

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/10/2021 8:00:00 AM

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Comments: See attached letter from Del Norte County Board of Supervisors.

Del Norte County is located in the northwest corner of California and includes portions of the Six Rivers and the Klamath National Forests. Both Forests have been greatly impacted by wildfires in recent years and, consequently, a large number of fire-killed and/or damaged trees have been left on our Forest's landscape which has posed threats to public health, safety, and property. We applaud the efforts of the Forest Service and their public-private partners (including the County) in addressing these hazards after these recent fires and we strongly support continued efforts to expedite the process of addressing these hazards moving forward such as through the Regional Office seeking Emergency Situation Determination's (ESD) and expedited NEPA review for hazardous tree management.

The Board wishes to also take this opportunity to express our position on the importance of proactive management of forest landscapes. It is our strongly held view that many of the wildfire problems experienced in recent years are directly attributable to passive management of the Forest which has allowed fuels to accumulate. This buildup of fuels, combined with the effects of climate change and the recent drought conditions experienced through much of the western United States, has created an untenable situation with regard to wildfire that demands a more proactive approach such as frequent thinning of fuels and harvesting of timber where appropriate. Should you require additional information please contact Assistant County Administrative Officer Randy Hooper at randy.hooper@co.delnorte.ca.us