



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 28, 2017—Minutes

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, Teri Faulkner, Peggy Moak
Alternates: Jim Shary, Bob Gage, Pete Moak (voting Alt)
Invited Guests: Steven Kerns (Wildlife Resource Managers), Steve Schweigerdt (Stewardship Council), John Hunt and Paul Kirk (Northern California Regional Land Trust), Janie Ackley and Matt Cerney (Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District), Clay Davis (Plumas National Forest, Feather River Ranger District), Laura Page (Congressman LaMalfa), Daniel Kerns, Douglas Fitzgerald, Kevin Wright, Kurt Jordan
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- 3.00 Consent Agenda
- 3.01 Minutes for July 24, 2017 reviewed and approved. M-Faulkner, 2nd Pete Moak. Approved 4-0
- 4.00 Agenda
- 4.01 Spotted Owl Biologist: Steven Kerns gave a presentation going over all aspects of the spotted owl, including their habitat and how they hunt their food. The spotted owl prefers to nest where there is an overhanging canopy, so they will not nest in an area that has been clear cut. Spotted owls like snags, and especially like areas with lateral branching and overstory, as they like to perch and dive for their prey. Steven noted that in areas with old growth, there is slower production than in “new growth” forests, which is due to new growth having a larger prey base. Steven discussed the impact of the Endangered Species Act on timber management, including the effect of the “Take” clause, which has an element dealing with harassment of animals, which can include degrading habitat function. This is important for timber management, which must conduct extensive surveys for spotted owl presence before working on an area, and must then ensure they do not degrade habitat function.
- 4.02 Stewardship Council: Steve Schweigerdt from the Stewardship Council gave an overview of the Council’s history and its purpose. The Stewardship Council was established in 2004, as part of a PG&E bankruptcy settlement. The Stewardship Council worked with PG&E to either donate or grant conservation easements on lands located within watersheds. The area affected totals 140,000 acres and ranges from Shasta to Bakersfield, of which about 30% will be donated. The conservation easements being placed will focus on preserving recreation, sustainable forestry, agriculture, habitat protection, open space preservation, and protection of cultural and historic resources. Lands receiving conservation easements are then given to a local land trust, which will then be responsible for monitoring the usage and compliance with the conservation easement. The local land trust for Butte County is the Northern California Regional Land Trust. John Hunt and Paul Kirk from the NCRLT joined in on the conversation, offering their perspectives on maintaining the current use of the lands they will be monitoring, such as existing grazing leases. Additionally, the Stewardship Council is currently going through a round of grant funding for a total of \$2.4 million. This money is left over from an initial \$100 million given to the Stewardship Council to fund all of their operations. The Stewardship Council plans to complete the distribution of property and easements by 2021, at which point the Council will cease operations.
- 4.03 Lassen NF Almanor Ranger District, Janie Ackley and Matt Cerney: Report on other pending projects (include non-SOPA projects) for the District: Chips Creek Bridge will move forward and will be in place next year. Jones Meadow Fuel Reduction project has been stopped temporarily due to wildlife concerns. The Ridge project will involve developing founder stands to replace trees lost in the Storrie fire. The Windy Cut bridge is supposed to be completed in 2 weeks when they receive the final beam for the bridge.
- 4.04 High Lakes Motorized Trail Re-routes Objection Notice: The objection period will end October 8th. Janie Ackley and Matt Cerney explained that the proposed action remains unchanged from the initial proposal. There were no objections raised by the Committee.
- 4.05 Plumas NF Staff Report: Update on plans for Feather River Ranger District Projects: Clay Davis announced a new acting ranger, Katherine Carpenter. Clay gave an update that there is no funding for repairing Milsap Bar Road. The Committee stated its appreciation for the project updates posted to the Plumas website.

- 4.06 Table Mountain Trail Project: Letter of Support INFORMATION ONLY
- 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. (Chair): These items were covered already by both NF representatives.
- 4.08 New Business – considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is September 25, 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
 - Grazing studies – presentations on the science and practical application

- 4.09 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 “Hooked on Hunting/Drawn to Archery” event was announced. It will take place September 10th at the Paradise Bow Hunters Range in Coutolenc Park.

The September meeting scheduled for the 25th has been changed to September 18th to avoid a schedule conflict with the Resource Advisory Committee.

The December meeting date has also been changed from December 25th to December 18th.