

**Butt Valley Reservoir, Humbug Valley, Lake Almanor,
Mountain Meadows Reservoir Planning Units
Public Information Meeting
Chester Memorial Hall - Chester, CA
October 22, 2009 - 3:00 to 6:00pm**

A public information meeting for the Butt Valley Reservoir, Humbug Valley, Lake Almanor, and Mountain Meadows Reservoir Planning Units was hosted by the Stewardship Council on October 22, 2009 at the Chester Memorial Hall in Chester, California. A total of 61 people attended and participated in the meeting, representing a wide variety of interests, including local and federal governments; community organizations, and community members. The primary purpose of this meeting was to solicit public input on the development of the Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans (LCCP) to preserve and enhance the Butt Valley Reservoir, Humbug Valley, Lake Almanor, and Mountain Meadows Reservoir Planning Units. The Stewardship Council will consider all public input.

During the meeting, participants were invited to provide comments at the four planning unit stations, focusing on two topics: the potential priority measures proposed for the above listed planning units, and important qualifications of future land owners and conservation easement holders. Below is a summary of the notes that were recorded on flip-charts.

BUTT VALLEY RESERVOIR

General comments/potential priority measures to preserve and enhance the BPVs

- Study Butt Creek to determine fisheries relationship with Butt Valley Reservoir
- Improve access on east/southward side of lake. More paved roads [are needed], especially between campgrounds. Make [the lake] more user friendly - put in parking lots.
- Coordination with existing management plans on surrounding lands
- Prioritize surveys (save money) instead of general surveys (i.e., "biological surveys" is too general)
- Native American Heritage Commission has legal protection information on Tribal consultation and cultural resource protection [that] the Stewardship Council should look at to avoid reinventing the wheel

HUMBUG VALLEY

Important qualifications of future landowners and conservation easement holders

- Donee should honor leases in perpetuity (current lessees are stewards of the land)
- Collaborative with different organizations (multiple fee-title donees)
- Local people [should be] given priority (e.g., Maidu) over federal government (e.g., Forest Service) for fee title
- A donee who will preserve the Cowboy Cabin
- Consult with locals on historic/cultural preservation

LAKE ALMANOR

General comments/potential priority measures to preserve and enhance the BPVs

- Support for the Lake Almanor Recreation Trail to Chester
- Development of conference center similar to Asilomar (Pacific Grove) at possible locations either near the causeway or near Bailey Creek – emphasis on youth groups focusing on the abundant outdoor activities of the area
- Dock/ramp on east side of lake that would provide public access at no cost
- Extension of the Lake Almanor Recreation Trail is not a priority since it currently does not get use
- Don't want OHV [off highway vehicle] use here
- Limit hunting access along [southwest] shoreline
- Most important - maintain public access for recreation

Important qualifications of future landowners and conservation easement holders

- Donee should be able to work with others in the watershed areas (e.g., forestry, fuels, fish and wildlife)
- Donee must have a holistic view (not piecemeal or only one concern)
- Donee must have prior interest in area, and not come from out of the area

MOUNTAIN MEADOWS RESERVOIR

General comments/potential priority measures to preserve and enhance the BPVs

- Surface water and groundwater issues in the context of climate change need to be considered since they are interrelated with biological resources, etc.
- Give priority to habitat protection of ESA [Endangered Species Act] listed species
- Fencing is a serious job - currently fencing is a farce
- Cultural sites are being vandalized – this is a priority measure
- Concern over enhanced/increased public access and recreation that would invite public across private lands
- Want to discourage OHV use
- Conservation easement holders and land conservation partners need to have power over PG&E as the property owner
- For PG&E retained lands - fund partners to oversee and implement improvements
- Need different requirements for conservation easement holders and partners to meet the priorities [given that the entire Mountain Meadows Planning Unit will be retained in fee-title by PG&E]. They [conservation easement holder/partner] will be more interested in getting things done than PG&E

Important qualifications of future landowners and conservation easement holders

- Choose conservation easement holders and partners that are motivated for/by a particular site

- Open mind to agriculture and grazing
- Financially able to manage easement
- Proven track record of similar activities (not on the job training)
- Respectful of past traditions
- Interested in working cooperatively to achieve goals of both parties