



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES - May 22, 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 – Members:** Nick Repanich, Thad Walker, Trish Puterbaugh,
Alternates: Vance Severin, Jim Shary, Bob Gage (voting Alternate)
Invited Guests: Randy Gould and staff (Plumas National Forest) (Almanor District Ranger, LNF), Dennis Schmidt (Coordinating Committee), Angel Korte (applicant for Alternate, Watershed/Environment), Kevin Wright, Kurt Jordan
- 2.02 Self-Introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests and Public

3.00 **Consent Agenda**

- 3.01 Minutes for April 24, 2017 reviewed and approved. M- Puterbaugh, 2nd- Gage, Approved 4-0

4.00 **Agenda**

- 4.01 Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Lynn Campbell was unable to attend this meeting. Will try to re-schedule her for a future meeting.
- 4.02 Plumas National Forest Road Conditions: Randy Gould and Clay Davis presented a map of road closures within the PNF. There are approximately 28 road closure sites, with several roads having sections entirely wiped out due to winter weather. The priorities will be on re-opening roads that are important as fire evacuation routes. However, most of the work will probably be delayed due to the Oroville Dam repair work tying up contractors. Randy also reminded the committee of his upcoming retirement and was thanked for his contributions to the committee.

Update on Butte County Road Conditions: Dennis Schmidt gave a brief update on Butte County roads and said majority of roads that were closed are re-opened. The county is also waiting on FEMA to release funds. The Oro Quincy Highway has been the biggest problem and will take several years to fully repair, due to repeated road failures.

- 4.03 Challenge Field Trip – Trish Puterbaugh and Teri Faulkner were able to attend this trip with PNF staff. Approximately 6 citizens attended, along with 15 Forest Service Staff. The first site they visited had previously been thinned by hand, but is now overgrown again with low brush, which is a fuel for fire. It is being looked at to be thinned again. At the 2nd site, there is no action planned at this time, no EA done, and they are looking for input. At the third site, there will be removal of hazard trees. Trish indicated she thought the area has been over-marked. There was a discussion about this site and the methods of marking hazard trees. Randy informed the committee that he will be having an entomologist, Danny Cluck, come out to review the markings and if he finds any trees incorrectly marked, they will remove those trees from the planned removal project. At this time, the guidelines for defining hazard trees were discussed and the committee would like to review these guidelines at a future meeting.
- 4.04 May 23 Lassen NF Five County Off-Highway Vehicle Plan Open House 3-7 PM Masonic Family Center 1110 W. East Ave. – INFORMATION ONLY
- 4.05 California Guild Trails Meeting debrief – Thad attended this meeting and gave an overview. About 20 people attended, and the discussion centered on a statewide trails plan focusing on connectivity and non-motorized recreating.
- 4.06 Trails Committee Update – Thad gave an update on getting stakeholders together for the trail plan. They have been writing grants, working on an RTP (Recreational Trail Program), and working on partnerships with the Forest Service. He discussed how they have worked on an agreement with the County, specifically Public Works and Administration.
- 4.07 SOPA Review – Current Quarter: Discussion & required FAC action for projects affecting Butte County listed in 2017 SOPA Reports for Lassen and Plumas NF's. Over snow vehicle use in Plumas will be delayed, not completed this year. Randy Gould discussed thinning 152 acres that was previously thinned. FERC re-licensing for Bucks Lake was discussed as well. The

committee discussed inviting the new Lassen National Forest Almanor District Ranger to a future meeting and asking for a list of projects, as well as making reports from Plumas and Lassen a standing agenda item for future meetings.

- 4.08 Alternate Position – Watershed/Environment: Vacancy Notice and Recruitment Response – applicant Angel Korte. Angel introduced herself to the committee and discussed her interest, as well as past experiences that qualify her. She went over her work with the Fire Safe Council and how she recently became a volunteer firefighter for Butte County.
- 4.09 New Business – considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is June 26, Chico, 5:00 PM
- PG&E – DeSabra project w/d, maintenance plans for Rock Creek/Tobin roads (North Fork of the Feather River)
 - Sierra Club Trails Guide – invite them to make a presentation
 - F&W Service – Table Mountain Trail
 - Grazing studies – presentations on the science and practical application
 - Stewardship Council- PG&E Settlement lands
- 4.10 Public Comment (THE COMMITTEE IS PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW FROM TAKING ACTION ON ANY ITEM PRESENTED IF IT IS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA.)

