



HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Supported by

Public Works, Natural Resources Planning

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

1106 Second Street, Eureka, CA 95501



Meeting Summary

Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting – November 10, 2022

A [Humboldt County Fire Safe Council \(HCFSC\)](#) meeting was held on November 10, 2022 at the Eureka Woman’s Club. The HCFSC was appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to guide maintenance and implementation of the [Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\)](#).

Fire Safe Council Members Attending:

- **Ali Freedlund**, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council/Mattole Restoration Council
- Allan Wiegman**, California State Parks
- Brita Goldstein**, Green Diamond Resource Company
- Chris Ramey**, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
- Kai Ostrow**, Briceland Fire Department & Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue
- Kathy Weber**, Crooked Prairie & Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
- Lenya Quinn-Davidson**, UC Cooperative Extension, Humboldt-Del Norte UCCE
- Lyn Javier**, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council
- Manny Mello**, George Petersen/Northwest Insurance
- Patti Pedigo**, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
- Will Harling**, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council/Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Fire Safe Council Alternates Attending:

- Jason Butcher**, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
- Jeff Stackhouse**, Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association
- Yana Valachovic**, UC Cooperative Extension, Humboldt-Del Norte UCCE

Non-Voting Agency Liaisons Attending:

- **Cybelle Immitt**, Humboldt County Public Works Director Designee
- Dan Wooden**, Bureau of Land Management

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:

- **Julia Cavalli**, Humboldt County Public Works / Lead County Coordinator
- **Mitchell Danforth**, Trees Foundation
- Ali Lee, Humboldt Area Foundation & Western Rivers Conservancy
- Amber Transou, California State Parks
- Barbara Darst, Willow Creek FSC
- Breeanna Kalson, NRM Corp.
- Chip Tittman, Institute for Sustainable Forestry
- Glenn Ziemer, Former HCFSC member
- Harry Vaughn, Southern Humboldt FSC
- Ian Sigman, Former HCFSC member & chair

- John Wilhelm, Palo Verde FSC
- Justin Robbins, Bureau of Land Management
- Larry Wilson, RPF
- Lathrop Leonard, California State Parks
- Luna Latimer, Mid Klamath Watershed Council
- Nancy Gentry, Palo Verde FSC
- Sara Vroom, Mattole Restoration Council
- Tanner Speas, Telegraph Ridge Fire Dpt. & SHFSC

****Members of the County Coordination Team**

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Meeting Summary Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting – November 10, 2022

1. Call to Order: Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

HCFSC Chairperson, Lenya Quinn-Davidson called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. This in-person meeting was not recorded. However, a special video commemorating the HCFSC's 20th anniversary is [posted online](#).

Discussion of the 2023 Meeting Schedule was moved from Item 7 to Item 3 of the agenda.

2. Approval of the meeting Agenda and Minutes from the previous HCFSC meeting

- **Action: Review and Approve Minutes from the Previous HCFSC Meeting**
 - **Motion:** Kai Ostrow motioned to approve the August HCFSC meeting minutes. Lyn Javier seconded the motion. **Vote:** None opposed.

3. Meeting Schedule 2023

The proposed schedule was amended as follows:

- February 16, 2023 – remote via Zoom
- May 18, 2023 – in-person with remote option at UCCE Office
- August 17, 2023 – remote via Zoom
- November 16, 2023 – in-person with remote option at UCCE Office

Action: Review, amend as necessary, and approve proposed 2023 meeting schedule

- **Motion:** Ali Freedlund motioned to approve the 2023 meeting schedule. Jeff Stackhouse seconded the motion. **Vote:** None opposed.

4. Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

- Chris Ramey announced that CAL FIRE alternate, Jen Renner has taken a promotion within the Office of the State Fire Marshal's new Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division
- Jason Butcher announced that the next Fire Prevention Grant round will begin taking applications very soon. [Sign up for notices](#) on the CAL FIRE website for the latest information.
- Dan Wooden announced that the Arcata Field Office will be hiring more fire staff within the year, including a Fire Management Officer and Prescribed Fire Fuels Specialist. Please get in touch if interested.
- Brita Goldstein offered to share the CA Women in Timber's DVD copy of Wilder Than Wild, a documentary on our changing fire regimes and strategies to mitigate the impacts of resulting fires.
- New documentary out on [Hupa Fire: Traditional and Cultural Fire Management](#).

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

5. Feature Presentation: Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaboration

- A special presentation was given by partners involved in the development of the Mattole and Salmon Creek Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Project (see attached PowerPoint Presentation).
- Project development was spearheaded by the Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaborative—a diverse collaborative of community members, property owners, local organizations, local and state agencies, a fire department, and more. Their efforts resulted in a \$5 million dollar grant from CAL FIRE to the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District to implement the project in partnership with collaborators by early 2026. Participants will learn about their success, challenges, and recommendations for others.

6. Fire Safe Council Member Group Activity

- In celebration of the HCFSC's 20th anniversary, members were asked to participate in a group activity that showcased the value and accomplishments of this unique group. The activity demonstrated how they are collectively furthering the goals and objectives of the Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and working independently and in collaboration for wildfire resilient communities and landscapes.



Photos: Participants created a web by sharing accomplishments related to each Action Plan of the CWPP to showcase the interconnectedness of our collective actions!

7. Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn

- Next meeting will be February 16, 2023 via Zoom.

Building Capacity and Resilience in Southern Humboldt: SH Forest Health Collaborative

First Project: Mattole and Salmon Creek Forest Health
and Wildfire Resilience Project

\$5 Million Dollar Forest Health Grant Award

Plus 'The Blooming' of multiple SoHum groups

Introduction: Thinking like a *Fireshed*

- August Complex and other close calls re-ignited interest in **community-based project planning**
- Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council and other groups like Institute for Sustainable Forestry had been helping with individual treatments
- Projects in Southern Humboldt County need to be massively **scaled up** alongside local capacity
- *Enter: Trees Foundation and the So Hum Forest Health Collaborative!*

Project Beginning: Salmon Creek

Chip Tittman, Tim Bailey and Jeff Hedin inspired Institute for Sustainable Forestry (ISF) to take on the Circle Around the Sun—a monthly hike program, in 2018.

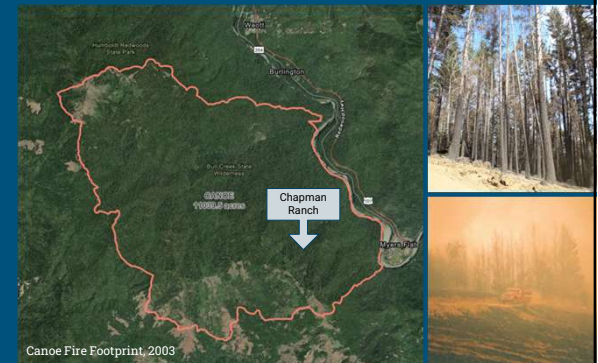
They walked a transect from the Chapman Ranch into Humboldt Redwoods State Park and ended up at William's Grove, tracing the footprint of the 2003 Canoe Fire. Tim and Chip never let the idea drop for the need of restoration forestry.

CAL FIRE had opened Round 6 of their Forest Health Grant Program, which had gotten easier to meet the on-the-ground requirements—but still a heavy lift.

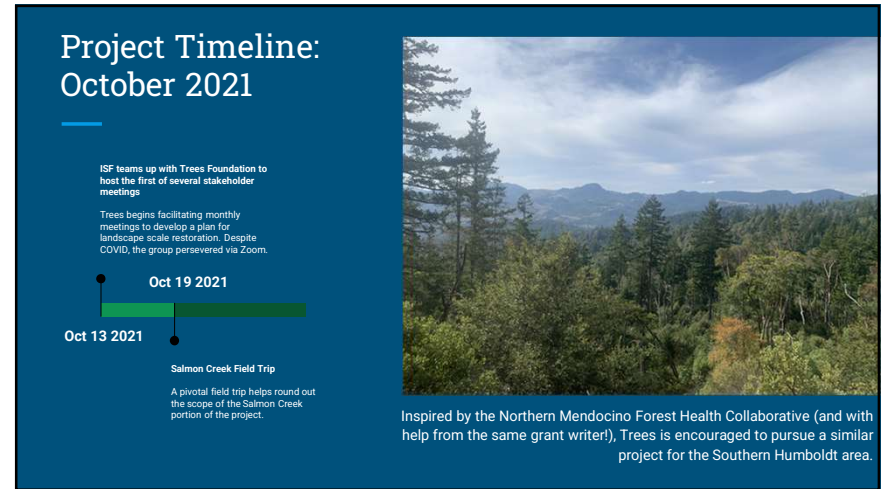
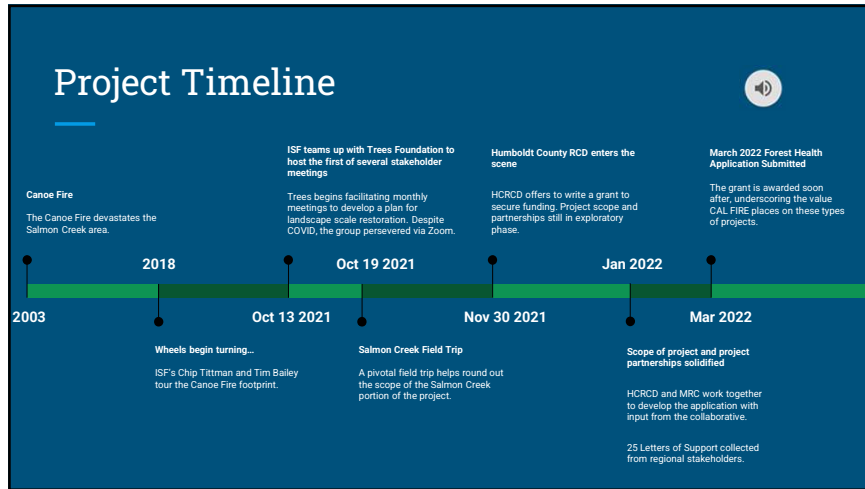
Chip went fishing—who could collaborate with ISF on a large project in the Salmon Creek area? Trees? Mattole Restoration Council?

Canoe Fire Footprint, Chapman Ranch, 2003

Humboldt Redwoods State Park was already creating fuels breaks, laying down 'good' fire and just over the ridge MRC was finishing a 250 acre fuel break...



HCFSC Nov 2022 Meeting Feature Presentation: Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaboration



Support from California State Parks

Victor Bjelajac, California State Parks

Rosalind Litzky

Lathrop Leonard CSP Forester

Amber Trassou, CSP Natural Program Man...

Web Smith, State Parks

California State Parks logo: CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS SINCE 1864

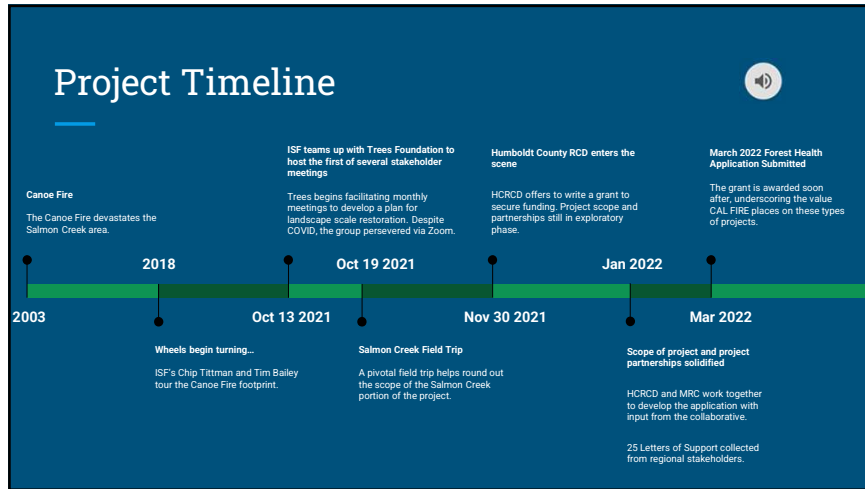
Project Timeline: November 2021

Nov 30 2021
Humboldt County RCD enters the scene
HCRCD offers to write a grant to secure funding. Project scope and partnerships still in exploratory phase.

Salmon Creek Field Trip 10.19.22

Grant writer **Julia Sullivan** was our secret sauce! Jill Demers assigned Julia to our grant project and she joined our 3rd Collaborative meeting on Nov 30. She was a great source of calm, focus, and expertise, and guided us through the application process.

HCFCSC Nov 2022 Meeting Feature Presentation: Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaboration



Process Overview & Key Team Members

- **Jill Demers**, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
- **Julia Sullivan**, Regional Resource Conservation District grant writer
- **Hugh Mcgee and Sarah Vroom**, Mattole Restoration Council
- **Chip Tittman** and the Salmon Creek Working Group
- **Tim Bailey**, The Watershed Center
- **Mark Chapman**, Chapman Ranch
- **Kerry Reynolds**, Collaborative facilitator, Trees Foundation

Zoom meetings, mapping, note-taking, phone calls, field trips

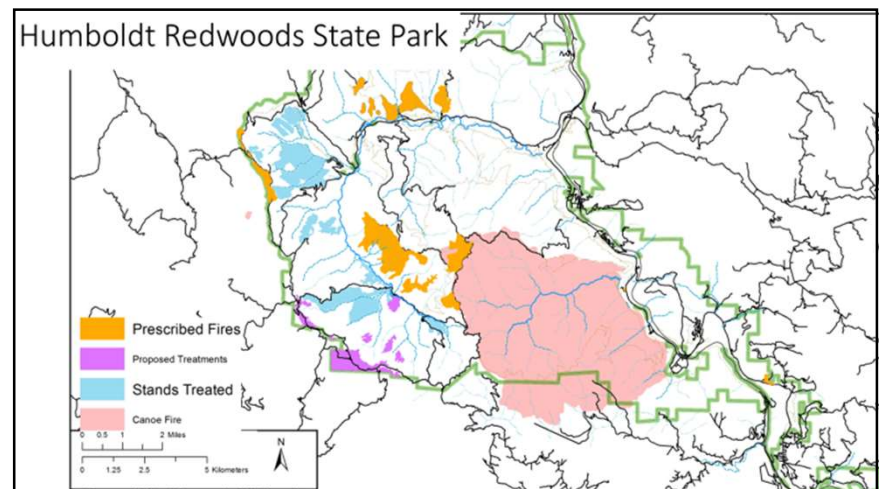
The Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaborative's 3rd Zoom meeting on November 30, 2021

Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaborative

Draft Statement

The Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaborative is a group of nonprofits, agencies, and residents working together to improve the ecological health and wildfire resilience of Southern Humboldt's forests and grasslands.

We share stewardship best practices and a desire to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge in the coordination, development and implementation of projects ranging from small to landscape-scale.



HCFS Nov 2022 Meeting Feature Presentation: Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaboration

Community Collaboration

- Public Lands for the Public – this and Future Generations
- Increased Funding = Increased Capacity to Work and Collaborate
- Common Goals/Interests
- Gaining Efficiencies
- Sharing Resources/Expertise
- Landscape-Scale Implementation



Integrated Restoration



Humboldt Resource Conservation District

- Project Fiscal Sponsor
- Lead Agency for CEQA
- History of leveraging funding

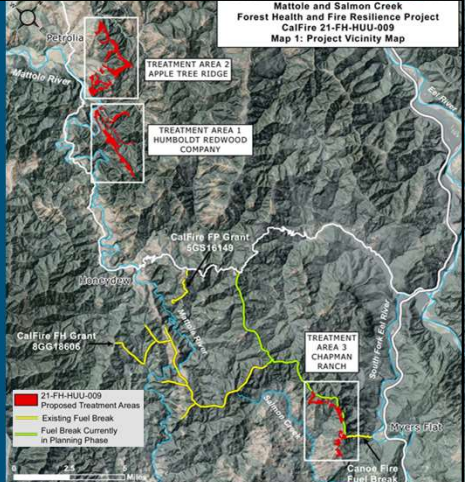



Oct 5th, 2022 Tour of the Chapman/State Parks Project with Mark Chapman (Landowner), Humboldt LAFCO, CSDA, MRC, legislative staffers, and CAL FIRE Unit Del Norte/Humboldt Unit). Photo by Kyle Keegan, Salmon Creek local ecologist

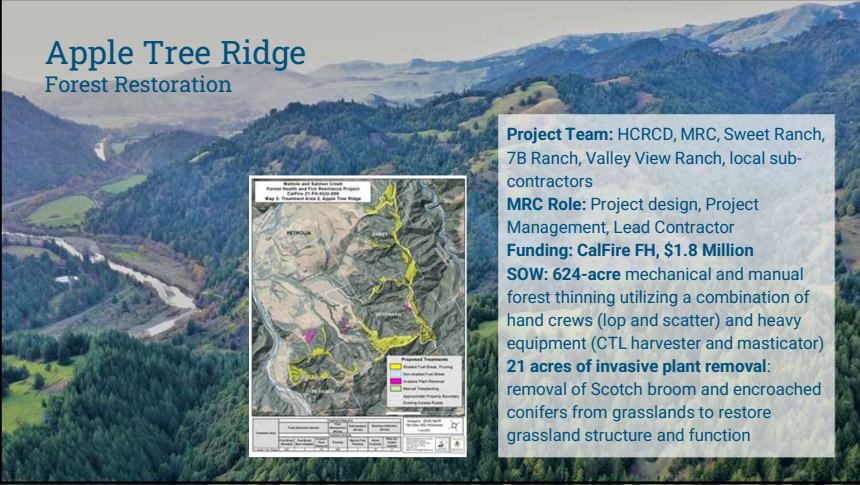
Project Map

Treatment Area	Fuels Reduction (Acres)	Pest Management (Acres)	Treatment Objective		
			Prescribed Fire (Acres)	Reforestation (Acres)	Biomass Utilization (Acres)
Humboldt Redwood Company	231	224	121	18	177
Apple Tree Ridge	424	400	0	4	38
Chapman Ranch	200	200	0	0	0

- CAL FIRE FH Funding Priorities**
 - Fuels Reduction (Mech/Manual Thinning)
 - Pest Management (Invasives/Pathogens)
 - Prescribed Fire (Grassland/Understory)
 - Biomass Utilization (Log sale/Fish habitat)
 - Reforestation (Tree/Shrub planting)
- Design**
 - Cooperative landowners
 - Landscape scale ridgeline connectivity of fire resilient forests and grasslands/oak woodlands
 - Assess topography and road to ridge units
 - Multiple habitat restoration benefits while reducing fuel loads



Apple Tree Ridge Forest Restoration



Project Team: HCRCD, MRC, Sweet Ranch, 7B Ranch, Valley View Ranch, local sub-contractors
MRC Role: Project design, Project Management, Lead Contractor
Funding: CalFire FH, \$1.8 Million
SOW: 624-acre mechanical and manual forest thinning utilizing a combination of hand crews (lop and scatter) and heavy equipment (CTL harvester and masticator)
21 acres of invasive plant removal: removal of Scotch broom and encroached conifers from grasslands to restore grassland structure and function

Humboldt Redwood Company Forest Restoration



199 acres of mechanical biomass removal
 121-acre understory broadcast burn post-thinning
 22 acres of reforestation
 4 acres of oak woodland restoration
 Install 200-300 large grassland encroached trees in-stream with helicopter

Chapman Ranch Shaded Fuel Break



Project Team: HCRCD, Chapman Ranch, Mattole Restoration Council
Funding: CalFire Forest Health, ~\$1M
MRC Role: Sub-contractor
SOW: Mechanical and manual thinning on 200 acres in the footprint of the Canoe Fire. Tie into R2C and State Parks Shaded Fuel Breaks.

The Mattole and Salmon Creek Forest Health Project

The Chapman Ranch, October 2022 mastication area. A lot of young, dense thickets to thin in order to create resilience to climate impacts by building vigor in remaining trees.



BEFORE

AFTER

The Saw Crew, Mattole Restoration Council



Crew members are residents from:

- Salmon Creek
- Petrolia
- Honeydew
- Arcata
- Briceland

Project Development & Phase 2 Planning



- Leveraging funding to plan for next phase(s)
- Trees Foundation & Landowner Outreach via contractor Kyle Keegan
- Environmental surveys to support future State Parks project components

Members of ISF and the Salmon Creek Working Group at the Sept. 25 Salmon Creek Project Kickoff Meeting

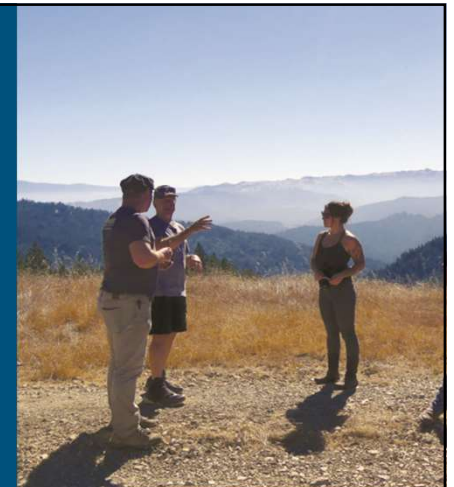
Challenges

- Building Consensus
 - Partnership building under a deadline
 - Initial level of uncertainty
- Environmental Compliance
 - Required to be completed within 1 year of grant award
- Compromises
- Local Rural Workforce Capacity & Development
- Keeping Governing Boards Informed



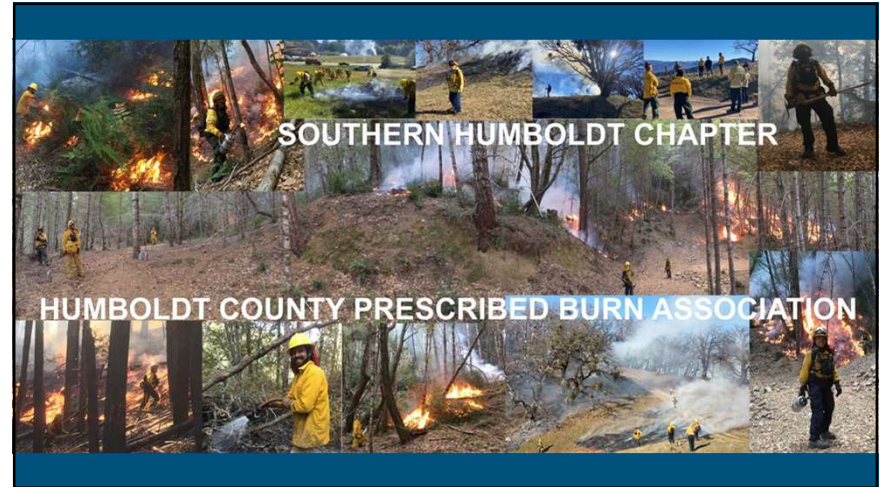
Keys to Success

- Groundwork ahead of time
 - Scouting and visioning
 - Outreach to many partners
- Facilitation: Trees Foundation/Kerry Reynolds
- Applicant & Fiscal Capacity: HCRCD
- Strength in Partners
 - Landowner cooperation
 - Parks and agency involvement
- Tools
 - Zoom Room enabled many to participate
 - Salmon Creek field trips
 - Maps that clearly described project details and linkages



Emerging Capacities & Collaborations in Southern Humboldt

- Neighborhood councils!
- Fire Resources Coordinator!
- Local PBAs!



Garberville & Redway Fire Safe

Formed with support from the SHFSC neighborhood organizing committee.

- Activities:
- Tabling
 - Reflective Address Signs
 - Educational Events
 - Outreach
 - Firewise



Garberville Fire Safe educational event



Redway Fire Safe first meeting

Greater Palo Verde Fire Safe Council

- Inspired by Garberville, assisted by the SHFSC
 - Kathy Weber
 - Gail Eastwood
- Priorities:
 - Fuel Reduction
 - Friends & Neighbors
 - FLASH
 - Roadside Clearing
 - Mail Ridge
 - Education



Defensible Space work day near Harris

Upper Mattole Fire Alliance



- Ettersburg Fire Safe Group
- Whitethorn Fire Safe Group
- Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Council

Focused on Emergency Planning

Supported by their respective Volunteer Fire Companies

Wrap Up

1. There is a lot of work still to do in our forests and grasslands.
2. Larger Landscape forest restoration funding will continue.
3. The SoHum Forest Health Collaborative is a model because of the diverse partners.
4. A trained local workforce is key!
5. Neighborhood Organizations can contribute with help from larger ones.
6. And Prescribed Burning is a must!



Q&A

Any questions?

Questions on our mind...

- How can this type of collaboration be fostered elsewhere?
- How can the need for this type of landscape level work be better represented in the next iteration of the CWPP?
- Are there enough options in dealing with the biomass from forest treatments?

Thank you

Funding for the Mattole and Salmon Creek Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Project was provided by CAL FIRE's Forest Health program, as part of California Climate Investments.

Funding for the S-212 chainsaw training provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Business and Workforce Development Grants.

