

FEATHER RIVER STEWARDSHIP COALITION

www.featherriversc.org



Meeting Notes

March 2nd, 2017

Plumas National Forest Supervisors Office

159 Lawrence Street, Quincy

Introductions

Feather River Stewardship Coalition mission: “The Feather River Stewardship Coalition (FRSC) is a diverse community of willing stakeholders working to improve the ecosystem health of private and public lands within the Feather River Watershed, the headwaters of the state water project. We work to identify solutions that facilitate productive balance among community, economy and environment.”

Benefits to stakeholders include:

- Identifying and sharing resources and information – such as grant opportunities
- Providing project planning and NEPA input – and Letters of Support
- Focusing on Public Outreach and creation of outreach materials
- Pursuit of an “all lands” approach to landscape projects – increasing the pace and scale
- Identifying partnerships to create traction for project initiation
- Creation of maps that communicate accomplishments and projects across the county
- Joint fact-finding
- Funding to support partner projects

Partner Updates

Plumas National Forest (Ryan Bauer, Ryan Tompkins, Nancy Francine, David Kinateder):

- Underburning has continued through the winter.
- The Butterfly Twain Fuels Reduction and Landscape Restoration Project is out for public comment until Friday, March 10th. It is an “integrated” project that incorporates fuels, habitat, and watershed goals.
- There’s a multi-million dollar backlog of projects on the Plumas National Forest that have no merchantable component. Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grants require a watershed component. Collaborative is important to help draw more funding for projects.
- Revision of the Forest Plan will commence in October.

Feather River College (Darla DeRuiter and three Environmental Studies students in attendance):

- There are 100 forested acres on campus. The college’s Forest Fire Management Plan incorporates hand-thinning and pile burning in conjunction with the Greenville Rancheria.
- Students maintain campus trails for recreation and fuel breaks.

- The Plumas National Forest Internship Program is in its 4th year and will offer 19 full-time paid summer internships.
- 180 acres were recently purchased, across Spanish Creek from the existing campus. It includes a mile of the creek, which provides opportunities for monitoring. Forestry students have established plots with densities of 550-1200 stems/acre. The college is working with Plumas Corporation to establish a creek crossing.

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (Mandy Beatty):

- When the weather dries, will be working on the South Park Cascade trail.
- Currently have three Off-Highway Vehicle grants in the works
 - Downieville
 - Mt. Hough (planning project to connect spur trails - requires NEPA)
 - Snake Lake
- First volunteer trail day of the year is taking place on April 29th.
- Youth programs are starting with an aim of transitioning to a standard conservation crew model. High school crews of 8-10 people are available for hire. Seeking feedback from partners about perceived benefits and challenges of working with youth crews.

Office of Emergency Services (Sue McCourt):

- OES is busy with storm damage assessment to seek FEMA funding
- Provides outreach and education for Firewise Communities in Plumas County
- Institutions, such as the Feather River College, can consider Firewise recognition – could be a benefit for grant funds

Plumas Audubon Society (Brad Graevs):

- Received a SNC planning grant for the Genesee Valley Wildfire Restoration Plan.
- Initiating a high school internship pilot project to train participants in restoration and monitoring.

Greenville Rancheria (Alisha Wilson):

- The Maidu Summit is preparing to take stewardship of the Humbug Valley property.
- Working on making connections to facilitate several on the ground projects that need momentum.

Collins Pine Company (email update from Andy Juska – not in attendance):

- Three timber harvest plans operating in 2017 and some pure biomass thinning operations, which include strategic fuelbreaks, road network improvements, water yield research, and a native plant study.

Plumas County Fire Safe Council (Hannah Hepner, Mike Callaghan):

- Eight hazardous fuel reduction projects on private lands and two SNC funded projects on National Forest lands.
- This summer will be offering the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space program and a new county-wide green-waste chipping program.
- Producing a “Living with Fire” tabloid in early May. Contributions are welcome.

Funding Opportunities

National Forest Foundation [Matching Awards Program](#). Proposal deadline June 26, 2017. Must be on federal land, but PNF cannot be the applicant. If interested, now is the time to develop the partnership.

Stevens funds proposals are due at the end of April. Funds are available for non-profits and schools undertaking projects on non-federal land that will provide some benefit to National Forest lands. Contact Ryan Bauer for information.

Grant Writing Workshop – is a service of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy that will be hosted locally by the Feather River Stewardship Coalition in early summer.

Annual Summing Pre-Planning

Ryan Tompkins provided background on the Feather River Stewardship Coalition. Mr. Tompkins also introduced the idea of FRSC hosting an annual summit as a venue for identifying areas of interest, objectives, and opportunities shared by stakeholders as a means to build capacity for each organization. Of particular significance would be novel approaches to land management that balance natural resource and recreation economy values. Of those present, some were reluctant to commit significant time to such an event, while others expressed enthusiasm. If interested in contributing to planning or participation in the event, contact Hannah Hepner or Ryan Tompkins.

Next meeting: June – date and time TBD