



BUTTE COUNTY FEDERAL/STATE LAND USE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

**7 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE
OROVILLE, CA 95965**

August 14, 2015

Randy Gould, Feather River District Ranger
875 Mitchell Ave.
Oroville, CA, 95965

Subject: Letter of Support for the Proposed Action – Forbestown Community Protection and Fuel Reduction Project

Dear Randy:

The Butte County State and Federal Land Use Coordinating Committee, on behalf of the Butte County Board of Supervisors, strongly supports the Proposed Action in the Forbestown Community Protection and Fuel Reduction Project. This project is essential to the welfare of the Forbestown area, especially as it integrates with adjacent Forest Service lands. Additionally, the project falls within the guidelines established in 2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Butte, Cal-Fire, Butte County Fire, and the Butte County Fire Safe Council. These local stakeholders collaborated to establish the Butte Unit Strategic Fire Plan, generally known as the 2014 CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan), based upon the priority goals and objectives identified by the local collaborators.

The CAL FIRE-Butte Unit Strategic Fire Plan outlines a framework for reducing the risks associated with wildfire. By placing the emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts, the fire plan strives to reduce firefighting costs and property losses, increase firefighter safety, and to enhance ecosystem health. This plan addresses the pre-fire strategies and tactics that will be implemented in cooperation with the fire agencies in Butte County, the Butte County Fire Safe Council, local community groups, and landowners. Local stakeholder collaboration is a key element in identifying and addressing local issues. Many projects are initiated at the grass roots level. The successful implementation of this plan requires the cooperation and coordination of various agencies, community groups and individual landowners to accomplish the goals and objectives set forth. The Plumas National Forest's proposed plan to reduce fuels, utilize cut timber and biomass, and protect local ecosystems dovetails strategically with the stated goals and objectives of the 2014 CWPP, which are to:

- Engage and participate with local stakeholder groups (i.e., fire safe councils and others) to validate and prioritize the assets at risk.
- Promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations.

- Educate landowners, residents and business owners about the risks and their incumbent responsibilities of living in the wildlands, including applicable regulations, prevention measures and preplanning activities.

We believe the Proposed Action in the Forbestown Community Protection and Fuel Reduction Project is well designed, takes into account protection of the local ecosystem and habitat for the spotted owl and other creatures, provides local timber related employment, utilizes timber and biomass effectively to help fund the project, and most importantly, dovetails effectively with similar projects on adjacent private property in a concerted effort to mitigate the danger of wildfire in the Forbestown area, and protect lives and property.

In closing, we ask that the Plumas National Forest proceed with the Proposed Action as it will be of tremendous benefit to the local area and assist the County in meeting its goal of mitigating wildfire danger in our WUI communities, such as Forbestown.

Yours truly,

The Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee

Mike Crump, Director, Butte County Public Works

Tim Snellings, Director, Butte County Development Services

Paul Gosselin, Director, Butte County Water and Resource Conservation

Peggy Moak, Butte County Treasurer-Tax Collector

cc: Butte County Board of Supervisors
Butte County Fire Safe Council
Butte County Forest Advisory Committee
Butte County Fire