

ORICK–REDWOOD PARK PLANNING UNIT ACTION PLAN



Redwood National Park. Photo: Eureka-Humboldt Visitors Bureau

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

Table of Contents — Orick-Redwood Park Planning Unit Action Plan

4.1	Orick–Redwood Park Planning Unit Action Plan	
4.1.1	Orick-Redwood Park Planning Unit Description.....	4.1-1
4.1.2	Orick–Redwood Park Assets and Values at Risk.....	4.1-1
4.1.3	Orick–Redwood Park Wildfire Environment	4.1-2
4.1.4	Orick–Redwood Park Fire Protection Capabilities	4.1-5
4.1.5	Orick-Redwood Park Evacuation	4.1-7
4.1.6	Orick–Redwood Park Community Preparedness	4.1-8
4.1.7	Orick–Redwood Park Local Wildfire Prevention Plans	4.1-10
4.1.8	Orick–Redwood Park Community Identified Potential Projects	4.1-11
4.1.9	Orick–Redwood Park Action Plan.....	4.1-13

Figures

Figure 4.1.1	Orick–Redwood Park: Community-Identified Assets at Risk	4.1-2
Figure 4.1.2	Orick–Redwood Park Fires Over 10 Acres 1967-2017	4.1-4
Figure 4.1.3	Orick–Redwood Park: Fire Protection Water Sources	4.1-5
Figure 4.1.4	Orick–Redwood Park: Fire Protection Resources,	4.1-6
Figure 4.1.5	Orick–Redwood Park: Key Issues of Concern for Fire Services	4.1-7
Figure 4.1.6	Orick–Redwood Park: Fire Prevention Accomplishments.....	4.1-9
Figure 4.1.7	Orick–Redwood Park: Proposed Projects, Non-Geographic	4.1-12
Figure 4.1.8	Orick–Redwood Park: Community-Identified Priority Projects	4.1-12

Helpful Links

CAL FIRE HUMBOLDT-DEL NORTE UNIT:	http://www.fire.ca.gov/HUU
HUMBOLDT COUNTY WEB GIS:	https://webqis.co.humboldt.ca.us/HCEGIS2.6_CWPP
HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (HCFSC):	https://humboldtqov.org/FireSafeCouncil
HCFSC REPRESENTATIVE, CYBELLE IMMITT:	cimmit@co.humboldt.ca.us

4.1 ORICK-REDWOOD PARK PLANNING UNIT ACTION PLAN

4.1.1 ORICK-REDWOOD PARK PLANNING UNIT DESCRIPTION



A larger map of this planning unit can be viewed in Map 4.1.1, Orick-Redwood Park Planning Unit.

The Orick-Redwood Park Planning Unit encompasses over 100,000 acres in the northernmost part of the county. Elevations range from 5,300 feet down to sea level along the coast. The Unit consists of mostly mountainous, forested area, much of which is parkland. Orick, the population center of this unit, is located near the coast at the approximate north-south midpoint of the Unit. The town occupies the flat bottomlands between steep, forested hillsides to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Orick is considered by many to be the southern gateway community to Redwood National and State Parks. Redwood National Park (RNP), which is managed by the National Park Service (NPS), dominates approximately three-quarters of the Unit, while the northwestern quadrant of the Unit contains Prairie Creek State Park. The northeastern portion of the Unit contains industrial timberland owned by Green Diamond Resource Company.

4.1.2 ORICK-REDWOOD PARK ASSETS AND VALUES AT RISK

Assets and values at risk are those things that are important to quality of life that can be threatened with destruction or loss from wildfire. These include a variety of things such as homes, businesses, critical infrastructure, cultural sites, wildlife habitat, natural resources, air quality, recreational facilities and areas, historical structures, and any other important attribute that individual communities rely on for their well-being.

The majority of community assets at risk in this planning unit are residential homes, commercial and service industries, community or town centers, schools, and critical infrastructure components, such as a PG&E substation and the Rodgers Peak Repeater. The parklands in this unit encompass a range of landscapes and ecosystem types, ranging from redwood forests, oak woodlands and prairies, to coastal and marine ecosystems, which provide habitat for an array of plants and wildlife. The value of these habitats to the biodiversity in this region underscores the ecological significance of these parklands. Together, Redwood National and State Parks are “a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve protecting resources cherished by citizens of many nations”.¹

Map 4.1.2, found at the end of this Planning Unit Action Plan, illustrates assets and values at risk to wildfire identified by community members at public workshops. More detailed descriptions of community-identified fire planning features can be found on the Humboldt County Web GIS² Portal: https://webgis.co.humboldt.ca.us/HCEGIS2.6_CWPP.

Some of the key community-identified assets at risk within this unit are listed in the following table. This list is not intended to be comprehensive and illustrates participating community members’ concerns.

¹ Welcome to Redwood National Park (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.national-park.com/welcome-to-redwood-national-park>

² Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

FIGURE 4.1.1 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK: COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ASSETS AT RISK	
Cell phone tower, radio repeaters	Orick School
Community Center / Hall	PG&E Substation
Community Services District Office	Redwood National Park Outdoor School
Lyon’s Ranch historic barns	Redwood Trails
Orick Fire Hall	Simpson Mill A
Orick Inn	Water pumps
Orick Town Center	
<i>Additional Assets</i>	
Access Roads	Ladybird Johnson Grove
Campgrounds	Redwood National Park Visitor Centers
Freshwater Lagoon	

4.1.3 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENT

The Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan 2010 provides information about the wildfire environment and fire history of the area.

Readers are encouraged to review that plan for more details.

The plan can be downloaded from: <http://www.nps.gov/redw/learn/management/firemanagement.htm>

The majority (72%) of the Orick–Redwood Park Planning Unit is zoned “High Fire Hazard Severity,” as determined by CAL FIRE.³ However, the populated areas surrounding Orick, Highway 101, and the central coast region (12% of the Unit) are zoned “Moderate Fire Hazard Severity”. Fifteen percent of the unit in the north- and south-eastern portions is zoned “Very High Fire Hazard Severity”. *For a closer look at fire hazard severity in this unit, see Map 4.1.2 Orick–Redwood Park Community-Identified Protection Resources, Values/Assets, & Risks/Hazards.*

How is Fire Hazard Severity determined by CAL FIRE?

- The classification of a zone as moderate, high, or very high fire hazard is based on a combination of how a fire will behave and the probability of flames and embers threatening buildings.
- Zone boundaries and hazard levels are determined based on vegetation. For wildland areas, the current FHSZ model uses burn probability and expected fire behavior based on weather, fuel, and terrain conditions. For urban areas, zone boundaries and hazard levels are based on vegetation density, adjacent wildland FHSZ scores, and distance from wildland areas.
- Each area of the map gets a score for flame length, embers, and the likelihood of the area burning. Scores are then averaged over the zone areas.
- While FHS zones do not predict when or where a wildfire will occur, they do identify areas where wildfire hazards could be more severe and therefore are of greater concern.

³ 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://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland_zones_maps

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

Possible wildfire ignition sources in this planning unit are primarily human-related, including arson, poorly maintained campfires or brush piles, smoking, equipment use, vehicles or vehicular accidents, and downed power lines. Lightning is the primary source of naturally induced wildfire in this unit.

Fire History

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. Early agricultural 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, 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 suppression: All the work and activities connected with control and fire-extinguishing operations, beginning with discovery and continuing until the fire is completely extinguished.

Prescribed fire (controlled burning): a fire that burns within a range of predetermined conditions (such as fuel moisture content, weather conditions, etc.) that will keep it controllable, at low intensity, and able to achieve its stated objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and environmental requirements (where applicable) must be met, prior to ignition.

Wildland-urban interface (WUI): The zone where structures and other human developments meet, or intermingle with, undeveloped wildlands.

⁴ U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI): National Park Service. (2010). Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan. (p. 5). Retrieved from <https://www.nps.gov/redw/learn/management/firemanagement.htm>

⁵ Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan. (p. 7).

⁶ Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan: Appendix M: Fire Monitoring Plan. (p. 8).

⁷ Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan. (pp. 19-40).

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

FIGURE 4.1.2 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK FIRES OVER 10 ACRES 1967-2017⁸

Fire Name	Cause	Year	Acres	
			In Unit	Total
G.P. #6	Unknown/ Unidentified	1970	491	567
Tuk	Unknown/ Unidentified	2003	279	279
Elk	Arson	2006	72	73
Mid-Basin West	Unknown/ Unidentified	1998	52	52
98 Elk	Unknown/ Unidentified	1998	37	37
Lower Ganns	Unknown/ Unidentified	2002	19	19
Williams Ridge	Unknown/ Unidentified	1991	5	38
Williams	Arson	2007	5	10

Note: An interactive map of fire history through 1908 is available through the County Web GIS.

Structural Ignitability

Homes within Orick and along Highway 101, adjacent to state and national park lands exist within the WUI, which increases the risk of wildland fires becoming structural fires, and vice versa. Embers carried on the wind from nearby wildfires—even miles away—could ignite homes within this planning unit. This was made all too clear during recent, catastrophic wildfire events in Northern California that claimed thousands of homes. Many of the homes lost burned from the inside out, as embers were forced inside by strong winds, or sucked in through ventilation systems. For this reason, home hardening should be a top priority for homeowners concerned about their fire resiliency. Roofs and eaves, windows, vents, and siding are all components that can be upgraded to reduce a home’s vulnerability to loss. Resources for homeowners ready to take this leap in fire preparedness include *Appendix L, Living with Wildfire* and *Home Survival in Wildfire-Prone Areas*⁹, published by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. **Based on field observations, there are many homes in this planning unit where steps need to be taken to ensure structure survival when wildfire is nearby.**

Wildfire risk is exacerbated by the presence of dense vegetation growing in the *Home Ignition Zone* and flammable items in direct contact with the structure. 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. Sawdust

Home Ignition Zone: The home and area out to approximately 100 feet, where local conditions affect the potential ignitability of a home during a wildfire.

⁸ CAL FIRE. (2018). FRAP. State Fire Perimeters 1908-2017.

⁹ Quarles, S.L., Valachovic, Y., Nakamura, G.M., Nader G.A., & De Lasaux, M.J. (2010). Home Survival in Wildfire-Prone Areas: Building Materials and Design Considerations. University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources. ANR Publication 8393. [PDF]. Retrieved from <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8393.pdf>

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

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 assets.

Managing fuels for at least 100 feet of defensible space is highly recommended by this CWPP and is mandated by California Public Resources Code 4291¹⁰. By reducing the intensity and rate of spread of a fire, defensible space provides suppression personnel the option to deploy their resources to defend the home; it also reduces the likelihood that a house fire will spread outwards. Likewise, managing fuels along access roads provides safer escape routes for both residents and suppression personnel.

Defensible space (i.e. survivable space): an area, either natural or manmade, where material capable of causing a fire to spread has been treated, cleared, reduced, or changed in order to provide a barrier between an advancing wildland fire and the loss to life, property, or resources. Distance from the structure and the degree of fuels treatment vary with vegetation type, slope, density, and other factors.

Map 4.1.2, found at the end of this Planning Unit Action Plan, illustrates risks and hazards identified by community members at public workshops with an underlay map of fire hazard severity zones. More detailed descriptions of community-identified fire planning features can be found on the Humboldt County Web GIS Portal: https://webgis.co.humboldt.ca.us/HCEGIS2.6_CWPP.

Water Sources

Potable water is provided to the residents of this planning unit by the Orick Community Services District (OCSD). The District serves a land area of approximately 2.3 square miles and is funded by local taxes, water customer fees, and donations. Community-identified locations from which fire protection water could be drawn are listed in the table below. This list is not intended to be comprehensive and illustrates participating community members' knowledge.

FIGURE 4.1.3 ORICK-REDWOOD PARK: FIRE PROTECTION WATER SOURCES	
Charlie's Pond	Pacific Ocean
Community water tanks	Pond below Elk Camp barn
Freshwater Lagoon	OCSD fire hydrants (treated water, preferred for structure fire use)
Garland Pond	Standpipe at the Orick Fire Station (used for top-filling water tenders)
<i>Note: Locations identified at community workshops and will need to be vetted further with local firefighting personnel.</i>	

Map 4.1.2, found at the end of this Unit Action Plan, illustrates these drafting sites as well as other community-identified wildfire protection resources. More detailed descriptions of community-identified fire planning features can be found on the Humboldt County Web GIS Portal: https://webgis.co.humboldt.ca.us/HCEGIS2.6_CWPP.

4.1.4 ORICK-REDWOOD PARK FIRE PROTECTION CAPABILITIES

Community fire protection services are provided through the OCSD by the Orick Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD). Wildland fire protection services are provided by CAL FIRE and the Redwood National Park Service. The County of Humboldt maintains an *Amador agreement* with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection within County Service Area (CSA) #4, which covers an area from just north of McKinleyville, near Moonstone Beach, up to the OCSD boundary. County Service Area (CSA) #4 was established in 1986

Amador agreement: A contract that continues CAL FIRE staffing and station coverage through the winter "off season".

¹⁰ California Public Resources Code 4291 is provided as *Appendix K* of this CWPP.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

and is a dependent special district governed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. The CSA #4 resources work hand-in-hand with the local volunteer agencies on a variety of incidents throughout the year.

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 Redwood National Park 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.

Mutual aid agreement: A reciprocal aid agreement between two or more agencies that defines what resources each will provide to the other in response to certain predetermined types of emergencies. Mutual aid response is provided upon request.

Fire behavior: The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography. Common terms used to describe behavior include: smoldering, creeping, running, spotting, torching, and crowning.

The RNP is a “service first” organization and by agreement, works with the Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF) to protect both federal and state lands, also called direct protection areas. RNP and SRNF operate as one fire management organization, supporting each unit’s fire and land management objectives. During declared fire season, RNP staffs two engines, five days a week from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM. RNP firefighting equipment is maintained at the Wolf Creek Fire Cache in Orick. RNP’s daily staffing level is based on the Park’s Preparedness Plan. This Plan determines thresholds for Low, Medium, High, Very High, and Extreme fire danger based on daily Energy Release Component (ERC) predictions. The Park currently uses two Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) located near the far north and south ends of the Park to determine its daily ERC’s. If RNP is experiencing extreme fire indices, the acting Duty Officer will determine if longer staffing hours are needed.

National Park Service policy is to meet or exceed a 95% initial-attack success target. Standard dispatch for any given incident in RNP is determined by its Preparedness Plan. It generally includes one engine module; the Duty Officer will request additional resources through the Fortuna Interagency Command Center (FICC) if conditions warrant. 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 FICC.

FIGURE 4.1.4 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK: FIRE PROTECTION RESOURCES ^{11,12}			
PERSONNEL	SERVES		RESPONSE
	RESIDENTS	AREA (SQ. MI)	
ORICK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – PHONE: (707) 834-6162			
13 Volunteer	400	District: 2.3 Out of District: 121.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Structural fires ○ Medical and rescue services
APPARATUS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engine pumper, 4WD ○ Rescue truck, 4WD 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rescue van ○ Water tender 	

¹¹ Humboldt County Fire Safe Council. (2018). Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association Annual Report, 2017. (p. 43). Retrieved from <https://humboldtqov.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=75>

¹² Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission. (Adopted Jan. 2016). North County Regional Fire Services: Municipal Service Review. Retrieved from <http://humboldtlafo.org/msr-soi-reports>

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

FIGURE 4.1.4 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK: FIRE PROTECTION RESOURCES	
PERSONNEL	RESPONSE
REDWOOD PARK SERVICE – PHONE: (707) 465-7335 OR WEB: http://www.nps.gov/redw/index.htm	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full staff Jun-Oct ○ Reduced staff Nov-May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wildland fires, nationwide ○ Prescribed burning ○ Traffic accidents
APPARATUS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Small fire engine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Large fire engine
CAL FIRE TRINIDAD – PHONE: (707) 677-3638	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 crew (off-season) ○ 2 crews (fire season) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wildland fires ○ Other fires/emergencies ○ Contracted by County of Humboldt to provide fire protection within County Service Area (CSA) #4
APPARATUS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (2) Type-3 fire engine 	
CAL FIRE ELK CAMP – PHONE: (707) 499-2240	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summer only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wildland fires ○ Other fires/emergencies

FIGURE 4.1.5 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK: KEY ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR FIRE SERVICES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A generator is needed for backup power for the water system, the fire hall, CSD office, and the community hall, which are all key emergency assets.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Road access during emergency response is sometimes difficult because of road conditions and lack of access permission.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Insufficient home address signs can delay emergency response – Kane Road is an example of this (small, difficult to see signs are also a problem).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is insufficient availability of fire protection water outside the OCSD. The OVFD water tender helps with this but a second water tender would be helpful for backup and reserve.

4.1.5 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK EVACUATION

When wildfires have the potential to become disasters by threatening life and safety, procedures are initiated to support the safe evacuation of people, domestic animals, and livestock from potentially hazardous areas. During such events, 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 and location of the affected population.** The determination for the location of these sites is normally made by the Humboldt County Emergency Operations Center Incident Commander in cooperation with an Incident Management Team. The Humboldt County Sheriff and Emergency Officials will use the Humboldt Alert mass communication system (<https://humboldtgov.org/alerts>) and door-to-door methods to inform residents about the threat and where residents should go to take shelter.

Evacuation routes in the Orick–Redwood Park Planning Unit will depend on the location of the community at risk and law enforcement recommendations based on fire behavior, wind patterns, traffic, and ingress of emergency vehicles. Generally, evacuation from within this unit will travel either north or south along Highway 101. 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

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

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.

Poorly or inaccurately marked streets and intersections present a challenge for emergency responders. Many roads and driveways are overgrown with flammable vegetation and have inadequate turn around spaces. Other ingress and egress impediments may include steep road sections, fallen trees or power lines, wooden bridges susceptible to burning, and one-way-in, one-way-out roads/driveways that could inhibit evacuation and emergency response vehicles or leave residents stranded should the roads become blocked. The potential for landslides in the area could also inhibit access, particularly if wildfires were initiated by a severe earthquake.

Humboldt Alert: Humboldt County's Mass-Notification System

- ❖ The best way for emergency personnel to alert you of an emergency in your geographic area. You may choose to be contacted by email, text message, landline, or cellphone – or all four.
- ❖ It is geographically targeted. You will only receive alerts relevant to your geographic area, which is based on the address(es) you provide. The system can hold multiple addresses under one account (ex. home, office, child's school).
- ❖ The service is completely free of charge.
- ❖ To sign-up visit: <https://humboldtgov.org/alerts> or contact the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services (707) 268-2500.

If a catastrophic event occurs, residents and visitors may not be able to reach designated evacuation sites. In such cases, people may need to make decisions on their own about seeking shelter where they can survive the passage of the wildfire. Residents should seek shelter as a last resort, when evacuation is not an option. It can be very difficult to determine the right thing to do as the fire approaches, which is why it is so critical to **have a plan** and to **evacuate early**, if possible. Before a wildfire threatens, community members should research options and talk to fire and emergency service representatives about evacuation procedures, expected fire behavior in their neighborhood, and what to do if they get trapped.¹³ If residents are forced to take shelter, the horrific sound, smoke, and heat of a passing wildfire may be physically and emotionally difficult to endure. It may bring some solace and may help combat the natural urge to flee knowing that all possible measures have been taken to increase the odds of survival.

*See Appendix H, **Living with Wildfire** for more information on preparing for safe evacuation, and evacuation planning for pets and livestock. See also Chapter 5.4.6, **Evacuation Preparedness in Part 5, Risk-Assessment Detail** for information about evacuation procedures and challenges in Humboldt County.*

4.1.6 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

No local *fire safe councils* (FSC) or recognized *Firewise communities* exist within this planning unit. The process of becoming recognized as Firewise® includes a site-specific wildfire risk assessment, an action planning process, and an annual community educational event. The Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program teaches people living within the WUI how to adapt to living with wildfire by preparing for a fire before it occurs. This program empowers communities with tools and resources for reducing their wildfire risk and encourages neighbors to work together to take action to minimize losses from wildfire. **The Firewise® process would be beneficial for the town of Orick and other neighborhoods within this planning unit.**

¹³ CAL FIRE and Idaho Firewise offer advice on what to do if you become trapped:

<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/What-To-Do-If-Trapped> and <http://idahofirewise.org/evacuation/if-you-get-trapped>.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

Fire safe council (FSC): Public and private organizations that comprise a council intended to minimize the potential for wildfire damage to communities and homeowners, while also protecting the health of natural resources. Goals are achieved by distributing fire prevention materials, organizing fire safety programs, implementing fuel-reduction projects, and more. Visit www.firesafecouncil.org.

Firewise®/Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program: (1) A national, multi-agency effort designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire before a fire starts. (2) Firewise® offers a series of practical steps that individuals and communities can take to minimize wildfire risks to people, property, and natural resources. It emphasizes community responsibility for planning in the design of a safe community as well as effective emergency response, and individual responsibility for safer home evacuation and design, landscaping and maintenance.

RNP maintains 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, RNP also has a mechanical fuels reduction program that utilizes a variety of techniques and machinery to modify fuel complexes.

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.

Many people have contributed to increasing the fire safety of their homes, neighborhoods, and communities in the Orick–Redwood Park Planning Unit, often on volunteer time. The following table summarizes some of the key accomplishments since 2013.

FIGURE 4.1.6 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK: FIRE PREVENTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The OVFD was recently able to establish an internet connection and phone line for the fire hall office and are in the process of purchasing a computer and phone. This might seem like a small achievement but it will greatly assist with communications, training, and operations.
- Secured Measure Z funding for fire protection equipment including PPE, HAM radios, hoses, and a new fire engine.
 - In 2016, received a Measure Z funded 4-wheel drive fire engine that will allow access to all roads in the district and outlying areas.
 - In 2015, received Measure Z funding for eleven sets of structure turnouts, twelve sets of wildland PPE, eight Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs), and nine portable radios.
- Began construction of a new structure to house the new fire engine.
- RNP has maintained a robust prescribed fire program in an effort to return fire and its associated ecological benefits to the parks.
- The County of Humboldt coordinates with outside contractors, CAL FIRE crews, and County Road Maintenance staff to manage vegetation on the Redwood Creek Levee to maintain compliance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requirements. This work provides multiple benefits including the reduction of fire hazards. Portions of the Levee are treated on a rotating basis with the goal of a continuous annual maintenance cycle for the entire Levee.

¹⁴ County of Humboldt, Natural Resources Planning. (2014). Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan; Volume 2 – Planning Partner Annexes. (p. 14-3).

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

4.1.7 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK LOCAL WILDFIRE PREVENTION PLANS

As of the date of this CWPP, there were no completed local planning documents such as a CWPP or Firewise® Assessment in this planning unit. The community may choose to pursue Firewise® recognition, and through that process would develop a Firewise® Action Plan that identifies and prioritizes actions, which reduce the risk posed by wildfire in the Orick–Redwood Park Unit. Alternatively, a local fire safe council could facilitate the writing and implementation of a community-level wildfire protection plan. **As a first step, a point person or group of individuals must come forward to lead these efforts from within the community, in coordination with CAL FIRE, OVFD, the HCFSC, and or RNP.**

This Planning Unit Action Plan will provide a starting point for these fire-planning efforts. To help guide and inspire wildfire preparedness in this planning unit, this CWPP provides a list of priority action recommendations reflective of the community concerns and ideas collected through the process described below. *See section 4.1.9, Orick–Redwood Park Action Plan for the list of priority actions recommended by this CWPP.*

The Redwood National and State Parks *Fire Management Plan* is a noteworthy planning document that addresses wildfire topics within this planning unit. The plan provides the park service with operational guidance used to safely manage wildfire while protecting park resources and human life and property.

Fire Management Plan (FMP): A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires. The plan is supplemented by operational plans such as preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, prescribed fire plans, and prevention plans.

The Wildland Fire Management Goals¹⁵ associated with that Management Plan include the following:

- Ensure safety to firefighter and public is the highest priority in every fire management action.
- Protect the public, private property, and the natural and cultural resources of the parks utilizing strategies and tactics commensurate with the values at risk.
- Use fire as a management tool to meet resource objectives where deemed appropriate and identified risk is both manageable and acceptable.
- Manage wildland fuel complexes in order to protect resources at risk and minimize unacceptable impacts from fire.
- Cooperate with adjacent landowners and land management agencies in the full range of fire management activities, respecting the jurisdiction, interests and legal mandates of each participant.
- Increase the understanding of the role and function of fire in the parks.
- Restore fire as an ecosystem process in the park's biotic communities to the fullest extent practical.



Schoolhouse Prescribed Fire. Photo: Redwood National Park.

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

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

The Fire Management Plan is supported 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.¹⁶

4.1.8 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED POTENTIAL PROJECTS

As part of the collaborative planning process to create this CWPP, 14 community wildfire preparedness workshops were held throughout the County. *See Chapter 1.2, Collaborative Planning Process and Appendix B, Planning Process Details for more information.* The workshop for this planning unit was held on November 2, 2017 at the Orick Community Hall with the following goals:

Provide information:

- Fire protection capabilities and needs.
- Prevention of unplanned human-caused wildfires.
- Wildfire and emergency preparedness.
- The role of wildfire in our local environment.
- The Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Seek Information:

- Obtain local knowledge and concerns regarding assets and hazards.
- Provide an opportunity for direct input into priorities for community fire safety.

Through the initial 2004-2005 fire-planning process and the 2012 and 2017 CWPP update processes, dozens of projects were identified for this planning unit through a community workshop mapping exercise. These projects are illustrated on the community-identified projects map found at the end of this Unit Action Plan (*Map 4.1.3*). New or confirmed existing projects ideas proposed during the 2017 update process are summarized in *Figure 4.1.7* and *Figure 4.1.8* in this section. *For more information on the mapping exercise, see Appendix B.5 Mapping Exercise Instructions.* The community-identified fire hazards, protection resources, and assets and values at risk discussed throughout this Planning Unit Action Plan (*Map 4.1.2*) reflect information generated by these community workshop mapping exercises, as well as information resulting from direct outreach to local fire departments and residents.

The data collected through these planning processes can also be viewed in the GIS layers within the fire-planning GIS Portal. The GIS Portal allows users to search for and view specific community-identified fire-planning features by location or to zoom into a desired area from an aerial view. The GIS Portal also provides descriptions of each planning feature. To access the Portal, go to: https://webgis.co.humboldt.ca.us/HCEGIS2.6_CWPP. For a copy of fire-planning feature descriptions in table format, please contact the Office of Natural Resources Planning by phone **(707) 267-9542**, or email cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us.

¹⁶ U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service. (2010). Appendix M: Fire Monitoring Plan. Redwood National and State Parks Fire Management Plan.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

The following non-geographic community-identified project ideas have been identified through the planning process described above and will not be found on the maps or in the GIS Portal but are important to note and evaluate for feasibility.

FIGURE 4.1.7 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK: PROPOSED PROJECTS, NON-GEOGRAPHIC	
○	Post more road and address signs to facilitate emergency response throughout the Planning Unit.
○	Increase community outreach and education at events such as the Rodeo. Foster a culture of preparedness among neighbors.
○	Compile a directory of brushing crews.
○	Seek funding for a coordinator to organize a Firewise® community and other projects.
○	Work with Parks to create a robust buffer zone between Parks and community.
○	Identify and address road access issues wherever possible.
○	Increase water availability outside Community Services District. Install tanks for firefighting water with proper fittings that are well marked (and mapped, if possible).
○	Initiate the Blue Dot Program within the community.
○	Initiate evacuation planning and begin running drills in key areas.
○	Replace damaged fire hydrants.
○	Hold Community Chipper Days (Contact Del Norte Fire Safe Council or the CAL FIRE Chipper Program).
○	Design and implement a fire department recruitment strategy to get more volunteers (especially volunteers who can respond during the day).

The local residents who attended the November 2, 2017 workshop identified the following projects as their top priority projects to be evaluated for feasibility and implemented over the next five years. The rest of the community-identified projects can be found in the CWPP Web GIS Portal described above.

FIGURE 4.1.8 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK: COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITY PROJECTS		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT TYPE	PROJECT ID
Levee vegetation – brushing / burning as needed	Hazardous Fuel Reduction	ORI038
Fix Riverview Road Access – Private drive; resolve property owner dispute regarding stream diversion	Access/Evacuation	ORI036
Gunst Road – brush road for emergency access	Roadside Clearance	ORI037
Additional Hydrants in “The Blocks” (Orick proper)	Water	ORI041
Post more address signs to facilitate emergency response	Access/Evacuation	Non-geographic

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

4.1.9 ORICK–REDWOOD PARK ACTION PLAN

Ideally, everything recommended in this action plan will be implemented. However, feasibility analysis and implementation will be subject to the availability of funds and other resources, and the willingness and ability of community members and plan partners to take action. This action plan can be used to guide the action of community members, organizations, and agencies working and living within each of the 14 planning units within Humboldt County. It is the intention of the HCFSC that one or more local groups be sustained within each planning unit to lead local action. It is understood that some units have more capacity than others. The HCFSC, with individual members from higher-capacity areas and partner agencies, can provide guidance for building capacity where needed.

Any recommended vegetation treatments in this CWPP must be undertaken with the consent and involvement of the property owner and the observance of all applicable local, Tribal, state, and federal laws and regulations. Please work closely with the applicable regulatory and permitting authority as projects are developed, particularly if public funds are being used and/or the project will take place on public lands or in public right-of-ways. For more information about how to ensure regulatory compliance, refer to *Appendix I, Regulations and Compliance*.

The following Action Plan is intended as a resource to guide and inspire action, as well as to cite in grant applications to leverage implementation funds.

Priority Action Recommendations:

The following recommendations are based on a review and evaluation of community-identified fire planning features, local fire planning documents, and findings from this Humboldt County CWPP risk assessment. Given the results of this analysis, a growing understanding of local capacity, and potential supporting resources, it was determined that the following list of **priority actions** would best serve as a starting place towards the fire safety of the communities in this planning unit.

- Identify a community organization or group of individuals in Orick with the interest and capacity to facilitate participation in the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program or other similar wildfire preparedness program.
 - Existing disaster preparedness groups could add wildfire preparedness as a focus area of their activities.
 - Conduct a community risk assessment with support from CAL FIRE, the OVFD, and the HCFSC and draft a Firewise® action plan. Use information from this unit action plan as a starting point for the development of community assessments and action plans.
 - Actively implement and maintain the Firewise® action plans on an annual schedule.
 - Host a Firewise® Day to share findings and inspire action; Firewise activities could be added to an existing annual community event. The annual Orick Rodeo was suggested as a potential venue.
 - If necessary, seek funding to support this effort.
- Once a local group has been organized, evaluate, further develop, seek funding for, and implement—as appropriate and feasible—the community-identified priority actions listed above as well as all community-identified potential projects stored in the Web GIS Portal. Perform this same process for the actions identified in this *Priority Action Recommendations* list and the *Action*

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

Catalogue below. Pursue activities that align with available resources, community values, and the highest wildfire risks to local assets and values.

- **P**riority areas within this planning unit for fuels reduction and outreach are included in the list below. Activities might include creating defensible space, roadside clearance, chipper programs, and/or landscape treatments, as well as education and assistance for addressing structural ignitability through home hardening and evacuation preparedness:
 - Levee vegetation brushing and burning, as needed. (ORI038)
 - The Blocks neighborhood in Orick.
 - Owl Gulch neighborhood off of Old State Highway.
 - Neighborhoods along Hilton Road and Eris Lane.
 - 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.
- **F**ocus roadside fuel reduction efforts on priority ingress and egress routes for safe evacuation and emergency response, especially those roads used by the highest number of residents, single access roads, and roads leading to remote, hard to access residences. Priority roads to evaluate include:
 - Brush thinning along Gunst Road (ORI037)
 - Private roads off of the Old State Highway
 - Hilton Road and Eris Lane
 - Foothills Road
 - Riverview Road (also address road access issue)
 - Robinson Road
 - Orick Hill Road
- **C**oordinate wildfire preparedness efforts between community members, CAL FIRE, the OVFD, Redwood National Park, and the HCFSC.
- **C**ollaborate with Redwood National Park to conduct prescribed burns or use other methods to create wildfire resilient landscapes as a buffer between the Park and WUI. Work with the Park to make every reasonable effort to address community concerns about the risks associated with prescribed fire. Focus initial efforts on the following area:
 - Area of Redwood National Park between Hilton Road and Old State Highway.
 - Areas along Hufford Road, west of Orick; ideally, this project should correlate with Chipper Days.
- **C**oordinate with CAL FIRE, the OVFD, and local community members and/or groups to develop a strategy to ensure that unmaintained vegetation on parcels that pose a wildfire threat to neighboring homes is abated.
 - Start by reaching out to the property owner(s) with the goal of helping them understand the fire danger and the importance of working across property lines to reduce wildfire hazards. If there are many properties of concern, consider organizing a neighborhood meeting to discuss the issue; invite CAL FIRE, local fire department representatives, and/or fire safe council/Firewise® community representatives.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

- **A**ddress emergency access obstacles in the “Blocks”. Streets are blocked by cars and other obstructions that could delay emergency responders—endangering lives and property. In addition, install more hydrants in this neighborhood.
- **A**ddress the problem of not having a local facility for disposing of green waste. Identify responsible and feasible disposal methods, possibly a chipper program and or an agreement with a composting facility. Educate residents about safe pile burning and associated permitting.
- **S**ecure resources to purchase an updated set of Jaws of Life and a water tender for the OVFD.
- **S**ecure resources to purchase a generator or generators as a power back-up for the Orick water system and to maintain services out of the OCSO office, the OVFD Fire Hall, and the community hall during power outages.
- **W**ork with the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association to develop OVFD volunteer training packages that can be delivered locally and to set up remote participation in the Association’s monthly meetings.
- **I**ncrease the availability of water for fire protection by:
 - Investing in more community water tanks.
 - Ensuring existing water tanks are outfitted with fittings compatible with firefighting equipment (Blue Dot Program).
 - Installing additional fire hydrants in “The Blocks” (Orick proper). (ORI041)
 - Addressing water needs in neighborhoods outside of the OCSO boundary.
 - Replacing damaged fire hydrants as needed within the OCSO boundary.
- **W**ork with residents to ensure adequate road and home address signage for more efficient emergency response. Signs should be large, reflective, and have lettering at least three-inches in height. Less noticeable but more sentimental address signs may remain but it is important to post reflective signs as well. Focus initial efforts in the following areas:
 - Post more address signs to facilitate emergency response throughout the Unit.
 - Bald Hills Road.
 - Robinson Road, west of Highway 101.
 - Old State Highway, east of Highway 101.
- **A**ddress road conditions that inhibit effective evacuation and access by emergency responders. Begin by systematically identifying and mitigating such access impediments. The following priority access issues were identified at community workshops and/or through analysis and are recommended for initial evaluation and action:
 - Fix access on private drive along Riverview Road. Mitigate stream diversion issues as well. If property owners cannot resolve disagreements about an approach to this, consider alternative routes or methods. (ORI036)
 - Collaborate with the Public Works Roads Division to better understand and provide input to the process of setting priorities for roadside vegetation maintenance.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

Action Catalogue:

This Action Catalogue lists additional wildfire mitigation actions that can be selected in addition to, or to compliment, the priority actions above. Action items are organized under each of the six countywide goal categories outlined in *Part 3, Countywide Action Plan*. Local groups are encouraged to implement these actions within their communities wherever possible and to actively seek opportunities to engage with and benefit from the associated work being done countywide by the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC). To contact the HCFSC, call **(707) 267-9542**, or email cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us.

Wildfire Ignition Prevention

- **I**mplement One Less Spark education: www.readyforwildfire.org/One-Less-Spark-Campaign.
- **U**se *Living with Wildfire in Northwestern California* as a primary outreach tool and distribute widely: www.humboldt.gov/livingwithwildfire.
- **I**dentify primary ignition sources in the local community and focus prevention efforts on reducing them.
- **I**ncrease community awareness and access to information about proper methods for safe pile-burning, prescribed fire, and other fuel reduction strategies that could result in an unintended wildfire.
- **I**nform residents about the importance of vigilance and caution during Red Flag conditions when a small ignition has a higher probability of growing into a large fire.

Wildfire Preparedness

- **D**evelop a wide range of opportunities for community education on preparing for wildfire. This effort should involve the production and/or distribution of a variety of informational materials.
 - Use existing materials as much as possible and develop materials tailored to the local community as needed and able.
 - Distribute materials through mailers (including already occurring mailers such as local utility bills); via community hubs such as the post office; at all community events; on community bulletin boards; through the use of social media and networks, local media outlets, and any means used by the local community to share important information.
 - Include compelling stories about past coastal wildfire events.
 - Encourage Boy Scouts of America or other service organization to perform community service activities including delivering literature to homeowners or clearing around and painting fire hydrants.
- **P**rovide residents with information about and assistance with reducing structural ignitability and maintaining adequate defensible space around their homes.
- **C**ollaborate to maintain defensible space for elderly, disabled, and low-income residents who are unable to do or fund the work themselves.
- **F**ocus roadside fuel reduction efforts on priority ingress and egress routes for safe evacuation and emergency response. See details in *Priority Action Recommendations* above.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

- **W**ork with PG&E and local landowners to reduce fuels along power line easements.
- **C**reate community chipping programs to support defensible space maintenance and vegetation management in priority areas. See details in *Priority Action Recommendations* above.
- **C**ompile a directory of brushing crews and other resources for landowners seeking to reduce fuels on their property.
- **R**aise awareness of Sudden Oak Death and the fire hazard that afflicted trees pose. Determine whether there are hot-spots for Sudden Oak Death infected trees. Conduct fuels reduction projects as needed in those areas to prevent spread and mitigate fire hazard. Seek guidance from organizations such as University of California Cooperative Extension.
- **C**ollaborate with agency and local partners to plan and fund landscape level fuels reduction and management where appropriate and in observance of applicable environmental laws and regulations. Match the site with the best method of treatment to meet forest resiliency and community protection goals, including prescribed fire, forest thinning, landscape pruning, mowing, or targeted grazing.
- **W**ork with CAL FIRE to increase frequency of inmate crew fuel reduction projects.

Disaster Preparedness

- **W**ork with the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and local fire service to engage community members in evacuation preparedness and the identification of local evacuation routes and sites. In addition, identify local community liaisons to work directly with emergency management officials.
- **I**mprove community communication networks and explore ways to increase redundancy. This might include developing a community phone tree list and/or compiling a list of contacts to call in case of emergency or when help is needed from (or in) other areas. As another form of emergency communication, consider training or identifying a few community members to use HAM radios and secure funds to purchase radios and store them strategically throughout the community.
- **W**ork with a local fire or law enforcement agency to form a Community Emergency Response Team or CERT. Coordinate with the Humboldt CERT Coalition.
- **F**ocus evacuation planning efforts in populated areas located along single access or difficult to access roads. Priority neighborhoods and roads for outreach efforts include:
 - The “Blocks” in Orick
 - Homesteads at the end of Old State Highway
 - Gunst Road
 - Riverview Lane
 - Orick Hill Road
 - Hilton Road
- **P**romote the creation of family disaster and evacuation plans.
- **I**nform residents about Humboldt Alert and encourage them to sign up to receive emergency notifications at <https://humboldtqov.org/alerts>.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

- **W**ork with residents to ensure adequate road and home address signage for more efficient emergency response. See details in *Priority Action Recommendations* above.
- **A**ddress road conditions that inhibit effective evacuation and access by emergency responders. See details in *Priority Action Recommendations* above.
- **I**nform residents about the importance of keeping gates open or accessible during Red Flag conditions. Community members should consider providing a key or access code to the local fire department.
- **I**nform residents of the need to have accessible, mapped, and identifiable water sources for fire suppression, and the importance of sharing that information with local fire departments/companies. This type of activity can be supported by a “Blue Dot” program, which identifies the location of firefighting water sources by marking them with blue reflective dots.
- **I**ncrease the availability of water for fire protection. See details in *Priority Action Recommendations* above.

Fire Protection

- **H**elp local fire departments raise funds by making donations directly and/or organizing fundraising events or campaigns.
- **S**upport the local fire departments by becoming a volunteer. Volunteer firefighters and volunteers who are emergency medical service (EMS) trained are essential to a functional local fire service. In addition, volunteers are needed for non-firefighting and EMS duties such as logistical support, traffic control, administration, fundraising, public education, and fire prevention. (Note: Although the OVFD is not currently experiencing a shortage of volunteers, this is a common challenge with volunteer fire departments throughout the county. Check in with the department periodically to find out if they have emerging volunteer needs.)
- **A**ssist in the development of recruitment and retention strategies for volunteer fire departments. (See note above.)

Restore Beneficial Fire

- **P**rovide resources to private landowners interested in implementing prescribed burns on their property, including the contact information for CAL FIRE, UC Cooperative Extension, the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association, the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, and Redwood National Park.¹⁷
- **S**hare information about educational events that provide information about prescribed burning.
- **E**ncourage landowners with larger acreages to work with the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association to conduct prescribed burns on their lands.

¹⁷ To learn more about UC Cooperative Extension, the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association, and the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, contact Lenya Quinn-Davidson at lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu or call her at (707) 445-7351. To learn about CAL FIRE prescribed fire programs and support, contact Chris Ramey at chris.ramey@fire.ca.gov or call him at (707) 726-1206.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

- **H**elp federal and state land managers garner local support for using prescribed fire or managed wildfire on the public lands they manage.

Integrated Planning

- **I**nitiate and maintain participation in the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program with neighborhood groups in developed areas adjacent to the wildland. See details in *Priority Action Recommendations* above.
- **S**hare GIS data sets between representatives within the Planning Unit and County staff to maintain the fire planning features included in the County Web GIS Portal (https://webgis.co.humboldt.ca.us/HCEGIS2.6_CWPP). In the absence of GIS data, share geographic information/descriptions about project planning and implementation so that it can be digitized and incorporated into the Web GIS Portal.