

Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group Management Committee June 2009 Update

Updated CRM Status: As you are all aware the CRM staff was laid off, as of January 1st, due to the state budget crisis. The state notice sent on Dec. 19, 2008 suspended all bond-funded grants, those both under contract and those yet to be awarded. The staff has been volunteering their time to this last six months to secure other funding sources and keep things moving forward. Most of the staff (Leslie, Jim, and Terry) are now back to work full-time. Gia is working part-time, with plans to come back full-time when the DOC Coordination grant is reinstated. Kara Rockett, our Americorp member, serving as the CRM Monitoring Coordinator, is handling the program monitoring and helping with project going during these difficult months.

The good news is on April 22nd the state was able to sell several bonds and the Governor waved his arms and announced that 5,000 projects would be reauthorized soon to start work! In addition, all awarded grants that have not yet been executed are considered in the frozen pool.

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. SNC – Prop 84 grant awarded early December for Feather River Education and Stewardship is being executed and in the queue as a frozen grant to be re-instated when funding is available.
2. Red Clover-Poco submitted to CALFED Watershed Program was awarded in February. Contract has not yet been executed but funding should be in place by fall, pending completion of the NEPA documents. PNF awarded a challenge cost share of \$12,000 to write the NEPA.
3. RAC (Cycle 9 Deadline 4/30/09); An application was submitted for Red Clover-Dotta and Meadowview-Rowland Creek project development and CEQA/NEPA for Cycle 8. Partial funding for the first year was selected by the RAC on April 24 (\$72,100); will apply for 2nd year funding in Cycle 9 (\$37,600). Also, submitting app to Cycle 9 for Greenhorn Creek.
4. Currently working with the SWRCB on re-authorizing Prop. 40 Middle Fork Feather River Complex grant using federal stimulus funds. We hope to have this contract in place by early May. Prop 50 contract also qualifies for stimulus funds.
5. Plumas Watershed Forum – Full proposals submitted for Spanish Creek in MV and AV and RC-Poco Match. Forum to make decision at the end of this month.
6. Working with other specialist in the Sierra Nevada Region, CRM staff, Jim Wilcox, helped develop a business plan for meadow restoration throughout the Sierra Nevada range, as part of a new initiative funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The following link is to an article about the NFWF business plan and funding for meadow restoration
http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090426/A_NEWS14/904260318
The CRM has submitted an application to NFWF for Last Chance II match and the Truckee River Watershed Council submitted an application for Perazzo Meadows.

B. Project Updates

1. Greenhorn Creek – Leslie and Jim have been working on the design; final proposal will be submitted to RAC for Cycle 9 funding.
2. Quincy CSD Wetland Project- CEQA is completed and currently under review by Plumas County Building and Planning Services; all permit apps have been submitted.
3. Crescent Mills Wetland- wells being monitored monthly; daily monitoring for two weeks beginning 4/27 to satisfy ACOE wetland monitoring protocol.
4. Red Clover-Poco- Staff has been working on NEPA documents; recently held field meeting with USFS resulting in some changes to project design components on Poco Creek. Need to schedule TAC mtg.
5. Humbug Valley/Yellow Creek- CRM staff met with CDFG personnel this month to discuss the pond and plug technology and the benefits of utilizing this restoration technique.
6. IRWM Update on organizational governance- Two meetings we held (Sierraville and Quincy) to discuss the IRWM Program and the organization of the Feather River Regional Water Management Group. The most significant development from the two meetings was consensus to recast the governing document in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) rather than a joint powers agreement. The primary difference between the two is whether or not a new entity is created, but the decision-making processes and workgroup structure under either arrangement are essentially the same. A revised version of the governing document to review the MOU and provide comment to Brian Morris is attached. This is on the agenda for discussion for the May 4th Management Committee meeting. To coincide with the timing of DWR's Region Acceptance Process, the goal is to execute the MOU with initial participants by June 1. If that deadline is too short for some approval processes, there is a simple mechanism to become part of the MOU at a later date.
7. Greenhouse- FRC was awarded RAC grant in Cycle 8 to manage greenhouse. CRM will be utilizing plants from greenhouse this spring and fall for projects and helping collect seed this summer for future propagation of native species. Reveg work planned this spring at Smith and Little Last Chance Creeks with volunteer help. Hope to hire CCC for fall reveg work when Prop 40 grant is reinstated.

C. Monitoring

1. Kara is overseeing monthly and storm event monitoring. Recently completed 2008 monitoring report for Red Clover/McReynolds Creek Restoration project. Report will be available on website next month. Draft annual monitoring report is almost complete. As soon as the budget freeze is lifted date for Annual Monitoring Committee Mtg. will be set.
2. Red Clover Fish Monitoring: The Feather River Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be fly fishing the project area on Saturday, June 6th. In addition, we will be doing some electroshocking monitoring with DWR on June 9-11th and June 23-25th. If you are interested in coming out to help any of these days please contact Kara Rockett at kara@plumascounty.org

D. Education

1. SNC Grant award- Contract is being executed and funding will be available when freeze is lifted.
2. "Restoring Nature's Reservoirs: Mountain Meadows in the Feather River Watershed" DVD is now available. Can also be viewed online at <http://www.autonomyproductions.com/Plumas/Reservoirs.html>
3. Youth Stewardship Faire held in March, partnered with FRC and funded by RAC. Over 30 students participated, including 5 schools from Plumas and Sierra counties.
4. Watershed Coordinator, Gia Martynn, has been working with Holly George from UCCE on a digital story project for Sierra Valley. Public viewing of stories is scheduled for June at the Plumas County Picnic. The following is a link to an article in the Truckee Moonshine Ink about the project <http://www.moonshineink.com/articles.php/61/1213>