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Comments: Attached are PCTA's comments regarding the MAC DEIS. Please reach out if you have any questions. Thank you

Northern Sierra Region

February 27, 2026

Forest Supervisor

Eldorado National Forest

100 Forni Road

Placerville, CA 95667

This letter submitted to: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?project=65796>

RE: Mokelumne Amador Calaveras (MAC) Forest Health and Resilience Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Dear Supervisor Fournier,

I am writing on behalf of the 14,000+ member Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). PCTA is the U.S. Forest Service's primary private partner in the management and maintenance of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). The foundation for this private-public partnership in the operation of National Scenic Trails is rooted in the 1968 National Trails System Act. As such, it is the PCTA's role to work with the U.S. Forest Service to ensure the best possible management of the PCT and the experience it affords trail users, year-round.

We have reviewed the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forest's Mokelumne Amador Calaveras (MAC) Forest Health and Resilience Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We support the purpose and need of the project to restore ecosystem health and resilience to wildfire, insect and disease, drought, and climate change; reduce safety hazards across public lands; reduce the spread of non-native species; maintain and support local economies; and maintain and improve aspen groves, riparian areas, streams, and meadows. The PCTA also supports the proposed actions that will reduce the risks of wildfire within and adjacent to USFS managed lands; improve and maintain safe ingress/egress route for fire personnel, equipment, and the public; maintain and promote plant and wildlife habitat and biodiversity; and reduce the spread of non-native invasive plants.

The PCTA appreciates that our comments and suggestions regarding the Proposed Action were taken into consideration and integrated into the DEIS. In addition to the PCT being identified on the project maps, we are pleased to see that specific Management Requirements and Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been incorporated into the DEIS that will help protect the trail, reduce the visual impacts to PCT users, and carries out the intent of the National Trails System Act and the PCT Management Plan.

The PCTA is supportive of the Proposed Action (Alternative 1) and the Management Requirements and BMPs included in the DEIS (Vol 1). The PCTA would like the following Management Requirements and BMPs, as listed on page 47, to be maintained and implemented within the Final Decision. The PCTA would object if any of the following items were to be removed from the project:

\* P. To Minimize Impacts to the Pacific Crest Trail

i. A visual quality objective (VQO) of retention will be maintained for implementation activities within the immediate foreground viewing distance zone (300 feet) from the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT).

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ii. VQO of partial retention will be maintained for implementation activities within the foreground viewing distance zone (300 feet/0.5 mile) from the PCT.

iii. If used as a control line for prescribed fire and/or under burns, restore the trail tread to USDA Forest Service PCT standards.

iv. Fire lines created for use of prescribed fire should not be straight lines but should meander to follow topography or vegetation masses that remain. Lines should utilize natural breaks in topography and vegetation to delineate treatment edges. These lines should not be visible from the PCT.

v. All recreational infrastructure (e.g., directional and informational signs, barriers) will be protected. If any barriers (including natural barriers) or infrastructure are damaged or removed during Project activities, they will be replaced and re-installed in the same location and manner immediately following vegetation management operations.

vi. Unit will communicate Project timing and implementation with PCT Association staff.

Thank you for considering PCTA's comments in response to the Mokelumne Amador Calaveras Forest Health and Resilience Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We commend the U.S. Forest Service for actively addressing the widespread impacts and needs of the forests and look forward to working with Forest staff as the project continues to develop.

Thank you,

Connor Swift  
PCTA, Regional Manager

Cc:

Lindsey Steinwachs, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Crest Trail Program Administrator

Don Morrill, U.S. Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, Forest Recreation Officer

Chris Sailor, U.S. Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, Amador RD, Assistant Resource Officer

Justin Kooyman, PCTA, Director of Trail Operations