



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

Tuesday, August 11th 10:00am-1:15pm
Zoom

Meeting Synopsis

BHCCFWG members met virtual via Zoom to share project partner and project updates, discuss the Forest Service's FY 2021 Strategic Development, and share next steps for working with 34 North.

Attendees

Alex Carter – The McConnell Foundation
Andrew Fullerton – Sierra Pacific Industries
Michelle Coppoletta – Lassen National Forest
Greg Mayer – Lassen National Forest
Pete Johnson – Retired Forester
Todd Sloat – Fall River RCD
Jim Richardson – Lassen Volcanic National Park
Jason Mateljak – Lassen Volcanic National Park

Sharmie Stevenson – Fall River RCD
Shawn Wheelock – Lassen National Forest
Trish Puterbaugh – Lassen Forest Preservation Group
Kristy Hoffman – Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Amye Osti – 34 North
Greg Wolfin – Pit River Tribe
Jonathan Kusel – Sierra Institute
Dov Weinman – Sierra Institute

Approval and Modifications

Jonathan called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Todd motioned to approve the agenda without modifications. Kristy seconded, and the group approved the agenda. Todd also motioned to approve the meeting minutes from June, Greg seconded, and the group approved the minutes after one spelling modification.

Intermountain Recreation Collaborative

Kristy mentioned that the Intermountain Recreation Collaborative held its kickoff meeting a couple weeks ago. Sixteen participants attended virtually and they are scheduling the next meeting for September. In the first meeting participants worked to establish a rough boundary and collaborative goals. In future meetings, participants will identify and prioritize projects. Dov shared the draft website and an interactive map their collaborative is using in the chat box.

The National Park Service shared that Lassen Volcanic National Park was extremely busy, especially with "new users". They're seeing people recreating at new places and doing things they haven't done before. The NPS will need to prepare for and accept certain types of recreation they haven't previously seen places about recreation and park visitors. Extremely busy with "new users", seeing people recreating at new places and doing things they haven't done before. New users that the park needs to prepare for and accept certain types of youth or not. Doing a lot of documentation and will try and incorporate their findings into planning. Jonathan asked if they knew these users were from more urban areas and if they might be characterized by different types of demographics now using these areas.

Partner Updates

Kristy shared the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant guidelines that are out for Forest Health, Recreation and Tourism, and Resilient Communities. Potential applicants will work with area representatives (Kristy is the representative for Shasta, Lassen, and Modoc counties) on concept proposals which are due September 8th. Entities with well-designed proposals will be asked to develop and submit a full proposal.



The Sierra Nevada Conservancy board meeting was held on September 10th. If you want to share a public comment you can provide written comment or you are also welcome to make your comment live on zoom. Kristy asked group members for project photos that she can use in the background of their meeting. She also shared that the SNC Grant Writing Workshop will go virtual. It will consist of three and a half days with a little “homework” each afternoon. Elissa Brown will facilitate via Zoom, and Sierra Institute will be hosting the platform. Please reach out to Dov if you have any interest.

Todd shared that they’re organizing and developing a new FireSafe Council to fill a spatial gap. The FireSafe Council will be working toward development of a CWPP.

Todd shared that work at Soldier Mountain is moving along quickly and asked Greg if anyone with the Pit River Tribe is collaborating with them. Todd said he’ll reach out to their project manager and circle back to make sure that Tribal members are appropriately involved.

8-10 people recently participated in a Sierra Institute socioeconomic monitoring workshop to look at what the group have produced with the map. Members characterized the meeting as productive and the socioeconomic team received some great information. Group members will look ahead to a Community Capacity Workshop in partnership with the Sierra Business Council.

Andy Hart, who will be the new acting District Ranger starting next pay period, introduced himself and said he was excited to start working with the group.

[Project Status Updates](#)

Greg mentioned there would be an internal field trip next week with their Badger Project IDT and Forest NEPA coordinator. They’re discussing how to do the Badger Project public meeting – whether or not to conduct it fully in person or something hybrid. In the past when they had the meeting at Old Station for Plum there was approximately 20 people.

Burney Hat Creek Basins CFLR Project status

Greg mentioned they’re looking at some timber sales but are struggling to get certain people out on the forest and are looking at some delayed timelines through the FY. They still plan to get Whittington out before the end of the calendar year, and there are four or five different masticators working at Manzanita Chutes (w/ Mule Deer Foundation putting out to bid in the next six weeks). Contracts are often 3-5 years and Greg mentioned that the Forest Service doesn’t have much control for when they log the timber sales. Trish suggested that when the group can’t get green projects done it really limits our pace and scale, and Greg said the mills seem to be able to always extend the contract. Greg and the Forest Service are now utilizing his partners to get through this because a partner can put a contract date on it and hold it. The Jackrabbit THP on SPI lands, a large fuels treatment project, was just approved. Crossroads has been marked and laid out and the hope is to get it out to bid this fall. Greg also mentioned the continued work of the Great Shasta Rail Trail this fall. They’ve finally gotten the OK to have NEPA into their agreements and this is the first time they’ve had a cost-share agreement that has included NEPA projects.

Todd characterized the implications of receiving clarity for how funds can be used and using funds for sales to go right into NEPA work, the agency is prohibited from doing that, but NGOs and other partners can take on those activities. Michelle shared that most of their Forest Service monitoring is being done by partners right now, and she shared details about different monitoring efforts during Covid-19, including a new project to get acoustic equipment for monitoring novel treatments and spotted owls. The California Conservation Corps is a bit slower than anticipated, in part, because it’s a brand-new crew.



FY 2021 Strategic Development and Related Updates

Greg shared the LNF POW with Forest Priorities, and some of the Hat Creek District projects are on the list. Shawn is trying to organize things for when Andy arrives to be the acting District Ranger, and also mentioned the high probability that they're going to miss spraying in February. He shared both the NEPA POW and Implementation POW. Greg mentioned that this is a living document and shifts around, with a lot of projects coming from the regional and national office. Todd asked what collaborative members might do to encourage the FS to prioritize certain projects, and whether or not there might be a way to provide input beforehand so partners can be proactive instead of reactive. Project teams have missed a couple of project meetings and acknowledged the need for a conversation with the Forest Supervisor and provide space for a conversation with the entire leadership team. Steve offered that it might be beneficial for groups like the BHCCFWG and SLWG to have a roster of experts or specialists to provide an inventory of capacity. Dov and Sierra Institute will plan to start this type of inventory.

34 North

Amye provided updates on data and projects. Through a Data Workshop, group members hoped to go through everything in detail and get feedback. Instead, they've tried to work with individual stakeholders. Amye mentioned that 34 North is nearing the end of what they've been contracted to do for this project and it's close to being time to hand things over.

Group members had a conversation about how to keep the data set going. As they get into more customized work there needs to be more inputs from the collaboratives or other. The data platform was still password protected at the time of this meeting. The group needs to decide about whether or not the make the whole platform public or if it should be accessed by a password.

Grant Opportunities

CalFire has not released their grant requests yet – our hopes were to again submit through the collaborative and the RCD for priority projects. We didn't submit on the fire prevention side last time.

Todd mentioned that The McConnell Foundation's contribution is helping the collaborative demonstrate their ability as partners and help relieve bottlenecks that typically result in planning.