**Landowner Engagement Subcommittee Meeting**

**Thursday, December 9th, 2021, 4 - 5:30 pm**

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### **Introductions**

### Each group member started by introducing themselves and briefly describing some of their land management goals.

### Matt Barton is a resident of Warner Valley.

### Phred Starkweather is the Forest Land Committee Chair, manages a 2,000-acre property, runs a sustainable timber harvest, and sells grass for cattle. His priority is sustainably running the property; he would like to see the resources last for the next generation. Phred is interested in working across boundaries to treat and manage the land.

### Larry Rinehart is the vice president of the Mineral Homeowners Association. He wants to know what the Forest Service has learned from the Dixie Fire. How can we better protect ourselves in the future?

### Bill Orthell is part of the Summit Springs Homeowners Association; they continue to do defensible space work and maintenance on their lots. Homeowners in Summit Springs are on a Forest Service lease grant. Several years ago, they did contract thinning and put in a water system (hydrants and tanks).

### Mary Davidge is also a resident of Warner Valley; she recently lost her home in the Dixie Fire. She is interested in working on land stewardship in Warner Valley to protect resources for future generations.

### Mark Black is the president of the Mill Creek Homeowners Association.

### Jim Richardson is the Lassen Volcanic National Park Superintendent. He mentioned that we are all part of the larger whole, and we need to work together for success. We need to incorporate prescribed fire into our land management.

### Jo Cunningham is from the Baccala Ranch. She is worried about being the matchbox in-between Collins and SPI. Jo wants to know and learn about existing programs to help private landowners with land management. Jo is interested in replanting meadows because the ranch lost some of their feed, affecting the renters they have on the ranch.

### Patsy Korhuniak is Jo’s sister. She wants help with forest and meadow restoration.

### Alyssa Rolen is on the Mineral Homeowners Association board of directors.

### Judd Hanna is part of the Hana Ranch. Their ranch is bordered on all four sides; to the North is the NPS, on either side of the canyon is the Forest Service, and to the South is Collins and the Forest Service. Judd was also a founder of Mill Creek Conservancy 25 years ago.

### Debbie Margiotta is from the Lassen Meadows Ranch. They lost 110 acres of timber, and have 510 acres left. They’ve thinned and masticated for 25 years. She is looking for help and information to restore the forest.

**Landowner Engagement Subcommittee Purpose**

* Bella described the three main purposes of the Landowner Engagement Subcommittee:
	+ Bringing together a collaborative group of landowners to strengthen the peer-to-peer landowner network.
	+ Planning and implementing fuel reduction projects and accessing existing landowner assistance programs.
	+ Facilitating cross-boundary work between private landowners and agencies.

**West Lassen Headwaters Project Introduction (Sophie)**

* Sophie gave a brief presentation on the South Lassen Watersheds Group and the upcoming West Lassen Headwaters Project.
* The South Lassen Watersheds Group is a collaborative group that began meeting in 2017 and includes stakeholders from the Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lassen National Forest, Collins Pine, SPI, Maidu Summit Consortium, local non-profits like the Sierra Institute, RCDs, and other local interest groups.
* The group works collaboratively to plan and implement forest and meadow restoration projects in a million-acre focal area located around Lake Almanor.
* The collaborative group has been partnering with the Almanor Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest for the last couple of years. Together, we completed the planning for two projects, both about 6,000 acres in size (Robber Creek Project and West Shore Project), as well as meadow restoration at Rock Creek and Child’s meadow.
* Now, the collaborative is looking to scale up to a much larger project, around 150,000 acres. This project is called the West Lassen Headwaters Project, and it includes the headwaters of Battle Creek, Mill Creek, and Deer Creek.
* The majority of the land in the project boundary is classified as WUI with substantial private timberlands. The project area includes the communities of Gurnsey, Mill Creek, and Mineral.
* There are also Core 1 watersheds for Steelhead and Chinook Salmon Recovery.
* The project will include agency land and private land. We think the Landowner Engagement Subcommittee will be one mechanism of working with private landowners to do fuels reduction projects in the West Lassen Headwaters Project boundary. However, the group is not limited to landowners in the West Lassen Headwaters footprint.

**Landowner Engagement Subcommittee Process**

* The group will meet quarterly, in March, June, September, and December.
* Some of the March meeting goals include: hearing from local landowner assistance programs, providing an update on the West Lassen Headwaters Project planning process, and hearing from agency representatives on their post-Dixie Fire plans.
* Bella asked the group which of the meeting goals are of particular interest to group members.
* Mary asked if there is a mechanism for group members to exchange information. She wants to learn from the work others are doing.
* Matt Barton said it would be nice to have a directory of group participants and to share information and resources. The Warner Valley area has about 200 different parcels and 500 acres of private, non-commercial timberland. About half of those structures were burned in the fire at high severity. Each government agency has a different set of management objectives. Matt wants to know more about the different treatments and timeframes that different agencies and groups are working on.
* Mark, Bill, and Larry want to hear from speakers at different agencies about their post-Dixie Fire plans and what they have learned from the fire.
* Larry is interested to know what worked and what didn’t work in terms of fire prevention from the Forest Service and CalFire.
* Bill wants to know if there are any planned treatments on the south side of Highway 36 on Forest Service land.
* Judd is interested in hearing if there will be an after-action report from CalFire that describes what happened during the Dixie Fire and what CalFire has learned. Judd would also like to have these meetings in-person, when possible.
* Debbie is also interested in a report on the Dixie Fire and wants to know how to treat landscapes effectively during a drought.
* Jim thinks it would be helpful to have a tour on the ground eventually; people want to see where things worked and where things didn’t work.
* Jim also recommends that group members look up Zeke Lunder’s website; the website has a lot of information on the Dixie Fire.

**Adjourn**

Next meeting in March