

## **Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

### **IV.11. Mad-Van Duzen Planning Unit Action Plan**

#### **IV.11.1. Mad-Van Duzen Planning Unit Description**

The Mad-Van Duzen *Planning Unit* encompasses 300,661 acres situated in the southeastern region of Humboldt County. The Cities of Fortuna and Rio Dell and Humboldt Redwoods State Park are located to the west, while Trinity County and Six Rivers National Forest border the eastern side of the Unit. Highway 36 is the primary transportation route through the Unit; it is paralleled by the main waterway, the Van Duzen River, which is one of the last remaining free-flowing rivers in California. The river and highway travel across the center of the Unit in a westward direction. Kneeland and Alderpoint Roads provide access to the north and south, respectively. The Unit contains portions of both the Van Duzen River *watershed* and the Mad River watershed, with the Mad River flowing through the northeastern portion of the Unit. The topography includes steep canyons formed by the rivers and their *tributaries*, which include: Indian Creek, Larabee Creek, the Little Van Duzen River, Butte Creek, East Creek and Pilot Creek, to name a few.

The privately-owned town site of Bridgeville comprises the main community center within this Planning Unit, and it is located at the point where the three primary transportation routes—Highway 36, Kneeland Road and Alderpoint Road intersect. Other communities within the Unit include Dinsmore in the east, and Blocksburg in the southern region. Other distinct neighborhood groupings exist near Coyote Flat and Homestead Roads, and in the Golden Gate and Deerfield Ranch subdivisions as well. The communities within this Planning Unit were established upon a resource-based lifestyle; and agriculture, along with timber and non-timber forest products, continue to play an important role in the local economies. The area supports a variety of cottage industries, fine art trade, and social services as well.<sup>1</sup>

Private land is the dominant ownership pattern in this Unit. The composition of land uses include: farms and rural residences in the lower floodplain and near the river; large- and medium-sized swaths of rangeland; residential parcels bunched along the main roads; and a few parcels managed by various timber industries. The majority of residential properties lie along Highway 36, and around and in between Bridgeville and Dinsmore. Several clusters of residential property are also located to the south along Alderpoint Road and near Blocksburg. Residential parcel sizes span a wide range, “from standard house lots, 40- to 100-acres parcels, ranches with 1,000 acres or more, to small trailer parks.”<sup>2</sup> Large portions of land along the eastern edge of the Unit fall within Six Rivers National Forest and are managed by the U.S. Forest Service. A few small areas of Bureau of Land Management Land (BLM) exist to the south of Highway 36 as well. A map of this planning unit can be viewed in Figure IV.11-1. Mad-Van Duzen Unit: CWPP Unit Map.

#### **IV.11.2. Mad-Van Duzen Community Process Summary**

Multiple community workshops were held, and several residents’ homes were visited, in an effort to gather community input for the development of a local CWPP for this Planning Unit. Workshops were advertised on the radio, in the Bridgeville Community Center’s newsletter, and flyers were sent home with students from the Bridgeville Elementary School. In 2012, at the Bridgeville Annual Firewise® event, a group exercise was implemented, which involved maps of the Planning Unit area and invited those present to help identify and pinpoint on the maps where

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<sup>1</sup> Humboldt County Department of Community Development Services. (2003, July). *Bridgeville Area Community Action Plan*. (pp.5-6.) Retrieved from [http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/planning/documents/action\\_plans/2003\\_plans/brdg\\_web.pdf](http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/planning/documents/action_plans/2003_plans/brdg_web.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program. (2010). *Bridgeville Community Assessment*. (p.4.)

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particular *fire hazards* exist, the location of *protection resources*, such as fire water drafting sites, as well as values and *assets at risk* within the community that could be threatened by wildfire.

Participants were also asked to review pre-existing information illustrated on the maps which had been added by community members during community workshops that took place during the initial countywide planning process in 2006. These workshops and mapping exercise also facilitated discussion among community members about potential actions that could be taken to reduce fire risk in their communities. Through discussion and collaborative processes, participants identified major hazard areas and compiled lists of project proposals for enhancing their communities' fire preparedness.

The community-identified fire hazards, protection resources, and values and assets at risk discussed throughout the following sections of this Planning Unit Action Plan reflect information generated by these community workshops and mapping exercise, as well as information resulting from direct outreach to local fire departments and residents.

The project proposals resulting from community member discussions are contained in section IV.11.8. Community-Identified Projects in this Planning Unit Action Plan.

### **IV.11.3. Mad-Van Duzen Wildfire Environment**

Approximately 63% of the Mad-Van Duzen Planning Unit is zoned “Very High *Fire Hazard Severity*,” as determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).<sup>3</sup> Thirty-seven percent of the Unit, including a substantial portion of the western area, is zoned “High *Fire Hazard Severity*,” while one very small patch of land near Indian Creek (which encompasses less than 1% of the entire Unit area) is zoned “Moderate *Fire Hazard Severity*.”

Summer weather in this Unit is consistently hot and dry. Steep, wooded slopes with thick underbrush are characteristic of this region. These features, accompanied by high wind speeds and low *moisture levels*, have the potential to spread fire very rapidly. Local vegetation is mainly comprised of forested areas, which contain redwoods as well as mixed *conifer forests* with fir and pine trees, oak woodlands, and large swaths of open grasslands.<sup>4</sup>

Traditionally, fire was an integral part of the *ecosystems* in this region. Forest management by indigenous tribes often included low-intensity, intentional burns that helped enhance forest ecosystems and prevent the accumulation of high *fuel loads*. Some of the early agricultural settlers in the late 1800s used intentional burning to clear and maintain grasslands for pasture animals. A heavy *fire suppression* campaign beginning in the 1930s has allowed the accumulation of dense, flammable vegetation in forest *understories*, which acts as *fuel* and increases the risk of high-intensity wildfires. Forest ecosystems accustomed to low-intensity fires that would burn off *brush* and newer starts in the understory become threatened by overcrowded forests and accumulated fuels. Intense timber harvests during the 20<sup>th</sup> century further exacerbated damages to forest ecosystem health.

The extent that the *landscape* has been altered as a result of fire suppression is reflected in the *condition class* of the Unit area. Condition class describes the degree of departure from the historical *natural fire regime*. Where the condition class indicates that fire has been absent for an unnaturally long time, the hazard and potential damages are high to both the environment and human developments in the area. Approximately 52% of the Mad-Van Duzen Planning Unit is

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<sup>3</sup> CAL FIRE. (2007). *Fire Resources Assessment Program (FRAP)*. [Map showing Fire Hazard Severity Zone ratings within various geographic areas, mapped by county]. Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map. Retrieved from <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/>

<sup>4</sup> County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning & Humboldt County Fire Safe Council. (2012). *Humboldt County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Plan Update 2009-2010*. (p.105.) Retrieved from [http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/fire\\_safe\\_council/](http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/fire_safe_council/)

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condition class 3, meaning the fire regime is significantly altered from the historical range; and approximately 20% of the area is condition class 2, or moderately altered from the historical range.

Fortunately, there have been few major fire events in this Unit within the last decade. Those fires that did occur were relatively small and widely dispersed across the Unit; they include:

- The Pilot Fire, 2004: 283 acres.
- The Larabee 3 Fire, 2008: 29 acres.
- The Iaquia Fire, October 2009: 170 acres.

Fires in the previous decade, between the years 1980-1999 tended to be significantly larger; these fire events included:

- The Chalk Rock Fires, 1992: 203 acres; and 1993: 572 acres.
- The Fort Baker Fires, 1994: 815 acres; and 1995: 138 acres.
- The Charles Fire, 2007: 55 acres.

Vehicles and vehicular accidents on Highway 36 cause the majority of fire incidences in this Unit. *Ignitions* from vehicles have a variety of potential starts, such as: “hot mufflers or catalytic converters on vehicles parked over grasses by the side of the road, vandals torching abandoned vehicles on the roadside, or vehicles hitting the side of a bank or rolling down a ravine. Unfortunately, these are common occurrences on this highway.”<sup>5</sup> Power lines have also been the cause of many fire starts in this Unit. Humans are another likely *ignition source*, and fire starts may be accidental or incendiary. Vacant or unmaintained structures throughout the communities in this Unit are potential *fire hazards*, as they present easy targets for arsonists and often have unmaintained *Home Ignition Zones*.

Neighborhoods in this Unit exist within the *wildland-urban interface* (WUI), which increases the risk of *wildland fires* becoming *structural fires*, and vice versa. This risk is exacerbated by the fact that “many homes have large amounts of dense vegetation growing in the Home Ignition Zone and flammable items in direct contact with the structure.”<sup>6</sup> *Dead plant matter* with low moisture levels within 100-150 feet of the homesteads pose some of the greatest threats to *structural ignitability*. Of particular concern are houses with needles and leaves accumulating on rooftops or in rain gutters. Houses with wooden gates, fences, latticework and stacks of firewood located near or against structures add significantly to this risk, as does the presence of wooden decks, particularly those with dead plant matter accumulated beneath them. Figure IV.11-2 found at the end of this Planning Unit Action Plan illustrates risks and hazards identified by community members at public workshops and can be used as a key to access detailed descriptions of community-identified fire planning features on the Humboldt County Web GIS Portal, “Fire Planning” section: <http://gis.co.humboldt.ca.us/>.

Highway 36 is the central *ingress and egress* route, with several smaller roads connecting residences and neighborhoods to it. Roadside fuels, which increase the risk of ignitions, are not uncommon along these access routes, and the topography of the region necessitates that the majority of roads in this Unit are windy and often narrow. The narrowness of smaller roads leading to remote residences could create serious complications for emergency vehicle response trying to gain access during simultaneous home evacuations. Routes may be overgrown with vegetation so as to make it difficult for fire engines to gain access, and some properties may have inadequate *turn around spaces*. The potential for landslides in the area could also inhibit access.

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<sup>5</sup> Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program. (2010). *Bridgeville Community Assessment*. (p. 9.)

<sup>6</sup> Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program. (2010). *Bridgeville Community Assessment*. (p. 12.)

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Water for fire protection is extremely limited in this Unit. There are no fire hydrants in these communities, and most residents' water tanks contain just 3,000 gallons or less, which often falls short of what is anticipated for fire suppression needs. Furthermore, these water tanks may lack the proper fittings for fire engines to be able to utilize this water. *Fire protection water* may be *drafted* from the following locations:

- Sweasey Lake (new name Forest Lake)
- Root Creek drafting site
- Little Larabee Creek - drafting
- McClellan Mountain Ranch pond
- Sanderson Pond (dry in the Fall)
- Murphy Pond
- McCann Eel River drafting
- Dyerville river drafting

The map in Figure IV.11-2 found at the end of this Unit Action Plan illustrates these *drafting sites* as well as other community-identified wildfire protection resources. The map can be used as a key to access detailed descriptions of community-identified fire planning features on the Humboldt County Web GIS Portal, "Fire Planning" section: <http://gis.co.humboldt.ca.us/>.

### **IV.11.4. Mad-Van Duzen Values and Assets at Risk**

*Assets at risk* can be defined as those things that are important to quality of life that can be threatened with destruction or loss from wildfire. These may include community assets such as homes and businesses, as well as environmental values such as wildlife habitat, natural resources, and air quality, along with any other important attribute that individual communities rely on for their well being. Loss or damage to community assets as a result of wildfire can have short- or long-term impacts of varying severity, depending on the asset. Short-term loss caused by a wildfire can include the destruction of residences, commercial assets, timber, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, and *watersheds*. Long-term effects may include displaced persons, smaller timber harvests, reduced access to affected recreational areas, and destruction of cultural, ecological, and economic resources, and community infrastructure.

The majority of *assets at risk* in this Planning Unit are residential homes and communities, along with a variety of commercial and service industries, community centers, medical and dental clinics, schools, fire stations, churches, museums, as well as infrastructure components, such as cell phone towers and *access roads*. The ranching, agricultural, and timber industries within the Unit are also considered assets at risk.

The map in Figure IV.11-2 found at the end of this Unit Action Plan illustrates values and assets at risk to wildfire identified by community members at public workshops. The map can be used as a key to access detailed descriptions of community-identified fire planning features on the Humboldt County Web GIS<sup>7</sup> Portal, "Fire Planning" section: <http://gis.co.humboldt.ca.us/>. Some of the community-identified assets at risk within this Unit include:

- Swimmer's Delight/Van Duzen Park
- Swain's Flat Houses/Market
- Golden Gate Subdivision
- Bridgeville downtown/Bridge for evacuation
- Dinsmore Airport
- Historic Blocksburg
- PG&E Substation/CalTrans yard
- Triumphant Life Camp

The Six Rivers National Forest, Grizzly Creek Campgrounds and State Park, and Robinson Rock comprise some of the environmentally significant areas within this Unit. These areas, along

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<sup>7</sup> Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

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with the wide swaths of undeveloped ranchlands throughout the region, provide breathtaking vistas and important *habitat* for wildlife species.

### **IV.11.5. Mad-Van Duzen Community Preparedness**

Communities in this Unit are assisted by the efforts of the Van Duzen Watershed *Fire Safe Council* (FSC), which was founded in 2004, and has since garnered close to one million dollars in grant funding for projects to improve fire safety in these communities. The mission of the Van Duzen Watershed FSC is: “to protect and preserve our homes, forests and waterways from the dangers of wildfires by actively performing *fuel reduction* work, creating a working fire plan, educating and motivating residents to be *fire safe*, coordinating funding and action plans with government agencies, detailed mapping and risk assessment and creating an emergency response system for our community.”<sup>8</sup> Successful projects have included constructing *fuelbreaks* in and around residential areas, creating *defensible space* around homes, conducting roadside clearance, and providing community members with educational materials to improve their fire awareness. The Van Duzen Watershed FSC can be reached by calling (707)-446-4530, or by visiting the Bridgeville Community Center website at: <http://www.bridgevillecommunitycenter.org/>

The Van Duzen Watershed FSC is also involved with the County in implementing the *Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes (FLASH) program*. FLASH is a rebate program that reimburses property owners for *hazardous vegetation management* completed around their homes, along access routes, and in particularly hazardous areas. Between 2010 and 2011, 51 acres were treated under the FLASH program and 22 site visits including a home risk assessment were conducted by FSC staff. The program has received additional funding for 2012-2013 and the goal is to treat approximately 38 acres.

The Van Duzen Watershed FSC is currently in the process of conducting outreach events and workshops to gather community input for the creation of a local *community wildfire protection plan* (CWPP). This Plan will help increase community awareness of fire safe practices and provide residents with resources for reducing *fire risk* in their homes and communities.

Bridgeville has been a nationally recognized Firewise® community since 2010 and holds an annual Fire Safety Day, which creates an opportunity to educate the community about fire emergency preparation and fire prevention while enjoying live music and festivities. Since gaining Firewise® recognition, there have been several meaningful fire safety modifications throughout the community, including fuels reduction projects, such as hazardous vegetation clearance around vacant buildings and roadsides, creating defensible space around homes, and improving emergency vehicle access on roads and driveways.<sup>9</sup>

### **IV.11.6. Mad-Van Duzen Wildfire Protection Capabilities**

The Bridgeville *Volunteer Fire Department* (BVFD) is comprised of ten volunteer firefighters who provide fire protection as well as rescue, and basic life support (BLS) emergency medical services to approximately 1,200 residents within 196 square miles in this Planning Unit. The BVFD’s firefighting *apparatuses* include three 750 gallon pumpers and a rescue wagon.<sup>10</sup> The

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<sup>8</sup> Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council (2012). Van Duzen Watershed Council Facebook page. Retrieved from <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Van-Duzen-Watershed-Fire-Safe-Council/382176151812405>

<sup>9</sup> Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program. (2010). *Bridgeville Community Assessment*. (pp. 13-17.)

<sup>10</sup> Bridgeville Fire Protection District. (2011, November). *Bridgeville Fire Protection District Municipal Service Review*. Prepared for Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission. (p.9). Retrieved from [http://www.humboldtlafo.org/sites/default/files/Fire%20District%20Protest%20Notice/Bridgeville%20FPD%20MSR\\_Adopted%20November%202011.pdf](http://www.humboldtlafo.org/sites/default/files/Fire%20District%20Protest%20Notice/Bridgeville%20FPD%20MSR_Adopted%20November%202011.pdf) .

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ability for the BVFD to provide effective emergency service is sometimes hampered by unmarked roads, missing addresses, inadequate water shortage, and outdated equipment. The BVFC can be reached by calling (707) 777-3424. The BVFD uses a vehicle storage barn as a fire apparatus garage. This has been deemed inadequate for the VFD's needs, and it has been difficult to secure funding to support construction of a fire station.

Up until recently, the BVFD relied solely on donations and fundraising efforts, was fiscally sponsored by The Bridgeville Community Center, and had no specific boundaries or access to tax revenue. However, in August 2012, the BVFD sought and was granted recognition as an official *fire protection district* (FPD). The decision was contingent on voter-approval of a special (parcel) tax to finance fire protection services. The results of the special mail in ballot election held on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 determined that the formation of the Bridgeville Fire Protection District was approved by voters! The new Bridgeville Fire Protection District covers approximately 196 square miles of the area surrounding Bridgeville.

CAL FIRE is responsible for addressing wildland fires in this Unit. There is a CAL FIRE station in Bridgeville that is staffed only seasonally, during the declared *fire season*. CAL FIRE resources also frequently respond out of their fire station in Fortuna.

Communities in this Unit have various needs associated with improving the availability of emergency water for wildfire protection. Many existing water sources are in need of maintenance, protection, or improvements. There is also a need to make the location of existing water sources more apparent to firefighters, and for community members to ensure that their water sources are properly outfitted for firefighting equipment.

### **IV.11.7. Mad-Van Duzen Evacuation**

Evacuation from the Mad-Van Duzen Planning Unit will travel either east or west along Highway 36, or it will travel north on Kneeland Rd., or south on Alderpoint Rd., depending on law enforcement recommendations based on *fire behavior*, wind pattern, traffic, and ingress of emergency vehicles. There are numerous smaller roads connecting residences and neighborhoods to Highway 36. Some neighborhoods in the Unit, like the one west of Blocksburg near Homestead Rd., depend on a closed network of smaller roads. Adequate ingress and egress along these roads is vital to a large portion of the community that may need to access the main highway *evacuation route* and for firefighters who will be using the roads to access wildfires burning in these areas.

Few alternative routes exist for accessing the communities in this Unit. The eastern town of Dinsmore may be reached via Bear Creek Rd. to the north. Egress from Blocksburg could potentially be achieved via a USFS road connected to Church St.; however, utilization of this route would likely necessitate permission and assistance from the U.S. Forest Service.

Evacuation impediments may include: landslides, fallen trees, overgrown vegetation, poorly marked streets and intersections, and *one-way-in, one-way-out roads* that could inhibit evacuation and emergency response vehicles, or leave residents stranded should the roads become blocked.

During wildfire events that have the potential to threaten personal safety, community evacuation sites may be established where residents can go to survive a wildfire. Evacuation sites will be established in different locations depending on the anticipated path of the wildfire. The determination for the location of these sites is normally made by Humboldt County Emergency Operations Center Incident Commander in cooperation with an *Incident Management Team*. The Humboldt County Sheriffs and Emergency Officials will use mass communication and door-to-door methods to inform residents about the threat and where residents should go to take shelter.

If a catastrophic event occurs, residents may not be able to reach designated evacuation sites. In such cases, residents may need to make decisions on their own about seeking shelter where they can survive the passage of the wildfire until they can reach an evacuation site. It can be very

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difficult to determine the right thing to do as the fire approaches. Before a wildfire threatens, community members should talk to their local fire department about evacuation procedures in their neighborhood.

*See section V.2.3 in Part V. Fire-Safe Communities for more information on preparing for safe evacuation and evacuation planning for pets and livestock. Also see section II.3.5 Evacuation Routes and Vulnerability in Part II. Risk Assessment for information about evacuation procedures and challenges in Humboldt County.*

### **IV.11.8. Mad-Van Duzen Community Identified Potential Projects**

The following matrix includes community identified proposed projects based on input from the community processes discussed above. A detailed description of each heading in the matrix can be found in Appendix G: Descriptive Characteristics for Community Identified Projects Matrix. These projects are illustrated on the community-identified projects map found at the end of this Unit Action Plan (Figure IV.11-3). Projects include those carried over from the 2006 fire-planning process and those identified and refined during the 2012 CWPP update process. This information can also be viewed on the fire planning GIS Portal. The GIS Portal allows users to search for and view specific fire planning features by location or to zoom into a desired area from an aerial view. To access the Portal, go to: <http://gis.co.humboldt.ca.us/> and choose “Fire Planning” from the list of mapping applications. The data collected through this Planning process are included in the GIS layers within the Portal.

No vegetation *treatments* recommended in this plan will be carried out without the consent and involvement of the property owner and all applicable local, state and federal regulations must be observed.

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LOCATION		Treatment/Project Information Eel Fire Planning Unit							
Number Corresponds with location on map	Community, Structure, or Area (Value at Risk)	Description	Status	Year	Type	Acres	Veg Type	Maintenance (actual or proposed)	Funding source (actual or proposed)
ALD028	Alderpoint Rd	Hazardous fuels reduction on Alderpoint Road in brushy or forested sections	Treat-High	2010	Roadside Clearance				grant-landowner-Assn.
ALD033	Sunset Ridge Road	Hazardous fuels reduction on Larabee Creek Ranch / Sunset Ridge Road	Treat-Med	2010	Roadside Clearance				grant-landowner-Assn.
ALD034	Homestead Road	Hazardous fuels reduction on Larabee Creek Ranch / Homestead Road	Treat-Med	2010	Roadside Clearance				grant-landowner-Assn.
ALD035	Blocksburg	Brush clearing in defensible space around Historic Buildings in Blocksburg	Treat-Med	2010	Defensible Space				grant-landowner-Assn.
ALD036	Alderpoint Rd & Pine Mtn. Rd.	Fuelbreak for defensible space around Casterlin School	Treat-Med	2010	Defensible Space				grant-landowner-Assn.
ALD1005	From Alderpoint Rd approx. 15.0 mi. west	Ridgetop Lost Flat Ranch: Fuelbreak	This year	2012	Landscape				

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ALD1006	From Alderpoint Rd approx 15.0 mi. west	Ridgetop Lost Flat Ranch: Fuelbreak	This year		Landscape				
ALD1007	From Alderpoint Rd approx 15.0 mi. west	Ridgetop Lost Flat Ranch: Fuelbreak	Proposed	2012	Landscape				
ALD1008	From Alderpoint Rd approx 15.0 mi. west	Lost Flat Ranch: Lateral Fuelbreaks (3)	This year		Landscape				
ALD1009	Alderpoint Rd 15 mi. ea.	Lateral Shaded Fuelbreaks (3)	Funded		Landscape	300			Recourse Advisory Council (RAC) \$100,000+ grant
BRD020	HWY 36 east to Trinity CO line	fuel reduction along State Highway 36 east to Trinity CO line	Treat-Med	2010	Roadside Clearance				grant-landowner-Assn.
BRD023	Swains Flat Community	fuel reduction along Swains Flat & Hwy 36	Initiated	2007	Landscape				

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BRD026	~ 1.7 mi east of Bridgeville, hairpin turn at bottom of grade	Fuel reduction at hairpin turn at bottom of grade, ~1.7 mi east of Bridgeville	Treat-Low	2010	Roadside Clearance				Cal-Trans
BRD029	Grizzly Creek Campgrounds, CA State Park/Hwy 36	Fuel reduction in Grizzly Creek Campgrounds/CA State Park along Highway 36	Treat-Med	2010	Landscape				grant-landowner-Assn.
BRD031	Redwood House Road/Hwy 36	Redwood House Road and Hwy 36: fuel reduction	Treat-Med		Roadside Clearance				grant-landowner-Assn.
BRD034	Weekender 46204 ST Hwy 36	Fuel reduction at Weekender 46204 ST Hwy 36	Treat-Med	2010	Landscape	19.71			grant-landowner-Assn.
BRD036	Carlotta Pump Site	Fuel reduction at Carlotta Pump Site near 14535 ST Hwy 36	Treat-High	2010	Landscape	5.09			grant-landowner-Assn.

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BRD038	Swimmer's Delight/Van Duzen Park/ Hwy 36	Fuel reduction at Swimmer's Delight/ Van Duzen Park along Hwy 36	Treat-Med	2010	Landscape				grant-landowner-Assn.
BRD063	26360 Hwy 36 to 33396 Hwy 36	Hwy 36 Hazardous fuels reduction, thinning and chipping - Hwy 36 mile post 26 to 33.5. Work with CalTrans	Treat-Med	2009	Roadside Clearance				grants - Cal Trans
BRD064	First 2.3 mi Alderpoint Rd from Bridgeville to Blocksburg	Alderpoint Road shaded fuelbreak - Roadside Shaded Canopy. 50 ft each side of Rd from Bridgeville to Blocksburg.	Treat-High	2009	Roadside Clearance				grant-landowner-Assn.
BRD065	Upper Little Larrabee Rd neighborhood, Private Rd.	Upper Little Larrabee Rd (Private road), shaded fuelbreak - .5 Miles, 50 ft. each side of road	Funded	2010	Roadside Clearance	6.6	Mixed Conifer	Check re-growth every 3 years	2010 CA FSC Grant USDA

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BRD066	McClellan Mtn. Rd.	McClellan Mountain Rd.: 5 mile shaded fuelbreak, 50 ft. on each side of road -Part of Clear Roads Project.	Funded	2010	Roadside Clearance	60	Mixed Conifer	Check re-growth every 3 years	2010 CA FSC Grant
BRD068	Barnum Timber Subdivision 32444 Hwy 36 and unknown road name	Barnum Timber subdivision: 5 mile Roadside Shaded Canopy--thinning and chipping-- 50 ft. each side of road, starting at Hwy 36 mile post 31.6 and Barnum	Treat-High	2009	Roadside Clearance	60	Brush, Mixed Conifer	Yearly	Landowner and FSC
BRD080	Hwy 36 & McClellan Mtn Rd	Fuel reduction starting of Hwy 36 and beginning of McClellan Mtn Rd	Funded	2010	Roadside Clearance				
BRD083A	Private road, Bear Creek Rd Complex & Hwy 36	Private road Bear Creek Rd Complex, shaded fuelbreak--thinning and chipping,-- 50 ft. each side of road for 8 miles	Treated	2009	Roadside Clearance		Mixed Conifer, Oaks	3 year cycle	USDA 2009 grant

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BRD086	Upper Little Larrabee Rd & Hwy 36, Private Rd.	Roadside Shaded Canopy. 50 ft each side of Rd. where needed Upper Little Larabee Rd. at Hwy 36	Treat-High	2009	Roadside Clearance				grant-landowner-Assn.
BRD087	Kergerson Lake Rd	Kergerson Lake Rd. Fuels Reduction - Roadside Shaded Canopy. 50 ft each side of road for 2 miles.	Treat-High	2009	Roadside Clearance	24		Check re-growth every 3 years	grant-landowner-Assn.
BRD105	Alderpoint Rd 15 mi. ea.	USFS 1N10 Rd - Shaded fuelbreak along road	Funded		Roadside Clearance	97			Recourse Advisory Council (RAC) \$100,000+ grant
PAC003	from 2N1E sec 34, SE ~14mi to 1N3E sec 27	Fire Suppression Ridges; some natural break; targeted for additional treatment	Treat-Med		Landscape				grant-landowner-Assn.
PAC006	01S 02E SEC 14 ~6mi East to 01S 03E sec 23	Fire Suppression Ridges; some natural break; targeted for additional treatment--fuel reduction	Treat-Med		Landscape				grant-landowner-Assn.

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The following items are the initial priorities for community action for the Mad-Van Duzen Planning Unit as recommended by this Humboldt County CWPP (not listed in order of priority). In an ideal world, everything recommended here would be implemented. However, it must be understood that implementation will be subject to the availability of funds and other resources and the willingness/ability of community members and Plan Partners to take action. This Action Plan can be cited in grant applications to leverage needed implementation funds and used to guide and inspire action.

#### **Enhancing Fire Protection**

- **Sustainable Fire Departments:** Registered voters within the BVFD response area recently made a significant commitment to supporting the sustainability of the department by approving a special tax that will raise much needed revenue. Because it is still an all volunteer department community support will still be necessary through activities such as volunteering as firefighters or auxiliary members, making donations, supporting fundraisers, writing grants, and or helping with administrative tasks. With community support, the local fire department can continue to provide a wide variety of vital emergency services.
- **Firefighting Water:** Increase the availability of water for fire protection by making water access locations known to fire departments and investing in more community water tanks. Maintain existing water tanks and expeditiously make repairs when they become necessary. Neighborhood and road associations and/or Firewise® communities work with local fire departments to develop a “Blue Dot” program, which identifies the location of firefighting water sources by marking them with a blue reflective dot. This program also ensures that tanks and water systems are outfitted with fittings compatible with firefighting equipment. Begin by identifying where such a program is most needed.

#### **Reducing Wildfire Fuels (Flammable Vegetation)**

- **Defensible Space:** Those residents living in areas within this Planning Unit that are at risk to wildfire should manage the flammable vegetation within their home ignition zone. Maintaining defensible space through vegetation treatments should be a routine and ongoing practice for all homes and landscapes. Community *Chipper Days* can facilitate this process by helping landowners get rid of *slash* and brush piles so that they do not become an additional hazard. Begin by identifying where defensible space is most needed within the Planning Unit. The following priority areas were identified at community meetings and are recommended for treatment in this plan:
  - Landscapes surrounding historic buildings in Blocksburg.
  - Landscape surrounding Casterlin School, on Alderpoint Road and Pine Mountain Road.
- **Roadside Clearance:** Manage roadside vegetation in order to improve and maintain access for emergency vehicles and ensure safe evacuation. Consider working with the California Conservation Corps or County Public Works Roads Division. Focus initial efforts along the following roads:
  - Sunset Ridge Road
  - Homestead Road
  - McClellan Road
  - Kergerson Lake Road
  - Redwood House Road
  - Upper Little Larabee Road
  - Bear Creek Road
  - Burr Valley Road

## **Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

- **Landscape Fuels Reduction:** Construct *shaded fuelbreaks* as buffers between residential areas and wildlands to slow the progress of wildfires. This allows firefighters a higher probability of successfully protecting communities from wildfire damage. These buffers may also protect the wildlands from the spread of fires originating within communities. The following areas are recommended for priority treatment in this plan:
  - Ridgetop and lateral fuelbreaks around Lost Flat Ranch, along Alderpoint Road.
  - Hazardous vegetation removal in the Swains Flat community along Highway 36.
  - Reduce fuels in Grizzly Creek Campground areas.
  - Reduce fuels surrounding the Carlotta Pump site.
  - Reduce fuels around Swimmer's Delight/Van Duzen Park area.