



Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2024, 1:00 pm

Zoom Call or in Person
TCRCD Conference Room
30 Horseshoe Lane
Weaverville, CA



Minutes

Teleconferencing available through: +1-669-900-9128, Meeting ID: 828 328 725

No participant IDs are required; press # to access the call. Password is 123456

Videoconferencing is available through:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/828328725?pwd=a05MeVZNMkxoUmNyVGI4K2VjUjcwZz09>

Trinity County Fire Safe Council seeks to improve the cooperation and coordination of all aspects of wildfire management in Trinity County. The Trinity County Fire Safe Council's goal is to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in Trinity County by establishing priorities for reducing risk of catastrophic fire on a landscape-level scale in order to improve forest health, water quality and quantity, and community well-being.

1. Welcome & Introductions

In person attendees: Gary Carpenter & JoSan Metz (Post Mountain Residents), Chris Prindiville (Weaverville Fire), Miles Raymond, Skylar Fisher, Kelly Sheen (Trinity County RCD), Amelia Fleitz (Public), Pat Frost (Trinity Center CSD), Carol Fall (Trinity Center VFD)

On Zoom attendees: Tiffany Perez (NRCS), Adriana Rodriguez (TCRCD), Mike Allan (BLM), Jerry Cousins (Trinity County Collaborative), Larry Glass (SAFE/Trinity County Collaborative Group), Dena Magdaleno (Tsnungwe), Timbre Beck (Trinity Journal), Ellen McGhee (WRTC), David Colbeck (TC Natural Resources), Mellisa Conway, Daniel Montgomery, Keith (USFS Shasta Trinity North Fork), Glen Tingley (USFS Trinity River Management Unit), Christian Jordan (UC Cooperative Extension), Sophia Sady (Willow Creek FSC), Dave DeLange (Trinity PUD)

2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

- a. None

3. Discussions

- a. *Trinity County Vegetation Management Ordinance*
 - i. Update from the County -none
 - ii. David: Will this be a reoccurring discussion item?
 - iii. Skylar: Last meeting it was asked if it could be discussed again.
 - iv. David: I am happy to answer questions as they pop up but I would like to keep it problem based.
 - v. Kelly: Could you give it in your report out then?
 - vi. David: Yes.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- vii. Amelia: As the zoning ordinance is updated I would encourage the vegetation management ordinance to be included in it. I think that it the FSC Coordinator should take that responsibility.
- b. *Supporting Proclamation to Trinity County Board of Supervisors to Award Larry Winter with first Fire Safe Trinity Award*
 - i. Interested in recognizing Larry Winter for his incredible work with the Hyampom FSC and work to reduce wildfire risk within Hyampom and across the County. Vote on a draft letter to the BOS to establish the Fire Safe Trinity Award and posthumously award it to Larry Winter
 - ii. Amelia: Hello, I am Amelia, former FSC Coordinator. I had thought of this idea before leaving the TCRC. When I was the FSC Coordinator, Larry Winter was a huge component in keeping Trinity County fire safe. He started the Hyampom Fire Safe Council and was the chief for the Hyampom VFD. He really played a large role in communicating the values of forest management and fire safety. This is not intended to be a one-off award but the start of awards for people who have contributed to the start of the FSC as well as supporting fire safe communities. The family has been contacted and is in support of moving forward with these efforts.
 - iii. Skylar: A lot of what makes the FSC possible is the volunteer's efforts and hours. Having an annual award allows us to acknowledge these people.
 - iv. Amelia: I offered to Skylar to make a donation to help pay for it.
 - v. Pat: Is there funding available?
 - vi. Skylar: There is funding available to pay for plaques.
 - vii. Pat: And have we talked to a supervisor about this?
 - viii. Amelia: Yes, and I don't expect this to go to the board until their July meeting.
 - ix. Kelly: Seeing no objections, we will go ahead with this.
- c. *Addition: Wildfire Camera Update*
 - i. *Update from TCCG*
 - ii. Jerry: The conversation between Velocity and Digital path has not happened. Tara noted that the cameras that they are doing the NEPA on should be signed off in early June.
 - iii. Kelly: Was there any talk of how long it would take for installation to start once the environmental compliance document has been signed?
 - iv. Jerry: I am not aware of any hindrances with Digital Path once all of the papers have been signed.
 - v. Chris: I wanted to let you know that the Oregon Mountain camera has been down for about 10 days.
 - vi. Kelly: I will report that to Mike Wilson and Kevin Anderson.
- d. *Addition: Consider a comment letter on the Notice of Preparation for the Great Redwood Trail Program Environmental Impact Report*
 - i. County Planning shared this NOP for the Great Redwood Trail Program EIR. The trail is planned to start in Healdsburg and travel up to Arcata, cutting through the edge of Southwestern Trinity near Alderpoint. Potential things we could comment on:
 - a. Assessment of fire risk associated with the trail.
 - b. Recommendations for fire mitigation measures (e.g., creating defensible space, installing fire breaks).
 - c. Calling out emergency access routes and infrastructure.
 - d. Suggestions for fire prevention education and signage along the trail.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- e. Skylar: Trinity County wanted to ask if the TCFSC was interested in commenting on the trail through Trinity County. The document would be for the northern portion of the trail from Healdsburg to Arcata, cutting through the SW portion of the county through Alderpoint. We would be addressing emergency access and wildfire hazard concerns.
- f. Gary Carpenter: This will be a hiking trail along the old train tracks I believe.
- g. Skylar: This could be.
- h. Amelia: If the FSC is going to make a comment, we should be talking about fire hazard and fuels management. We should make it clear that we are not doing the emergency response. If the VFD would like to make a comment about emergency response, they can, since that is more in their jurisdiction.
- i. David: The Planning Department, Natural Resources, Sheriff's Office and the CAO are writing a letter. I want to let everyone know that currently this is the comment period to have things analyzed by CEQA. They will go through their analysis and then there will be another commenting period.
- j. Amelia: I would suggest them looking at fuels management along the trail as well as any escaped wildfire that could be started by campfires, stoves and any items that individuals may be using when going along the corridor.
- k. Pat: I think that this is a slippery slope as we may not want to start to get involved in all recreational projects. I think it is outside of our purview.
- l. Larry: This is more than just a path, it is basically a roadway. We need a plan for how to mitigate potential fires started and how emergency vehicles will access them once started.
- m. Amelia: When does the letter have to be submitted by?
- n. Skylar: I believe the 31st. I can draft a letter and have it ready for next week to be ready for any comments next week.
- o. David: They will be analyzing public services and wildfire under two different sections. Under public services, it is where the fire department would need to construct a new facility that in association with the project to get in compliance.
- p. Dena: At the trinity county housing meeting the consultants recommended that for a project larger than Trinity County that Trinity County does not weigh in on things since the state may have regulations that puts responsibility for things that occur on the county.
- q. Skylar: I will put something out by Tuesday to be submitted.
- r. Pat: Can David share what the county is going to be commenting on?
- s. David: Yes, I can share what we are drafting.
- t. Jerry: It seems a bit premature that we comment on this. What do we suggest we comment on?
- u. Skylar: Fuels management around the trails and wildfire mitigation methods. No comment on emergency response and emergency access.
- v. Kelly: This will be to draw attention for them to analyze these things when they are doing their study. It will be a comment letter on the notice of preparation.

4. Grants

- a. None

5. Fire Safe Council Coordinator Update

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- a. *Trinity County Firewise Fair*: Event was held on May 11 at the Hayfork Park. Multiple organizations tabling, ended up having one vendor, live music, speakers, goats, and free tacos. Tracked 162 attendees. Hayfork VFD reported giving out over 300 free tacos and raising around \$700 at the event. Call that a success!
 - b. *Public Review*: The draft Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan and draft Trinity County Evacuation Plan are available for public review from May 1 to July 1 on our website at firesafetrinity.org and at 12 different locations across the county - from the Zenia School to the Trinity Center library
 - c. *Community Meetings*: Community meetings have taken place in Burnt Ranch (8), Lewiston (7), Hyampom (19), Trinity Center (24), and Mad River (22). (5 down, 6 to go!). USFS attendance at each of the meetings, except Lewiston which was due to location confusion. Thank you USFS! Major takeaways: fire insurance issues, concern regarding main routes not being closed down during an evacuation, great input on updating the priority projects identified in the CWPP and on the evacuation routes. So far, community members haven't had any negative feedback on the methodology used in developing the evacuation routes. Thank you to Denise and Erik with TCRCD for cranking out so many maps for these meetings
 - i. *Other Engagements*: The fair, Downriver VFD Open House, and Willow Creek Firewise Fair had map drawing and other engagement opportunities to engage residents in Hayfork, Big Bar/Big Flat, and Hawkins Bar and Salyer.
 - d. *Neighborhood Ambassador*: We supported our Trinity Village and Coffee Creek neighborhood ambassadors in organizing and promoting a scotch broom pull and pre-chipping work day. There will be an event led by our Rush Creek ambassador next weekend in partnership with the Weaverville VFD
 - e. *Art Contest*: Winners were selected from the art contest. We will be notifying the winners hopefully by the end of the month. Will receive a cash prize, magnet version of their art, and all art submissions will be displayed in the 2025 CWPP.
 - i. JoSan: Is there going to be a meeting at Post Mountain?
 - ii. Skylar: Yes there will be, on June 18th.
6. **Project Updates**
- a. WRTC
 - a. Ellen: We are gearing up for star thistle burning. There are several units. These target them when they are bolting and not spreading viable seed and will be repeat burns for the second year. We hope to do 3 years in a row. We are watching the star thistle as well as when CAL FIRE starts its burn ban.
 - b. Skylar: Has there been a location confirmed for Trinity Centers PBA workshop.
 - c. Ellen: We could always do it at the fire hall. We would appreciate someone's house if anyone has a place they would like walk and talk about potential burn plans.
 - d. Pat: We just need some outreach from the WRTC to Trinity Center. No one has come and asked us for anything.
 - e. Ellen: We have a physical mailer going out soon. We have also talked with Carol Fall about how to best get the word out.
 - b. Willow Creek FSC
 - a. Sophia: We had our Firewise Fair on Saturday. It was well attended and included a softball tournament, puppies, and a bounce house. We got lots of good feedback. Working with the TCRCD, we were recently awarded some money to implement a fuels reduction project in Salyer
 - b. Pat: Any progress with the FS on working on the County Rd 435

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- c. Sophia: I have checked in with Randi and Chester and they discussed renting a masticator and the directors of the FSC agreed that if that was what we need to do then we should do it. The WRTC would help move some of the logs as well. We approved the masticator idea.
 - d. Pat: Have you been in contact with Monique to get final approval from the RAC?
 - e. Sophia: Randy has been in the most contact with the RAC and I will follow up with her on that.
- c. Weaverville VFD
- a. Chris: I am coordinating the hazardous fuels crew this summer. We are waiting for the high school to graduate to get additional support on the crew. I am assessing twenty properties around the area to do defensible space work. It is targeting elderly and underserved communities.
 - b. Kelly: Are these projects within the Weaverville Fire District?
 - c. Chris: Within Lewiston, Douglas City, Junction City and Weaverville.
 - d. Kelly: Who is providing funding for this?
 - e. Chris: Title 3.
- d. USFS Six-Rivers NF
- a. No attendee or report.
- e. USFS Shasta-Trinity NF
- a. Keith: We are not burning anymore until fall. We have a broadcast coming up. It is about 1300 acres. We have a sizable Hyampom Project that is about 1300 acres. We have another project with the Hoopa Tribe along the 24 rd going out to Skunk Ranch that should start in another month or two. There are a lot of projects in the works.
 - b. Glen: Nothing to report.
 - c. Mellissa: We have a couple of grants and agreements. We are trying to get back into the Stafford area. We did some work there a while ago and are trying to get back to it to do maintenance.
 - d. Daniel: I have nothing else to add.
- f. UC Cooperative Extension
- a. Christian: No updates right now but it is a pleasure to work with you all.
 - b. Kelly: How are you settling in?
 - c. Christian: Good and it was a pleasure to come and meet you all the other week. Thanks for having me out.
- g. Tsnungwe
- a. Dena: We have been busy. Thank you to the TCRCD for doing chipping in the Hawkins Bar Salyer Area and South Fork area. We also did the scotch broom pull in Trinity Village. I am the neighborhood ambassador here on Coon Creek Rd. and we pulled around 4-5 plants. Down in the village they pulled all morning. The WRTC came out and spent 3 weeks doing fuels reduction and hazard tree removal. They left the wood for people in the community to get firewood. Chester and Sophia and the crew were very easy to work with.
 - b. Dena: We are looking forward for the Watershed Research and Training Center returning to the neighborhood when the CWDG comes into effect.
 - c. Skylar: If someone has not been reached or missed the chipping, if we have funding at the end we will come back.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- d. Dena: Outreach that works best is messaging, emailing and calling people personally. There has to be person to person contact to get the word out about these programs.
 - e. Skylar: Thank you for getting the word out and spreading information!
- h. Trinity PUD
- a. Dave DeLange: We were awarded the community wildfire defense grant by the USDA. This is a 2.9 million dollars over the next 5 year to do hazard tree abatement on private property and possibly expanding it to service drops. We will also be doing shaded fuel breaks across the system. A lot of grants do not allow for hazard tree abatement but we would like to partner with the WRTC or TCRCO to do that work. There is also a CAL FIRE Grant for doing shaded fuel break along federal land.
 - b. Kelly: Do you have a timeline for when the WRAP project gets finished and you can start on the next one.
 - c. Dave: The date keeps on getting pushed back. I am hearing late June now but as soon as we get our paperwork in line, it will start right then. I have a backlog of work. For the fuels work we will be starting in the North County and moving our way down.
 - d. Pat: I heard that the WRAP draft is in a 30 day review and will then go out as a public draft.
 - e. Dave: Correct, that is what the June date is
 - f. Pat: Whenever you are ready to do the hazard trees on the power lines for our property, just let us know.
- i. Trinity County RCD
- a. Skylar: Bethany could not be here today but she sent a list of updates for forest health. We got funding for our Community Wildfire Defense Grant ask. This is for \$7.9 million to do fuels reduction work from Big Flat to Burnt Ranch. Community chipping is going well. We will be in Douglas City, Lewiston, Trinity Center and Coffee Creek over the next three weeks. We are starting our PG&E project in Salyer with the WCFSC. Eight of our staff completed cruiser training with the FS. Fuels Crews are working out in the Kenny Camp area and in Coffee Creek, SuzyQ, Rush Creek Rd and Trinity Center. A contract was signed with Trinity River Lumber to log a small plot on Oregon.
 - b. Miles: Thank you to the neighborhood ambassadors who helped coordinate and all the volunteers who showed up and made the events possible.
 - c. Kelly: The Wildfire Risk Team came and we wanted to sell them on the work we do and the partnerships we have. We first stopped in the WCF and we talked about the history of the FSC, CWPP and how these partnerships we built. Randi Paris represented the WRTC and how our partnerships have grown and supported the Forest. We had some conversations with people from the funding stream. 16 million was award the first year and 32 million was awarded the second year with a lot of the going into blanket purchase agreements and contract work that has already begun. We got to talk about how the money affects things. We had 3 stops. The WCF, Big Ranch (Big Bar to Burnt Ranch), the Pilot Project. Supervisor Heidi Carpenter Harris talked. She gave a speech on how important this money is and how it affects the community. People commented on how important it was to hear about the TCRCO, WRTC and Trinity County's story. I took away the idea that we sold it and can count on more funding heading our way in the future. It was an honor to attend and show up for the local staff and the larger projects we have going on.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- j. Trinity County Planning
 - a. No attendee or report
- k. Trinity County OES
 - a. No attendee or report
- l. Trinity County Natural Resources
 - a. David: There was a contract signed between the TCRCD and the BOS. This will allow us to work on environmental compliance, CEQA and NEPA.
 - b. David: Some of these projects are the RAT Tail (Trinity Forest Health and Trinity Fire Resilient Communities Project) helping to assist them in drafting an EA, and the Junction City Wildfire Risk Reduction project in the monument fire footprint.
 - c. David: The Trinity headwaters NEPA certification just went to the BOS, which is 10,000 acres of land acquisition in partnership with the land trust and the WRTC.
 - d. David: I am also emailing about the FS GNA SPA (Supplemental Project Agreement) Amendment that is for \$1.5 m
 - e. David: Sophia, I amended the existing SPA to include contract work and roadside work and include chipping. It includes an order of \$30,000. I will sit down with the FS and County DOT and identify projects that are of interest to both of us.
 - f. David: We finally got a letter of approval to remove some trees for defensible space at the Trinity County Airport.
 - g. David: The WAVE event happened which was a fuels reduction event in the Sydney Gulch area. It included blackberry removal.
 - h. Kelly: I wanted to let you know that I signed the contract and have a copy for you ready at the office.
 - i. Carol: Which trees around the airport will be removed?
 - j. David: Some of the trees around the south end by the hanger. Also blackberry and riparian vegetation will be removed.
 - k. Kelly: To talk more about the Sydney Gulch Project, our WSP member gathered a group of volunteers to remove blackberry in front of the Lee Ranch House. WSP members as well as community members cut away and hauled off three dump trailer loads of blackberry and some black locust. It was hauled off to be burned later at the Lowden Park vegetation area.
 - l. Chris: I was there on Saturday to help out clean up the area. The Weaverville VFD were now able to use the part of the creek and use a piece of equipment that we did not have a use for before. We used it in our recent training.
- m. Trinity County Collaborative Group
 - a. Jerry: We are trying to move towards in person meetings as we know so many good things happen during breaks and lunches. There are going to be lots of field trips to potential projects in Hayfork, Trinity Center, Mad River, Big Ranch and Bowerman. We want to reach out to David to bring him into the collaborative GNA. We felt like there was more interest in forest management as far watershed level management went and less about boundaries.
 - b. Larry: We have a series of field trips planned. This includes Bowerman and South Fork Mountain. In July, we will go out to Big Ranch. In August, we will look at the North County Risk Reduction Plan. In September will also be going out to Hayfork. I have been pushing Tara to plan some projects in Junction City.
- n. Trinity County BOS

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- a. No attendee or report.
- o. Trinity Center VFD
 - a. Carol: Three foresters have looked at the Hobel Dump Site and concluded that it is not merchantable yet. It is best for fuels reduction through the RCD and wait for a timber harvest in the future.
 - b. Also the tubgrinder is at Hobel Dump right now and is being used to get rid of the brush that has been there. They put the stuff from out of the tub grinder right under a tree.
- p. Post Mountain
 - a. Garry: There is nothing going in Post Mountain pretty much ever. There is standing dead timber in the area for the first quarter mile that you enter.
 - b. JoSan: And there is about 4ft brush now that has grown up underneath that.
 - c. Garry: People out there need to get the message to cut back the fuels around their fences.
 - d. Kelly: That is something that perhaps our outreach department could look at. Flowra also has a lot of clients in the area that could reach out to them.
 - e. Amelia: The FSC has been doing community chipping in Post Mountain and the WRTC has been doing fuels reduction in the area on private parcels.
 - f. Garry: The problem is a majority of the community is Hmong and they are just not getting the memo that there needs to have fuels reduction done as well as a lack of trust.
 - g. David: For licensed cannabis farmers, it is required under an EIR for them to take wildfire risk into account. So the county can help them understand what that would look like.
 - h. Garry: Well there are barely any licensed cannabis farms at all in Post Mountain. CDFW is doing raids this year because they are worried about soil and runoff into the streams.
 - i. Sophia: I wanted to chime in for the Watershed Center. The chipping was today for PM. I am interested in developing out outreach for the PM community and there has been discussion of Hmong translation.
 - j. Garry: I know there are fliers out there that are about burning your stuff and they are in Hmong. I want to get those to out to people
- q. Tehama-Glenn FSC
 - a. No attendee or report.
- r. SPI
 - a. No attendee or report.
- s. Southern Trinity FSC
 - a. No attendee or report.
- t. SAFE
 - a. Larry: Putting on my South Fork Mountain hat, we are seeing lots of money go towards the downriver communities and would like to see some go towards the South Fork Area.
- u. NRCS

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- a. Tiffany: Continuing to work with landowners over the county primarily doing fuels reduction and fire recovery cleanup projects started. Some of these are north of Kettempom area. We will also be doing a joint chiefs tour which is a way for us to get targeted funding. This is in collaboration with the Forest Service and different groups in the county. We will be touring different sites and accepting applications.

- v. Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu
 - a. No attendee or report.

- w. NCUAQMD
 - a. Skylar: Debra Harris wanted to share that the CAL FIRE Del Norte has two curtain burners. They are operating within the district. We have another application for an ACI in process. The district has approved for a new round of prescribed burn funding and will use these funds to cover costs for outreach smoke management plans to promote prescribed fire. On May 6th, the EPA updated its fine particulate matter index

- x. Lower Trinity PBA
 - a. No attendee or report.

- y. Lewiston VFD
 - a. No attendee or report.

- z. Hyampom FSC
 - a. No attendee or report.

- aa. Caltrans
 - a. No attendee or report.

- bb. CAL FIRE
 - a. No attendee or report.

- cc. BLM
 - a. Mike: The Reading and Indian Creek expansion has been signed. We are moving forward with the timeline and specs. The TCRCO or FSC had asked for an additional 100 acres of WCF land to do fuels reduction on. The Forest Service also has a small sliver of land that we will help work on in the Weaverville area. We are looking in the Junction City area to do work on near the river and the ridgelines. We are being asked to do our side of the NEPA to allow the work to go down to the river. We are also looking at Helena and the Union Hill and pond areas. Once we are done with Reading Creek, we will look into the other areas.
 - i. Chris: We have noticed a large number of piles up Oregon St. We were wondering if there is a plan for them to get burned.
 - ii. Mike: We are aware of the piles and they are on our list. We are done burning piles for the season and our main focus this winter was working in Little Browns Creek. It was a wet winter but we will get back to them next winter.
 - iii. Kelly: These piles are on BLM land and made by BLM crews with the intent to burn them in the fall. For the Oregon Mt Timber Sale, we have entered into an agreement with Trinity River Lumber. Operations will likely get started next week with a field tour scheduled for June 20th once operations are started. It is

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

a sale of around 1 million board feet. We will have about a quarter million dollars to do additional service work. This includes roads and culvert work.

7. Future Discussion Items

Next Meeting: June 27, 2024

1. Pat: Right now we have lots of projects we want do and we actually have lots of money to do it. Is there a way we need to finesse the CWPP that looks out into the next five years to envision projects that are proposed and already funded, but not implemented.
2. Skylar: So like how do we reprioritize the projects to better understand which ones are not funded and are not implemented?
3. Pat: Yes, just something to think about.

End: 2:47