UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

DEC 14 2009

Thomas Hudson
Mad River Ranger District
741 State Highway 36
Bridgeville, CA 95526

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Beaverslide Timber Sale and Fuel Treatment Project, Trinity County, CA (CEQ# 20090389)

Dear Mr. Hudson:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the above-referenced project. Our review and comments are pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA previously reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Beaverslide Timber Sale and Fuel Treatment Project and provided comments on July 31, 2009. We rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns – EC-2, based on our concerns about water resources, wildlife habitat, air quality, closure and restoration of roads and landings, wildland-urban intermix, and climate change.

We commend the Forest Service for revising the FEIS based on new information about the northern spotted owl territories, goshawk nests and archaeological sites. In addition to the clarifications provided in the Response to Comments, we thank the Forest Service for addressing some of EPA's comments, including the requirement to prepare a smoke management plan and estimates for equipment-related air emissions.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Kelly, the lead reviewer for this project, at (415) 972-3856 or kelly.thomasp@epa.gov, or me at (415) 972-3521.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office

cc: continued on next page

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cc: Tyrone Kelley, Forest Supervisor Six Rivers National Forest
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District