

Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group Management Committee August 2008 Update

Upcoming CRM Events: Lake Almanor/Chester Creek Clean-up and BBQ, Sept. 13th; Fall Festival October 4th (watershed theme); World Wide Monitoring Day, early-November

Committee Members: Chair- Joe Hoffman

Vice Chair- John Kolb

Project & Design Chair – Ryan Nupen

Finance Chair– Dennis Heiman

Monitoring Chair– Kevin Pond

Education Chair- Rob Wade and Kristy Hoffman

Others-Dan Martynn, John Kolb, Holly George, Mark Steffek

Staff: Jim Wilcox, Terry Benoit, Leslie Mink, Gia Martynn, Jessica Albietz, Kara Rockett

A. Finance

1. Prop. 50 IRWMP grant agreement w/ county- still no contract with the state, state requested additional clarifications from the county in June, which Brian Morris submitted by early July; recent news indicates agreement will not be signed until state budget is passed. We were given the ok last year to start working on Last Chance Phase II, with the assurance that the agreement would be effective as of April 2007. We have been working on cross-sections, design layout, and environmental surveys (botany and wildlife) this summer, without means for reimbursement this project may be put on hold by mid-August. County has agreed to cover costs for botanical and wildlife surveys until we get a contract, but archaeological surveys have not been initiated due to lack of budget. If an agreement is signed, we will start the arch surveys, environmental documents, and permit applications this fall/winter. This funding source also affects the Quincy Community Service District's wetland project, which is being implemented by the CRM. Environmental surveys for this project are also being completed this summer. Completion of environmental documents and permit applications will be pending based on execution of the agreement with the state.
2. Bonneville Environmental Foundation Model Watershed Program- Letter of interest was submitted in April, leading to a telephone interview w/Jim and further information in July. Notification on whether we make the second cut by the Review Committee is expected in September, at which point they will then request more information from us. Final awards are not expected until this winter. This grant provides financial and scientific support to structure, develop, and sustain 10-year restoration and monitoring programs in selected priority watersheds. For more information about BEF visit <http://www.b-e-f.org/watersheds>
3. Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC)– Prop 84 Grant Program: Deadline for Strategic Opportunity Grant applications is Sept. 2, 2008. The CRM is planning on potentially submitting four SOG Category 2 proposals for CEQA/NEPA compliance, Design/permit, and environmental surveys for the following: Red Clover-Dotta, Meadowview/Rowland, Greenhorn Creek, and Spanish Creek (gravel management and stream rehabilitation).
4. CalTrans EEM Program- Plan to submit proposals for Sulphur Creek @ Barry Creek and the Sulphur Creek Bank Stabilization Project to this program for funding in November.
5. Wildlife Conservation Board- Projects must have CEQA completed; had tentatively planned to apply for Spanish and Greenhorn, but will need to fund the CEQA work first.
6. Urban Streams Restoration Program (USRP)– Prop 84 Grant Program: Draft guidelines released comments due by August 20th. Anticipated application deadline is November 2008. Hope to submit a proposal for Spanish Creek (gravel management and/or stream rehabilitation); staff is working on strategizing options for funding between SNC and USRP

B. Project Updates

1. Construction completed: Longnecker's bank stabilization on Smith Creek July 15th; Spanish Creek @ Kellett's July 30th; Silver Creek planned August 8th.



Photo on left: Construction of vanes on Smith Creek, Longnecker's bank.

Photo below: Vanes on Spanish Creek, Kellett's bank.

Lower left: Log jam constructed on Silver Crk.



2. Upcoming construction: Long Valley Creek begins August 18; Boulder Creek starts Sept. 15
3. Raap/Guidici Project- The landowner on the Guidici portion of the project has been unresponsive, so this project is currently on hold. Project is RAC funded and ends September 30th. Currently requesting a contract extension; if a schedule can be worked out with landowner, the project will be done after Boulder Creek in mid-October.
4. Status of request for programmatic agreement with SHPO- there was an initial interest from ACOE regarding a possible PA for CRM projects. However, there has never been contact from SHPO and ACOE has not contacted us since mid-spring. Likely it will be winter before we can resume this dialogue.

5. **Greenhouse and Native Plants:** The greenhouse is in full operation thanks to the help of many dedicated volunteers. Numerous plants were started this spring and have been transplanted into larger pots and moved to our cold frame. Species include bitterbrush, sedges, monkeyflower, meadow penstemon, willows, cottonwood, and more. The college was supposed to get the automated watering system working, but due to the fire camp at FRC it became a low priority. Despite this setback, volunteers have kept things going by manually watering each day and turning on the fans. We have already transplanted 1 gallon pots of monkeyflower, willow & cottonwood seedlings on the Kellett's floodplain and bitterbrush supercells on the sloped bank. We will be transplanting many more plants with the help of the CCC in October on Little Last Chance Creek, Silver Creek, Boulder Creek, and Smith Creek. Other revegetation updates include seed collection and noxious weed monitoring. The CRM staff and other temporary help/volunteers have been checking project areas for noxious weeds and collecting native grass, forb, and sedge seeds since July.



Collecting native grass seed at Ferris Creek.

6. **NHI/CABY –** Jim and Gia met with Katie Burdick from CABY in July. Neither CABY nor the CRM have heard from NHI since their presentation in April. Katie is interested in CABY and the CRM collaborating on some projects. Since we are still unclear as to the outcome/product of the NHI Sierra Meadows IRWMP/database, at this point we are just keeping the communication open and may develop a more defined partnership in the future. Katie plans to attend our next meeting to give an update on the Sierra Meadows IRWMP and how CABY and the CRM might work together.

C. Monitoring

1. **Last Chance II-** Working on the pre-project monitoring. To date have completed Stream Condition Inventory (SCI) data collection on selected parameters within the project area and below Murdoch Xing; vegetation transects were done by Ceci Dale-Cesmat; Hobo temps were placed above, in and below the project area; fish surveys were done above and below the project area in June, with assistance from DWR. Flows, wells, and turbidity sampling ongoing above, below, and within the project area.
2. **Carbon Sequestration-** The staff met in field with Sherman Swanson and Dale Johnson from University of Nevada, Reno to test out our meadow carbon sequestration protocol. Consultants Denny Churchill and Jim Battagin also attended. Denny and Jim have been working with Jessica in setting up the plot locations based on soil and vegetation types. Many factors affecting the sample collection were discussed, including efficiency of sample equipment, difficulties in sampling different soil types, and the necessary number of samples needed. Jessica will be coordinating with Denny to collect samples later this summer based on protocol modifications agreed to during the field meeting. Sherm is

interested in doing a more in-depth research project on the meadow carbon if they can find a funding source.

D. Education

1. The Watershed Education Awareness Campaign grant funded by the Forum has a remaining balance of \$9,657 mostly for printing. The logo has been completed and we have a grayscale and color version to be used on items of our choice. The remaining tasks in this grant are to purchase promotional materials with the logo for distribution at outreach events, and complete and print the landowner brochure.
2. The RAC grant Watershed Education through Stewardship and Outreach has a budget balance of \$19,426.36. Kristy and Rob are working together on the K-12 Coordination piece, which includes developing two watershed trunks, holding eight resource outings for local teachers, completing Plumas Teaching Guides for K-12, and hosting a youth watershed stewardship faire. Community Outreach tasks completed include one creek cleanup in Quincy and another scheduled for Sept. 13th for Lake Almanor/North Fork, other cleanups planned include Wolf Creek and the Middle Fork; stormdrain stenciling has been done in Quincy and Portola, and is tentatively scheduled for Greenville this fall. Signage versus stenciling will be done in Chester and around Lake Almanor in collaboration with ABWAC. This grant is scheduled to end on December 31, 2008. We are requesting a grant amendment to extend the contract date through next year.
3. We have approximately \$600 in an education trust from map sales and film festival proceeds.
4. Meadow Video- Plumas County Board of Supervisors approved \$43K to develop a meadow restoration DVD. We have been working with Producer, Craig Miller who filmed the Region at Risk piece that aired on KVIE's Viewfinder program last winter. To date they have been up three times to film this summer, including some aerial footage. They will be back in early-September to film construction on Long Valley and get some footage of monitoring work. A five to ten minute piece will air on America's Heartland nationwide this fall. In addition, we will get a 15-30 minute DVD to post on the internet and/or give out to interested parties.
5. Other upcoming educational events this fall the CRM will be participating in include Plumas National Forest Mt. Hough R.D. Fall Festival on October 4th, (theme this year is watershed); and World Wide Monitoring Day tentatively scheduled for early-November.

E. Other

1. Jim & Leslie met with Steve Gorelick and his new grad student from Stanford, who are interested in working with the CRM again, and perhaps looking at restored meadows and their role in climate change management. Any other questions (or further refinement of the one being proposed) that come to people's minds that might be good for a PhD student, please let us know.

Tentative Dates for Pre- and Post-Project Fish Surveys and Fish Moving for Construction:
(Anyone interested in helping, please contact Leslie Mink and/or Kara Rockett at 530/283-3739.)

- Silver Creek- August 4th (move)
- Long Valley- August 18th (move)
- Boulder- Sept. 15 (move)
- Smith Creek- Sept. 8th (survey upstream)
- Little Last Chance- Sept. 9th (survey)