

# Mono County Collaborative Planning Team

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## DRAFT MEETING NOTES January 25, 2018

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Members present: Stacy Corless, Mono Supervisors; Bob Gardner, Mono Supervisors (teleconference); Cleland Hoff, Mammoth Town Council; Gayle Rosander & Austin West, Caltrans (teleconference); Steve Nelson, BLM; Eric Dillingham, USFS/Humboldt/Toiyabe; Heidi Calvert, CDFW; Doug Power, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center; Deanna Dulen & Monica Buhler, Devils Postpile National Monument

Members absent: Margie DeRose, USFS/Inyo; Erin Nordin, USFWS/Reno; Kathleen Morse, Yosemite National Park; Rana Saulque, Benton Paiutes; Jay Hall, Bridgeport Indian Colony

Staff present: Wendy Sugimura, Amanda Benbow, Tony Dublino, CD Ritter

Guests present: Dana Hoffman & Della Acosta, Michael Baker International; Karla Benedicto, CalOES, So Region; Abagael Criles, The Sheet.

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ATTENDEE INTRODUCTIONS

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Items of public interest not listed on the agenda

### 3. MEETING NOTES

July 27, 2017: Moved to April

October 26, 2017: Moved to April

4. **AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:** Members presented agency planning issues & pending projects.

5. **COUNTY/TOWN RECREATION POSITION:** Tony Dublino indicated BOS (Board of Supervisors) formed taskforce. Recommendation in July 2017. \$50,000 to process, engaging with Town and BLM. Federal movement to get local agencies involved. BOS directed joint position, working on job description, use permits, film permits. Agreed on job description MOU. To Town Council Feb. 7, appropriation by Town, back to Mono for approval/agreement.

Hoff: MMSA/USFS can turn around film permits in three days. Two-week heads up not work for big production companies.

Nelson: Permission within USFS permit.

Dublino: Intent to have somebody with expertise to turn 14 days into three days. Right now, find person with skill set to expedite film permits for companies.

Nelson: Margie DeRose sent email. Current federal cost-share agreement in place?

Dublino: Impression is not. Heard mention.

Dillingham: Special uses already overwhelmed. Agreements make things go faster.

Corless: Higher level agreement would cover two forests, support for expanding. Town and Mono want to include BLM.

**6. CONWAY RANCH GRAZING:** Tony Dublino got BOS RFPs (Requests for Proposals) for cattle grazing. Three proposals received. Conservation minded, not necessarily economic benefits. Environmentally sustainable grazing plan. Representatives from BLM, CDFW, USFWS, ESLT. Proposed animal unit months, on/off dates, fencing concepts, special status species. Good info on best practices/alternatives. BOS agenda Feb. 13. ESLT will present benefits of cattle grazing as related to sage grouse. Studying change from sheep to cattle.

--- Break: 10:30-10:40 am ---

**7. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR REORGANIZATION:** Stacy Corless is on regional committee. How work with different missions of entities. S knows very little. State BLM director went to meeting two weeks ago with Secretary Zinke, no report back yet. Heard more commonality among Interior agencies, take individual heads of agencies and on rotation as regional commander/director. Spoke with Matt Kingsley, Inyo BOS. More about upper level, not local. Counties and states would have concerns. Not want to lose connections on who to call. Regional directors, 10. Resolve issues in region instead of federal.

Dulen: Reorganization is coming, nothing specific.

Corless: Tim Williams at Interior, better map. What about USFS, which is not involved? States split up, not counties.

Nelson: Work in progress.

Corless: Assuage concerns on local control/concentration.

Dillingham: USFS getting rid of tech walls, not reach local level yet.

Nelson: Challenges with room for improvement.

**8. LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:** Wendy Sugimura introduced Dana Hoffman, Michael Baker International consultants, who presented update of community wildfire protection plan. Sustained actions can reduce/eliminate long-term risk to life and property from hazards. Look at community risk and vulnerability. CWPP involves federal, state, and local stakeholders. Joint effort led by Mono planning staff, along with Town. Goal = FEMA-approved plan. Climate change is part of process. Mitigation measure potentially funded under FEMA. Planning team identified 13 priority hazards, including climate change. Profiling hazard locations, level of magnitude. Vulnerabilities: land ownership, critical facilities, demographics at risk. Identify critical facilities (transportation, medical, schools, senior living facilities, etc.). Hazards: dam failure, flood, fault rupture zones, wildfire. Avalanche/debris flow. Roadways blocking access to communities. Pursue more updated mapping. For climate change using Cal-Adapt, moving target. CWPP removable as needed, focused on wildfire risk. Looking at long-term goals and priority measures of five-year plan. Final plan by late June. Cal Fire mapping preferred, out for comment to fire folks.

Hoff: Didn't consider heavy snow to get money back. Told snow doesn't qualify.

Hoffman: Goals have to specify hazards. "Severe winter storms" didn't include heavy snow.

**9. DEVILS POSTPILE FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Deanna Dulen introduced Monica Buhler, who has long history in fire. Overview: NEPA process, DEPO needed for update, proposed alternatives, all concerns considered. Everything refers back to park purpose: columns, Rainbow Falls, etc. Public scoping Jan. 8 to Feb. 16. Broad outreach, deadlines not as tight. Have draft EA (Environmental Assessment) ready before season. First plan in 2005. Wind storm November 2011. Lots of fuels along road, mechanical thinning. INF (Inyo National Forest) is first responder on fires. Reached out to Mammoth Lakes FPD. Improved defensible space around buildings, replaced wood roofs with metal. Tree thinning. Downed trees from storm: 25%. Devil's Windstorm. Rainbow fire in 1992. Burned wood piles 2013. 2015 major prescribed burn by USFS/NPS. Respond to risk of wildfire, one road in/out. Meadows have high ecological value. Reduce risk to public and firefighter, natural resources, air quality. Apply best available science. Fire management zones. Fires shorter duration, lower smoke intensity. Aggressive response to unwanted wildfire. DEPO is 85% wilderness. Proposed project to

improve Reds Meadow Road, steep, mountainous terrain. Agencies talked about evacuation, communication.

Hoff: Was present in 1992 Rainbow Fire, still suffers PTSD.

#### **10. MONO COUNTY UPDATES**

- **Scenic Byway Project:** Amanda Benbow has been reviewing draft internally. Funding source if get national scenic byway, so national scenic byway plan created. Tell story of this corridor to enhance visitor experience. Eastern Sierra regional trail and bikeway system. 94% of Mono is public land. Agencies have management and protection plans. Cultural and historical intrinsic qualities. Development and design guidelines. Byway signage and wayfinding plan. Byway management plan. List of strategic alliances with various organizations.
- **Housing Needs Assessment:** Move to April.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Minutes of two meetings.; 2) Department of Interior reorganization; 3) housing needs assessment

**12. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 9 a.m.

*Prepared by CD Ritter, CPT secretary*