

June 11, PF 2017 Board Meeting

Timber Project

Heather said 58 landowners responded to the Timber Thinning Questionnaire. She gave a summary of the responses to the Questionnaire. (Please refer to her Spreadsheet for the explanation of the responses).

Anne asked if Heather had a recommendation on paying for the future Timber Project.

Heather recommended that timber be cleared next to the PF roads. This would provide fire breaks in PF. This will take the place of the sequencing the work starting with the perimeter of PF. This former will take about 2.5 years and the later 7 years. Only merchantable marked timber will be cut plus hazardous trees. Hazardous includes diseased trees as well. A swath of one chain length (66 feet) running in opposite direction from the center of the road will be thinned. If the road is not centered in the right of way a close approximation will be made to cover about 132 feet or 2 chain lengths.

There will not be any work done near homes, drain fields or electrical lines. Greenbelts will not be thinned also unless they exist with roads. The intent is to thin all of PF after the thinning of the roads.

Heather will try to find local resources to perform the work. But the idea is to hire Jerry and the crew he had last year to do the work this year. We will save money by paying workers who chip wood as ground people rather than fallers. This will cut nearly in half the amount paid to the people doing the chipping. Saul Labanoukis or someone similar will be consulted with to see if they will do clearing of less than 6 inch diameter and associated brush. Saul also has a chipper that we can rent for half of what we paid to rent one last year.

As for slash it will mainly be chipped but we are open to some burning of it. It will be determined whether the slash will be hand piled or by machine. It is preferable to hand pile the wood as it is easier on the land. We would hope to use rubber rather than metal for the skidder.

The cost for this work would be \$500 per lot. It would be payable this year. The cost of the work this fall will not exceed the total amount collected. The intention is to seek a loan for future timber work. But that is a matter for the 2018 budget.

Comment section from those attending: Doug Wolfe is against any work on private property. He thinks we are playing into Kent's fears. Sherry Wolfe said nothing will save us from catastrophic fires. The Wolfes also said it makes no sense to clean our forests up when we are surrounded by land not cared for by the Forest Service.

Lot owner Mike Miller does not support working on private property. He regarded it as an extension of the "Nanny State" to help people on their own property when they are incapable of helping themselves. Miller also said the number of trees that will be cut in this proposed process (12 trees per 2 acres) will not make any difference for fire protection. Joan and John Cady have done a lot of work on thinning their own timber. They are not so sure about supporting a Timber Project that was heralded to make hundreds of thousands of dollars that is now not turning a profit. Dave Chandler professed an uneasiness with supporting this Timber Project.

Harry Burkholder said he has a plan that can make PF between 200k and 400k in profit. It would include open bidding for the work. Harry said he has successfully thinned timber on his 180 acres in the past. He even worked on the project in the winter and had his children piling slash. Harry also said the Omak Mill might open up again and precision cut Pine. Harry said there is no way you should not be making money on this Project.