



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

April 12, 2010

Edward Cole, Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Sugar Pine Adaptive
Management Project, Madera and Mariposa counties, CA
(CEQ# 20100080)

Dear Mr. Cole:

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

EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Sugar Pine Adaptive Management Project and provided comments to the Forest Service on August 28, 2009. We rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (EC-2) due to our concerns regarding the potential impacts to water and air quality and commitments to mitigation measures to minimize those potential impacts. We advised that additional information was needed to fully describe CAA general conformity requirements, and FEIS maps be updated to reflect temporary roads proposed for the project.

EPA appreciates the efforts of the Forest Service and its consultants to respond to our comments on the DEIS. We commend the Forest Service for the information provided in the Air Quality Analysis of the FEIS concerning the general conformity requirements, and the discussion of how the Sugar Pine Adaptive Management project will conform with the SIP and state and local air district regulations.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. 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