

## Plumas County Coordinating Council

### MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF June 3, 2011

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call** -1:03 p.m.

Present are Council Members Brian Morris (Chair), Robert Perreault (Vice Chair), Frank Stewart, Supervisor Terry Swofford and Supervisor Sherrie Thrall.  
Absent is Randy Wilson (*Becky Herrin, Senior Planner, sits in for Randy Wilson*).

2. **Public Comment Opportunity**

There being no public comment, Morris moves on to Item #3.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion is made by Supervisor Thrall and seconded by Bob Perreault to adopt the meeting minutes of May 6, 2011, with minor revisions. Motion is passed.

4. **United States Navy – GIS and Wind Planning**

Navy representative, Steve Chung, states he and Kimberly Bush have been working with the Plumas County Planning Director, Randy Wilson, and the Forest Service, to foster better awareness of portions of Navy GIS data showing the military training corridors or “freeways in the sky” that exist over Plumas County. Of particular concern to the Navy are potential structures (i.e., wind-power generators) on the ridges that may extend vertically into the military training corridors. Bush provides a brief Power Point presentation demonstrating the software M-CAT (*Mission Compatibility Analysis Tool*). Frank Stewart asks if the military would be inclined to override projects using national security as their reason. Chung explains that the military does not have land use authority and they would not trump elected officials, but they would share their concerns if warranted. Chung adds that the Navy wishes to be more proactive and establish “sooner and better” communication with various entities in Plumas County and surrounding counties.

5. **Forest Service – District Rangers** – Presentations are given by the following individuals:

**Al Vazquez**, District Ranger/Silviculturist (*Lassen National Forest, Lake Almanor R.D., Chester*)

Handouts: Map titled, “Creeks II Alternative 3 – Collaborative Alternative Post Fuels Treatment Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District”

Map titled, “Swain Mountain EF Timber Sale - Original Sale Area Improvement Plan Map”

Vazquez provides background information regarding Lassen National Forest – Lake Almanor Ranger District, and then specifically mentions two projects called *Creeks II* and *Swain Timber Sale*. Questions arise and Vazquez provides answers on the following matters:

- Signing of NEPA documents necessary in order to keep *Creeks II* moving forward;
- There will be an objection period for *Creeks II*;
- Projects may provide economic and social benefits for Plumas County;
- Differences explained between Quincy Library Group projects and Experimental Forest projects.

Vazquez ends his presentation with an update about ongoing fuel reduction treatment and road repair.

**Mike Donald**, District Ranger (*Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough R.D., Quincy*)

Handouts: “*Mt. Hough Ranger District 2011 Activities*”

Map titled, “*Keddie Ridge Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project – Alternative A*”

Map titled, “*Bucks Lake Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project – Proposed Action*”

Donald states there is a summary on the *Keddie Ridge* project and the *Bucks Lake* project in the handout provided. Donald points out that group selection (GS) is not included in the Bucks Lake information table. Donald adds that the homeowners association has been opposed to GS; but otherwise is supportive and will continue to provide comments.

**Deb Bumpus**, District Ranger (*Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth R.D., Beckwourth*), and **Jim Wilcox**, Program Manager, Feather River CRM –

Handout: “*Red Clover POCO Restoration Initial Notes on Repair Plan 6/1/2011*”

Bumpus lists various projects in the Beckwourth Ranger District. Wilcox points out the handout pertaining to repairs needed on the Red Clover POCO Restoration project.

**Dan Smith** (*Plumas National Forest, Feather River R.D., Oroville*)

Smith states he is substituting at today’s meeting for Karen Hayden, District Ranger, *Feather River Ranger District*. Smith explains that they have four large projects in the works (Stag Point, Mountain Spring, Lost Creek, and Fowler), but they are still waiting for the snow to melt. Smith adds he also is working on one new project. When asked about the opening of Little Grass Valley Reservoir, Smith responds that there is still six feet of snow there.

Following Dan Smith’s comments, discussion takes place among the Council members and Forest Service individuals regarding the following topics:

- Champs Project Approval – Jerry Bird, Lassen National Forest Supervisor, reports they are moving forward aggressively and they believe it will be approved;
- Status of State Parks – Bird reports that at this point only the park at Burney Falls will remain open;
- Share the Dream Trail project – Al Vazquez states a bridge will be needed at Mill Creek, and there is a right-of-way issue at Mineral; otherwise, there are no major problems. Bird states an analysis will need to be done, meetings with

Coordinating Councils in Plumas and Lassen Counties will continue, and public hearings will be needed;

- Priority setting and input regarding Forest Service projects – Perreault stresses the importance of identifying needs as soon as possible, Stewart adds that collaboration should occur early in the planning process. Perreault continues by suggesting prioritization of the projects with more economic promise for Plumas County.

## **6. Forest Service – Road Maintenance**

Pete Hochrein Acting Forest Engineer (*Plumas National Forest – Quincy*), reports that they are working with a budget that is 20% less than it has been. Hochrein continues that on the east side of the PNF, work consists of OHV trails, Frenchman Lake road rocking, and Walker Mine road upgrading; and on the west side, storm damage has led to tree cutting and masticating projects. Discussion continues and the following ideas are shared:

- Bob Perreault offers the Pubic Works website for public outreach purposes concerning decommissioned roads;
- Supervisor Swofford mentions that based on his own experience, Forest Service public notification and signage pertaining to decommissioned roads is inadequate;
- Al Vazquez makes the suggestion that the Forest Service could do presentations to help inform the public at various county meetings (i.e., Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors);
- Deb Bumpus adds that they are always receptive to suggestions on how to distribute information better.
- Frank Stewart contributes that perhaps a big yearly meeting to set the tone for the fiscal year, with media present, might help get information out;
- Alice Carlton, PNF Supervisor, says that information needs to be shared “early and often”;
- Supervisor Thrall thinks there needs to be better communication with the public over the differences between the PNF and the LNF, and better signage when leaving and entering the two. Jerry Bird clarifies that the main reason the two *Forests* are handled differently has to do with topography;
- Corky Lazzarino, attendee, suggests using Sierra Access Coalition to help get information to the public;
- Carlton emphasizes continued cooperation between Plumas County and Butte County.

## **7. National Forest Travel Management**

Handouts: “*Alice Carlton Letter dated 10/27/10 / Briefing...Motorized Travel Management Plumas National Forest*”

“*Record of Decision – Plumas Motorized Travel Management Project*”

CD titled, “*Travel Management – Subpart B, Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision & Maps, Plumas National Forest*”

Pete Hochrein, passes out the above referenced items containing information about National Forest travel management. Discussion ensues and the following ideas are shared:

- Perreault says that the public education process regarding the Travel Management Plan could take anywhere from one to five years;
- Hochrein says that in the fall there will be maps, of a more “user friendly” nature, pertaining to the Travel Management Plan and they will be available on their websites;
- Dave Steindorf, representing American Whitewater, say it is important to have an education component that provides the rationale behind the various road closures;
- Brian Morris and Bob Perreault share that progress is being made as far as Plumas County reaching out to other counties.

## **8. FERC Project 1962 (Rock Creek / Cresta) Ecological Resources Committee**

Handout: Map titled, “*Civil Site Plan, Recreation Plan Implementation, Rock Creek Bench Whitewater Put-In, Rock Creek – Cresta Project, FERC No. 1962*” (2 pgs.)

Brian Morris provides an update on this project, particularly a settlement agreement, licensing limitations, and the Ecological Resource Committee. Charles White, representing P.G. & E., provides copies of the preliminary design and explains some of the design concepts for the Council to be aware of and comment on. Dave Steindorf, of *American Whitewater*, contributes that this project can aid in providing safer whitewater activity. Mr. Steindorf adds that support from the County and the National Forest would be helpful, and that they may even want to consider the possibility of developing commercial venues along the river catering to whitewater enthusiasts. Rex Fisher, attendee, points out that handicap parking and pathways would need to be constructed with asphalt and not gravel. Mr. White states that even with a gravel design for most of the parking, there would still be asphalt areas for accessibility. White adds that turnarounds for trailers, etc., would help and Steindorf agrees. John Sheehan, Plumas Corporation, suggests that Feather River CSD, Feather River College, and the Plumas County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, are kept apprised of the project and given a chance to comment.

## **9. Legislative Update**

- a. **H.R. 1581 (McCarthy) – Return inventoried roadless areas to multiple use if not recommended for wilderness designation – *No report***
- b. **H.R. 242 (Herger) – Suspend implementation of Travel Management Rule – *No report***
- c. **Stewardship Contracting – *No report***
- d. **Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization**

Stewart reports that there is no legislation yet to move forward.

- e. **Other bills**

Brian Morris states that Congressman Herger has introduced the Catastrophic Wildfire Community Protection Act which provides additional statutory authority to the Forest Service to move forward with Fire Safe and Fuel Reduction projects.

Morris relays information about a new bill introduced by Congressman Nunes to provide water supply reliability in the San Joaquin Valley. Morris adds that a concern regarding this bill is that it would pre-empt State water rights authority.

**10. Litigation Update**

***Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. California Department of Parks and Recreation, et al. (challenging EIR and funding for over-snow vehicle program) – No report***

***Sierra Nevada Framework***

Brian Morris mentions the *Sierra Nevada Framework* case in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court that now has gone back to the District Court for more work. Frank Stewart suggests follow-up on this matter at future meetings.

**11. Coordinating Council Organization**

Supervisor Thrall suggests that discussion and possible recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding composition of the Coordinating Council is postponed to the July meeting. The other Council members concur with this recommendation.

**12. Meetings and Other Activity**

**a. Sierra-Cascade Dialog Sessions – Saturday, June 4, 2011**

*“Improving Social and Economic Conditions in Rural Forest Communities”*

Meetings have been postponed until October.

**b. Other meetings**

Frank Stewart mentions a group meeting in Siskiyou County called the *Institute for Elimination of Catastrophic Fire* and explains that this group somewhat replicates the Quincy Library Group.

**13. Date and Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

**a. Set next meeting** – The next meeting is set for July 8, 2011.

**b. New agenda items:**

**i. Possibly adding citizen representation to the Coordinating Council –**  
*Moved to July 8, 2011, meeting*

**ii. Other items:**

- Update from Forest Service after Quincy Library Group no longer has staffing;
- Presentation by Alice Berg regarding dams throughout the Sierra Nevada and re-introducing Salmon;
- Follow-up about the Sierra Nevada Framework case ;
- Al Vazquez offers to do presentation at a future meeting regarding the *Creeks II DEIS*.

**14. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.