WILLOW CREEK GREATER AREA
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

January 2011
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DECLARATION OF AGREEMENT
The Community Wildfire Protection Plan developed for Willow Creek Greater Area:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the Willow Creek Greater Area have been consulted.

- This plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect the Willow Creek Greater Area.

- This plan recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

The following entities mutually agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

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The objectives of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan are to:

- Improve the protection of lives and property from wildfire damage;
- Increase public understanding of what it means to live in a wildfire environment;
- Provide the public with clear steps they can take to reduce the risks associated with living in the Wildland Urban Interface/Intermix (WUI);
- Merge the goals and objectives of the landowners with the needs and expectations of the community regarding wildfire risk reduction;
- Coordinate fire protection strategies across property boundaries;
- Provide a mechanism for federal agencies to give meaningful considerations to community priorities; and
- Provide a tool to help coordinate grant funding and federal program budgets to achieve the most effective results with limited funding.

PLAN CONTEXT

Healthy Forest Restoration Act Criteria for Certification as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The National Fire Plan directed federal agencies to "work directly with communities to ensure adequate protection from wildfires, and to develop a collaborative effort to attain the desired future condition of the land." The key wildland fire management agencies in California have chosen to accomplish this effort through the California Fire Alliance (The Alliance). To this end, the Alliance, on its website, encourages the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), as defined by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). A "community wildfire protection plan", as defined by the HFRA, means a plan for an at risk community that fulfills the following criteria.

Collaboration

A). The plan was developed within the context of the collaborative agreements and the guidance established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and agreed to by the applicable local government, local fire department, and State agency responsible for forest management, in consultation with interested parties and the Federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the at-risk community.

This plan was collaboratively developed. Significant efforts were made throughout the planning process to collaborate with local, state, and federal land and fire management agencies. The Willow Creek Community Services District and local Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) had opportunity for repeated input. Leadership and guidance was provided by Humboldt County Community Development Services and the Trinity County Resource Conservation District. CAL-Fire was represented and provided presentations at the community meetings as well as the Willow Creek Fire Safe Council Board of Directors meetings. Officials from both the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests were engaged in the collaboration. In addition, special

1 http://www.cafirealliance.org/organization_history/
2 http://www.cafirealliance.org/cwpp.php
efforts were made to gain experience and insight from professional foresters, both active and retired.

Meetings were designed and conducted to maximize community input into the planning process. For more specific information, see the section on the planning process.

Prioritized Fuel Reduction

B). The plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on Federal and non-Federal land that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.

This plan identifies areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and prioritizes them using a ranking system. This plan also recommends the types and methods of treatment to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities and resources within the planning area. This information can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

Treatment of Structural Ignitability

C). The plan recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability throughout the at-risk community.

This plan recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the planning area. These recommendations can be found in the Community Assessment and Action Plan sections of this plan and are appended (Appendices 3 and 4). In addition, the community meetings conducted during the development of the plan served as an important place to educate the public about reducing fire risks to structures, both through presentations by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL Fire), and through the distribution of several educational documents.
PLANNING PROCESS

Background
There have been several attempts to organize a local fire safe council in Willow Creek. The most recent effort has been taking root in the community and has been the impetus behind the development of this fire plan. Community meetings started in April, 2007 to discuss the possible formation of a local fire safe council. These meetings led to the adoption of bylaws in April, 2008 to establish the unincorporated Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (FSC). This organization wrote Articles of Incorporation, which were filed with the California Secretary of State. The Willow Creek FSC is now well-known in the community and has been establishing a strong track record of running successful fire safety projects.

Mission
The mission of the Willow Creek Fire Safe Council is to reduce wildfire risk and increase survivability by implementing fuels reduction projects and encouraging residents of the Greater Willow Creek Area to make their homes, neighborhoods and communities fire safe.

Objectives
- To increase community awareness and understanding of both the benefits and threats of wildland fire;
- To educate residents concerning methods to protect their lives and property from loss to catastrophic wildland fire;
- To generate individual and community action to reduce wildfire hazards and plan for emergency response;
- To reduce wildfire hazards by removing flammable vegetation around homes and evacuation routes;
- To enhance communication between the general public and the federal, state, county and local agencies to identify and prioritize hazard reduction projects and coordinate community planning;
- To develop and monitor a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Greater Willow Creek Area to address hazard mitigation, community preparedness, structure protection and wildfire response; and
- To engage the youth of the community in fire prevention by providing activities and educational opportunities related to fire safety and protecting natural resources.

In 2009 the Willow Creek FSC collaborated with the County of Humboldt to apply for grant funds. A grant application was submitted to the 2010 cycle of the California Fire Safe Council Grants Clearinghouse. The proposed project included funds for the development of a local Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The grant proposal was selected for funding by the USDA Forest Service and CWPP planning began.
Organization of Resources and Review of Existing Materials

Once the grant funding was confirmed, the core decision making team was assembled including participants from the following organizations:

- Willow Creek FSC
- Willow Creek Community Services District (CSD)
- Willow Creek VFD
- Six Rivers National Forest
- Cal Fire
- Humboldt County Community Development Services
- Trinity County Resource Conservation District (including support staff from the Watershed Research and Training Center)

The CWPP Team sought involvement from key stakeholders from within the planning area. The CWPP development became a common agenda item for Willow Creek FSC meetings and presentations were made to the board members of the Willow Creek CSD, Willow Creek VFD (including the District Board), Lions, Chamber of Commerce, and Kiwanis.

The Willow Creek FSC chose a planning area that encompassed the communities of Willow Creek, Salyer, Hawkins Bar, Burnt Ranch, and Cedar Flat. The 2006 Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan (MFPP), the 2005 Trinity County CWPP and the Downriver Fire & Fuel Management Plan were analyzed and relevant information and GIS data were the basis for creating a planning area base map. This map was used at community workshops as a tool to review existing data and gather new community identified fire planning features.

Community Involvement and Collaboration

Four community workshops were held in February and March of 2010. Two workshops were held in Willow Creek and two in Burnt Ranch. The first set of workshops was designed to kick off the planning process and begin to gather information on community identified fire planning issues. The purpose of these workshops was to: educate residents about living in a wildfire environment, explain the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process, and gather information about wildfire hazards, resources at risk, fire protection resources, and potential hazard reduction projects. The intended outcomes were:

- The identification of local concerns and hazard mitigation projects on maps that could be used for capturing future project implementation funding;
- A basic understanding of fire safety and defensible space so that residents would be equipped to implement these concepts on their property and throughout their community;
- A basic understanding of local fire protection services available in each community; and
- Broad-based community participation in the CWPP process.

A substantial amount of fire planning information was gathered at these workshops. Community identified fire planning features such as areas proposed for fuels reduction treatment and protection resources were digitized into a GIS database. Then, new maps were produced to illustrate all of the fire planning features for review and refinement at the second set of workshops.
The second workshops brought community members back together to review the GIS maps generated from community input at the first workshop. Participants also continued to add new information to the accumulating fire planning data. Wish lists were also created for needed items such as fire protection equipment, community outreach tools, and firefighting water sources.

Following the four community meetings held in February and March, project staff and volunteers met in groups and individually with key community members, Willow Creek CSD staff and Board members, Forest Service and Cal Fire representatives, and local volunteer fire department personnel to review and provide feedback on the evolving community fire planning values and projects. Local fire departments also spent time on their own reviewing maps and data and writing wish lists of resources that would help them achieve their goals and better provide their service. Based on information and feedback generated at the sessions, the fire planning data for the CWPP was further refined. The Wildland Urban Interface and planning area boundaries were also further defined and refined during this part of the process. These refinements were passed on to Humboldt County Community Development Services planning and GIS staff to be incorporated into the CWPP GIS database.

In September of 2010, a Firewise Assessment was conducted for the community of Willow Creek, located at the heart of the CWPP planning area. The assessment was conducted by a team with representation from the Willow Creek VFD, Willow Creek FSC, Cal Fire, Six Rivers National Forest, and the County of Humboldt. Three of the assessment team members had previously participated in the “Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone” training provided by the National Fire Protection Association and Firewise USA. The Willow Creek Community Assessment and the resulting Firewise Action Plan are incorporated into this Plan and appended (Appendix 5).

Plan Assembly and Finalization

Based on all of the information collected during the process described above, a public review draft of the CWPP was produced. Community workshops to review the draft plan and kick off the public review period were held on November 8, 2010 in Willow Creek and November 9, 2010 in Burnt Ranch. On December 15, 2010, at the end of the public review period, all public feedback was considered and, as appropriate, incorporated into the final draft and the CWPP. The final draft of the CWPP was presented to the necessary local volunteer fire departments, local government, and state representatives for their approval and signatures during the month of _______. All signatures were secured and the CWPP was finalized on ____. 
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PLANNING AREA

The Main Stem of the Trinity River enters the Planning Area from the South-East at Cedar Flat and is the dominant geographic feature of the planning area. The New River, the South Fork of the Trinity, and Willow Creek all confluence with the main stem of the Trinity along with numerous streams, creeks, and unnamed water courses. The water basin system has determined the road system and, hence, the population distribution of the Planning Area. The planning area is approximately 20 miles from north to south and 18 miles from east to west. For the purposes of this document, the mapping footprint yields about 360 square miles. Topographic considerations, of course, will yield a much greater area at risk.

State Route 299 follows the Trinity River to the town of Willow Creek and then turns west and rises to Berry Summit. Highway 96 intersects State Route (SR) 299 at Willow Creek and follows the Trinity River north to the southern boundary of the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation. The eastern boundary of the Planning Area skirts the flanks of Ironside Mountain on the eastern side of the Trinity River. The boundary runs north from the New River to Cow Creek and then Northwest to Waterman Ridge and the southern boundary of the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation. From the south-west corner of the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation the boundary tracks south to Old Three Creeks Road, west adjacent to SR 299, south-west along Redwood Creek and parallel to the Titlow Hill Road to the Tie Hastens Road. The southern boundary proceeds east to Mill Creek and completes back at Cedar Flat.

There are electrical and phone (land line) services to the majority of the population within the planning area, yet, many residents live “off-the-grid” and there is limited cellular phone service. From the south, Cedar Flat, Burnt Ranch, Hawkins Bar, Salyer and Willow Creek are the most densely populated communities. All of these communities as well as the neighborhoods of Oden Flat, Gray Flat and Suzy Q Ranch are listed on the California Fire Alliance website as “Communities at Risk”; meaning that they are recognized as being at high risk to damage from wildfire.

Many county, private, and Forest Service Roads stem from 299 and 96. Private properties are intertwined with Forest Service land within the Planning Area. As a result of Federal Land and railroad land negotiations and homesteading practices, the private/public map of the Planning Area looks, in part, like a checker board. As illustrated by the “Land Ownership” map on the following page, the largest land owner in the panning area is the U.S.D.A Forest Service. The checkerboard pattern described above can also be clearly seen on this map.

Also identified on the Land Ownership map are “Communities at Risk” polygons. These areas are not to be confused with the Communities at Risk from the list managed by the California Fire Alliance. They are private land holdings identified by Six Rivers National Forest staff as likely being inhabited and, because of their position within wildfire prone federally manage lands, they have been deemed as “at risk”.

A general physical description of the Planning Area includes steep topography with forested land from 550-3000 feet above sea level. There are areas that are classified as general forest, special habitat, river recreation, special interest, roadless, and wilderness. The geology is mixed and the riparian corridors are significant features.
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Some of the narrative text in this section has been adapted from the Firewise Community Assessment template (in some cases text from the template was used verbatim). The Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan\(^3\), Down River Fire & Fuel Management Plan\(^4\) and the Mainstem Trinity Watershed Analysis\(^5\) (MTWA) were also sources for some of the following information.

According to the MTWA “Large stand-replacing wildfires with high to extreme fire behavior could drastically affect the communities of Willow Creek, Salyer, Hawkins Bar... and numerous groups of rural homes. Fast moving, high intensity fires often make it more difficult to get to isolated homes to do structure protection. Even smaller fires, if they are located close to private property or are wind driven, could have severe impacts on populated areas.”

The entire CWPP planning area is located in a wildfire environment. Wildfires exclusion is not a choice; it is not a matter of if it will happen, but when and where. This assessment addresses the wildfire-related characteristics and threats of the planning area. It examines the following six factors:

1. Wildfire Hazard;
2. Wildfire Risk;
3. Structural Vulnerability;
4. Community Assets at Risk;
5. Wildfire Protection Capabilities; and

Wildfire Hazard
The level of hazard depends on how resistant to control a wildfire is once it starts. Wildfire hazard is affected by vegetation, topography, and weather. The relationship between these three factors has a tremendous effect on the ability of firefighters to manage a wildfire in a way that minimizes damage to communities and natural resources.

Fine fuels ignite more easily and spread faster with higher intensities than coarser fuels. For a given fuel, the more there is and the more continuous it is, the faster the fire spreads and the higher the intensities. The CWPP planning area is characterized by high levels of wildfire fuels, with vegetation types including mixed evergreen conifer forest, Klamath mixed conifer forest, and White Oak forest. Many south slope areas are shrub dominated. In general the upland areas are dominated by conifers and the river valley and riparian corridors are dominated by grass and hardwood trees such as oak, alder and willow.

The MTWA makes the following statement about the significance of the current condition of vegetative fuels:

\(^3\) [http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/fire_safe_council/fsc_mfpp_cwpp.htm](http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/fire_safe_council/fsc_mfpp_cwpp.htm)
\(^4\) [http://www.tcrd.net/downloads.htm#Anchor1](http://www.tcrd.net/downloads.htm#Anchor1)
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“Decades of successful fire suppression in the watersheds have significantly increased the return interval of wildfires, leading to significant increases in fuel loading. The most extensive and serious problem related to the health of national forests...is the accumulation of dense vegetation, which has caused and increasing number of large, intense, uncontrollable, and catastrophically destructive wildfires.”

Supporting the situation described above is an abundance of areas where the condition of the vegetation contributes to a significant alteration from the natural fire regime. How much an ecosystem is altered, or “out-of-whack” from its natural fire regimes is measured by the following “fire regime condition class” classifications.

- **Condition Class 1** is associated with low level disruption of fire regime (within or near historical range), and consequently low risk to loss or damage.

- **Condition Class 2** indicates some degree of departure from natural regimes, with associated changes in ecosystem composition and structure that render future fires a likelihood of some loss and change in key ecosystem components.

- **Condition Class 3** is highly divergent from natural regime conditions (significantly altered from historical range), and presents the highest level of risk of loss.

Almost 54% of the planning area is classified as condition Class 3, 32% as Class 2, and 12.7% as Class 1. This indicates that the majority of the area is “out-of-whack”; thus susceptible to losing key ecosystem components. According to the metadata used to generate the following “Fire Regime Condition Class” map, “the conceptual basis is that for fire-adapted ecosystems [by which the CWPP planning area is characterized], much of their ecological structure and processes are driven by fire, and disruption of fire regimes leads to changes in plant composition and structure, uncharacteristic fire behavior and other disturbance agents (pests), altered hydrologic processes and increased smoke production.”

Topography influences fire behavior principally by the steepness of the slope. However, the configuration of the terrain such as narrow draws, and saddles can influence fire spread and intensity. In general, the steeper the slope, the higher the uphill fire spread and intensity. The CWPP planning area has no shortage of steep river canons and narrow draws. Virtually the entire area is mountainous, with steep V-shaped valleys formed by the tributaries of the Trinity River. There are areas of flats and gentle slopes and this is where the majority of the resident population can be found.

Weather conditions affect the moisture content of the dead and live vegetative fuels. Dead fine fuel moisture content is highly dependent on the relative humidity and the degree of sun exposure. The lower the relative humidity and the greater the sun exposure, the lower will be the fuel moisture content. Lower fuel moistures produce higher spread rates and fire intensities. The weather for the planning area is characterized by long, hot, dry summers. This extreme fire prone weather can last from early June to late October.

Wind speed is another weather related influence on the rate of fire spread and fire intensity. The higher the wind speed, the greater the spread rate and intensity. Winds in the Trinity River valley can be erratic, but in the summer months there are fairly predictable up canon winds during the day and down canon winds in the evening.
During the spring and fall winds have been known to reach 45 miles per hour and have been blamed for spurring on local wildfires.
Wildfire Risk

Wildfire risk refers to the likelihood that a wildfire will occur, based on factors such as fire history and ignition risk. Risk is based on historical evidence of fire starts and the presence of ignition sources such as frequent dry lightning storms, occupied residential properties, widespread camping, power lines, heavily traveled roads, history of arson, and logging operations. The "Wildfire Starts" map on the following page provides imagery showing where both lightening and humans have started fires in the planning area over the last 50 years. This map clearly shows that human caused fires are the most common and that they occur primarily along the main road systems, down in the river valley, and where most of the people reside and/or recreate. Lightning starts are spread more evenly throughout the planning area and often occur at higher elevations and in remote locations with numerous wildfires sometimes caused from the same lightning storm.

As can be seen on the "Fire History" map, the CWPP planning area is no stranger to threats from large and small wildfires. The 1999 Megram and Onion fires burned thousands of acres within the wildlands to the North and East of the planning area and the 2008 Ziegler, Ironside, Cedar, and Half fires threatened from the East and South, also burning thousands of acres in the wildlands. Locals who experienced some of these larger fires remember the challenges and fears associated with being put on evacuation alert and their communities being inundated with smoke and ash.

Smaller fires have also been ignited closer to settled areas and, although never resulting in significant damage to homes or critical facilities, are considered near misses. For example, the Friday Fire between Slayer and Willow Creek that took hold in the summer, 2003 is a fire that many locals relate to as an example of a nearly disastrous wildfire. It was started by a vehicle along a back road and created crisis for residents living in the Friday Ridge "neighborhood". Locals believe that the fire threatened imminent loss of life and property, in spite of a rapid response by fire fighting agencies and that disaster was only averted because of a change in wind direction.

Community Identified Wildfire Risks and Hazards

During community workshops, participants used GIS maps to identify areas that they perceived to be wildfire risks and hazards. Participants identified roads with hazardous accumulations of flammable vegetation. Narrow roads with inadequate turnouts were also identified (although many more roads in this condition could still be identified and future planning processes should emphasize on-the-ground assessments of all the residential roads within the planning area). Communities and neighborhoods that pose an ignition risk were also circled on the maps by workshop participants. These community-identified risks and hazards are listed and illustrated on maps in Appendix 1.

The following "Fire Threat" map, derived from Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) data, provides a combined risk and hazard illustration that can be used to estimate the potential for impacts on identified assets and values at risk to wildfire. Impacts are more likely to occur and/or be of increased severity for the higher threat classes. Fire Threat is a combination of two factors:

1) Fire frequency, or the likelihood of a given area burning (Risk), and
2) Potential fire behavior (hazard). These two factors are combined to create four threat classes ranging from moderate to extreme.
CAL Fire (FRAP) has developed a rating of wildland fire threat based on the combination of potential fire behavior (Fuel Rank) and expected fire frequency (Fire Rotation) to create a 4-class index for risk assessment. Fire Threat data developed for the National Fire Plan (v05.1).

This map is intended for display purposes and should not be used for precise measurement or navigation.

Map compiled by Humboldt County Community Development Services (HCCDS), Oct. 2010. Contacts: jvondohlen@co.humboldt.ca.us; or cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us
The Willow Creek Greater Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan
January 2011

Wildfire Starts Map

Legend

- CWPP Planning / WUI Boundary

cause of Wildfire

- Lightning
- Human
- County Boundary
- Highway
- Other Roads

Cause of fire from Six Rivers National Forest fire report forms 1960-2009

This map is intended for display purposes and should not be used for precise measurement or navigation.

Map complied by Humboldt County Community Development Services (HCCDS), Oct. 2010.
Contacts: jonstahl@co.humboldt.ca.us, or cliff@co.humboldt.ca.us

1:175,000 RF
Structural Vulnerability

A house burns because of its interrelationship with everything in its surrounding home ignition zone. This zone principally determines the potential for home ignitions during a wildland fire; it includes a house and its immediate surroundings within 100 to 150 feet. To avoid a home ignition, a homeowner must eliminate the wildfire’s potential relationship with his/her house. This can be accomplished by interrupting the natural path a fire takes. Changing a fire’s path by clearing a home ignition zone is an easy-to-accomplish task that can result in avoiding home loss. To accomplish this, flammable items such as dead vegetation must be removed from the area immediately around the structure to prevent flames from contacting it. Also, reducing the volume of live vegetation will affect the intensity of the wildfire as it enters the home ignition zone.

Residents can reduce their risk of loss during a wildfire by taking actions within their home ignition zones. Relatively small investments of time and effort will reap great rewards in wildfire safety. For example, federal and state resources can spend less time protecting individual homes and focus on managing wildfires if hazards in the home ignition zone are reduced. In addition, the local fire department can focus on extinguishing structure fires and spend less time preventing the fire from spreading to neighboring home ignition zones and/or to the wildland.

A very common issue encountered within the CWPP planning area is the accumulation of leaves, needles, and, in some cases, even small dead branches on rooftops and in gutters. This debris is very flammable tinder that can be ignited by fire brands blown from wildfires that are even miles away. Fires started on the roof or in the gutters can spread to the rest of the home.

Residents can eliminate this hazard with relative ease and it should be one of the first actions taken to reduce the risk of losing the home to wildfire. Cleaning needles and leaves off of the roof and out of the gutters is one of the small things a resident can do that will make a big difference. It’s something that could be done in a weekend on one’s own or with a work party of friends.

Another common issue is that many homes have flammable wood roofs. Flammable roofs are a chief cause of home loss during urban wildfires because flying embers coming from wildfires miles away can ignite them. When there are overlapping home ignition zones flammable wood roofs jeopardize neighboring homes because direct ignitions can occur between houses. Burning wood roofs are also a major source of fire brands.

Addressing this issue is a lot harder than cleaning one’s gutters and replacing a roof and might have to be a long term goal. Awareness of the hazards associated with having a highly flammable roof needs to be elevated in the community and advice provided about how to finance roof replacements. Installing a fire resistant roof is one of the most important investments residents can make to improve the survivability of their home during a wildfire.

Flammable siding is also a problem with some older homes. Replacing this siding with an ignition resistant material will greatly reduce the ignition potential of the structure. Making plans for such renovations is something that residents should consider a high priority. Of course, all new home construction should be done with fire resistant materials.
Many homes in the planning are have dense vegetation growing in the home ignition zone. This was particularly noted where neighborhoods abut the surrounding forest lands. Residents should remove the ladder fuels and prevent fire from moving up into the crowns of trees or onto the house and its attachments. It is not necessary to eliminate all vegetation from within the home ignition zone. The important action is to break up the continuity and density of the vegetation.

Observations have been made in the planning area of homes with wood piles, fences, gates, and wood lattice in contact with the structure. Dead leaves under the deck or along the foundation of the structure were also observed in some cases. These items are generally more susceptible to combustion from embers or radiant heat and, if lighted, could lead the fire to the rest of the home. Residents should remove these materials and regularly rake and or sweep away debris, leaves and needles from the area right around the home.

Highways 299 and 96 run through the heart of many of the communities within the planning area. There are also numerous well traveled County and private roads leading to residences within the planning area. Many of these roads have flammable vegetation growing right up to the edge. An accumulation of dense flammable vegetation along these key access roads can hinder evacuation and make it difficult for fire firefighting personnel to get through to a wildfire incident or structure fire. These roadside fuels also pose an ignition risk. Treatment of fuels along roads will reduce the risk of fire starts and also increase the chances of a road acting as a firebreak.

A related concern is that there are numerous homes located where there is only one road in and out. Some of them are marked as dead-end roads but many are not. These dead-end roads pose an evacuation risk for residents who could get trapped by fire; especially a fire originating on the roadside. This phenomenon occurs both in the more densely developed streets of the towns within the planning area as well as up in the hills surrounding the river valley. Many private roads originate off of Highways 299 and 96, serving many back woods residences without providing a secondary emergency evacuation route.

One very concerning example of the one-way-in-one-way-out issue is in Willow Creek. Several large residential neighborhoods are located across the Trinity River with the bridge on Country Club Road as the only way for residents to quickly get across the river to Highways 299 and 96. These neighborhoods are flanked on the North, East, and South by the steep dense forests of the Six Rivers National Forest. The Trinity Village subdivision is another example of this type of hazardous situation.

Special effort should be focused on evacuation planning with the residents of these neighborhoods and back roads. Educational materials should be made available informing residents about emergency techniques for how to survive should they find themselves trapped in their home during a wildfire. These neighborhoods should also be a priority for eliminating hazards in the home ignition zone.

As a start to evacuation planning efforts the Willow Creek FSC worked with Six Rivers National Forest staff to identify possible evacuation routes. Major Forest Service and County roads which have the potential to provide routes out of the mountains for rural residents were identified and mapped. It is important to note that the safest evacuation route will depend on the location of the wildfire. The following “Evacuation Routes” map is only the beginning of the evacuation planning process and more detailed, precise
maps will be needed during a wildfire event. Appendix 6 contains an evacuation tips handout produced by Cal Fire.

**EVACUATION ROUTES MAP**

Legend

- CWPP Planning / WUI Boundary
- Evacuation Routes
  - Potential
  - Major
- County Boundary
- Highway
- Other Roads

Roads based on Forest Service and Humboldt County road layers. Potential evacuation routes identified by Six Rivers National Forest Staff and Willow Creek Fire Safe Council representatives. Major forest service or County roads which have the potential to provide routes out of the mountains for small rural residences were identified. This map is intended as an overview of possible evacuation routes and should not be depended on during a wildfire event.

This map is intended for display purposes and should not be used for precise measurement or navigation.

Map compiled by Humboldt County Community Development Services (HCCDS), Oct. 2010. Contact: jvondohlen@co.humboldt.ca.us; or cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us
Community Assets at Risk

The primary purpose of this CWPP is to identify strategies to protect assets valued by the community. These assets include: life and safety; timber; range; recreation; water and watershed; plants; air quality; cultural and historic resources; unique scenic areas; buildings; and wildlife, plants, and ecosystem health. Knowledge of the types and magnitudes of assets at risk to wildfire, as well as their locations, is critical to wildfire planning. This section briefly describes assets at potential risk to fire.

Community and Economic Resources

Community and economic resource assets are elements of the built environment that are valued by the community and are at risk to wildfire. Community and economic resources include such entities as homes, public infrastructure (utilities, water systems, etc.), recreation resources, and other components of our communities. There are approximately 3,000 people who live within the planning area and where they live is concentrated along Highways 299 and 96 and on the lower slopes of the Trinity River valley although some people do live higher up the watershed basin.

Outdoor recreation and specialty agriculture are the focus for the local economy. The U.S. Forest Service supports tourism by maintaining several river access points for swimming and boating. Recreation attractions include steelhead and salmon fishing, whitewater rafting and kayaking, backcountry wilderness hiking, hunting, and bird watching. The community of Willow Creek is known as the “Gateway to Bigfoot Country”, reflective of the town’s adoption of the elusive creature as a major icon and attracting thousands of tourists to the area. Small produce and specialty farms, orchards, and vineyards produce tomatoes, corn, peaches, pears, cherries, apples and grapes. Local vineyards and boutique wineries are the fastest growing new business. All of this economic activity can be disrupted by wildfire, leading to loss of local revenue and hardship for residents.

Natural Resources

Natural resource assets include watersheds, public and private forests and woodlands, fisheries and wildlife resources, soils and erosion potential, and threatened and endangered species. Natural resources are highly valued by residents of the CWPP planning area for their contribution to the local quality of life and as an economic development asset that attracts tourist-related expenditures. Fire is part of the natural environment. However, when it occurs under certain conditions (i.e. extreme weather and/or unusually dense fuel loading) it can destroy natural assets which are highly valued by the community.

Agricultural and Timber Resources

Agricultural resources include rangelands, public and private timberlands, and cultivated farmlands. Agricultural lands are an important element of the Planning Area identity and economy. Although fire has been used as a tool in rangeland and timber management, wildland fire can have disastrous consequences to such resources, removing them from production and necessitating lengthy restoration programs.

Air Resources

Smoke generated by wildfire is comprised of visible and invisible emissions that contain particulate matter (soot, tar, water vapor, and minerals), gases (carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides) and toxics (formaldehyde, benzene). Emissions from
wildfire depend on the type of fuel, the moisture content of the fuel, the efficiency (or
temperature) of combustion, and the weather. Public health impacts associated with
wildfire include difficulty in breathing, odor, and reduction in visibility.

The CWPP Planning Area is prone to temperature inversions which occur when a layer of
warm air traps cool air near the surface and create a lid that inhibits the vertical
dispersion of smoke and other pollutants. The Megram Fire (Big Bar Complex Fire) burned
135,000 acres between late August and early November 1999, and resulted in the first air
quality related state of emergency in California history. Smoke from the fire was trapped
by an inversion layer between late September and early October, causing officials to
close schools and encourage residents to leave the area. Those who remained in the
affected area were encouraged to stay indoors.

**Cultural Resources**
Culturally sensitive areas are sites and regions of special importance to Native
Americans, primarily riverbanks with outstanding religious or resource-producing
importance. Many acres within the planning area are designated as culturally
sensitive, with notable concentrations along the Lower Trinity River. While some
locations are publicly identified, others are held as confidential information by
local Native American organizations. Many cultural sites are at risk of incidents of
wildfire. Fire can destroy artifacts and structures. However, a light fire can clean
an area of litter and ground fuel, exposing new cultural sites and artifacts without
causing much damage. The discovery of these cultural sites can be a boon to
archaeologists and Native American groups, but can also present problems of
looting and vandalism.

**Community Identified Assets at Risk**
During community workshops, participants used GIS maps to identify areas that they
perceived to be values or assets at risk. Participants identified such features as
central locations of residential development (designated in the fire planning features
matrix as a “neighborhood” or “community”); campsites, cell towers, schools, and pump
stations (designated as “facilities” or “infrastructure”); and commercial sites, clinics,
community halls and offices (designated as “buildings”). These community identified
values and assets at risk are listed and illustrated on maps in Appendix 1. The Down River
& Fuel Management Plan also provides much more detail about values at risk within
parts of this CWPP’s planning area
Wildfire Protection Capabilities

Wildfire protection capabilities include both firefighter response capabilities and fire prevention capacity.

Community Identified Protection Resources

During community workshops, participants used GIS maps to identify protection resources such as water sources, open areas that, depending on the wildfire situation, could be used as safe zones, fire stations, and possible evacuation routes. These protection resources are listed and illustrated on maps in Appendix 1. The Down River & Fuel Management Plan also provides much more detailed maps showing fire access and infrastructure.

Firefighter Response

Federal and State Response:

On National Forest lands, it is the stated policy of the Six Rivers National Forest (SRF) that all wildland fires will undergo an initial and ongoing assessment for the selection of the appropriate management response. Appropriate responses range from fire suppression to managing fires to accomplish resource benefits. The appropriate management response is defined as the specific actions taken in response to a wildland fire. If successfully achieved, the appropriate management response provides for firefighter and public safety, minimizes the sum of suppression costs and resource damages, and has an acceptable expected probability of success or failure.

Initial attack on wildfires that occur on SRF lands is an aggressive suppression action, consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected. Suppression tactics may vary from aggressive direct attack to efforts designed to limit the wildfire to an identified area, defined by manually or mechanically constructed fire line, topographic breaks, natural barriers, or vegetation breaks. Large fire management on the SRF is guided by several strategic priorities, which include: availability of fire suppression resources; assets and values threatened; current and predicted weather conditions; availability of air support (helicopters and air tankers); access; fire potential analysis; and other logistical issues.

Under a cooperative agreement, the Federal and State agencies have exchanged protection responsibilities in specific areas. Willow Creek, for example, is the direct protection responsibility of the Six Rivers National Forest for wildland fires even though the community is in the State Responsibility Area (SRA). The SRA in the Willow Creek area is under Federal Direct Protection since the SRF has the closest available wildland fire suppression resources (see the "Fire Protection Resources" map for an illustration of this relationship).

Because fires do not respect jurisdictional boundaries and in the spirit of shared protection responsibility, local, state, and federal resources work together to ensure a well coordinated wildfire management strategy. For example, Cal Fire provides 911 dispatching services to the Willow Creek VFD, and also provides additional suppression resources to the SRF upon request. Also, even though the SRA lands that lie between Lord Ellis Summit and Berry Summit on Highway 299 are in the Cal Fire Direct Protection Area, dispatch will request an engine from the Lower Trinity Ranger
District of the SRF. This arrangement is due to the distance from the nearest Cal Fire engine which would be responding from either Trinidad or Fortuna.”
Local Response:

As mentioned above, fire protection resources work hard to provide an adequate and coordinated response to wildfires. Although local VFDs have the primary responsibility of responding to structure fires and medical emergencies, they train for and are often called upon to assist with wildfire management. The local fire volunteer departments operating within the CWPP planning area are Willow Creek, Salyer, and Hawkins Bar (Hawkins Bar runs a substation out of the community of Burnt Ranch).

Local VFDs are faced with a myriad of challenges having to do with the high cost of insurance and Workers Compensation, the lack of capital for the replacement of safety equipment, the complexity involved in keeping up with essential training, and difficulty in recruiting volunteers. Adequate funding is one of the most critical issues faced by VFDs. Personnel related costs such as Workers Compensation, even in all volunteer departments, have increased many times faster than the growth of revenue.

Proposition 13 and subsequent changes to the State Constitution have made it extremely challenging for local agencies to increase taxes for fire protection. Fund-raising by all-volunteer departments is difficult and time-consuming. Moreover, the impact of additional occupational safety requirements mandated by SB 1207, no matter how critical to firefighter safety, could be “the straw that breaks the camel’s back” in terms of departmental survivability.

Despite all of these challenges, the local VFDs operating within the CWPP planning are managing to survive. The level of service varies from community to community but the dedicated volunteers who persist in delivering local emergency service are holding fast. The following section provided detailed information about each of these departments.

WILLOW CREEK VFD

Some of the Information below was compiled from the Willow Creek Chamber of commerce website [http://www.willowcreekchamber.com](http://www.willowcreekchamber.com) and the 2009 Annual Report produced through a collaborative effort of the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association and Cal Fire.

The Willow Creek VFD was established in 1957 shortly after a major fire disaster that destroyed most of the downtown business area. The Willow Creek Fire Protection District was established in 1959 and now encompasses four square miles. Both entities occupy the original fire hall located at 51 Willow Road in downtown Willow Creek. The District currently has direct access to an appropriate fire hydrant system that is maintained by the Willow Creek Community Services District. Today, the Willow Creek VFD averages between 15 and 22 active volunteer firefighters including two dispatchers.

A publicly elected Board of Directors consisting of a panel of five, including a Board president/chairman, governs the Fire District finances. The Board meets every second Thursday of each month from 7 PM – 9 PM at the Fire Hall, 51 Willow Road The public is welcome. All members of the fire department and governing Board are volunteers. The expenses that are incurred by running an active fire department are funded through grant applications, a 1% proportional tax base and a local fire fee assessment schedule.

The Willow Creek VFD responds to both structure fires and wildfires. The fire fighting volunteers are cross trained and outfitted for both types of fire response. Firefighters are
also trained and certified in handling medical emergencies and are often asked to respond to medical emergencies including traffic accidents. Emergency medical skills are often employed during the sometimes-lengthy wait for EMS to arrive on scene. The rate of calls for service average between 250 and 300 per year and seems to be on the rise with continuing growth in the local population.

The Department responds to calls both inside and outside of its district boundary. Services are provided from Lord Ellis Summit to the Trinity County line and north of Willow Creek assisting the Hoopa and Orleans VFDs. The department has mutual-aid agreements with the United States Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest, Blue Lake VFD and CALFIRE and an auto-aid agreement with Salyer VFD in Trinity County.

**Fire Department Details:**

| Address: | Box 51  
|  | 51 Willow Road  
|  | Willow Creek, CA 95573-0051 |
| Phone--Emergency: | 911 |
| Non-Emergency: | (530) 629-2229 |
| Email: | willowcreekvfd@gmail.com |
| Contacts: | Nathan Falk, Chief  
|  | Timothy La Londe, Assistant Chief  
|  | Steve Marshall, Capt. |
| Staffing Level (2010): | 15 Volunteer fire fighters  
|  | 3 Auxiliary |
| (Note: This staff includes EMTs, First Responders, Class B Drivers, and Wildland Certified Firefighters) |
| Types of Equipment: | • 1 3700 gal water tender  
|  | • 3 type-2 engines:  
|  | o E9224 - equipped with a potable RIC kit,  
|  | o E9225 - , and  
|  | o E9226 - a 4X4 engine equipped with a 5kw generator with scene lights, Jaws-of-life, airbags, remote monitor, lifting jacks, CAFS and high-angle rescue gear.  
|  | • 1 light rescue (R9271) equipped with jaws-of-life, a defibrillator, medical and high-angle rescue gear and a 5kw generator with lights |
| Number of Residents Served: | approximately 2000  
| (Note: Thousands of travelers pass through the area on SRs 299 and 96) |
| Area Served (sq. mi.): | 4 |
| Types of Services: | Fire, Rescue, Medical |
| Call Data (2009): | Structural Fires 4  
|  | Vegetation Fires 5  
|  | Other Fires 17  
|  | Vehicle Acc 38  
|  | Med/Service 102  
|  | Haz/Menace 4  
|  | Other Service 9 |
HAWKINS BAR VFD

The Hawkins Bar VFD is a volunteer organization with its main fire hall located in Trinity Village just off of Highway 299. The substation is located ten miles to the east in Burnt Ranch. This Department responds to structural fires, vegetation fires, traffic accidents, medical call and other incidents. The Department serves 600 residents and thousands of travelers who pass through and recreate in the area on both sides of 299 from the Salyer Rest Area to the Del Loma area. The staff includes EMTs, First Responders, Class B Drivers and Wildland Certified Firefighters.

Fire Department Details:

Address: 1 Trinity Court Hawkins Bar, CA
(Main Fire Hall in Trinity Village
Substation in Burnt Ranch)

Phone--Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: (530) 629-3920
Contact: Steve Packard, Chief

Staffing Level:
2 Dispatchers
12 Firefighters
(Note: This staff includes EMTs, First Responders,
Class B Drivers, Wildland Certified Firefighters)

Types of Equipment:
Main Fire Hall:
- Responder Van (Medical/Accident)
- Water Tender
- OES Engine (Six Firefighters)
Substation:
- Brush/Quick Attack Engine
- Engine (Three Firefighters)

Number of Residents Served: 600
(Note: Thousands of travelers pass through the area on SR 299)

Area Served (sq. mi.): 156
(Note: On both sides of SR299 from Salyer Rest Area to Del Loma and including Denny)

Types of Services: Fire, Rescue, Medical

Call Data
Three-Year Average (2007-2009)
- Structural Fires 1.3
- False Alarms 3.7
- Vehicle Fires 1.7
- Vegetation Fires 6
- TCS w/o Extrications 6
- TCS/ Extrications 7
- Other Rescue 1.3
- Med/Service 52
- Other Calls/Incidents 3.3
- Total Calls 83
SALYER VFD

The Salyer VFD is located in Salyer, CA just off of Highway 299. It is the western most Fire Department in Trinity County. The organization is made up of 15 members including EMTs, First Aid Qualified, Class B Drivers and Wildland Fighter Qualified. Some of the members had CDF and Forest Service professional backgrounds. Fifty square miles are served with two Type II Engines, one water tender and one Quick Attack Medical Vehicle. The services include Structural and Wildland Fire Suppression, Hazmat Response, Vehicle Accidents, Medical Calls and Low Angle Rescues.

<table>
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<th>Fire Department Details:</th>
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| Address:                | PO Box 235  
                           | Salyer, CA 95563-0235  |
| Phone--Emergency:       | 911  |
| Non-Emergency:          | (530) 629-2778  |
| Contact:                | David Murphy, Chief  |
| Staffing Level:         | 14 +/-  |
| (Members being EMTs, First Aid, AED qualified, Class B Drivers and Wildland Firefighter Qualified.)  |
| Types of Equipment:     | Two Type II Engines, One Water Tender, One Quick Attack Medical Vehicle  |
| Area Served (sq. mi.):  | Fifty  |
| Types of Services:      | BLS, Low Angle Rescue, Hazmat FRO, Structure and Wildland Fire Suppression  |
| Call Data (2009):       |  |
| Structure Fires         | 8  |
| False Alarms            | 2  |
| Vehicle Fires           | 2  |
| Medical                 | 28 |
| Vehicle Accidents       | 33 |
| Hazmat                  | 4  |
| Other Rescue            | 4  |
| Service Calls/Other     | 24 |
| Total                   | 105 |
Community Preparedness
The assessment of how prepared a community is for wildfire includes such things as: if there is an active FSC, if the community is recognized by the National Firewise program, and if local VFDs and fire protection agencies conduct fire prevention programs.

LOCAL FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

The Willow Creek, Humboldt County, and Trinity County FSCs provide fire preparedness education and programs to the communities within CWPP planning area. The Willow Creek FSC focuses its primary activities in and around the community of Willow Creek. The Council expanded their focus to the communities of Slayer, Hawkins Bar and Burnt Ranch for the purposes of this CWPP. The Council aims to assist community members with brush clearing (including the elderly and disabled) and carry the message of community responsibility for fire safe planning and individual responsibility for home and personal safety. They provide community educational activities and materials including the annual Fire Safe Day and Youth Ecology Fair, and the Youth Fishing Derby.

The Humboldt County FSC was formed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to oversee the development, implementation, and maintenance of the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan, Humboldt County’s equivalent to a CWPP. The Council is staffed by the Humboldt County Community Development Services, Natural Resources Planning Division. Oversight and guidance is provided for the administration of several grant programs. For example, small grants are provided to local Humboldt County FSCs for the development of CWPPs and for gaining Firewise recognition. The Council also oversees the Humboldt County Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes (FLASH) program which provides a share of cost to property owners who wish to reduce the buildup of hazardous wildfire fuels on their land.

The following description of the Trinity County FSC was adapted from the 2005 Trinity County Wildfire Protection Plan.

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council (FSC), part of a state-wide network of organizations for wildfire planning and educational outreach to homeowners, was initiated in 1998. The Trinity County FSC has benefited from several ongoing efforts involving multiple agencies and community participants. A Hayfork Fire Plan was developed from 1995-96 in a joint effort by the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC), Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD), United States Forest Service (USFS), Cal Fire, and local residents. The collaboration was funded by USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station and led to a proposed plan to develop fuel breaks around the community of Hayfork.

Coordinated fuels reduction and fuel break construction efforts began with private landowners in two Hayfork area neighborhoods, and WRTC worked with USFS to construct some of the identified fuel breaks on federal land. WRTC has pioneered efforts to make fuels reduction economically sustainable through utilization of small diameter wood in manufactured wood products. WRTC and TCRCD have also developed in-house GIS capability. These and other efforts have served to develop local organizational capacity for working with private landowners and local residents to

identify values at risk and reduce fuels hazards on private lands, and to implement fuel reduction on public lands using non-profit resources.

**FIREWISE RECOGNITION**

The Firewise Communities/USA program provides a unique opportunity to America’s fire-prone communities. Its goal is to encourage and acknowledge action that minimizes home loss to wildfire. It teaches community members to prepare for a fire before it occurs. For more detailed information about Firewise, you can visit their website online at: [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). To receive Firewise recognition, a community must:

- Conduct a community assessment and draft an action plan to address observed fire safety issues;
- Sponsor a local firewise board to maintain local Firewise programs and track accomplishments;
- Observe an annual Firewise day dedicated to a local Firewise project;
- Invest a minimum of $2.00 annually per capita into local Firewise activities; and
- Submit an annual report to Firewise Communities/USA, documenting continued compliance with the program.

Communities that have already received Firewise recognition within this CWPP planning area are Willow Creek, Hawkins Bar and Salyer. Burnt Ranch is in the process of gaining Firewise recognition. Appendix 5 contains a copy of Willow Creek’s Community Assessment and Firewise Action Plan. The Willow Creek FSC has initiated the annual tradition of hosting a Firewise day called the “Fire Safe Day and Youth Ecology Fair”. This event takes place in May and showcases Firewise accomplishments and frontlines fire preparedness and fire prevention techniques.

**FIRE SERVICE PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

**Willow Creek VFD**

The Willow Creek VFD conducts a Fire Prevention program at Trinity Valley Elementary School. Fire Fighters visit the school to provide information that increases awareness of fire safety. Additionally, the Department participates in the annual Willow Creek Bigfoot Days celebration. Fire engines are on display in the parade and a mini muster is hosted for which many neighboring fire departments come to demonstrate their firefighting skills.

**Hawkins Bar VFD**

The Hawkins Bar VFD is also the “Community Center” in Trinity Village and the Hawkins Bar Area. They conduct community Breakfast events with a primary purpose of educating the local public concerning fire safe behavior. In addition, they sponsor community activities including fund raisers such as the Burt Pickle Memorial Run. The Department has participated in regional parades, conducted home fire suppression demonstrations and partnered with others to teach river safety.

**Salyer VFD**

The Salyer VFD has been involved in a variety of educational fire prevention activities over the years. They have participated in the County “Big Red Fire Truck” program, fun and informative Muster events and local parades. In addition, the Department attempts to inform the community concerning fire prevention and/or reducing the impact of an
incident by visiting properties and discussing defensible space, care of propane tanks, chimneys, and appropriate use of power tools in the outdoors.

**Cal Fire**

Cal Fire conducts a Fire Prevention Program in the Willow Creek area mostly through coordination with the Willow Creek FSC. Cal Fire Fighters participate in the Willow Creek Fire Safe Day and Youth Ecology fair on an annual basis and other local events as requested. During these events, Cal Fire provides public information education and brochures along with a Cal Fire engine company Smokey the Bear and/or Sparky. Participation in these events allows Cal Fire to deliver fire prevention and loss reduction education. In addition, participation allows for educating children and their parents about fire prevention.

Cal Fire actively makes preliminary wildland homeowner property inspections for fire safety as required by the California Public Resources Code 4291. Cal Fire is also a reviewing agency of some permits processed through Community Development Services. During plan submittal, “SRA Fire Safe Regulations” are reviewed to assure design and construction of structures, subdivisions, and developments in the SRA provide for basic emergency access and perimeter wildfire protection.

**Forest Service- Lower Trinity Ranger District Prevention Program:**

Lower Trinity’s Prevention program is aimed at minimizing wildfire in and around the Six Rivers National Forest. This is accomplished through education, engineering, and law enforcement. The Ranger District provides an informational booth for the annual Willow Creek Bigfoot Days Celebration, where the public is offered educational materials on wildfire prevention and homeowner strategies to protect their property from wildfire.

The Prevention program provides prevention presentations to local schools with the intent to minimize wildfire, while educating local youth on general fire safety and reporting. The Lower Trinity Prevention Program also educates the public through signage (Fire Danger and Forest Regulations), public contact, and press releases. The Prevention program enforces U.S. Forest Service regulations as Forest Protection Officers, and assists other enforcement agencies during fire restrictions/no-burn days.

Wildfire fuels that are created through other management activities such as timber harvest are reduced to acceptable levels. Prescribed fire is used, where appropriate, as a natural fuels reduction treatment. Wildfires may, under specific circumstances, be managed as prescribed fires as well.

Ranger District staff members are interested in collaborating with other agencies with a similar mission in order to provide more efficient public service and to avoid duplication of service. Partnerships with tribes and local community organizations, such as fire safe councils, are crucial for preventing wildfires as well as protecting local communities through treatment of hazardous forest fuels. Where resource lands intermix with rural residential development, activities are coordinated with other agencies, local government, and property owners. Hazard reduction in these interface areas is a priority for the Forest Service.
WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

After considering the location of the inhabited areas, the critical human infrastructure, and the risk of wildfire, the community has identified a wildland-urban interface (WUI) boundary around community assets. The starting place for designating the WUI boundary for CWPP planning purposes was a pre-defined WUI line which was drawn by fire management of the Six Rivers National Forest. The boundary was based on major ridges and forest service roads around the Willow Creek community. This original boundary was expanded to accommodate all of the communities within the CWPP planning area. It was decided that the planning area boundary and the WUI boundary would be one and the same (this is the “CWPP Planning/WUI Boundary” shown on the maps provided throughout this document). The boundary encompasses the inhabited areas of Willow Creek, Salyer, Hawkins Bar, Burnt Ranch, Cedar Flat, USFS RTE 1 (Titlow Hill area) while still following human made and geographic features such as roads, ridges and stream channels. The designation of this boundary was accomplished through the collaborative efforts of the Willow Creek FSC, Forest Service and Cal Fire staff, and community meeting participants.
ACTION PLAN

The following actions are recommended as ways to improve the wildfire readiness of communities within the CWPP planning area. The Down River & Fuels Management Plan and the Trinity County CWPP contain additional and/or more detailed recommended actions for the Trinity County portion of this CWPP’s planning area.

This action plan is divided into the following specific fire hazard mitigation categories:

- **Treatment of Structural Ignitability** – Recommends measures that property owners and communities can take to reduce the “ignitability of structures” (ease with which structures can catch fire and burn) within the CWPP planning area. Recommendations in this section include actions that can be taken in the entire home ignition zone and not just the structure itself. There are resources that provide guidance for what the law requires (Public Resource code 4291 – Appendix 8) and ways to comply with the law (Homeowner’s Checklist – Appendix 3). “Firewise Guide to Landscape Construction” is also a useful publication provided by Firewise (see Appendix 4) and there are many others provided through the California FSC, Cal Fire, the California Fire Alliance, local groups and more.

- **Support and Improve Fire Protection Capabilities** – Recommends actions that can be taken that will make the fire service’s job easier or that will directly support the fire service in a way that sustains continued and/or improved service delivery.

- **Treatment of Hazardous Fuels** – Identifies actions that can be taken to reduce flammable vegetation where it creates a wildfire hazard. Recommendations in this section include fuels reduction activities that can take place beyond the home ignition zone. Treating hazardous fuels in areas near individual homes is important and is addressed in the section of this action plan on treating structural ignitability. Recommends general actions that can be taken.

- **Appendix 1 contains maps and matrixes of specific community identified areas for hazardous fuels reduction treatment. Any treatment of vegetation (wildfire fuels) must conform to applicable local, state, and federal environmental laws and regulations. No vegetation treatments recommended in this plan will be carried out without the consent and involvement of the property owner and all applicable local, state and federal regulations must be observed.

- **Education** – Recommends actions that will raise awareness about what can be done to reduce the community’s vulnerability to damage from inevitable wildfires.

- **Planning** – Recommends actions that will support continued wildfire mitigation planning and coordination with local, state, and federal partners.

**Time Line:**

“ST” = Short Term (1 to 5 years)
“LT” = Long Term (5 years or greater)
“OG” = Ongoing Program
“DOF” = Depending on Funding
## Treatment of Structural Ignitability

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Possible Resources</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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| **Reducing the vulnerability of the Home to damage from wildfire:** Highly ignitable homes can be destroyed from even low intensity or distant wildfires. Such ignitable homes are the primary cause of structure loss during wildfires near communities. Key items that make these homes so vulnerable are flammable roofs and siding, gutters and rooftops with accumulations of leaves and needles, and flammable items in direct contact with the structure. Home owners can seek technical and financial assistance to replace highly flammable building materials. New construction should conform to WUI building codes which require that homes are made with fire resistant materials. Homeowners can also choose to voluntarily upgrade structures to the WUI building codes. Appendix 7 contains information on the code. | • Local FSCs  
• County Building Departments  
• Banks | ST  
OG |
| **Reduce Large or Dense Amounts of Live Vegetation in the Home Ignition Zone:** Many homes in planning area have dense vegetation growing in the home ignition zone. Residents must remove the ladder fuels and prevent fire from moving up into the crowns of trees or onto the house and its attachments. There are many publications that provide information to home owners for how to deal with this issue; some of them are appended to this document as examples. There are occasional funds that can be accessed to help property owners reduce the buildup of hazardous fuels on their land (Local FSCs or Cal Fire can be contacted for updates on these programs). | • Local FSCs  
• Local VFDs  
• Cal Fire | ST  
OG |
### Support and Improve Fire Protection Capabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Possible Resources</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations for the areas served by the Willow Creek VFD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WATER</strong></td>
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</table>
| Additional Water Tanks: The after action findings of the Oakland hills firestorm concluded the lack of water greatly contributed to the destruction. Cisterns were installed after the fact. Residents served by the Willow Creek VFD do not want to find themselves without an adequate firefighting water supply. So, in areas with no hydrants or open water sources for drafting, there is a need for more water tanks. Tanks for storage of 3000 - 6000 gallons will allow for more effective and prolonged direct attack without breaking contact with the incident. The best case scenario is a tank elevated 80 feet or more uphill from the home with water brought down with a 3 inch pipe. A hydrant with 1 ½ inch or 2 ½ inch male National Hose pipe thread fittings should be fed by the tank and placed at least 50 feet away from the home but no more than 12 feet from the road. | • USDA Grants  
• Property owner investments  
• Watershed programs | ST & OG |
| Blue Dot Program: Once a water supply is established to help firefighters, it’s important that they know where it is. Residents can install round blue reflectors near their hydrant to direct firefighters to the water source. It’s important not to use these blue reflectors for anything else on the property; this could lead to confusion. A publication promoting this practice was produced for Trinity County residents (see Appendix 9). | • Local VFDs  
• Community Services District  
• Insurance Companies  
• Timber Companies  
• Forest Service  
• County of Humboldt | ST & OG |
| **FACILITIES**                               |                                          |          |
| New Fire Station: Willow Creek needs a second fire station built on the East side of the Trinity River. The bridge on Country Club Road is the only way for residents of the Bigfoot Subdivision, Seely McIntosh, Patterson Road, and Oak Lane neighborhoods to quickly get across the river to Highways 299 and 96. If the bridge is ever closed due to flood, vehicle accident, earthquake or fire, the only way to provide emergency services is via Salyer or by Air, both of which are very time consuming. | • Grants  
• Community of Willow Creek  
• Fund Raising | LT |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support and Improve Fire Protection Capabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquake Retrofit: The Fire hall is a critical facility that must be operational during an emergency. Fires often follow on the heels of earthquakes and firefighters must be able to access equipment and apparatus and respond quickly. If the fire house is damaged from an earthquake, it could delay fire service response; possibly leading to increased loses to life and property. For that reason it is critical to retrofit the existing fire hall for earthquake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPANDED SERVICES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swift Water Rescue Team: The Trinity River has claimed many lives and the fire department is currently ill trained and equipped to respond to this community life hazard. There is a real need to establish, train, and equip a swift water rescue team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Access: As mentioned above there are several neighborhoods on the east side of the Trinity River with only one way in and one way out over the bridge on Country Club Road. There is a critical need to establish a second emergency egress route out of these neighborhoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Signed Access - Street Names: Access roads that are clearly identified with a sign, increase the ability of firefighters to quickly respond to emergencies (especially non-local firefighters who are called in to assist with structure protection during a larger wildfire event). For this reason it is critical to complete the installation of street signs community wide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Signed Access - Address Numbers: When firefighters are responding to a medical emergency or home fire it is not always obvious which home to go to if the address is not visibly posted. For this reason it is critical to create an on-going campaign for address numbers to be posted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPARATUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quick Attack Truck: Due to the steep terrain, expense of operating full size apparatus and complications associated with Volunteers obtaining Class B Fire Fighter drivers licensing, the need to obtain a quick</td>
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### Support and Improve Fire Protection Capabilities

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<th>Action</th>
<th>Possible Resources</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tr>
<td>attack brush apparatus/ truck has become imperative. This type of truck can be operated by anyone with a class C driver’s license, is the size of a pickup, and can provide rescue and fire fighting capabilities.</td>
<td>▪ Grants ▪ Surplus equipment</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

#### Recommendations for the areas served by the Hawkins Bar and Salyer VFD:

NOTE: Many of the actions identified above by the Willow Creek VFD are applicable to the areas served by the Hawkins Bar and Salyer VFDs. The following needed actions were specifically identified at community meetings in Burnt Ranch.

**Additional Apparatus:** Secure funding to purchase Type III brush engine and water tender (Salyer and Hawkins Bar).

- Rural Firefighter Assistance grants
- Fire Chiefs’ Association as a contact for surplus equipment
- Cal Fire
- US Forest Service

**Water Storage:** Secure funding for water storage tanks (to place in various areas), water pumps, and portable tanks.

- Grants
- Community donations

**Training Equipment:** Acquire training equipment (laptop, projector, etc).

- Grants
- Community donations

**Firefighter Equipment:** Find ways to increase firefighter equipment.

- Grants
- Fire Chiefs’ Association
- Donations from the community

**Secondary Access:** The neighborhoods of Trinity Village and Salyer Heights are on the opposite side of the Trinity River from Highway 299 with only one way in and one way out aside from rough back roads through Forest Service lands. There is a critical need to establish a second emergency egress route out of these neighborhoods.

- County of Trinity
- Neighboring Property Owners

**Signage:** Secure funding to purchase signs for community addresses and water sources in Salyer.

- Grants
- Fire Chiefs’ Association
- Donations from the community

### Treatment of Hazardous Fuels

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<th>Action</th>
<th>Possible Resources</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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| **Wildfire Fuels Treatment along Access Roads:** An accumulation of dense flammable vegetation along access roads can hinder evacuation and make it difficult for fire firefighting personnel to get through to a wildfire incident or structure fire. These roadside fuels also pose an ignition risk. Treatment of fuels along roads will reduce the risk fire starts and also increase the chances of a road acting as a firebreak. Treating roadside vegetation will also improve the ability of firefighters to access a fire event and residents to escape. All heavily traveled roads and roads used for residential access that are bordered by dense vegetation should receive appropriate treatment (Prescribed fire, mechanical, or grazing). Appendix 1 contains information and maps showing specific roads identified at community fire planning meetings as needing treatment. | ▪ Road Association funding and labor pools  
▪ Local and County FSC grant programs  
▪ California FSC grant programs  
▪ Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests  
▪ Other local, state and federal grant programs | ST & OG |

| **Wildfire Fuels Treatment near community critical facilities and other values:** According to the MTWA “The most complicated and largest wildland/urban interface is in the high-density population centers along the Trinity River corridor”. The hazards associated with living in these high risk areas can be reduced through the application of fuels management practices. Reducing the fuel loads within and near these river corridor communities can reduce their vulnerability to damage caused by fires in the wildlands and conversely can protect the wildlands from fires originating from within the communities. Appendix 1 contains information and maps showing specific community areas, identified at community workshops, as needing fuels treatment. Local, state and federal partners will continue to work together to identify funding sources and local strategies and partnerships that can be used to help residents address the fuels treatment needs within their communities. | ▪ Local Residents  
▪ Local FSCs  
▪ Local VFDs  
▪ Cal Fire  
▪ Humboldt and Trinity Counties  
▪ The Trinity County Resource Conservation District | ST Lt & OG |
### Treatment of Hazardous Fuels

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<th>Action</th>
<th>Possible Resources</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wildfire Fuels Treatment on Forest Service land:</strong> Local, state, and federal partners will continue to work together to encourage hazardous fuels treatment and the allocation of federal funds to protect communities and neighborhoods as stipulated in the Health Forest Restoration Act. The aim is to return the landscape to Condition Class 1 and provide for a healthy, fire resistant landscape that supports the economic, recreation, esthetic, and ecological needs of residents and visitors. An open and collaborative process will be used to develop projects within the CWPP WUI designed to decrease the risk of uncharacteristically destructive wildfire behavior. Appendix 1 contains information and maps showing specific areas on federal land identified as needing treatment. GIS data for these areas were provided by Six Rivers National Forest staff, incorporated into the planning area base map, and reviewed by residents at community workshops.</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="USDA Forest Service" /> <img src="#" alt="County and local FSCs" /> <img src="#" alt="Local VFDs" /> <img src="#" alt="Local residents" /></td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescribed Burning:</strong> According to the MTWA “under the natural fire regime, fires occurred frequently and generally burned at a lower intensity. This regime resulted in smaller burned areas with fewer negative impacts to the ecosystem than the fires experienced in recent years. It is generally accepted that introduction of frequent, low intensity fires has numerous benefits for various ecosystem components. Fire may be used as a tool to reduce the occurrence and severity of large “stand replacing” fires which often cause severe ecosystem damage and increase erosion and sedimentation.”</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="US Forest Service" /> <img src="#" alt="California Prescribed Fire Council" /> <img src="#" alt="Air Quality Management District" /> <img src="#" alt="Local FSCs" /> <img src="#" alt="Local VFDs" /></td>
<td>ST &amp; OG</td>
</tr>
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### Education

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<th>Action</th>
<th>Possible Resources</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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| **Fire Prevention Education:** All CWPP planning team members will continue to provide fire prevention educational support and materials. Outreach will include educating community members about:  
  - Conducting a home risk assessment;  
  - Preparing a firesafe home ignition zone;  
  - The purpose of importance of fuels reduction activities; and  
  - Preparing for emergency evacuation | Local FSCs  
US Forest Service  
Trinity and Humboldt Counties  
Trinity County Resource Conservation District | ST & OG |
| **Firewise Recognition:** All communities within the planning area will obtain and maintain Firewise recognition. The Firewise Communities/USA program provides a unique opportunity to America’s fire-prone communities. Its goal is to encourage and acknowledge action that minimizes home loss to wildfire. It teaches community members to prepare for a fire before it occurs. | Firewise USA  
Local FSCs  
Trinity and Humboldt Counties  
Trinity County Resource Conservation District | ST |
| **Outreach to Local Schools:** Share firesafe materials suitable for preschool through high school curriculum with local schools and make firesafe presentations to students and staff. | Local FSCs  
US Forest Service  
Local VFDs  
Cal Fire  
Local public and private schools | ST & OG |

### Planning

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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Possible Resources</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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| **Hawkins Bar FSC:** Start a local FSC in the community of Hawkins Bar. The communities of Slayer, Hawkins Bar and Burnt Ranch are far from the hub of Trinity County FSC activity in Weaverville and have needs and resources distinct from the community of Willow Creek. Hawkins Bar is centrally located between the three communities and could be a natural fit for an emerging local FSC. This FSC could provide local firesafe education outreach and fire hazard reduction project identification and implementation. | Community members  
Trinity Village improvement Association  
California FSC  
All neighboring FSCs  
Hawkins Bar and Salyer VFDs | ST |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Planning</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
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</table>
| **Maintain FSCs:** Maintain the Willow Creek, Humboldt County, and Trinity County FSCs as well as any other emerging local FSC within the planning area as vehicles for continued support of CWPP implementation and maintenance. | • Humboldt and Trinity County Governments  
• FSC Members  
• Cal Fire  
• Forest Service  
• Local VFDs | OG |
| **Specific Community Action Plans:** Each community within the CWPP planning area needs to take the general recommendations from this CWPP a step farther. Community members will work with planning partners to select priority actions and create specific actions plans with goals, measurable objectives, and work plans with timelines and estimated budgets. | • Local Residents  
• FSCs  
• Cal Fire  
• Forest Service  
• County Staff  
• Other partners as needed | ST |
EVALUATION AND MONITORING

The completion of this CWPP is not the end of the story. The Action Plan must be implemented and progress monitored and celebrated. The planning area must be periodically assessed for changes in the wildfire hazard, wildfire risk, wildfire protection capabilities, community preparedness, and community assets at risk.

Copies of this plan will be provided to each of the local VFDs, Cal Fire, Six Rivers and Shasta Trinity National Forests, the Willow Creek Community Service District, and representatives of both the Humboldt and Trinity Counties FSCs. Copies will also be made available at the Willow Creek Branch of the Humboldt County Library. The intention is to keep the public informed and involved and provide the tools necessary to engage in continued discussions with the individuals, organizations, and agencies involved in reducing this area’s vulnerability to loss of life, property, and natural resources from damaging wildfires.

The CWPP Team worked hard to put this plan together. It is going to take continued collaboration and cooperation to implement plan recommendations and sustain momentum. The Team will continue to maintain contact and monitor progress in the following ways:

- Meet annually to review the plan and identify any progress that has been made and agree on new and/or revised priorities.
- Keep GIS map data up-to-date and continue to share data between the counties of Humboldt and Trinity, Cal Fire, and the Forest Service. In particular, continue to refine the matrix listing areas in need of hazardous fuels reduction treatment and fill in data gaps.
- Conduct a comprehensive plan update process in five years.
- Communicate with partners when grant opportunities arise about possible collaborations that could increase competitiveness and effectiveness and to ensure that there is broad support for proposed activities. As much as possible, grant proposals should reflect activities recommended in the plan thus representing plan implementation.
### ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alliance</td>
<td>California Fire Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AED</td>
<td>Automated External Defibrillator</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLS</td>
<td>Basic Life Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cal Fire</td>
<td>California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHP</td>
<td>California Highway Patrol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD</td>
<td>Community Services District</td>
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<tr>
<td>CWPP</td>
<td>Community Wildfire Protection Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOF</td>
<td>Depends on Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMT</td>
<td>Emergency Medical Technician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLASH</td>
<td>Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPD</td>
<td>Fire Protection District</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRA</td>
<td>Federal Responsibility Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>FSC</td>
<td>Fire Safe Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographic Information System</td>
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<tr>
<td>HazMat</td>
<td>Hazardous Materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>HFRA</td>
<td>Healthy Forests Restoration Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAL</td>
<td>Lightning Activity Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOS</td>
<td>Level of Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>LT</td>
<td>Long Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>MFPP</td>
<td>Master Fire Protection Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTWA</td>
<td>Mainstem Trinity Watershed Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEPA</td>
<td>National Environmental Policy Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>NF</td>
<td>National Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>NFPA</td>
<td>National Fire Protection Association</td>
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<td>OES</td>
<td>Office of Emergency Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>OG</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<td>OSHA</td>
<td>Occupational Safety and Health Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPE</td>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTE</td>
<td>Route</td>
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<tr>
<td>SR</td>
<td>State Route</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRA</td>
<td>State Responsibility Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRNF</td>
<td>Six Rivers National Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>Short Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCRCD</td>
<td>Trinity County Resource Conservation District</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCS</td>
<td>Traffic Accidents</td>
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<tr>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>United States Forest Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>United States Department of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFD</td>
<td>Volunteer Fire Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>VMP</td>
<td>Vegetation Management Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK</td>
<td>Willow Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRTC</td>
<td>Watershed Research and Training Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>WUI</td>
<td>Wildland Urban Interface</td>
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GLOSSARY

**Apparatus:** Fire apparatus includes various types of firefighting vehicles. For the purposes of the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan, fire apparatus includes wildland fire engines, rescue vehicles, ladder and aerial trucks, engines, and water tenders.

**Aspect:** The compass direction toward which a slope faces.

**Automatic Aid Agreement:** An agreement between two or more agencies whereby the agencies are automatically dispatched simultaneously to predetermined types of emergencies in predetermined areas.

**Benefit Assessment:** An assessment of taxes levied on the property owners in a district who enjoy a “special benefit.” Proposition 218 establishes a strict definition of “special benefit.” For the purposes of all assessment acts, special benefit means “a particular and distinct benefit over and above general benefits conferred on real property located in the district or the public at large. General enhancement of property value does not constitute ‘special benefit.’” In a reversal of previous law, a local agency is prohibited by Proposition 218 from including the cost of any general benefit in the assessment apportioned to individual properties. Assessments are limited to those necessary to recover the cost of the special benefit provided the property.

**Brush:** A collective term that refers to stands of vegetation dominated by shrubby, woody plant, or low-growing trees.

**Brushfire:** A fire burning in vegetation that is predominantly shrubs, brush, and scrub growth.

**Community at Risk:** Wildland interface (see definition below) communities in the vicinity of Federal lands that are at high risk from wildfire. (See list in Federal Register, January 4, 2001).

- **CSD:** Community Services District. CSDs are sometimes called “junior cities” and are authorized under §61000 of the Government Code. CSDs can provide a broad range of municipal services including fire protection to unincorporated areas. CSDs are governed by a five member elected Board of Directors and receive revenue from taxes and fees. In cases where a CSD is responsible for fire protection in Humboldt County, services are provided by a volunteer fire department with facilities and funding provided by the CSD.

**Dead Fuels:** Fuels with no living tissue in which moisture content is governed almost entirely by atmospheric moisture (relative humidity and precipitation), dry-bulb temperature, and solar radiation.

**Debris Burning:** Any fire originally set for the purpose of clearing land or for burning rubbish, garbage, range, stubble, or meadow burning.

**Defensible Space:** An area, either natural or manmade, where material capable of causing a fire to spread has been treated, cleared, reduced, or changed in order to
provide a barrier between an advancing wildland fire and the loss to life, property, or resources. In practice, defensible space is defined as an area with a minimum of 100 feet around a structure that is cleared of flammable brush or vegetation. Distance from the structure and the degree of fuels treatment vary with vegetation type, slope, density, and other factors.

**Detection:** The act or system of discovering and locating fires.

**Direct Attack:** Any treatment of burning fuel, such as by wetting, smothering, or chemically quenching the fire or by physically separating burning from unburned fuel.

**Direct Protection Area:** Fire protection responsibility areas as delineated for state, federal, and local agencies.

**Dispatch:** The implementation of a command decision to move a resource or resources from one place to another.

**Extreme Fire Behavior:** "Extreme" implies a level of fire behavior characteristics that ordinarily precludes methods of direct control action. One or more of the following is usually involved: high rate of spread, prolific crowning and/or spotting, presence of fire whirls, strong convection column. Predictability is difficult because such fires often exercise some degree of influence on their environment and behave erratically and/or dangerously.

**Federal Responsibility Area:** Areas within which a federal government agency has the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires (see also State Responsibility Area and Local Responsibility Area).

**Fine (Light, Flash) Fuels:** Fast-drying fuels, generally with a comparatively high surface area-to-volume ratio, which are less than ¼-inch in diameter and have a time-lag constant of one hour or less. These fuels readily ignite and are rapidly consumed by fire when dry.

**Fire Behavior:** The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography. Common terms used to describe behavior include: smoldering, creeping, running, spotting, torching, and crowning.

**Fire Management Plan (FMP):** A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires. The plan is supplemented by operational plans such as preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, prescribed fire plans, and prevention plans.

**Fire Regime:** The combination of fire frequency, predictability, intensity, seasonality, and size characteristics of fire in a particular ecosystem.

**Fire-Return Interval:** The number of years between two successive fire events at a specific site or an area of a specified size.

**Fire Safe:** Action(s) that moderate the severity of a fire hazard to a level of "acceptable risk". In a broader context this term describes the state of lessened severity or action(s) that moderate the severity of a fire hazard or risk, while protecting structures and
surrounding property from fire, whether fire is inside the structure or is threatening the structure from exterior sources.

**Fire Season:** 1) Period(s) of the year during which wildland fires are likely to occur, spread, and affect resource values sufficient to warrant organized fire management activities. 2) A legally enacted time during which burning activities are regulated by state or local authority.

**Fire Severity:** The effect of fire on plants. It is dependant on intensity and residence of the burn. An intense fire may not necessarily be severe. For trees, severity is often measured as percentage of basal area removed.

**Fire Safe Standards:** Standards adopted by ordinance for the purpose of establishing a set of standards that will result in fire safe development within a specified area.

**Firewise:** An interagency program designed to encourage local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from the risk of wildfire ([www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)).

**FPD:** Fire Protection District. Districts authorized under §13800 of the California Health and Safety Code to provide fire protection and emergency medical services. Fire Protection Districts are generally governed by a five member elected Board of Directors.

**Fuel:** Combustible material. Includes vegetation such as grass, leaves, ground litter, plants, shrubs, and trees that feed a fire. (See Surface Fuels.)

**Fuel Bed:** An array of fuels usually constructed with specific loading, depth and particle size to meet experimental requirements; also commonly used to describe the fuel composition in natural settings.

**Fuel-break:** A natural or constructed barrier used to stop or check fires that may occur, or to provide a control line from which to work.

**Fuel Load:** The amount of available and potentially combustible material, usually expressed as tons/acre.

**Fuel Loading:** The volume of fuel present expressed quantitatively in terms of weight of fuel per unit area.

**Fuel Moisture (Fuel Moisture Content):** The quantity of moisture in fuel expressed as a percentage of the weight when fuel is thoroughly dried at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Fuel Reduction:** Manipulation (including combustion and/or removal of fuels) to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control.

**Fuel Type:** An identifiable association of fuel elements of a distinctive plant species, form, size, arrangement; or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of fire spread or difficulty of control under specified weather conditions.
Ground Fuel: All combustible materials below the surface litter (including duff, tree or shrub roots, punchy wood, peat, and sawdust) that normally support a glowing combustion without flame.

Hazard Reduction: Any treatment of a hazard that reduces the threat of ignition and fire intensity or rate of spread.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Any treatment that reduces the amount of hazardous fuels.

Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA): A portion of the 2003 President’s Healthy Forests Initiative intended to reduce hazardous fuels on public and private lands. Establishes Community Wildfire Protection Plans and sets standards for those plans.

Heavy Fuels: Fuels of large diameter (such as snags, logs, and large limb wood) that ignite and are consumed more slowly than flash (fine, light) fuels.

Home Ignition Zone: This zone principally determines the potential for home ignitions during a wildland fire; it includes a house and its immediate surroundings within 100 to 150 feet.

Ignition Management: A program that includes fire prevention program activities that are aimed at preventing the ignition of wildland fires and/or reducing damage from fires. Components include law enforcement, public education, engineering, fuels modification, and fire-safe planning.

Incident: A human-caused or natural occurrence, such as wildland fire, that requires emergency service action to prevent or reduce the loss of life or damage to property or natural resources. Incident management teams also handle other non-fire emergency response, including tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters or large events.

Initial Attack: The actions taken by the first resources to arrive at a wildfire in order to protect lives and property and prevent further extension of the fire.

Interface Community: (Defined in the Federal Register, January 4, 2001) The Interface Community exists where structures directly abut wildland fuels. There is a clear line of demarcation between residential, business, and public structures and wildland fuels. Wildland fuels do not generally continue into the developed area. The development density for an interface community is usually three or more structures per acre, with shared municipal services. Fire protection is generally provided by a local government fire department with the responsibility to protect the structure from both an interior fire and an advancing wildland fire. An alternative definition of the interface community emphasizes a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.

Intermix Community: (Defined in the Federal Register, January 4, 2001) The Intermix Community exists where structures are scattered throughout a wildland area. There is no clear line of demarcation; wildland fuels are continuous outside of and within the developed area. The development density in the intermix ranges from structures very close together to one structure per 40 acres. Fire protection districts funded by various taxing authorities normally provide life and property fire protection and may also have
wildland fire protection responsibilities. An alternative definition of intermix community emphasizes a population density of between 28-250 people per square mile.

**Ladder Fuels:** Fuels which provide vertical continuity between strata and allow fire to carry from surface fuels into the crowns of trees or shrubs with relative ease. They help initiate and assure the continuation of crowning.

**Large Fire:**

1) Cal Fire defines a fire burning more than 300 acres as a large fire.

2) A fire burning with a size and intensity such that its behavior is determined by interaction between its own convection column and weather conditions above the surface.

**Level-of-service standard (LOS standard):** Quantifiable measures against which services being delivered by a service provider can be compared. Standards based upon recognized and accepted professional and county standards, while reflecting the local situation within which services are being delivered. Levels-of-service standards for fire protection may include response times, personnel per given population, and emergency water supply. LOS standards can be used to evaluate the way in which fire protection services are being delivered, for use in countywide fire planning efforts.

**Light Fuels:** See Fine Fuels.

**Litter:** Top layer of the forest, scrubland, or grassland floor, directly above the fermentation layer, composed of loose debris of dead sticks, branches, twigs, and recently fallen leaves or needles, little altered in structure by decomposition.

**Live Fuels:** Living plants, such as trees, grasses, and shrubs, in which the seasonal moisture content cycle is controlled largely by internal physiological mechanisms, rather than by external weather influences.

**Local Agency:** Pursuant to Government Code §56054 means a city, county, or district. For the purposes of the Fire Plan, a Local Agency refers to a city or special district that provides fire protection.

**Local Responsibility Area:** Lands in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires is primarily the responsibility of the local jurisdiction.

**Mutual Aid Agreement:** A reciprocal aid agreement between two or more agencies that defines what resources each will provide to the other in response to certain predetermined types of emergencies. Mutual aid response is provided upon request.

**National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):** An international non-profit organization whose mission is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating scientifically-based consensus codes and standards, research, training and education.
**Peak Fire Season:** That period of the fire season during which fires are expected to ignite most readily, to burn with greater than average intensity, and to create damage at an unacceptable level.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Equipment and clothing used and worn by all firefighting personnel in order to mitigate the risk of injury from, or exposure to, hazardous conditions encountered while working.

*Structure PPE,* or Bunker Gear, includes NFPA/OSHA compliant helmet, goggles, hood, coat, pants, boots, gloves, pocket tools, and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

*Wildland PPE* includes 8-inch laced leather boots with lug soles, fire shelter, hard hat with chin strap, goggles, ear plugs, aramid shirts and trousers, leather gloves, and individual first aid kits.

**Prescribed Fire:** A fire ignited under known conditions of fuel, weather, and topography to achieve specific objectives.

**Prevention:** Activities directed at reducing the incidence of fires. Include public education, law enforcement, personal contact, and reduction of fuel hazards.

**Stand-Replacing Fire:** A fire that kills most or all of the trees in a section of forest.

**State Responsibility Area:** Defined in California Public Resources Code § 4125 – 4127 as lands in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires is primarily the responsibility of the state. State Responsibility Areas are defined by code:

§ 4126. The board shall include within state responsibility areas all of the following lands:
(a) Lands covered wholly or in part by forests or by trees producing or capable of producing forest products.
(b) Lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, undergrowth, or grass, whether of commercial value or not, which protect the soil from excessive erosion, retard runoff of water or accelerate water percolation, if such lands are sources of water which is available for irrigation or for domestic or industrial use.
(c) Lands in areas which are principally used or useful for range or forage purposes, which are contiguous to the lands described in subdivisions (a) and (b).

§ 4127. The board shall not include within state responsibility areas any of the following lands:
(a) Lands owned or controlled by the federal government or any agency of the federal government.
(b) Lands within the exterior boundaries of any city, except a city and county with a population of less than 25,000 if, at the time the city and county government is established, the county contains no municipal corporations.
(c) Any other lands within the state which do not come within any of the classes which are described in Section 4126.

**Structure Fire:** Fire originating in and burning any part or all of any building.
Suppression: All the work of extinguishing or containing a fire, beginning with its discovery.

Surface Fuels: Loose surface litter on the soil surface, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches that have not yet decayed enough to lose their identity; also grasses, forbs, low and medium shrubs, tree seedlings, heavier branchwood, downed logs, and stumps interspersed with or partially replacing the litter.

Vegetation Type: A standardized description of vegetation. The type is based on the dominant plant species and the age of the forest. It also indicates how moist a site may be and how much fuel is likely to be present.

Wildland Agency: Any federal, tribal, state, or county government organization participating in wildland fire protection with jurisdictional responsibilities.

Wildland Fire: Any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI): The zone where structures and other human developments meet, or intermingle with, undeveloped wildlands.

Woody biomass: Trees and woody plants, including limbs, tops, needles, leaves, and other woody parts, grown in a forest, woodland, or rangeland environment, that are the by-products of management, including restoration and hazardous fuel reduction treatments.
APPENDIX 1: MATRIX OF COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED FEATURES AND MAPS

The following matrix and associated maps are based on information gathered for the development of the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan, the Down River Fuels & Fire Management Plan, and most recently during community workshops in Willow Creek and Burnt Ranch during the months of February and March, 2010.

This information can also be viewed on the fire planning GIS Portal. The GIS Portal allows users to search for and view specific fire planning features by location or to zoom into a desired area from an aerial view. To access the Portal, go to www.humboldtGISportal.com and choose “Fire Planning” from the list of mapping applications. The data collected through this Planning process are included in the GIS layers within the Portal.

No vegetation treatments recommended in this plan will be carried out without the consent and involvement of the property owner and all applicable local, state and federal regulations must be observed.

Descriptive Characteristics for the following matrix:

- **Map ID #** - This identification number is the number that was assigned to the feature. The number corresponds to the mapped illustration of the proposed fuels treatment or mitigation action.

- **Location** - The location identifies the community, access route, neighborhood, structure, or area at risk to wildfire.

- **Description** - This is where a longer description of the proposed activity or past accomplishment is included.

- **Type** - Areas in need of treatment or mitigation action are identified as one of the following four types:
  - **Roadside Clearance** - Involve treating vegetation along driveways and roads and other key transportation corridors.
  - **Defensible Space** - Involve treating vegetation in the 100 foot zone around homes and structures.
  - **Landscape** - Involve treating vegetation in wildland areas beyond the immediate vicinity of structures.
  - **Other** - Some action other than vegetation treatment. Often this designation would be accompanied by a descriptive word or words such as “Water” or “Access Improvement”.

- **Status** - The status of the proposed treatment or action is identified as one of the following:
  - **Treatment needed** - Medium priority (Treat-Med)
  - **Treatment needed** - High priority (Treat-High)
  - **Action needed** (Action Need)
  - **Funded**
  - **Initiated**
  - **Treated**
The Willow Creek Greater Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan
January 2011

- Action Needed

- **Year** - Identifies what year the treatment or action was proposed, funded, initiated, or treated

- **Number of Acres** - The acreage is estimated, calculated, or, in some cases, unavailable. If the proposed treatment specified, for example, a certain number of miles of road clearance with vegetation treatment to take place 50 feet on either side of the road, then the acres could be calculated. Sometimes the proponent of the proposed action provided the acreage. There are even instances in which the GIS tool auto calculated the acreage based on the polygon created to illustrate the general area. In these cases the acreage is higher than what will likely be treated and will be sorted out during future updates.

- **Vegetation Type** - The vegetation type was identified as one or more of the following:
  - Brush
  - Douglas-fir
  - Grassland
  - Mixed Conifer
  - Oaks
  - Redwood
  - Tanoak
  - Other

- **Recommended Maintenance Schedule** - Where possible, details are identified to explain how the identified treatment has been or will be maintained, such as frequency of maintenance, type of maintenance treatment, purpose of treatment, and so on.

- **Funding Source(s)** - This field identifies the actual or possible funding source.
## Areas Identified at Community Workshops as Needing Fuels Reduction Treatment

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<th>Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<th>Type</th>
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### Table Notes
- **Number** corresponds with location on map.
- **Year** indicates the year of treatment initiation.
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<td>Brannan Mountain Road</td>
<td>Lower Brannan Mountain Road and Hwy 96 North Fuel Break - Fuel Reduction - 1.5 miles up road; fuel reduction on roadway for evacuation - Chipping, Scatter</td>
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<td>Bigfoot Subdivision East Fuel Break - Remove Fuel Load East Side of Bigfoot Subdivision for Fuel Break- Buffer between private and Forest - Chipping</td>
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<td>Remove Brush behind business south side of 299 - Biomass Removal</td>
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<td>Upper Redwood Valley Ranch Road Project - Under story clearing along Upper Redwood Valley Ranch Road and road improvements for access</td>
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### Treatment Info - Willow Creek Greater Area CWPP

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<td>River Views Water System - Poor water system, lack of areas to draw from and wells go dry- need hydrant system</td>
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<td>Forest Service Roads 05N09B &amp; 05N17 - Dozer line completed in 2008 - fuel treatment completed</td>
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<td>Bigfoot Subdivision West fuel breaks - Remove Fuel Load West Side of Bigfoot Subdivision for Fuel Break - Buffer between private and Forest - Chipping</td>
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The Willow Creek Greater Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan
January 2011
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<td>Willow Creek East Buffer - Shaded fuel break buffer between private and public lands on East side of town</td>
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<td>Private Property below Brannan Mountain Road above Hwy 96 North (TVES)</td>
<td>Greater Brannan Mountain area Fuel reduction/Shaded fuel breaks - Chipping, Lop &amp; Scatter</td>
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### The Willow Creek Greater Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan

**January 2011**

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## Location Information - Willow Creek Greater Area CWPP

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<th>Funding Source (actual or possible)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Fuels Reduction</td>
<td>Treat-High</td>
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<td>WCK369</td>
<td>Lower SF Road - Lower</td>
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<td>8.17</td>
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<td>WCK371</td>
<td>Lower SF Road - Upper</td>
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<td>Treat-Med</td>
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### Assets and Values Identified at Community Workshops

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<tr>
<th>Number corresponds with location on map</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<th>Feature Type</th>
<th>Feature Sub-Type</th>
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## Community Identified Assets and Values at Risk to Wildfire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<th>Feature Sub-Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>WCK001</td>
<td>Willow Creek CSD &amp; Fire Dept.</td>
<td>Willow Road - (near Ray's Mkt.)</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>building</td>
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<td>WCK005</td>
<td>Medical clinic/Caltrans/CHP/School/SRNF</td>
<td>500-730 Hwy 96</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>building</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK007</td>
<td>Willow Creek pumping station</td>
<td>Hwy 96/Brannan Mountain Road</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK009</td>
<td>Commercial District- Post Office</td>
<td>Central Business District/Hwy 299</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>building</td>
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<td>WCK010</td>
<td>Arrowhead / Patterson Ranch Subdivision</td>
<td>Patterson Ranch Road area</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK011</td>
<td>Knights neighborhood / Trailer Park</td>
<td>Hwy 96 north end of willow crk</td>
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<td>neighborhood</td>
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<td>WCK013</td>
<td>The Farms neighborhood / North clover Flat</td>
<td>Hwy 96 area</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
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<td>WCK014</td>
<td>Clover Flat neighborhood</td>
<td>River Bend Road area</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>neighborhood</td>
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<td>WCK016</td>
<td>Bigfoot neighborhood</td>
<td>Patterson Road /Bigfoot Road area</td>
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<td>WCK017b</td>
<td>Kimtu</td>
<td>Kimtu Road /Gower Ln</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>neighborhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK018</td>
<td>Seeley – McIntosh neighborhood</td>
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<td>WCK021</td>
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<td>The Terrace (road name)</td>
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<td>neighborhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK024</td>
<td>Hodgson Subdivision</td>
<td>Hodgson Hill / Panther Road area</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>neighborhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK026</td>
<td>Rowley neighborhood - Early Bird</td>
<td>Riverside Ln/Robin Ln</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>neighborhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK027</td>
<td>Enchanted Springs - Campora neighborhood</td>
<td>Roy Ln., McKnight Dr., and Enchanted Springs Ln. Off of HWY 299</td>
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<td>community</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK028</td>
<td>Riteway Lane neighborhood - Rite spot</td>
<td>Riteway Lane</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>neighborhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK031</td>
<td>Friday Community</td>
<td>Friday Ridge Road</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
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<td>WCK032</td>
<td>Three Creeks Community</td>
<td>Brannan Mountain Road area</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK034</td>
<td>Willow Creek repeater</td>
<td>near Baldwin Ridge</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK145</td>
<td>Cell Tower</td>
<td>355 PEACH TREE LN – Willow Creek</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK149</td>
<td>Willow Creek CSD Water Pumping Station - Treatment Station</td>
<td>295 ST HWY 96</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCK169</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch Elementary School</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch / School Road</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK170</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch Veteran's Hall - Indian Hall</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch, Veteran's Hall Road</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCK171</td>
<td>US Post Office</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCK172</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch Store</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>Building</td>
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</table>
### Community Identified Assets and Values at Risk to Wildfire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<th>Feature Type</th>
<th>Feature Sub-Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WCK173</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch Campsite - Burnt ranch Falls USFS</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCK179</td>
<td>Old Burnt Ranch School Site</td>
<td>Old Burnt Ranch School Site</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>Building (Historic Site)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK201</td>
<td>Bed &amp; Breakfast</td>
<td>Bed &amp; Breakfast, Hawkins Bar</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK225</td>
<td>Old Three Creeks Road neighborhood</td>
<td>Old Three Creeks Road</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>community</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK379</td>
<td>Cedar Flat Community</td>
<td>Cedar Flat/ Burnt Ranch</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>community</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK381</td>
<td>Community of Burnt Ranch</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch School Road off of HWY 299</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
<td>community</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK382</td>
<td>Suzy Q Neighborhood</td>
<td>Suzy Q Road off of HWY 299</td>
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<td>WCK383</td>
<td>Trinity Village Subdivision</td>
<td>Denny Road off of HWY 299</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK384</td>
<td>Gray Flat neighborhood</td>
<td>Grays Flat Road, Ammon Road and other nearby roads between HWY 299 and the Trinity River</td>
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<td>community</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK385</td>
<td>Oden Flat neighborhood</td>
<td>Oden Flat Road off of HWY 299</td>
<td>Value/Asset</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK386</td>
<td>Fountain Ranch Road neighborhood</td>
<td>Campbell Ridge Road off of HWY 299 to Fountain Ranch Road on Right</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK387</td>
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<td>Campbell Ridge Road off of HWY 299 to Salyer Loop Road on Left</td>
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### Risks and Hazards Identified at Community Workshops

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<tr>
<td>WCK037</td>
<td>Brannan - Upper</td>
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# Community Identified Wildfire Risks and Hazards

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<tr>
<td>WCK040</td>
<td>Kimtu Area Country Club Road /Kimtu Road area</td>
<td>Risk/Hazard</td>
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<td>WCK044</td>
<td>Bigfoot neighborhood area Patterson Road / Bigfoot Road area</td>
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<td>WCK047</td>
<td>Seeley - McIntosh neighborhood area McIntosh Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK051</td>
<td>Friday Ridge area Friday Ridge Road /Panther Ridge Road/Hwy 299</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK054</td>
<td>Willow Creek Downtown Willow Creek/Hwy 299</td>
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<td>WCK058</td>
<td>Patterson /Arrowhead Neighborhood Patterson Road area</td>
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<td>WCK060</td>
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<td>WCK062</td>
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<td>WCK064</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK127</td>
<td>Bad road Private near Coon Creek Stretch of road adjacent to 912 Horse Linto Road</td>
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<td>road hazard</td>
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## Protection Resources Identified at Community Workshops

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<td>WCK071</td>
<td>Big Rock drafting - USFS river acess (Day use)</td>
<td>Adjacent to WC Airport</td>
<td>Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK074</td>
<td>Bigfoot golf course, drafting</td>
<td>333 Bigfoot Avenue</td>
<td>Protection</td>
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A1 - 34
## Community Identified Wildfire Protection Resources

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<td>WCK075</td>
<td>Kimtu drafting area - Kimtu Beach</td>
<td>Kimtu/Trinity River</td>
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<td>WCK078</td>
<td>Veteran's Park - large open park with green grass</td>
<td>40 Gower Lane</td>
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<td>Patterson fields - Arrowhead subdivision open area</td>
<td>Dogwood Ln./Red Bud Ln.</td>
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<td>WCK083</td>
<td>Willow Crk farm fields, O'Gorman Farms</td>
<td>Hwy 96/ Noble Dr. area</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Open Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK084</td>
<td>Airport/Willow Helibase</td>
<td>Hwy 96 @ Willow Creek</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Open Area</td>
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<td>WCK086</td>
<td>Gardner Ranch Sun Valley farm, riverside, across from airport</td>
<td>1200 Patterson Road</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Open Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK087</td>
<td>Clover Flat (fire hydrant)</td>
<td>Hwy 96/River Bend Road</td>
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<td>WCK089</td>
<td>Bustles / Moss - Old Bussell Ranch</td>
<td>Patterson Road</td>
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<td>Open Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK090</td>
<td>Bigfoot Golf Course - large green open spaces</td>
<td>333 Bigfoot Avenue</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Open Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK091</td>
<td>Hwy 96</td>
<td>Hwy 96 N from Willow Creek/Hwy 299</td>
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<td>McIntosh Farms</td>
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<td>WCK095</td>
<td>Bigfoot field - large field off of Seely-Mac &amp; Patterson intersection</td>
<td>Patterson Road / Seely McIntosh Road</td>
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<td>Open Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK096</td>
<td>Hwy 299 evacuation route</td>
<td>Hwy 299 east &amp; west</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>evacuation</td>
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<td>WCK142</td>
<td>Future Fire Dept. Station 2</td>
<td>Patterson Road / Oak Lane</td>
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<td>Facility</td>
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<td>WCK150</td>
<td>Water Tanks - Main Tank</td>
<td>39530 ST HWY 299</td>
<td>Protection</td>
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<td>WCK151</td>
<td>Water Tank Secondary</td>
<td>464 PANTHER CREEK RD</td>
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<td>WCK154</td>
<td>Old Hawkins Bar Store</td>
<td>Howken Bar Store</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Open Area</td>
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<td>WCK174</td>
<td>Skycrest Lake (Private)</td>
<td>Skycrest Lake (Private)</td>
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<td>WCK175</td>
<td>Hydro</td>
<td>Mill Creek Municipal Water</td>
<td>Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK176</td>
<td>Cedar Flat Municipal Water</td>
<td>Cedar Flat Municipal Water</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>water source</td>
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<td>WCK177</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch Estates Municipal Water</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch Estates Municipal Water</td>
<td>Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK178</td>
<td>Supplemental Tanks for Burnt Ranch Estates</td>
<td>Supplemental Tanks for Burnt Ranch Estates</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>water source</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK200</td>
<td>Simon Legree, Paula's Corner, Grange</td>
<td>Simon Legree, Paula's Corner, Grange, Hawkins Bar</td>
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<td>Number</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Feature Type</td>
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<td>WCK215</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch Forest Service Fire Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK216</td>
<td>Hawkins Bar Volunteer Fire Department auxiliary Station</td>
<td>Hawkins Bar Volunteer Fire Department auxiliary St</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK218</td>
<td>Hennessy Creek water source</td>
<td>Hennessy Creek, Burnt Ranch</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>water source</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK219</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch Mill water intake provides water for the school, the Forest Service</td>
<td>Burnt Ranch (old mill site)</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>water source</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK376</td>
<td>Trinity Valley Elementary School Fields</td>
<td>Above HWY 96</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Open Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK377</td>
<td>Fountain Ranch</td>
<td>Salyer</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Open Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCK380</td>
<td>Hawkins Bar day Use/US Forest Service (water drafting/river access)</td>
<td>HWY 299</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Open Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCK78</td>
<td>Hawkins Bar Water Treatment Facility</td>
<td>Hawkins Bar, Trinity Village</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Facility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 2: RANKING OF COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED FEATURES

Areas that were identified at community workshops as needing treatment or action to mitigate wildfire hazard and risk were also ranked by community members. The ranking system used was adapted from the Trinity County Community Wildfire Plan. Evaluation categories are used to rank proposals. Each proposal was given a high (3) medium (2) or low (1) value for each evaluation category. The sum of the scores indicated relative values among proposals. As stated in the Trinity County fire plan “Final ‘scores’ were not to be interpreted as absolutes and ranking differences of one or two points were likely insignificant (i.e. a project with 20 points is not really more worthwhile than one with 18 points but both are likely more urgent than a project with a final score of 9 points).” The evaluation categories are described in detail below.

Although many potential areas for fuels reduction treatment on Forest Service lands were included in this plan, they were not all ranked. Similarly, information from the Down River Fire & Fuel Management Plan was included in the matrix but was not ranked. It was not possible within the scope of this planning process to rank all of the areas included in the plan. It is recommended that the ranking process continue and the results be included in a future update of this plan.

The evaluation categories used to rank proposals are as follows:

Community:
- High value = several residences or a development
- Medium value = dispersed residences; power lines
- Low value = no residences or infrastructure issues

Fuel Hazard (Public safety): Based on fuel loading, vegetation types etc. a high hazard is indicated by dense, flammable vegetation e.g. thickets of second growth, untreated plantations, brush fields

Risk of Wildfire Occurrence: Likelihood of fire starting based on slope position, past history of lightening strikes etc.

Ecological benefit: high value was noted where there are known Threatened and Endangered species or notable stands of old growth vegetation etc.; low value did not indicate lack of ecological value but rather no outstanding concerns for the particular area in question.

Recreational value: Indicates areas of high (often seasonal) recreation use

Economical value: A high economic value refers to areas with private property values, power lines and/or plantations or other investments/resources at risk
# The Willow Creek Greater Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan

## January 2011

### Willow Creek, Titlow Hill, 3 Creeks & surrounding areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Community, Structure, or Area (Value at Risk)</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Overall Priority</th>
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# The Willow Creek Greater Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan

*January 2011*

## Salyer

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APPENDIX 3: HOMEOWNER’S CHECKLIST

Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
Homeowner’s Checklist
How to make your home Fire Safe

Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
PO Box 224
Willow Creek, CA 95693
(530) 629-3468
kcfireapp@yahoo.com
www.willowcreekfire.org

A3 - 1
OUTSIDE

1 Design/Construction
   - Consider installing residential sprinklers
   - Build your home away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points on a ridge
   - Build your home at least 30-100 feet from your property line
   - Use fire resistant materials
   - Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies and above ground decks with fire resistant materials
   - Try to limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation
   - Install only dual-paned or triple-paned windows
   - Make sure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by code
   - Contact qualified individuals to perform electrical maintenance and repairs

2 Access
   - Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood
   - Construct roads that allow two-way traffic
   - Design road width, grade and curves to allow access for large emergency vehicles
   - Construct driveways to allow large emergency equipment to reach your house
   - Design bridges to carry heavy emergency vehicles, including bulldozers carried on large trucks
   - Post clear road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations
   - Make sure dead-end roads, and long driveways have turn-around areas wide enough for emergency vehicles
   - Construct turnouts along one-way roads
   - Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways
   - Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads
   - Construct fire barriers such as greenbelts
   - Make sure that your street is named or numbered, and a sign is visibly posted at each street intersection
   - Make sure that your street name and house number are not duplicated elsewhere in the county
   - Post your house address at the beginning of your driveway, or on your house if it is easily visible from the road

3 Roof
   - Remove branches within 10 feet of your chimney and dead branches overhanging your roof
   - Remove dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters
   - Install a fire resistant roof. Contact your local fire department for current roofing requirements
   - Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a non-flammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh

4 Landscape
   - Create a “defensible space” by removing all flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from all structures
   - Never prune near power lines. Call your local utility company first
   - Landscape with fire resistant plants
   - On slopes or in high fire hazard areas remove flammable vegetation out to 100 feet or more
   - Space native trees and shrubs at least 10 feet apart
   - For trees taller than 18 feet, remove lower branches within six feet of the ground
   - Maintain all plants by regularly watering, and by removing dead branches, leaves and needles
   - Before planting trees close to any power line contact your local utility company to confirm the maximum tree height allowable for that location

5 Yard
   - Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and remove vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles
   - Locate LPG tanks (butane and propane) at least 30 feet from any structure and maintain 10 feet of clearance
   - Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard
   - Contact your local fire department to see if open burning is allowed in your area; if so, obtain a burning permit
   - Where burn barrels are allowed, clear flammable materials at least 10 feet around the barrel; cover the open top with a non-flammable screen with mesh no larger than 1/4 inch

6 Emergency Water Supply
   - Maintain an emergency water supply that meets fire department standards through one of the following:
     - a community water/hydrant system
     - a cooperative emergency storage tank with neighbors
     - a minimum storage supply of 2,500 gallons on your property
   - Clearly mark all emergency water sources
   - Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source
   - If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during a power failure
INSIDE

1 Kitchen
   - Keep a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen
   - Maintain electric and gas stoves in good operating condition
   - Keep baking soda on hand to extinguish stove-top grease fires
   - Turn the handles of pots and pans containing hot liquids away from the front of the stove
   - Install curtains and towel holders away from burners on the stove
   - Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children
   - Make sure that electrical outlets are designed to handle appliance loads

2 Living Room
   - Install a screen in front of fireplace or wood stove
   - Store the ashes from your fireplace (and barbecue) in a metal container and dispose of only when cold
   - Clean fireplace chimneys and flues at least once a year

3 Hallway
   - Install smoke detectors between living and sleeping areas
   - Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries twice a year, when clocks are changed in the spring and fall
   - Install child safety plugs (caps) on all electrical outlets
   - Replace electrical cords that do not work properly, have loose connections, or are frayed

4 Bedroom
   - If you sleep with the door closed, install a smoke detector in the bedroom
   - Turn off electric blankets and other electrical appliances when not in use
   - Do not smoke in bed
   - If you have security bars on your windows or doors, be sure they have an approved quick-release mechanism so you and your family can get out in the event of a fire

5 Bathroom
   - Disconnect appliances such as curling irons and hair dryers when done; store in a safe location until cool
   - Keep items such as towels away from wall and floor heaters

6 Garage
   - Mount a working fire extinguisher in the garage
   - Have tools such as a shovel, hoe, rake, and bucket available for use in a wildfire emergency
   - Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and the garage
   - Dispose of oily rags in (Underwriters Laboratories) approved metal containers
   - Store all combustibles away from ignition sources such as water heaters
   - Disconnect electrical tools and appliances when not in use
   - Allow hot tools such as glue guns and soldering irons to cool before storing
   - Properly store flammable liquids in approved containers and away from ignition sources such as pilot lights

Disaster Preparedness
   - Maintain at least a three-day supply of drinking water, and food that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking
   - Maintain a portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, portable lanterns and batteries
   - Maintain first aid supplies to treat the injured until help arrives
   - Keep a list of valuables to take with you in an emergency; if possible, store these valuables together
   - Make sure that all family members are ready to protect themselves with STOP, DROP AND ROLL
   - For safety, securely attach all water heaters and furniture such as cabinets and bookshelves to walls
   - Have a contingency plan to enable family members to contact each other. Establish a family/friend phone tree
   - Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home
   - Practice emergency exit drills in the house (EXIT) regularly
   - Outdoor cooking appliances such as barbecues should never be taken indoors for use as heaters
APPENDIX 4: FIREWISE GUIDE TO LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

Firewise Guide to Landscape and Construction
Guide to Landscaping

The primary goal for Firewise landscaping is fuel reduction — limiting the level of flammable vegetation and materials surrounding the home and increasing the moisture content of remaining vegetation. This includes the entire ‘ignition zone’ which extends up to 200 feet in high hazard areas.

Use the Zone Concept

Zone 1 is the 30 feet adjacent to the home and its attachments; Zone 2 is 30 to 100 feet from the home; Zone 3 is 100 to 200 feet from the home.

Zone 1 (All Hazard Areas) This well-irrigated area encircles the structure and all its attachments (wooden decks, fences, and boardwalks) for at least 30 feet on all sides.

1) Plants should be carefully spaced, low-growing and free of resins, oils and resins that burn easily.
2) Mow the lawn regularly. Prune trees up to ten feet from the ground.
3) Space conifer trees 30 feet between crowns. Trim back trees that overhang the house.
4) Create a ‘fuel break’ area within five feet of the home, using non-flammable landscaping materials and/or high-moisture-content annuals and perennials.
5) Remove dead vegetation from under deck and within 10 feet of house.
6) Consider fire-resistant material for patio furniture, swing sets, etc.
7) Firewood stacks and propane tanks should not be located in this zone.
8) Water plants, trees and mulch regularly.
9) Consider xeriscaping if you are affected by water-use restrictions.

Zone 2 (Moderate and High Hazard Areas) Plants in this zone should be low-growing, well-irrigated, and less flammable.

1) Leave 30 feet between clusters of two to three trees, or 20 feet between individual trees.
2) Encourage a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees.
3) Create ‘fuel breaks’ like driveways, gravel walkways and lawns.
4) Prune trees up to ten feet from the ground.

Zone 3 (High Hazard Areas) Thin this area, although less space is required than in Zone 2. Remove smaller conifers that are growing between taller trees. Remove heavy accumulation of woody debris. Reduce the density of tall trees so canopies are not touching.

Maintaining the Firewise Landscape

- Keep trees and shrubs pruned six to ten feet from the ground.
- Remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches.
- Mow the lawn regularly and dispose of cutting and debris promptly.
- Store firewood away from the house.
- Maintain the irrigation system regularly.
- Familiarize yourself with local regulations regarding vegetative clearance, debris disposal, and fire safety requirements for equipment.

Create a short block wall around the perimeter of your yard and use grass and stone to break up the landscape.

The use of pavers and rock make for a pleasing effect and creates a fuel break.

Use masonry and stone masonry and high-moisture-content annuals and perennials.

Use groupings of potted plants that include succulents and other drought resistant vegetation.
Guide to Construction

When considering improvements to reduce wildfire vulnerability, the key is to consider the home in relation to its immediate surroundings. The home's vulnerability is determined by the exposure of its external materials and design to flames and firebrands during extreme wildfires. The higher the fire intensity near the home, the greater the need for nonflammable construction materials and a resistant building design—Jack Cohen, USDA Forest Service.

**Use Rated Roofing Material.** Roofing material with a Class A, B or C rating is fire resistant and will help keep the flame from spreading. Examples:
- Composite shingle
- Metal
- Clay
- Cement tile

**Use Fire-Resistant Building Materials on Exterior Walls.** Examples include:
- Cement
- Plaster
- Stucco
- Masonry (concrete, stone, brick or block)

While vinyl is difficult to ignite, it can fail away or melt when exposed to extreme heat.

**Use Double-Paned or Tempered Glass.** Double-pane glass can help reduce the risk of fracture or collapse during an extreme wildfire. Tempered glass is the most effective. For skylights, glass is a better choice than plastic or fiberglass.

**Enclose Eaves, Fascias, Soffits and Vents.** Box eaves, fascias, soffits and vents, or enclose them with metal screens. Vent openings should be covered with 1/8" metal screen.

**Protect Overhangs and Other Attachments.** Remove all vegetation and other fuels from around overhangs and other attachments (roof additions, bay windows, decks, porches, carports and fences). Box in the underides of overhangs, decks and balconies with noncombustible or fire-resistant materials. Fences constructed of flammable materials like wood should not be attached directly to the house.

Anything attached to the house (decks, porches, fences and outbuildings) should be considered part of the house. These act as fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials:
1. If a wooden fence is attached to the house, separate the fence from the house with a masonry or metal barrier.
2. Decks and elevated porches should be kept free of combustible materials and debris.
3. Elevated wooden decks should not be located at the top of a hill. Consider a terrace.
I can make my home Firewise® by:

- Use sprinklers or garden hose regularly to keep vegetation moist.
- Use concrete patio instead of wood decked rubber mats instead of hardwoods.
- Use pebbles instead of mulch near the home's foundation wherever possible.
INTRODUCTION
The Firewise Communities/USA program is designed to provide an effective management approach for preserving wildland living aesthetics. The program can be tailored for adoption by any community and/or neighborhood association that is committed to ensuring its citizens maximum protection from wildland fire. The following community assessment is intended as a resource to be used by the Willow Creek residents for creating a wildfire safety action plan. The plan developed from the information in this assessment should be implemented in a collaborative manner, and updated and modified as needed.

Data collection for this assessment took place in the fall of 2010. Those assisting with the data collection were as follows:

- Tom Smithey, Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department;
- Joe O’Hara, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (FSC);
- Paul Abbott, Willow Creek Fire FSC;
- Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Community Development Service (CDS) and the Humboldt County FSC;
- Dan Wooden, Lower Trinity Ranger District of Six Rivers National Forest; and
- Mark Rodgers, Cal Fire.

Joe, Paul and Cybelle all completed the “Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone” training provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Firewise.

DEFINITION OF THE HOME IGNITION ZONE
Willow Creek is located in a wildfire environment. Wildfires will happen--exclusion is not a choice. The variables in a fire scenario are when the fire will occur, and where. This assessment addresses the wildfire-related characteristics of Willow Creek. It examines the area’s exposure to wildfire as it relates to ignition potential. The assessment does not focus on specific homes, but examines the community as a whole.

A house burns because of its interrelationship with everything in its surrounding home ignition zone—the house and its immediate surroundings. To avoid a home ignition, a homeowner must eliminate the wildfire’s potential relationship with his/her house. This can be accomplished by interrupting the natural path a fire takes. Changing a fire’s path by clearing a home ignition zone is an easy-to-accomplish task that can result in avoiding home loss. To accomplish this, flammable items such as dead vegetation must be removed from the area immediately around the structure to prevent flames from...
contacting it. Also, reducing the volume of live vegetation will affect the intensity of the wildfire as it enters the home ignition zone.

Included in this assessment are observations made while visiting Willow Creek. The assessment addresses the ease with which home ignitions can occur under severe wildfire conditions and how these ignitions might be avoided within the home ignition zones of affected residents. Willow Creek residents can reduce their risk of destruction during a wildfire by taking actions within their home ignition zones. This zone principally determines the potential for home ignitions during a wildland fire; it includes a house and its immediate surroundings within 100 to 150 feet.

The result of the assessment is that wildfire behavior will be dominated by the residential characteristics of this area. The good news is that by addressing community vulnerabilities, residents will be able to substantially reduce their exposure to loss. Relatively small investments of time and effort will reap great rewards in wildfire safety.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERE CASE WILDLAND FIRE CHARACTERISTICS THAT COULD THREATEN THE AREA**

Fire intensity and spread rate depend on the fuel type and condition (live/dead), the weather conditions prior and during ignition, and the topography. Generally the following relationships hold between the fire behavior and the fuel, weather and topography.

- Fine fuels ignite more easily and spread faster with higher intensities than coarser fuels. For a given fuel, the more there is and the more continuous it is, the faster the fire spreads and the higher the intensities. Fine fuels take a shorter time to burn out than coarser fuels.
- The weather conditions affect the moisture content of the dead and live vegetative fuels. Dead fine fuel moisture content is highly dependent on the relative humidity and the degree of sun exposure. The lower the relative humidity and the greater the sun exposure, the lower will be the fuel moisture content. Lower fuel moistures produce higher spread rates and fire intensities.
- Wind speed significantly influences the rate of fire spread and fire intensity. The higher the wind speed, the greater the spread rate and intensity.
- Topography influences fire behavior principally by the steepness of the slope. However, the configuration of the terrain such as narrow draws, saddles and so forth can influence fire spread and intensity. In general, the steeper the slope, the higher the uphill fire spread and intensity.

The area surrounding the Town of Willow Creek is characterized by high levels of wildland fuels, hot dry summers, hazardous topographic conditions such as steep river canons, and a history of severe wildland fires. The relatively high year-round population and significant summertime recreation population creates a high ignition risk and contributes to a high potential for destructive wildfires. Some specific wildfire ignition risks include multiple lightning strikes, unattended campfires, structure fires spreading into the wildlands, vehicles lighting roadside fuels, arson, and power lines. The
combination of fire environment conditions surrounding the community and highly valued resource and economic assets, result in a high level of wildfire risk for Willow Creek.

The 1999 Megram and Onion fires burned thousands of acres within the wildlands to the North and East of the town and the 2008 Ziegler, Ironside, Cedar, and Half fires threatened the community from the East and South, also burning thousands of acres in the wildlands. The Friday Fire in the summer, 2003 is one that many locals relate to as an example of a nearly disastrous wildfire; started by a vehicle along a back road. It created crisis for residents living in the Friday Ridge area of Willow Creek and threatened imminent loss of life and property, in spite of a rapid response by fire fighting agencies. This is an example of being saved by a change in wind direction. The onset was sudden, requiring instant decision making by residents, not allowing time for a resident to ponder what to do, as one can when the fire approaches more slowly from a greater distance.

Other accounts shared by local residents about experiencing some of the larger wildfires describe being put on evacuation alert and the town being inundated with smoke and ash. Smaller fires have also been ignited closer to homes and, although never resulting in major damage, are considered near misses. One account describes a fire in Bigfoot Estates that was started when a golf cart in a garage caught fire and ignited the garage and surrounding vegetation. One resident expressed that the fire could easily have destroyed all of Bigfoot Estates with probable loss of life, but a change of wind direction “saved the day”.

Because of the flammability of vegetation building up near town streets, back roads, and Highways 299 and 96, roads have been a source of vehicle caused fires in and around Willow Creek; a trend that will likely continue if action is not taken. For example, on Patterson Road, a passing vehicle ignited grass along the road and fire raced uphill through brush and oaks. A helicopter working a nearby wildfire happened to be passing by with a water basket. The pilot saw the flames and quickly dropped water on the fire. Without the quick action of that pilot, there could have easily been much more extensive wildfire damage and possibly loss of life.

Based on the fire history described above, it is likely that, sometime in the not-to-distant future, Willow Creek will be threatened by nearby wildfires as well as by fires originating from within the community. The community’s vulnerability to damage from wildfire is high because of the presence of many risk factors. Steep slopes that are known to spread fire rapidly are present in many neighborhoods. Summer weather is consistently hot and dry and high winds blowing up and down the river valley are a common occurrence.

Multiple fire starts caused by lightning strikes is a real possibility for the area which will put a strain on available fire suppression resources. A likely fire season scenario for many of Willow Creek’s neighborhoods is that fires, whatever their cause could take hold in the abundant fuels and, fed by high winds, race up steep slopes and threaten homes. Even if a wildfire is located in Forest Service lands, outside the community, homes will be
vulnerable to fire brands carried by the wind or burning debris rolling downhill and igniting vegetation on adjoining private lands.

The next page contains a fire history map that illustrates the abundance of wildfire events in and near the community of Willow Creek. The aqua and white boundary shown on this map is the planning area and Wildland Urban Interface selected for the Willow Creek Greater Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
Fire history in and around the community of Willow Creek:
SITE DESCRIPTION

The following text was partially compiled from information found on the websites of the Willow Creek Chamber of Commerce and the Willow Creek Community Services District as well as from the Willow Creek Community Action Plan.

The town of Willow Creek is nestled along the banks of the Trinity River and is the gateway to the vast Klamath-Trinity recreation area, which includes the Trinity Alps Wilderness and the Marble Mountain Wilderness. Located on the eastern edge of Humboldt County along Highway 299 the community is about 35 miles from the Pacific coast. Situated at the confluence of Willow Creek and the Trinity River, Willow Creek was at one time called China Flat. Willow Creek is the largest of the small communities scattered along the Trinity River with a population of nearly 2,000 and is surrounded by Six Rivers National Forest lands.

The community history of Willow Creek began with Native American bands from the Hupa tribe inhabiting the area. White settlement began with a mining town which later transitioned into a tourist destination sought primarily for outdoor recreation activities. From 1947 until 1978 timber harvesting provided local residents with income and jobs. Even after years of logging and human settlement, the area retains its wild and remote character.

With the downturn in the timber economy, outdoor recreation and specialty agriculture have once again become the focus for the local economy. The U.S. Forest Service supports the shift from timber to tourism by maintaining several river access points for swimming and boating. Small produce and specialty farms, orchards, and vineyards produce tomatoes, corn, peaches, pears, cherries, apples and grapes. Local vineyards and boutique wineries are the fastest growing new business.

Willow Creek is listed on the Federal Register as a Community at risk. The majority of the community is rated by Cal Fire as having a “very high” fire hazard severity. The fire hazard severity ratings for some less vegetated areas in the lower, less steep regions of the river valley are “high” and “moderate”.

The characteristic terrain around Willow Creek is mountainous, with steep V-shaped valleys formed by the tributaries of the Trinity River. Vegetation types include mixed evergreen conifer forest, Klamath montane mixed conifer forest, and White Oak forest. Many south slope areas are shrub dominated. In general the upland areas are dominated by conifers and the river valley and riparian corridors are dominated by grass and hardwood trees such as oak, alder and willow.

Local fire protection is provided by the Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department, the operational wing of the Willow Creek Fire Protection District. The Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department responds to both structural and wildland fires. The fire fighting staff is cross trained and outfitted for both types of fire response. Mutual Aid agreements are in place with neighboring jurisdictions and the department responds to calls both inside and outside of its district boundary.
The Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (FSC) works to reduce the risk of damage to community assets from wildfire. The group has secured grant funds to support various fire prevention programs. The members of the FSC strive to raise awareness about the threats and benefits of wildfire and coordinate projects to thin the buildup of flammable vegetation along community roads and high risk areas to reduce the wildfire hazard.

The Forest Service fire staff stationed in both Willow Creek and Salyer for the Lower Trinity Ranger District of the Six Rivers National Forest is primarily trained and responsible for wildland fires on federal lands but also responds to structure fires and medical emergencies. The ability of Forest Service staff to assist may vary, depending on the time of year and availability of resources. Wildfires do not respect jurisdictional boundaries; therefore they are generally managed through a coordinated multi-jurisdictional effort often including local, state, and federal resources.

On the next page is an air photo with the outline of the Firewise Community boundary. This boundary is the same as that of the Willow Creek Fire Protection District.
ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The assessment team met on the morning of September 17, 2010 in Willow Creek at the Six Rivers National Forest Service, Lower Trinity Ranger District office. The group had representation from the Willow Creek Fire Safe Council, The Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Cal Fire, the U.S. Forest Service, and the County of Humboldt. The community assessment template and draft background information were reviewed and maps and air photos were used to plan a tour of the community. The assessment team then piled into vehicles and drove around the community documenting observations of hazardous conditions as well as good examples of firewise practices.
IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

The community of Willow Creek is surrounded by steep forested slopes, much of which is National Forest lands. These slopes are a natural environment for wildfires and will burn at times. Such wildfires are a threat to community values if fire safety measures are not taken communitywide and within individual home ignition zones.

Highway 299 and Highway 96 both run through the community and, based on historic fire starts, these corridors pose a serious fire risk to nearby neighborhoods. Measures must be taken to reduce fuels along the corridors and harden neighboring home ignition zones.
OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As the community assessment team examined Willow Creek neighborhoods and surrounding areas, the following observations were made and mitigation actions are recommended. Each recommendation that is followed up on will contribute to lessening the burden on firefighting resources. Federal and state resources can spend less time protecting individual homes and focus on managing wildfires. The local fire department can focus on extinguishing structure fires and spend less time preventing the fire from spreading to neighboring home ignition zones and/or to the wildland.

Leaf/Needle Build-up on Roofs and in Gutters:
A very common issue encountered during the assessment was the accumulation of leaves, needles, and, in some cases, even small dead branches on rooftops and in gutters. This debris is very flammable tinder that can be ignited by firebrands blown from wildfires; even a wildfire miles away. Fires started on the roof or in the gutters can spread to the rest of the home. Residents can eliminate this hazard with relative ease and it should be one of the first actions taken to reduce the risk of losing the home to wildfire. Cleaning needles and leaves off of the roof and out of the gutters is one of the small things a resident can do that will make a big difference. It’s something that could be done in a weekend on one’s own or with a work party of friends. Willow Creek has been put on evacuation notice in the past and it’s likely to happen again; knowing ones gutters are clean is one of the things that will help residents rest easier if they have to leave their homes to survive unattended during a wildfire.

Flammable Roofing and Siding:
The assessment team noticed that many homes in Willow Creek have flammable wood roofs. Flammable roofs are a chief cause of home loss during urban wildfires because flying embers coming from wildfires miles
away can ignite them. When there are overlapping home ignition zones flammable wood roofs jeopardize neighboring homes because direct ignitions can occur between houses. Burning wood roofs are also a major source of fire brands. Addressing this issue is a lot harder than cleaning one’s gutters and replacing a roof might have to be a long term goal. Awareness of the hazards associated with having a highly flammable roof needs to be elevated in the community and advice provided about how to finance roof replacements. Installing a fire resistant roof is one of the most important investments residents can make to improve the survivability of their home during a wildfire.

Flammable siding is also a problem with some older homes. Replacing this siding with an ignition resistant material will greatly reduce the ignition potential of the structure. Making plans for such renovations is something that residents should consider a high priority. Of course, all new home construction should be done with fire resistant materials.

Large or Dense Amounts of Live Vegetation in the Home Ignition Zone:
Many homes in Willow Creek have dense vegetation growing in the home ignition zone. This was particularly noted where neighborhoods abut the surrounding forest lands. Residents should remove the ladder fuels and prevent fire from moving up into the crowns of trees or onto the house and its attachments. It is not necessary to eliminate all vegetation from within the home ignition zone. The important thing is to break up the continuity and density of the vegetation.

Flammable Items in Direct Contact with the Structure:
The assessment team observed many homes with wood piles, fences, gates, and wood lattice in contact with the structure. Dead leaves under the deck or along the foundation of the structure were also observed in some cases.
These items are generally more susceptible to combustion from embers or radiant heat and, if lighted, could lead the fire to the rest of the home. Residents should remove these materials and regularly rake and or sweep away debris, leaves and needles from the area right around the home.

**One Way in and One Way Out:**
Several large residential neighborhoods in Willow Creek are located across the Trinity River with only one way in and one way out. The bridge on Country Club Road is the only way for residents of the Bigfoot Subdivision, Seely McIntosh, Patterson Road, and Oak Lane neighborhoods to get across the river to Highways 299 and 96. These neighborhoods are flanked on the North, East, and South by the steep dense forests of the Six Rivers National Forest.

On a smaller scale, there are numerous homes located where there is only one road in and out. Some of them are marked as dead-end roads but many are not. These dead-end roads pose an evacuation risk for residents who could get trapped by fire; especially a fire originating on the roadside.

Special effort should be focused on evacuation planning with the residents of these neighborhoods and roads. Educational materials should be made available informing residents about emergency techniques for how to survive should they find themselves trapped in their home during a wildfire. These neighborhoods should also be a priority for eliminating hazards in the home ignition zone.

**Homeless Camping:**
Directed by local residents, the assessment team located an area of concern due to homeless camps. This area is in the brush and under the bridge near Creekside Park and down slope from businesses and residences in downtown Willow Creek. The property is owned by Cal Trans. Much evidence was observed of camping activity including burned out campfires. The risk of a campfire getting out of control and spreading through the dry brush up into the community of Willow Creek is a real concern.

Information was also provided about two additional areas of concern: the old mill site and the Brizard property. Both of these areas are known for attracting unlawful camping and are privately owned. The old mill site consists of 42 acres of land that is not easily observed from public areas. A large waste dump spills down the brushy tree covered bank towards the river, creating an environmental hazard including increased wildfire risk. The Brizard property is located upstream from Creekside Park along the banks of Willow Creek. The property is 22 acres in size and the popular camping location is on a
grassy plane adjacent to brushy berry bushes and dense forest. The risk of campfires spreading into the forest is a concern in both of these areas.

The privately owned areas are particularly challenging to address because they are not easily observed and the property owners can not always be on site to monitor camping activity. However, community members and the Community Services District will continue to work closely with the Humboldt County Sheriff’s office to discourage camping and the building of fires in these three areas and anywhere else the problem might present itself. Cal Trans must also be a cooperative agency in the effort to correct the camping problem on their property.

Photo: Willow Creek FSC

Illegal camping has been a problem near Creekside Park
SUCCESSFUL FIREWISE MODIFICATIONS

When adequately prepared, a house can likely withstand a wildfire without the intervention of the fire service. Further, a house and its surrounding community can be both Firewise and compatible with the area’s ecosystem. The Firewise Communities/USA program is designed to enable communities to achieve a high level of protection against WUI fire loss even as a sustainable ecosystem balance is maintained.

A homeowner/community must focus attention on the home ignition zone and eliminate the fire’s potential relationship with the house. This can be accomplished by disconnecting the house from high and/or low-intensity fire that could occur around it. The following photographs were taken in Willow Creek and are examples of good Firewise practices.

- Fire resistant roofing material and siding
- Stone walkway and driveway
- Well irrigated landscaping and gravel path
- Elimination of ladder fuels in home ignition zone
F.L.A.S.H. (Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes)

Is your home at risk from wildfire?
Do you want to reduce flammable vegetation on your residential property?

The Willow Creek Fire Safe Council is offering a cost-share program to qualifying Humboldt County landowners for removing hazardous vegetation and improving home ignition zones around their properties. Participants are eligible to receive up to $100 per acre, with a maximum of $2,000 per landowner.

Work must be completed by September 2011. Funds are limited.

The project is funded by a 1.384 grant awarded to Humboldt County through the California Fire Safe Council Grant Clearinghouse and is supported by the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council.

For more information about the program, call:
Park Suhren at 707-441-2382 or Joan Suhren at 707-441-1415.

Funds have been received from the USDA Forest Service and through the County of Humboldt to share the cost of reducing hazardous vegetation (wildfire fuels) with property owners. The program is called Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes (FLASH). Each participant receives a site visit and a thorough home risk assessment and is provided with measures to mitigate hazards in the home ignition zone. Many Willow Creek property owners are taking advantage of this program.

Debris piles waiting to be burned - evidence of hazardous vegetation management

Well positioned reflective address signs

Firewise landscaping with brick barrier, well irrigated vegetation and gravel

Fire resistant roofing and siding, and a well irrigated lawn
The golf course and well maintained community parks break up the continuity of flammable vegetation and, in some cases, could be used as safe congregation areas during a wildfire emergency.

Debris created from reducing hazardous vegetation from the home ignition zone can be disposed of for free at McKnight Construction, where it will be processed into mulch.
Willow Creek has an active neighborhood chipper program.

Sheriff’s Work Alternative Program or SWAP crews have been used to clear brush near downtown Willow Creek businesses and along Patterson Road.
NEXT STEPS

After reviewing the contents of this assessment and its recommendations, the Willow Creek Firewise Board/FSC in cooperation with the Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department will determine whether or not it wishes to continue seeking Firewise Communities/USA recognition. The Firewise Communities/USA representative will contact the Firewise Board representative by November 4, 2010 to receive its decision.

If the site assessment and recommendations are accepted and recognition will be sought, the Willow Creek Firewise Board/FSC will create agreed-upon, area-specific solutions to the Firewise recommendations and create an action plan with guidance from members of the Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department and Willow Creek Community Services District.

Assuming the assessment area seeks to achieve National Firewise Communities/USA recognition status, it will integrate the following standards into its plan of action:

- Sponsor a local Firewise board, task force, committee, commission or department that maintains the Firewise Community program and status.
- Enlist a WUI specialist to complete an assessment and create a plan from which it identifies agreed-upon, achievable local solutions.
- Invest a minimum of $2.00 annually per capita in its Firewise Communities/USA program. (Work done by municipal employees or volunteers, using municipal or other equipment, can be included, as can state/federal grants dedicated to that purpose.)
- Observe a Firewise Communities/USA Day each spring that is dedicated to a local Firewise project.
- Submit an annual report to Firewise Communities/USA. This report documents continuing participation in the program.

Contact information for key participants involved in the development, review, and editing of this assessment:

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The Willow Creek Community Assessment was reviewed and accepted by the Willow Creek Firewise Board/FSC on November 4, 2010 and it was decided to seek Firewise recognition. Subsequently, the following action plan was created and agreed-upon by the Board/FSC. Firefighters with the Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department provided guidance for the development of the assessment as well as the action plan.

Given the strengths and capacity of the local fire protection and prevention community and existing and potential supporting budgets, it was determined that the fire safety of the community can best be served by implementing the following short term actions. Community members and organizations will also continue to coordinate with the Six Rivers National Forest on planning vegetation management projects in the federally owned wildlands. The following action plan specifically focuses on actions that address what can be done within the home ignition zone and within high risk community areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create and publish the “Living with Fire in the Lower Trinity” brochure. This publication will contain Firewise educational material with community residents as the intended audience. Information covered in the publication will include community wildland fire/emergency preparedness, home ignition prevention, evacuation and access issues, domestic and wild animal rescue, and wildland Urban Interface issues. It will address many of the issues brought up in the Community Assessment.</td>
<td>The Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (FSC)/Firewise Board - with articles submitted by and/or support received from local residents, fire service personnel, the Mendocino County FSC, and local, state and federal agency staff.</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete planned neighborhood fuels reduction projects. Funding has been secured from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to reduce flammable vegetation in four Willow Creek neighborhoods. Work is being planed for areas near Camp Kimtu, the Bigfoot Subdivision, Hodgson Hill, and between Brannan Mt Road and Highway</td>
<td>The Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (FSC)/Firewise Board - with assistance from U.S. Forest Service, Lower Trinity Ranger District Staff and a contractor.</td>
<td>Summer 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACTION</td>
<td>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</td>
<td>TIMELINE</td>
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<td>96 near Trinity Valley Elementary School. Approximately 38 acres will be treated to break up the continuity of wildfire fuels and make the neighborhoods less vulnerable to damage from wildfire.</td>
<td>Property owners with assistance from FLASH Technicians, The Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (FSC)/Firewise Board, County of Humboldt grant Administration Staff, and the Mid Klamath Watershed Council as fiscal sponsor.</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten property owners complete wildfire hazard reduction work funded through the Humboldt County Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes (FLASH) program. A home risk assessment is provided with this program and mitigation recommendations are made for reducing fire hazards in the home ignition zone. The County received funds for this program from the U.S.D.A Forest Service.</td>
<td>The Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (FSC)/Firewise Board and participating property owners with support from PG&amp;E and Cal Fire.</td>
<td>By October 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold three Neighborhood Cleanup Days. Assist property owners with the task of removing the byproduct debris from reducing flammable vegetation on their lots. A PG&amp;E grant makes it possible to offer the use of a dump trailer to haul the debris to a biomass facility and a Cal Fire chipper will be used where possible to chip material on location. These days will also be used as an opportunity to hand out educational materials and offer free home risk assessments.</td>
<td>The Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (FSC)/Firewise Board, and the SWAP.</td>
<td>October 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold three Sheriff Work Alternative Program (SWAP) Work Days. Thin the buildup of flammable vegetation along community roads and public properties to reduce the wildfire hazard.</td>
<td>The Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (FSC)/Firewise Board, and the SWAP.</td>
<td>October 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host the “Willow Creek Fire Safe Day &amp; Youth Ecology Fair”; Willow Creek’s annual Firewise event. The fair frontlines fire preparedness and fire prevention techniques, attracting 20 to 30 information booths each year. This Firewise event is a great way for the community to kick off the fire season.</td>
<td>The Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (FSC)/Firewise Board and all community and fire service partners.</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 6: EVACUATION TIPS

Evacuation Tips

Evacuations save lives and allow responding personnel to focus on the emergency at hand. Please evacuate promptly when requested!

The Law
California law authorizes officers to restrict access to any area where a menace to public health or safety exists due to a calamity such as flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident or other disaster. Refusal to comply is a misdemeanor. (Penal Code 409.5)

Evacuation Orders
The terms Voluntary and Mandatory are used to describe evacuation orders. However, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as Precautionary and Immediate Threat. These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger. All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.

Long Before a Fire Threatens
Prepare an Evacuation Checklist and Organize:
- Critical medications.
- Important personal papers, photos.
- Essential valuables.
- Pet and livestock transport, limited amount of pet food.
- Change of clothing, toiletries.
- Cell phone.
- Critical papers and effects in a fire-proof safe.
- An Evacuation Route Map with at least two routes.*
- Drive your planned route of escape before an actual emergency.*

*During an evacuation, law enforcement/ emergency personnel may determine your route.

If Evacuation is a Possibility
- Locate your Evacuation Checklist and place the items in your vehicle.
- Park your vehicle facing outward and carry your car keys with you.
- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport.
- Place connected garden hoses and buckets full of water around the house.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Cover-up. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.
- Leave lights on in the house - door unlocked.
- Leave windows closed - air conditioning off.
The Evacuation Process
1. Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and the routes to use depending upon the fire’s location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.
2. Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly.
3. You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
4. You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

If You Become Trapped
While in your vehicle:
• Stay calm.
• Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
• Close all vehicle windows and vents.
• Cover yourself with wool blanket or jacket.
• Lie on vehicle floor.
• Use your cell phone to advise officials – Call 911.

While on foot:
• Stay calm.
• Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression if possible.
• Lie face down, cover up.
• Use your cell phone to advise officials - Call 911.

While in your home:
• Stay calm, keep your family together.
• Call 911 and inform authorities of your location.
• Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
• Keep doors and windows closed, but unlocked.
• Stay inside your house.
• Stay away from outside walls and windows.
* Note – it will get hot in the house, but it is much better, and more dangerous outside.

After the fire passes, and if it is safe, check the following areas for fire:
• The roof and house exterior.
• Under decks and inside your attic.
• Your yard for burning trees, woodpiles, etc.

Returning Home
Fire officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home. This will be done as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility.

When you return home:
• Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards.
• Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on.
• Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires.

www.fire.ca.gov
APPENDIX 7: CALIFORNIA WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE BUILDING CODE INFORMATION

General Questions (from the Cal Fire website at www.fire.ca.gov specifically www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland_faqs.php

What can be done to reduce buildings loss from wildfire?
Answer: Years of experience by fire agencies and others have led to a statutory strategy for reducing the chance of building loss or damage. It is a two-pronged approach:

1) defensible space - reduce flammable material around homes to keep direct flames and heat away from the side of the building. (The law already requires property owners to create 100 feet of defensible space around buildings);

2) exterior wildfire exposure protection - construct buildings so that they have less chance of catching fire from burning embers. We have learned that we must make changes to the surrounding property and to the buildings themselves.

What do the new building codes do?
Answer: Recently adopted building codes and standards reduce the risk of burning embers igniting buildings. Codes already in effect place standards on roofing construction and attic venting. The new building codes require siding, exterior doors, decking, windows, eaves wall vents, and enclosed overhanging decks to meet new test standards.

Do the building codes apply equally in the different Fire Hazard Severity Zones?
Answer: Yes. The new ignition resistant codes apply to all fire hazard zones in the state responsibility area and in very high Fire Hazard Severity Zones in local responsibility areas.

How was the fire hazard severity determined?
Answer: Using the latest fire science, CAL FIRE has developed and field tested a model that serves as the basis of zone assignments. The model evaluates properties using characteristics that affect the probability of the area burning and potential fire behavior in the area. Many factors are considered such as fire history, existing and potential fuel, flame length, blowing embers, terrain, weather and the likelihood of buildings igniting.

Can the new building codes protect my home from fire?
Answer: Fire safe building practices can’t make your home fire proof but they can improve the chances that it will still be standing after the wildfire is out.

How will the new building codes affect me as a property owner?
Answer: It depends on your specific situation. Always check with your local building department for specific information.
APPENDIX 8: PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 4291

4291. (a) A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or land that is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

(1) Maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, but not beyond the property line except as provided in paragraph (2). The amount of fuel modification necessary shall take into account the flammability of the structure as affected by building material, building standards, location, and type of vegetation. Fuels shall be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. This paragraph does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that are well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a structure or from a structure to other nearby vegetation. The intensity of fuels management may vary within the 100-foot perimeter of the structure, the most intense being within the first 30 feet around the structure. Consistent with fuels management objectives, steps should be taken to minimize erosion. For the purposes of this paragraph, "fuel" means any combustible material, including petroleum-based products and wildland fuels.

(2) A greater distance than that required under paragraph (1) may be required by state law, local ordinance, rule, or regulation. Clearance beyond the property line may only be required if the state law, local ordinance, rule, or regulation includes findings that the clearing is necessary to significantly reduce the risk of transmission of flame or heat sufficient to ignite the structure, and there is no other feasible mitigation measure possible to reduce the risk of ignition or spread of wildfire to the structure. Clearance on adjacent property shall only be conducted following written consent by the adjacent landowner.

(3) An insurance company that insures an occupied dwelling or occupied structure may require a greater distance than that required under paragraph (1) if a fire expert, designated by the director, provides findings that the clearing is necessary to significantly reduce the risk of transmission of flame or heat sufficient to ignite the structure, and there is no other feasible mitigation measure possible to reduce the risk of ignition or spread of wildfire to the structure. The greater distance may not be beyond the property line unless allowed by state law, local ordinance, rule, or regulation.

(4) Remove that portion of a tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.

(5) Maintain a tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building free of dead or dying wood.

(6) Maintain the roof of a structure free of leaves, needles, or other vegetative materials.

(7) Prior to constructing a new building or structure or rebuilding a building or structure damaged by a fire in an area subject to this section, the construction or rebuilding of which requires a building permit, the owner shall obtain a certification from the local building official that the dwelling or structure, as proposed to be built, complies with all
applicable state and local building standards, including those described in subdivision (b) of Section 51189 of the Government Code, and shall provide a copy of the certification, upon request, to the insurer providing course of construction insurance coverage for the building or structure. Upon completion of the construction or rebuilding, the owner shall obtain from the local building official, a copy of the final inspection report that demonstrates that the dwelling or structure was constructed in compliance with all applicable state and local building standards, including those described in subdivision (b) of Section 51189 of the Government Code, and shall provide a copy of the report, upon request, to the property insurance carrier that insures the dwelling or structure.

(b) A person is not required under this section to manage fuels on land if that person does not have the legal right to manage fuels, nor is a person required to enter upon or to alter property that is owned by any other person without the consent of the owner of the property.

(c) (1) Except as provided in Section 18930 of the Health and Safety Code, the director may adopt regulations exempting a structure with an exterior constructed entirely of nonflammable materials, or, conditioned upon the contents and composition of the structure, the director may vary the requirements respecting the removing or clearing away of flammable vegetation or other combustible growth with respect to the area surrounding those structures.

(2) An exemption or variance under paragraph (1) shall not apply unless and until the occupant of the structure, or if there is not an occupant, the owner of the structure, files with the department, in a form as the director shall prescribe, a written consent to the inspection of the interior and contents of the structure to ascertain whether this section and the regulations adopted under this section are complied with at all times.

(d) The director may authorize the removal of vegetation that is not consistent with the standards of this section. The director may prescribe a procedure for the removal of that vegetation and make the expense a lien upon the building, structure, or grounds, in the same manner that is applicable to a legislative body under Section 51186 of the Government Code.

(e) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall develop, periodically update, and post on its Internet Web site a guidance document on fuels management pursuant to this chapter. Guidance shall include, but not be limited to, regionally appropriate vegetation management suggestions that preserve and restore native species, minimize erosion, minimize water consumption, and permit trees near homes for shade, aesthetics, and habitat; and suggestions to minimize or eliminate the risk of flammability of non-vegetative sources of combustion such as woodpiles, propane tanks, decks, and outdoor lawn furniture.

(f) As used in this section, "person" means a private individual, organization, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation.

4291.1. (a) Notwithstanding Section 4021, a violation of Section 4291 is an infraction punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars ($100), nor more than five hundred dollars ($500). If a person is convicted of a second violation of Section 4291 within five years, that person shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars ($250), nor more than five hundred dollars ($500). If a person is convicted of a third violation of Section 4291 within five years, that person is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars ($500). If a person is convicted of a third violation of Section 4291 within five years, the department may perform or contract for the performance of work necessary to comply with Section 4291 and may bill the person convicted for the costs incurred, in which case the person convicted, upon payment of those costs, shall not be required to pay the
fine. If a person convicted of a violation of Section 4291 is granted probation, the court shall impose as a term or condition of probation, in addition to any other term or condition of probation, that the person pay at least the minimum fine prescribed in this section.

(b) If a person convicted of a violation of Section 4291 produces in court verification prior to imposition of a fine by the court, that the condition resulting in the citation no longer exists, the court may reduce the fine imposed for the violation of Section 4291 to fifty dollars ($50).

4291.3. Subject to any other applicable provision of law, a state or local fire official, at his or her discretion, may authorize an owner of property, or his or her agent, to construct a firebreak, or implement appropriate vegetation management techniques, to ensure that defensible space is adequate for the protection of a hospital, adult residential care facility, school, aboveground storage tank, hazardous materials facility, or similar facility on the property. The firebreak may be for a radius of up to 300 feet from the facility, or to the property line, whichever distance is shorter.
The Willow Creek Greater Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan
January 2011

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Join the Blue Dot Brigade

OK, you’ve done the most important things to protect your home from wildfire - established 100’ of defensible space, provided safe access and turnarounds for firefighters, and set up a hydrant or accessible water supply.

Would firefighters be able to locate your hydrant or water supply in the dark or under smoky conditions?

Mark your firefighting water supply with a blue reflector!

Mark only water supplies that are set up specifically for firefighting, such as:

- Hydrants with 2 1/2” National Standard male thread
- Swimming pools or ponds that that can be accessed by a large fire engine with a short hose

Don’t mark just any water supply. See reverse side for more information. Please don’t endanger your firefighters! Check with your local VFD to learn what to mark and to obtain free blue reflectors.

Thank You to the sponsors of the Blue Dot Brigade: Trinity Insurance, State Farm Insurance, Trinity Lumber, Trinity County Association of Realtors, Trinity County Resource Conservation District and UC Cooperative Extension for Trinity County
Firefighting Water Supplies

Water is one of the limiting factors in fighting fires. Having a water tank, swimming pool or pond nearby is not enough – the water must be accessible to firefighters. Consider this:

1. There are 2 basic types of water sources: draft and pressurized.

2. In most draft systems, the fire engine has to suck water into its pump, where it’s pressurized for firefighting. Draft water sources can be a swimming pool, pond or water tank. Because a fire engine’s suction hose is very short, the fire engine must be able to park within 7 feet of the source. Both the parking location AND the approach to it must be a hard surface capable of holding a 14’ tall, 40,000-pound vehicle.

3. The better choice is a pressurized system, using gravity or a pump. Gravity systems are the most desirable for fire protection, since they can work when the power goes out.

In a gravity system, water is stored in an elevated tank or tanks before it is needed. The tank is kept full and water is brought down to a hydrant through a large diameter pipe (3” or more). An elevated tank provides 1 pound of pressure for every 2.3’ in elevation. A tank 80’ uphill provides 35 pounds of pressure – the minimum needed to protect a home from fire.

4. Portable water pumps can be used with tanks, pools, ponds or streams. Pumps should be pre-fitted with 1 ½” or 2 ½” male National Hose pipe thread fittings on their discharge sides and must have suction hoses long enough to reach the water.

5. Hydrants should be located about 50’ away from your house. At this distance, if the house is on fire, the hydrant can probably still be reached. Hydrants must be very sturdy. Fortify PVC pipe so that it can withstand heavy weights and pressures. Hydrants should be 18-24” high and placed 4-12’ from any road. Protect your hydrant from vehicles with barriers, but make sure that firefighters can park near it.

6. Install round blue reflectors to guide firefighters to your firefighting water supply. Do not use blue reflectors for any other purpose – this could lead to confusion and endanger firefighters.