

# Minutes for Claunch-Pinto SWCD and Torrance County Community Wildfire Protection Plans

2nd Core Team Meeting

November 1st, 2007, 10:00am

Estancia Court House- Commissioners Meeting Room

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## 1. Review of first meeting

*Introductions around the room. Sign in sheet attached.*

*Krista discussed the importance of collaboration and asked attendees to describe their goals for the plan.*

## 2. Project Schedule

Tasks Completed:

Task 1: Engage Interested Parties and Form Core Team

Tasks in Progress:

Task 2: Establish a Community Base Map

Task 3: Develop an Initial CWPP Outline

*The outline is attached and ready for review by the Core Team. Jan asked what kind of comments we need. Comments should be based on personal experiences or from viewing other plans from around the country and Core Team member could give suggestions as to items to add or what to leave out.*

*Example web sites are:*

List of CWPPs in Oregon

<http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/docs/PREV/CWPPStatus.pdf>

New Mexico CWPPs

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/FD/FireMgt/cwpps.htm>

*Comments on the outline are due by 11/16.*

## 3. Public Meetings

*Krista describes how the meetings will be run.*

*The first meeting will be held at the East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting- November 8<sup>th</sup> 2:30, Estancia Fair*

*Grounds. Focus will be on personal responsibility and work homeowners can do to protect their homes.*

- 45 minutes long session*
- 5 minute question session to get quantitative feedback*
- PowerPoint presentation*
- Questions*
- Flip charts for feedback*
- Surveys to be handed out*

*The next public meeting to be decided at the next Core Team meeting. One more meeting will be held this year and a second round will be carried out early next year (Feb?).*

*The Core Team discussed the problem of abandoned properties and this needs to be highlighted in the CWPP.*

*Krista distributed a flyer for comments from the Core Team and no significant changes were noted. The flyer has been emailed to the Core Team for distribution by Core Team members and should be posted at prominent*

### *Existing Vegetation Cover:*

*These maps will be an input into the Fire Behavior model. Paul Davies points out this doesn't differentiate by forest type like PJ and Ponderosa Pine. Vicky responds to day that this will also be an input into the fire behavior model (Flammap) as well as fuels maps.*

*George Duffy asks about the scale of the maps and whether we can get more detailed maps made? This project being a county wide map is limited in scope in terms of very detailed maps but we could break down the county into smaller areas in order to identify locations for treatment. Also for the public meeting we have poster sized maps to orientate the public. Jan recommends breaking down Torrance County into quarters. We could also break down by fire district once we receive this information. Also Vicky suggests that if a fine scale map is determined to be a need for the County/District that that need be identified as a recommendation in this plan.*

*George discussed the need for a more detailed and "complete" plan. Dave Bervin and Jack Dickey discuss that this County plan could be a starting point for future community level plans that can provide more detailed attention to the needs and recommendations for those communities. This plan is also supposed to be updated regularly to keep it current.*

*A member asked about how CWPP relates to funding. To clarify Krista discussed that these CWPP are a pre-requisite for a lot of federal and state funding in the WUI. It can also help for public education and fire fighting resources. The plan being a live document is very likely to change over the years and priorities for funding will change with it. Krista called for people to be thinking what would be their wish list for the plan.*

## **5. Define WUI**

*Vicky introduced the WUI definition and highlights that the Core Team has the flexibility to define their own WUI. She introduced the default definition as "1/2 mile from the boundary of an at risk community". Paul Davis raises the question of why not use the default definition and he addresses the concern that HFRA funding may not be available if we use a definition that is not applicable for funding.*

*Krista replies that based on the CWPP planning handbook the core team are not tied to the default definitions set under HFRA and it is a benefit to the Core Team and the community that we can adjust that definition based on fuel type and what are deemed as values. Jack Dickey mentioned that for Socorro the varied fuels meant that the WUI buffer was flexible to account for different flame lengths. The distance can be flexible also in these plans.*

*Other Core Team members agreed the default is a good starting point. It was decided that we would start with the  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile distance and build from it based on fuels, weather, fire fighting capabilities etc. We would list communities at risk and then we would assess what kind of buffer size would be applicable around those communities.*

*Vicky discussed using the fuels to direct the WUI. The fuels maps will be an input in the Fire Behavior model (using Flammap).*

*A discussion ensued about the level of risk for each community. The prioritized list of communities at risk will be developed later in Core Team discussion and will supplement the GIS model.*

*Paul Davis asks why include a WUI at all in this plan if we prioritize areas after setting the WUI. Krista and Terrell Treat state that it is a mandate of a CWPP. It is also a benefit as it allows us to identify areas of population as well as values at risk in the County/District. WUI can also encompass values like watershed, wildlife habitat, escape routes etc.*

*Krista suggests we have a buffer around evacuation routes. A member calls for the forest service boundary to be the western boundary for the WUI. George Duffy points out that we should consider that the WUI makes a commitment on the part of fire fighters to protect facilities at risk and there is significant risk to fire fighters.*

*A list of communities was compiled to identify where people live and what are values at risk across the landscape:*

*Bella Vista Estates*

*Capilla Peak*

*Manzano*

*Sherwood Forest*

*Loma Parda*

*Red Canyon*

*Caballos  
Tajique  
Outskirts Subdivisions  
Deer Canyon  
Pinon Hills  
Valentine Ranch  
Manzano Morning  
Beranco Canyon  
Mission Hills  
Railroad  
Youth Camps  
INLOW  
IOOF  
Manzano Mountain Retreat (Apple Orchard)  
Evacuation Routes and staging areas.*

*A member discussed the importance of having a WUI that anticipates growth as there is a lot of development occurring in the area.*

*Krista suggests we consider items on the critical infrastructure list to be in the WUI. Plus major roads, railroads will be identified as evacuation routes (1 mile buffer either side of the road and a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile buffer either side of the railroad). Monuments and Arch sites are to be identified, as well as the State Park. In the plan we need to consider places for people to evacuate to, as well as staging areas for fire departments to operate from. Krista emphasizes that there isn't a downside to broadly defining the WUI at this stage.*

*Vicky to send out draft version of the WUI buffer for comments from Core Team. Deadline for comments will be 11/12.*

**6. International Wildland Urban Interface Code–**  
*To be discussed in a later meeting.*

**8. Community Risk Assessment**  
*To be discussed at next Core Team meeting 12/3.*

*Krista introduces the idea of risk and hazard. She bases these on the Fireline Handbook definitions which are:*

*Risk: The chance of fire starting as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents. i.e. cigarette being thrown from a car.*

*Paul identifies the importance of considering fire history when identifying chance.*

*Hazard: A fuel complex defined by kind, arrangement, volume, condition and location that forms a special threat of ignition and resistance to control.*

*So we have been talking about Hazard when we discuss the risk assessment. State Forestry does not have an operating definition for the risk assessment that we can base our definition on.*

*Paul says we need to address the likelihood of fire starting and that we use risk for the assessment. But Krista highlights that we can't assign probability to a fire starting. For the purpose of this document Krista says we should look at the chance of values at risk being affected by fire.*

*Lance Elmore says in the Forest Service they don't assign probability when addressing fire management because of the inherent difficulty in assigning probability to fire starts.*

*Paul Davis says he has fire history data for the Manzanos that we can use. Krista states we cannot assign probabilities of fire starts over the landscape in terms of a number, only probability relatively. Krista calls for more information on the subject if available.*

*Terrell Treat stated that the risk assessment is based on construction, roads width, fuels.*

*Dave Bervin highlights that risk of fire will be part of the assessment. Fire History data will be included in this assessment and will be incorporated into the modeling process.*

*Jack Dickey suggested we look at the matrix they used in the Socorro plan. Vicky stated that a similar matrix will be used at the next meeting when we discuss the priorities.*

*Krista stated that we will come up with a definition for the Risk assessment that we will work with.*

## **9. Action Items**

Next Core Team Meeting- 12/3 same place (Estancia Court House, commissioners meeting room at 10am.)

<i>Task</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Due By</i>
<i>WUI Boundary feedback</i>	<i>Core Team</i>	<i>11/12</i>
<i>Outline feedback</i>	<i>Core Team</i>	<i>11/12</i>
<i>Complete surveys return to Vicky</i>	<i>Core Team</i>	<i>11/31</i>
<i>Identify other events to piggyback off of for public meetings</i>	<i>Core Team</i>	<i>12/3</i>
<i>Fire District Data – Socorro County Boundary locations and resources</i>	<i>Jack Dickey</i>	<i>11/12</i>
<i>Fire District Data– Torrance County Boundary locations and resources</i>	<i>Jason Trumbull</i>	<i>11/12</i>
<i>Contact Railroad representative</i>	<i>Dee Tarr</i>	<i>11/12</i>
<i>Locations for subdivisions listed in minutes</i>	<i>Dee Tarr/ Ruben</i>	<i>11/12</i>
<i>State Environment department gas structures, gas lines and transmission lines</i>	<i>Duncan Wadsworth</i>	<i>11/12</i>
<i>Fuels Treatment data and fire history data</i>	<i>Lance Elmore</i>	<i>11/12</i>
<i>Fuels Treatment data and fire history data BLM</i>	<i>Todd Richards</i>	<i>11/12</i>