

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
& Firewise Communities Program



Minutes
January 23, 2014
7:00 p.m.
TCRCD

Welcome & Introductions: Jesse Cox led introductions. We had 15 attendees.

Trinity County Collaborative Update (Joseph Bower, Roger Jaegel & Nick Goulette)

The collaborative is moving along. The forestry group has developed a concept for a project – shaded fuel breaks and plantation thinning associated with 375 miles of roads (State, County & USFS roads). There is still a lot of work to do to figure out specifics and best locations to implement. It will also benefit from the countywide effort in the Community Capacity & Land Stewardship assessment process that the Watershed Center is getting started for a collaborative assessment of resource needs on a landscape scale. This assessment will begin with a data assessment that looks at opportunities and threats based on a set of parameters being developed (e.g. road systems, accessibility, fuel types, costs vs. benefits, priorities set down in other plans like the CWPP). This GIS work will be led by K Sheen at RCD and will take 4-6 months and then a broader collaborative effort will be initiated to develop priorities.

Secure Rural Schools (Title II and Title III) (Frost)

There was a 1-year extension, but still don't have all of the details. Board of Supervisors completed their election in December of how the three "pots" (roads/schools; Title II and Title III) will be divided, using the same formulas as in the past. Exact dollar amounts for each title are not firm yet. Frost, as RAC chair, met with Dave Meyers (Shasta-Trinity Supervisor) and Donna Harmon (DFO for RAC) and they are working on finalizing dates for meetings with likelihood of first RAC meeting on March 13 or 17 and possibly follow-up meetings on March 24, 31 and/or April 7. Project proponents should look at the fuels projects that were left on the table due to sequestration last year and see if those are still priorities and be developing proposals with these meeting dates in mind.

Title III is processed through the County and Board of Supervisors. Frost just got a tentative schedule from the grants office: Advertisement for proposals Feb 12 or 19; Proposals due to County March 12 or 13; first Board of Supervisors agenda item March 25th; then the 45-day advertisement period and final board action subsequently.

Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Project (Donna Rupp, RCD) provided an update. They are in the open public comment period. There is an on-line survey for individuals to take that will be compiled after the survey closes at the end of February. Donna encourages everyone to take the survey, which is about a 10-minute exercise. The survey can be found at <http://www.trinitycounty.org/index.aspx?page=35>. The Steering committee is also looking onto some "face-to-face" opportunities to get public input, especially for communities that have problems with internet access. The group agreed to have Donna bring a set of maps that have been developed to the next FSC meeting and dedicate 30 minutes or so to a review of the maps for accuracy.

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Safety Element of General Plan (Frost)

The Planning Commission continues its review. They had a second public workshop in Hayfork in December, with little public participation. In January they began going through the policies line-by-line. Frost wasn't available for that meeting, but they postponed discussion of the wildfire section until February hoping to have some key folks from FSC in attendance. Concerns seem to be focused on [a] mandatory language (shall) vs. more open language (should); [b] efficacy of having policies that simply re-state state laws and county ordinances; [c] length of narratives – can these be shortened to 2 or 3 pages with the greater detail in an appendix; and [d] why does the wildfire section focus on requiring private landowners to do things, but not federal land managers. Frost, Goulette & Reiling will attend Feb 13th Planning Commission meeting to work with Commissioners & county staff.

Burnt Ranch All-Lands Pilot Project

Project is moving forward. There is a community meeting scheduled for January 28th. Hawkins Bar VFD is now more engaged and this will bring more landowners to the project. Burnt Ranch also received its Firewise Community Recognition in December and hopefully a presentation can be made at meeting on January 28th.

Annual Fire management Planning Coordination & Data Sharing

The group discussed the possibility and utility of having an annual meeting to bring fuels and fire folks together with other partners through the FSC to share and update information (GIS) that can be used for pre-attack planning. Andrew Spain (Lower Trinity Ranger district) noted that Six Rivers did this last year and the fact that there were digital and hard copy versions of these maps/data available last summer really helped the approach taken with the Corral Fire last summer. Six Rivers will do an update this year. The group suggested [a] maybe a short presentation from Six Rivers would be helpful; [b] include the Local Area Advisors.

Spring Field Trips for Public

Group agreed that a series of locally focused field trips would be a good way to educate the public about different fuels reduction strategies. Project areas might include Musser Hill area where Collaborative is working on the roadside concept; Five-cent Gulch Prescribed Fire; GVC Prescribed Fire; Hayfork prescribed fires; Bar 717 Ranch Prescribed Fire. Keep this on the agenda as we approach spring and longer days.

FEMA Virtual Tabletop Exercise – Wildfire Focus Training (S Alford)

Donna Rupp found this on-line while working on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and sent it to Scott, who has taken the lead. He has submitted a proposal. They are due on January 24th and if Trinity County is selected, the training will be in February. He'll keep us posted.

Project Updates:

Stafford Fire

K Boucher (South Fork Management Unit) provided update. The salvage harvest is supposed to be completed by January 24th, something that only could have happened with this unseasonably dry winter. A spring field trip will be in order to look at the work done and see how well the project's objectives have been met. There was a discussion about the restoration work that is supposed to be done, including replanting and the need for erosion control. These were items included in the FSC letter of support.

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South Fork Management Unit (Ken Boucher/ Jim Gonzalez): Mud Springs project close to being signed. A Critical Owl Habitat issue came up in a comment letter and USFS worked with USFWS to resolve. Goal would be to implement this fuels season. The Westside Plantation Thin should have an EA out this spring. The Hyampom Community Protection project is in the queue and NEPA should start this autumn. Salt Project may come back and be revived. The Hyampom roadside work should begin within the next 30 days.

Lower Trinity/Orleans District (Andrew Spain): His focus has been on the Sims Project which has been given accelerated deadlines for the restoration proposal being due April 1st. Recall that this is a project being funded through a settlement with PG&E and it has to be focused on the Sims Fire area. Shasta-Trinity is coordinating with Six Rivers on it. Plantation Thin work on Friday Ridge is being done with CCC's (in Humboldt County) using Title II funds. Still working with UCCE on the Sudden Oak Death Project.

Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (A Spain): FSC submitted a Title III proposal in Humboldt County to support public education, including their annual Fire Safe Fair. The proposal was for about \$5,000.

BLM (Tim Bradley)

They have a new Programmatic NEPA document for their area office for fuels reduction work. It covers types of activities/treatment methods with annual acreage caps for the area covered by the Redding Office and will streamline implementation, with only a "Decision of NEPA Adequacy" document being required for each individual project under the Programmatic document. Weather has certainly ended burning for now. Tim is updating/revising the burn plan for the Weaverville Community Forest to add about 100 acres, which will include the Oak Restoration area that UCCE has helped develop. Funding is always an issue, so the BLM office is looking to the Healthy Lands Initiative for funding to implement projects in GVC that were identified in the K Baldwin Fire management Plan developed through the RCD., as well as possibly doing some work along County Line Road North and South.

Watershed Research & Training Center (Nick Goulette): There are a number of projects to report on. Kelsey Peak project is being marked for fuels projects. Lamb Gap is on hold. Hayfork Fuels Maintenance has dropped in priority, but Jim Gonzalez reports that USFS has been setting up some monitoring plots. There is work ongoing on plantation projects. The Big Creek project should be completed by the end of the month and Tule Thin should have mastication work done this year. Salt Creek prescribed fire project is ongoing with private landowners with a CA Fire Safe Council grant from a couple of years ago and they have some pile burning to do with Mad River ranger district.

Trinity River Management Unit (Steve Richter/Lara Graham): Steve has replaced Alex McBath, who took a position at the SO. Focus has been on the Trinity Alps Prescribed Fire Project and the development of the burn plan for it. Lara provided a bit of an update on the NEPA, which is being done by an Enterprise team. The group did ask about timing for public comment and what has happened to respond to the very detailed letter the County sent during scoping. Stephanie McGee will be the one who can provide an update on that.

Lara said she is following weather and fuels conditions, with the hope that she may be able to treat another 16 acres of the Five Cent Gulch project in the next week or so. TRMU also has been implementing some fuels reduction work at various locations in the NRA with CalFire (Conservation Camp) crews. She is looking at a NEPA document for under burning as a maintenance tool for existing shaded fuel breaks.

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CalFire (Andy Reiling): Not too much to report, except that he is waiting for a window to get back and do more of the Big Creek prescribed fire work and CalFire has brought back some seasonal folks on to staff “floating engines” due to our current weather conditions.

Weaverville Fire District (Scott Alford) with current weather and restrictions on burning, he has not brought his defensible space crew back on-line.

Hyampom FSC (Carol Minor): Things are quiet in Hyampom.

RCD (Frost): RCD’s 1 application to the CA Fire Safe Council (CAFSC) in a partnership with CalTrans to expand roadside shaded fuel breaks along Highways 3 & 299 going out of Weaverville was selected for funding. It is in the “pre-award” mode right now. This roadside project does emphasize the need to put some new energy into the project to do similar roadside work on the USFS properties at the same time – it would be most cost-effective. One in particular is the USFS lands on the opposite side of Highway 3 from The Knolls (Trinity Center). Frost offered to help get things moving again by bringing this project to the Collaborative’s NRA subcommittee meeting. He is not actively working on the collaborative, but has been asked to be a “guest” at the NRA subcommittee.

Meeting ended 9:28 PM. – Happy New Year

**Next meeting will be
7:00 PM
February 27, 2014
TCRCD Conference Room**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council & Firewise Communities Program



Minutes February 27, 2014 7:00 p.m. TCRCDC

Welcome & Introductions: Jesse Cox led introductions. We had 8 attendees. Jesse welcomed Tom Hall, the new District ranger with the South Fork Management Unit in Hayfork.

Trinity County Collaborative Update (Alex Cousins)

The "Roads and Plantations" project is continuing to be developed. There are 8 members of the collaborative that are working on this concept, which will focus on roadside shaded fuel breaks and some plantations. The overarching goal in the prescription will be "what is the desired future condition" with an eye towards a secondary purpose of using stewardship contracting to roll any returned receipts generated from commercial material back into the project. The group has been doing some ground-truthing. This project could involve 10-15,000 acres ultimately. The GVC Forest Health Project, also a stewardship proposal is being developed with BLM on lands they manage above Buckhorn Dam. At this point it is about 100 acres and is in the early stages. The goal is to get the Collaborative to help develop a preferred alternative that has a primary purpose of fuels reduction and a secondary component that involves commercial harvest. This project has the added complexity of the Decomposed Granitic soils in GVC.

Secure Rural Schools (Title II and Title III) (Frost)

Title III: The tentative schedule from the grants office didn't happen. The plan was for an advertisement for proposals Feb 12 or 19; Proposals due to County March 12 or 13; first Board of Supervisors agenda item March 25th; then the 45-day advertisement period and final board action subsequently. This likely will slip into late march of early April.

Title II: A Federal register Notice has been submitted with the first RAC meeting on March 17 to get organized and then meetings advertised for March 24, 31 and April 7. The RAC likely will look at what got tabled last year due to sequester (projects that are still viable and high priority) and then solicit new proposals. This is just a 1-year extension, so NEPA ready projects will be critical to the decision-making process.

Safety Element of General Plan (Frost)

Frost, Goulette, Reiling and Cox attended Feb 13th Planning Commission meeting. The Commission completed its review of the wildfire policies and it was a very careful, deliberative process. Frost will make the suggested edits and the whole element will go back to the Commission on March 13. If they accept the changes, the next steps will be for Frank Lynch to begin the CEQA process and for Frost to get the wildfire policies to Andy Reiling (CalFire) and go through the SB 1241 checklist review.

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Burnt Ranch All-Lands Pilot Project (Lara Graham –USFS TRMU)

Lara shared the USFS draft briefing paper and map for their part of this project, which is being prepared for scoping. There was a lengthy discussion and some suggestions on wording/terminology changes that will make it easier for folks to understand the project. The group also suggested that Lara get with Tina Lynsky to make sure that the Trinity County Collaborative is briefed on this aspect of the project and that she suggest a field trip for the Collaborative.

FEMA Virtual Tabletop Exercise – Wildfire Focus Training (Scott Alford Weaverville Fire Department)

Scott gave an overview of the training session that was held on February 20th at the County's OES facility. By all accounts it was a very successful training and one of the most important benefits was that it brought together the people and agencies that really need to coordinate in a disaster, but have never done so. It also showed the group what the capabilities of the facility are and what some of its limitation might be. Scott thanked Donna Rupp from the RCD for sending him the information on these FEMNA trainings.

Potential Legislative Activity in 2014

Frost simply announced that he, Nick Goulette and Alex Cousins would be participating in a round table discussion being organized by Assemblyman Wes Chesbro's staff. It will be on March 11 in Eureka. The focus will be on whether there are any legislative opportunities that can be put forward that will improve the ability of private landowners to do more fuels reduction (permit streamlining; new exemptions, etc.). Frost said that he also would bring up funding from the State through the CA FSC Clearinghouse.

Public Education/Outreach

A short discussion was held over the opportunities to highlight fire safe & Firewise practices as we move into the fire season. There will be a Northwest CA FSC Conference in Mt Shasta on May 16-17. As more details are available, Frost will distribute them.

Project Updates:

Stafford Fire (Jim Gonzalez)

Jim shared pre-post photos of the salvage and went over how the project went. He still is planning a spring field trip in order to look at the work done and see how well the project's objectives have been met. There was a brief discussion about the restoration work that is supposed to be done, including replanting and the need for erosion control.

South Fork Management Unit (Jim Gonzalez/Tom Hall)

The Kellogg project that was submitted to RAC last year & "sequestered" got other funding. They put it out to bid & bids came in lower than expected, so they were able to get extra work done. They have had good weather for some burning, getting 60-80 acres of pile burning done off of Hyampom Road and some burning in the Wallow Fire (with firewood left along roadsides for collection).

Trinity River Management Unit (Lara Graham): Been getting some pile burning done up on Musser Hill area.

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Weaverville Fire District (Scott Alford) Crew is out working and planning to work along the bottom of Timber Ridge and on northeast edge of town along the edge of neighborhoods and Shasta Springs area.

Hyampom FSC (Carol Minor): Things are quiet in Hyampom, but the community is really interested in the Sims project and making sure that small USFS areas within Shasta-Trinity are included in the Six Rivers NF effort. Alex Cousins will scan Carol's map and send it to Andrew Spain.

RCD (A Cousins): They had a good meeting in Burnt Ranch in late January and will be starting the CA FSC grant work this spring. They will kick-off the project working around the school – a very visible and public space. The USFS crew at Burnt Ranch has offered to help. From there, they will start to work along the major roads. Later in the season the RCD crew will return to the Beaver Slide Stewardship Project over in Mad River and then the new CA FSC grant along highways 299 & 3 with CalTrans. Also, the oak woodland demonstration area in the Weaverville Community Forest should get some burning done in March.

Meeting ended 9:17 PM. –

**Next meeting will be
7:00 PM
March 27, 2014
TCRCD Conference Room**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
& Firewise Communities Program



Minutes
March 27, 2014
7:00 p.m.
TCRCD

Welcome & Introductions: Frost led introductions for Jesse Cox, who was ill. We had 4 attendees.

Secure Rural Schools (Title II and Title III) (Frost)

Title III: The advertisement was in the newspaper on March 26th. Proposals are due to the County on April 9th and the Board of Supervisors will hear them on April 22. There is a 45 day “noticing period” after that and then final review and approval by the Board. So we are looking at June.

Title II: The first RAC meeting was on March 17 to get organized and then meetings were held on March 24. Subcommittees reviewed proposals in the afternoon and the full RAC reviewed & discussed the subcommittee rankings and made a set of recommendations for the Forest Supervisor. The major uncertainty is that we don’t have a firm number for the allocation, so final approvals could be a little more or less than the RAC’s recommendations. This is just a 1-year extension, so NEPA ready projects will be critical to the decision-making process.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (Donna Rupp, TCRCD)

Donna gave an overview (PowerPoint) of the results of the recent public survey. Not surprisingly, wildfire was a major concern and volunteer fire departments are a significant source of information for the folks, who responded to the survey. Donna provided a bit of a review of key (major) policies from the CWPP and there was a discussion of these as related to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The group also reviewed the project prioritization in the 2010 CWPP and Donna noted the need to get a status report on these projects (and others that might have been completed). She will contact key project implementers – USFS units in both forests, BLM, TCRCD, Watershed Center and Weaverville Fire. This relates to the discussion last fall of mapping completed projects that Kelly Sheen will lead.

Safety Element of General Plan (Frost)

Frost attended the March 13th Planning Commission meeting. The Commission reviewed the entire policy package that had been updated based on February meeting. They directed Frost to initiate the SB 1241 review with CalFire (he and Andy Reiling are working on that) and the Planning Department to start the CEQA process.

Trinity County Collaborative Update (Frost)

No one from the Collaborative was present. Frost reported that one of the projects being recommended for funding by the RAC is a first step towards NEPA for the “Roads and Plantations” fuels reduction project. Frost also thought that USFS had made a presentation to the Collaborative on the Burnt Ranch All Lands Project and suggested that the collaborative schedule a tour.

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Potential Legislative Activity in 2014

Frost gave a brief overview of the meeting held in Eureka with Assemblyman Chesbro's staff and staff from the Assembly natural Resources Committee. It was a good meeting. Time will tell, if there will be any legislation this year.

Public Education/Outreach/Upcoming Events

There will be a Northwest CA FSC Conference in Mt Shasta on May 16-17. As more details are available, Frost will distribute them. That same weekend is the Willow Creek Fire Safe fair and in early June the event in Burnt Ranch (a fishing derby & fire safe celebration). Frost met with Willow Creek Fire Safe Council earlier in the month to discuss both and he and Lara Graham will attend their meeting on April 3rd.

Project Updates:

Weaverville Fire District (Scott Alford) Crew is out working along the bottom of Timber Ridge. He also has been contacted by a homeowner on Mountain View Drive (Lewiston). The access road goes through Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) land and is in great need of some fuels reduction work. BoR has some funding to implement, but they said some type of NEPA would need to be done. The group suggested Scott call Jeremy Strait with BLM and see if they can help a sister agency in Department of Interior, maybe with their programmatic NEPA for fuels within 100 feet of private property.

CalFire (Andy Reiling)

They should begin doing some defensible space inspections soon (using SRA Fund) and are looking at possibly doing some hand-release work before the next prescribed fire in Big Creek.

RCD (Frost): It is his understanding the RCD is starting to gear up with some crew hiring and that they will kick-off the project working around the school – a very visible and public space. Later in the season the RCD crew will return to the Beaver Slide Stewardship Project over in Mad River and then the new CA FSC grant along highways 299 & 3 with CalTrans. Also, the oak woodland demonstration area in the Weaverville Community Forest should get some burning done this spring

Meeting ended 8:30 PM.

**Next meeting will be
7:00 PM
April 24, 2014
TCRCD Conference Room**

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Minutes
April 24, 2014
9:00 Am – 4:00 PM
Burnt Ranch All Lands Field Trip

The group met at the CVS Parking Lot in Weaverville to travel to Burnt Ranch and meet with folks from Down River at Burnt Ranch Post Office. We had 13 attendees on the field trip, including members of the Trinity County & Willow Creek Fire Safe Councils and the Trinity County Collaborative.

The group visited various sites, including proposed roadside shaded fuel breaks, landscape treatments and plantations. The USFS has not begun formal scoping, so this was an opportunity to provide ideas on the “purpose and need”, possible prescriptions and how to best integrate the work on federally managed lands with the work on private lands being led by the RCD. A Cousins noted that the RCD would begin work using its CA FSC grant in the next couple of weeks.

Attached is the USFS Burnt Ranch Resilient Community Project Briefing Paper and a draft map that provide greater detail.

Next meeting will be
7:00 PM
May 22, 2014
TCRCD Conference Room

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Minutes May 22, 2014 7:00 p.m. TCRC

Welcome & Introductions: Frost led introductions for Jesse Cox, who was ill. We had 5 attendees. Frost apologized for the late notice.

Secure Rural Schools (Frost)

Title III: The process is underway with the Board of Supervisors. They had their initial agenda item on April 22. There is a 45 day "noticing period", that was a bit slow to get published, and it looks the final review and approval by the Board will be on June 24th. The actual amount of funding was less than originally predicted, so the 3 applicants will work together to adjust their requests to meet the available money. The three applicants are Watershed Center, Weaverville Fire and RCD.

Title II: Forest Supervisor approved all of the RAC recommendations and the USFS is starting to work through the agreement process.

Safety Element of General Plan (Frost)

Frost and Reiling did a "best guess" review of the Safety Element under the CalFire draft guidelines for SB124. The County sent an official request for the SB1241 review to CalFire in Redding on May 20th. Now it just is a matter of waiting for that review. The Clearinghouse review has started and is either closed for public comment or will be any day. To date only 2 comments, one from CA Fish & Wildlife about CEQA requirements for some fuels reduction projects and the comment from the Chiefs' Association based on the review by Frank Moore (Hyampom Fire) to have some qualifying language on the evacuation route map to remind folks those routes are not always going to be appropriate, depending on the emergency. The Planning Commission will have a public hearing on the Safety element on June 12th, with the intent of approving it & making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The hearing likely will be continued to await the CalFire SB1241 review. March 13th Planning Commission meeting. The Commission reviewed the entire policy package that had been updated based on February meeting. They directed Frost to initiate the SB 1241 review with CalFire (he and Andy Reiling are working on that) and the Planning Department to start the CEQA process.

Trinity County Collaborative Update (Cousins)

The Collaborative's shaded fuel break project likely will get on the USFS Program of work in FY 2015. It also was approved for RAC funding to kick-start the process. The RAC recommended about \$43,000. There was a letter regarding a "post-implementation" review/assessment of the Stafford Fire salvage. The review will look at things like how well did the project adhere to the NEPA document and how well did the contractor adhere to the specifications. This is an important part of the Collaborative's process. Frost asked to get a copy of the letter, as the FSC sent a comment letter to the USFS and probably should stay in the loop on the post-project review.

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Public Education/Outreach/Upcoming Events

Last month's field tour of Burnt Ranch was a success. There were some good ideas and robust discussion that should help USFS. Frost attended the first morning of the Northwest CA FSC Conference in Mt Shasta on May 16-17. There was a good turnout. We might consider hosting the next one in Weaverville. That same weekend was the Willow Creek Fire Safe Fair, but Frost hasn't heard how it went. He'll attend the Willow Creek FSC meeting in June and report back. Also on June 14 there is the Fishing Derby & Fire Safe Day in Burnt Ranch. RCD/USFS should be there to promote the Burnt Ranch All Land Pilot Project.

Project Updates:

CalFire (Andy Reiling)

CalFire is looking at getting some "boots on the ground" using SRA fund, primarily CEQA exempt projects & projects along roadsides for the Conservation Camp crews. They also have hired CalFire inspectors and VMP coordinators and some new foresters. The big issue right now relates to mapping of projects that have been completed, not just by CalFire, but all of the partners (WRTC, RCD, Weaverville Fire, USFS & BLM). Andy will be getting with them to see how to best get those data captured & integrated into a GIS.

RCD (Cousins): The crews are finishing up the Burnt Ranch Project (CA FSC funding), but it is looking like there may be some PG&E funding available to expand the work there (PG&E provides electricity from about Del Loma to the county line). PG&E is developing a drought-related vegetation management program for this summer & looking for projects to expand on that are ongoing or quick to start. The next projects will be the new CA FSC grant for fuels reduction work along Highway 299 & Highway 3 in partnership with Caltrans. This could also be a project that the CalFire crews could join in on to expand them even further. Then this summer the crew will move to mad River/Ruth area to work on the fuels reduction aspect of the Beaver Slide Timber Stewardship Project. RCD also got about \$23,000 for chipping around the county from RAC.

On the Weaverville Community Forest, Phase III on BLM is beginning to be developed. It will be the area above and across Weaver Creek from the Industrial Park and possibly will include some lands the county owns and a BLM parcel in the WCF that is on other side of Highway 299 across from the Performing Arts Center. We also would like to use the FSC to help host a community meeting during the regular FSC June meeting date of June 26th. The meeting will be at the Congregational Church Community Room.

Hyampom FSC (Frank Moore)

There is a Sims/South Fork community meeting being scheduled. Most of the project is in Six Rivers, but Hyampom just wants to make sure that issues critical to the community are keep in sight, especially as it relates to access.

USFS –Trinity River Management Unit (Stew Richter)

Trinity Alps Prescribed Fire EA is about done and should be out in June for public comment. The focus of the project is the top 200 feet on either side of ridges to mimic what a lightning fire would do. Cousins brought up the idea of one cohesive fire management plan for the wilderness. It currently is managed by

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multiple forest & units and it abuts communities with their own CWPPs. It seems like it would be a good thing to develop one overarching plan. In fact with the Trinity County CWPP, the WUI extends into the wilderness in some areas due to the proximity of communities to the wilderness boundary.

Lara Graham couldn't attend tonight, but sent in some project updates. Many were already covered elsewhere in the meeting. These were not: Burnt Ranch Project: USFS is working with USFWS to accurately type habitat (northern spotted owl), which involves a lot of ground trothing. They also are working together to develop proposed actions that meet the purpose and need for the project and are consistent with the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan. Blue Rock Road is being implemented with some work by the Conservation Camp to thin/pile and prune on Units 34-2 and 34-4. Browns Phase II (In WCF) will begin on May 22nd.

Weaverville Fire District (Andy Reiling) Scott isn't available, but CalFire has been working with the District where they have been working on Mountain View Road (Lewiston?). They did the cutting and Firestorm was contracted to burn the piles. They also have been working around Timber Ridge and been piling/burning with a requirement that they douse the piles thoroughly before leaving the work site.

There is an emerging issue that involves not only Weaverville Fire, but CalFire, BLM (potentially USFS). It centers on camping in the vicinity of Mill Street in the WCF near Weaver Creek. Camping is legal on BLM managed lands, but the issue revolves around campfires and safety. Alex Cousins is working to help set up a meeting of the various "players" to discuss the issue.

Meeting ended 8:18 PM.

**Next meeting will be
A Special Community Meeting
For Weaverville Community Forest
6:30 – 8:30 PM
June 26, 2014
Congregational Church
735 Main St.
Weaverville
Refreshments will be served**

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**SPECIAL MEETING
WEAVERVILLE COMMUNITY FOREST
COMMUNITY MEETING JUNE 26, 2014
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PARISH HALL
6:30 TO 8:30 PM**

The meeting started at 6:30pm with Pat Frost facilitating. Introductions were made and an attendance sheet was circulated. We had approximately 35 attendees. Refreshments were available.

Trails

Pat began the discussion by directing everyone's attention to the updated trails map, which depicts all the trails on both Forest Service and BLM's lands within the forest. Pat and Alex Cousins highlighted recent Trails Day events, including a new spur to the McKenzie trail and trail maintenance. Alex informed the group that the RCD has a trails maintenance crew of two who are working on local trails. Alex noted that if anyone has local trail concerns or questions to contact the RCD.

Camping in the Forest

Pat called of various representatives of local, state and federal governments/agencies to share their experience, concerns and applicable regulations regarding camping on county and federal ground.

Judy Morris, County Supervisor for District 2, informed the group about local ordinances related to dispersed camping. She has received numerous calls regarding the camping in Lee Fong Park (LFP) and in the West Weaver drainage around Mill Street (as has the Weaverville Volunteer Fire Department and the RCD. The Weaverville-Douglas City Recreational District, which is responsible for Lee Fong Park, has not been active in dealing with the camping/loitering issues of the park. Judy informed the group that there is no camping on county land except by special permission, like the July 4th events in Lowden Park and the like.

Many people voiced concerns about campfires and their hazards; both Andy Reiling of CalFire and the BLM/Forest Service reps stressed that there are

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fire restrictions on all of their lands now – no campfires allowed. There have been reports of small fires, dog bites and a death attributed to the dispersed camping issue. Judy reported that the Board is looking at a new ordinance, which may come before them for action at the end of August, addressing the camping and transient population issue. Willits has recently adopted an ordinance regarding this issue and Judy will review it for relevance to our issue when it becomes available. The Board has also asked other special service districts to join the county in addressing this problem.

Scott Morris and Tom Johnson related how the Arcata Community Forest, which has a similar situation (a community forest in the middle of a town) has dealt with transient populations and camping. Basically, people were encouraged to use the Forest more, and to hold more events (mountain bike rides, disc golf tournaments), and Arcata is also beginning to provide more transitional housing. BLM staff related that there are similar issues with the River Trail in Redding, and that a citizen patrol has formed that regularly walks the trails, documenting irregularities and contacting the appropriate agency for assistance were applicable. It has helped decrease camping, and regular trail users feel more secure knowing there are regular patrols.

Scott Morris, who has been instrumental in creating and developing the Weaver Basin Trails, stated that he has always wanted to create a multi-modal trail from LFP to the Industrial Park wetlands, but it's a harder sell than ever because of the transients.

Jennifer Mata, Redding Area Manager for BLM, explained the agency's dispersed camping policy, which allows camping on their lands for 14 days a year in any one place in the entire area that she manages. However, it is incumbent upon BLM staff to document this, and even then they issue a citation only. Their law enforcement is so stretched that there is no way to consistently enforce this regulation. So, under current BLM regulations, dispersed camping is allowed for 14 days a year.

Jennifer went on to state that the current Land Management Plan (LMP) for the Redding Area BLM lands, which was last adopted in 1993, will be undergoing revision. This is typically a 4 to 5 year process. In the current LMP, the BLM Weaverville Community Forest lands are still slated for disposal (land exchange or sale). However, in the LMP revision, these lands will be re-designated, and regulations that pertain to those lands only can be developed at this time. It will be important that everyone interested in the Forest can participate in the development of the new LMP. In the meantime, a shorter process is available to impose land use regulations on specific lands, as the BLM did with Keswick. This could happen with the community forest, and BLM will investigate further. Jennifer also stated, in response to a person's concern regarding mining activity along West Weaver Creek, that

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mining is legal on their lands. This is another use that could be restricted or prohibited under the new LMP for the community forest.

Judy Morris stated that she is working with HRN to get some of these transients back home. Some of the people who arrive here to work the crops have no idea what they are getting into and they often need assistance with many things.

There was a general and lengthy discussion regarding the camping issue, and in conclusion it was generally agreed to organize two hikes, for starters, to pick up trash and document camps in the community forest. It was also agreed that weekly hikes along the troublesome trails (West Weaver) would provide a consistent presence in the forest. It was decided that the RCD would coordinate the hikes and provide GPS and mapping services. A sign-up sheet was circulated for the weekly hikes. It was also decided to start by having two hikes in a week: Sunday, June 29th from 9 am to 11 am and Wednesday, July 1st, from 7 pm to 9 pm. RCD will provide gloves, trash bags, trash sticks and an RCD vehicle to pick up large objects. These first two hikes will give the RCD and volunteers a sense of what's out there and what the boundaries are in regards to what can and cannot be done. Hikers can also post the fire prohibition announcements.

Jerry Hauke gave an impassioned plea about the short and long term solutions to these problems. He feels that moving campers off one spot means that they will just move somewhere else, but will stay local. A longer term solution is to accept that these people are going to come back year after year and that the powers that be should be investigating transient housing. This type of housing, if established, would provide shelter for them, and get most of them off public and county lands. Addressing this issue in the BLM's upcoming LMP revision is another way to deal with it.

Tom Johnson offered to post the two hikes on Facebook. Pat Powell suggested that the Juvenile Hall kids might be a resource for trash pick-up and other duties.

Upcoming Events

BLM NEWS

BLM informed the group that the 10 year Stewardship Contract between the RCD and themselves will expire next year and that another 10 year contract will be signed. They also emphasized that they want add other units within the Weaver basin to the Community Forest. Pat showed the group a large map depicting the current boundaries, and another map showing the additional lands that BLM wants to add. There was general group approval of

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these additions. The added lands would double the current acreage of the BLM-side of the Community Forest.

WEMBO

WEMBO stands for World Endurance Mountain Bike Association and each year they sponsor an event in a different country. Last year it was held in Australia and this year Scotland is hosting the event. In 2015 WEMBO will hold its yearly event in Weaverville, CA. The RCD is working with event organizers to coordinate activities and other associated issues in order to have a successful recreational function in Weaverville. This is a very high profile event in the endurance biking world and an exciting opportunity for Weaverville.

AMERICAN ENDURANCE RIDE CONFERENCE

This 4th of July this organization will host and horseback riding endurance race in the Forest Service side of the Community Forest, in the Musser Hill area. They are in the process of securing an annual use permit from the Forest Service to establish a permanent camp on Musser Hill in order to hold this event every year. The camp is completely broken down when the event is finished. This group is also looking into hosting additional riding events in this area as well. Local members Audra and Solomon (?), organizers for the upcoming event, described the association and its activities and answered questions about the rides.

LA GRANGE CLASSIC BIKE RIDE

This annual event is slated to occur in October. Other bike rides being considered are 24 hour riding events.

DISC GOLF

Tom Johnson stated that a couple of years ago he hosted a one day disc golf event in the Community Forest and it brought about 70 people in from Redding and the coast. He would like to do it again. BLM stated that they could write a NEPA document for this as a recurring event and then he could host the event annually.

FOREST SERVICE NEWS

Lara Graham, fuels person who works out of the Weaverville Ranger Station, gave an overview of the current timber sale (Browns Phase II) in the Musser Hill area of the community forest. She stated that there would be a firewood component of the project, consisting of some log decks that will be available to the public for firewood by permit. There are two more understory burns planned for this fall in the vicinity of the town trails (Musser Hill and Five Cent Gulch), similar to the one that was done last fall. There was general praise from the group for that burn.

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Tina Lynsky, Weaverville District Ranger, described how the results of the Phase II logging will partly inform the approach to Phase III, which apparently has a Spotted Owl in the vicinity. Tina also described fuels reduction work being done in the Burnt Ranch area to make that community fire-resistant, and a prescribed burn for the Trinity Alps Wilderness out of the Denny area.

Paul Johnson (Lower Trinity Ranger District –Six Rivers National Forest) reported on upcoming projects in their area and the success of the Firewise Day and Fishing Derby in Burnt Ranch that Trinity County FSC and TRMU helped the Willow Creek FSC put on earlier in the month.

The meeting adjourned about 8:15 pm.

**Next meeting will be
A Special Community Fire Preparedness Meeting
For TRMU communities
7:00 PM
July 24, 2014
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Library
Weaverville
Refreshments will be served**

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Special Meeting Minutes
Weaverville Community Fire Preparedness
July 24, 2014
Trinity County Library
7:00 TO 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:00 pm with Pat Frost facilitating. Judy Morris welcomed everyone and introductions were made and an attendance sheet was circulated with nine people signing it. Refreshments were available.

A number of topics were covered. USFS took the lead on some, while CalFire, Weaverville Fire Department, the CHP, RCD and North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District led other discussions. Topics included: Agency Interface; Suppression Capability and Response; Fuel Conditions; Fire and Campfire Restrictions; Water Sources; Notification Process; Reverse 911; Community Evacuation Corridors; and role of Local Area Advisors.

There many questions and lively discussions with the members of the public. Some notable issues included: [a] are there better tools available to communicate fire and smoke related information to the public (e.g. where smoke is coming from each day while fires in region are burning); [b] what resources are available to assist landowners to implement fire safe/defensible space projects on their property (e.g. Weaverville Fire Department has a program to implement defensible space for those who cannot do it themselves; RCD has a chipper program this year; watershed center has landowner assistance); [c] what kinds of fire restrictions are there on private lands? (this brought to light the issue of burn barrels, which are no longer permitted and general guidance for landowners to use their best judgment and be abundantly cautious in using equipment like chainsaws, weed whackers and mowers in these hot dry summer conditions – best to limit use to early in the day - stop by 10 AM.) [d] discussion of evacuation procedures – does a landowner have to leave in mandatory evacuation (no); what are procedures for returning after evacuation is lifted (you will need identification with your physical address, which could be an issue for many folks in trinity County. Historically Driver's Licenses only have had the mailing address, which usually is a Post Office Box in Trinity County.)

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Judy Morris closed the meeting with a “thank you” to the agency staff for taking time to come and meet with the community and a suggestion that these kinds of preparedness meetings would be useful every year.

The meeting adjourned about 9:00 PM.

Reminder: No August Meeting
Next meeting will be September 25
TCRCD Conference Room

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Minutes December 4, 2014 7:00 p.m. TCRC

Welcome & Introductions: Jesse Cox led the introductions. We had 8 attendees. Special congratulations to Tim Ritchey on his recent promotion.

Update on Grants Submitted to CalFire

The recent RFPs were for statewide programs for SRA Fund (\$10 million) and Greenhouse Gas reduction Fund [GGRF] (\$45 million). Trinity County Fire safe council members submitted the following: Watershed Research and Training Center submitted an SRA proposal to support their prescribed fire program on private lands and a GGRF for working with New Island's Trinity property project. RCD/Weaverville Fire submitted an SRA proposal to continue work Weaverville Fire has been doing with Title III and RCD for similar work in North lake area. CalFire is to review the concept proposals and ask candidates for full proposals by late December with spring awards.

Prescribed Fire & CalFire Permitting

Nick Goulette gave an update on the Watershed Center's program and we had a discussion of the impact on implementing prescribed fire this fall due to the difficulties securing CalFire permits. WRTC this fall slowed things down. They have projects with burn plans and funding, but the lack of permits really throws things off. WRTC will continue to work with CalFire in Redding. No action is needed by the FSC.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Donna Rupp (RCD) gave an overview of the status of the Plan and then delved into the specifics of the write-up for the Wildfire Hazard Profile. She needs the members of the fire safe council to give it a thorough review, look for information gaps and errors and get comments to her by December 12th. She has a tight timeline. She will try to call a meeting of the Steering Committee for the week before Christmas, get the draft out for public comment in January and completion of the Plan in March.

Safety Element of General Plan (Frost)

The Safety Element is done. The Board of Supervisors adopted the amended Safety Element in early November and accepted the staff's recommendations to the Board of Forestry. Pat thanked everyone for their helped, especially Andy Reiling for his work on the CalFire/Board of Forestry review.

Trinity County Collaborative Update (Goulette)

The Collaborative continues to move forward with a break in December. They are very supportive of the CWPP and its projects. One in particular that is getting the best effort is a large-scale roadside project throughout the county, with a pilot in the hayfork area. The collaborative has been pushing this one to be in the USFS Program of Work. The Forestry Subcommittee is taking the lead.

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They also are looking to set up a Planning Team that is non-USFS staff to help move projects along. The realization has been that there simply are not enough USFS staff to meet all of the project needs. The first project looks like it will be in the vicinity of Butter Creek Road and Indian valley Road. It will be a linear (roadside) project and it will have some challenges to overcome.

Project Updates:

Hyampom (Carol Minor)

Nothing to report.

Watershed Center (Nick Goulette)

Nothing outside of what has already been covered.

USFS –Trinity River Management Unit (Tim Ritchey)

Burnt Ranch: snail surveys are almost done. The wet, warm weather has been a great help in getting that piece done. USFS has met with USFWS. Scoping letter should go out before the end of the calendar year. USFS is hoping for some windows for additional burning, especially in spring.

CalFire (Andy Reiling)

- Burn permits will be required until the close of Fire Season December 8th
- Weaverville CAL FIRE will be staffed until at least December 31. The engine will respond with Weaverville Fire for automatic and Mutual Aid calls.
- Hayfork CAL FIRE station will close on December 8th
- Fawn Lodge is closed and will reopen after construction. Construction is scheduled to be completed sometime in 2016. Looking for a residence to rent in the Douglas City/Lewiston area

Weaverville Fire (Scott Alvord)

His crew started working behind TOPS & martin Road. The project's goal is to do fuels work all the way to the new Lance Gulch Road right-of-way.

RCD (Frost/Rudd)

The only project right now is the CA Fire Safe Council grant for fuels reduction work along Highway 299 & Highway 3 in partnership with Caltrans. The CalFire (Trinity River Camp) crews will do some cutting and pile burning through the end of the calendar year on private property adjacent to Highway 3 to tie into work that has been done (and will be done) in Caltrans right-of-way.

Meeting ended 8:22 PM.

**Next meeting will be
January 22, 2015
7:00 PM
RCD Conference Room**