

**Sierra County
Board of Supervisors'
Agenda Transmittal &
Record of Proceedings**

MEETING DATE: June 29, 2022	TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Timed <input type="checkbox"/> Consent
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DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors
APPROVING PARTY: Paul Roen, Chair, District No. 3
PHONE NUMBER: 530-289-3295

AGENDA ITEM: Report on meeting held June 22, 2022 with the Acting Tahoe National Forest Supervisor Matt Jedra to address a number of issues of concern previously identified by the Board of Supervisors, and possible action/direction to staff.

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: Memo Resolution Agreement Other
See attached letter from the Board to Acting Forest Supervisor Matt Jedra

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On

FUNDING SOURCE:
GENERAL FUND IMPACT: No General Fund Impact
OTHER FUND:
AMOUNT: \$ N/A

ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED?

 Yes, -- --
 No

IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET? Yes No

IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED? Yes No

SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE

<p>BOARD ACTION: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Action Taken</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Set public hearing For: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Direction to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Continued to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Authorization given to: _____</p>	<p>Resolution 2022- _____ Agreement 2022- _____ Ordinance _____ Vote: Ayes: Noes: Abstain: Absent: <input type="checkbox"/> By Consensus</p>
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COMMENTS:

CLERK TO THE BOARD _____
DATE

SIERRA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
P.O. Drawer D
Downieville, California 95936
Telephone (530) 289-3295
Fax (530) 289-2830



June 9, 2022

United States Forest Service
Forest Supervisors Office
631 Coyote Street
Nevada City, California 95959

Attn: Mr. Matt Jedra
Acting Forest Supervisor

The Sierra County Board of Supervisors has appointed two of its members to meet with you and members of your staff to discuss a number of topics of concern and we appreciate the confirmation received from you that a meeting will be conducted in Nevada City on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. We would propose to schedule the meeting for 10:00 am (you suggested 10:00 or 3:00) at a location that you propose and should this time present any conflict, we can meet later in the day as well. Those representing Sierra County will be Supervisor Lee Adams and Supervisor (Chairman) Paul Roen; County Forester, Danielle Bradfield; County Assessor, Laura Marshall; and County Director of Transportation, Tim Beals.

The County would propose to discuss the following items and please feel free to include any matters of interest or concern to the Forest Service as additional discussion topics:

- 1) Forest Treatment Projects for Wildfire Prevention Prioritizing Community areas
- 2) Yuba River Ranger District waste disposal practices
- 3) County access to Federal mining claim information required for County waste disposal fees
- 4) Campground closures (Ramshorn, Snag, Sierra, Chapman, Yuba Pass, etc)
- 5) Status of current Yuba River Ranger District Offices and existing Downieville Ranger Station
- 6) County fire coverage for the 22 summer-fall season-Sierraville and Downieville
- 7) Establishing regular coordination between the Forest Service and the County

Regarding the first of the proposed discussion topics, we note that a "strategy meeting" was conducted on April 28 to "dial in acres and funding from CFLRP and BIL for FY22 and beyond". Funding made available for qualified treatment projects and other qualified projects included \$3 million from CFLRP and \$6.8 million from BIL. In an email dated May 2, 2022, Mr. Dave Fournier, Natural Resources Staff Officer for the Tahoe National Forest identified that work continues to provide a funding strategy on the North Yuba forest landscape and he inquired of Sierra County the following:

- 1) If the County could take on one of the identified projects or provide support.
- 2) If it would be feasible to set up a "good neighbor authority" with the County in out-years.
- 3) If BIL funds need to go into new agreements or if existing agreements could be modified.

A number of projects were identified and discussed in the previous strategy meetings and many projects were in the more extreme southern and western fringe of the County-far from community areas. While project constraints are understood and some projects may be ready for implementation, the existence of exemption processes for CEQA and NEPA suggest opportunities to generate effective projects in a relatively short period of time assuming that priority is assigned and goals are clear to deliver projects. Such projects should, and need to be, focused on the wildfire exposure, fuel loading conditions, and protection within and adjacent to the existing communities in the North Yuba watershed.

The County identifies projects that should be seriously considered that will direct protection to the existing communities and we need the leadership, partnership, funding, and priority to implement such a strategy. Such projects as Greene Acres; Galloway; Forest City National Register Historic Living Community; coordination with Caltrans efforts to provide sufficient right of way clearances along State Highways; providing funds for contract right of way clearing projects along existing County Highways that pass through National Forest System Lands; fuel break construction that uses existing roads that surround the various communities (please see attached map as just one example showing a proposed firebreak strategy for Downieville using existing roads that are overgrown and require right of way clearing and that meet exemption criteria); use of the existing and approved "Master Stewardship Agreement" in place between the County and Tahoe National Forest which grants wide discretion and effective alternatives to traditional processing of projects and also affords a unique method of implementation for projects that the Forest Service could otherwise not implement; implementation of the Yuba Project; and if feasible, strengthening the fire prevention and suppression capabilities of local fire agencies and the Forest Service.

The message is loud and clear, we (collectively) need to do significantly more than has occurred in the past. Studying, analyzing, evaluating, scoping, testing, and such are all words that spell delay and paralysis in the implementation of necessary landscape-based fire fuel reduction projects and we need to use the criteria for exemption, declare emergency conditions, and propose projects that will be attainable. In the public eye, we need to deliver sound and effective projects and this will only occur if we think outside of the box, afford strong advocacy and leadership, and be willing to take a strong stand in the face of potentially losing this premiere watershed to a catastrophic wildfire.

Thank you and we look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Sierra County
Board of Supervisors



Paul Roen
Chairman of the Board

CC: Clerk of the Board
Board of Supervisors
County Forester
County Assessor
County Director of Transportation

