

# Greenville Meeting Notes

June 24, 2015, Indian Valley Community Center

Mike De Lasaux-Intro

In attendance:

Nancy Francine (Forest Service), Mike Savala, Mike McCarty engine captain GIR, from Butte CO., Ryan Tompkins (Forest Service), Brian West (forester for Collins Pine Co. QLG, RAC, PC FSC), Rachael Norton (PC FSC), Nils Lunder (PC FSC), Lynn Campbell (Sierra Nevada Conservancy).

Overview of progress:

- Market for biomass is essential for progress
- Must remove non-merchantable materials rather than leaving them in the woods
- Need to increase pace and scale
- More treatments on private and public lands

**Name:** group likes the *Feather River Stewardship Coalition (FRSC)*

Brian West recommends that people provide a final vote two weeks prior to next meeting, group agrees. Minutes will describe the process and a final name will be identified.

**Vision:** This will be presented to the group and be subject to revision and improvement.

- *To restore and maintain forest ecosystems, landscape processes and community vitality in the upper Feather River watershed.*

**Mission:** what it does, who it does it for, how it does what it does

- *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. We work to identify solutions that facilitate productive (harmony, balance, interactions, coordination, relationship?) among community, economy and environment.*

**USFS planned projects within the designated priority watersheds-Nancy Francine**

“The USFS works internally with staff to identify treatment areas, develop proposed action, invite public engagement, and build new alternatives, all following the NEPA process... Nothing in the processes ask the question, are our projects working in areas that are important to you?”

In the lakes basin, the project area has been well defined. Some out year projects are 1 year out, others are 4-5 years out and those are the ones where there is more flexibility in the development of the plan.

How do we get landowners to get involved? What is the best way to engage with the private land folks?

Keddie project was modified based on implemented and planned PC FSC projects. Two stewardship contracts have been awarded and are being implemented. One more will be awarded this summer and a fourth will be awarded next fiscal year. A portion of the project was submitted to the recent IRWM project concept phase 1 application. Once a Decision has been signed, it opens up opportunities for the USFS to seek funds for implementation.

In any year, the PNF has \$800,000-\$1,000,000 in projects to do but only has access to ~\$300,000 to spend.

Maybe the USFS works to ID the watersheds that will be included in the project, and then efforts are made to engage private industry to develop larger cross jurisdictional projects. Each large project during the QLG required 3-5 years to implement. There is a delay in the process and efforts need to be made to ensure projects move.

Biomass market is the largest barrier to progress at this time.

Keddie project will include the Mooretown Rancheria crew and Nancy is hoping to engage with the Greenville Indian Rancheria to get their input on the proposed projects.

Round Valley is a service contract that was recently funded. More are proposed towards Long Valley.

Ryan Tompkins is thinking that the USFS could use the Rapid Landscape Assessments as a tool to summarize proposed actions that can be shared with partners. Middle Fork of the Feather River is a wild and scenic river, and for the most part it, has not been effected by major catastrophic wildfire.

### **SNC-Lynn Campbell**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) works in a defined land area. They were signed into law under Arnold Schwarzenhager. Modoc to Kern, blue oak elevation on the west slope, Nevada on the east, 22 million acres, 22 counties. The SNC was designed to help the State to better address the needs and concerns of rural areas in the Sierra. Also to better identify issues. Quarterly board meetings are mobile throughout the region. SNC has been primarily focused on forest health. Money comes from Propositions, currently Props 50, 84, and 1.

\$25 million to spend in next three years, Watershed Improvement Program, to meet the need of project partners in the Sierra.

Looking for large scale landscape scale projects (public and private lands).

Round 1-good fit for our effort. Category 1-all environmental compliance is complete (NEPA, CEQA), shovel ready. Up to \$500,000. If NEPA is done, then SNC can be lead for CEQA. Category 2-planning only. Have id project, have partners, public lands and adjacent private. SNC will pay for all surveying. The USFS cannot apply for these funds. A collaborative group such as the PC FSC can be the project sponsor.

First two years: \$10 mil, next 2, \$7mil, next 2, \$5mil.

Lynn used the Cables Creek watershed in El Dorado Co as an example of a collaborative project; Trout Unlimited, USFS, Sierra Forest Legacy, and others. Prescribed fire, planning, implementation.

Nexus with IRWM? Not strong.

RFP is out ~July 1. Pre applications will be accepted to help “steer” the process.

USFS would like to work with the SNC to id projects and determine how a proposal could be developed.

RT recommends that we analyze that which projects fit into the Cat 1 and Cat 2.

Diamond Mountain Collaborative is working with adjacent private landowners to develop a large project. LCFSC will be submitting two proposals: funds to do NEPA on USFS and another for CEQA with the private landowners.

**Field trip:** public meeting in Graeagle this Saturday at 1000 at Graeagle fire hall re: lakes basin project. At 1230, there will be a field trip to areas in lakes basin, big hill and Gallagher.

Adjourn at 802 PM

Next meeting July 23 at Almanor Rec Center at 6pm