

Special Meeting

August 13, 2013

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session at the hour of 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 13, 2013, at Statham Hall, 138 Jackson in Lone Pine, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Linda Arcularius presiding, Jeff Griffiths, Mark Tillemans and Matt Kingsley. Supervisor Pucci was absent. Mr. Kevin Carunchio, Inyo County Administrative Officer, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

County Dept. Reports The Chairperson announced the County Department Report period. The County Administrator introduced Mr. Clint Quilter, the new Public Works Director to the audience.

Planning/Forest Management Plan Topic Papers Input Mr. Josh Hart, Planning Director, provided an overview presentation on the Inyo National Forest Management Plan and the Topic Papers the Board is asking for input on. He provided some background information, explaining that the Forest Service is required to coordinate with local jurisdictions, and that we are in Phase I of a three phase process, which is the Assessment Phase, with the final document being proposed to be released in 2016. He said that the Topic Papers that are currently out for comment address a wide array of background information about the forest, i.e., socio-economics, biological resources, special uses, issues and trends. He said that the County identified priorities in 2012 that focuses on three main topic areas which are (a) access, (b) vibrant economy, and (c) local culture. Mr. Hart highlighted areas under each of those topics, i.e., protecting roads and trails, identifying roadless areas for removal, planning for conflicts between biological resources and access, supporting consumptive and sustainable uses of the forest that contribute to the County's economy and culture, considering a mitigation bank to provide for mitigation of off forest impacts, protecting local culture, addressing public safety and providing access in the forest for gathering, sightseeing, exploration, camping, etc. Mr. Hart introduced Ms. Margaret Woods, White Mountain District Ranger, and Ms. Susan Joyce, Forest Planner for the Inyo National Forest. Ms. Joyce reviewed the plan and provided more detail on the Topic Papers, including talking about the goals and objections of the Plan, and how the Plan will frame future Forest management.

The Board heard from the following people:

Mr. Mike Prather, Lone Pine Resident, who noted his concern with a letter the Board wrote in June of 2012 concerning roadless areas and its disparity with what he perceived was the County's position on the Travel Management Plan. He said that he would like to see the County acknowledge climate change exists and that there is a need to adapt to its impacts on the watershed, volume and conditions. He asked for an explanation on what the mitigation bank is. Mr. Hart explained that the mitigation bank concept is important to Inyo County because it will allow entities to provide work on existing forest lands instead of trading local private lands on a weighted ratio basis.

Ms. Marian Seiter, talked about the importance of the packers to the local economy, noting that she believes the packing industry should be recognized for its cultural importance to the forest.

Mr. John Replogle of Lone Pine, expressed his concern that the County is acquiescing incrementally to specific areas they should be protecting. He also noted his concerns with Agenda 21. Ms. Joyce reiterated that the Plan does not identify specifics it is a broad scope management plan.

Ms. Sieter, again addressed the Board to identify her concern with the Forest Service using chemical herbicides, recommending they use organic methods for eradication rather than poisoning the forest.

Mr. Earl Wilson, Lone Pine Resident, addressed the yellow-legged frog critical habitat designation, saying it is crucial that the habitat is managed so that it doesn't impact the economy of the County. He also asked that the ability for wood cutting be protected.

The Board Members made closing remarks thanking those in attendance.

Adjournment The Chairperson adjourned the special meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisor

*Attest: KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Patricia Gunsolley, Assistant