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First name: Colton

Last name: Gaiser

Organization: Tuolumne County Farm Bureau

Title:

Comments: To Whom This May Concern:

Tuolumne County Farm Bureau appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on SERAL 2.0. We are a membership organization dedicated to promoting and preserving agriculture in Tuolumne County. Many of our members are cattlemen, furthermore, several utilize grazing allotments for their cattle. Please see some of our main concerns outlined here:

Damage to fencing:

With the size and scope of this project, it is important to minimize the potential for stray livestock and trespass. Therefore, contractors must work with affected grazing permittees to minimize the impacts of loose cattle. Daily contact between contractor and permittee[s] is paramount and any damage done to permittee fencing shall be repaired to the satisfaction of the grazing permittee.

Targeted grazing in project areas:

We understand that mastication and thinning of the forest floor triggers spontaneous growth of many undesirable brush species, which if left unchecked, will add to fire fuels. Cattle grazing (as well as other livestock species grazing) can assist in keeping these fuels to a minimum. However, to be successful, the animals must be confined and concentrated in the project area. A rapidly expanding virtual fencing program may be a real asset in this endeavor, but at no small cost. These types of solutions need to be part of this project. Identifying only sheep and goats should be removed from the targeted grazing section. Utilizing all grazing tools and species will be the most practical and beneficial for reaching your goals. We would appreciate continued dialogue through the process and look forward to more discussion on grazing moving forward.

Sincerely, Tuolumne County Farm Bureau Board of Directors