

West Almanor Community Club Hazardous Fuels Reduction

**Plumas County Fire Safe Council
Final Report-
February 29, 2008**

**Contract # 07UFS9362
California Fire Safe Council**

General

Plumas County Fire Safe Council was approached by the Almanor Basin Fire Safe Council and the local homeowner's association: West Almanor Community Club, in 2005 to try to reduce fuels on seventeen acres of common lands in the development. This followed on a thinning project conducted by PCFSC on other lands in the same development in 2004. Applications were made to the Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee ('Secure Schools' Title II) and CA Fire Safe Council in 2006. Both were successful. Due to timing, the Plumas RAC funds were not accepted by PCFSC and a contract was entered into on 11/6/06 between PCFSC and CAFSC for \$ 8,294. The overall project included an expected additional match of \$ 17,146 from a combination of 'Secure Schools' Title III funds from the Plumas Board of Supervisors (\$ 5,000) and the remainder in product sales (logs and chips).

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

A solicitation for Professional Foresters was published and Joe Smailes was hired by the PCFSC as forester on this project in September, 2006. The Landowner Agreement was signed the same month. A Prospectus on the project for Licensed Timber Operators to carry out the thinning work was issued in January of 2007. Ron Vernon from nearby Janesville was hired in April of 2007 to thin seventeen acres in the project. Project work began in April and by 4/30, chips and logs were being delivered to the biomass electric generator and lumber mill in Chester in Chester. Thinning continued through the early summer and work was completed by the end of August, 2007. All seventeen acres were thinned.

The project has been well received. According to Dale Knutson, the Chair of the Almanor Basin Fire Safe Council:

“When coupled with annual parcel inspections by the local Fire Chief, there has been a significant amount of residential cleanup this year. It is gratifying to see the progress that has been made! Between the work done under Plumas County Fire Safe Council auspices on the community greenbelt parcels, the residential cleanup around individual homes and community-funded thinning along the golf course and recreation area, overall fire hazards have been reduced substantially.”

Financial

A total of \$ 24,213.33 has been expensed to carry out the project. This includes the CA FSC grant of \$ 8,294. The Title III planning funds and product revenues totaled \$15,919.33, slightly less than the \$ 17,146 projected. Expenses included \$ 14,850 to the Licensed Timber Operator (\$873 per acre), \$5,000 to the Forester (\$294 per acre) and the remainder (\$4,363.33) for administrative and monitoring costs (\$257 per acre).