

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Plumas County Fuel Reduction Demonstration Project  
Final Report June, 2005



Almanor West  
Greenbelt  
Before & After



This project was developed by the Plumas County Fire Warden and Plumas County Fire Safe Council, using funding from USDA Forest Service under the National Forest Dependent Rural Communities Act of 1990 (02-DG-11051150-018) and from the Plumas County Board of Supervisors under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (PL 106-393)

## **General and Summary**

The Plumas County Hazardous Fuels Demonstration Project was carried out by Plumas County Fire Safe Council between July 11, 2002 and April 29, 2005. The project sponsor was the Plumas County Fire Warden.

The primary goal of the project was to initiate a fuel hazard reduction demonstration project in Plumas County on private lands intermixed or adjacent to Plumas County communities. The project objectives included:

- Treat approximately 100 acres for demonstration purposes. A total of 63.3 acres were actually treated;
- Develop a mechanism for application, evaluation and selection of sites;
- Document the lessons learned;
- Conduct landowner outreach and prioritize projects
- Hire a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) to work with property owners, contractors and staff to carry out the projects to create a fire safe condition.

Funding for the project included \$55,000 to the Plumas County Fire Warden from the USDA Forest Service under the National Forest Dependent Rural Communities Act of 1990 and \$30,000 from the Plumas County Board of Supervisors, using federal Secure Rural Schools and Communities (PL 106-393) funding. Revenues received from sale of woody material supplemented the budget, enabling total project expenditures in excess of \$100,000. Significant additional in kind (non-cash) contributions were received from a variety of entities throughout the term of the project.

## **Expenditures and Revenues**

Expenditures on the demonstration project totaled \$104,059.34 and revenues were \$103,925.27. The overage of \$ 134.07 is being absorbed by Plumas County Fire safe Council from other fund sources. The grant budget was \$85,000 [\$ 55,000 from the USDA Forest Service (National Forest Dependent Rural Communities Act of 1990) and \$30,000 from the Plumas County Board of Supervisors (Secure Rural Schools (PL 106-393)]. Additional revenues (\$18,925 beyond the two grants) were received from sales of fiber (sawlogs and chips).

Line Item expenditures by county fiscal year (7/1-6/30) are as follows:

**Demonstration Project Expenses only**

Item	FY end 6/03	FY end 6/04	FY end 6/05	Total
Salary	2,043.31	1,589.82	3,025.36	6,658.49
Temp Wage			941.38	941.38
Fringe	630.58	560.96	1,498.54	2,690.08
Travel			104.09	104.09
Photocopier			1,504.16	1,504.16
Office Supplies			24.71	24.71
Liability insurance		27.71	54.19	81.90
Miscellaneous professional services	12,030.15	45,285.90	28,228.00	85,544.05
Miscellaneous		850.00	950.75	1,800.75
General Administration	662.70	357.93	1,259.46	2,280.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,398.39</b>	<b>51,070.31</b>	<b>37,590.64</b>	<b>104,059.34</b>

**Demonstration Project Revenues**

Revenues for the project (including the \$85,000 in grant funds) totaled \$103,925.27. Revenues also included \$18,925.27 in net revenues (after state yield taxes) from sale of logs and chips on two of the projects. Revenues ranged from \$288-330 per 1000 board feet (mbf) of timber and \$38 per Bone Dry Ton (BDT) of chips. The highest price per mbf was \$460 and the lowest was \$280.

**Jobs created**

A total of \$61,758 was expensed to fuels reduction contractors from this project. A standard rule of thumb is that ½ of total contract expenses are in wages and the remainder is in company charges. The direct wages, therefore, would be \$30,879. This equates to 0.74 of a full time equivalent [FTE] job (2080 hours per year @ \$20 per hour). Indirectly, it is estimated that an equivalent FTE (0.74) was created at the mill/cogeneration plants that processed the material.

**Material to the Mills**

Two local lumber mills (Collins Pine Co./Chester and Sierra Pacific Industries/Quincy) and one Biomass Electric Generator (Mt. Lassen Power/ Westwood) received material from two nearby demonstration projects. No material was removed from four of the project sites. Excess biomass material on site was either handpiled and burned, chipped or both (by landowners and/or contractors) to achieve fuel conditions that would result in an average flame length of 4 feet or less.

### Demonstration Fiber Shipments

Date	Mt Lassen Power Electric Generator	Collins Mill	SPI Mill
4/04		33.08 mbf (1.94 @ acre-66 % White Fir)	
4/04	116 BDT (6.82 @ acre)		
4/05			12.91 mbf (1.52 @ acre-97% Ponderosa pine)

### **1. Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects**

The Fire Safe Council, after a countywide solicitation, carried out fuel reduction projects at six sites throughout the County. A total of seven sites were analyzed under NEPA/CEQA and put out to bids, but only six sites received fuel reduction activity. The seventh site was not accomplished due to inordinately high bid costs resulting in no contract award. The projects were carried out in 2003-2005. The project pictures are catalogued at <http://www.plumasfiresafe.org/Galleries/Demonstration/index.html>. The project outlines are as follows:

Site	# of acres	Treatment	Property owner(s)	Contractor	Contract \$ Cost
# 1- Grizzly Creek Rd. Eastern Plumas Area	4.3	Hand thinning, burning, chipping	K/M	Firestorm	2,850 1,000*
# 2- Indian Falls- Indian Valley Area	11	Hand thinning, chipping	Multiple	High Sierra Fire	13,700
#3- Almanor West	16.5	Mechanical thinning, chipping, burning	Almanor West CSD	Pew & Firestorm	17,590 1,208
# 4- Oakland Camp Rd- American Valley Area.	20	Hand thinning, burning, chipping	E/W	Firestorm	12,500
#5- Gansner Park (American Valley) Area	3	Hand thinning, burning	H	High Sierra Fire	6,000

#6- Chandler Road-American Valley	8.5	Mechanical thinning, chipping	J	Pew	8,000
Totals	63.3				62,848

\* Additional chipping contract with other fund source (not included in grant expenditure review)

These projects were the first actual fuels reduction projects carried out by the Fire Safe Council. Because of this, a variety of legal and other documents had to be developed in order to successfully carry out the effort.

These documents were developed by contracted consultants (PCFSC has no employees), PCFSC volunteers and also by the generous work of Plumas County Counsel. Contractual documents included:

- Landowner Agreement
- Contract with Registered Professional Forester
- Logging Contractor Agreement
- Operational MOU with a non-profit (Plumas Corporation).

These contractual documents are being used and adapted for all other PCFSC projects. Additionally, a number of other documents were prepared for the project, including the ‘Property Owner Application’, the property solicitation advertisement, Request for Proposals for the Registered Professional Forester and the “Fuel Hazard Reduction” project review on the website (attached).

### **Demonstration Project Fuels Reduction Timeline**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Milestone</i>	<i>Method</i>
7/11/02	USDA Forest Service grant execution	
7/22/02	Parcel Solicitation	Website, newspaper articles, radio appearances
10/22/02	Parcels Submitted	Mail and email
3/12/03	Initial Demonstration Parcels Reviewed & Chosen	Committee Recommendation and Council Adoption
8/31/03	Five Fuel Reduction (HFR) projects advertised to forest fuels contractors	Newspaper, mail, email
12/30/03	First HFR project contractor payout: # 4- Oakland Camp Rd-American Valley Area (20 acres).	
1/27/04	First Complete HFR project: # 2- Indian Falls- Indian Valley Area (11 acres)	
4/30/04	First Revenue Producing HFR Project completes logging: #3- Almanor West (16.5 acres)	

12/30/04	Last HFR Project contractor payout: #6- Chandler Road-American Valley (8.5 acres)	
5/19/05	Final material revenue received (# 6-Chandler Road)	

## **2. Develop a mechanism for application, evaluation and selection of sites**

The Council began countywide solicitation of prospective fuel reduction sites on July 22, 2002- soon after the grant agreement was executed with USDA Forest Service. The Council used the previously developed website ([www.plumasfiresafe.org](http://www.plumasfiresafe.org)) as the primary outreach mechanism and created a specific section of the website dedicated to the demonstration project (see attached “Demonstration Project Description”). The website solicitation included a new application form (2 pages) for interested landowners to email or mail back by the October 22, 2002 application due date. The web based “Description” included a seven page set of criteria that was developed to help define how choices would be made by PCFSC for demonstration sites.

The website was supplemented by newspaper articles written by PCFSC members, press releases and radio talk show interviews.

The outreach effort was successful. The attached map: “Applicant Locations” shows the various sites that were submitted throughout the county. Thirty five sites totaling more than 2,300 acres were submitted. These sites provided enough acreage to conduct the demonstration project and provided the starting points for larger, community level fuel hazard reduction projects throughout the county as well as individual parcel work using other fund sources.

## **3. Document the lessons learned**

### **Lesson #1:**

**The initial concern of having too much of a response to the landowner solicitation in August 2002 (35 sites with 2,300 acres) has been replaced with growing satisfaction at PCFSC with the breadth of funding sources being used on those volunteering parcels. The combined ingenuity of the PCFSC is greater than the sum of its parts.**

The solicitation in August of 2002 greatly raised expectations in Plumas County that the Fire Safe Council would be able to work on private non-industrial lands in and near the towns. The attached map shows the wide geography covered by the landowners, who offered parcels between a ¼ acre and 400 acres in size. The subsequent section (# 4. Outreach and Prioritize Projects) reviews the process used to prioritize the participating parcels to the ~ 100 acres called for in the demonstration project grant. The remaining 2,200 acres still needed fuels reduction and had willing owners. One of the express goals of this demonstration project was to:

*Develop fuel reduction opportunities in Plumas County that coordinate the efforts, funds and resources of the County Fire Safe Council, Quincy Library Group, Title II and III*

*projects of HR-2389 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act and the Plumas National Forest.*

Since 2002, PCFSC has worked with a variety of other entities and fund sources (including the property owners on most projects) to assist the original applicants as shown in the following chart.

<b>Town</b>	<b>Acres First Proposed</b>	<b>Owner Initial</b>	<b>Lead Entity/Eventual Fund Source</b>	<b>Acres completed or in progress</b>
Grizzly Creek	1	CW	PCFSC/Secure Schools RAC/Title III/Foundation	1
Meadow Valley	34	TT	NRCS EQIP	34
Genesee	20	CK	NRCS EQIP	20
Indian Valley	40	PN	NRCS EQIP	40
Quincy	35	CSD	PCFSC/Secure Schools RAC/Title III	13
C Road	21	RC	PCFSC/Secure Schools RAC/Title III	21
C Road	7	LDS	PCFSC/Secure Schools RAC/Title III	7
Delleker	800	TM	PCFSC/USFS Community Protection	120
Graeagle	505	GLW	PCFSC/Secure schools RAC/Title III	200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,463</b>			<b>456</b>

**Lesson #2.**

**There was always more biomass (hand piles) generated through fuels reduction and thinning than most landowners/homeowners anticipated. No burn piles will be left in the future.**

All six accomplished projects had some components that resulted in piles of fuels (from hand or mechanical thinning). Two of the projects planned chipping as part of the contract and that chipping was carried out. On all four of the other projects, the pile burning was going to be done by the landowner as a voluntary contribution. However, the number and volume of resultant burn piles were a surprise and cause for alarm for the landowners/homeowners. One homeowner expected a couple of dozen piles and ended up with more than a hundred. In three of those four cases, PCFSC went back and modified

or initiated contracts with fuels treatment contractors to remove piles by chipping or burning. This resulted in some extra time and costs to achieve the fuel standard sought. In one case, the funds came from other (non-federal) sources to provide chipping services. Due to these occurrences, the decision was made on this and for future PCFSC projects to chip or burn all the burn piles as part of the project (one way or another) and leave no piles for landowners to burn in the future, after the PCFSC funds had been expensed.

**Lesson # 3:**

**An entirely new set of administrative and contractual relationships needed to be developed to carry out the Fire Safe Council's fuels reduction projects. Rather than have Plumas County carry out those functions or set up the administrative and contracting structure within PCFSC, the PCFSC Board chose to contract with an existing non-profit entity to perform all administrative functions. Additionally, County Counsel, when asked, provided invaluable contract templates.**

The demonstration project was the PCFSC's first actual fuels reduction project. During 2002, before and after the execution (7/11/02) of the grant agreement between USDA Forest Service and Plumas County (Office of Emergency Services), PCFSC investigated the most appropriate methods to carry out this and other fuels reduction projects. There were three basic administrative options:

- Continue to use Plumas County as the contracting and administrative entity,
- Develop the organizational capacity within the (recently IRS certified) non-profit PCFSC, or
- Contract with another entity to carry out administrative functions.

PCFSC chose to contract all fuels reduction projects with an existing, local non-profit (Plumas Corporation) for a wide variety of reasons. Self-administration by PCFSC was rejected due to the administrative challenge of having to set up books, procurement and personnel procedures, an office and office equipment, insurance policies (medical, directors, officers and general liability), credit lines, annual audits under federal OMB and other actions. Plumas Corporation had these administrative assets in place and was already involved with PCFSC. County administration was rejected due to relatively more restrictive and time consuming personnel, contracting and procurement policies as well as the 'outsider' role that PCFSC would assume in County processes and procedures. PCFSC entered into a permanent MOU with Plumas Corporation as an outgrowth of the demonstration in October 2002. That MOU is amended, by signed addenda, as new projects come about and are completed. A copy of the MOU is attached. More than twenty subsequent projects use the MOU as their framework.

Four major new contract formats were needed to carry out the project (as well as subsequent projects):

- A Landowner Agreement
- A Timber Operator Contract
- A Registered Professional Forester Contract
- An Operational Agreement

Plumas County Counsel was asked to assist with the preparation of these documents by PCFSC and responded favorably, through a variety of iterations. This represented at least 100 hours of legal assistance. At \$150 per hour, that \$15,000 non-cash match has not been previously tracked or shown in financial reports but provided a strong basis for appropriate future arrangements by PCFSC.

#### **Lesson #4**

##### **Most project costs were higher than anticipated.**

The largest budget cost prediction in the original grant was that 100 acres of fuel reduction could be accomplished at five sites around the County for \$59,725 in fuels reduction contractor costs (versus the total grant amounts of \$85,000). This original budget estimate equates to an expected 'contractor' cost of \$ 597.25 per acre. No revenues from sale of material were predicted or budgeted.

The resultant project reduced fuels at six sites for a total of 63.3 acres. A total of \$62,848 was spent on gross 'contractor' costs (~ \$3,000 over budget). This equates to \$ 992.86 per acre. Revenue received from sale of sawlogs and chips resulted in \$18, 925.27 in unbudgeted income. This amount, if applied to the 'contractor' cost results in a net contractor cost of \$43,922 or \$694 per acre.

The second largest budget projection was for the registered professional forester costs at \$20,250. These costs ended up at \$22,085. This was primarily due to the necessity to carry out both California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) AND National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses on each project as well as use a new State fuels reduction permit process.

NEPA requirements are too extreme for projects that actually require no CEQA process. Projects that are conducted as hand thinning and chipping do not cause a significant environmental impact (except in rare, predictable cases). A simple checklist should be developed that indicates that the projected area has been surveyed for threatened or endangered plants/species and archaeological resources. When these conditions are observed on a project site the PCFSC and its agents will develop protection measures when deemed necessary.

Finally, overall administrative costs were budgeted at \$2,750 and ended up at \$12,570. The fuels reduction activities were all accomplished by 3/31/05 and the administrative costs through that time were \$8,008 (\$127 per acre). Some administrative activities, originally programmed to be accomplished by the Registered Professional Forester, were found to be less expensively accomplished by the administrative entity, Plumas Corporation. These additional tasks included contracting with fuels reduction contractors to accomplish the field work, paying the contractors, as well as the quarterly reporting responsibilities to USDA Forest Service and Plumas County. Approved scope of work changes, emphasizing more educational activities (e.g. website development and Fire Plan duplication) late in the project, resulted in additional administrative charges of \$4,561 in the last month of the project.

#### **Lesson #5**

##### **The Demonstration thinning work convinced the neighbors of some of the projects to jointly work on larger fuels reduction projects.**

Two future community level thinning projects (Indian Falls and Grizzly Creek) directly resulted from fuels reduction work on the demonstration project. In each case, residents worked with neighbors to propose larger projects (50-125 acres) to PCFSC, who in turn is pursuing federal funds for the broader projects.

**Lesson #6**

**There was a tangible improvement in the length of the California regulatory process because of the new state ‘Emergency Exemption’.**

The new California “Notice of Emergency Timber Operations-Fuel Hazard Reduction” (enacted in 2004) allows certain thinning work to take place without a California Timber Harvest Plan (THP) from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). This makes a remarkable difference in the permit processing time for thinning work from below- even though some timber revenues are involved. The amount of time needed to secure a permit from CDF shrank from 2 ½ months down to one day. The amount of time from NEPA approval to CEQA permit shrank from 4 ½ months down to three weeks. The same basic environmental analyses were accomplished for both projects. A comparison is shown below between the only two revenue generating projects in the Demonstration. These were developed under the same basic direction from PCFSC, by the same Forester and also used the same timber operator.

<b>Project ID Initial</b>	<b>Project Acres</b>	<b>NEPA Approval Date/ Instrument</b>	<b>Permit Application to CDF</b>	<b>CDF Permit Date/Instrument</b>
AW	16.5	6/10/03 Decision Memo and Categorical Exclusion	8/18/03	10/28/03/ THP
J	8.5	12/28/04 Decision Memo and Categorical Exclusion	1/20/05	1/21/05/ Emergency Exemption

**Lesson #7**

**The initial length of the basic contract with US Forest Service was overoptimistic and should have been longer from the beginning (perhaps 3 years). USFS should gauge scope of work and the administrative readiness of grantees on fuels reduction projects prior to setting contract lengths.**

The project was carried out between 7/11/02-4/29/05 (33 months). Fuels reduction activities could have been extended even further until 9/30/05 (revenues were available to complete ~ 7 more acres). The original contract period was for ~ 15 months. There were four contract amendments necessary to extend the term. Each amendment took administrative time at all levels. A good portion of the delays were due to the initial lack of internal contractual documents (see Lesson #3) as well as the lack of initial focus on exactly which parcels would be thinned. The outreach effort (described elsewhere) was completed eight months into the contract (approximately halfway through) but the resultant projects weren’t ready for contract awards until virtually the end of the initial contract term (September 2003).

### Lesson #8

**Revenue producing portions of the fuels reduction projects should be accomplished relatively early in the overall project in order to gauge the funds available to accomplish non-revenue producing projects.**

Each of the six projects had non-revenue producing aspects (e.g. no chips or logs produced for offsite use). All were accomplished in order to bring fuels within the program design on all acres (i.e. 2-4 foot resultant flame length, unable to sustain crown fire, etc.). The knowledge of actual revenues (and concomitant costs) early in the project would have allowed for improved planning for costs of the non-revenue producing acres.

#### **4. Outreach and prioritize projects**

The success of the initial 2002 outreach to landowners was overwhelming at first. Applications were received for 2,300 acres at 35 sites versus available funds for 100 acres on five sites. A PCFSC committee of fifteen was set up to review the projects and prioritize them. It included a California Department of Forestry representative, a USFS representative [three usually came to meetings], 3 property owner volunteers, 2 fire chefs and four RPFs. The prioritization process used the criteria developed as part of the original solicitation (see [www.plumasfiresafe.org](http://www.plumasfiresafe.org) under hazardous fuel reduction for the seven page criteria in pdf format). The committee visited all 35 sites except those deemed too far away from traveled roads. The committee then ranked all projects and recommended priorities to the full PCFSC. The priority list was developed and approved by PCFSC on 3/12/03.

\$1,629 was expensed for Fire Safe Council signage installed at each of the six demonstration sites versus the \$2,275 budgeted for that task. The previous amount is the sign cost alone and does not include labor to install the signs initially (provided by the RPF) or labor for subsequent reinforcing and reinstallation of the signs in 2005.

Additionally, \$500 was expensed to the Sierra Valley 4-H to develop a “firesafe garden” at the Chilcoot firehall, the gateway community to the East.

The primary outreach effort, beyond the fuels reduction acres, was general outreach on PCFSC projects. This included, at the end of the project, developing a template and posting of all the PCFSC fuels reduction projects on the PCFSC website (description, reports, maps and photos). This will be a continuing process. It also included color printing costs for the “Fire Safe Assessment and Strategy” (2/05) and “Communities Fire Plan” (4/05) after their adoption by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors.

#### **5. Hire a registered California Forester (RPF) to work with property owners, contractors and staff to carry out the projects to create a fire safe condition**

PCFSC solicited for a California Registered Professional Forester (RPF) during the summer of 2002 (see the ad attached at the end of the report). The RFP (Request for Proposals) included a not to exceed amount of \$20,250 for the forester. Five qualified Applications were received, interviews were held and Wayland Resource Management

was hired on to carry out the Demonstration project in late 2002. Plumas County Counsel assisted in developing the contract with the RPF.

The contract defined the deliverables for the RPF as follows:

- Assist in the location of hazardous fuel reduction projects and the development of treatment standards.
- Participate in the development of the evaluation and selection process.
- Coordinate the development and implementation of these hazardous fuel reduction projects by September 30, 2003
- Conduct appropriate field review of potential project locations in order to prepare, file and secure the appropriate regulatory, fire protection, environmental and operational safety permits that may required prior to commencement of the hazardous fuel reduction activity.
- Contract with local qualified contractors for the reduction and removal of hazardous fuels and associated tasks. The RPF will work with landowners in the selling of hazardous fuel materials that are removed if in the merchantable form of sawlogs or biomass. If any merchantable products were recovered the value would reduce the cost per acre for that respective landowner and allow for additional acres of treatment.
- Utilize the fuel reduction incentive on a "per acre" basis in the establishment of operating costs for each of the projects and contractors.
- Provide continual administration and monitoring of all hazardous fuel reduction projects.
- The contracted RPF will provide at least one field trip to the sites to inform the County Board of Supervisors, Fire Safe Council and citizens of the cost, benefits and impacts of such activities.
- Provide signage at up to five of the demonstration areas to encourage additional public response and interest
- Be responsible for the development and filing of quarterly and the final USDA Forest Service Grant Report(s).

The Demonstration project ended up expending \$22,085 for RPF services between 7/1/02 and 4/30/05 versus \$20,250 budgeted for these purposes.

**Appendices Follow**

***FS FY02 Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant:***

**Demonstration Project Description**

July 22, 2002

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council has been awarded grant funds to perform Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) demonstration projects on 100 acres at various locations across the County. This project is funded by both the USDA Forest Service as part of the National Fire Plan, and by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors using Title III funds from Public Law 106-393 (HR-2389).

**Project Purpose:**

This purpose of this project is to initiate hazardous fuel treatment demonstration projects, on private lands (non-industrial), intermixed or adjacent to Plumas County communities. This project will demonstrate the process of hazardous fuel reduction and help residents, policy makers, and the public better understand how hazardous wildland fuels can be mitigated. These demonstration projects should better help residents understand what they can do to protect themselves, and their property, from wildfire and what the costs and benefits are. The effect of treating fuels to mitigate fire severity is well documented in a mass of government reports. Fuel modification has a direct relationship on how fast a fire spreads, at which intensity a fire burns, and whether or not torching, crowning or spotting will occur. By treating the surface, ladder and in some cases aerial fuels, landowners affect the only fire behavior element over which they have complete control.

**HFR Demonstration Areas Project Goals:**

The goals are:

- Reduce the loss of life, property and natural resources to large scale wildfires.
- Provide educational and motivational demonstrations of hazardous fuel reduction projects on private, non-industrial, property in Plumas County.
- Provide economic incentives and assistance for the reduction and utilization of hazardous fuels.
- Create employment opportunities for citizens and businesses within Plumas County.
- Develop fuel reduction opportunities in Plumas County that coordinate the efforts, funds and resources of the County Fire Safe Council. Quince Library Group Title II and III projects of HR-2389

## Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act and the Plumas National Forest.

### **Project Selection Criteria:**

The selection criteria for projects will consider dispersion across the county, public accessibility to the project, wildfire hazard and values at risk. The complete [HFR Criteria Selection](#) can be viewed on our website.

### **Treatment Methods:**

The project objective would be to remove enough fuel so that when a wildfire passes, the resulting flame lengths are less than three feet. Fuelbeds that produce these flame lengths are short grasses usually less than six inches in height; or a cover of pine or fir needles with the absence of continuous brush or small trees often referred to as ladder fuels. Ladder fuels allow a fire to move from a ground fire into a crown fire.

These demonstration projects will involve wildland fuel removal, and may increase material for co-generation plants, and create jobs in the cutting and removal of material. Hazardous Fuel Reduction treatments could include: a) creating a fuelbreak adjacent to a community, b) treating all hazardous fuels on a parcel(s) in or adjacent to a community. Final selection of treatment will be by the landowner. The methods may include mechanical thinning and biomass; mechanical thinning and small log utilization; hand thinning and chipping or burning; or some other method. If commercial product revenues were generated, such as from small logs or biomass, then those revenues would be used to reduce the overall project cost.

### **Project Signing & Documentation:**

Documentation for educational and demonstration purposes will include lessons learned to implement, and a public education program including the costs and benefits of treating hazardous fuels in Plumas County. The planning, implementation, monitoring and signage aspects of the project will also provide educational opportunities for residents so that they better understand Wildland Urban Interface homeowner options and responsibilities. The social, political and economic information gained will be important when seeking funding either from grants, private sources or funds from Public Law 106-393 (HR-2389) Title III. . Landowner support and educational benefits will also be derived so that the communities can better prepare for future hazard reduction projects.

### **Project Implementation**

To insure project success, a [California Registered Professional Forester](#) (RPF) will be hired by the Fire Safe Council to work with property owners, contractors, Plumas County staff and the Council to carry out hazardous fuel reduction projects that create a fire safe condition and comply with State Forest practices.

### **The selected RPF will be responsible to:**

- Assist in the location of hazardous fuel reduction projects and the development of treatment standards.
- Participate in the development of the evaluation and selection process.
- Coordinate the development and implementation of these hazardous fuel reduction projects by September 30, 2003
- Conduct appropriate field review of potential project locations in order to prepare, file and secure the appropriate regulatory, fire protection, environmental and operational safety permits that may be required prior to commencement of the hazardous fuel reduction activity.
- Contract with local qualified contractors for the reduction and removal of hazardous fuels and associated tasks. The RPF will work with landowners in the selling of hazardous fuel materials that are removed if in the merchantable form of sawlogs or biomass. If any merchantable products were recovered the value would reduce the cost per acre for that respective landowner and allow for additional acres of treatment.
- Utilize the fuel reduction incentive on a "per acre" basis in the establishment of operating costs for each of the projects and contractors.
- Provide continual administration and monitoring of all hazardous fuel reduction projects.
- The contracted RPF will provide at least one field trip to the sites to inform the County Board of Supervisors, Fire Safe Council and citizens of the cost, benefits and impacts of such activities.
- Provide signage at up to five of the demonstration areas to encourage additional public response and interest
- Be responsible for the development and filing of quarterly and the final USDA Forest Service Grant Report(s).

### **How Applicants will be Ranked**

All applicants will be contacted and projects ranked by a committee of the FSC. This committee will select the final projects.

- First cut will consider: Project Dispersion across the County, and Accessibility to the public (i.e. travel corridors). The Council hopes to have at projects spread across the County.

- Second cut for multiple projects in the same general areas of the County will consider: - Fire hazard ranking- Assets at risk, cooperation, & contribution of timber products (if any) to help offset the costs.

### **How to Apply**

Interested property owners can download the ["Property Owner Application"](#) located on our website, or send a letter with the following information: Name, Address (physical & mailing), Phone number, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN), parcel size, a brief description of what & why you want the

area treated and include pictures if possible (standard or digital format).  
Send information to Plumas County Fire Safe Council - P.O. Box 1225 -  
Quincy, CA 95971.

Multiple adjacent property owners are encouraged to apply together in order  
to have larger areas of treatment.

***For Questions***

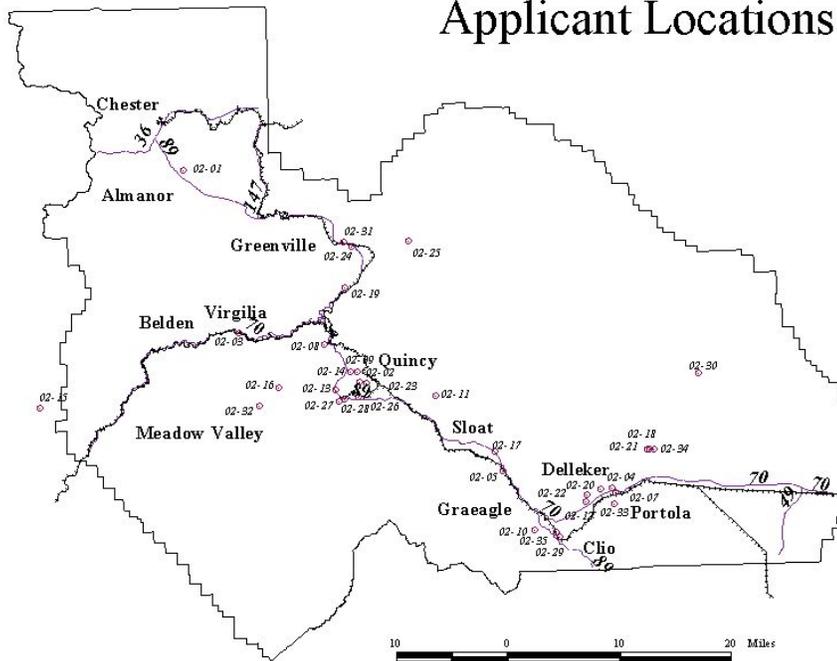
Questions can be answered by calling John Sheehan at Plumas Corp - 283-  
3739, Mike De Lasaux at the UC Cooperative Extension - 283-6125, or  
Jerry Hurley at 832-4705.

For a copy of the [Demonstration Project](#) in PDF format

[Hazardous Fuels Reduction Criteria](#) *New*

[Home Owner Application](#) *New*

# Hazardous Fuel Reduction Demonstration Applicant Locations



Created by M. De Laseux (10/18/02)  
Site locations are approximate using Parcel Maps



## Professional Forester Needed

Plumas County Fire Safe Council is seeking a California Registered Professional Forester(s) to help select sites and then to design, develop and supervise CDF approved projects to carry out demonstration community forest thinnings on approximately 100 acres at various sites around Plumas County. There will be a minimum of five sites, accessible to the highway corridors. Funding for field activity is provided under the National Fire Plan. RPFs interested in the project should call Mike (283-6125), John (283-3739) or Jerry (832-4705). Detailed Requests for Proposals can be secured from the Fire Safe Council, PO Box 1225, Quincy, CA 95971 or at [www.plumasfiresafe.org](http://www.plumasfiresafe.org). Proposals must be received at Plumas Fire Safe Council by COB, July 31, 2002 and a selection will be made by 8/14/02. Project work will take place in 2002 and 2003.

# **Memorandum of Understanding**

## **Fire Safe Project Implementation**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby entered into by and between Plumas Corporation, a California non-profit public benefit corporation and Plumas County Fire Safe Council, a California non-profit public benefit corporation in order to carry out fire safe education programs and fuel reduction projects in Plumas County.

### **A. Purpose**

Plumas Corporation and Plumas County Fire Safe Council have established this MOU in order to assist one another in achieving mutually beneficial objectives related to the improvement of wildfire conditions and associated public safety in Plumas County

### **B. Statement of Mutual Interests and Benefits**

The mission of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council (PCFSC) is to “reduce the loss of natural and manmade resources caused by wildfires through pre-fire activities”. The Plumas County Fire Safe Council undertakes various initiatives and programs to reduce this loss and has sponsored and received various public and private funds. PCFSC was incorporated in 2002. The PCFSC currently has no directly employed staff or administrative support structure.

The function of Plumas Corporation is to promote economic vitality by assisting the growth and development of business activities for the common good and general well being of Plumas County. Economic vitality is the process by which county communities and businesses create and retain jobs, and reinvest wealth through the economy, community and natural resources. Plumas Corporation has carried out various state, federal, county and privately funded natural resource related and other projects since 1985. Plumas Corporation has a fully developed financial and administrative structure for administering grant funded projects.

It is to the mutual benefit of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council and Plumas Corporation that PCFSC continue to develop and apply for grant resources to accomplish its objectives and that Plumas Corporation be subcontracted pursuant to this MOU to perform the administrative duties attendant to these projects.

### **C. Plumas County Fire Safe Council Shall:**

1. Develop, with assistance of Plumas Corporation, grant applications for those fire safe and fuels reduction projects that PCFSC, at its sole discretion, chooses to pursue.
2. Enter into grants and agreements with federal, state, local and private entities to accomplish the projects defined in # 1, above.
3. For each project, develop a Scope of Work, Budget and Project Addendum that addresses specific administrative role(s), indirect costs, etc. for proposed Plumas Corporation activities under the specific project.

4. Reimburse Plumas Corporation for grant expenses according to the Project Addenda (see E 1 below).

**D.Plumas Corporation Shall:**

1. Provide administrative, financial, grant reporting and project implementation services for PCFSC grants as defined in C. above.
2. Comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws and the specific grant agreement(s) on behalf of PCFSC.
3. Allow its financial system to be used as the formal financial records on PCFSC projects, including access and right to examine books, papers and documents.
4. Bill PCFSC for predefined costs for each project.
5. Prepare regular and final PCFSC invoices (for PCFSC signature) to grantors.
6. Prepare regular and final project reports to grantors and PCFSC.
7. Enter into appropriate subcontracts to accomplish project objectives.
8. Carry such insurance policies as necessary to accomplish the activities in the Scope of Work

**E. It Is Mutually Agreed and Understood by Both Parties To:**

1. Develop the Scope of Work and Budget (as amended and in the executed grant agreement) in the standard form as a named and numbered *Project Addendum*, to serve as a contract between Plumas Fire Safe Council and Plumas Corporation, for each project so defined under this MOU. Each Project Addendum shall be executed individually by PCFSC and Plumas Corporation.
2. Modification within the scope of this MOU or Project Addenda shall be made by mutual consent of the parties to this agreement, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by both parties, prior to any changes being performed.
3. Termination of this MOU or any Project Addendum may be done by either party, in writing, prior to any grant expiration. Neither party shall incur any new obligations after the termination date. Full credit shall be allowed for each party's expenses and all non-cancellable obligations properly incurred up to the effective date of termination.
4. The parties to this agreement shall comply with all applicable local, state and federal non-discrimination statutes and regulations.
5. This instrument in no way restricts either party from participating in similar activities with any other organization.
6. Nothing herein shall be construed as obligating either party in any contract or future obligation for the future payment of money in excess of funding approved and made available for payment under this instrument.
7. Reimbursement to Plumas Corporation as to task, timing and amount shall be separately detailed in each Project Addendum. Reimbursement requests from Plumas Corporation shall be in the form of monthly line item expenditure statements.
8. Principal Contacts are:

PCFSC Chair  
Michael DeLasaux  
PO Box 1225

Plumas Corporation Executive Director  
John Sheehan  
PO Box 3880

Quincy, CA 95971  
530 283-6125  
[mjdelasaux@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mjdelasaux@ucdavis.edu)

Quincy, CA 95971  
530 283-3739  
plumasco@psln.com

**The Parties Hereto** have executed this agreement:

Plumas County Fire Safe Council

Plumas Corporation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael DeLasaux  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Sheehan  
Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Cox  
Treasurer