

Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force Meeting Notes

April 13th, 1:00-2:00pm

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

The objective of the Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force is development of an action plan addressing local tree mortality.

1. Meeting Introduction – Don Gasser, Plumas Fire Safe Council
Agenda revised to include: discussion of future meeting schedule
2. Working Group Updates

Materials Disposal, Storage, and Utilization – John Sheehan – Sierra Institute has received a \$100,000 award from the National Forest Foundation for their biomass project. Lynn Campbell – Additionally, Sierra Institute has funding from SNC to develop the facilities.

Permits and Regulations – Chuck Bowman – Permitting requirements are not going to change. This working group exists to help with navigating the requirements.

Resource Allocation – Lynn Campbell – In order to recover any value, a landowner has four months to take action with beetle killed wood.

Mapping and Data Collection – Mike De Lasaux – An additional risk attribute has been added to the data collection app, which qualifies “how dead a tree is” based on color characteristics. A press release is ready for distribution, once mortality becomes topical again – likely in June.

Public Outreach and Information

James Brink – PG&E has not seen additional mortality through the winter. Will continue public outreach starting mid-summer. When hazard trees are felled by PG&E, the landowner is responsible for disposal of the resulting down material. The situation is different in the 11 identified emergency counties where PG&E is able to remove the material.

John Kolb – There are limited options for green waste disposal. Chester will be open late spring/summer/and into fall. Material will be burned in the winter. In Quincy, SPI will accept woody material dropped off at the East Quincy transfer station. John Sheehan asked if material from Fire Safe Council projects has been discussed with the mill. Mr. Kolb said it is not part of their agreement.

Green waste disposal options will be added to content of the Living with Fire Tabloid.

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Additionally, the County's mobile burn box will be available for appropriate projects on a rental basis. Daily, weekly, or monthly rates are TBD. Training will be provided, but all other equipment necessary for operation will be the responsibility of the renter.

Lori Pini – Is the Emergency Services Coordinator of Cal OES for Plumas/Sierra/Lassen/Modoc counties and is available to answer tree mortality questions. Has materials from April 10 CA TMTF meeting.

Sue McCourt – Has used information from the PC TMTF website to create a poster that is available for use at events.

On April 14th there is a County Tree Mortality Mitigation Efforts workshop hosted by the Northern California Society of American Foresters at the Cal OES office in Mather, CA. A live stream option is available.

There is an insurance presentation now available from the CA TMTF website. The information is provided by United Policy Holders. John Sheehan asked if insurance companies have participated in mitigation measures. None present had an answer.

Media outreach will start once the weather changes. John Kolb suggested that mortality progression photos provide the most impact.

Gary Parque asked if there are mitigation steps that homeowners can take before a tree succumbs to beetle attack. Sue McCourt directed him to information on the website and suggested that Al Klem is a resource for evaluating trees. Additionally, Lynn Campbell summarized Danny Cluck's answer to the same question, which was asked at the last TMTF meeting.

NPR Cap Radio aired a [program about tree mortality](#).

John Sheehan – A [SF Chronicle article](#) reported that landowners around Bass Lake had success with watering trees.

Lynn Campbell – The [SNC website](#) is a resource that is being continually updated. Sue McCourt asked if the SNC information can be localized.

3. Future Meeting Schedule – Don Gasser – A mid-summer meeting should be held to address any emerging mortality. It was suggested that the meeting be based on weather conditions. It was determined that the next meeting would be scheduled for June 8th, following the PC FSC meeting, and if the weather continues to be unseasonably wet the meeting will be postponed.

Meeting adjourned – next meeting June 8th, 2017

**This meeting is jointly sponsored by:
Plumas County Office of Emergency Services &**



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