Sierra County Board of Supervisors' Agenda Transmittal & Record of Proceedings

MEETING DATE:	**TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM:**
June 16, 2020	☐Regular ☒Timed ☐Consent

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors
APPROVING PARTY: Paul Roen, Supervisor, District No. 3
PHONE NUMBER: 530-289-3295

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation by Tracy Schohr, UC Cooperative Extenstion Livestock and Natural Resource Advisor on the Annual Report for Plumas and Sierra County.

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: ☐Memo ☐Resolution ☐Agreement ☐Other

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
GENERAL FUND IMPACT: No General Fund Impact
OTHER FUND:
AMOUNT: $ N/A

ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED?	**IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET?** ☐Yes ☒No
☐Yes, -- -- ☒No	**IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED?** ☐Yes ☒No

SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE

BOARD ACTION:		
☐Approved ☐Approved as amended ☐Adopted ☐Adopted as amended ☐Denied ☐Other ☐No Action Taken	☐Set public hearing For: _____ ☐Direction to: _____ ☐Referred to: _____ ☐Continued to: _____ ☐Authorization given to: _____	Resolution 2020- _____ Agreement 2020- _____ Ordinance _____ Vote: Ayes: Noes: Abstain: Absent: ☐By Consensus

COMMENTS:

_____ _____
CLERK TO THE BOARD DATE

Plumas & Sierra Counties

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University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Annual Report

2019

David Lile, County Director
530-251-6673 - dflile@ucanr.edu

Tracy Schohr, Livestock and Natural Resources
916-716-2643 *cell* - tkschohr@ucdavis.edu

Ryan Tompkins, Forestry and Natural Resources
530-283-6125 - retompkins@ucanr.edu

Kari O'Reilly, 4-H Program Representative
530-283- 6173 - koreilly@ucanr.edu

Tom Getts, Weed Control and Cropping Systems
530-251-2650 - tjgetts@ucanr.edu

Samantha Brown, Administrative Assistant
530-283-6270 - smgbrown@ucanr.edu

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Director's Report

It is our pleasure to share this report highlighting local impacts of UC Cooperative Extension in Plumas and Sierra counties! While Ryan Tompkins has only been with us a year as the Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor, he is deeply engaged with partners helping our community become more fire resilient, as well as with several projects supporting sustainable forest management. Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor Tracy Schohr's program is high energy and casts a wide net as she has helped local ranchers and land managers with invasive pests, management for long-term land health, regulatory compliance, and more effective conservation easements. Kari O'Reilly provides excellent leadership to our 4-H youth development program that teaches life skills in the context of agriculture, science and technology, youth gardening and much more. Kari also organizes the very popular 4-H Summer Camp for youth in Plumas and Sierra counties, showcased on the annual report cover photo. Tom Getts, provides technical assistance to farmers and land managers and conducts field research in weed control and irrigation efficiency to help local farmers stay productive and viable. And Samantha Brown, our Administrative Assistant, keeps us all moving forward by providing critical support to our staff and volunteers. Feel free to give us a call or come by and see us any time!

- David Lile, County Director

Master Gardener Program

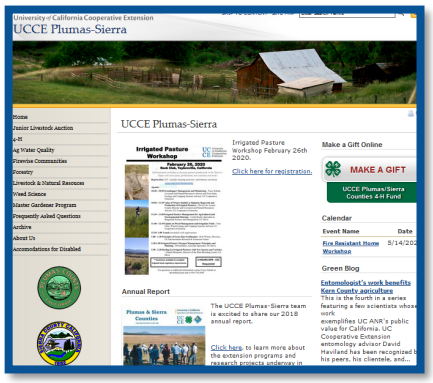
The Plumas/Sierra group of Master Gardeners is an enthusiastic cadre of volunteers, trained by UCCE, who advise and provide technical support to backyard gardeners throughout both counties!

Weed Ecology and Cropping Systems Advisor, Tom Getts, has been working with agricultural producers since 2015. His program focuses on providing insight to agronomic challenges and solving invasive weed problems throughout the intermountain region.

Outreach

UC is available in person and over the phone to provide technical information for local producers to diagnose problems to increase crop performance.

Updates on research and activities are distributed in newsletters and online.



UC works to organize and contribute to educational workshops to address issues relevant to Sierra and Plumas counties.

Research

Weed control trials to demonstrate the effectiveness of newly registered herbicides are conducted regionally to provide non-biased information for managers.

Low elevation sprinkler packages for center pivots are being tested in Sierra Valley for increased irrigation efficiency and reduced pumping cost.

Invasive weeds are problematic for all land owners. Research is being conducted to better control tall whitetop, medusahead, thistles and other rangeland species.

Ryan Tompkins is the Forest and Natural Resources Advisor that joined UC Cooperative Extension in March 2019. His research and extension program focus on sustainable forest management and restoration, building community resilience to wildfire and climate change, and supporting rural natural resource-based community capacity development.

Sustainable forest management and restoration:

- Initiated a local $100,000 forest management demonstration project with partners.
- Hosted statewide industry tour on wood products and the Plumas Forestry Institute for Teachers.
- Conducting research on reforestation techniques to be resilient to future wildfires on private and public lands.

Building community resilience to wildfire and climate change:

- Collaborated with local partners to host workshop on prescribed fire on private lands.
- Conducted fuel reduction workshop with Plumas Fire Safe Council to educate local landowners about defensible space.
- Provided technical support to local county government and non-profits.
- Assisted with updates to local Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Support rural natural resource-based community capacity:

- Provided technical advice to policy makers about forestry, fire management and impacts to rural communities.
- Offers assistance to local residents and landowners on insect and diseases, tree health, fuel reduction, permitting processes and best management practices.

Tracy Schohr is the Livestock and Natural Resources advisor. Schohr is conducting extension, education and applied research focusing on livestock production, economics, and sustainable range and pasture management. She is developing solutions to the complex issues facing commercial livestock producers in the region.

Initiated research project post Walker Fire to analyze meadow response to fire and vegetation productivity. Also, provided post-fire technical assistance to ranchers and local federal agency staff.

Hosted workshop for local government staff, ranchers and community members on conservation easements. Furthermore, investigating the evolution of deeded easement terms in the region.

Supported ranchers in Indian Valley with grasshopper infestation depleting livestock forage. Provided rapid technical resources and pest information to assist impacted ranchers.

Outreach and research on water system destroyed in Camp Fire that is critical for cattle, including the winter ground for Plumas and Sierra county ranchers.

Lead author on peer reviewed research paper on invasive weed management on California's rangelands and natural areas.

Hosted trainings and provided technical assistance to ranchers on regulatory compliance, land management and animal health.

4-H Community Education Specialist, Kari O'Reilly has been working with youth in Plumas and Sierra Counties for five years. Through community club programs, camps and in-school experiences, 4-H continues to extend it's reach and benefit youth with impactful, hands-on, community service focused programming.

Club Programs

Plumas-Sierra 4-H proudly serves eight Community Club Programs - Loyalton, Sierra Valley, Portola, Quincy, Indian Valley and Chester.

Camp

Our sleep away 4-H summer camp continues to thrive and grow! We are proud to offer an affordable, nature based camp for local youth ages 9-18! Where teens learn leadership skills as counselors.

Public Speaking Skills

We are proud to provide 4-H youth with opportunities to develop the public speaking skills they need to thrive in their lives now, and on into their futures!

4-H and School Gardens

Plumas Sierra 4-H has partnered with Plumas Public Health Department to provide curriculum, training and materials to the district wide school garden program- reaching nearly every elementary youth in the county with garden-based nutrition and academics!

Animal Projects

We've added two new animal events this year - a 4-H Dog Day and a Horse Education Day!

Community Service

4-Hers pledge their "hands to larger service" which means they continually participate in community service activities, like these 4-H members serving the Community Supper they prepared in Quincy.