



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 18, 2017—Minutes

ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – Gold Nugget Museum, 502 Pearson Road, Paradise, 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, Trish Puterbaugh (via phone)
Alternates: Vance Severin, Jim Shary, Pete Moak (voting Alt)
Invited Guests: Dave Daley, PhD (President, California Cattlemen’s Association), Tracy Schohr, UC Cooperative Extension, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor), Dr. Kate Wilkin (Forest and Fire Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension), Steve Feher (Exec. Director, Sustainable Community Development Institute), Russell Nickerson,(Acting District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest), Kurt Jordan, Kevin Villa, Sam Dresser, Elizabeth Feher, Don Criswell
- 2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public
-
- 3.00 Consent Agenda
- 3.01 Minutes for October 23rd, 2017 reviewed and approved. M-Walker, 2nd Faulkner. Approved 4-0.
- 4.00 Agenda
- 4.01 Grazing Science Panel Discussion: Dave Daley, PhD, Dr. Kate Wilkin, Tracy Schohr. Dave Daley began the presentation by introducing himself and giving a brief background on his family’s experience with grazing in the Plumas National Forest. He discussed the 3 impacts of grazing: economic, ecological, and social. Dave also discussed the elements of prescribed grazing, and that there is research of the effect of cows grazing after fires is ongoing. Kate Wilkin and Tracy Schohr showed pictures comparing the density of forests in 1915 to present day. They also talked about how fires can promote the health of plants, the impact livestock have on grass, shrubs, and seedlings, and the effectiveness of grazing as a management tool. After the presentation, there were many questions for the panel, including questions on grazing permits, NEPAs, and the motivation for cattlemen to graze on public lands.
- 4.02 Bio Char - a means to convert forest waste to usable material – Steve Feher gave a presentation on bio-char and its effect on the environment, such as the contribution bio-char can make to soil. Burned trees would contribute bio-char to the soil if felled, and the result of this would be a slower release of carbon due to bio-char decomposing slower. Steve also discussed a top-down method for burning piles of fuel that would reduce carbon dioxide release into the atmosphere. This would have potential applications for agriculture waste, such as burning almond trees or rice waste before it is placed into the soil. He also showed charts that indicate that bio-char can increase agricultural yield.
- 4.03 Forest Projects Review – Current Quarter: Discussion & required FAC action for USFS projects affecting Butte County residents’ forest management, recreational, environmental, socio-economic interests(Chair)
- Lassen NF Almanor Ranger District- Russell Nickerson (Acting District Ranger): Report and Q & A on pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA. Russell introduced himself to the group and gave an updated on the hiring process for a permanent District Ranger. He gave status updates on several projects, including the High Lakes Re-route, Chips Creek Bridge, Jones Meadow, and Scotts John Quarry.
 - Plumas NF Feather River Ranger District: Report and Q & A on pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA. There were no representatives present. Clay Davis emailed project updates that were distributed at the meeting (attached).
- 4.04 Board of Forestry Comment Letter – Proposed Statewide Vegetation Treatment Program – 10 Min.
MOTION: Support the Board of Supervisors’ letter regarding the Vegetation Treatment Program, with comments from Forest Advisory Members added. M-Puterbaugh, 2nd Walker. Approved 4-0, Repanich abstained.

- 4.05 Ponderosa Way Board of Supervisors' Letter – Information Only. There was discussion of adding a future agenda item regarding Ponderosa Way to learn more about the road.
- 4.06 New Business – considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is January 22, Chico, 5:00 PM
- Whitewater Recreation – January
 - Terra Fuego Prescribed Burns as Forest Management Tool-February
 - South Feather Water & Sewer District - Recreation and Water Projects – January or February
 - Sierra Club Trails Guide – invite them to make a presentation
 - Tree mortality Update - February
- 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.)

Forest Grazing Research

UC
CE

UC Rangelands Team

- Adaptive Management
 - Sensitive Habitat (e.g. Aspen, Toads)
 - Meadow Health
 - Water Quality
- 
- A decorative wavy line in shades of orange and yellow, spanning the width of the slide near the bottom.

Prescribed Grazing

Grazing implemented to achieve specific goal(s)

1. Type of livestock (*e.g., cattle, sheep, goats*)
2. Number of livestock (*stocking density – head/acre*).
3. Duration of grazing (*stocking rate – head/acre/year*).
4. Seasonal timing of grazing (*e.g., spring, summer, etc*).
5. Frequency of grazing (*e.g., 1X, 2X per growing season*).
6. Spatial distribution of grazing (*e.g., fences, water*).

Sheep & Goat Grazing as a **Forest Management Tool**

UC
CE

- Intensive Management
- Browse on everything
(Brush and Grasses)
- Fuel Breaks
- Cost prohibitive
- Smaller scale



Cattle Grazing as a **Forest Management Tool**

UC
CE

- Forest Setting & Urban Setting
- Landscape Maintenance
- Understory Management
- Grass and shrubs
- Tree-establish for timber
- Wildlife Habitat
- Research

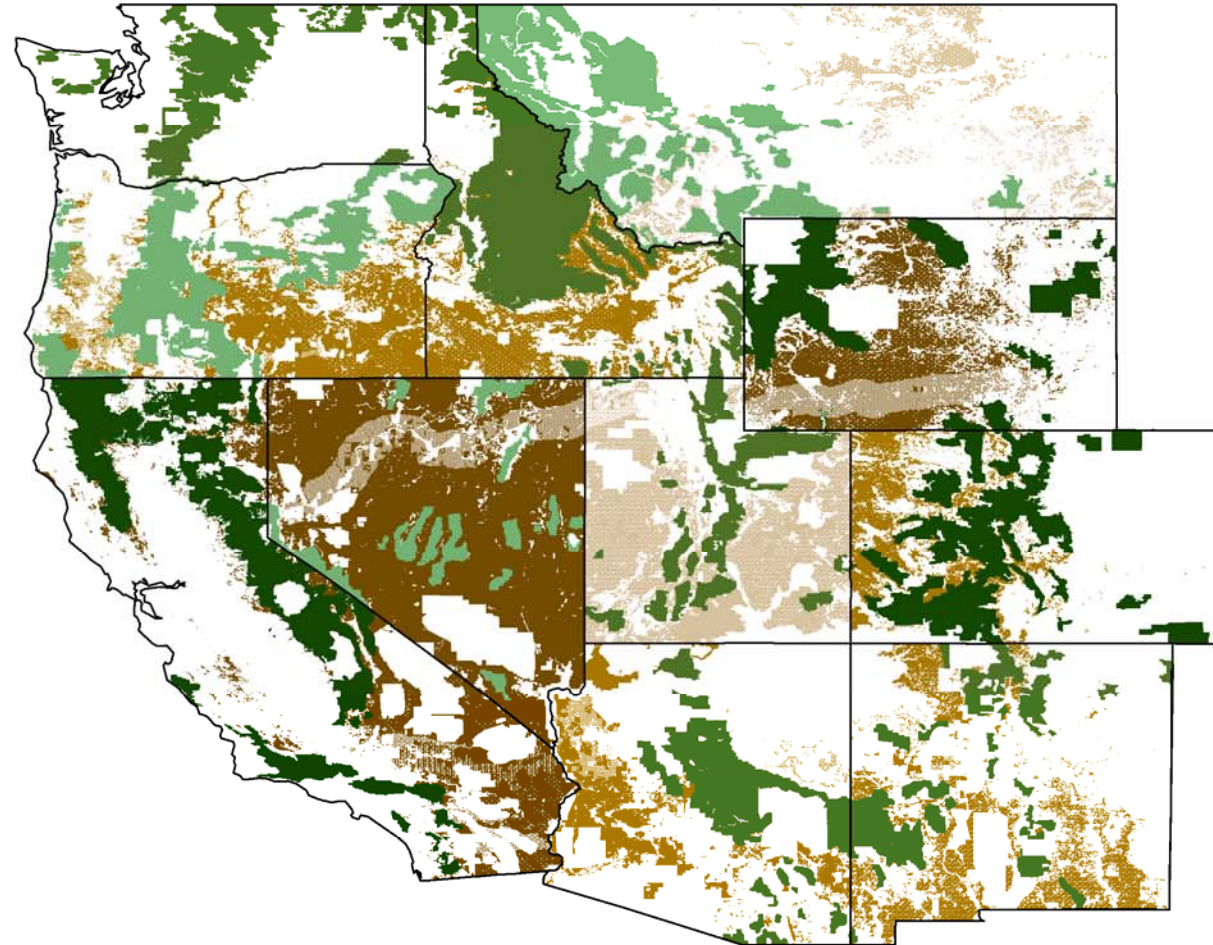


Decrease in Grazing

**Change in BLM
Authorized-Actual
Use AUMs**



**Change in USFS
Authorized-Actual
Use AUMs**



Livestock Grazing as a **Forest Management Tool**

UC
CE



Management

Tracy Schohr
Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor
Butte, Plumas and Sierra counties
University of California Cooperative Extension