

September 7, 2011

Ken Harris
District Ranger
Happy Camp/Oak Knoll District
PO Box 377
Happy Camp, CA 96039

RE: Crawford Project

Dear Ken,

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you of KS Wild's interest in the Crawford project. We are generally supportive of proposed plantation thinning and prescribed fire activities, and we would like to learn more about the agency's proposal for thinning native stands in the planning area. Please ensure that we are sent a hard copy of the forthcoming NEPA document.

The scoping notice of August 4, 2011 does not contain a great deal of information about project activities. We hope that is because the scope of the project may be substantively influenced by public scoping.

The scoping map does indicate that the Forest Service intends to propose new "temporary" road construction as part of this project. Please note that additional road construction is highly controversial and is likely to move the project from one that could likely enjoy widespread stakeholder support towards one that is a source of conflict and controversy. The long-term impacts of "temporary" road construction on soil, aquatic and terrestrial forest resources are widely acknowledged by the Forest Service. Please consider, and implement, an action alternative that is limited to utilizing the existing transportation network.

We urge the agency to consider activities that could reduce road densities and road maintenance obligations in the planning area over time. We also ask you to please carefully limit roadside hazard tree removal activities so as to retain old-growth trees to the greatest extent possible.

Thank you for considering our initial comments and concerns.

Best regards,

George Sexton
Conservation Director
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center
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