

Grizzly Flats Community Services District

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May 11, 2017

Ref: Responsible Official
Trestle Forest Health Project
Draft Record of Decision
File Code: 1950
Dated: March 31, 2017

Randy Moore
Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service
Attn: Trestle Forest Health Project
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

RE: Trestle Forest Health Project Record of Decision Conditional Objection

Dear Mr. Moore,

On July 22, 2015, the Grizzly Flats Community Services District submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) urging the U.S. Forest Service to consider selection of Alternative 2. We are in receipt of Forest Supervisor Crabtree's Record of Decision selecting Alternative 5. We write to strongly suggest that Alternative 5 be implemented without change, as a compromise that benefits reduction of high fire fuel loads and therefore mitigation of high-severity stand-replacing wildfires, protection of residential property and the Community's watershed while continuing to support habitat for endangered species.

If any changes to referenced Alternative 5 are considered in light of additional stakeholder or interested party objections, we would lodge this objection to any revisions to the Trestle Forest Health Project Record of Decision; specifically, if the recommended fuel treatments adjacent to the Grizzly Flat Subdivision or Grizzly Flats Community Services District's (GFCSD) Sphere of Influence and watersheds are not sufficient to reduce the risk from a wildfire to the defensible space and shaded fuel break zone around the community and watershed.

It is important to note that recent data suggests that old-forest species protection and fuel treatments are more compatible than previously believed. Given these considerations, the Trestle

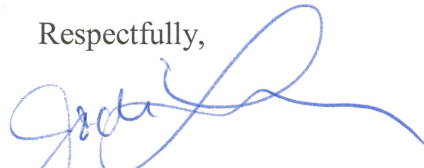
Project's forest health restoration and old-forest species conservation objectives appear to be consistent.

With the enactment of the 2014 California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, California demonstrated its commitment to sustainable management of groundwater supplies. Opening the forest canopy would positively affect the Eldorado National Forest watershed hydrologic flux. Snow falling on old-forest high tree density and closed canopy cover may lead to canopy precipitation intercept and much of this water releasing back to the atmosphere through evaporation and sublimation. Open canopy forest allows greater precipitation to infiltrate the soil, which adds to the watershed storage and regional aquifer basins, and would aid against further tree mortality due to bark beetle infestation and provide for greater health in the remaining tree stands.

Finally, The Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY) rivers region includes a high proportion of forested land (including the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests). Management of forest lands is an important component of water resource planning in all CABY watersheds. If the climate in California continues to shift as predicted, it will become even more critical to manage the effects in order to mitigate increased drought, pests, diseases, and fire. CABY encourages and supports a full range of forest management practices including forest densities, reduction of fuel loadings and improvement of watershed conditions. CABY Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Chapter 8, Water and Land Use (2nd Ed. 2014).

We strongly support health of the mosaic forest landscape and long-term habitat maintenance and resiliency and look forward to seeing the implementation of this very important project.

Respectfully,



Jodi Lauther, General Manager
Grizzly Flats Community Services District