

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

Redway Fire Hall, November 9, 2017, 6:00-8:00pm

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: 50, Head County: 72]

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 Southern Humboldt 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 Redway Fire Department for providing a venue for this workshop.

Show of hands, affiliation:

- 6 fire department
- 2 FSC involved
- 1 Emergency Response Team
- 1 SHEPT
- 1 Media
- 4 residents

[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
- FSC members present: Bill Eastwood HUMFSC, Dave Khan HUMFSC, Aurora Studebaker, Isaac Lake → meet quarterly to go after funding, update plan, etc.
- 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
 - Southern Humboldt Planning Unit includes: Alderpoint, Palo Verde, Harris, Benbow, Garberville, Redway, Briceland, Ettersburg, Shelter Cover, Whitethorn, Whale Gulch, 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
- Preparing your home, defensible space etc. reduce risk of impact from wildfire and increases comfortability with prescribed burning
- Funding programs available to landowners include CFIP, NRCS, and FLASH
- FLASH (Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes program) over 750 acres treated throughout the county; So Hum over 200 acres alone, 60 property owners
- Dave Khan, So Hum FSC member:
 - Dave has worked on defensible space projects for over 30 years with a crew of 3
 - Southern Humboldt FSC member since 2002
 - Fuels, topography, and weather drive wildfire; fuels are the only portion over which we have control
 - Design, construction, and how you live in a home affects its susceptibility in addition to defensible space
 - Plug for Home Survival in Wildfire Prone Areas
- 10 fire departments in So Hum: Shelter Cove, Whitethorn, Sproul Creek, So Hum technical rescue, etc.
 - 25,000 hours of volunteer effort + \$9,000 in fundraising
 - Measure Z has helped to support them but are in need of more volunteers that can help with non-firefighting tasks (admin, traffic control, maintenance, etc.)
 - Would like better address signs, especially important for medical calls
 - Maintain defensible space around your home so firefighters have space/opportunity to protect it
 - Adequate clearance for fire engine also important, i.e. driveways
 - Always in need of monetary donations

Message from CAL FIRE, Chris Ramey, Pre-Fire Planning Battalion Chief

[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
- 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 Southern Humboldt 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://humboldtgov.org/alerts>
 - Personal information will only be used for this purpose and will remain confidential.
 - 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?

- Evacuation: what if you shelter in place during a mandatory evacuation?
 - OES: Not worth the risk. You could potentially endanger firefighters. You may think you'll make it but then end up evacuating in an even more hazardous situation than if you had left early.
 - CAL FIRE: Not recommended.
- Neighbors have overgrown vegetation encroaching on property
 - CAL FIRE: You can request an inspection and CAL FIRE will then attempt to educate neighbor on what is required by law. A citation may be issued after the third failed attempt to inspire action. Local community groups, like FSC may be able help pay to manage neighbor's property
 - What if PGE is the offender? HUM FSC working to reach out to PGE, WC FSC has a relationship with the local PGE folks, PGE is generally responsive to requests
- 911 dispatch has sent firefighters to wrong location a number of times
- Concerned cannabis is causing more fires than is well-known; grows are a public safety risk
- Concerned about the domino effect of disaster after a large earthquake and resulting fires; wants more info disseminated to the public
 - Suggestion: map remote areas of relative safety
- Suggests free use of chippers; special assistance for the elderly
- False names on some roads planted by growers should be removed
- Firetrucks need a PA system with pre-recorded messages about evacuation
- Fire safe road requirements are unrealistic (environmental issues → landslides, 20' clearance, local road governance)
- Funding for prescribed burning/fuel reduction
 - SRA fee cancelled; funding will now come from carbon tax
 - Cost-share programs
 - Community groups (like an FSC) can go after funding, keep tabs on proposed projects
 - Individual property owners improving their own land will improve overall community
- Roads vulnerable; 90% are private and are currently being overused (by growers); proposes cannabis tax money be used for road maintenance; recommended folks call Estelle Fennel and ask her to support

Mapping Exercise

1. During the mapping exercise, participants worked together in eight groups according to neighborhood/community (Redway/Garberville, Palo Verde, Duty/Telegraph, Shelter Cove, Benbow, Briceland, Ft. Seward/Alderpoint, and Whitethorn) 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 (97 Proposed)				
Community	Votes	Project ID	Project Description	Project Type
Dutyville/ Telegraph	10	BRC125	Fuel Break along China Creek and Blueslide Rds. From Briceland Thorn Rd.	Roadside Clearance
Redway/ Garberville	8	New	County should be more proactive in abatement of abandoned vehicles (which are often burned)	Non-geographic
Redway/ Garberville	7	New	Ettersburg School Fire Station	Other
Redway/ Garberville	7	New	Enforce against homeless camp fires	Non-geographic
Briceland	7	BRC188	Fuelbreak along Briceland Thorn Rd. from Redway to Whitethorn Junction (evacuation route)	Roadside Clearance

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 Southern Humboldt 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>.

Group	Votes	Project ID	Project Description	Project Type
Palo Verde	0	ALD028	Fuel Break on Alderpoint Road in brushy or forested sections	Roadside Clearance
	0	ALD029	Fuel Break on Old Harris Road	Roadside Clearance
	1	PV054	Bell Springs Rd (Alderpoint to 101in Mendocino County) Shaded fuel break	Roadside Clearance
	5	PV056	Controlled Burns at Lauffer Ranch	Landscape
	0	PV057	Island Mountain Rd (upper) fuel break	Roadside Clearance
	0	PV059	Additional Water Tanks	Other - Water
	1	PV061	Miller Ranch Road Shaded Fuel Break	Roadside Clearance
	0	PV074	Additional Water Tanks	Other - Water
	0	PV075	Additional Water Tanks - Have 6000k in water tanks but need more	Other - Water
	0	PV076	Additional Water Tanks	Other - Water
	2	New/Unassigned	Dugans Mill fuel break along road	Roadside Clearance
	0	New/Unassigned	Need more mapping of safety zones	Other
Duty/ Telegraph	10	BRC125	Fuel Break along China Creek and Blueslide Rds. From Briceland Thorn Rd.	Roadside Clearance
	6	BRC133	China Creek Road/Blueslide Road Fuelbreak - Ties in with top segment of	Roadside Clearance
	completed	BRC157	Shaded fuel break along Crooked Prairie Road	Roadside Clearance
	3	BRC158	West Fork Road - fuel break	Roadside Clearance
	completed	BRC159	Black Forest (East Fork) fuel break	
	5	BRC185	Fuelbreak along Ettersburg Rd. from Dutyville Rd. intersection	Roadside Clearance
	6	BRC186	Fuelbreak from Ettersburg Rd. up Dutyville Rd. to driveway of last res	Roadside Clearance
	5	BRC188	Fuelbreak along Briceland Thorn Rd. from Redway to Whitethorn Junction	Roadside Clearance
	5	BRC190	Shaded fuel break along Huckleberry Lane/Goodman Ranch Rd.	Roadside Clearance
	2	BRC192	Work with Barnum timber to create a shaded fuel break along Gibson Ridge	Roadside Clearance
	5	PET063	King Range Rd fuel break	Roadside Clearance
2	SC044	Paradise Ridge/Queenmine Rd. (BLM) proposed fuelbreak	Roadside Clearance	
Sheltercove	0	SC039	Fuel reduction - Clear Roads, In Telegraph Creek "The Zoo"	DefSpaceRoadsideCl
	0	SC040	Fuel reduction - Clear Road, Blue Ridge	Roadside Clearance
	0	SC041	Fuel reduction - Clear Road, Shaller Rd Area	Roadside Clearance
	0	SC044	Paradise Ridge/Queenmine Rd. (BLM) proposed fuelbreak	Roadside Clearance
	3	SC045	Fuelbreak from Whitethorn Junction on Briceland Thorn Rd. to Shelter Cove	Roadside Clearance
Benbow (No participants)	-	BEN032	Standpipe on Benbow Campground Bridge (State Park)	Other - Water
	-	BEN033	Shaded Fuel Break on E.B. Ranch / East Blue Rock Rd - Benbow	Landscape
	-	BEN034	Ridge Road Fuel Break - Sproul Creek	Roadside Clearance
	-	BEN035	Fuel Break Oak Rock Rd - Sproul Creek	Roadside Clearance

	-	BEN036	Fuel Break West Moody Rd - Sproul Creek	Roadside Clearance
	-	BEN037	Sproul Creek Road Fuel Break at entrance	Roadside Clearance
	-	BEN038	Fuel reduction on State Park Boundary Nielsen Ranch	landscape
	-	BEN040	Twin Trees Rd Fuel Break - Benbow	Roadside Clearance
	-	BEN042	Upper Half Twin Trees Rd Fuel Break - Benbow	Roadside Clearance
	-	BEN050	Improve Access to Bear Pen Water Site - Benbow	Other - Water
	-	BEN051	Improve Access to Benbow day use water drafting site	Other - Water
	-	BEN053	Fuel Break along Hwy 101	Roadside Clearance
	-	BEN054	Pepperwood Springs Fuel Break - Sproul Creek	Landscape
	-	BEN059	Fuel Break along Reed Mtn Rd from 101 to end	Roadside Clearance
	-	BEN060	Fuel Break along Redrock Rd from 101 to end	Roadside Clearance
	-	BEN061	Fuel Break along East Branch Rd from 101 to rodeo grounds	Roadside Clearance
	-	GAR043	Fuel Break on East Side of Garberville	Landscape
	-	GAR046	Fuel Break Along Alderpoint Drive in Brushy areas - mostly lower side	Roadside Clearance
	-	GAR049	Fuel reduction long Freeway South of Garberville to Benbow	Roadside Clearance
	-	GAR052	Fuel break around Kimtu	Landscape
	-	GAR054	Fuel break along Old Briceland Road	Roadside Clearance
Redway/ Garberville	0	BEN049	Rodeo Grounds - Benbow	
	0	BEN053	Fuel Break along Hwy 101	Roadside Clearance
	0	BEN061	Fuel Break along East Branch Rd from 101 to rodeo grounds	Roadside Clearance
	0	BRC145	Shaded fuel break on Seely / Leggett Ridge	Landscape
	0	BRC188	Fuelbreak along Briceland Thorn Rd. from Redway to Whitethorn Junction	Roadside Clearance
	completed	GAR043	Fuel Break on East Side of Garberville	Landscape
	1	GAR044	Fuel Break on Redwood Drive	Roadside Clearance
	0	GAR045	Fuel Break on East Side of Redway	Landscape
	0	GAR046	Fuel Break Along Alderpoint Drive in Brushy areas - mostly lower side	Roadside Clearance
	0	GAR049	Fuel reduction long Freeway South of Garberville to Benbow	Roadside Clearance
	1	GAR050	Fuel Break from Dean Creek to Garberville on 101	Roadside Clearance
	0	GAR052	Fuel break around Kimtu	Landscape
	0	GAR054	Fuel break along Old Briceland Road	Roadside Clearance
	7	New/Unassigned	Ettersburg School Fire Station	Other
	2	New/Unassigned	Fuel reduction along Sproul Creek Road	Roadside Clearance
8	New/Unassigned	County should be more proactive in abatement of abandoned vehicles (which are often burned)	Non-geographic	
5	New/Unassigned	Enforce against roadside camping/no overnight parking	Non-geographic	

	7	New/Unassigned	Enforce against homeless camp fires	Non-geographic	
	2	New/Unassigned	County roads survey of streets for width/clearance for emergency vehicles	Other	
	1	New/Unassigned	abatement of marijuana grows in residential areas	Non-geographic	
Briceland	0	BRC125	Fuel Break along China Creek and Blueslide Rds. From Briceland Thorn Rd.	Roadside Clearance	
	4	BRC127	Upper Miller Creek Rd fuel break	Roadside Clearance	
	0	BRC128	CSD Road Mowing Project	Roadside Clearance	
	1	BRC129	Ferrin Road fuel break	Roadside Clearance	
	2	BRC130	Ferrin / Elk Ridge Fuel Reduction	Landscape	
	1	BRC131	Buck Gulch fuel reduction	Landscape	
	0	BRC133	China Creek Road/Blueslide Road Fuelbreak - Ties in with top segment of	Roadside Clearance	
	0	BRC145	Shaded fuel break on Seely / Leggett Ridge	Landscape	
	3	BRC147	Lower Shop Road Fuel reduction	Roadside Clearance	
	1	BRC157	Shaded fuel break along Crooked Prairie Road	Roadside Clearance	
	0	BRC158	West Fork Road - fuel break	Roadside Clearance	
	0	BRC159	Black Forest (East Fork) fuel break		
	2	BRC187	Fuelbreak on Seeley Creek Road from Briceland Thorne to where clearing	Roadside Clearance	
	7	BRC188	Fuelbreak along Briceland Thorn Rd. from Redway to Whitethorn Junction	Roadside Clearance	
	completed	BRC191	Blueslide/Miller Creek Fuelbreak Connection (mainly a stream crossing	Roadside Clearance	
	0	BRC192	Work with Barnum timber to create a shaded fuel break along Gibson Ridge	Roadside Clearance	
	3	GAR054	Fuel break along Old Briceland Road	Roadside Clearance	
	Ft. Seward/ Alderpoint	1	ALD028	Fuel Break on Alderpoint Road in brushy or forested sections	Roadside Clearance
		0	ALD030	Fuel Break on Rancho Sequoia Drive	Roadside Clearance
1		ALD036	Fuel Break around Casterlin School	Defensible Space	
1		New/Unassigned	Road maintenance all of Alder Point Road	Other - Road Maintenance	
1		New/Unassigned	Shaded fuelbreak either side of bridge over Eel River (at least 50 ft.)	Defensible Space	
0		New/Unassigned	Brushing around Alderpoint pumphouse	Defensible Space	
Whitethorn	1	BRC190	Shaded fuel break along Huckleberry Lane/Goodman Ranch Rd.	Roadside Clearance	
	1	BRC192	Work with Barnum timber to create a shaded fuel break along Gibson Ridge	Roadside Clearance	
	1	BRC193	3.3 miles shaded fuel break 40 ft either side of Chemise Mountain Rd.	Roadside Clearance	
	3	New/Unassigned	Roadside clearance fuel break from Baker Creek to Whitethorn Junction and Baker Creek to Four Corners	Roadside Clearance	