

Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee

September 10, 2019 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Auditor-Treasurer Conference Room

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

Minutes – Special Meeting

- 1) Attendees: Tim Snellings, Dennis Schmidt, Paul Gosselin, Peggy Moak
- 2) Minutes of August 2, 2019 Coordinating Committee Meeting Approved 3-0
- 3) Discussion of Draft Comment Letter for West Shore Community Wildfire Protection Project

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve issuance of a letter of support for the West Shore Community Wildfire Protection Project. (comments due September 11, 2019) Discussion: Gosselin expressed concern about commenting on a project outside of Butte County. Historically, the Coordinating Committee and the Forest Advisory Committee have commented on projects in Plumas and Lassen Counties. M- Schmidt, 2nd Snellings Approved 3-1 (see attached)

4) Review of Agenda Item for September 10, 2019 Board of Supervisors' Meeting and Slide Show Presentation – Dennis Schmidt and Peggy Moak. Changes to the Resolution provides for the Committee members to utilize designees for meetings. Peggy Moak has been appointed as designee for the CAO, who was added as a member of the Committee by passage of the Resolution.

5) For Information Only:

Poe Relicensing: PG&E Recreational Trail Feasibility Study - Butte County Resource Conservation District (BCRCD)

BCRCD Motorized Trails Assessment Study completed and posted online: <https://www.bcrd.org/assessing-table-2-ohv-trails>



BUTTE COUNTY FEDERAL/STATE LAND-USE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

September 10, 2019

Chris O'Brien
Lassen National Forest All Units
2550 Riverside Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130

RE: Letter of Support – West Shore Community Wildfire Protection Project

The Butte County Federal/State Land Use Committee (Committee) is writing in support of the West Shore Project in the Lake Almanor area. Many Butte County residents own property in the area and/or recreate there on a regular basis. Butte County's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) member Patricia Puterbaugh has been regularly attending meetings of the South Lassen Watershed Group and has reported to the FAC and the Committee on the development of this project so important to the welfare of the forest and the community.

The Committee understands the primary purpose of the proposed West Shore Project is to reduce the risk of wildfire damages to human life and property in the wildland urban interface (WUI) areas of Prattville, Lake Almanor West, and Big Meadows communities by thinning overstocked conifer stands and reducing hazardous fuel loads. The project is designed to improve forest resiliency and the recreation experience through facilities improvements and access management.

The Committee agrees with stakeholder concerns about potential for loss of the very large, older trees that are healthy and vigorous, providing an attractive canopy for the campgrounds and trails as well as wildlife habitat in certain areas. The Committee asks that the project be evaluated for any opportunities to preserve such trees and consider increasing the canopy cover to 50% for wildlife areas that would not adversely impact the overall design and goal of the project.

The Committee is very supportive of this project overall. The need to protect the WUI and promote forest resiliency is paramount, and the area has been long overdue for upgrades to parking and campground improvements. The West Shore is heavily used by recreationists in the summer months and they will really benefit from many of the improvements outlined in the project documents.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this project. We look forward to seeing the wildfire protection and forest resiliency work implemented and the opportunity for Butte County's residents and all recreationists to visit and enjoy the enhanced facilities.

Sincerely,

Dennis Schmidt
Butte County Federal/State Land Use Committee

cc: Butte County Forest Advisory Committee
Butte County Board of Supervisors
Shari McCracken, Butte County CAO