



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 26, 2020—5:00 P.M. Meeting via ZOOM Join Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

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ITEM NO.

1.00 Call to order – Butte County Public Works Facility, Via ZOOM

2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

2.01 **Roll Call – Members:** Nick Repanich, Teri Faulkner, Dan Taverner, Peggy Moak, Trish Puterbaugh

Alternates: Vance Severin, Carolyn Denero, Bob Gage, Frank Stewart

Invited Guests: Donna Duncan (Forest Minerals Officer, Plumas National Forest); Paula Daneluk (Director of Development Services); Pete Moak (Claimholder); David Brillenz (District Ranger, Feather River Ranger District (FRRD), Plumas National Forest); Clay Davis (NEPA Planner, FRRD); Russell Nickerson, (District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest); Brett Sanders (Congressman LaMalfa's Representative); Dennis Schmidt (Director of Public Works) Abigail Whittaker (NC Regional Land Trust), Jeff Gould (BC Fire Safe Council)

2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public – 5 Min.

3.00 **Consent Agenda**

3.01 Review and approve minutes of 9-28-20: Correction to minutes: **Trish Abstained from West Shore Almanor**
M- Stewart, 2nd Trish **vote:** 4 approved, one could not hear audio

4.00 **Agenda**

4.01 Mining Claims on Public Lands: Donna Duncan, PNF Forest Minerals Officer – see handouts

4.02 Mining Claims on Private Lands: Paula Daneluk, Butte County Director of Development Services reviewed County processes for claims.

4.03 Mining Operations and Water Quality Issues: CA Fish & Wildlife perspective (Tabled, no F&W representation)

4.04 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 (District Ranger): Report and Q & A on prescribed fire plans, pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA – 20 Min
 - o Comment period closed for West Shore Project and closed scoping period for Humbug Valley/meadows project
 - o Campground Closures – working on reopening High Lakes after Tuesday's wind event.
 - o Discussion on Christmas Tree Permits – mail or online – the group advocated for online processing. Russell said online was only rolled out to certain forests as a pilot program. May happen in the future. Availability at Butte Meadows is probable

- Plumas NF Feather River Ranger District, David Brillenz (District Ranger) or 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.
 - o North Complex Fire Update – Map provided - 2 mos. 10 days since start, holding at 96% containment, now repairing dozer lines, collecting fire hose, mitigating where needed. Hazard trees, equipment and personnel are in the fire area. Chipping for erosion control, or lop and scatter, decking merchantable trees. Don't know full impact as yet as even USFS personnel are restricted due to active fire activity. Will impact SOPA work in FRRD/ Strawberry Project and French Creek I are in progress, French creek II on hold due to fire damage. 2 new projects circulated by Clay via email in the prior week.
 - o Berry Creek and Brush Creek burned moderate to severe fire intensity, so salvage projects are likely.
 - o Fire burned spring box at Tamerack Flat, public partners came forward interested in rebuilding it.
 - o Invitation sent out for Collaborative meeting Thursday, November 5 from 5 -7.
 - o Question from Frank Stewart: 4.2M acres of forested land burnt in CA this year, wondering how much is federal land, and how much forest vs. chaparral. No answer at present, research required.

4.05 Fire Resilience Discussion:

- Butte County Fire Safe Council: Jim Houtman – debrief on Fire Science Presentation by Stephen
 - o Goats Grazing on the Ridge – 5 different goat contractors, 3-5 acres per day for 1000 goats at cost of \$250-\$400 per day, trying to control broom growth. Herders and dogs are there with the goats.
- Update on Ridge Property Owner Compliance with Defensible Space requirements – progress is being made.
 - o Planning for open woodlands and repetitive fire treatments \$20 M per year from CA Fire Safe Council – one is funding coordinator for each County for fire mitigation efforts
- Defensible Space Considerations for WUI communities – considering scope changes for projects in burnt areas. Working on CCI grant projects in unburnt communities, too, want to protect communities still green in Forest Ranch and Cohasset, evacuation routes
- Peggy Moak – Grazing Presentation – slideshow shared on Moak transformation from burnt forest to pasture and oak/dogwood/madrone savannah using goats and diligent work

4.06 Update on Poe Recreation Trail – FERC Communications – Peggy shared that an additional letter of support was received from CA Fish and Wildlife. PG&E filed another rebuttal, and nothing yet from FERC.

4.07 New Business–Considerations for upcoming meetings: Next meeting is November 23, 2020 - ZOOM, 5:00 PM

- Northern California Regional Land Trust – PG&E Stewardship Council Land Grants – Conservation Easements and Plans. Also, Plans for hiking trails on conservation easements?
- Access to evacuation routes, traffic studies, in the event of wildfire (CalFire, PW, BCFSC, Nick R.) To include all rural foothill areas
- South Feather Water & Sewer District - Recreation and Water Projects
- Fish & Wildlife

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

