



Danika Carlson  
Klamath National Forest  
Salmon/Scott River Ranger District  
11263 North Hwy 3  
Fort Jones, CA  
96032

Dear Ms Carlson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Klamath National Forest's River Complex Risk Reduction project proposal. As the Pacific Crest Trail Association's Regional Representative for Northern California and Southern Oregon, I have worked with Forest staff for more than 15 years in the management and maintenance of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The congressionally designated Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is an important recreational resource on the Forest. And, based on project maps it looks as though the project will have impacts on the Pacific Crest Trail in the vicinity of the Carter Meadows Summit trailhead.

There are many trails in the vicinity of Carter Meadows Summit and it can be hard for the public to identify trails on the project maps. I would ask that the Forest identify trails by their system number and/or name on future project maps so that the public can more easily identify individual trails when reviewing project documents. That said, I am quite familiar with the PCT in the area and see that the PCT passes through a proposed under burn north of Hwy 93 and a ground based treatment south of the Hwy at the Carter Meadows Summit trailhead.

I have not been to Carter Meadows Summit since last summer's Haypress Fire burned through the area. My understanding is that it burned quite hot in that area. Specific to the proposed under burn north of the highway, PCTA certainly supports introducing prescribed fire to the forest where appropriate. I understand environmental conditions will dictate when a prescribed fire takes place. I would ask that the Forest keep me informed in a timely manner as to when the under burning may take place so that PCTA can inform trail users about the inevitable temporary closure of the PCT.

Finally, I request an opportunity to visit the Carter Meadows Summit trailhead with Klamath National Forest staff in order to better understand the planned ground based treatment in that area. I have worked with KNF staff on previous post fire timber salvage projects that have overlayed the PCT. There are several project design features that can be implemented to protect the PCT viewshed and the associated visual quality objectives, as well as the trail experience for PCT users. Lastly, other Forests have successfully implemented project design features within vegetation management projects that have protected the PCT's nature and purposes.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important process and look forward to continuing to work with the staff on the Klamath National Forest in the management of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Sincerely,  
s/ Ian Nelson  
Regional Representative  
Pacific Crest Trail Association



