

Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

IV.2. Up River Planning Unit Action Plan

IV.2.1. Up River Planning Unit Description

The Up River *Planning Unit* encompasses 150,722 acres situated in north-central Humboldt County. Redwood National Park lies to the west, Del Norte County to the north, Six Rivers National Forest lines the eastern border, and the Hoopa Valley Reservation is located to the south. The geography of the Unit is characterized by the Klamath River *basin* and its many *tributaries*, which include:¹

- Mettah Creek
- Pecwan Creek
- Coon Creek
- Halagow Creek
- Roach Creek
- Ah Pah Creek
- Notchko Creek
- Bear Creek
- Achelth Creek
- Surpur Creek
- Pine Creek
- Blue Creek

Highway 169 is the main transportation corridor, following the Klamath River in a north-south direction across the Unit. However, it is important to note that Highway 169 is a non-continuous route, which comes to a dead-end near the Johnsons community in the northern portion of the Planning Unit.

The heart of the Unit area falls within the Yurok Tribe's Territory, which consists entirely of Ancestral Lands, specifically including, but not limited to, the Yurok Reservation; the Reservation extends one mile out on each side of the Klamath River, from the mouth of the river to an upriver distance of about 44 miles. The Yurok Indian Reservation is comprised of 63,035 acres spanning Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The Yurok Tribe is the largest Indian Tribe in California, with over 5,000 enrolled members. The entire Reservation has a population of approximately 2,100.²

The majority of communities in this Planning Unit are largely contained within the *up-river* portion of the Reservation; the *down-river* portion of the Reservation is located in Del Norte County. The *up-river* area (the Humboldt County portion of the reservation) includes several small communities or villages; they are:

- Weitchpec
- Tulley Creek
- Notchco
- Pecwan
- Bald Hills
- McKinnon Hill
- Ke'pel
- Wautec

Based on the communities at risk analysis conducted by the California Fire Alliance, all of the communities listed above have been identified by the Yurok Tribe as "*communities at risk* for

¹Dyett & Bhatia. (2002, September). Lower Klamath Watershed. *Humboldt 2025 General Plan Update: Natural Resources and Hazards; Vol. 2: Detailed Watershed Characteristics and Regulatory Framework Analysis.*(p.43.) Retrieved from <http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/gpu/documents/background.aspx>.

² County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning. (2008). *Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan; Volume 2 – Planning Partner Annexes.* (pp.2-13—2-14.) Retrieved from <http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/hazardmitigation/?inc=finaldraft>

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wildfire.”³ Weitchpec--situated in the southeastern corner of the Unit near the confluence of Highways 169 and 96-- is the hub of community life in this Planning Unit. Weitchpec contains the Yurok Tribal Office and Community Center, where many community services are located and events take place.

While much of the Reservation is owned by the Yurok Tribe, a substantial amount of land within the Planning Unit is privately owned as well. Private lands include residential parcels, large tracts of ranchlands, and industrial timberlands. A small section of the northeastern portion of the Unit falls within Six Rivers National Forest boundaries and is therefore managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Only a small portion of the Yurok Reservation has been developed for residential housing, and much of that lacks basic services such as electricity and telephone service.⁴ A map of this planning unit can be viewed in Figure IV.2-1. Up-River Unit: CWPP Unit Map.

IV.2.2. Up River Community Process Summary

An open-house community workshop was held on June 20, 2012 at the Weitchpec Community Center 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. The workshop was held in conjunction with the Yurok Tribe and their consultants, Tetra Tech, and the information gathered will inform both this plan and the local Yurok CWPP; approximately 25 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.

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

IV.2.3. Up River Wildfire Environment

Approximately 87% of the Up River Planning Unit is zoned “Very High *Fire Hazard Severity*,” as determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL

³ Tetra Tech: Prepared for Yurok Tribe. (January 2013). Chapter 13 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (p.13-13). *Yurok Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan, Draft 3*. Klamath, CA. Retrieved from http://yuroktribe.org/departments/planning/documents/Yurok_Tribe_HMP&CWPP_2013-01-16.pdf.

⁴ County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning. (2008). *Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan; Volume 2 – Planning Partner Annexes*. (pp.2-13—2-14.)

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FIRE).⁵ However, several small areas throughout the Unit, particularly in the southern region near Pine Creek and Weitchpec, and surrounding Highway 169 are zoned “High Fire Hazard Severity” (totaling 11%). The Unit area is largely comprised of rugged, steep forest land with valleys and *drainages* running from the mountainous regions toward the ocean. The steep slopes within this Unit can increase *fire risk* by accelerating the rates at which fires spread uphill; these slopes can have topographical influences on wind patterns as well.

The Unit is characterized by cold, wet winters and hot, dry summers. The land is predominantly forested, with Green Diamond Resource Company timberlands and other lands zoned for timber production covering a majority of the area. *Vegetation types* include forest communities such as mixed *conifer forests*, with fir and pine, as well as redwood *stands*, oak woodlands, and *chaparral*. The forestlands surrounding the eastern and western sides of the Unit are predominantly mixed conifer, coastal redwoods, Douglas-fir, spruce, and intermixed hardwoods, including madrone and tanoak. Vegetative *fuel* types throughout the Unit include *brush*, hardwood *litter*, *understory*, as well as *slash* and closed timber litter left from previous logging operations. During the hot summer months, the abundant vegetation in this region dries out and increases *hazardous fuel* levels.

Ecosystems and *plant communities* in this region are historically adapted to wildfire occurrence to the extent that some varieties are not only fire-tolerant but *fire-dependent* for healthy *ecosystem functioning*. In the past, Yurok tribal members implemented intentional burns throughout the Reservation area for ecological and cultural purposes. However, a history of *fire suppression* beginning in the 1930s has allowed the accumulation of dense, flammable vegetation in the forest understory. This vegetation can fuel wildfires and increases the risk of high-intensity burns. The exclusion of fire from these *landscapes* adapted to low-intensity fires that would burn off brush and newer starts in the understory has led to overcrowding of forests, accumulated fuels, and alterations in *species compositions* and forest structure. This ecosystem dynamic is creating risk for *wildfires* of greater intensities and on a larger scale than the local vegetation is adapted to withstand. 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 50% of the Up River Planning Unit is condition class 3, meaning the fire regime is significantly altered from the historical range; and approximately 39% of the area is condition class 2, or moderately altered from the historical range.

On average, there are between ten and twelve brush fires each year on the Yurok Indian Reservation.⁶ Fortunately, despite its “Very High” fire hazard severity zoning, there have been few fire events in the Unit within the past decade. These fire events include:

- The Tectah Fire, 2003: 97 acres.
- The Johnson Fire, 2003: 5 acres.
- The Cappel Fire, 2007: 13 acres.

Fires in the lands adjacent to this Planning Unit have impacted residents of the Reservation as well. The Megram Fire in November, 1999 was located approximately 60 miles east of Weitchpec, and generated dense smoke and ashes which spread throughout Northern California,

⁵CAL 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/>

⁶ Tetra Tech: Prepared for Yurok Tribe. (January 2013). Chapter 13 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (p.13-44). *Yurok Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan, Draft 3*.

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decreasing visibility and air quality. Many people were evacuated from the Reservation at this time, due to health concerns. Similarly, the Biscuit Fire in July 2002, which began in Southern Oregon as a result of lightning strikes, generated smoke that created health problems for residents within a 100-mile radius.⁷

Possible *ignition sources* within this Unit include human-related causes, such as arson, campfires, brush piles, smoking, playing with fire, equipment use, and vehicle accidents, as well as lightning and downed power lines.

Communities in this Unit exist within the *wildland-urban interface* (WUI), where there is an increased likelihood that *structural fires* will be able to spread into the wildlands, and vice versa. *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. These items are generally more susceptible to combustion from *embers* or radiant heat and, if lighted, could cause the rest of the home to catch fire as well. Figure IV.2-2 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 169 is the central *ingress and egress* route; however, its use in emergencies should be cautioned with the knowledge that this is a non-continuous route that dead ends in the northern portion of the Unit, far from any other major roads. The abrupt end of the primary access route in this Unit exacerbates risks associated with the remoteness of homes in this area and limits residents’ options for evacuation. A number of smaller roads branching off Highway 169 connect residences and neighborhoods to the main highway. Poor or complete lack of *signage* at these roads and at intersections pose potential problems for emergency responders; this is especially true for more remote residences further away from any community center. The narrowness of smaller roads leading to remote residences could create serious complications for emergency vehicles trying to gain access during simultaneous home evacuations. Many roads are also grown over with vegetation, and some properties have inadequate vehicle *turn around spaces*. The potential for landslides in the area could also inhibit access.

The Public Utilities Division within the Yurok Tribe’s Planning and Community Development Department provides potable water and *fire protection water* to residents throughout the Reservation. Fire protection water may also be drawn from the following locations:

- Pine Creek
- Burrill Creek
- Garland Pond
- Charlie’s Pond
- Gist Creek
- School Creek
- Rube Ranch
- Ha Amar Creek
- Klamath River at Martin Ferry Bridge

However, these smaller, cold water creeks are extremely valuable to fisheries health in the area, and fire fighters should always attempt to *draft* fire protection water from the river prior to accessing the cooler creeks.

⁷ Tetra Tech: Prepared for Yurok Tribe. (January 2013). Chapter 13 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (p.13-41). *Yurok Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan, Draft 3*.

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The map in Figure IV.2-2 found at the end of this Planning 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.2.4. Up River 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 along with commercial and service industries, community facilities, schools, fire stations, as well as infrastructure components, such as communications towers, power lines, and bridges. Commercial assets at risk in this Planning Unit include timber *stands* and livestock.

The map in Figure IV.2-2 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 GIS⁸ Portal, “Fire Planning” section: <http://gis.co.humboldt.ca.us/>. Some of the community-identified assets at risk within this Unit include:

- Yurok Tribal Office
- Weitchpec Water Tanks
- Lyon’s Ranch Barns –Historical
- Gibbons Road Water/Power

The Reservation contains many culturally significant ancestral territories, which are often also areas of environmental significance. Protecting these spaces is a top priority for communities in this Planning Unit. Currently, the Yurok Tribe is partnering with the Western Rivers Conservancy to help conserve the Blue Creek *watershed* by buying 47,000 acres from Green Diamond Resource Company. Blue Creek is a vital tributary to the lower Klamath River that provides high-quality spawning *habitat* for *endangered* chinook and coho salmon as well as steelhead trout. This project will help restore salmon runs and will benefit the watershed, which provides valuable habitat for other important wildlife species, such as marbled murrelets, northern spotted owls, deer, and bears. Equally important, this project will help re-establish a homeland and economic base for the Yurok Tribe.⁹

IV.2.5. Up River Community Preparedness

In May 2006, The Yurok Tribe *Hazard Mitigation Plan* (HMP) reached completion. The purpose of the plan was to: “identify hazards, establish community goals and objectives, and select mitigation activities that are appropriate for the Yurok Indian Reservation.”¹⁰ Now, in

⁸ Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

⁹ Western Rivers Conservancy. (n.d.). *Blue Creek Salmon Sanctuary and Yurok Tribal Reserve*. Current Projects: California. Retrieved November 28, 2012, from <http://www.westernrivers.org/pages/blueCreek.html>

¹⁰ Yurok Tribe, Planning and Community Development. (2006, May 25). *Yurok Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan*. (p.3.) Retrieved from

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2012, this hazard plan is being updated and the updated version will include a *community wildfire protection plan* (CWPP).

The Yurok Tribe is working towards establishing a local *fire safe council* (FSC) to guide the CWPP development and implementation process. This group will help educate residents about *fire safety* and wildfire preparedness. The Tribe recruited potential FSC members from the HMP update Steering Committee. The planning process involved a compilation of efforts from various groups and agencies from throughout the planning area that came together in an effort to address the mitigation of wildfire hazards to communities at risk.

“The CWPP is intended to serve as the guiding document for reducing the risk of fire to the Yurok Reservation and its surrounding communities and to serve the following uses:

- Promote fire safety;
- Build capacity of local fire organizations;
- Coordinate local activities with the federal and state agencies charged with *fire protection* and management responsibilities;
- Incorporate planning for fire safe communities into the County land use planning process;
- Provide planning tools for fire safe communities;
- Identify funding sources to support local organizations that provide fire prevention and protection services.”¹¹

IV.2.6. Up River Wildfire Protection Capabilities

Community fire protection within the Unit is provided by the Yurok *Volunteer Fire Company* (YVFC). The YVFC was formed in 2004 with support from grant funds to build two fire stations. Funding, equipment and facilities are provided by the Yurok Tribe. The YVFC operates out of two fire stations--one in Weitchpec and one in Wautec--and serves an area of 80 square miles, with approximately 350 residents. The YVFC is made up of ten volunteers who respond to structural and *wildland fires*, as well as calls for medical and rescue services. In addition to responding to emergency calls, the YVFC also works with the Yurok Reservation Community, providing fire suppression service for cultural burns. The YVFC also provides services during tribal ceremonies and cultural events. Their *apparatuses* include: a type-2 engine, a type-4 wildland engine, and a rescue truck.¹² The YVFC may be reached by calling (530) 625-9232.

There is also the Yurok Wildland Fire Crew, which operates out of Tulley Creek where there is a fire station that was built with the assistance of FEMA grant funds. In addition to the YVFC, the Yurok Wildland Fire Crew and CAL FIRE also respond to fires within this Planning Unit. The YVFC has a *mutual aid agreement* with CAL FIRE, and emergency calls typically dispatch YVFC volunteers as well as the CAL FIRE engine from Elk Camp on Bald Hills Rd. Response times can range anywhere from one to two hours, depending the incident site.¹³ The CAL FIRE Elk Camp station can be reached by calling (707) 499-2240.

Water availability can be a challenge for firefighters in this Unit. There are six hydrants located within this Planning Unit, although they are seldom used because of concerns about

http://yuroktribe.org/departments/planning/documents/Yurok_Hazard_Mitigation_Plan_ApprovedMay252006.pdf.

¹¹ Tetra Tech: Prepared for Yurok Tribe. (January 2013). Chapter 13 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (p.13-2). *Yurok Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan, Draft 3*.

¹² Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association. (2012). 2012 Local Fire Protection Survey.

¹³ Tetra Tech: Prepared for Yurok Tribe. (January 2013). Chapter 13 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (p.13-10). *Yurok Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan, Draft 3*.

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potential damage to waterlines, depleting water available for residential use, and worries that drafting water out of cold streams could compromise their ecological benefits on the Reservation. According to the 2006 Yurok HMP:

“A lack of fire hydrants, adequate water storage and modern fire suppression equipment inhibit the effect fire suppression efforts. When fire strikes, structures are almost always at a total loss. In most cases, structures are uninsurable due to the lack of adequate fire hydrants and water storage. Without increased fire suppression equipment, adequate water storage and hydrants, it is anticipated that structural fires on the Reservation would continue and create a greater risk of wildland fires.”¹⁴

IV.2.7. Up River Evacuation

Evacuation from the Up River Planning Unit will travel south along Highway 169, connecting with Highway 96 to precede either northeast towards Orleans, or south towards Hoopa. If evacuation is blocked to the east and south, Bald Hills Road may also be used to travel west. Evacuation decisions will always depend 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 169, Highway 96, and Bald Hills Road. Adequate ingress and egress along these roads is vital to a large portion of the community that may need access to main *evacuation routes* and for firefighters who will be using the roads to access wildfires in these areas. Many of the smaller roads throughout the Reservation are in poor condition, which can challenge effective delivery of fire suppression resources.

To those without intimate knowledge of the area and a four-wheel drive vehicle, Highway 169 is a dead-end road. This is very problematic for a primary transportation route in such a far-removed location and creates the potential for dangerously long emergency *response times* and severely limited evacuation opportunities. Johnson Rd. and Hancorne Rd., in addition to Bald Hills Rd., could potentially provide emergency evacuation westward into Redwood National Park.

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, community members should talk to their local fire department about evacuation procedures in their neighborhood.

¹⁴ Yurok Tribe, Planning and Community Development. (2006, May 25). *Yurok Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

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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.2.8. Up River 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 Planning Unit Action Plan (Figure IV.2-3). 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:

- All roads should be evaluated for understory clearing needs.
- When clearing for wildfire hazard mitigation is done, burning or chipping the piles as soon as possible should be a priority so they do not become a hazard.
- Write a comprehensive burn plan that will assist efforts to start burning traditional, cultural burn areas again to improve ecological resource production.

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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)
ORI039	Bald Hills Road	Stop burning at Redwood National Park at Bald Hills in Summer	Action Need		Other - Burning				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL064	Weitchpec Rd/Hwy 169	Fuelbreak from Hwy 96 to Weitchpec Elementary School	Treat-Med	2010	Roadside Clearance	12.68			Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL065	Weitchpec	Upper Prairie Lake Rd.: Fuelbreak (as needed)	Treat-Med	2010	Roadside Clearance				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL067	Cappell Rd & Rube Rd	Upper Cappell hazardous fuels reduction	Treat-Med	2010	Landscape	20.41			Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL071	McKinnon Hill Rd	McKinnon Hill Rd (slash removal)	Treat-Med	2010	Roadside Clearance				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL075	Tully Creek Road	Tully Creek Subdivision	Treat-Med	2010	Defensible Space				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association

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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)
ORL089	Bluff Creek Resort - Hwy 96	Creek Resort Thinning and burning - Clear around existing structures and along Hwy 96	Treat-High		Landscape	24.63	Mixed Conifer-Hardwood	Every 3-10 years	Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL446	Understory Burning - Bald Hills Road	Understory burning on Bald Hills Rd. to support fire protection / bear grass resource production	Treat - Med	2012	Other - Burning				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL447	Understory Burning - Po'to'yo Road (Iron Gate Rd)	Understory burning and hazardous fuels reduction to support fire protection.	Treat - Med	2012	Landscape and Other - Burning				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL448	Fuel Reduction - Alameda Road	Alameda Road shaded fuel reduction, 50ft buffer.	Treat - Med	2012	Landscape				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL449	Defensible Space - Weitchpec Tribal Center	Defensible space and fuel reduction around the Weitchep Tribal Cener.	Treat - High	2012	Landscape and Defensible Space				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association

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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)
ORL450	Fuel Reduction - Old Village	Fuel reduction--fine fuels and grass-- for the Old Village Area; structure protection from arson ignition	Treat - Med	2012	Landscape and Defensible Space				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL452	Shaded Fuelbreak - Head Start School	Head Start School shaded fuelbreak and water supply.	Treat - High	2012	Defensible Space and Other - Water				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL453	Defensible Space - Wo-tek Village Area	Defensible space and fuel reduction in and around the Wo-tek Village area.	Treat - Med	2012	Defensible Space				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL454	Defensible Space - Weitchpec School	Defensible space and fuel reduction in and around the area	Treat - High	2012	Defensible Space and Landscape				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association
ORL457	Understory Burning - HWY 169 to Klamath River	Understory burning between highway 169, Klamath River for fire protection and hazel production	Treat - Med	2012	Landscape and Other - Burning				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association

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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)
ORL458	Fuel Reduction - New Village	Fuel reduction New Village Area include defensible space, access clearance	Treat - Med	2012	Defensible Space and Other - Access				Grant, landowner, Tribal funding, neighborhood or road association

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IV.2.9. Up River Action Plan

The following items are the initial priorities for community action for the Up River 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.
- **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. The following priority area was identified at the community meeting and is recommended for treatment in this plan:
 - Head Start School fire protection water supply.

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. 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:
 - Subdivision on Tully Creek Road, west of Highway 169.
 - Landscape surrounding Head Start School.
 - Landscape around Weitchpec School.
 - Landscape surrounding Weitchpec Tribal Center.
 - Wo-tekw Village area.
 - New Village area, off of Highway 96.
- **Roadside Clearance:** Manage roadside vegetation in order to improve and maintain access for emergency vehicles and ensure safe evacuation. Consider working with the

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California Conservation Corps or County Public Works Roads Division. Focus initial efforts along the following roads:

- Weitchpec Road, between Highway 169 and Weitchpec School.
- Upper Prairie Lake Road.
- **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:
 - Continue to work collaboratively with all interested partners to create and maintain a comprehensive burn plan for the purposes of community safety and preservation of cultural and ecological resources.
 - Hazardous fuels reduction (as needed) along upper Cappell Road and Rube Road.
 - Brush thinning along Highway 96 near Bluff Creek Resort.
 - Hazardous fuels reduction and understory burning along Po'to'yo Road (Iron Gate Road), off of Cappell Road.
 - A shaded fuelbreak along Alameda Road.
 - Reduce fine fuels and grass in Old Village Area.
 - Conduct understory burning between Highway 169 and the Klamath River.