**FIRE MITIGATION COMMITTEE**

**June 13, 2022**

Meeting Opened The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. at the home of Steve Campbell.

Those Present Steve Campbell, Tim Pargee, and Julie Norton.

Review of Projects Fire Drill – The Montezuma County/CMR Fire Drill on May 5th was a great success.

The County Officials were very pleased with the participation of the residents. They

were able to test their evacuation protocols and identify areas which needed to be

revised.

Slash Chipping – Because of the high winds and the expectation of a fire ban, it was

decided not to burn the slash piles. Instead, a chipper was rented. Ten volunteers

showed up with 3 tractors/skid steers and worked for 5 hours to chip the slash. The

remainder of the debris (too small to chip) was put into small piles. A pile of large logs

for firewood was stacked. All the mulch was collected by various property owners for

their personal use. “No Slash” signs were put up for now.

Evacuation Signs – All of the signs were put up prior to the fire drill. They have been

well received by the property owners and the Montezuma County Fire and Law

Officials.

Safe Zone – Bob Sanders continues to work and level the Safe Zone a little at a time. After there is rain, a workday will be called, and the Safe Zone will be enhanced.

Ongoing Mitigation Continued fire mitigation was discussed. Chipping, burning or both? The consensus

was to do both; chip during the spring/summer and burn during winter. The existing

site on Road K.3 will be used for slash collection. Julie requested that the burn piles be

smaller. Chipping on property owners’ sites was discussed. The property owner would

haul the slash to the edge of their property and the chipper would be moved to chip the

slash. The mulch would be kept by the property owner. Time moving the chipper from

place to place would be the drawback.

The program of Native Americans helping with fire mitigation by cutting down dead

trees and taking the wood for family and friends on the reservation worked well in July

and August of last year. Unfortunately, it became difficult to schedule and coordinate

times and days for the Native American crews and CMR volunteers and property

owners. The Committee would like to continue the program. There were 5 different Native American crews in 2021. Steve and Tim will contact last year’s crews and see if they are interested in obtaining firewood again. They will also see if there are others who might be interested in cutting and hauling firewood.

Evacuation Routes Steve Campbell and Bruce Short will oversee the easement evacuation routes in CMR.

These routes need to be toured and evaluated for passibility. The route between J.9 to

J.8 will be the first to be evaluated. Steve will coordinate with the property owners and let them know when this road will be traveled. The condition of the road will be documented with pictures and description before any improvements begin. There may be a grant available and before and after pictures will help. Nothing will be done until July when the cedar gnats are gone.

Work on visibility on Road 35 (especially going down the hill) will be done this summer.

Property owners were notified about the trees bordering Road 35 and their property which need to be cut down last year. If possible, the Committee will work with the

Native Americans to remove the logs for firewood.

Grants Julie and Judi will increase their efforts to identify and write for grants.

Educational Pieces Educational pieces on wildfire prevention, mitigating property, high draught conditions,

burn pile safety issues, spark problems with power tools, mowers, go bag instructions, etc. need to be done. It was suggested that the website be checked to see what is already there. Then develop educational pieces that will enhance what is already there and notify the property owners to go to the website for current information. Julie will check the website for “Go Bag” information.

Adjourned The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nan Campbell