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First name: Betsy

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

[External Email]

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Dear Forest Service:

I live in Upper Lake, Lake County, CA, which is located at the southern-most fringe of the Pacific Northwest Province to which the 1994 NWFP Initiative applied. Since the major wildfires in the Mendocino National Forest impacted so much of the Clear Lake Watershed drainage, the additional impacts of forest hydrological capacities have also been impaired (to what degree of "watershed productivity" I do not know, because watershed productivity was not measured before and after the major wildfires in our county, alas).

In addition, Lake County has been hit hard by "tree mortality," for which the County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency about a year ago. The extent of the massive tree "dieoff" area begins in northern Napa County and extends north as far as the Willits latitude, reaching into the Mendocino National Forest as well. USGS LIDAR images have been done, and the County Board of Supervisors just a few days ago approved funding needed for acquisition of data gleaned by the aerial survey. A report on the estimated 530,000 dead or dying trees was conducted by the UC Davis Agricultural Extension Service's resident forester, Dr. Mike Jones.

The weighing of benefits and losses must include the value of the forest landscapes as the recipient of winter rains, one of the motivations behind the creation of the 1897 Forest Service Organic Administration Act, which established the national forests and described the importance of the terrain in the hydrogeological systems providing much of the planet's potable water. "Climate change" itself is devastating our planetary ecosystems, forests among the most vulnerable land elements.

(Just this morning, an interest essay appeared in the online publication, Vox.com, titled "Why saving old trees is weirdly controversial." I sent the essay to a couple of local ecologists here, and included the link to this survey, encouraging them to send their thoughts, as well.)

Pertinent to the Mendocino National Forest itself, studies of wildfire impacts on our many communities lying within the Wildland-Urban Interface towns (between the MNF southern jurisdictional boundary and the shoreline of Clear Lake) have been conducted by the USFS headquarters in Willows, CA. Locally, the Clear Lake Environmental Research Center, our three Fire Safe Councils, nearly 30 Firewise Communities -- some of them in communities adjacent to or within the MNF WUI -- and engaged civic organizations are actively working toward restoring the ecological health of the deeply injured forest ecosystems. I look forward to learning more about this new NWFP project, and send abundant love to you all from Upper Lake, CA.

Betsy Cawn

The Essential Public Information Center

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Sincerely,
Betsy Cawn

<<http://url11111.newmode.org/wf/open?upn=hOd0RNZ64-2BChg3tKPII2aSSWEW1vub9gSkXhFNQj11uYnHqNfPezKHG0B-2FxZn76Cg9w4wM0VPyPexn6XjXx50gB9bJCpzWvmsoKv9N5kQImQ4M5R3DLWb5-2BW8JoHtQScdA01wL-2FhmCDLZDZRS3M1O4qoR64LYWpxV6kYzzjtwwB8-2BCK5KUP-2BEK-2FZSSa-2BxNFKg-2FYr5JHV8JwnU8pwwxZCPJ8arcqD2s3vW4YGXLhxxHpcxvIXVvWMDCupd2Kq7a62kWbx3xWPoyZfm9f-2BYdFfhFnl3b2d0mqVOXQSgy3AlibF-2FDbo04fDDLKFqhEZns1Whrmb3fFmAeKh1si0xJVNI5UNbQHkfFHc05fZGee49bpiFJQ8XRhs6y5gomTWIm8yROBzdE-2BQ31t4hSgXM8oRrG0yeL4hkCLeJOqkvu08pV9hBP5YwpNYhMQ0kzcQr-2Buy-2FDcGTO496vtLNXNHvh-2Fbg-3D-3D>>