

Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group

Full-Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 22nd 10:00am-11:40am

Zoom

Meeting Synopsis

The Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group met virtually on Thursday, October 22 to provide updates of the Intermountain Recreation Collaborative, socioeconomic monitoring work, and progress from projects and collaborative partners. 34 North facilitated the first part of a three-part Data Workshop for the second half of the meeting.

Attendees

Greg Mayer – Lassen National Forest

Sharmie Stevenson – Fall River RCD

Brendan Palmieri – 34 North

Andrew Fullerton – Sierra Pacific Industries

Chance Joyce – American Forest Foundation

Andy Hart – Lassen National Forest

Kristy Hoffman – Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Jim Richardson – Lassen Volcanic National Park

Alex Carter – The McConnel Foundation

Jason Moghaddas – Spatial Informatics Group

Michelle Coppoletta – Lassen National Forest

Pete Johnson – Retired Timber Land Manager

Amye Osti – 34 North

Jeff Oldson – Cascade Resource Consultants

Sarah Oldson – Cascade Resource Consultants

Frank Heide – Lassen National Forest

Adrian Sanchez – Lassen National Forest

Hilary Sanders – Sierra Institute

Jonathan Kusel – Sierra Institute

Dov Weinman – Sierra Institute

Approvals, Modifications, and Meeting Objectives

Jonathan called the meeting to open just after 10:00am. Kristy motioned to approve the previous meetings' notes, Sharmie seconded, and the group approved the notes. Greg motioned to approve the agenda and Pete seconded. The group approved the agenda for October's meeting.

Intermountain Recreation Collaborative

Kristy shared that in the group's last meeting participants brainstormed prioritization criteria for projects and discussed doing a community survey as well as analyzing use patterns in Lassen Volcanic National Park. They're looking to have a bigger meeting in November – if anyone is interested in being added to the contact list they should get in touch with Garrett. In the future it might be useful to have Garrett and others from the Intermountain Recreation Collaborative share and present to the BHCCFWG. The group hasn't undertaken their surveys yet but BHCCFWG members hope for Garrett or someone else to provide a summary of this work in the future.

Socioeconomic Monitoring

Hilary provided a quick overview of the background and methodology to the Burney Hat Creek Basins CFLR Socioeconomic Monitoring work being done by Sierra Institute. In assessing social and economic outcomes of the BHCCFWG CFLRP, their team has accounted for differences between the CFLRP (USFS funding) and on the ground work funded by the CFLR as well as the funds leveraged by the collaborative to overcome barriers. Hilary emphasized that the group itself existed before the CFLRP and will exist beyond the CFLRP's duration.

Hilary also shared the methodology with regards to the study area and the use of block groups that represent communities used in the 2010 stakeholder assessment. Methods for data collection included discussions with the socioeconomic monitoring subcommittee and data sources such as interviews and surveys of contractors. Michelle asked about the direct implications or results of Forest Service-led

projects and was interested in a discussion about how the CFLR funding has helped partnerships. Hilary agreed it would be beneficial to have specific conversations about how the CFLR impacts specific projects and project outcomes. Greg emphasized the value of partnerships with regards to increasing pace and scale, and believed that it would be good to think about the biophysical aspects and on-the-ground impacts as well as the infrastructure and collaborative environment of the BHCCFWG. This report will be used for is so Congress can see if these are worthwhile expenditures, and the group needs to emphasize the effectiveness of the program for the US government to continue providing funding. Jim thought it would be worthwhile to put together a timeline of different investments from the FS with each box along the timeline showing how many people were employed. This could give some perspective for the results and outcomes of each project along the timeline. Michelle added that when the monitoring subcommittee reviewed proposals Sierra Institute was chosen because of their analysis and because Sierra Institute planned to work with the group to develop a framework and host trainings so the group would have the capacity to continue this work.

Partner Updates

Kristy provided an update about the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Writing Workshop that will be offered to participants in the BHCCFWG, South Lassen Watersheds Group, and the Intermountain Recreation Collaborative in mid-November. This is an opportunity for organizations and staff to build grant writing capacity and work with Elissa Brown to craft specific project proposals in a structured setting. Lynn Campbell will be retiring at the end of this year and Kristy will be taking her role at that sub-region. Kristy will continue working from the Quincy office and will really miss seeing the people and the landscape of the BHCCFWG.

Alex described the work toward forming the Shasta County FireSafe Council, which The McConnell Foundation is trying to build capacity and support for. They're currently developing a diverse board across a broad landscape and are working to support them through outreach and engagement.

The My Sierra Woods program from the American Forest Foundation is ongoing and continues its focus on small private landowners. Chantz mentioned the program will continue for at least another year. He also mentioned a new opportunity to work more closely with Forest Service partners through some new funding to take a look at different prioritization strategies of community-based groups and see where it makes sense to do work. The effort will work to bridge the top down approach and the bottom level approach; the AFF will be working to help make sense of that bridging effort through working with collaboratives such as the BHCCFWG.

Jim noted that Lassen Volcanic National Park has seen interesting developments in the summer of Covid-19. There were increases in recreation, which came with an increase in income, especially due to full reservations at campgrounds. LVNP will probably end the year with record visitation numbers. Park staff witnessed a slight difference in the types of users – mainly less experienced users that may have contributed to increases in trash, cars parked in strange locations, pop-up tents set up in areas staff had not seen before, etc. Steve mentioned he has a small group doing restoration in some campground areas.

Greg mentioned the Lassen National Forest brought on a crew from the Great Basin Institute and they are moving along on their projects.

Sierra Institute hosted their Sierra to California All-Lands Enhancement meeting, which saw roughly 80 people attend and participate in discussions focused on post-fire recovery efforts and how collaborative groups continue to work and partner with the US Forest Service.

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Data Workshop

12:00-1:30pm

Amye provided an overview of the three-part Data Workshop and summarized the umbrella effort of the Sacramento River Data Program. 34 North presented current landscape conditions and reviewed data before leading the group into a discussion about the current conditional analysis and how this data can support CFLR management objectives and project planning. Some of the main components included:

- Restoring Northern California Forests to fire adapted forest ecosystems.
- Fire Adapted Communities
- Fire Dynamics
- California Spotted
- Socioeconomics

Holly Jorgensen provided the group with a Regional Data Program Overview so BHCCFWG members could get a better sense of how 34 North's work fits into larger landscape efforts. The data management and aggregation can support various efforts of collaborative groups throughout parts of the Sierra Nevada.

Future Data Workshops will include discussions on data availability and workflows for project planning. The final agendas will be decided based on group feedback.