

## MEETING AGENDA

Torrance County and Claunch-Pinto SWCD Community Wildfire Protection Plans  
(CWPP) Core Team  
October 11th 2007  
9:00 am- 12:00 pm

### I. Introductions

Dr. Dave Lightfoot (Project Manager) introduced the planning team from SWCA: Victoria Williams (planning lead), Krista Bonfantine (Sub-Contractor to SWCA) and Duncan Wadsworth (Biologist). John Cordova who is overseeing the project for Torrance County was also joined by Joy Ansley (Torrance County Manager). Dierdre Tarr Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) Manager will oversee the project for Claunch-Pinto.

Other attendees are listed in the attachment.

### II. Overview of CWPP Process: Presented (Vicky)

Vicky provided an overview of a CWPP, also outlined in the CWPP handbook provided to the Core Team.

*Some Background information:*

*A CWPP is a collaborative planning document that helps communities to identify and refine priorities for the protection of life, property and critical infrastructure in the WUI. A CWPP does not provide for implementation of treatments it is merely a plan that outlines recommendations and priorities for treatment. Another point is that the plan is not a fire management plan in the sense that it directs fire suppression, it is a fire prevention plan for treatments that could be implemented before a fire passes through.*

*The CWPP was born from the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 which provided new authorities to implementing the National Fire Plans goal of reducing hazardous fuels on federal lands. HFRA also provided opportunities to bolster community led fuels management planning and that's where the CWPP comes in.*

*HFRA specifically states that the annual program of work for Federal land should give priority to fuel reduction projects that protect at-risk communities or watersheds or for fuel reduction projects that implement recommendations from a CWPP. The weight given to recommendations made through CWPPs therefore provides a significant incentive to communities to develop these plans. The CWPP is also a pre-requisite for many funding opportunities for*

*implementing fuels reduction and so if a community has completed or even is in the process of completing a CWPP they are put at the top of the list for funding.*

Two separate plans will be written one for Torrance County and one for CPSWCD. This Core team will collaboratively plan both plans. Federal Agencies act as an advisory role in this planning process, but the plans are community driven facilitated through the core team.

Three entities have to be in agreement with the final document and they are:

- The applicable local government (counties/cities)  
The local fire department (s)  
State Forestry
  
- Requirements
  - a. Collaboration
  - b. Prioritized Fuels Reduction
  - c. Treatment of Structural Ignitability
- Goals
  - a. Improve prevention and suppression
  - b. Reduce Hazardous forest fuels through recommendations that are easily implemented and followed
  - c. Restore Forest and watershed health
  - d. Promote community involvement
  - e. Provide public outreach to educate and inform communities
  - f. Provide communities with a plan that will provide a foundation for future grant and funding opportunities.
  
- Review of tasks (Vicky)

7 Tasks involved in writing a CWPP, Vicky provided an overview of those tasks:

#### Task 1: Engage Interested Parties and Form Core Team

Call for recommendations for other groups or individuals to be involved:

- Large land owners – i.e. McAllister
- Holloman? sp?
- Representative from Deer Canyon Preserve
- Clines Corner
- NM DOT – Mike Anaya
- State Land Office – Tye Chester

## Task 2: Establish a Community Base Map

Core Team received examples of preliminary base maps. These maps provide baseline data about the planning area and help us to identify values and communities at risk and provide focus for the risk assessment.

## Task 3: Develop an Initial CWPP Outline

This will be like a summary document of what the final CWPP will include and so at an early stage Core Team input is important in directing us to any issues and problems that may need to be addressed in the final document. The Core Team were shown examples of previous CWPPs.

## Task 4: Develop a Community Risk Assessment

There are a number of components to this task for example how to determine community at risk, how to define WUI and what to base the risks on. The results can be displayed in a map format and will utilize the base maps developed in task 2.

## Task 5: Establish Community Priorities and Recommendations

Community involvement is a key component of the CWPP. Krista discusses later in the meeting.

## Task 6: Develop an Interim Draft CWPP with an Action Plan

All of the previous tasks are compiling information in order to draw up the draft CWPP plan. As part of the draft plan we will develop an action plan that will have suggested project types, locations, timelines and monitoring. Projects will be based on priorities established using Core team and public input.

## Task 7: Complete the Final CWPP

Comments from the Core Team will be incorporated into the final document and this will be provided to the County. Electronic versions of the final plan will be made available to the Core Team.

The Core Team are to assist in obtaining signatures for the final documents.

- Review of Schedule
  - Krista discussed major deadlines:
    - i. Task 1-4- November 21<sup>st</sup>
    - ii. Tasks 5-6- February 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - iii. Task 7- May 9<sup>th</sup>

### III. Role of the Core Team in CWPP Process

Krista discussed the importance of the Core Team, comparing them to a Board of Commissioners who assist in decision making and guiding the plan. The Core Team are encouraged to help spread the word about the CWPPs and to gather input from their colleagues and other interested parties.

### IV. CWPP Data Review

Vicky discussed data needs and role of the Core Team in obtaining data:

Ruben Gastelum volunteers that he has a large amount of GIS based data for Torrance County.

Vicky asks for input on Critical Infrastructure:

- Ruben states there are no hydrants east of Moriarty
- Stock tanks are used frequently for suppression
- Call for identification of stock tanks as part of the plan/recommendations
- Jan Eshleman suggests we make recommendation for funding to ID all stock tanks and provide up-keep.
- John Cordova states that there is verbal agreement given by landowners for use of stock tanks.
- Cheri Lujan suggests that the NRCS may be a good source for stock tank data.
- Ruben says he has much of the critical infrastructure data- bridges, transmission lines, properties.
- Dee Tarr says that CNM Electric Coop would be the source for a lot of utility data.
- The Core Team discuss identifying locations of large propane tanks.
  - o City of Moriarty/ Fire dept would have information/maps of "Tank Farm" refill station.
  - o EMW gas
  - o Lopez Propane
  - o El Paso Pipeline Group- John Cordova said he had contact details.
  - o Dee Tarr to get details for Norman Gonzalez- Enron Pumping Station

- Dee Tarr to get details for El Paso Natural Gas in Lincoln County.
- Call for Fire History Data:
  - Karen Lightfoot can get this information from State Forestry, Santa Fe.
  - Ken Smith from NM Forest and Watershed Health Institute is developing a map. Vicky to Contact him.
- Call for Restoration Treatment data:
  - East Torrance SWCD has paper maps of treatments. Cheri Lujan.
  - Park Service has treatment data. Derek Toms.
  - Dee Tarr has treatment data for CPSWCD.
- Vicky asks about CRP lands:
  - John Perea with ETSWCD has CRP land data.
- Vicky asks about other land owners who should be represented on the maps:
  - Chilili Land Grant land has been mapped- Dee
  - Manzano Land Grant has been mapped- Dee
  - Torreon Land Grant- Cheri
  - Tijique Land Grant- Cheri
  - Bud Latven suggests that subdivisions should be mapped. Ruben has this information.
  
- Vicky asks for Core Team to provide any fire plans, treatment plans, emergency management plans for the CWPP areas.

## V. WUI: Definition

Discussion regarding the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) definition. The Core Team can establish their own local definition.

*At least 50% of all funds appropriated for projects under the HFRA must be within the WUI. Default definition of WUI as defined by HFRA Section 101(16) is:*

*"An area extending 1/2 mile from the boundary of an at-risk community"*

*The 1/2 mile distance can be tailored to our plan, for example HFRA states that the WUI may extend to 1 1/2 miles where the, at risk community is surrounded by a steep slope. Fuels treatments can occur along evacuation routes regardless of their distance from the community.*

- Karen Lightfoot suggests that the definition of WUI be as loosely based as possible.
- Wayne Granger (Estancia fire Chief) suggests that each community should be given equal priority because each area can affect adjacent areas.
- Ruben can supply maps of subdivisions and the WUI boundary can be applied to all subdivisions and Municipalities, as well as major escape routes.
- Vicky to provide example WUI map for next meeting for Core Team to comment on.
- Jan asks how two plans will affect those living in the overlap areas.
  - o Dee says plans will compliment each other and not compete. CP plan will be similar to Torrance County in the Torrance County area, CP will also incorporate Lincoln, Socorro and Valencia County elements.

## VI. International Urban-Wildland Interface Code:

The ICC code was introduced and Wayne Granger was familiar with its use. The Code has not been adopted so far in the County, but Chief Granger emphasizes the value of some kind of fire code. Terrell Treat states that the code can be incorporated fully, partially or not at all in the plan. More discussion on the code in the next meeting.

## VII. Public Meetings/Outreach:

Krista discusses the need for several meetings to cover the two CWPP planning areas.

- 2 sets of meetings are agreed upon, the first set in early November, second in February.
- Core Team discuss venues:
  - i. Piggybacking another event? All big events are very soon, but we can provide surveys to Core Team members attending the Punkin Chunkin festival- Estancia- East Torrance SWCD.
  - ii. Bud Latven suggests hosting public meetings in high risk areas
  - iii. Suggestion that Torreon Community Center would be a good venue for reaching mountain communities.
  - iv. Cheri Lujan suggests ETSWCD annual meeting as a venue. Krista to attend. November 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - v. Acacia meeting in evening on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. Krista to attend?
  - vi. Public meeting venues will include
    1. Estancia- November 8<sup>th</sup> ETSWCD annual meeting
    2. Mountainair- TBA
    3. Torreon- TBA
    4. Moriarty- TBA

## VIII. Risk Assessment-

Risk Assessment to be discussed at next core team meeting. Core Team to familiarize themselves with the process (handout distributed and attached). The following provides some additional background:

### 1. *Community Risk Assessment*

*Purpose:*

- a. *Identify where fuels treatments will reduce risks to communities and infrastructure*
- b. *Prioritize areas for fuels treatments*
- c. *Identify highest priority uses for financial and human resources*

### 2. *Factors in Community Risk Assessment*

*Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability*

- a. *Response capabilities of fire protection forces*
- b. *Equipment*
- c. *Number of firefighters*
- d. *Evacuation plans*
- e. *Safety zones*
- f. *Fire Assistance Agreements*

*Community Values at Risk*

- a. *Cultural Sites*
- b. *Historic Sites*
- c. *Recreation or Scenic Areas*
- d. *Critical Wildlife habitat*

*Critical Infrastructure at Risk*

- a. *Homes*
- b. *Businesses*
- c. *Farms*
- d. *Municipal Water Supply*

*Risk of Wildfire Occurrence*

- a. *Historical data*
- b. *What are common causes of fire?*
- c. *What is frequency?*
- d. *Typical weather patterns?*

Methodology:

- A) GIS weighted overlays
  - a. Fuels/vegetation LANDFIRE or GAP data
  - b. Population data
  - c. Roads
  - d. Structures
  - e. Fire fighting resources

Quite often in these CWPP fire behavior is predicted manually from vegetation data and topography. We can get a more accurate prediction of fire behavior by using Flammap. We can encompass FlamMap into the weighted overlay to get predictions of fire behavior in different fuel types, given actual weather data from RAW stations and using DEM: slope and aspect.

FlamMap

- a. Fire behavior mapping and analysis program that computes potential fire behavior characteristics (spread rate, flame length, fireline intensity, etc.)
  - b. Medium scale
  - c. Makes landscape comparisons
  - d. Identifies hazardous fuel and topographic combinations
  - e. Guides prioritization and assessment
- B) Grid Index
    - a. References specific points of interest,
    - b. Rates hazard components on grid system
    - c. Not as suitable for large areas
  - C) Matrix System
    - a. Describes severity of each given area in a table

**IX. Action Items: IMPORTANT: Data to be retrieved by OCTOBER 25th, 2007 BELOW.**

**X. Schedule of Upcoming Core Team Meetings (Krista)**

- Second Core Team Meeting: three weeks from now 1<sup>st</sup> November (Thursday). Same location. John Cordova to reserve room.

**XI. Other Notes**

- Bud Latven asks if CWPP has “teeth”. Krista says they can and Terrell Treat emphasizes that a CWPP can help a community get to the top of the list for funding, they have power in that federal agencies (Forest Service and BLM) are mandated to address recommendations from a CWPP and they direct funding more effectively on non-federal lands.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Please review the following list of items to determine if you are responsible for any tasks. If you were absent from the meeting please review the tasks to see if you can also provide data from your organizations. Any data can be easily uploaded to the FTP site. Instructions attached. Please email Vicky informing her of what data you are posting.

Task	Core Team Member	Date Due By
Review core team membership and make suggestions with contacts for additional parties	All Core Team	10/19
Review available data from your agencies/organizations and provide copies of plans and GIS data related to fire and treatments to Vicky.	All Core Team	10/25
Contact additional suggested parties for Core Team	Vicky	10/19
Provide Critical Infrastructure and subdivision GIS data in electronic format.	Ruben Gastelum	Vicky to send a list by 10/16, data due 10/25
Contact NRCS regarding Stock Tank location data -whether it is mapped? And whether there is documentation of what stock tanks are available to fire departments for suppression.	Cheri Lujan	10/25
Contact Jonny Perea regarding CRP land mapping	Cheri Lujan	10/25
Contact Propane Companies regarding mapping of tank locations	John Cordova and Dee Tarr provide Vicky with contact details for El Paso pipeline group and Enron pumping station.	10/19
Contact Moriarty Fire Dept regarding mapping of Moriarty	Vicky	10/19

Tank Farm		
Provide Fire History Data from State Forestry	Karen Lightfoot	10/25
Contact Ken Smith	Vicky Williams	10/25
Provide National Park Service Fire History Data, FMP, GIS data on treatments and any other useful vegetation data or structure locations	Derek Toms	10/25
Provide past, current and future treatment (thinning/restoration/prescribed burning) data or documentation.	Dee Tarr for CPSWCD Cheri Lujan for ETSWCD Representative from Edgewood SWCD.	
Map of land Grants Torreon Tijique Manzano Chilili	Cheri Lujan Cheri Lujan Dee Tarr Dee Tarr	10/25
Coordinate with ETSWCD regarding Public Meeting set up on Nov 8th	Krista	10/25
Read handout on CWPP overlays for next meeting	All Core Team	11/1
Discuss public meetings	Vicky and Krista	ASAP
Produce surveys and distribute to Core Team	Vicky and Krista	ASAP