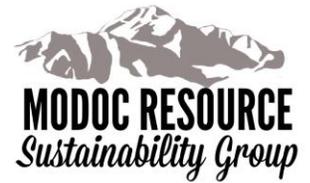




Modoc County – Modoc Resource Sustainability Group



Overview: Modoc County OES and Sheriff's Office created a working group that collaborates to protect, promote and enrich the area's resources.

Challenge: In 2018, Modoc County was hit with multiple large fires for the third year in a row. OES and the Sheriff found that there seemed to be a lack of communication and knowledge of protocols of cooperators within the Federal, County and private organization partners.

Solution: This started as a tour & workshop to educate each other about local fires, challenges of recovery, litigation, success stories and how we might be able to move forward together after multiple large wildfires. The tour was hosted by the Sheriff's Office and OES. During this tour and round table discussion, the participants realized that there would be a huge benefit to making a working group. Regular meetings were scheduled, and the group continued to grow and collaborate. Through the group partnerships were created for grants, projects and support.

Innovation: Collaborating within partners is not a new concept. The innovation behind this group is that the Office of Emergency Services serves as the facilitator and decisions and focus for the year are decided collectively. OES has a very wide reach within any County. They must create relationships with many different entities due to the nature of their work. This gives them a unique relationship with their community and they often have positive connections with all. The first year the group focused on fire to include recovery, fuels reduction and mapping. The following year the group saw the opportunity to tie recreation into some of the fuels reduction projects creating trails and connecting OHV users. Seventy-eight percent of Modoc County is public lands. Outdoor recreation is of high importance to residents and is the main attraction for visitors. The group collaborated and discussed ways to cohesively market the County as well as utilize talents between agencies to create marketing plans that would benefit all land users.

Results: "We had two organizations that realized they were submitting proposals for the same grant for almost the same project. Having everyone report out what they are working on and planning has been instrumental in connecting projects and given us an opportunity to collaborate in things that we wouldn't have otherwise." said Deputy OES Director Heather Hadwick. "The first project that the group took on was a mapping of all projects done in the last ten years and any planned in the next five years. We were able to extend some areas and connect projects through public and private lands that will make Modoc County more fire ready." added Hadwick. "Having a living map that is updated quarterly has given us the chance to connect firebreaks or fuels reduction projects that would have been missed because they went from BLM, to Forest, or on to private lands."

The collaborating approach has proven successful for Modoc County. Sheriff Tex Dowdy said, "Not only are we working on projects together but when the next fire season came, we already had those working relationships. We have the ability to look at the past and plan for the future collectively which will only benefit the County."

In just over two years the group has accomplished the following:

- Wildfire Tour of Cove/Stone Fire Scars (18 agencies in attendance)
 - Speakers included CALFIRE, CA Deer Association, NRCS, US Forest Service, Sheriff Dowdy, Modoc Fire Safe Council, Cove Fire Logging Project Representatives, Senator Dahle's Office & Modoc Farm Advisor Grazing Research.
- All-inclusive land user mapping project- past 10 years and future 5 years projects
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy Capacity Building Grant with Modoc RCD to choose and implement a project prioritization process.
- Multiple partnerships and letters of support for future grant projects
- Recreation Tour (24 agencies in attendance)
 - Speakers included CA State Parks OHV, CA Deer Association, USFS Wild Horse Corrals, Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, Modoc Outdoor Recreation & Tourism, Warner Mountain Ski Park & Sheriff Dowdy.

Replicability: Modoc County OES has spoken at several meetings throughout the state to encourage other Counties to create a local group such as this. The model works for any size county but also can be adjusted to customize to a specific county's needs. "Various organizations and agencies with diverse missions and memberships are accomplishing great work on the ground, but could be more effective by leveraging each other's support to get even more accomplished. The Modoc Sustainable Resources Group is convening all these organization to synergize our efforts and be more effective than any of us could alone. The value of that is immeasurable from our perspective." said Modoc National Forest Supervisor Chris Christofferson.

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