Not If... But When
Preparation for the Next Wildland Fire

We wish to thank our panelists for giving their time and expertise to this critical matter.
We hope this afternoon will provide insight and community support as we share information and explore solutions.
The Ojai Chautauqua is part of a 150-year tradition that has thrived across the United States since the 19th century. The concept of the Chautauqua is to build community by bringing together ideas, entertainment, discussion, and expertise to local family and community gatherings. Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt is quoted as saying that the Chautauqua is “The most American thing in America.”

Ojai has modernized the Chautauqua tradition by focusing on today’s need to improve civil discourse on controversial subjects, where passions tend to run high. Civil discourse is noticeably absent from many aspects of contemporary life. The result of this failing is not only sad... It is dangerous. Through the Ojai Chautauqua, we hope to develop this essential ability so that together we can affect a positive change that extends far and wide. Visit www.agorafoundation.org to view our past panels, to learn about future events, and to contribute to this endeavor.

This free event is made possible with support from private donors, foundation grants, and the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Ojai Chautauqua Moderator

Andy Gilman

Andy is the Executive Director of the Agora Foundation. He is a founding parent and former Board President of Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education and formerly the Director of Admissions and Outreach for Oak Grove School. Andy also serves on the boards of the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Ojai Storytelling Festival. He holds an M.A. degree from St. John’s College.
Ojai Chautauqua Panelists

Dr. Sean Anderson
Sean is a professor of Environmental Science and Resource Management at Channel Islands University. He is a broadly trained ecologist who has tackled environmental questions from Alaska to the South Pole. His research centers around three major areas: 1) restoring degraded ecosystems, 2) improving the management of the coastal zone, and 3) the scholarship of pedagogy.

Bryant Baker
Bryant is the Conservation Director for Los Padres ForestWatch. He holds a Master’s in Environmental Science and a Bachelor’s in Environmental, Soil, and Water Science. Bryant leads ForestWatch’s efforts in advancing science-based wildfire mitigation policy throughout the region. He is a frequent author of reports and opinion pieces on the topic of wildfire, with a focus on chaparral wildfire ecology and management.

Theresa Bulla-Richards
Theresa is a research scientist, educator, community leader, and environmental activist. She is currently the president of Food For Thought Ojai. She taught at Montessori for 5 years and Oak Grove for 20 years. Theresa was a lobbyist for the Wilderness Society in Washington DC, advocating for the Sespe and Chumash sites. Since 1973 Theresa and her family lived in a hand-crafted home in the Upper Ojai, which was destroyed in the Thomas Fire.

Will Castagna
Will Castagna was a founder of the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council, served as its Executive Director and Grants Manager for nineteen years, and currently serves as President of the Council’s Board of Directors. He holds a Master’s degree in Engineering from Vanderbilt University, and spent many years in the technology and telecommunications industries. He currently works with local entrepreneurs and inventors as a business startup consultant.

John McNeil
John is an Assistant Chief of the Ventura County Fire Department. He has been with VCFD for over 30 years, promoted through the ranks and gaining valuable experience in Urban Search and Rescue, Wildland Firefighting, and Human Resources. In February 2019, John promoted to Assistant Chief of the Emergency Services Bureau, having oversight of Emergency Operations, which consists of more than 400 dedicated professionals that respond to over 40,000 calls for service annually. He lives in Ojai, CA with his wife and two children.
Section One - Wildland and Wildland Fire

1) Is periodic wildland fire inevitable in our region?

2) Are frequencies and severities getting worse?

3) If so, what are some of the possible reasons?
   a) Increased human population
   b) Suppressed wildfire policy
   c) Increased average temperature
   d) Ongoing drought

4) The past and proposed methods for wildland fire severity-control include:
   a) Controlled burns
   b) Vegetation Management (thinning, logging, chemical, clearing, grazing)
   c) Cultivating native vegetation and eradicating non-native grasses
   d) Fuel and fire break creation and maintenance
   c) Early detection systems across large areas of the state
   e) Increasing the resilience and responsiveness of the utility infrastructure
      (moving lines underground, further insulation, power shutoffs in extreme weather)

5) Not all wildland is the same. How do best management practices differ between forests and chaparral?

6) What did we learn from the Thomas Fire? What were we surprised by? How was Thomas different from past wildland fires?

Section Two - The Wildland Urban Interface and Preparation

1) In preparation for our next wildland fire (whatever the severity), what options are being explored to protect urban areas?
   a) Agriculture, or some other irrigated borderer
   b) Land use and living in harmony with our region (avoiding structures in high-risk areas)
   c) Further developing and permitting fire-resistant building materials
   d) Land and building maintenance practices to further protect structures and lives

2) Is our water infrastructure sufficient?

3) As individual citizens, what can we do to be ready for a wildfire event? Are there simple steps we can take that would really make a difference?

4) During a wildland fire, is it better to stay on your property and defend it, or is it better to evacuate?
## California’s 23 largest wildfires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Km²</th>
<th>Start Year</th>
<th>Structures</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>Butte</td>
<td>153,336</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>18,804</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendocino Complex</td>
<td>Mend., Lake, Col., Glenn</td>
<td>459,123</td>
<td>1,858</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carr</td>
<td>Shasta &amp; Trinity</td>
<td>229,651</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,614</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Ventura &amp; Santa Barbara</td>
<td>281,893</td>
<td>1,141</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,343</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soberanes</td>
<td>Monterey</td>
<td>132,127</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough</td>
<td>Fresno</td>
<td>151,623</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Happy Camp Complex</td>
<td>Siskiyou</td>
<td>132,833</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rim</td>
<td>Tuolumne</td>
<td>257,314</td>
<td>1,041</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rush</td>
<td>Lassen</td>
<td>271,911*</td>
<td>1,100*</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,820</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Station</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>160,557</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klamath Theater Complex</td>
<td>Siskiyou</td>
<td>192,038</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basin Complex</td>
<td>Monterey</td>
<td>162,818</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zaca</td>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>240,207</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witch</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>197,990</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Ventura</td>
<td>162,702</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>273,246</td>
<td>1,106</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2,820</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>McNally</td>
<td>Tulare</td>
<td>150,696</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Bar Complex</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td>140,948</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campbell Complex</td>
<td>Tehama</td>
<td>125,892</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanislaus Complex</td>
<td>Tuolumne</td>
<td>145,980</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marble Cone</td>
<td>Monterey</td>
<td>177,866</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laguna</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>175,425</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matilija</td>
<td>Ventura</td>
<td>220,000</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Los Padres ForestWatch
Wildland Fires Over Time

**Source:** Cal Fire

[Graph showing Acres burned in California each year from 1992 to 2018]

**Source:** Insurance Services Office

Estimated California Wildfire Insurance Losses by Year

[Graph showing ISO Reported Losses from 1978 to 2018 with notable peaks in 1989 and 2017]

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Humans are encroaching on California’s wilderness

Wildland-urban interface (WUI) in California, 2015 — where human development and fire-prone landscapes come into contact

- Areas where housing is interspersed among dense vegetation susceptible to burning in a wildfire
- Areas where dense housing is adjacent to vegetation susceptible to burning in a wildfire
- Areas with fire-susceptible vegetation within 1.5 miles of areas in the previous two categories
California Temperature Over Time

**California Summers Are Getting Warmer**
This summer’s departure from the average temperature for the months of June, July, and August was the highest recorded, extending an upward trend since the 1950s.

Temperature departure from 70.4 degrees average, 1885-2017

- 2017 +3.18 degrees

**Source:** Western Region Climate Center

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**It’s hot in California**
Average temperature in California from January through October of each year, 1895-2018

**Source:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Temperature and Precipitation

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

It’s hot and dry
Precipitation vs. average temperature in California from January through October of each year, 1895-2018

YEAR
- 2000-17
- 1895-1999

1901-2000 average

2018

Average temperature

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
### Views of Forest Management

**Source:** Ojai Ranger District - Los Padres National Forest

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**Map:** Ojai Community Defense Zone Project Area Map

**Selected Alternative:**
- Ojai Ranger District
- Los Padres National Forest

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**Table: Los Padres National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Project Purpose</th>
<th>Planning Status</th>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Expected Implementation</th>
<th>Project Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest-Wide Invasive Plant Program</td>
<td>- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants</td>
<td>In Progress: Scoping Start 05/30/2017 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 09/2018</td>
<td>Expected:03/2019</td>
<td>04/2019</td>
<td>Kyle Kinports 805-961-5710 <a href="mailto:kkkinports@fs.fed.us">kkkinports@fs.fed.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>- Vegetation management (other than forest products)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>UPDATED</em></td>
<td>- Fuels management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Watershed management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description:** Formerly called the Forest-Wide Noxious Weed Program. The intent of the project is to control targeted invasive plant species throughout the Los Padres National Forest using an integrated treatment approach.

**Web Link:** [http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51845](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51845)

**Location:** UNIT - Los Padres National Forest All Units. STATE - California. COUNTY - Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura. LEGAL - Not Applicable. All National Forest System lands part of and administered by the Los Padres National Forest.
There are five overarching findings across these publications:

1. Large, infrequent crown fires naturally occurred in chaparral and coastal sage scrub ecosystems along the Central and South Coasts once every 30 – 150 years, despite the use of small-scale prescribed fire by Native Americans before the arrival of Europeans and the spread of non-native, invasive plants.

2. Human activity has drastically increased fire frequency in our region due to sprawling development and an associated surge in fire ignitions, and fire suppression over the last century has been largely unsuccessful in limiting the consequential increase in burned area.

3. High fire frequency is resulting in chaparral and coastal sage scrub type conversion to non-native, invasive grasses and weeds that dry out earlier in the year, ignite more easily, and spread wildfire more quickly.

4. The past and present focus on vegetation management as the primary wildfire mitigation strategy is generally inadvisable due to its mixed to negligible success, especially in areas far away from communities.

5. Land management agencies and communities should focus on better land use planning (e.g. limiting development in fire-prone areas), fire-safe home construction and retrofitting, defensible space immediately around structures, and human-caused ignition prevention as primary strategies to reduce the impacts of inevitable wildfire on communities in and around the wildland-urban interface.
CONTACT

Grants Manager – Chris Danch
Phone: 805-646-7307
eMail: chris@firesafeojai.org

Visit our website: www.firesafeojai.org

WEBSITE

Our Website resources include:

• "Learn" tab: Interactive Wildfire Safety Education for
  - homeowners
  - students
  - farmers and ranchers
  - landscape professionals

• “Resources” tab under “Useful Links”: Home Wildfire Safety Survey

• “Take Action” tab: Family Safety Plan

2019 WILDFIRE SAFETY FAIR!

Learn how to keep your home and family safe by attending our Wildfire Safety Fair, happening Saturday, April 13, 2019 at Sarzotti Park from 10 AM to 2 PM. See poster on other side for details.
Wildfire Safety Fair

Learn how to keep your home & family safe

Kids’ Fun Zone
Free Raffle with Prizes

Live Music
by Alan Thornhill & Martin Young

Food + Drink
by Me Gusta Tamales
Java Cat

Event Powered by
California Solar Electric

Participants
Search & Rescue
US Forest Service
VC Animal Control
Humane Society
VC Fire Dept
The CREW
Ojai Police & Sheriff
VC Resource Conservation District
Red Cross

Saturday April 13th
10am-2pm
at Sarzotti Park, Ojai

www.firesafeojai.org

*Funding provided by a National Fire Plan grant from the cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region, through the California Fire Safe Council.
We continue to grieve even as nature restores, and while much rebuilding has yet to begin. And we are so grateful to our first responders who preserved so much for our valley.
The Agora Foundation free community seminars offer small groups a unique opportunity to consider and discuss the fundamental principles of our Republic. Are these principles based on a view of objective reality/nature, or simply the consent of the governed? Are these principles changeable, and if so on what grounds? What authority is given to the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary branches? What are rights? Are rights based on nature or consent? Are they inalienable? We invite you to join us as we seek to better understand the principles of our ongoing American experiment.

Taking place the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 12:00 – 1:00PM
Next event is April 4th at the Ojai Library

- Constitutional Amendments 22 – 27

Series Readings:
- Declaration of Independence
- Federalist Papers
- The U.S. Constitution
- Dred Scott Decision
- Lincoln Douglass Debates
- Letter from Birmingham Jail

Free admission thanks to private donations. Reservations are required and attendees read the scheduled material prior to attending each event. (805) 231-5974 for more info.
Chautauqua tickets prices are kept low or zero to encourage maximum participation. Through essential community support, students and teachers attend free of charge for most events, and it is very deeply appreciated. Please give what you can once per year. All supporters will benefit from the difference they make together through the Ojai Chautauqua.

These leaders bring the Chautauqua to the Ojai Valley:

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- Maurice Chasse and Marilyn Wallace
- Tom and Cathryn Krause
- Ann and Mike Morris
- Anna Oster
- Lois Rice
- The Shanbrom Family Foundation
- Tom and Esther Wachtell

**Contributing Members**
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- Jamie and Carolyn Bennett
- Casa Baranca
- Constance Eaton and William Hart
- Andrew Holguin
- David Korse and Sally Matteson
- Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce
- The Ventura Community Foundation
- The WRG Foundation

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- Arthur Marquis
- Pam Melone
- Laurel Moore
- Christopher Newell and Gillian McManus
- Simone Noble
- The Ojai Valley Inn
- Ron and Linda Phillips
- Suzanne Pidduck
- Porch Gallery
- Barry and Donna Rabe
- Stephen and Rosarie Pronovost
- Judy Pugh
- Barry and Donna Rabe
- Jan Rains
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- Julie Rischar
- John and Peggy Russell
- Tanya Sandberg
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- Pierra and Beverly Schuberth
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- Ruth Seigle
- Carol Shaw-Sutton
- Paula Spellman
- Eugene Stemm
- Beth Stephens
- Michael Swimmer
- Tony Thacher
- Guy and Leone Webster
- Marion Well
- Merrill Williams

They hope you will join them.