United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing, and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii & the Pacific Islands

Plumas National Forest - Mt. Hough RD

Plumas Unified School District/Lassen & Plumas National Forests Storrie Fire Restoration Agreement:
Inspiring stewardship through collaboration, education, and restoration

Fire Science and Basic Wildland Firefighting Skills

For the second year, students from Portola HS Fire Science Class learned about what it takes to be a wildland firefighter through participation in a "Basic 32 Wildland Firefighting" course. Firefighters from the Beckwourth Ranger District assisted with classroom instruction and field-based skills training along with Beckwourth Fire Department. Students learned about equipment, cutting fire line, hose lays, nozzle work (water streams), observing and measuring fire weather, and simulation of a wildfire. The students applied what they have learned about fire behavior in dense forests and put to test newly acquired firefighting skills, which included fuels reduction and forest thinning. Spending time in training deployment shelters was a real eye-opener as volunteer firefighters were amazed at the student's "can-do" approach. Eighteen students completed the course. They will be "fire-ready" if they choose employment in wildland firefighting. Additionally, students learned about fire ecology and fire-adapted ecosystems from a fire ecologist and fuels management specialist. Projects are carefully planned for ecological/fire restoration, age- and grade-appropriateness, and tie to the CA State Curriculum and Content Standards. Collaboration provides the opportunity for the Lassen and Plumas National Forests to restore the area and for PUSD to educate students with a hands-on, placed-based approach to learning.

Objectives:

- Provide students with marketable natural resource skills.
- Student participation in natural resource restoration projects.
- Provide opportunities for integration of curriculum.
- Teacher learning about natural resource topics.
- Build new relationships and enhance partnerships already in place.

Connection to Storrie Settlement:
Students help restore natural and recreation resources and landscape

Funding:
Storrie Fire Settlement: initial $940,264 for five-year partnership agreement (all projects)

Next Steps:

- Expand opportunities to additional classes
- Continue curriculum development
- Website development
- Community partnerships
- Additional student employment

Portola HS students preparing for Basic 32 field training exercise—safety briefing

Students learn methods of spraying water

Hose lays and nozzle work

"Fire-line" basics

Preparing for training exercise

For more information on the Storrie Fire Restoration Projects, visit: www.fs.usda.gov/plumas, then scroll to "Features," and "Storrie Fire Restoration Project." For more information on this project, contact: **Michele Jimenez-Holtz (530) 283-7643,mjimenezholtz@fs.fed.us; or Rob Wade (530) 283-6500 x257, rwade@pcoe.k12.ca.us**

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Publication 14-01, May 2014