Over 30 community members present!

Jill Butler from CAL FIRE
CA Forest Improvement Program

Requires 20-5,000 acres of forest land in order to qualify. (Neighboring properties can combine in order to satisfy the 20 acre minimum.)

Deadline for the concept proposal is November 21st, 2014.

Greater than or equal to 10% tree canopy cover = “forest land”

Forest Management Plan(s): accomplish goals and objectives, build team of consultants, set up a schedule with priorities for projects, document previous and existing surveys, get help finding funds! Stepping stone to NTMP/conservation easement.

Why now? Plans funds available soon, 75% to 90% cost-share rate, base rate increased.

Mini-plans: 50 acres or less; less expensive than full plan, less detail (especially on forest conditions).

Plan contents: landowners objectives, property facts (e.g. history of property), current conditions (road systems, soils and erosion, water resources, listed species, F&W habitat, access and security, water resources), recommendations and project descriptions (erosion control, tree planting, fuels reduction, pest management, stream restoration, habitat improvement). Project implementation: includes maps!

You can do some of the work yourself, the plans need to be done by a forester.

Multiple neighbors to hire one forester to jointly assess an area can be done for a group rate.

Plan is paid for by the grant, project (on the ground work) cost by owners.

Jill Butler has a list of foresters to contact if needed.

Forestry Practices - Project work
• Site prep
• Tree shelters (protect baby trees) and follow up work.
• Thin/release
• pruning
• $ for fuels management (TSI + pruning + follow-up = shaded fuelbreak).

Funding source comes from the sale of carbon credits “Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds”. Assembly bill 32, hope to continue receive funds for the foreseeable future.

Process: Fill out form, (concept proposal) send to Sacramento by November 21st, State will contact you. After approval get a CFIP contract signed with Jill, then your plan will start work (hire forester, establish objectives) next spring. Money is paid upfront by owner, then submit invoice to the State for reimbursement (can take a few months). Can apply online and forms are available on the FMWW website.

Side note: anything within 100 feet of your house is considered homeowners responsibility.

There are eleven programs; one of which falls under a group plan, or a watershed based plan. There are multiple options to chose from.

The money only covers the fuels reduction, there isn’t any pressure for stream restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, etc. (However fuels reduction = improved habitat!)

For more information on Forest Management Plans:
http://ucanr.edu/sites/forestlearning/
http://mylandplan.org/
http://sonomawoods.org

After Break: (13 members present).

May minutes: approved.

Financial report: currently at $9,888.12

Wildlife Cameras: everyone has their cameras, Chris helped set up a few. Pictures are being uploaded onto a server using website/program created by Chris. Pepperwood had a symposium, objective of studying a wildlife corridor through the area through Sugarloaf, Chris spoke at the event. Participants are asked to not disclose the location of where animals were seen. All types of wildlife have been seen: bear, bobcat, fox, skunk, coyote, mountain lion, squirrels, etc. We have exact measurements (lat/long) of where the cameras are located within the watershed. The original goal was to put the cameras out there for at least a year before we decide if we want to move them. For example: photo index could be included in a graduate student’s database for her study (permeability of wildlife movement through Pepperwood).
Holiday Gathering at Rancho Mark West - Saturday December 6th - afternoon FMWW to help with volunteers.

Plan for the next quarterly meeting: Thursday, January 22nd at 6:00 pm, potluck with photo sharing (bring cards to download). Graham to send an e-mail reminder to camera holders to upload photos soon, and/or at the next meeting.

Next Hike & Hoot: At the last meeting we discussed the purpose; is it more of a celebration, or an outreach event? Should we have speakers? By outreach do we mean inviting people from outside of the watershed to educate them about our watershed? Or is the outreach geared towards neighbors to gain a better understanding of who FMWW is and what we do as an organization?

Interest in citizen science project, bringing in speakers for a science topic?

We will decide on a date at the January meeting. Dates for April are dependent on Wildflower Festival, Road Clean-up, Rancho Mark West schedule... we will gather these dates before the January meeting. We will also discuss current location - possibly back at Monan’s Rill - Penny to ask the membership if this is a possibility.

Further discussion of CFIP grants - Suggestion of creating a regional management plan so that one forester can be used to submit a joint concept proposal. Would this be a FMWW project to hire Heather Morrison (currently working with Jared and Velisa Pickard at Be Here Now) to create a concept proposal for the upper watershed. As individual owners, independent proposals still need to be submitted while the process of a regional plan is in process. Penny to contact Heather to discuss how to proceed.

Respectfully submitted - Sarah Ganas