

Trinity County Collaborative Group

Trinity County Board of Supervisors
11 Court Street, Room 230
P.O. Box 1613
Weaverville, CA 96093

Trinity County Collaborative Group
1 Horseshoe Lane
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

RE: Formal Recommendation/Request

July 15, 2013

Dear Trinity County Board of Supervisors,

The Trinity County Collaborative Group (TCCG) has formally voted and approved the following recommendation:

The TCCG recommends that the Trinity County Board of Supervisors present the attached list of issues and suggestions to United States Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. The items listed below are the result of our public meetings held over the last seven months.

Sincerely,

The Trinity County Collaborative Group

Trinity County Collaborative Group

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

The Trinity County Collaborative Group would like to express our appreciation for the cooperation between USDA agencies, our Collaborative, the Trinity County public and Trinity County officials. Thank you for your continued interest and commitment to Trinity County. Collaboration is difficult and time consuming work, but we have worked hard and developed an initial list of issues that we would like for you to be aware of.

The Collaborative's foremost requirement is that the topics and issues be socially, economically and ecologically sustainable. Thank you for your review, and we look forward to your support and help as we more precisely define issues important to Trinity County.

- Expedite special use permits for the construction of communication towers (cell phone and broadband) in non-wilderness areas. The lack of cell phone coverage in many parts of the County is a public safety concern and the lack of broadband access leaves Trinity County with an economic disadvantage.
- Enable the Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area (Shasta-Trinity NRA) to extend boat ramps on Trinity Lake during low water periods. During drought years, many of the boat ramps on Trinity Lake do not reach the water level, which greatly reduces lake tourism and boating recreation and prevents local residents from accessing Trinity Lake. The Shasta-Trinity NRA must be ready to act and extend boat ramps on Trinity Lake during low water periods so that in the future recreation access to Trinity Lake is secured.
- Improve coordination between the Shasta-Trinity NRA and the local US Forest Service (USFS) office. As an example, it is our understating that the National Recreation Area currently prohibits the pasturing of USFS animals at the Bowerman Barn, a USFS facility. Facilitating the use of the Bowerman Barn Pasture for USFS pack mules and back country horsemen would help restore this historical site, and provide feed and storage for the animals.
- Allow the USDA to use census block group data, rather than county-wide data in determining eligibility for funding. Trinity County encompasses over two million acres of land, and is home to consistently high poverty rates, yet overall does not meet the criteria for *set asides* for a county experiencing persistent poverty.
- Reestablish the Trinity National Forest and return its management and administration to Trinity County. This organizational change would increase efficiency, effectiveness and

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accountability in the management and administration of Trinity County public lands. In addition, strengthening the local USFS presence in Trinity County would nurture collaborative relationships between the agency and local communities.

- Support the Trinity County Collaborative Group and the Trinity County Board of Supervisors' requests for approving Emergency Declaration Status for the Stafford Fire Salvage and Restoration Project area.
- Encourage the USFS, in conjunction with the Trinity County Collaborative Group, to create and support a long-term plantation maintenance plan that emphasizes fire resilience, economic and ecological sustainability, social acceptance and public safety.
- Continue to consult and coordinate with the Trinity County Collaborative Group on the USFS and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) programs of work and to maintain an agency presence within the Trinity County Collaborative Group.
- Help prioritize funding for fuels reduction, which in turn will decrease the need for costly fire suppression. This effort will create local jobs while increasing fire resiliency.
- Support and implement co-management of the Trinity Unit of the Shasta-Trinity NRA, to be managed by the local office. Currently Trinity Lake and immediate surrounding areas are managed by the National Recreation Area. We believe that having one management staff for the USFS lands in Trinity County would be more efficient.
- Increase access to and use of Trinity Lake by encouraging the Shasta-Trinity NRA to facilitate permitting for houseboats. House boats on Trinity Lake are considered cabins on USFS lands, which limits the total number of boats allowed.

The Trinity County Collaborative appreciates your continued support and assistance in helping to address these specific issues. Please feel free to inquire with questions or for further information or clarification about these topics.

We look forward to strengthening the relationships between the USDA and our local community efforts.

Sincerely,

The Trinity County Collaborative Group