

LASSEN COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
707 NEVADA STREET, CALIFORNIA, CA 96130

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, April 16th, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Smith at 7:00 pm.

Representation (Roll Call) Dist. 1 -Robert McGarva; Dist. 2 - Tony Ardito - absent;
Dist.3 - Christian Siemer; Dist. 4 – Ryan Barney; Chairman & Dist. 5 – Paul Smith

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Smith.
3. Agenda Approval. Commissioner Barney moved to approve the April 16th, 2026 Meeting Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Siemer, motion carried.
4. Minutes Approval. Commissioner McGarva moved to approve the March 19th, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Barney, motion carried.
5. Public Comment (Correspondence): Chairman Smith addressed a flyer. Paul Divine with CDFW said that new salmon regulations are in affect for the Feather River and into the Sacramento River.
6. Agency Reports-
 - a) **Lassen County Planning and Building:** No one present to report.
 - b) **CDFW:** Paul Divine and Rod Schrag were here to report.

Paul Divine reported on the egg collection, fish rescue effort, Eagle Lake water levels, and the planned stocking. They started their egg collection March 3rd and collected eggs for 2 weeks. Collectively they trapped 1,079 fish, spawned 381 pairs, and collected over 1.3 million eggs. Any trout trapped were released back over by the marina. There were 5,800 fish returned back to the lake from Pine Creek. He stated that as of March 30th, Eagle Lake levels are at 5095.18". Levels from this time last year are identical to now. Low water levels were present back in November 2025 and have come up 19.65 inches since then. Public scoping did go out to visit the low water ramp and they are looking at removing material under the water and launch area, so that it can be deeper and boats will be able to launch in low water conditions. Paul also discussed how he is awaiting the report on the angler survey that was conducted Memorial Day 2025 through Oct 2025. From 2024-2025 the fish size and weight has dropped, but catch rates went up. 2025 averages include 17.4 inches in length, and weight of 2.34 lbs. 2024 averages were 18.6 inches in length and weight of 2.85 lbs. This year they will be stocking the lake all at one time (May) due to Crystal Lake Hatchery

being closed for the summer. They will plant 170,000 fish and tag 21,000 of them, and this is in partnership with University Nevada Reno and Trout Unlimited. Commissioner Smith questioned if they are planting more fish, will there be kayaks on the water to help keep the birds away? Paul reported that yes, kayaks will be used. As of right now, birds are heavily present at Pyramid Lake, but if they migrate their way over before stocking, that plan is in place. Commissioner Smith's comment was in regards to moving the season back to the end of December. Paul states that he has heard varying comments about the last two months of the season and is coming up with different ideas to change regulations, but there is nothing formal yet.

Rob Schrag reported on the inclusion of Lassen County on the bear hunting talks at the state level, upcoming projects, and gosling/duck hatching. Willow Creek has a contractor for the land management plan and it is under initial review with entities such as Board of Supervisors, CWA, SIR, and Fish and Game. It is available for a 90-day comment period. This will help with vegetation management. There is one project going on at Willow Creek that involves fixing levees, raising couples, and replacing structures. At the Fleming Unit, they are taking a pond that sometimes dries into a field and turning it into a full-time pond. This will add 5 new structures and levees that will increase hunting and brute success. Still awaiting duck stamp funds which is \$580,000 for electrical pumping spread out over 3 years. In early April they had gosling hatching and just yesterday (April 15th) ducklings were hatching.

- c) **BLM:** No one present to report. The Eagle Lake Field Office has not provided a Second Quarter update for 2026.
- d) **Forest Service:** No one present to report.
- e) **Honey Lake RCD:** Kelsey Siemer reported on the raptor project, a new wildlife coordinator, fencing between south 395 and Doyle, planting and removal of trees from the Dixie Fire. In regards to the raptor project, Westwood built 20 kestrel boxes, and 10 barn owl boxes. Lassen High built 15 kestrel boxes and zero barn owl boxes. They will work on getting barn owl boxes built next school year according to the woodshop teacher. These will be placed in areas around the Mountain Meadows, Feather River, Plumas area, Collin Pines, and Ranch Park in Susanville. Kelsey asked about what documentation the commission would need in order to get reimbursed for the supplies and materials bought for the schools. Chairman Smith stated that they just need an invoice, it will go through the process of getting approved, and the funds would be paid out of the Raptor funds. Kelsey talked about their new wildlife coordinator, Caroline. She is currently part time while she finishes her PHD at UC Davis and will come on full time after schooling has completed. Honey Lake RCD is also currently working on fencing on the southern part of 395 between Doyle and Hallelujah Junction for underpasses. She reported there has been 8 underpasses blocked and they are working

with landowners to come up with solutions to block them safely for their cattle, but to still allow wildlife through those areas. They will be planting 53,000 trees on BLM land just outside of Chester. They have also been working on tree removal from the Dixie Fire in Janesville and Doyle, approximately 1000 acres between the 2 areas. They will be replanting trees in these two areas come fall.

f) Lassen County Sheriff's Office: No one present to report.

g) Budget Reports: Budget report was provided. Chairman Smith is still currently researching the 134-page five-year report provided by Lassen County Superior Court. No updates at this time.

7. Sub-Committee Reports- None.

8. Old Business – None.

9. New Business – None.

10. Action Items (Matters Before the Commission) –

- a. Election of F&G Commission Chair and Co-Chair. Commissioner Siemer nominated Paul Smith for Commission Chair and Tony Ardito for Co-Chair. Commissioner Barney seconded. Motion passed, unanimously.

11. Announcements by Commissioners- Commissioner Siemer talked about working on the Wolf Plan with Sherriff McGarva. This plan was developed by the Sherriff with local producers. Samantha McMullen, Deputy CAO, reported that the Ag Commissioner (Gary Fensler) made some suggestions on the plan, and it is in review at admin with the CAO, Maury Anderson.

12. The next special meeting will be May 21st @6:00 PM, at Jensen Hall, Lassen County Fairgrounds, in Susanville, CA.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM. Motion made by Commissioner Barney. Seconded by Commissioner Siemer. Motion carries.

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LASSEN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS
707 NEVADA STREET
SUSANVILLE, CA 96130
July 7, 2026

1:10 p.m. Convene in Regular Session
Flag Salute
Roll Call
General Update of Planning Activities
Matters Initiated by Commissioners
Correspondence
Presentation by Staff
Approval of Minutes
Matters Initiated by the General Public
Next Resolution in line for adoption: 7-01-26

1:15 p.m. **PUBLIC HEARING: CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION, DeForest.** To change the building exclusion area as indicated on the Subdivision Map Book 34 Page 68 for lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, from 100-feet to 30-feet for the Subdivision Map of Bantley Ranch. These parcels are zoned R-1-A-B-2.5 (Single-Family Residential, Agricultural Combining, 2.5-acre Building Site Combining District) and have a land use designation of "Estate Residential" in the *Johnstonville Area Plan, 1987*. The address for lot 1 is 471-800 Bantley Drive Susanville, CA 96130. The subject parcels are located approximately 1.25 miles southwest of the intersection of Highway 395 and Richmond Road East. APN: 116-490-018. Staff Contact: Don Willis, County Survey 1:20 p.m.

1:20 p.m. **PUBLIC HEARING: File #318.01.76, Classification of Alpacas as Large Animals.** Make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding a proposed Ordinance amending Sections 18.108.230 (Keeping animals-Special provisions) and Section 18.14.1110 (Small livestock farming) of the Lassen County Code. The proposed ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant CEQA Guidelines Subsection 15061(b)(3). The ordinance would be applicable in all unincorporated areas of Lassen County. Staff Contact: Mindie Hilton, Senior Planner.

1:25 p.m. **PUBLIC HEARING: INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN #1999-103 Extension, Kramer Ranch LLC.** Proposed five-year extension of existing Interim Management Plan #1999-103 (approved by Planning Commission on December 3, 2014) for CA Mine ID #91-18-0005, to allow for the continuation of temporary plan of mining operations, to be in effect during idle production periods. The existing approved Interim Management Plan is considered a minor amendment of approved Reclamation Plan #1999-103/8-01-86 and the proposed extension will renew said Interim Management Plan for an additional period not to exceed five years. The surface mining operation is currently situated on approximately 47 acres of a 512-acre parcel. The subject parcel is zoned E-A-A-P (Exclusive Agriculture, Agricultural Preserve Combining District) and is designated Intensive Agriculture by the Lassen County General Plan, 2000. The mining operation is located approximately 5 miles northwest of Bieber, CA. APN: 001-030-021. Staff Contact: Chris Martin, Natural Resources Coordinator

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ADJOURN

Certain actions of the Commission are appealable to the Board of Supervisors. The appeal period is ten days from the date of the Commission's action. For specific information on appeals, please contact the Lassen County Planning and Building Services Department at 530-251-8269. GFN:aje