



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

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August 22, 2016

Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611.

SUBJECT: Comments on the Sequoia and Sierra National Forest Plan Revisions and Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS).

Dear Mr. Gould:

The Inyo County Board of Supervisors would first like to acknowledge the effort that the three early adopter forests have made in preparing these complex documents. We understand that this was a monumental planning endeavor and congratulate the three Forests for their role as some of the first Forests to plan under the new rule.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I am writing you to convey some concerns Inyo County has about potential impacts your Forest Plans could have on Inyo County. We feel that even though the Inyo National Forest is within the County's boundary, the management strategies adopted by the Sequoia and Sierra Forests affect our County as well. This is particularly relevant in fire management strategies as the smoke generated from wildfires in these forests inevitably makes its way to Inyo County. Due to this reality we respectfully submit these comments.

The County is deeply concerned about fire management, suppression, and smoke effects. Many of the large fires that burn in our neighboring forests and parks result in very poor air quality in Inyo County and primarily the Owens Valley where a majority of the County's population lives. The County prefers the fire management provided for in Alternative D as it includes a more aggressive approach to fuel treatments, and provides for more strategic areas for the control and containment of wildfires. Alternative D also has fewer funding and resource limitations than the other alternatives. The projected size of fires and estimated smoke emissions is projected to increase throughout the alternatives due to the current conditions of the forests; however, this is less so in Alternative D. Fire

does not discriminate based on use designations or habitat restrictions. All of the forests and their inhabitants, and all of the surrounding communities are negatively impacted by large wildfires; therefore, it seems sensible to the County to reduce fire risk to the highest degree possible and employ the most aggressive wildfire management methods. In addition, the County would like to see more use of grazing, controlled burning and the promotion of bio-fuel production in the fire management strategies.

The Inyo County Board of Supervisors would again like to congratulate the three early adopter Forests on their efforts in developing the Forest Plan Revisions and DEISs. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact the County's Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, at (760) 878-0292 or kcarunchio@inyocounty.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Griffiths".

Jeff Griffiths - Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Paul Cook
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties
National Association of Counties
Inyo County Administrative Officer
Inyo County, County Counsel
Inyo County Planning Director