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First name: Darren

Last name: Eastman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alternative D will help keep endangered brown bears and saproxylic insects safe from the threats imposed on them currently in GYE and surrounding territories. Moreover, California has no brown bears and has lost several species of woodpeckers from hunting and the loss of white bark pine.

Alternative D is the only measure being considered which will allow brown bears to one day exist in California again, where they are the state animal. Additionally, the religious protections afforded federally to Native Americans appear compatible. The loss of the brown bear in the proposal area has been a direct threat to both the due process and religious freedom for the country's Indian nations.

I wrote an amicus brief for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case regarding the states' appeal of the brown bear delisting decision upheld in Montana last year. I've attached it, as it explains each issue I've presented above, and, is being used by the Court to better understand the several bifurcated issues also inherent in the Alternative D discussion.

We must consider that brown bears, migratory birds and saproxylic insects need to be sustained in-order to allow them to rebuild any portion of their former ranges. The problem you face is that the only bears which could ever allow bears to return to their coastal range in N. California live in your area. They face countless challenges in-addition to the normal problem's bears face naturally. Reinforcing the forest will help stop grazing on state and federal lands which has never occurred before; the leading cause of grizzly bear deaths, by illegal means. We must stop encroaching on new forested spaces and allow our already endangered wildlife to recover.