



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes – April 27, 2015

ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – Gold Nugget Museum, 502 Pearson Rd., Paradise
- 2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- 2.01 Roll Call – **Members:** Frank Stewart, Chair, Jim Shary, Vice-Chair, Teri Faulkner, Trish Puterbaugh, Vance Severin, Peggy Moak
Alternates: Pete Moak, Charlotte Ann Hilgeman
Public: Rich Faulkner, Kevin Wright, Jay Lowe, Toni Reid, Jeff Blewett, Sam Dresser
Guests: Nick Repanich (Friends of the High Lakes), Randy Gould (Plumas USFS Dist. Ranger)
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- 3.00 **Consent Agenda**
- 3.01 Minutes of 3-23-15 were reviewed, discussed and approved. M-Faulkner, 2nd Puterbaugh
Vote: Motion Approved 5-0
- 4.00 **Agenda**
- 4.01 Self-Introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates and Public
- 4.02 SOPA Review – Current Quarter: Discussion & required FAC action for projects affecting Butte County listed in 2015 SOPA Reports for Lassen and Plumas NF's. Chair Stewart requested each FAC member to review quarterly SOPAs for the Lassen and Plumas NF as they affect Butte County residents for their area of interest, follow up with the USFS personnel listed in the SOPA to ask to be on their "scoping list" and report as to whether the FAC should be involved or recommend a comment letter.
- 4.03 Friends of the High Lakes (FOTHL) Presentation – Nick Repanich: Nick provided a Power Point presentation showing some of the projects taken on by the FOTHL since 2007 when the Lassen NF closed some access roads and threatened additional closures. Accomplishments: Adopt-A-Trail Program that organized 4WD and Motorcycle Clubs to mitigate identified problem areas for meadows and roads in the High Lakes (tons of rocks placed in mud holes and water crossings, meadows blocked off, jeep trails re-routed away from water sources); Fire Rings installed at designated camps, Large groups can no longer camp in sensitive areas; passed out oil cleanup kits, wag bags for human waste, informational brochures with (now the "official") map of designated routes and camp sites; conducted surveys of visitors; obtained a USFS grant for reclamation of historic trails; worked with Lassen NF personnel to collaborate on positive actions to keep access open for all hiking/biking/riding trails and jeep trails.
- 4.04 NF Socioeconomic Roundtable Feedback – Chair Stewart led a group discussion on the meeting notes that were provided listing points to be considered during planning for the forests
- Forest Service planning handbook
 - SFAC Notes – SFAC to F/U during June planning meeting with USFS
- SFAC letter (in agenda packet)
- 4.05 Amended list of Forest Service Contacts was provided, and still needs to be modified for Plumas – Feather River District Ranger Randy Gould asked that all requests for information or assistance on

the Plumas NF be channeled through him, as he has several unfilled positions and is functioning with a short staff. He would like to direct us to the right person, provide the information directly, or otherwise manage the process.

- 4.06 Feedback from Chairman Stewart and Teri Faulker relative to their participation in the March 25th USFS public hearing in Redding, regarding the forthcoming Land Management Plan revision process that will commence in Region's 5 & 6 later this year: The meeting was informative and made it clear that it is important for the public and local agencies throughout Region 5 become involved in the process. Stakeholder meetings will take place for input – Butte CC needs to contact USFS Supervisors to ensure Plumas and Lassen have a local meeting for Butte County residents.

Randy Gould shared some insights on the Plumas. He is down about 50% in staffing due to budget cuts and vacancies, no planner on staff and anticipates 6 mos – 1 year to fill the position. NEPA docs take 18-24 mos. to complete. Due to budgetary and reporting constraints, Plumas has decided to do one big project in the Granite Basin, to include fuel reduction & restoration of watershed, and that it was about 2 years out for implementation. He would like to see a collaborative effort between local communities and NF to create/maintain defensible space along NF and other roads that are close to communities. Another project he is working on is to clean up Union Hill, including oak restoration (NEPA Doc was approx. 1200 pages, time consuming, still pending final). Recreation budgets have been cut back severely which could result in some campgrounds having to be closed. He is hoping that volunteer efforts/collaborative programs can be encouraged to help offset budget cuts to keep recreation areas open and viable.

- 4.07 Forest roads/recreational needs: The FAC members were asked to review the Detailed Proposed Action in Support of the need to change items in the Notice of Intent for the Forest Plan Revision for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra NF's (Peggy's 4/27 e-mail) to come up with a proposed plan for Coordinating Committee to work with, in preparation for a coordination session with the Plumas and Lassen NF on the upcoming Forest Plans and on the Travel Management Plan for each Forest. Considerations: Motorized and non-motorized recreation, access to trailheads, staging areas for horses, motorcycles, OHV. Protection of meadows, streams and other sensitive areas. Utilize USFS Land Management Planning Handbook and Draft Plans already published for So. CA Forests as guides.

- 4.08 New Business – considerations for next meeting agenda:
- Road planning session – formalization of plan to be proposed by CC
 - Other elements of Forest Service Plans for coordination efforts
 - Discuss July meeting (Peg will be gone on vacation!)

- 4.09 Public Comment.

- 4.10 Discussion item: Next meeting will be Monday, May 18 at 4:00 PM in Oroville, at the Auditor-Treasurer Conference Room located in the administration Building at 25 County Center Dr.

Meeting was adjourned at 8ish.

Mobilization and Stabilization in The High Lakes

A Sustainable Plan

BACKGROUND:

In our ongoing efforts to preserve the beauty and integrity of The High lakes, and to maintain environmentally sensitive motorized access to the routes, Friends of The High Lakes (FOHL) proposes a 10-Point Plan to resolve issues that caused the recent Emergency Closure order, and to ensure the future of motorized access to the area.

During July 2007, the USFS (by Forest Order) closed portions of four routes to all entry due to issues yet to be identified. Area users have collaborated to develop this 10-Point Plan to help the governing agencies and interested parties ensure a viable and healthy future for the High Lakes Area. FOHL takes "ownership" of this area and offers an intensive, user-initiated approach to keeping the area open and accessible to everyone.

PURPOSE:

The specific purpose of this Plan is threefold:

- 1) to ensure continued and historical access to the area;
- 2) to mitigate current and future environmental and health issues in the OHV area; and
- 3) to prevent further closures.

PLAN ENDORSEMENTS:

Except for #5 (a High Lakes permit System) this Plan has the acceptance and endorsement of a majority of Friends of The High Lakes and organizations represented. The permit system does not have a full consensus of the various users and recreational organizations. Any kind of exploration or study of a permit system would require extensive committee work and stakeholder involvement. Nonetheless, FOHL proposes this as a possible solution worth consideration and study over closures and further restrictions.

FOHL advocates more town hall type meetings and user input in the implementation of the proposed solutions presented in this plan. Further The High Lakes Area Master Plan should be re-evaluated to take into account the opportunities and proposals presented herein.

The remainder of the 10-Point Plan (minus #5 permits) is endorsed and supported by the following organizations:

[yet to be determined but may include:

Friends of The High Lakes (FOHL)

California Association of 4Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC)

California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA)

United Four Wheel Drive Associations (UFWDA)

Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC)

Philbrook Community Association (PCA)

Off Road Business Association (ORBA)

Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)

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In keeping with the users spirit of volunteerism the following areas, the USFS will provide an "open MOU" to the using public stating their desire to keep open and maintain all of the traditional and historic routes in The High Lakes, as long as all federal and State laws are met.

1. ADOPT-A-TRAIL

The heart of the Plan for The High Lakes begins with the adoption of every foot of the area by clubs and groups, chosen and maintained by the Governing Body of FOHL, and their guests. By dividing the area among user groups and clubs, with each club taking "ownership" of their section(s) we can ensure that there will be a responsible group of volunteers able, willing and capable of assisting the USFS in maintaining the area, keeping it free of downfall, trail braiding, work-arounds, debris and garbage on a regular basis, and other activities authorized by USFS, several times each season.

2. TRAIL PATROL

FOHL plans a proactive increase in education, combining the best efforts of established organizations and programs with an active Volunteer Trail Patrol. FOHL will also encourage Volunteer Trail Patrol members to attend any training or orientation that law enforcement personnel would offer. Volunteer Trail Patrol members will be instructed in observing and reporting techniques for camping and other trail violations. These efforts will be fully coordinated with law enforcement officials having jurisdiction over the area and the surrounding areas. the role of The Trail Patrol will be Education and NOT enforcement.

See <http://www.friendsofhighlakes.com/patrol.shtml> for more details.

3. MANDATORY HUMAN WASTE DISPOSAL CAPABILITY:

To avoid any sort of permit system, FOHL proposes to support, help develop and if necessary administer a mandatory "pack it out" portable toilet/human waste disposal system along the heavy use areas. Users would be given several options for packing out human waste. This effort would support the ongoing effort by USFS started with OHV Trust Fund money.

Environmentally safe systems would be used on The High Lakes Area, such as those provided by ThePETT system which are landfill and dumpster safe (non-biohazard). FOHL would further support and help develop receptacles at designated collection points for human waste rendered 'landfill and dumpster safe". Motorcyclists and quads could be exempted from this requirement, if needed, as their term of stay could be much shorter than other users. Further, this requirement could be limited to just overnight campers, but available to all users as well.

FOHL is willing to work towards a solution that best fits the needs of the USFS, clubs and associations, and users of the area. see the (soon to be) attached pages of typical sanitary and hygiene systems.

4. KIOSK and EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH:

This Plan proposes to provide and replace educational materials at the kiosk above Spring Valley where most users enter, with information as to personal hygiene systems, Tread Lightly! information, BlueRibbon Coalition literature and other guides and information deemed needed to reach the users for proper use and care for the area. Both Volunteers (FOHL Trail Patrol and FOHL members) would replenish the educational tools, along with law enforcement and recreation personnel. This could include sanitation issues being addressed with

possible give away or for sale products to meet the objectives of "Pack it Out", along with educational campaign with simple reasons for cooperating publicized. This can be posters, postcards, slogans and other outreach would seek to insure compliance and cooperation.

5. EXPLORE the OPTION of a HIGH LAKES PERMIT SYSTEM:

FOHL proposes to study a back country area permit system to manage the carrying capacity of the area. Permits would be free and with no limits or caps. Permits would serve as an educational tool much like a camp fire permit. Users would sign the permit verifying that they know the area rules and have the ability to "Pack it Out" for human waste, and garbage.

6. CAMPING DESIGNATION and DEVELOPMENT at LONG LAKE and CAMPBELL LAKE:

FOHL proposes to help develop a "camping map" for the High Lakes This map would include locations of all possible sites and would be highly sought after. It may work to replace any permit, as camping rules would be prominent.

FOHL proposes to help the USFS develop, expand, and construct campsites around Long Lake and Campbell Lake areas, with designated access routes. Law enforcement officials would have clear definitions of legal vs illegal camping. Human waste will be intensely managed. (See # 3 above)

FOHL proposes a special set of "High Lakes Camping Guidelines " enforced by education and peer pressure.

NOTE: Camping designations at these crowded and popular areas would not eliminate dispersed camping among the rest of the areas.

7. INCREASED FINES for AREA VIOLATIONS:

FOHL proposes to support and advocate increased fines (bail schedules) for violations of the camping rules such as not having portable toilets, illegal camping, off-trail travel and resource damage. This effort will be additionally supported by the ongoing Volunteer Trail Patrol already in existence. Volunteer Trail Patrol members will be instructed in observing and reporting techniques for camping and other trail violations.

These efforts will be fully coordinated with law enforcement officials having jurisdiction over the trails and the surrounding areas. FOHL still encourages law enforcement officials to be present on the trail more, providing appropriate enforcement of the rules we have, especially on busy weekends and holidays.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

FOHL proposes regular meetings, at least semi-annual, and more often if deemed necessary, with FS Staff and local opinion leaders and clubs officers. One of these meetings would be in The High Lakes in the dry months, and one in Chico or Chester in the winter season. Discussion topics would include planning and scheduling for the next 6 months of activities.

9. OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (OC):

Strengthen the mission and purpose of the High Lakes Oversight Committee (OC) - to ensure adequate user and interested party input into the future of the area. Finish and implement The High Lakes Area Master Plan being developed by the OC in conjunction with USFS. FOHL proposes to assist with this process in any way needed.

10. SIGNAGE:

FOHL proposes that the routes be signed with a permanent signage system, and the survey of the area finished.. Then publish the survey and make special maps available to the public as soon as possible FOHL will assist in distributing the maps and other educational materials and placing the signs. Signs would be installed in compliance with USFS Standards and Oversight Committee guidelines.

SUMMARY:

FOHL avails itself to all interested parties in solving the issues and concerns in The High Lakes Area. Our mission is to preserve this area for future generations to use and enjoy, and to keep the area alive and well for motorized recreation. This collaborative, user-initiated 10-Point Plan offers sound proposals to both perceived and real issues and concerns in The High Lakes Area.

Please contact us at info@friendsofhighlakes.com or visit our Friends of The High Lakes Home Pages at: [Http://www.friendsofhighlakes.com](http://www.friendsofhighlakes.com) or call (530) 873-2430

Moak, Peggy

From: Ken Knull <ken@friendsofthehighlakes.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Moak, Peggy; Teeter, Doug
Cc: Nick; Michelle Ahearn; Nelson, Kathleen G -FS
Subject: Re: Status of hiking trails - specifically 615

A bit of history of the 615 area.....

In the Olden (Golden) days prior to the execution of the December 1976 motorized / non-motorized designations, and current OHV plan, we were able to wheel on the entire length of that trail, ending up at 611. It was a great, but occasionally used wheeling even but created a great loop event.

Along came a decade (2000) of two fires the Storrie and the Cub Complex causing more than 60 bulldozers and a few excavators to suppress these fires, largely obliterating or moving historic access.

In the rehab plan post-fire FOTHL had a special use permit to evaluate the area..... our recommendation at that time to Al and Jane was to re-allow the historic use of the entire trail, so in the "next" fire, (already had two in that decade) dozers would have a maintained access to move through and faster, with far less resource damage. That proposal was not implemented at that time.

That proposal could still stand... by allowing a cherry-stem through the non-motorized area, we could still make it happen with wheeling volunteers. It is highly doubtful that wheelers would be very willing to re-establish and maintain a hiking-only trail.

We are sure the trail through the motorized portion is now back on historic trail and was re-opened and maintained by use of a state funded grant, and now properly signed. Very much unlike the rest of the hiking trail. The motorized trail is important in that it makes use of a great camp at a couple fish-able streams. Nice ride and area.

Ken

On 09/30/2014 09:24 AM, Moak, Peggy wrote:

Thanks, Ken. We'll see what develops.



Peggy Moak
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pmoak@buttecounty.net

From: Ken Knull [<mailto:kenknull@pantheus.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:58 PM

To: Moak, Peggy

Cc: Teeter, Doug; Nick

Subject: Re: Status of hiking trails

I had originally assigned the non-motorized portion of 615 to a crew from Yahi Chapter of Sierra Club (Steven Sayre) and he's the one who hung the "no vehicles past here" USF sign, in the proper place.

But in talking to Steven recently but he has now resigned Sierra Club , because he had a lot of great ideas, but no one helped him.

I actually can't imagine many wheelers that would rehab a hiking-only trail. Maybe some of Michelle's PCT peeps?

I did c.c. District Ranger on the original.

ken

On 09/29/2014 03:53 PM, Moak, Peggy wrote:

Yes, I mentioned that to Doug – though I thought it was the intersection of the 610/616. The hiking trail is not very well marked, though – just with periodic small rocks stacked on top of boulders to mark something of the direction.

Doug – see Ken's comments and map link – perhaps it could be forwarded to the District Ranger? I can do it if you prefer....

Thanks,



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From: Ken Knull [<mailto:kenknull@pantheus.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:45 PM

To: Nick; Teeter, Doug; Michelle Ahearn; Nelson, Kathleen G -FS

Cc: Moak, Peggy

Subject: Re: Status of hiking trails

The mention of 615 here is partially motorized, and non-motorized as denoted on the FOTHL / USFS map:

<http://www.friendsofthehighlakes.com/maps.shtml>

It begins off 610 / 617 as motorized (solid line), and ends as non-motorized - dashed in the non-motorized area. The end of the motorized area is noted clearly with a "no vehicles beyond this point".

On 09/29/2014 01:16 PM, Moak, Peggy wrote:

Below is information on hiking trails from the Almanor Ranger District, courtesy of Doug Teeter.



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From: Teeter, Doug
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 12:26 PM
To: Moak, Peggy
Subject: Fwd: Status of hiking trails

FYI, status of non motorized trails (hike, horse, bike) in and around high lakes area

Doug

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Nelson, Kathleen G -FS" <kgnelson01@fs.fed.us>
Date: September 29, 2014, 12:17:33 PM PDT
To: "Teeter, Doug" <DTeeter@buttecounty.net>
Subject: Status of hiking trails

Hello Doug,
My recreation officer finally got a minute to put together some information on the trails that you had requested. We've been just trying to hold things together in that department since the District Resource Officer retired in May. Hoping to have that filled soon, and have a detailer in the meantime. Big shoes to fill, as the person that retired had been here over 30 years, all on the Almanor District. At any rate, let me know if you have questions on the info below.

Belden:

Belden Trail #603.
1.45 miles on Almanor RD
Beginning Terminus – 26N08L
Ending terminus – forest boundary
Comments – ties in with the Indian Springs Trail; does not exist beyond 1.45 miles (Storrie Fire)
This trail is one of four submitted to the region for assessment and maintenance using Storrie Fire settlement funds. It is to be included in a Challenge Cost Share Agreement being developed in coordination with the Plumas NF and the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship. The trail has not been maintained in at least the past five years.

Jonesville:

Butte Creek Trail #515
INFRA data:
Trail length – 3.0730
Beginning Terminus – Jonesville at Road 26N27C
Ending terminus – Road 27N11 near Butte Creek House
Comments – none
This trail has not been maintained by district personnel or volunteers in at least the past five years. One district employee mentioned that he stumbled upon the mid-portion of the trail on the ground along Butte Creek once, but he has never seen use at either "trailhead", nor has he seen use on the trail itself (not to say there is none, but this trail has never been brought to the rec officer's attention in her time here).

Storrie:

Trail #615
Working on tracking down information on the status of this trail; conflicting records and maps.

Kimshew Point – Jones Trail:

Jones Trail

Not aware of any maintenance on this trail by district personnel. Volunteer groups may use and maintain it for access, but we have no knowledge of specifics. Could not find information on this trail in INFRA (roads/trails database), and it does not show up on the transportation layer in GIS.

Hope that helps. - Kathleen

Kathleen Nelson
District Ranger
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Lassen National Forest
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