

# Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Workshop: Redwood Creek Unit

Green Point Elementary School, November 16, 2017, 5:30-7:00 pm

## Information Table, Sign In, Open House

- 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: 32]

## 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 Creek 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.

### Show of hands, community:

- 0 Titlow Hill
- 5 Chezem
- 8 Stover Road area

[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 Creek Planning Unit includes: Redwood Valley, Chezem, Titlow, 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
- One major issue previously identified: not being included in fire district; no local fire department

- No local department means emergency responders are not familiar with the area/where people live
- Fire truck structure is on private property (which will change hands eventually)
- Recent improvements:
  - Improved signage [address signage material available tonight for free]
  - Fire truck from Blue Lake purchased a number of years ago
  - Recent fundraisers helped finance a structure for the fire truck, still working on water and electricity
  - Two million gallon plastic lined pond for fire water → HAF funded a pipe to the road
  - Willow Creek has helped out on recent Chipper Days

**Message from CAL FIRE, Chris Ramey, 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>
  - Page 26 – defensible space recommendations
    - Within 30 feet of home: clear flammable vegetation, wood piles, etc.
    - Within 100 feet : manicure the landscape; remove vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels
    - No need to clear cut, disrupting continuity of fuel is the key to reducing spread
- 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/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)
- OES is seeking a community liaison in Redwood Creek, someone who can: manage a phone tree list, identify skills in the community, vulnerable people in the community and their helpers

**Mapping Exercise**

1. During the mapping exercise, participants worked together in three groups according to neighborhood/community (Chezem, Titlow Hill, and Redwood Valley) 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 (12 Total Proposed)			
Votes	Project ID	Project Description	Project Type
12	(new)	Develop Stover Road as an evacuation route	Evacuation
9	RWV047	Water Storage @ Beaver Flat	Water
4	RWV043	Stover Rd. (from school to end) Shaded Fuel Break	Roadside Clearance
4	RWV044	Beaver Flat brush clearing & helicopter landing zone	Landscape
4	(new)	Fix eroding evacuation route: Chezem Road	Evacuation

### 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 Creek Planning Unit Action Plan and will inform the broader focus of the Humboldt County Wildfire Protection Plan.

### Informal Follow-up Discussion: What's on your Mind?

- Are fire department or Cal FIRE trainings open to the community?
  - Cal FIRE may be able to facilitate a special training
  - public can attend fire academy
- Recommendation: Keep gas tanks full at all times in case of evacuation
- Need to update phone tree
- Explore condition of timber roads for potential alternate evacuation routes
- Barnum Road = alternate to Bair Road
- Next steps: organize spring Firewise meeting to plan projects; keep in touch with Cal FIRE and WC FSC
- Ask PG&E to mark powerlines in case of helicopter use
- Questionable future of fire engine structure currently on private property; land will be changing hands soon
  - need legal and realtor advice on potential consequences and changing ownership
- Redwood Valley needs a water tender or trailer with water tank
  - truck would need to be capable of pulling the weight of the water, special hookup required
  - could rent this tender or truck to Cal FIRE
- FLASH program is ongoing; no technician for area, currently
  - if interested, reach out to Cybelle's office directly: (707) 267-9542; [cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us)
- Link funding programs for multi-benefit projects, i.e. ponds throughout Redwood Valley
  - Mid-Klamath Watershed Council a successful model for getting this type of funding
- Status of Cal FIRE annex (old inmate camp off of 299)? → unlikely in the near future
- Summer dam on Redwood Creek → unlikely due to environmental regulations
  - Can be drawn from in an emergency; having bladders on hand could be a good idea for this purpose

## Project Details: Summary Table and Web GIS

The table on the following page 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/DocumentCenter/View/56189>.

Group	Votes	Project ID	Project Description	Project Type
Redwood Valley	2	RWV042	Bair Rd Bridge to Hwy 299 Shaded Fuel Break	Roadside Clearance
	4	RWV043	Stover Rd. (from school to end) Shaded Fuel Break	Roadside Clearance
	4	RWV044	Beaver Flat brush clearing & helicopter landing zone	Landscape
	0	RWV046	Summer Dam; Redwood Creek before Lacks Creek	Water
	9	RWV047	Water Storage @ Beaver Flat	Water
Chezem/Titlow	0	RWV053	Shaded understory, clearing as needed: Acorn Ln, off Hwy 299	Roadside Clearance
	2	RWV054	Shaded understory, clearing as needed: Rd off Hwy 299 across from Bald Mtn Rd	Roadside Clearance
	0	WCK221	Old Three Creeks Rd. Roadside Brushing/ Shaded Fuel Break	Roadside Clearance
	1	WCK222	Titlow Hill Neighborhood - Encourage landowners	Defensible Space
New	12	-	Develop Stover Road as an evacuation route	Evacuation
	2	-	Fuels reduction along Dolly Varden Road (Green Diamond), first 0.5 mile from Hwy 299	Roadside Clearance
	4	-	Fix eroding evacuation route: Chezem Road	Evacuation