

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
& Firewise Communities Program



Minutes
January 22, 2015
7:00 p.m. TCRC

Welcome & Introductions: Jesse Cox was away. Frost led the introductions. We had 9 attendees.

Update on Grants Proposals

CalFire SRA & GGRF: Trinity County Fire Safe Council members were asked to submit full proposals for the following SRA Fund projects: Watershed Research and Training Center proposal to support their prescribed fire program on private lands RCD/Weaverville Fire proposal to continue work Weaverville Fire has been doing with Title III and RCD for similar work in North Lake area. RCD also has a proposal to update the CWPP to submit.

CA Fire Safe Council: No specifics at this point. The Redding workshop just occurred and folks are trying to sort through the timing issues with the CalFire vs. CA FSC proposals. Watershed center and RCD likely will submit similar or “add-on” project proposals to CA FSC (proposals are due in mid-February).

Planning Fire Safe Workshops for spring 2015

Ryan Desantis (UCCE) contacted Frost and Alvord about doing a workshop like that done in 2013 for homeowners’ wildfire preparedness this coming spring. The group also discussed doing a workshop down river (Willow Creek) with the Willow Creek FSC hosting the workshop, and another workshop in Hayfork. The group was generally supportive and Frost will work with Desantis on a schedule and outline/agenda. It would be best to have these in April and/or May.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Donna Rupp (RCD). Nothing new to add at this point.

Burnt Ranch Fire Resilient Community Project

Lara Graham (Trinity River Management Unit – USFS) gave an update and overview of the Scoping Letter that went out recently. It has taken a little longer to get the scoping letter out, because the USFS really wanted to get some solid information and details laid down ahead of finalizing the Purpose and Need. They have done a lot of work regarding Northern Spotted Owl and been consulting with USFWS. Habitat Cores and Roosting/Feeding habitats will greatly affect project prescriptions. Survey and manage efforts are well-underway. One complete snail survey has been completed & the second one partially done (when the freezing temperatures halted the work). The 2nd survey will be completed this spring. Lara has done a lot of fire behavior modelling based on the extensive field work done by Randi Paris. Timber crews will begin to work in the field to lay out potential temporary road locations so that they can be finessed to avoid impacts to owls, snails, fungi, etc. Most of this project is in LSR, even many of the plantations, so this project’s design has to be sensitive to issues associated with LSR. The group agreed to send a letter supporting the Purpose and Need for this project. Frost will draft.

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Trinity County Collaborative Update (Cousins)

The Collaborative continues to move forward. They had their monthly meeting last week (January 16th). They are very supportive of the CWPP and its projects. Three projects discussed at the last meeting were Burnt Ranch – the collaborative is waiting for more details before it considers its support. Red Fir – this project is on the top of South Fork Mountain and its purpose is to control disease in the Red Fir stands. Different versions of a project go back several years. Pilot Project (Roadside Shaded Fuel breaks & Plantations). The pilot project is in the Butter Creek-Indian Valley area and the hope is to develop a template for expanding this countywide on USFS lands. RCD & watershed center will lead the NEPA effort (with an IDT meeting scheduled for Tuesday January 27th). The NEPA effort is being partially funded with RAC money and the remainder is from USFS appropriated funds. A fourth project discussed at the last meeting was the Grass Valley Creek Stewardship Project (with a timber sale). BLM has decided they need to re-analyze to make sure they have dealt adequately with Pacific Fisher issues. They also are working to coordinate with Whiskeytown NRA on prescribed fire planning and implementation.

Project Updates:

Hyampom (Carol Minor)

Nothing to report. Except they are waiting to hear from Tom Hall (SFMU Ranger) about the Hyampom Community Protection Project.

Watershed Center (David Jaramillo)

Nothing outside of what has already been covered. It has been slow this winter. Mostly planning work for the upcoming season. Trinity County Strategic Fire Planning effort will have a kick-off meeting on January 29th at Weaverville Fire hall.

USFS –Trinity River Management Unit (Lara Graham)

Already covered Burnt Ranch. USFS is hoping for some windows for additional burning, including Blue Rock Road and then more in the spring.

CalFire –Humboldt County (Shauna Powell)

She just wanted to introduce herself and get to know our FSC a little better.

CalFire – Shasta-Trinity Unit (Andy Reiling)

- Burned about 1/3 of the 200 piles on Big Creek. Completing these pile swill set up for ground fire (broadcast) over the next 2-3 years (depending on drought)
- Fawn Lodge is closed and will reopen after construction. Construction is scheduled to be completed sometime in 2016. Still looking for a residence to rent in the Douglas City/Lewiston area

RCD (Cousins/Rupp)

Crew has just been laid off. They finished some power-line brushing over in Hyampom area and CalFire Conservation Camp crews just finished some piling & burning on the Highway 3 project.

Donna Rupp presented a concept for a “Living with Fire in Northern California Mountain Communities” environmental education proposal to encompass community members of all ages, from school children to working and retired adults. The EPA has posted an RFP for an Environmental Education Local Grants Program which the RCD is applying for. If awarded, the grantee must have sub-recipient organizations/partners who can receive up to \$5,000. The idea is to get partners involved across the region, as there will only be three grants awarded in EPA Region IX. As she develops the proposal more thoroughly, she’ll come back for a letter of support.

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Lower Trinity-Six Rivers NF (Andrew Spain)

They have been using RAC funding to hire CCC crew to do plantation thinning on South Fork Road (Slayer) and the back side of Hennessy Ridge. They have completed about 20 acres and will continue. There is a new Forest Fuels Officer (James Cortright). Andrew briefed the group on the Western Klamath Restoration Project (WGRP), a collaborative that has been operating for some time now and has a pilot project areas with USFS with a potential CE on about 4,000 acres.

Sims Project – USFS is working on an agreement or agreements to get specialists hires/on-board to begin work on some CE's, including some survey work. They will be planning a community meeting in Hyampom.

Meeting ended 9:00 PM.

**Next meeting will be
February 26, 2015
7:00 PM
RCD Conference Room**

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Minutes
February 26, 2015
7:00 p.m. TCRC

Welcome & Introductions: Jesse Cox led introductions. We had 5 attendees.

Planning Fire Safe Workshops for Spring 2015

Wildfire Preparedness Workshops: Ryan Desantis (UCCE) contacted Frost and Alvord about doing a workshop like that done in 2013 for homeowners' wildfire preparedness last month. The group also discussed doing a workshop down river (Willow Creek) with the Willow Creek FSC hosting the workshop, another workshop in Hayfork and a simplified community meeting in the North Lake area. It was generally agreed to target May 16 for the Weaverville workshop, if the Fire Hall is available and work on other sites' schedules. Frost noted that the Trinity Center CSD/VFD is planning an open house/fire safe day on May 2nd, if that works or that he can help to schedule the "preparedness" event as a part of a CSD Board meeting (2nd Tuesday of each month).

CA Fire Safe Council Conference (June 10th): Frost announced that the Board of the CA FSC will host a 1-day conference in Redding area on June 10th. The planning team wants to invite the Trinity River Management Unit to give a presentation on the Oregon Fire/Five Cent Gulch Prescribed Fire. Tim Richey suggested emailing S. Richter, the Acting Ranger. Frost will do that. The conference will also have sessions on the new OMB circulars (the regulations) for federal grants.

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Workshops (March 6th): Frost announced that UCCE would host a workshop at Weaverville Fire hall 6-8PM. This is not just about "what is Sudden Oak Death", but training on sampling for SOD in Trinity County. Our county now is a quarantine county, as SOD has been found in the far western edge of the county.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Donna Rupp (RCD) indicated that the draft will be submitted to Sacramento before our March meeting, so it is moving along fine.

Trinity County Collaborative Update

No new information was provided.

Trinity County Strategic Prescribed Fire Plan/CWPP Update

Dave Jaramillo (Watershed Center) said that their "kick-off" meeting went well. There were 24 attendees and a good discussion of prescribed fire in the landscape and as a management tool in Trinity County. They will begin to formulate a plan and use a questionnaire to the participants to begin to build a framework for the plan. The next two months will involve collecting basic information. One issue is

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whether to limit the plan to the county or think a bit beyond that (e.g. Whiskeytown NRA), because it is important to think in terms of resources not property or political boundaries. The goal is a draft in June 2015.

Update on Grants Proposals

EPA Environmental Education Grant Application: Donna Rupp went over the details that she has been working on and provided a draft letter of support for the FSC to consider. The group agreed to send a letter of support.

CalFire SRA & GGRF: Applicants are awaiting news on status of full proposals that were submitted.

CA Fire Safe Council: RCD submitted two proposals as “collaborative efforts. The CWPP update with the Watershed Center and an implementation project with Weaverville Fire Department. Awards are tentatively going to be announced in June.

Project Updates:

Watershed Center (David Jaramillo)

They conducted a prescribed fire in the Kingsbury area on February 25th, treating about 20 acres. It went well.

USFS –Trinity River Management Unit (Tim Richey)

USFS also has had some windows for burning. They completed an additional 62 acres of the Five cent Gulch burn last weekend. Not sure if they will get to the next 80 acres, as vegetation is greening up and won't burn as well. They may try to finish the Musser Hill burn. Burnt Ranch: they are working on finalizing proposed action and have some crews out looking at temporary infrastructure. Staff are also working on Trinity Alps Prescribed Fire and North lake Fuels projects.

RCD (Rupp)

Crews are laid off. Not much beyond planning for the spring.

Meeting ended 9:00 PM.

**Next meeting will be
March 26, 2015
7:00 PM
RCD Conference Room**

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Minutes March 26, 2015 7:00 p.m. TCRC

Welcome & Introductions: Jesse Cox led introductions. We had 8 attendees.

Planning Fire Safe Workshops for Spring 2015

Wildfire Preparedness Workshops:

Ryan Desantis (UCCE), FSC and Weaverville Fire are leading effort for **May 16** for the Weaverville workshop. Frost noted that the Trinity Center CSD/VFD open house/fire safe day on May 2 has been moved to July 12. We've not worked out a workshop in Willow Creek, but they have two events (May 16 Fire Safe Fair in Willow Creek and June 13 Firewise Day & Fishing Derby in Burnt Ranch.

CA Fire Safe Council Conference (**June 10th**): Frost announced that the Board has **postponed** this meeting/workshop until autumn. The planning team still wants to invite the Trinity River Management Unit to give a presentation on the Oregon Fire/Five Cent Gulch Prescribed Fire. The conference will also have sessions on the new OMB circulars (the regulations) for federal grants.

Fire Science Consortium and Northern CA Prescribed Fire Council are holding a field trip to the Oregon Fire (2014)/Five-cent Gulch Prescribed Fire and to some north lake plantations where there is an interest in prescribed fire. Group asked Frost to see if we can also be a co-host of this tour and make it our April meeting. The tour date is **April 22**.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Donna Rupp (RCD) draft has been sent to Sacramento to CA OES for review and suggestions. It will then go to FEMA and to Board of Supervisors within a year. Group thanked Donna for all of her work on this and to the RCD for leading the effort.

Trinity County Collaborative Update

No new information was provided. They have a new meeting schedule that only has quarterly meetings of the larger group.

Trinity County CWPP

Rupp reported that RCD was awarded a SRA grant from CalFire, but no agreement has been executed as of now (likely late spring or early summer). A companion and complementary proposal was submitted to CAFSC Clearinghouse. The effort won't start until funding agreements are in place.

Weaverville WUI Maintenance Project

Tim Richey (USFS TRMU) gave an overview. He has also spoken to the Weaverville Community Forest (WCF) Steering Committee, which supports the proposal. For now the focus is on federally managed

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(USFS) lands within the WCF, but a hope would be to expand it to private lands (to take an all-lands approach).

- The general observation has been that we have had 3 wildfires in about the same place (2001, 2006 and 2014).
- There has also been considerable investment in fuels treatments in this same general area (mechanical; hand and prescribed fire)
- Proposal is to have a NEPA document that covers maintenance work (including prescribed fire) and begin a schedule of periodic maintenance of treated areas.
- Hope is that the NEPA can be a C.E.
- Proposal has been submitted to USFS to fund work on private lands using “Stephens Act/Wyden Amendment authorities. No word on that funding yet.

The group supports this proposal.

Trinity County Strategic Prescribed Fire Plan/CWPP Update

Dave Jaramillo (Watershed Center) said that the second meeting is scheduled for April 1st. They have sent out a questionnaire to fire organizations. Based on the results the April 1st meeting will focus on Goals and Objectives and a vision statement and setting boundaries of the planning area. They are doing some data crunching/mapping of fire history and fire frequency across the landscape. The goal is a draft in June 2015.

Oak Woodland Restoration & Research

Frost reported for Ryan Desantis (UCCE). The WCF Oak restoration site may get include in some funding with Humboldt-Mendocino Counties and the hope is to get some solid field work done this summer. There also is a Cal Forestry grad student interested in helping set up some long-term phonological monitoring of white Oak in Trinity County. He’ll visit later this spring. Getting a better understanding of our oak woodlands will support developing prescriptions to make them healthier and more fire resilient, too.

Project Updates:

CalFire (Andy Reiling)

They’ll start seasonal hire son April 6 in Weaverville and April 24 in Hayfork to be fully-staffed by June 1st. Likely “burn ban” date of June 1st. They found adequate housing and equipment storage in Douglas City for the Fawn Lodge station while it is being re-done. The VMP for Big Creek expires this year, so they have been burning piles recently. There are some amendments to 4290 for new construction that are being adopted by the Board of Forestry in response to legislation (Senate Bill 1270). Andy’s first read shows that the road/driveway width requirement will be widened; that a turn-around at the house now must be 50 ft. and that there will be a requirement for more roadside brushing/limbing to provide 15 ft. vertical and 14 ft. horizontal clearance. Effective date is January 2016.

NRCS (Carrie Nicolls)

They have been able to fund three (3) EQIP projects, one in Burnt Ranch (to support the all-lands pilot project). They hope to have a new State Forester soon and that might help get NRCS on-board with prescribed fire through EQIP. A new round of funding will begin in June.

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USFS –Trinity River Management Unit (Tim Richey)

Burnt Ranch. They continue to work with the regulatory agencies. They recently had water board and NMFS out on the project and they gradually are building support for the project. One new wrinkle relates to road easements across private land to access project units. Lara Graham also will speak to the Collaborative about Burnt Ranch in May. They still need to finish the 2nd set of snail surveys. North Lake Project is moving along. They are working with Frost & the Trinity Center CSD Board to build community support. North Lake (Lake Forest) Plantation Burning. They will get E Knapp (PSW) out there during consortium tour and hope to get a Cal Grad student doing research on the prescriptions. Finally, if they get any good windows for burning they will try to get more of the WCF prescribed burning done.

Watershed Center (David Jaramillo)

At The FSC's request Piper Mc Daniels has written an article for the Living With Wildfire Insert on prescribed fire. WRTC will help with the Consortium's tour on April 22 and Dave is working with USFS on an AOP for prescribed fire and north lake burn plans.

RCD (Rupp)

Crews are laid off. Not much beyond planning for the spring.

Meeting ended 8:52 PM.

Next meetings Field Tour-April 22, 2015 May 28 – 7 PM RCD

April 22 Meeting/Field Trip Summary: A group of 20+ individuals participated in the Fire Science Consortium/Prescribed Fire Council field trip to the Oregon Fire (2014) and Five-cent Gulch Prescribed Burn and then most travelled onto the North Trinity Lake/Lake Forest area to tour the proposed plantations that are being considered for prescribed fire treatments.

Oregon Fire: There was a wide ranging discussion on issue, including the wildfire; effects of earlier mechanical treatments that excluded fuels reduction in riparian area; post-fire treatments including how best to treat oak stands and efficacy of conifer reforestation in this WUI and the proposed WUI Maintenance Project.

Five-cent Gulch Prescribed Fire: The discussion here was on the effectiveness of the prescribed fire in helping bring the wildfire under control; the actual prescription and additional phases.

Lake Forest Plantation Prescribed Fire: The group looked at two plantations, one that had been masticated and one with no treatment. Discussed the heterogeneity within the forest and how plantations play into that. Economics of the plantations was a big point and what are we trying to manage them for, later harvest or returning the forest back a fire dependent/adapted ecosystem that will have natural areas of reproduction, overstocked and thin areas as fire naturally selects. Also discussed (from the TCCWPP) the hazard that can be created from untreated plantations during a severe fire season and their presence within the WUI.

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Minutes
September 24, 2015
7:00 p.m. TCRC

Welcome & Introductions: Jesse Cox welcomed everyone and started introductions. We had 9 attendees. Jesse welcomed Shiloe Braxton, the new manager for the RCD and Steve Emershy (SPI).

Report on Fire-Associated Impacts/outcomes: Nick Goulette & Pat Frost reported from the recent Trinity County Collaborative Forestry meeting that USFS is working on impact analysis. Information like burn severity is just coming in. USFS is working on BAER planning and doing some suppression repair work. Larry Winters (Hyampom FSC) asked how the Saddle Fire affected the Sims Fire Restoration. We'll have to find out.

Post Fire Priorities: The group discussed how the fires this summer might cause us to shift our emphasis when submitting funding proposals. There certainly might be a need to focus on our roadsides, especially where there have been high severity fires and to look at areas adjacent to/near communities and infrastructure like community water systems. Larry Winters mentioned a small hydropower facility near Hyampom (Big Creek Waterworks) that had fire very close to it. Nick described the Emergency Watershed Protection Program of NRCS. It is for imminent threats to life and property. It is possible this could qualify. Larry also mentioned as an aside to this discussion that PUD poles in his area have a lot of herbaceous growth around them and he's wondering if the FSC should contact the PUD. Frost agreed to contact the General Manager.

Trinity County CWPP: In July we discussed a timeline for getting started – using October meeting (those involved in wildfire wouldn't be available before that time) Nick provide Donna Rupp and Pat Frost some examples of tools used for evaluating a CWPP. Pat passed around a couple of examples. Again the issue of developing a mechanism for doing annual updates of projects to keep the CWPP current was brought up. It was agreed to dedicate the October meeting to the CWPP update and the Prescribed Fire Plan.

Trinity County Collaborative Forestry Work Group: Nick Goulette provided an overview of the "Two Chiefs' Proposal". The Collaborative has been invited to submit a proposal for a 3-year grant to assist with high priority work lined out through the collaborative. This is a USFS & NRCS program, so work would be on both public and private lands (roughly 75% and 25% respectively). It would have an overarching theme of watershed protection and restoration in the context of the wildfires we've had and the opportunities they provide to recalibrate long range resource management.

Nick also gave a brief update on the Pilot Project. It is pretty well funded to complete the NEPA. There have been some timeline set-backs, but there still is a possibility that an early phase could get going before the end of the federal fiscal year 2015-16.

Grant Updates:

Title III schedule Frost has continued to ask the County about this, but at this point there is no schedule available.

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CA FSC Clearinghouse It looks like they will have about \$3 million to allocate in the next cycle. They seem to be on track to use the same schedule as last year, with proposals being due near the beginning of the new year.

CalFire Grants No specific news. Frost did hear that \$5 million were allocated in the state's budget. He'd expect a similar schedule to last year or a little later.

Firewise Communities: Frost announced that the renewals are due this year by November 15. He will begin working on them in October. He will ask folks about dates/attendance at community events. Clearly a large number of communities focus was on the active fires this summer.

Project Updates

Watershed Center (Goulette/Jaramillo)

They continue to do some snag falling at Stafford fire, but it is getting to the end of that effort. They get requests for fee for Service work around homes (defensible space). Prescribed Fire planning is moving right along, with a lot of landowner interest. There still are significant issues with CalFire on permitting. The TREX (prescribed fire training) is scheduled for later this year, but the CalFire issues could impact that program. They have purchased the Tule Creek Mill site and are gearing up for a Trinity County Forest products effort. The first such will be a commercial firewood project with an existing company. They just got word that the proposal submitted by Watershed Center and RCD under the Stevens Act was partially funded. This will allow work on private lands in the Weaverville basin (prescribed fire and chipping). The new CA FSC grant that the RCD received has some funding for Watershed Center to do planning in the Tule Creek area. They have gotten a small grant from USFWS for some oak woodland restoration that would involve prescribed fire.

Hyampom FSC (Winters)

Not a lot to report. The summer has been consumed by the fires. They still are interested in, and been involved in, the Sims Restoration and the Community Protection Projects with a focus on Roads and Ridges.

USFS –Trinity River Management Unit (Graham/Ritchey)

Starting to look to prescribed fire season with about 600 possible (5609 acres of understory burn in 16 units including Five Cent Gulch, Blue Rock Road & Plantations near Lake Forest. Otherwise starting to run out of NEPA ready work. South Fork management Unit has burning planned for Mud Spring (115 acres) and Kellogg (66 acres). On the planning side, focus is on Burnt Ranch & North lake Fuels (PIL letter signed by Trinity River management Unit, but still needs NRA signature. Frost will contact them.

RCD (Braxton/Frost)

RCD crews are working on a variety of projects including the work with funding from PG&E, PUD and completing the Highways 3 & 299 with Caltrans. Shiloe is getting up to speed on CWPP project & will be working with Nick at WRTC to get sub-agreements for that and the new CA FSC grant. The Stevens Act funding will also add work for RCD & WRTC

Meeting ended 8:52 PM.

**Next meeting
October 22
RCD Conference Room**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
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Minutes
October 22, 2015
7:00 p.m. TCRC

Welcome & Introductions: Pat Frost welcomed everyone for Jesse Cox, who was away at another meeting and we made introductions. We had 9 attendees.

Trinity County Prescribed Fire Plan (Dave Jaramillo)

Dave gave an overview of the draft plan, which began in early 2015 by bringing the “fire people” together. Some of the key issues/topics this group identified included these Challenges and opportunities to bringing fire back in to the landscape:

- GIS mapping (as it turns out most of the county has not had a fire between 1911-2014).
- Overcoming “negative” fire legacy (e.g. Lowden Fire – an escaped prescribed fire in 1999).
- The group also has seen a shift in public opinion in support of prescribed fire, because of a number of successful & beneficial smaller prescribed fires (e.g. the Five-cent Gulch Fire as it related to managing the 2014 Oregon Fire).
- The need to bring landowners, across ownerships, together to implement prescribed fire in an “all lands” approach.
- There is strength in numbers – the group interested in increasing pace and scale of prescribed fire is much more effective than the individual organizations.
- Need to use this plan to inform the CWPP in the next update, especially GIS.
- NEPA for USFS is a challenge.
- Internal policies of CalFire is a challenge.

What are the key reasons we need a countywide Prescribed Fire Plan (and more prescribed fire)?

- Help maintain the investments in fuel breaks and other treatments.
- Ecosystem function & restoration.
- Feasible & cost-effective where hand and mechanical treatments aren’t feasible.
- We have a significant “fire deficit” in the county. 70% of the landscape has had no fire in 100 years; 65% of the WUI has had no fire in 100 years.
- Ecosystem shifts without fire have been detrimental (e.g. alpine meadows & oak woodlands are being converted to conifer stands).

Most of the county has missed 5-9 fire cycles and this fact should help focus management of wildfire and the use of prescribed fire. Toward that end the group is still working on finalizing vision and mission statements for the plan. These will center on:

- Working together
- Shared Learning
- Shared Planning
- All Lands

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Other key challenges that have been identified while developing the draft

NEPA

Lack of staff qualified to implement prescribed fire (e.g. burn bosses) and equipment

Timing of resources (staff) as related to short burn windows

Funding

Social acceptance

Acres currently covered under existing burn plans vs. needs

Trinity County CWPP (Shiloe Braxton and Pat Frost): Shiloe and Pat gave an overview of the TCRCDD's CalFire SRA Grant and timelines. The group agreed that an important next step is a "self-evaluation of the 2010 CWPP Update. Frost shared an example and will develop a template to share at next meeting. Then it will be getting some initial mapping done (and getting data from the partners) and developing a schedule for winter/early spring community meetings led by RCD and Watershed Center. There was discussion of making sure that we communicate that an update is underway and that important projects are always being identified that need funding (next round of CalFire SRA and CA FSC funding will open while we are in the update process).

Trinity County Collaborative Forestry Work Group (Shiloe Braxton, Pat Frost and Larry Winter): Shiloe, Pat and Larry gave quick overview of most recent collaborative meeting. Focus was on approving the "Two Chiefs' Proposal". Nick Goulette led the proposal effort and it was submitted. Also a new proposal was developed by a forestry subgroup to focus on roadside corridors hardest hit by this summer's fires. It is called "Fire Kill to Fuel Break". The collaborative approved moving this forward, too and the collaborative is optimistic that the two forests will push hard to get NEPA done in time to actually achieve some salvage.

Project Updates

NRCS (Carrie Nicolls): The local office has been working closely with collaborative on the Two Chiefs Proposal (about 24% of the projects would be on private land). They also have been working with the partners (WRTC, RCD, and UCCE) on the regional conservation proposal (RCPP) for oak woodland restoration. Carrie also thinks there may be post-fire funding through the Catastrophic Fire Initiative. She'll keep the group posted on this.

Six Rivers NF: Lower Trinity & Mad River Districts (Andrew Spain): The Sims Fire Restoration is moving forward. Summer fires certainly affected timelines. They are looking at CE(s) for some land-line maintenance. Scoping is underway for private land and roadside treatments and they are doing an assessment of plantation burns and how to do vegetation management on these plantations. There is the potential to look at some broadcast burns in Grapevine Creek, but there is some local resistance, and also looking at Grouse Creek watershed. The Forest is working closely with the Collaborative on the roadside salvage project (Fire Kill to Fuel Break), but there will be issues on Rte. 1, as the South Fork Ridge has some of the most significant cultural resources in the area. They also are looking to advertise the "Happy Flat" timber sale and the "Roots to Shoots" decision has been signed.

Weaverville Fire (Scott Alvord): Weaverville Fire, RCD and Watershed Center met to discuss Title III. Proposals are due 1st week in November. They also are just gearing up their homeowner assistance program for the season.

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USFS –Trinity River Management Unit (Tim Ritchey): Burnt Ranch is staying a priority despite the summer’s fires, but Trinity Alps project (is being delayed). The North Lake project, which was brought to the Forest Service by the community, is a lower priority, but Lara remains hopeful. As we see rain in the forecast, the District is getting ready for some prescribed fire. Tim is concerned about who is burning the “Highway 3 Slivers”. Shiloe will check. Lake Forest Plantation burn plan was not signed, so that project is on hold.

Watershed Center (Dave Jaramillo): Dave covered most of his current issue sin the Prescribed Fire Plan discussion, but did want to mention that the TREX prescribed fire training will head here this Saturday for training and prescribed fires, if there is a window.

Hyampom FSC (Larry Winter): Not a lot to report. They still are interested in, and been involved in, the Sims Restoration and the Community Protection Projects with a focus on Roads and Ridges. There is a community meeting coming up. Also a Hyampom Fire Safe Council and they want to know whether their CWPP update can be dovetailed in to the countywide effort. Shiloe will double check the SRA agreement, but sees no reason that it can’t. Shiloe will try to attend the FSC meeting.

RCD (Shiloe Braxton and Pat Frost): RCD crews are working on a variety of projects still, but seeing the shift in weather as bringing field season to an end at some point. The group already talked about the CWPP update. Shiloe will be the lead on this for now. There will be an article in the paper for Chipping Days (funded by Title II). The “Drought Crew” has been doing some chipping/clean-up in the Community Forest, PG&E project will wrap up the end of October and RCD is working with BLM on a small salvage in the “Browns Fire” from this summer (at intersection of Hwy 299 and Little Browns Creek Road).

Meeting ended 9:27 PM.

**Next meeting
December 3rd
RCD Conference Room**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program



Minutes
December 3, 2015
7:00 p.m. TCRCD

Welcome and Introductions: Pat Frost welcomed everyone for Jesse Cox, who was away at another meeting and we made introductions. We had 8 attendees.

Trinity County CWPP Update: Braxton and Frost gave an update. The first major step is to complete the assessment of the current CWPP (2010 Update). Frost developed an evaluation form/matrix that the group reviewed. It is based on the CWPP monitoring protocol in the National Association State Foresters *Community Guide to Preparing and Implementing a CWPP* (2008). Nick Goulette said it took him about 20 minutes to complete. Braxton asked that everyone give the matrix a look over and get him any suggested revisions by the end of December. The group agreed that Braxton will email out the final evaluation matrix to the entire FSC list and ask that everyone complete an evaluation in time for the January meeting (January 28, 2016) and that we'd spend the bulk of the January meeting discussing the evaluation. In January we also will set out a schedule for [a] daytime meeting of organizations involved in the FSC to discuss goals for the update and [b] community meetings. Braxton will keep the Chiefs' Association informed and he will send the evaluation matrix to Andy Reiling (CalFire) who will send it to the chiefs group. Andy also thought that the CalFire evaluation template for the Safety Element of the General Plan would be helpful. Frost will find the one that was used for the Trinity County Safety Element update.

Braxton reported that he went to Hyampom for their FSC meeting to discuss the update of their CWPP, but the meeting was cancelled. It should be simple for the RCD to incorporate the Hyampom planning process into the larger county-wide planning process.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities:

SRA Fund (CalFire) - Shane Larsen (CalFire) gave an overview of the timelines (due January 7, 2016) and some of the highlights of the criteria. For example, projects that focus on the implementation of defensible space around homes are disqualified, because it is a legal responsibility of homeowners to maintain defensible space, but the reviewers will be looking at how many structures are to be protected by implementing fuels reduction around communities/in WUI. The group discussed some project ideas: [a] RCD is looking at a North Trinity Lake centered project that tiers off of the North Lake Fuels Reduction Project USFS plans to have NEPA ready by spring; [b] Andy Reiling said he has been talking to Scott Alvord at Weaverville Fire about the high-risk neighborhood on the south side of Weaverville, Braxton said he'd get with Scott to work together; [c] WRTC/RCD have funding through Stevens Act to do work on private lands in Weaverville, primarily north side of town adjacent to USFS and Community Forest, but they only received a part of their request. This might make a good proposal to see if they can "make the project whole". The group supported all of these proposals.

CA FSC Clearinghouse - Frost reported that their goal is to roll out the RFP to dovetail with award notices from CalFire SRA to better coordinate efforts, so likely late winter or early spring.

Title II - Frost reported that he is still working on this. They don't know status of member nominations, but his goal is to start meeting in late February or early March.

NRCS Catastrophic Wildfire Assistance Funding - a report will be given in January.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council and Firewise Communities Program

Trinity County Collaborative Forestry Work Group: Frost/Braxton/Goulette gave quick overview of most recent collaborative meeting and an overview/status of the proposals. “*Two Chiefs’ Proposal*” (it is working its way to D.C. and we should hear by January), the Fire Kill to Fuel Break Proposal (communities meetings are happening every evening Nov. 30 – Dec. 4) with both forests involved in trying to push NEPA through as quickly as possible for summer implementation. The larger Pilot Project will gear up again shortly after the New Year. (Note: this item was taken up earlier in the meeting to accommodate members of the public).

Governor’s Proclamation on Tree Mortality: There was not a lot of new information. Frost conjectured that it could result in [a] extra funding from the state to deal with tree mortality issues, but [b] that it also could mean a focus of funding on the geographic regions (like central Sierra) hardest hit by the tree mortality. Also this was a reminder that there is a Tree Mortality Workshop on December 8th at the Weaverville Fire Hall. (Note: this item was taken up earlier in the meeting to accommodate members of the public).

Project Updates

Watershed Center (Goulette/Jaramillo): They are entering winter mode. Crew work is about done. They are shifting into “planning mode”.

Stevens Act: Working with USFS on what NEPA requirements will be and what part of budget will go to that. This is a mix of prescribed fire (WRTC) and chipping (RCD) on private land, using USFS funds

Trinity Timberlands: As the new wood processing facility is purchasing/processing materials from these private timberlands, it looks like they may qualify as a “producer” under NRCS and might qualify for EQIP.

Regional Conservation Partnership: This is still pending. It is the regional (multi-county) proposal submitted to NRCS for oak woodland restoration on private lands. It includes WRTC and RCD. It made it through the 1st round of reviews.

CalFire (Reiling/Larsen): Reiling reported that they will have an engine in Weaverville for the winter. Also reported that the Big Creek Burn will “sunset” and the Unit won’t renew it. Larsen noted that there aren’t any new VMP projects in Trinity County. He also wanted folks to know that he’ll be out of the area beginning in January for training, but that his responsibilities as SRA Forester will be covered in the Shasta-Trinity Unit by others.

USFS –Trinity River Management Unit: Frost reported that there will be a community meeting on December 11th in Trinity Center on the North Lake Fuels Project. Scoping is underway and the hope is for a CE to be signed by end of February.

RCD (Braxton): RCD crews have just been laid off for the winter and RCD will be focusing on planning, including CWPP and the Collaborative’s Pilot Project. Kelly Sheen also is working on the mapping for volunteer fire departments.

Meeting ended 8:56 PM.

**Next meeting
January 28, 2016
RCD Conference Room**