

Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee

April 22, 2019 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Auditor-Treasurer Conference Room

25 County Center Drive, next to Suite 125, Oroville CA

Minutes

1) Self-Introductions: Tim Snellings, Dennis Schmidt, Troy Kidd, Peggy Moak. Public: Doug Teeter

2) OHV Grant Supporting Comments/Letters (see attached Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)Minutes)

MOTION: Approve comments as stated in the FAC minutes.

M: Kidd, 2nd: Snellings. Approved 3-0, with the exception of Schmidt's abstention on the Butte County Search & Rescue grant (Ayes 2, Nays 0, Abstain 1)

3) Lassen National Forest (LNF) Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) Revision Proposal ML3/ML2 Roads– Update

More comments may be submitted – need to check submitted road list from 2013.

Rattlesnake Road? Mentioned at public meeting on 4-04-19 as no action taken although the County had submitted it as a desired route for opening to mixed use or OHV on 2013 list

Peggy Moak gave an update from the MVUM meeting with the LNF. The MVUM will be a living document, can be updated. The Forest Service is concerned with the safety of the roads it is opening up to OHV use.

MOTION: Submit comment letter in support of the progress so far while addressing the need for access on other roads (previously submitted to the LNF for consideration).

M: Snellings, 2nd: Kidd. Approved 3-0.

4) Public comment



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 25, 2019—Minutes

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: Bob Gage
Invited Guests: Clay Davis (NEPA Planner, FRRD, Plumas National Forest), Dennis Schmidt (Coordinating Committee, Public Works);
- 2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public

3.00 **Consent Agenda**

- 3.01 Minutes of 2-25-2019 meeting reviewed and approved. M: Walker, 2nd Faulkner. Approved 4-0.

4.00 **Agenda**

- 4.01 Lassen-Modoc Science Synthesis – FAC members are encouraged to review, discuss and contribute to comments for consideration.
- 4.02 ML2/ML3 Update – Shane Starr has set a meeting with the Lassen National Forest Supervisor for April 4 from 1 -3 in Chester for stakeholders to provide feedback and to answer questions – INFORMATION ONLY
- 4.03 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 – Feather Falls Trail project was signed on 2/27. Clay shared that the PNF was awarded a grant by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Valley Creek Botanical Special Interest Area.
 - Lassen NF Almanor Ranger District- Russell Nickerson (District Ranger): Report and Q & A on pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA – No report.
- 4.04 OHV Grants Discussion: Determine whether or not to send a comment letter in support of each grant- due May 6

The comments below were recommended to the LUCC by the Forest Advisory Committee.

- Butte County Sheriff’s Search & Rescue- \$34,330/\$22,891 match= 2 snowmobiles & related equipment

The Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee (LUCC) supports this grant application. The LUCC is a Board 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. The LUCC is strongly supportive of this grant application and the vital need for the purchase of the snowmobiles and snowmobile training to better enable safe access to snow covered areas in the local OHV areas for the Butte County Search and Rescue units.

- Lassen County Sheriff’s Office- \$140,367/\$52,279 match= 1,430 staff hours, 1 RZR side by side, 1 snowmobile, 1 Pickup truck, related equipment

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- Plumas County Public Works- \$6,612/\$4,400 match= Staff hours for various outreach events in Plumas County

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- Plumas County Public Works- \$252,616/\$94,869 match= 3,890 staff hours of road maintenance, roadwork equipment costs

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- Plumas County Sheriff's Office- \$133,544/\$52,148 match= 2700 staff patrol hours, 2 snowmobiles, equipment

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- Plumas County- \$181,711/\$63,899 match= 70 miles trail maintenance, contracts for trail crews

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- Tehama County RCD- \$112,230/\$49,478 match= Demolishing and replacing Fischer Campground toilet

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- USFS Lassen-Modoc- \$98,087/\$32,810 match= 112 staff patrol days, 2 snowmobiles, 1 Razor, equipment

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- USFS Plumas- \$97,5720/\$39,536 match=3,314 staff hours including patrols, equipment

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meeting with input from the public. The LUCC is supportive of law enforcement grants and related activities on OHV utilized roads and public lands, and of the need for equipment designed to effectively traverse these challenging roads and trails. Most importantly, the FAC would like to see increased OHV patrols during holiday and weekend late afternoons and nights to minimize incidents of resource damage.

MOTION: Support each grant application and issue comments through Coordinating Committee. Re-state concerns for enforcement of laws and specifically state support for inclusion of resource damage citations and staff hours for OHV patrol enforcement. M-Faulkner, 2nd Repanich. APPROVED 4-0.

4.05 New Business – Considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is April 22, 2019 - Chico, 5:00 PM

- ML2/ML3 Update
- 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.)

Thad Walker shared with the committee that the Butte County Resource Conservation District received a grant for a full-time Watershed Coordinator position.

There was discussion regarding Four Trees Road and Ponderosa Way.



BUTTE COUNTY FEDERAL/STATE LAND-USE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

April 26, 2019

Chris Christofferson, Forest Supervisor
Lassen National Forest
2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130

RE: *Lassen National Forest (LNF) Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) Update Project*

The Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee (Coordinating Committee) is writing in support of the proposed revisions to the LNF MVUM. The Butte County Board of Supervisors supports this proposal, pursuant to their letter of March 26, 2019, and in light of their involvement as one of the five counties advocating for revisions providing authorization for OHV travel on roads historically utilized for that purpose, prior to implementation of the 2010 LNF MVUM.

The Committee is charged with facilitating public involvement and feedback on forest management and recreational enjoyment of public lands in and around Butte County through its own public meetings and coordinating those of the Butte County Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), which meets regularly on the 4th Monday of each month. The LNF Almanor District Ranger is routinely asked to participate and present at the monthly FAC meetings, as is the Plumas National Forest Feather River District Ranger. As Board appointed committees, both the Coordinating Committee and the FAC have been intent upon forging strong collaborative relationships with public land managers, fostering open communication and planning opportunities.

We'd like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the public meeting held on April 4, 2019, in Chester where a healthy discussion was held regarding the engineering study and basis for the recommended action. While we believe there is more work to be done, it is gratifying to see progress made in restoring OHV access on dirt roads historically used for that purpose by our citizens and those of the other surrounding counties.

One of the points that came to our attention during the meeting was the fact that not all of the roads submitted in 2012-2013 for consideration for a return to historic OHV use were included in the study. This is understandable given the capacity issues of the LNF and direction from the Regional Office; however, we respectfully request that those roads listed on the original 2012-2013 submission from Butte County, and other counties, which were not included on the engineering study, continue to be earmarked for future consideration for a return to authorized OHV use.

At the most recent public meetings held by the Coordinating Committee and the FAC, public input has re-emphasized the importance of the LNF's future consideration of Forest Service Road 27N06, which connects Humboldt Road to Highway 32 and crosses numerous OHV routes that would enable enhanced OHV loop travel opportunities. This is especially important as the Jonesville area, the Humboldt Road origination point, is a major recreational hub for Butte County's OHV enthusiasts.

Mixed use on the 27N06 would provide access to the Rattlesnake Creek OHV loop, and would also complement the plans being made for a collaborative OHV Grant (LNF, Butte County, Hillsliders and the Butte County RCD) to improve the parking area at the Jonesville Snowmobile Park for both winter use and an OHV staging area. We realize this cannot be considered as part of the current action, as it was not part of the study area; however, the Coordinating Committee encourages the LNF not to lose sight of the County's original (2012-2012) request to honor stakeholder feedback and strongly consider this route as Mixed Use in a future revision to the MVUM.

Russell Nickerson, Almanor District Ranger, disclosed that the other outstanding route submitted by Butte County for consideration, Forest Service Road 26N02, was not recommended for OHV mixed use or downgrade to an ML2 road as a result of internal discussion at the Almanor District level, primarily due to concerns about the crossing of the Pacific Crest Trail. While we understand the District's concerns, we find this decision regrettable as there are numerous OHV roads beginning and ending on, and crossing, the 26N02. The Coordinating Committee is not asking for a change to the proposed action at this time; however, requests that consideration be given to a compromise solution at a future date.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Once again, the Coordinating Committee, and the public we serve, are gratified to see progress on the issue of enhanced OHV access and enjoyment in the Lassen National Forest and look forward to our continued Coordination and collaboration.

Yours truly,



Dennis Schmidt, Director of Public Works
Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee

cc: Butte County Forest Advisory Committee
Butte County Board of Supervisors
Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee