

COUNTY OF EL DORADO
Board of Supervisors

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GEORGE TURNBOO
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT II

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
33rd United States Secretary of Agriculture

RE: USFS Fire Station at 4400 String Canyon Rd, Grizzly Flats, CA 95684

Dear Secretary Rollins,

I appreciate the time taken for a response and I understand the limitations the US Forest Service (USFS) faces regarding gifting public lands. The community of Grizzly Flats can still benefit from USFS providing opportunities. An addition of a room to the Grizzly Flats USFS fire station would be an useful tool to conduct outreach, community events and function as a operations center during emergencies. The community of Grizzly Flats is slowly recovering from the 2021 Caldor Fire and USFS can do more to be part of the community as it grows.

After the Caldor Fire raged through the main part of the town of Grizzly Flats, CA, the Fire Station had also been lost. USFS has planned to rebuild a Fire Station at 4400 String Canyon Rd, Grizzly Flats, CA, 95684, which will become the main Fire Station for locals. The location of the USFS Fire Station is perfect for the residents to see and visit as they pass by on the road. Over time, Grizzly Flats residents will become used to seeing the Fire Station as a significant building in their town. Due to the size and nature of the Caldor Fire, there are few buildings left in Grizzly Flats and few green trees, so any rebuilding is clearly visible and noticeable.

The USFS Fire Station in Grizzly Flats would benefit USFS and the community from the addition of another room dedicated to specific activities. The additional space would benefit USFS during emergencies by providing a strategically located command center and provide a hub of information to locals and first responders. During non-emergencies, groups such as the South County Alliance (SCA) or the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council (GFFSC) could use the classroom for regular trainings and collaboration with USFS. The USFS and locals would benefit from working together on projects and programs that integrate a classroom setting, which provides for educational opportunities and relationship building beyond what is possible in the Eldorado National Forest alone. Furthermore, by providing a safe environment for meeting, USFS is establishing a sense of goodwill and responsiveness to the needs of residents.

The El Dorado County District 2 Office of Supervisor George Turnboo believes that the addition of a room to the Grizzly Flats Fire Station would have a tremendous positive impact. Locals active in groups such as Fire Safe Council would be able to make use of the facility in

collaboration with USFS. During disasters, the room would be an automatically understood point of information for residents. Please consider adding a room to the planned build for the USFS Fire Station in Grizzly Flats, CA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line extending to the right.

George Turnboo
District 2 Supervisor
County of El Dorado