

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

Westhaven Fire Hall, November 14, 2017, 6:00-8:00 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: 30]

## 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 Westhaven-Trinidad 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 Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department for providing a venue.

### Show of hands, affiliation:

- 3 local fire
- 2 Rancheria
- 2 CERT
- 2 Water District
- 3 Resident (unaffiliated)

### Show of hands, outreach:

- 2 radio
- 1 Facebook
- 1 Newspaper
- 1 Fortuna Open House

[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
  - Westhaven-Trinidad Planning Unit includes: Trinidad, Westhaven, 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

#### **Local Fire History Report, Paul Rosenblatt**

- 1882, June – wind, human
- 1886, September – wind, human
- 1903, October – 30mph wind
- 1908, Luffenholtz Fire – September, drought year, 60mph wind, loss of life (2) and property; Calstrum Mill and Bullwinkle Mill burned; rekindled the second day and burned towards Fieldbrook; 7,400 acres burned; \$1.5 million (1908 dollars) loss of property; burned right down to the ocean
- 1936, Trinidad to Big Lagoon
- 1945 same area burned as in 1936
- 1942 Trinidad Head burned
- 1985 3-11 acres burned State Beach
- Reoccurring theme → burn window: June-October
- Catastrophic wildfires do occur in this community!
- Defensible space increases chances of survivability

#### **Local Fire Service Update, Matthew Marshall, Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department Chief**

- 2006 – 42 calls
- 2007 – ISO 10; 50+ calls for service; 2 members fire academy
- 2012 – 100 calls
- 2015 – 155
- 2016 - 135
- Now – ISO 5; all firefighters have gone to fire academy
- Last 10 years → 100K in grant funding
- Now have a water tender
- Measure Z – new engine
- Would appreciate support from the community, in terms of fundraising
- Need to build housing for fire apparatus
- Always need more volunteers, firefighters and other help of all kinds

#### **Message from CAL FIRE, Chris Ramey, Pre-Fire Planning Battalion Chief and Humboldt County FSC member**

[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 Trinidad and Westhaven 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.

#### **Josh Smith, CAL FIRE Trinidad Captain**

- 1986 year-round fire protection began
- 406 calls last year southern Orick to north of Dow's Prairie
- Off-peak fire season starts Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>
- Cap-n-trade funding is going toward second engine
- Trinidad Cal Fire crew responds to medical, fire, auto collision

### 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?

- Sungnome: Made an attempt to acquire grant funding to start an FSC but was unsuccessful, what next?
  - Give it another try.
- Are there funds to improve potential evacuation routes (i.e. defunct roads)?
  - Not to speak of. It would be a project for the community to pool their resources.
- No organization currently hosting CERT group, need agency sponsor
  - In county plans to have a county-wide CERT group; it's in the works
- Prescribed burning, who to contact?
  - Contact Chris Ramey, CAL FIRE
  - N. CA Prescribed Fire Council/UC Extension has a fire advisor (Lenya Quinn-Davidson) who can provide information
- Sustaining local fire department
- New bridge (Green Diamond) over creek at the top of 8<sup>th</sup> and Ox Road → alternate access
- Would like to see county road brushing maintenance program ramped up; budget was cut in half
  - Lay on the pressure on county to reinstate the full budget
  - Organize a chipping day
  - Lobby elected officials to put Measure S tax money toward road projects
- Fundraising for fire station
  - Matthew, Stacy, and Paul are the fundraising community and are open to ideas and volunteer help
- Goats for brush clearing
- Utilities are creating vegetation tunnels by encouraging trees to branch out sideways (after being topped); also leaving brush
  - PGE is very receptive to input these days; funds are available
- Neighbor has piled wood next to my garage
  - Try speaking to your neighbor directly
  - CAL FIRE can do an inspection on your property and send a letter to your neighbor asking them to move the wood pile
- Seal your house. Anywhere a mouse can get in, embers can get in and your house can burn from the inside out.

### 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 4 Projects (21 Proposed)			
Project ID	Votes	Project Description	Project Type
TRI065	6	Inter-tie between Westhaven & Trinidad H2O Systems	Water
New	4	Upgrade all water mains to 4" & add hydrants	Upgrade
New	4	Fire department garage addition	Upgrade
New	4	Rural Trinidad neighborhood fuels reduction	Defensible Space

**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 Westhaven-Trinidad 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	Project ID	Votes	Project Description	Project Type
Trinidad/ Westhaven	ORI055	0	Post address signs/encourage defensible space, provide water for fire: McDonald Creek Rd and Kane Ridge Rd neighborhoods	Defensible Space/Education
	TRI056	3	1 million gallon water tank for greater Trinidad	Other - Water
	TRI061	0	Luffenholtz shaded Fuelbreak	Roadside Clearance
	TRI065	6	Inter-tie between Westhaven & Trinidad H2O Systems	Other - Water
	TRI066	0	Fox Farm Rd - fire safe Rd options for pilot project	Roadside Clearance
	TRI067	0	Power pole (PG&E) fuel reduction on Fox Farm Rd.	Roadside Clearance
	TRI068	0	Alternate Access from Fox Farm Rd to Stumptown Rd	Other - Access
New	-	2	Fuel break behind Big Lagoon Community	Landscape
	-	2	Fuels reduction around water tanks	Defensible Space
	-	0	Create an alternate evacuation route	Other - Evacuation
	-	2	Roadside clearance Big Lagoon Park Road	Roadside Clearance
	-	0	Upper 8th Ave/Ox Road alternate evacuation route (currently walkable)	Other - Evacuation
	-	1	4th Avenue grading and rocking	Other - Road Maintenance
	-	2	Green Diamond brush road 1047 to keep open for emergency evacuation/access (Moonstone cross to CR1000)	Roadside Clearance
	-	4	Upgrade all water mains to 4" & add hydrants	Other - upgrade
	-	4	Fire department garage addition	Other - upgrade
	-	2	Develop program to put in water tanks with fire dpt. Hookup/standpipe	Non-geographic
	-	2	(Rural) north Trinidad would like CAL FIRE to audit space	Non-geographic
	-	2	Stage Coach Road Roadside Clearance	Roadside Clearance
	-	4	Rural Trinidad neighborhood fuels reduction	Defensible Space
	-	1	Evacuation route for Fox Farm Rd to connect to CR1000	Other - Evacuation