

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

Hoopa Fire Hall, December 6, 2018, 5:00-8:00pm

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: 23]

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 Hoopa 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 Hoopa Fire Department for providing a venue and dinner for all participants.

Show of hands, affiliation:

- 4 fire department
- 7+ Hoopa tribe members
- 2 CERT

[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
 - Hoopa Planning Unit includes: Hoopa 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

Message from Hoopa Fire Chief, Rod Mendes

- Understand potential for conflagration, Hoopa is at risk especially being so isolated
- Hoopa OES run by Rod, OES responsible for all the planning docs → evacuation plans, pathogenic plan, hazard mitigation
- Hoopa has its own CWPP that is used in addition to the County CWPP; Hoop and County partners are working to integrate the two plans
- Hoopa Plan shows risk of different areas of Hoopa, fire history, biggest threats, veg info and hazard severity
- Available on the Hoopa Tribe website
- Plans are living documents that need to be updated every so often and that's part of why we're here
- Hoopa fire department
 - Federally funded fire department
 - Hoopa fire is a federal agency and are sent to fires all around, not just Hoopa
 - Department is 30 years old
 - ~250 fires/year; this year down 100 fires from previous years, a lot of WUI work completed recently (~400 acres June-Sept this year treated)
 - 5 fire engines and a water tender, qualified equipment and staff
 - Fire department is the emergency operations center
 - Provide assistance to community members; fill out form at office → fire member will follow up with a home visit assessment

Message from Chief of Hoopa Volunteer Fire Department, Amos Pole

- All volunteer department, deal mainly with structure fires; also EMS and rescue
- 1 type-2 engine, 2 type-1 engines
- 13 firefighters, 19 total
- Training 3 hours/week
- Measure Z has helped with equipment but funding is very limited (as well as time to go after it)
- Need to build structures to store engines
- Available to sweep chimneys, help community members
- Have started doing fire inspections for homes and businesses

Message from Assistant Chief of the Office of Emergency Services, Serene Hayden

- Deals with all risks and hazards in Hoopa (ex. closure of Ray's food place due to public health risk)
- Disaster declaration, received \$5 million for debris and roads → first tribe to have FEMA declaration
- Disaster mitigation plan in the works
- Alarm system (siren) to alert community; 5 sites lookouts
- Community supplied with radios (NOAA weather radio) in case they don't hear sirens
- Have a mobile hospital
- Working on building up FSC and also Hoopa Fire Management Council
- Serene is the only fire investigator in Hoopa

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>
- 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 Hoopa 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/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?

- Lack of available fire insurance due to risk rating (ISO) in Hoopa
 - illegal "red-lining" (practice of denying to service to residents of certain communities; often, based on ethnic make-up)
 - Covered CA is the only option, in some cases; poor coverage, high deductible
 - need advocacy on a higher level
- Can county provide grants or a grant writer?
 - Currently providing support through Measure Z
- State of fire hydrant system?
 - throughout Hoopa valley, not all maintained
 - public utility's responsibility to maintain
 - local VFD does flush them out periodically if they are in the area
- Increase training hours of fire personnel and improved hydrant system would greatly improve ISO rating
- Fire retardant harmful to environment and basket materials. Can water be used instead?
 - Water is heavy and not as effective.
 - Not a lot of evidence to suggest it is very harmful. (says Cal FIRE rep)
 - Hoopa Fire Dpt will protect sensitive areas when possible. Sometimes there is no time to get the message to the agency dropping the retardant.
 - Offending agencies are responsible for cleaning up retardant that does get into sensitive areas i.e. the river
 - Suggestion: include policy in pre-attack plan and identify sensitive areas
- Heck Creek needs fuel reduction
- Hostile neighbor continually blocking access
 - mediation and letter from Council unsuccessful
 - Suggestion: Reach out to Executive Council again as a group. Be persistent. Create a petition. Demand Executive Council take action to keep blocked road open. Putting up gates was once discussed but was never acted on.
- Advocate for banning of retardant on reservation
 - would limit option for response
 - potentially complicated by contracts guaranteeing use

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 Project (19 Total Proposed)			
Votes	ID	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
7	WCK413	Hazardous vegetation clearance around campground north	Tish Tang North Campground, Hoopa
7	WCK411	Break up continuity of hazardous fuel buildup	Heck Creek drainage, Hoopa
6	WCK416	High winds and fuel buildup. Highest fire occurrence in last 10 yrs	Campbell Field Road, Hoopa
5	WCK120	Bald Hill brush removal	Bald Hill, below cell tower
4	WCK108	brush removal on State fee lands	both sides of Hwy 96, center area of Hoopa

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 Hoopa 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>.

	Votes	Project ID	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Hoopa	DEFENSIBLE SPACE			
	1	WCK412	Hazardous vegetation clearance around campground	Tish Tang Campground, Hoopa
	7	WCK413	Hazardous vegetation clearance around campground north	Tish Tang North Campground, Hoopa
	LANDSCAPE			
	1	WCK115	Telescope fuels reduction	Telescope Peak Road
	5	WCK120	Bald Hill brush removal	Bald Hill, below cell tower
	3	WCK121	Campbell Creek brush removal	Campbell Creek / Tish Tang
	7	WCK411	Break up continuity of hazardous fuel buildup	Heck Creek drainage, Hoopa
	WATER RESOURCES			
	1	WCK109	water tank on Dowd Road	Dowd Rd, .5 mi. N of intersect French Camp Rd
		WCK116	develop water source & tank Telescope Peak Rd- needs hardware	Telescope Peak Road
	1	WCK123	water tank on Dowd Road	Dowd Rd, 1.25 mi. N of intersect French Camp Rd
	1	WCK124	water tank on Dowd Road	Dowd Rd, 2.1 mi. N of intersect French Camp Rd
	ROADSIDE CLEARANCE			
	4	WCK108	brush removal on State fee lands	both sides of Hwy 96, center area of Hoopa
	1	WCK112	Redwood Grove brush removal fuel break	Redwood Grove Rd near Pine Creek Rd
	1	WCK114	Beaver Creek Rd fuel break	Beaver Creek Rd/Pine Creek Rd
	1	WCK118	Community Service Rd brushing	Community Service Road
	Completed	WCK414	shaded fuel break: Hostler Ridge; piles need to be burned	Hostler Ridge Rd
	6	WCK416	High winds and fuel buildup. Highest fire occurrence in last 10 yrs	Campbell Field Road, Hoopa
3	New	Pine Creek road brushing to French Camp		
3	New	Pine Creek road brushing to Bloody Camp		

	-	New	Fuels reduction around south side Squires' Housing	
Notes and Suggestions			Increase public outreach re: elder/low income assistance with veg. management	
			Get GIS data from Rod/Land Use Dpt to integrate with County GIS	
			Add cemeteries as values/assets to the map	
			Integrate priority gathering places as identified by Cultural Resource group led by Serene, Asst. Chief OES	