

PRESS RELEASE

Plumas County Fire Safe Council Meeting 3/8/12

Plumas County Land Managers to discuss Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects

County land managers will be discussing the coordination of Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) projects at the Plumas County Fire Safe Council meeting on Thursday March 8, 2012. 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, present hazardous fuel reduction projects that they have accomplished, are in progress or planned for the coming year. This collaborative meeting becomes part of the Council's annual update to the County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). CWPP's are necessary for Fire Safe Councils to obtain grant funds to provide community assistance programs; such as hazardous fuel reduction projects, creating defensible space assistance for senior or disabled citizens and educational programs. PC FSC has assisted more than 20 communities in the reducing of hazardous fuels on more than 2,500 acres since 2003.

Fire managers know and science has proven that the only way we can manage wildfire intensity and consequently the embers produced is to reduce fuel loadings. Most efforts to reduce fuel loadings, to make our forests safer and healthier, focus on thinning the forest from below. By doing mechanically what historically frequent fire used to do. By reducing fuel loadings, 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. 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. Not only are the forest more fire resilient, but communities and firefighters are safer.

The mission of the Council is: ***"To reduce the loss of natural and manmade 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.

For more information on our Community Wildfire Protection Plan, developing a HFR project for your community, or our County Fuels Assessment and Strategy, visit our website www.plumasfiresafe.org.