

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
& Firewise Communities Program



Minutes

February 23, 2012
TCRCD Conference Room
Horseshoe Lane Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Frost welcomed everyone for Jesse Cox, who was home ill. Introductions were made, and Welcomed Carol Minor, representing the Hyampom FSC.

Planning Efforts of Interest

We had a general discussion revolving around a number of existing and up-coming plans that link to the Trinity County CWPP with an eye towards how to best integrate plans into the most useful tool for Trinity County. The *CalFire 2010 Strategic Fire Plan for California* has a wealth of very well-thought-out information and goals/objectives for developing (implementing) Fire Resilient Communities and Forests. A suggestion is that we go through an exercise of assembling all of the existing plans (CalFire Strategic Plan, Trinity County CWPP, Forest Plans, Safety Element of General Plan, etc.) and tease out all of the goals/objectives as the starting point for the update of the Safety Element. Put this on the FSC website for reference.

Have a couple of kick-off meetings for the update of the safety element (one with focus on key county staff & one for partners – USFS new Forest Planning Rule has a strong emphasis on collaboration. We can use our Safety Element update as a spring board for getting organized for the Forest Plan updates fro Shasta-Trinity & Six Rivers NFs.

Bob & Jan Mountjoy provided an update on the Hayfork Community Plan efforts. Hayfork has continued to work on their community plan and have a pretty good start on all 9 chapters.

Living with Wildfire Insert

RCD is working with the Trinity Journal on the 2012 insert. The group looked at the new CalFire “Ready Set Go” outreach pamphlets and asked that the RCD work with the Trinity Journal to use these newer materials in the insert (they are all on-line) and to look at having a spread that shows

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some actual post-fire photos to illustrate the effects of catastrophic fire and maybe a fire history map (focus from 1999 to current)

Project Updates

Hayfork Prescribed Fire Initiative – Bob Mountjoy (WRTC)

The WRTC is working with private landowners to complete a cooperative burn on private and public lands. It encompasses about 1100 acres near the Ewing Reservoir & is a collaboration with The Nature Conservancy. First phase is scheduled for April 2012 and will also provide training.

Burnt Ranch All Lands Pilot Project – Alex Cousins (RCD)/Alex McBath (USFS)

NRCS, TCRCD, USFS are still working across boundaries to develop projects and have each agency focus on their area of expertise and influence. USFS staff should be out in the field soon on this. An interesting aspect will be for USFS to include private lands in their NEPA analysis, which should help if there are cases where the private landowner's 100 ft of defensible space extends onto USFS lands.

Coffee Creek, John Knight (NRCS) & A Cousins

Community meeting discuss options with landowners was held on February 12, 2012. There is a new biomass grant with CalFire that could help with haul costs, the plan is to apply for those funds and to apply to CA FSC in its next round of grants (Spring 2012) for implementation in late 2012 & 2013.

Soldier Collaborative A McBath/A Cousins

Field work is underway, including Stand Exams and a had a Forest Entomologist up looking at bug issues that might come in to play (and possibly provide additional funding for treatments. Suggestion was made to make sure the project takes into account the 2008 fires.

Other Shasta Trinity NF projects A McBath

Looks like Pettijohn project should get a decision signed in 2012 and that the next phase of Browns (in Weaverville Community Forest) will be put out for implementation in 2012. Down River Community Protection Project is waiting for consultation with USFWS (Yreka). There is hope that the Trinity Prescribed Fire Project will get a record of decision this year, too. (County made a lot of comments, but has not heard how those comments have been addressed). A landowner in Ridgeville (North Lake) is looking for USFS to help treat lands adjacent to subdivision, which was treated by RCD last year. This neighborhood looks like a great candidate for Firewise (McBath will get Frost the contact information).

Hyampom FSC (Carol Minor).

Carol is with the CSD and they have a CA FSC grant for roadside work that got a bit slowed down initially, but they now are ready to go. The plan is to use 100% volunteer labor to get the work done. The first effort will be on Corral Bottom Road (March 2-3).

They also are looking at the issue of how to deal with USFS roads that lead to/from private parcels.

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CalFire (Andy Reiling)

They will be targeting the Hayfork Valley for defensible space inspections this year. Also wanted everyone to be aware of the new CalMapper program that will be put on-line. It will be a one-stop shop for finding out about areas of inspections, defensible space and other fuels projects that have been implemented &/or are planned. It is a very labor intensive effort right now.

NRCS (John Knight)

Covered most of their efforts in earlier reports, but right now they are pushing hard to get all of their EQIP contracts out.

County (Roger Jaegel)

Had a great meeting with Chief of CalFire and invited him to come visit Trinity County

RCD (A Cousins)

In the project lay-out mode for this coming season and gearing up for the Safety Element work.

**Next Meeting –
March 22, 2012
RCD Conference Room**

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Minutes

March 22, 2012
TCRCD Conference Room
Horseshoe Lane Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions - Cox

Andrew Spain, Tim Bradley, Roger Jaegel, Nick Goulette, Alex Cousins, Andy Reiling, Pat Butler, Ken Boucher, John Knight

Update on Soldier Forest Health project

The planning effort has been temporarily delayed, staff issues, snow.

CWPP Project Maps – Annual Update Process

We still need to develop a system to gather projects on an annual basis. RCD and others will work to develop it, along with specific GIS folks at each organization.

Update on Prescribed Fire Program and upcoming public meeting-WRTC

Meeting set for the beginning of May to discuss, information to follow. 1100 acres of prescribed burn, will include public and private lands. This will also include a training program for fire fighters, including local VFD, state agencies, and federal programs.

Program of work updates for 2012 field season

RCD

Musser Hill II, III, WCF, Plantation Thin, Weed work related to fire

USFS- Lower Trinity

Plantation Thin (on hold for NEPA), Salyer/Hawkins Bar, Mill Creek TFPA (Tribal Forest Project), Consolidation of Ranger Districts, working with the Willow Creek FSC on the Flash Program.

BLM

GVC, additional funds to increase acres of prescribed burn, Lop and Scatter in the Deadwood area, WCF burning scheduled for the fall, GVC burning, Goose Ranch Road.

Trinity County

Updating the Safety Element of the General Plan

CDF

Will be working on defensible space inspections

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USFS- TRMU

Planning for Burnt Ranch, Big Mountain (pile and Burn), Musser Hill projects, larger projects (NEPA) are in the Fish and Wildlife backlog, want to chip remaining materials in China Gulch, Trinity Alps prescribed burn is waiting for NEPA, Petti John is waiting to be signed.

USFS- Hayfork

Hyampom Project similar to Burnt Ranch (All Lands Approach), looking to address prior burns, Mud Springs CE, 1600 acres of prescribed burn in the Kingsbury area, Kellogg prescribed burn, would like letters of support 350 acres to treat in the Wallow area, 2 miles of road clearing, various other projects across the District.

WRTC

Piling Lower Hayfork, Mad Ridge Fuels Project, Hyampom Road (private), Hwy 3 Private fuels reduction, working on the prescribed burn mentioned above.

NRCS

Working on the Coffee Creek biomass/sawlogs project, 65 acres signed up, 11 new landowners signed up for EQIP, one landowner was funded, in part, because of proximity to WCF.

Willow Creek 10th Annual Fire Safe Day (May 19)

No representative, but was advertised

Safety Element

TCRCD and Trinity County are working to update the Safety Element of the General Plan, which will tier off the existing document, and build on the work completed by the CWPP.

Project Updates

See Above

Next Meeting April 26th Hayfork

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Minutes

April 26, 2012
Watershed Research & Training Center
Conference Room
Hayfork
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Nick Goulette, Executive Director for the Watershed Center welcomed everyone and Jesse Cox began the meeting with introductions.

Trinity Integrated Fire Management Project

Nick Goulette gave us an update on the project, which focuses on bringing more prescribed fire back into the county as a management tool. The first phase will be to implement a small amount of prescribed fire on private lands in the Hayfork Valley. WRTC staff are in training now and George Chapman has been brought on in a consulting basis. They recently had a community meeting with some, but not a lot of comments. They will brief the Trinity County Fire Chiefs Association. The group had a number of suggestions on how to provide information to the public, not only ahead of the prescribed fire, but during it. It was suggested that they use the OES paging systems to alert emergency response agencies that it is a prescribed fire. They have phones staffed to respond to calls during prescribed fire.

Safety Element

Frost & Cousins provided an overview of the project status. The RCD had a kick-off meeting with key county staff and developed a draft timeline/schedule for the safety element, which simply is an update of the 2002 Safety Element. The focus will be on what has changed – local conditions, legal requirements, etc. RCD will brief the Board of Supervisors on May 15 and Planning Commission on May 16. They would like to spend a little time at the May FSC meeting discussing the FSC's core values for the Safety Element. Roger Jaegel reminded the group that an inventory/mapping of larger fuel load concentrations is very important and that we'll need to address AB32 (Climate Change).

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Data Sharing (CWPP & Wildland Fire Decision Support System)

Nick Goulette led the discussion on how to integrate & simplify our annual data collection and make sure it is integrated into the USFS system – how the two systems should feed on and compliment, each other.

Project Updates

Hyampom FSC (Carol Minor). Carol said that they are about 50% done with this project funded with a CA FSC grant for roadside work. It has been done with 100% volunteer labor thus far, but she is sensing that they will need to get help. Goulette said that the WRTC may be able to work with them on a budget for a crew (partially funded by SMART Office job training funding) to get the work done. The first effort will be on Corral Bottom Road (March 2-3). Frost suggested that Carol get photos and information to RCD for the next *Conservation Almanac*.

Watershed Research & Training Center (Goulette). WRTC will have its one crew and its Youth Crew this season. Their projects include the Kellogg Gulch project area (Hayfork), Lower Hayfork, Mad River (Mad Ridge) with the masticator, and Progeny Plantation Thinning projects.

RCD (Cousins). Burnt Ranch All Lands Pilot Project – Alex Cousins (RCD)/Alex McBath (USFS)

Burnt Ranch and Coffee Creek “All Lands” Projects are still be developed, with a hope to submit both for funding this summer (CA Fire Safe Council) for implementation of the private lands portions in 2013. This summer’s projects include Musser Hill fuels projects, a number of EQIP contracts (NRCS cost share), Plantation Thinning above Lake Forest Estates and completing the Mining District Harvest in the Weaverville Community Forest.

Trinity County (Jaegel). Reported that the County had a recent meeting with Tina Lynsky (TRMU Ranger) that was quite productive. Unfortunately the USFS processes are only getting more difficult. For example, CE’s now need public noticing and can be appealed; there are new draft Spotted Owl Critical habitat maps out by US Fish & Wildlife Service that will certainly affect the ability to do management on federal lands and there are new survey and manage requirements for Old Growth fungi.

Meeting ended at 8:40 PM

**Next Meeting –
May 24, 2012
RCD Conference Room**

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Minutes
May 24, 2012
TCRCD Conference Room
Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Jesse Cox welcomed everyone and began the meeting with introductions. We had 8 in attendance.

Discussion of Potential Impacts of USFWS Critical Habitat for Spotted Owl program on CWPP work plans

The group looked at the map of proposed critical habitat in Trinity County and discussed the proposal in broad terms. The general impression is that this will affect the ability of fire safe council and its members to implement the projects identified in the CWPP update, but the specifics of those impacts are hard to determine without a more detailed review of the draft document. The consensus of the group is to send a letter to USFWS asking for an extension of time for public review and comment. Frost will draft a letter for the Fire Safe Council to send.

Safety Element - Fuel Loading Analysis

There was a lengthy discussion about how to best develop this for inclusion in the Safety Element, using the most current data and GIS layers (including 2010 aerials). Roger Jaegel emphasized the importance of doing this projecting future conditions, not just conditions as they exist today. Also this analysis should help us locate highest areas of fuel loading on the landscape as they relate to values at risk and position as it relates to our adopted Wildland Urban Interfaces.

Safety Element – Core Values/ Policy Discussion

Frost led a discussion on core issues that the Fire Safe Council wants to include in the update of the Safety Element. Here is a summary of that discussion.

- Emphasize the benefits of Prescribed Fire, presenting it as an alternative to the effects of catastrophic fire on public health and safety.
- Include policies on public education.
- Consider policies related to placement of structures in WUI and high risk areas.
- Protecting and enhancing Wildlife Habitat as a secondary benefit of other wildland fire policies.
- Encouraging post-fire fuel load assessments and conducting updates on some frequency.

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- Encourage coordination between County, Federal, State and local jurisdictions.
- Encourage coordination with private landowners/land managers.

Project Updates

Hyampom FSC (Carol Minor) Carol said that they are now in the final stretch with about 80 percent of the project completed & only about 5 more acres to treat. They had an interesting thing happen. They encountered an active turkey nest. So they simply flagged it and back away from the area until later.

Watershed Research & Training Center (as reported by Roger Jaegel) is still focused on the Hayfork Prescribed Fire Project. A Reiling (CalFire) noted their involvement..

Trinity County (Roger Jaegel). Reported that the County will be having a Cooperators Task Force Meeting on May 31st with the USFS. One major issue is how the USFS will handle calls to the Post Mountain area this season. Also noted the productive Board of Supervisors session with the USFS on May 3rd.

USFS (Alex McBath & Chris Prindiville) They have completed about 700 acres of pile burning. They are busy in planning for next year. Some of these projects include a Wildlife Burn in the Five Cent Gulch area; Blue Rock Road and Bluebird Mine. A number of other projects are in various stages of development: Down River is getting a little closer to being signed. Once approved, it will have a lot of work to implement. Burnt Ranch All Lands Project is moving forward; no real changes in Soldier or Pettijohn. They are looking pretty good with fire crews and all lookouts will be operating by month's end.

CalFire (Andy Reiling) State budget certainly will affect them this year, but they plan to be at full staffing by July 2nd. SRA fee is still in the process of being converted from emergency rules to permanent rules. Don Watt is the new pre-fire engineer.

NRCS (Carrie Nicholls) Latest fliers sent to landowners in the Burnt Ranch project area have resulted in more responses. NRCS State Forester is trying to find funding for prescribed fire and the NRCS has about 60 active cost share contracts with landowners to implement forest health/fuels reduction projects. The group asked if Carrie could send out the cost share rates for the three prescriptions.

RCD (Alex Cousins). Pretty much covered by others.

Meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

**Next Meeting –
June 28, 2012
RCD Conference Room**

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Minutes
June 28, 2012
TCRCD Conference Room
Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Jesse Cox welcomed everyone and began the meeting with introductions. We had 5 in attendance.

Safety Element Update/Fuel Loading Analysis Update

Nick Goulette provided an update on the fuel loading analysis. He, Alex Cousins & Roger Jaegel met with Jay Perkins and Lois Schumaker to develop a process by which they can map dead fuels, look at "high risk" and resistance to control and have a tool that is useful to the USFS and be integrated into the Safety Element. The technical team will get back together in July.

Frost gave a general update on the safety element. A series of meetings with key county staff and the Chiefs' Association have been held and core values have been updated from the list developed by the Fire Safe Council as outlined below:

- Emphasize the benefits of Prescribed Fire, presenting it as an alternative to the effects of catastrophic fire on public health and safety.
- Include policies on public education.
- Consider policies related to placement of structures in WUI and high risk areas.
- Protecting and enhancing Wildlife Habitat as a secondary benefit of other wildland fire policies.
- Encouraging post-fire fuel load assessments and conducting updates on some frequency.
- Encourage coordination between County, Federal, State and local jurisdictions.
- Encourage coordination with private landowners/land managers.

The next step is to simply begin to draft the update. He wanted to thank Pat Butler (TRMU) for her edits on the narrative.

National Cohesive Wildfire Strategies/Fire Adapted Communities Program

Nick gave the group an overview of the development of the Cohesive Wildfire Strategies, which replaces the National Fire Plan as the guiding document for federal agencies. Within the overall Cohesive Strategy is a Fire Adapted Communities Program. The intent of this new approach is to emphasize collaboration (cohesiveness). There is a Western Regional group developing a Three-phase Program. This group (representing 13 states) is developing its strategy and starting its outreach to get feedback. The Watershed Research & Training Center (WRTC) is helping with

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the outreach. Nick will get us links to the “Plan” and an on-line survey so that we can get the word out through our Fire Safe Council email list.

CA Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse Applications

Frost reminded the group that applications will be due the end of July. There is little under \$5 million available statewide, so applications need to be highly competitive. There will be an emphasis on applications that address the Cohesive Strategy and Fire Adapted Communities. WRTC will likely develop applications for the Upper Slat Creek & 13 Dips project area and Highway 3 North of Hayfork. The RCD will focus on two applications – Burnt Ranch All Lands Pilot Project and Coffee Creek Fire Adapted Community Project. The group supported these applications by consensus.

Project Updates

Hyampom FSC (Carol Minor sent the following to Frost) Carol said that they have completed the Project.

NRCS (John Knight) Starting to have landowners implement this year’s EQIP. John George (District Conservationist) is pushing landowners to get the projects completed. Last month the group asked NRCS to provide its rates of payment for different tasks in the fuels arena. John provided hard copies and will provide a digital copy to go out with the minutes. Most of the work fits into the Forest Stand Improvement category and they pay for each element separately (e.g. thinning, pruning and disposal). A new farm bill likely will result in changes in EQIP>

USFS (Chris Prindiville) USFS has the RCD crew working on Musser Hill (with RAC funding) and has lined out its engine crews to do fuels work as long as they aren’t called onto fires. They haven’t started yet, because there generally is a Limited Operating Period that doesn’t end (for Spotted Owls) until August 1st. They also have the Tractor Chipper over at Burnt Ranch and when it moves up to China Gulch area maybe we can have a demonstration.

Watershed Research & Training Center (Nick Goulette) They are working on the Kellogg Gulch Project (Hayfork North), which is a blend of public and private lands and they are using their Title III on private lands off of Hyampom Road (Lucky Jeep Trail area). Their other project is the Tule Thin.

RCD (Frost). Others pretty much covered RCD ongoing work. Upcoming will be some EQIP projects for private landowners, completing the Mining District Harvest on the BLM side of Community Forest and starting the final phase of the Plantation Thin Project above Lake Forest in the North Lake area.

Meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

**Next Meeting –
July 26, 2012
RCD Conference Room**

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Minutes
July 26, 2012
TCRCD Conference Room
Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Jesse Cox welcomed everyone and began the meeting with introductions. We had 6 in attendance. This was our first meeting to include a call-in on the conference phone.

RAC Proposals (Title II)

Frost gave an overview of the status of the Title II program in the context of a 1-year extension. The RAC's usual process will be truncated, because the Forest Supervisor has to approve recommended projects by the end of September, 2012. There will be meetings of the full RAC on the evenings of August 20 & Sept 10. The group went over some of the projects that are likely to be submitted for fuels reduction projects, though there was a general concern that there may not be many high priority projects that are NEPA-ready. Joseph Bower suggested that after a dozen years, maybe this would be a good time to propose a new round of Big Red Truck "inspections", which were funded in the first year of the RAC authorization. The group agreed.

Current Fires

There were active fires when the agenda was drafted. As of tonight the Flat Fire is 100% contained with a little smoke and clean up work inside the control line. Walter Bunt (SFMU) updated us on the policy/protocol for responding in the Post Mountain area and Roger Jaegel asked if USFS had any statistics on how many fire starts were associated with Marijuana grows last year.

Jaegel complimented the fire crews and thought they did a great job assessing the initial fire and providing an appropriate initial attack and aggressive suppression. That said, he also reminded us that the Flat Fire got into the Loam Fire and the large woody debris left from that fire and that we really need to take a good look at our Highway 299 corridor and the roadside fuel loads. Many of our fires start along this road and we need to have the landscape prepared.

Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for Vegetation Treatment Program

Frost advised the group that this statewide programmatic document for vegetation management in the State Responsibilities Area should have a public draft in September. Once it is adopted by the CA Board of Forestry (in 2013) it will provide a more stream-lined CEQA process for projects that follow its checklist and mitigation measures.

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Safety Element Update/Fuel Loading Analysis Update

Frost made a brief presentation to the Board of Supervisors earlier in the month and pretty much told them the next step is to simply begin to draft the update. Roger Jaegel said the fuel load analysis is coming along quite well.

Project Updates

Hyampom FSC (Carol Minor by phone) They have completed their CA FSC grant-funded project (30 acres) and are now working with RCD and USFS on some strategic planning with the community. There will be a community meeting in mid-August.

Watershed Research & Training Center (Roger Jaegel) They continue to make progress with the planning of the prescribed fire project on about 1,300 acres (primarily private lands with some on BLM). The hope is to get it started this fall.

Trinity County (Roger Jaegel) He wanted everyone to know that the North Coast Regional Air Quality Management District has installed a permanent air quality monitoring station in Hayfork. This will be useful in explaining the effects of prescribed fire vs. wildfire from smoke-related public health issues.

USFS – South Fork Management Unit (Kenneth Boucher) 94 acres of the Kellogg project have been completed and they are looking for funding for an additional 50 acres. Wallow Fire project has an acceptable bid and will involve treating about 221 acres of snags and dragging whatever they can to road edges for firewood. Hayfork South has 5 acres completed and they are hoping to have the Mud Springs NEPA signed by November.

RCD (Frost) RCD crew was working up on Musser Hill and has also been working on EQIP projects. There is a CCC crew working on China Gulch project to wrap it up. Upcoming will be some more EQIP projects for private landowners, completing the Mining District Harvest on the BLM side of Community Forest and starting the final phase of the Plantation Thin Project above Lake Forest in the North Lake area after August 1st.

Meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

**NOTE: NO MEETING IN AUGUST
Next Meeting –
September 27, 2012
RCD Conference Room**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
& Firewise Communities Program



Minutes
October 25, 2012
USFS Conference Room*
Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Jesse Cox welcomed everyone and began the meeting with introductions. We had 9 in attendance (despite the World Series). The meeting location was moved at the last minute due to PUD working at the RCD Office complex. Thanks to Pat Butler for securing the USFS conference room with little warning.

Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for Vegetation Treatment Program

Frost advised the group that this statewide programmatic document for vegetation management in the State Responsibilities Area should have a draft out by the beginning of November for public review and comment. Once it is adopted by the CA Board of Forestry (in 2013) it will provide a more stream-lined CEQA process for projects that follow its checklist and mitigation measures - projects like the Hayfork Area Prescribed Fire Project and projects conducted by state and local agencies.

Safety Element Update

Wildfire Narrative

Frost made a brief presentation and shared the current draft of the wildfire and fire protection section of the Safety Element. He described it as a blend of the current (2002) safety element, and updated information from a variety of sources (such as the 2010 CWPP, the CalFire 2010 Strategic Fire Plan and 2008 Safety Element effort). This 2012 draft addresses topics that were not in the mix in 2002 – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), Cohesive Strategy, Climate Change (Greenhouse Gas issues pursuant to California’s AB 32) and a discussion of post-fire fuel loads. The group provided suggested edits and Frost encourages folks to continue to send him their ideas.

Discussion of Policy Issues from 2002, 2008 and 2012

Frost distributed copies of the 2002 wildland fire policies and the General Plan Advisory Committee’s draft policies from 2008. There was a good bit of discussion and some specific recommendations, with an emphasis on balancing the policies between things that “should” be done or “encouraging” the county to implement and issues that need a stronger “shall be done” statement. There was consensus that proposed policies should be written in a positive tone and wherever possible describe mitigating condition/options.

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For example a 2008 draft policy reads as follows:

***Policy S-1.1 Fire Severity Zones.** The County shall prohibit new developments in ‘High’ and ‘Very High’ Fire Severity Zones as designated by CalFire and other fire prone areas or require mitigation to minimize hazards to acceptable levels.*

A suggested re-write would be:

New developments proposed within ‘High’ or ‘Very High’ Fire Severity Zones as designated by CalFire shall provide mitigation designed to reduce wildfire hazards to acceptable levels. Such mitigation measures could be, but would not be limited to.....

Frost will email the handout to the group for individuals to provide detailed comments/suggestions on the policies.

Project Updates

CalFire (Andy Reiling) Andy reported on the progress that has been made with the Watershed Center & BLM on the Hayfork prescribed fire project on and around the Big Creek Ranch area. The CEQA is done. It took a good bit of CalFire staff time – time that could have been dedicated to implementation, and hopefully in the future the PEIR for Vegetation Management will streamline this kind of CEQA. CalFire has committed Vegetation Management Program (VMP) funds to the project. They hope to treat about 200 acres this fall on private land, if they can get the right conditions. They had a group of fire management professionals from Spain visiting recently and showed them this project area as a part of their visit.

CalFire has a new VMP Coordinator in the Redding Office. His name is Mark Kendal. CalFire is down to skeleton staffing now.

Trinity River Management Unit –USFS (Pat Butler & Steven Noverr) Pat introduced Steven, who has been working at the Coffee Creek station (and was a part of the community meetings in the North Lake area during the CWPP update). It was a busy fire season, so less other work got done. Some good work was done, despite the fires. They got some roadside fuels work done on Ironside Road and they have a track chipper up in the China Gulch Road area right now treating slash that was left and inaccessible to other slash treatment methods. They have about 275 acres of hand-piles they hope to treat this fall/winter. The NEPA was signed for a 5-acre prescribed fire at the Bluebird Mine site, so hopefully it will get treated this winter. The Blue Rock Road Project decision memo has been signed, but CEs now require public comment period, which will be open until early December. Burnt Ranch is the TRMU top priority for 2012-13. The Pettijohn NEPA is ready to be signed. The Down River Community Protection Project requires some new consultation, because the conditions have changed – a portion of the project was burned in the Flat Fire this summer.

Pat also wanted folks to know that the USFWS has a new procedure in place for Spotted Owl consultations that involves a re-review/re-consult for projects, even those with signed NEPA.

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Trinity County (Roger Jaegel) He advised the group that a review of the Stafford Fire is a priority, with an emphasis on a fuel load inventory and looking at the risks and hazards associated with the fuel load. UCCE will be providing some technical support for this analysis. There is a plan to have a national level summit in concert with the Western Governors' Association in Trinity County in April 2013, with the Stafford Fire a focus. Roger will be leaving as a member of the Board of Supervisors at the end of December, but will remain active in our Fire Safe Council and its issues.

Hyampom FSC (Carol Minor) They have completed their CA FSC grant-funded project (30 acres) and are now working with RCD and USFS on some strategic planning with the community. One of the community's highest priorities remains improving the safety of the ingress /egress routes. The most recent issue of the RCD's *Conservation Almanac* featured their project. They are looking into options on how, if at all, they want to proceed with future projects like the one just completed.

Weaverville Fire Department (Mike McMillan) He is beginning to lay out the coming year's community protection project work and they are hoping to collaborate with USFS on the Five Cent Gulch prescribed fire project. He asked about status of "new" Title III funds. Frost said he'd check into it.

RCD (Frost) RCD has a Conservation Camp crew was working up on Musser Hill and a CCC crew working on China Gulch project to wrap these up this fall. The RCD crews were working on some EQIP projects, but have been focused on the final phase of the Plantation Thin Project above Lake Forest in the North Lake area since early August. This should be about done and then they will return to finish the EQIP

Meeting ended at 9:20 PM.

NOTE: NO MEETING ON NOVEMBER 22
Next Meeting –
December 13, 2012
7 PM
RCD Conference Room

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
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Minutes
December 13, 2012
TCRCD Conference Room
Weaverville
7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Jesse Cox welcomed everyone and began the meeting with introductions. We had 12 in attendance, including Nancy Curran (Mad River Ranger District by phone).

Trinity County Collaborative

Nick Goulette (WRTC) gave an overview of the concept and status of this new collaborative effort. Key aspects of the collaborative include: [a] It has been adopted and endorsed by the Board of Supervisors; [b] the overarching goal is to work on and break down barriers to accomplishing what needs to be done regarding natural resources issues in Trinity County; [c] provide advice to the Board of Supervisors; [d] ensure that the collaborative is inclusive and countywide in scope. Towards that end there have been discussions with HSU, which has a conflict resolution program to enlist them as a 3rd party facilitator to start the process. It should be noted that this week's visit by Secretary Vilsack and his commitment to send a high level team out to work with Trinity County could affect the nature and timing of the Trinity Collaborative.

Lamb Gap Community Protection Project

This is an addition to the agenda. Nancy Curran (Mad River Ranger District) and Nick Goulette (serving as ID Team Leader) take lead on describing this proposed project. It is approximately 200 acres and connects fuels reduction project on private lands with work on USFS-managed lands on top of South Fork Mountain. All of these projects link together as part of regional shaded fuelbreak identified in the Trinity County CWPP (2010). Treatments described in scoping include 97 acres of mechanical treatment, primarily of "dog-hair" cedar encroachment into oak woodland and about 450 acres of habitat restoration in mid-to late-seral (successional) Douglas Fir. It is primarily a ridge top and roadside project. Scoping ended December 10th, but could use a letter of support from Fire Safe Council. By consensus agreed to send a letter of support describing it as a project identified in the CWPP.

Hayfork Prescribed Fire Project (more appropriately named Trinity Integrated Fire Management Project)

Nick Goulette describes the project and its status with a PowerPoint Presentation. Some highlights:

- 🔥 There have been a series of community meetings
- 🔥 It is a collaborative effort that includes The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Fire Learning Network and CalFire and BLM.

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- 🔥 They have been able to train crews with “live” fire projects, but not wildfire.
- 🔥 A big piece of the effort is getting community comfortable with smoke effects of prescribed fire vs. the effects of wildfire smoke effects.
- 🔥 Conducted a 20-acre prescribed fire on private land on November 10, 2012

Burnt Ranch All Lands Project Update

Pat Butler & Tina Lynsky describe the project’s public lands component. They held a community scoping meeting on Dec 12, 2012. Carrie Nicholls from NRCS also attended. There was low attendance, but good discussion. Local folks had some suggestions on how to reach out to community better, using “standing” community meetings/events (Fishing derby, Fire Safe Day in Willow Creek). USFS is looking at about 1600 acres of primarily roadside work and this project remains a high priority. As a reminder, it has three elements: [a] RCD has a CA Fire Safe Council Grant to implement Defensible Space and to get Burnt Ranch recognized as a Firewise Community; [b] NRCS will work with private landowners through EQIP and [c] USFS will focus on community protection with fuels work on public lands. Frost noted that he had the Firewise Communities western regional staff person out to look at the community in late November. Frost also thanked Tina and Pat for keeping this project as a high priority, knowing how much pressure the USFS gets for so many other projects.

Stafford Fire

Roger Jaegel presented a PowerPoint show on the Stafford Fire (summer 2012) with some historical perspective from other recent catastrophic wildfires and the fuel loads – not just immediately after the fire, but over longer (80 year) horizon of time. He noted that UCCE forestry staff have been out on the site and will be providing some technical assistance. He encouraged USFS to include a fuel-loading assessment with every BAER plan (T Lynsky said that was done on Stafford Fire) and that Stafford fire was specifically highlighted to Secretary Vilsack in his visit to Trinity County this week.

Firewise Community Recognition Renewals

Frost simply noted that he is finalizing the renewal applications and they will be submitted the week of December 17.

Project Updates

Weaverville Fire Protection District: Mike McMillan noted that the District is working with WRTC, RCD and Hyampom VFD to develop a coordinated set of proposals for Title III submittal by the 1st of January.

CalFire: Andy Reiling said that CalFire has been focused on responding to public on the SRA fee issue. In Trinity County this has been made complicated by confusion over what is a “Fire Protection District”. Under the SRA Fee regulations homeowners within Fire Protection Districts get a reduction in the annual fee, but in Trinity County only Weaverville & Hayfork were identified as Fire Protection Districts, so folks in all of the other fire protection districts (usually under the auspices of a Community Service District) are having to file protests. Mike McMillan directed folks to the North Lake website, where the Trinity Center CSD has posted letters and maps to assist landowners. Andy also noted that the PEIR for Vegetation Management that the

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RCD has been working on is now a public document. It can be found on the Board of Forestry website. The public comment period is from Dec 3, 2012 to January 25, 2013.

UC Cooperative Extension: Carol Fall announced that UCCE has hired a new forester for the Redding Office, who will also serve Trinity County. She will work on getting him to a FSC meeting.

Trinity River Management Unit (USFS): Tina and Pat said their issues have been covered, except to announce that Chris Prindiville will be leaving the unit. He and his family are moving to Wisconsin.

Watershed Research & Training Center: Nick also said he'd covered his issues in earlier agenda items.

Trinity County: This is Roger Jaegel's last meeting as a member of the Board of Supervisors, but he intends to stay involved. The group thanked him for his dedication and service.

USFS – South Fork Management Unit: Jim Gonzalez and Ken Boucher that there should be a draft decision memo out on the Mud Springs project. They also are working on the Stafford Fire with forestry folks and on the Hyampom Community Protection Project, which is following the template of the Burnt Ranch All Lands Pilot Project. In this case there may also be some potential links to work that Six Rivers is planning. They also wanted to note that the USFS Westside has combined crews to get work done and they are doing well to meet their targets.

Trinity County Office of Emergency Services: Larry Masterman introduced himself. It is his first FSC meeting and he simply wanted to know what kind of information he could bring to meetings with respect to OES. One suggestion was a tour of the new OES center when it is up and running.

RCD: RCD crews have been laid off due to winter weather and the CCC crew that was working on China Gulch project wrapped up, too. RCD is working with the CCC staff in Redding to secure additional funding to bring them back in the spring.

Meeting ended at 10:00 PM.

**Next Meeting
January 24, 2013
Trinity County Office of Education
Conference Room**