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First name: Michael

Last name: Diggles

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: Ruth D'Amico, District Ranger, Salmon/Scott River Ranger District; Attn: Erin Lonergran, Forest Botanist

From: Michael F. Diggles, Landowner

January 17, 2021

re: Support for the Gunsight-Humbug Ridge Siskiyou Mariposa Lily Integrated Pest Management Project Proposal

Dear Ms Lonergran,

The Diggles family has owned about 14 acres just south of Gunsight Peak in Diggles Gulch since my great grandfather, Henry Jonas Diggles, staked a lode claim there under the General Mining Act of 1872--in about 1872. My grandfather, R.N. Diggles (who was born in Fort Jones and grew up on Diggles Street), my father, R.E. Diggles, and I have been up there many times over the decades. I was the lead geologist on the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (Erman, D.C., ed., 1996, Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, Final Report to Congress: Davis, Univ. of Calif., Centers for Water and Wildlands Resources Report No. 37; Erman, Don C., General Editor, and the SNEP Team, 1997, Status of the Sierra Nevada: The Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project: U.S. Geological Survey Digital Data Series DDS-43, <https://doi.org/10.3133/ds43>). I also did some fieldwork up on Gunsight Ridge in 2003 to help determine the remaining extent of the Siskiyou Mariposa Lily (Diggles MF; Kanim NR; Figura P; Knight M, 2003. The Siskiyou Mariposa Lily. An expedition to determine the remaining extent of an endangered species. Flag Report, Flag 161, prepared for the Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club. 13 pp. https://explorers.org/flag_reports/161diggles2003.pdf). The habitat needed by *Calochortus persistens* is being invaded by the competing exotic dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*). It is possible that over protection from natural wildfires has led to the proliferation of dyer's woad. It is likely that fuel buildup has increased to the point that simply re-initiating allowing wildfires to burn would not only control the invasive species but also threaten the endemic *Calochortus persistens*. As has been shown (McKelvey, K.S., and Busse, K.K., 1996, Twentieth-century fire patterns on Forest Service lands, v. II, Ch. 41 of The Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project: U.S. Geological Survey Digital Data Series DDS-43, <https://doi.org/10.3133/ds43>, v. II, p. 1119-1138) that wildfire suppression causes continued fuel buildup until an uncontrolled burn takes place despite the best efforts of suppression crews to stop it. Such an event would have a high likelihood of having a severe negative impact on the survival of *Calochortus persistens*. I am quite favorably impressed by the control measures you describe in the Proposed Action and in particular "Restoration measures may include seeding of native species, planting of potted or bare-root plants, or mulching with certified weed-free native mulch, plant litter, duff, or straw/wood shreds." Please accept my enthusiastic support for the proposed action and my thanks for all of your fine work. --Michael F. Diggles