



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes - December 15, 2014

ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – 6:00 PM, **Gold Nugget Museum** 502 Pearson Rd, Paradise, CA 95969
- 2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America (if American flag is present)
- 2.01 Roll Call – Members: Jim Shary (acting Chair), Teri Faulkner, Trish Puterbaugh, Peggy Moak
Alternates: Pete Moak, Nani Teves
Public: Bob Gage, Fred Thorne, Charlotte Ann Hilgeman, Rich Faulkner, Kevin Wright, Ray Sousa, Sam Dresser
Presenters: Dan Breedon, Principal Planner, Butte County Development Services
Henry Lomeli, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
-

3.00 Consent Agenda

- 3.01 Minutes of 11-24-14 were reviewed and approved. (Faulkner) 2nd(Moak)

4.00 Agenda

- 4.01 Self-Introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests and Public – 5 Min

Sam Dresser of the Gold Nugget Museum was thanked for the hospitality and refreshments provided for the meeting.

- 4.02 General Plan Presentation – Dan Breedon, Butte County Development Services. The GP2030 process began in 2006 and was finalized in 2010. The process emphasized public outreach and regional collaboration with cities. A Citizens Advisory Committee did much of the initial consideration of the elements and guiding principles of the General Plan, which included a conservation element and open space. Dan provided handouts and an overview of the elements that were pertinent to the committee's purpose, and indicated that the General Plan is a living document that will continue to be modified as appropriate to the needs of the County, its communities and its citizens. Trail mapping is one of the goals listed in the GP, and the County will explore grants that might be helpful in this process. Dan's email is dbreedon@buttecounty.net, PH: 538-7629 (Information Only)
- 4.03 Yellow-Billed Cuckoo – Presentation from Henry Lomeli, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Biologist: Henry gave an informative presentation on the YB Cuckoo. He covered many of the points we have seen in earlier material gathered. The critical habitat designation as currently proposed appears to be broadly delineated in terms of acreages included to be covered by the designation given the deficiencies in the data from the Sacramento River study area. Too little is still known about bird movements, dispersal behavior, site fidelity of individuals, detection patterns, and habitat predictability as it relates to detections of YBCs. Additional scientific study is needed to answer these questions to better inform the selection of habitat to be considered in this critical habitat designation. Potential impacts of this designation on neighboring private agricultural operations need to be better evaluated and should address the possible impacts to cattle grazing, spraying, habitat conversion from riparian to orchards, and recreation.

- Since the most recent survey work was not designed to be a nest detection study, the lack of locating any nests can be deleted since it may imply that finding a nest is a



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Timber Harvesting Plan Review Process

When a THP is submitted to CAL FIRE:

Within 10 days of receipt:

- The THP is assigned a number.
- Copies are distributed to all state and federal reviewing agencies.
- A Notice of Intent is sent to landowners within 300 feet of the THP, the office of the county clerk within the THP county, and the local CAL FIRE unit headquarters.
- A Notice of Submission is sent to anyone who has requested notification in writing.
- A first review of the THP is done by a multi-agency team that includes CAL FIRE, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Geological Survey, and other agencies as needed. This first review is meant to assess whether the THP is complete, accurate and in proper order. Any incomplete applications are returned to the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) who prepared the THP. The RPF must answer any questions or concerns raised by the review team before the THP is processed any further.
- Once all review team concerns are clarified and the THP is deemed complete, it is officially "filed." A Notice of Filing is sent to the person who submitted the THP, the office of the County Clerk, and to anyone who has requested notification in writing.

The public may submit to CAL FIRE comments concerning a filed THP. Comments will be accepted by the Department in writing or via e-mail up until the close of business on the designated final date for public comment. The public shall be informed as to where they may send their e-mail comments on all public notices and postings. All comments regarding plans shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the Director at the regional office where the plan is filed. CAL FIRE responds in writing to public comments that raise significant environmental issues. Addresses for written comments to CAL FIRE facilities can be found at [CAL FIRE Contacts](#). The names of the assigned e-mail mailboxes for electronic comments are as follows:

- santarosapubliccomment@fire.ca.gov - Santa Rosa
- reddingpubliccomment@fire.ca.gov - Redding
- fresnopubliccomment@fire.ca.gov - Fresno

Public comments pertaining to CEQA documents normally reviewed by the Environmental Coordinator in Sacramento, should be sent to:

- sacramentopubliccomment@fire.ca.gov - Sacramento

E-mail Comment Requirements and Limitations

- Incoming e-mail messages will not be accepted by the system if they exceed 6 megabytes in size.
- Incoming e-mails with virus-laden attachments will be scanned and rejected by the CAL FIRE virus wall.
- Undecipherable e-mail messages shall be discarded.
- It is the responsibility of the sender to provide the Department with clear and complete messages when providing public comment through our e-mail system.
- Hypertext e-mail links to other web pages or publications shall not be deemed the equivalent of written comment.
- Not all comment formats may be compatible with current CAL FIRE software.
- Obscene, threatening, or offensive comments may be reported to CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Staff.

Within 10 days of the Notice of Filing:

- The review team may conduct a Pre-Harvest Inspection (PHI) to examine the proposed logging site. More than 95 percent of all plans receive a PHI.

Within 20 days of the Pre-Harvest Inspection:

- A second meeting is held by the review team to discuss the Pre-Harvest Inspection reports and to finalize any recommendations or changes needed for the THP.

30 days after the Pre-Harvest Inspection:

Resource Management Program

Section Links

Forest Practice

[THP](#)
[LTO](#)
[Forestry Practice GIS Data](#)
[Forest Practice Watershed Mapper](#)


Resource Management Links

- [Forest Practice](#)
- [Forestry/Landowner Assistance](#)
- [Environmental Protection and Regulations Program](#)
- [State Forests](#)
- [Climate Change](#)



Timber Harvesting Plan More Info

- [The THP Review Process](#)
- [Explanation of THP Info](#)
- [CAL FIRE's Role in Timber Harvesting \(51K PDF\)](#)

INTERESTED?

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- The public comment period ends. Frequently, however, the public comment period is extended to allow time for all agencies involved in the THP process to complete their reviews, or for additional study of a specific THP issue.

Following the Review Team's final recommendation:

- The final recommendations are sent to the Registered Professional Forester for response. After the RPF's response is received and the public comment period closes, the THP goes to the CAL FIRE Director, or the Director's representative, who has 15 working days to approve or deny the THP. The Director considers all Board of Forestry and Fire Protection rules, the review team's recommendations, and any public comment that was submitted concerning the proposed timber operation before making a decision to approve or deny the THP. CAL FIRE prepares and sends or e-mails a written response to each person or group who submits public comment on a THP.

Once a THP is Approved:

- CAL FIRE Unit Forest Practice Inspectors will periodically inspect the logging operation to ensure compliance with the approved THP and all laws and regulations.
- Any violations will be promptly acted upon. Enforcement actions range from violation notices requiring corrective actions, assessment of civil penalties and fines, and criminal proceedings through the court system. Action may also be taken against the licenses of the timber operator and/or the RPF on the operation.
- When a THP operation has been completed, the timber owner has the responsibility for submitting a completion report to CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE then inspects the area to certify that all rules were followed.
- The landowner must restock (replant) the area according to the Forest Practice Rules requirements. A stocking report must be filed with CAL FIRE to certify that these requirements were met. If the landowner fails to restock the land, CAL FIRE may hire a contractor to do the work and bill the landowner.

requirement of critical habitat designation. Henry's point of bringing it up in that context was to point out how little we know about this elusive bird and how addition study is warranted before listing such a large area as "critical habitat".

(Information Only)

- 4.04 Yellow Billed Cuckoo – Excerpts and Overview – Peggy Moak provided a handout that summarized the research gathered to date and the County's intent to issue a broad letter of support for the positions of some major constituents such as the flood control districts and the farm bureaus in our area. (Information Only)
- 4.05 Fisher Threatened Species Designation – An overview of earlier research was provided and discussed by the group. The US F&W comment period was extended to February 5, 2015. The SPI and Humboldt Redwood Company Agreements with CA F&W were discussed. (Information Only)
- 4.06 Public Comment Process on Timber Harvest Plans – Trish Puterbaugh presented information on the process for reading and commenting on timber harvest plans through the California Department of Forestry. (Information Only)
- 4.07 Grazing as forest fuel reduction tool - Pete Moak submitted a letter outlining the history of grazing in the foothills and mountains and asked for the committee's support in gathering supporting research to present to the USFS to assist in restoring mountain meadow habitat and reducing the impact of wildfire through grazing followed by controlled burns. Letter received by all; discussion ensued. No action taken.
- 4.08 New Business – considerations for next meeting agenda:
- Selection of Alternates for open slots: Economic/Tourism, Motorized Recreation, Non-Motorized Recreation
 - Letter submitted by Teri Faulkner re: Relationships Between Private Parties, Local Gov't and State/Federal Gov't Landholders (Forks of the Buttes issue)
 - Petition to CA F&W for Fisher listing as Threatened Species/pending study
- 4.09 Public Comment (THE COMMITTEE IS PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW FROM TAKING ACTION ON ANY ITEM PRESENTED IF IT IS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA.)
- 4.10 Discussion item: Next meeting will be Monday, January 26, 2015, at 4:00 PM (location?)