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QUINCY, CA 95971



(530)927-5294
PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 8th, 2023 - 9:00 am.
50 Church Street, Quincy

Board of Directors

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair , John Reynolds Firewise (26)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair , Sally McGowan Firewise (26)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary/Treasurer Mike Flanigan, Insurance (26)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Smailes Firewise (26)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Gasser RPF (24)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham Maidu Summit Consort. (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jake Blaufuss AFRC (26)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Tompkins UCCE (26)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Kogge Firewise (26)	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Hall Feather River RCD (26)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Pini Office of Emergency Services (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Hunter NSAQMD (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Bauer USFS PNF (24)

Mission Statement: “To reduce the loss of natural resources and human values caused by wildfire through Firewise community programs and pre-fire activities.”

5-Year Strategic Plan

Program Strategy: Expand existing programs and establish additional projects:

1. Leverage and expand partnerships
2. Sustainably increase staffing
3. Establish robust monitoring systems & metrics
4. Increase public engagement
5. Develop County-wide community fuels and threat mapping assessment

Funding Strategy: Target sustainable annual budget increase of 20%:

1. Continue to produce competitive grant proposals that are based on funder’s objectives.
2. Pursue approaches for non-competitive funding which reduce administration while increasing long term benefits.
3. Leverage charitable donations to increase public outreach, education, and participation.
4. Continue to pursue potential revenue-generating activities utilizing woody material.

Leadership Strategy: Ensure strong and functional systems are in place to facilitate ongoing organizational capacity:

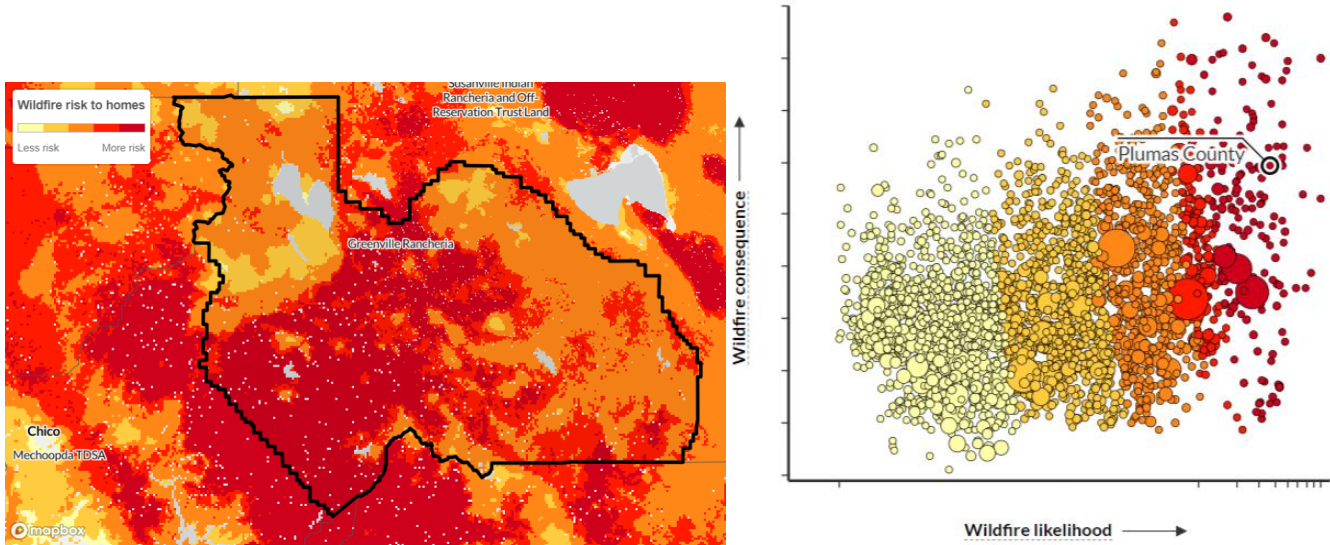
1. Maintain a Board of Directors with strategically recruited membership.
2. Continue partnership with Plumas Corporation as fiscal agent.

9:00am Board Meeting

Roll Call

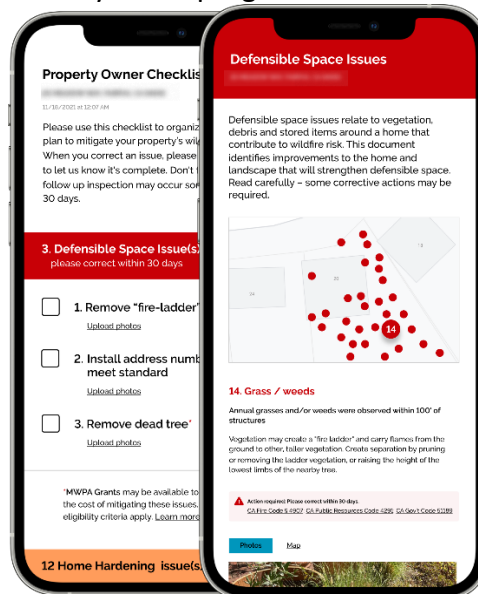
Program Updates – Liam Galleher – Fire Safe Home Visits

Compared to all counties in the United States, Plumas is in the 98th percentile of wildfire risk to homes and the 98th percentile of wildfire likelihood.



PCFSC partners with Fire Aside to help support Plumas communities as we continue to adapt to wildfire. PCFSC utilizes Fire Aside software for the Chipper Day program, and for the Fire Safe Home Visit program.

Home visits are conducted by trained Fire Safe Council staff and volunteer Plumas County residents. These consultations are considered “Peer-to-Peer” to uphold a spirit of open, fire-safe communication between Plumas residents; in no way is this program meant to “inspect” or “assess” homes.



Participants of the Fire Safe Home Visit program receive a unique, personalized report based on the hazards observed on one’s property. Hazards are identified, explained, and resources are offered accordingly.

Property Owner Checklist

Utilize this checklist to organize an action plan to prepare your property for wildfire. When you fulfill an improvement, please "check it off" to let us know it's complete. Please email the Fire Safe Council County Coordinator at liam@plumascorporation.org or call (530) 927-5339 with any questions.

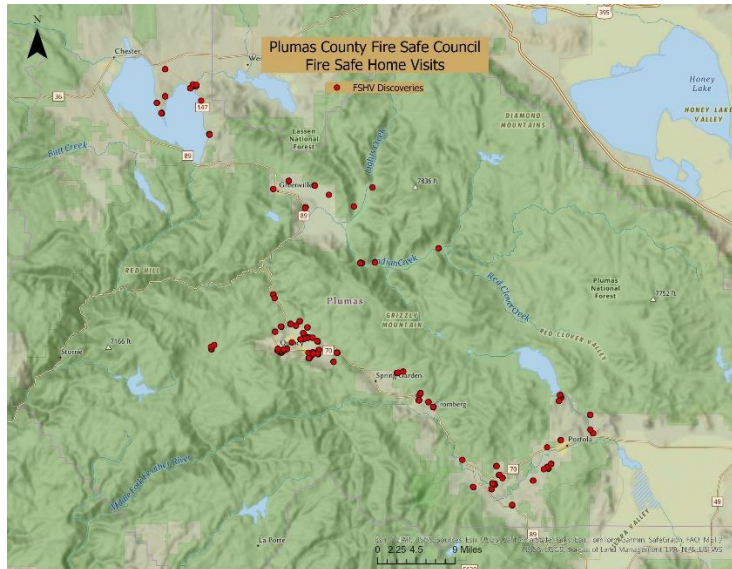
4 Defensible Space Improvements

- 1. Remove needle or leaf litter, vegetation, and items that could catch fire under decks and/or other overhangs
- 2. Remove juniper
- 3. Add spacing between tree(s)
- 4. Remove tree limbs overhanging structure

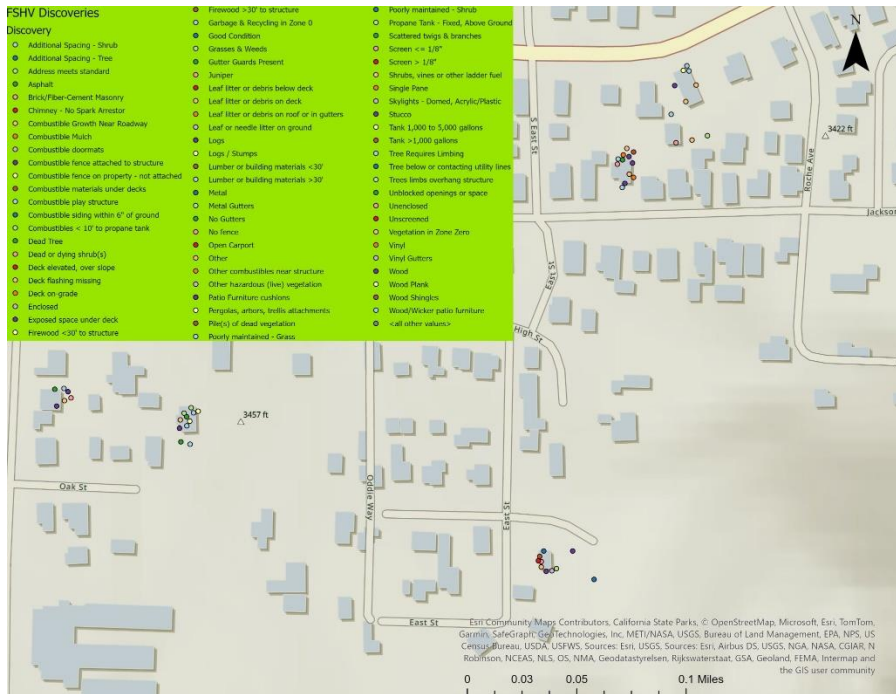
5 Home Hardening Recommendations

- 1. Wood roof
- 2. Plastic / Vinyl Skylights
- 3. Vinyl gutters
- 4. Open eaves
- 5. Wood Shingle Siding

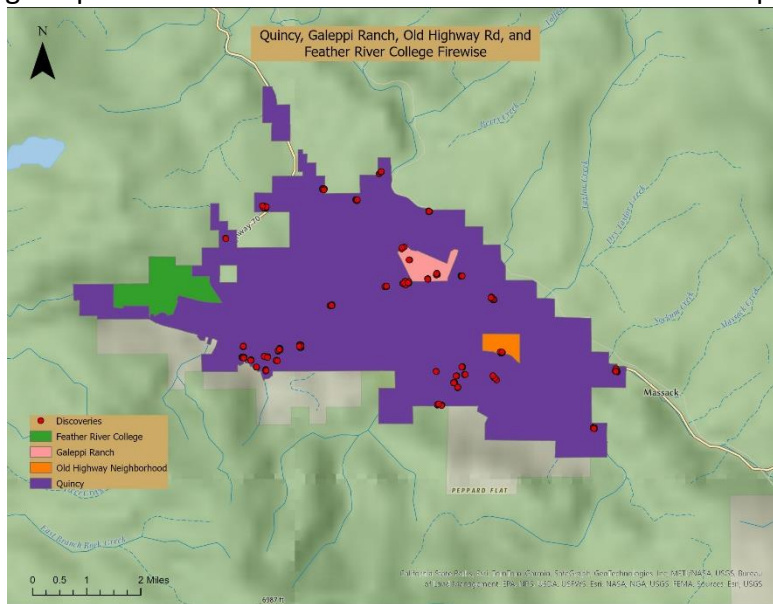
Participants receive a compact checklist, which they can "check off" once they resolve the hazard. PCFSC staff can then confirm the resolution after a follow up visit, or by reviewing uploaded pictures.



The above image depicts the total hazards that have been identified through the FSHV program since August, 2022.



The above image depicts the kinds of hazards that can be observed on a property.



The above image shows that the FSHV program has identified 452 total hazards just within Quincy, Galeppi Ranch, Feather River College, and Old Highway Rd Firewise

Since August 2022:

- 1005 unique hazards identified
- 184 residents received personal, face to face education
- 108 unique home visits
- 5 community-wide events led with the DSI software

On average:

- 10 hazards observed per property

- 70 minutes per home visit

Notable Statistics:

Discovery Type	Percentage of Homes with Discovery
Exposed Space Under Deck	81%
Hazardous Vegetation in Zone Zero	72%
Additional Spacing - Tree	70%
Tree Limbs Overhang Structure	68%
Unenclosed Eaves	64%
Tree Requires Limbing	57%

In the future, this program will be able to easily facilitate insurance discounts for residents.

- Even if we are only saving residents 1% of costs, we want them to be aware of every eligible saving.
- Our intent is to automate this process to make residents aware that they qualify **and** simplify the submission process on their behalf (if they want it).
- The amount of the discount is **solely** up to each resident’s respective insurance provider. Many insurance providers filed discounts on April 12th that either haven’t come into effect yet, or residents don’t know they exist.

Consent Agenda

1. December Financials

Mr. Flanigan provided an update. The PCFSC budget remains healthy halfway through this fiscal year. PCFSC has spent about 35% of the annual budget.

2. Status of Grant Budgets – No updates

3. Status of Potential Projects and Grant Opportunities

Rachel Wehrman provided an update. Mr. Webster is working on 2 grants for the Firewood processing facility.

1. Workforce Development – CAL FIRE
2. AIM – COCO

4. Board Minutes

The January meeting minutes were approved.

Approve Consent Agenda

Motion: Sally McGowan, Second: Joe Smailes

Approved: All yes, none opposed

New Business

1. Wood Potting Fiber Substrate – Jeff Greef

Mr. Greef is asking PCFSC to partner with him on the Plumas Wood Fiber project:

1. Will PCFSC be willing to take on the Wood Fiber project under the umbrella of its nonprofit status
2. Will PCFSC help Mr. Greef curate a feasibility study for the Wood Fiber project

Severe forest fires are due to excess biomass. If you find a way to commercialize biomass, then operations can be sustainable.

- Peat harvests are being curtailed by climate change
- Transport of peat is high
- Peat harvesting is CO2 intensive
- Wood fiber is plentiful and renewable
- Wood fiber transport costs are lower
- Wood fiber production sequesters carbon
- Substrate use will increase 2-4x in coming decades, wood fiber use by a factor of 10

Horticulture uses a lot of growing media

- In 2019 in California, 822 businesses bought growing media for a total of 67 million
- Yearly, in California alone, about 1 million tons of growing media are used, including peat, perlite, coir, wood fiber, bark, compost, etc.

Proposal for initiating wood fiber substrate production in Plumas County:

- Phase 1 – Hammer Milling – purchase a 200 hp hammer mill and lease large loader – set up at the Sloat Mill – cost is approximately 1.5 million
 - Less expensive way to get started
 - Material of use to the retail home and garden bagging market
- Phase 2 – Twin Screw Extruders – purchase two Sloatweg extruders and baling equipment, purchase property on Mill St. Quincy, construct building, lease loader, etc. – cost is approximately 5.8 million
 - More expensive way to produce substrate
 - Extruded material is of broader use to commercial nursery operations, and baled, is less expensive to ship

Progress made by Plumas Wood Fiber

- Western wood species validated by Brian Jackson at NC State Raleigh
- Matching funding commitment from Blue Forest, \$2 million
- Two sites identified – Mill Creek and Sloat Mill
- Attended trade shows and growing media mixing yards
- Support from Plumas National Forest officials

- Obtained feasibility study proposal from highland economics and Beck Group
- Project is included in the Plumas County 2021 long term wildfire recovery plan
- Initiated planning approval process with county planning
- Written business plan
- Researching development costs
- Grant applications to CAL FIRE (Business and Workforce Development Grant) and USDA (Wood Innovations Grant).

As a non-profit

- More potential grant funding is available
- Decision making remains within the forestry community
- No taxes to pay
- No investors to pay off

As a for profit

- Limited grant funding available
- Decision making dictated by needs of financing
- Must pay taxes
- Must pay off investors

The PCFSC board decided that additional information and time is necessary before making any commitment. More discussion will ensue during the March meeting, and a special board meeting may be organized.

2. Vote to approve the 2024 CWPP Project list (Appendix B)

A list was provided to the PCFSC board.

Motion: Mike Flanigan, Second: Joe Smailes

All approved, none opposed

3. PG&E Settlement Funds, Investments with Edward Jones – Arron Lohn

- The PG&E settlement funds were deposited in August of 2023 – PCFSC deposited a little over \$4 million.
- That money was broken down into “chunks” of certificates and deposits that met specific requirements.
 - This resulted in 18 different certificates deposited with different institutions.
- PCFSC has had 2 \$150,000 CD’s mature and claimed interest – interest that was paid (nor accrued).
- There is about \$3,000 in claimed interest in some of the certificates that pay out monthly. By the end of September, the rest of PCFSC money will come to maturity
 - \$3.7 million in principal
 - \$195,000 in interest credited
- In 12 and a half months the projected total income is looking around \$215,000

- All funds are FDIC ensured

4. FEMA Home Hardening Incentive Program Update – Tommy Brenzovich

- Due to the anticipated CA state funding deficit, the amount of matching funds able to be provided is uncertain.

PCFSC members reviewed the Plumas County Home Hardening Cost Review

- PCFSC may be able to provide “in-kind match” through other grants that will apply to home hardening.
- Plumas County may be able to provide match, but nothing is definitive.
- Federal funds cannot count as match.

Old Business – None

Adjourned

Motion: Joe Smailes, Second: Sally McGowan

Approved: All yes, none opposed