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

JUN 7 2011

Keli M. McElroy, Forester
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
3644 Avtech Parkway
Redding, California 96002

Subject: Pettijohn Late-successional Reserve Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Plumas County, California (CEQ#20110137).

Dear Ms. McElroy:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Pettijohn Late-successional Reserve Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project. Our review and comments are pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA acknowledges the importance of the project's goals to improve forest health and reduce the intensity and spread of wildfires across the landscape and near communities. We recognize the ecological significance of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and support the inclusion of best management practices and measures to protect old-growth forest ecosystems.

The EPA commends the Forest Service for its commitment to decommission 2.3 miles of National Forest System roads to alleviate negative effects on fish and water quality (p. 20). Additionally, we support limiting operations in spotted owl habitat, which will avoid direct adverse impacts to the species. We also support the best management practices and resource protection measures included in the project design. For these reasons, we have rated the DEIS as Lack of Objections—LO (see enclosed "Summary of Rating Definitions").

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS and are available to discuss our comments. When the FEIS is released for public review, please send one hard copy and two CDs to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or contact James Munson, the lead reviewer for this project. James can be reached at (415) 972-3800 or munson.james@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office

Enclosures: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions

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