



PLUMAS COUNTY COORDINATING COUNCIL (PCCC)

AGENDA

Thursday, June 25, 2020 – 1:00 PM

Plumas County Department of Public Works
Conference Room
1834 East Main Street, Quincy, California

The members of the PCCC and other meeting participants may attend the meeting via teleconference and participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were physically present.

TELECONFERENCE OPTION: following are the call-in numbers for teleconference participation: **Dial in Number: 1-800-867-2581 Conference Code: 0439272 #**



ACCESSIBILITY: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact reception staff at the Department of Public Works (530) 283-6268. Notification prior to the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.



RECORDING: This meeting is scheduled to be audio recorded and video recorded for the convenience of the public. However, the Coordinating Council is not responsible for technical difficulties. Within 10 days (approximately) following the meeting, the audio and video files will be archived on Plumas County's PCCC website. Teleconference capabilities during the meeting are not available.

STANDING INFORMATION PERTAINING TO PLUMAS/LASSEN/TAHOE SOPAS:

Each National Forest prepares and publishes a "Schedule of Proposed Actions" (SOPA), usually in January, April, July and October. The Forest Service maintains an informational web page on SOPAs at: www.fs.fed.us/sopa/, where SOPAs for the Plumas NF, the Lassen NF and the Tahoe NF may be easily located in either .html or .pdf format.

1. Call to Order at 1:00 PM and Roll Call

2. Public Comment Opportunity

Matters under the jurisdiction of the Coordinating Council, and not on the agenda, may be addressed by the general public at the beginning of the regular agenda. However, California law prohibits the Council from taking action on any matter which is not on the posted agenda unless it is determined to be an urgency item by vote of the Council. Member(s) of the public wishing to address the Council during the "Public Comment" period are requested to limit their comments to a maximum of 3 minutes.

3. Review and Acceptance of the Agenda by the PCCC

Discussion and possible action.

4. Approval of PCCC Meeting Minutes (Draft)

A. Draft Minutes for PCCC Meeting of October 3, 2019. Discussion and possible action.

5. Status Reports from each National Forest staff pertaining to each National Forest “2020 Work Plan” Discussions and possible actions.

A. Plumas National Forest

B. Lassen National Forest

C. Tahoe National Forest

6. Topics for Presentation/Discussion by Various County Staff, Various National Forest Staff, Other Agencies, Groups or Individuals

Discussion and possible action.

A. Supervisor Jeff Engel, PCCC Member

PCCC Members request staff of the Plumas National Forest to comment on the new procedure that requires a fee to walk to Frazier Falls as well as a fee to launch a boat at Gold Lake. For additional information, a recent internet article from “Plumas News” online is attached.

B. County Administrator Gabriel Hydrick, PCCC Member

PCCC Members request staff of the Plumas National Forest to comment on any recent decisions or considerations that pertain to Biomass Fuel.

C. Public Works Deputy Director Joe Blackwell and Technician Mark Crews will report to PCCC the latest status of the three (3) pending Applications for OHV Grant Funding.

D. Other Reports or Information, if any, from the Plumas National Forest staff.

E. Other Reports or Information, if any, from the Lassen National Forest staff.

F. Other Reports or Information, if any, from the Tahoe National Forest staff.

7. Meetings and Activities

Reports on past meetings/activities and/or identification of future meetings/activities.

8. Date for Next Meeting

Establish date for next PCCC Meeting

9. Adjournment

Attachments:

Draft Minutes for PCCC Meeting of October 3, 2019. Discussion and possible action.

Newspaper Article

Plumas News

The online edition of Feather Publishing's newspapers
Feather River Bulletin, Portola Reporter, Indian Valley Record, Chester Progressive

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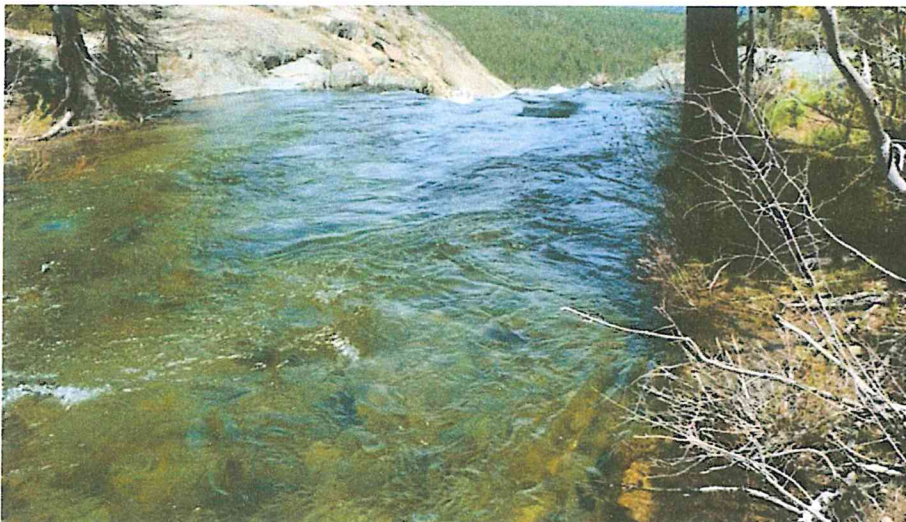
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Frazier Creek approaches the lip of Frazier Falls, which plummets 176 feet to the rocks below. Frazier Falls is located off Gold Lake Highway. A paved trail leads to viewing platform. File photo

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Want to hike to Frazier Falls? It will cost you

📅 June 5, 2020 👤 Debra Moore, Managing Editor

By Debra Moore


dmoore@plumasnews.com

There's a new concessionaire in town and Plumas County residents and visitors will see some changes at popular recreation destinations on the Plumas National Forest — namely they will now be charged a fee.



Frazier Falls rumbles from above.

Readers have called and written this newspaper to say they were shocked that it would cost them \$10 to walk to Frazier Falls or that they would have to pay \$10 to launch a boat at Gold Lake. Supervisor Jeff Engel mentioned it during his comment period at the Board of Supervisors June 2 meeting and the local Fish and Game commission wants the Forest Service to appear at its next meeting, scheduled for July 2, to discuss the issue.



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The Forest Service — specifically the Plumas National Forest — hired a new concessionaire to oversee its recreation facilities and that entity is charging fees to maintain the available amenities.

Lee Anne Schramel, spokeswoman for the Plumas, said, "The new concessionaire is a private business that manages the campgrounds," and explained that in its proposal to run the campgrounds, the company applied to run additional recreation sites under that umbrella. Those with picnic areas, parking lots, restrooms and benches take money to maintain, and Schramel said that the Forest Service doesn't have the budget to do so.

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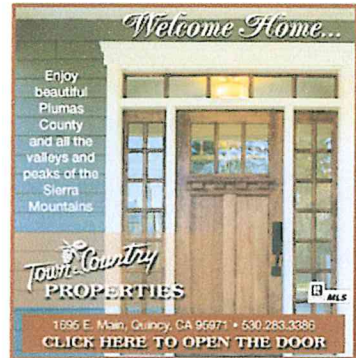


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That's what Fish and Game commissioner Gary Rotta learned when his organization began researching the new fees. "The Forest Service is losing its recreation budget and it needs private concessionaires to manage," he said.

Of prime concern to the commission is how the fees were enacted without the public knowing about them. "We got wind of it last August," he said, "but we never saw an opportunity to comment."

Fellow commissioner Dave Valle agreed and said that what they saw were small notices posted at various recreation sites late last summer stating that fees could be charged in 2020.

What also concerned Valle was the Forest Service's prospectus to hire a concessionaire. "This was different. It was a concessionaire for the entire forest," he said. Historically, it's been divided up between different entities. Also, the prospectus contained opportunities to manage recreation sites previously managed by the Forest Service. "There were new options to charge fees," he said.

Some of those options include very remote campgrounds such as Meadow View and Conklin in the far eastern part of the forest, as well as day use areas such as Frazier Falls. Valle said he was concerned because the fee to walk the trail went from zero to \$10. The \$10 fee is per carload, not per individual. The fee will go into effect as soon as the concessionaire begins servicing the facilities there.

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He and the other commission members acknowledge that it takes money to maintain facilities, but remain concerned

that there has been no notification and that people will be unprepared for the costs.

Boat launching fees have increased also — going up to \$10 per day, with various season passes available.

Trying to find a list of fees is difficult — they are not listed on the concessionaire's website (except if trying to make a campground reservation) nor on the Forest Service website.

Supervisor Jeff Engel said that he wants to convene a meeting of the Coordinating Council, which includes county officials and Plumas National Forest personnel. The group used to meet regularly, but has not met for a while.

According to the most recent agenda, the last time the group met was Oct. 3, 2019. "This is the problem," Engel said. "We are supposed to get together, and when we don't, we get blindsided."

The new concessionaire

Outdoors in Plumas LLC is the campground concessionaire for the Plumas National Forest. The campgrounds, day use areas, and boat launches it manages are located on the Beckwourth Ranger District, Mt. Hough Ranger District, and Feather River Ranger District. Its website <https://www.outdoorsinplumas.com/> lists all of the recreation areas that it oversees.

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