

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



## COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

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## MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2015

Portola, Plumas County Library

### *List of acronyms*

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

### *Commentary during Nils' presentation:*

Bill Powers (**Bill P.**): Reflection on Loyaltan Mill- Bill was instrumental in a group to reopen the mill, went up the political ladder with SPI. They didn't make it, despite tons of support for material, had economics dialed, and the effort still fell apart. Reflected on use of RAC- as long as they had funds, they used it- funded diverse projects trails, HFR, roads, facilities. Frustration lead crucial elements of the effort to disintegrate. As we think of ideas, think of the threads that connect and bring everyone on board. Mark Mimevc (**Mark**) - Who are potential partners for matching funds? Nils responded that these partnerships will come with engaging people and utilizing our resources  
Discussion about biomass

### *During Forest Service Commentary:*

Deb Bumpus (**Deb**) - Garner support with a lot of people- shows importance to funders. Tribal influence is important for knowledge of the land. Build a good foundation and be ready when opportunity arrives. We need to continue and make change despite opposition, time changes opposition (QLG, fires change people's minds). First people here are the voice for our neighbors.  
Nancy Francine (**Nancy**) – True, there aren't current calls for proposals, but there are other grant opportunities, subsidized biomass transport example, we can position ourselves for future opportunities. Cited the example of FSC Stevens funds treating private land using federal grant money by treating lands adjoining National Forests. Another example of government and private partnerships locally is NRCS fuels reduction on private land, specifically the Twain Butterfly Valley project. More partners, more buy in. 2006, Nancy started working for the Forest Service, during litigations of the Sierra Nevada Framework, the planning document intended to amend all National Forest plans to streamline and increase pace and scale of projects. The 2001 version had small 20" diameter limit. The new framework

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**“To reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise Community programs and pre-fire activities.”**

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in 2004 helped logging efforts. Plumas NF became the poster child for what was wrong with the plan. At that point, litigations were already a few years old. Settled just last year, with updated science. The plaintiff who was appealing is now a collaborative partner, providing letters of support for HFR. After seeing so many fires, activists want to find a better solution than court. We have a chance to see larger scale, cross district lines, biomass solutions, we could overall decrease our cost per acre. By coming together, we have access to resources outside of federal opportunities, we can get more done and have work that our community would like to see. Nancy is of the opinion that she is neither personally nor professionally immune to the effects of wildfire

Ryan Bauer (**Ryan B.**) - Never seen a fire stop at a jurisdictional line, need a landscape wide approach. FSC has been helping the FS get funds, Feather River Land Trust is collaborating with the Forest Service, getting work done and combining expertise. Other partnership examples include work with private industry help meet National Forest fuels treatment goals and help private lands make their sales. Excited to see this effort develop.

Bob Kelley (**Bob**) - Excessive amounts of biomass in the forests are effecting fire behavior - seeing good trees burned and become vector trees for lightening. Just burned areas could still burn due to drought. Important to remove biomass in the woods, then burn.

**Ryan B.** - We thought that if we could treat 20% of the land yearly, we could get ahead of fire. But current research shows that isn't enough. Need biomass solutions to offset carbon emissions. New research says 60% of the forest treated would get us ahead of fire.

Ryan Tompkins (**Ryan T.**) – Plumas County is fortunate in that we have done collaborative work before (QLG), and we get work done. Frustration over planned projects burning over then having to triage a burned forest. Ryan advocated a preventative approach. Forest products will increase productivity, but that isn't always available, hence the need for a collaborative group to seek solutions to stewardship work. Excited to see this group focus on out-year projects.

### ***Open Dialog section***

Mike De Lasaux (**Mike D.**) - success of field trips to educate people, show what acronyms mean, what treatments mean.

**Bill P.**- The Loyaltan Mill group had a vision to create jobs. Selling the power and finding a buyer was the hardest, had to have the power stay in CA to stay “green” and needed 7 cents per Kw, but they were being offered half a cent per Kw. People started to dissipate with a lack of agreement. Price in competition with natural gas, though no natural gas service here. Massive biomass piled in preparation.

**Nils**- will future legislation help this process? **Bill P.** unsure.

**Mike D.** - effort continues in legislation, biomass plants inactive in Loyaltan and Westwood.

**Carol Scott** - have you noticed a more prolific die off of trees? What can I do?

**Mike D.** – Yes, expected more die off by now, competition for moisture, beetles in tune to moisture column in xylem, can tell the flow is no longer continuous, spread pheromones. Southern Sierras experiencing 30% of pines dying. Fear is seeing it here. We are in the optimal zone for pine so we are better off than most, but it is making its way here. Mentioned Tussock Moth spread. Remove infested trees as soon as you see signs of die off, before larvae emerge. The larvae reside in the bark, so chip, or buck in sections to expose the cambium.

**Deb** – We can bring entomologists and information on solutions to the April meeting.

**Mark**- when we thin the woods, does it create an arid condition, and if so, does it create a more water deprived regime?

**Mike D.** – Carol had observations that showed increased trees increases evapotranspiration, and current research shows a need to thin more.

**Mark**- Lake Madora example – a thick canopy still percolates water after rain...

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