



YSS

Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions

April 18, 2014

Mr. Randy Moore, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear Randy:

As you know, the devastating 257,000-acre Rim Fire has received significant national attention from the media and from legislators. That national attention provides an opportunity to gain critically needed forest and watershed restoration funding, but it could also provide an incentive for high profile legal challenges to salvage logging, reforestation, or other important post-fire treatments.

It is the intent of this letter to make it clear to the U.S. Forest Service and elected officials that the individual members of the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS) Collaborative who have signed this letter believe that prompt implementation of the Hazard Tree EA project and the Rim Fire Recovery EIS project is essential for effective forest rehabilitation. Any delays due to litigation or inadequate resources could jeopardize the multiple economic and environmental benefits that the two pivotal projects will yield.

We are pleased that the Forest Service has proceeded as expeditiously as possible, in an inclusive, transparent process. The two science workshops coordinated by the Forest Service and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy have helped to enhance communications among various forest interests and scientists. Based upon the planning process to date, as well as the four alternatives identified for the Rim Fire Recovery EIS, we trust that consideration of public input and input from scientists will produce a balanced, positive decision for the two salvage projects and for other subsequent restoration efforts. While individual members in YSS may prefer one or another of the possible salvage treatment alternatives, we all agree that prompt implementation of the hazard tree and salvage logging projects is essential to move the restoration process forward. Once salvage plans are completed, reforestation, watershed restoration, fuel reduction, and habitat enhancement plans can be given priority attention.

Unless speedy implementation is quickly allowed for whatever salvage logging is ultimately approved by the Forest Service, a tremendous amount of sawlog wood material will deteriorate past the point of having economic value. This would mean that the public would then need to pay in the future to have that fuel removed from the burn area, rather than having purchasers pay to remove the salvage wood while it still has value. Equally important, if the proposed salvage wood is left due to delays, the excessive fuel load would create an extremely high risk when future fires ignite.

YSS underscores the need to remove the unprecedented amount of salvage wood material from the Rim Fire burn area in the speediest possible manner for fuel reduction purposes. Accordingly, we express our collaborative agreement for completing science-based salvage treatments and other restoration work as rapidly as possible. **We stand united in opposing any delay.**

American Forest Resource Council
Blue Mountain Minerals
Central Sierra Audubon Society
CT Bioenergy Consulting
Gold Rush News
Mule Deer Foundation
Stanislaus Trail Bike Association
Tuolumne County Farm Bureau
Tuolumne Group Sierra Club
Tuolumne River Trust
Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources
and the Environment

American Motorcyclist Association, District 36
California Forestry Association
Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
James R. Dambacher Construction
Merced Dirt Riders/4x4 in Motion
Sierra Pacific Industries
Tuolumne County
Tuolumne County Sportsmen
Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
Yosemite Deer Herd Advisory Council

Respectfully,



Mike Albrecht, YSS Chair
TuCARE



John Buckley, YSS Vice-Chair
CSERC

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Congressman Tom McClintock