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March 9, 2015

Mr. Dave Hays
Lassen National Forest Supervisor
2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130

Mr. Randy Moore
Pacific Southwest Regional Forester
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

RE: Removal of Windblown Debris and Blowdown Timber from the Lassen National Forest

Dear Mr. Moore and Mr. Hays:

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors is supportive of any efforts the Pacific Southwest Region and the Lassen National Forest can take to expedite the removal of wind-blown debris and blowdown timber from the Forest as caused from the major wind event of February 6-7, 2015.

As reported by the Forest in its public safety announcements following the event, wind-blown debris and blowdown timber have created an immediate public safety hazard. The County of Lassen is supportive of the LNF taking whatever action is necessary to achieve removal of downed timber and wind-blown debris from the forest, all forest roads, and all camping and day-use areas as soon as possible.

We also support whatever immediate actions the Forest will implement to protect the economic value and health of private and public forest lands. Of additional concern is the mass accumulation of downed timber and wind-blown debris, in combination with hazards in the Bald and Eiler fire areas, existing fuel loads, and extreme drought conditions, are of local concern because of a rapidly approaching tourism and fire hazard seasons. Also, it is reasonable to assume that beetles will infest the downed timber and may spread to standing timber already suffering the effects of unusual mild winters and drought conditions. For these additional concerns, please act to remove all downed timber throughout this timber-harvest season.

Please provide us with an informational update about how the LNF and Pacific Southwest Regional Forest Office are mobilizing to deal with this emergency situation in the Lassen National Forest.

Sincerely,

Robert Pyle, Chairman
Lassen County Board Of Supervisors

cc: Congressman Doug La Malfa