

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

Orick Fire Hall, November 2, 2017, 6:00-8:00pm

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: 24]

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 Redwood Park 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 Orick Volunteer Fire Department for providing a venue and dinner for all participants.

Show of hands, affiliation:

- 3 fire department
- 5 residents
- 2 community service district

Show of hands, outreach:

- Facebook
- Flyer (Post-Office)
- Fire Chief Jim

[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
 - Redwood Park Planning Unit includes: Orick 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
- Additional goal for tonight: Help identify a community "spark plug" or point-person that can help execute

projects in Orick (i.e. form a Fire Wise Community)

Message from OVFD, Jim Simmons, Fire Chief

- Measure Z funding provided: turnouts head to toe, HAM radios, Hose for both rigs, New truck
- New bay in progress; double bay on north side of existing bay
- Reminded all to clean chimneys and check smoke detectors
- Burn day tomorrow

Message from CAL FIRE, Chris Ramey, Pre-Fire Planning Battalion Chief 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/DocumentCenter/View/59108>
- Introduced other CAL FIRE members Trinidad crew and Captain Josh Smith, Operations Chief (Kurt Dervedde)
- 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 Orick 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?

- Best way to reach out to community?
 - Free food
 - CSD (community services district) advertisements
 - Major events like the Rodeo
- Address signage inadequate
- Water resources: water tender, increase blue dot participation
- Encourage neighbors to improve preparedness on their property
- Access issues persist
- Robinson Road and Bald Hills Road need signs
- Suggestion: sign-making event at Rodeo

- Defensible space on park property especially around Hilton and Old State Hwy
- More inmate crews to perform fuels reduction
- Need more collaboration between park, property owners, and OVFD
- Suggestion: Compile resources/directory of brushing crews
- Increased frequency of dry conditions has increased leaf litter from redwoods
- Many one-way in/out roads
- Need funding for a coordinator to facilitate Firewise, other projects
- Suggestion: Tax incentive for home hardening → contact state leadership
- Need more preemptive firebreaks

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 5 Projects (17 Total Proposed)			
Votes	Project ID	Project Description	Project Type
15	ORI038	Levee vegetation - brushing / burning as needed	Creek Side
10	ORI036	Fix Riverview Road Access - Pvt drive, mitigate stream diversion issues	Access
10	ORI037	Gunst Rd - brush road for access	Roadside Clearance
10	ORI041	Additional Hydrants in the Blocks	Water
7	-	Post more address signs to facilitate emergency response	Access

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 Redwood Park 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	Project ID	Project Description	Project Type
Orick	10	ORI036	Fix Riverview Road Access - Pvt drive, mitigate stream diversion issues	Other - Access
	10	ORI037	Gunst Rd - brush road for access	Roadside Clearance
	15	ORI038	Levee vegetation - brushing / burning as needed	Other - Creek Side
	-	ORI039	Stop burning at Redwood National Park at Bald Hills in Summer	Other - Burning
	complete	ORI040	Remove fence at Haygoods & Elkhorn - Wrk w/Property Owner	Other - Access
	10	ORI041	Additional Hydrants in the Blocks	Other - Water
	5	ORI043	Owl Gulch brushing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Defensible Space/Roadside Clearance
	2	ORI045	Hilton brushing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Defensible Space
	2	ORI047	Gunst Rd neighborhood brushing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Defensible Space
	3	ORI048	Hufford brushing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Landscape
	2	ORI049	Riverview neighborhoods brushing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Defensible Space
	-	ORI050	Foothill neighborhoods brushing (w/ chipper days) - Viewcrest/Foothill	Defensible Space
	3	ORI053	Post more address signs to facilitate emergency response	Other - Access
	2	ORI054	Post more address signs to facilitate emergency response	Other - Access
-	ORI055	Post address signs/encourage defensible space, provide water for fire	Defensible Space/Education	
New	7	-	Post more address signs to facilitate emergency response	Other - Access
	3	-	The Blocks brushing (in conjunction w/ chipper days)	Defensible Space/Roadside Clearance