

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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Dan Martynn, NRCS (18)  
Julie Ruiz, NSAQMD (18)  
Ryan Bauer, USFS (18)

## Mission Statement:

**“To reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise Community programs and pre-fire activities.”**

## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, October 12th, 2017 - 9:00 am.**

Plumas County Planning & Building Services Conference Room  
555 Main Street, Quincy, CA

1. Welcome & Introductions – Mike Callaghan
2. Review Agenda – Item added under New Business: 2. Discussion of Development of a Workshop for Prescribed Fire for Maintenance of PCFSC Projects
3. Approve Meeting Minutes – **m – Gasser, s – Reynolds.**
4. Public Comment – none

### New Business

1. PCFSC Coordination

PCFSC Coordinator, Hannah Hepner, was hired with the understanding that during the summers her availability would be limited by a seasonal job. Uncertainty over coordination funds and access to sufficient medical benefits limited her ability to work exclusively for PCFSC. To provide greater job security, Jim Wilcox suggested Hannah work for Plumas Corporation in addition to PCFSC. Under this arrangement Hannah will work for PC once all PCFSC obligations are met, and PC grant funds will be used to pay for the additional time. The PC Board was in favor of this arrangement. Hannah will be working for PC/PCFSC at 30 hours/week. Her medical benefits will now come from PC/PCFSC, which will diminish coordination funds at a faster rate.

Mike Callaghan noted that all grant applications should have an additional percentage added to indirect costs to cover long-term coordination.

## 2. Discussion of Development of a Workshop for Prescribed Fire for Maintenance of PCFSC Projects

Mike Callaghan discussed the contents of an email sent by Mike De Lasaux concerning developing a workshop to educate landowners about the use of prescribed fire. It was suggested that a committee be formed to put on the workshop.

Don Gasser mentioned the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council TREX trainings.

Kyle Felker commented that burning is a great tool, but a big hassle and carries a lot of liability. Significant education would be needed to get landowners on board.

Mike McCourt echoed that there are challenges to working with fire but that there is potential to collaborate with the Greenville Rancheria, private operators, and the Forest Service to use fire.

John Reynolds said that strategically it's a good plan for the Fire Safe Council and that CAL FIRE has expressed their availability to provide holding resources.

Claude Sanders noted that it's a wasted opportunity not to perform follow-up maintenance on projects.

Sue McCourt is interested in seeing a cost comparison for prescribed burning vs. other treatments.

Don Gasser will move forward with workshop planning by soliciting committee members and making contact with the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council.

## Old Business – None

## Updates

1. Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force – no additional meetings will be held until there is updated flight information. Sue McCourt suggested that it would be interesting to know how much tree mortality material is being taken to the Loylton Biomass Facility.

2. Status of Current Grants – Hannah Hepner & Project Managers

**262 – Feather River Stewardship Coalition:** SNC grant site tours were held Oct 11<sup>th</sup> for the Little Grass Valley Reservoir and Butterfly Twain projects.

**275/276 – Senior/Disabled Defensible Space:** 55 maintenance projects were completed with SRA fee funds this year. An additional 25 clients were treated with 2012 Stevens funds (259). These additional properties included some “heavy” work that our budget wouldn't otherwise cover.

**278 – Chipping Program:** 54 locations will be treated as part of Phase II. Chipping participants spoke highly of the work done by Pedro Benuto.

**259 – Barry Creek:** Project is complete with 59.4 acres (of a planned 555) treated.

**East Quincy:** Project is complete with 92 acres treated.

**East Shore:** Project is complete with 9.8 acres treated.

**C-Road:** Layout is underway.

**260 – Hwy 70:** Mastication & hand thinning is complete. Piles require burning when the restrictions are lifted.

**273- Dixie Valley:** Layout is complete. The project area covers 74.3 acres. A draft archaeology report has been submitted to PNF. Danielle Bradfield will have a completed Environmental Assessment in mid-October.

**277- Wolf/Grizzly:** Bids received by PNF and they came in high. Part of the work has been contracted to Imperial. The Forest will be looking for ways to finance the acres that will not be covered by grant funds. There will probably be action on the project before winter.

**280 - Bucks Lake:** An offer has been made to the CCC for \$50,000 to treat 50 acres.

**279 - Mohawk Vista:** Layout will begin after C-Road.

**281 – Gold Mountain:** The community is working on prioritizing a project area.

### 3 & 4. Status of Potential Projects/Grant Opportunities – Hannah Hepner

#### **USFS Stevens funds – submitted April 14**

**C Road** - 90 acres, \$180,570

**Grizzly Ranch** – 130 acres, \$270,275

**American Valley Phase II** – 100 acres, \$285,970

**Genesee Woods/Red Clover** – 100 acres, \$178,970 (2019 Stevens funds)

#### **FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant – submitted May 18**

Requested \$56,168 for Senior/Disabled Defensible Space program – Unsuccessful

The review panel's scores indicate an area of improvement would have been to explain in more detail the vulnerability the project will address, the steps taken to determine that vulnerability and the justification of the target audience that was selected.

#### **Plumas RAC Title II – submitted August 11**

Submitted an application for the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance Program for \$65,300 and six months of PCFSC Coordination for \$27,500. Both were selected for award.

#### **SNC Prop 1 – pre-applications submitted Sept 1<sup>st</sup>**

Little Grass Valley Reservoir and Butterfly Twain full applications are due Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CAL FIRE SRA FPF** – to be announced soon.

### 5. Standing Reports and Discussion

- **Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES):** Sue McCourt – It is Fire Prevention Week. The theme this year is “Two Ways Out”. OES has been providing mutual aid to Butte County. Evacuation maps for Quincy will be in the mail in the next few weeks. SRA funds paid for printing and postage is being covered by the Lassen-Modoc Unit budget.
- **CAL FIRE:** Scott Rosikiewicz said that local resources are in the Napa area.

- **USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction:** not present. Eureka fire updates are posted online. It is planned for 400 acres.
- **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District:** not present
- **Firewise Communities:**
  - Lake Almanor West** – no update
  - Graeagle** – There are several HIZ consultations to do following the Firewise day. CAL FIRE has done their defensible space inspections. In Whitehawk there were 8 violations. Firewise will work with the homeowners to address violations. A planned thinning project will be postponed until spring.
  - Gold Mountain** – Utilized online platform to submit recertification. The CSD is in the process of hiring two people to share the job of fire safety coordinator. Mike Callaghan asked how to re-publicize the Gold Mountain evacuation plan. Sue McCourt suggested a fire drill. She said it takes planning but that she is willing to work with communities to do them.
  - LACC** – no update
  - Grizzly Ranch** – Has recertification for 2018. Close to 30 properties were cleaned up this year. Most seasonal residents have left.
  - Plumas Eureka** – Dennis Lincoln attended the Beckwourth Ranger District’s tour of the proposed Plumas Eureka project. There were 25-30 people in attendance.
  - Sloat/Cromberg/Camp Layman** – Firewise recognition signs have been installed on the highway. A few hourly tracking reports have been returned.
  - Gallepii** – no update
  - Portola**- In the process of revising their CWPP. Working with a developer to complete hazardous fuel reduction on 192 acres.
- **Industry Representatives** – none present
- **Tribal Representatives** - none present

6. Other Updates & Upcoming Events:

Workshop: Using Mass Timber in New Construction Projects. Scheduled for Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – **postponed.**

Adjourned - Next meeting November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017