

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Delleker North Final Report

**USDA Forest Service
Plumas National Forest
Grant Number 03-DG-11051150-034**

July 2006

Project Background

Plumas County Fire Safe Council (PCFSC) solicited local property owners in mid-2002 to find geographically balanced and accessible locations to conduct its first thinning projects around the county. The intent was to show the local public examples of appropriate forest fuels reduction. The *Fuels Demonstration Project* was conducted from 2002 to 2005. The report is at <http://www.plumasfiresafe.org/Documents/Demo%20Project%20Rpt.pdf>. One lesson of the Demonstration was that properly designed and implemented fuels projects on private ground could earn significant revenues in many situations from existing log mills and electric co-generation plants. The revenues from sale of chips and logs could then be used to increase the number of acres treated. The 2002 solicitation resulted in interest from more than thirty property owners with more than 2,500 total acres. One owner had a 450 acre ranch and forest parcel just north of the settlement of Delleker (west of Portola). While adequate funds were not available to treat the Delleker property within the *Demonstration*, the site was reviewed for possible future funding.

Delleker North Funding

PCFSC (in 2003) sought funding from USDA Forest Service's "Community Protection" program and began work on a \$50,000 grant from Plumas NF to reduce fuels on 50 of the Delleker acres discussed above. The grant was executed on 7/21/03. The project was nested within an area where the PNF had accomplished previous fuels work on National Forest lands and was contemplating further work under the Herger Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act. A California Registered Professional Forester (RPF): Wayland Resource Management, was hired by PCFSC to design the project. The property owner agreed that all revenues generated by the project (chips and logs) would be returned to the project to accomplish additional fuels reduction acreage.

Project Accomplishments

The USFS District Ranger approved the NEPA/CEQA reviews (done primarily by the RPF) with a Decision Notice in October of 2004. A "Fuel Hazard Reduction Emergency Permit"

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was prepared by the RPF and issued by Ca Department of Forestry (in lieu of a Timber Harvest Plan) on 10/8/04. The Licensed Timber Operators (Pew and Winningham) began work in the same month. The on-the-ground thinning work continued in various acreage increments until closeout in June of 2006 (see attached map). Mechanical equipment of various types was used on the mostly level ground (see photos in attachments). The basic fuel reduction goal of the project (50 acres) was accomplished by the end of 2004. A total of 131 acres were thinned to PCFSC prescription (e.g. Assuming a wildfire in normal conditions, the treated acres are expected to experience flame lengths less than 4' and are unable to sustain or initiate a crown fire). No trees over 30" dbh were removed. The amount of acres accomplished is 262 % of the initial goals (131/50). Attached to this report is the final Financial Status Report, a powerpoint presentation of project accomplishments in fuels reduction as well a project map showing the phasing of the project.

Project Finance

The project financial plan was to thin 50 acres for \$50,000 (\$1,000 per acre). 131 acres were thinned at \$1,082 per acre. Total expense of the project from 7/21/03-6/30/06 was \$141,787.34. This expense is equal to project revenues (including the \$50,000 initial grant). The net cost per acre to the federal treasury was \$382. This is 38 % of the expected costs per acre.