

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
& Firewise Communities Program



Minutes
January 28, 2010
PUD 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 14 people at this meeting.

Insurance Companies & Wildland Fire

Kevin Cahill, with State Farm Insurance, led discussion. Historically insurance companies have had some issues with coverage in rural areas, but had bigger issues with residential areas in “brush” than in forests. Each company has proprietary programs for underwriting that are filed with State Insurance Commissioner. Factors included in these “programs” are distance from a staffed fire station, compliance with defensible space requirements of state law, access to home/neighborhood – is it a long, one-way in/out with no alternative route out. Kevin can’t speak for other insurance carriers, but he would like to work with Trinity County FSC on reviewing “problem” neighborhoods, especially those with ingress/egress issues. Group agreed to work with Kevin and to contact other local insurance agents. There may be a way to build some of these neighborhoods into CWPP update.

CWPP Update

Nadya Novak (WRTC) and Alex Cousins (TCRCD) led this discussion. Frost provided copies of notes from Agency meeting in November and the schedule of community meetings. Most meetings will occur in February and early March. Frost will attend Fire Chiefs meeting on February 1st. Roger Jaegel reminded the group of the importance of looking at post-fire fuel loads and arrangement of fuel and to be looking not just at conditions in a point in time, but over 50-80 years. A map overlay of proposed projects and fires would provide a way to prioritize post-fire fuel load reduction projects. Donna Harmon (USFS South Fork Management Unit) said that they have been doing some modeling of the Wallow fire doing just that [going out 50 years] and this type of modeling may be a good tool for what Roger is suggesting.

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California Fire Safe Council 2011 Grants

Watershed Research & Training Center will submit one application for the Ewing Reservoir area, which is the next phase of the overall Hayfork Community Protection Project and will help protect the municipal water supply. It is adjacent to BLM property and BLM has funding to do work on their property.

Willow Creek FSC is looking at a project that will focus on roadside treatments that are important evacuation routes.

TCRCD will submit a proposal for a Lewiston Community Protection Project with critical treatment areas including Goose Ranch Road, Old Lewiston Road. This project also is adjacent to BLM lands.

Hyampom FSC [not present] is working on a proposal for roadside treatments on critical access roads.

The group supports these applications.

Project Updates

The time is getting late, so updates were kept short.

Donna Harmon/Roger Jaegel briefly described the strategic planning/modeling work that the USFS is doing through a contract with Jay Perkins. They could use information on work being done on private lands to refine the model. Roger asked if smoke effects of catastrophic fire are being analyzed.

Seth Toerpe (Mad River Ranger District) said that they have a number of projects in the pipeline.

Joe O'Hare/Barbara Darst (Willow Creek FSC): They are working on their CWPP with Humboldt County and Trinity County FSC; they are waiting for the "go-ahead" to start their on-the-ground work for their first CA FSC grant and they are planning the annual safety fair for May 15th.

Lara Graham (Trinity River Management Unit –USFS): Lots of projects in the planning stages, including work associated with the 2008 fires.

Meeting ended at 9:30 PM

**Next Meeting February 25, 2010
Location PUD Meeting Room**

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Minutes
February 25, 2010
PUD Meeting Room
Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Pat Frost opened the meeting in the absence of Jesse Cox and welcomed everyone to the meeting and then there were introductions. There were 9 people at this meeting.

Defensible Space Letter from Regional Forester

Steve Graves (Trinity River Management Unit) distributed copies of the letter, which describes some steps that can be taken by the USFS to assist private landowners with meeting Section 4291 of the CA Code (Defensible Space requirements) when some of the defensible space zone is on USFS lands. Steve and Alex McBath indicated that it really won't involve a lot of acreage on the Trinity National Forest (approximately 250 acres), but it is a tool to be considered.

CWPP Update

Nadya Novak (WRTC) and Pat Frost (TCRCD) described that the community meetings that have been held have been very productive and of varied attendance. There still are a number of meetings scheduled for early March. One area that hasn't gained much attention at most meetings [except in Weaverville] has been a review of the WUI boundaries for the communities. This has been a difficult concept to describe to folks, but is an important issue to incorporate in the CWPP update. Nadya & Pat have been researching how other communities have handled the WUI designation and suggest that we look at the WUI boundaries that have been developed by BLM, USFS and Cal Fire (FRAP) around communities in Trinity County. Kelly Sheen (TCRCD) has mapped all three boundaries at the scale of our five (5) planning areas. The FSC group reviewed these maps and decided that the combination of these three "smoothing them into one boundary" is a reasonable approach, as long as we have a good description of how the three WUI boundaries were developed and a description of areas added or subtracted (e.g. some USFS bubbles are drawn around private parcels isolated from the communities or we might want to adjust a boundary out to a ridge instead of having it run mid-slope).

We also will want to be very careful about making sure that the CWPP describes the limitations of WUI boundaries and a caveat that these boundaries should not be used for other purposes (for example we don't want the WUI boundary to be used to encourage residential "sprawl").

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Data are needed for Six Rivers NF, if they have done a WUI designation similar to Shasta Trinity NF and we might want to include coverage a short distance into adjoining counties, just to know what is there.

Project Updates

The time is getting late, so updates were kept short.

Mike McMillan (Weaverville VFD): Community Defensible Space Project. This cooperative project with Firestorm is getting underway again. One issue they are struggling with is burn permits associated with defensible space treatments, as there needs to be a separate burn permit for each property. Mike asked Roger Jaegel to look into the idea of a project-wide burn permit. There is the possibility that the FSC might need to develop some rule language that we could present to the Air Management District.

Roger Jaegel (Trinity County Board of Supervisors): asked how USFS is doing with “rolling out” Stimulus funding and what is going to be available to do fuels work in Trinity County.

Alex McBath (USFS-TRMU): They are looking at a hazard tree project in the Del Loma area.

Meeting ended at 9:13 PM

Next Meeting
7:00 PM
March 25, 2010
*****New TCRCDC Conference Room*****
Horseshoe Lane Weaverville

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Minutes March 25, 2010 TCRCD Weaverville



Jesse Cox opened the meeting with introductions and welcomed our special guest Dr. Yvonne Everett, from HSU. There were 10 people at this meeting.

Community Response from the WUI: Fire Safe Councils in California – A Presentation by Dr. Yvonne Everett (HSU): Yvonne gave us a PowerPoint presentation similar to one she gave in September 2009 at the CA Fire Safe Council Board meeting in Sacramento. She summarized research that she and a graduate student, Michelle Fuller, did a couple of years ago through a survey of Fire Safe Councils throughout California. An article based on this research has accepted for Publication in Society and Natural Resources, hopefully later this year. The following is the Abstract for the publication.

ABSTRACT

Legislators exhort government agencies to work with the public to reduce fire hazards in the wild land urban interface. However, working with an unorganized “public” is a challenge for agencies. We present survey research on Fire Safe Councils in California, community based groups that work to reduce wildfire hazards with a range of innovative mitigation activities. We find that many Fire Safe Councils exhibit high capacity for bonding and bridging forms of social capital that enable them to work within their communities and with government agencies to improve fire management. Two sources of strength in this potentially expandable organizational model are 1) the grass-roots character of most Councils, emerging from and reflecting their communities’ specific needs and capacities; and 2) a state-wide coalition of federal and state fire and land management agencies with other stakeholders, which legitimizes agency staff involvement at a local level, and streamlines access to funding.

Keywords community based fire management, community capacity, social capital, fire safe councils, wild land urban interface

CONCLUSIONS

1. FSCs are very diverse in size, location & capacity.
2. FSCs carry out a wide range of creative activities in public education & outreach, strategic planning, fuels reduction, policy and regulation.
3. FSCs can fill a gap between professional fire managers, fire service & communities.
4. FSCs are convinced that they are doing valuable work and many fire service professionals & land managers agree and work with them.

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5. This model of collaboration with communities works well in many cases and may be of value in other states.
6. To keep up their efforts FSCs need consistent funding and recognition.

CWPP Update

Nadya Novak (WRTC) and Alex Cousins (TCRCD) described that almost all of the community meetings that have been held and have been very productive and of varied attendance. There still need to be a community meeting in Southern Trinity (Zenia/Kettenpom) and one to capture the Wildwood area. At our last Fire Safe Council meeting the group decided to move forward with the WUI designation by blending the WUI boundaries that have been developed by BLM, USFS and Cal Fire (FRAP) around communities in Trinity County. Kelly Sheen (TCRCD) mapped all three boundaries at the scale of our five (5) planning areas “smoothing” the three with good descriptions of how the three WUI boundaries were developed and a description of areas added or subtracted (e.g. some USFS bubbles are drawn around private parcels isolated from the communities or we might want to adjust a boundary out to a ridge instead of having it run mid-slope). So, we were able to use these proposed WUI maps in the community meetings held in March, with good buy-in.

The next significant steps are:

- Combine lists from original CWPP with the lists developed at our community meetings.
- Hold 4 meetings for resource professionals to review the combined lists and WUI boundaries and suggest any amendments based on their professional experience/expertise. These meetings will be in late April in Weaverville, Hayfork, Mad River and Burnt Ranch.
- Go to Chiefs’ Association meeting & present & ask the chiefs to take maps/projects back to their departments/communities for a final review (May)
- Meet with SPI (May)

Meeting ended at 9:08 PM

Next Meeting
7:00 PM
April 22, 2010
*****New TCRCD Conference Room*****
Horseshoe Lane Weaverville

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Minutes
April 22, 2010
TCRCD
Weaverville



Jesse Cox opened the meeting. There were only 4 attendees at this meeting (CWPP Update fatigue)

CWPP Update

Alex Cousins (TCRCD) described the work being done to develop a project ranking or prioritization matrix and the meetings with agency fire professionals to refine the matrix and begin to finalize the updated plan.

Due to our small numbers, we didn't really discuss the two other agenda items in detail (RAC proposals for subcommittee meeting on May 3rd or project updates. Instead we had a general discussion of issues on the minds of those in attendance and of the upcoming (July 7th) CA Fire Safe Council Workshop.

Meeting ended at 8:30 PM

Next Meeting
7:00 PM
May 27, 2010
*****New TCRCD Conference Room*****
Horseshoe Lane Weaverville

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Minutes
May 27, 2010
TCRCD
Weaverville



Pat Frost opened the meeting with introductions. There were 7 attendees at this meeting.

Emerging Insurance Issues: This topic was deferred, because Kevin Cahill could not attend the meeting, but Andy Reiling did say that an important issue for ISO is the ability to “deliver” 200 gallons/minute of water for 20 minutes (that is 4,000 gallons) at any site. We also discussed the Map book Update. Andy indicated that CalFire has it [and it may be in the data disc that he already provided to TCRCD]. Best thing is for Andy and Kelly Sheen to sit down and review the existing information.

Setting Priorities & Parameters for Post-fire Restoration: This discussion included the following thoughts/ideas:

Think about post-fire conditions in a spatially explicit way – where have the fires been; map them and overlay their spatial relationships with community infrastructure and the WUI.

Include a review of the risks these areas pose now and disclose the “future risk” they will pose with & without treatment.

Include a statement of the need to address these areas for treatment and the need for that in a timely manner.

Need better modeling of these types of conditions and the conditions they pose over time with better data on fuel loads/resistance to control.

Map proposed projects in the CWPP over the boundaries of the fires.

Develop a pre-fire plans for treating future fires to help speed up NEPA needed for post-fire restoration.

Northwest CA Prescribed Fire Council Update: Nick Goulette (WRTC) gave us an update on the recent meeting in Redding. This Council is new and still in its formative stages, and covers the area from Highway 20 north and west of I-5. The first day of the meeting was a Steering Committee meeting. Three working groups have been set up (Public Communication, Training/Cooperation and Legal & Policy Issues). The Steering Committee worked on the Council structure, bylaws and mission statement. The second day was a broader meeting with an attendance of about 65.

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Community Outreach – Preparing for Fire Season: We discussed a range of ideas and Frost shared a recent UCCE brochure on homebuilding materials/designs that is available on-line. This is the same information that was provided at the UCCE workshop held in Weaverville last August. One concrete idea is to have the Trinity Journal include a weekly “Be Prepared for Fire Season” item in the newspaper. Frost will pursue this and possibly another slide in the movie theater.

New From CA Fire Safe Council: Pat recently attended the Board meeting in Sacramento. Two critical issues are related to federal funding streams – the sun-setting of National Fire Plan (which has provided the bulk of the funding to the Grants Clearinghouse) and the “County Payments” (which funds the RAC and Title III).

Project Updates:

CalFire: Andy Reiling said that CalFire will be starting home inspections again, under John Erwin, with a focus on Weaverville and the “core” neighborhoods in Hayfork.

Willow Creek FSC: Joe O’Hara, Chairman, said they are working on their CWPP & they have received their first allotment of funding on their CA FSC grant. They are putting specifications together for project implementation on private lands; and doing mapping for evacuation routes. They have two outreach events in the spring – they had their Safety Fair in mid-May and they will have their Fishing Derby in June.

Mad River Ranger District: Nancy Curran said that they have some mastication work, as maintenance on Mad Ridge Fuel Break and are working on a revision to the NEPA for Beaver Slide project. Nancy also said the USFS offices are getting videoconferencing capabilities that the FSC should look into for our meetings.

Lower Trinity Ranger District: Dan Wooden described the litigation on the Orleans Community Fuels Reduction Project and that this could affect the design and possibly the timelines for other projects, such as the Waterman West. The Trinity River Corridor Community Protection Project NEPA is moving forward with the cultural resource work about done. They have had some opportunities to get some under burning done.

Trinity River Management Unit (Weaverville Ranger District): Steve Graves described progress on a number of projects. Trinity Roadside Hazard Tree (Eagle Fire) is into contracting. It only will involve dropping the trees. Croften Burn NEPA will shift from broadcast fire to burning piles. He has proposals in to review. Covington Mill Defensible Space got the okay to allow landowner to treat the 100 ft defensible space [most of it on USFS land]. RCD will do the work. Browns Project had a good meeting on stewardship contracting to keep Phase I moving forward. RCD is working on the China Gulch (RAC funded) project. RCD will begin working on isolated, hard-to-reach pockets of plantations around Lake Forest area starting August 1st. Staff has been out looking at the east side of Trinity Lake and there is a lot of snow damage at about 4,000 -4,500 ft. elevation. That said, there are a lot of access issues with downed trees.

Watershed Research & Training Center: Nick Goulette said they have crew working on roadside hazard tree falling, with the same constraints Steve described. Have work around residences in the Forest Glen area and they will be starting the Hayfork Forest Health (north side) and also

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have a proposal for additional funding from RAC. Working on Hayfork Community Protection Project (CA FSC funding) and are helping Mad River Ranger District with mastication on the Mad Ridge.

TCRCD: Others pretty much covered RCD projects. Frost said he would check with Kelly Sheen & Erik Flickwir about how we could produce signs that can be used to identify FSC projects in the field with FSC & Firewise logo – maybe a 3 ft X 3 ft. sign.

Meeting ended at 8:40 PM

**Next Meeting
7:00 PM
June 24, 2010
New TCRCD Conference Room
Horseshoe Lane Weaverville**

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Minutes
June 24, 2010
TCRCD
Weaverville



Jesse Cox opened the meeting with introductions. There were 6 attendees at this meeting.

Setting Priorities & Parameters for Post-fire Restoration: This discussion was a review of the notes taken at the May meeting with added suggestions/thoughts/ideas to be considered in drafting this section of CWPP update noted below in **bold**:

- ❖ **Assess amount of fuel left after a fire and specific site conditions.**
- ❖ **Include arrangement of large wood overtime.**
- ❖ **Look at smoke management and impacts of smoke.**
- ❖ **Do a thorough literature search and be inclusive.**
- ❖ **Recommendations need to be consistent with NW Forest Plan**
- ❖ **Recommend that a fuels specialist be included on BAER teams and that future conditions are considered in BAER analysis.**
- ❖ **Post-fire treatments need to consider cumulative effects on all affected lands (public and private).**
- ❖ **FSC needs to advocate for adequate funding.**
- ❖ **In developing an analysis for prioritizing post-fire rehabilitation projects consider the following:**
 - **Adjacency to transportation corridors**
 - **Prevailing wind patterns**
 - **Relationship of fire to WUI (is it in, adjacent to or distant from WUI).**
 - **Resistance to control**
 - **Quantity, type and arrangement of post-fire fuels**
 - **Analysis of flame length/fuel types in post fire condition over time.**
- ❖ **Can't realistically do post-fire planning (NEPA) before a fire occurs, so need to develop capacity to facilitate NEPA immediately after fire – prioritize this with agencies for funding/staffing.**
- ❖ **Build in prescribed fire as a priority, if we ever hope to get ahead of maintenance.**
- ❖ **Don't forget the "Roads & Ridges" plan.**

May 2010 notes

Think about post-fire conditions in a spatially explicit way – where have the fires been; map them and overlay their spatial relationships with community infrastructure and the WUI.

Include a review of the risks these areas pose now and disclose the "future risk" they will pose with & without treatment.

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Include a statement of the need to address these areas for treatment and the need for that in a timely manner.

Need better modeling of these types of conditions and the conditions they pose over time with better data on fuel loads/resistance to control.

Map proposed projects in the CWPP over the boundaries of the fires.

Develop a pre-fire plan(s) for treating future fires to help speed up NEPA needed for post-fire restoration.

Community Outreach: Based on last month's suggestions, the RCD has worked with Trinity Journal and they are putting in a small "Fire Safe Tip of the Week" in the newspaper each week over the summer. Some fall field trips were discussed:

Hayfork Area – Miners Fire, Post Mountain & Farmers Ridge.

Weaverville Community Forest –proposed projects; ones completed & Oregon Fire.

RAC-sponsored trips to RAC funded project sin each area of the county.

Develop some After School Program curricula.

New From CA Fire Safe Council: Pat Frost handed out a flier for a workshop to be held in Redding on July 7. It is being sponsored by the CA FSC and Farmers Insurance and is the 1st of 4 workshops this summer.

CWPP Timeline:

Summer 2010

Prioritization using GIS

Update CWPP narrative

Final Community meeting in Willow Creek

Summer/Fall 2010

Finalize Project Updates

Web access for CWPP including GIS layers

K Sheen/A Reiling meet on map book

Project Updates:

Trinity County: Roger Jaegel noted that the County is finalizing the Local Area Advisors Program with USFS. These will be local individuals with local knowledge and fire experience, who will be part of the Fire Teams to act as informational bridges between communities/public and the fire suppression efforts.

Trinity River Management Unit (Weaverville Ranger District): Steve Graves advised that ARRA mastication project has been awarded. Roadside Hazard Fuels project still is in contracting on the TRMU side. The project will include burning. Hayfork is using Watershed Research & Training Center, but this project doesn't involve burning. Croften Project NEPA has been converted to hand-piling and burning instead of broadcast burning. The 86 acres was cut & piled in 4 days at a cost of \$368/acre. FMZs along Musser Hill were reviewed with A McBath with 25 acres masticated [but under story burning wasn't included in the NEPA]. East Branch & Garden Gulch fuels projects have NEPA done. These are 2009 RAC-funded projects.

(Joseph Bowers noted that this highlights the need to develop a regular brush field burning program to aid with maintenance)

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Watershed Research & Training Center: Nadya Novak – BLM found some funding and is treating their lands around the reservoir & waterworks. They are working on the Hazard tree removal project with USFS; Youth Crew is working on trails; will start the Hayfork Health soon and hope to have the NEPA done (CE6) for Hayfork South so they can do it this summer.

TCRCD: Others pretty much covered RCD projects. Frost said RCD crews have been working on China Gulch project most of the month.

Meeting ended at 9:07 PM

It is Summer time. No meetings in July or August

Next Meeting

7:00 PM

September 23, 2010

*****New TCRCD Conference Room*****

Horseshoe Lane Weaverville

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Minutes

September 23, 2010
TCRCD "New" Conference Room
Horseshoe Lane Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Stephanie Mckee, Jesse Cox, Pat Butler, Tiffany Hayes, Roger Jagel, Alex McBath, Nick Goulette, Alex Cousins, Jan Mountjoy, Bob Mountjoy

Trinity Alps Wilderness Prescribed Fire Project

The USFS will be conducting a prescribed burn in the Trinity Alps wilderness in an effort to reduce the amount of fuels in the area.

The Purpose and Need for the project are-

- Reduce the risks and consequences of wildfire occurring within the wilderness or escaping from the wilderness.
- Create a fuels condition that enables the use of minimum impact suppression tactics that make use of natural barriers, topography or watercourses.
- Permit lightning-caused fires to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role within wilderness.
- Reduce the risks and consequences of public health and safety concerns created by hazardous air conditions.

The proposed actions are-

- Implement prescribed fire of low-to-mixed severity with fire predicted to back downhill approximately 1,000 feet from the main ridge top.
 - Election Gap to Salmon Summit
 - New River to Election Gap
 - Salmon Summit to Fawn Ridge
- Implement prescribed fire of low-to-mixed severity using ridge-top ignitions. Fire would be predicted to back downhill as far as drainage bottoms.
 - Megram Ridge
- Implement prescribed fire of low-to-mixed severity using ridge-top ignitions. Fire would be predicted to back downhill to the Wilderness boundary.
 - Barron Creek

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CWPP – where we are at and what’s left to complete

Final steps are to finalize the Wild Land Urban Interface (WUI) boundary, then prioritize projects and work on the narrative. All this should happen this fall.

NRCS Update on funding to private landowners

NRCS is working on getting landowners signed up. They have more money this year than before and are looking for fire affected areas, as well as non-fire areas.

NRCS is also looking to increase staff, and replace positions that are vacant or becoming vacant.

NW CA Fire Safe Council Conference

Would Trinity County FSC be willing to host?

March or April work?

Yes

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Minutes

October 28, 2010
TCRCD “New” Conference Room
Horseshoe Lane Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Jesse Cox opened the meeting with introductions. We had 12 attendees despite the World Series. Roger Jaegel asked that we spend a few moments on the Trinity Alps Prescribed Fire project that USFS proposes and that was discussed at the September meeting. Roger called Alex Cousins earlier, because he felt the minutes from September needed to be refined as follows:

- Define the risk in terms of fuel loading, fuel arrangement and resistance to control factors.
- Contingency planning should include use of fire retardant, available resources (suppression resources); and smoke management to protect communities.
- What is the availability of modeling in this fuel type (7,100 tons of fuel, large woody debris down & standing, with an understory of snowbrush)?
- What are the consequences of “roll out” in heavy dead & down fuel types?
- What is risk associated with changing weather patterns?

CWPP – Finalize the WUI definition

Alex Cousins corrected the agenda item, which made it sound like we were going to finalize the entire CWPP. The focus of this meeting is to come to a consensus on the Wildland Urban Interface definition and its purpose in our countywide CWPP and limitations. A. Cousins projected the GIS layer showing the proposed WUI boundaries and described how they were developed – they are a combination of the work that USFS, BLM and CalFire have done in mapping WUI with the local communities and fire/fuels professionals refining boundaries. The group reviewed the issues raised in emails by Tom Walz (SPI) and Mark Lancaster and the responses from Alex McBath, Arlen Cravens (USFS) and Nick Goulette (WRTC) and came to a consensus to the following key components considered in the draft boundaries:

- Embedded in the boundary is the concept of 4 different zones as defined by Jack Cohen’s work with an emphasis on the first 0.25 miles (This needs a better depiction/graphic in the CWPP).
- These zones are based on infrastructure densities as described in a variety of papers and other recent CWPPs. These will be included in the literature cited.

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- The boundaries take advantage of topographic features; include community water sources identified by communities.
- The purpose of the WUI is to help guide identification of fuels reduction/forest health projects, their design and prioritization, recognizing that there always will be more work to do than available funding.
- The WUI boundary needs to be “elastic” with periodic reviews and updates (a 5-year interval was recommended).
- The WUI boundary is simply a spatially explicit tool to help visualize potential strategies for reducing wildfire risk to communities and to track progress in meeting the goals of the CWPP.

We will include research and literature in the bibliography of the CWPP update and a statement, such as:

As described in this County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update (CWPP), the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is a general term derived from the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) to describe the area where homes and wildland meet. The Federal Register (Region 5. January 4, 2001. Vol. 66, No.3. Pp. 751-754) defines the WUI as the “line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuel.” The WUI boundaries established in this Trinity County CWPP Update were developed to help prioritize project planning and funding for pre-fire (prevention) projects to help aid in protecting communities at risk for wildfire. These boundaries and the progress in implementing priority projects will be reviewed regularly, and no less frequently than every 5 years, and the WUI boundaries amended as needed to reflect changes in conditions (e.g. new land development, recent wildfires, and new infrastructure such as community water systems).

The group next looked at the project ranking system developed by the CWPP team and agency staff. There was consensus that the prioritization system needs to include fuel load, fuel arrangement and resistance to control. The following is suggested language that will need a little more “flesh on the bones”. Andy Reiling (CalFire) offered to help.

Fire Hazard based on threat to private property (what will happen when a fire occurs): Based on fuel loading, resistance to control, vegetation types etc. a high hazard is indicated by dense, flammable vegetation e.g. thickets of second growth, untreated plantations, brush fields

Project Updates (kept brief for the baseball fans in the group)

Trinity River Management Unit (USFS): Burning miscellaneous burn piles and tried to do the North Whitney project on the east side of the Trinity Lake, but it is too wet. Croften project [pile & burn) has an approved burn plan. This will treat about 40 acres. Downriver Community Protection NEPA is still being worked on.

BLM: Just completed an understory burn in the Phase I Harvest area of the Weaverville Community Forest. Treated about 40 acres of surface fuels with good results.

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Weaverville Fire Department: Title III proposals to go to Board of Supervisors on November 2nd. RCD & Weaverville Fire Department submitted revisions, based on available funding. If approved, the Fire Department's defensible space project will crank up shortly.

CalFire: John Erwin took a new job.

RCD: Crews still working on variety of projects, including China Gulch (units pulled from Browns Timber), plantation thinning above Lake Forest Estates (with Firestorm as subcontractor) treating about 180 acres, and a community protection project in Southern Trinity as a joint project with Southern Trinity VFD (80 acres treated with chips taken to the coast to help fund project).

Watershed Research & Training Center: Working on projects around Hayfork and the Hazard Tree Removal project from 2008 fires.

Two other topics were discussed:

How we can work together to help USFS meet the intent of Regional Forester's Defensible Space letter to Forest Supervisors dated 2/01/2010 regarding existing homes' defensible space when it includes USFS lands. We'll look at whether it is more efficient to deal with it case by case, or get a programmatic document to cover these situations. USFS thinks there are maybe 250 acres scattered in Trinity County. To date only one homeowner has come forward and in that case USFS was bale to handle it with a letter to the file of an existing document & RCD had a grant to help landowners treat the defensible space.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council MOU needs to be renewed before it expires in December 2011. Alex Mc Bath (USFS) and Noreen Doyas (RCD) will take lead. Need to involve Janet Boomgarden (Six Rivers NF), as she has helped shepherd the MOU through USFS in the past.

**Next Meeting will be December 9
7:00 PM
TCRCD Conference Room**

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Minutes

December 9, 2010
TCRCD Conference Room
Horseshoe Lane Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Jesse Cox opened the meeting with introductions. We had 7 attendees. Before we started into the agenda, Frost provided the group, at the request of Roger Jaegel, copies of a letter that the Trinity County Board of Supervisors sent to the USFS regarding the proposed Trinity Alps Wilderness Prescribed Fire Project. There was a brief discussion about the issues in the letter.

Lower Trinity Plantation Thin & Forest Stand Improvement Project

Nadya Novak (Watershed Research & Training Center) described the project. The Watershed Center is leading the NEPA effort for the Lower Trinity Ranger District. She has scoping documents, if anyone wants them, but in summary:

- Project stemmed from recent fires.
- Focus is plantations & other stands less than 40 years old with emphasis on thinning & biomass utilization.
- It covers very large area in Humboldt & Trinity Counties, so taking a programmatic approach.
- No new road construction is proposed, so most work is near existing roads.
- About 3,600 acres of treatment are being considered.
- Scoping ends January 7th.
- Will include prescribed fire.

Update on Northern CA Prescribed Fire Council Meeting

Nadya/Alex McBath and Alex Cousins summarized this meeting, which was during the first week of December in Redding. They looked at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and its prescribed fire program. There were two panels and a number of presentations, including one by A. McBath on the Trinity Alps Wilderness Prescribed Fire Project and another by Frank Lake on

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cultural uses/considerations involving prescribed fire. The group is expanding its geographic base of participants and they are looking at using prescribed fire as a training tool for firefighters.

Firewise Communities renewals

Frost reported that all of the renewal applications were completed. He will try to work on some new applications for Burnt Ranch, Covington Mill, Long Canyon & Lake Forest Estates, but isn't sure if he can meet the Dec 31st deadline. If not they will be a priority for 2011.

Project Updates (kept brief for the baseball fans in the group)

Trinity River Management Unit (USFS): Attempted Croften pile burning, but not successful, due to the wet conditions. The agreement with the Conservation Camp is back on-line. Alex Mc Bath has been looking at the FSC MOU and is wondering about its purpose/utility. Do we need it?

CalFire: Andy Reiling reported that BLM is beginning to do some burning in Grass Valley Creek watershed.

RCD: Crews still are working on variety of projects in Trinity Center/Covington Mill, Junction City and the Senior Citizen defensible space project.

Weaverville Fire Department: Mike McMillan reported that they have begun Phase III of their neighborhood hazard reduction program in partnership with Firestorm, having completed 30 sites. In the future they would like to be more strategic, with a focus on entire neighborhoods [e.g. behind the row of houses on a street that abuts wildland]. Cousins offered RCD GIS assistance.

Next Meeting will be January 27

7:00 PM

TCRCD Conference Room

*****Special Presentation*****

*****Willow Creek CWPP*****