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From John Triska <triskajohn@gmail.com>

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To FS-R5-SRF Planning <FS_Planning_SRF@usda.gov>

Cc Mark Triska <mark.triska@colliers.com>; Ginny Rice <safeintrinitycounty@yahoo.com>

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Hello Ms. Lark.

I am writing to deeply object to the so-called "South Fork Mountain Vegetation Management" plan. I see it instead for what it actually is: a logging plan in keeping with President Trump's Executive Order 14225, and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins' Secretarial Memorandum 1078-006, which uses the excuse of an "emergency" to increase timber production on public lands. Experienced wildfire management professionals will tell you that the plans listed here to build roads and clear timber in this area will actually heighten the risk of wildfire, not reduce it.

The real emergency is the current administration's complete lack of respect for public lands, which in fact belong to all Americans, not to the timber companies. The roads that will be built to reap this destruction, the mature trees that will be removed, the wildlife that will be displaced-- these are the true emergencies we should be stopping. When the rains come, and the silt and hillsides begin to collapse into the watershed, more death will come. The South Fork of the Trinity is one of the few natural areas in which native salmon and steelhead are still able to reach historic spawning grounds that are pristine and undisturbed. These runs of fish nourish the rest of the forest ecosystem. Runoff that will absolutely occur as a result of this "Management plan" will cover the annual spawning beds with oxygen-choking silt and debris for years to come-- we have all seen this for ourselves over and over again from California to Alaska. Places like this should be saved, not destroyed. There are so few left on the planet, let alone in the US.

I urge you to do what you can to stop this destructive plan until biologists, neighbors, and the many users of the Public Lands have a chance to weigh in and have their input actually considered. This is a false "emergency." It needs to be rejected.

Best wishes,
John Triska

Lifelong Educator, Parent, and Grandparent
Fly Fisherman and Lifelong Steward of the Trinity River
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