



**TRINITY COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**  
**& Firewise Communities Program**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 11, 2008**

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council meeting was held at the PUD Meeting Room in Weaverville. The meeting began at 7:00 pm. Jesse Cox opened the meeting with introductions. We had 20 in attendance.

**RAC Program**

Frost provided an update on the “new” Resource Advisory Committee and Title II funding. Congress reauthorized the program earlier this year for 4 years. The Trinity County RAC met on December 8<sup>th</sup>. There clearly will continue to be a focus on fuels/wildfire projects and needs. The “Fuels Subcommittee” will have its first meeting February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 PM.

**Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update (and Title III proposal)**

There was a lengthy discussion about the importance of going in and reviewing the status of our CWPP and updating it. Some of the original community outreach was conducted in 1999 and the CWPP approved in September 2005. A lot of priority projects have been completed and our understanding of what is needed to protect our communities has been refined. The Wildland Urban Interface boundaries should be reviewed for each community and the review should consider whether the existing boundary [and definition of WUI] is appropriate for each community. The WUI boundary is important to the USFS for planning and funding purposes based on the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). It was generally agreed that a smaller group than the whole FSC should work on this; that it would include GIS/mapping; defining priority projects for the next 4 years (for the RAC) in the short-term; revising the CWPP in the longer term with a significant community outreach effort. The RCD and WRTC will put together a proposal to submit to the County under Title III (due by December 22).

**Firewise Community Program & Trinity County Fire Safe Council**

Frost reviewed the language in Title III. Congress changed the types of projects that qualify under Title III and in doing so specifically included working on CWPPs and conducting fuels reduction related outreach and implementation. The language also requires that proposals be under a Firewise Community Program. The Firewise Communities Program is a national program. We sent members of our FSC to a training program in Eureka a few years ago. Frost offered to take the lead and get application(s) submitted this month to the Firewise Program. Most of the work being conducted under the umbrella of the Trinity County Fire Safe Council is also consistent with the Firewise Program.

## **CA Fire Safe Council Grants**

The Clearinghouse has sent out a notice for their upcoming grant workshops. The workshop closest to us will be on January 13 in Redding. RCD and WRTC will attend. The proposals are due in mid-February. Tim Bradley (BLM) reminded the group that projects that link to, and support, fuels work that will be implemented on federal lands always seems to help the chances that the proposals are successful in getting funding through the clearinghouse, so keep your USFS or BLM partners informed.

## **South Fork Management Unit Project Proposals**

Donna Harmon & Jeff Ulrich took the lead in describing a number of proposed projects, summarized as follows:

**Jones Thin:** Updating an older NEPA for a plantation thinning. Goal is to develop proposal for stewardship contracting. Likely little commercial value and will require supplemental funding.

**Rattlesnake (formerly Rattle-Smoke):** This is involved in litigation. It is south and west of Trinity Pines (Post Mountain). The area needs a lot of watershed restoration work, in addition to fuels treatments and the two should be done together.

**Trinity River Watershed Collaboration:** This is a joint effort of South Fork and Trinity River Management Units (Hayfork & Weaverville Districts). This involves the “West Side Plantation Thin Project” for plantations that are 20 year s& older. They are just starting the environmental planning for this. There will be a companion project to thin natural stands along roads and ridges. USFS would like the Fire Safe Council’s ideas on what would be appropriate criteria for projects within this broad effort (at a later date).

**Post Fire:** Doing recovery assessments of all of the large fires (of 2008). This will include looking at suppression rehab; BAER rehab; replanting/reforestation needs for the whole west side (USFS lands in Trinity County); salvage opportunities like the Trough Fire in the Upper South Fork; roadside hazard tree Environmental Assessment for Cedar and Eagle Fires.

## **Project Update (due to the longer discussions on above items, Project Updates were kept to a minimum)**

**Lance Koch/Lara Graham (USFS TRMU):** Down River Community Protection Project will focus on fuels treatment priorities in the Down River area. The first community meeting was held in Big Bar on December 10 and a second meeting will be in Junction City on December 12. USFS hopes to build this project with community input as a HFRA project. Another focus in the New Year will be the Weaverville Community Forest. The goal is to have a signed 10-year agreement with the RCD by the end of December.

**Tim Bradley (BLM):** Working on a burn plan for Weaverville Community Forest and is hoping to have some funds to implement fuels work along Little Browns Creek Road on BLM lands to complement CAFSC grant to RCD.

**JT Zullinger (CALFIRE):** All is well.

James Arciniega (Lower Trinity/Six Rivers NF): They have been busy burning.

Clarence Rose (Citizens for Responsible Fire Management): They are meeting with federal representatives to discuss the fire suppression strategies used in 2008 and the issues surrounding direct vs. indirect attack.

Roger Jaegel (Trinity County): apologized that he could not attend.

Joe O'Hara (Willow Creek FSC): They are working on their non-profit status and are looking forward to working closely in the coming year.

**Next Meeting  
January 22  
7:00 PM  
TCOE Conference Room**



**TRINITY COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**  
**& Firewise Communities Program**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 22, 2009**

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council meeting was held at the TCOE Meeting Room in Weaverville. The meeting began at 7:00 pm. Jesse Cox opened the meeting, wishing everyone a Happy New Year and then with introductions. We had 19 in attendance.

**Safety Element of General Plan**

Susie Price, Long Range Planning Director walked the group through the latest draft of the Safety Element. Through the underline & strike-through version it is apparent that many of the Fire safe Council's ideas are being stricken by the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC). GPAC is taking an approach that focuses on the goals & policies, not on background information, relying on references to existing documents like the Community Wildfire Protection Plan to support the General Plan. There is a meeting scheduled January 29 – 3-5 PM. It is a joint meeting of GPAC and Planning Commission to review entire Safety Element. The draft is available at [www.trinitygeneralplan.com](http://www.trinitygeneralplan.com). Informal comments can be submitted, but formal commenting will not occur until all of the required elements of the General Plan are drafted and ready for review. The Updated General Plan will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and ultimately by the Board of Supervisors. Susie invited members of the FSC to attend the January 29 meeting.

Roger Jaegel was interested in what the role the general plan has in directing managers of federal land to implement the policies of the Plan and what link there will be between the CWPP/WUI boundaries and the Safety Element. Others wondered whether individual community plans can be more stringent.

**CalFire 2008 Shasta-Trinity Unit Plan**

JT Zulliger gave us an overview of this plan, which was completed in about June 2008. It is given an update every 2 years. The purpose of the plan is to protect assets at risk and to provide pre-fire implementation planning. The Plan's priorities are to protect life, property and the environment from wildfire [in that order of priority]. The Unit Plan references the Trinity County CWPP and the on-line version on CalFire's website has a link to the CWPP on the RCD website. As the county's CWPP gets updates and they are put on the RCD website, the update are incorporated. The western and southern Trinity areas [in Six Rivers NF] are covered by the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Plan. The group might want to have Hugh Scanlon give an update on that Plan.

## **Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update (and Title III proposal)**

The RCD and WRTC submitted a proposal to the County under Title III by December 22. To date the Title III program for 2009 has not been presented to the Board of Supervisors. This proposal has a focus on reviewing & revising the CWPP, updating the WUI boundaries for the communities and implementing some fuels reduction work. The RCD also submitted applications to the Firewise Communities Program in December and Frost announced that all 14 applications resulted in Firewise Community Recognition. This is important, as noted last month. Title III requires that funds be used for advancing the Firewise Communities Program.

Jim Gonzales (USFS Hayfork) said that they have secured the assistance of Sid Beckman, a Fire Behavior Specialist with the USFS to help us look at developing a logical [science-based] method of updating our WUI boundaries.

## **Firewise Community Program & Trinity County Fire Safe Council**

See discussion above.

## **CA Fire Safe Council Grants**

The following projects were discussed there was consensus for the Trinity County FSC to support these applications to the Clearinghouse.

Watershed Research & Training Center (WRTC): Continue to implement the Hayfork Community Protection Plan that they have been working on in stages with RAC & CA Fire Safe Council funds.

Hyampom Community Services District: They are working on a WUI project and will either submit an application in concert with the WRTC or as a separate application. They hope to do a combination of WUI/CWPP planning and implementation.

RCD: Three applications are likely. A Junction City-Big Bar (Middle Trinity River) Community Strategic Fuels project to link to the USFS Down River Project; A North Lake communities project where RCD and NRCS have been doing outreach since late last summer and Southern Trinity (Mad River/Ruth) to link to the Mad Ridge Fuel break that was implemented on USFS lands.

Keep your USFS or BLM partners informed.

## **Concerned Citizens for Responsible Fire Management**

Mike Jameson, from Weaverville, gave the group a summary of this group's formation and efforts. Initially formed by retired USFS employees, who became concerned by the fire suppression tactics employed during the 2008 fire season in Trinity County and the trend in wildfires. About 38,000 acres have burned [on average] each of the last 10 years, while less than 2,000 acres/year burned on average during the previous 75 years. They are trying to work at a policy level and applaud the on-the-ground prevention work of the FSC. They are developing a set of "talking points" which include:

- ★ Local resource Contracts – use the closest resources for initial attack
- ★ Outreach to get local contractors enrolled and qualified before the fire season.
- ★ Get a list of local “fire knowledge” individuals to be embedded in the fire teams.

Mike had a secondary issue for the group: How to get landowners permission from USFS to implement the 100 ft. defensible space adjacent to private lands & maybe a 2<sup>nd</sup> 100-foot zone for additional protection. Lance Koch (USFS Weaverville) said that is why they are including these “buffers” to private lands in their NEPA for the Down River Community Protection project. James Arciniega (USFS Lower Trinity) said that has been a focus of their fuels projects around the communities they abut. Alex Cousins said that BLM had actually done a NEPA document to allow landowners to get permission to implement fuels work on adjacent BLM land.

**Project Update (due to the longer discussions on above items, Project Updates were kept to a minimum)**

Lance Koch/Steve Graves (USFS TRMU): Been doing a lot of burn piles and will do more on Oregon Mountain next week. This does bring up issue of burn days and the need for greater understanding by the “Air Management District”. TCRCD and USFS signed 10-year stewardship agreement to “enroll” 12,000 acres in the Weaverville Community Forest.

James Arciniega (Lower Trinity/Six Rivers NF): They have been busy and are preparing for Rob McClelland’s retirement the end of February.

Jim Gonzales (SFMU): They have had some good luck with burn days and have been getting fuels concentrations burned, including 20 acres of the Dobbins fuel break.

Roger Jaegel (Trinity County): Said he would try to set up a meeting with the Air District staff.

**Next Meeting  
February 26  
7:00 PM  
USFS Conference Room Weaverville**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council  
& Firewise Communities Program



**Minutes**  
**February 26, 2009**  
**USFS Conference Room**  
**Weaverville**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**WUI analysis for communities**  
**a science-based approach – Sid Beckman (USFS)**

Sid Beckman gave a powerpoint presentation on what the basis is for determining the WUI boundary. His diagram focused on defensible space around homes and decreasing intensity of implementation outward, and developing projects that will control flame height on a 2, 4, and 8 foot level. He stressed the importance of having the community involvement, and then take that to the government agencies, then submit that to the CalFire.

Roger Jaegel mentioned that the WUI in Hyampom was midslope and should use ridges and roads to develop buffers and treat between them. Sid Beckman agreed that the boundary needed to be ground-truthed to ensure its agreeable with topography and fire history.

The WUI boundary also determines different level of NEPA that is to be done and the communities need to know that determining what the WUI boundary is will change the NEPA process.

The most important thing is that the WUI definition is defensible and based on something more than just a "gut feeling".

Lara Graham asked if the WUI boundary should be based on the worst 10% of fire or the average.

Jeff Ulrich stated that the WUI should also be based on visual aspects that people have to deal with, do people want to look at burned trees for the next 80 years?

Alex McBath stated that the WUI should take into account topographic features as well, and local issues such as drainages.

Jesse Cox asked if the WUI would affect building practices but it seems that the new California Building Code will have more of an impact than the WUI.

Larry Winters asked what is the purpose of having a WUI?

Jeff Ulrich- focus attention and money of the agencies for planning and implementation

Roger Jaegel-There is funding associated with WUI designation

Steve Graves-Shows where the concentrations of people are.

**Trinity County Fire Safe Council  
& Firewise Communities Program**

**CA Fire Safe Council Grants – status of submittals**

TCRCD submitted three proposals, Mid Trinity (Junction City and Big Bar area), North Lake (Coffee Creek, Trinity Center areas) and Southern Trinity. The Watershed submitted one as well for Barker Valley, Brady Road, Mc Alexander road areas. Hyampom Fire Safe Council had technical difficulties in submitting their proposal and will try again next year.

**Federal Stimulus Package – what it might mean for us  
(Biomass, fuels programs, etc.)**

Federal agencies were not able to comment on status, as there is lots of talk of money, but nothing is for sure at this point.

**Project Update**

BLM will conduct a broadcast burn in the Weaverville Community Forest, they still need to do public outreach and are starting small to gain trust and confidence of the community. March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting will be with the Air Quality Board and is open to the public. They had monitors set up for the last fire season and that data is coming out soon.

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**Next meeting March 26, 2009**





**TRINITY COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**  
**& Firewise Communities Program**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 26, 2009**

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council meeting was held at the PUD Meeting Room in Weaverville. The meeting began at 7:00 pm. Jesse Cox opened the meeting, welcomed Rick Martin & Al Steer from the Air Management District, and then with introductions. We had 21 in attendance.

**North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District**

Rick Martin, the Air Pollution Control Officer and Al Steer, Compliance & Enforcement Manager, gave an overview of issues that they are working on that relate to the work of the Fire Safe Council and its partners. There was a discussion of burn day/no burn day issues and the permitting of burning. The key to the Air District's mission is public health and they realize that they have to improve data collection to improve their regulatory programs. PM 2.5 is the regulatory framework in which they are working with the CA Air Resource Board (CARB). The three counties in the District are lumped together for determining attainment or non-attainment for standards. They are working on better real-time data collection and distribution [on their newly improved website]. They have funded installation of a new real-time meteorological station at the USFS Weaverville Ranger District and they are working with CARB on microclimate data. They have portable PM 2.5 monitoring equipment to set up in the county. Local data can help refine how the Air District and CARB deal with Trinity County. Al described the daily process for burn day vs. no burn day determinations with CARB and the use of "marginal days". The FSC offered to help in any way it can, including getting portable station sites identified [from mapping of probable prescribed fire locations].

Other issues that came up: The Air District is submitting an application to EPA Region 9 for replacements of old heavy duty diesel engines to reduce diesel engine emissions. Anyone, with a candidate diesel engine, should get with Al Steer or his staff by mid-April to get the engine included. They also will be offering the woodstove conversion grants, likely in September (\$500 grants with a total grant amount of \$10,000).

**What's new on the Biomass Front**

Nick Goulette, Alex Cousins and Roger Jaegel briefly described some of the on-going discussions for biomass utilization. Folks are looking at a variety of ideas, from a facility associated with the Trinity River Mill to portable pellet facilities and a Bio-energy District to heat public buildings in parts of Weaverville.

**Project Update (due to the longer discussions on above items, Project Updates were kept to a minimum)**

Lance Koch/Steve Graves/Alex McBath (USFS TRMU): Dropping snags in Oregon Fire and are hoping to get CCC crews with Stimulus funding. Scoping letter went out for the Down River Community Protection Project. Oregon & Musser project starting any day. They may stop burning next week due to dryness, but they got 400 acres of burn piles done this year. They trained over 500 folks this spring for the fire season.

Dillon Lewis (Lower Trinity/Six Rivers NF): They are adapting to staff changes with the retirement of Rob McClelland and James Arcineaga's promotion to a forestry position.

Donna Harmon (SFMU): They also are looking at CCC crews for work in campgrounds and along roads.

Roger Jaegel (Trinity County): He and Lynn Jungwirth recently met with Randy Moore (Regional Forester). Also, the County gave the USFS a list of all of the equipment and rates that it has available for initial attack. Use of local resources is critical for initial attack.

Joe Hernandez (CalFire): Nothing new.

Larry Winter (Hyampom): Working with RCD & WRTC on their CWPP . They will have a meeting with the Hyampom CSD to discuss and then a meeting with RCD staff on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The community continues to be concerned about the USFS presence in the Valley and hopes to work with them on a permanent solution [recognizing the issue is, in part, over reliable potable water at the current USFS site].

**Next Meeting  
April 23  
7:00 PM  
USFS Conference Room Weaverville**



## **TRINITY COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL** **& Firewise Communities Program** **MEETING MINUTES**

**April 23, 2009**

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council meeting was held at the USFS Conference Room in Weaverville. The meeting began at 7:00 pm. Jesse Cox opened the meeting with introductions. We had 9 in attendance.

### **May as Wildfire Month Resolution**

The RCD submitted a resolution for the Board of Supervisors to consider on May 5 declaring May Wildfire Awareness Month. Jesse Cox and Noreen Doyas (RCD) will attend the Board meeting to represent the Fire Safe Council. There was discussion of other outreach we can do to put fire season preparedness out in front of the public, signage at businesses with “billboard” signs, banner across main street in Weaverville and Hayfork (a banner would have to be made), slides at Trinity Theater and doing a Wildfire Awareness Insert in the Trinity Journal.

### **CA Fire Safe Council Grants – Status**

RCD and Watershed Research and Training Center submitted applications in February. All of the applications submitted for Trinity County (except one that was submitted late by Hyampom FSC) have received preliminary approval notices. They are [a] Continuation of Hayfork Community Protection Project; [b] North Lake Community Protection (covering Coffee Creek to Ridgeville); [c] Middle Trinity River Communities Protection (Oregon Summit to Big Flat); and [d] Southern Trinity Communities Protection (Mad River; Ruth and Van Duzen). Also our partners in Willow Creek received their first grant this round.

### **RAC 2009 Update**

The full RAC met on April 6 and approved its recommendations to the Forest Supervisor. The attached table lists all of the fuels reduction/forest health recommendations. Fuels projects captured more than 50% of the 2009 funds. The RAC fuels subcommittee will meet on June 29 to begin to develop the 2010 recommendations.

### **Federal Stimulus Package**

This is still evolving quickly and the possibilities range from work force development and youth employment to rapid “roll-outs” by the USFS that have included agreements to the CCC for campground work (Shasta-Trinity NF) and roadside brushing (Six Rivers NF) and biomass

utilization. Trinity County Economic Development Corporation is working on this with the SMART office to help put an emphasis on local employment.

**Project Update (due to the longer discussions on above items, Project Updates were kept to a minimum)**

Steve Graves/ (USFS TRMU): 2 contracts out. They also will be treating about 108 acres (falling/piling) on the Oregon Fire south of Hwy 299. They have the next stage of the Musser Fuel Management Zone cut and piled. They are done burning for the season.

Jim Gonzales (SFMU): No burning now. They are looking at a Biomass Stewardship project in the Jones Burn area. It is a 40-year old stand. This will involve 2 NEPA documents (Jones Thin and a letter to the file on a 1994 ROD).

Andy Reiling (CalFire): Joe Hernandez is the new Chief at the Trinity River Camp. They will be having the Weaverville Station staffed 6 days/week. They are focusing on home inspections in the Junction City area with the new 100 ft rule. They also are getting a lot of calls related to insurance company coverage [or potential drops of coverage]. The inspections focus on the effects of radiant heat, which is an important element of the 100 ft defensible space requirement. They are working on a map project to provide updates to Fire Departments, looking at legal boundaries vs. response areas. May 1<sup>st</sup> burn hours change to 6 AM – 12 PM.

Nancy Curran (Mad River Ranger District – Six Rivers NF): Regional Forester visited the District on March 25<sup>th</sup> to look at the Bob Riess (Mad Ridge) Shaded Fuel break and the RCD brushing crew [brought on through Stimulus funding]. They have started burning on Mad Ridge fuel break with CCC crew. They are looking at a collaboration with Bridgeville Community Center and Watershed Center for RAC funded work on Mad Ridge this summer. Other projects in the works include Pilot Ridge (120 acres) and Van Duzen project, which is going from a Categorical 10 NEPA.

Pat Frost (TCRCD): Most of RCD work has been covered by others. Have been doing some community outreach, including work with Hyampom FSC on developing a community-specific plan. There is a community meeting scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>. Met earlier today with Junction City VFD Board and will be planning a community meeting in early June. April also included presentations in Willow Creek and in Redding (Shasta County RAC) and gave update to Board of Supervisors on Fire Safe Council.

**Note that the agenda for tonight's meeting had incorrect date for May meeting. May meeting is May 28 NOT May 21.**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council  
& Firewise Communities Program



**Minutes**  
**May 28, 2009**  
**USFS Conference Room**  
**Weaverville**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Seven people attended this meeting.

### **Wildfire Awareness Newspaper Insert**

Wayne Agner, the new editor at the Trinity Journal presented his idea to develop a Wildfire Awareness newspaper insert to keep the community informed and prepared. He mentioned that we are a bit behind the curve, but better late than never. He would like to make it an annual thing in April. There is a lot of information out there, let's just bring it together. He said the emphasis will be on Prevention and being fire safe. Tight deadline as it will need to get to the printer next Thursday. Scott Alvord requested that the agencies have a chance to review it. There is a Ready-Set-Go segment available from CalFire.

Hugh Scanlon asked what it would cost to do a small over-run as he thinks he has some grant funds available. Wayne thought that for \$1,000 he could print about 4-5,000 more. These copies could be put out at CalFire offices throughout the county.

### **Federal Stimulus Package – Anything New???** **(Biomass, fuels programs, etc.)**

Nadya heard that the Forest will be getting about \$7 million, but they are not sure yet how it will be able to be spent.

Hugh said that CalFire has a wish list prioritized. Sounds like there is a lot going to the Sierras and Southern California. They are not expecting to see much with the current state budget situation. Any money obtained would be going to protect services. Hugh thought that the focus will be Delivery and Education. It will have a Regional approach including Trinity County and present fuel break information.

## **Trinity County Fire Safe Council & Firewise Communities Program**

Steve Graves has a crew for about a month-fire/contract crew. CCC's are working on trails and clearing around campgrounds (\$1 million). They have about 2.5 weeks left.

Steve mentioned that he is noticing that lots of private residences are doing a lot of clearing work around homes (particularly in Lewiston). The problem is that the BLM lands surrounding Lewiston has come back from the fire in ceanothus.

Scott Alvord mentioned that there is a public/private partnership between the Weaverville VFD and Firestorm and Smart to do low cost or free fuels reduction work for the elderly and disabled. They are advertising this. Phase I will be initial clearing and they will make recommendations for Phase II. Perhaps they can get some Title III funding next year for this.

The Watershed Center is working with SMART and Six Rivers to do fuels reduction work.

### **Title III – Updating CWPP and WUI boundaries**

This project has been approved by Trinity County, but an agreement is not yet in place. This planning project will be implemented by TCRCD and the Watershed Center. Noreen mentioned that Pat Frost has been meeting with the Hyampom Fire Safe Council folks to begin this process. They looked at maps. Kent Collard was here representing the newly formed Hyampom Fire Safe Council. He says that there is buy-in for this project in the community and that about 15 people attended the meeting.

### **Project Updates**

Steve Graves mentioned the USFS has the Mountaineers on the Oregon Burn. They are able to do clearance on roads 50' from the center line. Waiting for owl season to end --July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Hugh said Six Rivers is doing fuel break work in Hawkins Bar area with stimulus funds, and the Mad River area has requested the CalFire chipper to do work. Steve said that it costs a lot of money to chip.

Nadya said that the Watershed Center is using the masticator on a fuel break on Six Rivers. They are working on an agreement to start forest health fuel break on the north part of Hayfork.

Nadya attended a workshop put on by Forest Service in response to last year's fires and how to improve. They will have a web site that will share the results. They Watershed Center is putting on a Fire Learning Network workshop on July 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> at Trinity High School. It will share latest research and open doors for communications between agencies.

Noreen mentioned that the TCRCD has not gotten much response from landowners in the East Weaver area to do fuels reduction work prior to the USFS prescriptive burn. Steve Graves said that most of the landowners in the area have done a good job of fuel work right up to the forest Service boundary. He mentioned that there are too many dead trees and that is a result of there being too many trees to close together. Bugs are an issue. Oak trees are doing well.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council  
& Firewise Communities Program

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**Next meeting June 25, 2009**  
**7:00 PM**  
**PUD Meeting Room**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council  
& Firewise Communities Program



**Minutes**  
**June 25, 2009**  
**Trinity PUD Community Room**  
**Weaverville**  
**7:00 p.m.**

12 people attended this meeting.

**Wildfire Awareness Slide For Trinity Theater**

Alex Cousins presented the group with the slide that will play during the previews at the Trinity Theater. The group was happy with the picture and excited about the idea

**Title III—Updating CWPP and WUI boundaries**

Alex Cousins explained that the Watershed Center and the TCRCDC received funds from Title III to update the Trinity County CWPP. This process will involve meeting with each of the communities to develop community specific plans.

Roger Jaegel mentioned Jay Perkins and that the organizations should work with him. He is mapping structures in order to develop a WUI boundary.

Bob Morris mentioned that sometimes what is most important to the people are the resources, not the houses so that has to be taken into account.

Alex mentioned that they would talk with Jay Perkins, and then talk with landowners to see what is most important to the community

**RAC 2010 Proposals—Subcommittee meeting June 29th**

Roger Jaegel said the split will be similar if not the same as previous years.

Joseph Bower is worried that there is inadequate NEPA to allow for good projects.

Alex Cousins said the TCRCDC will have a few projects, both within and outside of the Weaverville Community Forest.



## Trinity County Fire Safe Council & Firewise Communities Program

### State of Our Forest Conference (Jul 8 & 9)

Bob Mountjoy presented information regarding this conference. This is a joint effort between the Fire Learning Network and The Nature Conservancy, it will focus on fire issues in the forests. There are many people signed up and space is limited.

Roger Jaegel passed out an article, *An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Sierran Mixed-Conifer Forests*.

### Weaverville Community Forest Update

Colleen gave an update on what has been happening in the WCF. Following her update, she asked for questions/comments and the discussion drifted towards the Browns Timber sale which recently had a Record of Decision (ROD) officially signed.

Roger Jaegel is concerned with the longevity of the treatment, and has issues with both the crown closure and diameter limits.

Joseph Bower states that crown closure is good as it helps to keep the temperatures down and the intensity of the fire down.

Bob Morris mentioned that the Forest Service required a number to be in place and 70% was a compromise.

Colleen mentioned that view-shed is also very important to the community of Weaverville. When the WCF started no one wanted to cut anything. Now, with years of education, people are more open to cutting trees. She hopes to continue to educate on the idea of varied landscapes and hopes to develop tailored restoration for site specific treatments.

Roger- They should do what the community wants, and look at the best science

Colleen- The WCF is learning from previous projects and fires, an example is not to plant a plantation within the WUI.

Bob- 70% canopy and heavy ground fuels is bad, but if you remove the ladder fuels and ground fuels its ok.

Roger- he agreed with Bob and the key is to integrate fuels into forest management.

Colleen- Fuels reduction and removal is a key factor in management decisions.

John Veevaert- John explained that 70% canopy closure is also what will help this project to go through without appeals.

Steve Graves- Now on 50% of the days, a fire will destroy the stand, if they implement Browns with a 70% canopy closure, only on 15% of the days would a fire destroy the forest. That is an improvement and a good thing.

Roger- There are better prescriptions

Jesse Cox- Isn't what's being done a good thing?

Joseph- Roger, what do you think of the BLM side?

Roger- Good

John- BLM side was a community up developed project, Browns was a group edit of an existing project.

Steve asked about the AOP

Alex Cousins mentioned that it was still in draft form.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council  
& Firewise Communities Program

## **Project Updates**

Steve Graves mentioned the USFS has the Mountaineers on the Oregon Burn. They are able to do clearance on roads 50' from the center line. Waiting for owl season to end --July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tiffany Riess said that NRCS is about to get projects on the ground and contracts signed. They are going to yearly implementation contracts to ensure that money is spent.

Roger said that Trinity County is working to sign up as many local fire resources as possible to be ready for initial attack. They have signed up county equipment as well. They are also working on connectivity between the teams, and having a local liaison help with transition and local knowledge will be a plus..

WVFD is working with Firestorm and Smart to help senior citizens with developing defensible space. Firestorm is donating the equipment and smart is helping with the workers. The program is in its initial stages and will develop over the next 3 month.

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**Next meeting July 23, 2009**  
**7:00 PM**  
**USFS Meeting Room --Weaverville**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council  
& Firewise Communities Program



**Minutes**  
**July 23, 2009**  
**USFS Meeting Room**  
**Weaverville**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Introductions were made by Pat Frost, sitting in for Jess Cox. Two new individuals attended – John Erwin, with CalFire. He will be alternating with Andy Reiling at the Weaverville Station and Andrew Spain, with USFS in Willow Creek. Andrew has been at Lower Trinity for a number of years and just took a position in fuels management. In all 7 people attended this meeting.

**Title III—Updating CWPP and WUI boundaries**

Alex Cousins explained that the Watershed Center and the TCRCDC received funds from Title III to update the Trinity County CWPP, having just received the actual agreement with the County this week. This process will involve meeting with each of the communities to develop community specific plans. Work has already begun with three communities, Hyampom, Junction City and North Lake (which actually covers Coffee Creek, Trinity Center and the associated communities of Covington Mill, Long Canyon, Lake Forest Estates and Ridgeville). Initial community meetings have happened and some map updating has been started.

**RAC 2010 Proposals**

Frost distributed the Fuels Subcommittee meeting notes from June 29<sup>th</sup> (attached to these minutes). There will be another subcommittee meeting during the day on August 17 and a full RAC meeting that evening.

**State of Our Forest Conference (held July 8 & 9)**

Alex Cousins gave a summary of the conference, which was organized by the Watershed Research & Training Center and The Nature Conservancy. It was held in Weaverville and had an overarching focus to look at how to bring fire back into our forested landscape, with many excellent speakers and small group discussions. We'll get a more detailed summary at a later meeting.

## Trinity County Fire Safe Council & Firewise Communities Program

### Fire Structures Workshop

The RCD, Weaverville VFD and UC Cooperative Extension are planning a “Living with Wildfire: Making Your Home More Fire Safe” workshop for August 22. Frost distributed preliminary fliers. The workshop will include a review of making your home fire safe and House Fire Demonstration by Steve Quarles, UC Wood Durability Advisor and a home retardant gel demonstration. This also will include a “Join the Blue Dot Brigade” outreach effort distribute blue reflectors for homeowners to mark their water supplies. Trinity Lumber, Trinity Insurance and State Farm Insurance already have signed on as sponsors.

### Project Updates

Alex Cousins (TCRCD): A number of projects are underway or will begin later this summer/early fall, including Community Forest small diameter work in the Phase I (wood will be community firewood), Down River roadside brushing and administrative sites (campgrounds), East Weaver and Douglas City Community Protection Projects (CA Fire Safe Council funded), Junction City Post Fire protection and the CWPP/WUI update project.

Steve Graves (USFS - Trinity River Management Unit): Inmate crews are still working on Haylock Ridge. They have treated over 30 acres with hand-cutting & piling. The Mule Creek engine has been getting some work done along Rainer Road (North Lake area). They have had the purchase of a new chipper approved.

Andrew Spain (USFS – Lower Trinity Management Unit): The Trinity River Community Project has slipped to a back burner. There are some specialist issues that need to be resolved before moving ahead. There are a number of projects that are moving forward, including Waterman West – an Integrated Resource project that will include roadside buffer along Rt. 4 and will tie into the existing Salyer – Hawkins Bar Community Protection projects; Campbell Ridge (shaded fuel break); administrative site fuels work (with TCRCD and HVT Forestry Department) and 1N02 Road project that runs along the eastern edge of the Hoopa Reservation. Lower Trinity MU continues to work closely with the Willow Creek FSC. The Unit also is getting a new chipper.

Andy Reiling & John Erwin (CalFire): One of the two of them will be at the Weaverville Station every day except Wednesdays. CalFire staff continues to do defensible space home inspections in the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and “spot” inspections when needed to help a homeowner with an insurance company issue. They will see what outreach resources they can provide for the August 22<sup>nd</sup> workshop and they need to work with the FSC and Trinity Journal to correct some errors in the *2009 Living With Wildfire* newspaper insert.

Frost reminded everyone that there will be no meeting in August, due to the County Fair.

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**Next meeting September 24, 2009  
7:00 PM**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council  
& Firewise Communities Program



**Minutes**  
**September 24, 2009**  
**USFS Meeting Room**  
**Hayfork**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Jess Cox started the meeting by welcoming everyone to this Special meeting in Hayfork and then there were introductions. There were approximately 24 people at this meeting.

**Update of CWPP and WUI boundaries**

Nadya Novak with the Watershed Research & Training Center and Pat Frost with TCRCD gave an overview of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and its update. Some work has already begun with three communities, Hyampom, Junction City and North Lake (which actually covers Coffee Creek, Trinity Center and the associated communities of Covington Mill, Long Canyon, Lake Forest Estates and Ridgeville). Some key ideas from the group included the following:

Concentrate on fuels on the landscape, the only variable in wildfire that we have some influence on; this, in turn, may affect how the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is defined for a community; look at how to get local knowledge incorporated and how to emphasize use of local workforce; get with the volunteer fire departments at the beginning of the process; put an emphasis on escape routes – mapping them and actions that can be taken to improve them; remember to work with Willow Creek FSC to blend needs on both sides of the county line.

**Introduction of the Hayfork Community Wildfire Protection project, Fire Safe Council Clearing House Grant**

Nadya described this project, which is a continuation of work being done around the community of Hayfork. The new project is being funded by the CA Fire Safe Council and will be led by the Watershed Research & Training Center. They hope to begin to make landowner contacts this fall and winter with a spring implementation date.

**Introduction of the Miners Fire Recovery and Watershed Assessment**

Josh Smith and Nadya Novak led the group through a PowerPoint presentation and discussion on this assessment of the Miners Fire, which is about 24,000 acres in the Lime Complex from the firestorm of 2008. The Watershed Center is conducting the assessment in concert with the

## Trinity County Fire Safe Council & Firewise Communities Program

USFS. They described what existing information is available (e.g. the BAER Plan) and what documents will guide the assessment (i.e. Northwest Forest Plan, Land & Resource Management Plan, Lower Hayfork Creek Watershed Assessment). The goal is to have a draft report to the USFS by late winter. Some ideas from the group included the following: look at post fire fuel loads; add Bear Creek; look at fuel load knocked down along fire lines; assess what happened from a fire ecology perspective; assess resistance to control post-fire; look at response time issues – fire lines/breaks and access roads for future fire access vs. impacts to watersheds; overlay recommendations with other USFS planning efforts (e.g. transportation management plan; recreation plan; special use permits). The Watershed Center has a more detailed summary of this portion of the meeting and the PowerPoint presentation.

### **Project Updates**

None were given due to the time.

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**Next meeting October 22, 2009  
7:00 PM  
PUD Meeting Room**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council  
& Firewise Communities Program



**Minutes**  
**October 22, 2009**  
**USFS Meeting Room**  
**Weaverville**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Jesse Cox started the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting and then there were introductions. There were approximately 13 people at this meeting.

**Post Mountain Stewardship Project**

Donna Harmon and Jim Gonzalez (South Fork Management Unit) introduced this topic, which was added to the agenda at their request after we had mailed the agendas for the October meeting. This project, which is about 1250 acres in size, originally was being developed under a CE in 2006. Now it is being planned under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) as an E.A. A focus of HFRA is community collaboration early on, as the project design is being developed. This is just the first outreach for the project as a HFRA project. They will be having a community meeting in Post Mountain on November 14 at the Post Mountain PUD/Fire Hall in concert with the Watershed Research & Training Center (WRTC). They will “go back out and scope” the project during this HFRA process. The SFMU has hired an enterprise team to do the scoping and this team likely will begin their work in January 2010.

**CWPP Update**

Nick Goulette (WRTC) led this discussion and the notes summarizing the discussion are attached to these minutes. The group agreed to have a meeting of agency staff in early November, likely at the Weaverville Fire Hall. Details will follow. The CWPP Update process is on the agenda for the Trinity County Chiefs’ Association meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Frost & Novak will attend.

**Biomass Grant Process**

There is an RFP out for the Woody Biomass Utilization Grants (WBUG) administered by the USFS. Frost and Fall (UCCE) attended a workshop in Redding on October 20. It appears to be a rigorous process, but the Shasta-Trinity National Forest is getting “special” attention and a priority. Some project ideas were discussed very generally.

## Trinity County Fire Safe Council & Firewise Communities Program

### Project Updates

South Fork Management Unit (Jim Gonzalez): have been doing some pile burning and hoping to do some broadcast burning. They also did 7 acres of a bear grass burn.

Trinity River Management Unit (Alex McBath/Lara Graham): Burning at administrative sites and miscellaneous piles from roadside treatments. Oregon Fire burning of piles on 274 acres. They were hoping to get some post fire reforestation done, but contracting happened slower than expected, creating some timing problems. Hoping to get Browns Stewardship Phase I out this fall/winter for bid. Just starting a planning effort with Lower Trinity Management Unit for the Hennessey Ridge and Waterman Ridge areas.

BLM (Jeremy Strait): Completed a 50-100 ft wide treatment along Little Browns Creek Road. This connects to the RCD community project. Goose Ranch Road (Lewiston) had a contract for some fuels work that was a biomass removal project and they are planning a broadcast burn in the Weaverville Community Forest (Phase I area). They are looking at a salvage project in the Coffin Fire for next year.

Watershed Research & Training Center (Nick Goulette): Crews working on Hayfork Forest Health project around Barker Valley and Big Creek on USFS/private lands boundaries. Also are doing a demonstration biomass composting project with material removed from Post Mountain.

TCRCD (Alex Cousins): been focused on two community projects – East Weaver Creek and Douglas City (Little Browns Creek Road) and have been doing a lot of post-fire rehab work with private landowners in the Coffin Fire.

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**No Meeting in November or December**

**Northwest CA Fire Safe Council Conference**

**Fortuna**

**Dec 10-11**

**Call Pat Frost for details (623-6004)**

**Next Meeting January 28, 2010**

**Location TBD**