



Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting

Thursday, March 23, 2023, 1:00 pm

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



Minutes

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. Attendees

- a. Charlie Curtin, Miles Raymond, Kelly Sheen, Amelia Fleitz, Chris Cole, Bethany Llewellyn (TCRCD); Nancy Curran, Amanda Ewing, Tim Ritchey (USFS); Randi Paris, Xander Winter (WRTC); Jerry Cousins, Larry Glass (SAFE); Charlie Holthaus (Rush Creek), Janelle Johnson (Coffee Creek), Nancy Anderson (Lewiston) (Neighborhood Ambassadors); Dave Delange (TPUD); Regina Moon (Willow Creek FSC); Ren Winter (TRL/Corral Creek Timber); Philip Simi (TCOES); Dena Magdaleno (Tsnungwe/Lower Trinity PBA)

2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

- a. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

3. Grants

- a. There were no requested letters of support or grants to discuss.

4. Fire Safe Council Update

- a. Amelia Fleitz stated that TCRCD was successful in submitting the proposal for the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant, which was in partnership with the Watershed Research and Training Center and the Weaverville Volunteer Fire Department. There is no news about the status as of yet. As of March 22, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council has filled the Fire Safe Council Coordinator position. The individual, who has not been announced at this time, will join TCFSC in mid-April.
- b. Amelia also noted that instead of the typical Wildfire Preparedness Day event in early May, TCFSC is encouraging and working with Neighborhood Ambassadors to set up events in their own areas. The intention is to hold Wildfire Preparedness Day next year in Hayfork. TCRCD and WRTC will be hosting community chipping in May, with dates to be released in the upcoming weeks.
- c. There is a walk on the Capitol in April in Sacramento. The intention is to advocate for continuation of statewide funding for county coordinators through the California Fire Safe Council. Pat Frost will be attending. If anyone is interested in attending, they should contact Amelia at afleitz@tcrd.net.

5. Project Updates

- a. BLM
- b. CAL FIRE
- c. Caltrans
- d. Hyampom FSC

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- e. Lower Trinity PBA
 - i. Lower Trinity PBA received the USFS grant and planning can begin. The project involves building buffer zones behind the Downriver communities to treat areas where they border National Forest. The PBA will be involved in the actual clean up, but details are still being worked out.
- f. NRCS
- g. NCUAQMD
- h. Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu
- i. SAFE
- j. SPI
- k. Southern Trinity FSC
- l. Tehama-Glenn FSC
- m. Trinity Center VFD
- n. Trinity County BOS
- o. Trinity County Collaborative Group
 - i. Jerry Cousins noted that the group just had a meeting with the USFS to discuss how best to utilize the nearly \$16 million that the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests recently received to conduct landscape-scale fuels treatments. TCCG is looking to reestablish the forestry group to work with the USFS as the funds received must be allocated by the end of the fiscal year. Larry Glass mentioned that TCCG had a discussion with the BLM about their Oregon Mt. project in the WCF. Scoping for that project has opened as of 3/20/23. Kelly Sheen noted that the USFS is planning to treat 6,500 acres as part of the IRL funding by October 1st, 2023. Bimonthly meetings through the collaborative group will continue, as well as regular 3rd Friday field tours. Part of the need for the increased meetings and field trips is to drum up public support and solicit public opinion on how the USFS should allocate the funding.
- p. Trinity County OES
 - i. Philip Simi noted that TCOES is assessing damage from recent storms, especially in Southern Trinity. Environmental Health will be out there in the coming weeks making thorough assessments. TCOES has a damage assessment tool on their website and Facebook page, where residents can report damage sustained and submit photos. In April, TCOES will be purchasing an online ham radio course in the next month. All 9 Local Area Advisors are interested in getting their ham radio license through the program. Philip reached out to local VFDs as well to gauge interest. The County will be purchasing and setting up 21 ham radio stations in the coming months in strategic locations, such as schools. The course takes about 10 hours to complete, and then testing and licensing will go through the local amateur radio club. TCOES also

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met recently with seniors in Trinity County to promote Code Red and Know Your Zone.

- q. Trinity County Planning
- r. Trinity County RCD
 - i. Chris Cole started with the CAL FIRE grant, mentioning that the implementation covers private land in Lewiston, BOR land, a State Lands Commission parcel east of Weaverville, scattered private parcels around Weaverville, and USFS and private land around Rush Creek Rd. RCD crews have been working on a unit around Browns Creek, which will be finished this week. They started working on BLM land in the Glennison Gap area. After that the crews will begin working on a 50 acre BLM unit by Reading Creek. A contract going to bid this week involves cutting and piling 140 acres on a ridgeline on Browns Mountain. All crews are back on staff, with 4 crews of 4 people each. Chris has accepted a position as the local NRCS District Conservationist and will be beginning next month. Kelly has been working with the USFS on a 10 year stewardship agreement to add modifications to simplify the agreement and contracting process. The agreement is cross-boundary between Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers and will expedite the path to implementation.
- s. Trinity PUD
 - i. Dave DeLange noted that the recent storms have brought down an enormous amount of trees, and the fuel loads should be paid close attention to this summer. TPUD will be doing fuels reduction along their roadsides in the coming weeks. The RAP project is in its 4th draft. Members of the USFS and the BLM have voiced concerns, which will be addressed before the final draft is released to the public in a few months.
- t. Trinity River Lumber
 - i. Ren Winter noted that TRL is looking into a pilot project to haul biomass from USFS projects to an SRM plant. Their loggers are working in Wildwood on a salvage harvest from the McFarland Fire.
- u. Tsnungwe
- v. UC Cooperative Extension
- w. USFS Shasta-Trinity NF
 - i. Tim Ritchey noted that the USFS has been working on Trinity Dam Blvd. The largest unit by Mary Smith Campground has been finished. 14 acres of burning remains to be done by Pine Cove Marina. USFS will also be burning piles in the area created by TPUD and CAL FIRE. They will be discussing the project with WRTC to conduct fuels reduction around Junction City. There is

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no implementation on the South Fork right now because of the snow. Any crews not involved in burning right now are working on assessing damage and clearing FS roads. WCF Phase II is nearly completed. Once signed, implementation on the east side of East Weaver Creek campground can begin.

- x. USFS Six Rivers NF
 - i. Nancy Curran mentioned that Six Rivers NF is working on a project to conduct 4,500 acres of hazard tree abatement in the August Complex footprint. It's broken up into three areas: Northeast Mad River Watershed, Mad Ridge South, and Devil Gate South. There are 4 IRFC stewardship contracts. 3 of those projects will be in the Jones Ridge area, involving noncommercial fuels treatments. The top priority is clearing and opening roads. Six Rivers has rented a backhoe to start implementation. They are also working with the Northern California Resource Center on the road work. They are using local contractors to conduct the work. Additionally, their ranger is requesting a storm damage flight to assess damage to roads and facilities. The ranger just issued a permit to PG&E to establish a weather monitoring station on Horse Ridge.
- y. The Watershed Research & Training Center
 - i. Randi Paris stated that implementation is slow, but WRTC is working on some storm damage cleanup around Hayfork. WRTC was awarded the Community Wildfire Defense grant to conduct two projects. One project will include fuel break work on private lands, on Democrat Ridge and above Dutton Creek. The other involves treatments on private lands around Hyampom. WRTC is looking to hire more positions in accordance with the work that the USFS priority landscape funding will bring. Humboldt County RCD was also awarded the CWDG funding. Scoping on the Bowerman Ridge Project will be open soon, once the final signatures are received by the end of March.
- z. Weaverville VFD
 - aa. Willow Creek FSC
 - i. Regina Moon said that Willow Creek FSC hosted a successful dinner to drum up donations. They are unable to process green waste in their area because of storm damage. The air curtain burner will return to the area soon. Their chipping program will return mid-April and continue through the Spring. Willow Creek FSC will be offering defensible space work to 15 homes that the community services district was originally intending to work on. CWDG was awarded to the Willow Creek area for \$5.1 million. Work will be conducted in the outlying areas on private land and complement the work that the USFS will be doing around the Lower Trinity River. Willow Creek FSC is holding a Firewise Fair and Youth Ecology Day on May 20th. There will be a home

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hardening workshop that day. They are also working on hosting a Neighborhood Ambassadors event. There is also a PG&E grant in the works to purchase another air curtain burner that will stay in the Lower Trinity area and be used between Willow Creek and Orleans.

6. Discussions:

a. CAL FIRE - Fire Hazard Severity Zones 2022 Proposed Fire Hazard Severity

- i. <https://calfire-forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4466cf1d2b9947bea1d4269997e86553>
- ii. 2007 and 2022 PDFs are attached.
- iii. Some areas ranked "moderate" or "high" in the 2007 map have been changed to "very high". Homeowners have voiced concerns about their insurance being dropped due to the new map. The model can't be used by insurance companies to drop customers; they must use their own actuarial models. Amelia urged homeowners to report any instances of this and look to their local VFD for a letter of support or statement that they are in a Firewise Community. These have been helpful in the past for homeowners to maintain their insurance. CAL FIRE wanted to stress that this is a hazard model, not a risk model, and that insurance companies can only use risk models. Most of the changes in FHSZs have involved increased severity in Southern Trinity, but most of the county's hazard severity has remained the same.

- b. Amelia noted that the FSC will plan a coordination meeting for the Downriver area to address gaps in treatment areas between the various stakeholders and landowners.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm

Next Meeting: April 27, 1pm.