

**MINUTES**  
**Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group**  
**Steering/Management Committee Fall 2009 Meeting**

**Breakfast:** 8 am at the Greenville Town Hall, \$8.00/person (provided by Anna's Café) Join us before the meeting to watch *Passion for the Land- Personal Stories from the Sierra Valley*- produced by UC Cooperative Extension (Holly George) and UC Davis Art of Regional Change.

**Meeting Time:** November 18, 2009, 9 am at the Greenville Town Hall off Hwy 89, just north of Main Street behind the fire station

**Tour:** Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> meet at the Greenville Town Hall at 12pm. We will caravan to the first stop on Wolf Creek and have lunch. (Bring lunch, drinks provided)

**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. 107.

**Meeting Agenda (Wed, Nov. 18):**

**9:00** Introductions

**9:10** Review/Approve minutes from Nov 2008 Steering and July 2009 Mgt. meetings.  
Review/ Approve agenda *Minutes and agenda approved by committee*

**9:15** Regional and Program Watershed Topics:

- a. Natl. Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Sierra Mdw Initiative- Jim Wilcox *NFWF has started a 10 year Sierra Meadow Initiative with two annual cycles of funding (June and Nov) for a total of \$1.5 mil per year. CRM submitted proposal for Last Chance Phase II (\$800K) to backfill the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> not funded by Prop 50. Board met last week and approved to partial funding for LCII. Difficulty for future proposals is 50% required non-federal match. NFWF with Sierra Nevada Alliance sponsored a Meadow Forum in October; likely to be an annual event. CRM proposed to assist NFWF with local coordination throughout the range. Range boundary is the same used by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and includes the Pit River. CRM helped NFWF give presentations to NRCS, USFWS, and others to disseminate information about meadows and the initiative. 10 yr. plan will include establishing a technical implementation training program for meadow restoration. Others in the region with similar capacity levels as CRM- Truckee River Watershed Council, Pit River- all in northern Sierras. Jim helped review first round of proposals, but was not asked to review the November submittals.*
- b. Integrated Regional Water Mgt. (IRWM) County Update- Brian Morris *31 groups signed MOU; each group will have reps on the IRWM Steering Committee and the different workgroups. CRM Steering Committee made a motion to nominate a CRM rep. for IRWM Committee. Mike Delasaux nominated Jim Wilcox, all approved. Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) went well, Feather River has been tentatively approved, final decision will be made in the next few months. The eastside is currently not included in any*

region. The Pit River is currently coordinating to possibly take in those areas around Honey Lake along the eastside. Many issues will need to be coordinated with NV. FR-IRWMP Fall Membership meeting scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ Quincy Library, 0930-1200pm. Will discuss update for upcoming round of Prop 84 funds (\$74 mil) next year, appointing chairs to workgroups, and integrating the IRWMP with the County General Plan. Brian will be giving a presentation at the Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting on the IRWMP and how it can support the water element in the GP. Sacramento Region Funding Area Coalition (SRFAC) group representing all areas within the Sacramento DWR hydrologic region is working on how Prop 84 funding will be allocated.

- c. Methylmercury TMDL & Implications for the Feather River- Leah Wills Mercury issues started in 2003 in SF Bay, FR region was not paying attention at that time. Determined that 1/3 of mercury in Bay was coming from Central Valley watersheds. Initially were only looking at organic mercury, have now added methyl mercury. Implementation will be in 3 phases- 1<sup>st</sup> phase (Delta Program) focusing on Yolo Basin, Cache Crk, and Putah Crk (50% of load coming from these areas); Phase II move up to rim dams; Phase III move to headwaters. Phase I starts Feb. 2010; plan is to reach attainment in 20 years. 30% of load is from point sources, which is regulated through NPDS permits. Nonpoint sources more complicated- look at sediment, water column, and fish (predators and bass). FR watershed would focus on erosion control; known sources in FR watershed are N.Fork, Almanor, and Oroville- listings based on fish tissue data. Rim dams will be difficult to deal with as they are both sinks and sources. 1/2 of .5% of load is from Sierras; finding more in rim dams; 20% of load in SF Bay is atmospheric mercury. Latest science has determined that seasonal wetlands and floodplains are now sources, not just permanent wetlands; also have found that grazing can reduce levels in the system. Current waivers for Ag and Timber (via FS Water Quality)- those permits will look at how we can monitor, reduce, and control. Off-Set Program and Feinstein Mine Clean-Up Programs- FR needs to be positioned to take advantage of these. Current direction is to look at existing permit system, which could be troublesome for headwaters. May require streambed alt. permits for any dredging to have a mercury monitoring component. Leah is currently looking at Walker Crk data. Leslie said CRM did metal monitoring in 2001 and Holly said UCCE & UFRWG looked at heavy metals at the bottom of each monitoring site their first yr. of sampling. More evidence/data we have the less beholden to site specific permits watershed-wide. Need to integrate and work together on management solutions vs. clean-up, which is very costly. Leah passed out a Delta Methylmercury TMDL & Basin Plan Amendment Info Sheet. Other available publications/resources: Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Estuary TMDL for Methylmercury Staff Report, CA EPA, February 2008; [www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/tmdl/central\\_valley\\_projects/delta\\_hg](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/central_valley_projects/delta_hg)
- d. Feather River CRM 25 Year Anniversary 2010! CRM will kickoff celebration with new website in December. Check it out at [www.feather-river-crm.org](http://www.feather-river-crm.org) Will be planning special activities and events throughout the year, watch for

*announcements. Also, Restoring Nature's Reservoirs DVD was selected for the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival in Nevada City, CA in January; tickets go on sale Dec 1<sup>st</sup> @ [www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org](http://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org)*

**10:30** Program/Project Updates:

- a. Plumas County Noxious Weed Group MOU- CRM signatory? **ACTION ITEM**  
*CRM's part in MOU would not be any more than what we currently do for weeds mgt under our restoration program, which includes pre- and post-project surveys and monitoring; education; and landowner outreach. Brian Morris made a motion to sign, Angie Dillingham 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved; DWR abstained until further follow-up w/ legal review. CRM staff will send out language to be incorporated into MOU for Committee's review before final signature.*
- b. Sulphur Creek/Middle Fork Feather River Complex projects- Leslie/Terry  
*Addl work on LLC this year included fencing and rock reinforcement on water gap riffles, one addl landowner to complete fencing in 2010; addl veg, plug, and rock work on Smith, Boulder, & Long Valley Crk projects; constructed bank stabilization project on Sulphur Creek upstream of Hwy 89 bridge funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.*
- c. Spanish Creek Meadow Valley project- Terry Benoit Plumas Watershed Forum funded design surveys, CEQA, and permits. Terry surveyed this summer; project objective is to reduce load caused by historic hydrologic mining, capturing the majority above Meadow Valley. Mercury is an issue in this watershed, may capture in proposed gravel mgt. ponds. Creek is downcut 12 feet, historic 1000' floodplain is now 300-350' wide; many areas have reached lakebed.
- d. Eastside Meadow projects- Jim/Leslie RAC funded design surveys, CEQA/NEPA, and permits for 3 projects: Red Clover-Dotta (3 mi.), Meadowview (headwaters of Last Chance, surveyed during phase I Last Chance project); Rowland Creek (2.5 mi., at crest between MFFR and NFFR drainages; currently drains into MFFR, historically drained into NFFR) TAC mtgs. held earlier this week; working on enviro docs this winter; implementation funds not secured, potential sources include NFWF, EPA Wetland Program- all federal \$, again 50% none fed match potential problem Forum \$ not available- EIS still not on the street.
- e. Greenhorn Creek- Leslie Mink Forum funded x-sec surveys and conceptual design; applied to RAC Cycle 9 (2010 funds) for CEQA & permits. Proposal to work with existing irrigation dams, improve fish passage, and control erosion. Reid/PNF project would be implementation demo with RAC funds. Other objectives are to improve landowner awareness of impacts on fish migration by irrigation dams.
- f. Red Clover-Poco (USFS)- Jim/Leslie/Joe Hoffman Recd CalFed \$ for implementation, but not yet available due to state freeze. Close to completing NEPA. Plan is to implement next yr, pending availability of funding.
- g. Last Chance Phase II- Jim 2/3<sup>rd</sup> funded by IRWM Prop 50 grant; funding recently became available this summer, restart surveys for arch and x-sections this fall/winter. Earliest construction would be 2011. 40% PNF/60% private, owned by Vasey Family.
- h. Perazzo Meadow (USFS-Tahoe)- Jim/Leslie Jim and Leslie operated equipment this fall for about 8 weeks; 7000' of channel restored; Put in fish

*barriers for Lahontan cutthroat trout reintroduction project using highway k-rails to keep rainbows out; can be removed later with no disturbance to stream. To help control sediment during construction, pumped water over vegetation to filter. 3-phase project- 2<sup>nd</sup> phase downstream to be implemented in 2010.*

- i. *Big Meadows (Sequoia NF)- Jim Constructed in 2008; withstood first flood event in Oct. 2009, 8.5" of rain in 17 hours, entire meadow was covered with 2 ft. of water. Jim visited early November. Lots of debris across meadow, no problem areas, project performed exceptionally well.*
- j. *Yellow Creek-Humbug Valley (PG&E)- CRM developed multiple design alternatives presented to the Environmental Review Committee (ERC), Humbug Valley subcommittee early this year; currently working with Fish & Game on concerns with pond and plug design, will restart discussions this winter. Cultural resources are a limiting factor per eligibility under 106; FERC license currently controls management on Humbug Valley, but long term divestment of property through the Stewardship Council will change ownership and future management.*
- k. *Proposed projects- Humbug Creek, Upper McReynolds, Willow Creek- Jim Humbug Crk- pvt. landowner, Rick Joy, funding conceptual design; ds landowner not interested in participating at this time limits restoration options upstream. Upper McReynolds- In Red Clover Valley; gullied for 2 miles from top of 2006 project to divide between Squaw Queen and RC watersheds; 75% pvt, owned by Goodwin Ranch and 25% PNF. Willow Crk- in MFFR, along Hwy 70; landowner contacted CRM this year; visited site, landowner is interested in doing something in the future if opportunity arises; is currently putting woody debris in downcut channel. If a project were to move forward, need to look above highway.*

### **11:30 Partner/Other Projects:**

- a. *Mountain Mdw Conservancy: Watershed Restoration Action Plan- Ian Kanair Area is within PG&E's Stewardship Council divestment lands. They are in the first year of the project, which is being funded by the Plumas Watershed Forum. Goodrich Creek watershed. Goals/objectives of project include assessment of habitat and water quality, beneficial uses and lands mgt., mitigation of impacts from grazing, timber, proposed development, and climate change, protection of T&E species, and protection of cultural resources. MOU with Honey Lake Maidu. Discussions with UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences on partnering. CRM has offered technical assistance.*
- b. *USFS- Plumas NF, Mt. Hough RD: Wolf Creek Project- Kelby Gardiner This was Phase IV of multiple treatments along Wolf Creek since 1989. Long term objectives originally outlined by CRM was for area to serve as a sediment catchment. The 2009 project treated a 300' and 600' reach downstream of Setzer Bridge with the goal of reducing streambank erosion, recruit sediment, and improve aquatic habitat and passage. Restoration work included realigning the bankful channel towards the center of the floodplain; installing rock and log vanes to direct flows and provide grade control; use root wads and logs to provide bank protection, habitat, and flow disruption; laid back banks and reinforced to reduce erosion, scattered slash and straw, spread native grass seed, and planted willows and other native deciduous trees.*

- c. Feather River RCD: Crescent Mills Wetland Mitigation Project- Terri Rust  
*Purchased by CalTrans in 2004, total of 26 acres of wetland; Feather River RCD manages the property. CalTrans has until 2015 to comply with Army Corp of Engineers wetland criteria. Monitoring criteria includes vegetation- transects and plots (site must be 75% hydrophytic species); hydrology- wells and soil moisture (site must be saturated top 12 inches for 21 days); and weeds- taking integrated approach.*

**12:00** Adjourn Meeting

## **Indian Valley Watershed Tour**

**When:** Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 12pm

**Where:** Meet at the Greenville Town Hall off Hwy 89, just north of Main Street behind the fire station

**What:** Please bring lunch (drinks provided), water, hat and sunscreen. Be prepared for cold and/or wet weather. Wear appropriate footwear for the field.

12:00 pm      Caravan to Wolf Creek and have lunch

1:00 pm      Introductions/Handouts  
Wolf Creek I, II, and III project overview and analysis- Jim Wilcox

2:00            USFS 2009 Wolf Creek Project- Kelby Gardiner

3:30            Crescent Mills Wetland Mitigation Project- Terri Rust

4:00            Adjourn