

# BURNEY HAT CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST AND WATERSHED GROUP

## MEETING NOTES, OCTOBER 5, 2015

### Contents

<b>1. Meeting Synopsis</b> .....	1
<b>2. Meeting Attendees</b> .....	1
<b>3. Action Items</b> .....	2
<b>4. Meeting Notes</b> .....	2
Introductions and Opening Business .....	2
USFS Updates .....	3
<i>a.) Personnel</i> .....	3
<i>b.) Budget Updates</i> .....	3
<i>c.) Project Updates</i> .....	5
<i>d.) Identifying project-based priorities for USFS-CFLR collaborative work</i> .....	5
Non FS Project Area Updates.....	6
<i>a.) Pit River Tribe Hat Creek restoration activities</i> .....	6
<i>b.) Industry and biomass project area updates</i> .....	7
<i>c.) Burney Gardens Meadow Update</i> .....	7
Upcoming Meetings.....	7
<b>Appendix A: 2015/2016 USFS Budgets</b> .....	1

### 1. Meeting Synopsis

On Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Burney-Hat Community Forest and Watershed group met. The USFS provided updates on the Hat Creek Ranger District’s personnel changes, the Burney Hat Creek CFLR 2015 and 2016 budgets, and CFLR projects. The Pit River Tribe and industry representatives both provided updates on non-FS work happening within the project area. Potential topics for the group’s next few meetings were discussed. The group will meet again in November to continue to reignite the group’s work and its agreed to, on-the-ground outcomes.

### 2. Meeting Attendees

Don Curtis  
Chris Dallas  
Brent Dubois  
Kendra Fallon  
Marissa Fierro  
Ann Grasso  
Melinda Graves

Ryan Hadley  
Pete Johnson  
Katie Johnson  
Shane Larsen  
Doug Lindgren  
Dean Lofthus  
Greg Mayer

Wade McMaster  
Jeff Oldson  
Patricia Putterbaugh  
Todd Sloat

### 3. Action Items

- **Collaborative Members** to contact J. Kusel if you would like to participate as an informant in the annual review of the group's interests and needs. [Ongoing.](#)
- **USFS and Pit River Tribe** to collaborate on the format, topics, and trainer(s) for a training on the sovereign to sovereign relationship and associated processes between federally recognized tribes and the US Government. [W. McMaster will be hosting a brown-bag lunch on this topic at an upcoming meeting.](#)
- **Group members** to submit expenditures from within the project area that can be counted as CFLR match to G. Mayer by November 1. [Done.](#)
- **Facilitators** to host webinar on CFLR reporting (2014 feedback and 2015 input) [Moved to future meeting agenda due to timing and content- this will involve a review and discussion session on the 2015 report.](#)
- **G. Mayer** to follow up on how folks can access the newly generated Lidar data
- **Funding working group** to self-identify and discuss how to leverage funds on this multijurisdictional landscape further via teleconference. **Facilitators** to doodle first teleconference. [Done, convened on 10/19/15, meeting notes to be reviewed at November meeting.](#)
- **Lassen FS** to create space for dialogue on CFLR projects after public scoping periods per group request. [Ongoing.](#)
- **K. Fallon** to provide further information on 4 Corner II compliance options for group discussion at a future meeting. [USFS will send a forester and/or compliance specialist to future group meetings to discuss.](#)
- **Group members** to email G. Mayer new project name ideas for 4 Corners II.
- **K. Fallon** to submit notes on what the group could learn from the SLMBD conference for review and discussion the next meeting. [A. Reeves-Jolley will circulate notes once available.](#)
- **W. McMaster** to follow up on the process of tribal representation at workshops such as SLMBD and voice the Tribe's interest in participating in conversations regarding lessons learned regarding forest collaboratives and pursuing avenues for additional dialogue. [Ongoing.](#)
- **USFS** to bring maps of the CFLR project area and specific project sites to every meeting. [Ongoing.](#)
- **Facilitators** to doodle agenda subcommittee teleconference and November all group meetings. [Done, meeting scheduled for 11/16/15.](#)

### 4. Meeting Notes

#### Introductions and Opening Business

- Meeting protocols were reviewed as outlined in the group charter
- Participants introduced themselves and summarized what they hoped to get out of the meeting.

- The agenda formation and scheduling processes were reviewed and were summarized as follows: Items may be submitted by any member of the collaborative, the agenda subcommittee and facilitator then set the agenda. That subcommittee teleconference, as well as the collaborative meetings themselves, will continue to be scheduled via the Doodling poll method.
- Facilitators are establishing the most effective methodology for an annual assessment of the group's needs and interests. This will involve interviewing participant group representatives and other stakeholders; this is not an exclusionary process. All are welcome to provide input. Input can be kept anonymous or not; that is up to the informant.
  - **ACTION ITEM: Collaborative Members** are asked to contact J. Kusel if they would like to participate in this process.

## USFS Updates

### *a.) Personnel*

- Introduction from the new Hat Creek District Ranger, A. Grasso
- Based on funding, Lassen FS will *not* be hiring a new Deputy District Ranger to serve as the primary CFLR liaison. A current Lassen staff member will be appointed with this role. G. Mayer currently plays this role, so if he is the one appointed in this position, something else (timber management related) will be removed from his responsibilities.
  - A. Grasso will continue to attend the CFLR meetings along with this new appointee. The appointee does not have to have any particular title to be considered for the position.
  - Chris O'Brien will occasionally attend as the Supervisor's Office representative
- M. Fierro recommends that it would be beneficial for the appointee to have a strong understanding of the sovereign to sovereign relationship and associated processes between the Pit River Tribe and the US government.
- M. Fierro reminds the group of her earlier recommendation that the group receive a training on this sovereign to sovereign relationship and associated processes. W. McMaster or Bob Goodwin were discussed as appropriate trainers.
  - **ACTION ITEM: USFS and Pit River Tribe** to collaborate on the format, topics, and trainer(s) for this training.
  - D. Curtis requested confirmation that this training will not delay the collaborative's process. As the proposed training relates to the relationship between the USFS and the Tribe, it will not delay the work of the collaborative as a whole.
  - K. Fallon reminded the group that its work is "beyond" CFLR and suggests that this is why it may be appropriate to include Lomakatsi in this training
- Vacant positions on the District include a Silviculturist, Foresters, Rec.; did hire a GIS Specialist and is hiring a new sale administrator; other new hires are not anticipated at this point.

### *b.) Budget Updates*

*Budget report included as Appendix A*

- Group clarified that it did not make a formal decision regarding which USFS projects to pursue.
  - These projects were chosen by the USFS based on what was NEPA-ready and those projects were included in the BHC CFLR proposal.
- The 2016 budget does leave room for collaboration because (1) all the dollars (~\$400,000) are not allocated and (2) if bids come in below the allocation, additional dollars will become available.
- There are funds allocated for ecological monitoring, but the USFS wants to (and legislatively under CFLR must) incorporate socioeconomic (including cultural) monitoring into its work plan. Dinkey CFLR has a replicable model for this.
- Points of clarification and discussion
  - CFLRP stands for [Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program](#), a federally funded program of the USFS
  - CFLR spending requires a 1:1 match, the budget reports do not include that match
  - Not all projects within the CFLR footprint are funded by CFLR dollars. The annual CFLR report is due on November 1. **ACTION ITEMS:** Group members are asked to submit match numbers regarding project area activities to G. Mayer ASAP; **Sierra Institute** to facilitate webinar on 2014 feedback and 2015 input prior to 11/12/2015.
  - Spending under “planning” is for pre-NEPA surveying, which is permitted under CFLR
  - “Cadastral surveys” are land surveys to establish and re-establish property boundaries
  - Timeline on the Lidar- surveys are flying this week, PSW will then do the data input, FS is aiming for usable data and imagery by December. **ACTION ITEM:** G. Mayer will follow up on how folks can access that data.
  - Fire borrowing has yet to draw from Lassen CFLR funds. \$700 million of nation-wide fire burrowing is slated to be restored via congressional decision. When and where it goes back is currently unknown.
  - Sunshine 2016’s funding is so large because the project is being done as a Stewardship Contract.
  - Burnt logs are being shipped to Oregon because local mills are at capacity in terms of burnt lumber.
  - Contract for FY2016 USFS projects are due on March 31
  - FS can use non CFLR dollars on CFLR interests, most easily on FS land, but also on non FS land through creative implementation (example of NW Forest Gateway project within Lassen Volcanic NP, money funneled through the RAC; State Park projects have been funded through Stephen’s Funds) and proper justification regarding how the work helps FS lands. Other funding opportunities include SNC, Shasta RAC, NFF, CalFire etc. **ACTION ITEM:** Funding working group will self-identify and will discuss how to leverage funds on this multijurisdictional landscape further via teleconference.
  - Although public input is not required for projects post public scoping, collaborative members do want to be able to provide feedback, especially if a project undergoes NEPA and then burns. **ACTION ITEM:** Lassen FS will create space for dialogue on CFLR projects after public scoping per group request
    - Ex: Whittington is post-NEPA, but USFS did a supplemental impact report and reported a Negative Declaration, so public scoping is no longer required, but through CFLR there is still space to discuss.

- M. Fierro proposed a ranking and review of the budget as an upcoming meeting topic.
- The Whittington project is within the Eiler burn area
- The Pit River Tribe formally objected to the Eiler fire salvage
- T. Sloat and others appreciate the condensed budget summary

### *c.) Project Updates*

- Prescribed fire projects are to start within the next few weeks
- Reading Fire project work is to be completed within next 2 years
- Four Corners II
  - Four Corners II has the potential to have a faster environmental analysis process in that it is within [Healthy Forest Restoration Act](#) (HFRA) jurisdiction in terms of fuels treatments. Trail building, restoration, etc. would need to go through an EA. There are pros and cons to approaching this EA at a larger scale. **ACTION ITEM: K. Fallon** will provide further information on these options for group discussion at a future meeting.
  - Name, size, and location of project(s) will be determined largely based on the first question of scale. **ACTION ITEM: Group members** asked to email G. Mayer project name ideas.
  - The group can propose Categorical Exclusions to avoid NEPA, the Hat Creek district has not had much successes with this tactic, but restoration and planting projects do have potential as CEs.
- One key question the group has is how projects are to be/being planned collaboratively.

### *d.) Identifying project-based priorities for USFS-CFLR collaborative work*

- Themes rather than projects that correspond to the 2016 budget were primarily discussed.
- P. Putterbaugh: Supports prioritizing projects around communities/ WUIs- these areas are less ecologically sensitive and also resonate with R5 leadership goals; finishing projects that have already been started; Hat Creek campground areas (FS is working on this area through a CE but is in a holding pattern due to blow down)
- M. Fierro: Supports incorporating TEK with current science and thinking, incorporating most recent science; encouraging biodiversity (adding as opposed to maintaining species diversity, increasing it); looking at the scale and types of restoration activities; protection of cultural resources; water quality and quantity; increasing monitoring and applying diverse techniques such as bio-assessments and youth monitoring programs; tribal work crew training opportunities; utilizing the Pit River Tribe's MSA; fisheries protection; youth education; utilizing the Tribe's greenhouse for a source of native species
- G. Mayer: Supports pursuing projects eligible for CE's (Burney Creek watershed project, one for thinning)
- P. Johnson: Fall River RCD recently commissioned three watershed assessments (on the Burney and Hat Creek watersheds); this offers a good summary of information especially regarding landscape scale, public land issues as well as recreational use summaries and analysis of impacts. Is also

applicable to private landowners. The [Burney Creek](#) and [Hat Creek Watershed Assessments](#) are available online.

- M. Graves: It's helpful to know what's going on and where, especially in terms of identifying holes. Maps are very helpful to identify priorities. NRCS can only deal with noncommercial sized fuels (12").
- D. Lindgren: McArthur Burney SP park did fly a timber sale, but it wasn't economically viable; now considering the grant route
- Note that for projects <20 acres in size, if trees are officially deemed as "dying" and project has a registered forester, 10% cap no longer pertains

#### e.) Other

- K. Fallon will be attending a regional "think-tank meeting" tomorrow in Sacramento on forest collaboration ("SLMBD"). **ACTION ITEM:** K. Fallon will submit notes on what the group could learn and review at the next meeting as an informational item.
  - K. Fierro inquired about tribal representation at the forum; K. Fallon was not privy to that information. **ACTION ITEM:** W. McMaster will follow up on that process and voice the Tribe's interest in lessons learned regarding forest collaboratives and pursue avenues for additional dialogue.

## Non FS Project Area Updates

### a.) Pit River Tribe Hat Creek restoration activities

- The Tribe recently signed a 10 year MSA between 3 USFS Districts to conduct work within its ancestral territory. Lomakatsi under contract with the tribe to do this work. This agreement addresses the capacity issues of the Lassen, integrates TEK into land management, creates employment opportunities for tribal members, and builds tribal capacity re: workforce development.
- Hat Creek restoration activities are the result of a CalTrout and Pit River Tribe partnership. Project goal is holistic restoration.
  - Project accomplishments include: establishment of a 20 x 30' greenhouse for native plant propagation; a restoration plan designed by tribal elders; 6,000 plants planted along Hat Creek area; youth training activities on watershed assessment and restoration; empowering youth with knowledge and value of TEK; the leveraging of an additional \$1 million to continue watershed restoration.
  - Next phase activities include: Cultural signage (i.e. interpretive kiosks), invasive plant treatments, and reintroducing fire into the oak woodlands.
  - Upstream water and stream bank stewardship is also an area of focus, particularly in terms of the need for education and enforcement.
  - These strategies are reinforced in FRCD docs (above)
- There was disagreement regarding what parties were involved with securing the funding for Lower Hat Creek restoration work.

### *b.) Industry and biomass project area updates*

- R. Hadley reported that SPI has had minimal activity within the project area, doing 400 acres of salvage logging, working on 100 acres in the Burney Gardens THP area, planning to conduct pile burning due to lack of market
- D. Lofthus reported that Fruit Growers Supply completed Eiler fire logging, did pruning around Burney/Johnson Park, also working on blow down.
  - Burney Gardens- started flagging last year and ran into marijuana growers, law enforcement never got back to them. Has yet to return due to that; they would like to do something out there
- There was a request that maps be available at every meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** USFS to bring maps of the CFLR project area and specific project sites to every meeting.
- Burney Power update: As of last month, it was going to close its doors in December. Assemblyman Dahle has secured another year's worth of contracts with PG&E. This closure would impact local jobs and Shasta Green's ability to dry lumber (a critical piece of the forest restoration puzzle). New guarantee is only 11 months-> potential closure puts the group's thinning goals at great risk. Potential working group on this issue to be discussed at next meeting.
- Note on funding: CalFire restoration funds were released on Thursday; NRCS received catastrophic wildfire funding. CARCD could be administrator for funds
- T. Sloat: Hat Creek Construction is pursuing a bioenergy project on its site (3MW in size so that it falls within SB1122 legislative incentives), System Impact study has been submitted, next step anticipated in Jan/Feb. RCD had a grant to identify site and beyond that, the project is control of Hat Creek Construction. [SB1122](#) (a.k.a. Bioenergy Feed-In Tariff) is a price setting mechanism to incentive small scale biomass projects in California.

### *c.) Burney Gardens Meadow Update*

- Clarification on where Burney Gardens is (headwaters of Burney Creek), that comment period was ~5 years ago, PG&E planning unit is part of this.
- PG&E signed an agreement to allow the implementation, they reconnected the channel to the floodplain, THP is still active, there is still opportunity to do restoration work
- An [article on the Burney Gardens project](#) appeared in *California Agriculture* in the summer of 2015.

### Upcoming Meetings

- Group agreed to a November meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitators to doodle agenda subcommittee teleconference and November all-group meetings.
- Potential topics:
  - Revisiting the group(s)'s vision and goals (discussion)
  - Additional project area activities for which updates will be provided at the next meeting (informational)

- Tribal priorities for collaboration: landscape restoration objectives, youth education, fire as a management tool, TEK, Oak Woodlands, sensitive species protections, and monitoring protocol (informational)
- Annual CFLR Reporting: Review and Discussion on 2015 Report (discussion)
- Ranking and review of USFS CFLR Budget (discussion)
- USFS Planning: Process and Opportunities for Collaboration (discussion)
- Ecological monitoring update (informational)
- Cross Boundary Opportunities (informational)
- Fire behavior in different thinning regimes (informational)
- Plum Field Trip- perhaps to be offered as an optional morning session (informational)
- Leveraging support for Burney Forest Power beyond the next 11 months (discussion)
- 4 Corners: Name, Size, Location, compliance strategies (discussion)
- Presentation on post fire restoration and logging (informational)
- NEPA training (informational)
  - How to make comments
  - How to productively engage people, power, and process of public comment
- On meetings in general
  - FS can bring in technical experts on a variety of topics



Appendix A: 2015/2016 USFS Budgets

<b>Hat Creek Burney Basins CFLR FY15 Budget</b>		
<b>Projects</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Planning</b>		
Eiler Fire- Cadastral Surveys- Eiler Fire EA	7 mi	\$10,227
<b>Preparation</b>		
<b>Prescribed Fire</b>		
Eastside UB Supplies	932	\$4,000
Reading Pile Burning	265	\$13,575
<b>Fuels Reduction and Site Preparation</b>		
Bear Wallow Piling- Fuels Reduction- North 49 EIS	196	\$60,873
North Rail Site Prep Cut and Deck- Reading Project EA	161	\$112,470
North Rail Tractor Piling- Reading Project EA	430	\$22,326
Reading Fuels Reduction(Lost)- Reading Project EA	60	\$8,000
North Rail Tree Fell	405	\$22,279
<b>Thinning</b>		
Long Valley Hand Thin and Pile-Four Corners EA	224	\$93,829
Long Valley/Blacks Ranch Thinning- Four Corners EA	69	\$29,739
South Station Burn Prep- Ladder Fuel Cut and Pile- South Station Project EA	345	\$241,508
<b>Mastication</b>		
Cypress Plantation Thinning and Mastication- Whittington Forest Health Recovery Project EA	591	\$280,181
<b>Monitoring</b>		
Burney- Hat Creek Basins CFLR LiDAR	78,643	\$27,575

<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
Overtime			\$15,000
Supplies			\$5,000
Travel			\$1,500
<b>Additional Projects for Consideration</b>			
Big Lake Meadow Restoration and Thinning- Needs CE	250		
4 Corners Thin and Pile- Four Corners EA	60		
North 49 Precommercial Thin and Fuels Reduction- North 49 EIS			
Hat Creek Pit Project- Supplies- Archeology			
Whittington Owl Pac Thin- Precommercial Thinning- Needs CE	200		
<b>Personnel</b>			\$362,918
<b>Fleet</b>			\$53,599
<b>Total</b>			\$1,395,293
<b>Fy 16 Allocation</b>			\$1,705,000

## Hat Creek Burney Basins CFLR FY16 Budget

Projects	Acres	Cost
<b>Planning</b>		
Plum Project- Pre Project Monitoring (Wildlife and Archeology Surveys)- EA Complete September 2016	18,627	\$32,890
4 Corners 2 Thinning- Pre project Monitoring (Silviculture, Wildlife and Archeology)- HFRA CE Complete 2017	3,000	\$78,520
<b>Preparation</b>		
Sunshine Plantation Thin and Mastication Project IRSC Award 2016 -North 49 EIS	420	\$147,000
Sluicebox IRTC Needs Check Cruise and Final Road Package Award 2016- North 49 EIS	803	\$5,000
Whittington IRTC Contract Layout and Preparation Award 2017- Whittington Forest Health Recovery Project EA	800	\$56,650
<b>Prescribed Fire</b>		
Eastside UB- On and Off Forest Personnel, Supplies and Goshawk Surveys- Eastside Underburn Burn EA	900	\$39,404
Old Station WUI Underburn-On and Off Forest Personnel, Supplies- Old Station WUI Project EA	100	\$14,000
Reading Pile Burning- Supplies- Reading Project EA	700	\$5,000
Bear Wallow Pile Burning	160	
<b>Fuels Reduction and Site Preparation</b>		
Bear Wallow Machine Pile- Fuels Reduction- North 49 EIS	150	\$47,500
Eiler Fire Restoration- Fuels Reduction and Site Preparation- Eiler Fire Salvage and Restoration EA	350	\$113,066
Reading Fuels Reduction- Fuels Reduction And Site Preparation- Reading Project EA	175	\$53,261

<b>Thinning</b>		
Old Station WUI Thin and Pile- Old Station WUI Vegetation Treatment Project EA	60	\$23,500
South Station Burn Prep- Ladder Fuel Cut and Pile- South Station Project EA	200	\$95,000
<b>Mastication</b>		
Cypress Plantation Mastication- Whittington Forest Health Recovery Project EA	400	\$211,985
<b>Monitoring</b>		
Eiler Fire Planting Strategy Study- Supplies		\$4,500
Hat Creek Monitoring- Water Monitoring		\$20,000
LiDAR Data Entry and Processing		\$10,000
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Overtime		\$15,000
Supplies		\$5,000
Travel		\$1,500
<b>Additional Projects for Consideration</b>		
Big Lake Meadow Restoration and Thinning- Needs CE	250	
4 Corners Thin and Pile- Four Corners EA	60	
North 49 Precommercial Thin and Fuels Reduction- North 49 EIS		
Hat Creek Pit Project- Supplies- Archeology		
Whittington Owl Pac Thin- Precommercial Thinning- Needs CE	200	
<b>Personnel</b>		\$362,918
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