

Plumas Underburn Cooperative

Meeting Notes

Friday, May 3rd 2019 3:00pm

Plumas Fire Safe/Feather River RCD Office

47 Trilogy Lane, Quincy CA

Attendance: Mike Yost, citizen; Greg Kinne, citizen; Les Hall, Miadu Summit Consortium and Meadow Valley Fire Department; Meredith Hackleman, Meadow Valley Fire Department; Brad Graevs, Feather River Resource Conservation District; David Kinatader, US Forest Service; Terry Schwartz, citizen; Sherilyn Schwartz, citizen; Frank Hansen, citizen; Sally McGowan, citizen; Andrea Irving, citizen; Kelby Gardiner, citizen; Dan Martynn, Natural Resource Conservation Service; Matt West, Plumas County Fire Safe Council; Hannah Hepner, Plumas County Fire Safe Council; Gary Parque, Plumas County Fire Safe Council

Logo Review:

The group looked at two logo ideas. The logos will be revisited a future meeting to allow for any additional submissions.

Burn Opportunities:

Brad pointed out that we are still within the spring burn window and that we should prioritize getting a burn done. The Adrienne's meadow in East Quincy was discussed. In the past there has been an issue with it not being dry enough to burn efficiently. Les asked if grazing would be a better option.

Frank said that he has been burning and doesn't have much left to do, but that there are other areas in Genesee that could use a burn.

Andrea asked for clarification of the site-prep required for a burn.

Dave said that the tribes are interested in burning. Alternatively there are piles in Galleppi that need burning.

Brad said that landowners need to approach PUC directly in order to for a burn to be undertaken on their property.

Gary provided an example in which pressure from neighbors limited an individual's ability to burn.

Burn Day Expectations:

Brad asked that burn hosts (landowners) provide a minimum of three days' notice to allow for coordination of the burn. If the host has backup days in mind, those dates should be shared as well.

Information from the landowner should include how long they expect the burn to take and how many people are needed. PUC will coordinate volunteers and communicate back to the landowner how many people to cater for. The cut-off for RSVPs will be 24 hours.

Volunteers need to RSVP with how long they're available and if they are available for the proposed back-up dates.

PPE that volunteers are expected to bring to a burn:

Non-synthetic pants and long-sleeved, collared shirt (cotton/wool)

Leather gloves

Reusable water bottle

Boots

Recommended items for volunteers to bring to a burn:

Hat/hard hat

Eye protection

Ear protection

Smoke protection (mask)

Headlamp

Hand tools (pitchfork, rake, McLeod, Pulaski)

Dave asked if we can use grant funds to purchase some supplies like gloves, hard hats and shrouds.

Other requirements for volunteers:

Arrive on time (for burn boss briefing and landowner disclosure of hazards)

Have PPE with you at all times (not in vehicle, etc.)

Stay hydrated

Sign in and out

It was asked if waivers will be required for each burn or just once. Brad clarified that each burn will have its own volunteer waiver. Hannah added that the waivers will be updated to include an option for participants to disclose if there are limitations to the activities they can participate in.

Greg pointed out that there needs to be a designated individual who will coordinate these efforts. PUC will use grant funds once they are available (sometime between June and Sept) to hire Matt West to coordinate.

Additional equipment needs were discussed including: fuel moisture sticks, weather kit, communications radios

Equipment needed for a burn should be coordinated between PUC and the landowner prior to the burn. A burn day volunteer will be assigned to do ongoing monitoring of the weather.

A "Preliminary Assessment for Prescribed Burning" is required before a burn and must be completed by someone other than the landowner.

A notification list needs to be developed that includes the sheriff, forest service, and dispatch. It will be the PUC coordinators responsibility to make those calls.

Mike asked who will act as burn boss. It is up to the landowner to engage the services of a burn boss. It was noted that there is a need for a list of qualified individuals.