

Weaverville Community Forest Steering Committee

Thursday, November 18, 2021 • 1:00-3:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87312648294?pwd=U1ZSNINpMmZWZVVGU0FCRVRVQmxZQT09>

Meeting ID: 873 1264 8294

Password: 12345

(call-in instructions on second page)

Agenda

1. Introductions

- a) Amelia Fleitz, Kelly Sheen, Chris Cole, Dave Johnson, Bethany Llewellyn, Denise Wesley – TCRCD
- b) Chad Endicott, Alden Neel, Jennifer Mata, Heidi Rogers, Jessica Tyra - BLM
- c) Kenneth Baldwin - BBW
- d) Colleen O’Sullivan and Pat Frost – WCF Steering Committee Members
- e) Tracy and Cyndi Childress – Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu
- f) Keith Greenwood - SPI
- g) Ricky Satomi – UCCE
- h) Lara Graham – USFS
- i) Xander Winters and Dillon Sheedy - WRTC

2. Additions/Changes to Agenda

3. Annual Operating Plan Review

4. Partner Updates

i) BLM

(1) Oregon Mountain Harvest Planning – Heidi Rogers

- (a) Proposed project area is 139 acres, selected after RCD stand walkthrough (See maps)
 - (i) Area has mature timber, some fungal problems; goal is forest health and resilience, to get it to a stand composition that will withstand fire
 - (ii) NEPA will also include fuels work in areas unsuitable for timber harvest
 - (iii) Areas in yellow on map are targeted for oak restoration, 90% of encroaching conifers will be thinned
 - (iv) Green polygon is a stream buffer; needs to be redrawn
- (b) Chapters 1 and 2 of NEPA are almost complete
 - (i) Botany surveys complete, wildlife on track

Commented [RotM1]: Attach AOP with notes.

Commented [RotM2]: Attach Maps to Minutes

- (ii) Stand exams will be completed by BLM strike team, Chris, Bethany during week of 11/22/2021
 - (iii) NEPA Chapters 1 and 2 will be shared with steering committee when complete
- (c) Yurok tribe and TRRP may be interested in purchasing timber, often desire full root-ball harvest for instream restoration work—Amelia Fleitz
 - (i) Tracy requests NRM Wintu monitoring of ground-disturbance if full root ball harvest takes place due to cultural material in root balls
 - (ii) Heidi will look at some smaller parts of the unit that could be for full root ball removal in the NEPA, has erosion concerns about harvesting the whole parcel this way
 - (iii) Concerns expressed about erosion from this type of tree removal (Keith, Tracy, Heidi)
- (d) Heidi hopes to use retained receipts from harvest to fund PCT, fuels work on other WCF units
- (2) Infrastructure Bill – Jennifer Mata
 - (a) Categorical Exclusion of fuel reduction up to 1000ft off a road for up to 3,000 acres.
 - (b) Hopeful influx of money for fire and fuels work
- (3) Weaverville Community Protection Project – Alden Neel
 - (a) Programmatic Vegetation Management EA – 200ft on any type of infrastructure
 - (b) Slowing it down to contract the historic mining component which was nominated as an archaeological district to look at the area, looking into Lidar to help map this area. Hope to implement next year.
- (4) Recreation – Jessica Tyra
 - (a) Looking for the bridge repairs and other monitoring projects.
 - (b) Kiosks are replaced and in place, waiting on maps.
 - (c) Looking for signage as roads open up, to keep vehicles where we want them to be kept.
- ii) USFS – Lara Graham
 - (1) Fuels Treatment
 - (a) Tim will discuss the Glennison gap project tonight.
 - (b) Not a good window between fire to now
 - (2) WCF Phase II
 - (a) Many programs already planned and the work is done, Arch and Botany need to wrap it up. Archaeologist are stepping away, looking for arch contractors again.
 - (3) Lara will be retiring! Thank you from all of us for all the great work you have done and the many years and great projects you have brought together! (Colleen, Pat, Amelia, Jennifer).
- iii) TCRC
 - (1) Forest Health – Chris Cole
 - (a) Assisting with the WCF Community Protection and the Harvest
 - (b) Assisting with USFS work N of Weaverville
 - (c) Little Browns Creek – Implementation
 - (2) Moon Lee Ditch – Amelia Fleitz
 - (a) Millions of gallons of water are currently wasted in this ditch, which hasn't reached Moon Lee ditch association users for years. Water level must be adjusted manually by CSD leading to waste.

- (b) This is a proposed RAC project and TRRP and NRCS collaboration
- (c) Three part project
 - (i) Improve CSD diversion on ditch (RAC)
 - (ii) Decommission ditch from CSD diversion to treatment plant. This includes re-contouring trail along ditch to reconnect gullies and ephemeral streams; TRRP will provide engineering services
 - (iii) Moon Lee ditch association has water rights to excess water not used by CSD. They will pump water from a tap on the CSD pipeline at Trinco water treatment plant and pipe to users all the way to YFR.
 - 1. This tap is currently installed and users (including cemetery) will receive water next summer
- (3) Education – Amelia Fleitz
 - (a) RAC Project for stewardship funding for Amelia, Maya to coordinate with BLM and USFS and plan more events on the WCF: hikes, challenges, etc
 - (b) SFI – partnership with SPI and NRM Tribe with funding from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative LLC, to develop a lesson plan and get high school students out on field trips to implement the lesson plans.
- (4) Trails – Kelly Sheen
 - (a) RAC Project was proposed to work on trails for the WCF for the new trails brought into the system and to bring them up to USFS standards. As well as time to update the GIS maps.
- iv) WRTC
 - (1) Phase III Stephen’s Act – Weaver Basin Community Protection Project – Dillon Sheedy and Xander Winters
 - (a) Crews were working on defensible space and the buffer along East Branch Road and a community meeting that was well attended. Discussed Defensible space, home hardening, etc. with East Branch and East Weaver Rd and a community chipping day and cut larger branches etc. Completed 13 acres of work with 3 acres of thinning and piling along the ridgetop.
 - (b) Looking to branch out from the community and work on Trinity River Lumber and SPI lands and is to be supported by the CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant.
 - (c) Still looking to identify properties for treatments and fuel break construction areas north of Weaverville, headwaters to garden gulch, Sydney gulch, and Five Cent Gulch. Purpose of the VTP (Vegetation Treatment Program) is not to address defensible space, but the boundary of national forest system lands.
 - (i) SPI Parcels north west of town – prominent ridge lines – with Trinity River Lumber Prescribed Burning and some roadside ridgetop work.
 - (2) Jackass Ridge – burned three units in the last two years. Helping the USFS to burn additional units this Spring. Maintenance burning at this point, hoping for a better burning year moving forward.
 - (3) Recreation
 - (a) WRTC is helping to put in the new downhill trail with the USFS with the Redding Trail Alliance and the Trinity Trail Alliance. The Blue Lead and the Black Lead trails have been very well received and help to bring in more tourism.
- v) TCCG
 - (1) No report – haven’t had a meeting in a long time – next meeting tomorrow is at 10am.

- vi) BOS - absent
 - vii) SPI – Keith Greenwood
 - (1) Burn acres, even if they don't meet all our objectives, are good. The burn was done safely and that is a good win.
 - (2) We need to look at the basin as a whole when we look at our evaluation strategies. WCF has come control and influence, but we need to keep tying it in together. Impressed with WRTC and BLM reaching out to work on cross border strategies, let's keep it up. SPI is happy to continue to partner.
 - viii) TTA – absent
 - (1) Changes to ebike policies
 - (a) Amelia – not sure of any changes since the last meeting.
 - (b) SPI would like to be consistent with what is around them.
 - (c) BLM needs to do NEPA regarding what will be allowed, likely in RMP
 - (d) Kelly remembers that it was tied to e-bikes as motorized vehicles thus not permitted on the nonmotorized USFS trails.
 - ix) Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu Tribe
 - (1) Proud to be partnering and looking forward to mutual projects. Glad to be a part of the networking and the projects and is impressed with everyone trying to work together with healthy and beneficial outcomes.
- 2) Closing Comments
- a) Public Information – please don't use jargon or acronyms tonight in our presentations. We will run the meeting in order on the flyer and then use breakout rooms so members of the public can follow up with individual presenters
 - b) Musser Hill sign: still awaiting materials to replicate Oregon St. sign (already funded) – Kelly
 - c) AOP finalization: will confirm remaining details, send to group for review, send out for signatures

Adjourn

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