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Title:

Comments: This letter is to request the the USFS responsible official, after public scoping, reconsider whether or not a Categorical Exclusion is still the appropriate level of documentation given the proposed activity, including connected actions, have potential to indirectly and cumulatively impact resources listed under Extraordinary Circumstances (e.g., proximity to wilderness, wetlands, and TES habitat), which elevates the level of documentation to an EA (USFS 1909.15_30 Categorical Exclusion from Documentation). In addition, the magnitude of public response is evidence of controversy, which also raises uncertainty over significance because one factor in evaluating significance involves the extent to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to he "highly controversial" (40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(4)). The magnitude of development also leans toward a case where there is, "a first intrusion of minor development into a pristine area" (40 Most Asked Questions Concerning the CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act).