

PRESS RELEASE

County Land Managers to discuss Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects at Fire Safe Council meeting

Local forest land managers and landowners will be discussing the coordination of Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) projects at the Plumas County Fire Safe Council (PC FSC) meeting on Thursday March 12, 2015. The meeting will be held at the Plumas County Planning & Building Services office, located at 555 Main Street in Quincy, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

Each year the PC FSC hosts a gathering of private and public forest land managers, along with interested parties from the public. The purpose of this meeting is to present forest health and hazardous fuel reduction projects that have been accomplished, are in process of implementation or are being planned for the coming year. The information that is shared during this collaborative meeting is then integrated into the Plumas County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Our local CWPP is a living document that is used as a tool by the PC FSC to identify and prioritize which communities in Plumas County are in need of fuels reduction treatments. Participants in our annual HFR meeting help to provide current information on the various fuels reduction efforts that are occurring in our region.

In addition to being an important planning resource, CWPP's are also used by groups that facilitate fuels reduction efforts, such as Fire Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts and non-profit organizations to compete for grant funds to support community assistance programs. These types of programs can include defensible space assistance for senior or disabled citizens, community hazardous fuel reduction projects and fire and forest related educational programs. By maintaining an up to date CWPP, the PC FSC ensures that there is a plan available to support efforts throughout the County.

Countywide, land managers of industrial, commercial, private and public lands have worked aggressively to lessen wildfires impacts across the landscape. Fire scientists and forest land managers know that the only way humans can manage wildfire intensity and spread is to work to reduce fuel loads on forested landscapes. A majority of these efforts to reduce fuel loading, to make our forests safer and healthier, focus on thinning the forest by removing the smaller trees and ladder fuel, which can ignite the larger trees and create embers.

By reducing fuel loading, removing ladder fuels (small trees) and breaking up the horizontal continuity of the forest, it becomes less likely that surface fires will become crown fires, which generate embers. Embers are the largest threat to homes and communities as they can start new fires up to a mile out in front of the main fire. Fuels reduction treatments work to emulate the low intensity wildfires that historically burned through our forests. Not only are treated forests more fire resilient, but they also create a safer environment for our communities and our firefighters.

Please consider attending this important meeting. The mission of the Council is: ***“To reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise Community programs and pre-fire activities.”***

To see a map of our Countywide HFR efforts, our Community Wildfire Protection Plan, a County Fuels Assessment and Strategy, or how to get assistance in developing a community HFR project, visit our website www.plumasfiresafe.org, or call the office at (530) 283-0829.