

Sierra Recreation Association

January 1998

Forest Update

By Fred Coleman, Timber Director

At this time, I would like to give the members an update on our forest, some problems, and our plans for the future. Most of this report resulted from a meeting held on January 3, 1998, with our forester, Craig Tolmie.

1) The plan for 1998 is to cut in compartment number two, which is between the Boy Scout Camp and the water tank up to the gravel road which is on U.S. Forest Service land. The rough estimate at this time, based on the current market price of timber, is a net of roughly \$70,000 to \$75,000. It must be remembered that this is only an estimate. Five acres in this area will be clear cut since it supports only a few marketable trees. This area will undergo a controlled burn and then seedlings will be planted. The cost to regenerate this area will come out of the projected net for the compartment logged in 1997. The weather did not allow us to complete the burn and planting in that clear cut area. Hopefully, both areas can be burned and replanted in 1998. After seven or eight years, these areas will have to be thinned to allow the remaining trees to mature.

2) The logs will be transported out to Highway 108 on the Forest Service road system in order to protect the roads in the park. The cost for using these roads is approximately \$1500 plus the cost of brush removal and road repair. The work is required before the logging trucks can use the gravel road.

3) Craig and I took a ride on the road by the water tank in order to access the gravel road and determine what work is required before logging begins. At that time, Craig pointed out that some of our local park four-wheelers have destroyed much of the work done to our dirt roads during the 1997 logging operation. This was an expense paid out of the income. Craig's recommendation, and one that I agree with, is to gate the dirt roads into our forest. He is currently preparing a plan which will be presented to the board indicating where these gates should go. This area is a tree farm and provides us with revenue to do things such as the paving in 1997. It is also an area of beauty that needs our care and protection. The gates would not be closed on a permanent basis but only in times when major damage can occur, as was the case this year with the wet, muddy conditions. Another time might be when extreme fire danger requires us to keep vehicles out of that area. We would like to keep the road by the water tank to the gravel road open as long as possible since that is a beautiful area and should be enjoyed by all. It is also a much more durable road than the dirt roads in the park.

4) Craig said that if we cut compartment six in 1999, there will be nothing to cut for several years. This is the compartment around Wheeler Road and 108. Craig seems to have a great understanding of what is needed in the park concerning our forest. He is not suggesting that we cut all of the trees, but only those necessary in order to properly manage our forest. Some harvesting and thinning is required. There will be times when mature trees will have to be harvested since they are at the end of their life cycle. To simply let them die would not only cause us to lose the income but would also create a potential fire danger in the forest. In order to manage our forest properly, selective cutting is required. I think the logging operation in 1997 behind Abraham is a perfect example of that.

5) Craig's recommendation is that since we harvested in 1995, 1997 and have scheduled a harvest for 1998 and another for 1999, that we may need to slow down. This rate can not continue without significant impact to future harvests. They need to be spaced further apart. We are approaching a period where the timberlands may need a ten-year-plus rest without any logging. There is also a need to initiate regeneration in compartment one. That was the area harvested in 1995 (up from West Jordan). This regeneration is necessary in order to ensure a long-term timber resource and to bring back proper growth to our forest. This is the proper way to manage our land.

6) The area behind the houses on Abraham will be marked in order to give those interested a chance to see what Craig and both the state and national forest services are recommending. The recommendation is to thin for 100 feet behind the homes to provide a degree of fire safety. It would provide some protection for the homes from a fire in the forest. The thinning would also provide the forest some protection from a fire starting at a home in the park and moving into the forest. This would not be a clear cut and no action will be taken until members understand what is proposed. If the decision is to move ahead with this plan, Craig would like to coordinate it with the logging operation in 1998.

7) Craig is in the process of contacting people from the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry for a presentation on Sunday, May 24, 1998, at our general meeting. The presentation will take about forty-five minutes. It will cover the thirty-foot state clearing requirement around homes, general fire prevention, and information on the forest management program for the Park. It will also be a good time for concerned members to ask questions about our forest.



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 11, 1998

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were Del Wallis - President, Richard Bonner - Treasurer, Deena Hague - Secretary, Fred Coleman, Robert Snell, Greg Brown and Ron Hawke. Absent were Jim Morrison and Gene Reed, excused.

MINUTES - Motion by Hawke, second by Hague to approve minutes of the December meeting as printed. Motion carried.

MEMBERS BEFORE THE BOARD - None.

CORRESPONDENCE - 1) Letter from Sugar Pine Hardware about going out of business sale. 2) Letter from Secretary of State - yearly item. 3) Letter from Bowman family requesting the use of the Recreation hall and Picnic area for May 2, 1998. 4) Letter from Boy Scouts contacting the Board about parking during the winter season. Cars to be identified and a copy of insurance to be provided. 5) Letter from the Forest Service regarding starting a reforestation program in the area they logged near the park. They will use a herbicide (Roundup or Accord) and then replant.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT -

Completed projects - 1) Repaired a leak in six-inch water line after testing. 2) Lock ring installed. This was needed due to PSI. 3) Painted trim in the mens room in the recreation hall. 4) Plowed snow and sanded roads. 4) Cleaned lodge floors and board room. 6) Talked to C.D.F. regarding citations and VIP dinner. 7) Went to Columbia Junior College to sign up for Water for Consumption course (night class). 8) Leveled dirt/back drag near Jordan Way bridge. 9) Thawed frozen water meter on well #5 and insulated and heat taped.

Equipment - 1) Thanks to Mike, our old roller is running. 2) Repaired beacon, dash lights and finished enclosing cab on International tractor. 3) Installed chains for snow removal on the back hoe. 4) Repaired broken cross links on snow plow. 5) Grader is ready. 6) Well #6 is ready for pumping, depending on weather.

THANKS to Matt Shaffer for volunteering his time for snow removal.

Problems reported to board- 1) Need to keep vehicles out of the back country due to erosion problems on water bars, ditches and roadways. 2) Everybody needs to keep their speed to 20 mph or slower in the park, especially in these icy conditions. 3) Please keep vehicles inside snow berms -- Help us save all the shoulder work done on the new roads. Thank you - Randy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER - Morrison absent - Water usage was 180,000 gallons last month. Need to check on insulation and sheet rock cost for three well houses. One froze up and we want to prevent this in the future. We are going to check out the use of Nichols spring in case of an emergency. If we can use it, we will do what is required to have it ready to go on line in time of need. This would be a last resort after everything else is out.

ROADS - Reed absent - Holding at this time. There are some problems with road work that are to be repaired in the spring.

BUILDINGS - Hawke - Everything is fine, looks great.

TIMBER - Coleman - See front page. Also, survey by Boy Scout Camp to take place. Also working on area by 108. Bills for survey to come in. Cleanup is necessary on gravel Forest Service road before 1998 logging takes place. Some of us will help do this, weather and time permitting.

RECREATION - Snell - Next event is the March corned beef and cabbage feed on March 14, 1998, held by the Odd Fellows.

HEALTH AND SAFETY - Hague - Bicycles are still a safety problem; they are not operated in a safe manner by a few children in the park.

EQUIPMENT - Brown - Our roller, which can be used to compact pavement, is now running. There are some questions regarding OSHA and general safety. We will review need for roller and will decide its future use.

FINANCE - Bonner - Bills for this month total \$15,480.48. Insurance and well came in at this time. Motion by Hawke, second by Hague, to pay all bills. Motion carried and so ordered. Motion by Hawke and second by Snell to move budgeted money (\$10,000) from one category to another. Motion carried and so ordered.

OLD BUSINESS - 1) All small claims actions were cleared up with the exception of one. There is a court date of January 28, 1998, for D. R. Ferrill of Lodi in order to collect his unpaid assessment.

2) All departments in the County seem about ready to go on with the five acres. All conditions required now seem to be met. Motion by Bonner, second by Coleman to give Del Wallis permission to sign the following concerning agreement for development of the five acres:

- a) Conditions of approval for tentative subdivision map.
- b) Conditions of approval of development agreement.
- c) Acknowledgment of conditions.
- d) Acceptance of measure to mitigate.

Motion carried and so ordered.

NEW BUSINESS - 1) We were contacted by Mr. Welch, who owns five acres behind the park. He wants to go through our gate and to be given a card and the use of our road. He has access on another road. Del will discuss this with Mr Welch.

2) There is a problem with access codes to the gate. We have several four-digit codes for business people. An unauthorized person used one of these codes to enter the gate. Motion by Coleman, second by Brown to change the codes for business people to make use by unauthorized people more difficult. Motion carried and so ordered.

3) Motion by Snell, second by Hawke to approve use of the picnic area and recreation hall by the Bowman family in May 2, 1998. Motion carried and so ordered.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. Next meeting February 15, 1998.



Continued from page 1

8) I discussed a problem with Craig that I became aware of during the 1997 holiday season. Some of the members in the park were guilty of stealing either park trees or trees from the forest service. Craig said that these "Christmas Trees" would be worth from \$250 to \$300 at maturity. By next year, we will have a plan in place to work with the U.S. Forest Service to stop this. Civil action will be taken to obtain the value of the mature tree from the guilty party and charges of theft will be filed with the proper authorities. The U.S. Forest Service usually gets \$1000 for one tree and also files criminal charges.

Next year it would be much cheaper to stop in Sonora and pay \$20 for your tree - be sure to hang on to your receipt.

All of us in the park need to remember that the forest is beautiful but very fragile. What nature has taken centuries to create, a few foolish people with machines can destroy in a short period of time. With the help of our forester, Craig Tolmie, and the understanding and cooperation of all of us in the park, we can manage our forest properly. This will allow us to maintain the beauty of the forest for ourselves and future generations.

Checks disbursed for December 1997/January 1998

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	
12/20/97	8589	San Joaquin Court	Service of Small Claims subpoena	26.00
12/29/97	8590	PG&E	Utilities	606.88
1/8/98	8591	Hales & Symons	Building Maintenance	289.41
1/12/98	8592	Zaks	Equipment Maintenance	161.25
1/12/98	8593	Sugar Pine Hardware	Water and Building Maintenance	70.11
1/12/98	8594	State of California	Homeowners Association Filing Fee	10.00
1/12/98	8595	Sierra Resources	Timber Consultation Fee	835.70
1/12/98	8596	Randall J. Tolbert	Payroll	790.15
1/12/98	8597	Michael W. Caropreso	Payroll	280.91
1/12/98	8598	Randall J. Tolbert	Payroll	790.17
1/12/98	8599	Michael W. Caropreso	Payroll	280.90
1/12/98	8600	Sonora Insurance	Professional Liability - Board	3950.00
1/12/98	8601	Eric A Carlson	Accounting Services	250.00
1/12/98	8602	J.S. West Propane	Maintenance and Fuel	290.07
1/12/98	8603	Village Mail & News	Newsletter/Semi-Annual Financial Statement	260.50
1/12/98	8604	W. H. Breashears	Gas and Diesel	558.89
1/12/98	8605	Mother Lode Portable Toilets	Shop toilet	63.73
1/12/98	8606	Cal Sierra Disposal	Garbage	818.98
1/12/98	8607	AT&T	Long Distance Service	5.29
1/12/98	8608	Pacific Bell	Local Service	55.62
1/12/98	8609	PG&E	Utilities	163.53
1/12/98	8610	AquaLab	Water testing	100.00
1/12/98	8611	Robert Snell	Mileage	37.50
1/12/98	8612	Greg Brown	Mileage	67.50
1/12/98	8613	Fred Coleman	Mileage	60.50
1/12/98	8614	Deena Hague	Mileage	37.50
1/12/98	8615	Randall J. Tolbert	Petty Cash - Maintenance Water & Buildings	118.90
1/12/98	8616	US Bank	Deposit for Payroll Taxes	1000.49
1/12/98	1617	Sonora Pumps	Deposit on Pump	3500.00

Total 15,480.48

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