



Spring E-blast - 2026

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**Mark your Calendars! Annual Meeting
June 27**

Please join us for the NSSHA Annual meeting. It is always the 4th Sat in June. This year that is Saturday, June 27, 10:30 am at Camp Sacramento. Agenda, directions, and more details will be in the upcoming May newsletter.

National Forest Homeowners Virtual Conference 2026: Keeping Cabins in Our Forests - What's in it for me?



Meredith Randall, NFH President, Area 1 Rep

All cabin owners should consider attending the online NFH annual conference this Friday April 17 and Saturday, April 18. Information on fire-hardening cabins, perspectives on fire-fighting from Washington State, and a direct address from Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz all offer the opportunity to get first-hand, up-to-date information on cabin ownership and preservation in changing times.

It couldn't be easier or cheaper to attend. The conference is online. Registration fee is nominal. Attend from anywhere you can get on the internet. No travel costs. [Here's a link](#) to the program and registration page.

Conference Highlights

- Keynote speaker: Jason Emhoff, Washington State Fire Management Officer who grew up going to his family cabin and now works for the Forest Service. He will discuss common myths about fire-fighting and offer practical insights for cabin owners.
- Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz, the first Chief this century to accept an offer to speak at the NFH conference. I met with the Chief in his office last year. He told his team to work on the proposal NFH submitted on streamlining administration. I think he'll have a good message for us.
- Cabin Hardening for Fire: Two owners from our Forest, will offer insights into how to prepare in advance for the next fire.
- Additional sessions include: discussion of embracing historic district designations with a Minnesota cabin owner and a Forest Service heritage expert; updates on the Cabin Program Restoration Act; NFH's position on the turmoil in the Forest Service and potential action opportunities for membership; the use of retained fees, and more.

Don't just sit back and let someone else tell you about the action. Step up and get the information firsthand!

Come join us online this weekend: [NFH 2026 Virtual Conference](#)

NSSHA a Founding Donor to Cabin Program Restoration Act

The National Forest Homeowners (NFH) is working to restore and strengthen cabin owners' rights by having Congress introduce the Cabin Program Restoration Act (CPRA). The bill's task force includes two NSSHA cabin owners. This broadly bipartisan, revenue-positive bill aims to restore cabin owners' rights that the Forest Service has eroded over time. It includes remedies for using fire hardening materials, rebuilding of wildfire-burned cabins, and extending the special use permit from 20 to 30 years. (It will be retroactive for the cabins in NSSHA that just received their 20 year permits.)

After two years of funding the costs of getting a bill through Congress solo, NFH launched a fundraising campaign targeting Founding Donors. In a special March meeting to address the call for funding support, the NSSHA

board decided that a donation fits within our mission and thus is an appropriate use of NSSHA's funds. The board voted to contribute \$5,000 to this legislative effort – which is only about \$5/cabin.

As a CPRA Founding Donor, NSSHA will be listed and thanked in multiple NFH virtual conference sessions and in other communications throughout the year. The NSSHA board thanks individual and group members for continuing and future support of efforts like these, to strengthen and continue the tradition of national recreational cabin ownership.



NSSHA reps could attend Tract Meetings

Would your tract like to have an officer of NSSHA and or your area rep attend your tract's annual meeting? We would be happy to attend, listen to comments and concerns, and answer any questions.

We really want to get to know the individual tracts better.

For more information, email Paul Hugo, VP, paul.hugo@gmail.com or Tony Franks, President, affranks58@gmail.com or your tract representative (contact information below).



Local Forest News and Events

Caldor Restoration Project

The Caldor Restoration Project is joint project between Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) and Eldorado National Forest (ENF). It includes activities like felling of hazardous trees, remediation of invasive species, road maintenance and repair, and the planting of new trees.

Each of the agencies will divide the overall project into smaller subprojects to issue contracts.

The Huckleberry Project, contracted to the Great Basin Institute of Reno, will impact numerous areas across the burn. For cabin owners, the first step will be hazard tree felling in or near Sayles Canyon, Fir, Bryant Creek, Aspen Creek tracts and Echo Summit. A map of the areas is [here](#). You'll need to zoom in on the map quite a bit.

Since cabin owners know a lot more about the areas in and around our tracts than anyone else does, NSSHA representatives will participate in walkthroughs prior to any work being done. We will be reaching out to tract leaders to assist in this effort.

ENF Tree Planting Day

ENF plans to organize volunteer days to help plant trees in the burned areas. Watch your inbox for more information!

Burn Permits: – New Procedure for Placerville, Pacific, and Amador Ranger Districts

In 2025 Cal Fire stopped issuing burn permits on federal land. As announced at the June 2025 NSSHA Annual Meeting, the new Forest Service plan is to add a burn permit as an addendum to our Operation and Maintenance plans. In the Placerville District a burn permit will be good for two years and will allow a 4' X 4' fire (which is different from a campfire permit) until county fire restrictions are imposed. Campfire and BBQ permits will be discussed in the upcoming newsletter and e-blast.

Note: NSSHA believes that the Pacific and Amador District burn permits will also be good for two years but has not confirmed that yet.

Link to the addendum form:

<https://www.nssha.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Burn-Permit-fillable.pdf>

You can fill out the addendum form and email it to your district, email addresses listed below

Or deliver a hard copy to your Ranger Station in person. M – F
8am-4:30pm.

- Placerville Ranger District - 530-647-5354
sm.fs.pvl-rec-res@usda.gov
4260 Eight Mile Road Camino, CA 9570
- Pacific Ranger District - 530-647-5407
sm.fs.pac_rec_res@usda.gov
7887 Hiway 50 Pollock Pines, CA 95726
- Amador Ranger District – 209-259-3774
sm.fs.AmaRecRes@usda.gov
26820 Silver Drive Pioneer, CA 9566

Fire restrictions usually go into effect in El Dorado County late spring or early summer – most often June through October - and lifted in November.

You must call the appropriate Burn Day number on the day you wish to burn to ensure it is a burn day.

El Dorado County (Pacific and Placerville Districts) - (530) 621-5897 or (866) 621-5897

Aamdor County - (209) 223-6246

Please read the addendum carefully and abide by the directions listed.



First Caldor Cabin Rebuilt - Finished, Jan '26

Caldor Fire 4 ½ years later. Cabin rebuilding

by Paul Hugo (reprint with additions from NFH's '26 Winter Newsletter)

Out of the ashes rises a phoenix, or rather, three cabins.

The '21 Caldor Fire destroyed more cabins on Forest Service (FS) lands than any other fire – a total of 177, which constitutes about 15% of the

cabins on the Eldorado NF and 5% in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The road to rebuilding has been long, filled with potholes – big gaping sections – and it continues.

After the fire, a couple of us came together to form a group to grieve and cry on each other's shoulders. It quickly became apparent that we needed to do more than cry, we needed a voice and to advocate. Thus was born the Caldor Cabin Owners Recovery Project, CCORP. Our goal, simple to say (but, oh, so hard to accomplish!) is to see 177 cabins rebuilt.

Our first challenge was the debris cleanup. In the past, and, sadly, it seems maybe the future, the full cost was on the cabin owners' back to the tune of upwards of \$70K per lot, if done commercially. FEMA said they couldn't spend money on a different part of the government. We fought back, and after many letter writing campaigns, meetings with Congressmen, Senators, hiring lawyers with NSSHA funding and backdoor conversations, we got FEMA to agree to pay for the cost of cleaning up our private property, just like they did for burned homes on private land – whew!

The next challenge was, could we rebuild? The Forest Service is supposed to issue a determination letter for every lot with a yes or no regarding whether you can rebuild within six months (has never happened that fast). The only consideration should be if the land is stable, e.g. it won't be in a landslide or have rocks tumble down on it. Unfortunately, the FS decided to also check for flood potential. This process took two and half years for all lots. Ultimately, 34 lots were deemed unbuildable or needed mitigation. Those owners were offered an in-lieu lot in an opaque process.

The next challenge: building codes. We didn't really want to have to put in fire sprinklers, solar panels, EV charging ports, and other CA standard things. CCORP suggested using the International Residential Code, IRC, which many states' codes are based on, but without all sorts of added stuff that may not make sense for a simple cabin in the woods. After a lot of back and forth with the county and the FS, last June the matter of building codes was finalized.

The next challenge is all the burned trees threatening our lots. In some cases, PG&E cut them down, but only where they threatened power lines. Our permits say we are responsible for any hazard tree that might affect our lots. Our forest supervisor and district ranger at the time said they had to protect anyone traveling on FS roads, and if they cut down a tree that might affect our building, that was a bonus. This was great news to us, but sadly, the project was underfunded and only got as far as Strawberry Tract. Last summer the FS shifted some funds and felled more hazard trees in some of the missed tracts. The hope is the upcoming Huckleberry Project will take care of most of the rest. (See Caldor Fire Restoration Project article for more details)

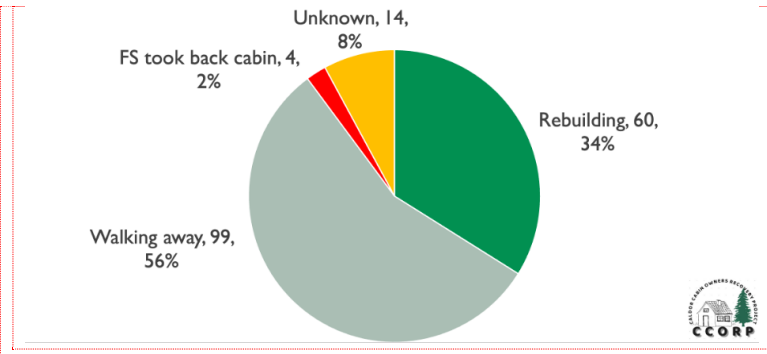
Finally, there was a groundbreaking July 1, 2025 for the first cabin in Fir Tract. After a little over six months, the owners have final sign-off and are using it. It still needs little things like floors, but don't a lot of cabins that have been here for years? The next cabin, also in Fir, had a groundbreaking three weeks later. Right now, it is weather-tight, still needs siding and little bit of roofing and the interior. It is waiting for better weather to continue. The final cabin started is up at Echo Summit with a gorgeous view of Lake Tahoe. They managed to get a complicated foundation, including a gigantic boulder in what will be the crawl space, completed before the snow.

What is the outlook for more cabins being rebuilt? Currently 34% say they are going to rebuild (see chart). We expect to see several more groundbreakings this summer.

The CPRA legislation supported by NSSHA should help facilitate rebuilding. One of the provisions of the bill includes the right to sell surviving improvements (septic systems, power, water systems, etc.), which right now the FS says we can't.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the National Forest Homeowners (NFH). Meredith Randal, NFH president and NSSHA area rep for area 1, and Doug Gann, past president, attend most of our monthly CCORP meetings and have been instrumental in meeting with Congress, lawyers, the FS, the county, etc. We can't thank NFH enough.

Total (177 cabins lost)



Membership and Dues

Every cabin owner in ENF and near Echo are, by default, members. Dues are encouraged, but not necessary.

Dues are still \$20 a year! If a whole tract wishes to pay, the dues are \$15 per cabin. Dues can now be paid on-line nssha.org/join. Payments can also be made sending your check made out to NSSHA to:

NSSHA
 1204 Havenhill Ct
 Roseville CA 95661-5309

(Scan the QR code with your phone to pay dues or press the button below)

[Pay Dues On-line](#)



Area Reps

Meredith Randall, Area 1
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 Bull Creek, Alder Creek, 29 Milestone, 30 Milestone, 31 Milestone, 33 Milestone, Riverside, 34 Milestone

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Sciots Tract

Best Email Addresses to use to contact the FS

Pacific: sm.fs.pac_rec_res@usda.gov
Placerville: sm.fs.pvl_rec_res@usda.gov
Amador: sm.fs.amarecres@usda.gov
LTBMU: sm.fs.LTBMUrecRes@usda.gov

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