

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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Mission Statement:

Utilizing the combined expertise, resources and distribution channels of its members, the Plumas County Fire Safe Council fulfills its mission to preserve Plumas County's natural and manmade resources by mobilizing citizen's to make their homes, neighborhoods, and communities fire safe.

Agenda

Meeting – April 10, 2002, 9:00 am.
Quincy Fire Department

2002 Annual Goals:

- Increase public knowledge and awareness of the wildland fire hazard and efforts they can make to reduce their threat,
- Develop more community-based involvement,
- Implement community hazardous fuel reduction demonstration projects,
- Develop guidelines for selection criteria for hazardous fuel treatment projects,
- Complete Community Defense Zone mapping and program planning – public& private (industrial & nonindustrial),
- Continue to pursue grant funds,

OLD BUSINESS

1. Opening/Introductions

Mike welcomed the group. He also asked that for future meetings, they bring their electronic copies of agenda, notes and handouts to reduce our copying costs.

2. Next meeting: May 8, 2002

3. Review/Approve minutes from the 3/13/02 meeting.

No changes. Warren Grandall made a motion to approve the minutes. Ray Nichol seconded and the motion was carried by a majority vote.

4. Discuss the system for prioritization and allocation of hazardous fuel treatment funds with the FY02 USFS Economic Action Program Grant. Demonstration areas. (For example, communities at risk, visibility, along roads, commercial versus industrial, 7 communities where planning has started, etc.). See attached draft – De Lasaux

A small committee agreed to meet to review the criteria. They would use input from the larger group, information from Yuba County and information CDF had and bring the product back to the next Council meeting for approval. Group members are: Grandall (lead), Hawks, Livingston, & Windward. The group will meet after the conclusion of today's regular meeting.

5. Discuss progress of 501 (c) 3 application process. - De Lasaux

Mike handed out DRAFT copies of "Articles of Incorporation" and "Bylaws" for the Plumas County Fire Safe Council. Richard Cox made a motion to accept the "Articles" with minor word changes. Bruce Livingston seconded and the motion. After a short discussion of what items should be amended, the motion was carried by a majority vote.

A small committee agreed to meet and review the "Bylaws" and make recommendations at the next Council meeting. The committee is Bruce Livingston (lead), Richard Cox and Merri Carrol-Murry.

6. Status update of the two active Grants:- Hurley

FY01 USFS NFP Economic Action Grant – Firewise Consultation & Education.

Work is progressing well on the Firewise educational project. Three Liaisons and about 17 Consultants have been hired. Training is scheduled for 5/4/02 @ Greenhorn Guest Ranch. An Evacuation Plan has been prepared and is in the final stages for sending to print. A grant for the coming year for 125 acres of hazardous fuel treatment has also been prepared and submitted.

FY01 BLM NFP Grant – Fire Safe Council Coordination.

The majority of work to date on this project has been the coordination of FSC activities and preparation of three grants for submission to the Sacramento Regional Foundation. They are: 1) Homeowner Consultations (\$50,000), 2) Develop a Plumas County Hazardous fuel assessment and strategy (\$50,000), and 3) Display & Publication materials (\$10,000).

7. Grant & Funding Applications – Leslie Ross, Hurley & Sheehan
A. FY02 USFS NFP EAP – 125 Acres Hazardous Fuels Treatment Status & Discuss Outreach for projects – L.Ross, De Lasaux
The Plumas NF expects to hear back on this grant around the end of May. We will wait until we hear back before

beginning to get aggressive on outreach. Mike is putting a newspaper article together and will mention it in that.

B. FY02 BLM NFP (Sacramento Regional Foundation) Grants. - Hurley

They are: 1) Homeowner Consultations (\$50,000), 2) Develop a Plumas County Hazardous fuel assessment and strategy (\$50,000), and 3) Display & Publication materials (\$10,000). Good support letters went along with the applications. The Grants were sent on 3/27 by express mail and due in Sacramento on 3/29. The selection committee is meeting on 4/15-19/02; on 5/23/02, the Foundation's board will approve; letters of acceptance and declination will be sent on 5/31/02. For selected projects, a response with more specifics on goals and objectives will need to be submitted by mid-June.

C. FSC Request for RAC Title II funds for Plumas Eureka Hazardous Fuel Reduction Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) on FS administered lands adjacent to the sub-division. - John Sheehan

Concept papers were due on 4/3/2002. One was submitted for this project to fund the planning process and treatment of 35 acres for \$50,000. Estimated costs are about \$1,500 per acre to treat 35 acres of public lands administered by the Plumas NF. Costs include contributed in-kind from the County planning department and homeowners.

D. FSC Request for RAC Title II funds for Quincy Community Services District Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) on watershed lands. - John Sheehan

Concept papers were due on 4/3/2002. One was submitted for this project to fund the planning process and treatment on 35 acres for \$40,000. Estimated costs are about \$1,200 per acre to treat 35 acres of Quincy Community Service's District (QCSD) lands. Costs include contributed in-kind from the County planning department and QCSD.

E. FY02 USFS Additional FY02 Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) Funds - Leslie Ross

A Concept paper is due to Leslie Ross by 5/13/02 to request these grant funds. This is a "Community Protection" grant for the treatment of hazardous fuels on private lands adjacent to current Forest Service fuel reduction projects have occurred or are planned within 3 years. Treatment needs to be completed in 18 months. In addition to fuel treatment, small machinery, such as chippers and chainsaws may be purchased. It is anticipated that there will only be 6-8 projects selected from throughout the State. Projects need to be

With the focus on communities at risk and adjacent to USFS projects, Plumas County should be well positioned using Herger-Feinstine QLG EIS Alternative 2 as the basis for areas planned for USFS Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) treatment in the next 3-5 years. Most of the communities will have activities adjacent to them when implementation is complete.

The group brainstormed what areas and guessed at acres of areas they were aware of that may qualify and listed the following projects:

1. Quincy Community Services District watershed- PNF is working in the watershed with prescribed burning on Gansner Divide a Forest Health Pilot Project.
2. Indian Falls -30 acres. Create a DFPZ around the community.
3. C-Road -200-800 acres. Treat private lands within the community.
4. Graeagle- 500 Acres. Create a DFPZ around the community.
5. Meadow Valley - 250 Acres. Treat private lands within the community.
6. Long Valley - 100 acres. Treat private lands within the community.
7. Grizzly Creek Rd. - 300 acres. Treat private lands within the community.

Wayne Wilson said he would forward a letter from the FS to CDF accepting CDF as lead agency using CEQA to meet the requirements of NEPA for use of federal funds on private lands.

Discussion on the unanswered questions, should we be funded, of which property owners would like to participate, NEPA & CEQA requirements for those lands, types and amounts of treatment needed, and priority for fund allocation.

Richard Cox made a motion to approve having a committee develop the concept paper to go after this grant. John Sheehan seconded and the motion. Discussion ensued that a committee would get together to prepare this paper. They are: Richard Cox (lead), Jim Krantz, Carl McDonald, Steve Windward, Bruce Livingston, John Sheehan, Mary Huggins, Jerry Hurley & Art Buss. They will meet on 4/22/02 at 9AM at Plumas Corp. The motion was carried by a majority vote.

8. Discus homeowner information currently available. Options for and what to consider for publishing homeowner information by FSC - R.Cox
Deferred until next meeting.

9. Plumas County Codes & Ordinances in context of Public Resources Code (PRC) 4290 & enforcement – McCourt, Huggins, Graham & Hurley

Mary Huggins discussed PRC 4291 – Residential inspections. By State statute, CDF has this responsibility as well as providing wildland fire protection to all wildlands on private land. In areas of California where CDF has stations, their employees perform these inspections.

In most of Plumas County, by agreement, the Plumas NF is responsible for wildfire protection on private lands.

Consequently they would have inspection responsibility.

However, a State law exist which prohibits Federal officers in northern California, from going on to private lands to enforce State laws except by invitation or threat of wildfire. An exemption exists but requires the County Sheriff to enact it. To date this has not happened.

Plumas County has Weed and Hazard Abatement Ordinance, but lacks the resources to perform inspections. They will respond to complaints, but there is currently no process for assessing civil penalties without filing a complaint with the District Attorney's office.

At this time there is no scheduled or annual residential fire hazard inspections. Most of the residents are left to police themselves or their neighbors. Concerned residents can file a complaint with the County or CDF and request an inspection.

Wayne Wilson also pointed out that these are minimum standards and in many cases much more is needed, depending on slope, aspect, location and vegetation.

Plumas County has also adopted PRC 4291- Fire Safe standards for planning and future development and construction. PRC 4291 addresses items such as sub-division access, driveways, and water storage.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss mapping and information management of data collected in Firewise education and consultation process. – De Lasaux

A number of folks in the County have expressed concern for placing resident fire hazard rating data on the Internet for public consumption at this time.

2. Plumas County Fair. Hurley/ FS/ CDF

Warren Grandall will be the lead for coordinating the cooperative efforts for the Plumas County Fair with the Fire Safe Council, USFS, & CDF; which is one of the BLM Grant tasks.

He will be discussing this at each of the next 3 Council meetings. Warren will coordinate with the Council for volunteers to staff the booth with USFS & CDF. He will also work closely with the USFS & CDF to develop a display booth.

3. Firewise Workshops. Hurley/ De Lasaux
Ray Nichol will be the lead for coordinating the Firewise workshops in the County, which is one of the BLM Grant tasks.
The first one is scheduled for May 11,2002 for the Indian Valley at St. Anthony's Parish Hall in Greenville.
Additional workshops will be planned in the Graeagle/Portola area, Quincy & Almanor Basin over the next year.

4. Display Material for events (Boards & Handouts) – Hurley, McCourt
This will partially occur with development of the workshops and County Fair. A grant-funding request was sent to the BLM through the Sacramento Regional foundation for NFP monies specifically requesting funds for this project. We will hear back about the end of May.

5. Brainstorm Board of Director categories & candidates
Deferred until next meeting when the By-Laws committee reports back.

6. Brainstorm events that Council could participate in with USFS & CFD
Deferred until next meeting. John Sheehan & Jerry will look at all the events and come back with a proposal.

7. Title III project request- DeLesaux
Mike discussed the timelines and opportunities to submit Title III projects to the Board of Supervisors by April 15,2002.
The Council is proposing the following projects:
 1. **\$30,000 for in-kind to be applied to this years request for 125 acres of Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR).**
 2. **\$50,000 to develop a Plumas County Hazardous fuel assessment and strategy. As Contingency if the Sacramento Regional Foundation does not fund the project.**
 3. **\$15,000 for the County Planning Department to develop a programmatic CEQA for Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR).**
 4. **\$90,000 to support the County Planning Department and improve the quality & information of the GIS system for pre-fire planning.****Richard Cox made a motion to approve the project requests. Bob Graham seconded and the motion. After a short discussion the motion was carried by a majority vote.**

8. Other topics???
Information Sharing:
 - A. **Public Meeting to present the Almanor Fire Safe Council's Fire Plan is scheduled for Chester on 4/1/602 @ 7pm. (Due to power outage, meeting was canceled.)**

B. May 6-12 is Wildfire Awareness Week. Mike will try to have an article in the paper discussing the Council and our current efforts.

Meeting Concluded at 1200 pm.

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