

Trinity County Fire Safe Council History

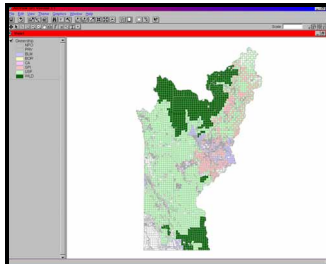
Trinity County Resource Conservation District and the Watershed Research and Training Center recognized the threat of catastrophic fire to our communities and partnered with other state, federal, and local agencies, the Volunteer Fire Departments, and other interested groups and individuals to form the Trinity County Fire Safe Council in 1998 to address this concern. We drafted a Memorandum of Understanding for all participants that outlined our goals, objectives, and tasks. We then applied for and received funding from the State Water Resources Control Board's Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act for the Trinity River Watershed Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project. This project provides for strategic planning and implementing high priority fuel reduction demonstration projects on both public and private lands.

Results....

- The MOU (after some revisions) was approved and signed by 13 key stakeholder agencies/groups which established a proactive coordinated approach to address the risk of catastrophic fires by undertaking strategic planning
- GIS data were compiled from various agencies and landowners for landscape level fire management planning
- A series of community meetings and public workshops were sponsored by the Fire Safe Council and held at Volunteer Fire Department Halls and community centers across Trinity County where residents were asked to help identify and map features relevant to emergency response. Community members also worked with the team to locate and specify values at risk from fire in, and around, their communities.
- In November 2000 a report called "*Recommendations on Trinity County Values at Risk from Fire and Pre-Fire Fuels Treatment Opportunities drawn from Community Meetings*" was presented which prioritized fuel reduction projects around Trinity County. The response to this report has been tremendous, both from individuals and agencies within Trinity County, as well as from other counties hoping to replicate the process that was developed here.
- Fuel reduction demonstration projects have been implemented in three communities as well as on public lands, both BLM and USFS. These include defensible space, thinning, and shaded fuel breaks.
- Extensive public education and outreach through newsletters, brochures, signage, press releases to the local paper, and community workshops.



Strategic Planning at the Community Level



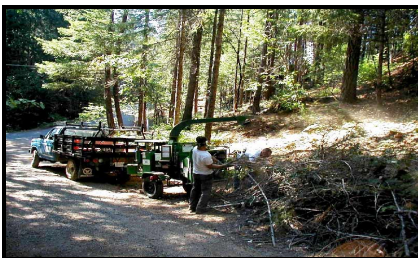
Gather GIS Data



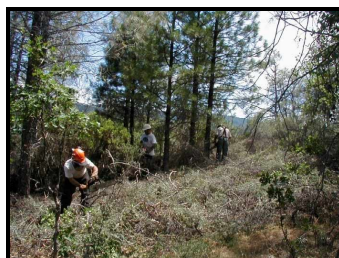
Implement Demonstration Projects

What We Suggest For Others Interested in Using Our Approach...

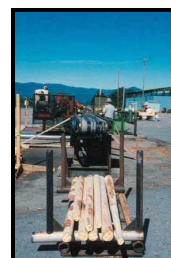
- Developing strong partnerships is very important in a project of this scale and to be able to leverage funds.
- It has been critical to involve local residents' knowledge and expertise about the area they live in.
- Implement demonstration projects concurrently with planning so that progress and examples are apparent to potential participants.



Defensible Space Clearing on Private Lands



Fuel Break on Public Land



Small Diameter Utilization



Extensive Education & Outreach

For more information contact Trinity County RCD at (530) 623-6004 or tcrcd@snowcrest.net