



# Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group (BHCCFWG)

## Partner Updates April-May 2018

### Ecological Monitoring

*Photo: Garrett Costello, Fall River RCD*

*Submission by Michelle Coppoletta, USFS*

- The monitoring working group met via conference call Tuesday, May 1. We reviewed and discussed the 2018 monitoring activities, made a few slight revisions, and will be recommending for approval at our next meeting. We also updated our ecological monitoring strategy and will be recommending approval of a revised version (V 2.0) at our next meeting. Once approved, this revised version will be finalized by the line officers – Janine Book and Dave Hayes.

### Fall River RCD

*Submission by Todd Sloat, Fall River RCD*

- The Fall River RCD met with LNF staff to work out project schedule and deliverables for the Crossroads project in order to finalize the SNC grant. The LNF has requested the RCD/partners to prepare the CE for the project and they will contribute the PAPAN. The existing SNC funds are insufficient for the RCD to complete this task. The RCD is seeking additional funds through a variety of avenues.
- The RCD assisted the Mule Deer Foundation and the FS to submit a grant requesting funds to implement the Manzanita Chutes project. The strategy was to request about 1/2 of the project budget through grant funds and use other existing FS funds to cover the difference.
- The RCD intends to develop a Master Stewardship Agreement with the LNF to work on projects within the Hat Creek Ranger District (HCRD) boundaries.
- The RCD is developing an approach to identify projects on FS lands within the HCRD boundaries that would improve plantation health and fuel breaks. These areas will likely be within those identified during meetings as needing forest health treatment, and that could be developed using a Categorical Exclusion (CE). Identification of these areas will be accomplished by working closely with the HCRD and LNF staff to ensure these areas are consistent with existing plans/projects. The projects will be vetted through the Collaborative.
- The RCD was invited to submit a full proposal to CalFire's California Climate Investment (CCI) Forest Health Program after they reviewed the pre-proposal application. The pre-proposal requested 10.5M in funds to be used for forest health treatments that could sequester carbon.

*Submission by Garret Costello, Fall River RCD*

- The Fall River RCD has developed two new webpages focused on forest health and soil conservation. The web pages can be accessed at the following links: <https://www.fallriverrcd.org/forest-stewardship> ; <https://www.fallriverrcd.org/soil-conservation>
- Monitoring pictures will be taken at the Burney Gardens Project site on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC)

### *Submission by Kristy Hoffman, SNC*

- The grant agreement to complete planning work for Crossroads project is in the signing process and anticipate it to be fully executed by the May 22<sup>nd</sup> BHCCFWG meeting.
- SNC will have approximately \$6-11 million available in late summer for forest health projects. If Prop 68 passes in June, it will be ~\$11 million. If it doesn't pass, it will be ~\$6 million. New grant guidelines will be available after our board's approval on June 7. Final dates will be released in June but we anticipate a mid to late August due date for pre-applications followed by a final application due date 2 months later. Please let Kristy know if you are considering a submittal so she can help with project development. She would also like to see any potential project sites beforehand.

## Lassen Volcanic National Park (LVNP)

### *Submission by Steve Buckley, LVNP*

- Northwest Gateway (NWG): We've been prioritized for our prescribed burn by the Pacific West region for completion this fall. Our fingers are crossed for good fire weather. We are also preparing a contract to go out later this month or in June to support the second stage of NWG and the additional acreage that has been marked and prepped by USFS.
- Weed treatments: We are expanding treatments in the Reading Fire footprint to control bull thistle. The California Exotic Plant Management Team provided additional funding to support treatments and additional surveys to map the extent of the infestation.
- Lidar acquisition: We are working with USGS and other partners to acquire as large an area as possible for Quality Level 1 Lidar, this will include all of the remaining areas on the entire Lassen NF surrounding and including the park.

## Hat Creek Ranger District

### *Submission by Greg Mayer, USFS*

- For 2018, The Hat Creek Ranger District has an ambitious program with our current District staffing level. Fortunately, we have been able to hire two recent graduates and a modest intern and temporary workforce to assist us. This year we plan to contract three timber sales (Sluice Box, Sunshine, and Bald Eiler Decks), and prepare 2 more (Whittington and Cabin). We have awarded three service contracts including 1467 acres of planting, have four more in contracting as well as will prepare two additional for next year. To date our folks have completed 2336 acres of prescribed fire, masticated 50 acres and pruned trees on over 20 miles of road. We are working with partners to thin over 300 acres of plantations and complete NEPA on the Crossroads project. The Hat Creek District continues its relationship with the University of Nevada monitoring snow on the North 49 project and has recently entered into an agreement to work with a variety of groups on an adaptive silviculture for climate change project. All these projects will include a monitoring component.