

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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

September 16, 2011

Alice B. Carlton
Forest Supervisor
Plumas National Forest
159 Lawrence Street
Quincy, CA 95971

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Keddie Ridge Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, Plumas National Forest, Plumas County, CA (CEQ# 20110267)

Dear Ms. Carlton:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) 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 reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Keddie Ridge Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project and provided comments to the Forest Service on March 18, 2011. We rated the DEIS as Lack of Objections (LO). We recommended that the DEIS provide additional information to fully describe climate change monitoring and how aspects of the proposed road decommissioning would lead to improved watershed health.

EPA appreciates the Forest Service's responses to our comments on the DEIS. The Forest Vegetation Fuels, Fire, and Air Quality Report elaborates on the information that was provided in the DEIS about likely trends concerning climate change in Plumas National Forest. We also appreciate the inclusion of a map of roads proposed for improvement, and support the inclusion of applicable BMPs which are listed and discussed in appendix H.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this FEIS. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or contact Stephanie Skophammer, the lead reviewer for the project. Stephanie can be reached at (415) 972-3098 or skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office (CED-2)

cc: Katherine Carpenter, Project Leader, Plumas National Forest

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