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First name: Dan

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Organization: California Deer Association

Title:

Comments: John Brodbeck

Klamath National Forest District Specialist

Gooseneck Ranger District

37805 Hwy 97

Macdoel, CA 96058

cc: Klamath National Forest Supervisor Patricia Grantham

cc: Klamath National Forest District Ranger Drew Stroberg

Dear Mr. Brodbeck,

The California Deer Association (CDA) is a wildlife conservation nonprofit dedicated to improving California deer and other wildlife through habitat restoration projects since 1996. From inception, CDA has supported projects that benefit wildlife and increase community and youth appreciation for wildlife.

Additionally, CDA has developed diverse partnerships with federal, state, and local entities, including private landowners, in order to increase the pace and scale of landscape-level restoration projects that benefit forest and watershed resilience, human health and safety, and wildlife. CDA works throughout California on a variety of critical landscape projects that strengthen forests, watersheds, meadows, vegetation, migratory routes, and historically and culturally important artifacts and areas.

CDA is proud to support habitat restoration and safety efforts proposed by our federal partner, the U.S. Forest Service's Klamath National Forest, within the Harlan Project since it will improve forest and watershed resilience, health and human safety, historic grasslands, and wildlife habitat across 21,000 acres for the public and California wildlife, including deer and elk.

CDA has highlighted the following proposed Harlan activities and the associated benefits that align with CDA's mission:

- \*Using prescribed fire to reintroduce fire benefits to a fire-adapted ecosystem such as vegetation and wildlife and reduce fuel loads that may contribute to a high intensity wildfire.

- \*Thinning overabundant trees will strengthen forest resilience, encourage tree and vegetation diversity, and increase forest floor sunlight which will promote early successional plant vegetation and wildlife nesting and forage habitat.

- \*Removing juniper and restoring meadows will reduce invasive plant competitiveness and improve water access for vegetation, wildlife, and downstream users.

- \*Implementing and maintaining strategic fuel breaks will remove fuel loads, create wildfire escape routes for wildlife, and provide safer sites for firefighters to hold the line and enter and exit during a wildfire.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Harlan Project.

Sincerely,

Dan Whisenhunt

Chief Executive Officer