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November 11, 2021

Pacific Southwest Regional Office  
Ecosystem Planning, Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide input on the R5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project in the Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5).

As a 3rd generation licensed timber falling contractor, retired, I would like to offer my strong support for expediting hazard tree felling, removal, and slash removal as soon as possible. Removal of those hazards is urgently necessary to reopen the forest, roads, trails, campgrounds, trail heads, and other facilities on federal forest lands.

The decking of logs in various locations along existing USFS roadways and landings, for allowing free personal and commercial use firewood cutting, would be a worthwhile and practical approach to dealing with the removal of logs.

As you are well aware, the results of forest fires on the Lassen and Plumas National Forests are Presidential Disasters that have greatly harmed visitors, residents and business owners in Lassen County. The damaged caused to this resource must be mitigated immediately by the USFS. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of dead and dying trees. The impact and effect of the USFS not dealing with this disaster, immediately, will become fuel for another catastrophic wildfire as well as creating a hazardous working environment for fire fighters, restoration specialists, and others who work in the forest.

Thank you for the opportunity for providing my input. I look forward to the immediate approval of an Emergency Situation Determination for all of the USFS's stated purposes, including and not limited to the capture the commercial value of the salvaged timber, facilitate the accelerated reduction of fuel accumulation and tree disease risk, expediting visitor and public safety, and reducing the hazardous working environment in federal forest lands.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Bridges".

GARY BRIDGES, Supervisor District 2  
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

CC: Lassen County Board of Supervisors