

Taylorsville Campground Fuels Reduction

07-DG-11051150-036

Final Report

March 31, 2011

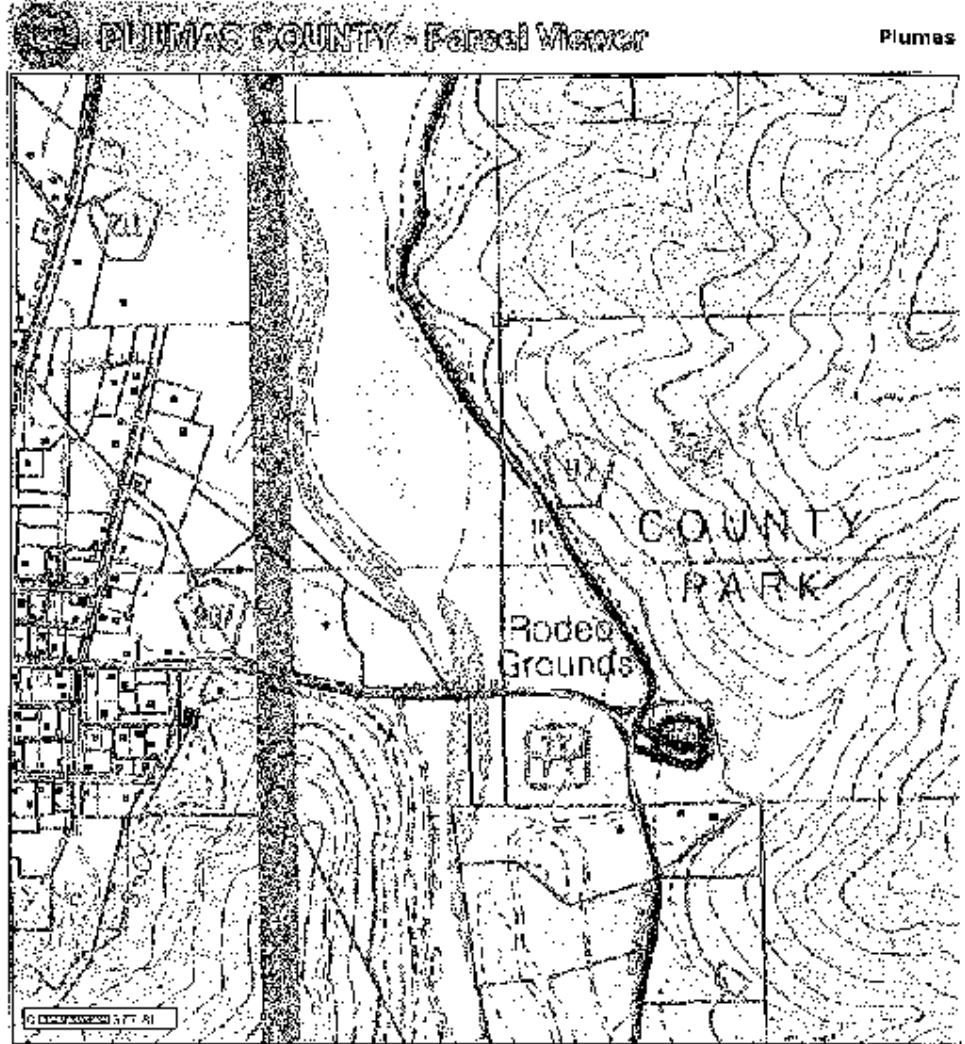
General

This is a Plumas Resource Advisory Committee approved hazardous fuels project, funded with \$ 36,000 in federal Title II funds (Secure Rural Schools Act). The Title II contract was executed between Plumas National Forest and the Plumas County Fire Safe Council (PCFSC) with a start date of 7/26/07 and a finish date of 12/31/08. The contract was later extended until 12/31/10.

A solicitation for registered professional foresters was developed for 10/07 advertising and Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Joe Smailes was hired on to design the project in 12/07. The project forester was changed to Danielle Banchio in mid- 2008 due to Smailes' retirement as a practicing RPF. Field work was completed in late 2009 by PCFSC. 27 acres were hand-thinned at the Taylorsville campground. USFS also thinned numerous acres south and east of this project on USFS lands adjacent to the roads.

Fuel Conditions

The area around Indian Valley has been the target of various fuels reduction projects. The Forest Service, following a public meeting in Taylorsville in 2006 [cosponsored with PCFSC], began developing two types of projects around Taylorsville. The first was fuels reduction directly adjacent the roads, focusing on small size, non-commercial, hand-thinning projects on USFS lands. This also focused on the Taylorsville-Genesee stretch of county road, through dense stands of young trees in a populated suburban area within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The second type of USFS project was larger scale, commercial thinning opportunities around and up slope from the valley. These larger projects have developed into the "Keddie Ridge" HFR project which is currently (3/11) undergoing review of its Draft EIS. This Taylorsville Campground project was actively promoted by the local Plumas County Supervisor. The early analysis of the project showed that the area uphill from the county-owned Taylorsville Campground could not be treated by USFS hand crews, since it was non-federal (county) land. USFS and PCFSC approached the Plumas Resource Advisory Committee and successfully sought the funds used on this project by PCFSC. A vintage local map of the project area is shown.



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Facility Disclaimers:
(to be added).

PCFSC completed its *Hazardous Fuels Assessment and Strategy* in 2005 and it, along with the *Wildfire Protection Plan*, was adopted by Plumas County as well as CA OES. That document described local communities with different analyses. Photo points were set, a narrative briefly described the fuel conditions, a GIS map was developed showing the relative danger of Crown fires and finally, an outline of the prospective fuels treatments was mapped. Each of these analyses are from that report, also available at www.plumasfiresafe.org.

Community: Taylorsville

Dominant Historic Large Fire Behavior by Community:

Slash-driven uphill runs for one burning period on southwest slopes.

Tactical Considerations:

Fuels Comments/Recommendations:

Recent thinning on slope southeast of town. Mowing/individual structure clearance is top priority. Rodeo grounds provide good roadside ignition hazard reduction. Thinning in areas adjacent to campground may reduce risk posed by kids experimenting with fire. 2004 Underburn on Mt. Jura DFPZ may provide opportunities for burning on south slopes between Rodeo Grounds and Hinchman Ravine.

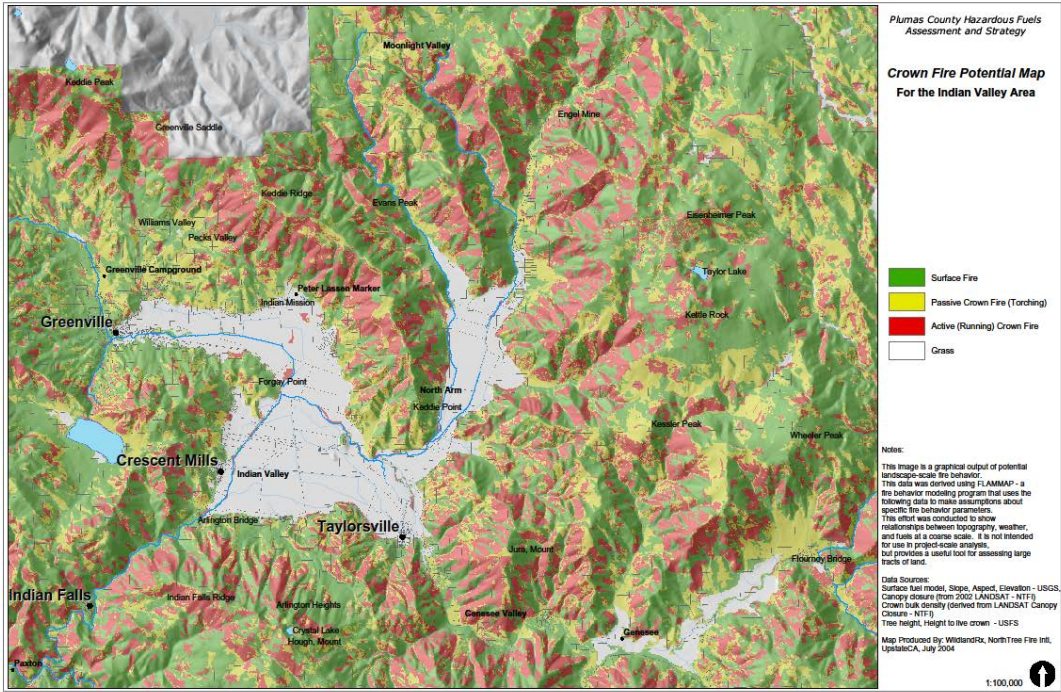
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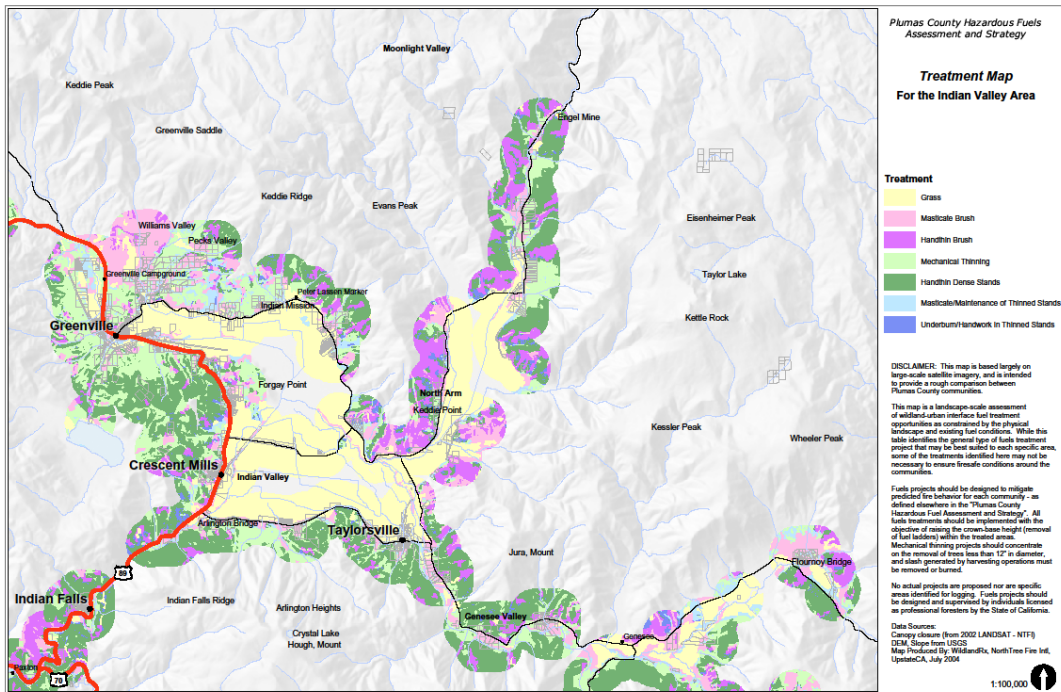
Fire Behavior

Moderate to extreme Fire Behavior with passive crown fire.

The Crown Fire Potential Map in the PCFSC *Assessment* showed that the campground area was subject to active as well as passive crown fires and clearly was a danger to the campground and the town. Taylorsville is at the lower center of the map.



The proposed treatment plan suggested mainly hand thinning of the dense stands around the campground as shown below.



Fuel Hazard Reduction

The professional foresters coordinated with USFS and developed the needed environmental documentation for the project, including substantial archeological review. The *Prospectus* for bidders was then issued by the PCFSC and its forester with bids due on 4/24/08. The *Prospectus* called for hand thinning, piling and burning <10" DBH trees and leaving oaks as well as larger trees.

There were four bidders ranging from \$17,410 to \$74,598, with three bids below \$25,000. An excerpt of the published *Prospectus*, as well as a project area map, are included in this report. The low bidder was American Valley Tree Services in Quincy. A contract for the thinning work was executed on 5/12/08. Most of the work was accomplished by 6/30/08. Pile burning was completed in 2009. One feature of this project was local residents continuing advice to the pile burning contractor. The local residents pointed out the harsh afternoon winds that often arrive at the campground due to the topography and the canyon effect of Indian Creek upstream of the site. A little over 27 acres were thinned.

Remaining funds have been returned to the US Treasury (~ \$7,000 after all piles burned). There was significant discussion on using the remaining funds for additional fuels work focusing on somewhat larger trees, beyond the 10" size trees removed (the maximum allowed in the area, because it was in the Wildland Urban Interface, was 30 "). This additional work did not take place due to the need for new environmental analyses, low log market prices, additional forester costs as well as contracting procedures. These additional costs would have limited new work to 1-3 acres.

Financial

There was \$ 29,162.47 spent on this project as of 3/31/11. All \$ 36,000 was drawn down. All project costs were paid for from this grant. \$6,837.53 has been returned to the USFS.

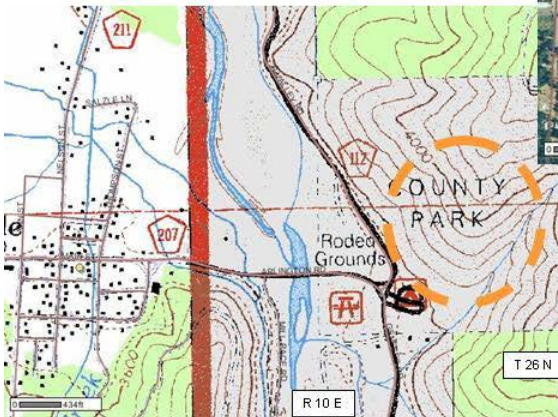
The logging costs, as a percentage of all costs (66.6 %), were somewhat lower than on average PCFSC projects, which are ~ 85 %. This was due to the relatively low-cost thinning technique employed (hand cutting, piling and burning). The RPF costs were somewhat higher than generally expended (10 %) due to the change in foresters midway through the project, additional needed archeological review at this long occupied site, as well as the follow-up supervision of the pile burning. Other costs were comparable to previous projects.

Taylorville Campground Cost Breakdown

Plumas Corporation Project Name and Code #	Logging/Fuels Reduction Contractor Costs	Forester: Planning, Permitting and Supervision Costs	Attributable Plumas Corporation Staffing and expenses	Plumas Corporation Professional Liability Insurance premiums	Attributable Plumas Corporation General Administration	Total
Taylorville Campground RAC- #230	19,430	7,171.21	2,140.68	93.11	327.47	29,162.47
% of all expenses	66.6 %	24.6 %	7.3 %	.03 %	1.1 %	

Taylorville HFR

Taylorville HFR
30 acres
Hand Cut & Pile



Plumas County Fire Safe Council



TAYLORSVILLE CAMPGROUND HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

Project Prospectus

The Taylorsville Campground Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project [HFR](#) was developed as part of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council's (PFSC) strategy to reduce hazardous fuel conditions surrounding communities at risk. The project is located on Plumas County owned land, Sec. 26 & 35, T26N, R10E, MDB&M. Access is gained from Hwy 89, then taking County Road 207 east into Taylorsville. The project is located approximately .4 miles east of Taylorsville, immediately east of the Taylorsville Rodeo grounds on County Road 112. Approximately 26 acres have been identified for treatment using a hand release/pile/chipping & burn application. This prospectus is intended to solicit potential contractors interested in performing hazardous fuel reduction tasks to the specifications provided below.

Important Dates & Times

Show Me Tour: *Thursday, April 17, 2008 @ 11:00 a.m.* (Location: Taylorsville Campground-see map)

Bid Date: *Thursday, April 24, 2008 @ 5:00 p.m.*

Contract Term and Timing of Operations:

Operations shall begin by agreement upon contract execution with completion no later than December 31, 2008 unless otherwise agreed.

Operations should not be affected by inclement weather as this project is a hand pile & burn with a lesser amount of chipping.

Treatment Area Designation:

A Registered Professional Forester (RPF-Smailes) has identified the treatment area on the ground. The area designated for treatment is flagged with surveyors' ribbon. Color codes and significance are as follows:

Red.....project boundary

Plumas County's Fire Safe Council's General Hazardous Fuel Reduction Treatment Desires Are:

Desired Stand Condition:

Fuel conditions (surface, ladder & canopy) would not contribute to initiating or sustaining a crown fire and have projected flame lengths of less than 2-4 feet in the surface fuels and represented in photo series PNW-51 and 52: photo description codes 1-PP-4-PC, 2-PP-4-PC, 4-PP-1-TH., 1-DF-4-PC, 6-DF-PC and 2-LP-3-PC. (www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/photoseries%201-pp-4-pc.pdf and www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/fuelbreak.pdf) Stand resilience from fire would be high. The resulting stand would appear open and park like with the primary carrier of the fire being needles and/or grasses. When a fire passes, there may be occasional torching of bushes or smaller trees in openings where larger trees don't exist, but there would generally be a continuous horizontal and vertical break of the forest canopy, with canopy cover of 40-50%, over light surface fuels.