

Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Workshop: Humboldt Bay Planning Unit

D Street Community Center, Arcata, November 18, 2017, 2:00-4:00pm

Information Table and Sign-In

- Community pre-fire planning maps displayed for initial review and updating
- Handouts and brochures available on wildfire-related topics
- Laptops available to review: Open Humboldt Survey https://www.peakdemocracy.com/portals/131/Issue_5560 (deadline to fill out survey is Jan. 31, 2018), Humboldt Alert Emergency Notification System (<https://humboldt.gov/alerts>), and Humboldt County WebGIS to view online maps (https://webgis.co.humboldt.ca.us/HCEGIS2.4_CWPP).

[Signed in: 68]

Welcome and Introductions by Cybelle Immitt, Staff Support for Humboldt County Fire Safe Council

- **Meeting objective:** to share information on wildfire preparedness and to gather input, local knowledge, and concerns from community members from the Humboldt Bay Planning Unit, as identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP is updated every 5 years, with this year being an update year.

[Agenda, Sign-in sheet, Feedback form, Wildfire Preparedness Survey flyer, comment cards passed around]

Two-part Agenda:

1. 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).

2. Seek Information:

- Obtain local knowledge and concerns to include in the updated CWPP.
- Provide an opportunity for direct input into priorities for community fire safety.

Big Picture Overview

- Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (FSC) established by the Board of Supervisors in 2002 to develop, implement, and maintain the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- FSC: diverse representation from many sectors
- Living with Wildfire an example of FSC's collaborative work; excellent resource for preparing, : <http://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/59108> [Copies of LWW handed out]
- CWPP Purpose: Guide and inspire action related to wildfire preparedness; Asses risk (community input and rigorous analysis)
- CWPP: 14 planning units, each with a unit action plan that can be used independent of the Plan
 - Fire Planning Unit Action Plan focuses on the communities around Humboldt Bay.
 - Firewise Communities are smaller groups based on a neighborhood or Road association – Upper Jacoby Creek has received recognition as a Firewise Community. Liscom Hill neighborhood made progress.
- We live in a wildfire environment: Humboldt county is vulnerable, we have been lucky in recent years, just a matter of time. Recent scare in Blue Lake; only a matter of when.

Message from Humboldt Bay Fire Chief (Local fire service update)

- Over 26,000 volunteer hours past year
- Measure Z in: funded Structure and Wildland Personal Protective Equipment, Fire Hose –Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus bottles and covering dispatching fees (full coverage or partial).
- Need volunteers (more than just firefighting) traffic control, bookkeeping, fundraising...
- Post your address and road signs
- Keep driveways clear and provide access to fire department through locked gates
- Mark water tanks (blue dot), notify fire department
- Maintain defensible space around your home
- Monetary donations are always welcome

[Quick introduction of local fire chiefs from Fieldbrook, Arcata, Blue Lake, Samoa Peninsula, and Humboldt Bay (combination career and volunteer departments)]

Message from CAL FIRE, Chris Ramey, Pre-Fire Planning Battalion Chief and Humboldt County FSC member

[showed CAL FIRE video: Ready, Set, Go! <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Ready-Set-Go-Campaign>]

- Fire-resistant building materials very important (esp. if remodeling or building new house)
- Defensible space gives firefighters space to protect the home
- Set: have documents in place, a plan, medications for people and pets
- Go: If an evacuation is called for, go early, don't wait
- Reiterated usefulness of Living with Wildfire publication: <http://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/59108>
- CAL FIRE Pre-fire Planning Unit Responsibilities: Prescribed fire program, fire safe regulations, Unit Fire Plan (coordinates with CWPP), defensible space inspections, grant administration (SRA fee) for fuel reduction and CWPP update
- Community input helps Humboldt Bay be prepared and will be used to prioritize projects when (financial) resources become available; encouraged participants to get in contact with CAL FIRE and identify themselves as property owners willing to partner on projects on their property/in the community

Message from Office of Emergency Services, Dorie Lanni, Emergency Services Manager

- Humboldt Alert: County-wide emergency alert system, <https://humboldt.gov/alerts>
 - Best way for emergency personnel to alert you about emergencies, i.e. evacuation
 - Alerts can be sent to landlines, cellphones (call or text), and email (personal info is confidential)
 - Redundancy is a good thing. Inputting all 3 into the system will ensure you get the message.
 - More efficient than emergency personnel knocking on doors
 - It is geographically targeted, meaning you will only receive alerts relevant to your geographic area
 - System can hold multiple addresses under one account (ex. home, office, child's school)
 - Can be used as a resource for fire dept. to notify community (contact OES directly)
- Household preparedness: in Humboldt we need to plan for at least 2 weeks food/water, have a reunification plan with family in case of downed communication
- Two-tiered evacuation:
 - Voluntary Advisory: Danger is close-by, be prepared to evacuate; leave now if you have pets/livestock, small children, one way in/out from your location
 - Mandatory Evacuation: Danger is imminent, leave immediately
- Tonight's mapping exercise: OES wants to know where one way in/out roads are, potential evacuation shelter sites, interest in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

What's on your mind?

- Living with Wildfire available online: County, Cal FIRE <http://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/59108>
- Definition of wildfire?
- Who is Cal FIRE? (see LWW)
- Green reflective signs can be purchased from hardware store

- What materials do we need to harden our homes? Would hardware store know?
- Local fuel clearance ordinances?
 - County/CSDs
 - vegetation abatement/defensible space inspections
- cedar shake roofing or siding
- biomass utilization to address fuels chippers
- balance fuel reduction with wildlife habitat and environmental concerns especially in riparian zones
- flammable/toxic chemicals stored in homes
 - fire dpt. always approaches with caution/acknowledge possibility of presence
 - good idea to warn fire dpt.
- Humboldt Alert sent out to specific geographic area with evacuation info tailored to disaster
- Can creeks be used as fire water?
 - highly dependent (speed, access, environmental protection)
 - a reservoir or tank more reliable (see LWW 31)
- How to notify fire dpt. of water resources on my property? inspection?
 - Blue dot (on tank, end of driveway)
 - flush tanks in rainy season to remove silt
 - call fire dpt. directly
- Adequate tank size?
 - 2500 gallons at least (required by law if not connected to community system)
- Fire-resistant landscaping (see pg 28 LWW)
- Disconnect vegetation; reduce horizontal and vertical continuity; clean up leaf litter
 - 30 feet of defensible space means manicured, not denuded
- Pre-determined evacuation safe zones in Arcata?
 - No, but working on identifying today!
 - depends on disaster
- Communication system fragile; alternative means?
 - radio: NOAA radio, local radio (KHSU has federal funding for emergency communications)
 - sirens: no funding from county to maintain
 - Have a plan in place and reduce need to make calls
- Access to Humboldt Alert in places you don't live?
 - You can register multiple addresses to one account

Mapping Exercise

1. During the mapping exercise, participants worked together in groups according to neighborhood/community (Arcata/Bayside/Jacoby Creek, Fieldbrook/McKinleyville, Blue Lake, Elk River, Indianola, Manila/Samoa, Eureka) to add new information and to update information collected during previous CWPP workshops.

Information to update/add includes:

- Values/Assets at Risk
- Hazards
- Protection Capabilities
- Potential Projects

Participants were asked to identify potential projects by answering the question: What projects would you like to see implemented in your community and Planning Unit over the next 5 years?

2. Once the maps had been updated, participants were then invited to vote for the projects they'd most like to see completed by prioritizing those most realistic or important to implement.
3. After the votes were tallied, each group reported out on their group's priorities.
4. The following table shows the results of the prioritization exercise

(*Note: not all neighborhoods had community representatives present to vote):

Top Project from Participating Neighborhoods/Communities				
Group	Votes	Project ID	Project Description	Project Type
Arcata/Bayside/ Jacoby Creek	9	BAY032	Fickle Hill shaded fuelbreak	Landscape
Fieldbrook/McKinleyville	9	New	Address signage: Murray Rd Area; David, Lisby, Arthur, Elizabeth Roads; Park Ave; Lime; A-B-1st	Signage
Blue Lake	4	BLU057	Liscomb Hill Rd off Glendale Dr, E of Glendale - defensible space, improve access	Defensible Space; Access
Eureka	4	EUR047	Elk River Court bridge - fix/ engineer (Access)	Access

Wrap up and next steps

Thank you for your participation and input! Information gathered this evening will be reviewed, refined, identified, prioritized, and reflected in the Humboldt Bay Planning Unit Action Plan and will inform the broader focus of the Humboldt County Wildfire Protection Plan.

Project Details: Summary Table and Web GIS

The table below summarizes all of the proposed projects yet to be completed (identified during previous workshops), as well as new or revised projects identified during this workshop.

Visit Humboldt County’s GIS portal to view an interactive map with more detailed information on completed and proposed projects; community-identified hazards, values/assets at risk, and protection capabilities; fire history, severity, and much more: https://webgis.co.humboldt.ca.us/HCEGIS2.4_CWPP. To easily view a specific project, enter the Project ID number into the Search Tool in the top left corner of the webpage.

A Web GIS User Guide is available here: <https://humboldt.gov.org/DocumentCenter/View/56189>.

Group	Votes	Project ID	Project Description	Project Location	Project Type
Arcata/ Bayside/ Jacoby Creek	8	ARC035	Sunnybrae shaded fuel break & protection zone	perimeter of forest Sunnybrae to Fickle Hill Rd	Landscape
	5	ARC037	Woodland Heights shaded fuelbreak	Eastern boundary of Woodland Heights	Landscape
	4	ARC038	Arcata east of Hwy 101, ALL: encourage defensible space	all of Arcata east of Hwy 101	Defensible Space
	1	BAY029	Upper Jacoby Creek water tank network	Upper Jacoby Creek	Other - Water
	9	BAY032	Fickle Hill shaded fuelbreak	Fickle Hill Road	Landscape
	0	BAY033	develop safe zone at old quarry site	Garden Lane and Jacoby Creek Rd.	Landscape
	2	BAY045	Roadside brushing for in- and egress	Roberts Height Ln, off Jacoby Creek Rd	Roadside
	1	BAY046	Pool could be developed as a water site	Roberts Height Ln, off Jacoby Creek Rd	Other - water
	0	BAY047	Good site for the water id blue dot program	Roberts Height Ln	Other - Water
	4	BAY048	Shaded fuel break Jacoby Creek Forest (buffer btw resid. and forest land)	Jacoby Creek Forest	Landscape
	3	BAY049	Need vegetation clearance around existing water tanks (protect H2O source)	Garden Ln, THREE SITES, off Jacoby Creek Rd	Defensible Space
	1	BAY050	Understory clearing along Garden Lane	Garden Ln, off Jacoby Creek Rd	Roadside
	1	BAY052	Understory clearing along Garden Lane	Glory Lane, off Garden Lane	Roadside
	4	BAY053	Clearance along public recreation fire access trail	Mtn Bike Trail, South Quarry Rd off Jacoby Cr Rd	Landscape
	1	BAY054	Understory clearing along Abbey Lane	Abbey Ln, off Jacoby Creek Rd	Roadside
	1	BAY055	Understory clearing along Upper Creek Rd	Upper Creek Rd	Roadside
	2	BLU059	West End/Warren Creek - connect Elizabeth to Cedar Hill, turnouts, planning	West End Rd/Warren Creek Area, W of Blue Lake	
	7	New	shaded fuel break between residences community forest boyton prairie road		
	4	New	clean up dumped vegetation near or behind homes on Diamond Drive/Woodland Court		
Fieldbrook/ McKinleyville	0	FIE039	County Clearance along Fieldbrook Rd	Community of Fieldbrook	Roadside Clearance
	0	FIE040	North Line of Fieldbrook / Van Eck unit; clearing, Shaded fuelbreak	Van Eck Neighborhood	Landscape
	0	FIE041	Shaded fuelbreak between Van Eck / Lindsey Crk & Mather Estates	Van Eck / Lindsey Crk & Mather Estates Neighborhood	Landscape
	0	FIE042	Sawdust Trail - Shaded Fuel Break	Community of Fieldbrook	Roadside Clearance
	0	FIE045	Old Railroad Grade North Clearance	Community of Fieldbrook	Roadside

				Clearance	
	0	FIE046	Rock Pit Quarry - roadside clearing for access/hazard reduction	Rock Pit Rd, north of Fieldbrook	
	0	FIE047	Old Railroad Grade North - roadside clearing for access, defens. space	Old Railroad Grade North. north of Fieldbrook	
	1	FIE051	Essex Gulch - improve access, roadside clearing, and turnouts. Not thru rd.	Hwy 299, Timmons Ln - Essex Ln, W of Glendale	
	0	FIE053	Cloudwood Rd - understory clearance	Cloudwood Rd, E of Fieldbrook	
	0	FIE054	Buckman Tr Ln - understory clearance	Buckman Trail Ln, Murray Rd, W of Fieldbrook	
	0	FIE056	Hughes Way - fuel reduction, 3 hydrants, pump sta, 15000gal tank	Hughes Way, Murray Rd, W of Fieldbrook	
	4	MCK006	Shaded fuel breaks East of town in interface zones - Buffer between	McKinleyville Community	Landscape
	2	MCK008	marking of houses and roads (street names and numbers)	Arthur and Elizabeth Road area	Other - Signage
	14	New	Homeless camps	Mad River Bridge; Hwy 101; Mill Creek Falls; Murray & Central Ave.; Green Diamond Land (Murray Rd.); O & A Street, Mck	
	2	New	Address high fuel levels in Widow White Creek Area		
	4	New	Murray Roadside Clearance		
	5	New	Access Issues: Timons Ranch/Essex Gulch Area		
	9	New	Address signage	Murray Rd Area; David, Lisby, Arthur, Elizabeth Roads; Park Ave; Lime; A-B-1st	
	4	New	Green Belt maintenance MCSD		
Blue Lake	3	BLU050	Clearing Above freeway below Green Hill Rd	Green Hill Rd Neighborhood	Roadside Clearance
	0	BLU051	Clearing of Walking paths	Community of Blue Lake	Other - Trails
	1	BLU052	Liscomb Hill Rd. - 2.5K gal. water source/tank for all area residents	Liscomb Hill Neighborhood	Other - Water
	4	BLU057	Liscomb Hill Neighborhood - defensible space, improve access	Liscomb Hill Rd off Glendale Dr, E of Glendale	
	3	BLU061	Upper Blue Lake Blvd - roadside clearance, WT develop, defen. space	Upper Blue Lake Blvd, Hwy 299, E of Blue Lake	
	1	BLU063	West End Rd. - roadside brush clearing	West End Rd, W of Blue Lake	Other - Water
Elk River	-	EUR037	Pine Hill Ave drafting location @ Martin Slough	Pine Hill neighborhood	Other - Water
	-	EUR047	Elk River Court bridge - fix/ engineer	Elk River Community	Other - Access

	-	EUR049	Fix Headwaters access haul bridge	Headwaters	Other - Access
	-	EUR051	Post address and St signs. Reduce fuels on roads. Improve access, avail H2O	Berta Rd and off shoot roads	
	-	EUR053	Post address and St signs. Reduce fuels on roads. Improve access, avail H2O	Vista Rd and dead-end off shoot roads	
Indianola	-	EUR036	Freshwater Park summer dam	Freshwater Park	Other - Water
	-	EUR056	Single Access, minimal address - rd sign posting - water supply - high fuels	Nghbds N of Myrtle Ave, Ryan-Freshwater Crks	
	-	EUR058	Post address/St signs, reduce fuels, improve acc, avail	Indianola neighborhoods	
	-	EUR060	Post address/St signs, reduce fuels. Improve acc, avail water, paint hydrts	Redmond Rd and off shoots and nghbrd roads	
	-	PAC001	WUI; possible shaded fuel break	Northern boundary PALCO; Freshwater-Kneeland area	Landscape
Manila/Samoa	-	SAM061	Regularly clear fuels in empty lots	W of Lincoln Ave, Fairhaven	
	-	New	Fire breaks E-W		
Eureka	0	EUR036	Freshwater Park summer dam	Freshwater Park	Other - Water
	0	EUR037	Pine Hill Ave drafting location @ Martin Slough	Pine Hill neighborhood	Other - Water
	4	EUR047	Elk River Court bridge - fix/ engineer (Access)	Elk River Community	Other - Access
	3	EUR049	Fix Headwaters access haul bridge (Access)	Headwaters	Other - Access
	1	EUR051	Post address and St signs. Reduce fuels on roads. Improve access, avail H2O	Berta Rd and off shoot roads	
	0	EUR053	Post address and St signs. Reduce fuels on roads. Improve access, avail H2O	Vista Rd and dead-end off shoot roads	
	1	EUR056	Single Access, minimal address - rd sign posting - water supply - high fuels	Nghbds N of Myrtle Ave, Ryan-Freshwater Crks	
	2	EUR058	Post address/St signs, reduce fuels, improve acc, avail	Indianola neighborhoods	
	0	EUR060	Post address/St signs, reduce fuels. Improve acc, avail water, paint hydrts	Redmond Rd and off shoots and nghbrd roads	
	1	PAC001	WUI; possible shaded fuel break (Landscape)	Northern boundary PALCO; Freshwater-Kneeland	Landscape
	1	New	Outreach to senior living facilities about wildfire		
	1	New	Auto body shop on Indianola needs defensible space		
	0	New	Roundabout on Freshwater Rd. and Myrtle Ave. for evacuation		
1	New	Fuel break on Humboldt Hill near EUR032			
Suggestion		EUR031	Change boundary to be more inclusive of broader risk or make more precise around area closest to roads/houses; current boundary somewhat arbitrary		