



Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group Full-Group Meeting Draft Agenda

8:30am-2:00pm Tuesday, November 19th, 2019
Hat Creek Observatory, 42231 Bidwell Rd, Hat Creek, CA 96040

Meeting Synopsis

BHCCFWG members met in Hat Creek Radio Observatory in Hat Creek, California to review the community mapping exercise from the previous meeting, evaluate the successes and achievements of the collaborative's CFLRP, discuss strategies for community outreach and engagement, and share project and partner updates on the collaborative's current projects.

Attendees

Doug Lingren	Don Curtis	Jim Richardson
Todd Sloat	Jonathan Kusel	Steve Buckley
Sharmie Stevenson	Greg Mayer	Jason Mateljak
Pete Johnson	Drew Mallinak	Kristy Hoffman
Garrett Costello	Tracy Hruska	Dov Weinman
Alex Carter	Janine Book	

Reporting of Community Mapping Exercise

Sierra Institute provided a brief update on the previous meeting's community mapping exercise., where staff members used Tier 1 local designations as found in the 2016 Defining Local report. Sierra Institute staff received feedback from collaborative members and eliminated census block groups that were outside the BHCCFWG footprint and aggregated Montgomery Creek/Big Bend to the west and Big Valley to the east.

CFLRP – Collaborative Evaluation

Collaborative members reflected on project achievements that would not otherwise have happened without the BHCCFWG. Group members referenced the 2010 Socioeconomic Report Recommendations to evaluate successes over the last decade. Initially, group members had felt that CFLR dollars were going to added value, but found that developing projects became slightly more restrictive – there were more road blocks in planning efforts than members originally thought. Bringing in more capacity and staff for environmental compliance has been difficult. Members agreed that the collaborative has successfully engaged both environmental groups and forest industry, group members are broadening efforts to improve outreach and engagement. With the support of the collaborative, the Forest Service has had the confidence and increased capacity to pursue larger, more complicated projects. They're currently working on projects ranging between 80 and 33,000 acres, and these efforts have been as successful as they are due to the development of trust between BHCCFWG members and partner organizations over the last decade.

Approvals and Modifications

Jonathan called the regular BHCCFWG meeting to order at 10:00am. Group members approved the meeting notes from September as well as the November agenda.

Burney Hat Creek Basin CFLR Report

Greg Mayer explained the requirements for reporting expenditures and mentioned there may be opportunities for extensions up to five years (or the amount of time needed to finish the work). Greg

also mentioned being open to changing the way funds are allocated, and specified that the group is spending most of the 2020 budget on Plum, Manzanita Chutes, and the continuation of projects. He remains excited to show that groups in the area are committed to projects and that the collaborative continues to be able to leverage funds. He hopes to collect reports from BHCCFWG members by the end of the week so he can finish reporting in December.

Outreach Strategies and Public Engagement

Garrett Costello again provided various logo options for group members to review, and he's sending the most popular logos to a graphic artist at 34 North so they can further develop options to be presented at the next collaborative meeting. Garrett led a discussion about posting project updates of partner organizations beyond the pages of Sierra Institute and RCD and engaging community members through other partner organizations' websites, social media, and through local papers. Garrett will develop a number of posts and seek approval from collaborative members and will solicit relevant content from participants and repost project updates from LVNP and the Forest Service.

Alex Carter, a guest from The McConnell Foundation, mentioned efforts to initiate a Shasta County-wide firesafe council. They're putting together a board of directors and trying to secure funding for an executive director. He asked for insight from group members about how they felt this initiative might add value to work occurring in the area and where would be the incentive for participation. Group members wondered if it would focus on rural areas or population centers, which would certainly influence the incentive for potential participants.

Project and Partner Updates

Sharmie Stevenson provided group members with an update for Burney Gardens. The fee title was held up by a cultural easement – the reality is that the RCD is not likely to obtain Burney gardens. The Stewardship Council is quite certain that the Tribe will not approve the cultural easement. There are no formal or informal meetings scheduled with the Tribe, but BHCCFWG members agreed that efforts should be made to re-engage the Tribe for future inclusion and participation in collaborative meetings and BHCCFWG projects.

On behalf of 34 North and Spatial Informatics Group, Jason Moghaddas gave an update on work progress and presented their Risk and Opportunity Analysis with Treatment Prioritization. The shared their Fire Modeling processes and how the analyses used will contribute to treatment designs and project prioritization. HVRA Analysis subcommittee members include Steve, Garrett, Greg, Jason, and Todd, who will use analyses from 34 North and Spatial Informatics Group for ongoing planning and prioritization.

Shawn Wheelock, a hydrologist with the Lassen National Forest, described current research being conducted by the Forest Service and explained some of the general hydrologic components relevant to the group's collaborative projects.

Forest Service Project Updates

Greg provided updated collaborative members on the Bald and Eiler PAPNs, where project partners are focused on site preparation and planting. One of the tools they've decided to use is herbicide, and project leads, already know the chemicals they plan to scope. It's difficult to tell what the timeline looks

like, especially when the Forest Service has found that the public tends to be more outspoken during the holidays. Greg suggested scoping go out January 1st to avoid the holidays. Jonathan asked about the recent record for items of herbicide being scoped, and Janine responded that most items have gone through because of the public's fear of wildfire, but that they haven't scoped anything in this area. The group agreed to try and get the PAPN out between the 10th and 15th of December. Janine asked for partners to complete specialist reports (i.e. botany) in accordance with this timeline.

Erin Hooten, a silviculturist with the Lassen National Forest, provided summarized updates to Forest Service projects including Whittington, Baker Cypress, North 49, South Station, Great Shasta Rail Trail, and Crossroads. Janine added that they were at the finish line with crossroads, and that between the RCD and the Forest Service there might be more work on soils and hydrology. Janine suggested it was time for an interdisciplinary team meeting as they close in on the final document.

The landscape analysis for the 38,503-acre Badger Restoration project focuses on objectives for fire resilience in the WUI, watershed health, insect and disease resistance and resilience, and wildlife habitat enhancement. It was previously shelved because of the Reading Fire in 2012 that burned 11,400 acres within the project area. The PAPN and scoping documents will be prepared for Spring 2020. Project leads have also submitted a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant utilizing the new California Spotted Owl Conservation Strategy.

Status of CCI-Funded Projects

- the Jackrabbit THP is not yet completed.
- the environmental review clearance for Northwest Gateway was recently approved. The contract will go out this spring.
- Manzanita Chutes, which was cut from 16,000 to 770 acres, is being masticated now.
- Crossroads implementation dollars are available but they are currently completing NEPA.
- the Shasta College program plans to have a heavy equipment operating program for the forest industry and seems to have solid enrollment so far.
- For the Backbone project, Spring River Ecological Services is starting carnivore surveys but the project will still need goshawk and owl PAC data from the Forest Service.

After working on CCI projects, Todd highlighted the importance of communication and developing team unity between project partners. Kristy iterated that other groups struggle with very similar barriers to collaboration, and mentioned that Elissa Brown from SNC is developing a capacity building grant that will hopefully be available to groups soon. The Sierra Institute currently has a capacity building grant focused on rural community development building capacity for wood utilization. The funding will contribute to building leadership skills, finding collaborative partners, identifying needs, and also finding additional sources of money.

The RCD received a \$5 million grant for a 3-megawatt bioenergy plant which had been waiting for financing. RCD and SCALE efforts to connect the right people were successful, and the owners of West B came in and financed the project and will put together the final operating agreements.

Agency Priorities and Capabilities for CCI Grant Applications

Janine commented that even though this round of CCI appeared large, she felt it was still feasible for the collaborative to pull it off. The Lassen National Forest has multiple collaborative groups pursuing CCI

funding and she would like all the groups to work to understand how they fit together in the larger picture in order to see what the pinch points might be. Todd wondered about the staffing capacity at LNF to do the necessary meadow restoration work, and he's been speaking with individuals about how to overcome these potential bottlenecks and obstacles. Jim mentioned that LVNP doesn't have foresters or silviculturists to contribute, but they do have staff for raptor surveys and can support the group through similar contributions. Jim asked that the Forest Service help identify how LVNP might support them with regards to specialists and surveys. Collaborative members then discussed the ongoing issue of finding trusted partners and consultants for specialist reports – the Forest Service often has a difficult time hiring and keeping folks on. The goal is to keep the expertise local and long term rather than hiring outside specialists and consultants for short, contractual assignment. Doug Lingren stated how difficult it was to keep hand crews on year-round when they often have the option for year-round work at the sawmill.

The collaborative confirmed the agenda subcommittee to include Janine, Todd, Greg, Pete, and Steve.

[Closing Remarks, Future Items](#)

Dov will send out a doodle poll for the next meeting in late January or early February. He will follow up with the planning group on what to include on the agenda. Dov will also set up a poll to schedule a meeting focused on scoping and outreach for the Crossroads project and PAPN for the second week of December.