

# ***Sierra Springs Regional Fire Safety Council***

## ***Board Meeting Minutes***

**Tuesday - September 6, 2022**

### **Meeting at Lodge (Zoom not working)**

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at **6:39 PM**

**2. Roll Call:** FSC Board members present: Les Richards, Vice Chair / Roger DeGray, Secretary  
(Absent – Kay Campbell, Lexa Mack, Tami Somara)

**3. Approval of Agenda:** M/S/C – Richards / DeGray

**4. Approval of 8/1/2022 Minutes:** M/S/C – Richards / DeGray

### **5. Public Comments:**

Evaluator (Hassan) received a complaint from property owner who was unhappy about his evaluation. Threatened retaliation – Les has had conversations with this owner. Suggestions made to add Unit/Lot# to evaluation form. Also suggested that we assign an ID number to each evaluator vs using their name.

### **6. Information Items:**

#### **a. Chairperson's Report – Kay Campbell**

~ N/A

#### **b. Vice Chairperson's Report – Les Richards**

~ County Fire Safe Meeting 8/17/22 – see attached notes

~ Roadside Clearance Project – see attached notes

~ CCC's unscheduled but welcomed – to work on 5 acre parcel

~ 2 Saw Mills – proposed to build by the Washoe Tribe in Carson City and Greenville

#### **c. Treasurers Report – Lexa Mack**

~ N/A

### **7. Old Business:**

a. SS2 – 75% Completed

b. SS3 – Wisteria to Clear Creek (in planning stage)

### **8. New Business:**

a. Stay vigilant – prepare for evacuation – leave early

**9. Motion to adjourn at 7:32 pm - M/S/C Richards / DeGray**

Next SSRFSC Meeting will be Monday **October 3, 2022**

*Respectfully Submitted by, Roger DeGray, Secretary*

# Vice Chair Report 9/6/2022

## 1. Edcfiresafe meeting - 8-17-2022

### Committee Reports:

- A. Hazard tree project - Heather Campbell
  - Arborists/Foresters do Recon
  - Contractors do work.
  - \$4000.00 per property
  - \$1000,00 from home owner (scaled for income)
  - Trees that threaten Home or access to structure
- B. Community outreach- Alice Cantelow
  - 75 tiny homes authorized for G.F. by B.O.S.
  - FF training center near Red Hawk for High School training
- C. Chipping program
  - 400 people used program in first 6 months
  - want more people to use up money in grant
- D. County Biomass working group - Kris Payne
  - Discussing Cogen plant in Camino
  - Small - 3 megawatt - still in discussions

## 2. Roadside Clearance Project

New Leaf and FFA spent 5 days along non-county maintained roads removing brush, trees, along county easement.

Problems: Scope of work did not include arbor truck for dense neighborhoods.

Residents not happy with No Notice before work began.

Large trees along lower Five Spot not treated (beyond the scope of work)

## 3. CCC - 5 acre clean up, Roadside beyond 30', Lodge Meadow corner.

4. Two Sawmills opening up to handle dead trees from Caldor and Dixie Fire.
  - A. Trees from Tahoe basin being taken to Carson City.  
40 acre parcel behind Costco.  
Lumber, chips, planer shavings
  - B. Trees from Dixie Fire going to Crescent Mills  
New Saw mill is partnership between J&C Enterprises (logging company) and Sierra Nevada Conservancy - Sierra Institute for Community and the Environment.  
Going to rebuild community of Greenville.
5. Stay vigilant! Be ready to go til first rains come!

# New sawmill to help Greenville rebuild, recover from Dixie Fire

Jan 31, 2022 | PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Boards cut from trees killed by the Dixie Fire sit at the new sawmill in Crescent Mills five miles south of the town of Greenville. *Photography: J&C Enterprises.*

Jonathan Kusel, Executive Director for Sierra Institute for Community and the Environment, spoke about the sawmill his organization is building in partnership with J&C Enterprises, and with the aid of Sierra Nevada Conservancy funding, at the SNC Governing Board meeting in December.

"The importance of this new facility is not just turning low- to no-value material into something because the existing mills aren't taking anything, we are talking about creating lumber to rebuild Greenville. And it's ultimately about more than rebuilding Greenville, it's about rebuilding hope in the (Indian) Valley."

Jonathan Kusel—Executive Director, Sierra Institute for Community and the Environment

The sawmill will provide a much-needed market for fire-killed hazard trees near homesites and small landholdings and create rough-cut lumber for rebuilding communities damaged by the Dixie Fire.

## **Dixie Fire damages communities and blackens forests**

Last summer, Indian Valley and the towns of Greenville, Taylorsville, and Crescent Mills were right in the middle of the Dixie Fire, the largest single-source blaze in California's history, and one of the most destructive. Flames ran up and down the surrounding hills and pushed, at times, onto the valley floor. Heavy smoke blanketed the area for months.

When the Dixie Fire's flames subsided, most of Greenville had burned to the ground. Dozens of homes were lost in nearby Indian Falls and Canyon Dam, as well. The surrounding mountains were transformed from green to black, with tens (if not hundreds) of thousands of trees killed by high-severity fire.

What remains of Greenville's historic downtown after the Dixie Fire.

## **Tens of thousands of dead trees with no place to go**

When residents returned, many found themselves unable to begin the most basic of recovery activities—like clearing the standing dead hazard trees from the land where their homes once stood.

Hazard-tree removal is hard and dangerous work that often requires expensive heavy equipment run by skilled operators. Typically, the costs to a landowner would be offset by selling the logs. Unfortunately, after the Dixie Fire, nobody was buying logs—owners of the only sawmills in the area were already working around the clock trying to salvage some value from the tens of thousands of dead trees on their own landholdings.

This left small, private landowners (along with large, public landowners like the Plumas National Forest) with no good way to pay for hazard-tree removal, and smaller independent loggers out of work.

## **Timber business and community non-profit come together to build a mill**

In the midst of this crisis, two Indian Valley organizations, the non-profit [Sierra Institute for Community and the Environment](#) and a 4th generation timber harvesting company, [J&C Enterprises](#), saw an opportunity to do something to help their community recover and support long-term restoration efforts.

J&C Enterprises has generations of timber-industry experience and practical knowledge about logging, milling operations, and lumber markets, and the willingness and ability to invest hundreds of hours of hard work.

Randy Pew, of J&C Enterprises, talks with California Natural Resources Deputy Secretary for Forests, Jessica Morse, and SNC staff during a recent site visit.

The Sierra Institute owns an old industrial site five miles south of Greenville in Crescent Mills that it spent the last several years remediating. In addition, the Sierra Institute has experience managing large projects, and, crucially, a grant with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support wood-utilization infrastructure in the area.

Between the two of them, they have the right combination of knowledge, experience, and resources to quickly set up a new sawmill in Crescent Mills.

The immediate goal is to provide hazard-tree removal and low-cost construction materials to local residents who are looking to rebuild. Longer-term, the project partners hope that the mill can help support forest-health work by creating economic value from restoration byproducts.

Recognizing the project's potential and the community's needs, the SNC worked with the Sierra Institute to slightly modify grant agreements and make available the \$360,000 necessary to get a mill up and running quickly.

J&C Enterprises operate a circular saw, one of several pieces of used equipment purchased from around the county to assemble the new sawmill in Crescent Mills. *Photography: Camille Swezy.*

## Excitement, hope, as sawmill nears completion

Even with a location, funding, and generations of know-how working around the clock, getting a sawmill up and running during a global pandemic is no simple task.

Purchasing a new mill would take too long to meet Indian Valley's immediate needs. Instead, the partnership is piecing together a "new" mill by hunting down, buying, and assembling used equipment. Machinery was purchased used from as far away as Tennessee and Kentucky, while other components were bought new or fabricated locally. More parts have been ordered but remain mired in supply-chain backlogs, preventing the operation from running at full capacity.

Despite challenges, project partners see plenty of reason for optimism.

Logs are starting to arrive from burned areas nearby. Many have been cut into cants, a squared-off log that is a common intermediary step in producing lumber. In December, the mill sawed its first board. For the past month, it has been milling rough-cut lumber from burned logs salvaged just five miles away. The major components are all on-site and assembled, and J&C enterprises hope to be fully online in April.

## Crescent Mills sawmill a model for a new restoration economy

When the new sawmill is finished, it will be able to create up to 5 million board feet of lumber per year, roughly five truckloads of logs per day. It's a relatively modest output, the nearby Chester Sawmill owned by Collins Pine Company has an annual capacity of 120 million board feet. Fortunately, the Crescent Mills facility is not seeking to compete with industrial-timber operations.

Instead, the mill looks to fill important gaps in local wood-processing infrastructure. Over the next few years, that means providing small local landowners a way to turn thousands of burned hazard trees into low-cost construction materials to help the community rebuild. Beyond hazard-tree removal, sawmill operators hope to provide a market for restoration byproducts, like smaller diameter trees, created by forest-health work in the area's remaining overgrown forests. Long term, the Sierra Institute also hopes the mill can anchor its vision for a diversified wood-products campus in Crescent Mills that would feature even more innovative wood-utilization strategies—like cross-laminated timber production.

As the Sierra Nevada region continues to grapple with growing wildfire recovery needs and an existential wildfire threat, the Sierra Institute and J&C Enterprises provide a promising model for sustainable economic development.

### More Project Highlights

← Good fire project protects Caples watershed from Caldor Fire

Building capacity for a resilient Sierra Nevada →

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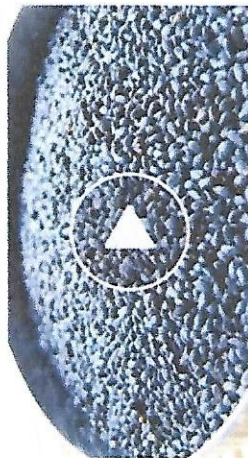
## Top Jobs

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Planner II/III - Markleeville, CA  
(96120)



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Logs are arranged on a site behind Carson Valley Plaza in northern Douglas County.

Provided/Record Courier

**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif.** — A new sawmill to be constructed near Carson City is expected to produce about 50 million feet of lumber per year and the first purchase was from salvage and cleanup efforts at Sierra-at-Tahoe, officials announced on Tuesday.

Tahoe Forest Products in a partnership with Washoe Development Corporation, an affiliate of Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California has leased 40 acres of Washoe-owned land near Carson City, behind Carson Valley Plaza, to build the first significant sawmill in the region in decades, said a news release.

"This project came about because there was no reasonable market for salvage logs and thinnings from the Tahoe Basin or from the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest," said Jon Shinn, CEO of TFP. "A local sawmill is one of the critical missing links in beginning to address forest health and resilience, not to mention critical post-fire cleanup efforts from catastrophes like the Caldor Fire."

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According to Wendy Loomis, executive director of WDC, they purposefully seek partners who support the Washoe Tribe's mission and vision for preserving Mother Earth, supporting environmental sustainability and enhancing Washoe workforce development.

"TFP recognizes the importance of protecting the environment while respecting the Tribe's cultural and conservation areas in and around Clear Creek," Loomis said. "This small parcel will enhance and sustain thousands of acres of sacred forest land previously inhabited by the Washoe people."

TFP will use approximately 10 acres for buildings and processing facilities and 30 acres for log storage. The plant will include the sawmill building and rough lumber sorter, dry kilns, and a planer mill and sorter to finish lumber for shipping. In total, the buildings will cover 25,000 square feet and will not exceed a height of 35 feet.

Logs will be processed into a wide range of products, including dry-surfaced 2-inch construction lumber, timbers, fence posts and landscape products from the fir, and boards and "factory" lumber for windows from the pine. Additionally, bark will be sold for landscaping and other uses, chips and sawdust will be sold to agricultural end-users and to power plants, while planer shavings will go for animal bedding.

"The single biggest challenge to increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration work in Tahoe is the lack of a viable place to take the excess fuel in our forest," said John Jones, Tahoe Fund board member and chair of its forest health committee. "We are ecstatic and relieved to have a new sawmill just 10 miles from the Tahoe Basin to help reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire."

"The Forest Service encourages expansion of sustainable value-added businesses and markets for byproducts of forest restoration and hazardous fuels reduction projects," said Erick Walker, forest supervisor for Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. "It's great to have this facility coming online and adding to the suite of businesses that contribute to the restoration economy." For more information, visit <http://www.tahoe-forestproducts.com/>.



## Events Calendar

Saturday, August 20



**Mamma Mia!**  
Lake Tahoe Shakespeare  
Festival

Incline Village

7:30 pm



**Keiser Human  
Performance Summit**  
Barton Health

Incline Village

South Lake Tahoe

8:00 am

[View All Events | Add your event](#)

### 5-Day Forecast

|                  |                  |                  |                  |  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
|                  |                  |                  |                  |  |
| <b>Sat</b>       | <b>Sun</b>       | <b>Mon</b>       | <b>Tue</b>       |  |
| H: 86°<br>L: 55° | H: 85°<br>L: 59° | H: 83°<br>L: 57° | H: 83°<br>L: 55° |  |

Business

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