



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 22, 2018—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, Trish Puterbaugh, Peggy Moak
Alternates: Jim Shary, Bob Gage, Angel Korte, Pete Moak (voting Alt)
Invited Guests: Dave Steindorf (American Whitewater), David Brillenz (District Ranger, Feather River Ranger District; Plumas National Forest), Laura Page (Congressman LaMalfa); Dennis Schmidt (Coordinating Committee, Public Works), Kevin Wright, Doug Teeter, Carolyn Denero (Explore Butte), Kurt Jordan
- 2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public
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- 3.00 **Consent Agenda**
- 3.01 Minutes for December 18th, 2017 reviewed and approved. M-Puterbaugh, 2nd Pete Moak. Approved 5-0.
- 4.00 **Agenda**
- 4.01 Dave Steindorf, American Whitewater: Whitewater Recreation Presentation – Dave gave the group an overview of the American Whitewater organization and their mission. They are a nationwide organization with over 6,000 members. Dave discussed the FERC licensing process, and went over a few examples of recent FERC licensing projects that he worked on, including the Upper North Fork of the Feather River and the Rock Creek-Cresta project. He described some of the benefits that resulted from each FERC license process, including improved river access and increased water flow. After his presentation, there were questions answered regarding California's dam infrastructure and more information about American Whitewater, such as website information and maps.
- 4.02 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 was not present at the meeting and the committee did not discuss any Lassen NF projects.
 - Plumas NF Feather River Ranger District, David Brillenz (District Ranger): Report and Q & A on pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA – The committee welcomed Dave to his new position and gave Dave an overview of the goals of the Forest Advisory Committee and Coordinating Committee. Dave went over his background and work experience, and discussed the challenges facing the Plumas NF in the form of job cuts and budget challenges.
- 4.03 Forest Service NEPA Process Public Comment Opportunity – Peggy gave a brief overview of the opportunity to comment to the Forest Service regarding the NEPA process and ways to improve it. It was suggested that the committee use the recent California Board of Forestry Programmatic EIR as an example of how the NEPA process could be simplified. Other ideas included conducting NEPA & CEQA simultaneously, focusing on landscape level vs smaller areas, and potentially increasing the length of NEPA approval. Peggy will gather the comments and share them with the Coordinating Committee, which will issue the comment letter.
- 4.04 SFAC (Sustainable Forests Action Coalition) meeting report – Thad Walker – Thad gave the committee a report on the recent SFAC meeting he attended. The meeting covered the NEPA process, with discussion of the scale of analysis for CE/EA, using a single form for CE, and the length of processes and size of documents required.
- 4.05 Tabled for next meeting (OSV Update)
- 4.06 Board of Forestry Comment Letter – Information Only

- 4.07 New Business – considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is February 26, Chico, 5:00 PM
- Terra Fuego Prescribed Burns as Forest Management Tool-February
 - South Feather Water & Sewer District - Recreation and Water Projects
 - Sierra Club Trails Guide – invite them to make a presentation
 - Tree mortality Update - February

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

Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA)
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This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Report Contents (click to jump to a section):

- [Lassen National Forest, Forestwide \(excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest\)](#)
- [Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District](#)
- [Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake Ranger District](#)
- [Lassen National Forest, Hat Creek Ranger District](#)

Lassen National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)		R5 - Pacific Southwest Region			
Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Lassen National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) Use Designation EIS	- Road management - Recreation management	In Progress NOI in Federal Register 01/20/2015 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 10/2017	Expected: 08/2018	08/2018	Chris Obrien 530-252-6698 cjobrien@fs.fed.us
<p>Description: The Forest Service is evaluating management of OSV use on the Lassen National Forest and is releasing a Revised Draft EIS (RDEIS) for the designation of LNF system roads, trails, and areas where OSV use will be allowed.</p> <p>Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45832</p>					
<p>Location: UNIT - Lassen National Forest All Units. STATE - California. COUNTY - Lassen. LEGAL - Not Applicable Forest wide existing miles of groomed OSV trails and open cross country areas of the LNF which receive adequate snowfall for OSV use to occur.</p>					

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Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District		R5 - Pacific Southwest Region			
Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
High Lakes Motorized Trail Re-routes and Staging Area Improvements EA	- Special area management - Watershed management - Recreation management	In Progress Comment Period 06/14/2017	Expected: 10/2017	07/2018	Douglas Peters 530-252-6456 dwpeters@fs.fed.us
<p>Description: Re-route and reconstruct motorized trail segments, decommission the eliminated trail segments, restore or improve dispersed recreation areas within Inventoried Roadless Area; develop a staging area outside Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=48739</p>					
<p>Location: UNIT - Almanor Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Not Applicable High Lakes area east of Philbrook Lake</p>					
Jones Meadow Fuels Reduction EA	- Fuels management - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Developing Proposal Est. Comment Period	Expected: 05/2018	07/2018	Jennifer Erickson 530-258-5141 jlerickson@fs.fed.us
<p>Description: Project proposes to improve defensibility of the Jones Meadow Community by removing surface fuels & snags to reduce potential fire behavior, reduce hazards to fire fighters, improve stand health & reduce the threat of wildfire in the project area.</p>					

	Location: UNIT - Almanor Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Butte. LEGAL - T25N, R5E, Section 32. Mount Diablo Meridian Jones Meadow is 18 mi NE of the town of Paradise and roughly 3 mi from the edge of the 2000 Storrie Fire perimeter. The project is located within the Mt Hope Management Area (47).				
Little Bear Forest Health Restoration Project EA	- Research - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress Scoping Start 07/25/2017 Est. Comment Period 12/2017	Expected: 12/2017	04/2018	Laura Corral 530-258-5156 lcorral@fs.fed.us
Description: Little Bear Restoration is proposed to increase forest health and diversity with variable thinning and fuels treatments. This project includes research proposals for future management activities and was **originally part of the Grizzly Project. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=51477					
Location: UNIT - Almanor Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T27N, R6E, Sections 27 & 34; T26N, R6E, Sections 2,11,25,26,36. Approximately 6 miles West of Butt Valley Reservoir & Approximately 5 miles South of Soldier Meadows.					
Ridge Project CE	- Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Special area management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Susan Wilcox 530-257-4188, ext. 808 swilcox@fs.fed.us
Description: Begin post-fire restoration in Inventoried Roadless Area to help promote a diversity of habitats that have been lost. Activities include re-establishment of native conifers with reforestation methods. Fuels treatments are no longer proposed.					
Location: UNIT - Almanor Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T25N,R6E,Sec 32-35; T26N,R6E,Sec 2-6 and 9-11 MDBM East of Saucer Lake on Soda Ridge, in Soda Ridge IRA of Management Area 45, on Almanor Ranger District					
Rocks Restoration EA	- Fuels management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Watershed management	In Progress Scoping Start 02/28/2017 Est. Comment Period 11/2017	Expected: 06/2018	08/2018	Crystal Danheiser 530-258-5120 cdanheiser@fs.fed.us
Description: The Rocks Restoration project proposes fuels reduction, vegetation management, aspen and meadow habitat improvement, and reforestation of some moderate to high severity burned areas. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=49830					
Location: UNIT - Almanor Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Butte, Plumas. LEGAL - sec. 25, 26, 35, 36 T26N, R5E; sec.4, 7-10, 17-22, 25, 26, 29-31 T26N, R6E Southwest of Humbug Valley, located in Butt Creek (MA 37), Jonesville (MA 44), and Soda Ridge (MA45) mgmt. areas.					

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Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake Ranger District			R5 - Pacific Southwest Region		
Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Confluence Meadow Restoration Project EA	- Watershed management	In Progress Scoping Start 12/26/2017 Est. Comment Period 04/2018	Expected: 06/2018	09/2018	Tyanna Blaschak 530-257-4188 tsblaschak@fs.fed.us

	Description: Restore meadow hydrology and habitat by redirecting flow into historic remnant channels along a reach of Pine Creek while filling the degraded channel and ditch to match the floodplain elevation.				
	Location: UNIT - Eagle Lake Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Lassen. LEGAL - Not Applicable Roughly 24 air miles NW of Susanville, Lassen County, CA, in meadow S of Little Harvey mountain and W of Lassen County Rd 105 near the confluence of Pine Creek and Little Harvey Valley tributary.				
Diamond Mountain Watershed Restoration and WUI Project EA	- Road management - Watershed management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Forest products - Fuels management	In Progress Comment Period 05/23/2017	Expected: 01/2018	07/2018	Chuck Lewis 530-257-4188 ex.5832 calewis@fs.fed.us
	Description: Project objectives: Fuels reduction; forest and watershed restoration. Activities: Meadow and hardwood enhancement; variable density thinning; fuel reduction; biomass removal; prescribed burning; watershed improvements; transportation system mgt. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=50770				
	Location: UNIT - Eagle Lake Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Lassen. LEGAL - T29N,R11E,Sec31,32; T28N,R11E,Sec1-7,11; T28N,R12E,Sec4-8,9-15; T29N,R12E,Sec34 Eagle Lake Ranger District; Diamond Management Area				
Dyer Mountain Communication Site Development CE	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 03/2018	Expected: 06/2018	07/2018	Nancy Barrera 530-258-5107 nbarrera@fs.fed.us
	Description: Plumas County Sheriff's office propose to construct and develop a communications tower and prefabricated communications vault for the operation and maintenance of emergency radio communication equipment, at the current Dyer Mountain Lookout location.				
	Location: UNIT - Eagle Lake Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Lassen. LEGAL - T28N,R08E,Section 36 Eagle Lake Ranger District, Dyer Mountain Communication Site. The exact location on the .96 acre parcel of the project will be determined once the historic evaluation is completed.				
LMUD Master Permit Issuance CE	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 02/2018	Expected: 03/2018	04/2018	Nancy Barrera 530-258-5107 nbarrera@fs.fed.us
	Description: Consolidating and reissuing LUMD's three existing use permits, for power lines and facilities, under a single master permit. There will be no change in scope or intensity of existing authorized activities, and no ground disturbance will occur.				
	Location: UNIT - Eagle Lake Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Lassen. LEGAL - T32N,R10E,Sec33; T33N,R11E,Sec29; T31N,R10E,Sec10,14,21; T31N,R11E,Sec7,18; T31N,R10E,Sec14,15,16; T29N,R10E,Sec21,28,29. The permit will cover multiple locations across the Eagle Lake Ranger District including: Spalding, Eagle Nest, Eagle Lake Campgrounds, Hamilton Mountain, Westwood to Susanville line.				
North Eagle Lake, Champs Flat, and Lower Pine Creek Allotments Grazing Mgt. Project EA	- Grazing management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2018	Expected: 06/2018	07/2018	Kirsten Pasero 530-252-5854 kpasero@fs.fed.us
	Description: Grazing allotment management plans.				

Location: UNIT - Eagle Lake Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Lassen. LEGAL - T32N and T33N,R9E and R10E,MDM (West of Eagle Lake, CA; North, East and South of Logan Mtn. area) North half of the Eagle Lake Ranger District.

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Lassen National Forest, Hat Creek Ranger District			R5 - Pacific Southwest Region		
Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Bailey Creek Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Project CE	- Watershed management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Road management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 11/2017	Expected: 01/2018	05/2019	Shawn Wheelock 530-336-3340 swheelock@fs.fed.us
	Description: Two existing culverts on the North & South Forks of Bailey Creek will be replaced with bridges to eliminate barriers to the passage of aquatic organisms and damage to road crossing when rivers are at high stage.				
	Location: UNIT - Hat Creek Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Shasta. LEGAL - T31N,R3E,S34 Lassen NF 17 Road to the west of Lassen Volcanic National Park				
Citizens Utility Company Aerial Telephone Line project CE	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 08/2017	Expected: 10/2017	10/2017	Kimberly Ganz 530-336-3383 kganz@fs.fed.us
	Description: Authorize Citizens Communications Co. of CA (Frontier) to install an overhead phone cable from a utility pole on National Forest System Lands to a utility pole on Big Springs Estates. Aerial cable is ~300'long w/aerial phone line 6' below power line.				
	Location: UNIT - Hat Creek Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Shasta. LEGAL - T32N, R4E, Section 12, NE1/4 The existing utility pole is located ~3 mi SW of Old Station, CA. The pole lies E of SR44/89 and W of Hat Creek near Big Springs Estates Subdivision on the Lassen National Forest in Eastern Shasta Co.				
Hat Creek Rim Hang Glider & Paraglider Project CE	- Special area management	In Progress Scoping Start 05/02/2017	Expected: 07/2017	07/2017	Kimberly Ganz 530-336-3383 kganz@fs.fed.us
	Description: Hat Creek Pilots Association (HCPA) requests a special use authorization for an established recreation special use of the Hat Creek Rim for hang gliding and paragliding launches and associated landing zones.				
	Location: UNIT - Hat Creek Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Shasta. LEGAL - T34N, R5E, Sections 4, 5, 9 & 16 MDM On the Hat Creek Ranger District along the Hat Creek Rim and Murken Bench area and near the rural communities of Fall River Mills, Burney and Hat Creek.				
Plum Restoration Project EA	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Road management - Watershed management - Fuels management - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 10/2017	Expected: 12/2018	04/2019	Greg Mayer 530-336-5521 gmayer@fs.fed.us
	Description: This restoration project will encompass: surface fuels treatment for fire hazard reduction; thinning for ponderosa pine, silver sage, meadow and aspen enhancements; noxious weed treatments; and road improvements. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47742				
	Location: UNIT - Hat Creek Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Lassen, Shasta. LEGAL - Townships 32, 33 & 34 North, Ranges 5 & 6 East, various sections, Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian The project area is located E. of Hwy 89 at the top of the Hat Creek Rim				

	(approx. 1-1/2 miles E. of the town of Old Station), N. of Hwy 44 to Forest Road 34N49 and E. to the Butte Creek Rim.				
Soldier Mountain Lookout Permit Issuance CE	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2017	Expected: 09/2017	09/2017	Nancy Barrera 530-258-5107 nbarrera@fs.fed.us

Description: Special use permit issuance for the operation of a fire detection lookout and communication uses.

Location: UNIT - Hat Creek Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Shasta. LEGAL - T37N, R3E, Sec 1 (SE 1/4 - NE 1/4) Soldier Mountain Lookout is approx. 4 miles NE of "the Pines" off Hwy 89 and approx. 6 miles NW of Fall River Mills.

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- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA)
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This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Report Contents (click to jump to a section):

- [R5 - Pacific Southwest Region, Occurring in more than one Forest \(excluding Regionwide\)](#)
- [Plumas National Forest, Forestwide \(excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest\)](#)
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R5 - Pacific Southwest Region, Occurring in more than one Forest (excluding Regionwide)
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project CE	- Recreation management	In Progress Scoping Start 10/04/2017	Expected: 03/2018	05/2018	Francisco Castillo 530-836-7123 franciscojcastillo@fs.fed.us
	Description: Objectives are to provide access to Beckwourth Peak area and to provide alternative recreation activities to relieve congestion in heavily-used areas. Propose construction of approximately 20 miles of non-motorized trails around Beckwourth Peak. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=52465				
	Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District, Sierraville Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Township 22 North, Range 13 East, Sections 13, 14, and 22-24; Township 22 North, Range 14 East, Sections 5-9, 17, and 18; and Township 23 North, Range 14 East, Section 31, MDBM. The project area is located immediately south and east of Portola in Plumas County, California.				
Mammoth Base Area Land Exchange EIS	- Land ownership management	In Progress DEIS NOA in Federal Register 07/07/2017 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 08/2018	Expected: 09/2018	09/2018	Janelle Walker 760-924-5523 janellewalker@fs.fed.us
	Description: Exchange of approximately 35.6 acres of National Forest System land, currently under special use authorization to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, located near the Main Lodge north of Highway 203 for approximately 1296.7 acres of private land in California Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=30428				
	Location: UNIT - Mammoth Ranger District, White Mountain Ranger District, Mt. Hough Ranger District, Mi-Wok Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Inyo, Mono, Plumas, Tuolumne. LEGAL - Land to be exchanged is located in T.3S, R. 27E., Sec 30, MDM. Proposal includes the addition of non-federal parcels to the Inyo, Plumas, and Stanislaus National Forests in California The area near Main Lodge, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area would be exchanged for up to 11 non Federal parcels in Inyo, Mono, Plumas and Tuolumne Counties.				

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Plumas National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)				R5 - Pacific Southwest Region	
Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
				11/2019	

Plumas National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) Use Designation EIS	- Recreation management	In Progress NOI in Federal Register 09/29/2015 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 08/2018	Expected: 09/2019	Katherine Carpenter 530-283-7742 kacarpenter@fs.fed.us
	Description: Designate over-snow vehicle (OSV) use on National Forest System roads and trails and areas on National Forest System lands as allowed, restricted, or prohibited. Identify trails for snow grooming for OSV use would be conducted. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47124			
	Location: UNIT - Plumas National Forest All Units. STATE - California. COUNTY - Butte, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Yuba. LEGAL - Not Applicable National Forest System lands administer by the Plumas National Forest (forest-wide).			

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Plumas National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)		R5 - Pacific Southwest Region			
Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Moonlight Fire Invasive Plant Treatment Project EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress Comment Period 01/11/2017	Expected: 01/2018	02/2018	John Slown 406-329-3749 jslown@fs.fed.us
Description: Integrated pest management of up to 500 acres of invasive plant infested areas per year, using herbicides on up to 250 acres per year. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46877					
Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District, Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T26NR10E; T26NR11E; T26NR12E T27NR10E; T27NR11E;; T27NR12E; T27NR13E T28NR10E;T28NR11E;T28NR12E; T28NR13E; Many Sections, Mount Diablo Base Meridian The project area encompasses watersheds affected by the 2007 Moonlight Fire and ranges approximately 15 to 27 air miles northeast of Quincy, Plumas County, California.					

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Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District		R5 - Pacific Southwest Region			
Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Dixie Valley Collaborative CE	- Fuels management	In Progress Scoping Start 12/12/2017	Expected: 03/2018	06/2018	Martin Senter 530-836-7176 mesenter@fs.fed.us
Description: The project is under agreement between the Plumas National Forest and the Plumas County Fire Safe Council. It aims at mechanically reducing hazardous fuels by way of mastication on 74 acres of private land. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=53012					
Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Not Applicable Project starts approximately 6 miles west of Frenchman Reservoir and ends approximately 8 miles west of Frenchman Reservoir along Dixie Valley Road.					
Feather River Inn Water System CE	- Special use management	In Progress Scoping Start 04/01/2015	Expected: 09/2017	10/2017	Robert Hawkins 916-849-8037 rhhawkins@fs.fed.us

	Description: Re-Issue a 30 year special use authorization to Schomac, Inc. for the Feather River Inn water system. The water system includes two diversion structures, a storage tank, waterlines and road and trail access.				
	Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Section 3, T. 22 N., R. 12 E., Mt Diablo Meridian The water system is located along Bonta Creek just north of the National Forest boundary and the Feather River Inn.				
Frenchman Lake Forest Health Project CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Road management - Fuels management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Forest products - Recreation management	In Progress Scoping Start 08/16/2017	Expected: 02/2018	03/2018	Paul Czeszynski 530-836-7187 pczeszynski@fs.fed.us
	Description: Improve resistance to bark beetle attacks and promote resilience to drought and wildfire. Proposed treatments include: mechanical thinning, hand thinning/piling, mastication, pile burning, underburning, and decommissioning of non-system roads. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=52347				
	Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - The project area occupies portions of Township 24 North, Range 16 East, Sections 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, and 34; Township 24 North, Range 15 East, Section 25, MDBM. The project area is located approximately 16 miles northeast of Portola, California and is adjacent to Frenchman Lake.				
Lakes Basin Project EA	- Fuels management - Road management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Recreation management - Forest products	In Progress Scoping Start 12/16/2015 Est. Comment Period 01/2018	Expected: 07/2018	08/2018	Don Fregulia 530-836-7176 dfregulia@fs.fed.us
	Description: Improve forest health and reduce hazards around recreation sites. Activities include mechanical thinning, grapple piling, mastication, hand thinning and underburning. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40964				
	Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas, Sierra. LEGAL - Not Applicable Lakes Basin recreation area				
Mills Peak Trail South CE	- Recreation management	In Progress Scoping Start 09/27/2016	Expected: 12/2017	02/2018	Francisco Castillo 530-836-7123 franciscojcastillo@fs.fed.us
	Description: Construct 0.95 mile of new non-motorized trail and add 2.8 miles of existing user-created trails to the National Forest Trail System. The new trails would connect the existing Mills Peak Trail to the Round Lake Trailhead.				
	Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Not Applicable Trail system would connect the Mills Peak Trail to the Round Lake Trailhead.				
Plumas-Eureka Forest Health Project CE	- Forest products - Road management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress Scoping Start 09/06/2017	Expected: 12/2017	03/2018	Russell Nickerson 530-836-7115 rnickerson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Goals are to improve resistance to bark beetle attacks and promote resistance to drought and wildfire. Proposed activities include: mechanical thinning, hand thinning, pile burning,				

	underburning, and decommissioning of non-system roads. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=52402				
	Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T22N, R11E, Sections 1 and 12; T22N, R12E, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18 and 19; and T23N, R12E, Sections 30, 31 and 32 The project is located near Plumas-Eureka State Park approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Graeagle, California on the Beckwourth Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest in Plumas County, California				
Ramelli Ranch Well EA	- Grazing management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	In Progress Scoping Start 10/17/2017 Est. Comment Period 02/2018	Expected: 07/2018	07/2018	Lynee Crawford 530-836-7119 lyneecrawford@fs.fed.us
	Description: Installation of a well on the Ramelli Ranch allotment to modify dispersal of animals. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=51658				
	Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Township 23N, Range 14E, Sections 33 & 34, MDBM Upper Ross Meadow on the Ramelli Ranch allotment, which is approximately 1 mile south of the rest stop that is 3 miles east of Portola, California.				
Thompson Meadow Restoration Project EA	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Grazing management - Watershed management	In Progress Scoping Start 11/08/2017 Est. Comment Period 06/2018	Expected: 10/2018	11/2018	Joseph Hoffman 530-283-2050 jahoffman@fs.fed.us
	Description: To restore historic floodplain function and the historic meadow water table elevation along a 0.6 mile reach of Thompson Creek, a tributary to McReynolds Creek, which flows to Red Clover Creek. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=52760				
	Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Township 25N, Range 13E, Sections 25 and 36 Approximately 11 air miles north of Portola, CA in Plumas County, California.				
Two Rivers Soccer Camp Permit Re-issue CE	- Special use management	In Progress Scoping Start 05/01/2015	Expected: 08/2017	09/2017	Debra Fryberger-Eby 530-836-7120 dfrybergereby@fs.fed.us
	Description: Re-issue a 20 year permit to Two Rivers Soccer Camp for the following uses: bridge, road, parking area, portion of a soccer field, water transmission lines, storage tank and spring boxes.				
	Location: UNIT - Beckwourth Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Sections 30, 31, 32, T. 22 N., R. 12E., Mt. Diablo Meridian Two Rivers Soccer Camp is located near Blairsden, California.				

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Plumas National Forest, Feather River Ranger District			R5 - Pacific Southwest Region		
Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Big Pan Mining Plan of Operations EA	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress Scoping Start 02/01/2016 Est.	Expected: 05/2018	05/2018	Donna Duncan 530-283-7614 dmduncan@fs.fed.us

		Comment Period 03/2018			
	<p>Description: Continued placer mining operation, using gold pans and sluice box. Long term occupancy. Non-system road with gate. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=53004</p>				
	<p>Location: UNIT - Feather River Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T22N, R11E, Sec 7 eight miles west of the Beckwouth ranger station</p>				
Bullards Bar Invasive Plant Treatments Project EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress Scoping Start 11/23/2017 Est. Comment Period 04/2018	Expected: 10/2018	11/2018	Lawrence Janeway 530-532-7417 ljaneway@fs.fed.us
	<p>Description: To eradicate or control six species of non-native invasive plants: rush skeletonweed, yellow star-thistle, Scotch broom, barbed goatgrass, Italian thistle, and Medusa head using a combination of chemical (herbicide) and manual treatments. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=52835</p>				
	<p>Location: UNIT - Feather River Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Yuba. LEGAL - Not Applicable Within one (the western) of two quarry sites along Marysville Road in the vicinity of the New Bullards Bar Dam.</p>				
Challenge - Community Protection Fuel Reduction (CPFR) EA	- Fuels management	In Progress Scoping Start 08/09/2016 Est. Comment Period 02/2018	Expected: 06/2018	07/2018	Jason Vermillion 530-532-7434 jvermillion@fs.fed.us
	<p>Description: This wildland urban interface (WUI) project is designed to reduce the risks of wildfire around the communities of Challenge and Woodleaf, California; enhance firefighter safety; remove hazardous trees along roads; and improve forest resiliency. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=49695</p>				
	<p>Location: UNIT - Feather River Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Butte, Yuba. LEGAL - Not Applicable Wildland urban interface in and around the communities of Challenge and Woodleaf, California.</p>				
Gibsonville Healthy Forest Restoration Project EA	- Fuels management - Forest products - Heritage resource management	In Progress Comment Period 10/18/2017	Expected: 03/2018	05/2018	Clay Davis 530 532-8940 claydavis@fs.fed.us
	<p>Description: Using a variety of vegetation treatments including sale of merchantable timber and biomass to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire, release aspen, restore meadows and other wetlands, and to restore and protect the historic Gibsonville townsite. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47960</p>				
	<p>Location: UNIT - Feather River Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas, Sierra. LEGAL - Not Applicable In and around the historic Gibsonville, California townsite.</p>				
Hughes Wetland Development and Maintenance CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress Scoping Start 03/28/2017	Expected: 09/2018	10/2018	James Johnson 530-283-7827 jamesmjohnson@fs.fed.us
	<p>Description: Propose to protect, maintain and enhance existing habitat conditions and provide additional breeding habitat for the California red-legged frog by constructing ponds, remove</p>				

	invasive species, and other activities in designated critical habitat. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=51541				
	Location: UNIT - Feather River Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Butte. LEGAL - Not Applicable Hughes Place within the French Creek watershed has been designated as critical Habitat for the California Red-Legged Frog.				
Regular Baptist Camp Waterlines Special Use CE	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 10/2018	Expected: 05/2019	05/2019	Mary Sullivan 530-532-7460 mcsullivan@fs.fed.us
	Description: Authorize holder to operate, maintain, and upgrade existing waterlines across NFS lands to adjoining private camp through issuance of a 20 year Special Use permit. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=50386				
	Location: UNIT - Feather River Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Sierra. LEGAL - Portions of T. 22N., R. 10E., section 20 NFS lands north of Delahunty Lake, adjacent to private lands known as Pilot Lake Camp.				

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Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District			R5 - Pacific Southwest Region		
Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Four Corners OHV Play Area Rehab Project CE	- Recreation management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 02/2018	Expected: 04/2018	06/2018	Erika Brenzovich 530-283-7622 ebrenzovich@fs.fed.us
	Description: Rehabilitate the Four Corners OHV Play Area				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T 24N, R 10 E, Section 4 Four Corners OHV Play Area is located approximately 5 miles from Quincy off of County Rd. 403, also known as Mt. Hough Rd.				
Franks Valley Forest Health Project CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Forest products	In Progress Scoping Start 05/15/2017	Expected: 08/2018	09/2018	Kristin Winford 530 283-7683 klwinford@fs.fed.us
	Description: Improve forest health, wildlife habitat, Baker Cypress habitat and reduce fire risk around seasonal residences in Frank's Valley. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=51526				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T26N R11E and R12E Located along Beardsley Grade north of Genesee Valley and southwest of Antelope Lake.				
Gopher Gold Mineral Exploration Project CE	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress Scoping Start 10/19/2016	Expected: 12/2017	06/2018	Leslie Edlund 530-283-7650 ledlund@fs.fed.us
	Description: Excavation of several test pits to explore for mineral content. Construction of .2 miles of new road to access the site. Processing would be completed using a trommel with water pumped from a nearby pond.				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Not Applicable The project is approximately 5 miles west of Quincy, near the closed Gopher Hill Landfill. Legal location is T24N, R8E, Section 12, MDBM.				

Greenhorn Creek Guest Ranch Outfitting and Guiding Permit reissue CE	- Recreation management	In Progress Scoping Start 12/26/2012	Expected: 01/2018	01/2018	Elizabeth Sousa 530-283-7622 esousa@fs.fed.us
	Description: Reissue a 10 year O&G Permit for horseback rides and an assigned campsite on Nat Forest Sys land. This is the same operation as the past 10 years, with approximately 39 miles of trail and the majority of the rides with 8 miles of the Ranch				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T24 R10,R11 T23R10 R11 T24 R12 Mt. Hough Ranger District and Little Summit Lake on Beckwourth Ranger District				
Haycock's Gold Mining Exploration Project CE	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress Scoping Start 10/19/2016	Expected: 12/2017	05/2018	Leslie Edlund 530-283-7650 ledlund@fs.fed.us
	Description: Excavation of 5 trenches to extract material for processing to discover mineral potential at the site. Material will be processed through a highbanker using water from a nearby pond.				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Not Applicable The project is located just east of the Gopher Hill landfill, west of Quincy, California. legal location is T24N, R8E, SW 1/4 of Section 7.				
Haycock's Reserve Mineral Exploration Project CE	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress Scoping Start 10/24/2016	Expected: 12/2017	06/2018	Leslie Edlund 530-283-7650 ledlund@fs.fed.us
	Description: Excavation of 1 test trench to obtain mineral material. Material would be processed through a trommel using water from a nearby pond. .2 miles of road will be constructed to access the processing area. Settling ponds will used for water discharge.				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Not Applicable The project is located approximately 6 miles from Quincy, CA. Access is through the closed Gopher Hill landfill. Legal location is T24N, R8E, SE 1/4 of Section 12, MDBM.				
Moonlight Fire Area Restoration Project EA	- Fuels management - Road management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Watershed management	In Progress Comment Period 10/25/2017	Expected: 03/2018	05/2018	Christine Handler 559-920-2188 cahandler@fs.fed.us
	Description: The project would restore the 2007 Moonlight Fire burned area by: reducing the post-fire effects to vegetation, watersheds, and recreation and enhancing resiliency to future fires, droughts, insect and disease infestations, and climate change. Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=49421				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Portions of T26N, R10E; T26N, R11E; T26N, R12E; T27N, R10E; T27N, R11E; T27N, R12E; T27N, R13E; T28N, R10E; T28N, R11E; and T28N, R12E, Mount Diablo Base Meridian. National forest system lands on the Plumas National Forest, Mount Hough Ranger District, approximately five to 15 miles north and east of Taylorville, California and 20 to 30 miles northeast of Quincy				
Mount Hough RD Abandoned Mine Closures-2017 CE	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress Scoping Start 06/15/2017	Expected: 01/2018	05/2018	Donna Duncan 530-283-7614 dmduncan@fs.fed.us

	Description: The Plumas National Forest, MHRD, Proposes to close the dangerous mine openings and remove modern trash from 5 abandoned mine site.				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Not Applicable T26N,R11E, Sec 14; T26N,R7E,Sec 17; T25N,R11E,Sec13, 14,15,23,24; T24N,R8E,Sec 12; T26N, R8E, Sec 17,18				
Ohio Creek Placer Mining PoO CE	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress Scoping Start 10/12/2017	Expected: 12/2017	05/2018	Donna Duncan 530-283-7614 dmduncan@fs.fed.us
	Description: Small scale minerals exploration, road improvements, water source development, use of backhoe, on-site occupancy				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T26N, R8E, Sec 5 Near Seneca, along Ohio Creek				
Partner Mining Exploration Project EA	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress Scoping Start 12/15/2016 Est. Comment Period 03/2018	Expected: 06/2018	06/2018	Leslie Edlund 530-283-7650 ledlund@fs.fed.us
	Description: Excavation of 20' x 20' pit within the river channel. Processing of material through a power sluice. Larger boulders would be moved out of the river with a derrick and choker system. Duration of the plan would be 3 years.				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T26N, R7E, Section 24, MDBM. North Fork of the Feather River, southwest of Seneca and northeast of Belden, CA. Legal location T26N, R7E, SE 1/4 of Section 24, MDBM.				
Quarry Road - Road Maintenance CE	- Road management	In Progress Scoping Start 11/01/2017	Expected: 01/2018	06/2018	Leslie Edlund 530-283-7620 ledlund@fs.fed.us
	Description: Pull back 10-12 boulders that currently line the lower edge of FS road 24N33C to prevent them from falling on the road below. A 200 foot section of road between the quarry and homeowner cabins would be re-routed to prevent additional sloughing.				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Not Applicable Quarry Road (24N33C) is located in the Bucks Lake Residence Tract off NFS Road 24N33 in the Bucks Lake area, Mt. Hough Ranger District (T24N, R7E, Section 33, MDBM.				
Rock Crest Mining PoO CE	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress Scoping Start 10/12/2017	Expected: 01/2018	04/2018	Donna Duncan 530-283-7614 dmduncan@fs.fed.us
	Description: Use and maintenance of a non-system road and gate for access to claim. Mineral exploration in underground mine.				
	Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T27N, R11E, Sec 27,34 Northwest of Taylor Lake				
Royal Rush Placer EA	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress Scoping Start 08/10/2017 Est. Comment Period 01/2018	Expected: 03/2018	04/2018	Leslie Edlund 530-283-7650 ledlund@fs.fed.us

Description: Panning and sluicing within Rush Creek. Clearing, repair and maintenance of one mile of Forest Service system road to access the claim and camp area. Camping at the claim while mining.

Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Not Applicable Rush Creek near Providence Hill, north of Twain, CA. Legal location T25N, R8E, Section 2.

Silverado Placer
Mining Exploration
CE

- Minerals and Geology In Progress Expected: 04/2018 Leslie Edlund
Scoping 02/2018 530-283-7650
Start ledlund@fs.fed.us
05/11/2017

Description: Excavation of up to 18 test pits along the stream terraces of Silver Creek. A backhoe and mini excavator would be used to remove material for processing through a trommel. Water from Silver Creek would be used to wash material.

Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - Not Applicable Project is located north and west of Meadow Valley, along Silver Creek. Access is from Silver Creek Road to NFS Road 24N56. Legal location is T24N, R8E, Sections 16, 21 and 22.

Storrie and Rich Fire
Area Watershed
Improvement and
Forest Road 26N67
Re-alignment Project
EA

- Recreation In Progress Expected: 05/2018 Christine Handler
management Scoping 03/2018 559-920-2188
- Watershed Start cahandler@fs.fed.us
management 05/02/2017
- Road management Est.
Comment
Period
12/2017

Description: We are proposing road realignment of Forest Road 26N67 and road decommissioning to reduce sedimentation of streams that resulted from changed hydrological conditions following the Storrie, Rich, and Chips Fires.

Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=51655

Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T26 N, R7E, Sections 10, 15, 16, 17, and 25; and T26N, R8E Sections 8, 17, 30, 31, 32, and 35, Mount Diablo Principal Meridian Near the south end of the Butt Valley Reservoir, approximately 10 to 12 air miles west southwest of Greenville, California, and 14 to 16 air miles north north of Quincy, California.

Twain Store & RV
Park
CE

- Special use In Progress Expected: 03/2018 Kyla Sabo
management Scoping 01/2018 530-836-7157
Start kylasabo@fs.fed.us
09/21/2017

Description: The permit will authorize continued operation and maintenance of the existing facilities, in addition to expanding the facilities to include a horse camp, tent camp, frisbee golf and tent cabins.

Location: UNIT - Mt. Hough Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Plumas. LEGAL - T25N R8E NE 1/4 of Sec 22, MDBM Twain, CA

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.



BUTTE COUNTY FEDERAL/STATE LAND USE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

7 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE
OROVILLE, CA 95965

February 1, 2018

NEPA Services Group, USDA Forest Service

Geospatial Technology and Applications Center

2222 West 2300 South

Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

This letter is in response to the USFS request for comments from the public on ways it can achieve the goals of increased efficiency of environmental analysis. The Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee (Committee) is a Board of Supervisors appointed Committee responsible for soliciting public opinion and feedback on matters affecting the use, protection and enjoyment of public lands located in and around Butte County, California. Parts of both the Lassen National Forest and the Plumas National Forest are situated within Butte County.

General Comments

The Committee recognizes and supports the Forest Service goal of streamlining the NEPA process to be more responsive to the needs of our forests and communities. Current NEPA guidelines have resulted in costly and time-consuming environmental reviews during an era in which the National Forest System has experienced massive declines in forest health, matched with massive increases in catastrophic fire, disease and insects, and a decline in timber harvests that devastated timber dependent economies across the country. Additionally, the burden of dealing with catastrophic wildfires has devastated the Forest Service budget, severely impacting staffing levels and therefore exacerbating the inability of NEPA planning staff to keep up with the demands. Related to this issue is the constant turnover in personnel, resulting in a loss of continuity and relationships with local agencies and populations. **Funding for adequate staffing levels and continuity for district assignments, including staffing of NEPA Planners, are essential to timely and effective NEPA planning.**

The Forest Service should revise the NEPA process to reduce paperwork and costs to American taxpayers, and procedures should be streamlined for critical forest health projects, as well as projects on the roughly 24 percent of the National Forest System lands that have been identified for timber harvesting.

Forest Service regulations say that Environmental Assessments (EA) are supposed to be 15 pages in length, but they routinely hit 200-400 pages. **Forest Service leadership needs to enforce oversight and**

accountability of field officers during the NEPA process to meet established timelines and goals, and to right-size documents.

The sense amongst the public involved in reviewing the NEPA process is that **the Forest Service is allowing the potential for litigation to lengthen and encumber the NEPA process**, even when there are collaborative and supportive efforts in place with the local communities and environmental advocates that should make the NEPA process much smoother and timely.

Directives curtailing references to Greenhouse Gas and climate change become problematical when states, such as California, require that these issues are addressed in CEQA documents that are generally prepared in collaboration with NEPA planning for fuels reduction projects as well as other projects. **We recommend including standardized guidance on Greenhouse Gas and Climate Change analysis pertaining to NEPA in order to have consistent application of scientific data and a basis for decisions that will not be prone to litigation and delay.**

We offer the following comments specific to NEPA:

The Forest Service should declare an emergency on all Federal lands designated as condition class 2 or 3 on wildfire risk maps, as well as lands identified as priorities for treatment in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and adopt streamlined NEPA compliance strategies for all such lands. In light of the aggressive advance of wildfire into communities, including 3-mile advance spot fires, **we recommend establishing landscape level NEPA provisions to accommodate establishment of a 3-mile fuel break buffer for communities at risk that are adjacent to federal lands.**

A recent example of such a document can be found at the California Board of Forestry website using this link:

[http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_\(vtpeir\)/](http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_(vtpeir)/)

The Butte County Board of Supervisors recently issued the attached letter of support for the implementation of this landscape level vegetation treatment program (fuels reduction). The Board recognizes that the cost and time required to develop individual Environmental Impact Reports or NEPA planning documents has made it impossible to plan and implement projects efficiently and timely, and that this **MUST** change in order to take timely and appropriate action to protect our forested lands and the communities in and around those forests. If the environmentally conscious State of California recognizes the need for action in streamlining the environmental review process in order to accomplish imperative goals, and has taken action to do so in the best interest of the lands and people of the State, this surely sets an example that the Forest Service can take into consideration when making necessary changes to make the NEPA process more efficient and less costly.

No-Action alternatives in NEPA documents should address the environmental effects of doing nothing which in many parts of the country will be the continuation of uncharacteristic wildfires, insect infestations and the loss of many resource values.

To increase the efficiency of the NEPA process, we recommend the following changes to the list of categorical exclusions (220.6):

1. Work to return hazardous fuels reduction activities (e) (10) to the list of categorical exclusions.

2. Increase the maximum acreage for the harvest of live trees to incorporate the recommended buffer area (e) (12).
3. Increase the maximum acreage for the salvage of dead or dying trees from 250 acres to an unlimited size in order to protect communities at risk, campgrounds, roads, and other infrastructure from dead and dying hazard trees following a wildfire or other catastrophic event. 36 C.F.R. 220.6(e)(13).
4. Increase the maximum acreage for the commercial and non-commercial sanitation harvest of trees to control insects or diseases from 250 acres to 640 acres and to include all acreage within the recommended 3 mile fuel break buffer for communities at risk (e) (14).
5. Expand the existing CE for post-fire rehabilitation activities of up to 4,200 acres, to permit the removal of dead and dying trees as part of rehabilitation activities
6. The Forest Service should maximize the effectiveness of "Categorical Exclusions" (CE) under NEPA to increase the pace and scale of forest projects.
7. The agency should develop a restoration Categorical Exclusion (CE) per the recommendation of the Western Governors' Association recent report on Forest and Rangeland Management. This CE should be based upon decisions documented in Decision Notices and Findings of No Significant Impact and may include commercial and non-commercial timber harvest, hazardous fuels removal, prescribed fire, and post-fire restoration.

We make the following comments in relation to grazing and other special use allotments:

1. Design and implement Landscape level NEPAs – to cover a lot of grazing allotments at one time where the environmental/geographical areas are similar in nature.
2. Provide for grazing allotment NEPA document to cover a 20 year period instead of a 10 year period to avoid using resources on redundant practices. The Forest Service is currently unable to complete 10 year NEPA processing due to a lack of available funding and staff resources.
3. Limit on cost of NEPA preparation, especially for lands with prior NEPA reports currently and historically being grazed. If there are no significant environmental/biological changes from the previous NEPA document, we should expedite the renewal process - just update and resubmit with the same number, season and system with a CE for grazing, assuming there are no current concerns or issues.
4. If there were issues in the interim (fire activity, yellow-legged frog and 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA), for example), NEPA changes to the AMP/Permit should occur through a Permit Modification.
5. Establish a workable limit on the length of NEPA documents to cover truly pertinent data. A related August 31st Department of Interior memo could be instructive. Specifically, that memo suggested a 150-page limit of NEPA documents for standard projects, and a 300-page limit on “unusually complex projects.” It also directs the agency to strive to complete a final EIS within one (1) year of issuing a Notice of Intent (NOI).

The DOI memo can be found here:

<http://www.bdlaw.com/assets/html/documents/S.O.%203355%20Streamlining%20NEPA.pdf>

6. Categorical exclusions should apply to grazing allotments that have historical precedent without interruption and have been within the standards and guidelines.

In conclusion, the Committee respects and endorses the stated intent of the Forest Service to implement changes to the NEPA process to make it more effective and efficient, and less costly in terms of hard dollar costs as well as staff resources. It is essential that these changes be implemented timely, and that adequate funding for administrative staffing be available to make this work, for the benefit of healthier forests, enhanced socio-economic and recreational activities, and to allow communities at risk to be more effectively and urgently protected from the potential for devastating wildfires.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment, and strongly support a more practical application of NEPA standards that will allow significant progress in these areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peggy Moak". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Peggy Moak

Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee

cc: Butte County Board of Supervisors
Forest Advisory Committee
Dave Daley, Cattlemen's Association
Shari McCracken, Butte County CAO



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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January 9, 2018

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
ATTN: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst
VTP Draft PEIR Comments
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Ms. Hannigan:

The Butte County Board of Supervisors supports the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP). The Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the VTP adequately analyzed the potential environmental impacts that may occur from undertaking the VTP. Further, the PEIR clearly identified the limitations of the program in regards to environmental impacts and the mitigation measures that will minimize those impacts. For the health and well-being of those facing wildfire risks, we strongly encourage the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Board to accept the PEIR and begin implementation of the VTP.

Butte County has first-hand experience in the dangers posed by wildfires. We experienced four catastrophic wildfires in 2017. Unfortunately, this year's impacts are not unprecedented. We routinely face wildfire devastation along the vast wildland-urban interface (WUI). The Butte County community, primarily through the leadership of the Butte County Fire Safe Council, have taken considerable efforts to reduce wildfire fuels and risk. However, local wildfire fuels reduction programs have been stymied by existing rules and procedures that are outdated, inefficient, and costly. Under current rules, wildland fire prevention programs require conducting a project-by-project Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which results in increased costs and delays without any environmental benefit. A typical project can take up to 3 years to go through the EIR process. In the case of a small 45 acre project, the EIR costs alone could be \$45,000. The cost of conducting an EIR has increased from 2-5% to 10-15% of project costs, and has become a major cost component of wildfire reduction programs. The increased cost of conducting EIRs comes at the expense of wildfire fuel reduction projects. Having the ability to work under the VTP would have enormous benefit without posing adverse impacts to the environment.

The VTP describes a well-reasoned strategy to reduce wildfire fuel threat on SRA lands on a state wide scale. The program has undergone extensive review and refinement over the past four years. The treatment activities such as manual (hand crew work), mechanical, prescribed herbivory, and targeted ground application of herbicides are clearly described with appropriate limitations. The VTP PEIR

adequately assessed the potential impact from the VTP as it is implemented in the wildland urban interface (WUI), including strategically placed fuel breaks and ecological restoration. The VTP PEIR offers the right balance of a state-wide program, local implementation and environmental safeguards. Given the enormity of statewide wildfire risks, adoption of the VTP is long overdue.

The Butte County Board of Supervisors offers its support for the VTP. The draft VTP PEIR adequately analyzed the potential environmental impacts that may occur from undertaking the VTP. We recommend the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Board accept the PEIR and implement the VTP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Zahner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair
Butte County Board of Supervisors

cc: Butte County Fire Safe Council
Butte County Forest Advisory Committee
Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee