



## BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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### MINUTES – March 27, 2017

#### 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:** Nick Repanich (Chair), Thad Walker, Trish Puterbaugh, Teri Faulkner, Peggy Moak. **Alternates:** Bob Gage, Jim Shary, Pete Moak (voting), Vance Severin  
**Guests:** BLM Representatives Lisa Grudzinski and Sara Acridge, Plumas National Forest - Supervisor Daniel Lovato, Clay Davis (NEPA Planner, PNF (Feather River Ranger District), Calli-Jane DeAnza (Butte County Fire Safe Council), Laura Page (Congressman La Malfa) Dennis Schmidt (Coordinating Committee), Supervisor Doug Teeter, Captain Dan Newman (Butte County Search & Rescue)  
**Public:** Rich Faulkner, Kevin Wright, Tom Kelly, Bill Anderson, Brad Sanders
- 2.02 Self-introduction of Attendees.

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#### 3.00 Consent Agenda

- 3.01 Minutes for February 27, 2017 reviewed and approved. M- Puterbaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Faulkner, Motion Approved 5-0

#### 4.00 Agenda

- 4.03 (Moved to first on the agenda) Butte County Fire Safe Council – Calli-Jane DeAnza: An overview of the BCFSC Grant Application to the Butte County Resource Advisory Committee was provided. The \$100,000 grant application is for the Chipper Program (75%) and Tree Mortality Solutions (25% - removal of debris). Motion: Issue letter of support for the BCFSC grant application (Calli-Jane to provide a draft form letter) M- Pete Moak, 2<sup>nd</sup> Teri Faulkner. Approved 5-0
- 4.01 Bureau of Land Management NW Integrated Resource Management Plan – Lisa Grudzinski  
An overview of the process, opportunities for public input, estimated timeline and involvement of Butte County as a Cooperating Agency were discussed.
- 4.02 Plumas National Forest (PNF) Supervisor Daniel Lovato – Introduction of the broad goals of the PNF, some challenges faced with logistics/staffing/funding, and his invitation to communicate with him and staff on issues/needs. Clay Davis also spoke on the Challenge Field Trip planned for April 7, 2017.
- 4.04 **OHV Grants Discussion** - Eight OHV grants were discussed and action taken as to whether to support and/or ask for more information. **UPDATE: the approved grant comments were not able to be submitted due to a date error on the part of Peggy Moak.**

- Plumas National Forest Ground Operations & Maintenance: \$242,015/\$89,730 match for ML2 road maintenance, erosion control measures, replacement of LaPorte Warming Hut/Staging Area pit toilet with prefab double vault bathroom, and maintenance/management of 5 campgrounds: Four Trees, Rogers Cow Camp, Little North Fork, Golden Trout and Millsap Bar

The FAC supports this grant application for needed maintenance and improvements to ML2 roads, campgrounds and facilities. This is particularly needed after the heavy rains experienced in 2016-17, which have done tremendous damage and erosion to roads and trails frequented by OHV riders that must be

mitigated to prevent erosion and additional resource damage. Additionally, proper maintenance of campground and warming hut/staging area facilities is crucial to meaningful and enjoyable OHV camping/riding experiences. M-Puterbaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Walker, Approved 5-0

- Plumas National Forest – Restoration Pulga and Jordan Hill: 50,344/\$18,080 match to block non-system OHV trails and logging roads

The FAC supports the need to protect resource areas such as meadows and wildland areas from encroachment by OHV users, and supports restoration efforts along these lines.

M-Puterbaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Walker, Approved 4-0 with one abstention (Faulkner)

- Butte County Public Works, Planning & Development: \$730,400/\$258,320 match for NEPA planning for Granite Basin single track trails

The FAC supports this planning and development grant for the Lakes Basin area single –track trails. It will build upon work that has already been accomplished by the Plumas NF and provide opportunities for both improved resource protection and enhanced trails experiences.

M-Repanich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Faulkner, Approved 4-0 with one abstention (Walker)

- Plumas County Public Works – Education & Safety Grant (brochures, events): \$12,310/\$9,350 match for public outreach, brochures, staff

The FAC supports the need supports this grant application in recognition of the need for educational outreach amongst OHV forest users. M- Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Faulkner, Approved 5-0

- Plumas County Public Works – High Lakes Trails Inventory: \$14,547/\$11,652 match for GIS Mapping of Plumas County High Lakes Trails

The FAC, and Ranger Nelson, believes there are some major concerns with this grant application: 1) There are comprehensive trail maintenance projects in the High Lakes planned for this summer which will likely change the nature of many of the more difficult spots, especially if those spots are around any water crossings. Plumas County Public Works may not have been aware of this project, as it is considered trail maintenance and did not require a NEPA or a SOPA, but it is in the \$800,000 range, so you can see its magnitude. 2) The Almanor District Ranger has not been contacted as a collaborator regarding the proposed project, and therefore has not had a chance to weigh in on the timing, need and viability of the proposed project.

The Forest Advisory Committee is recommending delaying this project until Plumas County Public Works has had a chance to collaborate with the Almanor Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest (LNF), and with the Friends of the High Lakes, which is the primary non-profit partner for the High Lakes area of the LNF, and until this extensive maintenance project on routes accessing the High Lakes, to be overseen by the LNF Almanor Ranger District, is completed. Once these steps have been accomplished, the FAC believes it may be in a better position to support the grant project.

Motion: write a letter of concern on timing and lack of coordination. M-Puterbaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Moak, Approved 5-0

- OHV Law Enforcement Grants: Butte County Sheriff - \$22,826/\$14,420 match = 630 staff hours, & equip maintenance;

The FAC would like the Butte County Sheriff to clarify the need to fund patrols on Sierra Pacific Industries Lands when their roads are generally closed (gated) against OHV use. Most importantly, the FAC would like to see increased focus on the timing of patrols to effectively enable “catching” OHV users doing resource damage, and have less emphasis on issuing citations for routine safety violations (helmets, seatbelts). This might require cooperating with the BLM, Lassen and Plumas National Forest Law Enforcement officers to develop strategies for the protection of high value resource areas, such as meadows and streams, and ensuring 24 hour coverage during high use periods. Mounting cameras and other surveillance techniques might be a consideration. Also, obtain citation activity from Sheriff. M- Puterbaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Walker, Approved 5-0

- Plumas County Sheriff - \$121,900/\$41,633 match = 1000 staff hours, 4-seat UTV and 2 snowmobile purchases

The FAC is supportive of law enforcement grants and related activities on OHV utilized public lands, and of the need for equipment designed to effectively traverse these challenging roads and trails. Most importantly, the FAC would like to see increased focus on the timing of patrols to effectively enable “catching” OHV users doing resource damage, and have less emphasis on issuing citations for routine safety violations (helmets, seatbelts). This might require cooperating with the BLM, and Lassen and Plumas National Forest Law Enforcement officers to develop strategies for the protection of high value resource areas, such as meadows

and streams, and ensuring 24 hour coverage during high use periods. Mounting cameras and other surveillance techniques might be a consideration. Also, obtain citation activity from Sheriff. M-Puterbaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Walker, Approved 5-0

- Butte County Sheriff Search & Rescue OHV Grant: \$22,500/\$10,000 match for Argo Avenger w Tracks-Jonesville Ski Park/High Lakes area

The FAC is strongly supportive of this grant application and the vital need for the purchase of the Argo Avenger with tracks to better enable safe access to snow covered areas in the Jonesville Snow Park and other adjacent areas for the Butte County Search and Rescue units. M-Puterbaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Moak, Approved 5-0

4.05 SOPA Review: Chair Repanich revealed that an update has been posted indicating the project has been delayed.

4.06 New Business – considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is April 24, 2017, Chico 5:00 PM

- Trails Meeting
- Sierra Club Trails Guide – Invite them to present
- F&W Service – Table Mountain Trail
- Update of PCT Proposed Run-LNF
- Finalize General Plan Update Recommendations
- BCS Search and Rescue: SAR operations, successes and future challenges

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

The following information was provided via email by Kathleen Nelson, District Ranger, Almanor District:

Forest identified funds to address the hazard tree issue at Almanor North and South campgrounds, thankfully. We have over 300 hazard trees, many of them completely dead, and were in danger of not being able to open the campgrounds. We're working on a service contract. Per Trish's concern - we'll be implementing the 2012 hazard tree guidelines, including the Forest Health advice on large firs.

Forest crews (recreation and fire) are working on removing hazard trees in other campgrounds – Highway 32, Cherry Hill;

We will be scoping for the Scotts John Quarry (a 10 acre quarry), and Little Bear (veg mngt) projects in the next couple months – they will be in the next quarterly SOPA (April 1<sup>st</sup>).

High Lakes Reroutes – draft EA should be out in the next month or so. With all of our aquatics folks leaving, we've had to hold off while we find someone to work on the consultation piece with USFWS for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. We now have a fisheries biologist detailer in place, for 120 day detail.

Plumas County Public Works High Lakes Trails Inventory OHV grant proposal – we will be discussing with Plumas County. The vast majority (all?) of High Lakes trails are already mapped.