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Comments: On behalf of the Yuba County Board of Supervisors, I am submitting this letter to provide comment on the Region 5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project in the Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region. The recent wildfire years in California have resulted in fire-killed or damaged trees that pose great threats to public health, safety, and property. It is crucial to have roads through the Plumas National Forest passable in order to allow access for fire-fighting equipment and provide safe evacuation routes for residents and campers. A reduction in fuel sources could also potentially slow fire spread.

In October 2017 hundreds of Yuba County foothill residents fled from fast moving flames that were driven by high winds and overly-fueled by dry vegetation and bramble, both of which are all too common at that elevation.

Scores of homes were destroyed, four lives were lost and nearly ten thousand acres were scorched on the same evening that saw similar devastation in neighboring counties.

Yuba County supports the Region 5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management effort to sooner mitigate the hazardous trees located within the Plumas National Forest. We are in agreement that the intent to expedite the Emergency Situation Determination would, as noted "enable the capture of the commercial value of the salvaged timber, facilitate the accelerated reduction of fuel accumulation and tree disease risk, and expedite safe public and woods worker access to the affected areas". The hazard tree mitigation will reduce risks to persons traveling to campsites and along Forest Service Roads and trails. As shown in your project Plumas National Forest Ranger Districts maps, the hazard tree mitigation will be conducted along Forest Service roads, campgrounds and public access routes and would reduce risks to persons visiting recreation areas in the Forest.

Removal of hazardous trees within Plumas National Forest would be highly beneficial to our region. Even now, as the rebuilding has commenced, we can see the ominous cycle continue, where a wet winter has encouraged new vegetation growth that reintroduces fuels that could feed future fires. There has never been a greater need to build upon existing local efforts to create fire-safe communities. We appreciate your efforts and the opportunity to provide input.

Thank you for your consideration,