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First name: Liz
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Organization: Tuolumne County
Title:
Comments: Dear Supervisor Kuiken,

The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) draft Environmental Impact Statement and is appreciative of the effort by the Stanislaus National Forest (STF) Interdisciplinary Team to develop this proactive project. The County of Tuolumne is 78% public land, the majority of which is comprised of the Stanislaus National Forest. As a result, the Board of Supervisors has consistently had a significant interest in how the Stanislaus National Forest is managed and for four years has proactively partnered with the STF in shared stewardship to restore the health of our local forest through a Master Stewardship Agreement.

Healthy, resilient forests are paramount to the residents and visitors of Tuolumne County. The County relies on tourists who seek outdoor recreational opportunities and agriculture-specifically logging and other wood products-as the two top industries in our county. Furthermore, our residents who live and work in the wildland urban interface depend on a forest that is resilient to catastrophic fire for their safety and wellbeing.

In reviewing the alternatives, the Board of Supervisors is in support of Alternative 1 as the preferred alternative for implementation for the following reasons:

This Alternative was developed in close coordination with the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS) collaborative. As a member of YSS and as the Partner on behalf of YSS with the STF in the Master Stewardship Agreement, the County values the collaboration and expertise YSS provides. YSS offers a balanced approach and shares the goals with the County of creating healthy, resilient forests for myriad uses.

Alternative 1 proposes the highest number of acres to be treated overall, a critical component to building resilience in this landscape and recommends merchandizing the most sawlog and biomass material, supporting our local industries. The Board requests as much biomass utilization as possible through this SERAL project.

The Board is also supportive of Alternative 1 because it proposes more allowable treatments in and around California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center (PACs), addressing a longstanding issue with forest resilience. The Board is supportive of the necessary forest plan amendments to allow this additional treatment in PACs and applauds the use of adaptive science in this way to develop this alternative.

The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors would like to commend the Stanislaus National Forest for this proactive and collaborative effort and looks forward to partnering in any and every way possible to restore forest health and resilience on this landscape.

Sincerely,

Anaiah Kirk, Chair

Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors