303-651-8484 for long term parking permits.

MAP NOT TO SCALE

**NOTE:** Please adhere to all Street Parking Restriction Signs which take precedence over this map. Please respect adjacent residential neighborhoods and use commercial streets and lots.