

# Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Workshop: Upper Yurok Reservation Planning Unit

Weitchpec Tribal Office, December 4, 2017, 4:30-7:00 pm

## 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](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: 17, Head Count: 11]

## 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 Upper Yurok Reservation 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.
- Work to integrate Yurok's Community Health and Wildfire Protection Plan and County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan
  - Added H in CWHPP in recognition of the relationship between the health of landscape and health of people
- Special thanks to the Cultural Fire Management Council for providing a venue and dinner for all participants.

[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]
  - Cultural Burning Management Council featured in LWW
- 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

- Upper Yurok Reservation Planning Unit Action Plan includes: Weitchpec, Wautec, Tulley Creek, McKinnon Hill, Ke'pel, Bald Hill, 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
- Yurok Tribe collaboration a few years ago to create individual CWPP; Upper Yurok Reservation Unit is the upper half of the reservation; yet to be determined if Yurok will do a separate plan or if Unit Action Plan will be sufficient

**Message from Cultural Fire Management Council, Bob McConnell**

(in place of Yurok VFD, none in attendance)

- Three communities
- HWY 169 north to the river (Pecwan): 1/3 to 1/2 of reservation residents
- Tulley Creek growing, infrastructure being developed; housing development (6 houses being built) another development being proposed
- 2 fire houses among all of these communities; 2 fire engines (non-operable; antiquated); third fire engine is operable, type six, fire engine not stored at either fire house
- need a type 1 engine, probably two; need a third fire house because of area's remoteness → ability to respond to house fires is poor; need more firefighters (originally 24, now there are 3-4 with proper qualifications); need radios, PPE, hoses
- Measure Z funding? Didn't get any due to disorganization.; need more or a contact person; money is no longer available at this point (surplus went to roads), one more round
- Mentioned at Chief's meeting: Chiefs are aware
- Fire engine will be donated to Yurok VFD

**Message from Cultural Fire Management Council, Margo Robbins**

- Fire twice a year: one in Spring, one in Fall
- Big one on the SRA unit
- In fifth year of burning
- Looking to increase participation in cultural burning: HSU, neighboring tribes

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

- Pre-fire planning battalion: battalion chief, pre-fire engineer (captain), and self
- Fuel reduction projects, prescribed fire CAL FIRE projects and working with other groups to get fire on the ground, different levels of engagement
- Non-profits eligible to have inmate crews conduct fuels reduction
- Broadcast burning work with landowners, cost-share agreement usually 30 LO:70 CAL FIRE, cost does not increase linearly with acreage (mobilization is the biggest expense)
- Defensible space inspections, have a map of structures but up here details are limited
  - Goal of canvassing the entire unit in next 5 years, then revisit the next 5 years
- Grants: SRA fee funds being managed by Jason toward fuel reduction; SRA gone, now funding coming from Cap and Trade (quantity of funding is not yet determined)
- Strategic Fire Plan coupled with CWPP helps prioritize fuel reduction projects
- Three Cal Fire camps, funds spread to each of the three to pursue projects in their immediate response area
- Cal Fire engines sometimes sold at auction, could be a good avenue to explore

**Message from Office of Emergency Services, Bryan Lee**

- Dean and Sean are the OES for the Yurok
- Humboldt Alert Two levels of evacuation: voluntary advisory, mandatory order
  - Two-way communication capability
- Perimeters/personnel will be set up to stave off thieves
- Community preparedness, important to know your neighbors and have a system in place to make sure everyone has been notified

- Individual preparedness, minimum two weeks of emergency supplies a must; a go-bag with important documents and supplies a great idea as well
- Family preparedness, family reunification plan in place especially in the absence of communication
- Looking for help with evacuation routes
- A few years ago the Yurok had an address project: named the roads, GPS points for all the houses, address signage → ACTION ITEM: Follow up on getting this info (mentioned by bob)
  - Issue with people stealing the street signs
- ACTION ITEM: need to gain access to address/GPS database, needs to be shared with emergency personnel (sheriff office works off of personal knowledge); some people still do not have an assigned address
- Cal Fire/County is working on a map book in sync with Avenza app

### What's on your mind?

- Process for this unit? Still defining the area?
  - Area has already been determined, name may change (looking for suggestions)
- Timeline for update?
  - Public draft in late spring/early summer
  - This meeting is part of the input plus some of the other info resources that have been mentioned tonight
  - Different for each unit
- Difference between Yurok CWPP and County CWPP?
  - Different scopes
- How does federal land factor in to CWPP?
  - Forest service rep on the FSC
  - Somewhat of a working relationship with Yurok and USFS

### [Shared Meal]

### 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 top 7 projects are highlighted in the table on the following page.

### 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 Upper Yurok Reservation 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
Weitchpec	3	ORL064	Fuel break: Hwy 96 to Weitchpec Elementary School	Weitchpec Rd/Hwy 169	Roadside Clearance
	3	ORL065	Fuel break: Upper Prairie Lake Rd.	Weitchpec	Landscape
	2	ORL067	Fuel Break: Upper Cappell	Cappell Rd & Rube Rd	Landscape
	3	ORL446	Understory burning: bear grass resource production/fire protection	Bald Hills Road	Roadside Clearance
	3	ORL447	Understory burning and fuel break	Po'to'yo Road (Iron Gate Rd)	Roadside Clearance
	2	ORL448	Shaded fuel break: Alameda Road, 50ft buffer	Alameda Road	Roadside Clearance
	2	ORL449	Defensible space/fuel reduction: Weitchpec Tribal Center	Weitchpec Tribal Center	Defensible Space
	2	ORL450	Fuel reduction: Old Village Area	Old Village	Defensible Space
	2	ORL454	Defensible space/fuel reduction: Weitchpec School	Weitchpec School	Defensible Space
	3	ORL457	Understory burning: HWY 169 to Klamath River	HWY 169 to Klamath River	Landscape
Talley Creek	0	ORL457	Understory burning: HWY 169 to Klamath River	HWY 169 to Klamath River	Landscape
	2	ORL075	Defensible Space: Tully Creek Subdivision	Tully Creek Road	Defensible Space
	0	ORL067	Upper Cappell Fuel Break	Cappell Rd & Rube Rd	Landscape
Pecwan	0	ORL457	Understory burning: HWY 169 to Klamath River	HWY 169 to Klamath River	Landscape
	1	ORL071	Slash removal: McKinnon Hill Rd	McKinnon Hill Rd	Landscape
	5	ORL452	Shaded fuel break/water supply: Head Start School	Head Start School	Defensible Space
	2	ORL453	Defensible space/fuel reduction: Wo-tekw Village area	Wo-tekw Village Area	Defensible Space
New	2	-	Defensible space around Notchko Road RAWS (weather station)		Defensible Space
	3	-	Defensible space around Jack Norton School (tall tree hazard)		Defensible Space
	2	-	Johnson's Road Roadside Clearance and Defensible Space		Roadside Clearance/Defensible Space
	2	-	Logging rehab (slash removal, burn piles) in Weitchpec		Landscape
	0	-	McCaulley land prescribed burn		Prescribed Burn
Suggestion	1		Support efforts to work with PG&E on slash treatment under power lines		