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First name: Elizabeth
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Organization: County Of Siskiyou
Title: Natural Resource Policy Specialist
Comments: The Siskiyou County Department of Natural Resources would like to provide the following comments on the Craggy Vegetation Management Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Project}}. Siskiyou County is very supportive of this Project and any other projects that aim to improve fire resiliency and promote forest health by reducing stand density and making our forests more resistant towards insects, disease, and high intensity fires, which continue to significantly impact the County almost every fire season.

The Project area encompasses approximately 29,500 acres, and is very susceptible to fire activity as outlined in the draft EIS where there are approximately three fire starts per year, making this location vital for forest management and thinning activities. The majority of Project activities occur within the footprint of the Haystack Fire, which burned in 1955, and due to current conditions within the Project, it is likely that another high severity wildfire event could occur which would severely impact the County and nearby private landowners. It is imperative that the maximum number of acres are treated through implementation of this Project, and that activities are completed at the earliest time possible.

Based on the proposed action, only 36 percent of the project area will be treated, which leaves a large portion of the Project untreated and untouched. In order reach the fullest potential of the Project and to protect Siskiyou County citizen's, wildlife and the forest, additional acreage should be treated through Project implementation. Additional treatment would also go further towards meeting the purpose and need statement of the Project, which was developed by the Klamath National Forest.

Lastly, we would like to address the need to improve the timber industry in Siskiyou County, which can be partially addressed through actions like the ones outlined in the Project. Continuation of similar projects will boost the economy and societal health within the County, which should be of utmost importance to the Forest Service who owns a majority of the forested land within the County.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this Project, and look forward to the opportunity to stay involved throughout its implementatio n. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to me at enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us or (530) 842-8012.

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