

# Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Workshop: Lower Eel-Van Duzen Planning Unit

Fortuna Fire Hall, November 27, 5:00-8:00 pm

## 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](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](https://webgis.co.humboldt.ca.us/HCEGIS2.4_CWPP)).

[Signed in: 47]

## 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 Lower Eel-Van Duzen 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.
- Special thanks to the Fortuna Fire Department for providing a venue and dinner for all participants.

### Show of hands, affiliation:

- 10+ Fire Department
- 1 Timber
- 2 Firewise

[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 Countywide Plan
  - Lower Eel-Van Duzen Planning Unit includes: Carlotta, Ferndale, Fortuna, Hydesville, Loleta, Rio Dell, Scotia, Stafford, Table Bluff, 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

### Local Fire Service Update

- Numerous departments that serve the Eel unit, mostly volunteers provide fire protection and medical response
- Statistics: 23,000 hours volunteer time in 2016 → 1,000 incidents, 9,000 training, 2,000 fundraising, 2,000 maintenance
- Departments assisted with Measure Z funding hoses, equipment, dispatch
- Need volunteers: not just firefighters i.e. bookkeeping, fundraising, janitorial
- Post your address signs; 51% medical 12% vehicle collision → need address to find home
- Locked gates and narrow roads due to brush hinder fire response
- Defensible space, lack of reduces chance of saving a home
- Always appreciate donations
- Introductions: Rio Dell, Ferndale, Hydesville , Humboldt Bay → consensus need more volunteers

### Message from CAL FIRE, Jason Butcher, SRA Forester

[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 this area 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)
- CERT training upcoming in February at the Fortuna Fire Station, Fortuna hosts a CERT team

### What's on your mind?

- Funding for road maintenance?
  - There is federal funding. For some projects, it is just a matter of time before they are completed.
  - Suggestion: Add your proposed project during the Mapping Exercise
- Evacuation route for Pine Crest (one-way in/out)

- Leave early!
- Roadside clearing could help facilitate a speedy evacuation
- Suggestion: Add your road to map if it is need of roadside clearing
- HWY 101 Evacuation?
  - contact Cal Trans about problem areas
- Other Evacuation
  - maintain defensible space
  - have power tools at home to open evacuation route in case of downed tree
  - identify safe zones to shelter in place
  - look for info from Humboldt Alert (i.e. which route to take)
- Master list of deeded access/easement? County records inaccurately list house location
  - important to have visible signage (green, reflective) to aid emergency personnel in finding your house
- I have a locked gate. Communicate with fire department? Cal FIRE?
  - Contact departments: code can be stored by dispatch
  - Consider buying a Knox Box to store the key and provide code to departments
  - Dummy lock the gate (always or during red-flag days)
  - leave open if you have fire water
- Water resources on my property. Notify fire dpt./Cal FIRE?
  - Yes, contact directly.
  - Use blue reflective dot to identify on tank and bottom of driveway.
- How to improve water availability?
  - water tanks, bladders, pond
  - have proper connection to tank/bladder
  - Water tenders are available but having pond improves defense capabilities
- Municipal departments, Cal FIRE have detergent/foam to improve effectiveness of water. Should I add it to my fire water?
  - No. Water tender adds it in as the water leaves the tank.
- Neighboring property with vegetation encroaching
  - Contact owner, legal action potential if non-compliant
  - municipal ownership: communicate issue to city or fire dpt. (depends on zoning)

### Mapping Exercise

1. During the mapping exercise, participants worked together in three groups according to neighborhood/community (Hydesville/Fortuna/Carlotta, Ferndale, and Rio Dell) 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:

**Top 5 Projects (40 Proposed)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project Type</b>
<b>Hydesville</b>	4	New	Fisher Road - Hydesville (Pending project with CCC)	Roadside Clearance
<b>Fortuna</b>	3	PAC007	WUI; fuel treatment buffer between residence and wildland: NE boundary Fortuna/timber lands	Landscape
<b>Fortuna</b>	3	PAC011	Install address and Rd signs. Public education and outreach: Tompkins Hill Rd, Fortuna	Access
<b>Fortuna</b>	3	PAC013	Install address and Rd signs. Public education and outreach: Mill St (single access), Fortuna	Access
<b>Rio Dell</b>	3	RIO083	Widen Redwood Avenue & improve bridge crossing for fire truck access	Landscape

**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 Lower Eel-Van Duzen 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](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	Feature Type	Project Description	Project Type
Hydesville/ Fortuna/ Carlotta	-	BRD020	Project	fuel reduction along State Highway 36 east to Trinity CO line	Roadside Clearance
	-	BRD029	Project	fuel reduction in Grizzly Creek Campgrounds/CA State Park	Landscape
	-	BRD031	Project	Redwood House Road fuel reduction	Landscape
	-	BRD035	Project	fuel reduction along H-Line (old PL haul road)	Roadside Clearance
	-	BRD038	Project	fuel reduction at Swimmer's Delight/ Van Duzen Park	Landscape
	-	BRD076	Project	Cummings Creek Rd fuel reduction	Landscape
	-	BRD078	Project	Fox Creek Road fuel reduction	Landscape
	-	BRD082	Project	Church Lane Fuels Reduction - Carlotta - Private road (Church Ln)	Landscape/Defensible Space
	-	BRD089	Project	Roadside Shaded Canopy. 50 ft each side of Fox Creek Rd. for 2 miles	Roadside Clearance
	-	BRD091	Project	Roadside Shaded Canopy. 50 ft each side of Rd. for 1 mile on Cummings Ck	Roadside Clearance
	-	BRD107	Project	Public outreach re defensible space and fire safety	Other - Education
	-	PAC003	Project	Fire Suppression Ridges; some natural break; targeted for add't treatment	Landscape
	3	PAC007	Project	WUI; fuel treatment buffer between residence and wildland	Landscape
	3	PAC011	Project	Install address and Rd signs. Public education and outreach	Other-Access
	2	PAC012	Project	Install address and Rd signs. Public education and outreach	Other-Access
	3	PAC013	Project	Install address and Rd signs. Public education and outreach	Other-Access
	1	PAC014	Project	Shaded fuel break as a buffer between residents and wildlands	Landscape
	2	PAC015	Project	Improve defensible space where needed (evacuation planning)	Defensible Space
	2	RIO101	Project	Public outreach re defensible space and fire safety	Other - Education
	-	New	Project	Ward Road	Roadside Clearance
2	New	Project	Sunny Heights and Hillside Drive	Roadside Clearance	
1	New	Project	Signage for Hookton Cemetery Road	Other - Signage	
1	New	Project	Railroad trestle with overgrown fuel on Eel River Dr./Spring	Defensible Space	

	4	New	Project	Fisher Road - Hydesville (Pending project with CCC)	Roadside Clearance
	-	New	Project	Neighbors need defensible space assistance/outreach	Defensible Space
		New	Value/Asset	LDS Church (1444 Ross Hill) potential shelter and vacant acreage adjacent	Other-Evacuation
	1	New	Value/Asset	Golf Course (Redwood Empire) potential shelter with kitchen facilities	Other-Evacuation
	2	New	Value/Asset	Miranda's Rescue: potential animal shelter	Other-Evacuation
	1	New	Value/Asset	Large animal evacuation education: Ferndale Fairgrounds (County OES)	Other-Evacuation
	-	New	Value/Asset	Potential evacuation site: Casion/Tribal Conference Center	Other-Evacuation
	2	New	Other	Neighborhood Evacuation Preparedness Block parties	
	2	New	Other	Develop senior/disabled evacuation and fuel reduction assistance program	
	1	New	Other	Outreach to evacuation centers	
	1	New	Other	Homeless camp mitigation/mapping project	
	-	New	Other	Add Shadowbrook Subdivision as finished structures to map	
<b>Ferndale</b>	2	FER050	Project	Rdside veg mgmt, Public outreach re defensible space, evac plan	Roadside Clearance & Edu
	-	FER051	Project	Public outreach re defensible space and address signage	Other - Education
<b>Rio Dell</b>	-	RIO076	Project	Improve Price Creek Community Water Source (poss BlueDot pgm)	Other - Water
	-	RIO077	Project	Improve Pepper Tree Lane area Water Source (poss BlueDot pgm)	Other - Water
	3	RIO083	Project	widen Redwood Avenue & improve bridge crossing for fire truck access	Other - Rd. Access
	-	RIO095	Project	Veg Mgmt along road, prioritize County roadside clearing	Roadside clearance
	1	RIO099	Project	Educ outreach re defens space, rdside fuel brk, impr signage, water avail.	
	-	RIO100	Project	Public outreach re defensible space, fire safety, evac planning	Other - Education
	2	New	Project	Roadside Clearing near intersection of Dinsmore Ranch Rd. and Monument Rd.	Roadside clearance
2	New	Project	Dinsmore Ranch subdivision/plateau: improve water, signage, defensible space, and road access	Other - Multiple	