



**Butte County Administration**

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*Members of the Board*

*Bill Connelly | Debra Lucero | Tami Ritter | Tod Kimmelshue | Doug Teeter*

November 10, 2021

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

**Re: Pacific Southwest Region 5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project- Comment**

Land in National Forests burned in both the 2018 Camp Fire and the 2020 North Complex Fire in Butte County, leaving thousands of burnt hazardous trees along the roadways. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) does not currently allow United States Forest Service (USFS) property to be eligible for debris removal activities even when hazard trees are located within local government right-of-way.

In June of 2021, Butte County requested that FEMA reconsider the decision to exclude the removal of hazard trees in the County's right of way in USFS land as eligible under the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG). The County was not successful in this endeavor. Hazardous trees and limbs from the North Complex Fire continue to pose a threat to the safety of the general public, thereby affecting the economic recovery and public at large.

Of the 71.8 miles of County funded and maintained roadways impacted by the North Complex Fire, 11.9 miles traverse lands owned by the USFS. The following represent areas owned by USFS that have been identified as having hazard trees that threaten the public right-of-way:

- Oroville Quincy Highway (4.2 miles of recorded easement between County and USFS)
- French Creek Road (6.6 miles of public roadway)
- Lumpkin Ridge Road is a Forest Service jurisdiction, maintained road, various portions of this road intersect with Butte County 37742 and Butte County 4085A roads

Butte County requests that USFS expedite removal of hazard trees from these areas to address the threat of safety to the general public.

Sincerely,



Andy Pickett  
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Members, Butte County Board of Supervisors  
The Honorable Jim Nielsen, California Senate  
The Honorable James Gallagher, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Megan Dahle, California State Assembly  
Chair and Members, Senate Health Committee  
Chair and Members, Senate Natural Resources Committee