

Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Workshop: Avenue of the Giants Planning Unit CWPP Meeting

South Fork High School, November 6, 2017, 5:00-8:00pm

Info 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: 26]

Welcome and Introduction 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 Avenue of the Giants 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 Fruitland Ridge Volunteer Fire Department for coordinating the use of the venue and providing dinner to participants.

Show of hands, affiliation:

- 1 retired Miranda VFD
- 8 residents
- 2 Sheriff's Office (deputies)
- 1 So Hum FSC
- 4 CAL FIRE

[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
 - Avenue of the Giants Planning Unit includes: Miranda, Myers Flat, Fruitland Ridge, Weott, Redcrest, Salmon Creek, Shively, and Humboldt Redwoods State Park areas
- Fire hazard severity: Humboldt county is vulnerable, we have been lucky in recent years, just a matter of time

Message from Dave Khan, So Hum FSC member

- Fuels, weather, and topography drive wildfire; fuel is the only thing we can control to prepare for eventuality of wildfire
- Manages a crew working on defensible space, shaded fuel breaks
- FLASH program: a reimbursement incentive program for landowners to reduce fuel loads on their property; FLASH technician evaluates your home (Home risk assessment) and helps you make a plan to manage the fuels (hire a crew, do the work yourself) and the work is reimbursed a certain \$ per acre; County FSC manages grant money through CA FSC
- >50% of risk around home is design, construction, materials, how you use your home → embers can jump over vegetation and attack a home (fuels aren't everything)
 - Plug for UC publication, design for a less fire-prone home: <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8393.pdf>
- Cybelle: NRCS also offers assistance for large landowners [handout]

Message from Cybelle, Local Fire Service Update

- Many local VFDs are struggling for volunteers, infrastructure, sustainable funding
- Potential jurisdictional change
- Recruitment the greatest challenge [handed out recruitment brochure]
 - Need volunteers of all kinds (maintenance, admin, firefighting), no experience necessary
- Retaining volunteers can be an issue as well: VFD can be underappreciated and expectations too high
- Some fire services provided by fire district (supported by taxes)
- Community services district can have various powers that may include fire–
- Some fire companies are purely supported by volunteers and donations

Message from CAL FIRE, Jennifer Renner, Pre-Fire Planning Captain 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.org/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, Bryan Lee

- Humboldt Alert: County-wide emergency alert system, <https://humboldt.gov.org/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, plan with family,

reunification 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?

- Difference between FSC vs. Firewise Community?
 - Local FSCs can help communities accomplish projects by going after grants, helping set up prescribed burns, and conducting outreach
 - Firewise communities work on a smaller scale, neighborhood oriented, fine-grained; facilitated by CAL FIRE
- Need a buffer between community and Redwoods State Park
- Fragility of communication system; need more redundancy
- Need regular fire hydrant maintenance
- Outreach re: water tanks, Blue Dot system
 - communicate location with local fire department and mark tank with a reflective blue dot
- Salmon Creek one-way in/out
- Maintain and notify community of designated safe zones
- Last resort options?
 - Harden your home and shelter until fire front passes, escape into black
- One-way out → early evacuation especially important, also helps mitigate traffic
- Narrow clearance along roads; need to improve access for emergency vehicles
- Locked gates – should people share key or code with fire department?
 - Yes! Dispatch can store the code (if dispatch receives a call from phone associated with your address, code will pop up)
 - Knox Box (secure box with combo code)
 - Fire service has ability to force open gate otherwise
- Sudden oak death creating fuels on Salmon Creek Road
- Before/After fuel treatment pamphlet; more outreach
- Improve address/street signage
- Knowing GPS coordinates of home could be useful to fire service in emergency
- How is CAL FIRE coordinating with the State Parks?
 - Collaboration limited
 - Cathey Rd. work upcoming
 - Looking into how to better establish contacts and nail down the process

Mapping Exercise Intro

1. During the mapping exercise, participants worked together in five groups according to neighborhood/community (Pepperwood/Holmes/Redcrest, Salmon Creek, Miranda/Philipsville, Myers Flat/Fruitland Ridge/Eel Rock, Weott) 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 (33 Total Proposed)				
Votes	ID	Status	Description	Project Type
6	MIR050	Proposed	Miranda State Park Fuel Break Buffer	Landscape
5	MIR154	Proposed	Miranda defensible space/Rd. access	Defensible Space
5	MIR140	Proposed	Salmon Creek Rd to Thomas Rd Shaded Fuel Break	Roadside Clearance
4	-	New	Barnum Road fuel treatment	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 Avenue of the Giants 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. 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	ID	Project Type	
Miranda/Phillipsville	6	MIR050	Miranda State Park Fuel Break Buffer	Landscape
	0	MIR051	Old Hodges Rd Fuel Reduction. Yes	Roadside Clearance
	0	MIR152	Phillipsville Defensible Space	Defensible Space
	0	MIR153	Felt Rd understory clearance	Roadside Clearance
	5	MIR154	Miranda defensible space/Rd. access	Defensible Space
	0	MIR155	State Park across from South Fork High School	Landscape
	1	New	Defensible space education - Forest Grove (Madrone, Plymouth)	
	4	New	Barnum Road fuel treatment	
Salmon Creek	5	MIR140	Salmon Creek Rd to Thomas Rd Shaded Fuel Break	Roadside Clearance
	0	MIR141	Upper Thomas Road Shaded Fuel Break	Roadside Clearance
	2	MIR142	Lower Thomas Road Shaded Fuel Break	Roadside Clearance
	1	MIR144	South Boundary Humboldt redwoods State Park / Salmon Creek	Landscape
	2	MIR147	Grenz Lane Shaded fuel break	Roadside Clearance
	0	New	Address Sudden Oak Death fuel build up	
	0	New	Collaborate with Parks to accomplish fuels projects	
	3	New	Public outreach re: Blue Dot for water tanks	
Myers Flat/ Fruitland Ridge	2	New	Create alternate evacuation route out of Salmon Creek Community	
	1	MIR0157	Fruitland Ridge defensible space/Rd. access	Defensible Space
	0	MIR148	Clearance along road to protect access	Roadside Clearance
	1	MIR151	Lower Cathey Rd	Roadside Clearance
	1	MIR159/MIR053	Cathey Rd defensible space/Rd. access	Defensible Space
0	MIR160	Myers Flat defensible space/Rd ad	Defensible Space	

Group	Votes	ID	Project Type	
	1	MIR164	Eel Rock Community defensible space and roadside clearance where needed	Defensible Space/ Roadside Clearance
	0	MIR149	Brush and fuels reduction around campground	Defensible Space
	3	MIR150	Tsarnas Rd - shaded understory	Roadside Clearance
	0	MIR158/MIR029	Dyerville Loop Rd - roadside clearance as needed	Roadside Clearance
	0	MIR163	Myers Flat clearance around water tank	Defensible Space
	1	MIR165	Eel Rock Rd shaded understory roadside clearance as needed	Roadside Clearance
	2	MIR019	Cathey Rd Fuel Hazard	Roadside Clearance
	3	MIR046	Elk Creek Rd Fuel Reduction	Roadside Clearance
	2	MIR049	Tine fuelbreak. Pine plantation, add to Elk Creek Rd Project 046	Roadside Clearance
	0	MIR161	Myers Flat West Rd	Roadside Clearance
	0	MIR162	Fuels reduction above home between Hwys 101 and 254	Defensible Space
	0	New	Fuels reduction on Sequoia Road	
	2	New	Fuels reduction on Frost Lane	
	1	New	Continue fuels reduction on Dyerville out left fork	
Weott (no community members present)	-	MIR138	Madrone Road (Weott) Shaded Fuel Break. 4-5mi, 50ft shade understory clear	Roadside Clearance
	-	MIR139	Williford Road (Weott) Shaded Fuel Break	Roadside Clearance
	-	MIR146	Priority. Defensible Space in/around Weott	Defensible Space
	-	MIR156	Weott defensible space/Rd access	Defensible Space