

Neil Chapman lives in Flagstaff, Arizona with his wife Jennifer and son Joseph.

Neil grew up in South Hadley, Massachusetts, a small western-Mass town along the Connecticut River. Heading west for college, Neil received a B.S. from the Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Neil's career in fire adapted land management began with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) at the Nachusa Grasslands in northern Illinois, supporting the stewardship of tall grass prairie and oak savannah restoration projects. It was here, immersed in the beauty of Aldo Leopold's sand prairies, that Neil's passion for ecological fire management and community risk reduction was formed.

In 2006, Neil returned to the west and began managing frequent fire landscape conservation projects, based out of TNC's Hart Prairie Preserve, an area of spiritual significance for more than 13 tribes.

Over time, Neil's work evolved into supporting policy efforts with TNC's North America Fire Management Team, writing TNC preserve burn plans, funding and managing US Forest Service fuel reduction projects, and developing innovative ways to improve mechanical timber harvesting operations designed to reduce wildfire risk.

In October 2019, Neil became a Wildland Fire Captain for the Flagstaff Fire Department. Neil leads the Forest Health, Prevention, and Preparedness functions of the Department's Wildland Fire Management Program. Neil directs the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project and collaborative efforts within the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's Wildfire Resilience Initiative, and the Four Forest Restoration Initiative.

Neil has led fire adapted community efforts through the implementation of the first Prescribed Fire Training Exchange in Arizona and created the state's first Hepa Air Purifier donation program. In 2022, Neil received Federal appointments to the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, and the Collaborative Forest Health Landscape Restoration Program Advisory Committee.

Neil is also the President of the Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership Advisory Board and a member of the Friends of Camp Colton Board of Directors.