

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

### **IV.5. Trinidad Planning Unit Action Plan**

#### **IV.5.1. Trinidad Planning Unit Description**

The Trinidad *Planning Unit* encompasses 67,379 acres situated on the northern coast of Humboldt County. The Planning Unit is bordered by Redwood National Park on the northeastern side, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the unincorporated town of McKinleyville to the south. Highway 101 is the main transportation route, which runs north-to-south, parallel to the ocean. The Trinidad *watershed* is the smallest watershed in the county, with 83,684 acres spread along the Pacific coastline; it contains Maple Creek and Little River as its primary freshwaterways, both of which reach less than 20 miles inland.

The City of Trinidad, which was incorporated in 1870, comprises the community population center of this Planning Unit. Although the local population is small, containing less than 400 people, “the City of Trinidad acts as the commerce hub for around 1,500 inhabitants in the surrounding unincorporated communities, including Westhaven, Patrick’s Point and Big Lagoon.”<sup>1</sup> More than 350 years ago, the Tsurai Indians settled this area and established a village along the bluff at Trinidad Head. Today, Trinidad is bordered by the Trinidad Indian Rancheria, where descendants from the Yurok, Weott, and Tolowa peoples make up the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community. During the 1849 California Gold Rush, Trinidad underwent rapid economic growth as a main supply stop for gold seekers. The town’s harbor also facilitated economic activity in the area as a whaling station, a seaport for shipping lumber, and as a fishing destination. Well-known for its picturesque coastline and harbor, Trinidad and its surrounding areas, including Patrick’s Point State Park and other public beaches, make this Unit a popular tourist destination.

The Community of Westhaven is another population center within this Unit. Westhaven is an unincorporated area that roughly encompasses the coastal area just north of Moonstone Beach and south of the City of Trinidad. The majority of the population resides within or adjacent to the boundary of the Westhaven *Community Services District* (WCSD). The WCSD is approximately 384 acres in size and serves a population of approximately 500.

The western portion of the Unit is lined with private parcels containing dense clusters of structures surrounded by industrial timber lands from Westhaven up to Stone Lagoon, with a single tract of ranchland located east of Westhaven. Parcels in this Planning Unit span a variety of types, from “million dollar” homes with stellar ocean views, to rental units and RV parks near the freeway. Parcel sizes range anywhere from one-eighth of an acre to seven acres. The majority of homes are stick built, any many have been upgraded within the last decade. The entire central and eastern portions of the Unit are comprised of timberlands managed by Green Diamond Resource Company. State Park areas such as Patrick’s Point, Trinidad Beach, and Big Lagoon are scattered along the coastline. A map of this planning unit can be viewed in Figure IV.5-1. Trinidad Unit: CWPP Unit Map.

#### **IV.5.2. Trinidad Community Process Summary**

A community workshop was hosted by the Westhaven Fire Company at their fire hall on June 14, 2012 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. Participants included residents, volunteer

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<sup>1</sup>County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning. (2008). *Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan; Volume 2 – Planning Partner Annexes*. (p. 9-1.) Retrieved from <http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/hazardmitigation/?inc=finaldraft>

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

firefighters, a representative from the Trinidad Public Works Department, personnel from both the Trinidad and Elk Camp California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Stations, a Green Diamond Resource Company representative, and a representative from the Regional Training Institute on Community Disaster Preparedness from Humboldt State University.

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.

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.5.8. Community-Identified Projects in this Planning Unit Action Plan.

### **IV.5.3. Trinidad Wildfire Environment**

Approximately 32% of the Trinidad Planning Unit is zoned “Moderate *Fire Hazard Severity*,” as determined by CAL FIRE,<sup>2</sup> including all of the populated areas along the coastline. Nearly the entire remaining Unit area containing timberlands is zoned “High Fire Hazard Severity” (68%). The Unit is composed of coastal headlands and bluffs overlooking the ocean, as well as *riparian* areas and mountainous forests.

Climate in this Planning Unit is heavily influenced by its proximity to the Pacific Coast and high humidity prevails throughout the year. There are distinct rainy and dry seasons as well as frequent fog. Local vegetation predominantly includes redwood forests, along with some oak woodlands and pine forests.<sup>3</sup> Although the climate is dominated by moist, cooler temperatures, every 25-50 years the area experiences severe summer/fall droughts, accompanied by strong, dry offshore winds which have a warming, Mediterranean-like effect on the microclimate—a phenomenon known as the Klamtanans. The Klamtanans likely play a role in the presence of

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<sup>2</sup> CAL FIRE (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection). (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>3</sup>County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning & Humboldt County Fire Safe Council. (2012). *Humboldt County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Plan Update 2009-2010*. (p.87.) Retrieved from [http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/fire\\_safe\\_council/](http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/fire_safe_council/)

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

Bishop Pines in this Planning Unit, which favor coastal environments but are not typically found this far north.<sup>4</sup>

Traditional forest management methods used by Native Americans in this region typically incorporated low-intensity, intentional burns that helped facilitate the production of cultural and ecological resources. However, a national policy beginning in the 1930s that emphasized *fire suppression* in forest management systems has allowed the accumulation of dense, flammable vegetation in forest *understories*, which acts as *fuel* and increases the risk of high-intensity wildfires. Logging operations in the area that incorporated clear-cuts have also contributed to alterations in *stand compositions*. Forest *ecosystems* adapted to low-intensity fires that would burn off *brush* and newer starts in the understory are now threatened by overcrowded forests and accumulated fuels in some areas of the Unit.

In recent years, Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRCo) has undertaken efforts to help reduce risk of fire occurrences on their properties. Firefighting equipment is maintained at logging operations and inside all vehicles; harvesting operations are suspended at specified levels of low *relative humidity*; and logging crews are required to make daily fire inspections after work is done during *fire season*. Furthermore, the company maintains fire trucks and heavy equipment for wildfire emergencies and GDRCo Forestry staff, logging and maintenance crews, and contractors are all available to respond to fire emergencies on the company's timberlands and to assist CAL FIRE at their request. The company also treats logging fuels in a variety of ways to help reduce *fire hazards*. Their methods include piling and burning, *broadcast burning*, mastication and on-site chipping; they also employ *biomass* recovery for power generation with the vegetative debris produced by these activities.

Fortunately, there have been very few major fire events in this Planning Unit within recent decades. The A-Line Fire in 1936 was one of the last major wildfire events in this area, burning a substantial 1,628 acres in total.

Humans, vehicles, and lightning strikes are the most probable *ignition sources* here. Human-caused fire starts are more likely to occur in populated areas and recreation spots, and buildup of roadside fuels increases the likelihood of fire starts from vehicles. Downed power lines are also potential ignition sources. Much of the land in this Unit is seismically active, with the Trinidad and Big Lagoon faults located close to shore; this creates the potential for electrical fire starts that may follow any earthquakes that occur in the area.

*Dead plant matter* and vegetation with low *moisture levels* within 100-150 feet of 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 rooftops and siding add to this risk, as do the presence of wooden decks, particularly those with dead plant matter accumulated beneath them. Although the high levels of humidity and precipitation within the coastal climate help prevent thorough drying-out of vegetation, it is important that communities in this area do not become complacent about the risk of wildfire. The Luffenholz Fire in 1908 covered 690 acres and managed to burn the community to the ground. *Hazardous fuel loads* in the form of brush and timber *litter* produced by logging activity can increase the potential for ignition and rapid spread of wildfires.

Some homes throughout the Unit are surrounded by steep slopes that can limit their defensible areas, put structures in the line of up-hill spreading wildfires, and limit emergency access of firefighting resources. The majority of residences in this Unit exist within the *wildland-urban interface* (WUI), where there is an increased likelihood that *structure fires* will

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<sup>4</sup> Madrone, S. (June 2010.) *Factors supporting an isolated stand of pinus muricata around Luffenholz Creek, near Trinidad California*. Unpublished manuscript, Humboldt State University, California.

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

spread to the wildland, and vice versa. Figure IV.5-2 found at the end of this 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 smaller roads winding through the communities, connecting neighborhoods and residences to the main highway. Many of these smaller roads are narrow and windy, and some have sections that are un-paved and one-lane only. These types of conditions on smaller roads that lead to remote residences could create complications for emergency response vehicles trying to gain access during simultaneous home evacuations. Many routes are also grown over with vegetation and many properties have inadequate *turn around spaces*. County fire-safety standards require roads to be of a certain width to assist access during emergencies. However, one community member expressed his concerns about the potential for increased fire danger to result from the widening of county roads to meet fire-safety standards. Although widening the road improves access, this process can also open up the overstory canopy to sunlight, which can enable the encroachment of fire-prone vegetation, such as huckleberry and scotch broom. Maintaining roadside vegetation clearance is important for keeping ignition risk low and protecting the communities that depend on these roads. The potential for landslides along steep slopes in this area could also inhibit access.

The City of Trinidad’s Water Department provides potable water to residents within the city limits and has 30 hydrants available for provide fire protection water.<sup>5</sup> The WCSO supplies drinking water to customers and maintains 11 hydrants. Residents outside of this *service area* obtain water through other means, such as drawing from nearby creeks and holding tanks. Fire protection water may also be *drafted* from the following locations:<sup>6</sup>

- Big Lagoon
- Two Ponds (1million gallon total; dip or draw)
- Azalea Glen Pond
- Big Lagoon Mill Pond
- Trinidad Water Tanks (300,000 gallons)

The map in Figure IV.5-2 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.5.4. Trinidad 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

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<sup>5</sup> City of Trinidad. (2012). *Water Department*. Retrieved from [www.trinidad.ca.gov/departments-a-services/water.html](http://www.trinidad.ca.gov/departments-a-services/water.html).

<sup>6</sup> County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning. (2006, August). Appendix G: Community Identified Values, Protection Resources, Risks and Hazards, and Projects. *Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan*. Retrieved from [http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/fire\\_safe\\_council/fsc\\_mfpp\\_cwpp.aspx](http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/fire_safe_council/fsc_mfpp_cwpp.aspx)

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

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 a variety of commercial and service industries, community centers, schools, fire stations, churches, as well as infrastructure components, such as water treatment facilities. The Cher-Ae Heights Casino is a noteworthy asset as well.

The map in Figure IV.5-2 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:

- Big Lagoon Rancheria
- Patrick’s Point State Park
- Trinidad Head, Cell Phone Towers
- Two Creeks (Municipal Watershed)
- Little Red Inn – historical site
- Westgate Community Development

Other assets include the state and county beaches within the Unit, and the expanses of timberland that dominate the region, which have significant commercial and ecological value. Several *special-status wildlife species* are present throughout this Planning Unit; they include: the southern torrent salamander, tailed frogs, the red tree vole, as well as chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead trout.<sup>8</sup>

### **IV.5.5. Trinidad Community Preparedness**

No local *fire safe councils* (FSC) exist in this Planning Unit and none of the communities has achieved national *Firewise Communities/USA®* recognition. However, during the community outreach process, the communities of Trinidad and Westhaven both expressed an interest in forming a local FSC. Given their proximity and their shared interest in this goal, there is good potential for collaboration amongst these two communities in this endeavor. Currently, efforts to educate community members about fire safety and to improve emergency preparedness within this Unit are guided by the local fire protection service providers, CAL FIRE, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services (OES), and the Humboldt County FSC.

### **IV.5.6. Trinidad Wildfire Protection Capabilities**

Community fire protection within the Unit is provided by the Trinidad *Volunteer Fire Department* (TVFD) and the Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD), which provide fire protection as well as medical and rescue services to communities in the area. The TVFD has 10 volunteer and their *apparatuses* include: two type-1 engines and a rescue vehicle. The WVFD has 12 volunteers, whose apparatuses include: a 750 gallon type-1 engine, a 250 gallon type-4 attack engine, a 2,500 gallon *water tender*, and a rescue truck.<sup>9</sup> These VFDs are supported by donations and fundraising events within their communities. The TVFD, can be reached by calling (707) 677-0224, or by email at: [tvfdchief@gmail.com](mailto:tvfdchief@gmail.com); additional

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

<sup>8</sup> Dyett & Bhatia. (2002, September). Trinidad Watershed. *Humboldt 2025 General Plan Update: Natural Resources and Hazards; Vol. 2: Detailed Watershed Characteristics and Regulatory Framework Analysis*. (p.116.) Retrieved from <http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/gpu/documentsbackground.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> 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](http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/fire_safe_council/fireserviceannualreport.aspx)

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

information may be found at the City of Trinidad's website at: <http://www.trinidad.ca.gov/>. The WVFD can be reached by calling (707) 677-0388.

Having enough water presents the biggest difficulty for providing fire protection services to the Westhaven community. A lack of water tanks within the community contributes to this complication. All the VFDs in this Unit are in need of more volunteer members, particularly people who are available during business hours, when many volunteers have responsibilities to jobs or children both of which can make it difficult to respond to emergency calls. Additional and improved firefighting equipment would also benefit these VFD stations in a meaningful way.

This Planning Unit is also home to the Trinidad CAL FIRE Station, which provides year-round fire protection services to communities within *County Service Area #4* through an Amador agreement with the County of Humboldt. CAL FIRE has *mutual aid agreements* with volunteer fire departments in the surrounding areas. These entities may call upon each other for additional support when responding to structural or wildland fires. Even with statewide obligations during fire season, at least one fire engine is guaranteed to remain in Trinidad at all times.

### **IV.5.7. Trinidad Evacuation**

Evacuation from the Trinidad 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. Several smaller roads connect residences and neighborhoods to Highway 101, and adequate ingress and egress along these roads is vital to residents that need to access the main highway *evacuation route*.

Evacuation impediments may include: landslides, fallen trees, overgrown vegetation, downed power lines, and poorly marked streets and intersections.

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, 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.5.8. Trinidad 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

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

at the end of this Unit Action Plan (Figure IV.5-3). 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:**

- Create a local fire safe council.
- Implement a community-wide mobile *Chipping Program*.
- Implement a *Big Red Truck Program*, where fire department representatives visit residents and help them identify priority areas, such as those with high fuel loads and *one-way-in, one-way-out roads*.
- Increase Hazard Awareness with public outreach and education; demonstrate good examples with local models of fire safe landscaping.
- Conduct a “boilerplate” Firewise® Assessment as a public outreach tool to gauge local interest in becoming a Firewise® Community.
- Install a fire hydrant at Moonstone Beach.
- Recruit more volunteers for the local fire departments.
- Create more volunteer firefighter training opportunities.

**Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

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)
FIE045	Community of Fieldbrook	Old Railroad Grade North Clearance	Treat-Med	2012	Roadside Clearance				grant-landowner-Assn.
ORI055	McDonald Creek Rd and Kane Ridge Rd neighborhoods	Post address signs; encourage maintaining defensible space and providing water for fire protection.	Treat-Med Action-Needed	2012	Defensible Space and Other-Education				
TRI056	Trinidad Neighborhoods	1 million gallon water tank for greater Trinidad area	Action Need	2012	Other - Water				grant-landowner-Assn.
TRI061	Trinidad Neighborhoods	Luffenholtz shaded Fuelbreak	Treat-Med	2012	Roadside Clearance	27.61			grant-landowner-Assn.
TRI065	Trinidad and Westhaven Neighborhoods	Inter-tie between Westhaven and Trinidad water systems	Action Need	2012	Other - Water				grant-landowner-Assn.
TRI066	Fox Farm Rd Community	Fox Farm Rd.: Fire safe road options for pilot project (fire safe regulations alternative)	Action Need		Roadside Clearance and Other - Access	28.70			grant-landowner-Assn.

**Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

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)
TRI067	Parcels on Fox Farm Rd. near power pole	Power pole (PG&E) fuel reduction	Treat-Med		Roadside Clearance	2.17			grant-landowner-Assn.
TRI068	Fox Farm Rd and Stumptown Rd	Alternate Access from Fox Farm Rd to Stumptown Rd - Evacuation	Action Need	2012	Other - Access				grant-landowner-Assn.

## Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

### IV.5.9. Trinidad Action Plan

The following items are the initial priorities for community action for the Trinidad 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 departments<sup>10</sup> 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 priorities:
  - Develop a recruit strategy for adding more volunteers to the local fire departments.
  - Support the efforts of the WVFD to take the necessary steps for improving its Insurance Services Office (ISO) classification. An improved ISO classification could help to reduce the fire insurance rates paid by local property owners. These improvements will also increase the level of service provided to the community.
- **Road Improvements:** Upgrade and/or repair roads that hinder access by emergency responders. Begin by systematically identifying and mitigating such access impediments. The following priority access issue was identified at a community workshop and is recommended for initial action in this plan:
  - Devise an alternative evacuation route for residents on Fox Farm Road.
- **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, particularly in areas outside of the CSD boundaries. 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:
  - Greater Trinidad community areas.
  - Westhaven neighborhoods.

#### **Creating Fire Safe Communities**

- **Firewise® Communities:** Pursue participation in the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program with neighborhood groups in developed areas adjacent to the wildland, particularly where there are many residences located along dead-end roads. Use information from this Unit Action plan as a starting point for the development of a template Firewise® Assessment that can be used to gain interest in the Firewise®

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<sup>10</sup> All local fire departments within this unit are listed above with their contact information in the “Wildfire Protection Capabilities” section.

## Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

process. Actively implement and maintain the Firewise® action plan on an annual schedule. Target the following neighborhoods on edges of communities in the higher risk interface areas:

- Hammond Truck Road
- Ox Lane
- Fox Farm Road
- Driver Road
- Skyhorse Ranch/Brindle Lane
- Moonstone Cross Road
- Crannell Road

### **Promoting Fire Safe Education**

- Conduct public education and outreach efforts regarding strategies for fire safety, maintaining defensible space, and evacuation planning. Send out informational material in mailers throughout the communities. Consider involving Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America in outreach efforts. Focus initial educational efforts on the following priorities:
  - Big Red Truck Program, where local firefighters visit residences and offer advice for improving fire safety on the property.
  - Increasing awareness about the risk of wildfire occurrence to inspire action. Education will help residents understand that there is a seasonal window of opportunity when the conditions are just right for severe wildfire and it only takes an ignition during that time to threaten local communities.

### **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 MacDonald Creek Road and Kane Ridge 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. *Shaded fuelbreaks* should be considered as a method for roadside vegetation management to inhibit the re-growth of vegetation and to promote forest health. Focus initial efforts along the following roads:
  - Old Railroad Grade North
  - Luffenholtz Lane
  - Fox Farm Road