

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

www.plumascollaborative.org

www.plumasfiresafe.org

MEETING MINUTES

February 25th, 2015

Greenville, Town Hall

List of acronyms

CFLR – Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	FSC – Fire Safe Council
QLG – Quincy Library Group	HFR – Hazardous Fuels Reduction
SPI – Sierra Pacific Industries	SOPA – Schedule of Proposed Actions
NRCS – National Resource Conservation Service	SRA – State Responsibility Area
	RAC – Resource Advisory Committee

Commentary during Nils' presentation:

Mark Deley (**Mark**) – Example of the project neighboring the Dawn Institute: Huge brush field, any follow up programs? Treated 4 years ago.

Mike De Lasaux (**Mike D.**) – education is the key, it is time to address these issues.

Mark - YUM Yard unutilizable Material – old practice, why did that stop? Left a percentage of the slash and unmerchantable wood for wildlife, chips went to Sacramento, got to do whatever solution available with biomass.

Mike D. - YUM was part of past contracts, a common practice adjacent to roads, before there was any economy for unmerchantable wood. Since then, we have acknowledged the need for biomass utilization with a balance of wildlife needs.

Mark – people don't always trust the government, even if it is the Fire Safe Council. Mike – still getting lots of people on board and trusting us and our work.

John Sheehan (**John**) – The Dinkey Collaborative has no mills, so all treatments use fire.

Mike D. – they have Terra Bella, a small mill, also starting on creating one biomass facility.

Nils -Reflecting on other collaboratives shows how they have navigated to get funding. Value in reaching out to our community to build a core group. There is resiliency in diversity.

John – FSC has never had any litigation issue – possibly because of our size. FS has though.

Ryan Bauer (**Ryan**) – The Plumas NF has yet to be litigated on community projects.

Roxane Arave How are you going to hire people, who will be doing the work?

Nils – Commonly, we put out a bid prospectus, send to contractors from a maintained contractor list, and have a field trip, then select a contractor. We envision more Forest Service scale projects, probably have the FSC in charge of bidders. We need more local jobs!

Mark – people don't want to work, paying 20-30 per hour and can't get workers. Tried to hire a lawn

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mower for \$25 an hour, couldn't get someone to do it without a riding lawn mower. Welfare an issue.

John – The project area near the Dawn Institute property is terribly steep, created hundreds of piles, and piles caught on fire over a the weekend in the winter. Realized cheapest firm was irresponsible. Rancheria Crew was used next, did an excellent job. Became a credible contractor that wasn't here 5 years ago. A lot more small work available, best way to get it done is get people out in the woods, and he is convinced there are enough workers here.

Nils – The challenge is that price cost per acre to treat is almost as high as buying new acreage.

Nancy – The interactive map is a great tool, the Portola meeting got to use it, quick and effective. Move to Plumas in 2006 to live and stay here. Hough Complex came within 1200' of her house. Having a collaborative will position us for funding, forest plan revision to come in the next few years. Stevens' funds, NRCS examples of agencies helping private land owners, Butterfly Valley has FS work dovetailing NRCS work. Came here during the height of Sierra Nevada framework litigations, which stopped some QLG projects. Litigations finally ended last year, the environmental group suing decided working together would solve more than litigations and letting forests burn. Set back years of work, frustrating because fire is getting to areas before they can implement, for example the Diamond and Chips Fire area. Sierra Forest Legacy litigation ended and now they are a partner in collaboratives. FS has not been litigated on green projects, some litigation of the Moonlight salvage. Mooretown, Greenville Rancheria gaining capacity. Mooretown Rancheria building a biomass facility in Oroville and want to partner (learned from Quincy Meeting). FS has money divided for planning and implementation. Budget direction doesn't always capture the perspective that treatment is cheaper than fire suppression and salvage. The better capacity we have locally, the cheaper cost per acre, more opportunities to treat the land. FS typically works to find areas to treat, develop a proposed action, then get public comment. This new process gets public input in earlier, help point FS in the right direction.

Ryan - Grew up here, went to Portola High School, started in fire suppression at 18. At one point, he decided to stop perpetuating the fire suppression cycle, and become more preventative. Fuels treatments, and prescribed fire, are preventative, suppression as the only action is at the expense of our lands. The current land management plan is from the 80's, the plan is to taper off fire suppression and lean towards fuels reduction yet somewhere, the FS got sidetracked. Super fires, mega fires, Franken fires are our own creation. Excited to reverse trends. Had some successes by working with QLG, FSC, and collaborative fire burns in Genesee Valley, Mountain Maidu cultural grass burns. We have the wood processing infrastructure, hopefully we could reopen biomass facilities. We live in a critical watershed for the state, and we have partnerships with private landowners. All the right components are here, we just need a collaborative energy to treat at a faster pace and scale. 20% of landscape treatment isn't enough, 60% of landscape needs treated to have healthy forests and be fire safe. Need work on all ownership, treat acreage yearly and collaboration on a huge scale.

Public Comment

Leah Wells – When you thin, how long does it last, what is cycle of burn or reentry.

Mike D. – We can see locally a chronological sequence of treatments, from the 90's and newer. Sample and analysis studies show that 15 years is about how long treatments last. Mark mentioned areas needing treatment after 4 years, and we need to look at these properties and assess. Fire is a component of success.

Scott Stevens - Historically 1 mil acres burned pre fire suppression. Need to get back to this.

Leah – Any way to double the time of treatment effectiveness?

Mike D. – The best current science shows the most effectiveness with thinning, then reenter with under burning, then re burn every 5-10 years. The notion is that fire is the tool most effective to maintain resiliency.

John – Most of FSC thinning work is GPS'd, we can go back and see the effectiveness over time. FSC

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treatments have some fire component as part of treatment. Remains to be seen if work lasts 5 plus years. If we let it go, it's a loss.

Nils – We need to track project areas and monitor for reentry

Mike Yost - Effective monitoring will help assess the urgency of retreatment.

Ryan – FS tries to plan effectiveness of treatment for 30 years, so lands are aggressively thinned, and some fire component is used. The notion of treating 60% of the landscape means we can allow wildfire to accomplish our goals. In the future we can use prescribed fire around communities, and use thinning and expensive treatments where absolutely needed.

Mike D. - April 22nd next meeting, location TBA

7:40 **Meeting ended**

Other Meeting Dates and Locations: Chester mtg. March 4th – Memorial Hall
Collaborative Group Meeting April 22nd
time and place to be decided



In collaboration with the Plumas National Forest and the University of California Cooperative Extension, with support of Secure Rural Schools Title II funds



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