

## PRESS RELEASE

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

Plumas County land managers will be discussing the coordination of Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) projects at the Plumas County Fire Safe Council (PC FSC) meeting on Thursday March 13, 2014. 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.

Annually forest land managers, both private and public, get together to present hazardous fuel reduction projects that they have accomplished, are in process of implementing or planning for the coming year. This collaborative meeting becomes part of the Council's annual update to the Plumas County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). CWPP's are necessary for Fire Safe Councils to competitively obtain grant funds for community assistance programs; such as defensible space assistance for senior or disabled citizens, hazardous fuel reduction projects and educational programs. Countywide, land managers of industrial, commercial and public lands have worked aggressively to lessen wildfires impacts across the landscape. PC FSC has assisted more than 22 communities in efforts to reduce hazardous fuel conditions in and around their communities, using funding from grants, forest products and landowner contributions. Since 2003, the Council has used this funding on private lands to complete more than 2,500 acres of treatments and presently has funding commitments with planned treatments for an additional 1,100 acres.

Fire managers know and science has proven that the only way humans can manage wildfire intensity and spread from embers is to reduce fuel loadings. Most 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. When 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. These treatments try to emulate mechanically what historically frequent, low-intensity fire used to do. Not only are treated forests more fire resilient, but communities and firefighters are safer.

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.”*** The Plumas County Fire Safe Council invites residents with an interest in preventing and mitigating impacts from wildland fires, to their homes or communities, to become members. The Council is a coalition of citizens, businesses, fire departments and representatives of local, state and federal government agencies.

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](http://www.plumasfiresafe.org).