

Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



Project Name: TIES TO THE LAND: SUCCESSION PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Funding Year: 2010

Stakeholders

Forest Service Region: USDA Forest Service - R5

Sponsoring Organization: California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection

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Participating Organizations:

Grantee: The University of California, Berkeley

Project Funding

Agreement(s): 10-DG-11052021-243

Funding Sources

Project Design

Project Purpose

Succession planning workshops

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National Themes & Outcomes

Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes

Protect Forests from Threats

Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests

Strategic Issues

To meet the challenges we identified in the initial project period, we developed a consultant's contract with Roger Sternberg who is a forester with extensive experience across the whole range of issues in Mendocino County. We developed a 4 task project - Task 1: Annotated list of professional foresters, accountants, lawyers, and others with relevant experience and expertise for family forest owners planning for succession. Task 2 :Single draft of a 'Guide for forest and ranch landowners interested in succession planning expertise: Issues, Questions for your family, Questions for peers, Questions for consultants. Task 3 : Develop materials for a set of California case studies to be converted into written and video materials to be distributed as UCCE reports and presentations. Task 4 : Work with UC colleagues to finalize penultimate drafts of publications that will be submitted through the UCCE peer review process for eventual publication

Collaboration & Partners

The partnering agencies and organizations in Ties To The Land are long-established entities thoroughly committed to supporting long-term retention and sustainable management of family forest lands. This was part of a multi-state award along with Oregon State University Extension, Washington Department of Natural Resources (lead reporting entity) and the Idaho Cooperative Extension.

In California we are partnering with the two largest forest landowners organizations - Forest Landowners of California and the California Farm Bureau to connect with their members and friends of their members. We are also working with regional land trusts and local landowner organizations when we are organizing workshops and contacting landowners in local areas.

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Accomplishments

Deliverables

Over a three year period, we will develop and run 20 workshops around the state based on the Ties to the Land curriculum. The workshops will be held in the rural forested areas of the state where space rentals will be free or low cost. By focusing on forest landowners with holdings between 50 and 1,000 acres, we expect to reach around 300+ households with average holdings over 300 acres apiece. We have arranged considerable support in contacting forest landowners from membership groups such as the Forest Landowners of California, the California Farm Bureau and regional land trusts. We will use our updated assessor based parcel database of private landowners to contact landowners, both in-county and out-of-county owners. We will also work closely with the USDA Forest Service, the National Resource Conservation Service, and state resource departments to improve awareness and access for federal and state cost share programs. The project will build capacity and a sustained commitment to succession planning education, providing a collaborative model that can be readily applied nationwide.

We will be conducting this project in tandem with similar projects in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. We will all use the same basic "Ties to the Land" curriculum. Oregon State University will conduct an independent evaluation of the outcomes in terms of what the participants do in terms of follow-up and what can be done to strengthen the program.

Accomplishments to Date

In 2013, we held 9 workshops which had 192 attendees. In 2011 and 2012, we held 24 workshops which had over 200 families in attendance. 85% of the evaluations returned indicated that the workshop had met their expectations. This exceeds the number of workshops proposed in the grant.

In 2014, the primary consultant: 1) Interviewed landowners and professionals in three major family forest owning regions of California (North Coast, Northern Sierra and Cascades, and Central Sierra Nevada) to develop annotated lists of professionals with experience with family forest succession projects, 2) developed a report on key issues, and 3) developed materials for a set of 8 California case studies to complement the Oregon case study in the Ties to the Land Workshop materials. These materials will be used by UC Forestry Staff to create a final version that will be peer reviewed and published as University of California Cooperative Extension Reports.

Challenges

We identified the need to better link up with regional conservation groups who have a better idea of which landowner are interested in more detailed planning as well as a clear role for more detailed additional resource from the UC program as well as a more up to date list of professionals who work in these areas around the state.

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Information Last Updated

12/28/2017

