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Comments: The proposed project will only address a very small percentage of the area affected by the August Complex. Future projects should include a much larger area of fuel reduction if the objective is to provide provide fire resilience and thus protection for adjacent communities and forest ecosystem values.

Research suggests fuel loading greater than 30 tons/acre in mixed conifer forest will result in unacceptable risk in terms of increased fire intensities of future burns and resistance to control factors. These conditions will persist for many decades (in some cases over 60 years) if fuels on these burned landscapes are not reduced. It is most important to reduce the heavy fuels (1,000 hr. +). This fuel type is the most difficult and costly to mitigate if salvage is not done quickly to preserve the value. It is extremely difficult to reduce this fuel type with prescribed fire because of the short window of opportunity and the risk of escape and damage to adjacent forests and communities.

The current drought and accelerated insect and disease activity in the conifers around the fire area will continue to add to the fuel loading for years and possibly decades to come. It is past time to consider valid research, our past experience and the last 30 years of fire history in the West in our analysis of wildfire and fuels conditions and the importance of mitigation to our rural communities and adjacent resources.

Pease review the following when considering developing the project:

- Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- Trinity County Resolution 2008-6
- Trinity County Safety Element
- "Course Woody Debris: Managing the benefit and fire hazard for Recovering forest." Brown, Rienhardt, Kramer, - GTR-RMRS-105.

s/ Anton R. Jaegel