



## **Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group**

### **General Members Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

**NEW Time:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**NEW Hybrid Meeting In-person and Online!**

**Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation + Open Space District**

747 Mendocino Ave # 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Bring your lunch! Parking is available in the back of the building or on the street.

**Or Zoom Video Conference:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87022286598?pwd=eWJKVvhagG5XR3dSWi9RQlhkTXRlZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 2228 6598 | Passcode: 662855

**Or Phone Conference:**

Dial (669) 900-6833, and when prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 870 2228 6598 and when prompted, enter the Passcode: 662855. You can mute and unmute yourself by pressing \*6 on your phone.

- I. **General Updates: All** (30 min; 11:00am)  
Updates from each attendee. Please be brief; longer items can be scheduled for next month's agenda. Members will provide updates on projects, upcoming events, requests for support, observations from the field, etc.
  
- II. **French Broom Management** (30 min; 11:30am)  
*Presented by Jason Mills, Fire & Restoration Ecologist, Ecological Solutions, LLC*  
[French Broom](#) (*Genista monspessulana*) is a highly aggressive invasive species introduced from Europe which plagues the central coast of California. Like most invasive species it often establishes following disturbance and displaces native species reducing natural biodiversity. Emergent populations spread rapidly with plants producing thousands of seeds each year. As a perennial woody species plants reach heights of 10 to 20 feet and establish continuous monocultures over time dramatically increasing biomass and ladder fuels. Jason will discuss the methodology and assess some of the most effective tools in the toolbox to optimize control efforts for one of the most problematic invasives in the region. Jason will address lifecycles, reproduction, and dispersal in order to help guide the planning, approach, and maintenance required to reach goals and shift trajectories over the long term.
  
- III. **Assistance available for project development** (20 min; 12:00pm)  
*Presented by Adriana Stagnaro, Forestry Project Manager, Gold Ridge RCD*  
Do you or your organization have a project in mind that could improve forest health, reduce fire risk, utilize biomass, manage pests, or recover forestland, but you don't feel the project is ready for submittal for grant funding? The RCD and the North Coast Resource Partnership are seeking community members who need technical support to develop projects for the [NCRP CAL FIRE](#)

[Forest Health Pilot Grant Program](#) and other grant programs. Types of technical assistance may include site assessments, grant development, mapping and GIS analysis, greenhouse gas calculations, cost estimates, project benefits quantification, preliminary project design/planning, permitting, environmental compliance support and other relevant activities. [Learn more and apply here by May 1st.](#)

**IV. 2024-25 Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group Strategic Plan (35 min; 12:20pm)**

It's time to establish a new [Strategic Plan](#) describing how we:

- Create an inclusive and useful network of practitioners
- Support the educational needs of our community
- Address challenging issues in forestry
- Fund forest conservation work
- Connect people with forests!
- Reflect on our group and individual accomplishments from 2023.  
→ → → Fill out our [easy Google survey](#) to help us develop our Strategic Plan!

**V. Spring 2024 Public Events Calendar (5 min; 12:55pm)**

- March 26 & 28: Help Build Burn Piles at Ocean Song-Meyers, hosted by LandPaths
- March 30: Branch Out with Burn Piles, hosted by LandPaths
- April 2: Help Build Burn Piles at Ocean Song-Meyers, hosted by LandPaths
- April 6: Resilient Landscapes Coalition Workshop: Within and Beyond Defensible Space
- April 12: Help Out with Burn Piles at Riddell Preserve, hosted by LandPaths
- April 13: Help Out with Burn Piles at Grove of the Old Trees, hosted by LandPaths
- April 18: Everything You Need to Know about the Wildfire Fuel Mapper
- May 3: Sudden Oak Death Blitz at the Grove of Old Trees
- May 4: CA Tree School hosted in Hopland, hosted by UCCE  
→ → → Share your upcoming event to be added to the [FWG Events Calendar!](#)

**VI. Upcoming Events**

- General Membership Meeting, April 18, 11am-1pm, Ag + Open Space Office and Zoom
- General Membership Meeting, May 16, 11am-1pm, Ag + Open Space Office and Zoom
- General Membership Meeting, June 20, 11am-1pm, Ag + Open Space Office and Zoom

Visit [sonomaforests.org/events](https://sonomaforests.org/events) for more upcoming events.