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First name: Darren

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Jason Kuiken

Forest Supervisor

Stanislaus National Forest

19777 Greenley Road

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RE: Draft EIS Comments

Dear Jason,

I am writing in support of the comments submitted by Steve Brink of CFA and Jerry Jensen of AFRC. In addition, I would like to submit the following thoughts for your consideration.

The team that crafted this document clearly demonstrated that the majority of the forest within the project area is significantly outside the natural range of variation. I fully support your effort to implement option #1 as your best option to address the conditions on the forest before the forest is degraded and important values are lost due to insect outbreaks, drought, and fire. Even if you are able to implement this option soon, the forest will be vulnerable to the threats just mentioned until treatment on every acre is complete. The [ldquo]no action[rdquo] alternative clearly shows that the forest will be at risk of a catastrophic event and place the forest back in balance if a different option isn[rsquo]t selected. The [ldquo]no action[rdquo] alternative will result in untold lost values. Time is of the essence here as the USFS must get out ahead of the conditions on the ground. Finally, I want to mention that prudent herbicide use to treat competing vegetation or invasive plants makes sense. I anticipate that the acres required for herbicide treatment would be rather small compared to the overall project area. Therefore the environmental impact to the environment will be small while the result will be noticeable.

Thanks for your thoughtful consideration of my comments on this project.

Sincerely,

Darren Mahr

Timber Mgr.

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