



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 24, 2019—5:00 P.M. Meeting

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, Dan Taverner,
Alternates: Vance Severin, Bob Gage, Frank Stewart
Invited Guests: Russell Nickerson, (District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest), David Brillenz (District Ranger, Feather River Ranger District (FRRD), Plumas National Forest), Clay Davis (NEPA Planner, FRRD) Laura Page (Congressman LaMalfa); Dennis Schmidt (Coordinating Committee, Public Works); Peggy Moak
- 2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public – 5 Min.
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- 3.00 **Consent Agenda**
- 3.01 Review and approve minutes of 5-20-2019 – 5 Min.
- 4.00 **Agenda**
- 4.01 Ag/Timber Management Alternate – Frank Stewart has been appointed to this position – Welcome, Frank!
Reminder: We have two Alternate vacancies: Watershed Environment and Tourism/Economic Development
- 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)
- Plumas NF Feather River Ranger District, Clay Davis (District Planner): Report and Q & A on pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA and Collaborator's Meeting Update – 20 Min.
 - Lassen NF Almanor Ranger District- Russell Nickerson (District Ranger): Report and Q & A on prescribed fire plans, pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA – 20 Min.
- 4.03 Granite Basin OHV Trail Development Project – FAC Comment Letter submitted 5-30-19 (copy attached)
INFORMATION ONLY
- 4.04 USFS NEPA Streamlining Proposal – Webinar June 25 – Asking for FAC volunteers to participate and report to FAC at the July 22 FAC meeting. Comments due to USFS August 12 DISCUSSION ITEM-see attachments
- 4.05 New Business – Considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is July 22, 2019 - Chico, 5:00 PM
- CA Mechatronics Center FRoomba!! (Nick R.)
 - Updates from Butte County Fire Safe Council on tree removal/fuels reduction projects
 - Access to evacuation routes, traffic studies, in the event of wildfire (CalFire, PW, BCFSC)
 - South Feather Water & Sewer District - Recreation and Water Projects
 - Fish & Wildlife
 - Bill Smith – Retired Forester – and panel on forest management
- 4.06 Public Comment (THE COMMITTEE IS PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW FROM TAKING ACTION ON ANY ITEM PRESENTED IF IT IS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA.)



Clerk of the Board

Shari McCracken

Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk of the Board

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Members of the Board

Bill Connelly | Debra Lucero | Tami Ritter | Steve Lambert | Doug Teeter

June 11, 2019

Frank Stewart
18 Premier Court
Chico, California 95928

Dear Mr. Stewart,

On June 11, 2019, the Butte County Board of Supervisors appointed you to serve on the Butte County Forest Advisory Committee as the Alternate Member representing the Agriculture / Timber Management area of interest. The term of this appointment shall end December 31, 2020.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I would like to convey to you our appreciation for your willingness to serve the people of Butte County in this appointive capacity. We would like to thank you for accepting this appointment and go on record assuring you that your service to your fellow citizens is recognized and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Steve Lambert
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

cc: Butte County Forest Advisory Committee



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

May 30, 2019

Jerry Bird, Acting Forest Supervisor
Plumas National Forest
Quincy, CA (sent via email)

Greetings:

The Butte County Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide public comment on the Granite Basin OHV Development Project. The FAC is a Board of Supervisors' appointed (Brown Act) committee representing Butte County citizens' interests in the areas of recreation, forest management, tourism/economic development and environment/watershed, working closely with the Plumas and Lassen National Forests and other public land managers. These comments were developed at a public meeting with input from the public. In addition, the concept of the grant proposal was supported by the FAC when it was initiated.

Pursuant to discussion at the FAC meeting of 5-20-19, the FAC supports the project with comments and suggested additions/recommendations listed below:

- The project capitalizes on prior grant work that was initiated for development of the Granite Basin
- The Butte County Resource Conservation District diligently scoped the proposed trails, identified weaknesses and hydrology concerns, making adjustments to mitigate impacts and improve on the original proposal. We appreciate that bridges will be provided on water crossings.
- The Butte County Trails Planning Process that took place in 2018 encourages trail development based on recreational management objectives that still allow for multiple uses
 - Improved ML2/ML3 OHV access will be an important benefit to hunters in the area
 - Hiking and other uses will be enhanced by well-planned and developed trail courses
- The FAC would like to see inclusion of analysis indicating which trails would remain suitable for hiking and/or equestrian use, and existing roads and trails should be carefully analyzed for potential resource damage and continued need, during this assessment.
- We appreciate that the grant development included public input from specific user groups, such as the Ridge Riders and the Sierra Access Coalition, as well as the general public via workshops and the FAC.
 - The FAC recommends the PNF reach out to environment and watershed stakeholders to gain specific feedback and collaboration on determining a final decision on the project

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We are looking forward to the finalization of this long-awaited OHV/single-track project for the Granite Basin area.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Repanich, Chair
Forest Advisory Committee

CC: Butte County Resource Conservation District

From: [USDA Forest Service](#)
To: [Moak, Peggy](#)
Subject: Forest Service Proposed NEPA Rule Webinars
Date: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:54:39 AM

USDA Forest Service



On June 13, 2019 the USDA Forest Service published a proposed rule to update its National Environmental Policy Act regulations (36 CFR 220). The Forest Service is hosting two information-sharing webinars so that you can learn about the changes in the proposed rule. The same content will be presented on each webinar; they also will be recorded and posted online for later viewing.

Webinar #1

Date: June 25, 2019 **Time:** 3:30-5:00pm (EDT)
Audio: 1-877-369-5243 or 1-617-668-3633
Access Code: 0524699##
Adobe Connect URL: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/neparule-1000/>

Webinar #2

Date: July 12, 2019 **Time:** 3:30-5:00pm (EDT)
Audio: 1-877-369-5243 or 1-617-668-3633
Access Code: 0849770##
Adobe Connect URL: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/neparule-1000/>

The proposed rule is a key component of our agency-wide effort to improve our environmental analysis and decision-making processes. It is the result of robust input from the public, other stakeholders, and agency personnel. The changes in the proposed rule can help us better manage sustainable, healthy, and productive National Forests and Grasslands. It will help us be more efficient without sacrificing our commitment to delivering high quality, science-based analysis, and making decisions that honor our environmental stewardship responsibilities.

More information is available at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nepa/revisions/index.shtml>

Please share widely!

If you have never attended an Adobe Connect meeting before:

Test your connection: https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

Get a quick overview: <http://www.adobe.com/products/adobeconnect.html>

You are receiving this email because you or your organization submitted comments on the Forest Service's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

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Press Release

USDA Proposes Bold Moves to Improve Forests Management, Grasslands

Contact:
USDA Forest Service Press Office
(202) 205-1134

(Washington, D.C., June 12, 2019) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Forest Service (USFS) released proposed changes to modernize how the agency complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The proposed updates would not only give the Forest Service the tools and flexibility to manage the land and tackle critical challenges like wildfire, insects, and disease but also improve service to the American people. Revising the rules will improve forest conditions and make it simpler for people to use and enjoy their national forests and grasslands at lower cost to the taxpayer. The revised rules will also make it easier to maintain and repair the infrastructure people need to use and enjoy their public lands—the roads, trails, campgrounds, and other facilities.

While these proposed changes will save time and resources, they are ultimately intended to better protect people, communities and forests from catastrophic wildfire and ensure a high level of engagement with people and communities when doing related work and associated environmental analyses.

“We are committed to doing the work to protect people and infrastructure from catastrophic wildfire. With millions of acres in need of treatment, years of costly analysis and delays are not an acceptable solution – especially when data and experience show us we can get this work done with strong environmental protection standards as well as protect communities, livelihoods and resources,” said Secretary Perdue.

In 2008, the Forest Service codified its procedures for complying with NEPA in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 36 CFR 220. However, these regulations, in large part, still reflect the policies and practices established by the agency’s 1992 NEPA Manual and Handbook. When these regulations were adopted in 2008, they were intended to modernize and improve management processes. The proposed rule would further modernize the agency’s NEPA policy by incorporating experience from past 10 years. This experience includes input from comments on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking from January of 2018, as well as feedback from roundtables, workshops, and input from agency experts.

“We have pored over 10 years of environmental data and have found that in many cases, we do redundant analyses, slowing down important work to protect communities,

livelihoods and resources,” said Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen. “We now have an opportunity to use that information to our advantage, and we want to hear from the people we serve to improve these proposed updates.”

The updates would create a new suite of “categorical exclusions,” a classification under the NEPA excluding certain routine activities from more extensive, time-consuming analysis under an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. The proposed categorical exclusions would be for restoration projects, roads and trails management, recreation and facility management, as well as special use authorizations that issue permits for outfitters and guides, community organizations, civic groups and others who seek to recreate on our national forests and grasslands. The new categorical exclusions are based on intensive analysis of hundreds of environmental assessments and related data and when fully implemented will reduce process delays for routine activities by months or years.

The proposed update is open for public comment for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. Public comments are reviewed and considered when developing the final rule. Instructions on how to provide comments are included in the online notice.

More information on the proposed rule change and how to comment is available on the [Forest Service website](#).

Comments due by August 12, 2019