



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 24, 2019—5:00 P.M. Meeting 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: Vance Severin, Bob Gage, Frank Stewart (voting Alternate)

Invited Guests: Russell Nickerson, (District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest), Jennifer Erickson, Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest), Clay Davis (NEPA Planner, FRRD), Dennis Schmidt (Coordinating Committee, Public Works); Peggy Moak

2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public – 5 Min.

3.00 Consent Agenda

3.01 Minutes of May 20, 2019 reviewed and approved. M- Puterbaugh, 2nd-Walker, Approved 5-0

4.00 Agenda

4.01 Ag/Timber Management Alternate – Frank Stewart has been appointed to this position – Welcome, Frank!

Reminder: There are two Alternate vacancies: Watershed Environment and Tourism/Economic Development. Peggy Moak agreed to reach out to Carolyn Denero of Explore Butte on the latter opening.

4.02 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: The District Ranger has signed the fire salvage and restoration project for Magalia, to include the closure of seven abandoned mines, water structure upgrades and an unneeded road. The Granite Basin scoping comment period ended June 4 and comments are being reviewed. They will be posted for public consumption, and alternatives may be developed to address concerns. Dennis Schmidt reported that the contract between the USFS and Butte County will be going before the Board on July 23. A discussion on the Forest Service Road 24N04 ensued, and the possibility of an SPI/USFS land swap to address the access issues (for this and other roads) that have been concerns for some time. Clay agreed this would be brought up again at the Collaborative meetings, as well. A workshop will be held to discuss routes and uses, with Repanich, Faulkner, Severin, Walker and Moak representing the FAC.

Lassen NF Almanor Ranger District- Russell Nickerson (District Ranger): Report and Q & A on prescribed fire plans, pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA. Russell Nickerson reported that the OSV comments have been received on the proposed revision to the LNF MVUM, that the regional office has already given the go ahead for mixed use as proposed, and that the Supervisor will be reviewing and then initiating the Environmental Assessment and any alternatives to the proposal Leslie Ross is the engineer in charge. Law Enforcement in the LNF is focusing on illegal grows and OHV. Work in the High Lakes will likely be delayed past this season as they are waiting for permits on Long Lake re-route, etc. The Jones Meadow hand-thinning project on 50 acres should have a decision by 9/2019 and should be under contract by 2020.

4.03 Granite Basin OHV Trail Development Project – FAC Comment Letter submitted 5-30-19 (copy attached)
INFORMATION ONLY

4.04 USFS NEPA Streamlining Proposal – Webinar June 25 –FAC members were asked for volunteers to participate and report to FAC at the July 22 FAC meeting - see attachments Peggy Moak indicated she would work on this. Comments due to USFS August 12

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

- CA Mechatronics Center FRoomba!! (Nick R.)
- Updates from Butte County Fire Safe Council on tree removal/fuels reduction projects
- 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.)



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

May 30, 2019

Jerry Bird, Acting Forest Supervisor
Plumas National Forest
Quincy, CA (sent via email)

Greetings:

The Butte County Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide public comment on the Granite Basin OHV Development Project. The FAC is a Board of Supervisors' 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. In addition, the concept of the grant proposal was supported by the FAC when it was initiated.

Pursuant to discussion at the FAC meeting of 5-20-19, the FAC supports the project with comments and suggested additions/recommendations listed below:

- The project capitalizes on prior grant work that was initiated for development of the Granite Basin
- The Butte County Resource Conservation District diligently scoped the proposed trails, identified weaknesses and hydrology concerns, making adjustments to mitigate impacts and improve on the original proposal. We appreciate that bridges will be provided on water crossings.
- The Butte County Trails Planning Process that took place in 2018 encourages trail development based on recreational management objectives that still allow for multiple uses
 - Improved ML2/ML3 OHV access will be an important benefit to hunters in the area
 - Hiking and other uses will be enhanced by well-planned and developed trail courses
- The FAC would like to see inclusion of analysis indicating which trails would remain suitable for hiking and/or equestrian use, and existing roads and trails should be carefully analyzed for potential resource damage and continued need, during this assessment.
- We appreciate that the grant development included public input from specific user groups, such as the Ridge Riders and the Sierra Access Coalition, as well as the general public via workshops and the FAC.
 - The FAC recommends the PNF reach out to environment and watershed stakeholders to gain specific feedback and collaboration on determining a final decision on the project

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We are looking forward to the finalization of this long-awaited OHV/single-track project for the Granite Basin area.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Repanich, Chair
Forest Advisory Committee

CC: Butte County Resource Conservation District