



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes - January 26, 2015

ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – **Oroville - Auditor-Treasurer Conference Room** at 25 County Center Dr.
- 2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America (if American flag is present)
- 2.01 Roll Call – Members: Frank Stewart, Chair, Jim Shary, Vice-Chair, Teri Faulkner, Trish Puterbaugh, Vance Severin, Peggy Moak
Alternates: Nani Teves, Pete Moak
Public: Bob Gage, Charlotte Ann Hilgeman, Rich Faulkner, Kevin Wright, Ray Sousa, Larry Crisman
Guests: Deputy John Carrillo, BLM Officer Josh Root, District 5 Supervisor Doug Teeter
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3.00 **Consent Agenda**

- 3.01 Minutes of 12-15-14 were reviewed, discussed and approved. M-Faulkner, 2nd Shary
Vote: Motion Approved 3 Ayes, 1 abstention due to absence (Severin), 1 Nay (Puterbaugh)

4.00 **Agenda**

- 4.01 A sign-up sheet was circulated to document attendance
- 4.02 YB Cuckoo, Fisher and Mixed Use on USFS roads –Comments, Updates– Peggy Moak
- The County's letter on the YB Cuckoo and the developments leading to issuance were discussed, and the FAC role in gathering background information for comment letters.
 - Plumas County Comment Letter on Fisher(included in agenda packet) was discussed, particularly as it pertained to data on diminished use of timber and increased fuel, including ladder fuels that affect water transpiration and increase the threat and intensity of wildfires
 - **Comments due by Feb. 4** on the Fisher (this is to validate the possible corrected date mentioned) Supervisor has been authorized to issue a letter on behalf of the Board.
- 4.03 Forks of the Buttes - Teri Faulkner: Guest speakers Deputy John Carrillo (BC Sheriff's Dept.) and Josh Root (BLM) Teri suggested a camp host program on the BLM land. After some discussion of the issues facing neighbors of the BLM land and difficulty in obtaining timely law enforcement assistance, Carrillo and Root stated there would be increased coordination between Sheriff's patrols, Paul of the USFS, Josh of BLM and Josh Brennan with F&W. Carrillo will explore the possibility of adding that area to the seasonal campground patrol – maybe the BLM will have some funding available for that, as the USFS does. The BLM has only three officers for all of Northern CA. For both county and BLM, budget and manpower constraints remain problematical.
- 4.04 Recommendations for Alternates Selection to the Board of Supervisors were discussed, for categories of Tourism/Economic, Non-Motorized Recreation and Motorized Recreation. Charlotte Ann Hilgeman was nominated for Tourism/Economic, and Bob Gage for Non-Motorized Recreation. M-Stewart, 2nd Faulkner
Vote: Motion Approved 5-0

- 4.05 Over the Snow Vehicles – Comment Letter Needed by February 15: Doug Teeter reviewed the new provisions in Lassen NF Ruling: 3500' minimum altitude, 6" on roads and 12" on open ground. Discussion centered on lack of predictability of snow depths from year to year and concluded the 6" restriction would suffice; no need for the 3500' elevation restriction. Teeter will work on a letter for Board consideration.
- 4.06 Mileage Reimbursement – amendment to bylaws: Peggy Moak reviewed a draft amendment authorizing travel related expenses for out of area meetings requested and authorized by the Coordinating Committee was discussed, to be voted on at February's meeting. Board of Supervisors' approval is also required.
- 4.07 Group review, discussion & required FAC action for projects affecting Butte County listed in the 1st and 2nd Quarter 2015 SOPA Reports for Lassen and Plumas NF's: Chair Stewart again advised that reviewing the SOPAs timely is critical, and encouraged members to keep an eye out for their area of interest so they can research, report, and recommend action to the FAC. They are on the USFS website, and also can be mailed to you directly, which includes a cover letter that can be meaningful. Contact Kim Earl, Lassen NF, at 252-6638 and Plumas NF at 283-7820 to get on their mailing list. Peg will continue to email the SOPAs so each person will have a chance to review them prior to the meeting. Trish said she has been working on the Grizzly Restoration Unit project in Butte/Plumas counties for about 20 years.
- 4.08 Wood cutting permits – Lassen and Plumas NF: Jim Shary opined that the USFS should make obtaining wood permits a more streamlined process, possibly free, possibly online, in an attempt to encourage people to clear downed hardwoods from the forest. Trish Puterbaugh indicated that there may be fewer woodcutters due to diminished fireplace and wood stove use because of low air quality due to particulates in wood smoke resulting in more cities prohibiting wood fires. The wood cutting permits are inexpensive, but must be applied for in person. Jim also shared the Concow Fuel Reduction EIR and indicated this project was started in 2003 but had not yet come to fruition when the Camp Fire came through in 2008 and devastated the area. He emphasized the importance of such projects to prevent or reduce the impact of wildfire. Frank suggested we look in to the Good Neighbor Authorities, funds available through Cap & Trade grants, Stewardship Contracts (2015 Farm Bill) and programs available for disadvantaged communities.
- 4.09 New Business – considerations for next meeting agenda:
- SOPAs list on the agenda at each meeting
 - Take action on amendment to bylaws for mileage/travel related expense
 - Discuss FAC purpose and actions, relationship to the Board and comment letters
 - Should the County/FAC get the word out that ML3 road use is not being enforced? How? Downside?
 - Sustainable Forest Coalition
 - Fire Safe Council/Cal-Fire Speaker
- 4.10 Public Comment:
- Larry Crisman, who is with the Yahi group of the Sierra Club, shared information on abuse of meadows, creek crossings and says that the High Lakes are seeing increased use from Rubicon users. He wants to increase awareness and find a way to stop this type of abuse from happening.
 - There is a meeting on January 29 for the Upper Feather River Watershed Management Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Uplands and Forest Workgroup meeting at 10:00 AM on January 29 that will be live streamed if anyone would like to view it. More information is available at <http://featherriver.org/workgroup-meetings>
 - Vance Severin gave an update on the County's OHV grant in the Plumas NF – *see attached staff report from Mike Crump for details*. For this year, the new Butte County RCD District Manager, Sarah Reynolds, is on board and beginning to work with the local clubs to organize and document their volunteer efforts. Mike Crump is meeting 2-17 with Feather River Ranger District staff to discuss this summer's Ground Operations grant work in the French Creek area.

(THE COMMITTEE IS PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW FROM TAKING ACTION ON ANY ITEM PRESENTED IF IT IS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA.)

- 4.11 Discussion item: Next meeting will be Monday, February 23, 2015, at 6:00 PM -Durham Library May's meeting falls on Memorial Day – May 18 was selected as the alternate date via an email poll.

