

**North Fork Mokelumne River and Lower Bear Area
Public Information Meeting
Amador County Senior Center - Jackson, CA
October 7, 2009 - 3:00 to 6:00pm**

A public information meeting for the North Fork Mokelumne River and Lower Bear Area planning units was hosted by the Stewardship Council on October 7, 2009 at the Amador County Senior Center in Jackson, California. A total of 36 people attended and participated in the meeting, representing a wide variety of interests, including local, state, and federal governments; community organizations; and local businesses. The primary purpose of this meeting was to provide an overview of the land conservation process, provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions, and solicit public input on the development of the Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans (LCCP) to preserve and enhance the North Fork Mokelumne River and Lower Bear Area planning units. The Stewardship Council will consider all input received from the public.

During the meeting, small group discussions were held in which the workshop attendees were divided randomly into three groups consisting of 11-13 people. Discussions were guided by staff and focused on two topics: the potential priority measures proposed for the North Fork Mokelumne River and Lower Bear Area planning units, and important qualifications of future land owners and conservation easements holders. Comments from each group were recorded on flip-charts and key discussion points were reported back to the larger group at the end of the workshop. Below is a compilation of the comments from each group according to color assignments. Please note that comments received and recorded from each group do not necessarily represent group consensus.

Blue Group Discussion Notes

Topic #1: Potential Priority Measures

North Fork Mokelumne River and Lower Bear Area:

- Fire management
- Manage resource values and public uses on the Cole Creek parcels (specific to Lower Bear Area PU)
- Assess current and historical recreation uses
- Partner with local entities and landowners to build upon existing resources, management plans, expertise, and opportunities.

Topic #2: Qualifications of future landowners and conservation easement holders:

- Non-exclusive (inclusive of diverse interests)
- Manage land similar to PG&E management
- Cultural understanding; be a part of the community (sensitive to local uses)
- Financial viability as a land owner
- Locally accessible (organization has presence in community)

Red Group Discussion Notes

Topic #1: Potential Priority Measures

Lower Bear Area:

- Enhance existing uses for youth programming

- Integrate/coordinate youth programs in East Bay with local programs
- Emphasize wilderness values of Cole Creek parcel #951
- Coordinate management with neighbors (adjacent land management plans, etc.)
- Coordinate biological monitoring/surveys with the Ecological Resource Committee
- Involve Native American community, particularly the unified tribal group currently being formed
- Ensure management plans address specific parcels
- Identify potential historical sites/features to access for educational purposes (include information about the sensitivity of cultural artifacts/cultural knowledge)
- Coordinate fire and fuels management with existing efforts and organizations

North Fork Mokelumne River:

- Coordinate biological monitoring/surveys with the Ecological Resource Committee
- Involve Native American community, particularly the unified tribal group currently being formed
- Ensure management plans address specific parcels
- Identify potential historical sites/features to access for educational purposes (include information about the sensitivity of cultural artifacts/cultural knowledge)
- Coordinate fire and fuels management with existing efforts and organizations
- Provide trash/bathroom/parking facilities at areas of high recreational use
- Restoration of Standard Canal Trail

Topic #2: Qualifications of future landowners and conservation easement holders

- Ability to coordinate with existing management activities (PG&E and adjacent land owners)
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate/share knowledge, i.e., "Share the toys in the sandbox!"
- Well-rounded organization with natural resources expertise
- Ability to recognize/balance economic opportunities w/ BPVs (without compromising the BPVs)
- Ability to engage local community in stewardship
- Evidence of staying power: staffing, funding, etc.
- Demonstrated ability to work with existing uses
- Excellent reputation in region, good relationship with existing groups
- Mission/expertise addresses BPVs

Green Group Discussion Notes

Topic #1: Potential Priority Measures

Lower Bear Area:

- Formalize or close unauthorized OHV trails (OHV users need a place for recreation)
- Establish a wilderness trailhead on the Cole Creek parcels
- Inventory natural and cultural resources for open space protection prior to establishing a conservation easement
- Assess potential for youth and family programs (add "family" to measure)
- Coordinate with Native American "entities" and "individuals" (add individuals to measure)
- Specifically include the word "historic" under the cultural resource BPV measures so that it is clear that measures refer to both historic and cultural resources
- Biological surveys
- Forest health and fire hazard awareness in Cole Creek
- Sustainable forestry measures (conduct inventory first)
- Cultural resource measures

North Fork Mokelumne River:

- Support Ecological Resources Committee (not necessarily funding-wise)
- Important to inventory natural and cultural resources to protect open space
- Assess youth opportunities, add families to this measure (not only youth)
- Permanent restroom at Tiger Creek is important
- Provide trail access - trails below snowline are important and scarce
- Specifically include the word "historic" under cultural resources measures so that it is clear that measures refer to both historic and cultural resources
- Biological resource measures
- Open space protection measures
- Should add "trespassing" to the list of illegal uses that should be controlled in the area
- Recreation enhancements at the existing Electra Day Use Area should be a priority, as this area gets a lot of use and has limited facilities

Other comments:

- Restoration of the Standard Canal may be a low priority (concerns with feasibility)
- Applying a permanent conservation easement to preserve open space is already a requirement of the Settlement Agreement and Stipulation, so there is no need to make open space preservation a priority

Topic #2: Qualifications of future landowners and conservation easement holders:

- Record of successful land management (similar to BPVs)
- Local organization
- Financially secure
- Promote leave-no-trace ethics
- Success with partnership opportunities
- Mission includes protection, preservation, and sustainability of BPVs
- Record of successful collaboration with local residents
- Public access is a high priority to the organization