

Plumas County 2021 Wildfires Long-Term Recovery Plan



in collaboration with



SUMMARY REPORT

APRIL 2023 COMMUNITY MEETINGS & POST-MEETING INPUT DATA RESULTS

June 17, 2023

INTRODUCTION

In support of the 2021 Wildfires Long-Term Recovery Plan (LTRP) countywide process for the Dixie Fire and Beckwourth Complex Fire, Plumas County staff, in collaboration with the Dixie Fire Collaborative (DFC) hosted a 2nd round of five community meetings (Community Meeting #2) during the month of April 2023, in addition to delivering a wildfire recovery informational briefing to the City of Portola City Council members and residents on April 26, 2023.

The objectives of the 2nd round of community meetings and engagement was to:

1. Inform how community input from Community Meeting #1 (February/March 2023) has shaped the LTRP to-date
2. Confirm the Countywide Recovery Vision and Values
3. Present revised wildfire recovery potential projects identified from community engagement through the Plumas County Recovery Support Function (RSF) Working Groups (e.g., Economic, Health & Social Services, Housing & Commercial Buildings, Infrastructure, and Natural & Cultural Resources) and help rank these potential recovery projects as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd tier priorities
4. Help identify where specific projects may be best located in the County
5. Help shape the elements of a Greenville Town Center

This Summary Report is divided into the following two sections and documents the public participation and input, including data analyses and findings, from Community Meeting #2 and post-meeting input outreach.

- A. General Findings
- B. Priorities for Potential Wildfire Recovery Projects

A. GENERAL FINDINGS

ATTENDANCE INPUT

The 2nd round of LTRP community meetings were held in the same locations as the 1st round of public meetings, that is, in Greenville, Taylorsville, Chester, Vinton, and Quincy (Table 1). Upon arrival, attendees were asked to fill out a sign-in sheet and request if they'd like to be added to the recovery plan e-mail list. Attendees were provided with an agenda and opportunities to offer input on recovery vision and values, recovery project priorities, recovery project locations, and general thoughts on wildfire recovery and the planning process.

The information delivered at the community meetings was also posted online at the Plumas County 2021 Wildfires Recovery webpage (<https://plumascounty.us/2964>) for ease in viewing and for those who wanted to provide input and keep informed but could not attend one of the community meetings.

Over 134 total people attended the five community meetings. 32 vision ballots and 40 values ballots were completed during the community meetings, representing roughly a 24% and 30% completion rate, respectively, of the total community meeting attendees. An additional 22 online vision/values ballots and 32 vision ballots and 36 values ballots were completed and received after the community meetings, for a total of 86 vision and 98 values ballots.

Table 1: Community Meeting Attendance and Input Counts

Meeting Locations	Meeting Date	Sign in Sheet Count ¹	Head Count ^{1,2}	Vision Ballot	Values Ballot	Project Card	Comment Card
Greenville	4/15/2023	38	63	16	19	0	0
Taylorville	4/15/2023	1	21	1	1	0	0
Chester	4/18/2023	10	14	5	6	0	1
Vinton	4/19/2023	10	15	6	6	0	0
Quincy	4/20/2023	16	21	4	8	0	0
Meetings Input Subtotal		75	134	32	40	0	1
Online Input				22		5	N/A
Mail-In Input				0	0	0	0
In-Person/Email Input				32	36	1	0
Post Meeting Input Subtotal				54	58	6	0
TOTAL		75	134	86	98	6	1

¹ Both the sign-in sheet count and head count may include Plumas County and/or RSF Working Group leadership.

² A physical head count was conducted to gain additional insight into attendance in case people did not sign in.

VISION STATEMENT

The development of a LTRP Vision Statement will describe, clarify, and guide Plumas County’s wildfire recovery process and implementation. Three sample Vision Statements (Table 2) were developed to help community workshop participants think about wildfire recovery aspirations and inspirations based on the RSF wildfire recovery framework and known recovery needs. Meeting attendees were invited to rank their top vision statement from 1 to 3 (1 being high).

The Vision Statement that received the most community support was:

Resilient and prosperous recovered communities with supportive infrastructure systems, inclusive and affordable housing types, prioritized public health and social well-being, environmental and cultural stewardship, and an active next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders with opportunities for business innovation.

The second most community supported sample Vision Statement was:

Socially and environmentally thoughtful, culturally inclusive recovered healthy communities with affordable housing types in support of commercial and mixed-use spaces, empowered small businesses, and equitable and accessible economic possibilities sustained by resilient infrastructure systems.

Table 2: Sample Vision Ballot

Vision Statements	Rank
Recovered sustainable communities with infrastructure systems independence, diverse economic opportunities for all, prioritized public health and safety, inclusive and affordable housing types, and protected cultural resources and natural environments for generations to come.	
Resilient and prosperous recovered communities with supportive infrastructure systems, inclusive and affordable housing types, prioritized public health and social well-being, environmental and cultural stewardship, and an active next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders with opportunities for business innovation.	
Socially and environmentally thoughtful, culturally inclusive recovered healthy communities with affordable housing types in support of commercial and mixed-use spaces, empowered small businesses, and equitable and accessible economic possibilities sustained by resilient infrastructure systems.	

Additionally, there were two write-in vision statements, which were both about increasing housing:

- Affordable housing is key. Housing brings in the population, which will then fill the deficit in employees our county has.
- Work harder on getting homes rebuilt for those who lost theirs. Make a solid determination who is planning on staying in the area, and who isn't. Start with that and ignore the feel good missions - for now.

VALUES

Community wildfire recovery engagement, starting with DFC Phase 0 and Phase 1A, generated input on recovery values. Based on the Phase 0 and Phase 1A summary reports, 19 values were identified and included in the Community Workshop #1 meetings. The top 10 values from community input during Community Meeting #1 were identified and written into value statements.

The April community meeting attendees were invited to rank their top 5 out of the 10 values and the results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Values Score and Counts

Value	Rank	% of total votes
Build community unification	1	61%
Prioritize public health and safety	2	69%
Develop resilient homes and businesses	3	75%
Restore the natural environment	4	65%
Promote economic sustainability	5	85%
Enhance quality of life	6	66%
Honor Maidu heritage	7	57%
Design arts and recreational opportunities	8	52%
Encourage energy independence	9	56%
Create social and cultural gathering places	10	60%

The top five values according to rank score are:

1. Build community unification
2. Prioritize public health and safety
3. Develop resilient homes and businesses
4. Restore the natural environment
5. Promote economic sustainability

Build community unification had the highest rank score, which confirms the community’s desire to work together on wildfire recovery. The next three values represent the community’s desire to become more resilient in recovery and improve the overall quality of life and the health of homes, businesses, and the natural environment. The fifth ranked value indicates the community’s desire to build long-term economic sustainable systems.

TOWN CENTER

The April community meetings introduced a proposed Greenville Town Center recovery project concept, which identified elements that are typically featured in successful town centers across the country, as well as proposed recovery projects that may align with a Town Center. Table 4 identifies the community interest in locating specific elements and projects into a proposed Greenville Town Center.

Town Green/Town Plaza had the greatest community support, while a Community Center had the second-most community support that is also a proposed HSS RSF recovery project. The next three were uses that have been repeatedly identified as essential to recovery in Greenville, which include a hardware store, pharmacy, and a bank.

Table 4: Town Center Project Counts

Project Idea	Dots	Project Idea	Dots
Town Green/Town Plaza	22	Performing Arts Center	5
Community Center	13	Public Art	4
Greenville Hardware Store	11	Senior Center	3
Greenville Pharmacy	10	Community Garden	3
Bank	9	Learning Center	3
Native American Cultural Center/Museum	7	Health Center	3

B. PRIORITIES FOR POTENTIAL WILDFIRE RECOVERY PROJECTS

In late summer 2022, Plumas County kicked-off the long-term wildfire recovery planning process under the Federal/State Disaster Recovery Framework Recovery Support Function (RSF) structure. Based on this RSF structure, five Working Groups (Economic, Health & Social Services, Housing & Commercial Buildings, Infrastructure, and Natural & Cultural Resources) were formed and met over the course of several months, culminating in each RSF Working Group identifying and submitting potential recovery projects.

Based on public input from the community meetings in February/March 2023, the RSF Working Groups consolidated the original 54 potential recovery projects to 27 across all five RSFs, with a breakdown as shown below.



Economic

7



Health & Social Services

4



Housing & Commercial Buildings

8



Infrastructure

3



Natural & Cultural Resources

5

During the community meetings, attendees were invited to learn more about the potential wildfire recovery projects and provide input on project priority based on importance each of the 27 individual projects, as follows:

1. High (Top priority)
2. Medium (Middle priority)
3. Low (Lower priority)

All votes (i.e., dots) were counted from each of the five community meetings and the post-meeting additional outreach (Table 5). A total of 1,561 votes were gathered (i.e., 949 dots from the community meetings and 612 from additional post-meeting outreach).

Recovery Support Function	Number of Recovery Projects	Dot Total¹	RSF Percentage of total dots
Economic	7	412	26%
Health & Social Services	4	217	14%
Housing & Commercial Buildings	8	457	29%
Infrastructure	3	168	11%
Natural & Cultural Resources	5	307	20%
TOTAL	27	1,561	100%

¹ Dot totals include results from community meetings, post-meeting community input, outreach to Indian Valley elementary and high school students, and additional outreach at the May 20th Dixie Fire Collaborative Saturday community meeting.

Table 5: Community Input on Potential Wildfire Recovery Projects

Potential Project (27)	Priority¹
Greenville Safety Center [Sheriff's Substation, IVCS Fire, and PDH Ambulance]	High
Greenville Rancheria Medical and Dental Clinic	High
Greenville/Indian Valley — Utility Infrastructure Master Plan [Broadband Improvements, Microgrids/Electrical, Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations, Greenville Cemetery District Irrigation System & Secondary Fire Flow Protection for Greenville]	High
Countywide Broadband and Electrical Power Capacity and Resiliency [Broadband Improvements, Microgrids/Electrical, Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations]	High
Tribal Integration & Needs	High

Potential Project (27)	Priority¹
Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Potential Programs [Residential Subsidized Housing via Multifamily Housing Program (MHP), Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program (OOR) with Mitigation Set-Aside]	High
Residential Workforce Housing [Missing-Middle Housing]	High
Construction Trades Workforce Training Program	High
Greenville Community Resilience Center [Greenville Library, Greenville Town Hall, General Business & Marketplace Cooperative, Maker Space & Sales Venue, Community Kitchen & Food Processing]	High
Home Hardening Retrofit Program	Medium
Greenville Wellness Center [Telemedicine Restoration & Expansion]	Medium
Dixie Fire Footprint Roadway Repairs and Needs	Medium
Habitat and Watershed Restoration [Assessment of Post Fire Wildlife Movement, Post Fire Watershed Assessment, Watershed Restoration Coordinator, and Plumas Emergency Forest Restoration Team (EFRT)]	Medium
Development and Land Use Patterns [Countywide Residential Codes and Standards, Countywide Planning & Zoning, Greenville Downtown Design Guidelines, Greenville Commercial & Mixed-Use Development Market Analysis, Housing Market Study & Affordable Housing Needs Assessment (Countywide)]	Medium
[RE]Building & Permit Resource Center [Commercial + Residential [RE]Building, Small Developers [RE]Building]	Medium
Biomass Product Innovation [Wood Fiber Growing Media Feasibility Study]	Medium
Tourism Strategy — Leveraging Partnerships with Like Minded Organizations [Building Rural Economies with Rural Communities Assistance Corporation, Discover the Lost Sierra Economic Development Initiative, Plumas-Sierra-Lassen Chamber Coalition]	Medium
Feasibility Study — Mountain Modular Home Plant	Medium
Connected Communities Project	Low
Historical and Cultural Activities and Sites Restoration [Greenville Cy Hall Memorial Museum]	Low
Volunteer Organization Home Rebuilds [Hope Crisis Response Network]	Low
Feasibility Study — USDA Certified Meat Processing System	Low
Commercial Motel/RV Park/Seasonal Recreation	Low
Greenville Community Park and Wolf Creek Trail System Enhancements [Hillside Project Learning Living Laboratory]	Low

Potential Project (27)	Priority¹
Feasibility Study — Countywide Gathering Places as Economic Drivers [Chester Town Plaza, Complete & Retain “The Spot” in Greenville, Quincy Visitor Center, Portola Visitor Center]	Low
Indian Valley Disaster Academy	Low
Sacred Waters of Greenville Thermal Wellness Center	Low

¹The methodology for Priority is the equal division of 27 project scores as calculated by community meeting dots and post-meeting results, by 3 so the top 9 projects by Priority rank were identified as High, the next 9 projects as Medium, and the next 9 as Low.

The Top 9 projects that received the highest priority ranks include:

1. Greenville Safety Center [Sheriff’s Substation, IVCS Fire, and PDH Ambulance]
2. Greenville Rancheria Medical and Dental Clinic
3. Greenville/Indian Valley — Utility Infrastructure Master Plan [Broadband Improvements, Microgrids/Electrical, Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations, Greenville Cemetery District Irrigation System & Secondary Fire Flow Protection for Greenville]
4. Countywide Broadband and Electrical Power Capacity and Resiliency [Broadband Improvements, Microgrids/Electrical, Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations]
5. Tribal Integration & Needs
6. Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Potential Programs [Residential Subsidized Housing via Multifamily Housing Program (MHP), Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program (OOR) with Mitigation Set-Aside]
7. Residential Workforce Housing [Missing-Middle Housing]
8. Construction Trades Workforce Training Program
9. Greenville Community Resilience Center [Greenville Library, Greenville Town Hall, General Business & Marketplace Cooperative, Maker Space & Sales Venue, Community Kitchen & Food Processing]

Overall, the four highest priority projects are related to restoring and improving infrastructure and services to Greenville and Indian Valley. Three of the top nine recovery projects were Housing & Commercial Buildings RSF projects, which were proposed to reduce barriers to home construction, leverage federal funding sources, and increase the local construction workforce.

The fifth highest priority project was Tribal Integration & Needs, which validates the community’s top-rated value of “Build community unification.”

In addition, attendees were invited to provide input on where they might prefer to locate potential projects within specific locations in the County. 71 dots or comments related to recommended locations were received, including 9 for new projects or those projects not previously identified through the LTRP process.

Community	Total Dots	LTRP Project Dots	Non-LTRP Project Dots¹
Greenville	39	38	1
Crescent Mills	12	5	7
Portola	5	5	0
Quincy	5	5	0
East Quincy	2	2	0
Canyon Dam	2	2	0
Indian Falls	2	2	0
Beckwourth	1	1	0
Blairsdan	1	1	0
Taylorville	1	1	0
Vinton	1	0	1
Total	71	62	9

¹ Non-LTRP Project Dots include comments on existing ongoing projects not identified through the LTRP, future projects, and potential new recovery project ideas.

Greenville received the most locational input, where the majority of the comments were applicable to specific recovery projects tied to economic development and health and social services.

Crescent Mills received the second most locational input, with support of economic development and natural and cultural resources recovery projects, in addition to locational input that was not related to a specific identified recovery project, as follows:

- 35mph Radar Equipment
- Electrical Vehicle Level 3 Charging Station
- Crescent Mills Community Septic Sewer System
- Indian Valley Museum
- Tourist Information (Kiosk)
- Caltrans Highway 89 Pedestrian Crossing

The following sections provide more detailed project input by RSF.

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL RECOVERY PROJECTS

Table 3: Economic RSF Potential Recovery Projects

Potential Project (7)	Priority
Tourism Strategy — Leveraging Partnerships with Like Minded Organizations [Building Rural Economies with Rural Communities Assistance Corporation, Discover the Lost Sierra Economic Development Initiative, Plumas-Sierra- Lassen Chamber Coalition]	Medium
Feasibility Study — Mountain Modular Home Plant	Medium
Connected Communities Project	Low
Feasibility Study — USDA Certified Meat Processing System	Low
Feasibility Study — Countywide Gathering Places as Economic Drivers [Chester Town Plaza, Complete & Retain “The Spot” in Greenville, Quincy Visitor Center, Portola Visitor Center]	Low
Indian Valley Disaster Academy	Low
Sacred Waters of Greenville Thermal Wellness Center	Low

The two potential projects (Table 6) that rated as higher priority amongst the Economic RSF projects were related to tourism and homebuilding.

The Tourism Strategy leverages and builds on existing community assets tied to the natural environment and encourages tourists to visit and stay in Plumas County.

The Mountain Modular Home Plant Feasibility Study aims at meeting two community recovery needs: build more housing and create more jobs. The Feasibility Study would assess the market conditions and practicality of developing a business and facility that builds modular homes in Plumas County. Multiple respondents suggested this project be located in Greenville or Crescent Mills. Contrary input received from a response noted there is no “need [for] manufactured homes here, [and] will ruin the look and economy of Greenville.”

The Feasibility Study for a USDA Certified Meat Processing System received a few comments highlighting Greenville as an ideal location, specifically along Highway 89 near Riley’s Jerky, and would help market the area.

The Countywide Gathering Places as Economic Drivers (Feasibility Study) received a few comments, as follows:

- A downtown park/plaza [in Greenville]
- The Spot – add parking
- The Spot – should be a strip mall/food court as a year-round gathering space

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES POTENTIAL RECOVERY PROJECTS

Table 4: Health & Social Services RSF Potential Recovery Projects

Potential Project (4)	Priority
Greenville Safety Center [Sheriff’s Substation, IVCS D Fire, and PDH Ambulance]	High
Greenville Rancheria Medical and Dental Clinic	High
Greenville Community Resilience Center [Greenville Library, Greenville Town Hall, General Business & Marketplace Cooperative, Maker Space & Sales Venue, Community Kitchen & Food Processing]	High
Greenville Wellness Center [Telemedicine Restoration & Expansion]	Medium

Community input resulted in HSS having three high priority potential projects (Table 7).

Returning public safety and services to Greenville is a top priority for the community, and specifically Greenville residents.

The Greenville Rancheria Medical and Dental Clinic recovery project received a few comments that it be built on the former Plumas District Hospital site on Hot Springs Road. It should be noted that input received supports the former hospital site being developed into a future community asset.

A handful of responses suggested possible locations for the Greenville Community Resilience Center (CRC); those being the former Town Hall site and former Community Center site, and further comments supported the CRC being located close to the Main Street/Highway 89 intersection.

HOUSING & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS POTENTIAL RECOVERY PROJECTS

Table 5: Housing & Commercial Buildings RSF Potential Recovery Projects

Potential Project (8)	Priority
Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Potential Programs [Residential Subsidized Housing via Multifamily Housing Program (MHP), Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program (OOR) with Mitigation Set-Aside]	High
Residential Workforce Housing [Missing-Middle Housing]	High
Construction Trades Workforce Training Program	High
Home Hardening Retrofit Program	Medium
Development and Land Use Patterns [Countywide Residential Codes and Standards, Countywide Planning & Zoning, Greenville Downtown Design Guidelines, Greenville Commercial & Mixed-Use Development Market Analysis, Housing Market Study & Affordable Housing Needs Assessment (Countywide)]	Medium
[RE]Building & Permit Resource Center [Commercial + Residential [RE]Building, Small Developers [RE]Building]	Medium
Volunteer Organization Home Rebuilds [Hope Crisis Response Network]	Low
Commercial Motel/RV Park/Seasonal Recreation	Low

The top three high priority Housing & Commercial Buildings (Table 8) potential projects encourage the rebuilding of housing and the overall desire to increase housing for the workforce of Plumas County and those with low- to moderate-incomes.

With that said, the Residential Workforce Housing potential project received a couple responses that it wasn’t needed in the County. Additionally, there were several housing project-related comments that stated no entity should take the housing decisions away from the individual private property owners.

Related to a comment for the [RE]Building & Permit Resource Center, Plumas County should also work to “ensure faster reviews and turn-arounds on permits” and reconsider construction mandates that add costs to construction of homes (e.g., fire sprinklers).

The Construction Trades Workforce Training Program was identified as a high priority, which could help solve two County recovery needs; increasing construction workers and construct new housing.

INFRASTRUCTURE POTENTIAL RECOVERY PROJECTS

Table 6: Infrastructure RSF Potential Recovery Projects

Potential Project (3)	Priority
Greenville/Indian Valley — Utility Infrastructure Master Plan [Broadband Improvements, Microgrids/Electrical, Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations, Greenville Cemetery District Irrigation System & Secondary Fire Flow Protection for Greenville]	High
Countywide Broadband and Electrical Power Capacity and Resiliency [Broadband Improvements, Microgrids/Electrical, Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations]	High
Dixie Fire Footprint Roadway Repairs and Needs	Medium

Two Infrastructure potential projects (Table 9) were supported as a high priority.

Broadband Improvements and increasing resiliency to the County’s electrical systems are understandably important projects for both the quality of life of current residents and future economic growth. Many community residents understand the important connection between infrastructure and housing, that is, the development of housing cannot occur without reliable water and wastewater services, especially in the heavily wildfire impacted Indian Valley Community Services District (IVCSD) boundaries. A few responses reiterated the need to restore baseline power, water, and sewer services to Greenville before pursuing opportunities to make the infrastructure more resilient.

NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES POTENTIAL RECOVERY PROJECTS

Table 7: Natural & Cultural Resources RSF Potential Recovery Projects

Potential Project (5)	Priority
Tribal Integration & Needs	High
Habitat and Watershed Restoration [Assessment of Post Fire Wildlife Movement, Post Fire Watershed Assessment, Watershed Restoration Coordinator, and Plumas Emergency Forest Restoration Team (EFRT)]	Medium
Biomass Product Innovation [Wood Fiber Growing Media Feasibility Study]	Medium
Historical and Cultural Activities and Sites Restoration [Greenville Cy Hall Memorial Museum]	Low
Greenville Community Park and Wolf Creek Trail System Enhancements [Hillside Project Learning Living Laboratory]	Low

The highest priority Natural & Cultural Resources potential project (Table 10) was Tribal Integration & Needs, including components such as increasing housing and restoring Greenville Rancheria health services.

Habitat and Watershed Restoration was a medium priority project, which is proposed to help assess and identify the best approaches to restore the wildfire impacted forest lands and watersheds.

Biomass Product Innovation was also determined to be medium priority, which indicates that residents want to take advantage of all the fallen timber and create sustaining economic industries in the County while also integrating improved forest management practices. One noted community infrastructure asset is the network of rail lines in the County, and it may be more feasible to locate biomass product related businesses in communities near rail, such as Crescent Mills and Portola.

Greenville Community Park and Wolf Creek Trail System Enhancements was determined to be low priority and three specific responses concerning the trail system spoke to the potential difficulty of obtaining necessary support and permissions (e.g., access easements) from the many individual private property owners.