

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C-7

For the meeting of: December 2, 2014

Date: November 13, 2014
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Rex Bohn
Subject: Resolution Regarding the Inadequate Forest Management and Wildfire Prevention Activities on Federal Lands in California

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors Authorize the Chair to sign the Resolution and forward a fully executed copy to Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), % of Patricia J. Megason, Executive Vice President, 1215 K Street, Suite # 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The management of lands, particularly regarding fire protection and fuel reduction on national forest system lands under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service is wholly inadequate and underfunded, placing Humboldt County in significant peril and at great risk in the event that more catastrophic wildfires occur, threatening lives, destroying public resources, private property, businesses and the natural environment.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: State of California and the U.S. Forest Service.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature

[Handwritten signature of Rex Bohn]

REVIEW:

Auditor County Counsel Personnel Risk Manager Other

TYPE OF ITEM:

- XX Consent
Departmental
Public Hearing
Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.

Meeting of:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Lovelace Seconded by Supervisor Bass

Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Bohn, Fennell, Bass
Nays
Abstain
Absent

and carried by those members present the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: Dec. 2, 2014
By: [Handwritten signature]
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of December 2, 2014

RESOLUTION NO. 14-98

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE INADEQUATE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES ON FEDERAL LANDS IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfires continue to threaten lives, property and the natural resources of the state of California; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California declared a drought emergency for the entire state, based on the occurrence of the driest year on record in California; and

WHEREAS, fire threat is no longer limited to a season, but ongoing throughout the year due to the multi-year drought, increasing suppression costs and wiping out of funds slated for fire prevention projects; and

WHEREAS, the elected and appointed officials of both the state and the nation have an obligation to preserve public safety and protect the citizenry and their homes and businesses by ensuring that the landscape is as fire-resilient as possible and that firefighting efforts can be effective and as safe as possible for fire fighters; and

WHEREAS, California is approximately 50% publicly owned land and many rural counties have substantially higher percentages of federally managed land; and

WHEREAS, the management of lands, particularly regarding fire protection and fuel reduction, on national forest system lands under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service is wholly inadequate, has long-been ignored, and is significantly underfunded, placing Humboldt County in significant peril and at great risk in the event that catastrophic wildfires occur, thereby threatening lives, and destroying public resources, private property, businesses, and the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, many square miles of land and acreage in Humboldt County have been destroyed by catastrophic wildfire over the years, destroying lives, property, businesses, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, California has more than 43 million acres of federal land, much of which has not been adequately managed to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire; and

WHEREAS, 4 of the 5 largest wildfires in California in the past 100 years have been on federal land with the other having had a substantial federal component; and

WHEREAS, many acres of dead and decaying trees remain in the national forests within Humboldt County due to lax forestry management practices on federal lands; and

WHEREAS, more than a billion dollars are spent each year fighting fires in our national forests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors declares that there is an ongoing emergency due to the actual and perceived threat of wildfire in


BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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California, that the state and local governments have taken many steps to resolve this issue, and now urges the Governor to take an active role at the federal level to encourage the United States Forest Service take action in California's federal wild and forest lands to do the prevention and maintenance work required to mitigate the ongoing and increasing risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Dated: December 2, 2014



REX BOHN, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors


Adopted on motion by Supervisor Lovelace, seconded by Supervisor Bass, and the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Sundberg, Lovelace, Bohn, Fennell, Bass
NAYS: Supervisors --
ABSENT: Supervisors --
ABSTAIN: Supervisors --

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of Humboldt)

I, KATHY HAYES, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct copy of the original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California as the same now appears of record in my Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Board of Supervisors.



By ANA HARTWELL
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Humboldt, State of California