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Title: Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer

Comments: Eli Ilano

Forest Supervisor

Tahoe National Forest

United States Department of Agriculture

631 Coyote Street

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RE: Proposed Amendment to the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

Mr. Ilano:

The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (District) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to the LRMP 1990. This amendment seeks to expand opportunities for using naturally ignited wildfires on Tahoe National Forest - National Forest System lands. District staff have reviewed the documents available online and have the following comments and concerns as it relates to the proposed amendment.

1.The District fully supports the USFS in all of its prescribed fire efforts. We believe the catastrophic wildfires in California the past few years show an urgent need for all agencies, Federal, State and Local, to work together to mitigate the danger created by what we now know to be the failed and dangerous policy of extinguishing all naturally occurring ignitions.

2.At those times when the USFS chooses to allow a natural ignition to proceed without immediate suppression, the District would like to see this done in coordination with the local Air Districts, just as the USFS does with planned ignitions. Such coordination should include the consideration of the current burn day status and dispersion conditions, the submittal of a Smoke Management Plan for large, extended events and daily coordination with local Air staff.

The District appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposed amendment. Additionally, the District would like to commend the Tahoe National Forest on the excellent work already performed by the various Fuels Officers and Fire Technicians who continue to labor year after year with conscientious dedication despite their limited resources.

Sincerely,

Joseph Fish

Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer