

Federal Agency works with local Fire Safe Council to assist private landowners with fuel reduction work on their properties in American Valley.



The Quincy Local Partnership Office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been busy assisting private landowners with fuel reduction and forest health projects throughout Plumas County this year. Dan Martynn, the District Conservationist for the local NRCS office, has noticed an increased interest on the part of landowners to clear brush and dense small diameter conifer trees from their property these last couple of years. “The active wildfire season last year locally and throughout the state really got people’s attention and has spurred folks into action to treat their properties for fire protection throughout Plumas County. Interest in our fuel reduction programs is at an all-time high” says Mr. Martynn.

Private landowners throughout American Valley and Plumas County as a whole have several groups willing and able to assist them with financial and technical assistance to do fuel reduction projects. In addition to NRCS’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Plumas County Fire Safe Council and the Feather River Stewardship Council are both actively engaged with private landowners and the Forest Service on projects. The Plumas County Fire Safe Council has active federally-funded projects in Dixie Valley, Gold Mountain, Mohawk Vista, and C-Road. The Feather River Stewardship Coalition is supporting projects on public lands around Bucks Lake, Round Valley Reservoir, Lake Davis, Little Grass Valley Reservoir, and Butterfly Valley.

Properties that are in close proximity to forest lands that have been treated already are a high priority for funding from the various agencies and organizations assisting with needed fuel reduction projects. That includes both public and private lands throughout the county. The Plumas County Fire Safe Council has maps on their website showing where work has been completed over the years and is a good resource for fuel reduction information and financial assistance opportunities.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council has treated over 4,000 acres for fire protection since 2002 and has grant agreements with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to assist the Plumas NF with nearly 2,000 acres of additional fuel reduction work.

The NRCS local Partnership office in Quincy has assisted over 25 landowners covering approximately 350 acres of forestland throughout the watershed in the last 3 years.

Individuals interested in learning more about how they may be able to participate in fuel reduction programs available are encouraged to call Hannah Hepner at 283-3739 with the Plumas Co Fire Safe Council or Dan Martynn at 283-7511 with the NRCS.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council holds meetings on the second Thursday of each month which are attended by citizens, business owners, and representatives from local, state, and federal agencies that share common interests in preventing loss of life and minimizing loss of property from wildland fires. The PC FSC will meet July 12th at 9:00am in Quincy in the Planning and Building Services Conference room, 555 Main Street Quincy.