

Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Workshop: Mad Van Duzen Planning Unit

Bridgeville Elementary School, November 30, 2017, 5:30-8:30 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) (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: 41, Head count: 63 adults, 11 children]

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 Mad 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 Bridgeville Fire Department and the Community Center for coordinating the use of the venue.
- Special thanks to Bridgeville United and St. Joseph's Hospital for making it possible to provide dinner.

Show of hands, affiliation:

- 7 local fire
- 6 Bridgeville United
- 4 Community Center

Show of hands, outreach:

- 2 radio
- 3 newspaper
- 3 word of mouth
- 12+ Community Center newsletter

[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; Assess 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
 - Mad Van Duzen Planning Unit Action Plan includes: Dinsmore, Bridgeville, and Blocksburg, and all other

neighborhoods in the surrounding area

- Bridgeville Firewise Action Plan covers a smaller area within the area covered by the CWPP Unit Action Plan
 - Bridgeville received recognition as a Firewise Community in 2010
- FLASH program funding available (partial reimbursement for fuel reduction by landowners), 2 people present have participated [FLASH flyer handed out]
- [CFIP, NRCS funding program handout passed around]
- Fire hazard severity: Humboldt county is vulnerable, we have been lucky in recent years, just a matter of time

Van Duzen Watershed (VDW) Fire Safe Council Update, Cybelle relayed a message from Jean Louis Carmona, VDW and Humboldt County FSC member

- FSC: volunteer organization with individuals who share common interest in wildfire prevention → takes different forms in different communities
- VDW FSC (est. 2005) is housed under the Community Center; implements FLASH program (147 acres since 2010); works to support creation of defensible space; miles of roadside clearing completed; public outreach such as tabling at Bridgefest
- Thank you to Jean Louis for his many years of service (huge round of applause!); he is phasing out and we are looking for a new liaison/champion(s) [interest sign-up sheet passed around]
- Firewise Community needs to complete one project from action plan per year to maintain Firewise status; very active FSC has completed tons of projects; need new leader [interest sign-up sheet passed around]

Message from Ben Fleek, Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Chief (Local fire service update)

- All-volunteer fire department
- 119 calls last year: 38 vehicle, 53 medical
- Multiple all-day trainings this week!
- Measure Z in Bridgeville: funded fire engine, equipment, dispatch fees
- Need volunteers (more than just firefighting): traffic control, bookkeeping, fundraising...
- Post your address, mile marker very helpful → cell service very spotty
- Mark water tanks (blue dot)
- Maintain defensible space around your home, clear driveways of brush for firetrucks
- Monetary donations always appreciated

Message from CAL FIRE, Jason Butcher

[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
- Having a chainsaw as part of your go-kit not a bad idea to clear evacuation route
- 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 community 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?

- Neighboring properties with poorly managed vegetation. Recourse options?
 - Contact neighbor directly
 - FLASH program (half acre minimum)
 - CAL FIRE Inspection
 - Legal recourse if there is a structure on that property (landowner responsible for 100 ft. of defensible space)
 - Coordinate through local FSC (Neighbors helping Neighbors)
- Maximum distance of firetruck to water source?
 - Tank: depends on water pressure
 - Pond: Don't necessarily need to use firetruck, small portable pumps are available. Cleaner water, pumps faster.
- Vegetation management can be cost prohibitive. Options?
 - FLASH program (though tree work limited)
- How to communicate with fire department/CAL FIRE re: gate code/lock?
 - Contact directly; code can be stored by dispatch (if dispatch receives a call from phone associated with your address, code will pop up)
 - Knox Box
- When do CAL FIRE inspections take place?
 - Usually in Spring but special arrangements can be made any time, contact CAL FIRE directly
- Major ongoing roadwork on Hwy 36 with one-way controlled traffic. What happens in the case of an evacuation?
 - CAL FIRE is in constant contact with Cal Trans to coordinate in the case of emergency. Emergency response provisions are built into the Cal Trans contract.
- Measure S (marijuana) money for local fire?
 - Allocation has not yet been decided
 - Suggestion: FSC and/or Bridgeville United write a letter to Board of Supervisors urging funding for fire protection
- Bridgeville needs a water tender.
- Reminder: Add blue dot to water tanks, notify local fire/CAL FIRE

Mapping Exercise

1. During the mapping exercise, participants worked together in three groups according to neighborhood/community (Larabee/Dinsmore, Bridgeville/Grizzly Creek, and Blocksburg) 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 (35 Total Proposed)				
Votes	Project ID	Status	Project Description	Project Type
4	BRD067	Treated	Revisit, thinning/chipping in Bridgeville town	Defensible Space
3	BRD22a	Treated	Revisit, 10 years + since treatment; Roadside demo in Golden Gate Subdivision	Roadside Clearance
3	BRD023	Proposed	fuel reduction along Swains Flat & Hwy 36	Landscape
2	-	New	Landscape fuel break around Golden Gate Subdivision	Landscape
2	-	New	Outreach to Sierra Pacific re: fuel break around Swain's Flat Community	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 Mad 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 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/DocumentCenter/View/56189>.

Group	Votes	Project ID	Project Description	Project Type
Larabee/ Dinsmore		BRD034	fuel reduction at Weekender 46204 ST Hwy 36	Landscape
		BRD020	Along State Highway 36 east to Trinity CO line	Roadside Clearance
	1	BRD063	Hwy 36 fuel break - Hwy 36 mile post 26 to 33.5. Work with CalTrans	Roadside Clearance
		BRD066	McClellan Mountain Rd- shaded fuel break -Part of Clear Roads Project. Road	Roadside Clearance
		BRD068	Barnum Timber subdivision; clear along road - 5 mile Roadside Shaded Canopy	Roadside Clearance
		BRD080	fuel reduction starting of Hwy 36 and beginning of McClellan Mtn. Rd	Roadside Clearance
		BRD087	Kergisen Lake Rd. Fuels Reduction - Roadside Shaded Canopy. 50 ft. each side	Roadside Clearance
		BRD090	Burr Valley Rd/Tree Farm Ln. Fuels Reduction - Roadside Canopy. 50 ft.	Roadside Clearance
		BRD105	USFS 1N10 Rd; Alderpoint Rd 15 mi. ea.	Roadside Clearance
Blocksburg		ALD035	Brushing Around Historic Buildings in Blocksburg	Defensible Space
		ALD036	Fuel Break around Casterlin School	Defensible Space
		ALD028	Fuel Break on Alderpoint Road in brushy or forested sections	Roadside Clearance
	1	ALD033	Fuel Break on Larabee Creek Ranch / Sunset Ridge Road	Roadside Clearance
	1	ALD034	Fuel Break on Larabee Creek Ranch / Homestead Road	Roadside Clearance
	1	ALD1006	Ridgetop Lost Flat Ranch; From Alderpoint Rd approx. 15.0 mi. west	Landscape
		ALD1007	Ridgetop Lost Flat Ranch; From Alderpoint Rd approx. 15.0 mi. west	Landscape
		ALD1009	Glass; Alderpoint Rd 15 mi. ea.	Landscape
Bridgeville/ Grizzly Creek	3	BRD023	fuel reduction along Swains Flat & Hwy 36	Landscape
		BRD029	fuel reduction in Grizzly Creek Campgrounds/CA State Park	Landscape
		BRD031	Redwood House Road fuel reduction	Roadside Clearance
		BRD036	fuel reduction at Carlotta Pump Site near 14535 ST Hwy 36	Landscape
		BRD038	fuel reduction at Swimmer's Delight/ Van Duzen Park	Landscape
	1	PAC003	Fire Suppression Ridges; some natural break; targeted for add't treatment	Landscape
		BRD020	fuel reduction along State Highway 36 east to Trinity CO line	Roadside Clearance
	1	BRD026	Fuel reduction at hairpin turn at bottom of grade	Roadside Clearance
		BRD035	fuel reduction along H-Line (old PL haul road)	Roadside Clearance
	1	BRD063	Hwy 36 fuel break - Hwy 36 mile post 26 to 33.5. Work with CalTrans	Roadside Clearance
		BRD064	Alderpoint Road shaded fuel break - Roadside Shaded Canopy. 50 ft. each side	Roadside Clearance
	1	BRD065	Upper Little Larrabee Rd (Private road), shaded fuel break - .5 Miles	Roadside Clearance
		BRD082	Church Lane Fuels Reduction - Carlotta - Private road (Church Ln)	Roadside Clearance
	BRD086	Roadside Shaded Canopy. 50 ft. each side Upper Little Larabee Rd & Hwy 36	Roadside Clearance	
New/Revised	3	BRD22a	Revisit, 10 years + since treatment; Roadside demo in Golden Gate Subdivision	Roadside Clearance
	2	-	Landscape fuel break around Golden Gate Subdivision	Landscape
	4	BRD067	Revisit, thinning/chipping in Bridgeville town	Defensible Space
	2	-	Outreach to Sierra Pacific re: fuel break around Swain's Flat Community	Landscape