

This brief is being provided to inform the board, staff and public of the details of an agenda item that requires no action from the board. The President of the Board will provide board members, staff, and the public the opportunity to ask questions about this topic when this agenda item is announced.

Date: May 11, 2022

Originator: Cary Curtis

Agenda Topic Title Forest Management

Purpose of Brief: Provide the board with update of 2022 Forest Management/hazardous fuel treatment plans

Supporting Documents Included: Yes. Spreadsheet of parcels submitted to Plumas Fire Safe Council

1. **Agenda Topic Brief or Update:** The Forest Management committee comprised of NCA, GMCSO, community member Mike Callaghan and Kyle Felker, forest management consultant, met on March 28, 2022, to scope potential projects for 2022. The group identified residential parcels, HOA common areas and CSD owned parcels that need treatment and were either part of the 2021 project that was not completed due to weather impacts or are being newly evaluated for full or partial treatment. As the committee developed the scope for upcoming treatment, we became knowledgeable of grant funding available through Plumas Fire Safe Council, where the council is proposing a large-scale project targeting the majority of Eastern Plumas that is focused on reducing fire fuels along evacuation routes in the area, including the entirety of A-15 from Portola to Hwy.89. The Forest Management committee has joined in on this effort, building and scoping projects that align with the grant requirements, and working with Kyle Felker to identify, scope and submit groups of parcels along with individual parcels that will improve the safety of residents in the event of a wildfire evacuation order. Along with Grizzly Ranch, Whitehawk Ranch, the Nakoma Community fuels projects will be managed by Kyle Felker.

Current Projects Identified:

- a) The 2021 project left six acres untreated in the Startup area. This is mastication treatment that requires additional acreage to be added to a project to bring treatment pricing down. The 2022-23 focus is to complete the Startup project and include the backside of a number of parcels in the Startup, Dream Maker and Red Sky area that will treat community parcels on critical community evacuation roads, ending at the A-15/Red Sky community gate entrance. The potential acreage for treatment in this area is **approximately 57 acres** and includes the remaining treatment of 14 acres of the Graeagle Land and Water fuel break.
- b) A second large project has been identified starting at the northern border of the community along A-15. The Forest Management Committee has identified **approximately 48 acres** for treatment between the Dancing Bears gates, encompassing community parcels on both sides of A-15.
- c) A few years ago, the Fire Safe Council received a request from the Forest Management Committee to scope work **on 120-acre** parcel of Graeagle Land and Water lands that border to the south of the

Nakoma Community. The Fire Safe Council has confirmed this parcel is included and has been assigned to Kyle.

- d) During 2021, the CSD did outreach to community property owners to see if they would be interested in participating in fuels reduction at the community level at reduced pricing since contractors would already be engaged in the community doing fuels reduction work. Community owners responded and with HOA common area and CSD parcels that have been identified, the approximate acreage of this project group is **57 acres**.
- e) Total acreage in the **Nakoma Community Forest Management project scope for 2022/23 is 360 acres**.

- 2. **Anticipated Impacts to the District - (Consider financial impact, change in procedures, customer, and staff communication):** Improved wildfire resiliency, improved evacuation route access, a proved leader in community wide Forest Management practices.

- 3. **Anticipated Impacts to the Customer – Standby, Residential, Commercial:**
Improved wildfire resiliency, improved evacuation route access, safety of residents and visitors

- 4. **Next Steps for this Topic:**

- The Forest Management committee plans to meet late May/early June to continue with and supporting planning of these projects.
- It is possible that due to the recent possibility of grant funding, these projects will be planned for in 2022 and implemented in 2023/24.
- The Forest Management Committee will need to identify projects that can be accomplished during the 2022 season.
- The Nakoma Community Forest Management Program to be presented to the NCA and GMCSO boards for their input, consideration, and approval. The Program will include the proposal that NCA and GMCSO support funding of fuels reduction across all parcels within the Nakoma Community. This aligns with the three-stakeholder concept which includes, NCA, GMCSO and Ryan Schoff. The Forest Management Committee has demonstrated over the course of the past two years that the concept of **sustainable** fuels reduction projects across Common Areas, GMCSO owned properties and residential parcels is possible with joint NCA and GMCSO planning and funding when a share of cost to residential landowners is agreed upon.