

FEATHER RIVER STEWARDSHIP COALITION

www.featherriversc.org



Meeting Notes

June 20th, 2019

Plumas National Forest Supervisors Office Conference Room

159 Lawrence St, Quincy

Attendance: Ryan Bauer, Plumas National Forest; William Brendecke, Plumas National Forest; Nancy Francine, Plumas National Forest; Don Gasser, Plumas County Fire Safe Council; Brad Graevs, Feather River Resource Conservation District; Hannah Hepner, Plumas County Fire Safe Council; Dave Kinateder, Plumas National Forest; Sue McCourt, Plumas County Office of Emergency Services; Ryan Tompkins, UC Cooperative Extension; Elaine Vercruyse, Plumas National Forest; Dov Weinman, Sierra Institute; Matt West, Plumas County Fire Safe Council; Lindsay Wood, Plumas Audubon Society

Partner Updates

Feather River RCD: Brad Graevs reported that the RCD is focusing on acting as lead agency. The board has started approving CEQA documents. The organization is seeking more planning opportunities.

Plumas Audubon: Lindsay Wood said that planning has begun for the Quincy Watershed Improvement Project. Funds have been awarded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to implement Genesee underburning.

Mt. Hough RD: Dave Kinateder said that grapple piling work is ongoing on the Bucks project. The Little Grass Valley project is waiting on the snow to melt. The contract package is ready and includes several optional items that aren't covered with the SNC grant funds. The Butterfly project has a mix of SNC and CCI funds. Bids were received last week and will be evaluated by the Forest Service and Fire Safe Council based on best value. Nancy Francine added that the Butterfly East stewardship contract bid came in over the federal assessment. The Regional Office will prioritize funding to cover the contract. Dave followed that the Mooretown Rancheria agreement for mechanical work in Butterfly is expected to be signed soon. The CCI funded portions of Genesee, Corridor, Elizabethtown, and Empire will be contracted by the Fire Safe Council through a Master Stewardship Agreement. The timber shop is struggling to meet the CCI timelines. There may be more service work than initially proposed in the Franks Valley project. The Jankman project has two units that need to be done by the end of the year.

Plumas National Forest: Ryan Bauer said that the Forest's Lakes Basin and Valley Creek agreements with SNC are still in review. Current burn conditions are out of prescription for weather, but the fuels are still too wet. Dixie Valley may be burnable next week. 195 acres were burned in the Meadow Valley PAC project this year in

addition to 60 acres last year. There is one remaining unit to burn. A lightning fire burned 47 acres in a unit that was burned last spring.

Will Brendecke introduced himself as the acting Forest Silviculturist.

Beckwourth RD: Kristin Winford said that the Cradle Valley timber sale was sold last year. They are looking at operating there this summer/fall. KV money from the timber sale will be used to partner with the Susanville Rancheria to do the service work and willow pruning.

UC Cooperative Extension: Ryan Tompkins said that the University is interested in collaborating on the Claremont project because there are UC resources within the boundary. The UC Extension received a CCI grant to hold prescribed fire on private land workshops. There will be one at the UC camp in Meadow Valley this fall. Ryan is interested in securing funds for Home Ignition Zone training and is working with SNC on hosting a stakeholder exchange.

Plumas County OES: Sue McCourt has done six new Firewise assessments including Taylorsville, Old Highway, Johnsville, River Valley (Beckwourth), Clio and Meadow Valley. She worked with CAL FIRE on a Meadow Valley evacuation plan that went in the mail to all residents. There is has been a community focus on preparedness. She added that a Home Ignition Zone training would be helpful to assist community leaders with understanding.

Sierra Institute: Dov Weinman introduced himself as the new watershed coordinator. He explained that there are eight Department of Conservation funded watershed coordinators throughout the state. He is working with the South Lassen Watershed Group, which encompasses a 700,000 acre area, on strategic planning and with the Lake Almanor group on updating their 2009 Lake Management Plan. He is in the process of becoming familiar with stakeholders and geography.

Potential Projects/Funding Opportunities

Roadside Corridor Project: Ryan Tompkins said that Tom March from CalTrans is interested in more proactive roadside management. The CalTrans budget is largely limited to immediate road maintenance needs, so they are looking for a partner to undertake CEQA compliance for additional work. Other major costs will include traffic control and service work.

Ryan Bauer added that the Forest has been directed to develop a project to treat the Highway 70 corridor through the Plumas from Highway 395 to 99. A collaborative approach would give the opportunity to work across both public and private ownerships.

Indian Valley West: Dave Kinatader said that Indian Falls, Crescent Mills, and north of Greenville can be incorporated into a single project that can have strong Maidu involvement.

South Park: Ryan Tompkins said that the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship is working on a master plan for South Park. He said that it would be good to collaborate on efforts in that area. Dave pointed out that Soper Wheeler land in South Park is well managed.

Additional Potential Projects:

Nancy Francine said that the Forest has been doing a lot of insect and disease Categorical Exemptions. They are “one and done” projects. The Claremont and Mapes planning will be the “gift that keeps on giving.”

Don Gasser said that the directive has been to think bigger. He pointed out that there is an involved citizenry and partners with organizational capacity.

Upcoming potential funding sources include the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. It was determined that partner groups interested in submitting proposals will meet with Forest Service representatives on June 25th to convene a project proposal sub-committee.

Fall Field Trip

Suggestions included an active project and/or biomass facility