

# BURNEY HAT CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST AND WATERSHED GROUP MEETING NOTES; APRIL 11, 2016

## 1. Meeting Synopsis

On Monday, April 11, 2016, the Burney-Hat Community Forest and Watershed group met. The group prioritized the flexible line items of the USFS CFLR budget, discussed a HFRA Categorical Exclusion (CE) network of project polygons, and resolved several housekeeping issues. The group will meet again in late May or June for an a.m. field trip to some of the potential CE areas followed by an afternoon meeting.

## 2. Meeting Attendees

Don Curtis	Peter Johnson	Aaron Rieffanaugh
Peter Feller	Allison Jolley	Skip Willmore
Ann Grasso	Jonathan Kusel	
Kristy Hoffman	Patricia Puterbaugh	

## 3. Action Items

- **Monitoring working group** to discuss whether or not to recommend that the group pursue additional Lidar data.
- **A. Jolley** will circulate a revised list of group members at the next meeting. **In process**
- **A. Jolley** will perform outreach the following organizations regarding whether or not they would like to maintain their membership and if so, who they would like to list as their voting representative: **In process.**
  - Burney Fire Department
  - Stewardship Council
  - Fall River Conservancy
  - CalFire
- **A. Jolley** to confirm T. Sloat's willingness to co-lead monitoring committee. **Done.**
- **P. Johnson** will call PGE and get A. Jolley the name of those with whom he speaks.
- **K. Hoffman** to have conversation with State Park in context of SNC
- **S. Willmore** to initiate conversation with McArthur-family connections re: State Park.
- **A. Jolley** to continue to encourage the State Park to come to CFLR meetings. **Ongoing.**
- **S. Willmore** to identify who designates the volcanic legacy scenic byway for the group to send a letter informing them of the state of forest health in the corridor.
- **A. Grasso** to discuss the status of the group, ask others how that their CFLRs make decisions on FS projects, & share the bioenergy letter at the upcoming SCALE meeting. **Done.**
- **A. Grasso** will send group a copy of the agreement. **Done.**
- **All** are asked to send A. Grasso: pictures, acreage and narratives for the 2016 CFLR Report by the end of August (of work that has occurred since Oct. 1 in the CFLR footprint).
- **A. Jolley** to follow up with Fruit Growers Supply regarding their project boundary. **Voicemail and email on 5/12/16, map obtained and shared at this meeting.**

# BURNEY HAT CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST AND WATERSHED GROUP

## MEETING NOTES; APRIL 11, 2016

- **A. Rieffanaugh** to create modified CE polygons based on this discussion. [Draft to be circulated 5/16/16.](#) Done.

### 4. Meeting Notes

#### Introductions and Opening Business

- April agenda and February meetings notes were approved; housekeeping issues were moved to the beginning of the meeting.
- **ACTION ITEM: Monitoring working group** to discuss whether or not to recommend the group pursue additional Lidar data.
- A [letter of support](#) regarding Burney Forest Power was submitted to various agencies and elected officials last month.
- The USFS is moving forward on the 60 acre thinning project with the Pit River Tribe via their existing participating agreement.

#### Housekeeping and Charter Review

- Review of decision making process as outlined in the group's charter:
  - A voting process only unfolds if there is an objection; unanimous support allows the group to make a decision without undergoing the formal voting process.
  - The group approved the process of making decisions/vote via email when necessary.
    - When initiating an email decision, a facilitator, a working group leads, or another designated party will pose the issue/question to the group and typically allow group members one-week (five business days) to cast their vote via email. A 24 hour turn-around may be required and is acceptable in emergency situations.
    - A majority of the group's formal members must respond for the vote to be considered legitimate.
- Annual [charter](#) member review and revisions:
  - Rather than names, charter members that are affiliated with organization/formal group will be listed as such, with the current representative's name listed next to the organization. That individual is the only person who may vote on behalf of that organization until the respective organization nominates a different representative. As such, each organization, including the USFS, has only one vote.
  - Individuals that wish to obtain/retain group memberships independent of an organization affiliation may do so by following the process outlined in the Charter.
  - **ACTION ITEM: A. Jolley** will circulate a revised list of group members at the next meeting.
  - **ACTION ITEM: A. Jolley** will perform outreach the following organizations regarding whether or not they would like to maintain their membership and if so, who they would like to list as their voting representative:
    - Burney Fire Department
    - Stewardship Council
    - Fall River Conservancy
    - CalFire
    - CalTrout
  - Again, if there is agreement around a decisional agenda item, and that item was listed as an agenda decision item on the agenda circulated one week prior to the meeting, neither a quorum nor a formal vote is required in order to make a decision.

## BURNEY HAT CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST AND WATERSHED GROUP MEETING NOTES; APRIL 11, 2016

- **Topic for future meeting:** A working group to recruit additional members/ stakeholders.
- Establishing monitoring working group co-leads:
  - The group approved the concept of a joint leadership model for this working group.
  - M. Coppoletta was approved as the FS lead. Assuming T. Sloat (not present) is willing, P. Puterbaugh and T. Sloat will act as non-FS co-leads. **ACTION ITEM:** A. Jolley to confirm T. Sloat's willingness to co-lead this committee.
- Printed meeting materials:
  - Group decided that facilitators shall provide printed copies agendas for all meeting attendees and six copies of the previous meetings' notes for each meeting. Meeting attendees should request additional printed meeting materials within 24 hours of receiving the pre-meeting e-packet.
- Sierra Institute is no longer coordinating the Sierra Nevada Conservancy workshop due to the high ratio of FS employees attending relative to Collaborative members. K. Hoffman and C. Danheiser are now the points of contact for this workshop (6/14/16, RSVP required).
- Upcoming grant opportunities round-robin:
  - The new solicitation on Sierra Nevada Conservancy DFW Prop 1 funds draft is out, likely to be formalized next week.
  - Sierra Nevada Conservancy's next deadline to apply is September 1, K. Hoffman recommends contacting her and planning to get in pre-applications in by June if you're planning to apply.
    - Clarifying point: The State Park is planning to apply for these funds.
    - The collaborative could apply for these funds through the RCD, Fire Safe Council, or another fiscal sponsor. However, the FS can't apply. Applicants get extra points for being a FS collaborative.
    - The grants focus on forest health, but it doesn't include meadows.
    - There projects do require CEQA.

### USFS Budget Review

- A. Grasso reviewed the 2016 USFS CFLR budget.
- Clarifying points:
  - Items listed in green mean that the funds are already expended/committed.
  - A. Grasso recently met with the Lassen USFS Supervisor to check-in on the Big Lake project. She anticipates having a contract signed this fiscal year and possibly an awarded contract.
  - The Reading Fire and Dutch Cut projects are in contract
  - The AshPan Road Maintenance is a \$1,200 gravel project.
  - The North 49 contract is ready.
  - The \$10,000 for the Twin Bridges project is to use boulders to prohibit river-side parking/camping. The boulders will still allow for non-motorized access; this project is currently underway.
  - In terms of recreation, CFLR funds may only go to road and trail projects.
- Fruit Growers Supply would like for Cortez Lake to be bouldered near their property as well, this too could happen this year.
- Old Station pier- engineers weren't able to get the specs done; if the group still wants it to happen, it would need to be in 2017.

## BURNEY HAT CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST AND WATERSHED GROUP MEETING NOTES; APRIL 11, 2016

- Rocky Campground Trail- Pit River Tribe has capacity to do the project; it would entail <\$8K and involve using recycled timber.
- A. Grasso estimates that there will be \$300,000 left to allocate.... the [list of additional projects](#) could use remaining \$.
- Monitoring amounts might be in flux depending on the recommendation of the monitoring committee and the group's decisions.
- For instances like the NFF conference, if a Collaborative member wants to travel as a Collaborative member, FS can explore covering that individual's travel, food, and lodging expenses as a FS volunteer; contact A. Grasso for more information.
- **Topic for future meeting:** What does the group want to be done in 2017, especially in terms of that first quarter?
- There is a kiosk/ interpretive sign being installed on 299 on the way into Burney that will discuss the tribe, history, geology, etc.
- Discussion: Regarding the vista point at Old Station, now you can't see anything beyond the trees. Pruning the trees or changing the purpose of this location was discussed.

### Introduction of potential CE boundary

- Rieffanauh (FS Wildlife Biologist) presented a potential 3K HFRA project area and posted the question: Do these boundaries match with the group's vision?
- Discussion
  - The concept is to do the 3K HFRA first and then the full Crossroads later.
  - Variables used to identify the HFRA polygons: Mortality, tree-size, slope in terms of accessibility (<35%), and what hadn't been treated in the past (unless there is still high mortality).
  - P. Puterbaugh suggested that Clark Creek ranch (the area north of Lake Britton) be included, as the lake already provides a southern buffer the canyons north of the lake appear to need thinning
  - Western portion of HFRA is in Late Successional Reserve (LSR) and doesn't match the variables listed above. The group latter decided to replace the LSR portion of the HFRA with an area north of Lake Britton.
  - The benefit, or lack thereof, of this work will be constrained by PG&E's actions on their adjacent land.
  - In steeper sections (35% or more) hand thinning of trees <4" in diameter is a possibility.
  - Wildlife surveys will be done throughout the entire area and are good for 5 years.
  - The HFRA is limited to 3,000 acres. CE's typically take 185 days; (Environmental Assessments) EAs typically take 350 days.
  - Fruit Growers Supply does have an approved CE within the Crossroads boundary. Correspondence is essential to avoiding cumulative effects.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** A. Jolley to follow up with Fruit Growers Supply regarding their project boundary.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** A. Rieffanauh to create modified CE polygons based on this discussion.

# BURNEY HAT CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST AND WATERSHED GROUP

## MEETING NOTES; APRIL 11, 2016

### Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

- There is a recent farm bill authority that allows state Department of Natural Resources to help implement projects on FS land; this allows them to subcontract the work (could be SNC, CALFIRE). GNA is not restricted to the CFLR boundary.
- CEQA/ THP and NEPA requirements are based on who owns the land, not who does the work.
- Dollars contributed by state agencies via GNA can be used as a match for CFLR.

### Collaborative's Prioritization of Projects

1. Items in green (they are all happening)
  - Old 4 Corners Thin and Pile
  - Ashpan Road
  - Twin Bridges
2. Crossroads CE
3. Big Lake Meadow (CE done this year, contract to do work will be in 2017), Cortez Lake, Old Station Accessible Fishing Pier (timeline is 2017), Rocky Campground Bridge Access Trail (this year)
4. North 49
5. Site Prep (Reading and Dutch)
6. Larger landscape evaluation, using GNA, etc. or Rec EA

### Stakeholder Synopsis; 30,000 ft Discussion: How is this working?

*Postponed for a future meeting:*

- Comments on [recent collaboration white paper](#); implications for the group? (discussion)
- Comments on Stakeholder Synopsis (discussion)

### Outreach Needed:

- PGE (McGreeney, S. Whitemore suggests to invite him) and State Park; both are missing from the room
  - **ACTION ITEM:** P. Johnson will call and get A. Jolley the name of those with whom he speaks
  - Jim Sorrell was the state park forester that Skip knows.
  - Maybe Joe Wilson, as the PR guy for PGE
- State park
  - The group has great concern about the condition of the state park and high concern about potential further burning.
  - Group wants to continue exploring how to help.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** K. Hoffman to have conversation with them in context of SNC
  - **ACTION ITEM:** S. Willmore to initiate conversation with McArthur-family connections.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** A. Jolley to continue to encourage them to come to the meetings
  - **ACTION ITEM:** S. Willmore to identify who designates the volcanic legacy scenic byway for the group to draft them a letter informing them of the state of forest health in that area.

### Sierra to California All-Lands Enhancement Upcoming Meeting

*Identification of topics/questions for A. Grasso and others to relay to SCALE*

## BURNEY HAT CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST AND WATERSHED GROUP MEETING NOTES; APRIL 11, 2016

- **ACTION ITEM:** A. Grasso to discuss the status of the group, ask others how that the groups make decisions on FS projects, & share the bioenergy letter

### Identification of Future Meeting Topics

- Crossroads Field Trip (scheduled for May 24)
- NRCS and CalFIRE funding opportunities (B. Darley on CFIP/ CALFIRE; P. Johnson and others)
- Brown bag lunch: Government to government relations in terms of the Pit River Tribe and the USFS. Wade will be back around May or June; to be scheduled.
- Presentation on the Pit River Tribe's Master Stewardship Agreement
  - Lomakatski could do this presentation next time they are down here for the Wiley Ranch project.
  - Lomakatski is willing to take lead on NEPA and subcontract it locally, would be CFLR monies doing it, tribe would get training in timber-cruising, meadow restoration, etc. could be a field trip.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** A. Grasso will send group a copy of the agreement.
- Monitoring work group recommendations (tri-leads)
- NFF Workshop Highlights and Report Backs
- Establishing a working group for logo?
- Stakeholder Synopsis; 30,000 ft Discussion: How is this working?
- A working group to recruit additional members/ stakeholders.
- What does the group want to be done in 2017, especially in terms of that first quarter?

### Other updates:

- **ACTION ITEM:** All are asked to send A. Grasso: pictures, acreage and narratives for the 2016 CFLR Report by the end of August (of work that has occurred since Oct. 1 in the CFLR footprint).
- FS still accepting YCC applications for youth ages 15-18; they will also be doing monitoring
- At some point the group will need to prioritize between the Crossroads EA and Highway 89 Rec. opportunities EA. The group doesn't need to make a decision on this right now and ideally would be able to bring in more \$ to cover the difference
- The Eskimo Hill area is a high problem area. A. Grasso is speaking with the Sherriff and CalTrans about the safety concern there and will have a stakeholder meeting.