



# BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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## May 20, 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  
**Alternates:** Vance Severin, Bob Gage  
**Invited Guests:** Russell Nickerson, (District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest), Plumas National Forest), Clay Davis (NEPA Planner, FRRD), Frank Stewart (FAC Ag/Timber Alternate Applicant)  
**Public:** Doug Laurie, Taylor Nilsson, Kevin Wright, Brad Sanders
- 2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public
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- 3.00 **Consent Agenda**
- 3.01 Minutes of 4-22-2019 reviewed and approved. M-Puterbaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Faulkner. APPROVED 4-0.
- 4.00 **Agenda**
- 4.01 Water Board Grant – Educational Workshop – Thad Walker gave an update to the committee about the recent Water Board Grant meeting and stated about 30 members attended the meeting. The amount of the grant and the roads included were discussed by FAC members.
- 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 – Clay talked to the committee regarding the Hughes Wetland project, a Concow Basin meeting, and an upcoming Interdisciplinary Team Meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>. He also gave a review of the Collaborative meetings and that participants are feeling generally positive about the experience.
  - Lassen NF Almanor Ranger District- Russell Nickerson (District Ranger): Report and Q & A on pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA – Russel gave the committee an update on a CCI grant for the West Shore in Almanor, the A21 road going to Silver Lake, as well as updates on both the MVUM and OSV projects. He also fielded questions regarding the High Lakes project and Chips Creek Bridge.
- 4.03 Granite Basin OHV Trail Development Project – Comment Period – Thad Walker gave an overview of the scope of individuals included in the project. The comment period is open until June 14<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of the potential for erosion to runoff into the Middle and North Fork of the Feather River, in addition to the fact there was no input from groups other than access groups. Other discussion was focused on access for different types of users, as well as whether or not the Forest Service will close non-system roads. The FAC decided to send a comment letter in support of the project.  
MOTION: Peggy Moak will draft a letter, to include the following specific comments:
- The project look at work that was done prior for this area
  - Comment on the BCRCD's work in scoping the proposed trails and looking at hydrology concerns
  - The trails planning process from 2018 which identified multiple use objectives for trails
  - That trails be analyzed to identify which trails would remain suitable for non-motorized use
  - The FAC appreciates the input from access groups, but the outreach to groups should include environment and watershed groups as well
- M: Repanich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Faulkner. Approved 3-0, Walker abstained.
- 4.04 Applicant for Ag/Timber alternate position– review qualifications and consider recommendation – Frank Stewart introduced himself to the committee and gave a background of his experience and qualifications for the position, including prior service on the FAC. MOTION: Recommend Frank Stewart be appointed to the FAC. M: Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Faulkner, APPROVED 4-0.

4.05 New Business – Considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is June 24, 2019 - Chico, 5:00 PM

- CA Mechatronics Center FRoomba!! (Nick R.)
- 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.)



# 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