



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes – November 24, 2014

ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – Golden Valley Bank, 190 Cohasset Rd., Chico, CA 95926
- 2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America (if American flag is present)
- 2.01 Roll Call – Members present: Frank Stewart, Teri Faulkner, Jim Shary, Vance Severin, Trish Puterbaugh and Peggy Moak. Potential Alternates present: Charlotte Ann Hilgeman and Bob Gage

Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee members present: Mike Crump, Peggy Moak

Guests: Randy Gould, USFS, Michelle Schroeder and Steve Roberts, SPI, Doug Teeter, District 2 Supervisor

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- 3.00 **Consent Agenda**
 - 3.01 Minutes of 10-27-14 were reviewed and approved. (Faulkner) 2nd (Severin)
 - 4.00 **Agenda**
 - 4.01 Self Introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests and Public
 - 4.02 Randy Gould, Feather River District Ranger, Plumas NF introduced himself and gave an overview of his background with the Forest Service. As a hydrologist and geologist, and with 20 years of experience in logging, he is concerned about water quality and a sustainable forest. He has successfully managed forests with sustainable harvest plans to utilize the timber and generate jobs and revenues for local communities, and would like to work collaboratively with the public and local government to achieve that level of success in the Plumas NF. He believes in a multi-use forest and is supportive of stewardship plans as opposed to straight timber harvest plans, as they maximize opportunities to protect the environment and communities, reduce fire danger and help provide jobs for the restoration process. Randy plans on attending future FAC meetings.

- 4.03 Mike Crump gave a brief presentation of the workshop held on November 18 to discuss proposed roads for the OHV grant in the French Creek area of Plumas NF. Discussion of the group resulted in those interested in motorized recreation and use of dirt/gravel access roads in the French Creek area agreeing to contact 4WD and motorcycle groups to gain public input on roads that should be considered for repairs/maintenance (no improvements) using OHV grant money. Another important aspect of the OHV grant is matching funds (\$90,000). The County plans to use the local Resource Conservation District to administer the grant, including locating and coordinating volunteers to help provide the equivalent of matching funds (\$22 per volunteer work hour credit) grant estimated 1920 volunteer hours for a total of \$42,240 of soft match. (Sam Rossi, BCRCO Interim District Manager, 534-0112, ext. 122 or bc-rcd@carcd.org) The remaining match is primarily County work on French Creek and Concow roads.
- 4.04 Mike Crump gave an update from the Forest Service/CHP/Counties meeting (5 counties) held in Susanville on November 12. Dave Hays, LNF Forest Supervisor, will be looking at a list of ML3 roads and doing an analysis, including environmental and safety aspects for the Lassen NF to determine if they could be approved for mixed use (motor vehicles and OHV). The CHP has accident data (very few incidents). (both Plumas County and Butte County have requested the PNF Forest Supervisor do a similar analysis for ML3 roads in its Forests but to date they have not done so). The process (in LNF) will hopefully be completed in the Spring. Mike agreed to provide a letter to post on the FAC website documenting the County's support of OHV use on unpaved County roads (copy attached). Mention was made of the need to have sensible availability of roads and parking areas to facilitate horse and OHV trucks with trailers at trailheads, etc.
- 4.05 Pacific Crest Trail – Proposed plan was discussed. A handout was provided showing the excerpt from the Forests' Plans for Sequoia, Sierra and Inyo Forests. The Forest Service briefing on these proposed changes to the PCT downplays the risk; however, the PCT Association is supporting the proposals heavily. Included are a desire to have no new equestrian events, create a mile wide wilderness corridor where possible, and not have motorized roads cross the trail at any more than 5 mile intervals. The concern is that this will end up affecting existing roads and uses along the PCT; that it is not a benevolent action when it comes to recreational use of the forest areas, and will spread to all forest plans along the CT corridor. Bob Gage indicated the Backcountry Horseman are opposed; Jeff Blewett indicated the Rubicon could be adversely affected, and Frank Stewart emphasized that we need to carefully evaluate this now, as the proposals will definitely migrate north to affect our local NF. Plumas and Lassen both have numerous roads crossing the PCT.

- 4.06 SPI Biologist, Michelle Schroeder, gave an informative presentation on the Fisher Project, highlighting the success of the integration of Fishers into a managed forest. The project was initiated both to expand the population of Fishers in California, but also to test the hypothesis that they can successfully adapt and thrive in a forest where timber harvesting and reforestation is occurring. The results have been very positive. Note: **Fisher comments on F&W Service website due by January 5, 2015.**
- 4.07 Supervisor Teeter provided a brief report on the Over the Snow Vehicle Use USFS Open Houses held on November 5 and 6. The USFS wanted to obtain public input on snowmobile and other OTS vehicle use. He doesn't expect much change from current policy will result, but there will likely be no wilderness access, possibly some groomed areas available. Cross country use policy is unknown.
- 4.08 Follow up on Butte Creek Forks BLM land use issue – tabled to a future meeting
- 4.09 Grazing as forest fuel reduction tool – tabled to a future meeting
- 4.10 New Business – considerations for next meeting agenda:
- Items 4.08 and 4.09, above
 - General Plan presentation
 - Yellow-billed cuckoo presentation from F&W Biologist Henry Lomeli
 - Forest Service Reps introduced (Randy Gould to coordinate)
 - Discussion of including SPI Timber Harvest Plan on meeting agenda: deemed outside the parameters of the FAC purpose of public land use
- 4.11 Public Comment was considered throughout the meeting on an informal basis.
- The next meeting will be Monday, December 15, 2014, at the Gold Nugget Museum, located at 502 Pearson Rd, Paradise, CA 95969. The meeting starts at 6:00 PM, but you are encouraged to come early to enjoy the museum's displays. It will be open at 5:00 to FAC meeting participants.