



Prescribed Burn 2013

HISTORY – FROM 1975 TO 2021

Dennis and June Bebensee and Richard and Cathleen Schoenheide became business partners and forest landowners in 1975. They purchased 383 acres in Shingletown in an area historically known as Plateau. They purchased the land with the desire to manage and invest in their own forested property, and to have something to work on after retirement. They had three major goals for their land: to grow the healthiest and most productive forest possible, to leave a legacy for their descendants, and to enhance wildlife and water quality.

This forested property is located immediately above brushy foothills and consisted of very dense forest and several scattered brush fields. The trees in the forest had heavy limbs all the way to the ground; primarily because it was the result of an open grown and natural regeneration after a 1932 wild fire. This combination constituted a severe fire hazard, which would need to be addressed. The forest is a mixed conifer stand consisting primarily of ponderosa pine and incense cedar, and is currently about 89 years old. Other species include Douglas fir, sugar pine, and black oak. Most of the tract is relatively flat, with only about 15% consisting of either extremely steep topography, or non-productive forest land. The North Fork of Battle Creek is the only major stream flowing through the property, however, it is difficult to access because of cliffs and steep topography. This stream zone has been, and will continue to be, unlogged, and maintained as a wildlife and recreation area.

This timberland tract was first settled in approximately 1890, with several scattered homesteads. A hand-dug and mile-long canal, provided water. Timber harvesting began with the help of a hydraulic sawmill and a newly developed steam-powered tractor. Land was also cleared to allow cattle grazing. Between 1890 and 1910, the tract suffered a large number of devastating wildfires. By 1911, all homesteads were abandoned, and the water rights were sold off. The last major wildfire took place in 1932, leaving much of the parcel barren. Some logging was done in 1948, taking the remaining merchantable timber.

Dennis and Richard first cleared a brush field that was located on the lower edge of the timberland and this was planted in trees and a fuel break was established. In other parts of the forest, a few Sierra redwoods and white fir seedlings were planted. The cost share programs available through the Soil Conservation Service [presently known as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)] and the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) were a major help in transforming this property into a major success and relatively safe from catastrophic wildfire. The trees planted in the cleared brush field will be ready for a commercial thinning in another 10 or 15 years.

Timber harvesting also began in 1976. At this time, one third of the volume was removed, primarily consisting of poor quality trees. The remaining understory is now a well-spaced timber stand. An NTMP, approved by the CDF in 1994, ensures the sustainability of the tract. Timber harvests also occurred in 1995, 2006, 2017 and 2018. Each harvest took about 15% of the volume, still taking lesser quality trees, and providing better spacing. In addition, there has been periodical salvage operation as needed and mainly due to recent drought conditions and bark beetles.

Pre-commercial thinning has taken place four times throughout the same piece of ground and throughout the entire tract, except on steep slopes. Pruning has become a follow-up practice. The owners purchased a masticator in 2010 to thin the trees and chip the slash and pruned limbs. The masticator was sold in 2016 as most of the property had been masticated. For fire suppression, a minor amount of piling and burning has been done in key project areas. Prescribed burns were conducted in 2013 and 2014, but this tool has been difficult to obtain the correct burning conditions for a safe and effective burn.

In 2016 and 2017 there was a major bark beetle infestation on the property and surrounding properties. About 100,000 board feet was totally lost to beetles, while we salvaged one million board feet during these same two years. In 2019, we thinned and pruned 10 acres on the north side of Ponderosa Way. Maintenance of fuel breaks has been done annually (but across different portions) to keep ahead of the re-growth, and now fire breaks are annually maintained along most of the property boundaries. In 2021 a 10' x 12' cabin was built.

The timber stand in 1975 had an average volume of 9,000 board feet per acre; but this same stand now averages 18,000 board feet. The owners hope to increase and sustain this to about 25,000 board feet. In 1982, the two couples were named Tree Farmers of the Year. Throughout the years, the owners' children and grandchildren have actively participated in the care of the property. The families are in the process of succession planning so that future generations can reap the rewards of tree farming.

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AND OTHER EVENTS.**



**Forest Landowners
OF CALIFORNIA**

FIELD DAY

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5 • 9:00AM – 3:00PM
PLATEAU FOREST, SHASTA COUNTY, CA**



Grass and Herbs 2014

Forest Landowners of California

FIELD DAY – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5 • 9:00am – 3:00pm

AGENDA

9:00am – 9:30am

- Registration – Meet at the Shingletown, Cal Fire Station, Highway 44

9:30am

- Travel One Half Mile for Demonstration of Various Brush Cutters for Forest Maintenance

10:30am

- Travel Four Miles to Plateau Forest (no low clearance sedans)

11:00am

- **Stop #1** – Compare Adjacent Untouched Forest to Managed Forest

11:45am

- Lunch at Campsite – Bring Your Own Lunch

12:30pm

- **While Traveling to Stop #2** – Notice North Side of Road: Masticated 10 years ago; pruned; and herbicides 8 years ago. Retreated again last year with chainsaw and additional pruning. Notice South Side of Road Where It Is Rocky: Thinned with chainsaw 10 years ago and herbicides 8 years. It now is ready to be reworked. View State Lands that were thinned 25 years ago and accidentally burnt from an escaped burn pile. Plateau Forest was last logged in 2017 and 2018.

12:45pm

- **At Stop #2** – Compare area treated two years ago with thinning and pruning and fuels removal with a bladed dozer and adjacent area to be treated next. To be discussed here is: should prescribed fire be used here? Also illustrating the building and maintaining of fire breaks. Discussion about California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

1:30pm

- **Travel to Stop #3** – Plantation is 42 years old and various treatments to get here, including prescribed fire and fuels treatments; herbicide treated area.



**Forest Landowners
OF CALIFORNIA**

950 GLENN DRIVE, SUITE 150, FOLSOM, CA 95630

WHERE TO MEET

More specific directions will be sent by email to registered attendees a few days before the Field Day. The plan is to meet at the Shingletown, Cal Fire Station, on Highway 44. Once everyone has checked in and signed waivers, everyone will car pool, one-half mile, to the first stop. Important: no low clearance sedans for the Field Day tour.

HEALTH PROTOCOLS

We will follow state and local jurisdiction mandates and requirements related to COVID. The FLC liability waiver is being updated to include release of liability related to COVID or other infectious diseases. We will include more details about health protocols in the confirmation email to registered attendees.

LUNCH

Please bring your own lunch and beverage.

COST

FLC Members - \$25 per person

Nonmembers - \$35 per person

Reservations are **REQUIRED** and must be made no later than November 1, 2021. Please complete the form and include payment; mail or fax to the FLC office: (916) 294-0415.

WHAT TO WEAR

Comfortable covered toe shoes suitable for the terrain are recommended. Weather will be mild but wearing layers is recommended.

LODGING INFORMATION

There are hotel options in Redding or camping through KOA.

QUESTIONS

Deidre Bryant, Executive Director
(877) 326-3778 • info@forestlandowners.org



Prescribed Burn April 2014



Prescribed Burn 2014

Registration Information

FIELD DAY – NOVEMBER 5

Full Name _____

Company/Ranch Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email* _____

County Where Property Located _____

Food Allergies or Special Needs _____

**Email confirmation with details will be sent approximately two days before the Field Day.*

PAYMENT METHOD [4520]

Payment Enclosed: Total Amount \$ _____

☐ Check # _____ (Payable to FLC)

☐ FLC Member \$25 ☐ Nonmember \$35

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Card Billing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please detach and send form to the FLC office with payment.