

Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group

Full-Group Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, December 16th 10:00am-1:10pm

Meeting Synopsis

The Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group met virtually on Wednesday, December 16th to discuss planning criteria and Data Workshops with 34 North, provide partner and project updates, and discuss strategies for working in the WUI and non-WUI areas.

Attendees

Tami Taylor – Lassen National Forest
Andrew Fullerton – Sierra Pacific Industries
Pete Johnson – Retired Forester
Frank Heide – Lassen National Forest
Garrett Costello – Symbiotic Restoration
Tyler Hullquist - CalFire
Dep Bumpus – Lassen National Forest
Alex Carter – The McConnell Foundation
Jason Moghaddas – Spatial Informatics Group
Jim Richardson – Lassen Volcanic National Park
Amye Osti – 34 North
Lance Koch – Lassen National Forest
Chantz Joyce – American Forest Foundation

Todd Sloat – Fall River RCD
Michelle Coppoletta – Lassen National Forest
Brendan Palmieri – 34 North
Kristy Hoffman – Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Adrian Sanchez – Lassen National Forest
Andrew Hart – Lassen National Forest
Sharmie Stevenson – Fall River RCD
Sarah Oldson – Cascade Resource Consultants
Greg Mayer – Lassen National Forest
Jill Overbaugh – Symbiotic Restoration
Jonathan Kusel – Sierra Institute
Dov Weinman – Sierra Institute

Approvals, Modifications, and Meeting Objectives

Jonathan called the meeting to open just after 10:00am. Jim motioned to approve the previous meetings' minutes. Pete seconded and the group approved the minutes. Kristy motioned to approve the agenda, Sharmie seconded. The minutes were approved.

34 North

Amye and Brendan presented their existing project planning criteria. They've been aggregating existing WUII data and put forth an "ask" to group members for any data that is missing so that it can be included. Amye showed group members the data directory and how it's set up with all the primary HVRA. They'll continue to capture additional criteria. So far they've heavily relied on what CalFire has published with regards to their WUII layer, and they emphasized they might overlay the Shasta County parcels with the wildfire Risk to communities. Amye will continue to work with BHCCFWG members to prepare for the second and third Data Workshops.

Strategic Planning for the WUI and Non-WUI

Todd observed that local FireSafe Councils have focused on WUI areas while the BHCCFWG has focused primarily on non-WUI projects. Their WUI-project strategy has followed a pattern of prioritizing projects, utilizing experienced individuals to ID project areas, and then having agency staff and partner land managers collaboratively develop and refine project areas. They mostly focused on 1) leveraging past and current resources, 2) disrupting fire continuity, and 3) protecting HVRAs.

The group agreed that the past fire season had everyone on alert. BHCCFWG members know they can't treat all of it, but they can be strategic to see how they can have the biggest impact possible on the landscape. Alex shared his perspective on the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant, and mentioned that after major disasters that affect communities, FEMA sets aside funds for hazard mitigation. Group members agreed that groups are weighing into relatively new areas like this and they are certainly worth the BHCCFWG's consideration.

Michelle suggested that much of their existing data provides insight into the group's ecological and social values across the landscape. The group needs to start thinking about aligning them in a strategic way. The group has ways to assess need on the landscape and must now figure out how to weight those needs differently. Todd suggested they develop a subcommittee to further advance this conversation. A few members expressed their interest in adding more specificity to the group's overarching document.

American Forest Foundation – Fireshed Prioritization

Chantz Joyce, and RPF with AFF provided a brief summary of the My Sierra Woods project and AFF's ongoing work. He explained a new opportunity with the USFS where they will look at fireshed modeling through a risk transmission assessment approach and then bring the tool's information to collaborative groups for iterative processing, feedback, and prioritization. Their goal is to integrate this tool with some of the more localized knowledge and see how they can influence each other. They hope to learn what things could be added to the larger fireshed model that might be useful for collaboratives such as the BHCCFWG? Deb Bumpus saw a presentation about Alan Agar's work with the USFS research station and suggested this tool might fit really well with the group's current prioritization processes. Group members felt that it aligned well with the work of 34 North.

JK pointed out that the modeling is done by the Forest Service and that roughly 45% of the landscape is Forest Service lands— how do you reconcile this work with NPS and other ownerships? Chantz suggested that this was the type of question that would be important to bring back to the researchers. Amye thought it was worth having that extra information. Jason agreed and other members gave the idea a green light with the stipulation that this process wouldn't slow down the work that BHCCFWG already has in motion. Jim made a motion to move forward with AFF in pursuit of utilizing this new USFS tool. Pete seconded. =

Project Updates

Todd provided updates on a couple of projects outside of the CFLR range – saying that both Thousand Springs and Soldier PAPAN are out to the public. A private landowner spoke up at a meeting to express gratitude for agencies and partners for getting this project moving along. Surveys for Backbone were completed, and now they're just making sure they've secured money for surveys for next year. This year they used all of our California Climate Investment money for last year's wildlife surveys. Tami mentioned that their herbicide project only received one comment, it was actually positive, and Todd emphasized the importance of strategizing for wildlife surveys. He suggested a bit more communication outside of BHCCFWG meetings.

For the Cabin Project they have the Mule Deer Foundation along with Jefferson Resources helping with the work.

Roadrunner will be the first timber sale within the Plum Restoration Area, and it includes a lot of the Mule Deer habitat areas documented in the NEPA document, including aspen stands. Project leads hope to see those go out later this year.

For Whittington, which was affected by the Eiler fire, the FS went through and did a supplemental information report on the stands that got burned. Last fall they sold one of the projects off that and they now have the next one marked. It includes about half of the plantations and several mixed conifers stands around it. They suspect it probably be out and sold in the spring.

49er is the last timber sale in the north 49 project area right up against the Thousand Springs Wilderness. It's a fairly large, mixed conifer sale. Greg thinks it will sell in the new fiscal year.

Hat Creek Wells is complete. The two wells have been drilled and there's water coming out of the ground. It's exciting to have two new wells on the district, the most important one is above the community of Fall River Mills.

2014 Hat Creek Fires has completed its comment period and Tami will be trying to get that out for objection period.

Greg mentioned Mule Deer Foundation cruised the Manzanita Chutes plantations with the North 49 Project. They're working on a stewardship agreement right now.

Sarah said that they have put together the draft bid package for Crossroads and area just waiting for some road data. It's 1900 acres with biomass and saw logs.

Steve explained that they're finalizing the contract for Northwest Gateway and that it will likely be going out in March. Todd thanked Steve and Jim for getting Northwest Gateway through as it was a major challenge but they finally made it.

Greg mentioned that Dov sent materials for the Badger Project out on Monday. Sarah touched upon the new CEQA guidelines for NEPA timeframes – once it's put out to scoping, there's a year to have this out with a complete NEPA document. The goal is to not sit on it for three or four years. Greg mentioned there are two forest plan amendments for this project. They'll be treating on slopes greater than 35% and for implementing the new spotted owl strategy. Garrett said he was happy to work with Michelle and Greg on the publication and outreach. Sarah mentioned plans to use herbicide as a follow up treatment to include in the EA. Michelle mentioned the group taking a field trip to these units to talk about different ideas for plantation treatments.

Burney Hat Creek Basins CFLR Report and Project Status

Greg mentioned being at the most difficult part of the part – getting all of the partners to write something and quantify the dollars they spent. This year the amount of partners was just incredible. One of the highlights for Greg was to get some of his foresters to walk around the hemlock stands on the outside of McGee lake and to look for the largest tree up there. Sierra Institute's PCREW walked around and measured trees and they found one that was 61 DBH and over 100 feet tall.

Partner & Other Project Updates

Kristy moved to the North Central Sub-region, and Sierra Nevada Conservancy hired the new North sub-region representative that will work most closely with BHCCFWG.

Gary is at the end of his first month as a coordinator with the Pit River Tribe and has been glad to sit in on his first meeting.

The green waste program has had nearly 150 drop offs and is contributing wood heat for those in their need program, including many seniors or those with disabilities.

The Shasta County FireSafe council is just getting started. They may have more success in-person so they are currently navigating how to make progress during Covid-19. The Fall River FireSafe Council is progressing and there will be more to come later.

Intermountain Recreation Collaborative

Garrett shared the group's early work to identify some projects. Since then, they've started to think of some prioritization criteria. Garrett suggested the grant is likely to be extended a little longer. They have a website - Imrecreation.org. The maps on their website are not necessarily something that needs to be

shared with the public but they've been using it as a planning tool. They will be launching a community survey in the spring. Some of the in-town highlights include developing a parks district for the intermountain area, trails, swimming pools, and parks. For out-of-town recreation they've talking about designated mountain bike trails and improving the existing FS infrastructure (making things ADA compliant, etc.).

Closing Comments and Future Agenda Items

Greg going on a detail on the Umpqua National Forest in Oregon but will still try and tune in and will be able process payments for the collaborative.

Agenda Items for February:

- public comments that come in for Badger
- a monitoring update
- socioeconomic assessment work
- American Forest Foundation
- Strategic Planning Subcommittee work
- Intermountain Recreation Collaborative
- 34 North Data Workshop