



## BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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### **MINUTES - January 2, 2017 - WORKSHOP–BLM NORTHWEST CA INTEGRATED RESOURCE MGT. PLAN**

#### ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – Butte County Public Works Facility – 44 Bellarmine Ct. Chico, CA
- 2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- 2.01 Roll Call – FAC Members: Jim Shary, Vance Severin, Nick Repanich, Pete Moak, Teri Faulkner, Peggy Moak  
Public: Rich Faulkner
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- 3.00 **Consent Agenda (None)**
- 4.00 **Agenda - Happy New Year! Pizza, sodas and water provided**
- 4.01 Self-introduction of Attendees.
- 4.02 Review of BLM NW CA Integrated Resource Management Plan Documents. The following documents were referenced prior to attending the workshop, and one set was printed for review during the workshop.
- [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/63960/89218/106717/NCIP\\_RMP\\_AMS\\_Report\\_Appendix\\_A\\_Envisioning\\_Report.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/63960/89218/106717/NCIP_RMP_AMS_Report_Appendix_A_Envisioning_Report.pdf)
  - [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/63960/89216/106713/NCIP\\_RMP\\_AMS\\_Report\\_Nov\\_2016.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/63960/89216/106713/NCIP_RMP_AMS_Report_Nov_2016.pdf)
- 4.03 Recommendations developed for comment for consideration by the Butte County Board of Supervisors:
- Support establishment of shaded fuel breaks, prescribed burns, grazing and other grassland/forest management practices designed to improve forest health, enhance meadows and reduce the impacts of wildfire
  - The issue of misuse (bonfires, trash and litter, homeless encampments, gunfire) in the Forks of Butte Creek recreational area needs to be addressed via additional law enforcement, better monitoring and enhanced facilities (toilets, etc.) Recommend increased use of MOUs with local law enforcement, and strongly consider use of campground hosts.
  - Maintain or improve access to recreational areas; current access and standards should be maintained, even for critical environmental areas, and restrictions should be necessary and appropriate based on actual threats.
  - Improve the quality and number of trails for hiking and equestrian use, and multi-use where appropriate. Ensure trails are developed to a width sufficient to accommodate multi-use for passing each other safely.
  - What progress has been made on earlier plans for the BLM lands in Butte County, especially the Forks of Butte Creek?
  - No listing of infrastructure such as roads and bridges is listed in the report. This is a concern as there is no documentation as to what agencies are responsible for maintenance and improvements.
  - Involvement of Butte County local government early in the process for road/bridge projects. The Doe Mill and Whisky Flat bridges were mentioned as examples of projects where local agencies (county & fire) were not informed or meaningfully involved in the process, resulting in a problem with the West

Branch Bridge at Whisky Flats. The new bridge can no longer accommodate fire trucks due to a constrained width. This has caused a serious adverse impact to wildfire suppression plans in this recreational area, which is extremely vulnerable to wildfire, and is adjacent to the populated communities of Magalia, Paradise and Concow. It is critical that the West Branch Bridge be modified to allow for the passage of fire trucks and heavy equipment utilized when fighting fires.

- Butte County needs advance notice of any planning activities for lands within the County, both to be involved in the planning process and to ensure the public is notified and has opportunities to provide feedback.
- Rock hounds in the area have expressed an interest in being able to access tailing piles of mining sites, including abandoned claims.
- Facilitate increased opportunities for continuous trails and other recreational opportunities: partner with other agencies to create connectivity and viable recreation opportunities, i.e. Lake Oroville SRA, Plumas National Forest and Lassen National Forest, as well as continued emphasis on property swaps or acquisition of adjacent lands to provide for continuous trail loops and better access to these lands, with an eye to having larger contiguous parcels as opposed to the scattered parcels.
- Question: how are less accessible lands utilized, and how this use and means of access is made obvious to the interested hunter/fisherman/hiker/horseman/rancher?
- What is the process for advertising the availability of such parcels to eligible entities?
- The organizational structure of the NCIP makes it very challenging to locate information pertaining to specific areas as the information is spread throughout the document. Recommend re-thinking the format or, as an alternative, develop an appendix similar to the structure of the Envisioning Report, where **all** information pertinent to specific regions or points of interest are consolidated.
- Recommend that the BLM work on improving the website to include ready reference to current and historical plans and documentation, including responses to comment letters, questions, etc. It is our opinion that answers to comments should be publicly posted within 45 days of their receipt by the Redding-Arcata Field Office. The BLM might also consider opening a public portal on their website to provide opportunities for the public to upload comments, questions or concerns for response by the local Field Office.
- Some maps of BLM lands are made available on the website, they need to be updated as there are some inaccuracies on road names, i.e. Ponderosa Way. Consider mobile apps for such maps, with GPS “points of interest” to make the experiences more interactive without the expense of posting signs and plaques. Post the current hard printed BLM regional maps on the BLM website to enhance the user experience and provide more opportunities for the public to know what lands are in the BLM inventory.

4.04 Public Comment accepted throughout the workshop, and the following was submitted via email by Thad Walker: Potential Projects in Butte County

- Develop opportunities to create larger parcels of connected BLM land in Butte County through land swaps and purchases –currently fractured with limited connectivity and low recreation expansion potential.
- With smaller land parcels within Butte County look for ways to partner with other agencies to create connectivity and viable recreation opportunities i.e. Lake Oroville SRA, Plumas FS and Lassen FS.
- Expand current recreational trails opportunities to create loops and connectivity to other recreation resources and rural communities.
- Create stewardship opportunities to encourage Butte County residents to coordinate with BLM on caring for area natural and recreational resources.

A. Forks of Butte Creek

- Extend Butte Creek Trail to South (approx. 1.5 miles) to connect with Indian Springs Trail via suspension bridge across Butte Creek
- Expand trails on west side of Butte Creek –create loop trail off Doe Mill
- Explore land swap opportunities with SPI to allow for larger parcel along Butte Creek or Little Chico Creek.
- Create interpretative trail elements along Butte Creek Trail to highlight mining history/ operations in Butte County
- Complete restoration projects to protect historical sites

B. Hwy 32/ Chico Creek Nature Preserve

- Coordinate with City of Chico and CSU Chico Creek Nature Preserve to connect BLM properties to Bidwell Park via natural surface trails –potential land swap easement with CSU Chico Creek Nature Preserve

C. Hwy 162/ Stringtown Mountain

- Develop a natural surface trail system off Hwy 162
- Provide a loop trail around Stringtown Mountain
- Creates connectivity to Lake Oroville SRA/ Loafer Creek trail system
- Explore land swap opportunity with SPI to increase area and recreational opportunity