

Many of the comments received at the meeting and subsequently reflect the concern about impacts of growth in the number of users in the area. This is the key issue that needs to be considered by the Board of Supervisors. It is important to note that the annual number of land based users of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property has grown from approximately 36,000 in 2004 to 82,500 in 2010 without the designation. This ongoing growth and related problems has been referenced in nearly all of the correspondence received in support and opposition to the designation. We have also heard positive comments about the present management of the area even with this 128% growth in users.

Staff intends to continue to communicate with the offices of Senator Boxer and Congressman Herger to refine legislation. The requested changes that staff will be seeking in the legislation to mitigate the impacts of increased users include:

1. Funding for increased law enforcement for safety and protection of private property. (This may be accomplished by adding a BLM Ranger and/or through a contract with the Sheriff).
2. Funding for safety related projects in County rights of way or on private lands. (This could include the construction of an alternative access point to significantly reduce or eliminate Recreation Area traffic in front of Bend School).

In summary, the stated opposition has been to any national designation whether it is included in the National Landscape Conservation System or not. Funding for BLM in total has experienced a reduction, but the BLM has internally increased funding for those areas included within the NLCS. Upon review of this fiscal data, I would recommend that the Board not support the NRA designation without inclusion of a designated funding source such as that afforded by inclusion in the NLCS. I will continue to work with the offices of both Congressman Herger and Senator Boxer to try to secure the inclusion of a reliable funding source in the legislation prior to seeking Board support.

My notes from listening to the speakers at the public meeting are attached for your reference. Again, I thank you for your continued interest and ask that you express your comments in writing to the Board of Supervisors or to me at bgoodwin@tehamacountyadmin.org.