

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Model for Community Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) Projects

- Projects are collaboratively developed with communities and landowners within the County's [Communities at Risk](#)
- Treatments are called for in the *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* and *Plumas County Fuels Assessment & Strategy*: <https://www.plumasfiresafe.org/wildfire-planning-documents.html>
- Projects reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire and create fire resilient stands by treating surface fuels to: 1) generate flame lengths of less than 2-4' and 2) break up the continuity of ladder and canopy fuels to prevent the initiation or sustaining of crown fires.
- Landowners with interest in minimizing wildfire impacts seek neighbors to create a community project of at least 100 acres in the community – a minimum that provides for economy of scale. Those landowners submit an **Assistance Application**.
- When a project becomes viable, the Plumas County Fire Safe Council conducts a community meeting to explain how fuel reduction protects homes, community aesthetics, surrounding forest and watersheds, and how the process works.
- PC FSC then develops grant proposals seeking funds for a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and fuels treatment contractors.
- Once grant funds are obtained, a **Contract and/or Addendum** for the project are signed by the RPF.
- **Landowner Agreements**, which outline rights and responsibilities, are signed by participating parties. Once Landowner Agreements are collected, fuels activities are allowed to occur on their private properties. As part of the agreement, landowners also consent to keep their treated lands in a fire resilient condition.
- A landowner cost share may be necessary (usually < \$250 per acre) and revenues from the sale of any merchantable forest products (biomass or sawlogs) will be used for project in-kind purposes.
- RPF interacts with the landowners, marks trees, completes the lay-out, develops treatment prescriptions, develops **Project Prospectus**, completes necessary NEPA and/or CEQA, and when necessary submits THP Exemptions for fire prevention.
- California's Forest Practice Rules govern activities with respect to cultural, protected species, and water courses for fuel reduction associated with timber harvesting. Non- harvesting treatment methods utilize best forest practices by treatment contractors and may require additional environmental compliance depending upon funding source.

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11/10/2022

- The Plumas County Fire Safe Council then solicits qualified contractors, by email and website, with a Project Prospectus, that outlines specified work.
- Bid proposals from timber operators and fuel reduction contractors are awarded under the terms of a signed **Operator Contract** which has been approved by Plumas County Fire Safe Council.
- Contractors accomplish treatment under oversight of RPF.
- Forest product revenues are returned directly to the project. Whenever possible treatments maximize utilization of harvested materials as biomass chips for electrical power co-generation or as sawlogs.
- Monitoring is accomplished by the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, a qualified contractor, the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), RPF, or landowners, with photo points (approx. 5-10 per project area) where pre- and post-treatment information on stand data and fire behavior characteristics is collected.
- Project fiscal accountability is maintained by Plumas Corporation (our fiscal sponsor and a 501 (c) (3) organization) which completes quarterly and final reports, along with complete monthly financial records for each project and an annual, independent audit provided by a CPA.