Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2024 4:51:47 PM First name: Eric Last name: Johnson Organization: Amphibian Refuge Title: Executive Director

Comments: Amphibian populations are declining worldwide, and amphibians are experiencing high extinction rates due to habitat loss, climate change, chytrid fungus, pollutants, pesticides, and invasive species. Amphibians are the most threatened class of vertebrates and merit attention protection in the Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Amphibian Refuge supports the US Forest Service's proposal to create resilient forests through practices such as forest thinning, fuel reduction, fuel breaks, and targeted grazing.

In EIS Section 2.12 B, the EIS describes measures to reduce project effects on the Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and Foothill yellow-legged frog. No piling or burning would occur in occupied Yosemite toad habitat. Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and Foothill yellow-legged frog would be relocated if in danger. According to Table MR 1, no project activities would occur within 4,101 feet of occupied Yosemite toad meadows, within 82 feet of occupied Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog aquatic species sites or perennial aquatic features, and within 165 feet of occupied Foothill yellow-legged frog and Foothill yellow-legged frog and Foothill yellow-legged frog and Foothill yellow-legged frog should be increased to at least 500 feet. Long-term population monitoring programs should be implemented for the Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and Foothill yellow-legged frog. In addition, surveys should be conducted for California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander to confirm that these amphibian species do not have occupied habitat where project activities are proposed. If they are located, avoidance measures and population monitoring should be implemented.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

References:

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