

Feather River Stewardship Coalition Meeting Minutes Quincy Library, February 17th, 2016

In Attendance: Mike De Lasaux, Brian West, Ryan Tompkins, John Sheehan, Rachael Norton, Ryan Bauer, Sue McCourt, Lee Brooks, Kyle Felker, and Matt Jedra.

Logo Update – Rachael presented the draft logo to the group with the suggested alterations from past meetings. John Sheehan suggested a more dimensional feather, and volunteered to work with the artist on feather development.

Mohawk Vista Project – Beckwourth Ranger District Ecosystems Operations Manager Matt Jedra presented on a new project being planned in the Mohawk Vista area, surrounding the Mohawk Vista Community. The project will treat approximately 1,100 acres with treatments including hand thinning, mastication, grapple thinning and piling, and some mechanical thinning on slopes up to 45%. The forest in this area is developing mistletoe and increasing beetle activity. The area was identified as a deferred area during QLG, as it is a fairly roadless area. Portions of this project area were logged around 1965, with the Layman Fire within close proximity in 1982. This new project is being planned under the recently authorized CE category for projects 3,000 acres or less for goals of forest health and reduction of tree mortality from insect infestation. This new CE category requires collaborative involvement, which brings in the need for FRSC support. A decision is planned to be ready next February, and contract for implementation in 2017. Funding for implementation is still needed, especially with the low amounts of merchantable timber on site to pay for the project. A fieldtrip will be planned for some time in April or May. The Plumas County Fire Safe Council has planned and sought funding through the Cal Fire SRA program to treat private lands within the Mohawk Vista neighborhood. A decision on the funding award should come this summer.

SNC Project Proposal Updates – Wolf/Grizzly Creek Project was submitted to SNC in September of 2015, SNC is working to get the project CEQA compliant. A decision on funding award for the project is scheduled for SNC's June board meeting.

The Bucks Lake Project grant application is being developed between Rachael and Ryan Bauer with assistance from Lynn Campbell, Northern Sierra regional SNC rep. Rachael is seeking letters of support for the project, from Lori Simpson, PG & E, Feather River Land Trust, and the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Group.

John Sheehan – be sure to connect this project to the County Wide CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) as Bucks was identified as a community at risk.

Potential New Partners – John Sheehan – South Fork Irrigation and Yuba County Water District are interested in projects in Yuba and Butte Counties, may contribute some funds if grants are awarded. They could also provide letters of support. Mike Jackson should have contact information for these groups. We should meet with them on specific projects.

Ryan Tompkins – We can draw in Randy Gould from the Feather River Ranger District. We should do some scoping with the district and see which projects are their priorities. We can also integrate other Fire Safe Councils, like the Butte County FSC who is very active in fuels reduction.

Other Events – February 25th Biomass Utilization demo in Crescent Mills, demonstrating using z-cord methods to create firewood from small trees efficiently.

February 26th Good Neighbor Authority informative seminar – open to non-government.

New Cal Fire Prescribed Burning MOU – Ryan Bauer to research and report back to the group.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00.

Next Meeting March 9th, 3 to 5 at the Quincy Library.