

# FEATHER RIVER STEWARDSHIP COALITION

[www.featherriversc.org](http://www.featherriversc.org)



## Meeting Notes

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Plumas National Forest Supervisors Office

159 Lawrence Street, Quincy

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### Partner Updates

Feather River Land Trust and Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD) - Nils Lunder

- Is working with the Forest Service on an underburn at the Heart K ranch
- Is one of the collaborators on the CAL FIRE CCI proposal (RCD will be the CEQA lead)

National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Dan Martynn

- Currently working with many small private landowners
- Capacity to complete projects will be impacted by changes in archaeology requirements

Graeagle Firewise - Chuck Bowman

- Working with Danielle Bradfield on a thinning projects around townhomes in Whitehawk

Gold Mountain Firewise - Mike Callaghan

- The community has Stevens grant funds for a project that will be implemented within a year
- The Fire Safe Council is supporting the recognition of several new Firewise communities, including Portola

Plumas National Forest

Ryan Bauer

- Is involved with the Stevens grant funding process
- The Forest is in prescribed fire season

Nancy Francine

- Ryan Tompkins has been in Sacramento working on carbon calculations for the CCI proposal. Additionally he met with Sierra Nevada Conservancy to develop a Good Neighbor agreement for implementation on Forest Service lands.
- The Forest is still under a hiring freeze, so there have been some staffing challenges. However, the Public Services Staff Officer position is being filled.
- Discussions are starting among Forests of the Central Sierra zone for FY 19-21 planning. They are running out of NEPA “shelf stock,” so will be looking at developing a mix of large and small projects.

David Kinateder

- Has been involved with the SNC grant projects. Crews are working on the last unit at Round Valley.
- Submitted a proposal for CCI funds for the Feather River District, which has the largest number of outstanding unimplemented acres. Mooretown Rancheria is the primary partner. Will be presenting the proposal in Sacramento later in the month.

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - Mandy Beatty

- Currently working on Mt. Hough and at lower elevations. Waiting for higher elevation areas to open up – there is a lot of work that will be taking place in Lakes Basin.
- Working on a proposal for a beginner/intermediate trail at Bucks.

Sierra Institute – Ashley Bomar

- PCREW is filling up their 10-week schedule of work for this summer

Office of Emergency Services - Sue McCourt

- May is Wildfire Awareness Month. This Saturday (May 5<sup>th</sup>) marks the start of Preparedness Week. There will be events taking place in Cromberg and Chester.
- The Plumas County Board of Supervisors will proclaim May 6-12<sup>th</sup> as Wildfire Awareness week at the BOS meeting on Tuesday.
- There are currently nine Firewise communities in the county and six in progress.

### **CAL FIRE California Climate Investments (CCI) Forest Health Grant Program Update**

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Hannah Hepner, Ryan Bauer, Ryan Tompkins, and Brad Graevs met with the CAL FIRE CCI selection committee to make a defense of the Plumas Collaborative Forest Health Project proposal. Feedback from the committee included concern over the large amount of the proposal on Forest Service lands and the need to show Forest Service investment in the WUI, a request for substantiation of the value of the treatments within the context of other work that has been completed, and the need to show collaboration county/Forest-wide. However, on the whole, response to the project was positive. The full application is due June 13<sup>th</sup>. The slide presentation used at the meeting was summarized for the group.

Mike Callaghan provided comments about the need for CAL FIRE participation in fire prevention efforts because the agreement with the Forest Service to provide initial attack suppression in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) does not address the need for prevention.

Jason Christian added that CAL FIRE provided support in development of the Loyalton Biomass campus and therefore should have an interest in projects that facilitate its operation.

### **Future Beckwourth Ranger District Proposal**

The FRSC has conducted site visits and provided letters of support for several Beckwourth Ranger District projects. Those projects are now reaching Decisions and will be ready for implementation. Ryan Bauer shared maps of several potential projects including Mohawk Vista, Lakes Basin, Plumas Eureka, and Cradle Valley. They are areas of service work that will not be supported by timber sale or stewardship receipts. The total number of acres wasn't known at the meeting, but it was apparent that they are outside of the scope of a

single SNC proposal. However, if each project initially received SNC funds, the CEQA would be completed for the entire NEPA areas, which will put the FRSC in a position to apply for CCI funds in the future.

At the next FRSC meeting we will be in a better position to prioritize projects because we will know which of our outstanding SNC and CCI proposals have been funded. In addition to keeping the Beckwourth projects on the horizon, the Feather River District projects that were not supported by CCI funds are candidates for support as well.

### **National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program – Ashley Bomar**

The NFF MAP requires a 1:1 match, civic engagement, and should support conservation initiatives that are already in place at a large-scale. The Butterfly Botanic Area boardwalk project is a potential candidate for this program. Match could come from partnership with the PCREW to build the boardwalk. It was suggested that the California Native Plant Society may also be able to provide support. The current round of funds requires an application by June 13<sup>th</sup>. It was determined that the FRSC would focus its efforts on the CCI proposal in the near-term, but that the NFF MAP funds should be considered in the spring.

### **Eureka Fire Tour Date**

The Eureka Fire Tour will include portions of the 450-acre managed fire area as well as several sites with active forest management. The tour will take place on a weekday in June, but a specific date was difficult to determine. A final date and time will be announced via email.

### **Sierra Institute Natural Resource Education Proposal**

The Sierra Institute has made a proposal to NOAA for a program that engages school-aged children, and the public, in monitoring of collaborative projects. The letter of support provided by FRSC is available to anyone who would like more details.

### **Forest Health and Policy Presentation – Jason Christian**

Dr. Christian has been involved in driving policy for science. He shared slides that supported his opinions that:

- Successful attempts at forest restoration need to integrate the human element
- There will be policy pressure against prescribed fire as long as climate change remains a primary focus
- Science needs to be funded in order to inform policy
- The California Department of Water Resources needs to be a target agency for partnership
- There is a large amount of material that could potentially be removed for the sake of forest health, if the Forest Service was given the resources to do the work.
- The amount of material far exceeds local infrastructure capacity and, therefore, should be tackled at a larger-scale

**Next meeting:** August – date and time TBD