

May 13, 2009

Allene Zanger
Executive Director
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council
15 North Ellsworth Avenue, Suite 100
San Mateo, CA 94401

Re: Land Conservation Plans for the Feather River Planning Units

Dear Ms. Zanger:

We are writing as representatives of a number of agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations in the Feather River region who have long-time involvement in the various planning units that will be addressed by the Stewardship Council in Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans. As the planning process moves forward, we would like to work with the Stewardship Council to facilitate collaborative proposals for the Feather River planning units by building upon the foundation of a number of ongoing and overlapping collaborative efforts.

There are many examples of active collaborations addressing issues that relate to the Stewardship Council's undertaking. The parties listed below who are submitting this letter have all been engaged in one or more of the following forums for a number of years, with some of them going back more than two decades:

- Maidu Summit Consortium
- Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee
- Bucks Lake Coordinating Committee
- Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group
- Plumas Watershed Forum
- Rock Creek/Cresta Ecological Resources Committee
- Humbug Valley Stakeholders Group
- 2105 Licensing Collaborative
- Quincy Library Group

With this history of collaboration, it is only natural that we have now assembled in a new configuration to work together on the Feather River planning units.

We would like to provide some suggestions to the Stewardship Council and request your assistance in certain areas to make the planning process as successful as possible.

1. Conservation Easements. The new process for identifying conservation easement holders may present obstacles to effective collaboration and the identification of the best

easement holder for each planning unit. ***Once the Stewardship Council has reviewed the Statements of Qualifications and identified the qualified donees, we encourage you to invite all of the donees to meet and discuss their interests and capabilities.*** In the end, easement holders should not be selected simply on the basis of what may be procedurally expedient, but rather on the basis of which easement holders have the greatest familiarity, experience, capability, and passion for the management and protection of the respective planning units.

2. Facilitators. Due to stakeholder interests that span multiple planning units, we are considering a “mini-bundling” approach for fee title donees and Stewardship Partners to develop collaborative proposals for the Feather River planning units. For example, Lake Almanor, Butt Valley, Humbug Valley, and North Fork Feather River have a large number of common stakeholders, and we believe it will be most productive to work on a proposal for those units through a single collaborative. The same may be true for the Feather River planning units in Butte County. ***We would like to request the assistance of the Stewardship Council in providing a facilitator to help us develop a proposal for the mini-bundle of planning units described above.*** It may also be helpful for the Stewardship Council to facilitate a similar process for the Butte County planning units.
3. Identification of Stakeholders. While many of the key stakeholders in our region are readily identified, we recognize there may be new parties who would like to engage in this process. ***As soon as possible, we request that the Stewardship Council make public a list of all registered donees who have given permission for their contact information to be released.***
4. Timeline and Process. The timeline to respond to the RFQ for conservation easement holders was very short and did not provide a sufficient opportunity for consultation and collaboration between interested parties. ***We request that the Stewardship Council consult with the stakeholders in the Feather River watershed on the timing and procedures for the remainder of the planning process.*** In developing collaborative proposals between public agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations, a certain amount of time is required for the back-and-forth between stakeholder meetings and discussions with governing boards through a number of cycles in the course of proposal development.
5. Pending Proposals. The Maidu Summit Consortium has already submitted an extensive proposal to the Stewardship Council. ***Have any other similar proposals been submitted, and how will any such proposals be taken into consideration as part of the planning process?***

Finally, we would like to thank you for selecting the Feather River watershed as one of the next areas to move through the planning process. We are pleased the process is moving ahead, and

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we look forward to completing Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans that will protect and enhance many resources that we treasure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Thrall". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sharon Thrall, Chair
Plumas County Board of Supervisors

Carl Felts, Chair
Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee

Glenda Nelson, Chairwoman
Enterprise Rancheria

Jim Wilcox, Program Manager
Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group

Paul Hardy, Executive Director
Feather River Land Trust

Kyle Self, Tribal Chairman
Greenville Rancheria

Farrell Cunningham, Chair
Maidu Summit Consortium

Steve Robinson, Executive Director
Mountain Meadows Conservancy

John Sheehan, Executive Director
Plumas Corporation

Brian Morris, General Manager
Plumas County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Alice B. Carlton, Forest Supervisor
Plumas National Forest

Jonathan Kusel, Executive Director
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment