

Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

IV.1. Redwood Park Planning Unit Action Plan

IV.1.1. Redwood Park Planning Unit Description

The Redwood Park *Planning Unit* encompasses 100,020 acres situated in the northwestern corner of Humboldt County. The Unit shares its northern border with Del Norte County and the Yurok Reservation lies to the east. The communities of Big Lagoon and Trinidad are located south of the Unit, along the coast. Highway 101 is the main transportation route through the Unit, which follows the coastline before veering inland just north of Orick and leading through National Park land. The Unit is part of the Redwood Creek *watershed*; the terrain consists of mostly mountainous, forested areas ranging from sea level to about 5,300 feet elevation. Redwood Creek enters into the southeastern portion of the Unit, flowing in a northerly direction towards Orick where it drains into the Pacific Ocean. Major Redwood Creek *tributaries* include Lostman Creek and Prairie Creek, the latter of which flows into Orick from the north.

This Planning Unit consists primarily of parklands and few residential communities exist in the area. The town of Orick comprises the community population center. Located near the coast at the approximate north-south midpoint of the Unit, Orick is a rural town characterized by flat bottomlands with steeply sloping forested hillsides to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The town is recognized as the “southern Gateway Community to Redwood National and State Parks.”¹ Redwood National Park (RNP) dominates approximately three-quarters of the Unit, while the northwestern quadrant of the Unit contains Prairie Creek State Park.

The National Park Service (NPS) primarily manages the land in this Unit. The majority of private-land ownerships are residential and commercial developments clustered around Orick and Highway 101. The northeastern portion of the Unit contains land owned by Green Diamond Resource Company. A map of this Planning Unit can be viewed in Figure IV.1-1. Redwood Park Unit: CWPP Unit Map.

IV.1.2. Redwood Park Community Process Summary

A community workshop was held on June 26, 2012 at the Orick Community Hall for the purpose of gathering local information and garnering public input regarding various factors contributing to the extent of wildfire risk and/or preparedness among the communities in this Unit, and to provide information about the countywide *community wildfire protection plan* (CWPP) update process. Approximately ten community members were in attendance. A group exercise, which involved maps of the Planning Unit area, invited those present to help identify and pinpoint on the map where 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. These workshop processes also provided an opportunity for participating community members to ask questions and provide information based on their local knowledge.

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

¹ Humboldt County Department of Community Development Services. (2003, July). *Orick Community Action Plan*. (p.4.) Retrieved from http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/planning/documents/action_plans/2003_plans/orck_web.pdf

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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 workshop mapping exercises, 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.1.8. Community-Identified Projects in this Planning Unit Action Plan.

IV.1.3. Redwood Park Wildfire Environment

The majority (72%) of the Redwood Park Planning Unit is zoned “High *Fire Hazard Severity*,” as determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).² However, the populated areas surrounding Orick, Highway 101, and the central coast region of the Unit are zoned “Moderate Fire Hazard Severity” (12%). Some areas in the north- and south-eastern portions are zoned “Very High Fire Hazard Severity” (15%).

The climate is mostly Mediterranean, with mild, wet winters and warm, dry summers. *Vegetation types* throughout the Unit vary regionally, and there exists a wide diversity of forest types, grassland prairies, oak woodlands, and *riparian* areas containing big-leaf maple, black cottonwood, California bay, red alder, and willow species.

The array of forest types provides a variety of ecosystems for local wildlife within Redwood National Park. The varying *stand compositions* also result in different degrees of vulnerability and *resiliency* to wildfire. The following describes the makeup of these forest types:³

- **Old growth forests** are dominated by coastal redwoods and other coniferous trees, including Douglas-fir, grand fir, Sitka spruce, and western hemlock, as well as hardwood species such as tan oak, madrone, big-leaf maple, California bay, and red alder. Understory species include sword fern, rhododendron, huckleberry, azalea and several types of berries.
- **Second growth forests** are naturally predominately redwoods; however, they have been subordinated by Douglas-fir, which was seeded into many logged areas after timber harvests.
- **Dry forests** are mainly Douglas-fir, tan oak, and madrone, although California bay, big-leaf maple, chinquapin, canyon live oak, and poison oak are also common.
- **Alder forests** are found primarily on coastal facing slopes and are dominated by red alder, with big-leaf maple, cascara, willow and coniferous trees interspersed. Several varieties of berries and ferns populate this forest type as well.
- **Sitka spruce forests** are typically in lowlands and coastal areas and are predominantly Sitka spruce, with western hemlock and redwood as well.

Fire management in this Unit has undergone several regime shifts. Native Americans in this region used intentional burning to increase the production of cultural resources, such as acorns and basketry materials, and to influence the growth of particular grasses favored by the deer and elk they hunted for food. White settlers in the mid-1800s also used fire to clear pasture areas for livestock animals. However, when total *fire suppression* became a national policy in the 1930s,

²CAL 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/>

³U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service. (2010). *Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan*. (pp.19-21.) Retrieved from <http://www.nps.gov/redw/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm>

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the *landscape* ecosystems that had developed through centuries of natural and human-caused *ignitions* were fundamentally altered.⁴

Years of fire exclusion along with development and cultivation have enabled the encroachment of Douglas-fir and grand fir into oak woodland and prairies, altering unique wildlife habitat. Some areas of encroachment on oak woodlands have resulted in total conversion to *conifer forest*. Observing these patterns, resource managers and vegetation management staff of the NPS recognized the need for *prescribed fire* to restore and manage these ecosystems, and the park's first prescribed burn was conducted in 1980 in the Bald Hills.⁵ The prescribed fire program blossomed throughout the 1990s and evolved to include management of redwood forests, particularly second growth forests. The conifer cutting program involves aggressive removal of encroaching fir in prairies and oak woodlands, and was initiated in 1991. The progress of this program has slowed, however, "due to requirements for increased consultations to ensure compliance with protections for threatened, *endangered*, and *sensitive wildlife species* and cultural resources."⁶

Fire Management in Redwood National Park today is divided, based on ecosystem type, into various Fire Management Units (FMU), including: the Coniferous Forest FMU, the Coastal FMU, the Bald Hills FMU, the Little Bald Hills FMU, the *wildland-urban interface* (WUI) FMU, and the State Parks FMU. Approaches to maintaining these FMUs include a variety of techniques that take into account the "values to be protected" within each area, as well as specific "management considerations," such as the existence of endangered species or the proximity to areas of cultural significance.⁷

Fire events within this Planning Unit between the years 2000-2010 include:

- The Tuk Fire, 2003: 279 acres.
- The Lower Gann's Fire, 2002: 13 acres.
- The Tall Fire, 2009: 5 acres.
- The Overlook Fire, 2008: 2 acres.

Possible *ignition sources* include human-related causes, such as arson, poorly maintained campfires or brush piles, smoking, equipment use, and vehicles or vehicular accidents. Lightning and downed power lines are other potential fire starters in this Unit.

Dead plant matter and vegetation with low *moisture levels* within 100-150 feet of buildings pose some of the greatest threats to *structural ignitability*. Of particular concern are structures with needles and leaves accumulating on rooftops or in rain gutters. Structures with wooden rooftops and sidings add to this risk, as do the presence of wooden decks, particularly those with dead plant matter accumulated beneath them. RNP outposts and ranger stations situated within the forests generally maintain *defensible space* buffers; however, they are often surrounded on all sides by the dense vegetation of the *wildland* in more remote locations, which increases their risk of structural ignitability resulting from wildfire.

⁴ U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service. (2010). *Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan*. (p.5.)

⁵ U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service. (2010). *Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan*. (p.7.)

⁶ U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service. (2010). Appendix M: Fire Monitoring Plan. *Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan*. Retrieved from <http://www.nps.gov/redw/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm>

⁷ U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service. (2010). *Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan*. (pp.19-40.)

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Homes within Orick and along Highway 101, adjacent to state and national park lands could be vulnerable to ignition from *embers* from nearby wildfires. Studies and firefighter experience have shown that homes can be destroyed by flying embers from a wildfire sometimes miles away. If there are places on or around the home for embers to take hold, this increases a home's vulnerability to loss. Based on field observations, there are many homes where steps need to be taken to ensure structure survival when wildfire is nearby. The sawdust and residue from the many redwood carving businesses in this Unit are particularly vulnerable to ignition from burning embers and could spread fire to adjacent residences and community values. Figure IV.1-2 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 101 is the central *ingress and egress* route, with a few smaller roads providing access throughout the parklands and also connecting residences and neighborhoods in the southwestern Unit area to the highway. Although emergency transportation depends heavily on Highway 101, it is a well-maintained road, and few residences exist outside of Orick. Bald Hills Road is also accessible through Orick, if an alternative route were required. The smaller, more remote park service roads lack an alternative ingress/egress route, and the potential for landslides, fallen trees, or downed power lines could create serious complications, for both evacuation and emergency response.

Potable water and *fire protection* services are provided to the residents of this Planning Unit by the Orick *Community Services District*. The District serves a land area of approximately 2.3 square miles and is funded by local taxes, water customer fees, and donations. Critical infrastructure and equipment include: two 100,000 gallon tanks, pumps, a chlorinator, 5 miles of pipeline, 23 hydrants, 132 hook ups, and fire protection equipment.⁸ *Fire protection water* may also be drawn from the following locations:⁹

- The Pacific Ocean
- Freshwater Lagoon
- Garland Pond, off of Bald Hills Rd.
- Charlie's Pond
- Pond below Elk Camp Barn
- Community water tanks

The map in Figure IV.1-2 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.1.4. Redwood Park 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,

⁸County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning. (2008). *Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan; Volume 2 – Planning Partner Annexes*. (pp.12-1—12-2.) Retrieved from <http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/hazardmitigation/?inc=finaldraft>

⁹ County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning. (2006, August). Appendix G: Community Identified Values, Protection Resources, Risks and Hazards, and Projects. (p.G-12.) *Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan*..

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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, along with commercial and service industries, community and town centers, schools, as well as infrastructure components, such as a PG&E substation and the Rodgers Peak Repeater. The map in Figure IV.1-2 found at the end of this Planning 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 GIS¹⁰ Portal, “Fire Planning” section: <http://gis.co.humboldt.ca.us/>. Some of the community-identified assets at risk within this Unit include:¹¹

- Orick Inn
- Cell phone tower, Radio Repeaters (e.g. Rodgers Peak)
- Community Service District office and water pumps
- Orick Fire Hall
- Little Red Inn historic site
- Simpson Mill A

Other assets at risk in this Planning Unit include campgrounds, RNP visitor centers, and *access roads*.

The parklands in this Unit encompass a range of *landscapes* and *ecosystem* types, which provide *habitat* for an array of wildlife. The value of these habitats to the ecological *biodiversity* in this region emphasizes the environmental significance of these parklands. Freshwater Lagoon, and Lady Bird Johnson Grove constitute other environmentally important areas in this Unit.

IV.1.5. Redwood Park Community Preparedness

The Redwood National Park Service (RNPS) has an extensive *Fire Management Plan*, the primary objectives of which are: to ensure the safety of firefighters and people while protecting public and private property, and while protecting the natural and cultural resources of the parks; to use fire as a management tool to meet resource objectives; to manage wildland *fuel* complexes in order to protect values at risk and minimize negative impacts from fire; to cooperate with landowners and land management agencies in fire management activities; to increase the understanding of the role and function of fire in the parks; and “to restore fire as an ecosystem process in the park’s *biotic* communities to the fullest extent practical.”¹²

The RNPS also has an active *fire prevention* program that includes participation in interagency fire prevention programs at local schools and community events. Trained employees help educate the public about the role of fire within park ecosystems and the mission of the parks’ prescribed fire program. They also provide information about how to prevent unwanted fires, emphasizing the distinction between management-ignited fires and unwanted human-caused fires, and illustrating the severe impacts that unwanted fires can have on communities and ecosystems. In addition to the prescribed fire program, the RNPS also has a *mechanical fuels reduction* program.

¹⁰ Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

¹¹ County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning. (2006, August). Appendix G: Community Identified Values, Protection Resources, Risks and Hazards, and Projects. (p.G-12.) *Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan*. Retrieved from http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/fire_safe_council/fsc_mfpp_cwpp.aspx

¹² U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service. (2010). *Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan*. (p.15.)

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The Fire Management Plan is abetted by the RNP's fire ecology program, which has put forth an elaborate Fire Monitoring Plan that provides monitoring and research support to the Fire Management Plan. This helps ensure that fire protection strategies are well-informed and that fire management is based upon the best available science and knowledge.¹³

Through *hazard mitigation* planning and activities, the community of Orick has successfully achieved Tsunami Ready and Storm Ready status.¹⁴ These initiatives could potentially be springboards for an additional effort to become a *Firewise*® community. Additionally, many of the preparedness activities and outreach associated with these established programs (emergency supply kits, evacuation drills, communitywide communication networks) will benefit residents during a large wildfire event. During the community outreach process in Orick, there was also community interest expressed in possibly forming a local *fire safe council*.

IV.1.6. Redwood Park Fire Protection Level of Service

Community fire protection services are provided through the Orick Community Services District (OCS D) by the Orick *Volunteer Fire Department* (OVFD). The OVFD has 10 volunteers who provide fire protection as well as medical and rescue services to approximately 400 residents in the area. Their *apparatuses* include: one type-1 engine with a 500 gallon capacity, a quick attack engine with 250 gallons, a medium-duty rescue truck, and one 1,800 gallon *water tender*.¹⁵ The OCS D includes a fairly focused community area of 2.3 square miles surrounding Orick. However, it is not uncommon for OVFD firefighters to respond to emergency calls, particularly vehicle accident calls, up and down Highway 101 to the north and south and to the east along Bald Hills Road; the OVFD's total *response area* is approximately 123.8 square miles.¹⁶ The OVFD may be contacted by calling (707) 488-2475, or by visiting the OCS D website: <http://www.orickcsd.com/>.

The County of Humboldt contracts with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection within *County Service Area #4* (CSA #4), which covers an area from just north of McKinleyville, near Moonstone Beach, up to the OCS D boundary. CAL FIRE responds from their fire station in Trinidad, which staffs two engine crews in the summer and one crew year-round. They respond to multiple incident types and frequently provide additional support during emergencies within and beyond this Planning Unit. CSA#4 may be contacted by calling (707) 677-3638. Another CAL FIRE station, known as Elk Camp, is located in Orick but is staffed only seasonally, during the declared *fire season*.

RNP staffs two fire engines within their jurisdiction. These resources are equipped for wildland firefighting and can be called out nationwide to respond to wildfires. Their larger wildland engine, which holds five crew members, is staffed from June to October. A smaller engine is staffed year-round. National Park resources will respond to traffic accidents but are primarily staffed to respond to wildfires. They also conduct prescribed burning on National Park Land. The RNP Service may be contacted by calling (707) 464-9150, or by visiting their website at: <http://www.nps.gov/redw/index.htm>.

¹³ U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service. (2010). Appendix M: Fire Monitoring Plan. *Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan*.

¹⁴ County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning. (2008). *Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan; Volume 2 – Planning Partner Annexes*. (p.12-4.) Retrieved from <http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/hazardmitigation/?inc=finaldraft>

¹⁵ County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning. (2012). *Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association Annual Report, 2010*. Humboldt County Fire Safe Council. Retrieved from http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/fire_safe_council/fireserviceannualreport.aspx

¹⁶ Orick Community Services District. (n.d.) *Fire Protection and Emergency Services*. Retrieved September 26, 2012, from <http://www.orickcsd.com/p/fire-dept.html>

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The OVFD participates in the countywide *Mutual Aid Agreement* and provides assistance to and receives aid from other Humboldt County fire service providers. The OVFD also has mutual aid agreements with CAL FIRE and the RNP Service, so that these entities can provide additional support to each other as needed. The OVFD and CAL FIRE often coordinate to provide community fire protection and emergency services within the southern and northern parts of their respective service areas. The OVFD will also respond to calls from the east, along Bald Hills Road, to emergency incidents near the roadway and on private lands on the west side of the Klamath River. These activities are often coordinated with the Yurok Volunteer Fire Company.

The OVFD's priority is structure fires while CAL FIRE and the RNP Service are primarily responsible for *wildland fires* within the Unit. The RNP Service's familiarity with *fire behavior*, informed by experience with its prescribed burn program, enhances their preparedness for managing and addressing wildland fires. The OVFD, CAL FIRE, and RNP resources are dispatched by the Fortuna Interagency Command Center (FICC).

The key issues of concern for the fire services in this Unit are the following:

- Road access during emergency response is sometimes difficult because of road conditions and lack of access permission;
- More volunteers are needed for the OVFD, particularly during the day when many people from within the community are at jobs located outside of Orick;
- Insufficient home address signs can delay emergency response – Kane Road is an example of this (small, difficult to see signs are also a problem);
- Insufficient availability of fire protection water outside the OCSD.

IV.1.7. Redwood Park Evacuation

Evacuation from the Redwood Park Planning Unit will travel either north or south along Highway 101, depending on law enforcement recommendations based on fire behavior, wind pattern, traffic, and ingress of emergency vehicles. Although Highway 101 is the central route through most of the Unit, Newton B Drury Scenic Drive runs parallel to Highway 101 and offers an alternative route through Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Bald Hills Road provides access through the southeastern portion of the Unit, eventually connecting with Highway 169. Although Highway 169 is non-continuous and offers limited northern access, it is connected to Highway 96, another major transportation corridor, which offers ingress and egress south towards Willow Creek, and northeast towards Orleans.

Evacuation impediments may include: landslides, fallen trees, downed power lines, 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 difficult to determine the right thing to do as the fire approaches. Before a wildfire threatens,

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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.1.8. Community Identified Potential Projects

The following list and 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.1-3). 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.

Non-geographic community identified proposed projects based on community workshop notes:

- Identify and address road access issues wherever possible.
- Install more road and address signs.
- Increase water availability outside Community Services District. Install tanks for firefighting water with proper fittings that are well marked (maybe even mapped).
- Initiate the *Blue Dot Program* within the community. Maybe use GIS students from Humboldt State University as a resource for design.
- Initiate evacuation planning and begin running drills in key areas.
- Replace damaged fire hydrants.
- Hold Community *Chipper Days* (may be able to get someone from Del Norte Fire Safe Council to come down or work with the CAL FIRE Chipper Program).
- Design and implement a fire department recruitment strategy to get more volunteers (volunteers who can respond during the day are especially needed).

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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)
ORI036	Riverview Road, W of Hwy 101	Fix Riverview Road Access - Private drive, mitigate stream diversion issues	Action Need	2012	Other - Access	0			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI037	Gunst Road	Gunst Rd - road thinning for access	Treat-Med	2010	Roadside Clearance	0			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI038	Redwood Creek, Orick	Levee vegetation - brush clearing / burning as needed	Treat-Med	2012	Other - Creek Side	0			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI039	Bald Hills Road	Stop burning at Redwood National Park at Bald Hills in Summer	Action Need	0	Other - Burning	0			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI040	Hwy 101 & Barnum St	Remove fence at Haygoods & Elkhorn to improve access - Wrk w/Property Owner	Action Need	2012	Other - Access	0			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI041		Additional Hydrants in the Blocks	Action Need	0	Other - Water	0			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI043	Old State Highway	Owl Gulch brush clearing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Treat-Med	2010	Defensible Space and Roadside Clearance	17.94			grant-landowner-Assn.

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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)
ORI045	Old State Highway, Eris Ln, Hiltons Rd	Hilton brush clearing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Treat-High	2012	Defensible Space	22.62			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI047	Gunst Road	Gunst Rd neighborhood brush clearing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Treat-Med	2010	Defensible Space	13.99			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI048	Hufford Road	Hufford brushing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Treat-Med	2010	Landscape	18.35			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI049	Riverview Road	Riverview neighborhoods brush clearing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Treat-Med	2010	Defensible Space	17.79			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI050	Foothill Road and Viewcrest Drive	Foothill neighborhoods brush clearing (w/ chipper days) - Viewcrest Dr./Foothill	Treat-Med	2012	Defensible Space	23.83			grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI053	Old State Hwy, E of Hwy 101	Post more address signs to facilitate emergency response	Action-Needed	2012	Other - Signage				

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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)
ORI054	Robinson Rd, W of Hwy 101	Post more address signs to facilitate emergency response	New	2012	Other - Signage				

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IV.1.9. Redwood Park Action Plan

The following items are the initial priorities for community action for the Redwood Park 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:** Community members within this Planning Unit should support their local fire department 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, local fire departments can continue to provide a wide variety of vital emergency services. Focus initial efforts on the following priority:
 - Develop a strategy for recruiting more volunteer firefighters.
- **Road Improvements:** Upgrade and/or repair roads that hinder access by emergency responders. Begin by systematically identifying and mitigating such access impediments. Also, take into consideration privately owned roads, the use of which may be necessary during emergency situations; work with property owners to ensure access availability. The following priority access issues were identified at a community workshop and are recommended for initial action in this plan:
 - Fix access on private drive along Riverview Road. Mitigate stream diversion issues as well. If property owners can not resolve disagreements about an approach to this, consider alternative routes or methods.
 - Remove fence at Haygoods & Elkhorn to improve emergency access.
- **Signage:** To aid emergency responders, residents and road associations should improve road and address *signage* throughout their communities. Make signs larger and reflective to increase visibility and install road and address signs where they are missing. Less noticeable but more sentimental address signs may remain but it is important to also post reflective signs with lettering at least three inches in height. Focus initial efforts in the following areas:
 - Robinson Road, west of Highway 101.
 - Old State Highway, east of Highway 101.
- **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. 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. Focus initial efforts in the following areas:
 - Neighborhoods outside of the Community Service District boundaries.

Creating Fire Safe Communities

- **Firewise® Communities:** Pursue participation in the *Firewise* Communities/USA® Recognition Program with neighborhood groups in developed areas adjacent to the

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wildland. Actively implement and maintain the *Firewise*® action plan on an annual schedule.

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:
 - Neighborhoods along Hufford Road, west of Orick.
 - Neighborhoods along roads branching off of Hufford Road, including: Foothill Drive, Viewcrest Drive, and Gunst Road.
 - Neighborhood along Riverview Road, north of Orick.
- **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:
 - Brush thinning along Gunst Road.
 - Collaborate with the Public Works Roads Division to better understand and provide input to the process of setting priorities for roadside vegetation maintenance.
- **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 are recommended for priority treatment in this plan:
 - Areas along Hufford Road, west of Orick; ideally, this project should correlate with Chipper Days.