

A photograph of a forest with tall trees and sunlight filtering through the canopy. A semi-transparent white text box with a thin gold border is centered over the image.

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

Partner Updates September 2018

General Updates and Announcements

Submission by Kaily Bourg, Sierra Institute

- On August 24th, Lassen National Forest Staff and Regional Ecologist Hugh Safford led a field trip in the Whittington Project area to visit one of only 11 known populations of Baker cypress. Thank you to all who were able to participate. Sierra Institute's Natural Resources intern, Valerie Hurst, developed a blog post summarizing the day's conversations and the things she learned. [View the blog post](#) on the Sierra Institute website.
- The strategic planning subcommittee held a conference call in September and is currently developing a document to share with the full group for discussion at the next full group meeting, which will occur on Thursday, October 25th in Mineral, CA.
- The next Sierra to California All Lands Enhancement (SCALE) meeting will be held on October 29-30th in Weaverville. Meeting topics will include building collaborative capacity, local workforce development, and other key forest restoration issues. View more details and register on the [SCALE website](#).

Fall River RCD

Submission by Todd Sloat, Fall River RCD

- The RCD is assisting the Mule Deer Foundation and US Forest Service to provide silvicultural and archeological services for the Whaleback Fire Salvage Project on Lassen NF. This project has been added to the Supplemental Project Activities (SPA) under the Master Stewardship Agreement between the MDF and Forest. The two other projects included are Crossroads and Manzanita Chutes.
- Scoping for Manzanita Chutes has been delayed at least one month due to staff being redirected to Whaleback fire activities.
- Hat Creek Bioenergy LLC completed site layout, process flow diagrams, and draft engineering package for the integration of major components (i.e. gasifier, dryer, organic rankine cycle system). The final plans will be used to request guaranteed quotes from equipment manufacturers.

Burney Gardens Update

Submission by Jeff Oldson, Cascade Resource Consultants, LLC

- W.M. Beaty & Associates, Inc. is currently operating on their portion of the project. Most of the SPI portion was completed already (in 2016). FGS is still exploring options to complete their portion of the project. I do not believe PG&E has plans to complete their portion of the project before the THP runs out, but I could be mistaken.

Hat Creek Ranger District

Submission by Greg Mayer, USFS

- **Badger** – A contract with Forest Service Enterprise was signed to provide Silvicultural support for the Badger project. This will include providing a landscape assessment of the project area by October 2019.
- **Plum Project** – We are currently working on the Draft EA which should be available for review in late October. Based upon new information restoration of Coyote Spring will not be part of the proposed action for the Plum Restoration Project because additional evaluation is needed to finalize proposed activities. Coyote Spring remains an important part of restoration activities in the Plum project area and will be addressed in a subsequent document. An agreement with Forest Service Enterprise was completed to provide GIS and Silvicultural support for upcoming project. Project layout activities have begun in the project area and will continue over the winter.
- **Whittington** – Timber Sale preparation activities are moving forward on the Whittington Timber Sale, we hope to complete marking this fall. The Eiler plantation scheduled for thinning and mastication is currently on hold with hopes to contract later this fall.
- **Sunshine T.S.** – Sold to SPI Anderson. The sale is 420 acres and included 1,866 mbf of sawtimber and 9,922 green tons of biomass.
- **Sluicebox T.S.** – Sold to Franklin Logging Burney. The Sale is 878 acres and includes 8,263 mbf of sawtimber and 25,631 green tons of biomass.
- **Bald Dutch Decks** – Sold to Tubit Enterprises Burney. The Sale is 28 acres and includes 5111 green tons of biomass.
- **Big Lake** – The big lake thinning contract was pulled and we in the process of setting up an agreement to have the work completed by the California Conservation Corps. Additionally the amphibian monitoring is continuing.
- **Cornez Lake** – Boulderling of the lake has been completed. Thank You Fruit Growers supply for allowing us to use rocks for the project.
- **Ecological Support** – An agreement was completed with UC Davis for Ecological Support within the project area.
- **Snow Monitoring** - Activities associated with the snow monitoring have continued. The second graduate student working on it just defended her thesis. Shawn was actually on her committee and we all agreed that she did a good job with the site. Her thesis will be officially published in short order. Additionally, two journal articles with the results are currently being prepared. The instrumentation will remain in place until the end of the CFLR project and a third graduate student will be working on it.
- **Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board** - The range water quality work with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has continued. Last season served as a proof of concept and this season is producing useful data.
- **United States Geological Survey** - The partnership with the USGS on the spring systems in Hat Creek Valley made significant progress this year. We arranged for two helicopter flights to take a continuous, high resolution thermal measurements of Hat Creek from its confluence with Lost Creek at Twin Bridges all the way down to 299. This will allow us to understand, and thereby protect, this system much better. This was done at their expense. We have also been coordinating with the USGS's California Volcano Observatory in this work. In FY19, the USGS will fund a graduate student to work up these data and do coupled hydrologic and thermal modeling of Hat Creek Valley.
- **Hat Creek Assessment** - The Hat Creek Assessment, as performed by the Pit River Tribe is continuing. This is the year in which they will do another full survey of the system according to the Streamscape Protocol.
- **East Side Project** – Project lay-out for underburn units, in both CFLR area and outside of CFLR boundaries has been completed for both fall and spring burning.
- **Panner** – Project lay-out for approximately 500 acres of machine piling has been completed. The contract will be awarded after the first of the fiscal year.
- **Bear Wallow** - Hand thinning and piling work within the Bear-Wallow project area are continuing.

Symbiotic Restoration

Submission by Garrett Costello

- Symbiotic Restoration plans to present Talk About Trees in class rooms beginning next month.
- We will be getting out on our adopted section of the PCT soon and will be in touch with the group for maintenance work days.

Lassen Volcanic National Park (LVNP)

Submission by Steve Buckley, LVNP

Lassen Volcanic National Park is currently working on:

- Lassen Volcanic NP is making preparations for a 92 acre prescribed fire in our Northwest Gateway Unit, in Unit G adjacent to Manzanita Lake Campground. The prescribed fire will likely occur after receiving precipitation sometime in mid-October or later, and will include resources from CalFire, USFS, and Whiskeytown NRA.

McArthur-Burney Falls State Park

Submission by Trish Ladd, CA State Parks

- We are excited to have brought on a new Forestry Aid, Dan Bell, who is working toward his RPF license under our State Forester and has been instrumental in moving forward some much-needed fuels reduction in the park.
- Cascade Resource Consultants is in the final processes of entering into a 2-year contract with Parks to coordinate set up equipment and personnel to help us removed standing material from within the Park...this material has been a challenge for us to remove over the last 5-8years and we are excited to work with CRC to get this addressed. Our priority area is along Clark Creek Road where we have been slowly working toward thinning and reintroducing fire. Once the standing material is removed, we are under contract with CalFire to implement prescribe burns in this area this fall-spring.
- We are also targeting stands of dead/dying or downed throughout our facility area and hopefully along Hwy 89 where Caltrans has left much of the biomass they drop for hazard trees. And our final area we refer to as the Boneyard area. This location abuts the USFS parcel that is included in their Crossroads Project, on the east side of hwy 89, in an effort to support landscape scale stand treatments and due to its adjacency to hwy 89.
- We are still finalizing the contract and of course scheduling of all these activities could be a challenge, but we are moving forward on several areas of the Park and are excited to reintroduce fire in specific locations.