

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

www.plumascollaborative.org

www.plumasfiresafe.org

MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2015

Quincy, Plumas County Library

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

Commentary during introduction to CFLR by Nils:

John Sheehan (**John S**) – Wanted to know how many private versus public acres have been treated in the California CFLR efforts.

Donna McElroy (**Donna**) – Asked why the Loylton biomass facility shut down. Tom Downing of SPI responded that the contract between SPI and Nevada Power ended, and there was not enough revenue in selling power. Donna responded that she was concerned with the issues of biomass being address during QLG and now. She would rather see the trees left standing than see them cut and abandoned at a landing to become a worse fire hazard. Donna also voiced her concerns with the Bucks Fire and other fires, with the resulting land being dead standing timber with tall brush. Donna felt that the Forest Service shouldn't cut what can't be removed, the conditions of the forests locally are worse than ever, and that these issues are above and beyond any yellow legged frog protection.

John S – We need an up-front linkage of uses for biomass before it is removed from the forest.

Nils Lunder (**Nils**) – there are emerging markets and technologies utilizing biomass, we need to coordinate and pool our resources.

Dan Martynn (**Dan M**) – As the local coordinator for NRCS, Dan said he is seeing great work on private lands, and he is committed to this group and its efforts.

Mike Wood (**Mike W**) – Asked for clarification on CFLR plans awarded implementation funds. Mike De Lasaux (**Mike D**) answered that each fiscal year, only two CFLR plans are awarded funds per region.

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Commentary during website and outreach presentation:

John S – Suggested we check out other collaboratives outside of California to examine their successes- Arizona, for example.

Remarks during Forest Service commentary:

Nancy Francine (**Nancy**) - lesson learned from other collaboratives: all the Lassen CFLR funding went to one Ranger District, leaving the rest of the county with no benefit. She wants to make sure we help the whole community, county wide.

The success of the Forest Service is increased using a collective approach to forest management (Forest Service and a collaborative group) rather than trying to work alone. Example: QLG could go to congress to stand up for change whereas the Forest Service couldn't.

Personal experience working in Plumas County – Nancy started working in this area when the 2004 Sierra Nevada Framework was first coming under political fire. Just recently, the Forest Service has finally reaching an agreement and settling.

Ryan Bauer (**Ryan**) - Fire knows no boundaries, so an all lands approach is essential.

Mike W - Agreed with Mike's sentiment welcoming new faces to this new effort. The QLG was initially attacked by environmental groups, who later became concerned about the vast acreage of forests burning yearly and began to agree on the importance of being proactive. The CFLR is a phoenix of the QLG effort- the model and science is still there to be used. The dynamics of our local community drive us to keep trying for positive and proactive change, we need to continue to drive through resistance.

Donna - Its tough hanging on. The family tree hasn't had any consideration while diameter limits and species preference considerations go on and on. Concerned for the lack of action addressing Tussock Moth outbreaks on Forest Service land.

Nils – Success with the corridor thinning project along Hwy 70 using Stevens funds, lands attached to that corridor can apply for funds as well.

Donna- SPI, Soper Wheeler projects by Mt Hough Ranger Station are looking good.

Nancy - Brought up recent NRCS successes that have led to Forest Service partnering and participation, landowners have grouped together to thin their own properties in Butterfly Valley through NRCS, now Mt Hough is planning a complementary project that abuts the private lands.

Mike D- Next steps- creation of a charter once our group is formed-we have examples from other collaboratives as well as QLG.

John S - We need to define our goals. The example of Dinky Creek; they mainly pile burn, forced in to a narrow vision due to a lack of resources. We can have a much broader vision. We have the advantage of a mill and we must address the economics of utilizing wood taken off the land.

Bob Kelley (**Bob K**) - if we can't get CFLR funds, let's follow the money- FSC grants, etc.

John S – Wants to know what money we do have and what projects are going on now on Forest Service lands.

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Mike D - check out the SOPA- Rachael will add planned projects to maps and website when they become available.

Nils - Next month is the Plumas County Fire Safe Council annual Hazardous Fuels Reduction roundtable, an event where land managers share their plans, goals, and accomplishments.

Mike D - Recent grant activities through the FSC: four applications submitted to the SRA grant fund (American Valley HFR, Dixie Valley HFR, and Greenhorn HFR). In the recent past, the FSC was awarded a PGE grant for county chipping program which was very successful. The FSC plans to continue the effort through SRA funds, as well as community outreach with participating Fire Chiefs and Firewise Communities.

John S – will SPI take advantage of AB 32 carbon bill? (Tom Downing: yet to be determined).

Ryan – This group needs to think about next round of Stevens funds in May- the eligibility is now extended to any fuels reduction method. Project locations have to be in proximity to other NF projects.

Mike D – Thanked everyone for attending

7:45 **Meeting ended**

Other Meeting Dates and Locations: Portola mtg. Feb 18th – Portola Library
 Greenville mtg. Feb 25th - Indian Valley Town Hall
 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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