



SENECA TREE FARM

Joe and Elizabeth Smailes purchased the Seneca property, 700 acres, in 1999 from Barbara Oil Co. and the Barbara Shaffer Neumann Trust, taking on custodianship in a long line of ownership rich with history prominent and well known to Plumas County. The property is located in the North Fork of the Feather River watershed below Lake Almanor and just south of present-day Canyon Dam. The property is full fee simple ownership made possible by a U.S. Mineral Patent #01963 that was issued and recorded in 1913. Seneca and the surrounding area are highly mineralized, meaning that gold in placer and lode form was prospected and mined in Seneca's pioneer days. By historical accounts, it was 1851 that gold was discovered and small settlements moved in and mined gold mostly in placer form. It was then in the 1920s through the late 1930s, that Seneca experienced its heyday in terms of population and gold production. There were two primary lode (hard rock) mines that were successful during this time, namely the White Lilly and Del Monte mines, producing around 20,000 oz. – by unofficial historical accounts. In 1951, the mines and surrounding property were purchased by Shaffer Consolidated Gold Co. Three years later, Setzer Box Co. secured the timber rights from Shaffer Consolidated Gold Co. and logged the property. By written record, this 1954 harvest was the first organized substantial logging operation on the property, harvesting a good mix of old growth and large second growth timber with evidence of old skid trails and access roads that remain today.

After the Smailes' purchase in 1999, a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) was submitted to harvest approximately 650 acres (5000 MBF) over four years utilizing tractor, skyline, helicopter and integrated biomass logging systems. Licensed Timber Operators (loggers) performing harvest activities during this four-year period were Taffi Logging, Mitchell Brothers Logging, Stevenson Logging, John

Taylor Logging, Columbia Helicopters and Culver Fiber and Fuel (biomass). All logs were delivered to Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) – Quincy and Susanville. Following this harvest, two notable events occurred in the Seneca area: the 2012 Chips Fire and the 2021 Dixie Fire. The Chips Fire (approx. 75,000 acres) consumed approximately 350 acres across the Seneca landscape at high/moderate/low fire severity. It is important to note that about half of this burned acreage was a direct result of the Interagency Incident Command Team's decision to employ "burn out" tactics on this incident including the Seneca Tree Farm, in which, the owner was informed and consented. Out of the 350 acres burned, 180 acres were salvaged logged in 2013 by Jack Medici producing 550 MBF of salvage logs that were sold to SPI – Quincy. Immediately after this salvage operation, a Catastrophic Wildfire Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) EQIP grant was secured in 2014 to site prep and reforest approximately 200 acres on the burn footprint with outstanding results (>80% survival).

The 2021 Dixie Fire was a completely different story, licensed timber operators were very hard to find due to the enormous size of the fire and the demand to hire loggers quickly to harvest fire-killed timber on commercial timberland along with non-timber emergency rehabilitation work. These factors led to the Seneca Tree Farm, and any private land in the locale, not being commercially salvage logged; however, Seneca landowners were fortunate to receive a Cal Forest Health Block Grant in 2022 administered by the Feather River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD) to lead the effort in rehabilitating and reforesting more than 450 acres in the Seneca area. The rehabilitation/site preparation that has taken place does not look like traditional salvage logging, but rather a cut and stack into a "teepee" shaped stack that was later burned in November 2024. Following site preparation, 65,000 one-year tree plugs (mixed conifer) were planted in April 2025 with a 70% survival, to date. The rehabilitation work continues today with tremendous gratitude given to the Feather River Resource Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Seneca neighbors, and other partners for their direct involvement in post-fire treatments.

Come join us to see what the Smailes family has done in the face of a devastating wildfire and enjoy a catered lunch. There will be great discussions amongst timberland owners, agencies and all interested in post-fire timberland management.



**Forest Landowners
OF CALIFORNIA**

3620 AMERICAN RIVER DRIVE, SUITE 230
SACRAMENTO, CA 95864

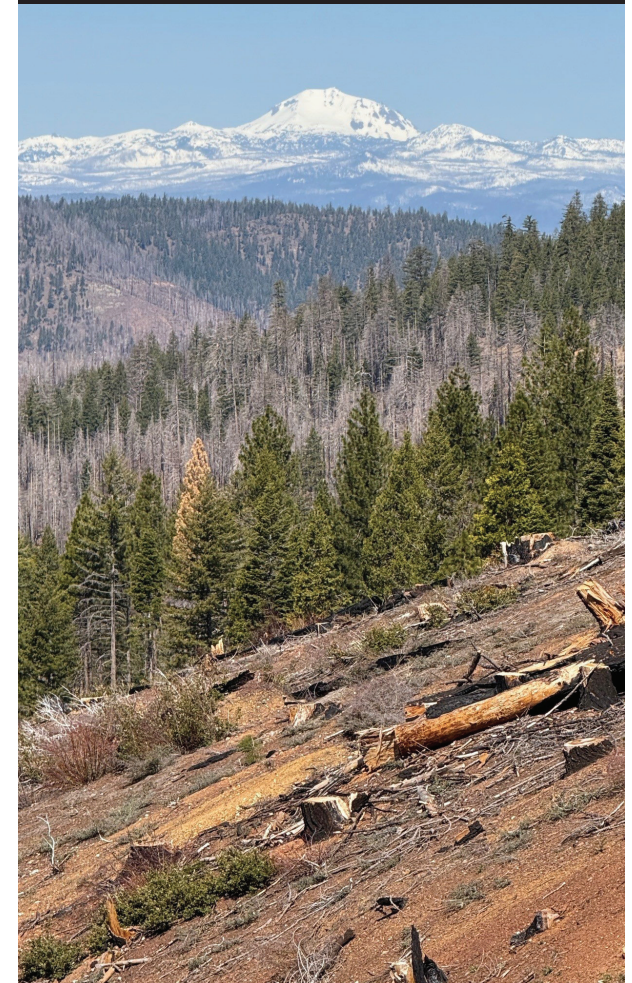
VISIT WWW.FORESTLANDOWNERS.ORG
FOR LEGISLATIVE UPDATES,
NEWS YOU CAN USE AND OTHER EVENTS.



**Forest Landowners
OF CALIFORNIA**

FIELD DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 • 10:00AM – 3:00PM
SENECA TREE FARM, PLUMAS COUNTY, CA



Forest Landowners of California

FIELD DAY - SATURDAY, JUNE 13 • 10:00am - 3:00pm

AGENDA

9:00am-10:00am

Meet at the intersection of Hwy 89 and Seneca Road.

10:30am-12:30pm

Seneca Post-fire Treatment Review – Cal Fire Forest Health Grant overview involving the FRRCD: Michael Hall, FRRCD District Manager and Brad Underwood, FRRCD; Kelly Holt, Diversified Resources owner/contractor, will discuss the successes and challenges of post-fire site preparation; Leigh Johnson, US Forest Service – District Ranger, Mt. Hough RD, Plumas NF, will discuss the agency's direction of involving the public in the management of Federal System Lands; and a Sierra Institute representative will share how they, as a non-government organization, are assisting non-industrial landowners to gain a voice with government agencies, as well as assisting with NEPA review and documentation.

12:30pm-1:30pm

Lunch and Activity. Lunch catered by Christi's Café. In addition, Jace Brown will give a brief history of Seneca, and there will also be a fun gold panning activity for everyone.

1:30pm-3:00pm

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Ben McNally will lead the discussion on NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and how it can help a private landowner; Taylor Rogers, local drone operator, will perform a drone demonstration exhibiting a very different kind of tool for a private timberland owner.

3:00pm

Adjourn



HEALTH PROTOCOLS

While we are no longer in the thick of the pandemic, we respectfully remind participants that if you are not feeling well, we ask that you stay home. The FLC liability waiver has been updated to include release of liability related to COVID and other infectious diseases.

LUNCH

Lunch and water will be provided.

COST

FLC Members - \$30 per person

Nonmembers - \$40 per person

Reservations are REQUIRED and must be made no later than June 9, 2026. Please complete the form and include payment; mail or fax to the FLC office: (916) 294-0415.

WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

Hiking boots/shoes recommended or very comfortable walking shoes (closed toes). Bring sunscreen, a hat, and a camp chair for lunch.

LODGING INFORMATION

Best Western Rose Quartz Inn
306 Main Street
Chester, CA 96020
(833) 320-8705

Antlers Inn
268 Main Street
Chester, CA 96020
(530) 258-2722
antlersfrontdesk@gmail.com

Surestay Plus Hotel by Best Western Susanville
2785 Main Street
Susanville, CA 96130
(866) 247-4912

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Visit - <https://bit.ly/flc061326fieldday>

DIRECTIONS AND WEAR TO MEET

The plan is to meet at the intersection of Hwy 89 and Seneca Road. The intersection will be flagged in red ribbon for easy detection. If you are traveling east from Chester or Red Bluff on State Hwy 89, this intersection is just east of the Lake Almanor dam by ¼ mile on Hwy 89. If you are traveling on State Hwy 89 from Greenville/Canyon Dam, the intersection is ¼ mile past Canyon Dam. For reference, at this meeting location, you can see Lake Almanor easily to the north.

QUESTIONS

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

Registration Information

FIELD DAY - JUNE 13

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 \$30 ☐ Nonmember \$40

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.