

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

BY: Supervisor Lyle Turpin

PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter in reference to the BLM Sierra Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement of August 2006. Mariposa County strongly endorses the BLM Alternate C which addresses many of our resource and multiple use values.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors strongly requests overall Animal Unite Month (A.U.M.) on BLM permitted areas to be maintained and increased. Livestock forage is and will continue to be of great value. Good management of our forest will reduce fuel loads and open areas for livestock access. The practice of fuel reduction in the past has shown that prescribed burning not only reduces fuels but also stresses noxious weeds. This fuel reduction reduces brush adjacent to our communities.

The BLM proposal to eliminate all OHV routes starting from Date Flat Park area has created much concern. This staging area and trails are used by hundreds of OHV users annually. The businesses in Coulterville and Greeley Hill benefit greatly from the people that use the park and trails.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

BLM land will have increased fuel loads and reduced areas for livestock access. BLM would also restrict OHV use, which would affect our local economy.

Financial Impact? () Yes (x) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes () No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$		Resolution
Source:		E-mail from Marsh Pitman
Internal Transfer		
Unanticipated Revenue	_____ 4/5's vote	
Transfer Between Funds	_____ 4/5's vote	
Contingency	_____ 4/5's vote	
() General () Other		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 07-269 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
 Absent: _____
 Approved
 Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

_____ Requested Action Recommended
 _____ No Opinion
 Comments:

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
 Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
 County of Mariposa, State of California
 By: _____

CAO: _____



COUNTY of MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

JANET BIBBY, CHAIR
LYLE TURPIN, VICE CHAIR
BRAD ABORN
DIANNE A. FRITZ
BOB PICKARD

DISTRICT III
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT I
DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT V



MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: SUPERVISOR TURPIN
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MWJ*
SUBJECT: Approve a Letter in Reference to the BLM Sierra Resource Management
Plan/Environmental Impact Statement of August 2006

RESOLUTION 07-569

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on December 11, 2007

ACTION AND VOTE:

Item 12 – Supervisor Turpin initiated discussion relative to the letter to BLM, and he asked that copies be distributed to our state and federal legislators, Tom Quinn/Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor, CSAC, and RCRC.

Input from the public was provided by the following:

Keith Williams suggested that a copy also be sent to the State Parks and Recreation OHV Division, and the Board concurred.

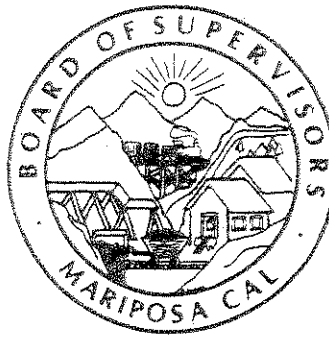
Supervisor Pickard asked that a copy also be sent to Ed Cole/Sierra National Forest Supervisor, and the Board concurred. (M)Turpin, (S)Fritz, item 12 was approved and direction was given for distribution as discussed/Ayes: Unanimous.

CA-12 Approve a Letter in Reference to the BLM Sierra Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement of August 2006 (Supervisor Turpin); Res. 07-569

Cc: File

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 BRAD ABORN
District 2 LYLE TURPIN
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 DIANNE FRITZ
District 5 BOB PICKARD



RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board

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December 11, 2007

Mr. Bill Haigh
B.L.M. District Field Office
63 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630

Dear Mr. Haigh:

This letter is in reference to the B.L.M. Sierra Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement of August 2006.

Merced River Assessment Area

Mariposa County strongly endorses the BLM Alternate C which addresses many of our resource and multiple use values.

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Route Designations

The BLM management plan must have the flexibility and opportunity to manage specific areas.

The BLM proposal to eliminate all OHV routes starting from the U.S. Forest Service Date Flat Park area which ties into the BLM Tim Brush Fuel break and North Fork area has created much concern. This staging area and trails are used by hundreds of OHV users annually. The businesses in Coulterville and Greeley Hill benefit greatly from the people that use the park and trails and such action will have a significant economic impact that we feel has not been adequately addressed by the BLM.

Livestock Grazing and Forestry

We strongly request overall Animal Unit Month (A.U.M.) on BLM permitted areas be maintained and increased. All allotments large and small must be kept active. Their value may seem minimal today, but all livestock forage is and will continue to be of great value.

Good management of our forest will reduce fuel loads and open areas for wildlife and livestock giving access, which will help the reduction of ladder fuels.

Fuel Reduction and Noxious Weeds

The practice of fuel reduction accomplishes two goals: Reducing fuels and stressing noxious weeds. Fuel reduction aggressively reduces brush adjacent to communities and is essential to establishing defensible buffers around our wildland urban interface (W.U.I).

Map 6g

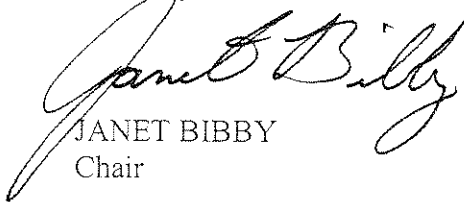
R 17E U.S. Forest Service and BLM land holdings have worked well in the past, (again with management signage), and enforcement, this could continue to be a viable OHV usage area.

In recent years minimal emergency services have been required. While we acknowledge concerns about trespassers on private property, we believe this can be resolved with modest additional effort by the responsible agencies.

Mariposa County requests that BLM sit down with the Forest Service to come up with a management plan that can be enforced.

We thank you for the opportunity to express Mariposa County concerns and look forward to working together.

Sincerely,



JANET BIBBY
Chair

CC: Congressman George Radanovich
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Dave Cogdill
Assemblyman Tom Berryhill
Tom Quinn, Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor
Ed Cole, Sierra National Forest Supervisor

BLM Sierra Resource Management
December 11, 2007
Page 3

State of California Parks and Recreation OHV Division
California State Association of Counties
Regional Council of Rural Counties