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First name: Justin

Last name: Kooyman

Organization: Pacific Crest Trail Assoc., N Sierra Region

Title: Regional Representative

Comments: March 21, 2017

Re: Pacific Crest Trail Association's Comments on the Rocks Restoration Proposed Action

Dear Ranger Nelson,

I am writing on behalf of the 12,000 member Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). PCTA is the Forest Service's primary private partner in the management, maintenance and protection of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). As such, it is our role to work with our partnering Forests to ensure that the PCT is managed in a manner consistent with the Trail's Congressional designation as a National Scenic Trail. Importantly, we have a strong partnership with the Lassen National Forest in the maintenance and management of the PCT.

I have reviewed the Rocks Restoration Project Proposed Action, and only one treatment unit within the project has potential to negatively impact the PCT experience for hikers and equestrians. Unit 211 is a "site prep" unit only that will use machinery to grapple and pull shrubs and pile fuels. Although the unit does not directly overlay the PCT, it is in relatively close proximity and will likely be in the viewshed seen from the PCT. As part of the Environmental Assessment work, I request the District to do some viewshed analysis and field work to determine the extent to which the viewshed may be impacted and draft design features to mitigate any visual impacts. PCTA is ready and willing to support this work with District staff and provide substantive input.

Ranger Nelson, I appreciate your support to protect the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail within the Rocks Restoration Project. I look forward to working with your staff as this project develops. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding PCTA's comments.

Thank you,

Justin Kooyman

PCTA Northern Sierra Regional Representative

Cc:

Mike Dawson, PCTA Trail Operations Director

Beth Boyst, USFS PCT Manager

Heather Blevins, Lassen NF Engineer

Stacy Kronner, Almanor Recreation Officer

Janie Ackley, Almanor Resources Officer