

APPENDIX B: Mill Creek CWPP Risk Reduction Projects

UPDATED: 6/2/2020

In collaboration with community members, local, county, state and federal government agencies, and local and state fire officials, this CWPP establishes and prioritizes wildfire risk reduction projects that have been developed to address the most significant risks identified in the Mill Creek Community Risk Assessment. This project list is a living document and will be periodically updated in the future to reflect progress and changing priorities.

PRIORITY RATINGS

- H = High Priority
- M = Medium Priority
- L = Low Priority

PROJECT CATEGORIES - Projects have been categorized as follows:

- Access & Evacuation
- Fuels Reduction
- Ignitions Reduction
- Emergency Notification and Communication
- Funding & Organization
- Post Fire Preparedness

LIST OF PROJECTS

- A) [Project: Defensible Space](#)
- B) [Project: Early Warning Communication Protocols](#)
- C) [Project: Educate Community on Fuel Reduction Programs and Options](#)
- D) [Project: Fire & Emergency Preparedness Awareness](#)
- E) [Project: Vegetation Management Along Primary and Secondary Roads](#)
- F) [Project: Home Hardening](#)
- G) [Project: Uniform, Reflective Address Sign Program](#)
- H) [Project: Neighborhood and Community Mapping](#)
- I) [Project: Alternate Evacuation Route Development and Maintenance](#)
- J) [Project: Install and Maintain Fire Danger Sign](#)
- K) [Project: Prescribed Broadcast Burns](#)
- L) [Project: Formalize Mill Creek COPE Association](#)
- M) [Post Fire Workshop/s](#)
- N) [Project: Identify and Develop Viable Water Sources](#)

A) Project: Defensible Space

Priority: H

Category/s: Ignition Reduction, Fuels Reduction

Goal: Minimize structural ignition and damage from wildfire (from radiant heat, embers, and direct flame impingement) by reducing/removing vegetation adjacent to structures.

- Conduct an education/awareness campaign via community presentations, site visits, and inspections/assessments to educate on defensible space and fuels reduction.
- Provide training for community members to perform assessments for their neighbors
- Seek funding for contractors to create defensible space and funding for residents and/or property owners who may need financial assistance. Establish criteria for providing funding.
- Develop plan for periodic inspections

Participants: Licensed contractors, FireSafe Sonoma, CAL FIRE, Healdsburg Fire Department, North Bay Fire, Permit Sonoma, property owners, PG&E.

Timing: Year-round assessment/inspections by request. Inspections scheduled for spring through early fall. Associated vegetation management activities by individual property owners can occur year-round.

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

B) Project: Early Warning Communication Protocols

Priority: H

Category/s: Emergency Notification and Communication

Goal: Ensure earliest possible warning during emergencies

- Develop and communicate community and neighborhood wide notification procedures and plans during emergencies
- Include investigating and/or distributing; Phone trees, car horns, text, email, OneCall Now, NOAA Radios other technologies (such as placement of a fire camera in the Mill Cree Area, additional cell tower with battery back-up, etc)
- Develop informal neighbor notifying neighbor recommendations

Participants: Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management, Sheriff and residents

Timing:

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

C) Project: Educate Community on Fuel Reduction Programs and Options

Priority: H

Category/s: Fuels Reduction

Goal: Increase awareness of land management for wildfire fuels reduction

- Engage with existing fuels and timber management programs to reduce potential fuel
- Educate local landowners about CVTP Vegetation Thinning Grants

- Coordinate local workshops on developing Forest Management Plans and THPs, etc. Explore opportunities to restore old-growth characteristics to benefit fish, water quality and birds, and reduce erosion by fuel/veg removal. "Fuel thinning may also improve or maintain the quality of in-stream aquatic habitat for endangered Coho and steelhead. Managing redwood forests to restore fire-resilient old-growth characteristics can also enhance water quality, streambed rehabilitation, and sensitive species in the riparian/redwood ecosystem.
- Bring together officials and groups of residents who may be interested in engaging in these projects

Participants: CAL FIRE, Sonoma Resource Conservation District, FireSafe Sonoma, property owners

Timing:

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

D) Project: Fire & Emergency Preparedness Awareness

Priority: H

Category/s: Access and Evacuation

Goal: Provide community safety training on communication, evacuation, and emergency planning to minimize confusion and ensure efficient response during an emergency

- Include Topics: Emergency "To-do" lists, Go-Bags, Shelter-in-Place Tips, CERT, Special Evac Needs, Animals, Knox box and gate protocols, evacuation signage and annual evacuation drill.

Participants: Licensed contractors, Fire Safe Council, property owners, PG&E, County...?

Timing: Anytime

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

E) Project: Vegetation Management Along Primary and Secondary Roads

Priority: M

Category/s: Access & Evacuation, Fuels Reduction

Goal: Reduce/remove hazardous vegetation along primary and secondary roads to support ingress and egress of residents evacuating, emergency vehicles, and reduce wildfire intensity.

- Mill Creek Road is a county maintained road and the only primary road that serves the Mill Creek Area. Secondary roads are mostly privately maintained and are Mill Creek Lane Wallace Creek Road, Puccioni Road, and Palmer Creek Road
- Identify critical areas and prioritize. Includes: Trimming overhanging branches, chipping all cut and dead material, removing (cut, pull and/or spray) understory shrubs and pruning and/or selective removal of trees or tree branches that; A) pose a risk of falling on powerlines (Ignition); B) trees that may fall on the road and block access (Access & Evac); and C) lower level fuels (dead and alive) that are fuel for fire (Fuel Reduction).
- Identify funding and potential resources to implement work
- Include execution plan and align with available chipper programs
- Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works (TPW) has responsibility to keep the roadway clear of vegetation within their right of way. This distance is usually 5-10 feet

from the edge of Mill Creek Road and the TPW maintained portion of Wallace Creek Road. Beyond the right of way, the responsibility becomes the individual property owner. Environmental review will be required outside of the TPW right of way if government funding will be used for this project.

Participants: Licensed contractors, FireSafe Sonoma, property owners, PG&E, Sonoma County TPW and Department of Emergency Management.

Timing: Year round; avoiding nesting season and red flag days

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources: See Appendix F for potential funding choices and cooperating agencies

F) Project: Home Hardening

Priority: M

Category/s: Ignition Reduction, Fuels Reduction

Goal: Minimize structural ignition and damage from wildfire (from radiant heat, embers, and direct flame impingement) by retrofitting existing structures

- Conduct an education/awareness campaign via community presentations, site visits, and inspections/assessments
- Seek funding for contractors to create defensible space and funding for residents and/or property owners who may need financial assistance. Establish criteria for providing funding.

Participants: Licensed contractors, FireSafe Sonoma, property owners, Permit Sonoma

Timing: Year-round

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

G) Project: Uniform, Reflective Address Sign Program

Priority: M

Category/s: Access and Evacuation

Goal: Ensure first responders can locate emergencies and structures to defend from a wildfire, by having address signs meet Sonoma County ordinance requirements

- Install address signs to meet County Ordinance
- Order and fund payment of signs
- Organize a volunteer day for sign installation

Participants: Residents, Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District, FireSafe Sonoma, and property owners

Timing: Year-round with scheduled community work days.

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

H) Project: Neighborhood and Community Mapping

Priority: M

Category/s: Access and Evacuation

Goal: Provide accurate, useful and updated maps to facilitate firefighting and evacuation efforts during emergencies

- Assume the majority of first responders will not be familiar with the Mill Creek Area
- Complete and update Neighborhood and Community Maps, designed for the initial phases of a rapidly developing, dynamic wildfire situation
- Identify neighborhood meeting points, landing zones, water supply locations
- Explore developing property maps to include better detail on location of water tanks, pools, standpipes etc.
- Include identifying funds/cooperation to better develop fire roads or pre-attack lines (ridgetops, etc)

Participants: CAL FIRE, Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District, residents, and property owners

Timing: Year-round with annual update deadline prior to peak fire season conditions and/or July 1

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

I) Project: Alternate Evacuation Route Development and Maintenance

Priority: M

Category/s: Access and Evacuation

Goal: Provide alternate evacuation options should Mill Creek Road become not feasible as an evacuation route

- Identify and develop additional evacuation routes
- Maintain alternative evacuation routes
- Install signs where feasible
- Develop usage protocols and best practices
- Inform residents of the Mill Creek Area and conduct annual drills.

Participants: Residents and property owners

Timing:

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

J) Project: Install and Maintain Fire Danger Sign

Priority: M

Category/s: Emergency Notification and Communication

Goal: Enhance community awareness of wildfire danger.

- Identify location and install already developed Community Sign as additional form of communication for Red Flag days and other community emergency information
- Develop a protocol for managing sign messaging and maintaining.

Participants: Residents and Healdsburg Boy Scout Troop 21

Timing: May-July 2020

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

K) Project: Prescribed Broadcast Burns & Shaded Fuel Breaks

Priority: M

Category/s: Fuels Reduction, Ignitions Reduction

Goal: Reduce hazardous fuels. Create shaded fuel breaks. Consider additionally, goals of restoring old-growth characteristics to benefit fish, water quality and birds, by controlled burns/Veg removal.

- Phase project to include:
- Identify appropriate/effective locations
- Fund/conduct preburn studies needed for permits
- Conduct any preburn clearing/prep
- Fund and implement prescribed burn
- Carry out follow-up management/planting

Participants: CAL FIRE, property owners, local fire agencies, Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District

Timing: Spring, winter, and fall

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

L) Project: Formalize Mill Creek COPE Association

Priority: M

Category/s: Funding & Organization

Goal: Formalize organizational structure of Mill Creek COPE to drive project work from the CWPP in support of ongoing and long-term fire preparedness and prevention activities, to promote and expand community engagement and participation, and to pursue funding opportunities.

Participants: Licensed contractors, Fire Safe Council, property owners, PG&E, County...?

Timing: (E.g. November 2020 through April 2021. Best in the fall, OK anytime but avoiding nesting season and red flag days)

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources:

M) Post Fire Workshop/s

Priority: M

Category/s:

Goal: Identify and document the post-fire experiences of Sonoma County individuals who were displaced by recent fires and identify the lessons learned.

- Conduct a table-top exercise to determine what project priorities would rise to the top of our list immediately following a wildfire in Mill Creek.

Participants: Local Fire agencies, County Department of Emergency Management, Past fire victims

Timing: Year-round

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: California Conservation Corps, Americorps, (Watershed Stewards Program), California Sea Grants

Potential Funding Sources:

N) Project: Identify and Develop Viable Water Sources

Priority: L

Category/s: Access and Evacuation

Goal: Identify local water sources to aid firefighters and reduce water supply turn around time

- Identify and audit neighborhood water supply locations
- Map locations to Pre-Attack Maps for first responders
- Assist in advising/funding of developing additional water sources
- Develop water storage projects that allow for the collection of water during the wet winter months to 1) offset dry-season water use to assist in Mill Creek streamflow improvement efforts for oversummer salmonid survival and 2) increase water security and reliability in the fire-prone summer/fall months.

Participants: Residents, property owners, fire agencies, and regulatory agencies associated with watercourses

Timing:

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: RCD and ACOE might be sources for funding for this, especially if we mention somewhere in this that by

Potential Funding Sources: