



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

April 14, 2011

J. Sharon Heywood
Forest Supervisor
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
3644 Avtech Parkway
Redding, CA 96002

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Mudflow Vegetation
Management Project, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Siskiyou County, CA
(CEQ# 20110063)

Dear Ms. Heywood:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the above-referenced project. Our review and comments are pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

Actions are proposed on approximately 3,000 acres of Shasta-Trinity National Forest lands. Proposed actions include thinning and sanitation of conifer forest and plantation areas, regeneration of ponderosa pine forest infected with root disease, and restoration of wet meadows. EPA recognizes the ecological significance and unique environmental issues of Shasta-Trinity National Forest. We acknowledge the importance of the project goals to improve forest health and resiliency, reduce ground and ladder fuels to protect against wildfires, and restore the size and function of wet meadow ecosystems.

We have rated the DEIS as Lack of Objections (LO) (see enclosed "*Summary of Rating Definitions*"). We recognize the long-term benefits of decreasing wildfire risk, particularly in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), and we support the inclusion of the resource protection measures and best management practices described in the DEIS. EPA would also like to commend the Forest Service for providing site-specific information related to climate change trends, including data collected and analyzed from weather stations within the area. We encourage such discussion in NEPA documents because it contributes to improved federal planning and public understanding of the effects of climate change on forest ecosystems and forest management.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. When the FEIS is released for public review, please send one hard copy and one CD to the address above (mail code: CED-2). Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me at

(415) 972-3521, or contact Stephanie Skophammer, the lead reviewer for the project. Stephanie can be reached at (415) 972-3098 or skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen M. Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division

cc: Christine Jordan, Project Leader
Sophia Villarruel, Pit River Tribe Environmental Department

Enclosures: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions