

Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council  
PO Box 372 Covelo, CA 95428  
"Serving the People of the Greater Round Valley"

October 2, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council is aware and concerned with limited career and economic opportunities in and surrounding our valley. The Covelo Ranger District of the Mendocino National Forest historically employed several positions (far beyond the fire jobs currently) as well as offered contractual opportunities for businesses in the area. While we understand things have changed and much of what was, is no longer feasible, we do believe there could be more and better paid jobs here, as well as more balanced responsibilities and resources between the now combined Covelo and Upper Lake Ranger Districts. As one of the major resources in the Covelo area the number of accessible public trails, OHV areas and management of campgrounds appear to be given minimal support and funding.

The MNF Covelo Recreation position has been unfilled frequently in the last decade, no doubt some of that due to the low pay level and lack of potential to promote, as a result we have seen few folks stay for any extended length of time in this position. The Round Valley Area MAC strongly supports the need for a higher pay grade level with promotion potential for Covelo Rec position, in hopes that this would draw and keep consistent staff with skills and community involvement. The community has gratefully seen substantial engagement from the current Rec staff person during his time here, and hopes the Mendocino National Forest will recognize and prioritize the need to offer higher pay and promotion opportunities with in Recreation positions in Covelo, as well as active support and presence for the Covelo area from positions with shared responsibility between Covelo and Upper Lake. We understand that a higher level position would also maintain the current position increasing staff capabilities and an additional job opportunity. Improved recreation facilities and open, accessible trails on the Forest will also bring economic support to the business of our community in Round Valley as visitors pass through.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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*Kathy Britton*



*Assistant Presiding Officer*

*Marylou Mileck*



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*Council Member*

*Charles Sargenti*

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Very truly yours,

Kathy Britton, Marylou Mileck, Laura Betts and Kay Richards