



Mayor's Corner August 2023

Greetings Citizens of Butte Falls,

Community Forest updates:

I was contacted by Jefferson Public Radio. I will be doing a live radio show with them on August 17, 2023. Don Hamann, the forest commissioner, will join me for the interview. We will be talking with the viewers regarding the history, progress, and future plans for the development of the falls and surrounding areas around Hukill creek. As well as recreation, fire suppression and working toward a long term plan for the health of our Old Growth Forest.

We are getting a lot of interest in our Community Forest. We have received cards of congratulations, newspaper, and magazine clippings from all over the country thanks to the article written on the community forest by Grant Stringer last month.

Jessica LaBerge is the Southern Regional Solution Coordinator from the office of Governor Tina Kotek. Jessica will bring a team for a tour of the community forest. They will be joining me along with Chairman Janice Schultz, Forest Manager Mike Smeltz, Forest Commissioner Don Hamann, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Long, and Ben DeCarlow from the NRC for a tour of the community forest. The reason for the visit is to review the progress and the future plans for the day use area at the falls and the Hukill creek area. We are looking forward to their visit.

Ric Walsh of Medford Fabrication will be meeting with members of the community forest commission and myself on August 15, to review the final plans on the new viewing deck to replace the existing one down at the falls. This will be funded by grants and donations. The community will be notified before any construction begins.

Nate Bailey, marketing commissioner and recreation committee member is currently working with a group to develop the plans for the archery course.

The recreation commission is working on the final plans for the day use area of the falls with the National Parks and Recreation, RTCA, including the designs on trails and trail heads with BLM and other property owners for walking and bike trails.

Town Updates:

The Commercial Thinning project on the South side of town on the community forest land is in the process by Hamann Inc. This was a small commercial venture and we estimate profits for the Community Forest will be around \$4,000 to \$5,000.00. This will leave that area more fire resilient, less dense, and allow the rest of the stand a faster growth, becoming a more mature and healthier forest. The thinning should conclude on 8/16. All profits will be put back into the community forest budget to pay for future fire suppression management.