

FEATHER RIVER STEWARDSHIP COALITION

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Steering Committee Meeting Notes

April 19, 2019

Quincy Provisions

91 Bradley Street, Quincy

Attendance: Ryan Tompkins, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisor UC Cooperative Extension; Ryan Bauer, Acting Forest Fire Management Officer PNF; Kristin Winford, Timber Management Officer Beckwourth Ranger District; Dave Kinatader, Fire Ecologist Mount Hough Ranger District; Nancy Francine, Natural Resources Staff Officer PNF; Brad Graevs, District Manager Feather River RCD; Chuck Bowman, Graeagle Firewise; Emily Bryant, owner Limb in Aide; Matt West, Program Manager Plumas County Fire Safe Council; Hannah Hepner, Coordinator Plumas County Fire Safe Council

Existing Project Review

Wolf and Grizzly Creek Municipal Watershed Protection Project:

Matt visited Wolf/Grizzly Project units to install signs. He found that unit 78b was not treated. However, all of the Wolf and Grizzly units should be complete on that project. Dave Kinatader said that that unit was likely dropped before the grant proposal was submitted and that the Fire Safe Council was working off of an old map. The only remaining units on that project are unit 43 and 44 on Jankman, which will be completed this year.

Butterfly Twain Project:

Dave has submitted a \$1.5 million contract package for the Butterfly Twain project. He is blending Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and California Climate Investment funds. A \$700,000 agreement with Mooretown Rancheria for mechanical work in Butterfly was submitted during the week. The timeline for review is unknown for both.

Little Grass Valley Reservoir Watershed Protection Project:

The Little Grass Valley contract is built but a cost code has not been issued yet. SNC funds will cover about 1/3rd of the project, so the contract package has a lot of optional bid items. It will be open bid, not IDIQ. Fire Safe Council employees will be on the review panel. Dave is currently finding units for the CCC.

The Bucks Project is currently under snow.

Nancy said that settlement funds are not being returned to the Forest this year, which will affect several projects. The Tomcat project is instead being funded by the Regional Office. Kristin clarified that it shouldn't affect Franks Valley. The project will be marked this summer and should remain on track for the CCI timeline.

Kristin announced that the Smith Penman biomass sale will be advertised soon. It includes 53,000 tons of biomass that wasn't part of the original contract. It is near Loyalton and it will be interesting to see if an operator picks it up.

Ryan Bauer said that SNC has awarded funds for part of the Lakes Basin project, but that they are requiring further breakdown of the budget before moving forward.

Potential Projects

Dave said that there is a group funded with \$400,000 through Mooretown Rancheria that wants to study biomass. Nancy Francine said that the Forest wants to make sure that they will not be duplicating work that's already being done. She also asked for information about what Mooretown's interests are in the effort. She pointed out that previous biomass studies have shown that "We have it. We need transportation and places for it to go."

Kristin said that the Beckwourth District is still working on planning for the Mapes project.

Ryan Bauer added that there will be more service work needed on the Lakes Basin project because mechanical units were changed to hand-thin when the Decision was signed.

Brad asked if it would be valuable to start CEQA planning now for upcoming projects. Hannah pointed out that SNC will cover CEQA for entire NEPA areas for projects that they fund and that SB 901 allows NEPA for CEQA for certain activities. Ryan Bauer added that SB 901 doesn't cover forest health and that there might be a need to mechanically treat for objectives outside of fuels reduction in the future. Ryan Tompkins said that Todd Sloat from the Fall River RCD has been doing dual NEPA/CEQA and integrating cross-boundary projects.

Ryan Bauer suggested that Soper Wheeler land behind Smith Creek Ranch could be part of an integrated Lakes Basin project and that there may be private lands adjacent to the Haskell project as well. He asked if there was likely to be another option for CEQA exemption through CAL FIRE identified projects. He said that we should be prepared for that opportunity and identify private lands adjacent to federal treatment areas.

Ryan Tompkins said that the Strategic Growth Council has a funding opportunity to be aware of. Additionally he said that CAL FIRE is considering doing the carbon calculations for CCI proposals since the cost of calculations was prohibitive for some groups.

Dave said that the Indian Valley project could incorporate Soper Wheeler property. Ryan Bauer suggested that it would be a good project for a NEPA planning grant. It may be possible to utilize the RCD and CAL FIRE funds to do the planning.

Future Agenda Items

Hannah reviewed the potential agenda items from the November steering committee meeting. Ryan Tompkins said that he would follow up with Jim Thorne about presenting on a LiDAR data risk modelling proposal for a CCI project.

Ryan Tompkins asked if the FRSC would like to be formally involved in a stakeholders exchange hosted by SNC. He described it as an event with lightening talks presented by organizational stakeholders and a breakout social hour to facilitate collaboration. He suggested that it would help to build single CCI proposals for a region. Hannah said, yes, FRSC would be involved.

Field Trip

The group would like to see forest health treatments “in action.” Hannah said she would identify projects with current implementation. Ryan Bauer suggested that the next field trip be scheduled for fall.

Ryan Tompkins mentioned that the Mendocino RCD received grant funds to purchase several gasification systems. He suggested a future field trip to see them in operation.

Next meeting: Thursday June 20th, 3:00pm

Upcoming Events: SNC Meet & Greet with Angela Avery May 8th 3-5pm
SCALE Meeting in Jackson, CA May 30th – 31st