

### *Fuels Treatment and Grant Management*

Fuels treatment projects conducted by CAL FIRE staff are monitored by the Planning Battalion. The three conservation camps manage their own projects and sponsors. However, projects involving Sudden Oak Death and grants to CAL FIRE are administered by the Planning Battalion to ensure consistent reporting. CAL FIRE also reviews grant applications for local fire departments, fire safe councils, and Firewise communities.

### *Geographic Information Systems Support / Mapping*

Map development using GIS is provided by the Planning Battalion. This includes incident support, response maps, jurisdictional information, demographic analysis, and numerous other mapping products can be provided. Unit level CAL FIRE digital data sets are developed and maintained in the pre-fire shop.

## **SECTION V: PRE FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS**

### **A. Division / Battalion / Program Plans**



CAL FIRE's Humboldt-Del Norte Unit is divided into five field battalions; prevention, planning, aviation, emergency command center, and training administrative battalions. Each field battalion works closely with the planning battalion to assure fuel reduction projects and other projects within the battalion are coordinated. Each field battalion is involved in VMP projects and decisions that are located within their areas. Field battalions may also participate in local fire safe council activities and CWPP development in conjunction with the pre-fire planning battalion.

The prevention battalion through comprehensive engineering and law enforcement programs strives to prevent fires. Reduction of loss from wildland fire each year is the goal of extensive planning by CAL FIRE, communities, coordination with non-profit groups and interagency cooperation. The HUU prevention officers are busy year round investigating fire causes, interviewing witnesses, issuing citations and setting up surveillance operations. Additionally, law enforcement staff provides assistance when requested by local fire and law enforcement agencies in arson, bomb, fireworks, and fire investigations.

The training battalion coordinates a wide range of firefighter and support staff training from the local courses, to nominations for national courses. Maintaining and developing a skilled, professional workforce that meets required training standards is the goal. This improves service to the public while ensuring a focus on firefighter and public safety. The Unit endeavors to have staff qualified or in training to fill Incident Command System positions at all levels, from local to national Type 1 incidents. The training battalion plays a vital role in developing the hands-on skills, the career foundational skills, and the management skills necessary to provide for those that provide for the public's safety.

### ***B. Desired Future Conditions***

Each battalion has areas where wildland fire could threaten important assets to the communities. Our goal is to increase public awareness of these conditions in hopes of spurring stakeholder interest to taking a more active role in improving defensible space. For many areas we hope to reduce the fire hazard through fuel reduction and increase public and firefighter safety, by helping improve the means of ingress / egress.

Additionally we hope to improve or maintain the many ecosystems that surround us in order to maintain the quality of life for the residents of Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity counties. This would include cultural burning to help maintain the Native American culture.

### **Area Accomplishments**

The FSC has been successful in the process, along with the Humboldt County Planning Department, in development and approval of the County's Master Fire Protection Plan, which is a major part of the overall operating plan for the county. The Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan serves as the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Humboldt County, California and was approved in 2006. CWPPs were created through the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). As defined by the HFRA, the requirements for a CWPP are a collaborative process, prioritization of fuel reduction projects, and treatment of structural ignitability.

Humboldt County Fire Safe Council received approximately \$59,695 of Title III money With matching funds projects were funded for a total of \$96,450.in 2009 which went to support seven different Fire Safe Councils (see table below)

<b>Grant Applications submitted to the Humboldt County Title III Small Grant Program by Local Fire Safe Councils</b>					
<i>Project Number</i>	<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Applicant Organization</i>	<i>Title III requested</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
2010T3-1	Willow Creek Fire Safe Day & Youth Ecology Fair	Willow Creek Fire Safe Council	\$3,360	\$3,600	<b>\$6,960</b>
2010T3-2	Living with Fire in the Lower Trinity	Willow Creek Fire Safe Council	\$3,200	\$3,500	<b>\$6,700</b>
2010T3-3	Firewise Bridgeville	Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council, Bridgeville Community Center	\$10,136	\$7,932	<b>\$18,068</b>
2010T3-4	The Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council and Institute for Sustainable Forestry	\$20,000	\$12,800	<b>\$32,800</b>
2010T3-5	Orleans CWPP and Firewise Community Project	Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council	\$3,000	\$4,605	<b>\$7,605</b>
2010T3-6	Lower Mattole Fire Plan update	Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council	\$10,635	\$2,250	<b>\$12,885</b>
2010T3-7	Firewise Certification for Petrolia and Honeydew	Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council	\$9,364	\$2,068	<b>\$11,432</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,695</b>	<b>\$36,755</b>	<b>\$96,450</b>

In addition to the above grant funding Humboldt Fire Safe Council also has received grant funding in 2009 through the USFS for the Humboldt County CWPP Update and Countywide Fuels Reduction Coordination Program and 2010 grant funding through the USFS for Fire-Safe Homes and Forest Cost-Share Program. Below is a sample flyer sent out to the public requesting community input into the CWPP update funded by the Humboldt County CWPP Update and Countywide Fuels Reduction Coordination Program grant (see link below).

[http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/fire\\_safe\\_council/fireplan\\_docs/humboldt%20cwpp.doc](http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/fire_safe_council/fireplan_docs/humboldt%20cwpp.doc)

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The Willow Creek & Humboldt County  
Fire Safe Councils  
invite Willow Creek area residents to a

## Hazardous Fuels Reduction Planning Workshop

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 PM

**WHERE:** Six Rivers National Forest, Lower Trinity  
Ranger District Office on HWY 96 in the Range Room

**Why?** To record where progress has been made to  
reduce wildfire fuels threatening our community  
assets and to identify what projects to tackle next

**WHO SHOULD COME?** Anyone who is interested in  
reducing the risk of wildfire damage to their homes  
and community

\*Bring maps and photos  
if you have them



Please come join us!

Questions? Call Barbara Darst at (707) 499-0767 OR Cybelle Immitt at 268-3736

The council is discussing gaps in fire protection service areas, Fire Department funding and staffing problems, along with other issues. Through the use of the plan, the County has been able to see where the critical need for improvement in the areas of fire protection, fuel reduction, education, and other needs exist. HUU staff is involved in an advisory role in this process.

Additionally, HUU staff has been working in conjunction with the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association, the Humboldt County Planning Department as well as local fire departments to provide a level of service component to the Humboldt County Planning Department website. The report shown below is one of the outcomes of this effort.

### ***C. Prioritized Fuel Reduction Areas***

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#### **CAL FIRE Chipper Program**

Humboldt Del Norte Unit augments funding for all 10 fire safe councils through grant support review and matching funds through staff time, chipper use and fire crews, engines and dozers.

These resources are channeled mostly through letters of commitment in the grant application process and range from \$60,000 – \$9,000 depending on the type of grant application.

The Avenue of the Giants Corridor is located in the Southern portion of the Unit. The area extends from Pepperwood to Phillipsville and has many small communities along its path. Property ownership is a checkerboard of Humboldt Redwoods State Park and private property. There are many homes in this area as well as the old growth Redwoods, parks and rivers.



“ Road Clearance Project”  
Accomplished with grant Funding and  
the HUU  
Humboldt County  
Community Chipper Program

### **Prescribed Fire Program**

Prescribed fire can be an effective tool for fuels reduction, in addition to providing other positive results in managing the landscape. These projects may be small in scale, from landowner conducted individual burns through our LE-5 and LE-7 permit process, to large burns conducted by CAL FIRE under the Vegetation Management Program. Managed timberlands realize fuel reduction when piles are burned or a treatment unit is broadcast burned. CAL FIRE is also an active cooperater with other public agencies such as State Parks – providing equipment, crews, and other resources to assist with their burns. Training burns are also conducted, which may produce a fuels reduction side benefit.

Treating areas under CAL FIRE’s VMP brings the liability for the burn on the State, under a cost-share contract. These projects are often “targets of opportunity” since it takes a landowner willing to enter an agreement with the State, a project that realizes adequate public benefit, and is feasible to conduct without significant impact to the environment or communities. A list of projects that are current, under development, and recently conducted and may be renewed are included in Appendix C. The goal is to have at least one VMP project in each of the five field battalions. Burn windows are usually limited to September and October, so approved projects may not be completed within the 3-year contract period.

Private landowners, local fire agencies, and fire safe councils also conduct burn operations. From May 1<sup>st</sup> until the end of the declared fire season, a CAL FIRE permit is required for burning. Outside of that period, burns may be conducted without a CAL FIRE permit, so our knowledge of those projects is often limited. The North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District requires a smoke management project permit at all times during the year. CAL FIRE coordinates with the AQMD for small pile “dooryard” permits – consolidated into a single document issued by the AQMD. Larger burns are not coordinated between the agencies unless CAL FIRE is conducting the burn.

Burning programs are also conducted on public lands by our federal cooperators. Redwood National Park has an active program that often uses CAL FIRE resources. The BLM burns are usually coordinated with CAL FIRE since most BLM areas are within the State's Direct Protection Area by agreement. The US Forest Service – Six Rivers National Forest also has an active fuels treatment program. CAL FIRE assistance on these projects is rarely requested.

### **Sudden Oak Death Areas**

Scattered throughout the Unit are areas of Sudden Oak Death infestation. These areas become priorities for fuel treatment to check expansion of the disease, and reduce fuels buildup. Research conducted by UC Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with CAL FIRE and other private landowners, has examined fuel loading and predicted fire behavior in SOD affected stands. These areas produce greater fire control challenges due to higher rates of spread, greater flame lengths, and greater potential for failure of standing trees. Where SOD is expanding in newly found locations, the primary strategy is isolating the infection site with a 300 foot buffer – removing standing tanoak and California bay. This can check the advance of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen that causes SOD. Other infected areas can become a priority for fuels treatment along roads and near communities, as SOD appears to produce 100 percent mortality in tanoak.

### **Shelter Cove**

Located in the southwestern portion of the Unit, this area is a resort district with a hazardous fuel buildup. Additionally, this area is subject to a strong off-shore winds that may be accompanied by low humidity. Shelter Cove is a high use recreation area in the summer, not only for its' ocean water sports but it also serves visitors to the King Range Conservation Area and the famous Lost Cost.

### **Mattole Valley/Prosper Ridge/Wilder Ridge**

Many small communities are in this area. The potential for a large damaging fire in this area is significant. The fire history is also significant, some of the largest fires in the Unit have occurred in this area. This area has an apparent microclimate that supports the more extreme aspects of fire weather.

### **Van Duzen River Fire Safe Council**

- Van Duzen River, Bridgeville, Blocksburg, Dinsmore, Eastern Humboldt County

This area covers several small communities. The potential for a large damaging fire in this area is significant.



Pictures showing Van Duzen Fire Safe Council fuel reduction project.

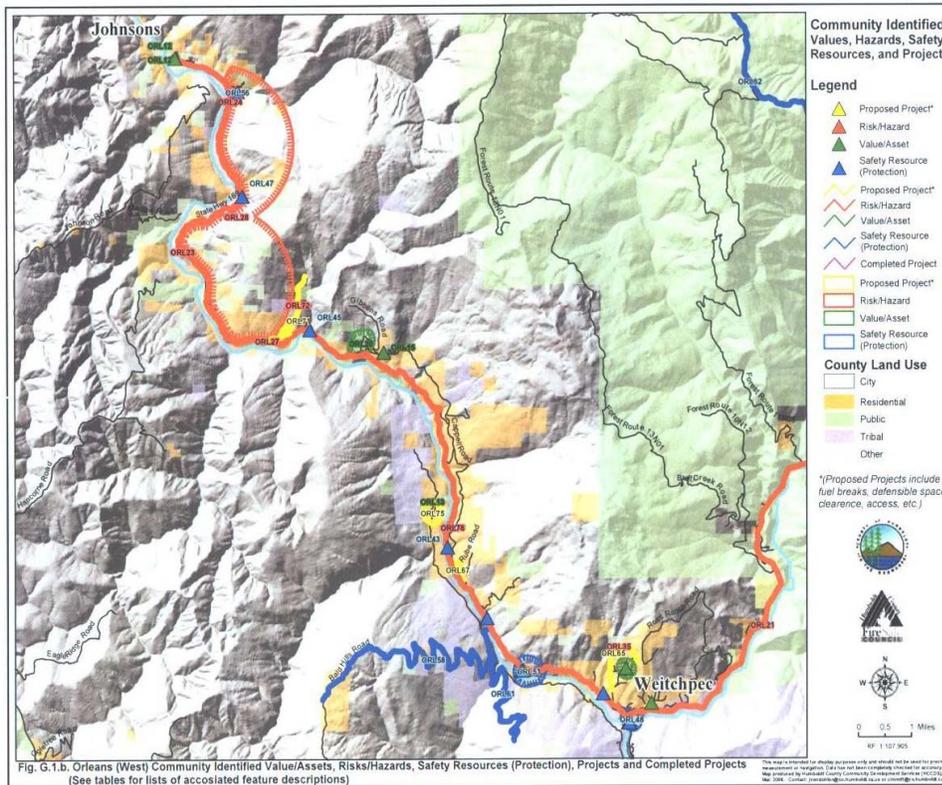


Pictures showing Van Duzen Fire Safe Council fuel reduction project limbing and chipping hazardous fuels.

The Van Duzen Fire Safe Council has been successful in garnering community support and grant funding support in aggressively promoting and implementing fuel reduction projects throughout the council's area. The council has fostered relationships and works diligently to establish itself with the County, State and Federal agencies as well as local community members.

# Orleans Some Bar Fire Safe Council

## Orleans Some Bar / Northeastern Humboldt County



Map showing identified proposed projects for the Orleans Some Bar area of eastern Humboldt County

The above map and information was gathered through mapping exercises held during the last half last half of the 24 community meetings through out Humboldt County. A description of the information gathering methods can be found in the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan in Chapter 5 Appendix E at the afore mention website. Risk and hazards are noted on the second table above, with corresponding map identification numbers. The value of such a plan and tool allows information to flow freely and can be updated as necessary. Additionally, the mapping can be further integrated in coordinating efforts with state and federal agency projects and grant funding.

More recently grant funding has been provided to update the Humboldt County CWPP during 2009. The community meetings have occurred throughout the county and the information is being assimilated and updated on the county GIS system to update maps and information as shown above. The following goals and policies pertaining to the California 2010 Startegic Fire Plan have been met as outlined below:

1. Improved availability and use of information on hazard and risk assessment
2. Shared vision among communities and multiple fire protection jurisdictions
3. Establishing fire resistant in assets at risk such as homes and neighborhoods
4. Creation of defensible space for survivability of established homes and neighborhoods
5. Fuel hazard reduction that increases resilient landscapes and protects the wildland
6. Commitment by individuals and communities to wildfire prevention and protection

## Humboldt Redwoods State Park

The Humboldt Redwoods State Park extends from Pepperwood to Garberville along the Hwy 101 corridor. There are 52,000 acres within the park boundaries, of which 17,000 acres are old growth Coast Redwood. The park is well known for its enormous old growth Redwood trees, many campgrounds and waterways. Humboldt Redwoods State Park is one of the county's feature attractions. Over 750,000 people come from all over the world to visit the park each year. The park has had an active prescribed burning program for many years and seeks to maintain that program with the cooperative efforts of the Unit.



Fox Camp prescribed burn in Humboldt Redwood State Park

## **Klamath River Drainage**

This area is located “down river” from the Hoopa Reservation on Hwy 96 and represents the most easterly portion of the Unit. It is an area that is home to people from many different Native American tribes including the Yurok. This area has a significant fire history. While the population density is sparse the resources that stand to be lost are tremendous. This includes the Klamath watershed and associated wildlife as well as timber. Additionally, prescribed burning helps facilitate the collection of hazel stick and bear grass, key components to Native American basket weaving. This is a critical asset to maintaining the disappearing craft of the culture.

### ***D. Community Wildfire Protection Plans***

#### **Humboldt County**

The Humboldt County Wild Fire Protection Plan (CWPP) focus is on improving the countywide fuels reduction and fire safe planning strategy through a coordinated update and refinement of the Humboldt County CWPP and local CWPPs

**The mission of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (FSC) is to:**

Serve as a forum for the implementation of the measures outlined in the Master Fire Protection Plan (MFPP), share fire-safety information, assess fire risk, promote community fire-safe planning and coordination, link fire-prevention programs, and support the fire service and local fire safe councils.

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors formed the ad-hoc advisory FSC in 2002 to guide the development of a countywide Fire Plan and assist with its implementation. With the guidance of the FSC, the County of Humboldt prepared the "Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan", the County's equivalent to a Community Wildfire Protection Plan .

The fire plan was completed and approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2006 and is intended to be used as a framework for fire coordination, prevention, and protection throughout the county. The Community Development Services Department managed the Fire Plan preparation with assistance from local consultants, Planwest Partners and ForEverGreen Forestry. The FSC is now in the process of guiding a two year plan-update process with the goal of presenting an updated plan to the Board of Supervisors in August of 2012.

The Council also serves as a forum for community organizations and representatives to share fire-safety information, assess fire risk, set fire protection priorities, and develop policies for integration into the County General Plan.

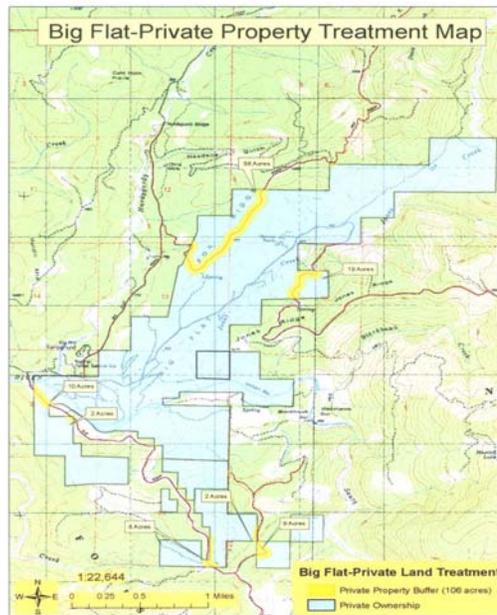
Two other areas of Humboldt County have completed Community Wildland Protection Plans: 1) Lower Mattole Fire Plan for the Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council and 2) Upper Mattole Fire Plan for the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council. Both plans were funded with monies from USFS Community Development grants. HUU staff were involved in an advisory role in each of these plans.

More recently, the Willow Creek Fire Safe Council has obtained a Community Wildfire Protection Plan CWPP for the Willow Creek Area. This effort was supported by HUU staff in an advisory role in coordination with the Willow Creek FSC, Willow Creek Fire and the USFS.

[http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/fire\\_safe\\_council/fsc\\_mfpp\\_cwpp.htm](http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/fire_safe_council/fsc_mfpp_cwpp.htm)

### **Del Norte County**

The Del Norte County Fire Safe Council in cooperation with the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors has an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan. HUU staff has been involved in an advisory role during this process.



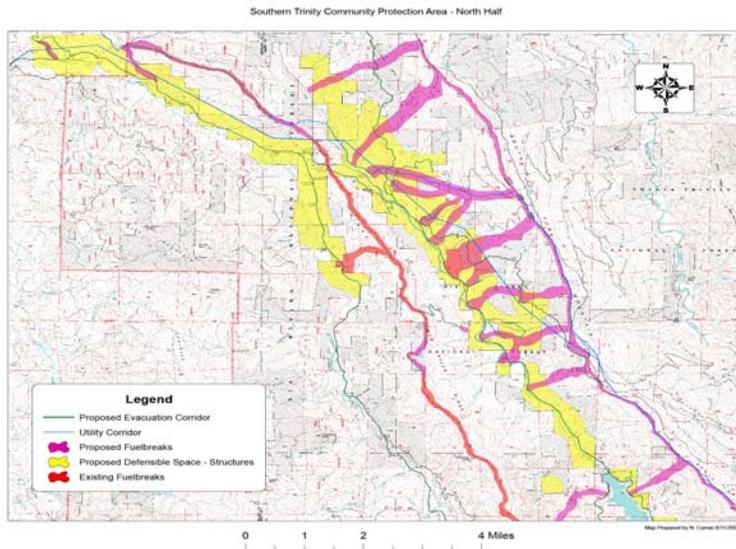
The above Map shows one of the Current projects that is fund by a USDA WUI grant in Del Norte County Fire Safe Council area.

To view the Del Norte County approved CWPP see the link below.

[http://slvgis.info/Del\\_Norte\\_CWPP/DNFPD\\_CWPP\\_Final\\_4\\_10\\_2009.pdf](http://slvgis.info/Del_Norte_CWPP/DNFPD_CWPP_Final_4_10_2009.pdf)

### **Trinity County**

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council has been holding monthly meetings addressing the Various projects, and plan processes that they are involved in. Currently Trinity County is in the process of being reviewed and updating the CWPP.HUU staff have attended regularly in an advisory role. The link below will allow review of the Trinity County CWPP approved in 2005.



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*The above map is a landscape level plan proposal in the southern trinity county area. Again in concert with the California 2010 Strategic Fire Plan and in cooperation with community and agency input landscape level planning can be achieved. Fire hazards can be reduced with a shared vision among communities and agencies. To view the California 2010 Strategic Fire Plan click in the link below*

<http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/pub/fireplan/fpupload/fpppdf668.pdf>