DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors  

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Discussion and possible action relative to response to the Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District Services Questionnaire.

NOTE: Responses are being drafted for the Board’s consideration.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

On May 9, 2006, a discussion was held with Dave Martin, District Ranger, Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District, regarding the Forest Service administrative presence and service. Responses were encouraged to a questionnaire relative to services provided by the Forest Service by May 31st.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

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<th>Financial Impact?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Partially Funded</th>
<th>Current FY Cost: $</th>
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<table>
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<th>Budgeted In Current FY?</th>
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<th>No</th>
<th>Partially Funded</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Amount in Budget</th>
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<table>
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<th>Additional Funding Needed</th>
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<table>
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<table>
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<th>Internal Transfer</th>
<th>4/5’s vote</th>
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<table>
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<th>Unanticipated Revenue</th>
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<th>Transfer Between Funds</th>
<th>4/5’s vote</th>
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<th>Contingency</th>
<th>4/5’s vote</th>
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| ( ) General | ( ) Other |

CLERK’S USE ONLY:

Res. No.:  

Vote – Ayes:  

Absent:  

Approved  

Minute Order Attached  

No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date:

Attest:  MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

County of Mariposa, State of California

By: Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

☑ Requested Action Recommended

☑ No Opinion

Comments:

CAO:  

Revised Dec. 2002
COUNTY of MARIPOSA
P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

LEE STETSON, CHAIR
JANET BIBBY, VICE CHAIR
LYLE TURPIN
DIANNE A. FRITZ
BOB PICKARD

DISTRICT I
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT V

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: CHAIRMAN STETSON
SUPERVISOR PICKARD

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATIVE TO RESPONSE TO THE SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST, BASS LAKE RANGER DISTRICT SERVICES QUESTIONNAIRE

RESOLUTION 06-186

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on May 23, 2006

ACTION AND VOTE:

Discussion and Possible Action Relative to Response to the Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District Services Questionnaire (Supervisors Stetson and Pickard)

BOARD ACTION: Supervisor Pickard initiated discussion relative to the draft response, and he advised that the deadline for submitting a response is May 31st. (M)Turpin, (S)Fritz, Res. 06-186 was adopted approving the response, with Supervisors Pickard and Stetson to finalize, and authorizing the Chair to sign the response letter/Ayes: Unanimous.

Cc: File
May 19, 2006

Mr. Dave Martin, District Ranger
Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District
57003 Road 225
North Fork, California  93643

RE: SERVICES QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for addressing the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on May 9, 2006, regarding the current and future service levels of the United States Forest Service (USFS) for the Sierra National Forest and the Bass Lake Ranger District. You invited Mariposa County to offer comments through a Services Questionnaire that was provided at this meeting.

Please consider the following comments;

1. **What are the most important services the Sierra National Forest can provide to you or your constituents?**

   **Answer:** Mariposa County believes public health and safety as one of the highest priorities or services we provide our citizens. With this in mind, Fire Protection and Law Enforcement on our publicly managed lands are the most important services. Also very high on our list of priorities is customer service and we believe that it is extremely important for the USFS to maintain a visible and active presence within the Mariposa County Visitors’ Center. Listed below are several examples of how a USFS employee can be of service to the public:

   - Provide Wood Cutting Permits, Wilderness Permits, Campfire Permits and Passports to Federal Parks and Museums.
   - Provide educational materials to the residents and the traveling public about the many programs offered by the USFS.
   - Keep the public well informed about the safe use of our National Forests by providing an opportunity to explain the “do’s” and “don’ts” while recreating in the Sierra National Forest.

   Additionally, there are many services provided by the USFS that are important to Mariposa County and our visitors. Among these services are: maintaining forest service campgrounds, wilderness areas, trails, roads, and visitor interpretation.
2. **What do you think are the most effective ways to deliver these services?**

**Answer:** The USFS should continue to seek sufficient funding to allow for adequate law enforcement levels necessary to protect the Sierra National Forest. In addition, the USFS should continue in collaboration with state and local partners to address fuel and forest management to prevent the loss of life, private property, habitat, and natural resources. We believe that if federal funding is continued at sufficient levels then the USFS would be equipped to deliver these essential services. Education is also a very important service that needs to be provided particularly to those visitors who may not understand the need for forest management and how a healthy forest should look. The Mariposa County Visitors’ Center provides the USFS with this opportunity.

3. **Where are best locations for availability of these services? How far are you or your clients willing to travel to obtain these services?**

**Answer:** As stated above, we believe the Mariposa County Visitors’ Center is the best location for delivering services to residents and visitors. The Mariposa County Visitors’ Center is well suited for this purpose for several reasons: well established location, located at a convenient intersection in the town of Mariposa, and the USFS is co-located with other federal agencies which can provide visitor services and information.

If this location is not occupied by USFS then residents and visitors would be forced to travel a significant distance from Mariposa to the Bass Lake Ranger Station to attain services necessary to properly use the Sierra National Forest. Our fear is that such a long distance from Mariposa to the Bass Lake Ranger Station (approximately 60 miles one way) that people would simply not travel there and consequently may not receive the proper or needed information, which could create serious problems.

4. **Any other suggestions for improvement of services?**

**Answer:** Maintaining a Collection Officer at the Mariposa County Visitors’ Center has many benefits as outlined above, however there would be an enhanced benefit to residents and visitors if all National Park Service (NPS) permits and passes were offered in addition to those permits and passes already provided by the USFS. A one stop Visitors’ Center has been a goal of Mariposa County for a number of years. If the USFS in collaboration with Yosemite National Park were able to offer the full compliment of passes and permits at one location, then residents and visitors could receive their entrance passes which may relieve some traffic congestion at the entrance stations.

In summary, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors places law enforcement, fire protection, and customer service as our highest priorities. Maintaining a presence in the Mariposa County Visitors’ Center is one of the most effective ways the USFS can provide residents and visitors a convenient and well established location to receive
important information and a full compliment of passes and permits to access the Sierra National Forest or other National Forests, Parks, and Museums nation wide.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments and for giving these suggestions your thoughtful consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

LEE STETSON
Chairman

LS/BP/mbh

cc: Board of Supervisors
    Interim County Administrative Officer
    Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce

bcc: Margie Williams, Clerk of the Board