

NSSHA Annual Meeting Minutes

Camp Sacramento | June 27, 2026

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting opened with the Boy Scouts of Cody Lake Troop 1 presenting the Color Guard, leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and reciting the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The scouts were recognized and thanked for their participation. President Tony Franks then welcomed members, thanked Camp Sacramento staff, and reviewed NSSHA's focus on improving communication through email updates, newsletters, and the website.

NSSHA represents 38 tracts and 1,111 cabins across the Eldorado National Forest, including the Placerville, Pacific, and Amador districts. Tony encouraged broader dues participation and noted interest in holding a satellite meeting for Highway 88 and Amador District cabin owners.

Introduction of Officers and Area Reps

NSSHA officers and area representatives were introduced. Their role is to help maintain communication among cabin owners, individual tracts, Forest Service contacts, and the broader NSSHA organization.

Officers: Tony Franks – President; Paul Hugo – Vice President; Mike Blote – Treasurer; Nancy Allen – Secretary; Jen Huntley – Editor

Area Reps: Meredith Randall, Area 1; Linden Beck, Area 2; Caroline Peterson, Area 3; Lisa Long, Area 4; Dawn Johnson, Area 5; Mary Clarke ver Hoef, Area 6 (Pacific District); Stephanie Holson, Area 7 (Amador District); Nancy Allen, Area 8; and Julie Newlin, Area 9, (Sciots tract).

Business Meeting

- The prior meeting minutes were approved without corrections.
- Treasurer Mike Blote reported an ending bank balance of \$42,933.73 as of June 23, 2026, with a yearly cash change of negative \$4,142.20.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.
- Mike Blote announced that he will step down as Treasurer in the coming year. NSSHA will need to recruit a replacement.

Forest Service Report

David Fournier, Eldorado National Forest Supervisor, provided the Forest Service update. His remarks covered agency reorganization, staffing, fee retention, road priorities, fuels work, Caldor Fire recovery, and communication with cabin owners.

- **Reorganization:** The Washington Office is moving to Salt Lake City, regional offices are being replaced with a state-based model, and California's state office will be in Placerville. David expects more authority to shift to forest supervisors, which may help speed local decisions.
- **Staffing and roads:** The forest has lost about 30% of staff and has limited engineering and equipment capacity. Road work remains a priority but is constrained by cost, staffing, and equipment.

- **Fee retention:** Some fee-retention funds are being directed toward salaries. The Forest Service is also considering how fee-retention funds can support access needs, including roads and trails.
- **Caldor recovery:** About one-quarter of the Caldor Fire area will be reforested. Other areas will receive fuels work, prescribed fire, and related treatments. Partner organizations are assisting with reforestation, hazard trees, burn piles, and future fuel breaks.
- **Herbicides:** David stated that herbicide use is targeted and limited, and that treatments follow EPA requirements, buffers, labels, and scientific review.

Roads, Fuels, and Member Questions

- Logging along Ice House Road was described as thinning in the Cleveland burn scar to reduce overstocked forest conditions. David said herbicides are not used for that logging, though fungicide may be applied to large fresh stumps to prevent root rot.
- Members asked whether fee-retention funds can support road maintenance and fuels reduction. Forest Service staff said these projects are expensive and will likely require prioritization, partnerships, grants, and longer-term contracting tools.
- Linda Babcock said the next roads targeted are Fir, Sayles, and Strawberry Tract. Cabin owners with road issues should contact Linda so she can maintain the priority list.
- Bull Creek cabin owners raised concerns about road damage, washouts, emergency access, and responsibility for repairs. They were directed to speak with Forest Service staff during office hours after the meeting.
- Meredith Randall requested greater transparency regarding how recreation residence special-use fees are being spent.

NSSHA Website, Dues, and Hazard Trees

Paul Hugo reviewed the NSSHA website and highlighted resources on cabin repair, contractors, bears, fire, burn permits, and hazard trees. Members can now pay dues online using the website QR code. Hazard-tree work is mostly complete around the tracts, with remaining work primarily related to PG&E operations.

Recreation Residence Update

Linda Babcock reported that PG&E work is continuing and that she is working with PG&E to ensure log decks and debris are removed. Cabin owners should contact Linda if debris remains.

The recreation residence group will begin cabin inspections on a three-year rotation, covering about 175 cabins per year. Inspection notices are expected in November so owners can prepare operations and maintenance plans and schedule spring or summer work. Linda reminded owners that Forest Service approval is required before exterior cabin work.

National Forest Homeowners and Cabin Program Restoration Act

Tony Franks and Meredith Randall reviewed the role of the National Forest Homeowners Association, which represents cabin owners nationally. NSSHA contributed \$5,000 to NFH in support of the proposed Cabin Program Restoration Act.

- The Cabin Program Restoration Act has been drafted but not yet introduced.
- The proposed legislation is intended to restore permit-holder rights, clarify Forest Service authority, create rebuilding pathways, and support defensible-space work.
- NFH helped secure fee-retention regulations and continues to monitor national issues affecting recreation residences.
- Meredith encouraged more cabin owners to join NFH, noting that stronger membership numbers support advocacy efforts.
- Eldorado cabin owners recently received 20-year permits expiring in 2044. Much of the rest of the country is expected to receive 30-year permits in 2028, and Meredith hopes Eldorado permit holders can receive a 10-year extension.

Caldor Cabin Owners Recovery Project

- In the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 34 cabins were lost: 2 abandoned, 19 walking away, and 13 rebuilding.
- On the Eldorado National Forest, 143 cabins were lost: 2 abandoned, 10 unknown, 84 walking away, and 47 rebuilding.
- On the Eldorado, one cabin has been completed, one is close to completion, and others remain in the rebuilding pipeline.

Additional Questions and Notes

- Tract signs may need to be covered or removed during winter if they will be buried by snowplows.
- Logging south of Johnson Pass Road is part of the Huckleberry project. Approximately 300 acres have been completed, with about 100 acres remaining.
- Linda said she would look into concerns about fire debris remaining at 41 Mile Stone.
- Linda asked to speak after the meeting with a Bull Creek member who raised concerns about healthy trees being removed while fire-related deadfall remains.

Action Items and Follow-Up

- NSSHA will recruit a new Treasurer.
- NSSHA will continue improving member communication through email blasts, newsletters, and website updates.
- NSSHA will consider a satellite meeting for Highway 88 and Amador District cabin owners.
- The Forest Service will continue prioritizing road issues and coordinating with cabin owners.
- Linda will clarify whether the three-year inspection rotation applies beyond the Placerville District.
- NSSHA will continue requesting transparency on special-use fee-retention spending.
- Members are encouraged to pay NSSHA dues and consider joining NFH.

The meeting ended at 12:18 p.m.

Nancy Allen, Secretary

June 30, 2026