

Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee

November 2, 2017 from 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Auditor-Treasurer Conference Room

25 County Center Drive, Suite 125, Oroville CA

Minutes

- 1) Self-Introductions (committee members and public) – Members present: Tim Snellings, Dennis Schmidt, Peggy Moak.
- 2) Discussion of Federal and State Legislative Platform recommendations to Administration as they pertain to public land management and fire protection/prevention. The committee discussed the Legislative Platform document and made suggested changes to some of the language to clarify the intent (Paul Gosselin submitted ideas in writing, which were considered by the other members at the meeting), and added language regarding monitoring cap and trade funds. The committee agreed to submit the recommendations to Administration for consideration.
- 3) Public Comment

From Kate Wilkins: Thank you for inviting me to the meeting today. I am not able to make it, but I wanted to bring up two points for the counties legislative agenda.

1. California's new Greenhouse Gas Grant (GHG) money replaced the State Responsibility Area fee (SRA) as a source of monies for fire prevention. It is unclear if the GHG money will be used in the same way as the as the SRA money. We should recommend that this money assist with wildfire risk reduction including both treatments and outreach for government agencies, university, and non-profits.
2. During the past 20 years, funding for fire prevention has decreased while money for fire suppression has increased at both federal and state levels. This funding shift has not solved the fire problem. While suppression funds have increased, so have the number of acres and homes burnt in California. To reverse the trends of increasing acres burnt and homes lost, we need monies to prevent catastrophic fires. We need to increase the pace and scale of our fuel hazard reduction treatments, which align with fostering healthy forests.

Best,

Kate Wilkin, PhD

Forestry/Fire Science, and Natural Resource Advisor



BUTTE COUNTY FEDERAL/STATE LAND USE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

7 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE
OROVILLE, CA 95965

DATE: November 6, 2017
TO: Butte County Administration
SUBJECT: Federal and State Legislative Platforms

The Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee would like to propose the following for platform ideas relating to the management and protection of public lands, in accordance with a public meeting held on November 2, 2017:

Federal Legislative Platform:

Below are recurring themes from prior years, worded to more readily enable Board letters for non-controversial support of fuels reduction projects and legislation reflecting the Board's perspectives.

Forest Management and Fire Prevention and Protection

Support improved forest management and fire prevention and protection programs; seek federal assistance and funding opportunities.

Pursue legislative and regulatory changes to address and improve funding for wildfire suppression, forest health and tree mortality on federal lands.

(Instead of: Monitor and track federal assistance opportunities for improved forest management and fire protection programs. Pursue legislative and regulatory changes to address tree mortality on federal lands.)

Public Access to Federal Lands

Support preservation and enhancement of public access to federal lands for diverse purposes, such as off-road vehicle use, winter sports, multi-purpose trails, wood cutting and dispersed camping. Support uniformity of rule application across national forests.

Support least restrictive vs. most restrictive rules to protect endangered species that take into account and allow for practical local and landowner management approaches

State Legislative Platform:

Forest Management and Fire Prevention and Protection in Wildland Urban Interface Zones

Support improved forest management and fire prevention, educational outreach and protection programs.

Seek state assistance and funding opportunities.

Pursue legislative and regulatory changes to address and improve funding for wildfire suppression, forest health and tree mortality issues.

Monitor use of cap and trade allocation of funds to support fire prevention and related programs.

Off-Highway Recreation on Federal Lands – Summary of the Issue

The USFS generically applies the classification of “highway” to all Maintenance Level 3, 4 and 5 dirt/gravel roads across the US. The differing state highway codes are then applied to use within the national parks and forests. In California, the vehicle code precludes off-highway vehicles from traversing highways. Most counties consider non-surfaced roads eligible for off-highway use, in conformance with the existing CA codes. In order to bring the two codes into sync with each other in a practical and meaningful manner, the CA vehicle code needs to specify that off-highway vehicle use is authorized on non-surfaced roads classified as “highways” by federal agencies.

Requested Action and Strategy

Support legislative action to allow off-highway vehicle use on non-surfaced “highways” on public lands.

Off-Highway Vehicles and Green Sticker Funding - Summary of the Issue

Green Sticker funds are collected from Off Highway Vehicles (OHV’s) and used by various State agencies to operate the OHV program with the remaining going to grants to enhance OHV opportunities throughout the state. Recently there have been attempts to use green Sticker funds for programs not related to the OHV program. OHV opportunities typically help support rural business by purchasing fuel and other supplies.

Requested Action and Strategy

- Protect green sticker funding for OHV program use only.
- Require the U. S. Forest Service to partner with local non-profits or governmental agencies in order to apply for green sticker funding.