

Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Workshop: Kneeland-Maple Creek Planning Unit

Kneeland Elementary School, October 26, 2017, 5:30-8:00pm

Information Table, Sign-In, and Shared Meal

- 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: 32]

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 Kneeland-Maple Creek 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>
- 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 Countywide Plan
 - Kneeland-Maple Creek Planning Unit includes: Kneeland, Maple Creek, and all residences in the surrounding area.
- Fire hazard severity: Humboldt county is vulnerable, we have been lucky in recent years, just a matter of time

Message from Kneeland Fire Protection District Board, Betsy Watson

- Call for volunteers. Explained the hesitation surrounding the building of the firehouse due to lack of volunteers.
- Firehouse to be built in two phases, foundation is already built
- No volunteers means no department, local department is in need of volunteers for a range of responsibilities

(not just firefighting)

- [Chief's worst case scenario handout passed around]

Message from Kneeland Firewise Community, Lindsay Green, Secretary of Board

- 2015 Kneeland officially became a Firewise Community
- New website will up in the next few weeks (November)
- Reiterated need for volunteers, encouraged group to volunteer or ask neighbors to volunteer
- 2/3 calls are for medical emergencies
- Hopefully breaking ground on (phase 2 of) firehouse next spring
- 75% of Kneeland Fire District is timber company owned or landowners with >400 acres
- 25% of remaining land almost 100% of ignitions
- Contact Lindsay: board@kneelandfire.org

Message from CAL FIRE, Chris Ramey, 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 Kneeland-Maple Creek 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)
- OES looking for community liaisons who OES can contact within individual communities

What's on Your Mind?

- 75% of land is large ownership yet all or most ignitions come from small ownership
- Fearful of large wildfire conflagrations
- Home in the middle of the forest surrounded by tall trees on neighbor's property
 - Defensible space inspections by CAL FIRE – can help with issues on neighboring property

- Foss Road – gate access issues for evacuation, contact owner’s for access
- Network of water tanks/registry
- Blue dot program/signage
- Fittings for water tanks and wells?
 - 2500 gallons, 2.5” fire thread fitting
 - Contact KFD re: connection (707) 442-3252; board@kneelandfire.org
- Maple Creek VFD disbanded
 - Kneeland VFD long response time to get to that area
- Early warning very important
- Evacuation routes unknown
 - route is dependent on disaster scenario
- One-way in/out driveways a concern
- How high should trees be limbed?
 - At least 10 feet, more if it is on slope
 - vegetation tunnels should be eliminated/kept away from structures
- Kneeland/MC fire season longer than other places in Humboldt
 - no fire stations close by
- Opportunity for grant funding to off-set costs to homeowners
 - need exceeds available funds
- FLASH program: reimbursement for veg reduction by homeowners
- Firewise Community can help secure grant funding
- Storage of BBQ propane tanks?
 - at least 30 ft. from house or inside house
- Effectiveness of spraying water on home before evacuating?
 - depends on conditions
- Plan for livestock evacuation?
 - OES currently looking for suitable locations and available trailers
 - contact OES if you know of a location or available trailer in case of emergency
- Assistance with prescribed fire
 - CAL FIRE; VCCE Lenya Quinn-Davidson
 - Collaborative burning

Mapping Exercise

1. During the mapping exercise, participants worked together in two groups according to neighborhood/community (Kneeland and Maple Creek) 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 table on the following page shows the top five results of the prioritization exercise.

Top 5 Projects		
Votes	Project Description	Project Type
16	Volunteers FPD/Citizen Auxiliary recruiting	Non-geographic
13	Completing the firehouse	Non-geographic
10	Blue Dot participation	Non-geographic
10	Purchase community chipper	Non-geographic
9	Burn day signage & education	Non-geographic

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 Kneeland-Maple Creek 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 on the following page 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>.

Project Type	Votes	Description
Defensible Space Priority Areas	4	Tim Mullen Road
	6	Greenwood Heights Drive
	5	Barry Road
Landscape Level Projects	3	Fire suppression along ridges
	3	SFB HRC/Freshwater-Kneeland Road
	8	Prescribed fire/Oak woodland restoration
Roadside Clearance	4	Foss Rd.
	6	Tim Mullen Rd.
	2	Jack Shaw Rd.
	3	Upper Fickle Hill Rd.
	1	Upper Freshwater Creek along Kneeland Road
	4	Green Rd. – tunnel vegetation
	4	Greenwood Heights Dr. – tunnel vegetation
Other	16	Volunteers FPD/Citizen Auxiliary recruiting
	10	Blue Dot participation
	10	Purchase community chipper
	1	Form CERT team
	6	Address and street signage
	9	Burn day signage & education
	0	Fundraising Committee for FPD
	13	Completing the firehouse
	2	Butler Valley Road – Address active landslide 5-10 minutes south of Butler Valley Ranch

Project ID	Project Description	Project Type
KNE043	Tim Mullen Rd/Foss Rd shaded fuel break	Roadside Clearance
KNE044	ID shaded fuelbreak in upper Freshwater area + fuel reduction	Landscape
KNE047	Greenwood Hts Dr./Freshwater Rd: defensible space, road buffers, access, clearance	Defensible Space/Roadside Clearance
KNE056	Clear brush and mow grass along roads (buffers), people's driveways, homes	Defensible Space/Roadside Clearance
PAC001	WUI; possible shaded fuelbreak	Landscape
PAC002	Fire Suppression Ridges on Humboldt Redwood Co. Property; targeted for additional treatment	Landscape
BAY028	Water tanks at Kneeland Rd & Butler Valley Rd; 20-30k gal	Other - Water
BAY029	Upper Jacoby Creek: water tank network	Other - Water
BAY030	Fickle Hill shaded fuelbreak	Landscape