

Prioritized Fuel Reduction Areas

Description of priority areas

- Cathey Road / Avenue of the Giants

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.



“Cathey Road
Clearance Project”

Part of the 2002 BLM WUI grant
Humboldt County Community Chipper Program
Completed in 2003

- 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 on shore wind that is fierce at times and is can be accompanied by low humidities. Shelter Cove is a high use recreation area in the summer, not only for it’s ocean water sports but it also serves visitors to the King Range Conservation Area and the famous Lost Cost.

Shelter Cove Road
Shaded Fuelbreak
2003 USFS WUI Grant

Completed in 2004

- Mattole Valley/Prosper Ridge/Wilder Ridge

Many small communities represented 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.

“Gypsie Residence Fuel Clearance” part of the 2002 WUI grant for Humboldt County Community Chipper Program



Completed in 2003

- Arcata Community Forest

The Arcata Community Forest is situated on the boundary of the City of Arcata. This area presents an interface problem to the many neighboring residents, Humboldt State University and the Pacific Northwest Experimental Station. The forest is a popular recreation area for residents throughout Humboldt County and is often host to many social events. The exclusion of fire has led to a hazardous fuel build up as well an unhealthy forest.

Arcata Community Forest Shaded Fuelbreak 2003 BLM WUI Grant



Completed in 2004

- 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 counties 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.



Understory VMP along the “Avenue of the Giants” in the 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.

“Creasy Property” understory



burn conducted by the Orleans / Somes Bar Fire Safe Council
Completed in 2005.

- McKay Tract



The McKay Tract shown in the upper portion of this photograph.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

Each target area has some unique assets that are targeted for one reason or another. However, in a general sense, the goals are the same. The reality is that we cannot “fix” the problems it took 50 years to create. With this thought in mind our goal is to increase public awareness of the conditions that do exist in hopes of spurring stakeholder interest in taking a more active role in the process. 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 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

Humboldt County

Humboldt County Fire Safe Council received approximately \$25,000 of Title III money in 2003 which went to the County of Humboldt Community Development for council administration and formation. The FSC is in the process, along with the Humboldt County Planning Department and it’s contractor, of developing the County’s Master Fire

Protection Plan, which is a major part of the overall operating plan for the county. 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 will be able to see where the critical need for improvement in the areas of fire protection, fuel reduction, education, and other needs exist. HUU staff are involved in an advisory role in this process.

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.

Del Norte County

The Del Norte County Fire Safe Council in cooperation with the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors has used monies from a Title III grant to develop a countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The plan is in its final stages pending Board of Supervisors adoption. HUU staff have been involved in an advisory role during this process.

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. HUU staff have attended regularly in an advisory role.