

41

County of Lassen

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**CHRIS GALLAGHER***District 1***DAVID TEETER***District 2***JEFF HEMPHILL***District 3***AARON ALBAUGH***District 4***TOM HAMMOND***District 5*

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April 23, 2019

Mr. Randy Moore
Regional Forester Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Forest Service Regional Office
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear Mr. Moore:

As you know, four years ago the Lassen County Board of Supervisors had shared with you Lassen County's local priorities for public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Pacific Southwest Region 5 in Lassen County. Thank you for your timely response.

I write today, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, to reinforce and restate our local priorities for lands managed by USFS for your information and response:

Lassen County Local Project Level Priorities:

- Implementation of Fuels Reduction Treatments – Diamond Mountain Initiative
This project is time-sensitive. It has been awarded several million dollars of grant funding for doing fuels reduction treatments in the Lassen National Forest (LNF). Urgency and importance of this project is well known locally and statewide by funding agencies and within the USFS. I know the Board would be grateful if the Region 5 could provide whatever staffing and resources that the LNF will need to complete this project successfully before the funding expires.

- Maximizing National Forest Annual Timber Sale Program

I know that the Board would appreciate receiving an update about the National Forest's Annual Timber Sale Program for lands in Lassen County. I want to know how Region 5 is supporting the LNF with staffing and resources to take full advantage of implementing President Trump's Executive Order to aggressively improve timber management for reducing hazardous fuels and improving forest conditions. We are supportive of the LNF and Modoc National Forest (MNF) recent efforts toward expanding upon Good Neighbor Authority projects and other collaborative arrangements in our region with the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc., Pitt River Resource Conservation District and others.

- Enhanced Travel Management and Recreation

Making Lassen County a top destination for outdoor recreation is a key objective of the County's Economic Development Strategy. The County has made multiple comments to the USFS on various USFS actions asking for enhanced travel management and recreation in the National Forest, especially for improving opportunities for legal non-highway vehicles (OHV) and over-snow vehicles access. I know the Board and our constituents would welcome knowing what the Region's plan is for completion of those OHV projects and for promoting recreational use in the LNF. Lastly, I would like to express the County's appreciation for the Title II funds to the County to complete planning for the Fredonyer Butte Trail System in the LNF.

In closing, the Board is aware of the Region's recruitment search for a permanent LNF Forest Supervisor. We encourage you to consider candidates that have a proven record of completing projects successfully and will be mindful of our local priorities, our county and our constituents. As you know our local priorities include the Diamond Mountain Initiative, fuels reductions and timber sales, tourism and OHV recreation projects.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to hearing from you concerning our local priorities and the successful completion of the projects listed above.

Sincerely,

JEFF HEMPHILL, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

CC: Lassen National Forest
Modoc National Forest