

Community Coordinator Report

Plumas County
OCTOBER – DECEMBER
2015



AFWD partners with U.S. Forest Service, Foundation for California Community Colleges to put Plumas County residents to work!

Partnerships that WORK. Plumas County Supervisor Sherrie Thrall invested a considerable amount of time to bring her idea of using fire settlement funds to provide employment opportunities for job seekers and boost business in Plumas County.

She worked diligently with the U.S. Forest Service to see that local residents benefited from the settlement funds that came out of 2 massive forest fires that affected the economy and residents of Plumas County. One of her ideas was to help residents obtain employment in restoring national forest lands in Plumas County. After months of hard work, AFWD was able to partner with the Foundation for California Community Colleges, to recruit, provide work readiness skills for a 21 person crew to work side by side with the U.S. Forest Service.



Article continued on the next page

November 2015
Employment
Snapshot

Plumas County
Unemployment Rates*
(Unadjusted)

Plumas
9.9%

Labor Force
7,970

People Employed
7,180

People Unemployed
790

***Source California Employment
Development Department**

Labor Market Information Division

AFWD provided recruitment, interview facilities, and updating resumes for job seekers for forestry crew leaders, crew boss and forestry technicians. The crew was responsible for manual fuel treatments, cleaning culverts and providing fire breaks in the national forest. Work continued until weather conditions were such that work could no longer be completed.



Part of this project included 12 hours of work readiness, soft skills training. AFWD created and presented 12 hours of training in the areas of soft skills, team building, communication and decision making.

This partnership provided valuable on the job training for the individuals and infused money into the local economy.



Participants in work readiness and soft skills training

Temporary Job Creation (TJC) Work In Plumas County Extended

In July, Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) received National Emergency Grant (NEG) funds to recruit temporary workers to assist public and non-profit entities with drought related projects. These positions were open to individuals who had been laid off or had hours reduced due to drought conditions or had been unemployed for 15 of the last 26 weeks and living in a drought affected area.

Projects continued at the City of Portola, where workers are creating drought efficient landscaping around county and public facilities. Removing unwanted scrubs, noxious weeds, and dead vegetation for removal for the fire prevention plan. The crew has been assisting in preparing parks and county facilities for winter conditions.



Projects also continued at Indian Valley Community Service District including clearing vegetation and debris around the Crescent Mills and Greenville Water Treatment facility for improved access to valves and water drains.



AFWD America's Job Center of California Statistics

Plumas County Visitors
1,603

AFWD Business Services

Business Served	731
Service Provided	3,383
Positions Filled	797
Training Assistance	88

Program Services Total enrollments

Adult	127
Dislocated Worker	100
Youth	40
Employed	136

Unemployment Rate

Butte	6.7%	Nevada	5.2%
Lassen	6.9%	Plumas	9.9%
Modoc	8.1%	Sierra	6.6%

An Opportunity to Start Anew

Nikki Smalley had been working for a local bank when she found out that her position was being downsized and that her hours would be cut. At this time, Nikki had been considering a change of occupation and getting into Administrative Management. Nikki was interested in receiving assistance with improving and building on her skills and at that time she was enrolled into the Adult Program. She had completed several interviews, including one with Slusher Plumbing for an Assistant Office Manager position. Slusher Plumbing, which is a family owned and operated business, was very interested in hiring Nikki, however, she was unfamiliar with the plumbing industry, which was a requirement for the position. Our Business Services Representative (BSR) was informed of this and the owners were contacted and presented with the idea of an On-the-Job (OJT) training. After some discussion, they agreed that it was a good opportunity for Nikki.

Slusher Plumbing is locally owned and operated by Connie and David Slusher Sr. and family. It is a plumbing business that has served the Chester/Lake Almanor area for many years. Nikki became the Assistant Office Manager with them in August and has done everything to excel at her position since she started.

Nikki has learned the ins and outs of plumbing as well as gaining knowledge in dispatching six Plumbing and Heating professionals to various jobs throughout the day. Through her training she has learned how to differentiate between plumbing emergencies to jobs that can be put on hold. She is very goal oriented and has set out to accomplish some of these objectives for the business. One of these goals is to implement a new computer program for scheduling, work order history and completion and invoicing assistance. Nikki has already got the wheels turning on this project and will be doing focused program training in the next couple of months to achieve this goal. This new program will benefit the field staff who will be equipped with computer tablets at the jobsites so everything can be accomplished and communicated in a timely manner.



The owners of Slusher Plumbing have been delighted with the work that Nikki has done since she has started. They appreciate Nikki's organizational skills, her ability to learn things very quickly, and her eagerness to improve their business. They can't wait for the new program to get implemented and they are so grateful for the opportunity to participate in an OJT with Nikki. Connie stated, "Nikki is such a joy to work with and our office has become a better place of business because of her".

This Quarter's Success Story

Hard Work Pays Off for Zora

In the spring of 2015, Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center and the Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) collaborated to help a local foster youth. Zora, a 20-year-old mother of one child was looking for employment and faced challenges, such as no employment history and child care.

Referred to our offices by the Independent Living Program Coordinator, she met with a Youth Career Advisor who went over the services that the Youth program offered. Both Zora and her Youth Advisor thought that she would be an excellent fit for the program. Her Youth Advisor assisted her with identifying child care options and developing an employment plan.



They took into account her immediate needs and realized that an education path would have to be a long term plan and that employment would be their primary focus. Utilizing her network of local resources and self-advocating, Zora landed a job at Gold Pan Lodge as a House Keeper. During her seasonal term, Zora learned the ropes fairly quickly and was an exceptionally hard worker.

With the winter season approaching, seasonal workers at the lodge and other resort businesses are typically laid off. As it turned out, Zora's hard work paid off. Management at Gold Pan Lodge were willing to keep Zora for the winter season. Zora learned that with a little elbow grease and determination, along with some support and assistance from her local resource agencies, she would be able to provide for her family and learn valuable skills to aid her on her career path.

