



## BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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### Minutes – October 24, 2016

#### ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – Chico Public Works' Facility, 44 Bellarmine Ct. Chico 5:00 PM
- 2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- 2.01 Roll Call – **FAC Members:** Jim Shary, Vance Severin, Teri Faulkner, Peggy Moak  
**FAC Alternates:** Pete Moak (voting), Lindsay Wood (voting), Thad Walker  
**Coordinating Committee Member:** Dennis Schmidt  
**Guests:** Randy Gould, Clay Davis, Laura Page, Rich Faulkner, Kevin Wright
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- 3.00 **Consent Agenda**
- 3.01 Minutes of 9-26-16 reviewed and approved. M – V. Severin, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Faulkner, Motion Approved 5-0
- 4.00 **Agenda**
- 4.01 Self-Introduction of Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) Members, Alternates and Public
- 4.02 **Economic/Tourism Alternate Appointment:** Thad Walker has been appointed by the Board of Supervisors as Economic/Tourism Alternate, with a term ending 12/31/2018.
- 4.03 (Cancelled) Holly Jorgensen has re-scheduled for the November 28 FAC Meeting
- 4.04 **Terms for Members Shary and Severin and Alternates Wood, Moak and Gage expire 12-31-16**  
Each was polled for their willingness to serve. Shary wishes to serve as an Alternate; Walker is willing to serve as the primary Member for Economic/Tourism. Severin wishes to serve as an Alternate if Repanich will agree to serve as the primary member. Update: Nick Repanich has agreed to serve as the primary member. The Committee voted to present the following slate for appointment to four and two year terms to the Board of Supervisors:
- Member, Economic/Tourism: Thad Walker, term expiring 12-31-20  
Member, Motorized Recreation: Nick Repanich, term expiring 12-31-20  
Alternate, Motorized Recreation: Vance Severin, term expiring 12-31-18  
Alternate, Economic/Tourism: Jim Shary, term expiring 12-31-18  
Alternate, Ag/Timber: Pete Moak, term expiring 12-31-20  
Alternate, Watershed/Environment: Lindsay Wood, term expiring 12-31-20  
Alternate, Recreation - Non-Motorized: Bob Gage, term expiring 12-31-20
- M - J. Shary, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Moak, Approved 5-0
- 4.05 The Calendar for upcoming meetings was confirmed as Nov. 28 in Chico and December 19 in Paradise at the Gold Nugget Museum.
- 4.06 The letters sent to the State Parks OHV Commission and the Railroad Administration had not received a response as of the date of the meeting; however, County Administration will be issuing follow up letters. Update: The Railroad Administration did respond and a copy of the letter was circulated to the FAC and CC on Tuesday, October 25.
- 4.07 **SOPA Review:** No new projects. Clay Davis and Randy Gould gave some updates on their pending

projects: Brush Creek is ready to go as soon as weather and Air Quality permits, and they have continued underburning, mastication planned and approved, just waiting for funding. The Challenge project received 7 comments. They plan another season of field analysis and will have two alternatives for consideration, one of which will be Socio-economic in nature, and one focusing more of the habitat for the California Spotted Owl. The Forbestown FRP is approved, but still working on the stewardship contract. They have done the bug kill CEs already around local houses and the public has expressed gratitude. Looking primarily at hazard tree removal around roadways, public areas. Plumas NF is looking at possible acquisition of an air curtain burner in the future to assist with burning tree debris. Randy said his District is still suffering from constrained budget and staffing shortages, but he is working hard on increasing efficiencies with interdisciplinary coordination. They were able to accomplish 26 Categorical Exemption projects and 2 Environmental Assessments this year. Laura Page reported that Congressman LaMalfa is looking at developing a tax credit program for biomass and also disaster funding for wildfire suppression.

- 4.08 **Lassen NF Almanor District Update:** The below report was provided from Kathleen Nelson regarding pending and active projects and general updates on their districts staffing. She has committed to either a monthly presence at FAC meetings or a monthly report. INFORMATION ONLY

## Lassen NF Report-Almanor Ranger District

October 24, 2016

First, a welcome update: the Almanor Ranger District has several staffing changes that have happened. Stacy Kronner is the new Recreation Officer ([srkronner@fs.fed.us](mailto:srkronner@fs.fed.us)), and Janie Ackley is the District Resource Officer, who oversees recreation, lands, special uses, and minerals programs ([jackley@fs.fed.us](mailto:jackley@fs.fed.us)). Janie's position was previously held by Megan Mallowney, and Jane Goodwin prior to that. Stacy is in the position that was held by Michelle Ahearn, prior to her going to the Plumas NF. Darren Dicharry ([dmdicharry@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmdicharry@fs.fed.us)) is the Law Enforcement Officer for that area – previously Paul Zohovetz.

Kathleen intends that she and/or a staff member will attend upcoming FAC meetings. She hopes to have Lassen NF representation at the November 28/December 19 meetings of the FAC.

During the winter months, Lassen NF personal attendance is more problematical due to road conditions and holiday short staffing, so the agreed alternative in that case is the Almanor District of the Lassen NF will be providing a brief report to share at monthly meetings where no Lassen NF representation is likely. Additionally, Kathleen will be touching base with the office of the Lassen NF Supervisor, Dave Hays, regarding a presentation on the 2017 plans and Region 5 guidance for the Lassen NF.

In response to the FAC email query regarding advance planning and keeping up to date on projects, maintenance efforts, and general planning for the Ranger District, specifically the High lakes area:

Kathleen believes that the FAC Public meetings are a good forum for open discussion of activities, plans, projects, maintenance, etc., which would give interested parties, such as FOTHL, an opportunity to bring up subjects of interest, and also for everyone to hear about projects that may not require NEPA analysis, (meaning they wouldn't show up on the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA)).

Any formal advance planning would need to be done through the County's Coordinating Committee, preferably with one or more BOS members participating, as that would not require a larger public meeting that normally would otherwise be required if parties wish to provide ideas, guidance, comments.

Kathleen said that they really don't have a formal 5 year plan at this time – that those are generally more slanted toward timber management, etc. and that the District is focusing strongly on maximizing restoration efforts with Storrie Fire settlement money over the next 2 years. She is communicating with the Plumas to understand their rationale for the classification of 24N04 as "Likely Not Needed" in their Travel Management Plan docs/maps. FYI, when Lassen NF lands are "administered" by the Plumas, the Lassen has no control over that management.

Re: the Tobin fire, Kathleen believes that Micki Smith, the District Ranger on the Mt. Hough District, was the agency administrator for the Tobin fire. Kathleen did talk with her during the incident, and also coordinated with the Resource Advisors on the incident, to stress the need to address damage to motorized travel routes, particularly from suppression activities, at least on the Lassen NF (top of Tobin Ridge). She (Micki) is probably our best place to start for concerns with the condition of the roads post-fire. Peggy made a phone call and left a message. Kathleen will touch base with her as well.

**From Kathleen Nelson, District Ranger, here is a brief update on ongoing activities:**

High Lakes motorized trail reroutes – NEPA analysis is still underway.

High Lakes motorized trail maintenance – Trails Unlimited enterprise team was in the area this season, refining proposals for maintenance work. They worked closely with our District hydrologist, who is now on a 4 month detail to another Forest. We do expect to receive recommendations from them prior to his return. Implementation would be next summer, and we would plan to work with FOTHL and others.

Ruby, aka the ongoing hazard tree reduction activities in High Lakes – project lead has been on the Soberanes fire for a month now, but due back this week. We did visit the area this summer with our pathologist, to review the most recent hazard tree guidelines and get his expert opinion. Project lead (Jennifer Erickson) will be pulling together info and potential approaches to removing hazard trees in the remaining areas. Should be working on that this fall/winter.

- 4.09 **Planning Session:** The Members developed the attached bullet points for consideration by the Coordinating Committee for a legislative platform submission to Butte County Administration.  
Motion: Submit draft Legislative Platform to Coordinating Committee for consideration.  
M-V. Severin, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Faulkner, Approved 5-0 Platform is as follows:

Support legislation that:

- promotes preservation and safe, ready recreational access to, and utilization of, public lands, trails and roads (Tourism & Econ, Motorized and non-motorized recreation)
- supports utilization of forest resources (timber/biomass) as an economic driver to help sustain communities economic vitality and contributes to USFS program costs (Econ Dev, Timber Mgt)
- requires proposed forest plans, projects, NEPA analysis and regulations to analyze socio-economic impact with an emphasis on ensuring healthy and sustainable communities (Econ/Tourism, recreation)
- promotes strategic forest management to ensure healthy, resilient forests, watersheds and diverse, healthy eco-systems, such as fuels reduction, effective timber management, restoration of meadows and streams, prescribed burns and grazing (Ag/Timber, Watershed/Environment)
- provides funding for fuels reduction projects, retention of fire safe councils, preservation of recreational facilities (Timber Mgt., Watershed/Env, Recreation)
- preserves forest service budget for timber management, recreational development and administration costs by establishing access to disaster funds for wildfire suppression (all)
- preserves structure of OHV Commission and use of OHV green sticker funds for OHV programs, trails and parks only – restrict availability for CA general fund borrowing(motorized recreation)
- promotes multi-use status for road/trail systems, use of creative alternatives and designated volunteer orgs to maintain historical roads to avoid decommission, and preserves those roads that are decommissioned for trail use (OHV, hiking, biking, equestrian, disabled users) (recreation)
- encourages forest user education and law enforcement action to ensure sustainable road and trail use and resource protection (motorized rec, watershed/env)

- 4.10 New Business – considerations for future meetings: Next meeting is Nov. 28 in Chico, 5:00 PM
- Lassen National Forest – Presentation on plans for the Lassen NF for 2017
  - Tree Mortality Task Force – December meeting
  - General Plan Revisions, Trails, Public Lands, Recreation
  - F&W Service – Table Mountain Trail
  - Sierra Club Trails Guide – invite them to make a presentation

- 4.11 Public Comment – Taken throughout the meeting (THE COMMITTEE IS PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW FROM TAKING ACTION ON ANY ITEM PRESENTED IF IT IS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA.)