

Whitehawk Hazardous Fuels Reduction

06-DG-11051150-012

**Quarterly and Final Report
December 31, 2007**

General

This is a Plumas RAC approved hazardous fuels project. It was funded with \$73,000 in federal Secure Rural Schools Title II funds and was planned for \$80,500 in matching funds, including \$15,000 in Title III funds from the Board of Supervisors (approved in July, 2005). The Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC: Title II) funds were approved on 7/12/05. The Title II contract was executed between PNF and the PCFSC with a start date of 3/29/06 and a finish date of 12/31/07.

Fuel Hazard Reduction

A solicitation for registered professional foresters resulted in two proposals. Pete Thill (Penman Forest Managers) was hired on to develop the project in May, 2006.

Early indications from the forester were that the volumes of fiber material (and consequent revenues and matching funds) that would result from the project were somewhat over estimated in the application and funding agreement. The Fire Safe Council wrote a letter to the RAC requesting an additional \$25,000 on 9/15/06. The RAC determined to fund the request if additional Title II funds were received in FFY 07-08. No additional RAC funds have been committed to date or are anticipated.

The CEQA document (and State CDF Permit) for the project has been prepared and approved. The CDF "Forest Fire Prevention Exemption" (2-07EX-215-BUT) was issued on 3/27/07. The NEPA environmental information was submitted to the Beckwourth Ranger District. The District Ranger (Fred Gonzalez) issued a Decision Memo on 10/26/06. The Project Prospectus to fuels reduction contractors was issued in November, 2006 for 121 acres of HFR. Proposals from Licensed Timber Operators (LTOs) were received on 1/12/07. A contract was entered into with LTO Paul Rouen on 6/8/07 to thin 111 acres (\$105,654) after significant discussion. A provision within the contract allowed for additional funds to the LTO if certain product delivery targets were exceeded.

The grant application predicted \$ 60,500 in revenues from sales of chips and logs. Actual revenues were \$67,969. The grant application predicted 338 green tons of chips and 188 MBF of logs would be removed as product. The final result was that 237 Bone Dry Tons (~474 green tons) and 148 MBF were removed. There were less logs removed than predicted but significantly more chips. This resulted in the increased product revenues noted above and there were commensurate, increased expenses paid to the LTO.

The thinning work has been completed. Revenues have been received from product taken to the lumber mill and electric generator (chips to Loyalton and logs to Quincy). Final mastication and cleanup work was carried out after 10/1/07 and complete by the end of November. A total of 105 acres have had hazardous fuel reduction treatments. The project map is attached. Photos from photo pints are attached.

Financial Ratios

Total expenditures for all purposes were \$155,968.96. The RPF was paid the agreed upon \$15,000 or 10 % of the costs. The LTO was paid \$ 133, 569.37 or 85.6 % of costs. This LTO cost was \$1,272 per treated acre (105 acres). Revenues from sales of were \$647 per acre or 51 % of the LTO costs. Product sales were \$67,969. \$ 7,399 was expensed for administrative costs or 4.7 % of all costs. Gross costs per acre were \$ 1,485. Costs per acre to the federal treasury from the Title II funds were \$ 695.

Lessons

An important lesson on this project was the successful use of a type of low slung and low impact, rubber tracked Caterpillar masticator with a horizontal head for the final cleanup and other aspects of the work.

Another lesson was the successful cash contributions from the Whitehawk Community Service District and the Homeowners Association. These funds were conserved until the latter stages of the project and were used for visually sensitive areas, leading to favorable comments on the finish work.

Financial

Matching funds expenditures for planning, as of 12/31/07, were \$ 15,000 (from Title III). Revenues from sales of fiber were at \$ 67,968.96 as of 12/31/07. Total match has been \$82,968.96 (versus \$ 80,500 predicted in the RAC application). PSFSC requested the full \$73,000 in RAC funding and that amount has been received. Total Revenues are \$155,968.96.

Title II expenditures have been \$ 73,000. Total expenditures through 12/31/07 have been \$ 155,968.96. All expenses are paid and the project can be closed.