



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes – January 25, 2016

ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – Butte County Treasurer's Conference Room
- 2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- 2.01 Roll Call – **Members:** Jim Shary, Vance Severin, Trish Puterbaugh, Teri Faulkner, Peggy Moak
Alternates: Pete Moak (voting), Bob Gage, Nick Repanich (Charlotte Ann Hilgeman out-medical)
Guests: Clay Davis (Plumas NF), Jason Vermillion (Plumas NF), Eric Murphy (Plumas NF), Randy Fletcher, Yuba County Board of Supervisors), Kathleen Nelson (Lassen NF), Jennifer Erickson (Lassen NF), Megan Mallowney (Plumas NF), (Darrel Wilson (Butte County Fire Safe Council), Kate Hedges & Eric Josephson (Konkow Maidu Cultural Preservation Assoc.) Dave Derby (Cal Fire), Joe Tapia (Cal Fire), Alyssa Cordova (BCRCD), Sarah Reynolds (BCRCD), Kathryn & Ray Weiss & Barbara Coffman (Forbestown Ridge Fire Safe Council), Ken Wilde (SPI), David and Daniel Moench, Doug Laurie, Rich Faulkner, Tom Kelly
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- 3.00 **Consent Agenda**
- 3.01 Minutes of 12-28-15 were reviewed. M –Vance Severin, 2nd Pete Moak, Motion Approved 5-0
- 4.00 **Agenda**
- 4.01 Self-Introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates and Public
- 4.02 Forbestown Fuels Reduction Project – Clay Davis, Plumas NF NEPA Planner for the Feather River Ranger District, gave a presentation on the Environmental Assessment and planning for the project, ably assisted by his colleagues, Eric Murphy and Jason Vermillion. There was a lively discussion around options for removal of the timber and brush debris, including the need for biomass, possibility of local benefit for chips, firewood. Clay said there were 7 letters of support for the project from various groups. Margaret Weiss from the Forbestown Ridge Fire Safe Council emphasized the importance of this project to the community as the culmination of 15 years of work partnering with Yuba and Butte counties, Cal Fire, SPI, Soper-Wheeler, the Butte County Fire Safe Council, BLM, as a pilot project highlighting cooperative arrangements. This project is critical for the evacuation route, as well as general wildfire prevention, in this area. Questions were asked about the Owl PAC designated areas, and provisions for protecting the owl. Trish Puterbaugh and Pete Moak offered to collaborate with Peggy Moak on issuance of a recommended comment letter to the Coordinating Committee. (The final comment letter was issued by Bill Connelly, Chair of the Board of Supervisors) Motion: Pete Moak, 2nd Teri Faulkner, Motion Approved 5-0
- 4.03 Hazard Tree Removal – Almanor Ranger District, Lassen NF – Response to FAC Letter to Kathleen Nelson, District Ranger (see attached). Kathleen and Jennifer from the Almanor Ranger District reviewed the details of their response, and productively discussed some of the various concerns expressed. They indicated they will be changing their methodology going forward, with a small crew of hazard tree fallers that they can more closely monitor. It will be May or later for any FAC onsite visit to the area.
- 4.04 Update on gated roads issue and mapping by Tom Kelly – upper Concow area roads have been mapped, and Tom will communicate with Dan and Dave Moensch on the Feather Falls Area. Also the Cohasset/Deer Creek area mapping needs were discussed. Timeline is a bit uncertain, but Tom hopes to have them done in the near future.

- 4.05 Sarah Reynolds of the Butte County Natural Resources Conservation District gave an update of the \$34,000 RTP grant approved, to take place in 2016-2017 for planning OHV trails and access, mainly in the Granite Basin area.
- 4.06 SOPA Review – Current Quarter: Discussion & required FAC action for projects affecting Butte County listed in 2015 SOPA Reports for Lassen and Plumas NF's. Refer to SOPA flow chart and SOPA Tracking (Chair)
- 4.07 Peggy Moak provided a excerpt on the Butte County Legislative Platform that supports FAC interests, FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE - OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES AND GREEN STICKER FUNDING

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.

4.08

New Business – considerations for upcoming meeting agendas:

- Lassen National Forest – Forest Plan Presentation
- Search & Rescue @ Philbrook – warming hut needed
- Snowplowing by County to Bucks Lake by County – any possibility?
- When available, Tom Kelly's maps of USFS roads and access roads to public lands
- Discussion of letter from Butte BOS to La Malfa, re: roads/gates/accessibility to public lands
- Report on RTP Grant – Sarah Reynolds/Mike Crump
- Invite Sac River Partners Preservation Trust – Blue Trails (Lindsay Wood)
- Sierra Club Trails Guide – invite them to make a presentation
- F&W Service – Table Mountain Trail
- Any update of Four Trees Road access?

Next meeting will be February22 in Chico. Start time will be 5:00 PM

- 4.08 Public Comment (THE COMMITTEE IS PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW FROM TAKING ACTION ON ANY ITEM PRESENTED IF IT IS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA.) Public comment was taken throughout the meeting,