

Final Report 12-CA-11051100-033 our # 257A

Summary

The LaPorte Road II Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) project is part of the second phase of a landowner initiated project to reduce forest fuels affecting residents along LaPorte Rd. In 2010, LaPorte Road I HFR treated 120 acres. Phase II treated an additional 213 acres of non-federal forestlands within the community abutting Plumas National Forest. Title II funds were used specifically to treat a sub-project proposed to treat 75 acres in the area of Cutler Meadow: T23N, R10E, Section 4 MDM, Spring Garden.

Treatment was conducted from July to October 2016. In total, 65.2 acres of mastication were completed with RAC funds. 16 additional acres of Cutler Meadow were treated in 2014 with both hand thin and mastication from a PG&E grant – a portion of which was used to match the RAC funds. A total of 81.2 acres of Cutler Meadow received hazardous fuel reduction treatments.

Project Milestones

8/14/2012	Grant agreement executed
8/1/2014	RPF contract signed with Jones Forestry & Conservation
12/3/2014	NEPA Analysis submitted to PNF – Mt. Hough Ranger District
12/18/2014	Grant Extension #1 through Dec 31, 2015
12/10/2015	Decision Memo issued by District Ranger
12/11/2015	Grant Extension #2 through Sept 30, 2017
4/6/2016	Request for Proposals issued for Cultural Resources Survey
5/6/2016	Archaeologist contract signed with Browning Cultural Resources
6/3/2016	Cultural Survey report submitted
6/9/2016	Bid prospectus issued
6/21/2016	Proposals received from Licensed Timber Operators (LTOs)
6/24/2016	LTO contract signed with Winningham Forest Management
July 2016	Treatment commenced
October 2016	Total project area – 65.2 acres – completed and approved by RPF
12/13/2016	Final invoice submitted to PNF

Project Identification

The *Plumas County Hazardous Fuels Assessment and Strategy* (2004) describes the pre-treatment condition at Cutler Meadow:

Dominant Historic Large Fire Behavior by Community:

Multiple lightning ignitions resulting in large campaign fires in steep topography.

Tactical Considerations:

Poor access down canyon, clearcuts on private land to east provide suppression opportunities and also fuels hazard.

Fuels Comments/Recommendations:

Major thinning on private land to east in past 5 years, unthinned clearcuts and dense 2nd growth on USFS lands to west. Need to support efforts for the Forest Service to propose thinning projects on their land near the communities. Emphasize clearance of fuels around individual structures.

Fire Behavior

Moderate to extreme Fire Behavior with passive crown fire.

Cutler Meadow is in the Wildland Urban Interface and is a populated area requiring fuels treatment, as outlined in the *Plumas County Wildfire Protection Plan* developed by the Fire Safe Council.

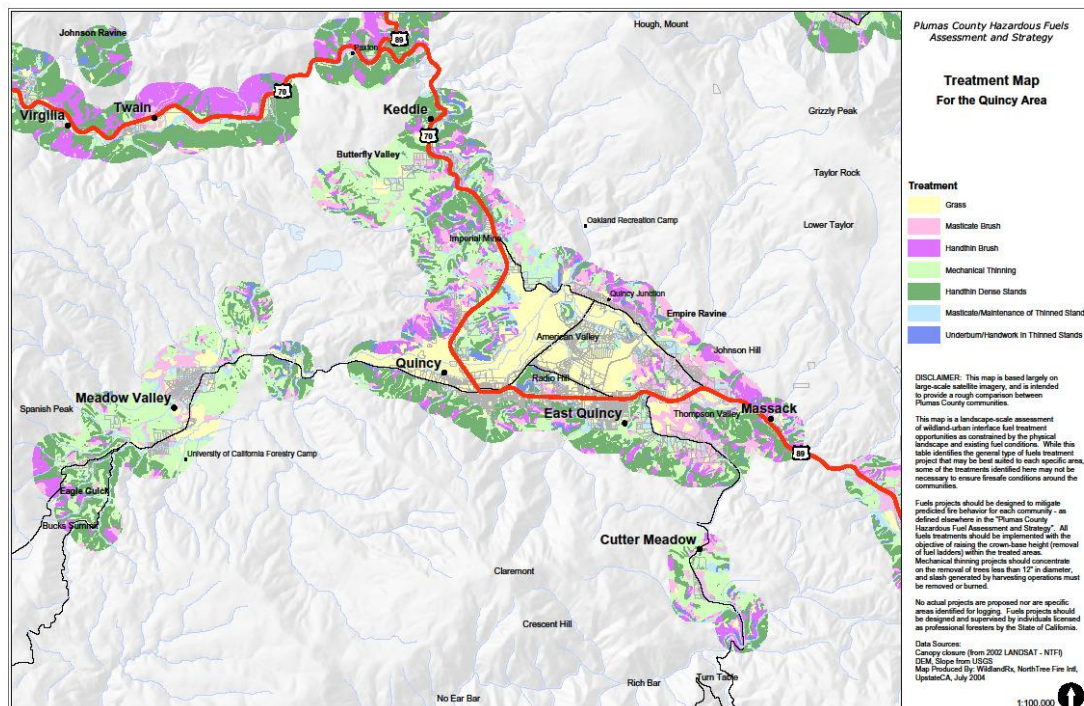
Contract and Bidding History

In 2011 the Plumas County Fire Safe Council applied for Title II funding for the project. Grant agreement 12-CA-11051100-033, for \$73,130, was executed August 14, 2012.

Proposals from California Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) were due 5/16/2014. The accepted proposal from Jones Forestry & Conservation was contracted on 8/1/2014. The RPF and her agent designed the project, developed the environmental background and analysis, and oversaw the on-the-ground work of the LTO contractor.

Contracts were issued to two participating landowners. One was executed on Oct 30, 2014 and the other on July 23, 2015.

The *Plumas County Hazardous Fuels Assessment and Strategy* mapped likely treatments by area. In Cutler Meadow, treatment was anticipated to be primarily mechanical:



The forester's assessment provided the same result. Initially an additional 1.2 acres, labelled Unit B, was identified for hand-thin treatment. However, findings of the Cultural Resources Survey resulted in removal of the area from the project.

The project prospectus (attached) was issued June 9, 2016. A pre-bid tour was not required for the Cutler Meadow project because in November 2013 seven operators were in attendance for a tour of the greater Phase II project. A contract, not to exceed \$63,094, for mechanical mastication on 65.2 acres was executed with Winningham Forest Management on June 24, 2016.

Financial Summary

Project costs totaled \$77,882.94. The \$73,130 balance of Title II funds has been expensed and the final invoice submitted to Plumas National Forest on 12/13/2016. The remaining \$4752.94 in project costs was covered by landowner contributions. A total of \$16,300 in landowner contributions were collected (\$250/acre). The remaining funds will be retained for treatment of additional acres of future projects in the area. \$3000 from a PG&E grant were leveraged as match for this project to reach (and exceed) the proposed \$7,500 match.

The project averaged \$1,194.52 per acre treated. The LTO costs were contracted at \$845/acre.

	Title II	Landowner Contributions	Other Grant Sources	Total Cost	Percent of Project Costs
Registered Professional Forester	\$5,191.34			\$5,191.34	6.7%
Cultural Resources Survey	\$9,715.51			\$9,715.51	12.5%
Licensed Timber Operator	\$50,773.10	\$4,320.90	\$3,000.00	\$55,094.00	70.7%
Administration	\$7,450.05	\$432.04		\$7,882.09	10.1%
Total	\$73,130.00	\$4,752.94	\$3,000.00	\$77,882.94	100%