

COUNTY OF EL DORADO
Board of Supervisors

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GEORGE TURNBOO
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT II

July 31, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
33rd Secretary of the Department of Agriculture

RE: USFS Property in Grizzly Flats for a Community Park

Dear Honorable Secretary Brooke Rollins,

El Dorado County District 2 office of Supervisor George Turnboo needs your assistance to provide a park to a wildfire impacted community. We respectfully request your support for the donation of certain properties managed by the US Forest Service (USFS), which operates under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As dedicated stewards of our nation's natural resources, your department leadership in promoting conservation and community benefits aligns closely with our objectives. We would like to have a portion of the USFS land located at 4400 String Canyon Rd, Grizzly Flats, CA 95684, to become a community park for the residents. The community park would be built and managed by El Dorado County and could provide considerable benefit to the residents. The consultation we have had with USFS about transfer of ownership of the property suggests that legislative action is required due to USFS lands belonging to the federal government.

Initial talks with USFS about making use of the land surrounded the concept of a Grizzly Flats Community Center to be managed by a non-profit started by residents called South County Alliance (SCA). After discussions began, a benevolent resident donated a portion of land to SCA that is adjacent to the USFS property. SCA opted to use the donated property for the Grizzly Flats Community Center instead of the USFS property. A secondary discussion began with residents about bringing in the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment as a possible partner to augment biomass, reforestation and forest management projects. It was determined later that the location was not optimal for the kind of work conducted by the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment.

The District 2 office of Supervisor George Turnboo has been talking with Grizzly Flats residents about creating a new community park with a playground. El Dorado County would like to create a community park for Grizzly Flats residents who lost everything in the Caldor Fire. The location of the property at 4400 String Canyon Road is strategically located between the Walt Tyler Elementary School and a future Grizzly Flats Community Center. The location is important for school children to have access to a playground and residents attending the Community Center to have a park nearby to complement their community activities.

With your endorsement, support and guidance, the necessary administrative processes could be expedited to facilitate this transfer in accordance with federal regulations, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and relevant USDA guidelines. The administration's commitment to efficient land management and support for American communities makes this an opportune moment to advance such initiatives. The USFS staff has helped in understanding the federal processes regarding land and land use. Since USFS has been supportive of this effort and focused on rehabilitation for the region, we believe a land donation from the federal government shows a willingness to help residents recover after the Caldor Fire.

The El Dorado County District 2 office of Supervisor George Turnboo appreciates your ongoing commitment to the residents of Grizzly Flats and all Caldor Fire survivors. The community is rebuilding after devastating wildfire and we need your help to provide them with a community park. The USFS staff have been very accommodating, and we maintain a good relationship to protect and manage our forests. We believe that your support is important to help El Dorado County provide a community park for the recovering residents of Grizzly Flats, CA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Turnboo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

George Turnboo
District 2 Supervisor
County of El Dorado