

**MINUTES**  
**Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group**  
**Steering/Management Committee Spring 2008 Meeting**

**Meeting Time:** May 20, 2008, 1pm; Plumas County Quincy Library conference room, turn right on Bradley St. off of Main St. (Hwy 70), then left on Jackson St.

**Dinner:** Pangaea Café and Pub on Main Street downtown Quincy

**Tour:** Wednesday, May 21st, 8:45 am- 4 pm (see below for more details)

**Reasonable Accommodations:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting or tours please contact the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Watershed Coordinator at (530) 283-3739, ext. 106.

**Meeting Agenda (Tuesday, May 20):**

**1:00** Introductions- *John Kolb chaired the meeting.*

**1:10** Review/Approve minutes from June 2007 meeting.  
Review/ Approve agenda (action items in bold) *June minutes and agenda approved by voting members (present voting members Plumas Corp, Plumas National Forest, Dept. of Water Resources, Plumas Co., Feather River RCD)*

**1:15** 2007/08 Annual Report – report is available for review on the web page at [www.feather-river-crm.org](http://www.feather-river-crm.org) on the Publications Page.  
*Purpose of report is for partners to use for their reports; also given to Plumas County Board of Supervisors. Discussion with partners on how much the report was/is used in meeting their targets. U.S. Forest Service- Plumas National Forest does include report information when reporting agency accomplishments. All watershed accomplishments are supposed to be reported in the annual Quincy Library Group (QLG) reports, which are released in February. Need to make sure all FRCRM projects on PNF lands are being included in the annual QLG reports to assist in getting beyond the litigation and focus on timber projects. Angie stated that they do detailed reporting on work with partners, and as the **Partner Coordinator for PNF she will ensure other resources (i.e. fisheries, wildlife, botany) are including FRCRM projects**, as well. Also, can/is used in progress reports attached to Project Work Plans (PWP). Terry gave brief update on projects he constructed in 2007, lessons learned (working w/landowner equip) and shared photos.*

**1:30** 2008 Project Work:

- a. Revegetation and Greenhouse update *Jessica reported on reveg and greenhouse accomplishments- 2 Native Plant Workshops held this spring, one scheduled for the fall; greenhouse operating with help of volunteers; irrigation system and fans should be installed and operating by Friday; cold frame was constructed by volunteers. Upcoming reveg work this summer and fall includes seed collection, noxious weed monitoring and eradication, and project vegetation work. Angie will inquire with Tina if her crew or other*

*Forest Service crews are available to help with reveg work. We do have project funding available to help pay for crews.*

- b. Last Chance Creek Phase II – Prop 50 Jim working on cross sections and flagging Area of Potential Effects (APE). Environmental survey work will start in June. Plan B if landowner decides not to move forward with implementation is to restore PNF lands downstream from Doyle xing to Murdoch xing. Design layout the end of June. Construction July 2009, will take two seasons to complete. Pre-project monitoring data will be collected this summer- need to coordinate with DWR and PNF (check with Colin D.)
- c. Yellow Creek-Humbug Valley, PG&E: **Committee Approval** The voting members of the Steering Committee were asked to vote on whether the FRCRM should take on this project for implementation if the ERC decides to move forward with a project. **John Sheehan of Plumas Corp motioned to approve project, John Kolb of Plumas Co. 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all voting members approved except Joe Hoffman of PNF who abstained from voting. Project implementation approved.** Background info- This project was brought to the FRCRM by the Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) that was formed as part of the FERC relicensing for Rock Creek Cresta. In 2007, the ERC with PG&E funds requested the FRCRM to develop restoration alternatives for the meadow. Three alternatives were identified: No Action, Process Intervention, and Pond & Plug. Environmental surveys are being completed this summer to evaluate effects of each alternative. After completion of the environmental surveys and reports, the Humbug Valley Subcommittee will make a recommendation to the ERC on which alternative they prefer. Possible implementation funds- ERC funding “coldwater enhancement fund” created under the Project 1962 license. \$5 mil provided for the fund which could provide construction funding for Yellow Creek or other East Branch restoration projects. The County will be asking the ERC tomorrow to go ahead and look at using the money for improvements we can all agree upon versus waiting another 10 to 20 years for a decision on how cold water will be addressed in the 2105/Almanor license. Another possibility is Stewardship Council funds, as this area is on PG&E list for divestment. Those interested in any lands to be divested need to register with the Council. There are many parties interested in Humbug Valley including CalTrout, Maidu, Plumas Co.
- d. Sulphur Creek Bank Stabilization- DePaoli/Seeliger property Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) funded CEQA work and permits, landowners paid for enviro surveys. Implementation is contingent upon adjacent landowner fencing his side of the creek. Potential funding sources include EEM Caltran funds (plan to apply this fall) or possible left over Prop 40 funds.
- e. Sulphur Creek @ Barry Creek and Whitehawk Ranch PNF completed work upstream of proposed project area on the mainstem of Sulphur. The Highlands Group (Board of Directors for Whitehawk) funded the project development for Barry Creek and Sulphur Creek through Whitehawk. Enviro surveys will be completed for Barry Creek this summer. All enviro work

*funded by SNC. FRCRM waiting on decision from Highland Group to fund enviro work for the Whitehawk reach. Alice Berg, a native who recently returned the area, is planning on forming a Mohawk Valley Watershed group. The FRCRM plans to subcontract with Alice to support this group and build off the previous efforts accomplished during the completion of the Sulphur Creek Watershed Assessment and Strategy.*

- f. Red Clover-Dotta
- g. Meadowview/Rowland Creek *FRCRM applied to SNC for project development and enviro analysis funds for this project and Red Clover-Dotta. These projects are both continuation of prior work on Last Chance and Red Clover Creeks. SNC decision will be announced in June.*
- h. Greenhorn and Spanish Creek: **Set TAC Date** *Project objectives are gravel management and rehabilitation. Dyrr Bank Stabilization demo project on Spanish implemented in 2006. Decided not to set TAC date, still need to finish up Greenhorn data analysis and report to landowners on suggested alternatives. **Plan to schedule a TAC/LO meeting to present data and possible proposals later this summer.** Asked who wanted to be on **Greenhorn TAC- John K., Terry, Angie, and Kevin.** Agreed to have separate TACs for Greenhorn and Spanish. Gravel management would involve spot treatments; thresholds triggered from monitoring. Permit needed from Office of Mine Reclamation within the Dept. of Conservation for the operator removing the gravel. Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) is the law regulating surface mining and is enforced by the County. Gravel permit application would be submitted to the County who would then submit to the Office of Mine Reclamation. Mechanism to request a long-term permit (No fee permits available??) for management versus commercial harvest exists through the State Mine Board. Other regulatory agencies over surface mining include California Dept. of Fish and Game (CDFG), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and Army Corps of Engineers. Angie said much had been done on gravel management along the North Coast (Eel River and others). **Angie will send possible contacts from the N. Coast.***
- i. Quincy Community Services District Wetland Project *This is a Prop. 50 project to develop a wetland for tertiary treatment of waste water to reduce metals (primarily copper). QCSO asked the CRM to implement. Enviro surveys will be completed this summer. **TAC meeting with RWQCB scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>.***
- j. Antelope Valley & Bear Valley: **Committee Approval TABLED until Fall meeting.** *Asked if coordinating with Sierra County Board of Supervisors and DWR water masters? Terry said we weren't but believed CDFG was. Plumas Co. is plans to coordinate with Sierra County on the Middle Fork for the update of the Feather River Integrated Water Management Plan (IRWMP).*

- k. Meadow Restoration Video *Funded by Board of Supervisors, Title III funds. Goal is to share pond and plug technology. First day of filming completed on Big Flat and Clarks Creek last Monday. Three more days scheduled this summer for Red Clover, Long Valley, and monitoring.*
  - l. Meadow Carbon Project *Goal is to quantify change and rate of change that could be marketed from restoration work. Aggregators include: Chicago Climate Exchange; Voluntary; Rangeland.*
  - m. Big Meadows- Sequoia National Monument Project Update; June Training *Training will focus on design, layout, and implementation of pond and plug. Attended by Southern Sierra forest hydrologists and State folks. Jim shared photos of Big Meadows project constructed in 2007.*
  - n. Project Construction Schedule:
    1. Spanish Creek @ Kellett, July 21-August 8
    2. Silver Creek, August 11- August 22
    3. Long Valley Creek, August-Nov. 1
    4. Raap/Guidici (Haskell Creek)-Guidici portion, Aug 25- Sept. 5
    5. Smith Creek- Longnecker's Bank, Sept. 8
    6. Boulder Creek, Sept. 15
- 2:15** 2009 Project Construction pending committee approval, environmental clearance, permits, and/or funding:
- a. Last Chance Creek Phase II *Already discussed*
  - b. Sulphur Creek: Bank Stabilization @ DePaoli-Seeliger & Barry Crk: **Apply for EEM \$** *Already discussed*
  - c. Quincy Community Service District Wetland Project *Already discussed*
  - d. Red Clover/Poco Creek (USFS) *FS currently working on NEPA. Pre-project monitoring, FRCRM doing flows at bottom of Red Clover project, turbidity samples and well readings at Chase Bridge; and will install some HOBOTemps. Jim completing xsecs of old hotel site for District Heritage Officer.*
  - e. Humbug Valley-Yellow Creek *Soonest implementation would be 2010.*
- 2:35** Unfunded Proposed Projects:
- a. Spanish Creek (Spanish @ Bresciani, Bengard, & Pourcho)
  - b. Greenhorn Creek: **Apply for WCB \$** *Funding app in Sept??*
  - c. Poplar Creek *Soper-Wheeler may lease to Hunting Club. Trout Unlimited interested in supporting project and returning beaver to the valley. Good potential wetland banking site.*
  - d. Red Clover-Dotta *Possible funding source Ducks Unlimited??*

e. Meadowview/Rowland Creek

**2:50** Research/Monitoring Update

- a. UC Davis Indian Creek watershed model and Middle Fork model *Focus of model is on extreme climate conditions (flood and drought) and changes in temperature flux and flow regime. The Middle Fork has a Civic Science component looking at reoperation, conjunctive use, and reauthorization of operations. Focus is on the Upper Middle Fork within Sierra Valley. Plan is that both models will be installed at the County and will be public domain. County hopes to work out long-term relationship with UC Davis for management of the model.*
- b. Monitoring Committee Report *Highlights changes in maximum temperatures. Flows not significant due to low water year. Final draft available on website.*
- c. Carbon Sequestration/Plumas County Ecosystem Services proposal *Board of Supes- Meacher and Comstock took proposal back to Washington DC and hosted a show me field trip for DC staff last year. Plan is to make a legislative push in 2009. AB32 outlines Forestry Carbon Protocol which allows for zero harvest. County and others are working for a protocol that allows harvest for fire management.*

**3:00** BREAK

**3:15** CRM Education News *Lake Almanor/North Fork clean-up scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>; PG&E may sponsor a BBQ as part of the event. Currently working on watershed kits (frogs and macros); logo development; landowner brochure; and map distribution. Current outreach and education funding from Forum and RAC. Recently held a creek-cleanup in Quincy along the bike path and Spanish Creek through Gansner Park. Film Festival in May was a success; next one will be in the Fall of 2009.*

**3:30** CRM and RCD Partnership: **MOU with SVRCD** *Historically, SVRCD would recommend projects to FRRCD, who would then recommend to the FRCRM for assistance. FRCRM would like to strengthen relationship with RCDs and support them as much as possible. FRRCD is a signatory partner. FRCRM asked the SVRCD if they would like to become a signatory partner to formally acknowledge our partnership. SVRCD is interested in becoming a formal CRM partner through an MOU. The SVRCD Board will vote on this at their June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. (SVRCD meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at the Portola Library from 10am-12pm.)*

**4:00** Feather River and Sierra Valley RCD News *Currently funded SVRCD projects include two noxious weed grants (focus on whitetop) and a sustainable ag grant (focus of this year's workshop will be watersheds). Sustainable Ag Workshop scheduled for Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at the Vinton Grange Hall. Manage two land leases with*

*the CDFG near Border Town and one along Smithneck. SVRCD focus is to provide hands-on help for landowners. They are hoping to work with the CCC for noxious weeds (Jessica will send Gary CCC contact info; we will try to coordinate when they come to work on CRM projects). Establishing an equipment coop; have a portable water trailer.*

*Feather River RCD has a noxious weed grant also. They are currently looking for a project manager. Gabe Miller, SVRCD Project Mgr, will be implementing the FRRCD noxious weed grant. FRRCD manages the Caltrans wetland mitigation site at Crescent Mills, which provides some funding as a springboard for other projects.*

- 4:30** Partner Updates: DWR, RWQCB, NRCS, USFS, CalTrans, CDF&G, CDF, Plumas County, UC Extension/UFWRG, Trout Unlimited-Feather River Chapter DWR- Partner work for technical support in the FR Watershed is currently funded. Ryan Martin, biologist, went to Oroville; Dave Boegner will collect data on Red Clover this year, but is only available through 2008, as there is not enough work in the North Region to support a biologist position. Dave was at Red Clover in April; saw 200 birds; 14 species, including four new riparian dependent species (white faced ibis, great egret, bald eagle, and osprey). **Todd asked that we send our five year needs for wildlife and avian monitoring and needs for Last Chance Phase I & II needs.** Barbara Castro, botanist, is available for tech support (**ask to help with LCII veg monitoring**).

USFS- August budget fair, **need to plan with Joe for needs in 2009 by July.** Colin have handout of QLG tours. Suggested USFS should invite UC Davis to look at upland treatment effects on water outputs.

Plumas County- Forum tour on Tues, meeting on Wed. Forum Program Review completed to determine if Forum should continue funding for next four years. Report recommendations supported restoration work as a favorable cost-benefit and more upland management.

UC Extension- Kristen Schmidt is working for Holly George in implementing the Ag Waiver monitoring funded under Prop 50. They are looking at dissolved oxygen at the bottom outlet of each valley, and other parameters.

Jim Wilcox announced that Barbara Drake, former PNF hydrologist now working on the Toiyabe has organized a tour of CRM projects on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for a number of Nevada folks.

- 5:00** Adjourn Meeting

- 5:30** Happy Hour/Dinner @ Pangaea Café and Pub

**Meeting Attendees:**

Steve Robinson	Mountain Meadows Conservancy
Todd Hillaire	Dept. Of Water Resources (DWR)
Brian Morris	Plumas Co. Flood Control District
Angie Dillingham	Plumas National Forest (PNF)
John Kolb	Plumas Co. Public Works
Colin Dillingham	PNF
Leslie Mink	Plumas Corp- FRCRM
Kristy Hoffman	FRCRM
Jim Wilcox	FRCRM
Kara Rockett	FRCRM
Jessica Albietz	FRCRM
Terry Benoit	FRCRM
Kelly Weintraub	Sierra Institute
Joe Hoffman	PNF
Kevin Pond	DWR
Kristen Schmidt	UC Extension
Gary Romano	Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District
Rick Leonhardt	Feather River Resource Conservation District
John Sheehan	Plumas Corporation
Gia Martynn	FRCRM

# Spanish Creek Tour Agenda

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Meet @ Plumas Corporation Office @ 8:45 a.m.

Please bring a lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. Wear appropriate footwear for the field.

- 8:45 am        Introductions, Handouts, Car Pool
- 9:00            Travel to Snake Lake Bridge (old vortex sampler site)
- Overview and History of Spanish Creek
  - Summary of Assessment and Strategy
  - Discussion of instream gravel management techniques
- 10:15          Gravel Management Reach- McMorrow property
- gravel harvesting for management of bedload
- 11:30          Dyrr Bank Stabilization Project
- instream restoration using boulder vanes and vegetation
- 12:00 pm      Lunch @ Gansner Park/ Gansner Park Trail
- 12:30          Visit Greenhouse at FRC- revegetation program
- 1:00            Plumas County Spanish Creek Project
- bank stabilization with rip rap; floodplain, vegetation, water diversion
- 1:30            Quincy Community Services District Bank and Wetland Proposal
- 2:00            Bengard/Bresciani overview of project proposals
- 3:15            Pourcho Ranch – bottom of assessment area/confluence with Greenhorn
- 4:00            Adjourn

Attendees: Dan Martynn, Kevin Pond, Derek Lerch, John McMorrow, Todd Hillaire, Alice Berg, Brenda Lantow, Tracy Ball, Jim Wilcox, Colin Dillingham, Charles Watson, John Sheehan, Paul Stancheff, John Kolb, Kyle Merriam, Marti Aitken, Joe Hoffman, Becca Bredenoff, Kara Rockett, Carol Rush, Angie Dillingham, Phil Bresciani, Denny Churchill, Larry Sullivan, Chris and Alison Murray, Matt McMorrow