**Panelist Bios and Links**

**State of Wildfire in California**: **Protecting Our Communities**

**and Landscapes from Catastrophic Wildfire**

**Thursday, August 8, 2024**

**Secretary Speaker Series:** <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Secretary-Speaker-Series>

**Secretary Wade Crowfoot:** <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Secretary-for-Natural-Resources>

**Panelists:**

**-** Joe Tyler, Chief, CAL FIRE

- Kara Chadwick, Deputy Regional Forester (Pacific Southwest Region) U.S. Forest Service

- Patrick Wright, Director, Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

- Neva Gibbens, Deputy Director of Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe

- Jessica Pyska, District 5 Supervisor, Lake County

- Stephanie Ogren, General Counsel, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

**Joe Tyler, Chief, CALFIRE**

**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection -** [**https://www.fire.ca.gov/**](https://www.fire.ca.gov/)

**Bio:** <https://www.fire.ca.gov/about/executive-staff/profile-list/joe-tyler>

Chief Tyler began his career with CAL FIRE in 1990 as a Fire Fighter in the Shasta Trinity Unit. Since then, he has worked in the Riverside Unit, Amador El Dorado Unit, and Statewide Training Program in various operational classifications in Schedule A and Schedule B, including fire stations, training bureaus and programs, camps, safety programs, and as an Administrative Officer and Staff Chief. Prior to his appointment to Deputy Director, Chief Tyler served as the Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Protection with oversight of Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery, Fire Protection Operations, Aviation Management, Tactical Air Operations, and Mobile Equipment. In addition to those programs referenced just prior, he now also oversees Training, Safety, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Local/State/Federal Programs, and Hand Crew Program

Resources:

CAL FIRE Incident Map: [https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fire.ca.gov%2Fincidents&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cf38dbc76ff464474174008dcb7b2fefb%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638587226660686677%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rBTWxw%2FtAdci7uovbe%2FHr2Y4fL6DsSmlO4H5D9v5rTY%3D&reserved=0)

Wildfire Preparedness: [https://readyforwildfire.org/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Freadyforwildfire.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cf38dbc76ff464474174008dcb7b2fefb%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638587226660699684%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uOcoo3MWQT738E8NMdOaSfeYTSfZOIVrprpHkThT%2FuI%3D&reserved=0)

Fuel Reduction Project Dashboard: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/fuels-reduction>

* Prescribed Fire: [https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/prescribed-fire](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fire.ca.gov%2Fwhat-we-do%2Fnatural-resource-management%2Fprescribed-fire&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cf38dbc76ff464474174008dcb7b2fefb%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638587226660712002%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XMqPIOUqHIHCbzUCZ4K9spdXsbQsDPuqXil6NwvKz%2FM%3D&reserved=0)
* CALFIRE Grants: [https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fire.ca.gov%2Fwhat-we-do%2Fgrants&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cf38dbc76ff464474174008dcb7b2fefb%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638587226660717993%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kZLcIAvlRAwm5SQFiNOkqIqxCm4rRHoxhTQbNQfGmc0%3D&reserved=0)
* Impact: Defending People, Wildland, and California’s Way of Life: [https://www.fire.ca.gov/our-impact](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fire.ca.gov%2Four-impact&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cf38dbc76ff464474174008dcb7b2fefb%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638587226660723755%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X%2BRZXLjyfZMNv8qTHL86wHJBeX3uNbhoqhAM%2FUOX7Bo%3D&reserved=0)
* Governor Newsom and fire officials highlight California’s wildfire readiness and response: [https://www.gov.ca.gov/2024/07/10/governor-newsom-and-fire-officials-highlight-californias-wildfire-readiness-and-response/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.ca.gov%2F2024%2F07%2F10%2Fgovernor-newsom-and-fire-officials-highlight-californias-wildfire-readiness-and-response%2F&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cf38dbc76ff464474174008dcb7b2fefb%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638587226660729374%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QTvm9hhgJ9gC7IxLs5D%2F8uas0TGPWW6kEGulD9XwTLQ%3D&reserved=0)

**Patrick Wright, Director**

California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force: <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/>

**Bio:** Patrick E. Wright serves as the Director of the California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force. This task force was established by Governor Gavin Newsom to address the critical challenge of preventing catastrophic wildfires. It brings together a coalition of resources to create healthier, more sustainable natural environments and enhance forest health. Wright has been actively involved in forest management and conservation, having previously served as the Acting Director of the Forest Management Task Force at the California Natural Resources Agency and as the Executive Director at the Tahoe Conservancy since 2006

California Wildfire & Landscape Resilience Interagency Treatment Dashboard: <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/treatment-dashboard/>

Join our meetings: <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/meetings/>

**Kara Chadwick, Deputy Regional Forester (Pacific Southwest Region) U.S. Forest Service**

**US Forest Service:** [**https://www.fs.usda.gov/**](https://www.fs.usda.gov/)

Bio: Kara is the Deputy Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service. Kara has worked for the Forest Service for 35 years at all levels of the Agency and across the United States. She began her career at the ground level, preparing timber sales, fighting fire, planting trees, writing and implementing silvicultural prescriptions, and writing NEPA documents, before moving into leadership positions from the District level to the Washington Office. Kara is passionate about active management, shared stewardship of the land, and mentoring up and coming leaders.

**Confronting the Wildfire Crisis** - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildfire-crisis>

Collaborative Wildfire Risk Reduction Program: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildfire-crisis/collaborative-wildfire-risk-reduction](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fs.usda.gov%2Fmanaging-land%2Fwildfire-crisis%2Fcollaborative-wildfire-risk-reduction&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7C1c656a3f25c3472f480308dcb7ce4280%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638587343725406938%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uZKHjWnlG2yxRbmghDjcX8qhBsdmA7fnCohTXJ7y0G8%3D&reserved=0)

**Neva Gibbens, Deputy Director of Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe**

**Karuk Tribe:** [**https://www.karuk.us/**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.karuk.us%2F&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cf6747623279a4babc66008dcb7db51e9%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638587399838238448%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HrgNkmTYDFD7VTpnyRTB64qThEWrdMeq5Er3iO52Lrs%3D&reserved=0)

Neva Gibbens is the Deputy Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Karuk Tribe1. She has been involved in various initiatives, including the Karuk Indigenous Women-In-Fire Training Exchange (KWTREX) event. This event, held in the Karuk Aboriginal Territory, focuses on training Indigenous women and other under-represented genders in fire management and the exchange of traditional knowledge.

The Karuk Tribe Natural Resources: [https://www.karuk.us/index.php/departments/natural-resources](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.karuk.us%2Findex.php%2Fdepartments%2Fnatural-resources&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cf6747623279a4babc66008dcb7db51e9%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638587399838252105%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XhUCeng3HSEGtD9%2F4YGXc48%2Fqeif6I8ucYofmg9kElE%3D&reserved=0)

Indigenous Women-In-Fire Training Exchange: [https://www.karuk.us/index.php/information/62-announcements/610-wtrex-indigenous-women-trex-event](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.karuk.us%2Findex.php%2Finformation%2F62-announcements%2F610-wtrex-indigenous-women-trex-event&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cf6747623279a4babc66008dcb7db51e9%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638587399838259938%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=E%2B%2Fpu5585un2U8vZzQS%2Fv2sxeBlRzIH50tnWJBX%2FY9E%3D&reserved=0)

Karuk Women’s+ TREX: <https://vimeo.com/user88223238>

Shifting the Fire Paradigm in Karuk Aboriginal Territory- 2023 SRF Lightning Complex - <https://vimeo.com/user88223238>

Eco-Cultural Revitalization Fund - <https://www.karuk.us/index.php/departments/natural-resources/eco-cultural-revitalization>

**Jessica Pyska, District 5 Supervisor, Lake County**

[**https://www.lakecountyca.gov/**](https://www.lakecountyca.gov/)

**Bio:** [**https://www.lakecountyca.gov/directory.aspx?eid=162**](https://www.lakecountyca.gov/directory.aspx?eid=162)

Supervisor Pyska comes from a family with Lake County roots dating back more than eight decades. She was raised on Cobb Mountain and graduated from Middletown High School in 1994.

2015’s Valley Fire destroyed the Pyskas’ family home, and they immediately set to work rebuilding not only their home but their beloved community. Jessica Pyska has spent the years since working as a volunteer on long-term recovery, disaster preparedness, and strategic planning through the Cobb Area Council, which she co-founded in 2016, and served as Vice Chair through 2020.

Pyska is committed to using her many years of hands-on experience, energy, and vision to accelerate Lake County’s pivot to an authentic, prosperous, inclusive, and dynamic community, built for the future.

Important Issues

* Strengthening Economic Vitality
* A High Standard of Disaster Prevention and Preparation
* Health and Safety for All

District 5 includes Kelseyville (town and general area), Riviera West, Clear Lake Riviera, Buckingham, Loch Lomond, and Cobb.

Home Hardening: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/home-hardening>

**Stephanie Ogren, General Counsel**

Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety: <https://energysafety.ca.gov/>

<https://energysafety.ca.gov/who-we-are/executive-team/stephanie-ogren/>

Stephanie Ogren is the General Counsel at the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety. Prior to her appointment, Ogren was the Assistant Chief Counsel at the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services where she has held multiple positions since 2016, including Acting Assistant Chief Counsel, Senior Counsel and Staff Counsel. She was an Associate at Delfino Madden O’Malley Coyle & Koewler from 2014 to 2016 and an Associate and Law Clerk at Cota Cole LLP from 2010 to 2014. Ogren earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Davis School of Law. Ogren’s work at Energy Safety focuses on the implementation of the novel regulatory scheme aimed at preventing utility-caused wildfire. Previously, she worked on the response and recovery from major wildfires as well as other natural disasters. In her spare time, Ogren enjoys hiking and camping, especially at our California State Parks.

Wildfire Safety Concerns: <https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/safety-concerns/>