

# Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Workshop: Mattole Lost Coast Planning Unit

Mattole Grange, 11.28.17 4:00-7:30pm

## Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council Meeting

### 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: 34]

### 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 Mattole Lost Coast 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 Lower Mattole FSC and Mattole Restoration Council for coordinating the use of the venue and for providing food for all participants.

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

### Two-part Agenda:

- **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 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
  - Mattole Lost Coast Fire Planning Unit Action Plan focuses on the communities located in the lower Mattole watershed.
  - Lower Mattole CWPP more local level of detail for the same area.
  - Firewise Communities are smaller groups within the larger Fire Safe Council area – Petrolia and Honeydew have both received recognition as Firewise Communities. (2011)
- FLASH program funding available (partial reimbursement for fuel reduction by landowners) [FLASH flyer handed out]; MRC FLASH 242 acres

- [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

**Message from Ali Freedlund, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council/Mattole Restoration Council**

- 242 acres of fuels reduction through FLASH (Fire adapted landscapes and Safe Homes program)
- Looking to increase participation, invited all in attendance to become part of LMFSC

**Message from Ian Sigman, Local Fire Service Update**

- All volunteer fire departments: Petrolia and Honeydew
- Measure Z has provided funding for equipment, fire engines, and dispatching fees as well as fire station kits and associated permitting
- Need volunteers, not just for firefighting (bookkeeping, admin, fundraising...)
- Post address and road signs
- Please mark water tanks with blue, reflective dot and notify fire dpt.
- Maintain defensible space around home, clear driveways
- Donate financial support, if you can

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

[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?**

- HVFC Panther Gap satellite station

- PVFD redistricting?
  - deferred
- Communication redundancy: HAM radios (PVFD, HVFC), CBs for local communications/networks
- CERT trainings locally → set up teams?
- Communications x3: local exchange, cell, 101 link
- Local VFDs test communications with command center/dispatch
  - Petrolia fire phone
- PVFD repeater – land line → Chambers Road, if bridge washes out repeater will go down
- A.W. Park campfires in Summer → needs: fire response system, fire hoses, stored water
- Honeydew Creek campground, BLM same as above
- Need for hydrants around community with proper connections for fire hoses
- What if you can't evacuate?
  - Try to determine where the fire is coming from and find a safe zone; sometimes your house is the safe zone → escape into the black once fire front has passed
- Need BLM participation in LMFSC meetings; huge piles on Prosper ridge from brush clearing have been there so long, they are now considered a hazard
- Water storage: minimum 2500 gallons, ideally 10k+; pond provides easy access for pump is less than a 4 foot lift
- County roads in very poor condition (potholes, slides)
- Anecdote of vehicles turning off during evacuation due to air sensors: true?
- How much water storage for schools?
- Sheriff's Office currently working on an evacuation plan; assesses info on structures/density
- Cannabis funds for firefighting?
- County assessment of water tanks → disincentive

### Mapping Exercise

1. During the mapping exercise, participants worked together in a group 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 4 Projects (46 Total Proposed)				
Group	Votes	Project ID	Project Description	Project Type
Petrolia	9	PET065	Chambers Rd Eucalyptus Grove Forest Cleanup and roadside clearing	Roadside Clearance
Petrolia	8	New	Chambers Road bridge repair for PVFD repeater	Infrastructure
Petrolia	9	New	System of ridgetop fuel breaks/prescribed burns	Landscape
Honeydew	9	New	Water tank at Honeydew School	Water

## **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 Mattole Lost Coast 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	Project Description	Project Location	Project Type
Petrolia	1	PAC005	Fire Suppression Ridges; some natural break; targeted for add't treatment	01S 01W sec 18; Rainbow Ranch Rd to 02S 01E sec 17	Landscape
	3	PET046	Mill Creek / Mathews Ranch Road Shaded Fuel Break 0 Evacuation route	Mill Creek Rd Prosper Ridge Community and Mill C*	Roadside Clearance
	completed	PET048	Strawberry Rock / BLM mastication	Strawberry Rock - Prosper Ridge Community	Landscape
	2	PET049	Demonstration / Pilot Project - Fuel reduction demonstration at dump	lower Mattole community	Landscape
	0	PET058	Mill Creek / Mathews Ranch Road Shaded Fuel Break 0 Evacuation route	Mill Creek Rd Prosper Ridge Community and Mill C*	Roadside Clearance
	6	PET061	Green Fir / Squaw Creek Broom Clearance	Green Fir Rd	Roadside Clearance
	0	PET062	Shaded Fuel Break Boots Canyon Rd - bottom - Conklin Crk Rd to Fig Tree Rd	Conklin Crk Rd to Fig Tree Rd (Boots Canyon Rd)	Roadside Treatment
	3	PET062a	Boots Canyon Road to Conklin Creek Rd	North of Conklin Creek Rd intersection	Landscape
	1	PET062b	Boots Canyon Road to Chambers Rd	Boots Canyon Rd WSW along ridge to Chambers Rd	Landscape
	3	PET064	Downtown Petrolia Fuel break / scotch broom removal - Broadcast Burn	Downtown Petrolia	Landscape
	9	PET065	Eucalyptus Grove Forest Cleanup and other roadside clearing where needed	Chambers Road	Roadside Clearance
	7	PET067	Cooskie Ridge Rd Shaded Fuel Break - Cooskie Ridge Rd Shaded Fuel Break	Cooskie Ridge Rd to top of Green Fir	Roadside Clearance
	0	PET069	ridgetop fuel break	Prosper Ridge	Landscape
	3	PET071	Clear Eucalyptus on Chambers Road - Chambers Road to 0.5 mile post	Petrolia neighborhood, Community Center, and Ele*	Roadside Clearance
	0	PET077	BLM Landscape Ridgetop		Landscape
	3	PET078	Mattole Road at Dump Ridgetop		Landscape
	completed	PET079	PVFD Substation Satellite		Other - Facility
	-	PET080	Rainbow Ridge shaded fuel break	Mattole Fox Camp Rd to PAC005	Landscape (not on map)
	2	PET085	Green Gate Rd Emergency Access Project roadside thin and limb as needed	Mill Ridge Rd South of Mattole River	Roadside Clearance
	0	PET085a	Rubicon Project - thin and limb for emgcy. access (some road work needed)	Prosper Ridge Rd to PET085 across Bear Creek	Roadside Clearance
0	PET086	Ridgetop Rd/Skid Rd fuels break	Mill Ridge Rd north of Prosper Ridge Rd	Landscape	
1	PET087	Pending - ridgetop fuel break	Prosper Ridge	Landscape	
8	New	Chambers Road bridge for PVFD repeater		Other -	

					Infrastructure
	3	New	North fork bridge stabilization		Other - Infrastructure
	7	New	Crane Hill cypress fuel reduction		Landscape
	6	New	Get BLM to burn piles on Prosper Ridge		
	9	New	System of ridgetop fuel breaks/prescribed burns		Landscape
Honeydew	completed	PET045	Triple Junction fire training center	Roscoe Rd	Other - Facility
	6	PET047	Fire house on Panther Gap	Panther Gap Road	Other - Facility
	2	PET050	Fox Springs Road Shaded Fuel Break - Ridgetop Rd.	Fox Springs Rd	Roadside Clearance
	6	PET051	Stansberry Road Shaded Fuel Break	Stansberry Road	Roadside Clearance
	2	PET054	Windy Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break	Windy Ridge Road	Roadside Clearance
	2	PET057	Doreen Drive fuel break	Doreen Drive	Roadside Clearance
	5	PET060	Panther Gap Rd. Bottom fuel break	Panther Gap Rd.	Roadside Clearance
	2	PET063	King Range Rd fuel break	King Range Rd	Roadside Clearance
	7	PET072	Bull Creek Fuel Break		Landscape
	completed	PET073	Bull Creek Fuel Break		Landscape
	3	PET074	Bull Creek Fuel Break		Landscape
	0	PET075	Catheys Peak Rd	Catheys Peak Rd	
	1	PET075	Fisher Rd		
	0	PET076	Landscape end of Doreen Drive to Mattole River		Landscape
	0	PET081	North Catheys Pk - Windy Nip tie, south end of PAC005 (in areas as needed)	sec 17 and 20 Rattlesnake Creek; shaded, fuel	Landscape
	6	New	Increase participation by CA parks and BLM in Mattole FSC		Non-geographic
	0	New	Multi-lingual outreach re: veg mngmt/def. space to Old Hindley Rd neighborhood		Non-geographic
	2	New	Develop strategy to educate seasonal workers		Non-geographic
	9	New	Water tank at Honeydew School		Other - Water