

Feather River Stewardship Coalition Meeting Minutes
Mohawk Community Resource Center, May 26th, 2016

In advance of the meeting, the FRSC and Plumas National Forest Staff had a fieldtrip to a new project area near the Mohawk Vista Community. Over 25 residents and curious citizens attended as we toured different project areas and discussed the various treatments. The meeting took place after the fieldtrip.

Meeting Attendance: Mike De Lasaux, Rachael Norton, Julie Shields, Mark Mihevc, Nancy Francine, Sam Smith, Ryan Bauer, John Sheehan, Peter Tous, Matt Jedra, and Sue McCourt.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Applications Update – The grant application for 500 acres of treatment around Round Valley Reservoir and Lake Davis was submitted in September of 2015, and at the June 2nd SNC board meeting, it will be announced if we are to receive funding. *Update post meeting: SNC did fund the project at the June 2nd meeting for \$465,500. More information will come as we develop our grant agreements with the Forest Service and the SNC.*

The application for treatments around Bucks Lake is still in an evaluation phase and we expect to hear this summer if SNC is interested in the project.

Plumas National Forest Project Updates – Matt Jedra updated the group on several new and developing projects around the eastern side of the county: The Frenchman Forest Health Project, 700-800 acres is being planned, surveys are funded and will start this summer. The Plumas National Forest and the Coalition will plan a field trip to the project area this summer.

Lakes Basin – surveys are complete and the FS is working on NEPA documentation to have a draft ready for public comment in the fall. The PNF plans to prioritize work around the cabins and WUI as funding can be available. Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service will also occur this summer or fall, due to the presence of Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog habitat and populations in proximity of treatment areas. The Coalition group talked about a need and opportunity for public engagement and education on this project, through interpretive materials and media. Also the idea of using the Good Neighbor Authority was discussed to find ways to fund implementing this project as currently no funds are available past planning.

Plumas Eureka Project – Surveys to start this year, and a NEPA decision will occur in 2-3 years.

Matt also gave an update on beetle mortality on the Plumas National Forest, each year the forest gets “flown” and aerial photos taken. Current trends lean towards beetle attacks on large diameter pines. Also entomologists are finding that wood boring beetles are changing behavior to start initial attacks on trees rather than attacking after bark beetles.

Other Updates –

Mike De Lasaux announced his retirement in the next 1-3 years and suggested that the Forest Service and the Coalition create a resolution of support for a new UC Cooperative Extension Resources Advisor to replace him in the wake of his retirement. The Coalition supported this resolution due to the steady involvement of UC Cooperative Extension in the development of the Coalition.

Ryan Tompkins and Nancy Francine spoke to developments in Plumas National Forest Staff; new District Rangers for both Mount Hough and Beckwourth are starting this summer, good news as the turnaround in these positions lately has been frequent. Neither a permanent Forest Supervisor or Deputy Forest Supervisor have been found, though a temporary Forest Supervisor is in place currently.

Next Steps – Funding for the outreach coordinator will run out in December. The group discussed extending the grant deadline to give more time to create funding solutions to keep the Coalition on track.

In other news, the Feather River Land Trust will be acquiring about 25,000 acres of lands and funds to manage the property. The Feather River College and Plumas Audubon Society are involved in this exciting development. Perhaps there is a niche for the Coalition to get involved.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council has \$108,000 in funds for fuel hazard reduction treatments in the Dixie Valley area, development of the project will require a registered professional forester. This project compliments the PNF Frenchman Forest Health Project in goals and in proximity.

Nancy suggested that landowners in the Dixie Valley area go to the Coalition website and use the interactive maps to inform the Forest Service of areas needing treatment around private property.

Next Meeting is a field trip to the SNC awarded project area in Greenville on June 23rd from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Carpooling will be available from the Plumas Corporation parking lot at 47 Trilogy Ln, Quincy at 2:45.