



SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES

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May 13th, 2022

Jason Kuiken
Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest
19777 Greenly Road
Sonora, CA 95370

Re: Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) Project Draft Record of Decision (ROD) #3 – Rapidly Responding to Changing Environmental Conditions

Dear Mr. Kuiken,

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is a third-generation, family-owned Forest Products Company, based in Anderson, California with 14 sawmill locations and actively managed timberlands throughout California, Oregon, and Washington. The Sonora Division is the southernmost part of the Company's operations, and includes the Standard and Chinese Camp facilities, directly employing 300 local workers and numerous contractors. In addition to investments to our community, SPI has made significant investments into our facilities over recent years, including rebuilding the Chinese Camp sawmill in 2007 and the Sonora sawmill in 2011.

Background

Sierra Pacific Industries appreciates the opportunity to comment on the SERAL Draft ROD #3 – Rapidly Responding to Changing Environmental Decision, the third and final ROD in the SERAL project. As has been mentioned in previous letters, the Stanislaus National Forest is not only a major contributor of forest products for our facilities, but is also a neighbor many of our employees and our privately managed timberlands. Because of this, we have a vested interest in the health and resiliency of the Stanislaus, and have been involved in the SERAL project every step of the way. We submitted a detailed comment letter on January 20th, 2022, regarding our support for Alternative 1, as well as suggestions for improvements to some portions of said alternative.

Proposed Actions

Sierra Pacific Industries strongly supports the proposed actions outlined in Draft ROD #3. The intention to use Condition-Based Management to ensure the efficacy and efficiency of the SERAL Project is clear, and because an evaluation and NEPA compliance clearance must occur before any post-disturbance salvage action can occur. The criteria for hazard trees are clear, as well as the requirements for action post-disturbance, and effectively shows that the Forest Service is ensuring accountability through every step of this project.

We do recommend, as stated in our DEIS comment letter, that the 7-year limit on fire salvage (FEIS p.41) be increased to 10 years to ensure full use of the 10 year period granted under NEPA.

Additionally, we fully support the abatement of hazard trees along public access road, as it bolsters the safety of passage by all users. We also support the use of the listed herbicides (Draft ROD #3 p. 4) to manage non-native invasive weeds throughout the fuelbreak network.

Conclusion

Sierra Pacific Industries again thanks you for the opportunity to comment and collaborate on the Draft ROD #3, and commends your efforts to ensure the health, safety, and resiliency of the Stanislaus National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'HG', written in a cursive style.

Hannah Grabowski
Sierra Pacific Industries – Sonora Division
Procurement Forester